

# Concepts, Composition, and Conversational Coordination

Semantic Competence for Situated Interaction

3rd Seminar: Concepts (Part II), Composition

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University of Potsdam, Germany

<http://clp.ling.uni-potsdam.de>

<https://github.com/davidschlangen/cosine-paris>

# plan

the seminar series:

- intro: the problem & the approach
- concepts [Mon, Sep 23]
- concepts (still!), composition [Mon, Sep 30]
- conversational coordination / dialogue [Mon, Oct 7]

*functional*

*reprsnt.nal*

*composition*

*coordination*

Conceptual Apparatus

**Inference**

- word to word
- discourse resolution

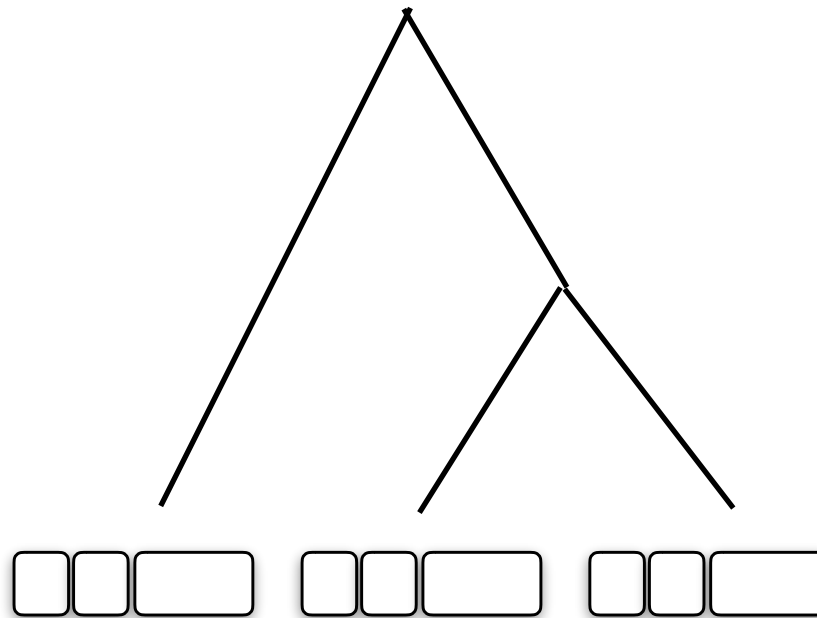
symbolic  
repr.

continuous  
repr.

**Reference**

- word to world
- categori-  
sation
- naming /  
resolution

classifiers on  
perceptual  
input



Look at the  
white dog!

We just saw a cute dog.

The cutest  
poodle ever!

Actually, that wasn't a  
poodle. It was too tall. It  
was a labradoodle.

- learning
  - incremental (within concept, within vocab)
  - fast
- implemented & tested on real data

*functional*    *reprsnt.nal*

Conceptual Apparatus

Inference

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symbolic  
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  - incremental (within concept, within vocab)
  - fast
- implemented & tested on real data

Conceptual Apparatus

Reference

- word to world
- categorisation
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classifiers on  
perceptual  
input



Look at the  
white dog!

$[[\text{dog}]]^D =$

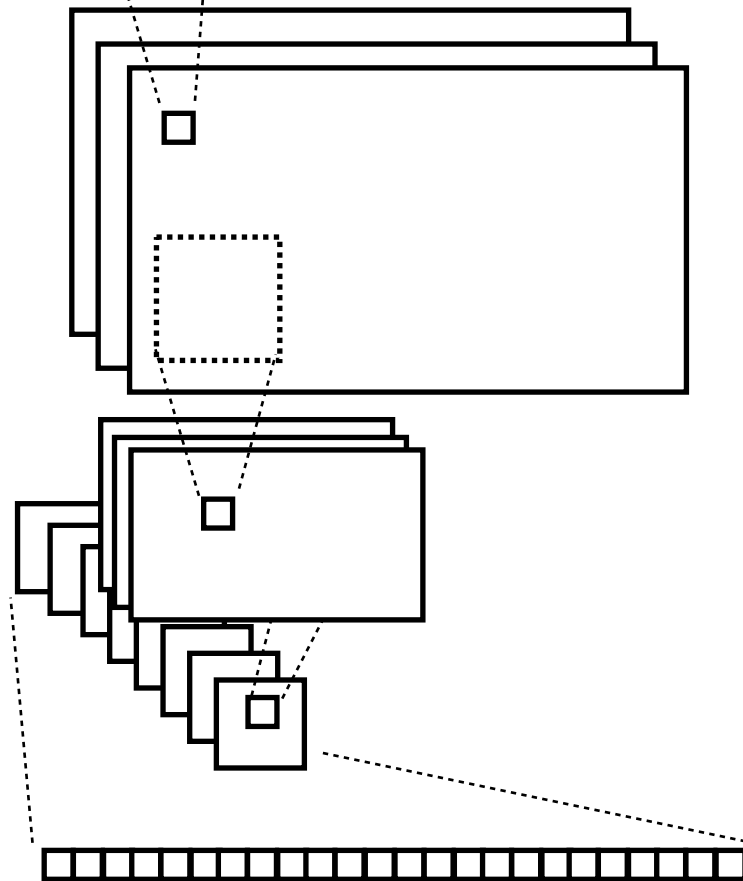
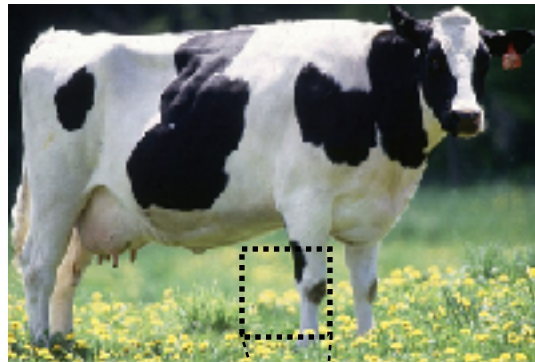
$\{ (o, f_{\text{dog}}(o)) \}$

what kind of function is  
this? (what is the range?)

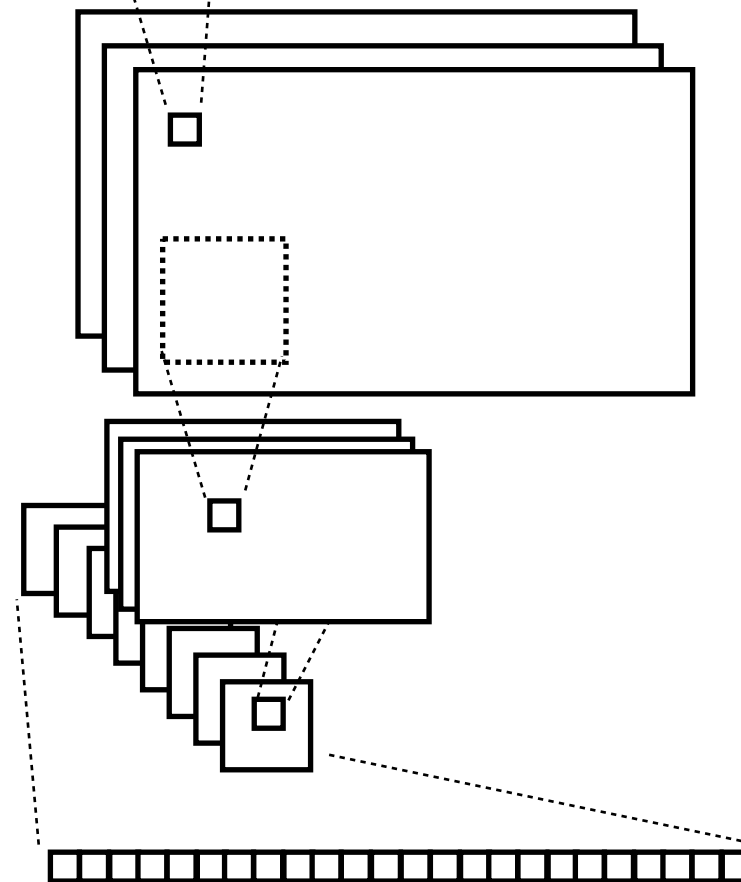
where do we get this  
function?

how do we present image  
object to function?

what kind of set is this?

