

Multilingual Language Models: NLP Beyond English



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CS 288



NLP Beyond English

- An overwhelming majority of NLP research focuses on English!

How to build non-English NLP systems?

- translate baseline
- monolingual LMs for each language
- multilingual LMs



Translate Baseline



Translate Baseline





Translate Baseline



Pros:

- Straightforward to implement
- Strong baseline, especially for classification tasks



Translate Baseline



Pros:

- Straightforward to implement
- Strong baseline, especially for classification tasks

Cons:

- Suffers from cascading errors
- Limited to languages that translation systems support
- Can be slow and computationally expensive
- Translation is fundamentally lossy?



Monolingual LMs



Monolingual LMs

- ▶ Can we just repeat the LM pre-training pipeline for other languages?



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 - Sort of!



Monolingual LMs

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flax-community/gpt-2-spanish

like 13

Text Generation

PyTorch

JAX

TensorBoard

Safetensors

Transformers

oscar

Spanish

gpt2

Model card

Files and versions

Training metrics

Community 1

Train

Deploy

Use in Transformers

Edit model card

Spanish GPT-2

GPT-2 model trained from scratch on the Spanish portion of [OSCAR](#). The model is trained with Flax and using TPUs sponsored by Google since this is part of the [Flax/Jax Community Week](#) organised by HuggingFace.

Downloads last month

2,004

Hosted inference API

Text Generation

Examples



Monolingual LMs

- ▶ Can we just repeat the LM pre-training pipeline for other languages?
 - Sort of!

bert-base-chinese like 256

Fill-Mask PyTorch TensorFlow JAX Safetensors Transformers Chinese bert AutoTrain Compatible arxiv:1810.04805

Model card Files and versions Community **8**

Train Deploy Use in Transformers

Edit model card

Bert-base-chinese

Downloads last month
1,387,599







Evaluating LMs in Other Languages

Datasets: squad_es   like 0

Tasks:  Question Answering Sub-tasks: **extractive-qa** Languages:  Spanish Multilinguality: **monolingual** Size Categories: **10K< n < 100K**
Language Creators: **machine-generated** Annotations Creators: **machine-generated** Source Datasets: **extended|squad** ArXiv:  arxiv:1912.05200 License:  cc-by-4.0




 **Dataset card**  Files and versions  Community 1

Datasets: Hello-SimpleAI/HC3-Chinese   like 34

Tasks:  Text Classification  Question Answering  Sentence Similarity + 1 Languages:  English  Chinese Size Categories: **10K< n < 100K** ArXiv:  arxiv:2301.0
Tags: ChatGPT SimpleAI Detection + 1 License:  cc-by-sa-4.0

 **Dataset card**  Files and versions  Community

Datasets: german_legal_entity_recognition   like 0

Tasks:  Token Classification Sub-tasks: **named-entity-recognition** Languages:  German Multilinguality: **monolingual** Size Categories: **n < 1K** Language Creators: **found**
Annotations Creators: **expert-generated** Source Datasets: **original** License:  cc-by-4.0



