

# **NLP - State of the Art** **(and some missing parts...)**

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Wien, am 27.03.2019

# Hello, World!

Israel

computer science

biomedical engineering

NLP & AI Researcher @ enliteAI

Keep-Current Project:

- Machine Learning Seminar
- fast.ai + PyTorch course

data4good



# Services by enliteAI



## AI Strategy & Transformation

- Conduct AI readiness check across organization
- Discover Use-cases to build-up momentum
- Define AI Strategy



## AI Lab

- Leverage AI Research for practical applications
- Extend research to production-grade
- Build models for commercial use



## Prototyping & Project Delivery

- Development of POCs, MVPs and prototypes
- Implementation & Integration
- Roll-out & Support

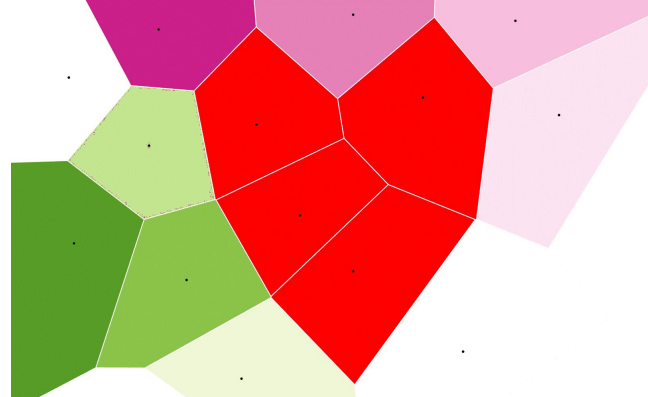
# data4good Hackathon

Applying data science to human needs and generating social impact:

- GrünStattGrau
- Hilfswerk International
- Hilfswerk Österreich
- CivesSolutions

**April 27-28th**

**A1 Telekom, Lassallestraße 9**



# What is NLP?

Enabling computers to interact with users in their language



# NLP is everywhere

Applications:

- Language understanding
- Search engines
- Machine translation
- Text analysis (i.e. sentiment)
- Chatbots / Personal Assistance

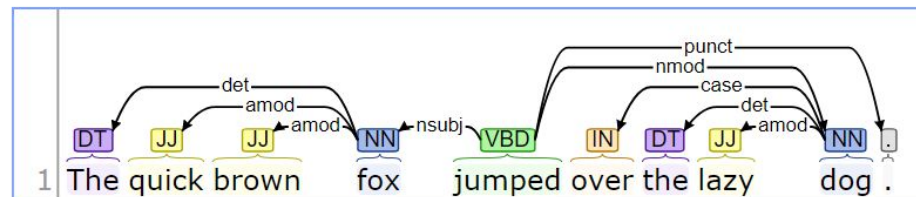
# NLP Building blocks

- Chunking
- Sequence Tagging
  - Part of speech
  - Named Entity Recognition (NER)
  - Coreference Resolution
  - ...
- Syntactic Parsing
- And more...

## Part-of-Speech:

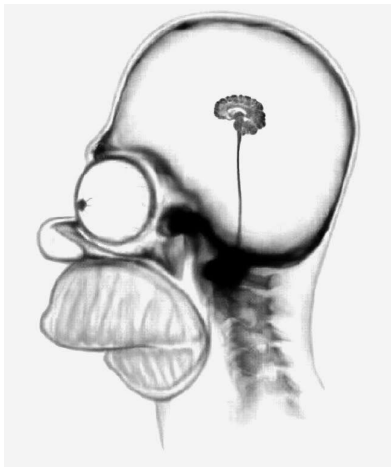


## Basic Dependencies:



# NLP in a nutshell

Human Language →



→ Non-trivial useful output

takes as input text in human language and process it  
in a way that suggests an intelligent process was involved



# NLP is hard!

I'm eating pizza with olives

I'm eating pizza with friends

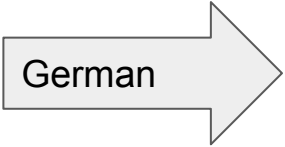


# NLP is hard!

## Google translate:

State of the art

German



Der letzte Stand der Technik

State of the art

Hebrew



“Country of art”

# Variability

He acquired it  
He purchased it  
He bought it  
It was bought by him  
It was sold to him  
She sold it to him  
She sold him that

## Twitter:

I loooooove it!  
everytime → every time  
oscar nom'd doc → Oscar-nominated documentary  
is bananas → is great

# Ambiguity

Bank

Apple

Star

Spring

Play

I'm reading a **Book**

I will **Book** the flight

# Ambiguity - Real news headlines

- Scientists examine whales from space
- The pope's baby step on gays
- Girl hit by car in hospital
- Iraqi head seeks arms
- Lung cancer in women mushrooms
- Squad helps dog bite victim
- Miners refuse to work after death
- Stolen painting found by tree
- Actor sent to jail for not finishing sentence
- Stadium air conditioning fails — Fans protest

