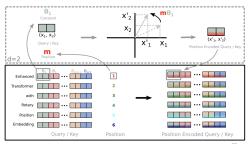
Rotational Positional Encoding RoPE

A. Buynitsky

Jan 28, 2025



- Complex Numbers
- 2 Transformers
- 3 Issue with Positional Encoding
- 4 Derivation
- 6 Result



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What is a Complex Number

Define $i = \sqrt{-1}$ so $i^2 = -1$

Any complex number z = a + bi can be split into its real part:

$$Re(Z) = a$$

And imaginary part:

$$Im(z) = b$$

Example: Find Re and Im parts of (3+4i)(2+3i):

$$(3+4i)(2+3i) = 6+8i+9i+12(i^{2})$$
$$= 6+8i+9i-12$$
$$= -6+17i$$

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Euler's Formula

Consider the power series expansion of e^z :

$$e^{z} = 1 + z + \frac{z^{2}}{2!} + \frac{z^{3}}{3!} + \frac{z^{4}}{4!} + \dots$$

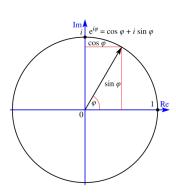
$$e^{iz} = 1 + iz + \frac{(iz)^{2}}{2!} + \frac{(iz)^{3}}{3!} + \frac{(iz)^{4}}{4!} + \dots$$

$$= 1 + iz - \frac{(z)^{2}}{2!} - \frac{iz^{3}}{3!} + \frac{iz^{4}}{4!} + \dots$$

$$= (1 - \frac{z^{2}}{2!} + \frac{iz^{4}}{4!} + \dots) + (iz - \frac{iz^{3}}{3!} + \dots)$$

$$= (1 - \frac{z^{2}}{2!} + \frac{z^{4}}{4!} + \dots) + (iz - \frac{iz^{3}}{3!} + \dots)$$

$$= \cos(z) + i\sin(z)$$



Therefore:

$$re^{i\theta} = r(\cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta))$$

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Representation and Properties of Complex Numbers

For a complex number z:

$$z = re^{i\theta} = r(\cos\theta + \sin\theta) = a + bi$$

Maginitude of Complex Number:

$$|z| = r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

Argument (angle) of Complex Number:

$$Argz = \theta = arctan(\frac{b}{a}) \text{ for } -\pi \le \theta < \pi$$

$$argz = \theta + 2\pi k = arctan(\frac{b}{a}) + 2\pi k \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\begin{array}{c|c} Im \\ y \\ \hline 0 \\ \varphi \\ \hline -y \\ \hline \overline{z} = x - iy \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c|c} Re \\ \hline \overline{z} = x - iy$

Conjugate of Complex Number:

$$\overline{z} = re^{-i\theta} = r(\cos\theta - \sin\theta)$$

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Transformers (part 1)

Define a sequence of input tokens and corresponding word embeddings:

$$\mathbb{S}_{N} = \{w_{i}\}_{i=1}^{N}$$
$$\mathbb{E}_{N} = \{x_{i}\}_{i=1}^{N}$$

where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is embedding vector of token w_i without positional info:

Self Attention:

Calculates: $q_m = f_q(x_m, m), k_n = f_k(x_n, n), v_n = f_v(x_n, n)$ with:

$$f_{t:t\in\{q,k,\nu\}} = \mathbf{W}_{t:t\in\{q,k,\nu\}}(x_i + p_i)$$
 (1)

where p_i is:

$$\begin{cases} p_{2t} = \sin\left(\frac{k}{10000} \cdot \frac{2t}{d}\right), \\ p_{2t+1} = \cos\left(\frac{k}{10000} \cdot \frac{2t}{d}\right). \end{cases}$$

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Attention

Calculate attention score and normalize with softmax:

$$a_{m,n} = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{\mathbf{q}_m^{\top} \mathbf{k}_n}{\sqrt{d}}\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp\left(\frac{\mathbf{q}_m^{\top} \mathbf{k}_j}{\sqrt{d}}\right)}$$

