# word representations 

## CS 585, Fall 2018

Introduction to Natural Language Processing http://people.cs.umass.edu/~miyyer/cs585/

## Mohit lyyer

College of Information and Computer Sciences
University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Questions from last time

- What is regularization? We'll discuss it next class.
- Exercise solutions: on Piazza
- HW1? Coming out tonight or tomorrow, due 10 days from its release


## What do words mean?

First thought: look in a dictionary
http://www.oed.com/

## Words, Lemmas, Senses, Definitions

## - lemma pepper, $n$.

ronumctation: bitt. /'рєрә/, U.S. /'pepər/
Forms: OE peopor (rare), OE piper (transmission ara), OE pipor, OF pipur (rare . Frequency (in current use):
Etymology: A borrowing from Latin. Etymon: Latin piper.
< classical Latin piper, a loanword < Indo-Aryan (as is ancient reek $\pi ; \pi \varepsilon \rho \iota$ ); compare War
I. The spice or the plant.

## 1.

 a. A hot pungent spice derived from the prepare d fruits (peppercorns) of the pepper plant, Piper nigrum (Gee sense aa), used from early times to season food, either whole or ground to poyder (often in association with salt). Also (locally, chiefly/ith distinguishing word): a similar spice derived from the fruits f certain other species of the genus Piper; the fruits themselves.The ground spic rom Piper nigrum coles in two forms, the more pungent black pepper, produced from black peppercorns, and the mild r white pepper, produced from white peppercorns: see black $a d j$. and. Special uses 5 a , peppery kn $n$. ia, and white $\operatorname{adj}$. and $n .{ }^{1}$ Special uses $7 \mathrm{~b}(\mathrm{a})$.
2.
a. The plant Piper nigrum (family Piperaceae), a climbing shrub indigenous to Sout/Asia and also cultivated elsewhere in the tropics, which has alternate stalked entire leaves, with pendulous spikes of small green flowers opposite the leaves, succeeded by small berries turning red when ripe. Also more widely: any plant of the genus Piper or the family
Piperaceae.
b. Usu. with distinguishing word: any of numerous plants of other families having hot pungent fruits or leaves which resemble pepper ( ia) in taste and in some cases are used as a substitute for it.

## definition

$\downarrow$
c. U.S. The California pepper tree, Schinus molle. Cf. Pepper tree $n$.
3. Any of various forms of capsicum, esp. Capsicum annuum var. annuum. Originally (chiefly with distinguishing word): any variety of the C. annuum Longum group, with elongated fruits having a hot, pungent taste, the source of cayenne, chilli powder, paprika, etc., or of the perennial C. frutescens, the source of Tabasco sauce. Now frequently (more fully sweet pepper): any variety of the C. annuum Grossum group, with large, bell-shaped or apple-shaped, mild-flavoured fruits, usually ripening to red, orange, or yellow and eaten raw in salads or cooked as a vegetable. Also: the fruit of any of these capsicums.

Sweet peppers are often used in their green immature state (more fully green pepper), but some new varieties remain green when ripe.

## Relation: Synonymity

Synonyms have the same meaning in some or all contexts.

- couch / sofa
- big / large
- automobile / car
- vomit / throw up
- Water / H20


## Relation: Antonymy

Senses that are opposites with respect to one feature of meaning

Otherwise, they are very similar!
$\begin{array}{lc}\text { dark/light } & \text { short/long } \\ \text { hot/cold } & \text { up/down }\end{array}$
fast/slow rise/fall
in/out

# Relation: Similarity 

Words with similar meanings. Not synonyms, but sharing some element of meaning
car, bicycle
cow, horse

# Ask humans how similar two words are on scale of 1-10 

| wordl | word2 | similarity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| vanish | disappear | 9.8 |
| behave | obey | 7.3 |
| belief | impression | 5.95 |
| muscle | bone | 3.65 |
| modest | flexible | 0.98 |
| hole | agreement | 0.3 |

# in NLP, we commonly represent word types with vectors! 

## why use vectors to encode meaning?

- computing the similarity between two words (or phrases, or documents) is extremely useful for many NLP tasks
- Q: how tall is Mount Everest?

