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# COMP 472: Artificial Intelligence Natural Language Processing *part 5* n-gram Model *video 3*

- Russell & Norvig: Section 23.1.3, 23.1.4

# Today

1. Introduction
2. ~~Bag of word model~~
3. **n-gram models** 
4. Deep Learning for NLP
  1. Word Embeddings
  2. Recurrent Neural Networks

# n-gram Model

length

- An n-gram model is a probability distribution over sequences of events (grams/units/items)
- models the order of the events
- Used when the past sequence of events is a good indicator of the next event to occur in the sequence
- i.e. To predict the next event in a sequence of event

Eg:

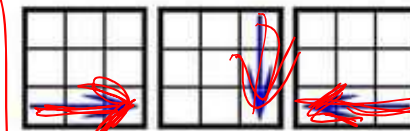
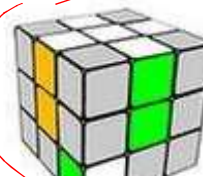
next move of player based on past moves  
left right right up ... up? down? left? right?

next word based on past words

Hi dear, how are ... pencil? laptop? you? magic?

next base pair based on past DNA sequence

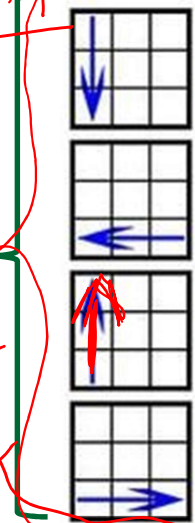
AGCTTCG ... A? G? C? T?



$t-3$

$t-2$

$t-1$



$t$

# What's a Language Model?

- A Language model is a n-gram model over word/character sequences
- ie: events = words or events = character *or grams = larger syntactic constituent*  
*grams* *grams*
- $P(\text{"I'd like a coffee with 2 sugars and milk"}) \approx 0.001$
- $P(\text{"I'd like a toffee with 2 sugars and silk"}) \approx 0.0000000001$

# Applications of LM

- ✓ Speech Recognition
- ✓ Statistical Machine Translation
- Language Identification
- ✓ Word Prediction
- Spelling Correction
  - He is trying to fine out.
  - He is trying to find out.
- Optical character recognition
- Handwriting recognition
- Natural Language Generation
- ...

Rule-based  $\equiv$  system  
Statistical ML  $\equiv$  Google  
Neural ML  $\equiv$  Google Today



# In Speech Recognition



Given: Observed sound -  $O$

Find: The most likely word/sentence -  $S^*$

$S1$ : How to recognize speech. ?

$S2$ : How to wreck a nice beach. ?

$S3$ : ...

- Goal: find most likely sentence ( $S^*$ ) given the observed sound ( $O$ ) ...

- ie. pick the sentence with the highest probability:  $S^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{S \in L} P(S | O)$

- We can use Bayes rule to rewrite this as:

$$S^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{S \in L} \frac{P(O | S)P(S)}{P(O)}$$

- Since denominator is the same for each candidate  $S$ , we can ignore it for the  $\operatorname{argmax}$ :

$$S^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{S \in L} P(O | S) \times P(S)$$

~~Acoustic model --  
Probability of the possible  
phonemes in the language +  
Probability of  $\neq$  pronunciations~~

Language model --  $P(\text{a sentence})$   
Probability of the candidate  
sentence in the language

# In Speech Recognition

$$S^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{S \in L} P(O | S) \times P(S)$$

Acoustic model

Language model

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\text{word sequence}} P(\text{word sequence} | \text{acoustic signal})$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\text{word sequence}} \frac{P(\text{acoustic signal} | \text{word sequence}) \times P(\text{word sequence})}{P(\text{acoustic signal})}$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\text{word sequence}} P(\text{acoustic signal} | \text{word sequence}) \times P(\text{word sequence})$$

