ECE594: Mathematical Models of Language

Spring 2022

Lecture 11: Commonsense Reasoning with NLP

Logistics

Project progress presentation 3/30

UNIT 2

- Low-Resource NLP
- Summarization
- Dialogue
- Question Answering
- Commonsense Reasoning

Al vs. Human Intelligence



2011 2015

Forbes

Feb 19, 2015, 01:06pm EST

Microsoft's Deep Learning Project Outperforms Humans In Image Recognition





BUSINESS 09.27.2016 01:00 PM

An Infusion of Al Makes Google Translate More Powerful **Than Ever**

The Internet giant has unveiled an English-Chinese translation system built entirely on deep neural networks, saying it reduces error rates by 60 percent.

2016

2017



NEWS - JOBS EVENTS - RESOURCES - ABOUT -





Search

Microsoft claims new speech recognition record, achieving a super-human 5.1% error rate

New AI Model Exceeds Human Performance at Question Answering

GamesBeat

Jobs

The Machine



 $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{B}$

2018

Become a Mer

2020



Special Issue

Is AI a solved problem?

What do we know so far?

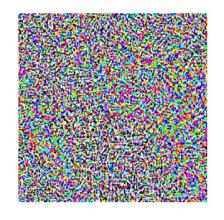
Models can be brittle

 $+.007 \times$

Stumble on instances unlike training data



x
"panda"
57.7% confidence

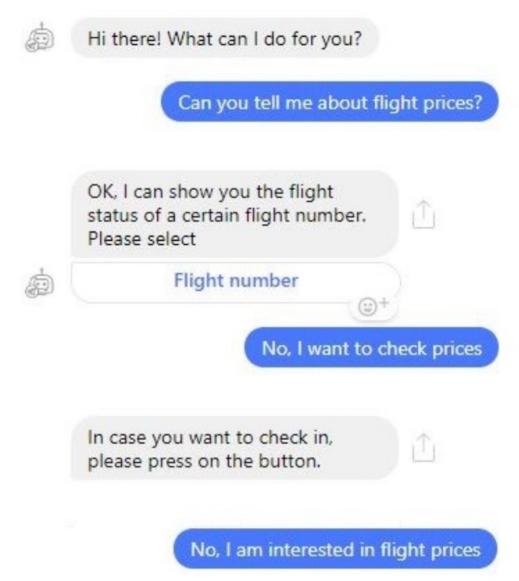


 $sign(\nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}}J(\boldsymbol{\theta},\boldsymbol{x},y))$ "nematode"
8.2% confidence



 $x + \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_{x} J(\boldsymbol{\theta}, x, y))$ "gibbon"

99.3 % confidence



Are we solving the task or fitting model to dataset?

What is Commonsense?

Merriam Webster dictionary:

Commonsense is "sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts."

What is Commonsense

- Basis of practical knowledge and reasoning
 - Concerns everyday situations and events
 - Commonly shared among most people
 - Interpretation of world around us
 - Door open or closed?

Closet door?

Fridge door?

What is Commonsense

- Helps human-human interaction
 - Essential to live and interact reasonably and safely

- Helps human-machine interaction
 - Essential for AI to understand human needs and actions

Human Cognition

Kahneman's "three cognitive systems"

— "Maps of Bounded Rationality: ..." (Kahneman 2003)

PERCEPTION

INTUITION SYSTEM 1 REASONING SYSTEM 2

Where are we and where do we go

Kahneman's "three cognitive systems"

— "Maps of Bounded Rationality: ..." (Kahneman 2003)

PERCEPTION

INTUITION SYSTEM 1 REASONING SYSTEM 2

- Intuitive inferences on
 - pre-conditions and post-conditions
 - what happens before and after?
 - motivations and intents
 - mental and emotional states

- solving puzzles
- writing programs
- proving logic theorems

Where are we and where do we go?

SYSTEM 1

Intuition & instinct

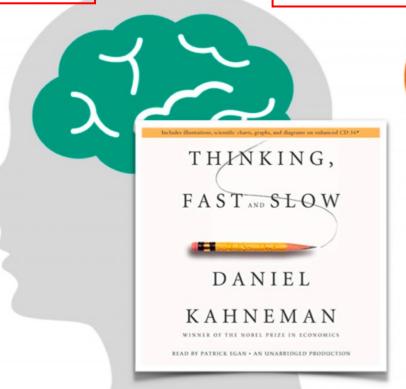
SYSTEM 2

Rational thinking

95%

Unconscious Fast Associative Automatic pilot

Source: Daniel Kahneman



Takes effort Slow Logical Lazy

5%

Indecisive

Where are we and where do we go

Kahneman's "three cognitive systems"

— "Maps of Bounded Rationality: ..." (Kahneman 2003)

PERCEPTION

INTUITION SYSTEM 1 REASONING SYSTEM 2

Image segmentation Speech recognition

- Intuitive inferences on
 - pre-conditions and post-conditions
 - what happens before and after?
 - motivations and intents
 - mental and emotional states

- solving puzzles
- writing programs
- proving logic theorems

Kahneman's "three cognitive systems"

— "Maps of Bounded Rationality: ..." (Kahneman 2003)

PERCEPTION

INTUITION SYSTEM 1 REASONING SYSTEM 2

Language models and Deep learning models

Processing Commonsense

Early work in the 1980s

Position Paper on Common-sense and Formal Semantics

Geoffrey Nunberg Xerox PARC and CSLI, Stanford

A philological excursus

I'm not sure what I'm doing on this panel, but I thought it would be helpful if we could start at the beginning. It's interesting to note that both the dictionary and common sense were eighteenth-century inventions. This is no coincidence; in fact, it's entirely appropriate that the most celebrated

Processing Commonsense

- No concrete computational advances
 - Lack of conceptualization/representation
 - Not strong computational models/computing power
 - Not much data
 - No crowdsourcing

"Commonsense reasoning is the new frontier of artificial intelligence." Yejin Choi, UW

Path to Commonsense

- Brute force?
 - Larger and deeper networks

Symbolic common sense graph

Neural commonsense representations Reasoning engine with common sense

Constructing challenge datasets right

Commonsense and NLP

- Knowledge in Pre-trained Language Models
- Commonsense benchmarks
- Commonsense knowledge sources
- Endowing NN with commonsense



Knowledge in Pretrained LM

- Self-supervised models trained on large corpora
 - Trained to predict the next word in sequence or masked word in sentence

Knowledge in Pretrained LM

birds

Language Model

Parrots are among the most intelligent birds, and the ability of some species to imitate human speech enhances their popularity as $__$ \rightarrow pet

Masked Language Model

Parrots are among the most intelligent [MASK], and the ability of some species to imitate human speech enhances their popularity as pets.

Input — Pre-trained LM Classifier — Output — Loss — Label

Knowledge in Pre-trained LM

- Do pretrained models already have commonsense?
 - What kind of commonsense knowledge do they have?

Knowledge in Pre-trained LM

- Do pretrained models already have commonsense?
- Use for knowledge-base completion
 - ConceptNet, WikiData

Knowledge-Base Completion using LM

- Task: Populate Knowledge bases
- Challenge: Need complex NLP pipelines involving entity extraction, coreference resolution, entity linking
- Approach:
 - Convert KB relations to NL templates
 - Use LMs to fill templates and score

Petroni et al. (2019):

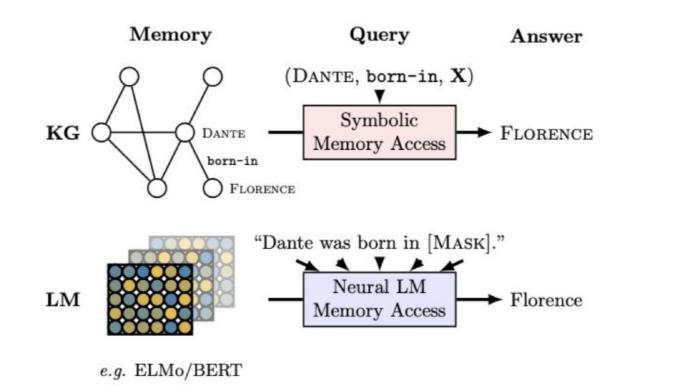
LMs: • ELMo / BERT

Templates: O Hand-crafted templates

KBs: O ConceptNet and Wikidata

Conclusion:

BERT performs well but all models perform poorly on many-to-many relations



Feldman et al. (2019):

- BERT
- Hand-crafted templates scored by GPT2
- ConceptNet, mining from Wikipedia
- Performs worse than supervised methods on ConceptNet but is more likely to generalize to different domains

Candidate Sentence S_i	$\log p(S_i)$
"musician can playing musical instrument"	-5.7
"musician can be play musical instrument"	-4.9
"musician often play musical instrument"	-5.5
"a musician can play a musical instrument"	-2.9

Table 1: Example of generating candidate sentences. Several enumerated sentences for the triple (musician, CapableOf, play musical instrument). The sentence with the highest log-likelihood according to a pretrained language model is selected.

