



**BITS Pilani**

Pilani|Dubai|Goa|Hyderabad

# **S1-25\_DSECLZG530/SSCLZG599**

## **Natural Language Processing**

### **(Lecture #2 – Preprocessing, Vector Semantics)**

Dr. Naveen Kumar Laskari, WILP, BITS



- *The slides presented here are obtained from the authors of the books and from various other contributors. I hereby acknowledge all the contributors for their material and inputs.*
- *I have added and modified a few slides to suit the requirements of the course.*



# Text Normalization

# Text Normalization

---

- Every NLP task requires text normalization:
  1. Tokenizing (segmenting) words
  2. Normalizing word formats
  3. Segmenting sentences
- A very simple way to tokenize
  - For languages that use space characters between words
    - Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek, Latin, etc., based writing systems
  - Segment off a token between instances of spaces

# Issues in Tokenization

---

- "I do uh main- mainly business data processing"
  - Fragments, filled pauses
  - Speech Recognition
- "Seuss's **cat** in the hat is different from other **cats!**"
  - **Lemma:** same stem, part of speech, rough word sense
    - **cat** and **cats** = same lemma
    - **cat** and **cats** = different wordforms
- In morphology and lexicography, a lemma (pl: lemmas or lemmata) is the canonical form, dictionary form, or citation form of a set of word forms
  - for example, break, breaks, broke, broken and breaking are forms of the same lexeme (or lemma), with 'break' as the lemma

# Issues in Tokenization

---

- Can't just blindly remove punctuation:
    - m.p.h., Ph.D., AT&T, cap'n
    - prices (\$45.55)
    - dates (01/02/06)
    - URLs (<http://www.stanford.edu>)
    - hashtags (#nlproc)
    - email addresses ([someone@cs.colorado.edu](mailto:someone@cs.colorado.edu))
  - Clitic: a word that doesn't stand on its own
    - "are" in [we're](#), French "je" in [j'ai](#), "le" in [l'honneur](#)
  - When should multiword expressions (MWE) be words?
    - [New York](#), [rock 'n' roll](#)
-

# Tokenization in NLTK

Bird, Loper and Klein (2009), *Natural Language Processing with Python*. O'Reilly

```
>>> text = 'That U.S.A. poster-print costs $12.40...'
>>> pattern = r'''(?x)      # set flag to allow verbose regexps
...     ([A-Z]\.)*          # abbreviations, e.g. U.S.A.
...     | \w+(-\w+)*         # words with optional internal hyphens
...     | \$?\d+(\.\d+)?%?  # currency and percentages, e.g. $12.40, 82%
...     | \.\.\.              # ellipsis
...     | [][,;'"?():-_]  # these are separate tokens; includes ], [
...
>>> nltk.regexp_tokenize(text, pattern)
['That', 'U.S.A.', 'poster-print', 'costs', '$12.40', '...']
```

# Tokenization in languages without spaces

---

Many languages (like Chinese, Japanese, Thai) don't use spaces to separate words!

How do we decide where the token boundaries should be?

Word tokenization in Chinese

Chinese words are composed of characters called "hanzi" (or sometimes just "zi")

Each one represents a meaning unit called a morpheme.

Each word has on average 2.4 of them.

But deciding what counts as a word is complex and not agreed upon.

# Word tokenization / segmentation

---

So in Chinese it's common to just treat each character (zi) as a token.

- So the **segmentation** step is very simple

In other languages (like Thai and Japanese), more complex word segmentation is required.

- The standard algorithms are neural sequence models trained by supervised machine learning.



# Word Normalization

# Word Normalization

- Putting words/tokens in a standard format
  - U.S.A. or USA
  - uhhuh or uh-huh
  - Fed or fed
  - am, is, be, are
- Case folding
  - Applications like IR: reduce all letters to lower case
    - Since users tend to use lower case
    - Possible exception: upper case in mid-sentence?
      - e.g., *General Motors*
      - *Fed* vs. *fed*
      - *SAIL* vs. *sail*
  - For sentiment analysis, MT, Information extraction
    - Case is helpful (*US* versus *us* is important)

# Lemmatization

---

Represent all words as their lemma, their shared root  
= dictionary headword form:

- *am, are, is* → *be*
- *car, cars, car's, cars'* → *car*
- Spanish *quiero* ('I want'), *quieres* ('you want')  
→ *querer* 'want'
- *He is reading detective stories*  
→ *He be read detective story*

# Stemming

- Reduce terms to stems, chopping off affixes crudely

This was not the map we found in Billy Bones's chest, but an accurate copy, complete in all things-names and heights and soundings-with the single exception of the red crosses and the written notes.

Thi wa not the map we found in Billi Bone  
s chest but an accur copi complet in all  
thing name and height and sound with the  
singl except of the red cross and the  
written note  
.

# Porter Stemmer

---

- Based on a series of rewrite rules run in series
  - A cascade, in which output of each pass fed to next pass
- Some sample rules:

ATIONAL → ATE (e.g., relational → relate)

ING →  $\epsilon$  if stem contains vowel (e.g., motoring → motor)

SSES → SS (e.g., grasses → grass)

# Dealing with complex morphology is necessary for many languages



- e.g., the Turkish word:
- **Uygarlastiramadiklarimizdanmissinizcasina**
- `(behaving) as if you are among those whom we could not civilize'
- **Uygar** 'civilized' + **las** 'become'
  - + **tir** 'cause' + **ama** 'not able'
  - + **dik** 'past' + **lar** 'plural'
  - + **imiz** 'p1pl' + **dan** 'abl'
  - + **mis** 'past' + **siniz** '2pl' + **casina** 'as if'

# Sentence Segmentation

---

!, ? mostly unambiguous but **period “.”** is very ambiguous

- Sentence boundary
- Abbreviations like Inc. or Dr.
- Numbers like .02% or 4.3

Common algorithm: Tokenize first: use rules or ML to classify a period as either (a) part of the word or (b) a sentence-boundary.

- An abbreviation dictionary can help

Sentence segmentation can then often be done by rules based on this tokenization.

# Byte Pair Encoding

# Another option for text tokenization

---

Instead of

- white-space segmentation
- single-character segmentation

**Use the data** to tell us how to tokenize.

**Subword tokenization** (because tokens can be parts of words as well as whole words)

# Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) token learner

---

Let vocabulary be the set of all individual characters

$$= \{A, B, C, D, \dots, a, b, c, d, \dots\}$$

- Repeat:
  - Choose the two symbols that are most frequently adjacent in the training corpus (say 'A', 'B')
  - Add a new merged symbol 'AB' to the vocabulary
  - Replace every adjacent 'A' 'B' in the corpus with 'AB'.
- Until  $k$  merges have been done.

# BPE token learner algorithm

```
function BYTE-PAIR ENCODING(strings  $C$ , number of merges  $k$ ) returns vocab  $V$ 
   $V \leftarrow$  all unique characters in  $C$           # initial set of tokens is characters
  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  do                      # merge tokens til  $k$  times
     $t_L, t_R \leftarrow$  Most frequent pair of adjacent tokens in  $C$ 
     $t_{NEW} \leftarrow t_L + t_R$                   # make new token by concatenating
     $V \leftarrow V + t_{NEW}$                       # update the vocabulary
    Replace each occurrence of  $t_L, t_R$  in  $C$  with  $t_{NEW}$     # and update the corpus
  return  $V$ 
```

# Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) Addendum

---

Most subword algorithms are run inside space-separated tokens.

