



Adapted from material by Philipp Koehn

Machine Translation

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WORD-BASED MODELS

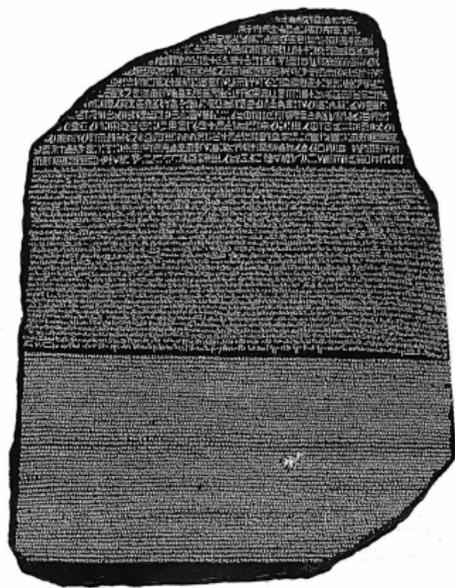
Roadmap

- Introduction to MT
- Components of MT system
- Word-based models
- Beyond word-based models

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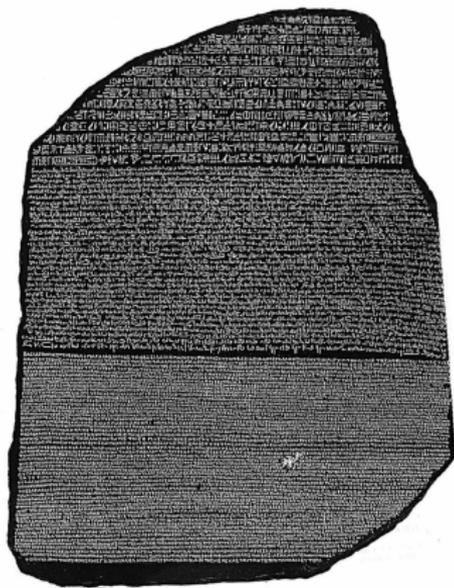
- Introduction to MT
- Components of MT system
- Word-based models
- Beyond word-based models: phrase-based and neural

What unlocks translations?



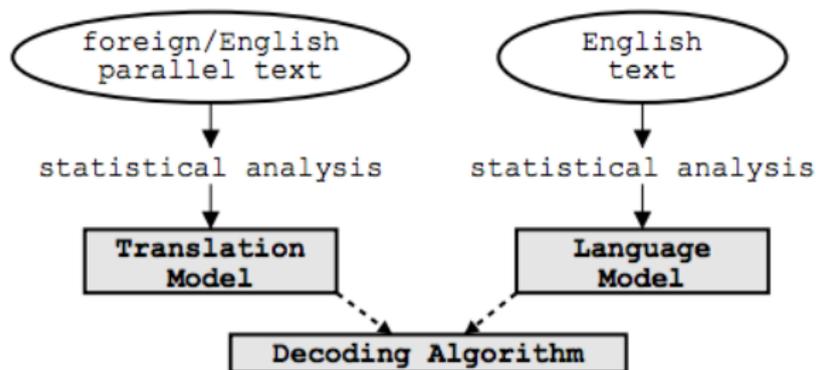
- Humans need parallel text to understand new languages when no speakers are around
- Rosetta stone: allowed us understand to Egyptian
- Computers need the same information

What unlocks translations?



- Humans need parallel text to understand new languages when no speakers are around
- Rosetta stone: allowed us understand to Egyptian
- Computers need the same information
- Where do we get them?
 - Some governments require translations (Canada, EU, Hong Kong)
 - Newspapers
 - Internet

Pieces of Machine Translation System



Terminology

- Source language: **f** (foreign)
- Target language: **e** (english)

Collect Statistics

Look at a parallel corpus (German text along with English translation)

Translation of <u>Haus</u>	Count
house	8,000
building	1,600
home	200
household	150
shell	50

