



NLP – Vector Semantics and Embeddings

Winter Semester 2023/2024

Oct 26, 2023

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- Determination of the vocabulary and associated word frequencies across a set of documents (text pieces of varying size, e.g. paragraphs, single pages), which results in a matrix representation (documents \times vocabulary size) denoting individual word counts

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- Inverse Document Frequency (IDF) = $\log\left(\frac{1+N}{1+df(word)}\right) + 1$ with N as the number of documents and $df(word)$ as the word-specific document frequency \rightarrow **TF \times IDF**

Probabilistic Language Modeling – N-Gram

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- **Model Evaluation:** intrinsic (perplexity) and extrinsic (word error rate)

Scope of this Lecture...

“Meaning of words!”

“Theory of word meaning – How does it look like and what do words mean/represent?”

- “Meaning of words” known as **Lexical Semantics**

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 - ▶ Lemma: “mouse” or “bar”
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 - ▶ Sense: “mouse” – a little rodent vs. hand-operated control device to move a cursor, “bar” – place to have a drink vs. barrier blocking something
- **Sense**: the meaning component of a word
 - **Polysemy**: lemma/lexeme with multiple meanings/senses
 - **Homonymy**: lemma/lexeme with same spelling (homographs – see Figure), pronunciation (homophones, e.g. “no vs. know”) or both, but different meaning/sense

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	seal			plant	
	nut			bark	
	crane			letter	
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	trunk			table	

Relation Between Different Words/Senses – Synonymy

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- Synonym examples: wealthy & rich, big & large, small & tiny, scared & afraid, couch & sofa, good & fine, automobile & car, garbage & trash, wheel & tire, and many more...

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- However, it is very difficult to identify cases with a “perfect” synonymy, due to differences caused by slang, genre, politeness, etc.
- Real synonymy? → “my big brother” vs. “my large brother” or “the food was good” vs. “the food was fine”

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Principle of Conventionality

- The language community agreed on a defined conventional meaning for words
- Language would not be possible without conventional definitions and agreements, but rather individual-specific vocabularies → Allows communication!

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- Word similarity examples:
 - ▶ Car & Bicycle & Motorbike & Lorry & Van
 - ▶ Monday & Tuesday & Wednesday & Thursday
 - ▶ Football & Basketball & Ice hockey & Golf & Baseball
 - ▶ Cow & Horse & Pig & Chicken
 - ▶ Artist & Actor, Vanish & Disappear, Coffee & Espresso
 - ▶ (...)

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- Word relatedness examples:
 - ▶ Car & Engine & Driving & Crash & License plate & Wheel
 - ▶ Monday & June & Date & Year & Calendar
 - ▶ Football & Goal & Stadium & Ball & Penalty
 - ▶ Coffee & Cup & Drinking & Sugar & Milk & Espresso
 - ▶ Bank & Money & Loan & Interest Rate & Current Account

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- Antonyms represent either a binary opposition (active & passive), opposite scaling ends (short & long), or reversives (up & down)

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and dependent on three different affectiveness dimensions:

- ▶ *Valence*: pleasantness of the stimulus
- ▶ *Arousal*: emotional intensity produced by the stimulus
- ▶ *Dominance*: level of control, provided by the stimulus

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 - ▶ Antonymy (opposite sense/meaning regarding a specific aspect, but a strong word relatedness, e.g. fear & courage)
 - ▶ Connotation (affective sense/meaning – sentiment analysis, e.g. fear → negative, courage → positive)

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 - ▶ **Vector Semantics**: map words to a vector representation, using **sparse vectors** or more contemporary vectorial representations methods, such as **dense vectors**

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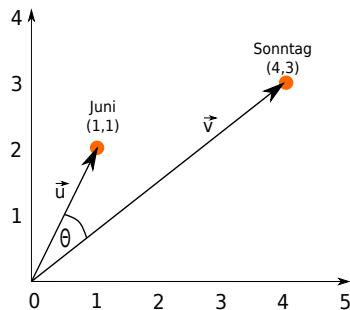
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- **Dense Vector** – compressed (dense) real-valued vector, known as **word embeddings**, learned by a (deep) neural network and state-of-the-art in all modern NLP algorithms

Vector Semantics

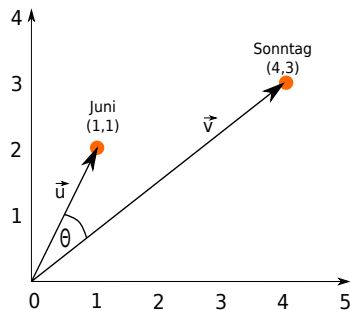
Word as a Vector, How...?

