

# **Machine Reading, Models and Applications**

Julien Perez Machine Learning and Optimization group



## Content

- 1. Machine reading tasks
- 2. Models of reading
- 3. Applications
- 4. Open Questions



Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

The University of Chicago is governed by a board of trustees. The Board of Trustees oversees the long-term development and plans of the university and manages fundraising efforts, and is composed of 50 members including the university President. Directly beneath the President are the Provost, fourteen Vice Presidents (including the Chief Financial the Board of Trustees is Andrew Alper, and the President of the university is Robert Zimmer. In December 2013 it was announced that the Director of Argonne National Laboratory, Eric Isaacs, would become Provost. Isaacs was replaced as Provost in March 2016 by Daniel Diermeier. How many vice presidents are in the board of trustees in the university of Chicago? Answer Clear Answer the question Sample Document Start & Stop pointers probability distribution over words

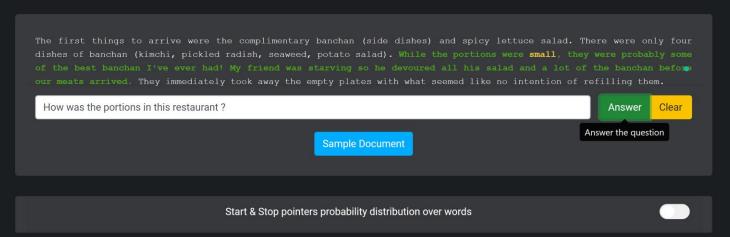


My friends and I (4 total) made a reservation for 7:30 pm and was seated when most of our party arrived. We ordered 2 orders of the marinated short ribs, 1 order of the bulgogi, the neighborhood pancake, add-on potato noodles (\$ 10), and short rib stew. The meal comes with the customary banchan (the small unlimited side dishes) at the beginning which also included a personal salad for each of us! The amount of food we ordered was also perfect. We were full but not to the point we wanted to die (you know what I mean). All the meat were really good. You can tell it was quality and fresh-none of that frozen stuff you get elsewhere. We wanted to get the fresh short rib but unfortunately, they already sold out! The waiter explained they get fresh carcasses everyday and they only use~3-4 ribs (I forgot the exact number) for the fresh short ribs so they run out quick. That's when you know the meat is fresh. They use the rest of the ribs for the marinated short ribs which also was good and does n't run out as quickly. How much cost the potato noodles? Answer Clear Sample Document Start & Stop pointers probability distribution over words

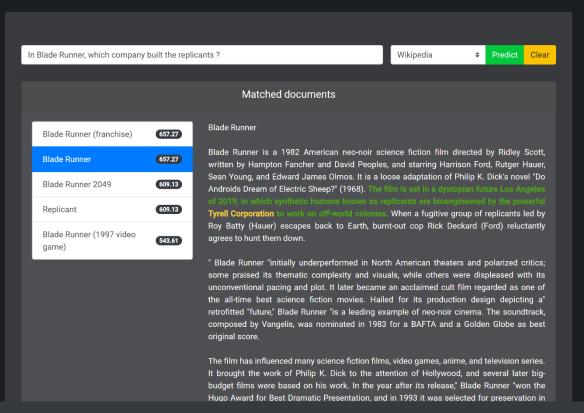


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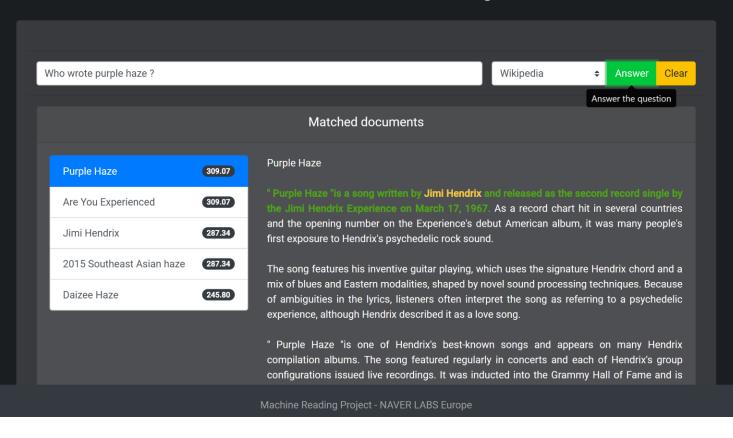


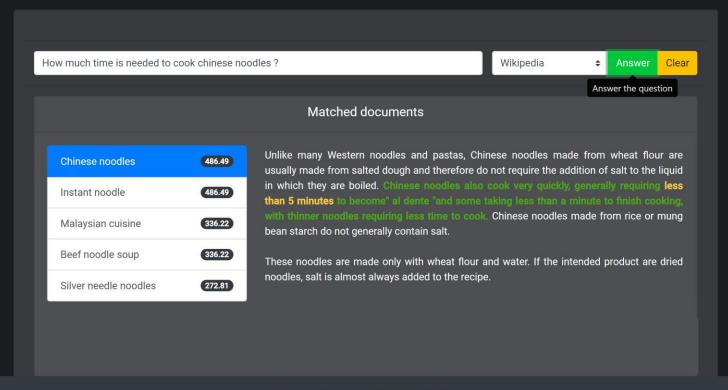




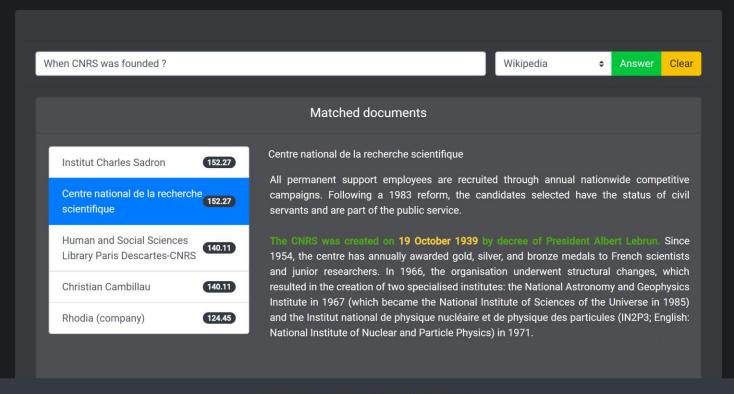




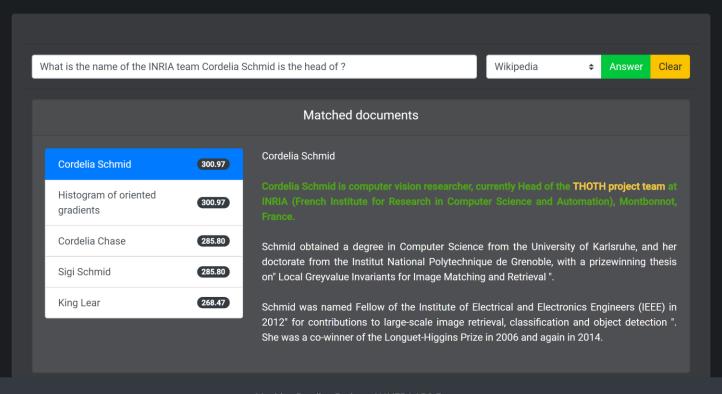




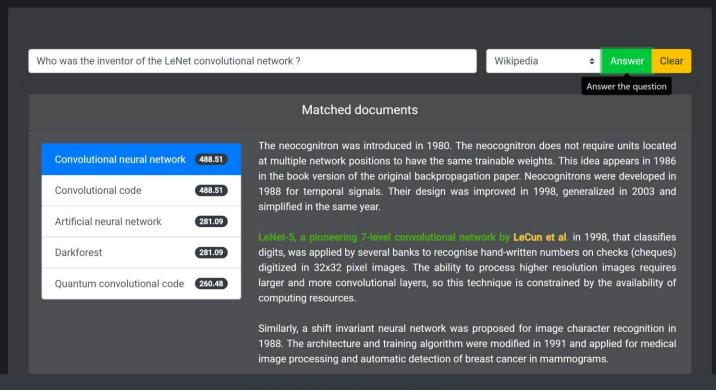














Machine Reading Project - NAVER LABS Europe

# Content

- 1. Machine reading tasks
  - Definition
  - State of the art approaches
  - Dataset taxonomy
- 2. Models of reading
- 3. Applications
- 4. Open Questions



Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

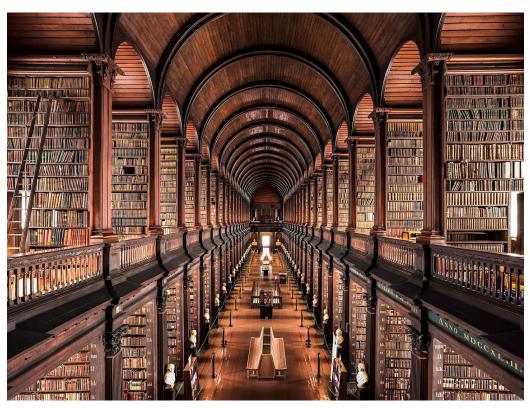
motivations

Human knowledge is (**mainly**) stored in natural language

Natural Language is an **efficient** support of knowledge transcription

Language is efficient because of its contextuallity that leads to ambiguity

Languages assume **apriori knowledge** of the world



The Library of Trinity College Dublin

# **Definition**

"A machine comprehends a passage of text if, for any question regarding that text, it can be answered correctly by a majority of native speakers.

The machine needs to provide a string which human readers would agree both

- 1. Answers that question
- 2. Does not contain information irrelevant to that question." (Burges, 2013)

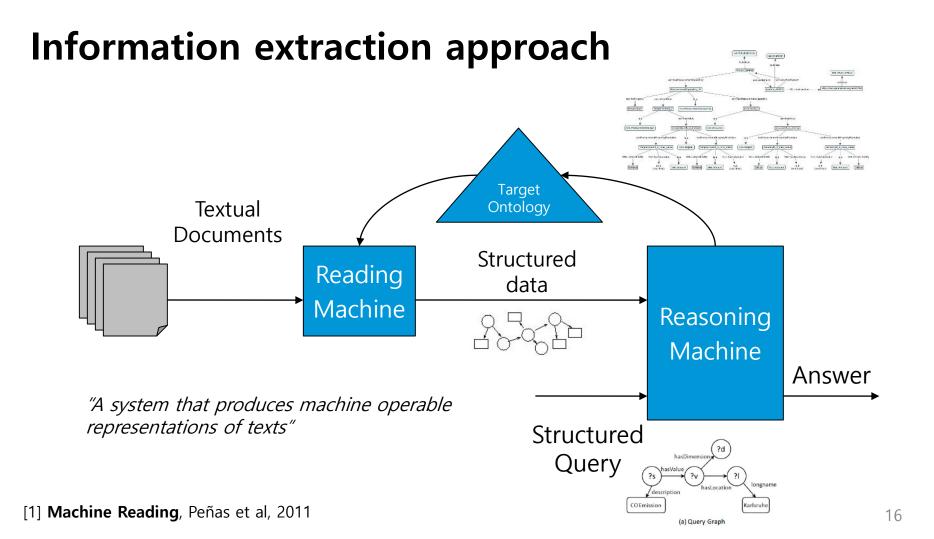
## **Applications**

- Collection of documents as KB
- Social media mining
- Dialog understanding
- Fact checking Fake news detection

Towards the Machine Comprehension of Text: An Essay

Christopher J.C. Burges Microsoft Research One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052, USA

