

TextAttack:

Generalizing Adversarial Examples to Natural Language Processing

@ UVA Human and Machine Intelligence Seminar
2021/04/13

Yanjun Qi

<http://www.cs.virginia.edu/yanjun/>

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Background:

Natural Language Processing and Recent
advances by Deep Learning

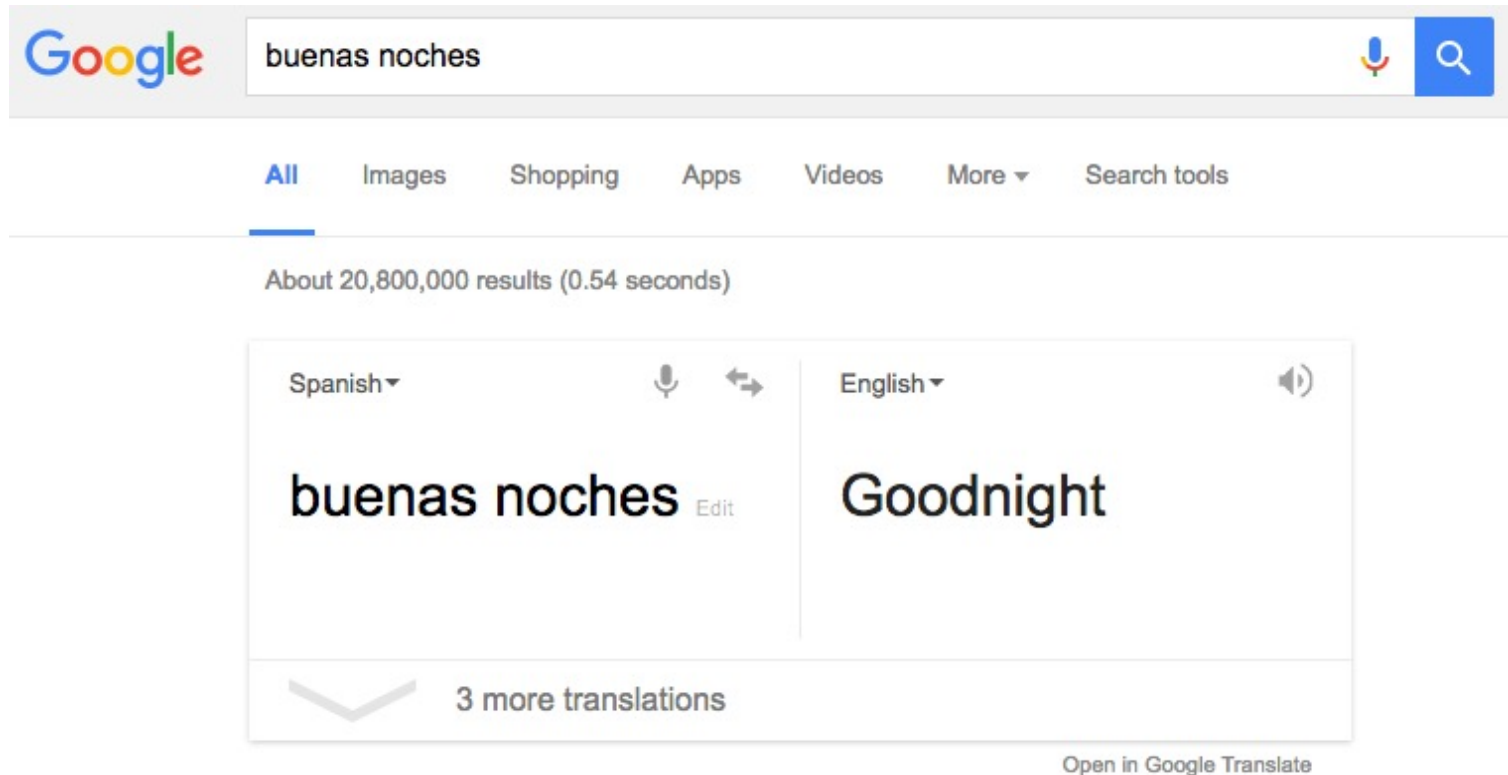
What is Natural language processing (NLP)

Wiki: is a field of computer science, artificial intelligence, and computational linguistics concerned with the interactions between computers and human (**natural**) languages.



- Identify the **structure** and **meaning** of **words**, **sentences**, **texts** and **conversations**
- **Deep** understanding of **broad** language
- NLP is all around us


Machine translation



Dialog Systems

Gift shop

Items such as caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts and other miscellanea such as buttons and mouse pads have been designed. In addition, merchandise for almost all of the projects is available.





Hi. I'm your automated online assistant. How may I help you?

CD or DVD


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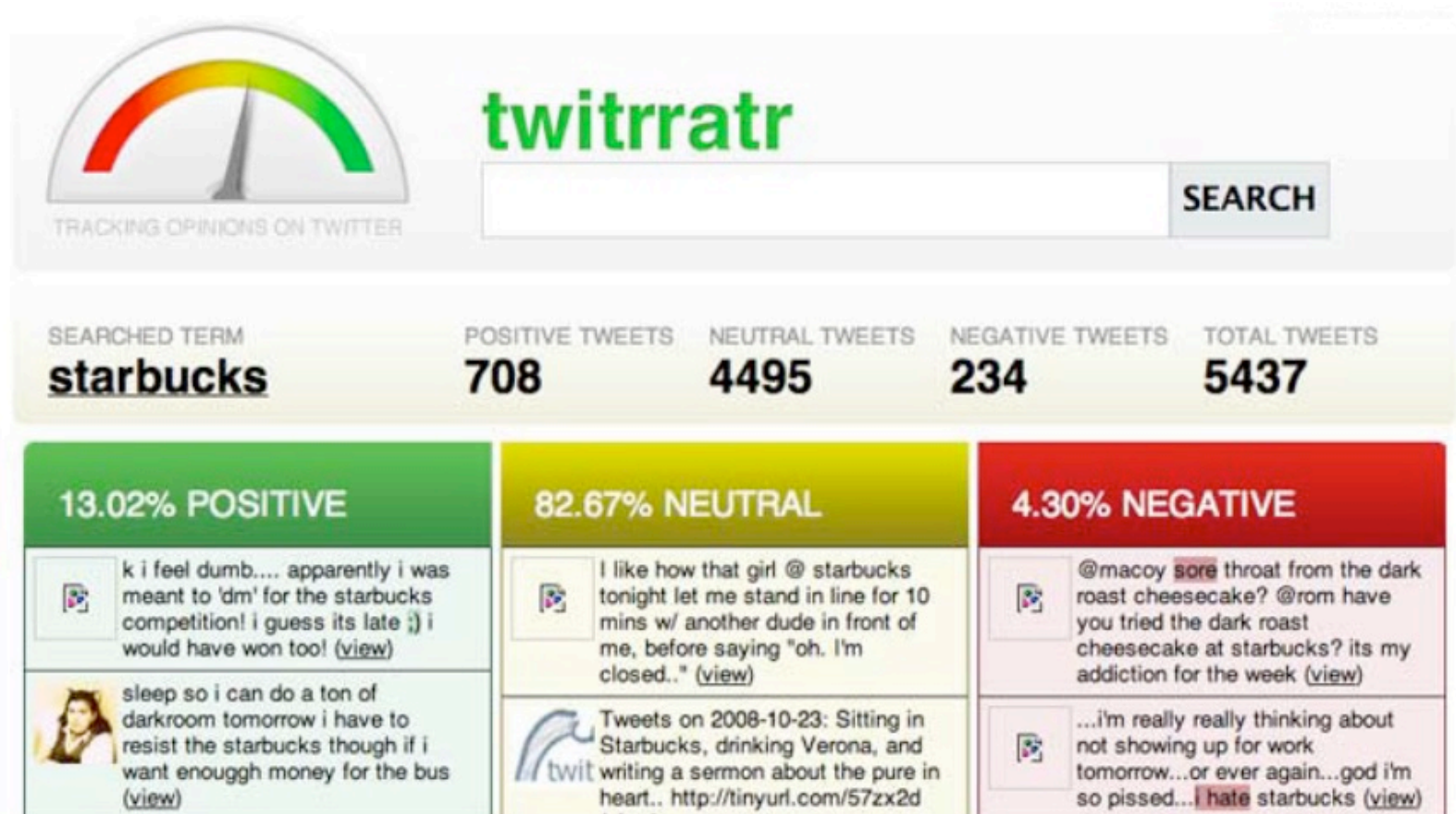


Natural language instruction



- Will it rain tomorrow?
- Set an alarm for eight a.m.
- How many teaspoons are in a tablespoon?
- Wikipedia: Abraham Lincoln
- Play my "dinner party" playlist
- Add "make hotel reservations" to my to-do list
- What's the weather in Los Angeles this weekend?
- When is Thanksgiving?
- Add gelato to my shopping list
- Play music by Bruno Mars

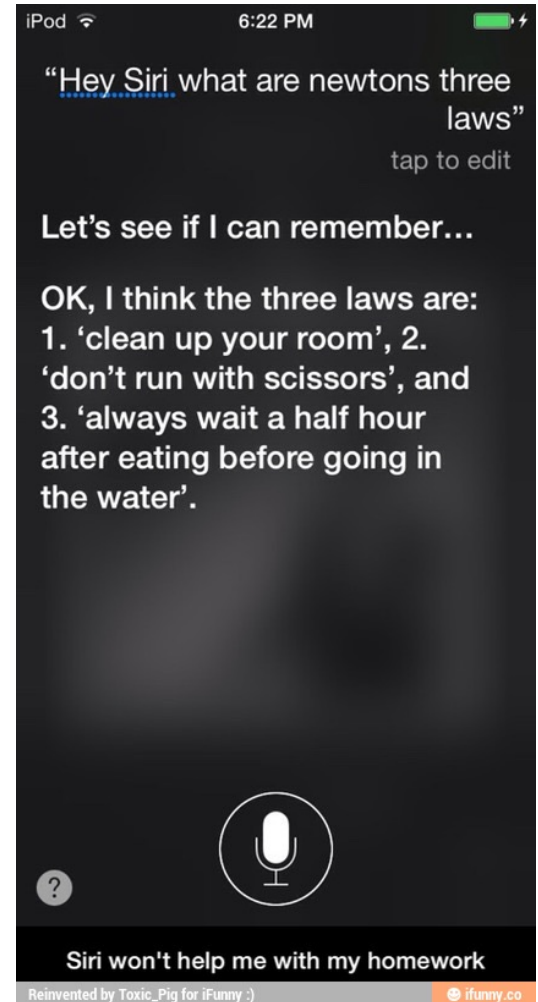
Sentiment/Opinion Analysis



Question answering

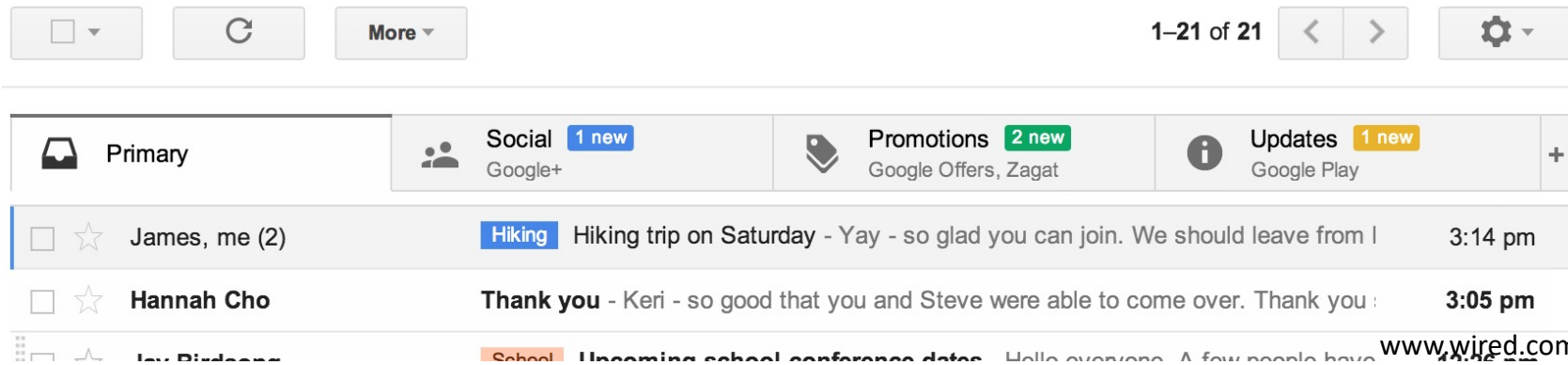


'Watson' computer wins at 'Jeopardy'

