InversionView: A General-Purpose Method for **Reading Information from Neural Activations**



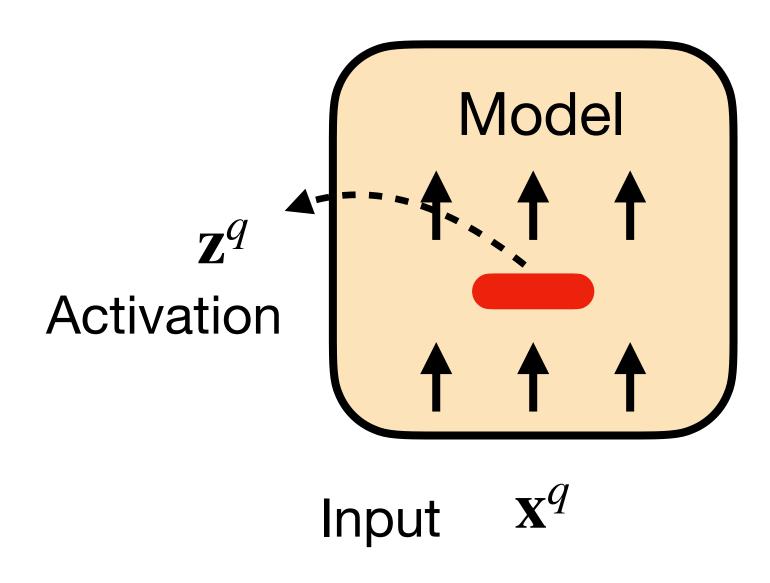


Xinting Huang, Nov 2024

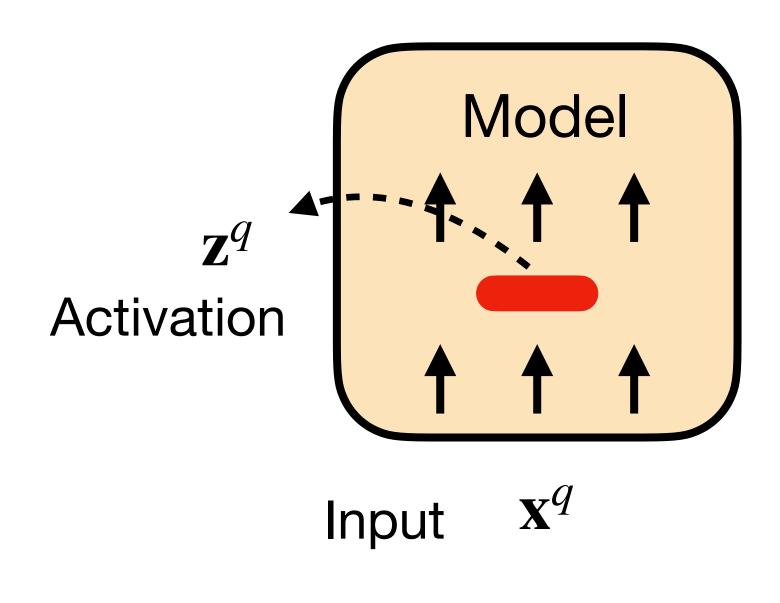
Xinting Huang, Madhur Panwar, Navin Goyal, Michael Hahn



