

# Word Embeddings

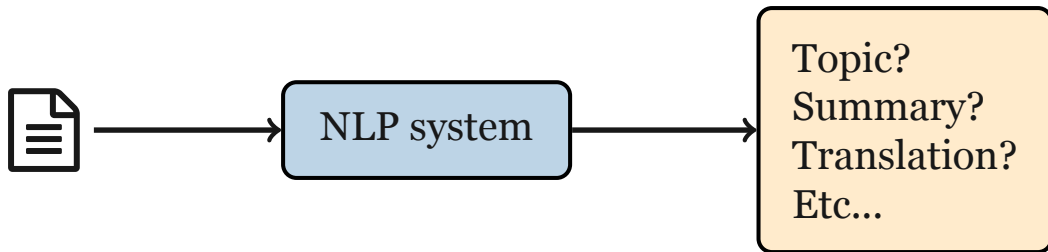
Dong Nguyen

2021



Utrecht University

# Natural Language Processing (NLP)



# Word representations

**How can we represent the *meaning* of words?**

# Word representations

**How can we represent the *meaning* of words?**

So we can ask:

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

# Word representations

**How can we represent the *meaning* of words?**

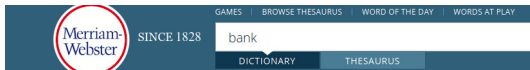
So we can ask:

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

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

## bank Noun

- **bank** (sloping land (especially along a river or lake)) “*he pulled the canoe up on the bank*”; “*he*”
- depository financial institution  
financial institution that accepts deposits and conducts financial activities) “*he cashed a check at the bank*”
- ...

## 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>

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

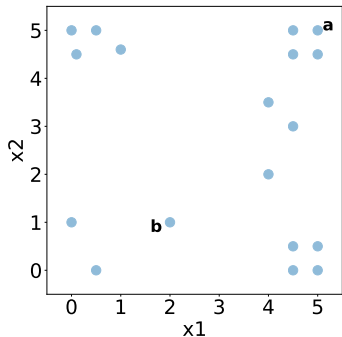


*pulled the  
ne currents”  
pany (a  
lending  
age on my*



**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

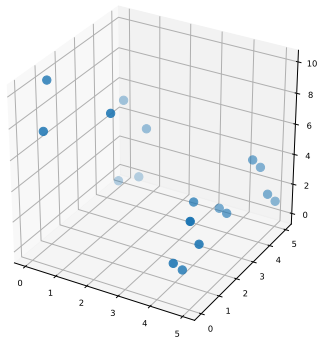
**recap!**

# 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

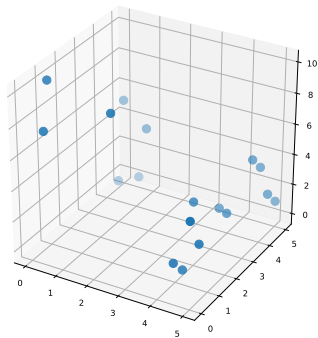
$$a = [5, 5, 2]$$

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

$a$  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

# 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

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

# 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

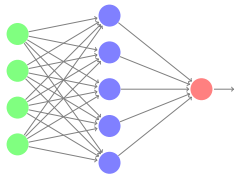
How similar are *smart* and *intelligent*? (not similar 0–10 very similar): **9.2**

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

(*SimLex-999 dataset*)

# How are they used?

## How are they used?



*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*

# 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*



## 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

# 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

What are limitations  
of one hot encodings?

# 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

Even related words  
have distinct vectors!

High number of  
dimensions



# Distributional hypothesis

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

# Distributional hypothesis

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

What is a **wampos**?

# 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

*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



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

*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)

**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 <sub>1</sub>	doc <sub>2</sub>	doc <sub>3</sub>	doc <sub>4</sub>	doc <sub>5</sub>	doc <sub>6</sub>	doc <sub>7</sub>
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 <sub>1</sub>	doc <sub>2</sub>	doc <sub>3</sub>	doc <sub>4</sub>	doc <sub>5</sub>	doc <sub>6</sub>	doc <sub>7</sub>
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 😊
- Vectors are dense (mostly non-zero values)
- Very effective for many NLP tasks 😊
- Individual dimensions are less interpretable 😞

cat

0.52

0.48

-0.01

...

0.28

dog

0.32

0.42

-0.09

...

