

Institut de Recherche en Informatique et Systèmes Aléatoires

"Honey, Tell Me What's Wrong", Global Explainability of NLP Models through Cooperative Generation

Antoine Chaffin Julien Delaunay





Introduction



- (Deep) neural networks learn a complex mapping between inputs and outputs
 - **Larger models have more capacity**, can approximate even more complex functions
- Explainability try to give **insights about the decision**





- Being able to justify the decision of a deployed model (legal)
- Identify biases (fairness)
- Identify edge cases and understand failures of the model (performance)





- Do not rely on the inner working of the model
 - Model agnostic to work on every model
- Explain the **decision for a given input**: local explanation





- 1. Generate **neighbors** of the instance to explain
- 2. Use the complex model to get decision for these samples
- 3. Learn a **linear model** with these decisions
- 4. The linear model is used as an **local approximation of the complex model**





- 1. Requires data (confidentiality/privacy)
- 2. Selecting representative data is hard
- 3. Explain the decision for this input and this input only





Therapy



- Probability of the **next word given past ones**
- Iteratively add tokens to produce text





- Few options to control the generation besides the **prompt**
- Add some **constraints** on the generated text (writing style, emotion/polarity, detoxification, etc.)

Text
generationI feel
$$\longrightarrow$$
 Language modelI feel normalI feel \longrightarrow Language model \longrightarrow I feel normalConstrained text
generationI feel \longrightarrow Language model \longrightarrow I feel terrified



- Guide the generation using the **score of an external model**
- Generate text following the conditional distribution (product of the language model likelihood and the score of the discriminative model)

 $p(x \mid c) \propto p(x) * p(c \mid x)$





• Learn a logistic regression to predict class of generated texts using **tf-idf**

IRISA **S**

Therapy

- Weights associated to each word can be returned as explanation
- Words that are frequent because of the language model or across different class will be **filtered out**





- Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS) properties:
 - **1.** Long-term vision: scores the next token using finished sequences (rollout)
 - 2. Efficient: exploration of sub-optimal paths has an upper bound
 - 3. Modular: outputs a solution according to the computational budget
 - 4. Plug and play: can be used with any LM and discriminator without any tuning





Experiments



• Two tasks: **polarity** (amazon_polarity) & **topic** (ag_news) classification

amazon_polarity

[POSITIVE] Stuning even for the non-gamer. This sound track was beautiful! It paints the senery in your mind so well I would recomend it even to people who hate vid. game music! I have played the game Chrono Cross but out of all of the games I have ever played it has the best music! It backs away from crude keyboarding and takes a fresher step with grate guitars and soulful orchestras. It would impress anyone who cares to listen! ^_^

[NEGATIVE] "A complete waste of time. Typographical errors, poor grammar, and a totally pathetic plot add up to absolutely nothing. I'm embarrassed for this author and very disappointed I actually paid for this book."

ag_news

[World] Talks End With No U.S. Climate Deal A U.N. conference ended early Saturday with a vague plan for informal new talks on how to slow global warming but without a U.S. commitment to multilateral negotiations on next steps, including emissions controls.

[Sports] Wenger Ready To Prove Doubters Wrong Arsene Wenger has hit back at critics who claim that Arsenal cannot perform against Europe; big guns after being drawn against Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

[Business] Carlyle Looks Toward Commercial Aerospace (Reuters) Reuters - Private investment firm Carlyle Group, which has a reputation for making well-timed and occasionally\controversial plays in the defense industry, has quietly placed its bets on another part of the market.

[Sci/Tech] Hacker Cracks Apple's Streaming Technology (AP) AP -The Norwegian hacker famed for developing DVD encryptioncracking software has apparently struck again; this time breaking the locks on Apple Computer Inc.'s wireless music streaming technology.



- No « ground truth explanations » available
- Use of a **glass-box**: a model explainable by design but used as a black-box
- List of features that contains important features and link them to similar (relative) weights
 - Spearman correlation of the explanation and glass-box weights





- Correlation quickly grows with the number of generated texts until plateauing
 - Only a small number of samples is needed





- SHAP is better than LIME and Therapy on both datasets
- Therapy is better than LIME on ag_news but worse on amazon_polarity
- When using data from the other dataset: SHAP & LIME collapse, way below Therapy

Dataset	AMAZON_POLARITY		AG_NEWS			
Class	Positive	Negative	World	Sports	Business	Sci/Tech
LIME	0.64 (5.0e-7)	0.44 (1.5e-3)	0.09 (0.53)	0.16 (0.27)	0.20 (0.16)	0.19 (0.19)
LIME-other	0.21 (0.14)	0.18 (0.21)	-0.03 (0.85)	0.23 (0.12)	0.09 (0.52)	0.29 (0.04)
SHAP	0.71 (7.6e-9)	0.76 (1.6e-10)	0.47 (6.2e-4)	0.62 (1.7e-06)	0.53 (8.0e-5)	0.61 (2.4e-6)
SHAP-other	0.02 (0.87)	0.26 (0.06)	-0.05 (0.71)	0.04 (0.77)	0.15 (0.31)	0.12 (0.41)
Therapy	0.49 (3.3e-08)	0.31 (1.0e-4)	0.27 (1.6e-07)	0.37 (4.0e-12)	0.38 (5.6e-13)	0.3 (8.9e-09)

Table 1: Spearman correlation (p-value) between the top words of a logistic regression glass box and the four explanation methods. Results are shown per class and dataset. 'other' indicate that the explanations are generated using the other dataset.



- Besides correct scores: returned features are important and most important features are found
- **Precision/recall curves** using top-words of the glass-box as targets
- Again, Therapy is below LIME and SHAP (although competitive), but those collapse because limited to terms present in the data





- Assert whether the features returned affect the model predictions
 - **Removing the « cause »** should force the black-box to change its decision^[1]
 - Adding words from the other classes should also lower its confidence
- Percentage of **classification changes** w.r.t the number of swapped words



[1] Vitali Petsiuk, Abir Das, Kate Saenko. RISE: Randomized Input Sampling for Explanation of Black-box Models



- Therapy is a model-agnostic global explanation method that works without input data
- Rather than using input data, it leverage cooperative generation to generate texts following the distribution learned the studied model
 - Search is driven by a pre-trained LM
- It achieves competitive results against usual methods when those have access to very specific data that contains target features
- In the more realistic case where no data or not very specific data is available, performances drop substantially below Therapy
- Code based on Hugging Face transformer library available on Github
 - Experiments with other type of model, e.g **CLIP (cross-modal regression)**

Thank you for your attention ! Any question ?



antoine.chaffin@irisa.fr 🔰 @antoine_chaffin

Institut de Recherche en Informatique et Systèmes Aléatoires



- 1. Compute permutations of the input
- 2. Compute marginal contribution of each element for every permutation