So we commonly first add a special end-of-word symbol ' \_\_ ' before space in training corpus

Next, separate into letters.

# BPE token learner

Original (very fascinating) corpus:

low low low low lowest lowest newer newer newer newer newer newer wider wider wider new new

Add end-of-word tokens, resulting in this vocabulary:

**corpus**

5	l o w _
2	l o w e s t _
6	n e w e r _
3	w i d e r _
2	n e w _

**vocabulary**

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w

# BPE token learner

## corpus

5 l o w \_  
2 l o w e s t \_  
6 n e w e r \_  
3 w i d e r \_  
2 n e w \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w

Merge **e r** to **er**

## corpus

5 l o w \_  
2 l o w e s t \_  
6 n e w er \_  
3 w i d er \_  
2 n e w \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er

## corpus

5 low \_  
2 lowest \_  
6 newer \_  
3 wider \_  
2 new \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er

Merge er \_ to er\_

## corpus

5 low \_  
2 lowest \_  
6 newer \_  
3 wider \_  
2 new \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er\_

# BPE

## corpus

5 low \_  
2 lowest \_  
6 newer \_  
3 wider \_  
2 new \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er\_

Merge n e to ne

## corpus

5 low \_  
2 lowest \_  
6 newer \_  
3 wider \_  
2 new \_

## vocabulary

\_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er\_, ne

The next merges are:

Merge	Current Vocabulary
(ne, w)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new
(l, o)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo
(lo, w)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low
(new, er_)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low, newer_
(low, _)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low, newer_, low_

# BPE token segmenter algorithm

---

On the test data, run each merge learned from the training data:

- Greedily
- In the order we learned them
- (test frequencies don't play a role)

So: merge every **e r** to **er**, then merge **er \_** to **er\_**, etc.

- Result:
  - Test set "n e w e r \_" would be tokenized as a full word
  - Test set "l o w e r \_" would be two tokens: "low er\_"

# Properties of BPE tokens

---

Usually include frequent words

And frequent subwords

- Which are often morphemes like *-est* or *-er*

A **morpheme** is the smallest meaning-bearing unit of a language

- *unlikeliest* has 3 morphemes *un-*, *likely*, and *-est*



# **Vector Semantics**

# We define meaning of a word as a vector

---

Called an "embedding" because it's embedded into a space

The standard way to represent meaning in NLP

*Modern NLP algorithm uses embeddings as the representation of word meaning*

Fine-grained model of meaning for similarity

# Intuition: why vectors?

---

Consider sentiment analysis:

- With **words**, a feature is a word identity
  - Feature 5: 'The previous word was "terrible"'
  - requires **exact same word** to be in training and test
- With **embeddings**:
  - Feature is a word vector
  - 'The previous word was vector [35,22,17...]'
  - Now in the test set we might see a similar vector [34,21,14]
  - We can generalize to **similar but unseen** words!!!

# 2 kinds of embeddings

---

## tf-idf

- Information Retrieval workhorse!
- A common baseline model
- **Sparse** vectors
- Words are represented by (a simple function of) the **counts** of nearby words

## Word2vec

- **Dense** vectors
- Representation is created by training a classifier to **predict** whether a word is likely to appear nearby

# Computing with meaning representations instead of string representations

---

荃者所以在鱼，得鱼而忘荃

Nets are for fish;

Once you get the fish, you can forget the net.

言者所以在意，得意而忘言

Words are for meaning;

Once you get the meaning, you can forget the words

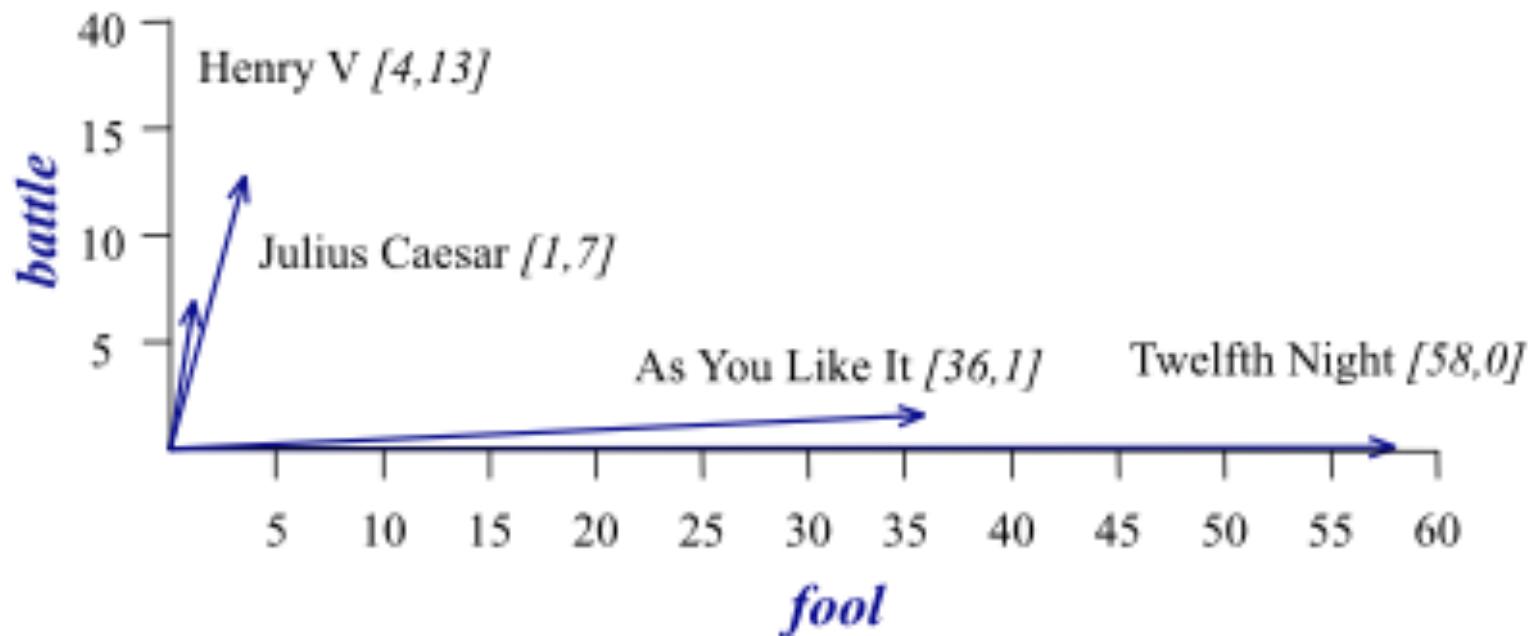
庄子(Zhuangzi), Chapter 26

## Term-document matrix

Each document is represented by a vector of words

	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	1	0	7	13
good	114	80	62	89
fool	36	58	1	4
wit	20	15	2	3

## Visualizing document vectors



# Vectors are the basis of information retrieval

	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	1	0	7	13
good	114	80	62	89
fool	36	58	1	4
wit	20	15	2	3

Vectors are similar for the two comedies

But comedies are different than the other two

Comedies have more *fools* and *wit* and fewer *battles*.

