



# Natural Dialogue Generation

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# Natural Dialogue Generation

Chatbot



Zo  
zo.ai

Image Credits : Microsoft Zo

# AlaaS

Build conversational AI for applications.

## chatbots.io

Image Credits : Chatbots.io



botpress BETA

## THE WORDPRESS OF BOTS

An open-source ecosystem for developers to create, manage and extend bots

Image Credits : Botpress.io


# Natural Dialogue Generation

Open-domain dialogue

# Natural Dialogue Generation


## Open-domain dialogue

**Deals**



**Any 2 Medium pizzas for 6.99**  
Choose any combo of your favorite pizza options and get them both for \$6.99 each.

[Order Now](#)



**Triple Threat Box**  
Get 2 medium 1 topping

Image Credits : Pizza Hut


Do you remember when the order was placed, what it contained, or do you have an order number?

Probably March or April and it contained a pencil holder.

I found an order from February 2016 which contained a pencil cup and four other items.

Order #1057-02

Pencil cup  
Notebook  
Eraser pack  
+2 other items



[Order details](#)

Is this the order you're looking for?

[No](#) [Yes](#)

Image Credits : Microsoft Bot Framework

# Natural Dialogue Generation

Open-domain dialogue

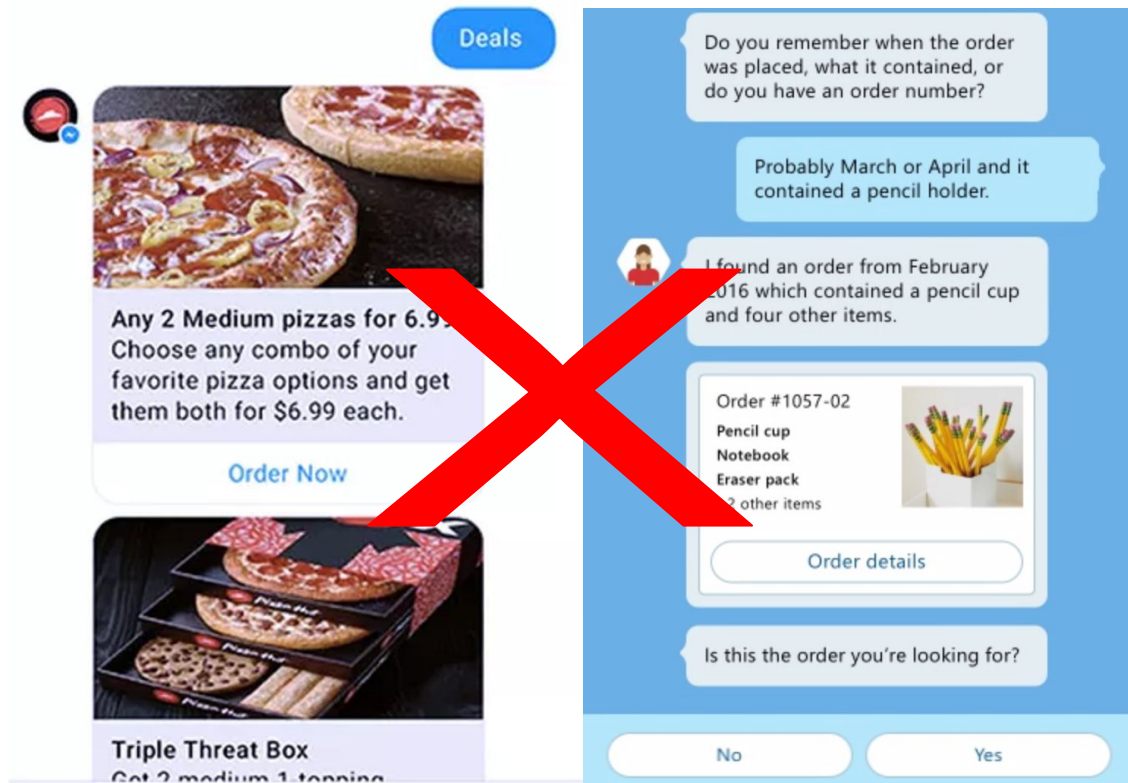


Image Credits : Pizza Hut

Image Credits : Microsoft Bot Framework

# Natural Dialogue Generation

Open-domain dialogue

