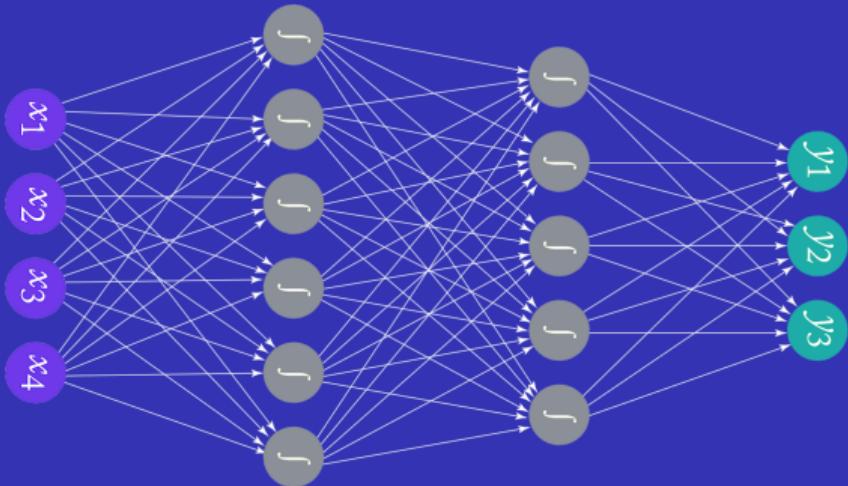


Neural networks in NLP: hype or more?



Andrey Kutuzov

University of Oslo, Language Technology Group

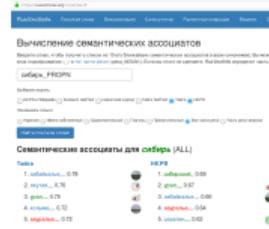
4-th Kolmogorov seminar in computational linguistics, Moscow, 25 April 2019

Who's here?

- I am Andrey Kutuzov.
- Master degree in computational linguistics from NRU HSE.
- Industrial past: *Lionbridge*, *Mail.ru Search*.
- Now doing my PhD and teaching at the University of Oslo.
 - Deep learning, computational linguistics...
- One of the maintainers of the *RusVectōrēs* project (word embeddings for Russian)
[Kutuzov and Kuzmenko, 2017].
- Contributing to the *Gensim* library
[Řehůřek and Sojka, 2010].



<https://www.mn.uio.no/ifi/english/>



<https://rusvectores.org>



<https://github.com/RaRe-Technologies/gensim>

What I will talk about?



- There are 4 take-home messages in the talk.
- Look for slides with large friendly red letters:

Take-home message

Like this one

About NLP



Linguistics

About NLP



Linguistics



Statistics

About NLP



Linguistics



Statistics



Deep learning

About NLP

- Computational Linguistics (CL);

About NLP

- Computational Linguistics (CL);
- Natural Language Processing (NLP);

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- Computational Linguistics (CL);
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- Natural Language Understanding (NLU);

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- More or less the same field:

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 - 1 academic studying of language from computational point of view;

About NLP

- Computational Linguistics (CL);
- Natural Language Processing (NLP);
- Natural Language Understanding (NLU);
- More or less the same field:
 - 1 academic studying of language from computational point of view;
 - 2 solving practical language tasks:
 - analysis (natural language understanding)
 - synthesis ('natural' language generation)

Why NLP/CL is so important recently?

- **Data** — ‘XXI century oil’;

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 - speech recognition
 - chat bots
 - summarization
 - virtual personal assistants (*Алиса, Siri, Alexa, Cortana*)...

Surprise: language is not simple



Yoav Goldberg

Follow

Senior Lecturer at Bar Ilan University. Working on NLP. Recently with Neural Nets. Published a book about it. <http://www.cs.biu.ac.il/~yogo/>

Jun 9, 2017 · 14 min read

An Adversarial Review of "Adversarial Generation of Natural Language"

Or, for fucks sake, DL people, leave language alone and stop saying you solve it.

<https://medium.com/@yoav.goldberg/an-adversarial-review-of-adversarial-generation-of-natural-language-409ac3378bd7>

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(especially when it has rich morphology)

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 - **tokenization** (how to split a string into words?)
 - **lemmatization** (what is the lemma of this word?)
 - **disambiguation**:
 - «Лук (???) был просто огонь (???)»
 - ...and of course, many, many more.
 - Linguistic knowledge provides **scaffolding** for machine learning systems.