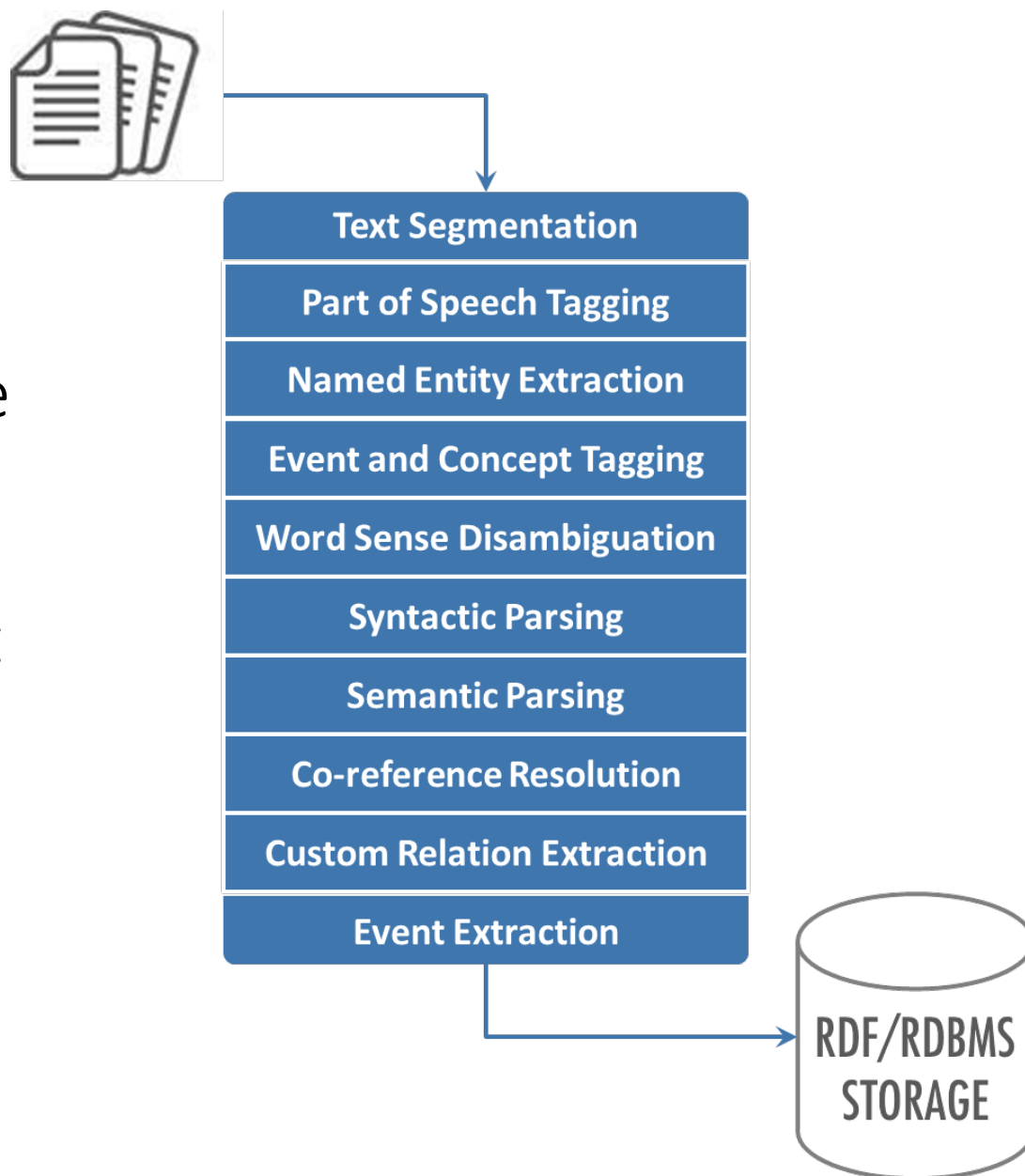


credit: ifunny.com

Text Classification



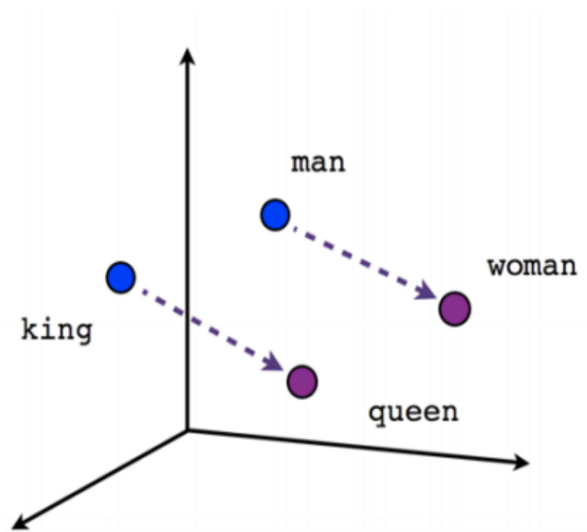
Classic NLP Pipeline
Includes a set of
Components for
Understanding Text



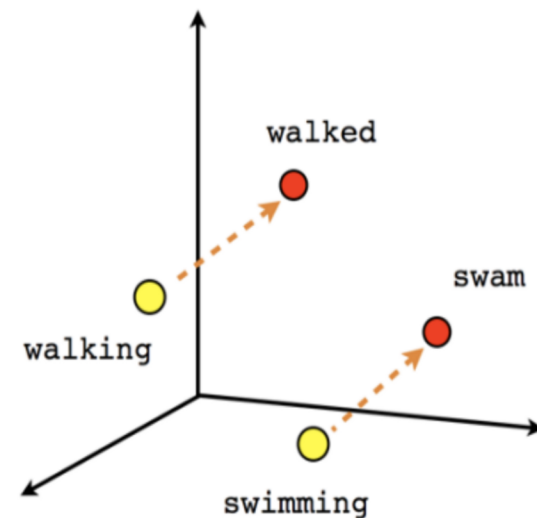
Recent deep learning advances on natural language

- Before Deep NLP (Pre 2012)
 - Supervised predictors for each component
 - (BOW / LSI / Topic LDA)
- Word2Vec (2013-2016)
 - (GloVe/ FastText)
- Recurrent NN (2014-2016)
 - LSTM
 - Seq2Seq
- Attention / Self-Attention (2016 – now)
 - Attention
 - Transformer (self-attention, attention only)
 - BERT / XLNet/ GPT-2 / T5 ...