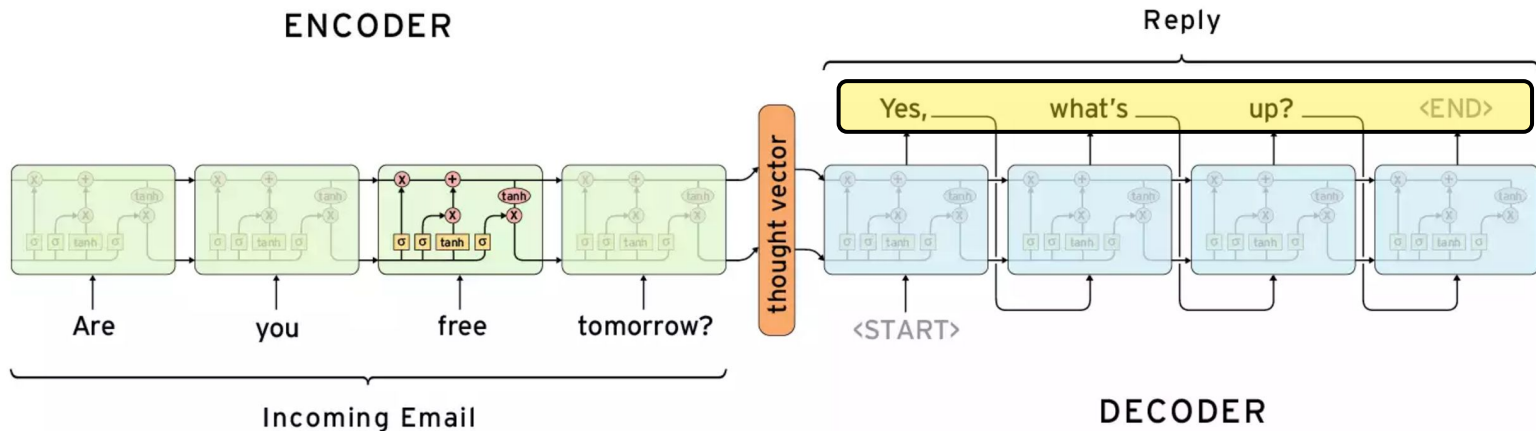


Image Credits : Suriyadeepan Ram

# Natural Dialogue - Conversation

## conversation

/kɒnvə'seɪʃ(ə)n/

*noun*

noun: **conversation**; plural noun: **conversations**

a talk, especially an informal one, between two or more people, in which news and ideas are exchanged.

# Desiderata - Real-world goals



# Desiderata

1. Makes sense

# Desiderata

1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged

# Desiderata

1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged
3. Stays on-topic

# Desiderata

1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged
3. Stays on-topic
4. Is responsive / customizable

# Desiderata

1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged
3. Stays on-topic
4. Is responsive / customizable
5. Does not repeat itself

# Desiderata

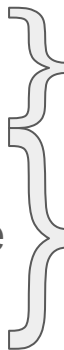
1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged
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[Li, Monroe, Ritter, Galley, Gao, Jurafsky (ArXiv 2016)]  
*“Deep Reinforcement Learning for Dialog Generation”*

# Desiderata

1. Makes sense
2. Keeps you engaged
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[Li, Monroe, Ritter, Galley, Gao, Jurafsky (ArXiv 2016)]  
*“Deep Reinforcement Learning for Dialog Generation”*

# Outline

1. seq2seq
2. Reinforcement learning
3. RL rewards
4. Topic modeling
5. Online learning

