

The computation of word meaning

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Distributional similarity

- Semantic similarity is based on the DISTRIBUTIONAL HYPOTHESIS [Harris 1954]

- Take a word and its contexts:
 - tasty *sooluceps*
 - sweet *sooluceps*
 - stale *sooluceps*
 - freshly baked *sooluceps*

- By looking at a word's context, one can infer its meaning

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⇒ **food**

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Matrix

- captures co-occurrence frequencies of two entities

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand
raspberry	2	1	0	0
strawberry	2	2	0	0
car	1	0	1	2
truck	1	0	1	1

Matrix

- captures co-occurrence frequencies of two entities

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand
raspberry	7	9	0	0
strawberry	12	6	0	0
car	7	0	8	4
truck	2	0	3	4

Matrix

- captures co-occurrence frequencies of two entities

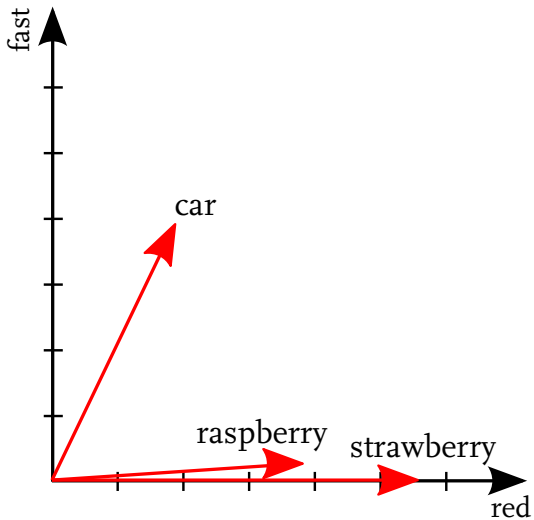
	red	tasty	fast	second-hand
raspberry	56	98	0	0
strawberry	44	34	0	0
car	23	0	31	39
truck	4	0	18	29

Matrix

- captures co-occurrence frequencies of two entities

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand
raspberry	728	592	1	0
strawberry	1035	437	0	2
car	392	0	487	370
truck	104	0	393	293

Vector space model



Term-document matrix

	doc1	doc2	doc3	doc4
term1				
term2				
term3				
term4				

Word-context matrix

	context1	context2	context3	context4
word1				
word2				
word3				
word4				

- Different notions of context
 - window around word
 - dependency-based features (extracted from parse trees)

He drove his second-hand **car** a couple of miles down the road .

Word-context matrix

	context1	context2	context3	context4
word1				
word2				
word3				
word4				

- Different notions of context
 - **window around word** (2 words)
 - **dependency-based features** (extracted from parse trees)

He drove [his **second-hand car** a **couple**] of miles down the road .

Word-context matrix

	context1	context2	context3	context4
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word3				
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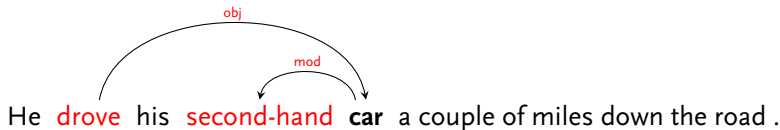
- Different notions of context
 - **window around word** (sentence)
 - **dependency-based features** (extracted from parse trees)

[He **drove** his **second-hand car** a **couple** of **miles** down the **road** .]

Word-context matrix

	context1	context2	context3	context4
word1				
word2				
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- Different notions of context
 - window around word
 - **dependency-based features** (extracted from parse trees)



Different kinds of semantic similarity

- **'tight', synonym-like similarity:** (near-)synonymous or (co-)hyponymous
- **loosely related, topical similarity:** more loose relationships, such as association and meronymy

Different kinds of semantic similarity

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Example

- **doctor:** *nurse, GP, physician, practitioner, midwife, dentist, surgeon*
- **doctor:** *medication, disease, surgery, hospital, patient, clinic, nurse, treatment, illness*

Relation context – similarity

- Different context leads to different kind of similarity
- Syntax, small window \leftrightarrow large window, documents
- The former models induce **tight, synonymous similarity**
- The latter models induce **topical relatedness**

Step 1: linguistic preprocessing

French actor Gérard Depardieu wants to be a Belgian.

1 tokenization

- French actor Gérard_Depardieu wants to be a Belgian .

2 normalization (lemmatization)

- French actor Gérard_Depardieu want to be a Belgian .

