

Lecture 6: Compositional semantics and sentence representations

Rochelle Choenni NLP1 2022 November 17, 2022

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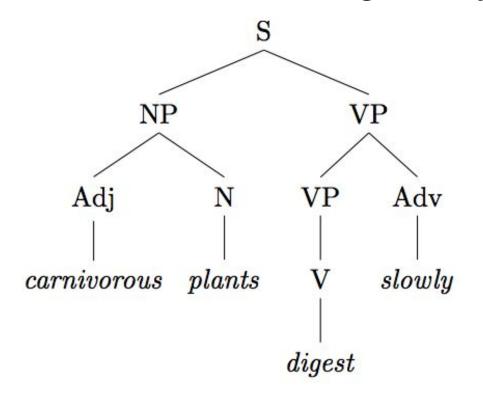
Outline

- Compositional semantics
- Compositional distributional semantics
- Compositional semantics with neural networks

Compositional semantics

- → Principle of Compositionality: meaning of each whole phrase derivable from meaning of its parts.
- → Sentence structure conveys some meaning
- → Deep grammars: model semantics alongside syntax, one semantic composition rule per syntax rule

Compositional semantics alongside syntax



Non-trivial issues with semantic composition

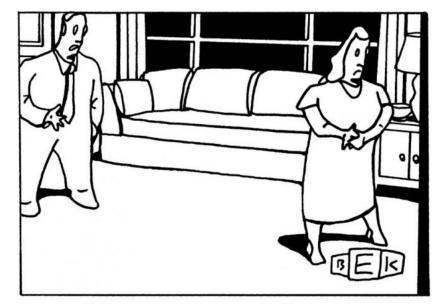
- Similar syntactic structures may have different meanings
 - ➡ it barks
 - ➡ it rains; it snows (pleonastic pronoun)
- Different syntactic structures may have the same meaning (e.g., passive constructions)
 - ➡ Kim ate the apple.
 - ➡ The apple was eaten by Kim.
- Not all phrases are interpreted compositionally (e.g., idioms)
- ➡ red tape
- ➡ kick the bucket

but they can be interpreted compositionally too, so we can not simply block them.

Non-trivial issues with semantic composition

- Additional meaning can arise through composition (e.g., logical metonymy)
 - → fast programmer
 - ➡ fast plane
 - ➡ enjoy a book
 - ➡ enjoy a cup of tea
- Meaning transfers and additional connotations can arise through composition (e.g., metaphor)
 - ➡ I can't buy this story.
 - → This sum will **buy** you a ride on the train.
- Recursive composition

Issues with semantic composition



"Of course I care about how you imagined I thought you perceived I wanted you to feel."

Modelling compositional semantics

1. Compositional distributional semantics

- composition is modelled in a vector space
- unsupervised
- general purpose representations
- 2. Compositional semantics with neural networks
 - supervised or self-supervised
 - (typically) task-specific representations

Outline

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- Compositional semantics with neural networks

Compositional distributional semantics

Can distributional semantics can be extended to account for the meaning of phrases and sentences?

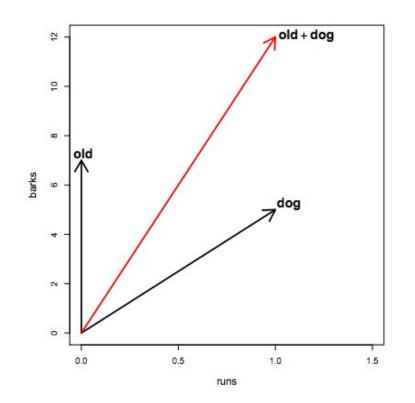
- Given a finite vocabulary, natural languages licence an infinite amount of sentences.
- So it is impossible to learn vector representations for all sentences.
- But we can still use distributional word representations and learn to perform semantic composition in distributional space.

Vector mixture models

Mitchell and Lapata, 2010. *Composition in Distributional Models of Semantics Models*

- → Additive
- → Multiplicative

Simple, but surprisingly effective!



Additive and multiplicative models

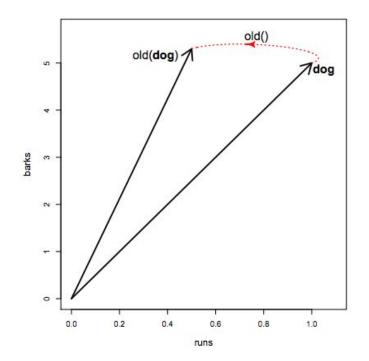
				addi	tive	multiplicative		
	dog	cat	old	$\mathbf{old} + \mathbf{dog}$	old + cat	$\mathbf{old} \odot \mathbf{dog}$	$\mathbf{old} \odot \mathbf{cat}$	
runs	1	4	0	1	4	0	0	
barks	5	0	7	12	7	35	0	

- Correlate with human similarity judgments about adjective-noun, noun-noun, verb-noun and noun-verb pairs
- The additive and the multiplicative model are symmetric (commutative): they do not take word order or syntax into account.
 - → John hit the ball = The ball hit John
- More suitable for modelling content words, would not apply well to function words (e.g. conjunctions, prepositions etc.):
 - → <u>some</u> dogs, lice <u>and</u> dogs, lice <u>on</u> dogs

Lexical function models

Distinguish between:

- words whose meaning is directly determined by their distributional profile, e.g. nouns
- words that act as functions transforming the distributional profile of other words, e.g., adjectives, adverbs



Lexical function models

Baroni and Zamparelli. (2010). Nouns are vectors, adjectives are matrices: Representing adjective-noun constructions in semantic space. In *Proceedings of EMNLP*.

Adjectives modelled as lexical functions that are applied to nouns: *old dog = old(dog)*

- → Adjectives are parameter matrices (\mathbf{A}_{old} , \mathbf{A}_{furry} , etc.)
- → Nouns are vectors (house, dog, etc.)
- → Composition is a linear transformation: **old dog** = $\mathbf{A}_{old} \times \mathbf{dog}$.

OLD	runs	barks			dog		I	OLD(dog)
runs	0.5	0	×	runs	1	=	runs	$(0.5 \times 1) + (0 \times 5)$
barks	0.3	1		barks	5		barks	$= 0.5 (0.3 \times 1) + (5 \times 1) = 5.3$

Learning adjective matrices

For each adjective, learn a parameter matrix that allows to predict adjective-noun phrase vectors.

	Х	Y	
Training set	house dog car cat toy	old house old dog old car old cat old toy	
Test set	elephant mercedes	old elephant old mercedes	

Learning adjective matrices

- 1. Obtain a distributional vector \mathbf{n}_j for each noun n_j in the lexicon.
- 2. Collect adjective noun pairs (a_i, n_j) from the corpus.
- Obtain a distributional vector p_{ij} of each pair (a_i, n_j) from the same corpus using a conventional DSM.
- The set of tuples {(n_j, p_{ij})}_j represents a dataset D(a_i) for the adjective a_i.
- 5. Learn matrix \mathbf{A}_i from $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{a}_i)$ using linear regression.

