Language and Cognition

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source: http://www.mimicmethod.com/flow-101-day-1.html

Biological Origins of Mind and Language

Motor origins of the mind

Rodolfo Llinas *I of the Vortex,* 2002



Motricity -> Nervous system



Tunicates (sea squirts) : notochord + ganglion: stage before evolution of vertebrates

[Delsuc et al 06]

Motricity -> Nervous system



Tunicates (sea squirts) : sessile adults



adult - immobile (sessile) larval form - briefly free swimming larva has 300 cell ganglion + notochord

(digested after it finds and attaches to a site)

http://finstofeet.com/2010/03/14/1-2-behold-the-tunicates/

Nervous system: Evolved for planning motions

planning ← prediction

Predicting -> Planning



panther chameleon tongue

The capacity to predict the outcome of future events—critical to successful movement— is, most likely, the ultimate and most common of all global brain functions.

- Rodolfo Llinas

Motor knowledge \rightarrow Mindness

predictive / intentional interactions

- requires internal image of world
- requires models for consequence of actions

organized motricity: cephalization



sensory-motor areas in macaque and human cortex

The Complexity of Language:

Unifying multiple sensory + motor modalities

Meaning : Unifying Modalities

Mirror Neurons





[Rizzolatti G and Fabbri-Destro M 08]

Reading in the brain



[dehaene-cohen-05_neural-code-for-written-words-proposal]

Visual Recognition: IT Cortex



Quian Quiroga, Reddy, Kreiman, Koch and Fried, Nature (2005)

What is *s*?



Higher Neurons



Grammar and Cognition: A history

Empiricism vs Rationalism - Pendulum

pAniNi, aristotle – empiricist

plato – mystical / rationalist

port royal grammarians 17th c. – "mental" aspects – language is universal

wundt / james – introspective – [ebbinghaus]

behaviourism – empiricist – rejected mentalism

chomsky – rationalist – "mental" – innate - universal

Behaviourism

In teaching the young child to talk, the formal specifications upon which reinforcement is contingent are at first greatly relaxed. Any response which vaguely resembles the standard behavior is reinforced. When these begin to appear more frequently, a closer approximation is insisted upon. In this manner, very complex verbal forms may be reached.

BF Skinner, Verbal Behaviour 1956, (p.29–30)

Chomsky

Mostly, sentences have never been seen before (e.g. "Colourless green ideas sleep furiously") Hence cannot have been learned via reinforcement

Also – grammar requires long distance dependencies

Also probabilities are not possible since various word combinations may not have been seen before.

Language - amodal? Multimodal?

Please read the title and look at the picture

Try to remember both

Chapter 6

Eye-glass



Chapter 6

Dumb-bell



Chapter 6

Perception and Language affect each other

Structure in Language

Structure in language : Word



Structure in language : Syllable

पांच फिरंगी अफ स रों को फांसी पर लट का दिया

Which syllables follow which others?

Word? haiku 古池や蛙飛こむ水のおと



古池や蛙飛こむ水のおと Matsuo Basho, (1644-94)

Furuike ya kawazu tobikomu mizu no oto

> ancient pond frog jumps in sound of water

古old 池 pond や -prtcl, "a" 蛙 frog 飛こむ jump-3p-trml 水 water の -gen おと sound

Word?



Du Fu 712-770

旅夜書懷 – Du Fu

旅夜書懷

Thoughts While Travelling at Night

Light breeze on the fine grass. I stand alone at the mast. Stars lean on the vast wild plain. Moon bobs in the Great River's spate. Letters have brought no fame. Office? Too old to obtain. Drifting, what am I like? A gull between earth and sky. [tr. Vikram Seth]

Word? Thai Khlong

Stanza from Lilit Phra Lo (ลิลิตพระลอ) :

เสียงฦๅเสียงเล่าอ้าง อันใด พี่เอย เสียงย่อมยอยศใคร ทั้วหล้า สองเขือพี่หลับใหล ลืมตื่น ฤๅพี่ สองพี่คิดเองอ้า อย่าได้ถามเผือ

> What tales, what rumours, you ask? Of whom is this praise being broadcast? Were you two sleeping, have you forgotten waking up? Figure it out yourselves; don't ask me.