3 annotation (part of speech tagging, parsing)

- French/JJ actor/NN Gérard_Depardieu/NP want/VB to/TO be/VB a/DT Belgian/NN ./PT

Step 2: mathematical processing

- 1 construction of frequency matrix
- 2 weight elements of matrix
- 3 optional: smooth matrix (dimensionality reduction)
- 4 calculate similarity

construction of frequency matrix

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand	big
raspberry	728	592	0	0	823
strawberry	1035	633	0	0	890
car	392	0	487	370	920
truck	104	0	393	293	846
banana	0	489	0	0	500

weighting elements of matrix

- give more weight to surprising co-occurrences and less weight to expected co-occurrences
- (positive) pointwise mutual information
- quantifies mismatch between joint probability and probability of individual entities assuming independence (i.e. co-occurrence probability by chance)
- $pmi(x, y) = \log\left(\frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)p(y)}\right)$

weighting elements of matrix

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weighting elements of matrix

- $pmi(x, y) = \log\left(\frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)p(y)}\right)$

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand	big
raspberry	.08	.06	0	0	.09
strawberry	.11	.07	0	0	.09
car	.04	0	.05	.04	.10
truck	.01	0	.04	.03	.09
banana	0	.05	0	0	.05

weighting elements of matrix

- $pmi(x, y) = \log\left(\frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}\right)$

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand	big	$p(X)$
raspberry	.08	.06	0	0	.09	.23
strawberry	.11	.07	0	0	.09	.27
car	.04	0	.05	.04	.10	.23
truck	.01	0	.04	.03	.09	.17
banana	0	.05	0	0	.05	.10
$p(Y)$.24	.18	.09	.07	.42	

weighting elements of matrix

- $pmi(x, y) = \log\left(\frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)p(y)}\right)$

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand	big
raspberry	.36	.42	0	0	-.09
strawberry	.53	.31	0	0	-.19
car	-.27	0	.88	.89	.01
truck	-1.31	0	.95	.94	.21
banana	0	1.00	0	0	.19

weighting elements of matrix

- $pmi(x, y) = \log\left(\frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)p(y)}\right)$

	red	tasty	fast	second-hand	big
raspberry	.36	.42	0	0	0
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car	0	0	.88	.89	.01
truck	0	0	.95	.94	.21
banana	0	1.00	0	0	.19

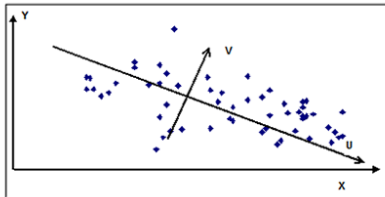
Smoothing the matrix

Two reasons for performing dimensionality reduction:

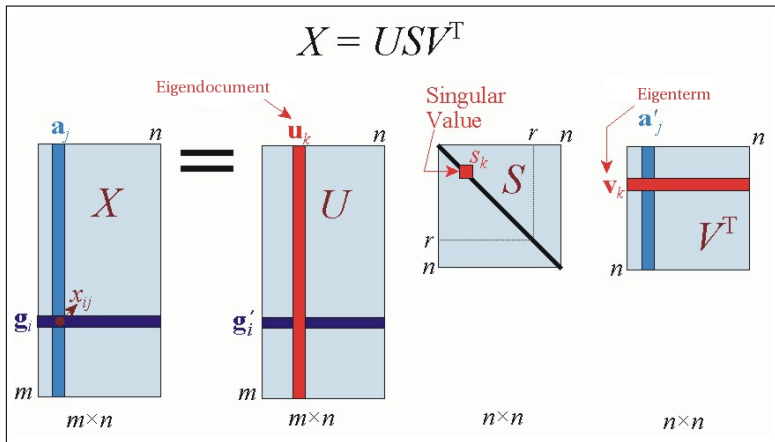
- Intractable computations
 - When number of elements and number of features is too large, similarity computations may become intractable
 - reduction of the number of features makes computation tractable again
- Generalization capacity
 - the dimensionality reduction is able to describe the data better, or is able to capture intrinsic semantic features
 - dimensionality reduction is able to improve the results (counter data sparseness and noise)

Singular value decomposition (SVD)