A: The official height of Mount Everest is 29029 ft

## Word similarity for plagiarism detection

## MAINFRAMES

Mainframes are primarily referred to large computers with rapid, advanced processing capabilities that can execute and perform tasks equivalent to many Personal Computers (PCs) machines networked together. It is characterized with high quantity Random Access Memory (RAM), very large secondary storage devices, and high-speed processors to cater for the needs of the computers under its service.
Consisting of advanced components, mainframes have the capability of running multiple large applications required by many and most enterprises and organizations. This is one of its advantages. Mainframes are also suitable to cater for those applications (nroarams) or files that are of verv hiah

## MAINFRAMES

Mainframes usually are referred those computers with fast, advanced processing capabilities that could perform by itself tasks that may require a lot of Personal Computers (PC)
Machines. Usually mainframes would
have lots of RAMs, very large secondary storage devices, and very fast processors to cater for the needs of those computers under its service.
Due to the advanced components mainframes have, these computers have the capability of running multiple large applications required by most enterprises, which is one of its advantage. Mainframes are also suitable to cater for those applications or files that are of very larae demand

## visualizing semantic word change over time


~30 million books, 1850-1990, Google Books data

## Distributional models of meaning <br> = vector-space models of meaning <br> = vector semantics

Intuitions: Zellig Harris (1954):

- "oculist and eye-doctor ... occur in almost the same environments"
- "If A and B have almost identical environments we say that they are synonyms."

Firth (1957):

- "You shall know a word by the company it keeps!"


## Intuition of distributional word similarity

```
A bottle of tesgüino is on the table
Everybody likes tesgüino
Tesgïino makes you drunk
We make tesgüino out of corn.
```

- From context words humans can guess tesgüino means...


## Intuition of distributional word similarity

```
A bottle of tesgüino is on the table
Everybody likes tesgüino
Tesguiino makes you drunk
We make tesgüino out of corn.
```

- From context words humans can guess tesgüino means...
- an alcoholic beverage like beer
- Intuition for algorithm:
- Two words are similar if they have similar word contexts.


## one-hot vectors

- we've already seen these before in bag-ofwords models (e.g., naive Bayes)!
- represent each word as a vector of zeros with a single 1 identifying the index of the word

| vocabulary |
| :---: |
| i |
| hate |
| love |
| the |
| movie |
| film |

movie $=<0,0,0,0,1,0\rangle$
film $=<0,0,0,0,0,1>$
what are the issues of representing a word this way?

## all words are equally (dis)similar!

movie $=<0,0,0,0,1,0>$<br>film $=<0,0,0,0,0,1>$<br>dot product is zero!<br>these vectors are orthogonal

how can we compute a vector representation such that the dot product correlates with word similarity?

## We'll introduce 2 kinds of embeddings

Tf- idf

- A common baseline model
- Sparse vectors
- Words are represented by a simple function of the counts of nearby words

Word2vec

- Dense vectors
- Representation is created by training a classifier to distinguish nearby and far-away words


## Word-word co-occurence matrix

## Two words are similar in meaning if their context vectors are similar

sugar, a sliced lemon, a tablespoonful of apricot their enjoyment. Cautiously she sampled her first pineapple
well suited to programming on the digital computer.
for the purpose of gathering data and information
jam, a pinch each of, and another fruit whose taste she likened In finding the optimal R-stage policy from necessary for the study authorized in the
apricot pineapple digital information
aardvark computer data pinch result sugar

| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 |



## cosine similarity of two vectors

$$
\operatorname{cosine}(\vec{v}, \vec{w})=\frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{|\vec{v}||\vec{w}|}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i} w_{i}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i}^{2}} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_{i}^{2}}}
$$

