

# RETAIN: An Interpretable Predictive Model for Healthcare using Reverse Time Attention Mechanism

Choi et al., arXiv, Feb (2017)

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# Outline

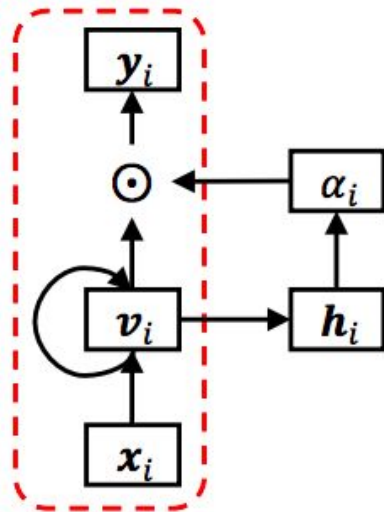
- Motivation
- Dataset
- Network Architecture
- Interpretability
- Implementation Details
- Experiments
- **Critical Review**

# Motivation

- Most models have tradeoff between accuracy and interpretability, eg. RNN vs decision trees or clustering
- How to retain sequence level information and accuracy of RNNs but have parameters that can be understood?
- ***Attention-based*** models operate similar to a doctor - focus on important events in a sequence with a lot of data
- Have model behave the same way as doctor, working from most recent to oldest encounter

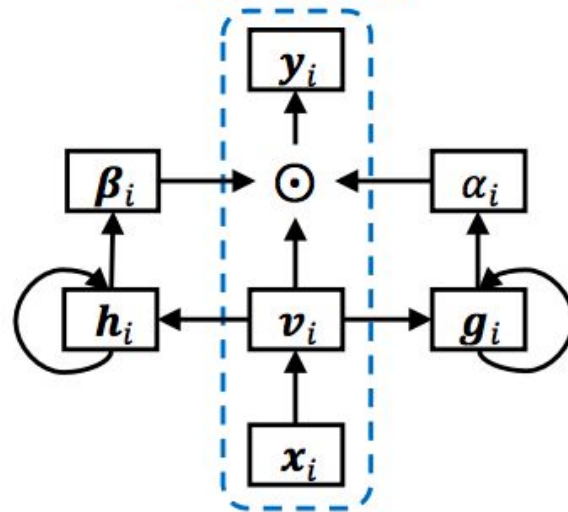
# Solution

Less interpretable  
End-to-End



(a) Standard attention model

Interpretable  
End-to-End



(b) RETAIN model

# Overall Dataset

- EHRs from Sutter Health
- 14 million visits 263,000 patients over an 8 year period
- Data includes encounter records, medication orders, and procedure orders
- From encounter records and medication/procedure orders, extracted codes for diagnosis (ICD-9), medication (GPI) and procedures (CPT)
- Dimensionality reduction via code grouping
  - ICD-9 using Clinical Classifications Software 14k → 283
  - GPI using Generic Product Identifier Drug Group 91k → 96
  - CPT using Clinical Classifications Software 9k → 238

