

# Master on Artificial Intelligence

Word Sense  
Disambiguation

WSD  
Approaches

## Introduction to Human Language Technologies 6. Word Sense Disambiguation



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA  
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Facultat d'Informàtica de Barcelona



# Outline

Word Sense  
Disambiguation

WSD  
Approaches

## 1 Word Sense Disambiguation

- Goal and Motivation
- Resources

## 2 WSD Approaches

- Types of WSD Algorithms
- Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches
- Knowledge-based

# Outline

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## 1 Word Sense Disambiguation

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## 2 WSD Approaches

# Goal

- Semantic resources provide the possible senses for each word (polysemy)

| lema | PoS | sense                         |
|------|-----|-------------------------------|
| dog  | NN  | 1. animal                     |
|      |     | 2. (colloquial) wicked person |
|      | VB  | 1. to follow                  |
|      |     | ...                           |

- **Goal:** automatically select the right sense for an occurrence of a word in a sentence (for NN, JJ, VB and maybe ADV)

# Motivation

- WSD is potentially useful for many NLP applications:
  - Speech Synthesis and Recognition
  - Acquisition of Lexical Knowledge
  - Semantic Parsing
  - Sentiment Analysis
  - IR, IE, QA, MT
  - ...
- WSD has been defined as AI-complete (Ide & Véronis, 1998)
- Unfortunately, this usefulness has not been proven yet

# Motivation

- Ex.: Semantic parsing: selecting the right word sense is needed to build the meaning of the sentence

| sense | gloss from WordNet 1.5                                |
|-------|---|
| age 1 | the length of time something (or someone) has existed |
| age 2 | a historic period                                     |

He was mad about stars at the age of nine .

# Motivation

- P.e.: MT: selecting the right word sense is needed to translate a word into the target language.

## NOUN

### 1. (animal)

#### a. **el perro (m), la perra (f)**

My dog is a German Shepherd. — Mi perro es un pastor alemán.



### 2. (colloquial) (wicked person)

#### a. **el bribón (m), la bribona (f)**

My coworker is a lazy dog; I'm always having to do his work. — Mi colega es un bribón perezoso; siempre le tengo que estar haciendo el trabajo.

#### b. **el canalla (m), la canalla (f)** (colloquial)

That dog started cheating on his girlfriend almost as soon as they started going out. — Ese canalla le pegó cuernos a su novia prácticamente tan pronto empezaron a salir.

### 3. (negative) (unattractive woman)

## TRANSITIVE VERB

### 4. (to follow)

#### a. **seguir**

The neighborhood bullies dogged him all the way to his house. — Los matones del vecindario lo siguieron el camino entero hasta llegar a su casa.

### 5. (to plague)

#### a. **perseguir**

He has been dogged by scandal his entire career. — El escándalo lo ha perseguido durante su carrera entera.

Source: <http://www.spanishdict.com>.

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# Resources

- Sense Definitions
  - Machine Readable Dictionaries
  - WordNets

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# Resources

- Sense Definitions

- Machine Readable Dictionaries
- WordNets

- Corpora

- Samples with only one word labeled for each sample
  - SemEval Lexical Sample Task (training/Test corpus)
  - mainly for supervised Machine Learning algorithms

800004

Mr Purves is tight-lipped about what happens then.

He vexed rumour-mongers, who `<tag '520051'>bet</>` on a bid for Midlan sooner.

800005

Mr Jones loses his `<tag '519914'>bet</>`:1,000 people attended Cowley pools last year.

