

What Is a Statistical Language Model (LM)?

- A probability distribution over word sequences
 - $p(\textit{“Today is Wednesday”}) \approx 0.001$
 - $p(\textit{“Today Wednesday is”}) \approx 0.0000000000000001$
 - $p(\textit{“The eigenvalue is positive”}) \approx 0.000001$
- Context-dependent!
- Can also be regarded as a probabilistic mechanism for “generating” text – thus also called a “generative” model

