# Neural Language Models and Word Embeddings

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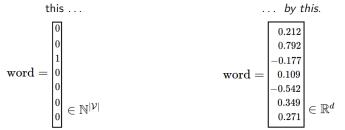


#### **Outline**

- Neural Probabilistic Language Models
- Learning word embeddings
- NLP from scratch
- Neural architectures for sequence processing

# Reminder: Difficulties with symbolic representations

- Vectors can get huge: memory and computation issues
- Vectors are sparse
- All dimensions (representing words) have the same importance
- Skewed frequency is always a challenge
- We can avoid all of these issues by using dense, distributed representations: we would like to replace:



- With  $d << |\mathcal{V}|$
- Words appear in the same space and a similarity between them can be interpreted.

#### Better representations: dimension reduction

- Cosine similarity on symbolic representations does not work well: should all dimensions (represented by words) matter the same?
- How can we represent documents by doing more than counting words ?

Idea: take advantage of the latent structure in the association between the set of words and the set of documents

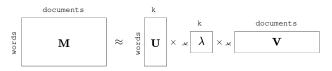
- First method: linearly reduce the dimension to put forward higher-order relationships
  - → Use Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{U}\lambda \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}}$$

- ullet  $\lambda$  diagonal matrix, with eigenvalues ordered
- U, V orthogonal; eigenvectors
- Keep the k first columns of  $\mathbf{U}$ , for the k largest eigenvalues, to obtain embeddings  $\in \mathbb{R}^k$
- But very costly (quadratic in memory, cube in flops)

### **Latent Semantic Analysis**

This method is called **Latent Semantic Analysis**:



- The new space is interpreted as topics: this is the first method for topic modeling
- Reminder: SVD rotates the axis along directions of largest variations among the documents (generalized least-squares method)
- Useful for information retrieval, but also if we need higher-order features than word counts
- Can help to represent documents in topic space for classification!
  - Besides the cost, it must be re-run if you add new documents.

### More on Topic Modeling

Other topic modeling methods: mostly **generative models** - we model the generation of words as *random*, *following a distribution* 

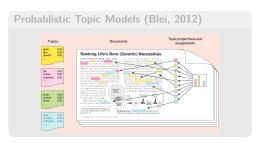
 Probabilistic LSA: the generation of words follows a mixture of conditionally independant multinomial distributions, given topics:

$$P(w,d) = \sum_t P(t)P(d|t)P(w|t) = P(d)\sum_t P(t|d)P(w|t)$$

where P(d|t) relates to V and P(w|t) to U: non-negative values

Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA):

We assume that the topic distribution has a *Dirichlet prior* (a family of continuous multivariate distributions)

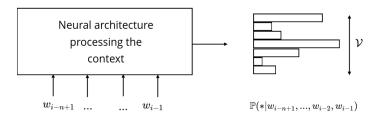


**Neural Probabilistic Language** 

**Models** 

#### *n*-gram *neural* models

- Instead of computing  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_i|w_{i-n+1},...,w_{i-1})$  with corpus statistics, we can teach a neural network to **predict** these probabilities
- This is divided in two parts:
  - Processing the context words how it is done depends on the neural architecture used:



 $\blacksquare$  Obtaining an output probability distribution for the next word - it's the same whatever the model, we are classifying over  ${\cal V}$ 

#### NPLM: A first model

A Neural Probabilistic Language Model (Bengio et al, 2003)

A similar model was first applied to speech recognition (Schwenk and Gauvain, 2002) and machine translation.

#### Main ideas:

- **Continuous word vectors**: Each input and output word is represented by a vector of dimension  $d \ll |\mathcal{V}|$  taking values in  $\mathbb{R}$ , rather than being discrete
- Continuous probability function: The probability of the next word is expressed as a continuous function of the features of the word in the current context - using a neural network
- Joint learning: The parameters of the word representations, and the probability function are learnt jointly.

### **NPLM: Joint learning**

#### Why should it work?

- Continuity: the probability function is smooth, implying that a small change in the context or word vector will induce a small change in word probability.
- Distributional hypothesis: words appearing in similar contexts should have similar representations.
- Hence, the updates caused by having the following sentence:

A dog was running in a room

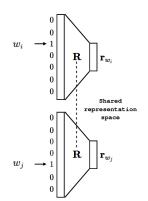
in the training data will increase the probability of all 'neighbor' sentences. Having also the following sentence:

The cat was running in a room

will make the features of the words (dog, cat) get close to each other.