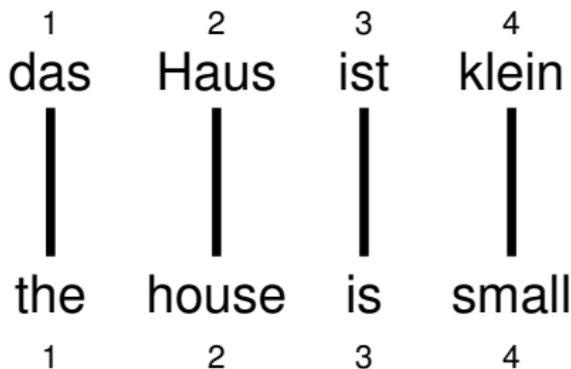
Estimate Translation Probabilities

Maximum likelihood estimation

$$p_f(e) = \begin{cases} 0.8 & \text{if } e = \text{house,} \\ 0.16 & \text{if } e = \text{building,} \\ 0.02 & \text{if } e = \text{home,} \\ 0.015 & \text{if } e = \text{household,} \\ 0.005 & \text{if } e = \text{shell.} \end{cases}$$

Alignment

- In a parallel text (or when we translate), we align words in one language with the words in the other



- Word positions are numbered 1–4

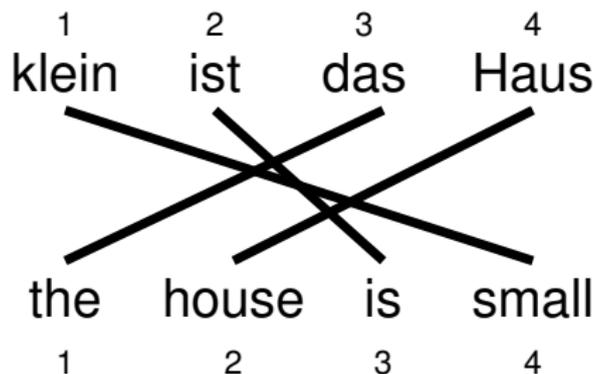
Alignment Function

- Formalizing alignment with an alignment function
- Mapping an English target word at position i to a German source word at position j with a function $a : i \rightarrow j$
- Example

$$a : \{1 \rightarrow 1, 2 \rightarrow 2, 3 \rightarrow 3, 4 \rightarrow 4\}$$

Reordering

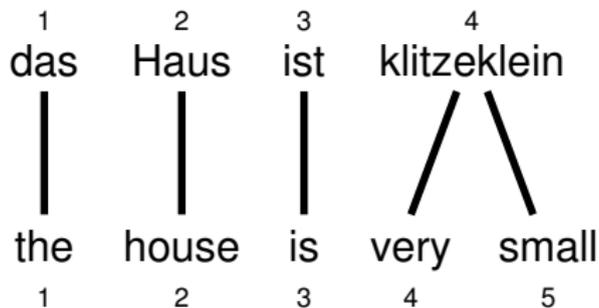
Words may be reordered during translation



$$a: \{1 \rightarrow 3, 2 \rightarrow 4, 3 \rightarrow 2, 4 \rightarrow 1\}$$

One-to-Many Translation

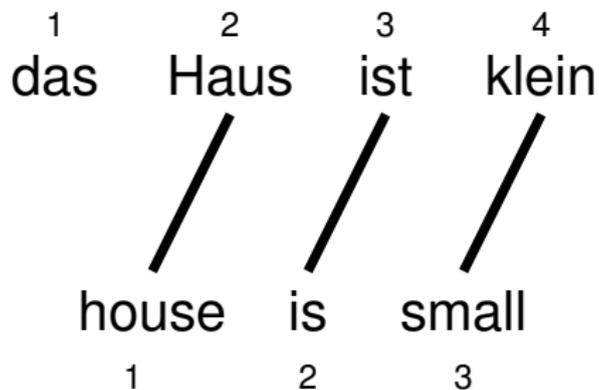
A source word may translate into multiple target words



$a: \{1 \rightarrow 1, 2 \rightarrow 2, 3 \rightarrow 3, 4 \rightarrow 4, 5 \rightarrow 4\}$

Dropping Words

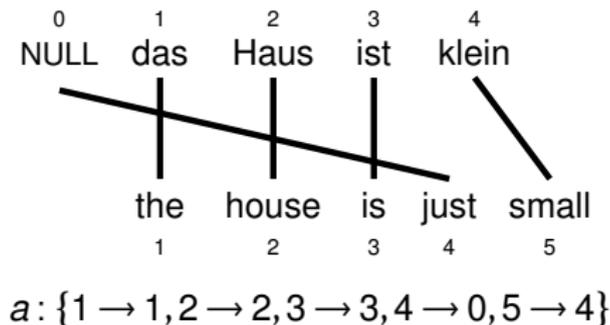
Words may be dropped when translated
(German article **das** is dropped)