# What do you mean no?

Martin is a data scientist

Martin is a great data scientist

# What do you mean no?

Martin is a data scientist

Martin is **not** a data scientist

Martin is a great data scientist

Martin is **not** a great data scientist

# What do you mean no?

Martin is a data scientist

Martin is **not** a data scientist

Martin is a great data scientist

Martin is **not** a great data scientist

Martin is **not** a data scientist

Martin is **not** a mad scientist

# Negation + Monotonicity

John did not work for Microsoft

in 1989

as a VP

of sales



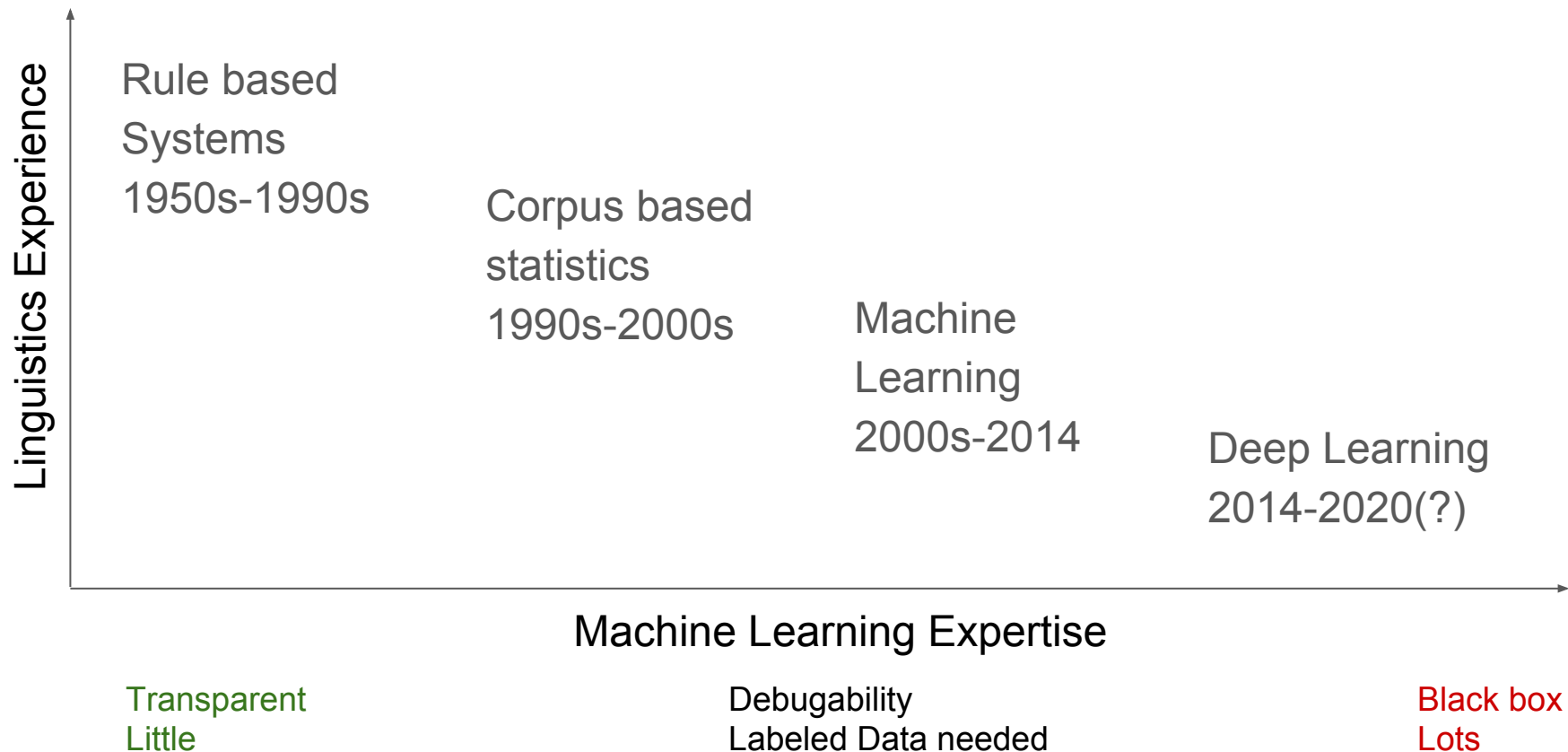
# Restrictivity / Intersectivity

He is a **great** pianist → He is a pianist

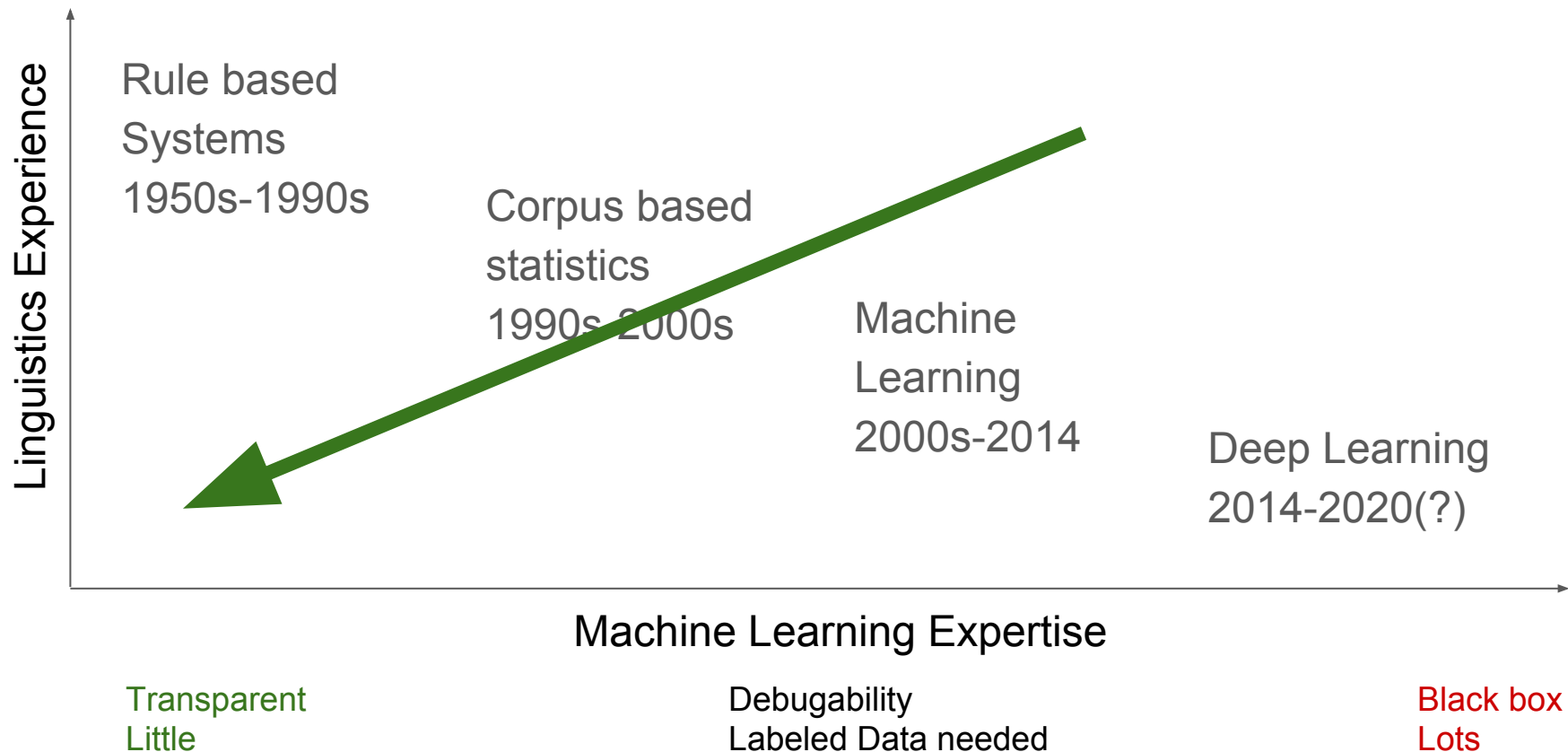
He is a **fake** doctor → He is a doctor

I found my **old** jacket → I found my jacket

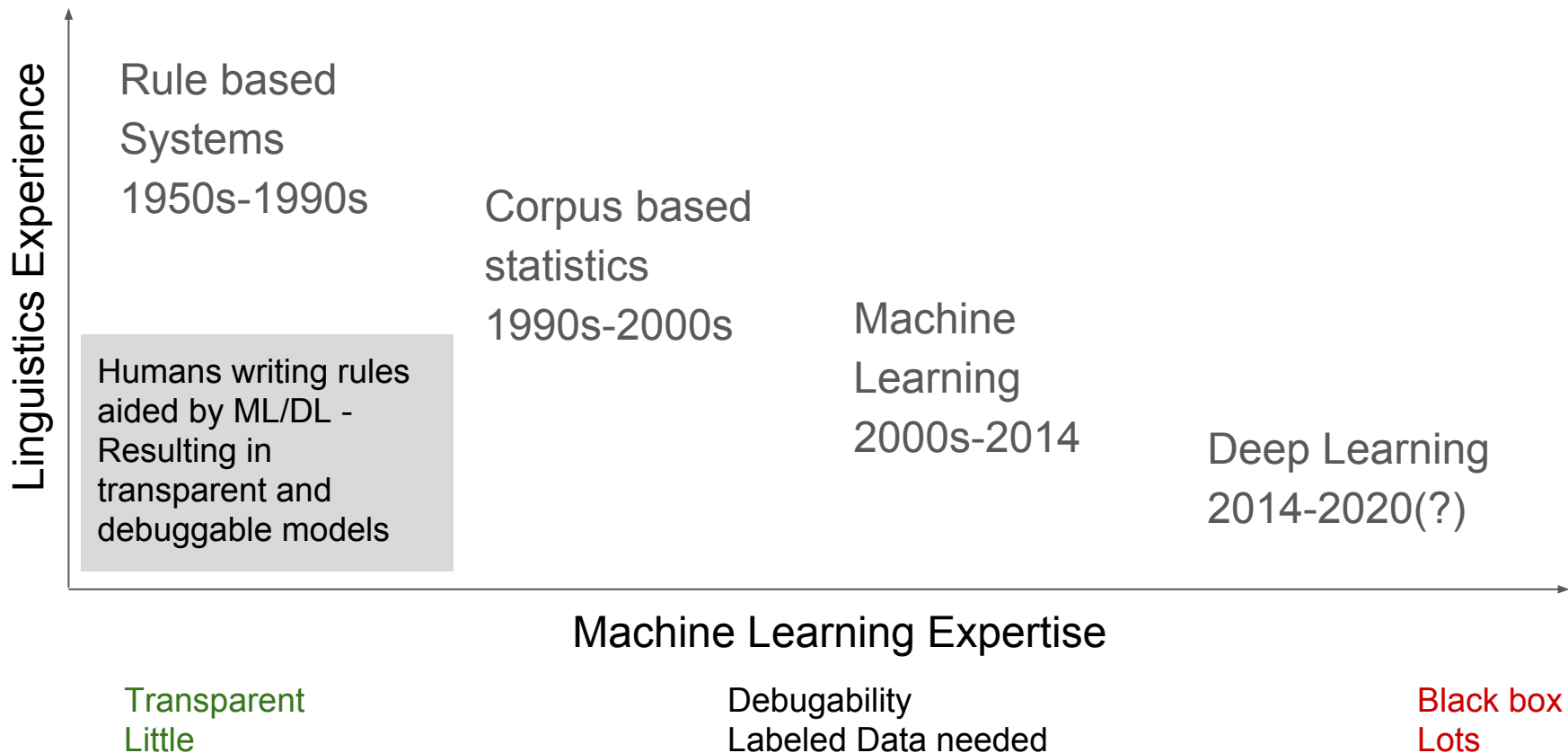
# How do we do NLP?