#### Neural model: projecting words

- Create a layer that is the vocabulary V: the input is a one-hot vector.
- This layer is densely connected to a smaller continuous layer, of dimension  $d_w$
- The parameters of the weight matrix R are what we call the word embeddings.
- Now, we assume working with a 3-gram  $(w_{i-2},w_{i-1},w_i)$ : we need to project the two first words to predict the third.

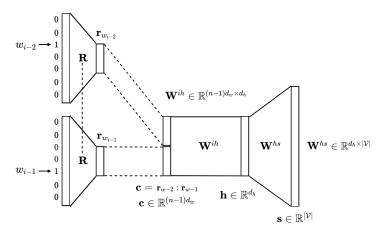


#### Neural model: Obtaining scores

• Given the context representation c, create a hidden representation:

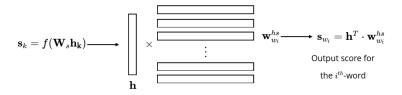
$$\mathbf{h} = \phi(\mathbf{W}^{ih}\mathbf{c})$$

 ${\bf \blacksquare}$  Then, obtain scores for all words in  ${\cal V}$  given  ${\bf h} \colon {\bf s} = {\bf W}^{hs} {\bf h}$ 



### Neural model: Obtaining scores

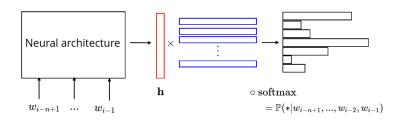
The prediction layer can be seen as a dot product between  $\mathbf{h}$  and output word embeddings  $[\mathbf{w}_k^{hs}]_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|}$ :



# **Neural model: Computing probabilities**

- The goal of the neural architecture is here to get a vector representation  $\mathbf{h}_i$  for the context input words  $w_{i-n+1},...,w_{i-1}$ .
- We use this representation against vector representations of all possible output o words w<sub>o</sub><sup>hs</sup> in V to estimate their probabilities. We use the softmax function:

$$\mathbb{P}(o|w_{i-n+1},...,w_{i-1}) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{w}_o^{hs})}{\sum_{l=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} \exp(\mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{w}_l^{hs})}$$



#### **Neural model: Training**

- The input representations, hidden weights, and output representations are learned jointly:  $\theta=(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{W}^{ih},\mathbf{W}^{hs})$
- We want the model output probability distribution  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta}$ , at timestep (i), to get close to the ground truth:

$$\mathbb{P}_{ heta}^{(i)}(*|w_{< i}) 
ightarrow ext{ one-hot}(w_i) = \mathbb{P}_*^{(i)}$$

since we know that the next word is  $w_i$ .

We look to minimize the distance between the two distributions:

$$d(\begin{bmatrix} 0\\ \vdots\\ 1\\ \vdots\\ 0\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(1|w_{< i})\\ \vdots\\ \mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_{i}|w_{< i})\\ \vdots\\ \mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(|\mathcal{V}||w_{< i})\end{bmatrix}\}? \xrightarrow{\text{Cross-entropy}(\mathbb{P}_{*}^{(i)},\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(*|w_{< i}))}\\ = -\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|}\mathbb{P}_{*}^{(i)}(k)log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(k|w_{< i}))\\ = -log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_{i}|w_{< i}))!$$

#### **Neural model: Training**

- By minimizing this cross-entropy, at each step, we minimize the **negative** log-likelihood of the data sample  $(w_i, w_{< i})$
- On all data samples  $\mathcal{D}=(w_i)_{i=1}^m$ , this is the Maximum-Likelihood Estimation (MLE) objective:

$$NLL(\theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^{m} \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_i|w_{< i}))$$

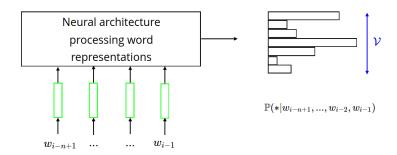
- Remark: minimizing the cross-entropy is equivalent to minimizing the Kullback-Leibler divergence
- We can note again that the perplexity is a simple function of the cross-entropy:

$$\mathsf{Perplexity}(w_1,...,w_m) = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_i|w_{< i})}} = 2^{-\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^m \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_i|w_{< i}))}$$

ightarrow We are directly minimizing perplexity when training

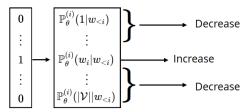
#### **Neural model: Assessment**

- Probability estimation is based on the similarity among the word vectors
- Projecting in continuous spaces reduces the sparsity issue
- Increasing the number of input words does not change much the complexity of the model
- The bottleneck is the output vocabulary size !