Take-home message #1

Language data is complex and specific

NLP needs linguistics

Deep Learning comes as no surprise in the history of NLP

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 - George Zipf (studied natural language statistics);
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 - machine translation boom in the 1950s.

How we arrived to neural networks?

3 stages of the NLP history

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'Kolmogorov complexity' — the length of minimal computer program reproducing an object (model size)

- Computational power of the humanity is growing...
- ...but it doesn't help rule-based methods: they **don't scale well**.
- Rule-based description of an object of a given complexity does not speed up.

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Instead, search and machine learning do scale extremely well!

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Machine learning

- In a sense, NLP today is a part of **data science**...
- ...since it is almost entirely built around **machine learning**.
- We **train** our systems on large **corpora**.
- **Neural networks**: a type of ML algorithms.

Artificial neural networks have been around for a long time

'Machines of this character can
behave in a very complicated
manner when the number of units
is large.'

Alan Turing, 'Intelligent Machinery'
[Turing, 1948]



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...but the 60s, 70s and 80s were 'AI winter'. A handful of rebels continued to resist the Empire play with training neural networks...

27.03.2019: Deep Learning founding fathers received 'computer science Nobel prize': ACM Turing Award



Yoshua Bengio

Geoffrey Hinton

Yann LeCun

'...for conceptual and engineering breakthroughs that have made deep neural networks a critical component of computing... in computer vision, speech recognition, natural language processing, and robotics'

Neural networks revival

- ‘Deep learning’ is machine learning with multi-layered artificial neural networks and non-linear transformations.

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 - feedforward networks (the simplest),
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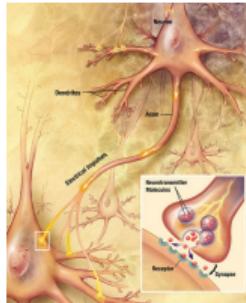
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- ‘*Do we even need anything else?*’
 - Not a spoiler any more: yes, we also need linguistics.
 - Often, we also need huge amounts of training data.

Why ‘neural’?

- Our brain has 10^{11} neurons, with 10^4 connections per each.

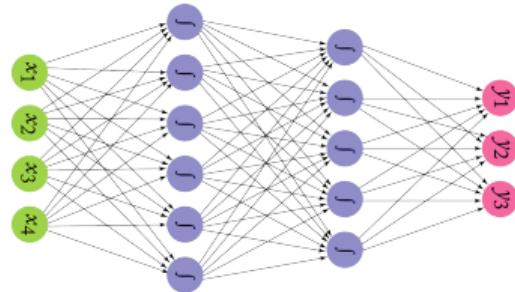
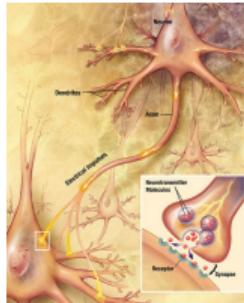
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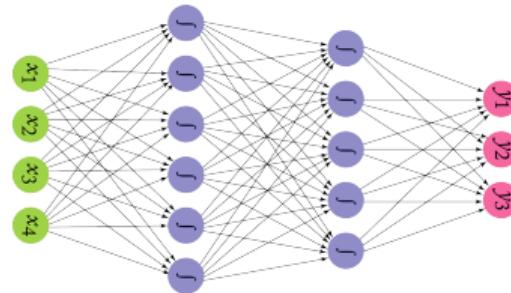
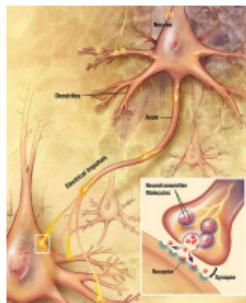
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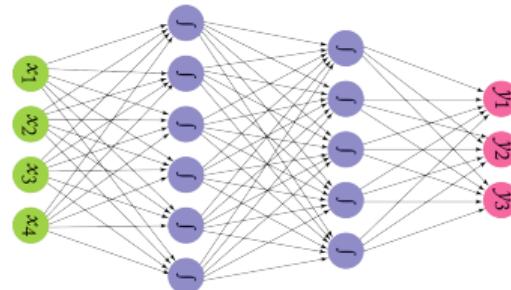
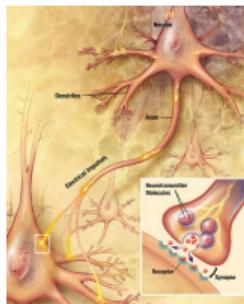
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- But this is not certain: in fact, we do not know for sure how our brain works.
- Hence, neural networks are vectors, weights arrays and differentiation.
Not so sexy, but true.