Distributional Word Embedding Vector: To Represent A Word in DNN

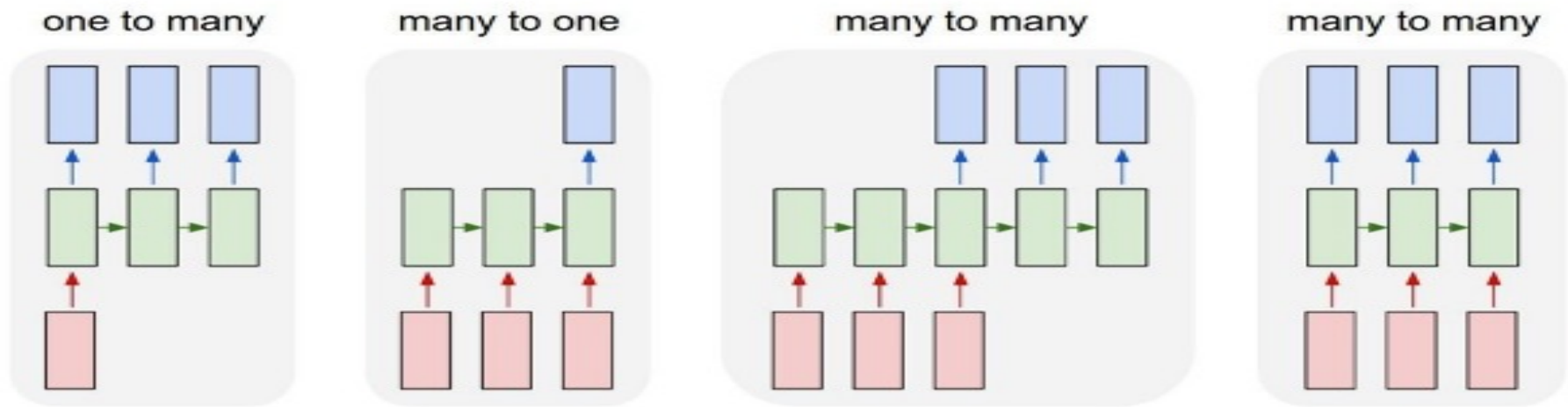


Male-Female



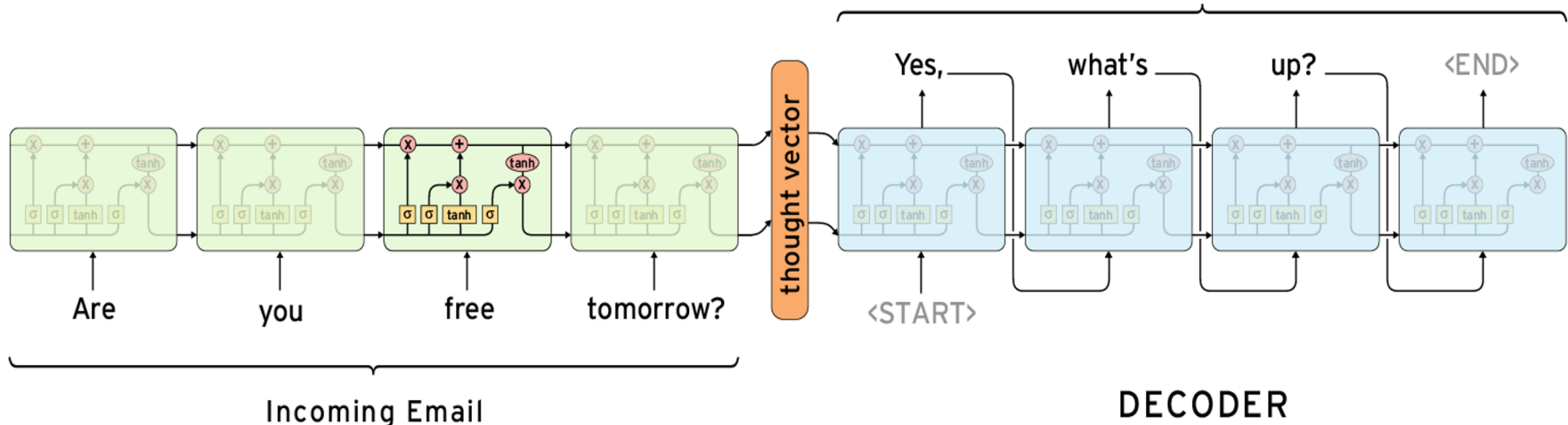
Verb tense

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) can handle

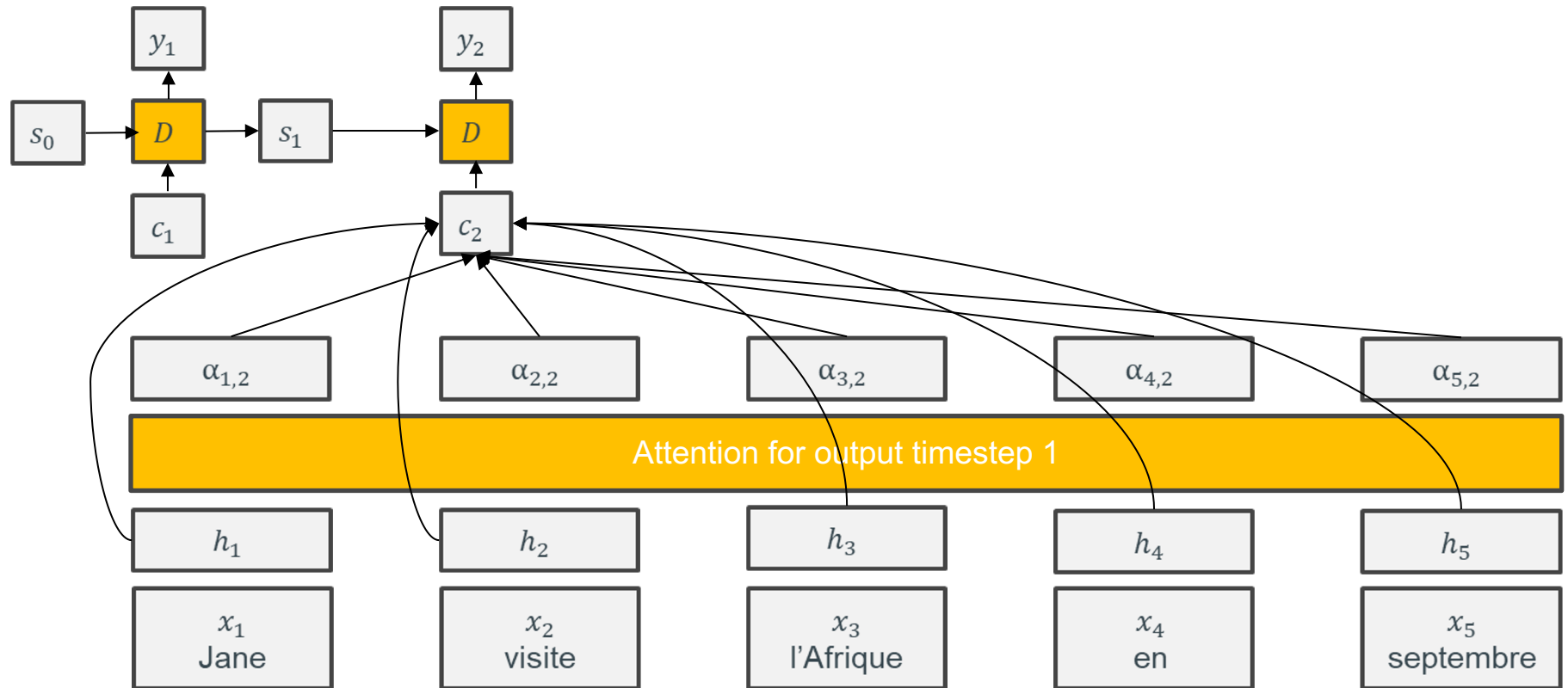


e.g. **Machine Translation**
seq of words \rightarrow seq of words

ENCODER



The attention module gives us a weight for each input.



Self-attention creates attention layers mapping from a sequence to itself.

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

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The FBI is chasing a criminal on the run .

Transformer: Exploiting Self Attentions

- A Google Brain model.
 - Variable-length input
 - Fixed-length output (but typically extended to a variable-length output)
 - **No recurrence**
 - Surprisingly not patented.
- Uses 3 kinds of attention
 - Encoder self-attention.
 - Decoder self-attention.
 - Encoder-decoder multi-head attention.

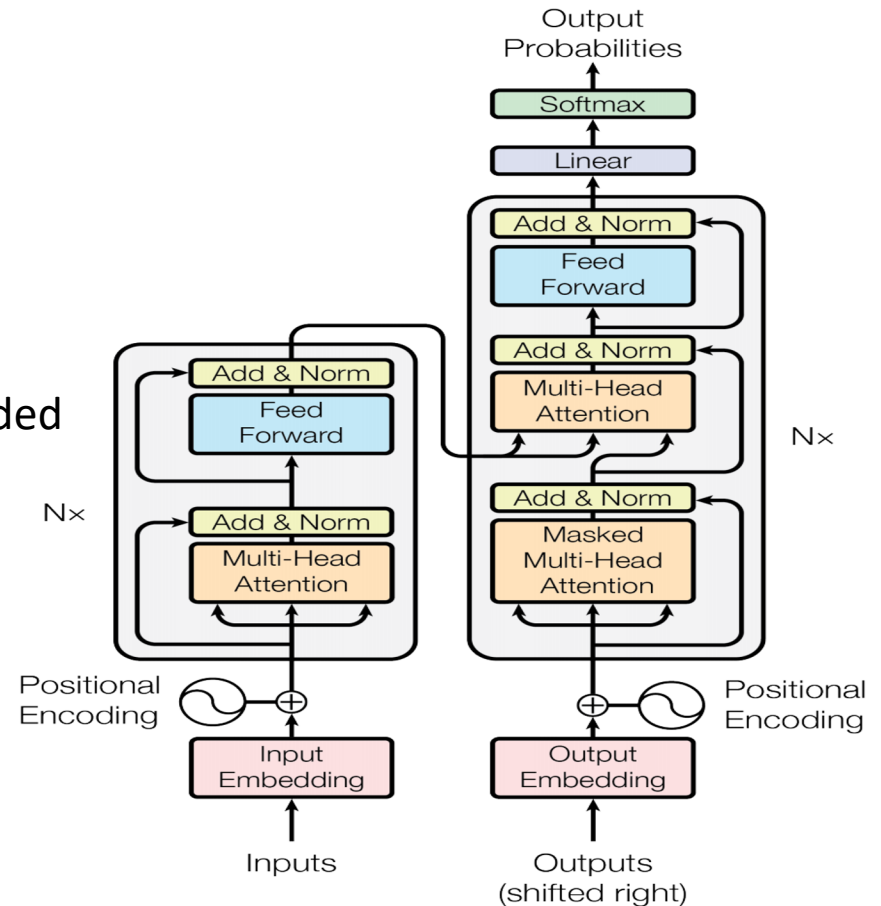


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.



Hugging Face

Search models, datasets, users...

Tasks

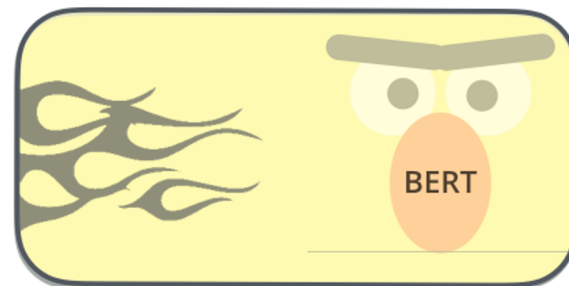
Models 8277

Search Models

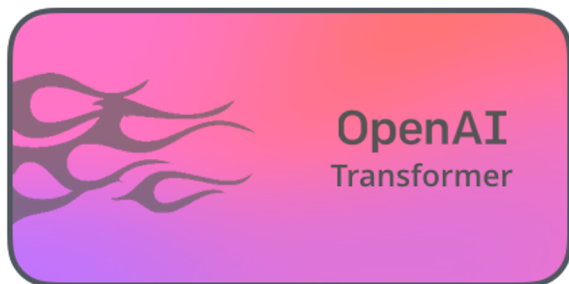


THE
TRANSFORMER

BERT: Bidirectional
Encoder
Representations from
Transformers
Pre-trained
transformer encoder
for sentence
embedding

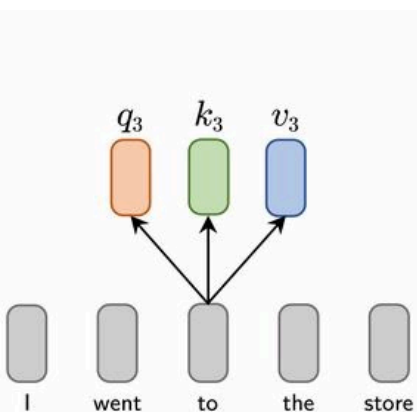


BERT

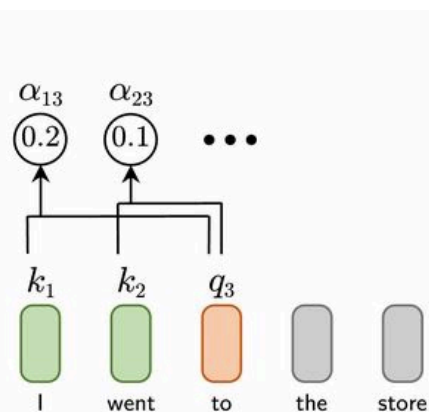


OpenAI
Transformer

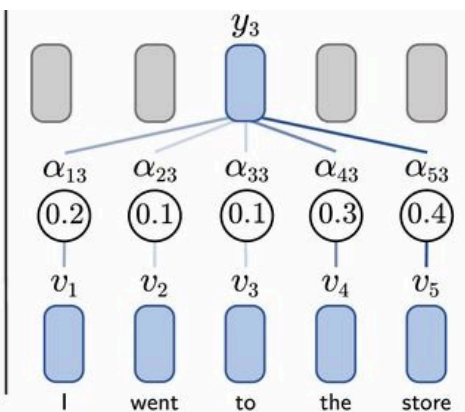
Notable pre-trained NLP models



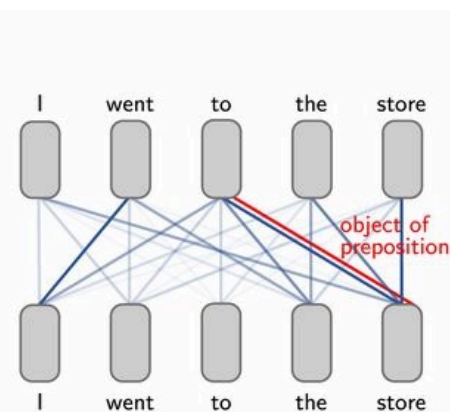
Each input vector is linearly transformed into query, key, and value vectors



