

Strawman Model of Reference

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Human NLP: Naive & highly simplistic model

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- “She enjoyed the Olympics.”

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- Working memory: pronouns etc.
- Semantic memory: words etc.
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- “She enjoyed the Olympics.”
- “She”: working memory lookup

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- Working memory: pronouns etc.
- Semantic memory: words etc.
- Episodic memory: entities etc.
- “She enjoyed the Olympics.”
- “She”: working memory lookup
- “enjoyed”: semantic memory lookup

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- Working memory: pronouns etc.
- Semantic memory: words etc.
- Episodic memory: entities etc.
- “She enjoyed the Olympics.”
- “She”: working memory lookup
- “enjoyed”: semantic memory lookup
- “the Olympics”: episodic memory lookup

Machine NLP: Naive & highly simplistic model

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- Step 1:
linking bits & pieces of the input to bits & pieces in memory
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all the complicated stuff:
disambiguation, parsing, inference

Machine NLP: Naive & highly simplistic model, Step 1

- Memory: working, semantic, episodic
- Working: pronouns etc.
- Semantic: words etc.
- Episodic: entities etc.
- “She enjoyed the Olympics.”
- “She”: working memory lookup
- “enjoyed”: semantic memory lookup
- “the Olympics”: episodic memory lookup

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when you encounter a word,
you look it up in semantic memory
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and you know a lot about the word right away.
- Working/Episodic memory:
extension of “semantic” memory/embeddings?

Operations: reference / lookup

- Operation $R:T \rightarrow W$
Establishes Reference from Text to Working memory

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- Example: “he” \rightarrow working memory slot w_2

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- Operation $R:T \rightarrow E$
Establishes Reference from Text to Episodic memory

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- Operation $R:T \rightarrow E$
Establishes Reference from Text to Episodic memory
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- Example: “Olympics”
 \rightarrow episodic memory slot “Beijing Olympics”

Operations: reference / lookup

- Operation $R:T \rightarrow S$
Establishes “Reference” from Text to Semantic memory

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Establishes “Reference” from Text to Semantic memory
- text span \rightarrow semantic memory slot
- “red tape” \rightarrow semantic memory slot for “red tape”
- So: semantic memory lookup = recognition of word
- May or may not be a good idea

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation I:W.
Initialize Working memory slot w_i

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- Operation I:W.
Initialize Working memory slot w_i
- Peter arrived today.
- Claim one working memory slot for “Peter”
and put “Peter” in it.

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- Operation M:W \leftrightarrow E.

Establishes Memory link Working M. \leftrightarrow Episodic M.

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- Operation $M:W \leftrightarrow E$.
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- working memory slot $w_2 \leftrightarrow$ episodic memory slot

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- Obama is US president. He will leave office in 2017.

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation $M:W \leftrightarrow E$.

Establishes Memory link Working M. \leftrightarrow Episodic M.

- working memory slot $w_2 \leftrightarrow$ episodic memory slot
- Obama is US president. He will leave office in 2017.
- In this example:
 w_2 (he) \leftrightarrow episodic memory slot "Obama"

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- Operation C:T→W.

Copies content from Text to Working memory.

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- Operation C:T→W.
Copies content from Text to Working memory.
- “Peter arrived today.”

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation C:T→W.
Copies content from Text to Working memory.
- “Peter arrived today.”
- “arrived”: copy to working memory

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation C:W→E.
Copies content from Working M. to Episodic M.

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation C:W→E.
Copies content from Working M. to Episodic M.
- “The 1956 Olympics were held in Melbourne.”

Operations: storage / manipulation

- Operation C:W→E.
Copies content from Working M. to Episodic M.
- “The 1956 Olympics were held in Melbourne.”
- First put in Working memory, then copy to Episodic memory

Operations: Summary

R:T→W	Reference text→working
R:T→E	Reference text→episodic
R:T→S	Reference text→semantic
I:W	Initialize working memory slot
M:W↔E	Link working↔episodic
C:T→W	Copy text→working
C:W→E	Copy working→episodic

Backup slides

Reference: Discrete or not discrete?

- Storage locations are discrete and in that sense against the spirit of distributed representations / deep learning.
- Problem 1: Non-discrete reference phenomena
- GIVE EXAMPLES

Words vs. entities

- Can we also use embeddings for entities?
- The answer is not clear to me: Pros and cons.
- However, arguments for episodic memory could also be arguments for treating words and entities differently.