

BEYOND WORD IMPORTANCE: CONTEXTUAL DECOMPOSITION  
TO EXTRACT INTERACTIONS FROM LSTMS  
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<https://qdata.github.io/deep2Read/>

# Motivation

LSTMs are successful because of their ability to learn complex and non-linear relationships. However, we are unable to describe the learned relationships of LSTMs which has led to LSTMs being characterized as black boxes.

# Background

LSTMs are a core component of neural NLP systems. Given a sequence of word embeddings  $x_1, \dots, x_T \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1}$ , a cell and state vector  $c_t, h_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$  are computed for each element by iteratively applying the below equations, with initialization  $h_0 = c_0 = 0$ .

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o x_t + V_o h_{t-1} + b_o) \quad (1)$$

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f x_t + V_f h_{t-1} + b_f) \quad (2)$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i x_t + V_i h_{t-1} + b_i) \quad (3)$$

$$g_t = \tanh(W_g x_t + V_g h_{t-1} + b_g) \quad (4)$$

$$c_t = f_t \odot c_{t-1} + i_t \odot g_t \quad (5)$$

$$h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(c_t) \quad (6)$$

Where  $W_o, W_i, W_f, W_g \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times d_2}$ ,  $V_o, V_f, V_i, V_g \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2 \times d_2}$ ,  $b_o, b_i, b_f, b_g \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$  and  $\odot$  represents element-wise multiplication.  $o_t, f_t$  and  $i_t$  are often referred to as output, forget and input gates and their value lies in between 0 and 1.

# Background (Contd.)

After processing the full sequence, the final state  $h_T$  is treated as a vector of learned features, and used as an input to SoftMax logistic regression, to return a probability distribution  $p$  over  $C$  classes, with:

$$p_j = \text{SoftMax}(Wh_T)_j = \frac{\exp(W_j h_T)}{\sum_{k=1}^C \exp(W_k h_T)} \quad (7)$$

# Related Work

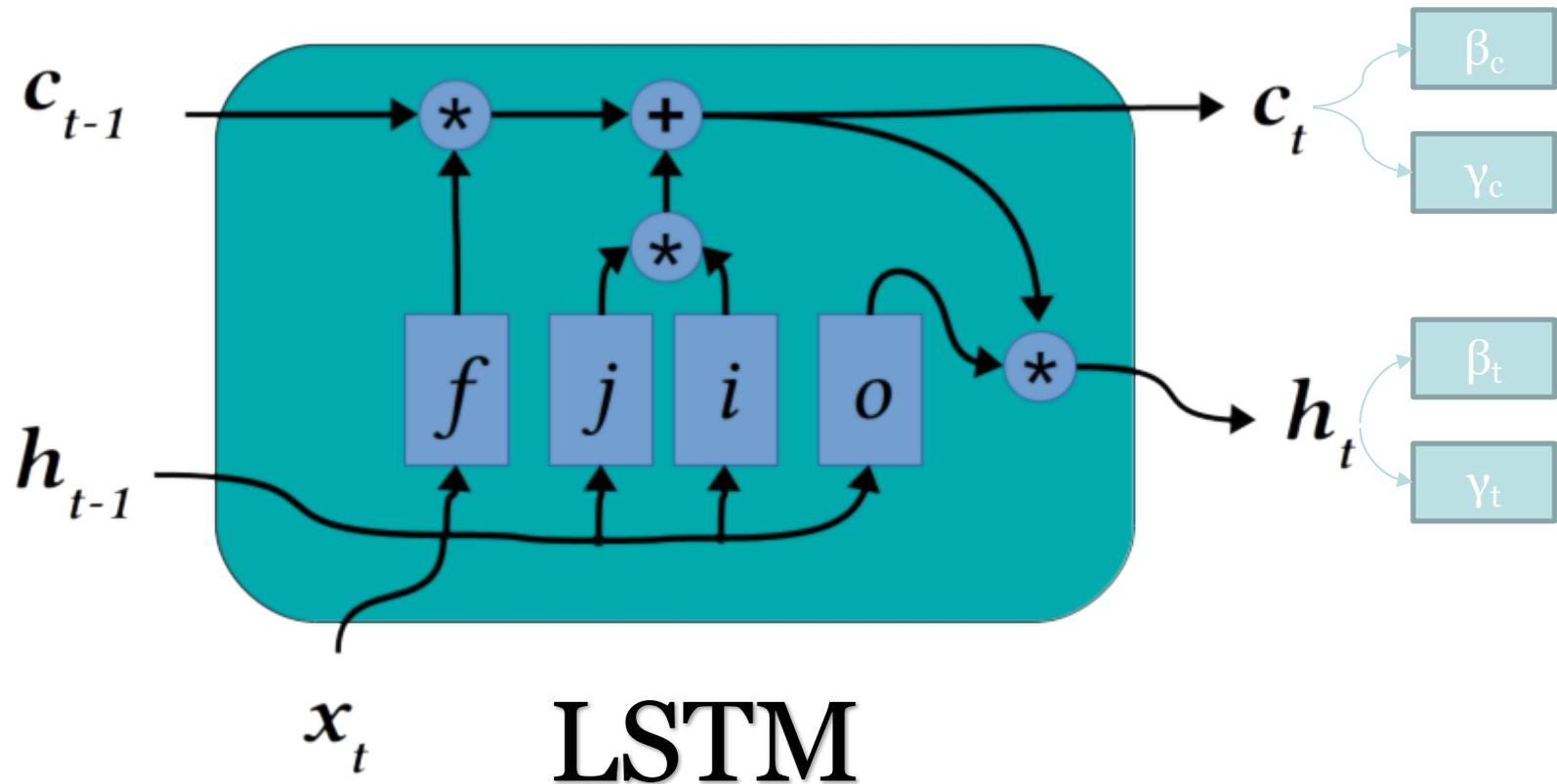
Mostly the previous work on interpreting LSTMs has focused on approaches for computing word-level importance scores, with varying evaluation protocols.