Minimize the squared error loss:

$$L(\mathbf{A}_i) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{a}_i)} \|\mathbf{p}_{ij} - \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{n}_j\|^2$$

Outline

- Compositional semantics
- Compositional distributional semantics
- Compositional semantics with neural networks

- How do we learn a (task-specific) representation of a sentence with a neural network?
- 2. How do we make a **prediction** for a given **task** from that representation?

We will see the **task**, **dataset** and **models** of **Practical 2**!



Task: Sentiment classification of movie reviews

0. very negative

1. negative

You'll probably love it. \rightarrow

2. neutral

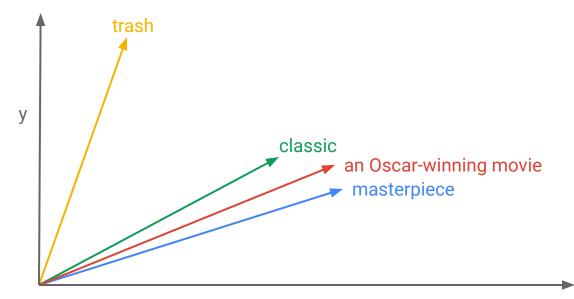
3. positive

4. very positive

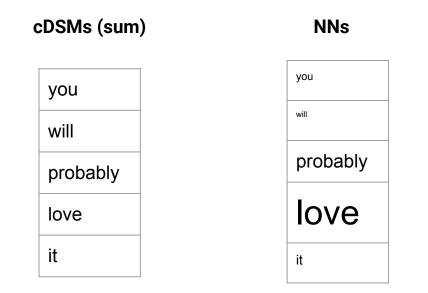
Task-specific: The learned representation has to be "specialized" on **sentiment**!

Words (and sentences) into vectors

When we talk about **representations** ...



Sentence representation: A (very) simplified picture



you will probably OVE it

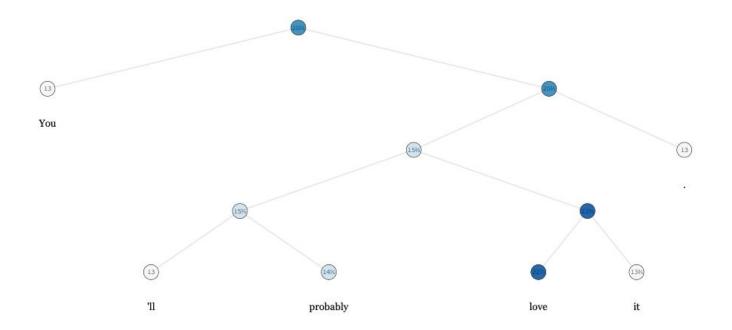
you will probably love it



~12K data-points including:

- 1. one-sentence review + "global" sentiment score
- 2. tree structure (syntax)
- 3. more detailed sentiment scores (node-level)

Binary parse tree: One example



Models

Models

- 1. Bag of Words (BOW)
- 2. Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW)
- 3. Deep Continuous Bag of Words (Deep CBOW)
- 4. Deep CBOW + pre-trained word embeddings
- 5. LSTM
- 6. Tree LSTM

First approach: Sentence + Sentiment

1. one-sentence review + "global" sentiment score

- 2. tree structure (syntax)
- 3. node-level sentiment scores

1. Bag of Words (BOW)

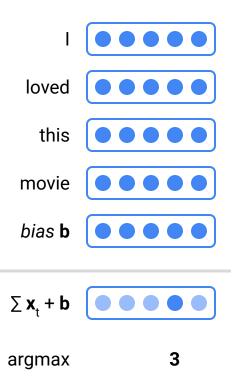
What is a Bag of Words?

- Additive model: does not take word order or syntax into account
- Task-specific word representations with fixed dimensionality (d = 5)
- Dimensions of vector space are explicit, interpretable



Bag of Words

Sum word embeddings, add bias



Bag of Words

this	[0.0,	0.1,	0.1,	0.1,	0.0]
movie	[0.0,	0.1,	0.1,	0.2,	0.1]
is	[0.0,	0.1,	0.0,	0.0,	0.0]
stupid	[0.9,	0.5,	0.1,	0.0,	0.0]

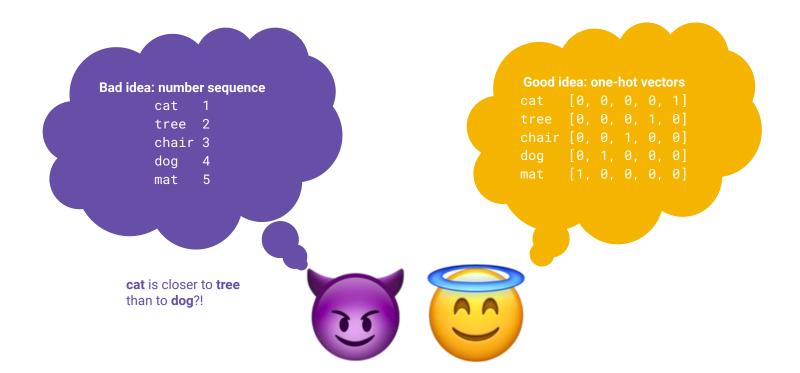
bias	[0.0,	0.0,	0.0,	0.0,	0.0]
sum	[0.9,	0.8,	0.3,	0.3,	0.1]

argmax: 0 (very negative)

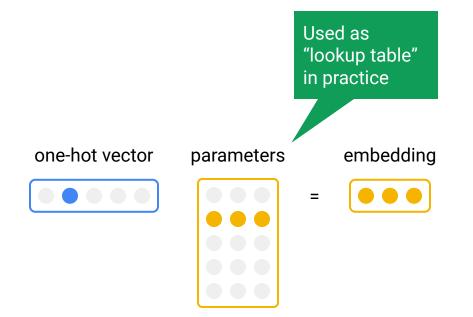
I hate that I love this movie = I love that I hate this movie

Turning words into numbers

We want to **feed words** to a neural network How to turn **words** into **numbers**?



