Cheap Tricks and the Perils of Machine Learning

Percy Liang

Stanford / (Semantic Machines / Microsoft)



NAACL Workshop on New Forms of Generalization — June 5, 2018

Reading Comprehension (SQuAD)

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under **gravity**. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, **graupel** and hail... Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called "showers".

What causes precipitation to fall? gravity

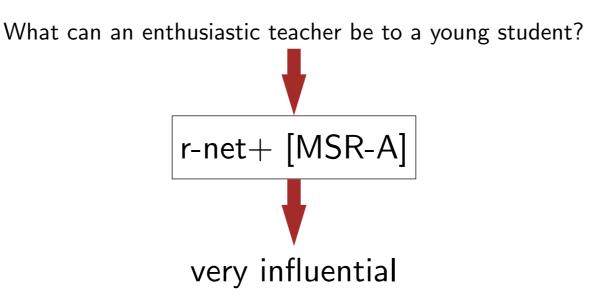
What is another main form of precipitation besides drizzle, rain, snow, sleet and hail? graupel

Where do water droplets collide with ice crystals to form precipitation? within a cloud



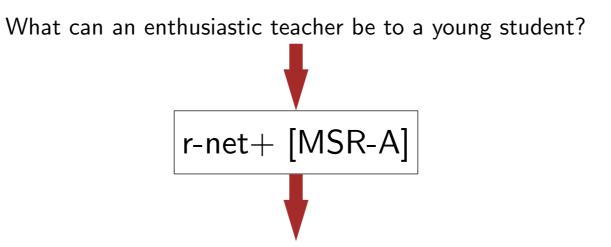
Rank	Model	EM	F1
	Human Performance Stanford University (Rajpurkar et al. '16)	82.304	91.221
1 Mar 19, 2018	QANet (ensemble) Google Brain & CMU	83.877	89.737
2 May 10, 2018	MARS (ensemble) YUANFUDAO research NLP	83.520	89.612
3 Mar 06, 2018	QANet (ensemble) Google Brain & CMU	82.744	89.045
4 May 09, 2018	MARS (single model) YUANFUDAO research NLP	82.587	88.880
4 Jan 22, 2018	Hybrid AoA Reader (ensemble) Joint Laboratory of HIT and iFLYTEK Research	82.482	89.281
4 Feb 19, 2018	Reinforced Mnemonic Reader + A2D (ensemble model) Microsoft Research Asia & NUDT	82.849	88.764
5 [Jan 03, 2018]	r-net+ (ensemble) Microsoft Research Asia	82.650	88.493
5 Feb 02, 2018	Reinforced Mnemonic Reader (ensemble model) NUDT and Fudan University https://arxiv.org/abs/1705.02798	82.283	88.533
5 Feb 27, 2018	QANet (single model) Google Brain & CMU	82.209	88.608
5 Jan 05, 2018	SLQA+ (ensemble) Alibaba iDST NLP	82.440	88.607
6 Dec 17, 2017	r-net (ensemble) Microsoft Research Asia http://aka.ms/rnet	82.136	88.126

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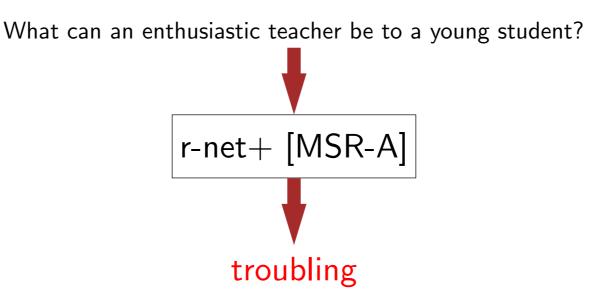


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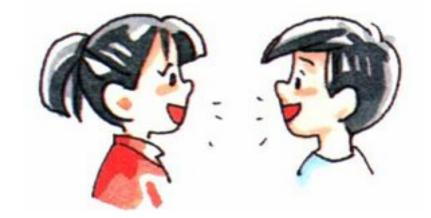




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Humans versus machines



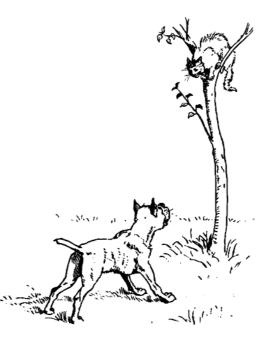


Harder tests?

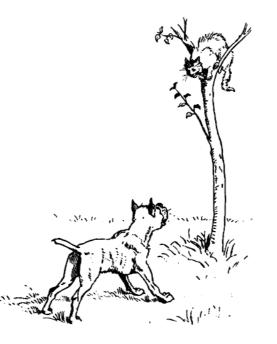


We want multiple-choice questions that people can answer easily. But we also want to avoid as much as possible questions that can be answered using **cheap tricks** (aka heuristics).

— Hector Levesque, 2013



The dog chased the cat, which ran up a tree. It waited at the top.



The dog chased the cat, which ran up a tree. It waited at the top.

The dog chased the cat, which ran up a tree. It waited at the bottom.

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Google	the c	at waited	Ŷ	پ ۹				
	All	Videos	Images	Shopping	News	More	Settings	Tools

About 23,000,000 results (0.36 seconds)

Images for the cat waited at the top



The dog chased the cat, which ran up a tree. It waited at the top.

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		All	Videos	Images	Shopping) N	ews	More		Settings	Tools	

About 4,470,000 results (0.37 seconds)

Top 10 Famous Loyal Dogs in the World - World Top Top worldtoptop.com/top-famous-loyal-dogs/ -

Dec 2, 2015 - Everyone says that **dog** is man's best friend and sticks by you no matter what. But do you really know how far a **dog's** loyalty will go? Some **dogs** became famous for displaying fidelity to their owners that goes above and beyond. You may have heard of Hachiko's story, **the dog** who **waited** for his master's ...

