

CS 224n Assignment #5

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1. Character-based convolutional encoder for NMT

- (a) Convolutional architectures can operate over variable length input too since convolutional layers slide fixed-sized windows over input unlike linear layers.
- (b) The size of the padding should be 1 so that the padded vector will have size at least 5. Indeed, m_{word} could be 1 if all words in a batch happen to be some characters of length 1 like 'a', in which case we have $\mathbf{x}'_{\text{padded}} \in \mathbb{Z}^3$.
- (c) The highway layer makes it possible to combine local features and global features. In other words, it matches our intuition that we can sometimes understand the meaning of a word by just looking at a little chunk of consecutive characters at a time but it is sometimes better to consider the whole characters in it at once. In order to simplify the network semantics in the beginning of training, I would initialize \mathbf{b}_{gate} to be negative.
- (d) Transformers are easier to parallelize and faster to train.
- (e) See `vocab.py`.
- (f) For the highway network implementation, see `highway.py`. I added a function `question_if_sanity_check()` in `sanity_check.py` to test the following expected properties.
 - The output size is correct for a given input.
 - $\mathbf{x}_{\text{highway}} = \mathbf{x}_{\text{conv_out}}$ when $\mathbf{x}_{\text{gate}} = 0$, which is checked by making $\mathbf{b}_{\text{gate}} = -\infty$.
 - $\mathbf{x}_{\text{highway}} = \mathbf{x}_{\text{proj}}$ when $\mathbf{x}_{\text{gate}} = 1$, which is checked by making $\mathbf{b}_{\text{gate}} = \infty$.
 - $\mathbf{x}_{\text{highway}} = \mathbf{x}_{\text{conv_out}}$ when the projection layer is the identity function.

In addition, I checked if \mathbf{x}_{gate} is initialized to be negative by computing the mean 4 times. (see my answer for 1 (c) above).

- (g)
- (h)
- (i)
- (j)

2. Character-based LSTM decoder for NMT

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)

(d)

(e)

3. Analyzing NMT Systems

(a)

(b) i.

ii.

iii.

(c)