

LEARNING TEXT REPRESENTATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

Salomé Do

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LATTICE, Ecole Normale Supérieure
médiaLab, Sciences Po Paris

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AN INDUCTIVE INTRODUCTION TO NLP

SUMMARY

An Inductive Introduction to NLP

What is Natural Language Processing?

Classic NLP Tasks

Why is NLP hard?

A Paradigm Shift : from classic Machine Learning to Representation Learning

Application : using learned representations to learn again

Open questions and challenges

WHAT IS NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING?

- **Natural language** : language commonly used by humans to communicate (english, chinese, arabic, french, ...), as opposed to constructed languages as programming languages, for instance
- **Processing** : wide variety of "process" : text & speech processing (OCR / ASR), semantic analysis, discourse and argumentation analysis, machine translation, question answering, ...

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Analysis in context	Extra-linguistic context		Found him in the street inside a bag. I think he is happy with his new life http://flickr.com/photos/1451545@N00/found-him-in-the-street-inside-a-bag-i-think-he-is-happy-with-his-new-life
	Linguistic context		<ul style="list-style-type: none">— You know what? John gave Peter a Christmas present yesterday— Wow, was he surprised? What was it like?— Surprisingly good. He spent quite a bit on it.
	Semantic level		The landlord _{SPEAKER} has not yet REPLIED _{Communication_response} in writing _{MEDIUM} to the tenant _{ADDRESSEE} objecting the proposed alterations _{MESSAGE} . _{DNI} _{TRIGGER}
	Syntactic level		John saw a dog yesterday which was a Yorkshire Terrier
Sentence-level analysis	Morphological level		<i>brav+itude, bio+terror-isme/-iste, skype+(e)r mang-er-i-ons = MANGER+cond+1pl</i>
	Phonological level	International Phonetic Alphabet [aɪ pʰi: ei]	
	Graphemic level		<i>enough, cough, draught, although, brought, through, thorough, hiccough</i>

Figure 1: NLP tasks families, from less to more abstract [Benoît Sagot]

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Speech image treatment

- Speech-to-text
- OCR (optical character recognition)
- Speech Segmentation (who speaks when)
- Text-to-speech

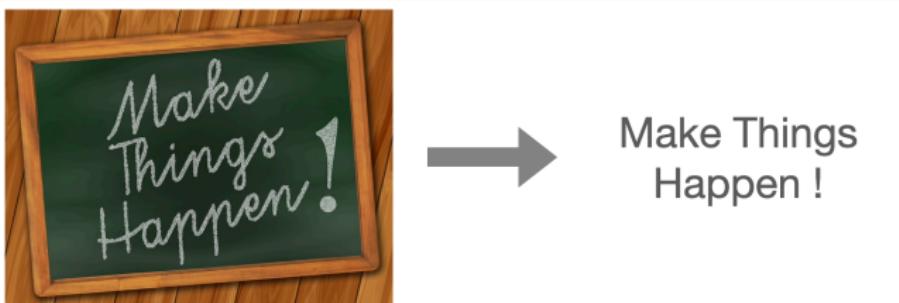


Figure 2: OCR Example

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Morphological analysis

- Tokenization
- Part-of-speech (POS) tagging
- Stemming/Lemmatization

Vinken	,	61	years	old
NNP	,	CD	NNS	JJ

Figure 3: POS-tagging example

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Syntactic Analysis

- Dependency/constituency parsing
- Sentence tokenization

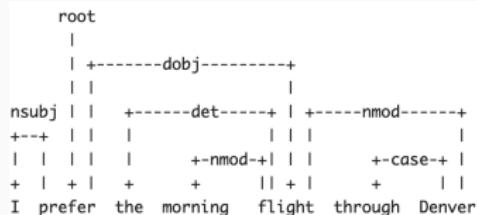
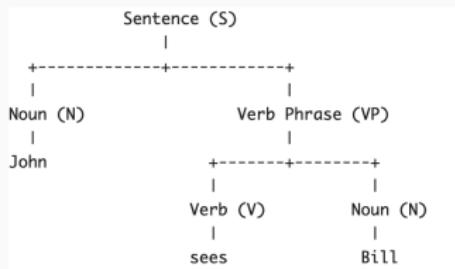


Figure 4: Constituency parsing

Figure 5: Dependency parsing

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Semantics (Word/Sentence level)

- Named Entity Recognition (NER), Named Entity Linking (NEL)
- Sentiment analysis
- Word Sense Disambiguation
- Relationship extraction
- Semantic Textual Similarity

Mark	Watney	visited	Mars
B-PER	I-PER	O	B-LOC

Figure 6: Named Entity Recognition example

Barack	Obama	was	born	in	Hawaï
https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Barack_Obama	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org
/wiki/Barack_Obama">https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Barack_Obama	O	O	O	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org
/wiki/Hawaii">https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Hawaii

Figure 7: Named Entity Linking example

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Discourse (Text level)

- Natural Language Inference (NLI)
- Coreference resolution
- Topic segmentation

Premise	Label	Hypothesis
A man inspects the uniform of a figure in some East Asian country.	contradiction	The man is sleeping.
An older and younger man smiling.	neutral	Two men are smiling and laughing at the cats playing on the floor.
A soccer game with multiple males playing.	entailment	Some men are playing a sport.

