

## Language Models



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## Language Models



## Language Models




## Acoustic Confusions

the station signs are in deep in english	-14732
the stations signs are in deep in english	-14735
the station signs are in deep into english	-14739
the station 's signs are in deep in english	-14740
the station signs are in deep in the english	-14741
the station signs are indeed in english	-14757
the station 's signs are indeed in english	-14760
the station signs are indians in english	-14790



## Noisy Channel Model: ASR

- \*We want to predict a sentence given acoustics:
$$w^* = \arg \max_w P(w|a)$$

- \*The noisy-channel approach:
$$\begin{aligned} w^* &= \arg \max_w P(w|a) \\ &= \arg \max_w P(a|w)P(w)/P(a) \\ &\propto \arg \max_w P(a|w)P(w) \end{aligned}$$

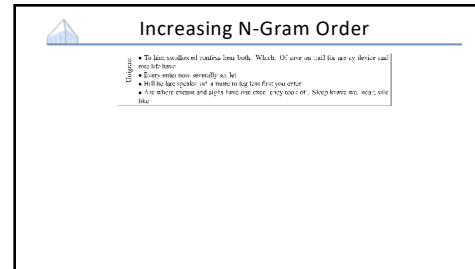
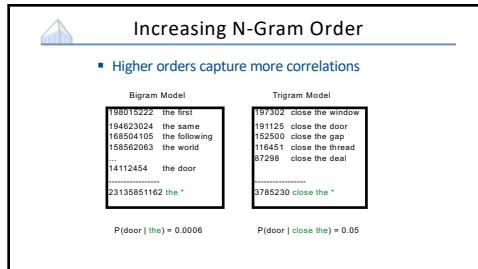
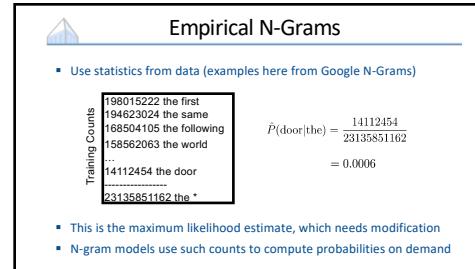
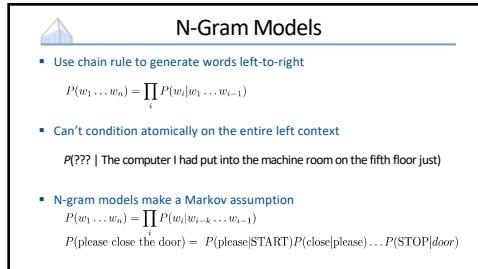
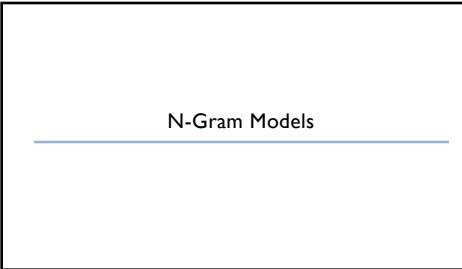
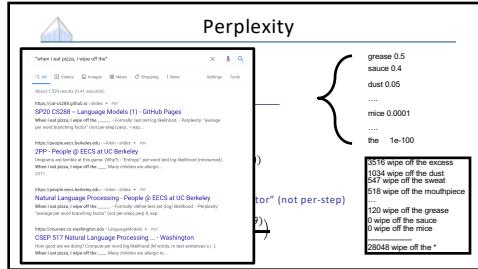
Acoustic model: score fit between sounds and words      Language model: score plausibility of word sequences




## Noisy Channel Model: Translation

"Also knowing nothing official about, but having guessed and inferred considerable about, the powerful new mechanized methods in cryptography—methods which I believe succeed even when one does not know what language has been coded—one naturally wonders if the problem of translation could conceivably be treated as a problem in cryptography. When I look at an article in Russian, I say: 'This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode.' "

Warren Weaver (1947)



The screenshot shows a web application titled "N-Grams on the Web". The main page has a header "N-Grams on the Web" and a sub-header "Frequency List". Below this is a search form with fields for "Search pattern" (containing "believe"), "Search type" (set to "Frequency list"), and "Search in" (set to "All"). A note below the form says "This is the first n-gram of the first 1000000 n-grams, using a 3-gram of your choice, and words provided by the Corpus Linguistics group at the University of Edinburgh [1]".