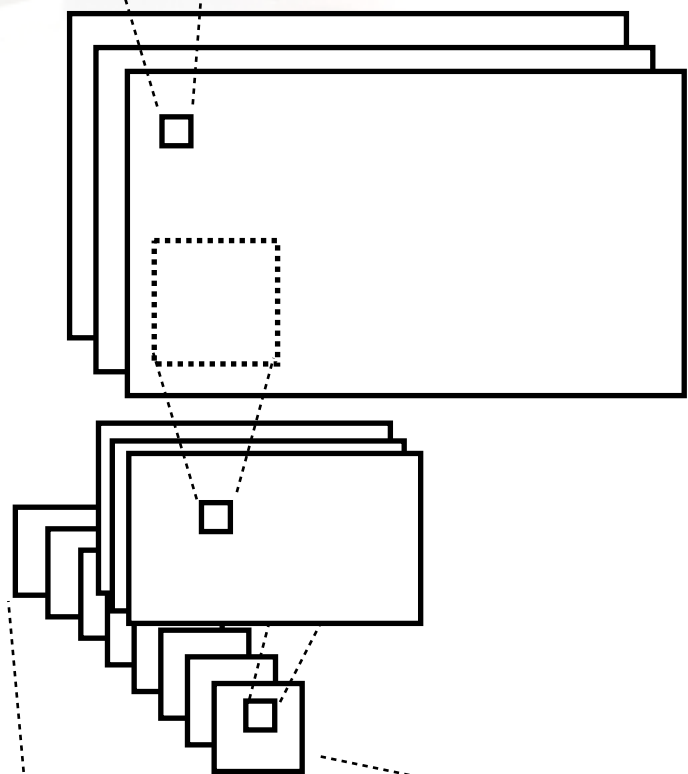


✗



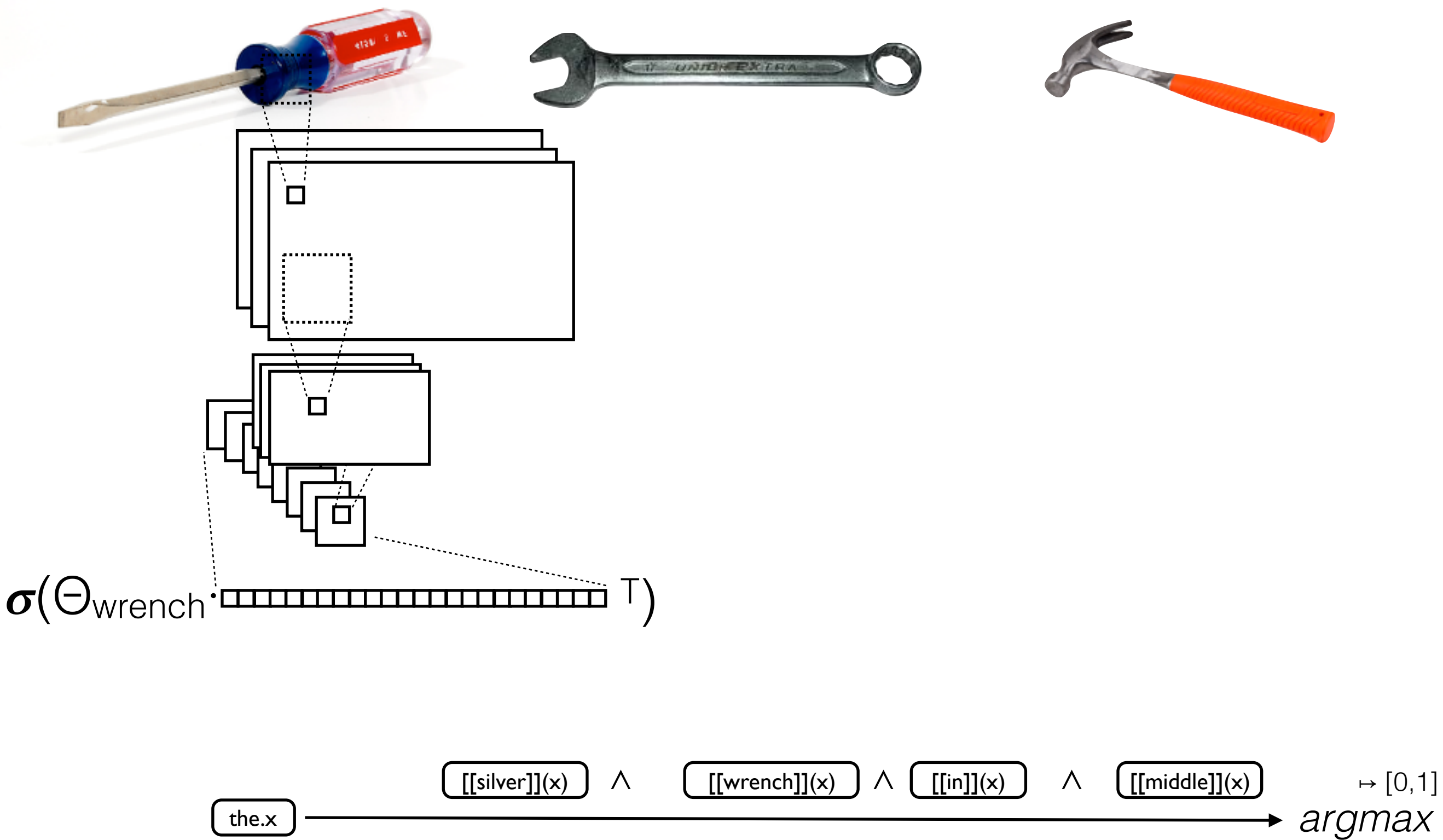
- one classifier per word / concept
- can always add new ones
- can always improve existing ones

$$\sigma(\Theta_{\text{silver}} \cdot \text{vector of 20 squares} \cdot T)$$



$$\sigma(\Theta_{\text{silver}} \cdot \text{the.x})$$

$$\text{the.x} \xrightarrow{[[\text{silver}]](x) \wedge [[\text{wrench}]](x) \wedge [[\text{in}]](x) \wedge [[\text{middle}]](x)} \text{argmax} \mapsto [0,1]$$





# some notes

- “*bag of words*” application (for now)
- two things happening at same time:
  - learning of concept
  - name of concept
- theoretical claim (separation inference / reference; sources of information) + implementation (these types of classifiers, this performance)
  - e.g., on relevance of *learnability*. Would make claim that Goodman (1955)-type predicate “grue” (*X is grue if observed before 2019 and blue, or observed after 2019 and blue*) is harder to learn, as it involves two subsystems.

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function?

how do we present image  
object to function?

what kind of set is this?

What about the other direction?  
(Naming, Generation)

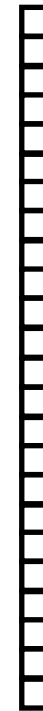
# today

- the “words as classifiers” model of referential concepts
  - naming & factor graphs
  - naming colours
- learning word meaning representations from observations of linguistic contexts
  - different kinds of contexts
  - inference: referential compatibility
  - predicting antonymy
- cross-over: zero-shot learning
- composition: syntax as interface
  - a side note: use visual denotations to induce structure?
  - composing continuous representations for inference: LSTMs, Transformers, Tree-LSTMs
  - composing references

# object naming

- given an (image, or drawing of an) object, find its *name* (= noun for its category)
- important paradigm in cognitive psychology (e.g., Rosch 1978, Glaser 1992)
- but also of immediate practical relevance (remember Ann pointing out the dog to Bert)

# object naming



run all available classifiers on object,  
pick the one that gives highest score

or run only subset, if you have a reason  
to do so?

