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Tsinghua University

# Paper Sharing

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# Two papers

- To Word Senses and Beyond: Inducing Concepts with Contextualized Language Models (EMNLP'24)
- Patterns of Lexical Ambiguity in Contextualised Language Models (EMNLP'21)

# Lexical semantics in EMNLP'24

- Using Language Models to **Disambiguate Lexical Choices** in Translation
- FOOL ME IF YOU CAN! An Adversarial Dataset to Investigate the Robustness of LMs in **Word Sense Disambiguation**
- Can Large Language Models Faithfully Express Their Intrinsic **Uncertainty in Words**?
- Statistical **Uncertainty in Word Embeddings**: GloVe-V
- Automatically Generated Definitions and their utility for Modeling **Word Meaning**
- Encourage or Inhibit **Monosemanticity**? Revisit Monosemanticity from a Feature Decorrelation Perspective

# **To Word Senses and Beyond: Inducing Concepts with Contextualized Language Models**

**Bastien Liétard and Pascal Denis and Mikaela Keller**

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EMNLP'24

# Background

- Multiplicity of meanings and forms
  - polysemy vs. synonymy
  - word-centric: WSD (disambiguation) & WSI (**Word Sense** Induction)
  - meaning-centric?
- from WSI to CI (**Concept** Induction)
  - Concepts: sense/synsets/meaning
  - Induction: in an unsupervised manner
  - Soft clustering: one word can be assigned to different concept labels
  - polysemy: intra-clusters; synonym: inner-clusters

# Contributions

- Bi-level clustering
- Evaluation of the clustering
  - Intrinsic: Compared to WordNet synsets
  - Extrinsic: WiC

# Related Work

- lexical resources for concepts: WordNet
- Word senses with language models: WSD & WSI
  - embedding + clustering
  - Substitute tokens from LM (Amrami and Goldberg, 2019; Eyal et al., 2022)
- Structures of Meaning in CLM
  - Polysemy vs. homonymy Haber and Poesio (2024)
  - hypernymy vs. hoponyms Hanna and Mareček (2021)
  - Automatic WordNet for Filipino Velasco et al. (2023)
  - Other structure: Layer distributions E-2019/CE-2020
  - Types of polysemy pattern

# Notations

1. Sense is word specific: One sense maps only one word
2. An occurrence only maps to one sense/concept; not vice versa
3. Sense is the least nodes for concepts (Only be merged, not splitted)
4. Occurrences corresponding to one sense maps only one concept
5. Different senses for one word must be different concepts

