NMT: Neural Machine Translation

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In Machine Translation, our goal is to convert a sentence from the *source* language (e.g. Cherokee) to the *target* language (e.g. English). Here, we will implement a sequence-to-sequence (Seq2Seq) network with attention, to build a Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system, which uses a Bidirectional LSTM Encoder and a Unidirectional LSTM Decoder.

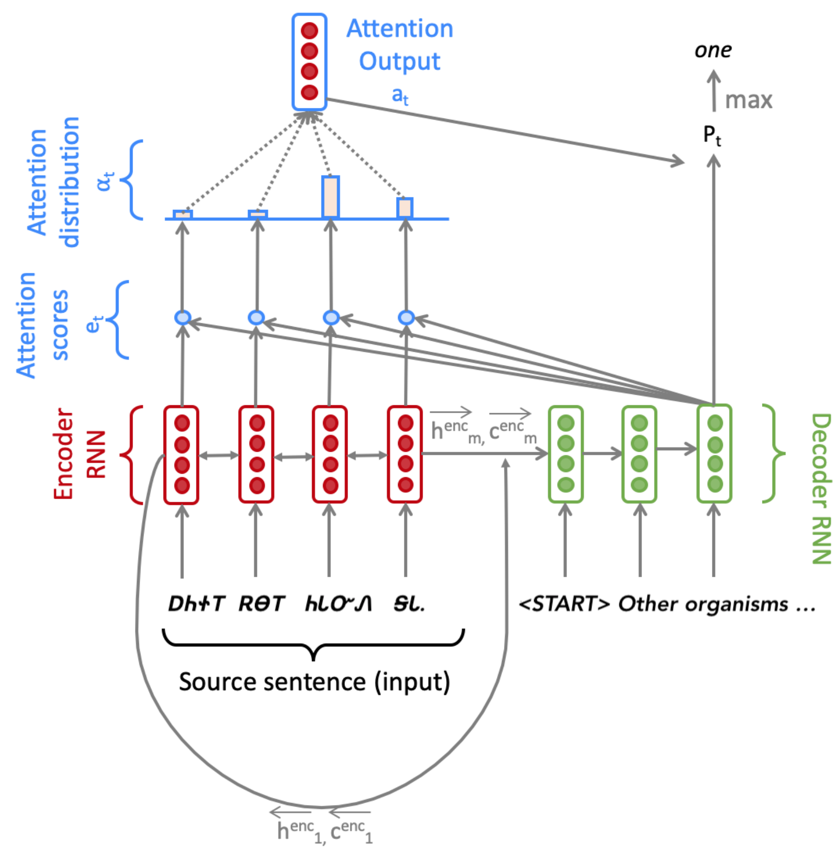

Figure 1: Seq2Seq Model with Multiplicative Attention, shown on the third step of the decoder. Hidden states $\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}$ and cell states $\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}$ are defined in the next page.

Given a sentence in the source language, we look up the subword embeddings from an embeddings matrix, yielding $\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_m$ ($\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{e \times 1}$), where m is the length of the source sentence and e is the embedding size. We feed these embeddings to the bidirectional encoder, yielding hidden states and cell states for both the forwards ($\rightarrow$) and backwards ($\leftarrow$) LSTMs. The forwards and backwards versions are concatenated to give hidden states $\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}$ and cell states $\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}$:

$$\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}} = [\overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}}; \overrightarrow{\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}}] \text{ where } \mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}} \in \mathbb{R}^{2h \times 1}, \overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}}, \overrightarrow{\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h \times 1} \qquad 1 \le i \le m \tag{1}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}} = [\overleftarrow{\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}}; \overrightarrow{\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}}] \text{ where } \mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}} \in \mathbb{R}^{2h \times 1}, \overleftarrow{\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}}, \overrightarrow{\mathbf{c}_i^{\text{enc}}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h \times 1} \qquad 1 \le i \le m \tag{2}$$

We then initialize the decoder's first hidden state $\mathbf{h}_0^{\text{dec}}$ and cell state $\mathbf{c}_0^{\text{dec}}$ with a linear projection of the encoder's final hidden state and final cell state.[1]

[1]If it's not obvious, think about why we regard $[\overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}_1^{\text{enc}}}, \overrightarrow{\mathbf{h}_m^{\text{enc}}}]$ as the 'final hidden state' of the Encoder.