Attention weights are normalized inner products of query and key vectors



Outputs are weighted sums of value vectors

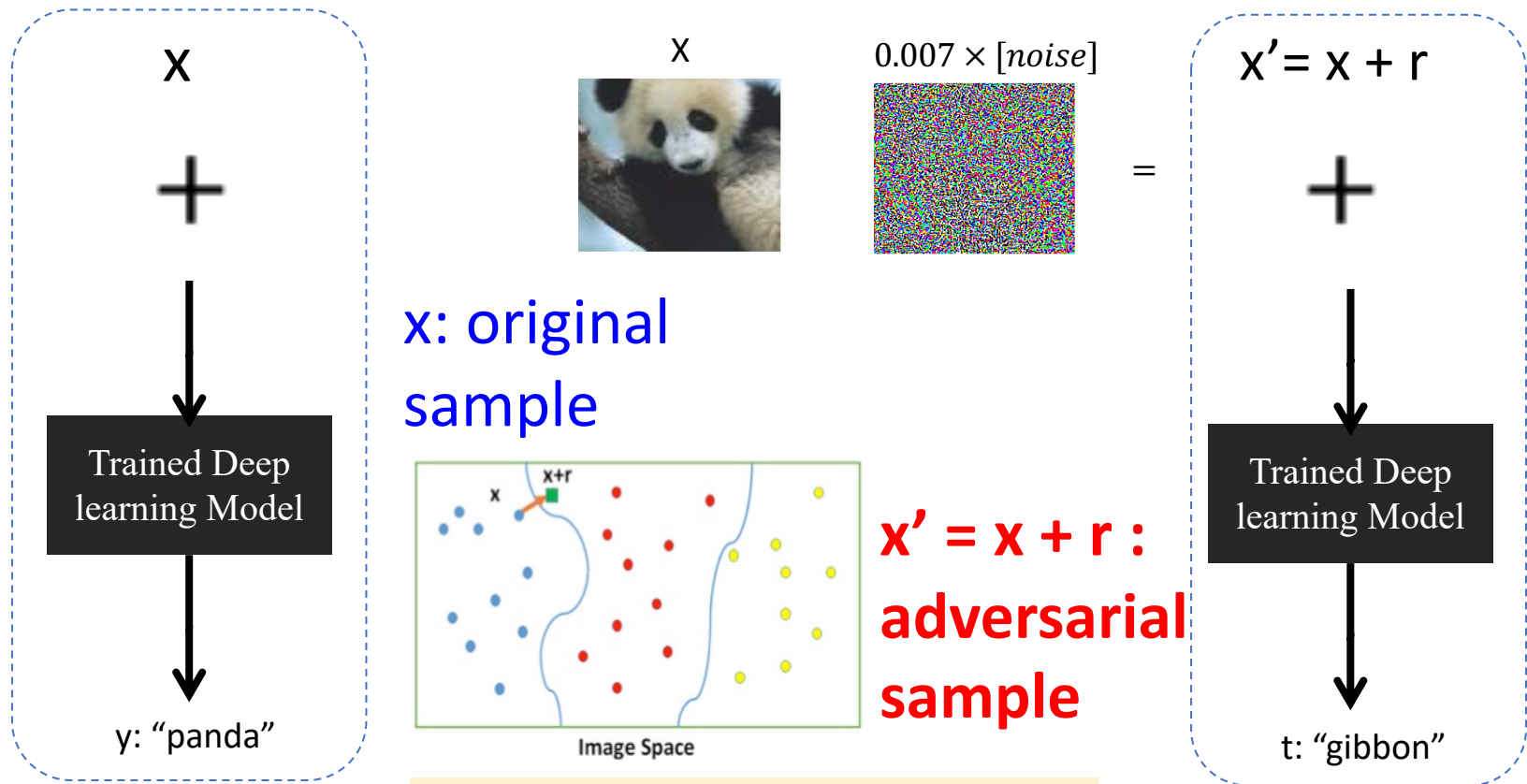


After training, the attention weights can be compared with linguistic annotations

Background:

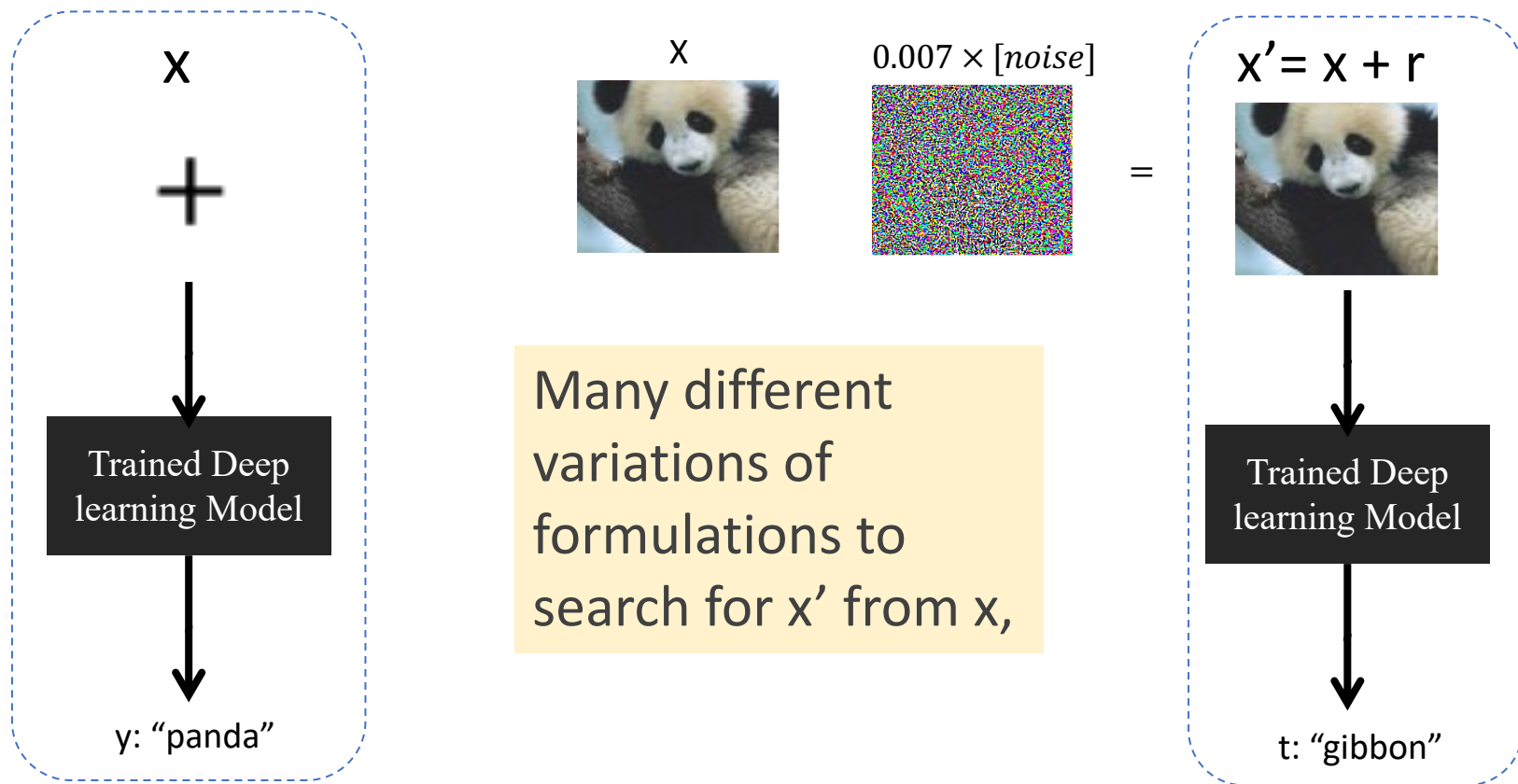
Adversarial Examples

Background: Adversarial Examples



C Szegedy et al., *Intriguing Properties of Deep Neural Networks*. In ICLR 2014.

Background: Adversarial Examples



Misclassification term

Distance term

$$\text{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

Misclassification term

Distance term

$$\text{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

Deep Learning Classifiers are Easily Fooled

Melanoma Diagnosis with Computer Vision



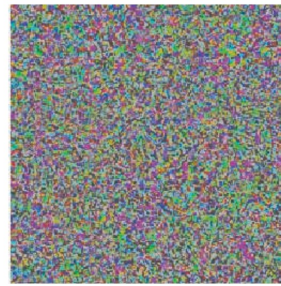
Healthcare

Original Image



Benign

Perturbation



+ 0.04 ×

=

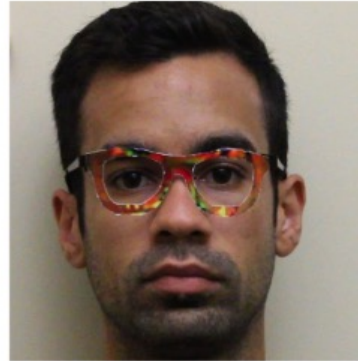
Adversarial Example



Malignant

Samuel G Finlayson et al. "Adversarial attacks on medical machine learning", *Science*, 2019.