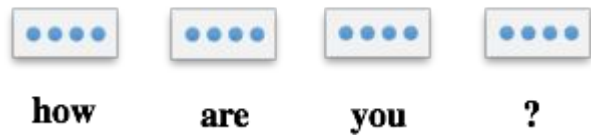


# seq2seq

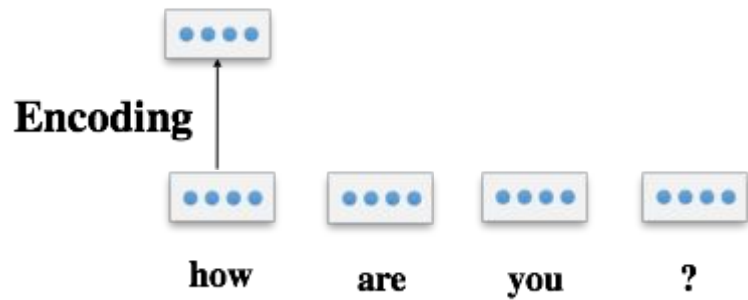
Two LSTMs : an encoder and a decoder

# seq2seq

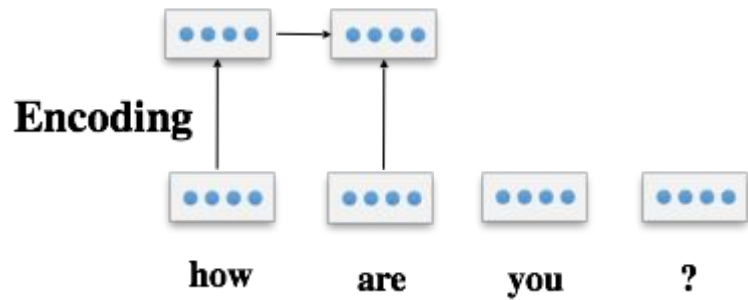
Two LSTMs : an encoder and a decoder



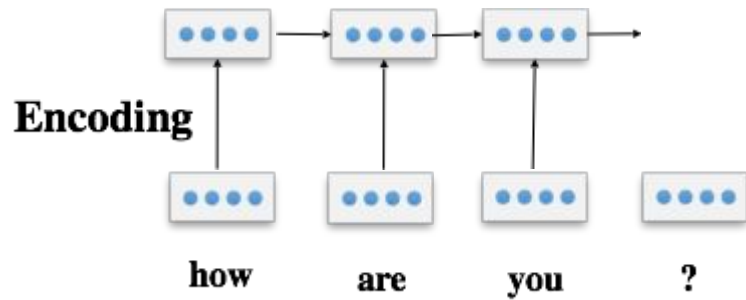
# seq2seq



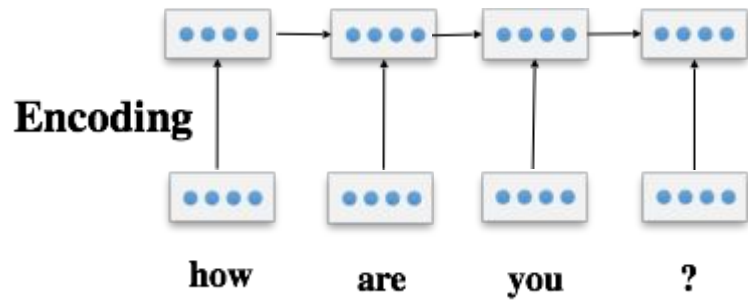
# seq2seq



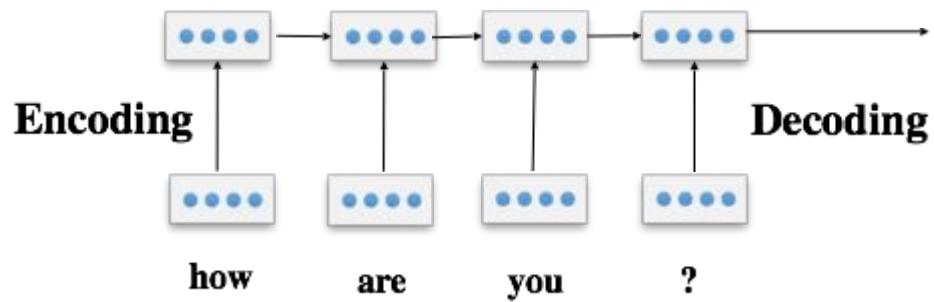
# seq2seq



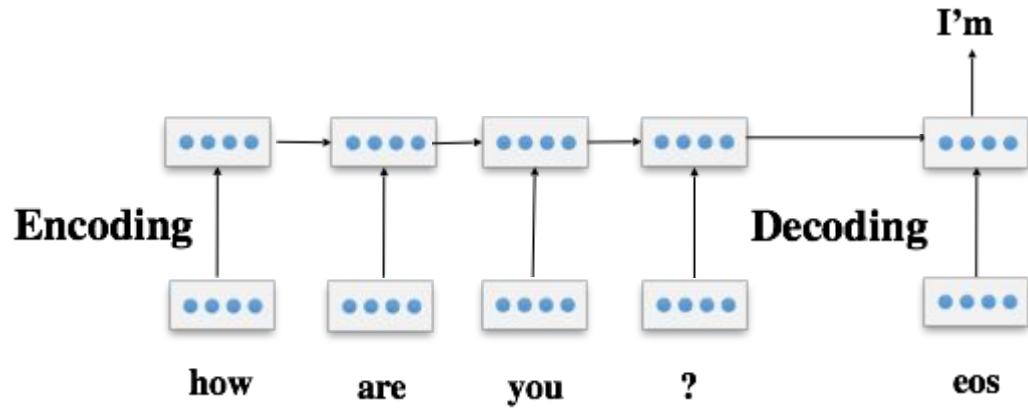
# seq2seq



# seq2seq

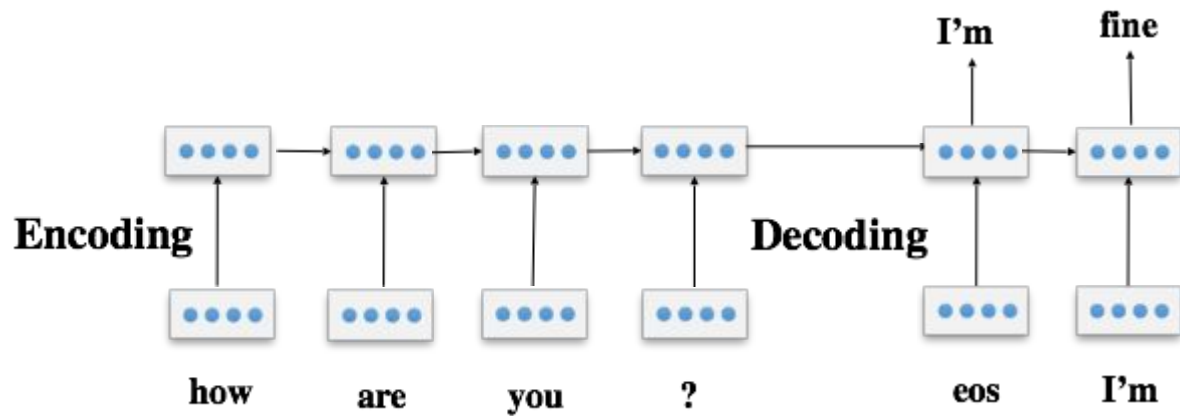


# seq2seq

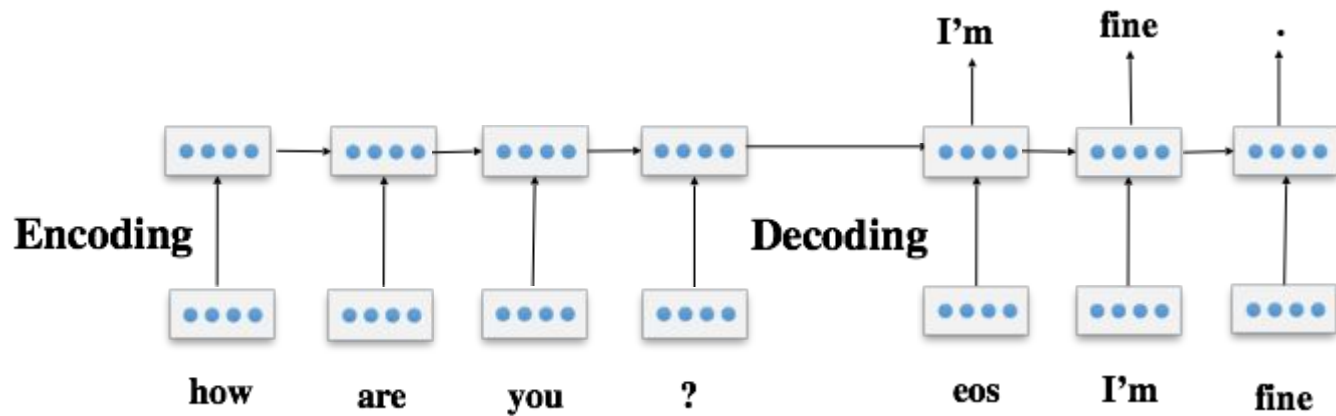




# seq2seq

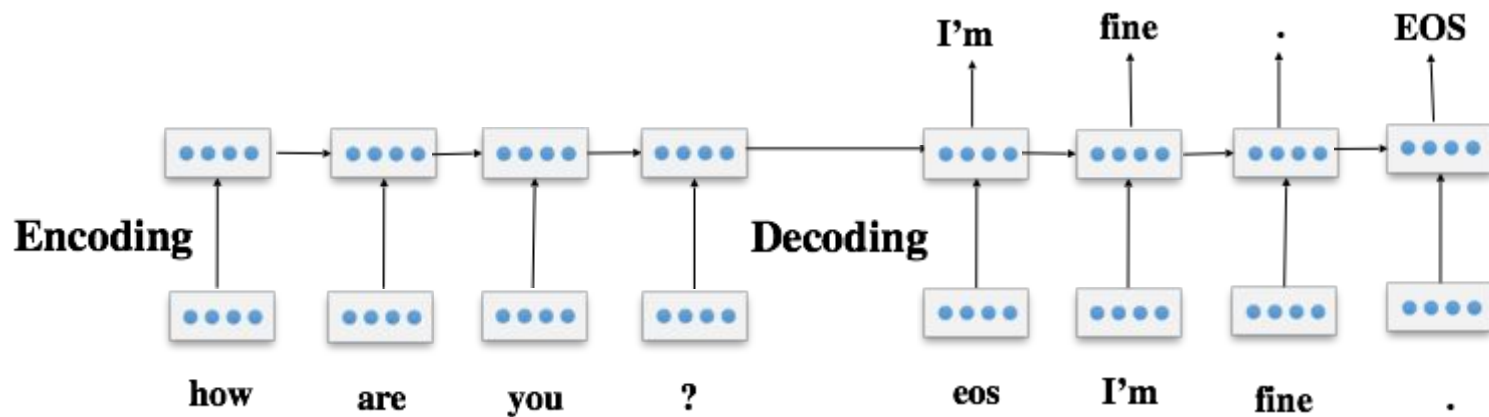


# seq2seq



# seq2seq

$$\text{Loss} = -\log p(\text{target}|\text{source})$$