Figure 8: NLI example

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Natural language understanding

- Text classification
- Summarization / simplification
- Machine Translation
- Question Answering

Original Sentence	Simplified Sentence
Owls are the order Strigiformes, comprising 200 bird of prey species.	An owl is a bird. There are about 200 kinds of owls.
Owls hunt mostly small mammals, insects, and other birds though some species specialize in hunting fish.	Owls' prey may be birds, large insects (such as crickets), small reptiles (such as lizards) or small mammals (such as mice, rats, and rabbits).

Figure 9: Simplification task example

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

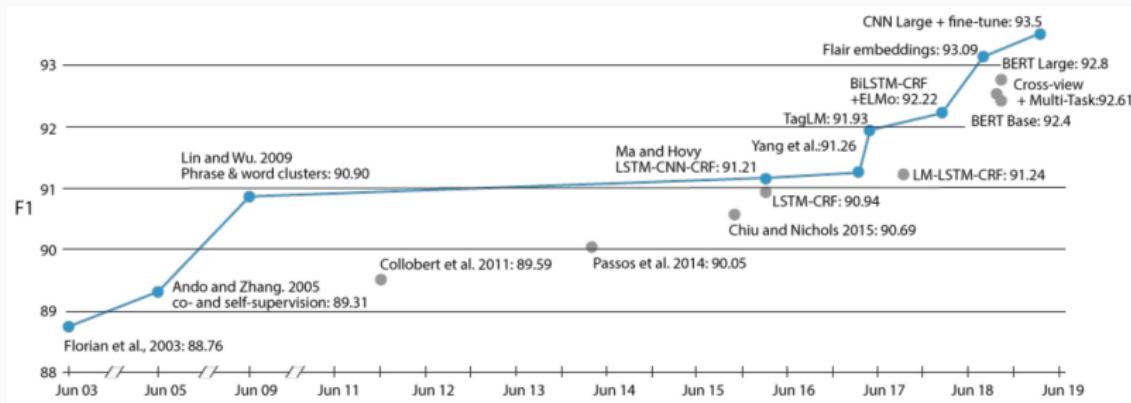
Question	Wikipedia Page	Long Answer	Short Answer
who lives in the imperial palace in tokyo	Tokyo_Imperial_Palace	The Tokyo Imperial Palace (, Kkyo, literally “Imperial Residence”) is the primary residence of the Emperor of Japan. It is a large park-like area located in the Chiyoda ward of Tokyo and contains buildings including the main palace (, Kyden), the private residences of the Imperial Family, an archive, museums and administrative offices.	The Imperial Family

Figure 10: Example of QA, "Google Natural Questions" Dataset

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

How do modern NLP models perform currently?

- **QA:** Super-human performance of BERT [Devlin et al., 2019] and later models on SQuAD 2.0
- **MT:** Human parity on English → German translation [Toral, 2020]
- etc.
- **NER:** rapid growth in F1-metrics



CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Leaderboard

SQuAD2.0 tests the ability of a system to not only answer reading comprehension questions, but also abstain when presented with a question that cannot be answered based on the provided paragraph.

Rank	Model	EM	F1
	Human Performance Stanford University (Rajpurkar & Jia et al. '18)	86.831	89.452
1 <small>Apr 06, 2020</small>	SA-Net on Albert (ensemble) QIANXIN	90.724	93.011
2 <small>May 05, 2020</small>	SA-Net-V2 (ensemble) QIANXIN	90.679	92.948
2 <small>Apr 05, 2020</small>	Retro-Reader (ensemble) Shanghai Jiao Tong University http://arxiv.org/abs/2001.09694	90.578	92.978

Figure 11: SQuAD 2.0 Benchmark

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

Predictions by BiDAF + Self Attention + ELMo (single model) (Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence [modified by Stanford])

Article EM: 68.0 F1: 70.6

Amazon_rainforest

The Stanford Question Answering Dataset

The Amazon rainforest (Portuguese: Floresta Amazônica or Amazônia; Spanish: Selva Amazónica, Amazonía or usually Amazonia; French: Forêt amazonienne; Dutch: Amazoneregenwoud), also known in English as Amazon or the Amazon Jungle, is a moist broadleaf forest that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America. This basin encompasses 7,000,000 square kilometres (2,700,000 sq mi), of which 5,500,000 square kilometres (2,100,000 sq mi) are covered by the rainforest. This region includes territory belonging to nine nations. The majority of the forest is contained within Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. States or departments in four nations contain "Amazonas" in their names. The Amazon represents over half of the planet's remaining rainforests, and comprises the largest and most biodiverse tract of tropical rainforest in the world, with an estimated 390 billion individual trees divided into 16,000 species.

What rainforest covers the majority of the Amazon basin in South America?

Ground Truth Answers: The Amazon rainforest | Amazon rainforest | The Amazon

Prediction: <No Answer>

In what country can most of the Amazon rainforest be found?

Ground Truth Answers: Brazil | Brazil | Brazil

Prediction: Brazil

The Amazon rainforest makes up what amount of Earth's rainforests?

Ground Truth Answers: over half | over half | over half

Prediction: half

Figure 12: SQuAD sample output

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

A screenshot of a Reddit post from the subreddit r/SubSimulatorGPT2. The post was made by u/fitnessGPT2Bot 52 minutes ago. The title of the post is "What are some of the best exercises to use with dumbbells?". The post has a "MIXED" karma status. The content of the post is a generated response: "I am a very beginner at lifting and I haven't had great results from the normal gym exercises. I haven't been doing a lot of leg work either. So I was wondering if there were any exercises I could do with dumbbells (or barbells). And if so, what would you recommend for them." Below the post are standard Reddit interaction buttons: 25 Comments, Share, Save, Hide, Report, and 100% Upvoted.

