

Assignment 2 [written]

The goal of the skip-gram word2vec algorithm is to accurately learn the probability distribution $P(O|C)$. Given a specific word o and a specific word c , we want to calculate $P(O = o | C = c)$, which is the probability that word o is an ‘outside’ word for c , i.e., the probability that o falls within the contextual window of c .

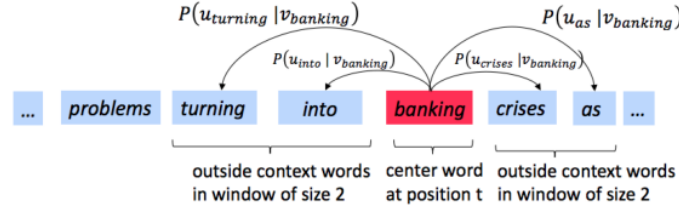


Figure 1: The word2vec skip-gram prediction model with window size 2

In word2vec, the conditional probability distribution is given by taking vector dot-products and applying the softmax function:

$$P(O = o | C = c) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\sum_{w \in \text{Vocab}} \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \quad (1)$$

Here, \mathbf{u}_o is the ‘outside’ vector representing outside word o , and \mathbf{v}_c is the ‘center’ vector representing center word c . To contain these parameters, we have two matrices, \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} . The columns of \mathbf{U} are all the ‘outside’ vectors \mathbf{u}_w . The columns of \mathbf{V} are all of the ‘center’ vectors \mathbf{v}_w . Both \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} contain a vector for every $w \in \text{Vocabulary}$.¹

Recall from lectures that, for a single pair of words c and o , the loss is given by:

$$\mathcal{J}_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U}) = -\log P(O = o | C = c). \quad (2)$$

Another way to view this loss is as the cross-entropy² between the true distribution \mathbf{y} and the predicted distribution $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$. Here, both \mathbf{y} and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ are vectors with length equal to the number of words in the vocabulary. Furthermore, the k^{th} entry in these vectors indicates the conditional probability of the k^{th} word being an ‘outside word’ for the given c . The true empirical distribution \mathbf{y} is a one-hot vector with a 1 for the true outside word o , and 0 everywhere else. The predicted distribution $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is the probability distribution $P(O|C = c)$ given by our model in equation (1).

Variables notation

\mathbf{U} , matrix of shape (vocab_size, embedding_dim), all the ‘outside’ vectors.

\mathbf{V} , matrix of shape (vocab_size, embedding_dim), all the ‘center’ vectors.

\mathbf{y} , vector of shape (vocab_size, 1), the true empirical distribution \mathbf{y} is a one-hot vector with 1 for the true outside word o , and 0 for the others.

$\hat{\mathbf{y}}$, vector of shape (vocab_size, 1), the predicted distribution $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is the probability distribution $P(O | C = c)$ given by our model.

Formula to be used

$$\frac{\partial x^\top}{\partial x} = I$$

$$\frac{\partial A x^\top}{\partial x} = A^\top$$

- (a) (3 points) Show that the naive-softmax loss given in Equation (2) is the same as the cross-entropy loss between \mathbf{y} and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$; i.e., show that

$$- \sum_{w \in V_{ocab}} y_w \log(\hat{y}_w) = -\log(\hat{y}_o). \quad (3)$$

Your answer should be one line.

$$y_w = \begin{cases} 1, & w = o \\ 0, & w \neq o \end{cases}$$

$$- \sum_{w=1}^V y_w \log(\hat{y}_w) = -y_o \log(\hat{y}_o) = -\log(\hat{y}_o)$$

- (b) (5 points) Compute the partial derivative of $\mathbf{J}_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})$ with respect to \mathbf{v}_c . Please write your answer in terms of \mathbf{y} , $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$, and \mathbf{U} .