December 23, 2013

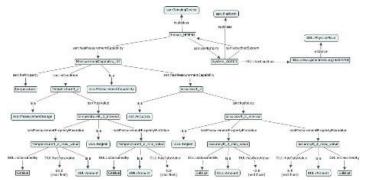


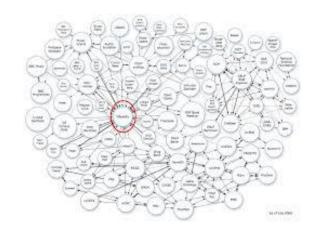
# Information extraction approach

" A system that produces machine operable representations of texts"

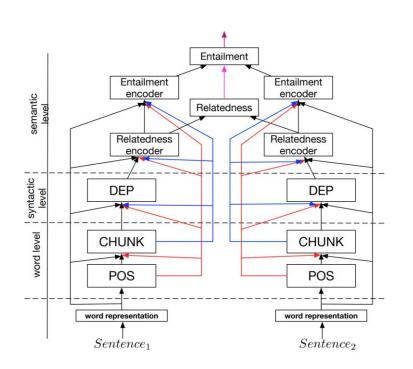
... but we have 3 problems here

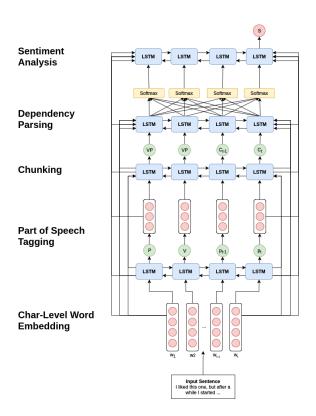
- 1. Fixed/Predefined ontologies
- 2. Fixed/Predefined lexical domain
- 3. Data duplication by structuration





# Classic Deep NLP approach



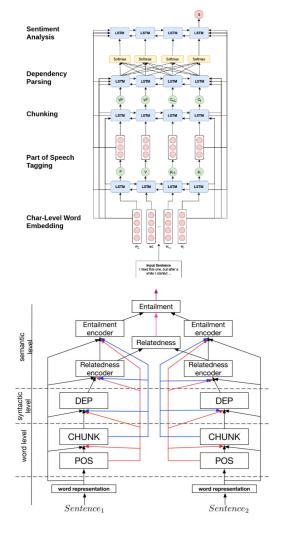


# Classic Deep NLP approach

"Machine reading, yet another (Deep) NLP task ?"

... but we have 3 problems here

- 1. Is (Language dependant) syntax a requirement to semantics ?
- 2. Additional (unnecessary) requirement
  - Annotations
  - Priors
- 3. Not end-to end machine comprehension



End-to-end formulation of natural language comprehension

#### **Document**

James was always getting in trouble. His aunt Jane tried as hard as she could to keep him out of trouble, but he was sneaky and got into lots of trouble behind her back. He went to the grocery store and pulled all the pudding off the shelves and ate two jars. Then he walked to the fast food restaurant and ordered 15 bags of fries. He didn't pay, and instead headed home.

**Question**: Where did James go after he went to the grocery store?

- his deck
- his freezer
- a fast food restaurant
- his home

- [3] Teaching Machines to Read and Comprehend, Blunsom et al, 2015
- [4] Text as knowledge bases, Manning et al, 2016

as Multi-choice question task

#### **MCTest**

- 500 passages
- 2000 questions about simple stories

## **RACE**

- 28,000 passages
- 100,000 questions from English comprehension tests
- [5] MCTest: A Challenge Dataset for the Open-Domain Machine Comprehension of Text, Richardson et al, 2013
- [6] RACE: Large-scale ReAding Comprehension Dataset From Examinations, Lai et al. 2017

James the Turtle was always getting in trouble. Sometimes he'd reach into the freezer and empty out all the food. Other times he'd sled on the deck and get a splinter. His aunt Jane tried as hard as she could to keep him out of trouble, but he was sneaky and got into lots of trouble behind her back.

into lots of trouble behind her back. One day, James thought he would go into town and see what kind of trouble he could get into. He went to the grocery store and pulled all the pudding off the shelves and ate two jars. Then he walked to the fast food restaurant and ordered 15 bags of fries. He didn't pay, and instead headed home.

His aunt was waiting for him in his room. She told

James that she loved him, but he would have to start acting like a well-behaved turtle.

After about a month, and after getting into lots of trouble, James finally made up his mind to be a better

- 1) What is the name of the trouble making turtle?
- A) Fries
  B) Pudding
  C) James
- D) Jane

turtle.

2) What did James pull off of the shelves in the grocery store?

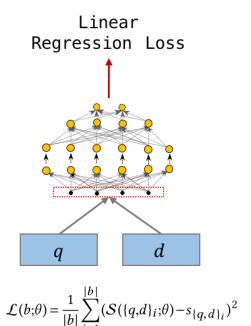
3) Where did James go after he went to the grocery

- A) pudding
   B) fries
   C) food
- D) splinters

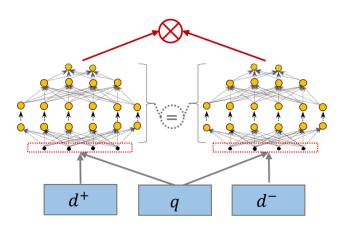
store?

- A) his deck
  B) his freezer
- C) a fast food restaurant
  D) his room
- What did James do after he ordered the fries?
- A) went to the grocery store
   B) went home without paying
- C) ate them
- D) made up his mind to be a better turtle 21

as Multi-choice question task







$$\mathcal{L}(b;\theta) = \frac{1}{|b|} \sum_{i=1}^{|b|} \max \left\{ 0, \varepsilon - s_{\{q,d_1\}_i} - s_{\{q,d_2\}_i} \right\}$$

[5] MCTest: A Challenge Dataset for the Open-Domain Machine Comprehension of

Text, Richardson et al, 2013

[6] RACE: Large-scale ReAding Comprehension Dataset From Examinations, Lai et al, 2017

## as Cloze style queries

```
S: 1 \text{ Mr. Cropper was opposed to our hiring you .}
"Well, Miss Maxwell, I think it only fair to tell you that you may have trouble
                                                                              2 Not , of course , that he had any personal objection to you , but he is set
with those boys when they do come. Forewarned is forearmed, you know. Mr.
                                                                              against female teachers , and when a Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can
Cropper was opposed to our hiring you. Not, of course, that he had any
                                                                              3 He savs female teachers ca n't keep order .
personal objection to you, but he is set against female teachers, and when a
                                                                              4 He 's started in with a spite at you on general principles , and the boys know
Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can change him. He says female
teachers can't keep order. He 's started in with a spite at you on general
                                                                              5 They know he '11 back them up in secret , no matter what they do , just to prove
principles, and the boys know it. They know he'll back them up in secret, no
                                                                              6 Cropper is sly and slippery , and it is hard to corner him . ''
matter what they do, just to prove his opinions. Cropper is sly and slippery, and
                                                                              7 `` Are the boys big ? '
it is hard to corner him."
                                                                              8 gueried Esther anxiously .
                                                                              9 `` Yes .
                                                                              10 Thirteen and fourteen and big for their age .
"Are the boys big?" queried Esther anxiously.
                                                                              11 You ca n't whip 'em -- that is the trouble .
                                                                              12 A man might , but they 'd twist you around their fingers .
"Yes. Thirteen and fourteen and big for their age. You can't whip 'em -- that is
                                                                              13 You 'll have your hands full , I 'm afraid .
                                                                              14 But maybe they 'll behave all right after all . ''
the trouble. A man might, but they'd twist you around their fingers. You'll have
                                                                              15 Mr. Baxter privately had no hope that they would , but Esther hoped for the
your hands full, I'm afraid. But maybe they'll behave all right after all."
                                                                              16 She could not believe that Mr. Cropper would carry his prejudices into a
Mr. Baxter privately had no hope that they would, but Esther hoped for the
                                                                              personal application .
                                                                              17 This conviction was strengthened when he overtook her walking from school the
best. She could not believe that Mr. Cropper would carry his prejudices into a
                                                                              next day and drove her home .
personal application. This conviction was strengthened when he overtook her
                                                                              18 He was a big , handsome man with a very suave , polite manner .
walking from school the next day and drove her home. He was a big, handsome
                                                                              19 He asked interestedly about her school and her work , hoped she was getting on
man with a very suave, polite manner. He asked interestedly about her school
                                                                              well , and said he had two young rascals of his own to send soon .
                                                                              20 Esther felt relieved .
and her work, hoped she was getting on well, and said he had two young
rascals of his own to send soon. Esther felt relieved. She thought that Mr.
                                                                           q: She thought that Mr. had exaggerated matters a little .
Baxter had exaggerated matters a little.
                                                                           C: Baxter, Cropper, Esther, course, fingers, manner, objection, opinion, right, spite.
                                                                           a: Baxter
```

Figure 1: A Named Entity question from the CBT (right), created from a book passage (left, in blue). In this case, the candidate answers C are both entities and common nouns, since fewer than ten named entities are found in the context.

as Cloze style queries

	CNN			Daily Mail			CBT CN			CBT NE		
	train	valid	test	train	valid	test	train	valid	test	train	valid	test
# queries	380,298	3,924	3,198	879,450	64,835	53,182	120,769	2,000	2,500	108,719	2,000	2,500
Max # options	527	187	396	371	232	245	10	10	10	10	10	10
Avg # options	26.4	26.5	24.5	26.5	25.5	26.0	10	10	10	10	10	10
Avg # tokens	762	763	716	813	774	780	470	448	461	433	412	424
Vocab. size	118,497		208,045			53,185			53,063			

Table 1: Statistics on the 4 data sets used to evaluate the model. CBT CN stands for CBT Common Nouns and CBT NE stands for CBT Named Entites. Statistics were taken from (Hermann et al., 2015) and the statistics provided with the CBT data set.

as Span selection

### **SQuAD**

- 500 passages
- 100,000 questions on Wikipedia text
- Human annotated

#### TriviaQA

- 95k questions
- 650k evidence documents
- distant supervision

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under gravity. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, graupel and hail... Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called "showers".

What causes precipitation to fall? gravity

What is another main form of precipitation besides drizzle, rain, snow, sleet and hail?

graupel

Where do water droplets collide with ice crystals to form precipitation? within a cloud

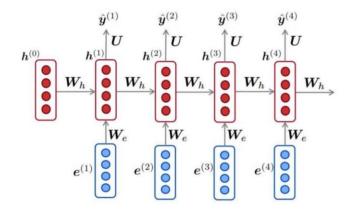
as Span selection

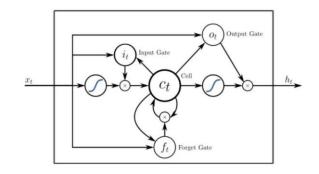
### **SQuAD**

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- 95k questions
- 650k evidence documents
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## as Span selection

- → 200k documents (~1M passages)
- → 100k human generated questions
- → Each query comes with approximately 10 passages

```
"passages": [
        "url": "http://www.biography.com/people/ronald-reagan-9453198",
        "passage text": "1984 Re-Election. In November 1984, Ronald Reagan was
            re-elected in a landslide, defeating Democratic challenger Walter
            Mondale. Reagan carried 49 of the 50 U.S. states in the election,
            and received 525 of 538 electoral votes-the largest number ever won
            by an American presidential candidate. "
        "url": "http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/when-reagan-was-a
            -liberal-democrat-219696195576",
        "passage text": "When Reagan was a liberal Democrat. In 1948, a very
            different sounding Ronald Reagan campaigned on the radio for
            Democrat Harry Truman. Listen to the old audio recording..."
   },
"query": "When was ronald reagan born ?",
"answer": "february 1911"
```

Reasoning over knowledge extraction

- Textual data can specify reasoning capabilities
- Goal: build machines that can "understand " textual information, i.e. converting it into interpretable structured knowledge to be leveraged by humans and other machines alike.
- Optimized with categorical cross-entropy loss

$$CCE = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=0}^{J} y_j \cdot log(\hat{y}_j) + (1 - y_j) \cdot log(1 - \hat{y}_j)$$

#### Task 1: Single Supporting Fact

Mary went to the bathroom. John moved to the hallway. Mary travelled to the office.

