



清华大学  
Tsinghua University

# Paper Sharing

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# Outline

- Reducing Disambiguation Biases in NMT by Leveraging Explicit Word Sense Information
- A Psycholinguistic Analysis of BERT's Representations of Compounds

# **Reducing Disambiguation Biases in NMT by Leveraging Explicit Word Sense Information**

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NAACL 2022

# ACL 2023 & SapienzaNL



- DMLM: Descriptive Masked Language Modeling
- What's the Meaning of Superhuman Performance in Today's NLU?
- Exploring Non-Verbal Predicates in Semantic Role Labeling: Challenges and Opportunities
- RED<sup>FM</sup>: a Filtered and Multilingual Relation Extraction Dataset
- Echoes from Alexandria: A Large Resource for Multilingual Book Summarization
- Incorporating Graph Information in Transformer-based AMR Parsing
- AMRs Assemble! Learning to Ensemble with Autoregressive Models for AMR Parsing
- Cross-lingual AMR Aligner: Paying Attention to Cross-Attention

# Motivation

- Ambiguous words in Neural machine translation (NMT)
- MFS bias (most frequent sense bias) in NMT [Emelin et al., 2020]
- Inadequate measurement: Only BLEU
- NMT + explicit sense information, with challenges:
  - 1) scarce sense-tagged parallel data
  - 2) less accurate WSD systems until now
  - 3) Unclear how to incorporate them with neural models

Text

Images

Documents

Websites

English - Detected Italian English Spanish

Chinese (Simplified) Italian English

The energy comes from a distant plant.

[Look up details](#)

38 / 5,000



能量来自远处的植物。

Néngliàng láizì yuǎn chǔ de zhíwù.

[Look up details](#)[Send feedback](#)

History



Saved



Contribute

plant

X

plant

Definitions of plant

Noun

- ① a living organism of the kind exemplified by trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns, and mosses, typically growing in a permanent site, absorbing water and inorganic substances through its roots, and synthesizing nutrients in its leaves by photosynthesis using the green pigment chlorophyll.

Synonyms:

herb flower vegetable shrub weed  
greenery flora vegetation undergrowth rare:  
herbage verdure

- ② a place where an industrial or manufacturing process takes place.

"the company has 30 plants in Mexico"

Synonyms:

factory works foundry mill workshop  
shop yard industrial unit business unit

# Contributions

- Creating high-precision sense-annotated parallel **corpora**
- A fine-tuning **strategy** for incorporating these sense annotation
- **Effective** in both translation quality and bias disambiguation

# Build a Sense-Annotated Parallel Corpus

- Raw corpus: parallel sentences without word alignments and sense annotation

The energy comes from a distant plant

能源来自一个遥远的工厂

- Sense Scoring (annotation): WSD system
- Annotation Refinement: Word alignment
- BabelNet: A multi-lingual knowledge base

# Build a Sense-Annotated Parallel Corpus



The **energy comes** from a **distant plant**

能源来自一个遥远的工厂

- Step 1: Sense Scoring (annotation):

A WSD system to classify each content word into the best

BabelNet<sup>+~</sup>  
 $s = [w_1, \dots, w_n]$        $\sigma(w_i)$       a score  $c(S|w_i, s)$  to each synset  $S \in \sigma(w_i)$

# Build a Sense-Annotated Parallel Corpus



The energy comes from a distant **plant**  
能源来自一个遥远的**工厂**

- Step 2: Annotation Refinement: Word alignment

Aligned words have the same sense label

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(w_i^s, w_j^t) | w_i^s \in s, w_j^t \in t\}$$

