

# Differentiable Adaptive Sparsity For Neural Networks

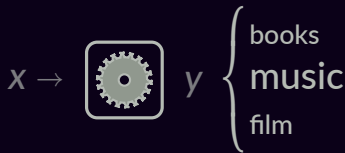
**Vlad Niculae**

Instituto de Telecomunicações

# Choosing Between $K$ Options

A building block in many ML tasks!

multi-class classification

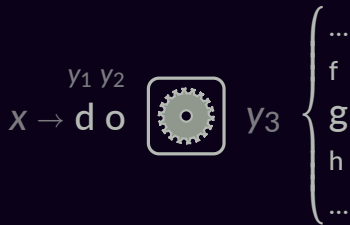


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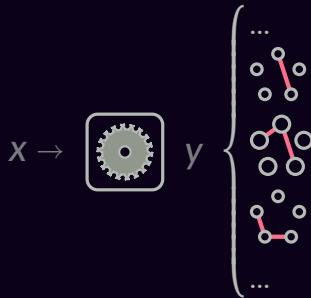
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structured output prediction



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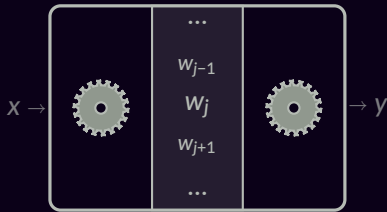
multi-class classification

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structured output prediction

neural attention

} output

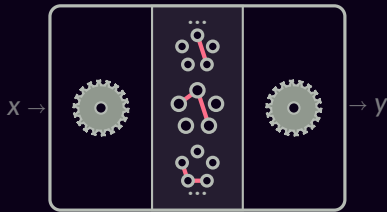


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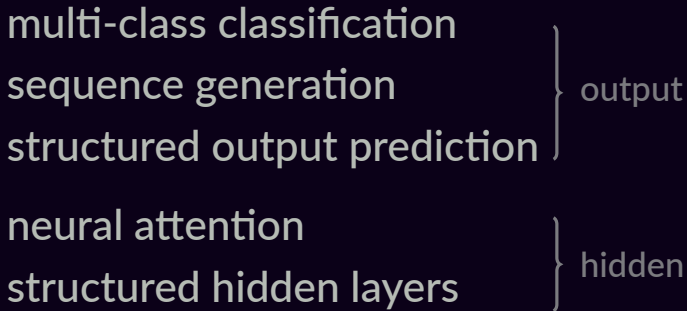
multi-class classification  
sequence generation  
structured output prediction  
neural attention  
structured hidden layers

} output



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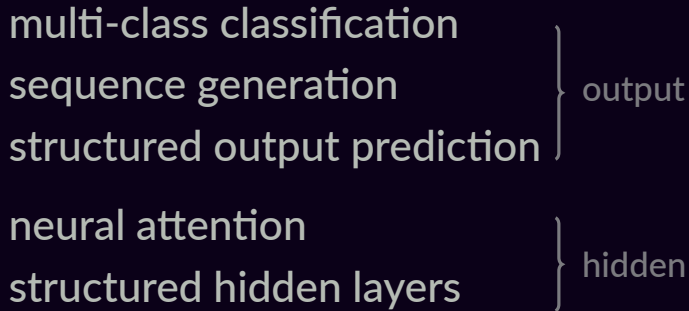
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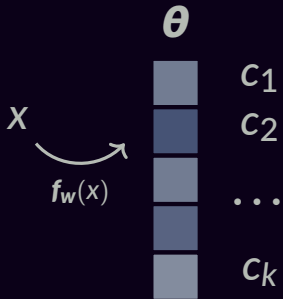


Deterministic **sparse & structured mappings** and losses  
via a general, constructive framework.

# Outline

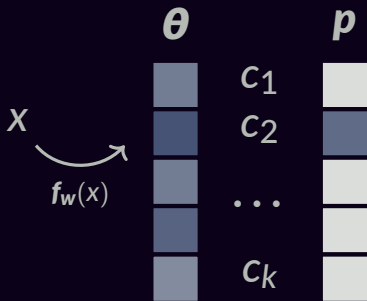
1. Warm-Up: Well-Known Losses and Mappings
2. Regularized Prediction Functions
3. Fenchel-Young Losses
4. Sparse Sequence-to-Sequence Models
5. Adaptively Sparse Transformers
6. Sparse Structured Prediction

# Perceptron & Argmax



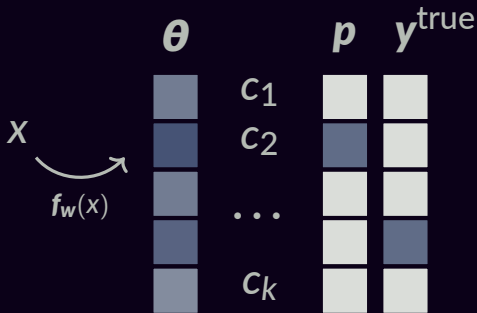
# Perceptron & Argmax

$$p := \operatorname{argmax}(\theta)$$



- very sparse predictions

# Perceptron & Argmax



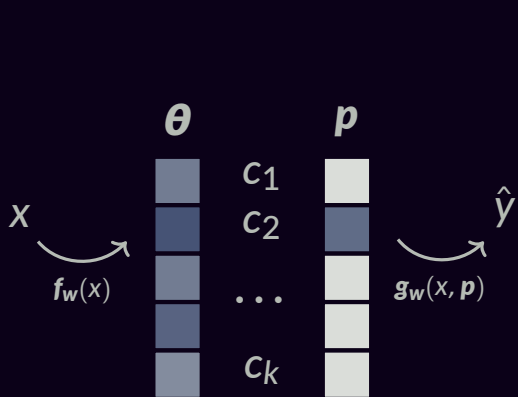
$$p := \text{argmax}(\theta)$$

$$L(\theta; y^{\text{true}}) = \langle \theta, p \rangle - \langle \theta, y^{\text{true}} \rangle$$

$$\partial_{\theta} L(\theta; y^{\text{true}}) \ni p - y^{\text{true}}$$

- very sparse predictions
- famous update rule

# Perceptron & Argmax



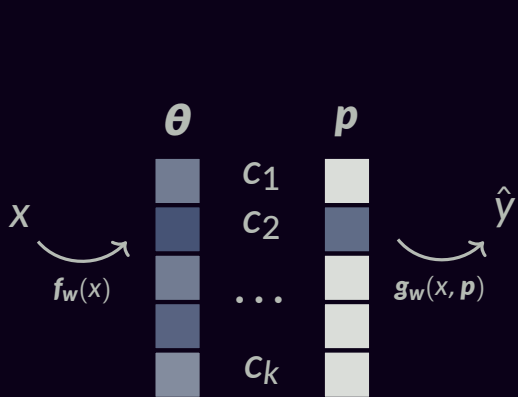
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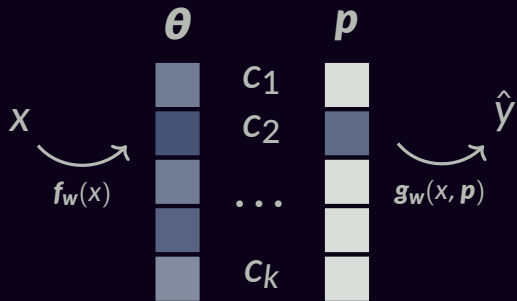
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- can't use as hidden layer:  $\frac{\partial p}{\partial \theta} = \mathbf{0}$  a.e.

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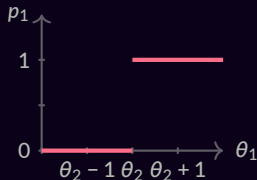


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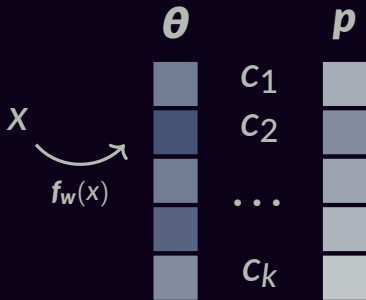
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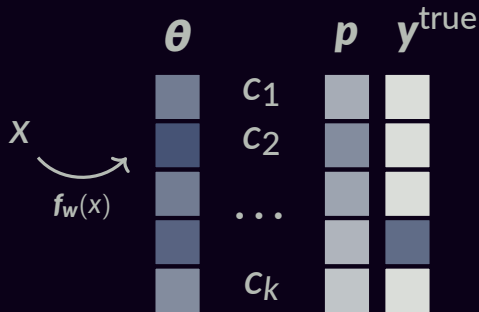
# Logistic Regression & Softmax

$$p := \text{softmax}(\theta)$$



- dense predictive distribution (Gibbs)

# Logistic Regression & Softmax



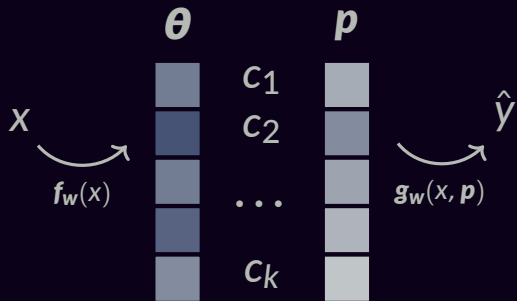
$$p := \text{softmax}(\theta)$$

$$L(\theta; y^{\text{true}}) = \log \sum_j \exp \theta_j - \langle \theta, y^{\text{true}} \rangle$$

$$\nabla_{\theta} L(\theta; y^{\text{true}}) = p - y^{\text{true}}$$

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- loss gradient:  
*expected – observed statistics*

# Logistic Regression & Softmax



$$\mathbf{p} := \text{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

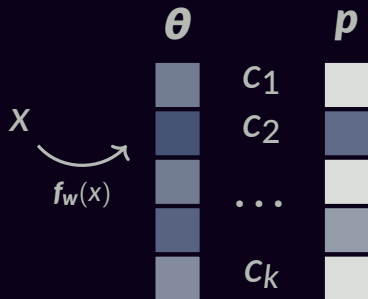
$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) = \log \sum_j \exp \theta_j - \langle \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}} \rangle$$

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- dense predictive distribution (Gibbs)
- loss gradient:  
*expected* – *observed* statistics
- soft hidden layers:  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{p}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{p}) - \mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}^T$   
(neural attention)

# Sparsemax

$$\mathbf{p} := \text{sparsemax}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \text{proj}_{\Delta}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$



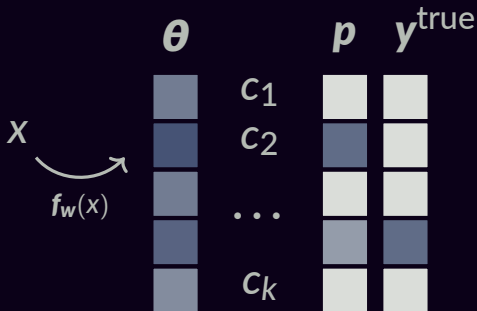
- sparse predictive distribution

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$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) = ?$$

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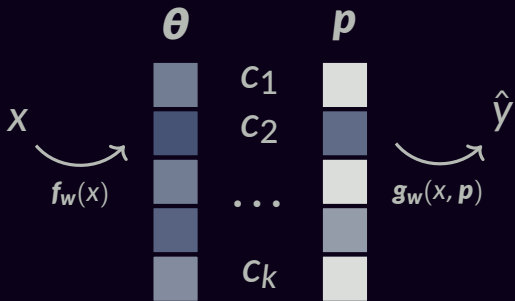
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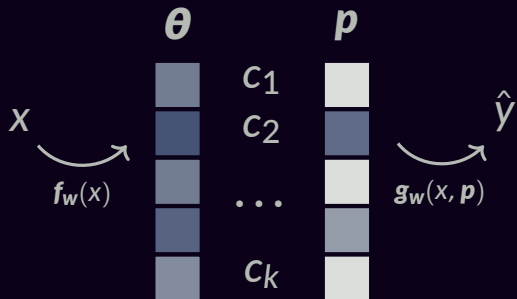
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*where do softmax-like functions come from?*

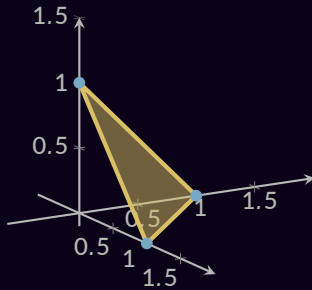
# A Softmax Origin Story



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*First, some background.*

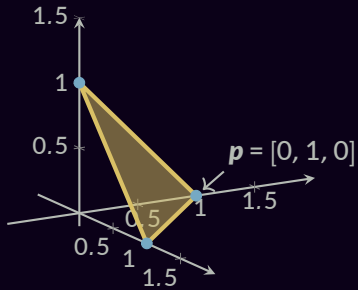
The simplex  $\Delta := \{\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^k : \mathbf{p} \geq \mathbf{0}, \sum_j p_j = 1\}$



