



TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE NÜRNBERG
GEORG SIMON OHM

Faculty of Computer Science

IT-based text generation using NLP methods

State of the art and design of a prototype

Bachelor Thesis in
Business Information Systems and Management

by

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Preface I

The following thesis was created during the seventh and last semester at the Georg Simon Ohm University of Applied Science. Within the last three semesters, I realized that my major interest among all IT related topics is artificial intelligence.

My personal interest started basically with a group IT-project, in which my team and I programmed an autonomously driving remote control car with a deep neural network together with a Raspberry Pi 3B+. From this first project on, I selected all my further elective courses to be related to machine learning or data science in any possible way. I wanted to increase my knowledge further, so I searched for a website that provides courses related to AI. I found *www.udacity.com*, which offers courses in cooperation with top IT companies, such as Google, Airbnb, or Microsoft. Out of curiosity, I bought the course *Natural Language Processing*. After successfully finishing it, I was encouraged to write my bachelor thesis in a *Natural Language Processing* related topic. Together with my professor *Prof. Dr. Alfred Holl*, I worked out a structured methodological table for the entire structure of this paper. Even though Natural Language Processing is just a subfield of machine learning, the current state-of-the-art research is far beyond what I can research within a bachelor thesis. I decided to write my thesis about the subfield *textgeneration* within NLP. My state-of-the-art research includes all *hot topics* within NLP, and my prototype focuses only on the text generation part, to dive deeper into what NLP and especially text generation can accomplish in the year 2020.

Preface II

For my research, I encountered a lot of old and recently published papers, mostly from <https://arxiv.org/>. To read through the papers requires a lot of prior knowledge, especially in mathematics, which I learned during my semester in Hong Kong at the City University of Hong Kong. To fully understand the mathematics given in this thesis, enhanced knowledge of calculus and linear algebra is required. Even if this is not the case, I will describe the process in such a way that it can be comprehended without looking at the maths.

Machine Learning and, more specifically, NLP is not an intuitive study. I provided for the matrix notations the common terminologies originated from top researchers and tried to make the entry into this field as smooth as possible if the reader has no prior knowledge about this topic. During the five-month development process of the bachelor thesis, I gained much knowledge. I recognized that NLP is a huge topic, constantly under research. To keep up to date with the latest publications requires much effort.

To give a full state-of-the-art review about *all* NLP related disciplines is not possible within this thesis. For this reason, I focus entirely on the development of the *Neural Text Generation* (NTP), which includes more fields than the reader might imagine.

