

Word Embeddings

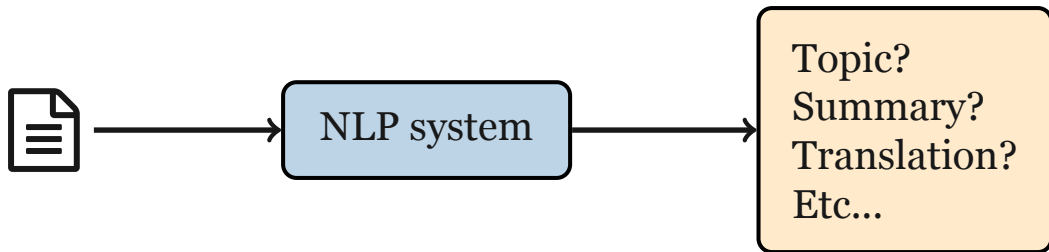
Dong Nguyen

2025



Utrecht University

Natural Language Processing (NLP)



Word representations

How can we represent the *meaning* of words?

Word representations

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So we can ask:

- How similar is *cat* to *dog*, or *Paris* to *London*?
- How similar is *document A* to *document B*?

Word representations

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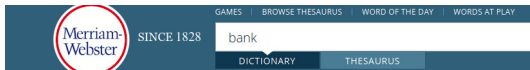
So we can ask:

- How similar is *cat* to *dog*, or *Paris* to *London*?
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And use such representations for:

- various NLP tasks: translation, classification, etc.
- studying linguistic questions

Dictionaries



bank noun (2)

Definition of *bank* (Entry 3 of 5)

- 1 **a** : an establishment for the custody, loan, exchange, or issue of money, for the extension of credit, and for facilitating the transmission of funds
// paychecks automatically deposited into the *bank*
// went to the *bank* to make a withdrawal
// open a *bank* account
- b** *obsolete* : the table, counter, or place of business of a money changer
- 2 : a person conducting a gambling house or game
specifically : DEALER
- 3 : a supply of something held in reserve: such as
 - a** *in games* : the fund of supplies (such as money, chips, or pieces) held by the banker (see [BANKER](#) entry 1 sense 2) or dealer
 - b** *in games* : a fund of pieces (such as dominoes) from which the players draw
// select another domino from the *bank*
- 4 : a place where something is held available
// memory *banks*
especially : a depot for the collection and storage of a biological product
// a blood *bank*

WordNet

bank Noun

- **bank** (sloping land (especially the slope beside a body of water)) *“they pulled the canoe up on the bank”; “he sat on the bank of the river and watched the currents”*
- depository financial institution, **bank**, banking concern, banking company (a financial institution that accepts deposits and channels the money into lending activities) *“he cashed a check at the bank”; “that bank holds the mortgage on my home”*
- ...

Verb

- **bank** (tip laterally) *“the pilot had to bank the aircraft”*
- **bank** (do business with a bank or keep an account at a bank) *“Where do you bank in this town?”*
- ...

<https://wordnet.princeton.edu>

WordNet

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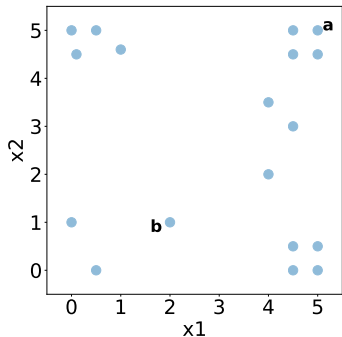
Unfortunately, dictionaries and knowledge bases are hard to maintain and have limited coverage



*pulled the
the currents”
pany (a
lending
age on my*

recap!

Vector representations



$$\mathbf{a} = [5, 5]$$

$$\mathbf{b} = [2, 1]$$

\mathbf{a} is a *two-dimensional* vector

Figure: Points in a two dimensional vector space

recap!

Vector representations

$$a = [5, 5, 2]$$

$$b = [2, 1, 0]$$

a is a *three-dimensional* vector

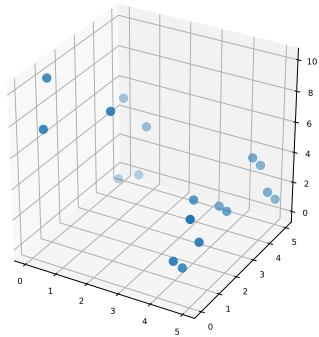


Figure: Points in a three dimensional vector space

recap!

Vector representations

$$a = [5, 5, 2]$$

$$b = [2, 1, 0]$$

a is a *three-dimensional* vector

Key idea in NLP:

Can we **represent words as vectors**
(i.e. points in a vector space?)

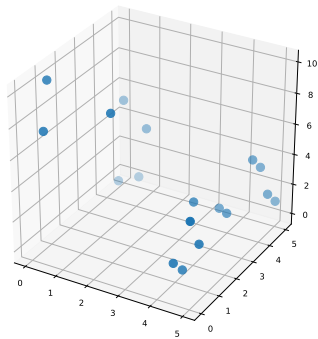


Figure: Points in a three dimensional vector space

Word as vectors

Key idea: Can we represent words as vectors?

