

# Multilingual Models for Natural Language Processing

Anoop Kunchukuttan

*Microsoft Translator*



*AI4Bharat*



*Winter School on Deep Learning for Vision and Language Modelling  
IIT Guwahati  
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# Agenda

- Introduction
- Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline
- Cross-lingual Transfer
- Multilingual Word Embeddings
- Multilingual Pre-trained Language Models
  - Extending English LLMs to new languages
- Finetuning Pre-trained LMs
- Evaluation of Multilingual models

# Deep Learning has led to tremendous success

*Transformer-based self-supervised pre-trained models*

## GLUE Benchmark

Rank Name	Model	URL Score
1	ERNIE Team - Baidu	ERNIE
2	DeBERTa Team - Microsoft	DeBERTa / TuringNLRv4
3	HFL iFLYTEK	MacALBERT + DKM
+ 4	Alibaba DAMO NLP	StructBERT + TAPT
+ 5	PING-AN Omni-Sinicic	ALBERT + DAAF + NAS
6	T5 Team - Google	T5
7	Microsoft D365 AI & MSR AI & GATECHM-T-DNN-SMART	
+ 8	Huawei Noah's Ark Lab	NEZHA-Large
+ 9	Zihang Dai	Funnel-Transformer (Ensemble B10-10-10H1024)

## SUPERGLUE Benchmark

Rank Name	Model	URL Score	EM Score
+ 1	Zirui Wang	T5 + Meena, Single Model (Meena Team - Google Brain)	90.4
+ 2	DeBERTa Team - Microsoft	DeBERTa / TuringNLRv4	90.3
3	SuperGLUE Human Baselines	SuperGLUE Human Baselines	89.8
+ 4	T5 Team - Google	T5	89.3
+ 5	Huawei Noah's Ark Lab	NEZHA-Plus	86.7
+ 6	Alibaba PAI&ICBU	PAI Albert	86.1

**Tasks: Classification, Structured Prediction, Span Prediction, Semantic Similarity**

**Prompt:** Can you write a proof that there are infinitely many primes, with every line that rhymes?

**GPT-4:**

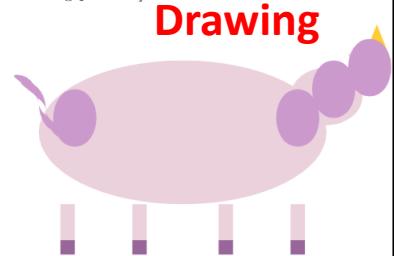
Yes, I think I can,  
Though it might take a clever plan.  
I'll start by noting Euclid's proof,  
Which shows that primes aren't just aloof.  
Assume we have a finite list,  
Of primes, and that none have been missed.  
Multiply them all together,  
And add one, just to be clever.  
The result will be a number,  
That has no prime factors, oh wonder!  
But every number has a prime,  
That divides it, it's just a matter of time.  
So we've found a contradiction,  
And our finite list needs eviction.  
There must be infinitely many primes,  
And that's the end of my rhyming lines.s

**Prompt:** Can you generate a pyplot for the following data:  $x = [1, 3, 5, 6, 8]$ ,  $y1 = [2, 3, 5, 18, 1]$ ,  $y2 = [3, 5, 6, 8, 1]$ ,  $y3 = [5, 1, 2, 3, 4]$ ,  $y4 = [9, 7, 2, 3, 1]$ . I want  $y1, y2$  to be in the same plot, but  $y3$  is in another plot next to that plot,  $y4$  is in below. I want the legend of  $y1$  to be "bob",  $y2$  to be "alice",  $y3$  to be "bilbo",  $y4$  to be "allie". I want the  $x$ -axis to be labeled with "time" and  $y$  axis to be labeled with "money". I want to add a 10 %-40% random error bar to each curve, through all times (including non-integers). I want smoothed curves to show the plot, and smoothed error bar. Do not use linear interpolation, use smooth interpolation! I want to also add some small zig-zag to the smoothed curve to make it look more real. I want to put a baseline as the mean of each line. I want to put a pie chart below indicating the fraction of the four people in each time step. I also want an animation to show how the fractions are changing in the pie chart in \*\*continuous time\*\*. Interpolate the missing fractions! I also want vertical line animation in other three plots to match the pie chart. I want the fanciest plot. Please add as many fancy things as possible.

Here is a possible code to generate a pyplot for the following data, with some comments to explain the steps:

**Prompt:** Draw a unicorn in TiKZ.

**GPT-4:** [Produces L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X compiling to following picture.]



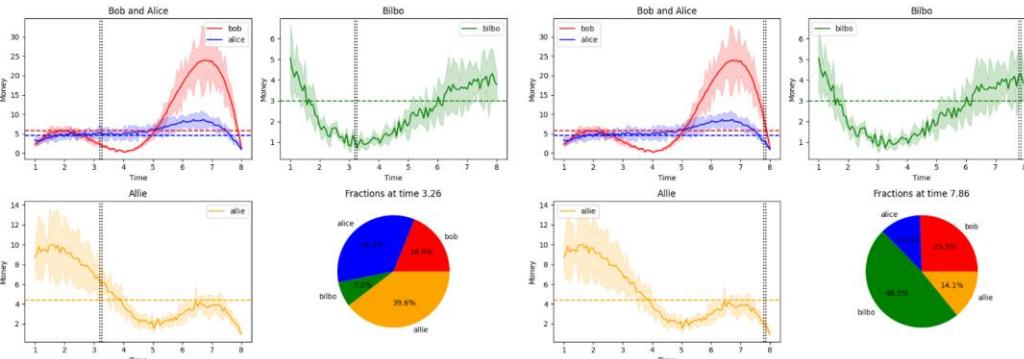
## Maths

**Prompt:** Can you generate a pyplot for the following data:  $x = [1, 3, 5, 6, 8]$ ,  $y1 = [2, 3, 5, 18, 1]$ ,  $y2 = [3, 5, 6, 8, 1]$ ,  $y3 = [5, 1, 2, 3, 4]$ ,  $y4 = [9, 7, 2, 3, 1]$ . I want  $y1, y2$  to be in the same plot, but  $y3$  is in another plot next to that plot,  $y4$  is in below. I want the legend of  $y1$  to be "bob",  $y2$  to be "alice",  $y3$  to be "bilbo",  $y4$  to be "allie". I want the  $x$ -axis to be labeled with "time" and  $y$  axis to be labeled with "money". I want to add a 10 %-40% random error bar to each curve, through all times (including non-integers). I want smoothed curves to show the plot, and smoothed error bar. Do not use linear interpolation, use smooth interpolation! I want to also add some small zig-zag to the smoothed curve to make it look more real. I want to put a baseline as the mean of each line. I want to put a pie chart below indicating the fraction of the four people in each time step. I also want an animation to show how the fractions are changing in the pie chart in \*\*continuous time\*\*. Interpolate the missing fractions! I also want vertical line animation in other three plots to match the pie chart. I want the fanciest plot. Please add as many fancy things as possible.

Here is a possible code to generate a pyplot for the following data, with some comments to explain the steps:

## Plotting

**GPT-4:** [We give two snapshots from the animation resulting from the produced code]



**GPT-4:**

This is a conversation between a user and an artificial intelligence agent that follows instructions or answers questions. The AI always follows the instructions correctly.  
---

User: Can you compose a short tune (say four to eight bars) using ABC notation?

AI: There are many possible ways to compose a short tune in abc notation, but here is one example:

X:1

T:Example Tune

M:4/4

L:1/8

K:C

I:G2AB c2BA | G2AB c2c2 | edcB c2BA | G4-G2z2 :|

I:c2de f2ed | c2de f2f2 | g2fe d2cB | c4-c2z2 :|

This tune has two four-bar phrases, each repeated once, forming an A part and a B part. The key is C major.

**GPT-4:**

User: After the first bar G2AB c2BA, you chose G to start the next bar. Give an example of a change to the notes in the first bar that would have caused you to pick D instead of G as the first note in the second bar.

AI: One possible change to the notes in the first bar that would have caused me to pick D instead of G as the first note in the second bar is:

I:G2AB c2Bc | ...

This change creates a stronger cadence on the C note at the end of the first bar, which is the fifth degree of the scale. This suggests a modulation to the dominant key of G major, which has D as its fifth degree. Therefore, starting the second bar with D would create a smooth transition to the new key and imply a harmonic progression of V-I.

**Prompt:**

```
struct mystruct_A { char a; int b; char c; } x;
struct mystruct_B { int b; char a; char c; } y;

#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    printf("Size of x: %zu bytes\n", sizeof(x));
    printf("Size of y: %zu bytes\n", sizeof(y));
    return 0;
}
```

Possible Output:

**GPT-4:**

There are different ways to implement and align structures in memory, so the exact output may vary depending on the compiler, platform, and options used. However, one possible output is:

Size of x: 12 bytes  
Size of y: 8 bytes

This output assumes that the compiler uses 4-byte alignment for structures, meaning that each structure member starts at an offset that is a multiple of 4 bytes from the beginning of the structure. This may result in some padding bytes being inserted between or after the members to maintain alignment. For example, in x, there may be 3 padding bytes after a and 3 padding bytes after c, while in y, there may be no padding at all. The size of a structure is the sum of the sizes of its members plus any padding bytes.

## Understanding Programs

(SparksOfAGI)

## Explanations

# Large Language Models show great performance on diverse open-ended tasks

*Transformer-based self-supervised decoder only models*

Rank* (UB)	Model	Arena Elo	95% CI	Votes	Organization	License	Knowledge Cutoff
1	<a href="#">GPT-4o-2024-05-13</a>	1287	+4/-4	32181	OpenAI	Proprietary	2023/10
2	<a href="#">Gemini-1.5-Pro-API-0514</a>	1267	+5/-4	25519	Google	Proprietary	2023/11
2	<a href="#">Gemini-Advanced-0514</a>	1266	+5/-5	27225	Google	Proprietary	Online
4	<a href="#">Gemini-1.5-Pro-API-0409-Preview</a>	1257	+3/-3	55731	Google	Proprietary	2023/11
4	<a href="#">GPT-4-Turbo-2024-04-09</a>	1256	+2/-2	59891	OpenAI	Proprietary	2023/12
5	<a href="#">GPT-4-1106-preview</a>	1251	+2/-3	80067	OpenAI	Proprietary	2023/4
6	<a href="#">Claude_3_Opus</a>	1248	+2/-2	123645	Anthropic	Proprietary	2023/8
6	<a href="#">GPT-4-0125-preview</a>	1246	+3/-2	73286	OpenAI	Proprietary	2023/12
9	<a href="#">Yi-Large-preview</a>	1239	+4/-3	34567	01 AI	Proprietary	Unknown

*(LMSys Chatbot Arena)*

*Tasks: Open-ended Question Answering evaluated on dynamic questions based on human preferences*

# *What is the recipe behind the success of English NLP?*



BERT → encoder  
BART → encoder-decoder  
GPT → decoder

Collect a large amount  
of textual data

**Lot of monolingual data**

Learn a *language model*  
using **very large neural**  
**networks** trained for a **long time**

**Lot of memory &**  
**computation**

The first recorded travels by Europeans to China and back date from this time. The most famous traveler of the period was the Venetian Marco Polo, whose account of his trip to "Cambaluc," the capital of the Great Khan, and of life there astounded the people of Europe. The account of his travels, *Il milione* (or, *The Million*, known in English as the *Travels of Marco Polo*), appeared about the year 1299. Some argue over the accuracy of Marco Polo's accounts due to the lack of mentioning the Great Wall of China, tea houses, which would have been a prominent sight since Europeans had yet to adopt a tea culture, as well the practice of foot binding by the women in capital of the Great Khan. Some suggest that Marco Polo acquired much of his knowledge **through contact with Persian traders** since many of the places he named were in Persian.

How did some suspect that Polo learned about China instead of by actually visiting it?

**Answer:** **through contact with Persian traders**

*Finetune the language model  
on reasonable amount of data*

- Task-specific
- General instruction-response
- Human Preference

*In-context learning abilities in LLMs*  
**Lot of supervised data**

# Benefits of LLMs are mostly limited to English

Language	Cat.	ChatGPT	
		(en)	(spc)
English	H	70.2	70.2
Russian	H	60.8	45.4
German	H	64.5	51.1
Chinese	H	58.2	35.5
French	H	64.8	42.2
Spanish	H	65.8	47.4
Vietnamese	H	55.4	44.8
Turkish	M	57.1	37.1
Arabic	M	55.3	22.3
Greek	M	55.9	54.5
Thai	M	44.7	11.5
Bulgarian	M	59.7	44.6
Hindi	M	48.8	5.6
Urdu	L	43.7	6.3
Swahili	X	50.3	40.8

## Results on XNLI

Language	Cat.	ChatGPT(en)	
		EM	F1
English	H	56.0	74.9
Russian	H	30.2	49.1
German	H	45.9	65.8
Chinese	H	37.1	42.3
Spanish	H	41.8	65.8
Vietnamese	H	36.1	57.3
Turkish	M	34.5	56.4
Arabic	M	32.0	50.3
Greek	M	29.7	45.0
Thai	M	31.2	43.4
Hindi	M	17.5	37.8
Average		35.6	53.5

## Results on QnA

	#langs.	avg. chrF	avg. BLEU
ChatGPT (0-shot)	203	32.3	16.7
ChatGPT (5-shot)	203	33.1	17.3
GPT-4	20	44.6	24.6
NLLB	201	45.3	27.1
Google	115	52.2	34.6

*Performance on translation  
averaged across languages*

Lang.	ChatGPT		NLLB	
	BLEU	chrF	BLEU	chrF
srp_Cyrl	1.36	3.26	<b>43.4</b>	<b>59.7</b>
kon_Latn	0.94	8.50	<b>18.9</b>	<b>45.3</b>
tso_Latn	2.92	15.0	<b>26.7</b>	<b>50.0</b>
kac_Latn	0.04	2.95	<b>14.3</b>	<b>37.5</b>
nso_Latn	3.69	16.7	<b>26.5</b>	<b>50.8</b>
jpn_Jpan	<b>28.4</b>	<b>32.9</b>	20.1	27.9
nno_Latn	<b>37.1</b>	<b>58.7</b>	33.4	53.6
zho_Hans	<b>36.3</b>	<b>31.0</b>	26.6	22.8
zho_Hant	<b>26.0</b>	<b>24.4</b>	12.4	14.0
acm_Arab	<b>28.2</b>	<b>44.7</b>	11.8	31.9

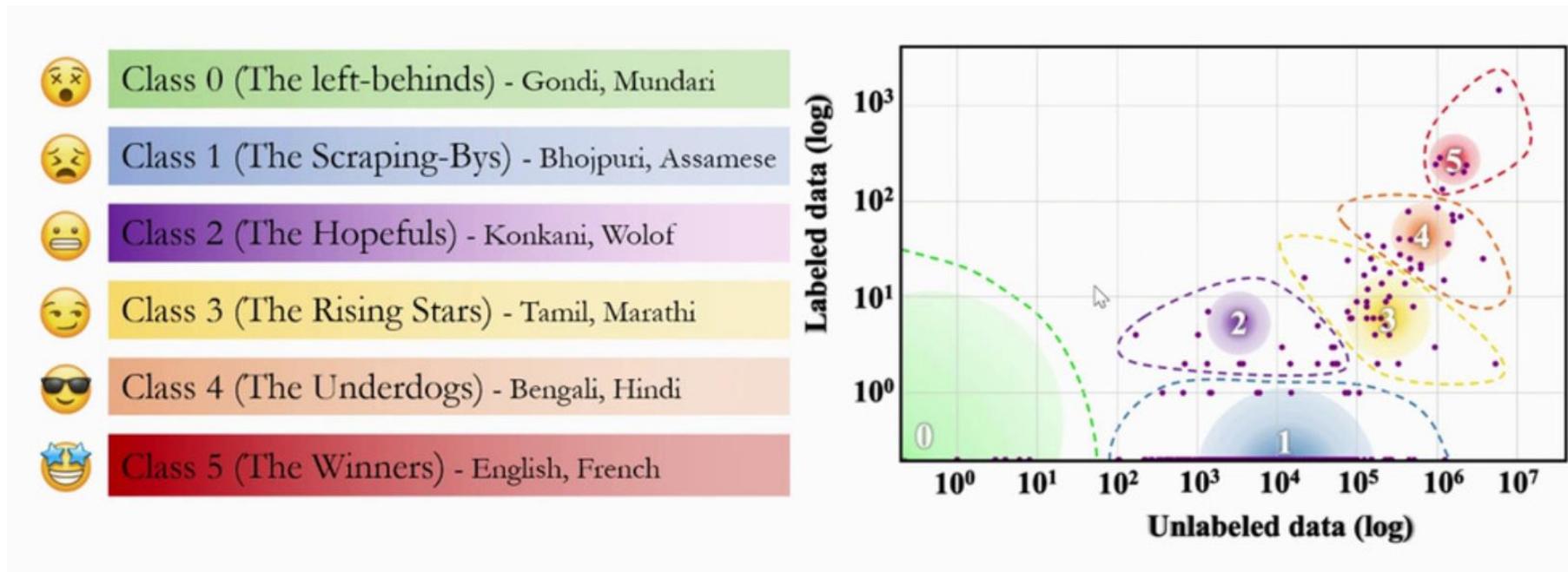
*Performance on translation  
High vs low resource*

- Significant gap between English and other languages on multiple tasks
- High-resource and Latin script languages can give good performance on GPT
- Poor performance on low-resource languages
- Translate-test is a strong baseline
- Open-source models lag behind GPT models → they are very English heavy

*(BUFFET, MEGA, ChatGptMT, ChatGptMLing)*

# *Disparity in linguistic resources has always been an issue for NLP*

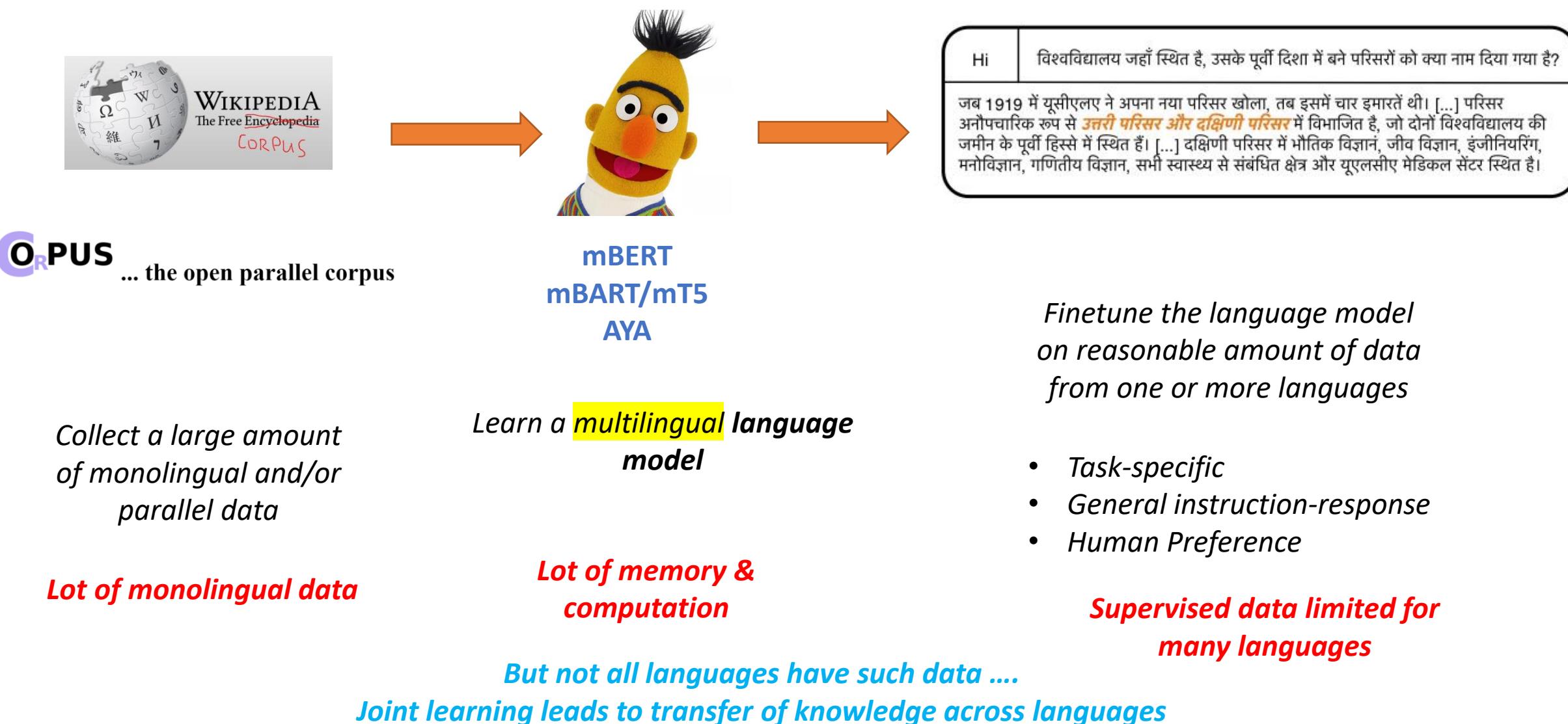
*Wikipedia/CommonCrawl data as a proxy for monolingual data availability*



