

Multilingual and zero-shot translation

Multilingual translation

- Isn't translation already multilingual?
- Consider these datasets:
 - United Nations (6 languages)
 - European parliament (21 languages)
 - The Bible (484 complete and 2551 partial translations)
- What can we do with more than two languages?

Interlingua

335
Automatic Translation

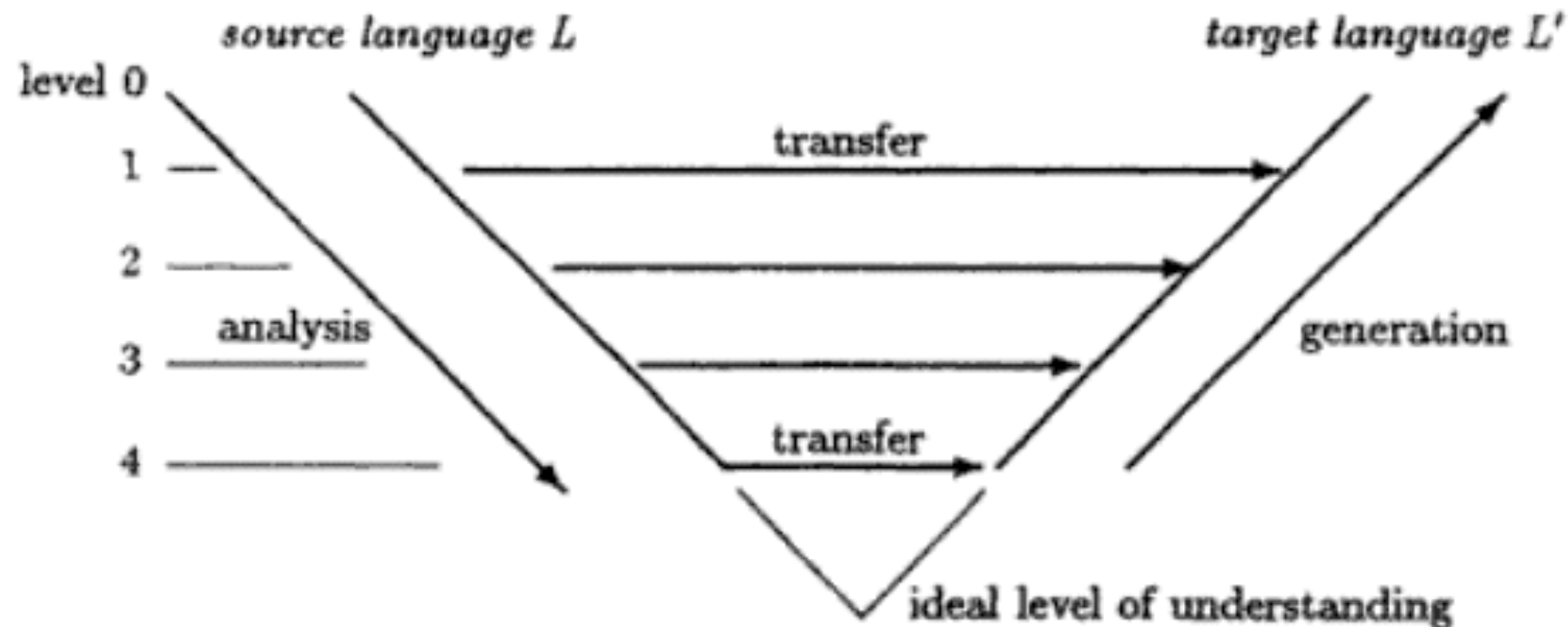


Figure 28.1

from Vauquois, 1968

Multi-source translation

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- Suppose we have a document in French and its (human) translation in German. Questions:
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Multi-source translation

- Suppose we have a document in French and its (human) translation in German. Questions:
 - Will it help to use both translations?
 - Is there any use for this?
 - YES! The European Parliament has 24 official languages. But not all translation is directly from a source and target language; there is often a bridge language.