- popular technique for dimensionality reduction
- SVD decomposes matrix \mathbf{X} into product of three matrices \mathbf{USV}^T
- \mathbf{U} contains left-singular vectors, \mathbf{V} contains right-singular vectors, \mathbf{S} is diagonal matrix which contains singular values
- mathematical technique able to find new dimensions that explain most variance



svd: graphical representation



Example

$M =$

$$U \begin{bmatrix} -2.0513e-03 & -4.2637e-01 & -3.9208e-01 & 1.7899e-01 & -7.9526e-01 \\ -1.6467e-03 & -3.8275e-01 & -7.3766e-01 & -1.5740e-01 & 5.3346e-01 \\ -6.7952e-01 & 1.9344e-02 & -3.7455e-02 & 7.1240e-01 & 1.7018e-01 \\ -7.3352e-01 & -7.2086e-04 & 2.7325e-02 & -6.6006e-01 & -1.5975e-01 \\ -1.3561e-02 & -8.1935e-01 & 5.4771e-01 & -2.2125e-03 & 1.6879e-01 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S \begin{bmatrix} 1.8443492 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.1924855 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5633409 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.1350923 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.0021991 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V \begin{bmatrix} -8.7025e-04 & -2.9779e-01 & -9.4323e-01 & -1.4679e-01 & 9.2507e-03 \\ -8.1633e-03 & -9.4569e-01 & 2.7049e-01 & 1.7971e-01 & -1.1854e-02 \\ -7.0479e-01 & 1.3778e-02 & -1.2635e-02 & 1.2733e-02 & -7.0906e-01 \\ -7.0371e-01 & 1.3920e-02 & -1.3702e-02 & 1.0821e-01 & 7.0193e-01 \\ -8.9450e-02 & -1.2886e-01 & 1.9184e-01 & -9.6658e-01 & 6.5632e-02 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

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Example

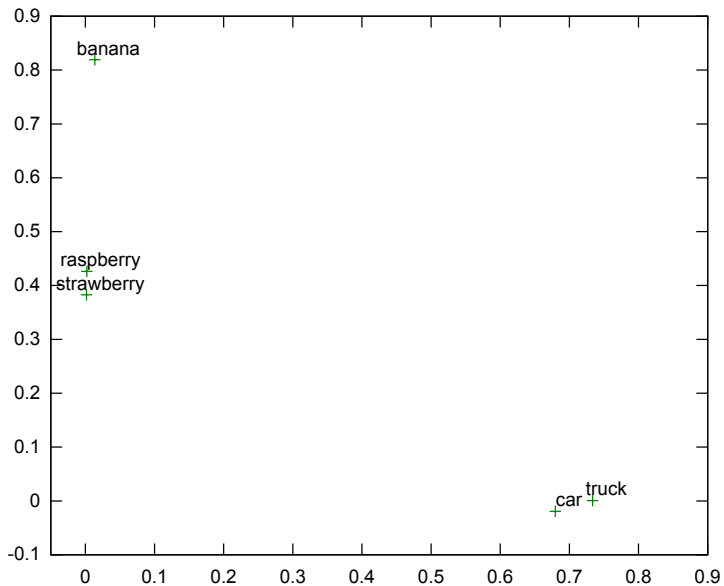
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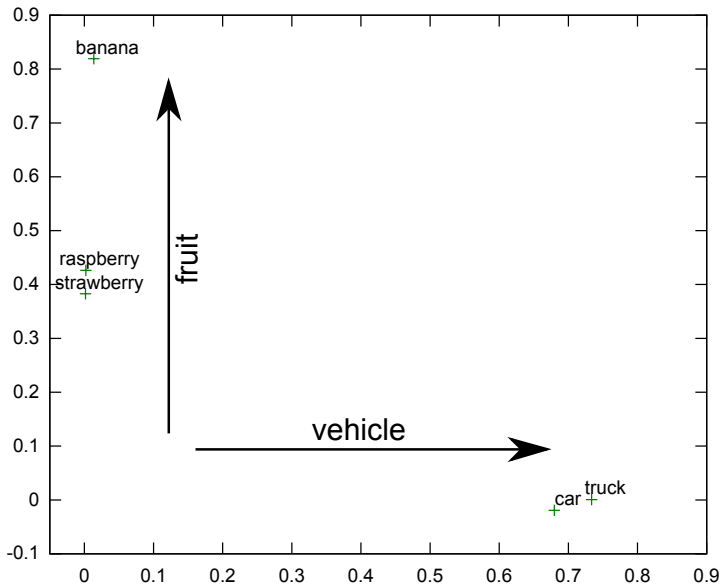
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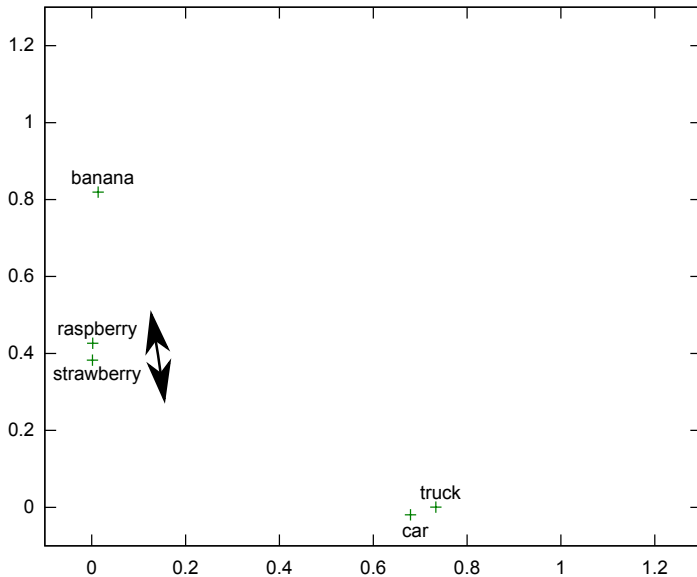
Example