**Query Form**

Search pattern: believe, n = 3  
Search type: Frequency list  
Search in: All  
Number of results: 1000  
Available elements are: "believe myself", "believe a", ..., "believe in a".  
Results

242	believe in a
243	believe myself
250	believe a
255	believe it's
257	believe in
268	believe in God
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499	believe in God,
500	believe in God,



## What's in an N-Gram?

- Just about every local correlation!
  - Word class restrictions: "will have been \_\_\_\_"
  - Morphology: "she \_\_\_\_" "they \_\_\_\_"
  - Semantic class restrictions: "danced a \_\_\_\_"
  - Idioms: "add insult to \_\_\_\_"
  - World knowledge: "ice caps have \_\_\_\_"
  - Pop culture: "the empire strikes \_\_\_\_"
- But not the long-distance ones
  - "The computer which I had put into the machine room on the fifth floor just \_\_\_\_"



## Linguistic Pain

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- The N-Gram assumption hurts your inner linguist
  - There are many linguistic arguments that language isn't regular
    - Long-distance dependencies
    - Recursive structure
  - At the core of the early hesitance in linguistics about statistical methods
- Answers
  - N-grams only model local correlations... but they get them all
  - As N increases, they catch even more correlations
  - N-gram models scale well -- much more easily than combinatorially-structured LMs
  - Can build LMs from structured models, eg grammars (though people generally don't)



## Structured Language Models

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- **Bigram model:**
  - [texaco, rose, one, in, this, issue, is, pursuing, growth, in, a, boiler, house, said, mr., gurría, mexico, 's, motion, control, proposal, without, permission, from, five, hundred, fifty, five, yen]
  - [outside, new, car, parking, lot, of, the, agreement, reached]
  - [this, would, be, a, record, november]
  
- **PCFG model:**
  - [This, quarter, 's, surprisingly, independent, attack, paid, off, the, risk, involving, IRS, leaders, and, transportation, prices, .]
  - [It, could, be, announced, sometime, .]
  - [Mr., Toseland, believes, the, average, defense, economy, is, drafted, from, slightly, more, than, 12, stocks, .]

## N-Gram Models: Challenges

---

*Please close the first door on the left.*

3380 please close the door  
1601 please close the window  
1161 please close the new  
1159 please close the gate  
...  
0 please close the first  
...  
13951 **please close the \***

## Smoothing

- We often want to make estimates from sparse statistics:

$P(w|denied)$

3 allegations
1 deny
1 claims
1 request
7 total

- Smoothing flattens spiky distributions so they generalize better:

$P(w|denied)$

1.5 reports
0.3 claims
0.2 request
2 other
7 total

\* Very important all over NLP, but easy to do badly

## Back-off

Please close the first door on the left.

4-Gram	3-Gram	2-Gram
3380 please close the door	197302 close the window	198015222 the first
1601 please close the window	191123 close the door	194623024 the same
1154 please close the new	183150 close the gap	183504105 the following
1159 please close the gate	116451 close the thread	158623083 the world
...	...	...
0 please close the first	8662 close the first	2313585182 the *
13951 please close the *	3785230 close the *	0.009

Specific but Sparse      Dense but General

$$\lambda P(w|w_{-1}, w_{-2}) + \lambda' P(w|w_{-1}) + \lambda'' P(w)$$

## Discounting

- Observation: N-grams occur more in training data than they will later

Empirical Bigram Counts (Church and Gale, 91)

Count in 22M Words	Future $c^*$ (Next 22M)
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

- Absolute discounting: reduce counts by a small constant, redistribute "shaved" mass to a model of new events
$$P_{\text{abs}}(w|w') = \frac{c(w', w) - d}{c(w')}$$

## Fertility

- Shannon game: "There was an unexpected \_\_\_\_\_"

delay?      Francisco?

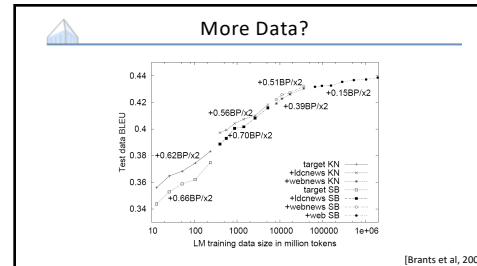
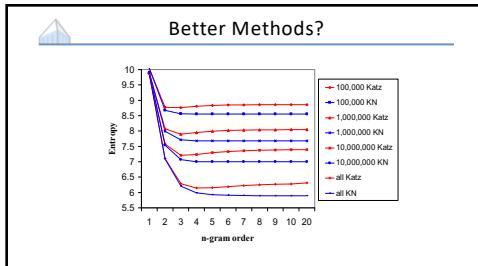
- Context fertility: number of distinct context types that a word occurs in

  - What is the fertility of "delay"?
  - What is the fertility of "Francisco"?
  - Which is more likely in an arbitrary new context?

