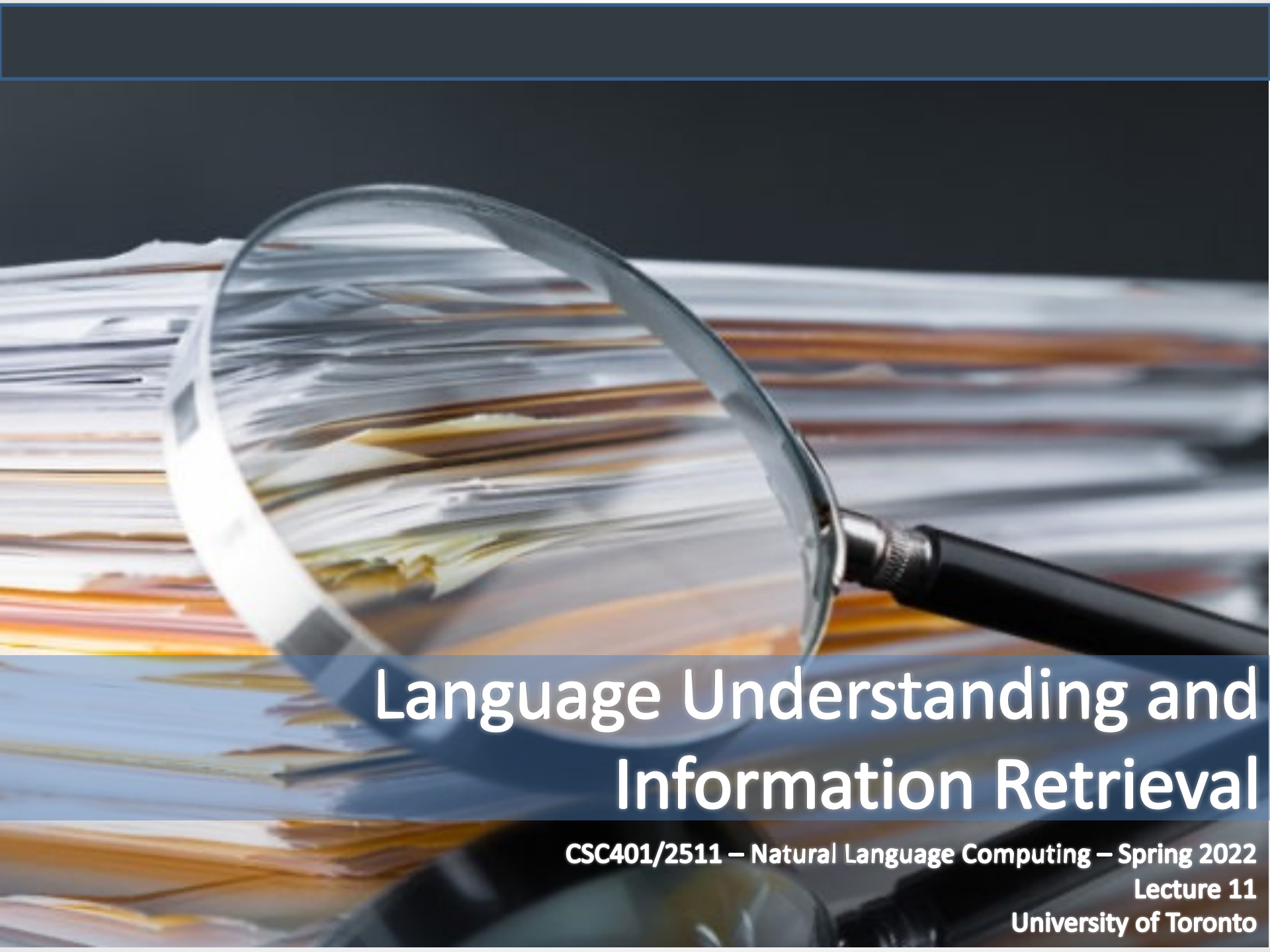


A magnifying glass with a black handle and a silver rim is positioned over a thick stack of papers. The papers are slightly blurred, showing various colors like white, yellow, and orange. The magnifying glass's lens is focused on the papers, creating a sense of searching or examining information.

# Language Understanding and Information Retrieval

CSC401/2511 – Natural Language Computing – Spring 2022

Lecture 11

University of Toronto

# Agenda

- March 23 (today): Natural languages understanding
- March 28 Monday: Information retrieval

Understanding “what the human means” so I can decide how to reply

# NATURAL LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING

# Natural Language Understanding

- Understanding natural language is a very broad research direction.
- NLP researchers have considered several related tasks:
  - Detect the sentiment
  - Decide if a sentence entails the other
  - Detect the stance
  - Examine if AI models can use some common sense.
  - ... Many others

# Detect the sentiment

- Is each row a **positive** or a **negative** comment?
- These examples come from the SST2 dataset in the GLUE benchmark – a binary **classification** problem.

| Sentence                                                                | Label           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| that 's far too <b>tragic</b> to merit such superficial treatment       | <b>negative</b> |
| equals the original and in some ways even <b>better</b> s it            | <b>positive</b> |
| the plot is <b>nothing but boilerplate</b> clichés from start to finish | <b>negative</b> |
| <b>gorgeous</b> and deceptively minimalist                              | <b>positive</b> |

Socher, Richard, et al. "Recursive deep models for semantic compositionality over a sentiment treebank." *Proceedings of EMNLP*. 2013.

# Detect the entailment

- Do the premise **entail** the hypothesis?
- These examples come from the MNLI dataset – a 3-class **classification** problem.

| Premise                                                      | Hypothesis                               | Label      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|
| How do you know? <b>All this is their information</b> again. | <b>This information belongs to them.</b> | entail     |
| and it is nice talking to you all righty                     | I talk to you every day.                 | neutral    |
| Fun for <b>adults and children.</b>                          | Fun for <b>only children.</b>            | contradict |

Williams, Adina, Nikita Nangia, and Samuel R. Bowman. "The Multi-genre NLI corpus." (2018).

# Detect the stance

- In this thread, what is the **stance** of each tweet?
- An example from SemEval 2017 task 8:

**u1:** We understand there are two gunmen and up to a dozen hostages inside the café under siege at Sydney.. ISIS flags remain on display #7News **[support]**

**u2:** @u1 not ISIS flags **[deny]**

**u3:** @u1 sorry – how do you know it's an ISIS flag? Can you actually confirm that? **[query]**

**u4:** @u3 no she can't cos it's actually not **[deny]**

**u5:** @u1 More on situation at <location> <link> **[comment]**

**u6:** @u1 Have you actually confirmed its an ISIS flag or are you talking shit **[query]**

Derczynski L, Bontcheva K, Liakata M, Procter R, Hoi GW, Zubiaga A. SemEval-2017 Task 8: RumourEval: Determining rumour veracity and support for rumours. arXiv preprint arXiv:1704.05972. 2017 Apr 20.

# Reasoning with common sense

Here is an example from the **Winograd Schema Challenge**:

- The trophy doesn't fit into the brown suitcase because it is too small. What is too small?
- The trophy doesn't fit into the brown suitcase because it is too large. What is too large?

Aside: WSC is designed as a pronoun resolution problem.

Levesque, Hector, Ernest Davis, and Leora Morgenstern. "The Winograd Schema Challenge." *Thirteenth International Conference on the Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*. 2012.