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About 1,530,000 results (0.39 seconds)

My friend's cat always waited for him at the bottom of the stairs ... https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/.../my_friends_cat_always_waited_for_him_at_the/

Oct 6, 2012 - My cat had a schedule that matched my grandfathers. theyd both get up at 9am then my grandfather would go to town from 11am to 1pm, then at 3pm hed go out to a friends until 9pm. The cat had her paws on the window of the screen door promptly at 1pm and 9pm waiting for him. he waited at these times ...

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Google the cat waited at the bottom						ļ	, Q			
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About 13,800,000 results (0.33 seconds)

Hachiko: A Dog's Story -- Film Review - Hollywood Reporter www1.hollywoodreporter.com/.../hachiko-a-dog-s-story-film-review-1003985181.sto... •

Jun 17, 2009 - **Bottom** Line: This affecting man-and-dog tale largely steers clear of mawkishness. SEATTLE -- Tear-jerkers about lovable dogs are almost always boxoffice winners as "Marley & Me" proved last year. Lasse Hallstrom's "**Hachiko**: A Dog's Story" might not match that film's performance, but it seems certain to ...

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But what about...

Commonsense knowledge Logical reasoning Linguistic phenomena Intuitive physics

. . .

But what about...

Commonsense knowledge Logical reasoning Linguistic phenomena Intuitive physics

MACHINE LEARNING DOESN'T CARE

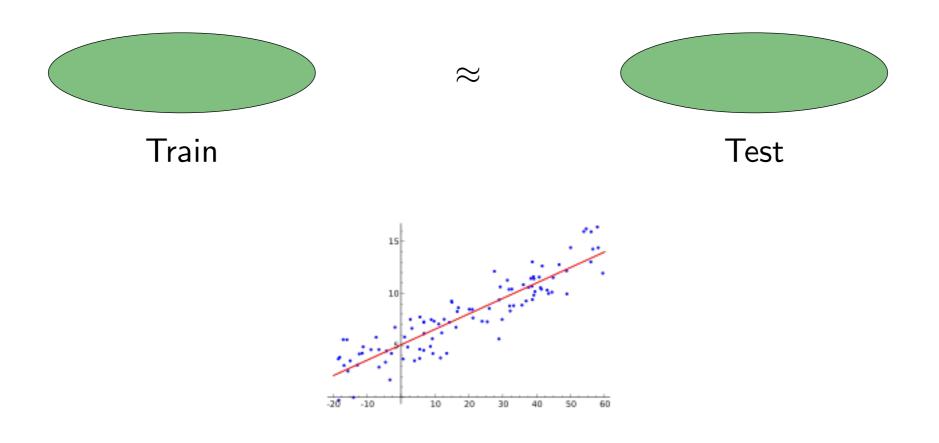
. . .



Interpolation is insufficient



Interpolation is insufficient

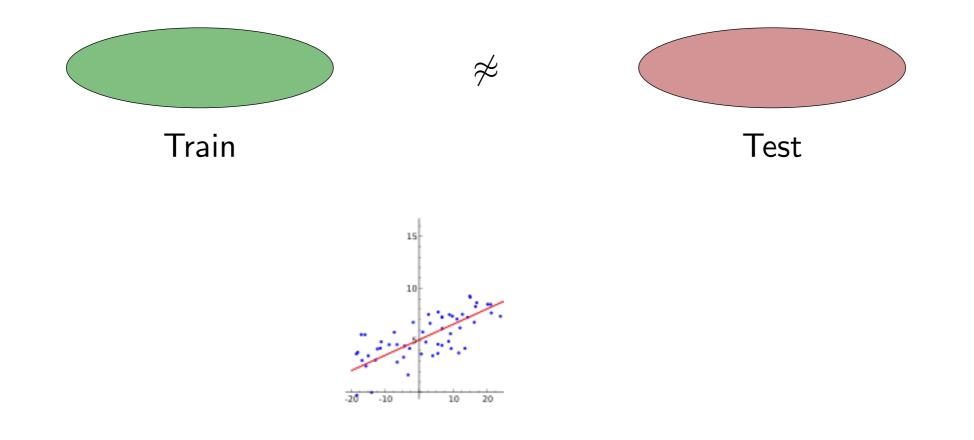


Any expressive model with enough data will do the job

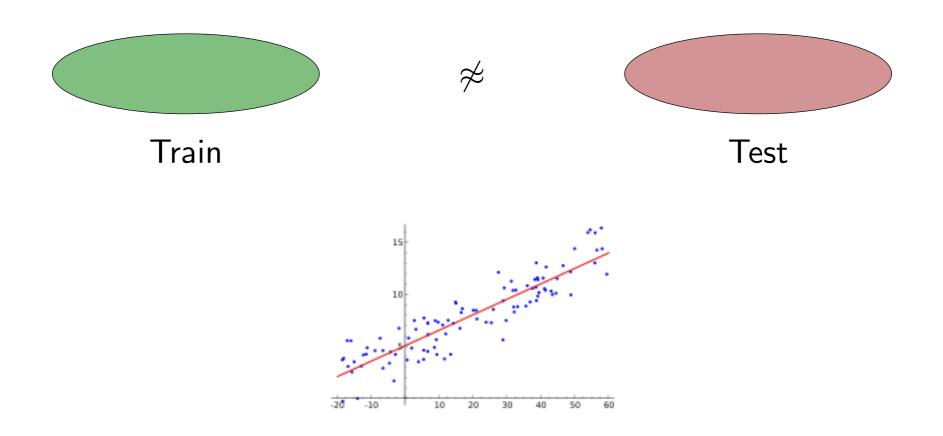
Extrapolation is harder



Extrapolation is harder



Extrapolation is harder



To extrapolate (and be robust), must get a more "correct" model

Outline



Harder data



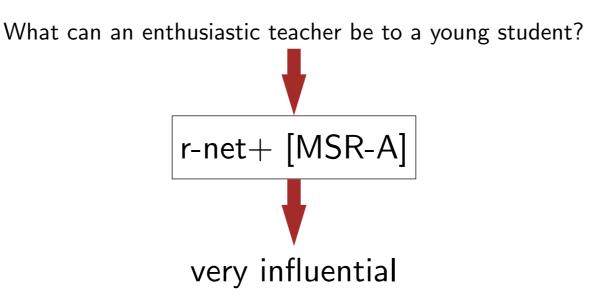
Stronger models

Adversarial evaluation of reading comprehension (EMNLP 2017)



