Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning

CS224N/Ling284

Christopher Manning

Lecture 12: Information from parts of words: Subword Models

Announcements

Assignment 5 will be released today

- Another all-new assignment. You have 7 days….
- Adding convnets and subword modeling to NMT
- Coding-heavy, written questions-light
- The complexity of the coding is similar to A4, but:
- **We give you much less help!**
  - Less scaffolding, less provided sanity checks, no public autograder
  - You write your own testing code
  - New policy on getting help from TAs: **TAs can't look at your code**
- A5 is an exercise in learning to figure things out for yourself
- Essential preparation for final project and beyond

Lecture Plan

Lecture 12: Information from parts of words: Subword Models

1. A tiny bit of linguistics (10 mins)
2. Purely character-level models (10 mins)
3. Subword-models: Byte Pair Encoding and friends (20 mins)
4. Hybrid character and word level models (30 mins)
5. fastText (5 mins)

1. Human language sounds: Phonetics and phonology

- Phonetics is the sound stream – uncontroversial "physics"
- Phonology posits a small set or sets of distinctive, categorical units: **phonemes** or distinctive features
  - A perhaps universal typology but language-particular realization
  - Best evidence of categorical perception comes from phonology
    - Within phoneme differences shrink; between phoneme magnified

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC) © 2005 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k g	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

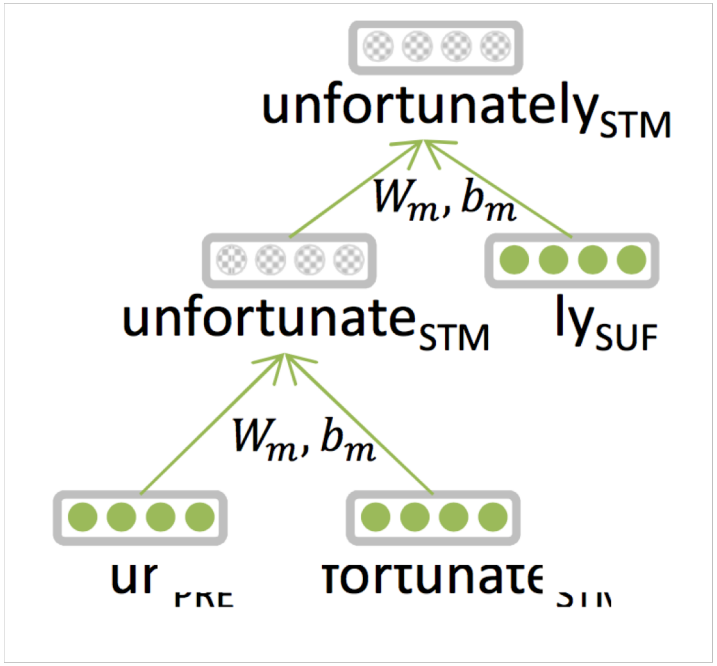
Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

caught
cot

Morphology: Parts of words

- Traditionally, we have morphemes as smallest **semantic** unit
  - [[un [[fortun(e)]$_{ROOT}$ ate]$_{STEM}$]$_{STEM}$ ly]$_{WORD}$

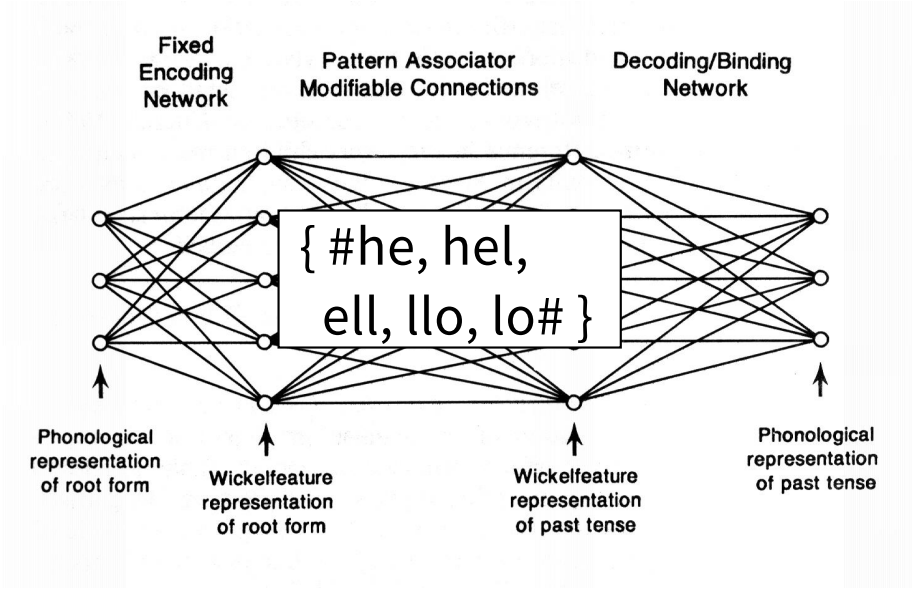
- Deep learning: Morphology little studied; one attempt with recursive neural networks is (Luong, Socher, & Manning 2013)



A possible way of dealing with a larger vocabulary – most unseen words are new morphological forms (or numbers)

Morphology

- An easy alternative is to work with character *n*-grams
  - Wickelphones (Rumelhart & McClelland 1986)
  - Microsoft's DSSM (Huang, He, Gao, Deng, Acero, & Hect 2013)
- Related idea to use of a convolutional layer
- Can give many of the benefits of morphemes more easily??



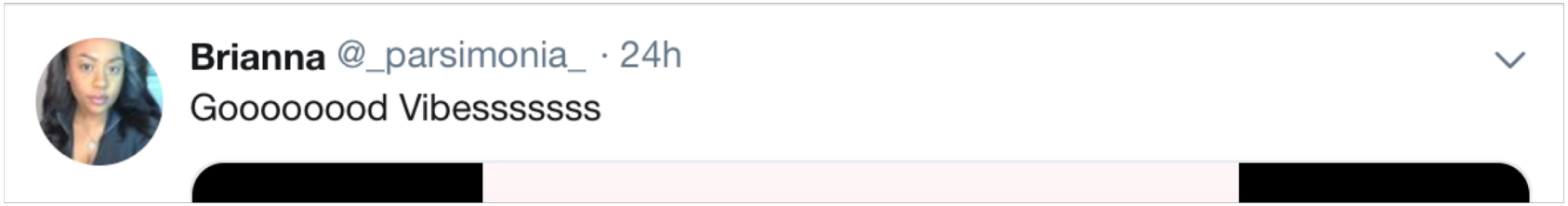
Words in writing systems

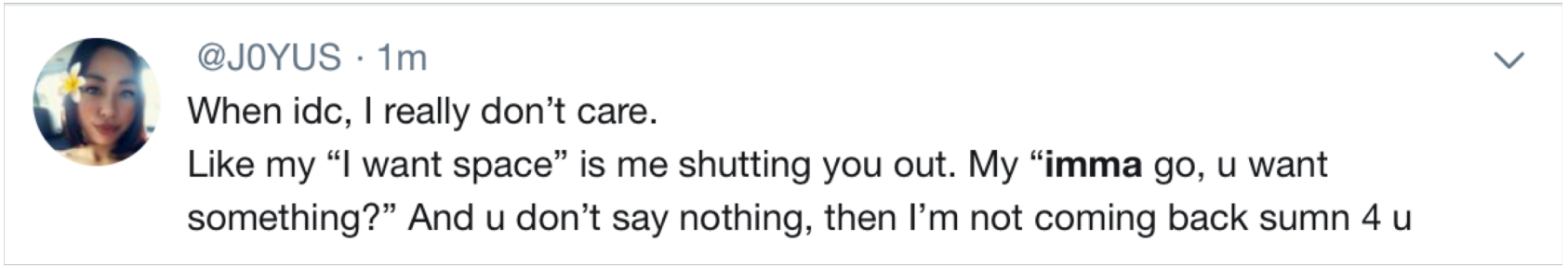
Writing systems vary in how they represent words – or don't

- No word segmentation 美国关岛国际机场及其办公室均接获
- Words (mainly) segmented: *This is a sentence with words*
  - Clitics?
    - Separated **Je vous ai apporté** des bonbons
    - Joined فقلناها = ها +نا +قال +ف = so+said+we+it
  - Compounds?
    - Separated life insurance company employee
    - Joined Lebensversicherungsgesellschaftsangestellter

Models below the word level

- Need to handle **large, open vocabulary**
  - Rich morphology: nejneobhospodařovávatelnějšímu
    ("to the worst farmable one")
  - Transliteration: Christopher ↦ Kryštof
  - Informal spelling:





Character-Level Models

1. Word embeddings can be composed from character embeddings

- Generates embeddings for unknown words
- Similar spellings share similar embeddings
- Solves OOV problem

2. Connected language can be processed as characters

Both methods have proven to work very successfully!