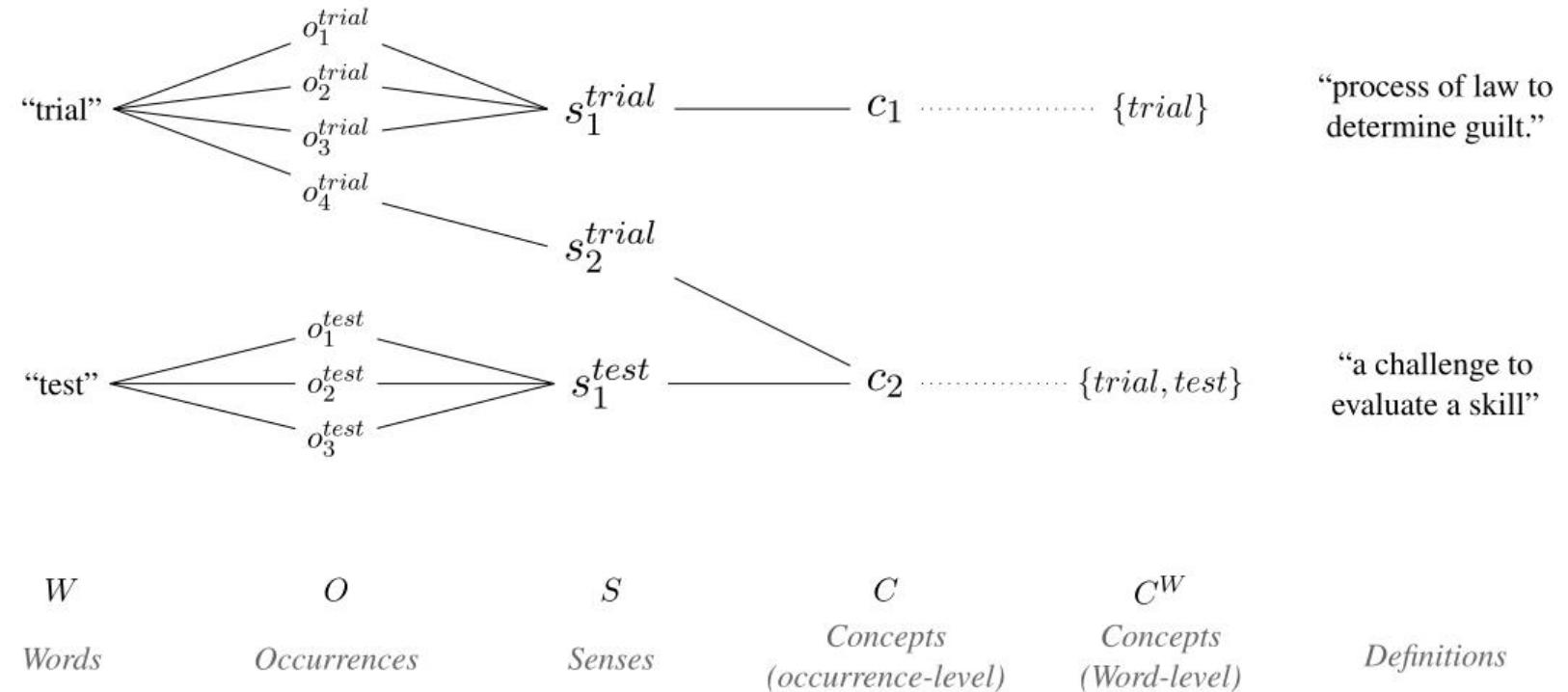


Figure 1: Illustration of our framework. The words “trial” is polysemous and has two senses corresponding to two different concepts, and is synonym with “test” for this second meaning.

# Methods

- Bi-level method
  - Local (lemma-centric) clustering: WSI for each word
  - Global (cross-lexicon) clustering: Clustering using the averaged local representations
  - Error by local
- Local only
- Global only

# Experiments

- Data
  - SemCor annotated by Wordnet
  - 1560 lemmas; 52997 occurrences; 3855 concepts (synsets)
  - Full data vs. synsets with multiple words
- Model
  - BERT-large + averaged four layers
- Clustering Algorithms
  - Kmeans; Agglomerative clustering
- Evaluation
  - BCubed metrics motivated by WSI: Precision; Recall; F1
- Baselines
  - Lemmas vs. Oracle WSI

# Results

- Bi-level > Global
- Agglo > Kmeans
- Global > Local > baseline  
(In Synon.)

Concept Induction	Full data			Synon.		
	P	R	F <sub>1</sub>	P	R	F <sub>1</sub>
<b>Baselines</b>						
Lemmas	1.0	.43	.61	1.0	.61	.50
Oracle WSI	1.0	.75	.86	1.0	.39	.56
<b>Local-only Systems</b>						
Kmeans Local	.73	.70	.71	.67	.38	.49
Agglo Local	.92	.53	.67	.92	.35	.50
Eyal et al. (2022)	.31	.75	.44	.37	.39	.38
<b>CI Systems</b>						
Kmeans Global	.48	.65	.56	.68	.54	.60
Kmeans Bi-level	.70	.59	.64	.82	.47	.59
Agglo Global	.61	.60	.60	.82	.50	.62
Agglo Bi-level	.75	.60	.66	.86	.49	.62

Table 1: Concept Induction BCubed Precision (P), Recall (R) and F<sub>1</sub> on the SemCor data averaged over 5 runs.

