

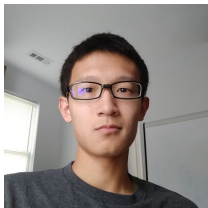
Pathologies of Neural Models Make Interpretation Difficult

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- ▶ Neural networks make strong text classifiers.

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- ▶ But, are they doing the “right” things?

Highlighting Important Words

SQuAD

Context In 1899, John Jacob Astor IV invested \$100,000 for Tesla to further develop and produce a new lighting system. Instead, Tesla used the money to fund his Colorado Springs experiments.

Question What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Highlights What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Importance of Words

Leave-one-out: remove a word and measure the decrease in confidence (Li et al., 2016)

Question	Confidence	Highlight
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.78	

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.67	What

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.78	
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.67	What
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.72	did

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.78	
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.67	What
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.72	did
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.66	Tesla
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.74	spend
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.76	Astor's
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.48	money
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.72	on
What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?	0.73	?

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Gradient-based Approximation

Approximate a word's removal using the input gradient (Simonyan et al., 2014):

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial w_i} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{v}_i} \cdot \mathbf{v}_i$$

- Computes importance for all words in one backward pass.

Input Reduction

- ▶ What if we remove the unimportant words?

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What	did	Tesla		Astor's		on	?	0.76
What	did	Tesla		Astor's			?	0.80
	did	Tesla		Astor's			?	0.87
	did	Tesla		Astor's				0.82
	did			Astor's				0.89
	did							0.91

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Prediction remains the same.

Input Reduction

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What remains does not match what was considered important.

Input Reduction

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Model is confident when no reasonable prediction can be made.

SQuAD

Context

In 1899, John Jacob Astor IV invested \$100,000 for Tesla to further develop and produce a new lighting system. Instead, Tesla used the money to fund his Colorado Springs experiments.

Original

What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Reduced

did

Confidence

0.78 → 0.91

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Reduced

did

Confidence

0.78 → 0.91

VQA

Original

What color is the flower ?

Answer

yellow

Reduced

flower ?

Confidence

0.827 → 0.819



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Original What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Reduced did

Confidence 0.78 \rightarrow 0.91

VQA

Original What color is the flower ?

Answer yellow

Reduced flower ?

Confidence 0.827 \rightarrow 0.819



SNLI

Premise Well dressed man and woman dancing in the street

Original Two man is dancing on the street

Answer Contradiction

Reduced dancing

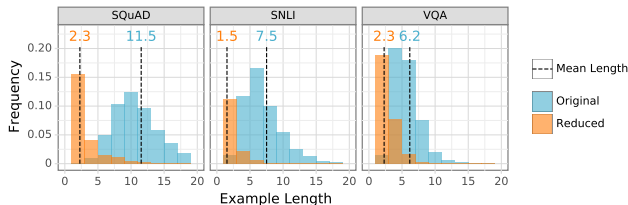
Confidence 0.977 \rightarrow 0.706

All Examples are Drastically Reduced

- ▶ Run input reduction for entire validation set.
- ▶ Keep model prediction the same.

All Examples are Drastically Reduced

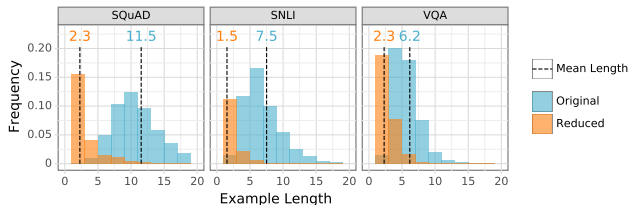
- ▶ Run input reduction for entire validation set.
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- ▶ Consistently reduce examples to very short lengths without changing the model prediction.

