

Natural Language Processing for Question-Answer Systems



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What is NLP?

Basic Concept

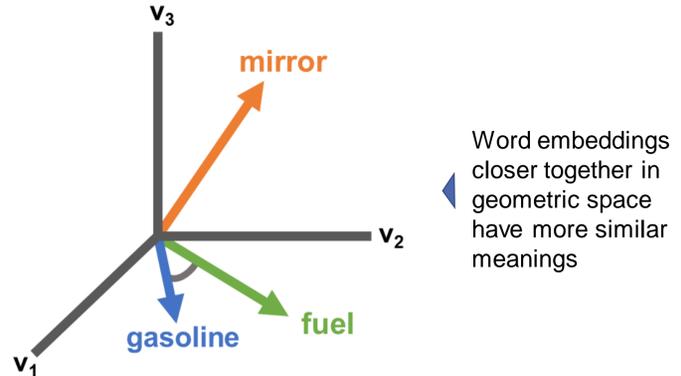
- Train a computer to interpret human language
- Represent words as numbers (high dimensional vectors) known as "embeddings"
- Vectors close to each other are interpreted as similar

Common Applications

- Languages translation
- Question Answer (QA) Systems
- Text Prediction

Challenges

- Languages are very ambiguous
- Sentences have more complex meanings



Attention and Transformers

Mimicking Human Approach

- When we (humans) interpret sentences, we focus on the most important words
- Similarly, a model using attention only uses the parts of input where most relevant information is concentrated
- Weights are computed using a neural network

Breakthrough Success

- Attention produces much better results with record setting accuracy
- Almost all state-of-the-art models use attention
- Model designs like Transformers utilize attention for accuracy and provide higher speed by being entirely feed-forward

“Attention is All You Need”

- Self-attention is used so a model knows how words relate to one another
- It can keep track of long-term word dependences among sentences

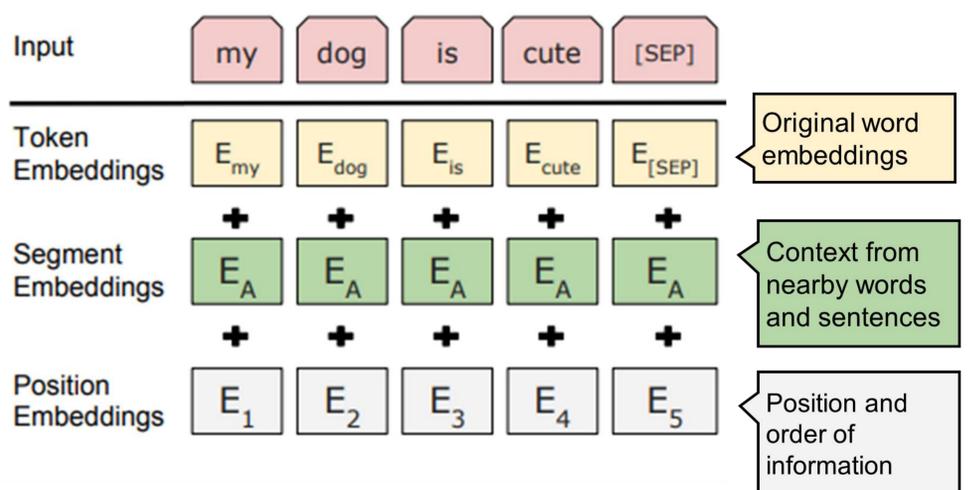


Modern NLP Architecture

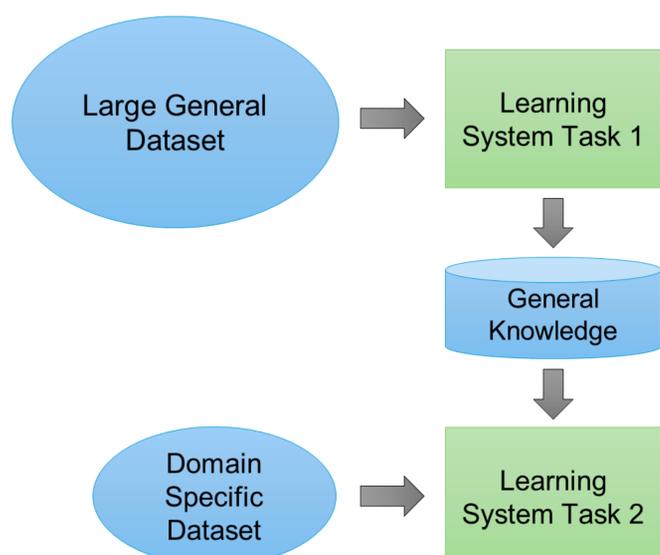
BERT

(Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)

- Consider both the meaning of words (in context) and their significance
- Rather than reading left to right, the model considers all surrounding words to embed context (bidirectional)
- A small change to existing models to greatly improve accuracy for many tasks
- Important especially for QA systems to locate relevant answers



Transfer Learning



Repurposing a Model

- Training an NLP model for every dataset is computationally expensive
- Transfer learning uses models already trained on large datasets to significantly reduce computation
- We can start by training our QA system based on pre-trained word vectors
- We then use domain specific data (related to Ford vehicles) to fine tune the model for the task at hand