

# A Quick Intro to Josh's Project

**2019:** Transfer Learning Internship w/ Kelly Davis

**2020:** ASR + KWS for under-resourced languages

2019 research:

# Background

## Transfer Learning + DeepSpeech

This work is best explained in Chapter 8 of Josh's dissertation:

[http://jrmeyer.github.io/misc/MEYER\\_dissertation\\_2019.pdf](http://jrmeyer.github.io/misc/MEYER_dissertation_2019.pdf)

2019 research:

# Background

## Transfer Learning + DeepSpeech

### **Approach:**

Use a trained LVCSR English model to bootstrap a new target language LVCSR model\*

\*an ASR equivalent of [[Yosinski 2014](#)]

2019 research:

# Background

## Transfer Learning + DeepSpeech

### **Research Questions:**

- (1) How deep should we slice the source model?
- (2) Should we freeze or fine-tune transferred params?

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# Target Datasets

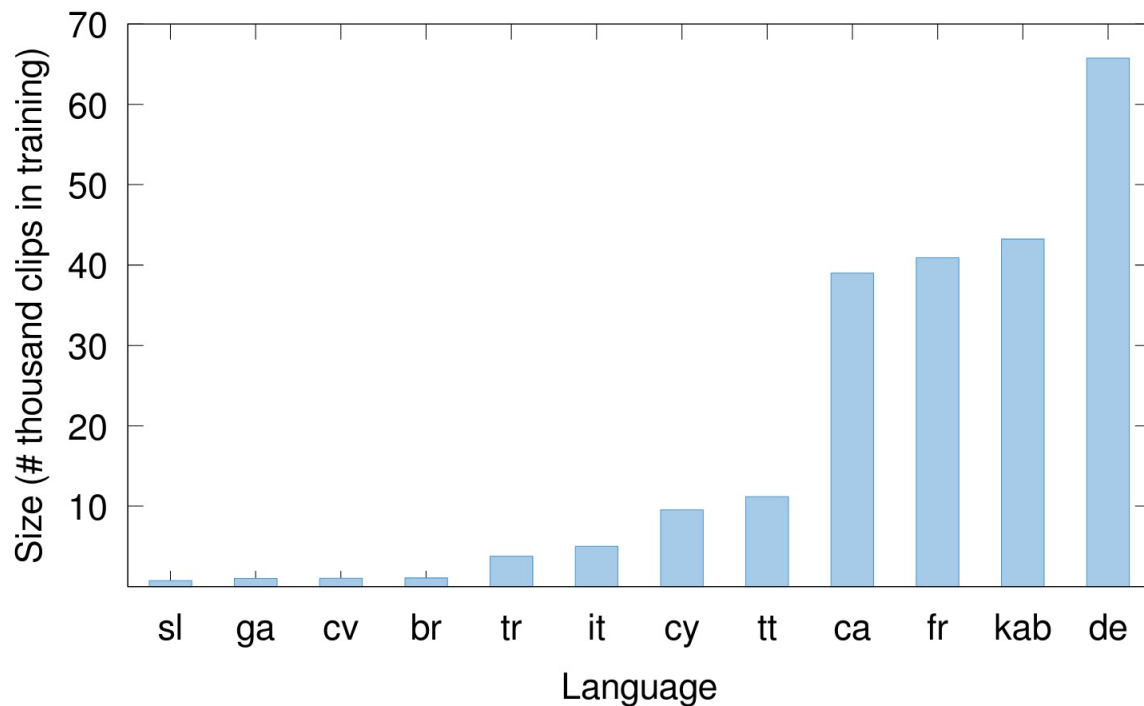


Figure 8-3: Number of audio clips per train split for each language. Audio clips for any individual speaker are only found in one split of the data (i.e. dev / test / train).

2019 research:

# Source Model

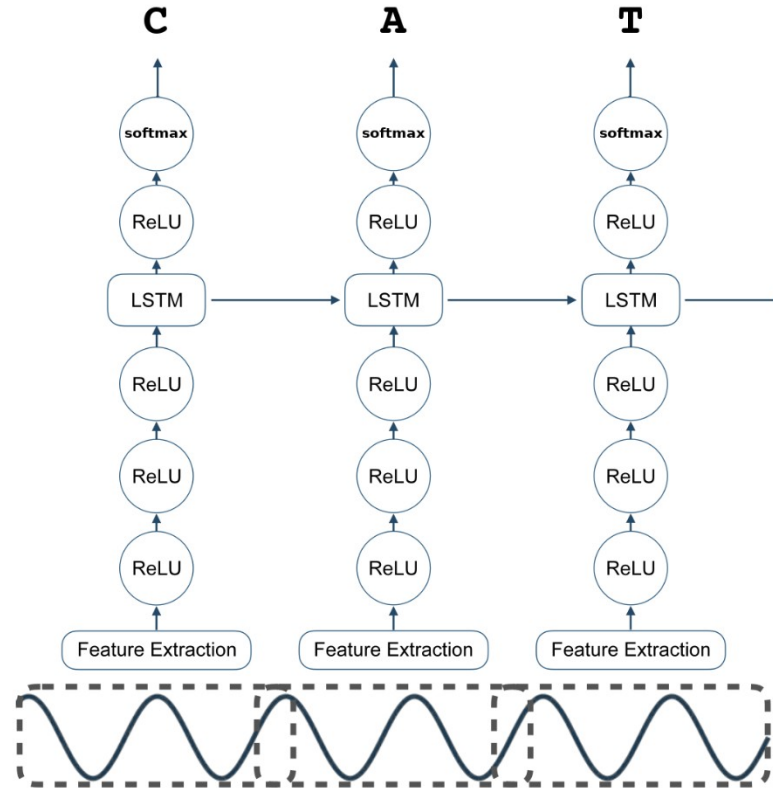


Figure 8-1: Architecture of Mozilla's DeepSpeech ASR system. A six-layer unidirectional CTC model, with one LSTM layer.

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# Transfer Approach

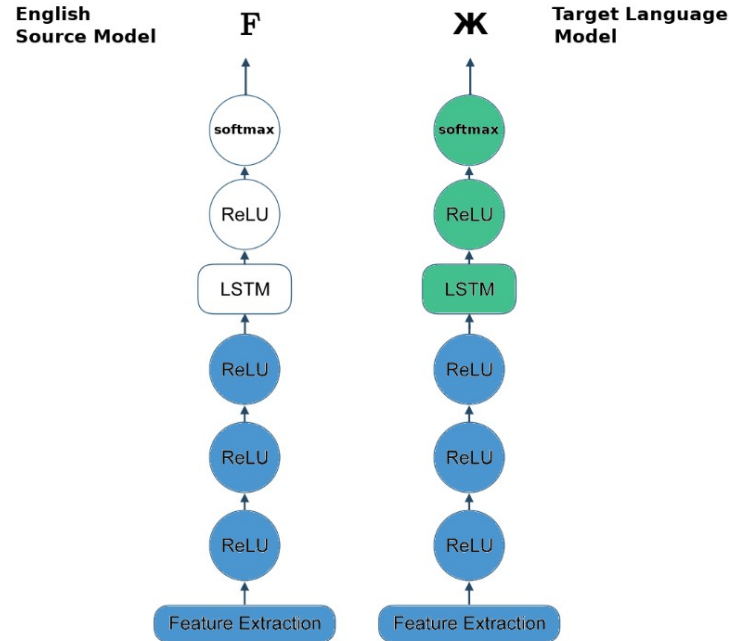


Figure 8-2: “Copy-Paste” Transfer Learning. In this example, a subset of model parameters trained on a language using the Latin alphabet is used to create a new model for a new language, written with the Cyrillic alphabet. Blue model parameters have been copied from the source model, and the green model parameters have been re-initialized from scratch.

