# Attention & Transformers

CMSC 473/673 - NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

Slides modified from Dr. Daphne Ippolito

#### Learning Objectives

Review RNN architecture with an end-to-end diagram

Compare sequence-to-sequence RNNs to simple NNs & non-neural LMs

Compare sequence-to-sequence RNNs to transformers

Compare and contrast all LM types so far

#### Review: A *Simple* Recurrent Neural Network Cell



#### **Review:** A Simple Recurrent Neural Network Cell

![](_page_3_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Feedforward Network

![](_page_4_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Tri-gram Feedforward Neural Network

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Review: A Multi-Layer *Simple* Recurrent Neural Network Cell

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Another way of illustrating it

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

https://towardsdatascience.com/introducing-recurrent-neural-networks-f359653d7020

#### Review: Defining A Simple RNN in Python

http://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/char\_rnn\_classification\_tutorial.html

```
import torch.nn as nn
import torch.nn.functional as F
class CharRNN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size, output_size):
        super(CharRNN, self).__init__()
        self.rnn = nn.RNN(input_size, hidden_size)
        self.h2o = nn.Linear(hidden_size, output_size)
        self.h2o = nn.Linear(hidden_size, output_size)
        self.softmax = nn.LogSoftmax(dim=1)
    def forward(self, line_tensor):
        rnn_out, hidden = self.rnn(line_tensor)
        output = self.h2o(hidden[0])
        output = self.softmax(output)
```

return output

![](_page_9_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Review: Training A Simple RNN in Python

#### http://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/char\_rnn\_classification\_tutorial.html

for iter in range(1, n\_epoch + 1):
 rnn.zero\_grad() # clear the gradients

# create some minibatches
# we cannot use dataloaders because each of our names is a different length
batches = list(range(len(training\_data)))
random.shuffle(batches)
batches = np.array\_split(batches, len(batches) //n\_batch\_size )

for idx, batch in enumerate(batches):

batch_loss = 0	
<pre>for i in batch: #for each example in this batch     (label_tensor, text_tensor, label, text) = training_data[i]</pre>	get predictions
output = rnn.forward(text tensor)	
loss = criterion(output, label_tensor)	eval predictions
batch loss += loss	

<i># optimize parameters</i>	
batch_loss.backward()	compute gradient
nn.utils.clip grad norm (rnn.parameters(), 3)	compute gradient
optimizer.step()	
optimizer.zero grad()	perform SGD

current\_loss += batch\_loss.item() / len(batch)

```
all_losses.append(current_loss / len(batches) )
if iter % report_every == 0:
    print(f"{iter} ({iter / n_epoch:.0%}): \t average batch loss = {all_losses[-1]}")
current_loss = 0
```

Set t = 0 Pick a starting value  $\theta_t$ Until converged: for example(s) sentence i: 1. Compute loss l on  $x_i$ 2. Get gradient  $g_t = l'(x_i)$ 3. Get scaling factor  $\rho_t$ 4. Set  $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \rho_t * g_t$ 5. Set t += 1

# Sequence-to-Sequence RNNs

Up until 2017 or so, neural language models were mostly built using recurrent neural networks.

ENTION & TRA

Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks

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#### Abstract

Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) are powerful models that have achieved excellent performance on difficult learning tasks. Although DNNs work well whenever large labeled training sets are available, they cannot be used to map sequences to sequences. In this paper, we present a general end-to-end approach to sequence learning that makes minimal assumptions on the sequence structure. Our method uses a multilayered Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) to map the input sequence to a vector of a fixed dimensionality, and then another deep LSTM to decode the target sequence from the vector. Our main result is that on an English to French translation task from the WMT'14 dataset, the translations produced by the LSTM achieve a BLEU score of 34.8 on the entire test set, where the LSTM's BLEU score was penalized on out-of-vocabulary words. Additionally, the LSTM did not have difficulty on long sentences. For comparison, a phrase-based SMT system achieves a BLEU score of 33.3 on the same dataset. When we used the LSTM to rerank the 1000 hypotheses produced by the aforementioned SMT system, its BLEU score increases to 36.5, which is close to the previous best result on this task. The LSTM also learned sensible phrase and sentence representations that are sensitive to word order and are relatively invariant to the active and the passive voice. Finally, we found that reversing the order of the words in all source sentences (but not target sentences) improved the LSTM's performance markedly, because doing so introduced many short term dependencies between the source and the target contance which made the optimization problem accient

![](_page_11_Picture_6.jpeg)

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#### Abstract

This paper shows how Long Short-term Memory recurrent neural networks can be used to generate complex sequences with long-range structure, simply by predicting one data point at a time. The approach is demonstrated for text (where the data are discrete) and online handwriting (where the data are real-valued). It is then extended to handwriting synthesis by allowing the network to condition its predictions on a text sequence. The resulting system is able to generate highly realistic cursive handwriting is a mide unright of struct

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Review: Sequence-to-Sequence

![](_page_12_Figure_2.jpeg)

I. Sutskever, O. Vinyals, and Q. V. Le, "Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Networks," in *Conference on Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Montréal, Canada, 2014, pp. 3104–3112. <u>https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper\_files/paper/2014/hash/a14ac55a4f27472c5d894ec1c3c743d2-Abstract.html</u>

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Inputs to the Encoder

The encoder takes as input the embeddings corresponding to each token in the sequence.

