

Machine translation



Prof Dr Marko Robnik-Šikonja
Natural Language Processing, Edition 2025

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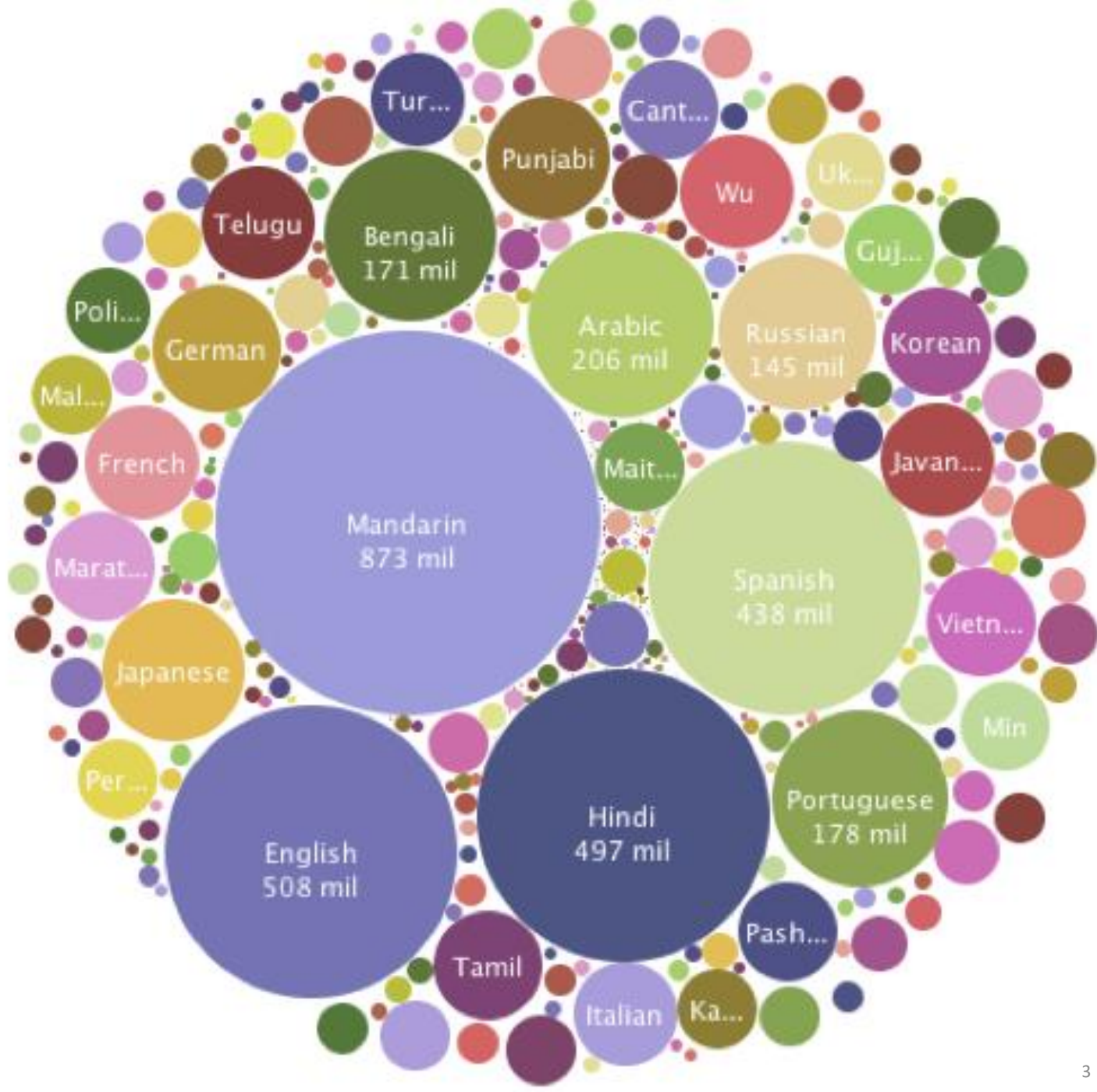
- statistical machine translation
- neural machine translation using sequence to sequence approach

Literature:

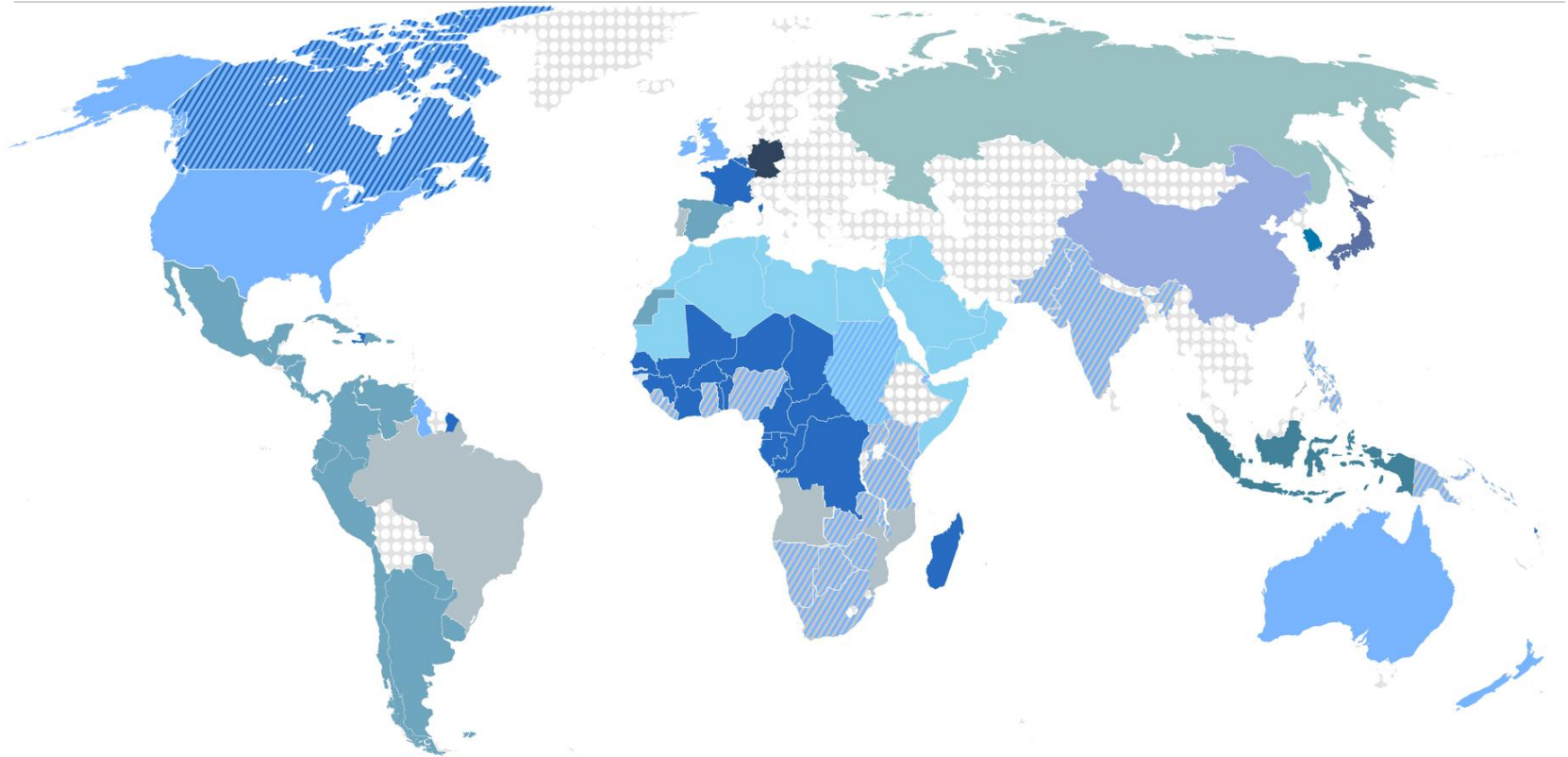
- Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin. Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft)

Word languages

Currently 6909 languages, 6% with more than one million speakers, together they cover 94% of world population.



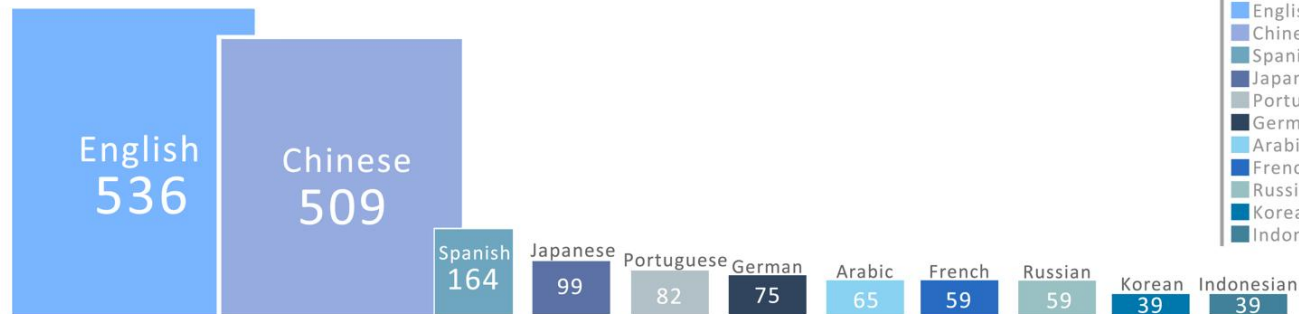
Top Languages on the Internet



■ English has an official status with other language(s)
 ■ English and French have official language status
 ■ English and Arabic have official language status

Number of Internet users by Language - mln people

The bars' heights correspond with the figure



Internet Penetration by Language

English - 43%
Chinese - 37%
Spanish - 39%
Japanese - 78%
Portuguese - 32%
German - 79%
Arabic - 18%
French - 17%
Russian - 42%
Korean - 55%
Indonesian - 16%

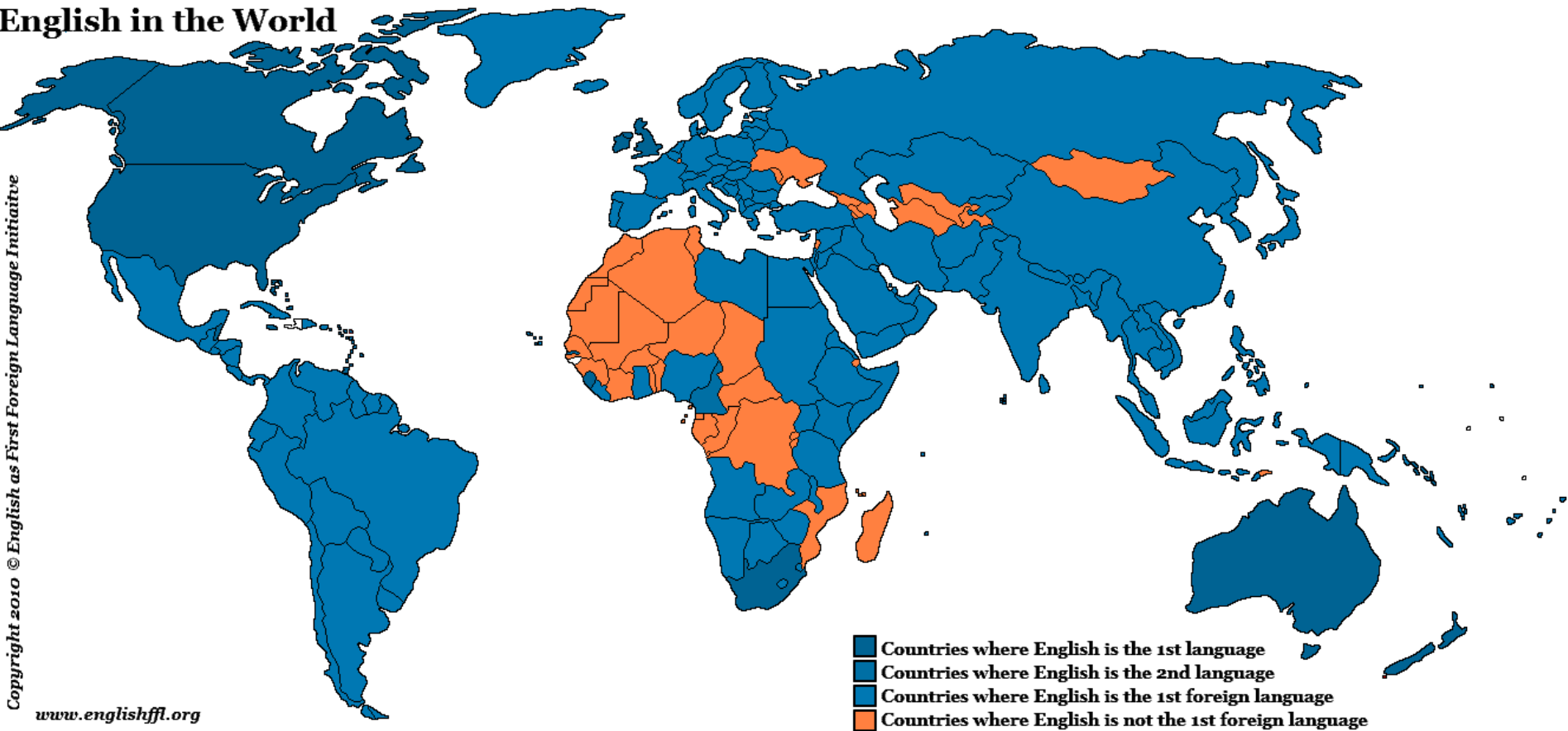
World population by Language (mln)

English - 1302
Chinese - 1372
Spanish - 423
Japanese - 126
Portuguese - 253
German - 94
Arabic - 347
French - 347
Russian - 139
Korean - 71
Indonesian - 245

Source: Internet World Stats

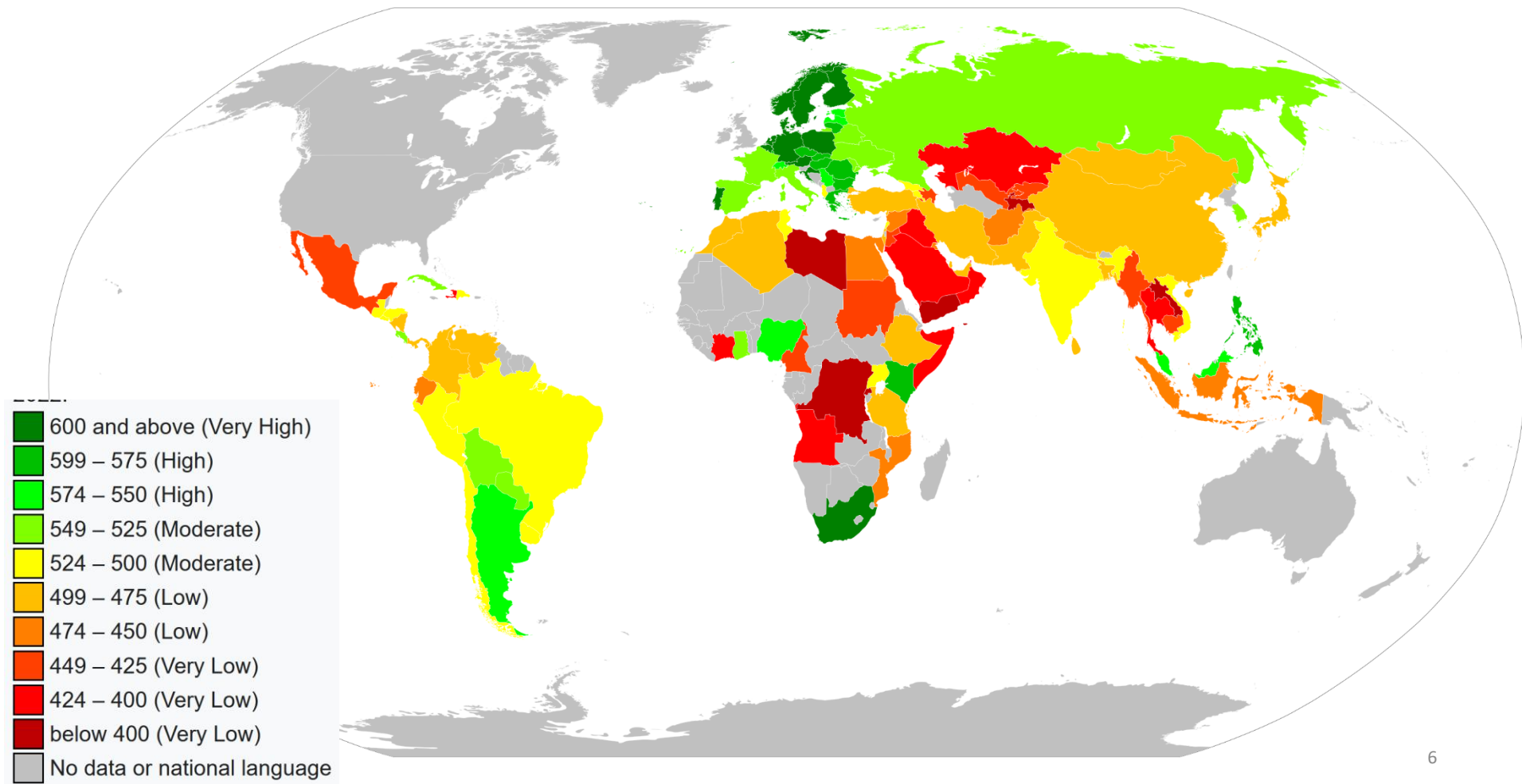
English as lingua franca?

