# DOMFN: A Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network for Resume Assessment

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## ABSTRACT

In talent management, resume assessment aims to analyze the quality of a job seeker's resume, which can assist recruiters to discover suitable candidates and benefit job seekers improving resume quality in return. Recent machine learning based methods on large-scale public resume datasets have provided the opportunity for automatic assessment for reducing manual costs. However, most existing approaches are still content-dominated and ignore other valuable information. Inspired by practical resume evaluations that consider both the content and layout, we construct the multi-modalities from resumes but face a new challenge that sometimes the performance of multi-modal fusion is even worse than the best uni-modality. In this paper, we experimentally find that this phenomenon is due to the cross-modal divergence. Therefore, we need to consider when is it appropriate to perform multi-modal fusion? To address this problem, we design an instance-aware fusion method, i.e., Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network (DOMFN), which can adaptively fuse the uni-modal predictions and multi-modal prediction based on cross-modal divergence. Specifically, DOMFN computes a functional penalty score to measure the divergence of cross-modal predictions. Then, the learned divergence can be used to decide whether to conduct multi-modal fusion and be adopted into an amended loss for reliable training. Consequently, DOMFN rejects multi-modal prediction when the cross-modal divergence is too large, avoiding the overall performance degradation, so as to achieve better performance than uni-modalities. In experiments, qualitative comparison with baselines on real-world dataset demonstrates the superiority and explainability of the proposed DOMFN, e.g., we find a meaningful phenomenon that multi-modal

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MM '22, October 10-14, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal.

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ACM ISBN 978-1-4503-9203-7/22/10...\$15.00 https://doi.org/10.1145/3503161.3548203 Hengshu Zhu\* Baidu Talent Intelligence Center, Baidu Inc

fusion has positive effects for assessing resumes from UI Designer and Enterprise Service positions, whereas affects the assessment of Technology and Product Operation positions.

## **CCS CONCEPTS**

• Computing methodologies → Supervised learning.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Multi-Modal Learning, Instance-Aware Fusion, Resume Assessment

#### **ACM Reference Format:**

Yang Yang<sup>†</sup>, Jingshuai Zhang<sup>†</sup>, Fan Gao, Xiaoru Gao, and Hengshu Zhu. 2022. DOMFN: A Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network for Resume Assessment. In *Proceedings of the 30th ACM International Conference on Multimedia (MM '22), October 10–14, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal.* ACM, New York, NY, USA, 9 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3503161.3548203

# **1** INTRODUCTION

With the development of Internet, online recruitment, where employers and job seekers can interact conveniently and efficiently[8], is gaining popularity in recent talent management. In professional recruiting platforms, recruiters always pre-screen potential hires based on job seekers' resumes. Therefore, a high-quality resume can help job seekers stand out, which leads the emergence of resume assessment service as the demands increase. In detail, third-party organizations conduct assessment of the job seeker's resume to assist improving quality. For example, Ladders website <sup>1</sup> provides a convenient platform for recruiters and job seekers, and can polish user-uploaded resumes. However, with the rapid expansion of talent market, e.g., LinkedIn<sup>2</sup> receives 77 job applications every second and 49 million user access each week, it is time-consuming and burdensome to evaluate high volume of resumes. Obviously, effective techniques are required for intelligent resume assessment, which aims to alleviate the burden of manual cost and offer faster feedback to job seekers.

Considering resume content is often presented in text form, we naturally refer to the natural language processing (NLP) techniques to automatically assess the resumes. Early NLP approaches mainly

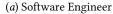
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://www.theladders.com/about-us

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SENIOR PROGRAMMER	most workly deadlines.	Illustrator
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(b) User Interface (UI) Designer

Figure 1: (Best view in color.) Resume examples of different positions. In addition to the content, the layout of resume can also reflect the skills of job seekers, especially for positions that require related techniques like UI Designer.

focus on learning to represent words into vectors in low continuous vector space, and then achieve global representation by fusing the word embeddings for analysis [24]. With the development of deep learning, deep natural language models (e.g., LSTM, BERT) [5, 6] are designed to directly model global representation, and have demonstrated excellent performance. Along this line, several attempts [19, 23, 26, 38] are proposed to employ state-of-the-art deep networks to analyze the resumes as a classification task (i.e., binary classification considering whether it is qualified or not). Note that almost all existing approaches are content-dominated, which develop models with content information only. However, in practical manual assessment, experts will evaluate the resumes from different perspectives, including the content and layout [1]. Using Figure 1 as an example, software engineer presents capability with direct and monochromatic layout while UI Designer applies colorful and elaborate layout that reflects design abilities. Therefore, although texutal information is critical for the evaluation of resume quality, we should not ignore the contribution of visual information in the assessment.