0.78

# Agenda

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

# Agenda

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



# Aside: terminology

## **Distributed representations**

Dense, real-valued vectors

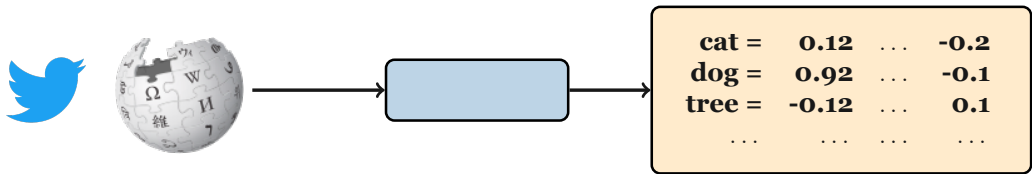
## **Distributional representations**

Derived from how words are used in a corpus

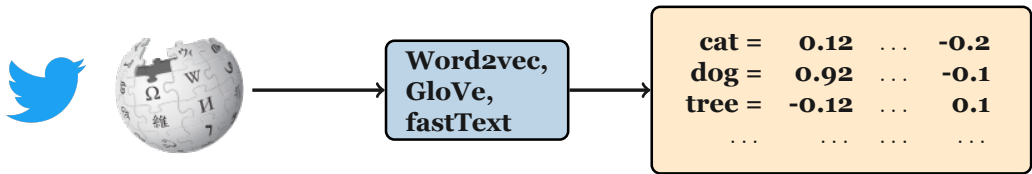
*Word2vec (and others) are distributed representations based on the distributional hypothesis.*

How do we learn word embeddings?

# Learning word embeddings



# Learning word embeddings



# Training data

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

# Training data

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

**Key idea:**

Use text itself as training data for  
the model!

A form of *self-supervision*.

# Training data

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

## 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 [\[url\]](#)

Tomas Mikolov, Ilya Sutskever, Kai Chen, Greg Corrado, and Jeffrey Dean. Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality. In Proceedings of NIPS, 2013 [\[url\]](#)

# Word2Vec

## Two different tasks (context):

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

## Two training regimes

- Hierarchical softmax
- Negative sampling

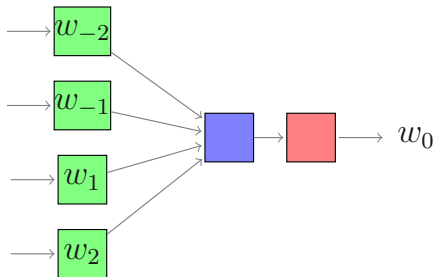
<https://code.google.com/archive/p/word2vec/>

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

Tomas Mikolov, Ilya Sutskever, Kai Chen, Greg Corrado, and Jeffrey Dean. Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality. In Proceedings of NIPS, 2013 [\[url\]](#)

# Word2Vec

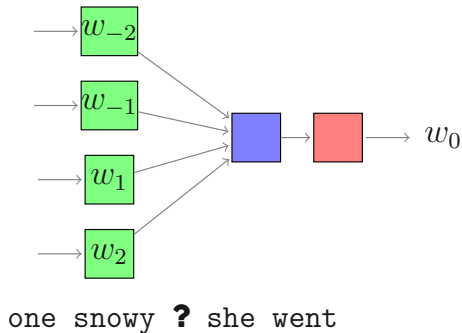
## Continuous Bag-Of-Words (CBOW)



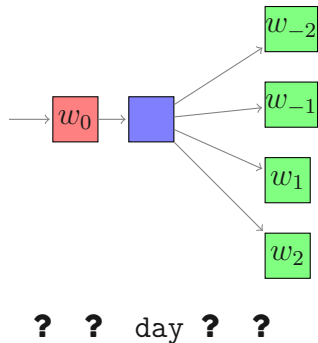
one snowy ? she went

# Word2Vec

## Continuous Bag-Of-Words (CBOW)

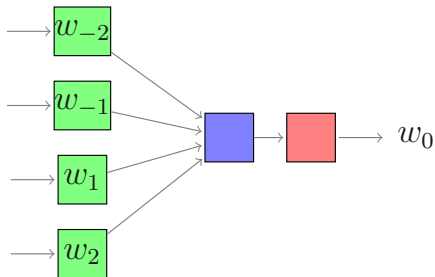


## skipgram



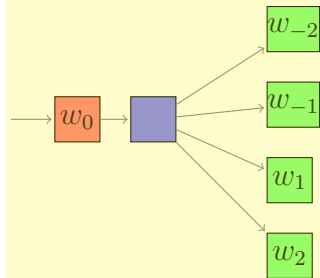
# Word2Vec

## Continuous Bag-Of-Words (CBOW)



one snowy ? she went

## skipgram



? ? day ? ?

