

Part III: Weakly-Supervised Text Classification

WWW 2023 Tutorial

Turning Web-Scale Texts to Knowledge: Transferring Pretrained Representations to Text Mining Applications

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Tutorial Website:

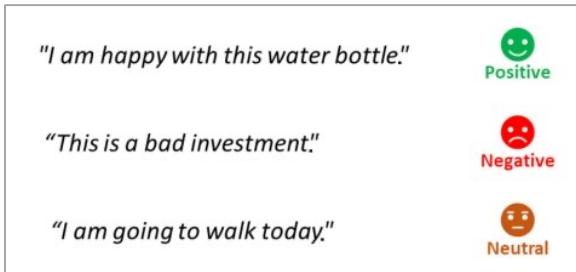


Outline

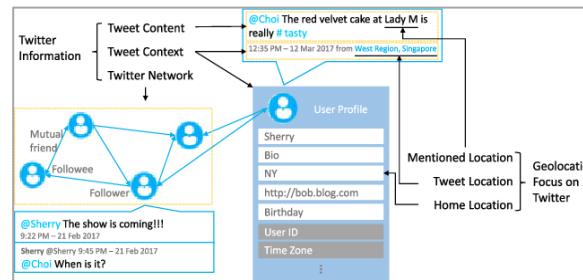
- What Weakly-Supervised Text Classification Is, and Why It Matters 
- Flat Text Classification
- Text Classification with Taxonomy Information
- Text Classification with Metadata Information

Text Classification

- Given a set of text units (e.g., documents, sentences) and a set of categories, the task is to assign relevant category/categories to each text unit
- Text Classification has a lot of downstream applications



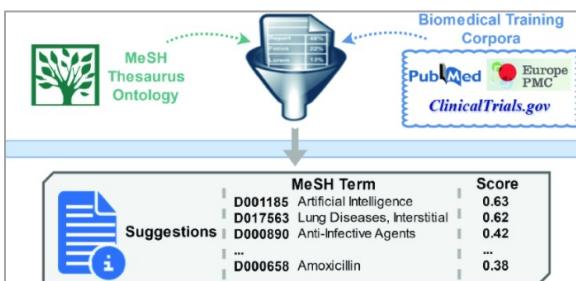
Sentiment Analysis



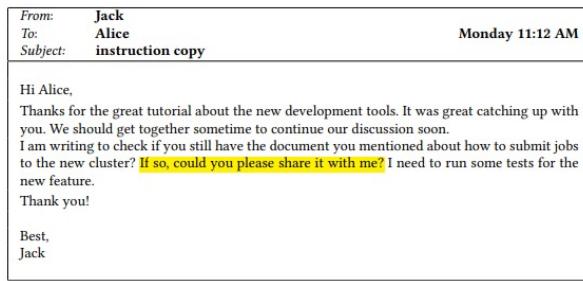
Location Prediction



News Topic Classification



Paper Topic Classification



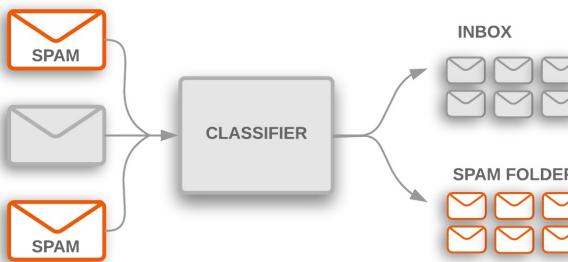
Email Intent Identification



Hate Speech Detection

Different Text Classification Settings: Single-Label vs. Multi-Label

- **Single-label:** Each document belongs to one category.
 - E.g., Spam Detection



- **Multi-label:** Each document has multiple relevant labels.
 - E.g., Paper Topic Classification

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding

Abstract

We introduce a new language representation model called BERT, which stands for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers. Unlike recent language representation models (Peters et al., 2018a; Radford et al., 2018), BERT is designed to pre-train deep bidirectional representations from unlabeled text by jointly conditioning on both left and right context in all layers. As a result, the pre-trained BERT model can be fine-tuned with just one additional output layer to create state-of-the-art models for a wide range of tasks, such as question answering and language inference, without substantial task-specific architecture modifications. BERT is conceptually simple and empirically powerful. It obtains new state-of-the-art results on eleven natural language processing tasks, including pushing the GLUE score to 80.5 (7.7 point absolute improvement), MultiNLI accuracy to 86.7% (4.6% absolute improvement), SQuAD v1.1 question answering Test F1 to 93.2 (1.5 point absolute improvement) and SQuAD v2.0 Test F1 to 83.1 (5.1 point absolute improvement).

Related Topics ⓘ



<https://academic.microsoft.com/paper/2963341956/>

Different Text Classification Settings: Flat vs. Hierarchical

- **Flat:** All labels are at the same granularity level
 - E.g., Sentiment Analysis of E-Commerce Reviews (1-5 stars)

 It works, it's nice, comfortable, and easy to type on. Not loud (unless you're a key pounder)

This keyboard works. It's comfortable, sensitive enough for touch typers, very quiet by comparison to other mechanicals (unless, of course, you're a 'key pounder'), and the lit keys are excellent for people like me who tend to prefer to work in a cave-like environment.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B089YFHYY5/>

- **Hierarchical:** Labels are organized into a hierarchy representing their parent-child relationship
 - E.g., Paper Topic Classification (the arXiv category taxonomy)

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding

We introduce a new language representation model called BERT, which stands for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers. Unlike recent language representation models, BERT is designed to pre-train deep bidirectional representations from unlabeled text by jointly conditioning on both left and right context in all layers. As a result, the pre-trained BERT model can be fine-tuned with just one additional output layer to create state-of-the-art models for a wide range of tasks, such as question answering and language inference, without substantial task-specific architecture modifications. BERT is conceptually simple and empirically powerful. It obtains new state-of-the-art results on eleven natural language processing tasks, including pushing the GLUE score to 80.5% (7.7% point absolute improvement), MultiNLI accuracy to 86.7% (4.6% absolute improvement), SQuAD v1.1 question answering Test F1 to 93.2 (1.5 point absolute improvement) and SQuAD v2.0 Test F1 to 83.1 (5.1 point absolute improvement).

Subjects: Computation and Language (cs.CL)

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(or arXiv:1810.04805v2 [cs.CL] for this version)

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.04805>

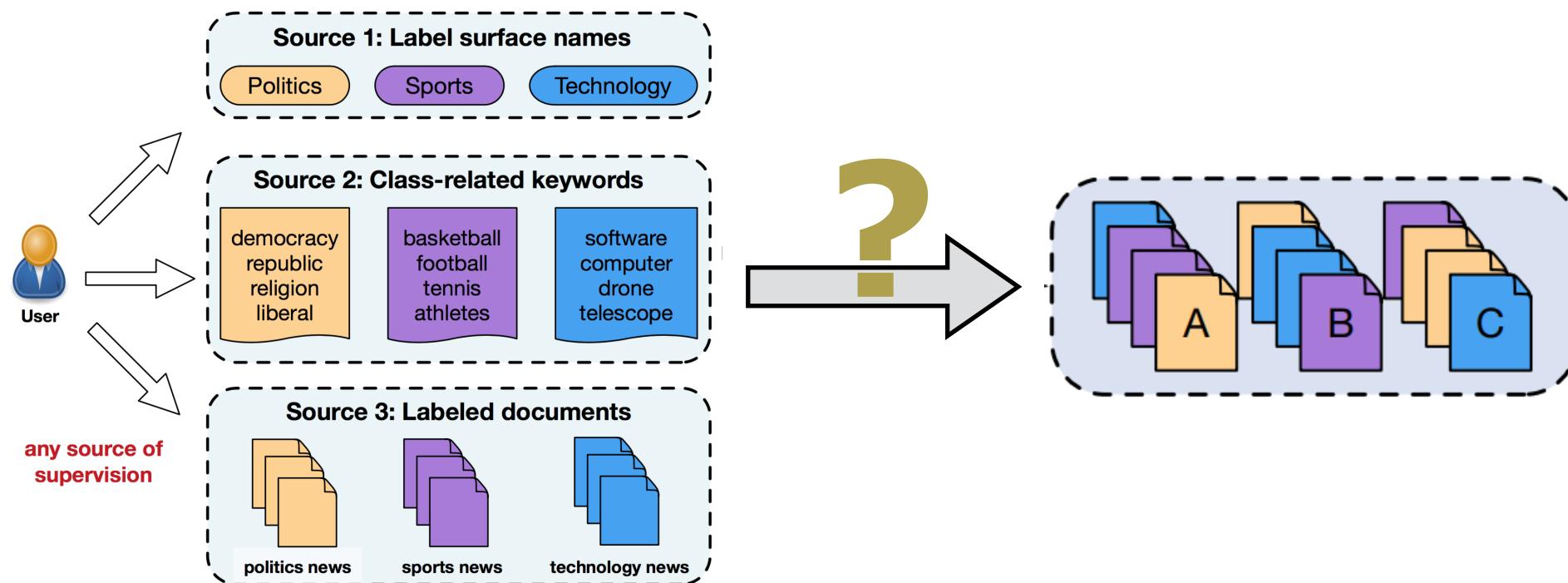
Weakly-Supervised Text Classification: Motivation