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# Results per Language

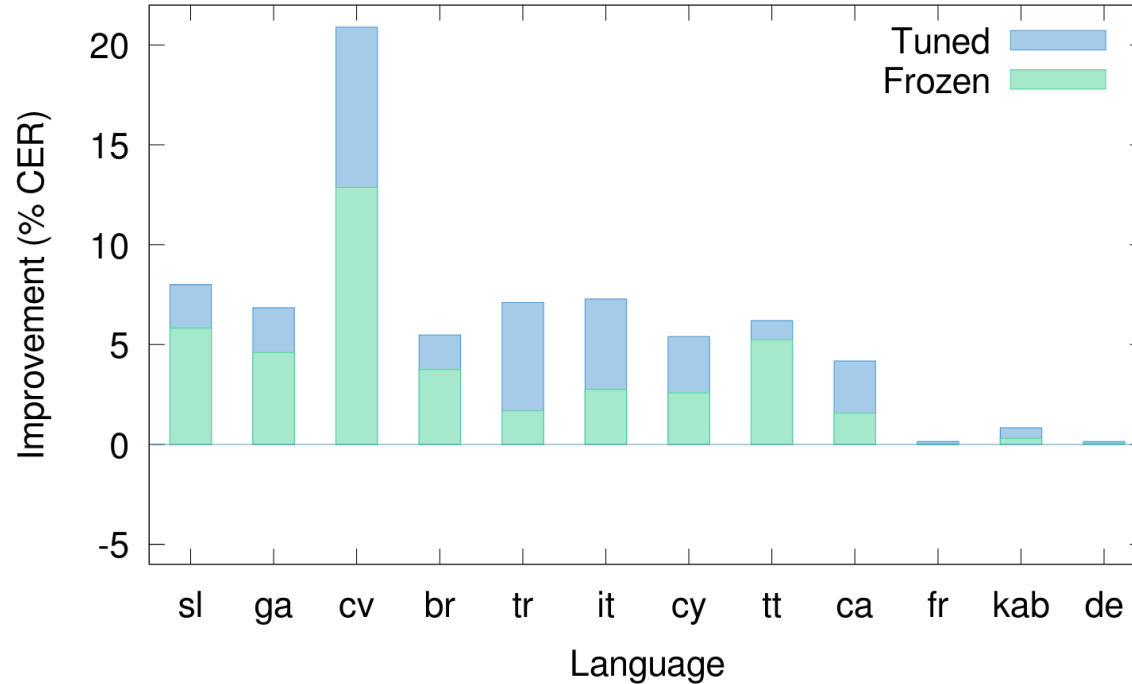
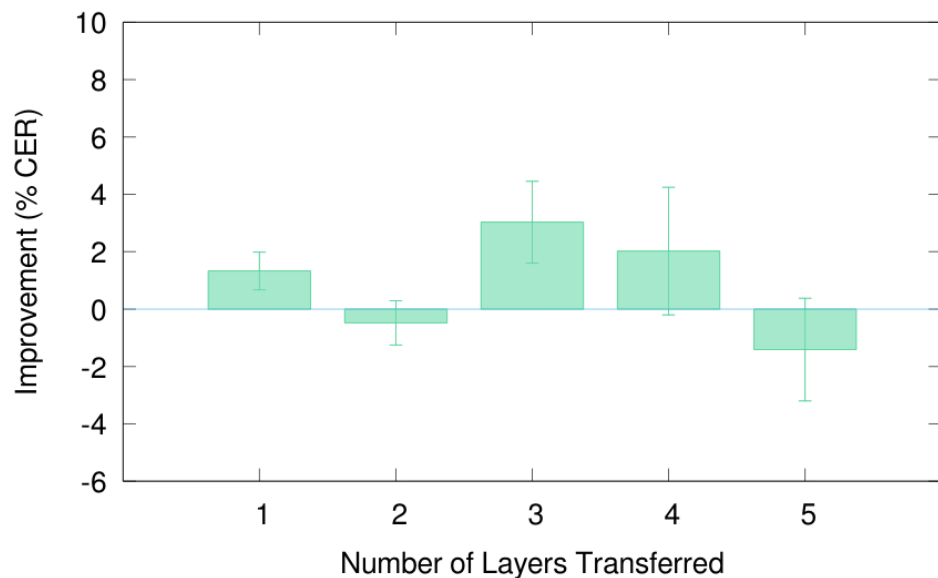


Figure 8-5: Largest improvement from Transfer Learning relative to the baseline, for each language. Languages are ordered from left → right in ascending order of size of training dataset. These improvements represent the bolded values in Table 8.2 and Table 8.3.

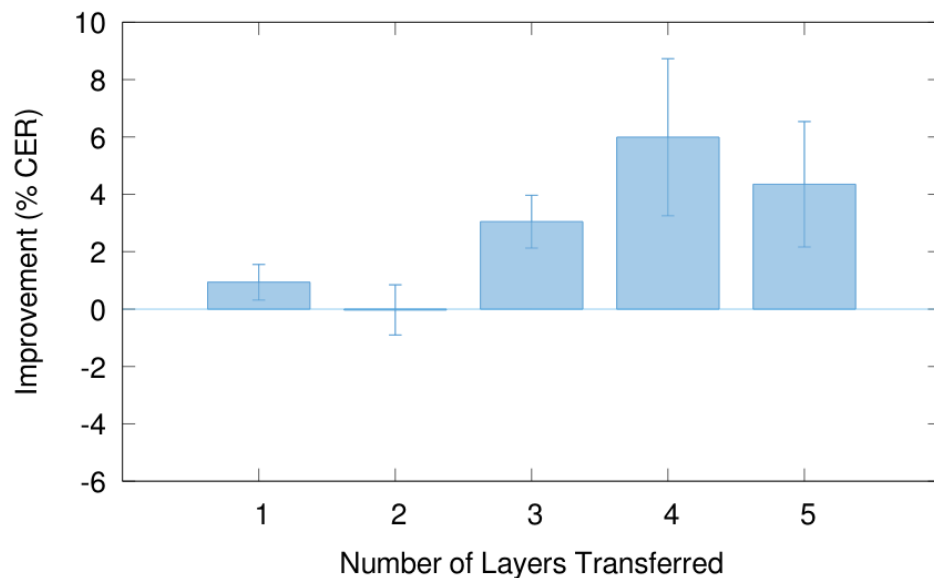


2019 Research:

# Results averaged over Languages



(a) Frozen Transfer



(b) Fine-Tuned Transfer

Figure 8-4: Mean and standard deviation for CER improvement for different # layers transferred from English.

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# Conclusions

Keep the LSTM layer, but drop everything after  
+  
always fine-tune

# 2020: Josh's Project Goals

- (1) Train useable models for East African languages
- (2) Research best practices for training small vocab models
- (3) Communicate best practices for training small vocab models

# 2020: Project Deliverables

(1) LVCSR Kinyarwandan model

(2) KWS Luganda model

(3) models benchmarked on digits/YES/NO for Common Voice languages

(4) playbook for training new models with DeepSpeech

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