



M Ű E G Y E T E M 1 7 8 2

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Universal embeddings

DIPLOMATERV

Készítette

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HALLGATÓI NYILATKOZAT

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Budapest, May 15, 2018

Eszter Iklódi
hallgató

Kivonat

Mindennapi életünkben egyre fontosabb szerepet tölt be a természetes nyelv számítógép segítségével történő feldolgozása. Digitalizált világunkban egyre inkább alapkövetelmény, hogy a gép és ember közötti kommunikáció természetes nyelven történjen. Ennek a megvalósításához elengedhetetlen az emberi nyelv szemantikai értelmezése.

Manapság a state-of-the-art rendszerekben a szavak szemantikai reprezentációja sokdimenziós vektorokkal, word embeddingek-vel történik. Diplomaterv munkámban már feltanított word embeddingek-hez keresek olyan fordítási mátrixokat, amelyek képesek egy adott nyelvű word embedding univerzális térbe történő leképezésére.

A rendszert először Dinu angol-olasz benchmark adatán [27] tanítjuk, majd pedig a PanLex adatbázisból [10] kinyert angol-olasz fordítási párokon kísérletezünk. Végül a két adat kombinálásával is futtatunk kísérleteket.

Dinu adatán futtatott kísérleteink eredményei habár elmaradnak a jelenlegi state-of-the-art rendszerek teljesítményétől, azonban messze meghaladják Mikolov baseline rendszerének eredményeit [44], továbbá összemérhető teljesítményt nyújtanak Faruqui [29] és Dinu [27] szofisztikáltabb rendszereinek teljesítményével.

A PanLex adatbázison futtatott kísérleteink eredményei több, mint egy nagyságrenddel alulmúlják a Dinu adaton futtatott kísérleteink eredményeit. Ezen az adaton különböző kísérleti beállítások ellenére sem sikerült jelentős javulást elérni. Mindazonáltal a Dinu adaton tanított rendszerünk PanLex adattal történő továbbtanításakor az olasz-angol irány precision számai enye javulást mutattak.

Abstract

Computer-driven natural language processing plays an increasingly important role in our everyday life. In our digital world using natural language for human-machine communication has become a basic requirement. In order to meet this requirement it is inevitable to analyze human languages semantically.

Nowadays, state-of-the-art systems represent word meaning with high dimensional vectors, i.e. with word embeddings. In my thesis work I am searching for translation matrices to pre-trained word embeddings, such that the translation matrices will be able to map these embeddings into a universal space.

First we train our system on Dinu’s English-Italian benchmark data [27], then we experiment on English-Italian word pairs extracted from the PanLex database [10]. Finally, we run some other experiments combining these two data sources.

Although our results obtained by using Dinu’s data are worse than state-of-the-art results on this data, they perform significantly better than Mikolov’s baseline system [44], and they provide a comparable performance with Faruqui’s [29] and Dinu’s [27] more sophisticated systems.

Results of the experiments run on the PanLex database are more than one order lower, than our results obtained by using Dinu’s data. Despite the numerous attempts with different configuration settings, we did not manage to reach a significant improvement on this data. Nonetheless, when continuing the training process of our system trained on Dinu’s data with PanLex entries, we observed a slight improvement on the Italian-English precision numbers.

Chapter 1

Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to summarize the main motivation and tasks of the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP).

1.1 Natural Language Processing

NLP is a vibrant interdisciplinary field with many different names, all reflecting a different aspect of it. It is often referred to as speech and language processing, human language technology, computational linguistics, or speech recognition and synthesis. The main goal of this field is to make computers capable of using human languages as a communication protocol between machines and human users.

NLP is a complex field of study since it deals with what is considered to be one of the most delicate characteristics of human beings: human languages. This field is strongly connected with artificial intelligence since humans conceive the world mainly in terms of human languages.

Although they are nowhere near as fast as digital channels, human languages are still a very effective way of communication. When one says only the minimum message the listeners can fill in the rest with their world and common knowledge, and can easily figure out the missing or misunderstood parts from the context of the situation. This way they are also able to resolve ambiguities, homonyms etc. without even noticing it. Nonetheless, for a computer these tasks are not trivial at all.

Computer integrated human language communication has gone as far as assigning truly intelligent machines the ability of being capable of processing language as skillfully as humans do. This idea was first introduced in the 1950s by Alan Turing who proposed what has come to be known as the Turing test.

To get a more detailed overview of what NLP is about, interested readers are encouraged to consult Dan Jurafsky's *Speech and language processing* book [37]. For those who prefer video lectures, the course *Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning* held by Christopher Manning and Richard Socher, professors of the Stanford University School of Engineering, can give a deeper insight into this topic. This course is available on YouTube [1].

1.1.1 Common tasks of NLP

NLP comprises a wide variety of tasks. Some of them like spam detection, part-of-speech (POS) tagging, or named entity recognition are considered to be mostly solved problems. Applications for these tasks are now out in the market and are usually integrated into smart devices even by default.

Great progress has been made recently with other tasks, which implies the existence of already fair enough applications but means that research work is yet to be done. Among them there are tasks such as sentiment analysis, words sense disambiguation, syntactic parsing, and machine translation, just to mention a few of them.

What is still considered to be quite challenging is to understand the meaning of a text. There are numerous tasks where dealing with semantics is inevitable in order to make relevant progress. Such tasks include question answering, dialogues, summarization, paraphrases, or text inference, just to mention a few.

1.1.2 Motivation for NLP research

Nowadays NLP technologies are becoming more and more integrated into our everyday life. With the advent of smart phones the importance of language has gone even further. These devices have small and rather inconvenient keyboards, thus speech-driven communication seems very appealing. Big companies such as Amazon, Apple, Facebook, or Google are all releasing products that use natural languages (human languages) to communicate with users. Since this thesis aims to contribute to the research field of word meaning and universal semantic representations, only those applications are listed below that can directly take advantage of these contributions.

Speech-driven assistance applications can make our everyday life more enjoyable, more comfortable and more convenient. They already help children develop delicate skills and they provide an immense amount of help for elderly people or people living with disabilities. These systems are using speech input for which first automatic speech recognition technologies have to be applied. But after that, in order to understand the goal of the user, a semantic analysis must be run as well.

An early version of conversational agents and certain strongly domain-based chatbots are already out on the market, providing 24 hour, immediate assistance for customers. By letting computers do the monotone and non-creative tasks employees could have more interesting jobs, tasks that only humans are able to do, or their working hours could be decreased, either of which would greatly benefit society [2].

Advances in machine translation have already created a world where non-English speakers can also enjoy the benefits of the English-based web services. Generally, it can be said that for widespread languages machine translation has already reached a fairly usable state, for rare languages, however, it is still facing difficulties.

There are also numerous Web related tasks that are strongly reliant on the semantic analysis of the text. One promising application would be Web-based question answering which is can be considered as an extended version of the classical Web search. Instead of searching just for key words complete questions could also be used when communicating with the search engine, just like in the case of human-to-human communication [50]. For all these applications, however, it is

inevitable to look beyond the syntactic surface and dig deeper into the underlying semantics.

1.2 Thesis objectives

The main focus of this study is word meaning. Given the need for robust representations for many languages, the question of whether human conceptual structure is universal has recently gained interest not only among cognitive scientists ([54], [40], [33]), but among computational linguists as well. Youn et al. [63] showed that human conceptual structure is independent of certain non-linguistic factors such as geography, climate, topology or literary traditions. Based on such findings this work proposes a procedure to construct a universal semantic representation in the form of translation matrices that serve to map each language to a universal space. As for pre-trained word vectors the *fastText* word embedding is used [25] (discussed in 3.1.1), which contains word vectors for 294 languages. During the training process a set of word translation pairs extracted from various gold dictionaries are aligned. These dictionaries involve Dinu’s data, discussed in 3.1.2, on the one hand, and the PanLex database, discussed in 3.1.3, on the other hand.

1.3 Thesis results

The system is trained and tested using the *fastText* pre-trained embedding and various word translation sets. Experiments and results are discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

First, the system is trained and tested on the train and test sets proposed by Dinu [27]. This data contains English-Italian word translation pairs which have recently become a benchmark data on word translation tasks. The proposed method reaches significantly better results, both in English-Italian and in Italian-English directions, than Mikolov’s baseline system [44]. Furthermore, these results are also comparable with the performance of Faruqui’s [29] and Dinu’s [27] more elaborated systems’ on the same benchmark data. This system is called the baseline system. For more details see 4.2.

Next, the model is trained on English-Italian word translation pairs extracted from the PanLex database [10]. Comparing it with the previously described baseline system, the achieved results are more than one order of magnitude lower **TODO: might get better**. Even after trying out various configuration settings, the obtained results still do not get significantly higher. For more details see 4.3.

Finally, the extracted PanLex word translation pairs were used for continuing the training of the baseline system. One surprising finding is that this model reaches a slightly better performance on Italian-English direction, than the baseline system does. For more details see 4.4.

1.4 References

The code of our system is available on Github on the following link:

<https://github.com/EsztI/dipterv>

The whole code base was implemented by the author of this thesis except for an earlier version of the script which extracts translation pairs from the PanLex database:

https://github.com/Eszti/dipterv/blob/master/panlex/scripts/panlex/extract_tsv.py. This piece of code was implemented by the supervisor of this thesis, Gábor Recski.

1.5 Document structure

The thesis is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1** briefly explains the goals and the motivation of the research field of NLP. It also summarizes the main contributions and the results of this thesis work.
- **Chapter 2** discusses the state-of-the-art semantic word representations, the word embeddings. It briefly presents the standard *word2vec* learning procedure for monolingual word vectors and it introduces the concept of multilingual word embedding.
- **Chapter 3** describes the available resources for multilingual embedding learning that were utilized during this work. It also introduces the proposed model in detail. It explains the learning procedure and the basic infrastructural and architectural features of the implemented system.
- **Chapter 4** presents all the experiments. It summarizes the results and compares them with the performance of other systems.
- **Chapter 5** is devoted to the description of future work. This chapter suggests modifications and follow-ups which could not be included here due to time limitations, or which are beyond the scope of this thesis work.

Chapter 2

Word embeddings

2.1 Semantic encoding of words

Within the field of natural language processing a more specific area concentrates on semantic representations which are being leveraged both by classical semantic tasks such as question answering or chatbots and by other NLP tasks which in the strict sense of the word are not considered semantic tasks such as machine translation or syntactic parsing. A crucial part of all semantic tasks is to have a proper word representation which is capable of encoding the meaning as well.

One way to build a semantic representation is to use a distributional model. The idea is based on the observation that synonyms or words with similar meanings tend to occur in similar contexts, or as it was phrased by Firth in 1957: "You shall know a word by the company it keeps" [32]. For example, in the following two sentences "*The cat is walking in the bedroom*" and "*A dog was running in a room*" words like "*dog*" and "*cat*" have exactly the same semantic and grammatical roles therefore we could easily imagine the two sentences in the following variations: "*The dog is walking in the bedroom*" and "*A cat was running in a room*" [24]. Based on this intuition, what distributional models are aiming to do is to compute the meaning of a word from the distribution of words around it [37]. The obtained meaning representations are usually high dimensional vectors, called word embeddings, which refer to their characteristic feature that they model a world by embedding it into a vector space.