$a: \{1 \rightarrow 2, 2 \rightarrow 3, 3 \rightarrow 4\}$

Inserting Words

- Words may be added during translation
 - The English **just** does not have an equivalent in German
 - We still need to map it to something: special null token



A family of lexical translation models

- A family translation models
- Uncreatively named: Model 1, Model 2, . . .
- Foundation of all modern translation algorithms
- First up: Model 1

IBM Model 1

- Generative model: break up translation process into smaller steps
 - IBM Model 1 only uses lexical translation
- Translation probability
 - for a foreign sentence $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \dots, f_{l_f})$ of length l_f
 - to an English sentence $\mathbf{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_{l_e})$ of length l_e
 - with an alignment of each English word e_j to a foreign word f_i according to the alignment function $a: j \rightarrow i$

$$p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) = \frac{\epsilon}{(l_f + 1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} t(e_j | f_{a(j)})$$

- parameter ϵ is a normalization constant

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Example

das

e	$t(e f)$
the	0.7
that	0.15
which	0.075
who	0.05
this	0.025

Haus

e	$t(e f)$
house	0.8
building	0.16
home	0.02
family	0.015
shell	0.005

ist

e	$t(e f)$
is	0.8
's	0.16
exists	0.02
has	0.015
are	0.005

klein

e	$t(e f)$
small	0.4
little	0.4
short	0.1
minor	0.06
petty	0.04

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(e, a|f) &= \frac{\epsilon}{54} \times t(\text{the}|\text{das}) \times t(\text{house}|\text{Haus}) \times t(\text{is}|\text{ist}) \times t(\text{small}|\text{klein}) \\
 &= \frac{\epsilon}{54} \times 0.7 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.4 \\
 &= 0.00029\epsilon
 \end{aligned}$$

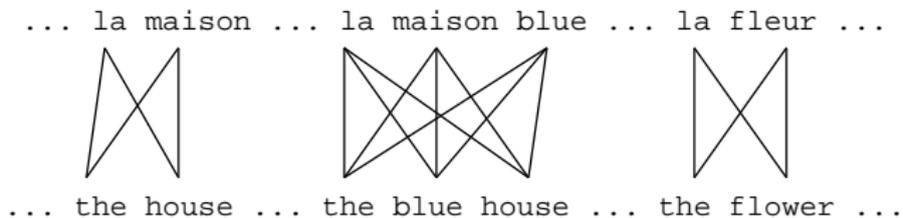
Learning Lexical Translation Models

- We would like to estimate the lexical translation probabilities $t(e|f)$ from a parallel corpus
- ... but we do not have the alignments
- Chicken and egg problem
 - if we had the alignments,
→ we could estimate the parameters of our generative model
 - if we had the parameters,
→ we could estimate the alignments

EM Algorithm

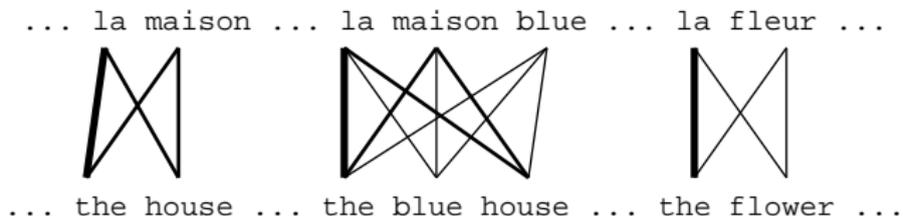
- Incomplete data
 - if we had complete data, would could estimate model
 - if we had model, we could fill in the gaps in the data
- Expectation Maximization (EM) in a nutshell
 1. initialize model parameters (e.g. uniform)
 2. assign probabilities to the missing data
 3. estimate model parameters from completed data
 4. iterate steps 2–3 until convergence

EM Algorithm



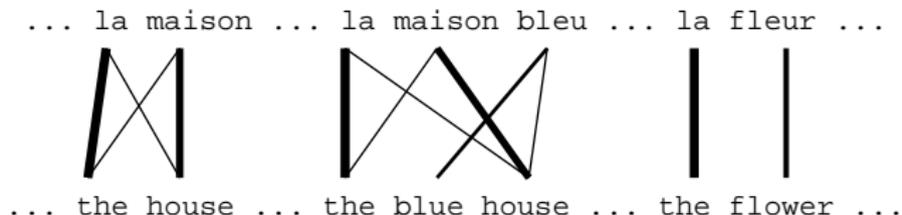
- Initial step: all alignments equally likely
- Model learns that, e.g., **la** is often aligned with **the**

EM Algorithm



- After one iteration
- Alignments, e.g., between **la** and **the** are more likely

EM Algorithm



- After another iteration
- It becomes apparent that alignments, e.g., between **fleur** and **flower** are more likely (pigeon hole principle)

EM Algorithm

... la maison ... la maison bleu ... la fleur ...
/ | | X | |
... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...