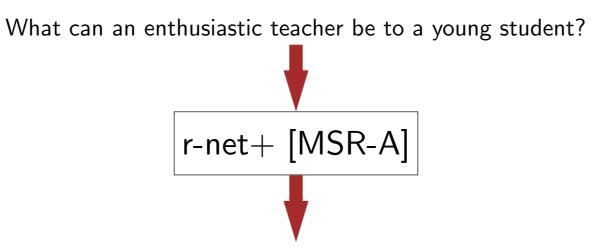
Robin Jia

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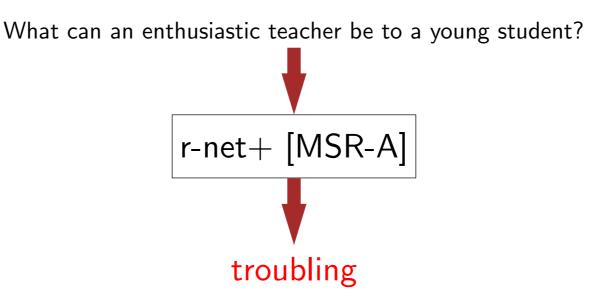


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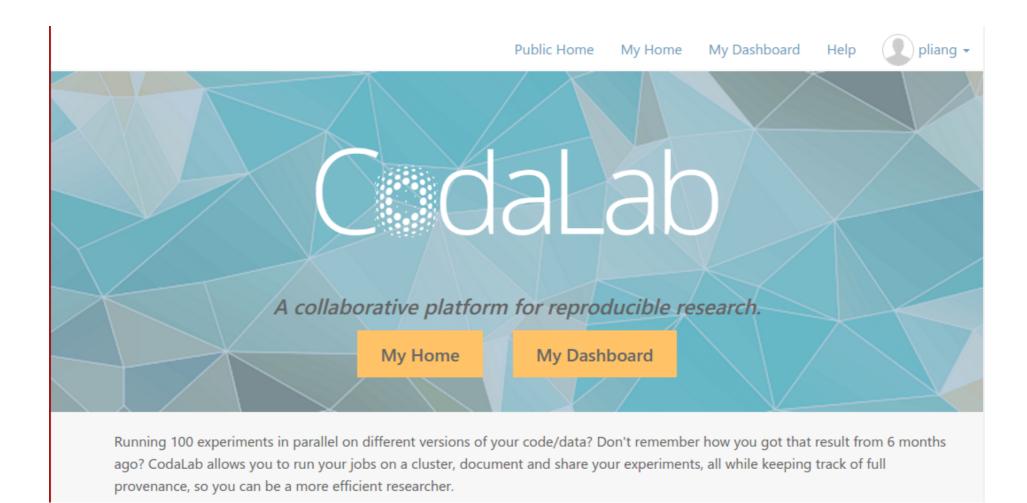




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worksheets.codalab.org



submit model to evaluate on hidden test set

Results on SQuAD models

Model	Original F1	Adversarial F1
SLQA+	88.6	64.2
r-net+	88.5	63.4
ReasoNet-E	81.1	49.8
SEDT-E	80.1	46.5
BiDAF-E	80.0	46.9
Mnemonic-E	79.1	55.3
Ruminating	78.8	47.7
jNet	78.6	47.0
Mnemonic-S	78.5	56.0
ReasoNet-S	78.2	50.3
MPCM-S	77.0	50.0

Results on SQuAD models

Model	Original F1	Adversarial F1
Humans	92.6	89.2
SLQA+	88.6	64.2
r-net+	88.5	63.4
ReasoNet-E	81.1	49.8
SEDT-E	80.1	46.5
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ReasoNet-S	78.2	50.3
MPCM-S	77.0	50.0

Training versus testing

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• If retrain model on adversarial examples (appended), 74.3 F1 \Rightarrow 70.0 F1

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- If retrain model on adversarial examples (appended), 74.3 F1 \Rightarrow 70.0 F1
- If test this model on prepended sentences, 70.0 F1 \Rightarrow 36.9 F1

Cannot patch these issues automatically!

Question: can we supply stronger information with the help of humans?



Know What You Don't Know: Unanswerable Questions for SQuAD (ACL 2018)



Pranav Rajpurkar



Robin Jia

Cheap tricks

Who was ...?

... Jefferson ...

When was ...?

... In 1812, ...

Cheap tricks



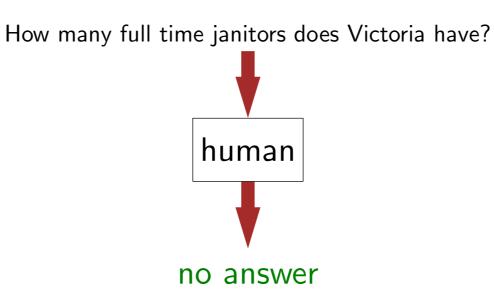
... Jefferson ...

When was ...?

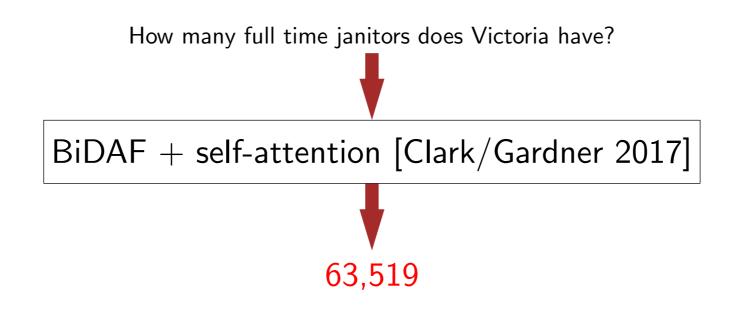
... In 1812, ...