One such model was first introduced by Bengio et al. [24], whose primary purpose, though, was to construct a novel language model. Language modelling is the task of learning the joint probability function of word sequences in a given language. It is usually done by n-grams which are predicting the probability of a word in a sequence given the N previous ones. By increasing the number of words in the language, i.e. increasing the vocabulary size, the number of probabilities to learn grows exponentially. This problem is often called the "curse of dimensionality". Bengio et al. was the first to suggest applying a multilayer neural network for learning language models. The network consisted of input, projection, hidden, and output layers shown in Figure 2.1. The network was fed by the N previous words in the sequence. At the input layer every word was represented by a vector using 1-of-V encoding, a.k.a one-hot encoding, where V denotes the size of the vocabulary. 1-of-V encoding vectors have a length of V, with all values being 0, except for one that corresponds to the given word of the vocabulary. They obtained a distributed representation for

each word along with a probability function for word sequences. This probability function could predict never seen sentences as well if they were made of words with similar representations. The obtained word representations were feature vectors, having much smaller number of features than the size of the vocabulary. For the vocabulary they used 17K words, which means that the neural network was fed with 17K dimensional vectors, and for the number of features they ran experiments with 30, 60, and 100 features. These feature vectors can be regarded as an early version of a word embedding. These days word vectors usually have a dimension of 300 to 1000. With their proposed model Bengio et al. not only managed to reduce the dimension of the vectors encoding words, but they obtained a more meaningful word representation as well. This approach improved the state-of-the-art n-gram models with differences between 10 and 20 % in perplexity, both on a smaller (~1 million words) and on a larger (~15 million words) corpus.

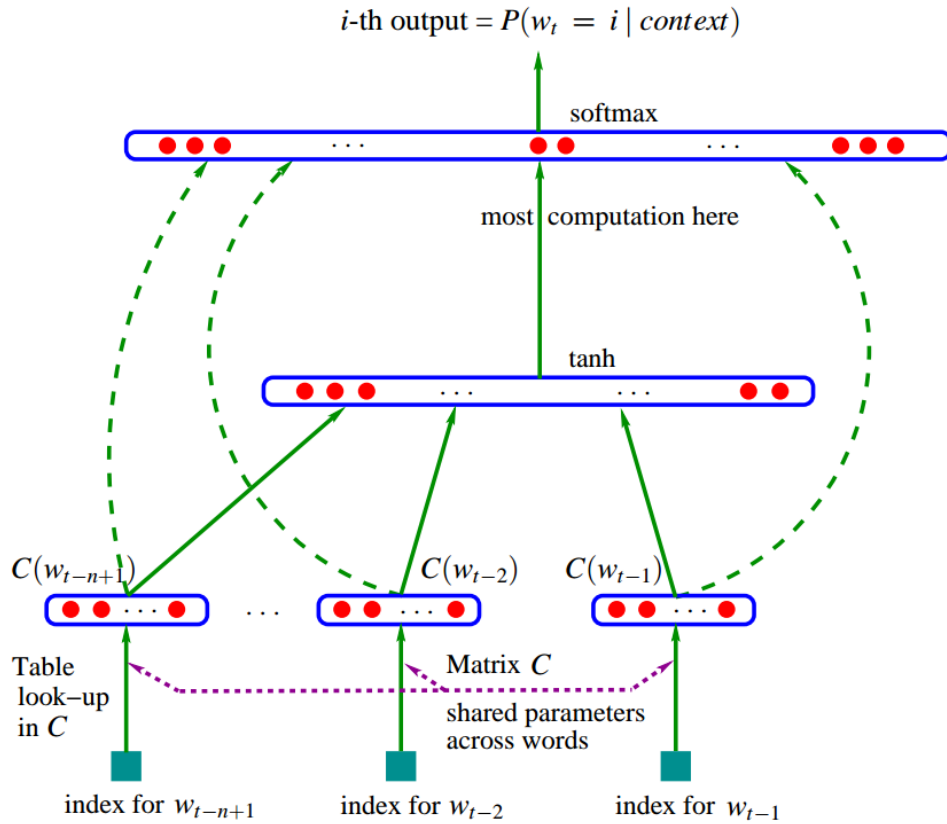


Figure 2.1: Network architecture proposed by Bengio et al.[24]

Mikolov et al. [45] showed that the characteristics of word embeddings go well beyond syntactic regularities. They showed that applying simple vector operations (e.g. vector addition and subtraction) can often produce meaningful results. For example, it was shown that if $vector("King") - vector("Man") + vector("Woman")$ is calculated the result vector is the one closest to the vector representation of the word *Queen* [46]. Moreover, state-of-the-art results on word similarity tasks are all held by word embeddings, where the similarity of two words is measured by the normalized dot product of the two corresponding word vectors. This measure is called the cosine similarity of words.

Another way to build semantic representations is to utilize lexical databases. In some previous

works of the research team a hybrid system was created, which leveraged both the *4lang* orthological model described in [38], [39], and [17] and various distributional models, i.e. various word embeddings. This system reached a state-of-the-art score on the *SimLex-999* [35] benchmark data [52] in 2016.

The following sections describes the basic procedure of training word embeddings and, following that, it focuses on multilingual word embeddings, a more specific field of computational semantics.

2.2 Models for learning word embeddings

In 2013 Mikolov suggested a Bag-of-words Neural Network, more specifically the following two architectures [43]. The first one, denoted as the Continuous Bag-of-Words Model (CBOW) tried to predict the current word based on the context, whereas the second one, denoted as the continuous skip-gram model tried to maximize the classification of a word based on another word in the same sentence. Both models worked better than the model suggested by Bengio [24] both on semantic and syntactic tasks, while between the two models of Mikolov the CBOW turned out to be slightly better on syntactic tasks and the skip-gram on semantic tasks. Mikolov's procedure has become known as the *word2vec* procedure and the source code is available on github <http://deeplearning4j.org/word2vec>. The architecture of the CBOW and the skip-gram models are shown in Figure 2.2.

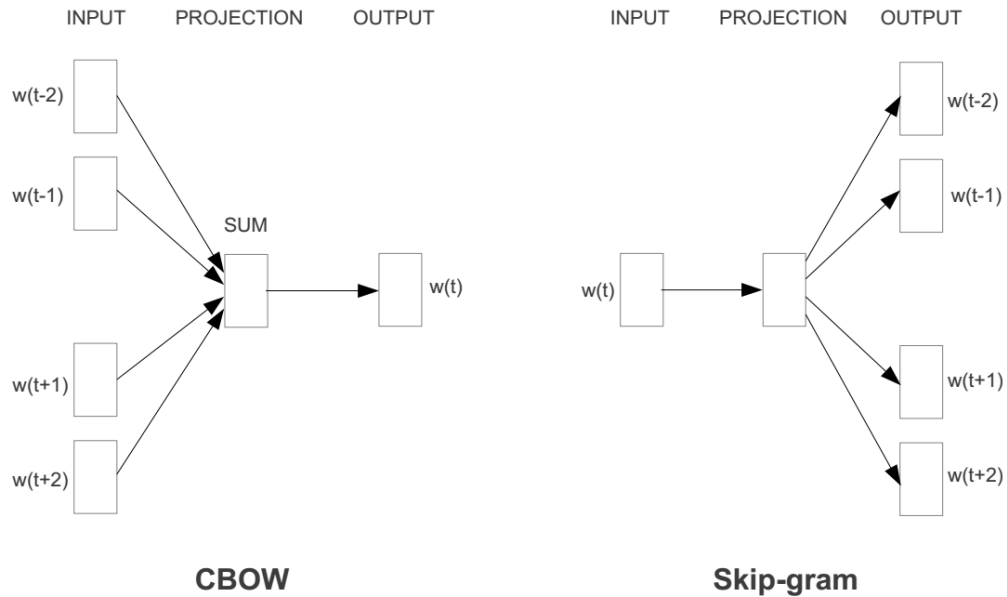


Figure 2.2: Bag-of-words neural networks suggested by Mikolov et al.[45]

Embeddings are usually evaluated on word similarity and word analogy tasks. Besides providing quite promising results on them, they have also been applied to many downstream tasks, from named entity recognition and chunking [61] to dependency parsing [21]. It has furthermore been shown that weakly supervised embedding algorithms can also lead to huge improvements for tasks like sentiment analysis [59].

2.3 Multilingual word embeddings

The aim of this section is to describe the importance of multilingual word embeddings. It also explains how it is possible to incorporate word embeddings trained on monolingual text corpora into a multilingual context. After that, a brief summary is presented about the previous attempts on constructing cross-lingual word vector representations.

2.3.1 Motivation

The question how to model representations is a highly interdisciplinary issue to discuss. Within cognitive science, traditionally there are two dominating approaches to this problem. The first one is a *symbolic* one which states that cognitive systems can be described as Turing machines. The second one, denoted as *associationism*, says that representations are associations among different kinds of information elements. In his book, *Conceptual Spaces: The Geometry of Thought* [33], Gärdenfors advocates a third approach, which he calls *conceptual* from. This representation is based on using geometrical structures rather than symbols or connections among neurons.

To go a step further one could ask whether these structures are universal among all human beings. Approaching this question with the eyes of a computer scientist this problem might be formulated as whether it is possible to model meaning universally, i.e. independently of language. Current meaning representations are learned from monolingual corpora, and therefore infer language dependency. But is there a way to find one single representation instead of a different one for each and every human language?

Youn et al. [63] suggested that the human brain may reflect distinct features of cultural, historical, and environmental background in addition to properties universal to human cognition. They provided an empirical measure of semantic proximity between concepts using entries of the Swadesh list [58]. The Swadesh list is a cross-linguistic dictionary which includes a 110- and a 207-item list of basic concepts in approximately 2000 languages. Youn et al. took 22 concepts of this list that refer to material entities (e.g. STONE, EARTH, SAND, ASHES), celestial objects (e.g., SUN, MOON, STAR), natural settings (e.g., DAY, NIGHT), and geographic features (e.g., LAKE, MOUNTAIN). Then, they applied translation and back-translation through various languages. As a result of numbers of polysemies in the resulting graph originally distinct concepts become connected. For example the Spanish word CIELO in English both means HEAVEN and SKY. Thus by applying English-Spanish-English translation and back-translation the two English words HEAVEN and SKY become connected. The more such polysemous words we find, the stronger such connections become. For example, if besides Spanish, we also apply the translation and back-translation through German, the same polysemy appears: the German word HIMMEL in English both means HEAVEN and SKY, just like the Spanish word CIELO. The procedure is shown on Figures 2.3 and 2.4.

Statistical analysis of the obtained graphs constructed over the polysemies observed in the above-mentioned 22-word-long subset of basic vocabulary showed that the structural properties of these graphs are consistent across different language groups, and largely independent of geography, environment, and the presence or absence of literary traditions. Based on these findings it seems reasonable to assume that the structure of meaning, at least to a certain extent, is universal.

Therefore representing semantics at universal level seems to be a valid approach.

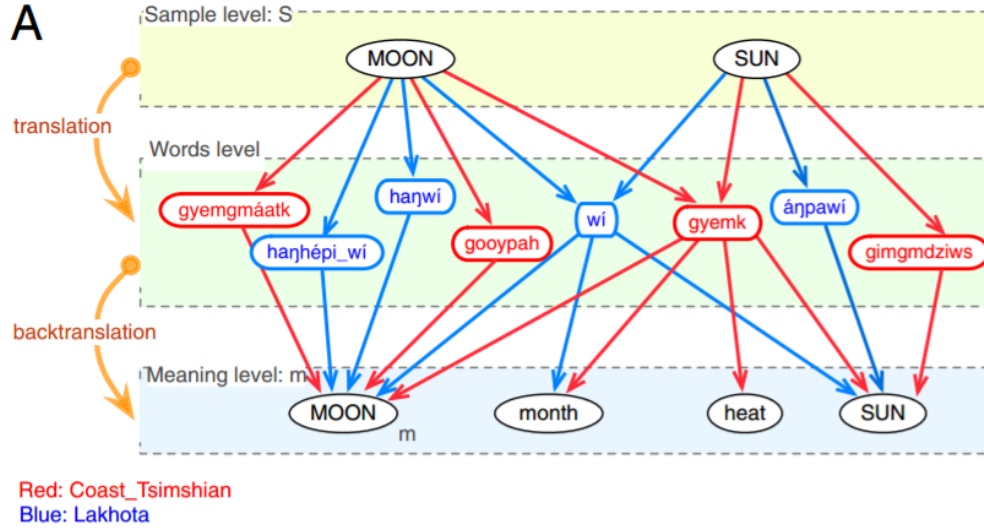


Figure 2.3: Translating MOON and SUN through polysemous words.