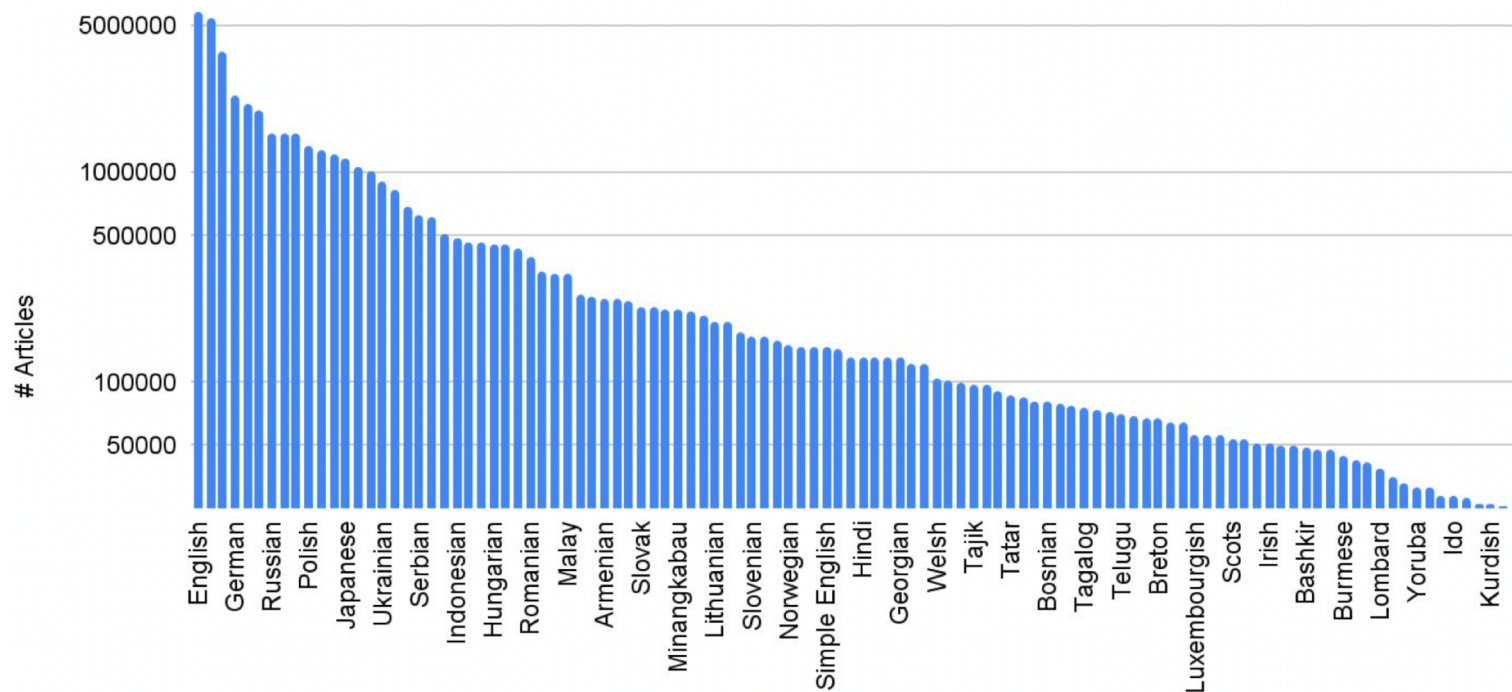
Evaluating LMs in Other Languages

Language	Premise / Hypothesis	Genre	Label
English	You don't have to stay there. You can leave.	Face-To-Face	Entailment
French	La figure 4 montre la courbe d'offre des services de partage de travaux. Les services de partage de travaux ont une offre variable.	Government	Entailment
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Challenges with Monolingual LMs