Can find plausible answers by just detecting entities

As of August 2010, Victoria had 1,548 public schools, 489 Catholic schools and 214 independent schools. Just under 540,800 students were enrolled in public schools, and just over 311,800 in private schools. Over 61 per cent of private students attend Catholic schools. More than 462,000 students were enrolled in primary schools and more than 390,000 in secondary schools. Retention rates for the final two years of secondary school were 77 per cent for public school students and 90 per cent for private school students. **Victoria** has about 63,519 **full-time** teachers.



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- Took the same 536 documents from SQuAD
- 100K original SQuAD + 50K unanswerable questions

DocQA+ELMo:	66.3
Humans:	89.5

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- 100K original SQuAD + 50K unanswerable questions

DocQA+ELMo:	66.3
Humans:	89.5

• Automatically generated questions are too easy

TF-IDF questions	Rule-based questions	Crowdsourced
83.0	89.6	62.6

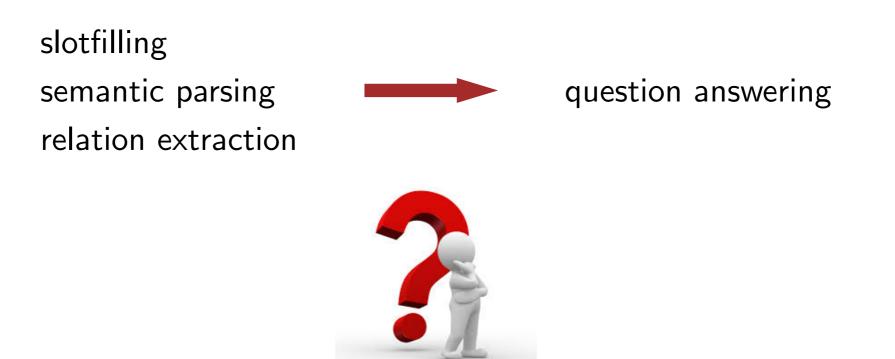
Need humans to give us information!

Evaluating Reading Comprehension Models based on Reductions

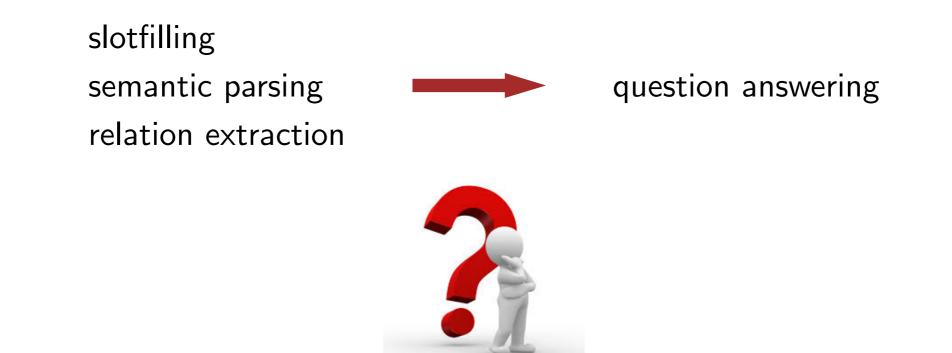


Robin Jia

Reductions



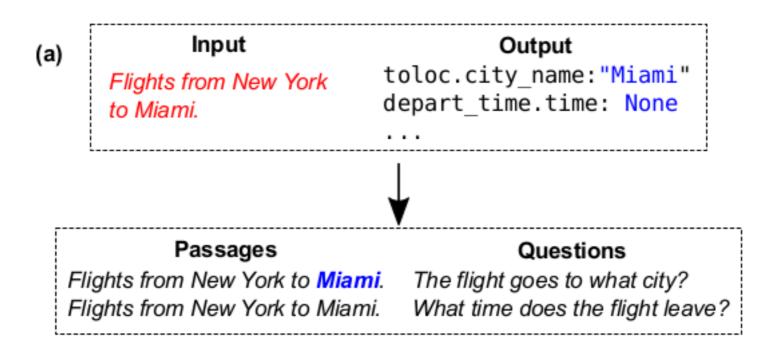
Reductions



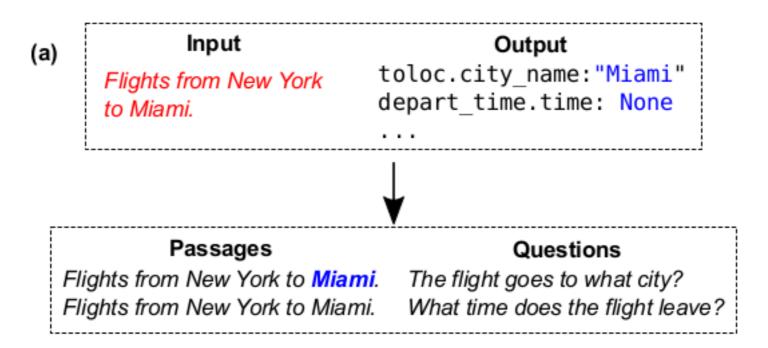
If it works: solve many other NLP tasks

If it doesn't work: evaluation benchmark for question answering

Slotfilling to question answering



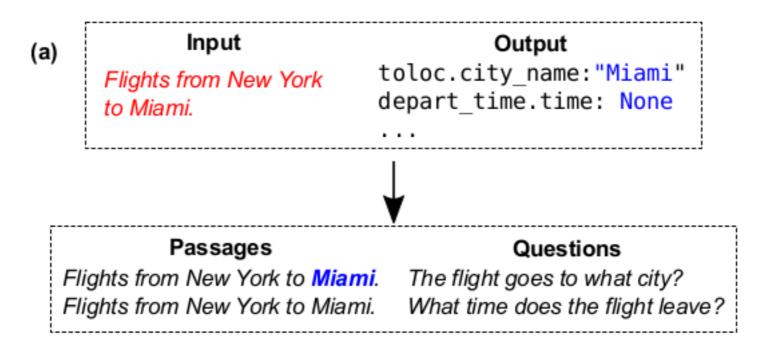
Slotfilling to question answering



Results:

Baseline	49.1				
Reduction to QA	75.4				

Slotfilling to question answering



Results:

Baseline	49.1
Reduction to QA	75.4 :(
Baseline $+$ 4 rules	83.2
Zhai et al. (2017)	95.9





• Adversarial examples for question answering expose problems quickly

• Need humans to cover the space, but space is still too big

• **Reductions** as a way of evaluating systems in a useful way

Outline



Harder data



Stronger models

Example 1: laws of physics



Train: small objects, the past

Test: large objects, the future

Extrapolate to novel configurations

Example 2: compositional semantics



Train:

the blue block right of the blue block

Example 2: compositional semantics



Train:

the blue block right of the blue block

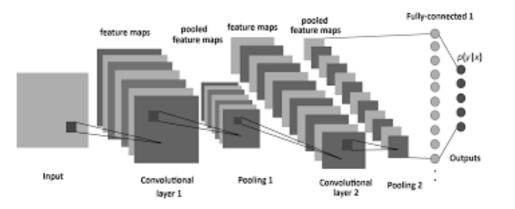
Test:

right of the blue block and left of the green block

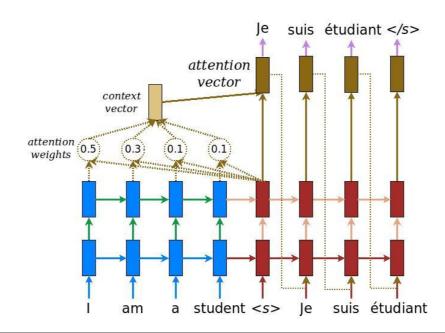
Extrapolate to longer sentences

Inductive bias in neural networks

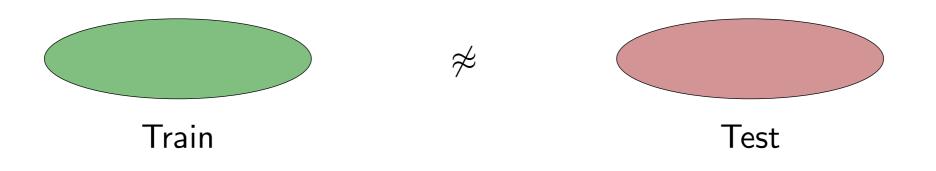
Convolutional neural networks:



Attention-based mechanisms:



Extrapolation



Extrapolation

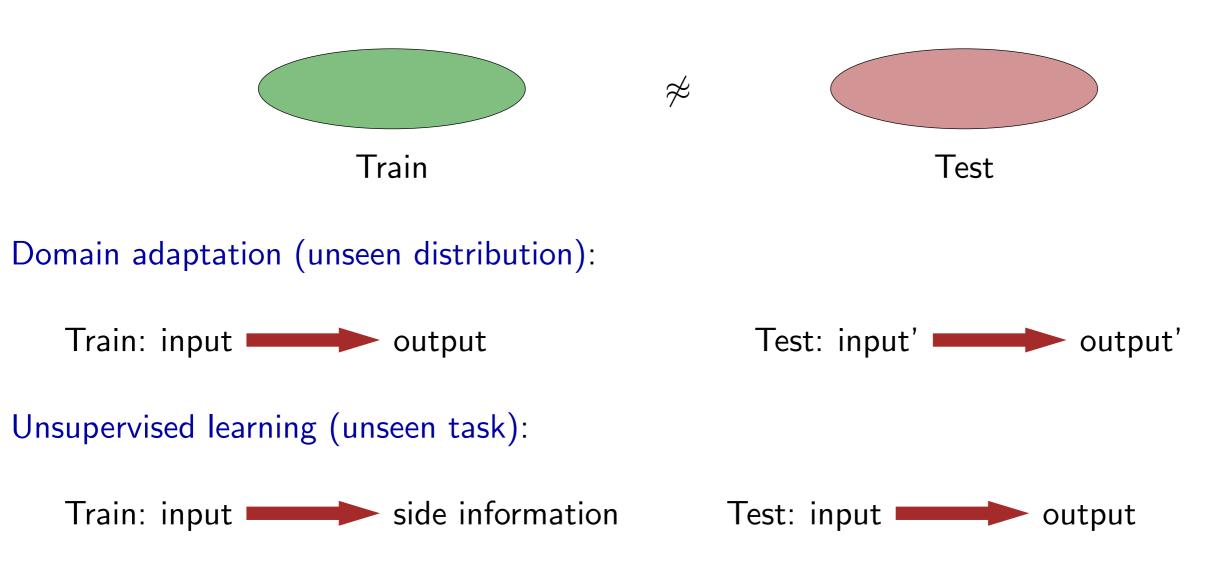


Domain adaptation (unseen distribution):





Extrapolation



Style / attribute transfer in natural language (NAACL 2018)



Juncen Li



Robin Jia



He He

Task setup

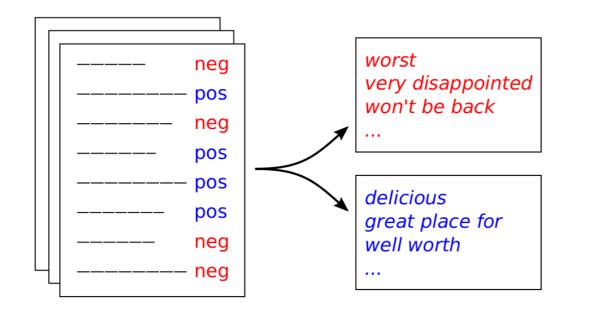
```
Train (review \Rightarrow sentiment):
```

very tasty burritos, and cheap too! \Rightarrow positivefound hair in my soup, would never go back again \Rightarrow negative......