Extract values

$$o_m = \sum_{n=1}^N a_{m,n} v_n$$

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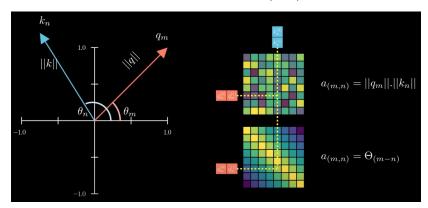


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Issue with positional encodings

Let's consider a 2D case:

- Similar tokens should have higher score $||q_m|| \cdot ||k_n||$ (magnitude)
- Closer tokens should have higher score $\Theta_{(m-n)}$



Shoutout to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQPQtylTy54 for visuals

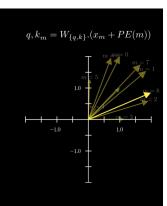
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Issue with positional encodings (cont)

Let's consider a 2D case:

- Similar tokens should have higher score $||q_m|| \cdot ||k_n||$ (magnitude)
- Closer tokens should have higher score $\Theta_{(m-n)}$

	i = 0	i = 1
m = 0	0.0	1.0
m = 1	0.88	0.61
m = 2	0.94	-0.46
m = 3	0.17	-0.99
m = 4	-0.81	-0.73
m = 5	-0.97	0.3
m = 6	-0.31	0.97
m = 7	0.73	0.82



Problem: Combined positional and token embeddings together

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Reformulation

For each inner product, we want:

$$q_m^T k_n = \langle f_q(x_m, m), f_k(x_n, n) \rangle = g(x_m, x_n, m - n)$$

In 2D case, convert vectors to complex numbers:

$$q_m = R_q(x_m, m)e^{i\Theta_q(x_m, m)}$$
 (2)

$$k_n = R_k(x_n, n)e^{i\Theta_k(x_n, n)}$$
(3)

$$g(x_m, x_n, n-m) = R_g(x_m, x_n, n-m)e^{i\Theta_g(x_m, x_n, n-m)}$$
(4)

$$q_m^T = R_q(x_m, m)e^{-i\Theta_q(x_m, m)}$$
 (5)

Multiply $q_m^T \cdot k_n$ in complex numbers:

$$q_m^T \cdot k_n = R_q(x_m, m) \cdot R_k(x_n, n) e^{i(\Theta_k(x_n, n) - \Theta_q(x_m, m))}$$
(6)

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Determine Magintude

$$R_q(x_m, m)R_k(x_n, n) = R_g(x_m, x_n, n - m)$$
 (7)

$$\Theta_k(x_n, n) - \Theta_q(x_m, m) = \Theta_g(x_m, x_n, n - m)$$
 (8)

Now suppose that m = n. Then left with just 7

$$R_q(x_m, m)R_k(x_n, n) = R_g(x_m, x_n, 0)$$

Now set m = n = 0

$$R_g(x_m, x_n, 0) = R_q(x_m, 0)R_k(x_n, 0) = ||q|| ||k||$$

Therefore:

$$R_q(x_m, m) = ||q||$$
 and $R_k(x_n, n) = ||k||$

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Determine Argument

By a similar trick setting m = n:

$$\Theta_{q}(x_{m}, m) - \Theta(x_{n}, n) = \Theta_{g}(x_{m}, x_{n}, 0)$$

$$= \Theta(x_{m}, 0) - \Theta(x_{n}, 0) = \theta_{q} - \theta_{k}$$

$$(10)$$

Rearranging, we get:

$$\Theta_q(x_m, m) - \theta_q = \Theta_k(x_n, m) - \theta_k$$

Observe that values only related to m, independent if $x=x_n$ or $x=x_m$ Let $\phi(m)$ to be:

$$\phi(m) = \Theta_q(x_m, m) - \theta_q = \Theta_k(x_n, n) - \theta_k$$



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Determine Argument

Recall:

$$\Theta_q(x_m, m) - \Theta_k(x_n, n) = \Theta_g(x_m, x_n, n - m)$$

and let n = m + 1 so:

$$\Theta_q(x_m, m) - \Theta_k(x_{m+1}, m+1) = \Theta_g(x_m, x_{m+1}, 1)$$
 (11)