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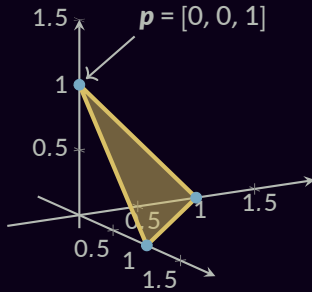
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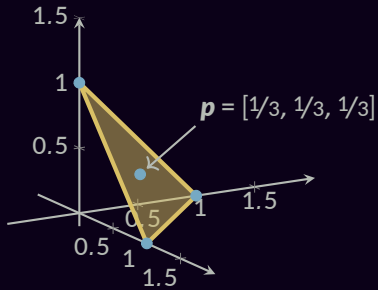
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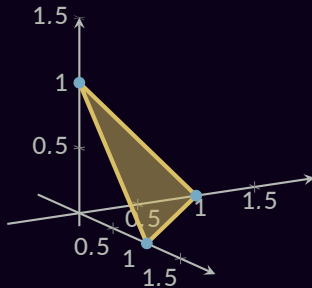


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Extended value functions  $f: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$



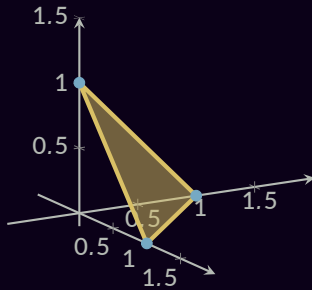
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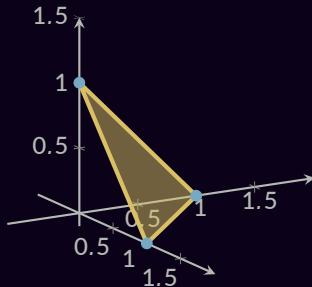
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Indicator function: 
$$I_S(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \mathbf{x} \in S \\ \infty, & \mathbf{x} \notin S \end{cases}$$



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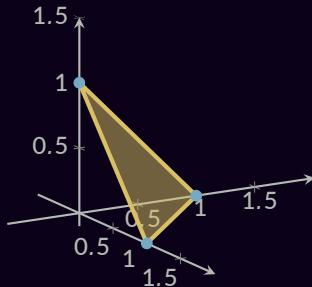
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$(f + l_S$  is  $f$  restricted to  $S$ )





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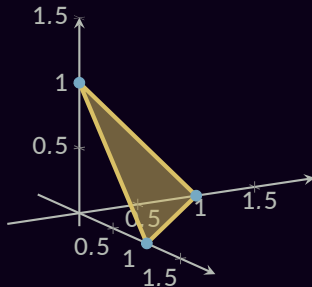
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$(f + \iota_S)$  is  $f$  restricted to  $S$

Fenchel conjugate of  $f : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$  :

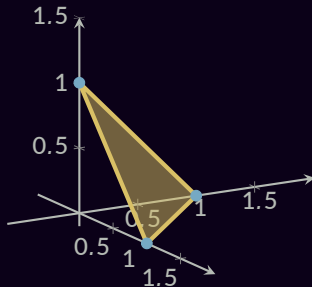
$$f^*(\mathbf{x}) := \sup_{\mathbf{p} \in \text{dom}(f)} \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x} \rangle - f(\mathbf{p})$$



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Let  $\Omega = \iota_{\Delta}$ . Then,

$$\Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \max_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle$$

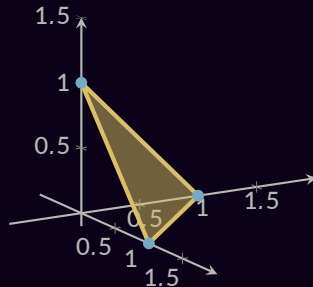


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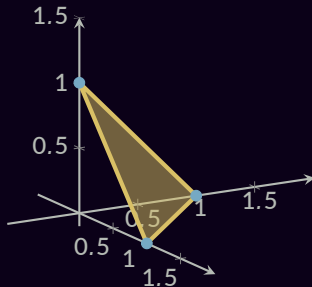


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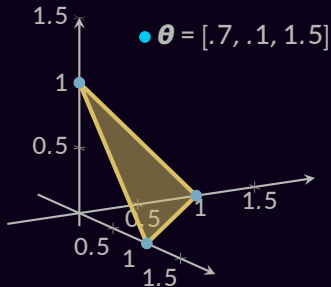


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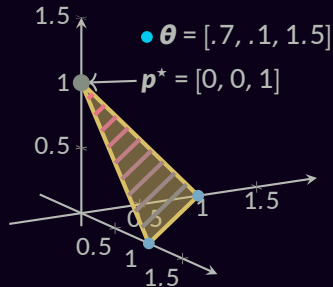


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$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle = \{\mathbf{p}^*\}$$

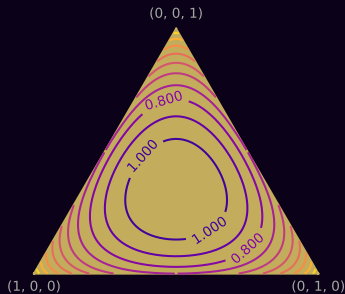
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Shannon entropy of  $\mathbf{p}$   $H_1(\mathbf{p}) := -\sum_j p_j \log p_j$



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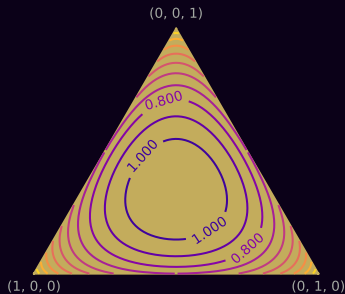
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Let  $\Omega = -H_1(\mathbf{p}) + \iota_{\Delta}$ . Then,





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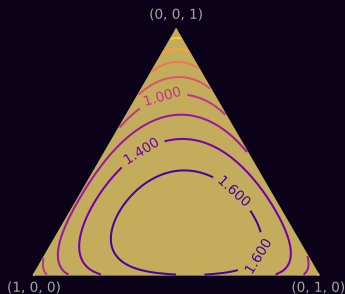
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$$\nabla \Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle + H_1(\mathbf{p}) = \operatorname{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$



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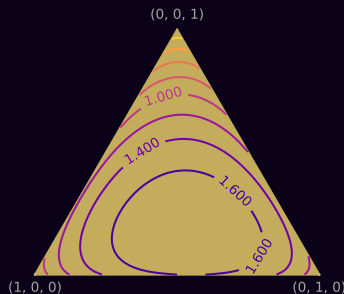
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**Softmax is an entropy-regularized argmax!**



# Outline

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2. Regularized Prediction Functions
3. Fenchel-Young Losses
4. Sparse Sequence-to-Sequence Models
5. Adaptively Sparse Transformers
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# Regularized Prediction Functions

A family of softmax-like mappings

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \underset{\boldsymbol{p} \in \text{dom}(\Omega)}{\text{argmax}} \langle \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle - \Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = \nabla \Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

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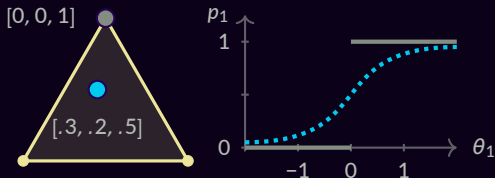
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Let  $\text{dom}(\Omega) = \Delta$ . We recover

- argmax:  $\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = 0$
- softmax:  $\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = -H_1(\boldsymbol{p}) = \sum_j p_j \log p_j$



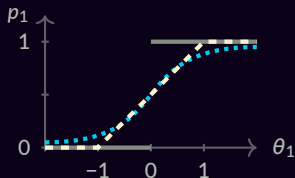
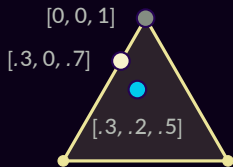
# Regularized Prediction Functions

A family of softmax-like mappings

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \underset{\boldsymbol{p} \in \text{dom}(\Omega)}{\text{argmax}} \langle \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle - \Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = \nabla \Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Let  $\text{dom}(\Omega) = \Delta$ . We recover

- argmax:  $\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = 0$
- softmax:  $\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = -H_1(\boldsymbol{p}) = \sum_j p_j \log p_j$
- sparsemax:  $\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = -H_2(\boldsymbol{p}) = 1/2 \sum_j p_j(p_j - 1)$



# Regularized Prediction Functions

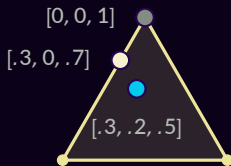
Regularization brings:



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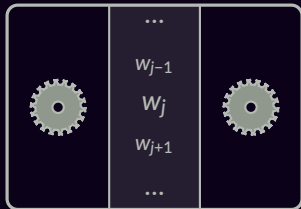
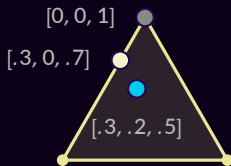
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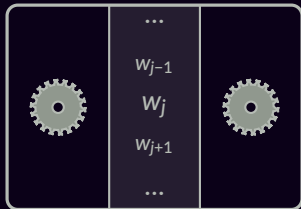
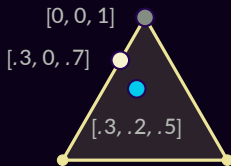
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 $\Omega$  strongly convex  $\Rightarrow \Omega^*$  smooth,  
 $\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\pi}_\Omega$  **differentiable** almost everywhere

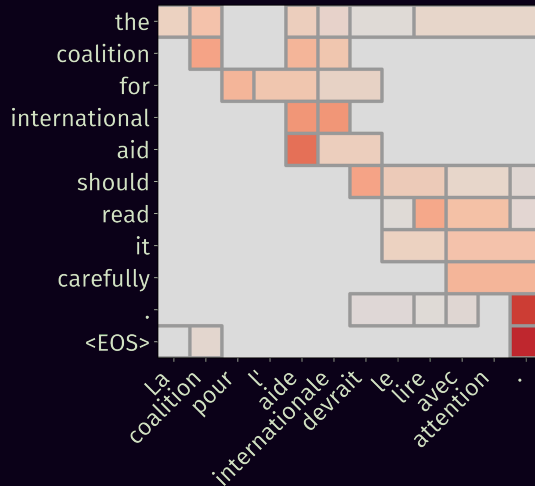


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 $\Omega$  strongly convex  $\Rightarrow \Omega^*$  smooth,  
 $\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\pi}_\Omega$  **differentiable** almost everywhere
- ability to add **inductive bias**





$$\text{fusedmax: } \Omega(\mathbf{p}) = -H_2(\mathbf{p}) + \sum_{j=1}^k |p_i - p_{i-1}|$$

# Outline

1. Warm-Up: Well-Known Losses and Mappings
2. Regularized Prediction Functions
3. Fenchel-Young Losses
4. Sparse Sequence-to-Sequence Models
5. Adaptively Sparse Transformers
6. Sparse Structured Prediction

perceptron  $\iff$  argmax  
logistic regression  $\iff$  softmax

What motivates this connection?

# Fenchel-Young Losses

$$L_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) := \Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \Omega(\mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) - \langle \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}} \rangle$$

$\Omega$ : a regularizer  
 $\mathbf{y}^{\text{true}} \in \text{dom}(\Omega)$ : target (e.g.  $\mathbf{e}_k$ )  
 $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ : prediction scores

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1. Non-negativity:

$$L_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) \geq 0$$

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The natural loss for the mapping  $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}$ .

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3. Convex and differentiable:

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} L_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}) = \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathbf{y}^{\text{true}}$$

# Well-Known Fenchel-Young Losses

	$\text{dom}(\Omega)$	$\Omega(\mathbf{p})$	$\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
Perceptron	$\Delta^k$	0	$\text{argmax}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
Logistic Regression	$\Delta^k$	$-\text{H}_1(\mathbf{p})$	$\text{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
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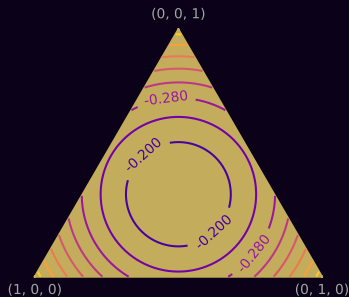
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... and more!			