English in the World



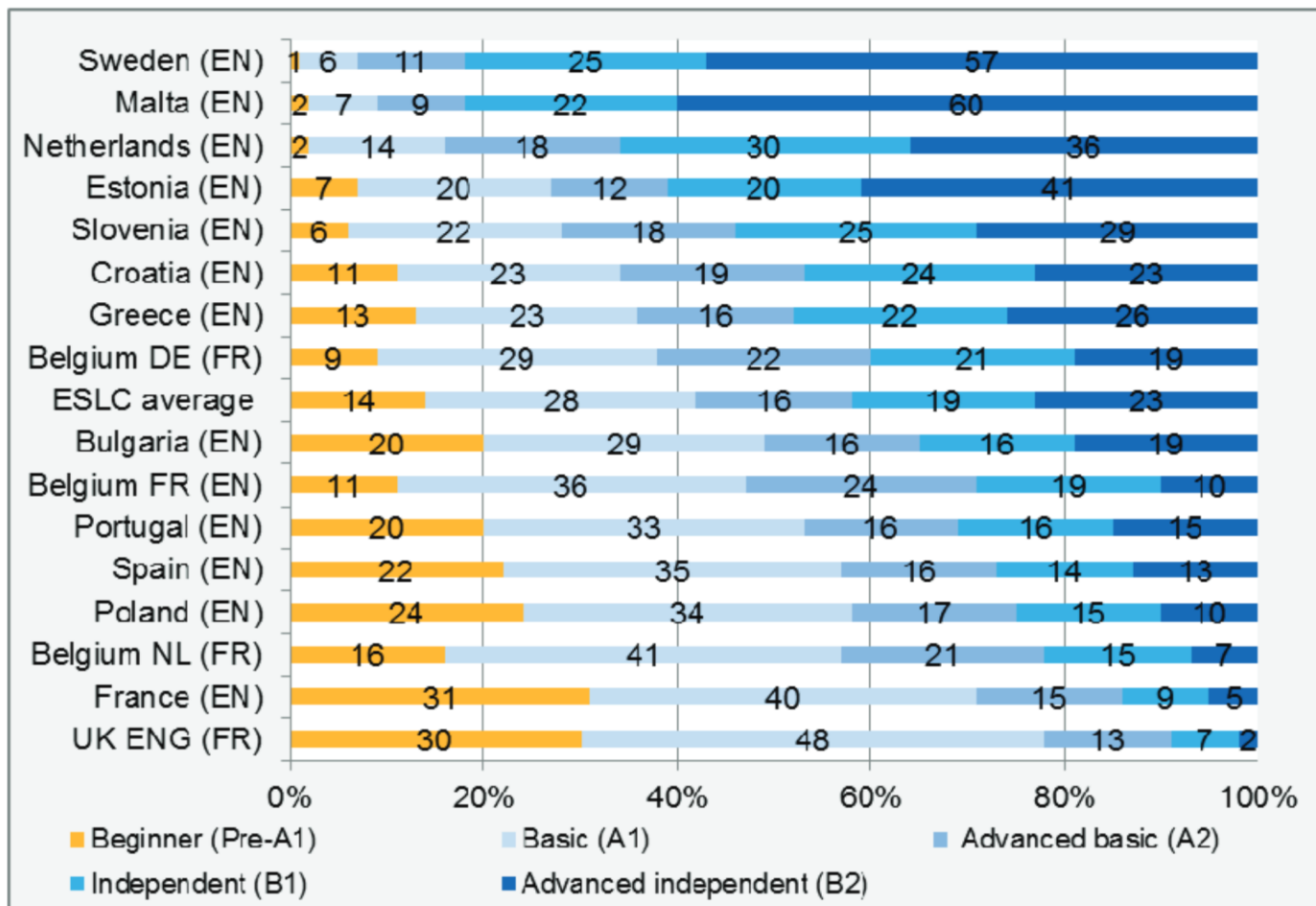
Global English proficiency index

English proficiency in the world in 2022, 2.1 million self-selected respondents



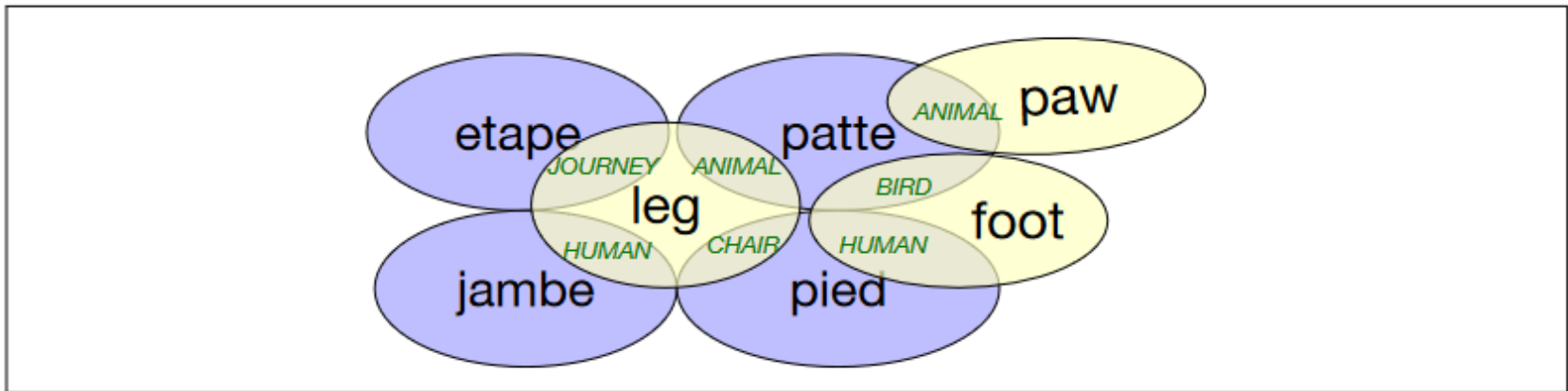
Language proficiency

- EU survey among pupils aged around 15, altogether 54,000 reponents



Lexical divergency

- Different languages have different definition of certain concepts



- The complex overlap between English leg, foot, etc., and various French translations as discussed by Hutchins and Somers (1992)

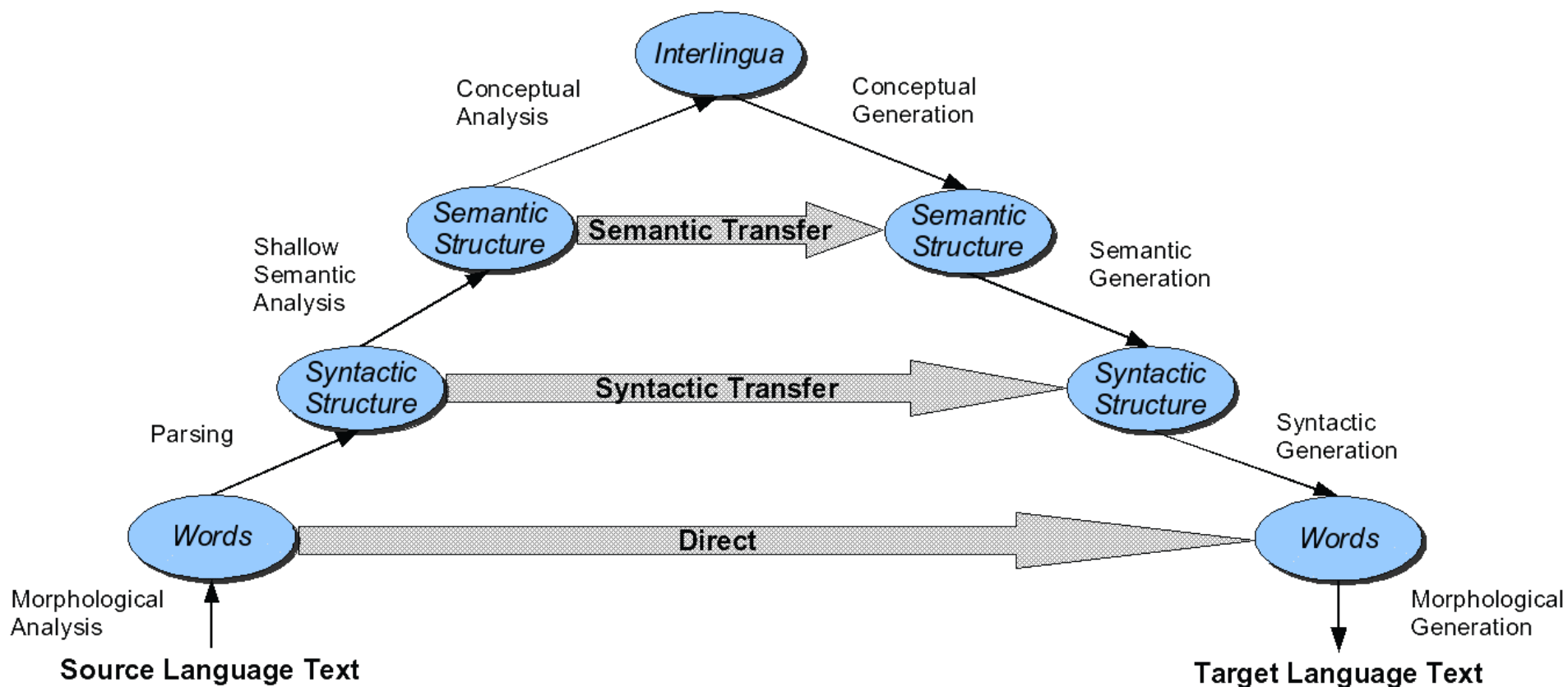
Statistical machine translation (SMT)

- The intuition for Statistical MT comes from the **impossibility** of perfect translation
- Why perfect translation is impossible
 - Goal: Translating Hebrew *adonai roi* (“the lord is my shepherd”) for a culture without sheep or shepherds
- Two options:
 - Something **fluent** and understandable, but not faithful:
The Lord will look after me
 - Something **faithful**, but not fluent or natural
The Lord is for me like somebody who
looks after animals with cotton-like hair

A good translation is:

- **Faithful**
 - Has the same meaning as the source
 - (Causes the reader to draw the same inferences as the source would have)
- **Fluent**
 - Is natural, fluent, grammatical in the target
- Real translations trade off these two factors

Three MT Approaches: Direct, Transfer, Interlingual



Machine translation as decoding

- Norbert Wiener (1947, in a letter): ... When I look at an article in Russian, I say, “This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode.” ...

Classical statistical machine translation

- word-based models
- phrase-based models
- tree based models
- factored models

Statistical MT:

Faithfulness and Fluency formalized

Peter Brown, Stephen A. Della Pietra, Vincent J. Della Pietra, Robert L. Mercer. 1993. The Mathematics of Statistical Machine Translation: Parameter Estimation. Computational Linguistics 19:2, 263-311. **“The IBM Models”**

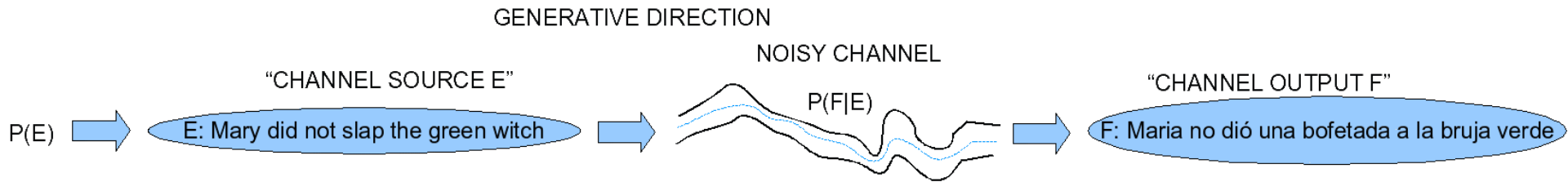
Given a French (foreign) sentence F , find an English sentence

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{E} &= \operatorname{argmax}_{E \in \text{English}} P(E | F) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{E \in \text{English}} \frac{P(F | E)P(E)}{P(F)} \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{E \in \text{English}} \underbrace{P(F | E)}_{\text{Translation Model}} \underbrace{P(E)}_{\text{Language Model}}\end{aligned}$$

Convention in Statistical MT

- We always refer to translating
 - from input F , the foreign language (originally F = French)
 - to output E , English.
- Obviously statistical MT can translate from English into another language or between any pair of languages
- The convention helps avoid confusion about which way the probabilities are conditioned for a given example

The noisy channel model for MT



Fluency: $P(E)$

- We need a metric that ranks this sentence

That car almost crash to me

as less fluent than this one:

That car almost hit me.

- Answer: language models (e.g., N-grams)

$P(\text{me} | \text{hit}) > P(\text{to} | \text{crash})$

– And we can use any other more sophisticated model of grammar

- Advantage: this is **monolingual** knowledge!

Faithfulness: $P(F | E)$

- Spanish:
 - Maria no dió una bofetada a la bruja verde
- English candidate translations:
 - Mary didn't slap the green witch
 - Mary not give a slap to the witch green
 - The green witch didn't slap Mary
 - Mary slapped the green witch
- More faithful translations will be composed of phrases that are high probability translations
 - How often was “slapped” translated as “dió una bofetada” in a large **bitext** (parallel English-Spanish corpus)
 - in classical MT, we'll need to align phrases and words to each other in bitext

We treat Faithfulness and Fluency as independent factors

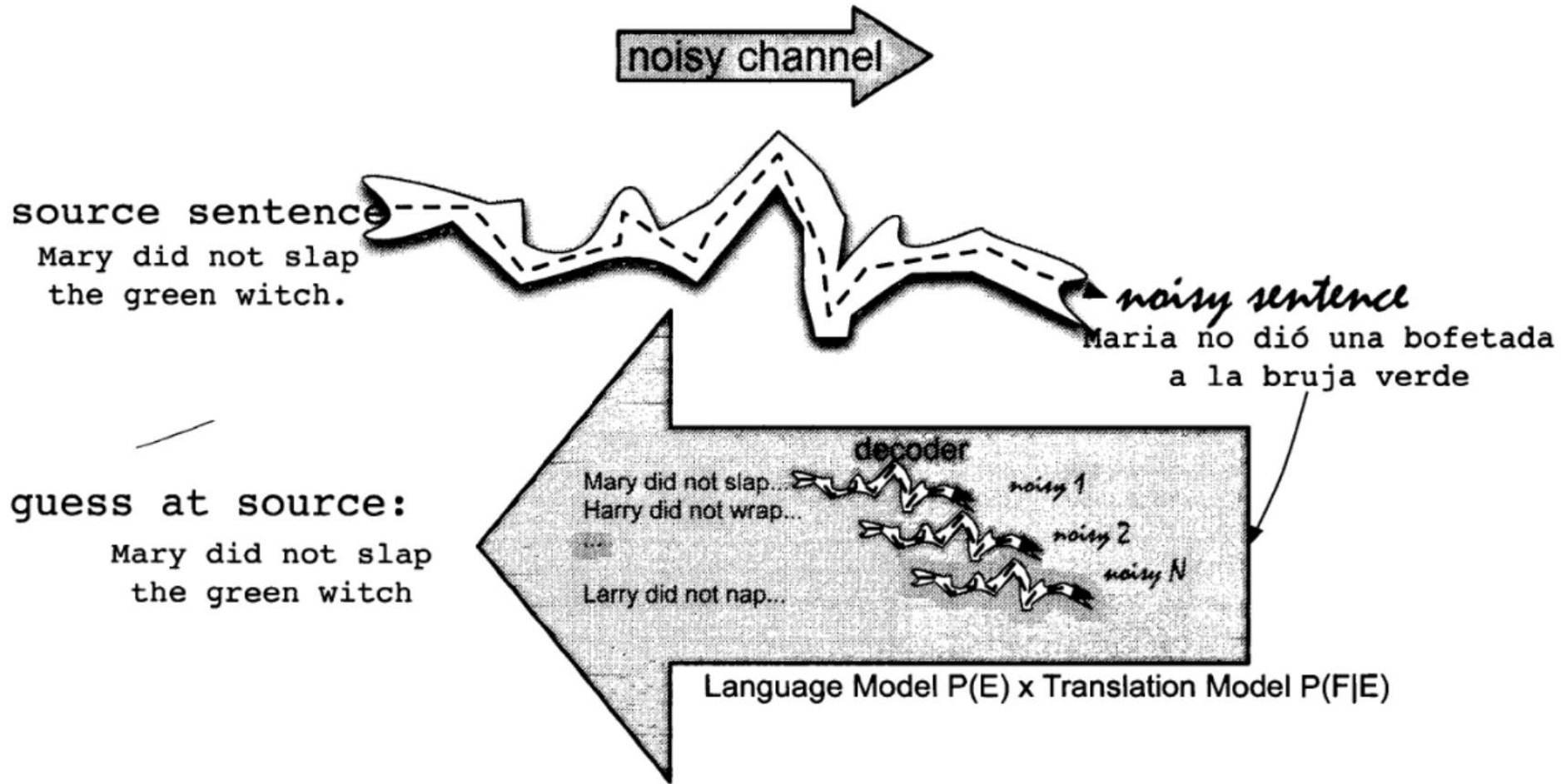
- $P(F|E)$'s job is to model “bag of words”; which words come from English to Spanish.
 - $P(F|E)$ doesn't have to worry about internal facts about English word order.
- $P(E)$'s job is to do bag generation: put the following words in order:
 - a ground there in the hobbit hole lived a in