Shannon Entropy

- Predict the next word/ letter / syllable, given (*n-1*) previous letters or words
- Surprisal on hearing "x" : $-\log P(x)$
- Entropy : Expectation of surprise

$$H(X) = -\sum_{i} P(x_i) \log_b P(x_i)$$

Claude E. Shannon. "Prediction and Entropy of Printed English", 1951.
Shannon Entropy : Human

• Ask human to guess the next letter:

THE ROOM WAS NOT VERY LIGHT A SMALL OBLONG

POLISHED WOOD BUT LESS ON THE SHABBY RED CARPET P-L-S-----BU--L-S-O----SH-----RE---C-----

• 69% guessed on 1st attempt ["-" = 1st attempt]

Claude E. Shannon. "Prediction and Entropy of Printed English", *Bell System Technical Journal* 30:50-64. 1951.

The Shannon Generation Method

- Choose a random bigram

 (<s>, w) according to its
 probability
- Now choose a random bigram (w, x) according to its probability
- And so on until we choose </s>
- Then string the words together

```
<s> I
I want
want to
to eat
eat Chinese
Chinese food
</s>
I want to eat Chinese food
```

Shannon generation: English

- Word Model: Second-Order (bigram)
- THE HEAD AND IN FRONTAL ATTACK ON AN ENGLISH WRITER THAT THE CHARACTER OF THIS POINT IS THEREFORE ANOTHER METHOD FOR THE LETTERS THAT THE TIME OF WHO EVER TOLD THE PROBLEM FOR AN UNEXPECTED T

The Corpus matters

□ What corpus was used to generate these:

Bigram

What means, sir. I confess she? then all sorts, he is trim, captain.

Why dost stand forth thy canopy, forsooth; he is this palpable hit the King Henry. Live king. Follow. What we, hath got so she that I rest and sent to scold and nature bankrupt, nor the first gentleman?

Trigram

Sweet prince, Falstaff shall die. Harry of Monmouth's grave.

This shall forbid it should be branded, if renown made it empty.

Indeed the duke; and had a very good friend.

Fly, and will rid me these news of price. Therefore the sadness of parting, as they say, 'tis done.

Quadrigram

King Henry.What! I will go seek the traitor Gloucester. Exeunt some of the watch. A great banquet serv'd in; Will you not tell me who I am?

It cannot be but so.

Indeed the short and the long. Marry, 'tis a noble Lepidus.

Surprisal in Syntax

The horse raced past the barn fell

The prime number few

Milne (1982)

Bever

(1970)

gardenpath sentences

Formal Models

Formal Semantics

- Declarative Sentences: Assign Truth Values
- Non-Declarative: inferential connections
- Interpretation function: Semantics of Words > composition → semantics for complex expressions
 - Model-Theoretic: Map phrases / words \rightarrow model
 - [Montague PTQ]
 - Truth-Theoretic: Conditions under which sentence is true. [Tarski, Davidson]

Model Theory

- Montague grammar :
 - Handles FRAGMENT of language
 - Syntax define expression structure
 - Translation into logical structure
 - Model-Theory : meanings as sets / individuals (PN) → Denotata
- Modern versions of Montague grammar avoid "translation"

Syntactic Analysis



Phrase structure rules

S \rightarrow NP VP NP \rightarrow N VP \rightarrow V NP NP \rightarrow det N

Lexicon N → german[s], boy[s], girl[s], beer V → like, drink

Missing Elements?