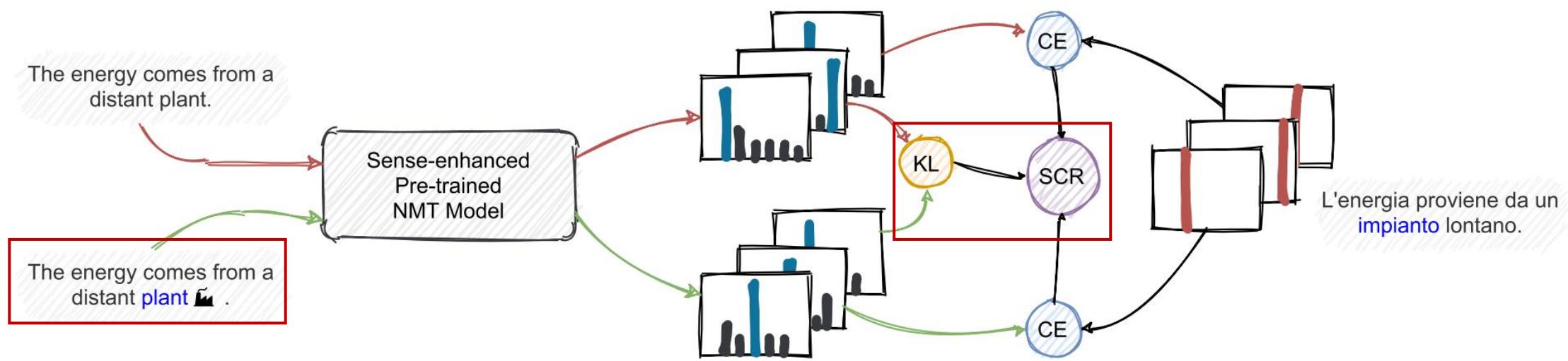
$$P = (w_i^s, w_j^t) \in \mathcal{A}$$

$$\sigma(P) = \sigma(w_i^s) \cap \sigma(w_j^t)$$

$$\rightarrow \sigma(P) = \emptyset \vee |\sigma(w_i^s)| < 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} S^* &= S_{w_i^s}^* = S_{w_j^t}^* \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{S \in \sigma(P)} \left( \frac{c(S|w_i^s, s)}{Z_s} + \frac{c(S|w_j^t, t)}{Z_t} \right) \\ Z_s &= \sum_{S \in \sigma(P)} c(S|w_i^s, s) \\ Z_t &= \sum_{S \in \sigma(P)} c(S|w_j^t, t) \end{aligned}$$

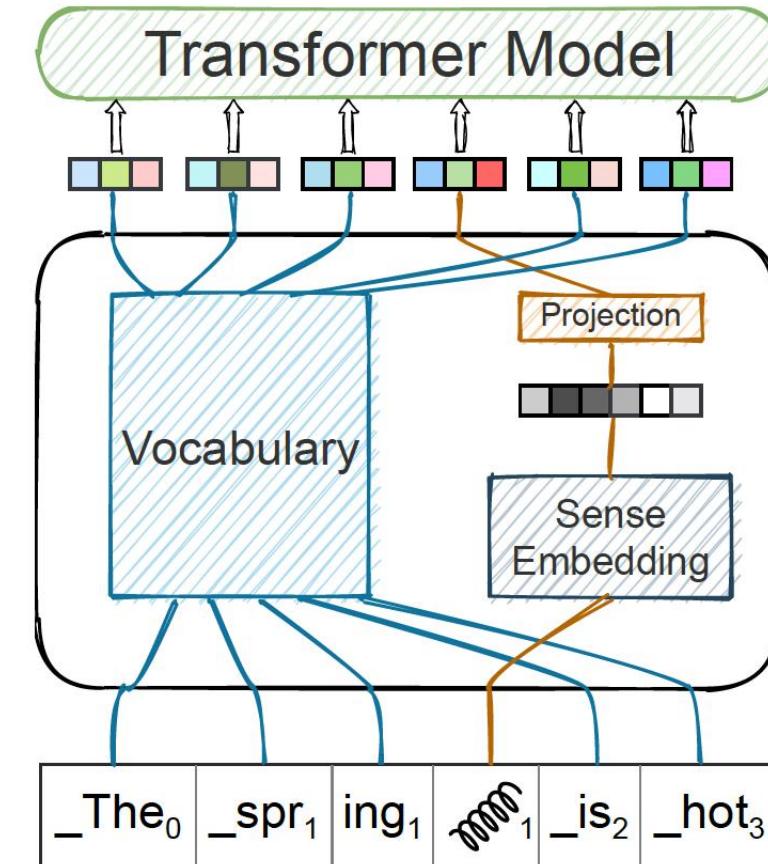
# Semantic Injection



- Semantically Enhancing Sentences
- Semantic Consistency Regularization

# Semantically Enhancing Sentences

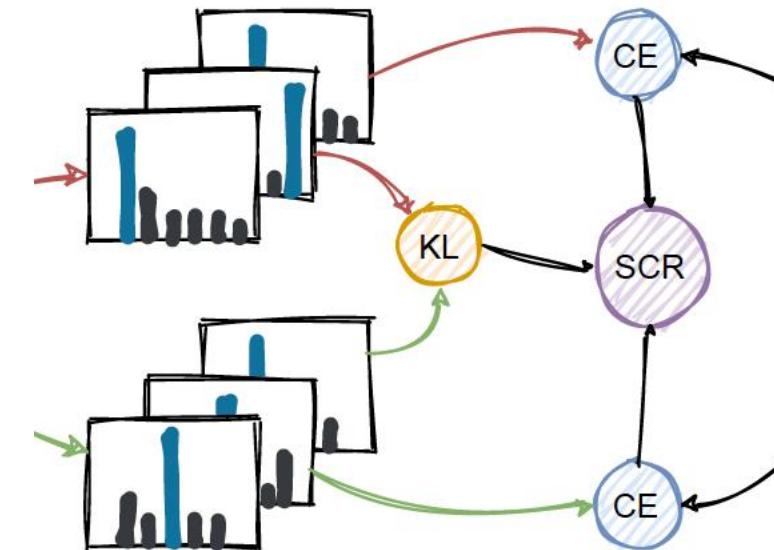
- Follow the target token,
- The same position id
- Sense embedding modular
- (Trainable) Projection Layer