Three Problems for Statistical MT

- Language Model: given E , compute $P(E)$
good English string $\rightarrow$ high $P(E)$
random word sequence $\rightarrow$ low $P(E)$
- Translation Model: given (F,E) compute $P(F | E)$
 (F,E) look like translations $\rightarrow$ high $P(F | E)$
 (F,E) don't look like translations $\rightarrow$ low $P(F | E)$
- Decoding algorithm: given LM, TM, F , find $\hat{E}$
Find translation E that maximizes $P(E) * P(F | E)$

Noisy channel model

- inference goes backwards



Parallel corpora

- EuroParl: <http://www.statmt.org/europarl/>
 - A parallel corpus extracted from proceedings of the European Parliament.
 - Philipp Koehn. 2005. Europarl: A Parallel Corpus for Statistical Machine Translation. MT Summit
 - around 50 million words per EU language and growing
 - Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Slovene
- LDC: <http://www ldc upenn edu/>
 - Large amounts of parallel English-Chinese and English-Arabic text
- Subtitles
- OPUS website

Sentence alignment

E1: "Good morning," said the little prince.	F1: -Bonjour, dit le petit prince.
E2: "Good morning," said the merchant.	F2: -Bonjour, dit le marchand de pilules perfectionnées qui apaisent la soif.
E3: This was a merchant who sold pills that had been perfected to quench thirst.	F3: On en avale une par semaine et l'on n'éprouve plus le besoin de boire.
E4: You just swallow one pill a week and you won't feel the need for anything to drink.	F4: -C'est une grosse économie de temps, dit le marchand.
E5: "They save a huge amount of time," said the merchant.	F5: Les experts ont fait des calculs.
E6: "Fifty-three minutes a week."	F6: On épargne cinquante-trois minutes par semaine.
E7: "If I had fifty-three minutes to spend?" said the little prince to himself.	F7: "Moi, se dit le petit prince, si j'avais cinquante-trois minutes à dépenser, je marcherais tout doucement vers une fontaine..."
E8: "I would take a stroll to a spring of fresh water"	

- Sentence alignment takes sentences $E_1, \dots, E_n$, and $F_1, \dots, F_n$ and finds minimal sets of sentences that are translations of each other, including
 - single sentence mappings like (E_1, F_1) , (E_4, F_3) , (E_5, F_4) , (E_6, F_6)
 - many-to-one (2-1) alignments: $(E_2/E_3, F_2)$, $(E_7/E_8, F_7)$,
 - null alignments (F_5).

Alignment procedure 1/2

- compute cost function that takes a span of source sentences and a span of target sentences and returns a score measuring how likely these spans are to be translations
- for that we use multilingual embedding space of both languages

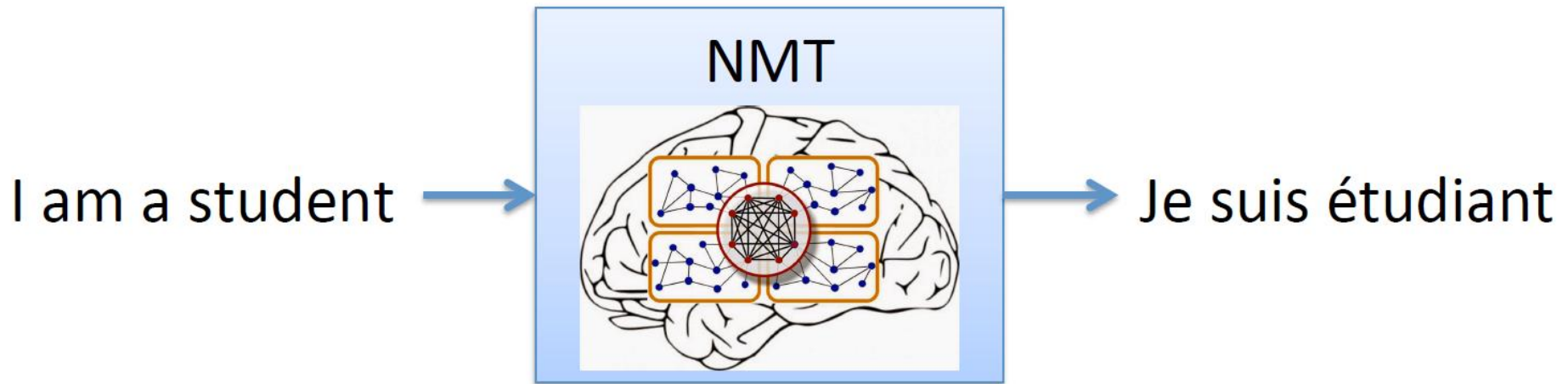
$$c(x, y) = \frac{(1 - \cos(x, y)) \text{nSents}(x) \text{nSents}(y)}{\sum_{s=1}^S 1 - \cos(x, y_s) + \sum_{s=1}^S 1 - \cos(x_s, y)}$$

- where $\text{nSents}()$ is the number of sentences (biases toward many alignments of single sentences instead of aligning very large spans).
- the denominator helps to normalize the similarities, so $x_1, \dots, x_S, y_1, \dots, y_S$ are randomly selected sentences sampled from the respective documents.

Alignment procedure 1/2

- an alignment algorithm that takes the alignment scores to find a good alignment between the documents
- Usually dynamic programming is used as the alignment algorithm, i.e. an extension of the minimum edit distance algorithm
- Finally, corpus cleanup:
 - remove noisy sentence pairs, e.g., too long or too short sentences,
 - too similar sentences (just copies instead of translations),
 - rank by the multilingual embedding cosine score and remove low-scoring pairs

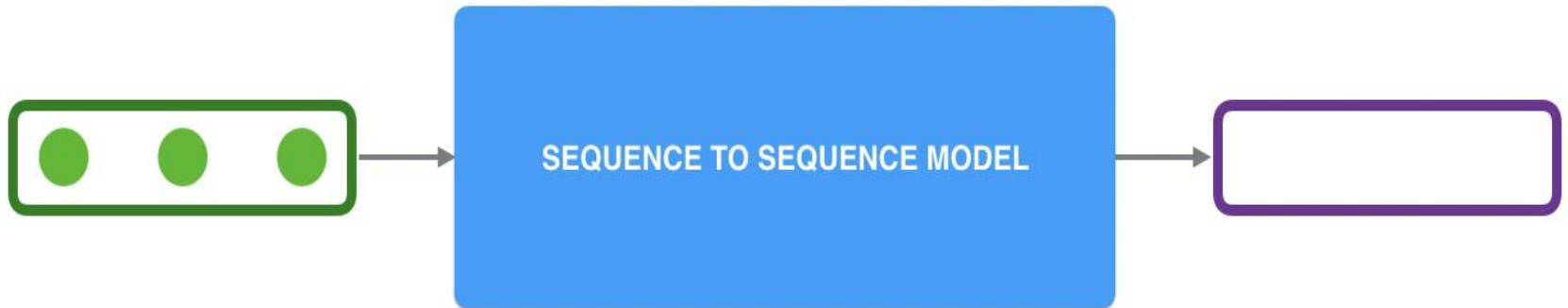
Neural machine translation (NMT)



(Sutskever et al., 2014; Cho et al., 2014)

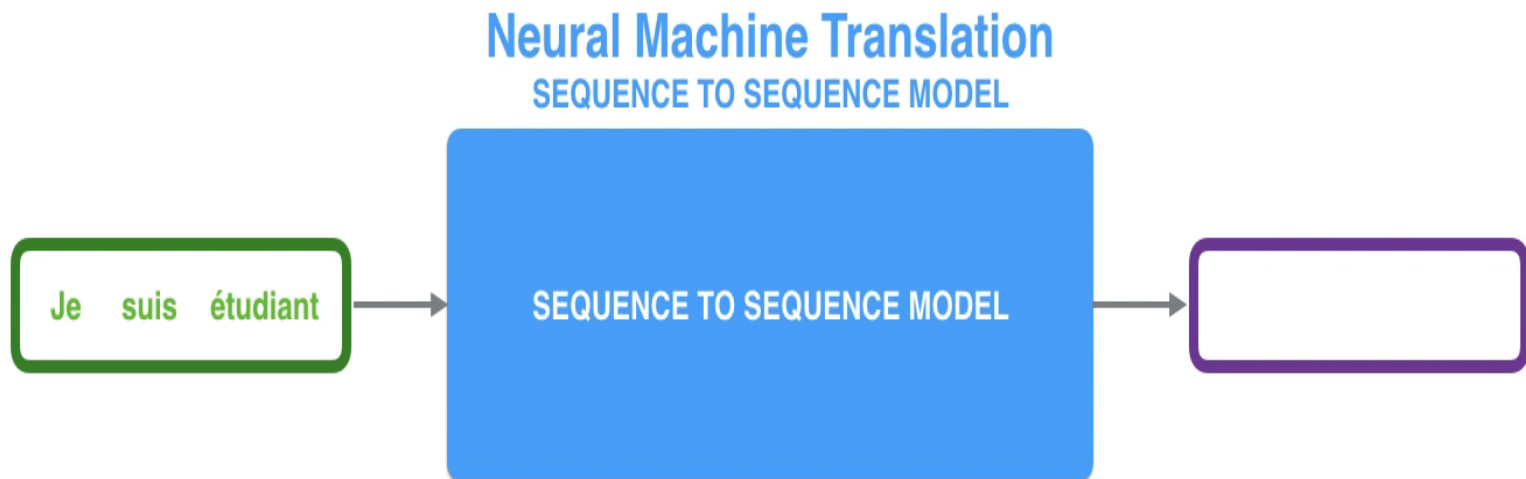
- direct translation based on sequences
- The neural network architecture is called sequence-to-sequence (aka seq2seq) and it involves *two* networks.

Seq2Seq model

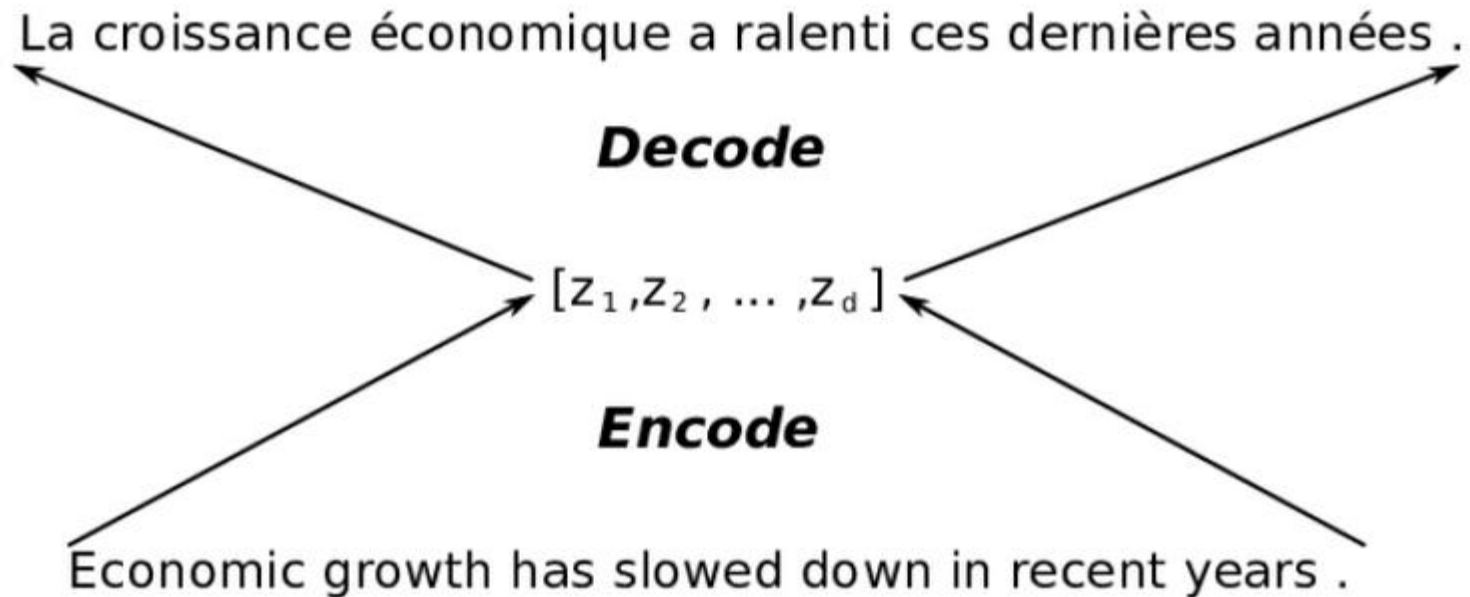


Videos by Jay Alammar: [Visualizing A Neural Machine Translation Model \(Mechanics of Seq2seq Models With Attention\)](#), 2018

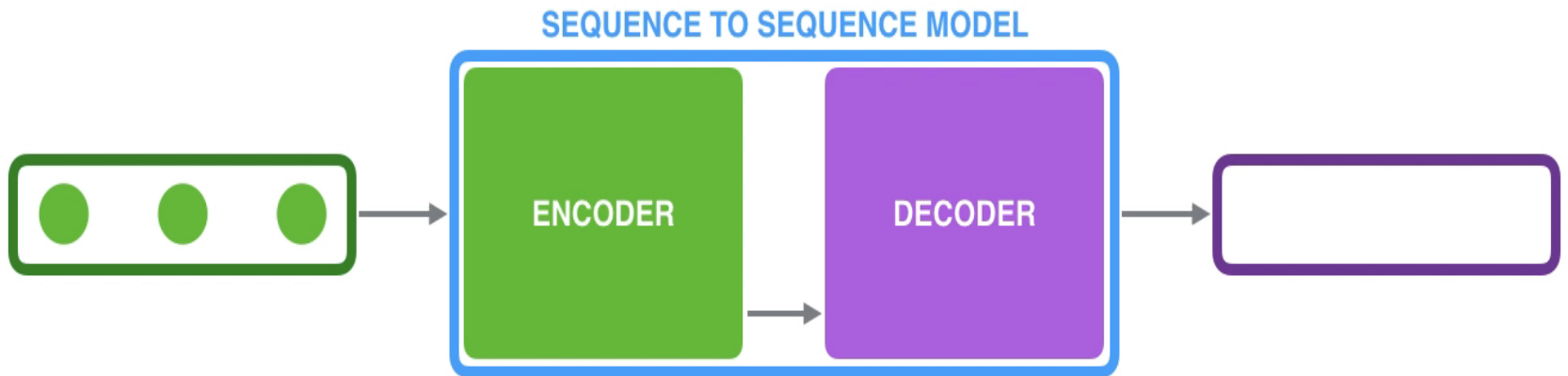
Seq2Seq for NMT



Encoder-Decoder Model

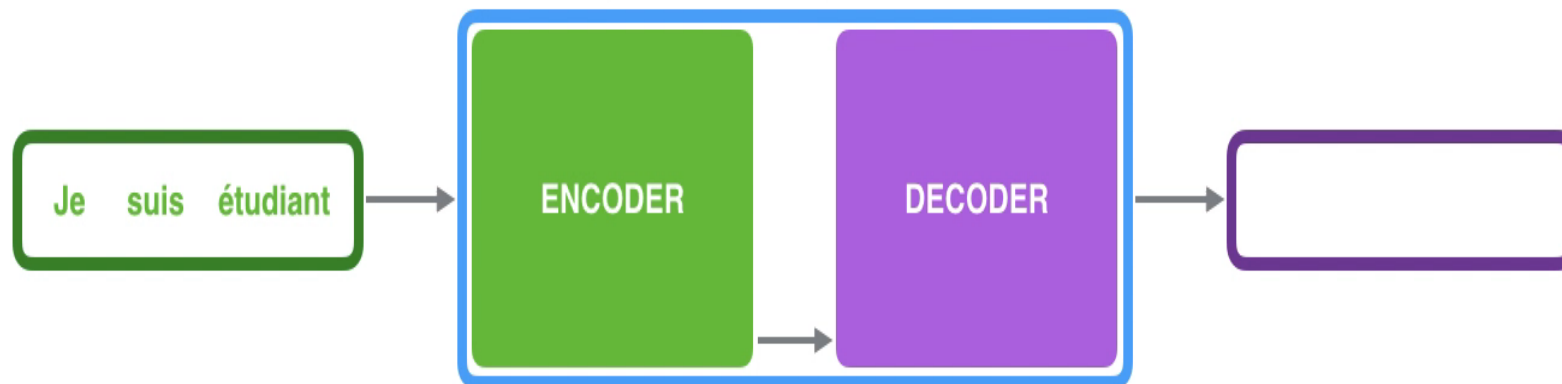


Encoder-decoder for sequences



Encoder-decoder for NMT

Neural Machine Translation SEQUENCE TO SEQUENCE MODEL



CONTEXT

0.11
0.03
0.81
-0.62

0.11
0.03
0.81
-0.62

Seq2seq NMT

- The **sequence-to-sequence** model is an example of a **Conditional Language Model**.
 - **Language Model** because the decoder is predicting the next word of the target sentence y
 - **Conditional** because its predictions are *also* conditioned on the source sentence x