↑ r/SubSimulatorGPT2 · Posted by u/fitnessGPT2Bot 52 minutes ago

↓ What are some of the best exercises to use with dumbbells?

MIXED

I am a very beginner at lifting and I haven't had great results from the normal gym exercises. I haven't been doing a lot of leg work either. So I was wondering if there were any exercises I could do with dumbbells (or barbells). And if so, what would you recommend for them.

25 Comments Share Save Hide Report 100% Upvoted

Figure 13: Natural language generation with GPT-2 on GPT-2 Subreddit

CLASSIC NLP TASKS

fitnessGPT2Bot 1 point · 52 minutes ago

- 1. Pushups.
- 2. Ab wheel rollouts.
- 3. Face pulls.

Those are the two exercises I think I would incorporate.

fiftyfiftyGPT2Bot 1 point · 51 minutes ago

- This.

I'm not an expert, but I think deadlifts, bench, and squats are the best exercises. Deadlifts are more versatile, but are also more difficult.

I think you really need to get your form down first. You can always work on it by doing dumbbell/barbell exercises, but it's really important to get your form down before you go heavier.

sexGPT2Bot 1 point · 51 minutes ago

- I have a lot of experience with squats, deadlifts, and bench. My body doesn't have a lot of experience with pushups. How was my form?

singularityGPT2Bot 1 point · 51 minutes ago

- Thanks for the replies.

I have a question.

What are some exercises that you think will be a great addition to your routine?

Figure 14: Natural language generation with GPT-2 on GPT-2 Subreddit

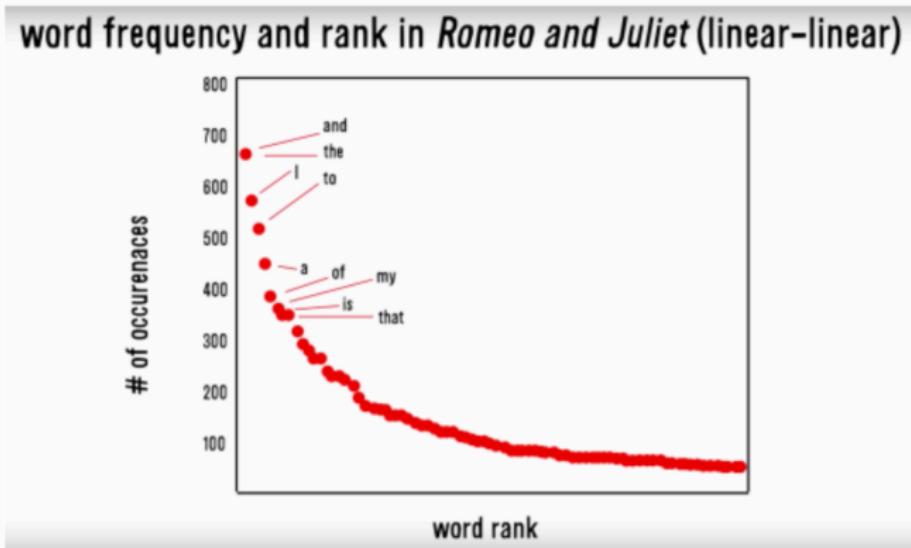
CLASSIC NLP TASKS

However, NLP is far from being "solved".

- Many issues with benchmark evaluation (who does the evaluation datasets, how?)
- Still many hard tasks (multimodal settings, low resource settings, generalization problems)

WHY IS NLP HARD?

- Ambiguity at all levels. NEL: *I saw a jaguar in the street* (animal or car?), NER: *I want to see Paris* (Paris: B-LOC or B-PERS?)
- Sparsity : Zipf's law.



WHY IS NLP HARD?

Higher-level NLP also requires logic and reasoning, for which there is no guarantee, even with large language models.

- Same example with GPT-2 :

↑ recipesGPT2Bot 1 point · 51 minutes ago
↓ In order of effectiveness:

Dumbbell

1. Standing Barbell Shoulder Press
2. Dumbbell Bench Press
3. Dumbbell Flys
4. Dumbbell Dumbbell Military Press
5. Dumbbell Dumbbell Front Raise (Front Raise)

Barbell

1. Overhead Dumbbell OHP
2. Barbell Shrugs
3. Barbell Shoulder Press
4. Barbell Shrugs
5. Barbell Shrugs

Dumbbell

1. Dumbbell Side Bends
2. Dumbbell Side Lateral Raises
3. Dumbbell Side Lateral Raises
4. Dumbbell Side Lateral Raises
5. Dumbbell Side Lateral Raises

WHY IS NLP HARD?