# How should we do NLP?



# NLP Tomorrow



# NLP Today

## 3. The BiLSTM Hegemony



**To a first approximation,  
the de facto consensus in NLP in 2017 is  
that no matter what the task,  
you throw a BiLSTM at it, with  
attention if you need information flow**

- Chris Manning (Stanford) @ Simon's institute - 27.3.2017

# BiLSTM hagmoney ( > 2015)

Works on low level tasks:

- Coordination boundary prediction:  
He will attend the meeting **and** present the results on Tuesday  
He will attend the meeting on Tuesday  
He will present the results on Tuesday
- Syntactic Parsing
- And more...

# BiLSTM hagmoney ( > 2015)

But less on higher levels:

BiLSTM text generation with style:

Parameter	Value
Theme	Other
Sentiment	Positive
Professional	True
Personal	False
Length	11-20 words
Descriptive	False

“The film’s ultimate pleasure if you want to fall in love with the ending, you won’t be disappointed”

“The film’s simple, and a refreshing take on the complex family drama of the regions of human intelligence.”

# BiLSTM hagmoney ( > 2015)

But less on higher levels:

BiLSTM text generation with style:

Parameter	Value
Theme	Other
Sentiment	Negative
Professional	False
Personal	True
Length	11-20 words
Descriptive	True

“There are some funny parts but overall I didn’t like the first few funny parts, but overall pretty decent .”

“Ultimately, I can honestly say that this movie is full of stupid stupid and stupid stupid stupid stupid stupid.”



# NLP in the academy

Multiple stacked networks

Each architecture solves a ***specific*** problem  
(or a dataset...)

# NLP in the industry

NGrams, TF/IDF, LDA / Topic modeling

Word2vec / GloVe / FastText  
ELMo (AI2) / BERT / ERNIE (Baidu)  
GPT-2 (OpenAI)

LSTM

spaCy

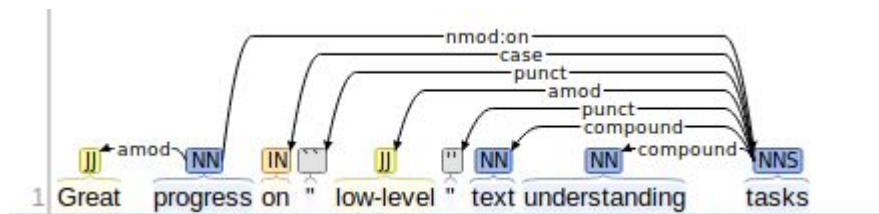
Flair

& Regular Expressions...

# 20 years of NLP research

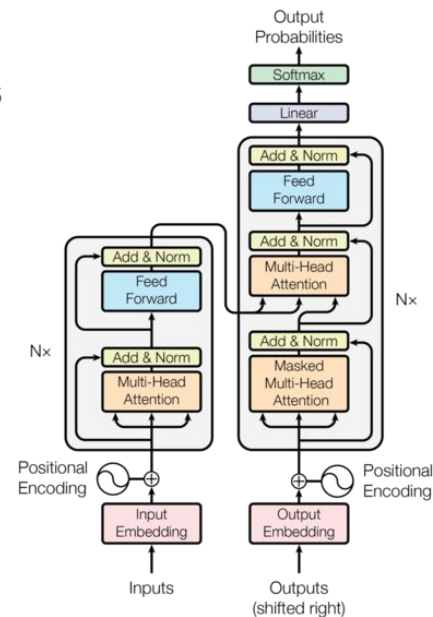
Great progress on “low-level” text understanding tasks:

- Morphology
- Syntax / Parsing
- Semantic Roles.
- Lexical Semantics
- Discourse. Coreference.
- Negation scope



Representation learning, text-to-text semantics, RNNs

- Word vectors
- Concept vectors
- Sentence vectors
- Paraphrasing



# 20 years of NLP research

Great progress on “low-level” text understanding tasks:

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Remarkable Achievements

Not useful for non-experts

Representation learning, text-to-text semantics, RNNs

- Word vectors
- Concept vectors
- Sentence vectors
- Paraphrasing

Automatically learn intricate linguistic patterns

Bad with nuance.  
Continas biases.  
Hard to control.