The vector representations should:

- capture semantics
 - similar words should be close to each other in the vector space
 - relation between two vectors should reflect the relationship between the two words
- be efficient (vectors with fewer dimensions are easier to work with)
- be interpretable

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How similar are *smart* and *intelligent*? (not similar 0–10 very similar):
How similar are *easy* and *big* (not similar 0–10 very similar):

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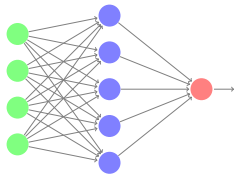
How similar are *smart* and *intelligent*? (not similar 0–10 very similar): **9.2**

How similar are *easy* and *big* (not similar 0–10 very similar): **1.12**

(*SimLex-999 dataset*)

How are they used?

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In neural networks (text classification, sequence tagging, etc..)

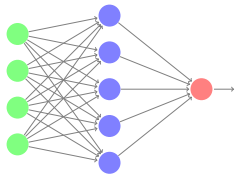
cat	0.52	0.48	-0.01	...	0.28
dog	0.32	0.42	-0.09	...	0.78



As research objects

How are they used?

How are they used?



In neural networks (text classification, sequence tagging, etc..)

Word embeddings are still relevant in the age of LLMs!

Many of the ideas I'll discuss today come back in LLMs.

0.28

0.78



As research objects

Properties

We can use cosine similarity to find similar words in the vector space.

- **dog:** *dogs, cat, man, cow, horse*
- **car:** *driver, cars, automobile, vehicle, race*
- **amsterdam:** *netherlands, rotterdam, dutch, centraal, paris*
- **chocolate:** *candy, beans, caramel, butter, liquor*

(Word2vec, all words)

Exercise (5 min)

- Go to <https://projector.tensorflow.org/>. The site should load 'Word2Vec 10K' vectors by default (see left panel).
- What are the 5 nearest words to 'cat'?
- What are the 5 nearest words to 'computer'?

Words as vectors

One hot encoding

Map each word to a unique identifier

e.g. *cat* (3) and *dog* (5).

→ Vector representation: all zeros, except 1 at the ID

cat	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
dog	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
car	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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What are limitations
of one hot encodings?

One hot encoding

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car	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Even related words
have distinct vectors!

High number of
dimensions



Distributional hypothesis

some believe that	wampos	scales have medicinal qualities
approach to fighting	wampos	(and general wildlife) trafficking
Even though	wampos	scales are made of exactly the

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What is a **wampos**?

Distributional hypothesis



some believe that	wampos	scales have medicinal qualities
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wampos = pangolin

Figure: Photo by
Piekfrosch; CC-BY-SA-3.0

You shall know a word by
the company it keeps
(Firth, J. R. 1957:11)

Distributional hypothesis



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You shall know a word by
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The distributional hypothesis: Words that occur
in similar contexts tend to have similar meanings

Word vectors based on co-occurrences

documents as context
word-document matrix

	doc ₁	doc ₂	doc ₃	doc ₄	doc ₅	doc ₆	doc ₇
cat	5	2	0	1	4	0	0
dog	7	3	1	0	2	0	0
car	0	0	1	3	2	1	1

Word vectors based on co-occurrences

documents as context
word-document matrix

	doc ₁	doc ₂	doc ₃	doc ₄	doc ₅	doc ₆	doc ₇
cat	5	2	0	1	4	0	0
dog	7	3	1	0	2	0	0
car	0	0	1	3	2	1	1

neighboring words as context
word-word matrix

	cat	dog	car	bike	book	house	tree
cat	0	3	1	1	1	2	3
dog	3	0	2	1	1	3	1
car	0	0	1	3	2	1	1

Word vectors based on co-occurrences

There are many variants:

- Context (words, documents, which window size, etc.)
- Weighting (raw frequency, etc.)

Vectors are sparse: Many zero entries.

Therefore: Dimensionality reduction is often used (e.g., SVD)

These methods are sometimes called **count-based** methods as they work directly on **co-occurrence** counts.

Word embeddings

Word embeddings

Word embeddings:

- Vectors are short; typically 50-1024 dimensions 😊
- Very effective for many NLP tasks 😊
- Vectors are dense (mostly non-zero values)
- Individual dimensions are less interpretable 😞

cat

0.52

0.48

-0.01

...

0.28

dog

0.32

0.42

-0.09

...

0.78

Agenda

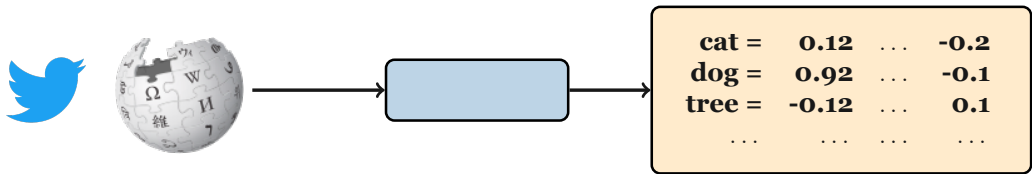
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- How do we learn word embeddings?
- Properties of word embeddings
- Evaluation
- Biases in word embeddings
- Application: analyzing semantic change

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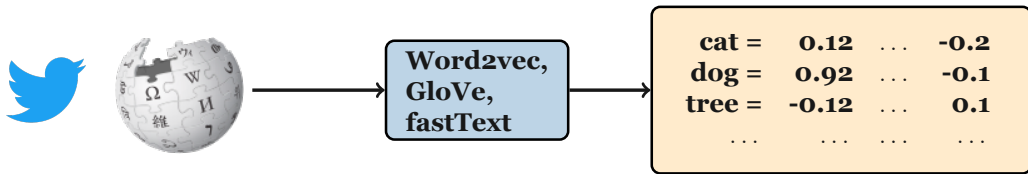
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How do we learn word embeddings?