# GLUE and SuperGLUE

- Just like the ImageNet for CV, there are some leaderboards in NLP:
- General Language Understanding Evaluation (**GLUE**) is a popular suite of datasets.
- And a more recent suite, **SuperGLUE**.
- Some datasets we mentioned just now are included, e.g., SST2 in GLUE, and WSC in SuperGLUE

# Mind the corner cases!

A commercial sentiment analysis model (G) failed many “corner-case” tests:

- **Min Functional Test (MFT)**
- **Invariance test (INV)**
- **Directional perturbation test (DIR)**

| Test case                                                                                                                              | Expected | Predicted      | Pass? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|-------|
| <b>A</b> Testing <b>Negation</b> with <b>MFT</b> Labels: negative, positive, neutral<br>Template: I {NEGATION} {POS_VERB} the {THING}. |          |                |       |
| I can't say I recommend the food.                                                                                                      | neg      | pos            | X     |
| I didn't love the flight.                                                                                                              | neg      | neutral        | X     |
| ...                                                                                                                                    |          |                |       |
| Failure rate = 76.4%                                                                                                                   |          |                |       |
| <b>B</b> Testing <b>NER</b> with <b>INV</b> Same pred. (inv) after removals / additions                                                |          |                |       |
| @AmericanAir thank you we got on a different flight to [ Chicago → Dallas ].                                                           | inv      | pos<br>neutral | X     |
| @VirginAmerica I can't lose my luggage, moving to [ Brazil → Turkey ] soon, ugh.                                                       | inv      | neutral<br>neg | X     |
| ...                                                                                                                                    |          |                |       |
| Failure rate = 20.8%                                                                                                                   |          |                |       |
| <b>C</b> Testing <b>Vocabulary</b> with <b>DIR</b> Sentiment monotonic decreasing (↓)                                                  |          |                |       |
| @AmericanAir service wasn't great. You are lame.                                                                                       | ↓        | neg<br>neutral | X     |
| @JetBlue why won't YOU help them?! Ugh. I dread you.                                                                                   | ↓        | neg<br>neutral | X     |
| ...                                                                                                                                    |          |                |       |
| Failure rate = 34.6%                                                                                                                   |          |                |       |

Ribeiro, Marco Tulio, et al. "Beyond accuracy: Behavioral testing of NLP models with CheckList." ACL 2020

# Popular methods for NLU

- NLU are usually formulated as **machine learning classification problems**, so ML models can in general apply.
- As of early 2022, the best DNN-based models perform better than “human baselines” on the GLUE leaderboard.
  - “Human baselines” means: the agreement between randomly selected English speakers and the experts who annotated the test sets.
  - The DNN-based models are usually **fine-tuned** from **language models** (e.g., RoBERTa).

# Aside: Better NLU Systems

- How to develop better NLU systems?
- Here are some possible answers:
  - More high-quality data.
  - Better data representations.
  - Larger models.
  - Better model structures.
- In the next a few slides, we will look at the solutions reflecting the avenues.

# GPT-3: More high-quality data

- CommonCrawl text data from 2016 to 2019.
  - 45TB compressed text data are noisy.
  - Filtered down to 570GB.

Filter steps:

1. Automatically predict document quality, then resample the high-quality documents.
2. (Fuzzy) deduplication.
3. Remove the documents contained in evaluation datasets.

Note that GPT-3 also used huge models.  
More about “large models” later.

Brown, Tom, et al. "Language models are few-shot learners." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 33 (2020): 1877-1901.

# ERNIE: Knowledge-enhanced LM

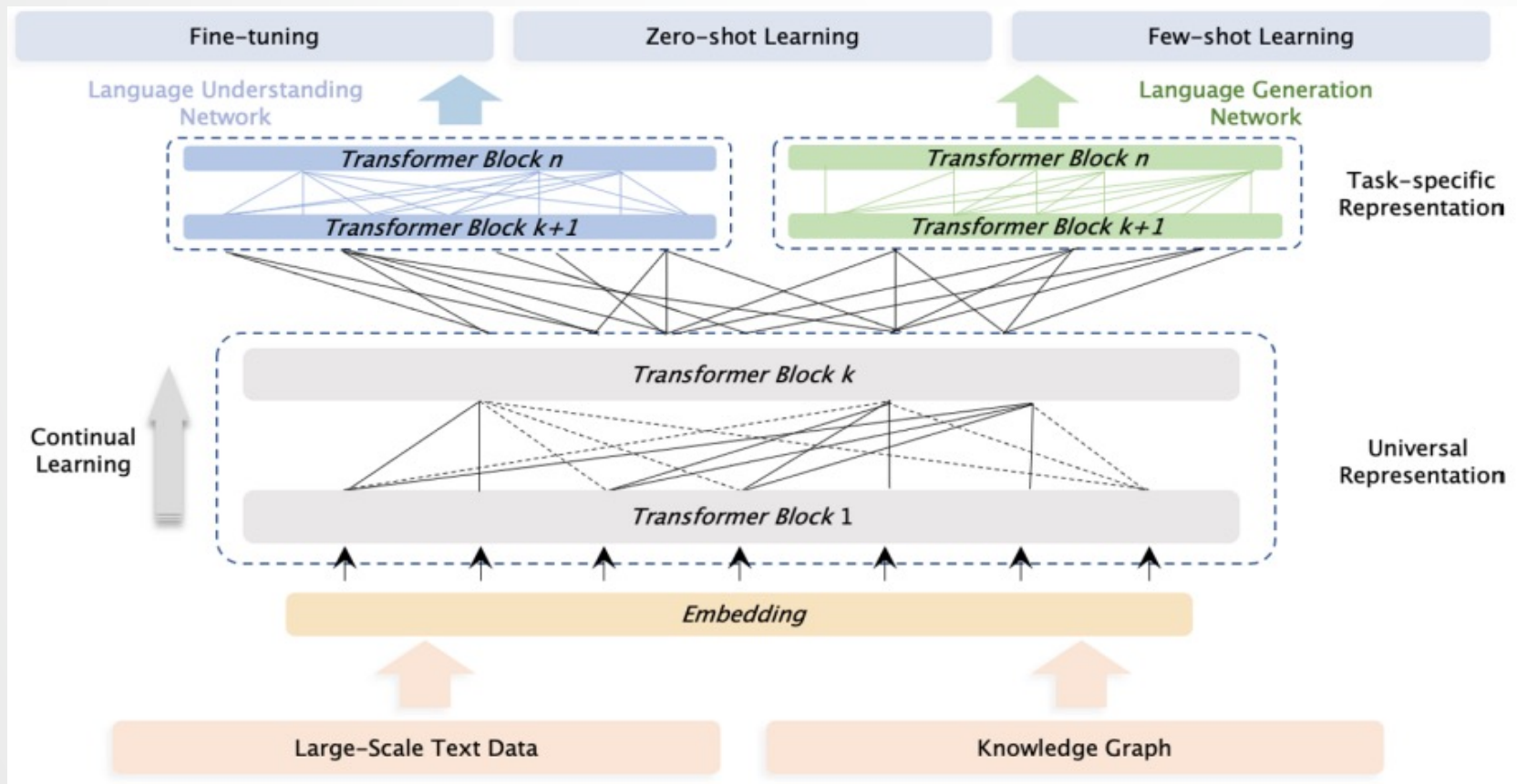


Figure 1: The framework of ERNIE 3.0.

# ALBERT: A Light (and larger) BERT

- Larger models might be more expressive, but there are memory bottlenecks.
  - Too much parameters won't fit a GPU card.
- Two techniques to reduce # parameters:
  - Divide large vocabulary embedding matrix into two small matrices.
  - Share parameters across the layers.
- Result? “We are able to scale up to much larger ALBERT configurations but still have fewer parameters than BERT-large.”

Lan, Zhenzhong, et al. "Albert: A lite bert for self-supervised learning of language representations." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1909.11942* (2019).

