

*Математические методы анализа текстов*

# **Introduction to machine translation**

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*14 ноября 2018 г.*

# Machine Translation



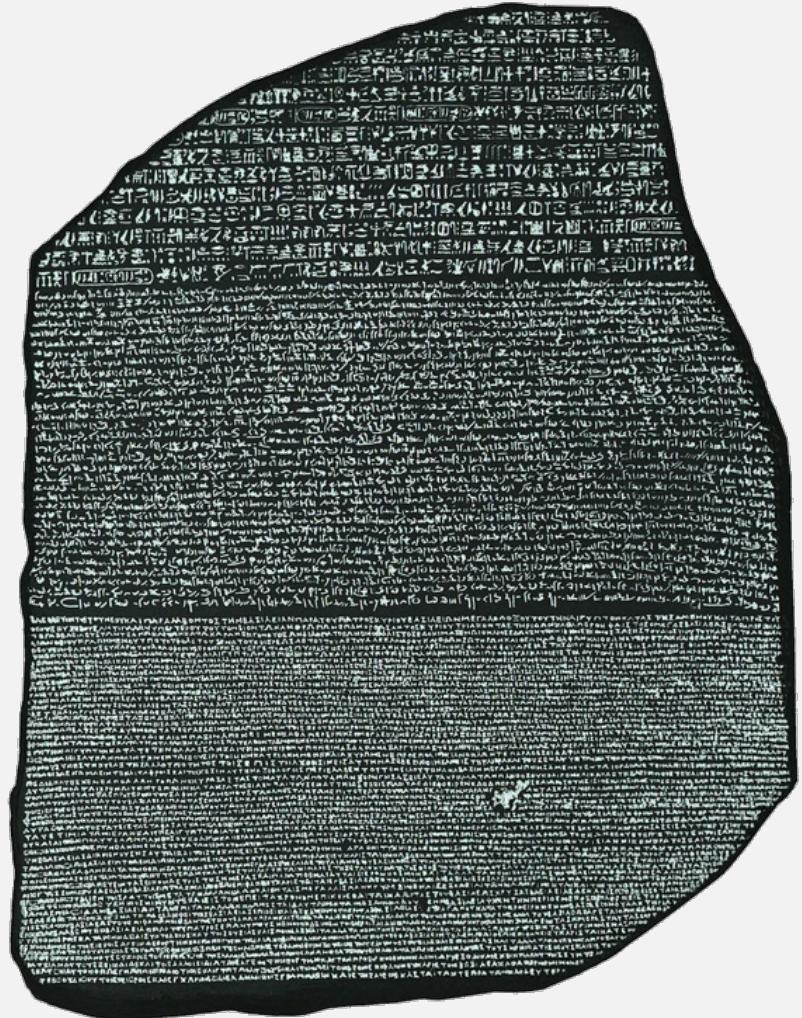
# Parallel data

## Parallel corpora:

- Europarl
- Movie subtitles
- Translated news, books
- Wikipedia (comparable)
- <http://opus.lingfil.uu.se/>

## Lot's of problems with data:

- Noisy
- Specific domain
- Rare language pairs
- Not aligned, not enough



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- How to compare two arbitrary translations?
- Low agreement rate even between reviewers
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*3-grams:* 2 / 4

*4-grams:* 1 / 3

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*Brevity penalty :*  $\min(1, 6 / 5)$

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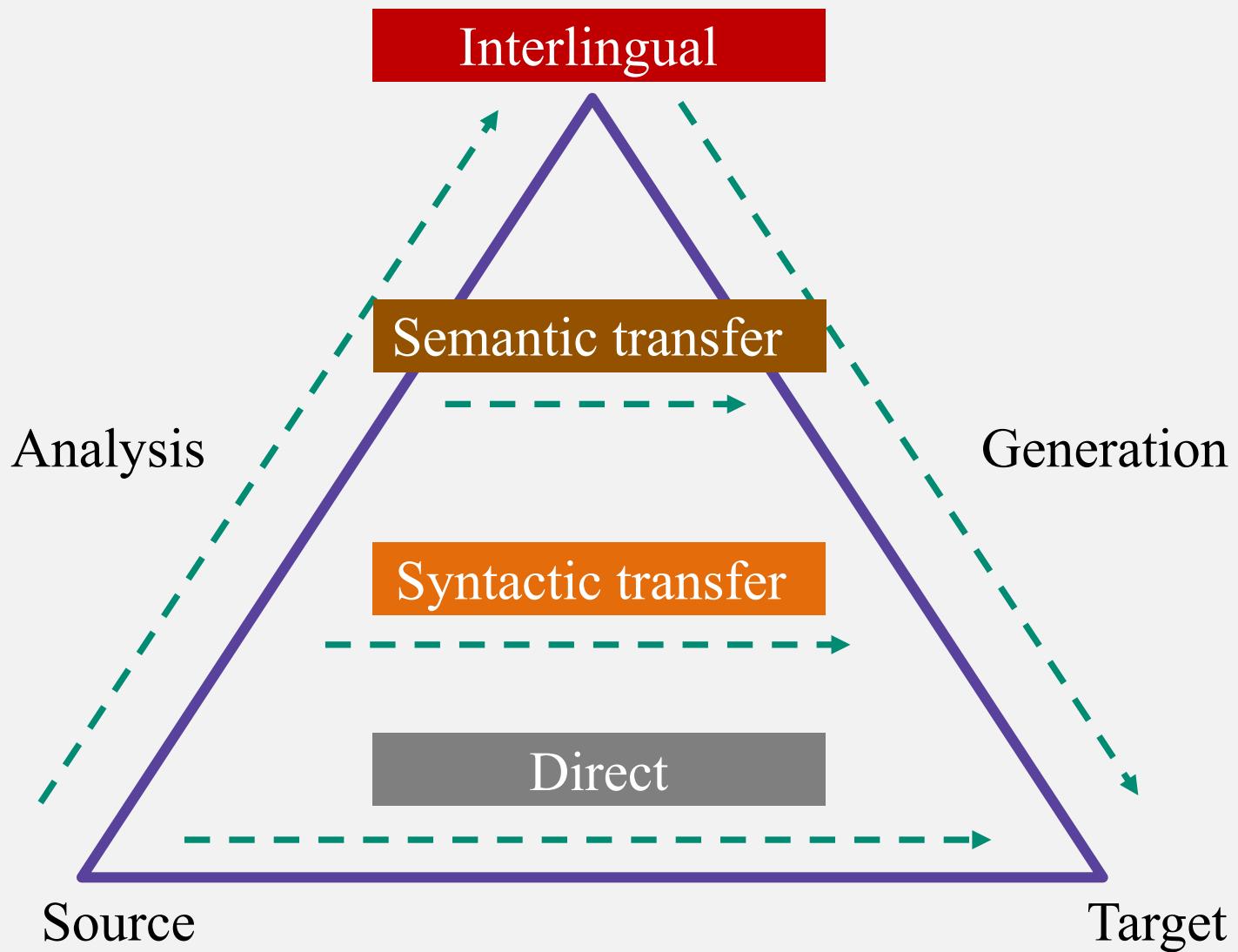
*3-grams:* 2 / 4

*4-grams:* 1 / 3

*Brevity penalty :*  $\min(1, 6/5)$

$$\text{BLEU} = 1 \cdot \sqrt[4]{\frac{4}{6} \cdot \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{3}}$$

# The mandatory slide



# Roller-coaster of machine translation

1954 Georgetown IBM experiment Russian to English:

- Claimed that MT would be solved **within 3-5 years.**



1966 ALPAC report:

- Concluded that MT was **too expensive and ineffective.**

# Two main paradigms

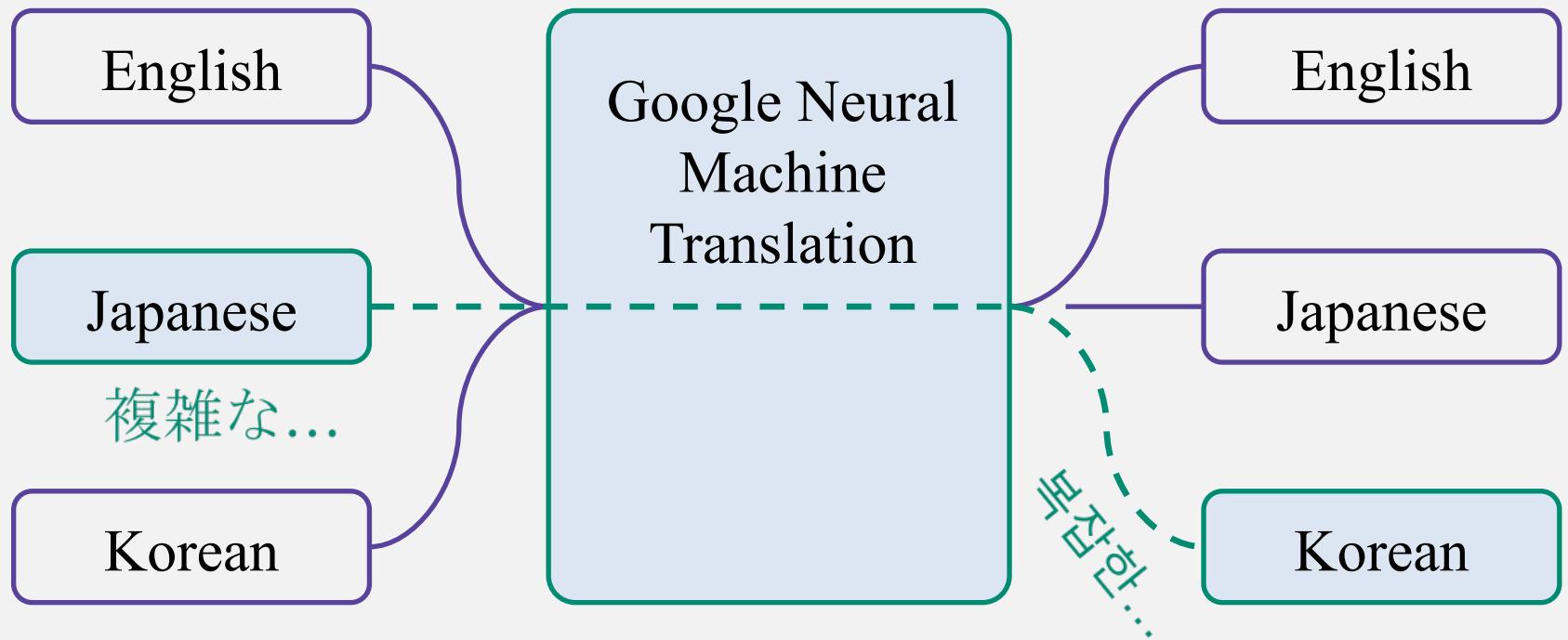
## Statistical Machine Translation (SMT):

- 1988 – Word-based models (IBM models)
- 2003 – Phrase-based models (Philip Koehn)
- 2006 – Google Translate (and Moses, next year)

## Neural Machine Translation (NMT):

- 2013 – First papers on pure NMT
- 2015 – NMT enters shared tasks (WMT, IWSLT)
- 2016 – Launched in production in companies

# Zero-shot translation



**Noisy channel:  
said in English, received in French**

# The main equation

- **Given:** French (foreign) sentence  $f$ ,
- **Find:** English translation  $e$ :

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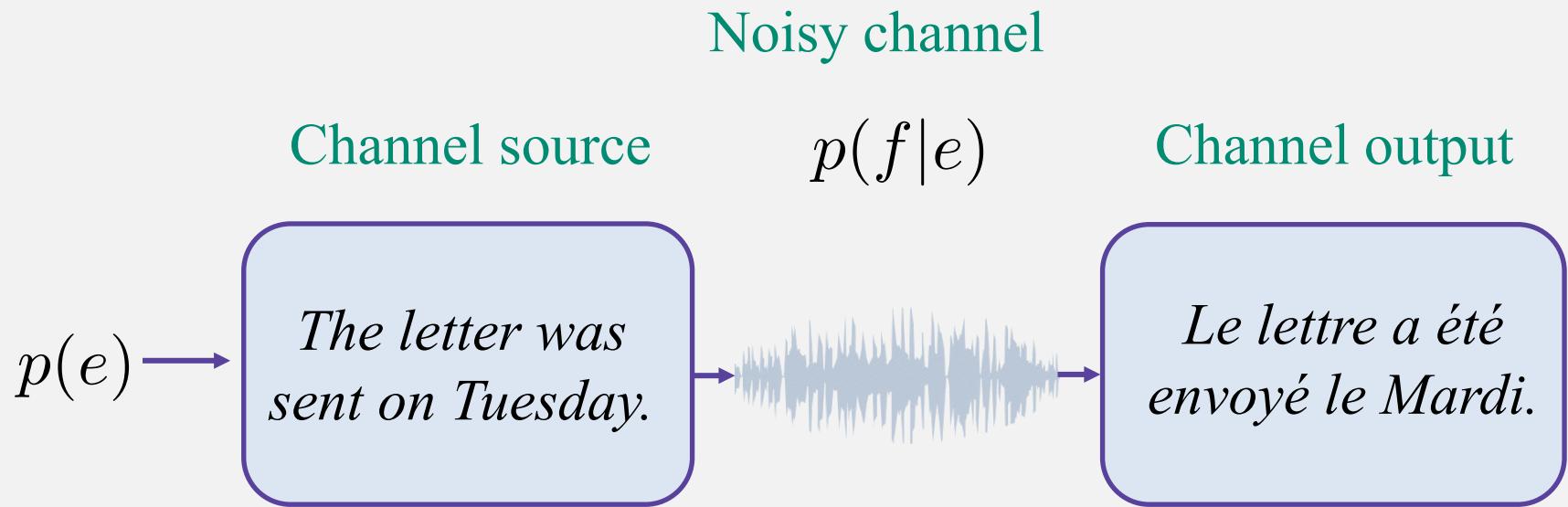
# Why is it easier to deal with?

$$e^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{e \in E} p(e) p(f|e)$$

The equation  $e^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{e \in E} p(e) p(f|e)$  is shown. A green bracket under the term  $p(e)$  is labeled "Language model". Another green bracket under the term  $p(f|e)$  is labeled "Translation model". Two green arrows point from these labels to their respective brackets.