# Semantic Consistency Regularization

$$SCR(\theta) = -\log \mathcal{P}_\theta(y|x') - \log \mathcal{P}_\theta(y|x'') + \mathcal{D}_{\text{KL}}(\mathcal{P}_\theta(y|x') \parallel \mathcal{P}_\theta(y|x''))$$

- Teacher-student model (self-distillation process)
- Using Teacher (sense-aware data) only in training.
- "partial/pseudo" supervised learning (The supervised signal is observable in training but hidden in inference)



# Experiments

- Models
  - 1) Translation model: 6 encoder layers + 6 encoder layers
  - 2) (Pretrained) Sense embeddings: ARES [Scarlino et al., 2020b]
  - 3) WSD model: EWISER
- Datasets
  - 1) Training parallel corpus: EN→DE, EN→ES (WMT14) and EN→FR (WMT13)
  - 2) Translation Test: WMT test dataset
  - 3) Disambiguation Bias Challenge Sets: WSD Bias and Adversarial

# Experiments (Disambiguation Bias Challenge Sets)

- WSD Bias

Contains most likely incorrectly translated words due to some co-occurrences

e.g. “a lot of **money** was spent to renovate the **capital**”

Likely translated word set: 资本 (sense of amount of money)

It quantifies the intrinsic bias (shortcut) the model learned during training.

- Adversarial

Original: “they met in the spring of 2020” -> sense of season

Corrupted: “they met in the **hot** spring of 2020” -> sense of water

# Experiments

- Models
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- Datasets
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  - 3) Disambiguation Bias Challenge Sets: WSD Bias and Adversarial
  - 4) **DIBIMT: correct or incorrect translation equivalents**



Figure 1: Example of an annotated dataset item. Target word is **shot**, in its meaning of a “small drink of liquor”. We expect translations to contain, for example in Italian, *goccio* (lit. a drop), but not, for example in Spanish, *pistolero* (a person who shoots).

# Experiments

- Models
- Datasets
- Comparison systems
  - (1) OPUS: the same architecture and parameter count but much more data
  - (2) Mbart-50: feature bigger underlying models

# Results

	EN → DE		EN → FR	EN → ES
	WMT14	WMT19	WMT14	WMT13
OPUS†	27.58	39.39	39.93	35.00
MBart-50‡	25.60	35.80	36.12	29.50
Baseline	26.34	36.93	38.05	32.82
Baseline+SCR	<b>27.26</b>	<b>37.74</b>	<b>38.48</b>	<b>33.18</b>
Baseline+SCR- <i>KL</i>	26.13	36.45	37.85	33.15
Baseline+SCR- <i>ARES</i>	25.75	35.93	37.33	32.49
Baseline+SCR- <i>AR</i>	26.11	36.74	37.38	32.93
Baseline+SCR <sub>RAND</sub>	25.63	34.79	/	/

- Translation quality (BLEU)
- Baseline + SCR vs. Baseline/Mbart-50/OPUS
- Ablation: \_KL (without SCR); \_ARES (random sense embedding);  
\_AR (annotation refinement); RAND (random sense)

# Results

- Disambiguation ability
- Baseline+SCR vs. baseline+
- Baseline+SCR\_AR ~ EWISER

MODEL	WSD Bias ↓	Adversarial ↓
Baseline	12.27	4.48
Baseline+SCR	<b>11.23</b>	<b>4.21</b>
Baseline+SCR- <i>KL</i>	12.43	5.14
Baseline+SCR- <i>ARES</i>	12.53	4.75
Baseline+SCR- <i>AR</i>	13.07	4.93
Baseline+SCR <sub>RAND</sub>	12.56	5.04
EWISER	13.70	/
Baseline <sub>cf</sub>	<u>11.86</u>	/
Baseline+SCR <sub>cf</sub>	<u>9.91</u>	/

# Results

- Baseline vs.  
Baseline+SCR
- Baseline vs. (OPUS and  
Mbart-50)

Model	EN → DE	EN → ES
OPUS†	27.99	36.66
MBart-50‡	28.73	33.89
Baseline	24.00	26.44
Baseline+SCR	25.00	25.84

Table 4: Accuracy scores on DIBIMT. † and ‡ have the same meaning as in Table 1. Higher is better.

# Results

<u>Source sentence / Reference sentence / Baseline output / Enhanced output</u>	<u>Target sense</u>	<u>Wrong sense</u>
S: [...] that both first words start with the same <b>letter</b> . R: [...] dass beide Begriffe mit demselben <b>Buchstaben</b> beginnen. B: [...] dass beide Wörter mit dem gleichen <b>Brief</b> beginnen. E: [...] dass beide Wörter mit dem gleichen <b>Buchstaben</b> beginnen.	<i>alphabet symbol</i>	<i>written message</i>
S: At least since the <b>fall</b> of 2008, leading economies' officials have agreed [...] R: Spätestens seit <b>Herbst</b> 2008 stimmen die Vertreter führender [...] B: Zumindest seit dem <b>Fall</b> 2008 haben sich die Beamten [...] E: Zumindest seit dem <b>Herbst</b> 2008 haben sich die Beamten [...]	<i>season</i>	<i>act of falling</i>
S: The construction of the Deurganck dock <b>lock</b> is [...] R: Der Bau der <b>Schleuse</b> am Deurganck-Dock ist [...] B: der Bau der Deurganck- <b>Hafensperre</b> ist [...] E: der Bau der Deurganck- <b>Hafenschleuse</b> ist [...]	<i>segment of a canal</i>	<i>blockade</i>

Table 3: Examples of sentences that were disambiguated correctly by our enhanced model but not by the baseline. Ambiguous word is in **blue**, wrong translation is in **red**, correct translation is in **green**.