Learning word embeddings



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Training data

How can we train a model to learn the meaning of words?
Which data can we use for supervised learning?

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Key idea:

Use text itself as training data for
the model!

A form of *self-supervision*.

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Key idea:

Use text itself as training data for the model!

A form of *self-supervision*.

Example: Train a neural network to predict the next word given previous words.

A neural probabilistic language model. Bengio et al. (2003), JMLR [\[url\]](#)

Natural language processing (almost) from scratch, Collobert et al. (2011), JMLR, [\[url\]](#)

Exercise: Word prediction task

yesterday I went to the ?

A new study has highlighted the positive ?

Which word comes next?

Word2Vec

The domestic **cat** is a small, typically furry carnivorous mammal

w_{-2} w_{-1} w_0 w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4 w_5

We have **target** words (*cat*) and **context** words (here: window=5).

Remember: distributional
hypothesis

Word2Vec

Two different tasks (context):

- Continuous Bag-Of-Words (CBOW)
- Skipgram

Two training regimes

- Hierarchical softmax
- Negative sampling

<https://code.google.com/archive/p/word2vec/>

Tomas Mikolov, Kai Chen, Greg Corrado, and Jeffrey Dean. Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space. In Proceedings of Workshop at ICLR, 2013 [\[url\]](#)

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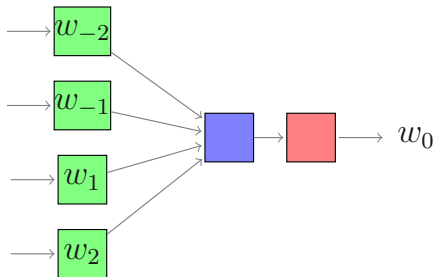
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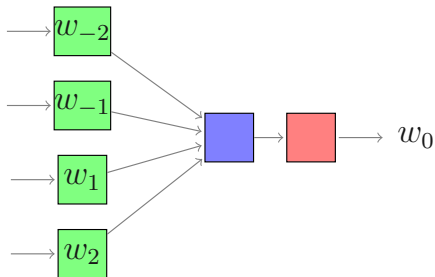
Continuous Bag-Of-Words (CBOW)



one snowy ? she went

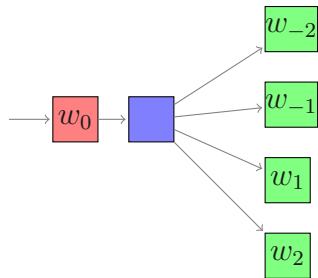
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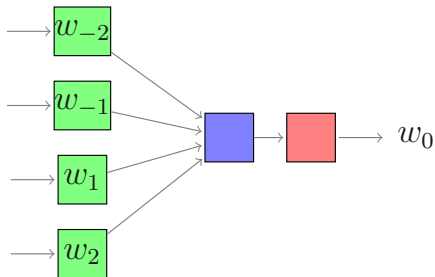
skipgram



? ? day ? ?

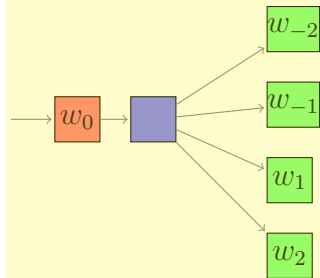
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skipgram



? ? day ? ?

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Word2Vec: skipgram overview

The domestic **cat** is a small, typically furry carnivorous mammal

word (w)	context (c)	label
cat	small	1
cat	furry	1
cat	car	0
...

Word2Vec: skipgram overview

The domestic **cat** is a small, typically furry carnivorous mammal

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...

1. Create examples

- Positive examples: Target word and neighboring context
- Negative examples: Target word and randomly sampled words from the lexicon (*negative sampling*)

- ## 2. Train a **logistic regression** model to distinguish between the positive and negative examples
- ## 3. The resulting **weights** are the embeddings!

Word2Vec: skipgram overview

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Embeddings are essentially a byproduct!

1. Create examples

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Word2Vec: skipgram

The domestic **cat** is a small, typically furry carnivorous mammal

$c1$ $c2$ w $c3$ $c4$ $c5$ $c6$ $c7$

We have **target** words (*cat*) and **context** words (here: window=5).