	Titel / Kapitel	Untertitel / Unterkapitel	Woher? — Wissensinput	Wie? — Methode	Was? — Zielbeschreibung
0	IT-basierte Textgenerierung mit Hilfe von NLP-Methoden State of the Art & Entwurf eines Prototypen		Allgemeinültig: • Fachbücher, Bücher • HongKong, TH-OHM • Online Kurse	1. Was ist der State of Art von NLP - Systemen. 2. In welcher Qualität kam ich den Textgenerierungs- Prototypen selbst programmieren und welche Güte hat dieser?	1. State of the Art fachlich herausarbeiten. 2. Einen Prototypischen Algorithmus programmieren, der zu einem gegebenen Input z.B. ein Buch immer wieder neue kreative Fortsetzungen generiert.
1	Einleitung	Fallbeispiel eines aktuellen NLP-Systems 1.1	• [0.1] • Wissenschaftliches Schreiben und	1. Recherche über die aktuellen und geplanten NLP-Systeme, im Bereich der Textverarbeitung. 2. Vorstellung meines Beitrags zu NLP-Systemen mithilfe meines Prototyps.	1. Antwort auf die Frage, warum meine Bachelorarbeit sinnvoll ist und welche Motivation ich habe zur Bearbeitung 2. Erläuterung durch einen interessanten leichten Einstieg.
2	State of the Art	Relevante Aspekte der Mathematik 2.1	[1.1]	Welches mathematische „know-how“ ist notwendig, um NLP-Systeme für Textverarbeitung und meinen Prototypen technisch verstehen zu können?	Beschreibung der anwendungsbezogenen mathematischen Modelle für diesen Themenkomplex anhand von Formeln und Erklärungen.
		Geschichte des NLP 2.2	• [0] • [0.1]	1. Literaturrecherche über die Geschichte des NLP (40 Jahre). 2. Literaturrecherche über die ersten Einsätze der NLP-Systeme.	1. Darstellung der Geschichte des NLP in Form einer zeitlichen Abfolge. 2. Nutzen der ersten NLP-P-Prototypen oder Technologien die im Einsatz waren.
		Aktuelle Trends der Technologie 2.3	• [0] • [0.1] • [2.2] • Fallbeispiele	1. Literaturrecherche über aktuelle Trends (+ - 5 Jahre). 2. Recherche von aktuelle Papern und Veröffentlichungen.	1. Darstellung der aktuellen Technologien. 2. Blick in die kurzfristige Zukunft anhand von aktuellen Fallbeispielen und Forschungsergebnissen.
3	Prototyp	Zielsetzung / Anforderungen 3.1	• [0] • [1] • [2]	1. Requirements Engineering. 2. Klassifizierung und Analyse möglicher Ergebnisse, z.B. ob der Output grammatikalisch korrekt ist.	1. Erläuterung des Umfangs meines Prototyps. 2. Sammlung und Klassifizierung der Anforderungen an den Algorithmus und dessen Output.
		Fachkonzept 3.2	[3]	1. Erstellen eines Fachkonzepts 2. Algorithmus modellieren 3. Prozessmodellierung 4. Datenflussmodellierung und, oder Datenmodellierung	1. Fachkonzept fertig erstellt. 2. Der Prototyp wird ohne IT Bezug anhand von verschiedenen Teilmodellen modelliert. 3. Die einzelnen Prozesse werden ohne konkreten Implementierungs-Vorschlag modelliert. 4. Datenverarbeitung visualisiert
		Implementierung 3.3	[3.3]	1. Software-Abhängigkeits-Portfolio erstellen - Vergleich geeigneter Programmiersprachen - Recherche der erforderlichen Bibliotheken - Recherche der erforderlichen Hardware, Software und Auswahl 2. Software entwickeln - Fehler reporten an Hersteller, Bib, etc.	1. Erstellung eines IT-Konzepts in Form einer Beschreibung der notwendigen technischen Mittel anhand von Teilmodellen 2. Problemstellungen erklären und das Auftreten eines Problems „reverse Engineeren“
		Evaluation 3.4	[3.4]	1. Soll-Ist-Vergleich der Anforderungen mit dem Output des Prototypen. 2. Vergleich mit verwandten Arbeiten. 3. Recherche über potentielle Verbesserungen des Algorithmus.	1. Evaluation und Analyse des Ergebnisses anhand von grammatikalischer Richtigkeit und Sinn. 2. Bessere Ergebnisse mit meinen vergleichen. 3. Optimierungsmöglichkeiten für meinen Prototypen evaluieren.
4	Generierung von übertragbarem Wissen		[0] bis [3]	Um welche Elemente könnte mein Projekt modular Erweitert werden um ein Anderes oder Besseres Ergebnis zu erzeugen und welchen Einfluss könnte es auf die Forschung haben?	Einordnung der Evaluationsergebnisse in einen gesellschaftlichen Kontext.

Abstract

– At the end , finally finished :) –

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Chapter 1.

Intro

In the last decade, Machine Learning (ML) is increasingly finding its way into society. Many websites and businesses use Machine Learning techniques to improve the user and costumer experience. The phrase *Machine Learning* was originally introduced in 1952 by Arthur Samuel. He developed a computer program for playing the game checkers in the 1950s. Samuel's model was based on a model of brain cell interaction by Donald Hebb from his book called *The Organization of Behavior* published in 1949. Hebb's book introduces theories on neuron excitement and the neural communication. Figure 1.1 illustrates the model of the brain cell. Nowadays, this brain neuron based model is mostly declared to be not realistic enough [Andrew Ng, deeplearning.ai], because the structure of a neuron in the brain is far more complex than the illustration in figure 1.1 suggests. Nevertheless, it provides a really good entry point for this research field.

The roots of Neural Networks (NN) lie down almost 80 years ago in 1943 when **McCulloch-Pitts** [McCu43] compared for the first time neuronal networks with the structure of the human brain. The range in which Neural Networks (in the year 2020) apply to modern technologies is wide. Some disciplines have only been created due to the invention of Neural Networks, because they solve existing and new problems very effectively and efficiently.