Test (negative review \Rightarrow positive review):

great food but very rude workers \Rightarrow great food and very friendly staff

Deletion-based model



Step 1: extract attributes

Deletion-based model



Step 1: extract attributes

Step 2: delete + predict

Deletion-based model



Step 1: extract attributes

Step 2: delete + predict

Inductive bias: attribute/style is localized in the text

Datasets

Dataset	Attributes	Train	Dev	Test	
YELP	Positive	270K	2000	500	
IELP	Negative	180K	2000	500	
CAPTIONS	Romantic	6000	500	0	
CAPITONS	Humorous	6000	500	0	
	Factual	0	0	500	
Amazon	Positive	277K	985	500	
	Negative	278K	1015	500	

[Shen+ 2017; Fu+ 2018; Gan+ 2017]

Human evaluation: grammatical, preserve content, has target attribute

	YELP			Amazon			CAPTIONS					
	Gra	Con	Att	Suc	Gra	Con	Att	Suc	Gra	Con	Att	Suc
CROSSALIGNED	2.8	2.9	3.5	14%	3.2	2.5	2.9	7%	3.9	2.0	3.2	16%
StyleEmbedding	3.5	3.7	2.1	9%	3.2	2.9	2.8	11%	3.3	2.9	3.0	17%
MultiDecoder	2.8	3.1	3.0	8%	3.0	2.6	2.8	7%	3.4	2.8	3.2	18%
RETRIEVEONLY	4.2	2.7	4.2	25%	3.8	2.8	3.1	17%	4.2	2.6	3.8	27%
TEMPLATEBASED	3.0	3.9	3.9	21%	3.4	3.6	3.1	19%	3.3	4.1	3.5	33%
DELETEONLY	3.0	3.7	3.9	24%	3.7	3.8	3.2	24%	3.6	3.5	3.5	32%
DELETEANDRETRIEVE	3.3	3.7	4.0	$\mathbf{29\%}$	3.9	3.7	3.4	$\mathbf{29\%}$	3.8	3.5	3.9	43 %
Human	4.6	4.5	4.5	75%	4.2	4.0	3.7	44%	4.3	3.9	4.0	56%

[Shen+ 2017; Fu+ 2018]

Source:

we sit down and we got some really slow and lazy service .

Source: we sit down and we got some really slow and lazy service .

CrossAligned: we *went* down and we *were a good , friendly food*.

StyleEmbedding: we sit down and we got some really *slow* and *prices suck*.

MultiDecoder: we sit down and we got some really and *fast food*.

Source: we sit down and we got some really slow and lazy service. **CrossAligned:** we went down and we were a good, friendly food. **StyleEmbedding:** we sit down and we got some really *slow* and *prices suck*. MultiDecoder: we sit down and we got some really and *fast food*. **Delete:** we sit down and we got some great and quick service. **Delete+Retrieve:** we got very nice place to sit down and we got some service .

Locality inductive bias helps!

SAT solving with neural networks



Daniel Selsam



Matt Lamm



Benedikt Bunz



Leonardo de Moura



David Dill

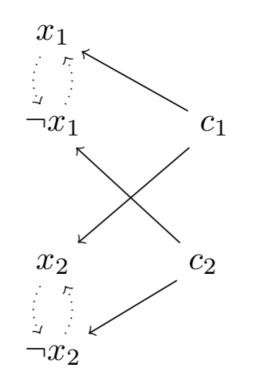
SAT solving

$$(x_1 \lor x_2) \land (\neg x_1 \lor x_3) \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 1$$

$$x_1 \wedge \neg x_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{unsat}$$

Can neural networks do logical reasoning?

Model



- Embedding for each literal, clause and time step
- Literals and clauses exchange messages
- At the end, predict vote for each literal, and average

Captures inductive bias of survey propagation

Predicting satisfiability

Train: random instances of sat/unsat minimal pairs

$$\underbrace{(x_1 \lor x_2) \cdots}_{\mathsf{sat}} \Rightarrow 1$$

$$\underbrace{(\neg x_1 \lor x_2) \cdots}_{\longleftarrow} \Rightarrow 0$$

unsat

Test: random instances (same distribution)

Predicting satisfiability

Train: random instances of sat/unsat minimal pairs

$$\underbrace{(x_1 \lor x_2) \cdots}_{\mathsf{sat}} \Rightarrow 1$$

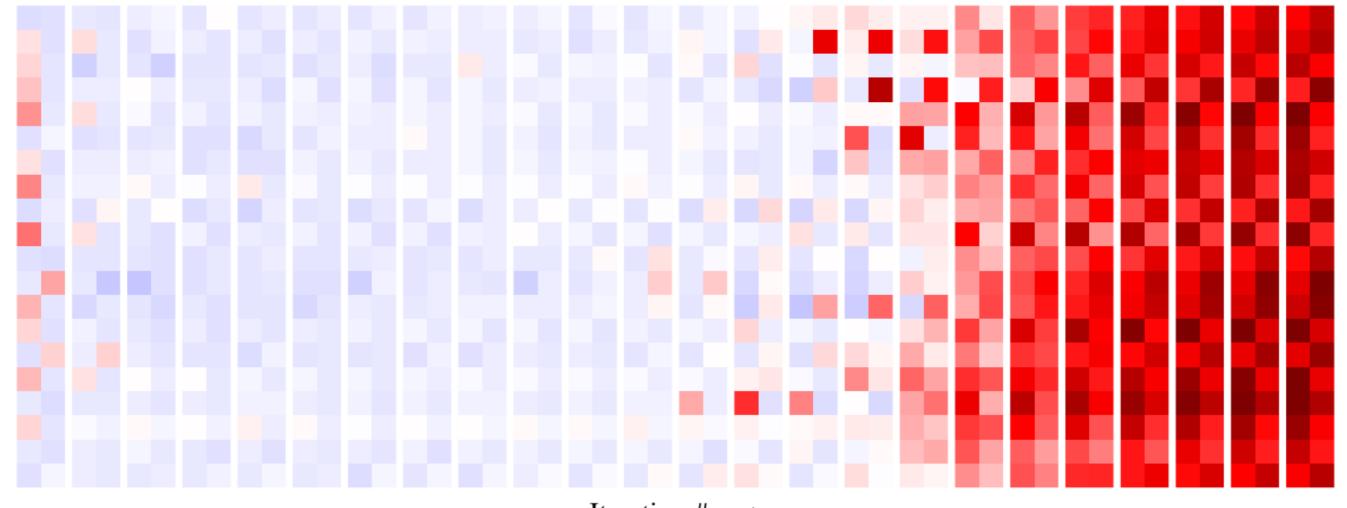
$$\underbrace{(\neg x_1 \lor x_2) \cdots}_{\checkmark} \Rightarrow 0$$

unsat

Test: random instances (same distribution)