- S: source sentence; R: reference sentence; B: baseline; E: enhanced (paper)

# Conclusions

- NMT + WSD
- Annotated Corpus; Model (Input + loss function)
- Effectively reduce lexical ambiguation bias without losing quality

# **A Psycholinguistic Analysis of BERT's Representations of Compounds**

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EACL 2023

# EACL 2023

- 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics
- 2023, 2-6 May, Dubrovnik
- Acceptance rate
  - (1) Main: 24.1% (281/1166)
  - (2) Findings: 17.2% (201/1166)

# EACL – Lexical Semantics, Discourse and Anaphora

1. A Psycholinguistic Analysis of BERT's Representations of Compounds
2. A Systematic Search for Compound Semantics in Pretrained BERT Architectures
3. Bridging the Gap Between BableNet and HowNet: Unsupervised Sense Alignment and Sememe Prediction
4. What happens before and after: Multi-Event Commonsense in Event Coreference Resolution
5. A simple but effective model for attachment in discourse parsing with multi-task learning for relation labeling
6. Exploring Category Structure with Contextual Language Models and Lexical Semantic Networks

# Introduction

- English Compounds, e.g., *sunlight*, *bodyguard*
- Lexicalization: as part of lexicon
- Compositionality: combine the meaning of its constituents
- What does the machine know if "he" is capable of representing lexical (compound in our case) meaning? [Psycholinguistic]
  - 1) which part does the compound **rely more** on?  
E.g., *handgun* relies more on *gun* than *hand*
  - 2) What is the degree of **semantic transparency**/compositionality?  
E.g., *sunlight* is more semantically transparent than *muskrat* (麝鼠)

# Introduction

- Transformers are shown to produce **well-aligned word** representation
- Lower layers
- But measured only in the **word level**, not in their **parts**
- Similar task: **binary classification** of literality of a compound
- But they need to train a binary classifier, not measure the **embedding** itself.

# Contributions

- Measure (Lexeme Meaning Dominance) LMD and (Semantic Transparency) ST for BERT
- Calculate their correlation with human judgments
- Comprehensive experiments on model versions, contexts, pooling methods, layers

# Related Work

- Compounds are one of the favorite subjects of psycholinguistic (and linguistics) research
- Compositionality, frequency, semantic transparency, or headedness (Gagné and Spalding, 2009; Marelli et al., 2009; Marelli and Luzzatti, 2012; Juhasz et al., 2015)
- Static embeddings and compositional models of distributional semantics
- Lack of contextualized representation by Transformer-based encoders
- BERTology: Lower layers: lexico-semantic; higher layers: contextualized

# Data

- A psycholinguistic dataset with human judgements on compound LMD and ST
- LMD: lexeme meaning dominance
- ST: semantic transparency
- 629 lexicalized English compounds annotated by 189 participants

compound	LMD [0,10]	ST [1,7]
handgun	8.13 →	6.29 ↑
bodyguard	7.27 →	5.64 ↑
policeman	3.07 ←	6.13 ↑
wartime	3.47 ←	6.31 ↑
muskrat	7.53 →	2.80 ↓
primrose	7.93 →	2.00 ↓
milestone	3.36 ←	2.21 ↓
cheapskate	2.00 ←	2.00 ↓

Table 1: A few examples from the dataset with either high ↑ or low ↓ ST and either low ← or high → LMD. E.g., the meaning of *handgun* is deemed highly transparent and based more on the right than the left constituent.

# Method

**Models:** BERT\_base and BERT\_large

## Word-Level Representation

- No-Context (NC) -> without any context: <CLS>(snow, ##board)<SEP>

(1) nospec: emb(word)

(2) withcls: emb(word) + emb([CLS]))

(3) all: emb(word) + emb([CLS]) + emb([SEP])

- In-Context (C)

nospec setting and average the sampled occurrences in a corpora

# Measures

- <compound/c, left, right>; L:  $\cos(\text{left}, c)$ ; R:  $\cos(\text{right}, c)$
- LMD:  $LMD(c) = 5(R - L) + 5$   
R=1 and L=0  $\rightarrow$  LMD = 10; R=0 and L=1  $\rightarrow$  LMD = 0
- ST:

$$ST(c) = \frac{6(L + R)}{2} + 1$$

L=R=1  $\rightarrow$  ST=7; L=R=0  $\rightarrow$  ST=1;