# DeBERTa: Enhanced structures

- Remember that in BERT:  $v_w = v_{content} + v_{position}$
- DeBERTa uses two separate vectors,  $v_{content} (H)$  and  $v_{position} (P)$  separately.
- For tokens at locations  $i$  and  $j$ , 4 types of attentions are computed:
  - Content-to-content  $H_i H_j^T$
  - Content-to-position  $H_i P_{j,i}^T$
  - Position-to-content  $P_{i,j} H_j^T$
  - Position-to-position  $P_{i,j} P_{j,i}^T$

He, Pengcheng, et al. "Deberta: Decoding-enhanced bert with disentangled attention." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.03654* (2020).



# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- Recently, researchers debated around the claim “DNNs understand language”.
- ML classifiers may reach nontrivial accuracies by relying only on **shortcuts**:
- Here is an example of natural languages inference task:

**S1:** You have access to the facts.

**S2:** The facts are accessible to you.

**Label:** Entailment

**Correct reason:** S1 entails S2.

**Shortcut:** They both contain the, to, and you

# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- Many NLU models failed to generalize on more challenging datasets.
- Here is an example from a challenge dataset, **HANS**:
  - Rely on meaning -> correct result
  - Rely on shortcuts -> incorrect result

**S1:** The doctor was paid by the actor.

**S2:** The doctor paid the actor.

**Label:** Contradict

**Shortcut:** They both contain the, doctor, paid, the, actor.

DNNs failed badly!

McCoy, R. Thomas, Ellie Pavlick, and Tal Linzen. "Right for the wrong reasons: Diagnosing syntactic heuristics in natural language inference." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1902.01007* (2019).

# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- There are evidence supporting counter-arguments. Here is an example showing RoBERTa learns some “deeper” features.
- Example features:

| Feature name                           | Feature description                  |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Surface feature: Length                | Is sentence longer than $n=3$ words? |
| Linguistic feature: Syntactic category | Does sentence have an adjective?     |

Warstadt, Alex, et al. "Learning which features matter: RoBERTa acquires a preference for linguistic generalizations (eventually)." *EMNLP 2020*.

# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- How to test if a model relies on surface (S) vs. linguistic (L) feature?
- Train on an **ambiguous** dataset , which consists of only two types of samples:
  - $S=0, L=0$  (Label: 0)
  - $S=1, L=1$  (Label: 1)
- Use a **disambiguating** test set, which consists of only two types of samples:
  - $S=0, L=1$  Model relying on S will predict 0. L: 1.
  - $S=1, L=0$  Model relying on S will predict 1. L: 0.

Model relying on S or L can make correct predictions.

Warstadt, Alex, et al. "Learning which features matter: RoBERTa acquires a preference for linguistic generalizations (eventually)." *EMNLP 2020*.

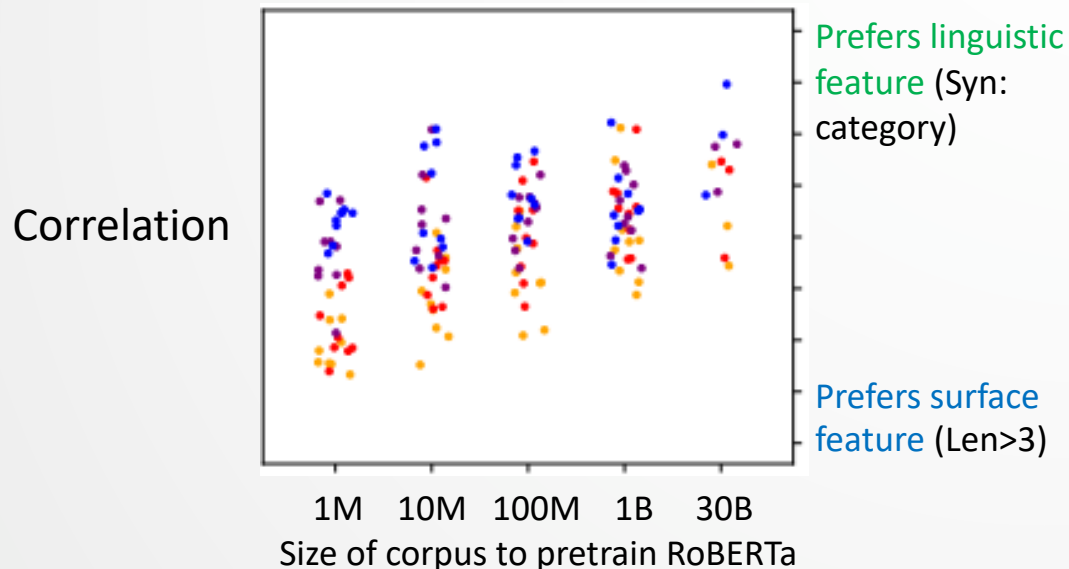
# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- Let model perform binary classification (0 vs 1). Compute the (Matthew's) correlation between model's predictions and the L features.
- If the model prefers L: correlation goes towards 1.
- If the model prefers S: correlation goes towards -1.

Warstadt, Alex, et al. "Learning which features matter: RoBERTa acquires a preference for linguistic generalizations (eventually)." *EMNLP 2020*.

# Debate: Form vs. Meaning

- RoBERTa trained with more training data prefers more “linguistic” features.



The colors reflect different constituents in the training datasets.

This is 1 of the 20 configurations. Please refer to the original paper for details:  
Warstadt, Alex, et al. "Learning which features matter: RoBERTa acquires a preference for linguistic generalizations (eventually)." *EMNLP 2020*.

# Debate: Form vs. Meaning



DNN models can compute some statistics – this is sufficient to solve those NLU machine learning problems, but they still do not understand the content.



The tasks that DNN models are trained on – cloze, next-token-prediction, etc. -- provide supervision signals that teach the DNN models to capture some semantics.

For details of this debate, please refer to:

Wolf, T. “Learning Meaning in Natural Language Processing – The Semantics Mega-Thread” *Blog post*:

<https://medium.com/huggingface/learning-meaning-in-natural-language-processing-the-semantics-mega-thread-9c0332dfe28e>

# Probing the DNNs

How much shortcut do the DNNs capture?

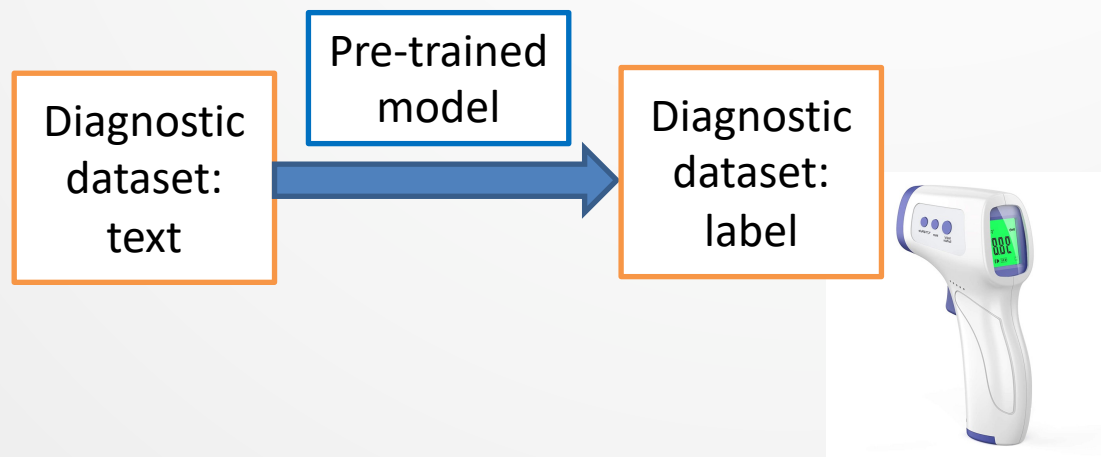
- We need to probe the DNNs to see **what**, and **how much**, do the DNNs understand.
- Here, “probe” means “carefully examine”.
- Probing is a fast-developing field, with many ongoing research projects.
- The most popular probing method is **diagnostic classification**.