Idea: Transform a word into a vector, called **embedding**, which describes the “word meaning/sense”, while the degree of word similarity (in terms of “meaning”) is given by the closeness in the (high-dimensional) **semantic space**



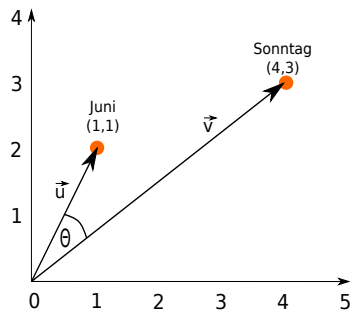
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→ Distributional Hypothesis



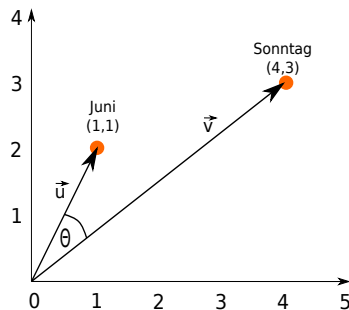
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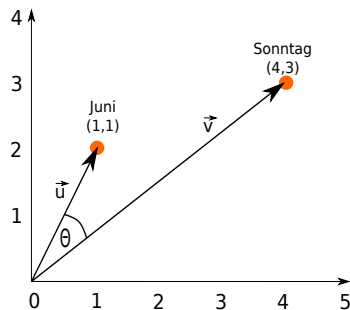
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- “**Word Similarity**” describes **vectors** which present **related directions and magnitudes**
- Vectors cover morphological or syntactic word properties (lemma/stem, POS, etc.)



Is context helpful to identify words and categorize the underlying word meaning/sense?

What different words would fit in this context? What is the generic underlying meaning which all the matching words have in common?

"The ??? players skillfully passed the ball to each other."

"The ??? players engaged in a thrilling rally, hitting the ball back and forth."

"The ??? player carefully lined up their shot, aiming to hit the ball to a proper direction."

"The ??? team passed the ball quickly, trying to outmaneuver the opposing defenders"

"The ??? team practiced their passing skills on the field."

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"The ??? player carefully lined up their shot, aiming to hit the ball to a proper direction."

"The ??? team passed the ball quickly, trying to outmaneuver the opposing defenders"

"The ??? team practiced their passing skills on the field."

→ Generic underlying word meaning: **"Sport activities with a ball"**

Is context helpful to identify words and categorize the underlying word meaning/sense?

What different words would fit in this context? What is the generic underlying meaning which all the matching words have in common?

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Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

- Contextual word information is used to characterize the sense and meaning of words
- Assumption: Similar context → Similar meaning → Similar (vector-space) representation (e.g. soccer, rugby, tennis, golf, handball, basketball, volleyball, etc.)

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Key Concept: Compute the overall word-specific semantic similarity, based on the contextual similarity in which the individual words occur

- How to build these vectors?
 - ▶ Every word vector element w_i (dimension) of $\vec{w} = [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_N] \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is related to a specific context c_i , specifying the degree of association between a word w_N and context c_i
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→ How is the word distribution in a single document?
- ▶ Row: “A particular word and its vector of counts across all documents”
→ In how many documents the word occurs?

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Term-Document-Matrix (2D)

	DocA	DocB	DocC	DocD
Wizard	123	0	83/83	2
Magic	92	7	112	4
Defend	12	79	8	89
Fight	0	180	6	101

- Similar documents possess similar vector representation (**Column!**) → DocA & DocC
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- Careful when we talk about “context”? How about the contextual distances between individual words – are those important?

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Different Interpretations of “Context”

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→ Look at the above document – are those similarities the same (multiple senses)?

- Context specified by grammatical relations
 - ▶ How often is a context word c_i (noun) used as subject/object of a target word w_N (verb)?
 - ▶ “Ball” and “shoot” → more detailed similarities, however, a parsing procedure is required!

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

ChatGPT – Generate a paragraph about soccer and the OTH-university with a quote of Professor Bergler and a total of maximum 50 words!

ChatGPT: “Soccer is a beautiful game that unites people from all walks of life,” stated Professor Bergler, a renowned sport psychologist at OTH University. “Soccer, as a game and sport, does not only build physical strength and teamwork, but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and cultural understanding.” The OTH university recognizes the power of soccer as a beautiful game for personal growth and global integration.

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words/context ($k = \pm 7$)	$c_1 = \text{game}$	university	...	beautiful	sport
$w_1 = \text{soccer}$	$f(w_1, c_1) = 3$	2	...	2	2
...