- There is not enough unlabeled data for each language

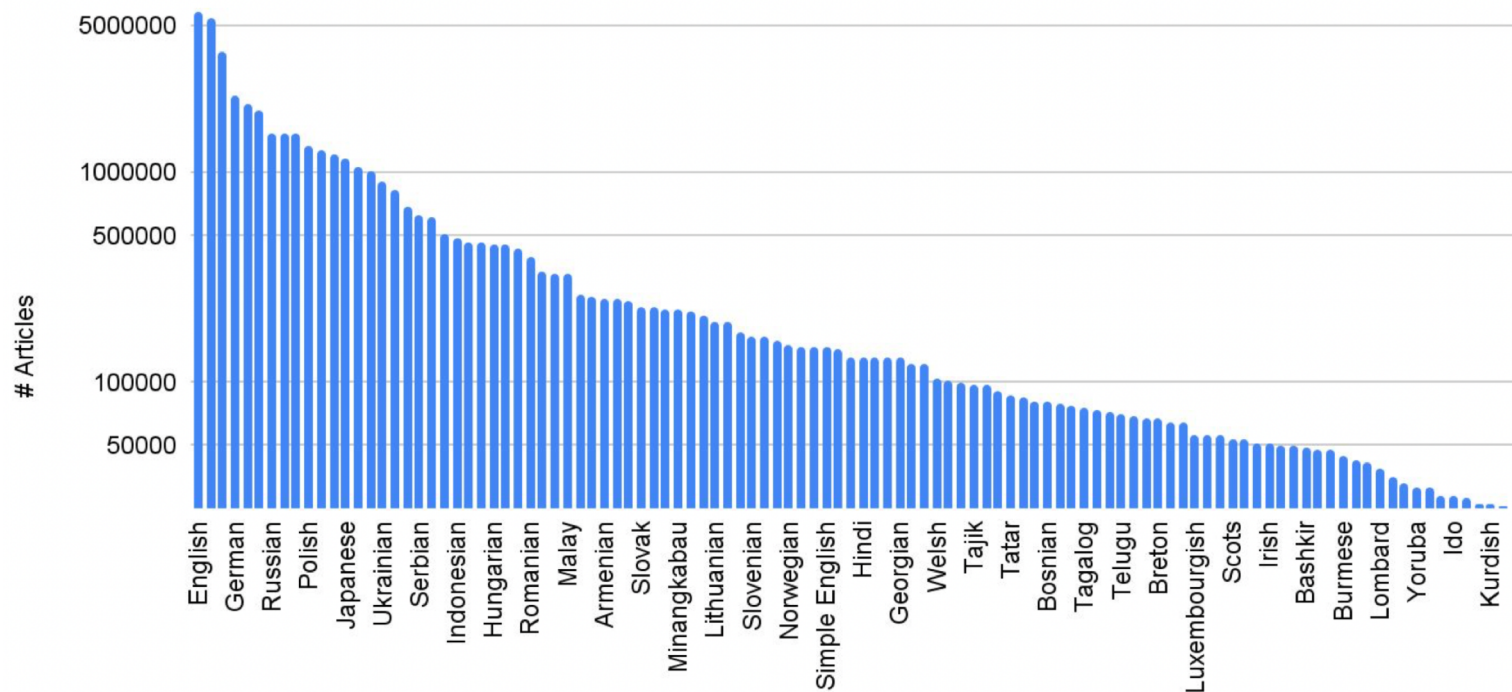


Credit: Graham Neubig



Challenges with Monolingual LMs

- Compute and complexity of serving 100-1000s of different models



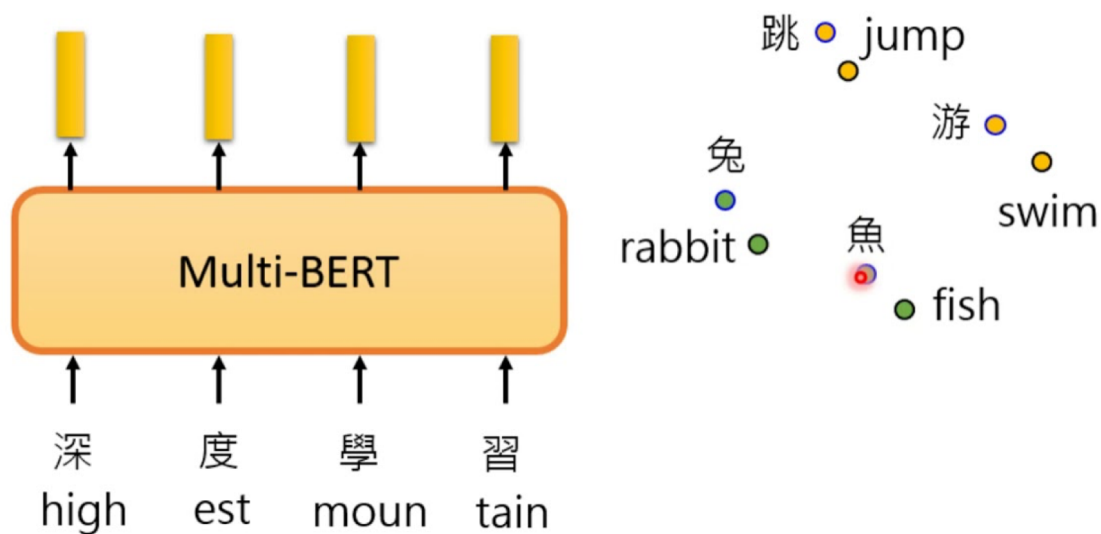
Credit: Graham Neubig



Multilingual Language Models?