- Kneser-Ney smoothing: new events proportional to context fertility, not frequency
$$P(w) \propto |\{w': c(w', w) > 0\}|$$

[Kneser & Ney, 1995]

\* Can be derived as inference in a hierarchical Pitman-Yor process [Teh, 2006]



## Storage

Google N-grams

- 14 million <  $2^{14}$  words
- 2 billion <  $2^{21}$  5-grams
- 770 000 <  $2^{20}$  unique counts
- 4 billion n-gram total

## Storage

For 5+gram models, need to store between 100M and 10B context-word-count triples

(a) Context-Encoding	(b) Context Deltas	(c) Bits Required						
w	c	vaf	$\Delta w$	$\Delta c$	vaf	$ Aw $	$ Ac $	$ vaf $
1931	1517685	1	0	1517685	1	24	40	1
1931	1517685	2	-1	1517685	1	2	3	1
1931	1517685	3	-2	1517685	1	3	4	1
1931	1517685	4	-3	1517685	1	2	9	6
1931	1517685	5	-4	1517685	1	2	12	3
1931	1517685	298	-2	1517685	298	4	36	11
1931	1517685	1	-1	1517685	1	2	6	3

Make it fit in memory by *delta encoding* scheme: store deltas instead of values and use variable-length encoding

Pauls and Klein (2011), Heafield (2011)

Slide: Greg Durrett

## Graveyard of Correlations

- Skip-grams
- Cluster models
- Topic variables
- Cache models
- Structural zeros
- Dependency models
- Maximum entropy models
- Subword models
- ...

## Entirely Unseen Words

- What about totally unseen words?
- Classical real world option: systems are actually **closed vocabulary**
  - ASR systems will only propose words that are in their pronunciation dictionary
  - MT systems will only propose words that are in their phrase tables (modulo special models for numbers, etc)
- Classical theoretical option: build **open vocabulary LMs**
  - Models over character sequences rather than word sequences
  - N-Grams: back-off needs to go down into a "generate new word" model
  - Typically if you need this, a high-order character model will do
- Modern approach: syllable-sized subword units (more later)

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## Neural LMs: Preview

**A GPT2 Continuation**

- The computer I had put into the machine room on the fifth floor just outside our landing was taken by a lot of people. It was going to be recovered from outside the machine room as soon as we could, but after the machine room was shut down, we had to open all of the windows and doors to save ourselves, and the computer would have been lost. Luckily we are prepared for this. We had five steel doors on each side of the landing to hold any rain and wind that might have hit, so we weren't affected by the storm.

The situation was really grim for days. A few days before, the Apache at Qush Tefah had been shot. This was the most damaged machine in the Armies Corps. The command was only meant to repair Qush

**A GPT2 Continuation**

- I shall go seek the traitor Gloucester, when he hath declared his vengeance. Cunegund Shall I back her to kill my cousin in my stead? Witbane Far first shall the brother take his Queen's soul and that in the flames. Clotilda For to slay the King of Scotland with, the blood of my cousin, lie true; And she shall have the right to my feather." Sefton leapt into the rushes, and stole along in the sunlight: the small figure flashed like lightning in the west. In the likeness of a snare he had laid to catch the rushes and made of them a snares, a road to flee from his pursuers; but he now came to an oak where the branches were wreathed in an oak-

**Neural LMs: Three Key Ideas**

- Word embeddings**
  - Different words are not entirely unrelated events
  - Words can be more and less similar, in complex ways
- Partially factored representations**
  - Multiple semi-independent processes happen in parallel in language
  - It's too expensive to track language in an unfactored way, and too inaccurate to assume everything of interest is independent
- Long distance dependencies**
  - Information can be relevant without being local
  - Different notions of locality are important at different times