- Supervised text classification models (especially recent deep neural models) rely on a significant number of manually labeled training documents to achieve good performance.
- Collecting such training data is usually expensive and time-consuming. In some domains (e.g., scientific papers), annotations must be acquired from domain experts, which incurs additional cost.

- While users cannot afford to label sufficient documents for training a deep neural classifier, they can provide a small amount of seed information:
 - Category names or category-related keywords
 - A small number of labeled documents

Weakly-Supervised Text Classification: Definition

- Text classification without massive human-annotated training data
 - **Keyword-level weak supervision:** category names or a few relevant keywords
 - **Document-level weak supervision:** a small set of labeled docs

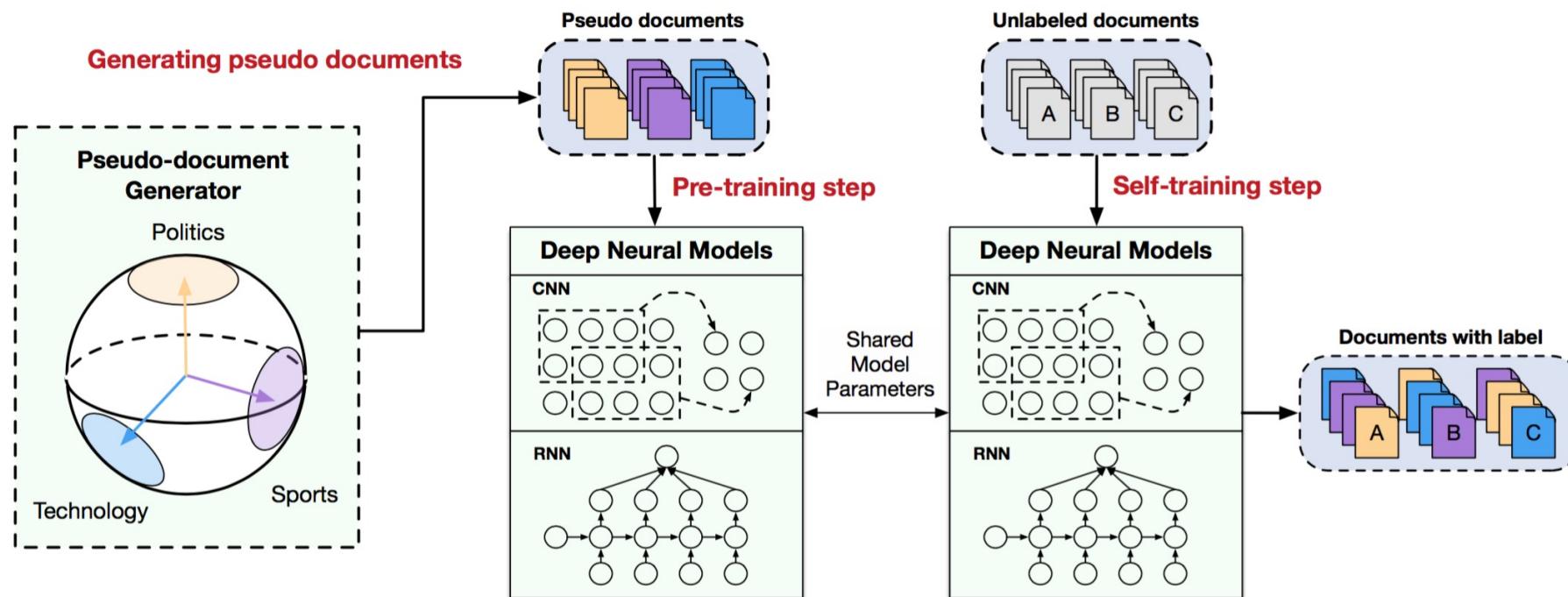


General Ideas to Perform Weakly-Supervised Text Classification

- Joint representation learning
 - Put words, labels, and/or documents into the same latent space using **embedding learning** or pre-trained language models
- Pseudo training data generation
 - Retrieve some unlabeled documents or synthesize some artificial documents using **text embeddings** or **contextualized representations**
 - Give them pseudo labels to train a text classifier
- Transfer the knowledge of pre-trained language models to classification tasks

An Example – WeSTClass

- Embed all words (including label names and keywords) into the same space
- Pseudo document generation: generate pseudo documents from seeds
- Self-training: train deep neural nets (CNN, RNN) with bootstrapping



Outline

- ❑ What Weakly-Supervised Text Classification Is, and Why It Matters
- ❑ Flat Text Classification 

 - ❑ ConWea [ACL'20]
 - ❑ LOTClass [EMNLP'20]
 - ❑ X-Class [NAACL'21]
 - ❑ Prompted-Enhanced Classifier

- ❑ Text Classification with Taxonomy Information
- ❑ Text Classification with Metadata Information

ConWea: Disambiguating User-Provided Keywords

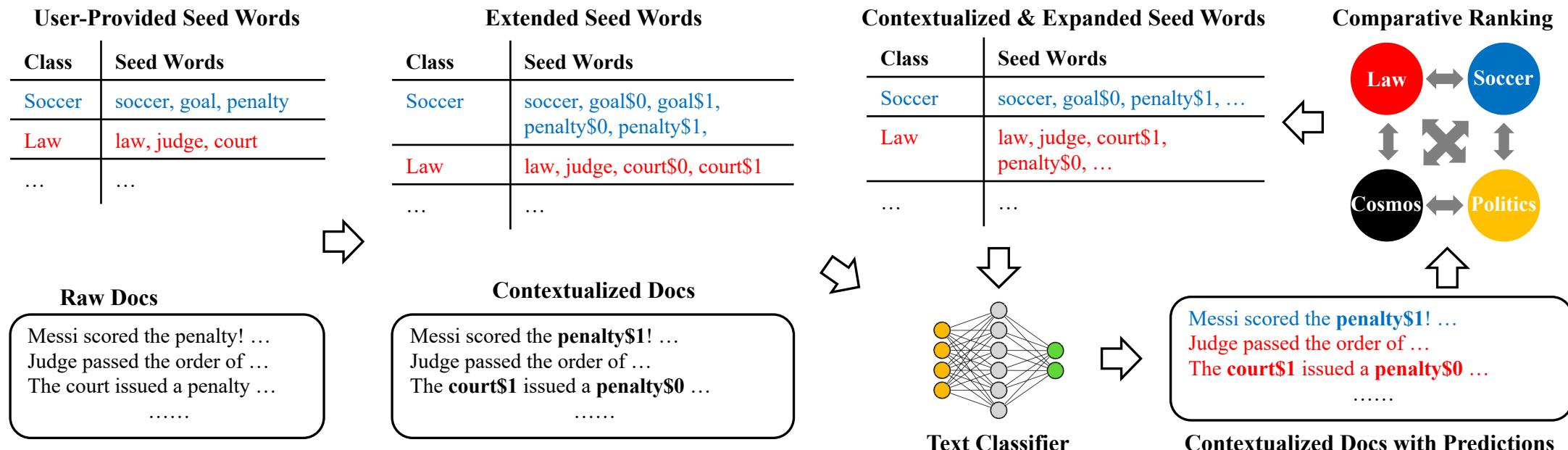
- ❑ User-provided seed words may be ambiguous.
- ❑ Example:

Class	Seed words
Soccer	soccer, goal, penalty
Law	law, judge, court

- ❑ Classify the following sentences:
 - ❑ Messi scored the penalty.
 - ❑ John was issued a death penalty.
- ❑ Disambiguate the “senses” based on contextualized representations

ConWea: Clustering for Disambiguation

- ❑ For each word, find all its occurrences in the input corpus
- ❑ Run BERT to get their contextualized representations
- ❑ Run a clustering method (e.g., K-Means) to obtain clusters for different “senses”



ConWea: Experiment Results

- Ablations:
 - ConWea-NoCon: Variant of ConWea trained without contextualization.
 - ConWea-NoExpan: Variant of ConWea trained without seed expansion.
 - ConWea-WSD: Variant of ConWea with contextualization replaced by a word sense disambiguation algorithm.