Where is Mary? A:office

#### Task 3: Three Supporting Facts

John picked up the apple. John went to the office.

John went to the kitchen

John dropped the apple.

Where was the apple before the kitchen? A:office

#### Task 5: Three Argument Relations

Mary gave the cake to Fred.
Fred gave the cake to Bill.
Jeff was given the milk by Bill.
Who gave the cake to Fred? A: Mary
Who did Fred give the cake to? A: Bill

#### Task 7: Counting

Daniel picked up the football.
Daniel dropped the football.
Daniel got the milk.
Daniel took the apple.
How many objects is Daniel holding? A: two

#### Task 9: Simple Negation

Sandra travelled to the office. Fred is no longer in the office. Is Fred in the office? A:no Is Sandra in the office? A:ves

#### Task 2: Two Supporting Facts

John is in the playground.

John picked up the football.

Bob went to the kitchen.

Where is the football? A player.

Where is the football? A:playground

#### Task 4: Two Argument Relations

The office is north of the bedroom.

The bedroom is north of the bathroom.

The kitchen is west of the garden.

What is north of the bedroom? A: office

What is the bedroom north of? A: bathroom

#### Task 6: Yes/No Ouestions

John moved to the playground. Daniel went to the bathroom. John went back to the hallway. Is John in the playground? A:no

Is Daniel in the bathroom? A:ves

#### Task 8: Lists/Sets

Daniel picks up the football.
Daniel drops the newspaper.
Daniel picks up the milk.
John took the apple.
What is Daniel holding? milk, football

#### Task 10: Indefinite Knowledge

John is either in the classroom or the playground. Sandra is in the garden.

Is John in the classroom? A:maybe

Is John in the office? A:no

**Datasets** 

## **Before** 2015:

- MCTest (Richardson et al, 2013): 2600 questions
- ProcessBank (Berant et al, 2014): 500 questions

More than 100k questions!

## **After** 2015:



- Children Book Test
- 🔹 💪 WikiReading
- LAMBADA
- SQuAD
- Who did What
- Maluuba NewsQA
- MS MARCO
- NAVER DSTC6-T1

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  - 2. Retrieval models
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#### Recurrent Neural Network

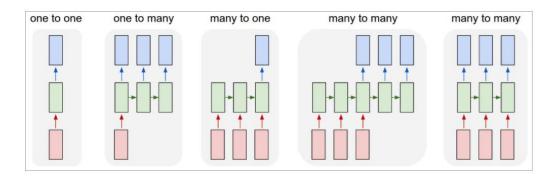
#### LSTM with a forget gate

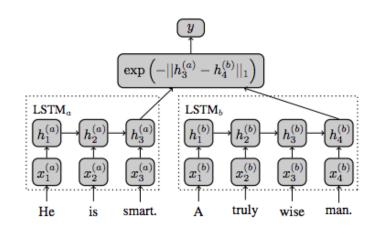
$$egin{aligned} f_t &= \sigma_g(W_f x_t + U_f h_{t-1} + b_f) \ i_t &= \sigma_g(W_i x_t + U_i h_{t-1} + b_i) \ o_t &= \sigma_g(W_o x_t + U_o h_{t-1} + b_o) \ c_t &= f_t \circ c_{t-1} + i_t \circ \sigma_c(W_c x_t + U_c h_{t-1} + b_c) \ h_t &= o_t \circ \sigma_h(c_t) \end{aligned}$$

where the initial values are  $c_0=0$  and  $h_0=0$  and the operator  $\circ$  denotes the Hadamard product (entry-wise product). The subscripts  $_t$  refer to the time step.

#### Variables

- $ullet x_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$ : input vector to the LSTM unit
- $ullet f_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$ : forget gate's activation vector
- $ullet i_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$ : input gate's activation vector
- $ullet o_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$ : output gate's activation vector
- $ullet h_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$ : output vector of the LSTM unit
- $ullet c_t \in \mathbb{R}^h$ : cell state vector
- ullet  $W\in\mathbb{R}^{h imes d}$  ,  $U\in\mathbb{R}^{h imes h}$  and  $b\in\mathbb{R}^h$  : weight matrices and bias vector parameters



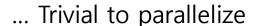


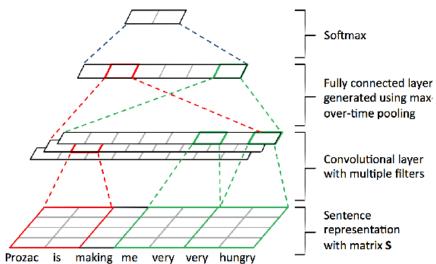
Convolutional Network

### **Elements:**

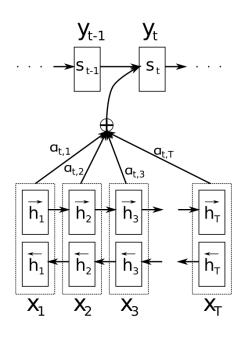
- Input sentence:  $\mathbf{x}_{1:n} = \mathbf{x}_1 \oplus \mathbf{x}_2 \oplus \ldots \oplus \mathbf{x}_n$
- Output local feature:  $c_i = f(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{i:i+h-1} + b)$
- Feature map:  $c = [c_1, c_2, ..., c_{n-h+1}]$
- Max-pooling layer







Attention mechanism



#### In Neural Machine Translation

- Encode each work in the input and output sentence into a vector
- Perform a linear combination of these vectors, weighted by « attention score »
- Use this combination as support to pick the next word

$$\alpha_{ts} = \frac{\exp\left(\operatorname{score}(\boldsymbol{h}_t, \bar{\boldsymbol{h}}_s)\right)}{\sum_{s'=1}^{S} \exp\left(\operatorname{score}(\boldsymbol{h}_t, \bar{\boldsymbol{h}}_{s'})\right)}$$
 [Attention weights]

$$c_t = \sum \alpha_{ts} \bar{h}_s$$
 [Context vector] (2)

$$\mathbf{a}_t = f(\mathbf{c}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) = \tanh(\mathbf{W}_c[\mathbf{c}_t; \mathbf{h}_t])$$
 [Attention vector]

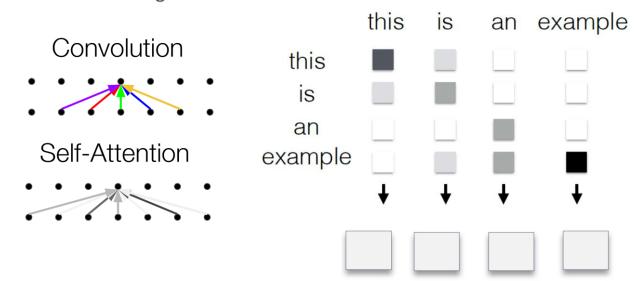
Attention mechanism

With q, a query and k, a key

			Reference
Multi-layer Perceptron	$a(q, k) = \tanh(\mathcal{W}_1[q, k])$	Flexible, often very good with large data	Bahdanau et al., 2015
Bilinear	$a(q,k) = q^T \mathcal{W} k$		Luong et al 2015
Dot Product	$a(q,k) = q^T k$	No parameters! But requires sizes to be the same	Luong et al. 2015
Scaled Dot Product	$a(q,k) = \frac{q^T k}{\sqrt{ k }}$	Scale by size of the vector	Vaswani et al. 2017

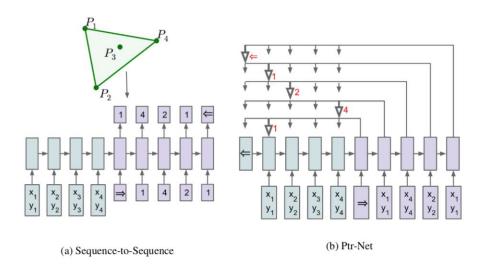
Self-Attention mechanism

Each element in the sentence attends to other elements from the SAME sentence → context sensitive encodings!



### Pointer Networks

- Pointer networks are a variation of the seq-to-seq models.
- → Instead of translating one sequence into another, the output is a sequence of pointers to the elements of the input series (i.e a permutation of the input sequence)



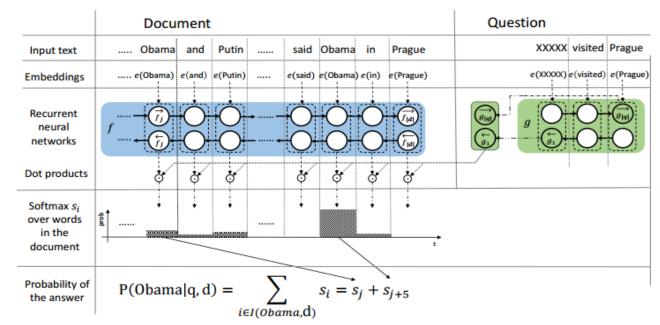
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Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

#### Attention Sum Reader Network



$$s_i \propto \exp\left(f_i(\mathbf{d}) \cdot g(\mathbf{q})\right)$$
 (1)

$$P(w|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}) \propto \sum_{i \in I(w, \mathbf{d})} s_i$$
 (2)

where  $I(w, \mathbf{d})$  is a set of positions where w appears in the document  $\mathbf{d}$ .

$$f_i(\mathbf{d}) = \overrightarrow{f_i}(\mathbf{d}) \mid\mid \overleftarrow{f_i}(\mathbf{d}),$$
  
 $g(\mathbf{q}) = \overrightarrow{g_{|\mathbf{q}|}}(\mathbf{q}) \mid\mid \overleftarrow{g_1}(\mathbf{q}).$ 

Deep Long Short Term Memory readers

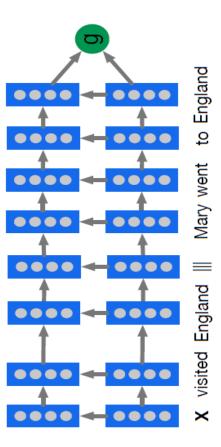
We employ a Deep LSTM cell with skip connections,

$$\begin{split} x'(t,k) &= x(t)||y'(t,k-1),\\ i(t,k) &= \sigma\left(W_{kxi}x'(t,k) + W_{khi}h(t-1,k) + W_{kci}c(t-1,k) + b_{ki}\right),\\ f(t,k) &= \sigma\left(W_{kxf}x(t) + W_{khf}h(t-1,k) + W_{kcf}c(t-1,k) + b_{kf}\right),\\ c(t,k) &= f(t,k)c(t-1,k) + i(t,k)\tanh\left(W_{kxc}x'(t,k) + W_{khc}h(t-1,k) + b_{kc}\right),\\ o(t,k) &= \sigma\left(W_{kxo}x'(t,k) + W_{kho}h(t-1,k) + W_{kco}c(t,k) + b_{ko}\right),\\ h(t,k) &= o(t,k)\tanh\left(c(t,k)\right),\\ y'(t,k) &= W_{ky}h(t,k) + b_{ky},\\ y(t) &= y'(t,1)||\dots||y'(t,K), \end{split}$$

where || indicates vector concatenation h(t, k) is the hidden state for layer k at time t, and i, f, o are the input, forget, and output gates respectively.

$$g^{\mathsf{LSTM}}(d,q) = y(|d| + |q|)$$

with input x(t) the concatenation of d and q separated by the delimiter |||.



