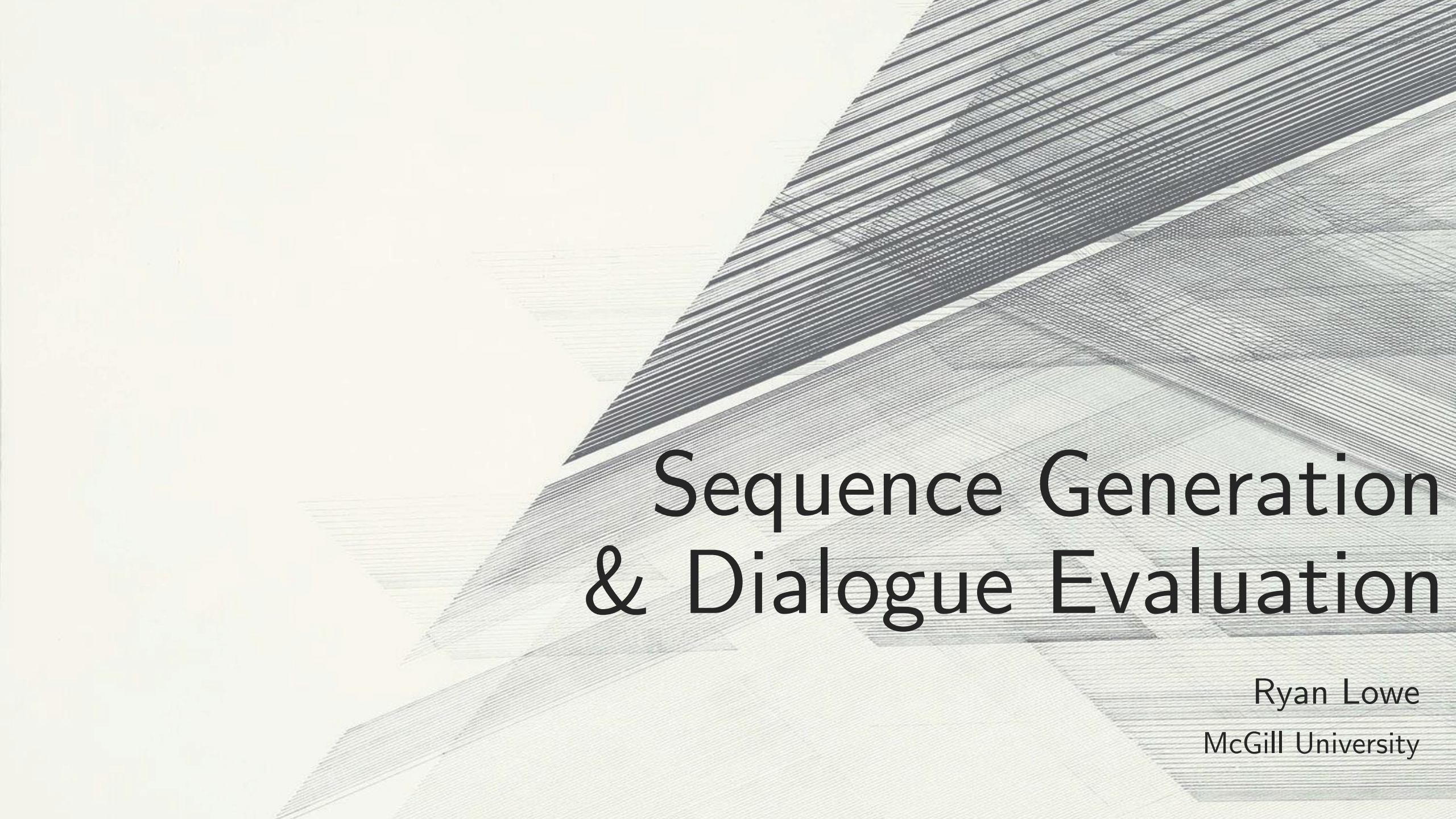




Sequence Generation & Dialogue Evaluation

Ryan Lowe
McGill University

Outline

Part I: Sequence generation

- Latent variable hierarchical encoder-decoder (Serban et al., 2016)
- Actor-critic for sequence prediction (Bahdanau et al., 2016)

Part II: Dialogue evaluation

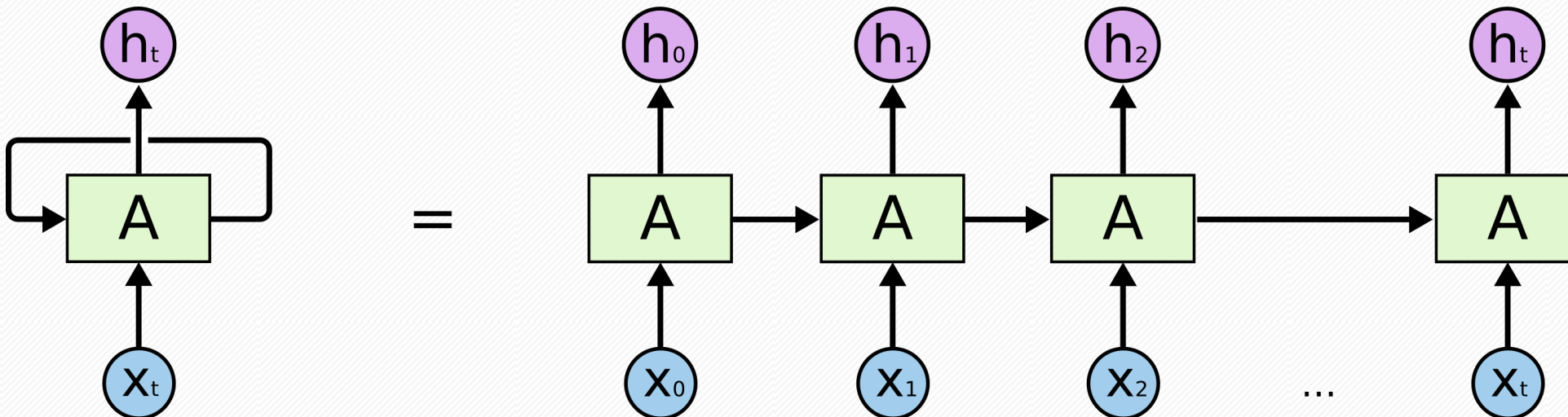
- How not to evaluate (Liu*, Lowe*, Serban*, Noseworthy* et al., 2016)
- Learning to evaluate (Lowe et al., 2016)

Part I: Sequence Generation

a) Latent variable hierarchical encoder-decoder

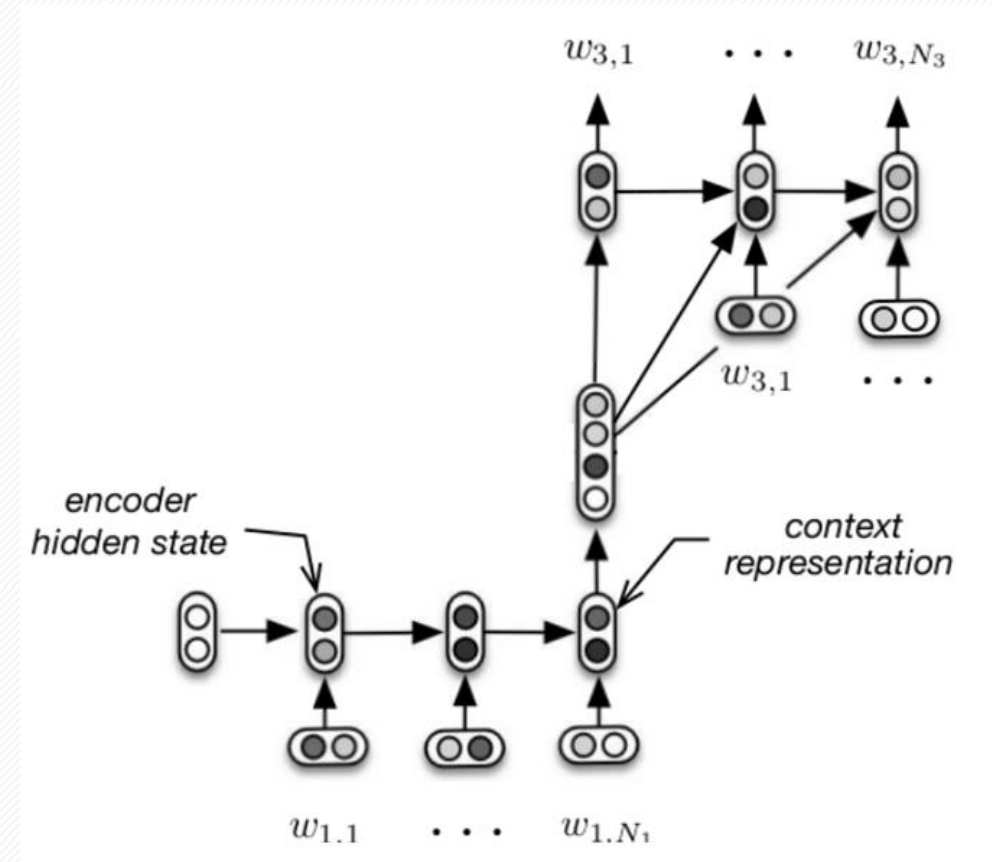
Recurrent neural networks

- Augment neural networks with self-loops
- Leads to the formation of a *hidden state* s_t that evolves over time:
$$h_t = f(W_{hh}h_{t-1} + W_{ih}x_t)$$
- Used to model sequences (e.g. natural language)