One-hot vectors select word embeddings



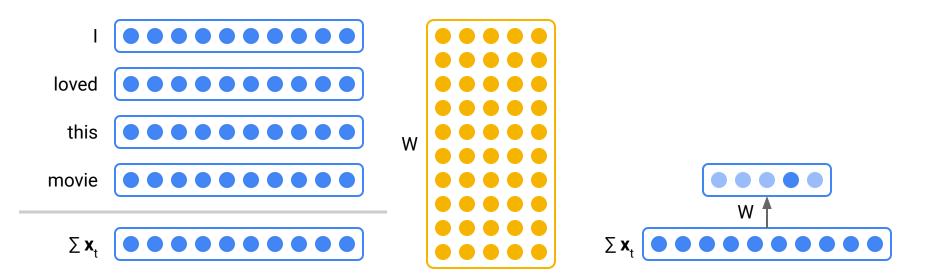
2. Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW)

CBOW

- Additive model: does not take word order or syntax into account
- Task-specific word representations of arbitrary dimensionality
- Dimensions of vector space are not interpretable
- Prediction can be traced back to the sentence vector dimensions

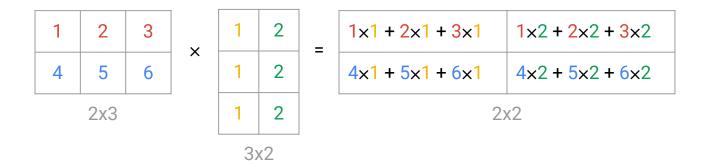
Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW)

Sum word embeddings, project to 5D using W, add bias: W ($\sum x_t$) + **b**

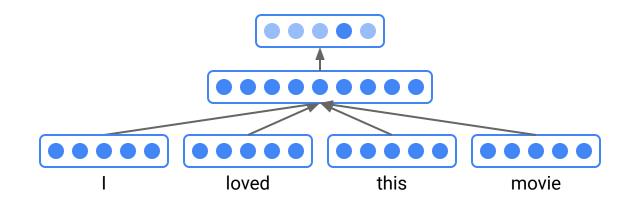


Recall: Matrix Multiplication

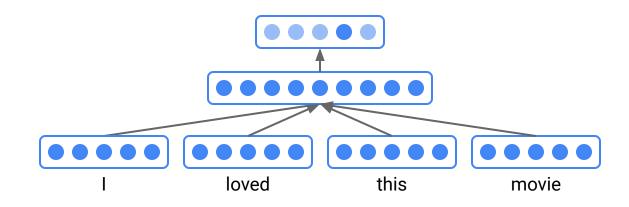
Rows multiply with columns



What about this?



What about this?



Variable sentence vector size, dependent on sentence length

- Not very sensible conceptually
 - → sentences in a different vector space than words
 - → one vector space for each sentence length in the dataset
- Difficult in practice
 - → what size should the transformation matrix be?
 - ➡ vector size can grow very large

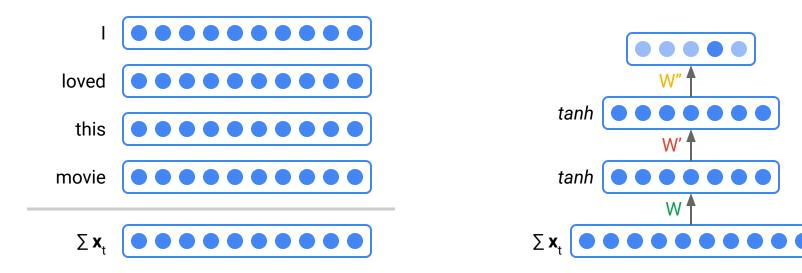
3. Deep CBOW

Deep CBOW

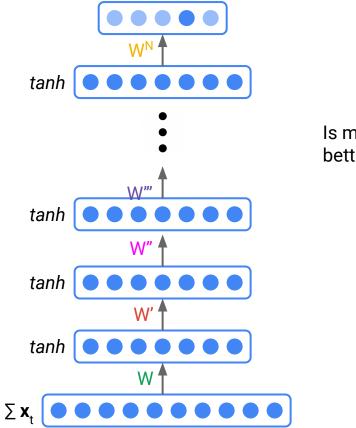
- Additive model: does not take word order or syntax into account
- Task-specific word representations of arbitrary dimensionality
- Dimensions of vector space are not interpretable
- More layers and non-linear transformations: prediction cannot be easily traced back

Deep CBOW

W" tanh(W ($\sum \mathbf{x}_t$) + b) + b') + b"



What about this?



Is more complexity always better?



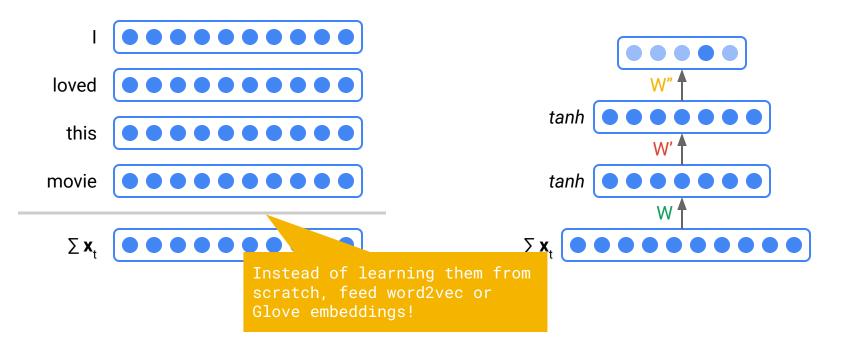
We can learn more complex features, but the only error signal that we receive comes from sentiment prediction.

How can we further help the model?

4. Deep CBOW + Pretrained embeddings

Deep CBOW with pretrained embeddings

W" tanh(W ($\sum \mathbf{x}_t$) + **b**) + **b**') + **b**"



Deep CBOW + pre-trained embeddings

- Additive model: does not take word order or syntax into account
- Dimensions of vector space are not interpretable
- Multiple layers and non-linear transformations: prediction cannot be easily traced back
- Pre-trained general-purpose word representations (e.g., Skip-gram, GloVe)
 - → **keep frozen**: not updated during training
 - → fine-tune: updated with task-specific learning signal (specialised)

We train our network with Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD):

- 1. Sample a training example
- 2. Forward pass
 - a. Compute network activations, output vector
- 3. Compute loss
 - a. Compare output vector with true label using a loss function (Cross Entropy)
- 4. Backward pass (backpropagation)
 - a. Compute gradient of loss w.r.t. (learnable) parameters (= weights + bias)
- 5. Take a small step in the opposite direction of the gradient

Cross Entropy Loss

Given:

 $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = [0.0589, 0.0720, 0.0720, 0.7177, 0.0795]$ output vector (after softmax) from forward pass $\mathbf{y} = [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0]$ target / label ($y_3 = 1$)

When our output is categorical (i.e., a number of classes), we can use a Cross Entropy loss:

 $CE(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\sum y_i \log \hat{y}_i$

SparseCE(y = 3, $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$) = - log \hat{y}_{y}

torch.nn.CrossEntropyLoss works like this and does the **softmax** on **o** for you!