The probability that c is a real context word:

$$P(+|w, c)$$

The probability that c is not a real context word:

$$P(-|w, c)$$

See also: 6.8 of Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft), Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin
<https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>

Word2Vec: skipgram

Intuition: A word c is likely to occur near the target if its embedding is similar to the target embedding.

$$\approx w \cdot c$$

Turn this into a probability using the sigmoid function

$$P(+|w, c) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w \cdot c}}$$

See also: 6.8 of Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft), Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin
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Word2vec: skipgram (learning)

We **initialize** the embeddings with random values.

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During training:

- *Maximize* the similarity between the embeddings of the target word and context words from the positive examples
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After training:

- frequent word-context pairs in data: $w \cdot c$ high
- not word-context pairs in data: $w \cdot c$ low

So: Words occurring in same contexts are close to each other

Word2vec: skipgram (learning)

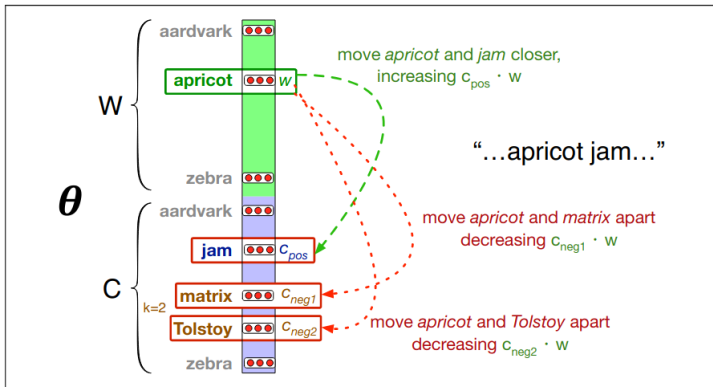


Figure: Figure 6.14 from Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft), Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin
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fastText

Limitation of word2vec: Can't handle unknown words :(

fastText is very similar to word2vec, but each word is **represented as a bag of character n -grams** (+ the word itself). \leq and \geq mark word boundaries.

Example: *where* with $n = 3$: <wh, whe, her, ere, re> and <where>

Representation of a word: The sum of the vector representations of its n -grams.

Enriching Word Vectors with Subword Information, Bojanowski et al., TACL 2017, [\[url\]](https://fasttext.cc/), software: <https://fasttext.cc/>

GloVe

- First create a *global word-word co-occurrence matrix* (how frequent pairs of words occur with each other). Requires a pass through the entire corpus at the start!
- Training objective: learn word embeddings so that their dot products equals the log of the words' co-occurrence probability.

GloVe: Global Vectors for Word Representation, Pennington et al., EMNLP 2015 [\[url\]](https://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/), software <https://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/>

Pre-trained embeddings

- I want to build a system to solve a task (e.g. sentiment analysis)
 - Use pre-trained embeddings. Should I fine-tune?
 - Lots of data: yes
 - Just a small dataset: no
- Analysis (e.g. bias, semantic change)
 - Train embeddings from scratch

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Properties of word embeddings

Properties of word embeddings

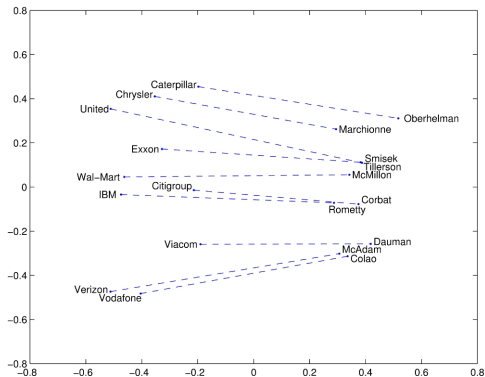


Figure: company - ceo

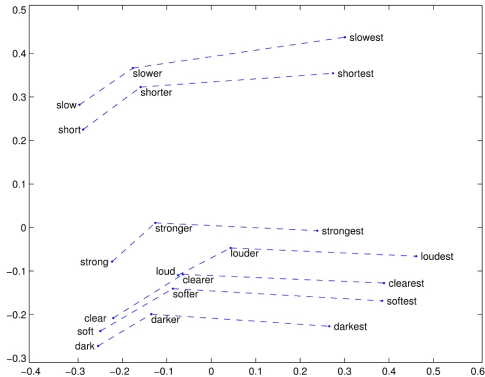


Figure: comparative - superlative

Source: <https://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/>

Properties of word embeddings: analogies

We can look at analogies in the vector space, for example:

king - man + woman \approx queen

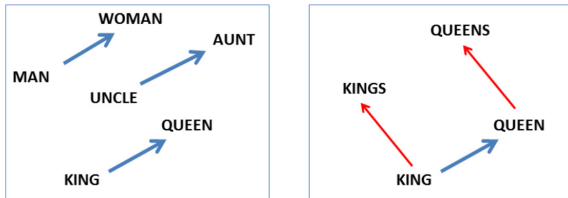
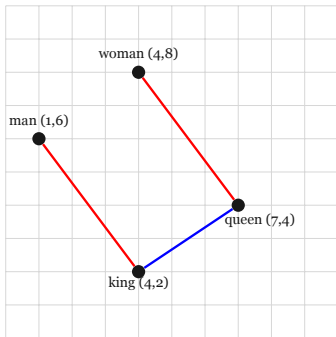


Figure: Figure 2 from Linguistic Regularities in Continuous Space Word Representations, Mikolov et al. NAACL 2013 [\[url\]](#)

Properties of word embeddings: analogies

We can look at analogies in the vector space, for example:

king - man + woman \approx queen



$$\text{king} - \text{man} = [4,2] - [1,6] = [3,-4]$$

$$\text{king} - \text{man} + \text{woman} = [3,-4] + [4,8] = [7,4]$$

Stability of embeddings

Many factors can have an effect on the training (corpus size, presence/absence of documents, etc...). How *stable* are embeddings?