$v_{i}$ is the count for word $v$ in context $i$ $w_{i}$ is the count for word $w$ in context $i$.

$$
\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}=|\vec{a}||\vec{b}| \cos \theta
$$

$\operatorname{Cos}(v, w)$ is the cosine similarity of $v$ and $w \quad \frac{\vec{a}||\vec{b}|}{}=\cos \theta$

## Cosine as a similarity metric

-1: vectors point in opposite directions
+1 : vectors point in same directions
0 : vectors are orthogonal


Frequency is non-negative, so cosine range 0-1

|  | large | data | computer |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| apricot | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| digital | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| information | 1 | 6 | 1 |

$$
\cos (\vec{v}, \vec{w})=\frac{\vec{v} \bullet \vec{w}}{|\vec{v}||\vec{w}|}=\frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|} \bullet \frac{\vec{w}}{|\vec{w}|}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i} w_{i}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i}^{2}} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_{i}^{2}}}
$$

Which pair of words is more similar?
cosine(apricot,information) =
cosine(digital,information) $=$

$\cos (\vec{v}, \vec{w})=\frac{\vec{v} \bullet \vec{w}}{|\vec{v}||\vec{w}|}=\frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|} \cdot \frac{\vec{w}}{|\vec{w}|}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i} w_{i}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{i}^{2}} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_{i}^{2}}} \quad$|  | apricot | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| digital | 0 | 1 | 2 |  |
| information | 1 | 6 | 1 |  |

Which pair of words is more similar?
cosine $($ apricot,information $)=\quad \sqrt{\sqrt{1+0+0} \sqrt{1+36+1}}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{38}}=.16$
cosine(digital,information) $=$

$$
\frac{0+6+2}{\sqrt{0+1+4} \sqrt{1+36+1}}=\frac{8}{\sqrt{38} \sqrt{5}}=.58
$$

cosine(apricot,digital) $=$

$$
\frac{0+0+0}{\sqrt{1+0+0} \sqrt{0+1+4}}=0
$$

## But raw frequency is a bad representation

Frequency is clearly useful; if sugar appears a lot near apricot, that's useful information.

But overly frequent words like the, it, or they are not very informative about the context

Need a function that resolves this frequency paradox!

## tf-idf: combine two factors

tf: term frequency. frequency count (usually log-transformed):

$$
\mathrm{tf}_{t, d}=\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
1+\log _{10} \operatorname{count}(t, d) & \text { if } \operatorname{count}(t, d)= \\
0 & \text { otherwise } & \text { \# of occurrences } \\
0 & \text { of word } t \text { in doc } d
\end{array}\right.
$$

Idf: inverse document frequency: tf-

$$
\operatorname{idf}_{i}=\log \left(\frac{N}{\mathrm{df}_{i}}\right)<\begin{gathered}
\begin{array}{c}
\text { dfal } \# \text { of docs in collection } \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text { dof documents } \\
\text { containing word } i
\end{array} \\
\# \text { of docs that have word } \mathrm{i}
\end{array} \\
\text { have very low idf }
\end{gathered}
$$

tf-idf value for word t in document d :

$$
w_{t, d}=\mathrm{tf}_{t, d} \times \operatorname{idf}_{t}
$$

## An alternative to tf-idf

Ask whether a context word is particularly informative about the target word.