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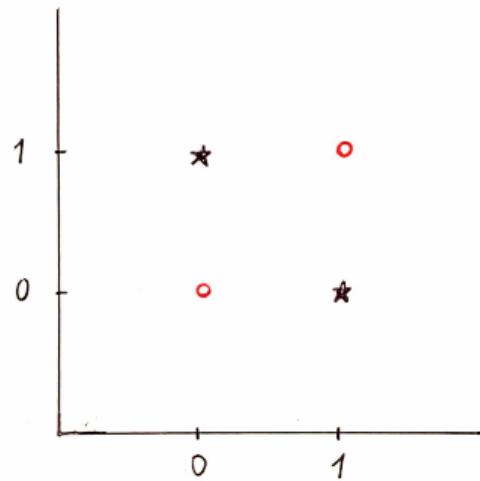
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- They were shown to be able to **approximate any function**.
 - ...given enough layers and neurons (computational units) in these layers.
- **Non-linear transformations** between layers make it possible to process data which is not linearly separable.
- This is the reason ANNs work better.

Why 'non-linear'?

Consider this toy **XOR** dataset, and the non-linear transformation
 $\phi(x, y) = [x \times y, x + y]$:

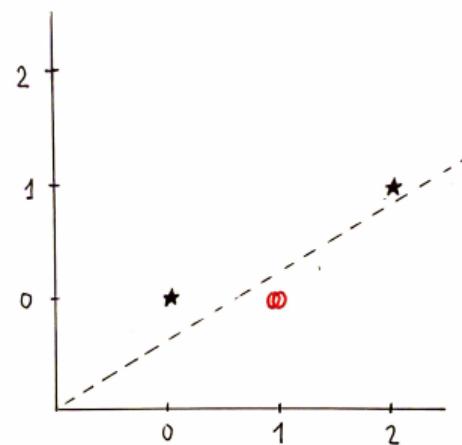
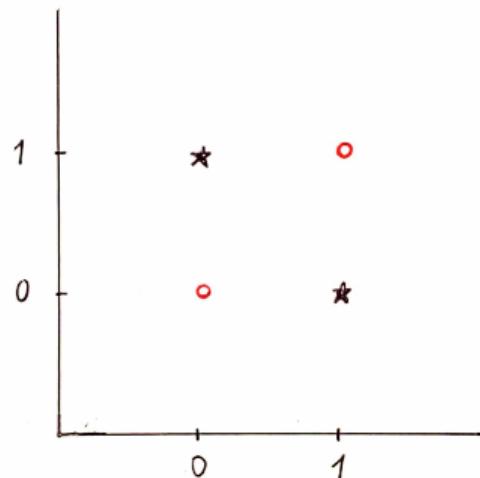
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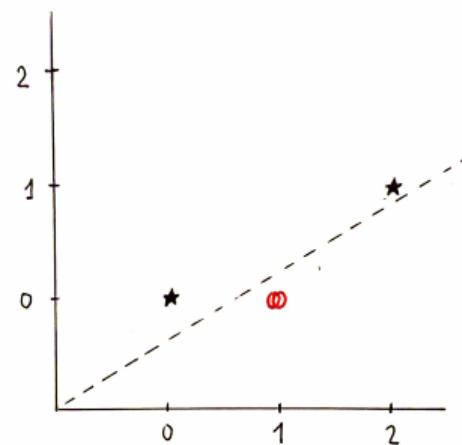
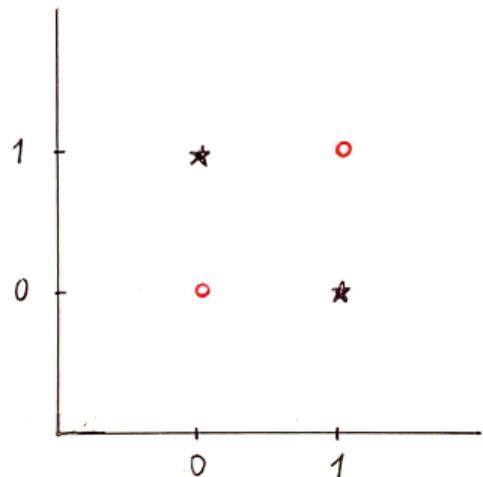
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ANNs learn such transformations.