# Training Data Set

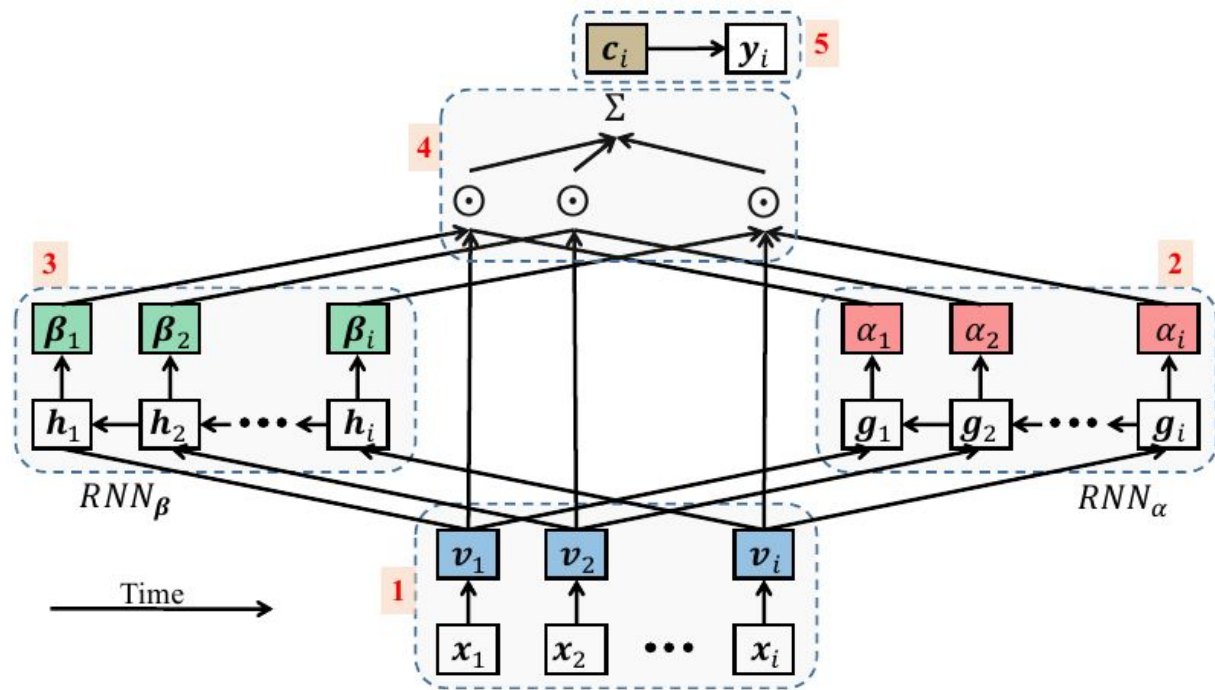
## **Positive Example Criteria** (3,884 cases)

- 40 to 85 years of age at the time of HF diagnosis
- HF (heart failure) ICD-9 codes appeared in encounter diagnosis/medications for at least 3 distinct visits no further than a year apart

## **Negative Example Criteria** (28,903 cases)

- 9 controls for every HF case
- Same sex, age, location as HF case
- 1st encounter within a year of HF patient's 1st encounter
- Did not meet heart failure diagnosis condition starting from time of diagnosis + 182 days after

# Network Architecture



Steps:

- 1: Embedding
- 2: Visit-level attention
- 3: Variable-level attentions
- 4: Context vector
- 5: Making Prediction

# Network Architecture: Details

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{W}_{emb} \mathbf{x}_i$$

$$\mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{g}_{i-1}, \dots, \mathbf{g}_1 = \text{RNN}_\alpha(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_{i-1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_1),$$

$$e_j = \mathbf{w}_\alpha^\top \mathbf{g}_j + b_\alpha, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, i$$

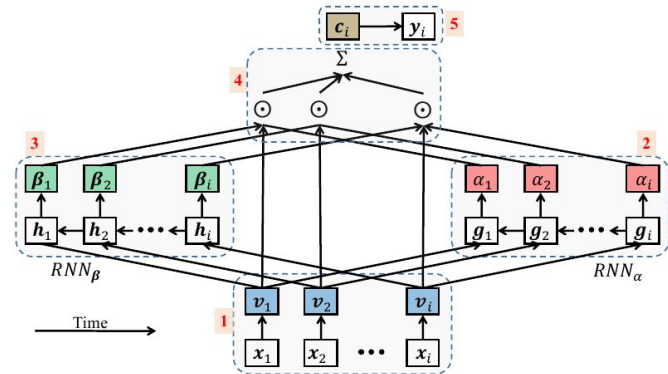
$$\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i = \text{Softmax}(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_i)$$

$$\mathbf{h}_i, \mathbf{h}_{i-1}, \dots, \mathbf{h}_1 = \text{RNN}_\beta(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_{i-1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_1)$$

$$\beta_j = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_\beta \mathbf{h}_j + \mathbf{b}_\beta) \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, i,$$

$$\mathbf{c}_i = \sum_{j=1}^i \alpha_j \beta_j \odot \mathbf{v}_j$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_i = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{W} \mathbf{c}_i + \mathbf{b})$$