- Murdoch & Szlam (2017): Cell Decomposition.
- Li et al. (2016): Leave One Out.
- Sundararajan et al. (2017): Integrated Gradients.
- Karpathy et al. (2015), Strobel et al. (2016): Analysing gate activations.
- Bach et al. (2015), Shrikumar et al. (2017): Applied Decomposition-based approaches to CNNs.
- Bahdanau et al. (2014): Attention based models.

# Claim / Target Task

Without changing the underlying model of LSTM and decomposing its output, CD (Contextual Decomposition) captures the contributions of combinations of words or variables to the final prediction of LSTM.

# An Intuitive Figure Showing WHY Claim



# Proposed Solution

Given an arbitrary phrase  $x_q, \dots, x_r$ , where  $1 \leq q \leq r \leq T$ , decompose each output and cell state  $c_t, h_t$  in equations 5 and 6 (above) into a sum of two contributions:

$$\begin{aligned}h_t &= \beta_t + \gamma_t \\c_t &= \beta_c + \gamma_c\end{aligned}$$

- $\beta_t$  corresponds to contributions made solely by the given phrase to  $h_t$ , and
- $\gamma_t$  corresponds to contributions involving, at least in part, elements outside of the phrase.
- $\beta_c$  &  $\gamma_c$  are analogous to  $c_t$ .

Using the above decomposition, the final output state  $Wh_T$  is given as:

$$p = \text{SoftMax}(W\beta_t + W\gamma_t)$$

Here,  $W\beta_t$  provides a Quantative score for the phrase's contribution to the LSTM's prediction.

# Implementation

Authors assume that they have a way of linearizing tanh and sigmoid gates and updates in equations 2, 3, 4.

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i x_t + V_i h_{t-1} + b_i) \quad (11)$$

$$= L_\sigma(W_i x_t) + L_\sigma(V_i h_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(b_i) \quad (12)$$

Once, we can do this then we can also linearize the element-wise inner product and hence find linearization for  $h_t$  and  $c_t$ .

$$f_t \odot c_{t-1} = (L_\sigma(W_f x_t) + L_\sigma(V_f \beta_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(V_f \gamma_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(b_f)) \odot (\beta_{t-1}^c + \gamma_{t-1}^c) \quad (13)$$

$$= ([L_\sigma(W_f x_t) + L_\sigma(V_f \beta_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(b_f)] \odot \beta_{t-1}^c) \quad (14)$$

$$+ (L_\sigma(V_f \gamma_{t-1}) \odot \beta_{t-1}^c + f_t \odot \gamma_{t-1}^c)$$

$$= \beta_t^f + \gamma_t^f \quad (15)$$

# Implementation (Contd.)

$$i_t \odot g_t = [L_\sigma(W_i x_t) + L_\sigma(V_i \beta_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(V_i \gamma_{t-1}) + L_\sigma(b_i)] \quad (16)$$

$$\odot [L_{\tanh}(W_g x_t) + L_{\tanh}(V_g \beta_{t-1}) + L_{\tanh}(V_g \gamma_{t-1}) + L_{\tanh}(b_g)]$$

$$= [L_\sigma(W_i x_t) \odot [L_{\tanh}(W_g x_t) + L_{\tanh}(V_g \beta_{t-1}) + L_{\tanh}(b_g)]] \quad (17)$$

$$+ L_\sigma(V_i \beta_{t-1}) \odot [L_{\tanh}(W_g x_t) + L_{\tanh}(V_g \beta_{t-1}) + L_{\tanh}(b_g)]$$

