



Investigating complex-valued representation in NLP

Benyou Wang

MILA, Montreal, Canada, 20/01/2020

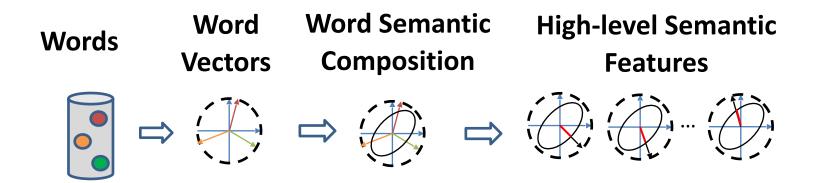
Experience

- Research Experience
- 2014-2017 Master student, Tianjin University, China, supervised by Dawei song.
- 2017-2018 Associate Researcher, Tencent
- 2018-2021 Marie Curie Researcher and PhD student, University of Padua, supervised by Massimo Melucci
- Visiting
- Sep. Dec. 2019, University of Copenhagen, hosted by Christina Lioma and Jakob Grue Simonsen
- Dec. Feb. 29 2020, RALI, University of Montreal, hosted by Jian-Yun Nie.
- Awards
- SIGIR 2017 Best paper Honourable mention
- NAACL 2019 Best Explainable NLP Paper

Contents

- Encoding Word order [Wang et.al. ICLR 2020 Spotlight]
- Jointly modelling word meaning and its composability [Wang and Nie working in progress]

Understanding words: from particles to waves



From set-based probability theory to *vector/projection* based probability theory

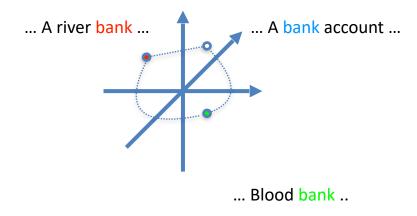




Qiuchi Li*, **Benyou Wang***, Massimo Melucci. A Complex-valued Network for Matching. **NAACL 2019, Best Explainable NLP Paper**Benyou Wang, Quantum formulations for language: understand words as **particles**, invited talk in Search Engines Amsterdam Meetup, 4

Some hints

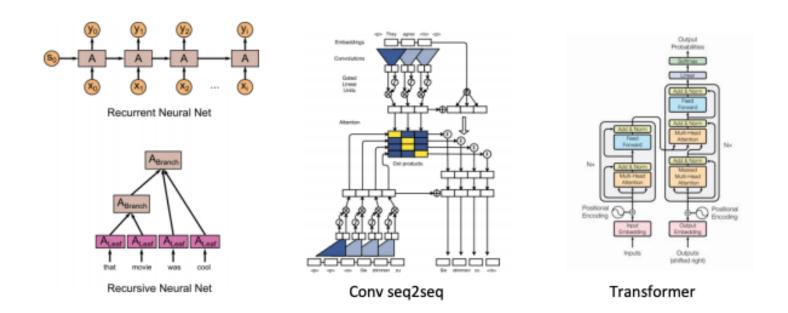
Contextualized word embedding [2]



The representation of a word in different contexts might need explicitly correlated

Context: the neighboring words or a simpler case with only considering word position

Why word position is important?



Especially If the network structures are insensitive to the word positions but more efficient!

Position embedding (PE)

Like Word Embedding (WE), PE also admits a map from a position index to a n-dimensional vector $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^n$

A word w_i in pos-th position of a sentence is represented as

$$E(w_j, pos) = WE(w_j) + PE(pos) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

where WE is map from word index to a n-dimensional vector $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}^n$.

PE

Solution 1 (PE vanilla):

Like word vectors, we just randomly initialize L independent vectors for each position and update them in a data-driven way.

Problems:

In this case, position embeddings are independent without considering their order.