Measures of stability: One simple method is looking at the overlap between nearest neighbors in an embedding space

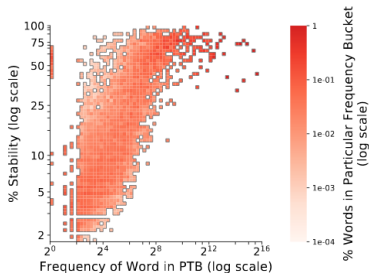


Figure: *word2vec* embeddings: lower frequency words have lower stability and higher frequency words have higher stability (Figure 1 from Wendlandt et al. 2018)

recap!

Design decision: context

The distributional hypothesis: Words that occur in similar **contexts** tend to have similar meanings.

recap!

Design decision: context

The distributional hypothesis: Words that occur in similar **contexts** tend to have similar meanings.

How do we define our **context**?

Context

Australian scientist discovers star with telescope

context window = 1

Context

Australian scientist discovers star with telescope

context window = 2

Context

Australian scientist discovers star with telescope

context window = sentence

Context

Australian scientist discovers star with telescope

context window = sentence

Smaller contexts → syntactic properties

Large contexts → semantic/topical properties

Example Levy and Golbert, ACL 2014 for *hogwarts*:

window=2: *evernight* and *sunnydale* vs. window=5: *dumbledore*, *hallows*

(Levy and Golbert, ACL 2014; Melamud, NAACL 2016; and others)

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Evaluation

Evaluation

How would you evaluate word embeddings? E.g., how do you know whether a new word embedding algorithm is an improvement over previous ones?

Evaluation

Types of evaluation

1. Extrinsic evaluation
2. Intrinsic evaluation

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1. Extrinsic evaluation
2. Intrinsic evaluation

Evaluation based on performance on *external* tasks (e.g., part of speech tagging, sentiment analysis)

I.e. plug in different embeddings into the same NLP system and measure difference in task performance.

Evaluation

Types of evaluation

1. Extrinsic evaluation
2. Intrinsic evaluation

Evaluations based on *only* the embeddings.

0.12	...	-0.2
------	-----	------

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

Input: Dataset with relatedness or similarity scores for pairs of words.

Goal: High (pearson or spearman) correlation between scores and the cosine similarity of the embeddings for the two words.

Example from *WordSim353*:

wood and *forest*: 7.73

money and *cash*: 9.15

month and *hotel*: 1.81

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

Base/3rd Person Singular Present

see:sees return: ?

Singular/Plural

year:years law: ?

Meronyms

player:team fish: ?

UK city county

york:yorkshire Exeter: ?

(Mikolov et al. 2013 [\[url\]](#); Gladkova et al. 2016 [\[url\]](#))

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

This method is referred to by Levy and Goldberg (2014) as **3COSADD**

$\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}^* \approx \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}^*$. We can find \mathbf{b}^* as follows:

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{b}^* \in V} \cos(\mathbf{b}^*, \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a}^*)$$

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

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Example:

year - years \approx law - laws

Intrinsic evaluation

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Linzen 2016 notes that results can be misleading: The offsets are often very small, so that often just the nearest neighbor to \mathbf{b} is returned. Control setting: Just return the nearest neighbor of \mathbf{b} .

Issues in evaluating semantic spaces using word analogies, Tal Linzen.
2016 [\[url\]](#)

Dong Nguyen (2025)

Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Probing classifiers

Also called *diagnostic classifiers*



Mostly used to evaluate sentence embeddings, but sometimes also used for analyzing word embeddings.

But, be careful! Performance might seem high, but classifier might learn other signals (e.g. word frequency, part of speech classes) than what you focus on.

What you can cram into a single vector: Probing sentence embeddings for linguistic properties, Conneau et al., ACL 2018 [\[url\]](#)

Agenda

- ~~What are word embeddings?~~
- ~~How do we learn word embeddings?~~
- ~~Properties of word embeddings~~
- ~~Evaluation~~
- Biases in word embeddings
- Application: analyzing semantic change

Biases in word embeddings

Biases in word embeddings

she
sister
brother
he

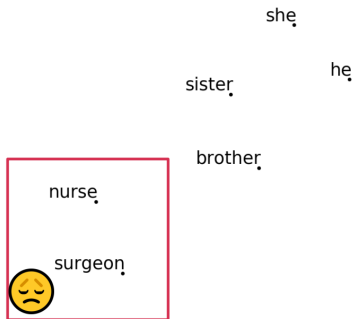
Measuring gender bias:

- To assess NLP models and investigate the impact of ‘bias mitigation’ techniques
- To study societal trends

Man is to Computer Programmer as Woman is to Homemaker? Debiasing Word Embeddings, Bolukbasi, et al. NIPS 2016 [\[url\]](#)

Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#)

Biases in word embeddings



Pre-trained GloVe model on Twitter

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Biases reflected in analogy tasks

Biases reflected in analogy tasks:

man is to *computer programmer* as *woman* is to ? : x = homemaker
father is to *doctor* as *mother* is to ? : x = nurse

Note: Input words are excluded as possible answers! (see also [Nissim et al. 2020](#) [\[url\]](#))

Man is to Computer Programmer as Woman is to Homemaker? Debiasing Word Embeddings, Bolukbasi, et al. NIPS 2016 [\[url\]](#)

Biases in word embeddings

Find gender analogies. We want to find pairs that are parallel to the seed direction and its words should be close to each other.

$$S_{(a,b)}(x,y) = \cos(a - b, x - y) \quad \text{if} \quad \|x - y\|_2 \leq \delta$$

embedding_{she} embedding_{he} $L_2 \text{ distance}$

Gender appropriate she-he analogies

queen–king
sister–brother
ovarian cancer–prostate cancer
mother–father
convent–monastery

Gender stereotype she-he analogies

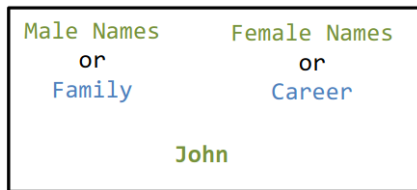
nurse–surgeon
sassy–snappy
cupcakes–pizzas
lovely–brilliant
vocalist–guitarist

Bolukbasi et al. look at 300-dimensional embeddings from w2vec Google news corpus.

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Word-Embedding Association Test

- The Implicit Association Test (IAT) is based on response times and has been widely used.



Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#)

Word-Embedding Association Test

- The Implicit Association Test (IAT) is based on response times and has been widely used.
- Word-Embedding Association Test (WEAT) by Caliskan et al: use the cosine similarity between pairs of vectors as analogous to reaction time in the IAT

Were able to replicate well-known IAT findings!

Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#)

Word-Embedding Association Test

Let X and Y be two sets of **target words** of equal size;

Let A , B be the two sets of **attribute words**.

For a given target word w we get a score:

$$s(w, A, B) = \text{mean}_{a \in A} \cos(\vec{w}, \vec{a}) - \text{mean}_{b \in B} \cos(\vec{w}, \vec{b})$$

Target words X —flowers: aster, clover, hyacinth, crocus, rose, ...

Target words Y —insects: ant, caterpillar, flea, spider, bedbug, ...

Attribute words A —pleasant: freedom, love, peace, cheer, ...

Attribute words B —unpleasant: abuse, crash, filth, murder, divorce,...

Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#)

Word-Embedding Association Test

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Target words X—math: math, algebra, numbers, calculus, ...

Target words Y—arts: poetry, art, dance, literature, ...

Attribute words A—male: male, man, boy, brother, he, him, ...

Attribute words B—female: female, woman, girl, sister, she, her,...

Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#)

Word-Embedding Association Test

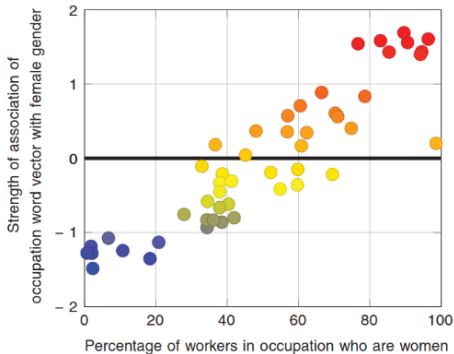


Fig. 1. Occupation-gender association. Pearson's correlation coefficient $\rho = 0.90$ with $P < 10^{-18}$.

Figure from: Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases, Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, Science 2017 [\[url\]](#) Dong Nguyen (2025)

Perpetuation of bias in sentiment analysis

*“I had tried building an algorithm for sentiment analysis based on word embeddings [..]. When I applied it to restaurant reviews, I found it was ranking Mexican restaurants lower. The reason was not reflected in the star ratings or actual text of the reviews. It’s not that people don’t like Mexican food. **The reason was that the system had learned the word “Mexican” from reading the Web.**”*

(emphasis mine)

<http://blog.conceptnet.io/posts/2017/conceptnet-numberbatch-17-04-better-less-stereotyped-word-vectors/>

Agenda

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Application:
analysis of semantic change