# Resources

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- Sense Definitions
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  - Samples with all the words labeled
    - Semcor, SemEval All Words Task (Test corpus)
    - mainly for unsupervised algorithms

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Types of WSD  
Algorithms

## 1 Word Sense Disambiguation

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# Types of WSD Algorithms

- **Based on corpus:**
  - **Supervised approaches:**
    - Occurrences of a particular word in text annotated with their correct senses
    - Ex.: Naïve Bayes, kNN or SVM
    - word embeddings + deep learning, sense embeddings (to see in AHLT)

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- Some occurrences of the particular word annotated with their correct senses. Lots of unannotated occurrences.
    - Ex.: Yarowsky Algorithm (Bootstrapping)

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## ■ Knowledge-based: from a external knowledge source

### ■ Unsupervised approaches

- They use lexical knowledge (WordNets, machine readable dictionaries)
- Ex.: Lesk Algorithm (available at NLTK), UKB (available via TextServer)



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Based on Corpus:  
Supervised ML  
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# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

veo un banco de peces desde el banco

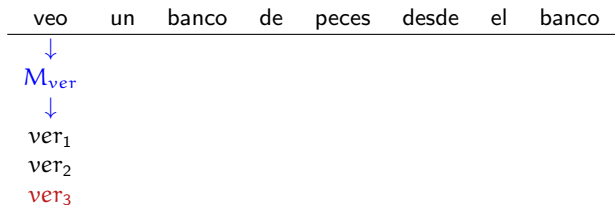
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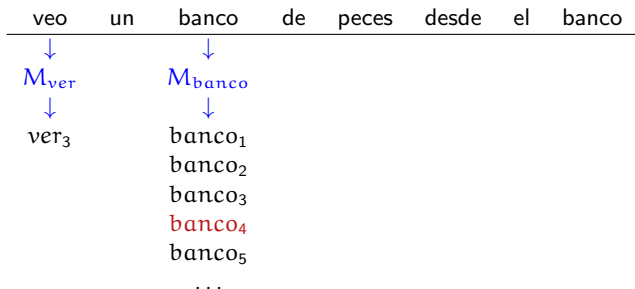
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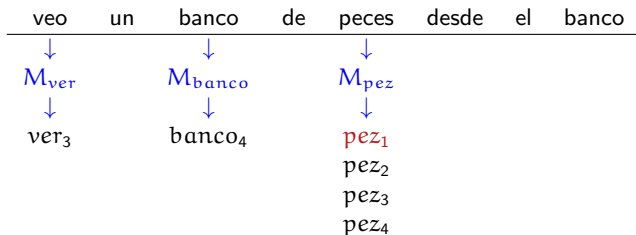
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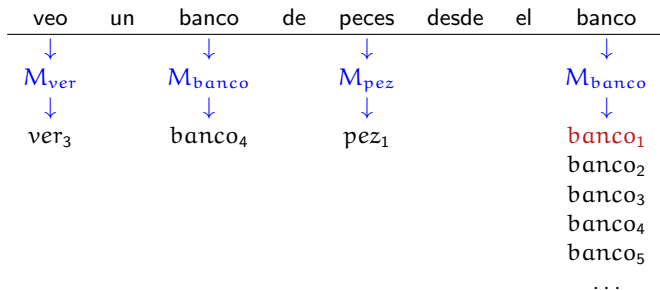
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# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

- **Set of categories:**

$\{\text{sense}_1 \dots, \text{sense}_k\}$

Ex.:

44 different senses of word *bajo* in Spanish (NN, JJ, VB)

# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

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Ex.:

44 different senses of word *bajo* in Spanish (NN, JJ, VB)

- **Annotated corpus :**

$\{<\text{occurrence}_i, \text{context}_i, \text{right\_sense}_i >\}$

Ex.:

|       |    |      |                 |      |    |                 |
|-------|----|------|-----------------|------|----|-----------------|
| text: | el | niño | $e_1^+$<br>bajo | toca | el | $e_2^+$<br>bajo |
| POS:  | DT | NN   | JJ              | VB   | DT | NN              |
|       |    |      | 01206474-a      |      |    | 02803349-n      |



# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

- Examples:

$\{e^+\}$ :  $\{ \langle \text{occurrence}_i, \text{context}_i, \text{correct\_sense}_i \rangle \}$

$\{e^-\}$ :  $\{ \langle \text{occurrence}_i, \text{context}_i, \text{incorrect\_sense}_i \rangle \}$

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- Representation with feature vectors:

- Local context: word+position, lemma+position, POS+position

Ex.: *come up with*  $\rightarrow$  w+1\_up, w+2\_with

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- Global context: bag of words, lemmas, bigrams or collocations

Ex.: *I was studying at U.P.C. in Barcelona for 2 years* →  
1+\_year, co+\_U.P.C.\_Barcelona.

