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








Prof. Antoine Bosselut
Modern Natural Language Processing – CS-552
09.04.2025 from 11h30 to 13h00
Duration : 90 minutes

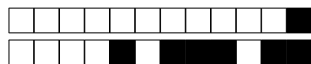
Midterm Practice Set (Solutions)

SCIPER: 111111

Do not turn the page before the start of the exam. This document is double-sided, has 7 pages, the last ones are possibly blank. Do not unstaple.

- This is a closed book exam. Non-programmable calculators are allowed. No other electronic devices of any kind are allowed.
- Place on your desk: your student ID, writing utensils, one double-sided A4 page cheat sheet if you have one; place all other personal items below your desk.
- You each have a different exam.
- This exam has **multiple-choice** questions of varying difficulty. Each question is worth **one point**.
- Each question has **exactly one** correct answer. For each question, mark the box corresponding to the correct answer. You are not expected to get every question right even for the best grade.
- Only answers in this booklet count. No extra loose answer sheets. You can use the blank pages at the end as scrap paper.
- Use a **black or dark blue ballpen** and clearly erase with **correction fluid** if necessary.
- If a question turns out to be wrong or ambiguous, we may decide to nullify it.

Respectez les consignes suivantes Observe this guidelines Beachten Sie bitte die unten stehenden Richtlinien		
choisir une réponse select an answer Antwort auswählen	ne PAS choisir une réponse NOT select an answer NICHT Antwort auswählen	Corriger une réponse Correct an answer Antwort korrigieren
  		 
ce qu'il ne faut PAS faire what should NOT be done was man NICHT tun sollte		
     		



Question 1 Consider the equations for a standard LSTM cell:

$$\begin{aligned}i_t &= \sigma(W_{ix}x_t + W_{ih}h_{t-1} + b_i) \\f_t &= \sigma(W_{fx}x_t + W_{fh}h_{t-1} + b_f) \\o_t &= \sigma(W_{ox}x_t + W_{oh}h_{t-1} + b_o) \\\tilde{c}_t &= \phi(W_{cx}x_t + W_{ch}h_{t-1} + b_c) \\c_t &= f_t \odot c_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tilde{c}_t \\h_t &= o_t \odot \phi(c_t)\end{aligned}$$

In the equations above, which term explicitly represents the memory component that enables the LSTM to retain **long-term information** across timesteps?

- ☐ Output gate o_t
- ☐ Hidden state h_t
- ☐ Cell state c_t
- ☐ Candidate cell state \tilde{c}_t
- ☐ Input gate i_t

Solution: The cell state c_t retains long-term information while the hidden state h_t acts as a short-term memory.

Question 2 BERT introduces a special token, [CLS], at the beginning of every input sequence. Which of the following statements best describes the purpose of the [CLS] token?

- ☐ It serves as a placeholder whose final hidden representation acts as a holistic sequence-level embedding, typically used for classification or next-sentence prediction tasks.
- ☐ It serves primarily to separate multiple sentences within the same input (the same role as [SEP] does).
- ☐ It simply marks sentence boundaries and carries no trainable embeddings of its own.
- ☐ It marks the exact midpoint of the input sequence to ensure balanced bidirectional attention.
- ☐ It is used only during masked language modeling and is dropped for downstream tasks.

Solution: The [CLS] special token is introduced to aggregate information about the entire sequence in its embedding and is used as input to a classification model.

Question 3 From the following set of models: {ELMo, BERT, GPT, BART, T5}, which group can each be directly used for both classification and generation tasks (without any modifications)?

- ☐ ELMo, BERT
- ☐ BERT, GPT
- ☐ BART, T5
- ☐ BERT, GPT, T5
- ☐ ELMo, BART, GPT

Solution: BART and T5 are encoder-decoder models capable of both classification and text generation. GPT also supports both tasks; however, in this question, it is always paired with bidirectional models like BERT and ELMo, which are not suitable for generation.



Question 4 Which of the following best defines semantics-encoding embeddings of words?

- ☐ A learned transformation of one-hot vectors into fixed-length random projections that improves computational efficiency.
- ☐ A technique that clusters words based on their dictionary definitions, ensuring that words with similar meanings always have identical representations.
- ☐ A representation of words as vectors, where the relative distance encodes semantic similarity based on co-occurrence patterns.
- ☐ A representation of words as sparse vectors in a high-dimensional space, ensuring that each word has a unique but unrelated position in the space.