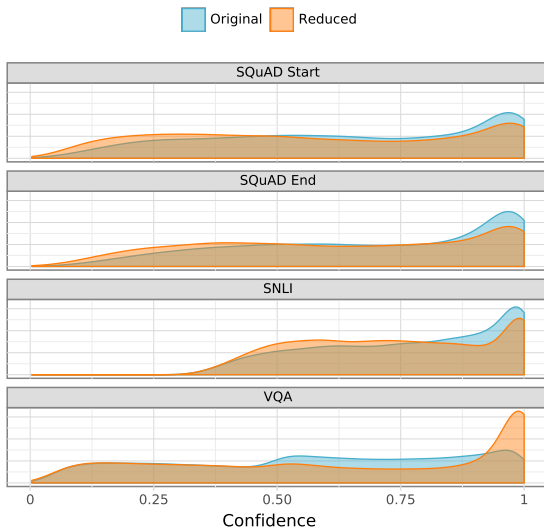
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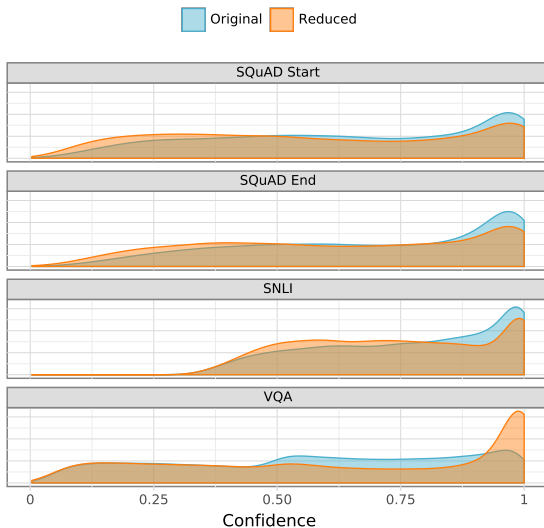
- ▶ Consistently reduce examples to very short lengths without changing the model prediction.
- ▶ **But how about the confidence?**

Confidence Remains High



- Model confidence remains high on reduced examples.

Confidence Remains High



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Humans Are Confused by Reduced Inputs

Dataset	Original	Reduced
SQuAD	80.58	31.72
SNLI-E	76.40	27.66
SNLI-N	55.40	52.66
SNLI-C	76.20	60.60
VQA	76.11	40.60

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What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

did

spend



Humans Are Confused by Reduced Inputs

Dataset	Original	Reduced	vs. Random
SQuAD	80.58	31.72	53.70
SNLI-E	76.40	27.66	42.31
SNLI-N	55.40	52.66	50.64
SNLI-C	76.20	60.60	49.87
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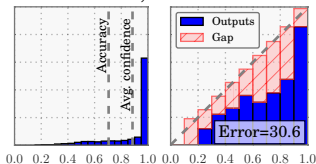
- ▶ Reduced examples are uninformative and appear random.
- ▶ **How did input reduction lead to this?**

Let's Take a Step Back

Model Overconfidence

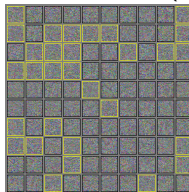
Guo et al. (2017)

ResNet, CIFAR-100



Rubbish Examples

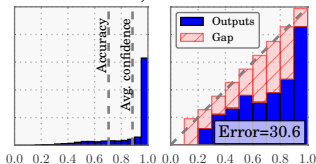
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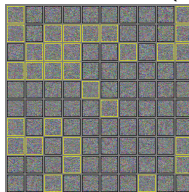
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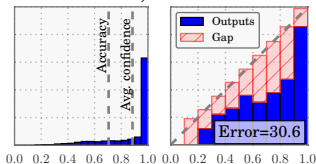


- Overconfidence does not cover non-sensical inputs.

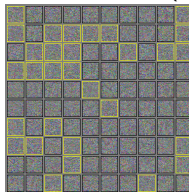
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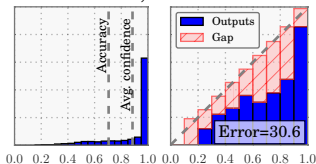
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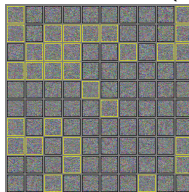
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Rubbish Examples

Goodfellow et al. (2015)



- Overconfidence does not cover non-sensical inputs.
- Reduced examples are rubbish examples.
- **How did input reduction lead to rubbish examples?**

Issues of Linear, Confidence-based Interpretation

SQuAD

The Panthers used the San Jose State practice facility and stayed at the San Jose Marriott. The Broncos practiced at Stanford University and stayed at the Santa Clara Marriott.

Question

Confidence

Where did the Broncos practice for the Super Bowl ? (0.90, 0.89)

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- ▶ Confidence remains high after the crucial word is removed.