LM

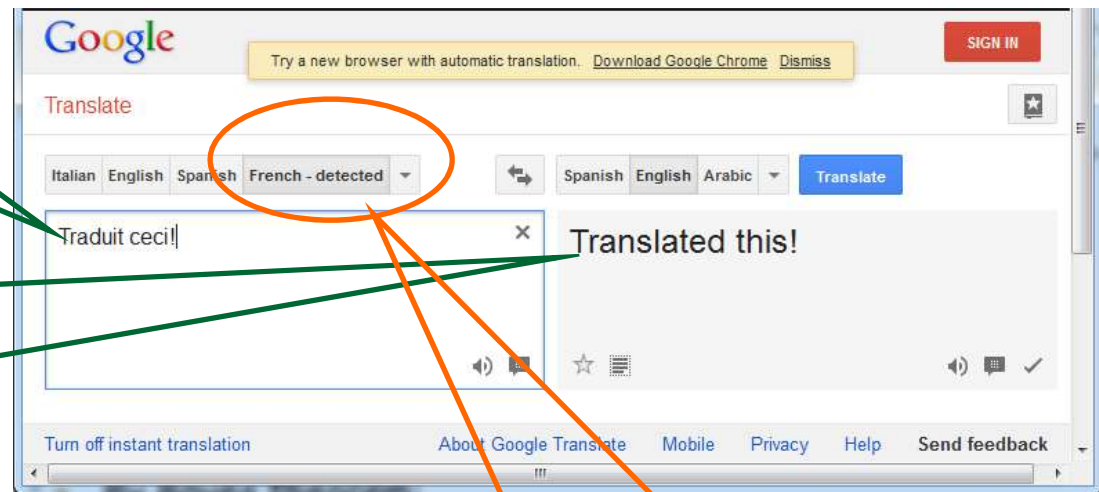
# In Statistical Machine Translation

- Assume we translate from fr[foreign] to English i.e: (en|fr)

Given: Foreign sentence - fr

Find: The most likely English sentence -  $en^*$

S1: Translate that!  
S2: Translate this!  
S3: Eat your soup!  
S4...



Automatic Language Identification...  
guess how that's done?

$$en^* = \underset{en}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(fr|en) \times P(en)$$

Translation model

Language model

*faithful x fluent*

$en_1$  The bug of year 2000  
 $en_2$  1/2 K bug

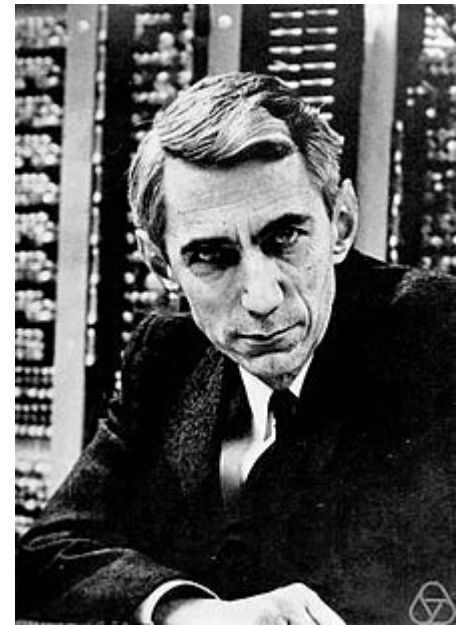
*le bug de l'an 2000*



# "Shannon Game" (Shannon, 1951)

*When are you and Max going to tie the ~~kn~~ ?*

- Predict the next word/character given the  $n-1$  previous words/characters.



# 1<sup>st</sup> approximation ✗

- each word has an equal probability to follow any other
  - with 100,000 words, the probability of each word at any given point is  $\frac{1}{100,000}$
- problem...
  - some words are more frequent than others...
  - eg. *"the"* appears many more times, than *"rabbit"*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> approximation: unigrams

$n=1$

- take into account the frequency of the word in some training corpus

- at any given point, "the" is more probable than "rabbit"

$\frac{1000}{100000}$

$\frac{5}{100000}$

- problem...

- does not take word order into account.