# object naming

## in context

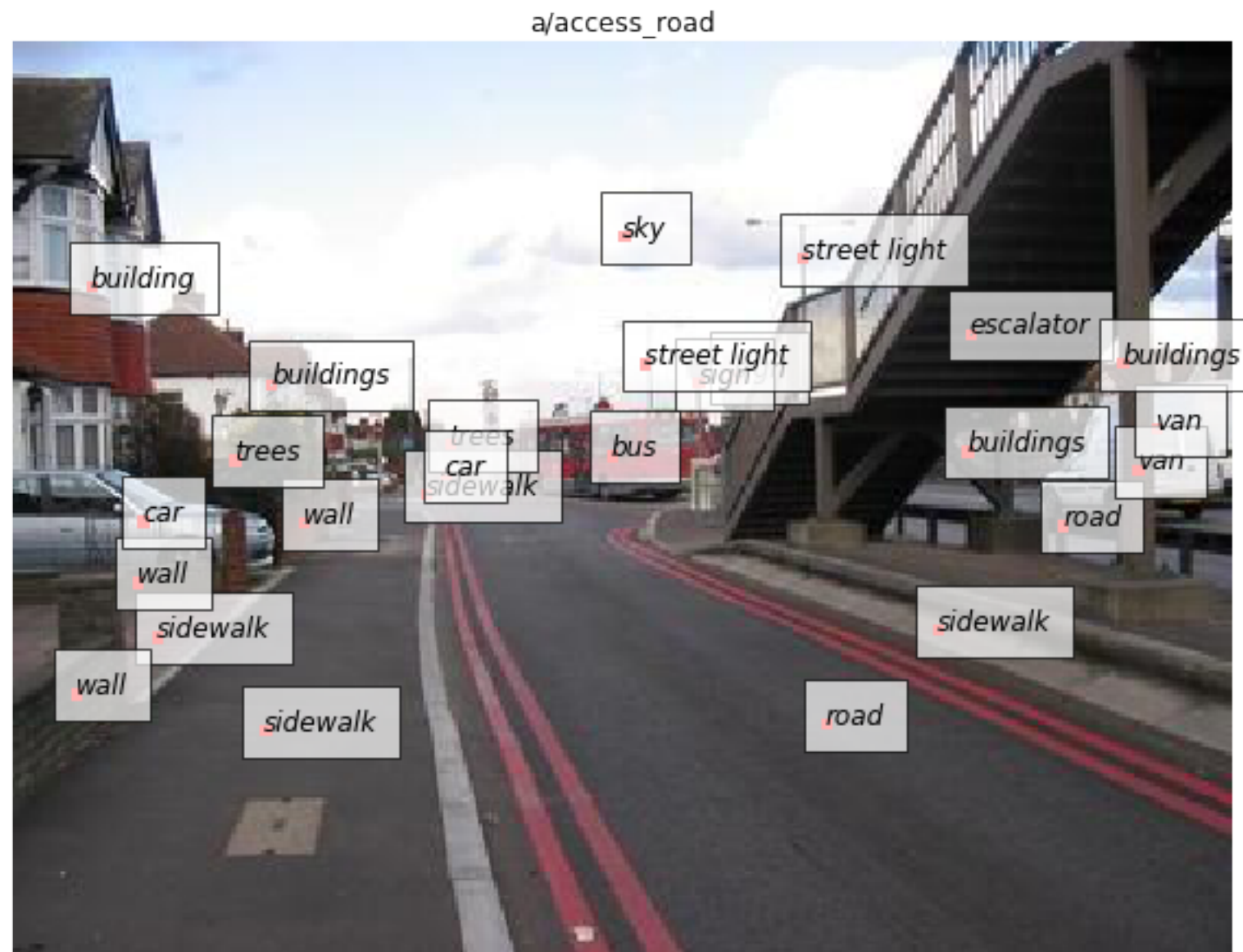


# object naming in context



562 WACs trained on ADE20k corpus, object labels

# object naming in context

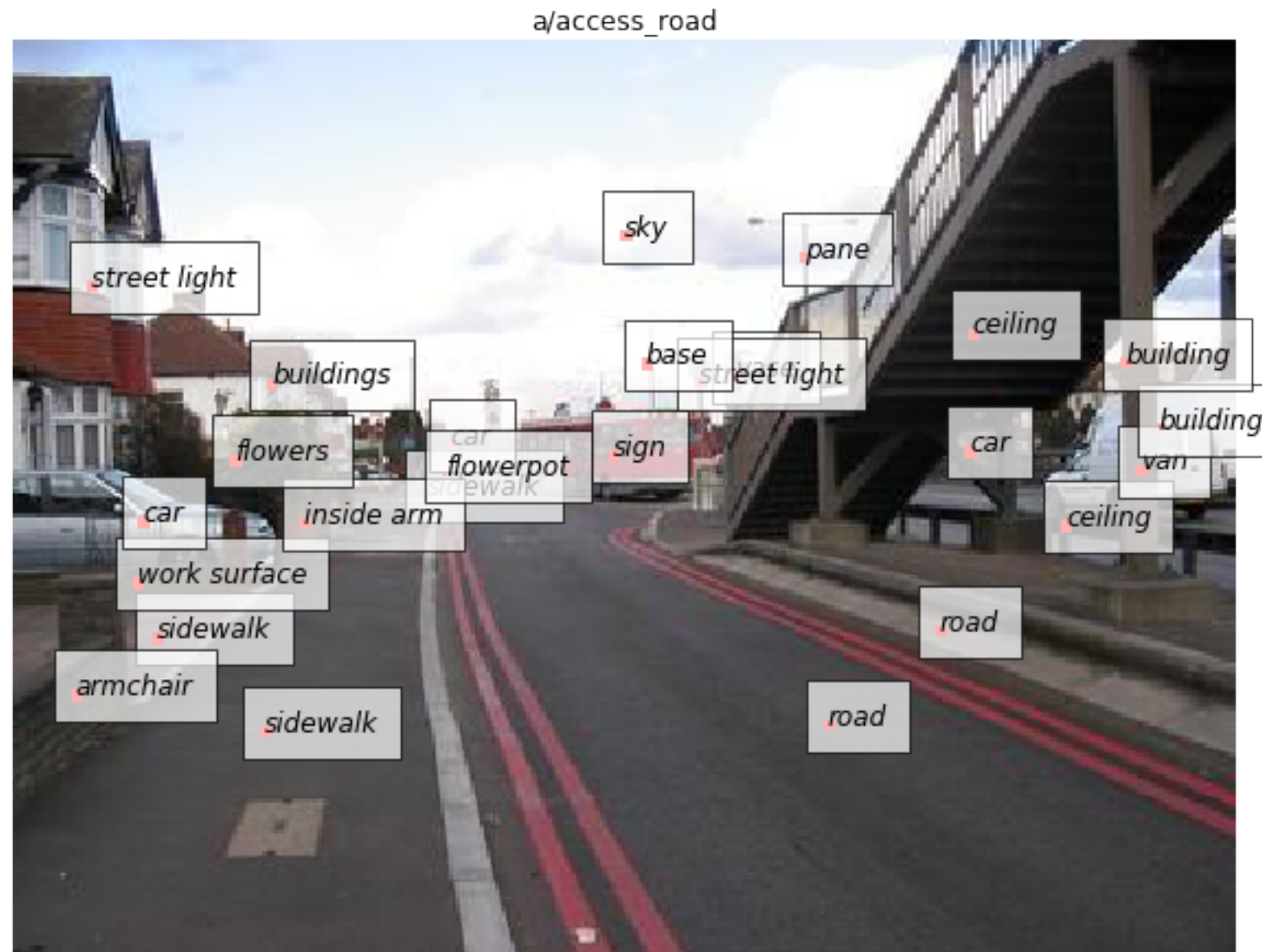


ground truth



# object naming

## without context

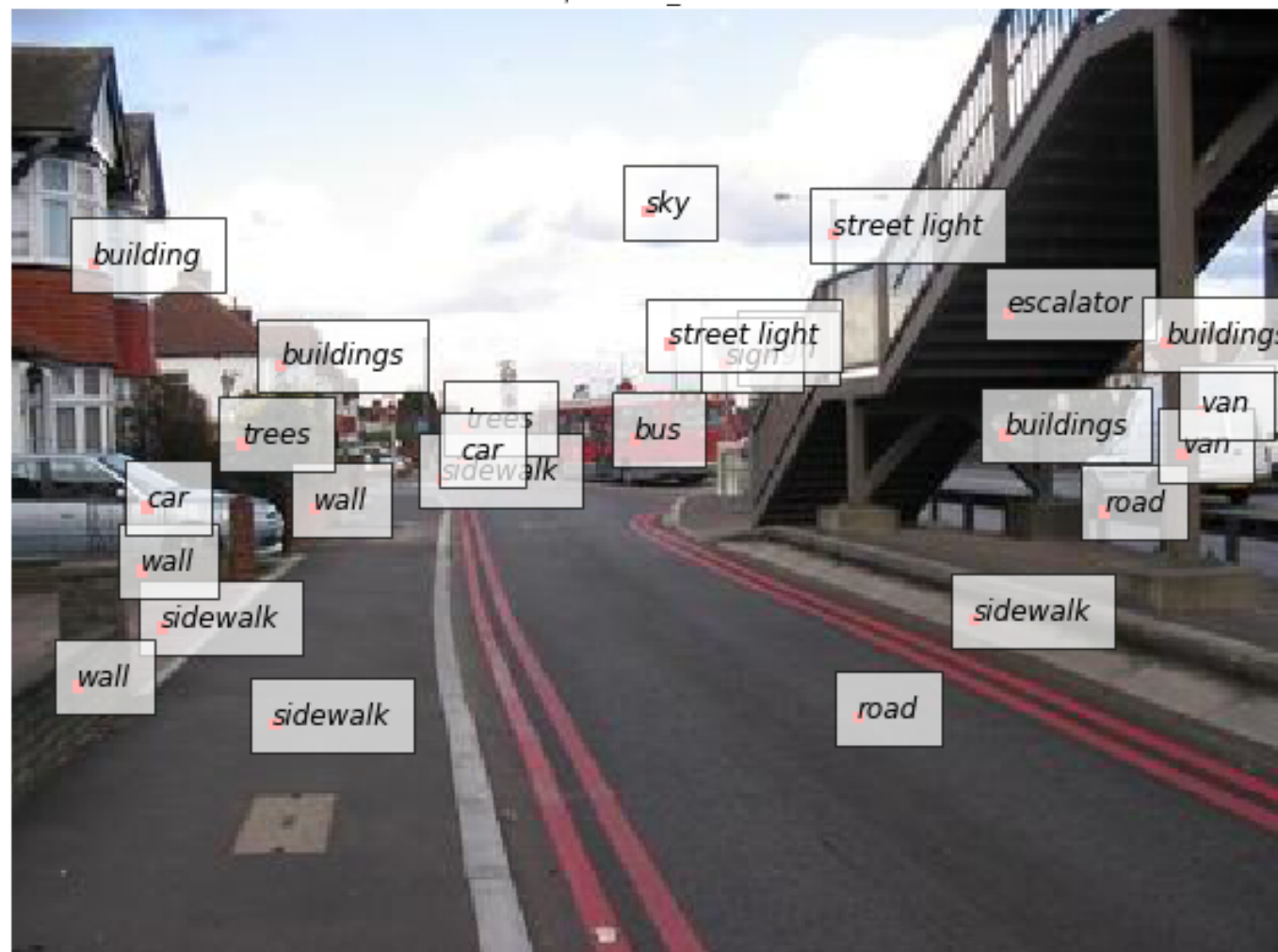


562 WACs trained on ADE20k corpus, object labels

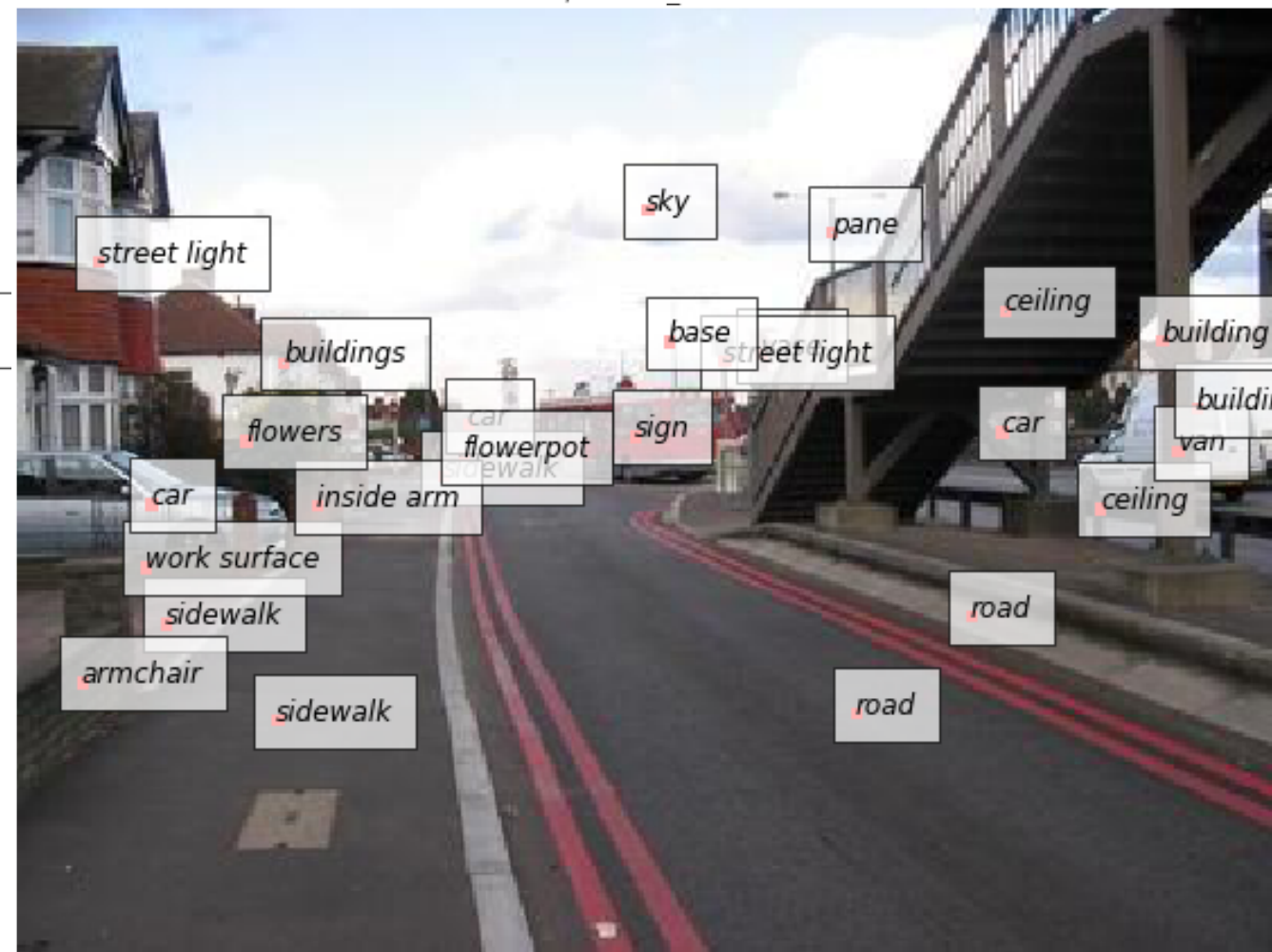
# object naming

## without context

a/access\_road

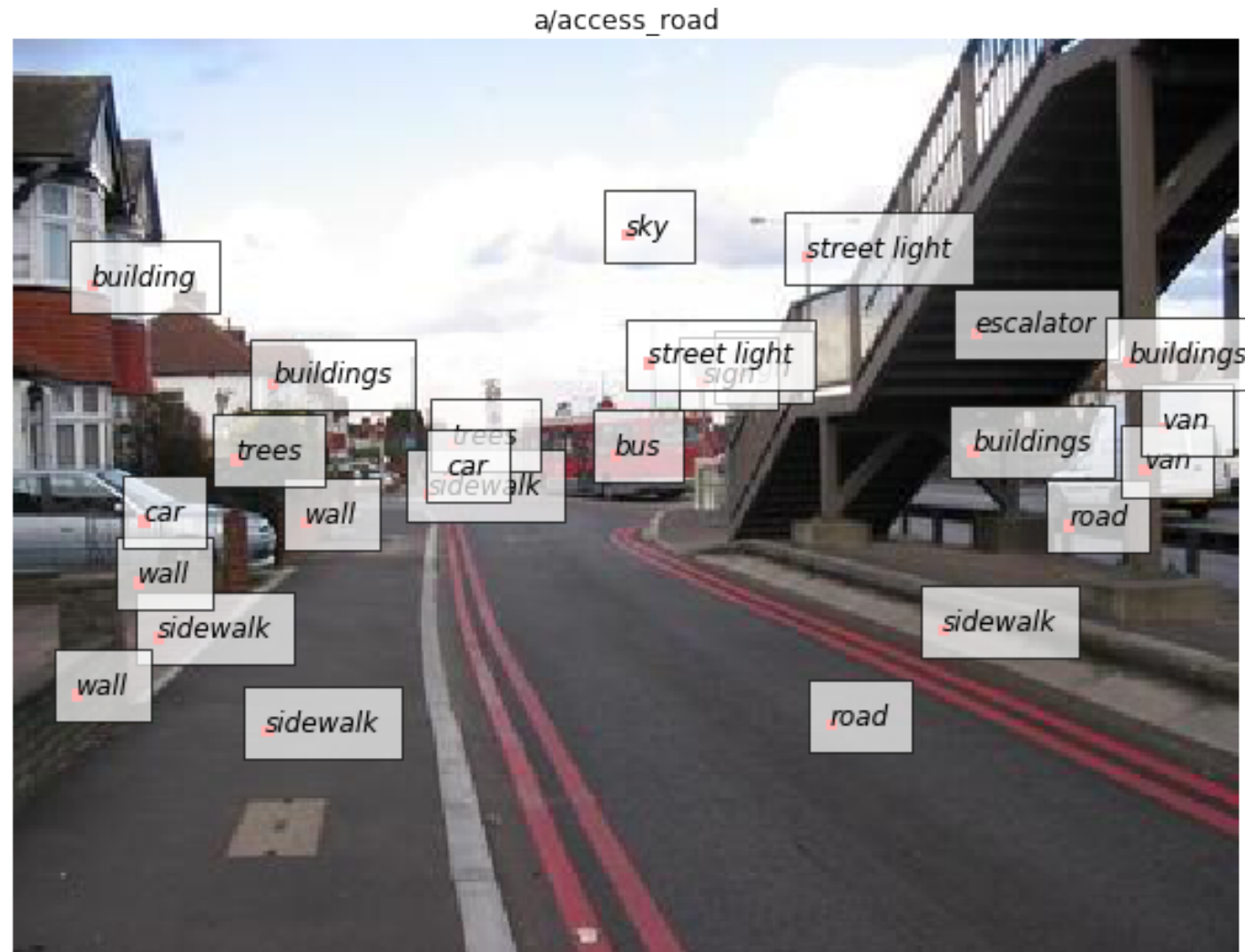


a/access\_road

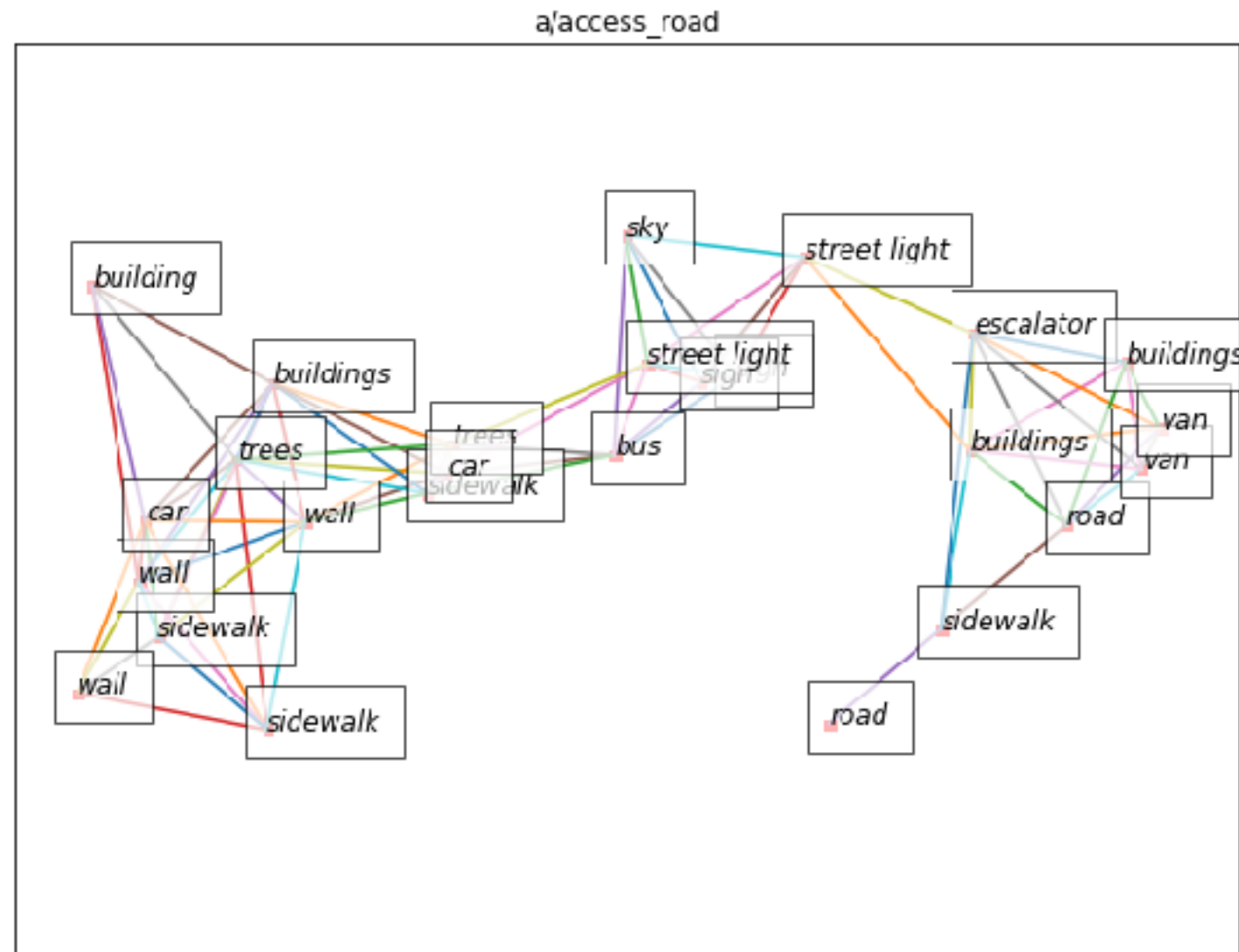


	R@1	R@5	MRR
w/o context	0.30	0.64	0.45
data distr	0.02	0.21	0.12
distr   type	0.12	0.41	0.26

# object naming in context

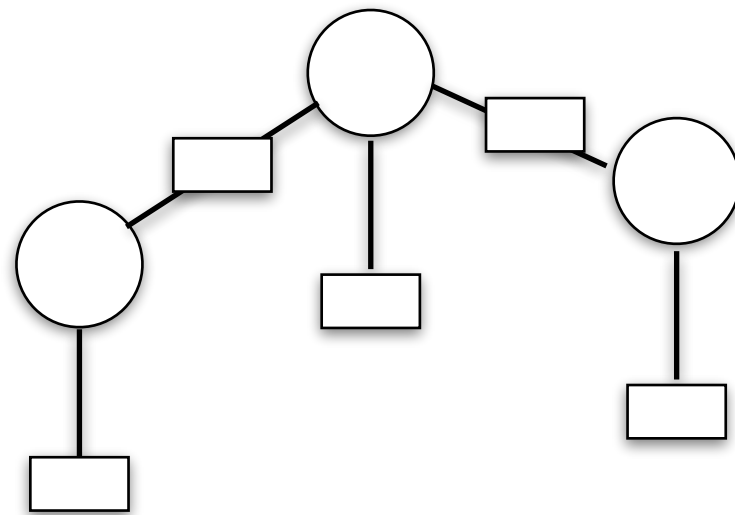


# object naming in context



create network of near objects  