#### Neural model: Learning bottleneck

During learning, probabilities are modified as follow:



The updates are computed using the following gradient:

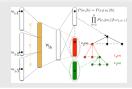
$$\frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w_i|w_{< i})) = \frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} \mathbf{s}_{w_i} - \sum_{w \in \mathcal{V}} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}^{(i)}(w|w_{< i}) \frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} \mathbf{s}_w$$

- ullet The first term increases the conditional log-likelihood of  $w_i$  given  $w_{< i}$
- The second decreases the conditional log-likelihood of all the other words  $w \in \mathcal{V}$  and implies a double summation on  $\mathcal{V}$
- → The softmax causes this computational bottleneck!

# Parenthesis: dealing with the bottleneck?

• Making hierarchical predictions: replace complexity in  $O(|\mathcal{V}|)$  by  $O(\log |\mathcal{V}|)$ 

Structured Output Layer neural network Language Model (Le et al, 2012)



- Using sampling-based methods, to replace the sum over  $|\mathcal{V}|$  by a sum over k samples  $(k \ll |\mathcal{V}|)$
- More recently: implement a class-based softmax, based on word frequencies, and attribute more parameters to frequent words

Efficient softmax approximation for GPUs (Grave et al, 2016)



**Learning Word Embeddings** 

# Learning Word Embeddings: why?

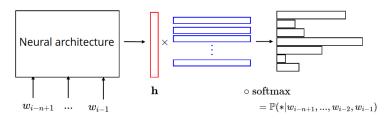
Text vector representations exist in several forms:

From Frequency to Meaning: Vector Space Models of Semantics (Turney et al, 2010)

- From text-document matrices (TF-IDF, LSA..)
- From word-context matrices (Co-occurences, PPMI..)
- From more complex relationnal patterns, that can handle word order
- All based on simply storing frequencies in a big tensor
  - $\rightarrow$  Still, all of these are **costly**
- But Neural n-gram Language models learn good dense representations.
   Can we use them ?

# Learning Word Embeddings: why?

- Idea: prediction-based representation learning
- Basically, language modeling but we don't care about generating text
- What was costly in our neural language model ?

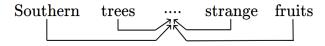


- We can work on two things: the architecture and the softmax computation
  - Hypothesis: the distribution of the context is what matters → simplify the architecture!
  - Goal: learning representation  $\rightarrow$  no need for a proper softmax !

# **Learning Word Embeddings: Architecture**

First, the architecture: for 'Southern trees bear strange fruits'

• Use all context:  $\mathbb{P}(w_t|w_{t-2},w_{t-1},w_{t+1},w_{t+2})$  ?



- Let's simplify it as much as possible. Assuming:
  - Context word representations  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times |\mathcal{V}|}$
  - ullet Output word representations  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d imes |\mathcal{V}|}$

$$\mathbf{o} = softmax(\mathbf{h} imes \mathbf{W})$$
  $(\in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{V}|})$ 

# Learning Word Embeddings: CBOW

This is the Continuous bag-of-words (CBOW) architecture

Output:

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathsf{bear}|w_{t-2}, w_{t-1}, w_{t+1}, w_{t+2}) = \mathbf{o}_{bear} = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{c}_{bear})}{\sum_{l=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} \exp(\mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{c}_l)}$$

Training:

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathsf{bear}|w_{t-2},w_{t-1},w_{t+1},w_{t+2}) = \mathbf{o}_{bear} \to \mathsf{one-hot}(\mathsf{bear}) = \mathbb{P}^{(\mathsf{bear})}_*$$

• Noting  $\theta = \{ \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{C} \}$  the parameters of the model:

$$d( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(\operatorname{word}_1) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(\operatorname{bear}) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(\operatorname{word}_{|\mathcal{V}|}) \end{bmatrix})? \xrightarrow{\qquad \qquad } \begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Cross-entropy}(\mathbb{P}^{(\operatorname{bear})}_*, \mathbb{P}_{\theta}) \\ & \vdots \\ & = -\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} \mathbb{P}^{(\operatorname{bear})}_*(k) \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(k)) \\ & = -\log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(bear)) = -\log(\mathbf{o}_{\operatorname{bear}}) \, ! \end{aligned}$$

■ Minimizing this cross-entropy 

minimize the negative log-likelihood of the data sample 'Southern trees bear strange fruits'

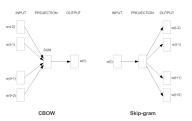
# Learning Word Embedding: objective functions

• With a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = (w_i)_{i=1}^N$  and a window of m words,

$$J_{MLE}^{CBOW}(\theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_i|w_{i-m}, ..., w_{i-1}, w_{i+1}, ..., w_{i+m}))$$

Other possible architecture, the Skip-gram:

$$J_{MLE}^{SG}(\theta) = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j\neq 0}^{-m < j < m} \log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_{i+j}|w_i))$$



(What would be the interest of using this one ?)