Commonsense in Pre-trained LM

- Do pretrained models already have commonsense?
- Knowledge-base completion
- Can pre-trained LMs correctly distinguish concepts associated with a given set of assumed properties?



Distinguish concepts (Weir et al. 2020)

Prompt	Model Predictions
A has fur.	dog, cat, fox,
A has fur, is big, and has claws.	cat, bear, lion,
A has fur, is big, has claws, has teeth, is an animal, eats, is brown, and lives in woods.	bear, wolf, cat,

- The concept bear as a target emerging as the highest ranked predictions of neural LM
- RoBERTa > BERT

Mean Reciprocal Rank (MRR)

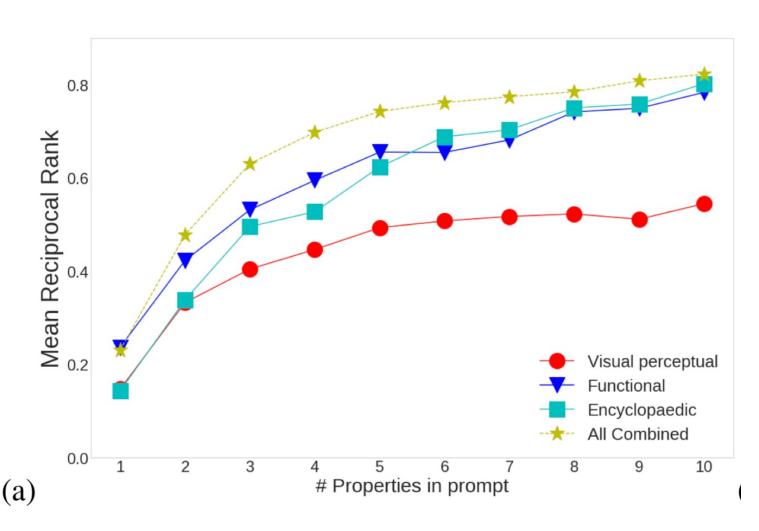
Use: Measure for evaluating any process that produces a list of possible responses to a sample of queries

rank_i is rank position of the *first* relevant document for the *i*-th query,

$$ext{MRR} = rac{1}{|Q|} \sum_{i=1}^{|Q|} rac{1}{ ext{rank}_i}.$$

Distinguish concepts (Weir et al. 2020)

Perceptual cues
(bears have fur) <
encyclopedic (bears live in forests) [is this surprising?]



Knowledge in Pre-trained LM

- Do pretrained models already have commonsense?
- Knowledge-base completion
- Do pre-trained LMs correctly distinguish concepts associated with a given set of assumed properties?
- Can pre-trained LMs list properties associated with given concepts?

Distinguish concepts (Weir et al. 2020)

Context	Human		Roberta-L	
	Response	PF	Response	$p_{\rm LM}$
(Everyone knows that) a bear has	fur	27	teeth	.36
	claws	15	claws	.18
	teeth	11	eyes	.05
	cubs	7	ears	.03
	paws	7	horns	.02
(Everyone knows that) a ladder is made of	metal	25	wood	.33
	wood	20	steel	.08
	plastic	4	metal	.07
	aluminum	2	aluminum	.03
	rope	2	concrete	.03

Low correlation with human elicited properties, but coherent and mostly "verifiable by humans"

Can we trust LMs?

https://demo.allennlp.org/masked-lm

Can we trust LMs?

LMs generate fictitious facts

Barack's Wife Hillary:
Using Knowledge Graphs for Fact-Aware Language Modeling

Robert L. Logan IV* Nelson F. Liu^{†§} Matthew E. Peters[§] Matt Gardner[§] Sameer Singh*

*University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

† University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

§ Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Seattle, WA, USA

Negated and Misprimed Probes for Pretrained Language Models: Birds Can Talk, But Cannot Fly

Syntactically similar

Nora Kassner, Hinrich Schütze

Center for Information and Language Processing (CIS)
LMU Munich, Germany

kassner@cis.lmu.de

LMs provide a good basis for commonsense models

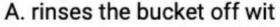
Performance comes from large pre-training and fine-tuning

- LMs mostly pick up lexical cues
- No model has true commonsense reasoning
 - lack an understanding of some of the most basic physical properties
 - Fails to perform logical reasoning that is critical to commonsense knowledge

Knowledge in LMs isn't enough

ACTIVITYNET

A woman is outside with a bucket and a dog. The dog is running around trying to avoid a bath



- B. uses a hose to keep it from
- C. gets the dog wet, then it
- D. gets into a bath tub with







To separate egg whites from the yolk using a water bottle, you should...

- a. Squeeze the water bottle and press it against the yolk.
 Release, which creates suction and lifts the yolk.
- Place the water bottle and press it against the yolk. Keep pushing, which creates suction and lifts the yolk.





Symbolic reasoning

Paradigm in Al

- high-level "symbolic" (human-readable) representations of problems
- NLP: determining whether a conjunction of properties is held by an object, and comparing the sizes of different objects

Probe name	Setup	Example	Human ¹
ALWAYS-NEVER	MC-MLM	A <u>chicken</u> [MASK] has <u>horns</u> . A. never B. rarely C. sometimes D. often E. always	91%
AGE COMPARISON	MC-MLM	A $\underline{21}$ year old person is [MASK] than me in age, If I am a $\underline{35}$ year old person. A. younger B. older	100%
OBJECTS COMPARISON	MC-MLM	The size of a <u>airplane</u> is [MASK] than the size of a <u>house</u> . A. larger B. smaller	100%
ANTONYM NEGATION	MC-MLM	It was [MASK] hot, it was really cold. A. not B. really	90%
PROPERTY CONJUNCTION	MC-QA	What is usually <u>located at hand</u> and used for writing? A. pen B. spoon C. computer	92%
TAXONOMY CONJUNCTION	MC-MLM	A ferry and a floatplane are both a type of [MASK]. A. vehicle B. airplane C. boat	85%
ENCYC. COMPOSITION	MC-QA	When did the band where Junior Cony played first form? A. 1978 B. 1977 C. 1980	85%
MULTI-HOP COMPOSITION	MC-MLM	When comparing a <u>23</u> , a <u>38</u> and a <u>31</u> year old, the [MASK] is oldest A. second B. first C. third	100%

Can LMs do symbolic reasoning

A chicken [MASK] has horns.

A. never B. rarely C. sometimes D. often E. always

Talmor et al. (2020): oLMpics for BERT and RoBERTa on a set of symbolic reasoning tasks

Neither perform well

Reporting bias: LMs are trained on texts describing things that *do* happen

Symbolic reasoning

	RoBERTa	BERT	BERT	RoBERTa	BERT
	Large	WWM	Large	Base	Base
ALWAYS-NEVER					
AGE COMPARISON				×	
OBJECTS COMPAR.	✓	×	a 10 200 9 10 10 10 10 10		1190 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
ANTONYM NEG.			- ×	X	
PROPERTY CONJ.	×	×			
TAXONOMY CONJ.	×	×		*	
ENCYC. COMP.					
MULTI-HOP COMP.					

Talmor et al. 2020

Some commonsense knowledge but very far from being complete

Table 12: The oLMpic games medals', summarizing per-task success. ✓ indicate the LM has achieved high accuracy considering controls and baselines, ✓ indicates partial success.

How do we measure commonsense reasoning

Benchmark tasks



How do you know that a model is doing commonsense reasoning?

Unsupervised:

- Observe behavior,
- Probe representations,
- etc.

Benchmarks:

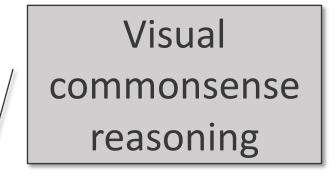
knowledge-specific tests (w/ or w/o training data)

QA format: easy to evaluate

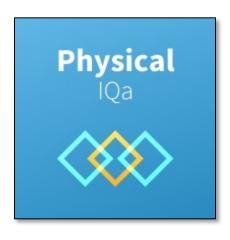
(e.g., accuracy)

Step 1: Determine type of reasoning

Abductive reasoning















Reasoning about Social Situations



Alex spilt food all over the floor and it made a huge mess.

What will Alex want to do next?

run around in the mess

less likely

mop up the mess more likely

Step 2: Choosing a benchmark size

	Small scale	Large scale
Creation	Expert-curated	Crowdsourced/automatic
Coverage	Limited coverage	Large coverage
Training	Dev/test only	Training/dev/test
Budget	/ Expert time costs	Crowdsourcing costs

Winograd Schema Challenge (WSC), Choice of Plausible Alternatives (COPA)

Small commonsense benchmarks

Winograd Schema Challenge (WSC) 273 examples

Choice of Plausible Alternatives (COPA)
500 dev, 500 test

The city councilmen refused the demonstrators a permit because *they* advocated violence. Who is "they"?