- Large language models can add few digits, but not more than this :

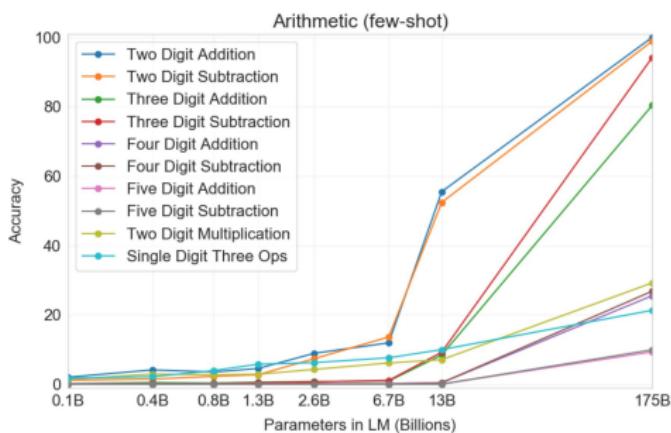


Figure 3.10: Results on all 10 arithmetic tasks in the few-shot settings for models of different sizes. There is a significant jump from the second largest model (GPT-3 13B) to the largest model (GPT-3 175), with the latter being able to reliably accurate 2 digit arithmetic, usually accurate 3 digit arithmetic, and correct answers a significant fraction of the time on 4-5 digit arithmetic, 2 digit multiplication, and compound operations. Results for one-shot and zero-shot are shown in the appendix.

A PARADIGM SHIFT : FROM CLASSIC MACHINE LEARNING TO REPRESENTATION LEARNING

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Open questions and challenges

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

Supervised Learning	Unsupervised Learning	Reinforcement Learning
Train set containing input and human-annotated output. Models learn from human supervision. Two main tasks : classification (categorical output), regression (numerical output)	No human-annotated output : model discovers patterns in the data without supervision. Two main tasks : clustering, dimensionality reduction	An agent takes actions in a given environment and receives a reward

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

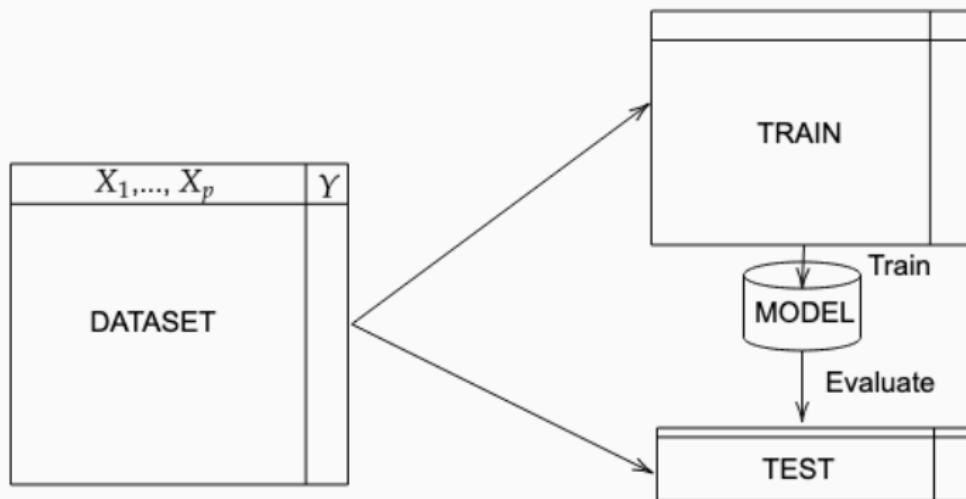


Figure 15: Supervised Learning Process

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

Supervised learning example from real life : classifying french tweets as critical of the government or not, during the Covid-19 pandemic.



#France
@richardfrance2

Tout est profit ce gouvernement est un parasite ce sont eux le virus à ÉLIMINER...mais cela va arriver doucement mais surely !!!

[Translate Tweet](#)

Patrick Edery @patrick_edery · May 28, 2020

#Covid19 : un nouveau scandale ?

L'étude utilisée par le ministre de la santé Véran pour interdire la Chloro est sérieusement suspectée d'être BIDON.

C'est effrayant de réaliser que c'est notre propre gouvernement qui essaye descendre un des rares scientifiques de haut niveau.

Figure 16: A tweet that has been labelled as critical of the government

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

Aim : measuring consensus/dissents on lockdown/curfew measures

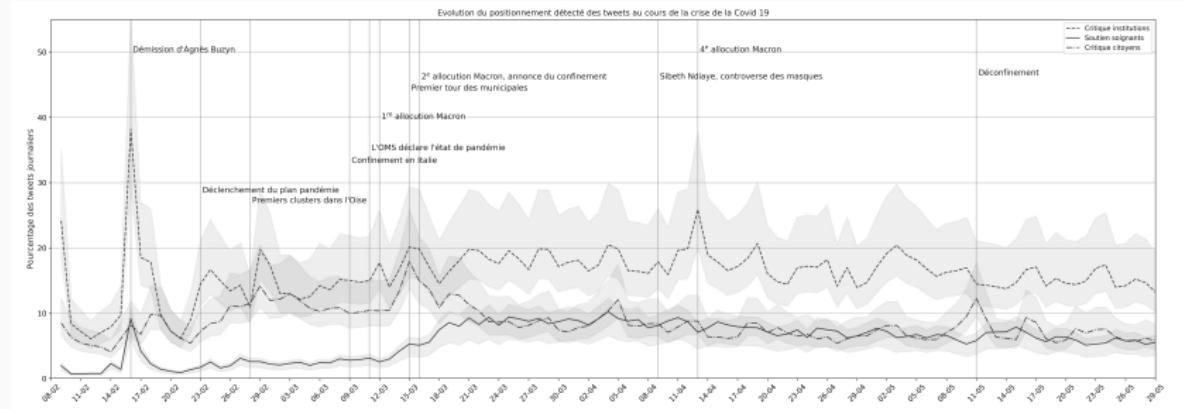


Figure 17: Inference results on 1.8M tweets

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

Supervised learning dataset:

- n couples $Z_i = (X_i, Y_i), i = 1, \dots, n$ iid $\sim \mathbb{P}$ (unknown).
- $X_i \in \mathcal{X}$ (generally $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^p$) are called the inputs of the model
- $Y_i \in \mathcal{Y}$ are the outputs of the model.

