



MESSAGE POLARITY CLASSIFICATION USING ENSEMBLE RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORKS WITH WORD EMBEDDINGS

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Abstract

Recently, twitter sentiment classification using neural networks has become one of state-of-the-arts, which requires less feature engineering work compared with traditional methods. This paper shows a simple and effective ensemble Recurrent Neural Network method to boost the performance of neural models which collect several words embedding learned on large-scale corpus. The different word embeddings cover different words and encode different semantic knowledge, thus using them together can improve the generalizations and performances of neural models. The additional comparisons demonstrate the superiority of ensemble neural network model over the other models based on word embedding set.

Index Terms: Recurrent Neural Networks, Sentiment Classification, Word Embedding.

I. INTRODUCTION

Twitter sentiment classification has attracted a lot of attention [1, 2, 3], which aims to classify a tweet into three sentiment categories: negative, neutral, and positive. Tweet text has several features such as written by the informal language, hash-tags and emoticons indicate sentiments, and sometimes is sarcasm, which make decisions of tweet sentiment hard for machines. With releases of annotated datasets, more researchers prefer to use the Twitter sentiment classification as one of the challenging to evaluate their proposed models.

Traditional methods [4] for twitter sentiment

classification use a variety of hand-crafted features including surface-form, semantic and sentiment lexicons. The performances of these methods often depend on the quality of feature engineering work, and building a state-of-the-art system is difficult for novices. Moreover, these designed features are presented by the one-hot representation which cannot capture the semantic specific of different features. To address this, [5] induced sentiment-specific low-dimensional, real-valued embedding features for twitter classification, which encode both semantics and sentiments of words. In the experiments, the embedding features and hand-crafted features obtain similar results, and also they are complementary for each other in the system. With the developments of neural networks in natural language processing, neural sentiment classification [6,7] has attracted a lot of attention recently and become the state-of-the-arts. These methods learn word embeddings from large-scale twitter corpus, and later tune neural networks by the tweets which have distant labels, and finally fine-tune the proposed models by the annotated datasets.

It is popular to learn word embeddings using in-domain data is an effective way to boost model performances [8,9]. However, collecting large-scale twitter corpus is often time-consuming. In this paper, different word embedding sets to boost the performances of Recurrent neural networks, which only include released different word embeddings sets [8]. A simple and effective ensemble method is proposed, which takes different word embedding sets as input to train neural networks and

predicts labels of testing tweets by merging all output of neural models. Ensemble RNN ensemble method show its effectiveness, though most of used word embedding sets are not learned from twitter corpus, which can be explained that different embedding sets has different vocabularies and encode different parts of sentiment knowledge. Additional experiments to analyze Ensemble RNN model.

II. MODEL

The details of Ensemble RNN method, which is illustrated in Figure 1. The different word embedding sets into neural net-works and train these neural networks separately. When predicting the labels of tweets in testing set, sum label probabilities of all neural network to make final decisions

A. Neural Network

There are many neural networks (e.g., LSTM, RNN and GRU) for Ensemble RNN method, in which RNN [10] is used in Ensemble RNN method. RNN adaptive gated decay, which aims to capture longer-range, non-consecutive patterns in a weighted manner.

Given a sequence of words which are denoted as $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^l$, the corresponding word embeddings $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^l$ are derived using the embedding matrix E. Then, RNN obtains their corresponding hidden vectors $\{h_i\}_{i=1}^l$ using the convolution operation and gating mechanism. After obtaining hidden vectors, RNN uses a pooling operation to get fixed-sized vector presentation, which is fed into softmax layer to finish the prediction. The n-gram convolution operation and gating decay are described as follows:

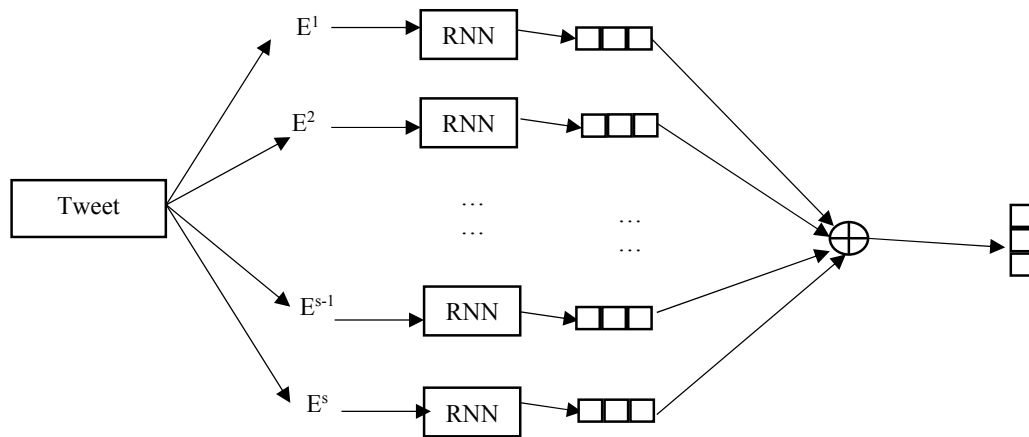


Fig:1 Recurrent Neural Networks with Word Embeddings

Sets	Corpus	Scale	Algorithm	Dimension	Vocab
gloveT	Twitter	27B	GloVec	200	1.2M
word2vecGN	Google News	100B	Word2Vec	300	3.0M

Table 1: Statistics of the embedding sets. Scale means the size of tokens in corpus, M and B refer to million and billion respectively. The embedding set word2vecGN are trained by Word2Vec.