# Human judgments

	<b>Cluster size</b>		
	2	3	4+
<b>Nb. of annotated clusters</b>	50	50	23
<b>Category (% of annotated clusters)</b>			
Synonyms	42	38	17
Near-synonyms	24	24	35
Related	26	36	48
Invalid	08	02	0

Table 2: Qualitative manual evaluation of obtained word clusters of size  $\geq 2$ .

- Cluster size: number of words in a cluster
- S+N+R: highly correlated to humans

# Helpful to WSI

	<b>WSI F<sub>1</sub></b>	$\rho$
<b>Local-only Systems</b>		
Kmeans Local	.61	NA
Aggro Local	.77	.04
Eyal et al. (2022)	.46	.51
<b>CI Systems</b>		
Kmeans Global	.76	.51
Kmeans Bi-level	.78	.30
Aggro Global	.80	.53
Aggro Bi-level	.80	.46

- Further merged by global clustering
- Correlation with sense number

Table 3: WSI BCubed F<sub>1</sub> and sense number correlation coefficient  $\rho$  on SemCor full data. Not computed for Kmeans because the number of cluster is constant.

# Helpful to WiC

Model	Acc.
Eyal et al. (2022) (CBOW)	59.3
Eyal et al. (2022) (Skip-Grams)	<b>61.9</b>
Ours (Agglo global)	58.8
Ours (Agglo bi-level)	59.7

Table 4: Accuracy scores on the nouns of the WiC test dataset (Pilehvar and Camacho-Collados, 2019).

WiC: Binary classification  
Distance from Concept vector

# Conclusion

- A local and global complementary view
- Bi-level clustering
- Helpful to tasks of WSI and WiC

# **Patterns of Lexical Ambiguity in Contextualised Language Models**

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EMNLP'21

# Background

- Degraded word sense similarity
  - Linguistic observation: homonymy and polysemy
  - Correlation between linguistic classification and a similarity score
- Structured polysemic sense
  - Metonymic, metaphoric ...
  - Different patterns within polysemy (e.g., newspaper)
- Uniform treatment of polysemic sense
  - Generative Lexicon
- Similarity and acceptability using co-predication

# Contributions

- A extended dataset built on their previous two work
  - More data (target words; contexts)
- Similarity pattern and polysemy types
- Correlation with human annotators
  - Within different categories and similarity patterns
  - Language models
- varying distances between polysemic word sense
- tentative evidence for similarity pattern within the same type

# Dataset

- 10 types of logical metonymy, each with multiple words
- Each sense has two contexts

**animal/meat:** lamb, chicken, pheasant, seagull;  
**food/event:** lunch, dinner; **container-for-content:** glass, bottle, cup; **content-for-container:** beer, wine, milk, juice; **opening/physical:** window, door; **process/result:** building, construction, settlement; **physical/information:** book, record; **physical/information/organisation:** newspaper, magazine; **physical/information/medium:** CD, DVD; **building/pupils/directorate/institution:** school, university

# Dataset

- 1a The newspaper fired its editor in chief.
- 1b The newspaper was sued for defamation.
- 2a The newspaper lies on the kitchen table.
- 2b The newspaper got wet from the rain.
- 3a The newspaper wasn't very interesting.
- 3b The newspaper is rather satirical today.

1ab The newspaper fired its editor in chief and was sued for defamation.