**Words: Clusterings and Embeddings**

**Stuffing Words into Vector Spaces?**

**Distributional Similarity**

- Key idea in clustering and embedding methods: characterize a word by the words it occurs with (cf Harris' distributional hypothesis, 1954)
  - "You can tell a word by the company it keeps." [Firth, 1957]
  - Harris / Chomsky divide in linguistic methodology

## Clusterings

### Clusterings

- Automatic (Finch and Chater 92, Shuetze 93, many others)
 

word	nearest neighbor
accompanied	submitted handed learned developed influenced attend awarded barred
about	submitted finally talk color officially just exactly low
causing	reflecting forcing providing creating protecting becoming carrying particularly
climax	reflecting forcing providing creating protecting becoming carrying particularly
directors	professional investigating master control agents papers transactions
goal	mood roof eye image tool long pool access gap voice
housewife	reflecting forcing providing creating protecting becoming carrying particularly
represent	reflecting forcing providing creating protecting becoming carrying particularly
think	reflecting forcing providing creating protecting becoming carrying particularly
work	angels fractions see sponge long deep see time timing layers
on	through is at over into with from for by across
most	might would could cannot will should can may does helps
they	we you I we are activity what it everybody there
- Manual (e.g. thesauri, WordNet)

### Vector Space Methods

- Treat words as points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (eg Shuetze, 93)
  - Form matrix of co-occurrence counts
  - SVD or similar to reduce rank (cf LSA)
  - Cluster projections
  - People worried about things like: log of counts,  $U$  vs  $U^T$
- Today we'd call this an embedding method (it's basically GloVe), but we didn't want embeddings in 1993

### Models: Brown Clustering

- Classic model-based clustering (Brown et al, 92)
  - Each word starts in its own cluster
  - Each cluster has co-occurrence stats
  - Greedily merge clusters based on a mutual information criterion
  - Equivalent to optimizing a class-based bigram LM.
$$P(w_i | w_{i-1}) = P(c_i | c_{i-1})P(w_i | c_i)$$
- Produces a dendrogram (hierarchy) of clusters

## Embeddings

Most slides from Greg Durrett

### Embeddings

- Embeddings map discrete words (eg  $|V| = 50K$ ) to continuous vectors (eg  $d = 100$ )
- Why do we care about embeddings?
  - Neural methods want them
  - Nuanced similarity possible; generalize across words
- We hope embeddings will have structure that exposes word correlations (and thereby meanings)

### Embedding Models

- Idea: compute a representation of each word from co-occurring words

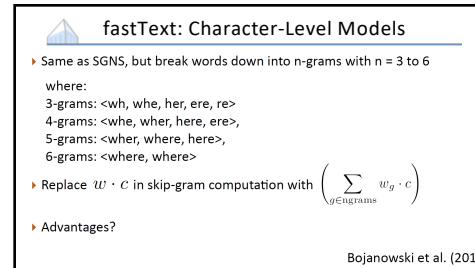
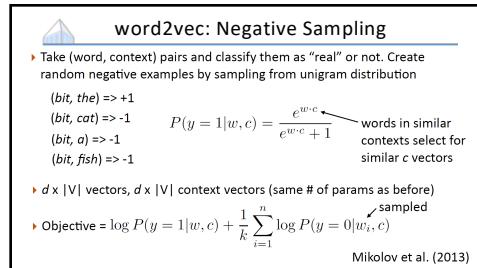
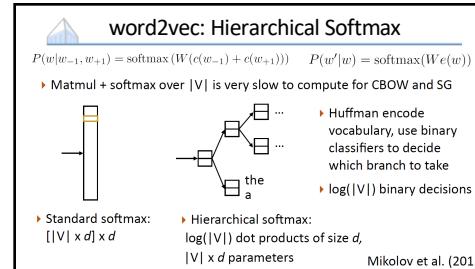
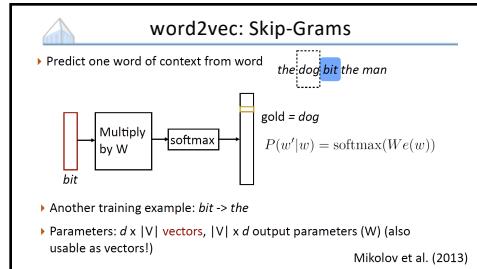
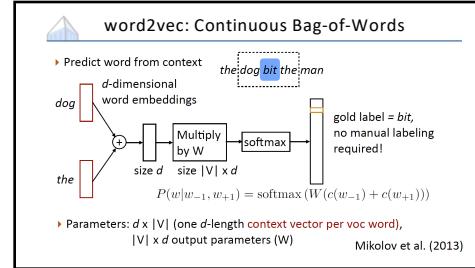
the dog bit the man