Softmax

We don't need a softmax for **prediction**, there we simply take the **argmax**

$$\mathbf{o} = [-0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 2.4, 0.2]$$

 $softmax(o_i) = exp(o_i) / \sum_i exp(o_i)$

But we do need a **softmax** combined to CE to compute model loss (argmax is NOT differentiable)

This makes **o** sum to 1.0:

softmax(**o**) = [0.0589, 0.0720, 0.0720, **0.7177**, 0.0795]

Recurrent Neural Networks

Introduction: Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

- RNNs widely used for handling **sequences**!
- RNNs ~ multiple copies of same network, each passing a message to a successor
- Take an input vector *x* and output an output vector *h*
- Crucially, *h* influenced by entire history of inputs fed in in the past
- Internal state h gets updated at every time step \rightarrow in the simplest case, this state consists of a **single hidden vector** h

Introduction: Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

RNNs model **sequential data** - one input **x**, per time step *t*

Exan	'	sat	on	the	mat	
				x ₅		

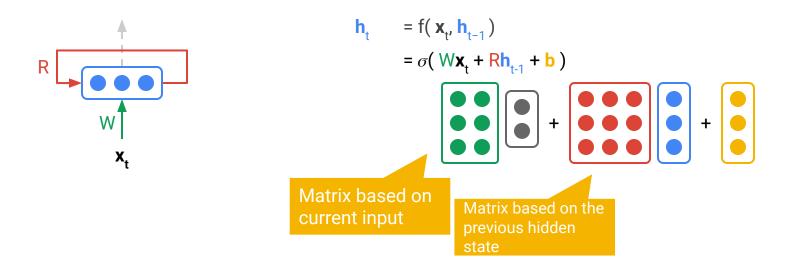
Let's compute the RNN state after reading in this sentence.

Remember: $\mathbf{h}_{t} = f(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{h}_{t-1})$

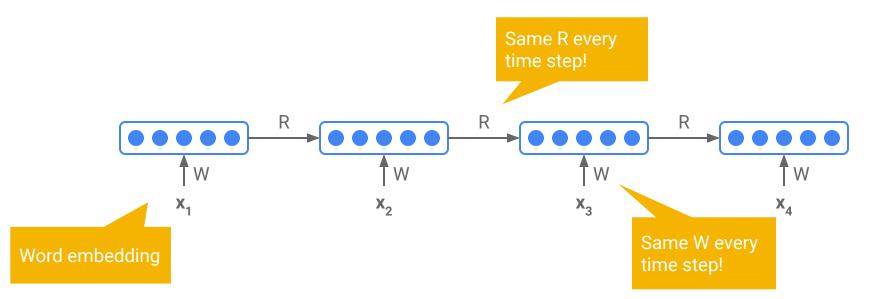
...))) the -> $h_1 = f(x_1, h_0)$ cat -> $h_2 = f(x_2, h_1)$ sat -> $h_3 = f(x_3, h_2)$ ••• $mat -> h_6 = f(x_6, h_5)$

Introduction: Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)

The transition function f consists of an affine transformation followed by a non-linear activation



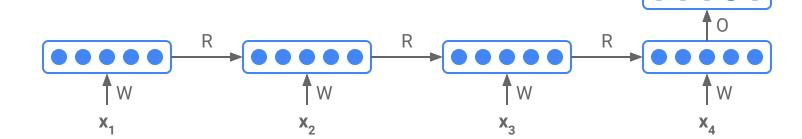
Introduction: Unfolding the RNN



Introduction: Making a prediction

Training: apply softmax, compute cross entropy loss, backpropagate

We can find the **prediction** using **argmax**

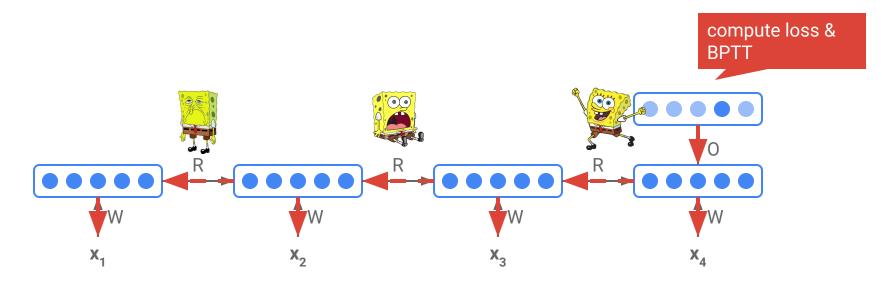


Introduction: The vanishing gradient problem

Simple RNNs are hard to train because of the vanishing gradient problem.

During backpropagation, gradients can quickly become small,

as they repeatedly go through multiplications (R) & non-linear functions (e.g. sigmoid or tanh)



Introduction: The vanishing gradient problem

R is shared across every timestep! Imagine that R contains an entry value $r_1 = 0.5$ The first input gets multiplied by **0.5**^{num. unrolls N} $0.5^5 \sim 0.03$ $0.5^{10} \sim 9e-4$ $0.5^{15} \sim 3e-5$ $0.5^{20} \sim 9e-7$... ★0.5 **×**0.5 **×**0.5 W W W **X**₁ \mathbf{X}_2 X_N

What about this?

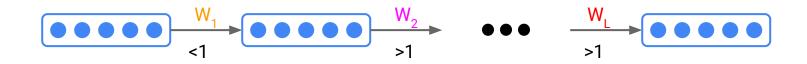


Similar problem called exploding gradients!

For more details see: Kyunghyun Cho. Natural Language Understanding with Distributed Representation. Section 4.3.

RNN vs ANN





5. Long Short-Term Memory network (LSTM)

LSTMs are a special kind of RNN that can deal with **long-term dependencies** in the data by alleviating the vanishing gradient problem in RNNs

"I lived in **France** for a while when I was a kid so I can speak fluent..." -> French

Hochreiter, S., & Schmidhuber, J. (1997). Long short-term memory. *Neural computation*, *9*(8), 1735-1780.

LSTM: Core idea

- Maintain a separate memory cell state c_t from what is outputted (long term memory)
- 2. Use gates to control the flow of information:
 - a. **Forget** gate gets rid of irrelevant information
 - b. Input gate to **store** new relevant information from the current input
 - c. Selectively **update** the cell state
 - d. **Output** gate returns a filtered version of the cell state
- 3. Backpropagation through time with partially **uninterrupted gradient flow**

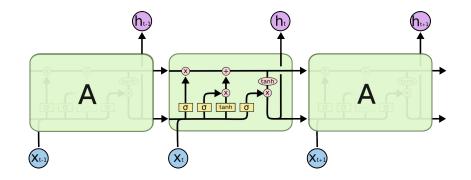
LSTMs

RNN:

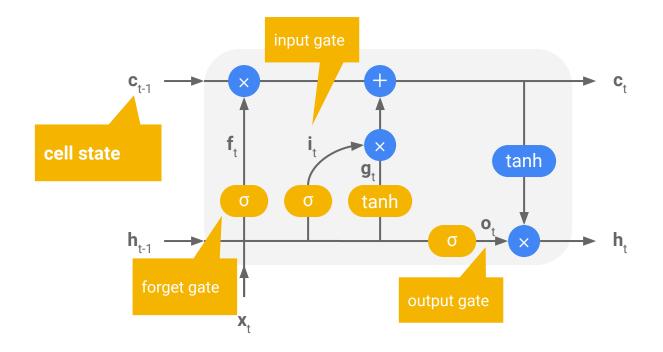
 $\mathbf{h}_{t} = f(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{h}_{t-1})$ $= \sigma(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}_{t} + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \mathbf{b})$

LSTM:

$$\mathbf{h}_{t}, \mathbf{c}_{t} = f(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{h}_{t-1}, \mathbf{c}_{t-1})$$
$$= lstm(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{h}_{t-1}, \mathbf{c}_{t-1})$$