- $p(e)$  models the *fluency* of the translation
- $p(f|e)$  models the *adequacy* of the translation
- $\operatorname{argmax}$  is the search problem implemented by a *decoder*

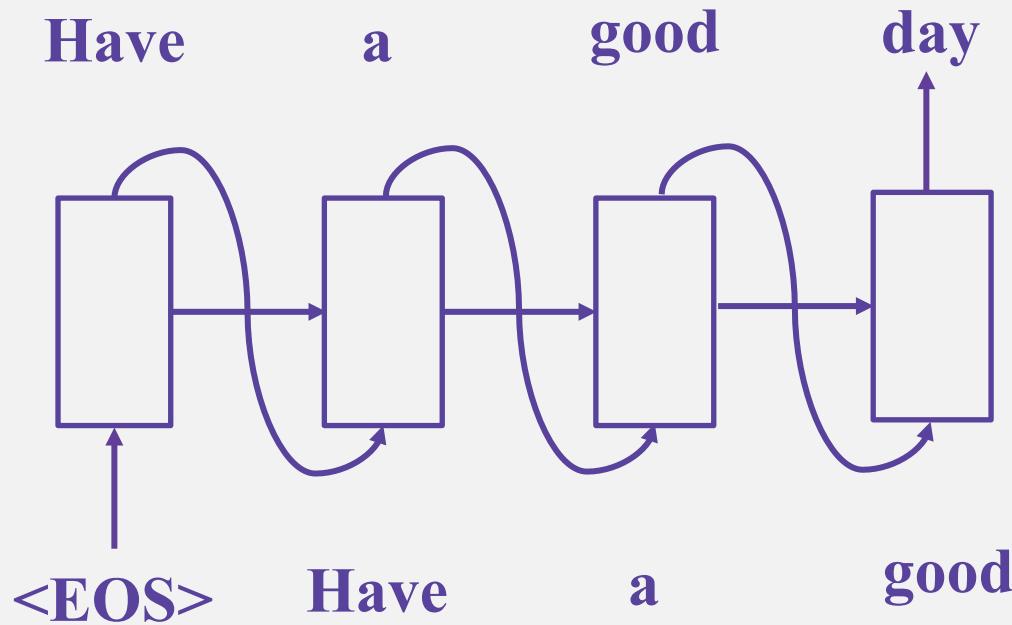
# Noisy Chanel



# Language model: $p(\mathbf{e})$

$$p(\mathbf{e}) = p(e_1)p(e_2|e_1) \dots p(e_k|e_1 \dots e_{k-1})$$

**N-gram models or neural networks:**



# Translation model: $p(f|e)$

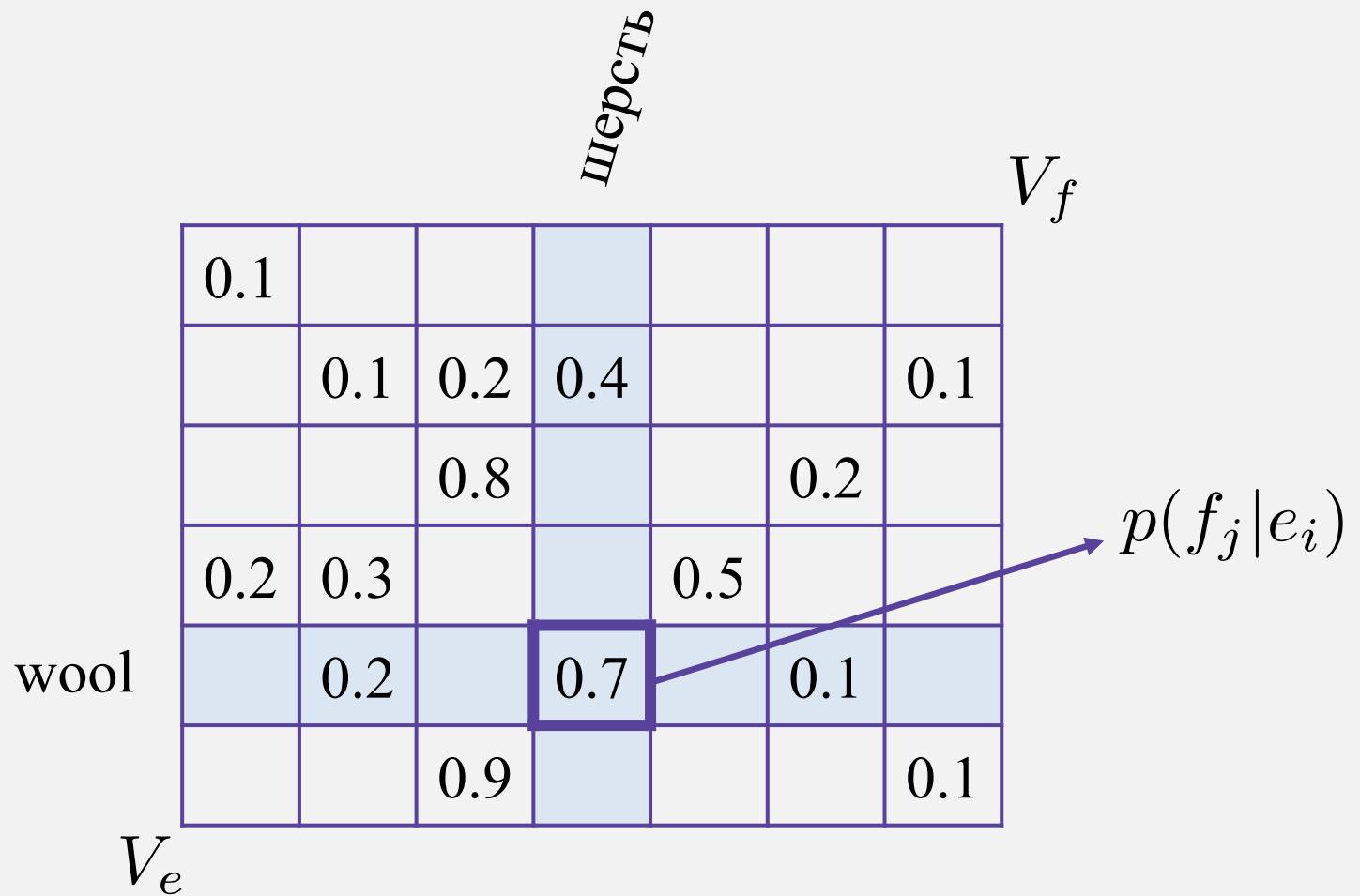
$$p(f|e) = p(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_J | e_1, e_2, \dots, e_I)$$

**f (Foreign):** Крику много, а шерсти мало.

**e (English):** Great cry and little wool.

# Translation model: $p(f|e)$

We could learn translation probabilities for separate words:



# Translation model: $p(f|e)$

But how to build the probability for the whole sentences?

$$p(f|e) = \text{Some Magic Factorization} \left[ p(f_j|e_i) \right]$$

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## Reorderings:

Крику много, а шерсти мало.

 Great cry  
 and  
 little wool.

# Word Alignments

**One-to-many and many-to-one:**

*Appetitum* приходит во время еды.

The appetite comes *with* eating.

**Words can disappear or appear from nowhere:**

*У* каждой пули свое назначение.

Every bullet *has* its billet.

# Word Alignment Models

# Word Alignments



“As English not all languages words in the same order put.  
Hmmmmmm.» - Yoda

# Word alignment task

**Given** a corpus of  $(e, f)$  sentence pairs:

- English, source:  $e = (e_1, e_2, \dots e_I)$
- Foreign, target:  $f = (f_1, f_2, \dots f_J)$

**Predict:**

- Alignments  $\mathbf{a}$  between  $e$  and  $f$ :

$e$ : The appetite comes with eating.



$\mathbf{a}?$

# Word alignment matrix

	Аппетит	Приходит вс	Время еды	
The				
appetite				
comes				
with				
eating				

# Word alignment matrix

Each target word is allowed to have only one source!

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The					
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# Word alignment matrix

	$a_1 = 2$ Аппетит	$a_2 = 3$ Приходит	$a_3 = 4$ ВО	$a_4 = 4$ Время еды
The				
appetite				
comes				
with				
eating				
				$i$
		$j$		

Each target word is allowed to have only one source!

# Word alignment matrix

Each target word is allowed to have only one source!

# Sketch of learning algorithm

## 1. Probabilistic model (generative story)

Given  $\mathbf{e}$ , model the generation of  $\mathbf{f}$ :

$$p(f, a | e, \Theta) = ?$$

*The most creative step:*

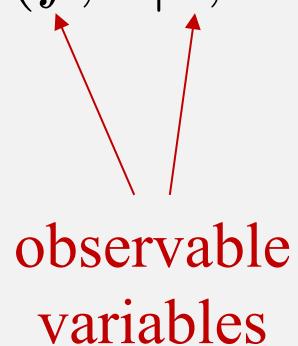
- How do we parametrize the model?
- Is it too complicated or too unrealistic?

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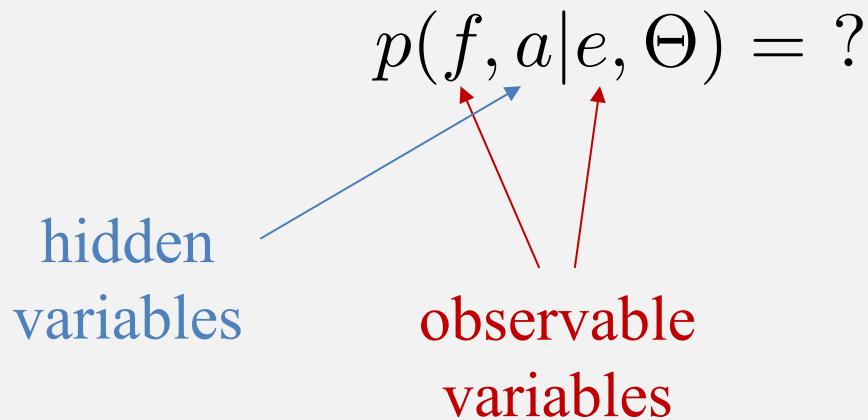
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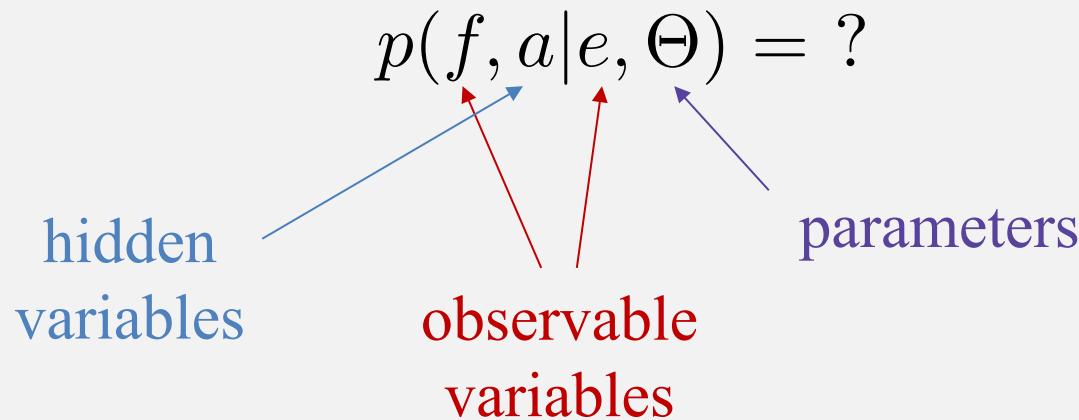
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## 2. Likelihood maximization for the incomplete data:

$$p(f|e, \Theta) = \sum_a p(f, a|e, \Theta) \rightarrow \max_{\Theta}$$

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## 3. EM-algorithm to the rescue!

*Iterative process:*

- E-step: estimates posterior probabilities for alignments
- M-step: updates  $\Theta$  – parameters of the model

# Generative story

$$p(f, a|e) = p(J|e)$$

1. Choose the length of the foreign sentence

# Generative story

$$p(f, a|e) = p(J|e) \prod_{j=1}^J p(a_j | a_1^{j-1}, f_1^{j-1}, J, e) \times$$

1. Choose the length of the foreign sentence
2. Choose an alignment for each word (given lots of things)

# Generative story

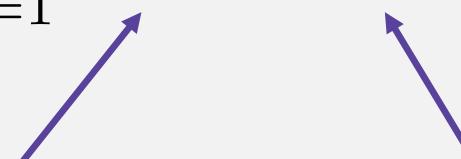
$$p(f, a|e) = p(J|e) \prod_{j=1}^J p(\textcolor{teal}{a}_j | a_1^{j-1}, f_1^{j-1}, J, e) \times \\ \times p(\textcolor{teal}{f}_j | a_j, a_1^{j-1}, f_1^{j-1}, J, e)$$

1. Choose the length of the foreign sentence
2. Choose an alignment for each word (given lots of things)
3. Choose the word (given lots of things)

# IBM model 1

$$p(f, a | e) = p(J | e) \prod_{j=1}^J p(a_j) p(f_j | a_j, e)$$

Uniform prior      Translation table  
 $\varepsilon$                      $t(f_j | e_{a_j})$



- + The model is simple and has not too many parameters
- The alignment prior does not depend on word positions

# Translation table

Шерсть

0.1							
	0.1	0.2	0.4				0.1
		0.8				0.2	
0.2	0.3			0.5			
wool		0.2		0.7		0.1	
			0.9				0.1

$V_e$

$V_f$

$p(f_j | e_i)$

The diagram illustrates a translation table with values ranging from 0.1 to 0.9. A specific value, 0.7, is highlighted in a purple box. An arrow points from this value to the formula  $p(f_j | e_i)$ , indicating the probability of a feature  $f_j$  given an evidence  $e_i$ .

## IBM model 2

$$p(f, a | e) = p(J | e) \prod_{j=1}^J p(a_j | j, I, J) p(f_j | a_j, e)$$

The diagram shows two purple arrows. One arrow points from the term  $p(a_j | j, I, J)$  in the equation to the text "Position-based prior" and the formula  $d(a_j | j, I, J)$ . The other arrow points from the term  $p(f_j | a_j, e)$  in the equation to the text "Translation table" and the formula  $t(f_j | e_{a_j})$ .

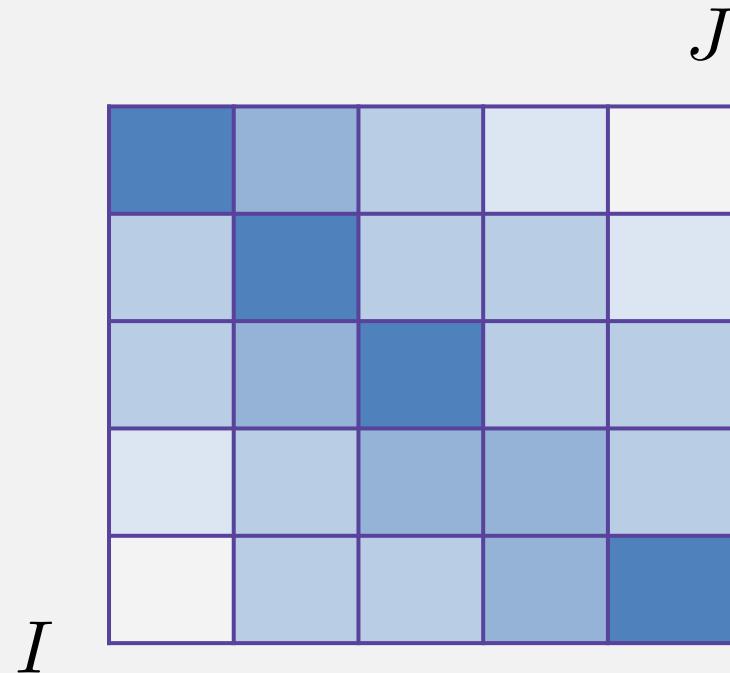
Position-based prior      Translation table

$$d(a_j | j, I, J)$$
$$t(f_j | e_{a_j})$$

- + The alignments depend on position-based prior
- Quite a lot of parameters for the alignments

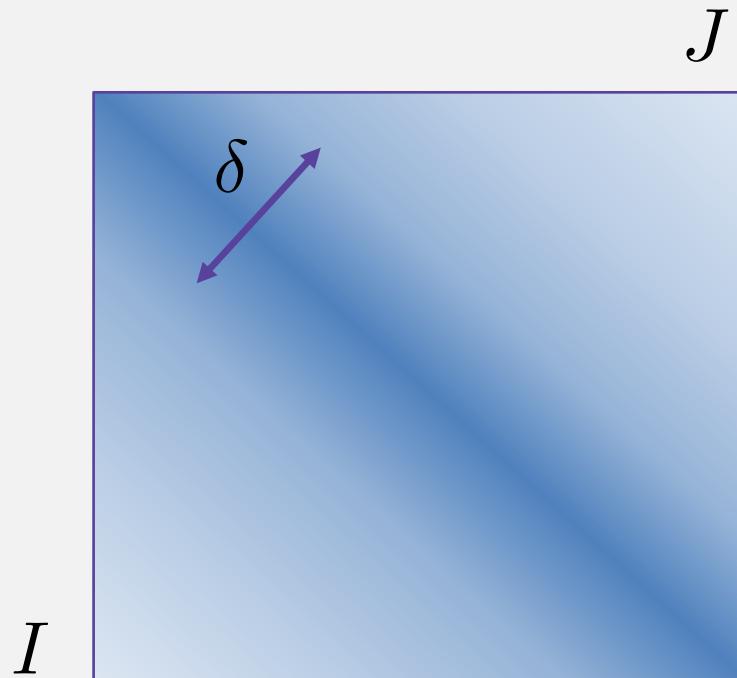
# Position-based prior

- For each pair of the **lengths** of the sentences:
  - $I \times J$  matrix of probabilities



# Re-parametrization, Dyer et. al 2013

- If we know, it's going to be diagonal – let's model it diagonal!
- Much less parameters, easier to train on small data



# HMM for the prior

$$p(f, a | e) = \prod_{j=1}^J p(a_j | a_{j-1}, I, J) p(f_j | a_j, e)$$

↑   ↑  
Transition probabilities      Translation table  
 $d(a_j | a_{j-1}, I, J)$        $t(f_j | e_{a_j})$

e: All cats are grey in the dark.