	The order of word vocabulary		The order of position
ABC	does not matter!	123	does matter!
CBA		3 2 1	
ACB		132	
ВСА		•••	
•••			

TPE (Trigonometric PE)

Solution 2 (TPE):

Fixed embedding to capture relative distance:

$$PE'_{2k}(\cdot, pos) = \sin(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})$$

$$PE'_{2k+1}(\cdot, pos) = \cos(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})$$

Such that the model to easily learn to attend by relative positions, since for any fixed offset k, PE_{pos+k} can be represented as a linear function of PE_{pos} . [a.k.a position-free relative-distance transformation (PFRD) in later paper]

Problems:

- 1. Can not be trained! Because it can not have potential to capture relative distance after training.
- 2. Regarding the *necessity*

sufficiency : From TPE to PFRD — Done

necessity: From PFRD to TPE —Not yet

Any ather is a lutions ar general is a lutions ed." NIPS 2017.

Problem

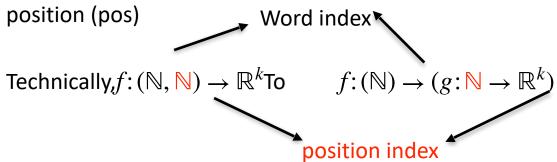
 The current position embedding either can capture relative relationship or be trainable!

 We want to propose a position embedding that can be **both** trainable **and** capture relative relationship

Word vectors to word functions

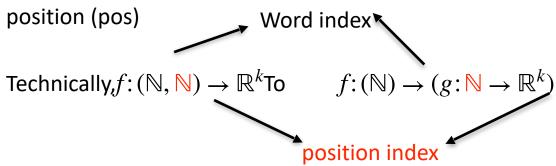
Extending embedding from a **vector** to a **continuous function** over variable the position (pos)

Word index



Word vectors to word functions

Extending embedding from a **vector** to a **continuous function** over variable the



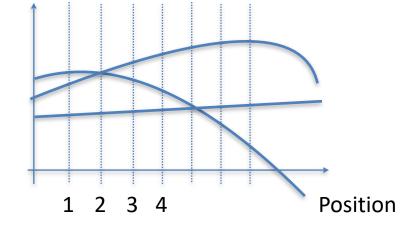
More specifically, we make each dimension independent for simplicity:

$$f:(\mathbb{N}) \to \{g_i: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^k$$

Word vectors to word functions

$$f:(\mathbb{N}) \to \{g_i: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}\}_{i=1}^k$$



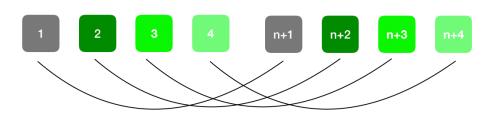


How to decide

Desiderata for word functions

Now, for a specific word w, we have to get it embedding over all the positions, namely a function $g_{w.d} \colon N \to R^k$

Property 1: Position-free relative-distance (PFRD) transformation The word/position indexes are invisible in neural networks. It is easier if all the transformation pairs (move a word from one position to another one) $[g_{w,d}(1) \to g_{w,d}(n+1), g_{w,d}(2) \to g_{w,d}(n+2), \cdots, g_{w,d}(L) \to g_{w,d}(n+L)]$ correspond to a same n-offset-transformation without considering the start position.



Property 2: Boundedness

The function $g_{w,d}$ should be bounded, in order to model long enough sentence

The first property make the problem much simper and can be feasible to solve

Property 1

Problem: We consider the simplest case when the n-offset transformation

$$f(n)$$
: $g(pos) \rightarrow g(n + pos)$

Which transform one from pos-th position to (pos+n) position to be linear.

$$g_{w,d}(pos)f_{w,d}(n_1)f_{w,d}(n_2) = g_{w,d}(pos)f_{w,d}(n_1 + n_2)$$

Solution: It is trivial to get the following solution (proof in the paper):

$$f_{w,d}(n) = z_1^{\mathbf{n}}$$

Result: z_1 is the parameters and $g_{w,d}(0) = z_2$ [1], such that

$$g_{w,d}(pos) = z_2 z_1^{\text{pos}};$$

Property 2

To make $g_{w,d}(pos)$ to be bounded:

$$g_{w,d}(pos) = z_2 z_1^{pos}$$
; subject to $|z_1| \le 1$

In real-domain, we necessary consider the extra constraint with some costs.

But if we extend z_1 in complex domain ($x = \alpha + \beta i = re^{i\theta}$), it is easier.

For example,
$$i = i$$
; $i^2 = -1$; $i^3 = -i$; $i^4 = 1$; ...