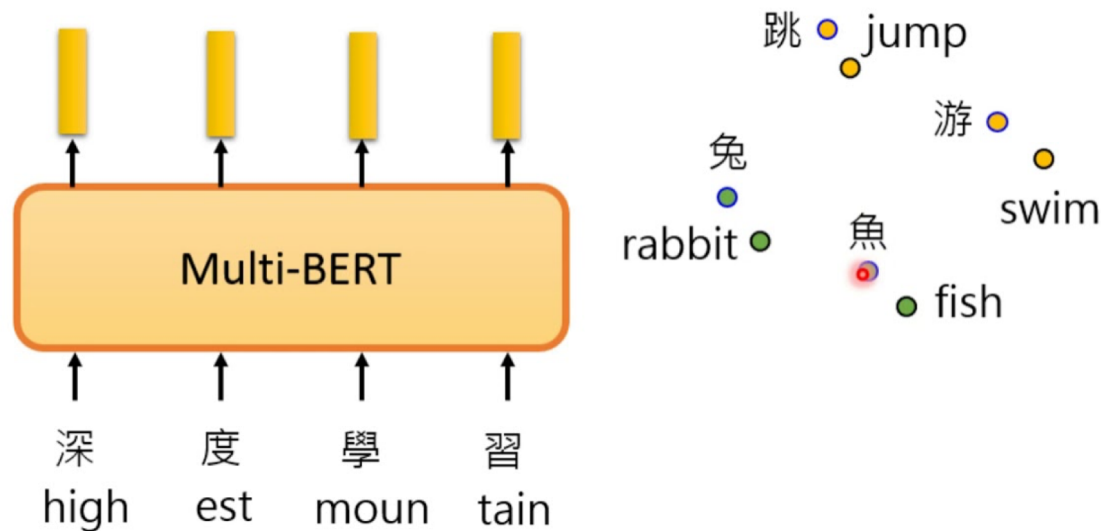


Multilingual Language Models?





Multilingual Language Models?



Promises:

- Share world knowledge, syntax, etc. across languages?
- Use related languages to enhance transfer?



Multilingual BERT

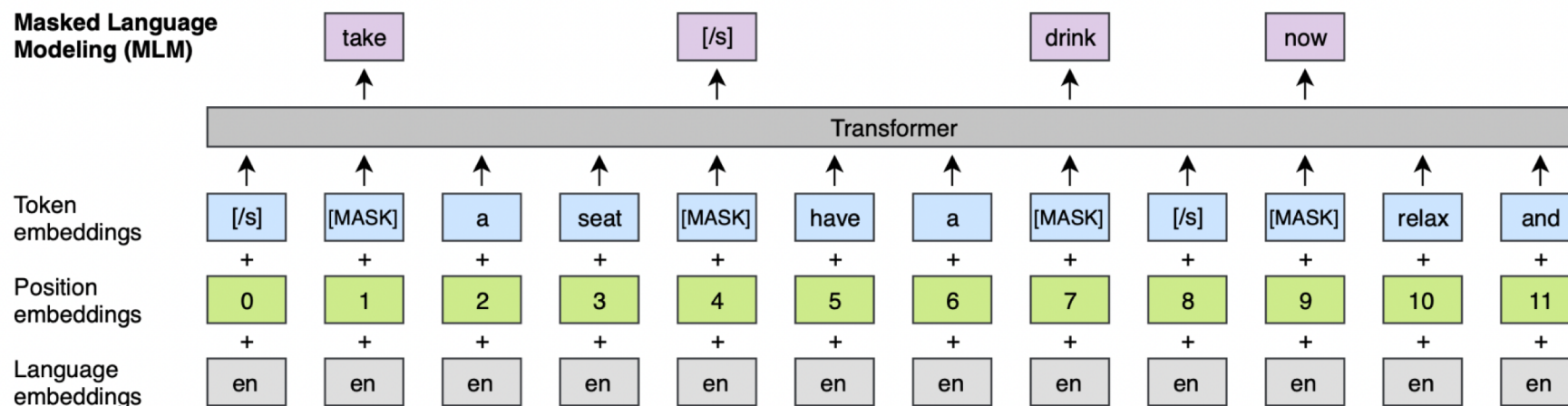
- Simply rerun BERT with 100+ language's Wikipedia and new BPE