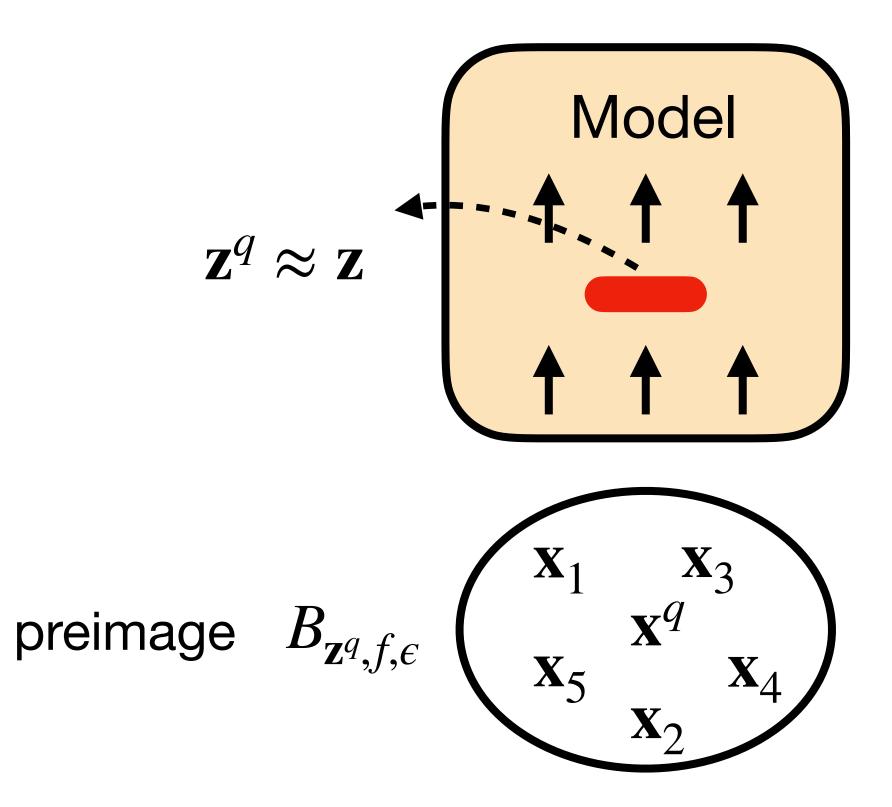




Research Question: What information is encoded in neural activations?

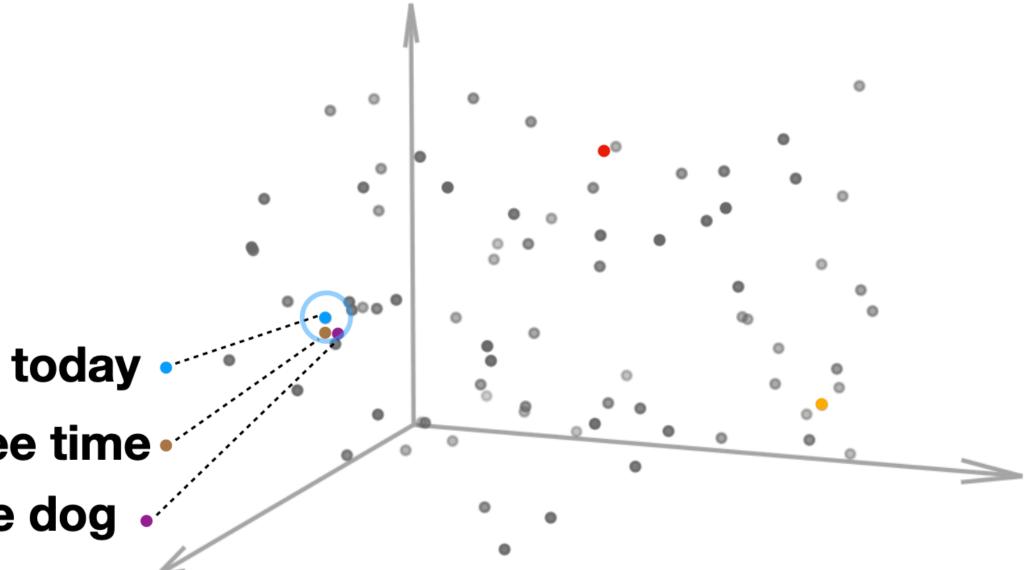


Research Question: What information is encoded in neural activations?

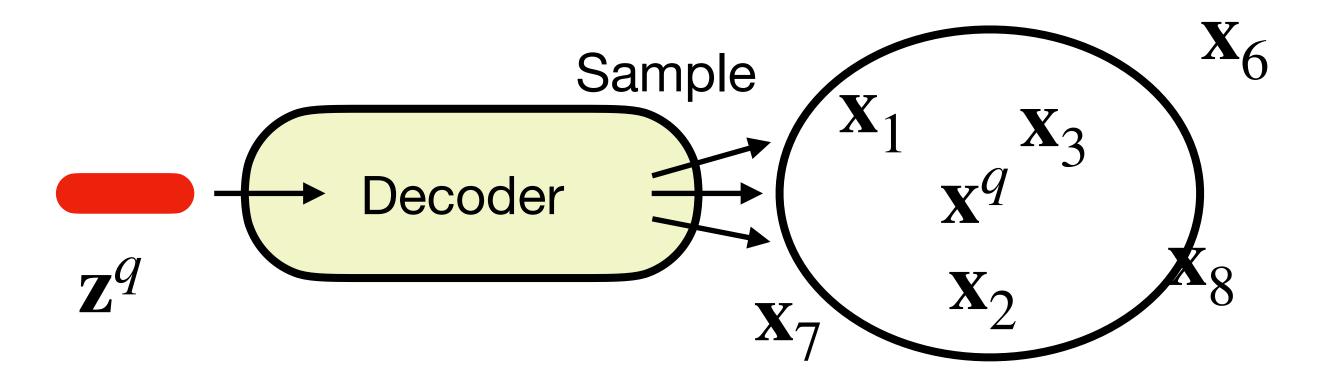


Why does this idea make sense?

John is on leave today • John plays the guitar in his free time • John has a cute dog •



New Question: How to find the preimage $B_{\mathbf{z}^q,f,\epsilon}$ efficiently ?