- Somewhat surprisingly – traditionally, phonemes/letters weren't a semantic unit – but DL models compose groups

Below the word: Writing systems

Most deep learning NLP work begins with language in its written form – it's the easily processed, found data

But human language writing systems aren't one thing!

• Phonemic (maybe digraphs)	jiyawu ngabulu	Wambaya
• Fossilized phonemic	thorough failure	English
• Syllabic/moraic	ᑐᖏᕐᕋᖏᓚᕐᖓ	Inuktitut
• Ideographic (syllabic)	去年太空船二号坠毁	Chinese
• Combination of the above	インド洋の島	Japanese

2. Purely character-level models

- We saw one good example of a purely character-level model last lecture for sentence classification:
  - Very Deep Convolutional Networks for Text Classification
  - Conneau, Schwenk, Lecun, Barrault. EACL 2017
- Strong results via a deep convolutional stack

Purely character-level NMT models

- Initially, unsatisfactory performance
  - (Vilar et al., 2007; Neubig et al., 2013)
- Decoder only
  - (Junyoung Chung, Kyunghyun Cho, Yoshua Bengio. arXiv 2016).
- Then promising results
  - (Wang Ling, Isabel Trancoso, Chris Dyer, Alan Black, arXiv 2015)
  - (Thang Luong, Christopher Manning, ACL 2016)
  - (Marta R. Costa-Jussà, José A. R. Fonollosa, ACL 2016)

English-Czech WMT 2015 Results

- Luong and Manning tested as a baseline a pure character-level seq2seq (LSTM) NMT system
- It worked well against word-level baseline
- But it was sslloooooww
  - 3 weeks to train … not that fast at runtime

System	BLEU
Word-level model (single; large vocab; UNK replace)	15.7
Character-level model (single; 600-step backprop)	15.9

English-Czech WMT 2015 Example

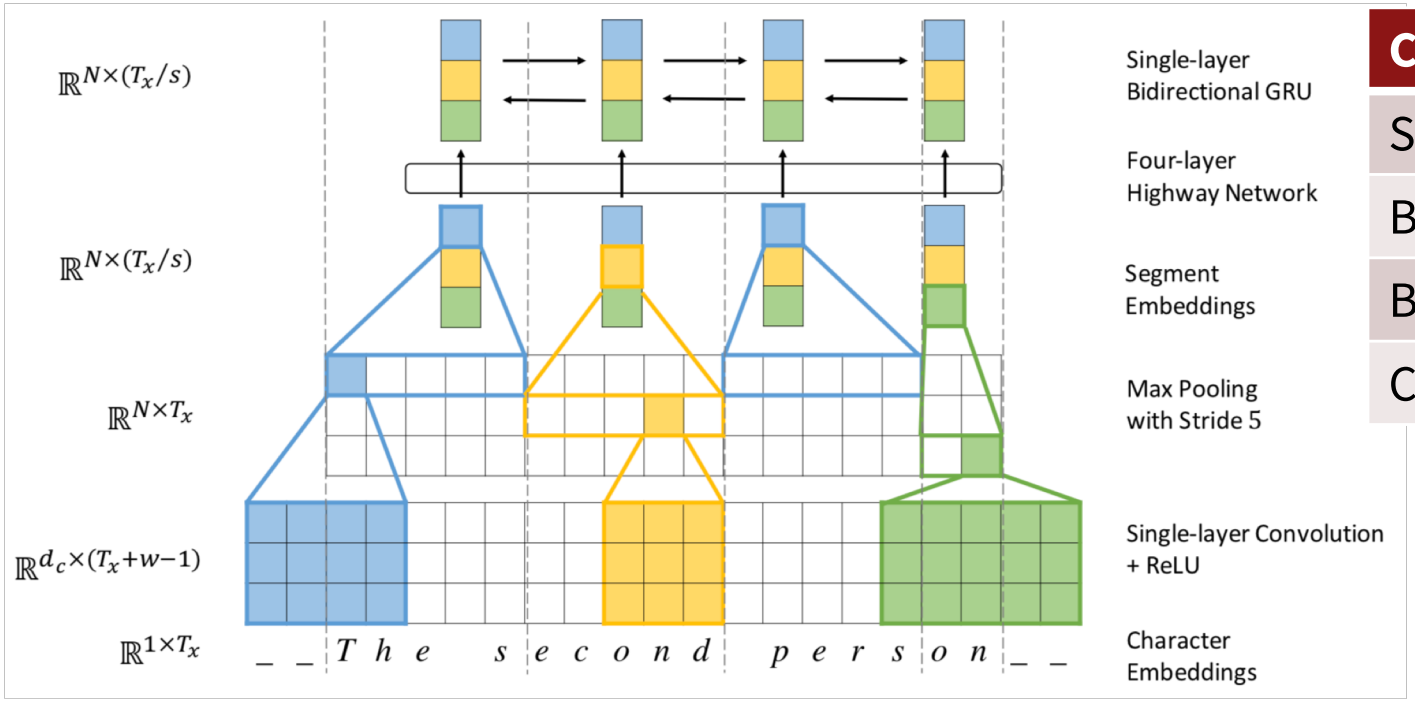
source	Her *11-year-old* daughter , *Shani Bart* , said it felt a little bit *weird*
human	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera **Shani Bartová** prozradila , že je to trochu **zvláštní**
char	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera , **Shani Bartová** , říkala , že cítí trochu ***divně***
word	Její <unk> dcera <unk> <unk> řekla , že je to trochu divné
	Její **11-year-old** dcera **Shani ,** řekla , že je to trochu ***divné***

System	BLEU
Word-level model (single; large vocab; UNK replace)	15.7
Character-level model (single; 600-step backprop)	15.9

Fully Character-Level Neural Machine Translation without Explicit Segmentation

Jason Lee, Kyunghyun Cho, Thomas Hoffmann. 2017.

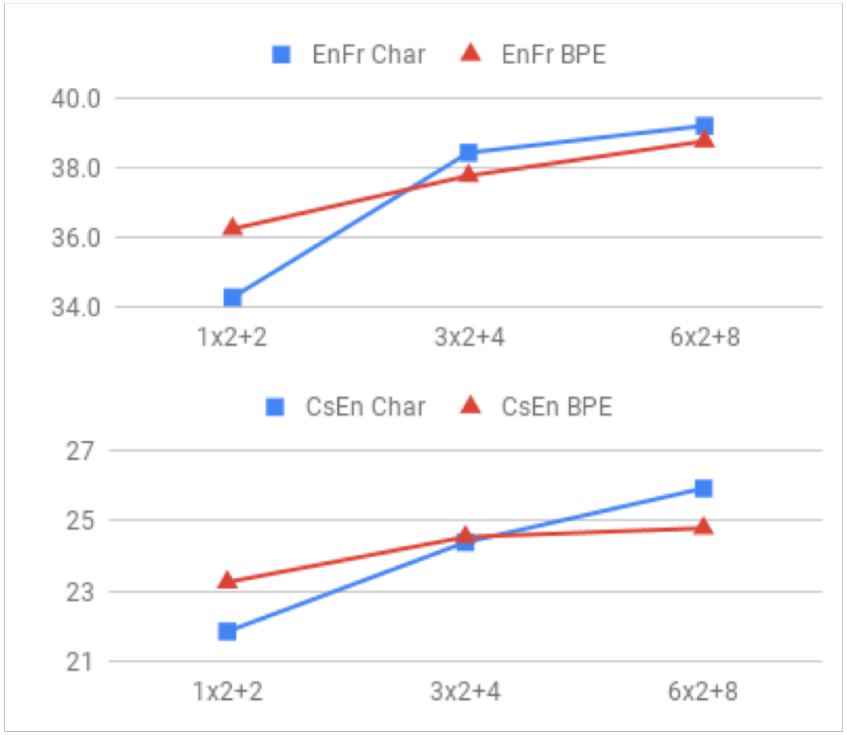
Encoder as below; decoder is a char-level GRU