(within certain radius of each other)

# object naming in context

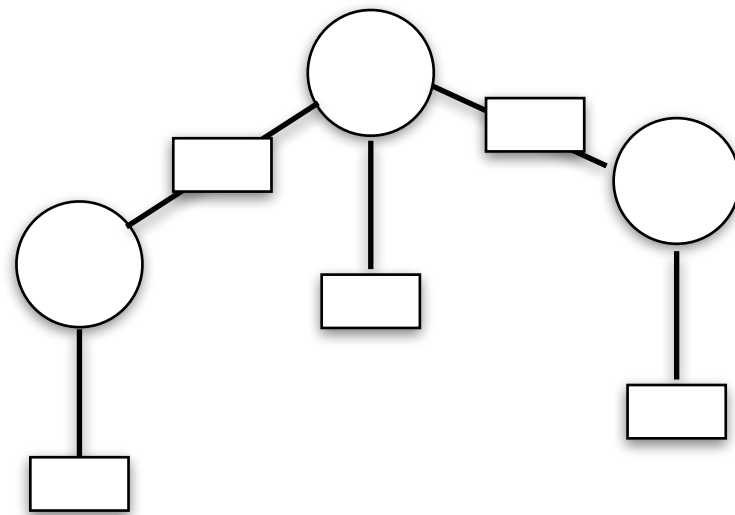


implemented using M  
Forbes' py-factorgraph  
package, which  
implements loopy  
belief propagation /  
max-sum inferences.  
(Forbes & Choi 2017)

[https://github.com/  
mbforbes/py-  
factorgraph](https://github.com/mbforbes/py-factorgraph)

use this to create factor graph, with the WACs being unary  
factors, and the co-occurrence probabilities as binary factors

# object naming in context

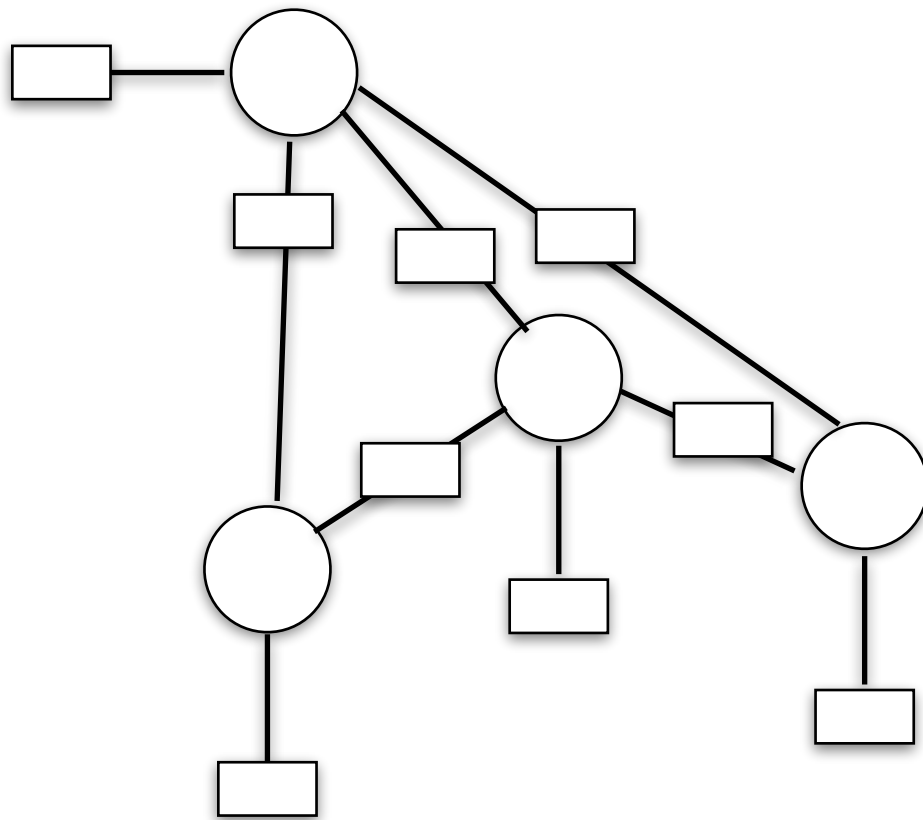


	R@1	R@5	MRR
w/o context	0.30	0.64	0.45
w/ factors	0.41	0.70	0.54



# object naming

## in context



Adding in a scene type node, with a prior distribution as unary factor, and for each objects its conditional prior for this scene type.