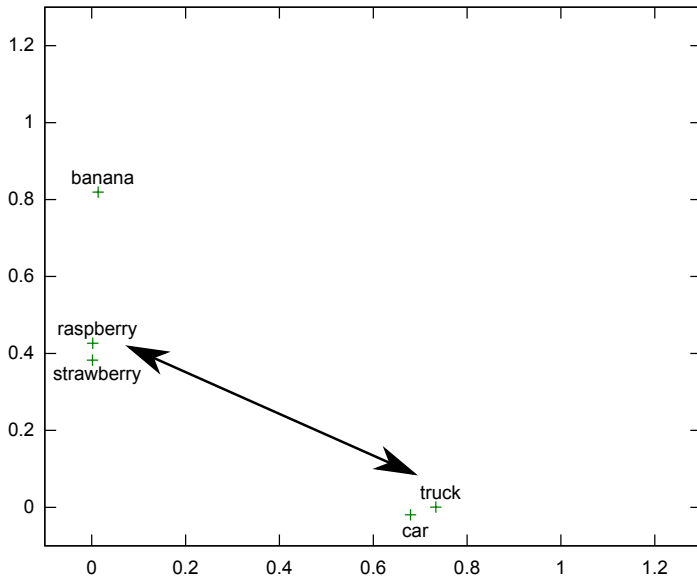
Example



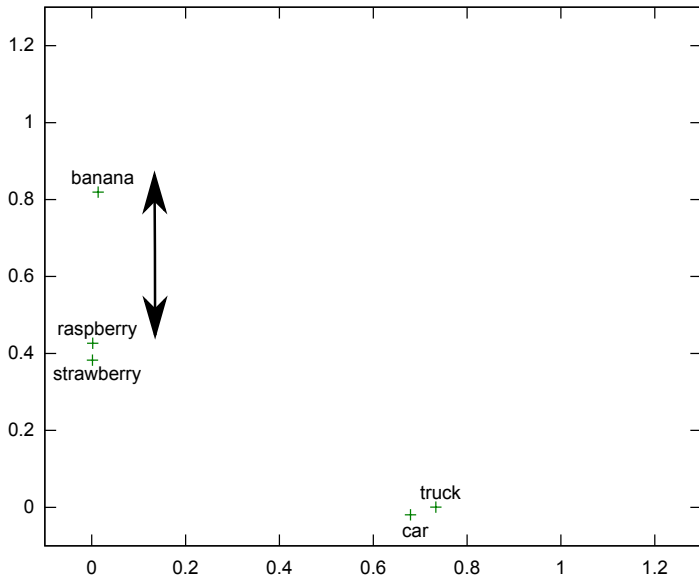
Measure similarity



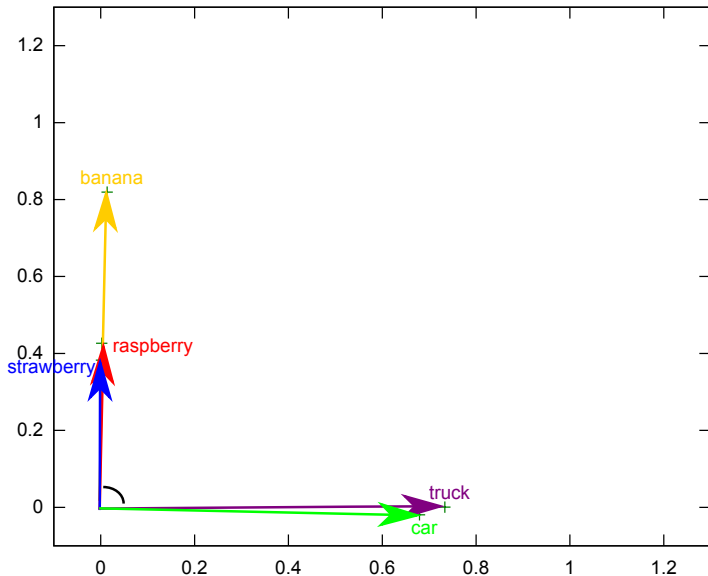
Measure similarity



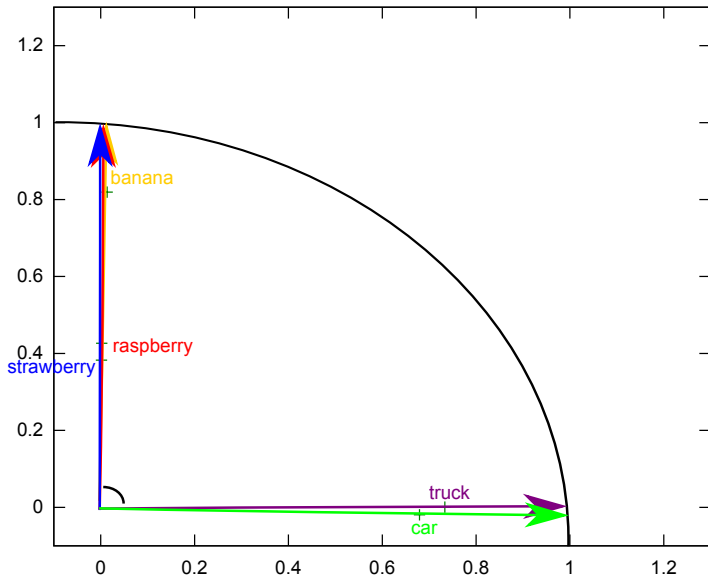
Measure similarity



Measure similarity



Measure similarity



Cosine

Formulae

- $\cos(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \frac{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y}}{|\vec{x}| |\vec{y}|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2}}$ (standard)
- $\cos(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$ (normalized)

- examples:

- $\cos(\text{raspberry}, \text{strawberry}) = (.005 \times .004) + (.999 \times .999) = .998$
- $\cos(\text{raspberry}, \text{car}) = (.005 \times .999) + (.999 \times -.003) = .002$

Word clusters

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- blackberry, blackcurrant, blueberry, raspberry, redcurrant, strawberry
- anthropologist, biologist, economist, linguist, mathematician, psychologist, physicist, sociologist, statistician
- drought, earthquake, famine, flood, flooding, storm, tsunami

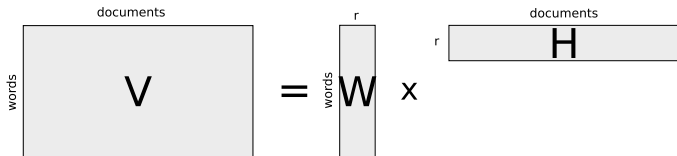
Non-negative matrix factorization

- Given a non-negative matrix V , find non-negative matrix factors W and H such that:

$$\mathbf{V}_{n \times m} \approx \mathbf{W}_{n \times r} \mathbf{H}_{r \times m} \quad (1)$$

- Choosing $r \ll n, m$ reduces data
- Constraint on factorization: all values in three matrices need to be *non-negative values* (≥ 0)
- Constraint brings about a *parts-based* representation: only additive, no subtractive relations are allowed