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Define co-occurrence frequencies and the word-word co-occurrence matrix representation

- Co-occurrence frequencies
 - ▶ Fixed window size: context word c_i present in $\pm k$ words around the target word w_N
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 - ▶ $f(w, c)$ as probability values \rightarrow probability of context word c_i around the target word w_N

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Positive Pointwise Mutual Information (PPMI)

- Co-occurrences with only few counts are traditionally more informative, compared to high co-occurrence counts
- Most of the high word co-occurrences are in combination with “stop words” and less informative regarding the word meaning
- **Goal:** Identification of co-occurrence counts being larger than expected by chance

$$PPMI(w, c) = \begin{cases} \log \frac{p(w, c)}{p(w)p(c)} = \frac{\frac{f(w, c)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M f(w_i, c_j)}}{\frac{f(w)}{|V|} \frac{f(c)}{|V|}} & \text{if } > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

with: $|V|$ = Vocabulary (# tokens in corpus), N number of words w_i , M number of context words c_j , $f(w) = \sum_c f(w, c)$, $f(c) = \sum_w f(w, c)$

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Transform Words into Sparse Vectors – How...?

Word-Word Co-Occurrence Matrix Representation

- Binary Values $f(w, c)$

words/context ($k = \pm 7$)	game	university	smart	beautiful	sport
soccer	1	1	0	1	1

- Frequency Values $f(w, c)$

words/context ($k = \pm 7$)	game	university	smart	beautiful	sport
soccer	3	2	0	2	2

- Probability Values $PPMI(w, c)$

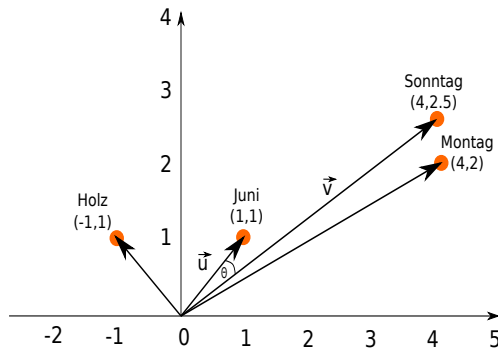
words/context ($k = \pm 7$)	game	university	smart	beautiful	sport	p(word w_N)
soccer	0.33	0.22	0.00	0.22	0.22	1.00
p(context c_i)	0.33	0.22	0.00	0.22	0.22	1.00

- PPMI biased in terms of infrequent events → Smoothing!

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Vector Similarity

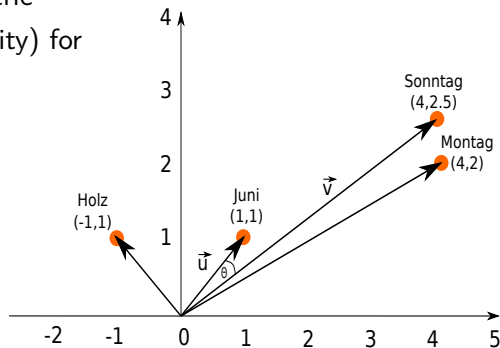
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Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

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→ Becomes very large (indicator of a high similarity) for long vectors – Better metric?

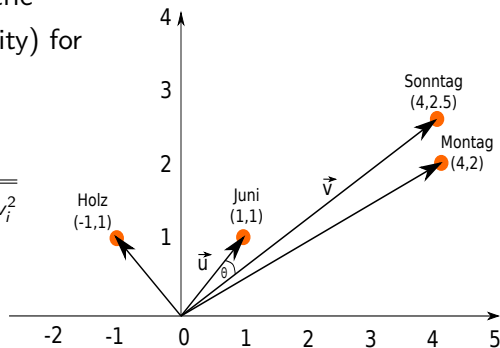


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Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

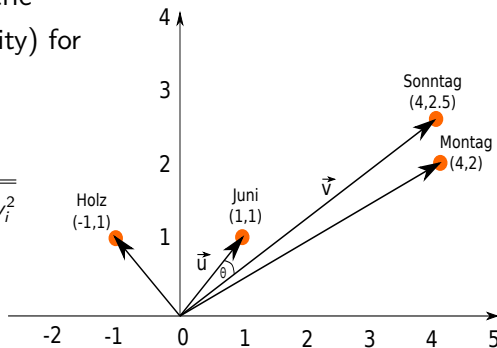
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- $\cos(\Theta) = \cos(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = 1 \rightarrow$ same direction!
- $\cos(\Theta) = \cos(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = 0 \rightarrow$ orthogonal!
- $\cos(\Theta) = \cos(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = -1 \rightarrow$ opposite direction!
→ Only directional information without magnitude!



Transform Words into Dense Vectors, How...?

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings

- **Recap:** Vectors of the term-document matrix and/or word-word co-occurrence matrix (binary, frequency-based, PPMI) are generally extremely long ($|V|$) and sparse (lot of zero elements)

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- Vocabulary size fixed ($<UNK>$ token needed!)