- (a) The city councilmen
- (b)The demonstrators

The city councilmen refused the demonstrators a permit because *they* **feared** violence. Who is "*they*"?

- (a)The city councilmen
- (b)The demonstrators

Small commonsense benchmarks

Winograd Schema Challenge (WSC) 273 examples

Choice of Plausible Alternatives (COPA) 500 dev, 500 test I hung up the phone.
What was the **cause** of this?

- (a) The caller said goodbye to me.
- (b) The caller identified himself to me.

The toddler became cranky. What happened as a **result**?

- (a) Her mother put her down for a nap.
- (b)Her mother fixed her hair into pigtails.

Step 2: Choosing a QA benchmark size

	Small scale	Large scale
Creation	Expert-curated	Crowdsourced/automatic
Coverage	Limited coverage	Large coverage
Training	Dev/test only	Training/dev/test
Budget	Expert time costs	Crowdsourcing costs

Challenge: do to collect positive/negative answers?

Challenge of collecting unlikely answers

Goal: negative answers have to be plausible but unlikely

- Automatic matching?
 - Random negative sampling won't work, too topically different
 - "smart" negative sampling isn't effective either
- Need better solution... maybe we can ask crowd workers?



Collecting answers from crowdworkers

Context and Question

Alex spilt food all over the floor and it made a huge mess.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

What will Alex want to do next?





Free Text Response

Handwritten ✓ and X Answers

- √ mop up
- ✓ give up and order take out
- **X** leave the mess
- **x** run around in the mess

Problem: handwritten unlikely answers are too easy to detect

Problem: annotation artifacts

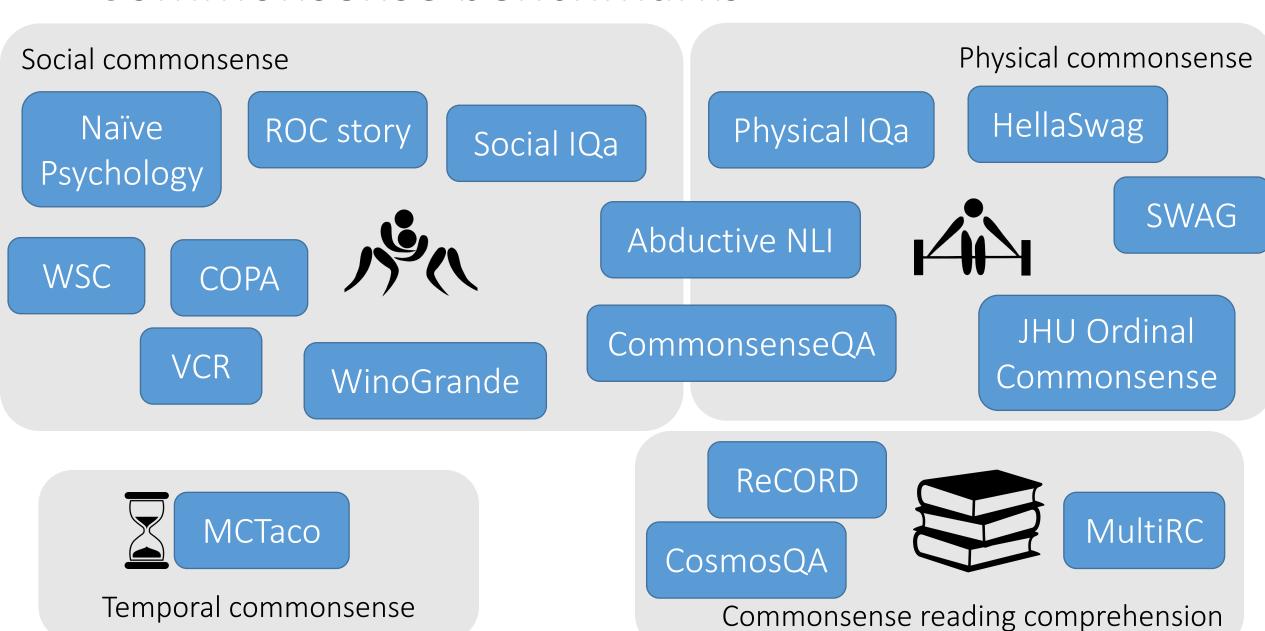
- Models can exploit artifacts in handwritten incorrect answers
 - Exaggerations, off-topic, overly emotional, etc.
 - See Schwartz et al. 2017, Gururangan et al. 2018, Zellers et al. 2018, etc.
- Seemingly "super-human" performance by large pretrained LMs (BERT, GPT, etc.)



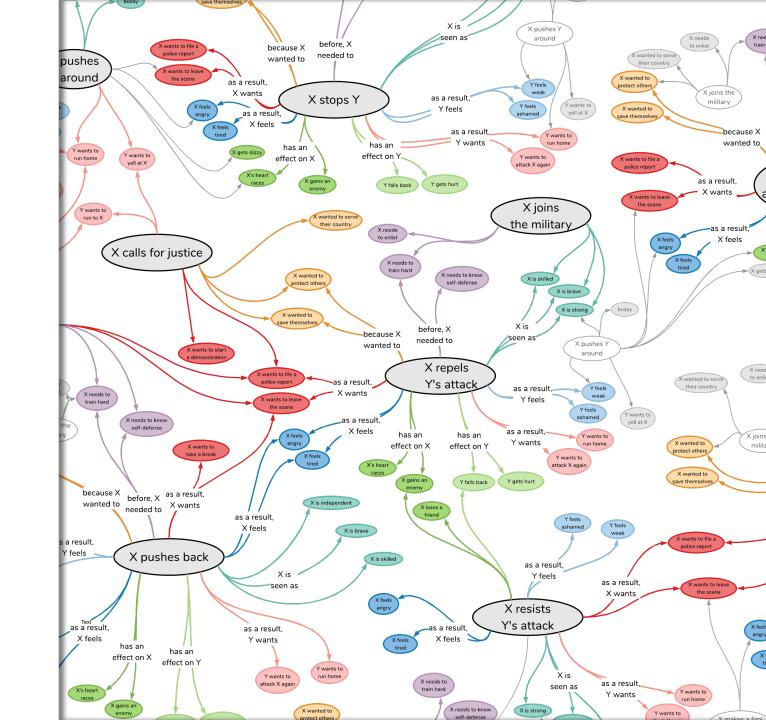


Benchmark creation important to avoid overstating performance ("super-human machine")

Commonsense benchmarks



Commonsense resources



Grandma's glasses



Tom's grandma was reading a new book, when she dropped her glasses.

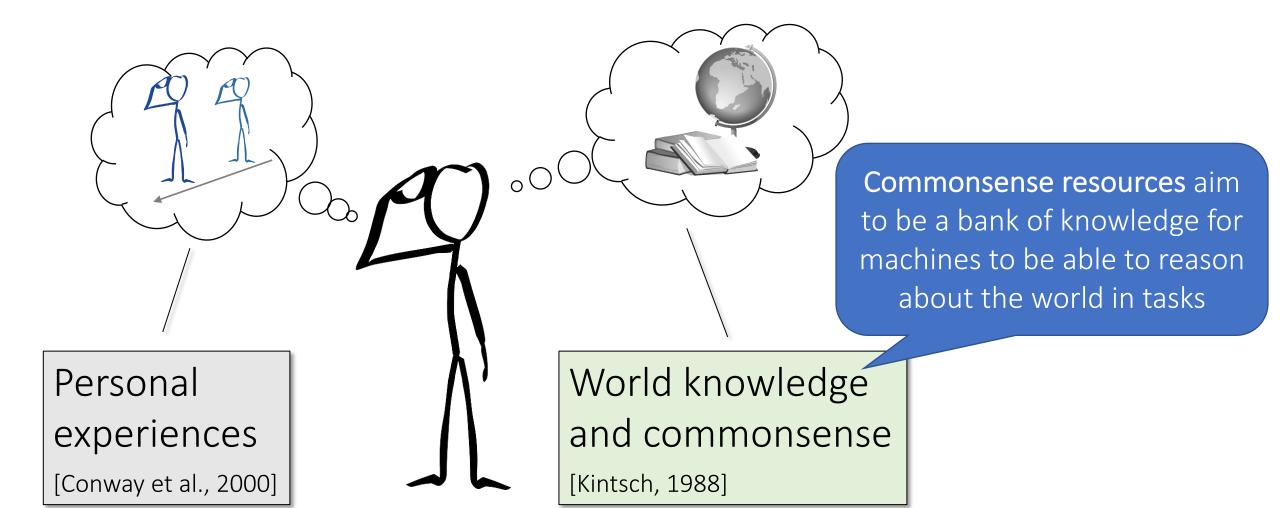
She couldn't pick them up, so she called Tom for help.