To integrate information from multiple modalities, multi-modal fusion is one of the highly researched aspects in multi-modal machine learning [40–43]. Most existing fusion approaches have been developed using model-agnostic methods [2], which includes early (i.e., feature-based) fusion, late (i.e., decision-based) fusion and hybrid fusion. In detail, early fusion integrates features with designed operator after they are extracted, and late fusion performs integration after each modality has made a decision. At present, each modality also uses the corresponding deep networks, e.g., the Transformer [32] for text modality, ResNet [13] for image modality, to replace the original linear models as backbones. However, several recent studies have reported unsatisfactory performance of multimodal DNNs in various tasks [10, 14, 34], that the performance of multi-modal fusion is inferior to single modality. In fact, this phenomenon also exists when using traditional multi-modal fusion for resume assessment, i.e., the best uni-modal model often outperforms the joint model (Table 1 in Experiments). Upon inspection, the problem appears to be modal divergence, i.e., cross-modal information of partially instances is mismatch, and even has negative effects on fusion. These findings compel us to ask, *when is it appropriate to perform multi-modal fusion?* In other words, the gap between text and image predictions stimulates us to process instance-aware multi-modal fusion.

Therefore, in this paper, we put forward the *differentiated multi-modal fusion* for resume assessment, and propose the Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network (DOMFN), with the purpose of modeling instance-aware multi-modal fusion based on their divergence. In detail, DOMFN builds independent neural networks for textual and visual modalities, and computes a functional penalty score to measure the cross-modal divergence, which can decide whether to integrate multi-modal prediction or only fuse uni-modal predictions for final prediction. Meanwhile, DOMFN applies a novel amended loss for reliable training based on the learned divergence. In results, we evaluate DOMFN with a real-world dataset collecting from a recruitment website, the experimental results prove that our model achieves promising performance compared with both uni-modal and multi-modal networks.

#### 2 RELATED WORK

Resume Assessment. Recently, the newly available big data in recruitment field allow researchers to conduct resume analysis through more quantitative ways [12, 26, 28], which largely depend on resume content using NLP techniques. Considering that the traditional word2vec-based [21] models always failed to capture the semantics with entire context, RNN [7] and LSTM [15] were applied to utilize the sequential information of a sentence/document [4, 16, 21]. Furthermore, the Pre-trained Language Models (PLMs) such as BERT [6] and GPT [27] achieved the state-of-art performance in global representation learning. For example, BERT extracted the relational features of words in sentence concurrently to reflect the global semantics [6]. Inspired by the deep NLP models, [31] used a hierarchical model to extract entities from the resume for prediction. [44] presented a text mining-based approach to extract resume semantic data and devised a set of visualizations to represent the semantic information. [23] addressed that the consistency of different parts in the resume would affect resume quality. However, the practical assessments usually consider multiple perspectives (e.g., content and layout design), rather than single content information. Multi-Modal Fusion. Traditional multi-modal fusion methods can be categorized based on the stage in which fusion occurs, namely early, late and hybrid fusion [45]. Considering the types of modal interaction, early fusion includes simple operation-based and bilinear-based fusion. Simple operation-based fusion employs the concatenation/add/weighted methods to integrate different modal features [9, 17, 37, 45]. Though simple operation-based fusion is direct and has few parameters, it fails to explore complicated correlations between modalities. Therefore, bilinear pooling fusion is constructed to calculate the outer product over input modalities to promote the higher-dimensional interaction [45]. For example, [22]

proposed to decomposes the weights into low-rank factors to compute tensor-based fusion. Moreover, hybrid fusion [2, 18] combines outputs from early fusion and individual uni-modal predictors. In contrast, late fusion refers to integrate multi-modal predictions. In addition to the simple add/mean/majority voting operator, recent approaches always adopt the attention mechanism. For example, [39] introduced an adaptive weighting method for multi-modal fusion. [25] built novel transformer based architecture for modal fusion at multiple layers using bottlenecks. However, [10, 14, 34] observed that the best uni-modal network often outperforms the multi-modal network. Therefore, [34] proposed to estimate the unimodal generalization and overfitting speeds in order to calibrate the learning through loss re-weighing. [10] promoted the reliability and robustness by integrating evidence that explained the prediction of each modality. Nevertheless, these methods still do not give up on multi-modal fusion, and ignore an important issue that excessive divergence between modalities has side effects on the prediction of fused multi-modal representation.

## **3 PROPOSED METHOD**

In this section, we will introduce our DOMFN for resume assessment. As shown in the Figure 2, the overall framework are composed of two parts: *Multi-Modal Feature Extraction* and *Instance-Aware Multi-Modal Fusion*. In detail, Multi-Modal Feature Extraction firstly processes the statistical and contextual information as textual features, and regards the layout design of the resume as visual features. Then, Instance-Aware Multi-Modal Fusion considers the divergence of cross-modal predictions and aims to distinguish which examples are suitable for multi-modal fusion, where we introduce two independent modal predictors and a trusted multi-modal fusion predictor for ensemble to acquire the final prediction.