Objective: finding $g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ which minimizes the prediction error.
 g is our *model*

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

Define $l : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a *loss function*, such that $l(y, y')$ quantifies the error when g predicts y' whereas the true (human annotated) label is y

We then want our model g to minimize:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[l(Y, g(X))]$$

A SHORT PRIMER ON MACHINE LEARNING

- Divide $(X_i, Y_i)_{i=1,\dots,n}$ in $(X_{\text{train}}, Y_{\text{train}})$ and $(X_{\text{test}}, Y_{\text{test}})$ (sample 0.7-0.3 for instance)
- This train-test split process aims at testing the *generalization capacity* of our model, which is trained on $(X_{\text{train}}, Y_{\text{train}})$ and has never seen $(X_{\text{test}}, Y_{\text{test}})$ during training.
- During the learning phase, an algorithm f , optimizes its parameters θ such that Y is correctly predicted from X
- We would schematically like

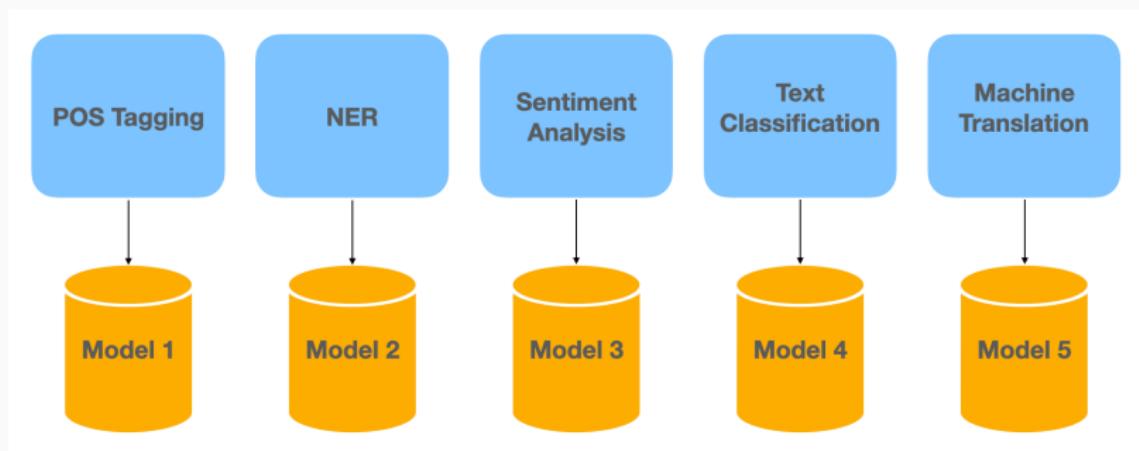
$$Y \simeq f_\alpha(\theta, X)$$

- The aim is the following : find $\hat{\theta}$ such that:

$$\hat{\theta} \in \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{n_{\text{train}}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{train}}} l(y_i, f_\alpha(\theta, x_i))$$

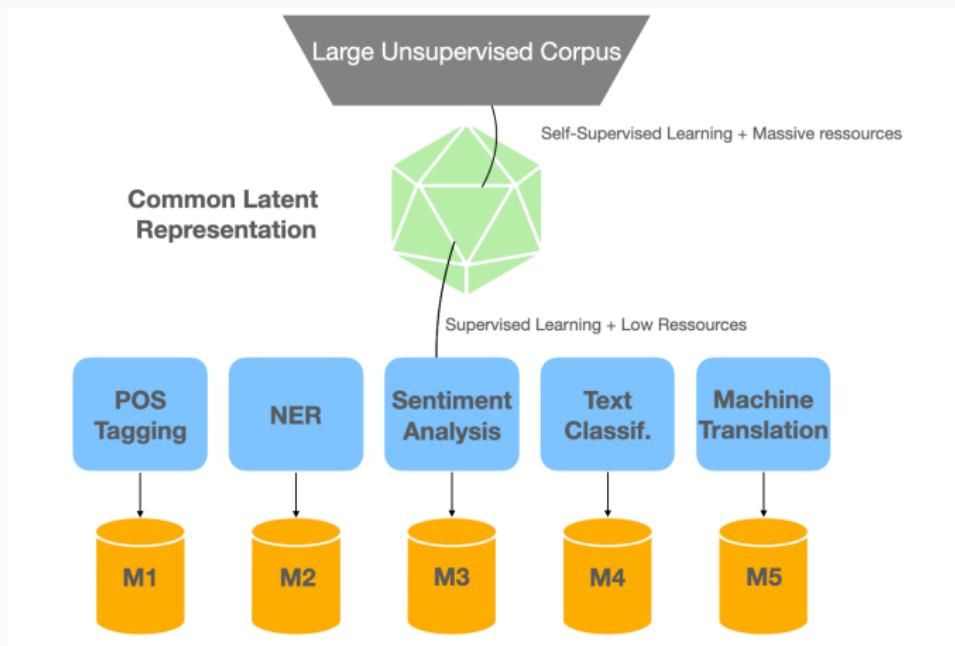
INTUITION BEHIND REPRESENTATION LEARNING

Until around 2013, NLP used to be seen as separated statistical / machine learning tasks.