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial J_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= - \frac{\partial \log(P(O = o | C = c))}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= - \frac{\partial \log(\exp(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} + \frac{\partial \log(\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= -\mathbf{u}_o + \sum_{w=1}^V \frac{\exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \mathbf{u}_w \\ &= -\mathbf{u}_o + \sum_{w=1}^V P(O = w | C = c) \mathbf{u}_w \\ &= \mathbf{U}^\top (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}) \end{aligned}$$

- (c) (5 points) Compute the partial derivatives of $\mathbf{J}_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})$ with respect to each of the ‘outside’ word vectors, \mathbf{u}_w ’s. There will be two cases: when $w = o$, the true ‘outside’ word vector, and $w \neq o$, for all other words. Please write your answer in terms of \mathbf{y} , $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$, and \mathbf{v}_c .

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial J_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} \\ &= - \frac{\partial \log(\exp(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} + \frac{\partial \log(\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} \\ w = o : \\ origin &= -\mathbf{v}_c + \frac{1}{\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \frac{\partial \sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\partial \mathbf{u}_o} \\ &= -\mathbf{v}_c + \frac{\exp(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \frac{\partial (\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\partial \mathbf{u}_o} \\ &= -\mathbf{v}_c + P(O = o | C = c) \mathbf{v}_c \\ &= (P(O = o | C = c) - 1) \mathbf{v}_c \\ w \neq o : \\ origin &= \frac{\exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\sum_{w=1}^V \exp(\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \frac{\partial (\mathbf{u}_w^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} \\ &= P(O = o | C = c) \mathbf{v}_c \\ in summary : \\ & \frac{\partial J_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} \\ &= (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y})^\top \times \mathbf{v}_c \end{aligned}$$

(d) (3 Points) The sigmoid function is given by Equation 4:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{x}}} = \frac{e^{\mathbf{x}}}{e^{\mathbf{x}} + 1} \quad (4)$$

Please compute the derivative of $\sigma(\mathbf{x})$ with respect to \mathbf{x} , where \mathbf{x} is a vector.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \sigma(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} &= \frac{\partial \frac{e^{\mathbf{x}}}{e^{\mathbf{x}} + 1}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \\ &= \frac{e^{\mathbf{x}}(e^{\mathbf{x}} + 1) - e^{\mathbf{x}}e^{\mathbf{x}}}{(e^{\mathbf{x}} + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{e^{\mathbf{x}}}{(e^{\mathbf{x}} + 1)^2} \\ &= \sigma(\mathbf{x})(1 - \sigma(\mathbf{x})) \end{aligned}$$

(e) (4 points) Now we shall consider the Negative Sampling loss, which is an alternative to the Naive Softmax loss. Assume that K negative samples (words) are drawn from the vocabulary. For simplicity of notation we shall refer to them as w_1, w_2, \dots, w_K and their outside vectors as $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_K$. Note that $o \notin \{w_1, \dots, w_K\}$. For a center word c and an outside word o , the negative sampling loss function is given by:

$$\mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U}) = -\log(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)) - \sum_{k=1}^K \log(\sigma(-\mathbf{u}_k^\top \mathbf{v}_c)) \quad (5)$$

for a sample w_1, \dots, w_K , where $\sigma(\cdot)$ is the sigmoid function.³

Please repeat parts (b) and (c), computing the partial derivatives of $\mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}$ with respect to \mathbf{v}_c , with respect to \mathbf{u}_o , and with respect to a negative sample \mathbf{u}_k . Please write your answers in terms of the vectors \mathbf{u}_o , \mathbf{v}_c , and \mathbf{u}_k , where $k \in [1, K]$. After you've done this, describe with one sentence why this loss function is much more efficient to compute than the naive-softmax loss. Note, you should be able to use your solution to part (d) to help compute the necessary gradients here.