# seq2seq - Performance

# Performance - Dull

How old are you?

I don't know.

The weather is nice today!

Yes.

Do you like me?

I don't know what you're talking about.

# Performance

$$\text{Loss} = -\cancel{\log p(\text{target}|\text{source})} \log \frac{p(S, T)}{p(S)p(T)} \quad [\text{Li et al, NAACL 2016}]$$

# Performance

$$\text{Loss} = -\log p(\text{target}|\text{source}) \log \frac{p(S, T)}{p(S)p(T)}$$

1. Makes sense ✓
2. Keeps you engaged ✗
3. Stays on-topic ✗
4. Is responsive / customizable ✗
5. Does not repeat itself ✗

I'm going.

See you later!

See you later!

See you later!

See you later!

Poor you!

Shut up!

No, you shut up!

No, you shut up!

No, you shut up!

I'm going.

See you later!

See you later!

See you later!

See you later!



Long-term success

# Long-term success

How old are you?

I'm 22.

22?

I don't know what  
you're talking about

I don't know what  
you're talking about

How old are you?

I'm 22. Why do you ask?

I'm trying to know  
you better.

Oh! How old are  
you?

I'm 18.

# Long-term success

How old are you?

I'm 22.



22?

I don't know what you're talking about

I don't know what you're talking about

How old are you?

I'm 22. Why do you ask?



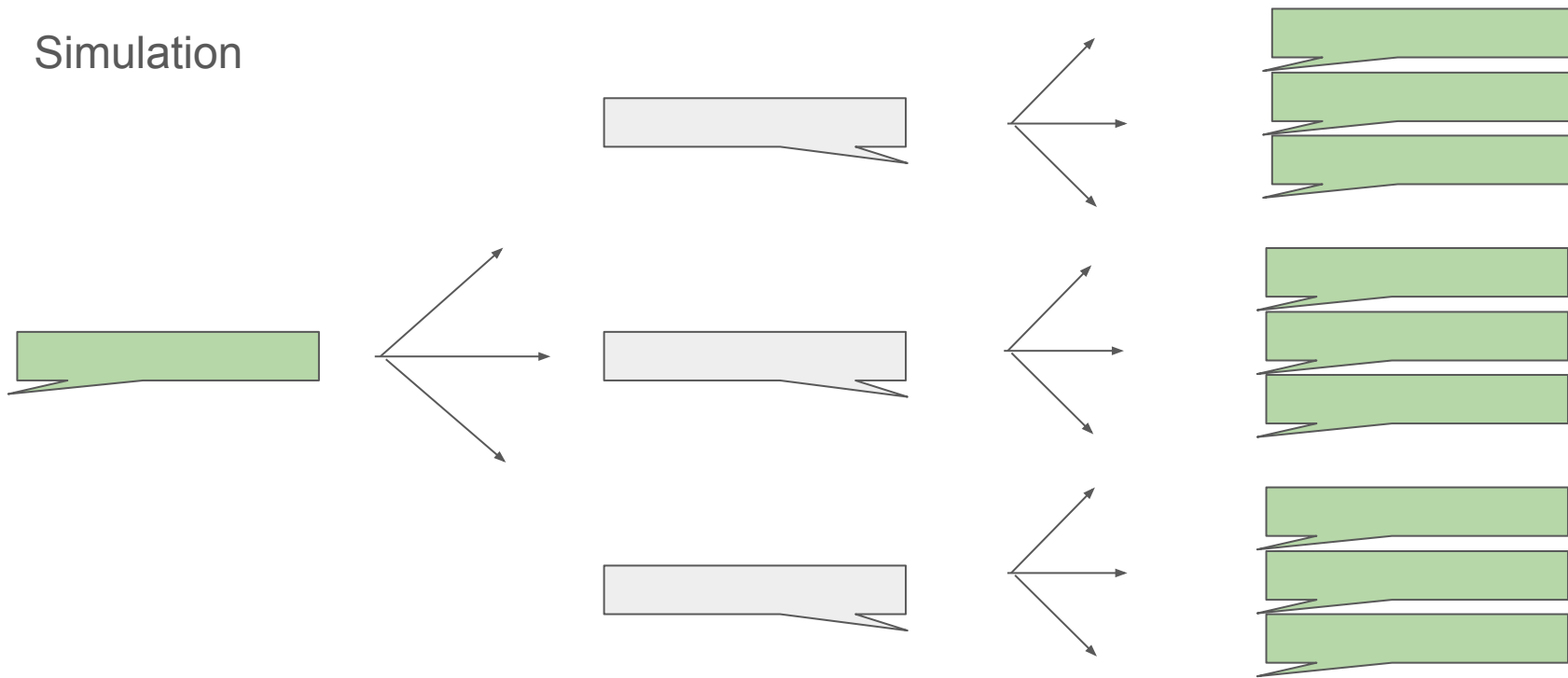
I'm trying to know you better.