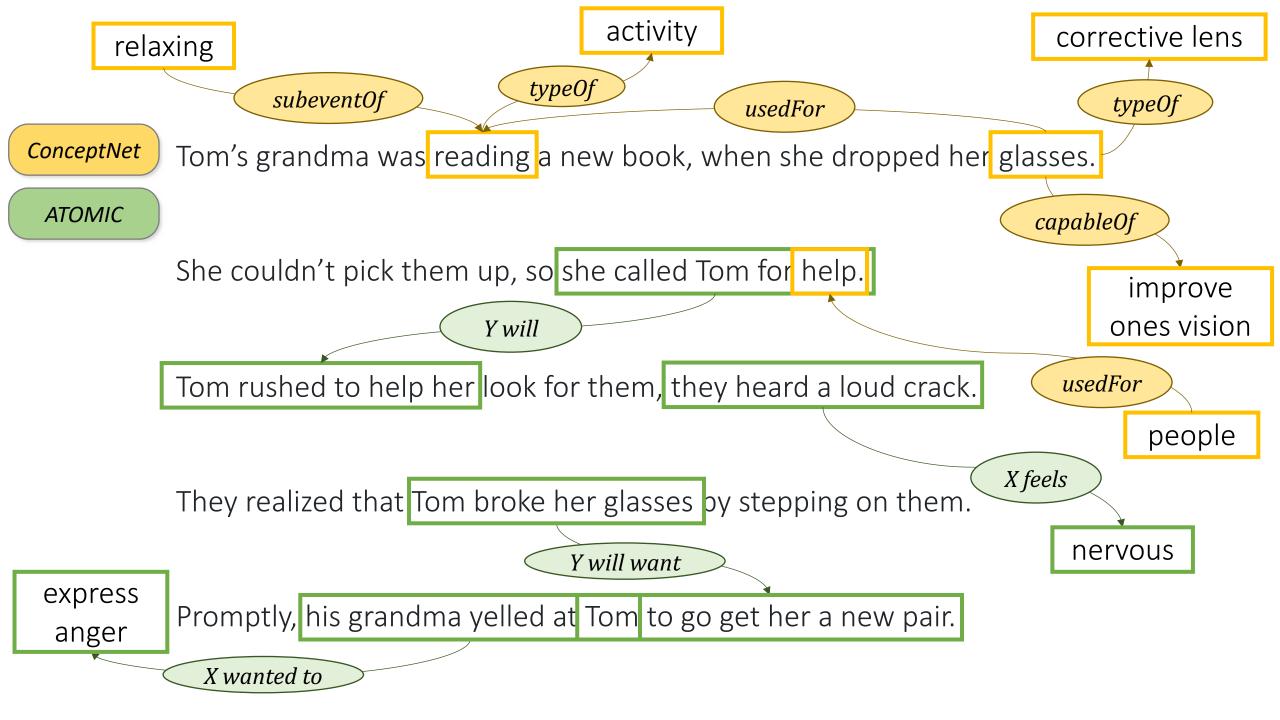
Tom rushed to help her look for them, they heard a loud crack.

They realized that Tom broke her glasses by stepping on them.

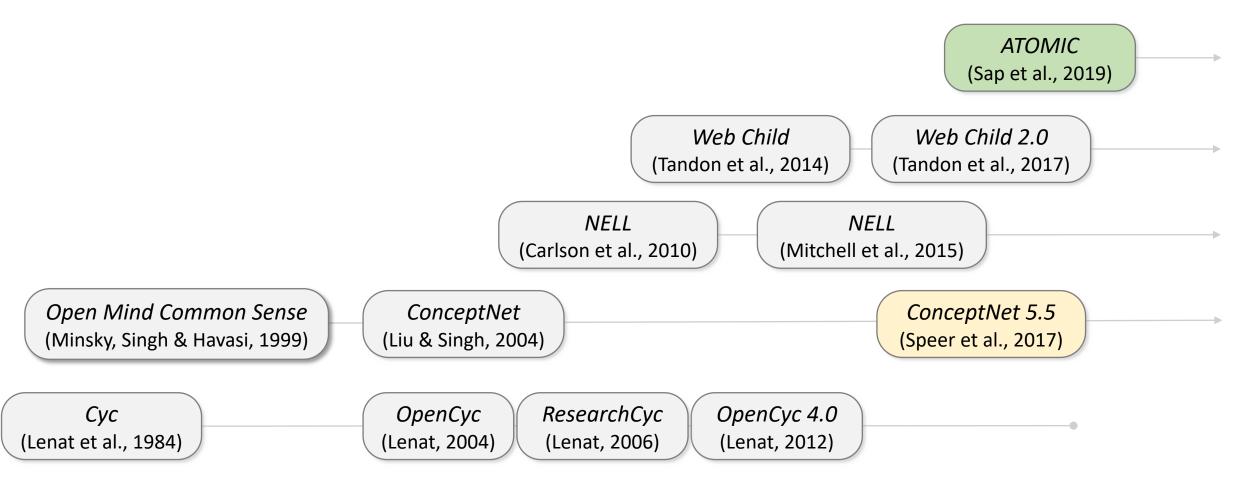
Promptly, his grandma yelled at Tom to go get her a new pair.

Humans reason about the world with mental models [Graesser, 1994]





Overview of existing resources



How do you create a commonsense resource?

Desiderata for a good commonsense resource

Coverage

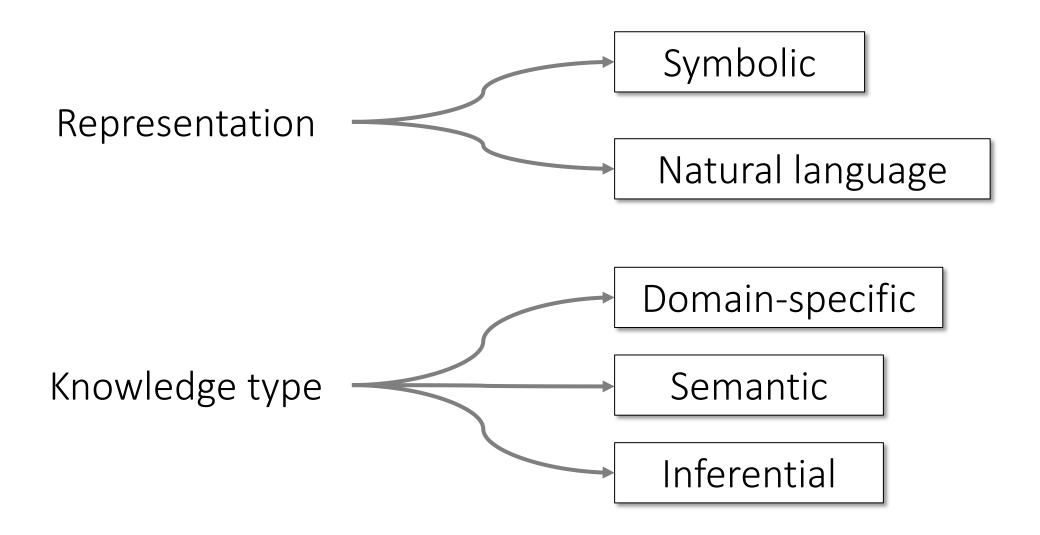
- Large scale
- Diverse knowledge types

Useful

- High quality knowledge
- Usable in downstream tasks

Multiple resources tackle different knowledge types

Creating a commonsense resource



CONCEPTNET:

semantic knowledge in natural language form

Related terms

- en book →
- en books →
- en book →

Effects of reading

- en learning →
- en ideas →
- en a headache →

reading is a subevent of...

- en you learn →
- en turning a page →
- en learning →

en reading

An English term in ConceptNet 5.8

reading is a type of...