	Methods	NYT				20 Newsgroup			
		5-Class (Coarse)		25-Class (Fine)		6-Class (Coarse)		20-Class (Fine)	
		Micro-F ₁	Macro-F ₁						
Baselines	IR-TF-IDF	0.65	0.58	0.56	0.54	0.49	0.48	0.53	0.52
	Dataless	0.71	0.48	0.59	0.37	0.50	0.47	0.61	0.53
	Word2Vec	0.92	0.83	0.69	0.47	0.51	0.45	0.33	0.33
	Doc2Cube	0.71	0.38	0.67	0.34	0.40	0.35	0.23	0.23
	WeSTClass	0.91	0.84	0.50	0.36	0.53	0.43	0.49	0.46
	ConWea	0.95	0.89	0.91	0.79	0.62	0.57	0.65	0.64
Ablations	ConWea-NoCon	0.91	0.83	0.89	0.74	0.53	0.50	0.58	0.57
	ConWea-NoExpan	0.92	0.85	0.76	0.66	0.58	0.53	0.58	0.57
	ConWea-WSD	0.83	0.78	0.72	0.64	0.52	0.46	0.49	0.47
Upper bound	{ HAN-Supervised	0.96	0.92	0.94	0.82	0.90	0.88	0.83	0.83

LOTClass: Find Similar Meaning Words with Label Names

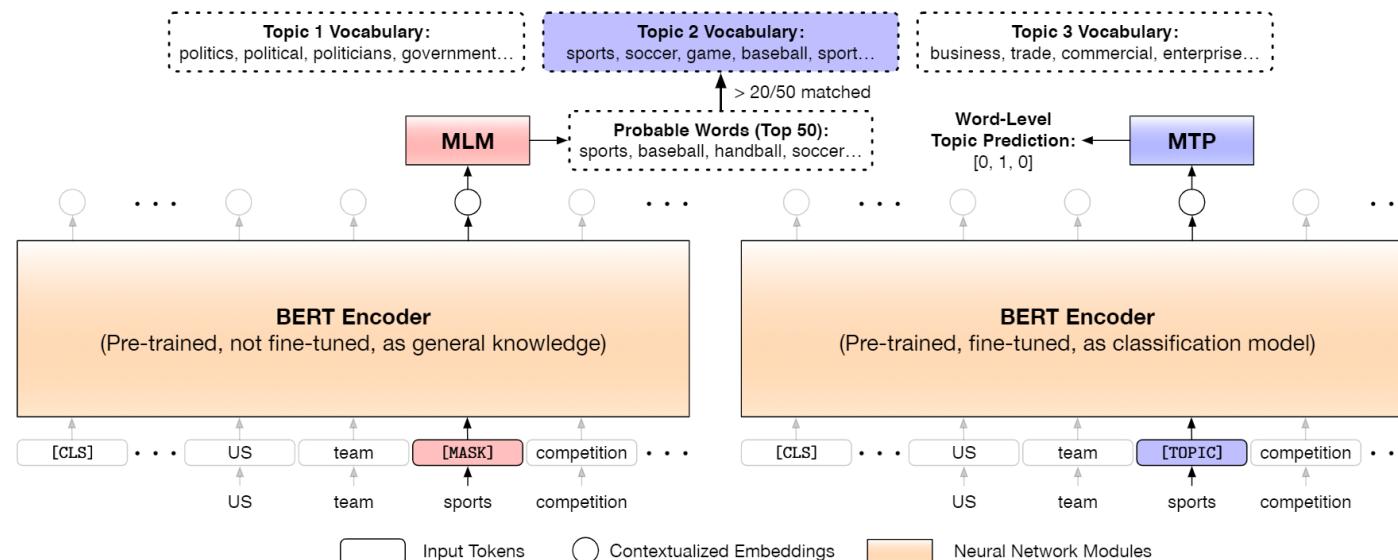
- Find topic words based on label names
- Overcome the low semantic coverage of label names
- Use language models to predict what words can replace the label names
- Interchangeable words are likely to have similar meanings

Sentence	Language Model Prediction
The oldest annual US team sports competition that includes professionals is not in baseball, or football or basketball or hockey. It's in soccer.	sports, baseball, handball, soccer, basketball, football, tennis, sport, championship, hockey, ...
Samsung's new SPH-V5400 mobile phone sports a built-in 1-inch, 1.5-gigabyte hard disk that can store about 15 times more data than conventional handsets, Samsung said.	has, with, features, uses, includes, had, is, contains, featured, have, incorporates, requires, offers, ...

Table 1: BERT language model prediction (sorted by probability) for the word to appear at the position of “sports” under different contexts. The two sentences are from *AG News* corpus.

LOTClass: Contextualized Word-Level Topic Prediction

- Context-free matching of topic words is inaccurate
 - “Sports” does not always imply the topic “sports”
- Contextualized topic prediction:
 - Predict a word’s implied topic under specific contexts
 - We regard a word as “topic indicative” only when its top replacing words have enough overlap with the topic vocabulary.



LOTClass: Experiment Results

- Achieve around 90% accuracy on four benchmark datasets by only using at most 3 words (1 in most cases) per class as the label name
- Outperforming previous weakly-supervised approaches significantly
- Comparable to state-of-the-art semi-supervised models

Supervision Type	Methods	AG News	DBPedia	IMDB	Amazon
Weakly-Sup.	Dataless (Chang et al., 2008)	0.696	0.634	0.505	0.501
	WeSTClass (Meng et al., 2018)	0.823	0.811	0.774	0.753
	BERT w. simple match	0.752	0.722	0.677	0.654
	Ours w/o. self train	0.822	0.850	0.844	0.781
	Ours	0.864	0.889	0.894	0.906
Semi-Sup.	UDA (Xie et al., 2019)	0.869	0.986	0.887	0.960
Supervised	char-CNN (Zhang et al., 2015)	0.872	0.983	0.853	0.945
	BERT (Devlin et al., 2019)	0.944	0.993	0.937	0.972

How Powerful Are Vanilla BERT Representations in Category Prediction?

- An average of BERT representations of all tokens in a sentence/document preserves domain information well

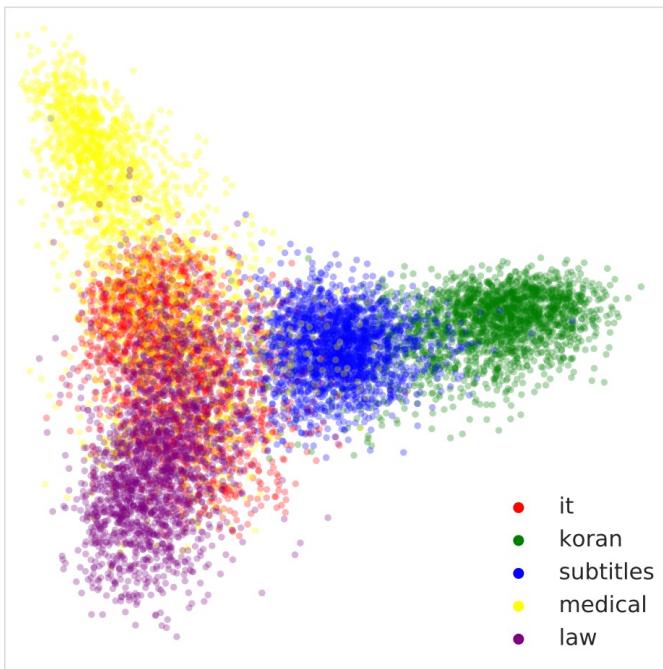


Figure 1: A 2D visualization of average-pooled BERT hidden-state sentence representations using PCA. The colors represent the domain for each sentence.