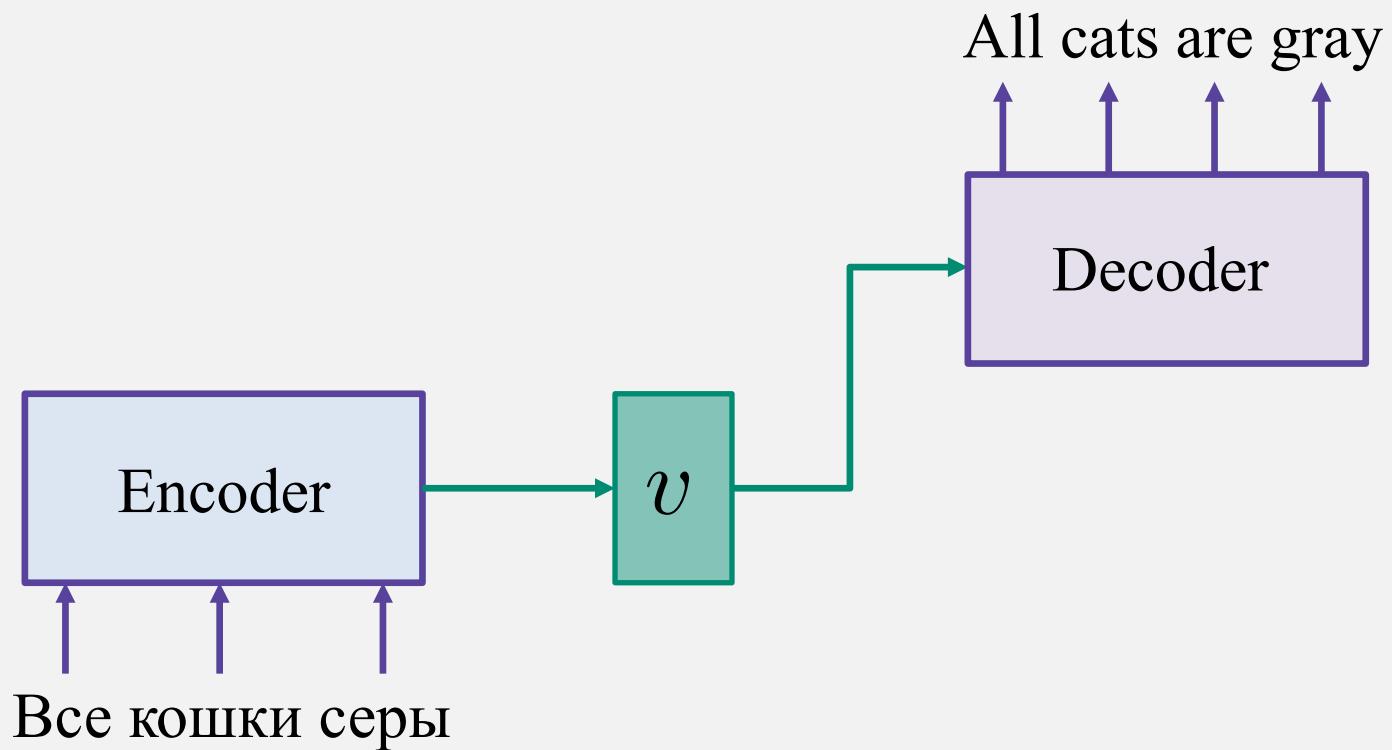
f: В темноте все кошки серы.

# Resume

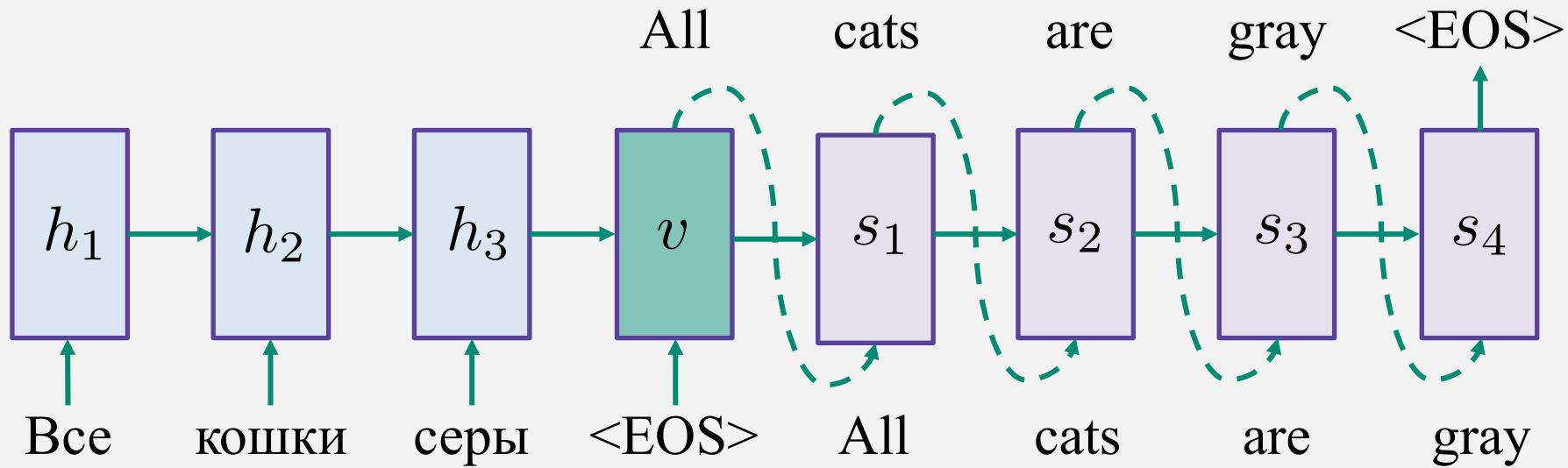
- IBM models – first working systems of MT
- Lot's of problems with models 1 and 2:
  - How to deal with *spurious words*
  - How to control *fertility*
  - ....
- Most importantly, how to do many-to-many alignments?
  - Phrased-based machine translation (Koehn's book)

# Encoder-decoder architecture

# Sequence to sequence

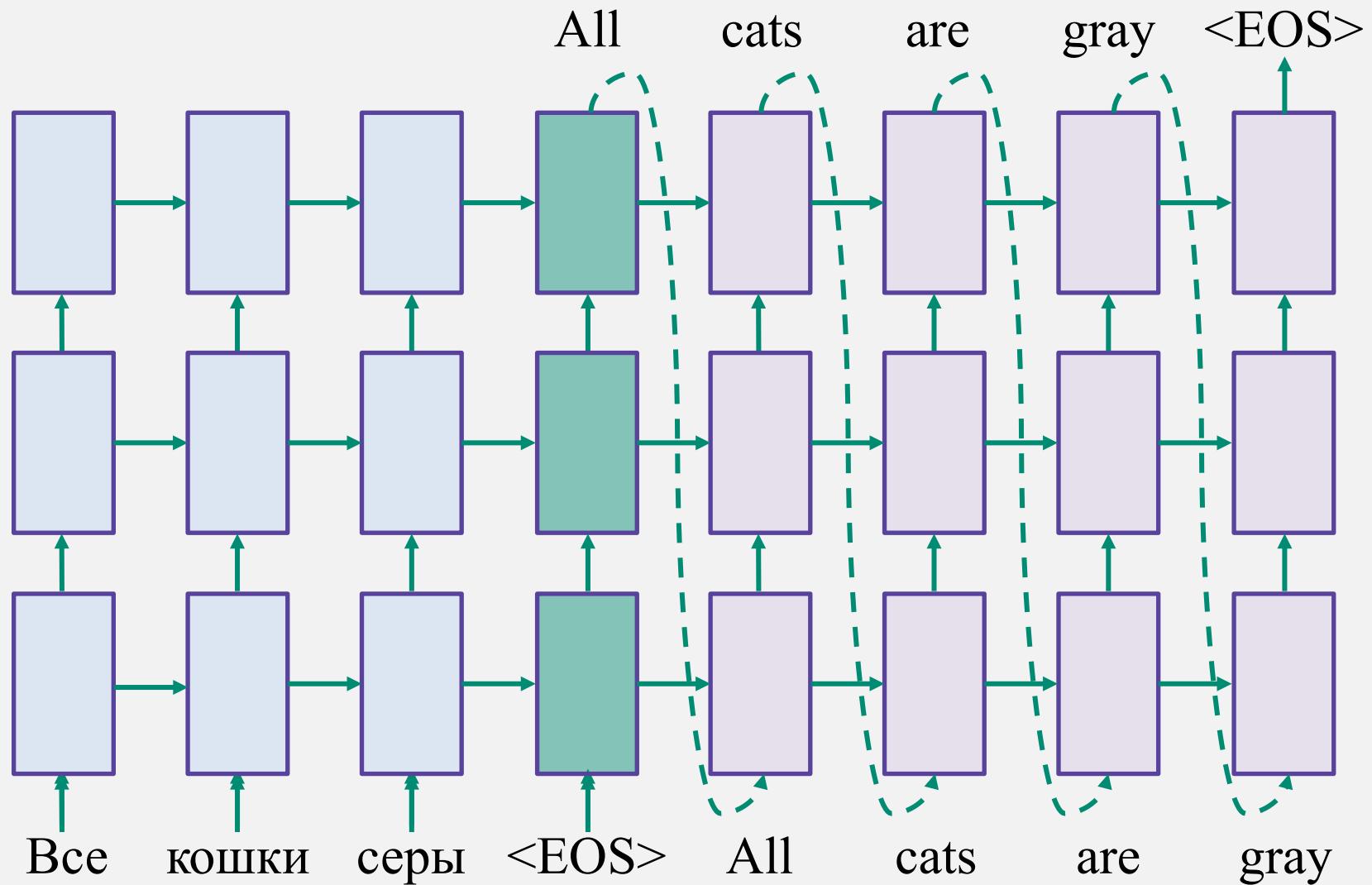


# Sequence to sequence

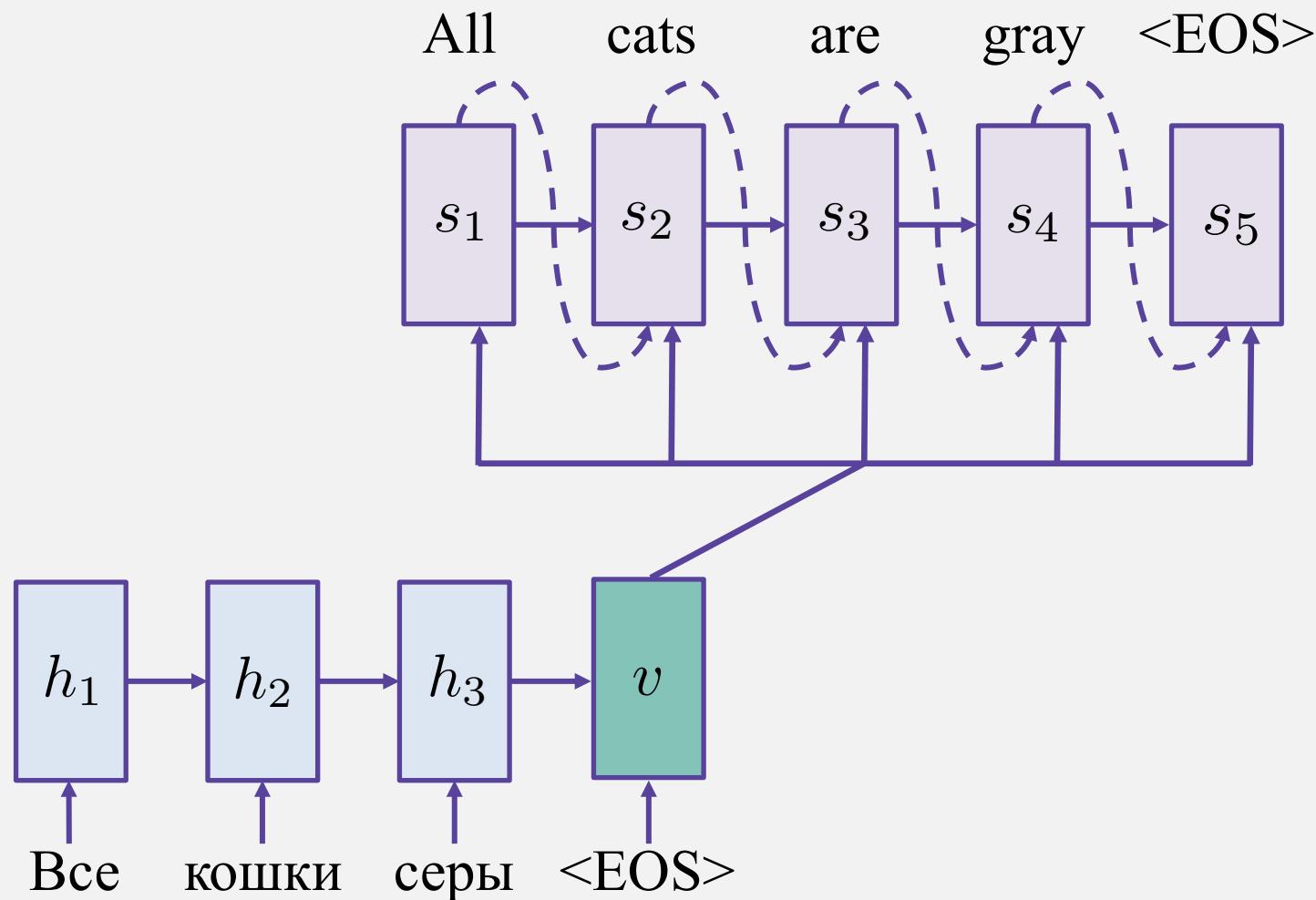


Ilya Sutskever, Oriol Vinyals, Quoc V. Le. Sequence to Sequence Learning with Neural Network, 2014.

# Sequence to sequence



# Sequence to sequence



Cho et. al. Learning Phrase Representations using RNN Encoder-Decoder for Statistical Machine Translation, 2014.