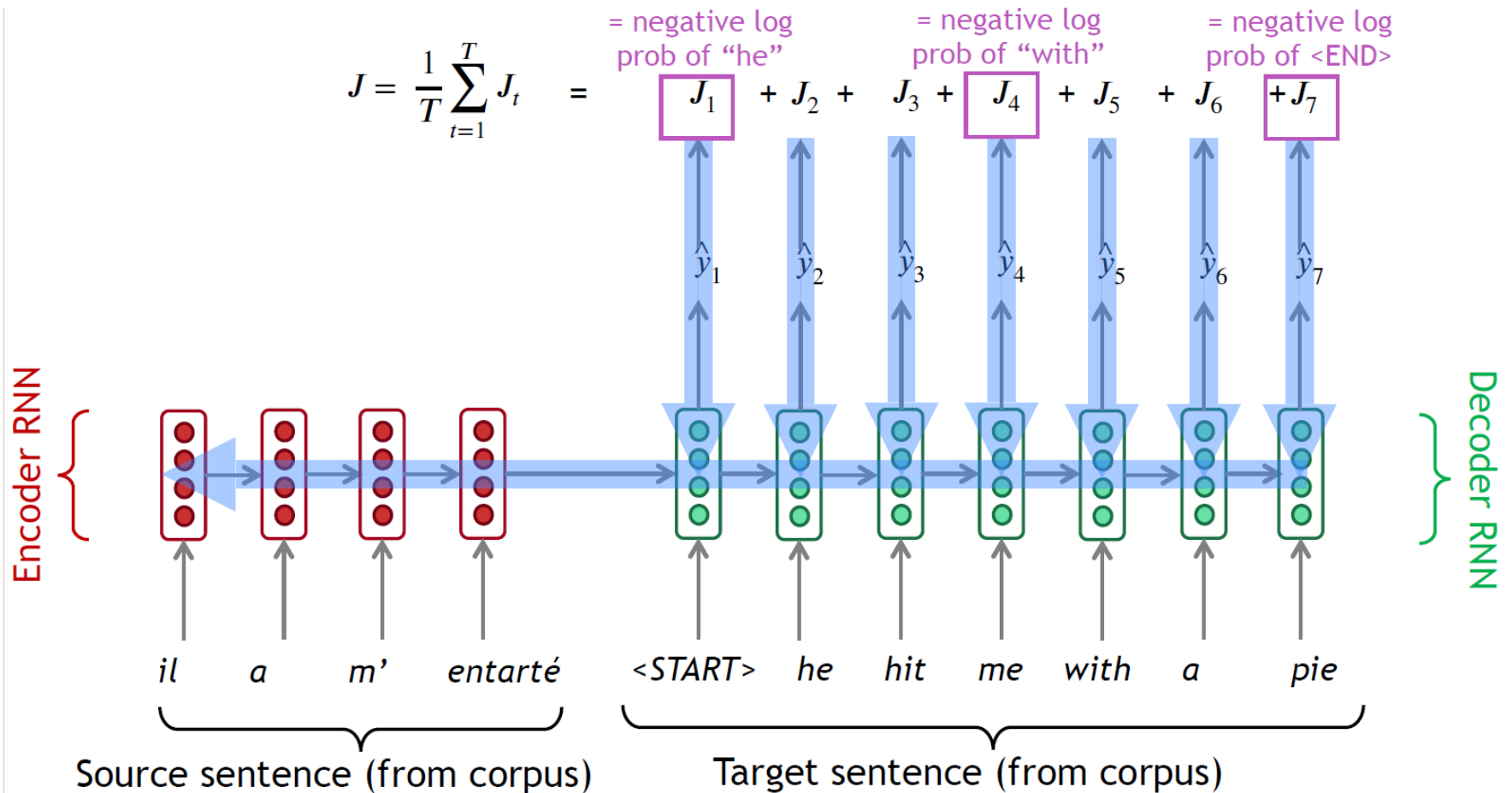
- NMT directly calculates $P(y|x)$:

$$P(y|x) = P(y_1|x) P(y_2|y_1, x) P(y_3|y_1, y_2, x) \dots P(y_T|y_1, \dots, y_{T-1}, x)$$

Probability of next target word, given
target words so far and source
sentence x

- Question: How to **train** a NMT system?
- Answer: Get a big parallel corpus...

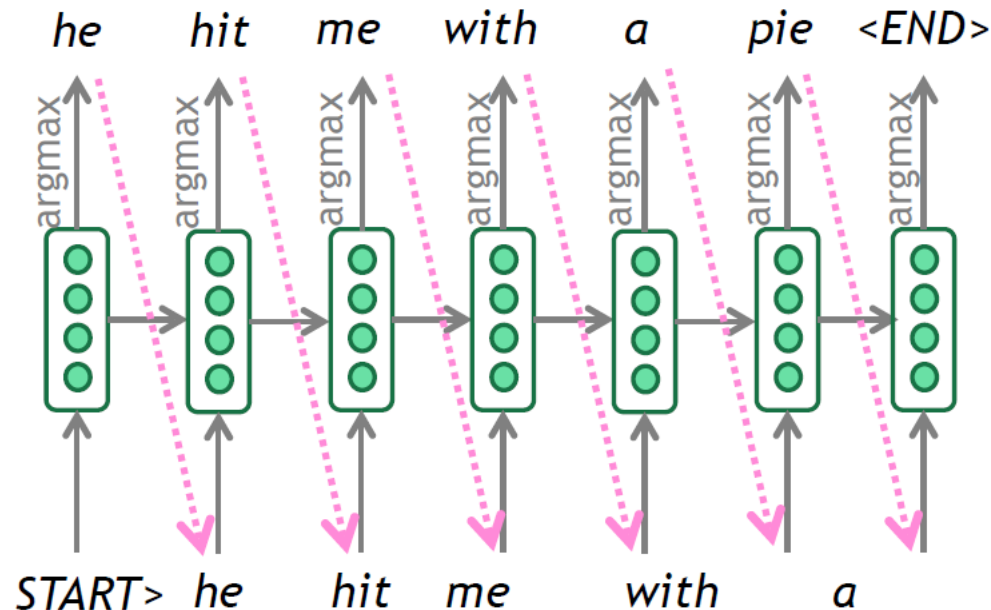
Training NMT



Seq2seq is optimized as a single system. Backpropagation operates "end-to-end".

Decoding

- We saw how to generate (or “decode”) the target sentence by taking argmax on each step of the decoder
- This is greedy decoding (take most probable word on each step)
- Problems with this method?

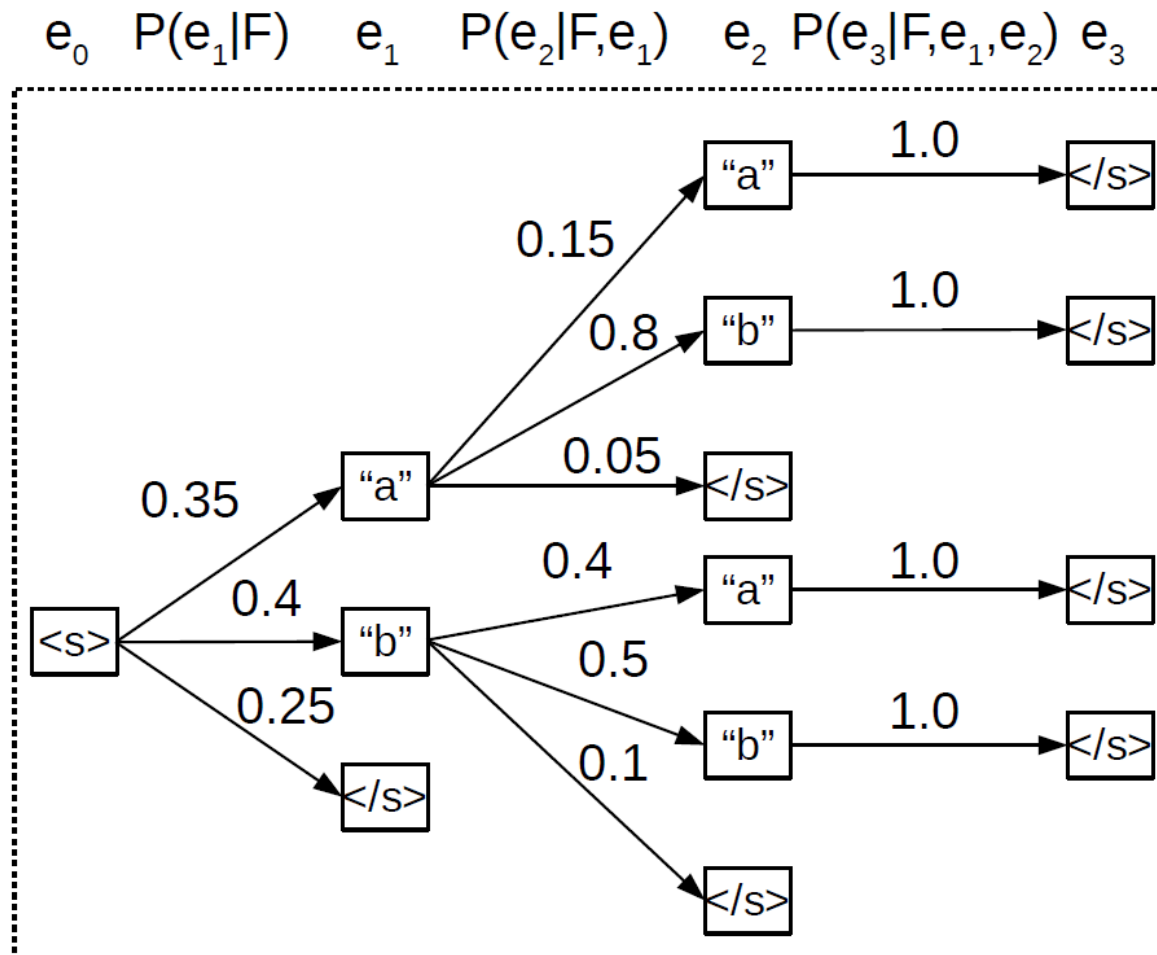


Problems with greedy decoding

- Greedy decoding has no way to undo decisions!
- Input: *il a m'entarté (he hit me with a pie)*
- → *he* _____
- → *he hit* _____
- → *he hit a* _____ (whoops! no going back now...)
- How to fix this?

Greedy prediction

- Example: greedy 1-best does not return the most probable sequence



Exhaustive search

- Ideally we want to find a (length T) translation y that maximizes

$$\begin{aligned} P(y|x) &= P(y_1|x) P(y_2|y_1, x) P(y_3|y_1, y_2, x) \dots, P(y_T|y_1, \dots, y_{T-1}, x) \\ &= \prod_{t=1}^T P(y_t|y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}, x) \end{aligned}$$

- We could try computing all possible sequences y
- This means that on each step t of the decoder, we're tracking V^t possible partial translations, where V is vocab size
- This $O(VT)$ complexity is far too expensive!

Beam search decoding

- Core idea: On each step of decoder, keep track of the k most probable partial translations (which we call *hypotheses*)
- k is the beam size (in practice around 5 to 10)
- A hypothesis has a score which is its log probability:

$$\text{score}(y_1, \dots, y_t) = \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_1, \dots, y_t | x) = \sum_{i=1}^t \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_i | y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x)$$

- Scores are all negative, and higher score is better
- We search for high-scoring hypotheses, tracking top k on each step
- Beam search is not guaranteed to find optimal solution
- But much more efficient than exhaustive search!

Beam search decoding: example

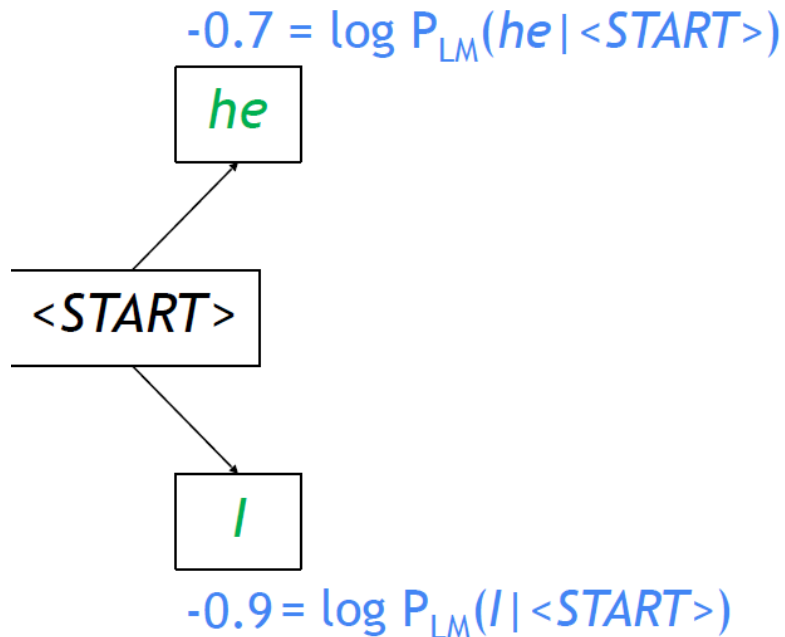
Beam size = $k = 2$. Blue numbers = $\text{score}(y_1, \dots, y_t) = \sum_{i=1}^t \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_i | y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x)$