# Generalized Entropies

A function  $H(\mathbf{p})$  quantifying uncertainty in  $\mathbf{p} \in \Delta^k$ :

1.  $H(\mathbf{p}) = 0$  if  $\mathbf{p} \in \{\mathbf{e}_k\}$
2.  $H$  strictly concave
3.  $H(\mathbf{p}) = H(\mathbf{P}\mathbf{p})$   
(permutation-invariant)



Tsallis entropies, Rényi entropies, norm entropies, etc.



# Tsallis Entropies

$$H_{\alpha}(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{\alpha(\alpha - 1)} \sum_j (p_j - p_j^{\alpha})$$

$\alpha \rightarrow 1$     Shannon

$\alpha = 2$      Gini

$\alpha \rightarrow \infty$    0

# Tsallis Entropies

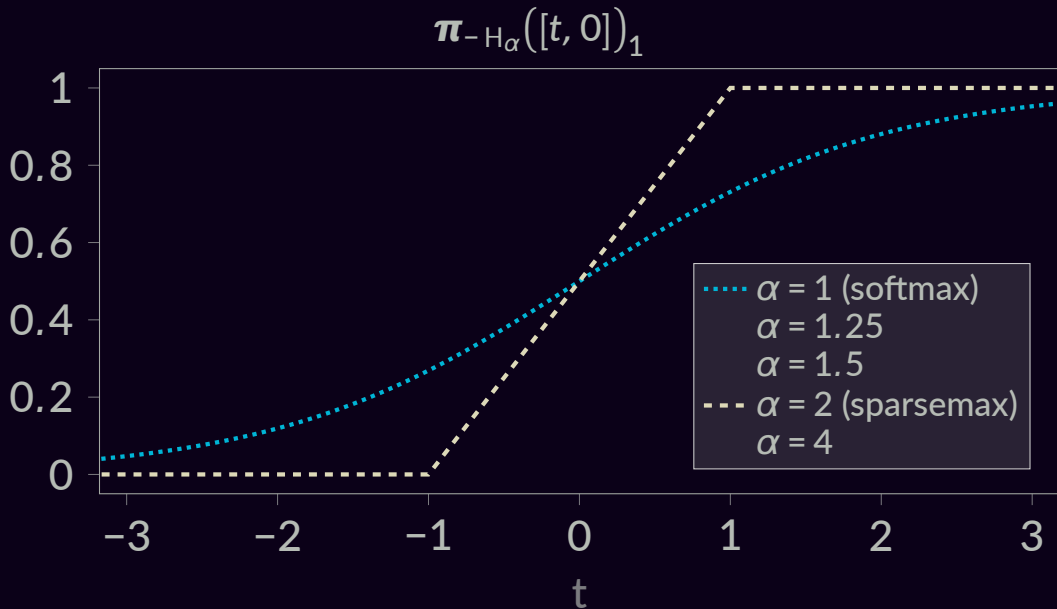
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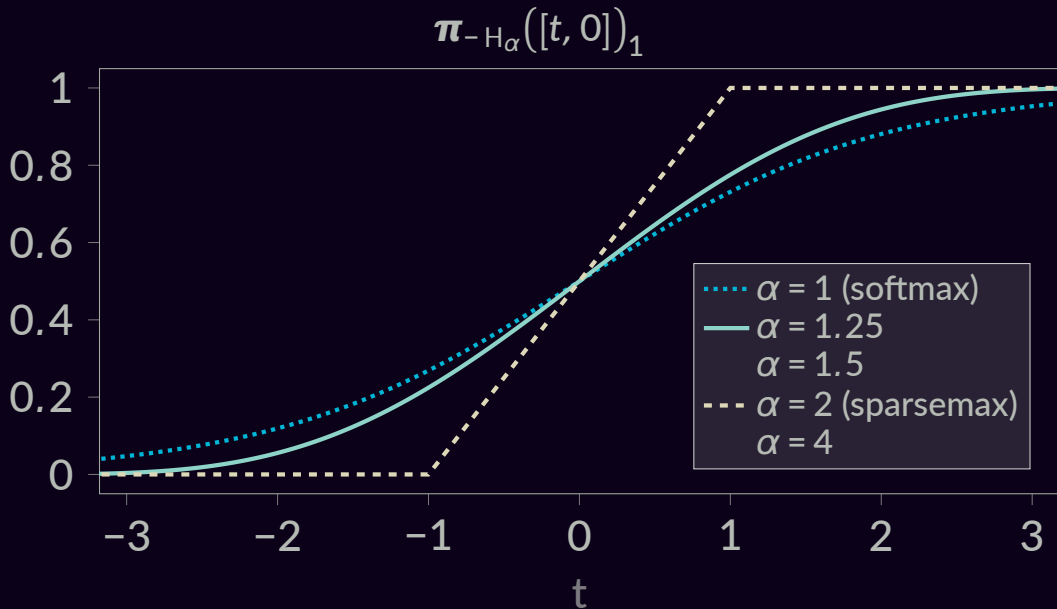
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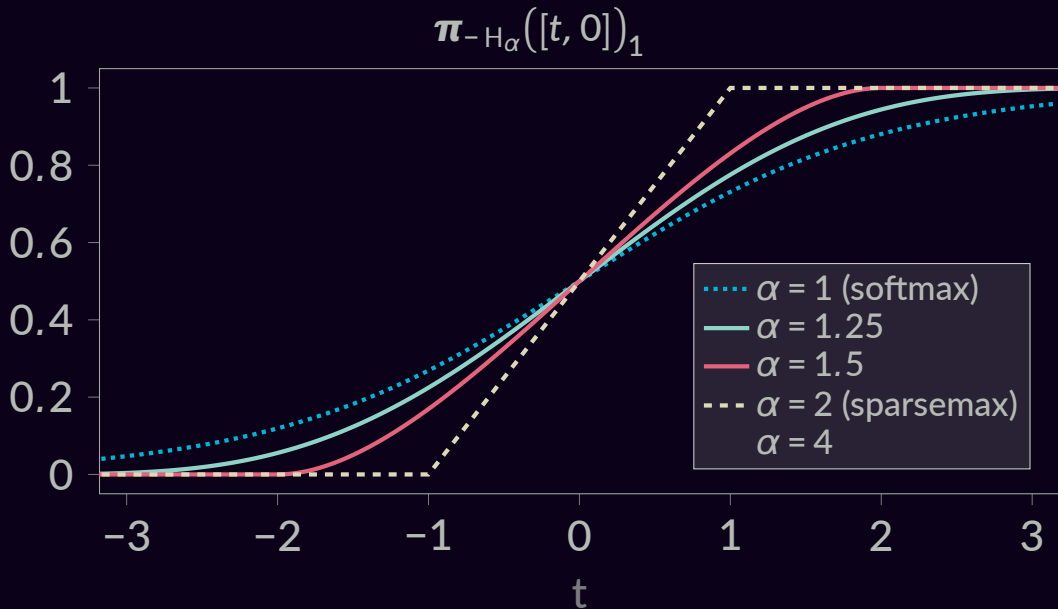
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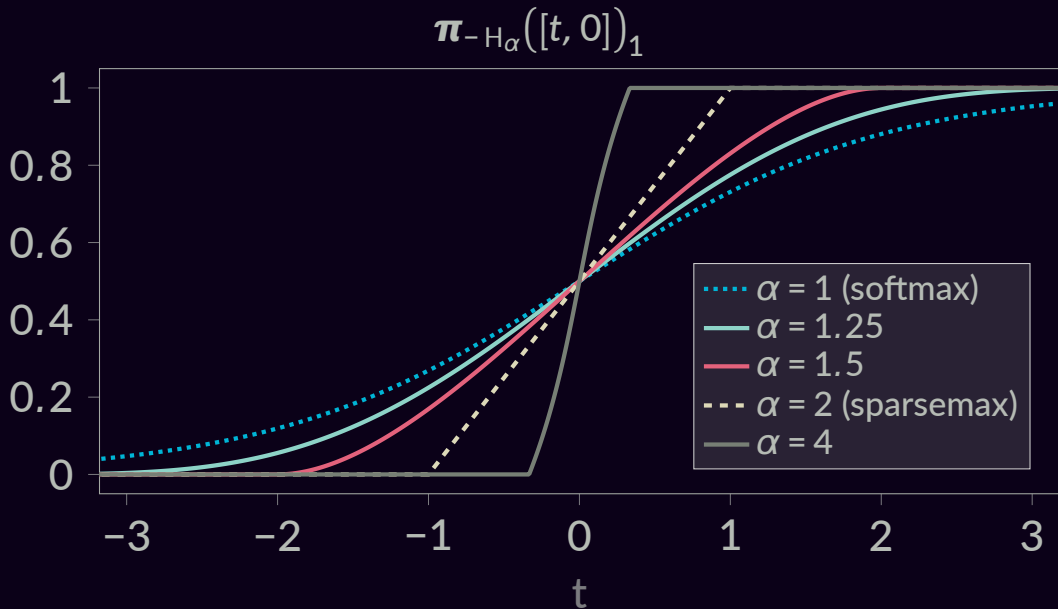
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generate Tsallis  $\alpha$ -entmax mappings & losses!







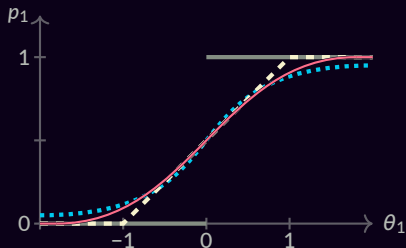


# Properties of $\alpha$ -entmax Mappings & Losses

$\pi_{-H_\alpha}$  is **sparse** for  $\alpha > 1$

(Novel general condition:

$\pi_\Omega$  is sparse iff.  $\partial\Omega(\mathbf{p}) \neq \emptyset$  for any  $\mathbf{p} \in \Delta$ )



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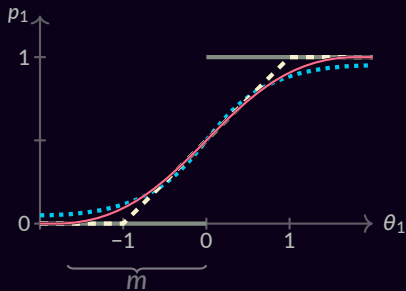
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$L_{-H_\alpha}$  has the **margin** property:

$$\theta_k \geq \underbrace{1/\alpha - 1}_m + \max_{j \neq k} \theta_j \Rightarrow L_{-H_\alpha}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{e}_k) = 0$$

(Equivalence result between sparsity and margins)





# Computing $\alpha$ -entmax

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_{-H_\alpha}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta} \langle \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle + H_\alpha(\boldsymbol{p})$$

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- approximate; bracket  $\tau \in [\tau_{\text{lo}}, \tau_{\text{hi}}]$
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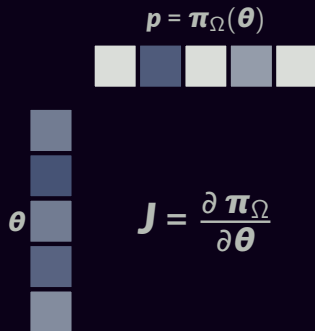
### *sort-based*

- exact algorithm,  $O(d \log d)$
- available only for  $\alpha \in \{1.5, 2\}$
- For  $\alpha = 2$ , known since Held et al. (1974)!

# Backward Pass

(general result)

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \underset{\boldsymbol{p} \in \Delta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \langle \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle - \Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = \nabla \Omega^*(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

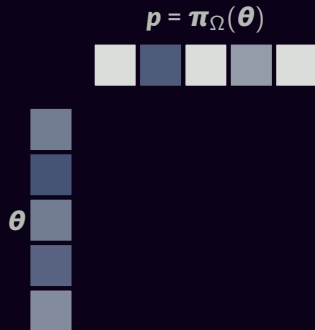


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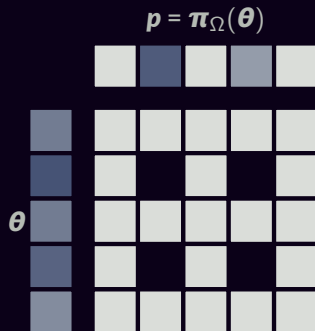


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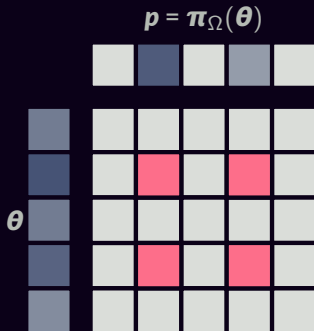
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Let  $\boldsymbol{S} = \boldsymbol{H}^{-1}$  and  $\boldsymbol{s} = \mathbf{1}\boldsymbol{S}$ .