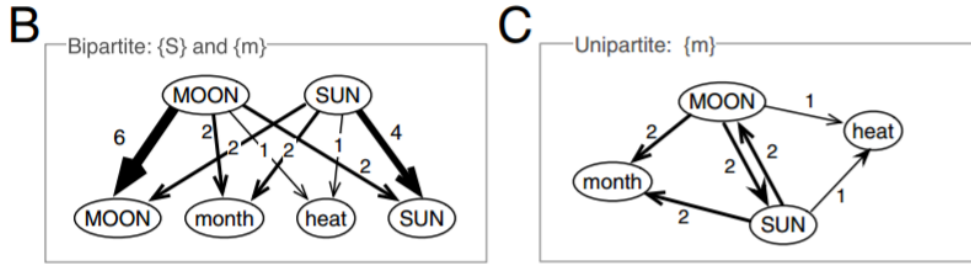


Figure 2.4: Making links between English concepts through eliminating the internal nodes.

2.3.2 Tasks

Beyond the theoretical level of whether meaning is universal there are numerous practical problems for which cross-lingual embeddings might come in handy. In this section different tasks are proposed, where solutions can be facilitated by utilizing multi-lingual embeddings.

Cross-language part-of-speech tagging

POS tagging is the task for annotating a text with part-of-speech tags. The fundamental idea behind the multilingual learning of part-of-speech tagging is that when assigning part-of-speech tags the patterns of ambiguity differ across languages. A word with part-of-speech tag ambiguity in one language may correspond to an unambiguous word in the other language. For example, the word “can” in English may function as an auxiliary verb, a noun, or a regular verb; however, after translating the sentence into other languages, the different meanings of “can” are likely to be expressed with different lexemes. By combining natural cues from multiple languages, the structure of each POS tagger becomes more apparent [48].

Cross-language super sense tagging

SuperSense Tagging is the problem of assigning "supersense" categories (e.g. person, act) to the senses of words according to their context in large scale texts. Opposite to Named Entity Recognition (NER) systems a Super Sense Tagger does not make a difference between proper and common names. These "supersense" categories include general concepts defined by WordNet [23], which originally introduces 45 lexicographer's categories [30].

Attempts for creating such systems have already been made. For example Picca et al. [49] trained a multilingual super sense tagger on the Italian and English languages. Despite the fact that they did not use any word embeddings, the introduction of multilingual word embeddings to this task could significantly facilitate the development of multilingual knowledge induction, ontology engineering, and knowledge retrieval.

Machine translation

Machine translation is the task of translating a text automatically with a computer from a source language to a target language. Current translation models often fail to generate good translations for infrequent words or phrases. Previous works tried to improve this by inducing new translation rules from monolingual data with a semi-supervised algorithm. Nevertheless, this approach does not scale very well since it is computationally quite expensive. Zhao et al. [64] proposed a much faster and simpler method that creates translation rules for infrequent phrases based on phrases with similar continuous representations, i.e. with similar word vectors, for which a translation is known. Their method improved a phrase-based baseline by up to 1.6 BLEU on Arabic-English translation, and it was three-orders of magnitudes faster than existing semi-supervised methods and 0.5 BLEU more accurate.

By introducing a universal vector space, in order to cover all possible translation pairs for n languages, instead of having to train $\binom{n}{2}$ translators it would be enough to train only $2n$ translators, for each language from the source space to the universal space and vice versa, which would significantly simplify the Machine Translation task.

Under-resourced languages

Dictionaries and phrase tables are the basis of modern statistical machine translation systems. Mikolov et al. [44] showed a method that can automate the process of generating and extending dictionaries and phrase tables. They could translate missing word and phrase entries by learning language structures based on large monolingual data and mapping between languages from small bilingual data. This is a powerful opportunity for rare languages to join the mostly English-based world of the Web and for non-English speakers to enjoy its benefits without having to speak English.

2.3.3 Applications

Facebook has already made use of multilingual embeddings [15]. To better serve their community they offer features like Recommendations [5] and M Suggestions [4] in many languages. These

services are based on text classification, which refers to the process of assigning a predefined category from a set to a document of text. With language-specific NLP techniques, supporting a new language implies solving the problem once again from scratch. One way is to train a separate classifier for each language, which means collecting a separate, large set of training data every time. Collecting data is an expensive and time-consuming process, which becomes increasingly difficult when scaling it up to support more than 100 languages. Another way is to train only one classifier (e.g. an English one) and then, before applying this classifier for languages different from English, as a pre-processing step, the text will first be translated to English. This solution is prone to error propagation and, in addition, it involves an additional call to the translation service which leads to a significant degradation in performance.

Using multilingual embeddings in order to help applications scale to more languages is a great advantage. Since the words in a new language will appear close to the words in the trained languages in the embedding space, the classifier will be able to perform well on new languages as well. It is not necessary to call translation services, therefore it does not affect the performance either.

2.4 State-of-the-art multilingual embedding models

This section presents a brief history on cross-lingual word vector representations. First the baseline approach of Mikolov et al. [44] is described and next various attempts are studied, which intended to improve this baseline system and to alleviate its errors. Finally, some recent attempts are summarized, which aimed to obtain multilingual word embeddings without using any parallel data.

2.4.1 First attempt: Mikolov et al.

Right after publishing their *word2vec* procedure, Mikolov et al. [44] went even further by noticing that continuous word embedding spaces exhibit similar structures across languages. They applied a simple two-step procedure:

- Firstly, monolingual models of languages using huge corpora were built, e.g. by using the *word2vec* method.
- Secondly, a small bilingual dictionary was used to learn linear projection between the languages. These words are often referred to as anchor points. The optimization problem was the following:

$$\min_W \sum_{i=1}^n ||Wx_i - z_i||^2 \quad (2.1)$$

where W denotes the transformation matrix, and $\{x_i, z_i\}_{i=1}^n$ are the continuous vector representations of word translation pairs, with x_i being in the source language space and z_i in the target language space.

- Finally, at test time, any word can be translated from the source language by projecting its source language vector representation to the target language space. Once the vector in the target language space is obtained, the most similar word vector can serve as the output of the translation. The percentage of how many times the right translations are among the N closest words is called precision@N .

Applying only the translation matrices, they achieved 51% precision@5 for translation of words between English and Spanish. To obtain dictionaries first they created monolingual corpora from the WMT11 text data [16]. Then they took the most frequent words from these monolingual source datasets and translated them using on-line Google Translate (GT). Beside simple words, they also used short phrases as dictionary entries. In addition to the promising result on the English-Spanish word translation task, this method seemed to be working even for distant language pairs like English and Vietnamese as well.

Mikolov's simple procedure also serves as a guideline to follow for constructing new multilingual word vector models. Most of the various improvements described below proposed different procedures for the second step. This thesis also proposes a novel way of finding the linear projections for Mikolov's second step using different datasets.

2.4.2 Improvements of Mikolov's model

Since Mikolov's experiments various attempts have been made to improve the cross-lingual embeddings. Below, the basic ideas of these methods and their results are summarized.

Faruqui and Dyer

Faruqui and Dyer [29] proposed a procedure to obtain multilingual word embeddings by concatenating the two word vectors coming from the two languages. This procedure, however, has significant drawbacks, such as increases in dimension, the introduction of irrelevant data, the incapacity of generalization across languages, and the handling of out of vocabulary words. To counter these problems, they used canonical correlation analysis (CCA), which is a way of measuring the linear relationship between two multidimensional variables. For each of the two variables it finds a projection vector that is optimal with respect to correlations. The great advantage of this procedure is that these new projection vectors preserve or even reduce the dimensionality. The obtained multi-lingual embeddings were tested on the following four different standard word similarity tasks:

- On the WS-353 dataset [31], which contains 353 pairs of English words that have been assigned similarity ratings by humans. This dataset was later further divided into two different fragments *similarity*, WS-SIM, and *relatedness*, WS-REL by Agierre et al. [18] who claimed that these two are different kinds of relations and should be dealt with separately
- On the RG-65 dataset which contains 65 pairs of nouns ranked by humans [55].
- On the MC-30 dataset which contains 30 pairs of nouns ranked by humans [47].

- On the MTurk-287 dataset [51] consisting of 287 pairs of words, which has been constructed by crowdsourcing the human similarity ratings using Amazon Mechanical Turk.

These word representations obtained after using multilingual evidence performed significantly better on the above-mentioned evaluation tasks compared to the monolingual vectors. The method was more suitable for semantic encoding than for syntactic encoding. As a conclusion, it was shown that multilingual evidence is an important resource even for purely monolingual applications.

Xing et al.

Xing et al. [62] showed that bilingual translation can be largely improved by normalizing the embeddings and by restricting the transformation matrices into orthogonal ones.

In order to compare their results with Mikolov's [44], they largely followed their settings [44] to create an English-Spanish dictionary. After extracting the monolingual datasets from the WMT11 corpus they selected the 6000 most frequent words in English and employed Google's online translation service to translate them into Spanish. The resulting 6000 English-Spanish word pairs were used to train and test the obtained bilingual transformation matrices using cross validation. First they reproduced Mikolov's results and then they showed that their method outperformed those results with approximately 10 % on this English-Spanish setting. The exact numbers are shown in Table 2.1.

	eng - ita	
Precision	@1	@5
Mikolov [44]	33%	51%
Mikolov on Xing's data	30.43%	49.43%
Xing	38.99%	59.16%

Table 2.1: Comparing Mikolov's results with Xing's. The first row shows results reported by Mikolov in [44], the second row contains the numbers obtained by Xing using Mikolov's method, and the last row presents the results of Xing's procedure. Experiments of the last two rows were carried out on the exact same dataset. The original dataset that Mikolov experimented with was not published.

Dinu et al.

Dinu et al. [27] studied the phenomenon of hubs. He showed that the neighbourhoods of the mapped vectors are strongly polluted by hubs, which are vectors that tend to be near a high proportion of items. Thus their correct labels will be pushed down in the neighbour lists when looking up for word translations. They proposed a method that computes hubness scores for target space vectors and penalizes those vectors that are close to many words, i.e. hubs are down-ranked in the neighbouring lists.

The experiments were carried out on an English-Italian dataset created by themselves and discussed in detail in 3.1.2.

Lazaridou et al.

Lazaridou et al. [41] studied some theoretical and empirical properties of a general cross-space mapping function, and tested them on cross-linguistic (word translation) and cross-modal (image labelling) tasks. By introducing negative samples during the learning process they could reach state-of-the-art results on Dinu’s English-Italian word translation task. Settings for the negative examples were studied both by choosing them randomly and by choosing "intruders" which are near the mapped vector, but far from the actual gold target space vector. The "intruder" approach achieved better results, and was able to do so even after a few training epochs.

Ammar et al.

Ammar et al. [19] proposed methods for estimating and evaluating embeddings of words in more than fifty languages in a single shared embedding space. Since English usually offers the largest corpora and bilingual dictionaries, they used the English embeddings to serve as the shared embedding space. First they introduced a multilingual clustering approach called *MultiCluster*. Then, they extended various bilingual methods for multilingual usages, such as Faruqui’s CCA procedure, which they called *MultiCCA*, or Luong et al.’s method [42], which they called *MultiSkip*. Finally they experimented with another procedure called *translation-invariance*, which was proposed by Huang et al. [36].

The *MultiCluster* and *MultiCCA* methods were tested on 59 languages, while the *MultiSkip* and *translation-invariance* methods on only 12 languages for which high-quality parallel data was available. For the 12 languages the bilingual dictionaries were extracted from the Europarl parallel corpora, while for the remaining 47 languages, dictionaries were formed by translating the 20k most common words in the English monolingual corpus with Google Translate.

This thesis also proposes a method which is capable of projecting multiple number of languages into a single, shared embedding space. This procedure, however, instead of taking the English embedding as the shared space, it projects all the different embeddings into an independent, universal space.

Artetxe et al.