Multi-source translation

Quite an old idea (e.g. Och & Ney 2001)

Table 4: Absolute improvements in WER combining two languages using method MAX compared with the best WER obtained by any of the two languages.

	fr	pt	es	it	sv	da	nl
fr	0.0	1.5	1.2	0.5	2.7	1.9	0.8
pt		0.0	2.2	2.1	4.0	3.4	1.3
es			0.0	2.4	3.9	2.6	1.7
it				0.0	3.5	3.2	1.6
sv					0.0	2.7	1.7
da						0.0	4.3
nl							0.0

Table 5: Absolute improvements in WER combining two languages using method PROD compared with the best WER obtained by any of the two languages.

	fr	pt	es	it	sv	da	nl
fr	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.8	-0.2
pt		0.0	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.8	-0.1
es			0.0	2.4	3.4	3.7	1.1
it				0.0	1.9	3.0	0.3
sv					0.0	1.8	0.5
da						0.0	1.5
nl							0.0

Table 6: Language combination using method MAX.

languages	WER	PER
fr	55.3	45.3
fr+sv	52.6	43.7
fr+sv+es	52.0	43.2
fr+sv+es+pt	52.3	43.6
fr+sv+es+pt+it	52.7	44.0
fr+sv+es+pt+it+da	52.5	43.9

Table 7: Language combination using method PROD.

languages	WER	PER
fr	55.3	45.3
fr+sv	54.3	44.5
fr+sv+es	51.0	41.4
fr+sv+es+pt	50.2	40.2
fr+sv+es+pt+it	49.8	39.8
fr+sv+es+pt+it+da	48.8	39.1

Multi-source translation

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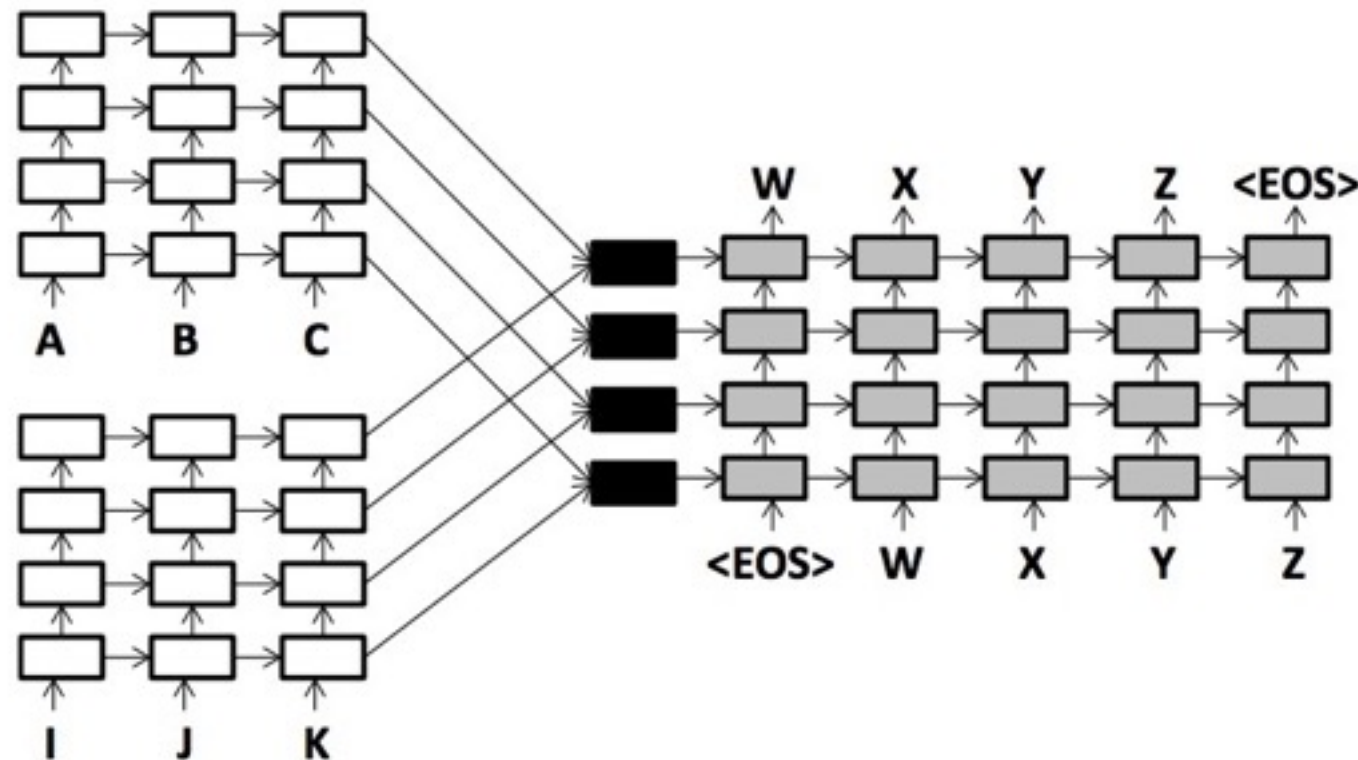
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- Usually done as a kind of system combination (merging the output of two MT systems).
- But this introduces other problems, e.g. decoding.
- Fundamentally, it's interpolation of conditional LMs.