*Token-Level*

*Type-Level*

|V| word pair counts

We'll build up several ideas that can be mixed-and-matched and which frequently get used in other contexts



### GloVe

- Idea: Fit co-occurrence matrix directly (weighted least squares)

$|V|$

word pair counts

$$J = \sum_{i,j=1}^V f(X_{ij}) (w_i^T \tilde{w}_j + b_i + \tilde{b}_j - \log X_{ij})^2$$

$f(x_{ij})$

Type-level computations (so constant in data size)

Currently the most common word embedding method

Pennington et al, 2014

### Bottleneck vs Co-occurrence

- Two main views of inducing word structure
- Co-occurrence: model which words occur in similar contexts
- Bottleneck: model latent structure that mediates between words and their behaviors
- These turn out to be closely related!

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### Language Models

### Structure of Embedding Spaces

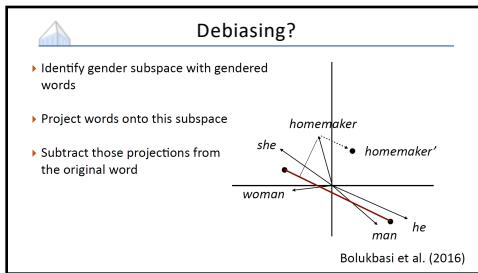
- How can you fit 50K words into a 64-dimensional hypercube?
- Orthogonality: Can each axis have a global "meaning" (number, gender, animacy, etc)?
- Global structure: Can embeddings have algebraic structure (eg  $\text{king} - \text{man} + \text{woman} = \text{queen}$ )?

### Bias in Embeddings

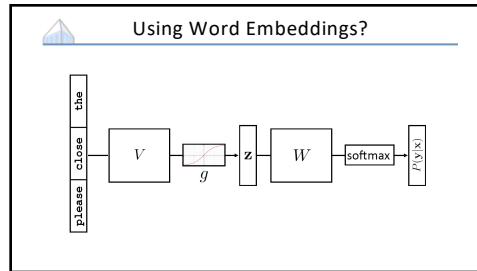
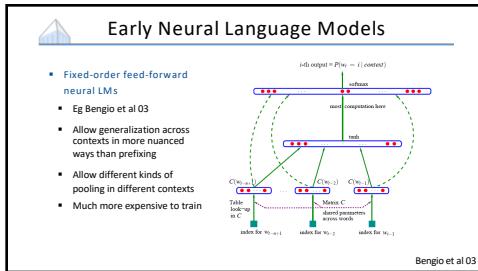
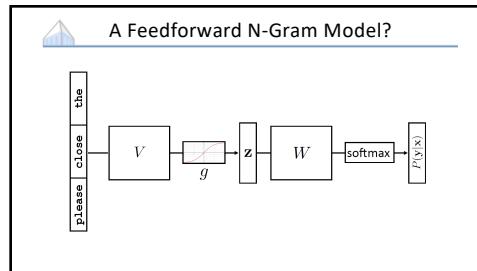
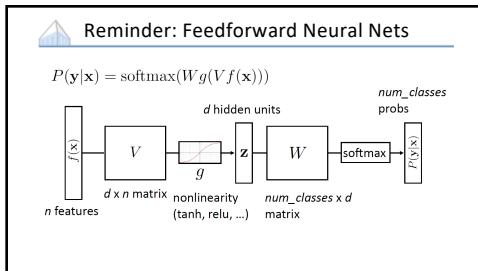
- Embeddings can capture biases in the data! (Bolukbasi et al 16)

$\overrightarrow{\text{man}} - \overrightarrow{\text{woman}} \approx \overrightarrow{\text{king}} - \overrightarrow{\text{queen}}$

Debiasing methods (as in Bolukbasi et al 16) are an active area of research



## Neural Language Models



### Using Word Embeddings

- ▶ Approach 1: learn embeddings as parameters from your data
  - Often works pretty well
- ▶ Approach 2: initialize using GloVe, keep fixed
  - Faster because no need to update these parameters
- ▶ Approach 3: initialize using GloVe, fine-tune
  - Works best for some tasks

### Limitations of Fixed-Window NN LMs?

- What have we gained over N-Gram LMs?
- What have we lost?
- What have we not changed?