- also include homonymic alternations (e.g., magazine: print medium vs. storage type) but no extra info.
- Human labels pair-wise similarity and co-prediction scores

# Results

- Similarity and acceptability score distributions for different types
- For different language models (Word2Vec; Elmo; Bert Base/Large)
- Similarity patterns
- Sense clustering

# Human annotations

- 16.5 annotations per item
- IAA: 0.62 Kri
- Similarity
- Acceptability
- High disagreement for Polysemy (Bonferroni correction)

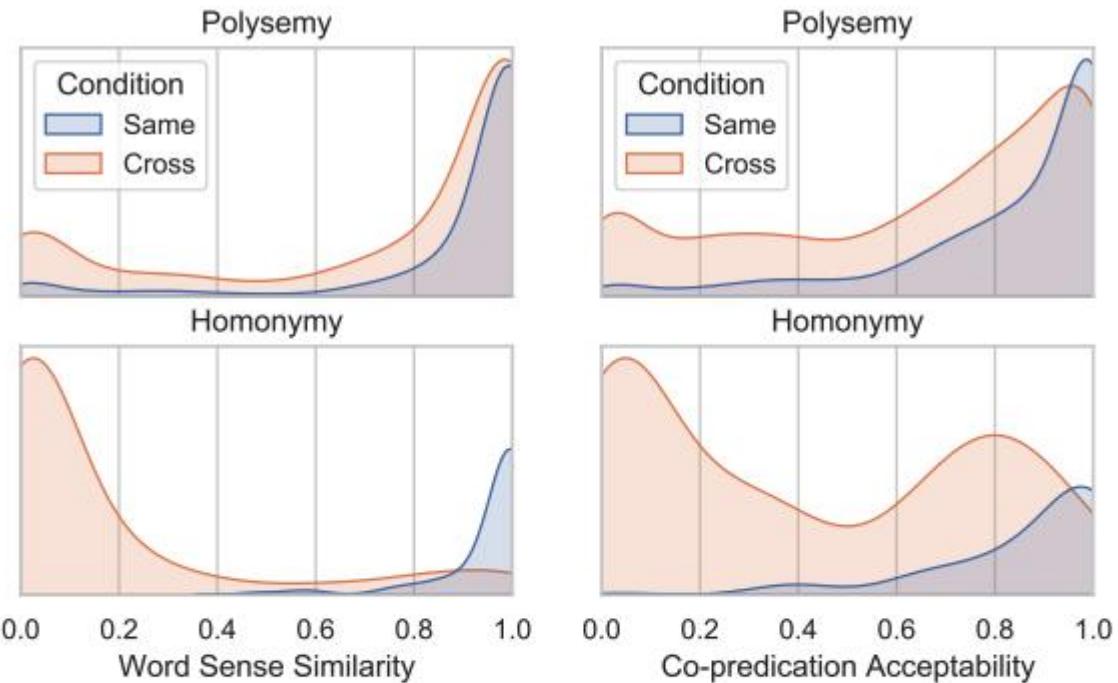


Figure 1: Distributions of explicit word sense similarity ratings and co-predication acceptability ratings given to same-sense (blue) and cross-sense (orange) samples with polysemic and homonymic alternations.

# Computational Ratings

Measure	Same-Sense			Cross-Sense		
	Pol.	Hom.	p	Pol.	Hom.	p
Similarity	0.89	0.96	0.03	0.73	0.17	<0.05
Acceptability	0.83	0.86	0.10	0.64	0.41	<0.05
Word2Vec	0.60	0.65	0.12	0.55	0.58	0.06
ELMo	0.90	0.87	0.14	0.87	0.82	<0.05
BERT Base	0.91	0.93	0.22	0.88	0.78	<0.05
BERT Base (L4)	0.93	0.95	0.27	0.91	0.82	<0.05
BERT Large	0.79	0.85	0.15	0.72	0.44	<0.05
BERT Large (L4)	0.88	0.91	0.18	0.84	0.64	<0.05

Table 1: Word sense similarity distribution means for the different measures investigated in this study. p-values calculated through Mann-Whitney  $U$ .