Short recap of the last few years

# 2013

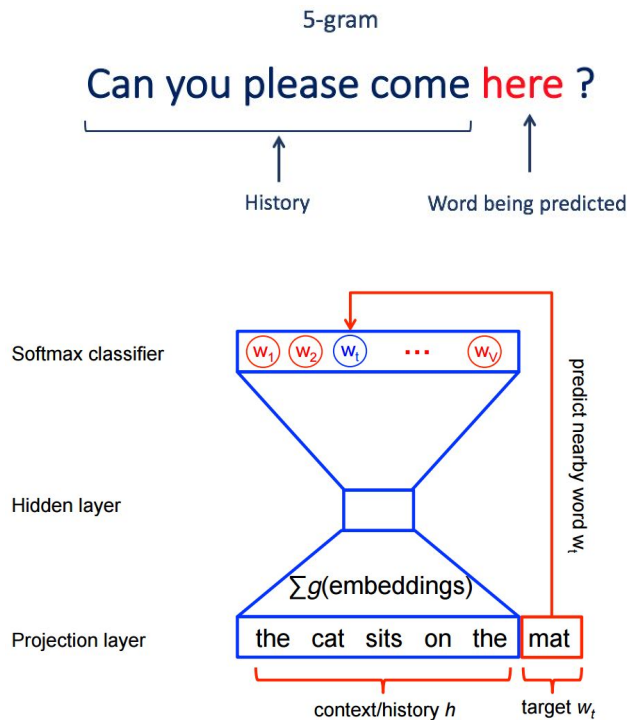
## Language model

Learn joint likelihood of training sentences

## Word2Vec

... GloVe ... FastText ...

