



Interpretable Neural Models for NLP

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- Deep learning enables very flexible model exploration
- Often leads to state-of-the-art performance



state-of-the-art unit for language modeling

8 tanh(), 5 sigmoid() and 2 ReLU()

- why this unit?
- what's happening inside?
- why this prediction?
- what if I change this operator?

...

Our Goal

Design neural methods *better* for NLP applications

Performance

being able to achieve top accuracy

Interpretability

being able to explain the model's design being able to explain the model's decision

Outlines (i)

- From (deep) kernel to (deep) neural model
 - a class of neural operator for text / sequence
 - can be derived from traditional sequence kernel
 - encodes an efficient algorithm as its central part of computation

Example of Proposed Component

$$\mathbf{c}_t^{(1)} = \lambda_t \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_t) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$

$$\mathbf{h}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{c}_t^{(2)})$$

how to interpret and understand it?

Sentence:

"the movie is not that good"



"the movie is not that good" Sentence: Ngram Kernel **CNNs** (N=2) not that the movie that good ----is not movie is $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ $\phi(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{M}_{\text{filter}}$

> Pre-activation as a dimension-reduction or projection of traditional methods



Neural model inspired by this kernel method

Illustration



Illustration



Illustration



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{c}_{t}^{(1)} &= \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_{t}) \\ \mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)} &= \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t}) \\ \mathbf{h}_{t} &= \tanh(\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)}) \\ \end{aligned}$$
aggregated 1-gram and 2-gram features

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_{t}) \\ \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t}) \\ \mathbf{h}_{t} = \operatorname{tanh}(\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)}) \\ \operatorname{re-normalize to remove length bias} \\ \operatorname{decay penalizing skip grams} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(1)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$
$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$
$$\mathbf{h}_{t} = \tanh(\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)})$$

$$\lambda_t = 0:$$
 $\mathbf{h}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{W}^{(1)}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)}\mathbf{x}_t)$ (one-layer CNNs)

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(1)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$
$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} \odot \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$

multiplicative mapping

$$\mathbf{h}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{c}_t^{(2)})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(1)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)} \odot \mathbf{W}^{(2)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$
...
$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(n)} = \lambda_{t} \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(n)} + (1 - \lambda_{t}) \odot (\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(n-1)} \odot \mathbf{W}^{(n)} \mathbf{x}_{t})$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{t} = \tanh(\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(n)})$$

can be generalized to n-grams

String kernel counts shared patterns in sequences **x** and **y**:

$$\mathcal{K}_{2}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq |\mathbf{x}|} \sum_{1 \leq k < l \leq |\mathbf{y}|} \lambda^{|\mathbf{x}|-i-1} \lambda^{|\mathbf{y}|-k-1} \left[\mathbb{1}(\mathbf{x}_{i} = \mathbf{y}_{k}) \cdot \mathbb{1}(\mathbf{x}_{j} = \mathbf{y}_{l}) \right]$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{i} \mathbf{x}_{j} = \mathbf{y}_{k} \mathbf{y}_{l}$$

$$\mathbf{w}$$

String kernel counts shared patterns in sequences **x** and **y**:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{K}_{2}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) &= \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq |\mathbf{x}|} \sum_{1 \leq k < l \leq |\mathbf{y}|} \lambda^{|\mathbf{x}|-i-1} \lambda^{|\mathbf{y}|-k-1} \langle \mathbf{x}_{i},\mathbf{y}_{k} \rangle \langle \mathbf{x}_{j},\mathbf{y}_{l} \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq |\mathbf{x}|} \lambda^{|\mathbf{x}|-i-1} \mathbf{x}_{i} \otimes \mathbf{x}_{j}, \sum_{1 \leq k < l \leq |\mathbf{y}|} \lambda^{|\mathbf{y}|-k-1} \mathbf{y}_{k} \otimes \mathbf{y}_{l} \right\rangle \\ & \phi(\mathbf{x}) \quad underlying mapping \end{split}$$

Projecting $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ to hidden representation $\mathbf{c}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

A

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)}[k] = \left\langle \underbrace{\mathbf{w}_{k}^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{w}_{k}^{(2)}}_{k\text{-th filter}}, \underbrace{\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq t} \lambda^{|\mathbf{x}| - i - 1} \mathbf{x}_{i} \otimes \mathbf{x}_{j}}_{\phi(\mathbf{x}_{1:t})} \right\rangle$$
$$= \mathcal{K}_{2} \left(\mathbf{w}_{k}^{(1)} \mathbf{w}_{k}^{(2)}, \mathbf{x}_{1} \mathbf{x}_{2} \cdots \mathbf{x}_{t} \right)$$

can be seen as evaluating kernel functions; naturally embeds sequence similarity computation