Take-home message #2

Deep Learning is a logical development of
NLP

Representation learning

- ANNs are very efficient in **learning optimal vector representations** for various entities.

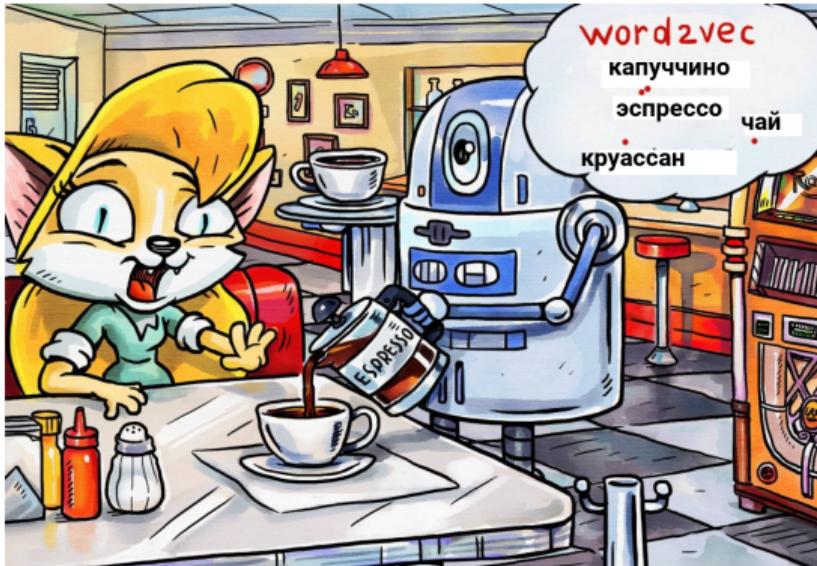
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- Of ultimate importance in NLP: language has a lot of complex objects, and we need ways to calculate similarities:
 - sounds,
 - characters,
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 - sentences, documents... even languages themselves.
- Such representations are called **embeddings** (e.g., word embeddings).

word2vec: representing words with vectors is commonplace now



- Эспрессо? Но я заказывала капуччино!
- Не волнуйтесь, у них такая высокая косинусная
близость, что это практически одно и то же.

Deep learning has changed NLP substantially

- Much less manual feature engineering: models find useful **feature combinations** themselves.

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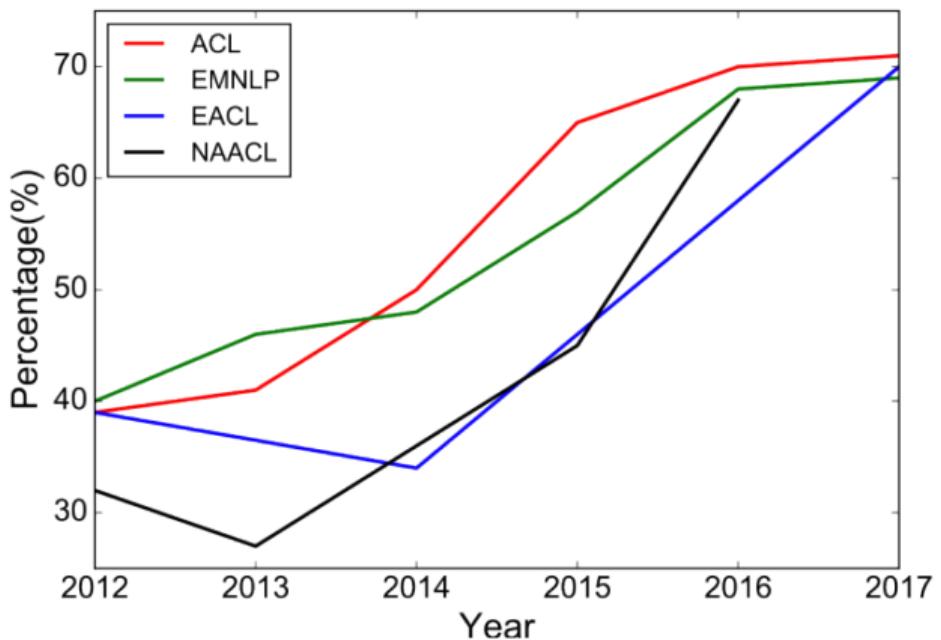
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- **Pre-trained models**: easily fine-tuned for your tasks.
- **Elementary ‘bricks’ are combined into different complex architectures**.
- Hardware today is comparatively cheap and powerful (GPUs, TPUs).