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= \frac{\partial(-\log(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)) - \sum_{k=1}^K \log(\sigma(-\mathbf{u}_k^\top \mathbf{v}_c)))}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= -\frac{\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)(1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)} \frac{\partial(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c)}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} - \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{\partial \log(\sigma(\mathbf{u}_k^\top \mathbf{v}_c))}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ &= (\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c) - 1)\mathbf{u}_o + \sum_{k=1}^K (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}_k^\top \mathbf{v}_c))\mathbf{u}_k \\ &\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_o} = (\sigma(\mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c) - 1)\mathbf{v}_c \\ &\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}(\mathbf{v}_c, o, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_k} = (1 - \sigma(\mathbf{u}_k^\top \mathbf{v}_c))\mathbf{v}_c \end{aligned}$$

(f) (3 points) Suppose the center word is $c = w_t$ and the context window is $[w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t-1}, w_t, w_{t+1}, \dots, w_{t+m}]$, where m is the context window size. Recall that for the skip-gram version of word2vec, the total loss for the context window is:

$$\mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U}) = \sum_{\substack{-m \leq j \leq m \\ j \neq 0}} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U}) \quad (6)$$

Here, $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})$ represents an arbitrary loss term for the center word $c = w_t$ and outside word w_{t+j} . $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})$ could be $\mathbf{J}_{\text{naive-softmax}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})$ or $\mathbf{J}_{\text{neg-sample}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})$, depending on your implementation.

Write down three partial derivatives:

- (i) $\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U}) / \partial \mathbf{U}$
- (ii) $\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U}) / \partial \mathbf{v}_c$

(iii) $\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U}) / \partial \mathbf{v}_w$ when $w \neq c$

Write your answers in terms of $\partial \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U}) / \partial \mathbf{U}$ and $\partial \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U}) / \partial \mathbf{v}_c$. This is very simple – each solution should be one line.

Once you're done: Given that you computed the derivatives of $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})$ with respect to all the model parameters \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} in parts (a) to (c), you have now computed the derivatives of the full loss function $\mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}$ with respect to all parameters. You're ready to implement word2vec!

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{U}} &= \sum_{-m \leq j \leq m, j \neq 0} \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{U}} \\ (ii) \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} &= \sum_{-m \leq j \leq m, j \neq 0} \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t+j}, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} \\ (iii) \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_{\text{skip-gram}}(\mathbf{v}_c, w_{t-m}, \dots, w_{t+m}, \mathbf{U})}{\partial \mathbf{v}_w} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

(b)(c) another solution

forward calculation :

$$\begin{aligned} x_o &= \mathbf{u}_o^\top \mathbf{v}_c \\ t_o &= \exp(x_o) \\ s_o &= \sum_{w \in \text{vocab}} \exp(x_w) \\ \hat{y}_o &= \frac{t_o}{s_o} \\ J &= -\log(\hat{y}_o) \end{aligned}$$

backward propagation :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial t_o}{\partial x_o} &= \exp(x_o) \\ \frac{\partial s_o}{\partial x_o} &= \exp(x_o) \\ \frac{\partial \hat{y}_o}{\partial x_o} &= \frac{\exp(x_o)s_o - \exp^2(x_o)}{s_o^2} = \hat{y}_o(1 - \hat{y}_o) \\ \frac{\partial \hat{y}_o}{\partial x_w} &= \frac{-\exp(x_o)\exp(x_w)}{s_o^2} = -\hat{y}_o\hat{y}_w \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_o} &= \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{y}_o} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_o}{\partial x_o} = -\frac{1}{\hat{y}_o} \hat{y}_o(1 - \hat{y}_o) = \hat{y}_o - 1 \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_w} &= \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{y}_o} \frac{\partial \hat{y}_o}{\partial x_w} = -\frac{1}{\hat{y}_o} (-\hat{y}_o\hat{y}_w) = \hat{y}_w \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{v}_c} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial v_c} \\ \dots \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_o} \frac{\partial x_o}{\partial v_c} \\ \dots \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial v_c} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_1 u_1 \\ \dots \\ (\hat{y}_o - 1) u_o \\ \dots \\ \hat{y}_n u_n \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{U}^\top (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}) \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{u}_w} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial u_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_o} \frac{\partial x_o}{\partial u_o} & \dots & \frac{\partial J}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial u_n} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= [\hat{y}_1 \mathbf{v}_c \quad \dots \quad (\hat{y}_o - 1) \mathbf{v}_c \quad \dots \quad \hat{y}_n \mathbf{v}_c] \\ &= (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y})^\top \times \mathbf{v}_c \end{aligned}$$