Different from LMD when R=1/0 and L=0/1

# Evaluation

Difference from human judgements

- Mean absolute distance (MAE)
- Spearman correlation

# Results

- **Baseline:** Glove
- **Trend:** increase with higher layer
- **Best:** Bert-large C ( $\sim 0.6$ )
- C vs. NC
- Bert vs. Glove
- Lexico-semantics vs. contextualized

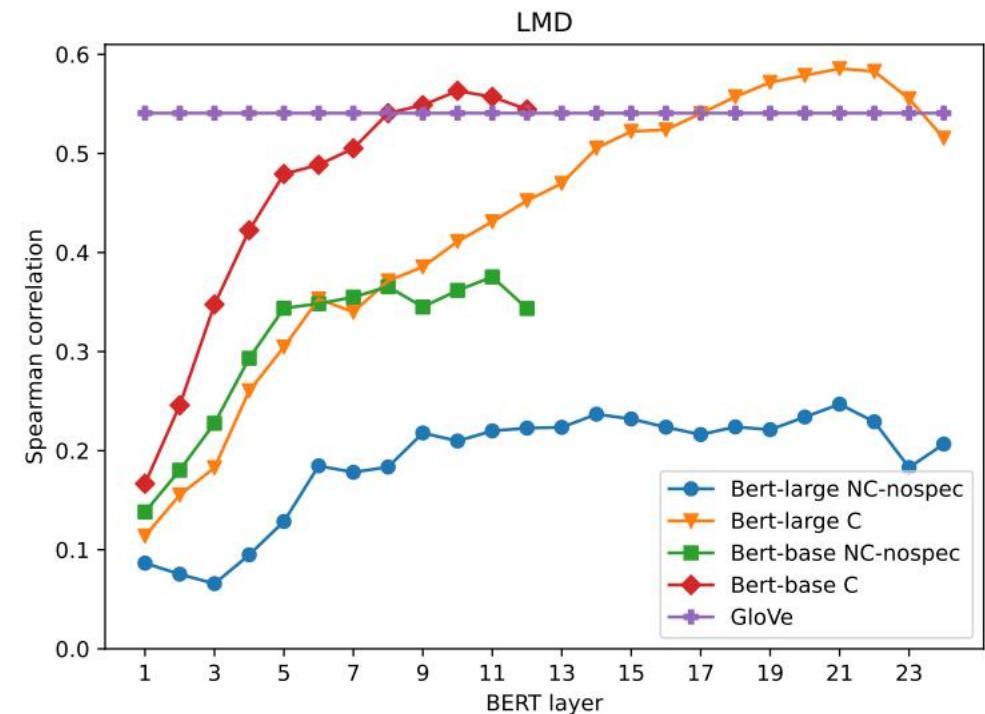


Figure 1: LMD.  $\rho$  against model layers. For out-of-context BERT models, we only report the best-performing nospec setting. Best viewed in color.

## Results

model	setting	metric (best layer)	
		MAE ↓	Spearman $\rho \uparrow$
GloVe	–	2.657	0.304
BERT <sub>base</sub>	NC_nospec	0.953 (6)	0.316 (5)
	NC_all	1.129 (10)	0.234 (1)
	NC_withcls	0.989 (1)	0.275 (3)
	C	<i>0.899 (9)</i>	<i>0.415 (9)</i>
BERT <sub>large</sub>	NC_nospec	0.989 (9)	0.195 (6)
	NC_all	1.118 (24)	0.113 (1)
	NC_withcls	1.024 (6)	0.139 (1)
	C	<b>0.876 (19)</b>	<b>0.476 (20)</b>

Table 3: ST. Results in **bold** and *italic* are the best and second-best in the column, respectively. Results are from a model’s best-performing layer (in parentheses).

- ST is more challenging than LMD (0.47)
- BERT<sub>large</sub> vs. Glove (a larger gap)
- Different trends for NC setting in the right figure