# Sequence to sequence

$$p(y_1, \dots, y_J | x_1, \dots, x_I) = \prod_{j=1}^J p(y_j | \textcolor{teal}{v}, y_1, \dots, y_{j-1})$$

- **Encoder:** maps the source sequence to the hidden vector

$$\text{RNN: } h_i = f(h_{i-1}, x_i) \quad \textcolor{teal}{v} = h_I$$

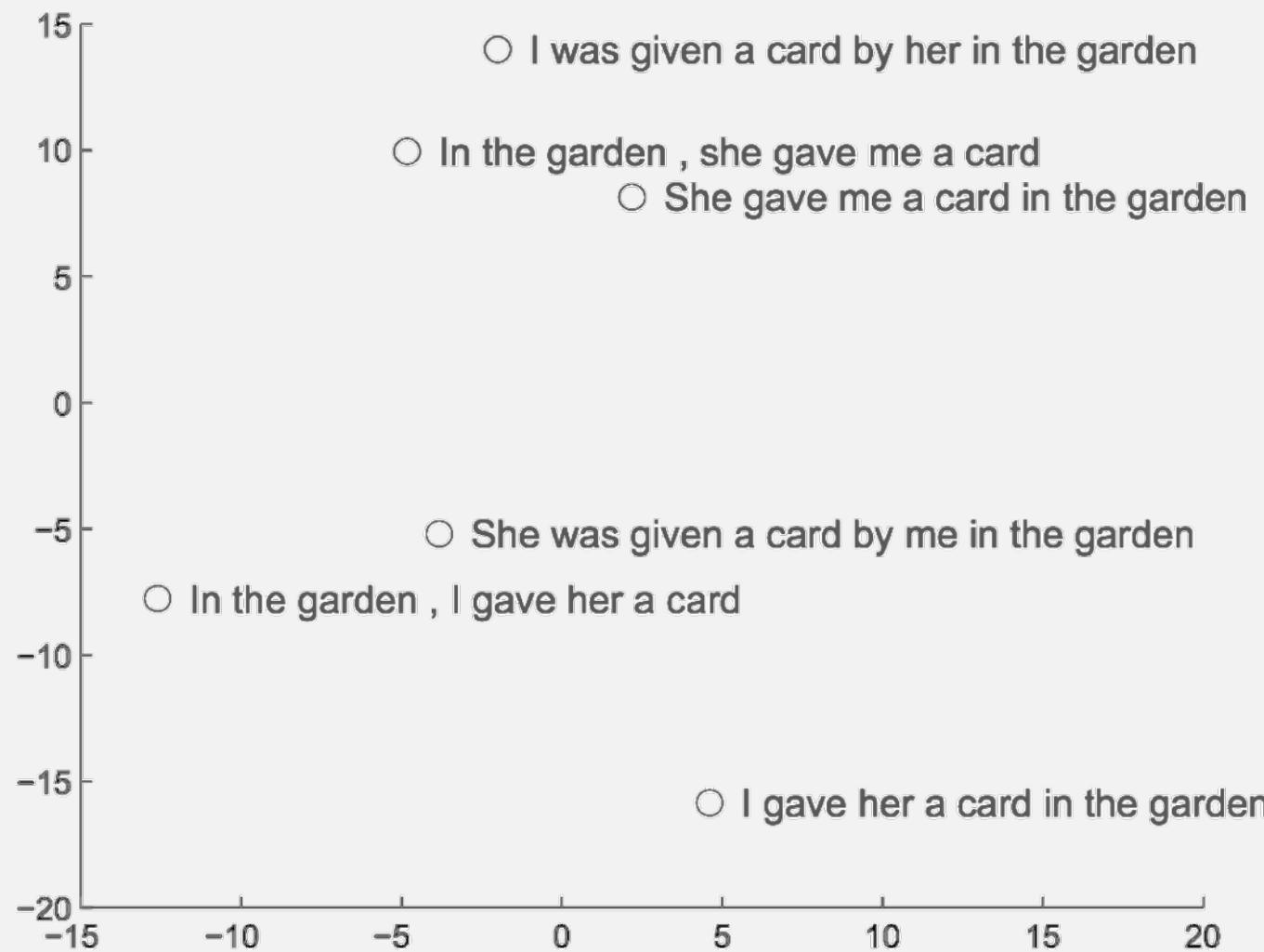
- **Decoder:** performs language modeling given this vector

$$\text{RNN: } s_j = g(s_{j-1}, [y_{j-1}, \textcolor{teal}{v}])$$

- **Prediction** (the simplest way):

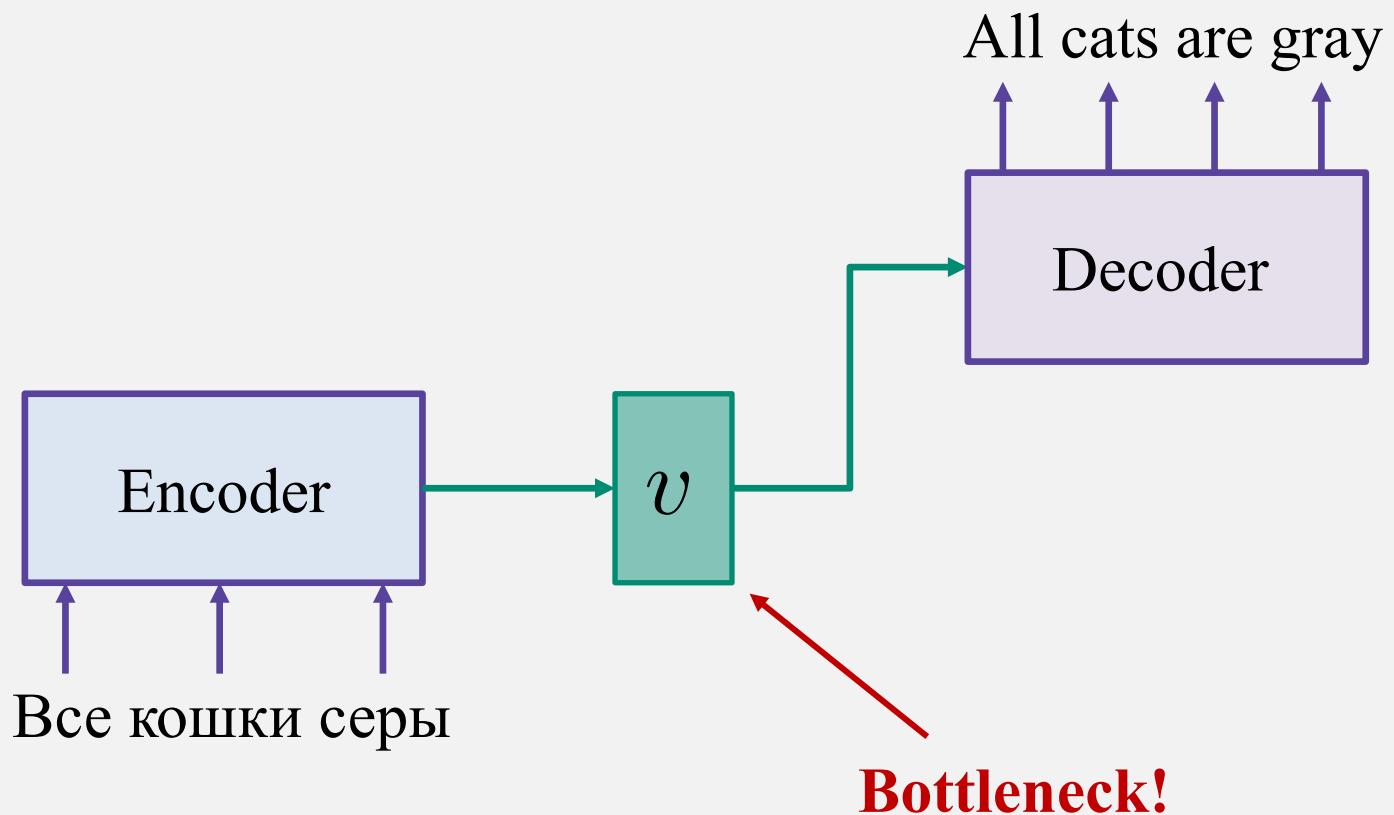
$$p(y_j | v, y_1, \dots, y_{j-1}) = \text{softmax}(Us_j + b)$$

# Hidden representations are good...



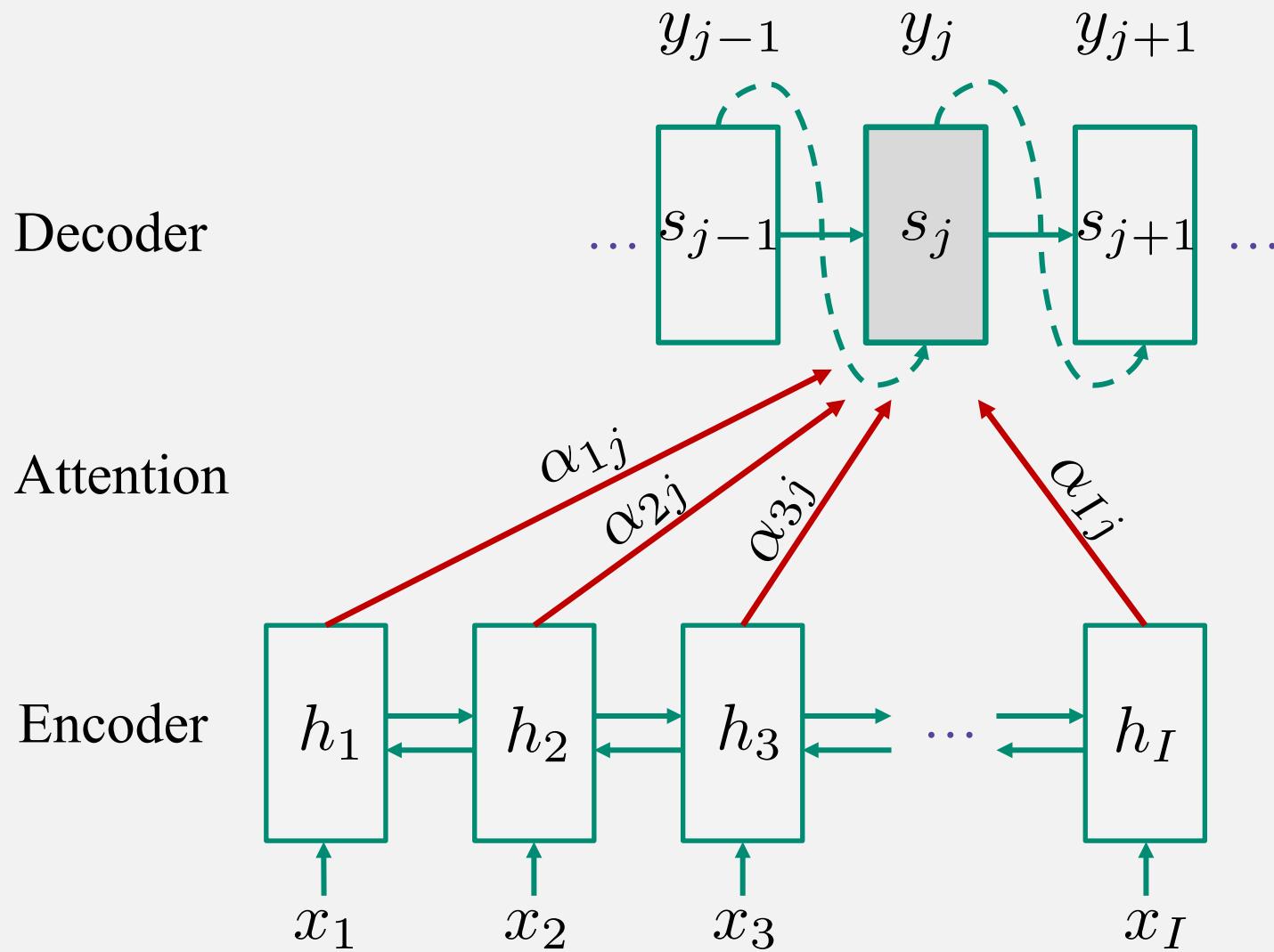
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... but still a bottleneck



# Attention mechanism

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Bahdanau et. al - Neural Machine Translation by jointly learning to align and translate, 2015.

# Attention mechanism

- Encoder states are weighted to obtain the representation relevant to the decoder state:

$$v_j = \sum_{i=1}^I \alpha_{ij} h_i$$

- The weights are learnt and should find the most relevant encoder positions:

$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(h_i, s_{j-1}))}{\sum_{i'=1}^I \exp(\text{sim}(h_{i'}, s_{j-1}))}$$

# How to compute attention weights?

- **Additive attention:**

$$\text{sim}(h_i, s_j) = w^T \tanh(W_h h_i + W_s s_j)$$

- **Multiplicative attention:**

$$\text{sim}(h_i, s_j) = h_i^T W s_j$$

- **Dot product also works:**

$$\text{sim}(h_i, s_j) = h_i^T s_j$$

# Put all together

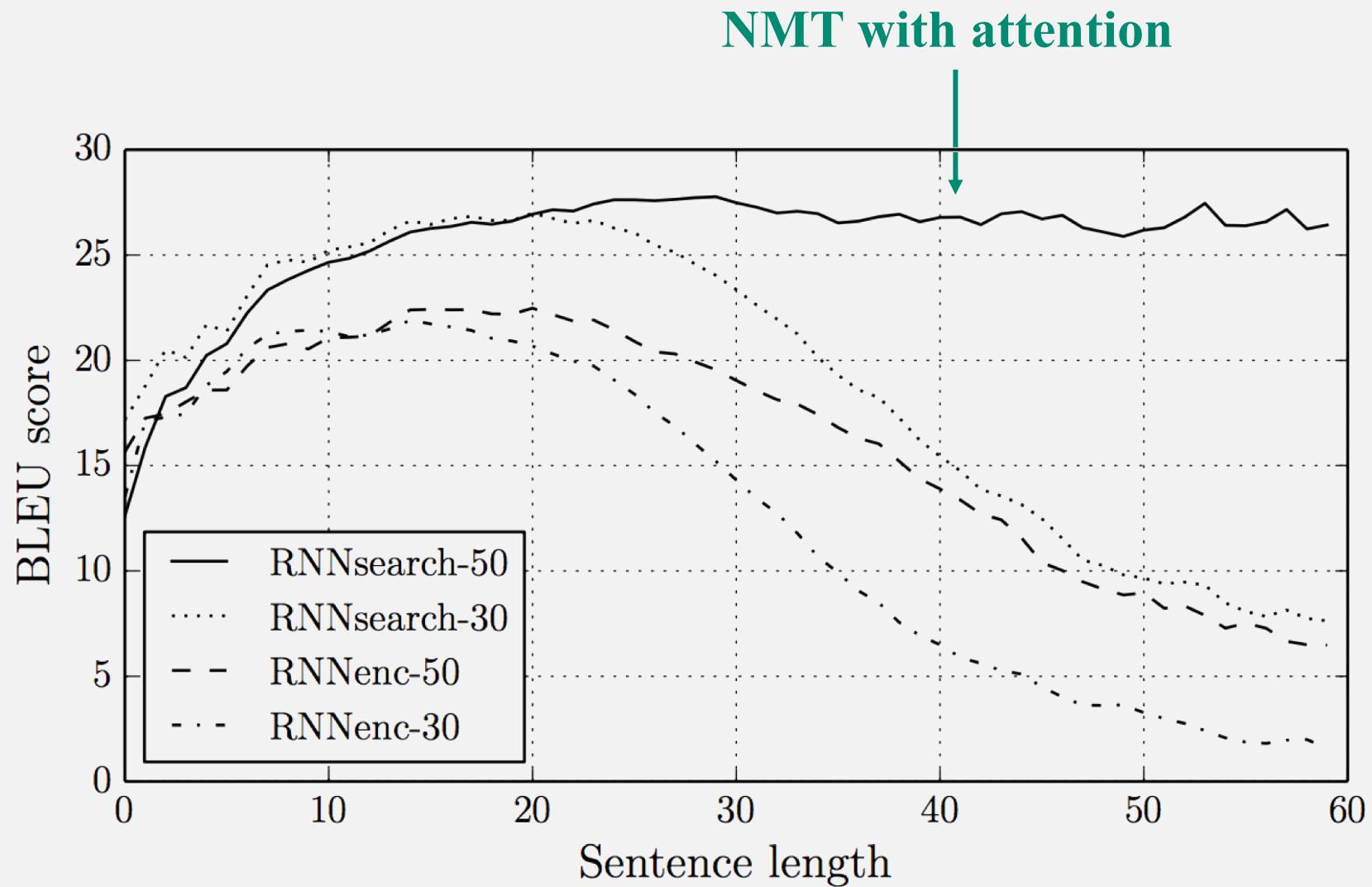
$$p(y_1, \dots, y_J | x_1, \dots, x_I) = \prod_{j=1}^J p(y_j | \textcolor{teal}{v}_j, y_1, \dots, y_{j-1})$$