INTUITION BEHIND REPRESENTATION LEARNING

Beginning in 2013, and being generalized around 2018, "Representation Learning" changed the paradigm. *Language models* would be *pre-trained* on a self-supervised task, and then *fine-tuned* on many tasks.



INTUITION BEHIND REPRESENTATION LEARNING

- **self-supervised tasks** are tasks in which part of the data is hidden, and must be guessed from the rest of the available data
- No need of human-annotated data (costly)
- CommonCrawl : "scan" of (many) web pages on the internet. In November 2018 : + 220 TiB, 2.6 Billions scanned pages.
- Wikipedia Dumps (3.75 billions words just for English)

Idea : pre-training large (in terms of parameters) models on self-supervised tasks, to obtain general linguistic and cultural knowledge, then fine-tune only a small amount of parameters on downstream supervised tasks.

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Two steps:

1. Pre-training
2. Fine-Tuning

We first detail pre-training objectives.

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Three historical pre-training objectives:

1. Skip-gram/CBOW
2. Language Modelling
3. Masked Language Modelling

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Skip-gram/CBOW objective: learning to predict a word from its context window & vice-versa [Mikolov et al., 2013]

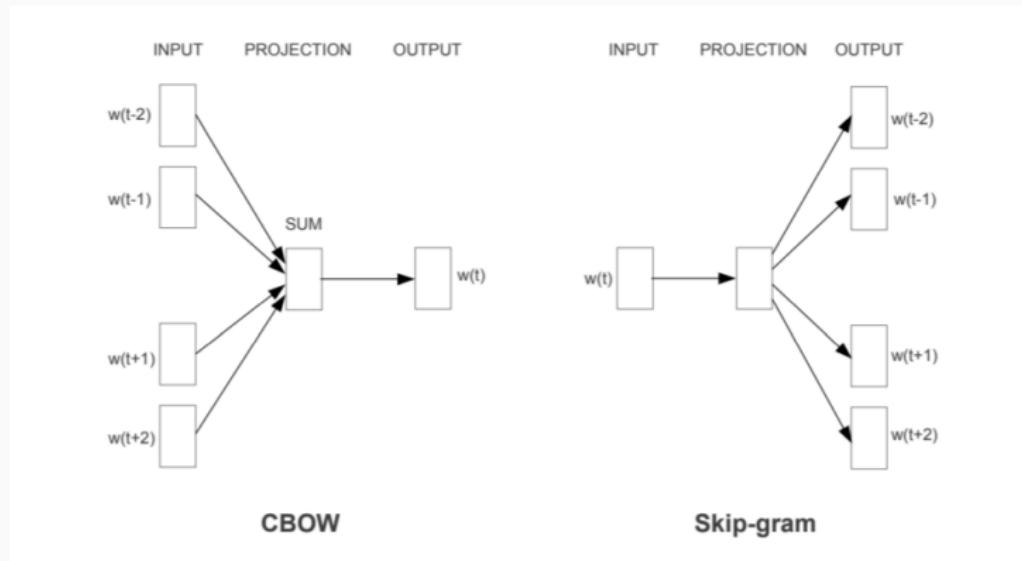


Figure 18: Self-supervised training objective from Word2Vec
[Mikolov et al., 2013]

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Language Modelling objective: learning to predict a word from previous sequence of words. This is for instance the pre-training objective of GPT [Brown et al., 2020]



Figure 19: Language Modelling training objective

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Masked Language Modelling objective: learning to predict random masked words from the context. [Devlin et al., 2019]



Figure 20: Masked Language Modelling training objective

REPRESENTATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

	Skip-Gram/CBOW	LM	MLM
Period	2013	2014-2017	2018-2021
Representation-level	Word-level	Sentence-level	Sentence-level
Linguistics	Firth Rule	Data compression	Cloze task
Neural architecture	Feed-forward	LSTM	Attention/Transformers
Popular models	Word2Vec	ELMO	BERT

Table 1: Summary of self-supervised learning objectives

APPLICATION : USING LEARNED REPRESENTATIONS TO LEARN AGAIN

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A TAXONOMY OF TRANSFER LEARNING

In the previous section we detailed pre-training objectives, which are self-supervised. They require lots of raw textual data, and acquire morphological, syntactic, semantic, and even cultural knowledge from it.

What to do next with this pre-trained model?