# Probing as diagnostic classification

Steps for setting up a diagnostic classification:

- Collect a specified diagnostic dataset.
- Train a small, auxiliary model (e.g., LogReg) on the neural model (e.g., BERT) representations.
- High LogReg accuracy  $\rightarrow$  good representations\*.



\* There are some debates. See e.g., [Hewitt & Liang, \(2019\)](#)

# Aside: Probing BERT

- This is an application to show “which layer does BERT do what”.
- Tenney et al., (2019) considered a collection of probing tasks, including:
  - Part-of-speech (POS)
  - Dependencies (Deps.)
  - Semantic role labeling (SRL)
  - Coreference resolution (Coref.)
  - Semantic proto-roles (SPR)

Tenney, I., Das, D., & Pavlick, E. (2019). BERT Rediscovered the Classical NLP Pipeline. *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 4593–4601. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/P19-1452>

# Aside: Probing BERT

Set up a probing classifier  $P$  as:

- Input: Weighted sum of representations across  $l$  layers (i.e.,  $1, 2, \dots, l$ ).
- Output: labels of the probing task  $\tau$ .

The probing classifier produces two numbers:

- $Score(P^{(l)})$ : F1 score of probing classification.
- $s^{(l)}$ : The weight assigned to layer  $l$ .

Tenney, I., Das, D., & Pavlick, E. (2019). BERT Rediscovered the Classical NLP Pipeline. *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 4593–4601. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/P19-1452>

# Aside: Probing BERT

Measure two summary statistics:

- Center-of-gravity

$$\bar{E}[l] = \sum_{l=0}^L l \cdot s_{\tau}^{(l)}$$

The probe “attends to” here the most.

- Expected layer

$$\bar{E}_{\Delta}[l] = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^L l \cdot \Delta_{\tau}^{(l)}}{\sum_{l=1}^L \Delta_{\tau}^{(l)}}$$

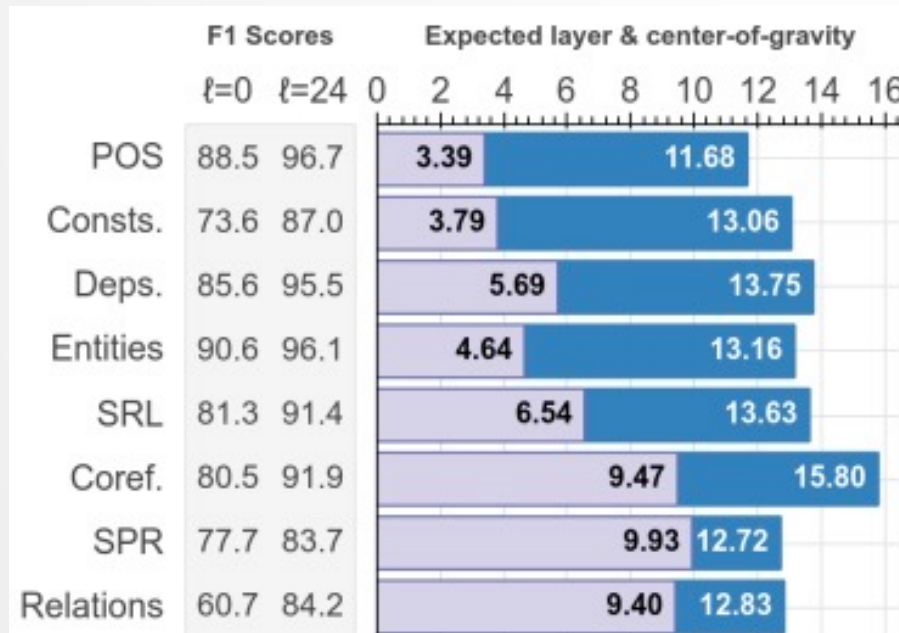
This layer is *expected* to improve *Score* the most.

Where  $\Delta_{\tau}^{(l)} = \text{Score}\left(P_{\tau}^{(l)}\right) - \text{Score}\left(P_{\tau}^{(l-1)}\right)$ .

Tenney, I., Das, D., & Pavlick, E. (2019). BERT Rediscovered the Classical NLP Pipeline. *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 4593–4601. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/P19-1452>

# Aside: Probing BERT

The “lower” layers of BERT are more “syntactic”;  
The “higher” layers ... more “semantic”.



Statistics on BERT-large  
Blue: center-of-gravity  
Purple: expected layer

As if BERT re-discovers the traditional NLP pipeline!

Tenney, I., Das, D., & Pavlick, E. (2019). BERT Rediscovered the Classical NLP Pipeline. *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 4593–4601. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/P19-1452>

# Comparing probing configurations

The probing configurations do not occur standalone.

- By probing, we mostly want to **compare**.
- Following is a hypothetical example ( $R_B > R_A$ ):

## Config A

Task: Predict tense  
Encoder: BERT (layer 2)  
Probe: LogReg

Performance  $R_A$  : Accuracy=80%

## Config B

Task: Predict tense  
Encoder: BERT (layer 4)  
Probe: LogReg

Performance  $R_B$  : Accuracy=81%

- If B *really* outperforms A, how likely can people reproduce this finding?
  - Can measure with **statistical power**.

# Statistical power

Empirically, power can be estimated via simulation:

- Repeat  $N$  times:
  - Sample e.g., 90% of data.
  - On these data, set up configurations A and B.
  - Do a statistical test (e.g., to test if  $R_B > R_A$ )
- Among the  $N$  simulations,  $N_{rej}$  gave  $R_B > R_A$ 
  - i.e., rejected the null hypothesis.
- Then the power is  $\frac{N_{rej}}{N}$ .
- Usually, we require power to be at least 0.80.

# Aside: Test set sizes matter!

- Newsletters like to boast e.g., “AI outperformed humans on GLUE”, but we should be careful, but...
- **Some leaderboard datasets are too small.**
- The results from several hundreds of data sample might not have sufficient **reliability**.

*Paper 1:* On **100** sentences, our model outperforms BERT by 1% accuracy.

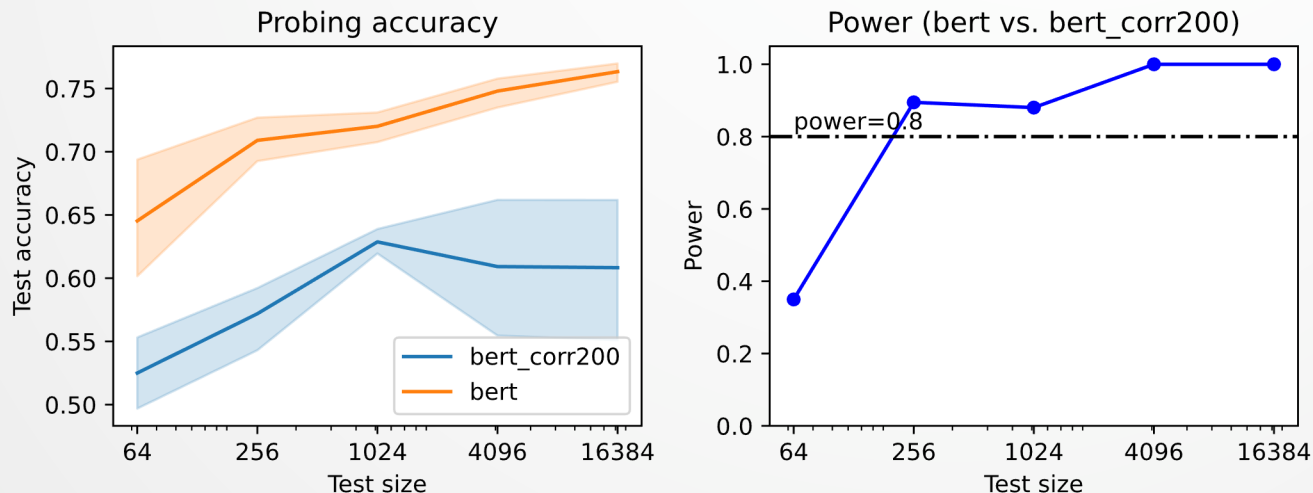
*Paper 2:* On **100,000** sentences, our model outperforms BERT by 1% accuracy.