Query Input

Baiaigiaaggi|g(:)3



Query Input

Baiaigiaaggi|g(:) 3 Position of Query Activation

Generated Samples

- Brcpcwwiiic|c(:)3E
- B m b o m b m b o b o | m (:) 3 E
- Baqqajjajaq|q(:)3E
- B m m m b g b g b b g | g (:) 3 E
- B x o x v o v v x o x | o (:) 3 E
- B w w m o w w o o m w | o (:) 3 E
- Bfxxgogxxgxo|g(:)3E
- Bbbgbggbgbo|g(:)4E
- Bnflnknlkfzfknnnklnff | n (:) 8 E

Query Input

Position of Query 0.000; B a i a i g i a a g g i | g (:) 3 Activation Position of Compared Activation i i c | c (:) 3 E m b o b o | m (:) 3 E j a q | q (:) 3 E b g b b g | g (:) 3 E x o x | o (:) 3 E w o o m w | o (:) 3 E х g х о | g (:) З Е b g b o | g (:) 4 E j j j j h h j h | h (:) 3 E kfzfknnnklnff | n (:) 8 E

Generated Samples

Distance D	0.023;	Brcpcwwi
	0.033;	Bmbombm
	0.039;	Baqqajjaj
Threshold $\epsilon = 0.1$	0.047;	Bmmmbgb
	0.049;	Вхохvоvv
	0.066;	Bwwmoww
	0.073;	Bfxxgogx
	0.112;	Bbbgbggb
	0.146;	Врјһрјјеј
	0.499;	Bnflnknl

Query Input

Position of Query Activation Position of Compared Activation

Generated Samples

0.000; Baiaigiaaggi|g(:) 3 0.023; #: 3; B r c p c w w i i i c | c (:) 3 E 0.033; #: 3; B m b o m b m b o b o | m (:) 3 E **0.039; #: 3; B a q q a j j a j a q | q (:) 3 E 0.047; #: 3; B m m m b g b g b b g | g (:) 3 E 0.049; #: 3; B x o x v o v v x o x | o (:) 3 E** ■ 0.066; #: 3; B w w m o w w o o m w | o (:) 3 E 0.073; #: 3; B f x x g o g x x g x o | g (:) 3 E 0.112; #: 4; B b b g b g b g b o | g (:) 4 E 0.146; #: 4; B p j h p j j e j j j j h h j h | h (:) 3 E 0.499; #: 7; B n f l n k n l k f z f k n n n k l n f f | n (:) 8 E

Case study 2: IOI circuit in GPT-2 Small

Query Input

0.000 ; <|endoftext|>After Erin and Justin went to the house, Erin gave a ring(to) Justin

Generated Samples

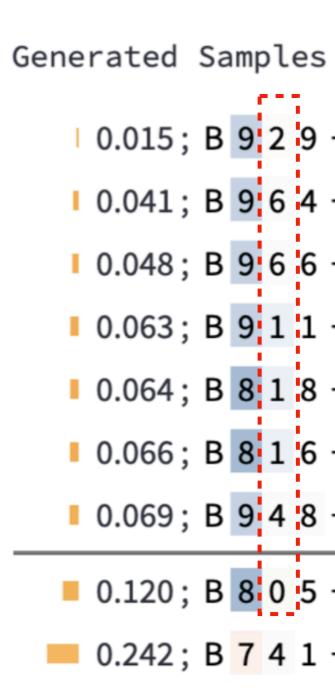
- 0.024 ; <|endoftext|>The station Sara and Justin went to had a kiss. Sara gave it(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.024 ; <|endoftext|>When Paul and Justin got a kiss at the school, Paul decided to give it(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.025 ; <|endoftext|>Then, Alicia and Justin had a long argument. Afterwards Alicia said(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.034 ; <|endoftext|>Then, Justin and Erin went to the garden. Erin gave a basketball(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.037; <|endoftext|>After the lunch in the afternoon, Justin and Kristen went to the station. Kristen gave a kiss(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.039; <|endoftext|>After taking a long break Kimberly and Justin went to the house, Kimberly gave a bone(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.043; <|endoftext|>While spending time together Justin and Alicia were working at the garden, Alicia gave a kiss(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.056 ; <|endoftext|>Then, Justin and Kristen went to the school. Kristen gave a bone(to) Justin[EOS]
- 0.506 ; <|endoftext|>Friends separated at birth Kristen and Justin found a snack at the garden. Justin gave it(to) Kristen[EOS]
- 0.598; <|endoftext|>While spending time together Michelle and Joshua were commuting to the restaurant, Alexander gave a ring(to) Michelle[EOS]