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- Syntax: syntactic functions

Ex.: *cats eat fish.*  $\rightarrow$  subj\_cat, obj\_fish

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WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

## ■ Examples:

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- Syntax: syntactic functions

Ex.: *cats eat fish.* → subj\_cat, obj\_fish

- Semantics: domain, senses of previous words

p.e.: the example is about *history* → topic\_history

# Exercise

We want the sentence below to be represented by local and topical features and be supplied as example for a ML algorithm:

**Example** He was mad about stars at the age of nine .  
age.01

+ PoS ('He', 'PRP'), ('was', 'VBD'), ('mad', 'JJ'),  
('about', 'IN'), ('stars', 'NNS'), ('at', 'IN'),  
('the', 'DT'), ('age', 'NN'), ('of', 'IN'),  
('nine', 'CD'), ('.', '.')

- 1 Give the bag of open-class words of the left context.
- 2 Give the local features in a  $\pm 2$  word window of the word forms.
- 3 Give two other possible local or topical features

# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

Bottleneck:

- The lack of models for all the words of a given language
- The difficulty of acquiring annotated corpora for learning models

# Based on Corpus: Supervised ML Approaches

WSD as a classification problem: learn a model useful to disambiguate occurrences of **a particular word** in text

Bottleneck:

- The lack of models for all the words of a given language
- The difficulty of acquiring annotated corpora for learning models

Alternatives:

- Semisupervised methods (few annotated examples and lots of unannotated ones -ex.: bootstrapping-)
- Knowledge-based methods



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  - Lesk Algorithm
  - UKB

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm

## Lesk algorithm

Disambiguates just one word within a context

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Lesk Algorithm

$$\text{Lesk}(w) = \underset{s_i \in S(L(w))}{\operatorname{argmax}} \quad \forall_{s_j \in S(C(w))} |\text{Def}(s_i) \cap \text{Def}(s_j)|$$

$L(w)$ : set of lemmas of word  $w$

$C(w)$ : set of lemmas of open-class words in the context of  $w$

$S(X)$ : set of senses for all lemmas in  $X$

$\text{Def}(s)$ : set of lemmas in the definition of sense  $s$

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm

## Example

**Input:** "pine cone"

### **PINE**

1. kinds of evergreen tree with needle-shaped leaves
2. waste away through sorrow or illness

### **CONE**

1. solid body which narrows to a point
2. something of this shape whether solid or hollow
3. fruit of certain evergreen trees

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm

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**Solution** (sin contar las *stopwords*)

Mejor intersección:  $\text{Pine\#1} \cap \text{Cone\#3} = 2.$

sense for "pine": Pine#1

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm

## Example

**Input:** "pine cone"

### PINE

1. kinds of evergreen tree with needle-shaped leaves
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### CONE

1. solid body which narrows to a point
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**Solution** (sin contar las *stopwords*)

Mejor intersección: Pine#1  $\cap$  Cone#3 = 2.

sense for "cone": Cone#3

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm Simplification

## Simplified Lesk algorithm

$$\text{Lesk}(w) = \underset{s_i \in S(L(w))}{\operatorname{argmax}} |\text{Def}(s_i) \cap C(w)|$$

$L(w)$ : set of lemmas of word  $w$

$C(w)$ : set of lemmas of open-class words in the context of  $w$ .

$S(X)$ : set of senses for all lemmas in  $X$

$\text{Def}(s)$ : set of lemmas in the definition of sense  $s$ .

In general, better performance than the general Lesk algorithm

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk Algorithm Exercise

Given the sentence:

- I went to the bank to deposit money.

and the definitions of the two first senses of the word *bank*:

- 1 sloping land (especially the slope beside a body of water)
- 2 a financial institution that accepts deposits and channels the money into lending activities

apply simplified Lesk algorithm to find the most appropriate sense among them.