Projecting $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ to hidden representation $\mathbf{c}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)}[k] = \left\langle \underbrace{\mathbf{w}_{k}^{(1)} \otimes \mathbf{w}_{k}^{(2)}}_{k\text{-th filter}}, \underbrace{\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq t} \lambda^{|\mathbf{x}| - i - 1} \mathbf{x}_{i} \otimes \mathbf{x}_{j}}_{\phi(\mathbf{x}_{1:t})} \right\rangle$$

Efficient implementation to compute \mathbf{c}_t (dynamic programming)

$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(2)}[k] = \lambda \cdot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)}[k] + \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(1)}[k] \cdot \left\langle \mathbf{w}_{k}^{(2)}, \mathbf{x}_{t} \right\rangle$$



Interpreting Other Operations

Applying non-linear activation

can be seen as function composition between string kernel and the dual kernel of the activation function

 $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \phi_2(\phi_1(\mathbf{x}))$

Stacking multiple layers

can be seen as **recursive kernel construction** using the kernel of the previous layer as the **base kernel**

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i,j} \lambda^{t-i-1} \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_{1:i}) \otimes \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_{1:j})$$

Choices of Decay

- constants: $\lambda_t = [u_1, u_2, \cdots, u_d]$
- depends on x: $\lambda_t = \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{b})$
- depends on x and h: $\lambda_t = \sigma(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{V}\mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \mathbf{b})$



Task: Predict the sentiment given a sentence in a review

Data: Stanford sentiment treebank

Does it help to model non-consecutive patterns?



Deeper model exhibits better representational power



Model	5-class	Binary
CNNs (Kalchbrener et al. 2014)	48.5	86.9
CNNs (Kim 2014)	47.4	88.1
Bi-LSTMs (Tai et al. 2015)	49.1	87.5
RLSTMs (Tai et al. 2015)	51.0	88.0
Dynamic MemNet (Kumar et al. 2016)	52.1	88.6
Constant (0.5)	51.2	88.6
Adaptive (depends on x)	51.4	89.2
Adaptive (depends on x and h)	53.2	89.9

Test Results on Stanford Sentiment Treebank

Task: Predict the next word given previous words

Data: Penn treebank (Wall street journal corpus)









Model	Size	Perplexity	
Character CNNs	19m	78.9	- - -
LSTM (large)	66m	78.4	
Variational LSTM (medium)	20m	78.6	
Variational LSTM (large)	51m	73.2	
Pointer Sentinel LSTM	21m	70.9	better regularized
Variational Deep Highway RNN	24m	66.0	rogulalizou
Neural Net Search	25m	64.0	J
Ours (adaptive on x)	20m	70.9	
Ours (adaptive on x and h)	20m	69.2	
Comparison with state-of-the-art result can be improved w/ variational techniques			

Task: Find similar questions given the user's input question

Applic	cation to find duplicate MP	'3s [duplicate] title	
^ 1	Possible Duplicate: How can I find duplicate songs?		
×	I'm looking for a program to find dupli	icate MP3 files.	
(★) 1	The program shouldn't use MD5 hash Twin for Windows).	hes but it should find similar file r	names. (Something like Anti-
	Any help is appreciated.		body
	software-recommendation mp3		
	share improve this question	edited Mar 10 '12 at 21:38 Bruno Pereira 45.4k • 18 • 144 • 179	asked Mar 10 '12 at 21:16 chris 371 • 1 • 3 • 15

question from Stack Exchange AskUbuntu

Task: Find similar questions given the user's input question

Applie	cation to find duplicate MF	P3s [duplicate]	
^ 1	Possible Duplicate: How can I find duplicate songs?	user-marked	d similar question
$\mathbf{\mathbf{v}}$	I'm looking for a program to find dup	licate MP3 files.	
1	The program shouldn't use MD5 has Twin for Windows).	shes but it should find similar file r	names. (Something like Anti-
	Any help is appreciated.		
	software-recommendation mp3		
	share improve this question	edited Mar 10 '12 at 21:38 Bruno Pereira 45.4k • 18 • 144 • 179	asked Mar 10 '12 at 21:16 chris 371 • 1 • 3 • 15

question from Stack Exchange AskUbuntu

Dataset:AskUbuntu 2014 dumppre-train on 167k, fine-tune on 16kevaluate using 8k pairs (50/50 split for dev/test)

Baselines:TF-IDF, BM25 and SVM rerankerCNNs, LSTMs and GRUs

Grid-search: learning rate, dropout, pooling, filter size, pre-training, ...

5 independent runs for each config.