*How do we bring the state-of-the-art NLP solutions to all languages?*

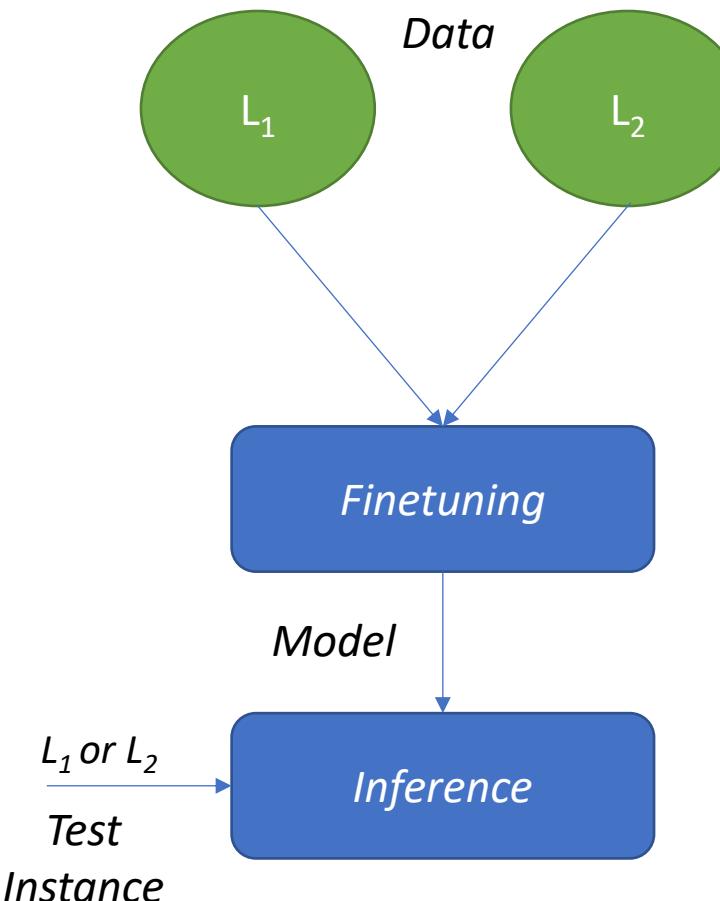
*Can we train such large models for all languages?*

# The proposed recipe for multilingual NLP



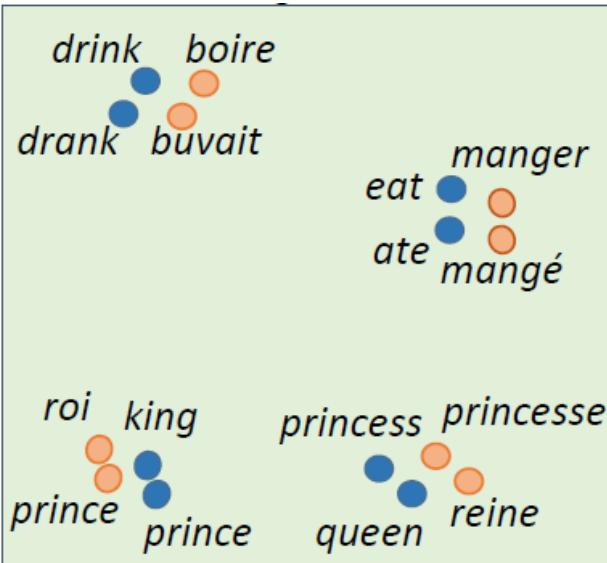
# Transfer Learning

## Joint Learning

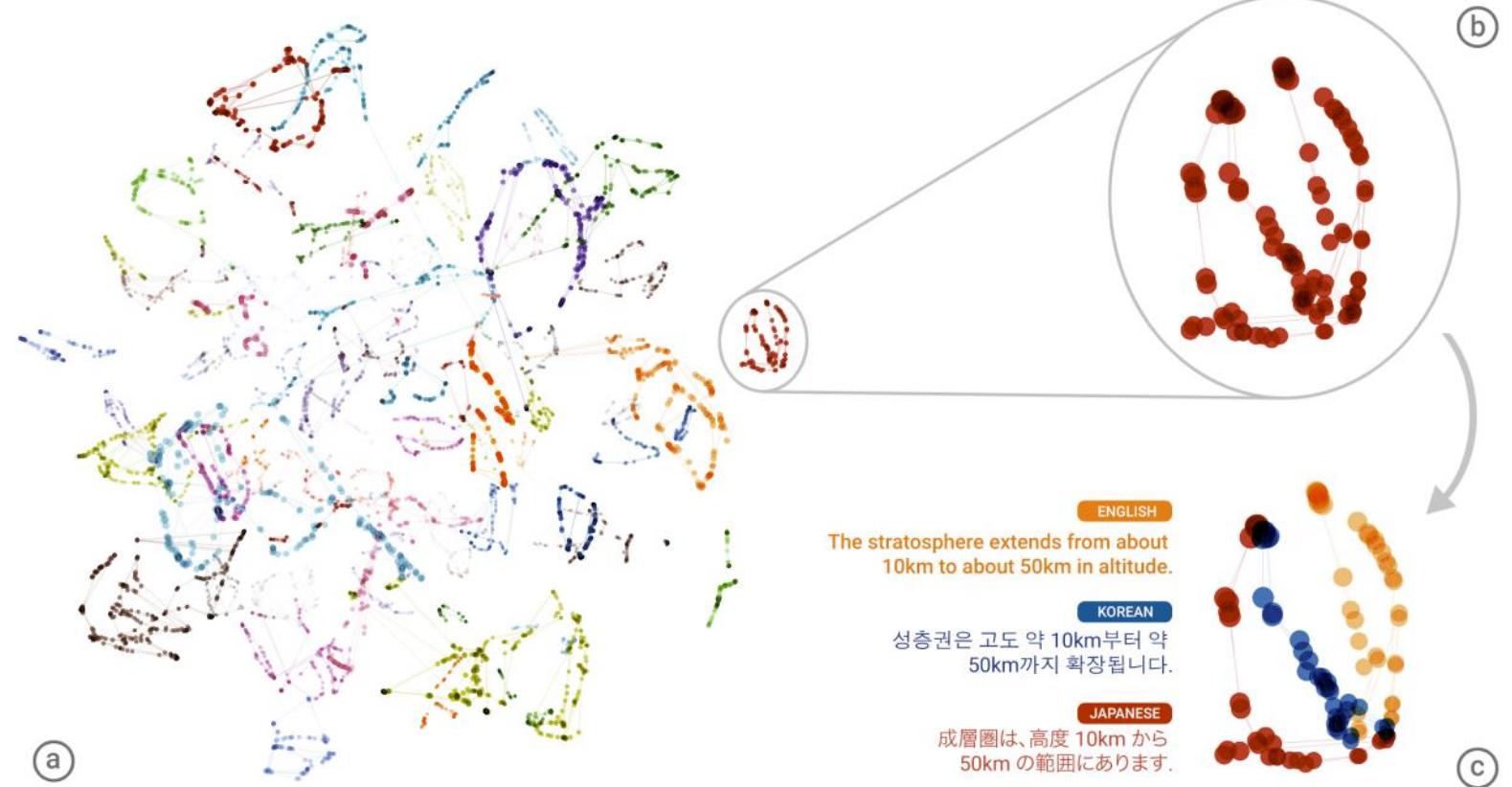


- *Analogy to Multi-task learning* → **Task ≡ Language**
- *Related Tasks can share representations*
- *Representation Bias*: Generalize over multiple languages
- *Eavesdropping*
- *Data Augmentation*

(Caruana., 1997)



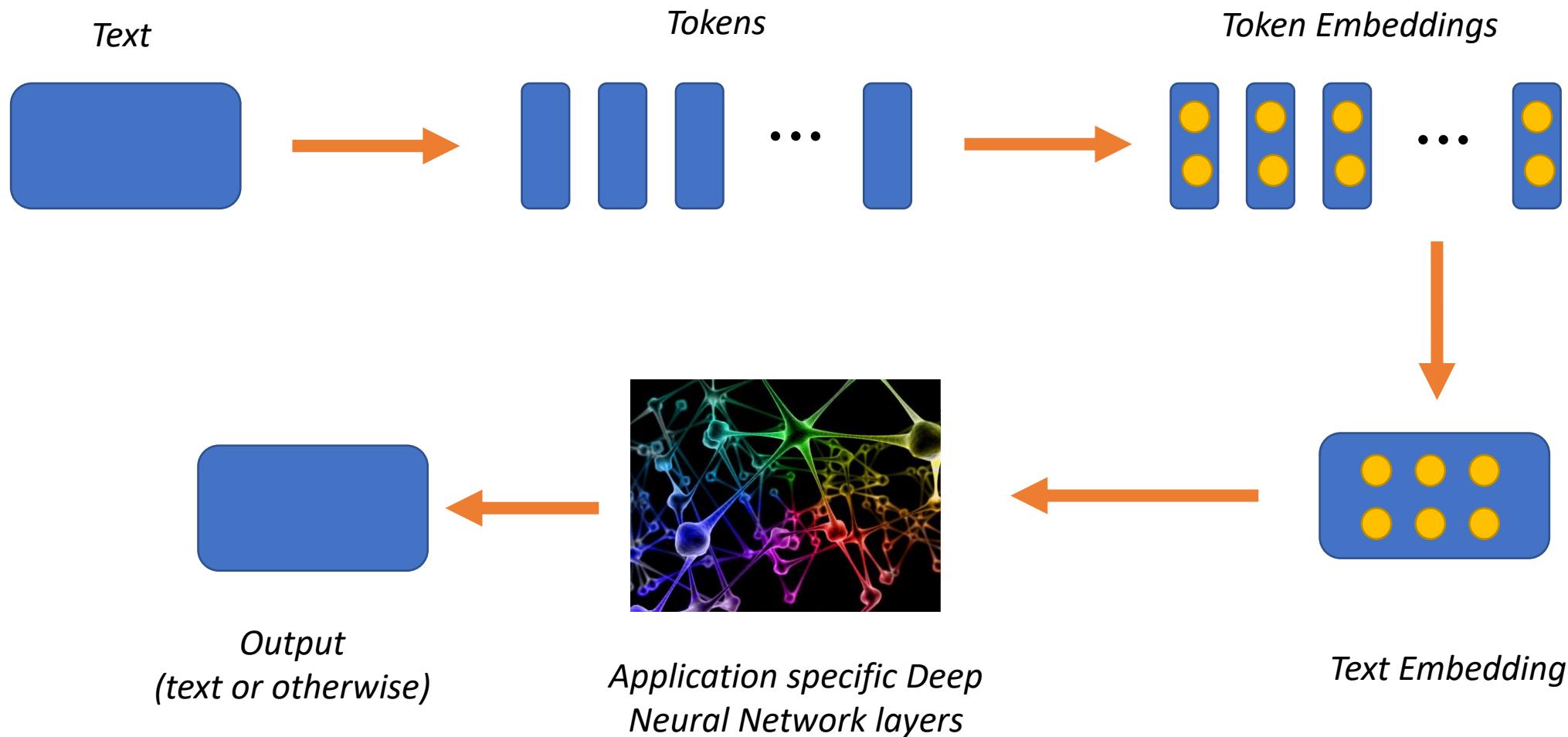
*Similar words and sentences across languages have similar embeddings*



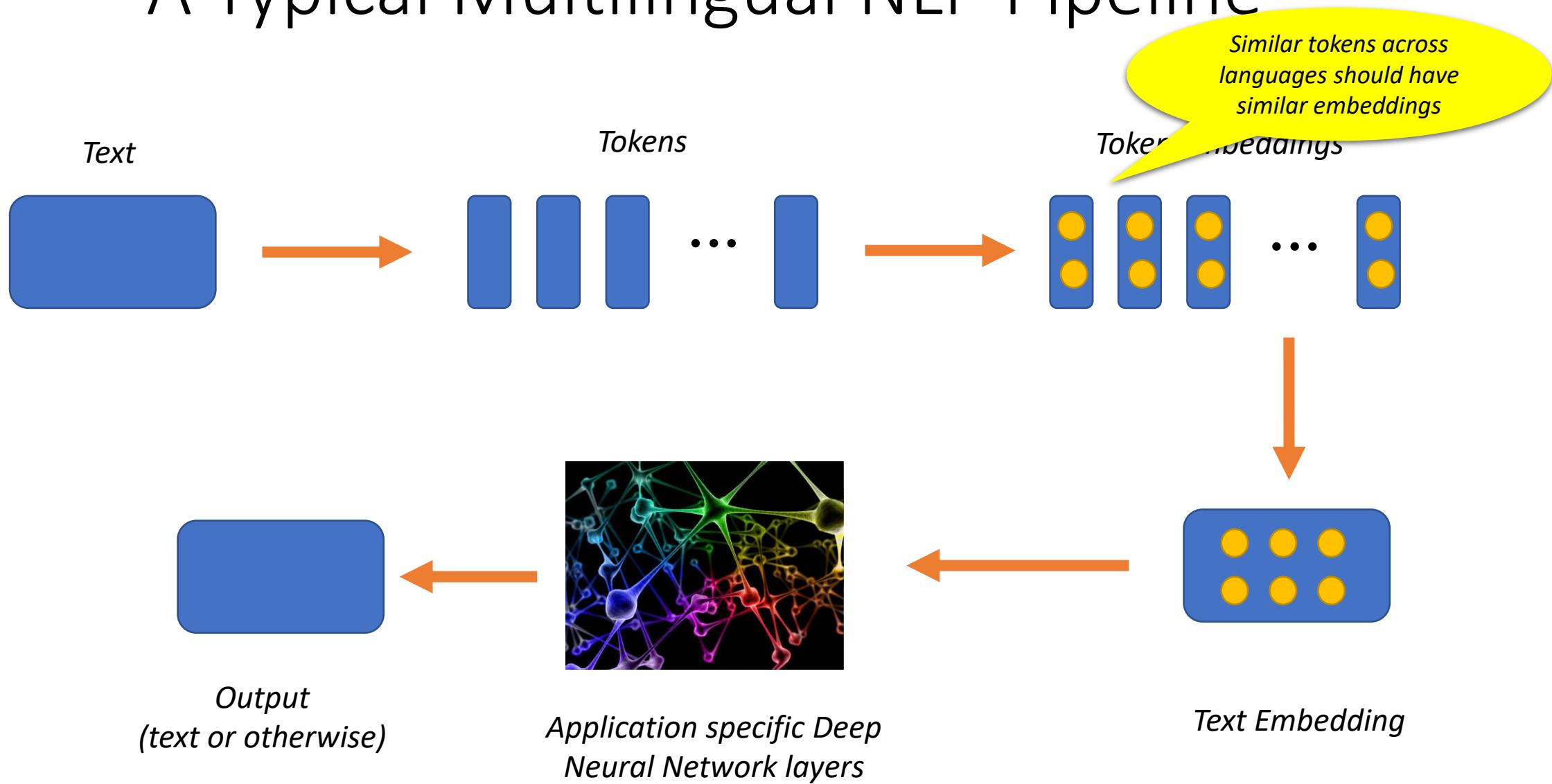
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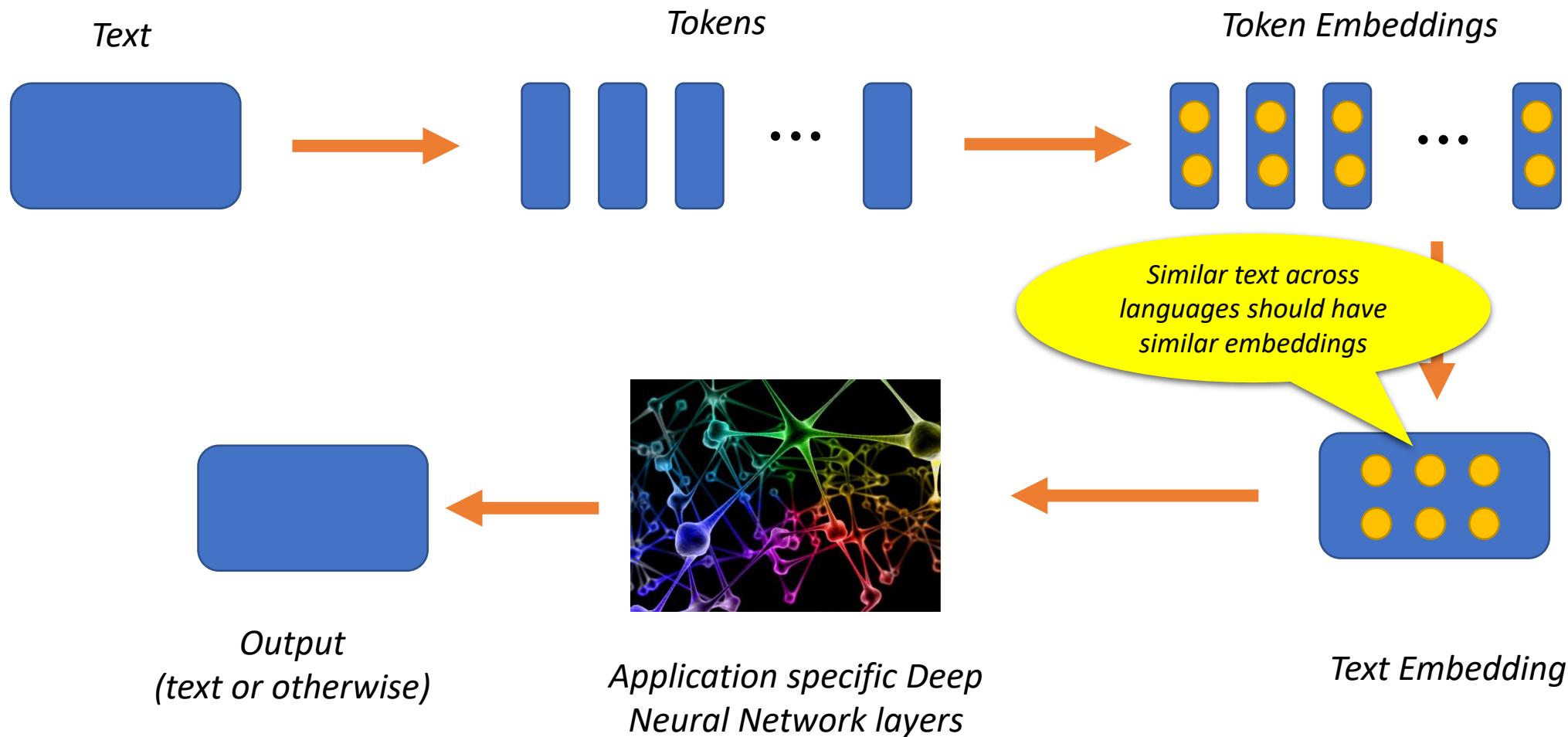
# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline



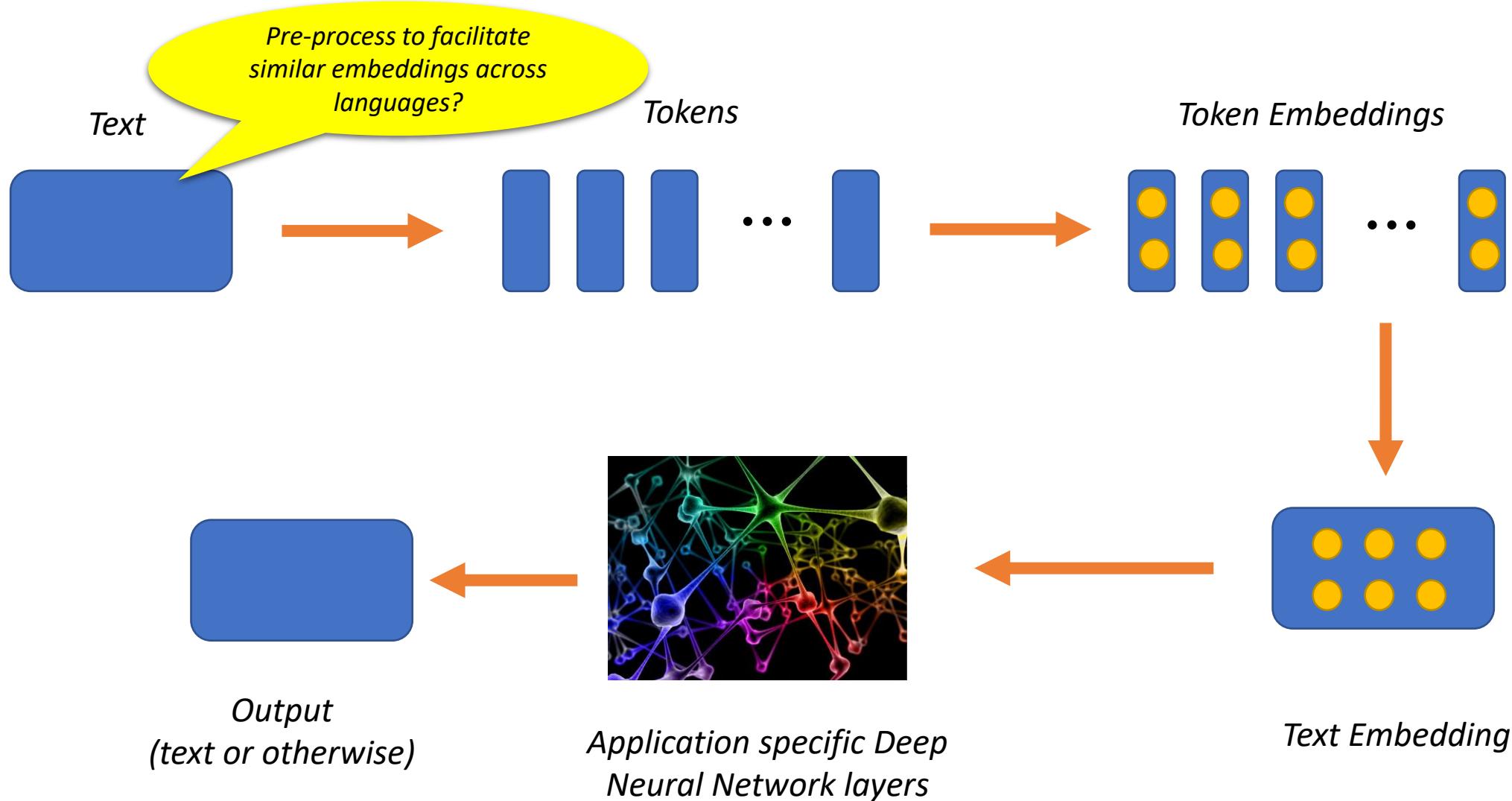
# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline



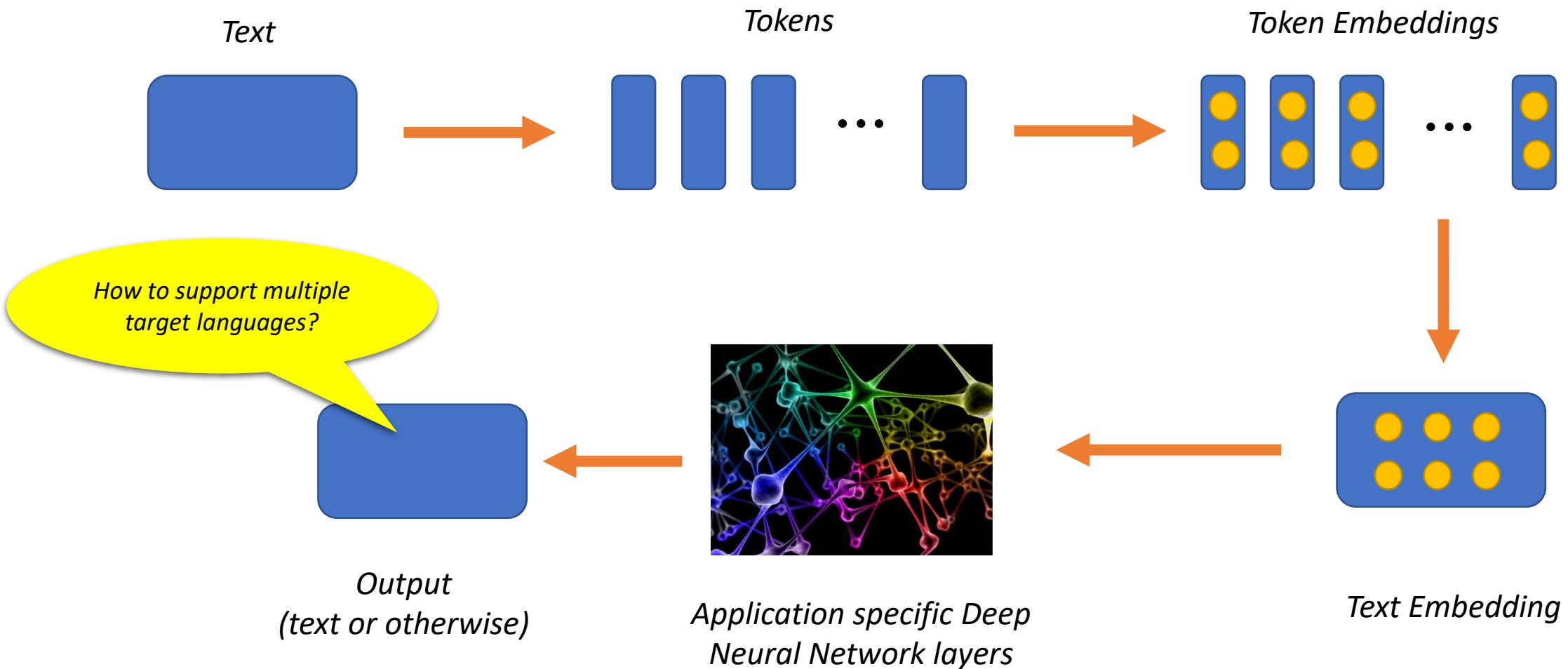
# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline



# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline



# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline

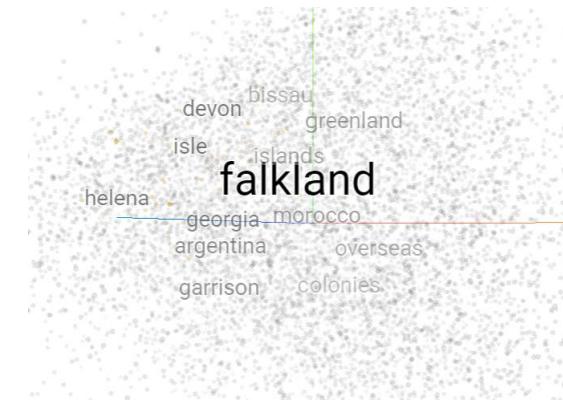
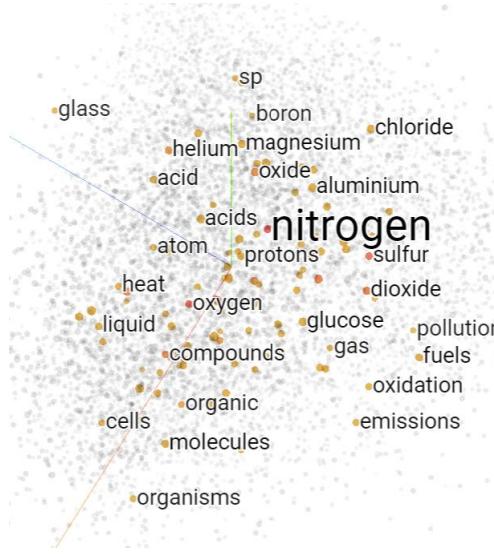
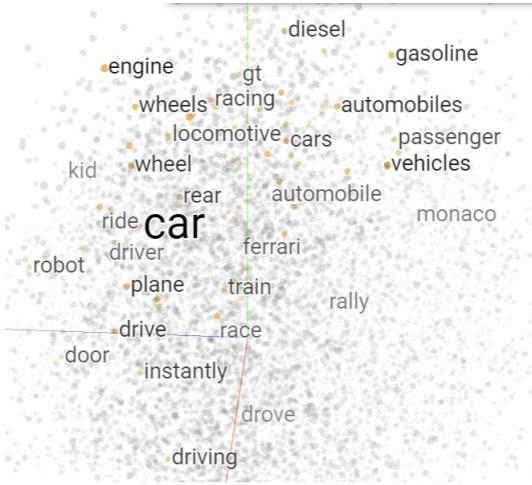


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# Word Embeddings

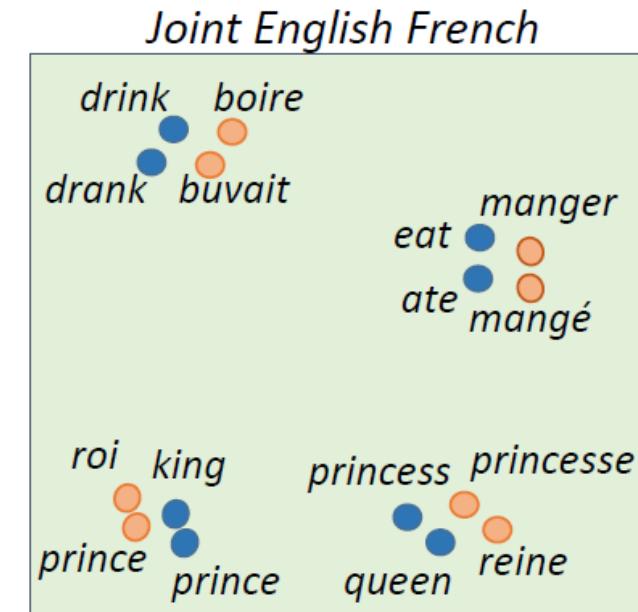
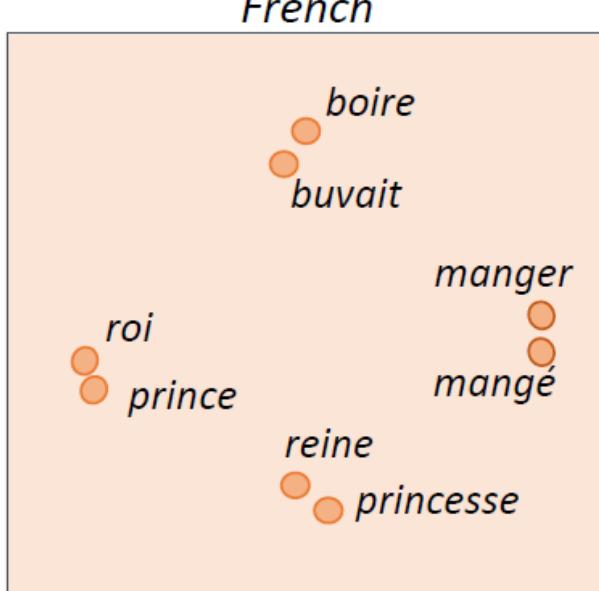
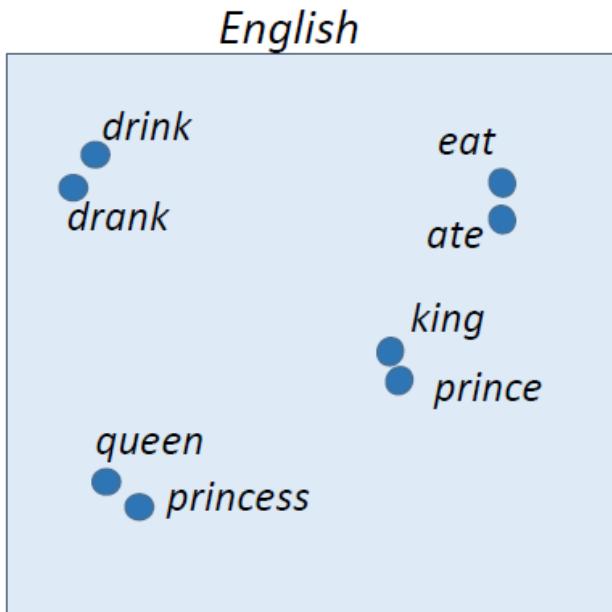
*Distributed, dense vector representations of words that capture similarities between words*



*"Words that occur in similar contexts tend to have similar meanings"*  
- Turney and Pantel (2010)

He is **unhappy** about the failure of the project

The failure of the team to successfully finish the task made him **sad**



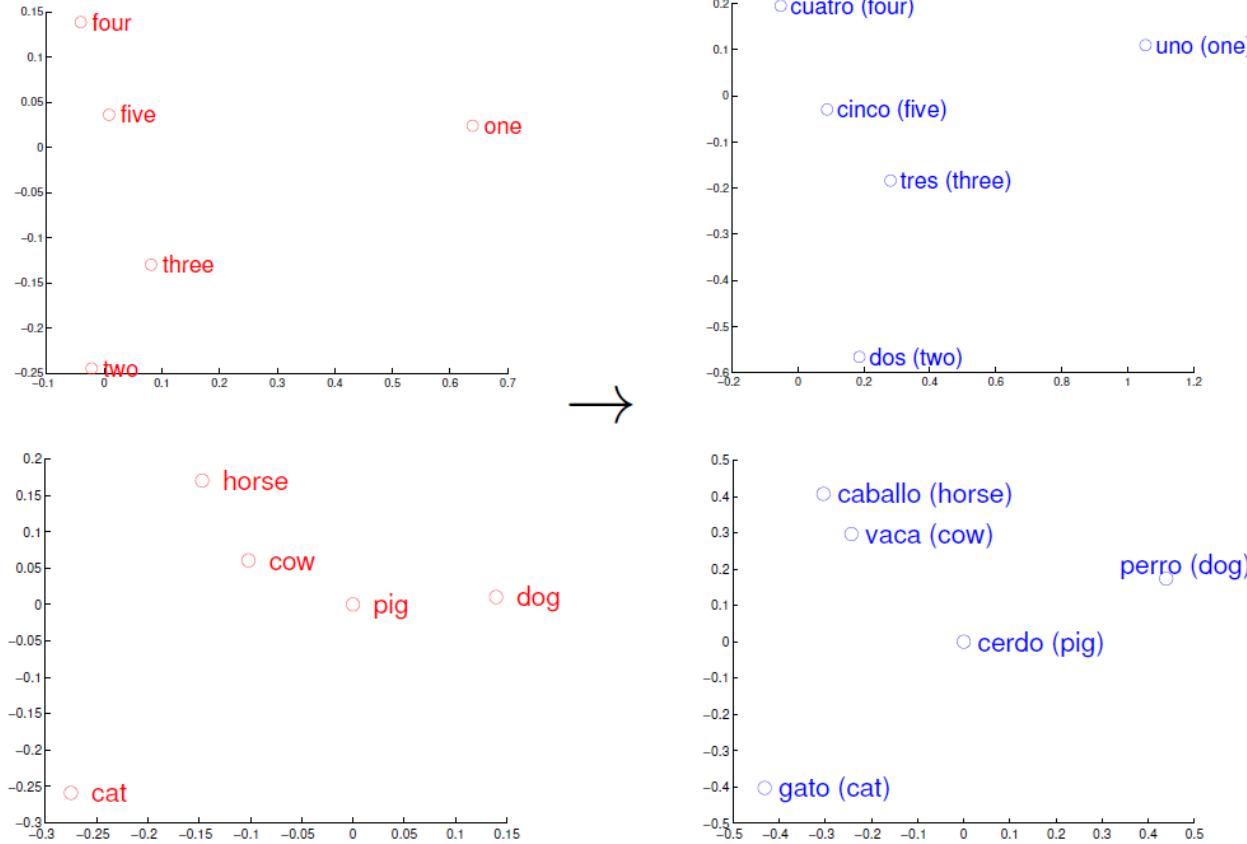
Monolingual Word Representations  
*(capture syntactic and semantic  
similarities between words)*

$$\text{embed}(y) = f(\text{embed}(x))$$

$x, y$  are source and target words  
 $\text{embed}(w)$ : embedding for word  $w$

Multilingual Word Representations  
*(capture syntactic and semantic  
similarities between words both  
within and across languages)*  
(*Source: Khapra and Chandar, 2016*)

# Is it possible to learn mapping functions?



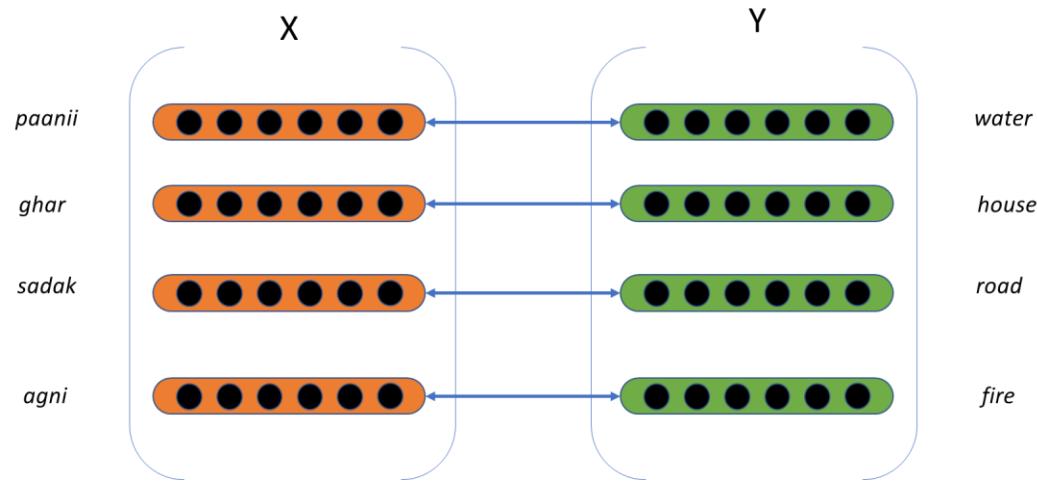
- Languages share concepts ground in the real world
- Some evidence of universal semantic structure (*Youn et al., 2016*)
- Isomorphism between embedding spaces (*Mikolov et al., 2013*)
- Isomorphism can be captured via a linear transformation

(Source: Mikolov et al., 2013)

# Supervised Learning

Linear Least Square and variants

(Mikolov et al., 2013; Xing et al., 2015; Artetxe et al., 2016; Smith et al., 2017)



$$XW = Y$$

$$W^* = \underset{W \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|XW - Y\|_2^2$$

We can have a closed form solution:

$$X^+ = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T$$

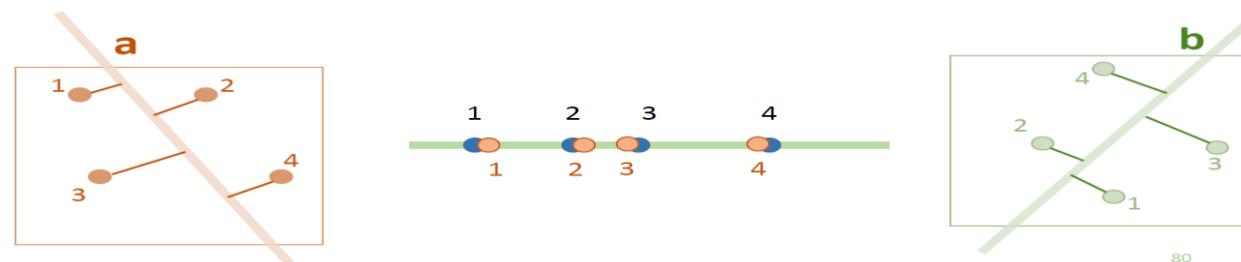
Methods mapping different languages to a common space

$$W^* = X^+ Y$$

Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA)

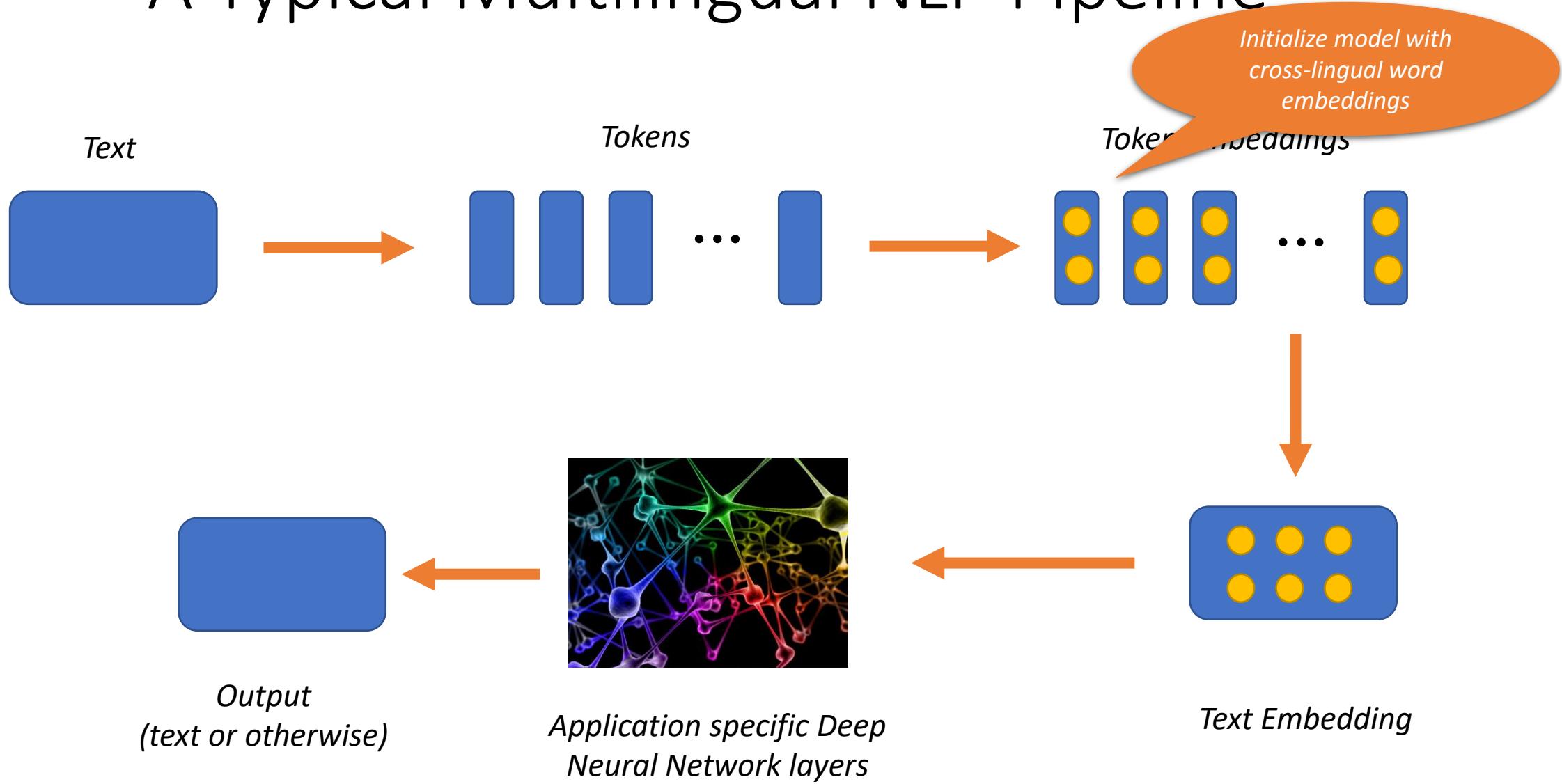
(Faruqui and Dyer, 2014;  
Ammar et al. 2015)

GeoMM (Jawanpuria et al., 2019)



MUSE is popular toolkit to learn cross-lingual word embeddings <https://github.com/facebookresearch/MUSE>