Artetxe et al. [20] built a generic framework that generalizes previous works made on cross-linguistic embeddings. Procedures of Mikolov (2013) [44], Faruqui and Dyer (2014) [29], and Xing (2015) [62] were implemented as part of their framework. For evaluating the methods they used the same English-Italian dataset by Dinu, discussed in 3.1.2. As a conclusion they published that of the proposed methods with the best overall results were the ones with orthogonality constraint and a global pre-processing with length normalization and dimension-wise mean centering. Table 2.2 shows their result summary.

Smith et al.

Smith et al. [57] also proved that translation matrices should be orthogonal. They applied singular value decomposition (SVD) to achieve this. Besides, they introduced a novel “inverted softmax”

	eng - ita
Precision	@1
Mikolov et al. (2013)	34.93%
Xing et al. (2015)	36.87%
Faruqui and Dyer (2014)	37.80%
Artex et al.	39.27%

Table 2.2: Artetxe’s summary on Dinu’s data [20]

method for identifying translation pairs, with which they improved the precision of Mikolov. Orthogonal transformations also turned out to be more robust to noise, which made it possible to learn the transformations without expert bilingual resource by constructing a “pseudo-dictionary” from the identical character strings.

For evaluation they also used Dinu’s English-Italian setting. In order to compare their method with the previous ones they reproduced the previous experiments both in English-Italian and Italian-English directions and published a summary in the form of tables that are presented here as Table 2.3 and Table 2.4. All the methods turned out to be more accurate when translating from English to Italian. This is not surprising at all, given the fact that many English words can be translated to either the male or female form of the Italian word. Smith’s system reached state-of-the-art scores on Dinu’s dataset in 2017.

Precision	@1	@5	@10
Mikolov et al. (2013b)	0.338	0.483	0.539
Faruqui et al. (2014)	0.361	0.527	0.581
Dinu et al. (2015)	0.385	0.564	0.639
Smith et al. (2017)	0.431	0.607	0.664

Table 2.3: English to Italian results on Dinu’s data published by Smith

Precision	@1	@5	@10
Mikolov et al. (2013b)	0.249	0.410	0.474
Faruqui et al. (2014)	0.310	0.499	0.570
Dinu et al. (2015)	0.246	0.454	0.541
Smith et al. (2017)	0.380	0.585	0.636

Table 2.4: Italian to English results on Dinu’s data published by Smith

2.4.3 Models without parallel data

While all the above-mentioned methods rely on bilingual word lexicons, most recent studies are aiming to eliminate the need for any parallel data at all. Smith et al. [57] already made attempts for the alleviation of parallel data supervision by introducing character-level information, but the results were not on par with their supervised counterparts. In addition, these methods are strictly limited to language pairs sharing a common alphabet.

Conneau et al. [26] introduced an unsupervised way for aligning monolingual word embedding spaces between two languages without using any parallel corpora. Their experiments showed

that this method can be applied even for distant language pairs like English-Russian or English-Chinese.

On Dinu’s benchmark setting they reported results with two different embeddings. First, they used word vectors trained on the WaCky datasets [22], just like all previous systems did so far. Then, they experimented with embeddings trained on Wikipedia using their novel *fastText* method discussed in 3.1.1. Conneau’s unsupervised method reached comparable results with Smith’s supervised model when training it with the WaCky embeddings, but it performed significantly better when training it with their *fastText* embeddings. Their system reached new state-of-the-art scores on Dinu’s benchmark data, both in English-Italian and in Italian-English directions. Results are summarized in Table 2.5 and 2.6.

Precision	@1	@5	@10
Smith et al. (2017)	0.431	0.607	0.651
Conneau et al. (2017) - WaCky	0.451	0.607	0.651
Conneau et al. (2017) - fastText	0.662	0.804	0.834

Table 2.5: *English to Italian results on Dinu’s data published by Conneau*

Precision	@1	@5	@10
Smith et al. (2017)	0.380	0.585	0.636
Conneau et al. (2017) - WaCky	0.383	0.578	0.628
Conneau et al. (2017) - fastText	0.587	0.765	0.809

Table 2.6: *Italian to English results on Dinu’s data published by Conneau*

Chapter 3

Proposed model

This thesis work introduces an approach to learn translation matrices between distributional word vector spaces. The method requires multilingual pre-trained word embeddings and a multilingual gold dictionary containing word translation pairs. This section first describes the utilized multilingual resources and then goes on to discuss the approach in detail.

3.1 Multilingual data

This section briefly describes the data resources that were used during the experiments carried out within the scope of this work. These involve the pre-trained *fastText* embedding published by the Facebook AI research group and two gold bilingual dictionaries. One of them was constructed by Dinu [27] and the other was extracted from the PanLex database [10] by the author of this thesis.

3.1.1 The *fastText* embedding

The usual technique for obtaining continuous word representation, i.e. word embeddings, is to represent each word of the vocabulary by a distinct vector, without parameter sharing. Such vectors completely ignore the morphology of words which is a significant limitation especially for agglutinating languages, e.g. Hungarian. In these languages new words are formed by stringing together morphemes which leads to large vocabularies and many rare words.

In 2017 the Facebook AI Research group proposed a new approach based on the skipgram model [43], but this time, contrary to the previously mentioned methods, parameter sharing was applied and words were represented as a bag of character n-grams [25]. First, a vector representation was associated to each character n-gram. Next, the word vectors were constructed as the sum of these character n-gram representations. With this method they were capable of computing the vector representations of words previously unseen in the training data. Moreover, the procedure turned out to be faster than the previous ones as well. The model was evaluated both on word similarity and word analogy tasks. The results showed that this model outperformed Mikolov’s CBOW and skipgram baseline systems that did not take sub-word information into account. It also did better than methods relying on morphological analysis.

Their pre-trained word vectors trained on Wikipedia are available for 294 languages on the following github link:

3.1.2 English-Italian setup of Dinu

Dinu et al. [27] constructed an English-Italian gold dictionary split into a train and a test set that is now being used as benchmark data for evaluating English-Italian word translation tasks. Both train and test translation pairs were extracted from a dictionary built from Europarl, available at <http://opus.lingfil.uu.se/> (Europarl, en-it) [60].

For the test set they used 1,500 English words split into 5 frequency bins, 300 randomly chosen in each bin. The bins are defined in terms of rank in the frequency-sorted lexicon: [1-5K], [5K-20K], [20K-50K], [50K-100K], and [100K-200K]. Some of these 1500 English words have multiple Italian translations in the Europarl dictionary, so the resulting test set contains 1869 word pairs all together, with 1500 different English, and with 1849 different Italian words. See Table 3.1.

For the training set, the above-mentioned Europarl dictionary was first sorted by the English frequency, then the top 5k entries were extracted and care was taken to avoid any overlap with test elements on the English side. On the Italian side, however, an overlap of 113 words is still present. In the end the train set contains 5k word pairs with 3442 different English, and 4549 different Italian words. See Table 3.1.

Set	Language	# words
train (5000 word pairs)	eng	3442
	ita	4549
test (1869 word pairs)	eng	1500
	ita	1849

Table 3.1: Statistics of word counts.

Below there is a list of the different categories of Italian overlaps:

- **Singular-plural correspondence:** In Italian when the last vowel of a substantive is accented, the plural form is the same as the singular. For example *comunità* and *attività*. See Table 3.2.
- **Italian word mistaken for English word:** The English translation is the same as the original Italian word. For example in the test set the Italian word *segnì* is not translated and the same happens with *vecchi*. See Table 3.3.
- **Different verb forms:** The same Italian word can be translated into different English verb tenses. For example *sostenere*. See Table 3.4.
- **Synonyms and homonyms:** One Italian word can be translated into several English words which are synonymous except in case of homonymy. This phenomenon is actually fairly understandable and acceptable under all circumstances. See Table 3.5.
- **Errors in the translation:** For example the plural form of Italian words *gatti* and *passengeri* are translated both as the correct plural form and the incorrect singular form. See examples in Table 3.6.

Italian	English - train	English - test
comunità	communities	community
attività	activities	activity

Table 3.2: Singular-plural correspondence

Italian	English - train	English - test
segnì	signs	segnì
vecchi	old	vecchi

Table 3.3: Italian word is mistaken for English word

Italian	English - train	English - test
sostenere	support	supporting

Table 3.4: Different verb forms

Italian	English - train	English - test
risposte	answers	responses
sufficiente	sufficient	enough

Table 3.5: Synonyms and homonyms

Italian	English - train	English - test	Explanation
gatti	cat	cats	it only means cats
passaggeri	passengers	passenger	it only means passengers

Table 3.6: Errors in the translation

3.1.3 Panlex

PanLex [10] is a nonprofit organization that aims to build a multilingual lexical database from available dictionaries in all languages. As part of this thesis work gold data is extracted from this database, which is then used for the training of the proposed multilingual word embedding model.

Brief description of PanLex

The name PanLex is coming from the words *panlingual* and *lexical*, which reflect the main objective of this project: to collect word translations in possibly all languages. They are basically digitizing and centering the content of different, already existing dictionaries made by domain experts. Own translations are not accepted. This way each entry has a dictionary source as its origin. To each source a reliability score is assigned, which can be used for filtering the extracted data. The main purpose is to preserve the diversity of languages, so the collection of "threatened" or "endangered" languages, and dictionaries of rare language combinations are top priority,

PanLex also exhibits different *language varieties* that include, among others, regional variations and different writing systems. A *language variety* is denoted with a three-letter *language code*

(e.g. `eng` for English) and with a three-digit *variety code* (e.g. `000`). To the most widely spoken variety of a language usually the `000` *variety code* is assigned. When extracting data from the PanLex database, in all cases, the *language variety* with the smallest *variety code* was taken.

A script for extracting the translation pairs and creating a tsv file from them was implemented as part of this work, and it is available at:

https://github.com/Eszti/dipterv/blob/master/panlex/scripts/panlex/extract_tsv.py

3.2 Description of our method

This section describes the proposed model in detail. First the metrics used during training and evaluation processes are defined. Then the equation used for optimizing is presented. Finally, some implementation issues are discussed.

In a nutshell, this work proposes a novel method for learning linear mappings between word translation pairs in the form of translation matrices. These translation matrices learn to map pre-trained word embeddings into a universal vector space. During training the cosine similarity of word translation pairs is maximized, which is calculated in the universal space. After mapping the embeddings of two different languages into this universal space, the cosine similarity of the actual translation pairs should be high. At test time we evaluate our system with the precision metric, principally used for word translation tasks.

3.2.1 Cosine similarity and precision

This thesis combines two kinds of tasks, namely the word similarity and the word translation tasks. In word similarity tasks the extent to which the meanings of two words are similar is what is to be sought, while the objective of word translation tasks is to retrieve the right target language translations of words given in the source language. In this section the cosine similarity and the precision metrics are explained. The former, cosine similarity, is a measure for the performance of word similarity tasks, while the latter, precision, is used for the evaluation of word translation tasks.

Cosine similarity

Cosine similarity is a measure of similarity between two non-zero vectors [3]. It is calculated as the normalized dot product of two vectors, as shown in Equation 3.1. In fact, cosine similarity is a space that measures the cosine of the angle of two vectors. It is important to note that cosine similarity is not a proper distance metric, since the triangle inequality property does not apply. In word similarity tasks, however, this metric is used for measuring the similarity of two words represented as word vectors. Although cosine similarity values by definition are in range of $[-1, 1]$, in word similarity tasks it is particularly used in positive space, $[0, 1]$, where parallel vectors are similar and orthogonal vectors are dissimilar.

$$\text{cosine_similarity} = \cos(\theta) = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\|} \quad (3.1)$$

Precision

Precision is a metric used for measuring the performance of translator systems, which intend to learn to translate from a source language into a target language. On the target side a look-up space is defined, which could, for example, correspond to the most frequent 200k words of the target language, as in our experiments. After translating a word, the N word vectors of the look-up space that are closest to the translated one are regarded. The Precision @ N metric denotes the percentage of how many times the real translation of a word is found among the N closest word vectors in the look-up space. Usual N values are 1, 5, and 10.

3.2.2 Equation to optimize

The objective of the proposed method is to learn linear mappings in the form of translation matrices that are obtained by maximizing the cosine similarity of gold word translation pairs in a universal space. Therefore, for each language one single translation matrix is searched that maps the language from its original vector space to the universal one.