True label	Predicted label				
	it	koran	subtitles	medical	law
it	1927	0	55	16	2
koran	4	1767	225	0	4
subtitles	47	21	1918	9	5
medical	340	0	82	1413	165
law	206	0	10	58	1726

Figure 2: A confusion matrix for clustering with k=5 using BERT-base.

X-Class: Class-Oriented BERT Representations

- A simple idea for text classification
 - Learn representations for documents
 - Set the number of clusters as the number of classes
 - Hope their clustering results are almost the same as the desired classification
- However, the same corpus could be classified differently

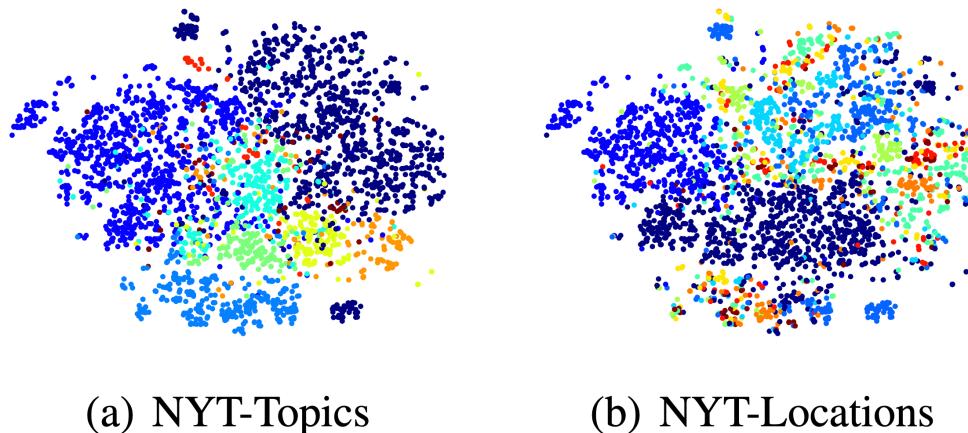
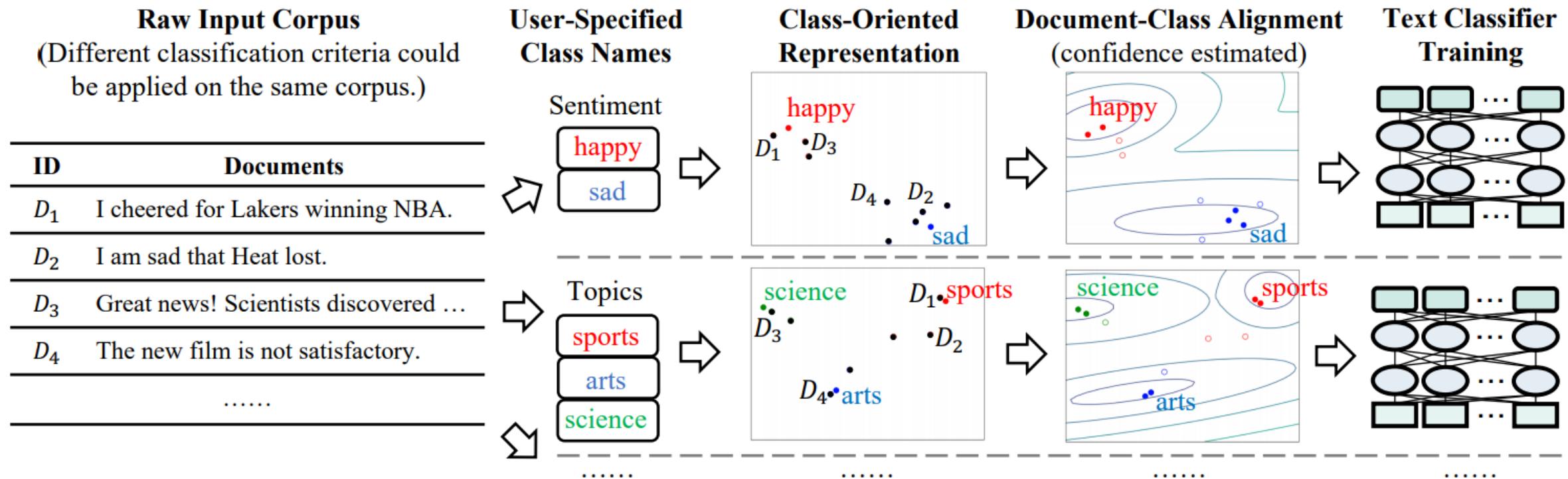


Figure 1: Visualizations of News using Average BERT Representations. Colors denote different classes.

X-Class: Class-Oriented BERT Representations

- Clustering for classification based on class-oriented representations



X-Class: Experiment Results

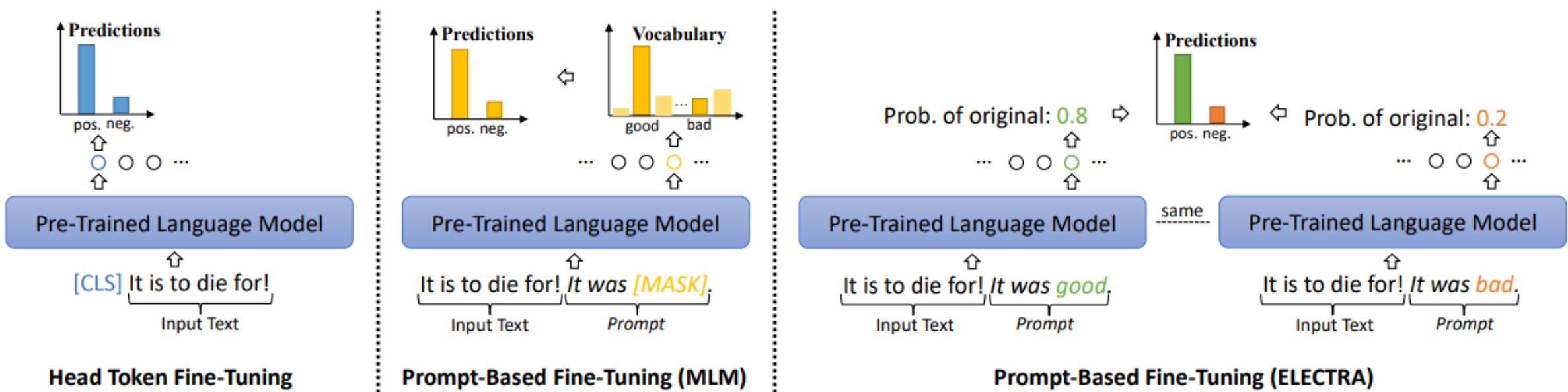
- WeSTClass & ConWea consume at least 3 seed words per class
- LOTClass & X-Class use category names only

	AGNews	20News	NYT-Small	NYT-Topic	NYT-Location	Yelp	DBpedia
Corpus Domain	News	News	News	News	News	Reviews	Wikipedia
Class Criterion	Topics	Topics	Topics	Topics	Locations	Sentiment	Ontology
# of Classes	4	5	5	9	10	2	14
# of Documents	120,000	17,871	13,081	31,997	31,997	38,000	560,000
Imbalance	1.0	2.02	16.65	27.09	15.84	1.0	1.0

Model	AGNews	20News	NYT-Small	NYT-Topic	NYT-Location	Yelp	DBpedia
Supervised	93.99/93.99	96.45/96.42	97.95/95.46	94.29/89.90	95.99/94.99	95.7/95.7	98.96/98.96
WeSTClass	82.3/82.1	71.28/69.90	91.2/83.7	68.26/57.02	63.15/53.22	81.6/81.6	81.1/ N/A
ConWea	74.6/74.2	75.73/73.26	95.23/90.79	81.67/71.54	85.31/83.81	71.4/71.2	N/A
LOTClass	86.89/86.82	73.78/72.53	78.12/56.05	67.11/43.58	58.49/58.96	87.75/87.68	86.66/85.98
X-Class	84.8/84.65	81.36/80.6	96.67/92.98	80.6/69.92	90.5/89.81	88.36/88.32	91.33/91.14
X-Class-Rep	77.92/77.03	75.14/73.24	92.13/83.94	77.85/65.38	86.7/87.36	77.87/77.05	74.06/71.75
X-Class-Align	83.1/83.05	79.28/78.62	96.34/92.08	79.64/67.85	88.58/88.02	87.16/87.1	87.37/87.28