Direct multi-source

Zoph & Knight 2016

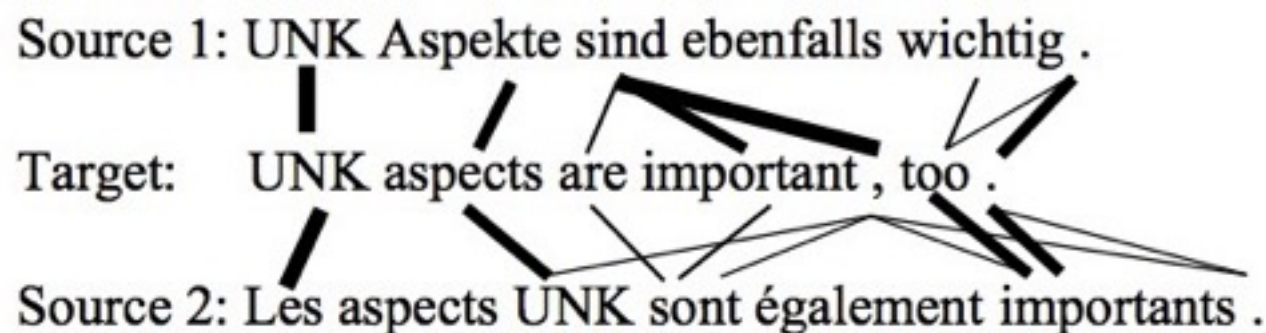
- Directly learns and uses $p(\text{English}|\text{French}, \text{German})$
- For attention: two context vectors (uses p-local attention of Luong, et al, but could use other methods).



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Target = English			
Source	Method	Ppl	BLEU
French	—	10.3	21.0
German	—	15.9	17.3
French+German	Basic	8.7	23.2
French+German	Child-Sum	9.0	22.5
French+French	Child-Sum	10.9	20.7
French	Attention	8.1	25.2
French+German	B-Attent.	5.7	30.0
French+German	CS-Attent.	6.0	29.6

Multi-way MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

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$$p(f_i | f_{i-1}, \dots, f_1, \mathbf{e}) = g(f_{i-1}, s_i, c_i)$$

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^{|\mathbf{e}|} \alpha_{ij} h_j$$
$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp(a_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{e}|} \exp(a_{ik})}$$
$$a_{ij} = a(s_{i-1}, h_j)$$

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Multi-way MT

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- As in Bahdanu et al. (2014), attention mechanism is a feedforward function of both decoder hidden state and encoder context vector.

- **Shared** between all encoders and decoders.

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	Size	Single	Single+DF	Multi
En→Fi	100k	5.06/3.96	4.98/3.99	6.2/ 5.17
	200k	7.1/6.16	7.21/6.17	8.84/ 7.53
	400k	9.11/7.85	9.31/8.18	11.09/ 9.98
	800k	11.08/9.96	11.59/10.15	12.73/ 11.28
De→En	210k	14.27/13.2	14.65/13.88	16.96/ 16.26
	420k	18.32/17.32	18.51/17.62	19.81/ 19.63
	840k	21/19.93	21.69/20.75	22.17/ 21.93
	1.68m	23.38/23.01	23.33/22.86	23.86/ 23.52
En→De	210k	11.44/11.57	11.71/11.16	12.63/ 12.68
	420k	14.28/14.25	14.88/15.05	15.01/ 15.67
	840k	17.09/17.44	17.21/17.88	17.33/ 18.14
	1.68m	19.09/19.6	19.36/20.13	19.23/ 20.59

Table 2: BLEU scores where the target pair’s parallel corpus is constrained to be 5%, 10%, 20% and 40% of the original size. We report the BLEU scores on the development and test sets (separated by /) by the single-pair model (Single), the single-pair model with monolingual corpus (Single+DF) and the proposed multi-way, multilingual model (Multi).

