## Structure, Attention, and BERT

#### Alexandre Allauzen

Fall 2024









# Roadmap

Text classification, beyond BOW

Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

### Outline

Text classification, beyond BOW

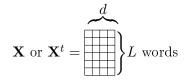
Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

The simplest classifier based on word embeddings Input text is now a sequence of vectors (embeddings)



Derive a vector of features that represent the text

$$\mathbf{h} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_i}_{ ext{emb. of word } i}$$

Classification

softmax( $\mathbf{W}^o\mathbf{h}$ ) (multiclass) or  $\sigma(\mathbf{w}^o\mathbf{h})$  (binary)

## Limitations of BOW classifier

$$\mathbf{h} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_i}_{ ext{emb. of word } i}$$

#### Limitations

- Words are equally important
- Word order independent
- Miss contextual information (local/global)

the end is very bad but what a great music

the	end	is	very	bad	but	what	a	great	music
			very-	ightarrow bad++					

the	end	is	very	bad	but	what	a	great	music
			veru-	$\rightarrow bad++$					
			but w	ill change	bad				

the	end	is	very	bad	but	what	a	great	music
			ٹ ا	$\rightarrow bad++$ vill change	e bad				
		bac	l is for	end not $n$	$\overline{nusic}$				nt is for not fo end

#### Motivations

- Local contextualisation
- Global view of the sentence

### Another view of a sentence

Propose 2 solutions for an improved text classification

. .

# Matrix and Vector product

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{x}$$

$$= \mathbf{W}_{1,:} \times \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{2} = \mathbf{W}_{2,:} \times \mathbf{x}$$

$$\dots \dots$$

In terms of dimension:

With 
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x} &: (L_1 \times 1) \\ \mathbf{W} &: (L_2 \times C_2) \Rightarrow (\mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}) : (L_2 \times 1) = (L_2 \times \underbrace{C_2 \times L_1}_{C_2 = L_1} \times 1) \end{cases}$$

# Matrix-matrix product

X is a matrix of 2 columns, 2 vectors as  $\mathbf{x}$ :

$$Y = W \times X$$

In terms of dimension:

With 
$$\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{X} &: (L_1 \times C_1) \\ \boldsymbol{W} &: (L_2 \times C_2) \\ \boldsymbol{y} &: (L_2 \times C_1) \end{cases} \rightarrow (L_2 \times C_2) = (L_2 \times C_2) (L_1 \times C_1)$$

### Outline

Text classification, beyond BOW

Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

### Draw attention for classification

Remind CBOW classifier The classifier output:

softmax(
$$\mathbf{W}^o\mathbf{h}$$
) (multiclass) or  $\sigma(\mathbf{w}^o\mathbf{h})$  (binary)

- What does represent a row of  $\mathbf{W}^o$ ?
- The product  $\mathbf{W}^o \mathbf{h}$ ?
- The softmax?

Draw attention
Is a word vector related to the classification task?

$$\mathbf{h} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_i}_{\text{emb. of word } i} \longrightarrow \mathbf{h} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \underbrace{\lambda_i}_{???} \mathbf{x}_i$$

Draw attention for classification (binary task)

$$\mathbf{X}\mathbf{q} = L \{ \mathbf{x}^{t} \mathbf{q} \mid \mathbf{x}^{t} \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^{L} \}$$
 $(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{q})_{i} = \mathbf{x}_{i}^{t}\mathbf{q} \quad (\text{dot product})$ 
 $\mathbf{a} = \operatorname{softmax}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{q})$ 

- $\mathbf{a} = (a_i), \sum_{i=1}^{L} a_i = 1 \text{ and } 0 \le a_i \le 1$
- a: attention vector for the "query" q and the "keys" X.
- q is a vector to be learnt [11, 7]

# Attention to weight inputs (binary task)

•  $\mathbf{a} = \operatorname{softmax}(\mathbf{Xq})$  is the attention vector

$$\mathbf{h} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} a_i \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{a}^t \mathbf{X}$$

- A new vector, focused on the classification task (q)
- To summarize:

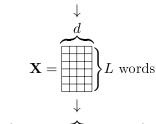
$$\mathbf{h} = \operatorname{softmax}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{q}})^t \mathbf{X} \to \operatorname{classification}$$

#### Issues:

- Scale the dot product
- X is involved everywhere!

Basic attention mechanism for classification (binary task)

this movie was a great experience



$$\mathbf{q}$$
 (query vector)  $\longrightarrow$ 

$$\mathbf{K} = X\mathbf{W}_K \longrightarrow$$

$$\mathbf{V} = X\mathbf{W}_V \longrightarrow$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \operatorname{softmax} \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}\mathbf{q}}{\sqrt{d}}\right)^t \mathbf{V}$$

- X can be static emb.
- or contextualized embedding
- **q** is learnt as a target for selection
- $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{Kq}$ : selection in  $\mathbf{V}$

# Attention classifier: Going to multiclass

#### Exercise

- How to modify (parametrize) the model for multiclass classification?
- Can we add more transformations?