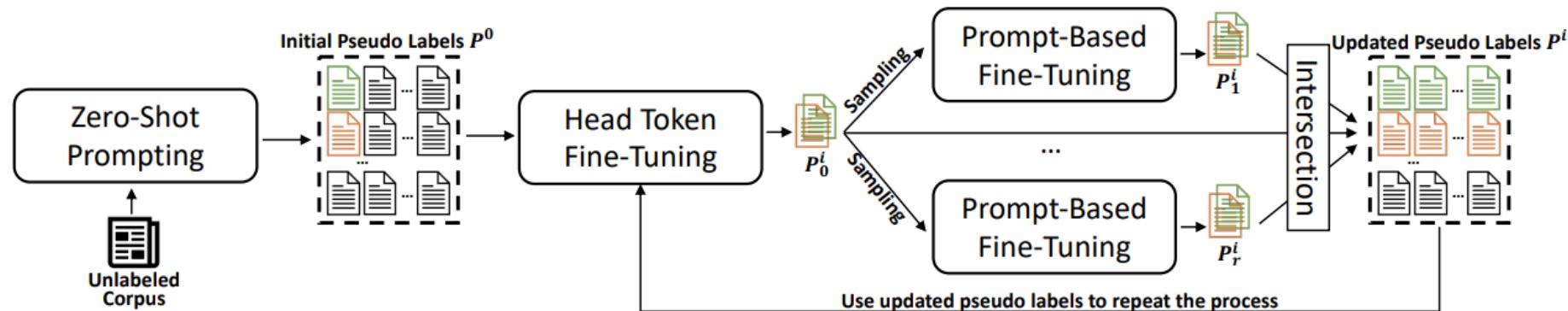
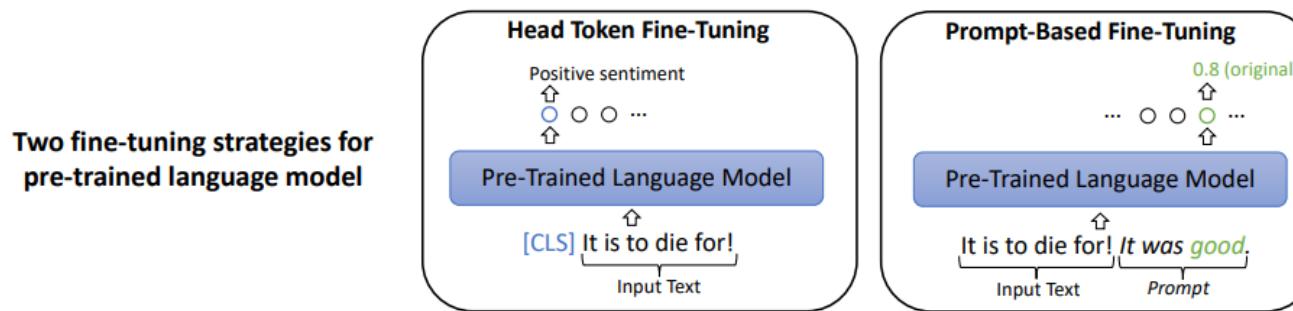
Prompt-based Fine-tuning for Text Classification

- ❑ **Head token fine-tuning** randomly initializes a linear classification head and directly predicts class distribution using the [CLS] token, which needs a substantial amount of training data.
- ❑ **Prompt-based fine-tuning for MLM-based PLM** converts the document into the masked token prediction problem by reusing the pre-trained MLM head.
- ❑ **Prompt-based fine-tuning for ELECTRA-style PLM** converts documents into the replaced token detection problem by reusing the pre-trained discriminative head.



Integrating Head Token & Prompt-based Fine-tuning

- Why do we need prompts to get pseudo training data?
 - Simple keyword matching may induce errors.
 - E.g., “*die*” is a negative word, but a food review “It is to *die* for!” implies a strong positive sentiment.



(1) Zero-Shot Prompting for Pseudo Label Acquisition

(2) Iterative Classifier Training and Pseudo Label Expansion

Experimental Results

- Integrating head token and prompt-based fine-tuning for weakly supervised text classification with category names only.

Methods	AGNews		20News		Yelp		IMDB	
	Micro-F1	Macro-F1	Micro-F1	Macro-F1	Micro-F1	Macro-F1	Micro-F1	Macro-F1
WeSTClass	0.823	0.821	0.713	0.699	0.816	0.816	0.774	-
ConWea	0.746	0.742	0.757	0.733	0.714	0.712	-	-
LOTClass	0.869	0.868	0.738	0.725	0.878	0.877	0.865	-
XClass	0.857	0.857	0.786	0.778	0.900	0.900	-	-
ClassKG [†]	0.881	0.881	<u>0.811</u>	0.820	0.918	0.918	0.888	0.888
RoBERTa (0-shot)	0.581	0.529	0.507 [‡]	0.445 [‡]	0.812	0.808	0.784	0.780
ELECTRA (0-shot)	0.810	0.806	0.558	0.529	0.820	0.820	0.803	0.802
PromptClass								
ELECTRA+BERT	<u>0.884</u>	<u>0.884</u>	0.789	0.791	0.919	0.919	0.905	0.905
RoBERTa+RoBERTa	0.895	0.895	0.755 [‡]	0.760 [‡]	<u>0.920</u>	<u>0.920</u>	<u>0.906</u>	<u>0.906</u>
ELECTRA+ELECTRA	<u>0.884</u>	<u>0.884</u>	0.816	<u>0.817</u>	0.957	0.957	0.931	0.931
Fully Supervised	0.940	0.940	0.965	0.964	0.957	0.957	0.945	-

Outline

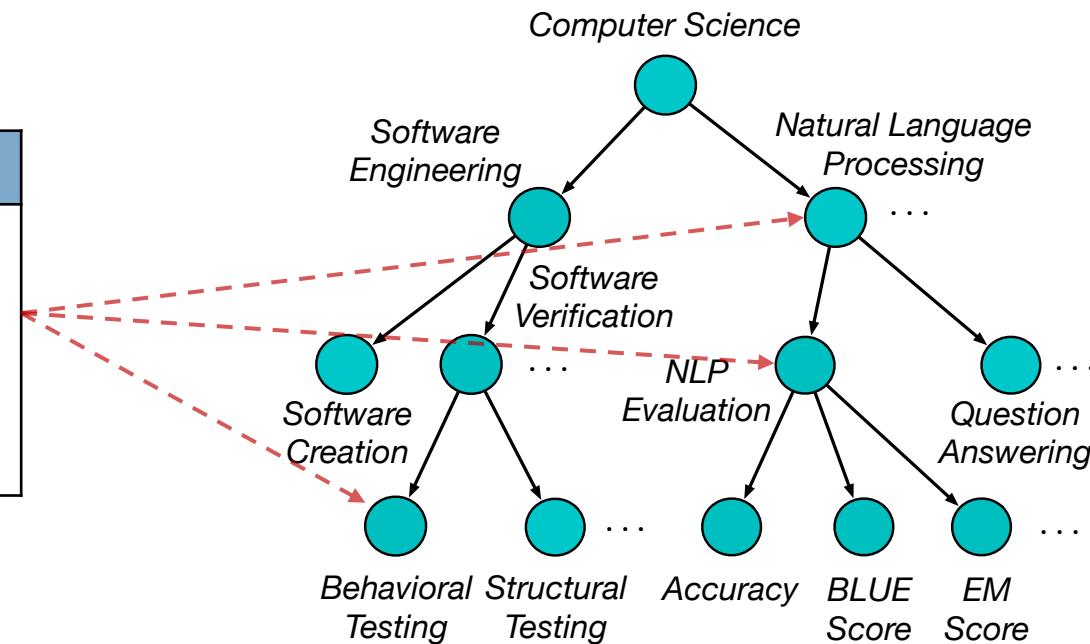
- ❑ What Weakly-Supervised Text Classification Is, and Why It Matters
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- ❑ Text Classification with Taxonomy Information 
- ❑ TaxoClass [NAACL'21]
- ❑ Text Classification with Metadata Information