# Based on Knowledge: Lesk's Algorithm Extensions

Lesk algorithm suffers from low recall

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Lesk Algorithm



# Based on Knowledge: Lesk's Algorithm Extensions

Lesk algorithm suffers from low recall

Variants:

- Changing the similarity measure: Cosine
- Use of WordNet instead of a dictionary
- Enrichment with WordNet (Adapted/Extended Lesk) (Banerjee and Pederson, 2002/2003)
  - Use examples of Wordnet Synsets
  - Use the data of hypernyms and/or hyponyms
- Enrichment with WordNet and Wikipedia (Enhanced Lesk) (Basile et al. 2014)

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

- Methods to disambiguate one word or all the words at the same time
- Based on **PageRank** algorithm from Google
  - input:** net of linked webpages
  - output:** relevance of each webpage included in the net

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- Methods to disambiguate one word or all the words at the same time
- Based on **PageRank** algorithm from Google
  - input:** net of linked webpages
  - output:** relevance of each webpage included in the net
- Analogy:
  - input:** text to disambiguate and graph of word senses defined by their relations (ex. WordNet)
  - output:** relevance of each sense of each word occurrence included in the text

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

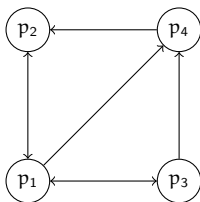
## 1. PRELIMINARY: How does **PageRank** perform?

- \* Webpage relevance = prob. of being visited following the links

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transition matrix

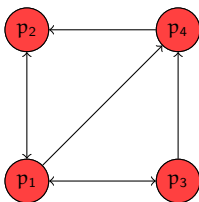
$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 1. PRELIMINARY: How does **PageRank** perform?

- \* Webpage relevance = prob. of being visited following the links
- \* Find the stationary distribution

$$v_{(i+1)} = H \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/n]_n$$



transition matrix

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initial relevance vector

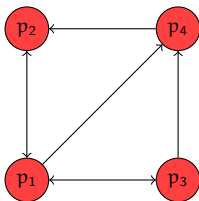
$$v_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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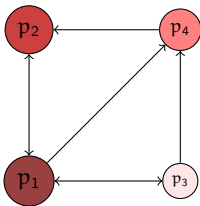
$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} - \\ - \\ - \\ - \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.375 \\ 0.333 \\ 0.083 \\ 0.208 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

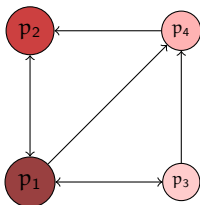


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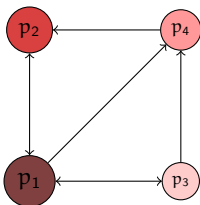
$$v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.374 \\ 0.333 \\ 0.125 \\ 0.166 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0.375 \\ 0.333 \\ 0.083 \\ 0.208 \end{bmatrix}$$

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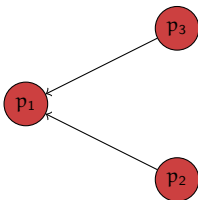
$$v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.395 \\ 0.291 \\ 0.125 \\ 0.187 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0.374 \\ 0.333 \\ 0.125 \\ 0.166 \end{bmatrix}$$

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## 1. PRELIMINARY: How does **PageRank** perform?

**DRAWBACK:** webpages without outgoing links and disconnected graphs

$$v_{(i+1)} = H \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/n]_n$$



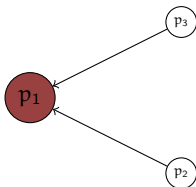
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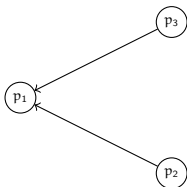
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**DRAWBACK:** webpages without outgoing links and disconnected graphs

$$v_{(i+1)} = H \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/n]_n$$



$$v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0.66 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

1. PRELIMINARY: How does **PageRank** perform?

**DRAWBACK:** webpages without outgoing links and disconnected graphs

**SOLUTION:** select a webpage randomly

$$v_{(i+1)} = H \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/n]_n$$

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 1. PRELIMINARY: How does **PageRank** perform?