$$\lambda_t = \sigma(W^\lambda x_t + U^\lambda h_{t-1} + b^\lambda)$$

$$c_t = \lambda_t \square c_{t-1} + (1 - \lambda_t) \square (W_1 x_t),$$

$$c_t^{(2)} = \lambda_t \square c_{t-1}^{(2)} + (1 - \lambda_t) \square (c_{t-1}^{(1)} + W_2 x_t)$$

$$\dots\dots\dots$$

$$c_t^{(n)} = \lambda_t \square c_{t-1}^{(n)} + (1 - \lambda_t) \square (c_{t-1}^{(n-1)} + W_n x_t)$$

$$h_t = \text{sigm}(c_t^{(n)} + b)$$

where W^λ , U^λ , b^λ , b and W_* are learnable parameters, σ is sigmoid function which rescales the value into (0, 1), \cdot is dot product, λ_t is gating value determining how much information of x_t and previous patterns is added into the hidden vector, $c_t^{(i)}$ refer to the vector for accumulated previous patterns which are ended with x_t include i consecutive tokens. When $\lambda_t = 0$, the convolution becomes a standard n -gram convolution.

The deep RNN can be built by adding several convolution layer on top of hidden vectors derived from the bottom convolution layer. Consider the RNN with d convolution layers, which outputs $\{h^d_i\}_{i=1}$.

Then, a last pooling operation is conducted on hidden vectors to obtain text representation r . Finally, text representation is fed into a softmax layer. The softmax layer outputs the probability distribution over $|Y|$ categories for the distributed representation, which is defined as $p(r) = \text{softmax}(W^{\text{class}}_k r)$.

The cross-entropy objective function is used to optimize the RNN model.

B. Prediction

Consider RNN models with different embedding sets as input. where s embedding sets which are denoted as $\{E^1, E^2, \dots, E^s\}$, and feed them into s RNN models, then learn RNN models separately. Then predict sentiment label of testing tweet based on these learned RNN models, which are described by following functions:

$$p_1 = \text{RNN}_1(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^1, E^1),$$

$$p_2 = \text{RNN}_2(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^1, E^2),$$

\dots ,

$$p_s = \text{RNN}_s(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^1, E^s),$$

$$p' = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq s} p_i.$$

$$y = \text{argmax}_{1 \leq i \leq |Y|} p'_i,$$

where y is the predicted label.

III. EXPERIMENT

A. Datasets and Settings

In this paper results are obtained by 2 embedding sets which are described in Table 1. Hence crawl and merge all annotated datasets of previous SemEvals, and split them into training, development, and testing sets with ratio 8:1:1, which are shown in Table 2 together with testing set of SemEval 2017. From the table, the testing

set of SemEval 2017 has big differences on the category ratio (negative: neutral: positive), compared with the previous SemEval datasets.

Dataset	Number of Tweets	Ratio of positive/negative/neutral Tweets
Previous SemEvals	50032	1.5/4.7/3.8
SemEval 2017 Test	12284	3.2/4.8/2.0

Table 2: Datasets statistics

For the model settings, all RNN models have same configurations but different word embedding sets. Then set dimensions of hidden vectors to 250 and depths d to 2. To avoid model over fitting, the dropout and regularization as follows: (1) the regularization parameter is set to $1e-5$; (2) the Dropout rate is set to 0.3, which is applied in the final text representation. All parameters are learned by Adam optimizer [12] with the learning rate 0.001. Note that, all word embedding sets are fixed when training. All models are tuned by the development set in Training.

B. Result Analysis

The results on datasets are observed from previous SemEvals, which are described in Table 3. Then report the performances of Ensemble RNN method in Table 4.

Embeddings	Accuracy	Recall - Negative	Recall - neutral	Recall - positive	Recall - average
gloveT	65.6	62.8	60.2	72.8	65.7
Word2vec	65.5	68.2	65.3	70.5	65.7
Ensemble	69.6	69.1	68.2	75.0	73.5

Table 3: Results on datasets previous SemEval datasets

Embedding	Accuracy	Negative	neutral	Positive	Average
GloveT	62.8	69.5	56.7	67.2	64.3
Word2vec	61.9	67.4	59.0	59.8	62.1
Ensemble RNN model	65.7	68.7	2.4	67.8	66.6

Table 4: Results for message polarity classification with five scale point

From the Table 3, the gloveT performs worst though it is trained on in-domain twitter dataset. Then include that the quality of corpus is also important as the size of corpus and domain in twitter sentiment classification. Additionally, obtain infer that word2vec of Google news outperforms others in recall of negative category, and gloveT is best in recall of positive category. Different embedding sets propose different characteristics. Additionally, the ensemble method obtains a significant improvement of 4%.

In the Table 4, Ensemble RNN method with best in SemEval 2017, and report the result of individual embedding sets. This method outperforms other systems in accuracy, but performs worse in Recall-Average, especially in Recall-Negative. Compared with the median system, method has improvements of about 5% in both accuracy and Recall-Average. Different from the results in Table 3, the word2vec performs worse among these embedding sets, while the gloveT obtains best performances. Additionally, that gloveT performs best both in Recall-Negative and Recall-Positive, and word2vec performs best in Recall-Neutral. Compared with the embedding baselines, ensemble RNN method obtains improvements of 2.7% and 1.5% in accuracy and R Average respectively, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed method.

IV. CONCLUSION

Proposed an effective ensemble method to boost the neural twitter sentiment classification. By using different embedding sets, the system can cover more words and encode more sentiment information. The results on datasets of previous SemEval and show the effectiveness of Ensemble RNN method. Moreover, error analysis required to conduct to propose the main challenges for ensemble RNN method.

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