Then,  $\bar{\boldsymbol{J}} = \boldsymbol{S} - \frac{1}{\langle \mathbf{1}, \boldsymbol{s} \rangle} \boldsymbol{s}\boldsymbol{s}^{\top}$ .





# Backward Pass

(general result)

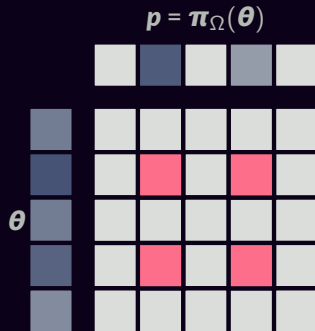
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- For  $-H_{\alpha}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{S} = \operatorname{diag}(\bar{\boldsymbol{p}}^{2-\alpha})$ .



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# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention

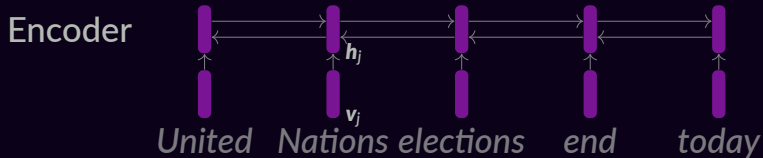
*United Nations elections end today*

# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention

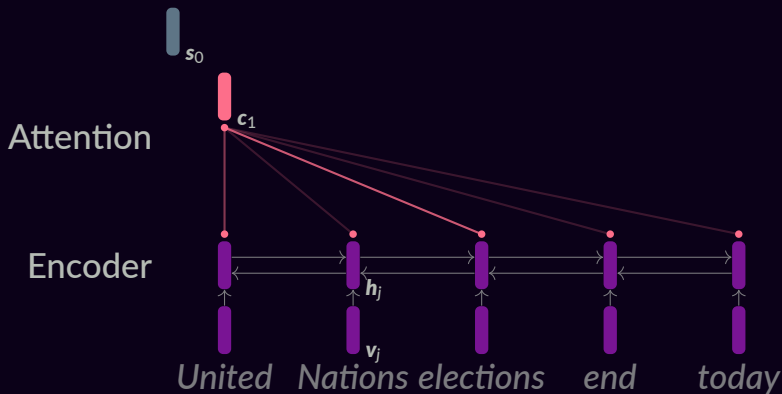
Encoder

  
*United Nations elections end today*

# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention



# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention



**attention weights**  
computed with  
*softmax*:

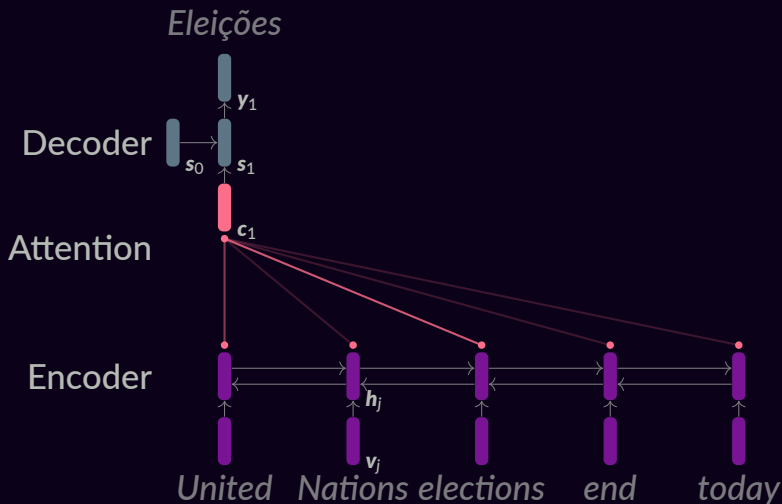
for some decoder state  $s_t$ ,  
compute contextually  
weighted average of input  $c_t$ :

$$\theta_j = s_t^T \mathbf{W}^{(a)} h_j$$

$$\mathbf{p} = \text{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

$$c_t = \sum_j p_j h_j$$

# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention



***predictive probability***  
(also using *softmax*!)

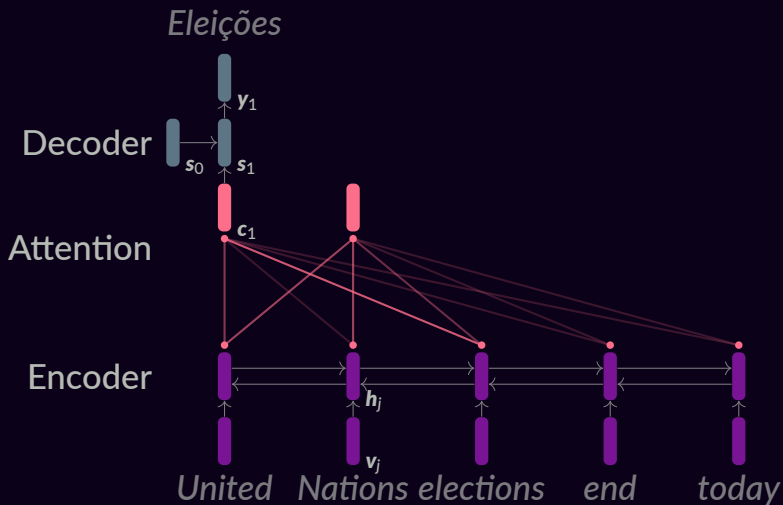
$$\mathbf{u}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{W}^{(u)}[\mathbf{s}_t; \mathbf{c}_t])$$

$$P(y_t | y_{1:t-1}, \mathbf{x}) = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{V}\mathbf{u}_t)$$

$$P(y_1 | \mathbf{x})$$

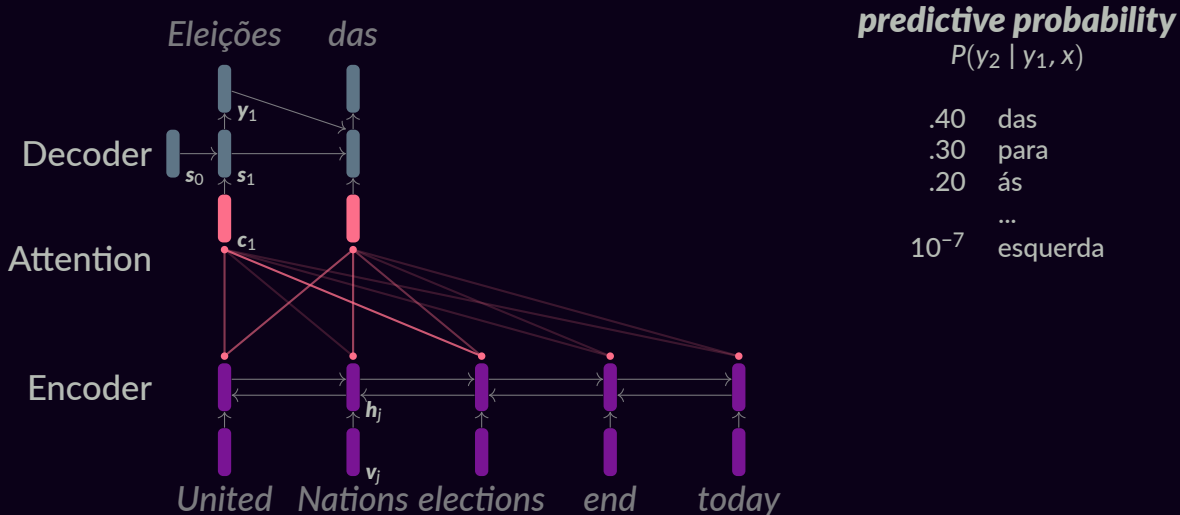
.70	Eleições
.11	Os
.10	As
.09	Nações
...	...
$10^{-6}$	Amsterdam

# Sequence-to-Sequence With Attention

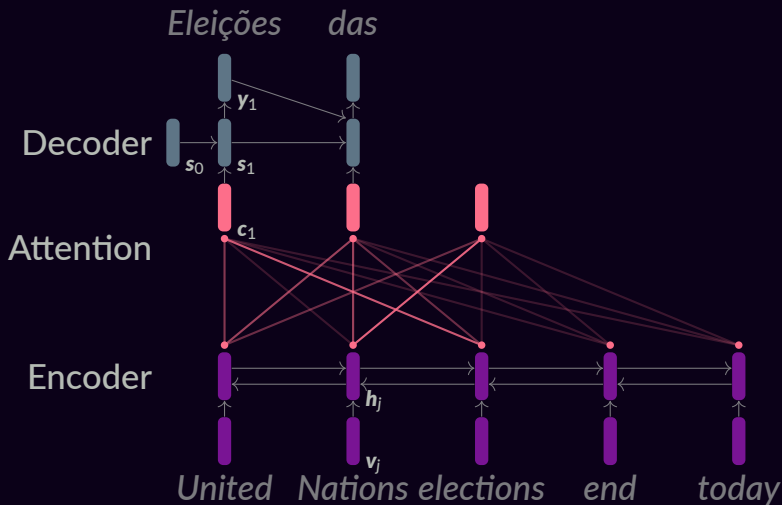




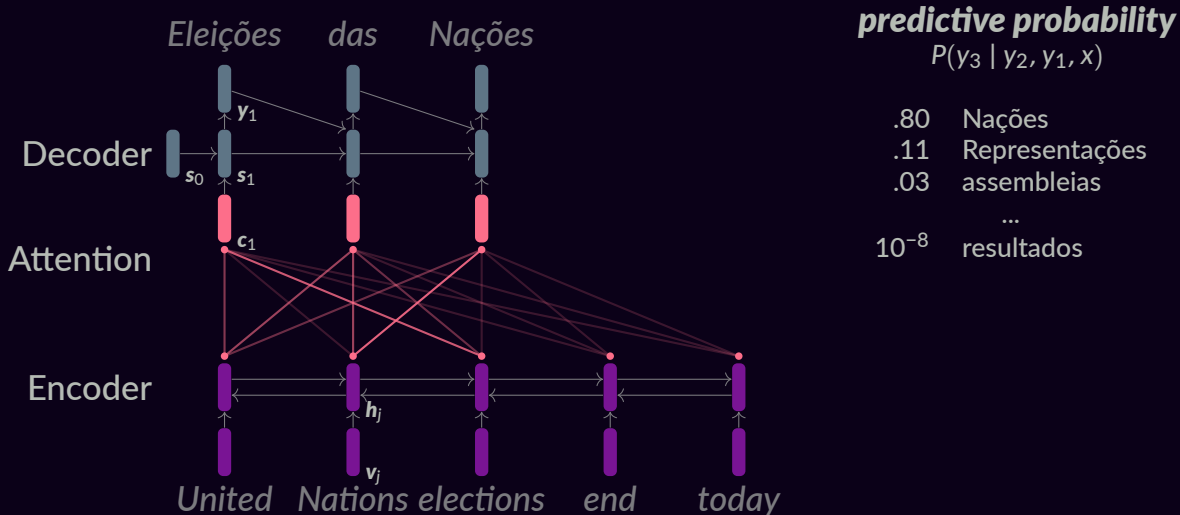
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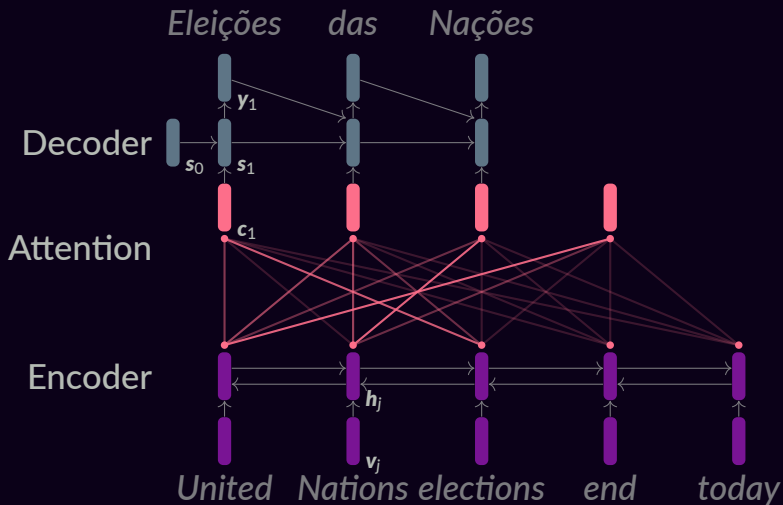
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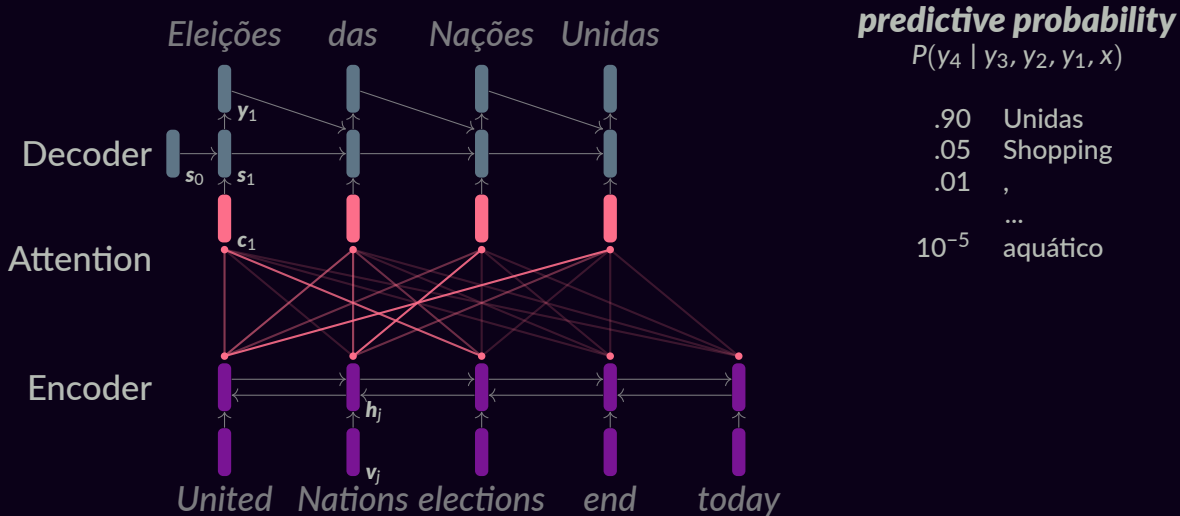