- this is the bag of word approach.

- "~~Just then, the white ...~~"  
the

- solution...

- the probability of a word should depend on the previous words (the history)

$$P(w_n | \underbrace{w_1 w_2 \dots w_{n-1}}_{\text{history}})$$

$n$   $n-1$  words

# What size should $n$ be?

$n \rightarrow$  size of  $n$ -gram history  $\rightarrow n-1$

## ■ Examples

□ the large green \_\_\_\_\_ .  $n=4$

■ mountain? tree?

□ Sue swallowed the large green \_\_\_\_\_ .  $n=6$

■ ~~mountain? tree?~~ pill? broccoli?

$V = 100,000$

large size of  $n$   
⇒ 1) large size of model  
2) model is unreliable!

■ Knowing that Sue "swallowed" helps narrow down possibilities

■ ie. Going back 3 words before helps

■ But, how far back do we look?

$V = 26 \text{ char.}$   
 $\frac{1 \times 1}{2 \times 1}$

# Bigrams

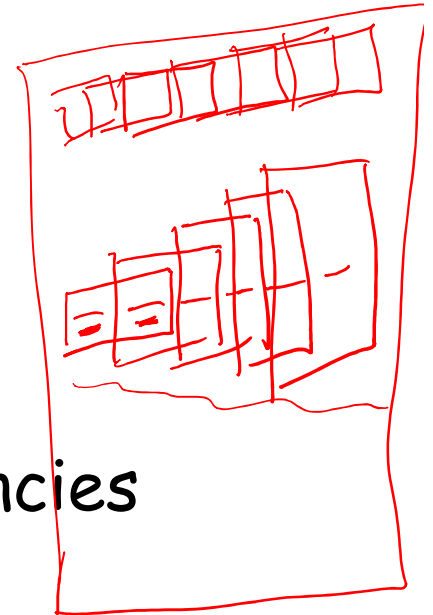
$n = 2$

- first-order Markov models

$$P(w_n | w_{n-1})$$

history = 1 (i.e.  $n-1$ )

- N-by-N matrix of probabilities/frequencies
- N = size of the vocabulary we are using



2<sup>nd</sup> word  $V = 100,000$

	<u>a</u>	aardvark	aardwolf	aback	...	zoophyte	zucchini
<u>a</u>	0	0	0	0	...	<del>8</del>	5
aardvark	0	0	0	0	...	0	0
aardwolf	0	0	0	71	...	0	x 1 0
aback	26	1	6	0	...	12	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<u>zoophyte</u>	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	...	0	0
<u>zucchini</u>	0	0	0	<u>3</u>	...	0	0