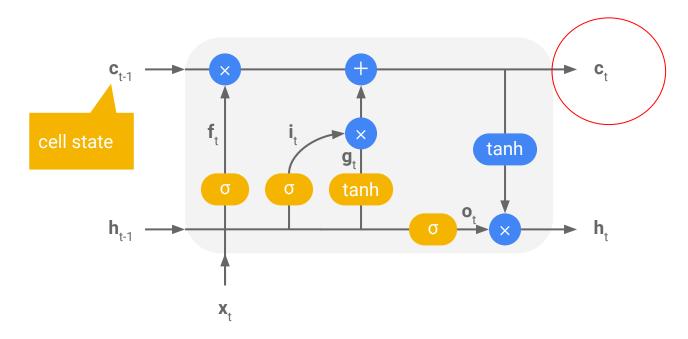


LSTM cell



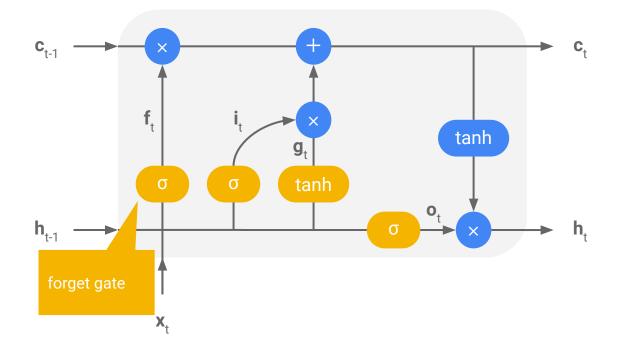
LSTM: Cell state

Runs straight down the entire chain, with only some minor linear interactions. LSTM can remove or add information to the cell state, carefully regulated by structures called gates.



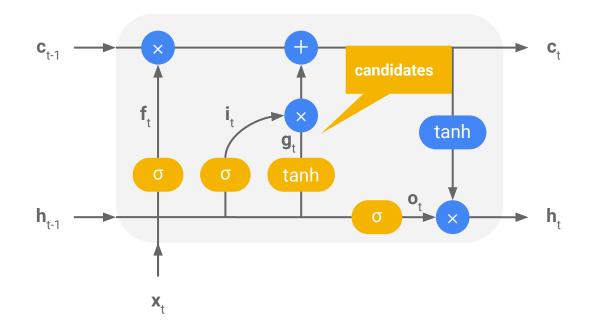
LSTM: Forget gate

Decide what information to throw away from the cell state.



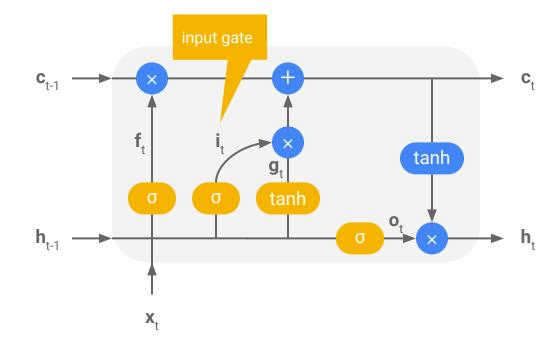
LSTM: Candidate cell

Extracts new **candidate values**, \mathbf{g}_{t} , from the previous hidden state and the current input that could be added to the cell state.

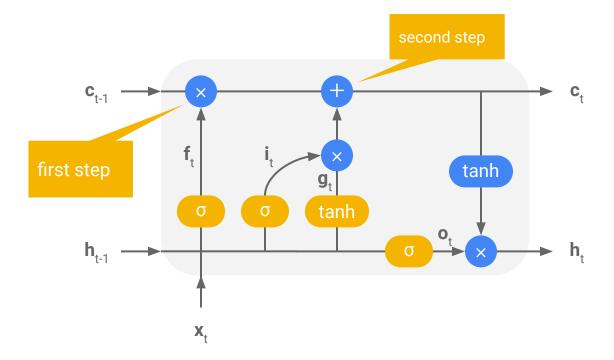


LSTM: Input gate

Decide what new information to store in the cell state.

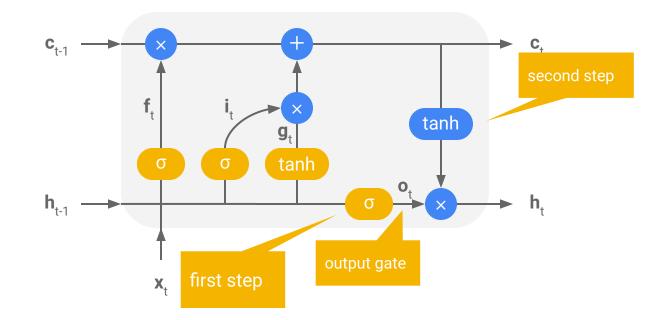


Update the cell state: 1. forget things we decided to forget earlier, 2. add the new candidate values scaled by how much we decided to update each state value

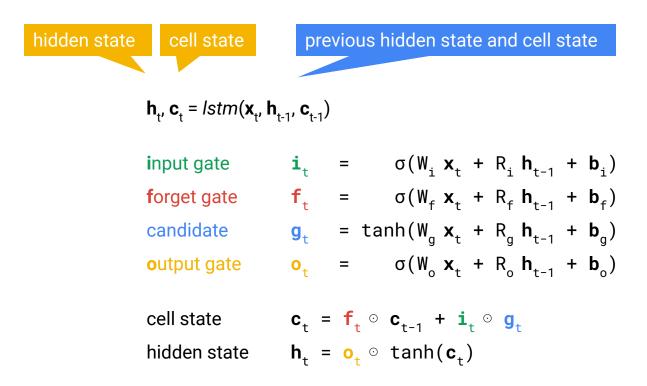


LSTM: Output gate

1. Decide what parts of the cell state we're going to output, 2. the cell state is put through *tanh* and multiplied by the output of the output gate, so that we only output the parts we decided to.



Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



LSTMs: Applications & Success in NLP

- Language modeling (Mikolov et al., 2010; Sundermeyer et al., 2012)
- Parsing (Vinyals et al., 2015; Kiperwasser and Goldberg, 2016; Dyer et al., 2016)
- Machine translation (Bahdanau et al., 2015)
- Image captioning (Bernardi et al., 2016)
- Visual question answering (Antol et al., 2015)
- ... and many other tasks!