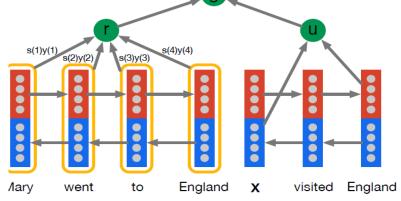
### Deep Long Short Term Memory readers

Denote the outputs of a bidirectional LSTM as  $\overrightarrow{y}(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{y}(t)$ . Form two encodings, one for the query and one for each token in the document,

$$u = \overrightarrow{y_q}(|q|) \mid | \overleftarrow{y_q}(1), \qquad y_d(t) = \overrightarrow{y_d}(t) \mid | \overleftarrow{y_d}(t).$$

The representation r of the document d is formed by a weighted sum of the token vectors. The weights are interpreted as the model's attention,

$$m(t) = anh\left(W_{ym}y_d(t) + W_{um}u\right),$$
  
 $s(t) \propto \exp\left(\mathbf{w}_{ms}^{\mathsf{T}}m(t)\right),$   
 $r = y_d s.$ 



Define the joint document and query embedding via a non-linear combination:

$$g^{\mathsf{AR}}(d,q) = \mathsf{tanh}\left(W_{rg}r + W_{ug}u\right).$$

### results

	valid	test	valid	test
Attentive Reader †	61.6	63.0	70.5	69.0
Impatient Reader †	61.8	63.8	69.0	68.0
MemNNs (single model) <sup>‡</sup>	63.4	66.8	NA	NA
MemNNs (ensemble) ‡	66.2	69.4	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. (max-pool) #	71.2	70.7	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. (max-pool + byway)#	70.8	72.0	NA	NA
Dynamic Entity Repres. + w2v #	71.3	72.9	NA	NA
Chen et al. (2016) (single model)	72.4	72.4	76.9	75.8
AS Reader (single model)	68.6	69.5	75.0	73.9
AS Reader (avg for top 20%)	68.4	69.9	74.5	73.5
AS Reader (avg ensemble)	73.9	75.4	78.1	77.1
AS Reader (greedy ensemble)	74.5	74.8	78.7	77.7

Table 2: Results of our AS Reader on the CNN and Daily Mail datasets. Results for models marked with  $^{\dagger}$  are taken from (Hermann et al., 2015), results of models marked with  $^{\ddagger}$  are taken from (Hill et al., 2015) and results marked with  $^{\sharp}$  are taken from (Kobayashi et al., 2016). Performance of  $^{\ddagger}$  and  $^{\sharp}$  models was evaluated only on CNN dataset.

	Named entity		Commo	on noun
	valid	test	valid	test
Humans (query) (*)	NA	52.0	NA	64.4
Humans (context+query) (*)	NA	81.6	NA	81.6
LSTMs (context+query) <sup>‡</sup>	51.2	41.8	62.6	56.0
MemNNs (window memory + self-se	up.) <sup>‡</sup> 70.4	66.6	64.2	63.0
AS Reader (single model)	73.8	68.6	68.8	63.4
AS Reader (avg for top 20%)	73.3	68.4	67.7	63.2
AS Reader (avg ensemble)	74.5	70.6	71.1	68.9
AS Reader (greedy ensemble)	76.2	71.0	72.4	67.5

Table 3: Results of our AS Reader on the CBT datasets. Results marked with  $^{\ddagger}$  are taken from (Hill et al., 2015).  $^{(*)}$ Human results were collected on 10% of the test set.

R-Net

- → Extractive model
- → Fully differentiable
- → Based on 4 stacked layers
- → Language independent

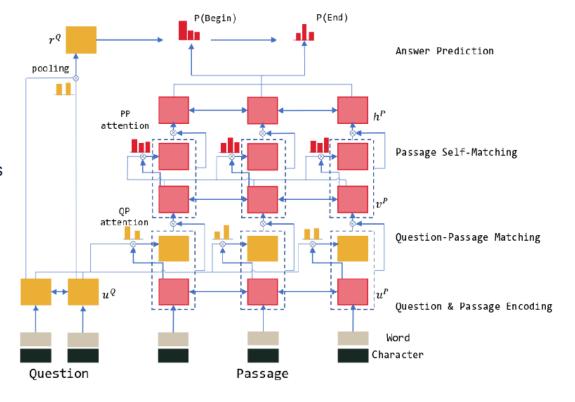
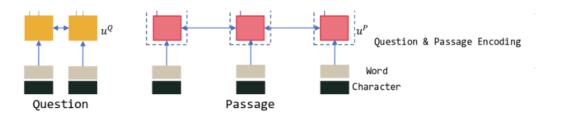


Figure 1: R-NET structure overview.

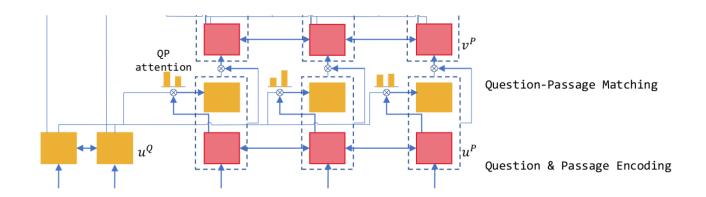
### R-Net – Question and Passage encoding



- $\rightarrow$  Let P = { $W_1^P$ , ...,  $W_n^P$ } be a document and Q = { $W_1^Q$ , ...,  $W_n^Q$ } a question regarding this passage.
- $\rightarrow$  First convert words to their word-level embeddings:  $E_p = \{e_1^p, ..., e_n^p\}$  and  $E_0 = \{e_1^q, ..., e_m^q\}$
- $\rightarrow$  Generate character-level embeddings by taking the final states of a bidirectional RNN:  $C_p = \{c_1^P, ..., c_n^P\}$  and  $C_Q = \{c_1^Q, ..., c_m^Q\}$
- $\rightarrow$  Finnaly use a bidirectional RNN to produce  $\mathbf{u}^{\text{P}}$  and  $\mathbf{u}^{\text{Q}}$  the new representations of the passage and the question.

$$u_t^Q = \text{BiRNN}_Q(u_{t-1}^Q, [e_t^Q, c_t^Q])$$
  
 $u_t^P = \text{BiRNN}_P(u_{t-1}^P, [e_t^P, c_t^P])$ 

R-Net - Question-Passage matching - Gated attention-based recurrent network



**Objective:** Incorporate question information into the passage representation

**Solution**: Attention-based RNN with an additional gate to determine the importance of information in the passage regarding a question

R-Net - Question-Passage matching - Gated attention-based recurrent network

From the question  $u^Q$  and a the document  $u^P$ , the model will compute a **question**aware representation of the passage:

$$V_{t}^{P} = RNN(V_{t-1}^{P}, [u_{t}^{P}, c_{t}]^{*})$$

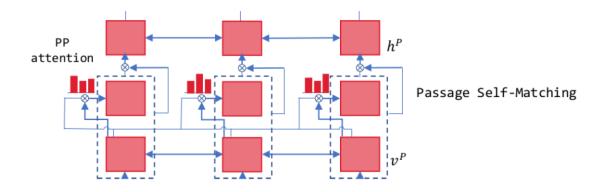
where  $c_t = att(uQ, [uP_t, vP_{t-1}])$  is an attention-pooling vector of the whole question (uQ)

$$\begin{aligned} s_j^t &= \mathbf{v}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathrm{tanh}(W_u^Q u_j^Q + W_u^P u_t^P + W_v^P v_{t-1}^P) \\ a_i^t &= \exp(s_i^t) / \Sigma_{j=1}^m \mathrm{exp}(s_j^t) \\ c_t &= \Sigma_{i=1}^m a_i^t u_i^Q \end{aligned}$$

and  $[u_{t,}^{P} c_{t}^{P}]^{*}$  a gated version of the input  $[u_{t,}^{P} c_{t}^{P}]$ 

$$g_t = \operatorname{sigmoid}(W_g[u_t^P, c_t])$$
$$[u_t^P, c_t]^* = g_t \odot [u_t^P, c_t]$$

R-Net – Passage Self-Matching



**Problem:** Current representations  $v^p$  have a very limited knowledge of the context.

**Solution:** Match each token of the question-aware representation of the passage against the whole document

Extract evidence from the whole document according to the current passage word and question information

R-Net – Passage Self-Matching

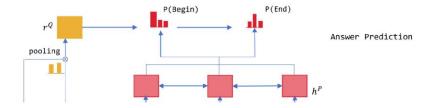
From the question-aware representation of the passage ( $v^p$ ), the model will compute a gated self-attention on it:

$$h_{t}^{P} = BiRNN(h_{t-1}^{P}, [v_{t}^{P}, c_{t}])$$

where  $c_t = att(v_p, [u_{t_i}^p, v_{t-1}^p])$  is an attention-pooling vector of the whole passage  $(v_p)$ 

$$s_j^t = \mathbf{v}^{\mathrm{T}} \tanh(W_v^P v_j^P + W_v^P v_t^P)$$
$$a_i^t = \exp(s_i^t) / \sum_{j=1}^n \exp(s_j^t)$$
$$c_t = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^t v_i^P$$

R-Net – Output layer - Pointer Network



A **pointer network** will predict the start and end position of the answer.

The question vector is used as the initial state of the answer pointer network

Let (i,j) be the ground-truth of the start and end position of a question regarding a document.

Let  $yp_j^s$  and  $yp_j^e$  be the predicted probabilities of the word i to be the start of the answer and j the end of the answer.