First use of *transfer learning* in NLP



# 2018

ELMo - Contextual word vectors

ULMFiT - transfer learning + fine tuning

BERT - the above & more, on large scale

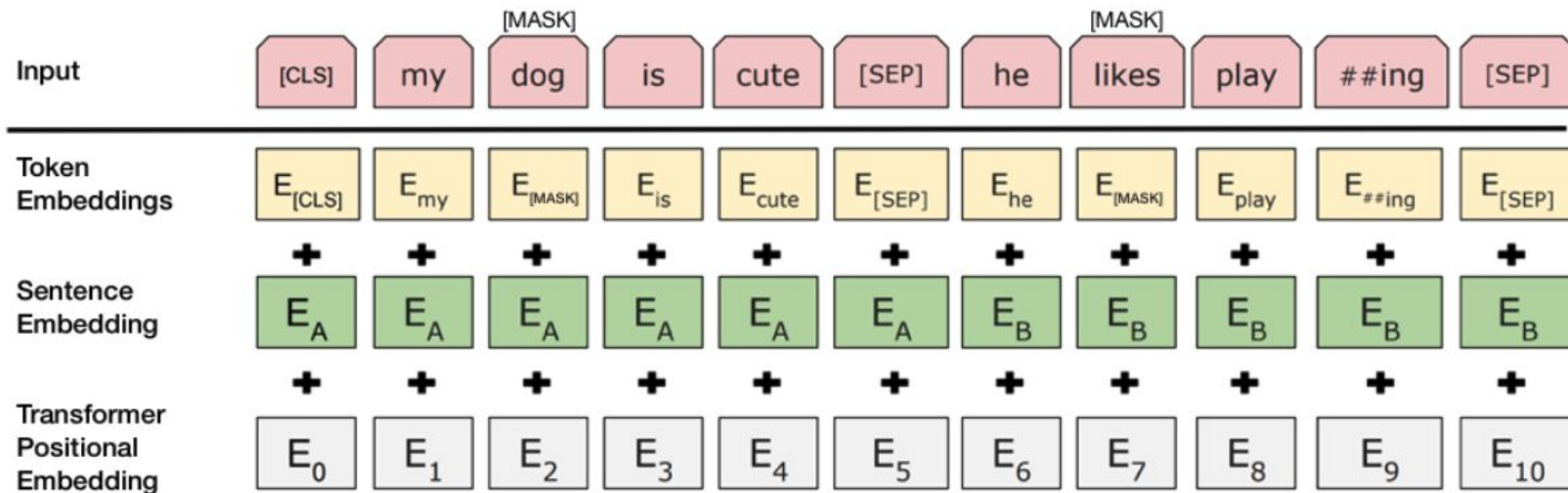
# 2019

Transformer-XL

GPT-2

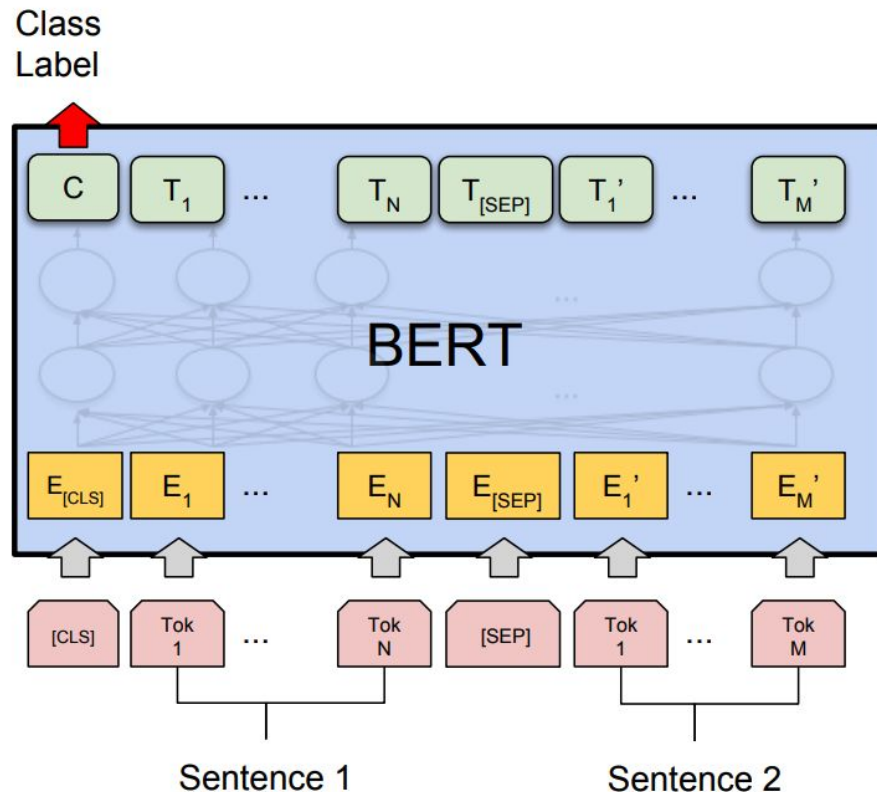
# BERT - architecture in brief

Embedding:



# BERT - architecture in brief

- Embedding + Masking
- Transformer
- Sentence pairing
- Fine tuning
  - Sentence class Label
  - NER Sequence Labels
- Question Answering:
  - Start+End Vector & Softmax over all positions (as additional parameters)
  - Or Running Q + A (for each option) and training on the class label





# Further reading

- Toward data science:
  - Dissecting BERT (parts 1 & 2) - by Miguel Romero Calvo
  - Deconstructing BERT (parts 1 & 2) - by Jesse Vig
- HarwardNLP - The Annotated Transformer
- Jay Alammam - The illustrated BERT, ELMo and co.
- [NLP.Stanford.edu/Seminar](https://nlp.stanford.edu/Seminar) - Jacob Delvin presentation about BERT

# Size matters

- ULMFiT
- ELMo
- GLoMo
- GPT
- BERT
- Transformer-XL
- MT-DNN
- GPT-2

- Contextual representations
- Generalized Language models
- Transfer learning in NLP

Masked  
joint biLM

?

?

Forward and backward  
independent deep LMs

Deep unidirectional LM

Recurrent ? Self Attentive ?



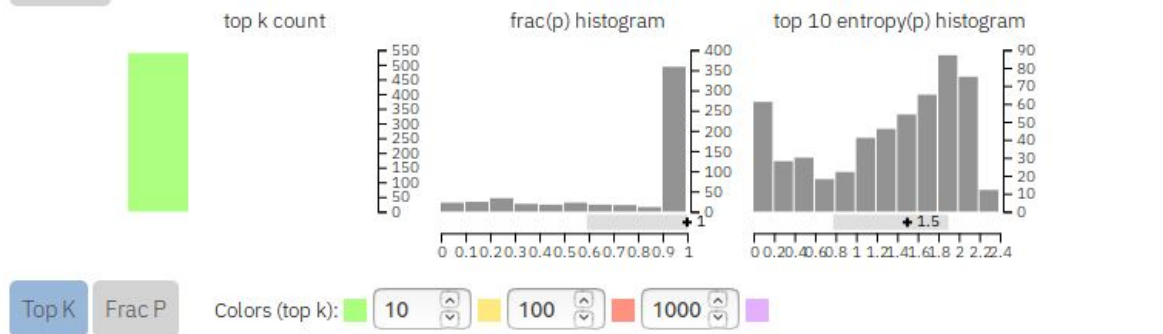
# Text Generation

## Dissecting GPT-2 results

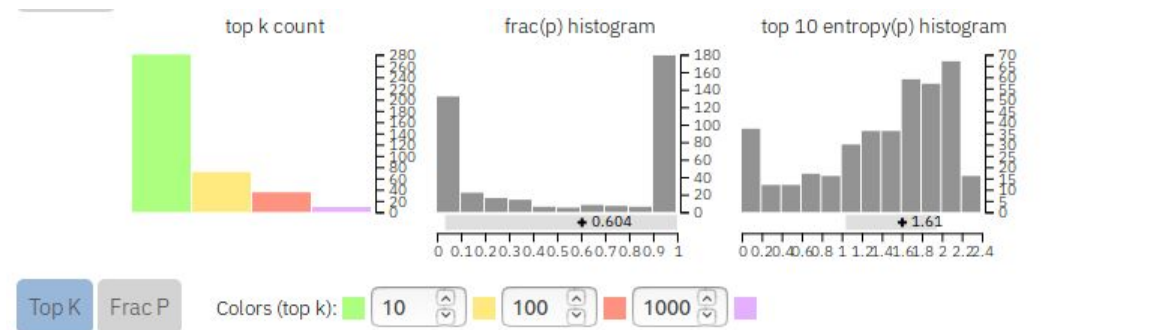
HawardNLP

Giant Language model Test Room

<http://gltr.io>



The following is a transcript from The Guardian's interview with the British ambassador to the UN, John Baird. Baird: The situation in Syria is very dire. We have a number of reports of chemical weapons being used in the country. The Syrian opposition has expressed their willingness to use chemical weapons. We have a number of people who have been killed, many of them civilians. I think it is important to understand this. There are many who are saying that the chemical weapons used in Syria are not only used to destroy people but also to destroy the Syrian people. The Syrian people have been suffering for many years. The regime is responsible for that



MONEY, Miss. — Along the edge of Money Road, across from the railroad tracks, an old grocery store rots. In August 1955, a 14-year-old black boy visiting from Chicago walked in to buy candy. After being accused of whistling at the white woman behind the counter, he was later kidnapped, tortured, lynched and dumped in the Tallahatchie River. The murder of Emmett Till is remembered as one of the most hideous hate crimes of the 20th century, a brutal episode in American history that helped kindle the civil rights movement. And the place where it all began, Bryant's Grocery & Meat Market, is still standing. Barely.

