

# Wonders and Mysteries of Multilingual Language Models

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Workshop DataIA - ILLS @ CentraleSupélec

# Multilingual Natural Language Processing

## Computational Language Documentation

(Bayesian) Probabilistic Models

*S. Okabe, P. Godard, L. Besacier*

## Retrieval Augmented MT

Non Autoregressive MT (LevT), imitation learning

*J. Grego, J. Xu, M. Bouthors*

## Multidomain MT

Adapters, curriculum / sampling policy learning

*P.M. Quang, J. Crego*

## Interacting with bitexts

Alignment & edit-based models

*P. Cubaud, J. Crego, A.K Ngo-Ho, J. Xu*

## MT for Open Science

Integrating Terminology & Phraseology in NMT

*S. Abdul-Rauf, R. Bawden, N. Kübler, etc*

## Multilingual LLMs

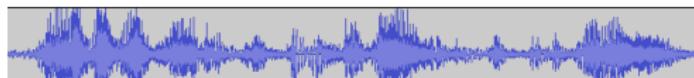
X-lingual Transfer, Probing & Metrics

*G. Wisniewski, H. Schütze, A. Imani, M. Sabet, etc.*

☞ details [fyvo.github.io](https://fyvo.github.io)

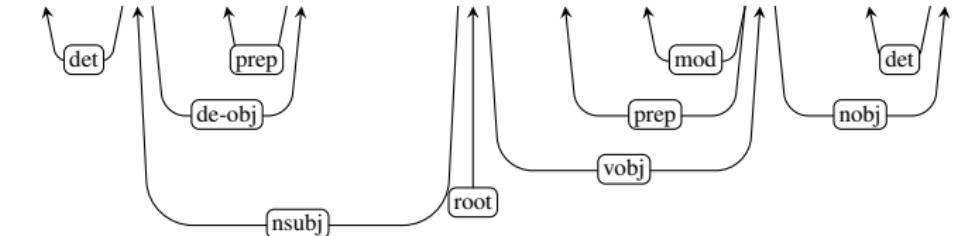
# Natural Language Processing : the Data-Based Revolution

## Issues in Linguistic Analysis



lə || kuzɛ|| dø|| pol || sə || pike || də || bjɛ || ø :də ø :də || bjɛ || konɛtrə || sa || vil

Le cousin de Paul se piquait bien connaître sa ville



( sp / se-piquer-de-1

:ARG0 (c / cousin)

:ARG1 (k / connaîtре-2

:ARG0 (c )

:ARG1 (v /ville))

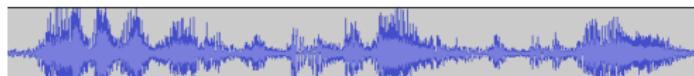
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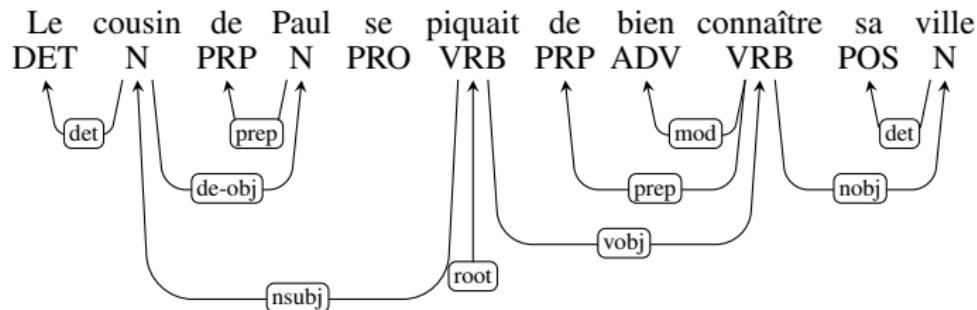
Cousin ?

# Natural Language Processing : the Data-Based Revolution

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Cousin ?



# Natural Language Processing : the Data-Based Revolution

## Downstream Applications



Nicolas Sarkozy arbitrera la semaine prochaine sur les amendements un bon cru pour le tourisme . Dès cet été des milices et les étrangers sont venus à Paris , bousoir de fréquentation des hôtels et du tourisme d'affaires sur les six premiers mois de la vie ..

Et direction tout de suite . La Rochelle , où les socialistes font l'heure rentrée politique du PS , réuni au grand complet à l'exception de Dominique Strauss-Kahn , Amandine a -t -elle Hayat . Vous êtes sur place . Ségolène Royal est apparemment à très présente un depuis hier ..