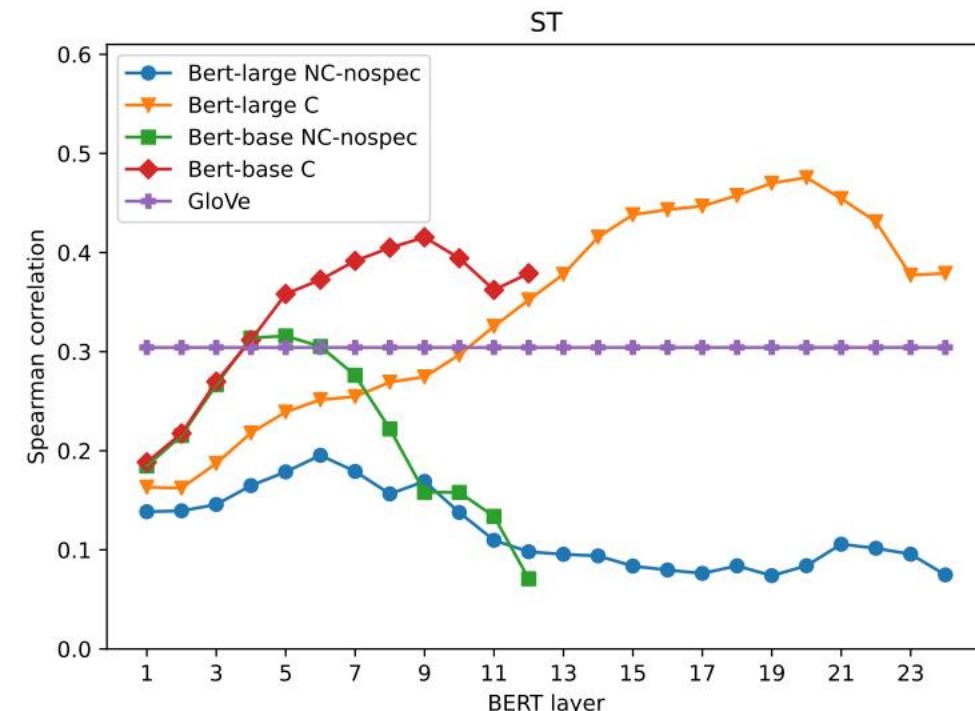


Figure 2: ST.  $\rho$  against model layers. For out-of-context BERT models, we only report the best-performing NC-nospec setting. Best viewed in color.

# Results

- LMD:  
Muskrat (trend,  
higher layer)
- ST:  
Milestone  
(different from  
LMD)

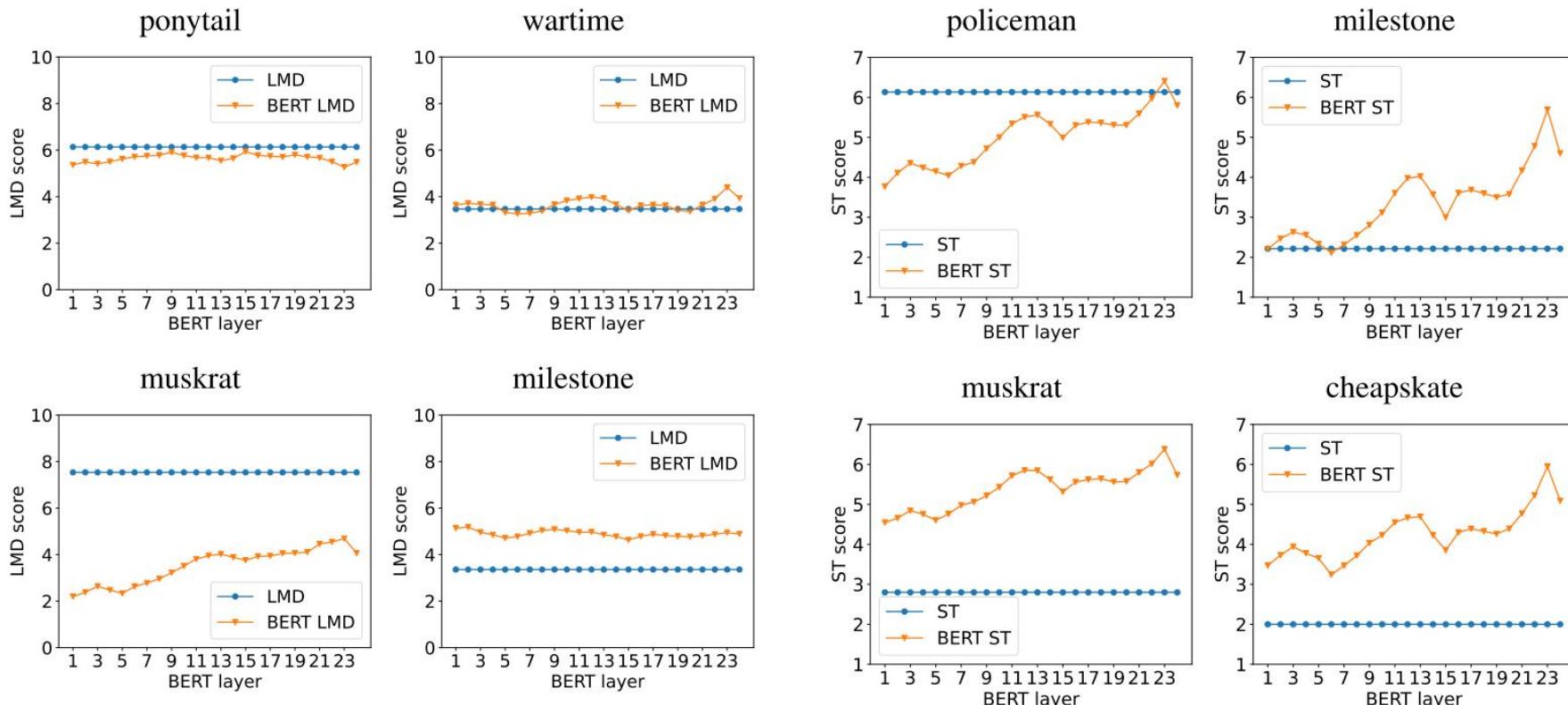


Figure 3: Examples where C BERT<sub>large</sub> is good (top) and bad (bottom) in approximating human LMD. From top left, clockwise: *ponytail*, *wartime*, *milestone*, *muskrat*.