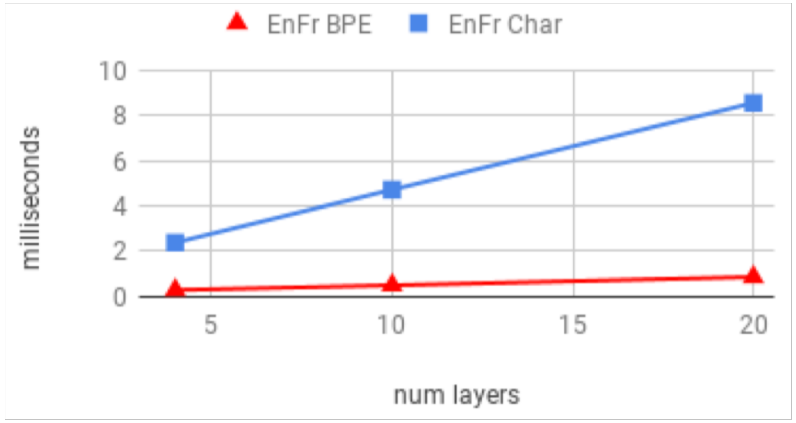


CS-En	WMT 15	Test
Source	Target	BLEU
Bpe	Bpe	20.3
Bpe	Char	22.4
Char	Char	22.5

Stronger character results with depth in LSTM seq2seq model

Revisiting Character-Based Neural Machine Translation with Capacity and Compression. 2018. Cherry, Foster, Bapna, Firat, Macherey, Google AI





3. Sub-word models: two trends

- Same architecture as for word-level model:
  - But use smaller units: “word pieces”
  - [Sennrich, Haddow, Birch, ACL’16a], [Chung, Cho, Bengio, ACL’16].
- Hybrid architectures:
  - Main model has *words;* something else for *characters*
  - [Costa-Jussà & Fonollosa, ACL’16], [Luong & Manning, ACL’16].

Byte Pair Encoding

- Originally a compression algorithm:
  - Most frequent byte pair ↦ a new byte.

Replace bytes with character ngrams

(though, actually, some people have done interesting things with bytes)

Rico Sennrich, Barry Haddow, and Alexandra Birch. ***Neural Machine Translation of Rare Words with Subword Units****. ACL 2016.*

https://arxiv.org/abs/1508.07909

https://github.com/rsennrich/subword-nmt

https://github.com/EdinburghNLP/nematus

Byte Pair Encoding

- A word segmentation algorithm:
  - Though done as bottom up clusering
  - Start with a unigram vocabulary of all (Unicode) characters in data
  - Most frequent ngram pairs ↦ a new ngram

Byte Pair Encoding

- A word segmentation algorithm:
  - Start with a vocabulary of characters
  - Most frequent ngram pairs ↦ a new ngram

Dictionary

5 l o w
2 l o w e r
6 n e w e s t
3 w i d e s t

Vocabulary

l, o, w, e, r, n, w, s, t, i, d

Start with all characters in vocab

(Example from Sennrich)

Byte Pair Encoding

- A word segmentation algorithm:
  - Start with a vocabulary of characters
  - Most frequent ngram pairs ↦ a new ngram

Dictionary

5 l o w
2 l o w e r
6 n e w **es** t
3 w i d **es** t

Vocabulary

l, o, w, e, r, n, w, s, t, i, d, **es**

Add a pair (e, s) with freq 9

(Example from Sennrich)

Byte Pair Encoding

- A word segmentation algorithm:
  - Start with a vocabulary of characters
  - Most frequent ngram pairs ↦ a new ngram

Dictionary

5 l o w
2 l o w e r
6 n e w **est**
3 w i d **est**

Vocabulary

l, o, w, e, r, n, w, s, t, i, d, es, **est**

Add a pair (es, t) with freq 9

(Example from Sennrich)

Byte Pair Encoding

- A word segmentation algorithm:
  - Start with a vocabulary of characters
  - Most frequent ngram pairs ↦ a new ngram

Dictionary

5 **lo** w
2 **lo** w e r
6 n e w est
3 w i d est

Vocabulary

l, o, w, e, r, n, w, s, t, i, d, es, est, **lo**

Add a pair (l, o) with freq 7

(Example from Sennrich)

Byte Pair Encoding

- Have a target vocabulary size and stop when you reach it
- Do deterministic longest piece segmentation of words
- Segmentation is only within words identified by some prior tokenizer (commonly Moses tokenizer for MT)
- Automatically decides vocab for system
  - No longer strongly "word" based in conventional way

Top places in WMT 2016!
Still widely used in WMT 2018

https://github.com/rsennrich/nematus

Wordpiece/Sentencepiece model

- Google NMT (GNMT) uses a variant of this
  - V1: wordpiece model
  - V2: sentencepiece model
- Rather than char *n*-gram count, uses a greedy approximation to maximizing language model log likelihood to choose the pieces
  - Add *n*-gram that maximally reduces perplexity

Wordpiece/Sentencepiece model

- Wordpiece model tokenizes inside words
- Sentencepiece model works from raw text
  - Whitespace is retained as special token (_) and grouped normally
  - You can reverse things at end by joining pieces and recoding them to spaces

- https://github.com/google/sentencepiece
- https://arxiv.org/pdf/1804.10959.pdf

Wordpiece/Sentencepiece model

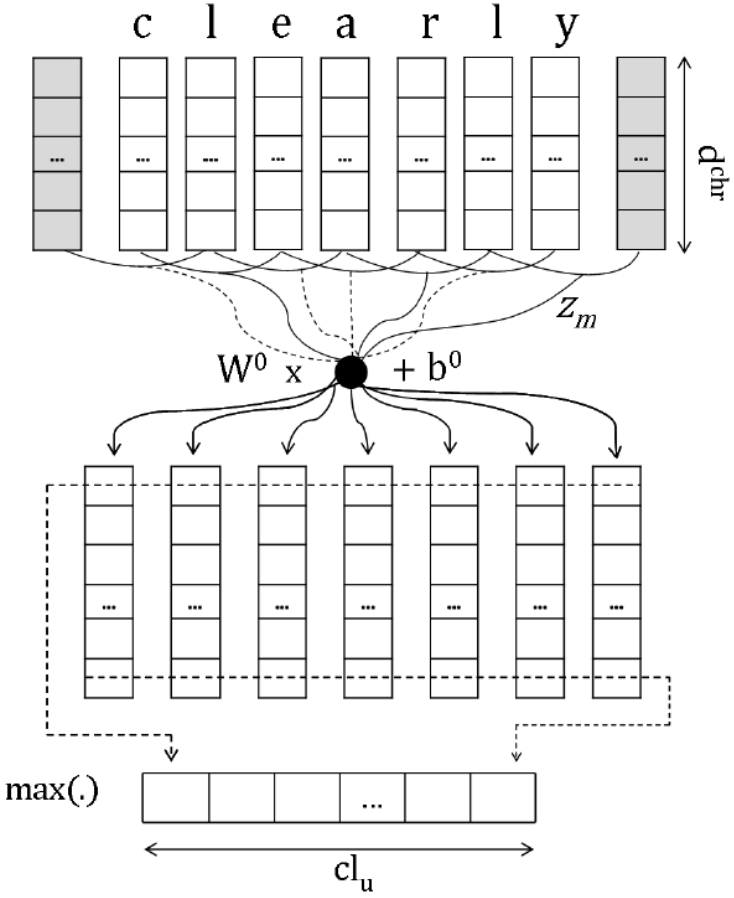
- BERT uses a variant of the wordpiece model
  - (Relatively) common words are in the vocabulary:
    - *at, fairfax, 1910s*
  - Other words are built from wordpieces:
    - *hypatia = h ##yp ##ati ##a*

- If you're using BERT in an otherwise word based model, you have to deal with this

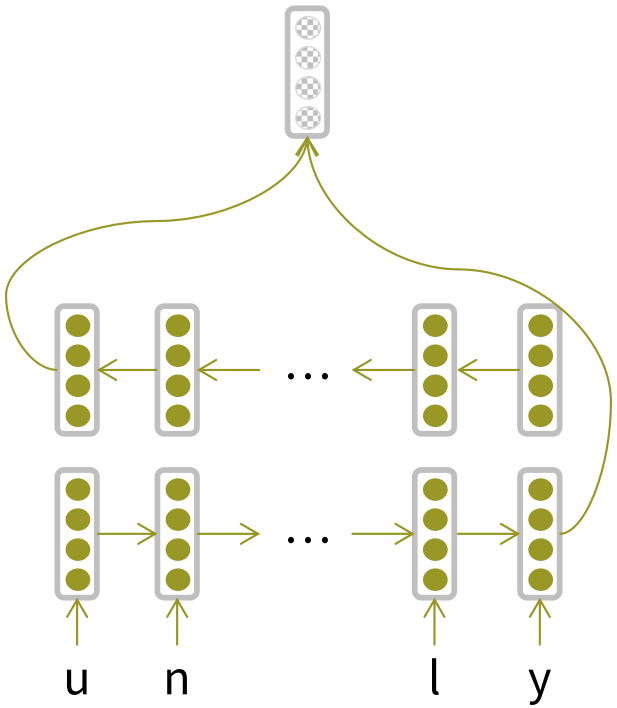
4. Character-level to build word-level

Learning Character-level Representations for Part-of-Speech Tagging (Dos Santos and Zadrozny 2014)