# A Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline



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# Multilingual Language Models

# Encoder Models for NLU: mBERT (Multilingual BERT)

- Simple extension to monolingual BERT training
- BERT trained jointly on monolingual data from Wikipedias of 104 languages
- Standard MLM objective
- Shared word-piece vocabulary (110k shared WordPiece)
- No parallel resources to provide translation information across languages

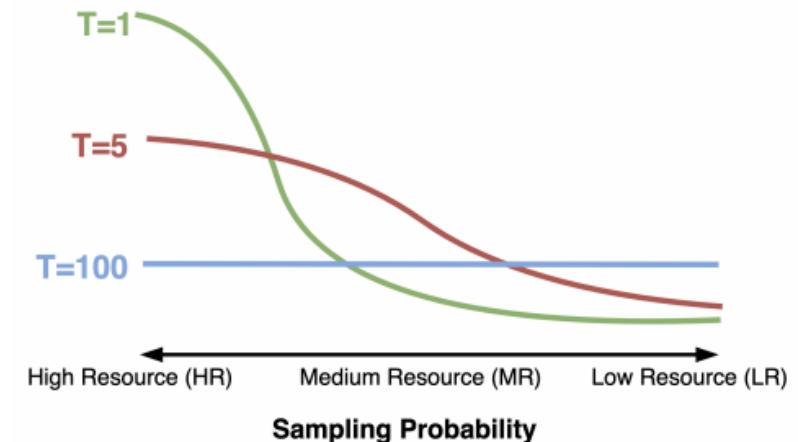
*Temperature based data sampling to address data skew  
(during vocab construction and pre-training)*

Data Distribution Language  $l$

$$p_l = \frac{D_l}{\sum_k D_k}$$

Sampling Probability Language  $l$

$$p_l^{\frac{1}{T}}$$



104 languages, 12-layer, 768-hidden, 12-heads, 172M parameters

*Surprisingly good at zero-shot cross-lingual model transfer*



XNLI

Model	D	#M	#lg	en	fr	es	de	el	bg	ru	tr	ar	vi	th	zh	hi	sw	ur	Avg
<i>Fine-tune multilingual model on English training set (Cross-lingual Transfer)</i>																			
Devlin et al. (2018)	Wiki	N	102	82.1	73.8	74.3	71.1	66.4	68.9	69.0	61.6	64.9	69.5	55.8	69.3	60.0	50.4	58.0	66.3

NER

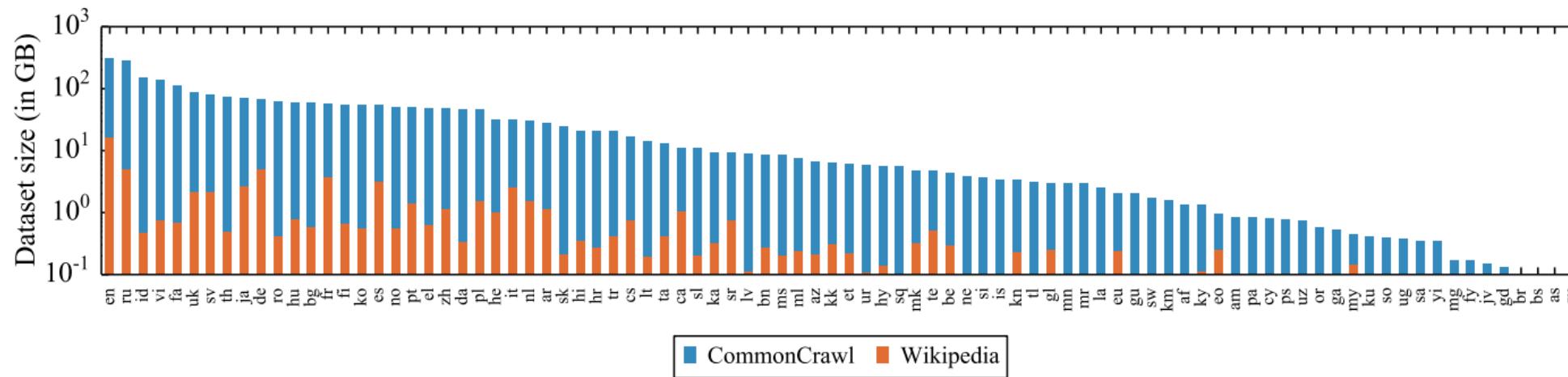
Model	train	#M	en	nl	es	de	Avg
Lample et al. (2016)	each	N	90.74	81.74	85.75	78.76	84.25
Akbik et al. (2018)	each	N	<b>93.18</b>	90.44	-	<b>88.27</b>	-
mBERT <sup>†</sup>	each	N	91.97	90.94	87.38	82.82	88.28
	en	1	91.97	77.57	74.96	69.56	78.52

*Can we do better data and larger models?*

XLM-R

## Essentially mBERT architecture

Train on very large dataset (CommonCrawl derived CC-100 dataset)



Increased Model capacity

Model	#lgs	tokenization	L	$H_m$	$H_{ff}$	A	V	#params
mBERT	104	WordPiece	12	768	3072	12	110k	172M
<i>XLM-R</i> Base	100	SPM	12	768	3072	12	250k	270M
<i>XLM-R</i>	100	SPM	24	1024	4096	16	250k	550M

# Tradeoff studies

Positive transfer vs. capacity dilution  
High vs. low resource language performance

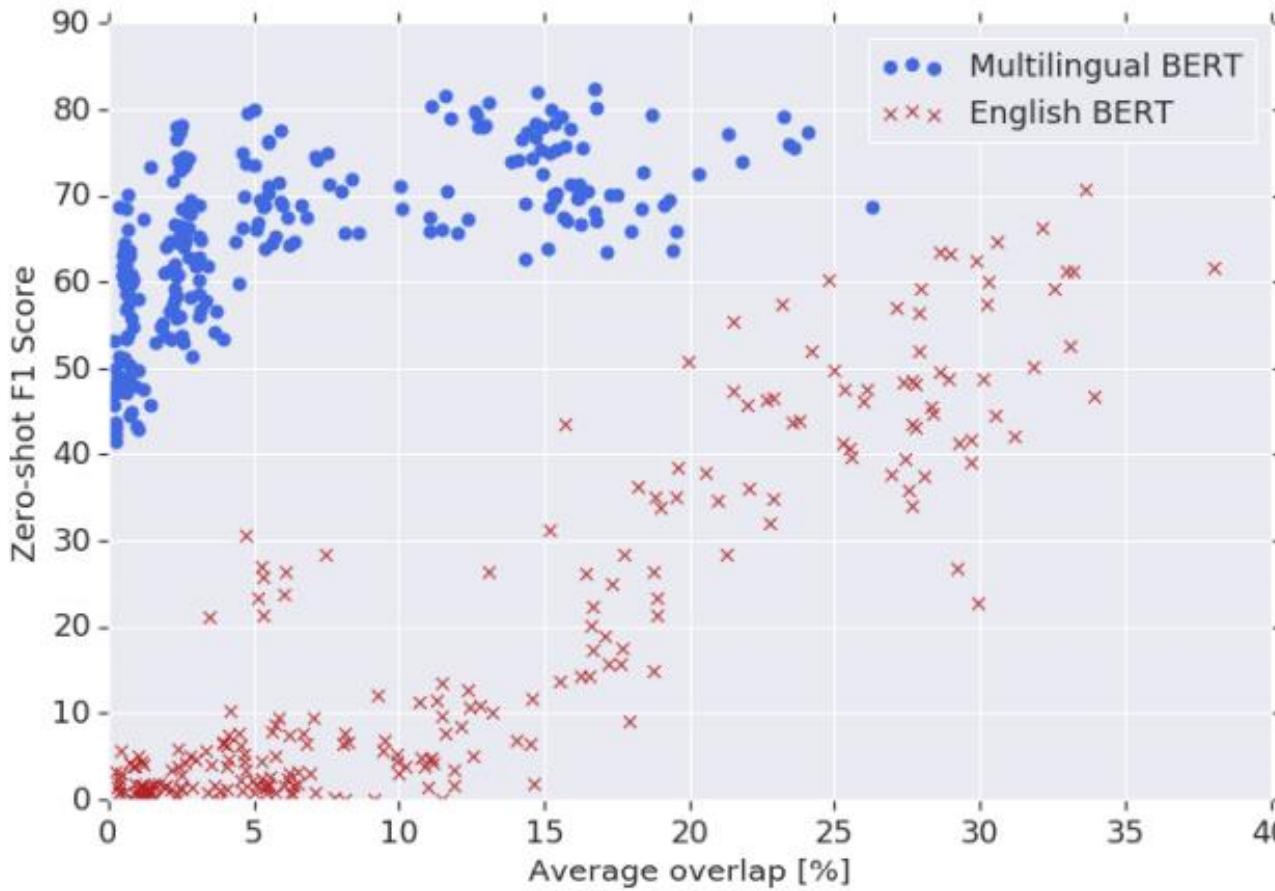
Factors that improve model quality

- **Larger** model capacity helps
  - **More** monolingual data is better
  - **Longer** Pre-training
    - Don't use validation perplexity for early stopping of pre-training
  - **Larger** vocabulary
  - **Larger batch size** while pre-training
- 
- Performance degrades with increasing number of pretraining languages
  - Right trade-off of using high vs low resource languages via data sampling

*mBERT does not use any cross-lingual signals for learning ...  
Why does multilingual BERT work?*

*What is the nature of the multilingual representations?*

# Does word-piece overlap explain zeroshot performance of mBERT?



*For English-BERT, the NER performance increases with word overlap*

*For M-BERT, the NER performance is not strongly correlated to wordpiece overlap*

*M-BERT learns about language structure beyond word-piece overlap*

*Zero-short transfer happens even hold even though the scripts are different*

	HI	UR		EN	BG	JA
HI	<b>97.1</b>	85.9	EN	<b>96.8</b>	87.1	49.4
UR	91.1	<b>93.8</b>	BG	82.2	<b>98.9</b>	51.6
			JA	57.4	67.2	<b>96.5</b>

Table 4: POS accuracy on the UD test set for languages with different scripts. Row=fine-tuning, column=eval.

*Does not generalize for all languages – see Japanese which has a different word order from English*

# *How does typological similarity affect M-BERT's ability to generalize?*

	SVO	SOV
SVO	<b>81.55</b>	66.52
SOV	63.98	<b>64.22</b>

(a) Subj./verb/obj. order.

	AN	NA
AN	<b>73.29</b>	70.94
NA	75.10	<b>79.64</b>

(b) Adjective/noun order.

Table 5: Macro-average POS accuracies when transferring between SVO/SOV languages or AN/NA languages. Row = fine-tuning, column = evaluation.



*Study of effect of grammatical features related to ordering*

*Performance is best when transferring between languages that share word order features*

*Cannot learn syntactic transformations*

# *Why does multilingual BERT work?*

## Hypothesis:

*Word pieces used in all languages (numbers, URLs, etc) which have to be mapped to a shared space forces the co-occurring pieces to also be mapped to a shared space, thus spreading the effect to other word pieces, until different languages are close to a shared space*

## *Similar findings in*

*Shijie Wu, Mark Dredze. Beto, Bentz, Becas: The Surprising Cross-Lingual Effectiveness of BERT. EMNLP 2019.*

## *Somewhat different findings in:*

*Karthikeyan K, Zihan Wang, Stephen Mayhew, Dan Roth. Cross-Lingual Ability of Multilingual BERT: An Empirical Study. ICLR. 2020.*

- Lexical overlap does not matter (Use FakeEnglish to destroy lexical similarity)
- Structural similarity matters

# How language neural is mBERT?

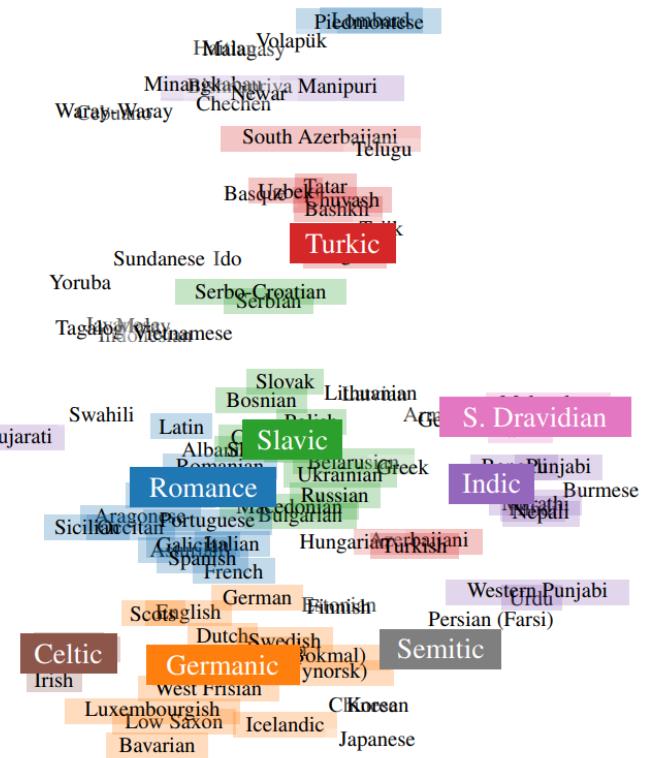
- Representations cluster by language family
- Language information is still maintained at each layer
- Mean centering the embeddings per language can improve language invariant behaviour

	mBERT	UDify	Ing-free
[cls]	.935	.938	.796
[cls], cent.	.867	.851	.337
mean-pool	.919	.896	.230
mean-pool, cent.	.285	.243	.247

Table 1: Accuracy of language identification, values from the best-scoring layers.

	mBERT	UDify	Ing-free
[cls]	.639	.462	.549
[cls], cent.	.684	.660	.686
[cls], proj.	.915	.933	.697
mean-pool	.776	.314	.755
mean-pool, cent.	.838	.564	.828
mean-pool, proj.	.983	.906	.983

Table 3: Average accuracy for sentence retrieval over all 30 language pairs.



# *Language-family specific pre-trained models*

IndicBERT → model for 22 Indian languages + English)

Models	Classification					Structure Prediction		QA Indic QA	Retreival FLORES
	Indic Sentiment	Indic XNLI	Indic COPA	Indic XPara.	MASSIVE (Intent)	Naama-Padam	MASSIVE (Slotfill)		
IndicBERT v1	61.8	42.8	51.0	47.5	-	25.3	-	10.1	1.1
mBERT	69.5	54.7	51.7	55.2	13.2	63.0	6.2	32.9	32.3
XLMR	84.0	69.7	60.1	56.7	66.6	71.7	50.0	44.8	3.1
MuRIL	85.1	72.4	58.9	<b>60.8</b>	77.2	<b>74.3</b>	57.0	48.3	52.3
v1-data	85.7	66.4	52.4	49.6	25.8	58.3	34.4	37.6	54.9
IndicBERT v2	<b>88.3</b>	73.0	62.7	56.9	78.8	73.2	56.7	47.7	69.4
+Samanantar	<b>88.3</b>	74.3	<b>63.0</b>	57.0	78.8	72.4	<b>57.3</b>	49.2	64.7
+Back-Trans.	87.5	69.7	53.8	50.7	77.4	71.9	54.6	42.2	68.6
IndicBERT-SS	88.1	<b>73.9</b>	64.2	56.4	<b>80.7</b>	66.6	<b>57.3</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>71.2</b>

Table 4: Results averaged across **languages** from the IndicXTREME benchmark. We report F1 scores for Structure Prediction & QA, and accuracy for the other tasks.

*Compact models can outperform large models built for 100+ languages*

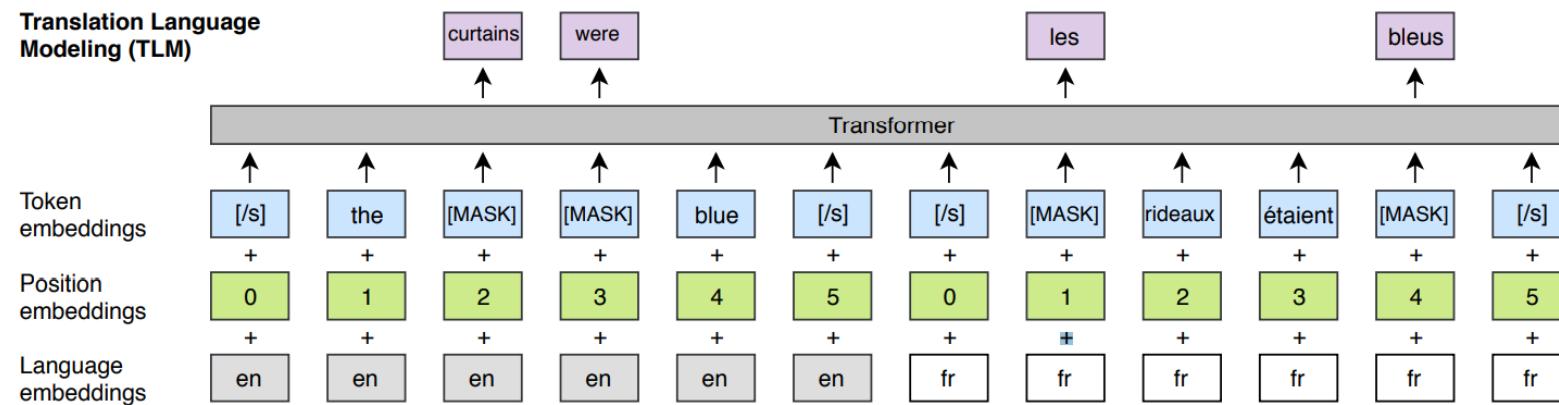
1. Doddapaneni et al. Towards Leaving No Indic Language Behind: Building Monolingual Corpora, Benchmark and Models for Indic Languages. ACL. 2023
2. Khanuja et al. MuRIL: *Multilingual Representations for Indian Languages*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.10730>. 2021.
3. Divyanshu Kakwani, et.al., AI4Bharat/Microsoft India. *IndicNLP Suite: Monolingual Corpora, Evaluation Benchmarks and Pre-trained Multilingual Language Models for Indian Languages*. EMNLP-Findings . 2020.

*How do we use parallel data to improve multilingual models?*

*Input two sentence from different languages*

*Model alternates with MLM and TLM objectives*

*TLM → the model can look at both sentences to predict masked token*



	en	fr	es	de	el	bg	ru	tr	ar	vi	th	zh	hi	sw	ur	Δ
XLM (MLM)	83.2	76.5	76.3	74.2	73.1	74.0	73.1	67.8	68.5	71.2	69.2	71.9	65.7	64.6	63.4	71.5
XLM (MLM+TLM)	<b>85.0</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>75.1</b>

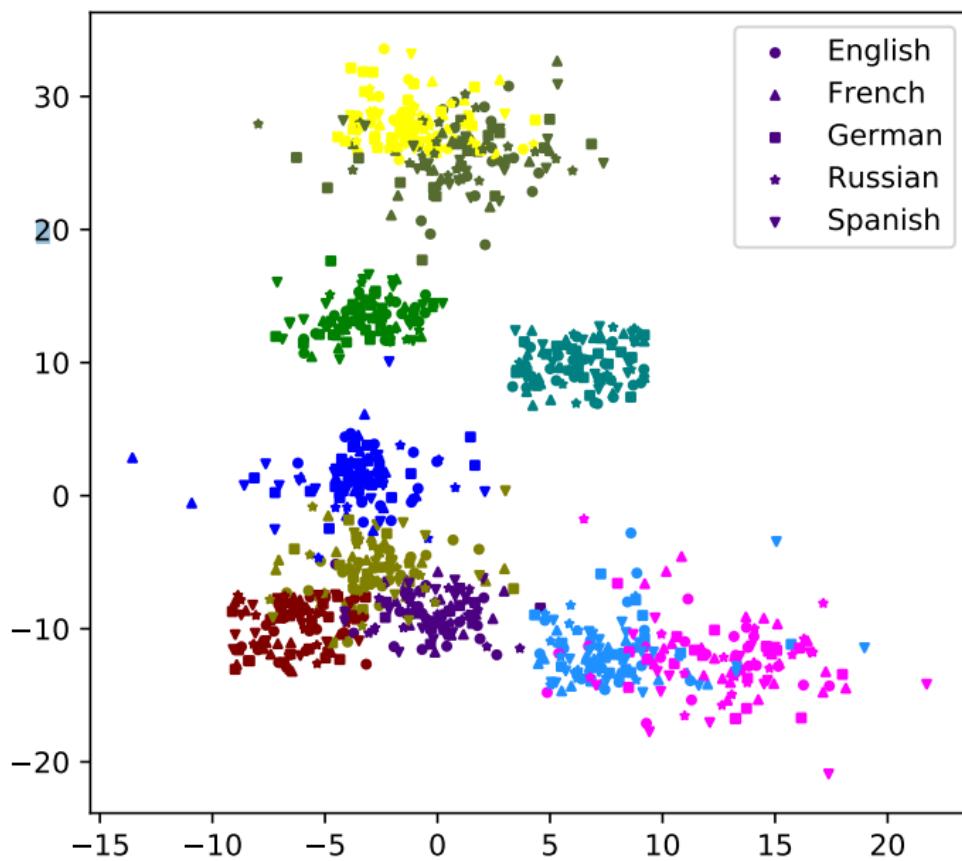
*Cross-lingual objectives →*

Huang et al., Microsoft. Unicoder: A Universal Language Encoder by Pre-training with Multiple Cross-lingual Tasks. EMNLP. 2019.