# 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 [\[url\]](#)

Tomas Mikolov, Ilya Sutskever, Kai Chen, Greg Corrado, and Jeffrey Dean. Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality. In Proceedings of NIPS, 2013 [\[url\]](#)

# 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

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

## 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

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

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

Embedding vectors are essentially a byproduct!

## 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

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

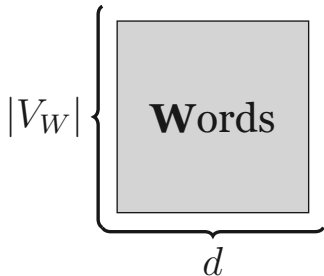
$$P(+|w, c) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-w \cdot c}}$$

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

# Word2Vec

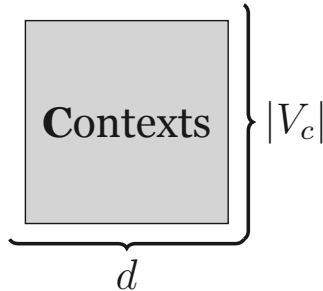
## Words:

Each word  $w$  is represented as a  $d$ -dimensional vector.



## Contexts:

Each word  $w$  is represented as a  $d$ -dimensional vector.



All vectors are initialized with random weights.

# Word2vec: skipgram (learning)

We **start** with random embedding vectors.

# Word2vec: skipgram (learning)

We **start** with random embedding vectors.

## **During training:**

- *Maximize* the similarity between the embeddings of the target word and context words from the positive examples
- *Minimize* the similarity between the embeddings of the target word and context words from the negative examples

# Word2vec: skipgram (learning)

We **start** with random embedding vectors.

## **During training:**

- *Maximize* the similarity between the embeddings of the target word and context words from the positive examples
- *Minimize* the similarity between the embeddings of the target word and context words from the negative examples

## **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)

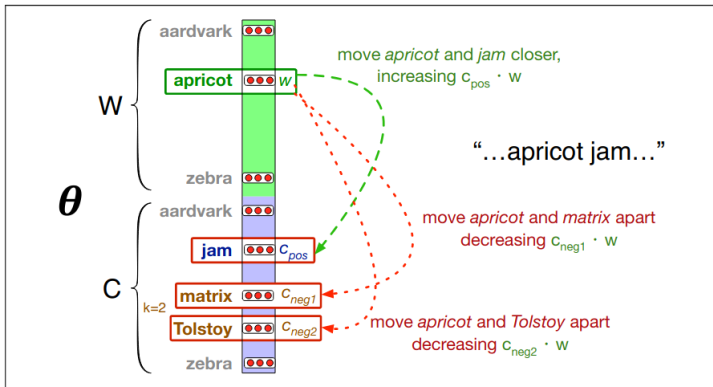


Figure: Figure 6.14 from Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft), Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin  
<https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>

# 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

# Agenda

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

# Properties of word embeddings

# Properties of word embeddings

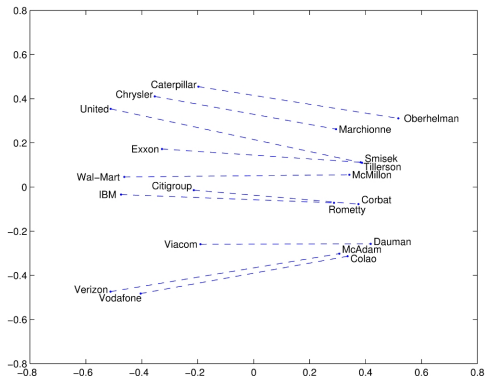


Figure: company - ceo

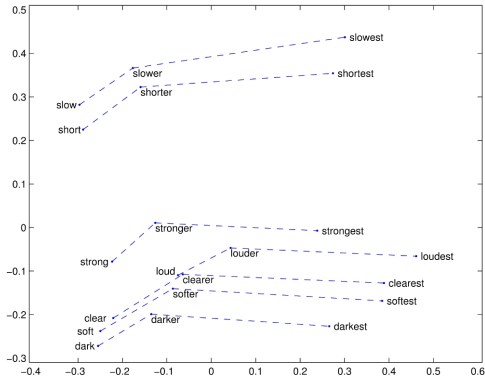


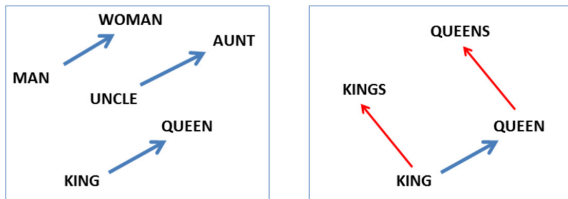
Figure: comparative - superlative

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*



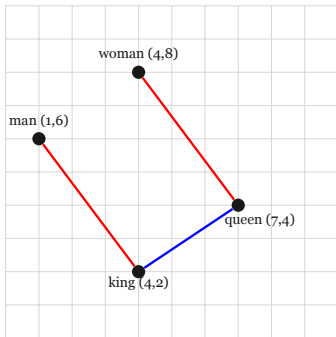
**Figure:** Figure 2 from Linguistic Regularities in Continuous Space Word Representations, Mikolov et al. NAACL 2013 [\[url\]](#)



