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Neural Network Abduction

Gary Nan Tie, June 13, 2025

Abstract

For hypotheses whose effect is manifested by observations, abduction seeks to explain a given observation by finding a hypothesis whose effect is that observation. Abductive reasoning has a fibration semantics that can be implemented by neural networks; a step towards artificial general intelligence.

A natural application is in making a medical diagnosis. Fibration structure and properties enable coherency and consistency in this process. Moreover being machine learnable, can help physicians uncover diagnostic insights in large datasets.

Welcome Sher-bot Holmes!

An arrow $p \downarrow$ in a category is said to be a fibration with respect to a class of arrows \mathcal{M}

when for any $m \in \mathcal{M}$ and solid commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\ m \downarrow & \nearrow \sigma & \downarrow p \\ Q & \xrightarrow{g} & V \end{array} \quad \text{i.e. } p \circ f = g \circ m$$

there exists dotted lifting $\sigma_{m,f,g} : Q \rightarrow K$

such that $p \circ \sigma = g$ and $\sigma \circ m = f$.

Liftings are said to be compatible if for any

solid commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} D & \xrightarrow{j} & B & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\ n \downarrow & \nearrow \sigma & m \downarrow & \nearrow \tau & \downarrow p \\ C & \xrightarrow{k} & Q & \xrightarrow{g} & V \end{array}$$

p a Fibration wrt \mathcal{M}

$n, m \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\sigma = \sigma_{n,f,j,g \circ k}$$

$$\tau = \sigma_{m,f,g}$$

we have $\tau \circ k = \sigma$.

Suppose $p: K \downarrow V$ is a fibration wrt \mathcal{M}

$$\text{and } m \in \mathcal{M} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\ Q & \xrightarrow{g} & V \end{array} \text{ commutes.}$$

If $gom \in \mathcal{M}$ then

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} B & \xrightarrow{1} & B & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\ m \downarrow & \sigma \nearrow & \downarrow gom & \tau \nearrow & \downarrow p \\ Q & \xrightarrow{g} & V & \xrightarrow{1} & V \end{array}$$

- i) lifting σ satisfies $p \circ \sigma = g$ and $\sigma \circ m = f$
- ii) lifting τ satisfies $p \circ \tau = 1_V$ and $\tau \circ (gom) = f$
- iii) and by compatibility $\tau \circ g = \sigma$.

Upshot: Suppose effect $p: K \rightarrow V$ is a fibration wrt \mathcal{M}

and $\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{(f,g)} & K \\ \downarrow m & \Rightarrow & \downarrow p \\ Q & & V \end{array}$ is an attention 2-cell for analogy m .

If $gom \in \mathcal{M}$ then $p \circ \tau = 1_V$

that is τ is an abduction for effect p .

Neural Network Abduction

For effect p $\begin{matrix} K \\ \downarrow \\ V \end{matrix}$ and analogy m $\begin{matrix} B \\ \downarrow \\ Q \end{matrix}$

suppose we have data from K, V, B and Q .

- learn or define effect p from $\{(k, v)\}$
- learn or define analogy m from $\{(b, q)\}$
- learn or define attention 2-cell (f, g)

from $\{(b, k)\}$ for f and from $\{(q, v)\}$ for g

such that $p \circ f \approx g \circ m$

- learn lifting σ from $\{(q, k)\}$

such that $p \circ \sigma \approx g$ and $\sigma \circ m \approx f$

- learn abduction τ from $\{(v, k)\}$

such that $\tau \circ g \approx \sigma$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{1} & B & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\
 \downarrow m \circ m & \swarrow \sigma & \downarrow \sigma \circ m & \searrow \tau & \downarrow p \text{ fibration} \\
 Q & \xrightarrow{g} & V & \xrightarrow{1} & V
 \end{array}$$

References

'Fibrations explain all you need!'

- Fibrations, Abduction and Attention

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