

Assignment 2: Neural Machine Translation

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Abstract

Neural Machine Translation from English to German and Hindi language using Seq2Seq with different attention models.

1 Preprocessing

In pre-processing step, I removed all the punctuation characters and ignored all the words that appear less than 5 times in the whole corpus for both input and target language.

2 Experimental Setup

Code is written using Pytorch. Used fasttext as pretrained embedding and didn't allow word embedding training to reduce the number of parameters to train. Start and End token are added to all input and target string.

3 Seq2Seq Model

Single layer LSTM based seq2seq model was implemented as described in the class. Encoder takes 300d fasttext embedding of a word at each time step. LSTM unit then generates 128d hidden and cell state for next time step. Final hidden state of the encoder is given to the decoder as initial hidden at first time step along with start token. Output from decoder LSTM is fed to a Linear classifier with a softmax layer that gives probability of next word from the whole vocabulary. While training correct next word is fed at every time step to decoder and cross entropy loss is calculated. Final loss is sum of all the losses at each time step. I also tried same experimentation using GRU in place of LSTM.

4 Attention

I implemented dot product, additive and multiplicative attention. In dot product attention, at each

decoder time step, dot product of all the encoder hidden state and decoder hidden state gives the attention score. Attention layer output is then the weighted sum of all the encoder output states where weights are the attention scores. These attention outputs are concatenated to the decoder output for prediction of next word.

In multiplicative attention, a new weight matrix W is used which is set to trainable. Attention score in multiplicative attention is calculated as $H * W * h$, where H is a matrix that contains all the hidden states of encoder and h is decoder hidden state. Now these scores are used in similar way as in dot product attention.

In additive attention, 2 new weight matrices W_1 , W_2 and a vector v are used which are set to trainable. Attention score in additive attention is calculated as $v * \tanh(W_1 * H + W_2 * h)$, where H is a matrix that contains all the hidden states of encoder and h is decoder hidden state. Attention scores are used in similar way as in dot product attention.

5 Results

Results of all the models were very bad, getting a blue score of maximum 1 or 2 on test data. I tried to find the reasons for low blue score but was not able to make a final model to work correctly. I tried with different vocabulary size, making embeddings trainable, changing preprocessing methods, using bidirectional LSTM, I tried to debug code at my best till the last day but still results were not up to the mark. This is the reason I did not implement key value and self attention.