- Convergence
- Inherent hidden structure revealed by EM

EM Algorithm

... la maison ... la maison bleu ... la fleur ...
 / | | X | |
 ... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...



$p(\text{la}|\text{the}) = 0.453$
 $p(\text{le}|\text{the}) = 0.334$
 $p(\text{maison}|\text{house}) = 0.876$
 $p(\text{bleu}|\text{blue}) = 0.563$
 ...

- Parameter estimation from the aligned corpus

IBM Model 1 and EM

- EM Algorithm consists of two steps
- Expectation-Step: Apply model to the data
 - parts of the model are hidden (here: alignments)
 - using the model, assign probabilities to possible values
- Maximization-Step: Estimate model from data
 - take assign values as fact
 - collect counts (weighted by probabilities)
 - estimate model from counts
- Iterate these steps until convergence

IBM Model 1 and EM

- We need to be able to compute:
 - Expectation-Step: probability of alignments
 - Maximization-Step: count collection

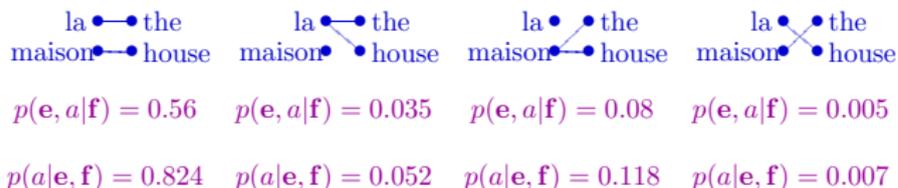
IBM Model 1 and EM

Probabilities

$$p(\mathbf{the|la}) = 0.7 \quad p(\mathbf{house|la}) = 0.05$$

$$p(\mathbf{the|maison}) = 0.1 \quad p(\mathbf{house|maison}) = 0.8$$

Alignments



Counts

$$c(\mathbf{the|la}) = 0.824 + 0.052 \quad c(\mathbf{house|la}) = 0.052 + 0.007$$

$$c(\mathbf{the|maison}) = 0.118 + 0.007 \quad c(\mathbf{house|maison}) = 0.824 + 0.118$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- We need to compute $p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})$
- Applying the chain rule:

$$p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f})}{p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})}$$

- We already have the formula for $p(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{a}|\mathbf{f})$ (definition of Model 1)

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- We need to compute $p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})$

$$p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) =$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- We need to compute $p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})$

$$p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) = \sum_a p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f})$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- We need to compute $p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) &= \sum_a p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) \\ &= \sum_{a(1)=0}^{I_f} \dots \sum_{a(I_e)=0}^{I_f} \end{aligned}$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- We need to compute $p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) &= \sum_a p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) \\ &= \sum_{a^{(1)}=0}^{l_f} \cdots \sum_{a^{(l_e)}=0}^{l_f} p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) \end{aligned}$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

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$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) &= \sum_a p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) \\
 &= \sum_{a(1)=0}^{l_f} \cdots \sum_{a(l_e)=0}^{l_f} p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) \\
 &= \sum_{a(1)=0}^{l_f} \cdots \sum_{a(l_e)=0}^{l_f} \frac{\epsilon}{(l_f + 1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} t(e_j | f_{a(j)})
 \end{aligned}$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

$$p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) = \sum_{a(1)=0}^{l_f} \dots \sum_{a(l_e)=0}^{l_f} \frac{\epsilon}{(l_f + 1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} t(e_j | f_{a(j)})$$

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 &= \frac{\epsilon}{(l_f + 1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} \sum_{i=0}^{l_f} t(e_j | f_i)
 \end{aligned}$$

- Note the algebra trick in the last line
 - removes the need for an exponential number of products
 - this makes IBM Model 1 estimation tractable

The Trick

(case $l_e = l_f = 2$)