- en an activity →
- lacksquare a good way to learn ightarrow
- en one way of learning ightarrow
- $\stackrel{\mathsf{en}}{}$ one way to learn \rightarrow

Subevents of reading

- en relaxing →
- en study →
- en studying for a subject ightarrow

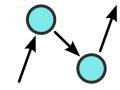
Things used for reading

- en article →
- en a library →
- en literature →
- en a paper page →

Types of reading

- \bullet n browse $^{(n, \text{ communication})} \rightarrow$
- en bumf (n, communication)
- en clock time ^(n, time) →
- en miles per hour ^(n, time) →

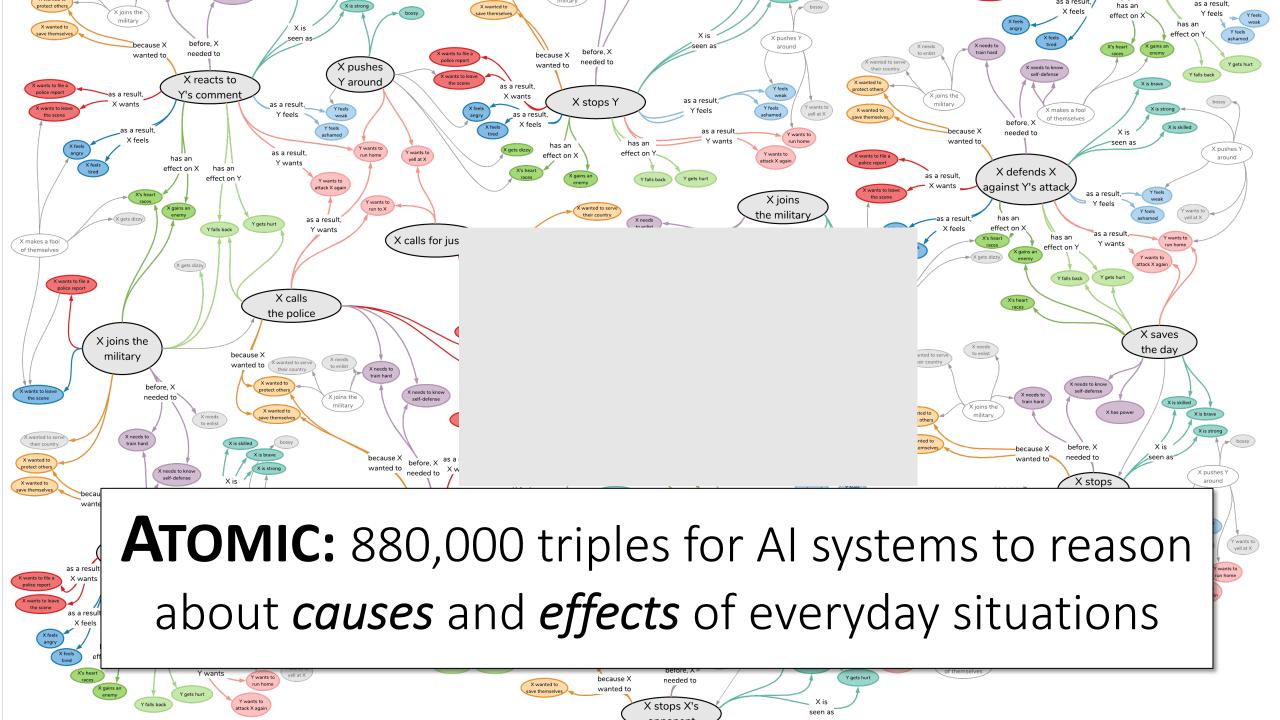


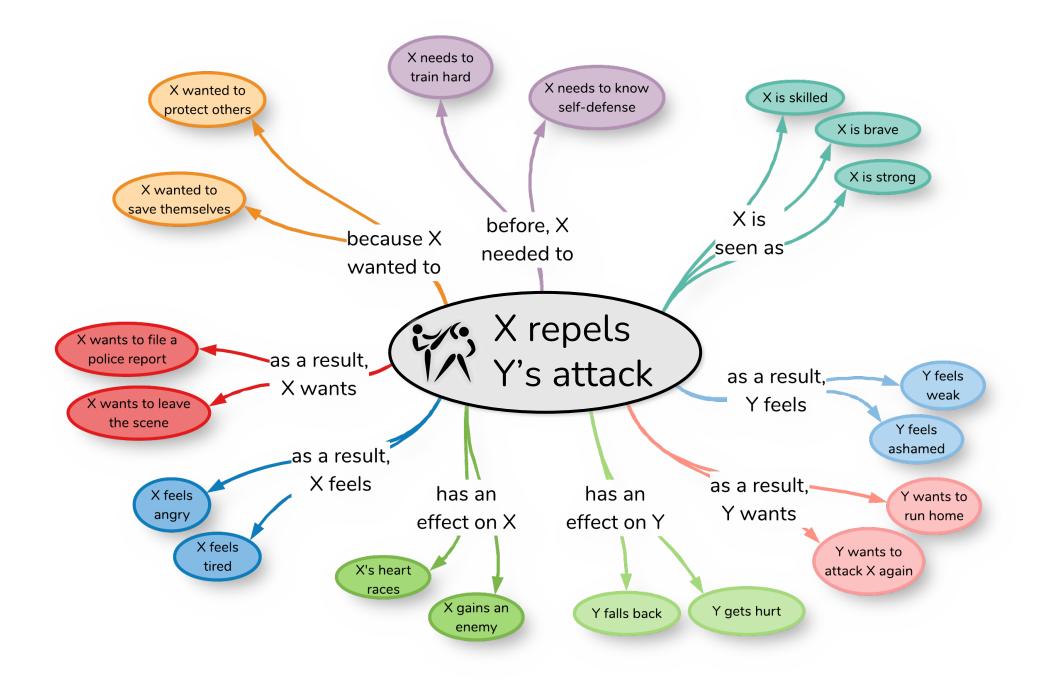


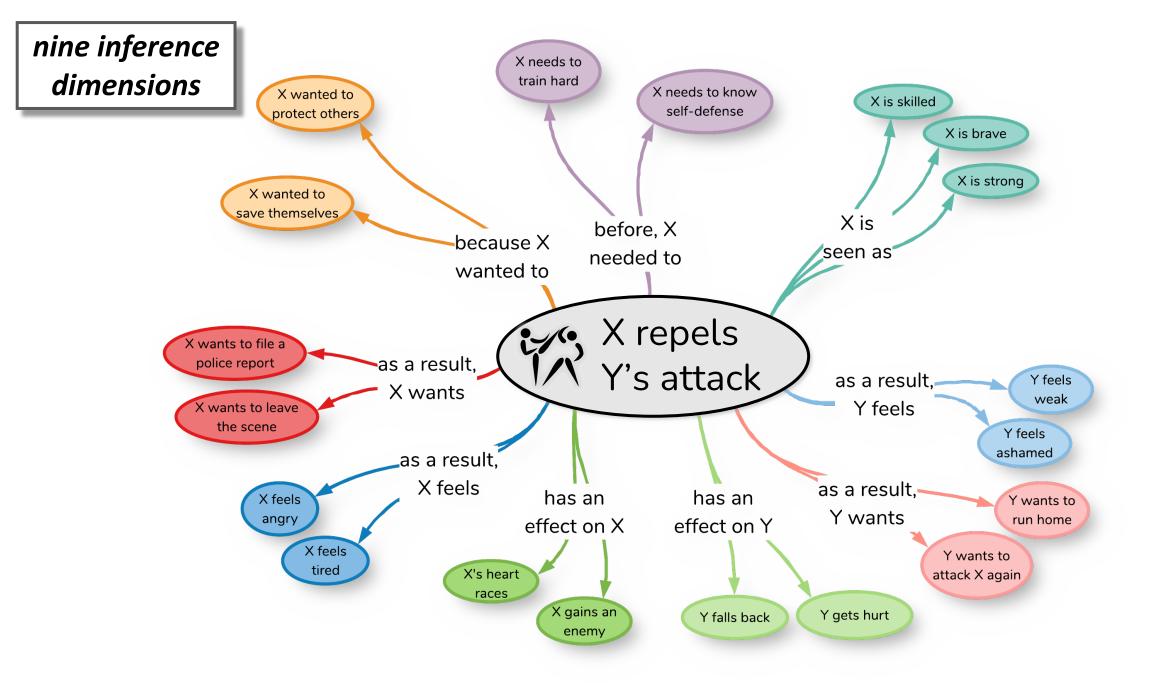
- General commonsense knowledge
- 21 million edges and over 8 million nodes (as of 2017)
 - Over 85 languages
 - In English: over 1.5 million nodes
- Knowledge covered:
 - Open Mind Commonsense assertions
 - Wikipedia/Wiktionary semantic knowledge
 - WordNet, Cyc ontological knowledge