Steamroller, or DL at the NLP conferences



[Young et al., 2018]

Regular NLP revolutions and new SOTA achievements

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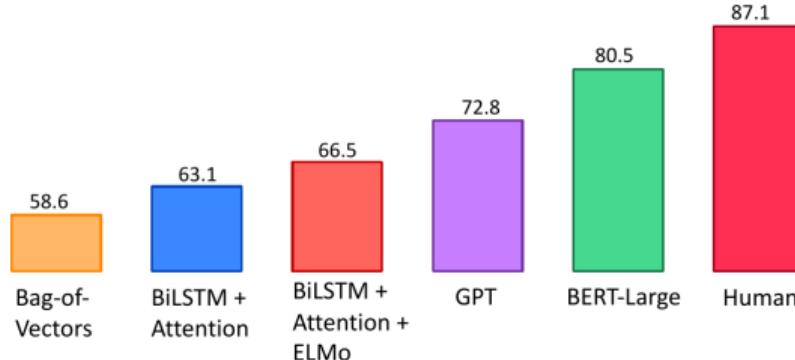
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<https://gluebenchmark.com/>, [Wang et al., 2018]

Funny things happen sometimes

OpenAI trained a language model but didn't publish it (for fear of malicious usage):

 [VIEW CODE](#)

 [READ PAPER](#)

Our model, called GPT-2 (a successor to GPT), was trained simply to predict the next word in 40GB of Internet text. Due to our concerns about malicious applications of the technology, we are not releasing the trained model. As an experiment in responsible disclosure, we are instead releasing a much smaller model for researchers to experiment with, as well as a technical paper.

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NLP folks are not much grateful for that:



((((J()()yoav))))

@yoavgo

Читать

В ответ @aCraigPfeifer

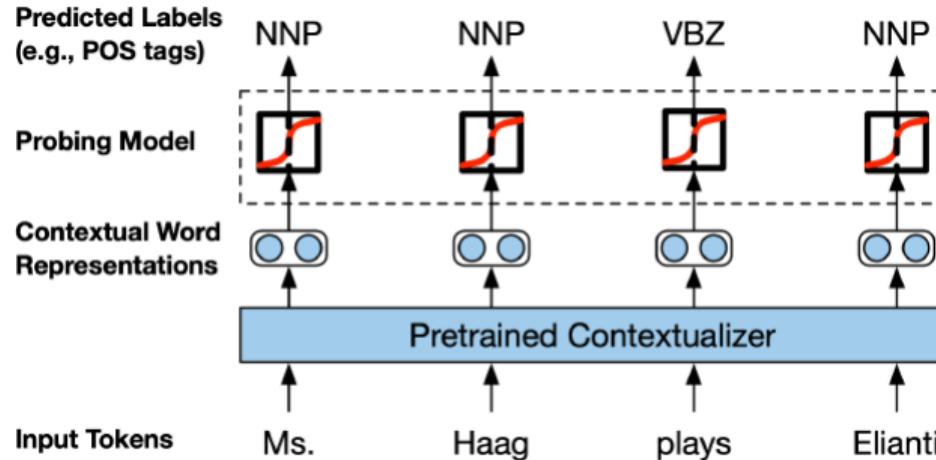
we can generate all the stories on the
[@OpenAI](#) blog post on a single CPU core,
after training on just a handful of blogposts
for several minutes.

