

# Retrofitting Word Vectors to Semantic Lexicons

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# Word embeddings

- A system that maps words from a vocabulary to meaningful vectors
- Data driven: trained on text
- Popular word embeddings: word2vec, glove
- Can be used for identifying relationships between pairs of words

# GloVe Demo

Finding the nearest neighbors of  
sweden

```
nearest_neighbors  
( 'sweden' )
```

```
      Word      Cosine distance  
-----  
    norway      0.760124  
    denmark      0.715460  
    finland      0.620022  
switzerland      0.588132  
    belgium      0.585835  
netherlands      0.574631  
    iceland      0.562368  
    estonia      0.547621  
    slovenia     0.531408
```

# Semantic lexicons

- Human-written rules about vocabulary words and their relationships to one another
- Contain synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, paraphrase relationships
- Popular semantic lexicons: WordNet, FrameNet, Paraphrase Database

# WordNet Demo

## Finding hypernyms and hyponyms of paint

### Noun

- [S: \(n\) paint](#), [pigment](#) (a substance used as a coating to protect or decorate a surface (especially a mixture of pigment suspended in a liquid); dries to form a hard coating) *"artists use 'paint' and 'pigment' interchangeably"*
  - [direct hyponym](#) / [full hyponym](#)
    - [S: \(n\) acrylic](#), [acrylic paint](#) (used especially by artists)
    - [S: \(n\) antifouling paint](#) (a paint used to protect against the accumulation of barnacles etc. on underwater surfaces)
    - [S: \(n\) coat of paint](#) (a layer of paint covering something else)
    - [S: \(n\) distemper](#) (paint made by mixing the pigments with water and a binder)
    - [S: \(n\) enamel](#) (a paint that dries to a hard glossy finish)
    - [S: \(n\) encaustic](#) (a paint consisting of pigment mixed with melted beeswax; it is fixed with heat after application)
    - [S: \(n\) finger paint](#), [fingerpaint](#) (paint that has the consistency of jelly)
    - [S: \(n\) house paint](#), [housepaint](#) (paint used to cover the exterior woodwork of a house)
    - [S: \(n\) oil paint](#) (paint in which a drying oil is the vehicle)
    - [S: \(n\) semigloss](#) (a paint that dries with a finish between glossy and flat)
    - [S: \(n\) spray paint](#) (paint applied with a spray gun)
    - [S: \(n\) water-base paint](#) (paint in which water is used as the vehicle)
  - [substance meronym](#)
  - [direct hypernym](#) / [inherited hypernym](#) / [sister term](#)
    - [S: \(n\) coating](#), [coat](#) (a thin layer covering something) *"a second coat of paint"*
    - [S: \(n\) coloring material](#), [colouring material](#), [color](#), [colour](#) (any material used for its color) *"she used a different color for the trim"*

# Problem: Improving word embeddings

- Unsupervised learning of word embeddings is good, but has problems
- Plus, we have databases of carefully arranged categorized information about our language (semantic lexicons)
- How can we use our domain knowledge to improve word embeddings?

# Solution

## Retrofitting Word Vectors to Semantic Lexicons

**Idea:** balance distance from original vector in embedding space with distance between word and its associations from semantic lexicon

Can do this by minimizing:

$$\Psi(Q) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \alpha_i \|q_i - \hat{q}_i\|^2 + \sum_{(i,j) \in E} \beta_{ij} \|q_i - q_j\|^2 \right]$$

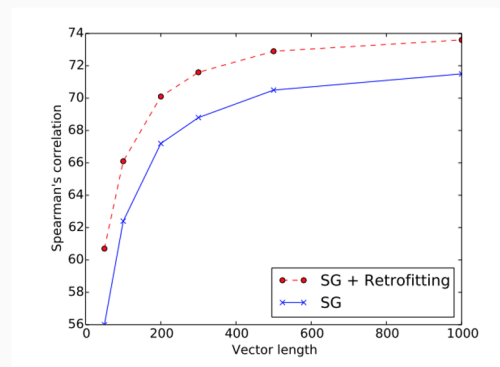
Turns out,  $\Psi$  is convex in  $Q$ , so we can solve it using gradient descent

# Retrofitting word vectors: Results

Retrofitted vectors **outperform** their original counterparts, as well as prior work that tried to incorporate information from semantic lexicons during training

The process is very **fast** -- takes 5 seconds for a graph of 100,000 words and vector length 300

**Multilingual:** this technique works on embeddings & lexicons from any language





# Retrofitting word vectors: Results

Modeling relationships: “adjective to adverb”