### **Learning Word Embedding: Too slow**

Reminder: softmax gradient updates are slow and costly: with the skip-gram,

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta\theta}\log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_{i+j}|w_i)) = \frac{\delta}{\delta\theta}\mathbf{s}_{w_{i+j}} - \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_k|w_j) \frac{\delta}{\delta\theta}\mathbf{s}_{w_k}$$

- The first term increases the conditional log-likelihood of  $w_{i+j}$  given  $w_i$
- The second decreases the conditional log-likelihood of all  $w_k \in \mathcal{V}$

How to avoid computing any  $\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|}$  ?

Replace the task by binary classification: predicting the right word?

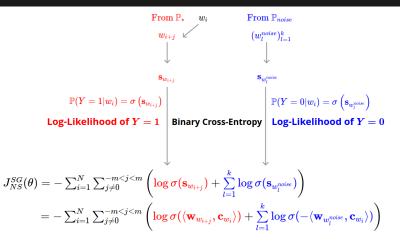
$$\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_{i+j}|w_i) = \sigma(\mathbf{s}_{w_{i+j}})$$

Only provides the positive contribution to the conditional log-likelihood:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta\theta}\log(\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(w_{i+j}|w_i)) = (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{s}_{w_{i+j}}))\frac{\delta}{\delta\theta}\mathbf{s}_{w_{i+j}}$$

- Let's add the negative contribution by sampling  $k \ll |\mathcal{V}|$  wrong words

# **Learning Word Embedding: Negative sampling**



 Very efficient, but requires some tricks: subsampling of frequent words in the noise distribution (why ?)

$$\mathbb{P}_{noise}(w) = (\mathsf{freq}(w))^{\frac{3}{4}}$$

#### Count-based vs Prediction-based

- Prediction-based methods, like word2vec, are:
  - Fast and scale well with available data
  - Are dense and capture complex patterns

But, they require a lot of data and are not using all the statistical information available

- Count-based methods can also give us dense representations!
  - ightarrow For example, apply SVD to a PMI matrix, like we did for LSA
    - This is pretty fast
    - It uses efficiently all available information and works with little data

But, it does not scale well (in memory) and large frequencies create issues

Can we get the best of both worlds?

#### GloVe

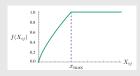
# Central idea: directly learn word embeddings by predicting word co-occurence counts!

GloVe: Global Vectors for Word Representation (Pennington et al, 2014)

$$J_{Glove}(\theta) = \sum_{w_i, w_j \in \mathcal{V}} f\left(\mathbf{M}_{w_i, w_j}\right) \left(\mathbf{w}_{w_i}^{\top} \mathbf{w}_{w_j} - \log \mathbf{M}_{w_i, w_j}\right)^2$$

- $\theta = \{\mathbf{W}\}$
- ullet f : scaling function diminish the importance of frequent words

$$f(x) \begin{cases} (x/x_{\text{max}})^{\alpha} & \text{if } x < x_{\text{max}} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

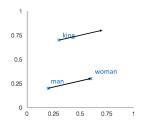


- Very fast training
- Scales to very large corpora

# **Properties: Analogy**

 We can observe that linear word representations relation ships can capture meaning: for example,

$$queen = \underset{w_i \in \mathcal{V}}{\operatorname{argmax}}[cos(\mathbf{w}_{w_i}, \mathbf{w}_{woman} - \mathbf{w}_{man} + \mathbf{w}_{king})]$$



- This also applies to other patterns in language. Let's check !
  - $\rightarrow$  Look at the *visualization* notebook.

#### **Properties: Bias**

- Word embeddings have been found to reflect biases
- A lot of recent efforts dedicated to detect and reduce them
  - At first, focused on gender bias

Man is to Computer Programmer as Woman is to Homemaker? Debiasing Word Embeddings (Bolukbasi et al, 2016)

- Idea: Find gender axis by reducing the dimension on a set of words differences ("she" - "he", "her" - "him", etc...)
- Project a word on this direction to quantify its bias
- Basis for WEAT (Word Embeddings Association Test)
- It does not work that well a lot of work since:
   Debiasing Methods Cover up Systematic Gender Biases in Word
   Embeddings But do not Remove Them (Gonen and Goldberg, 2019)
- Bias is usually poorly defined in NLP some recommendations on approaching it:
   Language (Technology) is Power: A Critical Survey of "Bias" in NLP, Blodgett et al, 2020

# Difficulty: lexical ambiguity

How to account for the different meanings of polysemous words?