<START>

Calculate prob
dist of next word

Beam search decoding: example

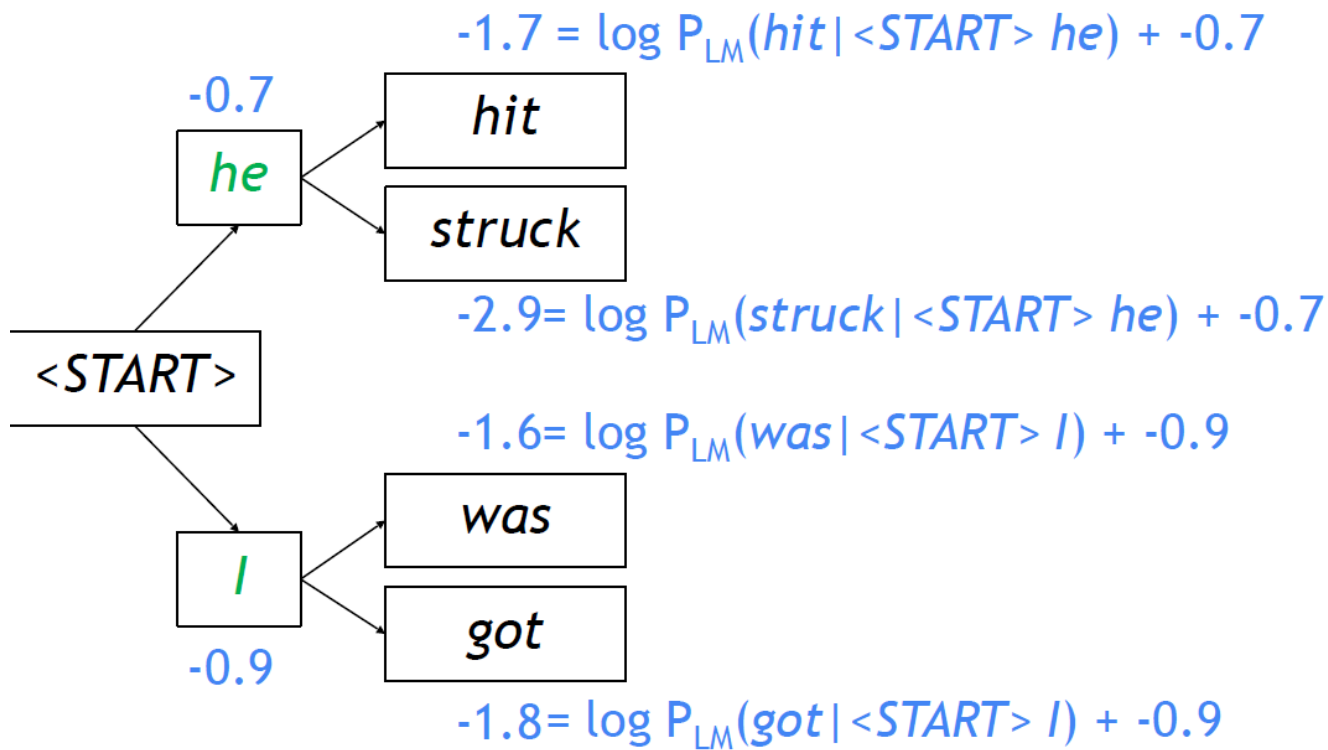
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Take top k words
and compute scores

Beam search decoding: example

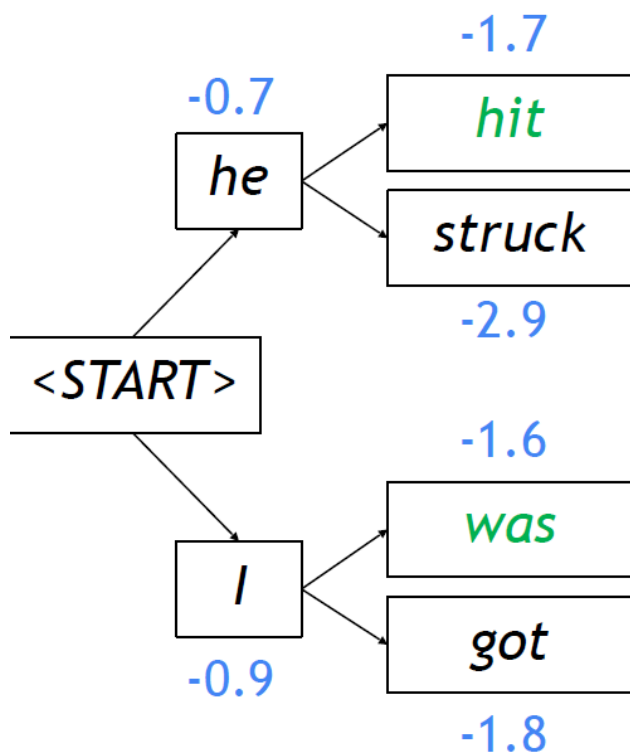
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For each of the k hypotheses, find top k next words and calculate scores

Beam search decoding: example

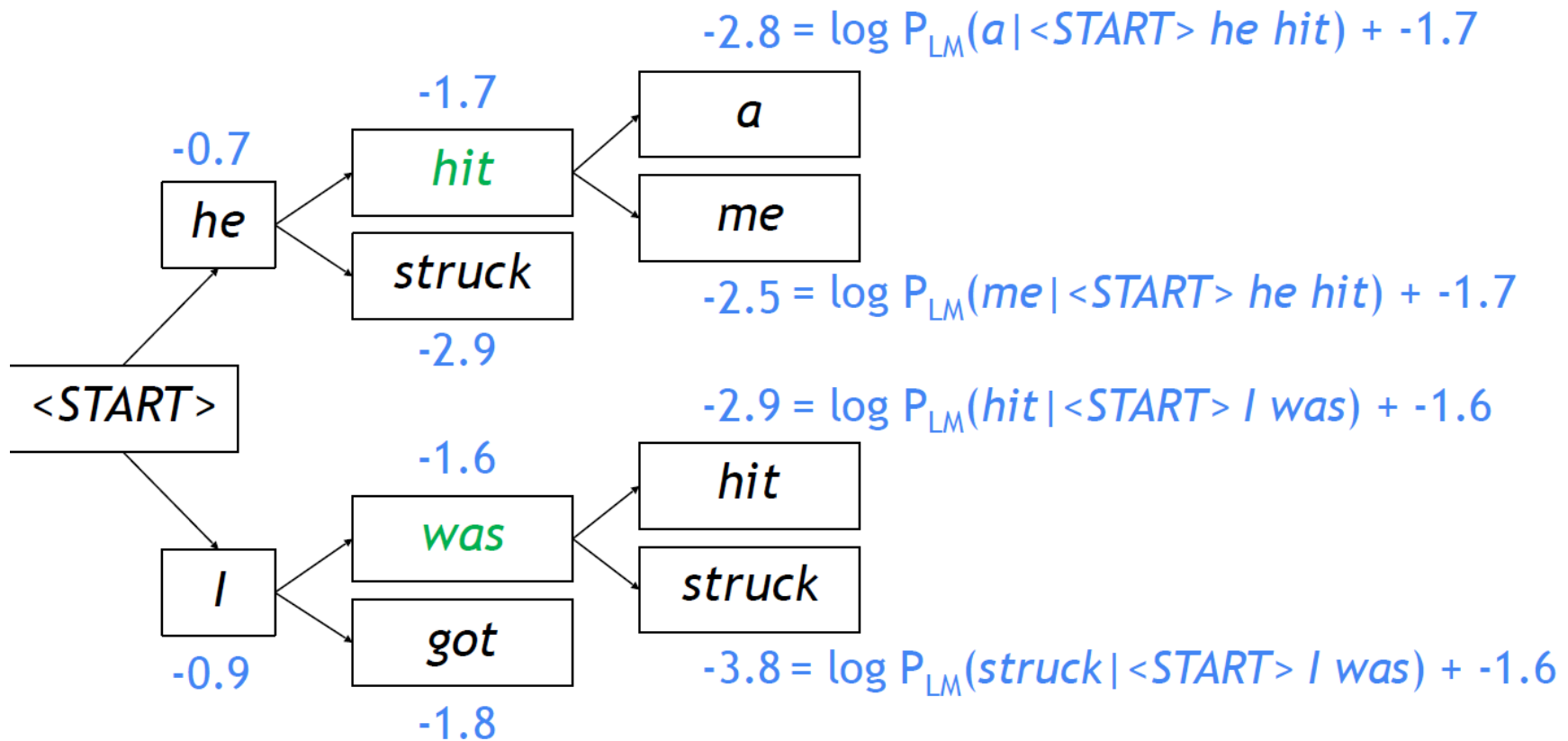
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Of these k^2 hypotheses,
just keep k with highest scores

Beam search decoding: example

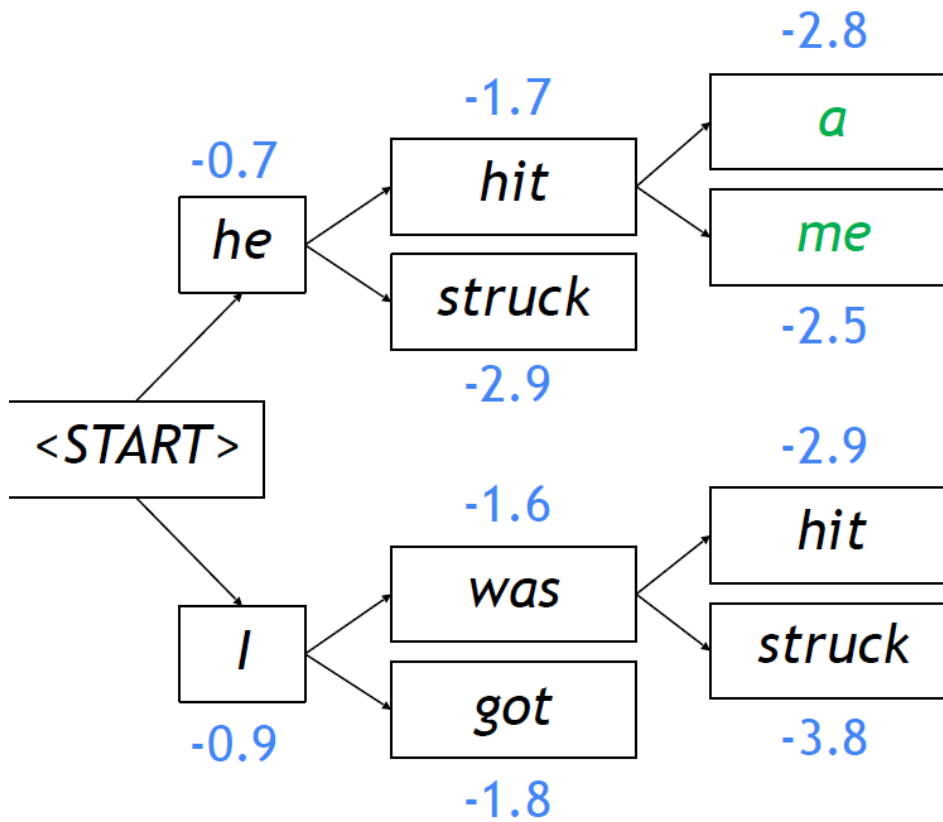
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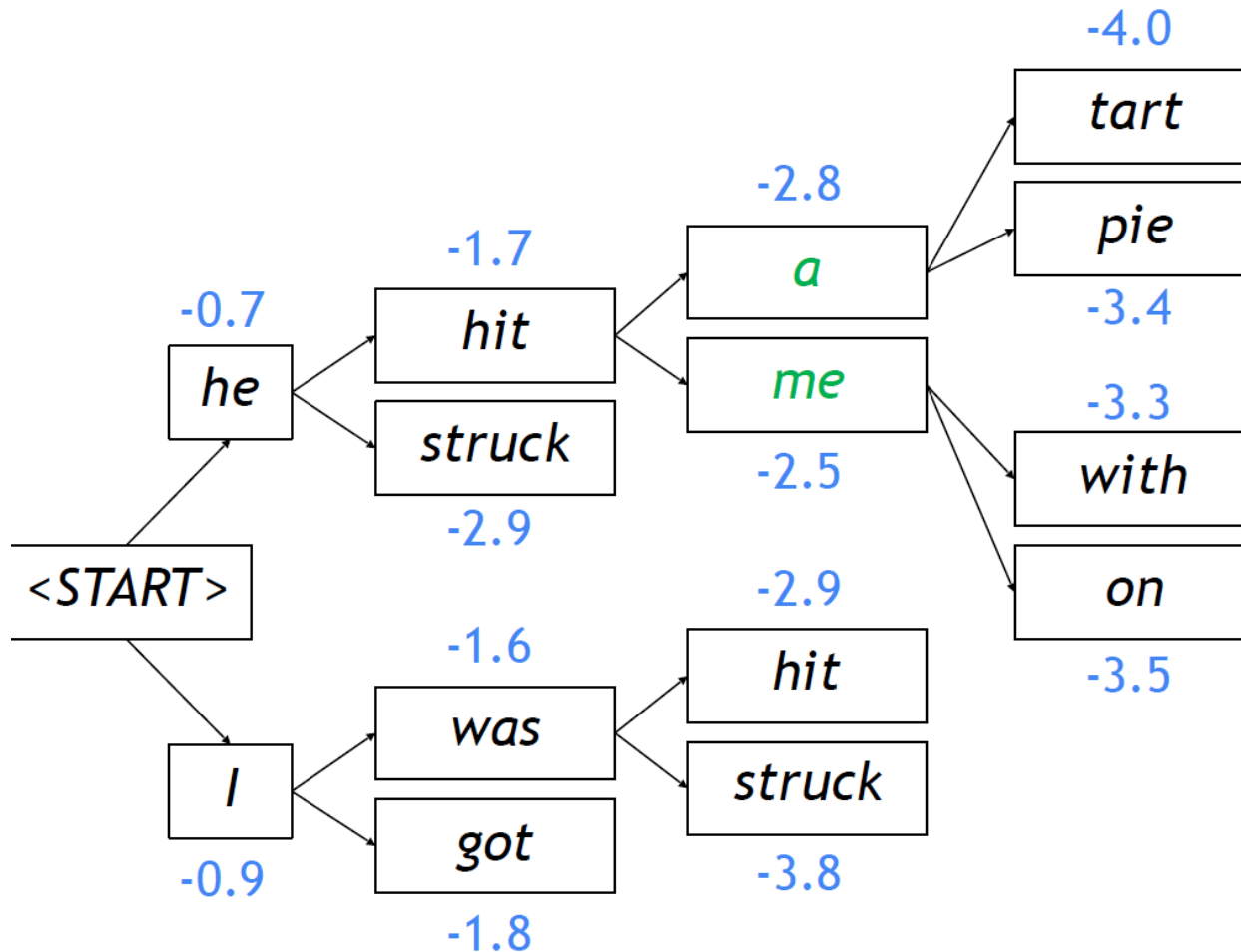
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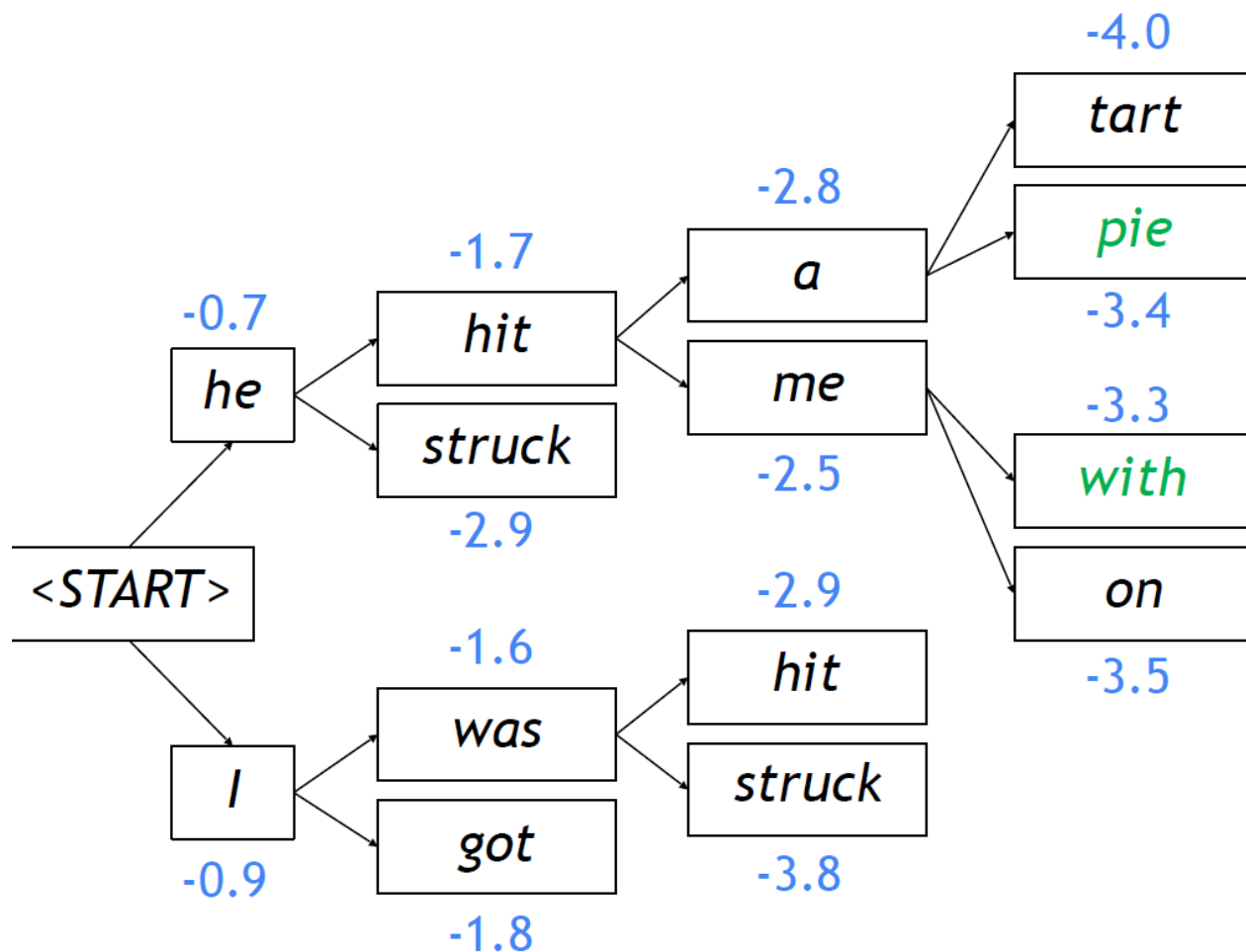
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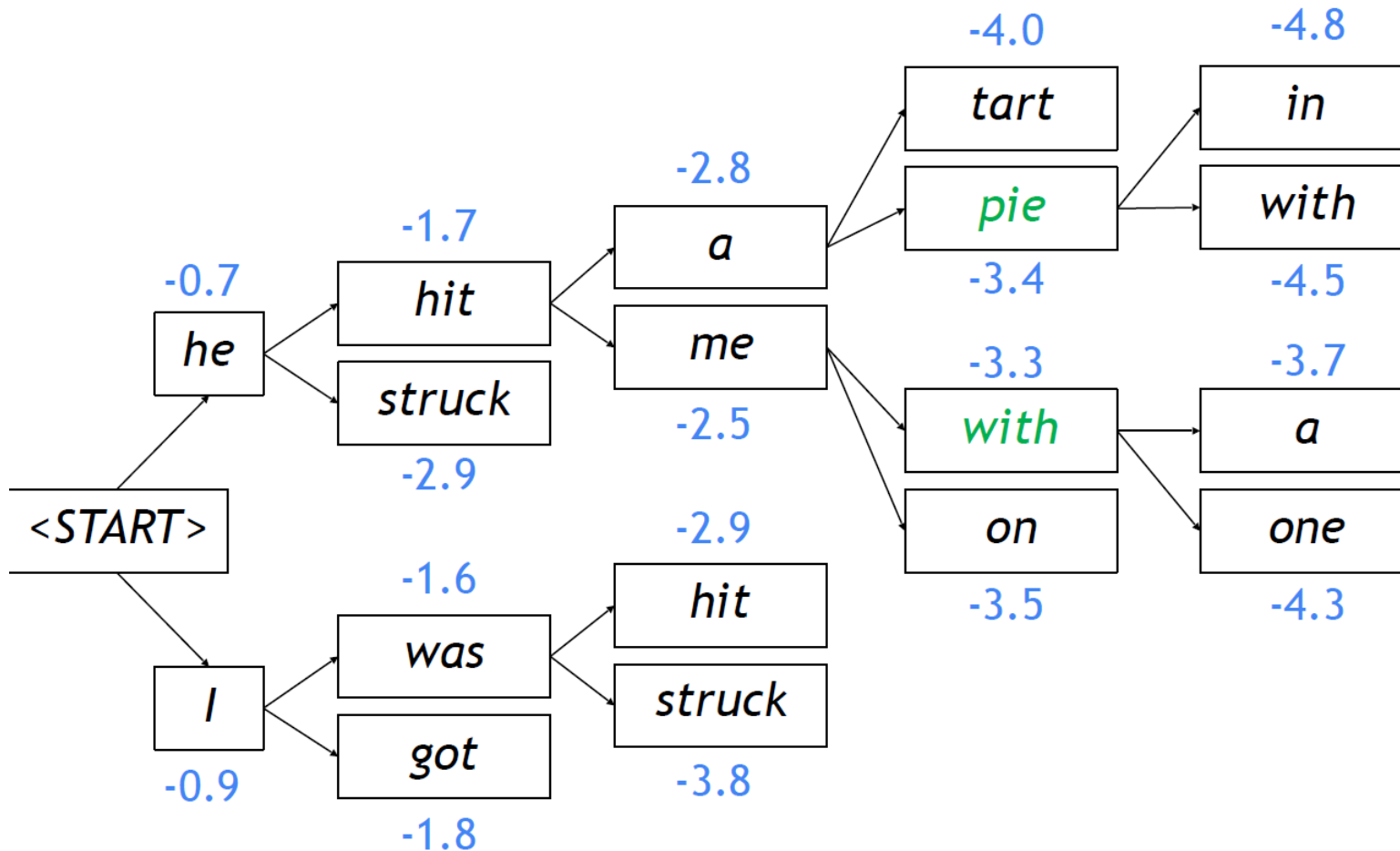
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Beam search decoding: example