Sequence-to-sequence learning

- Use an RNN **encoder** to map an input sequence to a fixed-length vector
 - Use an RNN **decoder** (with different parameters) to map the vector to the target sequence
- (Cho et al., 2014; Sutskever et al., 2014)



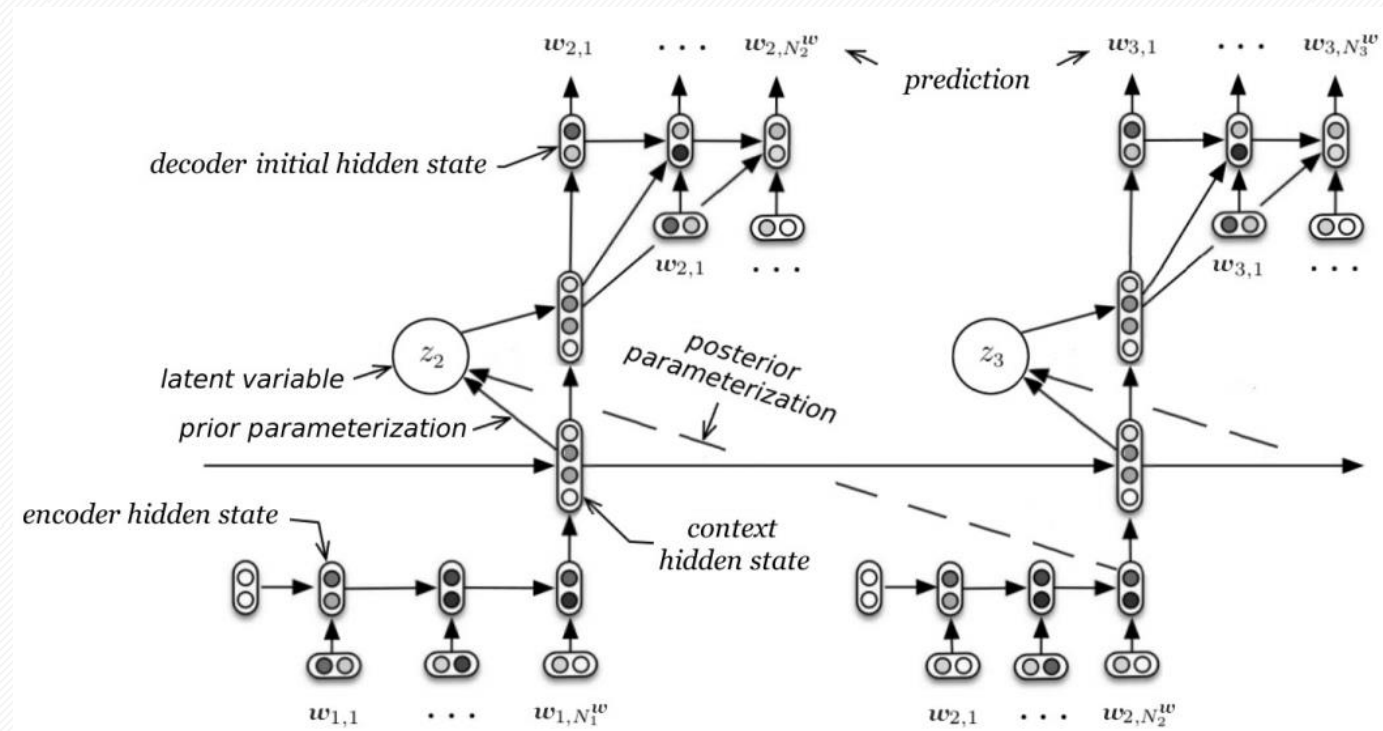
Some problems

- Strong constraint on generation process: **only source of variation is at the output**
- When the model lacks capacity, it is encouraged to mostly capture short-term dependencies
- Want to explicitly model variations at ‘higher level’ representations (e.g. topic, tone, sentiment, etc.)

Variational encoder-decoder (VHRED)



- Augment encoder-decoder with **Gaussian latent variable** z
- z can capture high-level utterance features (e.g. topic, tone)
- When generating first sample latent variable, then use it to condition generation



Serban, Sordoni, Lowe, Charlin, Pineau, Courville, Bengio.
“A Hierarchical Latent Variable Encoder-Decoder Model for
Generating Dialogues.” *arXiv:1605.06069*, 2016.

Variational encoder-decoder (VHRED)

- Inspired by VAE (Kingma & Welling, 2014; Rezende et al., 2014): train model with backprop using reparameterization trick
- Prior mean and variance are **learned** conditioned on previous utterance representation. Posterior mean and variance also conditioned on representation of target utterance.
- At training time, sample from posterior. At test time, sample from prior.
- Developed concurrently with Bowman et al. (2016)
 - Use word-dropping and KL annealing tricks

Quantitative results

Table 1: Wins, losses and ties (in %) of VHRED against baselines based on the human study (mean preferences $\pm$ 90% confidence intervals, where * indicates significant differences at 90% confidence)

Opponent	Wins	Losses	Ties
Short Contexts			
VHRED vs LSTM	32.3 $\pm$ 2.4	42.5 $\pm$ 2.6*	25.2 $\pm$ 2.3
VHRED vs HRED	42.0 $\pm$ 2.8*	31.9 $\pm$ 2.6	26.2 $\pm$ 2.5
VHRED vs TF-IDF	51.6 $\pm$ 3.3*	17.9 $\pm$ 2.5	30.4 $\pm$ 3.0
Long Contexts			
VHRED vs LSTM	41.9 $\pm$ 2.2*	36.8 $\pm$ 2.2	21.3 $\pm$ 1.9
VHRED vs HRED	41.5 $\pm$ 2.8*	29.4 $\pm$ 2.6	29.1 $\pm$ 2.6
VHRED vs TF-IDF	47.9 $\pm$ 3.4*	11.7 $\pm$ 2.2	40.3 $\pm$ 3.4

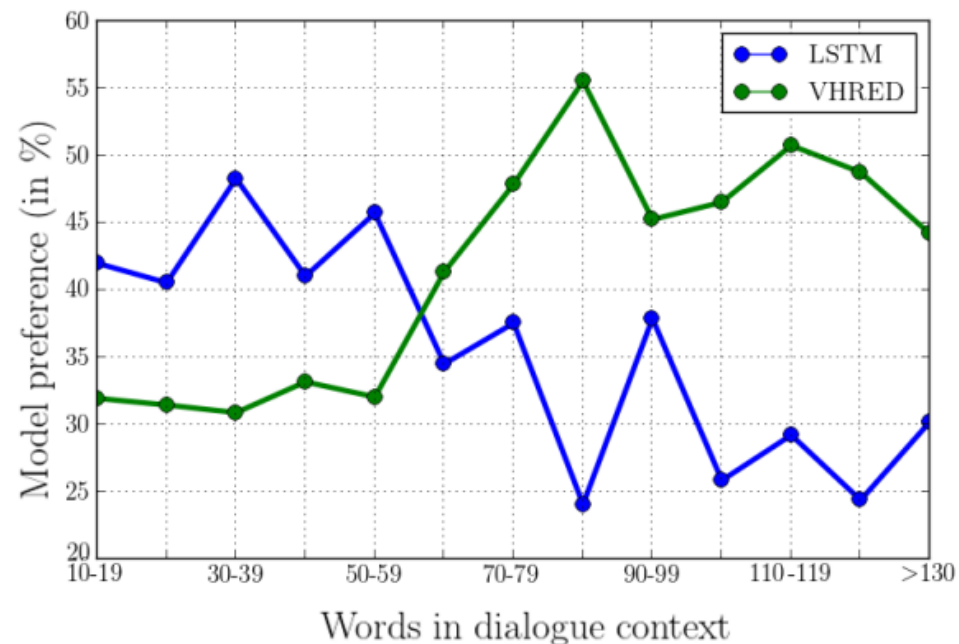


Figure 2: Human evaluator preferences for VHRED vs LSTM by context length excluding ties. For short contexts humans prefer the generic responses generated by LSTM, while for long contexts humans prefer the semantically richer responses generated by VHRED.

Cherry-picked results

Table 2: Twitter examples for the neural network models. The $\rightarrow$ token indicates a change of turn.