- Positive Pointwise Mutual Information (PPMI)


## Pointwise Mutual Information

## Pointwise mutual information:

Do events $x$ and $y$ co-occur more than if they were independent?

$$
\operatorname{PMI}(X, Y)=\log _{2} \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x) P(y)}
$$

PMI between two words: (Church \& Hanks 1989)
Do words $x$ and $y$ co-occur more than if they were independent?

$$
\operatorname{PMI}\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)=\log _{2} \frac{P\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)}{P\left(\text { word }_{1}\right) P\left(\text { word }_{2}\right)}
$$

what is the range of values $\operatorname{PMI}\left(w_{1}, w_{2}\right)$ can take?

$$
\begin{gathered}
\operatorname{PMI}\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)=\log _{2} \frac{P\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)}{P\left(\text { word }_{1}\right) P\left(\text { word }_{2}\right)} \\
(-\mathbf{\infty}, \mathbf{\infty})
\end{gathered}
$$

Positive $\operatorname{PMI}\left(w_{1}, w_{2}\right)$ :

$$
\operatorname{PPMI}\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)=\max \left(\log _{2} \frac{P\left(\text { word }_{1}, \text { word }_{2}\right)}{P\left(\text { word }_{1}\right) P\left(\text { word }_{2}\right)}, 0\right)
$$

p(w,context)
computer data pinch result sugar

| apricot | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| pineapple | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| digital | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| information | 0.05 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.58 |
| $\mathbf{p ( c o n t e x t})$ | 0.16 | 0.37 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.11 |  |

PMI(information, data) = ???

PMI(information, data) = ???

$$
\log _{2}(0.32 /(0.37 * 0.58))=0.57
$$

## p(w,context)

computer data pinch result sugar

| apricot | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| pineapple | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| digital | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| information | 0.05 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.58 |
| p(context) | 0.16 | 0.37 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.11 |  |

0.21
0.58
p(context)
0.37
0.11
.11
$p(w$, context $)$
$p(w)$

|  | computer | data | pinch | result | sugar |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| apricot | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| pineapple | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.11 |
| digital | 0.11 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| information | 0.05 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.58 |
| p(context) | 0.16 | 0.37 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.11 |  |

PPMI(w,context)

|  | computer | data | pinch | result | sugar |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| apricot | - | - | 2.25 | - | 2.25 |
| pineapple | - | - | 2.25 | - | 2.25 |
| digital | 1.66 | 0.00 | - | 0.00 | - |
| information | 0.00 | 0.57 | - | 0.47 | - |

Tf-idf and PPMI are sparse representations
tf-idf and PPMI vectors are - long

- sparse

Tf-idf and PPMI are sparse representations
tf-idf and PPMI vectors are - long (length $|\mathrm{V}|=20,000$ to 50,000) ${ }^{\circ}$ sparse (most elements are zero)

## dense word vectors

- model the meaning of a word as an embedding in a vector space
- this vector space is commonly low dimensional (e.g., 100-500d).
- what is the dimensionality of a one-hot word representation?
- embeddings are real-valued vectors (not binary or counts)


## how can we learn embeddings?

Sparse vector representations

1. Mutual-information weighted word co-occurrence matrices

Dense vector representations:
2. Singular value decomposition (and Latent Semantic Analysis)
3. Neural-network-inspired models (skip-grams, CBOW)
4. Brown clusters

Word2vec (Mikolov et al., 2013)

## Popular embedding method

 Very fast to trainCode available on the web
Idea: predict rather than count

## Word2vec

- Instead of counting how often each word w occurs near "apricot"
-Train a classifier on a binary prediction task:
- Is w likely to show up near "apricot"?
- We don't actually care about this task
- But we'll take the learned classifier weights as the word embeddings


## Brilliant insight: Use running text as

 implicitly supervised training data!- A word s near apricot
- Acts as gold 'correct answer' to the question
- "Is word w likely to show up near apricot?"
- No need for hand-labeled supervision
- The idea comes from neural language modeling
- Bengio et al. (2003)
- Collobert et al. (2011)


## Setup

Let's represent words as vectors of some length (say 300), randomly initialized.