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For example,
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Its norm equals 1 always

Let
$$z_1 = r_1 e^{i\theta_1}; z_2 = r_2 e^{i\theta_2}$$

$$g_{w,d}(pos) = z_2 z_1^{\text{pos}} = r_2 e^{i\theta_2} (r_1 e^{i\theta_1})^{\text{pos}} = r_2 r_1^{\text{pos}} e^{i(\theta_2 + \theta_1 \text{pos})} \text{subject to} | r_1 | \le 1$$

We directly make $r_1 = 1$, get

$$g_w(pos) = r_2 e^{i(\theta_2 + \theta_1 pos)}$$

The proposed embedding

Our definition:

A word in pos-th position is represented as

$$[r_{j,1}e^{i(\omega_{j,1}pos+\theta_{j,1})},...,r_{j,2}e^{i(\omega_{j,2}pos+\theta_{j,2})},...,r_{j,D}e^{i(\omega_{j,D}pos+\theta_{j,D})}]$$

where each dimension like d has an amplitude $r_{j,d}$, and a unique period of $p_{j,d}=\frac{2\pi}{\omega_{j,d}}$. i is the imaginary number.

Based on Euler's formula (i.e. $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$), each element can be rewritten as: $g_{j,k} = r_{j,d} \cos(\omega_{j,d} \cos + \theta_{j,d}) + r_{j,d} \sin(\omega_{j,d} \cos + \theta_{j,d})i$

Link to TPE

TPE definition:
$$g'_{j,k} = WE'(j, \cdot) + PE'(\cdot, pos)$$

 $PE'_{2k}(\cdot, pos) = \frac{\sin(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})}{(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})}$;
 $PE'_{2k+1}(\cdot, pos) = \frac{\cos(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})}{(pos/10000^{2k/d_{model}})}$

It can be considered as a **specific case of ours** when $\omega_{\cdot,d} = \frac{1}{10000^{d/2d_{model}}}$

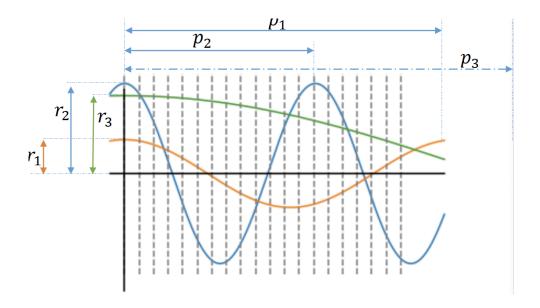
$$g_{j,k} = WE(j) \odot \left(\cos(\omega_{j,d} pos) + i \sin(\omega_{j,d} pos) \right)$$

$$g_{j,k} = WE(j) \odot \left(PE'_{2k}(\cdot, pos) + i PE'_{2k}(\cdot, pos) \right)$$

⊙ is the element-wise multiplication

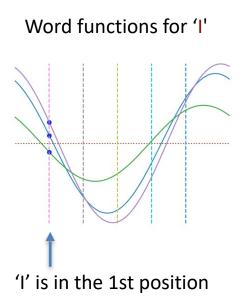
We argue that our proposed embedding is more general.

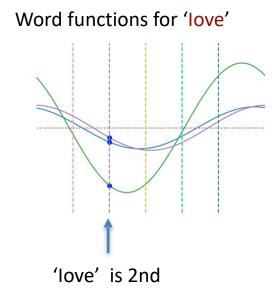
Example of proposed embedding

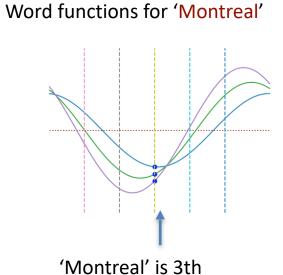


3-dimensional complex embedding for a single word in different positions. The three wave functions (setting the initial phases as zero) show the real part of the embedding. The x-axis denotes the absolute position of a word and the y-axis denotes the value of each element in its word vector. Colours mark different dimensions of the embedding. The three cross points between the functions and each vertical line (corresponding to a specific position pos) represent the embedding for this word in the pos-th position.