[illegible]

Part I: Sequence Generation

b) Actor-critic for sequence prediction

Some more problems

- Discrepancy between training and test times due to **teacher forcing** (conditioning next prediction on previous ground-truth output)
- Often want to maximize a **task-specific score** (e.g. BLEU) instead of log-likelihood

RL background

- Have states s , actions a , rewards r , policy $\pi = p(a|s)$

- Return:
$$R = \sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t r_{t+1}$$

- Value function:
$$V(s_t) = \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi}[R|s_t]$$

- Action-value function:
$$Q(s_t, a_t) = \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi}[R|s_t, a_t = a]$$

TD learning

- Methods for policy evaluation (i.e. calculating the value function for a policy)
- Monte Carlo learning: wait until end of the episode to observe the return R

$$V(s_t) = V(s_t) + \alpha[R - V(s_t)]$$

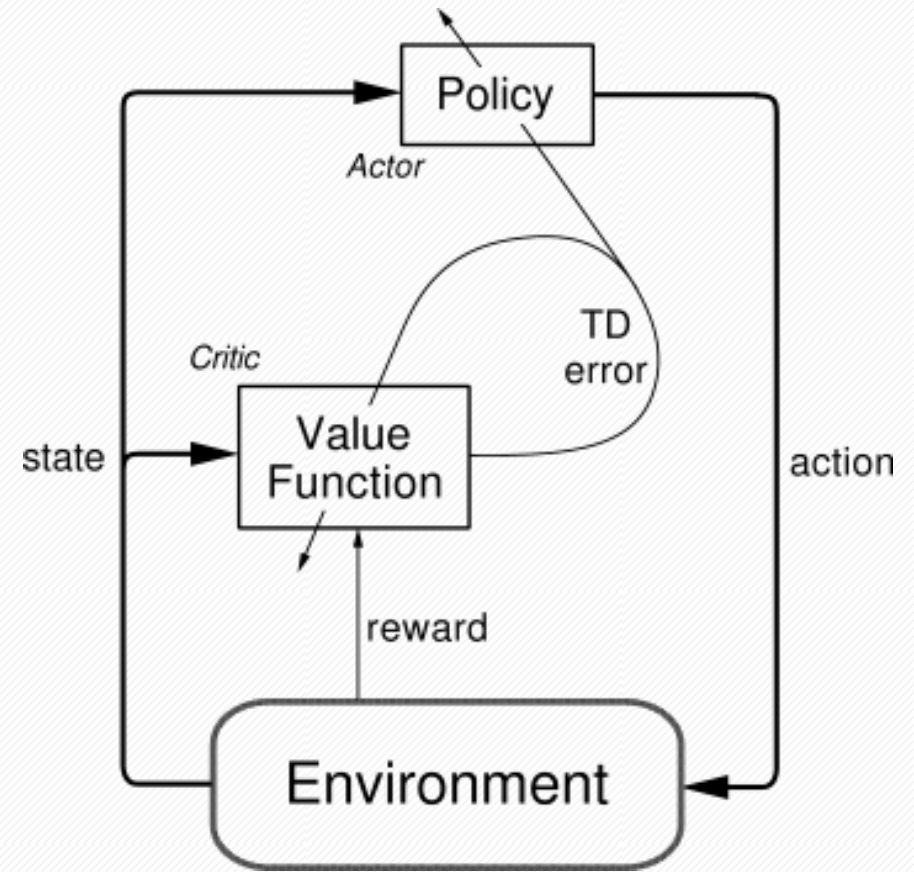
- TD(0) learning: **bootstrap** off your previous estimate of V

$$V(s_t) = V(s_t) + \alpha[(r_t + \gamma V(s_{t+1})) - V(s_t)]$$

- $\delta_t = [(r_t + \gamma V(s_{t+1})) - V(s_t)]$ is the **TD-error**

Actor-critic

- Have a parametrized value function Q (the **critic**) and policy π (the **actor**)
- Actor takes actions according to π , critic 'criticizes' them by computing Q-value

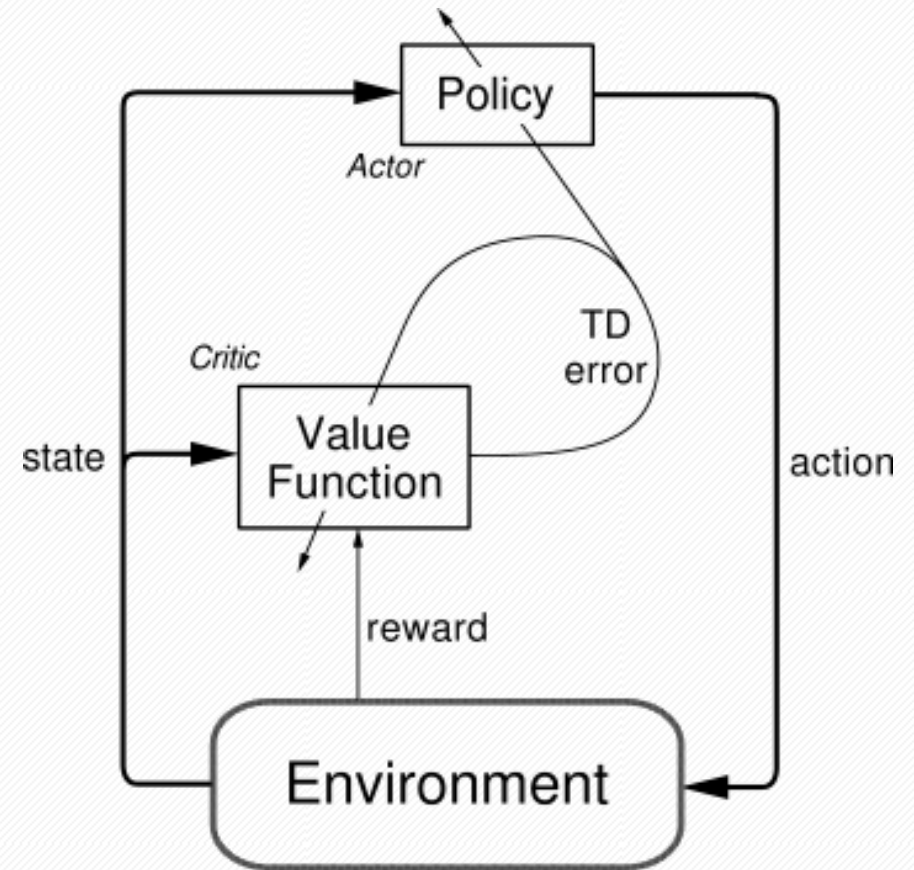


Source: Sutton & Barto (1998)

Actor-critic

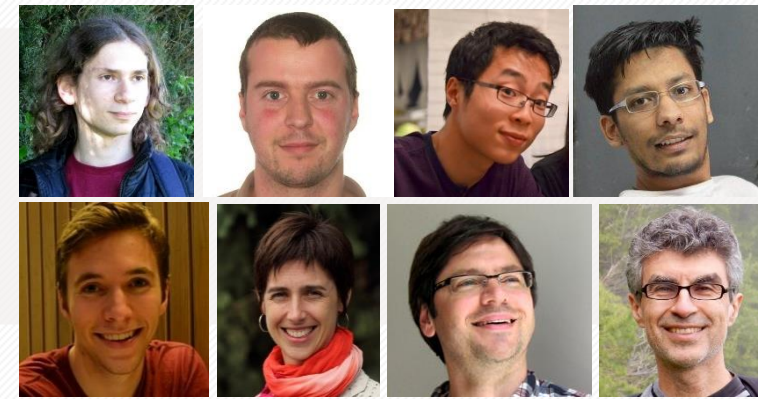
- Critic usually learns with TD
- Actor learns according to the **policy gradient theorem**:

$$\frac{dR}{d\theta} = E_{\pi_{\theta}} [\nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(s, a) Q^{\pi_{\theta}}(s, a)]$$



Source: Sutton & Barto (1998)

Actor-critic for sequence prediction



- Actor will be some function with parameters θ that predicts sequence one token at a time (i.e. generates 1 word at a time), *conditioned on its own previous predictions*
- Critic will be some function with parameters ϕ that computes the Q-value of decisions made by actor, which is used for learning
- Could use REINFORCE (e.g. Ranzato et al., (2015)), but this has higher variance

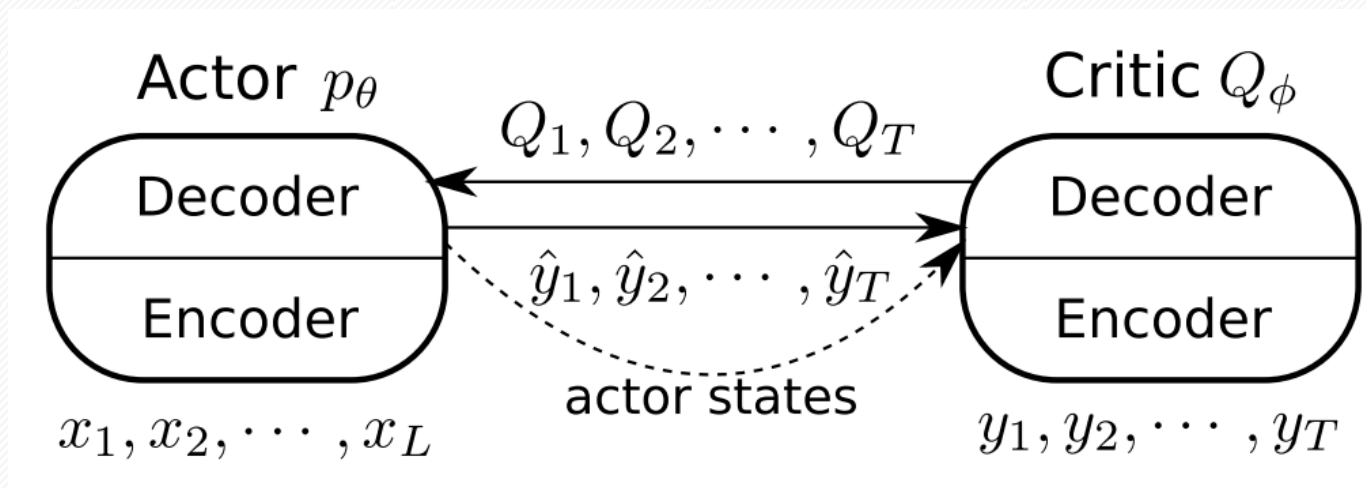
Actor-critic for sequence prediction

Since we are doing supervised learning, there are a couple differences to the RL case:

- 1) We can condition the critic on the **actual ground-truth answer**, to give a better training signal
- 2) Since there is a train/test split, don't use critic at test time
- 3) Since there is no stochastic environment, we can sum over all candidate actions to compute expectation in policy gradient thm

Deep implementation

- For actor and critic, use an RNN with 'soft-attention' (Bahdanau et al., 2015)
- Actor takes **source sentence** and sequence generated so far as input and predicts target sentence
- Critic takes **target sentence** and sequence generated so far, and computes Q-value



Tricks

- Use a **target network**, as in DQN
- Apply a **variance penalty** to the critic
- Use **reward shaping** to decompose final BLEU score into intermediate rewards
- **Pre-train** actor with log-likelihood, critic with fixed actor

Results – spelling correction

Table 1: Character error rate of different methods on the spelling correction task. In the table L is the length of input strings, η is the probability of replacing a character with a random one.

