

UCT AI SOCIETY

# INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE MODELLING: N- GRAM MODELS

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# TODAY'S STRUCTURE

▶ **WHAT IS LANGUAGE  
MODELLING**

N-Gram language models:  
theory and assumptions.

▶ **CODE-WITH-ME**

Let's build.

▶ **FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT**

What have we not  
considered?

WHAT IS A LANGUAGE  
MODEL?



IN THE MORNING, I  
DRINK SOME



FOR FUN, I \_\_\_\_\_



BUT! HOW DO WE  
TRANSFER THIS INTO  
SOME CONCRETE,  
MATHEMATICAL  
NOTION?



# PROBABILITY ESTIMATION

*P(the|its water is so transparent that)*

$$P(\text{the}|\text{its water is so transparent that}) = \frac{C(\text{its water is so transparent that the})}{C(\text{its water is so transparent that})}$$



# BREAKING IT DOWN WITH PROBABILITY THEORY

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)} = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}, \quad P(A) > 0 \qquad P(w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4, \dots, w_n) = P(w_{1:n})$$

$$P(w_{1:n}) = P(w_1)P(w_{2:n}|w_1)$$

$$P(w_{1:n}) = P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_{3:n}|w_1, w_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(w_{1:n}) &= P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_{1:2}) \dots P(w_n|w_{1:n-1}) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^n P(w_k|w_{1:k-1}) \end{aligned}$$





# MARKOVIAN ASSUMPTIONS

GLOBAL MODEL

$$P(w_{1:n}) = P(w_1)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_{1:2}) \dots P(w_n|w_{1:n-1})$$
$$= \prod_{k=1}^n P(w_k|w_{1:k-1})$$

FIX A HISTORY

$$P(w_n|w_{1:n-1}) \approx P(w_n|w_{n-N+1:n-1})$$

## BI-GRAM MODEL

$$P(w_n|w_{1:n-1}) \approx P(w_n|w_{n-1}) \quad P(w_{1:n}) \approx \prod_{k=1}^n P(w_k|w_{k-1})$$

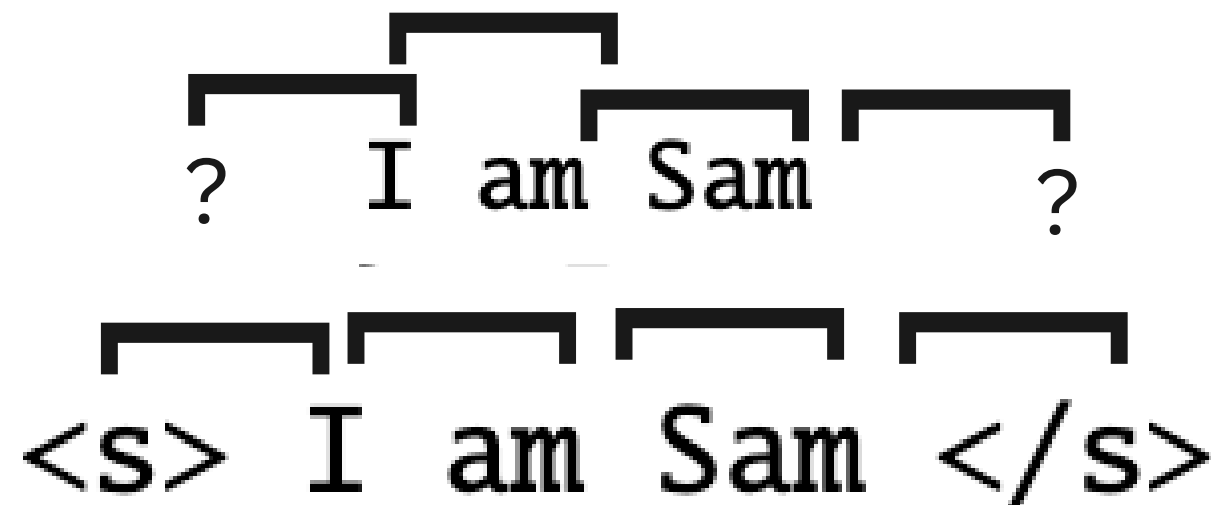


# MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION

$$P(w_n | w_{n-1}) = \frac{C(w_{n-1}w_n)}{C(w_{n-1})}$$

$$P(w_n | w_{n-1}) = \frac{C(w_{n-1}w_n)}{\sum_w C(w_{n-1}w)}$$

PADDING!



# WORKED EXAMPLE [1]

	<b>i</b>	<b>want</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>eat</b>	<b>chinese</b>	<b>food</b>	<b>lunch</b>	<b>spend</b>
<b>i</b>	0.002	0.33	0	0.0036	0	0	0	0.00079
<b>want</b>	0.0022	0	0.66	0.0011	0.0065	0.0065	0.0054	0.0011
<b>to</b>	0.00083	0	0.0017	0.28	0.00083	0	0.0025	0.087
<b>eat</b>	0	0	0.0027	0	0.021	0.0027	0.056	0
<b>chinese</b>	0.0063	0	0	0	0	0.52	0.0063	0
<b>food</b>	0.014	0	0.014	0	0.00092	0.0037	0	0
<b>lunch</b>	0.0059	0	0	0	0	0.0029	0	0
<b>spend</b>	0.0036	0	0.0036	0	0	0	0	0

**Figure 3.2** Bigram probabilities for eight words in the Berkeley Restaurant Project corpus of 9332 sentences. Zero probabilities are in gray.

Here are a few other useful probabilities:

$$P(i | \langle s \rangle) = 0.25 \qquad P(\text{english} | \text{want}) = 0.0011$$

$$P(\text{food} | \text{english}) = 0.5 \qquad P(\langle /s \rangle | \text{food}) = 0.68$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\langle s \rangle \text{ i want english food } \langle /s \rangle) \\ &= P(i | \langle s \rangle) P(\text{want} | i) P(\text{english} | \text{want}) \\ &\qquad P(\text{food} | \text{english}) P(\langle /s \rangle | \text{food}) \\ &= .25 \times .33 \times .0011 \times 0.5 \times 0.68 \\ &= .000031 \end{aligned}$$

**LET'S DO SOME  
CODING!**



▶ OOV WORDS?

$$P(w_{1:4}) = P(w_1 | \langle s \rangle)P(w_2|w_1)P(w_3|w_2)P(w_4|w_3)P(\langle /s \rangle |w_4)$$

$$P(w_{1:4}) = a * b * c * 0 * e = 0$$

▶ NUMERICAL  
STABILITY

$$\log P(w_{1:2}) = \log P(w_1 | \langle s \rangle) + \log P(w_2|w_1) + \log P(\langle /s \rangle |w_2)$$

OTHER THINGS  
TO CONSIDER?

# REFERENCES

- [1] Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft) – Dan Jurafsky and James H. Martin  
<https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>