Multilingual BERT

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Masked Language Modeling (MLM)





Multilingual BERT

- This works surprisingly well!



Multilingual BERT

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How multilingual is Multilingual BERT?

Telmo Pires* **Eva Schlinger** **Dan Garrette**

Google Research

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On the Cross-lingual Transferability of Monolingual Representations

Mikel Artetxe^{†*}, Sebastian Ruder[‡], Dani Yogatama[‡]

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[‡]DeepMind

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Multilingual BERT

- This works surprisingly well!

How multilingual is Multilingual BERT?

What makes multilingual BERT multilingual?

Telmo Pires*

Eva Schlinger

Dan Garrette

Google Research

{telmop, eschling, dhgarrette}

Emerging Cross-lingual Structure in Pretrained Language Models

On the Cross-lingual Transferability of Monolingual Models

Shijie Wu^{♠*} **Alexis Conneau^{♡*}**

Haoran Li[♡]

Luke Zettlemoyer[♡]

Veselin Stoyanov[♡]

Mikel Artetxe^{†*}, **Sebastian Ruder[‡]**, **Dani Yogatama[‡]**

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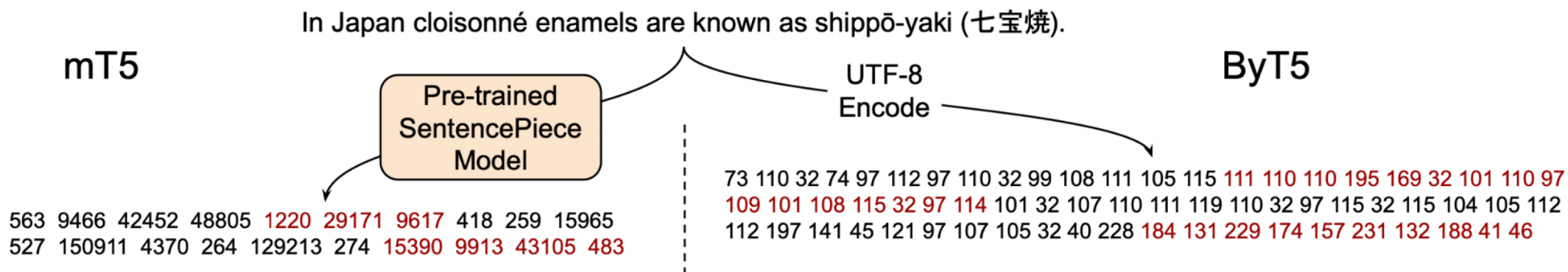
Non-English Tokenizers

- ▶ We can use standard BPE tokenizers
 - massively increase vocab size (50k \longrightarrow 250k+)



Non-English Tokenizers

- ▶ We can use standard BPE tokenizers
 - massively increase vocab size (50k \longrightarrow 250k+)
- ▶ Or use unicode byte-level models