$V = 100,000$

1<sup>st</sup> word

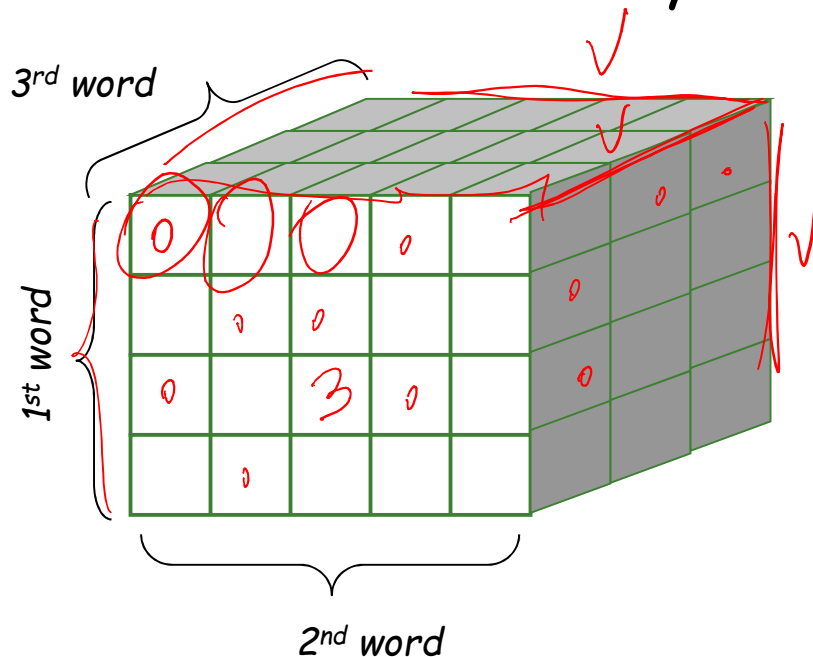
# Trigrams $n=3$

- second-order Markov models

$$P(w_n | w_{n-1} w_{n-2})$$

*history = 2*

- N-by-N-by-N matrix of probabilities/frequencies
- N = size of the vocabulary we are using



*a a a → 0*  
*the is the id → 3*  
*→ 0*  
*→ 0*

# Why use only bi- or tri-grams?

- Markov approximation is still costly with a 20 000 word vocabulary:
  - bigram needs to store 400 million parameters
  - trigram needs to store 8 trillion parameters
  - using a language model > trigram is impractical

# Building n-gram Models

## 1. Data preparation:

- ❑ Decide on training corpus *i.e. large collection of document wikipedia dump.*
- ❑ Clean and tokenize
- ❑ How do we deal with sentence boundaries?

■ I eat, I sleep

❑ (I eat) (eat I) (I sleep)

■ <s>I eat <s> I sleep <s>

❑ (<s>I) (I eat) (eat <s>) (<s> I) (I sleep) (sleep <s>)

*decide and be consistent*

*$V = \{100000\}$   
 $V = \{100000 + punctuation + \dots\}$*



# Building n-gram Models

## 2. Count words and build model

- Let  $C(w_1...w_n)$  be the frequency of n-gram  $w_1...w_n$

$$P(w_n | w_1...w_{n-1}) = \frac{C(w_1...w_n)}{C(w_1...w_{n-1})}$$

*history +  $w_n$*   
*history*

## 3. Smooth your model (see later)

# Example 1:

- in a training corpus, we have 10 instances of "come across"

- 8 times, followed by "as"
- 1 time, followed by "more"
- 1 time, followed by "a"

- so we have:

- $P(\underline{as} \mid \text{come across}) = \frac{C(\text{come across as})}{C(\text{come across})} = \frac{8}{10}$  / *trigram model*
- $P(\underline{more} \mid \text{come across}) = 0.1$  *history*
- $P(\underline{a} \mid \text{come across}) = 0.1$
- $P(\underline{X} \mid \text{come across}) = 0$  where  $X \neq \text{"as"}, \text{"more"}, \text{"a"}$

# Example 2:

*bigram*

$P(\text{on} \text{eat}) = .16$	$P(\text{want} \text{I}) = .32$	$P(\text{eat} \text{to}) = .26$
$P(\text{some} \text{eat}) = .06$	$P(\text{would} \text{I}) = .29$	$P(\text{have} \text{to}) = .14$
$P(\text{British} \text{eat}) = .001$	$P(\text{don't} \text{I}) = .08$	$P(\text{spend} \text{to}) = .09$
...	...	...
$P(\text{I} \text{<s>}) = .25$	$P(\text{to} \text{want}) = .65$	$P(\text{food} \text{British}) = .6$
$P(\text{I'd} \text{<s>}) = .06$	$P(\text{a} \text{want}) = .5$	$P(\text{restaurant} \text{British}) = .15$
...	...	...

