Sparse Attention Masking Effects on Llama-3.1-8B Multi-Hop Reasoning Accuracy in RULER Benchmark

Assignee Research

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Abstract

We introduce the State Stream Transformer (SST), a novel LLM architecture that reveals emergent reasoning behaviours and capabilities latent in pretrained weights through addressing a fundamental limitation in traditional transformer models: the lack of latent computational continuity across autoregressive generations in the state space. SST introduces a sliding window latent state (FFN) cache with weighted decay that maintains and evolves persistent latent processes throughout autoregressive generations. Through controlled experiments comparing base and SST architectures using the same frozen

1 Introduction

This paper examines: State Stream Transformer (SST) : Emergent Metacognitive Behaviours Through Latent State Persistence. Research question: How does sparse attention masking in Llama-3.1-8B affect multi-hop reasoning accuracy on the RULER benchmark compared to dense attention baselines?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 1 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 9.0/10.

3 Results

1 papers retrieved. 4 claims extracted; 4 independently verified. Quality review score: 9.0/10.

4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
The State Stream Transformer (SST) introduces a sliding window latent state (FFN) cache with weighted decay that maintai	✓	0.42
The SST architecture enables enhanced reasoning capabilities which appear best explained by some form of potential highe	✓	0.34
The SST achieves 89.01% accuracy on GSM-8K (0-shot).	✓	0.18
The SST achieves 91.04% accuracy on ARC Challenge (0-shot CoT).	✓	0.16

References

- https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2501.18356