Then the loss is defined as the sum of the predicted log probabilities of the gound-truth start and end position :

$$L = -\sum_{N} \log(yp_i^s) + \log(yp_j^e)$$

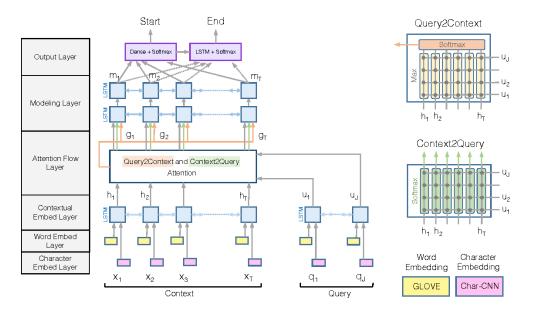
### Performances on SQuAD and MsMARCO

#### **Results:**

- → State of the art model when the paper was published, in May 2017 on the SQuAD dataset
- → Currently in the top 3
- → State of the art on MS-MARCO

	Dev Set	Test Set
Single model	EM / F1	EM / F1
LR Baseline (Rajpurkar et al., 2016)	40.0 / 51.0	40.4 / 51.0
Dynamic Chunk Reader (Yu et al., 2016)	62.5 / 71.2	62.5 / 71.0
Attentive CNN context with LSTM (NLPR, CASIA)	-/-	63.3 / 73.5
Match-LSTM with Ans-Ptr (Wang & Jiang) 2016b)	64.1 / 73.9	64.7 / 73.7
Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016)	65.4 / 75.6	66.2 / 75.9
Iterative Coattention Network (Fudan University)	-/-	67.5 / 76.8
FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017)	-/-	68.4 / 77.1
BiDAF (Seo et al. 2016)	68.0 / 77.3	68.0 / 77.3
T-gating (Peking University)	-/-	68.1 / 77.6
RaSoR (Lee et al.   2016)	-/-	69.6 / 77.7
SEDT+BiDAF (Liu et al., 2017)	-/-	68.5 / 78.0
Multi-Perspective Matching (Wang et al., 2016)	-/-	70.4 / 78.8
FastQAExt (Weissenborn et al. 2017)	-/-	70.8 / 78.9
Mnemonic Reader (NUDT & Fudan University)	-/-	69.9 / 79.2
Document Reader (Chen et al., 2017)	-/-	70.7 / 79.4
ReasoNet (Shen et al., 2016)	-/-	70.6 / 79.4
Ruminating Reader (Gong & Bowman, 2017)	-/-	70.6 / 79.5
jNet (Zhang et al., 2017)	-/-	70.6 / 79.8
Interactive AoA Reader (Joint Laboratory of HIT and iFLYTEK Research)	-/-	71.2 / 79.9
R-NET (Wang et al., 2017)	71.1 / 79.5	71.3 / 79.7
R-NET (March 2017)	72.3 / 80.6	72.3 / 80.7

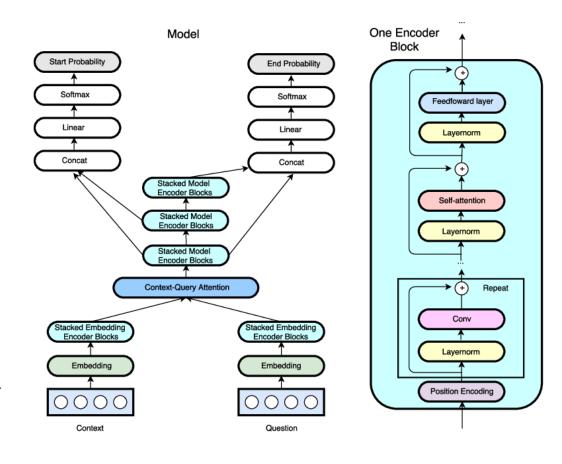
Bidirectional Attention Flow for Machine Comprehension



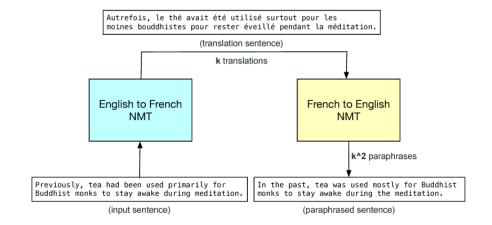
	CN	٧N	Daily	Mail
	val	test	val	test
Attentive Reader (Hermann et al., 2015)	61.6	63.0	70.5	69.0
MemNN (Hill et al., 2016)	63.4	6.8	-	-
AS Reader (Kadlec et al., 2016)	68.6	69.5	75.0	73.9
DER Network (Kobayashi et al., 2016)	71.3	72.9	-	-
Iterative Attention (Sordoni et al., 2016)	72.6	73.3	-	-
EpiReader (Trischler et al., 2016)	73.4	74.0	-	-
Stanford AR (Chen et al., 2016)	73.8	73.6	77.6	76.6
GAReader (Dhingra et al., 2016)	73.0	73.8	76.7	75.7
AoA Reader (Cui et al., 2016)	73.1	74.4	-	-
ReasoNet (Shen et al., 2016)	72.9	74.7	77.6	76.6
BIDAF (Ours)	76.3	76.9	80.3	79.6
MemNN* (Hill et al., 2016)	66.2	69.4	-	-
ASReader* (Kadlec et al., 2016)	73.9	75.4	78.7	77.7
Iterative Attention* (Sordoni et al., 2016)	74.5	75.7	-	-
GA Reader* (Dhingra et al., 2016)	76.4	77.4	79.1	78.1
Stanford AR* (Chen et al., 2016)	77.2	77.6	80.2	79.2

Google QANet

- Extractive model
- Fully differentiable
- Non-autoregressive model
- Language independant
- « Attention is All you Need »



Google QANet – Data augmentation with backtranslation



	EM / F1	Difference to Base Model
		EM / F1
Base Model	73.6 / 82.7	
- convolution in encoders	70.8 / 80.0	-2.8 / -2.7
<ul> <li>self-attention in encoders</li> </ul>	72.2 / 81.4	-1.4 / -1.3
replace sep convolution with normal convolution	72.9 / 82.0	- 0.7 / -0.7
+ data augmentation ×2 (1:1:0)	74.5 / 83.2	+0.9 / +0.5
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (1:1:1)	74.8 / 83.4	+1.2 / +0.7
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (1:2:1)	74.3 / 83.1	+0.7 / +0.4
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (2:2:1)	74.9 / 83.6	+1.3 / +0.9
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (2:1:1)	75.0 / 83.6	+1.4 / +0.9
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (3:1:1)	75.1 / 83.8	+1.5 / +1.1
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (4:1:1)	75.0 / 83.6	+1.4 / +0.9
+ data augmentation $\times 3$ (5:1:1)	74.9 / 83.5	+1.3 / +0.8

Google QANet

Single Model  LR Baseline (Rajpurkar et al., 2016)  Dynamic Chunk Reader (Yu et al., 2016)  Match-LSTM with Ans-Ptr (Wang & Jiang, 2016)  Multi-Perspective Matching (Wang et al., 2016)  Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016)  FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017)  BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)  SEDT (Liu et al., 2017a)	EM/F1 40.4/51.0 62.5/71.0 64.7/73.7 65.5/75.1 66.2/75.9 68.4/77.1 68.0/77.3 68.1/77.5 70.8/78.7 70.8/78.9	EM / F1 40.4 / 51.0 62.5 / 71.0 64.7 / 73.7 70.4 / 78.8 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7 70.8 / 78.9
Dynamic Chunk Reader (Yu et al., 2016) Match-LSTM with Ans-Ptr (Wang & Jiang, 2016) Multi-Perspective Matching (Wang et al., 2016) Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016) FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017) BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	62.5 / 71.0 64.7 / 73.7 65.5 / 75.1 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	62.5 / 71.0 64.7 / 73.7 70.4 / 78.8 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
Match-LSTM with Ans-Ptr (Wang & Jiang, 2016) Multi-Perspective Matching (Wang et al., 2016) Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016) FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017) BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	64.7 / 73.7 65.5 / 75.1 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	64.7 / 73.7 70.4 / 78.8 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
Multi-Perspective Matching (Wang et al., 2016) Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016) FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017) BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	65.5 / 75.1 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	70.4 / 78.8 66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
Dynamic Coattention Networks (Xiong et al., 2016) FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017) BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	66.2 / 75.9 68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
FastQA (Weissenborn et al., 2017) BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	68.4 / 77.1 68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
BiDAF (Seo et al., 2016)	68.0 / 77.3 68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	68.0 / 77.3 68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
	68.1 / 77.5 70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	68.5 / 78.0 69.6 / 77.7
SEDT (Liu et al., 2017a)	70.8 / 78.7 70.8 / 78.9	69.6 / 77.7
SED I (Bia et al., 2017a)	70.8 / 78.9	
RaSoR (Lee et al., 2016)		70.8 / 78.9
FastQAExt (Weissenborn et al., 2017)	60 4 1 -0 0	
ReasoNet (Shen et al., 2017b)	69.1 / 78.9	70.6 / 79.4
Document Reader (Chen et al., 2017)	70.0 / 79.0	70.7 / 79.4
Ruminating Reader (Gong & Bowman, 2017)	70.6 / 79.5	70.6 / 79.5
jNet (Zhang et al., 2017)	70.6 / 79.8	70.6 / 79.8
Conductor-net	N/A	72.6 / 81.4
Interactive AoA Reader (Cui et al., 2017)	N/A	73.6 / 81.9
Reg-RaSoR	N/A	75.8 / 83.3
DCN+	N/A	74.9 / 82.8
AIR-FusionNet	N/A	76.0 / 83.9
R-Net (Wang et al., 2017)	72.3 / 80.7	76.5 /84.3
BiDAF + Self Attention + ELMo	N/A	77.9/85.3
Reinforced Mnemonic Reader (Hu et al., 2017)	73.2 / 81.8	73.2 / 81.8
Dev set: QANet	73.6 / 82.7	N/A
Dev set: QANet + data augmentation $\times 2$	74.5 / 83.2	N/A
Dev set: QANet + data augmentation $\times 3$	75.1 / 83.8	N/A
Test set: QANet + data augmentation $\times 3$	76.2 / 84.6	76.2 / 84.6

Table 2: The performances of different models on SQuAD dataset.

### Error analysis

Error type	Ratio (%)	Example		
Imprecise answer boundaries	50	Context: "The Free Movement of Workers Regulation articles 1 to 7 set out the main provisions on equal treatment of workers."  Question: "Which articles of the Free Movement of Workers Regulation set out the primary provisions on equal treatment of workers?"  Prediction: "1 to 7", Answer: "articles 1 to 7"		
Syntactic complications and ambiguities	28	Context: "A piece of paper was later found on which Luther had written his last statement."  Question: "What was later discovered written by Luther?"  Prediction: "A piece of paper", Answer: "his last statement"	Multi- sentence	2
Paraphrase problems	14	Context: "Generally, education in Australia follows the three- tier model which includes primary education (primary schools), followed by secondary education (secondary schools/high schools) and tertiary education (universities and/or TAFE colleges)."  Question: "What is the first model of education, in the Australian system?"  Prediction: "three-tier", Answer: "primary education"	Incorrect preprocessing	2
External knowledge	4	Context: "On June 4, 2014, the NFL announced that the practice of branding Super Bowl games with Roman numerals, a practice established at Super Bowl V, would be temporarily suspended, and that the game would be named using Arabic numerals as Super Bowl 50 as opposed to Super Bowl L."  Question: "If Roman numerals were used in the naming of the 50th Super Bowl, which one would have been used?"  Prediction: "Super Bowl 50", Answer: "L"	[[	

Multi- sentence	2	Context: "Over the next several years in addition to host to host interactive connections the network was enhanced to support terminal to host connections, host to host batch connections (remote job submission, remote printing, batch file transfer), interactive file transfer, gateways to the Tymnet and Telenet public data networks, X.25 host attachments, gateways to X.25 data networks, Ethernet attached hosts, and eventually TCP/IP and additional public universities in Michigan join the network. All of this set the stage for Merit's role in the NSFNET project starting in the mid-1980s."  Question: "What set the stage for Merits role in NSFNET"  Prediction: "All of this set the stage for Merit's role in the NSFNET project starting in the mid-1980s", Answer: "Ethernet attached hosts, and eventually TCP/IP and additional public universities in Michigan join the network"
Incorrect preprocessing	2	Context: "English chemist John Mayow (1641-1679) refined this work by showing that fire requires only a part of air that he called spiritus nitroaereus or just nitroaereus."  Question: "John Mayow died in what year?"  Prediction: "1641-1679", Answer: "1679"

### Content

- 1. Machine reading tasks
- 2. Models of reading
  - 1. Building blocks
  - 2. Retrieval models
  - 3. Reasoning models
- 3. Applications
- 4. Open Questions



Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

Competent statistical NLP

### **Featured Logistic Regression**

- Whether *e* is in the passage
- Whether *e* is in the question
- Frequency of *e* in passage
- First position of *e* in passage
- n-gram exact match
- Syntactic dependency around *e*

System	CNN Dev	CNN Test	_	Daily Mail Test
Frame-semantic model	36.3	40.2	35.5	35.5
Impatient Reader	61.8	63.8	69.0	68.0
Competent statistical NLP	67.1	67.9	69.1	68.3
MemNN window + self sup	63.4	66.8		
MemNN win, ss, ens, no-c	66.2	69.4		

- The required reasoning and inference level is can be limited
- There isn't much room left for improvement
- However, the scale and ease of data production is appealing

## Machine reading

Reasoning over knowledge extraction

- Textual data can specify reasoning capabilities
- **Goal**: build machines that can "understand " textual information, i.e. converting it into interpretable structured knowledge to be leveraged by humans and other machines alike.
- Optimized with categorical cross-entropy loss

$$CCE = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=0}^{J} y_j \cdot log(\hat{y}_j) + (1 - y_j) \cdot log(1 - \hat{y}_j)$$

#### Task 1: Single Supporting Fact

Mary went to the bathroom.