[haegeman wekker 03] modern course in english syntax

Missing Elements : Ellipsis



[haegeman wekker 03] modern course in english syntax

Bare argument ellipsis (BAE)

A: I hear Harriet's been drinking again.B: Yeah, scotch, probably

Generative Grammar analysis (ellipsis): B: Yeah, [Harriet has been drinking] scotch probably [_{ADVP} Yeah] [_{NP} e] [_{VP} e scotch]] [_{ADVP} probably]

Culicover / Jackendoff 02: Accept fragment as is use semantics / pragmatics to judge grammaticality



Language and Meaning

Montague Translation [1973]

Lexicon:student, N: $\lambda u.stud(u)$ sleep, V: $\lambda x.sl(x)$ a, DET: $\lambda P.\lambda Q.\exists x_i.(P(x_i) \land Q(x_i))$

Montagovian Translation [1973]



Cognitive Grammar (Langacker)



The role of Context

- Charles Morris and Rudolf Carnap: 3-fold division of the theory of language:
 - syntax : relations between expressions
 - semantics: relations between expressions and what they stand for
 - pragmatics: relations between expressions and those who use it
- [Peregrin 98]
 - Internal Challenge (deictic demonstrative/ anaphora)
 - External Challenge (function rather than designation)

Symbol = Form-Meaning pair

• Symbols = (form) label + meanings.



- Semantics : not static: evolves with language use
- *image schema* : map in perceptual space
- Linguistic label acts as index to concept
- Earliest image schemas = pattern on sensory data (chunk) ⁵⁴

Grounded Language

• grounded lexicon:

relation between sounds and sensorimotor patterns

• grounded syntax:

mapping from syntactic patterns to objects, relations or events in perceptual space

• Units for language = form-meaning pairs

[langacker 87] [bergen etal 04]

Lexicon

• grounded lexicon:



semantic pole : perceptual patterns (image schemas)
 → probabilistic predicate + arguments

Evolving Semantics

Conceptual Space





Lexicon vs Grammar

- lexicon = mental inventory of units
 - = set of all lexemes
- Is "cats" a lexeme?

cook \rightarrow **cooks** : grammatical (rule-driven, inflection) \rightarrow **cooker** : cook + er (not fully a rule; derivation)

Older thinking : lexicon is separate from grammar cog L: lexicon - grammar is a continuum

Commitment of Grammar

Cognitive Grammar:

- Try to make sense of
 - polysemy (systematically related linguistic forms),
 - inference,
 - historical change,
 - gesture,
 - language acquisition
 - iconicity in signed languages.

[Lakoff/Johnson p.80]

Try to explain all aspects





The bulb in the socket

* The jar in the lid

. .

[lee 01] ch.2

Perspective? Idiom?





Cognitive Grammar View: Lexicon vs Grammar

Lexicon / Grammar is a *graded* distinction – more of a continuum than a sharp difference

There are rule-like *schemas*, but they apply in differing degrees for different instances Cognitive Grammar View: Symbolic Unit



symbol: interrelation between thought, meaning, and linguistic structure





symbolic complex [langacker 87]

Cognitive Grammar : Inflection



symbolic complex [langacker 87]

Semantic Pole: Image Schemas



Cognitive Grammar View: All Language is Symbolic



Grammar: applies to the composition of both phonological pole (surface form) and semantic pole (meaning)

Cognitive Grammar (Langacker)



Cognitive Grammar (Langacker)



Language is Symbolic

- "boy" = sound (or written form) of language
- [BOY] = all possible mental associations that may be invoked. Meaning is *encyclopedic*
- Selecting from encyclopedic associations
 - *construal* : Constructed against a background or *frame*
 - takes a particular *perspective*
 - *subjective*: Differences owing to individual experiences and goals.
 - *relativism*: Language Structures can influence other parts of cognition

Frame (background knowledge)



[hypotenuse]: frame = right-angled triangles The side opposite the right-angle is foregrounded or profiled

"hypotenuse"

[hypotenuse]
Frame (background knowledge)



Language is Symbolic

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Semantics as Image Schema



- Image schemas differ in what is foregrounded
- Process view: Time is part of the frame
- Non-Processual : no temporality
 - Simplex: Just a state (e.g. IN)
 - Complex: Summary or Gestalt (whole) of an aggregate (e.g. Temporal or Spatial)

Langacker 1987/2008

Grounded Language

• grounded lexicon:

relation between sounds and sensorimotor patterns

• grounded syntax:

mapping from syntactic patterns to objects, relations or events in perceptual space