- Same-S > Cross-Sense
- Cross-Sense: P > H  
(except for Word2Vec)  
human is more obvious
- Same-S: H > P (except for elmo)

# Computational Ratings

Combination		Correlation		Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Regression Analysis					
First Measure	Second Measure	r	p	Coef.	R <sup>2</sup>	F-stat.	Prob.	Omnib.	Prob.
Similarity	Acceptability	0.698	1.09E-25	0.484	0.487	156.571	1.09E-25	9.733	0.008
Acceptability	Similarity	0.698	1.09E-25	1.005	0.487	156.571	1.09E-25	0.967	0.617
Word2Vec	Similarity	0.206	0.008	0.675	0.042	7.309	0.008	31.562	0
Word2Vec	Acceptability	0.311	4.39E-05	0.707	0.097	17.625	4.39E-05	9.668	0.008
ELMo	Similarity	0.515	1.11E-12	2.863	0.265	59.475	1.11E-12	10.43	0.005
ELMo	Acceptability	0.523	4.39E-13	2.018	0.273	61.973	4.39E-13	6.552	0.038
BERT Base	Similarity	0.641	1.02E-20	4.070	0.411	115.185	1.02E-20	3.496	0.174
BERT Base	Acceptability	0.560	3.43E-15	2.469	0.314	75.521	3.43E-15	2.07	0.355
BERT Large	Similarity	0.687	1.22E-24	2.181	0.472	147.361	1.22E-24	15.96	0
BERT Large	Acceptability	0.550	1.40E-14	1.212	0.302	71.520	1.40E-14	5.324	0.07

Table 2: Correlations between measures of contextualised word sense similarity. The first set of columns displays pairwise correlation based on Pearson's  $r$ , the second set shows the key statistics obtained from an OLS regression analysis. BERT results for summing over the last four hidden states.