# Interpretability

- Contributing visits: largest  $\alpha_j$
- Contributing variables:

$$p(\mathbf{y}_i | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i) = p(\mathbf{y}_i | \mathbf{c}_i) = \text{Softmax}(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{c}_i + \mathbf{b})$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{y}_i | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i) &= p(\mathbf{y}_i | \mathbf{c}_i) = \text{Softmax}\left(\mathbf{W}\left(\sum_{j=1}^i \alpha_j \beta_j \odot \mathbf{v}_j\right) + \mathbf{b}\right) \\ &= \text{Softmax}\left(\mathbf{W}\left(\sum_{j=1}^i \alpha_j \beta_j \odot \sum_{k=1}^r x_{j,k} \mathbf{W}_{emb}[:, k]\right) + \mathbf{b}\right) \\ &= \text{Softmax}\left(\sum_{j=1}^i \sum_{k=1}^r x_{j,k} \underbrace{\alpha_j \mathbf{W}(\beta_j \odot \mathbf{W}_{emb}[:, k])}_{\text{Contribution coefficient}} + \mathbf{b}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\omega(\mathbf{y}_i, x_{j,k}) = \underbrace{\alpha_j \mathbf{W}(\beta_j \odot \mathbf{W}_{emb}[:, k])}_{\text{Contribution coefficient}} \underbrace{x_{j,k}}_{\text{Input value}}$$

# Implementation and Hyperparameters Tuning

Implementation: Adadelta with mini-batch of 100 patients. Intel Xeon E5, 256 GB RAM, two Nvidia Tesla K80.

$$m, p, q = |\mathbf{v}|, |\mathbf{g}|, |\mathbf{h}|$$

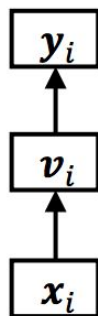
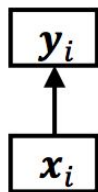
- $m, p, q$  sampled randomly from (32, 64, 128, 200, 256)
- $L_2$  regularization coefficient on embedding and context-vector weights sampled from (0.1, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001)
- Dropouts on embedding weights and context-vector weights sampled from (0.0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8)

Tuned hyperparameters:

$$m, p, q = 128, L_2 \text{ coefficient} = 0.0001, \text{ dropouts} = 0.6$$

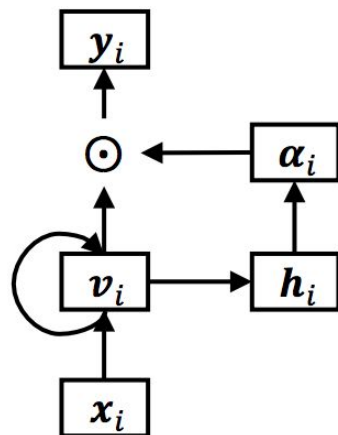
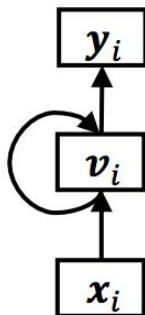
# Experiments: Results