Setup	Character Error Rate		
	Log-likelihood	Actor-Critic	REINFORCE with critic
$L = 10, \eta = 0.3$	18.6	17.2	17.8
$L = 30, \eta = 0.3$	18.5	17.3	18.2
$L = 10, \eta = 0.5$	38.2	35.9	35.8
$L = 30, \eta = 0.5$	41.3	37.0	37.6

Results – translation

Table 2: Our machine translation results compared to the previous work by Ranzato et al. The abbreviations LL, RF, RF-C, AC stand for log-likelihood, REINFORCE, REINFORCE with critic and actor-critic training respectively. “greedy” and “beam” columns report results obtained with different decoding methods. The numbers reported with $\leq$ were approximately read from Figure 6 of Ranzato et al.

Paper	BLEU	
	greedy	beam
Ranzato et al., LL	17.74	≤ 20.3
Ranzato et al., MIXER	20.73	≤ 21.9
This work, LL	19.57	21.67
This work, RF	20.64	21.45
This work, RF-C	22.08	22.58
This work, AC	21.43	22.09

Results – translation

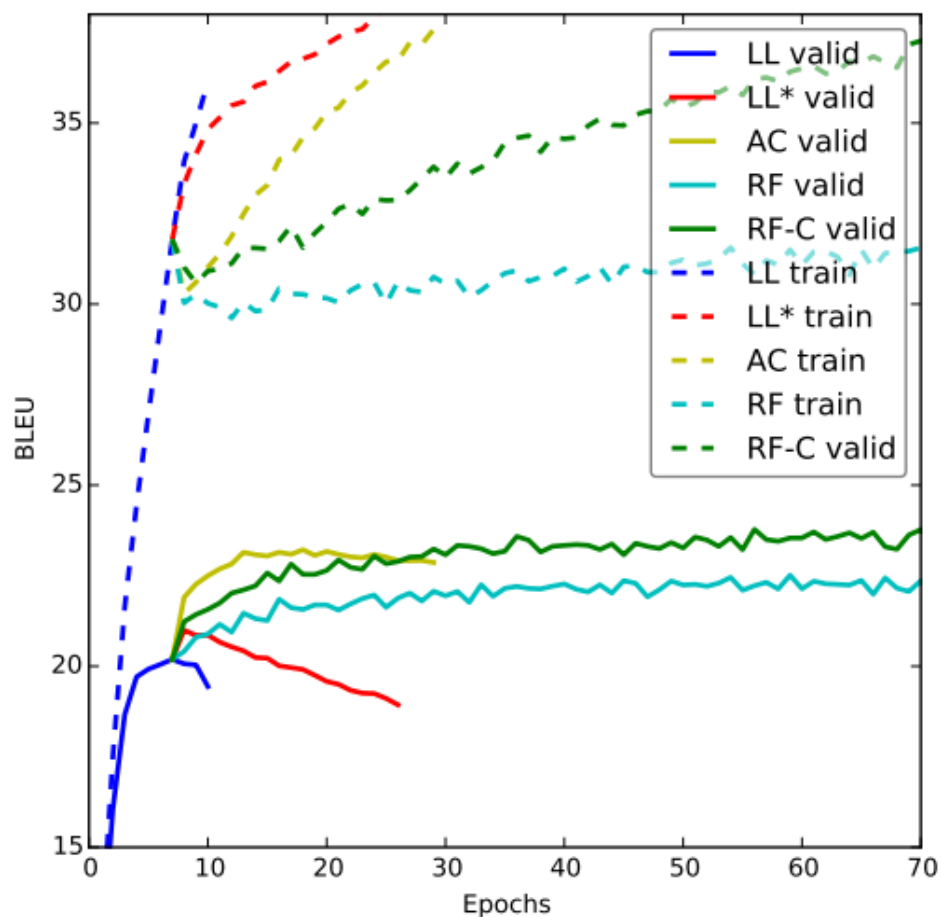


Figure 2: Progress of log-likelihood (LL), REINFORCE (RF) and actor-critic (AC) training in terms of BLEU score on the training (train) and validation (valid) datasets. LL* stands for the annealing phase of log-likelihood training. The curves start from the epoch of log-likelihood pretraining from which the parameters were initialized.

Part II: Dialogue Evaluation

Dialogue research

- Datasets for dialogue systems
 - The Ubuntu Dialogue Corpus (Lowe*, Pow* et al., 2015)
 - A survey of available corpora (Serban et al., 2015)
- Dialogue evaluation
 - How not to do it (Liu*, Lowe*, Serban*, Noseworthy* et al., 2016)
 - A slightly better way to do it (Lowe et al., 2016)



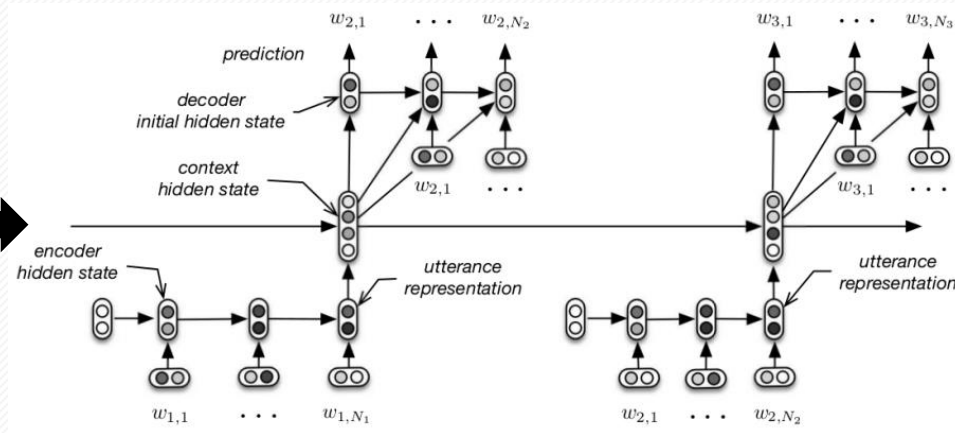
Why dialogue evaluation?

- Intelligent machines should be able to communicate with humans
- Dialogue is a great way to communicate with humans
- Hard to know if we're making progress in building dialogue models
- Particularly interested in 'non-task-oriented' setting

Comparison of ground-truth utterance

Context

Hey, want to go to the movies tonight?



Generated Response

Nah, let's do something active.

Reference response

Yeah, the film about Turing looks great!

SCORE

Comparison of ground-truth utterance

- Word-overlap metrics:
 - BLEU, METEOR, ROUGE
- Look at the **number of overlapping n-grams** between the generated and reference responses
- Correlate poorly with humans in dialogue

Generated Response

Yes, let's go see that movie about Turing!

Reference response

Nah, I'd rather stay at home, thanks.

→ **SCORE**

Correlation study



- Created 100 questions each for Twitter and Ubuntu datasets (20 contexts with responses from 5 'diverse models')
- 25 volunteers from CS department at McGill
- Asked to judge response quality on a scale from 1 to 5
- Compared human ratings with ratings from automatic evaluation metrics

Models for response variety

- 1) Randomly selected response
- 2) Retrieval models:
 - Response with smallest TF-IDF cosine distance
 - Response selected by Dual Encoder (DE) model
- 3) Generative models:
 - Hierarchical recurrent encoder-decoder (HRED)
- 4) Human-written response (not ground truth)

Goal (inter-annotator)