![](_page_13_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Outputs from the Encoder

The encoder outputs a sequence of vectors. These are called the hidden state of the encoder.

![](_page_14_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

The decoder takes as input the hidden states from the encoder as well as the embeddings for the tokens seen so far in the target sequence.

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Outputs from the Decoder

The decoder outputs an embedding  $\widehat{yt}$ . The goal is for this embedding to be as close as possible to the embedding of the true next token.

![](_page_16_Figure_3.jpeg)

# Turning $\widehat{yt}$ into a Probability Distribution

We can multiply the predicted embedding  $\widehat{yt}$  by our vocabulary embedding matric to get a score for each vocabulary word. These scores are referred to as logits.

The softmax function then lets us turn the logits into probabilities.

![](_page_17_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Generating Text Also sometimes called decoding 🙄

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)

To generate text, we need an algorithm that selects tokens given the predicted probability distributions.

![](_page_18_Figure_3.jpeg)

More on this in the next lecture!

# $h_{i} = \sigma(Wh_{i-1} + Uw_{i})$ RNNS - Single Layer Decoder Same as we saw before

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

The current hidden state is computed as a function of the previous hidden state and the embedding of the current word in the target sequence.

$$\mathbf{h}_{t} = \mathsf{RNN}(\mathbf{W}_{ih}\mathbf{y}_{t} + \mathbf{W}_{hh}\mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \mathbf{b}_{h})$$

The current hidden state is used to predict an embedding for the next word in the target sequence.

$$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_t = \mathbf{b}_e + \mathbf{W}_{he} \mathbf{h}_t$$

This predicted embedding is used in the loss function:

![](_page_19_Figure_7.jpeg)

## What is the "RNN" unit?

![](_page_20_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Review: LSTMs/GRUs

#### LSTM: Long Short-Term Memory (Hochreiter & Schmidhuber, 1997)

LSTMs were originally designed to keep around information for longer in the hidden state as it gets repeatedly updated.

Input Gate

**Output Gate** 

![](_page_21_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_4.jpeg)

### RNN Multi-Layer Decoder Architecture

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

Computing the next hidden state: For the first layer:

$$\mathbf{h}_{t}^{1} = \mathsf{RNN}(\mathbf{W}_{ih^{1}}\mathbf{y}_{t} + \mathbf{W}_{h^{1}h^{1}}\mathbf{h}_{t-1}^{1} + \mathbf{b}_{h}^{1})$$

For subsequent layers:

$$\mathbf{h}_{t}^{l} = \mathsf{RNN}(\mathbf{W}_{ih^{l}} \mathbf{y}_{t} + \mathbf{W}_{h^{l-1} h^{l}} \mathbf{h}_{t}^{l-1} + \mathbf{W}_{h^{l} h^{l}} \mathbf{h}_{t-1}^{l} + \mathbf{b}_{h}^{l})$$

Predicting an embedding for the next token in the sequence:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{e}t} = \mathbf{b}_e + \sum_{l=1}^{L} \mathbf{W}_{h^l e} \mathbf{h}_t^l \qquad \qquad \text{Linear} \\ \text{layer}$$

Each of the b and W are learned bias and weight matrices.

No history

How do we implement an encoder-decoder model?

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Simplest approach:** Use the final hidden state from the encoder to initialize the first hidden state of the decoder.

![](_page_24_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

[The, hippopotamus, ...

When predicting the next English word, how much weight should the model put on each French word in the source sequence?

[L', hippopotame, a, mangé, mes, devoirs]

### Attention

#### Better approach: an attention mechanism

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

Compute a linear combination of the encoder hidden states.

![](_page_26_Figure_4.jpeg)

Decoder's prediction at position *t* is based on both the context vector and the hidden state outputted by the RNN at that position.

![](_page_26_Figure_6.jpeg)

The tth context vector is computed as  $\mathbf{c}t = \mathbf{H}^{enc}at$ 

 $at[i] = softmax(att_score(\mathbf{h}_t^{dec}, \mathbf{h}_t^{enc}))$ 

There are a few different options for the attention score:

$$att\_score(\mathbf{h}_{t}^{dec}, \mathbf{h}_{i}^{enc}) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{h}_{t}^{dec} \cdot \mathbf{h}_{i}^{enc} & \text{dot product} \\ \mathbf{h}_{t}^{dec} \mathbf{W}a \mathbf{h}_{i}^{enc} & \text{bilinear function} \\ w_{a1}^{\top} \tanh(\mathbf{W}a\mathbf{2}[\mathbf{h}_{t}^{dec}, \mathbf{h}_{i}^{enc}]) & \text{MLP} \end{cases}$$

Compute a linear combination of the encoder hidden states.  $= \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \dots + \alpha_T$ 

Decoder's prediction at position *t* is based on both the context vector and the hidden state outputted by the RNN at that position.