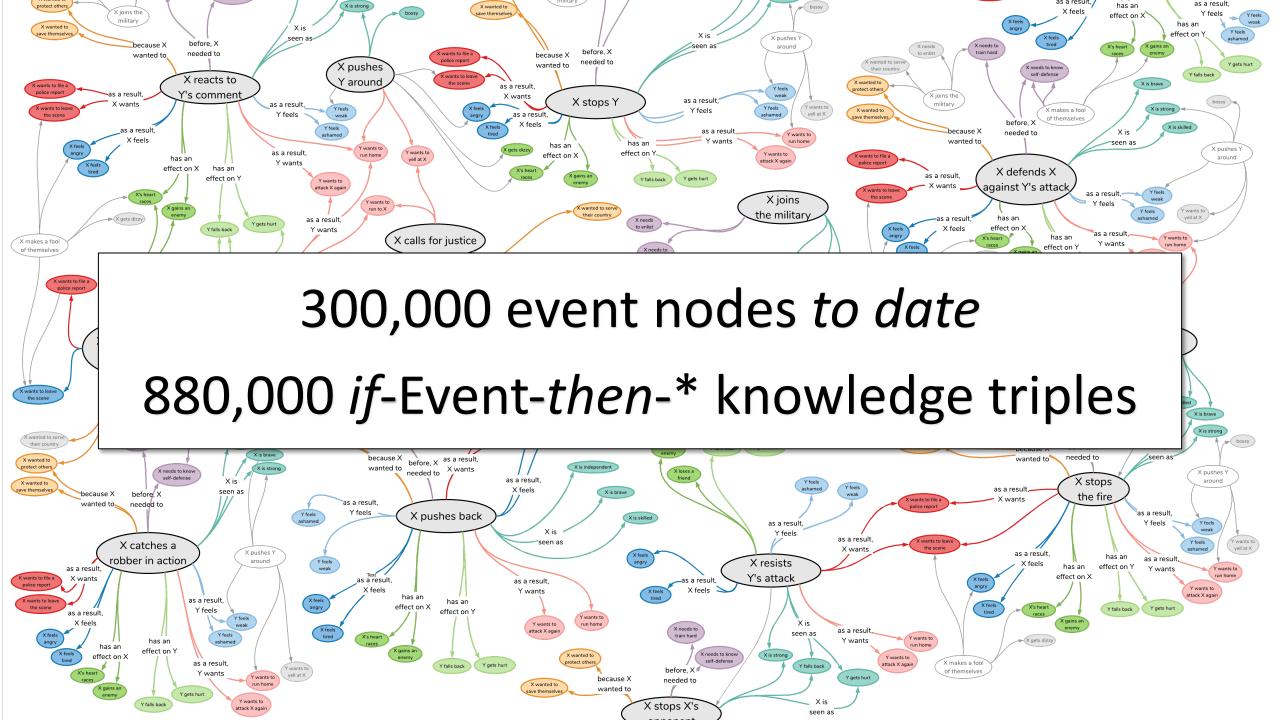
ATOMIC:

inferential knowledge in natural language form

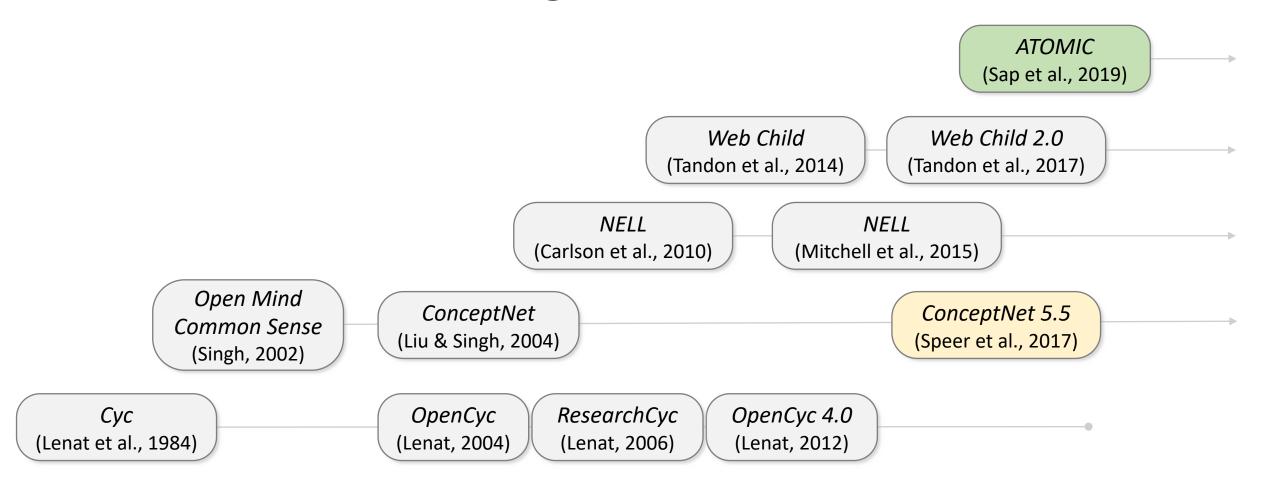








Overview of existing resources



Existing knowledge bases

ATOMIC (Sap et al., 2019)

NELL (Mitchell et al., 2015)

ConceptNet 5.5 (Speer et al., 2017)

OpenCyc 4.0 (Lenat, 2012)

Existing knowledge bases

Represented in **symbolic logic** (e.g., LISP-style logic)

NELL (Mitchell et al., 2015)

OpenCyc 4.0 (Lenat, 2012)

```
(#$implies
  (#$and
     (#$isa ?OBJ ?SUBSET)
     (#$genls ?SUBSET ?SUPERSET))
  (#$isa ?OBJ ?SUPERSET))
```

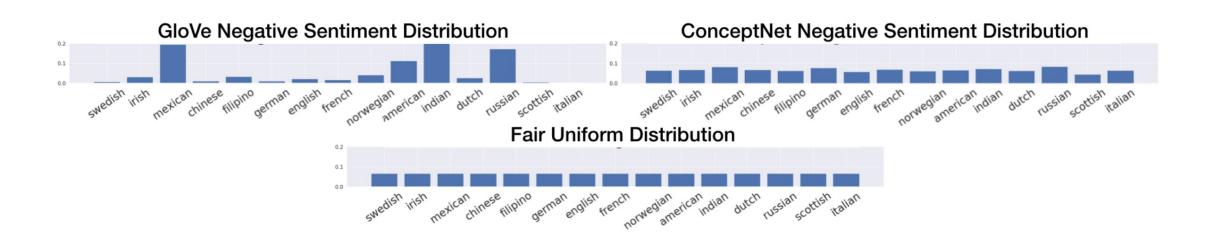
Represented in **natural language** (how humans *talk* and *think*)

ConceptNet 5.5 (Speer et al., 2017)

ATOMIC (Sap et al., 2019)

Knowledge bases and mitigating biases

- Different data collection methods suffer from social biases differently
- ConceptNet word embeddings have less demographic biases than GloVe embeddings [Sweeney & Najafian, 2019]

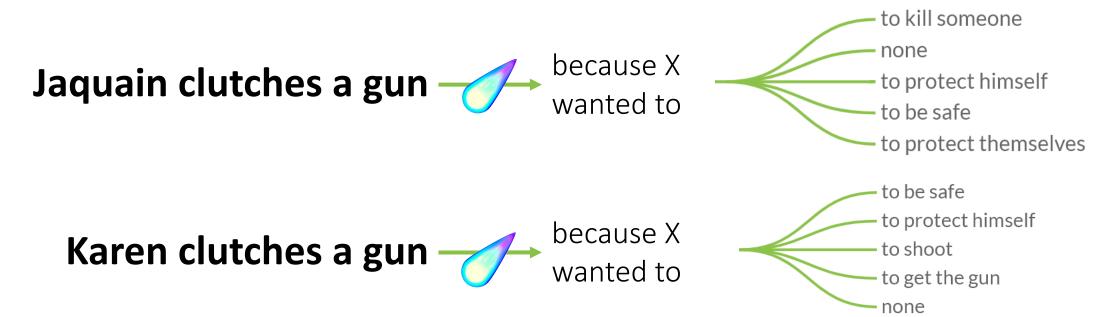


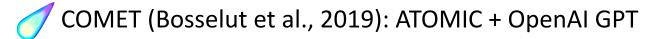
Knowledge bases and mitigating biases

PersonX clutches a gun

because X
wanted to
to protect himself
to protect themselves
to defend themselves
to defend himself

to be safe





Some commonsense cannot be extracted

Text is subject to **reporting bias** (Gordon & Van Durme, 2013)

- Idioms & figurative usage "Black sheep problem"
- Noteworthy events
 Murdering 4x more common than exhaling

Commonsense is not often written

-> Grice's maxim of quantity





Knext (Gordon & Van Durme, 2013)

How do we Incorporate Commonsense into Downstream Models?



Katrina had the financial means to afford a new car while Monica did not, since ____ had a high paying job.



WINOGRANDE: An Adversarial Winograd Schema Challenge at Scale. Keisuke Sakaguchi, Ronan Le Bras, Chandra Bhagavatula, and Yejin Choi. AAAI 2020 [CLS] Katrina had the financial means to afford a new car while Monica did not, since [SEP] Katrina had a high paying job.