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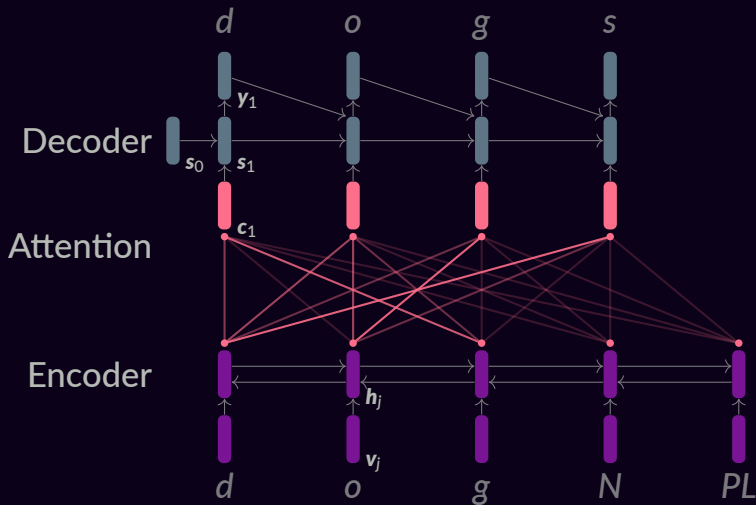
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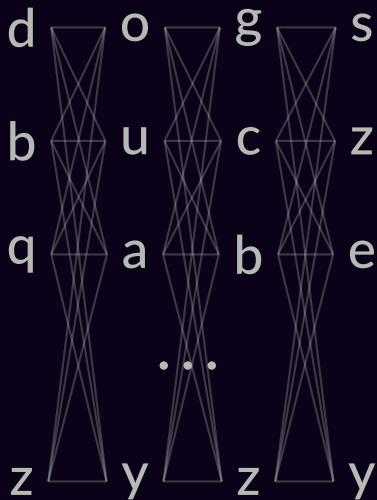


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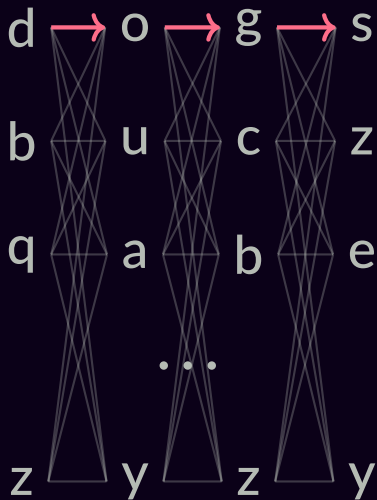
*morphological  
inflection!*



# The Space of Outputs



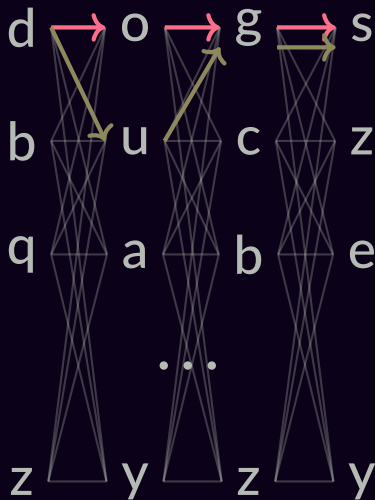
# The Space of Outputs



$$p(\cdot) = 0.60$$



# The Space of Outputs



$$p(\cdot) = 0.60$$

$$p(\cdot) = 0.13$$

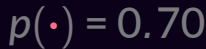
# The Space of Outputs



$$p(\cdot) = 0.60$$

$$p(\cdot) = 0.13$$

$$p(\cdot) = 10^{-4}$$

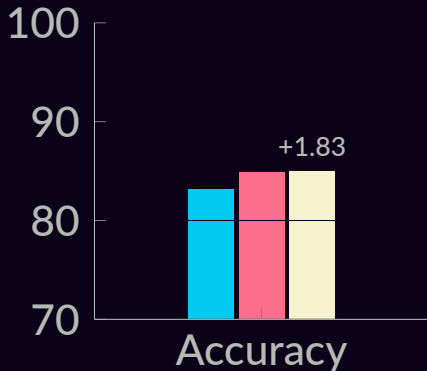


$$p(\cdot) = 0.20$$

$$p(\bullet) = 0 !!$$

# Morphological Inflection

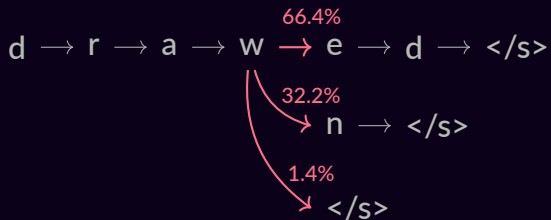
SIGMORPHON 2018 data, shared multi-lingual model.



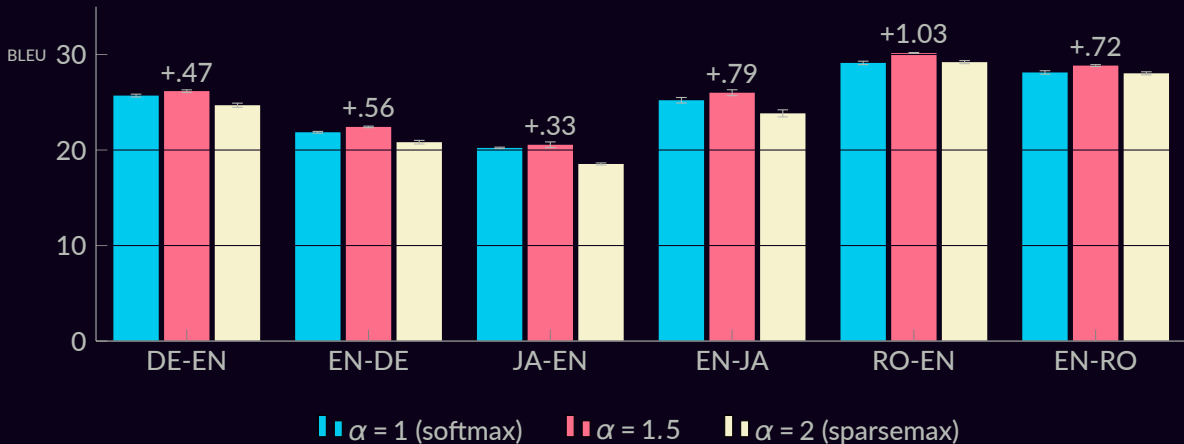
$\alpha = 1$  (softmax)

$\alpha = 1.5$

$\alpha = 2$  (sparsemax)

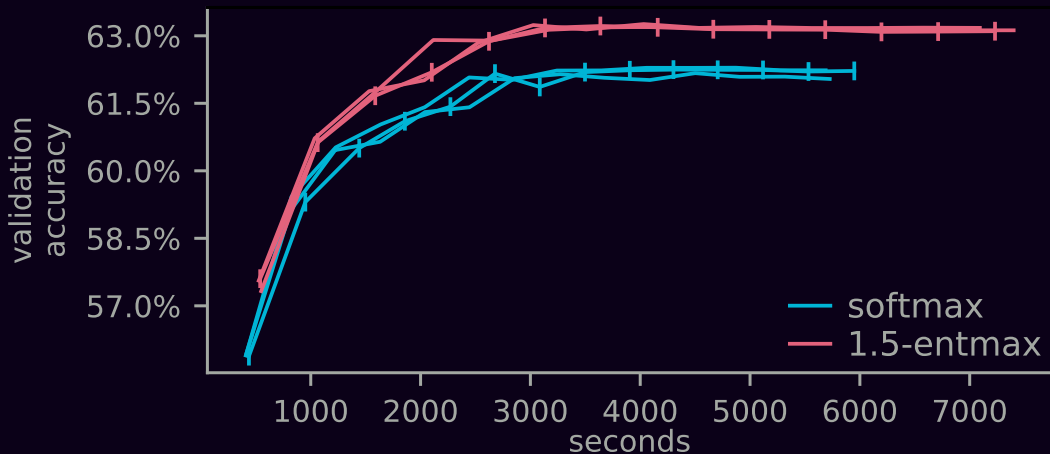


# Neural Machine Translation



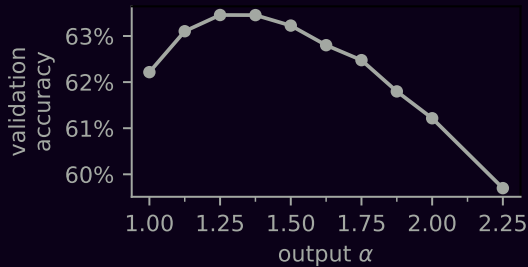
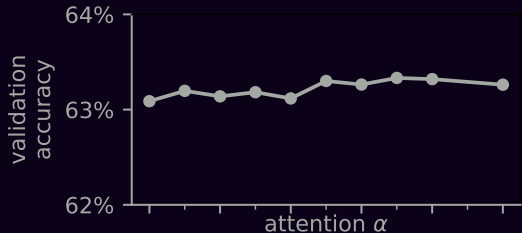
# Sparse Mappings Don't Slow Down Training

Training timing on three DE-EN runs.  
Ticks = passes over data.



# Impact of Fine Tuning $\alpha$

Grid search on DE-EN.



# Outline

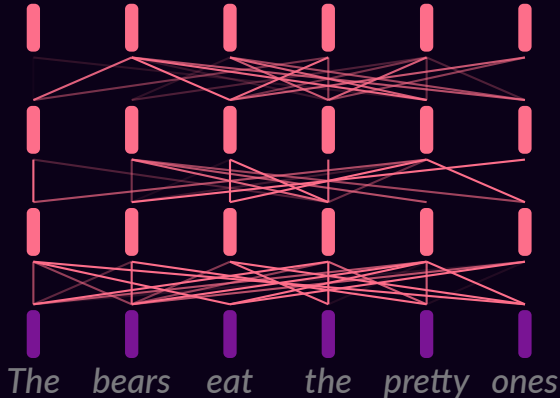
1. Warm-Up: Well-Known Losses and Mappings
2. Regularized Prediction Functions
3. Fenchel-Young Losses
4. Sparse Sequence-to-Sequence Models
5. Adaptively Sparse Transformers
6. Sparse Structured Prediction



# Transformers: Deep Self-Attention

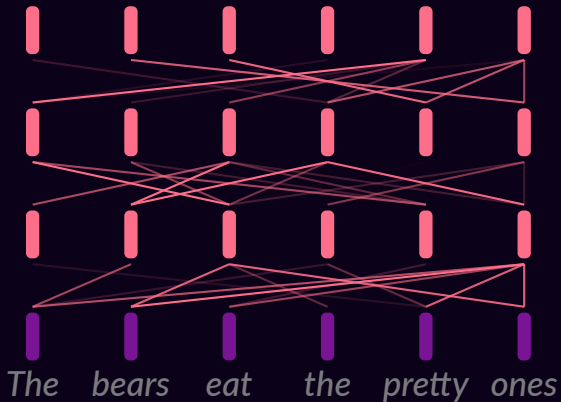
Layered multi-head attention instead of LSTMs

...