$P(\text{I want to eat British food})$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= P(\text{I}|\text{<s>}) \times P(\text{want}|\text{I}) \times P(\text{to}|\text{want}) \times P(\text{eat}|\text{to}) \times P(\text{British}|\text{eat}) \times P(\text{food}|\text{British}) \\
 &= .25 \times .32 \times .65 \times .26 \times .001 \times .6 \\
 &= .000008
 \end{aligned}$$

*v ( sleep ) <*

# Remember this slide...

## Be Careful: Use Logs

- if we really do the product of probabilities...
  - $\operatorname{argmax}_{c_j} P(c_j) \prod P(w_i | c_j)$
  - we soon have numerical underflow...
  - ex: 0.01  $\times$  0.02  $\times$  0.05  $\times$  ...
- so instead, we add the log of the probs
  - $\operatorname{argmax}_{c_j} \log(P(c_j)) + \sum \log(P(w_i | c))$
  - ex:  $\log(0.01) + \log(0.02) + \log(0.05) + \dots$

# Some Adjustments

- product of probabilities... numerical underflow for long sentences
- so instead of multiplying the probs, we add the log of the probs

$P(I \text{ want to eat British food})$

$$= \log(P(I|\langle s \rangle)) + \log(P(\text{want}|I)) + \log(P(\text{to}|\text{want})) + \log(P(\text{eat}|\text{to})) + \log(P(\text{British}|\text{eat})) + \log(P(\text{food}|\text{British}))$$

$$= \log(.25) + \log(.32) + \log(.65) + \log(.26) + \log(.001) + \log(.6)$$

$= -$

$P(- - - -)$

# Problem: Data Sparseness

- What if a sequence never appears in training corpus?  $P(X)=0$ 
  - "come across the men" --> prob = 0
  - "come across some men" --> prob = 0
  - "come across 3 men" --> prob = 0

$P(\dots \text{come across some (and)} \dots) = 0$
- The model assigns a probability of zero to unseen events ...
- probability of an n-gram involving unseen words will be zero!  
*sequence*
- Solution: smoothing
  - decrease the probability of previously seen events
  - so that there is a little bit of probability mass left over for previously unseen events

# Remember this other slide...

## Be Careful: Smooth Probabilities

- normally:  $P(w_i | c_j) = \frac{(\text{frequency of } w_i \text{ in } c_j)}{\text{total number of words in } c_j}$
- what if we have a  $P(w_i | c_j) = 0$ ...?
  - ex. the word "dumbo" never appeared in the class SPAM?
  - then  $P(\text{"dumbo"} | \text{SPAM}) = 0$
- so if a text contains the word "dumbo", the class SPAM is completely ruled out !
- to solve this: we assume that every word always appears at least once (or a smaller value)
  - ex: add-1 smoothing:

$$P(w_i | c_j) = \frac{(\text{frequency of } w_i \text{ in } c_j) + 1}{\text{total number of words in } c_j + \text{size of vocabulary}}$$

*Handwritten red notes: a circle around the +1 in the numerator and an arrow pointing to it with the text "= 0.5".*

# Add-one Smoothing



- Pretend we have seen every n-gram one more time than we actually did

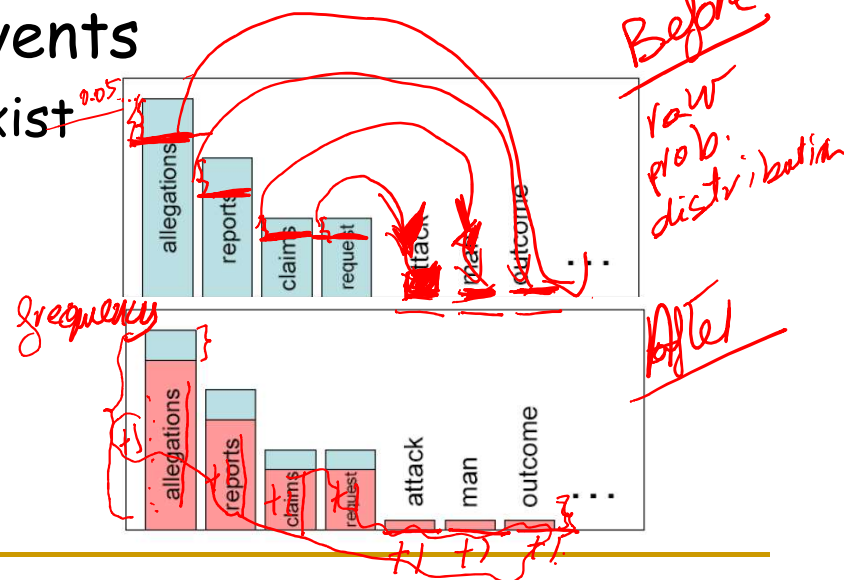
$$\text{newCount}(n\text{-gram}) = \text{oldCount}(n\text{-gram}) + 1$$