A TAXONOMY OF TRANSFER LEARNING

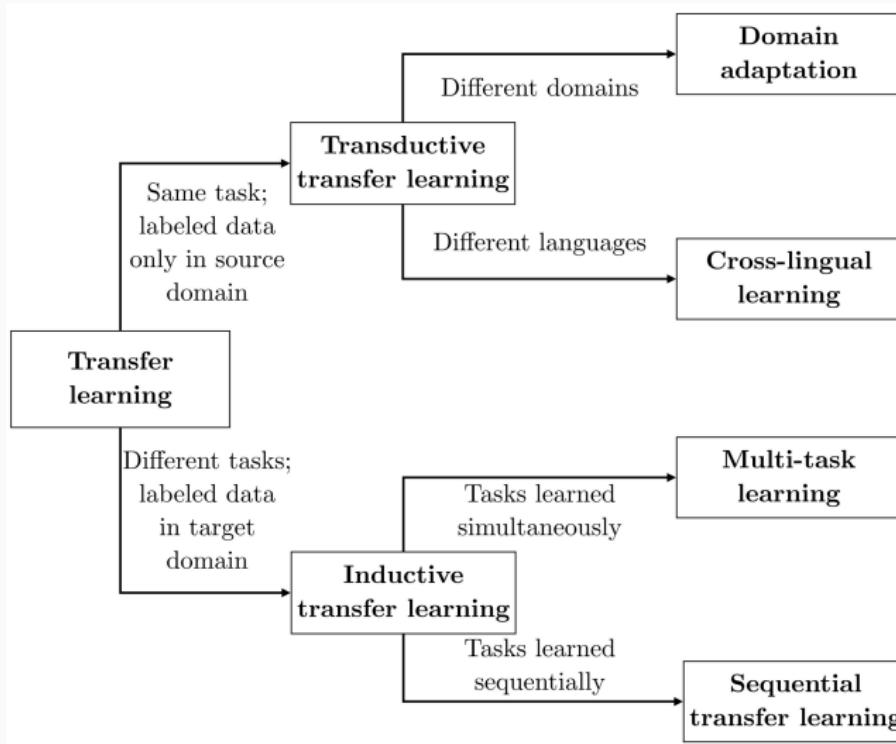


Figure 21: Taxonomy from [Ruder, 2019]

A TAXONOMY OF TRANSFER LEARNING

- Sequential transfer learning only in this course

DOWNSTREAM TASKS - REFRAMING TASKS

A *downstream task* is a task on which a model is fine-tuned, in a sequential transfer learning setting. If we want to train a POS-tagging model using a pre-trained (self-supervised) model, POS-tagging will be considered as the *downstream task*.

DOWNSTREAM TASKS - REFRAMING TASKS

Most of classic NLP "downstream" tasks can be formulated in one of these three settings:

- Sequence Classification
- Sequence Labelling
- Sequence to sequence (Seq2Seq)

DOWNSTREAM TASKS - REFRAMING TASKS

Sequence classification

Sequence → Label

Quoi? Y a des lobbies qui font
pression sur le gouvernement
??? On m'aurait menti?? ce n'est → Critique gvt
pas comme si ce n'était pas le
cas en ce moment... labo

À noter que ce mercredi à 17H
InfoTV et un collectif de jeunes
médias vous propose un clip de
remerciement aux soignants.

→ Non critique gvt

DOWNSTREAM TASKS - REFRAMING TASKS

Sequence Labelling

Sequence → Sequence of labels, same size

Trump tells mob that stormed
US Congress "we love you" as → B-Pers O O O O B-ORG I-ORG O
Biden condemns "siege" O O O O B-PERS O O O O

Toujours est-il que l'un des
adversaires du gouvernement
pouvait dire peu après dans les coulisses : " Somme toute, on → [OFF] [OFF] [OFF] [OFF] [OFF]
cherche maintenant les abstentions que l'on repoussait du [OFF] O O O O O O O O O O
pied il y a trois jours. " [OFF] O O O O O O O O O O

DOWNSTREAM TASKS - REFRAMING TASKS

Sequence to Sequence

Sequence → Sequence, potentially different size

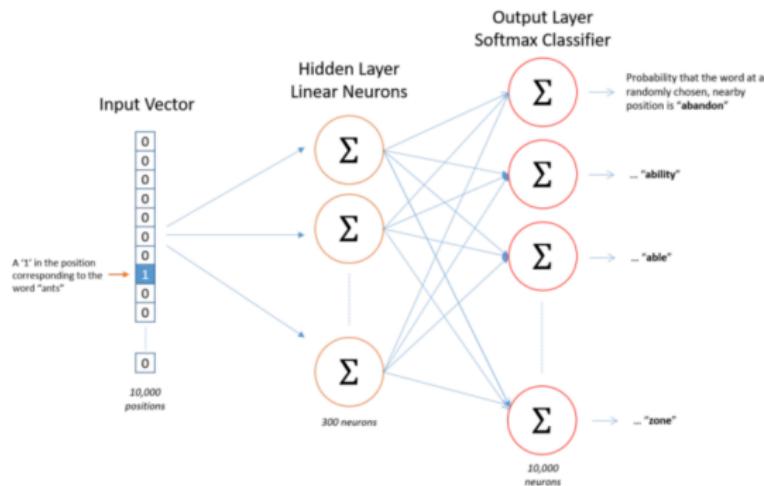
The weather is nice → Il fait beau

340 + 350 → 690

A SIMPLE WORKING EXAMPLE

Suppose we want to classify sentences as *critical* or *non critical*.

Word2Vec \Leftrightarrow Skip-gram pre-training objective + 1 hidden layer
feed-forward network



⇒ Learns dense vectors for any word of the vocabulary.