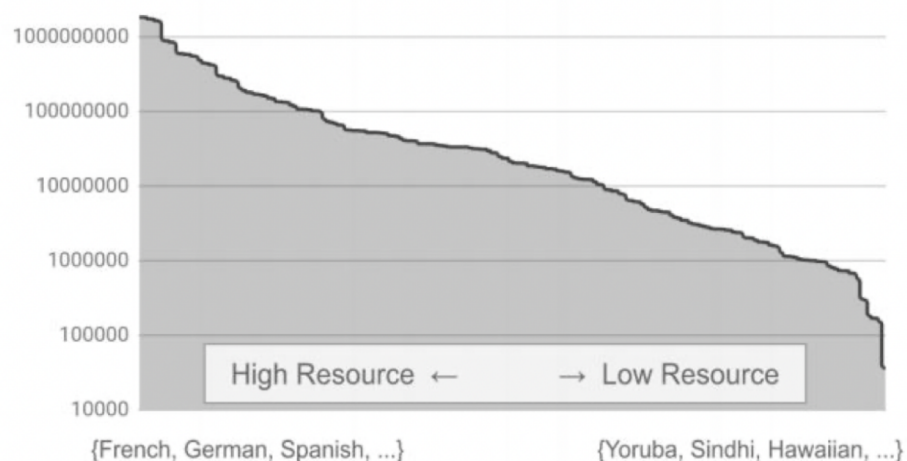




Data Resampling

Problem: training data highly imbalanced

Data distribution over language pairs



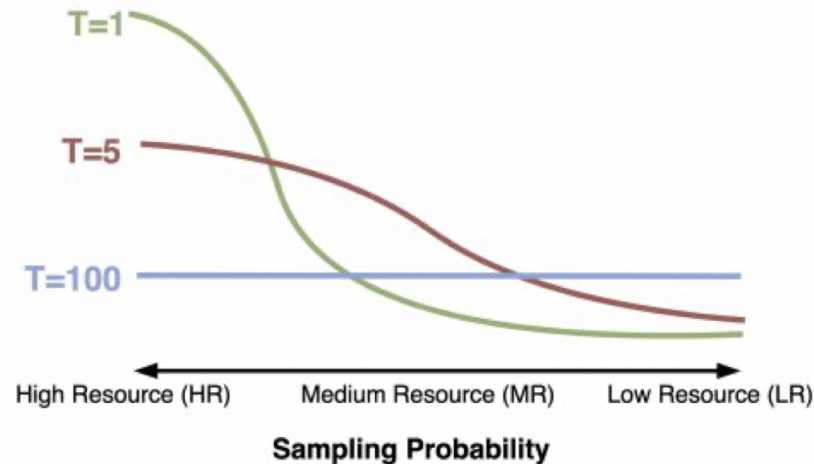
- High resource languages have much more data than low-resource ones
- Important to upsample low-resource data in this setting!

Credit: Graham Neubig



Data Resampling

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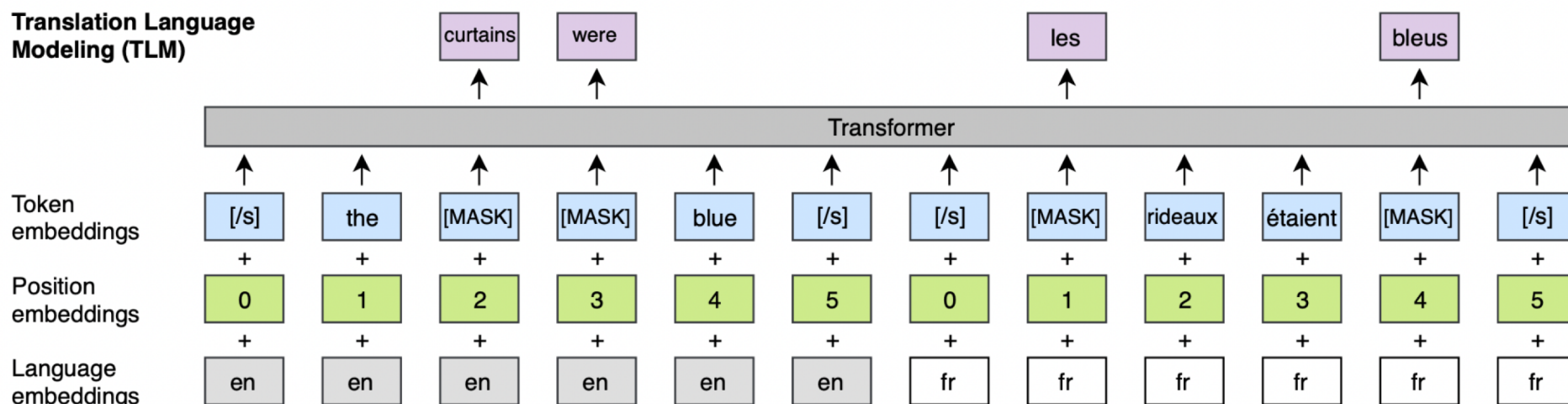
- Sample data based on dataset size scaled by a temperature term
- Easy control of how much to upsample low-resource data