$R^2$ : Larger, more goodness-of-fit  
contextual > statistic

# Correlation

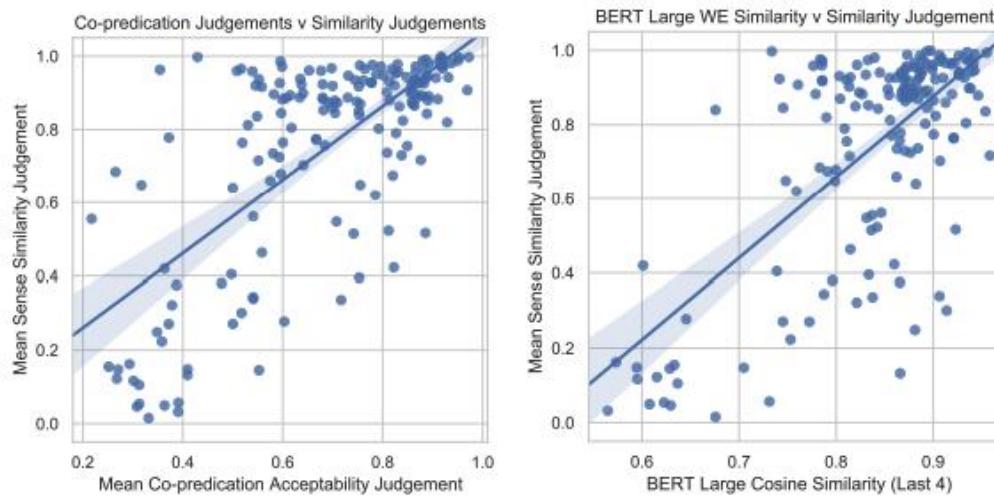
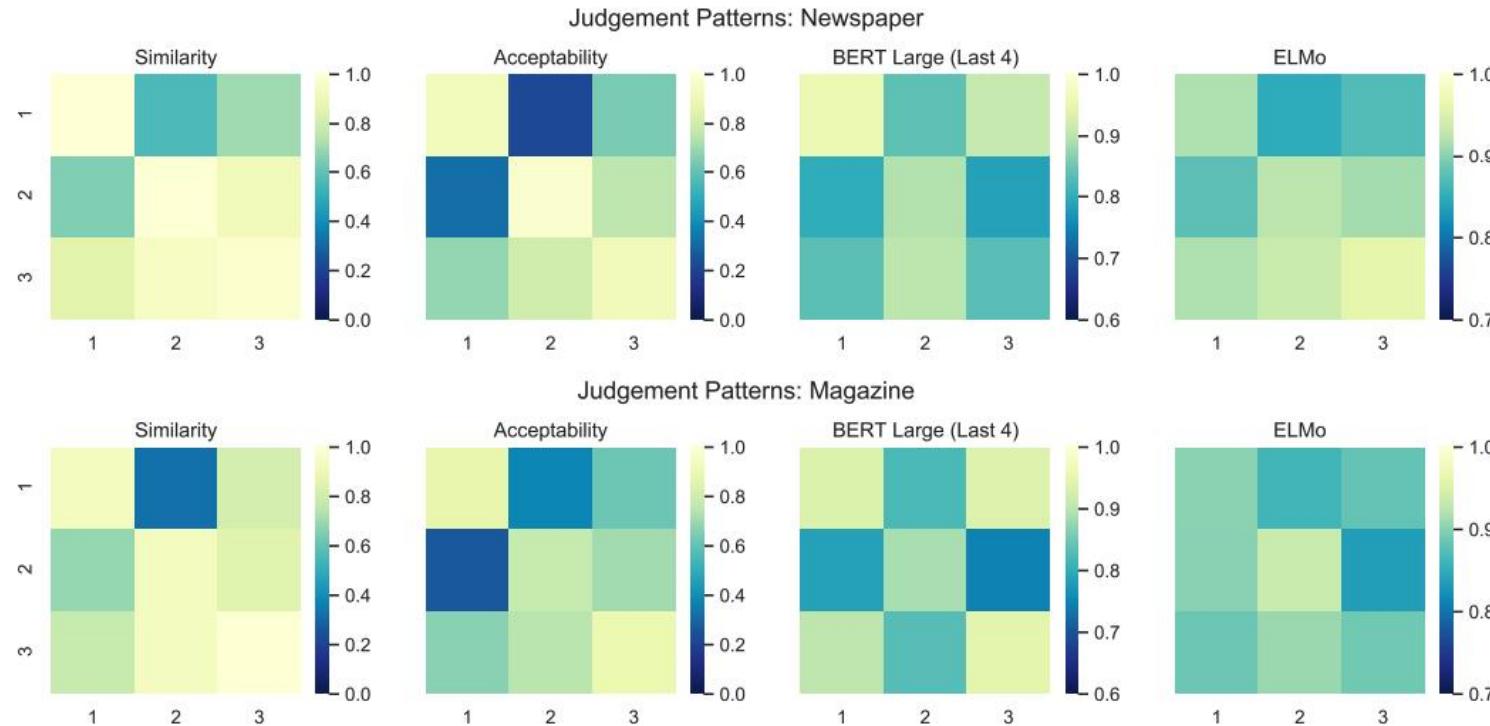


Figure 3: Correlations of co-predication v word sense similarity ratings (left) and BERT Large cosine similarity scores v word sense similarity ratings (right), together with the best linear fit. Scaling of x-axis adjusted for clarity. BERT results for summing over the last four hidden states.

# Similarity patterns across words



Correlation between word pairs in the same type

sim: 0.89

co-predicton: 0.95

Figure 4: Similarity patterns in the sense similarity ratings for polysemes *newspaper* and *magazine*.  
Senses: 1-physical, 2-information, 3-organisation. Colour scales adjusted for computational measures.

# Similarity patterns

Measure	Pairwise		Overall	
	r	p <0.05	r	p
Similarity	0.44	3/24 (12.5%)	0.53	8.260e-10
Acceptability	0.44	4/24 (16.7%)	0.62	5.306e-14
ELMo	0.14	0/24 (0%)	0.21	0.025
BERT Large	0.28	1/24 (4.2%)	0.27	0.003

pairwise: for each type (same alternation of senses)

Overall: Concat each pair before the correlation.

Table 3: Mean Pearson correlation of polysemic word sense similarity patterns across different target words allowing the same alternation of senses, number of significant comparisons, and overall pattern correlation.