## 3.1 Multi-Modal Feature Extraction

For each resume, it involves textual and visual modality. We exploit different neural networks to capture the features from each modality, which includes Textual Feature Extraction and Visual Feature Extraction.

**Textual Features.** Specifically, the textual modality consists of two kinds of information, namely statistical information (e.g., school, degree, major, etc) and context (i.e., work and project experiences). Statistical data is discontinuous and unordered words that express information from different perspectives. We summarize values of each description. For example, we divide the degree data in *Junior high school and below, High school, Associate, Bachelor, Master, Ph.D., MBA, EMBA, MPA.* To relate and combine all statistical data, we map them into an one-hot vector which encodes categorical features as a numeric array based on the unique values. In detail, we have 16 (i.e., degree, major, school, working years, intended position, etc) categories of statistical data and finally get a 58-dimension vector as the statistical representation. In result, given the content *T*, we can extract the contained statistical feature as:

$$\mathbf{x}_a = One - hot(T) \tag{1}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_a \in \mathbb{R}^{d_a}$ ,  $d_a = 58$  denotes the dimension.

In resume, the context information indicates sentences describing one's work and project experiences. Normally, these sentences are relatively independent and non-interfering, so that we don't concatenate them wholly to acquire global features but input single sentence into the extractor. Therefore, as shown in the Figure 2, we adopt the pre-trained BERT [6] as encoder. For each raw sentence  $s_i$  in content *T*, we add special symbol [*CLS*] in the front, and [*SEP*] in the end of sentence as [6] to guide the model generating contextualized representation. We use the [*CLS*] embedding from the output of last layer to represent each sentence because it integrates the semantics of each word:

$$\mathbf{z}_i = BERT(s_i) \tag{2}$$

where  $\mathbf{z}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_s}$  denotes the global feature,  $d_s = 768$  represents the dimension. Assuming we have *N* experiences in the resume, we can get *N* representations after encoding. Consequently, we combine the statistical and textual features as:

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \Phi_z(\mathbf{x}_z \oplus \mathbf{x}_a)$$
  
$$\mathbf{x}_z = \mathbf{z}_1 \oplus \mathbf{z}_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbf{z}_N$$
(3)

where the  $\oplus$  denotes concatenation operator, and  $\Phi_z$  is the learnable mapping layer, i.e., the fully connected network, which maps the concatenated features to  $d_s$  dimension.  $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_s}$  can be regarded the extracted text modal representation.

**Visual Feature.** The visual information in the resume refers to the layout in each page and the attached design portfolio, both of which are in the format of images. Basically, these images of each page are not consecutive and contain individual information. In this case, we leverage the pre-trained ResNet [13] to encode each image. We take the output of penultimate layer as visual feature vector. Therefore, as shown in the Figure 2, Given  $I = \{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_M\}$ , where M denotes the maximum number of pages in the resume, we collect a stacked visual feature matrix. Similarly, we incorporate a concatenation operator with a learnable mapping layer to get the final visual vector:

$$\mathbf{z}_{m} = \operatorname{ResNet}(I_{m})$$
  
$$\mathbf{x}_{v} = \Phi_{v}(\mathbf{z}_{1} \oplus \mathbf{z}_{2} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbf{z}_{M})$$
(4)

where  $\mathbf{z}_m \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v}$  denotes the hidden representation,  $\mathbb{R}^{d_v} = 2048$ .  $\Phi_v$  is the learnable mapping layer, i.e., the fully connected network, which maps the concatenated features to  $d_v$  dimension.

## 3.2 Instance-Aware Multi-Modal Fusion

**Overview.** This section introduces the process of modal fusion in our work. Specifically, we first build two independent fully connected neural networks for textual and visual modal prediction, aiming to perform prediction from single perspective. In order to distinguish whether different modalities observe the same phenomenon, we calculate a functional penalty score to quantify the divergence of cross-modal prediction results. Based on the learned divergence, we define a instance-aware fusion mechanism to connect the divergence and strategic modal fusion, i.e., if the functional penalty score is higher than the threshold, which means textual and visual modality don't share the common ground, we choose to reject the fusion. Otherwise, we believe the fused modality will promote the robustness. Lastly, the independent modal predictions and multi-modal prediction are merged for the final prediction.