The method tries to bring close the translation pairs in a shared, universal space; therefore, it is not only applicable for language pairs but for any number of languages as well. The main advantage is that by introducing new languages the number of the learned parameters remains linear to the number of languages since instead of learning pair-wise translation matrices, for each language only one matrix is learned, the one that maps directly to this shared, universal space.

Let L be a set of languages, and TP a set of translation pairs where each entry is a tuple of two in the form of (w_1, w_2) where w_1 is a word in L_1 language and w_2 is a word in L_2 language, and both L_1 and L_2 are in L . Then, let's consider the following equation:

$$\frac{1}{|TP|} \cdot \sum_{\substack{L_1, L_2 \\ \in L}} \sum_{\substack{(w_1, w_2) \\ \in TP}} \cos_sim(w_1 \cdot T_1, w_2 \cdot T_2) \quad (3.2)$$

where T_1 and T_2 are translation matrices mapping L_1 and L_2 to the universal space. Since the equation is normalized with the number of translation pairs in the TP set, the optimal value of this function is 1. Off-the-shelf optimizers are programmed to find local minimum values, and therefore the loss function is multiplied by -1 so that it will be a minimization task.

Note: if w_1 and w_2 values are normalized, as Xing et al. [62] suggested, the *cos_sim* reduces to the simple dot product of the translated vectors. During the experiments the word vectors are always normalized. At test time the system is evaluated with the precision metric, more specifically with Precision @1, @5, and @10. The distance assigned to the word vectors in the look-up space is the *cosine_similarity*.

3.3 Properties of the training process

This section discusses the issues of the training process. First, it briefly describes a general machine learning process and then details the various parameters of the implemented system.

3.3.1 Machine learning in a nutshell

Machine learning is a generic procedure which enables computers to learn a specific task, without being explicitly programmed how to do it. The task is formulated as an objective function of various parameters. The aim of the learning process is to find the optimal values of these parameters.

Machine learning is an iterative process, where in each iteration some data is fed to the system. At the beginning, the parameters of the objective function are initialized with random values. Then, in each iteration, based on the given data, these parameters are updated, so that the value of the objective function would get closer to its optimum.

At the update step the parameters are modified by a value proportional to the derivative of the objective function.

In statistical learning it is essential for a system to be capable of generalization, i.e. to be able to perform well on new data as well. Therefore, after the training process the performance of these systems is measured on an independent dataset. The dataset used for training is called the *training* set, and the one used for testing called the *test* set. The learning process itself has several hyper parameters, such as the learning rate which adjusts the speed of the learning process. These hyper parameters also need to be tuned through various experiments. During these experiments the system is trained on the *training* set and tested on the so-called *development* or *validation* set. Then, usually, with the best hyper parameter setting the system is trained once more on the union of the previous *training* and *development* sets, and then, it is tested one last time on the independent *test* set. The obtained results are regarded as the real performance of the system.

Python offers a powerful library called tensorflow [14] for machine learning, which was used for the implementation of the proposed method as well.

3.3.2 Adjustable parameters

There are several configuration parameters that need to be adjusted during the training process using the development set. This section first describes the generic parameters that are used in all training processes. Next, more specific parameters are discussed that are special properties of the implemented system. In this section there is only a list of the parameters, their actual adjustment process is discussed in 4.

Generic parameters

A machine learning process has several hyper parameters that can be adjusted. Only those are listed below that were tuned during the experimentation phase of this thesis work:

- **optimizer:** This is the method for finding the optimum value of the objective function. The most common optimizers are: Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), Adagrad, Adadelta, Adam, Adamax [7]
- **epochs:** One epoch is the number of iterations after which every example of the training set was seen exactly once. The more epochs we do, the more the system has learned.
- **batch size:** This is the number of training examples that are given to the system in one

iteration. This number varies from 1 to the number of all training examples. Since in one iteration the parameters are updated only once, the following general rule applies: by using a smaller batch size the system needs to be trained for less epochs compared to choosing a bigger size. When applying the SGD optimizer, by convention, Batch Gradient Descent (BGD) refers to the setting when one batch includes all the training data, and Mini-Batch Gradient Descent (MBGD) is used for a batch size of one training example [13].

- **learning rate:** This parameter controls the speed of the learning process. A higher learning rate means a faster learning process, since steps taken towards the local optimum are bigger. The drawback, though, is that the actual optimum value can easily be jumped over. A lower learning rate can overcome this problem, but then the learning process takes longer. It is important to find the balance between accuracy and speed in the parameter adjustment experimental phase.
- **Batch size - learning rate relation:** Goyal et al.[34] studied the behaviour of different batch size and learning rate combinations, running their experiments on the ImageNet database [56]. As a rule of thumb they determined the following relation between these two parameters: if an experiment with a base batch size b and a base learning rate η terminates in time t , then if the batch size is increased by a factor of k , i.e. $new_batch_size = b \cdot k$, then, in order to keep the execution time at t , $new_learning_rate = \eta \cdot k$ should be applied. In this case, in addition to the same execution times, the learning curves of the two learning processes are very similar as well.

Specific parameters

Besides the generic configuration parameters, the system has some specific configuration parameters as well. These are the following:

- **SVD:** From an arbitrary transformation matrix T an orthogonal T' can be obtained by applying the singular value decomposition (SVD) procedure:

$$S, U, V = SVD(T) \quad (3.3)$$

$$T' = U \cdot V \quad (3.4)$$

Smith et al. [57] suggested applying SVD to the transformation matrices, in order to keep them orthogonal. Therefore, a parameter whether to apply the SVD procedure was added to the configuration parameters of the implemented system as well.

- **SVD mode:** For applying the SVD procedure three different modes are proposed, mode 0, 1, and 2. 0 means no SVD at all, 1 means doing an SVD regularly, i.e. on every n -th batch, and 2 means doing SVD only once at the very beginning, right after the first batch.
- **SVD frequency:** When applying SVD with mode 1, this option corresponds to the value n , i.e. the frequency of how often an SVD will be applied on the translation matrices.

- **Embedding limit:** The number of words occurring in an embedding varies from language to language. In order to be able to evaluate the system in the same way for different languages, only the first n lines of the given word embeddings are taken into account. This way look-up spaces will have the same size for every language.

Parameters for evaluation

At test time we used different metrics for evaluation:

- **Loss:** At training time the system optimizes for the cosine similarity using the entries of the training set. Testing the system in the canonical machine learning way means calculating this value for the entries in the test.
- **Precision:** More important metrics for the evaluation of the system are the precision scores. The system is capable of calculating any number of precision values that are set in the configuration file.
- **Number of small singular values of the translation matrices:** Many small singular values of a transformation matrix are indicators of mapping the data to a lower-dimensional space, which might lead to problems since it usually implies information loss. What "small" means is rather relative, so a limit can be set for "small" values to monitor the singular values of the learned translation matrices.

3.4 Implementation issues

In this section the relevant features of the software architecture are discussed.

The implemented code is available as an open source project. The code can be found under the following github repository:

<https://github.com/Eszti/dipterv>.

The proposed method is implemented in Python 3 [11] using the following python packages: numpy [9], matplotlib [8], sklearn [12], gensim [6], and tensorflow [14].

3.4.1 Configuration files

During development it was important to implement the system in a flexible, and widely configurable way. The main idea behind the software architecture was that once the code base of the system was ready, it was expected to leave the code itself intact in the experimenting phase. Modifying only human-readable configuration files makes the whole experimental process much more transparent and traceable.

3.4.2 Embedding representation

Working with multilingual embeddings always leads to encoding issues. Therefore, Python 3 improvements featuring a `str` type that contains Unicode characters and uses UTF-8 for default encoding, are especially useful. In the implemented framework embeddings are represented as a

floating point matrix with a shape of $N \times D$, where N is the number of the words and D is the dimension of the embedding, along with an index2word list which assigns a word to each row of the matrix. For the common embedding properties a base class was created, and various sub-classes were derived for handling the different embedding formats.

Chapter 4

Experiments

This chapter presents the experiments carried out on bilingual data. First, parameter adjustment is discussed in detail, and then two different datasets, Dinu’s English-Italian setting [27] and a similar English-Italian PanLex subset, are used for testing the best setting. Finally, further experiments are presented that combine these two datasets.

4.1 Baseline experimental setting

This section describes the baseline experimental setting that was used as a proof-of-concept and for parameter adjustment.

For the baseline system the *fastText* embedding (see 3.1.1) was used as a pre-trained embedding and the system was trained on Dinu’s English-Italian data (see 3.1.2). For parameter adjustment Dinu’s training data was split into train and validation sets, taking care of avoiding any overlap on the English side, as it was done by Dinu when constructing their original training and test sets. Note, that this does not apply for Italian words, where a significant overlap of 80 words is present. For word count and overlap statistics of Dinu’s original training and test sets see Table 4.1 and for the same statistics of the newly produced training and validation sets see Table 4.2.

# words English	train	3442
# words Italian		4549
# words English	test	1500
# words Italian		1849
overlap English		0
overlap Italian		113

Table 4.1: Original train and validation data

The system was trained on the previously described training split with the proposed procedure discussed in 3.2. For the optimizer the tensorflow implementation [53] of Adagrad algorithm [28] was used.

For evaluation the most frequent 200k words of the target space embedding was used as a look-up space for calculating Precision @1, @5, and @10. In all cases both English-Italian and Italian-English precision scores were observed. Besides, the average cosine similarity value of the validation set was also checked. During training and validation as well the precision and similarity

# words English	train	3098
# words Italian		4129
# words English	valid	344
# words Italian		499
overlap English		0
overlap Italian		80

Table 4.2: Splitting training data into training and validation

values are all calculated in the universal space. Gold dictionaries were constructed from the input data files themselves. Following Dinu, any words appearing in the dictionary is considered a valid translation. Various translation may come from synonyms or different male-female forms on the Italian side.

4.1.1 Adjusting basic parameters

With the above described experimental setting the best learning rate and batch size setting was searched. In all cases the system was trained for 10k epochs applying an initial SVD. Over the 10k training epochs evaluation was run on the validation set at every 1000th epoch. In the tables below the maximum precision values are shown which, in most of the cases, are not from the last epoch. It is essential to train the system long enough, i.e. to see the learning curve reach its maximum value and break down.

Learning rate

For learning rate experiments the value of batch size was fixed at 64 and various experiments were run with the following learning rates: 0.001, 0.003, 0.01, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3, suggested by Andrew Ng in the Stanford Machine Learning Coursera course [13]. Table 4.3 summarizes the experiments. Best results occur when the learning rate is 0.1.

LR	cos_sim	English - Italian Precision			Italian - English Precision			Time
		@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10	
0.001	0.988743	0.1831	0.1831	0.3721	0.1667	0.2851	0.3494	~1:35
0.003	0.995905	0.3401	0.5058	0.5669	0.3032	0.4799	0.5462	~1:20
0.01	0.998957	0.4651	0.6366	0.6802	0.4036	0.6185	0.6586	~1:25
0.03	0.999824	0.5262	0.7006	0.7645	0.4438	0.6506	0.6988	~1:15
0.1	0.999994	0.5407	0.7297	0.7645	0.4618	0.6546	0.6948	~1:20
0.3	1.000000	0.5407	0.7151	0.7645	0.4478	0.6526	0.7028	~1:35
1	1.000000	0.4535	0.6483	0.6977	0.3554	0.5542	0.6265	~1:35
3	1.000000	0.0698	0.1599	0.1890	0.0462	0.0462	0.1586	~1:45

Table 4.3: Learning rate experiments. "LR" stands for "learning rate", and "cos_sim" denotes the average cosine similarity of the training set. Time is shown in h:mm format.

Batch size

Next, various experiments were run with 0.1 learning rate and the following batch sizes: 16, 32, 64, 128, 256. Table 4.4 summarizes the results. Best results occur when the batch size is 64.