	R@1	R@5	MRR
w/o context	0.30	0.64	0.45
w/ factors	0.41	0.70	0.54
w/ stf	0.42	0.71	0.55

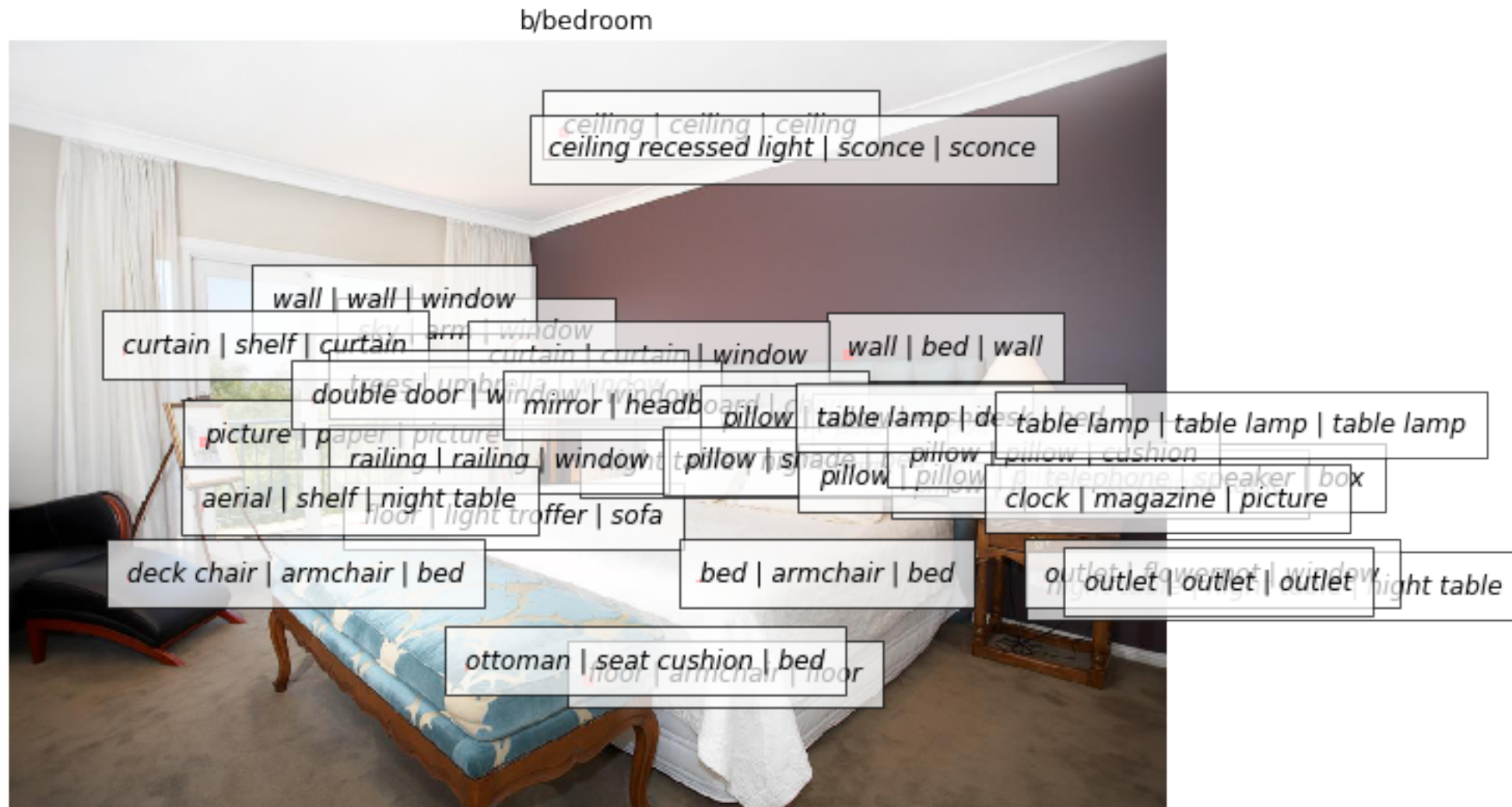
# object naming in context



	R@1	R@5	MRR
w/o context	0.30	0.64	0.45
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# object naming in context



	R@1	R@5	MRR
w/o context	0.30	0.64	0.45
w/ factors	0.41	0.70	0.54
w/ stf	0.42	0.71	0.55

[illegible]

# open questions

- what kind of knowledge is this?
- knowledge about the world, about which types of things tend to occur together?
- or is this part of the knowledge of the *word* “bathroom”?

Conceptual Apparatus

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classifiers on  
perceptual  
input



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$[[\text{dog}]]^D =$

$\{ (o, f_{\text{dog}}(o)) \}$

what kind of function is  
this? (what is the range?)

where do we get this  
function?

how do we present image  
object to function?

what kind of set is this?

What about the other direction?  
(Naming, Generation)

Kind of works, if top-down  
constraints are factored in.

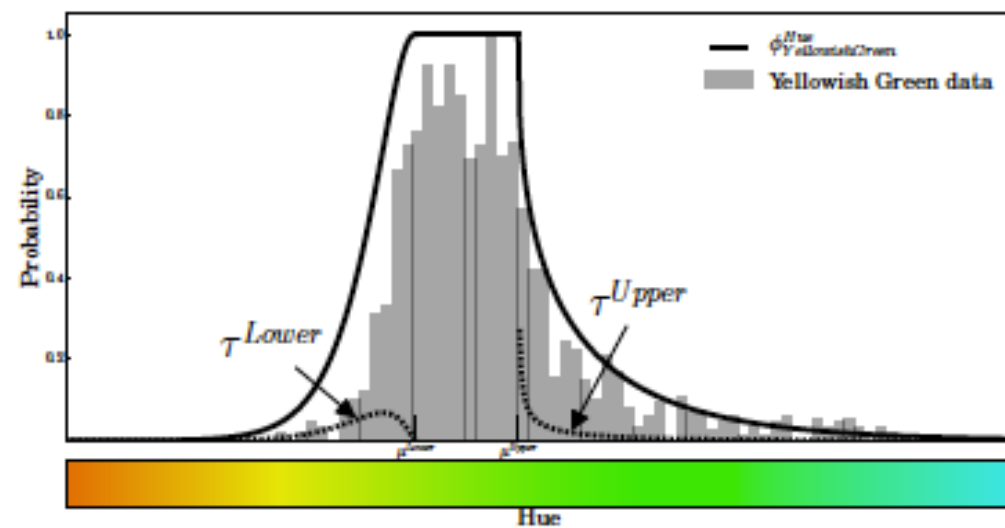
# another example: colour terms

- (Zarriß & Schlangen, INLG 2016),  
“Towards Generating Colour Terms for Referents in  
Photographs: Prefer the Expected or the Unexpected?”



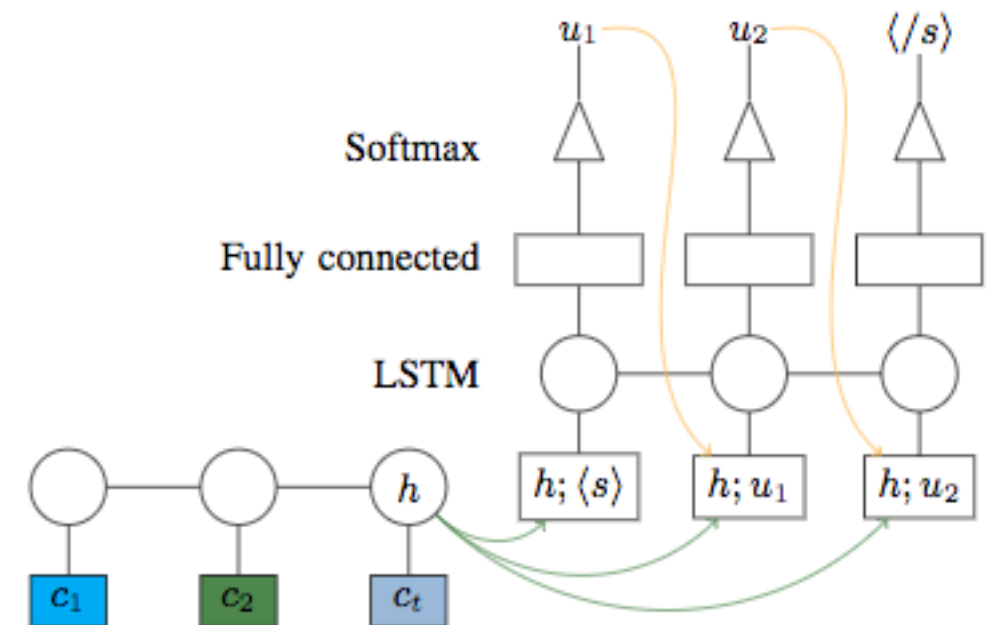
(Now JProf @ Jena)

# Example: Models for Colour Term Meaning



**yellowish green**

(MacMahan and Stone, TACL 2015)



(Monroe et al, TACL 2017)

# The Task

- predict colour terms for objects in photographs
- data: referring expressions paired with image regions
- content decision is known, focus on REs with colour terms (12K pairs)
- (objects are labelled)

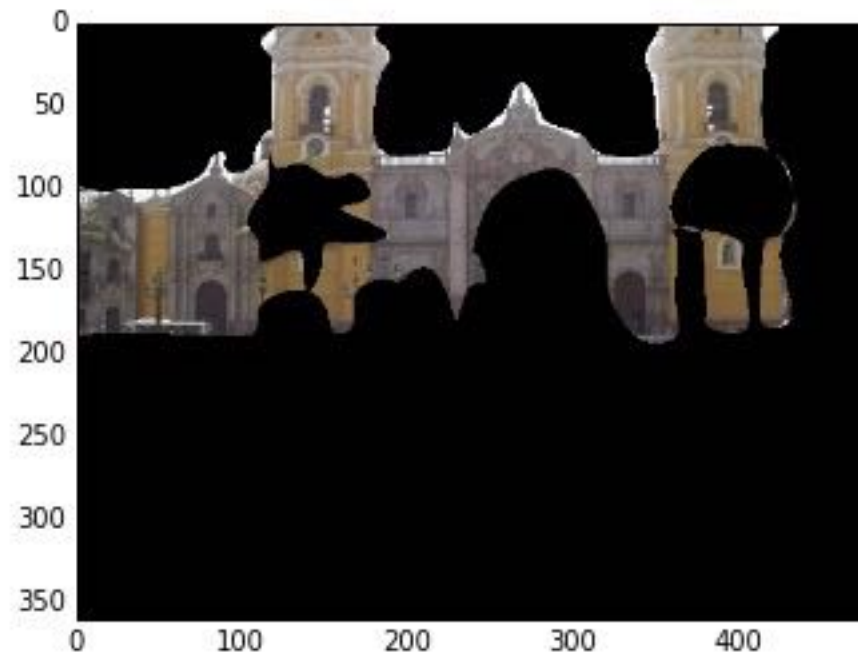


*the **yellow** building*

ReferIt Corpus (Kazemzadeh et al., 2014)



# From Colour Patches to Realistic Inputs

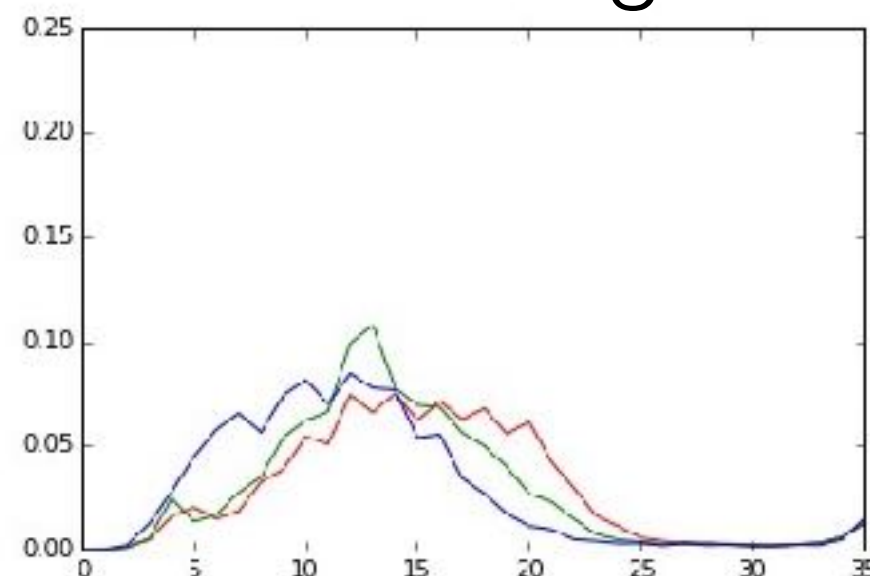


region,  
high-quality  
segmentation!