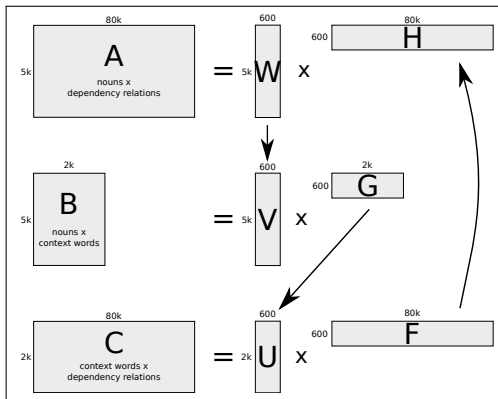
Graphical Representation



Application: word meaning in context

- Can we combine ‘topical’ similarity and tight, synonym-like similarity to disambiguate meaning of word in a particular context?
- Goal: classification of nouns according to both window-based context (with large window) and syntactic context
- \Rightarrow Construct three matrices capturing co-occurrence frequencies for each mode
 - nouns cross-classified by dependency relations
 - nouns cross-classified by (bag of words) context words
 - dependency relations cross-classified by context words
- \Rightarrow Apply NMF to matrices, but interleave the process
- Result of former factorization is used to initialize factorization of the next one

Graphical representation



Implementational details

- method applied to English
- ukwac corpus (1.5 billion words crawled from the web)
- parsed using MaltParser
- 5k nouns, 80k dependency relations, 2k context words
- NMF model: $K=600$, 100 iterations

Example dimension 44

nouns	context words	dependency relations
building/NN	building/NN	dobj-1#redevelop/VB
factory/NN	construction/NN	conj_and/cc#warehouse/NN
center/NN	build/VB	prep_of/in-1#redevelopment/NN
refurbishment/NN	station/NN	prep_of/in-1#refurbishment/NN
warehouse/NN	store/NN	conj_and/cc#dock/NN
store/NN	open/VB	prep_by/in-1#open/VB
station/NN	center/NN	nn#refurbishment/NN
construction/NN	industrial/JJ	prep_of/in-1#ft/NN
complex/NN	Street/NNP	amod#multi-storey/JJ
headquarters/NN	close/VB	prep_of/in-1#opening/NN

Example dimension 89

words	context words	dependency relations
virus/NN	security/NN	amod#malicious/JJ
software/NN	Microsoft/NNP	nn-1#vulnerability/NN
security/NN	Internet/NNP	conj_and/cc#worm/NN
firewall/NN	Windows/NNP	nn-1#worm/NN
spam/NN	computer/NN	nn-1#flaw/NN
Security/NNP	network/NN	nn#antivirus/NN
vulnerability/NN	attack/NN	nn#IM/NNP
system/NN	software/NN	prep_of/in#worm/NN
Microsoft/NNP	protect/VB	nn#Trojan/NNP
computer/NN	protection/NN	conj_and/cc#virus/NN

Example dimension 319

words	context words	dependency relations
virus/NN	brain/NN	dobj-1#infect/VB
disease/NN	animal/NN	nsubjpass-1#infect/VB
bacterium/NN	disease/NN	rcmod#infect/VB
infection/NN	human/JJ	nsubj-1#infect/VB
human/NN	blood/NN	prep_with/in-1#infect/VB
rat/NN	cell/NN	conj_and/cc#rat/NN
cell/NN	cancer/NN	prep_of/in#virus/NN
animal/NN	skin/NN	amod#infected/JJ
mouse/NN	scientist/NN	prep_of/in#flu/NN
cancer/NN	drug/NN	nn#monkey/NN

Calculating word meaning in context

- NMF can be interpreted probabilistically
- $p(\mathbf{z}|C) = \frac{\sum_{c_i \in C} p(\mathbf{z}|c_i)}{|C|}$ – the probability distribution over latent factors given the context ('semantic fingerprint')
- $p(\mathbf{d}|C) = p(\mathbf{z}|C)p(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{z})$ – probability distribution over dependency features given the context
- $p(\mathbf{d}|w_i, C) = p(\mathbf{d}|w_i) \cdot p(\mathbf{d}|C)$ – weight each dependency feature of the original noun vector according to its prominence given the context
- Using the distribution over latent senses, it is possible to calculate the precise meaning of a word in context

Example

① Jack is listening to a **record**.

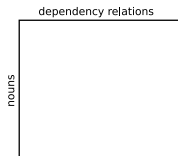
- $p(\mathbf{topic} | \text{listen}_{pc(t_0)}) \rightarrow p(\mathbf{feature} | \text{record}_N, \text{listen}_{pc(t_0)})$
- \mathbf{record}_N : *album, song, recording, track, cd*

② Jill updated the **record**.