$$+ L_\sigma(b_i) \odot [L_{\tanh}(W_g x_t) + L_{\tanh}(V_g \beta_{t-1})]$$

$$+ [L_\sigma(V_i \gamma_{t-1}) \odot g_t + i_t \odot L_{\tanh}(V_g \gamma_{t-1}) - L_\sigma(V_i \gamma_{t-1}) \odot L_{\tanh}(V_g \gamma_{t-1})$$

$$+ L_\sigma(b_i) \odot L_{\tanh}(b_g)]$$

$$= \beta_t^u + \gamma_t^u \quad (18)$$

Now the decomposition of  $c_t$  can be found by summing the two contributions:

$$\beta_t^c = \beta_t^f + \beta_t^u \quad (19)$$

$$\gamma_t^c = \gamma_t^f + \gamma_t^u \quad (20)$$

# Implementation (Contd.)

Once decomposition of  $c_t$  is computed, resulting transformation of  $h_t$  is given by:

$$h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(c_t) \quad (21)$$

$$= o_t \odot [L_{\tanh}(\beta_t^c) + L_{\tanh}(\gamma_t^c)] \quad (22)$$

$$= o_t \odot L_{\tanh}(\beta_t^c) + o_t \odot L_{\tanh}(\gamma_t^c) \quad (23)$$

$$= \beta_t + \gamma_t \quad (24)$$

Linearization of tanh gate is also provided in the paper:

$$L_{\tanh}(yk) = \frac{1}{M_N} \sum_{i=1}^{M_N} \left[ \tanh\left( \sum_{j=1}^{\pi_i^{-1}(k)} y_{\pi_i(j)} \right) - \tanh\left( \sum_{j=1}^{\pi_i^{-1}(k)-1} y_{\pi_i(j)} \right) \right] \quad (27)$$

Where,  $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_{M_N}$  denote the set of all permutations of  $1, \dots, N$  variables inside the tanh gate excluding the bias term.

# Data Summary

- **Stanford Sentiment Treebank (SST):** Standard NLP benchmark which consists of movie reviews ranging from 2 to 52 words long. In addition to labels of reviews, it also has labels for each phrase in the review.
- **Yelp Polarity:** This was obtained from the Yelp Dataset Challenge. It has train and test sets of sizes 560,000 and 38,000 respectively. Average length of review is 160.1 words. It contains only review labels.

# Experimental Results and Analysis

Model	SST (Accuracy)	Yelp (Error)
LSTM	87.2%	4.6%
Logistic Regression	83.2%	5.7%

Above results indicate that both LSTM and Logistic Regression perform well on SST as well as Yelp dataset.

Attribution Method	SST (Unigram scores)	Yelp (Error)
CD	0.76	0.52
Integrated Gradients	0.72	0.34 – 0.56
Other Methods	$\leq 0.51$	0.34 – 0.56

For SST, both CD and Integrated Gradients performs better out of all the other methods. On Yelp, although the gap is not very big, but CD is still very competitive and is closer to the best result. Overall, CD gives strong results.

# Experimental Results and Analysis (Contd.)

Attribution Method	Kolmogorov-Smirnov one-sided test statistic
CD	0.74
Cell Decomposition	0
Integrated Gradients	0.33
Leave One out	0.58
Gradient	0.61

Kolmogorov-Smirnov one-sided test statistic is a common test for the difference of distributions with values ranging from 0 to 1. Larger the value means the method is able to identify strong difference between positive and negative distributions. As can be seen, CD outperforms all the other methods.

# Experimental Results and Analysis (Contd.)

Attribution Method	Heat Map									
Gradient	used	to	be	my	favorite	not	worth	the	time	
Leave One Out (Li et al., 2016)	used	to	be	my	favorite	not	worth	the	time	
Cell decomposition (Murdoch & Szlam, 2017)	used	to	be	my	favorite	not	worth	the	time	
Integrated gradients (Sundararajan et al., 2017)	used	to	be	my	favorite	not	worth	the	time	
Contextual decomposition	used	to	be	my	favorite	not	worth	the	time	

Legend  Very Negative  Negative  Neutral  Positive  Very Positive

Table 1: Heat maps for portion of yelp review with different attribution techniques. Only CD captures that "favorite" is positive.

# Experimental Results and Analysis (Contd.)

Attribution Method	Heat Map
Gradient	It's easy to love Robin Tunney – she's pretty and she can act – but it gets harder and harder to understand her choices.
Leave one out (Li et al., 2016)	It's easy to love Robin Tunney – she's pretty and she can act – but it gets harder and harder to understand her choices.
Cell decomposition (Murdoch & Szlam, 2017)	It's easy to love Robin Tunney – she's pretty and she can act – but it gets harder and harder to understand her choices.
Integrated gradients (Sundararajan et al., 2017)	It's easy to love Robin Tunney – she's pretty and she can act – but it gets harder and harder to understand her choices.
Contextual decomposition	It's easy to love Robin Tunney – she's pretty and she can act – but it gets harder and harder to understand her choices.