Oh! How old are you?

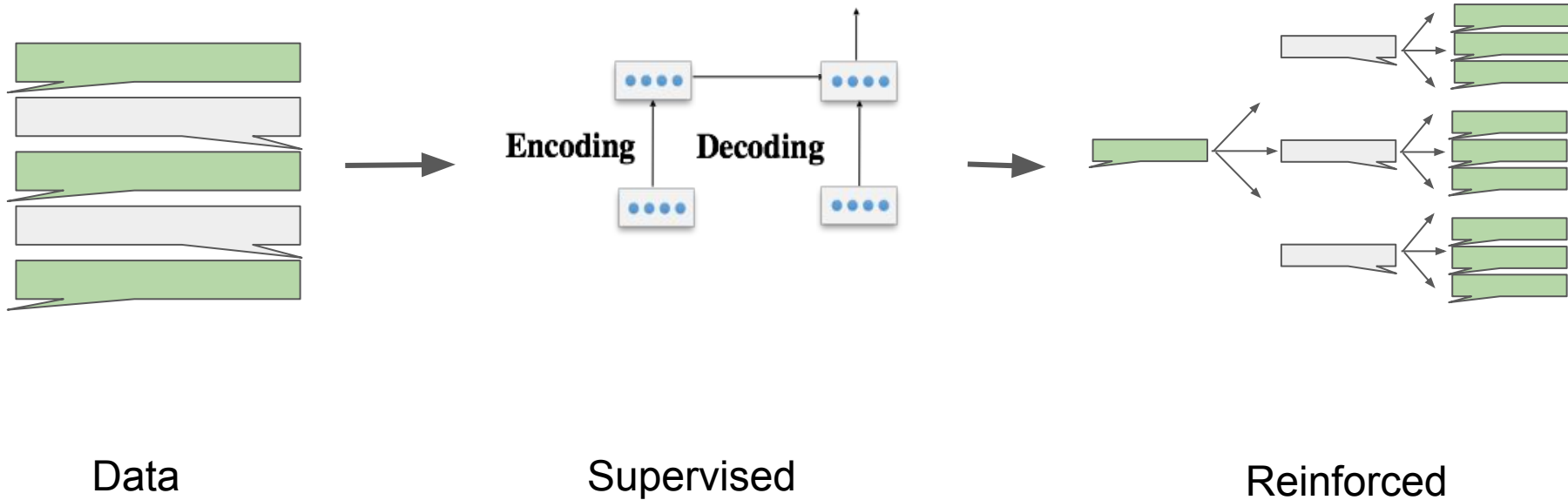
I'm 18.

# Reinforcement learning

Simulation



# Pipeline



# Reinforcement Learning - Rewards

1. Ease of answering
2. Information Flow
3. Topic coherence
4. Word simplicity

Reward 1 : Ease of answering

## Reward 1 : Ease of answering

$$R_1 = - \sum_{s \in \mathbb{S}} \log p_{\text{seq2seq}}(s|a) \quad [\text{Li et al}]$$

Penalise average likelihood of being responded to with one of the dull responses :

“I don’t know”, “I have no idea”, and 6 others



## Reward 1 : Ease of answering

$$R'_1 = - \max_{s \in \mathbb{S}} \log p_{\text{seq2seq}}(s|a)$$

Penalise likelihood of the most likely dull response, i.e. one of these :

“I don’t know”, “I have no idea”, and 6 others

## Reward 1 : Ease of answering

$$R_1'' = - \sum_{s \in S} \textit{dullness}(s) \cdot \log p_{\text{seq2seq}}(s|a)$$

Penalise likelihood-weighted response dullness.