- $p(\mathbf{topic} | \text{update}_{obj}) \rightarrow p(\mathbf{feature} | \text{record}_N, \text{update}_{obj})$
- \mathbf{record}_N : *file, data, document, database, list*

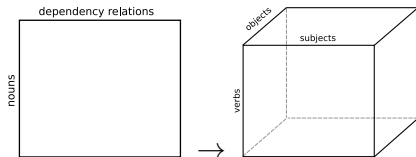
Multi-way co-occurrences

- all methods use two way co-occurrence frequencies \longrightarrow matrix
- suitable for two-way problems
 - words \times documents
 - nouns \times dependency relations
- not suitable for n -way problems
 - words \times documents \times authors
 - verbs \times subjects \times direct objects



Multi-way co-occurrences

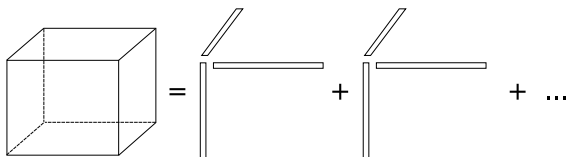
- all methods use two way co-occurrence frequencies \longrightarrow matrix
- suitable for two-way problems
 - words \times documents
 - nouns \times dependency relations
- not suitable for n -way problems \longrightarrow tensor
 - words \times documents \times authors
 - verbs \times subjects \times direct objects



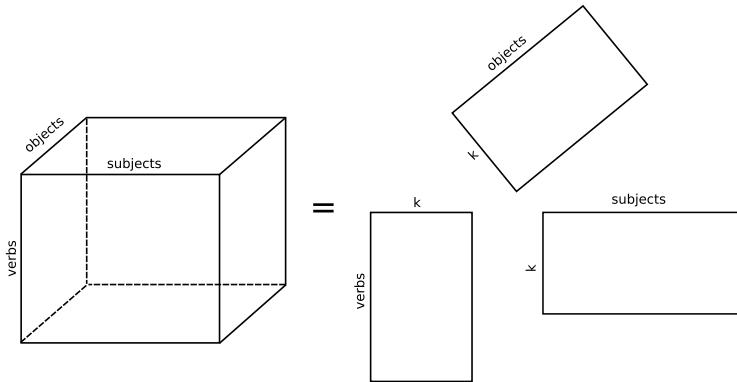
Non-negative tensor factorization

- Idea similar to non-negative matrix factorization
- Calculations are different

- $\min_{x_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{D_1}, \gamma_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{D_2}, z_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{D_3}} \| T - \sum_{i=1}^k x_i \circ \gamma_i \circ z_i \|_F^2$



Graphical representation



Application: selectional preference induction

- selectional preference models model preference of verb for particular arguments
- Standard selectional preference models: two-way co-occurrences
- Keeping track of single relationships
- But: two-way selectional preference models are not sufficiently rich
- Compare:
 - *The skyscraper is playing coffee.*
 - *The turntable is playing the piano.*

Application: selectional preference induction

- *The skyscraper is playing coffee.*
 - *(play, su, scyscraper)* ↓
 - *(play, obj, coffee)* ↓
- *The turntable is playing the piano.*
 - *(play, su, turntable)* ↑
 - *(play, obj, piano)* ↑
 - *(play, su, turntable, obj, piano)* ↓

Methodology

- Three-way extraction of selectional preferences
- Approach applied to Dutch, using TWENTE NIEUWS CORPUS (500M words of newspaper texts)
- parsed with Dutch dependency parser ALPINO
- three-way co-occurrence of verbs with subjects and direct objects extracted
- adapted with extension of pointwise mutual information
- Resulting tensor 1K verbs \times 10K subjects \times 10K direct objects
- reduction to k dimensions ($k=50,100,300$)