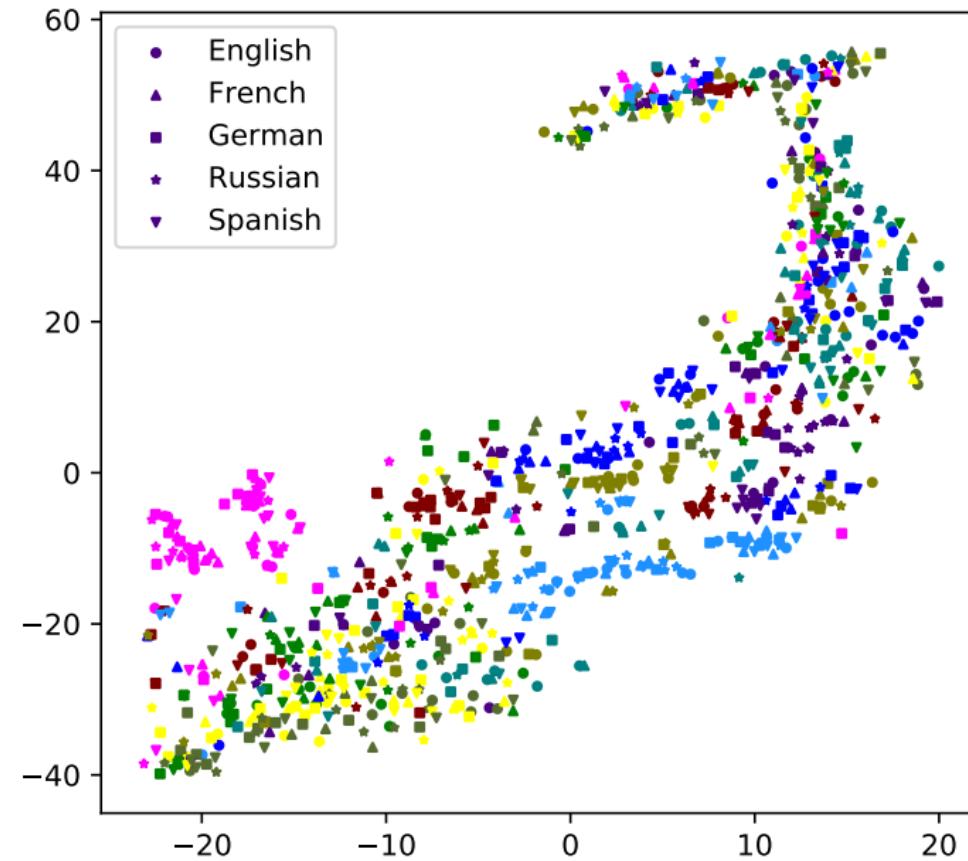
*Contrastive objectives →*

Wei et al. Alibaba. ON LEARNING UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATIONS ACROSS LANGUAGES. ICLR 2021.

*Models utilizing parallel data seem to generate more language agnostic representations*



XLM-R



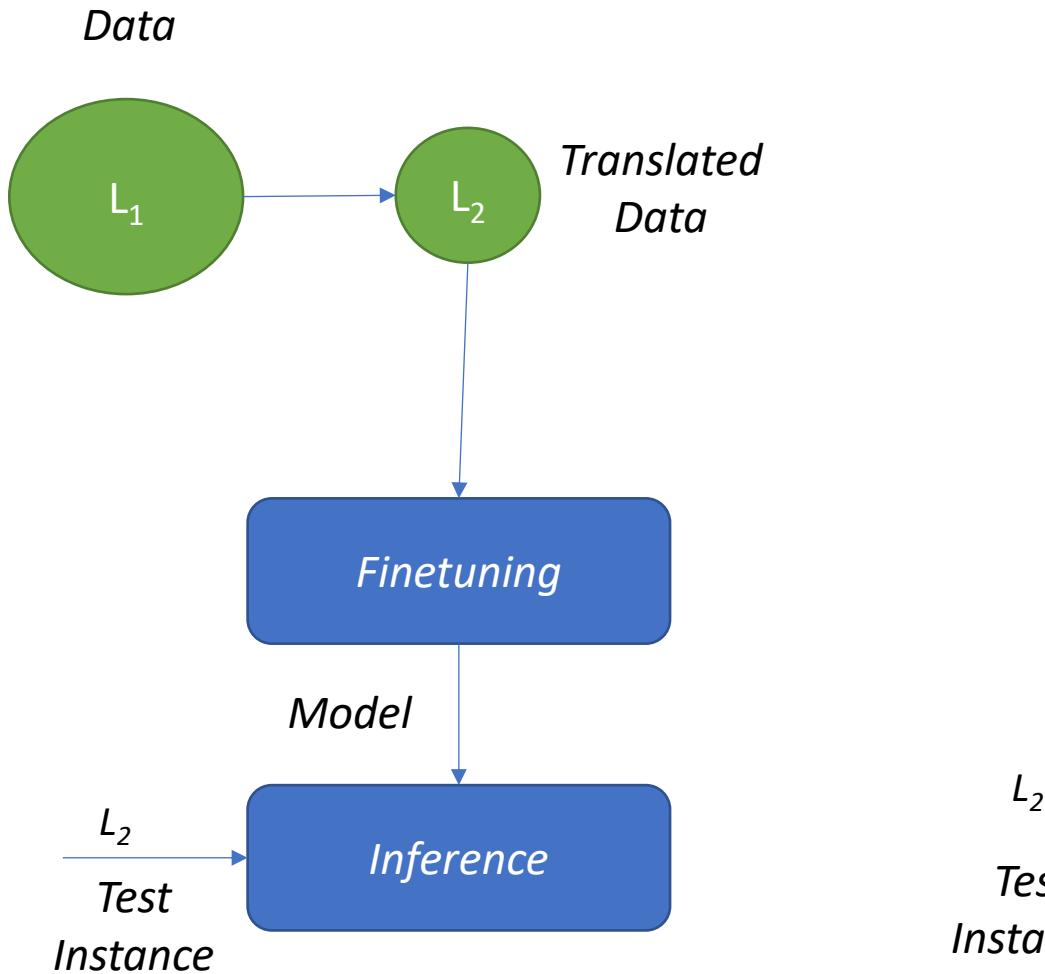
HiCTL

*In terms of downstream tasks, retrieval tasks gain the most – gains are modest for other tasks*

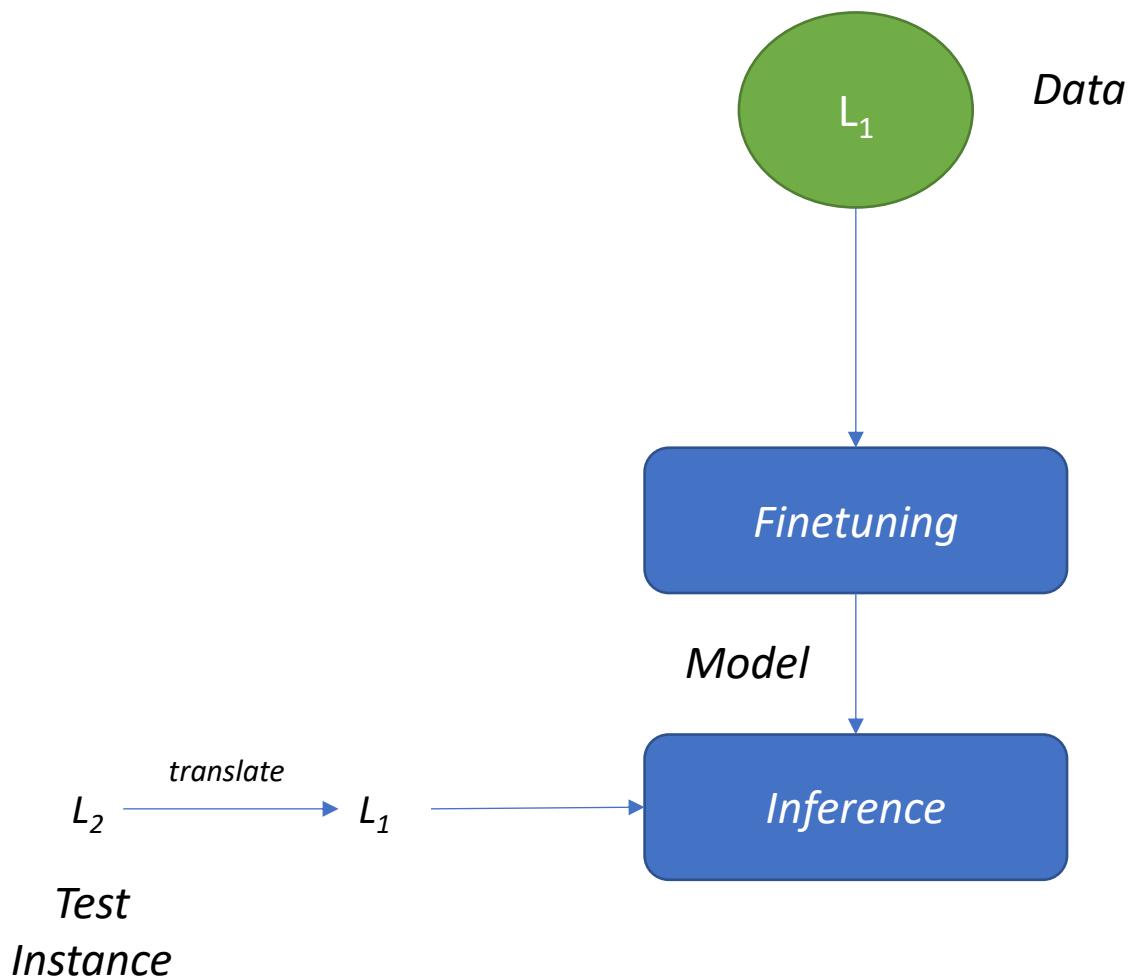
# *Finetuning Strategies*

# Translation Baselines

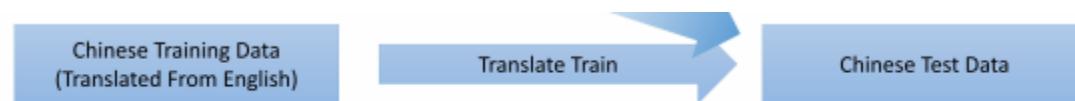
## Translate Train



## Translate Test

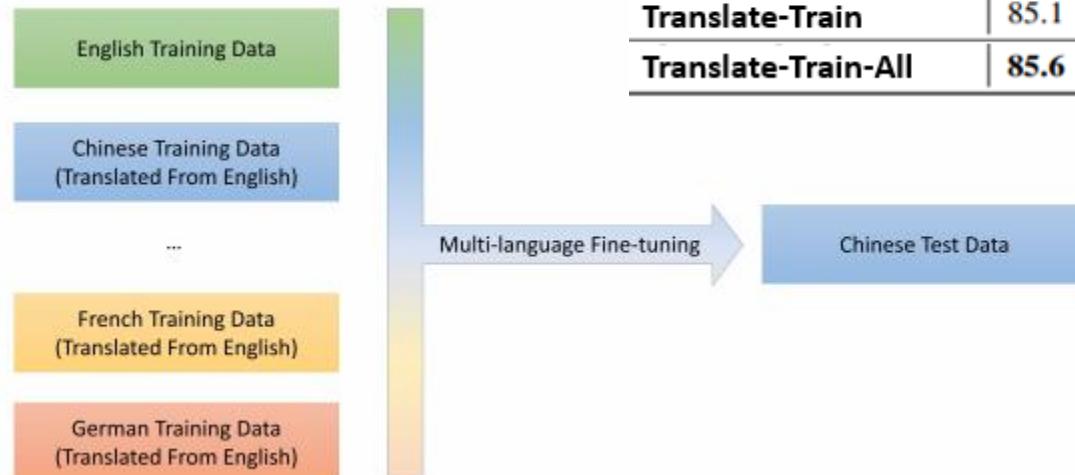


## Translate-Train



language number	XNLI-en Acc[%]	XNLI-ar Acc[%]	XNLI-es Acc[%]	XNLI-fr Acc[%]	XNLI-ru Acc[%]	XNLI-zh Acc[%]	average Acc[%]
1	85.1	76.7	81.1	80.0	77.9	79.4	80.0
2	85.2	77.5	81.5	80.0	77.6	80.0	80.3
6	85.3	77.9	81.5	80.4	78.8	79.9	80.6
15	85.6	78.2	82.3	81.1	79.7	80.5	81.2

## Translate-Train-All



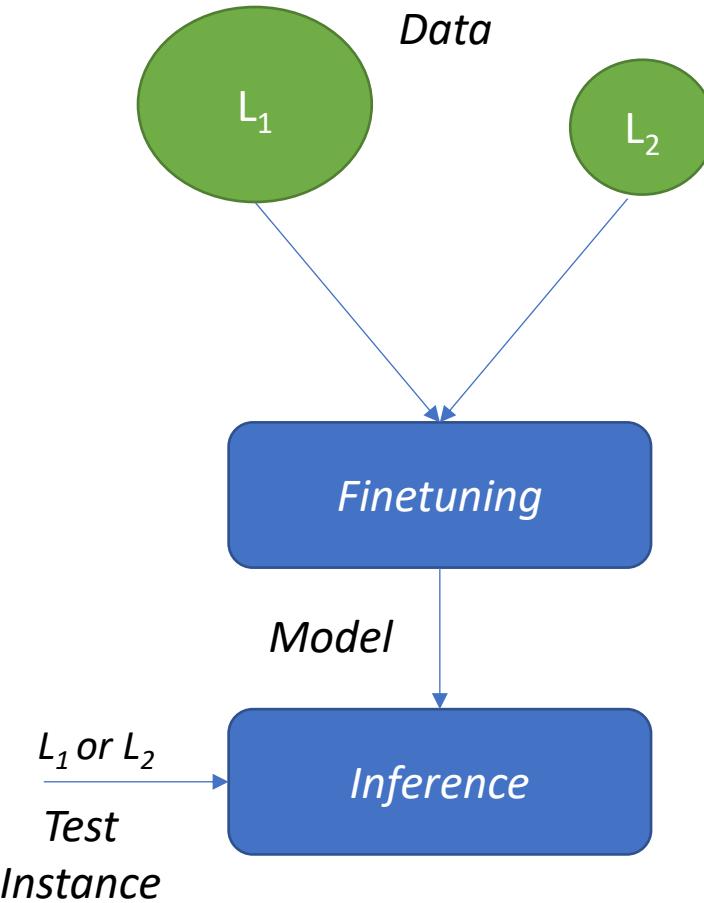
	en	fr	es	de	el	bg	ru	tr	ar	vi	th	zh	hi	sw
<b>Zeroshot</b>	85.1	79.0	79.4	77.8	77.2	77.2	76.3	72.8	73.5	76.4	73.6	76.2	69.4	69.7
<b>Translate-Train</b>	85.1	80.0	81.1	79.9	77.7	80.2	77.9	75.3	76.7	76.4	75.2	79.4	71.8	71.8
<b>Translate-Train-All</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>73.8</b>

*Translating all training data works best*

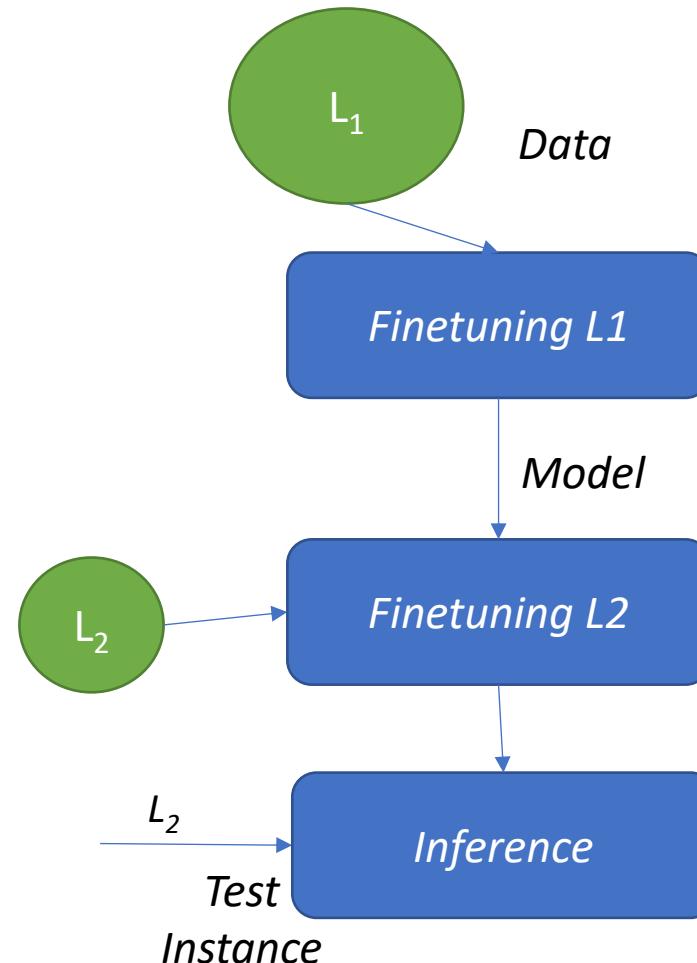
Above results on Unicoder for XNLI

# Finetuning Scenarios

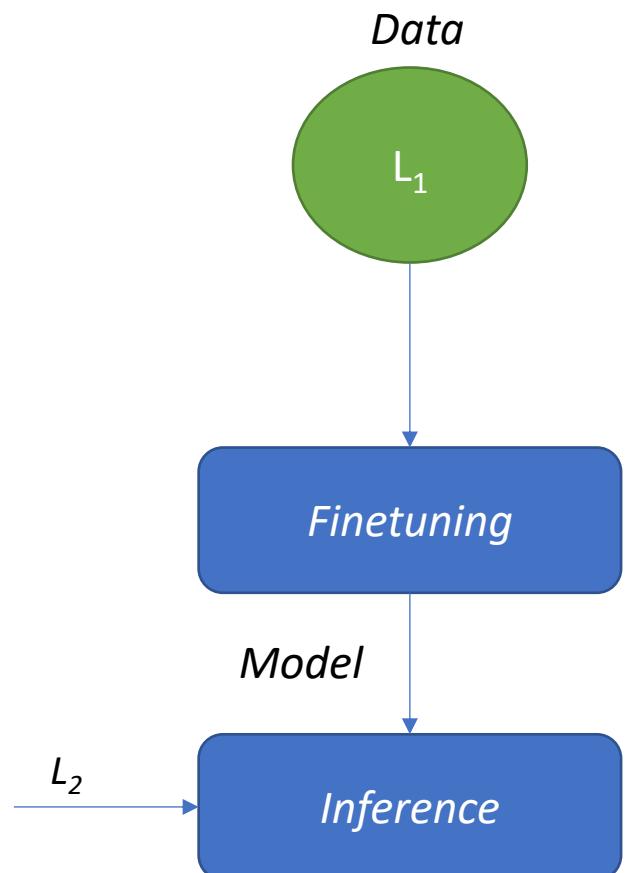
## Joint Learning



## Multi-stage Learning



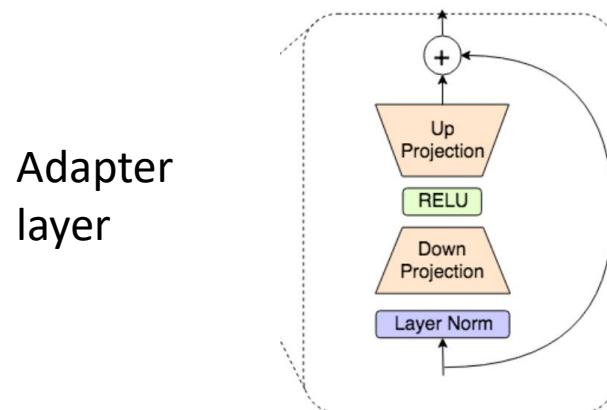
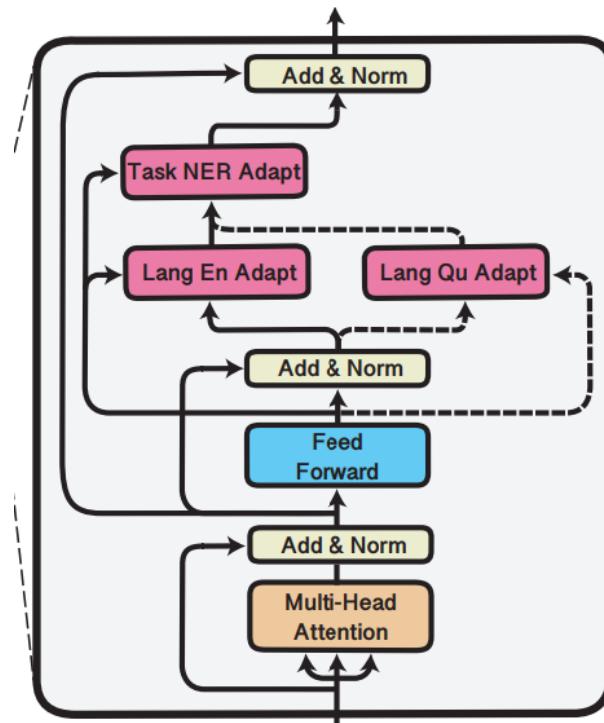
## Zeroshot Learning



*Adapters*

# Multilingual adapters

Pfeffer et al. MAD-X: An Adapter-Based Framework for Multi-Task Cross-Lingual Transfer.  
EMNLP 2020.