- Still encoder-decoder architecture with RNNs:

$$h_i = f(h_{i-1}, x_i) \quad s_j = g(s_{j-1}, [y_{j-1}, \textcolor{teal}{v}_j])$$

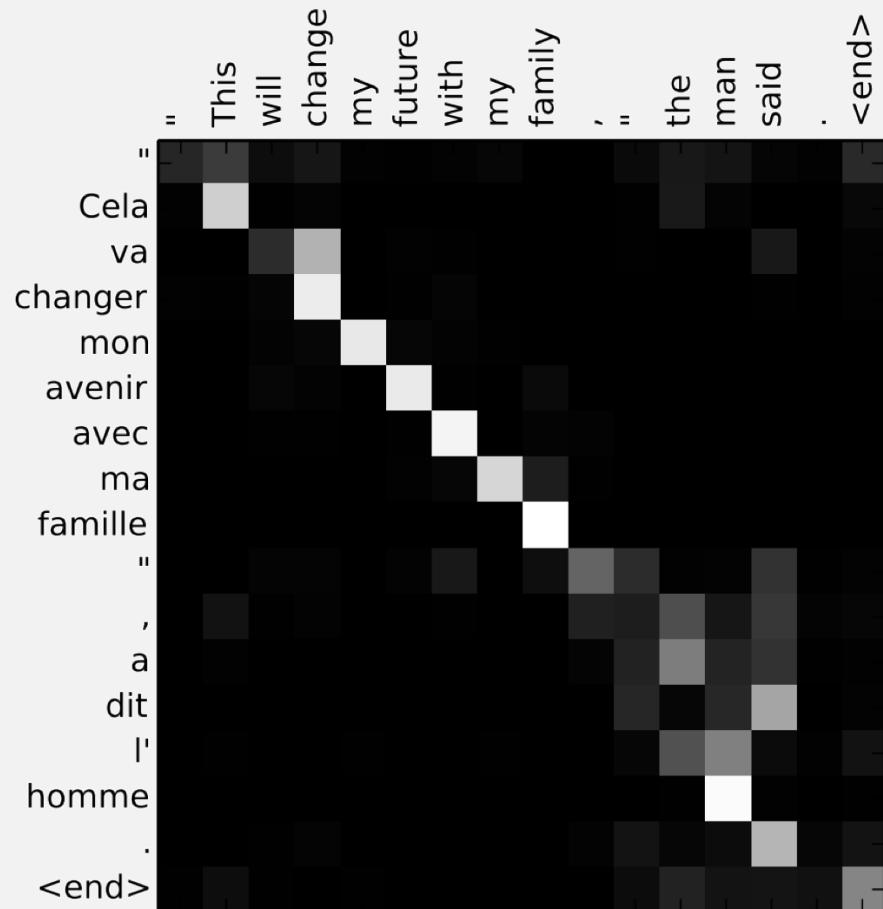
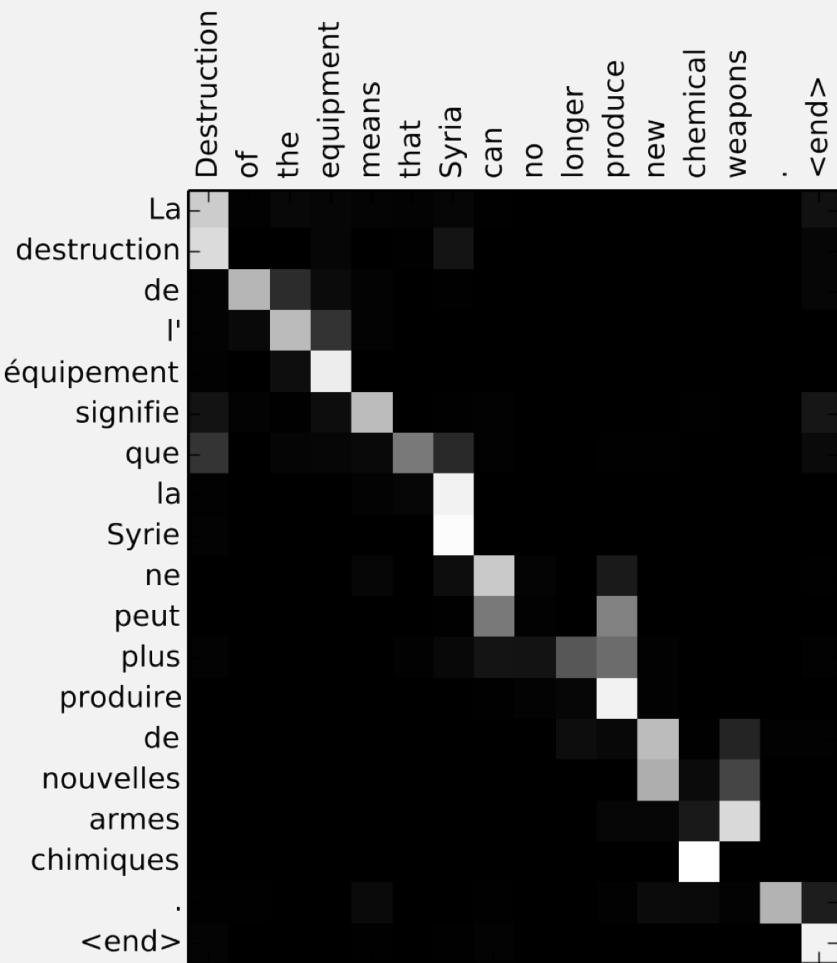
- But the source representations differ for each position  $j$  of the decoder.

# Helps for long sentences



Bahdanau et. al. Neural Machine Translation by jointly learning to align and translate, 2015.

# Example: attention (alignments)



Bahdanau et. al. Neural Machine Translation by jointly learning to align and translate, 2015.

# Is the attention similar to what humans do?

- *For humans:* **saves time**

Attention saves time when reading (i.e. we look only to the relevant parts of the sentence).

- *For machines:* **wastes time**

To compute the attention weights, the model carefully examines ALL the positions, thus wastes even more time.

# Local attention

## 1. Find the most relevant position $a_j$ in the source

- Monotonic alignments:  $a_j = j$
- Predictive alignments:  $a_j = I \cdot \sigma(b^T \tanh(Ws_j))$

## 2. Attend only positions within a window $[a_j - h; a_j + h]$

- Compute scores as usual
- Probably multiply by a Gaussian centered in  $a_j$

# Global vs local attention

System	Perplexity	BLEU
global (location)	6.4	19.3
global (dot)	6.1	20.5
global (mult)	6.1	19.5
local-m (dot)	>7.0	x
local-m (mult)	6.2	20.4
local-p (dot)	6.6	19.6
local-p (mult)	<b>5.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>

Luong et. al. Effective Approaches to Attention-based Neural Machine Translation, 2015.

# Global vs local attention

System	Perplexity	BLEU
$W s_j \rightarrow$ global (location)	6.4	19.3
$h_i^T s_j \rightarrow$ global (dot)	6.1	20.5
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# How to deal with a vocabulary?

# Outline

- Computing *softmax* for a large vocabulary is slow!
  - Hierarchical softmax
- Even a large vocabulary has *OOV words*:
  - Copy mechanism
  - Sub-word modeling
    - Word-character hybrid models
    - Byte-pair encoding

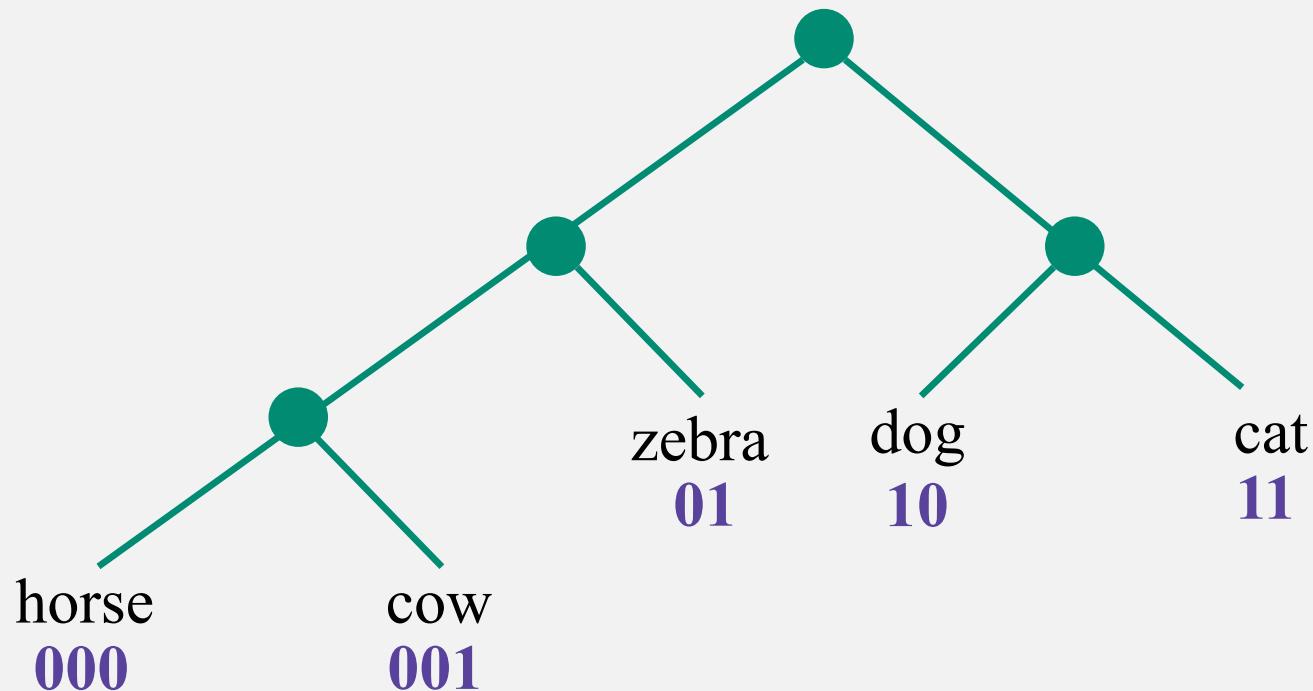
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# Hierarchical softmax

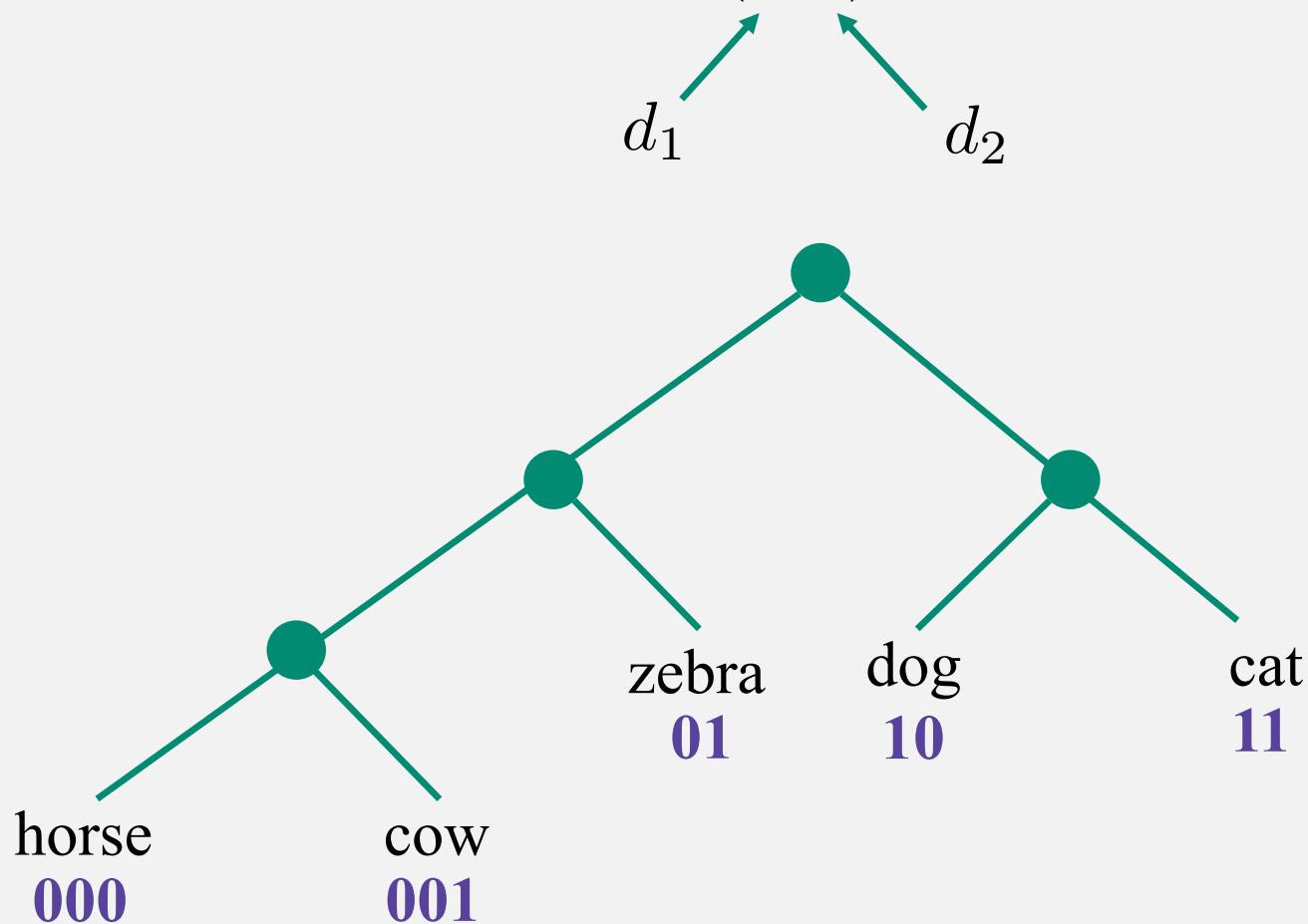
Each word is uniquely represented by a binary code:

- 0 means “go left”, 1 means “go right”