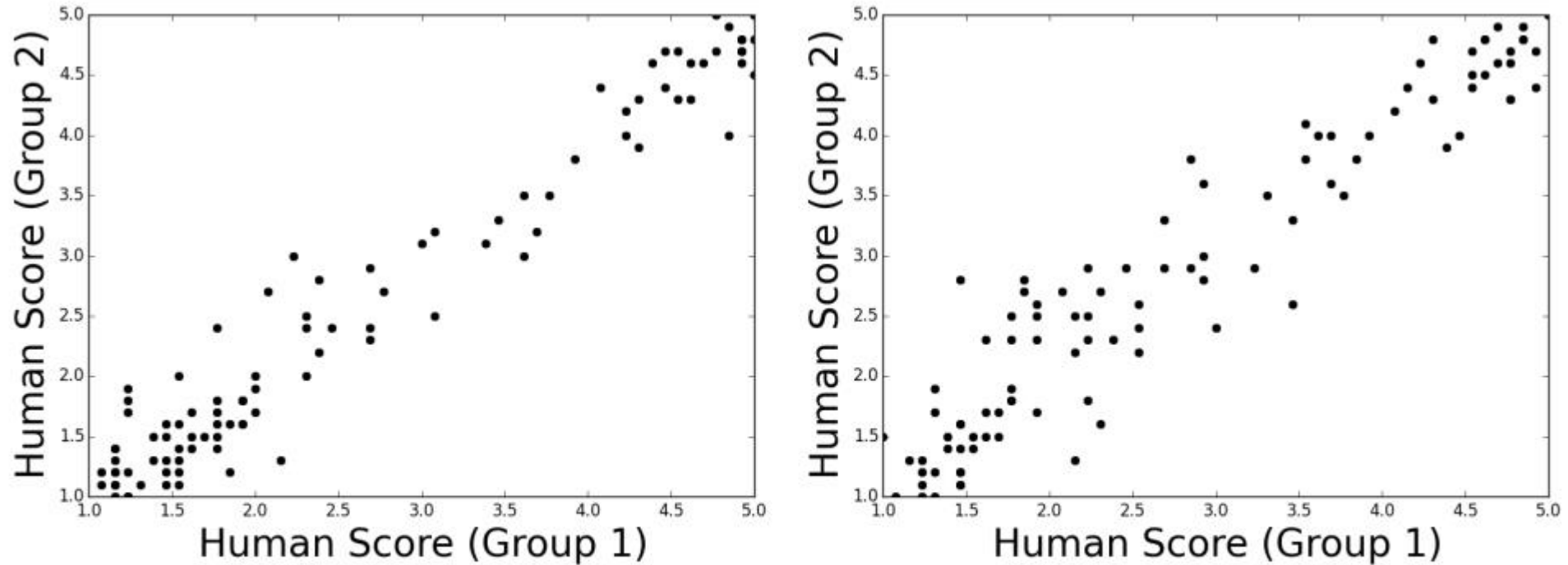
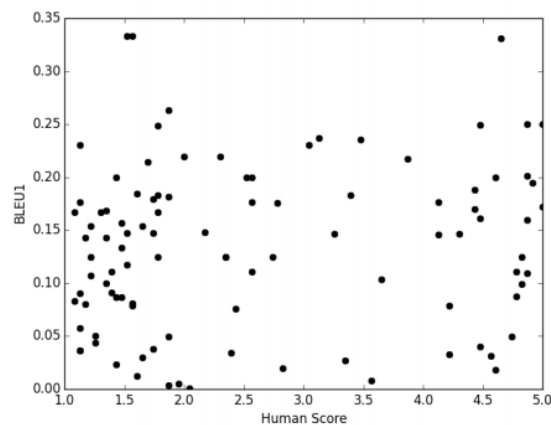
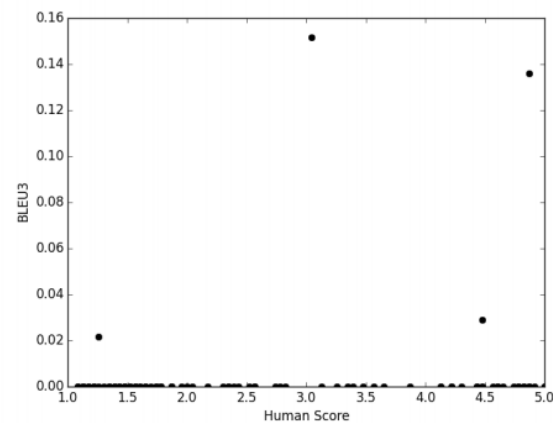
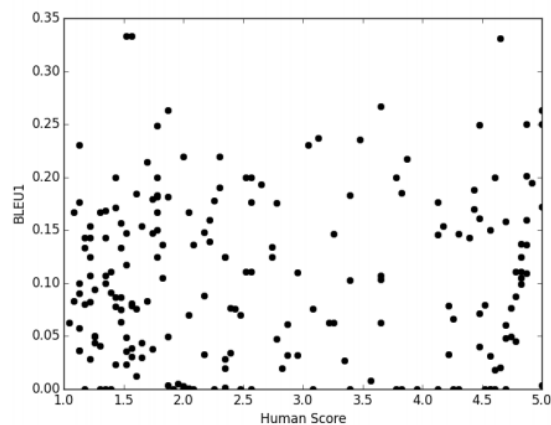


Figure 3: Scatter plots showing the correlation between two randomly chosen groups of human volunteers on the Twitter corpus (left) and Ubuntu Dialogue Corpus (right).

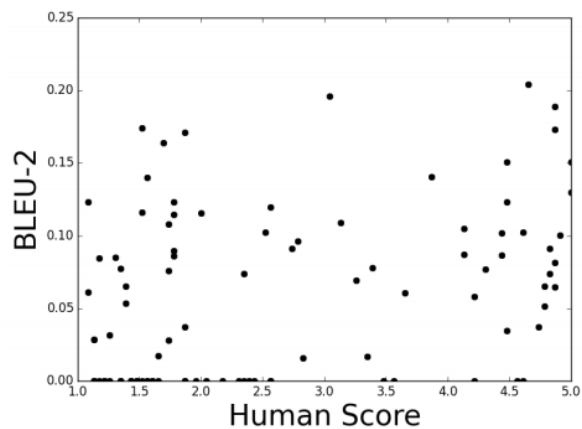
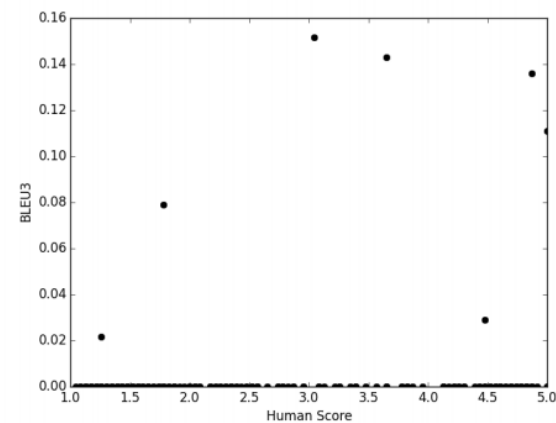
Reality (BLEU)



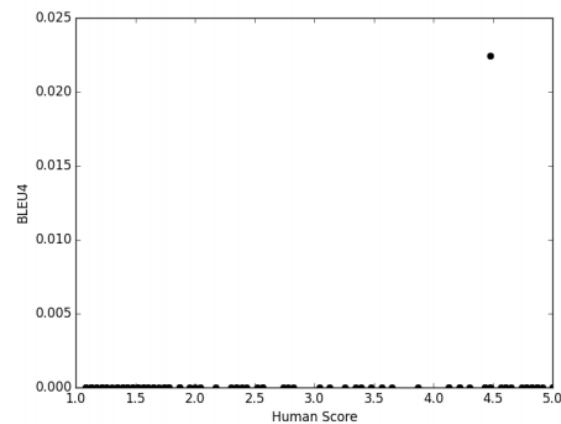
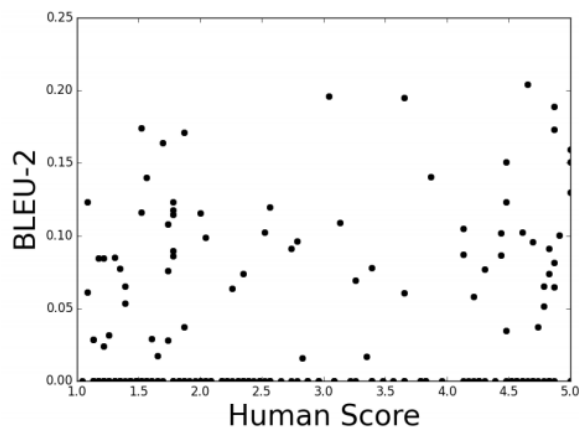
(a) BLEU-1



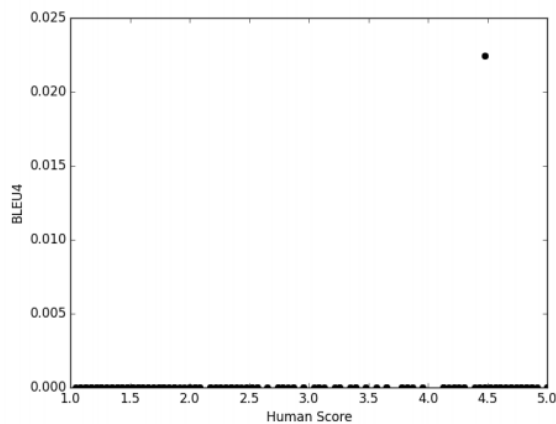
(c) BLEU-3



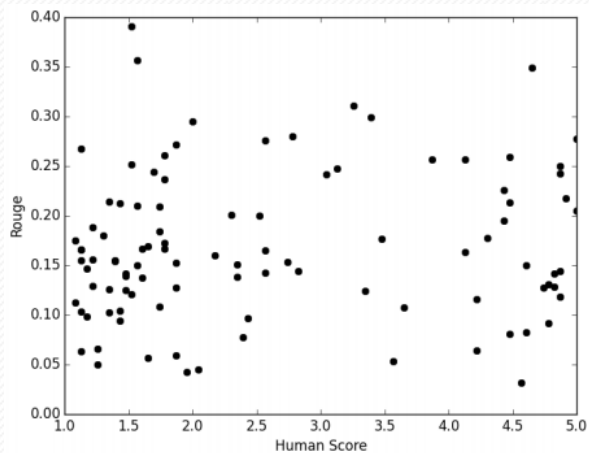
(b) BLEU-2



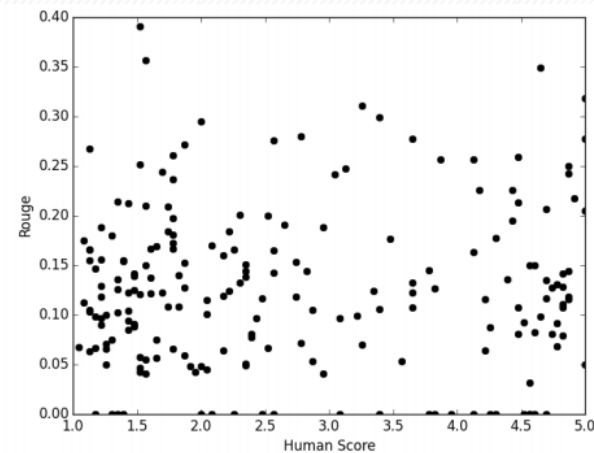
(d) BLEU-4



Reality (ROUGE & METEOR)



