

# DL Project Proposal: Shakespeare to English

MORRIS KRAICER

Johns Hopkins University  
mkraice1@jhu.edu

RILEY SCOTT

Johns Hopkins University  
rscott39@jhu.edu

WILLIAM WATSON

Johns Hopkins University  
billwatson@jhu.edu

## Abstract

*Add abstract to be fancy*

## 1 Introduction

Abstract

Inspiration

Data web scrap label via aligner

Preprocessing Tokenize!!!! NUM PROPER NOUNS  
PUNCTUATION USE SPACY FOR POS TAGS

Models Baseline Seq2Seq Baseline No attention, no  
Bidirectional encoder RNN- $\rightarrow$  RNN GRU- $\rightarrow$ GRU bidi-  
rectional GRU - $\rightarrow$  Bidirectional GRU With Attentions  
Teacher Forcing

Use Aligner to measure quality of data, and learn-  
ability. Not learnable - $\rightarrow$  still train, but when report,  
do backwards, suggest data is difficult Learnable - $\rightarrow$  do  
aligner do well, then models

Final Tricks: Num - $\rightarrow$  Num PN - $\rightarrow$  PN Punct - $\rightarrow$  Punct

Expectation: Hopefully provides good translations  
Hopefully can do a pseudo style transfer on English  
Funny translations? 50 Shades of Grey

## 2 Data Procurement

1

## 3 Preprocessing

2

---

<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/cocoxu/Shakespeare>

<sup>2</sup><https://spacy.io>

## 4 Architectures

We seek to develop several models to improve our trans-  
lations, incorporating context, attention, and novel  
training methods.

### 4.1 Baseline RNN Sequence to Se- quence

Our baseline model will be a simple RNN sequence to  
sequence model. It will accept a source sentence  $s$  and  
will decode it to an output sequence  $t$ . A simple RNN  
will only incorporate previous states, i.e. source words,  
during prediction, and might be prone to the vanish-  
ing gradient problem. It will incorporate an encoder-  
decoder style model [2] [5].

### 4.2 GRU Sequence to Sequence

We will improve our baseline through the use of the  
GRU layer, to hopefully offset any vanishing gradients.  
In addition, we use a GRU over an LSTM to help bound  
the number of parameters used in the model for training  
purposes, as the GRU and LSTM fix issues regarding  
long term dependencies within sequences.

### 4.3 Bidirectional Model

In order to consider the context of words before and after,  
we will alter the model to use a bidirectional GRU [1],  
and hopefully see better translations.

### 4.4 Attention Mechanisms

Attention mechanisms have been shown to improve se-  
quence to sequence translations from Bahdanau et al [1],  
and further work from Luong et al [4] examines global vs  
local approaches to attention-based encoder-decoders.

Roles	Members
Data Procurement	Morris, Riley, Bill
Preprocessing Scripts	Riley, Bill
Baseline Model	Riley
GRU Extension	Morris
Bidirectional Extension	Morris
Attention Mechanisms	Bill
Train and support code	Bill
Training experiments	Morris, Riley
Writeup and analysis	Morris, Riley, Bill

**Figure 1:** Role Distribution

- [4] M.-T. Luong, H. Pham, and C. D. Manning. Effective approaches to attention-based neural machine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1508.04025*, 2015.
- [5] I. Sutskever, O. Vinyals, and Q. V. Le. Sequence to sequence learning with neural networks. In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, pages 3104–3112, 2014.

## 4.5 Teacher Forcing

In terms of training, an encoder-decoder system can either accept the target token or the model’s prediction as input during the decoding step. When we use the target token, this is known as teacher forcing, and is shown to be favored during initial training iterations, but should be backed off to use the model’s own predictions, as it will exhibit instability in the translations otherwise [3].

## 5 Roles and Responsibilities

We intend to split the project into the following subsections according to Figure 1.

## 6 Expectations

## References

- [1] D. Bahdanau, K. Cho, and Y. Bengio. Neural machine translation by jointly learning to align and translate. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1409.0473*, 2014.
- [2] K. Cho, B. Van Merriënboer, C. Gulcehre, D. Bahdanau, F. Bougares, H. Schwenk, and Y. Bengio. Learning phrase representations using rnn encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1406.1078*, 2014.
- [3] A. M. Lamb, A. G. A. P. GOYAL, Y. Zhang, S. Zhang, A. C. Courville, and Y. Bengio. Professor forcing: A new algorithm for training recurrent networks. In *Advances In Neural Information Processing Systems*, pages 4601–4609, 2016.