Classifiers Under Attack: Adversary Adapts



Accessorize to a Crime: Real and Stealthy Attacks on State-of-the-Art Face Recognition

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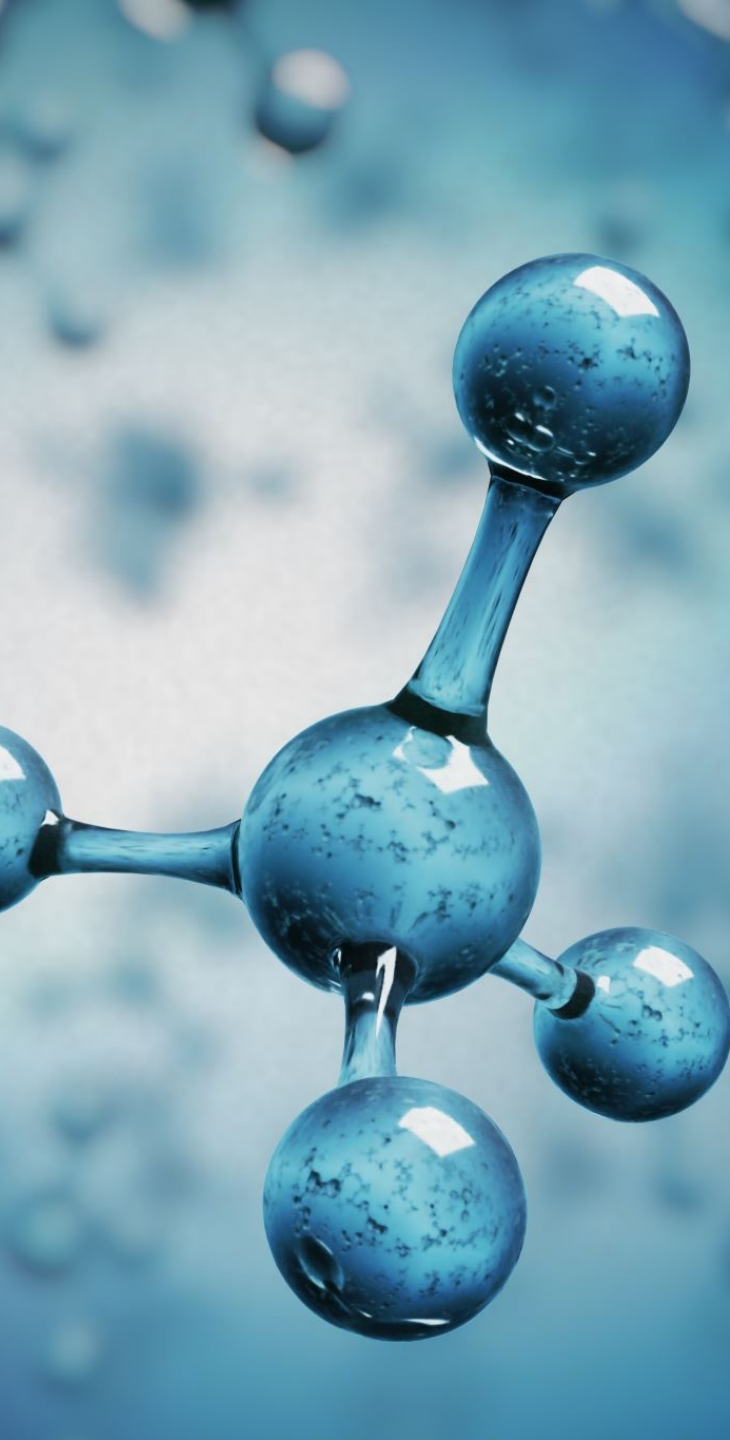
Michael K. Reiter
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC, USA
reiter@cs.unc.edu

ACM CCS 2016

Actual images

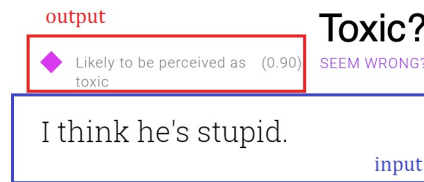
Recognized faces

Mahmood Sharif et al. "Accessorize to a Crime: Real and Stealthy Attacks on State-of-the-Art Face Recognition", *In CCS*, 2016.



Terminology

- Changes to inputs that fool the model are known as **adversarial examples** or **adversarial perturbations**
- A program that repeatedly generates adversarial examples for some model is known as an **adversarial attack**
- A model's resistance to adversarial examples is known as **robustness**



Toxicity Identification

Sentiment Classification

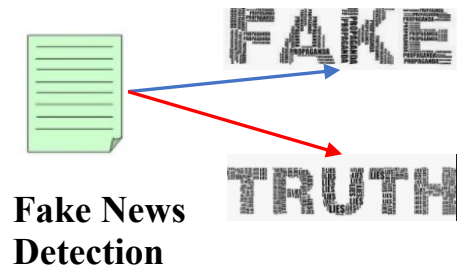
"I love this movie.
I've seen it many times
and it's still awesome."



"This movie is bad.
I don't like it at all.
It's terrible."

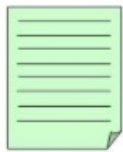


NLP Computer
System needs
Trustworthiness
and Robustness



Spam Detection

Authorship Detection



Rowling?



Electronic Medical Records

Misclassification term

Distance term

$$\text{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

What are adversarial examples in NLP?

- **Idea 1:** examples that are *almost* visually indistinguishable to humans (**mispellings**)

Input, x :

“True Grit” was the best **movie**
I’ve seen **since** I was a small boy.

Prediction: **Positive ✓**



Perturbation, x_{adv} :

“True Grit” was the best **moive**
I’ve seen **snice** I was a small boy.

Prediction: **Negative X**

Useful, but easy to defend against:

- Pass inputs into a **spell-checker** before feeding them into the model
- Or, train an RNN to correct inputs

Misclassification term

Distance term

$$\text{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

What are adversarial examples in NLP?

- **Idea 2:** examples that are indistinguishable *in meaning* to the original input (**semantics-preserving changes**)

Input, x :

“True Grit” was the best movie
I’ve seen since I was a **small boy**.

Prediction: **Positive ✓**



Perturbation, x_{adv} :

“True Grit” was the best movie
I’ve seen since I was a **wee lad**.

Prediction: **Negative X**

AE NLP
literature
is messy
(chaotic)

1. Many generate
examples are bad

2. No standard library

3. No clear benchmarking
insights

4. No clear benefits

Our Solution:

TextAttack to Rescue

1. Many generate
examples are bad

AE NLP
literature
is messy
(chaotic)

Input, \mathbf{x} :

“True Grit” was the best movie
I’ve seen since I was a **small boy**.

Prediction: Positive ✓



Perturbation, \mathbf{x}_{adv} :

“True Grit” was the best movie
I’ve seen since I was a **wee lad**.

Prediction: Negative ✗

Bad examples of adversarial perturbations in NLP

Perturbation, \mathbf{x}_{adv} :

different **semantics** than
original input



“True Grit” was the **worst** movie I’ve
seen since I was a small boy.

violates **grammar** (unlike
the original input)



“True Grit” was the best movie I’ve
seen since I **were boy small**.

this is just **suspicious** –
nobody talks like that!



“True Grit” was the best movie I’ve
seen since I was a **miniscule
youngster**.

Constraints to ensure our transformation only produces “valid” examples?

- **Idea 1:** what is the cosine similarity between the sentence embeddings of \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{x}_{adv} ?
 - (we can obtain sentence embeddings from the Universal Sentence Encoder, for example)
- **Idea 2:** Use a grammar checker to sure that we didn't introduce any grammatical errors in \mathbf{x}_{adv} .

Let $T(x)$ be transformation and $C_i(x)$ be a constraint,

$$C_1(T(x)) \wedge C_2(T(x)) \wedge \cdots \wedge C_m(T(x))$$

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Our Analysis paper: Reevaluating Adversarial Examples in Natural Language

• 2020 [EMNLP Findings](#)

all of these are TextAttack **constraints**
(textattack.constraints)

Standardize Constraints Enables Better/ Truthful Comparison

Constraints Search Method	TFADJUSTED		TEXTFOOLER	
	TEXTFOOLER	GENETICATTACK	TEXTFOOLER	GENETICATTACK
Semantic Preservation	4.06	4.11	-	-
Grammatical Error %	0	0	-	-
Non-suspicion Score	58.8	56.9	-	-
Attack Success %	10.6	12.0	91.1	95.0
Perturbed Word %	11.1	11.0	18.9	17.2
Num Queries	27.1	4431.6	77.0	3225.7

Table 7: Comparison of the search methods from GENETICATTACK and TEXTFOOLER with two sets of constraints (TEXTFOOLER and TFADJUSTED). Attacks were run on 1000 samples against BERT fine-tuned on the MR dataset. GENETICATTACK’s genetic algorithm is more successful than TEXTFOOLER’s greedy strategy, albeit much less efficient.

**Our Analysis paper: Reevaluating Adversarial
Examples in Natural Language**

• 2020 [EMNLP Findings](#)

AE NLP
literature
is messy
(chaotic)

2. No standard library

Problems with Current NLP Attack Ecosystem

Many attacks, but Each implemented and benchmarked in separate codebases (if released at all)

- Hard to trust literature comparisons because implementation differences can affect results
- hard to benchmark

Challenging to develop new attacks re-using existing components

- Lots of overlap between attacks (e.g. synonym substitution techniques), but little standardization or re-usability

Difficult to utilize attacks and attack components for improving models

- Attack implementations are almost never model-agnostic
- Adversarial training code is usually unreleased or non-existent
- Data augmentation not nearly as commonplace as in images

Generating NLP adversarial examples

Four Components Framework:

1. Goal Function: defines end-goal for adversarial attack
2. Constraints: linguistic requirements for valid adversarial examples
3. Transformation: mechanism for generating potential adversarial examples
4. Search Algorithm: method for finding sequence of transformations that produce valid adversarial examples defined by goal function and constraints

$$\text{Goal Function term} \quad \text{Constraints' term}$$
$$\textit{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

Tool Paper: TextAttack: A Framework for Adversarial Attacks, Data Augmentation, and Adversarial Training in NLP

•2020 [EMNLP Demo](#)

Transformation: Word Substitution centered

- **Thesaurus:** Look up the word in a thesaurus
- **Embeddings:** Search for nearest-neighbors in the embedding space
- **Hybrid:** Search for nearest neighbors in the ***counter-fitted*** embedding space (*Mrkšić et al, 2016*)

all of these are TextAttack **transformations**
(textattack.transformations)

How can we use transformations and constraints to attack a NLP model?

- We need two more things:
 - 1. A way to **search** the space of transformations for a valid, successful adversarial example.
 - 2. A way to know whether an example successfully fools the model.