Words as waves







For the sentence 'I love Montreal'

Talking is cheap!

```
import torch
import math
class ComplexNN(torch.nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, opt):
        super(ComplexNN, self). __init__()
        self.word_emb = torch.nn.Embedding(opt.n_token, opt.d_model)
        self.frequency_emb = torch.nn.Embedding(opt.n_token, opt.d_model)
        self.initial_phase_emb = torch.nn.Embedding(opt.n_token, opt.d_model)
    def get_embedding(self, x):
        amplitude = self.word_emb(x)
        frequency = self.frequency_emb(x)
        self.initial_phase_emb.weight = torch.nn.Parameter(self.initial_phase_emb.weight
            % (2 * math.pi))
        sent_len=x.size(-1)
        pos_seq = torch.arange(1, sent_len + 1, 1.0, device=amplitude.device)
        pos\_seq = pos\_seq.unsqueeze(0).unsqueeze(-1)
        pos\_seq = pos\_seq.repeat([x.size(0), 1, amplitude.size(-1)])
        dimension_bais = self.initial_phase_emb(x)
        enc_output_phase = torch.mul(pos_seq,frequency)+ dimension_bais
        enc_output_real = amplitude * torch.cos(enc_output_phase)
        enc_output_image = amplitude * torch.sin(enc_output_phase)
        # return torch.cat([enc_output_real,enc_output_image],-1)
        return enc_output_real, enc_output_image
    def forward (self, x):
        return self.get_embedding(x)
```

Applications

- For general neural networks
 - Complex valued neural networks [1,2]
 - Concat real and imaginal -part embedding
- For Transformer
 - Complex Transformer

Performance -1

In text classification

Method	MR	SUBJ	CR	MPQA	SST	TREC
Fasttext	0.765	0.916	0.789	0.874	0.788	0.874
Fasttext-PE	0.774	0.922	0.789	0.882	0.791	0.874
Fasttext-TPE	0.776	0.921	0.796	0.884	0.792	0.88
Fasttext-Complex-vanilla	0.773	0.918	0.79	0.867	0.803	0.872
Fasttext-Complex-order	0.787 ^{§†‡*}	0.929§†‡*	0.800 §†‡*	0.889§†‡*	0.809§†‡*	0.892 \$ † ‡ *
LSTM	0.775	0.896	0.813	0.887	0.807	0.858
LSTM-PE	0.778	0.915	0.822	0.889	0.811	0.858
LSTM-TPE	0.776	0.912	0.814	0.888	0.813	0.865
LSTM-Complex-vanilla	0.765	0.907	0.810	0.823	0.784	0.784
LSTM-Complex-order	0.790 ^{§†‡*}	0.926 \$ † ‡ *	0.828 1 1 +	0.897§†‡*	0.819§†‡*	0.869 ^{§†‡*}
CNN	0.809	0.928	0.830	0.894	0.856	0.898
CNN-PE	0.816	0.938	0.831	0.897	0.856	0.890
CNN-TPE	0.815	0.938	0.836	0.896	0.838	0.918
CNN-Complex-vanilla	0.811	0.937	0.825	0.878	0.823	0.900
CNN-Complex-order	0.825 ^{§†‡*}	0.951 \$†‡*	0.852 9 † ‡ *	0.906§†‡*	0.864 9 † ‡ *	0.939§†‡*
Transformer w/o position embedding	0.669	0.847	0.735	0.716	0.736	0.802
Transformer-PE	0.737	0.859	0.751	0.722	0.753	0.820
Transformer-TPE (Vaswani et al., 2017)	0.731	0.863	0.762	0.723	0.761	0.834
Transformer-Complex-vanilla	0.715	0.848	0.753	0.786	0.742	0.856
Transformer-Complex-order	0.746 \$ † ‡ *	0.895 \$† ‡*	0.806 ^{§†‡*}	0.8635†‡*	0.8135†‡*	0.896 ^{§†‡} *

Complex vanilla setting refers to the complex-valued word embedding as below:

Performance -2

In machine translation

Table 5.1: Machine translation results. ★marks scores reported from other papers.

Method	BLEU
AED (Bahdanau et al., 2014) ★	26.8
AED+Linguistic (Sennrich & Haddow, 2016) *	28.4
AED+BPE (Sennrich et al., 2016) ★	34.2
Transformer (Ma et al., 2019) ★	34.5
Transformer complex vanilla	34.7
Transformer Complex-order	35.8

In language model

Table 5.2: Language modeling results.