0.51

0.49

WINOGRANDE: An Adversarial Winograd Schema Challenge at Scale. Keisuke Sakaguchi, Ronan Le Bras, Chandra Bhagavatula, and Yejin Choi. AAAI 2020

Fine-tuning is important

Sentence:

Katrina had the financial means to afford a new car while Monica did not, since [MASK] had a high paying job.

Predictions:

11.8% ←

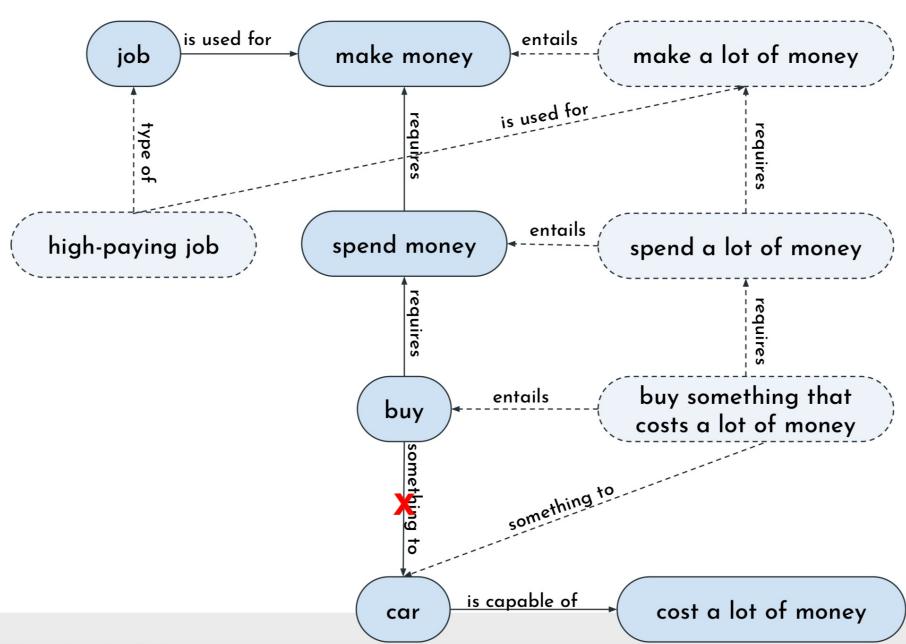
8.8% She

6.3%

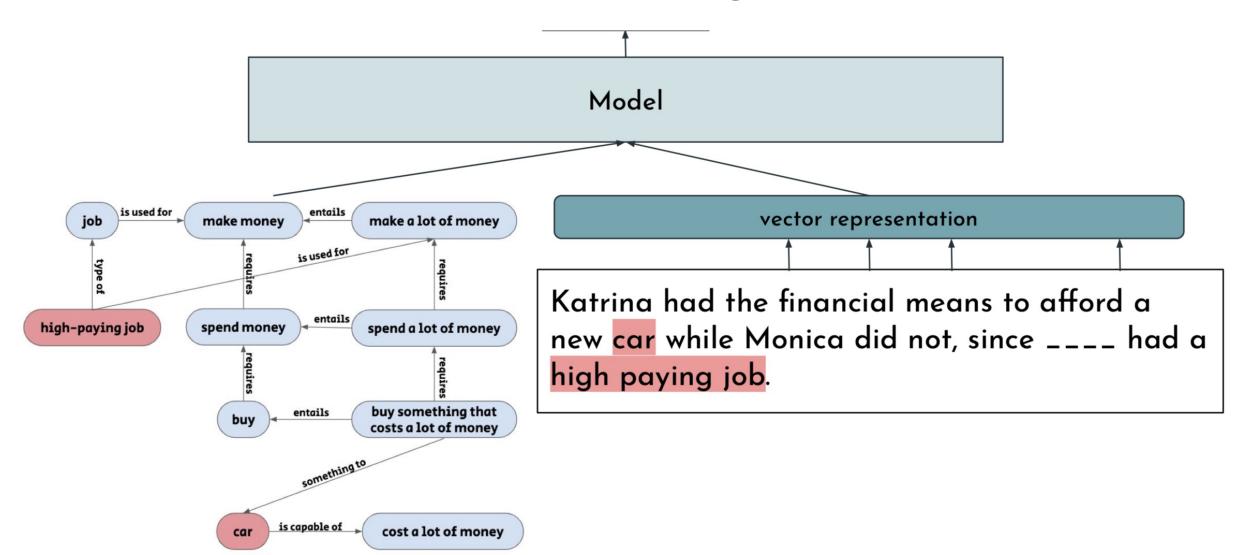
6.2% So

5.2% Monica

← Undo



Static KB integration

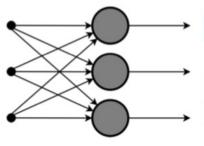


Recipe

Task

Story ending, Machine Comprehension Social common sense NLI





→ Neural Component

Pre/post pre-trained language models

Knowledge Source

Knowledge bases, extracted from text, hand-crafted rules





Combination Method

Attention, pruning, word embeddings, multi-task learning

Tasks

ProPara

		Participants:				
Paragraph (seq. of steps):		water	light	CO2	mixture	sugar
	state0	soil	sun	?	-	-
Roots absorb water from so	il					
	state1	roots	sun	?	-	-
The water flows to the leaf.						
	state2	leaf	sun	?	-	-
Light from the sun and CO2 enter the leaf.						
	state3	leaf	leaf	leaf	-	-
The light, water, and CO2 combine into a mixture.						
	state4	-	-	-	leaf	-
Mixture forms sugar.						
	state5	-	-	-	-	leaf

NarrativeQA

Question: How is Oscar related to Dana?

Answer: her son

Snippet: [...] She continues digging in her purse while Frank leans over the buggy and makes funny faces at the baby, OSCAR, a very cute nine-month old boy. [...]

MCScript

- T I wanted to plant a tree. I went to the home and garden store and picked a nice oak. Afterwards, I planted it in my garden.
- Q1 What was used to dig the hole?
 - a. a shovel

- b. his bare hands
- **Q2** When did he plant the tree?
 - a. after watering it
- b. after taking it home

Tasks

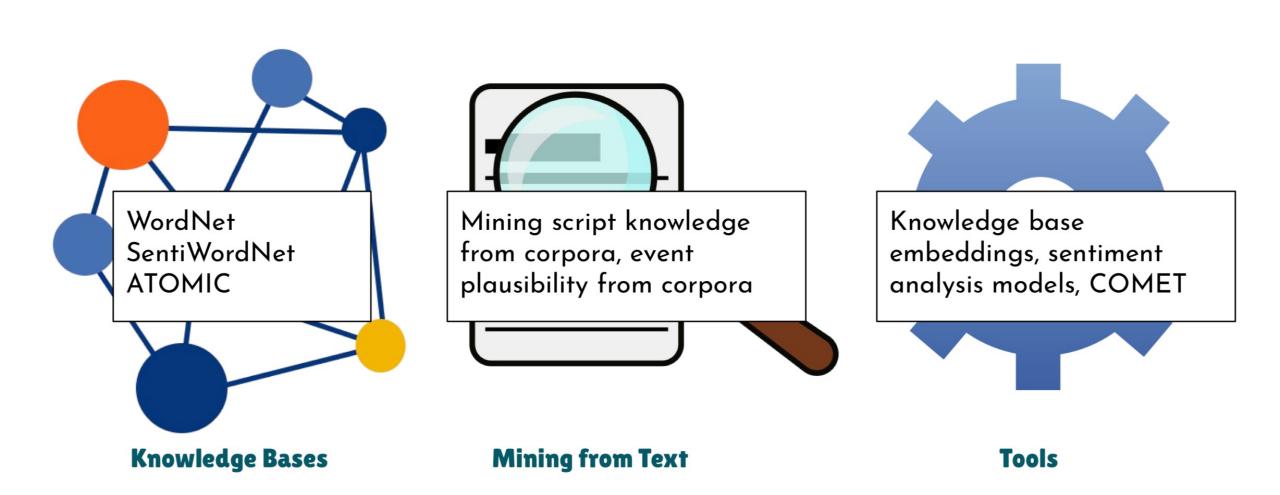
Agatha had always wanted pet birds.
So one day she purchased two pet finches.
Soon she couldn't stand their constant noise.
And even worse was their constant mess.



Agatha decided to buy two more. (Wrong)
Agatha decided to return them. (Right)

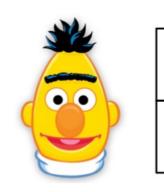


Knowledge Sources



Neural component

[CLS] Katrina had the financial means to afford a new car while Monica did not, since [SEP] Katrina had a high paying job.