- **Convolution** over characters to generate word embeddings
- Fixed window of word embeddings used for PoS tagging



Character-based LSTM to build word rep'ns

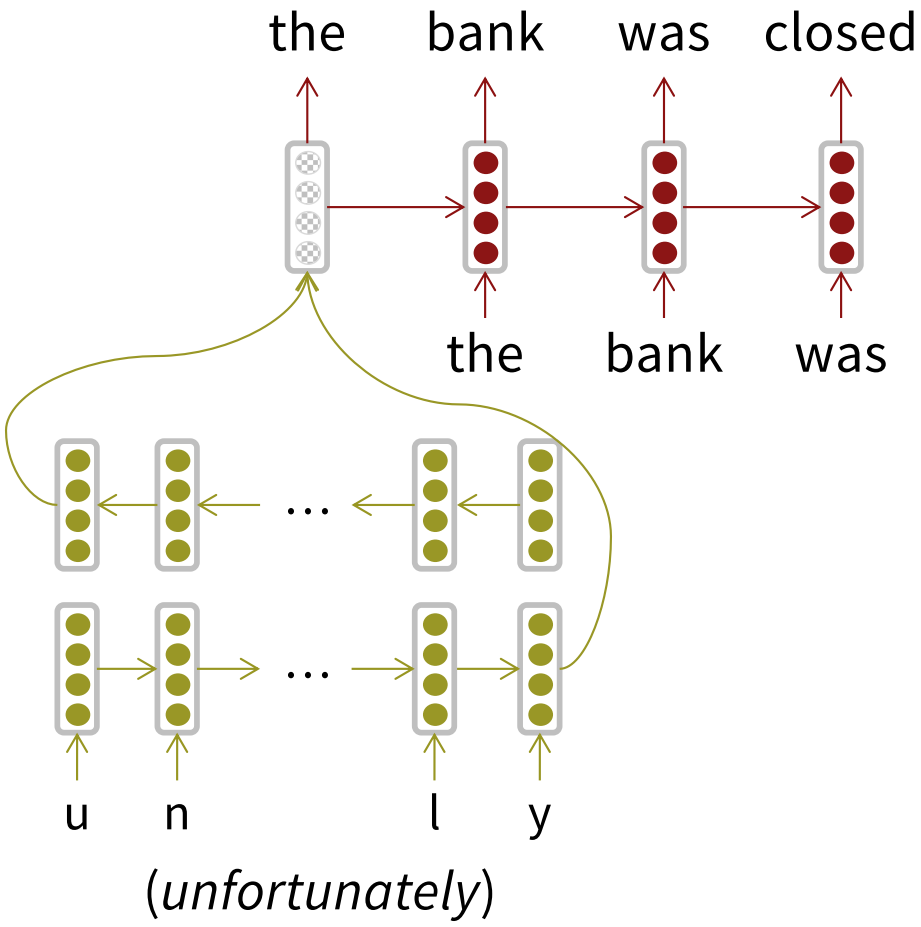


(*unfortunately*)

Bi-LSTM builds word representations

Ling, Luís, Marujo, Astudillo, Amir, Dyer, Black, Trancoso. ***Finding Function in Form: Compositional Character Models for Open Vocabulary Word Representation****. EMNLP'15.*

Character-based LSTM



Recurrent Language Model

Bi-LSTM builds word representations

Used as LM and for POS tagging

Ling, Luís, Marujo, Astudillo, Amir, Dyer, Black, Trancoso. ***Finding Function in Form: Compositional Character Models for Open Vocabulary Word Representation****. EMNLP'15.*

Character-Aware Neural Language Models

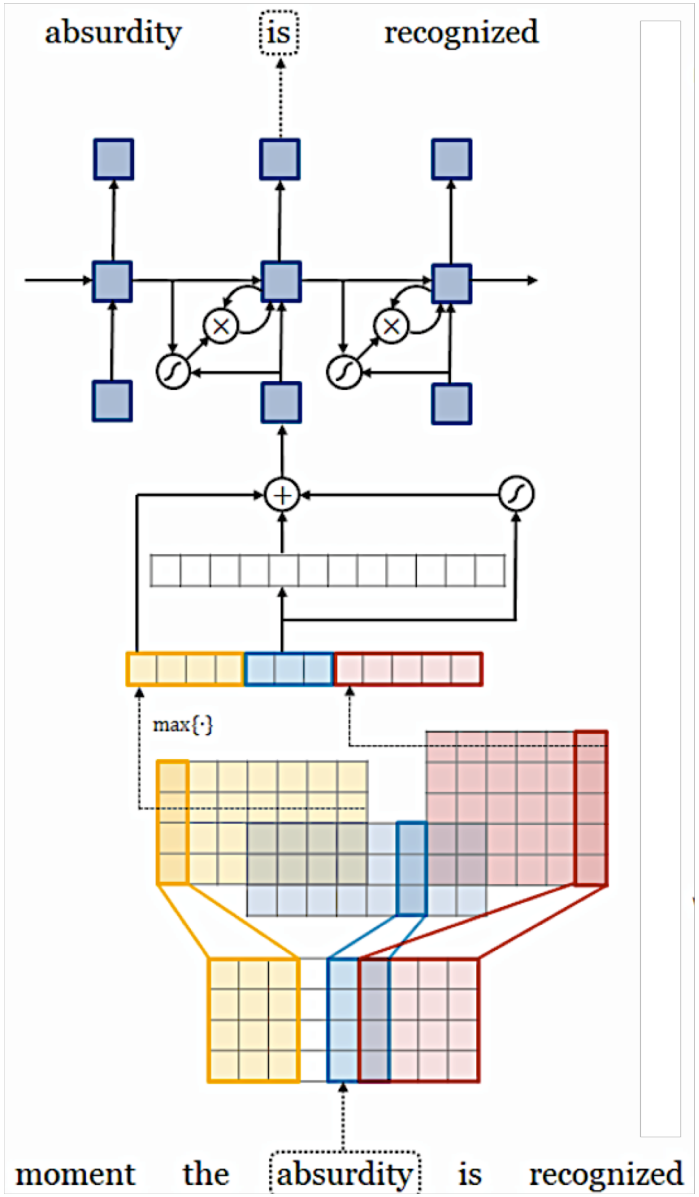
Yoon Kim, Yacine Jernite, David Sontag, Alexander M. Rush. 2015