6. Tree LSTM

Sentence representations with NNs

Bag of Words models

→ sentence representations are **order-independent** function of the word representations

Sequence models

 sentence representations are an order-sensitive function of a sequence of word representations (surface form)

Tree-structured models

 sentence representations are a function of the word representations, sensitive to the syntactic structure of the sentence

Second approach: Sentence + Sentiment + Syntax

- 1. one-sentence review + "global" sentiment score
- 2. tree structure (syntax)
- 3. node-level sentiment scores

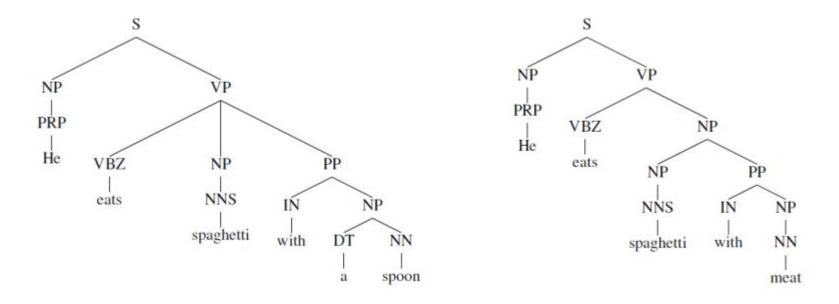
Instead of treating our input as a **sequence**, we can take an alternative approach: assume a **tree structure** and use the principle of **compositionality**.

The meaning (vector) of a sentence is determined by:

- 1. the meanings of its **words** and
- 2. the **rules** that combine them

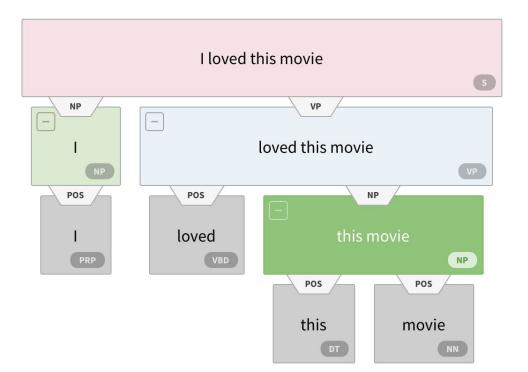
Why would it be useful?

Helpful in **disambiguation**: similar "surface" / different structure



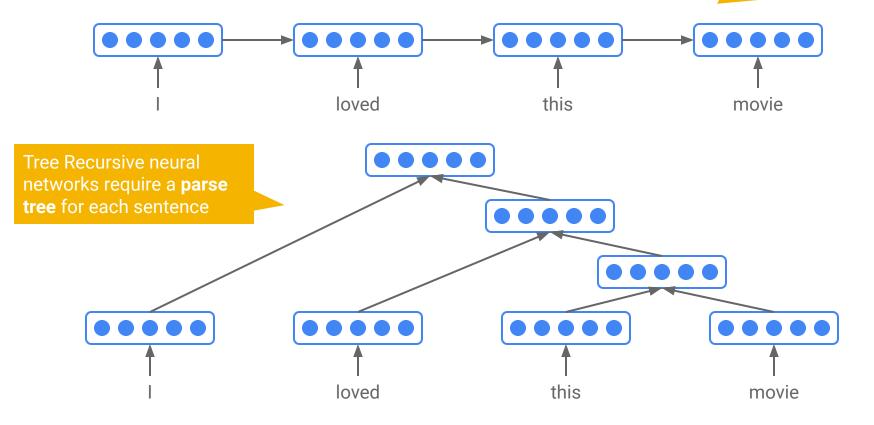
Constituency Parse

Can we obtain a **sentence vector** using the tree structure given by a parse?

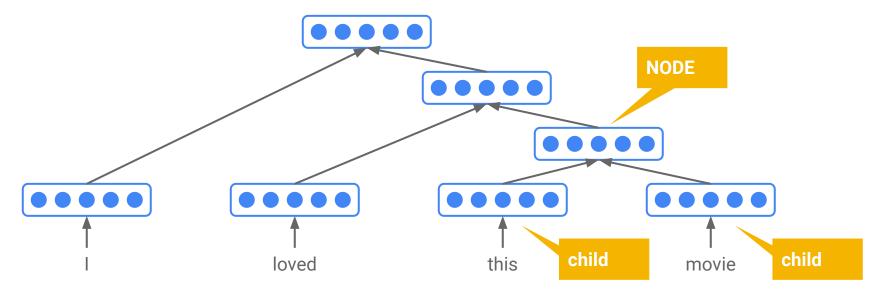


Recurrent vs Tree Recursive NN

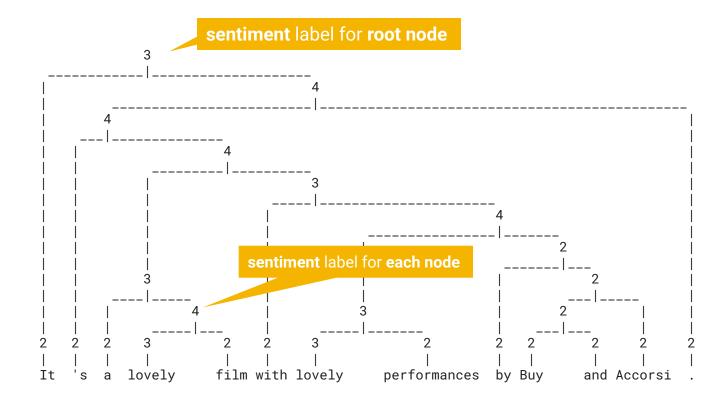
RNNs cannot capture phrases **without prefix context** and often capture too much of **last words** in final vector



Tree Recursive NN



Practical II data set: Stanford Sentiment Treebank (SST)



Tree LSTMs: Generalize LSTM to tree structure

Use the idea of LSTM (gates, memory cell) but allow for multiple inputs (**node children**)

Proposed by 3 groups in the same summer:

- Kai Sheng Tai, Richard Socher, and Christopher D. Manning. Improved Semantic Representations From Tree-Structured Long Short-Term Memory Networks. ACL 2015.
 - Child-Sum Tree LSTM
 - N-ary Tree LSTM
- Phong Le and Willem Zuidema.

Compositional distributional semantics with long short term memory. *SEM 2015.

• Xiaodan Zhu, Parinaz Sobihani, and Hongyu Guo.

Long short-term memory over recursive structures. ICML 2015.



1. Child-Sum Tree LSTM

sums over all children of a node; can be used for any N of children

1. N-ary Tree LSTM

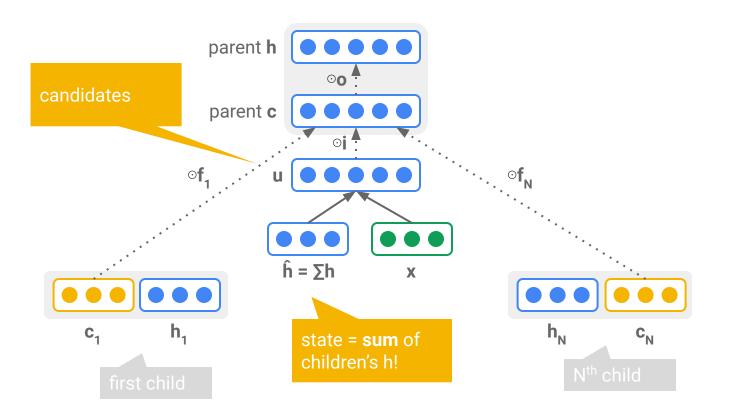
different parameters for each child; better granularity (interactions between children) but maximum N of children per node has to be fixed

