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Evaluating systematicity in neural networks with natural language inference

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Abstract

Compositionality makes linguistic creativity possible. By combining words, we can express uncountably many thoughts; by learning new words, we can extend the system and express a vast number of new thoughts. Recently, a number of studies have questioned the ability of neural networks to generalize compositionally (Dasgupta, Guo, Gershman & Goodman, 2018). We extend this line of work by systematically investigating the way in which these systems generalize novel words.

In the setting of a simple system for natural language inference, natural logic (McCartney & Manning, 2007), we systematically explore the generalization capabilities of various neural network architectures. We identify several key properties of a compositional system, and develop metrics to test them. We show that these architectures do not generalize in human-like ways, lacking inductive leaps characteristic of human learning.