⋆marks scores reported from other papers.

Method	BPC
BN-LSTM (Cooijmans et al., 2016) *	1.36
LN HM-LSTM (Chung et al., 2016) *	1.29
RHN (Zilly et al., 2017) ★	1.27
Large mLSTM (Krause et al., 2016) *	1.27
Transformer XL 6L (Dai et al., 2019)	1.29
Transformer complex vanilla	1.30
Transformer XL Complex-order 6L	1.26

Parameter scale

$$\begin{split} &[r_{j,1}e^{i(\omega_{j,1}\mathrm{POS}+\theta_{j,1})},\ldots,r_{j,2}e^{i(\omega_{j,2}\mathrm{POS}+\theta_{j,2})},\cdots,r_{j,D}e^{i(\omega_{j,D}\mathrm{POS}+\theta_{j,D})}] \\ &\text{For the proposed embedding, there are } 3\times \mid V\mid \times D \text{ parameters in total: } \\ &\mid V\mid \times D \text{ for each } r_{j,d},\,\omega_{j,d},\,\theta_{j,d} \,. \end{split}$$

Initialized phase can be ignored since it is empirically not working.

Two sharing schemas to share parameters:

word-sharing : $\omega_{j,d} = \omega_{\cdot,d}$ dimension-sharing : $\omega_{i,d} = \omega_{i,\cdot}$

Then we can get reasonable parameter scale.

Parameter scale

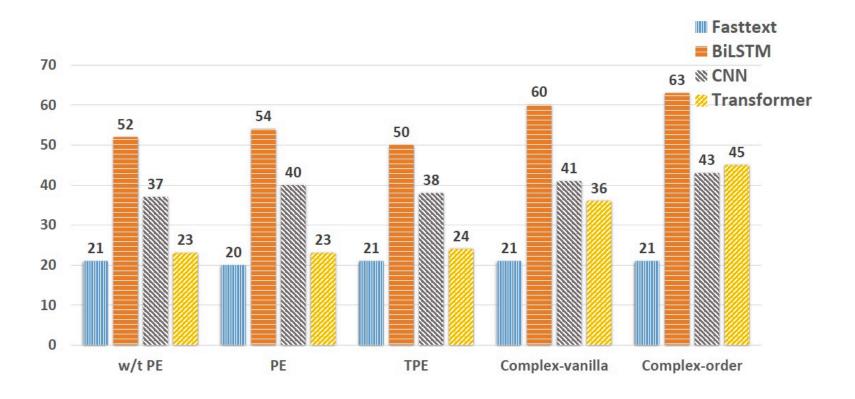
In transformer

Table 4: Ablation test for Transformer, showing the effect of (i) the definition of embedding layer($f_d(j, pos)$), and (ii) whether the real-part and imaginary transition share the weights, i.e., $\Re(W^{Q/K/V}) = \Im(W^{Q/K/V})$.

Method	Setting		Params	Accuracy	Δ
	$f_d(j, pos)$	share in $W^{Q/K/V}$			
Transformer-complex-order	$r_{j,d}e^{i(\omega_{j,d}pos)}$	×	8.33M	0.813	-
adding initial phases	$r_{j,d}e^{i(\omega_{j,d}pos+\theta_{j,d})}$	×	11.89M	0.785	-0.028
dimension-sharing period schema	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,-pos}}$	X	5.82M	0.797	-0.016
word-sharing period schema	$r_{i,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}pos}$	×	5.81M	0.805	-0.008
dimension-sharing amplitude schema	r_{j} , $e^{i\omega_{j}$, pos	X	5.82M	0.798	-0.015
word-sharing amplitude schema	$r_{\cdot,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}\mathrm{pos}}$	×	5.81M	0.804	-0.009
w/t encoding positions (complex-vanilla)	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,d}}$	×	9.38M	0.764	-0.049
dimension-sharing period schema	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,-\mathrm{pos}}}$	✓	4.77M	0.794	-0.019
word-sharing period schema	$r_{i,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}pos}$	✓	4.76M	0.797	-0.016
dimension-sharing amplitude schema	r_{i} , $e^{i\omega_{j}$, pos	✓	4.77M	0.792	-0.021
word-sharing amplitude schema	$r_{\cdot,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}\mathrm{pos}}$	✓	4.76M	0.801	-0.012
w/t encoding positions (complex-vanilla)	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,d}}$	✓	8.33M	0.743	-0.07
vanilla Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017)	$WE_{j,d} + PE_d$	-	4.1M	0.761	-0.052