Figure 4: Examples where C BERT<sub>large</sub> is good (top) and bad (bottom) on ST. From top left, clockwise: *policeman*, *milestone*, *cheapskate*, *muskrat*.

# Which factors drive the prediction?

- Linear **regression** model for LMD and ST
- **Independent variables:**
  - (1) the number of tokens
  - (2) the frequency of the compound in the dataset
  - (3) the compound/modifier/head concreteness
- (Results) LMD: the concreteness of the head and the modifier
- ST: number of tokens; compound and modifier concreteness

# LMD: reversed compound

- wartime vs. timewar
- whether being no or little aware of the semantic and syntactic (modified and modifier) -> different LMD, thus different correlation
- Or just a correlation? -> similar LMD, thus similar correlation

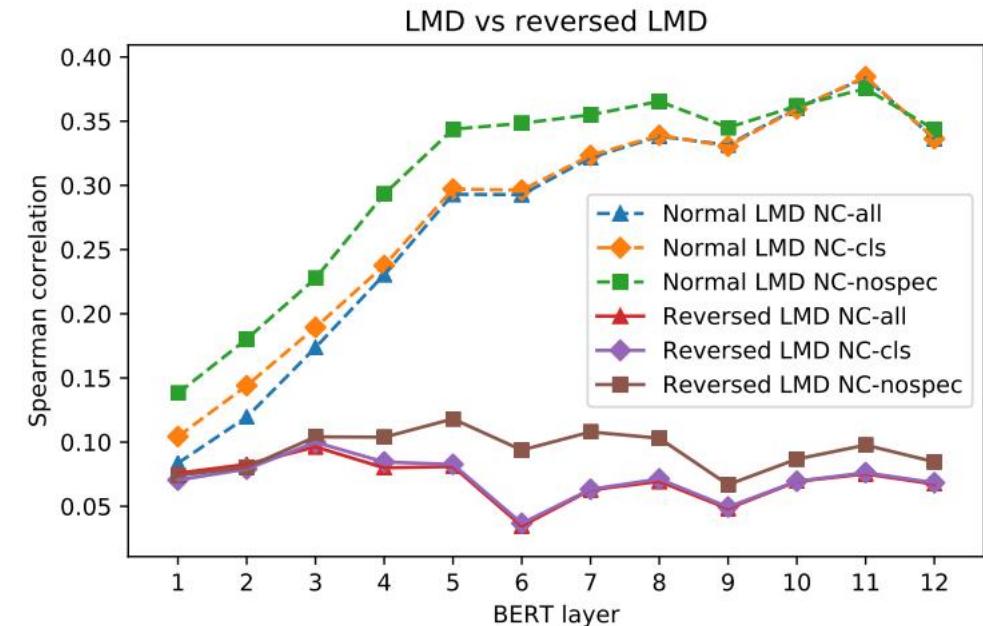


Figure 5:  $\rho$  for LMD vs LMD *reversed* values by out-of-context  $\text{BERT}_{\text{base}}$  across layers. Best viewed in color.

# ST: Weighted Constituents

$$ST(c) = \frac{6(L + R)}{2} + 1$$

- Weighted version for left and right
- Similar trend
- 0.5 performs well

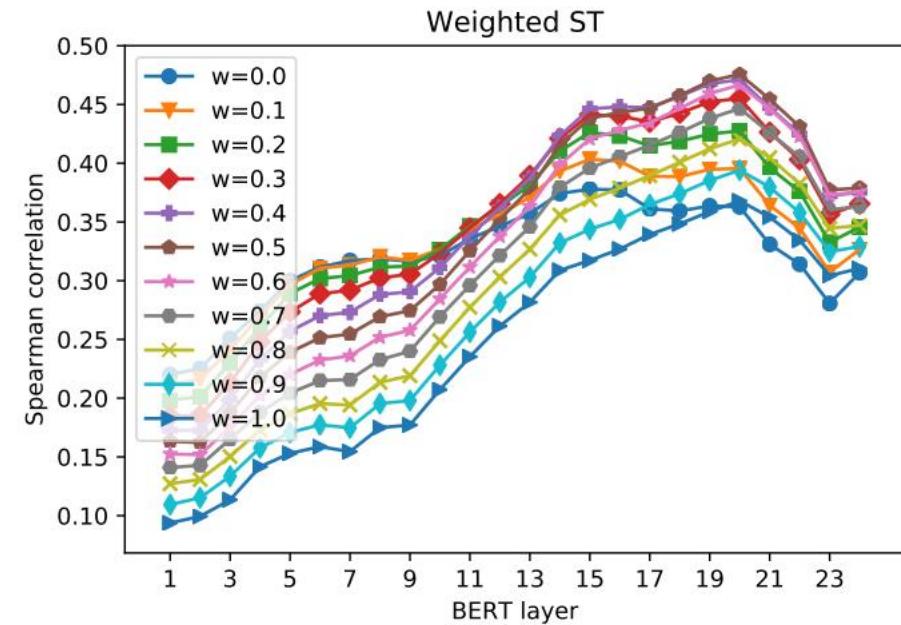


Figure 6:  $\rho$  for *weighted ST* by in-context BERT<sub>large</sub> across layers. Each weight stands for the weight assigned to the left constituent. Best viewed in color.