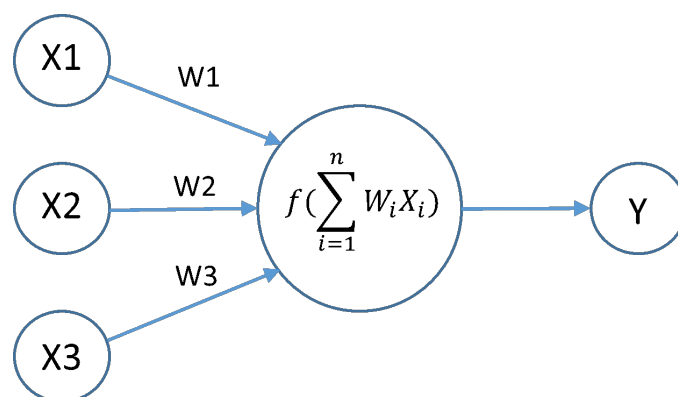


Figure 1.1.: A simple Neuron with 3 inputs and 1 output [Sing 17]

Many frequently held conferences around the globe proof continuous evidence of the successes of Neural Networks. Among those various disciplines counts for example *Pattern recognition* with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) [Yann 98] for example to predict classes of images of the famous *CIFAR-10* dataset [Kriz]. Many amateurs [Löh 19] and experts attempt annually to show their latest results in beating the former best accuracy.

Convolutional Neural Networks is just one of many other Neural Network building blocks, because a modern network consists of many different layers. Natural Language Processing is one of the various sub fields of Machine Learning. Strictly speaking, it is actually a multidisciplinary field consisting of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computational linguistics. Natural Language Processing is dedicated to understand and process the interactions between human (natural) language and computers. Natural Language Processing is a very broad term and can apply many different tasks, such as:

- Sentiment Analysis
- Machine Translation
- Speech Recognition
- Text Generation (Neural Text Generation *NTG*)
- Chat Bots

All of this tasks require many steps to function properly. In the broadest sense, there is always an Input and an Output, which are shown in Table 1.1.

Components of NLP methods			
	Speech	Text	Images
Input Analysis	Speech Recognition	Natural Language Processing methods	Image Recognition
Output Synthesis	Generation of Speech	Generation of Text	Generation of Images

Table 1.1.: A closer look into the NLP disciplines

It shows that the text generation is often the output part of a Natural Language Processing model. Data is collected through various different sources, e.g. images, videos or speech, then it is further processed and generates the desired output. Useful examples are shown in Table 1.2.

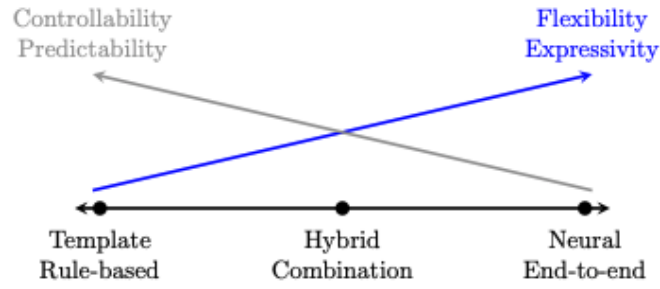


Figure 1.2.: Rule-Based vs. Neural-Text-Generations System [Xie 17]

Examples of NLP methods			
	Speech	Text	Images
Input Analysis	Siri listens	Read in document	Image of a face
Output Synthesis	Siri answers	Generate Summary	Face detected

Table 1.2.: Examples for three different NLP tasks

For this Bachelor thesis, the focus is on the output part of a Natural Language Processing system, which inputs text as shown in Table 1.1 and 1.2. Text generation is therefore in general the output part of an input-output NLP system.

Another term for text generation is *Language Modelling*, because text generators use the words of a language and grammar as input for the model. In the past five years, primarily two approaches were used for modelling a Natural Language Processing system, namely the **rule-based** system and the **template-based** system (Figure 1.2) [Xie 17]. Today neural end-to-end systems are *state-of-the-art* [Jeka 17]. These systems offer more flexibility and scale with proportionately better results, and less data is required because of the increased complexity. A major disadvantage is that the necessary computing power has increased exponentially. However, this leads to a complex problem because it becomes more and more challenging to understand the decisions of the neural network. The neural network is still, to a large extent, a *black box*. Especially in NLP it gives surprisingly good results. The neural network models for text processing are difficult to understand, so nowadays, compromises between rule-based systems still have to be made, and hybrid systems are most commonly in use.

When Neural end-to-end systems are used, text generation is often referred as Neural Text Generation (NTG). More examples for Neural Text Generators as output synthetical component are:

- Speech recording and conversion to text
- Conversation systems e.g. chatbots
- Text summary
- Caption generation

In order to train language models properly, Deep Learning (DL) algorithms teach the model the probabilities of occurring words with respect to the preceding words. There are several approaches to achieve this goal. Language models can be trained on the level of words, whole sentences, or even whole paragraphs. The granularity in which the training takes place is called *n-grams*, where *n* represents the number of preceding words. Further explanation in Section 2.1.2 of Chapter 2. Deep Learning will be explained in necessary depth in Section 2.2.