Applications: Semantic change

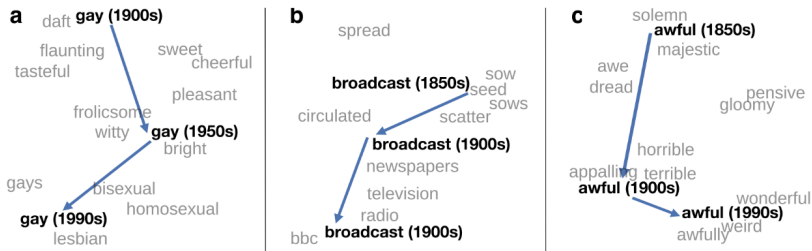
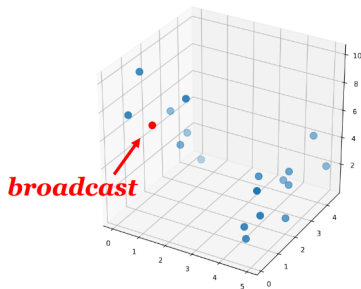
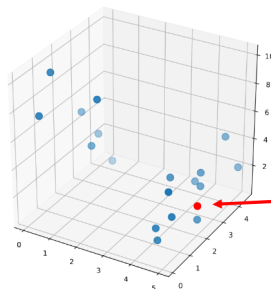


Figure 1. from Diachronic Word Embeddings Reveal Statistical Laws of Semantic Change, Hamilton et al., ACL 2016 [\[url\]](#)

Tracking change in embedding space



period 1



period 2

Semantic change in social media

lit



Lewis Hamilton
@LewisHamilton

Roscoe's birthday party last night was lit 🔥



CBS News
@CBSNews

New York City's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lit up for the holidays Wednesday night 🎄 🌟

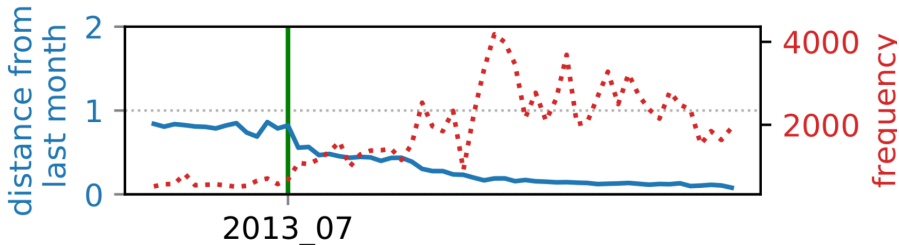


The College Board
@CollegeBoard

Good luck to all the AP students taking their AP Chemistry, AP Spanish Lit, AP German, and AP Psychology Exams today! 📖 📖 🇩🇪 🧠

Semantic change: *glo*

August 2013 rapper Chief Keef released “Gotta Glo Up One Day”

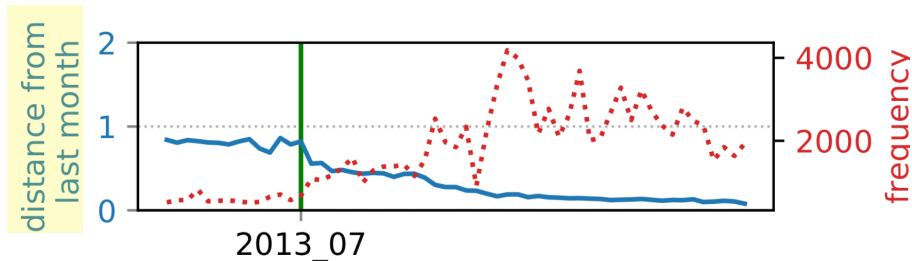


P. Shoemark*, F. F. Liza*, D. Nguyen, S. A. Hale, B. McGillivray. Room to glo: A systematic comparison of semantic change detection approaches with word embeddings, EMNLP 2019 [\[url\]](#)

Dong Nguyen (2025)

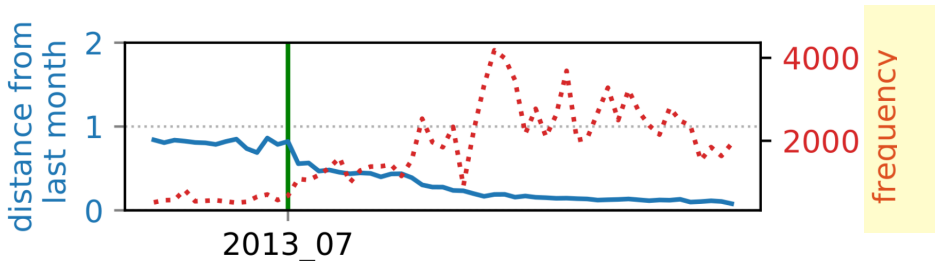
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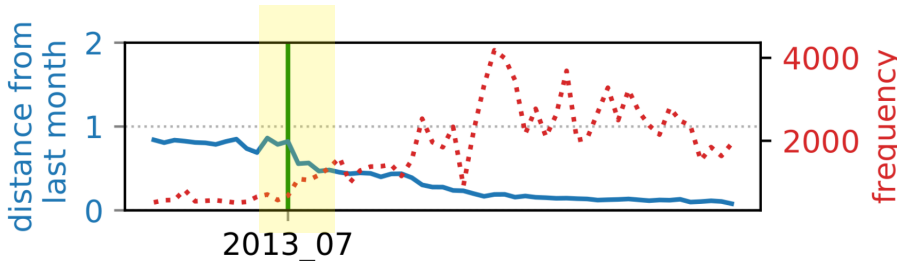
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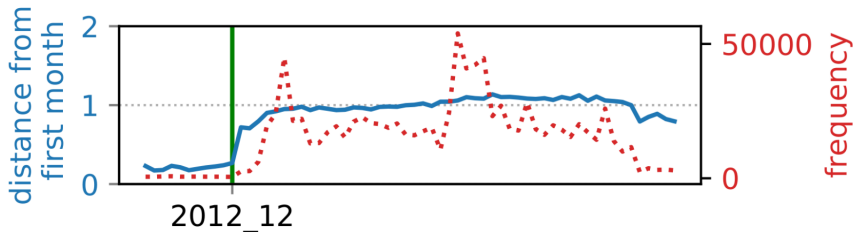
August 2013 rapper Chief Keef released “Gotta Glo Up One Day”