Problem: interpretability of predictions made by a cascade of representations



Probing tasks

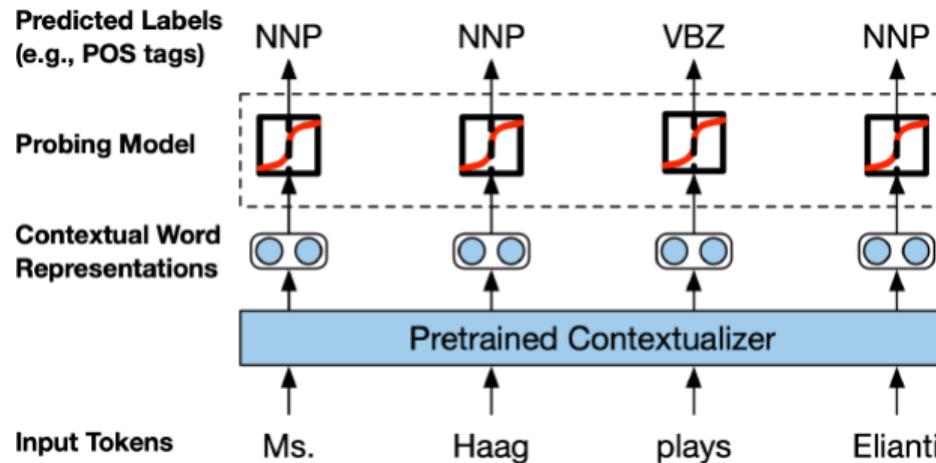
We need linguistics to **diagnose**: to find out what exactly our models learn:



[Liu et al., 2019], [Belinkov and Glass, 2019]

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NB: correlation does not imply causation!

Do deep networks help to enrich our linguistic knowledge?

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Latent syntax trees learned by a network:

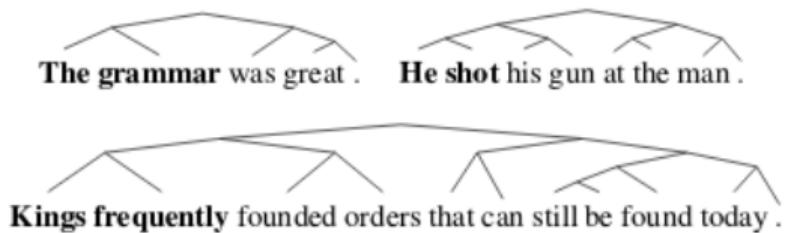


Figure 4: The ST-Gumbel models often form constituents from the first two words of sentences.

[Williams et al., 2018]

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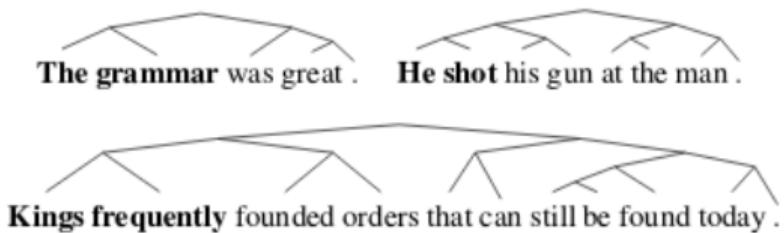


Figure 4: The ST-Gumbel models often form constituents from the first two words of sentences.

[Williams et al., 2018]

Problem: lack of annotated data

выбор слова
Что, если все эти профессии на самом деле бесполезны, и их обладатели об этом знают?

искажение [critical] выбор слова пропуск [major]
Когда взрослый человек просыпается в пять утра семь дней в неделю для того, чтобы выполнять задания, которые не нужно выполнять - разве это не пустая тратя времени?

искажение [major] Синтаксис
Есть множество исследований на тему любви к своей работе, но кто-нибудь задумывался: а достойна ли его работа того, чтобы существовать?

форма слова
Я решил исследовать этот феномен, опросив более чем 250 людей со всего мира, которые полагают, что работали или работают на, как я ее называю, "абсурдной работе".
Что такое абсурдная работа?

несогласованность syntax несогласованность порядок слов несогласованность
Ее отличительная черта в том, что эта работа настолько бессмысленна, что даже тот, кому приходится ходить на эту работу каждый день, не может убедить самого себя, поч

искажение [SL]
Такие люди не могут признаться в этом своим коллегам (чаще всего у них есть причины этого не делать), и тем не менее, они убеждены, что их работа бесполезна.