John moved to the hallway.

Mary travelled to the office.

Task 3: Three Supporting Facts

Where is Mary? A:office

John picked up the apple.

John went to the office.

John went to the kitchen.

John dropped the apple.

#### **Task 4: Two Argument Relations**

Task 2: Two Supporting Facts

John is in the playground.

Bob went to the kitchen.

John picked up the football.

The office is north of the bedroom.

Where is the football? A:playground

The bedroom is north of the bathroom.

The kitchen is west of the garden.

What is north of the bedroom? A: office

What is the bedroom north of? A: bathroom

#### Task 5: Three Argument Relations

Mary gave the cake to Fred.

Fred gave the cake to Bill.

Jeff was given the milk by Bill.

Who gave the cake to Fred? A: Mary

Who did Fred give the cake to? A: Bill

Where was the apple before the kitchen? A:office

#### Task 6: Yes/No Ouestions

John moved to the playground.

Daniel went to the bathroom.

John went back to the hallway.

Is John in the playground? A:no

Is Daniel in the bathroom? A:ves

#### Task 7: Counting

Daniel picked up the football.

Daniel dropped the football.

Daniel got the milk.

Daniel took the apple.

How many objects is Daniel holding? A: two

#### Task 8: Lists/Sets

Daniel picks up the football.

Daniel drops the newspaper.

Daniel picks up the milk.

John took the apple.

What is Daniel holding? milk, football

#### Task 9: Simple Negation

Sandra travelled to the office.

Fred is no longer in the office.

Is Fred in the office? A:no

Is Sandra in the office? A:ves

#### Task 10: Indefinite Knowledge

John is either in the classroom or the playground. Sandra is in the garden.

Is John in the classroom? A:maybe

Is John in the office? A:no

Memory networks

- Class of models that combine large memory with learning component that can read and write to it.
- Most ML has limited memory which is more-or-less all that's needed for "low level" tasks e.g. object detection.
- Incorporates reasoning with attention over memory.

End-to-end memory networks

### **Model**

$$egin{aligned} oldsymbol{m}_i &= oldsymbol{A}\Phi(x_i) & oldsymbol{u} &= oldsymbol{B}\Phi(q) \ oldsymbol{c}_i &= oldsymbol{C}\Phi(x_i) \ p_i &= \operatorname{softmax}(oldsymbol{u}^{ op}oldsymbol{m}_i) \ oldsymbol{o} &= \sum_i p_i oldsymbol{c}_i \ oldsymbol{u}^{k+1} &= oldsymbol{o}^k + oldsymbol{u}^k \ \hat{oldsymbol{a}} &= \operatorname{softmax}(oldsymbol{u}^{ op}oldsymbol{W}'\Phi(oldsymbol{y}_1), \ldots, oldsymbol{u}^{ op}oldsymbol{W}'\Phi(oldsymbol{y}_{|C|})) \end{aligned}$$

Joe went to the kitchen.

Fred went to the kitchen.

Joe picked up the milk.

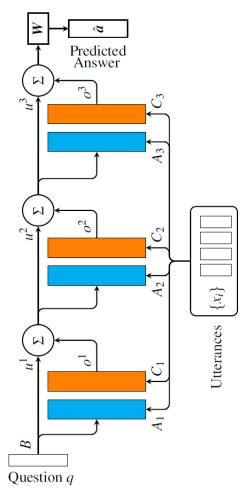
Joe travelled to his office.

Joe left the milk.

Joe went to the bathroom.

Where is the milk now?

Office



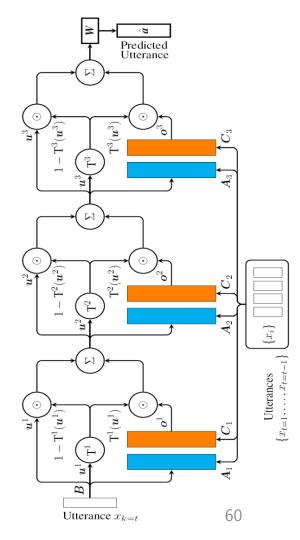
### **Optimization task**

- Categorical cross-entropy
- Stochastic Gradient Descent with clipping
- · Grid-searched Hyper Parameters

Gated End-to-end memory networks

### **Properties**

- End-to-End memory access regulation
- Close to Highway Network and Residual Network



### 20 bAbi tasks: Benchmark results

	I F	Baseline			MemN2N							
	Strongly						PE	1 hop	2 hops	3 hops	PE	PE LS
	Supervised	LSTM	MemNN			PE	LS	PE LS	PE LS	PE LS	LS RN	LW
Task	MemNN [22]	[22]	WSH	BoW	PE	LS	RN	joint	joint	joint	joint	joint
1: 1 supporting fact	0.0	50.0	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
2: 2 supporting facts	0.0	80.0	42.8	17.6	21.6	12.8	8.3	62.0	15.6	14.0	11.4	18.8
3: 3 supporting facts	0.0	80.0	76.4	71.0	64.2	58.8	40.3	76.9	31.6	33.1	21.9	31.7
4: 2 argument relations	0.0	39.0	40.3	32.0	3.8	11.6	2.8	22.8	2.2	5.7	13.4	17.5
5: 3 argument relations	2.0	30.0	16.3	18.3	14.1	15.7	13.1	11.0	13.4	14.8	14.4	12.9
6: yes/no questions	0.0	52.0	51.0	8.7	7.9	8.7	7.6	7.2	2.3	3.3	2.8	2.0
7: counting	15.0	51.0	36.1	23.5	21.6	20.3	17.3	15.9	25.4	17.9	18.3	10.1
8: lists/sets	9.0	55.0	37.8	11.4	12.6	12.7	10.0	13.2	11.7	10.1	9.3	6.1
9: simple negation	0.0	36.0	35.9	21.1	23.3	17.0	13.2	5.1	2.0	3.1	1.9	1.5
<ol><li>indefinite knowledge</li></ol>	2.0	56.0	68.7	22.8	17.4	18.6	15.1	10.6	5.0	6.6	6.5	2.6
11: basic coreference	0.0	38.0	30.0	4.1	4.3	0.0	0.9	8.4	1.2	0.9	0.3	3.3
12: conjunction	0.0	26.0	10.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
13: compound coreference	0.0	6.0	19.7	10.5	9.9	0.3	0.4	6.3	0.2	1.4	0.2	0.5
14: time reasoning	1.0	73.0	18.3	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.7	36.9	8.1	8.2	6.9	2.0
15: basic deduction	0.0	79.0	64.8	24.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.8
16: basic induction	0.0	77.0	50.5	52.0	52.1	1.6	1.3	47.4	51.3	3.5	2.7	51.0
17: positional reasoning	35.0	49.0	50.9	45.4	50.1	49.0	51.0	44.4	41.2	44.5	40.4	42.6
18: size reasoning	5.0	48.0	51.3	48.1	13.6	10.1	11.1	9.6	10.3	9.2	9.4	9.2
19: path finding	64.0	92.0	100.0	89.7	87.4	85.6	82.8	90.7	89.9	90.2	88.0	90.6
20: agent's motivation	0.0	9.0	3.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Mean error (%)	6.7	51.3	40.2	25.1	20.3	16.3	13.9	25.8	15.6	13.3	12.4	15.2
Failed tasks (err. > 5%)	4	20	18	15	13	12	11	17	11	11	11	10
On 10k training data												
Mean error (%)	3.2	36.4	39.2	15.4	9.4	7.2	6.6	24.5	10.9	7.9	7.5	11.0
Failed tasks (err. $> 5\%$ )	2	16	17	9	6	4	4	16	7	6	6	6

Table 1: Test error rates (%) on the 20 QA tasks for models using 1k training examples (mean test errors for 10k training examples are shown at the bottom). Key: BoW = bag-of-words representation; PE = position encoding representation; LS = linear start training; RN = random injection of time index noise; LW = RNN-style layer-wise weight tying (if not stated, adjacent weight tying is used); joint = joint training on all tasks (as opposed to per-task training).

### Content

- 1. Machine reading tasks
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  - 1. Dialog State Tracking
  - 2. Dialog Management
  - 3. User review understanding
  - 4. Fact checking





Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

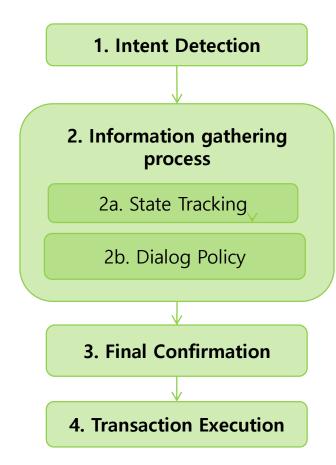
## Dialog systems design

### Modularity is the current solution

- Divide and Conquer approach
- Annotation processes are required
- Hand-crafted models, case-by-case adaptation

### **End-to-End opportunities**

- Leveraging raw dialogs
- Can be (automatically) enriched with meta-data
- Seamless integration of back-end access



# **Dialog State tracking** Examples

Utterance	Food	d
S Hello, How may I help you?		
U I need a Persian restaurant in the south part of town.	0.2	Persian
S What kind of food would you like?		
U Persian.	0.8	Persian
S I'm sorry but there is no restaurant serving persian food		
U How about Portuguese food?	0.4	Persian
S Are you looking for Portuguese food?	0.6	Portuguese
U Yes.	0.1	Persian
S Nandos is a nice place in the south of town serving tasty Portuguese food.	0.9	Portuguese

Slot	User may give as a constraint?
area	Yes, 15 possible values
children allowed	Yes, 2 possible values
food	Yes, 28 possible values
has internet	Yes, 2 possible values
has tv	Yes, 2 possible values
name	Yes, 163 possible values
near	Yes, 52 possible values
pricerange	Yes, 4 possible values
type	Yes, 3 possible values (restaurant, pub, coffeeshop)
addr	No
phone	No
postcode	No
price	No

Informable slots in DSTC3 (Tourist Information Domain)

Slot	User may give as a constraint?
area	Yes, 5 possible values
food	Yes, 91 possible values
name	Yes, 113 possible values
pricerange	Yes, 3 possible values
addr	No
phone	No
postcode	No
signature	No

Informable slots in DSTC2 (Restaurant Information Domain)

## **Dialogue State Tracking**

State of the art

### Generative

- {Factorial} HMM
- Particle Filter

### Discriminative

- Rule-based
- CRF/Max Entropy
- Deep Neural Network

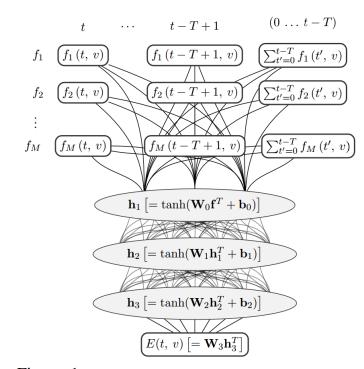


Figure 1: The Neural Network structure for computing  $E(t, v) \in \mathbb{R}$  for each possible value v in the set  $S_{t, s}$ . The vector  $\mathbf{f}$  is a concatenation of all the input nodes.