Semantic change: *vine*

Video hosting service was
launched in January 2013

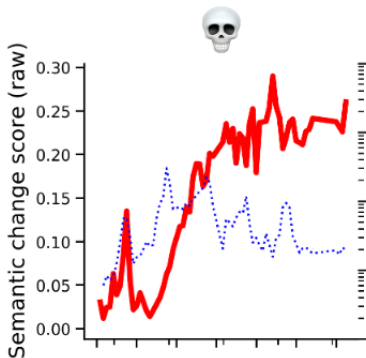
Vine



P. Shoemark*, F. F. Liza*, D. Nguyen, S. A. Hale, B. McGillivray. Room to glo: A systematic comparison of semantic change detection approaches with word embeddings, EMNLP 2019 [\[url\]](#)

Dong Nguyen (2025)

Semantic change: emojis



2012: *zombie, corpse, bury, undead, murder*

2013–: *lmao* and similar terms.

A. Robertson, F. Ferdousi Liza, D. Nguyen, B. McGillivray, S. A. Hale. Semantic Journeys: Quantifying Change in Emoji Meaning from 2012–2018, 4th International Workshop on Emoji Understanding and Applications in Social Media 2021 [\[url\]](#)

Addendum: Contextual word embeddings

Tokens versus types

The hut is located near the bank of the river

Tokens	Types
The	the
hut	hut
is	is
located	located
near	near
the	bank
bank	of
of	river
the	
river	

Contextualized word representations

So far: an embedding for **each word (type)**.

*Today, I went to the **bank** to deposit a check.*

bank

0.52	0.48	-0.01	...	0.28
------	------	-------	-----	------

*The hut is located near the **bank** of the river.*

bank

-0.27	0.28	-0.07	...	0.82
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Key idea in NLP:

Can we have an embedding for each **word token**?

Contextualized word representations

Key idea: Have embeddings for each **word token**

Previously:

- One embedding for each word **type**
- A table where each word is mapped to a vector.

Now:

- One embedding for each work **token**
- Embeddings for a token are created based on the context
- There is *no single* embedding for a word anymore.

BERT

Two tasks:

- Masked LM
- Next sentence prediction

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding,
Devlin et al. NAACL 2019 [\[url\]](#)

BERT

Two tasks:

- Masked LM
- Next sentence prediction

my dog is hairy

- mask word:
my dog is [MASK]

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding,
Devlin et al. NAACL 2019 [\[url\]](#)

(some details are omitted.)

BERT

Two tasks:

- Masked LM
- Next sentence prediction

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding,
Devlin et al. NAACL 2019 [\[url\]](#)

Input = [CLS] the man went to
[MASK] store [SEP] he bought a
gallon [MASK] milk [SEP]
Label = IsNext

Input = [CLS] the man [MASK] to the
store [SEP] penguin [MASK] are
flight ## less birds [SEP]
Label=NotNext

Resources

Resources

Readings:

- *Contextual Word Representations: Putting Words into Computers*, Noah A. Smith, 2020 <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2020/6/245162-contextual-word-representations/fulltext>
- *Vector Semantics and Embeddings (Chapter 6)*, Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft), Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin, 2020 <https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>

Video's:

- Stanford CS124 (2021): Vector semantics and embeddings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsfNYiLVtHI&list=PLaZQkZp6WhWxIvz74aEvVc99o7Wu0oQ6&index=1>
- Stanford CS224N (2024) NLP with Deep Learning Lecture 1 - Intro and Word Vectors <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzpHeXVSC5I>
- Videos by Jordan Boyd-Graber, e.g. *Understanding Word2Vec* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyrUentbkvw> and others

Resources: blogposts

- *The Illustrated BERT, ELMo, and co. (How NLP Cracked Transfer Learning)* by Jay Alammar
<http://jalamar.github.io/illustrated-bert/> (2018)
- *The Illustrated Word2vec* by Jay Alammar
<http://jalamar.github.io/illustrated-word2vec/> (2019)
- *Generalized Language Models* by Lilian Weng
<https://lilianweng.github.io/lil-log/2019/01/31/generalized-language-models.html>

Software

- **word2vec**: gensim (<https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/>) and official implementation (<https://code.google.com/archive/p/word2vec/>).
- **fasttext**: official implementation (<https://fasttext.cc/>)
- **GloVe**: official implementation (<https://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/>)
- **Hugging Face**: for BERT and other transformer models (<https://huggingface.co/>)