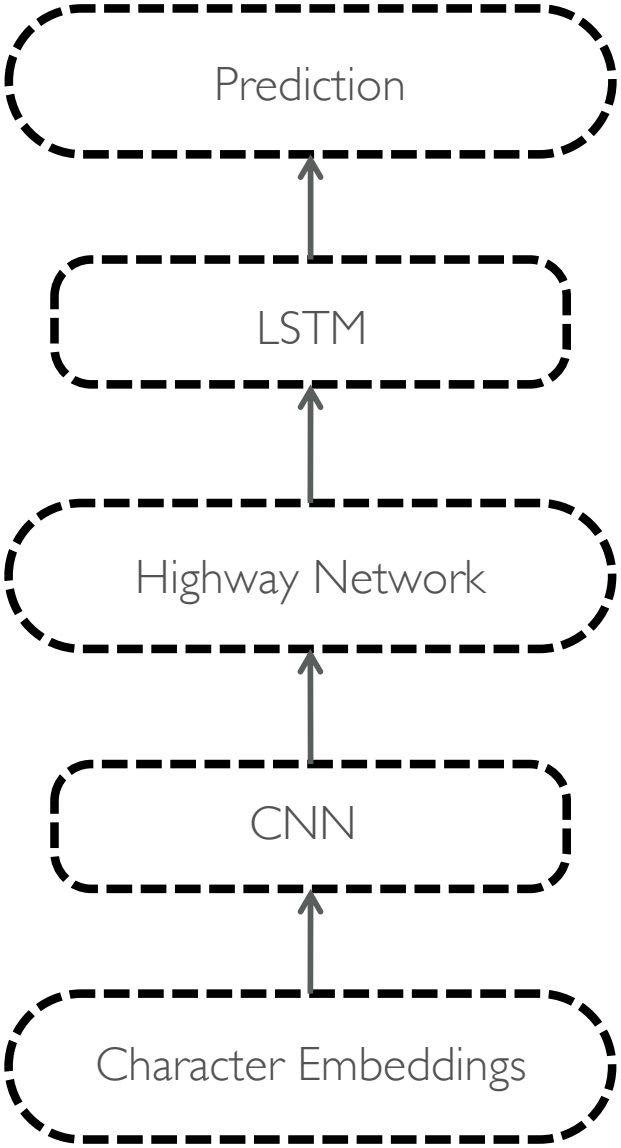
A more complex/sophisticated approach

Motivation

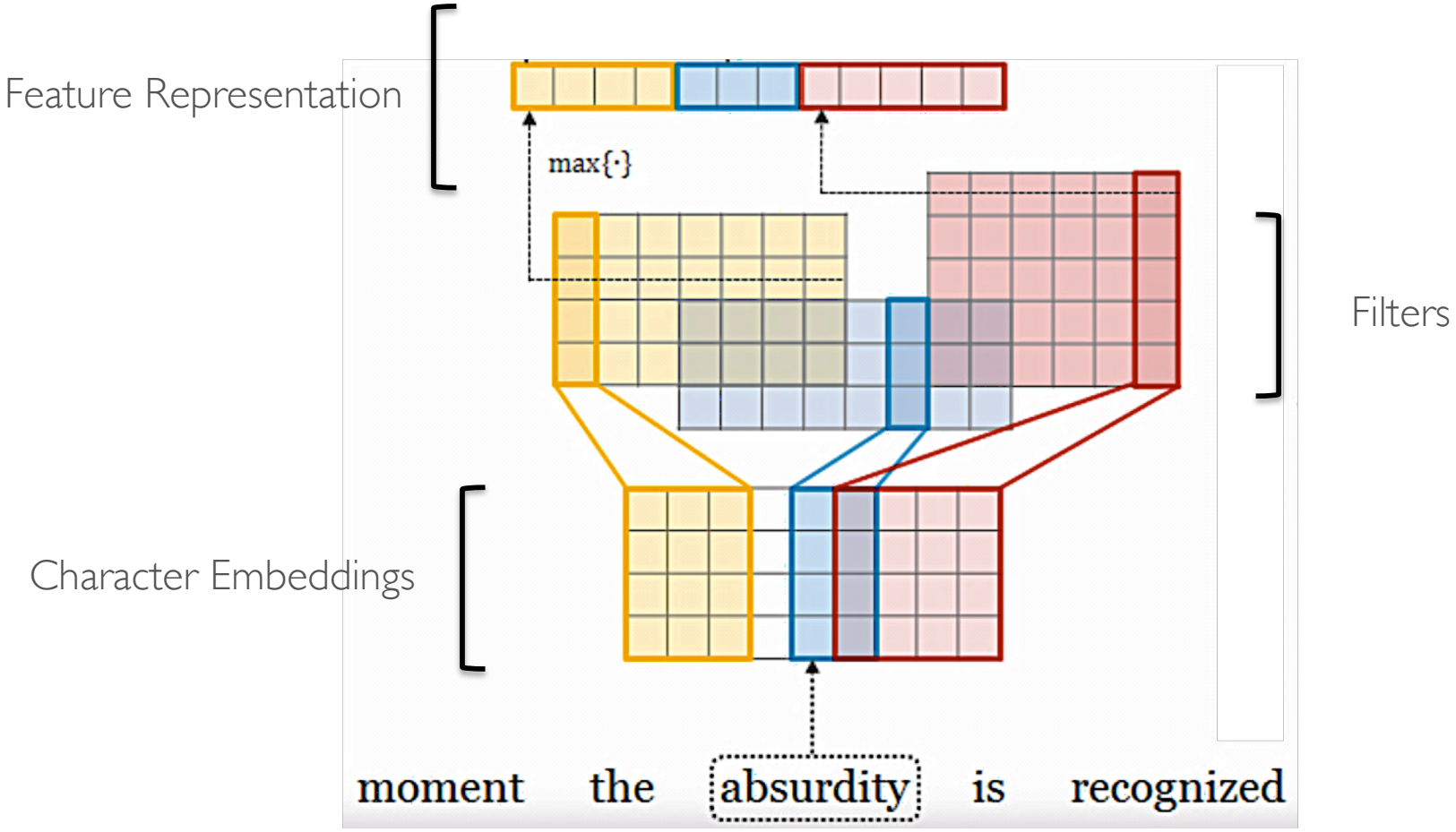
- Derive a powerful, robust language model effective across a variety of languages.
- Encode subword relatedness: *eventful*, *eventfully*, *uneventful*…
- Address rare-word problem of prior models.
- Obtain comparable expressivity with fewer parameters.

Technical Approach





Convolutional Layer



- Convolutions over character-level inputs.
- Max-over-time pooling (effectively n-gram selection).

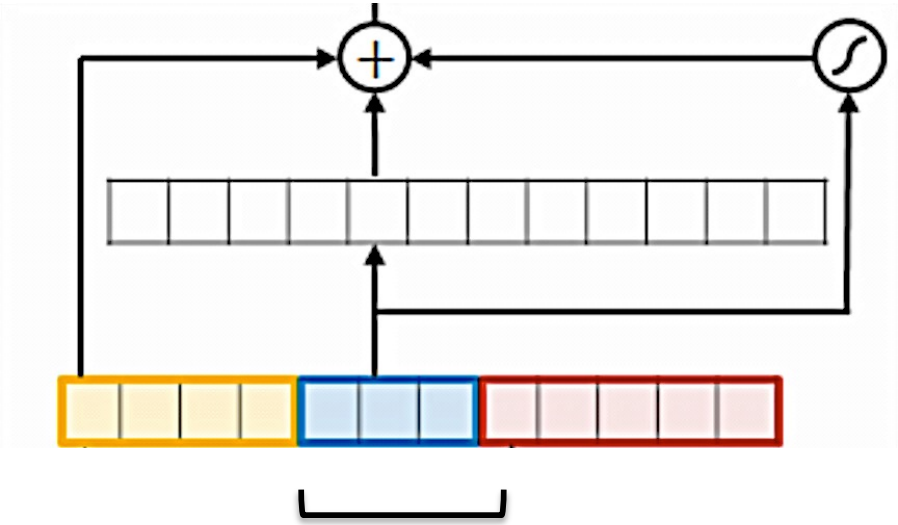
Highway Network (Srivastava et al. 2015)

- Model *n*-gram interactions.
- Apply transformation while carrying over original information.
- Functions akin to an LSTM memory cell.

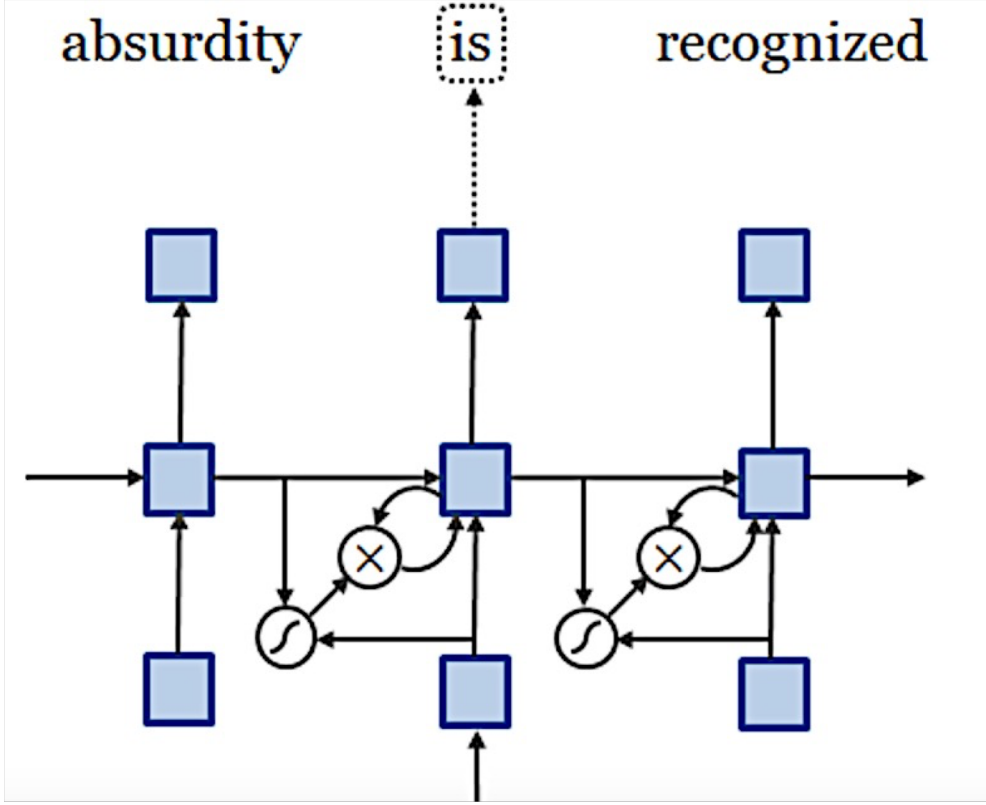
$$\mathbf{t} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_T\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}_T)$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{t} \odot g(\mathbf{W}_H\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}_H) + (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{t}) \odot \mathbf{y}$$

Transform Gate Input Carry Gate



Long Short-Term Memory Network



Highway Network Output

- Hierarchical Softmax to handle large output vocabulary.
- Trained with truncated backprop through time.