# NLP Progress - sample domains

**Cross lingual Text Classification:** pyTorch - LASER

**Text Classification** (English): ULMFiT

**Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR):** Google Tensorflow Lingvo

**Translation:** DeepL / Transformer Big (Facebook + Google)

**NER:** flair / BERT

**Entity linking:** DeepType - OpenAI

[nlpprogress.com](http://nlpprogress.com) | [github.com/syhw/wer\\_are\\_we](https://github.com/syhw/wer_are_we)

# Q&A Datasets & Benchmarks

General Language Understanding Evaluation (GLUE)

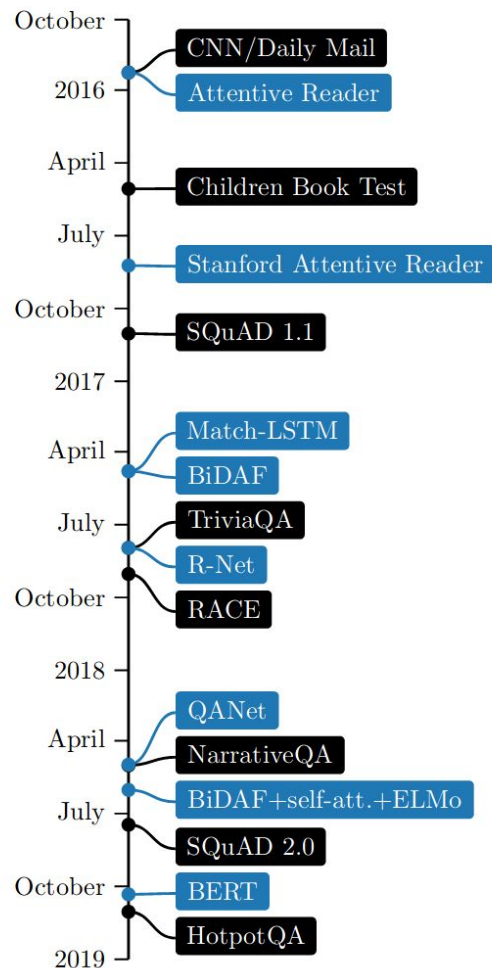
Stanford Natural Language Inference (SNLI)

SQuAD / SQuAD 2.0

RACE (Carnegie Mellon)

HotpotQA, MS Marco, NarrativeQA, CoQA ...

Google AI natural questions dataset



# Question Answering - State of the art

# Question Answering - State of the art?

Depends on the dataset...

Each information extraction (IE) task is a different NLP application

(Also relevant for chatbots / personal assistants)

# Examples:

- BioBERT - a pre-trained biomedical language representation model for biomedical text mining - <https://github.com/dmis-lab/biobert>
-



# Information Extraction

Turning text into structured data

- Most data in the world is in text
- We can only easily analyze structured data
- Today - no easy way to do it on scale
- Possible for **specific** tasks - but requires
  - Enough data
  - Team of NLP experts
  - Time

Solving IE can be transformative to  
industry & science

# Question Answering - next steps

In which state was Yahoo founded?

## History of Yahoo!

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

See also: *Timeline of Yahoo!*



This article needs to be **updated**. Please update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information. *(May 2016)*

**Yahoo!** was started at [Stanford University](#). It was founded in January 1994 by [Jerry Yang](#) and [David Filo](#), who were Electrical Engineering graduate students when they created a website named "Jerry and David's Guide to the World Wide Web". The Guide was a directory of other websites, organized in a hierarchy, as opposed to a searchable index of pages. In April 1994, Jerry and David's Guide to the World Wide Web was renamed "Yahoo!".<sup>[1][2]</sup> The word "YAHOO" is a [backronym](#) for "[Yet Another](#) Hierarchically Organized Oracle"<sup>[3]</sup> or "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle."<sup>[4]</sup> The yahoo.com domain was created on January 18, 1995.<sup>[5]</sup>

Yahoo!

Stanford University

California

<http://ai.stanford.edu/blog/beyond-local-pattern-matching/>

# Question Answering - next steps

- (Cleverly) add more inductive biases
- Common sense

Possible methods:

- Interactive learning (human in the loop)
- Deep reinforcement learning
- GANs

# Still missing...

1. Understanding (*Not only NLP-related...*)
  - What is captured by a network?
  - What can't the networks learn
2. Explainability
3. Fairness & accountability
  - Removing bias (current techniques only “put a lipstick on a pig”)
4. Working with little annotated data  
Transferring knowledge across *domains*
5. Handling missing data

Thank you!

We're "standing on the shoulders of giants"

- Isaac Newton

# Appendix 1 - handling missing data

# Handling missing data

- Mary is a great programmer but John isn't
- The hotel received great reviews at Yelp but mediocre reviews at TripAdvisor
- Fred took a picture of you and Susan of me

## OPEC agrees to cut oil production, defying Trump

Following two days of tense talks in Vienna, a deal to reduce oil production has been struck by OPEC and Russia. Prices have already risen on the back of the news, but Donald Trump will not be pleased.