• Units for language = form-meaning pairs

[langacker 87] [bergen etal 04]



• grounded lexicon:



[langacker 87]

Lexicon

• grounded lexicon:



semantic pole : perceptual patterns (image schemas)
 → probabilistic predicate + arguments

Clustering spatial relations



Histogram of visual subtended angle for the 3 shapes

[Sarkar/Mukerjee 07; Nayak/Mukerjee 12]

Perceptual Discovery: 2-agent actions

• Static time-shots of feature space trajectories



Similarity : Word vector models

"fast" is similar to "rapid"

"tall" is similar to "height"

Question answering:

Q: "How **tall** is Mt. Everest?" Candidate A: "The official **height** of Mount Everest is 29029 feet" **Rule-based Syntax**

Syntax-driven view of Language

• *Compositionality* Assumption: Larger phrases built up from smaller ones

- Construct rules for how words compose into phrases and sentences = Grammar
 - may also apply to morphemes
- Map to semantics:
 - Assumption: words have meaning
 - Syntax : Composes words into new composite meaning

Why is Syntax Important?

- Grammar checkers
- Question answering
- Word sense Disambiguation
- Information retrieval (?)
- Machine translation
- Map to semantics

Theories of Syntax?

- Unfortunately, no consensus on a theory of grammar aggressive debates :
 - Chomskyan formalist, autonomous from semantics, we are born with syntax
 - Cognitive linguistics semantics has a role, language is learned by discovering patterns in usage

• Computational : Use what works

Syntax : Composability

- Are sentences constructed by combining words? [decomposability]
- Or are words obtained by breaking up sentences? [holism]
- At least some times, while learning a language, babies understand the sentence before the words

Chomskyan (Generative) view

- Syntax is independent of meaning. Perception, action, etc. are not relevant to grammar
- Of course, language is compositional
- Lexicon = list of words \rightarrow arbitrary
- Syntax: Words are composed via deterministic, formal rules → systematic

Chomskyan Language Acquisition

- Babies acquire language with very little guidance. (Poverty of Stimulus)
- Possible only if we have an innate *Language Faculty* with a built-in *Universal Grammar* (Nativism)
- Language learning = filling language-specific parameters in the UG

Autonomous Syntax

• Are grammaticality judgments based on form alone?

colourless green ideas sleep furiously vs furiously sleep ideas green colorless

→ autonomy of syntax argument

[chomsky 57]: syntactic structures

Autonomous Syntax : Assumptions

- Rules determining the syntax (form) of language are formulated without reference to meaning, or language use.
- Related : Grammar is not statistical

"There appears to be no particular relation between statistical relations and [chomsky 57]: syntactic structures grammaticalness" p.17

see P. Norvig: On Chomsky and the Two Cultures of Statistical Learning [http://norvig.com/chomsky.html]

Ambiguity : Newspaper headlines

- Ban on Nude Dancing on Governor's Desk
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- Stolen Painting Found by Tree
- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Semantic Lexicons

Frame Elements for frame Ingestion

Frame Elements	Туре
Degree	Peripheral
Ingestibles	Core
Ingestor	Core
Instrument	Peripheral
Manner	Peripheral
Means	Peripheral
Place	Peripheral
Source	Peripheral
Time	Peripheral

Lexical Units in : Ingestion

Lexical Units for Ingestion

English	Hindi	Bangla
<u></u>	<u></u>	Dungia
breakfast.v	नाश्ता	prAtarAsh v
Consume.v	भोग करना	bhog k.v
drink.v	पी	khA.v
eat.v	खा	khA.v
feast.v	भोज करना	bhoj k .v
feed.v	खिला	khAoyA.v
gulp.v	निगल	gelA.v
have.v	ले	Neo.v
munch.v	चबा	chebA.v
nibble.v	कुतर	ThokrA.v
sip.n	घूँट	chumuk.n
sip.v	घूँट लेना	Chumuk de.v

Distributional LANGUAGE MODELS

Distributional models of meaning = vector-space models of meaning = word vector models

Intuitions: Zellig Harris (1954):

- "oculist and eye-doctor ... occur in almost the same environments"
- "If A and B have almost identical environments we say that they are synonyms."