# Sparse Transformers

...



# Adaptively Sparse Transformers

Transformers have  $6 \times 4 \times 3$  attention heads:  
maybe *not all* should be sparse.

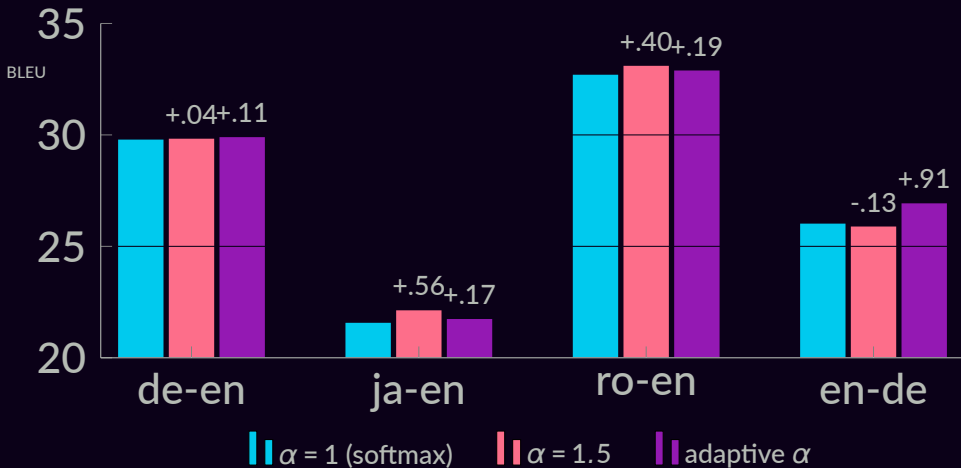
# Adaptively Sparse Transformers

Transformers have  $6 \times 4 \times 3$  attention heads:  
maybe *not all* should be sparse.

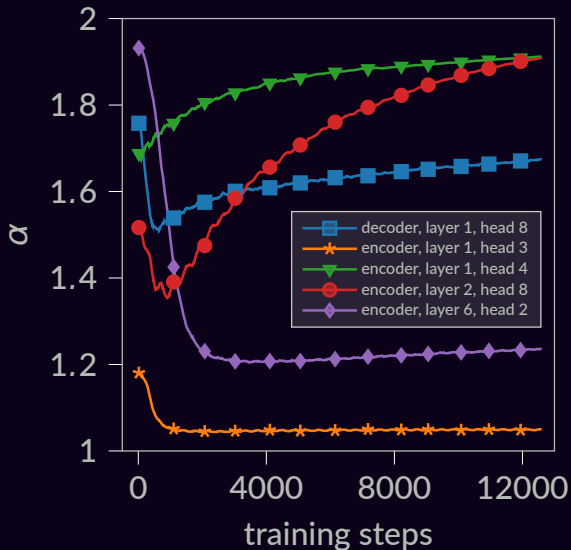
Let each attention head learn its  $\alpha$ !

$$\frac{\partial \pi_{-H_\alpha}}{\partial \alpha}$$

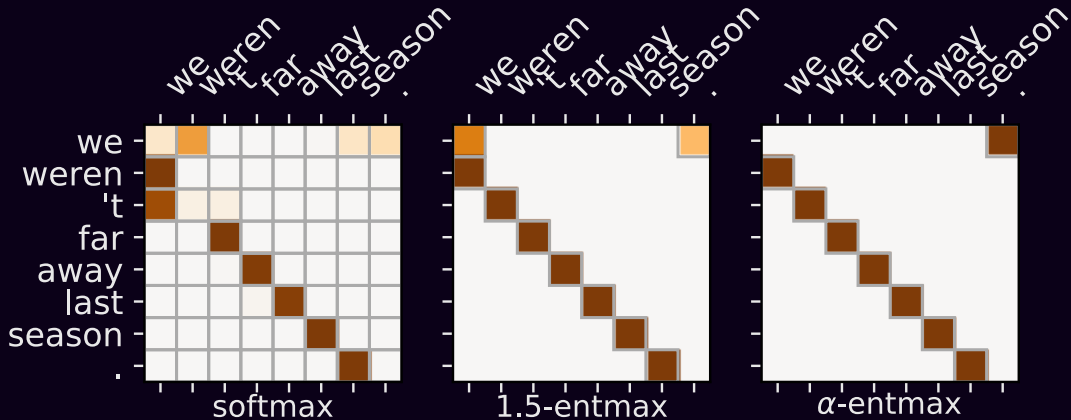
# Neural Machine Translation



# Trajectories of $\alpha$ During Training



# Previous Position Head



Learned  $\alpha = 1.91$ .

# Outline

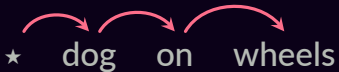
1. Warm-Up: Well-Known Losses and Mappings
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6. Sparse Structured Prediction



# Structured Prediction

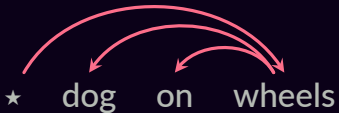
...

★ dog on wheels



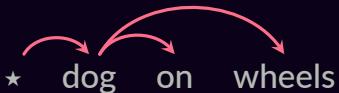
A diagram illustrating a sequence of transitions between words in the phrase "dog on wheels". Three red curved arrows point from left to right, connecting the words in sequence: from "dog" to "on", from "on" to "wheels", and from the star symbol "★" to "dog".

★ dog on wheels



A diagram illustrating multiple overlapping transitions between words in the phrase "dog on wheels". Four red curved arrows are shown: one from "dog" to "wheels", one from "on" to "wheels", one from "dog" to "on", and one from the star symbol "★" to "wheels".

★ dog on wheels



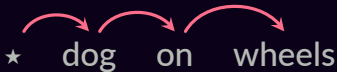
A diagram illustrating transitions between words in the phrase "dog on wheels". Three red curved arrows are shown: one from "dog" to "on", one from "on" to "wheels", and one from the star symbol "★" to "wheels", skipping the word "dog".

...

# Structured Prediction

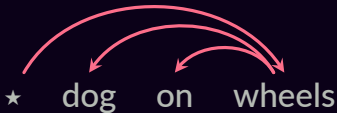
...

VERB    PREP    NOUN  
dog    on    wheels



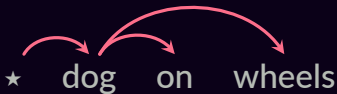
dog    hond  
on    op  
wheels    wielen

NOUN    PREP    NOUN  
dog    on    wheels



dog    hond  
on    op  
wheels    wielen

NOUN    DET    NOUN  
dog    on    wheels



dog    hond  
on    op  
wheels    wielen

...

# Structured Prediction



# Factorization Into Parts

$$\theta = A^{\top} \eta$$

# Factorization Into Parts

$$\theta = A^T \eta$$

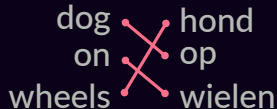
★ dog on wheels



★→dog	1	0	0	] $\eta =$ $\begin{bmatrix} .1 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \\ .3 \\ .8 \\ .1 \\ -.3 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \end{bmatrix}$
on→dog	0	1	1	
wheels→dog	0	0	0	
★→on	0	1	1	
dog→on	1	...	0	
wheels→on	0	0	0	
★→wheels	0	0	0	
dog→wheels	0	1	0	
on→wheels	1	0	1	

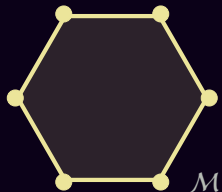
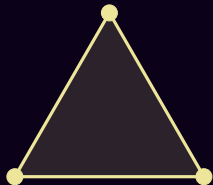
# Factorization Into Parts

$$\theta = A^T \eta$$

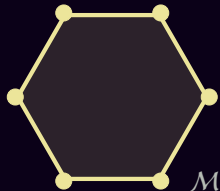
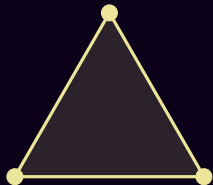


$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \star \rightarrow \text{dog} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \text{on} \rightarrow \text{dog} & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \text{wheels} \rightarrow \text{dog} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \star \rightarrow \text{on} & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \text{dog} \rightarrow \text{on} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \text{wheels} \rightarrow \text{on} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \star \rightarrow \text{wheels} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \text{dog} \rightarrow \text{wheels} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \text{on} \rightarrow \text{wheels} & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \eta = \begin{bmatrix} .1 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \\ \hline .3 \\ .8 \\ .1 \\ \hline -.3 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \text{dog} - \text{hond} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \text{dog} - \text{op} & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \text{dog} - \text{wielen} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \text{on} - \text{hond} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \text{on} - \text{op} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \text{on} - \text{wielen} & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline \text{wheels} - \text{hond} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \text{wheels} - \text{op} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \text{wheels} - \text{wielen} & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \eta = \begin{bmatrix} .1 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \\ \hline .3 \\ .8 \\ .1 \\ \hline -.3 \\ .2 \\ -.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

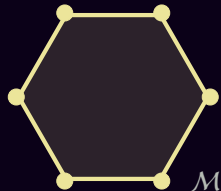
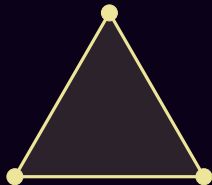


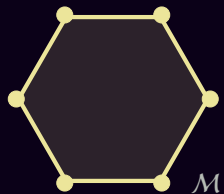
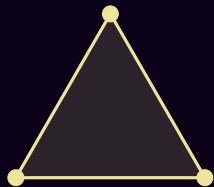
$$\mathcal{M} := \text{conv} \{ \mathbf{a}_h : h \in \mathcal{H} \}$$



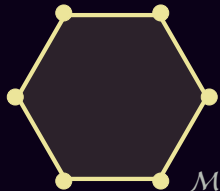
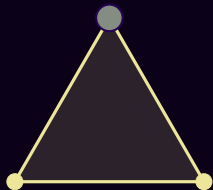


$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M} &:= \text{conv} \{ \mathbf{a}_h : h \in \mathcal{H} \} \\ &= \{ \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p} : \mathbf{p} \in \Delta \}\end{aligned}$$

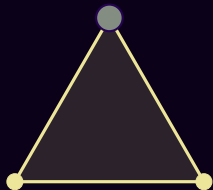




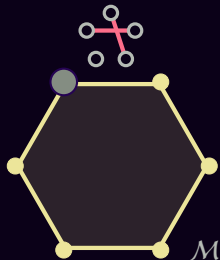
- $\mathbf{argmax} \mathop{\mathrm{argmax}}_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle$



- $\text{argmax}_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle$

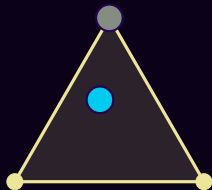


- $\text{MAP}_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle$

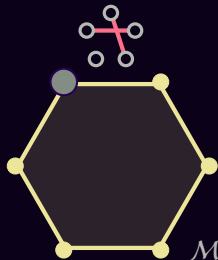


- **argmax**  $\arg\max_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle$

- **softmax**  $\arg\max_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle + H(p)$

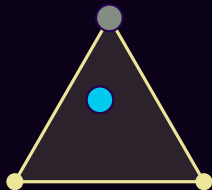


- **MAP**  $\arg\max_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle$



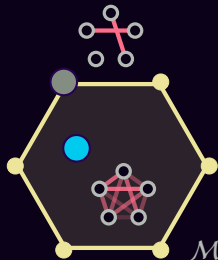
- **argmax**  $\arg\max_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle$

- **softmax**  $\arg\max_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle + H(p)$



- **MAP**  $\arg\max_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle$

- **marginals**  $\arg\max_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle + \tilde{H}(\mu)$