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- ▶ After the first reduction step, the input is already rubbish.
- ▶ Confidence remains high after the crucial word is removed.
- ▶ Decrease in confidence does not align with importance.
 - Confidence \neq Uncertainty

Issues of Linear, Confidence-based Interpretation

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QuickBooks sponsored a “Small Business Big Game” contest, in which Death Wish Coffee had a 30-second commercial aired free of charge courtesy of QuickBooks. **Death Wish Coffee** beat out nine other contenders from across the United States for the free advertisement.

What company won free advertisement due to QuickBooks contest ?

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What won free due to ?

- ▶ Independent word importance implicitly assumes bag-of-words.
- ▶ Higher-order correlations are ignored.

Mitigating Pathologies by Entropy Regularization

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- ▶ Ideally, model should say “I don’t know” .
- ▶ Uniform distribution over classes.

Mitigating Pathologies by Entropy Regularization

- ▶ Ideally, model should say “I don’t know” .
- ▶ Uniform distribution over classes.
- ▶ Maximize the output entropy on **reduced examples**:

$$\sum_{(\mathbf{x}, y)} \log(f(y | \mathbf{x})) + \lambda \sum_{\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}}} \mathbb{H}(f(y | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}))$$

where $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$ is the set of reduced training examples.

- ▶ Fine-tune models with both MLE and entropy regularization.

Context	In 1899, John Jacob Astor IV invested \$100,000 for Tesla to further develop and produce a new lighting system. Instead, Tesla used the money to fund his Colorado Springs experiments.
Original	What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?
Before	did
After	spend Astor money on ?
Confidence	0.78 → 0.91 → 0.52

Context In 1899, John Jacob Astor IV invested \$100,000 for Tesla to further develop and produce a new lighting system. Instead, Tesla used the money to fund his Colorado Springs experiments.

Original What did Tesla spend Astor's money on ?

Before did

After spend Astor money on ?

Confidence 0.78 → 0.91 → 0.52

Original What color is the flower ?

Answer yellow

Before flower ?

After What color is flower ?

Confidence 0.847 → 0.918 → 0.745



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Answer yellow

Before flower ?

After What color is flower ?

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Premise Well dressed man and woman dancing in the street

Original Two man is dancing on the street

Answer Contradiction

Before dancing

After two man dancing

Confidence 0.977 → 0.706 → 0.717

Input Reduction After Regularization

	Accuracy	
	Before	After
SQuAD	77.41	78.03
SNLI	85.71	85.72
VQA	61.61	61.54

Input Reduction After Regularization

	Accuracy		Reduced Lengths	
	Before	After	Before	After
SQuAD	77.41	78.03	2.27	4.97
SNLI	85.71	85.72	1.50	2.20
VQA	61.61	61.54	2.30	2.87

Input Reduction After Regularization

	Accuracy		Reduced Lengths	
	Before	After	Before	After
SQuAD	77.41	78.03	2.27	4.97
SNLI	85.71	85.72	1.50	2.20
VQA	61.61	61.54	2.30	2.87

- Human studies show examples are more meaningful.

Summary

- ▶ Neural models are overconfident → interpretation is difficult.
 - Poor uncertainty estimates from MLE training.
 - Entropy regularization on reduced examples helps mitigate.

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Summary

- ▶ Neural models are overconfident → interpretation is difficult.
 - Poor uncertainty estimates from MLE training.
 - Entropy regularization on reduced examples helps mitigate.
- ▶ Gradient interpretations assume linear model (bag-of-words).
 - Neglects curvature (Hessian) and higher-order terms.
- ▶ **Shameless Plugs:**
 - Competition on robust QA Models www.qanta.org
 - Take me as your student!

Reduced Examples Become More Meaningful

	Accuracy	
	Before	After
SQuAD	31.72	51.61
SNLI-E	27.66	32.37
SNLI-N	52.66	50.50
SNLI-C	60.60	63.90
VQA	40.60	51.85

Reduced Examples Become More Meaningful

	Accuracy		vs. Random	
	Before	After	Before	After
SQuAD	31.72	51.61	53.70	62.75
SNLI-E	27.66	32.37	42.31	50.62
SNLI-N	52.66	50.50	50.64	58.94
SNLI-C	60.60	63.90	49.87	56.92
VQA	40.60	51.85	61.60	61.88

- ▶ Input reduction leads to more meaningful examples after regularization.
- ▶ Entropy regularization helps mitigate the pathology.

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