# Hierarchical softmax

E.g. for **zebra** the code is  $d = (0, 1)$



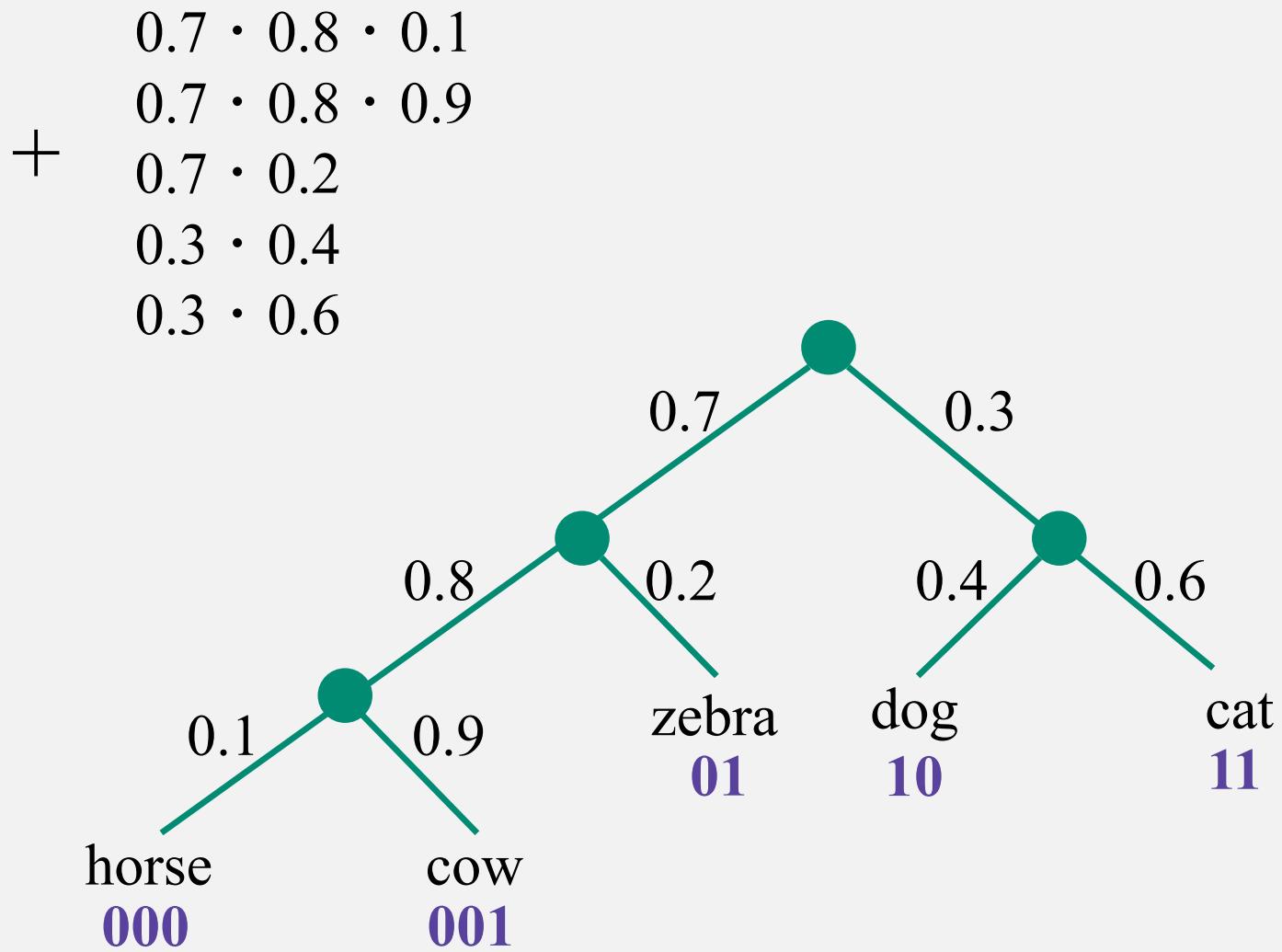
# Scaling softmax

Express the probability of a word (zebra) as a product of probabilities of the binary decisions along the path ( $d_1 \ d_2$ ).

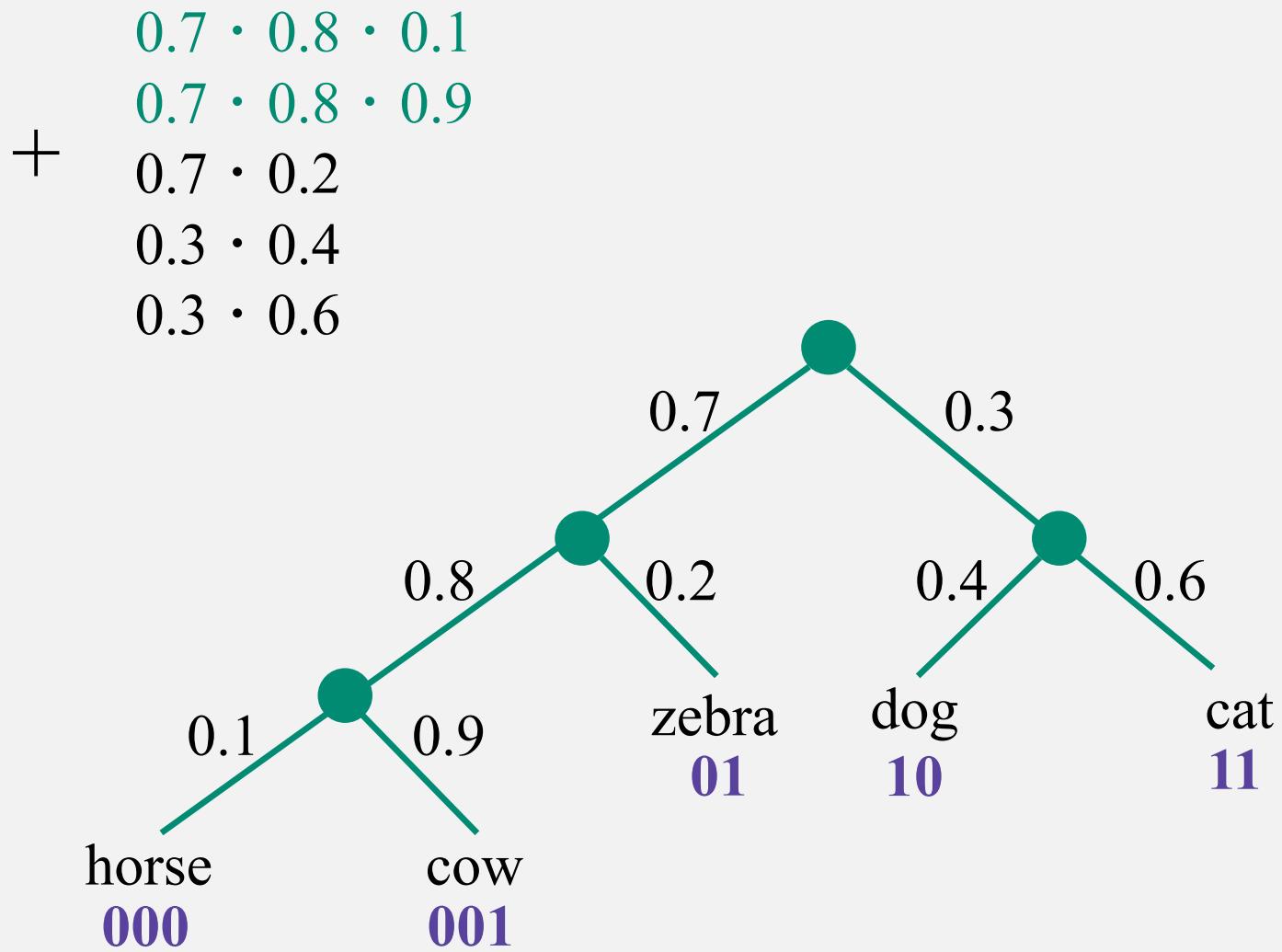
$$p(w_n = w | w_1^{n-1}) = \prod_i p(d_i | w_1^{n-1})$$

Do you believe that it sums to 1?

# Hierarchical softmax

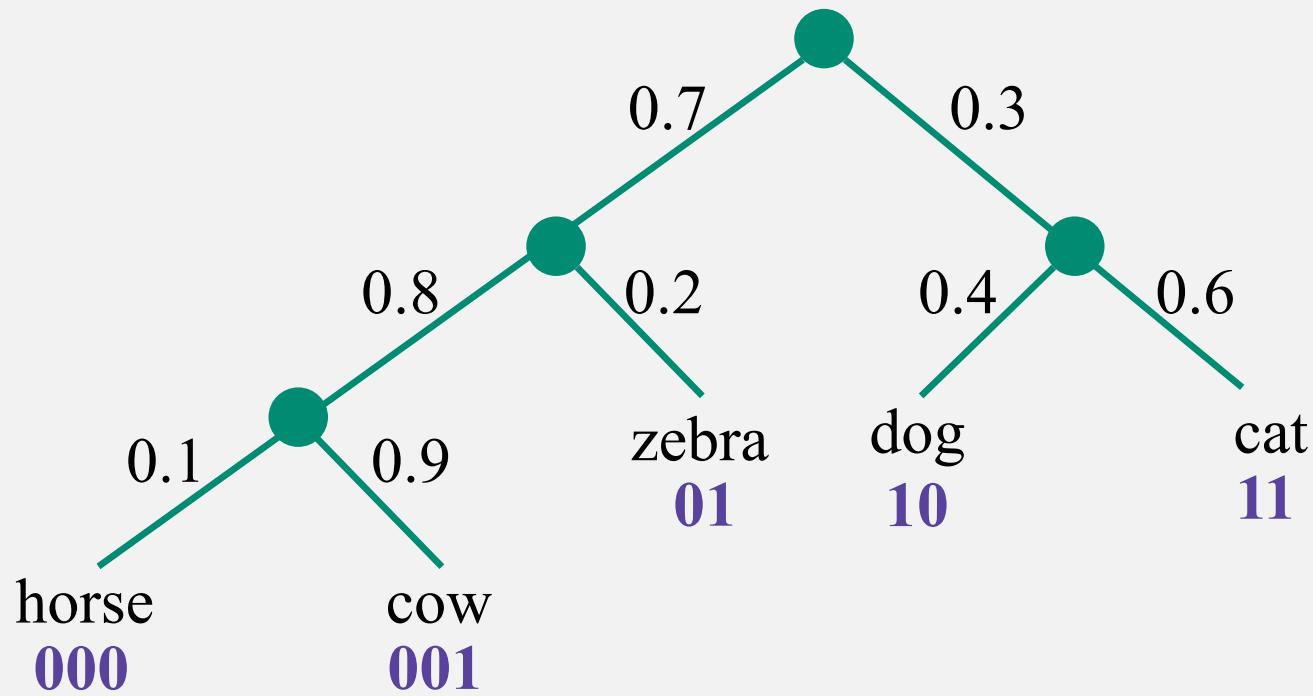


# Hierarchical softmax



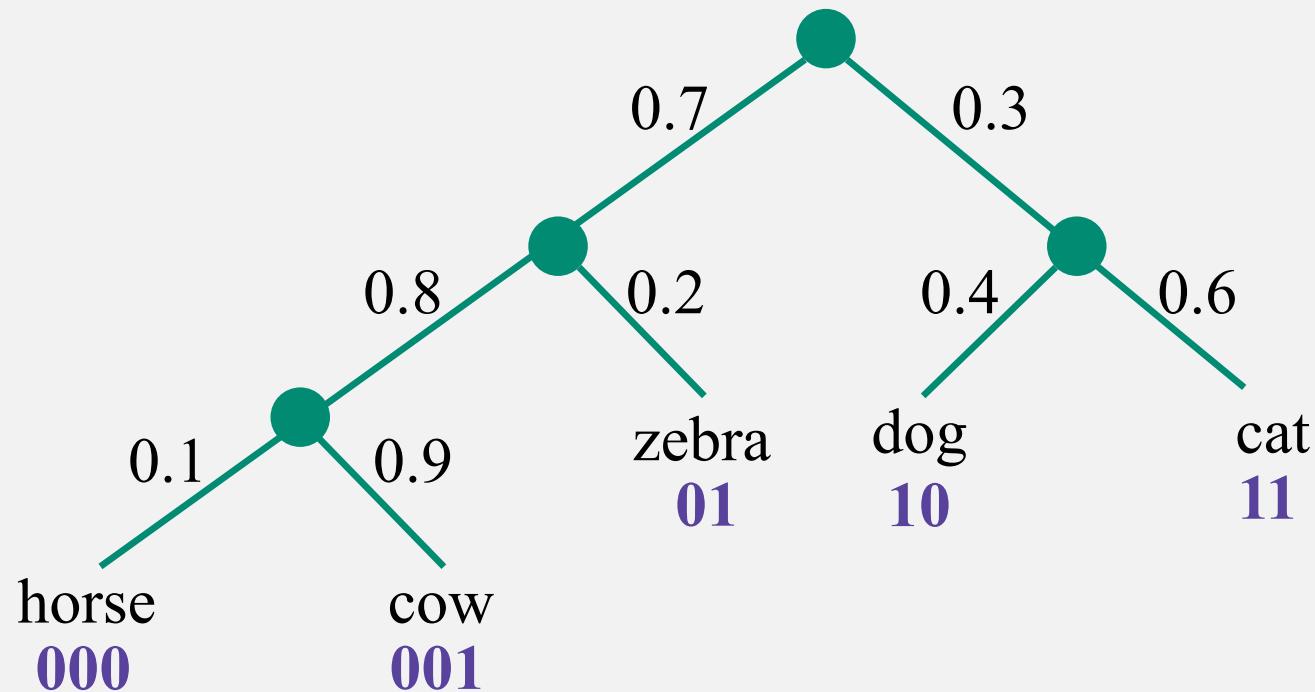
# Hierarchical softmax

$$+ \begin{array}{l} 0.7 \cdot 0.8 \\ 0.7 \cdot 0.2 \\ 0.3 \cdot 0.4 \\ 0.3 \cdot 0.6 \end{array}$$