BS	cos_sim	English - Italian Precision			Italian - English Precision			Time
		@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10	
16	1.000000	0.5320	0.7209	0.7616	0.4418	0.6446	0.7008	~3:20
32	1.000000	0.5203	0.7064	0.7558	0.4398	0.6446	0.6948	~2:00
64	0.999994	0.5465	0.7209	0.7878	0.4578	0.6627	0.7068	~1:10
128	0.999946	0.5407	0.7267	0.7645	0.4458	0.6586	0.7129	~0:55
256	0.999949	0.5320	0.7093	0.7645	0.4398	0.6627	0.7088	~1:25

Table 4.4: Batch size experiments. "BS" stands for "batch size", and "cos_sim" denotes the average cosine similarity of the training set. Time is shown in h:mm format.

Conclusions

Figure 4.1 shows the learning curve of the experiment with learning rate = 0.1 and batch size = 64. The red line shows the average cosine similarity on the training set and the green line on the validation set, respectively. Validation was done only 10 times over the 10k epochs, so compared to the training curve the validation curve is obviously very steep in the beginning.

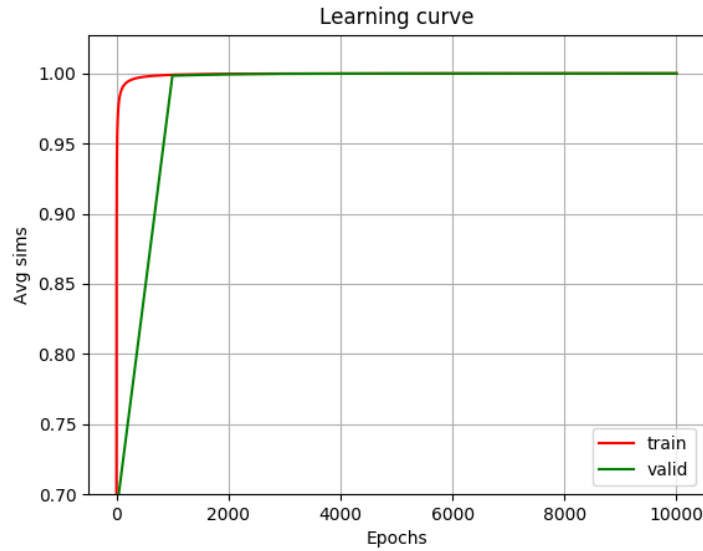


Figure 4.1: Learning curve of experimenting with learning rate = 0.1, batch size = 64.

Figure 4.2 shows the precision curves of English-Italian and Figure 4.3 the precision curves of Italian-English direction of the same experiment. As the average cosine similarity is getting higher, the precision is growing as well. After a certain point, however, the system reaches over-fitting and the precision curves start to decrease.

These experiments also serve as a proof-of-concept of the proposed method. While optimizing on the cosine similarity, once the translation matrices are learned the system is also apt for various multilingual applications, such as for word translation tasks. The results of the experiments above show that there is a clear correlation between the cosine similarity and the precision values.

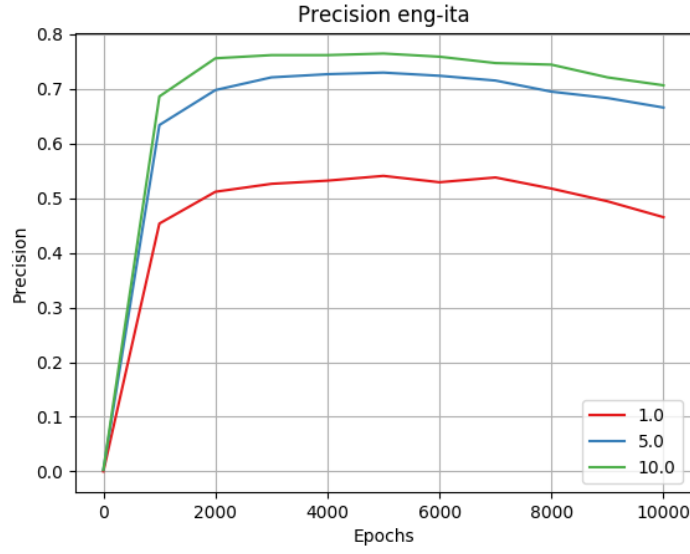


Figure 4.2: *Eng-Ita* precision @1, @5, @10 curves, learning rate = 0.1, batch size = 64.

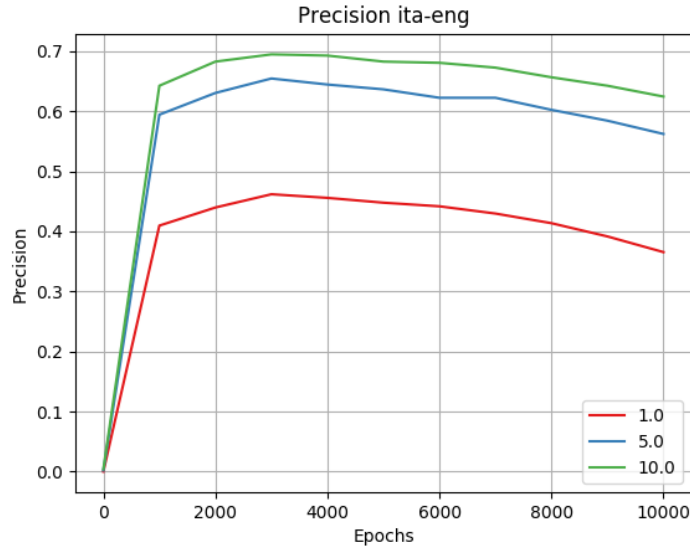


Figure 4.3: *Ita-Eng* precision @1, @5, @10 curves, learning rate = 0.1, batch size = 64.

4.1.2 Experimenting with SVD

Previous works, such as Smith et al. [57] or Conneau et al. [26], suggested restricting the transformation matrix to an orthogonal one. Based on these findings this system also features a configuration option of applying an SVD, explained in 3.3.2. Three different SVD modes were studied:

- **0:** Not using SVD at all
- **1:** Using SVD after every n-th epoch
- **2:** Using SVD only once, at the beginning

In the following experiments 200 epochs were done, and evaluation was made on every 10th epoch.

SVD mode = 0

This experiment is carried out without applying any SVD. Translation matrices are initialized with random numbers.

Figure 4.4 shows that similarity values are monotone increasing, the system does learn. But the learning process is relatively slow since even after 200 epochs the similarity score is still quite low. Remember, the optimal value is 1.0.

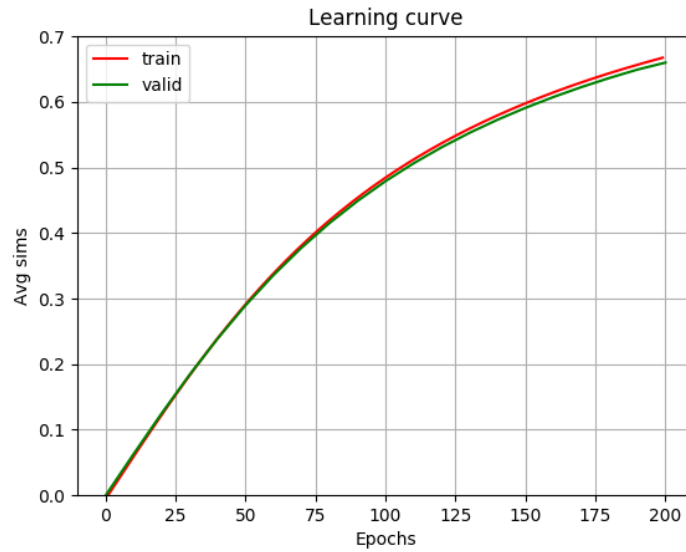


Figure 4.4: Learning curve of experimenting with `svd_mode = 0`.

SVD mode = 1

This experiment is carried out with applying SVD various times over the whole learning process. SVD was made on every 50th epoch, i.e. 4 times altogether.

Figure 4.5 shows how the learning curve breaks down every time after applying an SVD on the translation matrices, and, also, that how fast it is back once again to the previous high similarity values. Besides, this time the average cosine similarity score is already higher even at the beginning, than it was after 200 epoch with the previous setting. Applying SVD on the transformation matrices seems to accelerate the learning process significantly. The learning curve also shows that SVD-to-SVD fractions have exactly the same trajectory, regardless of the number of previous epochs done.

SVD mode = 2

This experiment is carried out with applying SVD only once, at the very beginning. That means, basically, that instead of a random initial transformation matrix, the system tries to adjust an orthogonal one.

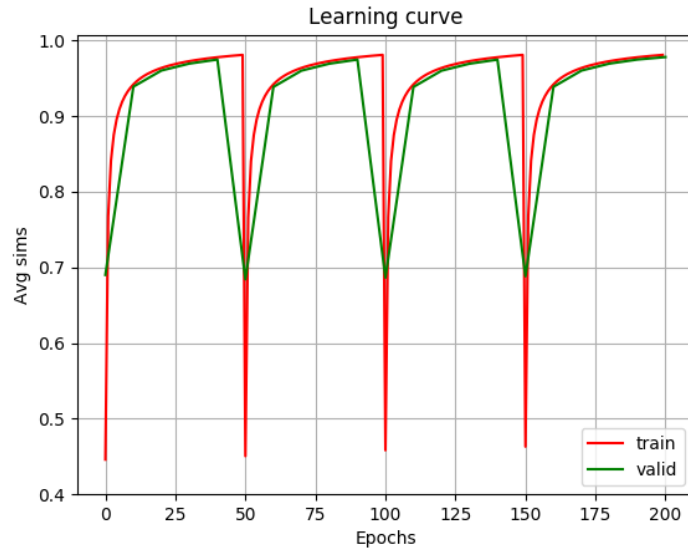


Figure 4.5: Learning curve of experimenting with $svd_mode = 1$.

Figure 4.6 shows that the learning curve is monotone increasing, and thanks to the initial SVD it gets fairly high right at the beginning.

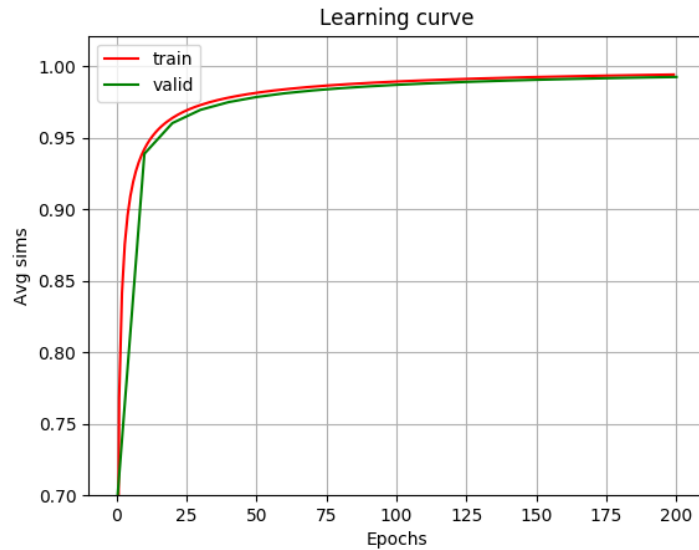


Figure 4.6: Learning curve of experimenting with $svd_mode = 2$.

Dimensionality loss in universal space

Still increasing similarity scores in parallel with decreasing precision values is the typical pattern of over-fitting in machine learning applications. One possible explanation is the reduction of dimensionality in the translated space. This also implies information loss that can lead to decreased precision values. One indicator of this problem is the high number of small singular values of the translation matrix. In order to monitor this phenomenon the number of singular values less than

0.1 was monitored. Table 4.5 shows that as the average similarity is monotone increasing both on the training and the validation sets, the number of small singular values of the translation matrices is increasing as well. The singular values of a matrix can be found in the S matrix after performing an SVD.