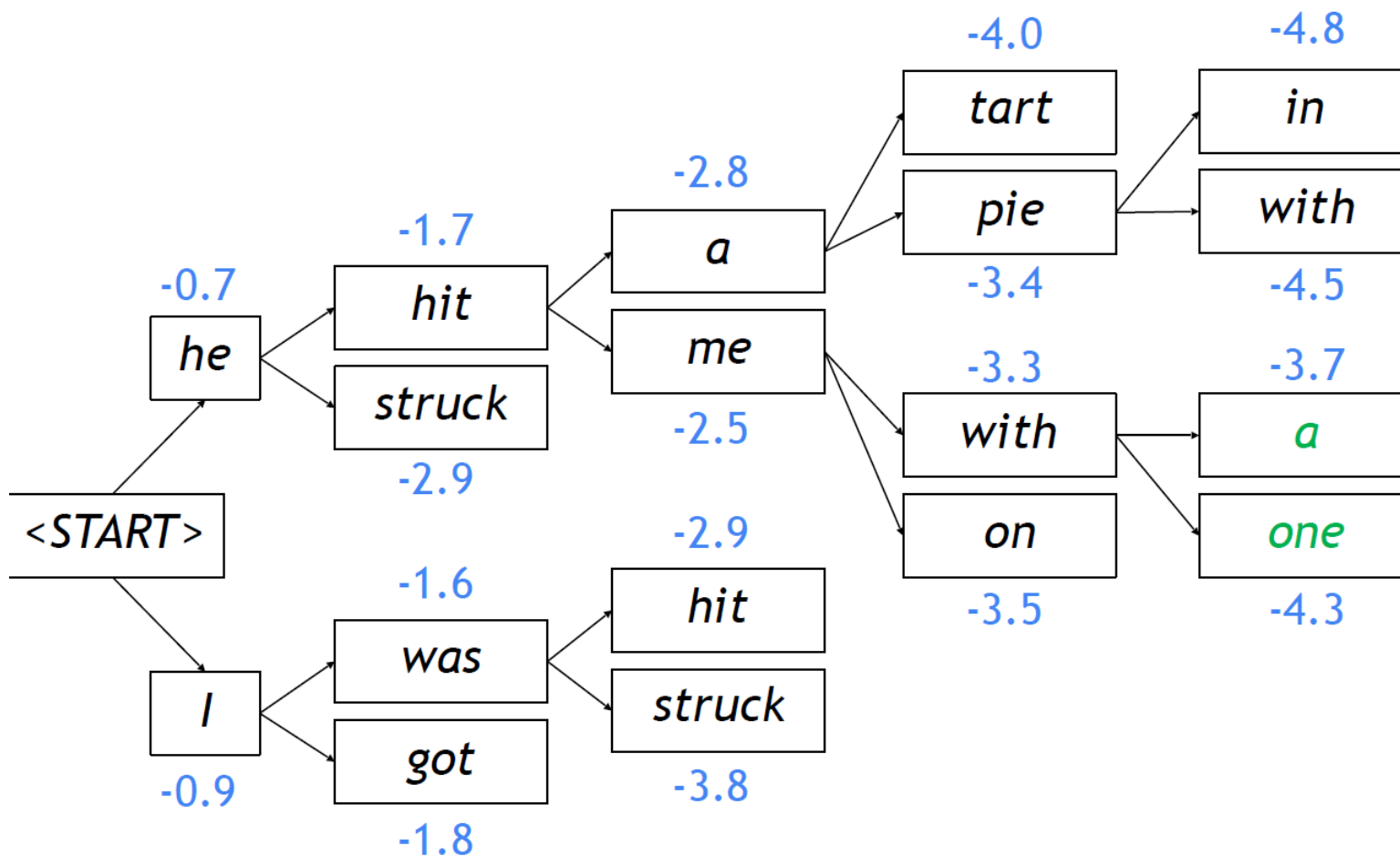
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For each of the k hypotheses, find top k next words and calculate scores

Beam search decoding: example

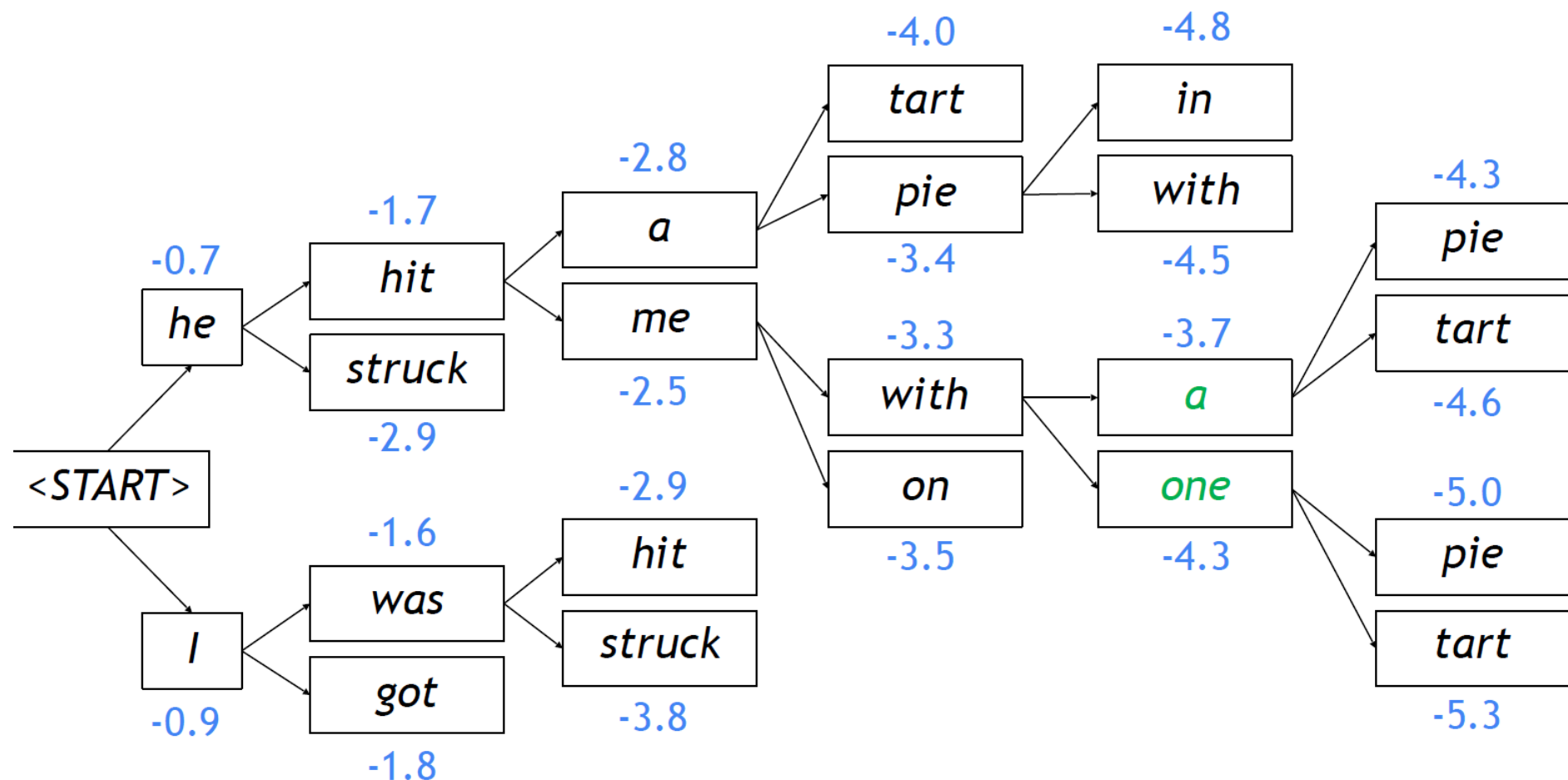
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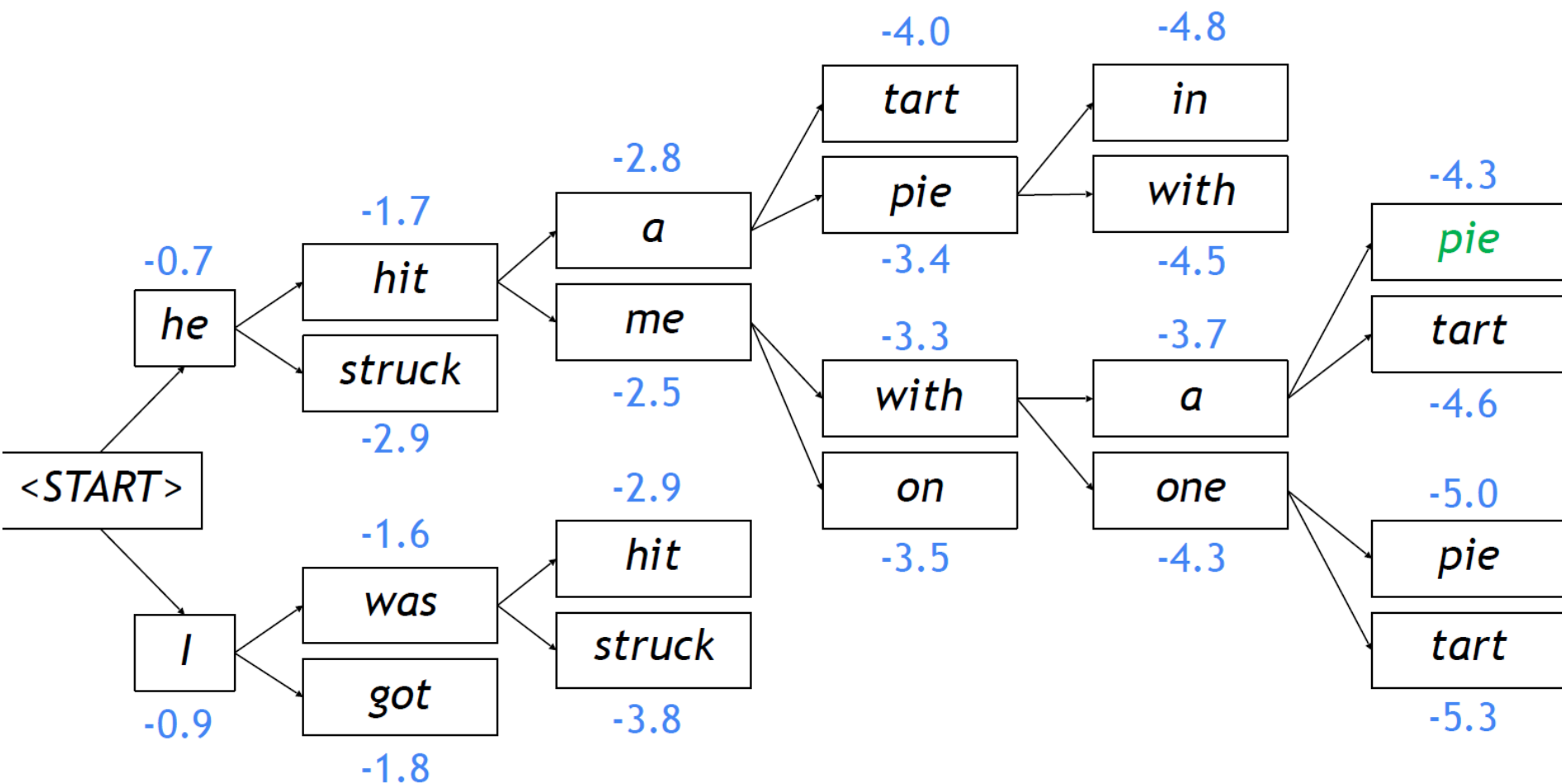
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For each of the k hypotheses, find top k next words and calculate scores