## Limited capacity to share amongst multiple languages

- Low-resource language don't get enough representation
- Performance on high resource languages suffers

## Introduce small adapter networks for specific languages/tasks

- Better utilization of model capacity
- Adapt the model to new languages
- Parameter efficient adapters

### Train baseline model

- ➔ Freeze parameters
- ➔ Introduce adapter modules
- ➔ Finetune adapter parameters

**adapter-transformers + Adapter Hub:** <https://adapterhub.ml>

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline
- Cross-lingual Transfer
- Multilingual Word Embeddings
- Multilingual Pre-trained Language Models
  - Extending English LLMs to new languages
- Finetuning Pre-trained LMs
- Evaluation of Multilingual models

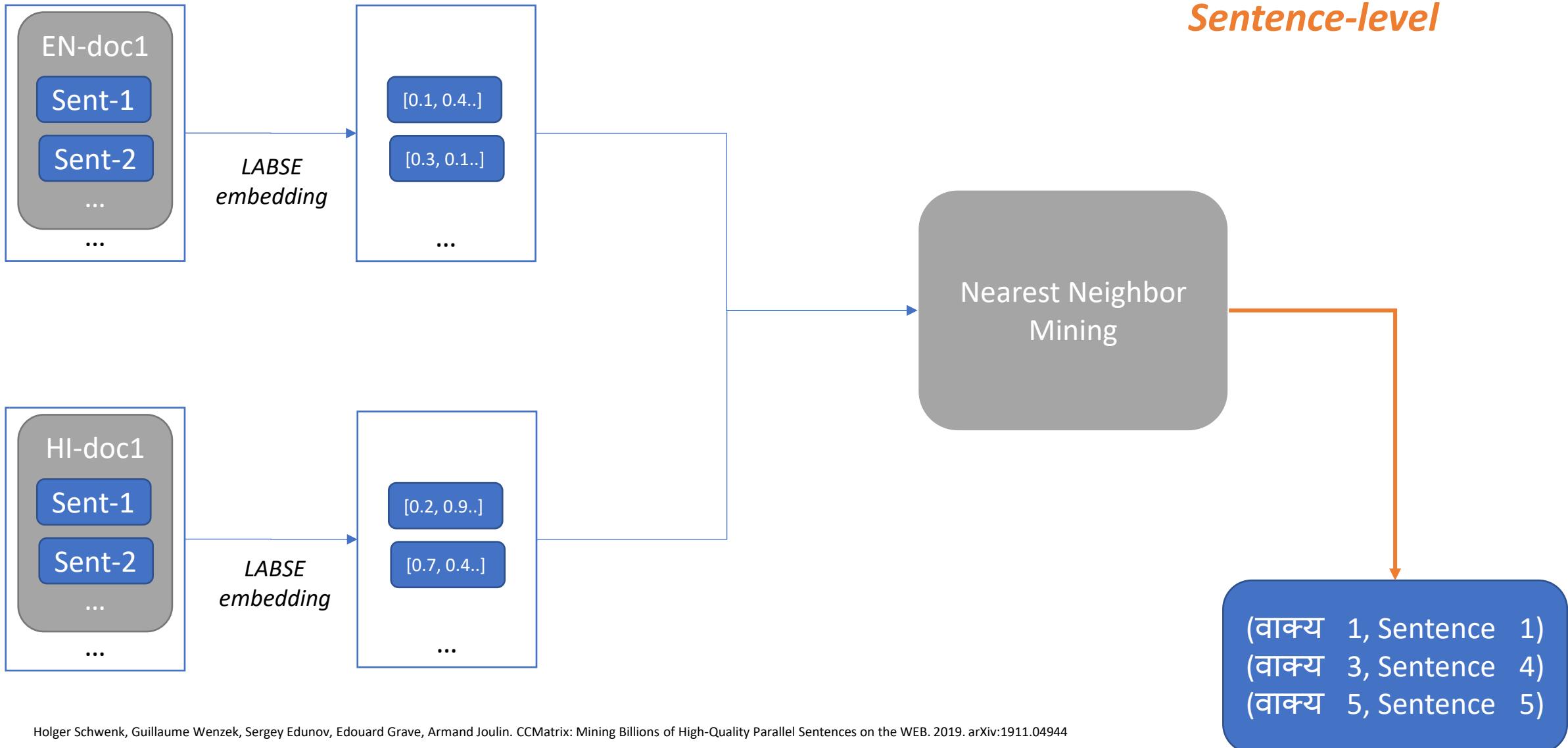
# Mining Task-specific Datasets

*In-language datasets are always useful → expensive to create*

*Transfer learning does not work well for some problems. POS tagging, NER, etc.*

*Can datasets be mined from public sources?*

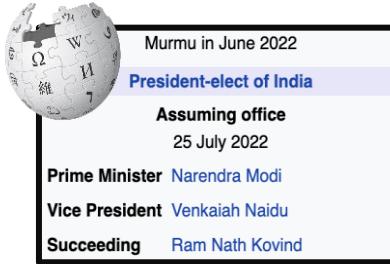
# Parallel Corpus Mining from Machine Translation



# Mining NLU/NLG Datasets

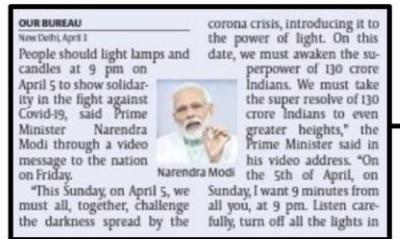
## BIOGRAPHY GENERATION

*Creativity is the limit for mining data of different kinds!*



Murmu assumed office on 25th July and succeeded Ram Nath Kovind

## HEADLINE GENERATION



Dispel the virus darkness with light: PM to people

## SENTENCE SUMMARIZATION

India's financial markets are closed on Monday for a public holiday.

India markets closed for holiday

## PARAPHRASE GENERATION

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए एक प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान है।

A  
आ

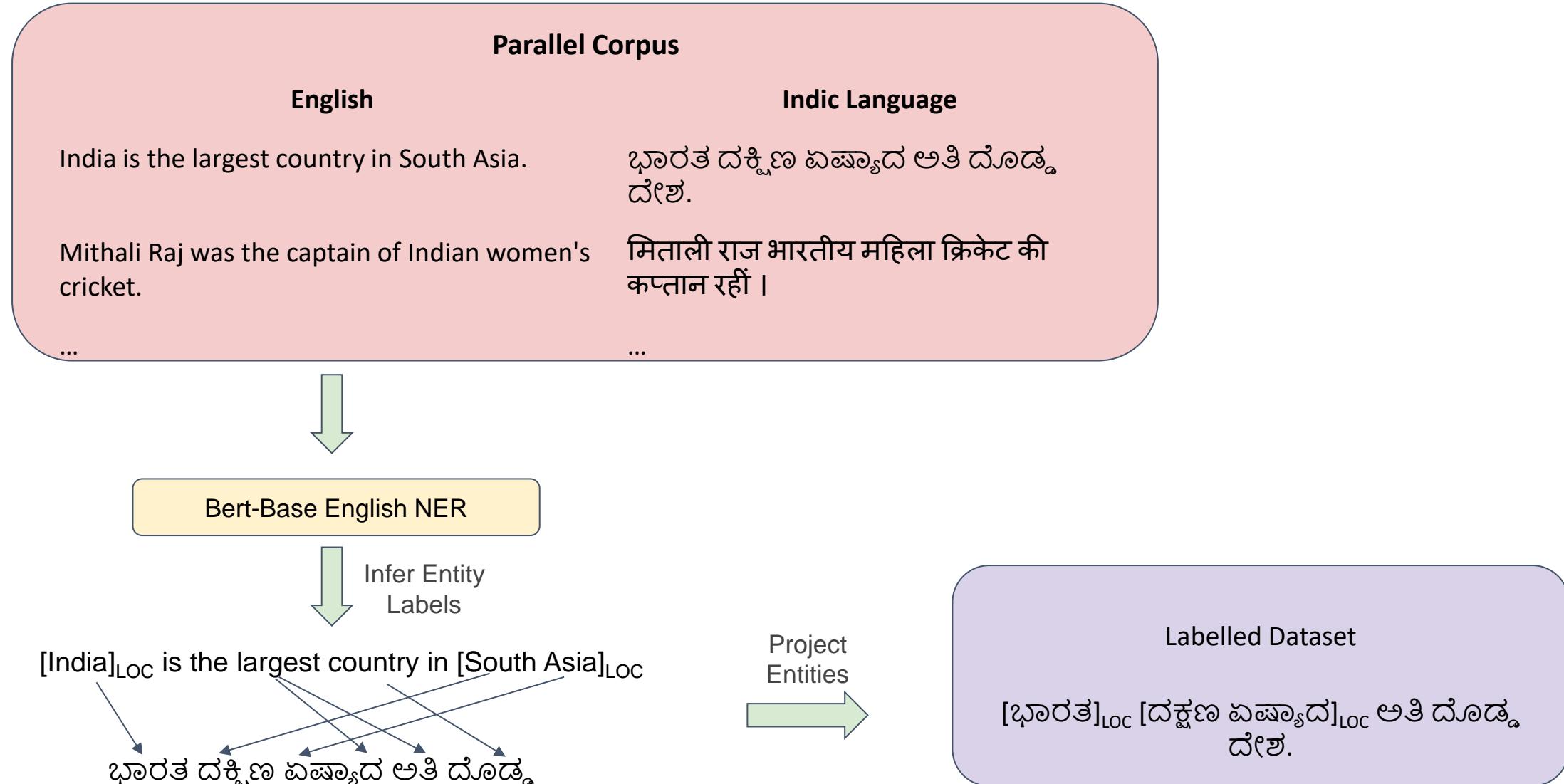
The University of Delhi is a prestigious institution for higher education in India.

Delhi University is one of the famous universities of the country.

## QUESTION GENERATION



# Mining Named Entities



# Summary

- Large model, large data, correct parametrization of models helpful
- Transfer learning works best between related languages
- Use of parallel data, sentence-level objectives to improve representation alignment
- Effect of parallel data
  - Retrieval tasks improve
  - Other tasks do not improve as much
  - Helpful for languages with different scripts
- Translate-train-all performs very well
- Have *expert* model components can improve performance
- Mine in-language data where you can → very useful

# Multilingual NLG

# Introduction

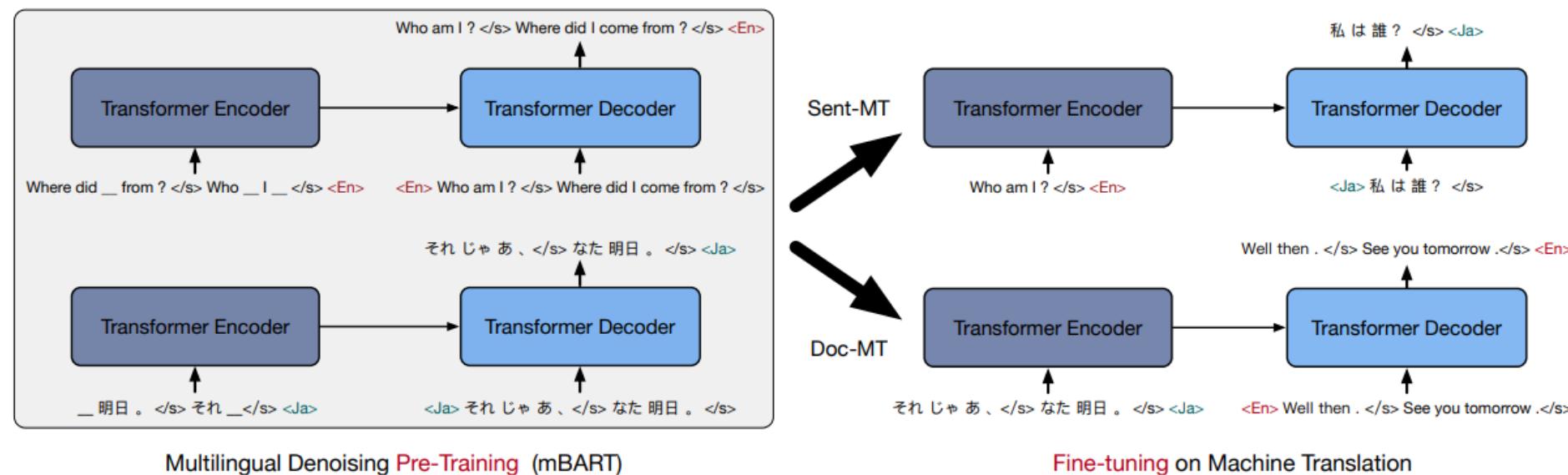
- Multilingual extension to pre-trained NLG models
- Supporting tasks like Machine Translation, Summarization, Free-form Question Answering, Grammar Correction, Paraphrasing, etc.
- Desired Model Capabilities
  - Joint models for multiple languages
  - Transfer learning for low-resource scenarios
  - Zero-shot model performance
  - *Cross-lingual tasks e.g. document in one language, summary in another*
- *Generation stage needs to balance between*
  - *Language agnostic representation*
  - *Language specific surface realization*

# Encoder-Decoder Models: mBART/mT5

## Additional Objectives

- (1) MLM on encoder side
- (2) Cross-lingual MLM & DAE objectives

- Simple modification to mBERT training → Jointly train monolingual Denoising Auto-Encoder (DAE) objective
- Target language tag:** Special token as input to identify target language to generate. Token can be:
  - (1) In the input stream OR (2) initial “forced” decoder output
- Source language tag: input sequence (*optional*)



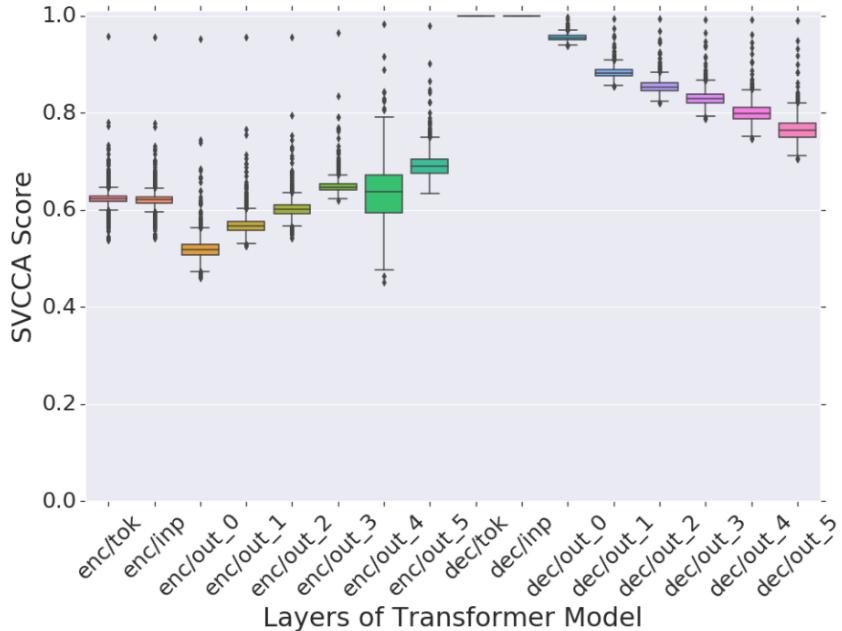
Liu et al., *Multilingual denoising pre-training for neural machine translation*. TACL. 2020.

Xue et al. *mT5: A massively multilingual pre-trained text-to-text transformer*. 2020. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.11934>

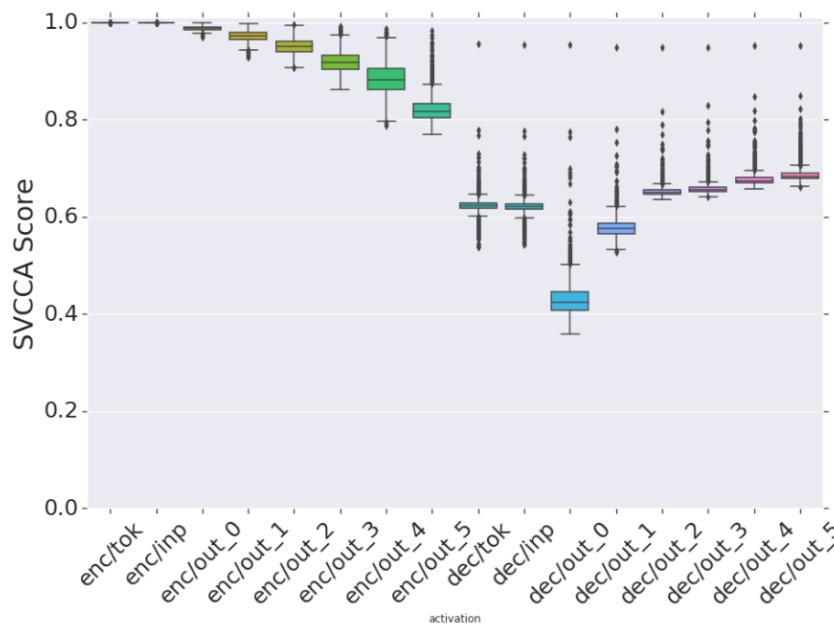
Chi et al. *Cross-Lingual Natural Language Generation via Pre-Training*. AAAI 2020.

ZCODE

# Cross-lingual Representations



(a) X-En Language Pairs

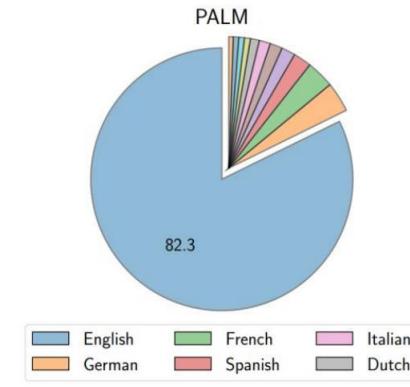
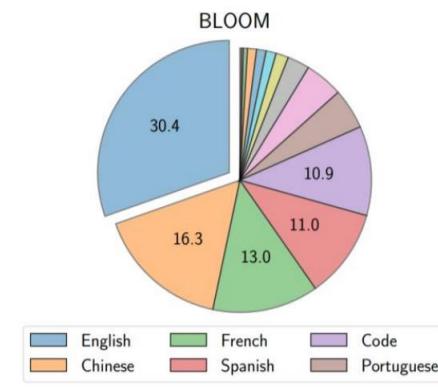
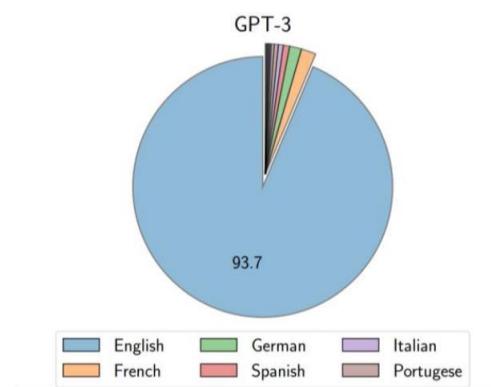
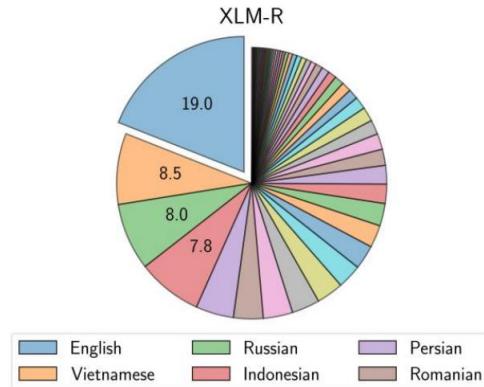


(b) En-X Language Pairs

- Encoder and decoder representations become more language agnostic in higher layers
- English representations differ depending on the language on the other side
  - Encoder-decoder representation boundary is blurry

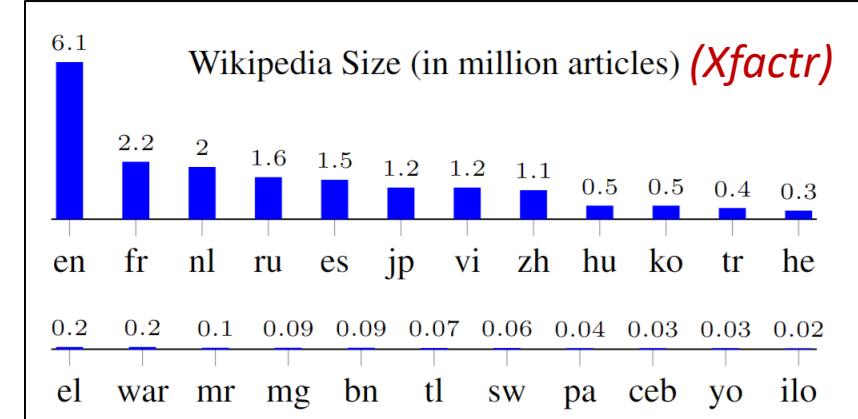
# Decoder Models: BLOOM/xGLM/AYA/GPT

- Simple modification to mBERT training →
  - Jointly train **Causal Language Modeling/Next word prediction** objective
- Standard Architecture for LLMs
- Target language tokens not used for generation
- Flexible instruction following capabilities used to specify target language in prompt
- Consideration: English data far outstrips data from other languages



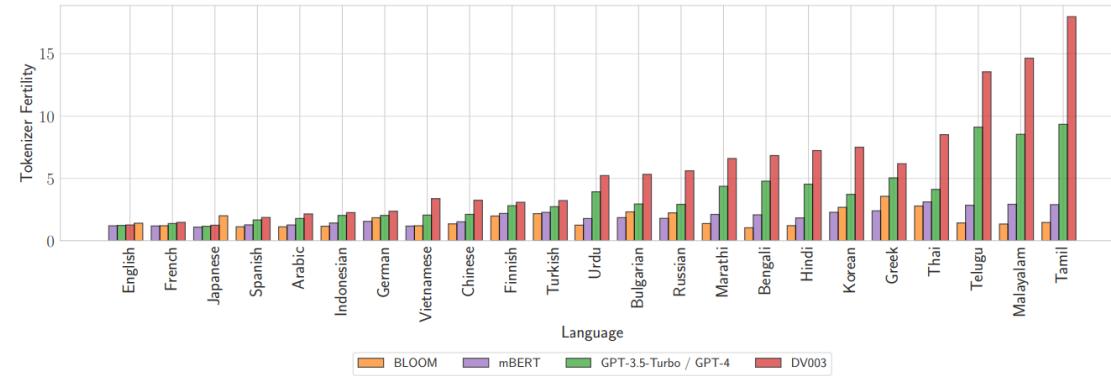
# Multilingual LLMs

- Very few multilingual LLMs
- Most LLMs are very English heavy
  - Focus on English
  - English data far outstrips LLMs for other languages



Limited tokenizer representation for most non-English languages

Fertility → number of tokens per word  
High fertility → low-efficiency, suboptimal representations



(*BUFFET, MEGA, ChatGptMT*)

- Do English-heavy LLMs have any non-English capabilities? How?
- Prohibitively expensive to train multilingual LLMs from scratch, is it possible to extend English LLMs to new languages?