Which one of the two papers are more reliable?



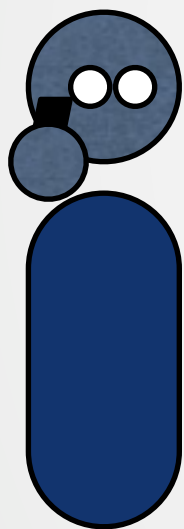
# Aside: sizes of probing datasets

- An example: **BERT** outperform **BERT\_corr200**, but only when test size  $\geq 256$  do the results have sufficient **statistical power**.



Zhu, Z., Wang, J., Li, B., & Rudzicz, F. (2022). On the data requirements of probing. *Findings of the Association of Computational Linguistics*.

# NLU summary



- The language understanding problem (NLU)
- Several tasks to evaluate the NLU abilities.
- Methods for building NLU systems.
- The “form vs meaning” debate.
- Recent approaches: probing.

Retrieve useful information from knowledge base

# **INFORMATION RETRIEVAL**

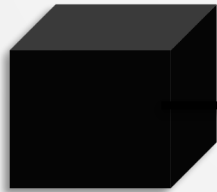
# Information retrieval systems

Retrieving information is also a very, very big problem.  
Here is a simplification:

Given a query, **search for** the most relevant **document** among a **knowledge base**.



Which woman has won more than 1 Nobel prize?



(Marie Curie)

# Information retrieval systems

Given a query, **search for** the most relevant **document** among a **knowledge base**.

- Addressing the task requires handling some problems:
  - **How to represent the query?**
  - **How to store a knowledge base?**
  - **How to search efficiently and accurately?**
- The problems are closely related. We will look at some popular approaches.

# IR scenario 1: SQL

Structured Query Language (SQL) query

- How to represent the query?  
SQL queries.
- How to store a knowledge base?  
Tabular entries with predefined schemas.
- How to search efficiently and accurately?  
Compile and execute the SQL queries.

# IR scenario 2: Doc2Vec

Find the documents that match the given keywords.

- How to represent the query?

Query is just another text-based document.

- How to store a knowledge base?

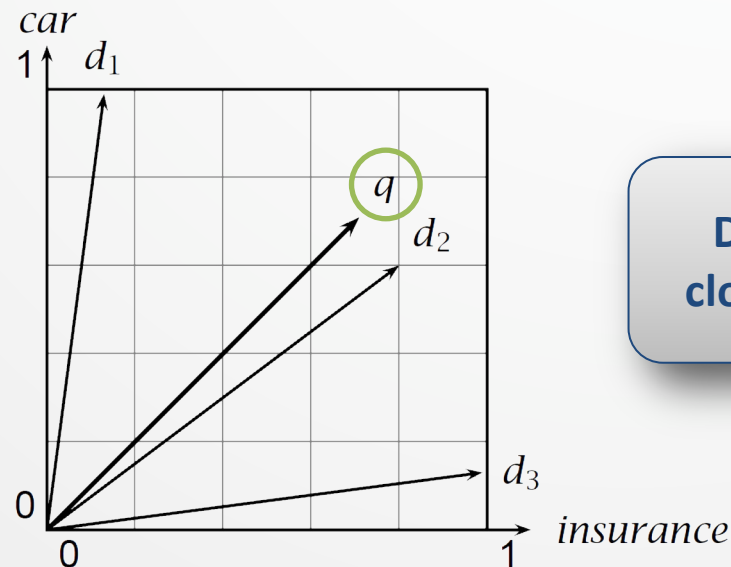
A collection of documents – actually, **vectorize** them, so it's easy to compute a similarity score.

- How to search efficiently and accurately?

Compute the **similarity score** between the query and each document. Return the document with the highest similarity score.

# Similarity score

- If the query and the available documents can be represented by vectors, we can determine **similarity** according to their **cosine distance**.
  - Vectors that are **near** each other (within a certain **angular radius**) are considered relevant.



Document  $d_2$  is  
closest to query  $q$ .



# Vectorization: *tf.idf*

- *tf.idf* is a traditional method to vectorize the documents.
- It starts by weighting *words* in the *documents*.
  - **Term frequency,  $tf_{ij}$ :** number of occurrences of word  $w_i$  in document  $d_j$ .
  - **Document frequency,  $df_i$ :** number of documents in which  $w_i$  appears.
  - **Collection frequency,  $cf_i$ :** total occurrences of  $w_i$  in the collection.

# Term frequency

- **Higher** values of  $tf_{ij}$  (for contentful words) suggest that word  $w_i$  is a **good** indicator of the content of document  $d_j$ .
  - When considering the relevance of a document  $d_j$  to a keyword  $w_i$ ,  $tf_{ij}$  should be **maximized**.
- We often **dampen**  $tf_{ij}$  to temper these comparisons.
  - $tf_{dampen} = 1 + \log(tf)$ , if  $tf > 0$ .

# Document frequency

- The **document frequency**,  $df_i$ , is the number of documents in which  $w_i$  appears.
  - **Meaningful** words may occur repeatedly in a related document, but **functional** (or less meaningful) words may be distributed evenly over all documents.

| Word          | Collection frequency | Document frequency |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>kernel</i> | 10,440               | 3997               |
| <i>try</i>    | 10,422               | 8760               |

- E.g., *kernel* occurs about as often as *try* in total, but it occurs in fewer documents – it is a more **specific** concept.

# Inverse document frequency

- Very specific words,  $w_i$ , would give **smaller** values of  $df_i$ .
- To maximize specificity, the **inverse document frequency** is

$$idf_i = \log \left( \frac{D}{df_i} \right)$$

where  $D$  is the total number of documents and we scale with log, as before.

- This measure gives **full** weight to words that occur in 1 document, and **zero** weight to words that occur in all documents.

# tf.idf

- We combine the **term frequency** and the **inverse document frequency** to give us a joint measure of **relatedness** between words and documents:

$$tf.idf(w_i, d_j) = \begin{cases} (1 + \log(tf_{ij})) \log \frac{D}{df_i} & \text{if } tf_{ij} \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } tf_{ij} = 0 \end{cases}$$

- The  $j^{th}$  document is therefore represented by a vector:

$$\begin{aligned} &[tf.idf(w_1, d_j), \\ &tf.idf(w_2, d_j), \\ &\dots, \\ &tf.idf(w_{|W|}, d_j)] \end{aligned}$$

# Latent semantic indexing

- **Co-occurrence:** *n.* when two or more terms occur in the same documents more often than by chance.
  - Note: this is *not* the same as collocations
- Consider the following:

|                                                                                                     | Term 1  | Term 2   | Term 3 | Term 4    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-----------|
|  <b>Query</b>      | natural | language |        |           |
|  <b>Document 1</b> | natural | language | NLP    | embedding |
|  <b>Document 2</b> |         |          | NLP    | embedding |

- Document 2 appears to be **related** to the query although it contains **none** of the query terms.
  - The query and document 2 are **semantically related**.