> 500 runs in total



Our improvement is significant



$$\mathbf{c}_{t}^{(3)} = \lambda \odot \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(3)} + (1-\lambda) \odot \left(\mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{(2)} + \mathbf{W}_{3} \mathbf{x}_{t} \right)$$

Analyze the weight vector over time

(a) how can i add guake terminal to the start-up applications



(f) can anyone tell me how to make guake terminal be part of the start-up applications



(b) banshee crashes with `` an unhandled exception was thrown : "



Outlines (ii)

- Rationalizing neural predictions
 - a framework for understanding/justifying predictions
 - rationales are extracted from input as "supporting evidence"
 - can be optimized in RL w/o rationale annotations

- Complex (neural) models come at the cost of interpretability
- Applications often need interpretable justifications rationales.

this beer **pours ridiculously clear with tons of carbonation** that forms a rather impressive rocky head that settles slowly into a fairly dense layer of foam. **this is a real good lookin' beer**, unfortunately it gets worse from here ... first, **the aroma is kind of bubblegum-like and grainy.** next, the taste is sweet and grainy with an unpleasant bitterness in the finish. overall, the fat weasel is good for a fairly cheap buzz, but only if you like your beer grainy and bitter .



review with rationales

- Complex (neural) models come at the cost of interpretability
- Applications often need interpretable justifications rationales.

There is no evidence of extranodal extension. BREAST (RIGHT), EXCISIONAL BIOPSY: INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA (SEE TABLE #1). DUCTAL CARCINOMA IN-SITU, GRADE 1. ATYPICAL DUCTAL HYPERPLASIA. LOBULAR NEOPLASIA (ATYPICAL LOBULAR HYPERPLASIA). TABLE OF PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS #1 INVASIVE CARCINOMA

... ...



prediction: high risk of recurring cancer

Doctors won't trust machines, unless evidence is provided

- Complex (neural) models come at the cost of interpretability
- Applications often need interpretable justifications rationales.

Our goal: make powerful models more interpretable by learning rationales behind the prediction

Problem Setup

Interpretability via providing concise evidence from input

Rationales (evidence) should be:

- short and coherent pieces
- sufficient for correct prediction

Rationales are not provided during training

in contrast to (Zaidan et al., 2007; Marshall et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2016)

Use powerful neural nets to avoid accuracy loss

in contrast to (Thrun, 1995; Craven and Shavlik, 1996; Ribeiro et al., 2016)

Generator gen(x)

Encoder *enc(z)*

two modular components gen() and enc()





generator specifies the distribution of rationales

input x



prediction y

encoder makes prediction given rationale

input x



prediction y

two components optimized jointly

Generator Implementations



independent selection, feedforward net

Generator Implementations



independent selection, bi-directional RNNs

Generator Implementations



dependent selection, bi-directional RNNs

choose networks based on the data/application

Training Objective



Minimizing expected cost:

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in D} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim \text{gen}(\mathbf{x})} \left[\text{cost}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}) \right]$$

intractable because summation over z is exponential

Learning Method

• Possible to sample the gradient, e.g.:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim \text{gen}(\mathbf{x})} \left[\text{cost}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}) \ \frac{\partial \log P(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_g} \right]$$
$$\approx \ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \text{cost}(\mathbf{z}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \frac{\partial \log P(\mathbf{z}_i | \mathbf{x}_i)}{\partial \theta_g}$$

where *z*^{*i*} are sampled rationales

• Stochastic gradient decent on sampled gradients

Learning as Policy Gradient Method



Experiments

Three real-world datasets and applications for evaluation:

Predicting sentiment for product reviews

Parsing medical pathology reports

Finding similar posts on QA forum

Evaluation: Product Review

Dataset: multi-aspect beer reviews from *BeerAdvocate* (McAuley et al, 2012) 1.5m in total 1,000 reviews annotated at sentence level with aspect label (used only for evaluation)

Task: predict ratings and rationales for each aspect

this beer **pours ridiculously clear with tons of carbonation** that forms a rather impressive rocky head that settles slowly into a fairly dense layer of foam. **this is a real good lookin' beer**, unfortunately it gets worse from here ... first, **the aroma is kind of bubblegum-like and grainy.** next, the taste is sweet and grainy with an unpleasant bitterness in the finish. overall, the fat weasel is good for a fairly cheap buzz, but only if you like your beer grainy and bitter .