Credits: Daniel Perez https://www.slideshare.net/tuvistavie/tree-lstm

Children outputs and memory cells are summed

- 1. NO children order
- 2. works with variable number of children (sum!)
- 3. shares gates weights between children

Child-Sum Tree LSTM

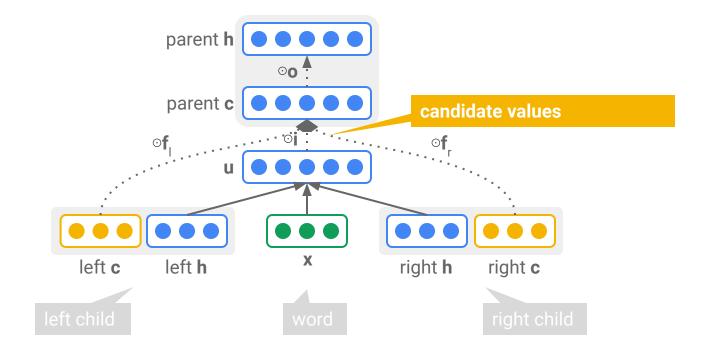




Separate parameter matrices for each child *k*

- 1. each node must have at most N (e.g., **binary**) ordered children
- 2. fine-grained control on how information propagates
- 3. forget gate can be parametrized (N matrices, one per k) so that siblings affect each other

N-ary Tree LSTM



N-ary Tree LSTM

$$i_{j} = \sigma \left(W^{(i)} x_{j} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} U_{\ell}^{(i)} h_{j\ell} + b^{(i)} \right),$$
$$f_{jk} = \sigma \left(W^{(f)} x_{j} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} U_{k\ell}^{(f)} h_{j\ell} + b^{(f)} \right),$$

useful for encoding constituency trees

$$o_{j} = \sigma \left(W^{(o)} x_{j} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} U_{\ell}^{(o)} h_{j\ell} + b^{(o)} \right),$$
$$u_{j} = \tanh \left(W^{(u)} x_{j} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} U_{\ell}^{(u)} h_{j\ell} + b^{(u)} \right),$$

· ·

$$c_j = i_j \odot u_j + \sum_{\ell=1}^N f_{j\ell} \odot c_{j\ell},$$

$$h_j = o_j \odot \tanh(c_j),$$

Standard LSTMs be considered as (a special case of) Tree-LSTMs

Tree-LSTM variants

Child-Sum Tree-LSTM

- → sum over the hidden representations of all children of a node (no children order)
- → can be used for a **variable** number of children
- ⇒ shares parameters between children
- → suitable for dependency trees

N-ary Tree-LSTM

- → discriminates between children node positions (weighted sum)
- → **fixed** maximum branching factor: can be used with N children at most
- → different parameters for each child
- → suitable for constituency trees

Transition Sequence Representation

Building a tree with a transition sequence

We can describe a **binary tree** using a *shift-reduce* **transition** sequence

(I	(loved	(this	movie)))	
S		S		S	S	R	R	R	

We start with a buffer (queue) and an empty stack:

```
stack = []
buffer = queue([I, loved, this, movie])
```

Iterate through the transition sequence:

if SHIFT (S): take first word (*leftmost*) of the buffer, push it to the stack
if REDUCE (R): pop top 2 words from stack + reduce them into a new node (w/ tree LSTM)