Solution: Semantics-encoding embeddings capture meaning by placing words with similar usage patterns close together in vector space, typically trained using co-occurrence statistics.

Question 5 Which of the following is **FALSE** regarding autoregressive natural language generation?

- ☐ At each step during inference, the model predicts a probability distribution over the vocabulary space.
- ☐ The next generated token is the one with maximum probability as predicted by the model.
- ☐ We train a model to maximize the likelihood of the next token given the preceding tokens.
- ☐ Beam Search is more likely to generate a more probable sequence than greedy argmax decoding.

Solution: This represents greedy decoding which is just one of the ways in which text can be generated. The next generated token may not be the most probable one in general.

Question 6 Which of the following best describes **Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompting** in large language models?

- ☐ A reinforcement learning technique that optimizes a language model's response generation using reward signals based on coherence and logical correctness.
- ☐ A prompting technique where multiple examples are given in the prompt to guide the model towards correct predictions through imitation learning.
- ☐ A method where the model is fine-tuned on logical reasoning tasks to improve its structured decision-making capabilities.
- ☐ A reasoning-based prompting method that encourages the model to break down complex problems into intermediate reasoning steps before producing a final answer.

Solution: Chain-of-Thought prompting explicitly encourages models to generate intermediate reasoning steps to arrive at better final answers.



Question 7 Which of the following claims are **NOT TRUE** about the *perplexity* metric?

- (a) Easy to implement.
- (b) Using base-2, base-3 and base- e will lead to the same perplexity score.
- (c) Can be cheated by predicting low-frequency tokens.
- (d) Can be very sensitive to high frequency tokens.
- (e) The perplexity score can be 0.

- ☐ A and B.
- ☐ B and E.
- ☐ C and E.
- ☐ A and E.
- ☐ B, D and E
- ☐ B and C.
- ☐ **C, D, E**
- ☐ B, C and D.

Solution: C,D,E are not true.

- C: can be cheated by predicting high-frequency tokens;
- D: sensitive to low frequency tokens;
- E: The perplexity score is a exponential of probability, which cannot be 0.

Question 8 Applying N-gram language model, Fixed-window language model and a RNN language model on the same training dataset, which one will have the largest model size (i.e. greatest number of parameters)?

- ☐ **Cannot be determined from the given information**
- ☐ Fixed-window language model
- ☐ RNN
- ☐ N-gram language model

Solution: The number of model parameters does not depend on the training dataset.

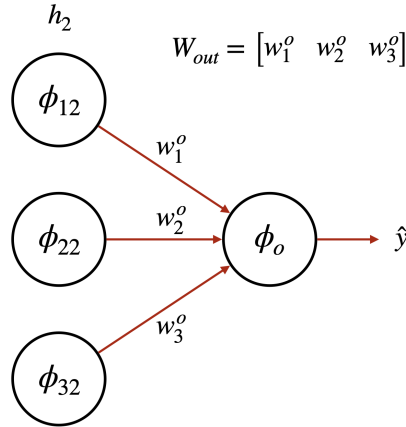


Figure 1: FFN Backpropagation

Backpropagation

Question 9 According to Figure 1, the forward pass includes three steps:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= W_{out}h_2 = w_1^o \times \phi_{12}(\cdot) + w_2^o \times \phi_{22}(\cdot) + w_3^o \times \phi_{32}(\cdot) \\ \hat{y} &= \phi_0(u) \\ L(\hat{y}, y) &= -y \ln \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$

Given that ϕ_0 is the ReLU function, $W_{out} = [0.53 \quad -0.21 \quad 1.04]$, $h_2 = [0.36 \quad 1.02 \quad 5.18]^T$, $y = 4.20$, what is the partial gradient $\frac{\partial L(\hat{y}, y)}{\partial \phi_{32}(\cdot)}$?

- ☐ 4.06
- ☐ 0.81
- ☐ 0.41
- ☐ -4.06
- ☒ -0.81
- ☐ -0.41

Solution: Computed by chain rule.

Question 10 Now given that the loss function is the L2 loss $L(\hat{y}, y) = \frac{1}{2}(y - \hat{y})^2$, what is the partial gradient $\frac{\partial L(\hat{y}, y)}{\partial w_3^o}$?

- ☐ 1.21
- ☐ 0.42
- ☒ 6.03
- ☐ -1.21
- ☐ -0.42
- ☐ -6.03

Solution: Computed by chain rule.