### Outline

Text classification, beyond BOW

Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

# Contextualized word embeddings

#### Consider the word driver:

the audio driver is really outdated the driver exceeded the speed limit

#### The context



18/38

Self attention: a first idea

Look at the "correlation" between words (embeddings)

- $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^t$  is a  $L \times L$  matrix, stores  $(\mathbf{x}_i^t\mathbf{x}_j)$
- The  $i^{\text{th}}$  row stores the "correlation between"  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and all the other words in the sentence
- For i = 2, we have the correlations with driver
- We can use this correlation as a weight

$$\mathbf{z}_2 = \mathbf{z}_{driver} = \sum_{j=1}^L \underbrace{\lambda_{2,j}}_{\mathbf{x}_2^t \mathbf{x}_j} \mathbf{x}_j$$

# More (linear) transformations

Two different Transformations on X

$$\mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}_Q = \mathbf{Q}$$
  
 $\mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{X} \mathbf{W}_K = \mathbf{K},$ 

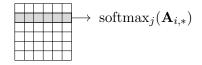
- with  $\mathbf{W}_{O}$  and  $\mathbf{W}_{K} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$
- $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  have the same dimensions as  $\mathbf{X}$

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^{t} = \underbrace{(\mathbf{Q}_{i,*}\mathbf{K}_{j,*}^{t})_{i,j}}_{L \times L} = (\mathbf{q}_{i}^{kj}) = (\lambda_{i,j}),$$

with  $\lambda_{i,j}$  the attention on "word" j to generate  $\mathbf{z}_i$ 

### Normalization of attention

Take the row-wise softmax:



$$\sum_{j} \underbrace{\lambda_{i,j}}_{\text{or } a_{i,j}} = 1 \text{ and } \lambda_{i,j} \ge 0$$

Each row of **A** gives a convex combination

# Self attention (overview)

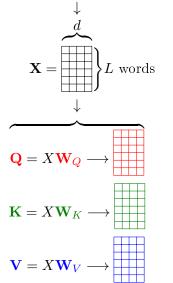
#### Consider the word driver:

	$_{ m the}$	driver	exceeded	the	$_{ m speed}$	limit
	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
Embeddings:	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000
	$\mathbf{x}_1$	$\mathbf{x}_2$	$\mathbf{x}_3$	$\mathbf{x}_4$	$\mathbf{x}_5$	$\mathbf{x}_6$
Attention:	$\lambda_{1,2}$	$\stackrel{\downarrow}{\lambda_{2,2}}$	$\stackrel{\downarrow}{\lambda_{3,2}}$	$\lambda_{4,2}$	$\stackrel{\downarrow}{\lambda_{5,2}}$	$\lambda_{6,2}$
Output:		$\mathbf{z}_2 =$	$=f\left(\sum_{j}[\lambda_{2,j}]\right)$	$j \times g(1)$	$(\mathbf{x}_j)]$	

- $(\lambda_{i,j})$  are the attention coefficients,  $\sum_{i} \lambda_{i,j} = 1$ , and
- Reflects the influence of  $x_i$  on  $x_i$  (transformed version)

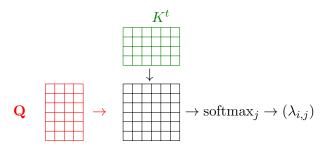
# Transformer: Queries, Keys, Values

the driver exceeded the speed limit



## Tranformer: Attention matrix

The distance matrix between Q and K



Scaled Dot-Product Attention

$$\mathbf{Z} = \operatorname{softmax}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^{\mathbf{t}}}{\sqrt{d}}\right)\mathbf{V} =$$

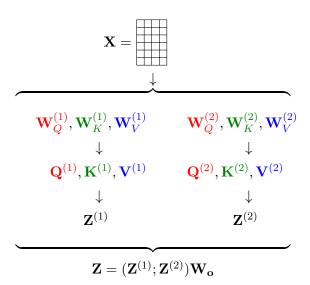
# Q,K,V and Metric Learning

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^t &= \mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}_Q \times (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}_K)^t = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}_Q \times (\mathbf{W}_K^t \mathbf{X}^t) \\ &= \mathbf{X}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{X}^t \end{aligned}$$

- If **M** would be PSD, it is a metric.
- Otherwise, it is a transformed similarity (bilinear similarity)

M is learnt: a transformer block learns its own similarity.