Name Mover Head 9.9



Case study 3: 3-Digit Addition

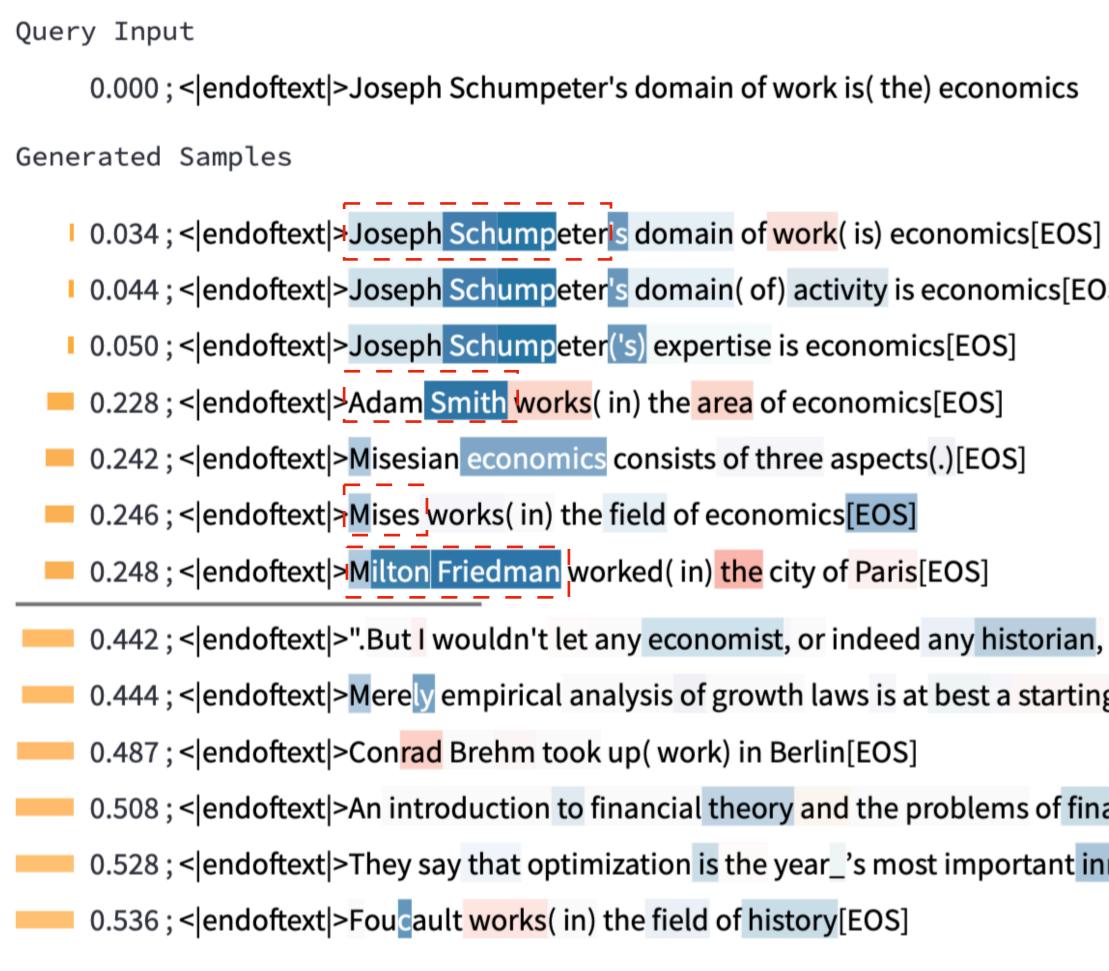
Query Input



0.000; B 9 2 0 + 8 7 8 = (1) 7 9 8

ent ent					
0.015; B	929+	877=	(1) 8 0 6 E		
Ⅰ 0.041; B	964+	832=	(1) 7 9 6 E		
Ⅰ 0.048; B	966+	838=	(1) 8 0 4 E		
∎ 0.063; B	911+	885=	(1) 7 9 6 E		
■ 0.064; B	818+	984=	(1) 8 0 2 E		
■ 0.066; B	816+	980=	(1) 7 9 6 E		
■ 0.069; B	948+	851=	(1) 7 9 9 E		
■ 0.120; B	805+	996=	(1) 8 0 1 E		
■ 0.242; B	741+	950=	(1) 6 9 1 E		
0.406; B	834+	977=	(1) 8 1 1 E		

Case study 4: Factual Recall



- 0.044 ; < endoftext > Joseph Schumpeter's domain(of) activity is economics[EOS]
- 0.442 ; <|endoftext|>".But I wouldn't let any economist, or indeed any historian, define Friedman fairly(.)[EOS]
- 0.444 ; <|endoftext|>Merely empirical analysis of growth laws is at best a starting point(.)[EOS]
- 0.508; <|endoftext|>An introduction to financial theory and the problems of finance(and) economic policy.[EOS]
- 0.528 ; <|endoftext|>They say that optimization is the year_'s most important innovation(.)[EOS]

 - the samples are generated, so factual errors often occur

Thank you