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec

Word2Vec (Two-Layer Neural Net)

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 - ▶ Popular, fast to train, available code, and pre-trained embeddings, trained on huge corpora
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- Two Word2Vec variants: Skip-Gram versus Continuous Bag-of-Words (CBOW)
 - ▶ Skip-Gram: a given central word is used to predict the neighboring context (fixed $\pm k$)
→ “... fascinating soccer game last Saturday ...”
 - ▶ CBOW: a given neighboring context is used and combined (summation of context word vectors → BoW) to predict a central target word (fixed $\pm k$)
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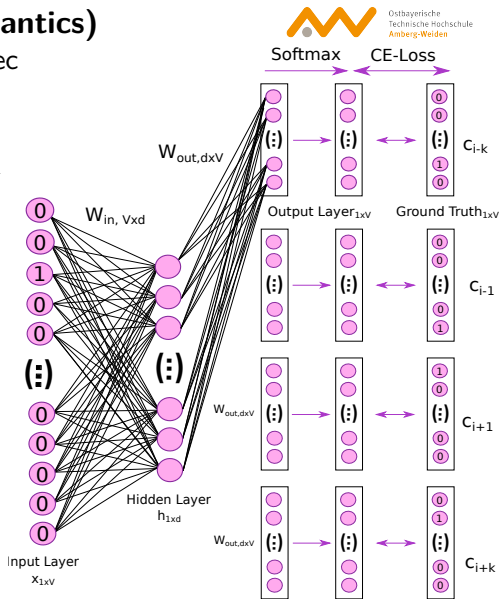
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 - ▶ Two optimization objectives: Negative sampling (NS) vs. Hierarchical Softmax
- Focus: Skip-Gram, together with negative sampling, as the most popular approach (Mikolov et al., “*Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality*”, 2013)

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec

Word2Vec – Skip-Gram – Main Idea

- Prediction of neighboring word vectors c_i with $\pm k$ as the surrounding window (context), near a given target/center word t

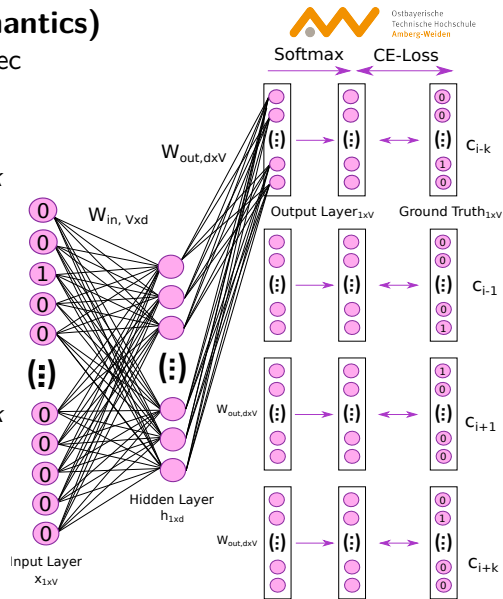


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Word2Vec – Skip-Gram – Main Idea

- Prediction of neighboring word vectors c_i with $\pm k$ as the surrounding window (context), near a given target/center word t
- Two-layer network:
 - ▶ Network input: one-hot vector of the center/target word $t_{V \times 1}$
 - ▶ Network output: context predictions $c_{i,V \times 1}$ in $\pm k$
- Two-layer-specific weight matrices:
 - ▶ Input matrix: $W_{in,d \times V}$ (= word embedding matrix)
 - ▶ Output matrix (shared weights for k): $W_{out,V \times d}$