форма слова выбор слова
Абсурдная работа не просто бесполезная: обычно в какой-то степени она наполнена притворством и мошенничеством.

выбор слова
Человек должен чувствовать себя обязанным притворяться, что у его работы есть причины существовать, даже если на самом деле он считает эти причины нелепыми.

Связность [major]
Абсурдной работой чаще всего считают ту, на которой приходится работать "на дядю" и получать как фиксированную, так и еженедельную зарплату.

логика [major]
Разумеется, есть люди, работающие неофициально, которые хотят получать деньги, притворяясь, что предоставляют какие-то полезные услуги (я говорю о шарлатанах, грабителях

Take-home message #3

Deep learning in NLP is not over-hyped.
Do it now!

- *But the ‘classic’ ML 20 years ago was not over-hyped either.*
- *Thus, DL is not some final solution to automatic language analysis and synthesis.*
- *Something different will come in the future, solving DL problems.*

Large software ecosystem (mostly Python)



NumPy



- *NumPy*: multi-dimensional arrays (**tensors**) and other linear algebra;

Large software ecosystem (mostly Python)



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Large software ecosystem (mostly Python)

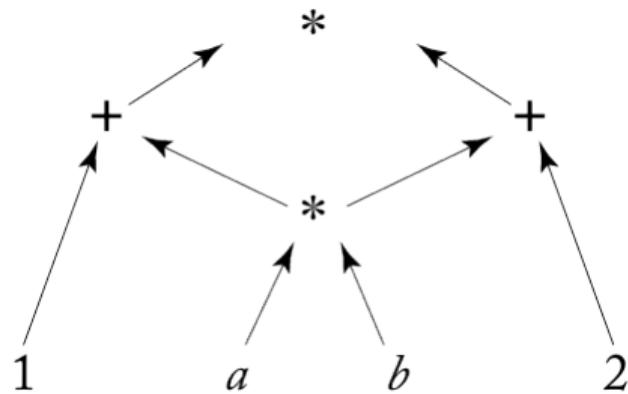


NumPy



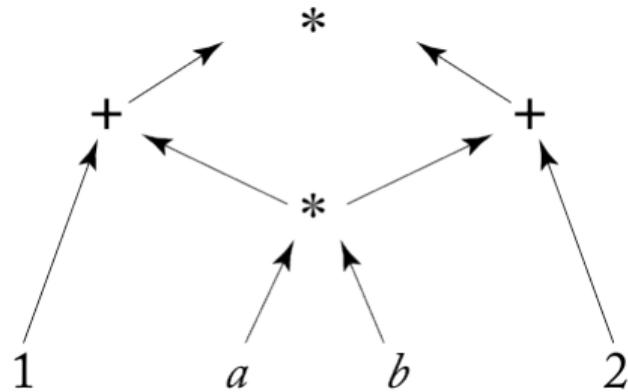
- *NumPy*: multi-dimensional arrays (**tensors**) and other linear algebra;
- A Law: **any IT company with more than 10K employees starts making its own DL framework;**
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- **TensorFlow** by *Google* [Abadi et al., 2015]
<https://tensorflow.org/>
- **PyTorch** by *Facebook* [Paszke et al., 2017]
<https://pytorch.org/>

Under the hood of frameworks: computation graph



*directed acyclic graph (**DAG**)*

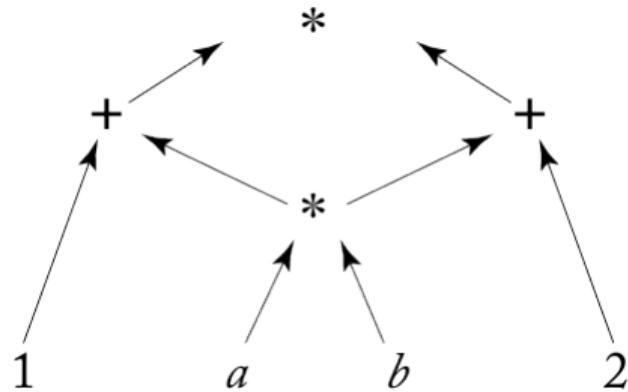
Under the hood of frameworks: computation graph