TextAttack **goal functions**
(textattack.goal_functions)

TextAttack **search methods**
(textattack.search_methods)

$$\text{Goal Function term} \quad \text{Constraints' term}$$
$$\textit{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

The TextAttack Framework

NLP attacks can be constructed from four components:

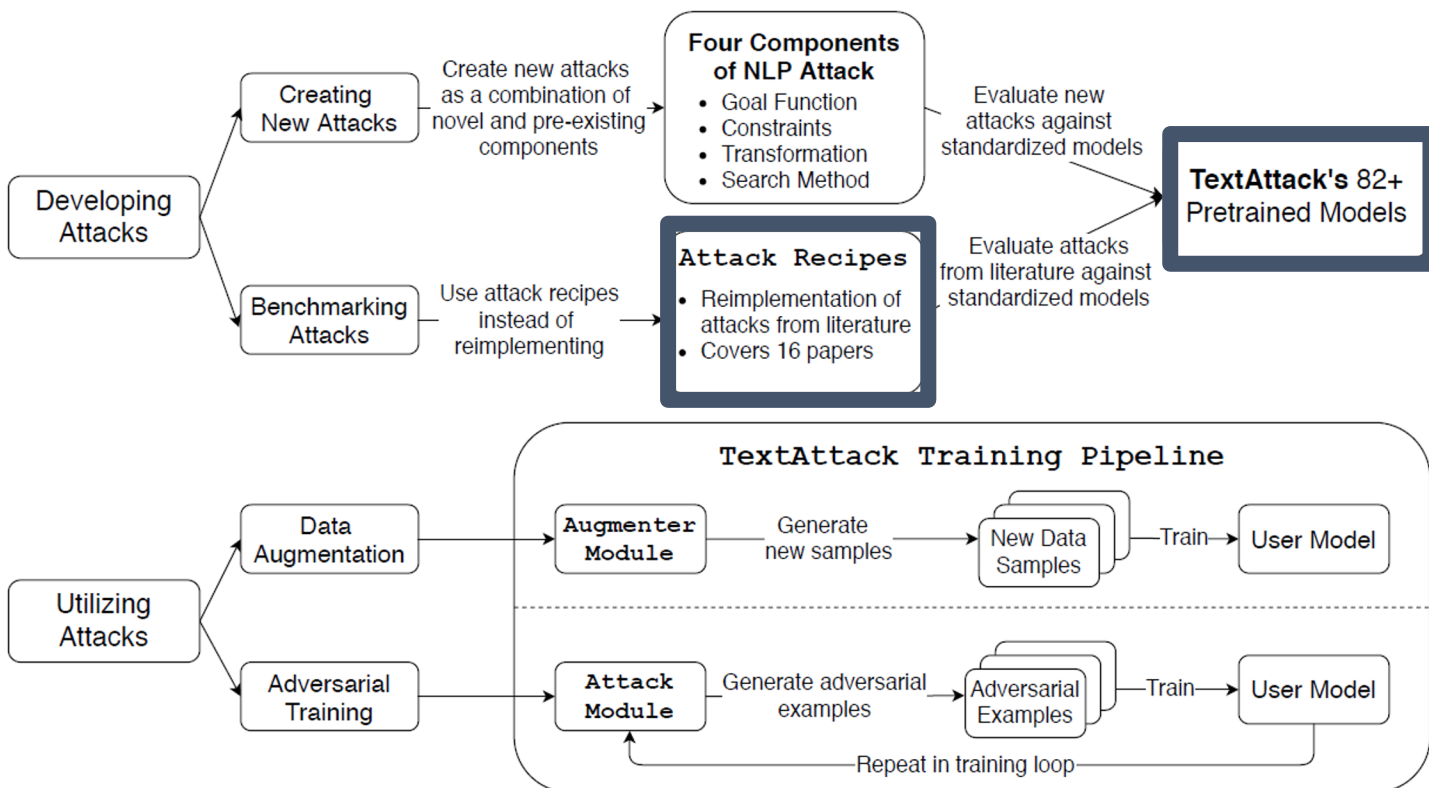
1. **transformation** (`textattack.transformations.Transformation`)
2. **constraint(s)** (`list(textattack.constraints.Constraint)`)
3. **goal function** (`textattack.goal_functions.GoalFunction`)
4. **search method** (`textattack.search_methods.SearchMethod`)

Goal Function term

Constraints' term

$$\textit{minimize } \|f(x') - t\| + \lambda * \Delta(x, x')$$

TextAttack's Features



Is BERT Really Robust? A Strong Baseline for Natural Language Attack on Text Classification and Entailment

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²University of Hong Kong

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Abstract

Machine learning algorithms are often vulnerable to adversarial examples that have imperceptible alterations from the original counterparts but can fool the state-of-the-art models. It is helpful to evaluate or even improve the robustness of these models by exposing the maliciously crafted adversarial examples. In this paper, we present **TEXTFOOLER**, a simple but strong baseline to generate adversarial text. By applying it to two fundamental natural language tasks, text classification and textual entailment, we successfully attacked three target models, including the powerful pre-trained BERT, and the widely used convolutional and recurrent neural networks. We demonstrate three advantages of this framework: (1) effective—it outperforms previous attacks by success rate and perturbation rate, (2) utility-preserving—it preserves semantic content, grammaticality, and correct types classified by humans, and (3) efficient—it generates adversarial text with computational complexity linear to the text length.¹

Classification Task: Is this a *positive* or *negative* review?

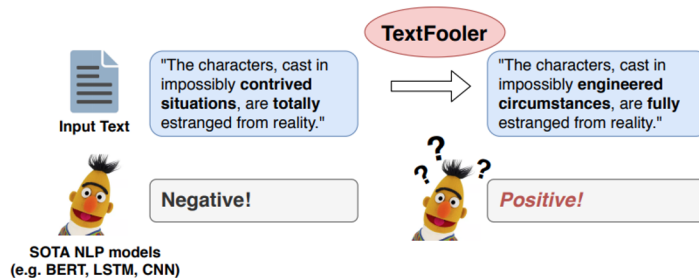


Figure 1: Our model TextFooler slightly change the input text but completely altered the prediction result.

al. 2013; Carlini and Wagner 2018), it is still challenging to deal with text data due to its discrete nature. Formally, besides the ability to fool the target models, outputs of a natural

Algorithm 1 Adversarial Attack by TEXTFOOLER

Input: Sentence example $X = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$, the corresponding ground truth label Y , target model F , sentence similarity function $\text{Sim}(\cdot)$, sentence similarity threshold ϵ , word embeddings Emb over the vocabulary Vocab .

Output: Adversarial example X_{adv}

```
1: Initialization:  $X_{\text{adv}} \leftarrow X$ 
2: for each word  $w_i$  in  $X$  do
3:   Compute the importance score  $I_{w_i}$  via Eq. (2)
4: end for
5:
6: Create a set  $W$  of all words  $w_i \in X$  sorted by the descending
   order of their importance score  $I_{w_i}$ .
7: Filter out the stop words in  $W$ .
8: for each word  $w_j$  in  $W$  do
9:   Initiate the set of candidates  $\text{CANDIDATES}$  by extracting
     the top  $N$  synonyms using  $\text{CosSim}(\text{Emb}_{w_j}, \text{Emb}_{\text{word}})$  for
     each word in  $\text{Vocab}$ .
10:   $\text{CANDIDATES} \leftarrow \text{POSSFilter}(\text{CANDIDATES})$ 
11:   $\text{FINCANDIDATES} \leftarrow \{\}$ 
12:  for  $c_k$  in  $\text{CANDIDATES}$  do
13:     $X' \leftarrow \text{Replace } w_j \text{ with } c_k \text{ in } X_{\text{adv}}$ 
14:    if  $\text{Sim}(X', X_{\text{adv}}) > \epsilon$  then
15:      Add  $c_k$  to the set  $\text{FINCANDIDATES}$ 
16:       $Y_k \leftarrow F(X')$ 
17:       $P_k \leftarrow F_{Y_k}(X')$ 
18:    end if
19:  end for
20:  if there exists  $c_k$  whose prediction result  $Y_k \neq Y$  then
21:    In  $\text{FINCANDIDATES}$ , only keep the candidates  $c_k$  whose
    prediction result  $Y_k \neq Y$ 
22:     $c^* \leftarrow \underset{c \in \text{FINCANDIDATES}}{\text{argmax}} \text{Sim}(X, X'_{w_j \rightarrow c})$ 
23:     $X_{\text{adv}} \leftarrow \text{Replace } w_j \text{ with } c^* \text{ in } X_{\text{adv}}$ 
24:    return  $X_{\text{adv}}$ 
25:  else if  $P_{Y_k}(X_{\text{adv}}) > \min_{c_k \in \text{FINCANDIDATES}} P_k$  then
26:     $c^* \leftarrow \underset{c_k \in \text{FINCANDIDATES}}{\text{argmin}} P_k$ 
27:     $X_{\text{adv}} \leftarrow \text{Replace } w_j \text{ with } c^* \text{ in } X_{\text{adv}}$ 
28:  end if
29: end for
30: return None
```

Four Components in Action

TextFooler method proposed by Jin et al. (2019)

Search Algorithm: Greedy with Word Importance Ranking

Transformation: Counter-fitted embedding word swap

Constraint #3: Cosine similarity of sentence embeddings

Goal Function: Untargeted attack for classification

Algorithm 1 Adversarial Attack by TEXTFOOLER

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27:     $X_{\text{adv}} \leftarrow \text{Replace } w_j \text{ with } c^* \text{ in } X_{\text{adv}}$ 
28:  end if
29: end for
  
```

Constraint #1: Cosine similarity of word embeddings

Constraint #2: Consistent part-of-speech

Four Components Standardized 18 Attacks:

	Alzantot et al. (2018)	Jin et al. (2019)
Goal Function	UntargetedClassification	UntargetedClassification
Search Method	GeneticAlgorithmWordSwap	GreedyWordSwapWordImportanceRanking
Transformation	WordSwapEmbedding(embedding='cf')	WordSwapEmbedding(embedding='cf')
Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WordsPerturbedPercentage(max_perc=20)• WordEmbeddingDistance(max_mse=0.5)• GoogleLanguageModel(n_per_index=4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WordEmbeddingDistance(min_cos_sim=0.5)• PartOfSpeech(verb_noun_swap=True)• UniversalSentenceEncoder(metric='angular', thresh=0.904458599)

Pretrained Models



Integration with
HuggingFace's [Model Hub](#)
and [nlp](#) library

Can attack any model on the
model hub on any dataset from
nlp



TextAttack has 82 pretrained
models on its [Model Hub](#)
[page](#)

Models: BERT, DistilBERT,
ALBERT, BART, RoBERTa, XLNet
Trained on all [GLUE](#) tasks

Installing TextAttack

Github PyTest **passing** pypi package **0.2.12**