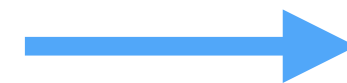
„bag-of-pixels“



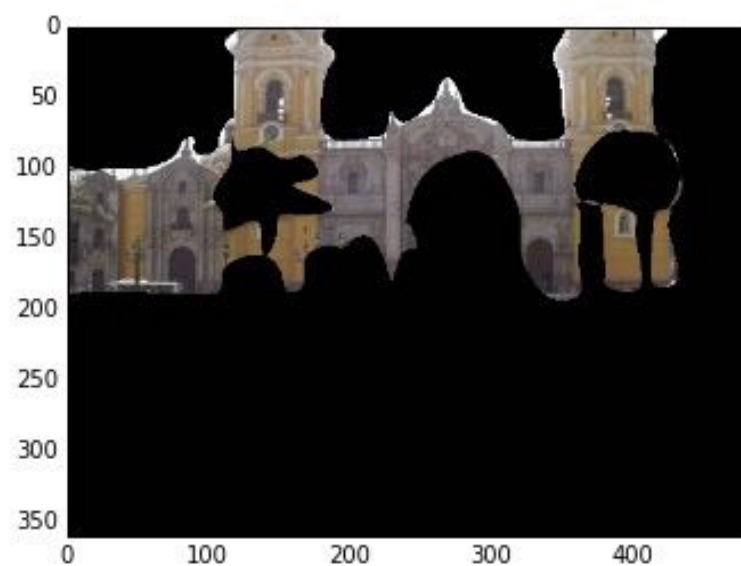
RGB histogram



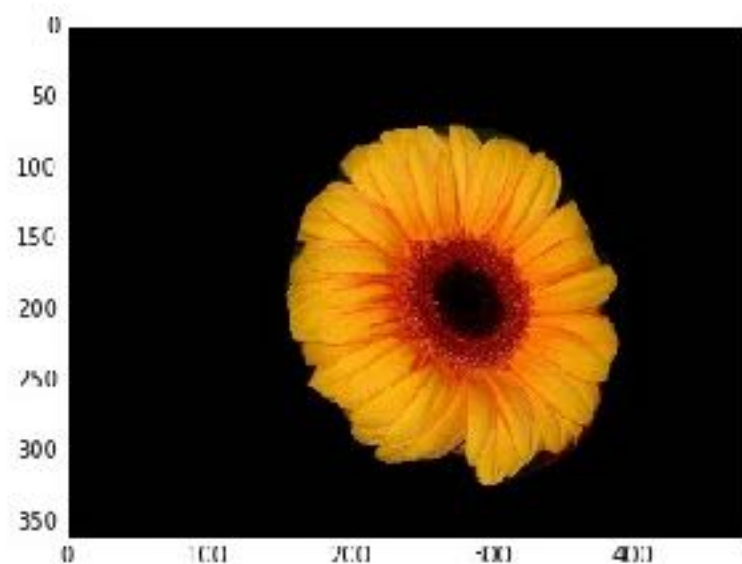
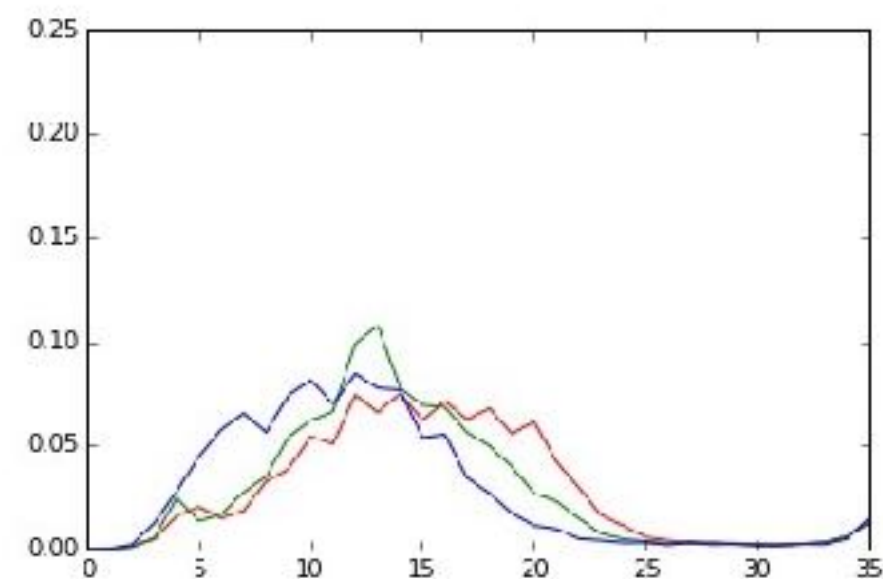
**yellow?**  
gray?  
brown?  
white?



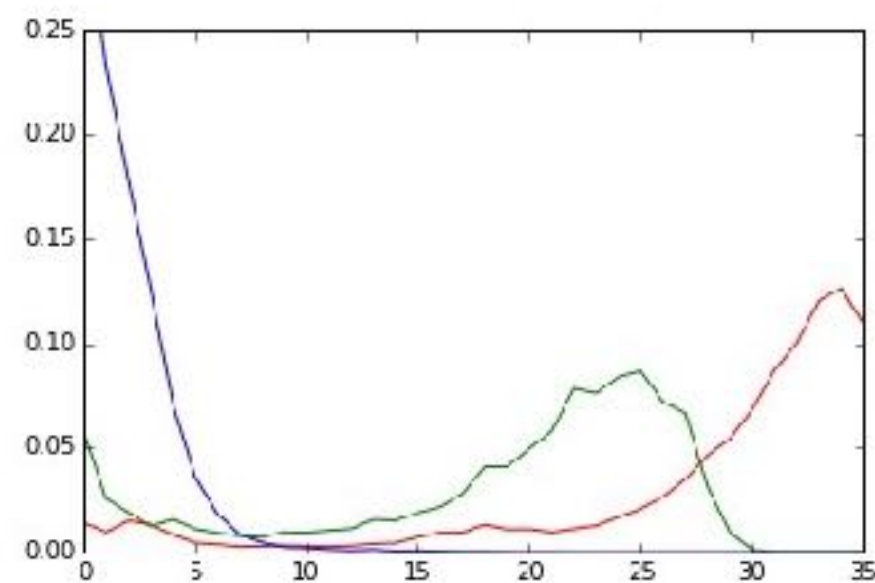
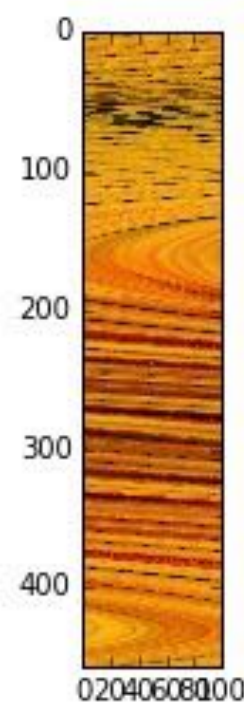