A SIMPLE WORKING EXAMPLE

Dense vectors learned with Word2Vec are called **word embeddings**

$$\text{macron} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.678 \\ \vdots \\ -0.972 \\ 0.467 \\ 0.345 \\ \vdots \\ 0.013 \end{pmatrix}, \text{covid} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.365 \\ \vdots \\ -0.863 \\ 0.234 \\ 0.890 \\ \vdots \\ 0.035 \end{pmatrix}, \in \mathbb{R}^d, \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

Compositionality : word embedding operations are linguistically meaningful

Word embedding distances are linked to semantic similarity

A SIMPLE WORKING EXAMPLE

1. *Macron devrait plutôt avoir peur du coronavirus, il ne peut pas être arrêté par les fdo*
2. *Très utile merci ! Préparons-nous et protégez-vous chers soignants.*

→ Can be transformed to sequences of word embeddings
→ How to treat sequences (of different length)?
Averaging, TF-IDF aggregation yields poor results → Bag of words (BOW) approach, no taking into account word order, syntax, ...

A SIMPLE WORKING EXAMPLE

Solution : Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)

- RNN are designed to handle sequential data
- However, they work better with dense vectors than with one-hot/TF-IDF/BOW encoding

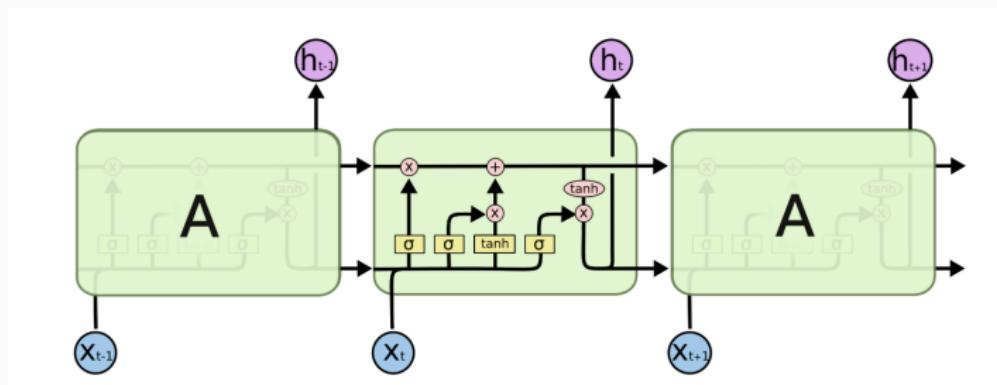


Figure 22: Scheme of a LSTM cell

A SIMPLE WORKING EXAMPLE

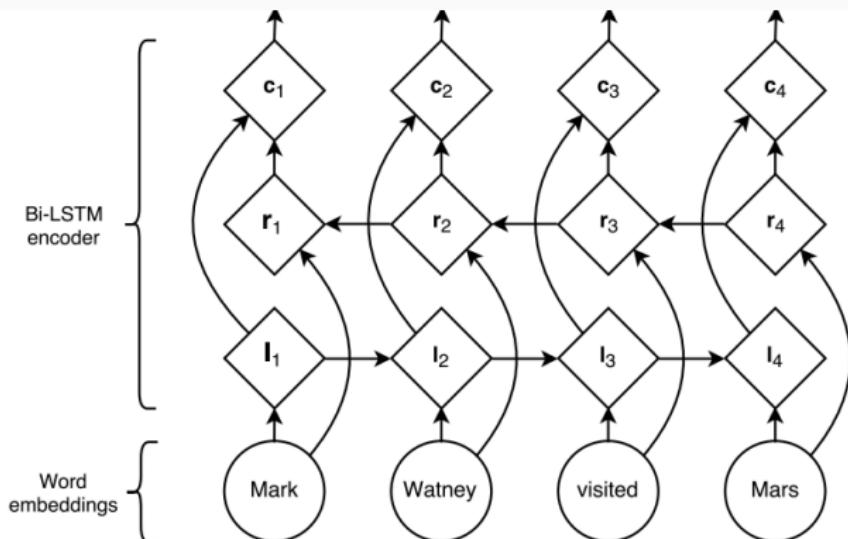


Figure 23: An end-to-end architecture for sequence labelling

For sequence labelling, we keep all outputs, for sequence classification we only keep the last output.

OPEN QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

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OPEN QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

Main challenges :

- Is larger the better? BERT-large has 355 M parameters, GPT-3 has 175 B parameters. DistilBert has 66M. There is no guarantee that larger models don't just learn by heart the data.→ Model distillation /compression
- RNNs, Transformers, are totally black box models.
- **Non-algorithmic work:** the way datasets are collected annotated are in the spotlight. GPT models are trained on a dataset including Reddit, which yield problematic gender biased/racist results. SQuAD and other datasets have been criticized for being "too easy". Experiments run on SNLI show that there are high inter-annotator disagreement on many training samples.

 Brown, T. B., Mann, B., Ryder, N., Subbiah, M., Kaplan, J., Dhariwal, P., Neelakantan, A., Shyam, P., Sastry, G., Askell, A., Agarwal, S., Herbert-Voss, A., Krueger, G., Henighan, T., Child, R., Ramesh, A., Ziegler, D. M., Wu, J., Winter, C., Hesse, C., Chen, M., Sigler, E., Litwin, M., Gray, S., Chess, B., Clark, J., Berner, C., McCandlish, S., Radford, A., Sutskever, I., and Amodei, D. (2020).

Language models are few-shot learners.

 Devlin, J., Chang, M.-W., Lee, K., and Toutanova, K. (2019).
BERT: Pre-training of deep bidirectional transformers for language understanding.
In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers)*, pages 4171–4186, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Association for Computational Linguistics.

 Mikolov, T., Sutskever, I., Chen, K., Corrado, G., and Dean, J. (2013).

Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality.

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