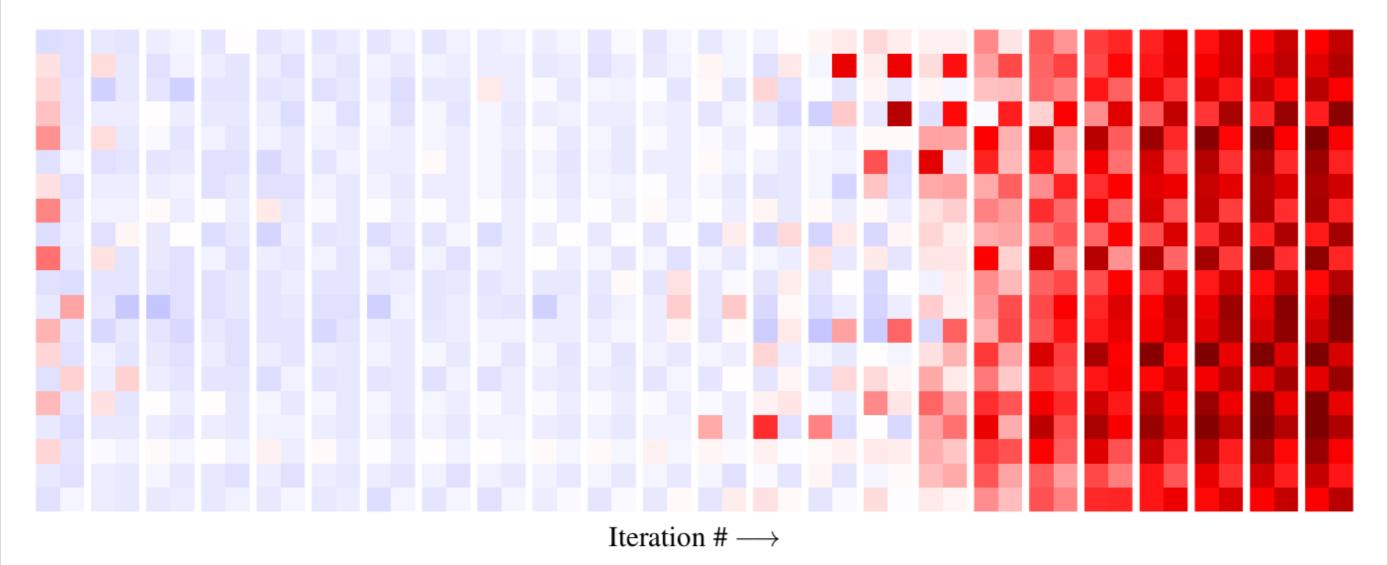
Test accuracy: 88%

Decoding satisfying assignments



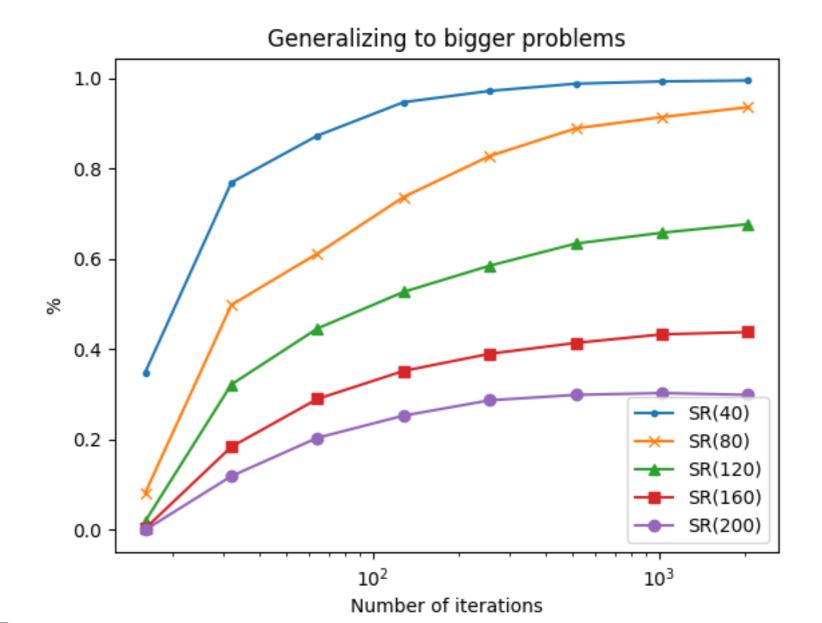
Iteration $\# \longrightarrow$

Decoding satisfying assignments



Can decode 90% of instances where model predicts sat — extrapolation!

Extrapolation to larger instances, more iterations



Transferring to different problems

Task	$\mu_{ m vars}$	μ_{clauses}	#sat	%solved
3-color	30	89	350	64%
4-color	40	135	557	69%
5-color	50	191	590	54%
3-clique	30	389	586	88%
4-clique	40	686	241	96%
5-clique	50	1067	43	28%
2-domset	30	264	278	99%
3-domset	40	454	574	95%
4-domset	50	689	600	100%
4-cover	50	696	128	100%
5-cover	60	976	357	100%
6-cover	70	1301	584	96%
all	45	532	4888	85%





• Unsupervised learning: evaluate on structurally unseen task

• Strong inductive bias permits this unsupervised learning

Outline



Harder data



Stronger models

Tasks that require understanding?



man in black shirt is playing guitar

This bird is white with some black on its head and wings, and has a long orange beak

This bird has a yellow belly and tarsus, grey back, s, wings, and brown throat, nape with a black face This flower has overlapping pink pointed petals surrounding a ring of short yellow filaments



[Karpathy+ 2014; Zhang+ 2016]

Tasks that require understanding?



man in black shirt is playing guitar

This bird is white with some black on its head and wings, and has a long orange beak