Time Cost

Computing time (second per epoch) on TITAN X GPU



Case studies

	words
	worst solid stupid powerful mess wonderful remarkable suffers intoxicating thoughtful
greatest frequencies	rare captures portrait gem frontal terrific unique wannabe witty lousy
in descending order	pointless contrived none worse refreshingly charming inventive amazing junk incoherent
in descending order	refreshing mediocre unfunny thinks enjoyed heartbreaking delightfully crisp brilliant heart
	spirit perfectly nowhere mistake engrossing fashioned excellent unexpected wonderfully means
	slowly proposal schemes roiling juliette titles fabric superstar ah wow
smallest frequencies	choreographed tastelessness beg fabulous muccino jacobi legendary jae rate example
in ascending order	code sensation counter deaths hall eun drug mctiernan storylines cellophane
in ascending order	wild motion ups trick comedy entertained mission frightening witnesses snoots
	liners african groan satisfaction calm saturday estranged holm refuses inquisitive

Table 7: Words with greatest frequencies and frequencies periods (based on δ_j) in SST (a sentiment classification task), all words are converted to lower-case. The strong sentiment words are bold based on manual labeling.

PE in GCN

setting	MR		_			-
GCN		0.934	0.844	0.833 0.830	0.826	0.906
GCN-Complex-vanilla GCN-Complex-order	-	_		_	_	_

GCN also encode structural information (more advanced than positional level) inherently as part of the model, which need and any additional encoding of positional information at the embedding level.

Take-away messages

- Extending word vectors to word functions
- First formal explanation for Trigonometric PE
- First embedding can trained to trade off word information and position information
- Complex-valued attention in Transformer

Anything With BERT?

Just replace the word embedding layer with ours or use our complex Transformer

(2) Noncomposability using complex numbers

Word embedding

Distributed hypothesis does not consider how words are composed to express phrase meaning, as we called "composability"

Does
$$\overrightarrow{IvoryTower} = \overrightarrow{ivory} + \overrightarrow{tower}$$

Complex addition

Complex-valued addition using amplitude-phase form

$$\begin{split} r_{j}e^{i\phi_{j}} &= r_{j}^{(1)}e^{i\phi_{j}^{(1)}} + r_{j}^{(2)}e^{i\phi_{j}^{(2)}} \\ &= \sqrt{|r_{j}^{(1)}|^{2} + |r_{j}^{(2)}|^{2} + 2r_{j}^{(1)}r_{j}^{(2)}cos(\phi_{j}^{(1)} - \phi_{j}^{(2)})} \\ &\times e^{i\arctan\left(\frac{r_{j}^{(1)}\sin(\phi_{j}^{(1)}) + r_{j}^{(2)}\sin(\phi_{j}^{(2)})}{r_{j}^{(1)}\cos(\phi_{j}^{(1)}) + r_{j}^{(2)}\cos(\phi_{j}^{(2)})}\right)} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} r_{z1+z_2} &= |z_1 + z_2|_2 = |r_j^{(1)} e^{i\phi_j^{(1)}} + r_j^{(2)} e^{i\phi_j^{(2)}}|_2 \\ &= \sqrt{(r_j^{(1)})^2 + (r_j^{(2)})^2 + 2r_j^{(1)} r_j^{(2)} cos(\phi_j^{(1)} - \phi_j^{(2)})} \end{aligned}$$



Interference term

Word and phrase

 Each words are represented as complexvalue vector

For words:

$$|\vec{w}_1|_2 = |\alpha_1 + \beta_1 i|_2 = \sqrt{\alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2}$$
$$= |r_1 e^{\theta i}|_2 = r$$

For Bigrams

$$|\vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2|_2 = |(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) + (\beta_1 + \beta_2)i|_2 = \sqrt{(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)^2 + (\beta_1 + \beta_2)^2}$$