# Singular value decomposition (SVD)

- An SVD projection is computed by decomposing the term-by-document matrix  $A_{t \times d}$  into the product of three matrices:

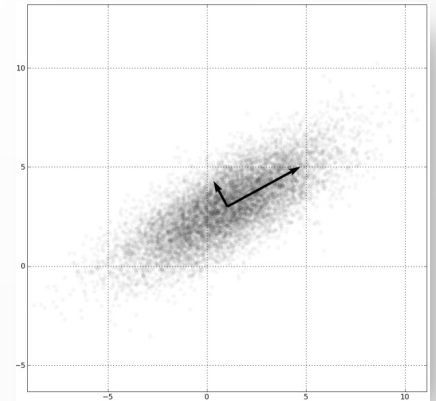
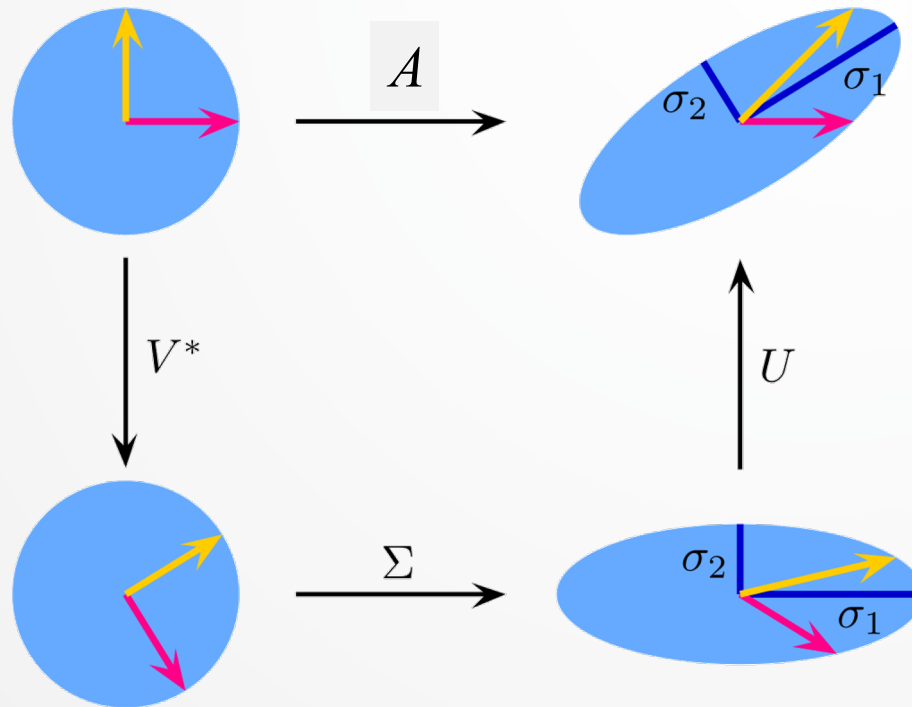
$$T_{t \times n}, S_{n \times n}, \text{ and } D_{d \times n}$$

where  $t$  is the number of words (terms),  
 $d$  is the number of documents, and  
 $n = \min(t, d)$ .

- Specifically,

$$A_{t \times d} = T_{t \times n} S_{n \times n} (D_{d \times n})^T$$

# Singular value decomposition (SVD)



$$A = U \cdot \Sigma \cdot V^*$$



# SVD example

$$A_{t \times d} = T_{t \times n} S_{n \times n} (D_{d \times n})^T$$

$A =$

|            | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| natural    | 1     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| language   | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| processing | 1     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| car        | 1     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0     |
| truck      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1     |

$T =$

| nat.  | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| lang. | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0     | 0.73  |
| proc. | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0     | -0.61 |
| car   | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  |
| truck | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 |

$S =$

|      |      |      |   |      |
|------|------|------|---|------|
| 2.16 | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 1.59 | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 1.28 | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 1 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0.39 |

$D^T =$

| $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| -0.75 | -0.28 | -0.20 | -0.45 | -0.33 | -0.12 |
| -0.29 | -0.53 | -0.19 | 0.63  | 0.22  | 0.41  |
| 0.28  | -0.75 | 0.45  | -0.20 | 0.12  | -0.33 |
| 0     | 0     | 0.58  | 0     | -0.58 | 0.58  |
| -0.53 | 0.29  | 0.63  | 0.19  | 0.41  | -0.22 |

- What do these matrices mean?

# SVD example

$A =$

|            | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| natural    | 1     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| language   | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| processing | 1     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| car        | 1     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0     |
| truck      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1     |

- $A$  is the matrix of term frequencies,  $tf_{ij}$ .
  - E.g., *natural* occurs once in  $d_1$  and once in  $d_3$ .

# SVD example

- Matrices  $T$  and  $D$  represent **terms** and **documents**, respectively in this *new* space.

- E.g., the first row of  $T$  corresponds to the first row of  $A$ , and so on.

- $T$  and  $D$  are **orthonormal**, so all columns are orthogonal to each other and  $T^T T = D^T D = I$ .

$T =$

|       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| nat.. | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  |
| lang. | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0     | 0.73  |
| proc. | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0     | -0.61 |
| car   | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  |
| truck | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 |

$D^T =$

| $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| -0.75 | -0.28 | -0.20 | -0.45 | -0.33 | -0.12 |
| -0.29 | -0.53 | -0.19 | 0.63  | 0.22  | 0.41  |
| 0.28  | -0.75 | 0.45  | -0.20 | 0.12  | -0.33 |
| 0     | 0     | 0.58  | 0     | -0.58 | 0.58  |
| -0.53 | 0.29  | 0.63  | 0.19  | 0.41  | -0.22 |

# SVD example

- The matrix  $S$  contains the **singular values** of  $A$  in descending order.
  - The  $i^{th}$  singular value indicates the amount of variation on the  $i^{th}$  axis.

$S =$

|      |      |      |   |      |
|------|------|------|---|------|
| 2.16 | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 1.59 | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 1.28 | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 1 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0.39 |

# SVD example

- By restricting  $T$ ,  $S$ , and  $D$  to their first  $k < n$  columns, their product gives us  $\hat{A}$ , a 'best least squares' approximation of  $A$ .

$$S =$$

|      |      |      |   |      |
|------|------|------|---|------|
| 2.16 | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 1.59 | 0    | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 1.28 | 0 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 1 | 0    |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0 | 0.39 |