TaxoClass: Weakly-supervised Hierarchical Multi-Label Text Classification

- The taxonomy is a directed acyclic graph (DAG)
- Each paper can have multiple categories distributed on different paths
- Category names can be phrases and may not appear in the corpus

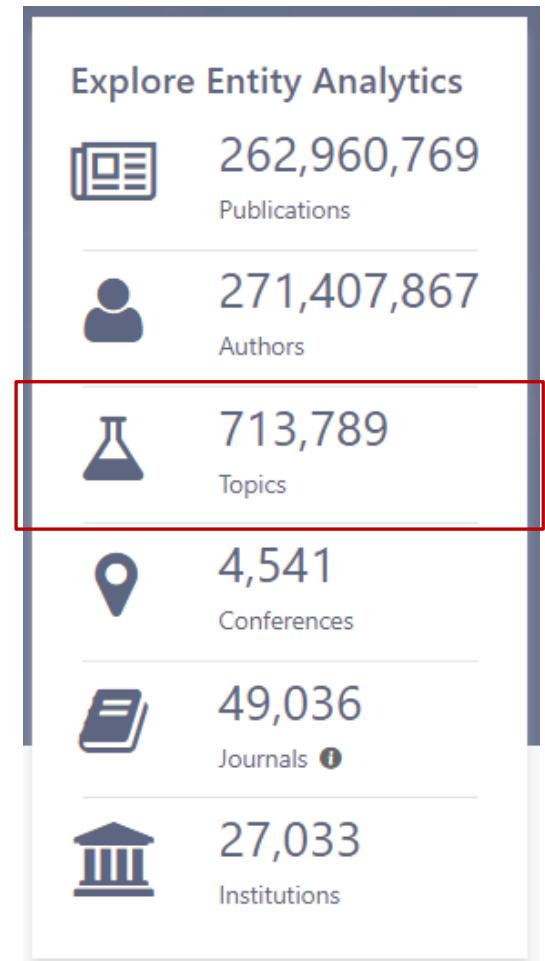
Document

Measuring held-out accuracy often overestimates the performance of *NLP* models... Inspired by principles of *behavioral testing* in software engineering, we introduce CheckList, a task-agnostic methodology for *testing NLP models*...



TaxoClass: Why Category Names Only?

- Taxonomies for multi-label text classification are often big.
 - Amazon Product Catalog: $\times 10^4$ categories
 - MeSH Taxonomy (for medical papers): $\times 10^4$ categories
 - Microsoft Academic Taxonomy: $\times 10^5$ labels
- Impossible for users to provide even a small set of (e.g., 3) keywords/labeled documents for each category

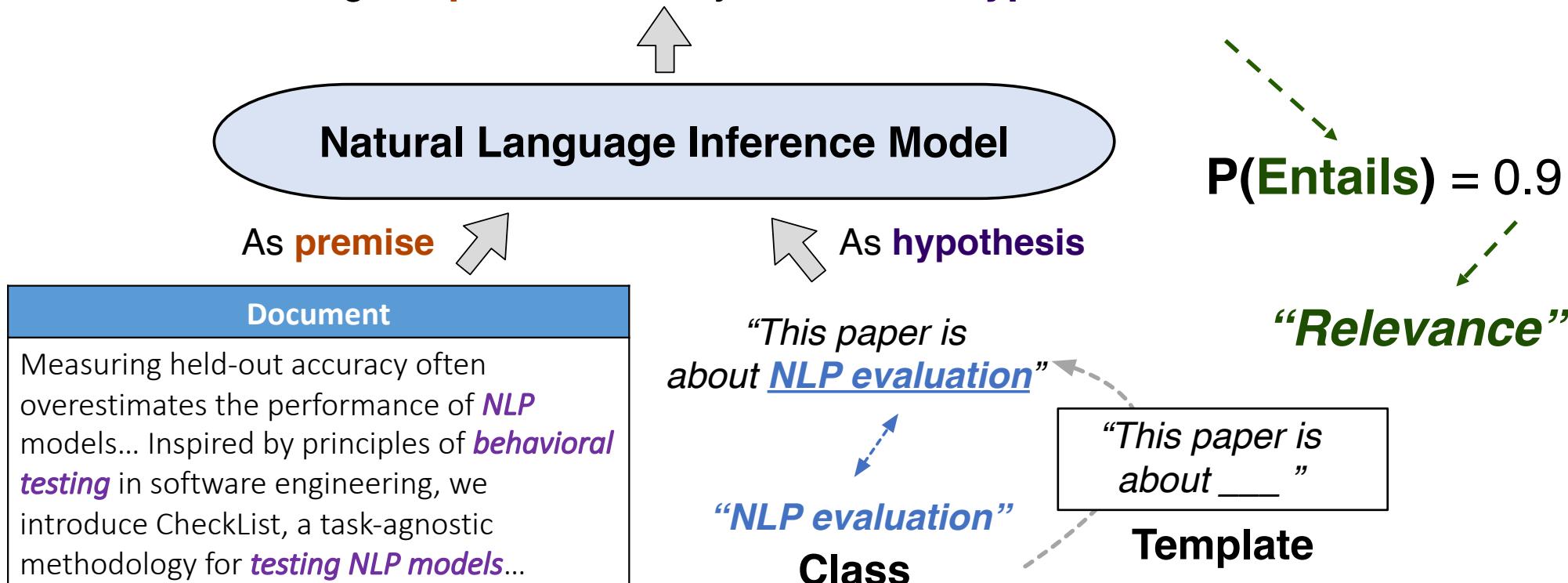


<https://academic.microsoft.com/home>

TaxoClass: Document-Class Relevance Calculation

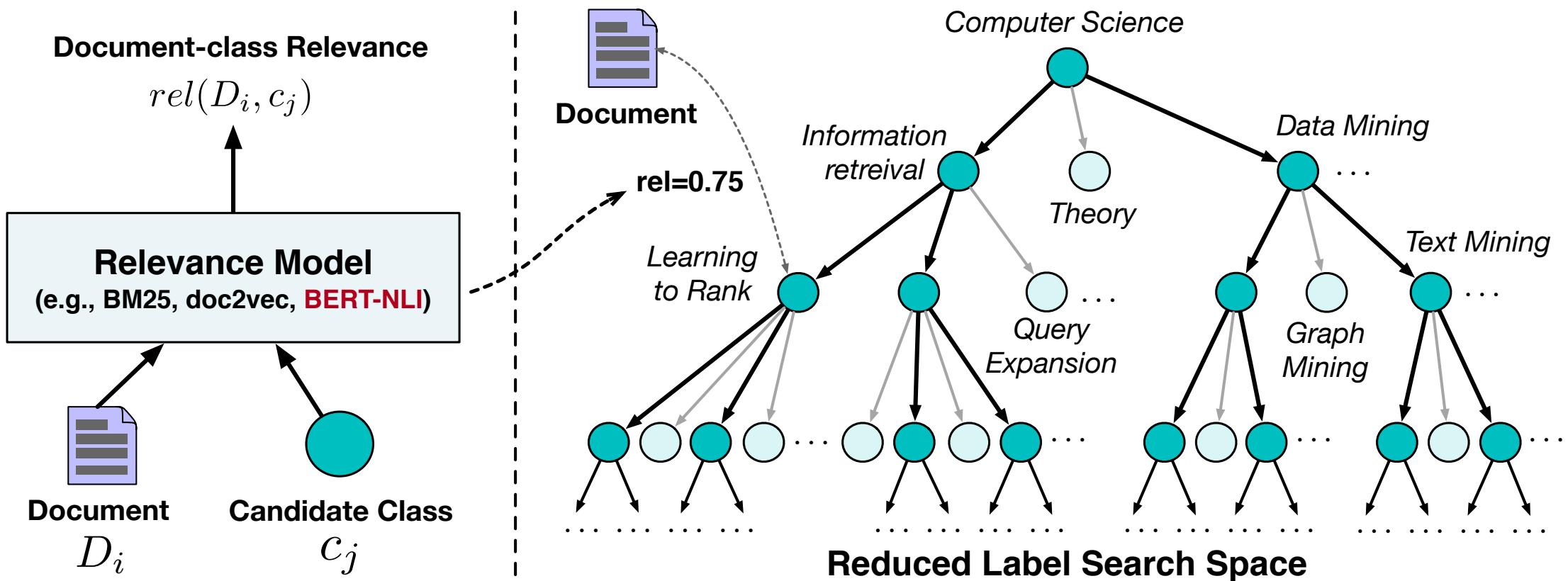
- How to use the knowledge from pre-trained LMs?
- Relevance model: BERT/RoBERTa fine-tuned on the NLI task
- <https://huggingface.co/roberta-large-mnli>

After reading the **premise**, can you infer the **hypothesis**?