- The idea is to “steal” probability mass from seen events to give it to unseen events

- various smoothing techniques exist

- depending on:

- how you steal from the rich
- how you redistribute to the poor



[https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/Robin\\_Hood\\_\(character\)](https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/Robin_Hood_(character))

<https://www.usna.edu/Users/cs/nchamber/courses/nlp/f13/slides/set4-smoothing.pdf>



# Add-one: Example

*row*  
unsmoothed bigram counts (frequencies):

2<sup>nd</sup> word ✓

*1 2 3*  
*1 2 3*

	<u>I</u>	want	to	eat	Chinese	food	lunch	...	Total
<i>1<sup>st</sup> word</i> ✓ <u>I</u>	8	1087	0	13	0	0	0		<u>C(I)=3437</u>
want	3	0	786	0	6	8	6		C(want)=1215
to	3	0	10	860	3	0	12		C(to)=3256
eat	0	0	2	0	19	2	52		C(eat)=938
<u>Chinese</u>	2	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0	<u>120</u>	1		C(Chinese)=213
food	19	0	17	0	0	0	0		C(food)=1506
lunch	4	0	0	0	0	1	0		C(lunch)= <u>459</u>
...									...
									...
									<u>N=10,000</u>

- Assume a vocabulary of 1616 (different) words
  - $V = \{a, \text{aardvark}, \text{aardwolf}, \text{aback}, \dots, I, \dots, \text{want}, \dots, \text{to}, \dots, \text{eat}, \text{Chinese}, \dots, \text{food}, \dots, \text{lunch}, \dots, \text{zoophyte}, \text{zucchini}\}$
  - $|V| = 1616$  words
- And a total of  $N = 10,000$  bigrams (~word instances) in the training corpus

# Add-one: Example

unsmoothed bigram counts:

2<sup>nd</sup> word

	I	want	to	eat	Chinese	food	lunch	...	Total
I	8	1087	0	13	0	0	0		C(I)=3437
want	3	0	786	0	6	8	6		C(want)=1215
to	3	0	10	860	3	0	12		C(to)=3256
eat	0	0	2	0	19	2	52		C(eat)=938
Chinese	2	0	0	0	0	120	1		C(Chinese)=213
food	19	0	17	0	0	0	0		C(food)=1506
lunch	4	0	0	0	0	1	0		C(lunch)=459
...									
N=10,000									

unsmoothed bigram conditional probabilities:

	I	want	to	eat	...
I	$\frac{8}{3437}$	$\frac{1087}{3437}$	+	+	+
want	$\frac{3}{1215}$	0	0	0	0
to					
eat					
...					

note:

$$P(I) = \frac{8}{10\,000}$$

$$P(I|I) = \frac{8}{3\,437}$$

$$P(w_2|w_1)$$

# Add-one: Example (con't)

add-one smoothed bigram counts:

	I	want	to	eat	Chinese	food	lunch	...	Total
I	8+1=9	1087+1=1088	1	14	1	1	1		3437
want	3+1=4	0+1=1	787	1	7	9	7		C(want) +  V  = 2831
to	4	1	11	861	4	1	13		C(to) +  V  = 4872
eat	1	1	23	1	20	3	53		C(eat) +  V  = 2554
Chinese	3	1	1	1	1	121	2		C(Chinese) +  V  = 1829
food	20	1	18	1	1	1	1		C(food) +  V  = 3122
lunch	5	1	1	1	1	2	1		C(lunch) +  V  = 2075
...									