# Sense clustering

- Whether clustering is similar to the actual patterns?

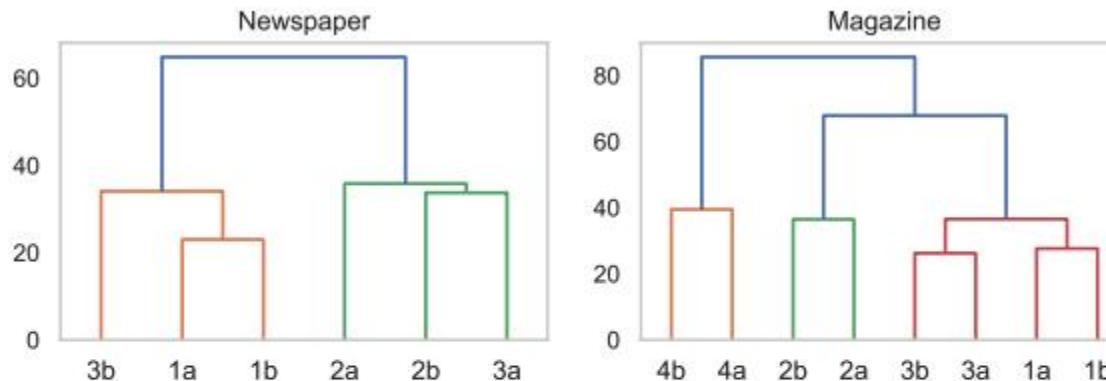


Figure 5: Dendograms of BERT Large contextualised embedding similarity for a selection of target words. Numbers indicate traditional sense distinctions.

Criterion	<i>t</i>	#C	NMI	F1	P	R
Inconsistency	<0.7	3.54	0.60	0.77	0.86	0.71
Distance	31	4.21	0.75	0.75	0.90	0.64

Table 4: Best-performing settings for inconsistency and distance-based hierarchical Ward clustering of target word senses. #C is the average number of clusters produced per target.

# Conclusion

- A graded word sense similarity for 28 seminal, lexically ambiguous word forms
- Similarity distribution both for human annotators and models
- Analyze the similarity pattern for polysemy of different types.

# Reference

# A local and global view on word senses

- Local: Polysemy
- Global: Lexical relations within a lexicon
- Mixed local and global: concept space
- How (L)LMs know these knowledge?
  - Know: internal representations / Mechanistic Discovery
  - How: They can well do it! / Intervention (manipulation)

# Local View

- Rated similarity between different senses (homo. vs. poly.)
- Workshop in Coling
  - CoMeDi: Context and Meaning – Navigating Disagreements in NLP Annotations <https://comedinlp.github.io/>
  - Two subtasks: predict majority score and disagreement score for WiC
  - An extension of Uncertainty work in ACL'23 findings
  - Model ensembling to model uncertainty/disagreement
  - Competition + Evaluation + Tech paper writing <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2411.12147.pdf>
- Future Work
  - Other lexical factors to influence disagreements; LLMs

# Global View

- Is there any structural features for all the token embeddings in LLMs, if yes, anything to do with scaling law?
- 32000 tokens for LLMs of different scales
- Graph construction
  - tokens as nodes and similarity as edges
  - Strategies to sparify the dense network? (how to keep fair?)
  - Any significant differences of graph statistics for models of different scales? (connectivity; density...)
  - Naunched geometric structures? (word analogy quadrilateral...)
  - Ongoing...

# Mixed local and global views

- To construct a (cross-lingual)conceptual space (semantic maps)
- Word-meaning occurrence table
- A graph (concepts as nodes; proximity) meeting:
  - Meanings within a word should be connected (bounded by a region) (local)
  - Multiple related words (global)
- A Top-down Graph-based Tool for Modeling Classical Semantic Maps: A Case Study of Supplementary Adverbs
  - submitted to ARR
  - Future work: more cases to verify the effectiveness.



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# Q & A

THANK YOU

# Note