[27] A generalized rule based tracker for dialogue state tracking, Yu et al, 2014

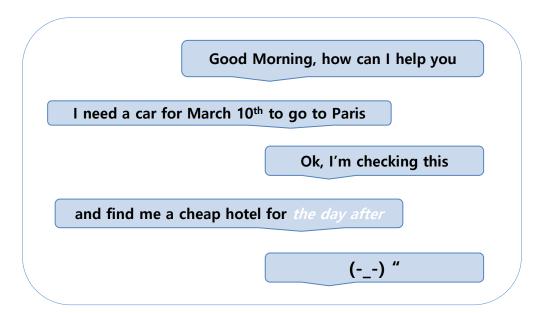
[28] Deep Neural Network Approach for the Dialog State Tracking Challenge, Henderson et al, 2014

## **Dialog State Tracking**

### Open Challenges



- 1. Longer context
- 2. Looser supervision schema
- 3. Reasoning capability
- 4. Minimize intermediary reps
  - Fixed Ontology
  - Fixed KB



## **Dialog State Tracking**

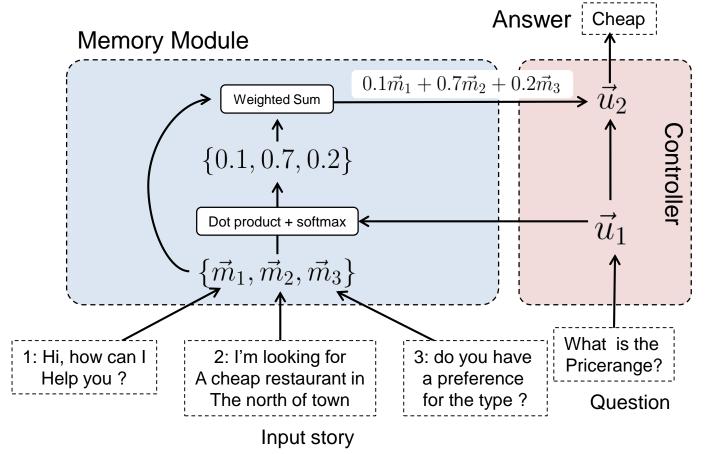
Machine reading approach

Index	Actor	Utterance			
1	Cust	Im looking for a cheap restaurant in the west or east part of town.			
2	Agent	Thanh Binh is a nice restaurant in the west of town in the cheap price range.			
3	Cust	What is the address and post code.			
4	Agent	Thanh Binh is on magdalene street city centre.			
5	Cust	Thank you goodbye.			
6	6 Factoid Question What is the pricerange? Answer: {Cheap}				
7	7 Yes/No Question Is the Pricerange Expensive? Answer: {No}				
8	Indefinite Knowledge Is the FoodType chinese? Answer: {Maybe}				
8	Listing task What are the areas ? Answer: {West,East}				

**Table 1.** State tracking as machine reading task

## **Dialog State tracking**

with End-to-End Memory Network



## **End-to-End Memory Network**

Results on DSTC-2 – Goal Tracking and Reasoning

[24] Dialog State Tracking, a machine reading approach using deep memory networks, Perez et Liu, EACL 2017

Variable	d	Yes-No	I.K.	Count.	List.
	20	0.85	0.79	0.89	0.41
Food	40	0.83	0.84	0.88	0.42
	60	0.82	0.82	0.90	0.39
	20	0.86	0.83	0.94	0.79
Area	40	0.90	0.89	0.96	0.75
	60	0.88	0.90	0.95	0.78
	20	0.93	0.86	0.93	0.83
PriceRange	40	0.92	0.85	0.90	0.80
	60	0.91	0.85	0.91	0.81

Model	Area	Food	Price	Joint
RNN - no dict.	0.92	0.86	0.86	0.69
RNN + sem. dict.	0.91	0.86	0.93	0.73
NBT-DNN	0.90	0.84	0.94	0.72
NBT-CNN	0.90	0.83	0.93	0.72
MemN2N(d = 40)	0.89	0.88	0.95	0.74

## Dialog state tracking

Machine reading approach

On "one supporting fact" task (DSTC-2 dataset): 83% acc vs 79% for the sota.

Table 11: Attention shifting example for the *PriceRange* slot from *DSTC2* dataset

Actor	Utterance		Hop 2	Hop 3	Hop 4	Hop 5	
Cust	Im looking for a cheap restaurant that serves chinese food	0.00	0.14	0.01	0.00	0.00	
Agent	What part of town do you have in mind	0.02	0.17	0.05	0.00	0.00	
Cust	I dont care	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	
Agent	Rice house serves chinese food in the cheap price range		0.02	0.03	0.98	1.00	
Cust	What is the address and telephone number		0.07	0.15	0.00	0.00	
Agent	Sure rice house is on mill road city centre		0.01	0.13	0.02	0.00	
Cust	Phone number		0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	
Agent	The phone number of rice house is 765-239-09		0.58	0.45	0.00	0.00	
Cust	Thank you good bye		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
What is the pricerange ? Answer: cheap							

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Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

### **End-to-End Dialog learning**

Goal-oriented dialog tasks

#### **Learning dialog from dialogs**

- Simulated dialogs
- Emphasise each step of transaction
- Include some common learning challenges

#### **Goal oriented dialog**

- Backed with a Knowledge Base
- KB interactions are included in the decision set

#### A testbed for deep learning

- End-to-End learnable and flexible
- Attention with Non-parametric memory
- KB-fact and utterance support of the decision
- Dialog learning as Machine Reading

Time	Locutor	Dialog history	Hop #1	Hop #2	Hop #3
3	User	may i have a table in paris	.061	.072	.040
4	Bot	i'm on it	.026	.012	.001
5	User	<silence></silence>	.087	.042	.012
6	Bot	any preference on a type of cuisine	.026	.023	.001
7	User	i love indian food	.081	.070	.055
8	Bot	how many people would be in your party	.025	.006	.001
9	User	we will be six	.059	.051	.018
10	Bot	which price range are looking for	.038	.043	.004
11	User	in a moderate price range please	.080	.095	.096
12	Bot	ok let me look into some options for you	.025	.042	.003
13	User	<silence></silence>	.127	.069	.032
14	Bot	api_call indian paris six moderate	.062	.113	.043
15	User	instead could it be with french food	.188	.311	.683
16	Bot	sure is there anything else to update	.016	.007	.001
17	User	no	.028	.013	.007
18	Bot	ok let me look into some options for you	.011	.006	.000
User input <silence></silence>		<silence></silence>			
Corre	ct answer	api_call french paris six moderate			
Predic	ted answer	api_call french paris six moderate	[Correct	]	

Time	Locutor	Dialog history	Hop #1	Hop #2	Hop #3
14	Bot	api_call indian paris six moderate	.012	.000	.000
15	User	instead could it be with french food	.067	.103	.147
20	Bot	api_call french paris six moderate	.012	.000	.000
21	User	resto_1 r_phone rest_1_phone	.018	.004	.000
23	User	resto_1 r_cuisine french	.029	.005	.000
24	User	resto_1 r_location paris	.060	.292	.094
25	User	resto_1 r_number six	.050	.298	.745
26	User	resto_1 r_price moderate	.060	.090	.002
27	User	resto_1 r_rating 6	.016	.002	.000
30	User	resto_2 r_cuisine french	.031	.007	.000
31	User	resto_2 r_location paris	.040	.081	.004
32	User	resto_2 r_number six	.020	.012	.000
33	User	resto_2 r_price moderate	.029	.009	.000
37	User	resto_3 r_cuisine french	.014	.001	.000
38	User	resto_3 r_location paris	.028	.016	.001
39	User	resto_3 r_number six	.024	.022	.004
40	User	resto_3 r_price moderate	.039	.015	.001
User in	User input <silence></silence>				
Correc	et answer	what do you think of this option: resto_1			
Predic	ted answer	what do you think of this option: resto_1	[Correct	]	

#### **End-to-End Dialog learning**

Dialog System and Technology Challenge 6th - Task 1

#### **Organization**

- Task 1: Issuing API calls.
- Task 2: Updating API calls.
- Task 3: Displaying options.
- Task 4: Providing extra information.
- Task 5: Conducting full dialogs.

#### Corpora

- 2 corpus with/without OOV
- 2 corpus with a new slot
- 2 Knowledge Bases

#### **Objectives**

- Emphasise challenges of real world transactional dialog
- Compare the models and learning algorithms

Time	Locutor	Dialog history	Hop #1	Hop #2	Hop #3	
3	User	may i have a table in paris	.061	.072	.040	
4	Bot	i'm on it	.026	.012	.001	
5	User	<silence></silence>	.087	.042	.012	
6	Bot	any preference on a type of cuisine	.026	.023	.001	
7	User	i love indian food	.081	.070	.055	
8	Bot	how many people would be in your party	.025	.006	.001	
9	User	we will be six	.059	.051	.018	
10	Bot	which price range are looking for	.038	.043	.004	
11	User	in a moderate price range please	.080	.095	.096	
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13	User	<silence></silence>	.127	.069	.032	
14	Bot	api_call indian paris six moderate .062 .113		.113	.043	
15	User	instead could it be with french food .188 .3		.311	.683	
16	Bot	sure is there anything else to update	.016	.007	.001	
17	User	no	.028	.013	.007	
18	Bot	ok let me look into some options for you .011		.006	.000	
User input		<silence></silence>				
Correct answer		api_call french paris six moderate				
Predicted answer		api_call french paris six moderate	[Correct	]		

Time	Locutor	Dialog history	Hop #1	Hop #2	Hop #3
14	Bot	api_call indian paris six moderate	.012	.000	.000
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31	User	resto_2 r_location paris		.081	.004
32	User	resto_2 r_number six .020 .012		.000	
33	User	resto_2 r_price moderate	.029 .009 .000		.000
37	User	resto_3 r_cuisine french	.014 .001 .000		.000
38	User	resto_3 r_location paris	.028	.016	.001
39	User	resto_3 r_number six	.024	.022	.004
40	User	resto_3 r_price moderate	.039	.015	.001
User in	nput	<silence></silence>			
Corre	ct answer	what do you think of this option: resto_1			
Predicted answer		what do you think of this option: resto_1	[Correct	]	

## Systems and results

#### **Decision models**

- (Dynamic) Memory Networks [1,2]
- LSTMs [3]
- Hybrid Code Networks [4]
- Recurrent Entity Networks [5]
- Quantitazed Language Model

#### **Entity/Slot resolution strategies**

- Dictionary and Heuristics
- Dedicated models (CRF, LSTMs)
- Delexicalization

#### Losses

- Categorical Cross-Entropy
- Ranking loss over similarity measure

#### **Optimizers**

- Mometum based SGD
- Gradient clipping
- Early stopping strategy

- [31] Long Short Term Memory, Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997
- [32] Ask Me Anything: Dynamic Memory Networks for Natural Language Processing, Socher et al, 2015
- [33] End-to-end Memory Network, Sukhbaatar et al, 2015
- [34] Hybrid Code Networks, Williams et al, 2017
- [35] Tracking the World State with Recurrent Entity Networks, Henalf et al, 2017

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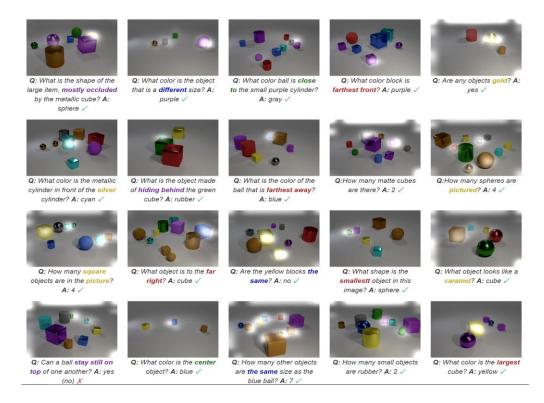




Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

# **Review reading**

Inspiration from relational visual question answering [Johnson et al, 2017]



p.s. Here are some more examples of the model's predictions. See how the model correctly handle questions that involve **obstructions**, **object uniqueness**, **relative distances**, **superlatives**, **varied vocabulary**.