Logistic  
Regression



MLP

RNN



RNN +  $\alpha_M$

RNN +  $\alpha_R$

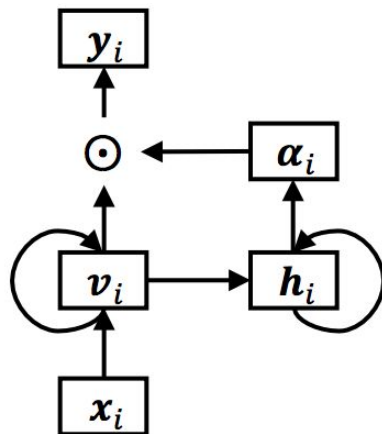
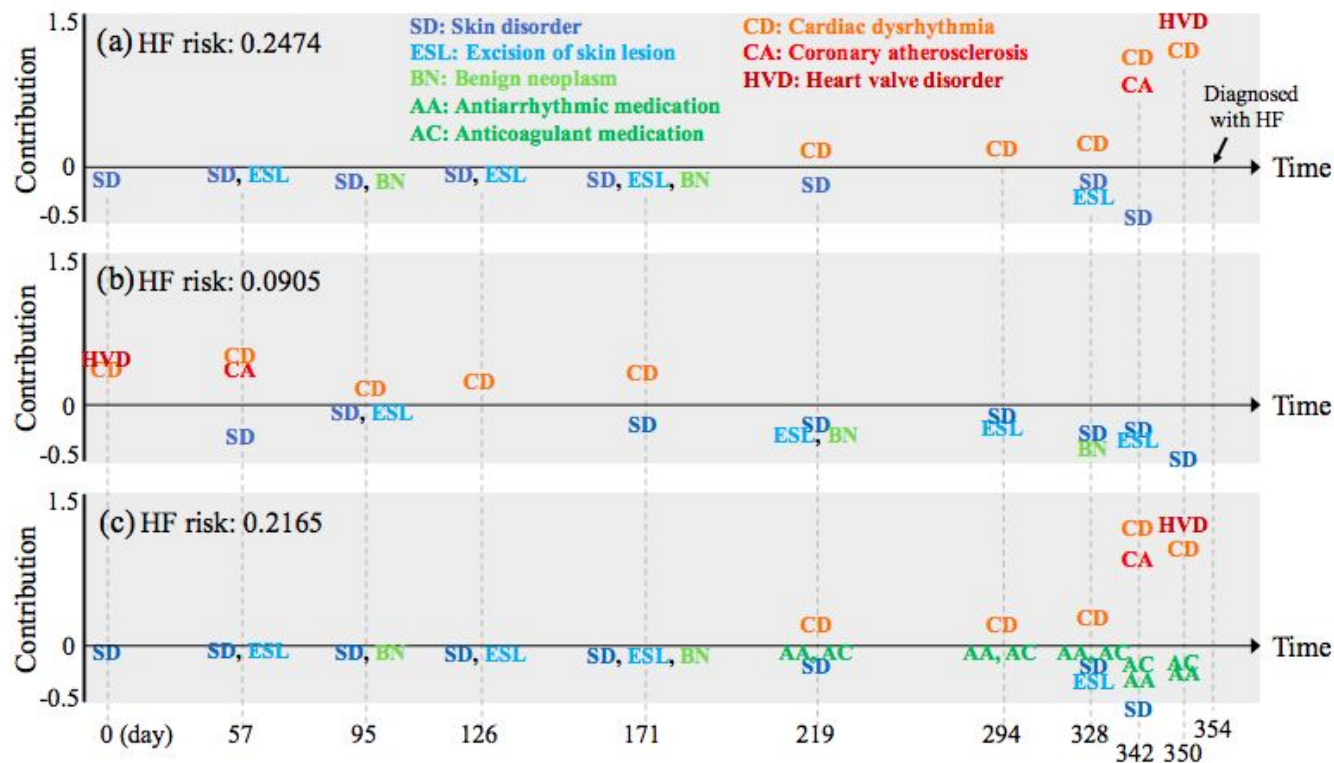


Table 2: Heart failure prediction performance of RETAIN and the baselines

Model	Test Neg Log Likelihood	AUC	Train Time / epoch	Test Time
LR	$0.3269 \pm 0.0105$	$0.7900 \pm 0.0111$	0.15s	0.11s
MLP	$0.2959 \pm 0.0083$	$0.8256 \pm 0.0096$	0.25s	0.11s
RNN	$0.2577 \pm 0.0082$	$0.8706 \pm 0.0080$	10.3s	0.57s
RNN+ $\alpha_M$	$0.2691 \pm 0.0082$	$0.8624 \pm 0.0079$	6.7s	0.48s
RNN+ $\alpha_R$	$0.2605 \pm 0.0088$	<b><math>0.8717 \pm 0.0080</math></b>	10.4s	0.62s
RETAIN	<b><math>0.2562 \pm 0.0083</math></b>	$0.8705 \pm 0.0081$	10.8s	0.63s

# Visualization



# Critical Review

- Neat approach with RNN only for attention weights generation
- Used AUC to take care of class imbalance
- Extended the implementation for Encoder Sequence Modeling (ESM) and for including timestamps
- Logistic regression or MLP with aggregate features: not a fair comparison
- Selectively presented calculation time only for learning to diagnose case where prediction are made only at the end of time sequence
- 1:9 ratio for positive:negative is not realistic
- How about (MLP + RNN $\alpha$ ) or (MLP + RNN $\beta$ )?
- Bi-directional RNNs
- Negative examples and model limitations?

Thanks You  
Questions?