```
pip install textattack
```

<https://github.com/QData/TextAttack>

QData / TextAttack

Unwatch 28 Star 1.4k Fork 158

<> Code

Issues 35

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Actions

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Wiki

Security

Insights

Settings

master 22 branches 9 tags

Go to file

Add file

Code

qiyanjun Update README.md

ae68c81 5 days ago 1,989 commits

.github	Update run-pytest.yml	2 months ago
docs	Fix errors in Example_5_Explain_BERT	6 days ago
examples	isort format of attack_camembert	6 months ago
tests	Revert "add --split to specify train/test/dev dataset"	12 days ago
textattack	Revert "add --split to specify train/test/dev dataset"	12 days ago
.gitignore	delete vscode setting	7 months ago
.readthedocs.yml	fix readthedocs module load	5 months ago
CONTRIBUTING.md	Clarify CONTRIBUTING.md	8 months ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	2 years ago
Makefile	autobuild cli changed	13 days ago
README.md	Update README.md	5 days ago
README_ZH.md	correct the EMNLP BlackBoxNLP mentions.	4 months ago
pytest.ini	update travis for jenkins	10 months ago
requirements.txt	locally test all passed...	9 days ago
setup.cfg	merge in master and fix syntax errors	10 months ago
setup.py	Update setup.py	9 days ago

About

TextAttack is a Python framework for adversarial attacks, data augmentation, and model training in NLP

textattack.readthedocs.io/en/latest/

nlp security machine-learning natural-language-processing data-augmentation adversarial-machine-learning adversarial-examples adversarial-attacks

Readme

MIT License

Releases 9

v0.2.15: CLARE Attack, Cu... Latest on Dec 26, 2020

+ 8 releases

Packages

No packages published

AE NLP
literature
is messy
(chaotic)

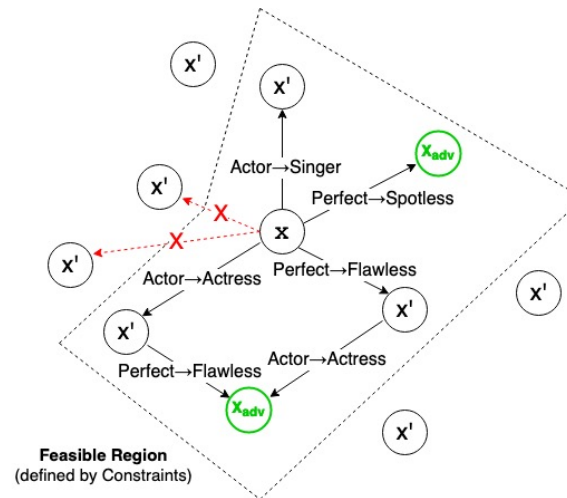
3. No clear benchmarking
insights

Search Algorithm: A way to **search** the space of transformations for a valid, successful adversarial example.

Search Algorithm

Why a search algorithm?

- We need to find set of transformations that successfully produce x_{adv}
- Combinatorial search problem with heuristic $score(x)$ provided by goal function



Our Analysis paper: Searching for a Search Method: Benchmarking Search Algorithms for Generating NLP Adversarial Examples

•2020 [EMNLP BlackBoxNLP](#)

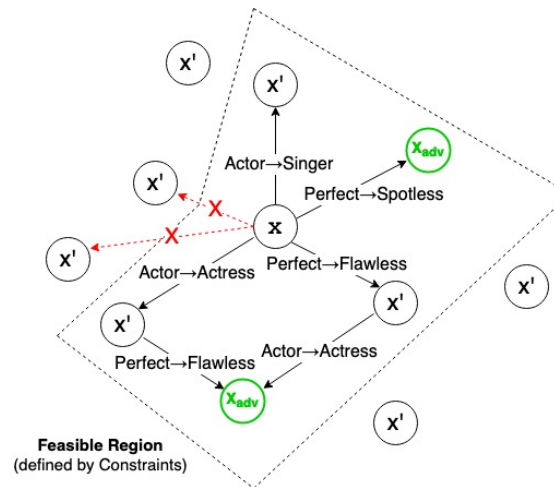
Search Algorithm: A way to **search** the space of transformations for a valid, successful adversarial example.

Search Space

Search space defined by transformation and constraints

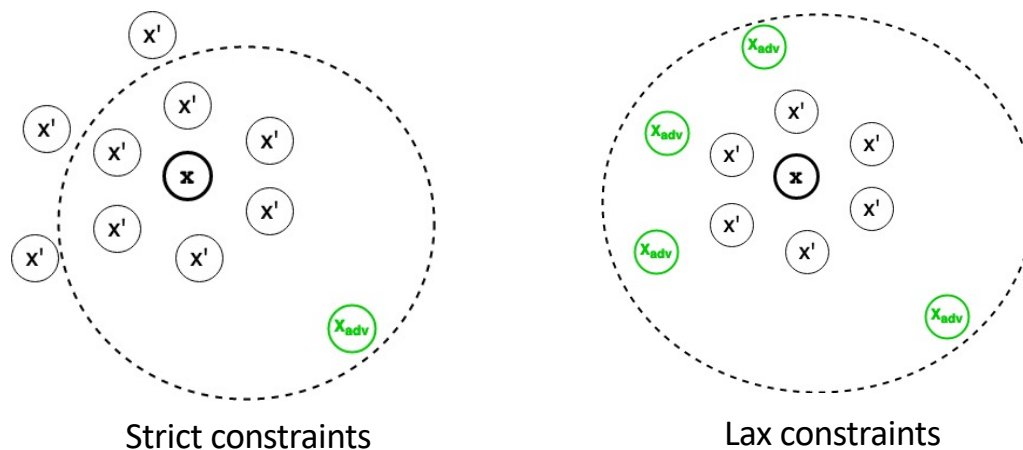
Let $T(x)$ be our transformation and $C_i(x)$ be a constraint,

$$S(x) = \{T(x) | C_1(T(x)) \wedge C_2(T(x)) \wedge \cdots \wedge C_m(T(x))\}$$



Search Space

How search space is defined can affect performance of the search algorithm



Search Algorithms from Literature

A lot of works have proposed novel search algorithms.

Proposed search algorithms:

- **Greedy:** (Kuleshov et al. 2018)
- **Beam Search:** (Ebrahimi et al., 2017)
- **Greedy with Word Importance Ranking:** (Gao et al., 2018), (Jin et al., 2019), (Ren et al., 2019)
- **Genetic Algorithm:** (Alzantot et al., 2018),
- **Particle Swarm Optimization:** (Zang et al., 2020)
- **MCMC Sampling:** (Zhang et al., 2019)

Problems in Current Literature

Inconsistent search
space for comparisons

Lack of comprehensive
performance
benchmark for search
algorithm

Lack of comprehensive
speed benchmark for
search algorithm

Performance across different search methods

Model	Dataset	Search Method	Lax Constraint: $sim = 0.5$			Strict Constraint: $sim = 0.9$		
			A.S. %	P.W. %	Queries	A.S. %	P.W. %	Queries
BERT	Yelp	Word Importance Ranking (UNK)	99.8	8.59	393	25.7	10.69	219
		Word Importance Ranking (DEL)	99.7	9.16	423	26.1	10.73	220
		Word Importance Ranking (RAND)	99.7	16.43	610	23.5	12.58	94
		Greedy (b=1)	99.8	5.02	9,813	30.3	7.59	1,984
		Beam Search (b=4)	100.0	4.92	30,417	31.1	7.59	7,297
		Beam Search (b=8)	100.0	4.89	57,984	31.3	7.59	14,329
		Genetic Algorithm	99.6	9.83	7,173	21.5	9.52	12,655
	MR	Word Importance Ranking (UNK)	99.2	15.58	116	30.2	14.5	34
		Word Importance Ranking (DEL)	98.8	15.00	113	30.8	15.04	34
		Word Importance Ranking (RAND)	99.1	21.00	132	29.1	16.00	16
		Greedy (b=1)	99.3	11.86	639	31.1	11.51	49
		Beam Search (b=4)	99.7	11.68	1,411	32.1	11.64	141
		Beam Search (b=8)	99.7	11.61	2,432	32.3	11.67	261
		Genetic Algorithm	99.4	14.93	1,611	31.4	13.47	2,870
	SNLI	Word Importance Ranking (UNK)	100.0	7.05	66	35.5	10.45	34