Low-resource **simulation**
(using high-resource
European languages)

Multi-way MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

			Fr (39m)		Cs (12m)		De (4.2m)		Ru (2.3m)		Fi (2m)	
			→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →
(a) BLEU	Dev	Single	27.22	26.91	21.24	15.9	24.13	20.49	21.04	18.06	13.15	9.59
		Multi	26.09	25.04	21.23	14.42	23.66	19.17	21.48	17.89	12.97	8.92
	Test	Single	27.94	29.7	20.32	13.84	24	21.75	22.44	19.54	12.24	9.23
		Multi	28.06	27.88	20.57	13.29	24.20	20.59	23.44	19.39	12.61	8.98
(b) LL	Dev	Single	-50.53	-53.38	-60.69	-69.56	-54.76	-61.21	-60.19	-65.81	-88.44	-91.75
		Multi	-50.6	-56.55	-54.46	-70.76	-54.14	-62.34	-54.09	-63.75	-74.84	-88.02
	Test	Single	-43.34	-45.07	-60.03	-64.34	-57.81	-59.55	-60.65	-60.29	-88.66	-94.23
		Multi	-42.22	-46.29	-54.66	-64.80	-53.85	-60.23	-54.49	-58.63	-71.26	-88.09

Table 3: (a) BLEU scores and (b) average log-probabilities for all the five languages from WMT'15.

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			Fr (39m)		Cs (12m)		De (4.2m)		Ru (2.3m)		Fi (2m)	
			→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →	→ En	En →
(a) BLEU	Dev	Single	27.22	26.91	21.24	15.9	24.13	20.49	21.04	18.06	13.15	9.59
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	Test	Single	27.94	29.7	20.32	13.84	24	21.75	22.44	19.54	12.24	9.23
		Multi	28.06	27.88	20.57	13.29	24.20	20.59	23.44	19.39	12.61	8.98
(b) LL	Dev	Single	-50.53	-53.38	-60.69	-69.56	-54.76	-61.21	-60.19	-65.81	-88.44	-91.75
		Multi	-50.6	-56.55	-54.46	-70.76	-54.14	-62.34	-54.09	-63.75	-74.84	-88.02
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ok, but what about multi-source?

Multi-way multi-source MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

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- Still assumes only many bilingual parallel corpora.
- What to do if there are multiple input sentences?
- Early averaging (average context vectors).
- Late averaging (aka linear interpolation).

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$$P(w_i|\mathbf{c}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k(\mathbf{c}) P_k(w_i|\mathbf{c})$$

Early and late averaging are orthogonal, can be combined.

Multi-way multi-source MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

	Src	Trgt	Multi		Single	
			Dev	Test	Dev	Test
(a)	Es	En	30.73	28.32	29.74	27.48
(b)	Fr	En	26.93	27.93	26.00	27.21
(c)	En	Es	30.63	28.41	31.31	28.90
(d)	En	Fr	22.68	23.41	22.80	24.05

Table 2: One-to-one translation qualities using the multi-way, multilingual model and four separate single-pair models.

Multi-way multi-source MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

	Src	Trgt	Multi Test	Single Test
(a)	Es	En	28.32	27.48
(b)	Fr	En	27.93	27.21
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		Multi Dev	Test	Single Dev	Test
(a)	Early	31.89	31.35	—	—
(b)	Late	32.04	31.57	32.00	31.46
(c)	E+L	32.61	31.88	—	—

Table 3: Many-to-one quality (Es+Fr→En) using three translation strategies. Compared to Table 2 (a–b) we observe a significant improvement (up to 3+ BLEU), although the model was never trained in these many-to-one settings. The second column shows the quality by the ensemble of two separate single-pair models.

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Zero-shot MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

- Suppose our bilingual parallel data include a pair of languages for which we have no parallel data.

Spanish \longleftrightarrow English English \longleftrightarrow French

- Q: Can we use the multi-way encoder-decoder system to translate Spanish into French?

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	Pivot	Many-to-1	Dev	Test
(a)			< 1	< 1
(b)	✓		20.64	20.4

A: Not really

Must pivot
(explicitly)
through English

Table 4: Zero-resource translation from Spanish (Es) to French (Fr) *without* finetuning. When pivot is ✓, English is used as a pivot language.

Zero-shot MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

- *Finetuning*: what if we use a small amount of parallel data in this setting?
- Q: Where would we get this data?