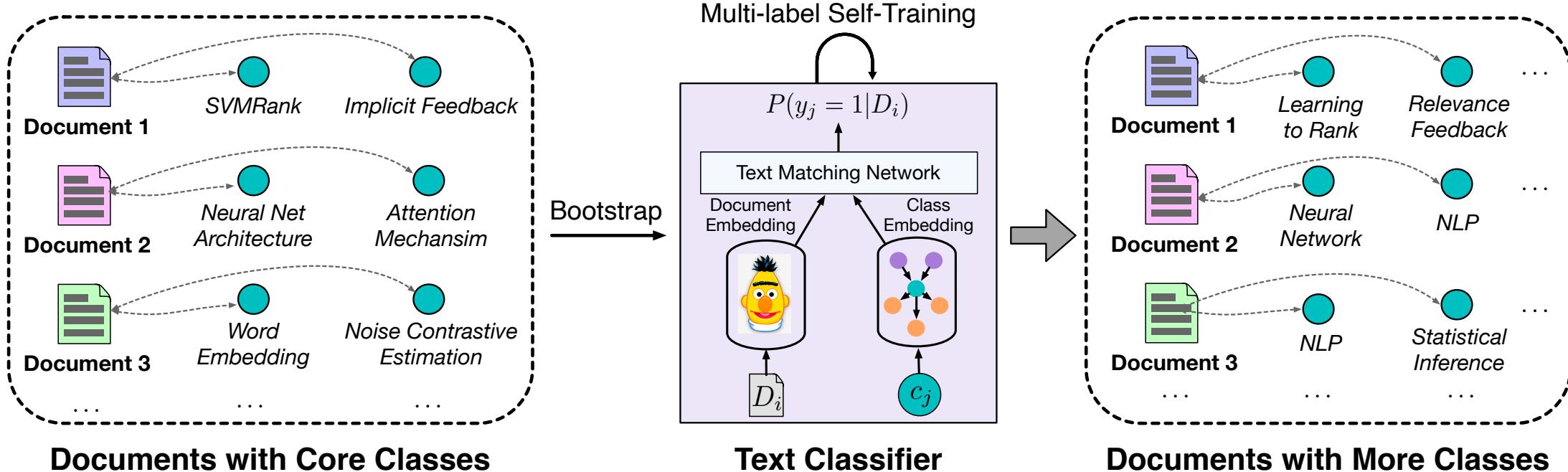
TaxoClass: Top-Down Exploration

- How to use the taxonomy?
- Shrink the label search space with top-down exploration
- Use a relevance model to filter out completely irrelevant classes



TaxoClass: Identify Core Classes and More Classes

- Identify document core classes in reduced label search space
- Generalize from core classes with bootstrapping and self-training



TaxoClass: Experiment Results

Weakly-supervised multi-class classification method

Semi-supervised methods using 30% of training set

Zero-shot method

Methods	Amazon		DBpedia	
	Example-F1	P@1	Example-F1	P@1
WeSHClass (Meng et al., AAAI'19)	0.246	0.577	0.305	0.536
SS-PCEM (Xiao et al., WebConf'19)	0.292	0.537	0.385	0.742
Semi-BERT (Devlin et al., NAACL'19)	0.339	0.592	0.428	0.761
Hier-0Shot-TC (Yin et al., EMNLP'19)	0.474	0.714	0.677	0.787
TaxoClass (ours)	0.593	0.812	0.816	0.894

- vs. **WeSHClass**: better model document-class relevance
- vs. **SS-PCEM, Semi-BERT**: better leverage supervision signals from taxonomy
- vs. **Hier-0Shot-TC**: better capture domain-specific information from core classes

Amazon: 49K product reviews (29.5K training + 19.7K testing), 531 classes

DBpedia: 245K Wiki articles (196K training + 49K testing), 298 classes

$$\text{Example-F1} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{2|true_i \cap pred_i|}{|true_i| + |pred_i|}, \quad P@1 = \frac{\# \text{docs with top-1 pred correct}}{\# \text{total docs}}$$

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- ❑ What Weakly-Supervised Text Classification Is, and Why It Matters
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- ❑ MICoL [WWW'22]

MICoL: Metadata-Induced Contrastive Learning for Zero-Shot Multi-Label Text Classification

□ Input

- A set of labels. Each label has its name and description.
- A large set of unlabeled documents associated with metadata (e.g., authors, venue, references) that can connect the documents together.

□ Output

- A multi-label text classifier. Given some new documents, the classifier can predict relevant labels for each document.

The figure displays two examples of label descriptions from academic databases. The top example is for the label "Webgraph" from Microsoft Academic, showing its name, publications, citations, definition, and a detailed description of what a webgraph is. The bottom example is for the label "Betacoronavirus" from PubMed, showing its name, MeSH descriptor data, and detailed information about the label, including its synonyms and scope notes.

Label Name: Webgraph

Definition: The webgraph describes the directed links between pages of the World Wide Web. A graph, in general, consists of several vertices, some pairs connected by edges. In a directed graph, edges are directed lines or arcs. The webgraph is a directed graph, whose vertices correspond to the pages of the WWW, and a directed edge connects page X to page Y if there exists a hyperlink on page X referring to page Y.

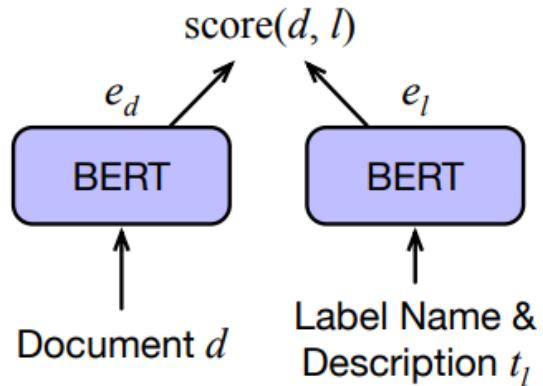
Label Name: Betacoronavirus

Synonyms (also viewed as Label Names): Human coronavirus HKU1, Pipistrellus bat coronavirus HKU5, Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9, Tylonycteris bat coronavirus HKU4

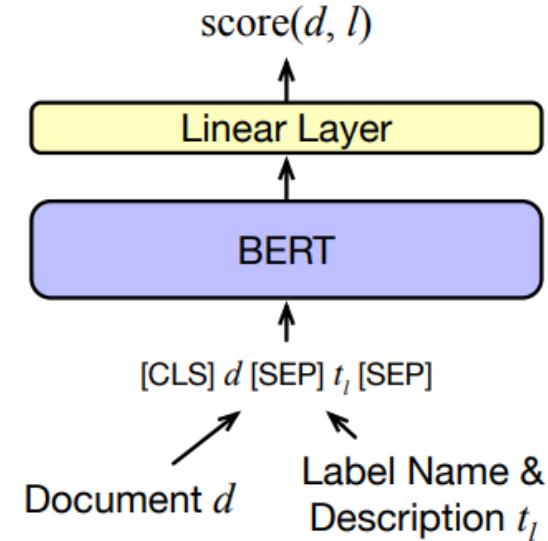
- (a) Label “Webgraph” from Microsoft Academic (<https://academic.microsoft.com/topic/2777569578/>).
- (b) Label “Betacoronavirus” from PubMed (<https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/record/ui?ui=D000073640>).

Pre-trained Language Models for Multi-Label Text Classification

- ❑ If we could have some labeled documents, ...
 - ❑ We can use relevant (document, label) pairs to fine-tune the pre-trained LM.
 - ❑ Both Bi-Encoder and Cross-Encoder are applicable.