**DRAWBACK:** webpages without outgoing links and disconnected graphs

**SOLUTION:** select a webpage randomly

$$v_{(i+1)} = M \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/n]_n$$

$$M = (1 - \alpha) \cdot H + \alpha \cdot B$$

M: PageRank matrix

H: transition matrix

$\alpha$ : probability of random selection (default 0.15)

B: matrix  $[1/n]_n^n$

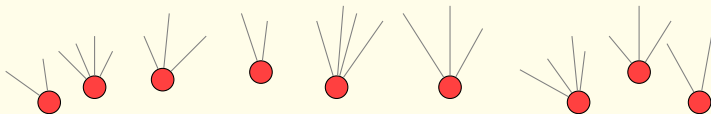
# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 2. WSD using PageRank

- \* Use of WordNet as graph

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_W \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|W|]_{|W|}$$

$W$





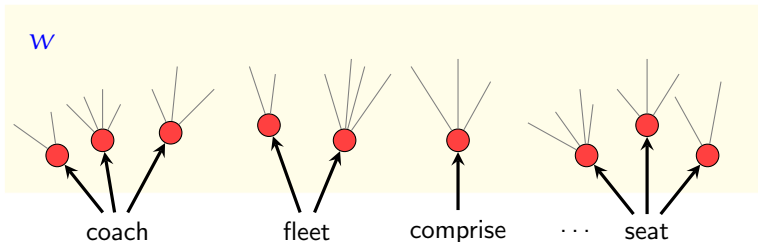
# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 2. WSD using PageRank

- \* Use of WordNet as graph

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_W \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|W|]_{|W|}$$

- \* Focused on the synsets of the input words



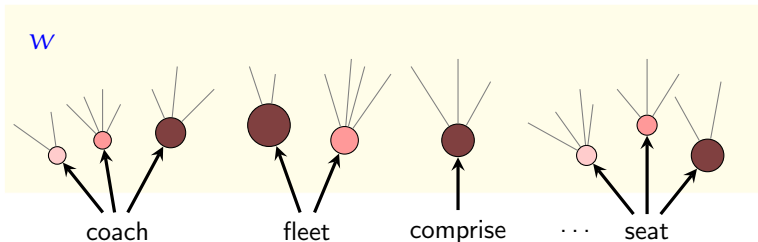
# Based on Knowledge: UKB

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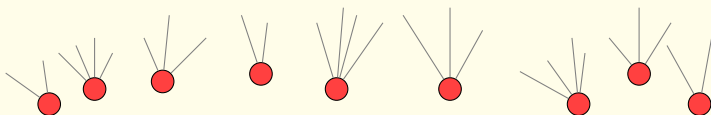
# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_W \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|W|]_{|W|}$$

$W$



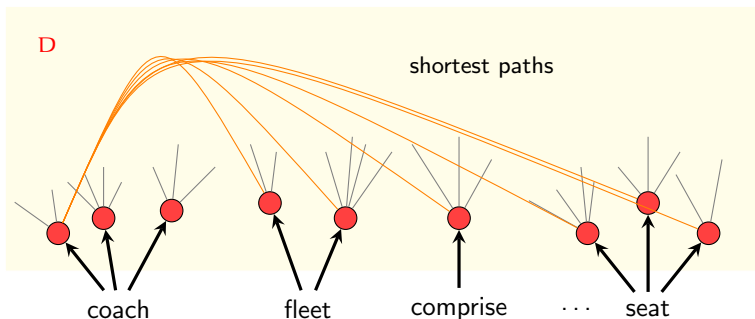
# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the  $k$  input words?