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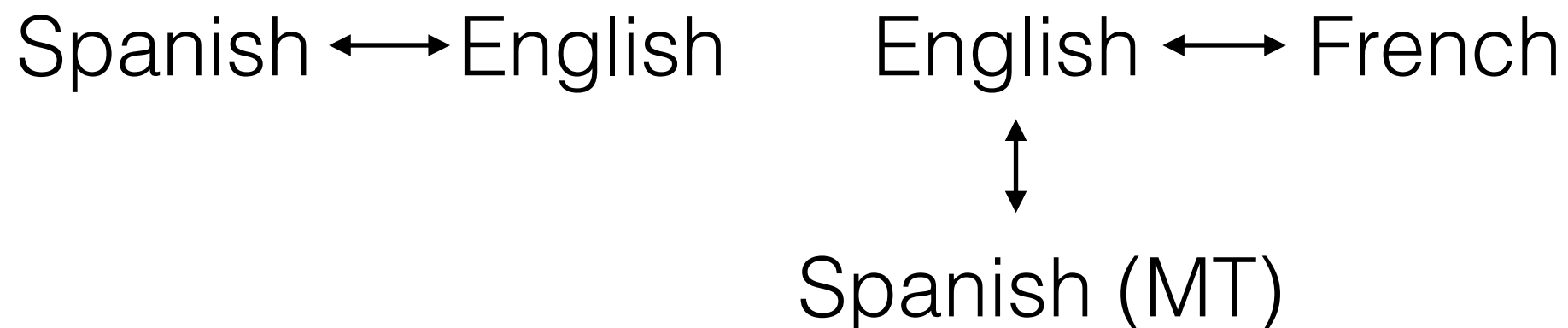
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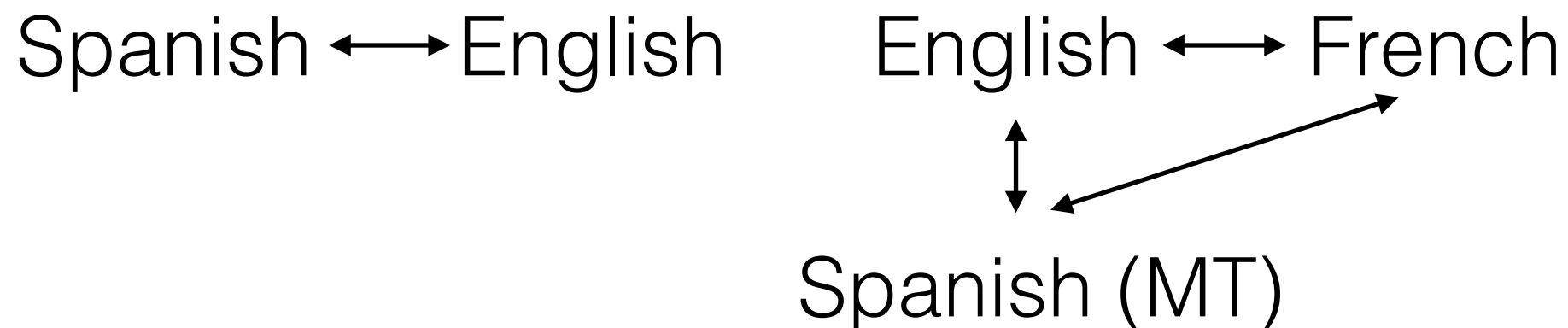
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Pivot	Many-to-1	Pseudo Parallel Corpus			
		1k	10k	100k	1m
Single-Pair Models	Dev	—	—	—	—
	Test	—	—	—	—
✓	No Finetuning	Dev: 20.64, Test: 20.4			
	Dev	0.28	10.16	15.61	17.59
	Test	0.47	10.14	15.41	17.61

Zero-shot MT

Firat et al. 2016 (two papers)

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Pivot	Many-to-1	Pseudo Parallel Corpus				True Parallel Corpus			
		1k	10k	100k	1m	1k	10k	100k	1m
Single-Pair Models	Dev	–	–	–	–	–	–	11.25	21.32
	Test	–	–	–	–	–	–	10.43	20.35
✓	No Finetuning	Dev: 20.64, Test: 20.4				–			
	Dev	0.28	10.16	15.61	17.59	0.1	8.45	16.2	20.59
	Test	0.47	10.14	15.41	17.61	0.12	8.18	15.8	19.97

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Zero-shot MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

- Do we really need N encoders and N decoders?
- Can we just learn a single function parameterized by the desired output language?
 - Implementation: add a token indicating desired output language to input.
- Why is this a nice solution (for Google)?

Multi-source MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

- Sanity check: must not make things worse.

Table 1: Many to One: BLEU scores on various data sets for single language pair and multilingual models.