**Uni-modal and Multi-modal Prediction.** We first incorporate individual predictors for each modality. As we have extracted

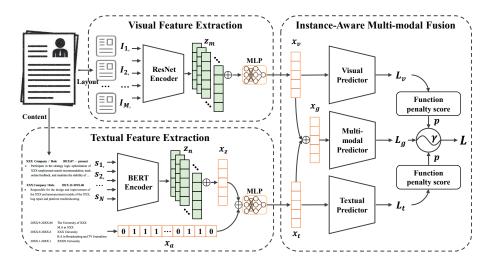


Figure 2: Illustration of the proposed Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network in Resume Assessment. Firstly, multi-modal feature extraction includes the text and visual feature extractions. Then, the instance-aware multi-modal fusion can adaptively fuse the uni-modal predictions and multi-modal prediction based on the learned cross-modal divergence.

textual and visual features using the well-explored pre-trained models, we use the fully connected networks to classify the text and image independently. The textual output  $y_t$  and visual output  $y_v$  are formulated as following:

$$y_t = f_t(\mathbf{x}_t) \quad y_v = f_v(\mathbf{x}_v) \tag{5}$$

where  $f_t$ ,  $f_v$  denote the predictors with fully connected networks of text and image. Furthermore, in the process of multi-modal fusion, we choose to utilize early fusion technique (i.e, concatenation) to interact different modal features, and the predictor is also built with the fully neural network to predict the results. Accordingly, the fused modality and the predictor can be formulated as:

$$\mathbf{x}_g = \mathbf{x}_t \oplus \mathbf{x}_v \quad y_g = f_g(\mathbf{x}_g) \tag{6}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_g \in \mathbb{R}^{d_s+d_v}$  denotes the multi-modal fused features.  $f_g$  denotes the predictor with fully connected network for  $\mathbf{x}_q$ .

**Overall Loss.** In this part, we answer the question that when is it appropriate to perform multi-modal fusion. Obviously, different modalities from unrelated neural networks have divergence. Besides, textual and visual modalities focusing on complementary characteristics have different contributions to the final output, so the common practices that train the multi-modal models simultaneously without considering the errors from divergence are unfair. Therefore, we employ a novel amended loss function for uni-modal predictors.

In detail, the commonly adopted loss for textual and visual predictors is always defined as binary cross entropy:

$$L_o = -[y \log y_o + (1 - y) \log(1 - y_o)], \quad o \in \{t, v\}$$
(7)

where  $L_o$  represents the uni-modal loss of o-th modality, and y is the ground-truth label, y = 1 represents qualified and otherwise is unqualified. Meanwhile, the average value of uni-modal predictions is:  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{o \in \{t,v\}} y_o$ , where  $y_o$  denotes the uni-modal prediction.

Traditional approaches train multiple uni-modal predictors independently, which can be regarded as a ensemble process by considering the uni-modal predictor as independent classifier. However, this may not be optimal as demonstrated in [3] that the quadratic error of the ensemble estimator is guaranteed to be less than or equal to the average quadratic error of the component estimators, which advocates learning a set of both accurate and decorrelated models. Therefore, the ensemble error consists of both the individual error and the interactions (i.e., divergence) within ensemble, and we need to regularize the model correlation in ensemble to learn a divided and conquered approach. Based on this idea, in order to encourage cooperation of different modalities to generate reliable estimation, we are inspired by [20, 46] to employ negative correlation learning with a correlation penalty term into the error function of each individual network, so that all the networks can be trained simultaneously and interactively. In result, we reformulate the loss function of uni-modal  $o \in \{t, v\}$ -th predictor in Equation 7, which is defined as amended loss:

$$L_{o} = L_{o} + \eta p_{o}$$

$$p_{o} = (y_{o} - \bar{y}) \sum_{k = \{t, v\}/o} (y_{k} - \bar{y}),$$
(8)

where  $p_o$  is defined as functional penalty score, which represents the divergence between modalities in the decision level. Clearly, the loss function of each predictor is composed of the errors of individual modality and the divergence. The  $\eta$  is to adjust the influence of divergence on the loss function. On the other hand, take the average value of uni-modal predictions  $\bar{y}$  into Equation 8, the functional penalty scores of each modality are the same:

$$p = -(\frac{y_t - y_v}{2})^2$$
(9)

Therefore, Equation 8 explains that the model learns to negatively correlate the individual errors and the divergence. On the other hand, to support the intensive instance-aware multi-modal fusion, we set a fixed threshold  $\gamma$  to control the process of fusion. Specifically, we claim that the appropriate case to merge modality is when the value of p is lower than  $\gamma$ , which means the textual and visual modality have the same observation, and the cross-modal divergence supports the fusion. Therefore, in this case we use the sum of all loss functions to train the overall model. Conversely, if the value of p is higher than  $\gamma$ , we believe that the multi-modal fusion is unnecessary because the information from different modalities is mutually exclusive, influencing the learning of multi-modal predictors. Then we only use the losses of individual modalities to train the encoder. In summary, this process can be formalized as:

$$L = \begin{cases} \widetilde{L}_t + \widetilde{L}_v + L_g, & p \le \gamma \\ \widetilde{L}_t + \widetilde{L}_v, & p > \gamma \end{cases}$$
(10)

where  $L_q$  has the same loss function as Equation 7.