1.1. Case study of a Text Summarization System

Chapter 2.

State of the Art

2.1. Relevant aspects of mathematics

2.1.1. Mathematical Notations

2.1.2. N-gram Language Models (LM)

A language model (LM) is a model that has assigned probabilities to a sequence of words to it. The gram indicates the amount of words the phrase contains. For example a bigram (2-gram) could be represented by "*survey passed*", whereas a trigram (3-gram) represents the same with an additional word, like "*survey passed after*". The N indicates the amount of words in the sequence. For showing the probability of random variable X_i taking in the value $P(X_i = \text{"survey"})$, it is easier to just write $P(\text{survey})$. For the notation of representing the sequences of N words, I use the notation of Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin [Jura 19]. N is represented as $(w_1 \dots w_n)$ or equal as w_1^n . In this way the expression w_1^{n-1} is the same as (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n) . The joint probability for every word in the sequence for the value $P(X = w_1, Y = w_2, Z = w_3, \dots, W = w_n - 1)$ will be denoted as $P(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$. This probability can be decomposed into the **chain rule of probability**:

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_1 \dots X_n) &= P(X_1)P(X_2|X_1)P(X_3|X_1^2) \dots P(X_n|X_1^{n-1}) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^n P(X_k|X_1^{k-1}) \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

Applying the chain rule to the words, the formula changes into [Jura 19]

$$\begin{aligned} P(w_1^n) &= P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_1^2) \dots P(w_n|w_1^{n-1}) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^n P(w_k|w_1^{k-1}) \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

With this equation one word is estimated by all prior words of the sentence. This approach is not really good, because language can be used in various new and creative ways and calculating all possible sentences for *N-grams* is inefficient. The better approach is the **bigram** model. It computes the probability based on the one prior word with the following approximation:

$$P(w_n|w_1^n - 1) \approx P(w_n|w_n - 1) \quad (2.3)$$

This assumption that the probability only depends on the prior word is known as the **Markov** [A.A. Markov] assumption. This assumption can be extended to *N-grams*. The general equation for the conditional probability of the next word in the sequence is

$$P(w_n|w_1^n - 1) \approx P(w_n|w_n - N + 1^{n-1}) \quad (2.4)$$

Given the bigram assumption for the probability of an individual word, we can compute the probability of a complete word sequence by substituting Eq. 2.3 into Eq. 2.2 [Jura 19]:

$$P(w_1^n) \approx \prod_{k=1}^n P(w_k|w_k - 1) \quad (2.5)$$

2.1.3. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

MLE

2.2. History of NLP and NTG

Zeitabfolge der geschichtlichen Hintergründe von NTG

The roots of Neural Networks (NN) lie down almost 80 years ago in 1943 when **McCulloch-Pitts** [McCu 43] compared for the first time neuronal networks with the structure of the human brain.

2.3. Current trends in technology

Neurales Ende-zu-Ende Grammarly DeepL Summarizing

2.3.1. Application areas of NLP systems

Image-to-Text, Weatherforecast

2.3.2. Application areas of NTG systems

Speech Recognition, Machine Translation

Chapter 3.

Prototype

```
1 x = 1
2 if x == 1:
3     # indented four spaces
4     print("x is 1.")
```

Listing 3.1: This is an example of inline listing

You can also include listings from a file directly:

```
1 x = 1
2 if x == 1:
3     # indented four spaces
4     print("x is 1.")
```

Listing 3.2: This is an example of included listing

3.1. Objective

Image Captioning .

3.2. Technical concept

Fachkonzept - Proto

3.2.1. Structure

The different steps of Text Generation

- Importing Dependencies
- Loading the Data
- Creating Character/Word mappings
- Data Preprocessing
- Modelling
- Generating text

3.2.2. Neuronal Net

LSTM

RNN

Experimenting with different models

- A more trained model
- A deeper model
- A wider model
- A gigantic model

3.2.3. Process Modeling

Funktionen etc.

3.2.4. Data flow modelling

Diagramm

3.3. Implementation

Code for the Machine Translating

3.4. Evaluation

Print Ergebnisse

Bild

Image Caption

Chapter 4.

Generation of transferable knowledge

Modular expandability of my project. Classification in social context

Appendix A.

Supplemental Information

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