# Idea for word meaning: Words can be vectors too!!!

	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	1	0	7	13
good	114	80	62	89
fool	36	58	1	4
wit	20	15	2	3

*battle* is "the kind of word that occurs in Julius Caesar and Henry V"

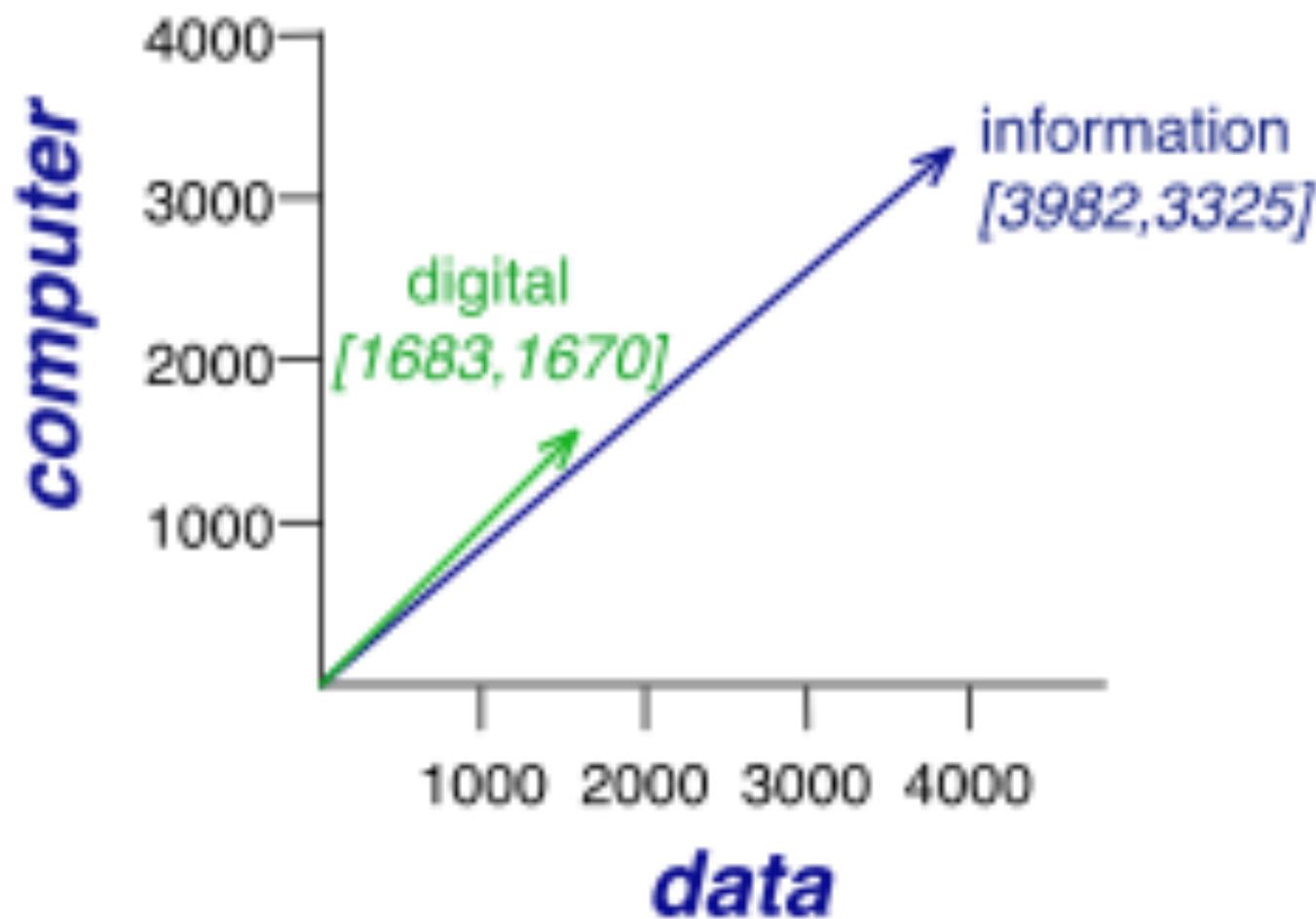
*fool* is "the kind of word that occurs in comedies, especially Twelfth Night"

# Word-word matrix (or "term-context matrix")

Two **words** are similar in meaning if their context vectors are similar

is traditionally followed by **cherry** pie, a traditional dessert  
often mixed, such as **strawberry** rhubarb pie. Apple pie  
computer peripherals and personal **digital** assistants. These devices usually  
a computer. This includes **information** available on the internet

	aardvark	...	computer	data	result	pie	sugar	...
cherry	0	...	2	8	9	442	25	...
strawberry	0	...	0	0	1	60	19	...
digital	0	...	1670	1683	85	5	4	...
information	0	...	3325	3982	378	5	13	...





# Cosine for Computing Word Similarity

# Computing word similarity: Dot product and cosine

---

The dot product between two vectors is a scalar:

$$\text{dot product}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^N v_i w_i = v_1 w_1 + v_2 w_2 + \dots + v_N w_N$$

The dot product tends to be high when the two vectors have large values in the same dimensions

Dot product can thus be a useful similarity metric between vectors

# Problem with raw dot-product

---

Dot product favors long vectors

Dot product is higher if a vector is longer (has higher values in many dimension)

Vector length:

$$|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N v_i^2}$$

Frequent words (of, the, you) have long vectors (since they occur many times with other words).

So dot product overly favors frequent words

# Alternative: cosine for computing word similarity

---

$$\text{cosine}(\vec{v}, \vec{w}) = \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{|\vec{v}| |\vec{w}|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N v_i w_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N v_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2}}$$

Based on the definition of the dot product between two vectors a and b

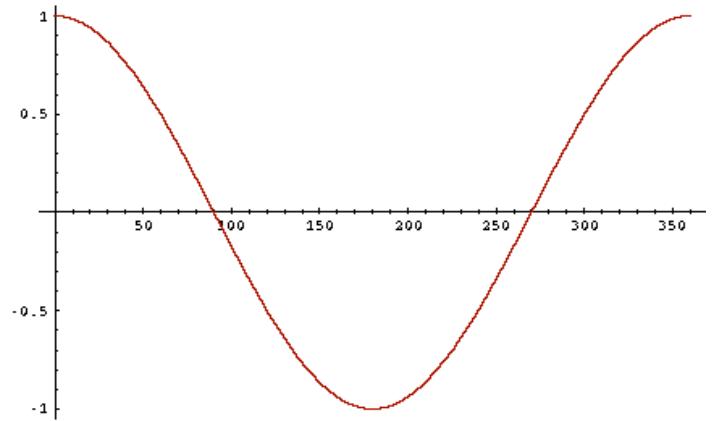
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} &= |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta \\ \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|} &= \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