# Review reading

ReviewQA: a relational aspect-based opinion reading dataset

Hotel: BEST WESTERN Corona

Title: Convenient Location. Helpful Staff.

Overall rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

Comment: I just needed a place to sleep and this place was ideally located for my meetings. Plimlico tube is only a few minutes walk. Room was small but clean. Staff very helpful. Breakfast OK.

Ratings

Service Location Rooms Cleanliness

**Natural Language Questions** 

What is the rating of service?

Is the client satisfied with the location?

Yes Does the customer prefer the service or the room? Service

	# documents	# queries	
Train	90.000	528.665	
Test	10.000	58.827	
Total	100.000	587.492	

Task id	Description/Comment	Example	Expected answer	
1	Detection of an aspect in a review.	Is sleep quality mentioned in this review?	Yes/No	
2	Prediction of the customer general satisfaction.	Is the client satisfy by this hotel?	Yes/No	
3	Prediction of the global trend of an aspect in a given review.	Is the client satisfied with the cleanliness of the hotel?	Yes/No	
4	Prediction of whether the rating of a given aspect is above or under a given value.	Is the rating of location under 4?	Yes/No	
5	Prediction of the exact rating of an aspect in a review.	What is the rating of the aspect Value in this review?	A rating between 1 and 5	
6	Prediction of the list of all the positive/negative aspects mentioned in the review.	Can you give me a list of all the positive aspects in this review?	a list of aspects	
7.0	Comparison between aspects.	Is the sleep quality better than the service in this hotel? Which one of these two aspects, service, location has the best rating?	Yes/No an aspect	
8	Prediction of the strengths and weaknesses in a review.	What is the best aspect rated in this comment?	an aspect	

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# Fact checking

- Given a claim, retrieve evidence documents for and against it
- Given evidence documents, find relevant paragraphs and sentences in it
- For claim and each evidence paragraph and sentence: detect stance of paragraph sentence towards a claim/target



Stance detection: Tweet: Be prepared - if we continue the policies of the liberal left, we will be #Greece Target: Donald Trump
Label: favor
Fake news detection:  Document: Dino Ferrari hooked the whopper wels catfish, (), which could be the biggest in the world.  Headline: Fisherman lands 19 STONE catfish which could be the biggest in the world to be hooked  Label: agree
Natural language inference: Premise: Fun for only children Hypothesis: Fun for adults and children Label: contradiction

# Headline-	body pairs		49972
# Headlines	1648		
# Bodies	1683		
# Bodies in	169		
# Headline-	5025		
Average # t	12.6		
Average # t	427.5		
Unrelated	Discuss	Agree	Disagre
73.1%	17.8%	7.4%	1.7%



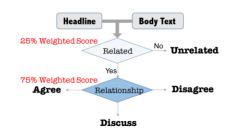
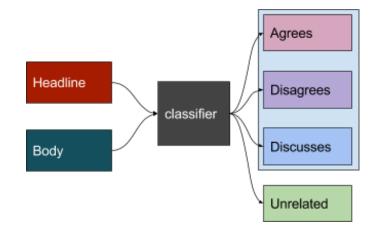


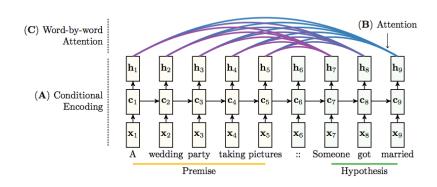
Figure 2: Score Metric for FNC1

Determine attitude expressed in document and paragraph/sentence towards a topic, statement and target

Different classification schemes

- positive, negative, neutral (SemEval 2016 Task 6, RTE, SNLI)
- support, deny, query, comment (SemEval 2017 Task 8 RumourEval)
- agree, disagree, discuss, unrelated (Fake News Challenge)





Deep LSTM reader

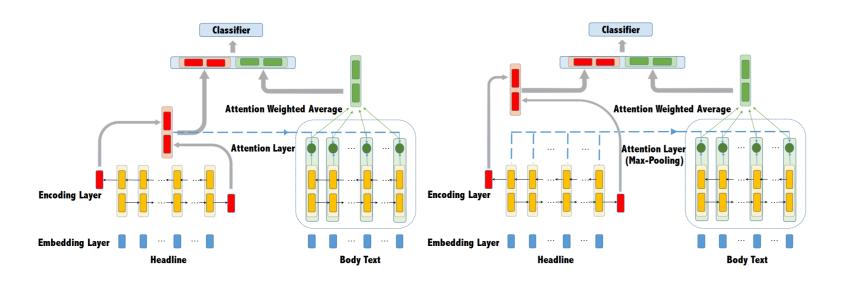


Figure 3: Illustration of Attentive Reader with simple attention (left) and full attention (right)

[38] Neural Stance Detectors for Fake News Challenge, Xu et al, 2017

[39] Stance detection with bidirectional conditional encoding, Augenstein et al. 2016

Deep LSTM reader

Models	Ave. Dev. Score	Max Dev. Score	Ave. Test Score	Max Test Score
FNC Baseline	_	_	79.2%	_
Bidirectional Encoder (unconditional)	80.1%	80.5%	79.9%	80.1%
Bidirectional Encoder (conditional)	79.5%	81.2%	80.2%	82.0%
Bidirectional Encoder (concatenated)	82.7%	82.9%	82.0%	83.5%
Attentive Reader (simple attention)	82.4%	83.4%	81.4%	82.6%
Attentive Reader (full attention)	83.7%	85.4%	85.2%	86.5%
Bilateral Multiple Perspective Matching	84.1%	84.8%	84.6%	85.6%

Table 5: Evaluation results on both development set and test set for various models

Deep LSTM reader

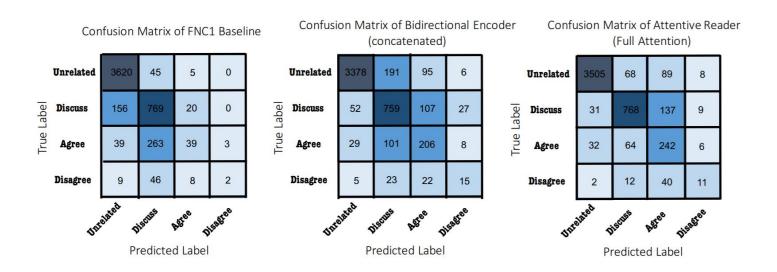
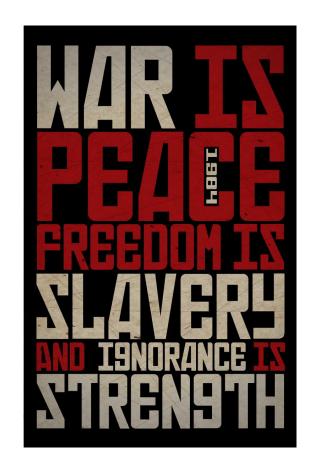


Figure 6: Confusion matrix on test set using *FNC1* Baseline (left), Bidirectional Encode (concatenated) (middle) and Attentive Reader with full attention (right)

"Relationship between sequences can be modelled effectively with deep neural models"

#### Many challenges

- Hard to collect data, especially with balanced labels (un/semi - supervised ?)
- Little and imbalanced data (multi-task ?)
- Explainable decisions are (often) needed



### Content

- 1. Machine reading tasks
- 2. Models of reading
- 3. Applications
- 4. Open Questions



Courtesy of Phil Blunsom

# **Open Questions**

Multi-document Open-Domain Question answering

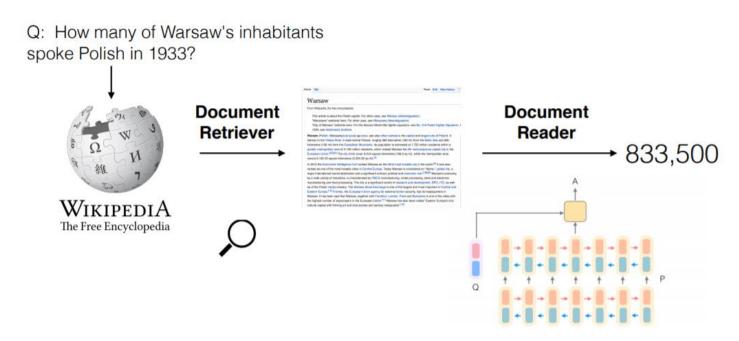


Figure 1: An overview of our question answering system DrQA.

# **Open Questions**

#### Multi document reasoning

- Most Reading Comprehension methods limit themselves to queries which can be answered using a single sentence, paragraph, or document.
- Enabling models to combine disjoint pieces of textual evidence would extend the scope of machine comprehension
- Text understanding across multiple documents and to investigate the limits of existing methods.
- Toward ensemblist operations (union, intersection, selection ...)

The Hanging Gardens, in [Mumbai], also known as Pherozeshah Mehta Gardens, are terraced gardens ... They provide sunset views over the [Arabian Sea] ...

**Mumbai** (also known as Bombay, the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the most populous city in **India** ...

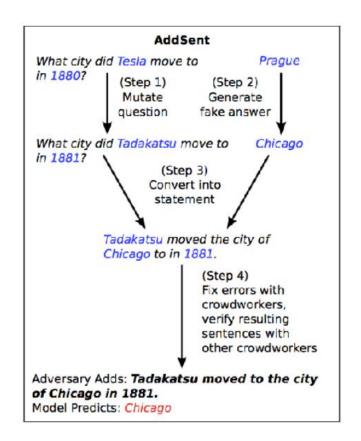
The **Arabian Sea** is a region of the northern Indian Ocean bounded on the north by **Pakistan** and **Iran**, on the west by northeastern **Somalia** and the Arabian Peninsula, and on the east by **India** ...

Q: (Hanging gardens of Mumbai, country, ?)
Options: {Iran, India, Pakistan, Somalia, ...}

# **Open Questions**

## Adversarial Examples

- Add a sentence or word string specifically designed to distract the model
- Drops accuracy of state-of-the-art models from 81% to 46% of Exact Match accuracy
- Current issue of deep models, already observed on image tasks



## **Conclusions**

Machine reading paradigm, a next step toward natural language comprehension

Promissing results are already available

Deep learning is (currently) a major enabler of this recent development

Machine reading is a playground for (deep) machine learning research

Very active community (Datasets, papers and codes)

A lot of challenges with numerous possible impacts

# Thank you europe.naverlabs.com