		Word Importance Ranking (DEL)	100.0	7.49	68	35.4	10.52	34
		Word Importance Ranking (RAND)	99.9	13.60	89	33.1	12.22	13
		Greedy (b=1)	100.0	6.08	473	38.3	7.94	37
		Beam Search (b=4)	100.0	6.02	662	39.7	7.97	95
		Beam Search (b=8)	100.0	6.02	918	40.1	8.09	173
		Genetic Algorithm	100.0	7.05	996	39.1	9.44	2,332

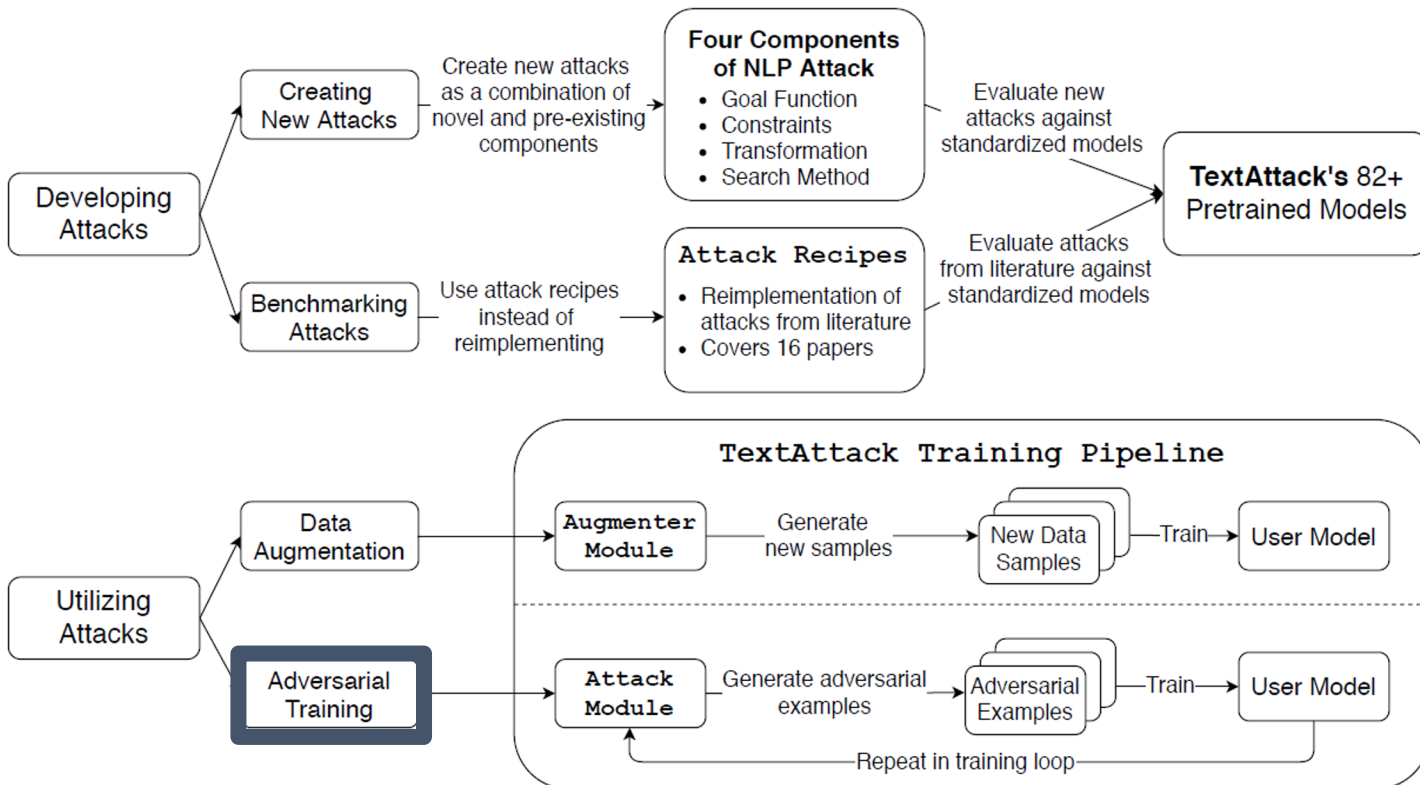
Benchmarking Insights

- Optimal method for absolute performance is beam search with beam width of 8.
- When within a small query budget, greedy with word importance ranking is most effective
 - For two constraint settings across three datasets, the relative differences between the attack success rates of greedy with word importance ranking and the success rates of beam search are less than 20%.
- Search algorithms matter less than transformations and constraints.
 - Although changing the search methods did not change attack success rate by more than 20%, changing the constraints changed attack success rate by over 60%.

AE NLP
literature
is messy
(chaotic)

4. No clear benefits

Adversarial Training



Adversarial Training for Robustness

[Goodfellow et al. \(2015\)](#):
$$\arg \min_{\theta} \left[\mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \in \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} \left(\max_{\delta \in S} L(\theta, x + \delta, y) \right) + \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \in \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} \left(L(\theta, x, y) \right) \right] \quad (2)$$

[Madry et al. \(2017\)](#):
$$\arg \min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \in \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} \left(\max_{\delta \in S} L(\theta, x + \delta, y) \right) \quad (1)$$

[Kannan et al. \(2018\)](#):
$$J(\mathbb{M}, \theta) + \lambda \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L \left(f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \theta), f(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(i)}; \theta) \right).$$

↑
Adversarial loss

↑
Adversarial Logit Pairing

IMDB-BERT Results

	IMDB Test Acc	Yelp Test Acc	Counterfactual Acc
No adv. training	93.97	92.86	92.84
SSMBA	93.94	92.52	92.48
Backtranslation	93.97	92.62	92.58
Textfooler-Mod	94.49	93.29	93.23
BAE-Mod	93.05	91.61	91.35

Our Analysis paper: Adversarial Training for Robust NLP Models

•2021 [To Submit](#)

TextAttack Rescues Messy AE NLP literature

1. Many generate examples are bad

2. No standard library

3. No clear benchmarking insights

4. No clear benefits

What can I do with TextAttack?

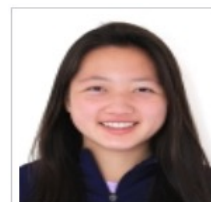
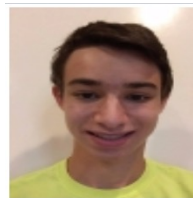
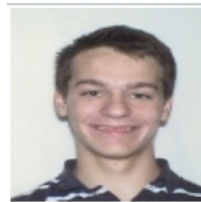
- build an NLP attacks from a library of components
- run those attacks on models & datasets (yours or ours)
- visualize attack results using the command line, Visdom, W&B, etc.
- or, use the infrastructure of TextAttack to develop and benchmark your own NLP attacks
- or, use the components from TextAttack for **data augmentation**
- or, use the components of TextAttack for **adversarial training**

Who is TextAttack for?

- **researchers** who want to implement new NLP attacks or compare them in a standardized framework
- **any machine learning practitioner** who want to understand the limitations of NLP models and use adversarial training to make their models better
- **anyone training an NLP model** who wants to apply data augmentation to increase test-set accuracy by 1-2%

Acknowledgements

My Students on this project:



**UVA Computer Science Dept. Security
Research Group:** Prof. David Evans

**UVA Computer Science Dept. NLP
Research Group:** Prof. Yangfeng Ji

**UVA Computer Science Dept. Software Safety
Group:** Prof. Matthew B Dwyer

**UVA Computer Science Dept. Software
Engineering Group:** Prof. Mary Lou Soffa



<http://trustworthymachinelearning.org>

1. To Fool / Evade
Learned Models

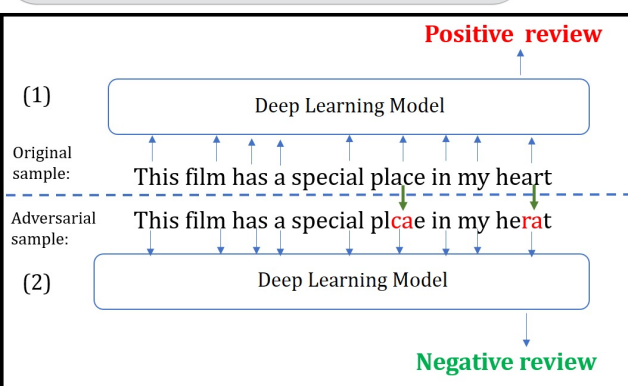
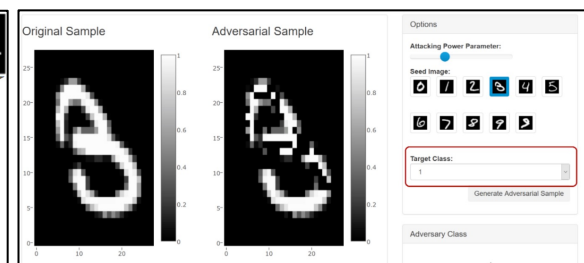
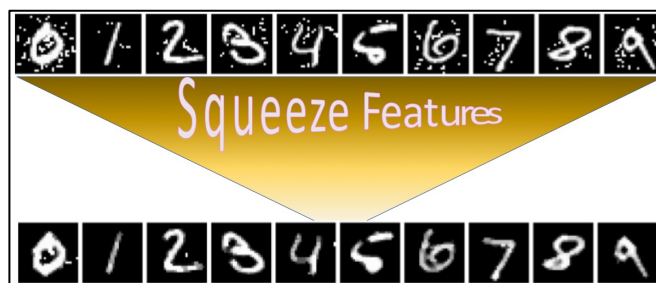
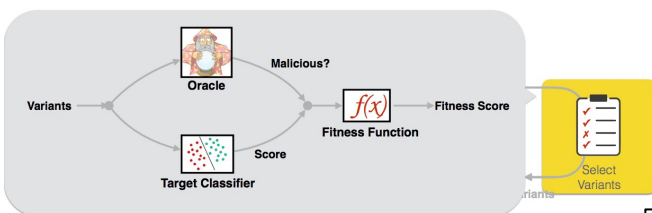
2. To Detect
fooling/ Evasion

3. To Defend
Against Evasion

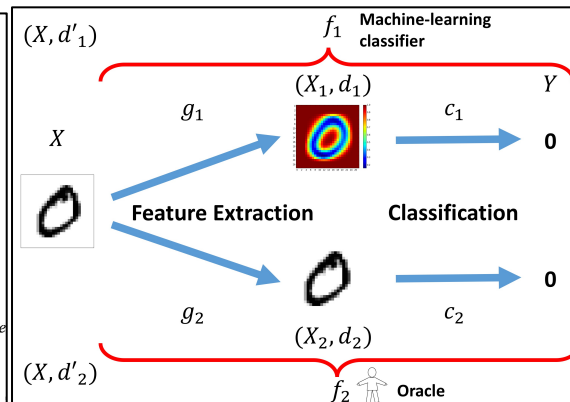
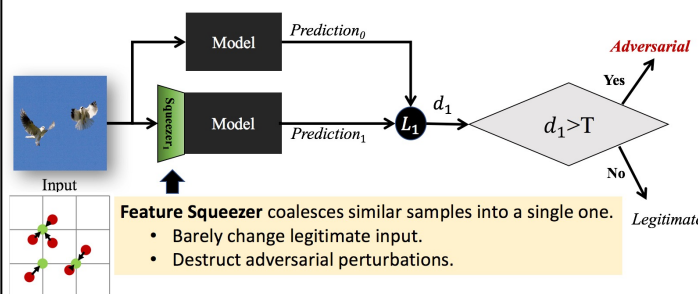
4. To Visualize and
Benchmarking

5. To Understand
Theoretically

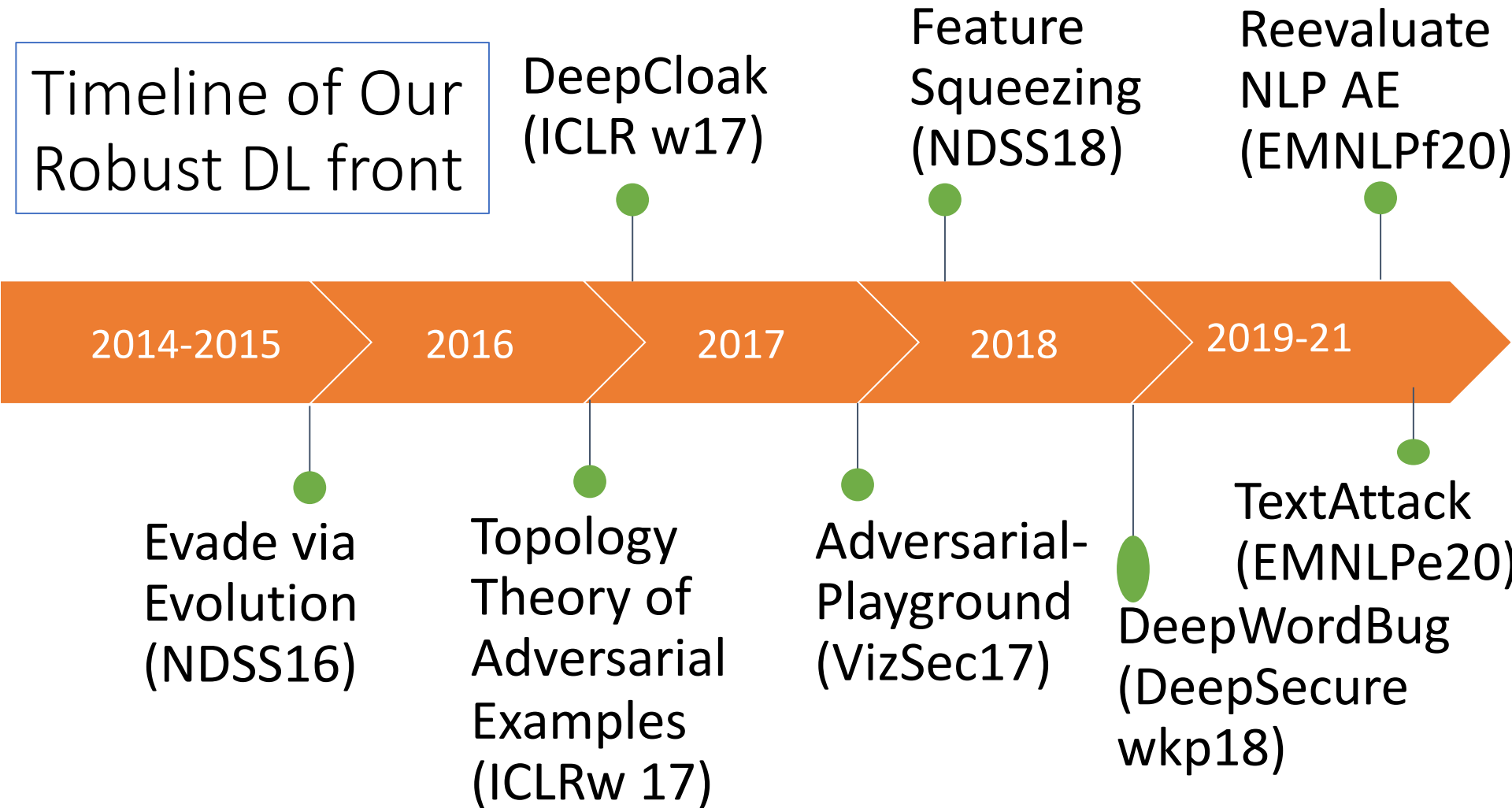
Automated Evasion Approach
Based on Genetic Programming



Detection Framework



Timeline of Our Robust DL front



Thank you