Translation MLM

- If I have translation data, can use it to enhance masked LM training

Translation Language Modeling (TLM)





Existing Multilingual Language Models

Model	Architecture	Parameters	# languages	Data source
mBERT (Devlin, 2018)	Encoder-only	110M	104	Wikipedia
XLM (Lample and Conneau, 2019)	Encoder-only	570M	100	Wikipedia
XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2019)	Encoder-only	270M – 550M	100	Common Crawl (CCNet)
mBART (Lewis et al., 2019a)	Encoder-decoder	680M	25	Common Crawl (CC25)
MARGE (Lewis et al., 2020)	Encoder-decoder	960M	26	Wikipedia or CC-News
mT5 (ours)	Encoder-decoder	300M – 13B	101	Common Crawl (mC4)



Multilingual Few-shot Learning

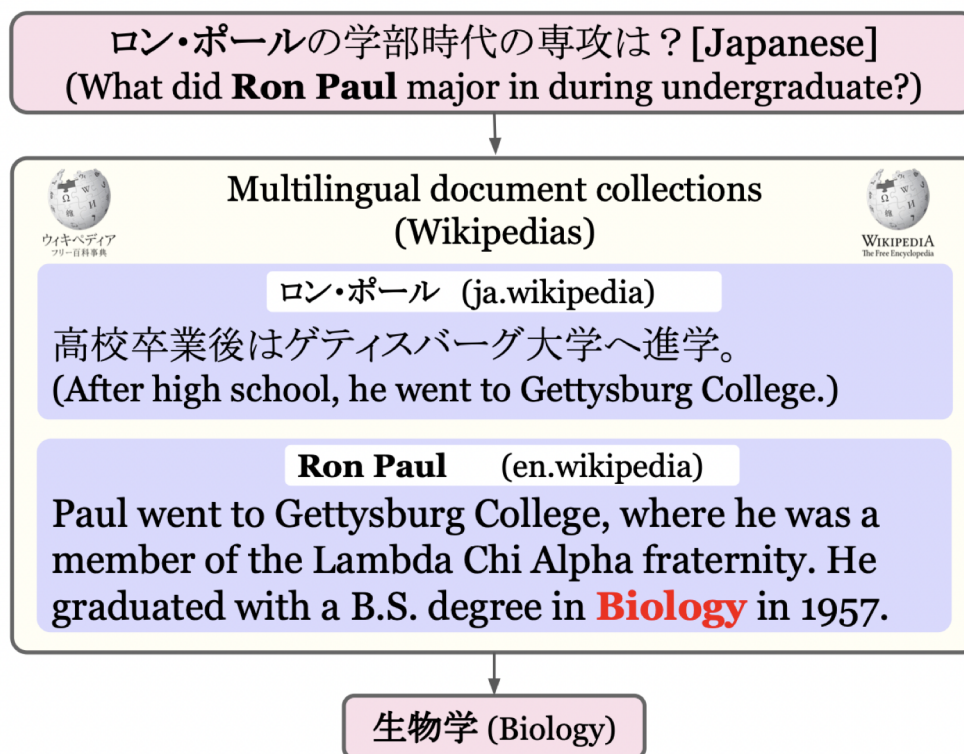
- Can use LMs out of the box for few-shot learning in different languages

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Multilingual Few-shot Learning

- ▶ Can use LMs out of the box for few-shot learning in different languages





Cross-lingual Supervised Transfer

- If I have supervised data, can transfer to languages w/o supervised data

Prompt:

Écrivez une courte histoire sur une grenouille qui voyage dans le temps jusqu'à la Grèce antique en français.