### Recurrent NNs

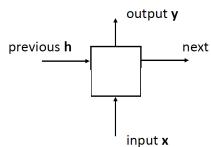
Slides from Greg Durrett / UT Austin, Abigail See / Stanford

### RNNs

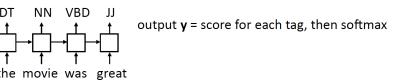
- ▶ Feedforward NNs can't handle variable length input: each position in the feature vector has fixed semantics
 
  - the movie was great
  - that was great !
- ▶ These don't look related (*great* is in two different orthogonal subspaces)
- ▶ Instead, we need to:
  - 1) Process each word in a uniform way
  - 2) ...while still exploiting the context that that token occurs in

### General RNN Approach

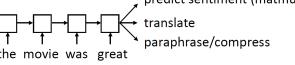
- ▶ Cell that takes some input  $x$ , has some hidden state  $h$ , and updates that hidden state and produces output  $y$  (all vector-valued)



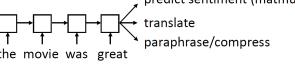
### RNN Uses

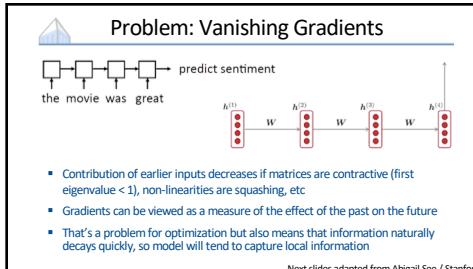
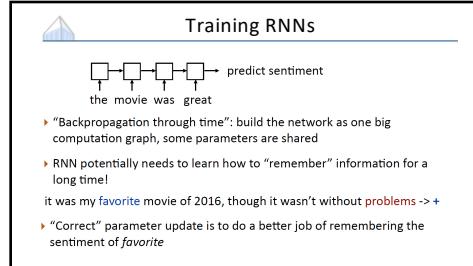
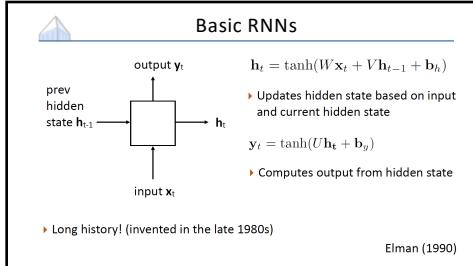
- ▶ Transducer: make some prediction for each element in a sequence
 
  - DT
  - NN
  - VBD
  - JJ

the movie was great

output  $y$  = score for each tag, then softmax
- ▶ Acceptor/encoder: encode a sequence into a fixed-sized vector and use that for some purpose
 

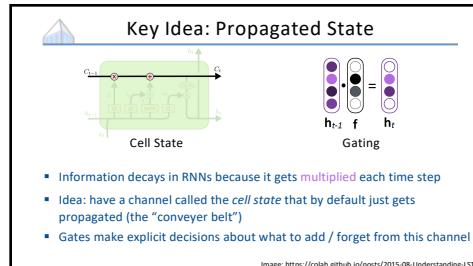
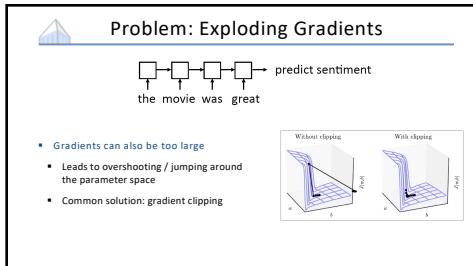
the movie was great