Beam search decoding: example

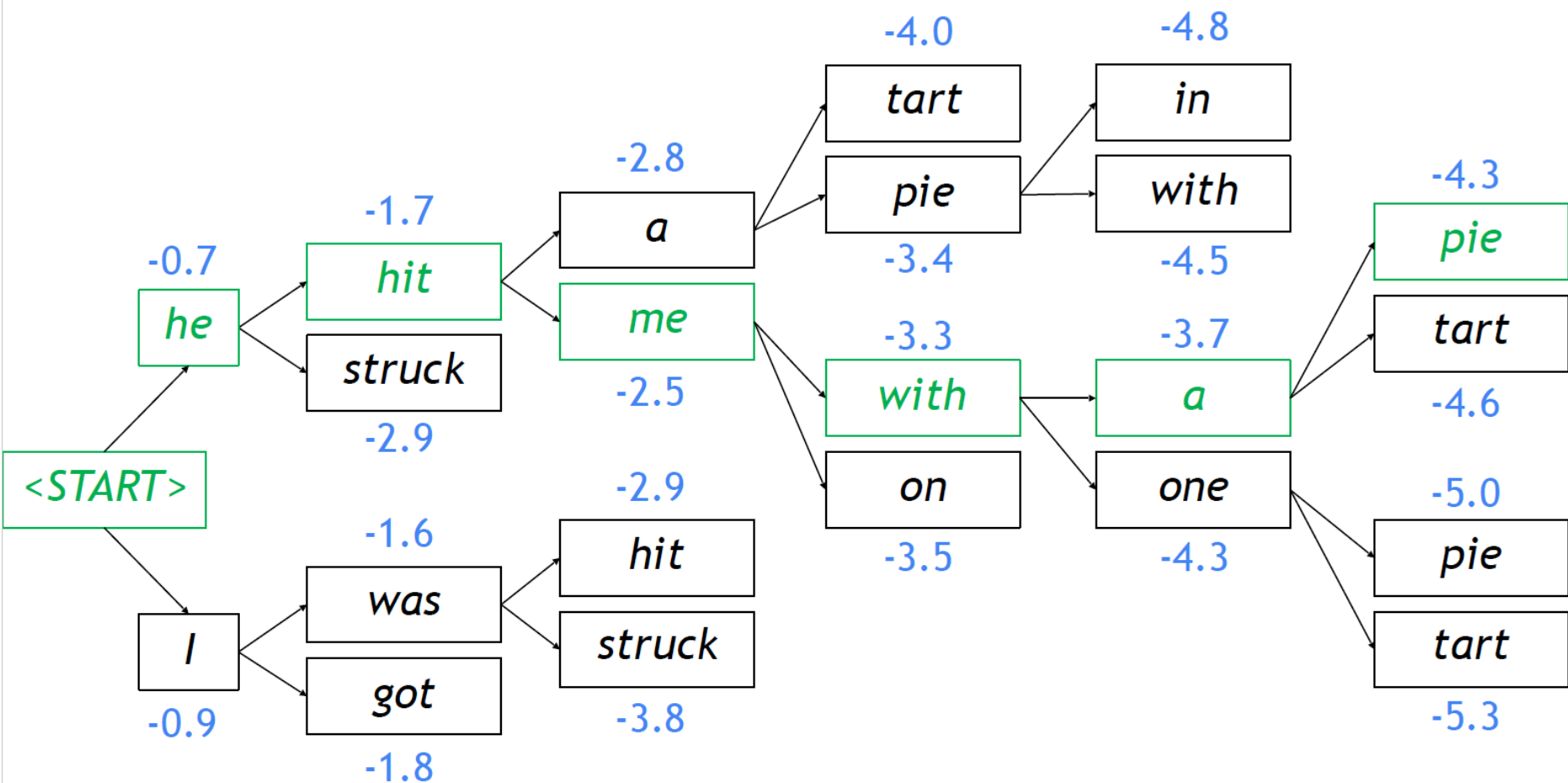
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This is the top-scoring hypothesis!

Beam search decoding: example

Beam size = $k = 2$. Blue numbers = $\text{score}(y_1, \dots, y_t) = \sum_{i=1}^t \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_i | y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x)$



Backtrack to obtain the full hypothesis

Beam search decoding: stopping criterion

- In greedy decoding, usually we decode until the model produces a `<END>` token
 - For example: `<START> he hit me with a pie <END>`
- In beam search decoding, different hypotheses may produce `<END>` tokens on different time steps
 - When a hypothesis produces `<END>`, that hypothesis is complete.
 - Place it aside and continue exploring other hypotheses via beam search.
- Usually we continue beam search until:
 - We reach time step T (where T is some pre-defined cutoff), or
 - We have at least n completed hypotheses (where n is pre-defined cutoff)

Beam search decoding: finishing up

- We have our list of completed hypotheses.
- How to select top one with highest score?
- Each hypothesis $y_1, \dots, y_t$ on our list has a score

$$\text{score}(y_1, \dots, y_t) = \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_1, \dots, y_t | x) = \sum_{i=1}^t \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_i | y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x)$$

- Problem with this: longer hypotheses have lower scores
- Fix: normalize by length. Use this to select top one instead:

$$\frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^t \log P_{\text{LM}}(y_i | y_1, \dots, y_{i-1}, x)$$

What's the effect of changing beam size k ?

- Small k has similar problems to greedy decoding ($k=1$)
 - Ungrammatical, unnatural, nonsensical, incorrect
- Larger k means you consider more hypotheses
 - Increasing k reduces some of the problems above
 - Larger k is more computationally expensive
 - But increasing k can introduce other problems:
 - For NMT, increasing k too much decreases BLEU score (Tu et al, Koehn et al). This is primarily because large- k beam search produces too short translations (even with score normalization!)
 - It can even produce empty translations (Stahlberg & Byrne 2019)
 - In open-ended tasks like chit-chat dialogue, large k can make output more generic

Effect of beam size in chit-chat dialogue

I mostly eat a fresh and raw diet, so I save on groceries



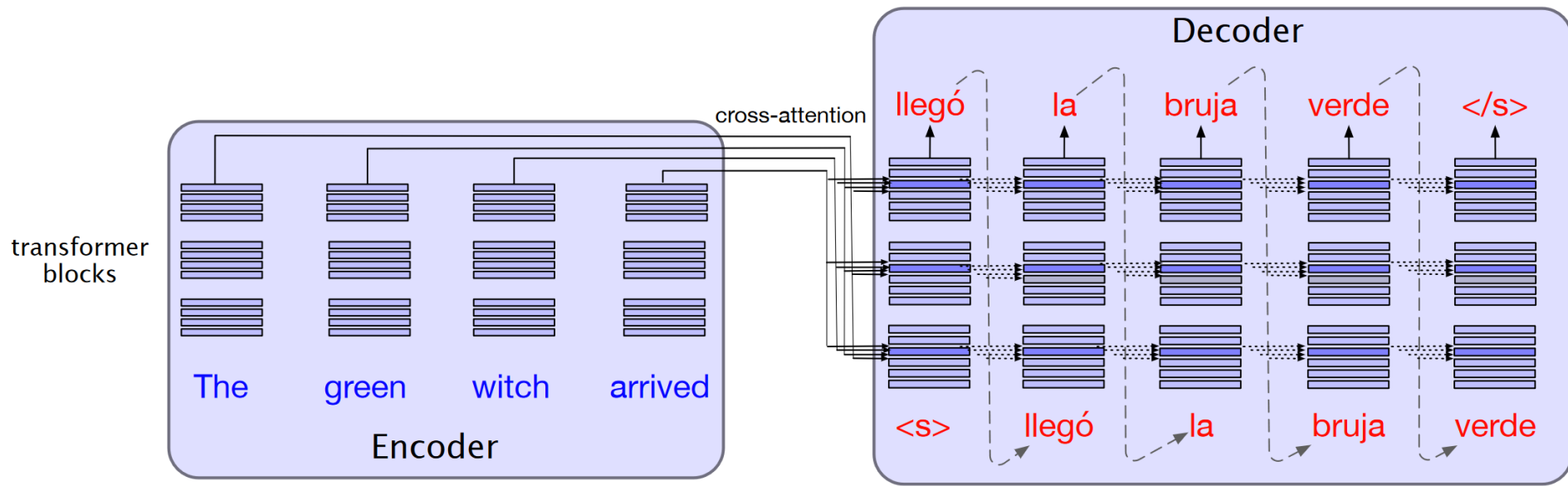
Human
chit-chat
partner

Beam size	Model response
1	<i>I love to eat healthy and eat healthy</i>
2	<i>That is a good thing to have</i>
3	<i>I am a nurse so I do not eat raw food</i>
4	<i>I am a nurse so I am a nurse</i>
5	<i>Do you have any hobbies?</i>
6	<i>What do you do for a living?</i>
7	<i>What do you do for a living?</i>
8	<i>What do you do for a living?</i>

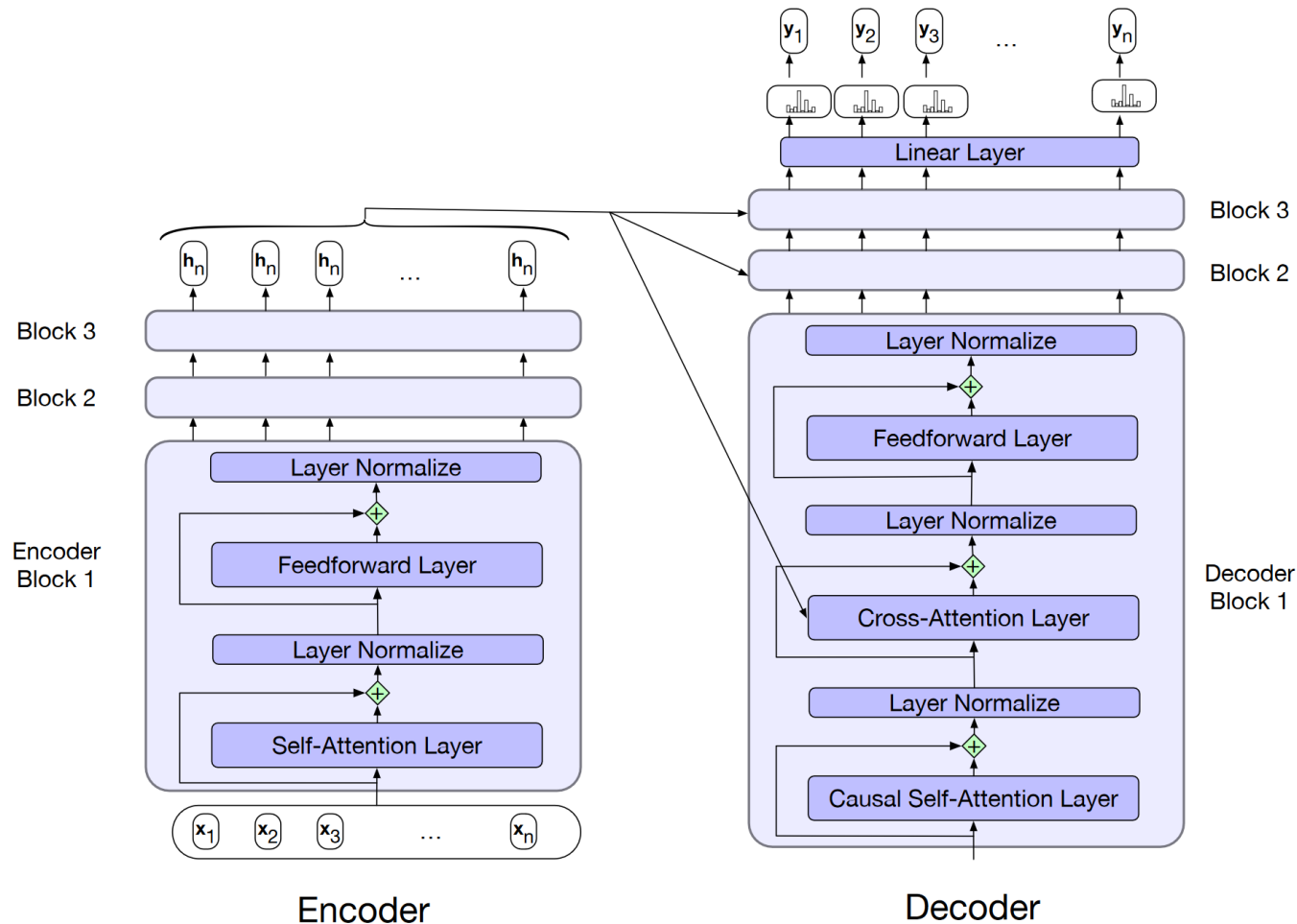
Low beam size:
More on-topic but
nonsensical;
bad English

High beam size:
Converges to safe,
“correct” response,
but it’s generic and
less relevant

Transformer is encoder-decoder



Attention in transformer



The final output of the encoder $H_{\text{enc}} = h_1, \dots, h_T$ is the context used in the decoder. The decoder is a standard transformer except for the cross-attention layer, which takes the decoder output H_{enc} and uses it to form its K and V inputs.

Advantages of NMT

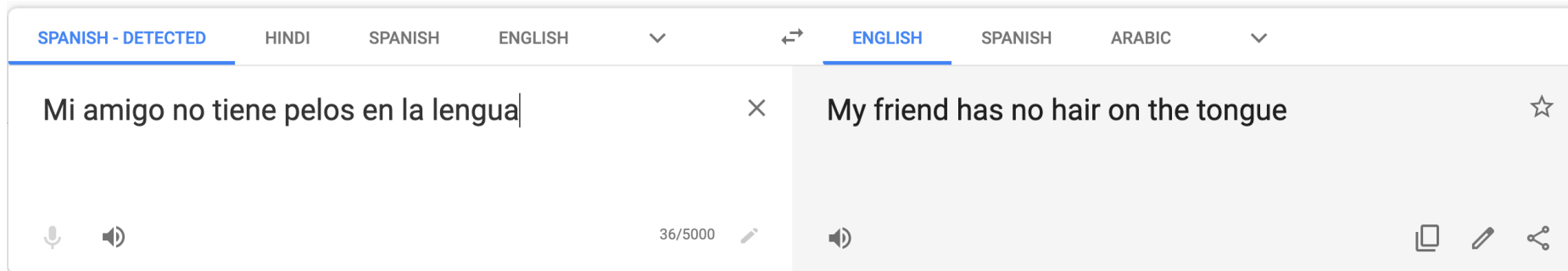
- Compared to SMT, NMT has many advantages:
 - Better performance
 - More fluent
 - Better use of context
 - Better use of phrase similarities
- A single neural network to be optimized end-to-end
 - No subcomponents to be individually optimized
- Requires much less human engineering effort
 - No feature engineering
 - Same method for all language pairs

Disadvantages of NMT?

- Compared to SMT:
- NMT is less interpretable
 - Hard to debug
- NMT is difficult to control
 - For example, can't easily specify rules or guidelines for translation
 - Safety concerns!

So is Machine Translation solved?

- Many difficulties remain:
- Out-of-vocabulary words
- Domain mismatch between train and test data
- Maintaining context over longer text
- Low-resource language pairs
- Using common sense is still hard
- Idioms are difficult to translate



So is Machine Translation solved?

- NMT picks up biases in training data

Malay - detected ▾  

Dia bekerja sebagai jururawat.
Dia bekerja sebagai pengaturcara. Edit

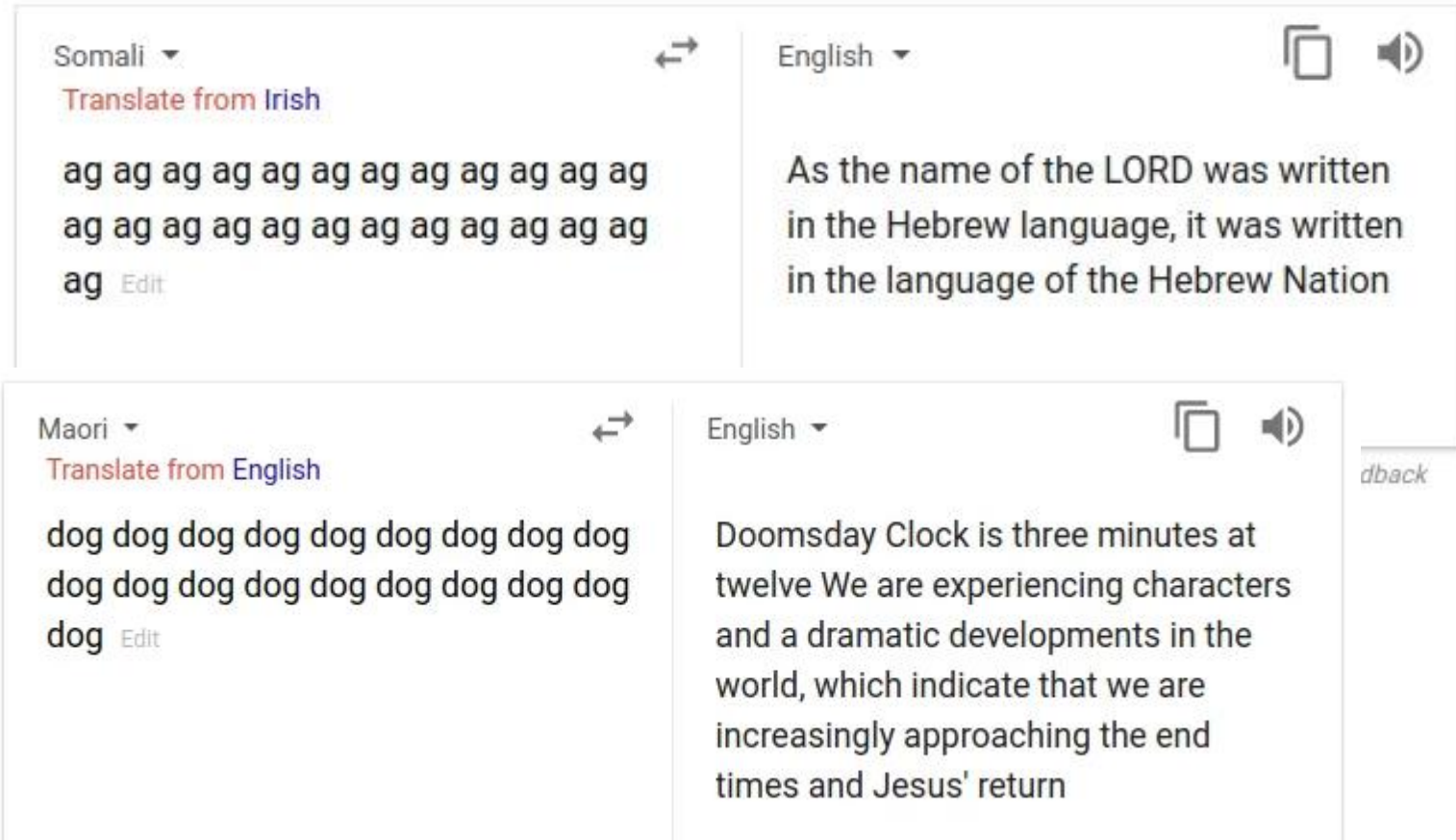
English ▾  

She works as a nurse.
He works as a programmer.