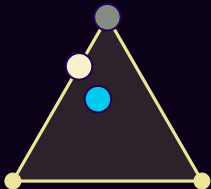
# Algorithms for specific structures

	Best structure (MAP)	Marginals
Sequence tagging	Viterbi (Rabiner, 1989)	Forward-Backward (Rabiner, 1989)
Constituent trees	CKY (Kasami, 1966; Younger, 1967) (Cocke and Schwartz, 1970)	Inside-Outside (Baker, 1979)
Temporal alignments	DTW (Sakoe and Chiba, 1978)	Soft-DTW (Cuturi and Blondel, 2017)
Dependency trees	Max. Spanning Arborescence (Chu and Liu, 1965; Edmonds, 1967)	Matrix-Tree (Kirchhoff, 1847)
Assignments	Kuhn-Munkres (Kuhn, 1955; Jonker and Volgenant, 1987)	#P-complete (Valiant, 1979; Taskar, 2004)

- **argmax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle$

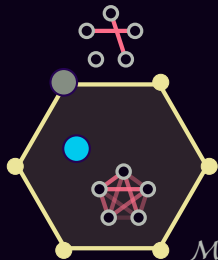
- **softmax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle + H(\mathbf{p})$

- **sparsemax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \langle \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \rangle - 1/2 \|\mathbf{p}\|^2$



- **MAP**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\eta} \rangle$

- **marginals**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\eta} \rangle + \tilde{H}(\boldsymbol{\mu})$

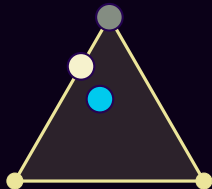




● **argmax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle$

● **softmax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle + H(p)$

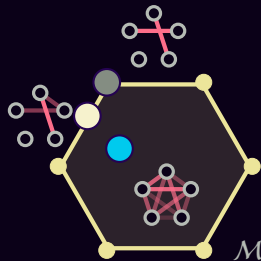
● **sparsemax**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{p \in \Delta} \langle p, \theta \rangle - 1/2 \|p\|^2$



● **MAP**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle$

● **marginals**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle + \tilde{H}(\mu)$

● **SparseMAP**  $\operatorname{argmax}_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \mu, \eta \rangle - 1/2 \|\mu\|^2$



# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\star} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

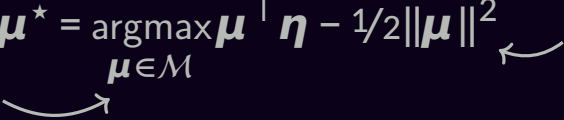
quadratic objective

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(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\star} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective



## Conditional Gradient

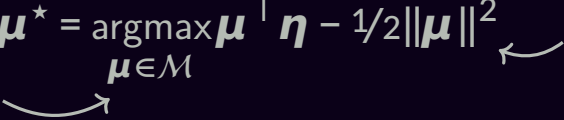
(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

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$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\star} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective



## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
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$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective

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(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$

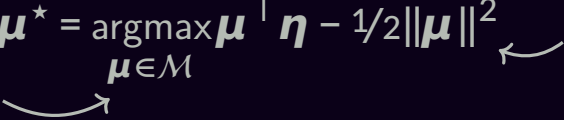
$$\mathbf{a}_{y^*} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \underbrace{(\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}^{(t-1)})}_{\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}}$$

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective



## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$
- update the (sparse) coefficients of  $\boldsymbol{p}$ 
  - Update rules: vanilla, away-step, pairwise

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\mu^* = \underset{\mu \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mu^\top \eta - 1/2 \|\mu\|^2$$

quadratic objective

## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$
- update the (sparse) coefficients of  $p$ 
  - Update rules: vanilla, away-step, pairwise
  - Quadratic objective: **Active Set**  
(Nocedal and Wright, 1999, Ch. 16.4 & 16.5)  
(Wolfe, 1976; Vinyes and Obozinski, 2017)



# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective

## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner
- update the (sparse)
- Update rules: van

Active Set achieves  
**finite & linear** convergence!

- Quadratic objective: **Active Set**

(Nocedal and Wright, 1999, Ch. 16.4 & 16.5)

(Wolfe, 1976; Vinyes and Obozinski, 2017)

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective

## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$
- update the (sparse) coefficients of  $\boldsymbol{p}$ 
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(Nocedal and Wright, 1999, Ch. 16.4 & 16.5)  
(Wolfe, 1976; Vinyes and Obozinski, 2017)

## Backward pass

$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\eta}}$  is sparse;  
precomputed in forward pass!

# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = \underset{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \boldsymbol{\eta} - 1/2 \|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|^2$$

quadratic objective

## Conditional Gradient

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956; Lacoste-Julien and Jaggi, 2015)

- select a new corner of  $\mathcal{M}$
- update the (sparse) coefficients of  $\boldsymbol{p}$ 
  - Update rules: vanilla, away-step, pairwise
  - Quadratic objective: **Active Set**  
(Nocedal and Wright, 1999, Ch. 16.4 & 16.5)  
(Wolfe, 1976; Vinyes and Obozinski, 2017)

## Backward pass

$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\eta}}$  is sparse;  
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# Generic Algorithm for SparseMAP

linear constraints  
(*alas, exponentially many!*)

$$\mu^* = \underset{\mu \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mu^\top \eta - 1/2 \|\mu\|^2$$

quadratic objective

## Condition

Completely modular: just add MAP pass

(Frank and Wolfe, 1956)

- select a new  $c$
- update the (sparse) coefficients of  $p$ 
  - Update rules: vanilla, away-step, pairwise
  - Quadratic objective: **Active Set**  
(Nocedal and Wright, 1999, Ch. 16.4 & 16.5)  
(Wolfe, 1976; Vinyes and Obozinski, 2017)

$\frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta}$  is sparse;  
precomputed in forward pass!

# Sparse Structured Attention for Alignments

NLI

premise: A gentleman overlooking a neighborhood situation.  
hypothesis: A police officer watches a situation closely.

input

(P, H)

	A	A	
	gentleman	police	
	overlooking	officer	
	...	...	
	situation	closely	

output



entails

contradicts

neutral

(Model: ESIM (Chen et al., 2017))

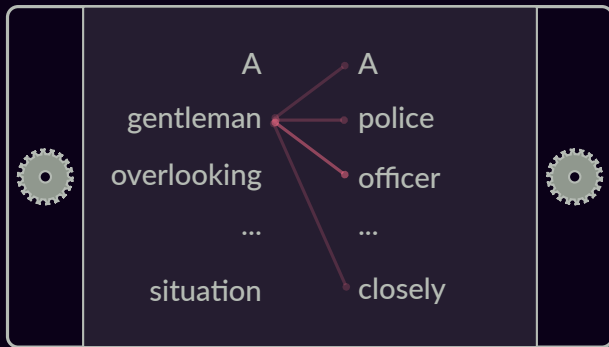
# Sparse Structured Attention for Alignments

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input

(P, H)



output



entails  
contradicts  
neutral

(Model: ESIM (Chen et al., 2017))

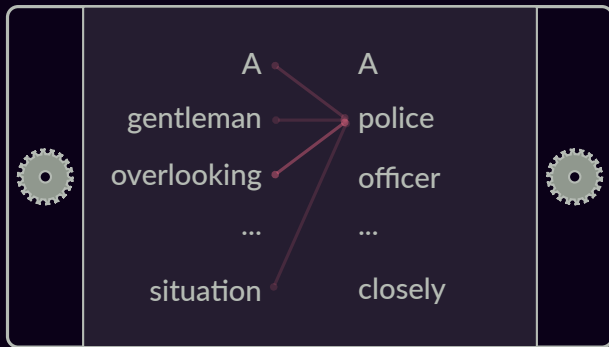
# Sparse Structured Attention for Alignments

NLI

premise: A gentleman overlooking a neighborhood situation.  
hypothesis: A police officer watches a situation closely.

input

(P, H)



output



entails

contradicts

neutral

(Model: ESIM (Chen et al., 2017))

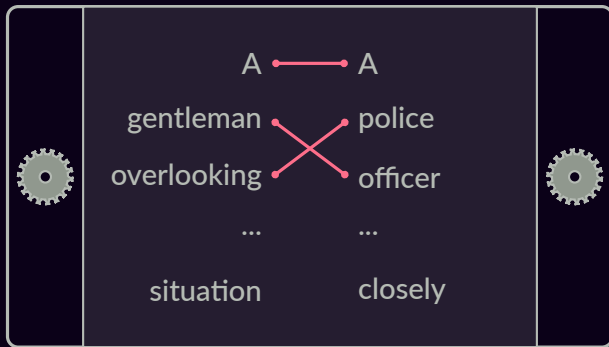
# Sparse Structured Attention for Alignments

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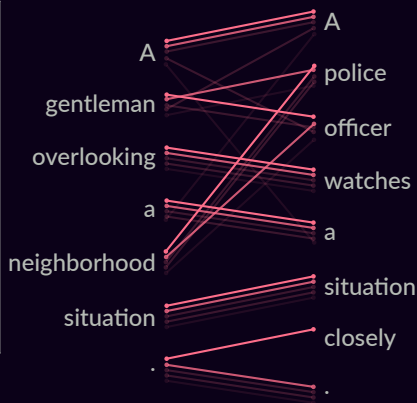
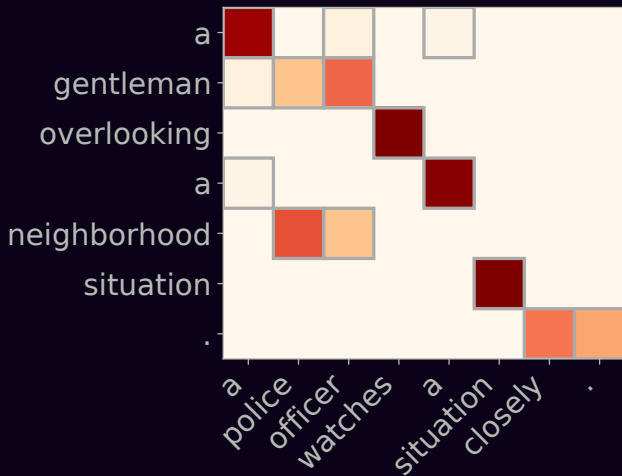
contradicts

neutral

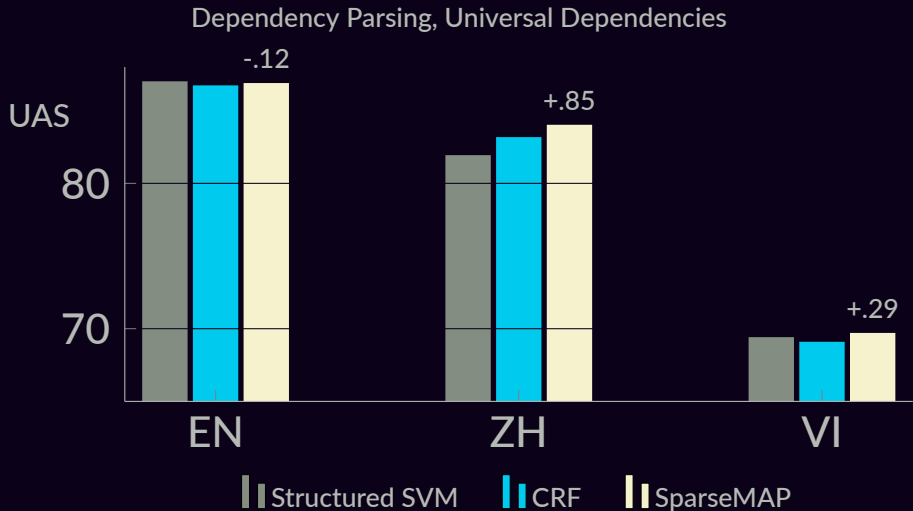
(Proposed model: global matching)