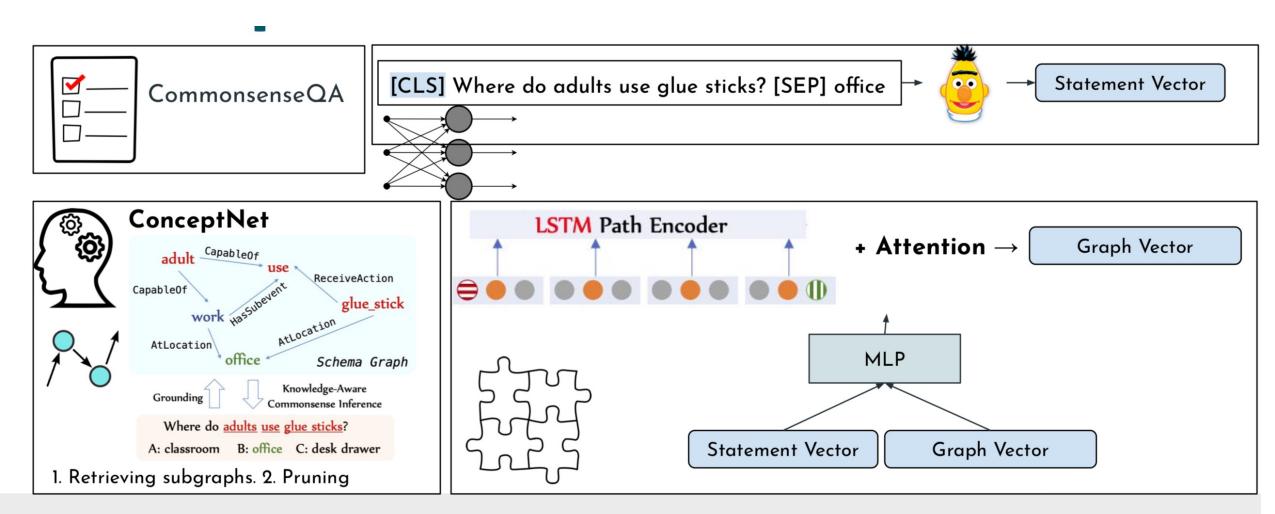
0.51

0.49

Combination Method

- 1. Incorporate into scoring function
- 2. Symbolic → vector representation○ (+attention)
- 3. Multi-task learning

Combination Method



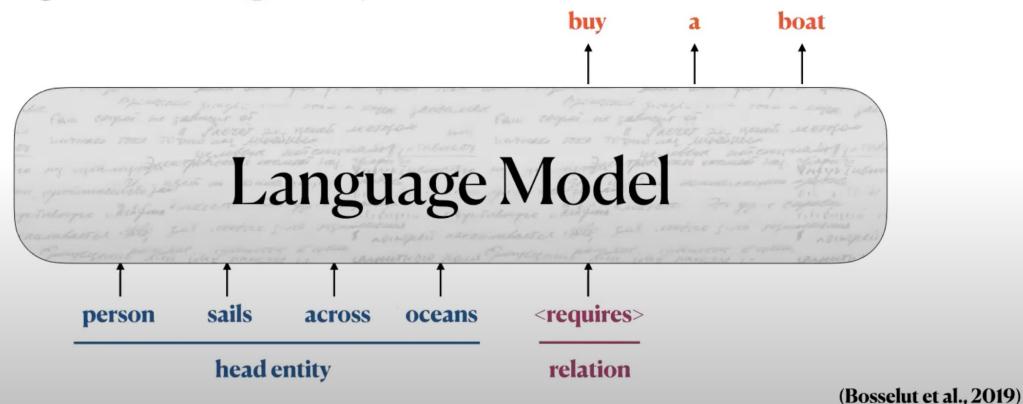
Limitation of KB approaches

- Situations rarely as in KBs
 - KB only a snapshot of vast commonsense knowledge
- Solutions
 - Learn from KBs, and induce new relationships
 - Scale-up using language resources

Going beyond KBs

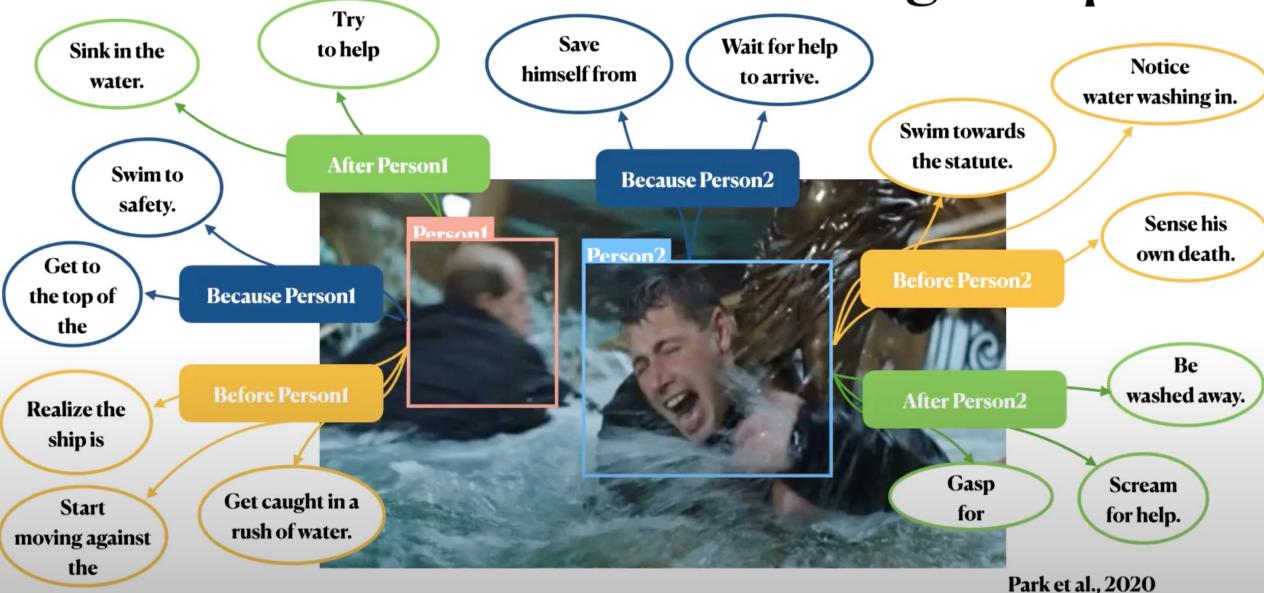
Given a seed entity and a relation, learn to generate the target entity $\mathcal{L} = -\sum \log P(\text{target words} | \text{seed words, relation})$

tail entity



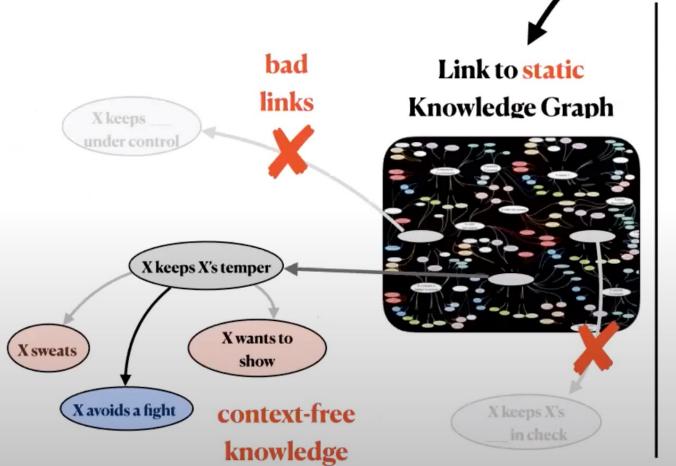
Visual Commonsense Knowledge Graphs

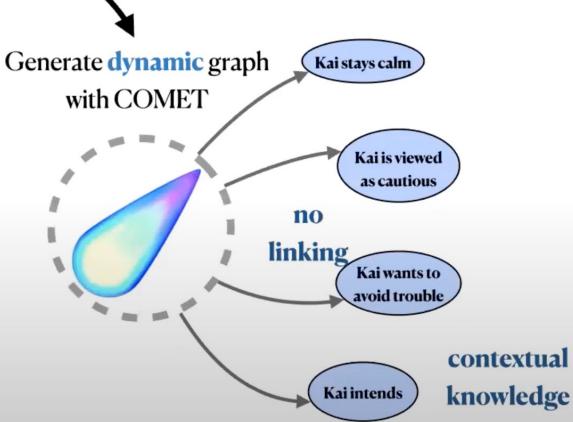




Static vs. Dynamic

Kai knew that things were getting out of control and managed to keep his temper in check





Summary

- What do LMs know (very little)?
- How do we measure commonsense ability (benchmarks)?
- What are commonsense resources for machines (representation)?
- How to integrate commonsense into machines?