Didn't specify gender

So is Machine Translation solved?

- Uninterpretable systems do strange things



Picture source: https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/j5npeg/why-is-google-translate-spitting-out-sinister-religious-prophecies

Explanation: <https://www.skynettoday.com/briefs/google-nmt-prophecies>

Evaluating MT: Using human evaluators

- **Fluency**: How intelligible, clear, readable, or natural in the target language is the translation?
- **Fidelity**: Does the translation have the same meaning as the source?
 - **Adequacy**: Does the translation convey the same information as source?
 - Bilingual judges given source and target language, assign a score
 - Monolingual judges given reference translation and MT result.
 - **Informativeness**: Does the translation convey enough information as the source to perform a task?
 - What % of questions can monolingual judges answer correctly about the source sentence given only the translation.

Automatic Evaluation of MT

George A. Miller and J. G. Beebe-Center. 1958. Some Psychological Methods for Evaluating the Quality of Translations. Mechanical Translation 3:73-80.

- Human evaluation is expensive and very slow
 - Need an evaluation metric that takes seconds, not months
 - Intuition: MT is good if it looks like a human translation
1. Collect one or more human *reference translations* of the source.
 2. Score MT output based on its similarity to the reference translations.
 - BLEU
 - NIST
 - TER
 - METEOR

Human evaluation

INPUT: Ich bin müde.

(INPUT: Je suis fatigué.)

	Fidelity	Fluency
Tired is I.	5	2
Cookies taste good!	1	5
I am tired.	5	5

WER measure

- **Word Error Rate (WER)**: Levenhstein distance to the reference translation (insert, delete, substitute)
- good for fluency
- not so well for fidelity
- inflexible
- Hypothesis 1 = „he saw a man and a woman“
Reference = „he saw a woman and a man“
WER does not take into account „woman“ or „man“ !

PER measure

- Position-Independent Word Error Rate (PER)
- **PER**: matching on the level of unigrams
- not good for fluency
- too flexible for fidelity

Hypothesis 1 = „he saw a man“

Hypothesis 2 = „a man saw he“

Reference = „he saw a man“

Both hypotheses have the same value of PER!

BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy)

Kishore Papineni, Salim Roukos, Todd Ward and Wei-Jing Zhu. 2002. BLEU: A method for automatic evaluation of machine translation. Proceedings of ACL 2002.

- “n-gram precision”
- Ratio of **correct** n-grams to the **total** number of output n-grams
 - **Correct**: Number of *n*-grams (unigram, bigram, etc.) the MT output shares with the reference translations.
 - **Total**: Number of *n*-grams in the MT result.
- The higher the precision, the better the translation
- Recall is ignored

Multiple Reference Translations

Slide from Bonnie Dorr

Reference translation 1:

The U.S. island of Guam is maintaining a high state of alert after the Guam airport and its offices both received an e-mail from someone calling himself the Saudi Arabian Osama bin Laden and threatening a biological/chemical attack against public places such as the airport.

Reference translation 2:

Guam International Airport and its offices are maintaining a high state of alert after receiving an e-mail that was from a person claiming to be the wealthy Saudi Arabian businessman Bin Laden and that threatened to launch a biological and chemical attack on the airport and other public places .

Machine translation:

The American [?] international airport and its the office all receives one calls self the sand Arab rich business [?] and so on electronic mail , which sends out ; The threat will be able after public place and so on the airport to start the biochemistry attack , [?] highly alerts after the maintenance.

Reference translation 3:

The US International Airport of Guam and its office has received an email from a self-claimed Arabian millionaire named Laden , which threatens to launch a biochemical attack on such public places as airport . Guam authority has been on alert .

Reference translation 4:

US Guam International Airport and its office received an email from Mr. Bin Laden and other rich businessman from Saudi Arabia . They said there would be biochemistry air raid to Guam Airport and other public places . Guam needs to be in high precaution about this matter .

Computing BLEU: Unigram precision

Slides from Ray Mooney

Cand 1: Mary no slap the witch green

Cand 2: Mary did not give a smack to a green witch.

Ref 1: Mary did not slap the green witch.

Ref 2: Mary did not smack the green witch.

Ref 3: Mary did not hit a green sorceress.

Candidate 1 Unigram Precision: 5/6

Computing BLEU: Bigram Precision

Cand 1: Mary no slap the witch green.

Cand 2: Mary did not give a smack to a green witch.

Ref 1: Mary did not slap the green witch.

Ref 2: Mary did not smack the green witch.

Ref 3: Mary did not hit a green sorceress.

Candidate 1 Bigram Precision: 1/5

Computing BLEU: Unigram Precision

Cand 1: Mary no slap the witch green.

Cand 2: Mary did not give a smack to a green witch.

Ref 1: Mary did not slap the green witch.

Ref 2: Mary did not smack the green witch.

Ref 3: Mary did not hit a green sorceress.

Clip the count of each n -gram
to the maximum count of the n -gram in any single reference

Candidate 2 Unigram Precision: 7/10

Computing BLEU: Bigram Precision

Cand 1: Mary no slap the witch green.

Cand 2: Mary did not give a smack to a green witch.

Ref 1: Mary did not slap the green witch.

Ref 2: Mary did not smack the green witch.

Ref 3: Mary did not hit a green sorceress.

Candidate 2 Bigram Precision: 4/9

Brevity Penalty

- BLEU is precision-based: no penalty for dropping words
- Instead, we use a **brevity penalty** for translations that are shorter than the reference translations.

$$\text{brevity-penalty} = \min_{\hat{c}} \left(1, \frac{\text{output-length}}{\text{reference-length}} \right)^{\frac{\hat{c}}{\bar{c}}}$$

Computing BLEU

- Precision₁, precision₂, etc., are computed over all candidate sentences C in the test set

$$\text{precision}_n = \frac{\sum_{C \in \text{corpus}} \text{count-in-reference}_{\text{clip}}(n\text{-gram})}{\sum_{C \in \text{corpus}} \text{count}(n\text{-gram})}$$

$$\text{BLEU-4} = \min_c \left(\frac{\text{output-length}}{\text{reference-length}} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \prod_{i=1}^4 \text{precision}_i$$

BLEU-2:

Candidate 1: Mary no slap the witch green.

Best Reference: Mary did not slap the green witch.

$$\frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{5} = .14$$

Candidate 2: Mary did not give a smack to a green witch.

Best Reference: Mary did not smack the green witch.

$$\frac{7}{10} \cdot \frac{4}{9} = .31$$

Properties of BLEU

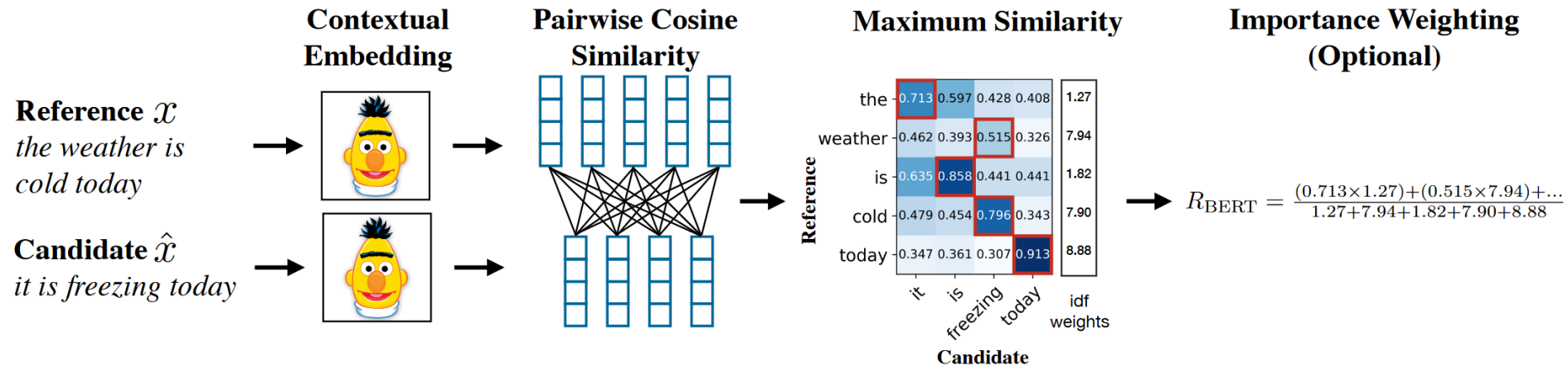
- BLEU works well in comparing similar MT systems , e.g., competing variants or using different parameters
- not so good in comparison of different systems
- no good measure exists on the level of sentence
- no good measure exists of an absolute translation quality

BERTScore

- for the reference x and the candidate $\tilde{x}$, compute a BERT embedding for each token x_i and $\tilde{x}_j$.
- For each pair of tokens, compute their cosine similarity. Each token in x is matched to a token in $\tilde{x}$ to compute recall, and each token in $\tilde{x}$ is matched to a token in x to compute precision (with each token greedily matched to the most similar token in the corresponding sentence).
- BERTSCORE provides precision, recall, and F_1

$$R_{\text{BERT}} = \frac{1}{|x|} \sum_{x_i \in x} \max_{\tilde{x}_j \in \tilde{x}} x_i \cdot \tilde{x}_j \quad P_{\text{BERT}} = \frac{1}{|\tilde{x}|} \sum_{\tilde{x}_j \in \tilde{x}} \max_{x_i \in x} x_i \cdot \tilde{x}_j$$

BERTScore illustration



Improvements in MT

- large corpora
- adaptations to specific domains, e.g., IT, pharmacy, automotive industry
- terminological dictionaries, terminology lists, translation memories
- large generative language models adapted for MT

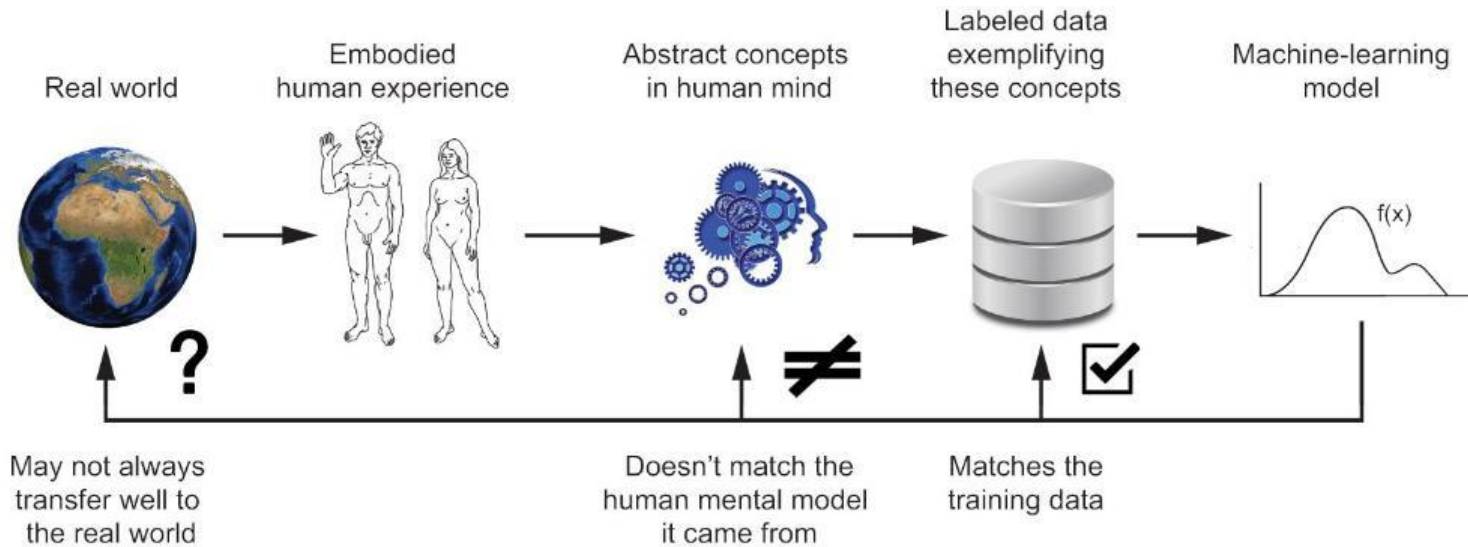
LLMs as translators

- LLMs are trained on considerable larger corpora from many more areas compared to specialized MT models
- it is sensible to adapt them to MT
- our experiments show that GaMS 9B is the most successful translator for English-Slovene pair
- we expect even better performance with better training set and longer contexts

Are translators an endangered profession?

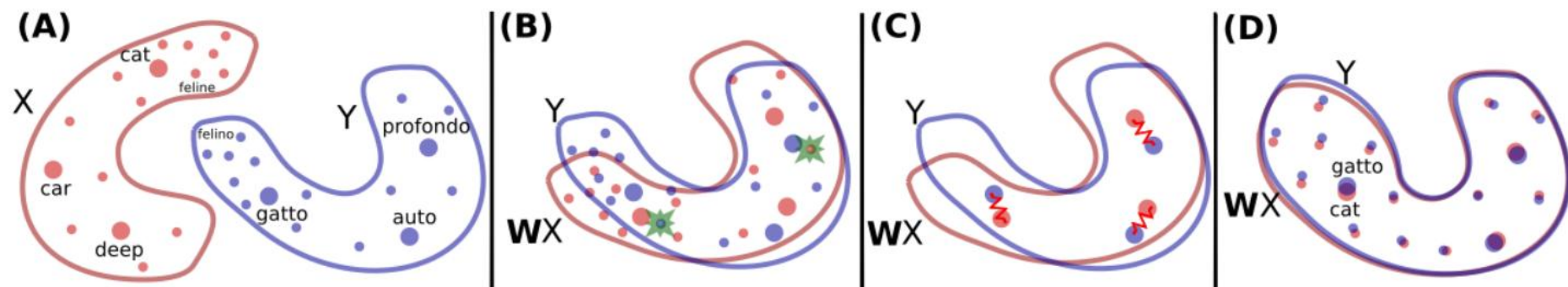
- Will translators soon be just quality controllers of MT systems and only fix minor details?
- Douglas Hofstadter: [The Shallowness of Google Translate](#). The Atlantic, Jan 30, 2018
- Conclusion: Translation requires understanding the text, not only syntactic manipulation.
- But: many different purposes of translation, using modern tools.

Understanding ML models is difficult



Unsupervised translation from word embeddings

- alignment of two languages for low-resource languages



- Alexis Conneau, Guillaume Lample, Marc'Aurelio Ranzato, Ludovic Denoyer, Hervé Jégou (2017): Word Translation Without Parallel Data. arXiv:1710.04087

NMT in Slovene

- RSDO project
- English-Slovene and Slovene-English
- Demo at <https://www.slovenscina.eu/prevajalnik>
- following the NVIDIA NeMo NMT AAYN recipe
- the training corpus Parallel corpus EN-SL RSDO4 1.0
(<https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1457>)
- training 32.638.758 translation pairs
- validation: 8.163 translation pairs.
- BLEU score: 48.3191 Slovene to English
- BLEU score: 53.8191 English to Slovene