# Cosine as a similarity metric

-1: vectors point in opposite directions

+1: vectors point in same directions

0: vectors are orthogonal



But since raw frequency values are non-negative, the cosine for term-term matrix vectors ranges from 0–1

# Cosine examples

	pie	data	computer
cherry	442	8	2
digital	5	1683	1670
information	5	3982	3325

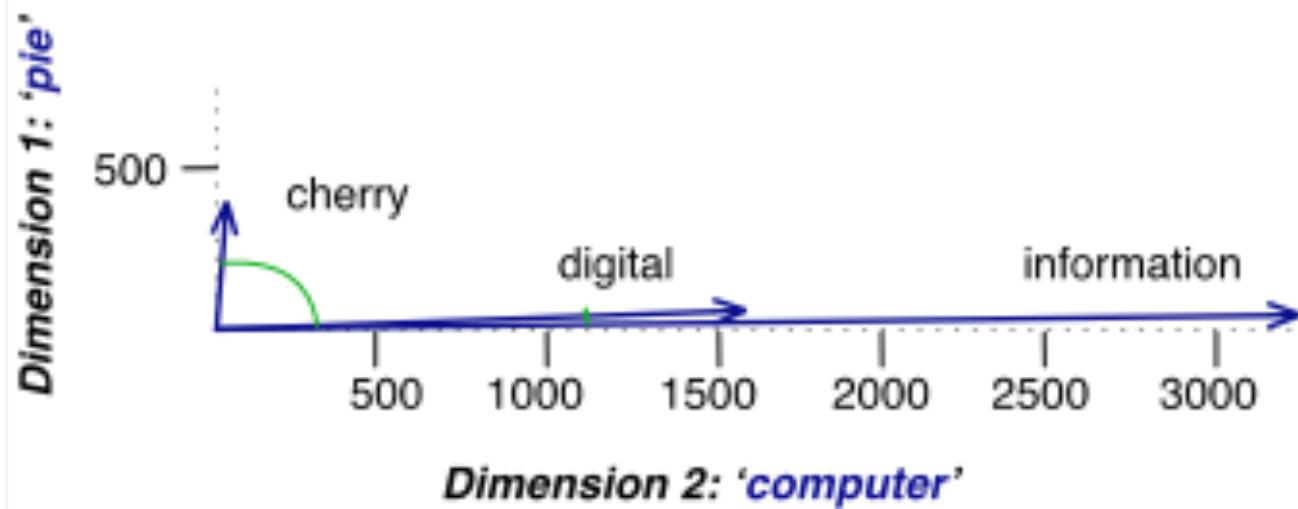
$$\cos(\text{cherry}, \text{information}) =$$

$$\frac{442 * 5 + 8 * 3982 + 2 * 3325}{\sqrt{442^2 + 8^2 + 2^2} \sqrt{5^2 + 3982^2 + 3325^2}} = .017$$

$$\cos(\text{digital}, \text{information}) =$$

$$\frac{5 * 5 + 1683 * 3982 + 1670 * 3325}{\sqrt{5^2 + 1683^2 + 1670^2} \sqrt{5^2 + 3982^2 + 3325^2}} = .996$$

# Visualizing cosines (angles)



# Raw frequency is a bad representation

---

- The co-occurrence matrices we have seen represent each cell by word frequencies.
- Frequency is clearly useful; if *sugar* appears a lot near *apricot*, that's useful information.
- But overly frequent words like *the*, *it*, or *they* are not very informative about the context
- It's a paradox! How can we balance these two conflicting constraints?

# Two common solutions for word weighting

**tf-idf:** tf-idf value for word t in document d:

$$w_{t,d} = \text{tf}_{t,d} \times \text{idf}_t$$

Words like "the" or "it" have very low idf

**PMI:** (Pointwise mutual information)

- $\text{PMI}(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = \log \frac{p(\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)}{p(\mathbf{w}_1)p(\mathbf{w}_2)}$   
See if words like "good" appear more often with "great" than we would expect by chance

tf-idf      Relates Words to Documents

PMI      Relates Words to Words



# **TF-IDF**

## Term frequency (tf)

$$tf_{t,d} = \text{count}(t,d)$$

Term Counts	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	1	0	7	13
good	114	80	62	89
fool	36	58	1	4
wit	20	15	2	3

Instead of using raw count, we squash a bit:

$$tf_{t,d} = \log_{10}(\text{count}(t,d)+1)$$

$\log_{10}(\text{count}(t,d)+1)$	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	0.3	0	0.9	1.15
good	2.06	1.91	1.80	1.95
fool	1.57	1.77	0.3	0.7
wit	1.32	1.2	0.48	0.6

## Document frequency (df)

---

$df_t$  is the number of documents  $t$  occurs in.

(note this is not collection frequency: total count across all documents)

Consider in the collection of Shakespeare's 37 plays the two words *Romeo* and *action*. The words have identical collection frequencies (they both occur 113 times in all the plays) but very different document frequencies

"*Romeo*" is very distinctive for one Shakespeare play:

	Collection Frequency	Document Frequency
Romeo	113	1
action	113	31

## Inverse document frequency (idf)

$$idf_t = \log_{10} \left( \frac{N}{df_t} \right)$$

N is the total number of documents in the collection

Word	df	idf
Romeo	1	1.57
salad	2	1.27
Falstaff	4	0.967
forest	12	0.489
battle	21	0.246
action	31	0.077
wit	34	0.037
fool	36	0.012
good	37	0
sweet	37	0

# What is a document?

---

- Could be a play or a Wikipedia article
- But for the purposes of tf-idf, documents can be **anything**; we often call each paragraph a document!

## Final tf-idf weighted value for a word

Raw counts:

$$w_{t,d} = \text{tf}_{t,d} \times \text{idf}_t$$

	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	1	0	7	13
good	114	80	62	89
fool	36	58	1	4
wit	20	15	2	3

tf-idf:

	As You Like It	Twelfth Night	Julius Caesar	Henry V
battle	0.074	0	0.22	0.28
good	0	0	0	0
fool	0.019	0.021	0.0036	0.0083
wit	0.049	0.044	0.018	0.022



# Pointwise Mutual Information

# Pointwise Mutual Information

---

## Pointwise mutual information:

Do events x and y co-occur more than if they were independent?