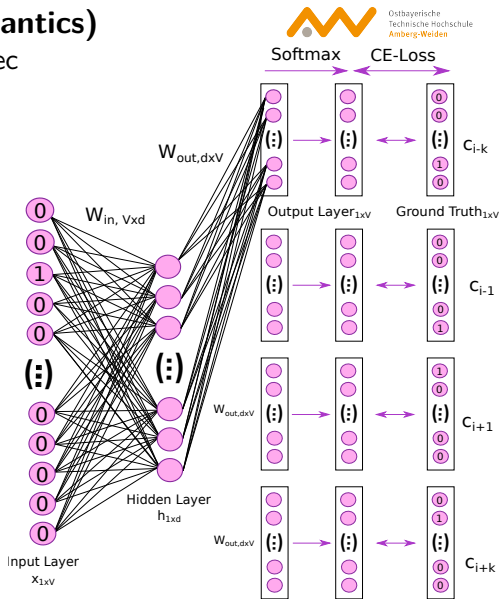


Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec

Word2Vec – Skip-Gram – Main Idea

- Objective: $\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{-k \leq j \leq k, j \neq 0} \log p(w_{t+j} | w_t)$
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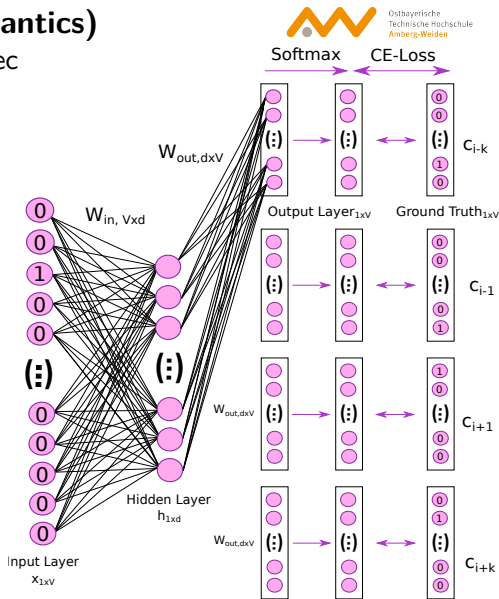


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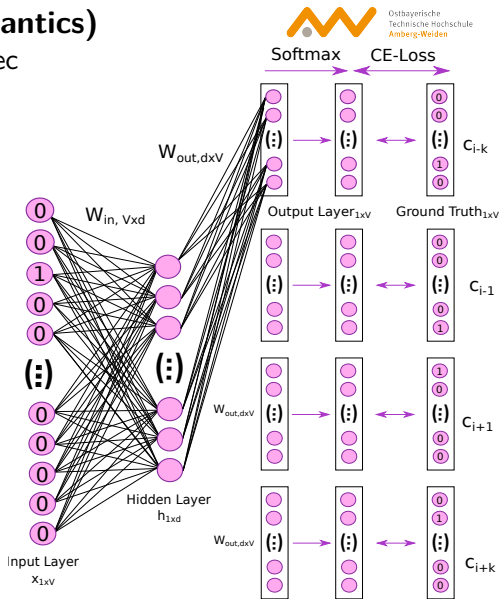


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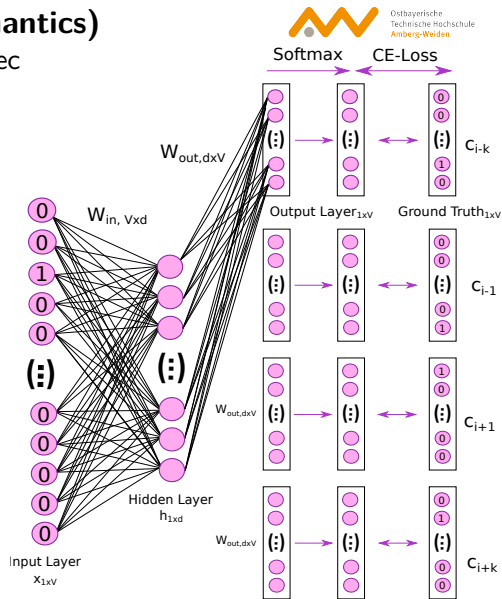


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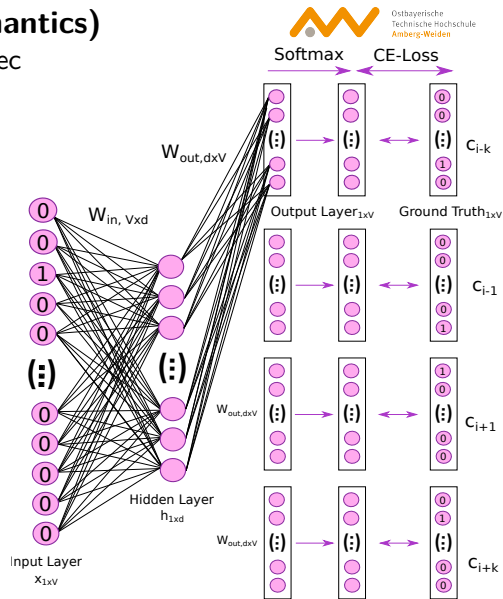


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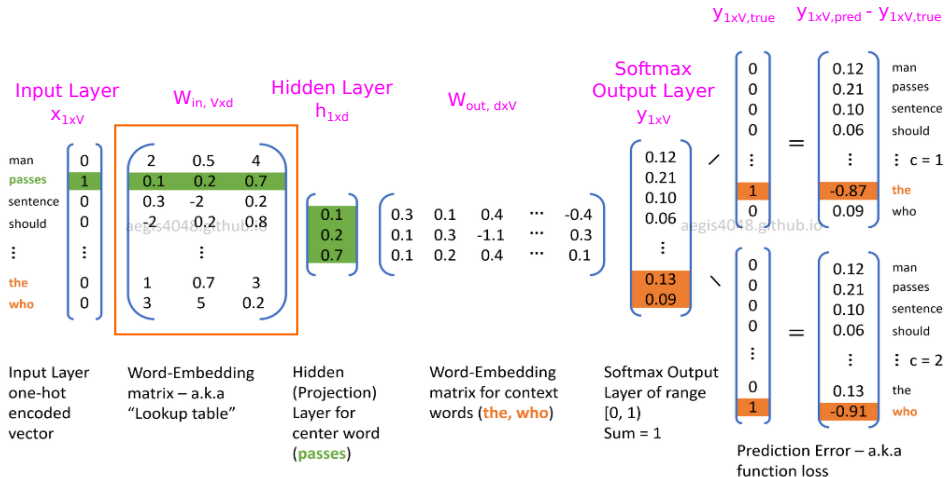
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Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec



Source: https://aegis4048.github.io/demystifying_neural_network_in_skip_gram_language_modeling#negsample

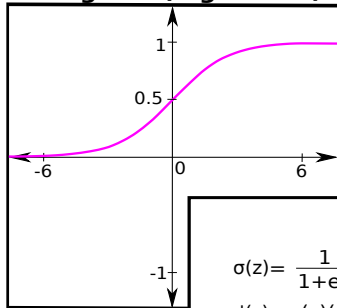
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Word2Vec – Skip-Gram – Negative Sampling

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Logistic (Sigmoid σ)



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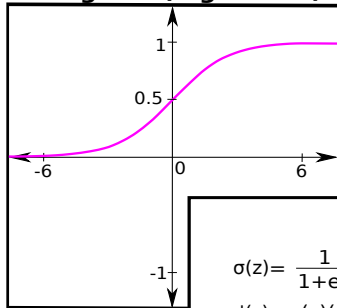
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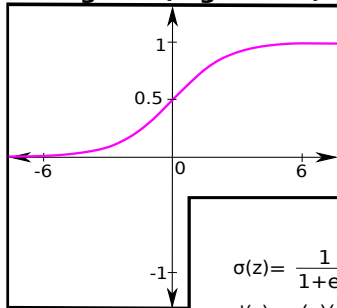
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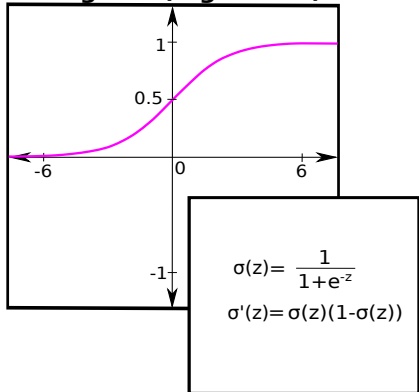
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- Negative training samples $P(X = 0|t, c_{i,neg})$, sampled from a noise distribution $P_n(w) = \frac{U(w)^{3/4}}{Z}$
 - ▶ Unigram distribution $U(w)$, Z normalization factor

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Word2Vec – Skip-Gram – Negative Sampling

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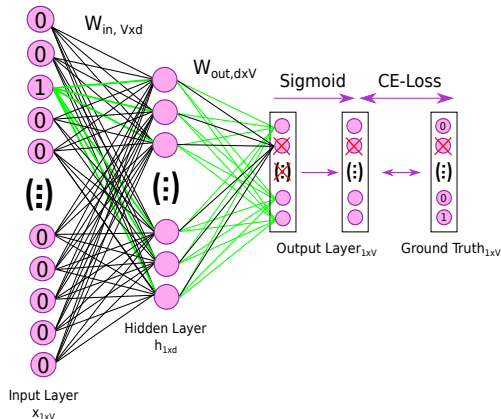
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- Probability of discarding frequent words during sub-sampling: $P(w_i) = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{t}{f(w_i)}}$
with $f(w_i)$ as the relative word frequency and threshold t (typically 10^{-5})

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec

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- Assumption: $|V| = 3,000,000$, $d = 100 \rightarrow \theta = 2 \cdot |V| \cdot d = 600,000,000$ million parameter for optimization!!!

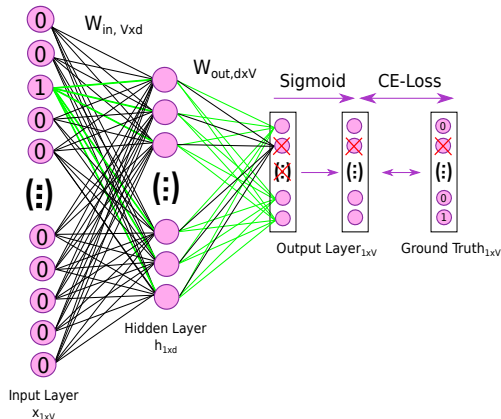


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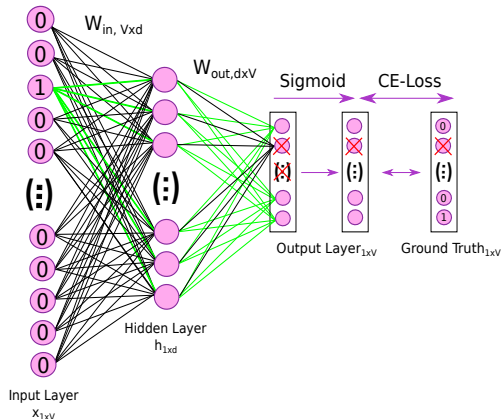