Model	Single	Multi	Diff
WMT German→English (oversampling)	30.43	30.59	+0.16
WMT French→English (oversampling)	35.50	35.73	+0.23
WMT German→English (no oversampling)	30.43	30.54	+0.11
WMT French→English (no oversampling)	35.50	36.77	+0.27
Prod Japanese→English	23.41	23.87	+0.46
Prod Korean→English	25.42	25.47	+0.05
Prod Spanish→English	38.00	38.73	+0.73
Prod Portuguese→English	44.40	45.19	+0.79

Multi-*target* MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

- Sanity check: must not make things worse.

Table 2: One to Many: BLEU scores on various data sets for single language pair and multilingual models.

Model	Single	Multi	Diff
WMT English→German (oversampling)	24.67	24.97	+0.30
WMT English→French (oversampling)	38.95	36.84	-2.11
WMT English→German (no oversampling)	24.67	22.61	-2.06
WMT English→French (no oversampling)	38.95	38.16	-0.79
Prod English→Japanese	23.66	23.73	+0.07
Prod English→Korean	19.75	19.58	-0.17
Prod English→Spanish	34.50	35.40	+0.90
Prod English→Portuguese	38.40	38.63	+0.23

Zero-shot MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

- Incremental training: add a small amount of (true) parallel data in the language pair of interest.

Table 5: Portuguese→Spanish BLEU scores using various models.

	Model	BLEU
(a)	PBMT bridged	28.99
(b)	NMT bridged	30.91
(c)	NMT Pt→Es	31.50
(d)	Model 1 (Pt→En, En→Es)	21.62
(e)	Model 2 (En↔{Es, Pt})	24.75
(f)	Model 2 + incremental training	31.77

Zero-shot MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

Table 6: BLEU scores for English \leftrightarrow {Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian} models.

	Zero-Shot	From-Scratch	Incremental
English \rightarrow Belarusian	16.85	17.03	16.99
English \rightarrow Russian	22.21	22.03	21.92
English \rightarrow Ukrainian	18.16	17.75	18.27
Belarusian \rightarrow English	25.44	24.72	25.54
Russian \rightarrow English	28.36	27.90	28.46
Ukrainian \rightarrow English	28.60	28.51	28.58
Belarusian \rightarrow Russian	56.53	82.50	78.63
Russian \rightarrow Belarusian	58.75	72.06	70.01
Russian \rightarrow Ukrainian	21.92	25.75	25.34
Ukrainian \rightarrow Russian	16.73	30.53	29.92

trained on
parallel data

Zero-shot MT

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Belarusian \rightarrow Russian	56.53	82.50	78.63
Russian \rightarrow Belarusian	58.75	72.06	70.01
Russian \rightarrow Ukrainian	21.92	25.75	25.34
Ukrainian \rightarrow Russian	16.73	30.53	29.92

zero-shot + small
parallel data

Zero-shot MT

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Russian \rightarrow English	28.36	27.90	28.46
Ukrainian \rightarrow English	28.60	28.51	28.58
Belarusian \rightarrow Russian	56.53	82.50	78.63
Russian \rightarrow Belarusian	58.75	72.06	70.01
Russian \rightarrow Ukrainian	21.92	25.75	25.34
Ukrainian \rightarrow Russian	16.73	30.53	29.92

actual zero-shot
experiment

Zero-shot MT

Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)

Table 6: BLEU scores for English \leftrightarrow {Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian} models.

	Zero-Shot	From-Scratch	Incremental
English \rightarrow Belarusian	16.85	17.03	16.99
English \rightarrow Russian	22.21	22.03	21.92
English \rightarrow Ukrainian	18.16	17.75	18.27
Belarusian \rightarrow English	25.44	24.72	25.54
Russian \rightarrow English	28.36	27.90	28.46
Ukrainian \rightarrow English	28.60	28.51	28.58
Belarusian \rightarrow Russian	56.53	82.50	78.63
Russian \rightarrow Belarusian	58.75	72.06	70.01
Russian \rightarrow Ukrainian	21.92	25.75	25.34
Ukrainian \rightarrow Russian	16.73	30.53	29.92

actual zero-shot
experiment

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code-switching in the input language:

Japanese: 私は東京大学の学生です。 → I am a student at Tokyo University.

Korean: 나는 도쿄 대학의 학생입니다. → I am a student at Tokyo University.