(a) ROUGE



(b) METEOR

Length bias

	Mean score		p-value
	$\Delta w \leq 6$ (n=47)	$\Delta w \geq 6$ (n=53)	
BLEU-1	0.1724	0.1009	< 0.01
BLEU-2	0.0744	0.04176	< 0.01
Average	0.6587	0.6246	0.25
METEOR	0.2386	0.2073	< 0.01
Human	2.66	2.57	0.73

Table 5: Effect of differences in response length for the Twitter dataset, Δw = absolute difference in #words between a ground truth response and proposed response

Learning to evaluate



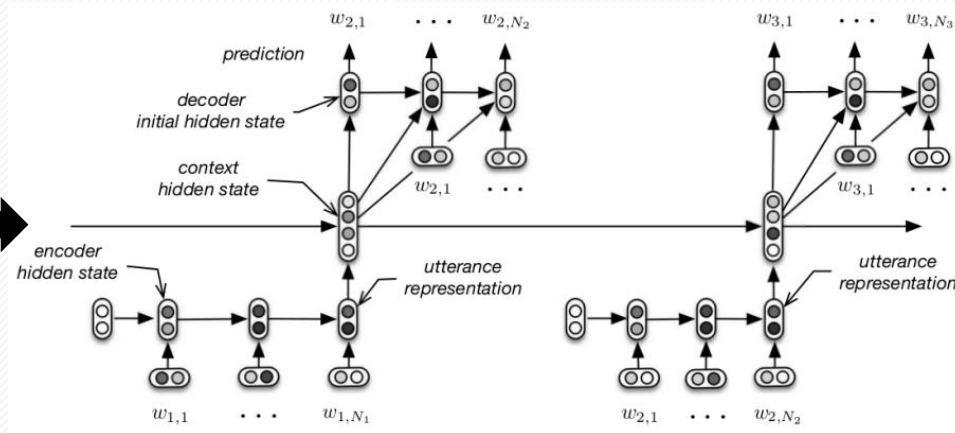
A dialogue response is probably good if it is rated highly by humans.

- Collect a labelled dataset of human scores of responses
- Build a model that **learns to predict human scores** of response quality (**ADEM**)
- Condition response score on the reference response and the context

Context-conditional evaluation

Context

Hey, want to go to the movies tonight?



Generated Response

Nah, let's do something active.

Reference response

Yeah, the film about Turing looks great!

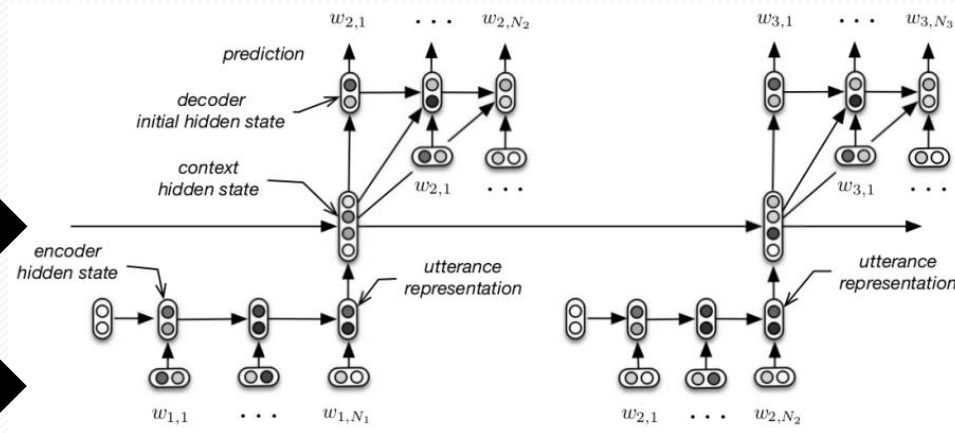
SCORE

Context-conditional evaluation

Context

~~Hey, want to go to the movies tonight?~~

Seen any good movies recently?



Generated Response

Nah, let's do something active.

Reference response

Yeah, the film about Turing looks great!

SCORE

Evaluation dataset

Conducted 2 rounds of AMT studies to get evaluation on Twitter

Study 1: ask workers to generate next sentence of a conversation

Study 2: ask workers to evaluate responses from various models (human, TFIDF, HRED, DE)

# Examples	4104
# Contexts	1026
# Training examples	2,872
# Validation examples	616
# Test examples	616
κ score (inter-annotator correlation)	0.63

ADEM

- Given: context c , model response r , reference response $\hat{r}$ (with embeddings $\mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{r}$, $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$), compute score as:

$$score(c, r, \hat{r}) = (\mathbf{c}^T M \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{r}^T N \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \alpha) / \beta$$

where M , N are parameter matrices, α , β are constants.

- Trained to minimize squared error:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{i=1:K} [score(c_i, r_i, \hat{r}_i) - human_score_i]^2 + \gamma ||\theta||_1$$

ADEM

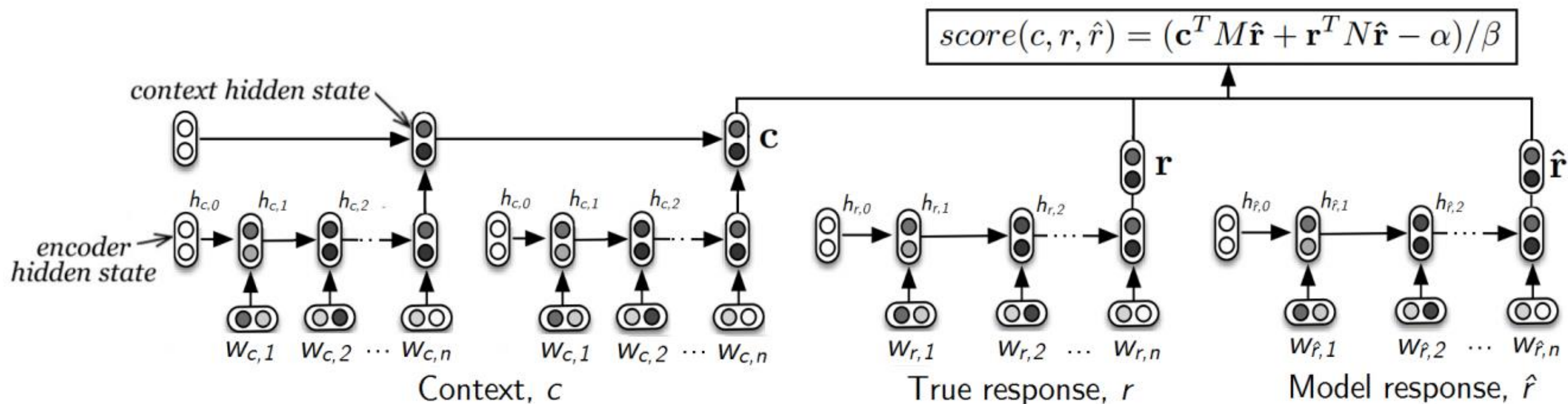


Figure 2: The ADEM model, which uses a hierarchical encoder to produce the context embedding $\mathbf{c}$.