Ratings
Look: 5 stars
Aroma: 2 stars

Evaluation: Product Review

Set-up: ratings are fractional; treat the task as regression following (McAuley et al, 2012) use recurrent networks for *gen()* and *enc()*

Metrics: precision: percentage of selected words in correct sentences

mean squared error on sentiment prediction

Baselines: SVM classifier attention-based RNN

Sentiment Prediction



Sentiment Prediction



rationales getting close performance to full text

Sentiment Prediction



advantage of neural models over linear classifiers still clear

Precision of Rationales

Examples and precisions of rationales

a beer that is not sold in my neck of the woods , but managed to get while on a roadtrip . poured into an imperial pint glass with **a generous head that sustained life throughout** . nothing out of the ordinary here , but a good brew still . body **was kind of heavy , but not thick** . the **hop smell was excellent and enticing . very drinkable**

poured into a snifter . **produces a small coffee head that reduces quickly . black as night** . pretty typical imp . **roasted malts** hit on the nose . **a little sweet chocolate follows** . big toasty character on the taste . in between i 'm getting plenty of dark chocolate and some bitter espresso . it finishes with hop bitterness . **nice smooth mouthfeel with perfect carbonation for the** style . overall a nice stout i would love to have again , maybe with some age on it .



more examples available at

https://github.com/taolei87/rcnn/tree/master/code/rationale

Precision of Rationales



proper modeling leads to better rationale

Learning Curves

Learning curves of cost(z) on dev and precision on test

find good rationales after epochs of exploration

Evaluation: Parsing Pathology Report

- **Dataset:** patients' pathology reports from hospitals such as MGH
- Task:check if a disease/symptom is positive in textbinary classification for each category

- Statistics: several thousand report for each category pathology report is long (>1000 words) but structured
- Model: use CNNs fro gen() and enc()

Evaluation: Parsing Pathology Report

Category:

IDC

LCIS

Accession Number <unk> Report Status Final Type Surgical Pathology ... Pathology Report: LEFT BREAST ULTRASOUND GUIDED CORE NEEDLE BIOPSIES ... INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA poorly differentiated modified Bloom Richardson grade III III measuring at least 0 7cm in this limited specimen Central hyalinization is present within the tumor mass but no necrosis is noted No lymphovascular invasion is identified No in situ carcinoma is present Special studies were performed at an outside institution with the following results not reviewed ESTROGEN RECEPTOR NEGATIVE PROGESTERONE RECEPTOR NEGATIVE ...

... **Extensive** LCIS DCIS **Invasive** carcinoma of left breast FINAL DIAGNOSIS BREAST **LEFT LOBULAR CARCINOMA IN SITU PRESENT** ADJACENT TO PREVIOUS BIOPSY SITE SEE NOTE CHRONIC INFLAMMATION ORGANIZING HEMORRHAGE AND FAT NECROSIS BIOPSY SITE NOTE There is a second area of focal lobular carcinoma in situ noted with pagetoid spread into ducts No vascular invasion is seen The margins are free of tumor No tumor seen in 14 lymph nodes examined BREAST left breast is a <unk> gram 25 x 28 x 6cm left ...

97%

F-score:

98%

LVI

FINAL DIAGNOSIS BREAST RIGHT EXCISIONAL BIOPSY INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA DUCTAL CARCINOMA IN SITU SEE TABLE 1 MULTIPLE LEVELS EXAMINED TABLE OF PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS 1 INVASIVE CARCINOMA Tumor size <unk> X <unk> X 1 3cm Grade 2 Lymphatic vessel invasion Present Blood vessel invasion Not identified Margin of invasive carcinoma Invasive carcinoma extends to less than 0 2cm from the inferior margin of the specimen in one focus Location of ductal carcinoma in situ

84%

Evaluation: Question Retrieval

Dataset:question posts from AskUbuntu forum
(dos Santos et al., 2015; Lei et al., 2016)
question pairs annotated as similar by users

Task:optimize neural representations such thatdistance between similar questions is small

Rationales:

underlined texts are question titles what is the easiest way to **install all the media codec available** for ubuntu ? i am having issues with multiple applications prompting me to install codecs before they can play my files . <u>how do i install media codecs</u> ?

please any one give the solution for this whenever i try to **convert the rpm file to deb** file i always get this problem error : <unk> : not an **rpm package** (or package **manifest**) error executing `` lang=c rpm -qp -- queryformat % { name } <unk> ' '' : at <unk> line 489 thanks . <u>converting **rpm file**</u> <u>to debian file</u>

Conclusion

Explain model's design:

- We derive better justified (recurrent) neural architectures that are inspired by traditional kernel methods;
- We show model with better intuition and understanding can lead to better performance

Explain model's prediction:

 We present a prototype framework for rationalizing model predictions, and evaluate it quantitatively and qualitatively on various applications

Future Work

interpretable components for trees and graphs

aggregation

this beer pours ridiculously clear with tons of carbonation that forms a rather impressive rocky head that settles slowly into a fairly dense layer of foam. this is a real good lookin' beer, unfortunately it gets worse from here ...

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poured into a snifter . produces a small coffee head that reduces quickly . black as night . pretty typical imp . roasted malts hit on the nose . a little sweet chocolate follows . big toasty character on the taste . good looking
 heavy palate
 chocolate smell

vision

improve training (variance reduction)

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