

Figure 4: Performances of DC-RecNN with the different sizes of latent vector z on five development datasets: IE, MR, SST, SUBJ, and QC. Y-axis represents the accuracy(%), and X-axis represents dimensionality of z .

Type	Neurons	Examples	Explanations
Semantic	Lexical	fun, glad, terrific, wonderful, refreshing	Words related to sentiment
	Phrasal	pick holes, secured in stitches, spit hairs	Phrases related to sentiment
Syntactic	Noun Phrase	blond boy, pink shirt, green grass, black dog	Containing modifiers related to color
	Verb Phrase	waking up, take off, parking up, driving down	Phrases constructed by light verb
	Prep. Phrase	shaking a potato, playing guitar, chopping butter	Verb-object phrases
		on a track, in rocky area, on a stage, over water	Phrases related to places

Table 5: Multiple interpretable neurons and the words/phrases captured by these neurons. The last column gives the explanations of corresponding neuron’s behaviours.

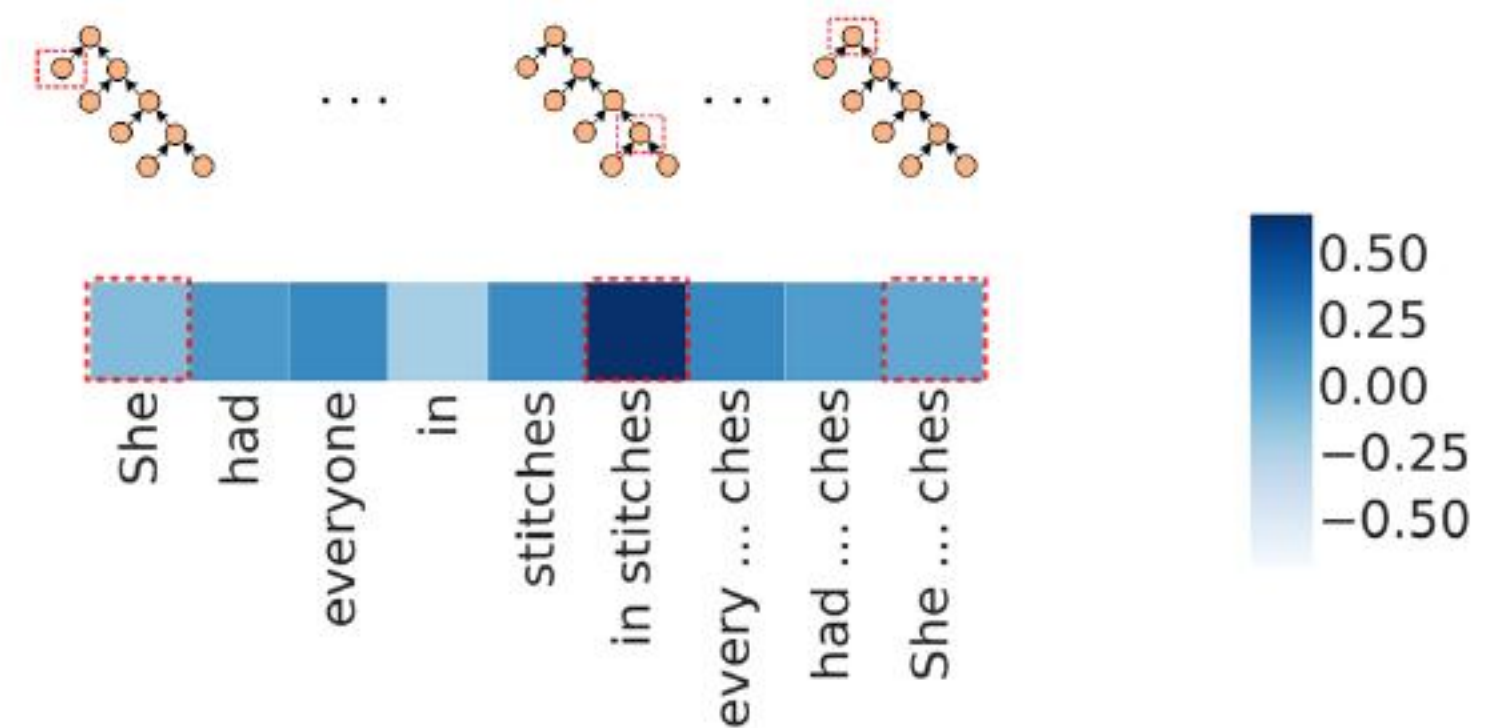
process of composition. Figure 5(a) shows a visualization. We can see in this sentence, the neuron has realized that this idiomatic collocation “in stitches” is a key pattern, which is crucial for the final sentiment prediction.

- For more complicated tasks such as semantic matching, a well-grounded understanding of the syntactic structure is crucial. In this context, we find that a meta network could capture some syntactic information. For example, the 27-th neuron monitors phrases constructed by light-verb. As shown in Figure 5(b), the verb phrase “taking off” has been attended for forthcoming compositional operation, which is more useful for judging the semantic relation between the sentence pair “An airplane is taking off/A plane is landing”.