ADEM pre-training

- Want model that can learn from limited data (since collection is expensive)
- Pre-train RNN encoder of ADEM using VHRED

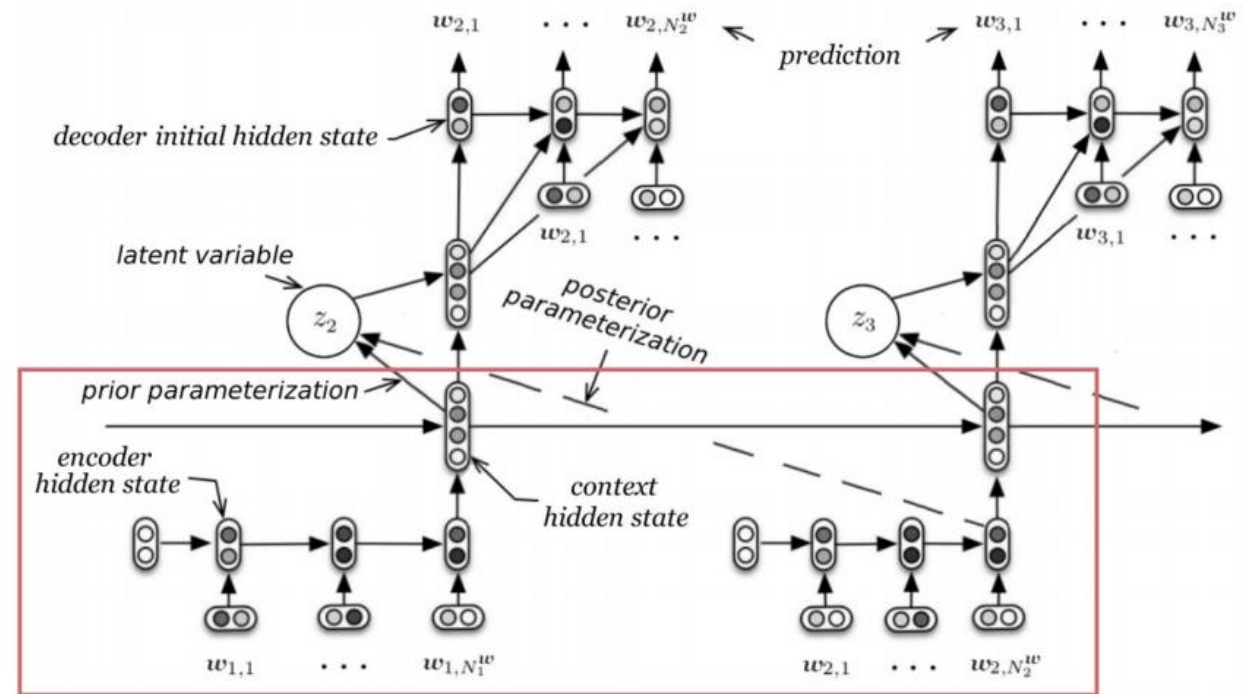
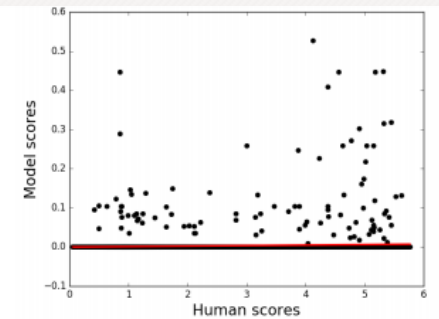


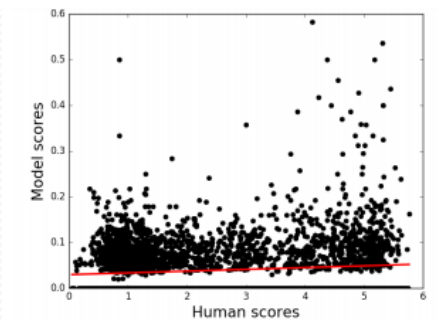
Figure 5: The VHRED model used for pre-training. The hierarchical structure of the RNN encoder is shown in the red box around the bottom half of the figure.

Utterance-level results

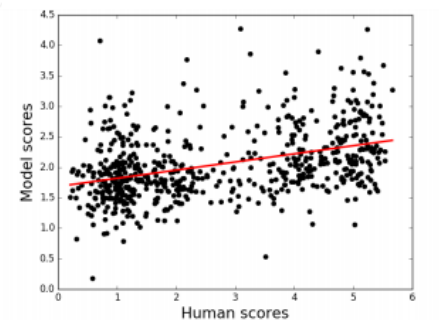
Metric	Full dataset		Test set	
	Spearman	Pearson	Spearman	Pearson
BLEU-1	0.026 (0.102)	0.055 (<0.001)	0.036 (0.413)	0.074 (0.097)
BLEU-2	0.039 (0.013)	0.081 (<0.001)	0.051 (0.254)	0.120 (<0.001)
BLEU-3	0.045 (0.004)	0.043 (0.005)	0.051 (0.248)	0.073 (0.104)
BLEU-4	0.051 (0.001)	0.025 (0.113)	0.063 (0.156)	0.073 (0.103)
ROUGE	0.062 (<0.001)	0.114 (<0.001)	0.096 (0.031)	0.147 (<0.001)
METEOR	0.021 (0.189)	0.022 (0.165)	0.013 (0.745)	0.021 (0.601)
tweet2vec	0.140 (<0.001)	0.141 (<0.001)	0.140 (<0.001)	0.141 (<0.001)
VHRED	-0.035 (0.062)	-0.030 (0.106)	-0.091 (0.023)	-0.010 (0.805)
	Validation set		Test set	
	Spearman	Pearson	Spearman	Pearson
ADEM (T2V)	0.395 (<0.001)	0.392 (<0.001)	0.408 (<0.001)	0.411 (<0.001)
ADEM	0.436 (<0.001)	0.389 (<0.001)	0.414 (<0.001)	0.395 (<0.001)



(a) BLEU-2



(b) ROUGE



(c) ADEM

System-level results

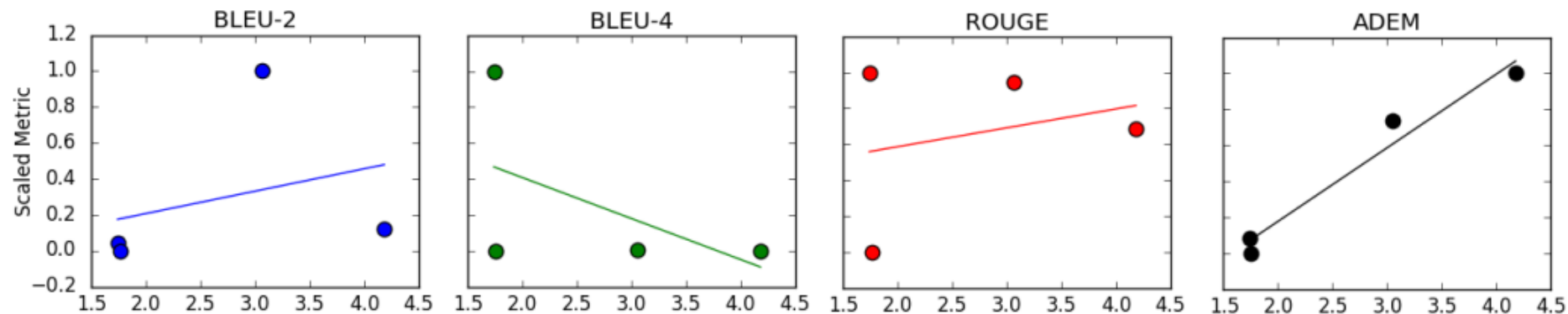


Figure 4: Scatterplots depicting the system-level correlation results for ADEM, BLEU-2, BLEU-4, and ROUGE. Each point represents the average scores for the responses from a dialogue model (TFIDF, DE, HRED, human). Human scores are shown on the horizontal axis, with normalized metric scores on the vertical axis. The ideal metric has a perfectly linear relationship.

Metric	Pearson
BLEU-1	-0.079 (0.921)
BLEU-2	0.308 (0.692)
BLEU-3	-0.537 (0.463)
BLEU-4	-0.536 (0.464)
ROUGE	0.268 (0.732)
ADEM	0.981 (0.019)

Table 4: System-level correlation, with the p-value in brackets.

Results – generalization

Data Removed	Test on full dataset		Test on removed model responses	
	Spearman	Pearson	Spearman	Pearson
TF-IDF	0.4097 (<0.001)	0.3975 (<0.001)	0.3931 (<0.001)	0.3645 (<0.001)
Dual Encoder	0.4000 (<0.001)	0.3907 (<0.001)	0.4256 (<0.001)	0.4098 (<0.001)
HRED	0.4128 (<0.001)	0.3961 (<0.001)	0.3998 (<0.001)	0.3956 (<0.001)
Human	0.4052 (<0.001)	0.3910 (<0.001)	0.4472 (<0.001)	0.4230 (<0.001)
Average	0.4069 (<0.001)	0.3938 (<0.001)	0.4164 (<0.001)	0.3982 (<0.001)
25% at random	0.4077 (<0.001)	0.3932 (<0.001)	—	—

Table 4: Correlation for ADEM when various model responses are removed from the training set. The left two columns show performance on the entire test set, and the right two columns show performance on only responses from the dialogue model that was not seen during training.

Where does it do better?

Context	Reference response	Model response	Human score	BLEU-2 score	ROUGE score	ADEM score
i'd recommend <url> - or build buy an htpc and put <url> on it. → you're the some nd person this week that's recommended roku to me.	an htpc with xbmc is what i run . but i 've decked out my setup . i 've got <number> tb of data on my home server	because it's brilliant	5	1.0	1.0	4.726
imma be an auntie this weekend. i guess i have to go albany. herewego → u supposed to been here → i come off nd on. → never tell me smh	lol you sometiming	haha, anyway, how're you?	5	1.0	1.0	4.201
my son thinks she is plain. and the girl that plays her sister. seekhelp4him? → send him this. he'll thank you. <url>	you are too kind for words .	i will do	5	1.0	1.0	5.0

Table 8: Examples where both human and ADEM score the model response highly, while BLEU-2 and ROUGE do not. These examples are drawn randomly (i.e. no cherry-picking) from the examples where ADEM outperforms BLEU-2 and ROUGE (as defined in the text). ADEM is able to correctly assign high scores to short responses that have no word-overlap with the reference response. The bars around |metric| indicate that the metric scores have been normalized.

Where does it do better?