## Reward 1 : Ease of answering

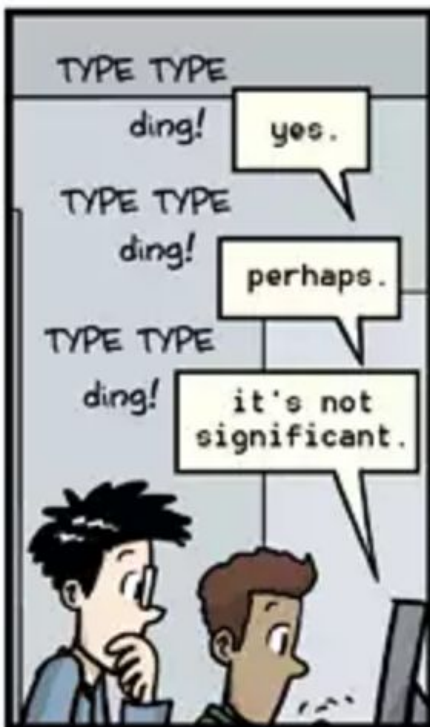
$$R_1'' = - \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} |\{s' : (s', s) \in \mathcal{T}\}| \cdot \log p_{\text{seq2seq}}(s|a)$$

Penalise likelihood-weighted response genericity.

The number of distinct sentences to which it is a response as observed in training.

# Reward 1 : Ease of answering

Model	#turns
Seq2seq (+MMI)	3.40
RL (R1)	4.48
R1'	4.64
R1''	5.32



## Reward 2 : Information Flow

## Reward 2 : Information Flow

$$R_2 = -\log \cos(h_{p_i}, h_{p_{i+1}}) \quad [\text{Li et al}]$$

Penalise cosine similarity between consecutive sentences

How old are you?

I'm 22. What about you?

I don't understand.

You don't know  
what you're saying

I don't know what  
you're talking about

## Reward 2 : Information Flow

$$R_2 = - \sum_{i \neq j} \log \cos(h_{p_i}, h_{p_j})$$

Penalise average cosine similarity between all pairs



## Reward 2 : Information Flow

$$R_2'' = + \sum_{i < j} \log ( \|h_{p_j}\| \cdot \sin(h_{p_i}, h_{p_j}))$$

Reward orthogonal component of new sentence

## Reward 2 : Information Flow

Model	Unigram	Bigram
Seq2seq (+MMI)	0.011	0.031
RL (R2)	0.017	0.041
R2'	0.018	0.039
R2''	0.021	0.050
Sigmoid	0.021	0.048

## Reward 2 : Information Flow

Model	#turns
Seq2seq (+MMI)	3.40
RL (R1)	4.48
R1'	4.64
R1''	5.32
R2'	4.71

Reward 3 : Topic coherence

# Reward 3 : Topic coherence

Handle named entities

100-topic LDA over the English Wikipedia

Geography

India

Movies

Sports

Chemistry

Israel

Music

...

# Reward 3 : Topic coherence

Handle named entities

100-topic LDA over the English Wikipedia

$$R_3 = + \sum_{i < j} \text{HITS@10}(w_i, w_j)$$

Geography

India

Movies

Sports

Chemistry

Israel

Music

...

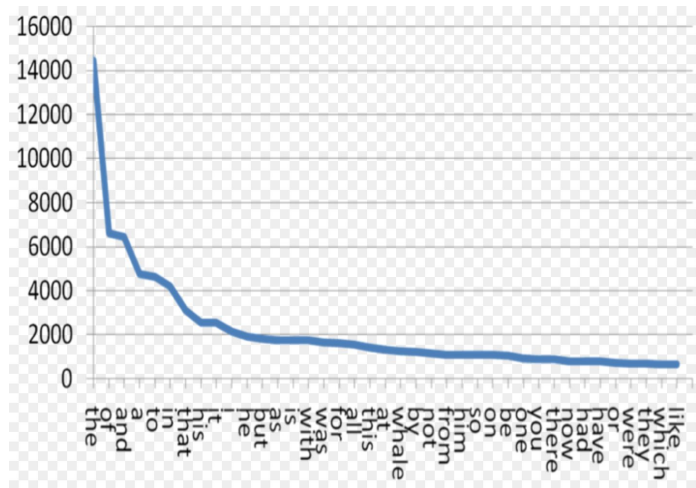
Reward words more likely to be coming from the same broad topic