## PMI between two words: (Church & Hanks 1989)

Do words x and y co-occur more than if they were independent?

$$\text{PMI}(\text{word}_1, \text{word}_2) = \log_2 \frac{P(\text{word}_1, \text{word}_2)}{P(\text{word}_1)P(\text{word}_2)}$$

# Positive Pointwise Mutual Information

---

- PMI ranges from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$
- But the negative values are problematic
  - Things are co-occurring **less than** we expect by chance
  - Unreliable without enormous corpora
    - Imagine  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  whose probability is each  $10^{-6}$
    - Hard to be sure  $p(w_1, w_2)$  is significantly different than  $10^{-12}$
    - Plus it's not clear people are good at "unrelatedness"
- So we just replace negative PMI values by 0
- Positive PMI (**PPMI**) between word1 and word2:

$$\text{PPMI}(word_1, word_2) = \max\left(\log_2 \frac{P(word_1, word_2)}{P(word_1)P(word_2)}, 0\right)$$

# Computing PPMI on a term-context matrix

Matrix F with W rows (words) and C columns (contexts)

$f_{ij}$  is # of times  $w_i$  occurs in context  $c_j$

	computer	data	result	pie	sugar	count(w)
cherry	2	8	9	442	25	486
strawberry	0	0	1	60	19	80
digital	1670	1683	85	5	4	3447
information	3325	3982	378	5	13	7703
count(context)	4997	5673	473	512	61	11716

# Computing PPMI

	computer	data	result	pie	sugar	count(w)
<b>cherry</b>	2	8	9	442	25	486
<b>strawberry</b>	0	0	1	60	19	80
<b>digital</b>	1670	1683	85	5	4	3447
<b>information</b>	3325	3982	378	5	13	7703
<b>count(context)</b>	4997	5673	473	512	61	11716

$$p(w=information, c=data) = 3982/11716 = .3399$$

$$p(w=information) = 7703/11716 = .6575$$

$$p(c=data) = 5673/11716 = .4842$$

	p(w,context)					p(w)
	computer	data	result	pie	sugar	p(w)
<b>cherry</b>	0.0002	0.0007	0.0008	0.0377	0.0021	0.0415
<b>strawberry</b>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001	0.0051	0.0016	0.0068
<b>digital</b>	0.1425	0.1436	0.0073	0.0004	0.0003	0.2942
<b>information</b>	0.2838	0.3399	0.0323	0.0004	0.0011	0.6575
<b>p(context)</b>	0.4265	0.4842	0.0404	0.0437	0.0052	

# Computing PPMI

	p(w,context)					p(w)
	computer	data	result	pie	sugar	p(w)
cherry	0.0002	0.0007	0.0008	0.0377	0.0021	0.0415
strawberry	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001	0.0051	0.0016	0.0068
digital	0.1425	0.1436	0.0073	0.0004	0.0003	0.2942
information	0.2838	0.3399	0.0323	0.0004	0.0011	0.6575
p(context)	0.4265	0.4842	0.0404	0.0437	0.0052	

$$\text{pmi}(\text{information}, \text{data}) = \log_2 ( .3399 / (.6575 * .4842) ) = .0944$$

Resulting PPMI matrix (negatives replaced by 0)

	computer	data	result	pie	sugar
cherry	0	0	0	4.38	3.30
strawberry	0	0	0	4.10	5.51
digital	0.18	0.01	0	0	0
information	0.02	0.09	0.28	0	0

# Weighting PMI

---

PMI is biased toward infrequent events

- Very rare words have very high PMI values

Two solutions:

- Give rare words slightly higher probabilities
- Use add-one smoothing (which has a similar effect)

## Weighting PMI: Giving rare context words slightly higher probability

Raise the context probabilities to  $\alpha = 0.75$ :

$$\text{PPMI}_\alpha(w, c) = \max\left(\log_2 \frac{P(w, c)}{P(w)P_\alpha(c)}, 0\right)$$

$$P_\alpha(c) = \frac{\text{count}(c)^\alpha}{\sum_c \text{count}(c)^\alpha}$$

This helps because  $P_\alpha(c) > P(c)$  for rare  $c$

Consider two events,  $P(a) = .99$  and  $P(b) = .01$

$$P_\alpha(a) = \frac{.99^{.75}}{.99^{.75} + .01^{.75}} = .97 \quad P_\alpha(b) = \frac{.01^{.75}}{.99^{.75} + .01^{.75}} = .03$$



# Word2vec

# Sparse versus dense vectors

---

tf-idf (or PMI) vectors are

- **long** (length  $|V| = 20,000$  to  $50,000$ )
- **sparse** (most elements are zero)

Alternative: learn vectors which are

- **short** (length  $50-1000$ )
- **dense** (most elements are non-zero)

# Sparse versus dense vectors

---

## Why dense vectors?

- Short vectors may be easier to use as **features** in machine learning (fewer weights to tune)
- Dense vectors may **generalize** better than explicit counts
- Dense vectors may do better at capturing synonymy:
  - *in a sparse vector representation, dimensions for synonyms like car and automobile dimension are distinct and unrelated;*
  - *sparse vectors may thus fail to capture the similarity between a word with car as a neighbor and a word with automobile as a neighbor*
- In practice, they work better

# Popular static embeddings

---

Word2vec (Mikolov et al)

<https://code.google.com/archive/p/word2vec/>

GloVe (Pennington, Socher, Manning)

<http://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/>

# Word2vec

---

Popular embedding method

Very fast to train

Code available on the web

Idea: **predict** rather than **count**

Word2vec provides various options.

We'll look at:

**skip-gram with negative sampling (SGNS)**

# Word2vec

---

Instead of **counting** how often each word  $w$  occurs near "apricot"

- Train a classifier on a binary **prediction** task:
  - Is  $w$  likely to show up near "apricot"?

We don't actually care about this task

- But we'll take the learned classifier weights as the word embeddings

Big idea: **self-supervision**:

- A word  $c$  that occurs near apricot in the corpus acts as the gold "correct answer" for supervised learning
- No need for human labels
- Bengio et al. (2003); Collobert et al. (2011)

## Approach: predict if candidate word $c$ is a "neighbor"

---

1. Treat the target word  $t$  and a neighboring context word  $c$  as **positive examples**.
2. Randomly sample other words in the lexicon to get negative examples
3. Use logistic regression to train a classifier to distinguish those two cases
4. Use the learned weights as the embeddings

## Skip-Gram Training Data

Assume a +/- 2 word window, given training sentence:

...lemon, a [tablespoon of apricot jam, a] pinch...

c1                    c2 [target] c3    c4

## Skip-Gram Classifier

(assuming a +/- 2 word window)

...lemon, a [tablespoon of apricot jam, a] pinch...

c1                    c2 [target]    c3    c4

Goal: train a classifier that is given a candidate (word, context) pair

(apricot, jam)  
(apricot, aardvark)

...