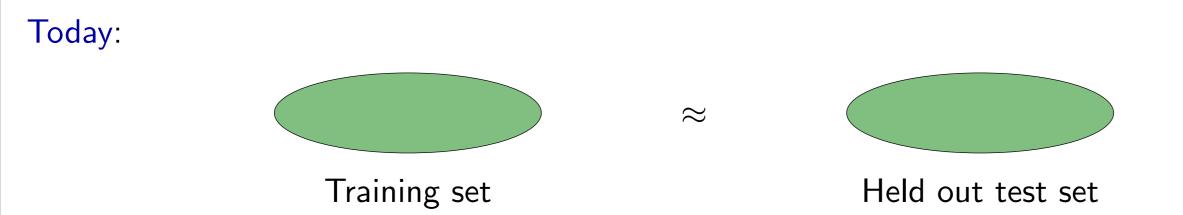
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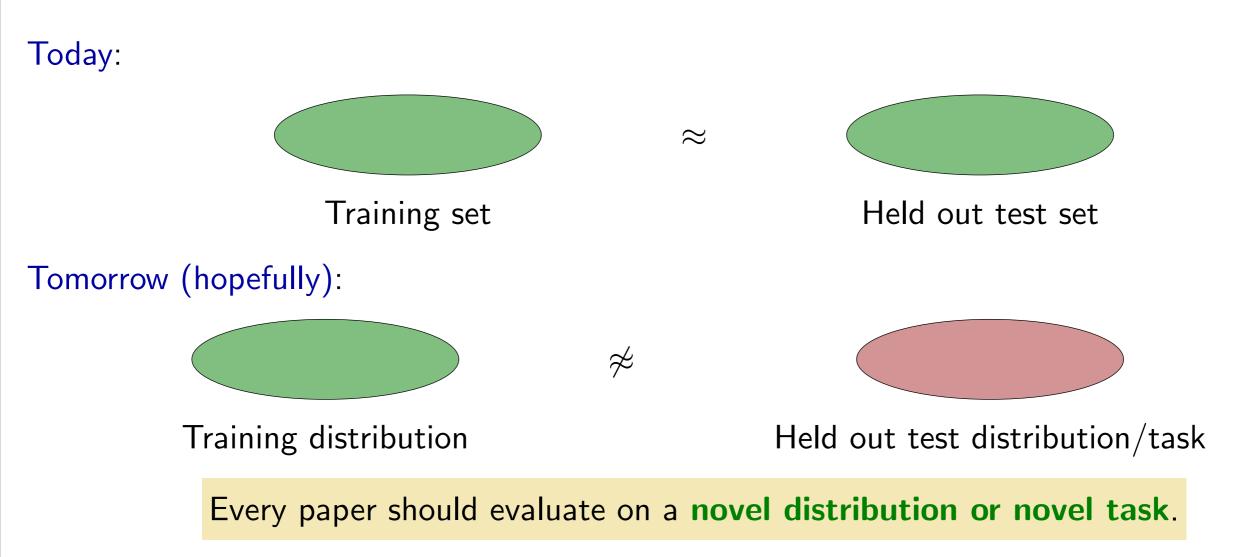
[Karpathy+ 2014; Zhang+ 2016]

If want to evaluate ML, need to think statistically...

Challenge to the community



Challenge to the community







Need to think like machine learning when using machine learning





provenance, so you can be a more efficient researcher.

> run rnn.py:0xf421264a206142fa97f7bebdac7bb09e "python rnn.py --task sum --num-iters 100000 --n-input 20 --step-size 0.0001" name: plang-mn uuid: 0xobad+1bbd3a64f71ba6cf77f6582idbd owner: pliang permissions: you(all) public(read) Mode: View Edit source

2015-12-05

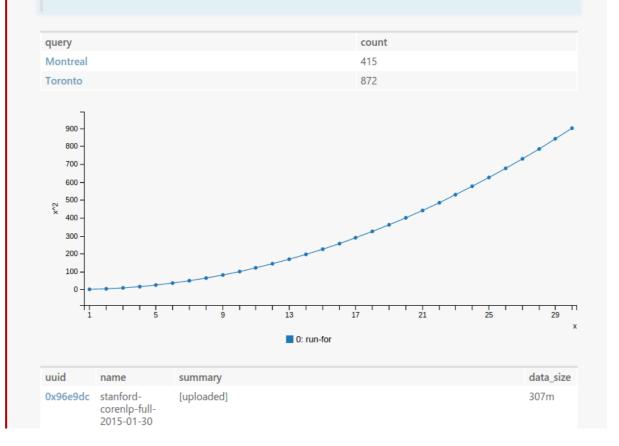
Just playing around with RNNs on some toy data...

uuid	task	model	n_hidden	n_input	n_time	step_size	iter	num_iters	error	time	state	description
0xf42126											ready	my program
0xfaee92	sum	rnn	5	2	10	0.001	29000	30000	2.6634	1m10s	ready	baseline
0x8e8f03	sum	rnn	5	2	10	0.001	29000	30000	2.2810	1m43s	ready	
0xd3302b	sum	rnn	5	4	10	0.005	99000	100000	0.1187	2m27s	ready	
0x60aab5	sum	rnn	5	4	10	0.005	334000	1000000	4.4134	3m37s	running	increase #iters
0xae4ff2	sum	rnn	5	20	10	0.005	311000	1000000	11.0963	4m16s	running	
0x062bab	sum	rnn	5	20	10	0.001	264000	1000000	12.5704	2m57s	running	decrease step size
0xae4472	sum	rnn	5	20	10	0.0001		1000000		43.0s	running	decrease step size

Heading

uuid	name	summary	state	desc.
0xc19b66	nanc-1m.txt	[uploaded]	ready	1 million sentences from the NANC corpus

Two New Orleans riverboat casinos declared bankruptcy in early June after just two months One of the boats was owned by Harrah 's Jazz partner Christopher Hemmeter .



C daLab Worksheets

worksheets.codalab.org





Juncen Li





He He



Daniel Selsam Matt Lamm



Benedikt Bunz

NSF



Leonardo de Moura



David Dill

Future of Life

OpenPhil



Microsoft



Thank you!