(a) Bi-Encoder

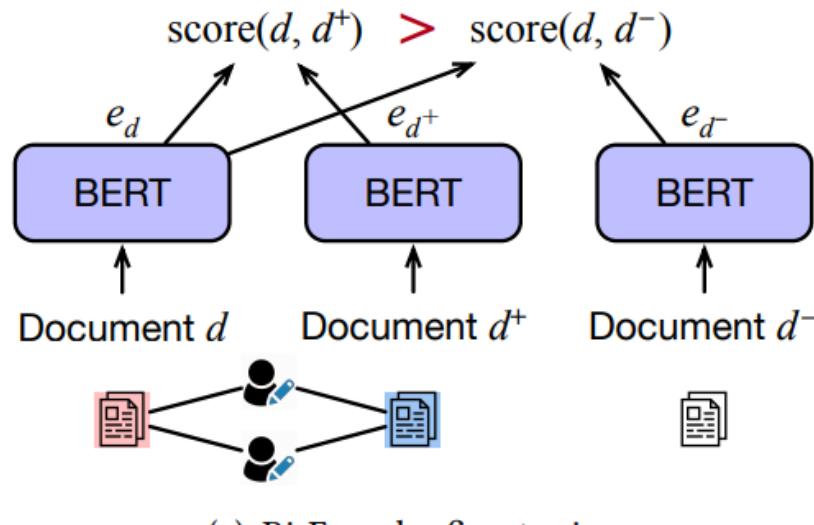
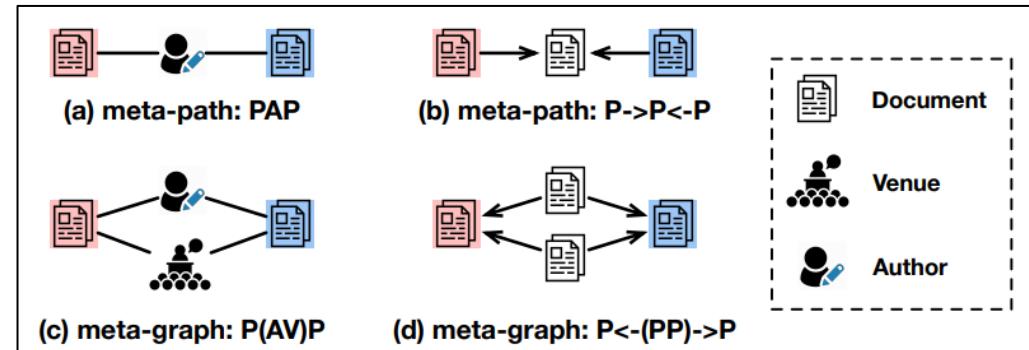


(b) Cross-Encoder

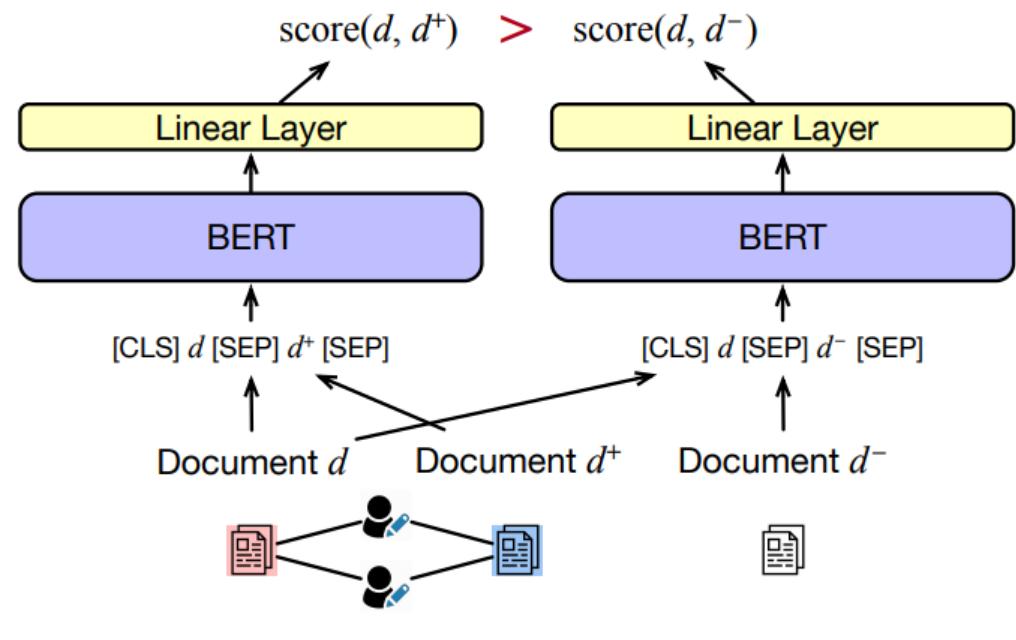
- ❑ However, we do not have any labeled documents!!!

Metadata-Induced Contrastive Learning

- ❑ Contrastive learning: Instead of training the model to know “what is what” (e.g., relevant (document, label) pairs), train it to know “what is similar with what” (e.g., similar (document, document) pairs).
- ❑ Using metadata to define similar (document, document) pairs.



(a) Bi-Encoder fine-tuning



(b) Cross-Encoder fine-tuning

MICoL: Experimental Results

- ❑ MICoL significantly outperforms text-based contrastive learning baselines.
- ❑ MICoL is competitive with the supervised SOTA trained on 10K–50K labeled documents.

	Algorithm	MAG-CS [49]					PubMed [24]				
		P@1	P@3	P@5	NDCG@3	NDCG@5	P@1	P@3	P@5	NDCG@3	NDCG@5
Zero-shot	Doc2Vec [31]	0.5697**	0.4613**	0.3814**	0.5043**	0.4719**	0.3888**	0.3283**	0.2859**	0.3463**	0.3252**
	SciBERT [2]	0.6440**	0.5030**	0.4011**	0.5545**	0.5061**	0.4427**	0.3572**	0.3031**	0.3809**	0.3510**
	ZeroShot-Entail [61]	0.6649**	0.5003**	0.3959**	0.5570**	0.5057**	0.5275**	0.4021	0.3299	0.4352	0.3913
	SPECTER [8]	0.7107**	0.5381**	0.4184**	0.5979**	0.5365**	0.5286**	0.3923**	0.3181**	0.4273**	0.3815**
	EDA [53]	0.6442**	0.4939**	0.3948**	0.5471**	0.5000**	0.4919	0.3754*	0.3101*	0.4058*	0.3667*
	UDA [57]	0.6291**	0.4848**	0.3897**	0.5362**	0.4918**	0.4795**	0.3696**	0.3067**	0.3986**	0.3614**
	MICoL (Bi-Encoder, $P \rightarrow P \leftarrow P$)	0.7062*	0.5369*	0.4184*	0.5960*	0.5355*	0.5124**	0.3869*	0.3172*	0.4196*	0.3774*
	MICoL (Bi-Encoder, $P \leftarrow (PP) \rightarrow P$)	0.7050*	0.5344*	0.4161*	0.5937*	0.5331*	0.5198**	0.3876*	0.3172*	0.4215*	0.3786*
Supervised	MICoL (Cross-Encoder, $P \rightarrow P \leftarrow P$)	0.7177	0.5444	0.4219	0.6048	0.5415	0.5412	0.4036	0.3257	0.4391	0.3906
	MICoL (Cross-Encoder, $P \leftarrow (PP) \rightarrow P$)	0.7061	0.5376	0.4187	0.5964	0.5357	0.5218	0.3911	0.3172*	0.4249	0.3794
	MATCH [68] (10K Training)	0.4423**	0.2851**	0.2152**	0.3375**	0.3003**	0.6915	0.3869*	0.2785**	0.4649	0.3896
	MATCH [68] (50K Training)	0.6215**	0.4280**	0.3269**	0.4987**	0.4489**	0.7701	0.4716	0.3585	0.5497	0.4750
	MATCH [68] (100K Training)	0.8321	0.6520	0.5142	0.7342	0.6761	0.8286	0.5680	0.4410	0.6405	0.5626
	MATCH [68] (Full, 560K+ Training)	0.9114	0.7634	0.6312	0.8486	0.8076	0.9151	0.7425	0.6104	0.8001	0.7310

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Q&A