Mixed Japanese/Korean: 私は東京大学학생입니다. → I am a student of Tokyo University.

code-switching in the output language:

Spanish/Portuguese:	Here the other guinea-pig cheered, and was suppressed.
$w_{pt} = 0.00$	Aquí el otro conejillo de indias animó, y fue suprimido.
$w_{pt} = 0.30$	Aquí el otro conejillo de indias animó, y fue suprimido.
$w_{pt} = 0.40$	Aquí, o outro porquinho-da-índia alegrou, e foi suprimido.
$w_{pt} = 0.42$	Aqui o outro porquinho-da-índia alegrou, e foi suprimido.
$w_{pt} = 0.70$	Aqui o outro porquinho-da-índia alegrou, e foi suprimido.
$w_{pt} = 0.80$	Aqui a outra cobaia animou, e foi suprimida.
$w_{pt} = 1.00$	Aqui a outra cobaia animou, e foi suprimida.

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Portuguese informant: “we decided it's impossible to judge the correctness of the translation without context (but it's likely wrong). After finding the context (Alice in Wonderland) we can conclude it's wrong.”

code-switching in the output language:

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$w_{pt} = 0.00$	Aquí el otro conejillo de indias animó, y fue suprimido.
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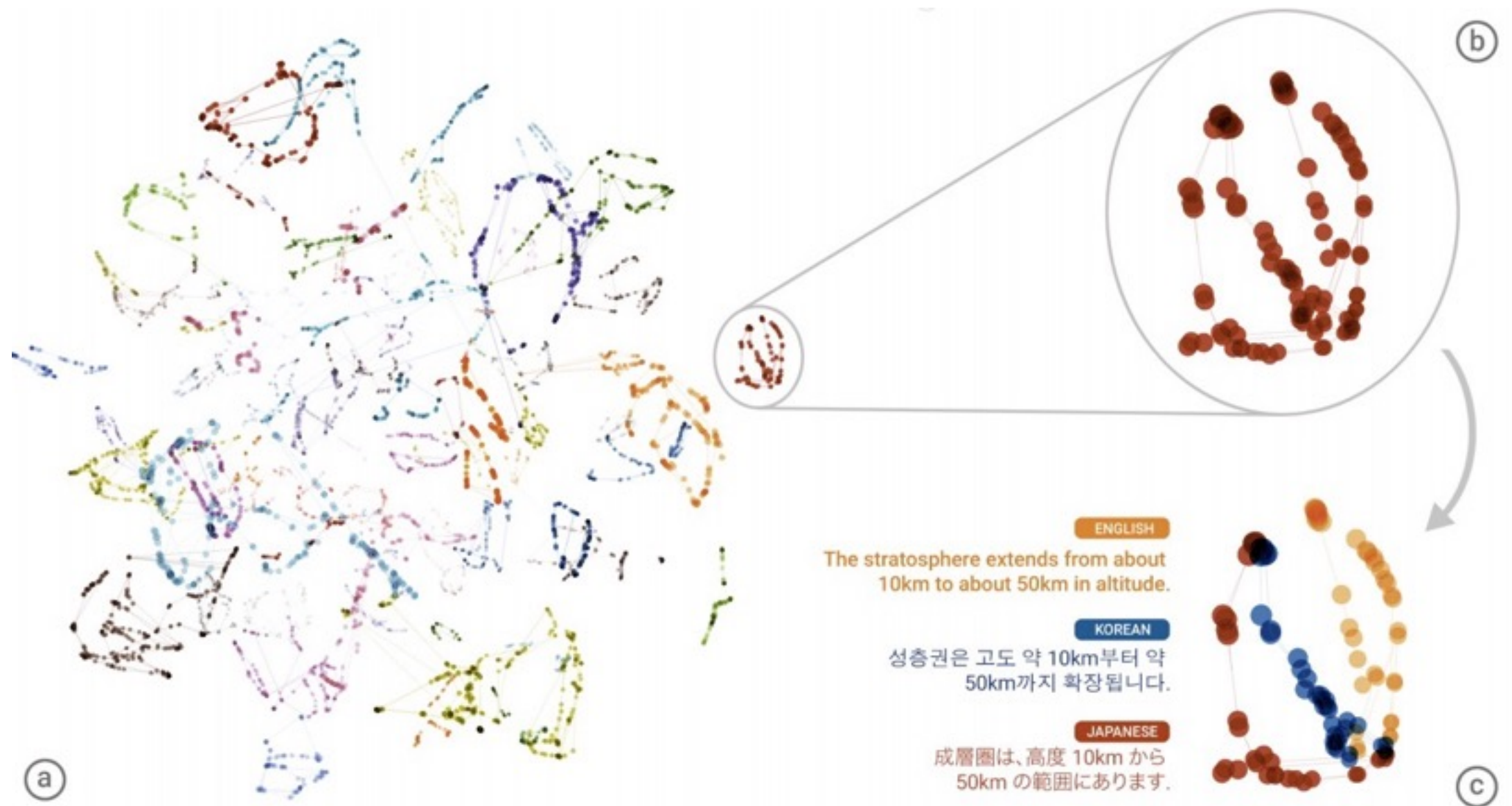
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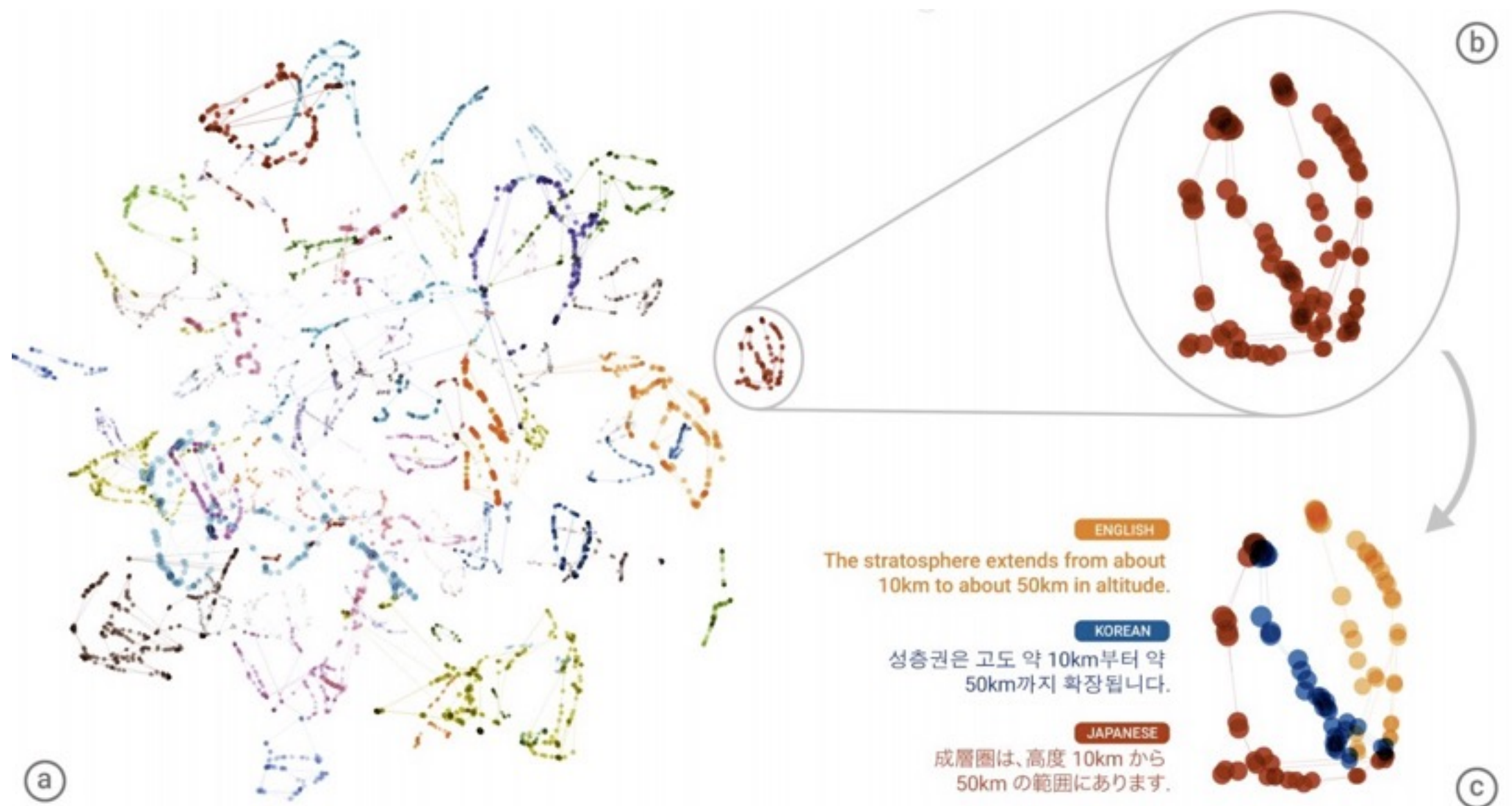
Johnson et al. 2016 (Google)



Low-dimensional embeddings of context vectors

Zero-shot MT

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Low-dimensional embeddings of context vectors
Provocative (untestable) claim: this is an interlingua