$$\mathbf{h}_0^{\text{dec}} = \mathbf{W}_h[\overleftarrow{\mathbf{h}_1^{\text{enc}}}; \overrightarrow{\mathbf{h}_m^{\text{enc}}}] \text{ where } \mathbf{h}_0^{\text{dec}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}, \mathbf{W}_h \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 2h} \tag{3}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_0^{\text{dec}} = \mathbf{W}_c[\overleftarrow{\mathbf{c}_1^{\text{enc}}}; \overrightarrow{\mathbf{c}_m^{\text{enc}}}] \text{ where } \mathbf{c}_0^{\text{dec}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}, \mathbf{W}_c \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 2h} \tag{4}$$

With the decoder initialized, we must now feed it a target sentence. On the t^{th} step, we look up the embedding for the t^{th} subword, $\mathbf{y}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{e\times 1}$. We then concatenate $\mathbf{y}_t$ with the *combined-output vector* $\mathbf{o}_{t-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}$ from the previous timestep (we will explain what this is later down this page!) to produce $\overline{\mathbf{y}_t} \in \mathbb{R}^{(e+h)\times 1}$. Note that for the first target subword (i.e. the start token) $\mathbf{o}_0$ is a zero-vector. We then feed $\overline{\mathbf{y}_t}$ as input to the decoder.

$$\mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}}, \mathbf{c}_t^{\text{dec}} = \text{Decoder}(\overline{\mathbf{y}_t}, \mathbf{h}_{t-1}^{\text{dec}}, \mathbf{c}_{t-1}^{\text{dec}}) \text{ where } \mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}, \mathbf{c}_t^{\text{dec}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1} \tag{5}$$

$$\tag{6}$$

We then use $\mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}}$ to compute multiplicative attention over $\mathbf{h}_1^{\text{enc}}, \dots, \mathbf{h}_m^{\text{enc}}$:

$$\mathbf{e}_{t,i} = (\mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}})^T \mathbf{W}_{\text{attProj}} \mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}} \text{ where } \mathbf{e}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times 1}, \mathbf{W}_{\text{attProj}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 2h} \qquad 1 \le i \le m \tag{7}$$

$$\alpha_t = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{e}_t) \text{ where } \alpha_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times 1} \tag{8}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_t = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_{t,i} \mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}} \text{ where } \mathbf{a}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{2h\times 1} \tag{9}$$

$\mathbf{e}_{t,i}$ is a scalar, the ith element of $\mathbf{e}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times 1}$, computed using the hidden state of the decoder at the tth step, $\mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}$, the attention projection $\mathbf{W}_{\text{attProj}} \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 2h}$, and the hidden state of the encoder at the ith step, $\mathbf{h}_i^{\text{enc}} \in \mathbb{R}^{2h\times 1}$.
We now concatenate the attention output $\mathbf{a}_t$ with the decoder hidden state $\mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}}$ and pass this through a linear layer, tanh, and dropout to attain the *combined-output* vector $\mathbf{o}_t$.

$$\mathbf{u}_t = [\mathbf{a}_t; \mathbf{h}_t^{\text{dec}}] \text{ where } \mathbf{u}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{3h\times 1} \tag{10}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_t = \mathbf{W}_u \mathbf{u}_t \text{ where } \mathbf{v}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1}, \mathbf{W}_u \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 3h} \tag{11}$$

$$\mathbf{o}_t = \text{dropout}(\tanh(\mathbf{v}_t)) \text{ where } \mathbf{o}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{h\times 1} \tag{12}$$

Then, we produce a probability distribution $\mathbf{P}_t$ over target subwords at the t^{th} timestep:

$$\mathbf{P}_t = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{W}_{\text{vocab}} \mathbf{o}_t) \text{ where } \mathbf{P}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{V_t\times 1}, \mathbf{W}_{\text{vocab}} \in \mathbb{R}^{V_t\times h} \tag{13}$$

Here, V_t is the size of the target vocabulary. Finally, to train the network we then compute the cross entropy loss between $\mathbf{P}_t$ and $\mathbf{g}_t$, where $\mathbf{g}_t$ is the one-hot vector of the target subword at timestep t:

$$J_t(\theta) = \text{CrossEntropy}(\mathbf{P}_t, \mathbf{g}_t) \tag{14}$$

Here, θ represents all the parameters of the model and $J_t(\theta)$ is the loss on step t of the decoder.

Note

This document is based on Assignment 4 from the CS224N: Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning course offered by Stanford University. The content within is intended for educational purposes only and is subject to change. Please refer to the official course materials and resources for the most accurate and up-to-date information.