![](_page_27_Figure_7.jpeg)

 $\mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{enc}} =$ 

#### Attention

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

```
class BahdanauAttention(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, hidden_size):
        super(BahdanauAttention, self).__init__()
        self.Wa = nn.Linear(hidden_size, hidden_size)
        self.Ua = nn.Linear(hidden_size, hidden_size)
        self.Va = nn.Linear(hidden_size, 1)
    def forward(self, query, keys):
        scores = self.Va(torch.tanh(self.Wa(query) + self.Ua(keys)))
        scores = scores.squeeze(2).unsqueeze(1)
        weights = F.softmax(scores, dim=-1)
        context = torch.bmm(weights, keys)
```

return context, weights

https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/seq2seq translation tutorial.html

#### Think-Pair-Share

What are some of the strengths of seq2seq models (compared to some of the earlier LMs we talked about)?

What are some of its weaknesses?

# Limitations of Recurrent architecture

Slow to train.

- Can't be easily parallelized.
- The computation at position t is dependent on first doing the computation at position t-1.

Difficult to access information from many steps back.

 If two tokens are K positions apart, there are K opportunities for knowledge of the first token to be erased from the hidden state before a prediction is made at the position of the second token.

### Transformers

Since 2018, the field has rapidly standardized on the Transformer architecture

**Attention Is All You Need** 

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#### Abstract

The dominant sequence transduction models are based on complex recurrent or convolutional neural networks that include an encoder and a decoder. The best performing models also connect the encoder and decoder through an attention mechanism. We propose a new simple network architecture, the Transformer, based solely on attention mechanisms, dispensing with recurrence and convolutions entirely. Experiments on two machine translation tasks show these models to

### Transformers

The Transformer is a **non-recurrent** non-convolutional (feed-forward) neural network designed for language understanding

• introduces <u>self-attention</u> in addition to encoderdecoder attention

![](_page_32_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

45

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Scaled Dot-Product Attention

The scaled dot-product attention mechanism is almost identical to the one we looked at, but let's

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_3.jpeg)

(shifted right)

Output Probabilities

Softmax

Linear

Add & Norm

Query, Key, Value

These attributes make more sense as a metaphor for a search engine
 (The original transformer paper was written by Google Brain/Google Research people)

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

Query: The search query

Keys: The webpages retrieved

Values: The answer to the query

### Scaled Dot-Product Attention

The scaled dot-product attention mechanism is almost identical to the one we looked at, but let's turn it into matrix multiplications.

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

The query:  $Q \in R^{Txdk}$ The key:  $K \in R^{T'xdk}$ The value:  $V \in R^{Txdk}$ 

Attention(Q,K,V) = softmax
$$\left(\frac{\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{K}^{T}}{\sqrt{d_{k}}}\right)\mathbf{V}$$

The  $\sqrt{d_k}$  in the denominator prevents the dot product from getting too big

![](_page_42_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Scaled Dot-Product Attention

Attention(Q,K,V) = softmax $\left(\frac{QK^{T}}{\sqrt{d_{L}}}\right)$ V

#### Scaled Dot-Product Attention MatMul SoftMax Mask (opt.) Scale MatMul Q K V

#### The rough algorithm:

- For each vector in Q (query matrix), take the linear sum of the vectors in V (value matrix)
- The amount to weigh each vector in V is dependent on how "similar" that vector is to the query vector
- "Similarity" is measured in terms of the dot product between the vectors

![](_page_44_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Output Probabilities Multi-Head Attention Softmax Linear Multi-Head Attention(Q,K,V) = softmax $\left(\frac{QK'}{\sqrt{d_{x}}}\right)$ V Add & Norm Attention Linear Feed Forward Concat MultiHeadAtt(Q,K,V) = Add & Norm Add & Norm Scaled Dot-Product $Concat(head_1, ... head_h) \mathbf{W}^O$ Multi-Head Attention Feed Attention Forward N× Split Split Split Instead of operating on **Q**, **K**, and **V** mechanism Add & Norm projects each input into a smaller dimension. This is Linear Linear Linear N× Add & Norm Masked done h times. Multi-Head Multi-Head Attention Attention The attention operation is performed on each of Positional Positional these "heads," and the results are concatenated. Encoding Encoding Output Input Embedding Embedding Multi-head attention allows the model to jointly attend to information from different representation Outputs Inputs subspaces at different positions.

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Figure_0.jpeg)

= token embeddings + position embeddings

![](_page_53_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

**ATTENTION & TRANSFORMERS** 

### Strengths of the Transformer Architecture

Training is easily parallelizable

• Larger models can be trained efficiently.

Does not "forget" information from earlier in the sequence.

• Any position can attend to any position.

What are some of its weaknesses?

#### Knowledge Check

Draw a "map" or table comparing & contrasting the following LMs that we talked about:

Count-based LMs

Maxent/Logistic Regression LMs

Simple (Forward) NNs

Simple RNNs

Seq2Seq RNNs

Transformers

Submit on Blackboard after class