So we start with 300 * V random parameters
Over the entire training set, we'd like to adjust those word vectors such that we

- Maximize the similarity of the target word, context word pairs ( $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{c}$ ) drawn from the positive data
- Minimize the similarity of the ( $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{c}$ ) pairs drawn from the negative data.

| word | $\operatorname{dim}$ | $\operatorname{dim}$ | $\operatorname{dim} 2$ | $\operatorname{dim} 3$ | $\cdots$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| today | 0.35 | -1.3 | 2.2 | 0.003 |  |
| cat | -3.1 | -1.7 | 1.1 | -0.56 |  |
| sleep | 0.55 | 3.0 | 2.4 | -1.2 |  |
| watch | -0.09 | 0.8 | -1.8 | 2.9 |  |
| bird | 2.0 | 0.16 | -1.9 | 2.3 |  |

## Skip-gram with negative sampling (SGNS)

1. From a large source of text (e.g., Wikipedia), generate positive examples by pairing a target word with a word in its neighboring context
2. Create negative examples for that target word by randomly sampling other words in the vocabulary
3. Train a logistic regression model to identify whether a given pair of words is a positive or negative example
4. Use the weights of this model as the embeddings

Skip-Gram Training Data
Training sentence:
... lemon, a tablespoon of apricot jam a pinch...
c1 c2 target c3 c4

Asssume context words are those in +/- 2 word window

## Skip-Gram Goal

Given a tuple (t,c) = target, context

- (apricot, jam)
- (apricot, aardvark)

Return probability that c is a real context word:
$P(+\mid t, c)$
$P(-\mid t, c)=1-P(+\mid t, c)$

## How to compute $p(+\mid t, c)$ ?

Intuition:

- Words are likely to appear near similar words
- Model similarity with dot-product!
- Similarity $(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{c}) \propto \mathrm{t} \cdot \mathrm{c} \quad \mathrm{t}$ and c here are vectors for

Problem: target and context!

- Dot product is not a probability!
- (Neither is cosine)


## Turning dot product into a probability

## Turning dot product into a probability

The sigmoid lies between 0 and 1:

$$
\sigma(x)=\frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}
$$



## Turning dot product into a probability think back to last class... what are our features and weights here???

$$
P(+\mid t, c)=\frac{1}{1+e^{-t \cdot c}}
$$

both target and context vectors are learned, so we have no explicit featurization!

$$
\begin{aligned}
P(-\mid t, c) & =1-P(+\mid t, c) \\
& =\frac{e^{-t \cdot c}}{1+e^{-t \cdot c}}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Learning the classifier

Iterative process.
We'll start with 0 or random weights
Then adjust the word weights to

- make the positive pairs more likely
$\circ$ and the negative pairs less likely
over the entire training set
guess what algorithm we'll use to make this happen?


## gradient descent!!!!!!!!

## Objective Criteria

We want to maximize...

$$
\sum_{(t, c) \in+} \log P(+\mid t, c)+\sum_{(t, c) \in-} \log P(-\mid t, c)
$$

Maximize the + label for the pairs from the positive training data, and the - label for the pairs sample from the negative data.

## Focusing on one target word t:

$n_{i}$ is the vector for the negative sample

$$
\begin{aligned}
L(\theta) & =\log P(+\mid t, c)+\sum_{i=1} \log P\left(-\mid t, n_{i}\right) \\
& =\log \sigma(c \cdot t)+\sum_{i=1}^{k} \log \sigma\left(-n_{i} \cdot t\right) \\
& =\log \frac{1}{1+e^{-c \cdot t}}+\sum_{i=1}^{k} \log \frac{1}{1+e^{n_{i} \cdot t}}
\end{aligned}
$$

in practice, we learn two different sets of embeddings (W for target words, C for context words), but throw away C


## Summary: How to learn word2vec (skip-gram) embeddings

Start with V random 300-dimensional vectors as initial embeddings

Use logistic regression, the second most basic classifier used in machine learning after naïve bayes

- Take a corpus and take pairs of words that co-occur as positive examples
- Take pairs of words that don't co-occur as negative examples
- Train the classifier to distinguish these by slowly adjusting all the embeddings to improve the classifier performance
- Throw away the classifier code and keep the embeddings.