# Do English LLMs have some inherent multilingual capabilities?

**Yes, to some extent ...**

**Why?** – during training they might have been exposed to some non-English data

- Documents with multiple languages
- Incorrect LID

**How good are the multilingual capabilities?**

- Might be ok at language understanding *e.g. classification, sentiment analysis*
- Bad at generation
- Better on Latin script languages
- Languages with better pre-training representation perform better

# How do English LLM achieve multilingual capabilities?

- *Do LLMs think in English?*
- *Do LLM use English as a pivot for decision making?*

*Bottom layers: Feature learning*

*Middle layers: Concept mapping to language tokens  
(with English bias)*

*Top layers: Language generation in target language*

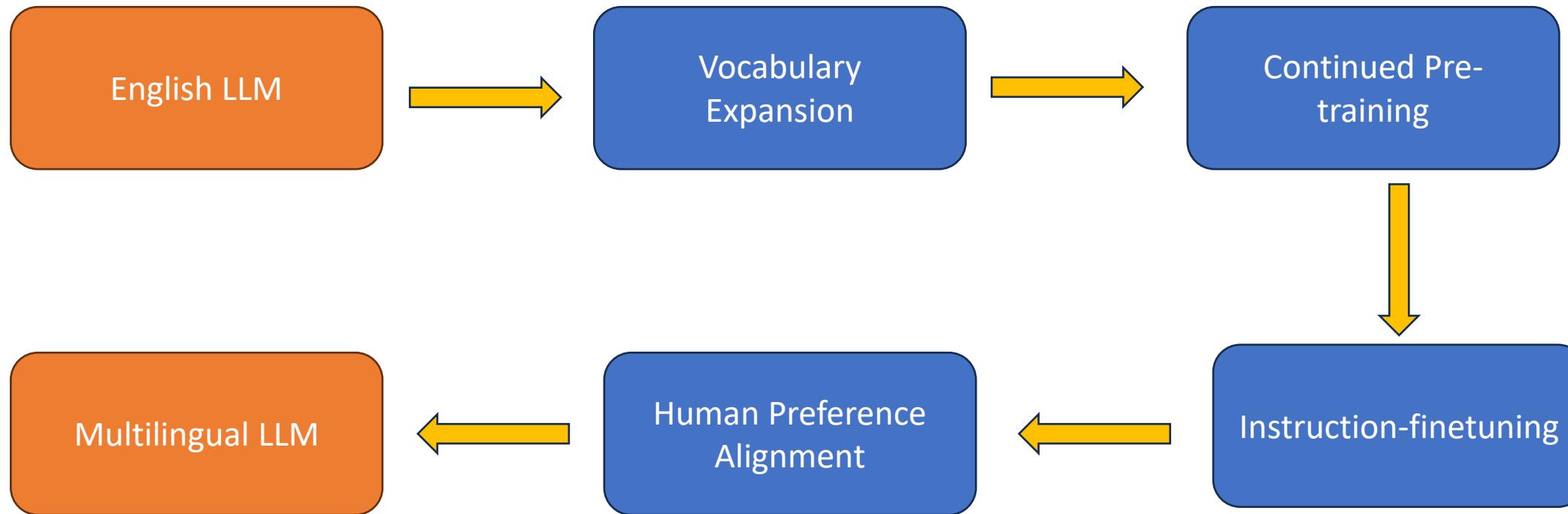
*There are language-specific neurons*

**The central question in building multilingual LLM is to bring representations of English and other languages closer to achieve good cross-lingual transfer**

(LmaLatent,PNLD,LSP)

Output	文	:	-"	花
31	文	:	-"	花
29	文	:	-"	花
27	文	:	_flower	花
25	文	:	_flowe...	_flowe...
23	文	:	-"	_flowe...
21	文	:	_flowe...	_flowe...
19	文	:	-"	_flowe...
17	eval	:	-"	<0xE5>
15	ji	:	-"	Ψ
13	ř	_vac	ols	_bore
11	eda	eda	_Als	abei
9	eda	ná	_Als	_hel
7	iser	arie	◀	arias
5	npa	orr	◀	arias
3	心	ures	_Bedeut	arda
1	_beskre	化	Portail	_Kontr...

# Extending English LLMs to Non-English Languages



*Multilingual corpora like  
mC4, CC-100, CulturaX  
are good starting points*



Large-scale, Document-level Datasets



High Quality Documents



Wide coverage of topics



Representation of culture-specific data, native literature

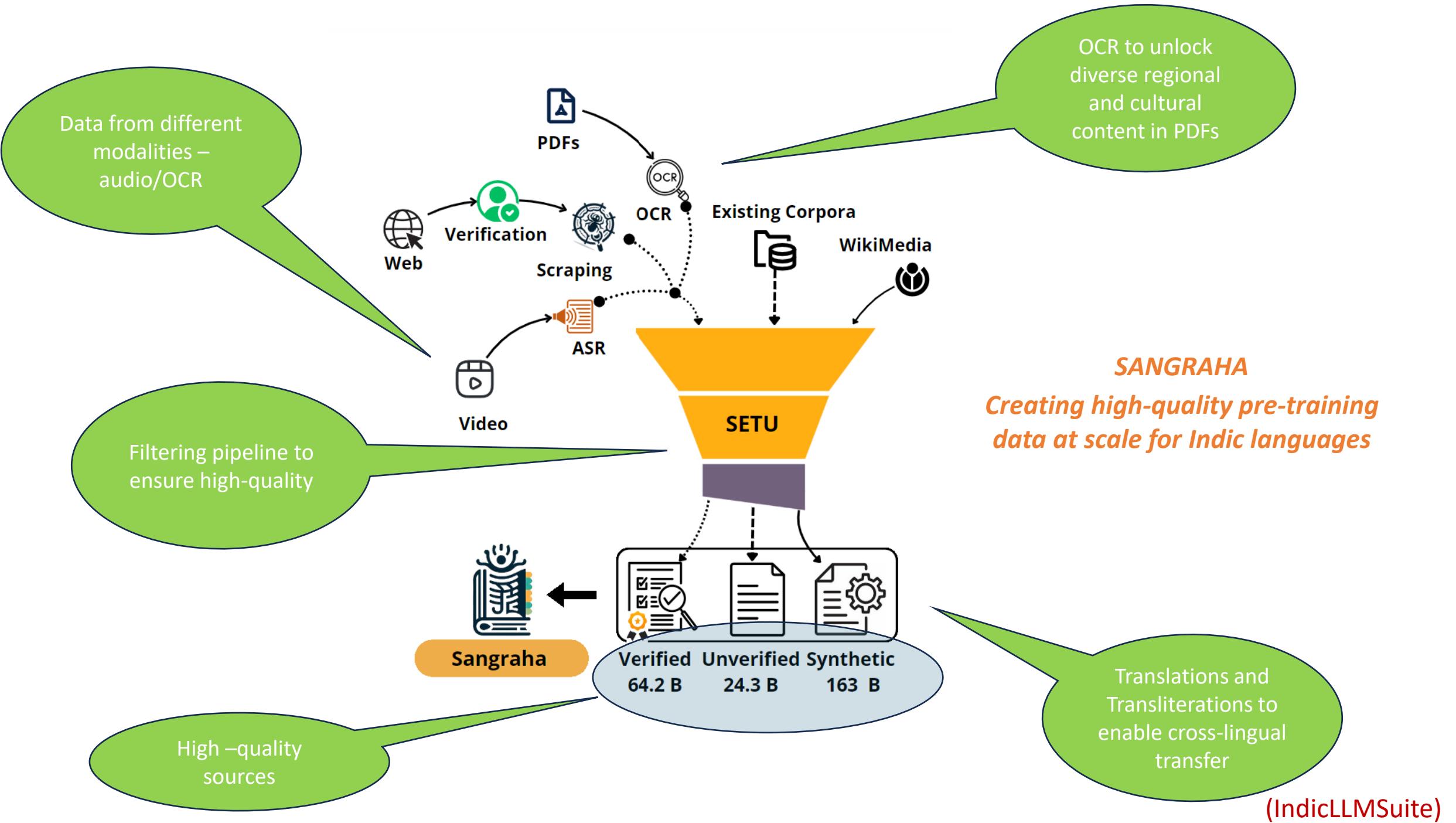


Capture data in different modalities and genres



Data to Help Cross-lingual transfer with English

***Build custom language (group) specific collections to address gaps***



# What if vocabulary is under-represented?

<ss> Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the formative spacecraft of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

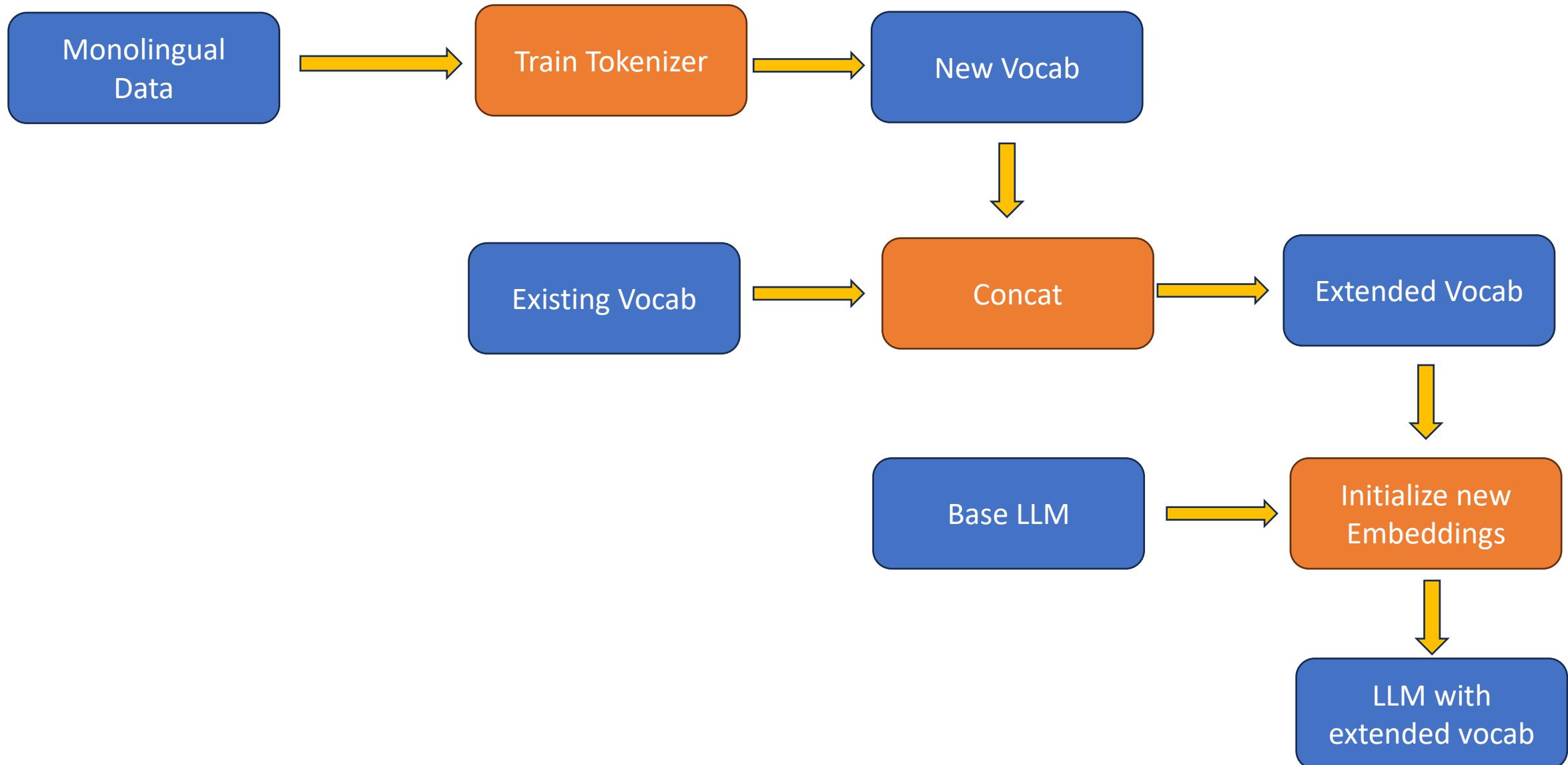
<s> गगनयान <0xE0><0xA4><0x8F>क भारतीय चालक दल कक्षीय अंतरिक्ष यान है जिसका <0xE0><0xA4><0x89>देश य भारतीय मानव अंतरिक्ष <0xE0><0xA4><0x89>डान कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभिक अंतरिक्ष यान होना है।

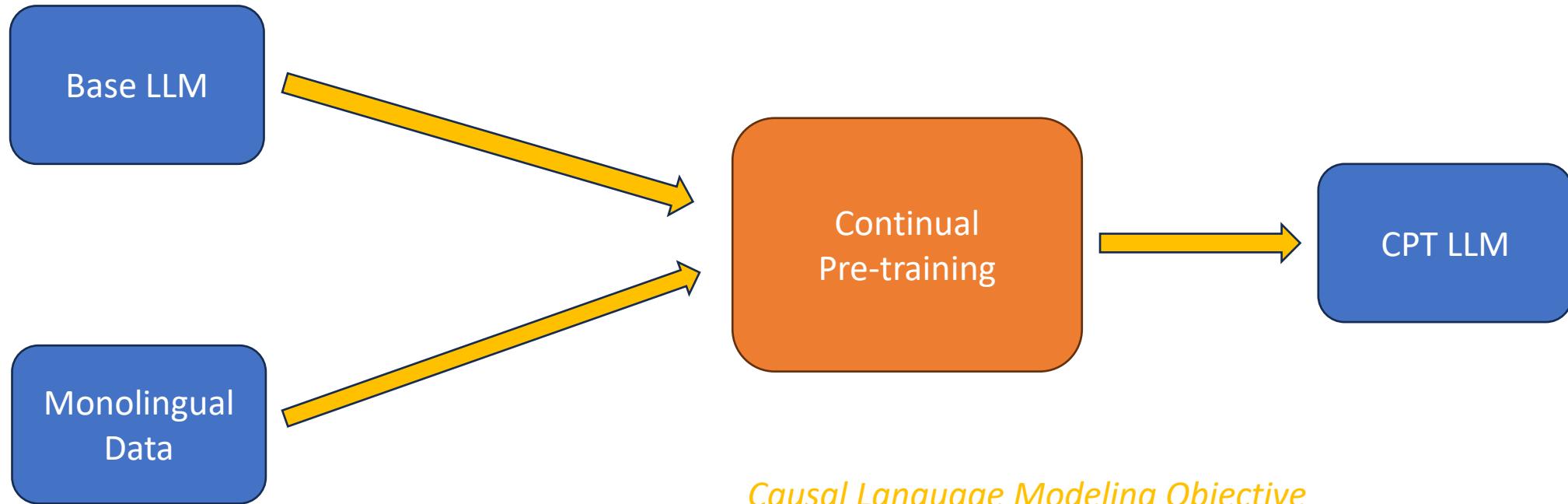
*Fertility = Average number of tokens per word*

*High Fertility → More memory consumption, more decoding time, limit on longest processable sequence*

Model	Hindi Fertility
GPT4	5.32
Llama2	5.83
Mistral	5.60
BLOOM	1.38

# How to extend tokenizer vocabulary?





*Train on document-level data*

Finetuning on long, coherent sequences helps model learn and correlate different pieces of knowledge

*Causal Language Modeling Objective*

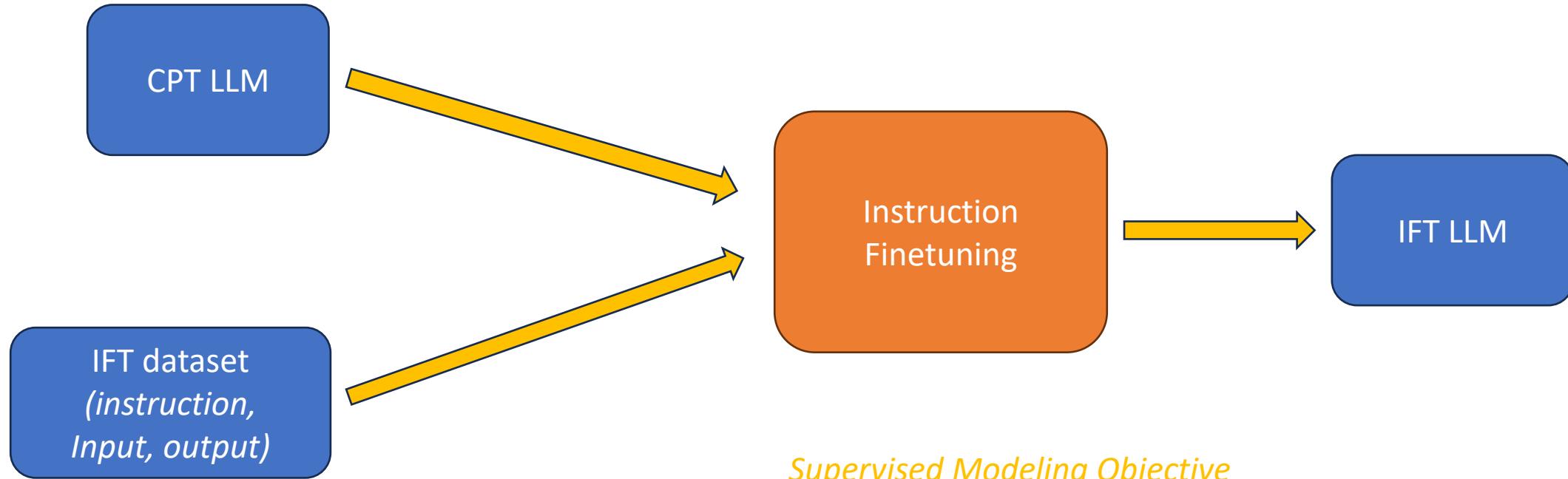
$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_T) = \prod_{t=1}^T p(x_t | \mathbf{x}_{<t})$$

*To avoid forgetting English competence and knowledge*

- Include English in the pre-training data

*To align English and new language*

- Pre-train on parallel data
- Pre-train using romanized data
- (*ChineseLLama, OpenHathi, RomanSetu, IndicMonoDoc, Tower, Palm2*)



*Train on in-language IFT dataset*

*Sources of IFT dataset*

*Quality and diversity of IFT dataset*

*Supervised Modeling Objective*

$$\ell_{\text{CE}}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = - \sum_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} y_j \log(\hat{y}_j) \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{SFT}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell_{\text{CE}}(\mathbf{y}_i, \mathcal{M}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