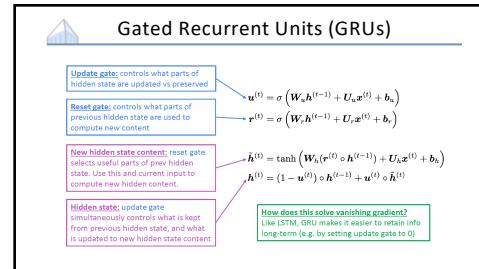
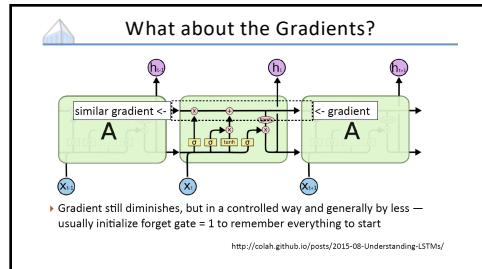
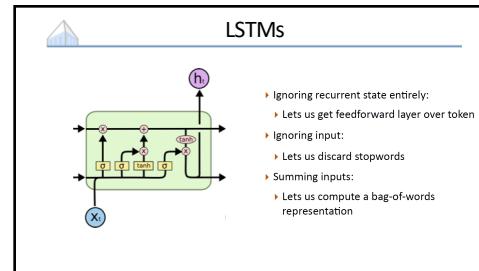
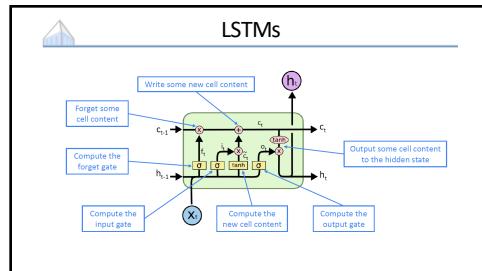
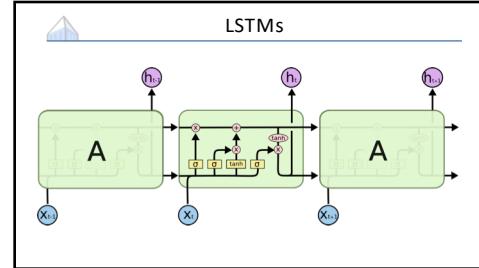
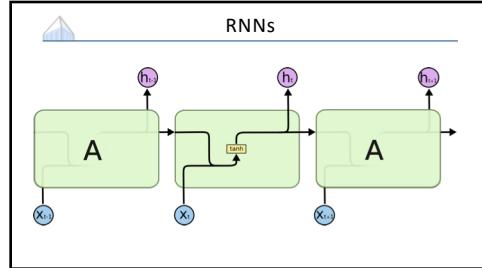
predict sentiment (matmul + softmax)
- ▶ translate  
paraphrase/compress
 



**Core Issue: Information Decay**

- The main problem is that *it's too difficult for the RNN to learn to preserve information over many timesteps.*
- In a vanilla RNN, the hidden state is constantly being *rewritten*
$$h^{(t)} = \sigma(W_h h^{(t-1)} + W_x x^{(t)} + b)$$
- How about a RNN with separate *memory*?

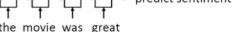


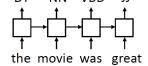


## Uses of RNNs

Slides from Greg Durrett / UT Austin

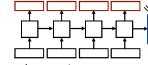
### Reminder: Tasks for RNNs

- Sentence Classification (eg Sentiment Analysis)**  


predict sentiment  
the movie was great
- Transduction (eg Part-of-Speech Tagging, NER)**  


DT NN VBD JJ  
the movie was great
- Encoder/Decoder (eg Machine Translation)**

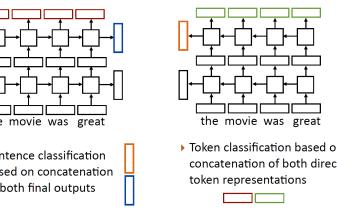
### Encoder / Decoder Preview



the movie was great

- Encoding of the sentence — can pass this to a decoder or make a classification decision about the sentence
- Encoding of each word — can pass this to another layer to make a prediction (can also pool these to get a different sentence encoding)
- RNN can be viewed as a transformation of a sequence of vectors into a sequence of context-dependent vectors

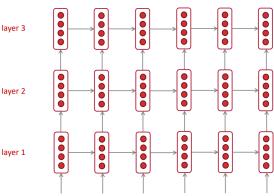
### Multilayer and Bidirectional RNNs



the movie was great

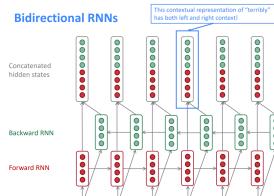
- Sentence classification based on concatenation of both directions' token representations
- Token classification based on concatenation of both directions' token representations