Reward 4 :

## Reward 4 : Word simplicity

$$R_4 = - \sum_{w_{ij} \in p_i} \log \text{freq}(w_{ij})$$

Penalise usage of uncommon words

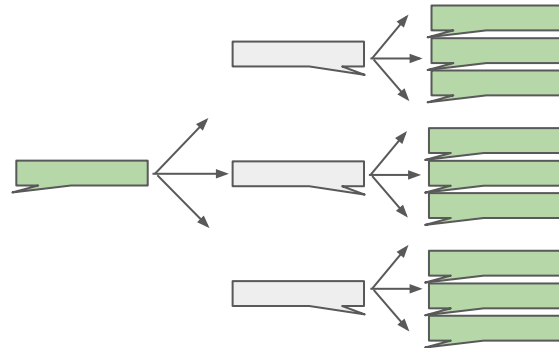




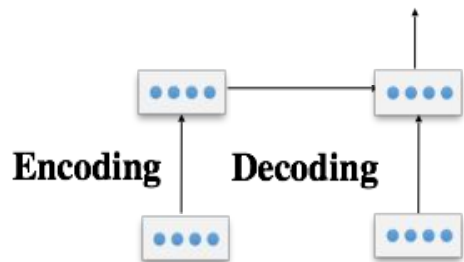
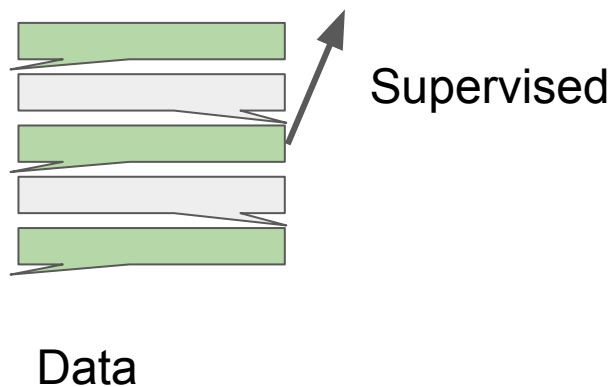
## Reward 4 : Word simplicity

$$R_4 = - \sum_{w_{ij} \in p_i} \log \text{freq}(w_{ij})$$

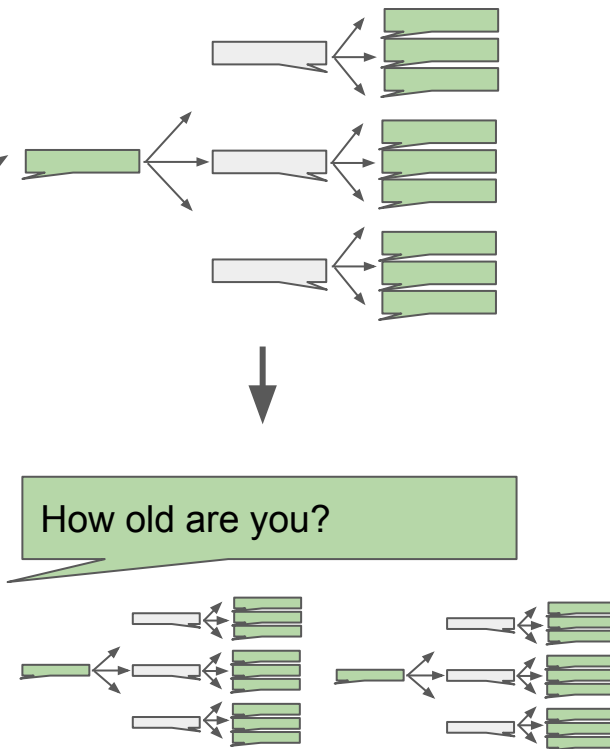
Different strengths for different simulations



# Online learning



**Reinforced**



**Query**

# Custom word difficulty

$$R_4 = - \sum_{w_{ij} \in p_i} \log \textit{freq}(w_{ij})$$

Penalise usage of uncommon words

# The way forward

Human evaluation of conversation quality, especially topic coherence

# The way forward

Human evaluation of conversation quality, especially topic coherence

Improved, deeper online learning

# The way forward?

How can the net amount of entropy in the universe be massively decreased?

INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR  
MEANINGFUL ANSWER.

# Thank you



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