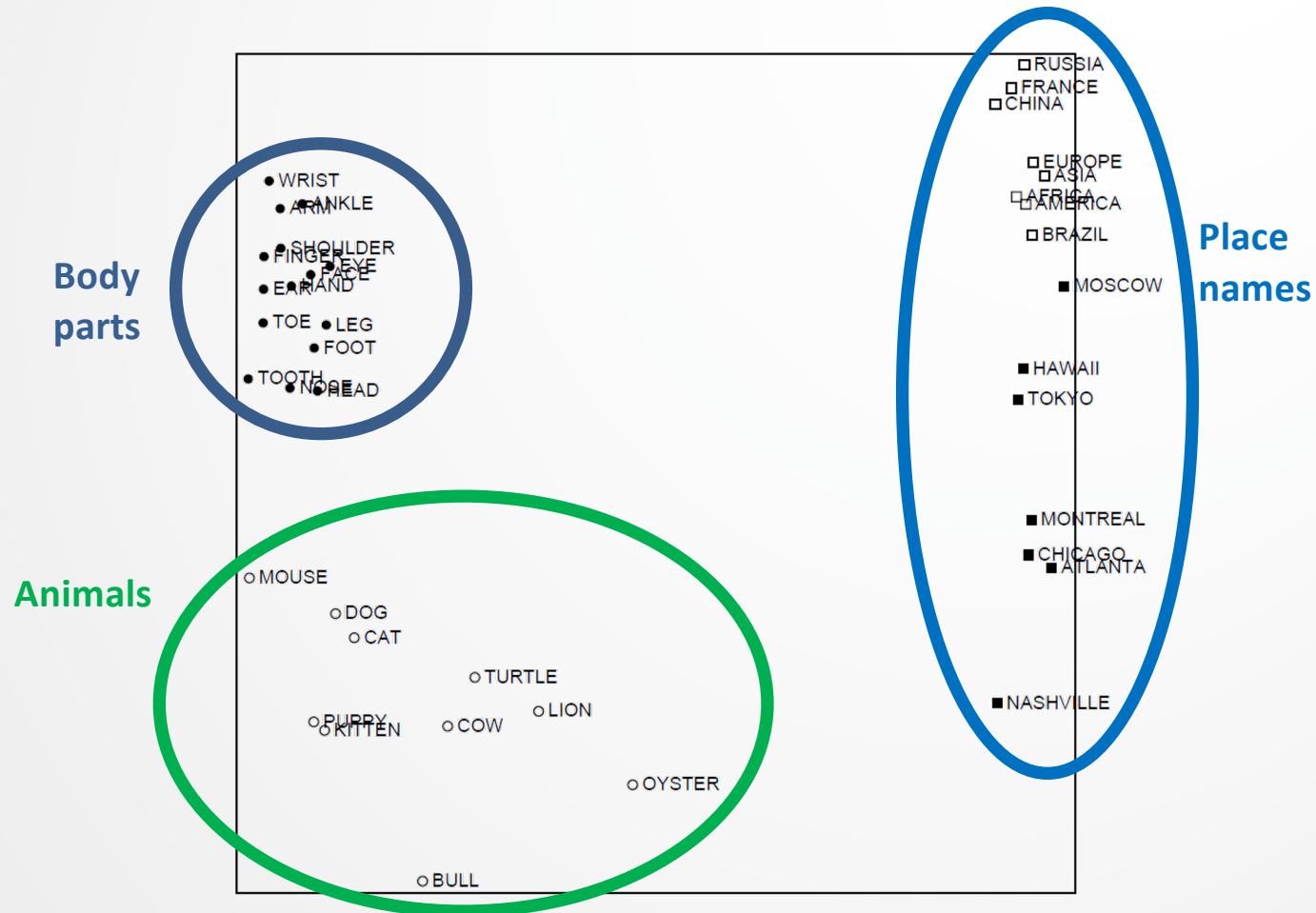
$$T =$$

|        |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| cosm.  | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  |
| astro. | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0     | 0.73  |
| moon   | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0     | -0.61 |
| car    | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  |
| truck  | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 |

$$D^\top =$$

| $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| -0.75 | -0.28 | -0.20 | -0.45 | -0.33 | -0.12 |
| -0.29 | -0.53 | -0.19 | 0.63  | 0.22  | 0.41  |
| 0.28  | -0.75 | 0.45  | -0.20 | 0.12  | -0.33 |
| 0     | 0     | 0.58  | 0     | -0.58 | 0.58  |
| -0.53 | 0.29  | 0.63  | 0.19  | 0.41  | -0.22 |

# SVD in practice



Rohde *et al.* (2006) An Improved Model of Semantic Similarity Based on Lexical Co-Occurrence.  
*Communications of the ACM* **8**:627-633.

# Neural embeddings for documents

- We can use neural embeddings for words *and* documents
  - Use term-document matrix, but swap out SVD for NNs.
  - Small amounts of **labeled** data can be used to fine-tune.

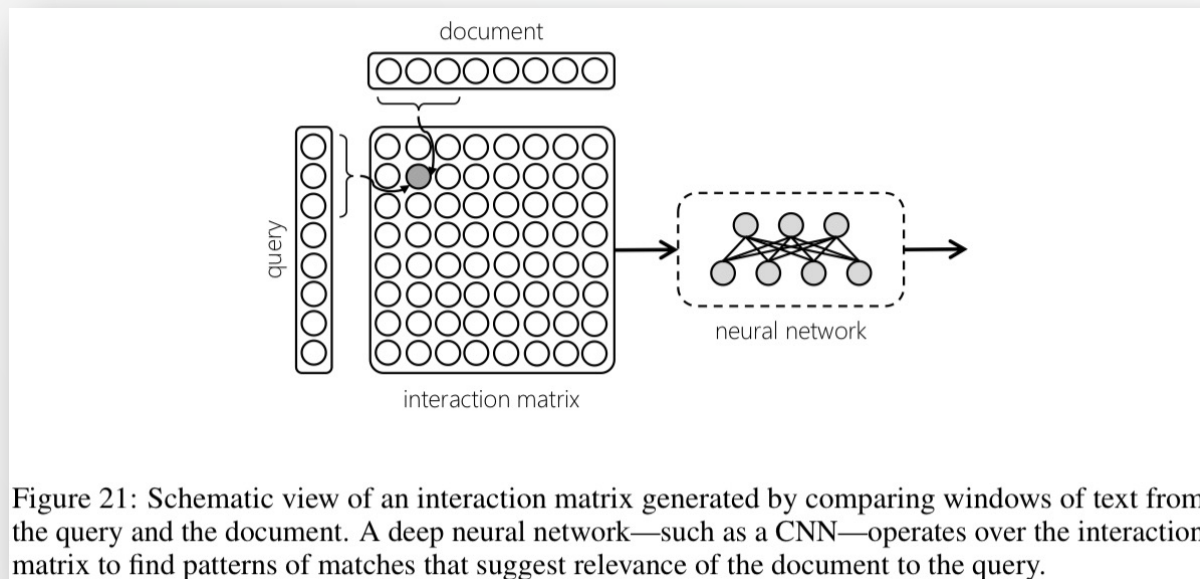


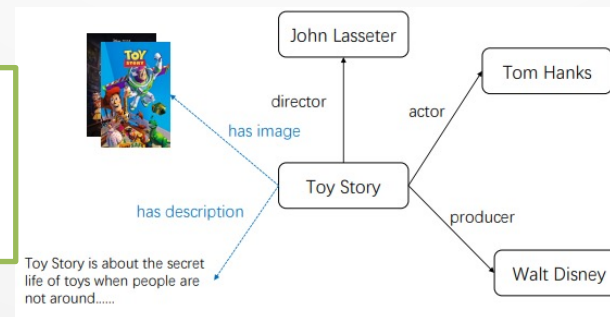
Figure 21: Schematic view of an interaction matrix generated by comparing windows of text from the query and the document. A deep neural network—such as a CNN—operates over the interaction matrix to find patterns of matches that suggest relevance of the document to the query.

Mitra B, Craswell N. (2017) Neural Models for Information Retrieval. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1705.01509>  
Zhang Y, Rahman MM, Braylan A, *et al.* (2016) [Neural Information Retrieval: A Literature Review.](#)

# Structured vs. Unstructured

- Plain texts are **unstructured**.
- Many modern IR systems use **structured** data.
  - E.g., docs vectorized to the same dimensions.
  - E.g., relational data.
- Structured data are easier to save and use.