- ADEM doesn't exhibit the same **length bias** as word overlap metrics

	Mean score		p-value
	$\Delta w \leq 6$ (n=312)	$\Delta w > 6$ (n=304)	
ROUGE	0.042	0.031	< 0.01
BLEU-2	0.0022	0.0007	0.23
ADEM	2.072	2.015	0.23
Human	2.671	2.698	0.83

Table 9: Effect of differences in response length on the score, Δw = absolute difference in #words between the reference response and proposed response. BLEU-1, BLEU-2, and METEOR have previously been shown to exhibit bias towards similar-length responses (Liu et al., 2016).

Potential problems

- The problem of **generic responses**
- Only considers **single utterances**, rather than a whole dialogue
- What about other aspects of dialogue quality?

Primary Collaborators



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Aaron Courville
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Yoshua Bengio
U. Montreal

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The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes, primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, in shades of light gray and off-white. These shapes are layered to create a sense of depth. Overlaid on these shapes are various halftone patterns, including fine horizontal lines, vertical lines, and cross-hatched grids, which vary in density and orientation. The overall composition is modern and minimalist.

Thank you

Variational encoder-decoder (VHRED)

- Inspired by VAE (Kingma & Welling, 2014; Rezende et al., 2014): train model with backprop using reparameterization trick
- Prior mean and variance are **learned** conditioned on previous utterance representation. Posterior mean and variance also conditioned on representation of target utterance.
- At training time, sample from posterior. At test time, sample from prior.
- Developed concurrently with Bowman et al. (2016)
 - Use word-dropping and KL annealing tricks

Quantitative VHRED results

Table 4: Response information content on 1-turn generation as measured by average utterance length $|U|$, word entropy $H_w = -\sum_{w \in U} p(w) \log p(w)$ and utterance entropy H_U with respect to the maximum-likelihood unigram distribution of the training corpus p .

Model	Twitter			Ubuntu		
	$ U $	H_w	H_U	$ U $	H_w	H_U
LSTM	11.21	6.75	75.61	4.27	6.50	27.77
HRED	11.64	6.73	78.35	11.05	7.53	83.16
VHRED	12.29	6.88	84.56	9.22	7.70	71.00
Human	20.57	8.10	166.57	18.30	8.90	162.88

VHRED results

A

	hey zake how 's you ? xx
	how are you ?
how are you sweetheart	

B

thank you	ossmr estas de vacaciones nermosa good for you ajaja	
		thank you ! i really appreciate your input
	high praise . thank you .	
	ooooou okay . thank you	
		that 's what it do !! thank you ya dit
		love you bb !!!

C

a orden rt sinceramente me he matado de la risa con todos tus twitts jajajaja buenisisimos !!	
do , he oido " jugadas " comentadas entre ellos . asik cuando lo vea me acordare de sus madres .	cuerto ese nombre del autor . tendre que buscarlo . debe ser super interesante . es una novela ?
niet schrikken he , haha .	
sii lo he visto ! jaja mira esa es la residencia !	iyiyi es como hola soy tierno & all day como hola soy sensual e irresistible jsaksjaksj xd
paso ! es + pa q veas q soy buena onda . t doy mi face para no volver a perder contacto con you	pues lo he estado pensando , no creas . aunque primero quiero hacerlo para pc .
nou , dat gevoel krijg ik . want ik ga met jari , roben en romulo heen o	

Notation

- Let X be the input sequence, $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_T)$ be the target output sequence
- Let $\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,t} = (\hat{y}_1, \dots, \hat{y}_t)$ be the sequence generated so far
- Our critic $\hat{Q}(a; \hat{Y}_{1,\dots,t}, Y)$ is conditioned on **outputs so far** $\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,t}$, and **ground-truth output** Y
- Our actor $p(a; \hat{Y}_{1,\dots,t}, X)$ is conditioned on **outputs so far** $\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,t}$, and the **input** X

Policy Gradient for Sequence Prediction

- Denote V as the expected reward under π_θ

Proposition 1 *The gradient $\frac{dV}{d\theta}$ can be expressed using Q values of intermediate actions:*

$$\frac{dV}{d\theta} = \mathbb{E}_{\hat{Y} \sim p(\hat{Y})} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{dp(a|\hat{Y}_{1\dots t-1})}{d\theta} Q(a; \hat{Y}_{1\dots t-1})$$

Algorithm

- 2: **while** Not Converged **do**
- 3: Receive a random example (X, Y) .
- 4: Generate a sequence of actions $\hat{Y}$ from p' .
- 5: Compute targets for the critic

$$q_t = r_t(\hat{y}_t; \hat{Y}_{1...t-1}, Y) \\ + \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} p'(a | \hat{Y}_{1...t}, X) \hat{Q}'(a; \hat{Y}_{1...t}, Y)$$

Algorithm

6: Update the critic weights ϕ using the gradient

$$\frac{d}{d\phi} \left(\sum_{t=1}^T \left(\hat{Q}(\hat{y}_t; \hat{Y}_{1...t-1}, Y) - q_t \right)^2 + \lambda C \right)$$

Algorithm

- 7: Update actor weights θ using the following gradient estimate

$$\frac{dV(X, Y)}{d\theta} = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{dp(a | \hat{Y}_{1 \dots t-1}, X)}{d\theta} \hat{Q}(a; \hat{Y}_{1 \dots t-1}, Y)$$

Tricks: target network

- Similarly to DQN, use a **target network**
- In particular, have both **delayed actor** p' and a **delayed critic** Q' , with params θ' and ϕ' , respectively
- Use this delayed values to compute target for critic:

$$q_t = r_t(\hat{y}_t; \hat{Y}_{1...t-1}, Y) + \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} p'(a | \hat{Y}_{1...t}, X) \hat{Q}'(a; \hat{Y}_{1...t}, Y)$$

- After updating actor and critic, update delayed actor and critic using a linear interpolation

Tricks: variance penalty

- Problem: critic can have **high variance** for words that are rarely sampled
- Solution: artificially reduce values of rare actions by introducing a **variance regularization** term:

$$C = \sum_a \left(\hat{Q}(a; \hat{Y}_{1...t-1}) - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|} \sum_b \hat{Q}(b; \hat{Y}_{1...t-1}) \right)^2,$$

Tricks: reward shaping

- Could train critic using all the score at the last step, but this signal is sparse
- Want to improve learning of critic (and thus the actor) by **providing rewards at each time step**
- If final reward is $R(\hat{Y})$, decompose the reward into scores for all prefixes: $(R(\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,1}), R(\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,2}), \dots, R(\hat{Y}_{1,\dots,T}))$
- Then the reward at time step t is:

$$r_t(\hat{y}_t) = R(\hat{Y}_{1\dots t}) - R(\hat{Y}_{1\dots t-1})$$

Tricks: pre-training

- If you start off with a random actor and critic, it will take forever to learn, since the training signals would be terrible
- Instead, use **pre-training**: first train actor to maximize log-likelihood of correct answer
- Then, train critic by feeding samples from the (fixed) actor
- Similar to pre-training used in AlphaGo (without MC rollouts)

Experiments

Word	Words with largest $\hat{Q}$
one	and(6.623) there(6.200) but(5.967)
of	that(6.197) one(5.668) 's(5.467)
them	that(5.408) one(5.118) i(5.002)
i	that(4.796) i(4.629) ,(4.139)
want	want(5.008) i(4.160) 't(3.361)
to	to(4.729) want(3.497) going(3.396)
tell	talk(3.717) you(2.407) to(2.133)
you	about(1.209) that(0.989) talk(0.924)
about	about(0.706) .(0.660) right(0.653)
here	.(0.498) ?(0.291) -(0.285)
.	.(0.195) there(0.175) know(0.087)
∅	.(0.168) ∅ (-0.093) ?(-0.173)

Table 3: The best 3 words according to the critic at intermediate steps of generating a translation. The numbers in parentheses are the value predictions $\hat{Q}$. The German original is “über eine davon will ich hier erzählen .” The reference translation is “and there’s one I want to talk about”.

Results

Context	Reference sponse	re-	Model responses	Human score	ADEM score
photo to see my television debut go to - some. some on <url> - hehe <url> → it really was you? i thought ppl were recognizing someone who looked like you! were the oysters worth the wait?	yeah it was me . haha i 'd kinda forgotten about it it was filmed a while ago		1) i'm not sure. i just don't know what to do with it.	3	1.602
			2) you heard the horsepower productions remix of lee scratch perry's 'exercising' off his 'mighty upsetter' album?	1	1.513
			3) you wont chug a fuzzy peach navel	1	1.744
			4) they were!	5	3.274
just beat call of duty!! → want a cookie? → yes!! → come get it	im in kenmore at the moment		1) i'm gonna get a new phone some moro	1	1.848
			2) no way man.	5	4.265
			3) wow i just got a free pizza coupon! get yours before theres no more! <url>	1	0.921
			4) i'm going to go to the mall.	1	2.634
am i out of twitter jail yet? testing → yeah. i posted bail → thanks. i am a right chatter tweetbox on sundays. same happened last sunday lol	any news on meeting our user ? i go to the us on friday and i don 't want to miss anything arranged		1) i'm not sure if i'm going to be able to get it.	3	1.912
			2) good to see another mac user in the leadership ranks	4	1.417
			3) awww poor baby hope u get to feeling better soon. maybe some many work days at piedmont	2	1.123
			4) did you tweet too much?	5	2.539

Table 5: Examples of scores given by the ADEM model.