And assigns each pair a probability:

$$P(+ | w, c)$$

$$P(- | w, c) = 1 - P(+ | w, c)$$

## Similarity is computed from dot product

---

Remember: two vectors are similar if they have a high dot product

- Cosine is just a normalized dot product

So:

- $\text{Similarity}(w, c) \propto w \cdot c$

We'll need to normalize to get a probability

- (cosine isn't a probability either)

## Turning dot products into probabilities

---

$$\text{Sim}(w, c) \approx w \cdot c$$

To turn this into a probability

We'll use the sigmoid from logistic regression:

$$P(+|w, c) = \sigma(c \cdot w) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-c \cdot w)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(-|w, c) &= 1 - P(+|w, c) \\ &= \sigma(-c \cdot w) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(c \cdot w)} \end{aligned}$$

# How Skip-Gram Classifier computes $P(+|w, c)$

$$P(+|w, c) = \sigma(c \cdot w) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-c \cdot w)}$$

This is for one context word, but we have lots of context words.  
We'll assume independence and just multiply them:

$$P(+|w, c_{1:L}) = \prod_{i=1}^L \sigma(c_i \cdot w)$$

$$\log P(+|w, c_{1:L}) = \sum_{i=1}^L \log \sigma(c_i \cdot w)$$

## Skip-gram classifier: summary

---

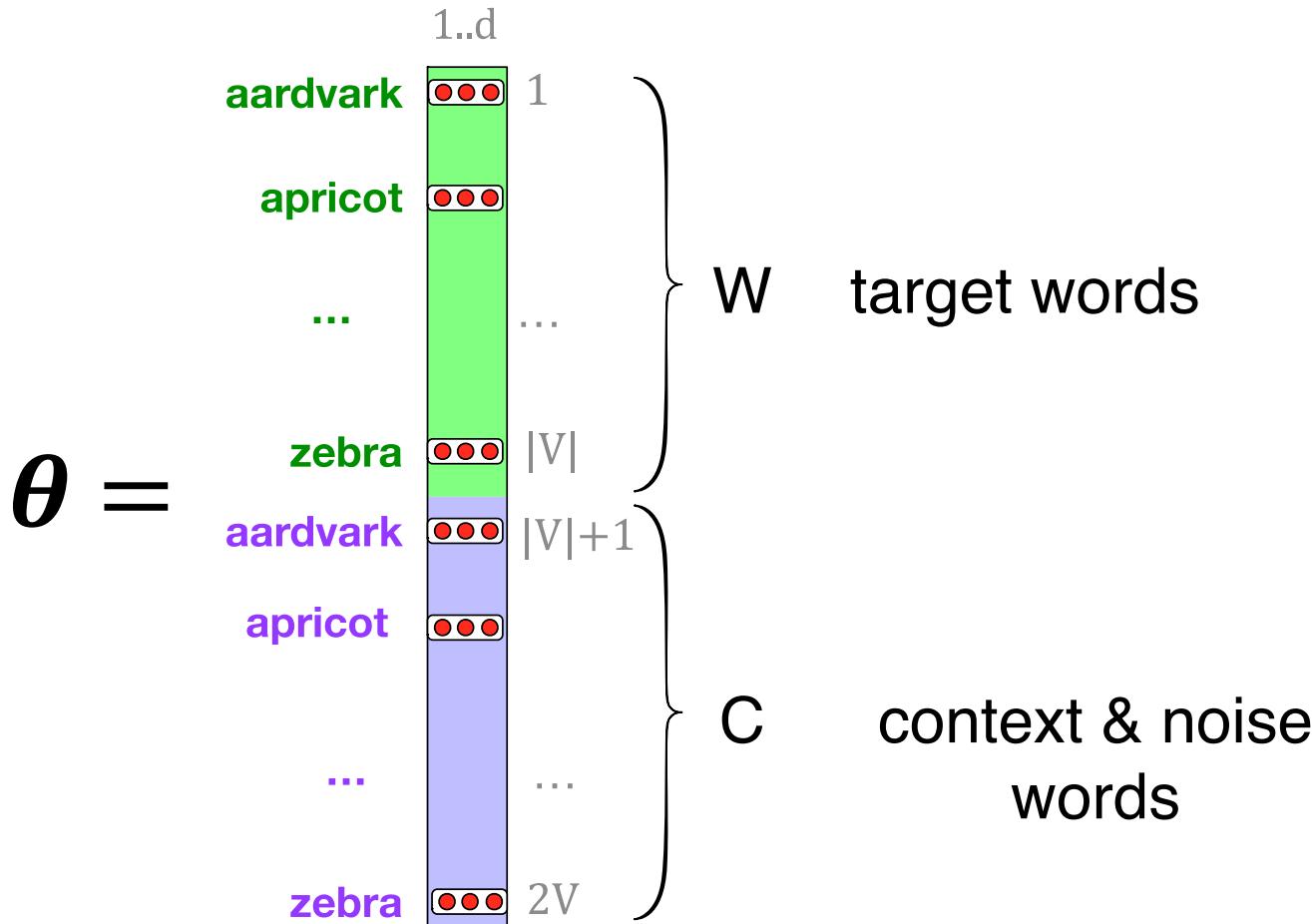
A probabilistic classifier, given

- a test target word  $w$
- its context window of  $L$  words  $c_{1:L}$

Estimates probability that  $w$  occurs in this window based on similarity of  $w$  (embeddings) to  $c_{1:L}$  (embeddings).

To compute this, we just need embeddings for all the words.

# These embeddings we'll need: a set for $w$ , a set for $c$



---

# Word2vec: Learning the embeddings

## Skip-Gram Training data

...lemon, a [tablespoon of apricot jam, a] pinch...

c1

c2 [target]

c3

c4



**positive examples +**

t c

---

apricot tablespoon  
apricot of  
apricot jam  
apricot a

## Skip-Gram Training data

...lemon, a [tablespoon of apricot jam, a] pinch...

c1

c2 [target]

c3

c4



**positive examples +**

t c

apricot	tablespoon
apricot	of
apricot	jam
apricot	a

For each positive example we'll grab k negative examples, sampling by frequency

## Skip-Gram Training data

...lemon, a [tablespoon of apricot jam, a] pinch...

c1

c2 [target]

c3

c4



### positive examples +

t	c
apricot	tablespoon
apricot	of
apricot	jam
apricot	a

### negative examples -

t	c	t	c
apricot	aardvark	apricot	seven
apricot	my	apricot	forever
apricot	where	apricot	dear
apricot	coaxial	apricot	if

# Word2vec: how to learn vectors

---

Given the set of positive and negative training instances, and an initial set of embedding vectors

The goal of learning is to adjust those word vectors such that we:

- **Maximize** the similarity of the **target word, context word** pairs ( $w, c_{pos}$ ) drawn from the positive data
- **Minimize** the similarity of the  $(w, c_{neg})$  pairs drawn from the negative data.

# Loss function for one $w$ with $c_{pos}, c_{neg1} \dots c_{negk}$

Maximize the similarity of the target with the actual context words, and minimize the similarity of the target with the  $k$  negative sampled non-neighbor words.