- Same issue with homonyms
- Most word are monosemous but words with multiple senses tend to have higher frequency
- Senses can be very different or only subtly (sense granularity)
- For embeddings: word meaning conflation into a single representation.
   Solutions ?
  - Sense embeddings: one vector by word sense
  - Sparse coding: separating word senses inside the embedding
  - Contextualized embeddings: for next class!

#### Subword models

- Issue: vocabulary is closed especially a problem when spelling varies
- Also, we are missing a lot of information linking words
- Linguistically motivated decomposition:
  - Phonemes (distinctive features in audio), morphemes (smallest semantic unit)
  - But it's costly!
- Let's use characters sequences: Fastext (Word2Vec + subwords)

Enriching Word Vectors with Subword Information (Bojanowski et al, 2016)

- Goal: improve on one of Word2vec main weakness, rare words
- lacktriangle Words are represented as character  $n\text{-}\mathsf{grams}$ :

where 
$$\rightarrow$$
 < wh, whe, her, ere, re >

lacktriangleright The representations is simply the sum of the n-gram representations

**NLP from Scratch** 

# Pre-neural NLP: Feature engineering

- Supervised Learning in NLP:
  - Small datasets, for tasks that can be very difficult
  - Even with neural models, better performance from task-specific features
- Some examples:
  - Part-of-speech tagging (POS)

Chunking

```
[NP I] [VP ate] [NP the spaghetti] [PP with] [NP meatballs]
```

- Named-entity Recognition (NER)
- Semantic-role labeling (SRL)

(Agent Patient Source Destination Instrument)									
John drove	Mary P	from	Austin S	to	Dallas D	in	his	DS Citroën I	

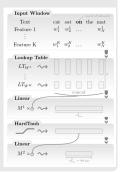
#### **NLP** from scratch

Natural language processing (almost) from scratch (Collobert et al, 2011)

- Goal: Build a model that excels on multiple benchmarks, without needing task-specific representations or engineering
- A task-independent approach is better because no single task can provide a complete representation of a text

#### Paper:

- Language-modeling-like training, to rank unlabelled sentences
- Then, train the model on the different tasks
- Features: n-grams! Beating state-of-the art on most tasks



#### Framework: pre-training + fine-tuning

In summary: parameters of *text predicting* models represent text very well  $\rightarrow$  why not "pre-train" other model them to do the same before their task?

 We can do unsupervised pre-training of a generative sequence prediction model:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\theta}(x_{1:T}) = \prod_{i=1}^{T} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(x_i|x_{1:i-1})$$

We follow-up with supervised fine-tuning of a classifier on the target task, with the annotated dataset we have:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\phi}(y|x_{1:T})$$

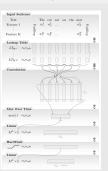
- Initialize part of  $\phi$  with part of  $\theta$
- Freeze  $\theta$  then extract representations, or fine-tune  $\theta$  into  $\phi$
- NLP from scratch: first occurence of the idea
- Word embeddings obtained with word2vec and GloVe: hugely popular, improvements on many (many) tasks

#### What's next?

Natural language processing (almost) from scratch (Collobert et al, 2011)

#### Paper, continued:

- Not working well on tasks requiring the full sentence
- Need to use the full sentence as input
- Going further than n-grams: how ?



 Next: Neural architectures better adapted to textual data: in Deep Learning class

# And representing a sequence of words?

- We can use symbolic representations
  - Bag of words: no word order, large, sparse
  - N-grams: large, even sparser
- We can use dense word representations
  - Infinitely many sentences: learn word vectors and learn composition
  - Principle of compositionality: derive meaning from word meaning and combination rules
  - Not so easy: figurative language, implicitness, sarcasm...
  - Basic model: simple, communative operation (mean)
    - → Word order not taken into account

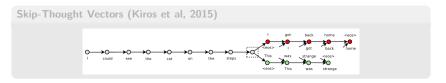
How to do better?

- $\rightarrow$  Deep learning architecture for composing words together !
- → Or directly learn sentence representations

# **Applications to sentence representations**

A first, direct extension of CBOW: Paragraph2Vec

Skip-thought: learn to predict the previous and following sentences



### Applications to sentence representations

Contrastive learning is often used for learning sentence representations

An efficient framework for learning sentence representations (Logeswaran and Lee, 2018)

#### Main idea: learn to recognize the next sentence

- Use two encoders f and g (RNNs)
- Input s, classify between the right candidate  $s_c$  and samples s' from  $\mathcal{S}_c$
- Use MLE objective on the sofmax, corresponding to a contrastive loss with  $(s,s_c)$  as positive pair and  $(s,s^\prime)$  as negatives