Now:

$$\phi(m) = \Theta_q(x_m, m) - \theta_q \Longrightarrow \Theta_q(x_m, m) = \phi(m) + \theta_q$$

$$\phi(m+1) = \Theta_k(x_{m+1}, m+1) - \theta_k \Longrightarrow \Theta_k(x_{m+1}, m+1) = \phi(m+1) + \theta_k$$

Plugging into 11:

$$\phi(m) + \theta_q - (\phi(m+1) + \theta_k) = \Theta_g(x_m, x_{m+1}, 1)$$

$$\phi(m) - \phi(m+1) = \Theta_g(x_m, x_{m+1}, 1) - \theta_q + \theta_k$$

RHS is constant irrelevant to m! $\phi(m)$ has constant difference between term regardless of m so its an arithmetic sequence!

$$\phi(m)=m heta+\gamma$$

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Combining Everything

$$q_m = f_q(x_m, m) = R_q(x_m, m)e^{i\Theta_q(x_m, m)}$$
(12)

$$=||q||e^{i\Theta_q(x_m,m)} \tag{13}$$

$$=||q||e^{i(\phi(m)+\theta_q)} \tag{14}$$

$$=||q||e^{i(m\theta+\gamma+\theta_q)} \tag{15}$$

$$=||q||e^{i\theta_q}e^{i(m\theta+\gamma)} \tag{16}$$

$$= qe^{i(m\theta + \gamma)} \tag{17}$$

Recall that:

$$q_m = f_q(x_m, m) = W_q(x_m + p_m)$$

so if $p_m = 0$, then

$$q_m = W_q \cdot x_m$$

Therefore assume no position info when m = 0 so let $\gamma = 0$.

Final Result:

$$f_q(x_m, m) = (W_q x_m) e^{im\theta}$$

$$f_k(x_n, n) = (W_k x_n) e^{in\theta}$$

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Matrix Equations

Matrix form of equations in 2D

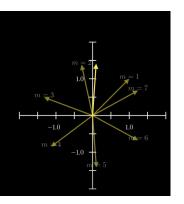
$$d=2 \quad i=0 \quad m=7$$

$$\{q,k\}_m=R^d_{\Theta,m}.\{q,k\}$$

$$\{q, k\} = W_{\{q, k\}} x_m$$

$$R_{\Theta,m}^d = \begin{pmatrix} cos(m\theta_i) & -sin(m\theta_i) \\ sin(m\theta_i) & cos(m\theta_i) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\theta_i = 10000^{-2i/d}$$



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Extending beyond d=2

Extending to multiple dimensions

$$d=4 \quad i=\{0,1\} \quad m=6$$

$$\{q,k\}_m=R_{\Theta,m}^d.\{q,k\}$$

$$\{q,k\}=W_{\{q,k\}}x_m$$

$$R_{\Theta,m}^d=\begin{bmatrix} \cos(m\theta_0) & -\sin(m\theta_0) & 0 & 0 \\ \sin(m\theta_0) & \cos(m\theta_0) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(m\theta_1) & -\sin(m\theta_1) \\ 0 & 0 & \sin(m\theta_1) & \cos(m\theta_1) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\theta_i=10000^{-2i/d}$$
 Block 0 Block 1
$$\theta_0$$
 Block 1
$$\theta_0$$
 Block 1
$$\theta_0$$
 Block 1

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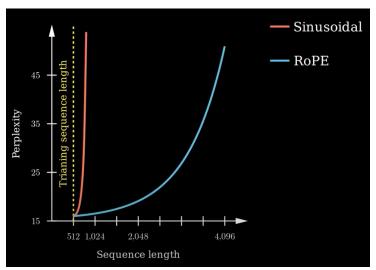
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Result

Increases Sequence prediction confidence (perplexity):



Thank you!

Have a great rest of your Day!!!

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