yellow building

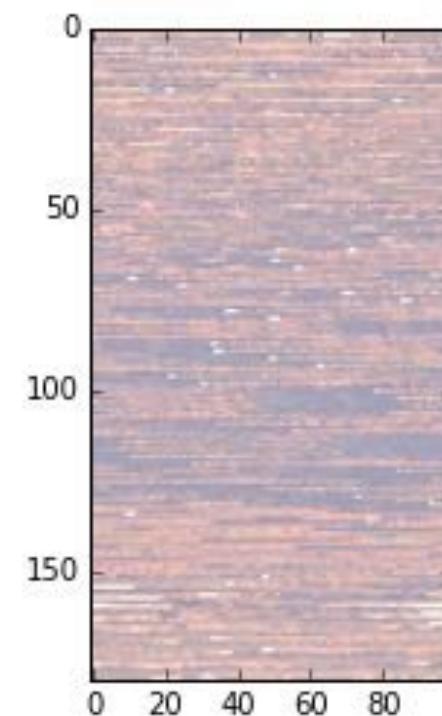


yellow flower

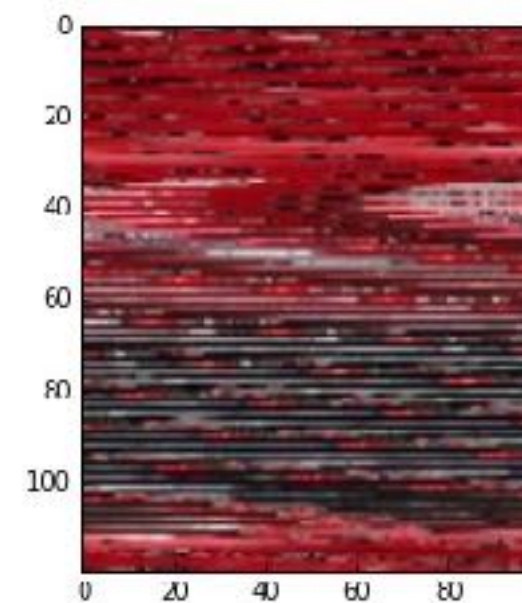


# Variation Among Objects

**red** mountain



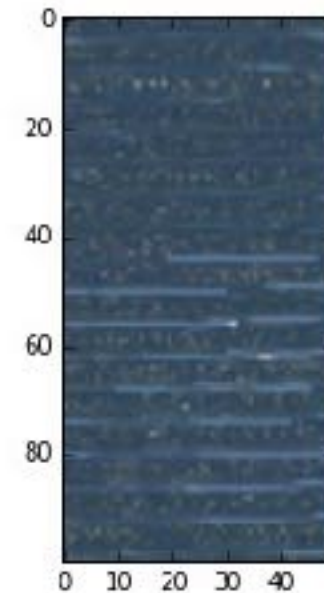
**red** car



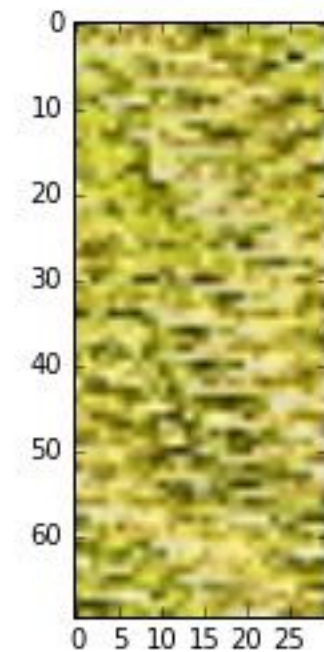


# Variable Context

**green** trees in the middle

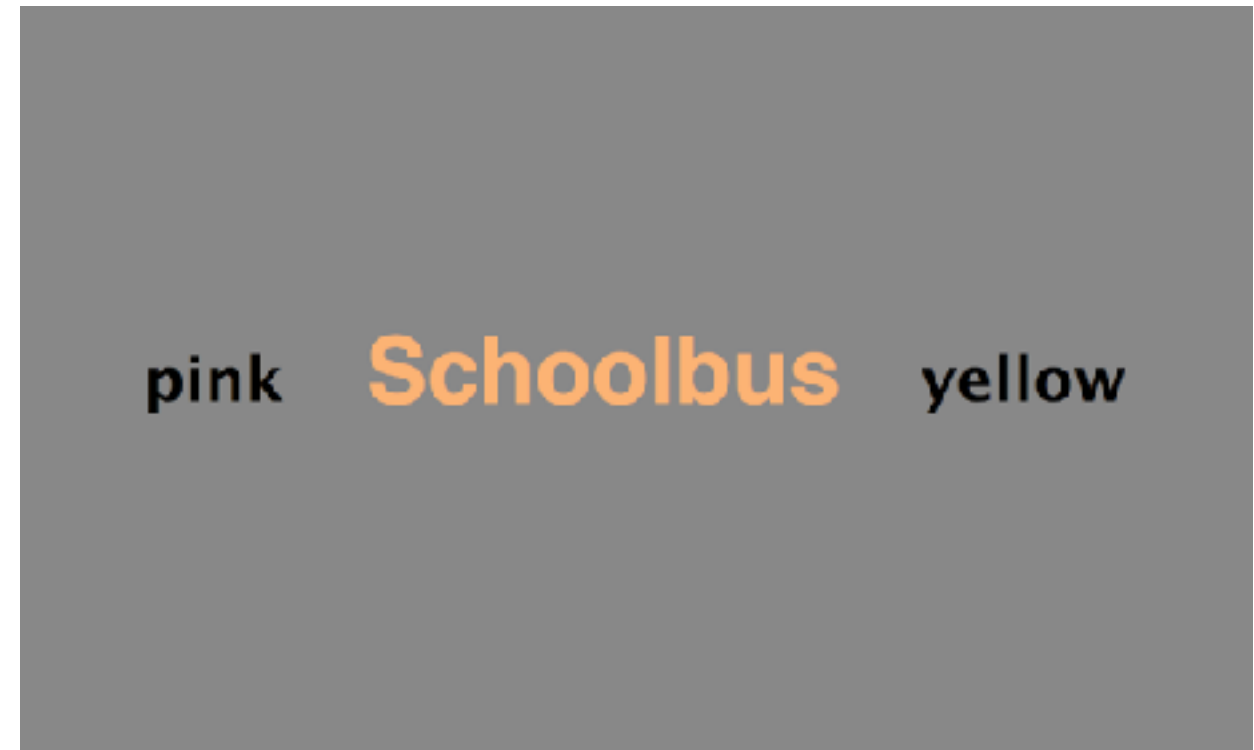
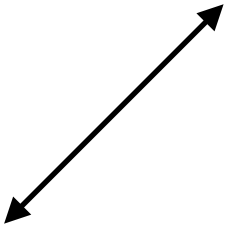


**green** on right



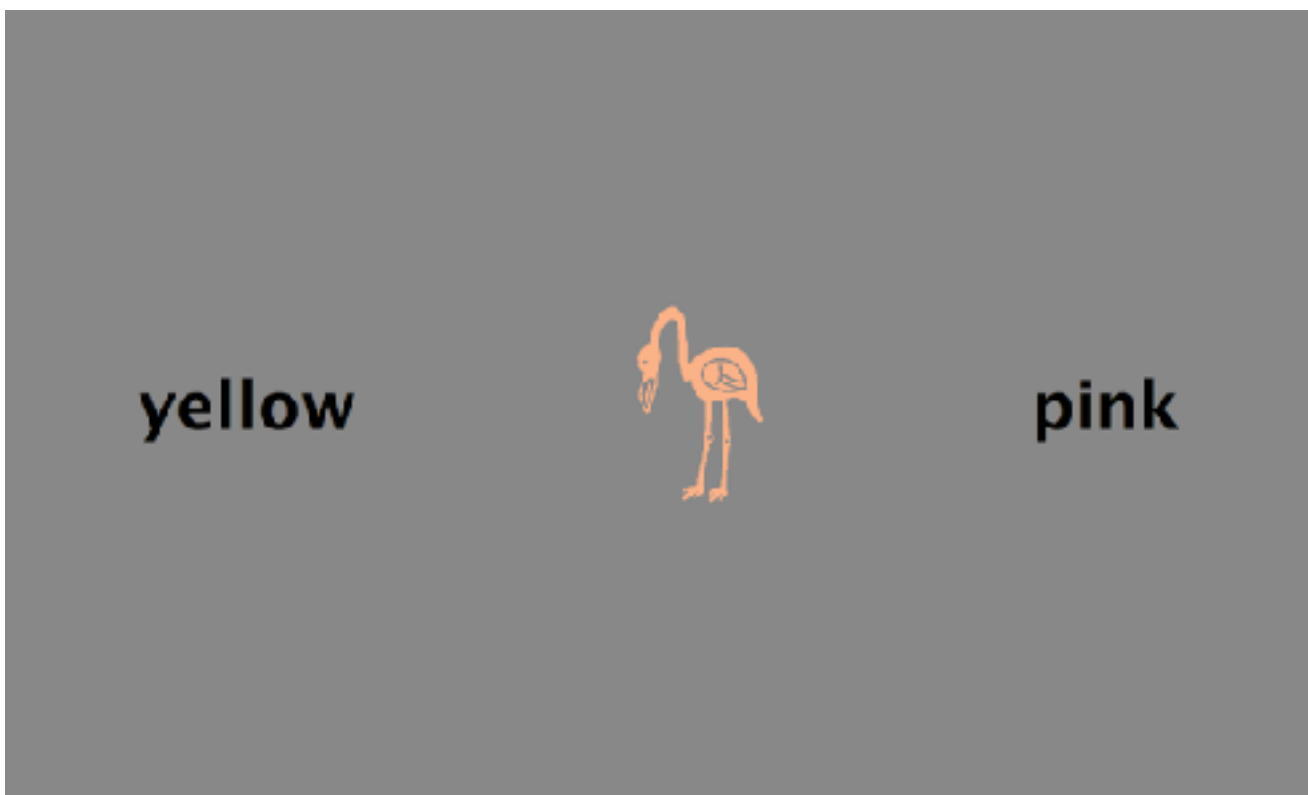
# Top-down: Colours and World Knowledge

yellow  
pink



people calibrate ambiguous hues to **expected** colours

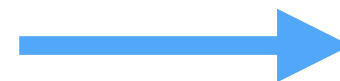
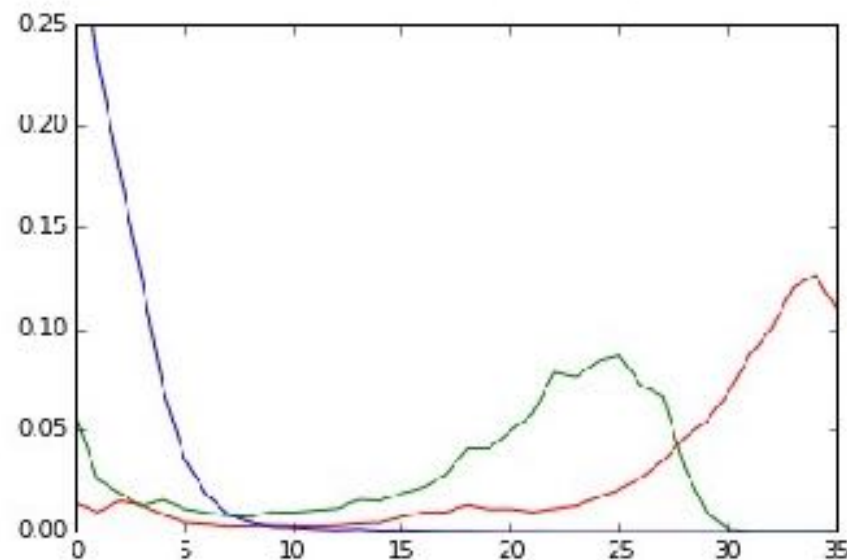
**recalibration** accounts for the colour constancy problem  
(Mitterer and de Ruiter, 2008)



(Kubat, Mirman and Roy, 2009)

# Bottom-up: Perceptual Classifiers

- Multi-layer Perceptron: 512 input nodes (RGB hist), 11 output nodes (basic colour terms), 2 hidden layers
- ConvNet features don't seem to work for colour!



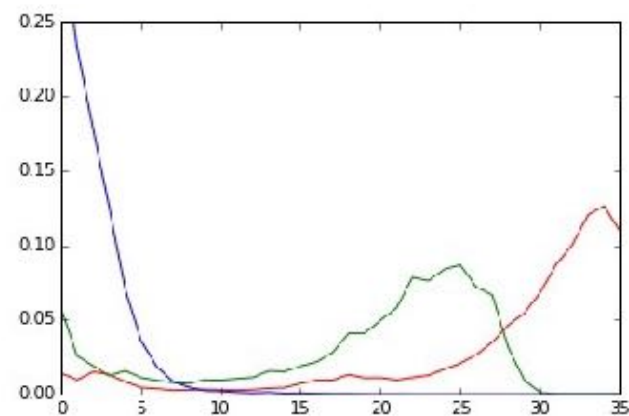
yellow 0.3  
red 0.25  
black 0.15  
green 0.14  
...

**1 general classifier  
or separate classifiers for each object?**

# Results: Perceptual Classifiers

- train and test on all objects, 1 classifier
  - **63.7% accuracy**
- 
- train and test separately on 52 object classes
  - **45.1% accuracy**
  - more sensitive to “noise”, often recalibrate when general classifier is confident

# Top-down: Recalibration



yellow 0.5  
red 0.25  
black 0.15  
orange 0.11  
green 0.05  
...



red 0.7  
orange 0.25  
yellow 0.05  
...

**Context**

⋮

⋮

**World Knowledge**

target  
object

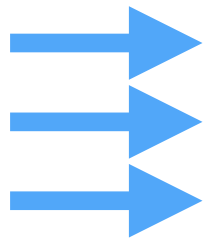


yellow 0.5  
red 0.25  
black 0.15  
orange 0.11  
green 0.05  
...



red 0.7  
orange 0.25  
yellow 0.05  
...

objects in  
context



yellow 0.5  
red 0.25  
black 0.15  
orange 0.11  
green 0.05  
...



logistic regressions for  
each object type,  
22 features

**Accuracy: 65.57 %**

**Perceptual: 63.7%**

**Object-specific: 45.1%**

- cross-validation





corpus: **green**  
perceptual: blue  
recalibrated: **green**

→ *expected colour*

*Successful Recalibration*



corpus: **red**  
perceptual: green  
recalibrated: **red**

→ *salient colour*



corpus: **yellow**  
perceptual: yellow  
recalibrated: **white**

→ *expected colour*

*Unsuccessful Recalibration*

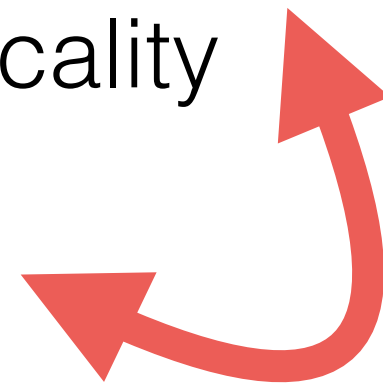


corpus: **red**  
perceptual: pink  
recalibrated: **white**

→ *expected colour*

# Grounding and Calibrating Colour Terms

- Bottom-up perceptual classifiers:  
visual input  $\longrightarrow$  distribution over colour terms
- Top-down recalibration:  
world knowledge: object types, typicality  
context: saliency, atypicality



# to sum up

- when deciding on (name, attribute) categorisation of objects in a scene, just looking at the one single object that is to be categorised is not enough
  - need to look at the whole scene (visual context)
  - need to know something about expectations about connections
- other questions to pursue: how to recognise base level categories (category names), how to select appropriate level

Conceptual Apparatus

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classifiers on  
perceptual  
input



Look at the  
white dog!