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{a(1)=0}^2 \sum_{a(2)=0}^2 &= \frac{\epsilon}{3^2} \prod_{j=1}^2 t(e_j | f_{a(j)}) = \\
&= t(e_1 | f_0) t(e_2 | f_0) + t(e_1 | f_0) t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_1 | f_0) t(e_2 | f_2) + \\
&\quad + t(e_1 | f_1) t(e_2 | f_0) + t(e_1 | f_1) t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_1 | f_1) t(e_2 | f_2) + \\
&\quad + t(e_1 | f_2) t(e_2 | f_0) + t(e_1 | f_2) t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_1 | f_2) t(e_2 | f_2) = \\
&= t(e_1 | f_0) (t(e_2 | f_0) + t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_2 | f_2)) + \\
&\quad + t(e_1 | f_1) (t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_2 | f_2)) + \\
&\quad + t(e_1 | f_2) (t(e_2 | f_2) + t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_2 | f_2)) = \\
&= (t(e_1 | f_0) + t(e_1 | f_1) + t(e_1 | f_2)) (t(e_2 | f_2) + t(e_2 | f_1) + t(e_2 | f_2))
\end{aligned}$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Expectation Step

- Combine what we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) &= p(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{a}|\mathbf{f})/p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) \\
 &= \frac{\frac{\epsilon}{(l_f+1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} t(\mathbf{e}_j|f_{a(j)})}{\frac{\epsilon}{(l_f+1)^{l_e}} \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} \sum_{i=0}^{l_f} t(\mathbf{e}_j|f_i)} \\
 &= \prod_{j=1}^{l_e} \frac{t(\mathbf{e}_j|f_{a(j)})}{\sum_{i=0}^{l_f} t(\mathbf{e}_j|f_i)}
 \end{aligned}$$

IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

- Now we have to collect counts
- Evidence from a sentence pair \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f} that word e is a translation of word f :

$$c(e|f; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = \sum_a p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) \sum_{j=1}^{l_e} \delta(e, e_j) \delta(f, f_{a(j)})$$

- With the same simplification as before:

$$c(e|f; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = \frac{t(e|f)}{\sum_{i=0}^{l_f} t(e|f_i)} \sum_{j=1}^{l_e} \delta(e, e_j) \sum_{i=0}^{l_f} \delta(f, f_i)$$

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IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

After collecting these counts over a corpus, we can estimate the model:

$$t(\mathbf{e} | f; \text{Training Corpus}) = \frac{\sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(\mathbf{e} | f; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}{\sum_{f'} \sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(\mathbf{e} | f'; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}$$

To compute the probability of “keyboard”

IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

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$$t(e|f; \text{Training Corpus}) = \frac{\sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(e|f; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}{\sum_{f'} \sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(e|f'; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}$$

Being translated from “Tastatur”

IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

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Go over all of the training data in your corpus (translated sentence pairs)

IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

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Take the expected counts of translating “Tastatur” into “keyboard”

IBM Model 1 and EM: Maximization Step

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$$t(e|f; \text{Training Corpus}) = \frac{\sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(e|f; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}{\sum_{f'} \sum_{(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})} c(e|f'; \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})}$$

And divide that by the expected counts of translating “keyboard” from **anything**

IBM Model 1 and EM: Pseudocode

```

1: initialize  $t(e|f)$  uniformly
2: while not converged do
3:                                     ▷ initialize
4:   count( $e|f$ ) = 0 for all  $e, f$ 
5:   total( $f$ ) = 0 for all  $f$ 
6:   for sentence pairs ( $e, f$ ) do
7:                                     ▷ compute normalization
8:     for words  $e$  in  $e$  do
9:       s-total( $e$ ) = 0
10:      for words  $f$  in  $f$  do
11:        s-total( $e$ ) +=  $t(e|f)$ 
12:                                     ▷ collect counts
13:      for words  $e$  in  $e$  do
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15:          count( $e|f$ ) +=  $\frac{t(e|f)}{s\text{-total}(e)}$ 
16:          total( $f$ ) +=  $\frac{t(e|f)}{s\text{-total}(e)}$ 

```

```

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   (cont.) do
2:                                     ▷ estimate
   probabilities
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5:        $t(e|f) =$ 
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```

IBM Model 1 and EM: Pseudocode

```

1: initialize  $t(e|f)$  uniformly
2: while not converged do
3:                                     ▷ initialize
4:   count( $e|f$ ) = 0 for all  $e, f$ 
5:   total( $f$ ) = 0 for all  $f$ 
6:   for sentence pairs ( $e, f$ ) do
7:                                     ▷ compute normalization
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```