# Sparse Structured Attention for Alignments

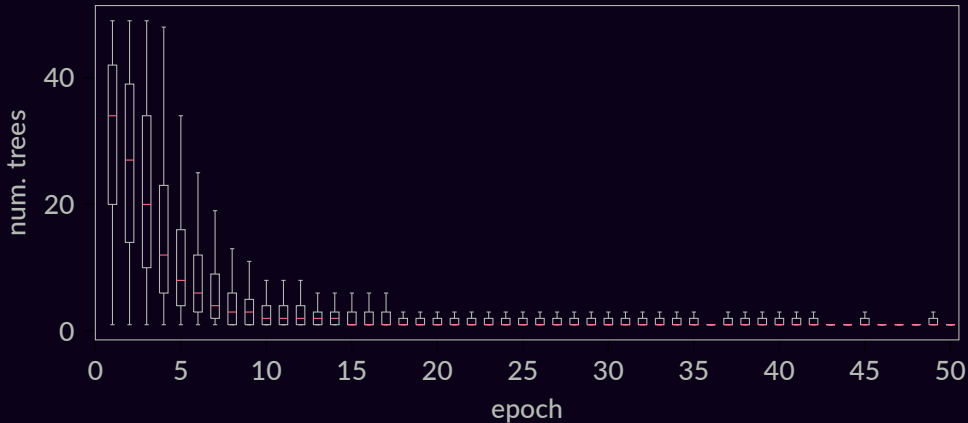


# Sparse Structured Output Prediction



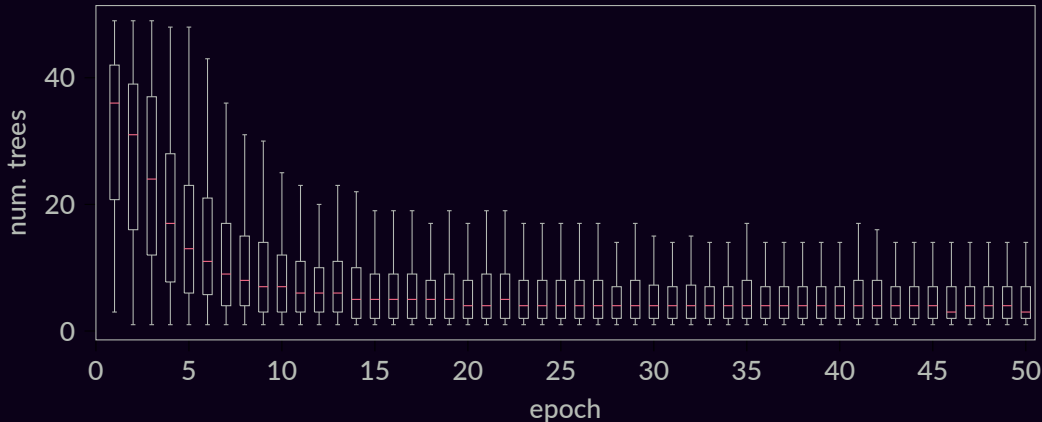
# Sparse Structured Output Prediction

## Training



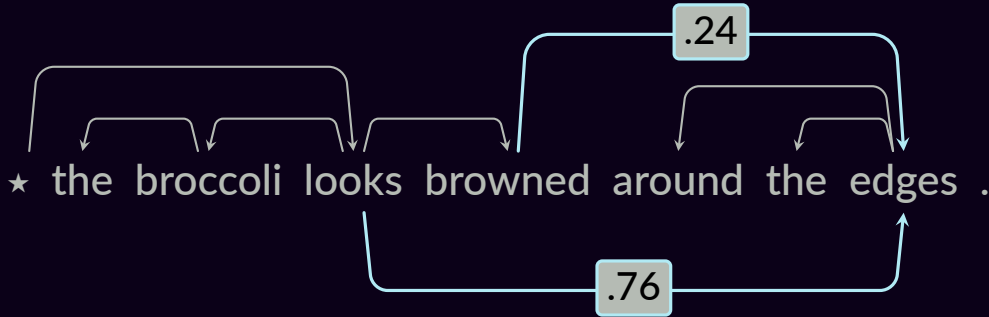
# Sparse Structured Output Prediction

Validation: 25% unambiguous, 66%  $\leq 5$



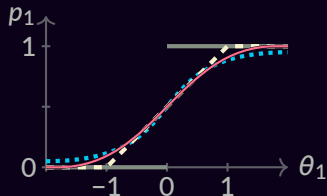
# Sparse Structured Output Prediction

Inference captures linguistic ambiguity!

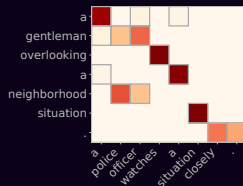


# Summary: Fenchel-Young losses and mappings, a framework for:

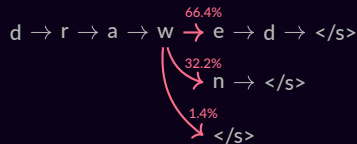
## insight into sparsity & margins



## sparse attention weights



## sparse output space



**Next steps:** sparsity in stochastic and generative models.

**Extra slides**

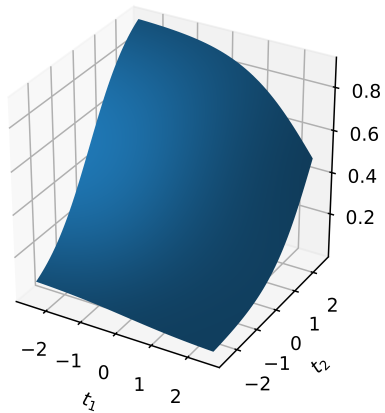
# Acknowledgements



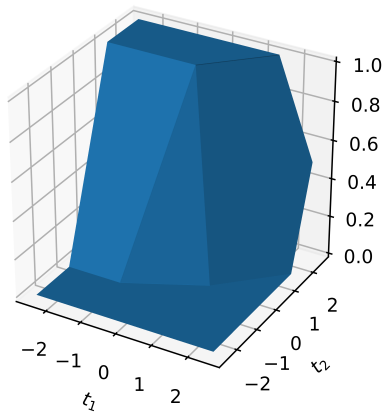
This work was supported by the European Research Council (ERC StG DeepSPIN 758969) and by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia through contract UID/EEA/50008/2013.

Some icons by Dave Gandy and Freepik via flaticon.com.

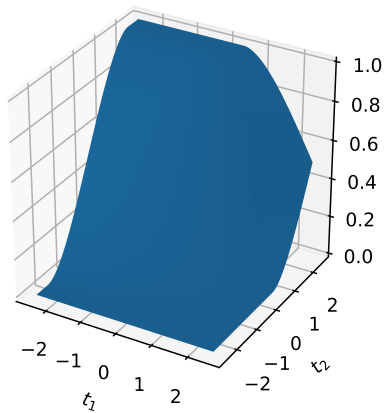




*softmax*



*sparsemax*



*1.5-entmax*

# Expressions for Margins

- Main result:  $L_{-H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{e}_k)$  has margin  $m$  iff.  $m\mathbf{e}_k \in \partial(-H)(\mathbf{e}_k)$ .
- If  $H$  twice-differentiable,  $m_H = \nabla_j H(\mathbf{e}_k) - \nabla_k H(\mathbf{e}_k)$ .
- If  $H = \sum_j h(p_j)$  separable,  $m_H = h'(0) - h'(1)$ .

# Relation With Bregman Divergences

- Bregman divergences are defined in primal space:  $B_\Omega : \text{dom } \Omega \times \text{dom } \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$

$$B_\Omega(\mathbf{y}||\mathbf{p}) := \Omega(\mathbf{y}) - \Omega(\mathbf{p}) = \langle \nabla \Omega(\mathbf{p}), \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{p} \rangle$$

- FY losses are in **mixed** space:  $L_\Omega : \text{dom}(\Omega^\star) \times \text{dom}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$
- Denoting  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \nabla \Omega(\mathbf{p})$  gives  $B_\Omega(\mathbf{y}||\mathbf{p}) = L_\Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y})$ .
- However, starting from  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ ,  $B_\Omega(\mathbf{y}||\boldsymbol{\pi}_\Omega(\boldsymbol{\theta}))$  not always convex. (“link function” approach).

# Danskin's Theorem

Let  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{R}^k$  compact.

$$\partial \max_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \text{conv} \{ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}^*) \mid \mathbf{z}^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \}.$$

**Example: maximum of a vector**

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**Example: maximum of a vector**

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \max_{j \in [d]} \theta_j &= \partial \max_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \mathbf{p}^\top \boldsymbol{\theta} \\ &= \partial \max_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \phi(\mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \text{conv} \{ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \phi(\mathbf{p}^*, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \} \\ &= \text{conv} \{ \mathbf{p}^* \} \end{aligned}$$

# Danskin's Theorem

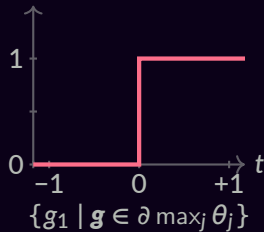
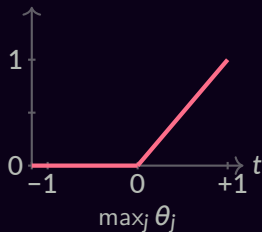
Let  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{R}^k$  compact.

$$\partial \max_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, z) = \text{conv} \{ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, z^*) \mid z^* \in \arg\max_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} \phi(\mathbf{x}, z) \}.$$

**Example: maximum of a vector**

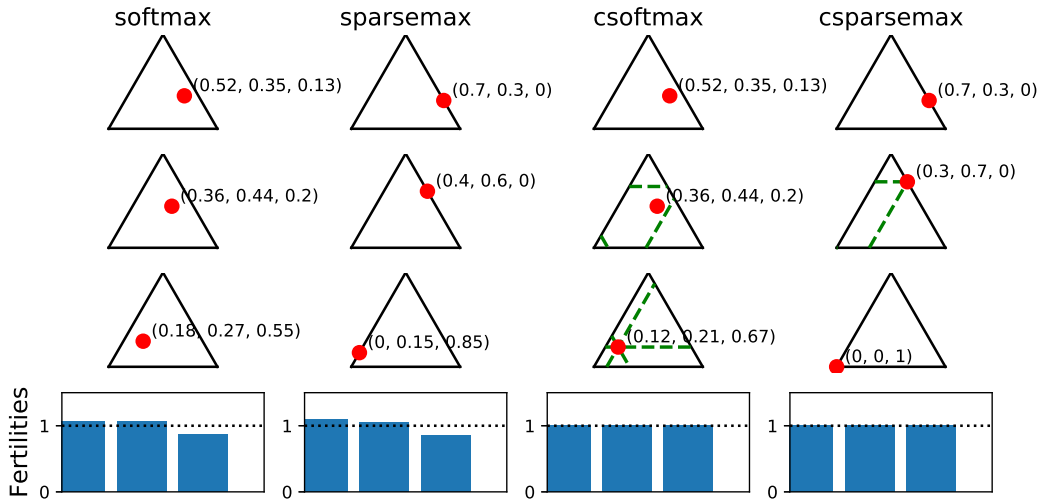
$$\begin{aligned} \partial \max_{j \in [d]} \theta_j &= \partial \max_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \mathbf{p}^\top \boldsymbol{\theta} \\ &= \partial \max_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta} \phi(\mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \text{conv} \{ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \phi(\mathbf{p}^*, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \} \\ &= \text{conv} \{ \mathbf{p}^* \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = [t, 0]$$

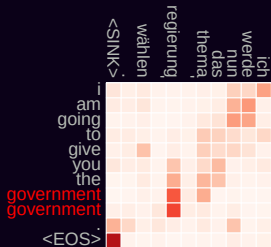
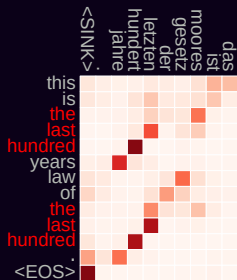


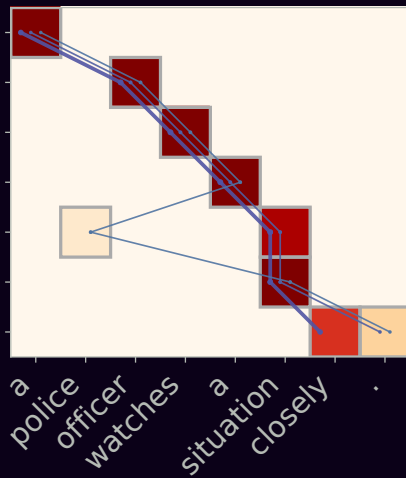
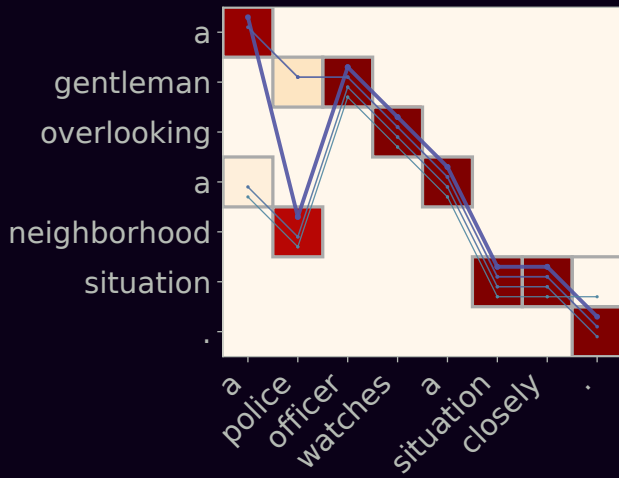


# Example: Source Sentence with Three Words













## e.g., fertility constraints for NMT























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