*functional*    *reprsnt.nal*

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Harris (1954): “If A and B have almost identical environments we say that they are synonyms.”

Firth (1957): “You shall know a word by the company it keeps!”

What is an “environment”, and what is “company” for a word?

Die Universität Bielefeld vergibt auch 2010 wieder Stipendien aus Rektoratsmitteln zur Förderung von Promotionen. Anders als bisher erfolgt die Förderung bereits ab dem 1. Januar 2010 ( bisher ab 1. Juli eines Jahres ). Die Bewerbungsfrist endet am 15. Oktober. Der Ausschreibungstext ist im Verkündungsblatt der Universität Bielefeld -Amtliche Bekanntmachungen - unter dem Stichwort "Stipendien" zu finden.



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*bag of words representation*

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Ausschreibungstext	1
Bewerbungsfrist	1
Bekanntmachungen	1
Bielefeld	2
Förderung	2
Jahres	1
Promotionen	1
Rektoratsmitteln	1
Stichwort	1
Stipendien	2
Universität	2
Verkündungsblatt	1

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**Uni BF**

Die Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft der Universität Bielefeld hält ein vielseitiges und umfangreiches Studien- und Forschungsangebot für Sie bereit. Sie können zwischen einer Vielzahl von Fächern wählen und diese als Kern- und Nebenfach im Bachelorstudiengang kombinieren und sie in einem auf dem Bachelorstudiengang aufbauenden Masterstudiengang fortführen.

**LiLi  
Uni BF**

Bielefeld ("Bilivelde") wurde im Jahr 1214 vom Ravensberger Grafen Hermann IV. gegründet. Den Kern der Stadt bildete eine Kreuzung an alten Handelswegen in unmittelbarer Nähe eines Passes durch den Teutoburger Wald. Bielefeld entstand als eine der zahlreichen Stadtgründungen im Mittelalter.

**Stadt BF**

Bielefeld ("Bilivelde") wurde im Jahr 1214 vom Ravensberger Grafen Hermann IV. gegründet. Den Kern der Stadt bildete eine Kreuzung an alten Handelswegen in unmittelbarer Nähe eines Passes durch den Teutoburger Wald. Bielefeld entstand als eine der zahlreichen Stadtgründungen im Mittelalter.

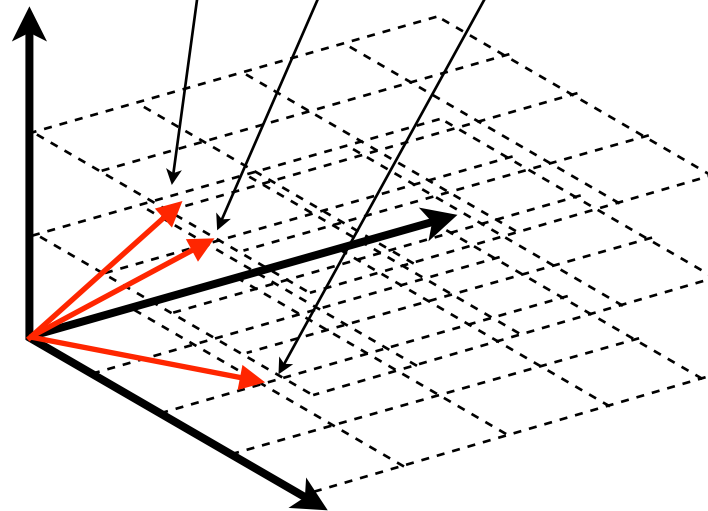
	Doc1	Doc2	Doc3
Ausschreibungstext	1	0	0
Bachelorstudiengang	0	1	0
Bewerbungsfrist	1	0	0
Bekanntmachungen	1	0	0
Bielefeld	2	1	2
Bilivelde	0	0	1
Fächern	0	1	0
Fakultät	0	1	0
Forschungsangebot	0	1	0
Förderung	2	0	0
Grafen	0	0	1
Handelswegen	0	0	1
Jahres	1	0	0
Kern-	0	1	1
Kreuzung	0	0	1
Linguistik	0	1	0
Literaturwissenschaft	0	1	0
Masterstudiengang	0	1	0
Mittelalter	0	0	1
Nebenfach	0	1	0
Promotionen	1	0	0
Rektoratsmitteln	1	0	0
Stadt	0	0	1
Stichwort	1	0	0
Stipendien	2	0	0
Studien-	0	1	0
Universität	2	1	0
Verkündungsblatt	1	0	0
Vielzahl	0	1	0

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	Doc1	Doc2	Doc3
Ausschreibungstext	1	0	0
Bachelorstudiengang	0	1	0
Bewerbungsfrist	1	0	0
Bekanntmachungen	1	0	0
<b>Bielefeld</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Bilivelde	0	0	1
Fächern	0	1	0
Fakultät	0	1	0
Forschungsangebot	0	1	0
Förderung	2	0	0
Grafen	0	0	1
Handelswegen	0	0	1
Jahres	1	0	0
<b>Kern-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Kreuzung	0	0	1
Linguistik	0	1	0
Literaturwissenschaft	0	1	0
Masterstudiengang	0	1	0
Mittelalter	0	0	1
Nebenfach	0	1	0
Promotionen	1	0	0
Rektoratsmitteln	1	0	0
Stadt	0	0	1
Stichwort	1	0	0
Stipendien	2	0	0
Studien-	0	1	0
<b>Universität</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Verkündungsblatt	1	0	0
Vielzahl	0	1	0

Bielefeld  
Kern  
Universität

Doc1	Doc2	Doc3
2	1	2
0	1	1
2	1	0



# computing continuous word meaning representations

- this was the count-based way (which you would follow with a matrix factorisation step to reduce dimensionality & make representations less sparse)
- can also do this based on prediction: train NN to predict context words, and let it learn its input representations itself. To be good at this task, representations need to capture information about contexts.
- roughly equivalent (Goldberg & Levy 2014)



**Inference**

- word to word
- discourse resolution

symbolic  
repr.

continuous  
repr.

**Reference**

- word to world
- categorisation
- naming / resolution

classifiers on  
perceptual  
input

Harris (1954): “If A and B have almost identical environments we say that they are synonyms.”

Firth (1957): “You shall know a word by the company it keeps!”

What is an “environment”, and what is “company” for a word?

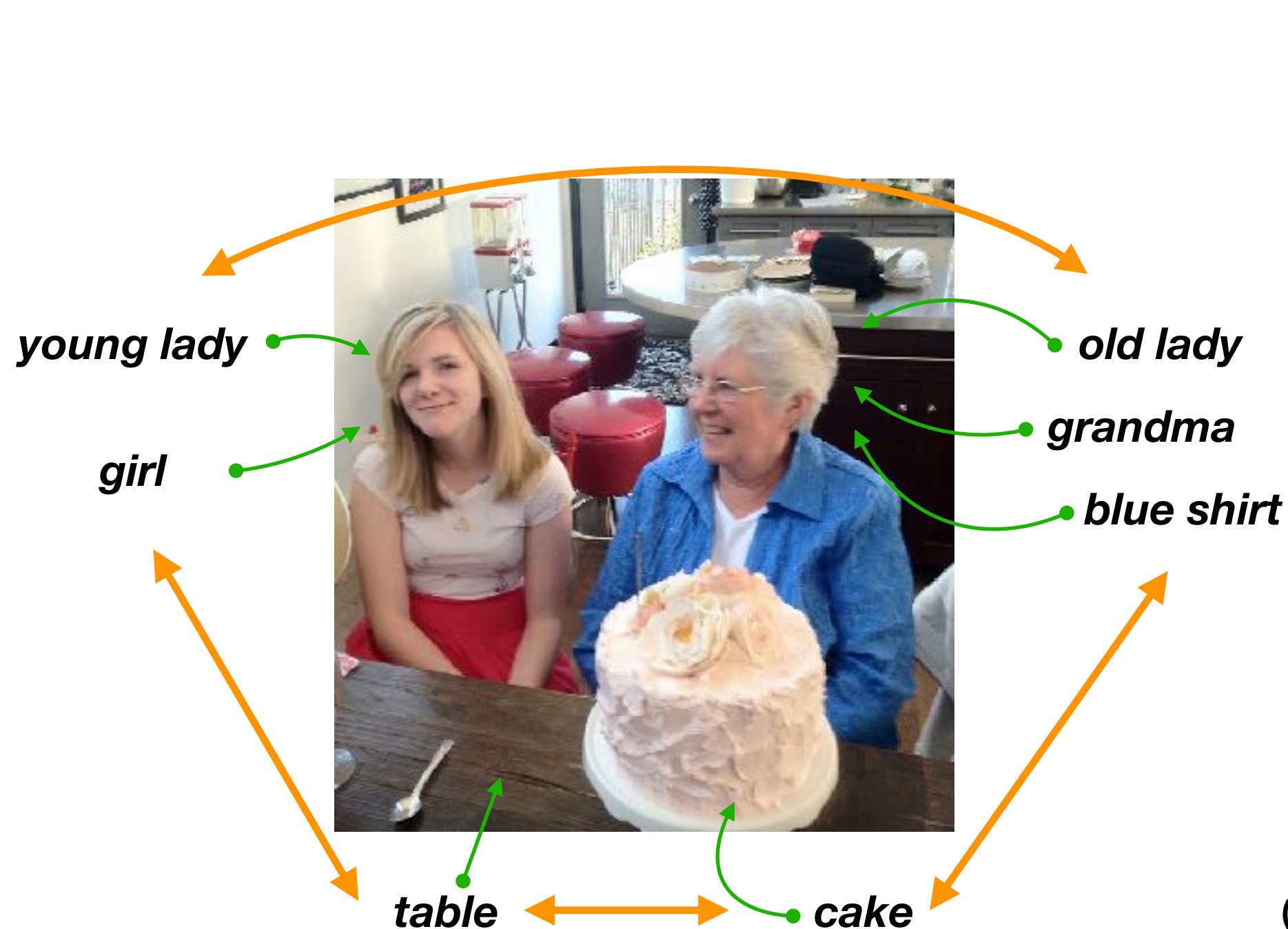
An *interpreted* observation of  $e$ :  $o = \langle e, i, \delta, R_\delta, \omega, R_\omega \rangle$

$$[[w]]_{ref} = f(O_w^A)$$

$$[[w]]_{inf} = g_w( f(O_w^A) ) \quad \dots \text{needs only } \textit{uninterpreted} \text{ observations?}$$

Observe *that* it is used, but not what it is used *for*?

# structured contexts



continuous  
repr.

embeddings, from  
different kinds of  
context:

- ref.exp. as sentence, whole corpus,  $v_{txt}$
- co-referential exp. as context,  $v_{ref}$
- situation as context,  $v_{sit}$

# summary

- today has been about making connections:
  - between the objects in the scene, to yield a plausible interpretation
  - between objects and attributes, to name colours in an understandable way
  - between words / concepts, based on the contexts in which they were used [ to be continued ]
  - between representations, to transfer knowledge
  - between the parts out of which a phrase is built

# Thank you.

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References to our own work can be resolved via <http://clp.ling.uni-potsdam.de/publications/> (where also the PDFs are available).

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