### Multi-Layer RNNs



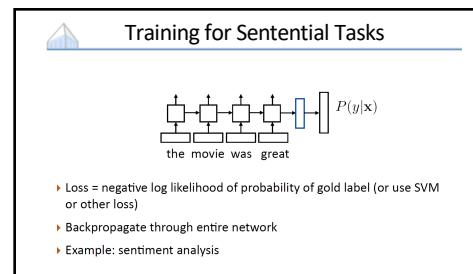
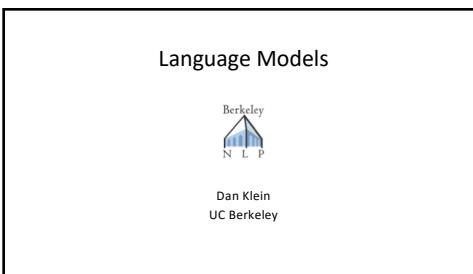
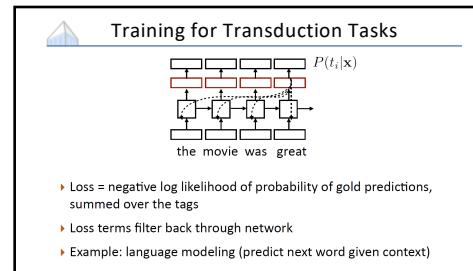
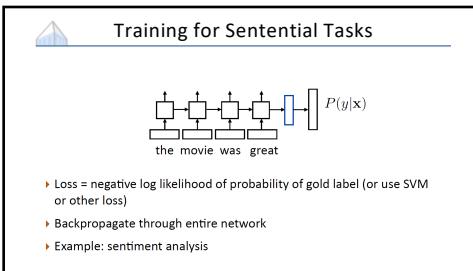
RNN layer 3  
RNN layer 2  
RNN layer 1  
the movie was terribly exciting f

### Bi-Directional RNNs



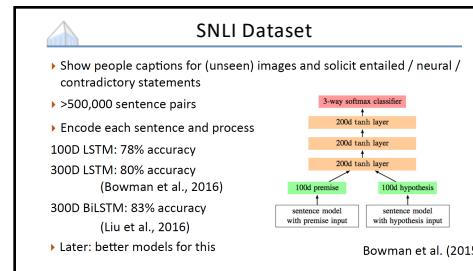
Bidirectional RNNs  
Forward RNN  
Backward RNN  
Concatenated hidden states  
the movie was terribly exciting f

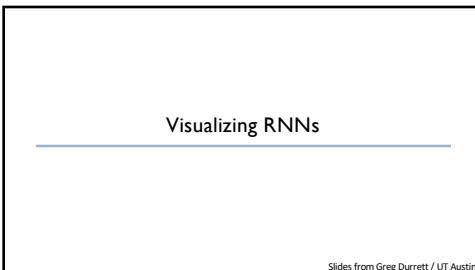
This contextual representation of "terrible" has both left and right context!



**Example Sentential Task: NL Inference**

Premise		Hypothesis
A boy plays in the snow	entails	A boy is outside
A man inspects the uniform of a figure	contradicts	The man is sleeping
An older and younger man smiling	neutral	Two men are smiling and laughing at cats playing
▶ Long history of this task: "Recognizing Textual Entailment" challenge in 2006 (Dagan, Glickman, Magnini)		
▶ Early datasets: small (hundreds of pairs), very ambitious (lots of world knowledge, temporal reasoning, etc.)		





### LSTMs Can Model Length

- Train character LSTM language model (predict next character based on history) over two datasets: War and Peace and Linux kernel source code
- Visualize activations of specific cells (components of  $c$ ) to understand them
- Counter: know when to generate  $\backslash n$

Karpathy et al. (2015)

### LSTMs Can Model Long-Term Bits

- Train character LSTM language model (predict next character based on history) over two datasets: War and Peace and Linux kernel source code
- Visualize activations of specific cells to see what they track
- Binary switch: tells us if we're in a quote or not

Karpathy et al. (2015)

### LSTMs Can Model Stack Depth

- Train character LSTM language model (predict next character based on history) over two datasets: War and Peace and Linux kernel source code
- Visualize activations of specific cells to see what they track
- Stack: activation based on indentation

Karpathy et al. (2015)

### LSTMs Can Be Completely Inscrutable

- Train character LSTM language model (predict next character based on history) over two datasets: War and Peace and Linux kernel source code
- Visualize activations of specific cells to see what they track
- Uninterpretable: probably doing double-duty, or only makes sense in the context of another activation

Karpathy et al. (2015)