## Evaluating embeddings

Compare to human scores on word similarity-type tasks:

- WordSim-353 (Finkelstein et al., 2002)
- SimLex-999 (Hill et al., 2015)
- Stanford Contextual Word Similarity (SCWS) dataset (Huang et al., 2012)
- TOEFL dataset: Levied is closest in meaning to: imposed, believed, requested, correlated


# Properties of embeddings 

Similarity depends on window size $C$
$C= \pm 2$ The nearest words to Hogwarts:

- Sunnydale
- Evernight
$C= \pm 5$ The nearest words to Hogwarts:
- Dumbledore
- Malfoy
- halfblood


## Analogy: Embeddings capture relational meaning!

```
vector('king') - vector('man') + vector('woman') \approx vector('queen')
vector('Paris') - vector('France') + vector('Italy') \approx vector('Rome')
```





## Embeddings reflect cultural bias

Bolukbasi, Tolga, Kai-Wei Chang, James Y. Zou, Venkatesh Saligrama, and Adam T. Kalai. "Man is to computer programmer as woman is to homemaker? debiasing word embeddings." In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, pp. 4349-4357. 2016.

Ask "Paris : France :: Tokyo : x"
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{x}=\mathrm{Japan}$
Ask "father : doctor :: mother : x"
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{x}=$ nurse
Ask "man : computer programmer :: woman : x"
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{x}=$ homemaker
huge concern for NLP systems deployed in the real world that use embeddings!

| Occupations |  | Adjectives |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Man | Woman | Man | Woman |
| carpenter | nurse | honorable | maternal |
| mechanic | midwife | ascetic | romantic |
| mason | librarian | amiable | submissive |
| blacksmith | housekeeper | dissolute | hysterical |
| retired | dancer | arrogant | elegant |
| architect | teacher | erratic | caring |
| engineer | cashier | heroic | delicate |
| mathematician | student | boyish | superficial |
| shoemaker | designer | fanatical | neurotic |
| physicist | weaver | aimless | attractive |

Table 7: Top occupations and adjectives by gender in the Google News embedding.

# Changes in framing: adjectives associated with Chinese 

Garg, Nikhil, Schiebinger, Londa, Jurafsky, Dan, and Zou, James (2018). Word embeddings quantify 100 years of gender and ethnic stereotypes. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 115(16), E3635-E3644

| 1910 | 1950 | 1990 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Irresponsible | Disorganized | Inhibited |
| Envious | Outrageous | Passive |
| Barbaric | Pompous | Dissolute |
| Aggressive | Unstable | Haughty |
| Transparent | Effeminate | Complacent |
| Monstrous | Unprincipled | Forceful |
| Hateful | Venomous | Fixed |
| Cruel | Disobedient | Active |
| Greedy | Predatory | Sensitive |
| Bizarre | Boisterous | Hearty |

@math_rachel
Biased word embeddings in action: a rating system ranked Mexican restaurants worse, bc Mexican had neg connotations blog.conceptnet.io/2017/04/24/con ...

I had tried building an algorithm for sentiment analysis based on word embeddings - evaluating how much people like certain things based on what they say about them. When I applied it to restaurant reviews, I found it was ranking Mexican restaurants lower. The reason was not reflected in the star ratings or actual text of the reviews. It's not that people don't like Mexican food.
The reason was that the system had learned the word "Mexican"
from reading the Web.

## Directions

Debiasing algorithms for embeddings

- Bolukbasi, Tolga, Chang, Kai-Wei, Zou, James Y., Saligrama, Venkatesh, and Kalai, Adam T. (2016). Man is to computer programmer as woman is to homemaker? debiasing word embeddings. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, pp. 4349-4357.

Use embeddings as a historical tool to study bias

## exercise!