Note that there are no rextra parameters for presenting as ike big rams

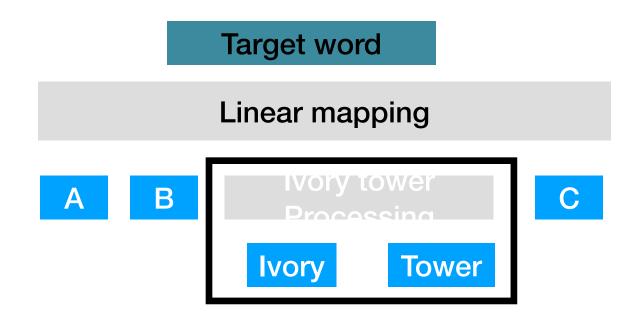
 $i \arctan \left(\frac{r_1 \sin \alpha}{r_1 \cos \alpha} \right)$

Two steps

1 Detect the statistically-noncomposable phrases by

$$score(w_i, w_j) = \frac{count(w_i w_j) - \delta}{count(w_i) \times count(w_j)}.$$

2 jointly training words and phrase representation



Training

Algorithm 1: Skip-Gram using Our models (a.k.a XXX)

```
Require: word vectors with amplitude/phase parts R, \Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times n};
             skip-gram indexes with context-target term pairs \{c_k, t_k\}_{k=1}^K
             a matrix W \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times n} admitting a linear mapp f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^{|V|}
  1: Initialise A and W with random weights;
      Initialise B with zeros;
  2: repeat
         for k-step do
             if c_k is a single word, instead of a phrase then
                g(c_k) = R_{c_k}
  5:
             else
  6:
                g(c_k) = \left| \frac{1}{|c_k|} \sum_{c_{k,j} \in c_k} R_{c_{k,j}} e^{i\Theta_{c_{k,j}}} \right|_2
  7:
             end if
  8:
             generate a probability distribution p(c_k) = \operatorname{softmax}(g(c_k)W)
  9:
             backprorogation using
 10:
             loss = cross\ entropy(p(c_k), one\ hot(t_k))
         end for
 11:
 12: until XXX converges
```

Evaluation

Phrase similarity

Noncomposablity phrase detection based on the interference term: $f(w_j w_k) - f(w_j) - f(w_k)$

Downstream tasks

Q & A

Thanks wang@dei.unipd.it

Parameter scale

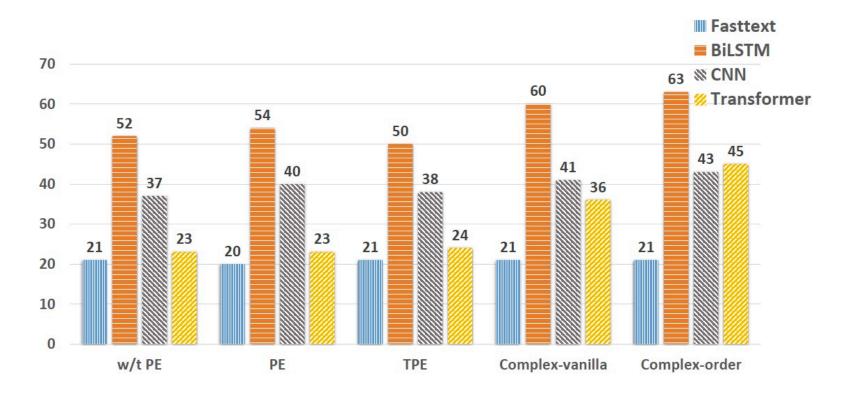
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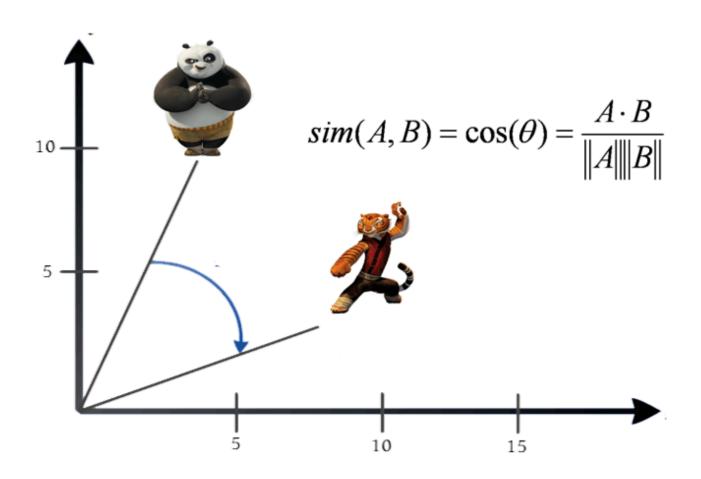
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dimension-sharing period schema	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,-pos}}$	×	5.82M	0.797	-0.016
word-sharing period schema	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}\mathrm{pos}}$	X	5.81M	0.805	-0.008
dimension-sharing amplitude schema	r_{j} , $e^{i\omega_{j}$, pos	×	5.82M	0.798	-0.015
word-sharing amplitude schema	$r_{\cdot,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}\mathrm{pos}}$	X	5.81M	0.804	-0.009
w/t encoding positions (complex-vanilla)	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,d}}$	×	9.38M	0.764	-0.049
dimension-sharing period schema	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,-}\mathrm{pos}}$	✓	4.77M	0.794	-0.019
word-sharing period schema	$r_{i,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}pos}$	✓	4.76M	0.797	-0.016
dimension-sharing amplitude schema	r_{j} , $e^{i\omega_{j}$, pos	✓	4.77M	0.792	-0.021
word-sharing amplitude schema	$r_{\cdot,d}e^{i\omega_{\cdot,d}\mathrm{pos}}$	✓	4.76M	0.801	-0.012
w/t encoding positions (complex-vanilla)	$r_{j,d}e^{i\omega_{j,d}}$	✓	8.33M	0.743	-0.07
vanilla Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017)	$WE_{j,d} + PE_d$	-	4.1M	0.761	-0.052