In addition to the training process, the threshold also plays an alternative role in the prediction selection with the comparison between p and  $\gamma$ . In test phase, the final output is undoubtedly the fused results of uni-modal and multi-modal predictions when p is lower than  $\gamma$ . In contrast, when the divergence of textual and visual modality rejects modal fusion, we employ the confidence of predictions from uni-modal classifier to select the final output. We hold the opinion that prediction is reliable when it has a high confidence. Therefore, the output layer is as follows:

$$\hat{y} = \begin{cases} \max\{y_t, y_v, y_g\}, & p \le \gamma \\ \max\{y_t, y_v\}, & p > \gamma \end{cases}$$
(11)

where  $y_g$  indicates the output of multi-modal predictor. The detail process of training is shown in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 Training

Input: The resume set  $\mathcal{D}$ , threshold  $\gamma$ , the training epochs E. Output: The updated encoders  $f_t$ ,  $f_v$ ,  $f_g$ for  $e = 1, 2, \dots, E$  do Randomly sample mini-batch from  $\mathcal{D}$ . Calculating the  $y_t$  and  $y_v$  according to Equation 5 Calculating the p according to Equation 9 if  $p < \gamma$  then  $\widetilde{L}_t + \widetilde{L}_v + L_g \stackrel{update}{\longrightarrow} f_t$ ,  $f_v$ ,  $f_g$ ,  $\Phi_z$ ,  $\Phi_v$ else  $\widetilde{L}_t \stackrel{update}{\longrightarrow} f_t$ ,  $\Phi_z$   $\widetilde{L}_v \stackrel{update}{\longrightarrow} f_v$ ,  $\Phi_v$ end if end for

## 4 EXPERIMENTS

## 4.1 Dataset Description

In this section, we will introduce the real-world resume dataset we used, which is in-firm data of talents from a high-tech company in China (note that all sensitive information in the dataset has been removed or anonymized). In order to remove the bias caused by name, age, and gender, all the personal information is not under consideration. In detail, we have 5 categories of resumes from different positions, including Technology, Product Operation, UI Designer, Enterprise Service, and Others, respectively represented

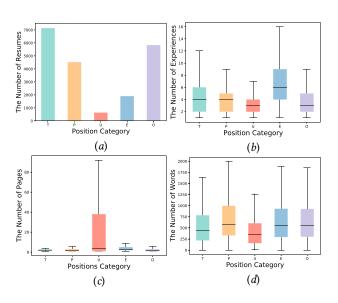


Figure 3: (Best view in color.) Basic statistics. (a):The number of resumes applying for different positions. (b): The number distribution of experiences in a resume with regard to different positions. (c) The number distribution of pages in a resume with regard to different positions. (d) The number distribution of words describing a experience.

by  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$ , and O. Note that the job contents of UI Designer and Enterprise Service include product design and promotion, which require higher photoshop and exhibition skills. Each resumes contains: candidates' school, degree, working years, project & work experiences, layout design, etc. We label the resume that attracted recruiter's attention and received interview invitation as the positive examples and otherwise negative. In order to enrich the textual information of the resume, we employed the resumes that have at least one project or work experience description. In result, we sampled 10,000 positive and 10,000 negative examples as full dataset for experiments. The dataset is split into 80% for training, 10% for validation, and remaining as testing data.

Furthermore, we present the basic statistics of the dataset in Figure 3. As shown in the Figure 3(a), different kinds of resumes have imbalance distribution in which technical resumes have the largest number. Figure 3(b) has displayed the number distribution of experiences based on different position categories. Besides, Compared with Figure 3(c) and (d), we can find that the UI design-oriented resumes tend to offer abundant design portfolio rather than write long text. In experiments, we will deeply analyze the effect of instanceaware multi-modal fusion on different positions.

## 4.2 Experimental Setup

4.2.1 *Feature Processing.* **Attribute Data.** As the collected resume is PDF format, we produce the text with PaddleOCR [33]. For each resume, we summarize the attributes in 5 aspects: school, degree, major, working years, positions. Then we grouped each attribute into different levels and map them into one-hot vectors. We finally

get a 58-dimension vector to represent attribute features. **Contextual Data.** As for contextual information (project & work experiences), we consider the top 15 experiences because few resumes contains more than 15 slides of experiences according to Figure 3(b). Similarly, we set the maximum number of words describing a single experience as 300 and deleted the words beyond limitation according to Figure 3(d). We utilize the pre-trained 12-layer BERT to extract the 758-dimension contextual embedding for each experience. **Image Data.** We use the tool of pdf-to-img in Python to transfer every page of the resume into a picture. Analysing the number distribution of pages in Figure 3(c), we only study the top 10 images of every resume sample. To acquire the visual modal representation, we apply 50-layer Resnet to extract visual feature.