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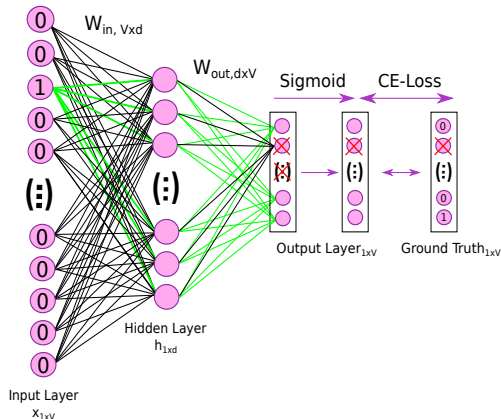


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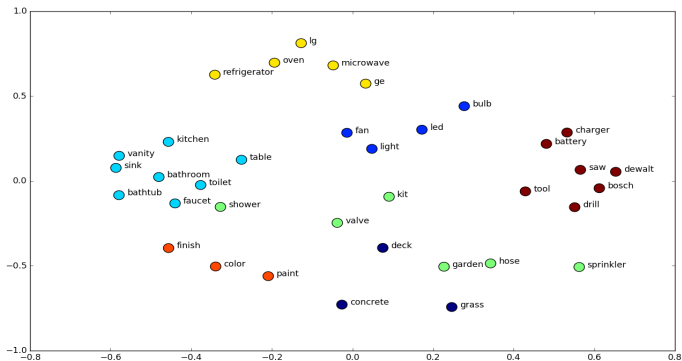
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- From originally $\theta = 600,000,000$ parameters per backpropagation to a total of $\theta = 400$



Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – Word2Vec: 2D-Embedding

- How to visualize a $1 \times d$ -large vector in a 2D/3D-space?
- Key-Word: Dimensionality Reduction (e.g. PCA, t-SNE, ... part of “Machine Learning”)



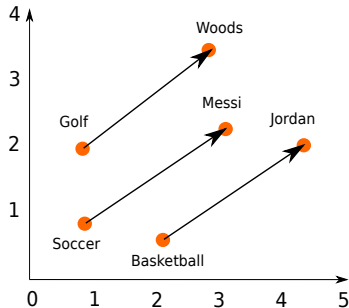
Source: <https://neptune.ai/blog/word-embeddings-guide>

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings

Embedding Properties

- “Word similarity” is dependent on the window size $\pm k$
 - ▶ Small window length (e.g. $k = 2$): nearest words illustrated syntactical similarities of the same taxonomy (e.g. Golf, Soccer, Basketball)
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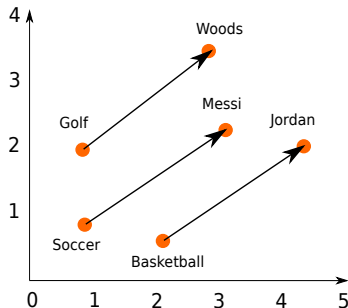


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- Word embeddings capture relational meanings (analogy)
 - ▶ “Golf” to “Woods” is “Basketball” to “Jordan”
 - ▶ $\vec{w}_1(\text{Basketball}) - \vec{w}_2(\text{Golf}) + \vec{w}_3(\text{Woods}) = \vec{w}_4(\text{Jordan})$



Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

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words	$x_1 = \text{soccer}$	$x_j = \text{sport}$
$x_1 = \text{soccer}$	0	3	...	4	2
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- $i, j = |V| \rightarrow W_{V \times V}$ matrix \rightarrow Symmetry (Hint: X_{ij} vs. X_{ji})? $W = W^T$?

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Global Vectors (GloVe)

- Idea of “word ratios”: better than “raw probabilities” especially in detecting relevant vs. irrelevant words

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center/context words	$k=\text{solid}$	$k=\text{gas}$	$k=\text{water}$...	$k=\text{fashion}$
$w_i = \text{ice}, P(k \text{ice})$	high	small	high	(...)	low
$w_j = \text{steam}, P(k \text{steam})$	small	high	high	(...)	low
$\frac{P(k \text{ice})}{P(k \text{steam})}$	high	small	≈ 1	(...)	≈ 1

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- $F(w_i, w_j, w_k) = \frac{P(w_k|w_i)}{P(w_k|w_j)} \rightarrow$ Challenges: Vector vs. Scalar, number of arguments, F ?