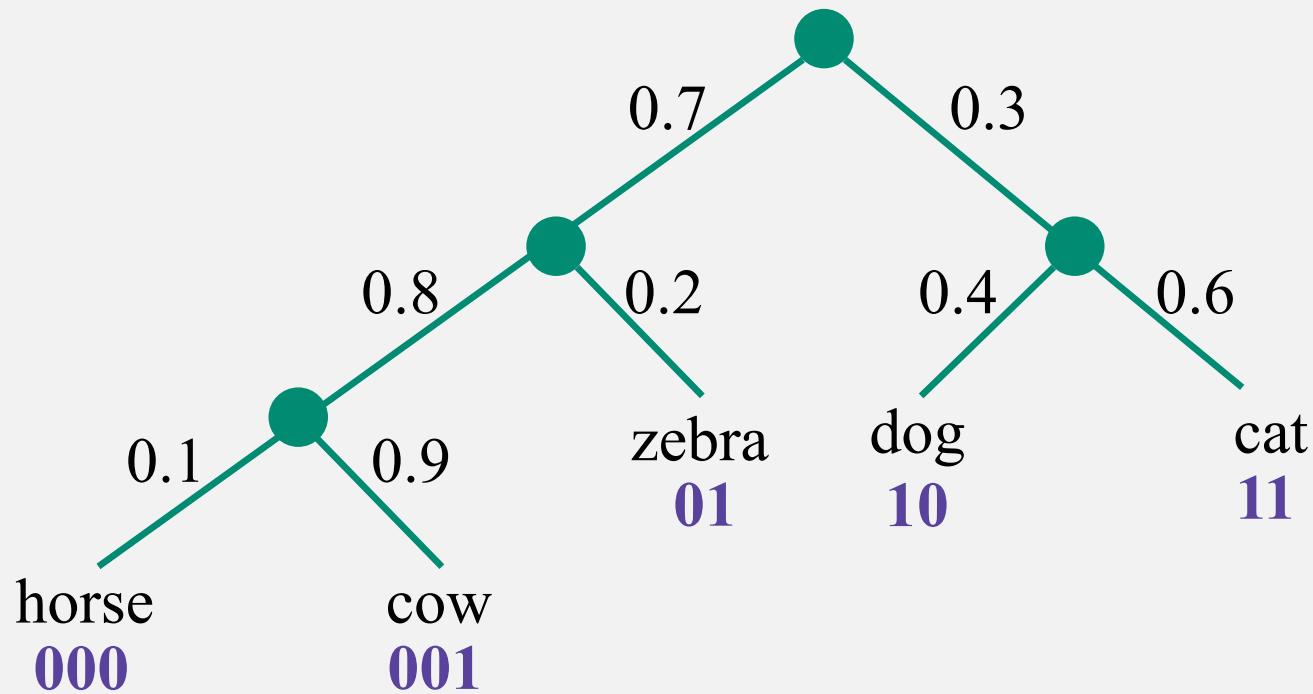
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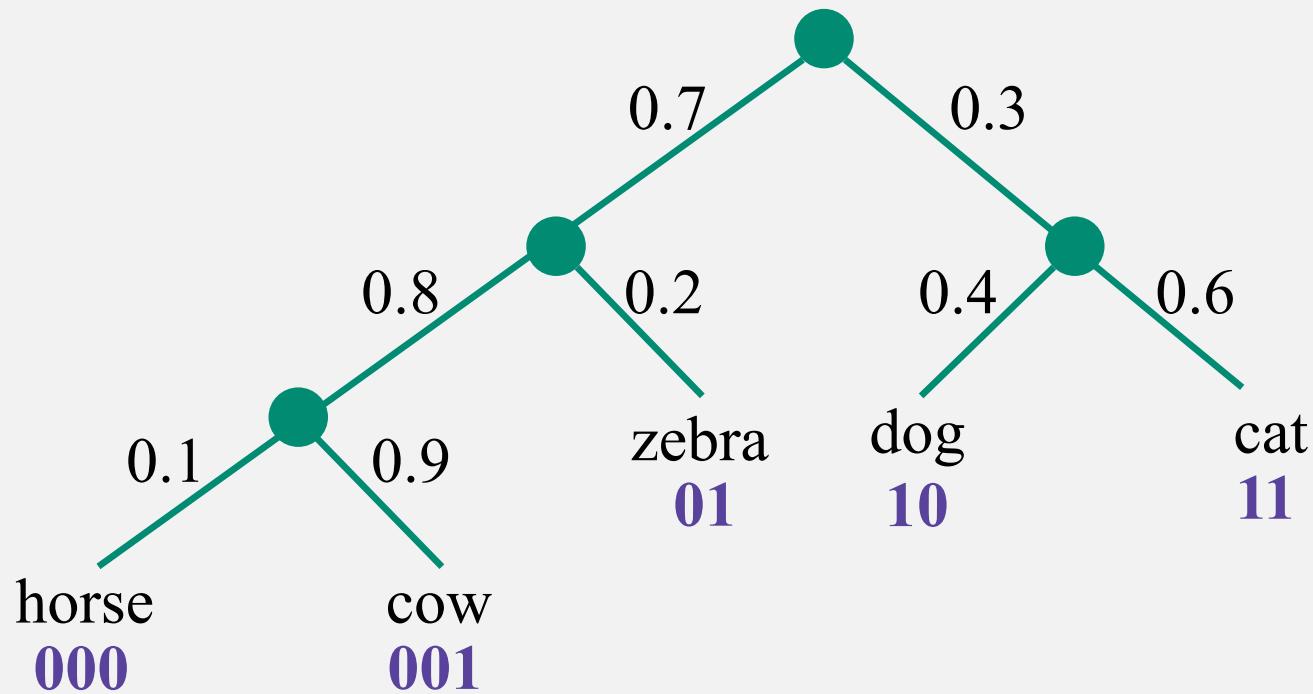
# Hierarchical softmax

$$+ \begin{matrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \cdot 0.4 \\ 0.3 \cdot 0.6 \end{matrix}$$

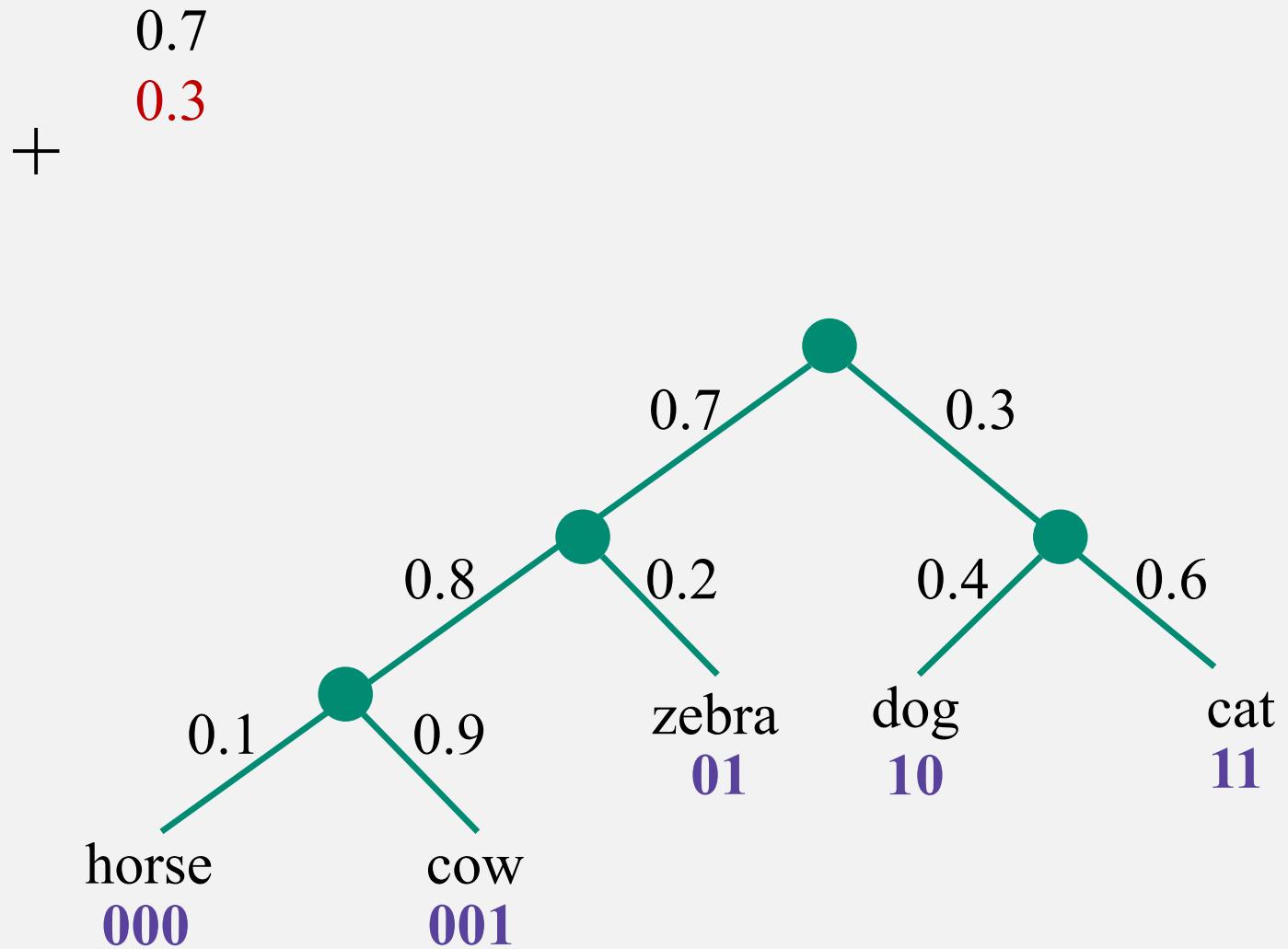


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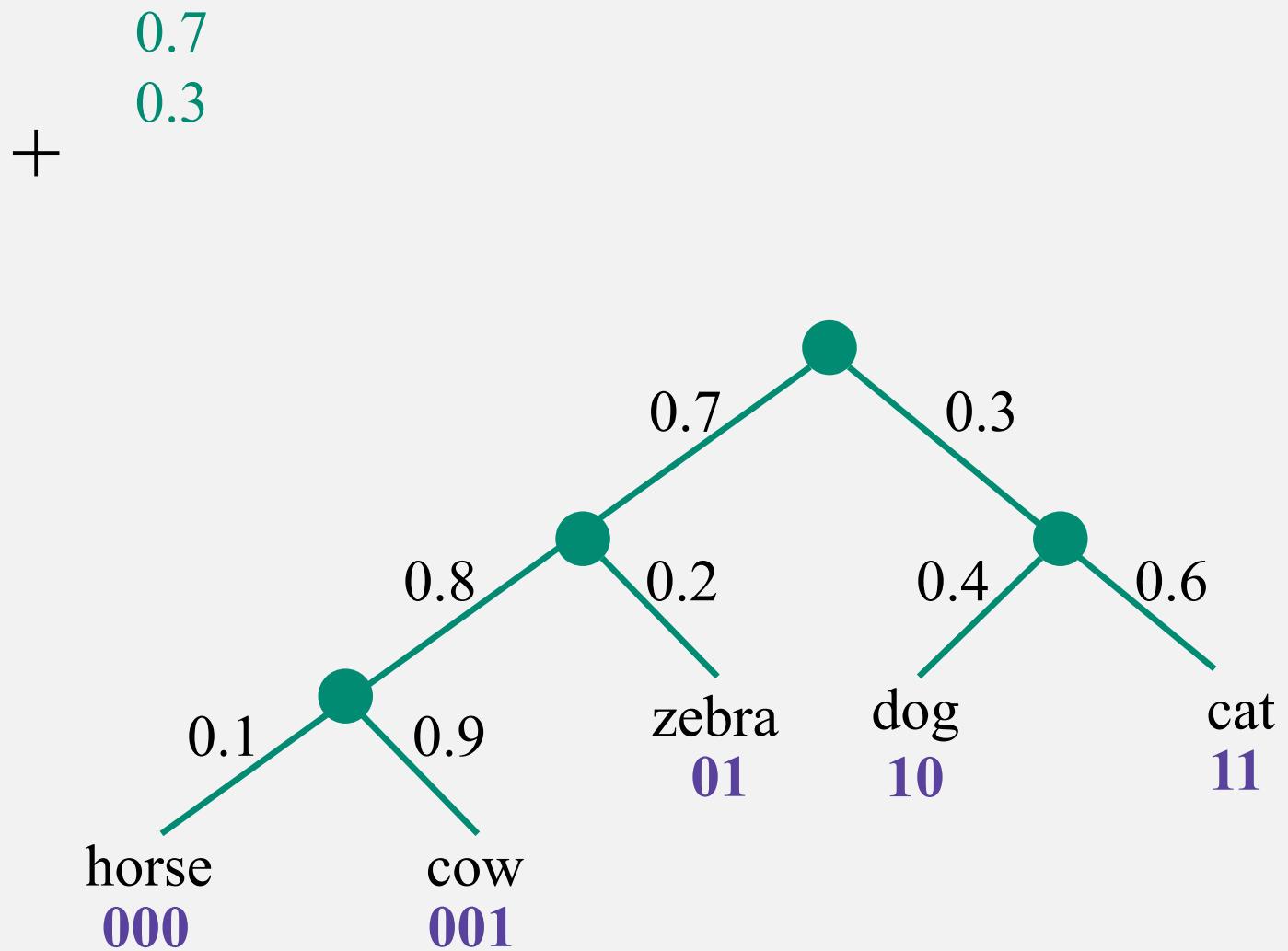
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# Hierarchical softmax



# Hierarchical softmax

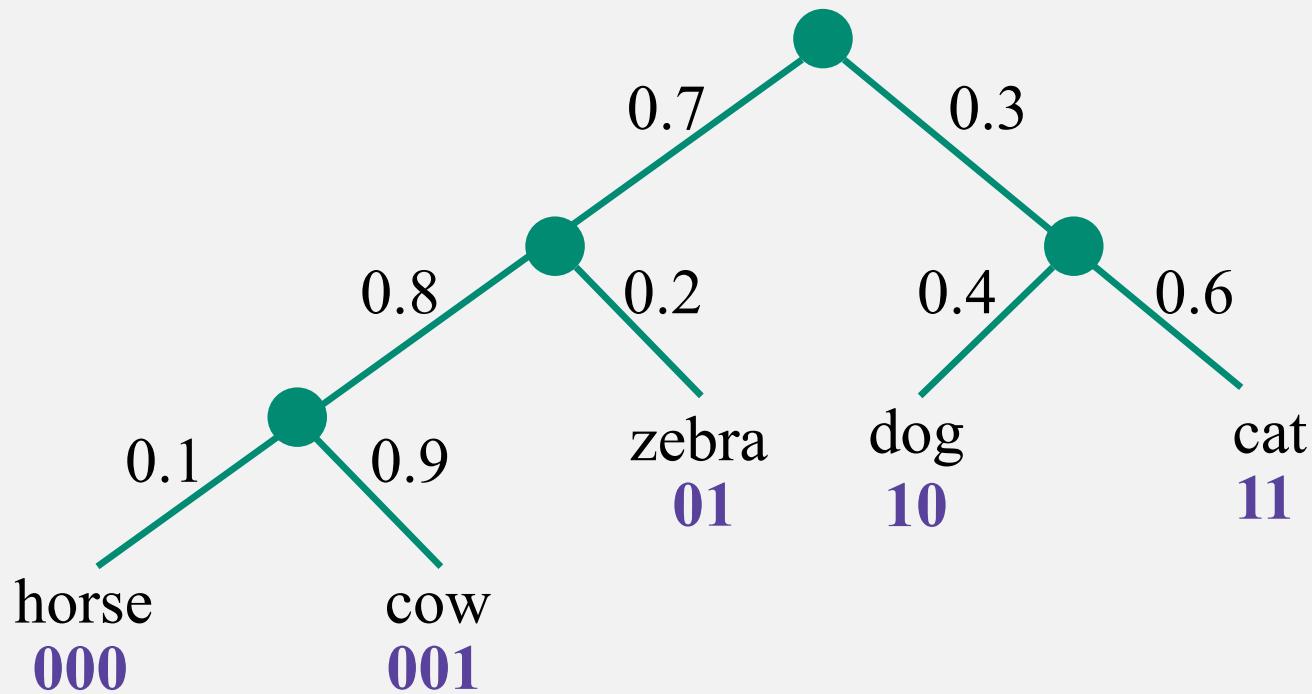


# Hierarchical softmax

1.0

+

Congratulations!



# Hierarchical softmax

Model binary decisions along the path in the tree:

$$p(w_n = w | w_1^{n-1}) = \prod_i p(d_i | w_1^{n-1})$$

How to construct a tree (balanced vs. semantic):

- Based on some pre-built ontology
- Based on semantic clustering from data
- Huffman tree
- Random

# Outline

- Computing *softmax* for a large vocabulary is slow!
  - Hierarchical softmax
- Even a large vocabulary has *OOV words*:
  - **Copy mechanism**
  - Sub-word modeling
    - Word-character hybrid models
    - Byte-pair encoding

# Copy mechanism

- Scaling *softmax* is insufficient!
- What do we do with OOV words?
  - Names, numbers, rare words...