# 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

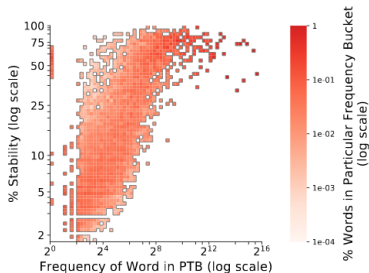


Figure: *word2vec* embeddings: lower frequency words have lower stability and higher frequency words have higher stability (Figure 1 from Wendlandt et al. 2018)

# Stability of embeddings

Antoniak and Mimno et al. 2018:

- The training corpus is only a sample!
- But: they were sensitive to the presence of specific documents
- *“with smaller corpora comes greater variability, and we recommend that practitioners use bootstrap sampling to generate an ensemble of word embeddings for each sub-corpus and present both the mean and variability of any summary statistics”*

Evaluating the Stability of Embedding-based Word Similarities, Antoniak and Mimno, TACL 2018 [\[url\]](#)

**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)

# Agenda

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

# Evaluation

# Evaluation

## Types of evaluation

1. Extrinsic evaluation
2. Intrinsic evaluation

# Evaluation

## Types of evaluation

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
- Clustering
- Coherence
- Probing  
classifiers

# Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Clustering
- Coherence
- 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
- Clustering
- Coherence
- 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
- Clustering
- Coherence
- 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
- Clustering
- Coherence
- 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:

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

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 (2021)

# Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Clustering
- Coherence
- Probing classifiers

Cluster the words based on their embeddings and compare them against a known categorization.

Evaluation methods for unsupervised word embeddings, Schnabel et al. EMNLP 2015 [\[url\]](#)

# Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Clustering
- Coherence
- Probing classifiers

Are words in the neighborhood of the *query* word mutually related? Present four words (query word + two close neighbors + intruder). Task: identify the intruder (e.g. Turkers).

Example: a) *finally*; (b) *eventually*; (c) *immediately*; (d) *put*

Evaluation methods for unsupervised word embeddings, Schnabel et al.  
EMNLP 2015 [\[url\]](#)

# Intrinsic evaluation

- Similarity
- Analogies
- Clustering
- Coherence
- 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

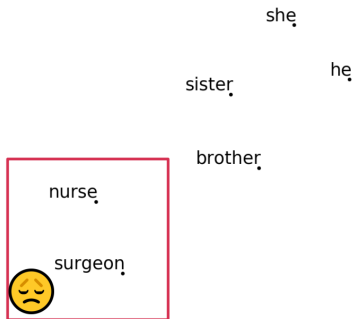
Measuring gender bias:

- 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



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 [\[url\]](#)

Pre-trained GloVe model on Twitter

# Biases reflected in analogy tasks

Biases reflected in analogy tasks:

*man* is to *computer programmer* as *woman* is to ? :  $x = \text{homemaker}$   
*father* is to *doctor* as *mother* is to ? :  $x = \text{nurse}$

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

Compare: gender-specific words (e.g., *brother*, *businesswoman*) vs. *gender-neutral* words (e.g. *nurse*, *teacher*).

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.

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

$\text{embedding}_{she}$     $\text{embedding}_{he}$     $L_2 \text{ distance}$

---

## 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

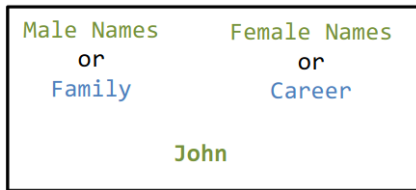
---

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

Dong Nguyen (2021)

# 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

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—math:* math, algebra, numbers, calculus, ...