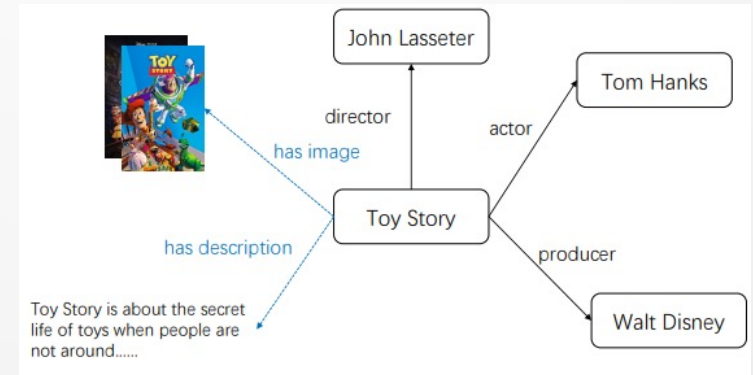
```
{  
  "name": "Toy Story",  
  "director": "John Lasseter",  
  ...  
}
```





# Storing Structured Relational Data

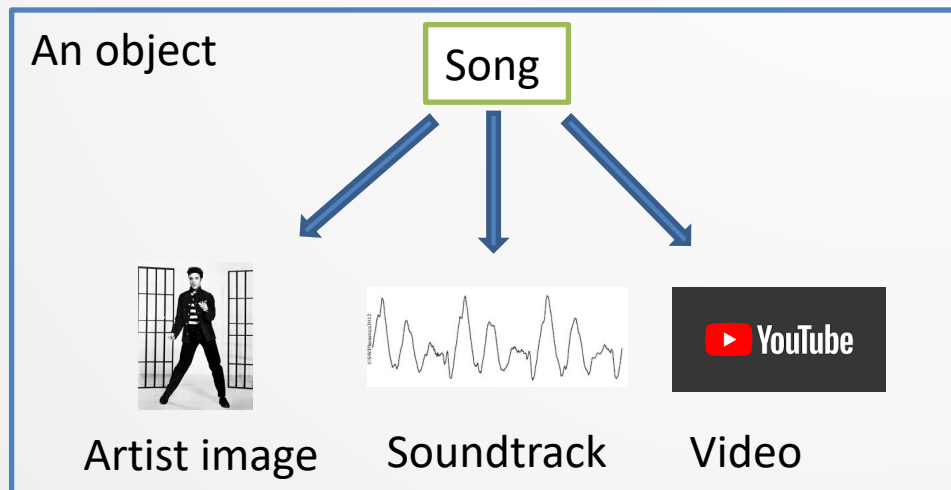
- Saving each complex object as a database entry is one option.
- We can also store (or embed) the  $\{R, S, T\}$  triplets.  $R$  is the **relation** (e.g., “has-director”) between: the **source**  $S$  (e.g., “Toy Story”) and the **target**  $T$  (e.g., “John Lasseter”)



Sun, Rui, et al. "Multi-modal knowledge graphs for recommender systems." *Proceedings of the 29th ACM International Conference on Information & Knowledge Management*. 2020.

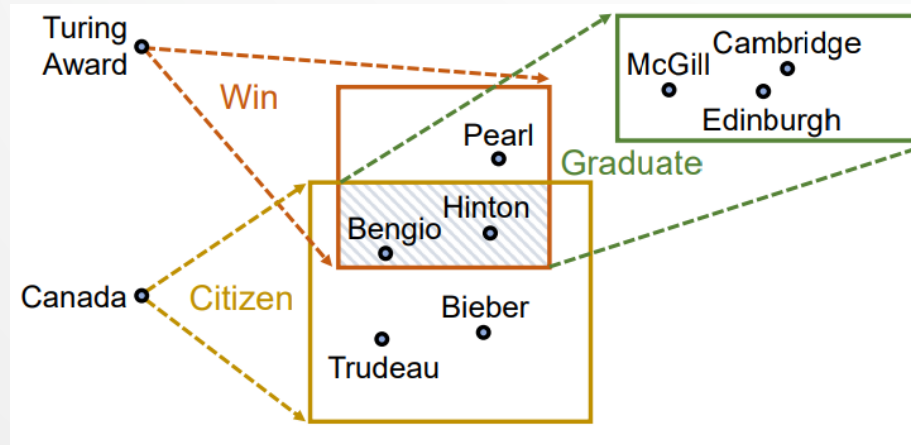
# Multimodal vs. Plain text

- Most modern IR systems are **multimodal**.
- The objects contain more than texts.
  - Images, sounds, even videos are stored too.
  - Choosing the right schemas is very important!



# Handling complex queries

- Here is a question with 2 **conjunctive** queries:  
“Where did Canadian citizens with Turing Award graduate?”
- Idea: project each query into a **box** in the embedding space!



Ren, Hongyu, Weihua Hu, and Jure Leskovec. "Query2box: Reasoning over knowledge graphs in vector space using box embeddings." *ICLR 2020*

# Aside: box embedding details

- Objective to learn the **box embeddings**:

$$-\log \sigma(\gamma - d(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{q})) - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{k} \log \sigma(d(\mathbf{v}'; \mathbf{q}) - \gamma)$$

- This is a negative sampling loss, where:
  - $\gamma$  is a fixed scalar margin.
  - $\mathbf{v}$  is an answer to the query  $\mathbf{q}$ .
  - $\mathbf{v}'$  is a non-answer to the query  $\mathbf{q}$ .
  - $k$  is the number of negative entities.

# Evaluating the retrieval

- Some commonly used metrics include:
  - Precision
  - Recall
  - F-score
  - Precision @ k

# Precision and Recall

- **Precision:**  $\frac{N_{\text{relevant \& retrieved}}}{N_{\text{retrieved}}}$ 
  - Among all **retrieved** documents, how many are relevant?
  - Precision in machine learning:  $\frac{TP}{P}$
- **Recall:**  $\frac{N_{\text{relevant \& retrieved}}}{N_{\text{relevant}}}$ 
  - Among all **relevant** documents, how many are retrieved?
  - Recall in machine learning:  $\frac{TP}{T}$

# F-score

- **F-score** is the weighted harmonic mean of precision and recall:

$$F = \frac{1}{\alpha \frac{1}{p} + (1 - \alpha) \frac{1}{r}}$$

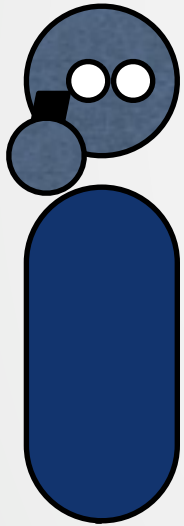
- Where  $p$  is precision,  $r$  is recall, and  $\alpha \in [0,1]$ .
- Notes:
  - When  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ , we have  $F_1 = \frac{2pr}{p+r}$
  - If either of precision or recall is 0 (i.e., true positive count  $TP = 0$ ), then  $F$  is arbitrarily set to 0.

# Precision at $k$ ( $P@k$ )

- Modern IR systems usually do not just give one result.
  - Even if the 1<sup>st</sup> result is not relevant, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc. results could be relevant too.
- People sometimes measure the **precision at  $k$  ( $P@k$ )**:
  - Among the top  $k$  results, how many of them are relevant?
- **$P@k$**  has some potential problems:
  - The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, ...,  $k^{\text{th}}$  locations have no differences.
  - If there are less than  $k$  relevant results, then even the best system can't get  **$P@k=1$** .



# Information Retrieval summary



- What information retrieval is.
- Doc2vec, latent semantic indexing.
- Neural IR systems.
- Structured data and complex queries.
- Evaluation of IR systems.