4.2.2 Implementations. In the experiments, textual and visual predictors  $f_t$ ,  $f_v$  are both 4-layer fully connected networks while the predictor  $f_g$  for multi-modal fusion is a 2-layer fully connected network. The mapping functions  $\Phi_v$  and  $\Phi_t$  are two independent 2-layer fully connected networks. To speedup the training, we first pre-train the textual and visual encoder with the collecting training dataset by 15 epochs, the learning rate is set as  $10^{-2}$  for both predictors. Then we fine-tune all the predictors with 75 epochs. We optimize with Adam Optimizer using learning rates  $10^{-3}$  and a decay weight  $1 \times 10^{-2}$ . We performed the best hyper-parameters ( $\eta = 0.5$ ,  $\gamma = 0.8$ ) for training and testing. The model is trained on a single 12G Nvidia K-40 GPU. We will publish the code and dataset after the paper is accepted.

4.2.3 Evaluation Metrics. Identifying whether a resume is qualified to pass the screening is a binary classification problem. AUC is a significant and widely used metric that reflects model performance within different boundary values between classes[38]. Besides, we also exploite the standard evaluation scores of Accuracy, Recall, Precision, and Macro-F1 to evaluate the effectiveness.

## 4.3 Baseline Models

To validate the effectiveness of proposed DOMFN, we compare it with existing state-of-the-art uni-modal approaches and multimodal fusion methods. Note that we also include the state-of-theart reliable multi-modal fusion methods for comparison. In detail, the uni-modal approaches include LSTM [15] and BERT [6] for text modality, and VGG [30] and ResNet [13] for image modality. Moreover, we compare our model with multi-modal fusion methods, i.e., LMF [22], MIMN [36], OGR [34], MIMM [9], TMC [11], LF [29] and CMML [39]. Note that the OGR, TMC, and CMML are reliable multi-modal fusion methods considering modal imbalance. To study the superiority of our method in calculating the divergence of different modalities, we also evaluate the results of DP-Ensemble (i.e., an ensemble method) [35].

## 4.4 Experimental Results

**Performance of Resume Assessment.** We first conduct comprehensive experiments to evaluate performance of baseline models and our proposed DOMFN on resume assessment. The results are recorded in Table 1. We find that: 1) BERT performs significantly better than visual modality, which reveals that text performs major impact on the resume assessment task. On the other hand, the

 Table 1: The Overall Performance of Uni-modal and Multimodal Methods. The best results are highlighted in bold.

-	Methods	AUC	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Macro-F1
-			,			
	LSTM	0.837	0.756	0.759	0.756	0.756
	BERT	0.842	0.745	0.746	0.845	0.744
	VGG	0.656	0.621	0.626	0.621	0.618
	ResNet	0.666	0.630	0.634	0.631	0.628
	LMF	0.850	0.773	0.782	0.774	0.771
	MIMN	0.830	0.739	0.740	0.739	0.739
	MIMM	0.840	0.773	0.786	0.773	0.770
	LF	0.825	0.744	0.748	0.745	0.743
	OGR	0.850	0.770	0.796	0.771	0.765
	TMC	0.853	0.766	0.785	0.767	0.763
	CMML	0.849	0.776	0.786	0.777	0.774
]	DP-Ensemble	0.840	0.780	0.787	0.780	0.778
	DOMFN	0.863	0.785	0.796	0.786	0.783

Table 2: Performance of comparison methods on different position categories. The best results are highlighted in bold.

Metrics	Methods	$\mathcal{T}$	$\mathscr{P}$	U	3	0
	BERT	0.721	0.851	0.882	0.606	0.882
	ResNet	0.539	0.68	0.792	0.655	0.639
AUC	TMC	0.754	0.867	0.898	0.647	0.864
AUC	OGR	0.743	0.855	0.881	0.610	0.882
	CMML	0.745	0.826	0.785	0.701	0.857
	DOMFN	0.760	0.879	0.903	0.703	0.882
	BERT	0.75	0.739	0.631	0.572	0.809
	ResNet	0.635	0.631	0.736	0.611	0.619
1	TMC	0.773	0.774	0.807	0.594	0.801
Accuracy	OGR	0.785	0.787	0.842	0.561	0.795
	CMML	0.758	0.739	0.701	0.672	0.806
	DOMFN	0.779	0.796	0.859	0.677	0.809
	BERT	0.676	0.738	0.607	0.524	0.704
Macro-F1	ResNet	0.550	0.631	0.736	0.609	0.574
	TMC	0.638	0.770	0.806	0.594	0.751
	OGR	0.671	0.784	0.840	0.547	0.755
	CMML	0.658	0.739	0.698	0.672	0.749
	DOMFN	0.677	0.794	0.857	0.677	0.755

Table 3: Ablation Study. The best results are highlighted.