Quantitative Results

		DATA-S					
		CS	DE	ES	FR	RU	AR
Botha	KN-4	545	366	241	274	396	323
	MLBL	465	296	200	225	304	–
Small	Word	503	305	212	229	352	216
	Morph	414	278	197	216	290	230
	Char	401	260	182	189	278	196
Large	Word	493	286	200	222	357	172
	Morph	398	263	177	196	271	**148**
	Char	**371**	**239**	**165**	**184**	**261**	**148**

		DATA-L					
		CS	DE	ES	FR	RU	EN
Botha	KN-4	862	463	219	243	390	291
	MLBL	643	404	203	227	**300**	273
Small	Word	701	347	186	202	353	236
	Morph	615	331	189	209	331	233
	Char	**578**	**305**	**169**	**190**	313	**216**

Comparable performance with fewer parameters!

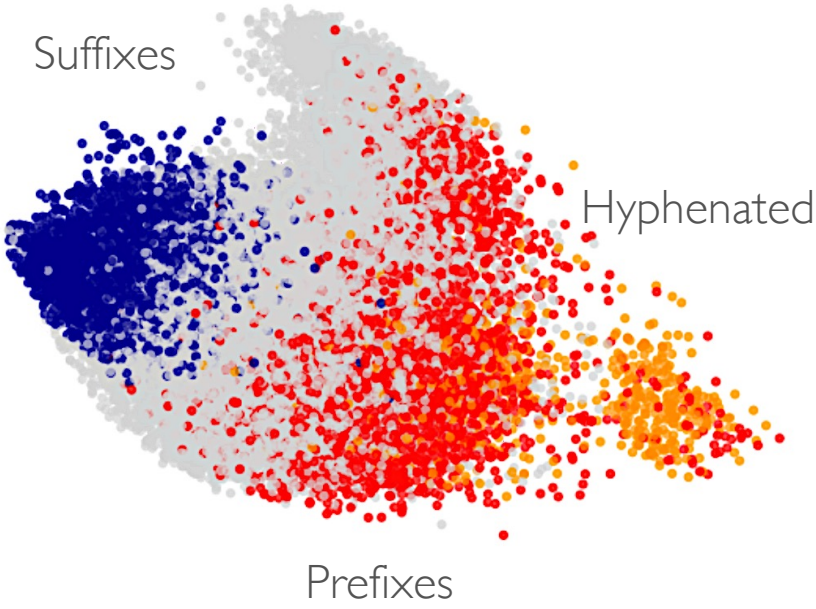
	PPL	Size
LSTM-Word-Small	97.6	5 m
LSTM-Char-Small	92.3	5 m
LSTM-Word-Large	85.4	20 m
LSTM-Char-Large	78.9	19 m
KN-5 (Mikolov et al. 2012)	141.2	2 m
RNN† (Mikolov et al. 2012)	124.7	6 m
RNN-LDA† (Mikolov et al. 2012)	113.7	7 m
genCNN† (Wang et al. 2015)	116.4	8 m
FOFE-FNNLM† (Zhang et al. 2015)	108.0	6 m
Deep RNN (Pascanu et al. 2013)	107.5	6 m
Sum-Prod Net† (Cheng et al. 2014)	100.0	5 m
LSTM-1† (Zaremba et al. 2014)	82.7	20 m
LSTM-2† (Zaremba et al. 2014)	78.4	52 m

Qualitative Insights

	In Vocabulary				
	while	*his*	*you*	*richard*	*trading*
LSTM-Word	*although*	*your*	*conservatives*	*jonathan*	*advertised*
	letting	*her*	*we*	*robert*	*advertising*
	though	*my*	*guys*	*neil*	*turnover*
	minute	*their*	*i*	*nancy*	*turnover*
LSTM-Char (before highway)	*chile*	*this*	*your*	*hard*	*heading*
	whole	*hhs*	*young*	*rich*	*training*
	meanwhile	*is*	*four*	*richer*	*reading*
	white	*has*	*youth*	*richter*	*leading*
LSTM-Char (after highway)	*meanwhile*	*hhs*	*we*	*eduard*	*trade*
	whole	*this*	*your*	*gerard*	*training*
	though	*their*	*doug*	*edward*	*traded*
	nevertheless	*your*	*i*	*carl*	*trader*

Qualitative Insights

Out-of-Vocabulary		
computer-aided	*misinformed*	*looooook*
–	–	–
–	–	–
–	–	–
–	–	–
computer-guided	*informed*	*look*
computerized	*performed*	*cook*
disk-drive	*transformed*	*looks*
computer	*inform*	*shook*
computer-guided	*informed*	*look*
computer-driven	*performed*	*looks*
computerized	*outperformed*	*looked*
computer	*transformed*	*looking*



Take-aways

- Paper questioned the necessity of using word embeddings as inputs for neural language modeling.
- CNNs + Highway Network over characters can extract rich semantic and structural information.
- Key thinking: you can compose "building blocks" to obtain nuanced and powerful models!

Hybrid NMT

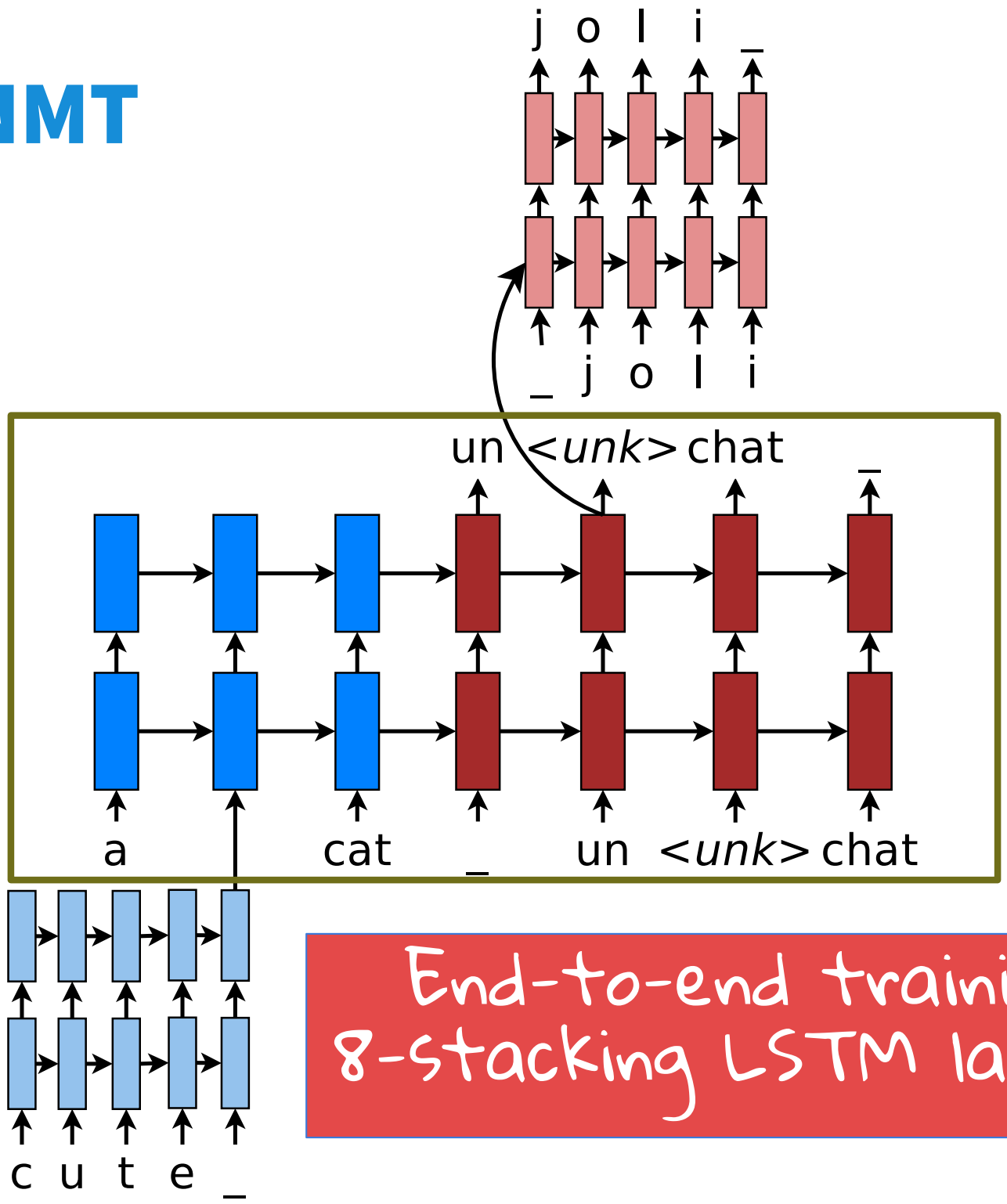

- A *best-of-both-worlds* architecture:
  - Translate mostly at the word level
  - Only go to the character level when needed