Epoch	# <0.1 (eng)	# <0.1 (ita)	train	valid
0	0	0	0.447719	0.687022
1000	24	27	0.998958	0.998392
2000	76	68	0.999627	0.999369
3000	120	113	0.999823	0.999684
4000	157	153	0.999905	0.999824
5000	190	188	0.999946	0.999896
6000	215	215	0.999967	0.999936
7000	237	237	0.999979	0.999959
8000	255	257	0.999987	0.999974
9000	258	270	0.999991	0.999983
10000	278	280	0.999994	0.999988

Table 4.5: Monitoring dimensionality loss in universal space. Learning rate = 0.1, batch size = 64, SVD mode = 2.

Conclusion

As a result of parameter adjustment the best learning rate and batch size values have been found, which are 0.1 and 64, respectively. Experiments with SVD has shown that results are the best if SVD is applied only once, at the beginning.

4.2 Testing the baseline system on Dinu’s experimental setting

With the best parameter setting the system was tested on Dinu’s original English-Italian data described in 3.1.2. The system was tested both using first the *fastText* embedding described in 3.1.1 and the same embedding that was used by Dinu [27].

4.2.1 Using the *fastText* embedding

Dinu’s data originally has 5000 word pairs in the training and 1869 word pairs in the test set. However, in this experiment the system was trained only on 4999 and tested on 1640 word pairs due to lack of embedding coverage as shown in Table 4.6.

eng words	train	3442	test	1500
not found		0		97
ita words		4548		1849
not found		1		156
word pairs		5000		1869
found		4999		1640

Table 4.6: Dinu’s data statistic with *fastText* embedding

Figure 4.7 shows eng-ita precision scores, while Figure 4.8 the ita-eng ones. Unsurprisingly, English-Italian direction performs better, given that some English words in the test set can translate to either the male or female form of the corresponding Italian word.

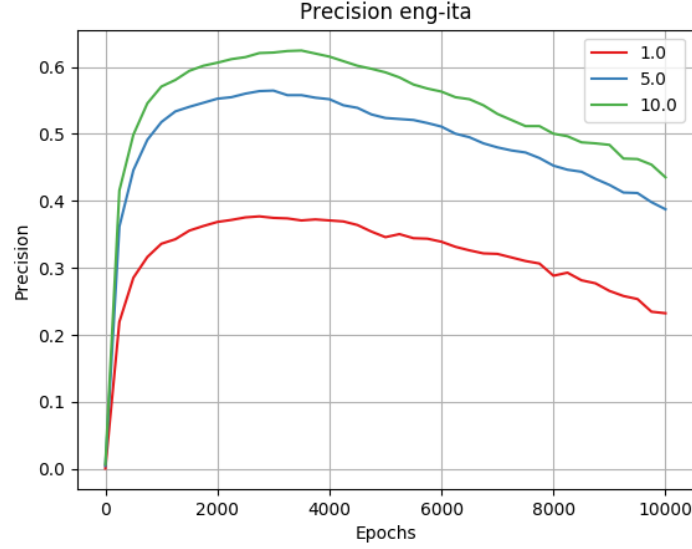


Figure 4.7: Eng-Ita precision curve of the proposed method on Dinu’s data using fast-Text embedding.

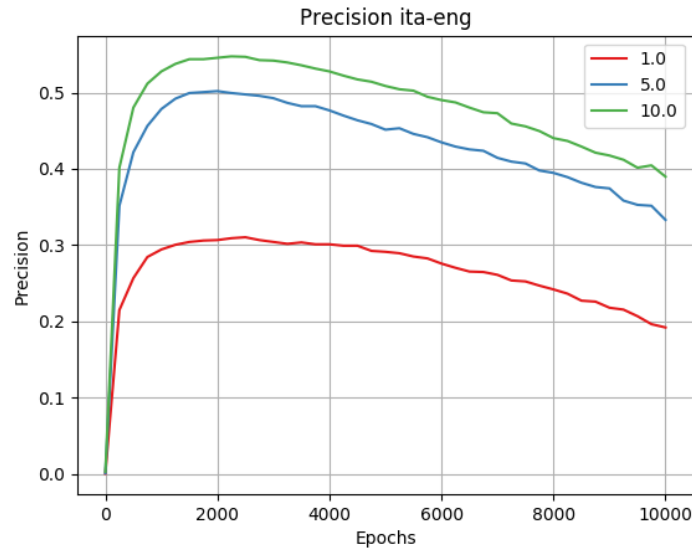


Figure 4.8: Ita-Eng precision curve of the proposed method on Dinu’s data using fast-Text embedding.

The obtained results are much worse than state-of-the-art results on this benchmark data but they are comparable or even better than some of the previous ones. See Table 4.7 and Table 4.8.

4.2.2 Dinu's word vectors

Next, the system was run with the same embedding that was used by Dinu as well. These word vectors were trained with *word2vec* and then the 200k most common words in both the English and Italian corpora were extracted. The English word vectors were trained on the WackyPedia/ukWaC and BNC corpora, while the Italian word vectors were trained on the WackyPedia/itWaC corpus [27].

Figure 4.9 shows eng-ita precision scores, while Figure 4.10 the ita-eng ones. Once again, English-Italian direction performs better than Italian-English direction, as it is expected.

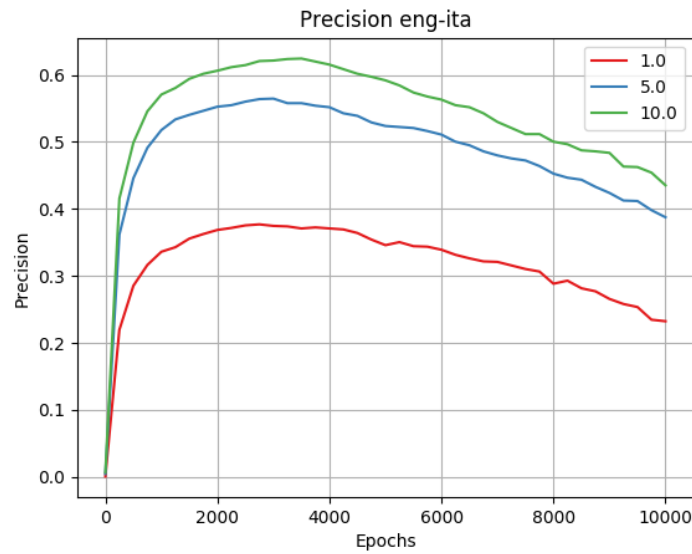


Figure 4.9: Eng-Ita precision curve of the proposed method on Dinu's data using WaCky embedding.

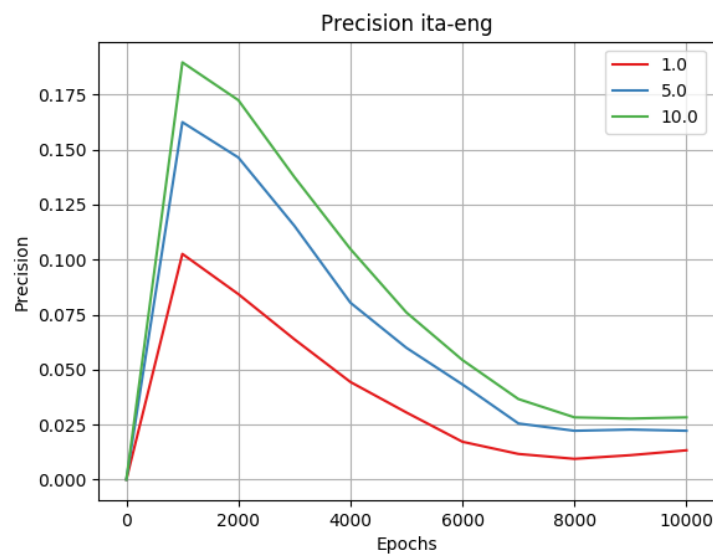


Figure 4.10: Ita-Eng precision curve of the proposed method on Dinu's data using WaCky embedding.

Results with Dinu’s word vectors are much worse than the previous results using the *fastText* embedding. See Table 4.7 and Table 4.8.

Eng-Ita	@1	@5	@10
Mikolov et al.	0.338	0.483	0.539
Faruqui et al.	0.361	0.527	0.581
Dinu et al.	0.385	0.564	0.639
Smith et al. (2017)	0.431	0.607	0.651
Conneau et al. (2017) - WaCky	0.451	0.607	0.651
Conneau et al. (2017) - fastText	0.662	0.804	0.834
Proposed method - fastText	0.3770	0.5647	0.6245
Proposed method - WaCky	0.2202	0.3331	0.3728

Table 4.7: Comparing English-Italian results on Dinu’s data.

Ita-Eng	@1	@5	@10
Mikolov et al.	0.249	0.410	0.474
Faruqui et al.	0.310	0.499	0.570
Dinu et al.	0.246	0.454	0.541
Smith et al. (2017)	0.380	0.585	0.636
Conneau et al. (2017) - WaCky	0.383	0.578	0.628
Conneau et al. (2017) - fastText	0.587	0.765	0.809
Proposed method - fastText	0.3103	0.5018	0.5474
Proposed method - WaCky	0.1026	0.1625	0.1897

Table 4.8: Comparing Italian-English results on Dinu’s data.

4.3 English-Italian Panlex experiments

This section describes the experiments carried out on English-Italian word pairs extracted from the Panlex dataset.

4.3.1 Dataset creation

4.3.2 Results

4.3.3 Data inspection

In this section I present summary tables about the analysis of the PanLex database. In the PanLex database *translations* are scored according to the reliability of the source they are coming from. Since a *translation* might be found in different PanLex sources as well, one translation pair may also appear multiple times in the database after joining the tables, and sometimes even with different scores. As a rule of thumb, when extracting the needed data from the PanLex database, first, we sort the entries according to their reliability score into a descending order, and then, we drop the duplicates. As a result each translation pair is represented with its highest score that it can be found with. Extraction of translation pairs were carried out with the following code:

https://github.com/EsztI/dipterv/blob/master/panlex/scripts/panlex/extract_tsv.py.

Table 4.9 (English-Italian) summarizes the analysis results. Scores are going from 1 to 9, with 9 denoting the most reliable sources and 1 the least ones. In the second column we can see how many entries are found with a certain score value. In the third column we can observe the number of entries after having filtered the entries by keeping only those ones for which a word vector was found in the *fastText* embedding. The last column adds up all the valid entries above a certain score. (By valid entries we mean those to which a word vector can be assigned.)

score	# wp == score	# wp == score, filtered	# wp >= score
9	1389	66	66
8	4265	514	580
7	163701	69043	69623
6	1085	67	69690
5	79419	26478	96168
4	6045	2836	99004
3	272276	47477	146481
2	126837	36182	182663
1	6893	4938	187601

Table 4.9: Summary of English-Italian PanLex data inspection

4.3.4 Training on PanLex

In this section I describe the experiments I ran using only the PanLex data both for training and evaluation as well. First I used a one order bigger set of data compared to Dinu's data 3.1.2, and then I ran experiments with the same size of data as Dinu's, but extracted from the PanLex database.

Experimenting with a bigger dataset

Considering Table 4.9 we concluded that using only the words with greater or equal to a score of 8 would result in a rather small dataset, since there are only 580 word pairs meeting this requirement. Thus, for all the PanLex experiments we took the word pairs with at least a score of 7. There are 69623 such word pairs in the PanLex dataset. First we split this set into a training and a test set (70% - 30%), following the procedure of Dinu, i.e. taking care of not having the same English words in both sets. Next, we split the training set into training and validation sets (90% - 10%). Table 4.10 shows a summary about the number of word pairs in each dataset.

sum	69623	train (70 %)	48472	test (30 %)	21151
train sum	48472	train (90 %)	43383	valid (10 %)	5089

Table 4.10: PanLex dataset splits (score >= 7).

In our first experiment we experimented with the training-validation set (43383 - 5089). We ran the training for 500 epochs, using 0.1 for learning rate, and 64 for batch size, and we did one SVD at the beginning, as it turned out to be the best setting for Dinu, described in 4.1.1 Section.