Convergence

das Haus

 the house

das Buch

 the book

ein Buch

 a book

<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>	initial	1st it.	2nd it.	...	final
the	das	0.25	0.5	0.6364	...	1
book	das	0.25	0.25	0.1818	...	0
house	das	0.25	0.25	0.1818	...	0
the	buch	0.25	0.25	0.1818	...	0
book	buch	0.25	0.5	0.6364	...	1
a	buch	0.25	0.25	0.1818	...	0
book	ein	0.25	0.5	0.4286	...	0
a	ein	0.25	0.5	0.5714	...	1
the	haus	0.25	0.5	0.4286	...	0
house	haus	0.25	0.5	0.5714	...	1

Ensuring Fluent Output

- Our translation model cannot decide between **small** and **little**
- Sometime one is preferred over the other:
 - **small step**: 2,070,000 occurrences in the Google index
 - **little step**: 257,000 occurrences in the Google index
- Language model
 - estimate how likely a string is English
 - based on n-gram statistics

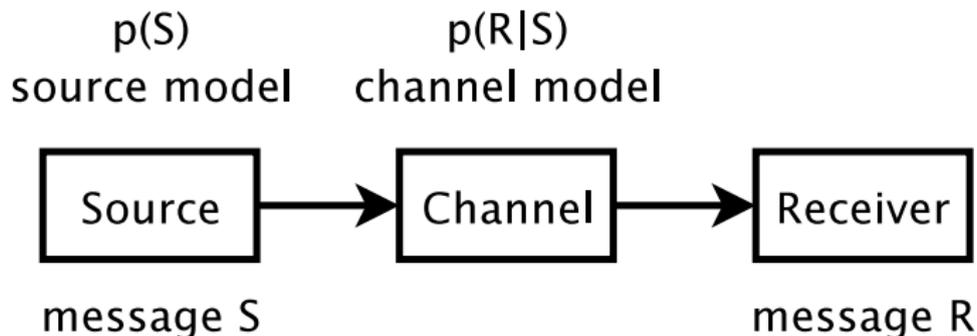
$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{e}) &= p(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) \\ &= p(e_1)p(e_2|e_1)\dots p(e_n|e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{n-1}) \\ &\simeq p(e_1)p(e_2|e_1)\dots p(e_n|e_{n-2}, e_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

Noisy Channel Model

- We would like to integrate a language model
- Bayes rule

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} \frac{p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{e}) p(\mathbf{e})}{p(\mathbf{f})} \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{e}) p(\mathbf{e})\end{aligned}$$

Noisy Channel Model



- Applying Bayes rule also called noisy channel model
 - we observe a distorted message R (here: a foreign string **f**)
 - we have a model on how the message is distorted (here: translation model)
 - we have a model on what messages are probably (here: language model)
 - we want to recover the original message S (here: an English string **e**)

Higher IBM Models

IBM Model 1	lexical translation
IBM Model 2	adds absolute reordering model
IBM Model 3	adds fertility model
IBM Model 4	relative reordering model
IBM Model 5	fixes deficiency

- Only IBM Model 1 has global maximum
 - training of a higher IBM model builds on previous model
- Computationally biggest change in Model 3
 - trick to simplify estimation does not work anymore
 - exhaustive count collection becomes computationally too expensive
 - sampling over high probability alignments is used instead

Legacy

- IBM Models were the pioneering models in statistical machine translation
- Introduced important concepts
 - generative model
 - EM training
 - reordering models
- Only used for niche applications as translation model
- ...but still in common use for word alignment (e.g., GIZA++ toolkit)

Word Alignment

Given a sentence pair, which words correspond to each other?

	michael	geht	davon	aus	,	dass	er	im	haus	bleibt
michael	■									
assumes		■	■	■						
that						■				
he							■			
will										■
stay										■
in								■		
the								■		
house									■	

Word Alignment?

	john	wohnt	hier	nicht
john				
does		?		?
not				
live				
here				

Is the English word **does** aligned to the German **wohnt** (verb) or **nicht** (negation) or neither?

Word Alignment?

	john	biss	ins	grass
john				
kicked				
the				
bucket				

How do the idioms **kicked the bucket** and **biss ins grass** match up?
 Outside this exceptional context, **bucket** is never a good translation for
grass

Summary

- Lexical translation
- Alignment
- Expectation Maximization (EM) Algorithm
- Noisy Channel Model
- IBM Models
- Word Alignment

Summary

- Lexical translation
- Alignment
- Expectation Maximization (EM) Algorithm
- Noisy Channel Model
- IBM Models
- Word Alignment
- Alternate models next