practical II explains how to obtain this sequence

(I (loved (this movie)))
S S S S R R R

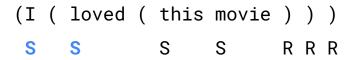


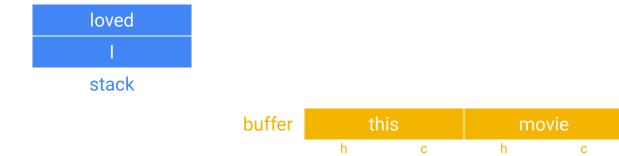


(I (loved (this movie)))
S S S S R R R









(I	(loved	(this	movie)))
S		S		S	S	R	R	R

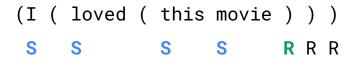


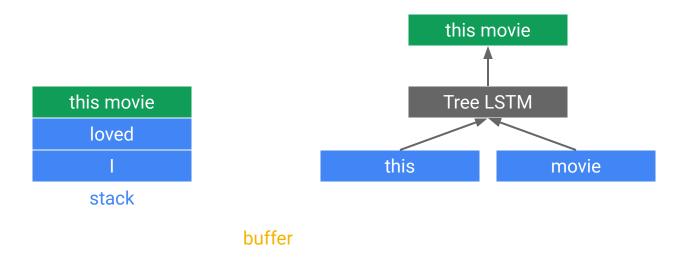


(I (loved (this movie))) S S S S R R R

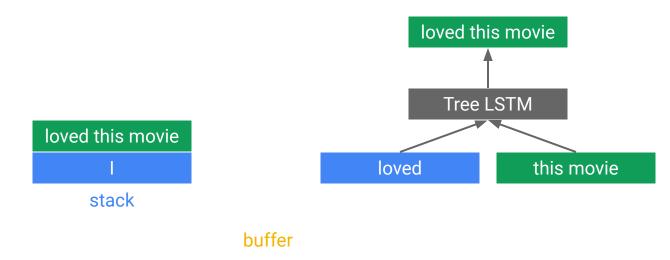


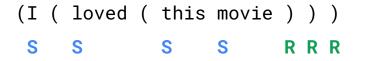
buffer

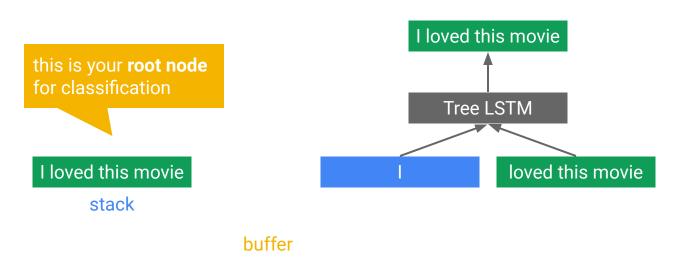






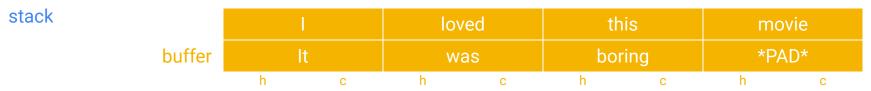


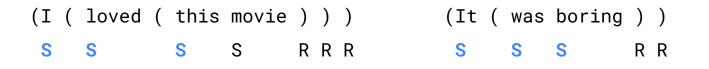




Mini-batch SGD

(I (loved (this	movie)))	(It (was	boring))
S	S	S	S	R	R	R	S	S	S	R	R



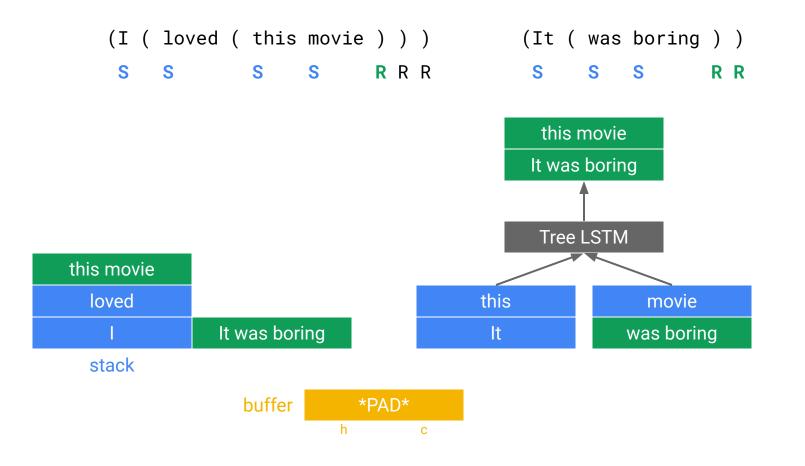


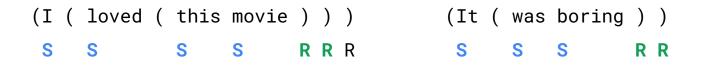
this	boring		
loved	was		
l I	lt		
stack		r	movie
	buffer	k	PAD*
	_	h	С





h c







Transition sequence example (mini-batched)





Optional approach: Sentence + Sentiment + Syntax + Node-level sentiment

- 1. one-sentence review + "global" sentiment score
- 2. tree structure (syntax)
- 3. node-level sentiment scores



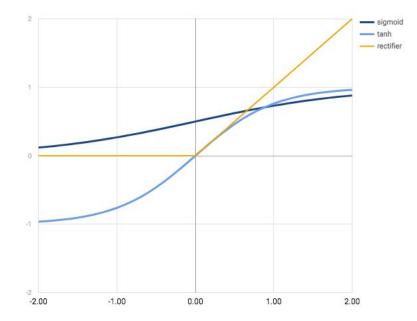


- Bag of Words models: BOW, CBOW, Deep CBOW
 - Can encode a sentence of arbitrary length, but loses word order
- Sequence models: RNN and LSTM
 - Sensitive to word order
 - RNN has vanishing gradient problem, LSTM deals with this
 - LSTM has input, forget, and output gates that control information flow
- Tree-based models: Child-Sum & N-ary Tree LSTM
 - Generalize LSTM to tree structures
 - Exploit compositionality, but require a parse tree



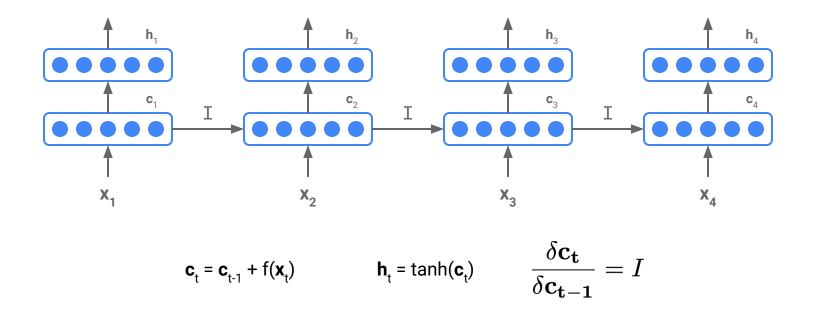
In a TreeLSTM over a constituency tree (ours!), the leaf nodes take the corresponding word vectors as input

Recap: Activation functions



Introduction: Intuition to solving the vanishing gradient

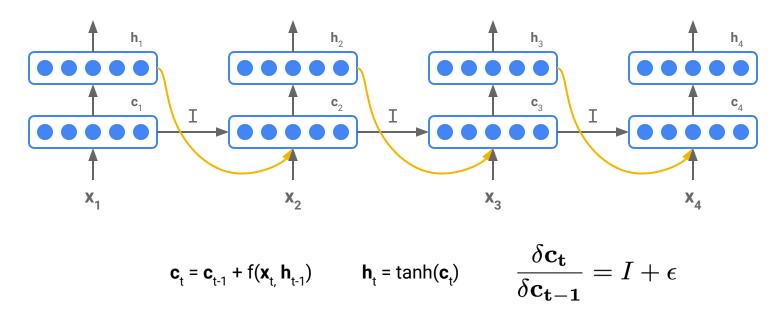
Let's use an extra vector, cell state ${\boldsymbol{c}}$



Introduction: A small improvement



Better gradient propagation is possible when you use **additive** rather than multiplicative/highly non-linear recurrent dynamics

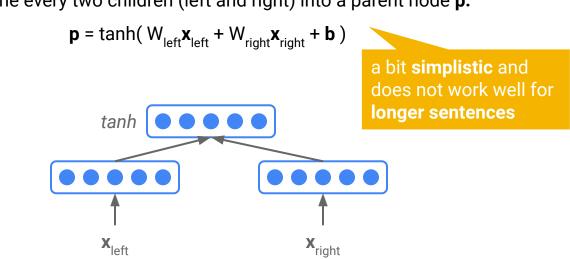


Child-Sum Tree LSTM

useful for encoding dependency trees

$$\begin{split} \tilde{h}_{j} &= \sum_{k \in C(j)} h_{k}, \\ i_{j} &= \sigma \left(W^{(i)} x_{j} + U^{(i)} \tilde{h}_{j} + b^{(i)} \right), \\ f_{jk} &= \sigma \left(W^{(f)} x_{j} + U^{(f)} h_{k} + b^{(f)} \right), \\ o_{j} &= \sigma \left(W^{(o)} x_{j} + U^{(o)} \tilde{h}_{j} + b^{(o)} \right), \\ u_{j} &= \tanh \left(W^{(u)} x_{j} + U^{(u)} \tilde{h}_{j} + b^{(u)} \tilde{h}_{j} + b^{(u)} \tilde{h}_{j} + b^{(u)} \tilde{h}_{j} \right), \\ c_{j} &= i_{j} \odot u_{j} + \sum_{k \in C(j)} f_{jk} \odot c_{k}, \\ h_{j} &= o_{j} \odot \tanh(c_{j}), \end{split}$$

A naive recursive NN



Combine every two children (left and right) into a parent node **p**:

SGD vs GD

Mini-batch SGD strikes a balance between these two

SGD:

for epoch in 1..E
 for each training example
 compute loss (forward pass)
 compute gradient of loss (backward)
 update parameters
 end for
end for

fast, but high variance
might find better optimum because of variance

Gradient Descent (GD):

for epoch in 1..E
 for each training example
 compute loss (forward pass)
 compute gradient of loss (backward)
 accumulate gradient
 end for
 update parameters
end for

- slow, but more stable (not overly influenced by most recent training example)
- can get stuck in local optimum