- More than 2 BLEU improvement over a copy mechanism to try to fill in rare words

Thang Luong and Chris Manning. ***Achieving Open Vocabulary Neural Machine Translation with Hybrid Word-Character Models****. ACL 2016.*

Hybrid NMT

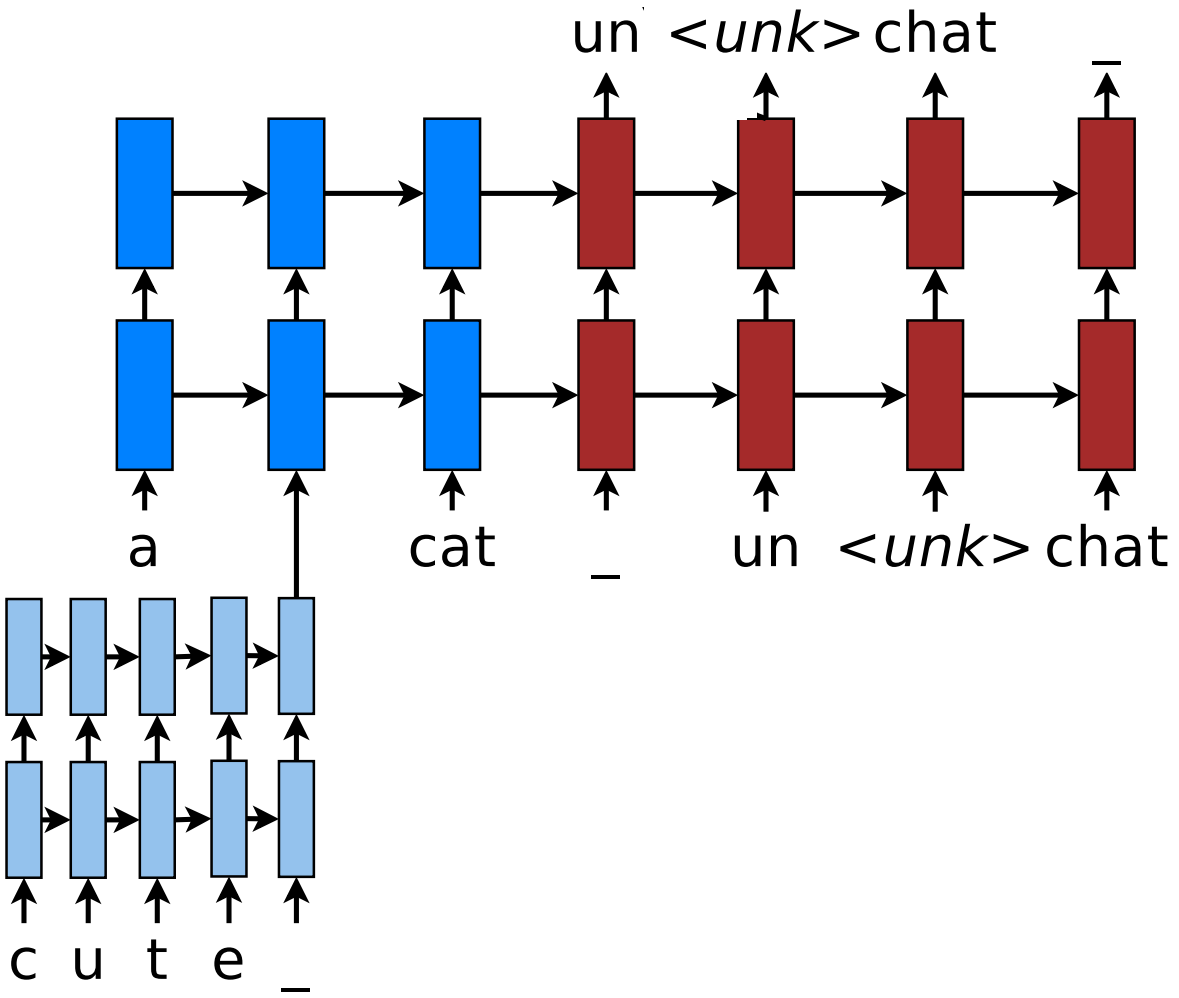
Word-level
(4 layers)



End-to-end training
8-stacking LSTM layers.

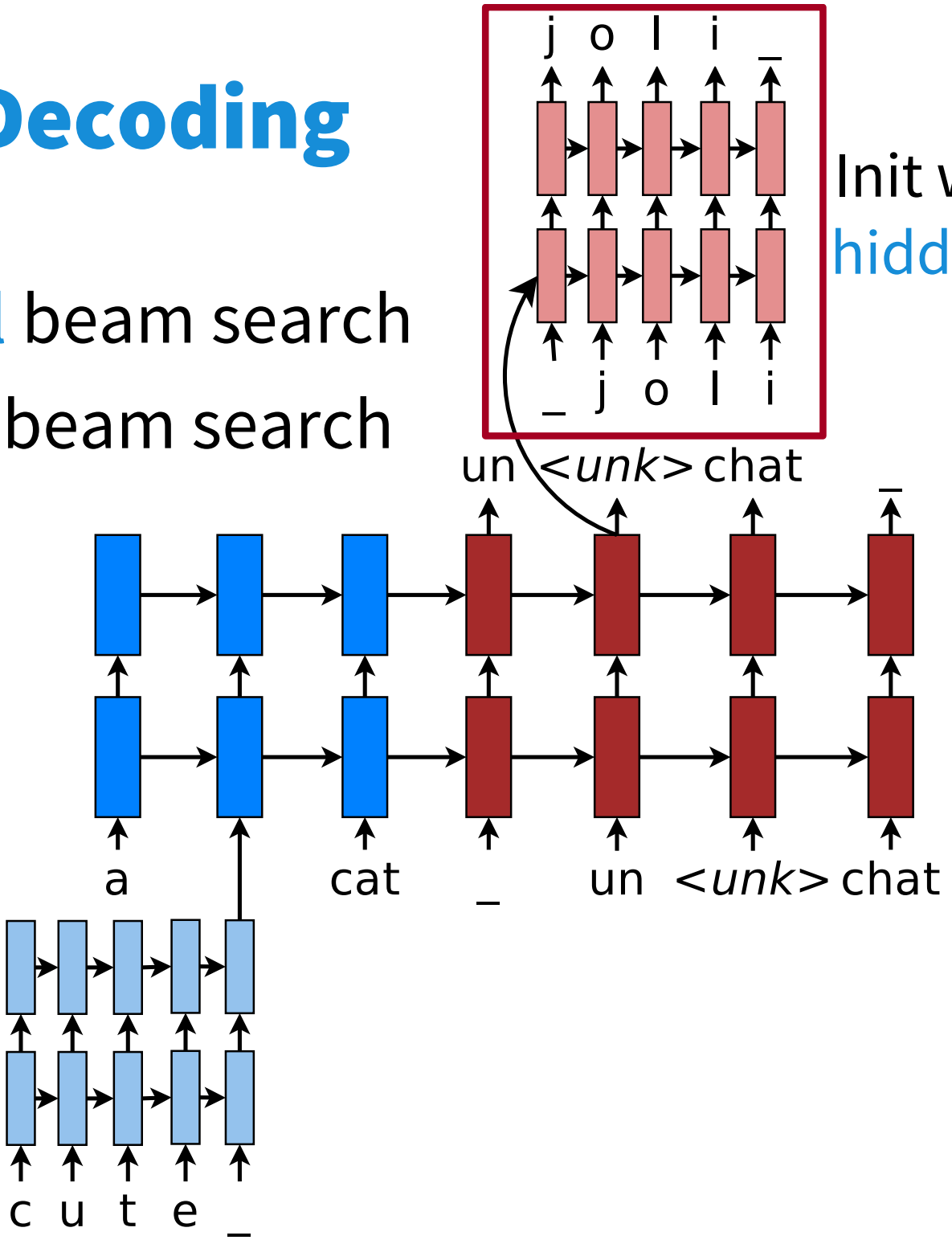
2-stage Decoding

- Word-level beam search



2-stage Decoding

- Word-level beam search
- Char-level beam search for <unk>



English-Czech Results

- Train on WMT'15 data (12M sentence pairs)
  - newstest2015

Systems	BLEU
Winning WMT'15 (Bojar & Tamchyna, 2015)	18.8
Word-level NMT (Jean et al., 2015)	18.3