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{CE} &= -\log \left[ P(+|w, c_{pos}) \prod_{i=1}^k P(-|w, c_{neg_i}) \right] \\
 &= - \left[ \log P(+|w, c_{pos}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \log P(-|w, c_{neg_i}) \right] \\
 &= - \left[ \log P(+|w, c_{pos}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \log (1 - P(+|w, c_{neg_i})) \right] \\
 &= - \left[ \log \sigma(c_{pos} \cdot w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \log \sigma(-c_{neg_i} \cdot w) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

# Learning the classifier

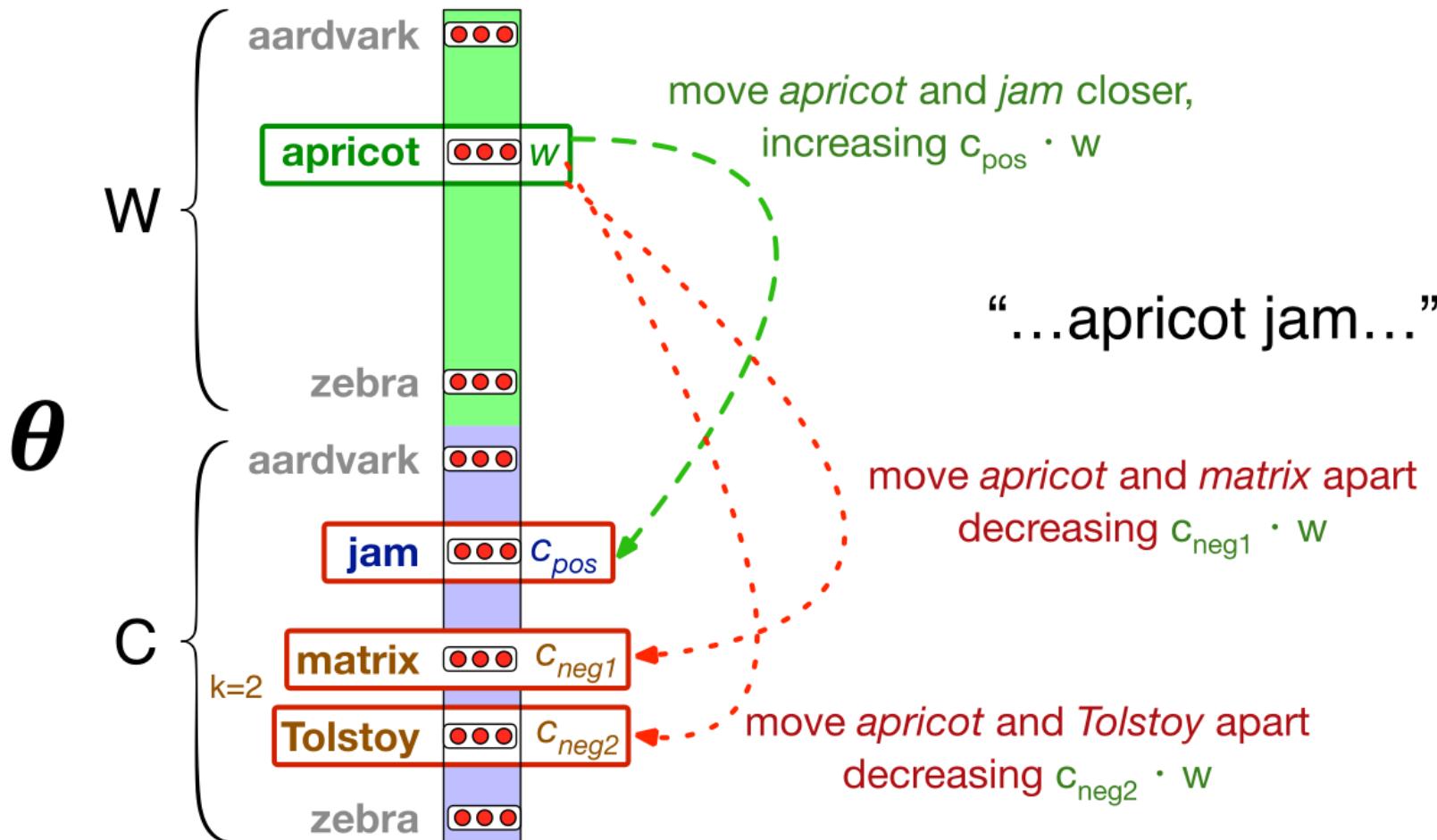
How to learn?

- Stochastic gradient descent!

We'll adjust the word weights to

- make the positive pairs more likely
- and the negative pairs less likely,
- over the entire training set.

# Intuition of one step of gradient descent



## Reminder: gradient descent

---

At each step

- Direction: We move in the reverse direction from the gradient of the loss function
- Magnitude: we move the value of this gradient  $\frac{d}{dw}L(f(x; w), y)$  weighted by a **learning rate**  $\eta$
- Higher learning rate means move  $w$  faster

$$w_{t+1} = w_t - \eta \frac{d}{dw}L(f(x; w), y)$$

# The derivatives of the loss function

---

$$L_{CE} = - \left[ \log \sigma(c_{pos} \cdot w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \log \sigma(-c_{neg_i} \cdot w) \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial L_{CE}}{\partial c_{pos}} = [\sigma(c_{pos} \cdot w) - 1]w$$

$$\frac{\partial L_{CE}}{\partial c_{neg}} = [\sigma(c_{neg} \cdot w)]w$$

$$\frac{\partial L_{CE}}{\partial w} = [\sigma(c_{pos} \cdot w) - 1]c_{pos} + \sum_{i=1}^k [\sigma(c_{neg_i} \cdot w)]c_{neg_i}$$

# Update equation in Stochastic Gradient Descent

---

Start with randomly initialized C and W matrices, then incrementally do updates

$$c_{pos}^{t+1} = c_{pos}^t - \eta [\sigma(c_{pos}^t \cdot w^t) - 1] w^t$$

$$c_{neg}^{t+1} = c_{neg}^t - \eta [\sigma(c_{neg}^t \cdot w^t)] w^t$$

$$w^{t+1} = w^t - \eta \left[ [\sigma(c_{pos} \cdot w^t) - 1] c_{pos} + \sum_{i=1}^k [\sigma(c_{neg_i} \cdot w^t)] c_{neg_i} \right]$$

## Two sets of embeddings

---

SGNS learns two sets of embeddings

Target embeddings matrix  $W$

Context embedding matrix  $C$

We may just add them together, representing word  $i$  as the vector  $w_i + c_i$

SGNS – Skipgram with negative sampling

## Summary: How to learn word2vec (skip-gram) embeddings

---

Start with  $V$  random  $d$ -dimensional vectors as initial embeddings

Train a classifier based on embedding similarity

- Take a corpus and take pairs of words that co-occur as positive examples
- Take pairs of words that don't co-occur as negative examples
- Train the classifier to distinguish these by slowly adjusting all the embeddings to improve the classifier performance
- Throw away the classifier code and keep the embeddings.

