DeepMind

# Language Team Overview



ACL 2020

### DeepMind Language Team



Adhi Kuncoro



Aida Nematzadeh





Gábor

Melis

Aishwarya Agrawal



Amy Wu



Andrew Trask



Angeliki Lazaridou





Cyprien de Masson d'Autume



Dani Yogatama



Devang Agrawal





Wojciech Stokowiec



John

Hale









Laura Rimell



Lei Yu



Lingpeng

Kong

Lisa Anne Hendricks



Laurent Sartran





Sebastian Ruder



Susannah Young



Tomas

Kocisky

Cao













Chris Dyer











### Language Modelling

Language modelling—assigning probabilities to sequences of tokens—is a fundamental NLP task, and better language models have many useful applications. We are interested in the following questions:

- What mechanisms allow language models to generalize better?
- How can we imbue language models with prior knowledge?
- How do we best incorporate longer-range context in our models?

#### **Recent selected publications**

- On the State of the Art of Evaluation in Neural Language Models (ICLR 2018) 1.
- 2. Unsupervised Recurrent Neural Network Grammars (NAACL 2019)

Kong

- 3. Variational Smoothing in RNN LMs (ICLR 2019)
- Mogrifier LSTM (ICLR 2020) 4.







Gábor Lingpeng Melis

Dani Yogatama



#### Phil Blunsom

Kris Cao





Dver

Kazuva Kawakami

+ previous intern: Yoon Kim



## **Machine Translation and Multilingual NLP**

In order to develop general NLU methods, we need to learn abstractions that can generalise to any language. This will also help overcome language barriers and enable wider access to information. We are interested in the following questions:

- How can we incorporate additional context and leverage monolingual data in neural machine translation?
- How can we learn representations that generalise to extremely low-resource scenarios?
- What structural biases do we need for cross-lingual generalisation?

#### **Recent selected publications**

- 1. Better Document-level Machine Translation with Bayes' Rule (TACL 2020)
- 2. On the Cross-lingual Transferability of Monolingual Representations (ACL 2020)
- 3. <u>Capturing document context inside sentence-level NMT models with self-training</u> (arXiv 2020)

Dani

Yogatama

4. <u>A Call for More Rigor in Unsupervised Cross-lingual Learning</u> (ACL 2020)



l ei

Yu



Dyer

Sebastian Ruder



Phil Blunsom



Tomas Kocisky



Laurent

Sartran



Wojciech Stokowiec





Papers presented at ACL 2020

 $p(\boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{z} \mid \boldsymbol{x}) \approx \prod_{j=1}^{11} \underbrace{p(z_j \mid z_{j-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_1^{z_j}, \boldsymbol{y}_1^{j-1})}_{\text{alignment probability}} \underbrace{p(y_j \mid \boldsymbol{x}_1^{z_j}, \boldsymbol{y}_1^{j-1})}_{\text{word probability}} \underbrace{\text{The Neural Noisy Channel}}_{(\text{ICLR 2017})}$ 



### **Representation and Transfer Learning**

We are interested in learning robust and transferable representations. Our research directions in this area include:

- What biases and architectures allow us to deal with the full complexity of natural language across a variety of tasks?
- How can we effectively store and reuse representations?
- How can we adapt to new tasks in environments with limited amounts of data?

#### **Recent selected publications**

- Sentence Encoding with Tree-constrained Relation Networks (arXiv 2018)
- Learning and Evaluating General Linguistic Intelligence (arXiv 2019) 2.
- Episodic Memory in Lifelong Language Learning (NeurIPS 2019) 3.
- On Mutual Information Maximization for Representation Learning (ICLR 2020) 4.
- 5. Modelling Latent Skills for Multitask Language Generation (arXiv 2020)
- Syntactic Structure Distillation Pretraining For Bidirectional Encoders (arXiv 2020) 6.





Dani











Cvprien de Masson d'Autume



Learning Robust and **Multilingual Speech** Representations (arXiv 2020)



Adhi Kuncoro

Kong Yogatama

Sebastian Lingpeng Ruder

Kazuva Kawakami

Lei Yu



### **Document Modelling and Question Answering**

We want to go from understanding sentences to documents and beyond. We are interested in the following questions:

- What is the best way to test document understanding and how to construct such test sets?
- How can we understand and integrate information across a long text or multiple documents?
- How can we reason about events, entities, and their relationships over time?

#### **Selected publications**

- 1. <u>Teaching Machines to Read and Comprehend</u> (NeurIPS 2015)
- 2. <u>Program Induction by Rationale Generation: Learning to Solve and Explain Algebraic Word Problems</u> (ACL 2017)
- 3. Reference-Aware Language Models (EMNLP 2017)
- 4. <u>The NarrativeQA Reading Comprehension Challenge</u> (TACL 2018)



Tomas

Kocisky



Ling



Dani Yogatama



Phil

Blunsom

Chris



Melis

+ previous intern: Zichao Yang



### **Multi-agent Communication and Dialogue**

One of the fundamental functions of natural language is that of communication. Some of the questions that we are currently tackling are:

- How can we leverage multi-agent and reinforcement learning framework to tackle problems related to communication and dialogue?
- What are the properties of communication protocols emerging within multi-agent interactions grounded to a particular task?
- Can we nudge these properties to resemble those found in human communication?
- Can we use pre-trained and large scale language models as a key component of dialogue systems? What's the most appropriate way to do so?

#### **Recent selected publications**

- 1. <u>Emergent communication through negotiation</u> (ICLR 2018)
- 2. <u>Social Influence as Intrinsic Motivation for Multi-Agent Deep Reinforcement Learning</u> (ICML 2019)
- 3. <u>Biases for Emergent Communication in Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning</u> (NeurIPS 2019)
- 4. Multi-agent Communication meets Natural Language: Synergies between Functional and Structural Language Learning (ACL 2020)

Angeliki Lazaridou







Laura Rimell



Papers presented at ACL 2020

### Language + Vision

In order to communicate about the physical world, AI agents must learn across multiple modalities. We are interested in the following questions:

- How can we learn general purpose multimodal features for downstream tasks such as image captioning or visual question answering?
- How robust are multimodal features to domain transfer and how can we ensure models do not amplify dataset bias during training?
- How can we effectively leverage data from single modality sources (e.g., unlabeled images or uncurated text) for multimodal tasks?











Angeliki Lazaridou





Aishwarya Agrawal



Aida Nematzadeh



#### **Recent selected publications**

- 1. Learning to Segment Actions from Observation and Narration (ACL 2020)
- 2. <u>Visual Grounding in Video for Unsupervised Word Translation</u> (CVPR 2020)



## Language + Cognitive Science

We take inspiration from cognitive science and linguistics to both better understand child language acquisition and also improve existing NLP systems. Broadly, we aim to:

- Shed light on mechanisms involved in human language acquisition by developing computational models and evaluating them against behavioral data.
- Identify the shortcoming of existing models by designing evaluation tasks inspired by experiments from developmental psychology.
- Improve performance/sample-efficiency of models by integrating them with inductive biases inspired by human cognition.

#### **Recent selected publications**

- Evaluating Theory of Mind in Question Answering (EMNLP 2018) 1.
- Finding syntax in Human Encephalography with Beam Search (ACL 2018 Best Paper Award) 2.
- Text Genre and Training Data Size in Human-like Parsing (EMNLP 2019) 3.
- On Memory in Human and Artificial Language Processing Systems (The BAICS workshop at ICLR 2020) 4.



Adhi Kuncoro



Angeliki Lazaridou Aida Nematzadeh



Chris Dver



Dani Yogatama







Sebastian Ruder

John Hale

Laura Rimell