30x data
3 systems

Large vocab
+ copy mechanism

English-Czech Results

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Systems	BLEU
Winning WMT'15 (Bojar & Tamchyna, 2015)	18.8
Word-level NMT (Jean et al., 2015)	18.3
Hybrid NMT (Luong & Manning, 2016)*	**20.7**

30x data
3 systems

Large vocab
+ copy mechanism

But cf. Cherry et al. 2018: ~26 BLEU

Sample English-Czech translations

source	The author ***Stephen Jay Gould*** died 20 years after ***diagnosis*** .
human	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
char	Autor **Stepher Stepher** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
word	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **po** .
hybrid	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .

Perfect translation!

Sample English-Czech translations

source	The author ***Stephen Jay Gould*** died 20 years after ***diagnosis*** .
human	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
char	Autor **Stepher Stepher** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
word	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **po** .
hybrid	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .

- *Char*-based: wrong name translation

Sample English-Czech translations

source	The author ***Stephen Jay Gould*** died 20 years after ***diagnosis*** .
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hybrid	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .

- *Word*-based: incorrect alignment

Sample English-Czech translations

source	The author ***Stephen Jay Gould*** died 20 years after ***diagnosis*** .
human	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
char	Autor **Stepher Stepher** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .
word	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **po** .
hybrid	Autor Stephen Jay <unk> zemřel 20 let po <unk> .
	Autor **Stephen Jay Gould** zemřel 20 let po **diagnóze** .

- *Char*-based & hybrid: correct translation of **diagnóze**

Sample English-Czech translation

source	Her ***11-year-old*** daughter , ***Shani Bart*** , said it felt a little bit ***weird***
human	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera **Shani Bartová** prozradila , že je to trochu **zvláštní**
word	Její <unk> dcera <unk> <unk> řekla , že je to trochu divné
	Její **11-year-old** dcera **Shani ,** řekla , že je to trochu ***divné***
hybrid	Její <unk> dcera , <unk> <unk> , řekla , že je to <unk> <unk>
	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera , **Graham** ***Bart*** , řekla , že cítí trochu ***divný***

- Word-based: identity copy fails

Sample English-Czech translation

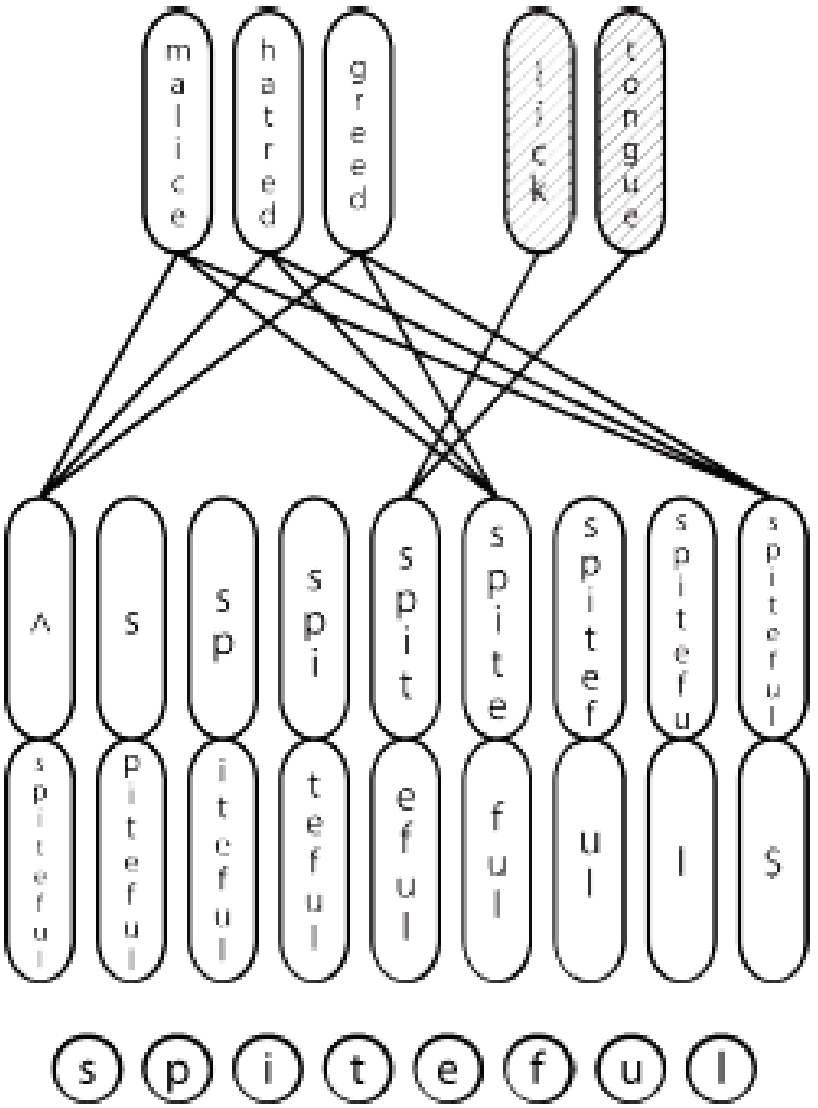
source	Her *11-year-old* daughter , *Shani Bart* , said it felt a little bit *weird*
human	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera **Shani Bartová** prozradila , že je to trochu **zvláštní**
word	Její <unk> dcera <unk> <unk> řekla , že je to trochu divné
	Její **11-year-old** dcera **Shani ,** řekla , že je to trochu ***divné***
hybrid	Její <unk> dcera , <unk> <unk> , řekla , že je to <unk> <unk>
	Její **jedenáctiletá** dcera , **Graham** ***Bart*** , řekla , že cítí trochu ***divný***

- Hybrid: correct, ***11-year-old*** – **jedenáctiletá**
- Wrong: **Shani Bartová**

5. Chars for word embeddings

A Joint Model for Word Embedding and Word Morphology
(Cao and Rei 2016)

- Same objective as w2v, but using characters
- Bi-directional LSTM to compute embedding
- Model attempts to capture morphology
- Model can infer roots of words



FastText embeddings

Enriching Word Vectors with Subword Information
Bojanowski, Grave, Joulin and Mikolov. FAIR. 2016.
https://arxiv.org/pdf/1607.04606.pdf • https://fasttext.cc

- Aim: a next generation efficient word2vec-like word representation library, but better for rare words and languages with lots of morphology
- An extension of the w2v skip-gram model with character *n*-grams

FastText embeddings

- Represent word as char *n*-grams augmented with boundary symbols and as whole word:
- *where* = <*wh*, *whe*, *her*, *ere*, *re*>, <*where*>
  - Note that <*her*> or <*her* is different from *her*
    - Prefix, suffixes and whole words are special
- Represent word as sum of these representations. Word in context score is:
  - $s(w, c) = \sum_{g \in G(w)} \mathbf{z}_g^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{v}_c$
    - Detail: rather than sharing representation for all *n*-grams, use "hashing trick" to have fixed number of vectors

FastText embeddings

Word similarity dataset scores (correlations)

		sg	cbow	sisg-	sisg
AR	WS353	51	52	54	**55**
DE	GUR350	61	62	64	**70**
	GUR65	78	78	**81**	**81**
	ZG222	35	38	41	**44**
EN	RW	43	43	46	**47**
	WS353	72	**73**	71	71
ES	WS353	57	58	58	**59**
FR	RG65	70	69	**75**	**75**
RO	WS353	48	52	51	**54**
RU	HJ	59	60	60	**66**

FastText embeddings

- Differential gains on rare words

	DE		EN		ES	FR
	GUR350	ZG222	WS353	RW	WS353	RG65
Luong et al. (2013)	-	-	64	34	-	-
Qiu et al. (2014)	-	-	65	33	-	-
Soricut and Och (2015)	64	22	71	42	47	67
sisg	73	43	73	48	54	69
Botha and Blunsom (2014)	56	25	39	30	28	45
sisg	66	34	54	41	49	52