Global Vectors (GloVe)

- Vector vs. Scalar: $\rightarrow F((w_i - w_j)^T \cdot w_k)$, computing the vector difference between $w_i - w_j$ (**Vector Analogy** – see before), followed by the dot-product, together with the context word w_k , leading to a scalar value

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- Function F (“Homomorphism”): $F(w_i^T \cdot w_k - w_j^T \cdot w_k) = \frac{F(w_i^T \cdot w_k)}{F(w_j^T \cdot w_k)} = \frac{P(w_k|w_i)}{P(w_k|w_j)}$
 $\rightarrow F(w_i^T \cdot w_k) = c \cdot P(w_k|w_i)$ (ignore constant c) $\rightarrow F(x) = e^x$
- $P(w_k|w_i) = e^{w_i^T \cdot w_k} \rightarrow w_i^T \cdot w_k = \ln P(w_k|w_i) = \ln(X_{ik}) - \ln(X_i)$
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Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – GloVe

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- Reduce number arguments (w_i, w_j, w_k vs. w_i, w_k): $w_i^T \cdot w_k + \underbrace{b_i + b_k}_{\ln(X_i)} = \ln(X_{ik})$

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – GloVe

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- **Loss Function:** $J(\theta) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{|V|} f(X_{ij}) \left[w_i^T \cdot w_j + b_i + b_j - \ln(X_{ij}) \right]^2$, with context $j = k$

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

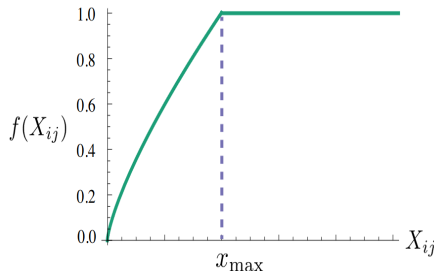
Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – GloVe

Global Vectors (GloVe) – Cost Function $J(\theta)$

- $$J(\theta) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{|V|} f(X_{ij}) \underbrace{\left[w_i^T \cdot w_j + b_i + b_j - \ln(X_{ij}) \right]^2}_{(y-\hat{y})^2 = \text{Do you know the loss?}}$$

- Weighting function $f(X_{ij})$, using the word-word co-occurrence counts X_{ij}

- $$f(x) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{x}{x_{\max}(=100)} \right)^{\alpha=\frac{3}{4}}, & \text{if } x \geq x_{\max} \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



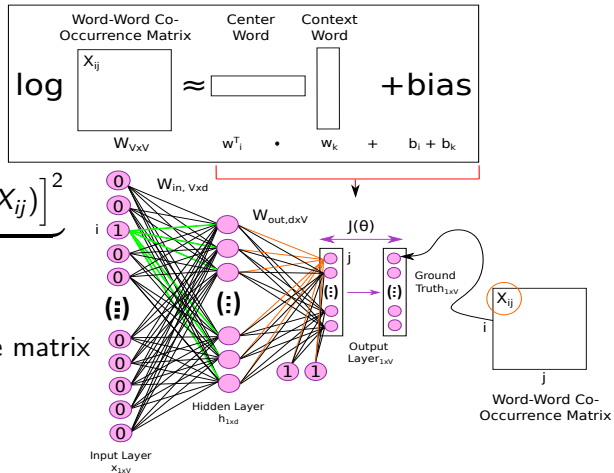
Source: Image taken from Pennington et al., "GloVe: Global vectors for word representation", 2014, Figure 1

Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – (Static) Word Embeddings – GloVe

Global Vectors (GloVe) – Model Architecture

- $$J(\theta) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{|V|} f(X_{ij}) \underbrace{\left[w_i^T \cdot w_j + b_i + b_j - \ln(X_{ij}) \right]^2}_{(y - \hat{y})^2 = \text{L2-Loss}}$$
- Learning word embeddings $W_{in, V \times d}$ by approximating the word-word co-occurrence matrix (global information)



Distributional Similarities (Vector-Space Semantics)

Dense Vector – Contextualized Word Embeddings

Outlook: Contextualized Word Embeddings (usually derived by Transformer-based Models)

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- **Recap:** static word embeddings (Word2Vec, GloVe) ignore that a particular word may comprise multiple meanings/senses → Just single vector in the semantic space
→ Polysemy and Homonymy are not covered properly!
- **Contextualized Word Embeddings (not static!) – Key idea:**
 - ▶ Build and compute a vector for each word conditioned on its context:
 $f : (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_N \in \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow$ Sequence-level semantics!



Source: <https://www.activestate.com/blog/top-10-coding-mistakes-in-python-how-to-avoid-them/>

Further Questions?



<https://www.oth-aw.de/hochschule/ueber-uns/personen/bergler-christian/>

<https://www.oth-aw.de/hochschule/ueber-uns/personen/levi-patrick/>

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