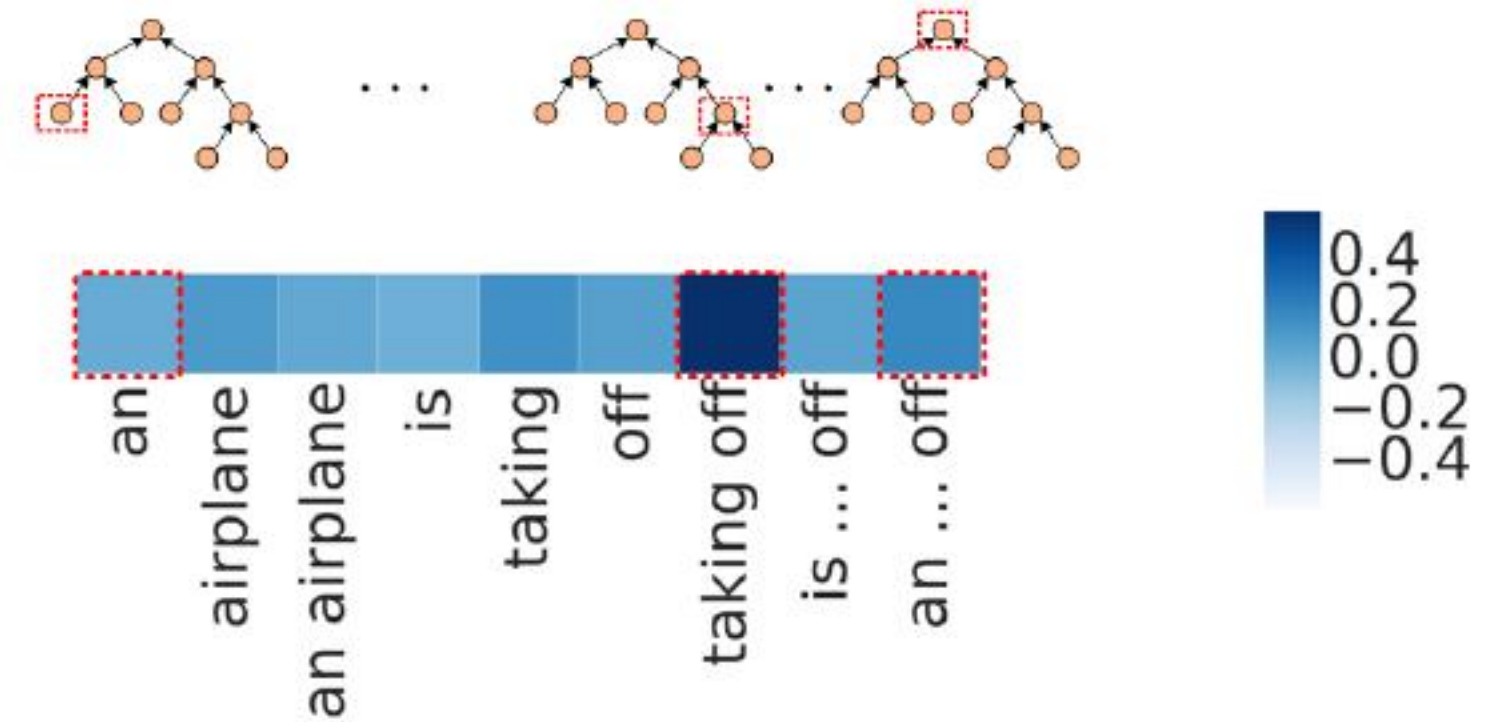
6 Related Work

One thread of related work is the exploration of different kinds of compositional function over tree structures. Socher *et al.* [2012] proposed the recursive neural network with standard compositional function. After that, some extensions are introduced to enhance the expressive power of compositional function, such as MV-RecNN [Socher *et al.*, 2013b], SURNN [Socher *et al.*, 2013a], RNTN [Socher *et al.*, 2013b], while these models suffer from the problem of hard-coded compositional operations and overfitting.

Another thread of work is the idea of using one network to direct the learning of another network [De Brabandere *et al.*, 2016]. Naik and Mammone [1992] introduce a meta neural network to provide another network with a step size and a direction vector, which is helpful for parameter optimization. De Brabandere *et al.* [2016] propose the dynamic filter



(a) The behaviour of 21-st neuron for sentence “She had everyone in stitches”



(b) The behaviour of 27-th neuron for sentence “An airplane is taking off”

Figure 5: The two heat maps describe the behaviours of neurons z_{21} and z_{27} from DC-TreeNN.

network to implicitly learn a variety of filtering operations. Bertinetto *et al.* [2016] introduce a learnnet for one-shot learning, which can predict the parameters of a second network given a single exemplar. Ha *et al.* [2016] propose the model hypernetwork, which uses a small network to generate the weights for a larger network.

Different from these models, we employ the idea of param-