

Schmidt X CARTE A

## NLP & Embeddings

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Adapted from material by Charles Ollion & Olivier

# Outline

Intro to NLP & Embeddings

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Attention, Transformers and GPT

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Applications of LLMs

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# What is NLP?

- Subfield of AI that focuses on reading, deciphering and producing
- Combines computational linguistics (e.g. rule-based modelling, statistical, ML, and deep learning approaches)
- Through NLP, machines can understand, analyze and generate text that is meaningful and contextually appropriate
- While LLMs have driven an explosion in interest, there are many other models which paved the way



# Common NLP Tasks

- Text Classification, e.g. spam detection
- Named Entity Recognition, e.g. identifying people, places, orga
- Sentiment Analysis, e.g. positive or negative sentiment
- Machine Translation, e.g. Google Translate

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- Context: the meaning of a word can change depending on the c
- Nuance: language is full of subtleties and nuances
- Syntax vs Semantics: A phrase can be grammatical but nonsens  
ungrammatical but meaningful

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- Unlike earlier rule-based or statistical models, LLMs learn to generate text through training on large amounts of data
- They can generate text that is coherent and contextually appropriate
- They can be fine-tuned for specific tasks

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- We will first focus on the encoder part of the model

Embeddings

# From Real to Symbolic

- Often, machine learning deals with *real-valued* input: data that or can be easily converted to a number and thus contains its own meaning
- Examples: pixel values in an image, audio samples in a sound file, sensor readings
- But what if the input is a symbol?



# Symbolic variable

- Text: characters, words, bigrams...
- Recommender Systems: item ids, user ids
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Notation:

Symbol  $s$  in vocabulary  $V$

# One-hot representation

$$\text{onehot}(\text{'salad'}) = [0, 0, 1, \dots, 0] \in \{0, 1\}^l$$



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$$\text{onehot}(\text{'salad'}) = [0, 0, 1, \dots, 0] \in \{0, 1\}^{|V|}$$



- Sparse, discrete, large dimension  $|V|$
- Each axis has a meaning
- Symbols are equidistant from each other:

$$\text{euclidean distance} = \sqrt{2}$$

# Embedding

$$\textit{embedding}(\text{'salad'}) = [3.28, -0.45, \dots 7.1$$

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- Continuous and dense
- Can represent a huge vocabulary in low dimension, typically:  
 $d \in \{16, 32, \dots, 4096\}$
- Axis have no meaning *a priori*
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Neural Networks compute transformations on continuous vectors

# Implementation with Keras

Size of vocabulary  $n = |V|$ , size of embedding  $d$

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# input: batch of integers  
Embedding(output_dim=d, input_dim=n, input_length=1)  
# output: batch of float vectors
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- $\mathbf{W}$  are trainable parameters of the model

# Distance and similarity in Embedding space

## Euclidean distance

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## Cosine similarity

$$\text{cosine}(x, y) = \frac{x \cdot y}{\|x\| \cdot \|y\|}$$

- Angle between points in embedding space
- $\text{cosine}(x, y) \in [-1, 1]$
- Expected cosine similarity for random pairs of vectors is 0

# Visualizing Embeddings

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## t-SNE

Visualizing data using t-SNE, L van der Maaten, G Hinton, *The Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2008

# t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbour Embedding

- Unsupervised, low-dimension, non-linear projection
- Optimized to preserve relative distances between nearest neighbours
- Global layout is not necessarily meaningful

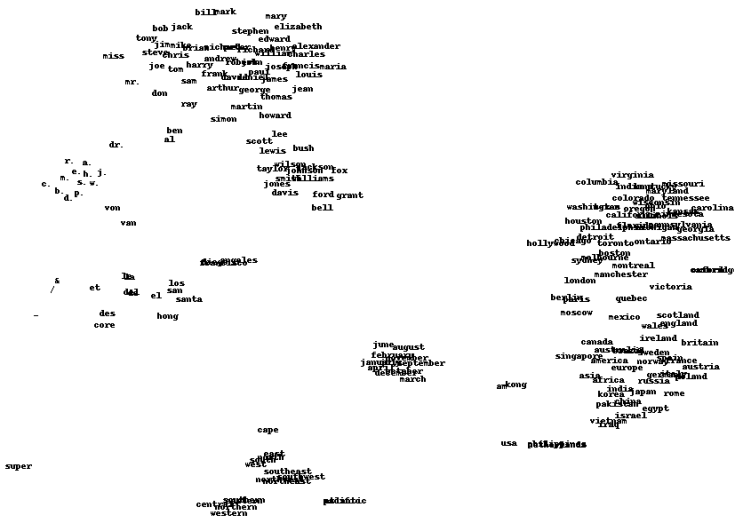
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t-SNE projection is non deterministic (depends on initialization)

- Critical parameter: perplexity, usually set to 20, 30
- See <http://distill.pub/2016/misread-tsne/>

## Example word vectors



excerpt from work by J. Turian on a model trained by R. Collobert et al