GPT-3 175B completion:

Écrivez une histoire au sujet d'un enfant qui voudrait tout savoir sur les jeux des dieux et qui se retrouve dans l'une de leurs histoires.

Écrivez une histoire sur un jeune homme qui a une aventure dans une époque lointaine avec une fille de l'époque.

Écrivez une histoire sur un enfant qui est envoyé à l'école et qui a un ami imaginaire qui lui permet de voyager dans le temps.

InstructGPT 175B completion:

La grenouille était perdue et épuisée. Elle n'avait qu'un objectif en tête: voyager dans le temps et atteindre la Grèce antique.

Premier problème, trouver un moyen de transport. Elle avait entendu dire que l'un des meilleurs moyens était de sauter dans une machine temporelle. Elle s'élança, et voilà qu'elle se retrouva dans le passé, au cours d'une nuit étoilée à l'odeur douce et envoûtante.

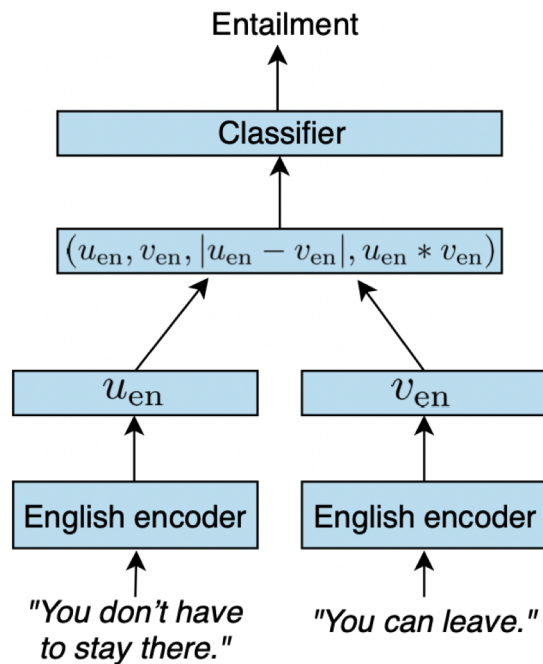
La grenouille avance alors d'un pas rapide et aventureux dans les rues en pente et les petites auberges de la ville antique. [...]



Cross-lingual Supervised Transfer

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A) Learning NLI English encoder and classifier

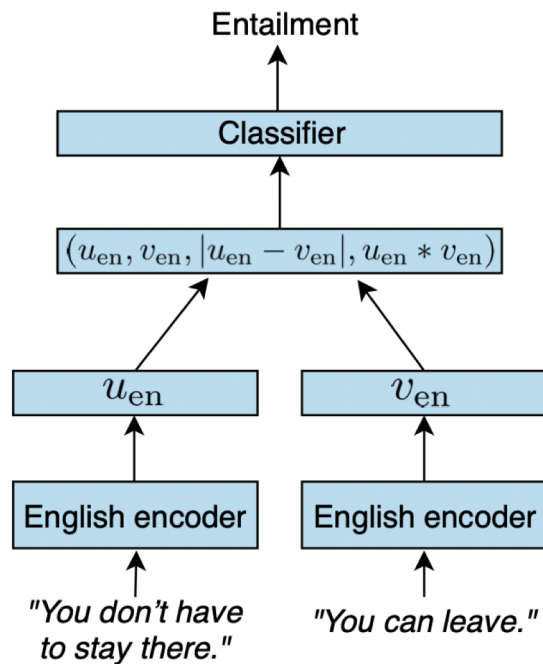




Cross-lingual Supervised Transfer

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A) Learning NLI English encoder and classifier



C) Inference in the other language