# Conclusion

- How BERT represents the meaning of lexicalized compounds
- A **psycholinguistic** angle (LMD and ST)
- A specific, context-dependent representation

补充

- 复合构词是汉语中常见的合成方式（重叠和附加为次要）
- 词库词vs.词法词（葡萄<文化<蝴蝶<学校<鸡肉）
- 前者语义更加特异、规则更加晦涩、构造理据更加不明；后者相反



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# Q & A

THANK YOU

# EWISER

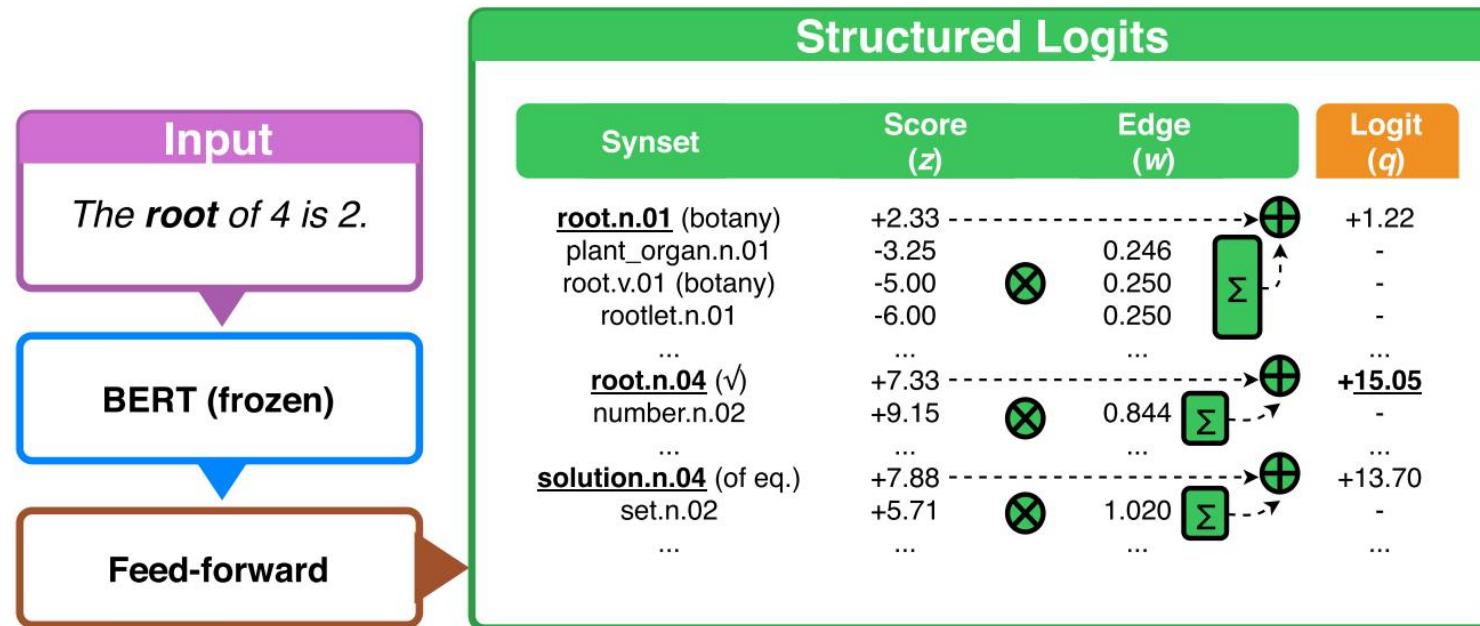


Figure 1: The structured logits mechanism in EWISER. The example input is the sentence “The *root* of 4 is 2.” Scores for a selection of synsets representing possible senses of *root* are shown. Going from left to right, the “hidden” logits ( $z$ ) of related synsets are multiplied by the edge weights, summed together, and then added to the “hidden” logits of the related synsets, resulting in the “final” logits ( $q$ ).

# BabelNet

- (multilingual)  
Synset-based
- Even Multimodal!
- Coordinate with  
Wordnet
- Not every  
concept maps to  
every language.

book English Chinese, Spani... 26 Noun 4 Verb 0 Adj. 0 Adv. 

**EN book 名词**

A written work or composition that has been published (printed on pages bound together)

 **ZH** 书 • 书籍 • 图书  
**ES** libro

bn:00012059n | 概念 | 

Physical objects consisting of a number of pages bound together

 **EN** volume  
**ZH** 卷 • 书 • 书籍  
**ES** volumen • ejemplar • libro

bn:00012060n | 概念 |  | bibliography

A compilation of the known facts regarding something or someone

 **EN** record • record book  
**ES** registro • relación

bn:00012061n | 概念 | 