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

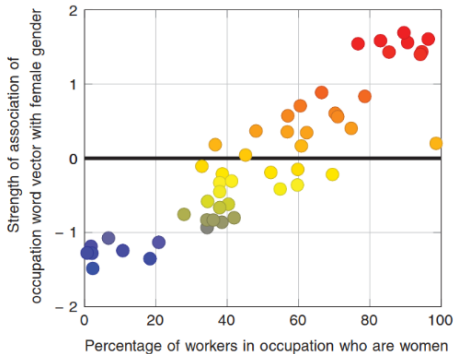
*Attribute words A—male:* male, man, boy, brother, he, him, ...

*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 (2021)

# 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/](http://blog.conceptnet.io/posts/2017/conceptnet-numberbatch-17-04-better-less-stereotyped-word-vectors/)

# Agenda

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

Application:  
analysis of semantic change

# Applications: Semantic change

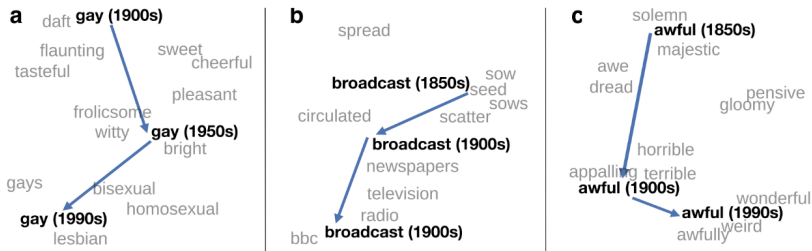
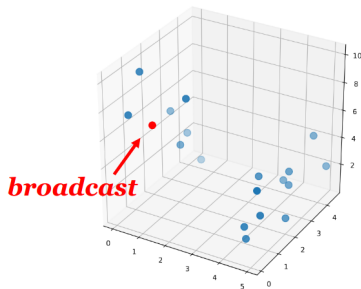
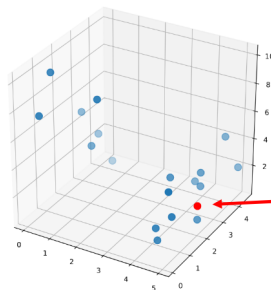


Figure 1. from Diachronic Word Embeddings Reveal Statistical Laws of Semantic Change, Hamilton et al., ACL 2016 [\[url\]](#)

# 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 🎄 🌟

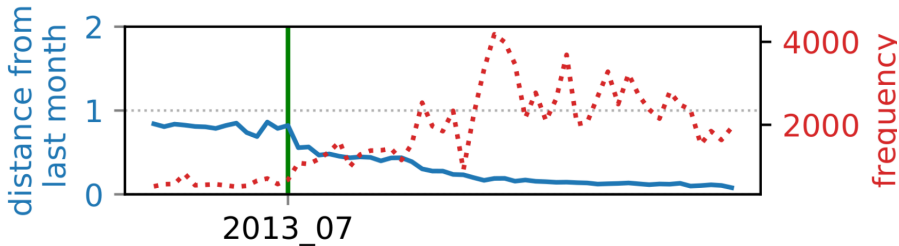


The College Board  
@CollegeBoard

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 [\[url\]](#)

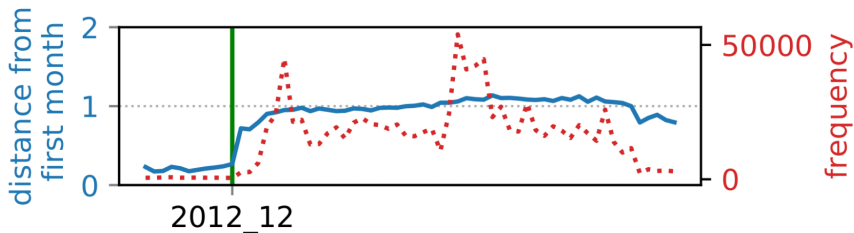
Dong Nguyen (2021)



# Semantic change: *vine*

Video hosting service was  
launched in January 2013

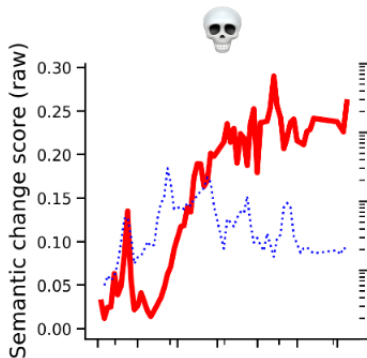
Vine



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 (2021)

# 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 [\[url\]](#)

# 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 CS224N: NLP with Deep Learning | Winter 2019 | Lecture 1 – Introduction and Word Vectors* (and lecture 2): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rXD5-xhemo>
- video's 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://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/> (2018)
- *The Illustrated Word2vec* by Jay Alammar  
<http://jalammar.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/>)