The *ecotax* *Pont-de-Buis*  
UNK portico in UNK

# Copy mechanism

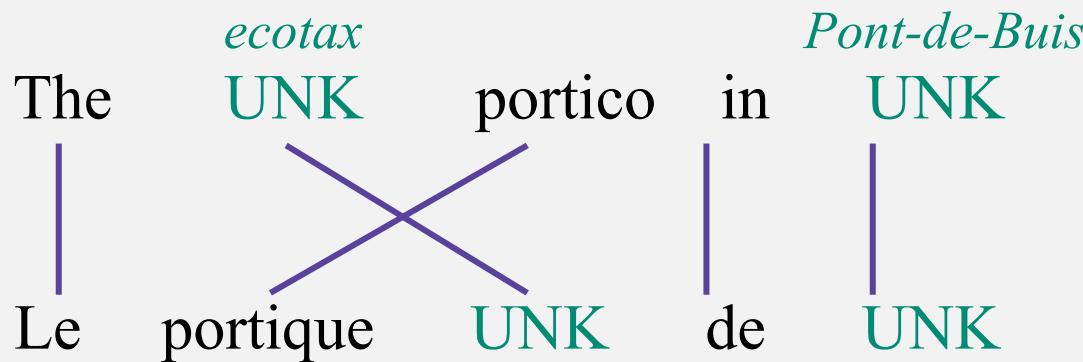
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The *ecotax* *Pont-de-Buis*  
UNK portico in UNK

Le portique UNK de UNK

# Copy mechanism

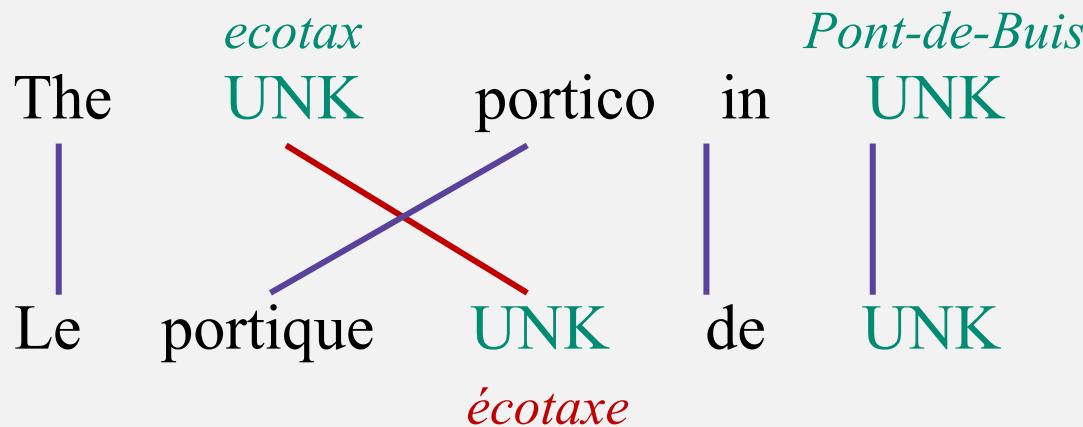
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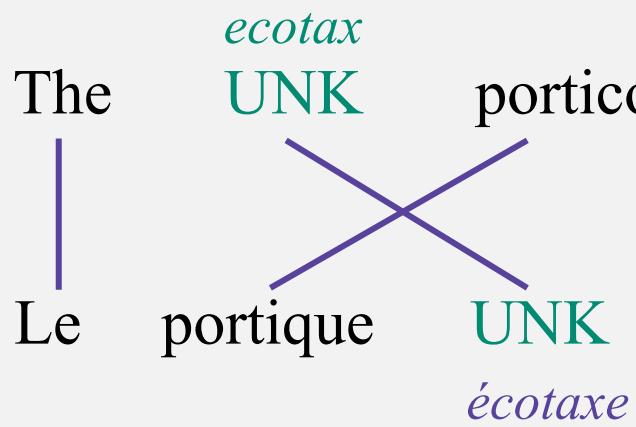
## Look-up in a dictionary



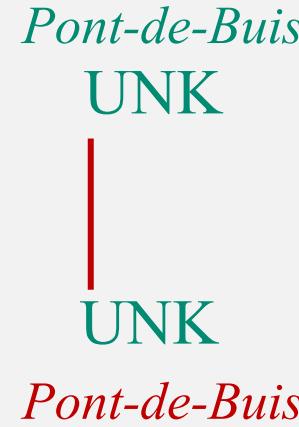
# Copy mechanism

- Scaling *softmax* is insufficient!
- What do we do with OOV words?
  - Names, numbers, rare words...

Look-up in a dictionary



Copy name



# Copy mechanism

## Algorithm:

- Provide word alignments in train time
- Learn relative positions for UNK tokens with NMT
- Post-process the translation:
  - Copy the source word
  - Look up in a dictionary

Simple, but super useful technique!

# Towards open vocabulary

## Still problems:

- Transliteration: Christopher → Kryštof
- Multi-word alignment: Solar system → Sonnensystem
- Rich morphology: nejneobhospodařovávatelnějšímu
- Informal spelling: goooooood morning !!!!

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    - **Word-character hybrid models**
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# Character-based models

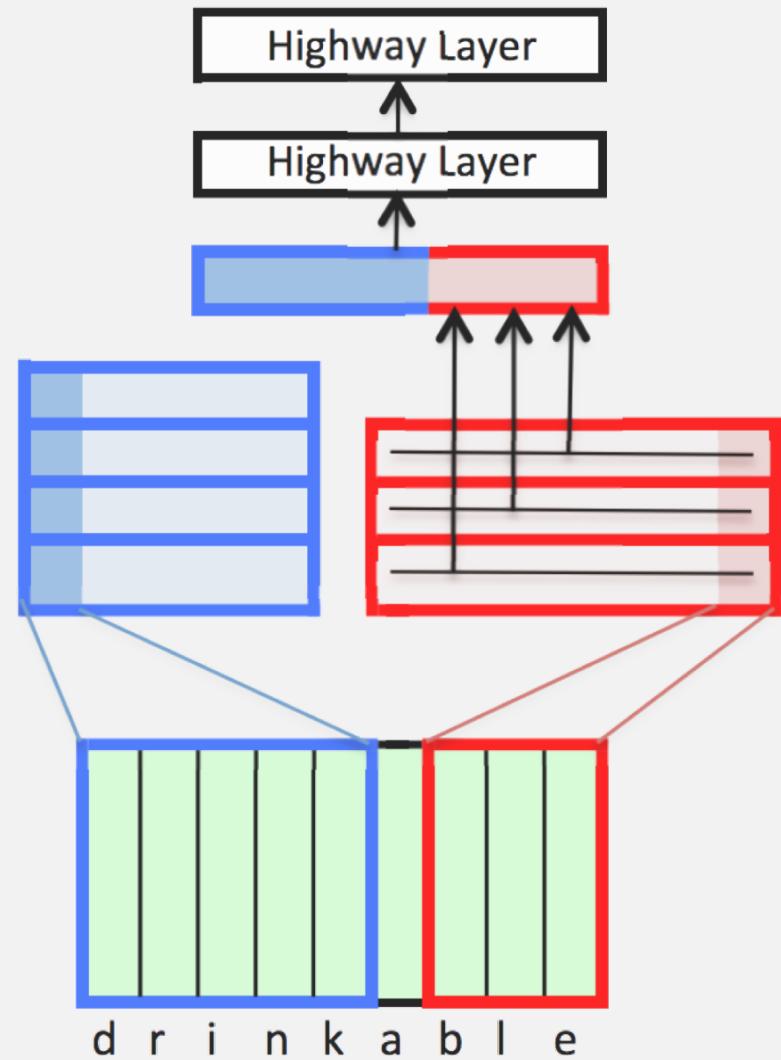
Character-based encoder is good for source languages with rich morphology!

- Bi-LSTMs to build word embeddings from characters
- CNNs on characters

Ling, et. al. Finding Function in Form: Compositional Character Models for Open Vocabulary Word Representation. EMNLP 2015.

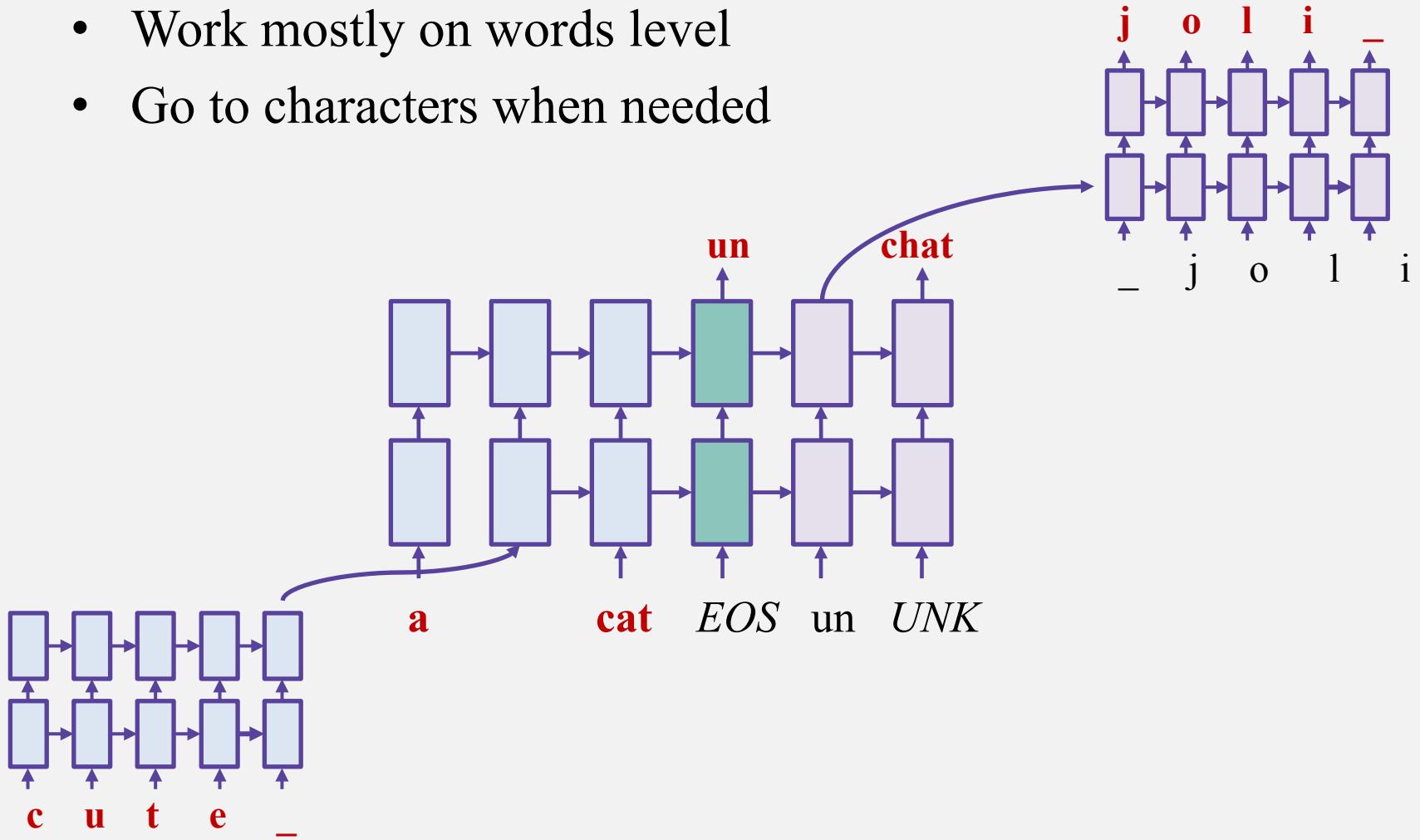
Kim, et. al. Character-Aware Neural Language Models. AAAI 2016.

Marta R. Costa-jussà and José A. R. Fonollosa. Character-based Neural Machine Translation. ACL 2016.



# Hybrid models: the best of two worlds

- Work mostly on words level
- Go to characters when needed



Thang Luong and Chris Manning. Achieving Open Vocabulary Neural Machine Translation with Hybrid Word-Character Models. ACL 2016.

# Outline

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- Even a large vocabulary has *OOV words*:
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    - Word-character hybrid models
    - **Byte-pair encoding**

# Byte-pair encoding

- Simple way to handle open vocabulary:
  - Start with characters
  - Iteratively replace the most frequent pair with one unit

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**She sells seashells by the seashore**

# Byte-pair encoding

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  - Start with characters
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S h e \_ s e l l s \_ s e a s h e l l s \_ b y \_ t h e \_ s e a s h o r e \_

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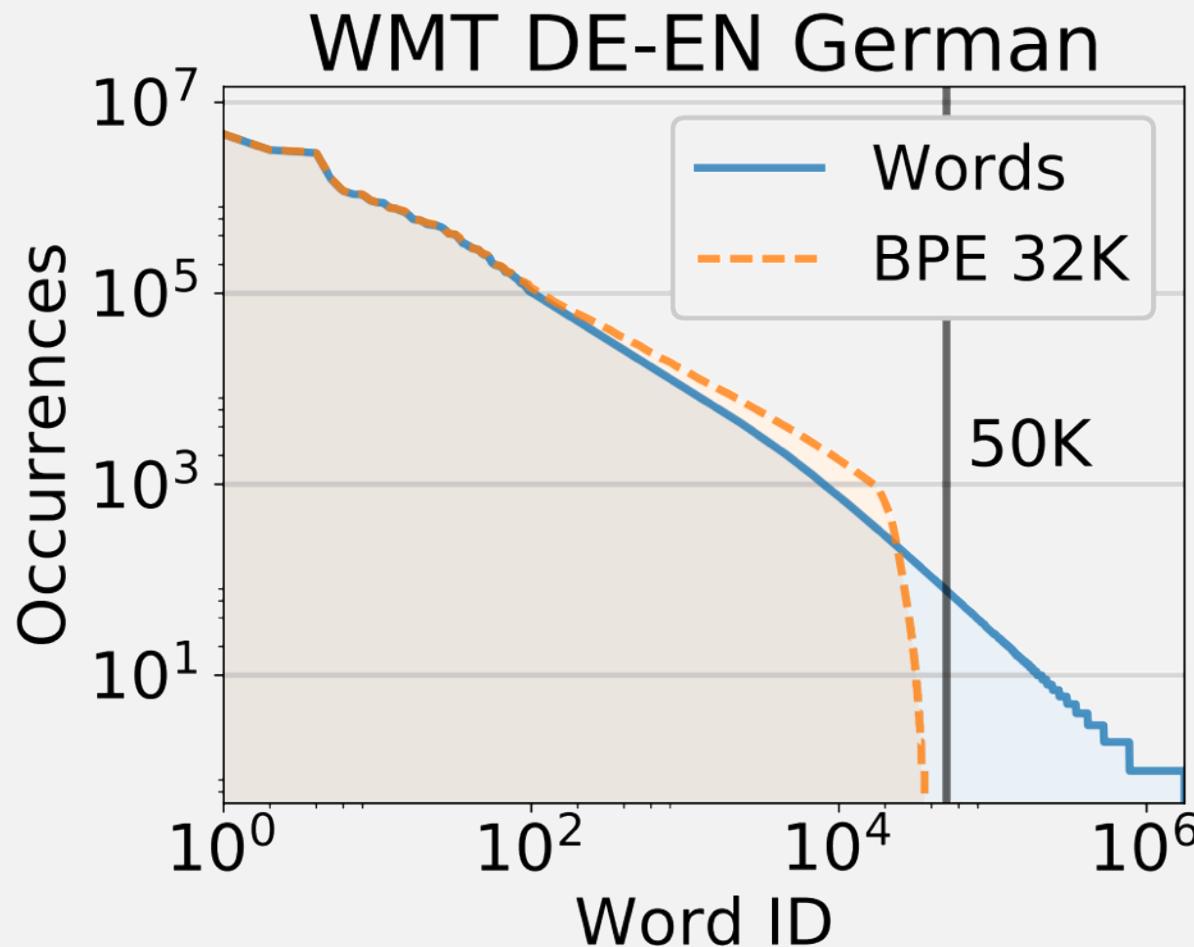
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- End whenever you reach the vocabulary size limit
- Stick to that vocabulary of sub-word units
- Apply the same algorithm to test sentences

# Why is it so useful?



# BLEU score comparison

	WMT			IWSLT	
	DE-EN	EN-FI	RO-EN	EN-FR	CS-EN
Words 50K	31.6	12.6	27.1	33.6	21.0
BPE 32K	<b>33.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>27.8</b>	34.5	22.6
BPE 16K	33.1	<b>14.7</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>23.0</b>

- Byte-pair encoding improves BLEU score
- It is a nice and simple way to handle the vocabulary
- Very common trick in modern NMT