Temporal Reasoning in Transformer Models for Enhanced Sequential Reasoning

Anonymous authors
Paper under double-blind review

Abstract

This paper aims to enhance the capability of transformer models for tasks requiring complex sequential reasoning, with a focus on temporal dependencies between reasoning steps. Addressing these dependencies is crucial and challenging. To tackle this, we integrate a temporal reasoning module into the transformer architecture. This module uses lightweight temporal attention layers to dynamically adjust the reasoning process based on the temporal context provided by previous steps, modifying the transformer's attention weights accordingly. The model is trained on tasks involving multi-hop question answering and logical inference, and its performance is evaluated using benchmarks like HOTPOTQA and bAbI. Key evaluation metrics include accuracy, robustness to input variations, and interpretability of the reasoning process.

1 Introduction

The capability of transformer models has revolutionized natural language processing (NLP) tasks, particularly in understanding and generating human language. However, tasks that require complex sequential reasoning, such as multi-hop question answering and logical inference, still pose significant challenges. This is primarily due to the temporal dependencies between reasoning steps which transformers, in their vanilla form, do not explicitly handle. Addressing these dependencies is crucial for improving the model's reasoning abilities.

Temporal dependencies are inherent in many reasoning tasks, where the outcome of one step influences the subsequent steps. Without mechanisms to handle these dependencies, models may fail to maintain coherence and accuracy across multiple reasoning steps. This shortcoming limits their application in tasks requiring a structured and logical progression of thought processes.

To tackle these challenges, we propose the integration of a temporal reasoning module into the transformer architecture. Our approach employs lightweight temporal attention layers that dynamically adjust the reasoning process based on the temporal context provided by previous steps. These layers modify the transformer's attention weights to effectively capture temporal dependencies and enhance the sequential reasoning capabilities.

We validate our approach by training the enhanced transformer model on tasks that demand intricate multi-step reasoning. The performance is evaluated using established benchmarks such as HOTPOTQA and bAbI. The key evaluation metrics include accuracy, robustness to input variations, and the interpretability of the reasoning process.

Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We integrate a novel temporal reasoning module into the transformer architecture to capture temporal dependencies between reasoning steps.
- We implement lightweight temporal attention layers targeting dynamic adjustment of the reasoning process based on temporal context.
- We conduct extensive experiments on complex multi-step reasoning tasks, demonstrating significant improvements in accuracy and robustness.
- We evaluate our model using HOTPOTQA and bAbI benchmarks, focusing on key metrics such as accuracy, robustness, and interpretability.

In future work, we aim to explore the application of our approach to other domains such as scientific discovery and program synthesis, where temporal dependencies play a crucial role.

2 Related Work

RELATED WORK HERE

3 Background

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4 Method

METHOD HERE

5 Experimental Setup

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7 Conclusions and Future Work

CONCLUSIONS HERE

This work was generated by The AI Scientist (Lu et al., 2024).

References

Chris Lu, Cong Lu, Robert Tjarko Lange, Jakob Foerster, Jeff Clune, and David Ha. The AI Scientist: Towards fully automated open-ended scientific discovery. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.06292*, 2024.

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Figure 1: PLEASE FILL IN CAPTION HERE