Time Cost

Computing time (second per epoch) on TITAN X GPU



Word embedding



Examples for the extra dimension

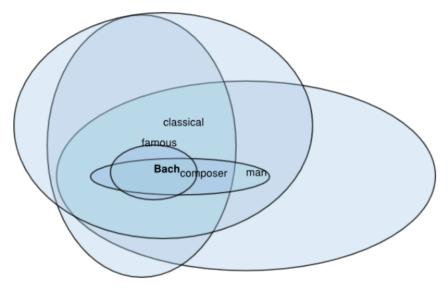
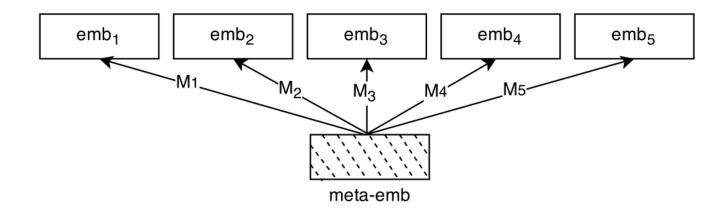


Figure 1: Learned diagonal variances, as used in evaluation (Section 6), for each word, with the first letter of each word indicating the position of its mean. We project onto generalized eigenvectors between the mixture means and variance of query word *Bach*. Nearby words to *Bach* are other composers e.g. *Mozart*, which lead to similar pictures.

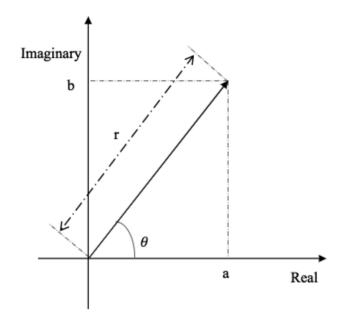
Embedding words in a mean vector and a variance vector: From a point to a density

Examples for the extra dimension



One word: linearly ensemble many vectors

Complex numbers



What can we do with phase?

Shortage of word embedding

- Not considering word polarity
 - "good" might have similar representation as "bad"
 - Using "phase" for polarity

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- Not considering word polarity
 - "good" might have similar representation as "bad"
 - Using "phase" for polarity
- Insensitive to word order
 - Especially in transformer or transformer-based architecture like BERT
 - Encoding word order in phase
- Unable to handle word noncomposability
 - "ivory tower" is not related to "ivory" or "tower"
 - Using phases to model noncomposability