total = 10,000  
 $N + |V|^2 = 10,000 + (1616)^2 = 2,621,456$

add-one bigram conditional probabilities:

	I	want	to	eat	Chinese	food	lunch	...
I	.0018 (9/5053)	.215	.00019	.0028	.00019	.00019	.00019	
want	.0014	.00035	.278	.00035	.0025	.0031	.00247	
to	.00082	.0002	.00226	.1767	.00082	.0002	.00267	
eat	.00039	.00039	.0009	.00039	.0078	.0012	.0208	
...								

# Add-one, more formally

$$P_{\text{Add1}}(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) = \frac{C(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) + 1}{N + B}$$

N: size of the corpus

i.e. nb of n-gram tokens in training corpus

B: number of "bins"

i.e. nb of different n-gram types

i.e. nb of cells in the matrix

e.g. for bigrams, it's (size of the vocabulary)<sup>2</sup>

# Add-delta Smoothing

- problem with add-1 smoothing:
  - every previously unseen n-gram is given a low probability
  - but there are so many of them that too much probability mass is given to unseen events

- solution:

- instead of adding 1, add some other (smaller) positive value  $\delta$

$$P_{\text{AddD}}(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) = \frac{C(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) + \delta}{N + \delta B}$$

*Handwritten notes:  $\delta = 0.5$  (circled),  $B = 25$  (circled), and a bracket indicating  $\delta B = 12.5$ .*

- most widely used value for  $\delta = 0.5$
- better than add-one, but still not great...

# Factors of Training Corpus

## ■ Size:

- the more, the better
- but after a while, not much improvement...
  - bigrams (characters) after 100's million words
  - trigrams (characters) after some billions of words



A ... Z  $V=26$

## ■ Genre (adaptation):

- training on cooking recipes and testing on aircraft maintenance manuals

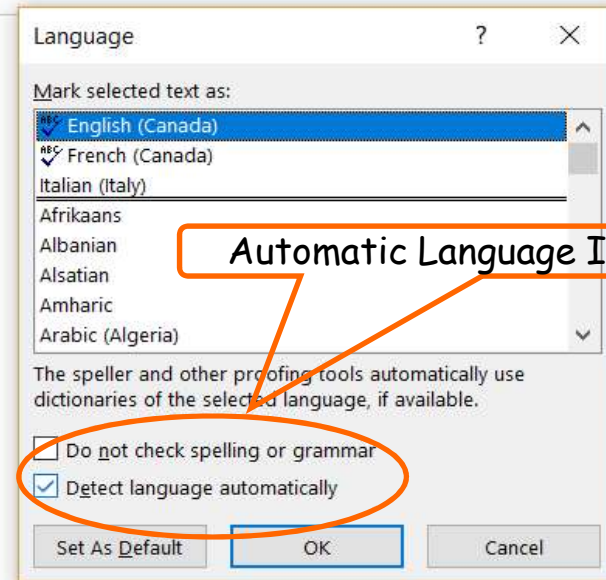
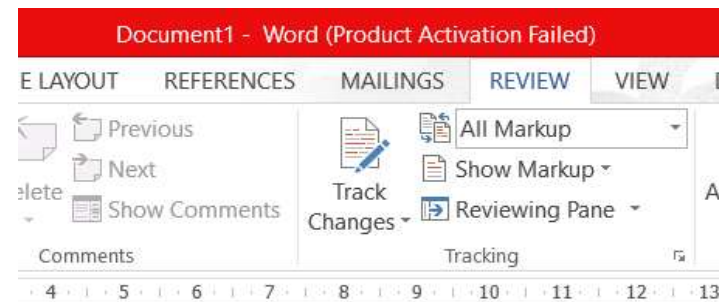
I am going  
to the dentist  
d...  
Susan - 20 yr  
student

I am going  
to the dentist  
d...  
Jack - 30 yr  
daddy

in { a  
b  
c  
...  
z }

# Example: Language Identification

- hypothesis: texts that resemble each other (same author, same language) share similar character/word sequences
  - In English character sequence "ing" is more probable than in French
- Training phase:
  - construction of the language model
  - with pre-classified documents (known language/author)
- Testing phase:
  - apply language model to unknown text



Automatic Language Identification.