Firth (1957):

• "You shall know a word by the company it keeps!"

Intuition of distributional word similarity

• Sentences in Corpus. Q. what is *tesgüino*?

A bottle of **tesgüino** is on the table Everybody likes **tesgüino Tesgüino** makes you drunk We make **tesgüino** out of corn.

- From context words humans can guess *tesgüino* means
- Intuition for algorithm:
 - Two words are similar if they have similar word contexts.

Distributional Hypothesis

- Bhartrihari (6th c.) : Words by themselves may have no meaning – meaning = contexts of use (holism)
- Wittgenstein (1953): The meaning of a word is its usage in language
- J. R. Firth (1957) : Word is known by the company it keeps (*Modes of Meaning, 1965*)
- Word meaning= set of contexts in which it may be used.

POS Tagging : Problematic

Inter-annotator disagreement on Penn Treebank: 7.2%.Disagreement on correcting the output of an automatic tagger 4.1% (3.5% if one text omitted)

Best POS Taggers:

- 97.3% token accuracy
- Sentence level accuracy = 56%
- e.g. "Marketing" can be a Noun, Verb, or Adjective

Word and Phrase categories

Part of Speech categories:

Debates over how many POS tags are needed.

"Marketing" - can be a Noun, Verb, or Adjective

Using syntax to define a word's context

• Zellig Harris (1968)

"The meaning of entities, and the meaning of grammatical relations among them, is related to the restriction of combinations of these entities relative to other entities"

• Two words are similar if they have similar syntactic contexts

Duty and **responsibility** have similar syntactic distribution:

Modified by adjectives	additional, administrative, assumed, collective, congressional, constitutional
Objects of verbs	assert, assign, assume, attend to, avoid, become, breach

The word-word or word-context matrix

- A word is now defined by a vector over counts of *context* words
- Each vector is big of length |V|

• The word-word matrix is |V|x|V| - huge but sparse

Word-Word co-occurrence matrix

sample context : \pm 7 words

sugar, a sliced lemon, a tablespoonful of **apricot** their enjoyment. Cautiously she sampled her first **pineapple** well suited to programming on the digital **computer**. for the purpose of gathering data and **information** necessary for the study authorized in the

preserve or jam, a pinch each of, and another fruit whose taste she likened In finding the optimal R-stage policy from

	aardvark	computer	data	pinch	result	sugar	
apricot	0	0	0	1	0	1	
pineapple	0	0	0	1	0	1	
digital	0	2	1	0	1	0	
information	0	1	6	0	4	0	

...

...

Problem with raw counts

- Raw word frequency very skewed : "the" "of" etc. are very frequent, but maybe not very discriminative
- Emphasize context words that are more **informative** about the target word.
 - tf-idf : Term-frequency * inverse-document frequency
 - **PPMI** : Positive Pointwise Mutual Information
 - T-test : t statistic of difference between means

Word Vectors : WORDSPACE



sagi-diermeier-13_identifying-issue-frames-in-text

Truncated SVD on co-occurrence matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ X \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} W \\ W \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{1} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{3} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \sigma_{k} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ k \times |V| \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|V| \times |V| = |V| \times k \qquad k \times k$$
word vectors (length k)

Truncated SVD produces embeddings

- Word vectors = each row of W matrix
- k ~= from 50 to 1000
- Generally we keep the top k dimensions, but some experiments suggest that getting rid of the top 1 dimension or even the top 50 dimensions is helpful (Lapesa and Evert 2014).
- Pre-weighting that sparsifies vectors is helpful []



Similarity metric : cosine


Skip-gram Model [Mikolov 13]

- Single "projection" layer; no other hidden layers
- Projection layer shared for all words
- All words get projected into the same position (vectors are averaged).
- Skip-gram : Given w in a phrase, attempt to predict left and right context (k words each) from projection layer.
- Efficient: Softmax replaced by Hierarchical softmax



target word

Word Vector Space: Hindi (top 5000)