Example dimension: police action

subjects	su_s	verbs	v_s	objects	obj_s
<i>politie</i> 'police'	.99	<i>houd_aan</i> 'arrest'	.64	<i>verdachte</i> 'suspect'	.16
<i>agent</i> 'policeman'	.07	<i>arresteer</i> 'arrest'	.63	<i>man</i> 'man'	.16
<i>autoriteit</i> 'authority'	.05	<i>pak_op</i> 'run in'	.41	<i>betoger</i> 'demonstrator'	.14
<i>Justitie</i> 'Justice'	.05	<i>schiet_dood</i> 'shoot'	.08	<i>relschopper</i> 'rioter'	.13
<i>recherche</i> 'detective force'	.04	<i>verdenk</i> 'suspect'	.07	<i>raddraaier</i> 'instigator'	.13
<i>marechaussee</i> 'military police'	.04	<i>tref_aan</i> 'find'	.06	<i>overvaller</i> 'raider'	.13
<i>justitie</i> 'justice'	.04	<i>achterhaal</i> 'overtake'	.05	<i>Roemeen</i> 'Romanian'	.13
<i>arrestatieteam</i> 'special squad'	.03	<i>verwijder</i> 'remove'	.05	<i>actievoerder</i> 'campaigner'	.13
<i>leger</i> 'army'	.03	<i>zoek</i> 'search'	.04	<i>hooligan</i> 'hooligan'	.13
<i>douane</i> 'customs'	.02	<i>spoor_op</i> 'track'	.03	<i>Algerijn</i> 'Algerian'	.13

Example dimension: legislation

subjects	su_s	verbs	v_s	objects	obj_s
<i>meerderheid</i> 'majority'	.33	<i>steun</i> 'support'	.83	<i>motie</i> 'motion'	.63
VVD	.28	<i>dien_in</i> 'submit'	.44	<i>voorstel</i> 'proposal'	.53
D66	.25	<i>neem_aan</i> 'pass'	.23	<i>plan</i> 'plan'	.28
<i>Kamermeerderheid</i>	.25	<i>wijs_af</i> 'reject'	.17	<i>wetsvoorstel</i> 'bill'	.19
<i>fractie</i> 'party'	.24	<i>verwerp</i> 'reject'	.14	<i>hem</i> 'him'	.18
<i>PvdA</i>	.23	<i>vind</i> 'think'	.08	<i>kabinet</i> 'cabinet'	.16
CDA	.23	<i>aanvaard</i> 'accepts'	.05	<i>minister</i> 'minister'	.16
<i>Tweede Kamer</i>	.21	<i>behandel</i> 'treat'	.05	<i>beleid</i> 'policy'	.13
<i>partij</i> 'party'	.20	<i>doe</i> 'do'	.04	<i>kandidatuur</i> 'candidature'	.11
<i>Kamer</i> 'Chamber'	.20	<i>keur_goed</i> 'pass'	.03	<i>amendement</i> 'amendment'	.09

Example dimension: exhibition

subjects	su_s	verbs	v_s	objects	obj_s
<i>tentoonstelling</i> 'exhibition'	.50	<i>toon</i> 'display'	.72	<i>schilderij</i> 'painting'	.47
<i>expositie</i> 'exposition'	.49	<i>omvat</i> 'cover'	.63	<i>werk</i> 'work'	.46
<i>galerie</i> 'gallery'	.36	<i>bevat</i> 'contain'	.18	<i>tekening</i> 'drawing'	.36
<i>collectie</i> 'collection'	.29	<i>presenteer</i> 'present'	.17	<i>foto</i> 'picture'	.33
<i>museum</i> 'museum'	.27	<i>laat</i> 'let'	.07	<i>sculptuur</i> 'sculpture'	.25
<i>oeuvre</i> 'oeuvre'	.22	<i>koop</i> 'buy'	.07	<i>aquarel</i> 'aquarelle'	.20
<i>Kunsthall</i>	.19	<i>bezit</i> 'own'	.06	<i>object</i> 'object'	.19
<i>kunstenaar</i> 'artist'	.15	<i>zie</i> 'see'	.05	<i>beeld</i> 'statue'	.12
<i>dat</i> 'that'	.12	<i>koop_aan</i> 'acquire'	.05	<i>overzicht</i> 'overview'	.12
<i>hij</i> 'he'	.10	<i>in huis heb</i> 'own'	.04	<i>portret</i> 'portrait'	.11

Three-way selectional preferences

- Selectional preference value according to model

- $x_{svo} = \sum_{i=1}^k s_{si} v_{vi} o_{oi}$

- Tensor factorization model largely outperforms other selectional preference models on standard evaluation task

Conclusion

- meaning of words is closely connected to statistics of word usage
- vector space models provide an adequate framework for the modeling of these statistics
- Dimensionality reduction models provide ‘latent semantics’
 - ability to generalize over co-occurrence data
 - useful in applications (computation of word meaning in context)
- tensor (factorization) models provide adequate means to model multi-way language phenomena



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