**OPTION 1.** Restrict  $W$  to the disambiguation graph  $D$

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_D \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|D|]_{|D|}$$



# Based on Knowledge: UKB

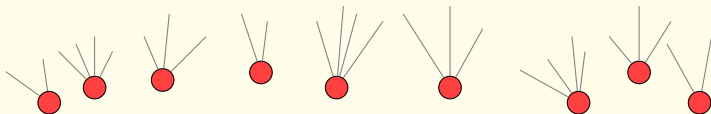
## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

**OPTION 2.** Personalize B to the k input words

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_W \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|W|]_{|W|}$$

$W$



# Based on Knowledge: UKB

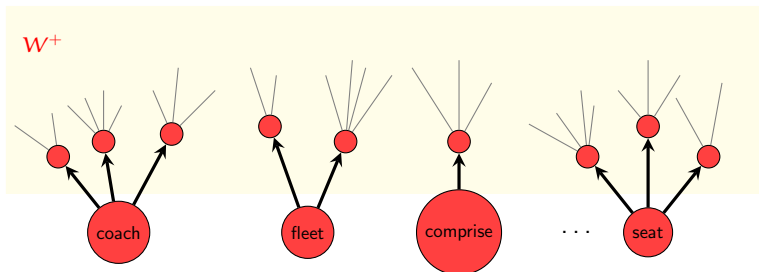
## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

**OPTION 2.** Personalize B to the k input words

$$v_{(i+1)} = M_{W^+} \cdot v_i \quad v_0 = [1/|W| + k]_{|W|+k}$$

- Add the k words as new nodes linked to their n' synsets



# Based on Knowledge: UKB

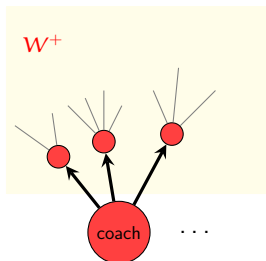
## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

**OPTION 2.** Personalize B to the k input words

$$M_{W^+} = (1 - \alpha) \cdot H_{W^+} + \alpha \cdot B_{W^+}$$

- Add the k words as new nodes linked to their n' synsets



$$H_{W^+} = \begin{bmatrix} \overbrace{\begin{matrix} & & & & \end{matrix}}^{|W|} & \overbrace{\begin{matrix} & & & & \end{matrix}}^k \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \begin{matrix} H_W \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & \dots \\ 1/3 & \dots \\ 1/3 & \dots \\ 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots \\ 1/3 & \dots \end{matrix} \\ \vdots \\ \begin{matrix} 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \dots \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} |W| \\ \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} k \end{matrix}$$

# Based on Knowledge: UKB

## 2. WSD using PageRank

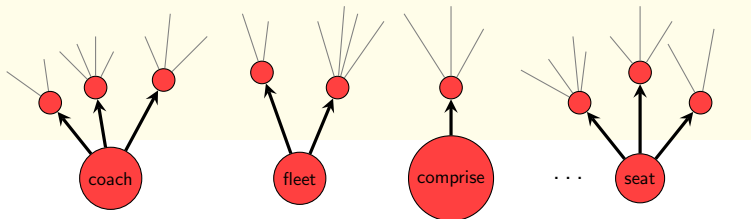
How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

**OPTION 2.** Personalize B to the k input words

$$M_{W^+} = (1 - \alpha) \cdot H_{W^+} + \alpha \cdot B_{W^+}$$

- Concentrate the random selection prob. on the n' synsets

$W^+$





# Based on Knowledge: UKB

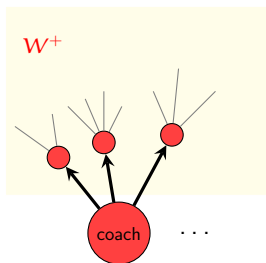
## 2. WSD using PageRank

How does it focus on the synsets of the k input words?

**OPTION 2.** Personalize B to the k input words

$$M_{W^+} = (1 - \alpha) \cdot H_{W^+} + \alpha \cdot B_{W^+}$$

- Concentrate the random selection prob. on the  $n'$  synsets



$$B_{W^+} = \begin{bmatrix} \overbrace{\begin{matrix} 0 & \dots & 0 \end{matrix}}^n & \overbrace{\begin{matrix} 0 & \dots & 0 \end{matrix}}^k \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 1/n' & \dots & 1/n' \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1/n' & \dots & 1/n' \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1/n' & \dots & 1/n' \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1/n' & \dots & 1/n' \end{matrix} \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} n \\ \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} k \end{matrix}$$