---

# Properties of Embeddings

# The kinds of neighbors depend on window size

---

**Small windows** ( $C = +/- 2$ ) : nearest words are syntactically similar words in same taxonomy, same parts of speech

- *Hogwarts* nearest neighbors are other fictional schools
- *Sunnydale, Evernight, Blandings*

**Large windows** ( $C = +/- 5$ ) : nearest words are related words in same semantic field, topically related

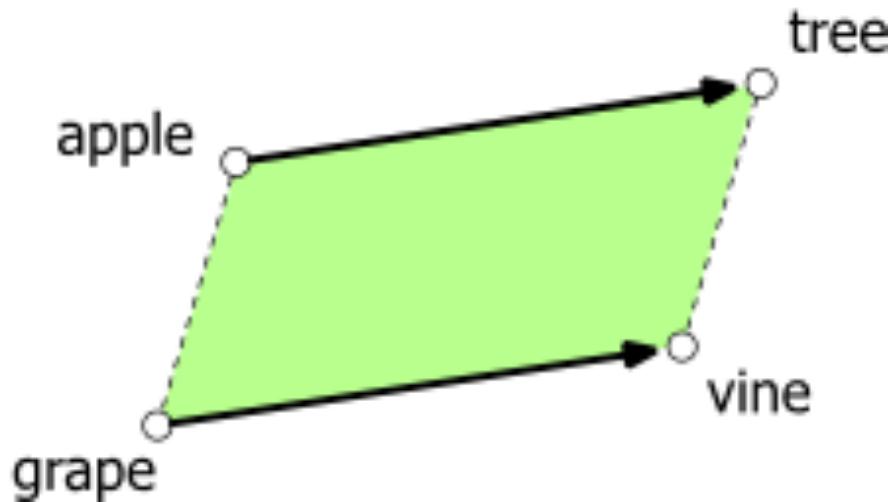
- *Hogwarts* nearest neighbors are Harry Potter world:
- *Dumbledore, half-blood, Malfoy*

## Analogical relations

The classic parallelogram model of analogical reasoning (Rumelhart and Abrahamson 1973)

To solve: "*apple is to tree as grape is to \_\_\_\_\_*"

*Add ( tree → – apple → ) to grape to get vine →*



The parallelogram method received more modern attention because of its success with word2vec or GloVe vectors (Mikolov et al. 2013b, Levy and Goldberg 2014b, Pennington et al. 2014).

# Analogical relations via parallelogram

---

The parallelogram method can solve analogies with both sparse and dense embeddings (Turney and Littman 2005, Mikolov et al. 2013b)

$$\overrightarrow{\text{king}} - \overrightarrow{\text{man}} + \overrightarrow{\text{woman}} \text{ is close to } \overrightarrow{\text{queen}}$$
$$\overrightarrow{\text{Paris}} - \overrightarrow{\text{France}} + \overrightarrow{\text{Italy}} \text{ is close to } \overrightarrow{\text{Rome}}$$

For a problem  $a:a^*::b:b^*$ , the parallelogram method is:

$$\hat{b}^* = \operatorname*{argmax}_x \text{distance}(x, a^* - a + b)$$

# Caveats with the parallelogram method

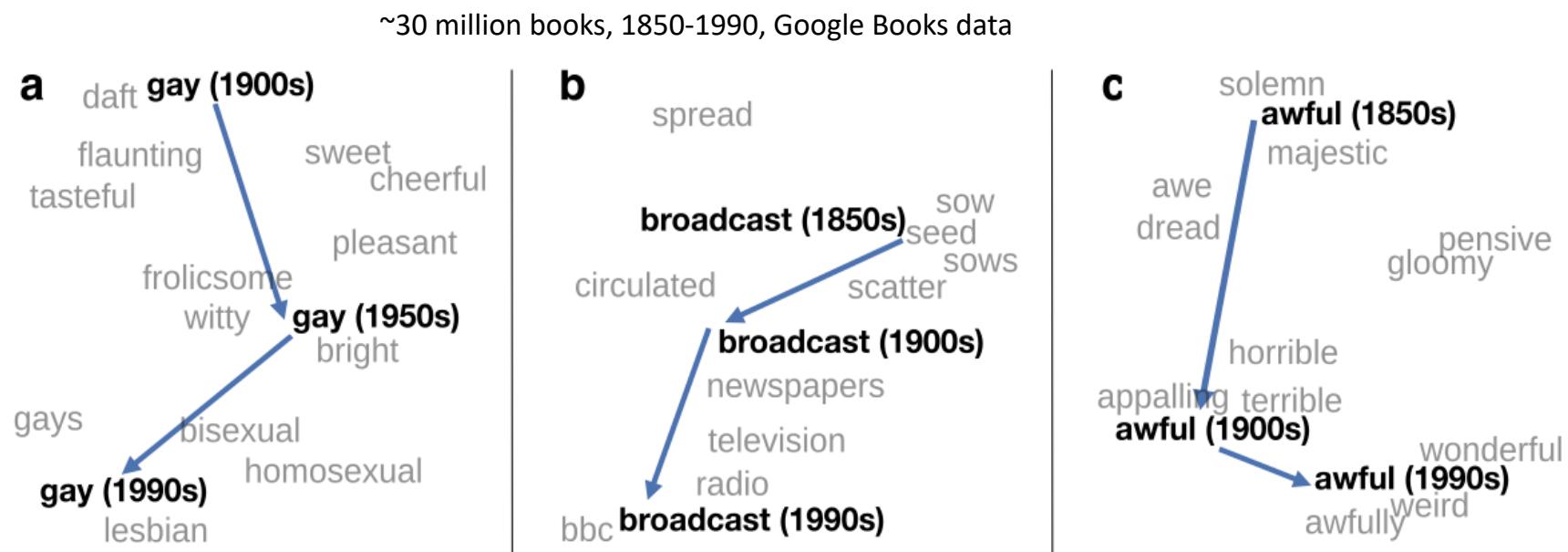
---

It only seems to work for frequent words, small distances and certain relations (relating countries to capitals, or parts of speech), but not others. (Linzen 2016, Gladkova et al. 2016, Ethayarajh et al. 2019a)

Understanding analogy is an open area of research (Peterson et al. 2020)

# Embeddings as a window onto historical semantics

Train embeddings on different decades of historical text to see meanings shift



William L. Hamilton, Jure Leskovec, and Dan Jurafsky. 2016. Diachronic Word Embeddings Reveal Statistical Laws of Semantic Change. Proceedings of ACL.

# Embeddings reflect cultural bias!

---

Ask “Paris : France :: Tokyo : x”

- x = Japan

Ask “father : doctor :: mother : x”

- x = nurse

Ask “man : computer programmer :: woman : x”

- x = homemaker

Algorithms that use embeddings as part of e.g., hiring searches for programmers, might lead to bias in hiring

Bolukbasi, Tolga, Kai-Wei Chang, James Y. Zou, Venkatesh Saligrama, and Adam T. Kalai. "Man is to computer programmer as woman is to homemaker? debiasing word embeddings." In *NeurIPS*, pp. 4349-4357. 2016.

# Historical embedding as a tool to study cultural biases

---

Garg, N., Schiebinger, L., Jurafsky, D., and Zou, J. (2018). Word embeddings quantify 100 years of gender and ethnic stereotypes. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115(16), E3635–E3644.

- Compute a **gender or ethnic bias** for each adjective: e.g., how much closer the adjective is to "woman" synonyms than "man" synonyms, or names of particular ethnicities
  - Embeddings for **competence** adjective (*smart, wise, brilliant, resourceful, thoughtful, logical*) are biased toward men, a bias slowly decreasing 1960-1990
  - Embeddings for **dehumanizing** adjectives (barbaric, monstrous, bizarre) were biased toward Asians in the 1930s, bias decreasing over the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- These match the results of old surveys done in the 1930s

---

# Thank You

---

## References

	Author(s), Title, Edition, Publishing House
T1	Speech and Language processing: An introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics and speech Recognition by Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin[3rd edition]
T2	Foundations of statistical Natural language processing by Christopher D.Manning and Hinrich schutze