Model	AUC	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Macro-F1
DOMFN	0.863	0.790	0.802	0.793	0.788
w/o $\widetilde{L}_t$	0.852	0.772	0.773	0.772	0.772
w/o $\widetilde{L}_v$	0.852	0.774	0.776	0.774	0.774
w/o $\widetilde{L}_t \widetilde{L}_v$	0.844	0.753	0.754	0.752	0.751
w/o instance	0.860	0.782	0.800	0.782	0.778
w/o all	0.825	0.744	0. 748	0.744	0.743

models developed by the image modality, i.e., VGG and ResNet are also weak predictors, which perform better than random prediction, so they can also provide auxiliary information. 2) Several multimodal fusion methods, e.g., MIMN, and LF perform worse than the BERT on partial criteria, especially the AUC and Macro-F1. This DOMFN: A Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network for Resume Assessment

phenomenon indicates that directly complex multi-modal fusion techniques may fail to promote the results without considering the cross-modal gap. 3) OGR, TMC and CMML can improve the prediction performance and perform better than other multi-modal fusion approaches on most criteria, which reveals the effectiveness of robust fusion by considering cross-modal imbalance. 4) DOMFN outperforms all the comparison baselines under the metrics of AUC, Accuracy, Recall, Precision and Macro-F1. This phenomenon indicates that multi-modal fusion is not always useful, so we need to carefully consider when it is appropriate to conduct the fusion.

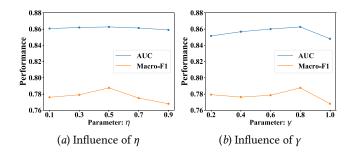


Figure 4: Prediction performance vs. hyper-parameters.

Performance on Different Positions. In order to identify the improvements of DOMFN in different positions, we further conduct more experiments. The results are shown in Table 2, note that considering the effectiveness, we only exhibit the results of best uni-modal and multi-modal fusion approaches. We find that: 1) In positions of Technology, Product Operation, Enterprise Service and Others, the existing state-of-the-art uni-modal and multi-modal fusion approaches perform worse than DOMFN on most criteria. The reason is that textual information contributes more than visual information to the prediction with a large margin. Therefore, we don't always need multi-modal fusion for these positions with high probability. 2) In UI Designer and Enterprise Service positions, existing multi-modal fusion approaches have a promoting effect, for the reason that visual information plays an important role in assessing. 3) DOMFN performs consistently better for various positions on most criteria, except Accuracy on Technology position. For example, DOMFN obtains remarkable improvements in Product Operation, UI Designer and Enterprise Service resume assessment. Note that the textual and multi-modal results in Technology are almost the same, so we conclude that DOMFN tends to reject multimodal fusion and choose to use textual information in this position. Therefore, DOMFN can adaptively learn the distinction of different resume positions and adjust the fusion strategies accordingly by considering the cross-modal divergence.

Furthermore, the average functional penalty scores of different positions are 0.825/0.753/0.367/0.564/0.858 for  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$ , and O, the results validate that the multi-modal fusion is important for positions (e.g.,  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  positions) with small functional penalty scores, whereas having little impact on positions with large functional penalty scores. This is in line with the realistic evaluation because UI Designer (i.e.  $\mathcal{U}$ ) and Enterprise Service (i.e.  $\mathcal{E}$ ) positions do require a comprehensive evaluation of resume content and layout, while other positions mainly consider content.

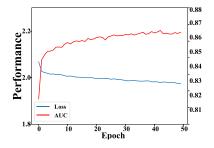


Figure 5: Objective function value vs. number of iterations.

## 4.5 Ablation Study

We conduct more ablation studies to verify the effectiveness of proposed DOMFN method: 1) w/o  $L_t$ , we replace amended loss with the original loss function as Equation 7 for textual modality. 2) w/o  $L_v$ , we replace amended loss with the original loss function as Equation 7 for visual modality. 3) w/o  $\tilde{L}_t \tilde{L}_v$ , we replace amended loss with the original loss function as Equation 7 for two modalities. 4) w/o instance, we remove the pre-defined threshold  $\gamma$  in instanceaware multi-modal fusion. 5) w/o all, we remove the amended loss and functional penalty score. Table 3 records the results, we find that: 1) DOMFN performs better than the w/o  $L_t$ , w/o  $L_v$ , and w/o  $\tilde{L}_t, \tilde{L}_v$  on various criteria, and w/o  $\tilde{L}_t$ , w/o  $\tilde{L}_v$  perform better than w/o  $\widetilde{L}_t, \widetilde{L}_v$  on various criteria. This phenomenon validates the effectiveness of amended loss for prediction. 2) DOMFN performs better than w/o instance, which verifies that the instance-aware multi-modal fusion can effectively eliminate the interference of examples with large cross-modal divergence. DOMFN performs better than w/o all, which verifies the importance of functional penalty score on multi-modal fusion.