Word Vector Space: Hindi (top 5000)





Word Vector Space: Hindi (top 5000)





Word Vector visualization : Bangla



Gender and Number Relations



Ontological Relations



AK Zehady, Purdue U

Sequence Models (syntax)

Compositionality in LSTM

context vectors for three types of phrases \rightarrow PCA \rightarrow space of first two principal components

Syntax as Dimensionality Reduction

context vectors for three types of phrases \rightarrow PCA \rightarrow space of first two principal components



Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)



Long Short-Term Memory



Long Short-Term Memory

Recurrent

Network :

Latent vars from

(t-1) are fed into

time t;

Recursively encode

Past data

$$i_{t} = \sigma(W_{i} \cdot e_{t} + V_{i} \cdot h_{t-1})$$

$$f_{t} = \sigma(W_{f} \cdot e_{t} + V_{f} \cdot h_{t-1})$$

$$o_{t} = \sigma(W_{o} \cdot e_{t} + V_{o} \cdot h_{t-1})$$

$$l_{t} = \tanh(W_{l} \cdot e_{t} + V_{l} \cdot h_{t-1})$$

$$c_{t} = f_{t} \cdot c_{t-1} + i_{t} \times l_{t}$$

$$h_{t} = o_{t} \cdot m_{t}$$

Composition in LSTM

Trained on Stanford Sentiment

Treebank dataset (Socher 13)



li-chen-hovy-jurafsky-15-ACL_visualizing-neural-models-in-NLP

Translation without Parsing

RNN models for Translation

- Source L1 : LSTM based sentence vector model trained on input.
- Target L2 : LSTM based generative model
 - Auli Galley Quirk & Zqeig 13 : joint language and translation w RNN
 - Sutskever Vinyals & Le 14 : sequence to sequence LSTM translation
 - 2015 : translation from image inputs (caption generation); translation to images (image search) etc.



sutskever-vinyals-14_sequence-to-sequence-LSTM_translation



Composition in LSTM

li-chen-hovy-jurafsky-15-ACL_visualizing-neural-models-in-NLP



Composition in LSTM

li-chen-hovy-jurafsky-15-ACL_visualizing-neural-models-in-NLP



zhou-xu-15_end-to-end-semantic-role-labeling-w-RNN

A person riding a motorcycle on a dirt road.



A group of young people playing a game of frisbee.



A herd of elephants walking across a dry grass field.



Two dogs play in the grass.



Two hockey players are fighting over the puck.



A close up of a cat laying on a couch.



A skateboarder does a trick on a ramp.



A little girl in a pink hat is blowing bubbles.



A red motorcycle parked on the



A dog is jumping to catch a



A refrigerator filled with lots of food and drinks.



A yellow school bus parked in a parking lot.



Describes without errors

Describes with minor errors

Somewhat related to the image

Unrelated to the image

Describing images with attention





xu-K-ba-J-kiros-15_show-attend-and-tell_image-captioning

Describing images with attention



A woman is throwing a frisbee in a park.



A dog is standing on a hardwood floor.



A stop sign is on a road with a mountain in the background.



A little <u>girl</u> sitting on a bed with a teddy bear.



A group of <u>people</u> sitting on a boat in the water.



A giraffe standing in a forest with trees in the background.

xu-K-ba-J-kiros-15_show-attend-and-tell_image-captioning

Describing images with attention



A large white bird standing in a forest.



A woman holding a <u>clock</u> in her hand.

Errors : Can be analyzed by looking at attention window



A person is standing on a beach with a <u>surfboard.</u>



A woman is sitting at a table with a large pizza.

xu-K-ba-J-kiros-15_show-attend-and-tell_image-captioning

Generative Lexicon

Web Users Map- 2014



 http://www. statista.com

Population Code (vector models)

Population Codes



Sparse Coding







diCarlo-cox-2007trics,

Face Recognition: Manifolds in the brain



dicarlo-cox-07_untangling-invariant-object-recog

Instructed delay tasks



[Kandel 12]

Unified decision-making



[Cisek and Kalaska 2010]