Legend Very Negative Negative Neutral Positive Very Positive

Table 2: Heat maps for portion of review from SST with different attribution techniques. Only CD captures that the first phrase is positive.

# Experimental Results and Analysis (Contd.)

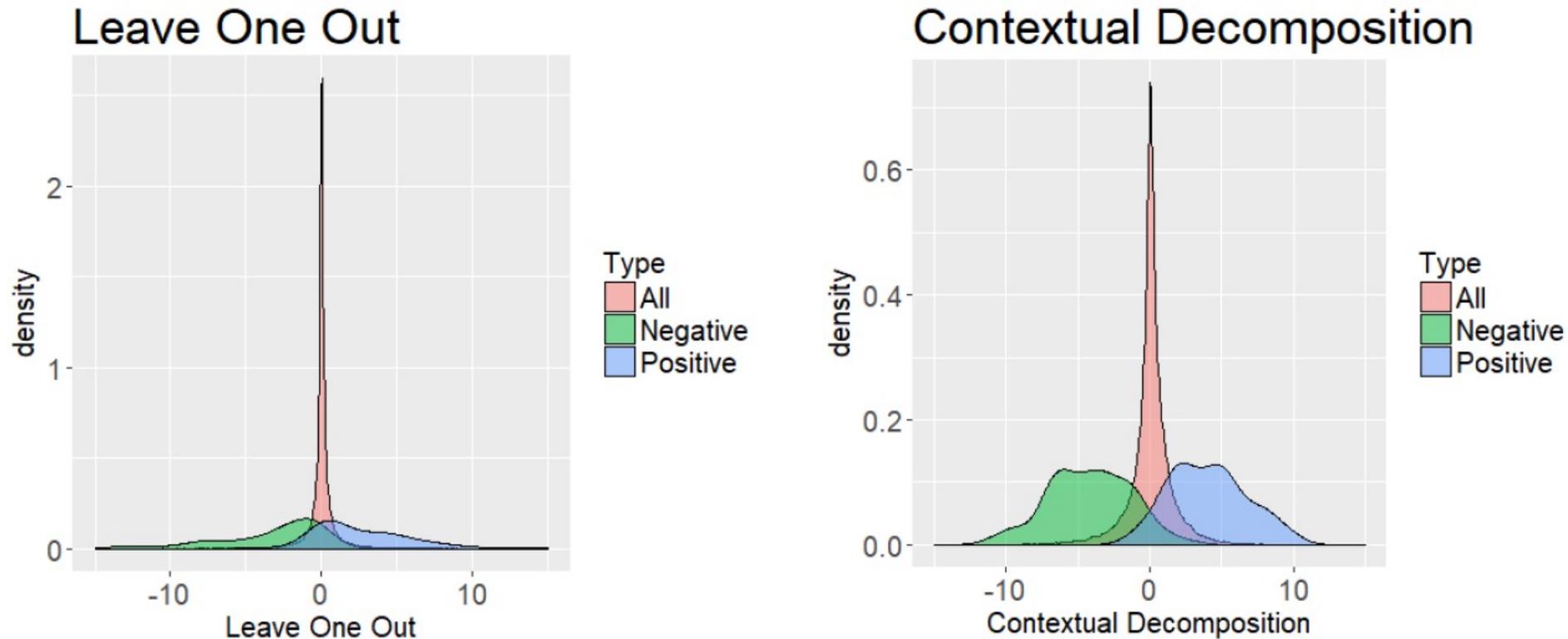


Figure 1: Distribution of scores for positive and negative negation coefficients relative to all interaction coefficients. Only leave one out and CD are capable of producing these interaction scores.

# Experimental Results and Analysis (Contd.)

<b>not entertain- ing</b>	<b>not bad</b>	<b>very funny</b>	<b>entertaining</b>	<b>bad</b>
not funny	never dull	well-put- together piece	intelligent	dull
not engaging	n't drag	entertaining romp	engaging	drag
never satisfac- tory	never fails	very good	satisfying	awful
not well	without sham	surprisingly sweet	admirable	tired
not fit	without missing	very well- written	funny	dreary

Table 3: Nearest neighbours for selected unigrams and interactions using CD embeddings

# Conclusion and Future Work

Proposed contextual decomposition (CD) algorithm is able to interpret predictions made by LSTMs without modifying the underlying model. In both NLP and general applications of LSTMs, CD produces importance scores for words, phrases and word interaction. CD also performs well in comparison with the other methods. Also, CD is capable of identifying phrases of varying sentiment and extracting meaningful word interactions.

# References

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