*To retain English task performance*

- Include English in the IFT training

# Instruction Tuning Tasks

*Variety of tasks/objectives to improve non-English performance*

Generating IFT Data

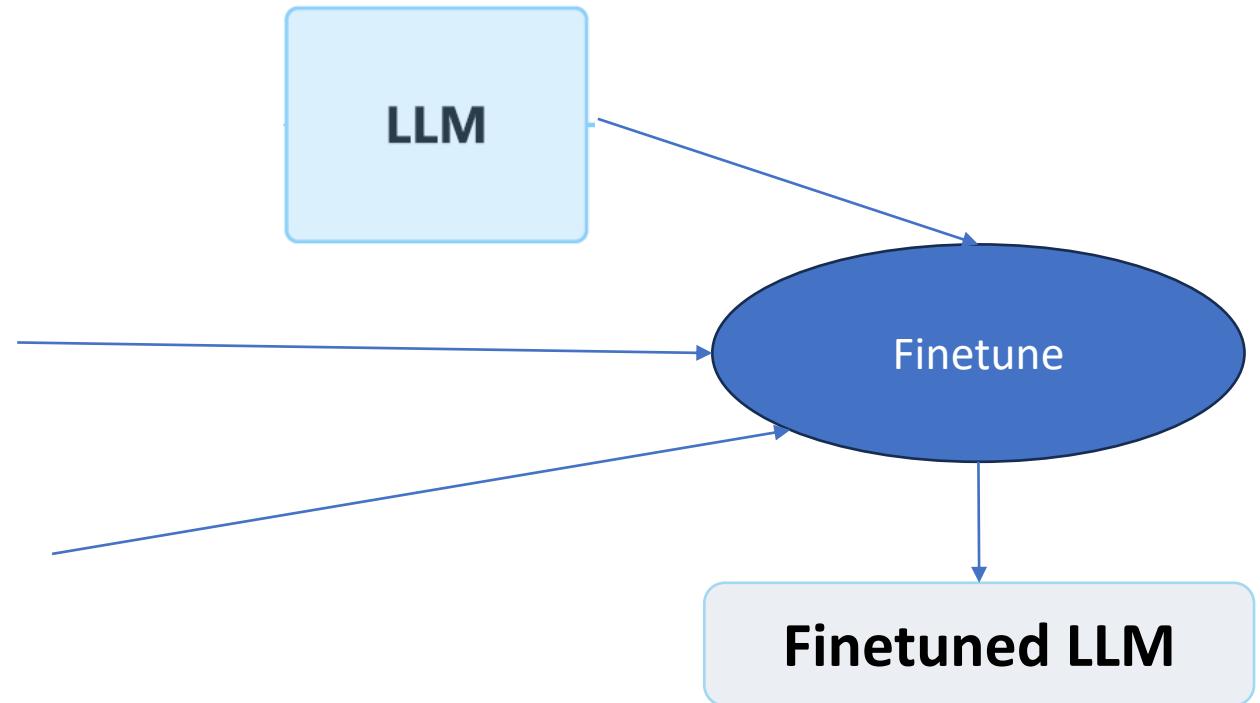
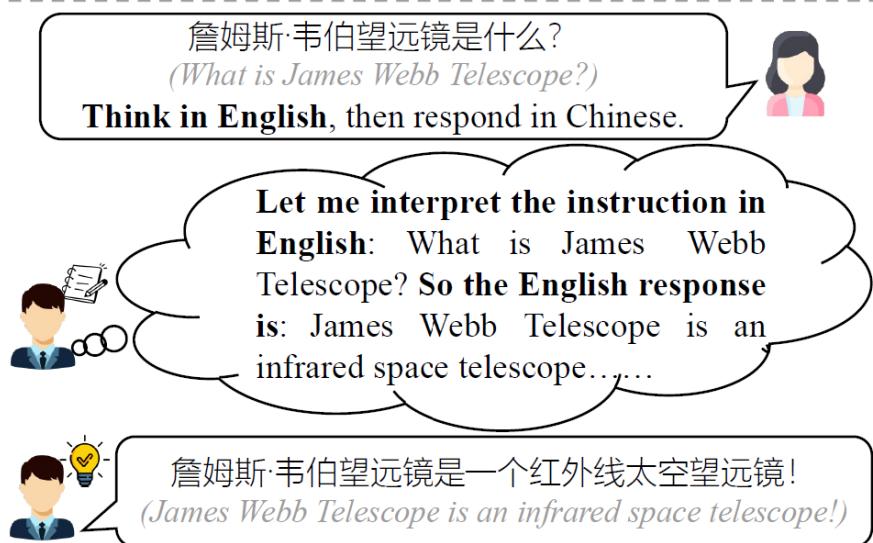
Auxiliary Tasks

Transforming IFT  
Datasets

- English Data IFT (*SDRRL*)
- In-language IFT with Machine Translated Data (*Airavat, Okapi*)
- Locally/Culturally relevant IFT data (*SeaLLM, IndicLLMSuite*)
- Parallel Data
- Monolingual Data (*SDRRL*)
- Romanized IFT Data (*RomanSetu*)
- Cross-lingual Thought Data (*PLUG*)
- Cross-lingual IFT Data (*SDDRL*)
- Code-switched IFT Data

*Let's look at some of these tasks in detail*

# Cross-Lingual Thought data



## Limitations

- Reduced maximum sequence length
- Increased latency

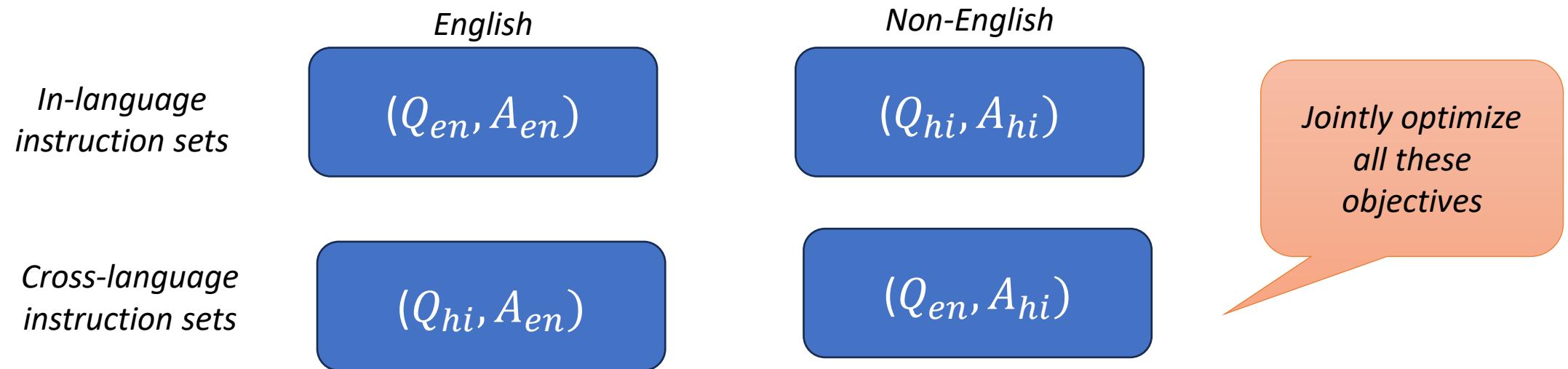
	Standard IFT	TaCo
Nepali	39.3	88.1
Persian	46.5	83.9

*Evaluation on translated Vicuna Benchmark with GPT4*

The PLUG paper also shows improvements (discussed later)

(TaCo, PLUG)

# Cross-Lingual Instruction Tuning



$Q_{hi}$ : मैं अपने समय प्रबंधन कौशल को कैसे सुधार सकता हूँ? मुझे 5 संक्षिप्त बिंदु दीजिये।

$A_{en}$ :

1. Prioritize tasks based on importance and urgency.
2. Set specific goals with deadlines (SMART goals).
3. Use time management tools like calendars and apps.
4. Minimize distractions to maintain focus.
5. Regularly review and adjust your schedule for better efficiency.

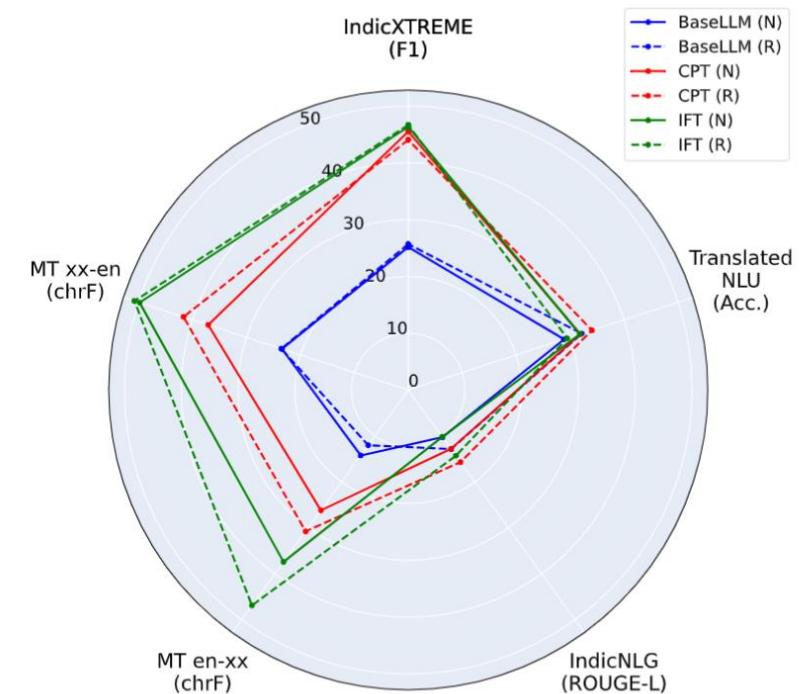
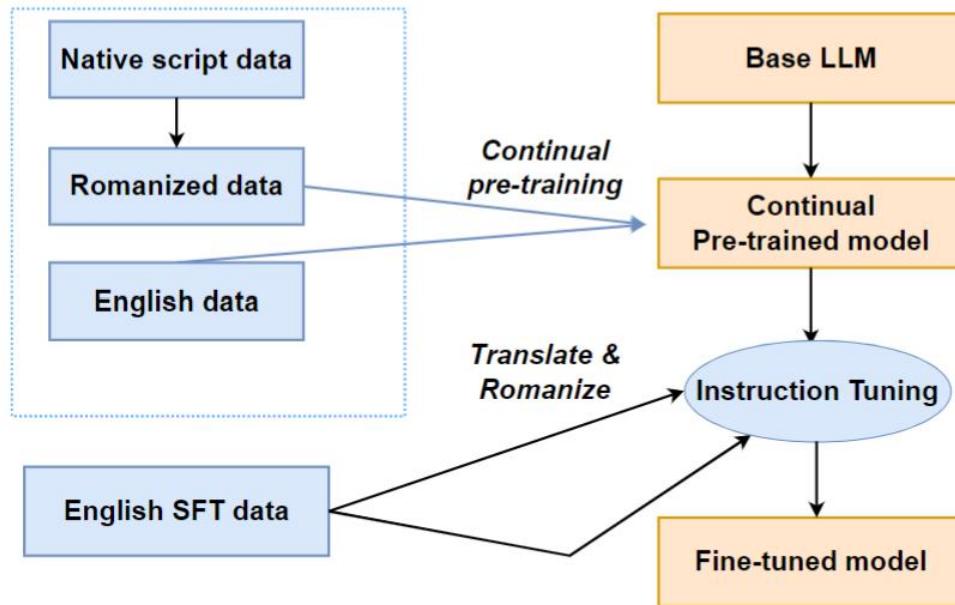
***Cross-lingual instruction help the model to align languages and think in English***

***Avoids intermediate English generation of Cross-lingual Thought Prompting***

**(SDDRL,XCOT,CIT)**

# Romanized Representation

Just like pre-training, use romanized representation for IFT too



- Continual Pre-training with romanized data is crucial
- NLG task performance improves with romanized data
- NLU task performance is on par, though more efficient

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Typical Multilingual NLP Pipeline
- Cross-lingual Transfer
- Multilingual Word Embeddings
- Multilingual Pre-trained Language Models
  - Extending English LLMs to new languages
- Finetuning Pre-trained LMs
- Evaluation of Multilingual models

# Benchmarks for Multilingual Learning

# XTREME

## Cross-lingual TRansfer Evaluation of Multilingual Encoders (XTREME) benchmark

**Table 1.** Characteristics of the datasets in X TREME for the zero-shot transfer setting. For tasks that have training and dev sets in other languages, we only report the English numbers. We report the number of test examples per target language and the nature of the test sets (whether they are translations of English data or independently annotated). The number in brackets is the size of the intersection with our selected languages. For NER and POS, sizes are in sentences. Struct. pred.: structured prediction. Sent. retrieval: sentence retrieval.

Task	Corpus	Train	Dev	Test	Test sets	Lang.	Task	Metric	Domain
Classification	XNLI	392,702	2,490	5,010	translations	15	NLI	Acc.	Misc.
	PAWS-X	49,401	2,000	2,000	translations	7	Paraphrase	Acc.	Wiki / Quora
Struct. pred.	POS	21,253	3,974	47-20,436	ind. annot.	33 (90)	POS	F1	Misc.
	NER	20,000	10,000	1,000-10,000	ind. annot.	40 (176)	NER	F1	Wikipedia
QA	XQuAD	87,599	34,726	1,190	translations	11	Span extraction	F1 / EM	Wikipedia
	MLQA			4,517–11,590	translations	7	Span extraction	F1 / EM	Wikipedia
	TyDiQA-GoldP			323–2,719	ind. annot.	9	Span extraction	F1 / EM	Wikipedia
Retrieval	BUCC	-	-	1,896–14,330	-	5	Sent. retrieval	F1	Wiki / news
	Tatoeba	-	-	1,000	-	33 (122)	Sent. retrieval	Acc.	misc.

Task Difficulty, Task Diversity, Language Diversity, Sufficient Monolingual data, Efficiency, Accessibility

40 languages, 12 language families, 9 tasks, 4 task types

# NLG Benchmarks

## IndicNLG Benchmark

5 datasets in 11 Indian languages

Aman Kumar, Himani Shrotriya, Prachi Sahu, Raj Dabre, Ratish Puduppully, Anoop Kunchukuttan, Mitesh M. Khapra, Pratyush Kumar. *IndicNLG Suite: Multilingual Datasets for Diverse NLG Tasks in Indic Languages.* arxiv preprint 2203.05437. 2022.

Dataset	Languages	Communicative Intent	Input Type	Total Size
<b>Biography Generation</b>	as, bn, hi, kn, ml, or, pa, ta, te	One-sentence biographies	key-value pairs	55K
<b>Headline Generation</b>	as, bn, gu, hi, kn, ml, mr, or, pa, ta, te	News article headlines	news article	1.43M
<b>Sentence Summarization</b>	as, bn, gu, hi, kn, ml, mr, or, pa, ta, te	Compacted sentence with same meaning	sentence	431K
<b>Paraphrase Generation</b>	as, bn, gu, hi, kn, ml, mr, or, pa, ta, te	Synonymous sentence	sentence	5.57M
<b>Question Generation</b>	as, bn, gu, hi, kn, ml, mr, or, pa, ta, te	Question leading to answer given context	context-answer pairs	1.08M

## MTG Benchmark

4 datasets in 5 languages

Task	Corpus	Domain	Format	Goal
Story Generation	ROCStories	Daily life	<story>	Generate the end of the story
Question Generation	SQuAD 1.0	Wikipedia	<passage,answer, question>	Generate the question of the answer
Title Generation	ByteCup	News	<article, title>	Generate the title of the document
Text Summarization	CNN/DailyMail	News	<article, summary>	Generate the summary of the document

# GEMv2 Benchmark

*GEMv2 aggregates 40 documented datasets in 51 languages*

Sebastian Gehrman, Abhik Bhattacharjee et al.. *GEMv2: Multilingual NLG Benchmarking in a Single Line of Code.* Arxiv 2206.11249. 2022

## Machine Translation Benchmarks

- **FLORES-200**
- **NTREX**
- **BPCC-IN22**

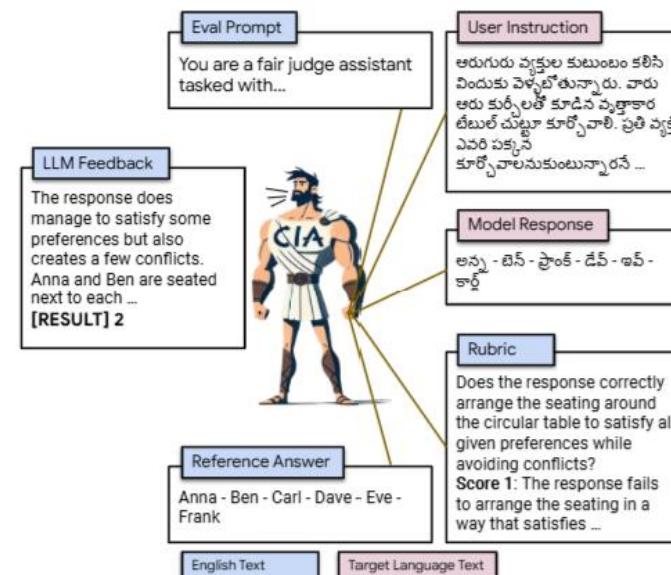
Dataset	Citation	Task	Language(s)
ART	(Bhagavatula et al., 2020)	Reasoning	en
BiSECT	(Kim et al., 2021a)	Simplification	en, de, es, fr
Cochrane	(Devaraj et al., 2021)	Simplification	en
CommonGen	(Lin et al., 2020)	Data-to-Text	en
Conversational Weather	(Balakrishnan et al., 2019)	Response Generation	en
CrossWOZ	(Zhu et al., 2020)	Response Generation	zh
CS Restaurants	(Dušek and Jurčíček, 2019)	Response Generation	cs
DART	(Nan et al., 2021)	Data-to-Text	en
DSTC 10	(Kim et al., 2021b)	Data-to-Text	en
E2E NLG	(Novikova et al., 2017; Dušek et al., 2020; Dušek et al., 2019)	Data-to-Text	en
FairytaleQA	(Xu et al., 2022)	Question Generation	en
IndoNLG	(Cahyawijaya et al., 2021)	Summarization	id, jv, su
MLB	(Puduppully et al., 2019a)	Data-to-Text	en
MLSum	(Scialom et al., 2020)	Summarization	es, de
Opusparcus	(Creutz, 2018)	Paraphrasing	de, en, fi, fr, ru, sv
OrangeSum	(Kamal Eddine et al., 2021)	Summarization	fr
RiSAWOZ	(Quan et al., 2020)	Response Generation	zh
RotoWire En-De	(Wiseman et al., 2017; Hayashi et al., 2019)	Data-to-Text	en, de
Schema-Guided Dialog	(Rastogi et al., 2020)	Response Generation	en
SciDuet	(Sun et al., 2021)	Slide Generation	en
SIMPITIKI	(Tonelli et al., 2016)	Simplification	it
SportSett	(Thomson et al., 2020)	Data-to-Text	en
Squad V2	(Rajpurkar et al., 2016)	Question Generation	en
SQuALITY v1.1	(Wang et al., 2022)	Summarization	en
Surface Realization ST 2020	(Mille et al., 2020)	Data-to-Text	ar, en, es, fr, hi, in, ko, ja, pt, ru, zh
TaskMaster	(Byrne et al., 2019)	Response Generation	en
ToTTo	(Parikh et al., 2020)	Data-to-Text	en
Turku Hockey	(Kanerva et al., 2019)	Data-to-Text	fi
Turku Paraphrase	(Kanerva et al., 2021)	Paraphrasing	fi
ViGGo	(Juraska et al., 2019)	Data-to-Text	en
WebNLG	(Gardent et al., 2017a,b)	Data-to-Text	en, ru
WikiAuto			
+ASSET/TURK/Split&Rephrase	(Jiang et al., 2020; Alva-Manchego et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2020)	Simplification	en
WikiCatSum	(Perez-Beltrachini et al., 2019)	Summarization	en
WikiLingua	(Ladhak et al., 2020)	Summarization	ar, cs, de, en, es, fr, hi, id, it, ja, ko, nl, pt, ru, th, tr, vi, zh
XLSum	(Hasan et al., 2021)	Summarization	am, fr, ar, az, bn, cy, en, es, gd, fa, gu, ha, hi, ig, id, ja, ko, ky, mr, my, ne, ps, pem, pt, pa, rn, ru, sr, si, so, sw, ta, te, th, ti, tr, uk, ur, uz, vi, yo, zh-CN, zh-TW
XSum	(Narayan et al., 2018)	Summarization	en
XWikis	(Perez-Beltrachini and Lapata, 2021)	Summarization	en, de, fr, cs

# Multilingual LLM Benchmarks for Open-ended tasks

- Very few such benchmarks
- Some examples: covers only a few languages
  - Aya Evaluation Suite
  - MGSM for Math Problems
  - Multilingual MMLU from OpenAI
- Machine Translated versions of various English datasets are available
  - Vicuna, ALPACA, MMLU, ARC, Dolly

# Evaluation Metrics

- Evaluation of text is a challenging task
- How good is an evaluation metric?
- Particularly, methods that are applicable to multiple languages
  - Morphology and grammar of languages vary
  - Resource available for building and meta-evaluating evaluation models vary
- Popular evaluation metrics
  - String-based: BLEU, ROUGE, chrF
  - Embedding-based: BERTScore
  - Learned Metrics: COMET, BLEURT
  - LLM as Judge: GEMBA, G-Eval, Prometheus, CIA



# Summary

- Deep Learning has revolutionized multilingual representation learning
  - Word representations → Pre-trained LM with monolingual objectives → bilingual objectives
- Opened up possibilities
  - Multilingual training, Zero-shot performance, Compact models
  - Support low-resource languages and domains via transfer Learning
- Both multilingual NLU and NLG made possible
  - Multilingual NLG is more challenging
- Effectiveness of multilingual transfer depends on task complexity, language relatedness
- Efficient Multilingual Evaluation is a challenge

# Resources

[AI4Bharat](#): Resources and tools for Multilingual NLP for Indian languages

## Survey Papers & Tutorials:

Sumanth Doddapaneni, Gowtham Ramesh, Anoop Kunchukuttan, Pratyush Kumar, Mitesh M. Khapra. A Primer on Pretrained Multilingual Language Models. 2021. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.00676>

Yuemei Xu, Ling Hu, Jiayi Zhao, Zihan Qiu, Yuqi Ye, Hanwen Gu. A Survey on Multilingual Large Language Models: Corpora, Alignment, and Bias. 2023. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.00929>

Raj Dabre, Chenhui Chu, Anoop Kunchukuttan. Multilingual Machine Translation. [Survey paper at ACM Computing Surveys 2020] [Tutorial at COLING 2020] [[website](#)]

Anoop Kunchukuttan. Extending English Large Language Models to New Languages: A Survey. 2024.  
[https://anoopkunchukuttan.gitlab.io/publications/presentations/extend\\_en\\_llms\\_aug2024.pdf](https://anoopkunchukuttan.gitlab.io/publications/presentations/extend_en_llms_aug2024.pdf)  
(upcoming tutorial at EMNLP 2025)

Anoop Kunchukuttan. *Multilingual Learning. Tutorial at Summer School on Machine Learning. IIIT Hyderabad.* 2018.  
<https://anoopkunchukuttan.gitlab.io/publications/presentations/IIIT-Hyderabad-ML-Summer-School-2018.pdf>

# Thank You!

[anoop.kunchukuttan@gmail.com](mailto:anoop.kunchukuttan@gmail.com)

<https://anoopkunchukuttan.gitlab.io/>