#### 4.6 Parameter Sensitivity

The main parameters include the  $\eta$  in Equation 8 and  $\gamma$  in Equation 10. To explore the sensitivity of these parameters, we vary the parameter  $\eta$  in {0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9}, and  $\gamma$  in {0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1} and record the results in Figure 4. The illustrations in figure verifies that DOMFN achieves the best performance when the functional penalty score p is 0.8, which reveals that the multi-modal fusion is not recommended when the divergence between two modalities is too large. Meanwhile, the DOMFN achieves best performance when  $\eta$  is 0.5, which indicates that the penalty score is important for improving performance, but too large penalty score will affect the optimization of classification loss.

## 4.7 Convergence Analysis

To investigate the convergence of DOMFN empirically. We record the objective function value and the classification AUC in each iteration (i.e., each epoch). The Figure 5 records results of DOMFN. It clearly reveals that the objective function value decreases as the iterations increase, and the classification performance becomes stable after several iterations. Moreover, these additional experiment results indicate that our DOMFN can converge fast, i.e., DOMFN converges after 20 epochs.

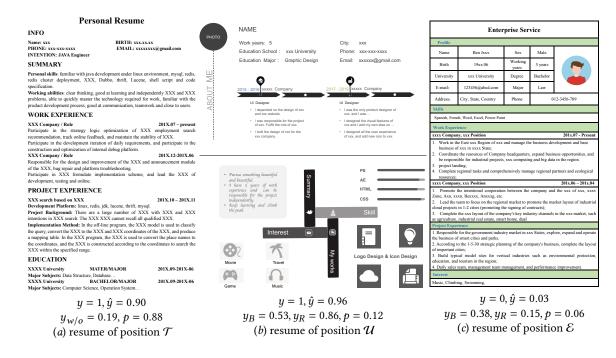


Figure 6: (Best view in color.) Three resume examples. To protect the privacy of job-seekers, we delete all personal information and mask some sensitive words.

#### 4.8 Case Study

To explore the contribution of multi-modal fusion and instanceaware selection, we present several visualization cases for illustration. In Figure 6, (a) exhibits the resume example of Technology position to exhibit the importance of instance-aware selection, (b) and (c) present the superior of multi-modal fusion on two related positions especially appreciating layout, i.e., UI Designer and Enterprise Service positions. Specifically, for Figure 6 (a), the groundtruth y = 1, the prediction score of DOMFN, and w/o instance are 0.9 and 0.19 respectively, and the functional penalty score p = 0.88. The results reveal that w/o instance (i.e., direct fusing uni-modal predictions and multi-modal prediction without rejection) achieves error prediction, for the reason that the cross-modal divergence is large, i.e.,  $p > \gamma$ , so that the multi-modal fusion provides negative effect for prediction. In contrast, DOMFN can predict correctly by discarding the multi-modal fusion with pre-defined  $\gamma$ .

Moreover, for Figure 6 (b), the ground-truth y = 1, the prediction score of DOMFN, BERT, Resnet are 0.96, 0.53, and 0.86 respectively, and the penalty function score p = 0.12. For Figure 6 (c), the groundtruth y = 0, the prediction score of DOMFN, BERT, and Resnet are 0.03, 0.38, and 0.15 respectively, and the penalty function score p = 0.06. From these two cases, we find that DOMFN can achieve more confident prediction than single textual modality, as the visual modality can act as auxiliary information for prediction. This phenomena validates that multi-modal information can actually promote the prediction. Meanwhile, after the expert assessment, we also confirm that layout of Enterprise Service resume in Figure 6 (c) is too monotonous and has no new conception, whereas layout of UI Designer resume in Figure 6 (b) highlights its professionalism in design. In result, we can conclude that it is necessary to conduct instance-aware multi-modal fusion for acquiring more reliable predictions in resume assessment task.

## 5 CONCLUSION

In this study, we focused on the intelligent resume assessment, and improved the traditional content-dominated classification into multi-modal classification by adding the layout as visual modality. Different form existing multi-modal fusion approaches that always incorporate all modalities, we believe that the cross-modal divergence will affect the multi-modal fusion, and proper multimodal fusion is needed. Therefore, we designed a novel Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network (DOMFN) with instanceaware fusion. In detail, DOMFN computed a functional penalty score to measure the divergence between textual and visual modal predictions, and applied a novel training process with an amended loss for reliable multi-modal fusion based on the learned divergence, which can reject multi-modal prediction when it is dangerous. Qualitative comparison with baselines on real-world datasets demonstrated the superiority and explainability of DOMFN.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This research was supported by NSFC (62006118, 61906092, 61836013), Natural Science Foundation of Jiangsu Province of China under Grant (BK20200460, BK20190441). Jiangsu Shuangchuang (Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship) Talent Program. Young Elite Scientists Sponsorship Program by CAST, and CAAI-Huawei MindSpore Open Fund (CAAIXSJLJJ-2021-014B). DOMFN: A Divergence-Orientated Multi-Modal Fusion Network for Resume Assessment

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