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- Representation of a mathematical expression calculation;

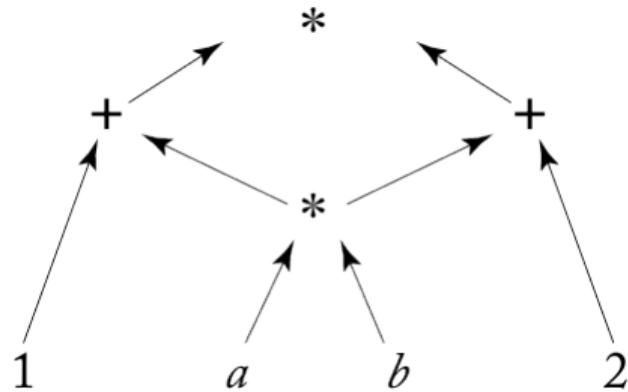
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- all operations and variables are nodes in the graph;

Under the hood of frameworks: computation graph



*directed acyclic graph (**DAG**)*

- Representation of a mathematical expression calculation;
- all operations and variables are nodes in the graph;
- allows to **easily design arbitrarily complex and deep architectures** (must be differentiable).

TensorFlow or PyTorch? What's the difference?

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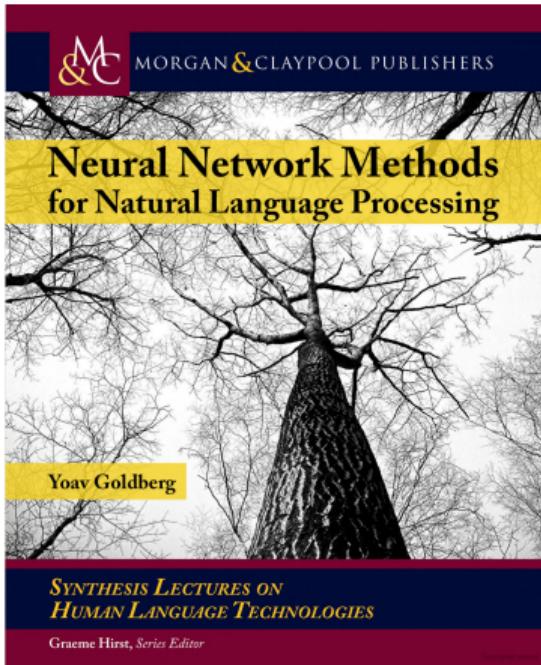
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Both frameworks are research and production ready. Just use the one you know better.

Take-home message #4

NLP+DL frameworks: choice between
PyTorch and *TensorFlow*.
Both are good.

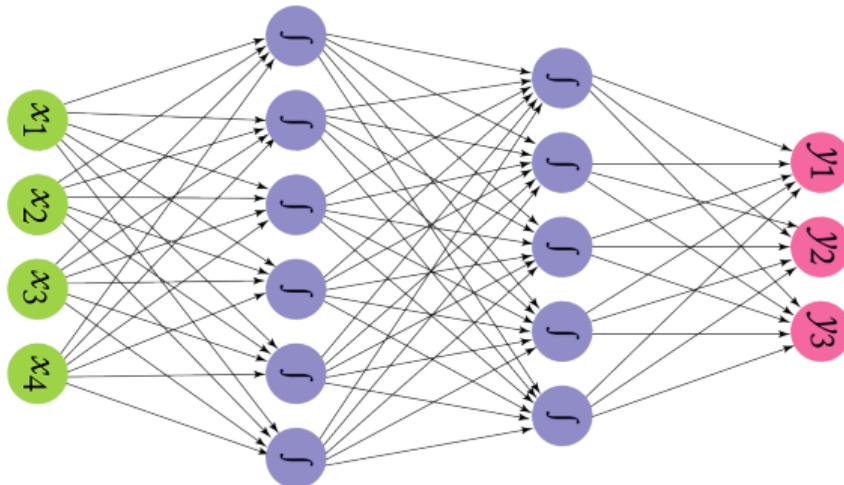
Further reading



- **Yoav Goldberg**: *Neural Network Methods for Natural Language Processing* [Goldberg, 2017].
- **Sebastian Ruder** blog (<http://ruder.io/>)

Questions?

Neural networks in NLP: hype or more?



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