# Handling missing data

- Mary is a great programmer but John isn't \_\_\_\_\_ *(verb phrase ellipsis)*
- The hotel received great reviews at Yelp but \_\_\_\_\_ mediocre reviews at TripAdvisor *(argument clusters)*
- Fred took a picture of you and Susan \_\_\_\_\_ of me *(gapping)*

## OPEC agrees to cut oil production, defying Trump

Following two days of tense talks in Vienna, a deal to reduce oil production has been struck by OPEC and Russia. Prices have already risen on the back of the news, but Donald Trump will not be pleased. **Prices of oil**

*(Briding)*

I turn 40 this year

He drove 40 on the highway

I'll give you 40 for that

I turn 40 (age) this year

He drove 40 (kmh) on the highway

I'll give you 40 (currency) for that

# Handling missing data

- Current end-to-end systems fails on them
- Stanford parser can partially handle several cases
- Work in progress in BIU

## Appendix 2

# Transferring knowledge across domains

# Example - review sentiment analysis

“The soup was delicious” → +

“The steak was tough” → -

“The dessert was decadent” → +

[food] **was** [good\_food\_adj]

[food] **was** [bad\_food\_adj]

# Example - review sentiment analysis

Real world:

the soup that the server recommended was amazing.

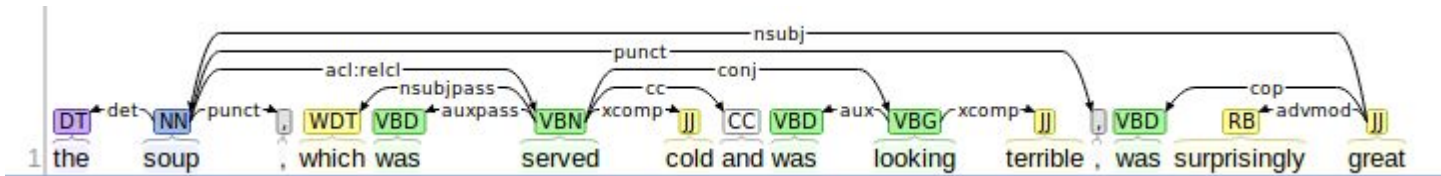
the soup, which I expected to be good, was actually pretty bad

the soup, which was served cold and was looking terrible, was surprisingly great.

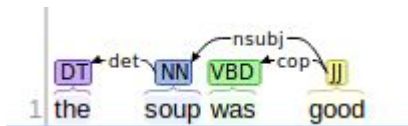
# Example - review sentiment analysis

Syntax to the rescue!

Capture this:



With a single declarative pattern:



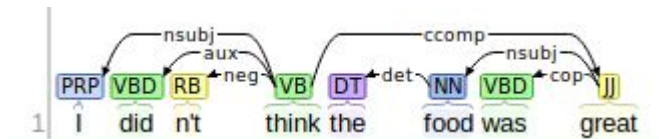
Can help to generalize and transfer knowledge across domains



# Example - review sentiment analysis

Until it doesn't:

I didn't think the food was great:



Thank you again!

We're "standing on the shoulders of giants"

- Isaac Newton

# Dynamic Word Embeddings

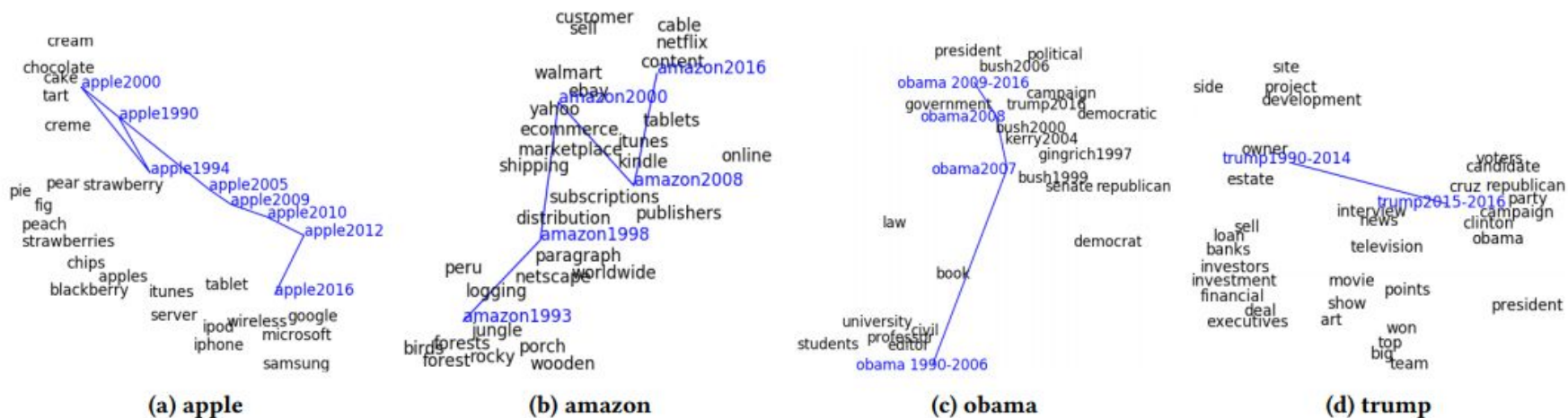


Figure 1: Trajectories of brand names and people through time: apple, amazon, obama, and trump.