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# Example: Language Identification

- bigram of characters
  - characters = 26 letters (case insensitive)
  - possible variations: case sensitivity, punctuation, beginning/end of sentence marker, ...



# Example: Language Identification

1. Train a character-based language model for Italian:

$V = 26$

	A	B	C	D	...	Y	Z
A	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
C	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
D	0.0042	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
E	0.0097	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0014
Y	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
Z	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014

bigram

$V = 26$

italian

2. Train a character-based language model for Spanish:

	A	B	C	D	...	Y	Z
A	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
C	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
D	0.0042	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
E	0.0097	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0014
Y	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	...	0.0014	0.0014
Z	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014

Spanish

3. Given a unknown sentence "che bella cosa" is it in Italian or in Spanish?

$P(\text{"che bella cosa"})$  with the Italian LM

$P(\text{"che bella cosa"})$  with the Spanish LM

$$P(h/c) \times P(e/h) \times \dots \times P(a/s) = \text{Italian}$$

4. Highest probability --> language of sentence

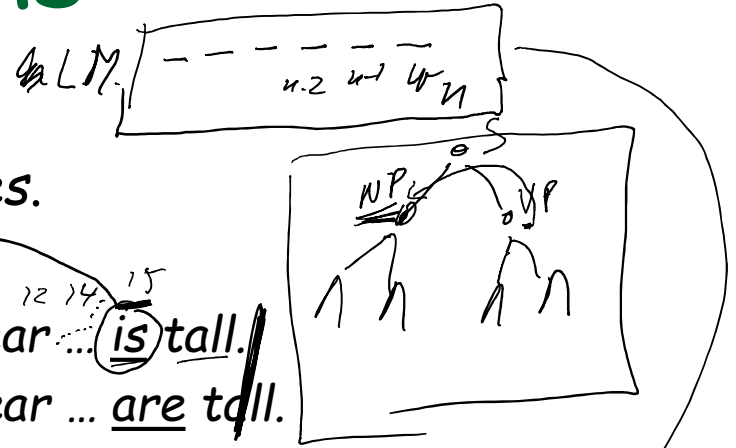
$\Rightarrow$  Italian!

# Google's Web 1T 5-gram model

- 5-grams
- generated from 1 trillion words
- 24 GB compressed
  - Number of tokens: 1,024,908,267,229
  - Number of sentences: 95,119,665,584
  - Number of unigrams: 13,588,391
  - Number of bigrams: 314,843,401
  - Number of trigrams: 977,069,902
  - Number of fourgrams: 1,313,818,354
  - Number of fivegrams: 1,176,470,663
- See discussion: <http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2006/08/all-our-n-gram-are-belong-to-you.html>
- See Google Ngram Viewer: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google\\_Ngram\\_Viewer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Ngram_Viewer)

# Problem with n-grams

- Natural language is not linear ....
- there may be long-distance dependencies.
  - Syntactic dependencies
    - The man<sup>2</sup> next to the large oak tree near ... is<sup>15</sup> tall.
    - The men next to the large oak tree near ... are tall.
  - Semantic dependencies
    - The bird next to the large oak tree near ... flies rapidly.
    - The man next to the large oak tree near ... talks rapidly.
  - World knowledge
    - Michael Jackson, who was featured in ..., is buried in California.
    - Michael Bublé, who was featured in ..., is living in California.
  - ...
- More complex models of language are needed to handle such dependencies.



# Today

1. Introduction ✓
2. Bag of word model ✓
3. n-gram models ✓
4. Deep Learning for NLP |
  1. Word Embeddings |
  2. Recurrent Neural Networks |

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