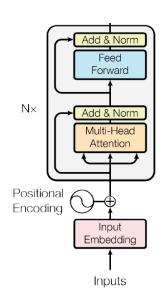
Multi-head attention (with 2 heads)



# Putting all together (with more tricks)

## Transformer block From [10]

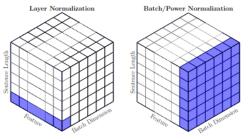
- Inputs is X
- Positional embeddings
- Multihead attention
- Residual connections [6]
- Layer Normalization [2]
- Final filtering



## Layer norm

Assume **Z** a minibatch of sequences (B, L, D): **Z** = L

#### Batch or Layer norm



[9]

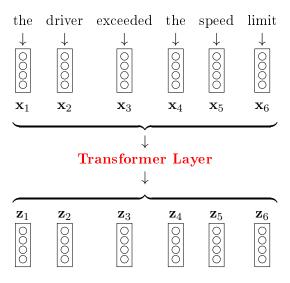
# Positional embeddings



- Originally "absolute"
- Can be learnt [5, 1]
- Or relative [8]

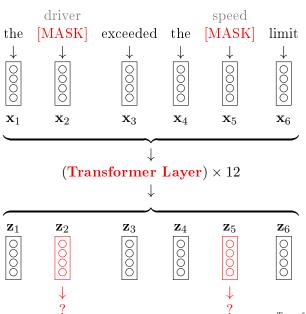
(figure generated by the following code https://github.com/jalammar/jalammar.github.io/blob/master/notebookes/transformer/transformer\_positional\_encoding\_graph.ipynb)

## A Transformer layer



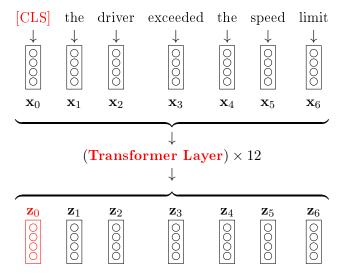
Transformer layers can be stacked!

## Pre-training as a (Masked) language model



31/38

### BERT Encoder for text classification



32/38

### Outline

Text classification, beyond BOW

Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

33/38 Conclusion

## Summary

#### Attention, attention

- This mechanism allows the model to efficiently handle different kind of structure.
- Originally for machine translation, and with BI-GRU [4, 3].

#### Transformers

- Architecture proposed in [10]
- Nowadays state of the art component

34/38 Conclusion

# Transformers are everywhere

State of the art encoder

- For text! (BERT)
- And also for speech, DNA, vision, ...

Also a powerful generator

- For text (GPT, ...)
- Speech, ... sequences

35/38 Conclusion

### Outline

Text classification, beyond BOW

Attention for classification

Transformer architecture

Conclusion

References

36/38 References

- [1] Rami Al-Rfou et al. Character-Level Language Modeling with Deeper Self-Attention. 2018. arXiv: 1808.04444 [cs.CL].
- [2] Jimmy Lei Ba, Jamie Ryan Kiros, and Geoffrey E. Hinton. Layer Normalization. 2016. arXiv: 1607.06450 [stat.ML].
- [3] Dzmitry Bahdanau, Kyunghyun Cho, and Yoshua Bengio. "Neural Machine Translation by Jointly Learning to Align and Translate". In: CoRR abs/1409.0473 (2014). URL: http://arxiv.org/abs/1409.0473.
- [4] Kyunghyun Cho et al. "Learning Phrase Representations using RNN Encoder-Decoder for Statistical Machine Translation". In: Proceedings of the 2014 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP). Doha, Qatar: Association for Computational Linguistics, 2014, pp. 1724-1734. URL: http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D14-1179.
- [5] Jonas Gehring et al. "Convolutional Sequence to Sequence Learning". In: CoRR abs/1705.03122 (2017). arXiv: 1705.03122. URL: http://arxiv.org/abs/1705.03122.
- [6] Kaiming He et al. "Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition". In: IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR). 2016, pp. 770-778. arXiv: 1512.03385 [cs.CV].
- [7] Zhouhan Lin et al. "A STRUCTURED SELF-ATTENTIVE SENTENCE EMBEDDING". In: International Conference on Learning Representations. 2017. URL: https://openreview.net/forum?id=BJC\_jUqxe.

37/38 References

- [8] Peter Shaw, Jakob Uszkoreit, and Ashish Vaswani. Self-Attention with Relative Position Representations. 2018. arXiv: 1803.02155 [cs.CL].
- [9] Sheng Shen et al. "PowerNorm: Rethinking Batch Normalization in Transformers". In: Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Machine Learning. Ed. by Hal Daumé III and Aarti Singh. Vol. 119. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research. PMLR, 2020, pp. 8741-8751. URL: https://proceedings.mlr.press/v119/shen20e.html.
- [10] Ashish Vaswani et al. "Attention is All you Need". In: Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 30. Ed. by I. Guyon et al. Curran Associates, Inc., 2017, pp. 6000-6010. URL: http://papers.nips.cc/paper/7181-attention-is-all-you-need.pdf.
- [11] Zichao Yang et al. "Hierarchical Attention Networks for Document Classification". In: Proceedings of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)06. 2016.

38/38 References