After that, we ran an evaluation both on our PanLex test set (21151 word pairs), and on Dinu's test set (1869 word pairs). The results can be seen in Table 4.11.

	eng - ita			ita - eng			
	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10	# word pairs
training	0.0328	0.0705	0.0911	0.0126	0.0324	0.0445	43383 - 5089
test on PanLex	0.0285	0.0601	0.0830	0.0177	0.0427	0.0569	21151
test on Dinu	0.0197	0.0379	0.0484	0.0228	0.0493	0.0616	1869

Table 4.11: *PanLex experiments trained on the big dataset*

Sadly the results are rather disappointing. The system did not succeed in learning the transformations correctly, its performance is more than one order worse than our performance using Dinu’s data for training as well. See previous results in Table 4.7 and 4.8.

Experimenting with a smaller dataset

Besides, we also created a smaller dataset for training and testing out of word pairs with greater or equal to 7 scores. These datasets both contain 5000-5000 word pairs (both for training and testing), just like Dinu’s data does (Dinu has 5000 word pairs in the training set, in the test set there are only 1869 word pairs). The training word pairs were extracted from the original 70 % train split of the whole data, and the test word pairs from the original 30 % test split of the whole data. (First row of Table 4.10.) This time we extracted the words in a way that all English and Italian words are appearing exactly once at the set. (That is, neither both feminine and masculine, nor both singular and plural forms were allowed.)

We tried out this dataset with different learning rates 4.12 and batch sizes 4.13, with doing an SVD only once, at the first epoch. Results are not promising at all, but we came to a similar conclusion, like at Dinu’s data. The best learning rate turned out to be clearly 0.1 in English-Italian direction, while in Italian-English direction, 0.3 was slightly better. As for the batch size, for English-Italian 64 is the most appropriate choice, while for Italian-English a little bit smaller batch size, 32, gave better results. Yet, in future settings we kept 0.1 for learning rate, and 64 for batch size.

	eng - ita			ita - eng		
lr	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10
0.03	0.0294	0.0661	0.0872	0.0119	0.0283	0.0416
0.1	0.0361	0.0750	0.0977	0.0121	0.0324	0.0426
0.3	0.0278	0.0694	0.0938	0.0128	0.0312	0.0450

Table 4.12: *Learning rate experiments with the PanLex data.*

	eng - ita			ita - eng		
bs	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10
32	0.0300	0.0694	0.0966	0.0138	0.0332	0.0433
64	0.0361	0.0750	0.0977	0.0121	0.0324	0.0426
128	0.0278	0.0633	0.0883	0.0143	0.0315	0.0428

Table 4.13: *Batch size experiments with the PanLex data.*

Investigating the problem, we saw that the main problem why the system is not giving good-

	eng - ita			ita - eng		
SVD_freq	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10
1	0.0272	0.0533	0.0788	0.0087	0.0211	0.0298
10	0.0228	0.0572	0.0805	0.0061	0.0179	0.0240
50	0.0328	0.0783	0.1011	0.0126	0.0286	0.0414
100	0.0361	0.0766	0.0994	0.0140	0.0327	0.0431
200	0.0300	0.0761	0.1005	0.0140	0.0341	0.0431

Table 4.14: *PanLex experiments with different SVD frequencies.*

enough precision scores on the validation set, is because is simply projects every single vector pretty close to every other vector in the universal space. Which is understandable, since the trivial solution of our Equation 3.2 is to set the translation matrices equal to a zero matrix. To overcome this problem we introduced the SVD procedure that we apply on the translation matrices, and that guarantees that the translation matrix remains orthogonal, thus the dimension of the mapped spaces would not collapse. We tried applying the SVD with different frequencies 4.14. Some results could slightly overtake the previous results from Table 4.11 but they are still at the same order.

4.3.5 Training on Dinu, testing on PanLex

Following we wondered how the system trained on Dinu’s training data would perform on the PanLex test set. On Figures 4.7 and 4.8 we see that the curves reach their maximum around 2000 epochs or maybe a little bit later. Since during that training we saved the translation matrices on every 1000th epoch, this time we ran evaluations using the translation matrices we obtained after 2000, 3000, and 4000 epochs, and as for evaluation data we took our small PanLex test set, containing 5000 word pairs.

	eng - ita			ita - eng		
epochs	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10
2000	0.1782	0.3124	0.3582	0.1712	0.2858	0.3248
3000	0.1778	0.3104	0.3534	0.1670	0.2756	0.3178
4000	0.1738	0.2960	0.3396	0.1586	0.2638	0.3032

Table 4.15: *Evaluation results of transformation matrices trained on Dinu, tested on PanLex.*

Table 4.15 shows the test results. Best results were obtained by using the translation matrices after 2000 epochs of training. We can see that these numbers are one order greater than the previous ones, although they are still significantly worse than our numbers obtained by using Dinu’s test set for evaluation. This can be a proof that the PanLex data has a lower quality, than Dinu’s data, or that it is not appropriate for this kind of experimenting. What is also remarkable is that this time English-Italian, and Italian-English results are more close to one another, than in previous cases. The English-Italian, generally, is still better, but for example at Precision @1 the Italian-English is really close behind. This difference may be due to the balanced test set that does not contain words neither in English nor in Italian more than one time.

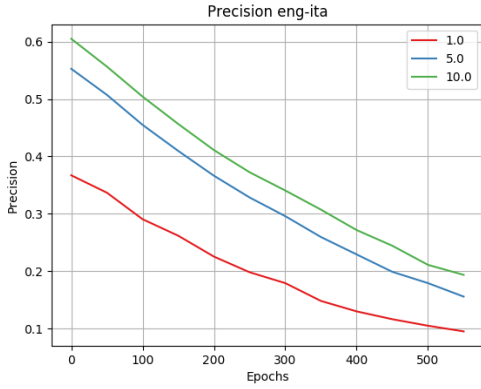


Figure 4.11: Precision curve eng-ita when continuing with the big PanLex dataset.

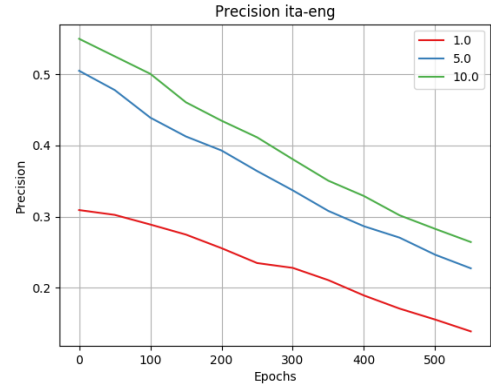


Figure 4.12: Precision curve ita-eng when continuing with the big PanLex dataset.

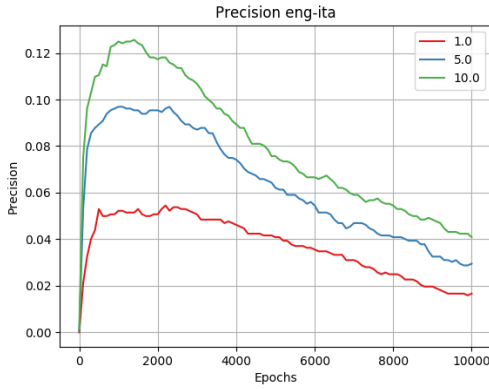


Figure 4.13: Precision curve eng-ita when continuing with the small PanLex dataset and SVD.

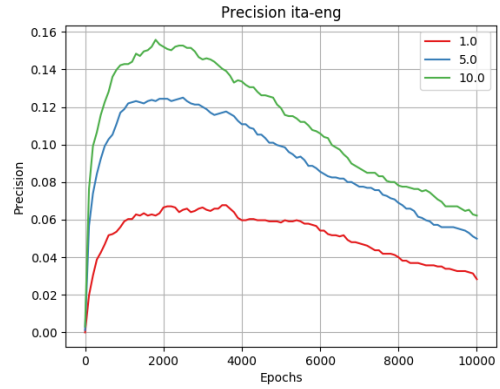


Figure 4.14: Precision curve ita-eng when continuing with the small PanLex dataset and SVD.

4.4 Continuing the baseline system with PanLex data

At last, we tried continuing the training process of our baseline system (trained on Dinu's data) with the PanLex data. We tried both with our bigger and with our smaller PanLex dataset as well. In the former case, the appr. 50k (noisy) word pairs quickly spoiled both in English-Italian and in Italian-English directions the former acceptable results as we can see in Figures 4.11 and 4.12. In this experiment no SVD was applied.

In the latter case, when we used the smaller, 5k dataset, we experimented both with doing an SVD at the beginning, and without doing an SVD at all. When applying an SVD we need significantly more epochs, than in the other case. In Figures 4.13 and 4.14 we can see the precision curves of experiments with applying an SVD, whereas in Figures 4.15 and 4.16 without applying it.

Table 4.16 summarizes the best obtained results after continuing the training process of Dinu's data with PanLex data, and it also compares these results with our previous ones. We can see that applying SVD barely manages to learn, but if we do not apply any SVD just merely let it run with the PanLex data, although English-Italian results are decreasing, Italian-English results are

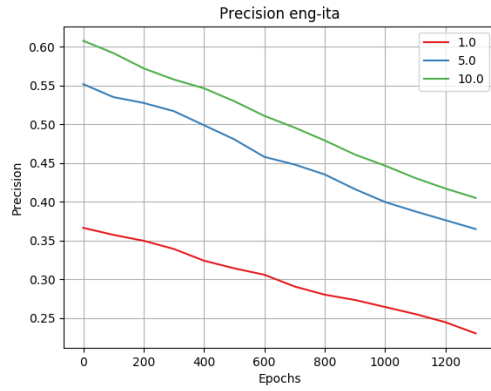


Figure 4.15: Precision curve eng-ita when continuing with the small PanLex dataset and without SVD.

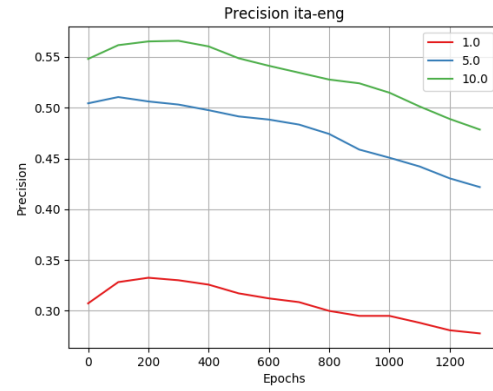


Figure 4.16: Precision curve ita-eng when continuing with the small PanLex dataset and without SVD.

surprisingly increasing a little bit in the beginning.

	eng - ita			ita - eng		
	@1	@5	@10	@1	@5	@10
our best on Dinu	0.3770	0.5647	0.6245	0.3103	0.5018	0.5474
with SVD	0.0545	0.0969	0.1257	0.0677	0.1250	0.1558
without SVD	0.3664	0.5519	0.6079	0.3325	0.5105	0.5659

Table 4.16: Results of continuing previously trained-by-Dinu's-data matrices with PanLex data.

4.5 Multilingual Panlex experiments

This section describes the experiments carried out on multilingual dataset extracted from Panlex.

4.5.1 Dataset creation

4.5.2 Results

Chapter 5

Conclusions and future work

5.1 Summarizing the contributions of this thesis

5.2 Future word

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Ez nem kötelező, akár törölhető is. Ha a szerző szükségét érzi, itt lehet köszönetet nyilvánítani azoknak, akik hozzájárultak munkájukkal ahhoz, hogy a hallgató a szakdolgozatban vagy diplomamunkában leírt feladatokat sikeresen elvégezze. A konzulensnek való köszönetnyilvánítás sem kötelező, a konzulensnek hivatalosan is dolga, hogy a hallgatót konzultálja.

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Glossary

learning curve The values of the objective function plotted over time. 28

Acronyms

BGD Batch Gradient Descent. 28

CBOW Continuous Bag-of-Words Model. 12

CCA canonical correlation analysis. 17, 19

MBGD Mini-Batch Gradient Descent. 28

NER Named Entity Recognition. 15

NLP Natural Language Processing. 6, 7, 9, 10

POS part-of-speech. 7, 14

SGD Stochastic Gradient Descent. 27, 28

SVD singular value decomposition. 2, 19, 28, 32, 34–37, 49

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