Oui . Marianne et c'est clairement aujourd'hui la journée de Ségolène Royal , elle entend bien marquer des points . L'an dernier , elle avait survolé ses universités d'état avec des sauter , c'est bien cette fois , elle sera présente pendant les trois jours et cela commencé soir avec un dîner de presse . Cela s'est poursuivie ce matin avec de nouveau une foule de médias pour une conférence de presse sur la crise laitière et puis cet après - midi , ce sera bien sûr le traditionnel discours d'ouverture devant 4000 la

- ▶ **text analysis** : information retrieval and classification, question-answering, spell checking, information extraction, NLU, etc
- ▶ **text generation** : machine translation, summarization, dialog, TTS, etc

# Natural Language Processing : the Data-Based Revolution

Processing Sequences of Symbols with Hidden Structure

Input	$w = w_1 \dots w_T \in \Sigma_1^T$ $w_t$ : a phoneme, a letter, a morpheme, a word, a sentence
Output	$y \in \Sigma_2$ : sequence classification $y$ : filter, topic, polarity, language, author
Output	$y \in \Sigma_2^T$ : sequence labelling $y_t$ : PoS, feature, bracketing, etc
Output	$y \in \Sigma_2^*$ : sequence transduction $y$ : transcription, translation, answer, correction, summary, etc
Output	$y \in \mathcal{G}$ : sequence parsing $y$ : morphological or syntactic tree, semantic graph, discourse tree

- ▶ Ambiguous or unobserved boundaries
- ▶ Ubiquitous ambiguity of basic units  $w_t$
- ▶ Structural constraints over possible  $x, y$  (unobserved)
- ▶ Internal structure within  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  (unobserved)
- ▶ Massive variability of data distribution (domain, genre, style, register)

# Natural Language Processing : the Data-Based Revolution

The “Unreasonable Effectiveness” of Supervised Learning in NLP (1993-)

## There is nothing but tabular data

```
# sent_id = fr_partut-ud-184
```

```
# text = La sécurité des transports a trop fait l'actualité ces derniers temps :
```

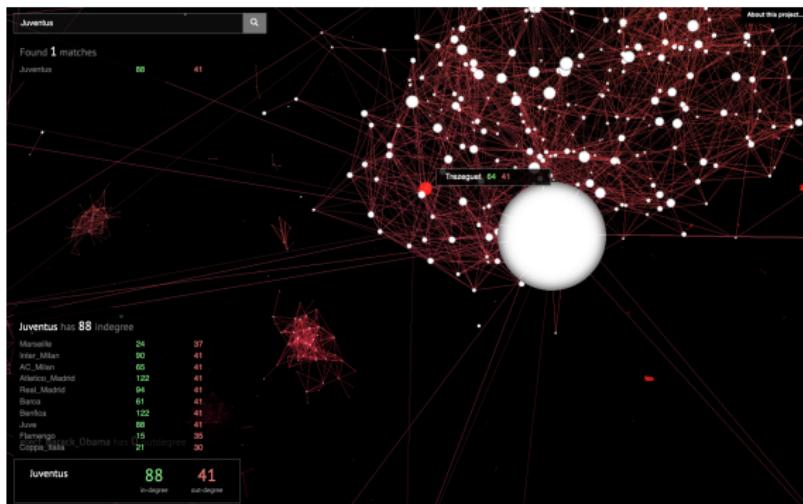
1	La	le	DET	RD	Def=Def Gdr=Fem Num=Sing PronType=Art
2	sécurité	sécurité	NOUN	S	Gdr=Fem Num=Sing
3-4	des	de	ADP	E	-
3	de	de	ADP	E	-
4	les	le	DET	RD	Def=Def Num=Plur PronType=Art
5	transports	transport	NOUN	S	Gdr=Masc Num=Plur
6	a	avoir	AUX	VA	Mood=Ind Num=Sing Person=3 Tense=Pres
7	trop	trop	ADV	B	
8	fait	faire	VERB	V	Gdr=Masc Num=Sing Tense=Past VbForm=Part
9	l'	le	DET	RD	Def=Def Num=Sing PronType=Art
10	actualité	actualité	NOUN	S	Gdr=Fem Num=Sing
11	ces	ce	DET	DD	Num=Plur PronType=Dem
12	derniers	dernier	ADJ	NO	Gdr=Masc Num=Plur NumType=Ord
13	temps	temps	NOUN	S	Gdr=Masc
14	:	:	PUNCT	FC	-

Picking “low-hanging fruits” with simple learners (classifiers, sequence learning)

# Monolingual Pretrained Language Models are Powerful

## Modern Lexical Representations : Word Embeddings

Map words  $w_t$  in context  $c$  onto vector-space representations  $x$  as  $x = f_{\theta}(w_t; c)$ .  
 $f_{\theta}()$  is a neural net eg. Transformer [Vaswani et al., 2017] with parameters  $\theta$ .



The structure of word spaces : related words are close

# Monolingual Pretrained Language Models are Powerful

## Learning $\theta$

Gigantic collections of texts, simple **auxiliary tasks** with **natural annotations**

1. Predict next word given prefix : **pure decoder**

Longtemps je me suis couché [mask] ...  $\Rightarrow$  train  $P_{\theta}(w_t|w_{<t})$

GPT-2 [Radford et al., 2019], OPT [Zhang et al., 2022], GPT-J [Wang and Komatsuzaki, 2021], etc

2. Predict missing word given bidirectional context : **pure encoder**

Longtemps je me suis couché de [mask] bonne heure.  $\Rightarrow$  train  $P_{\theta}(w_t|w_{-t})$

BERT [Devlin et al., 2019], Roberta [Liu et al., 2019], CamemBERT [Martin et al., 2020] etc.

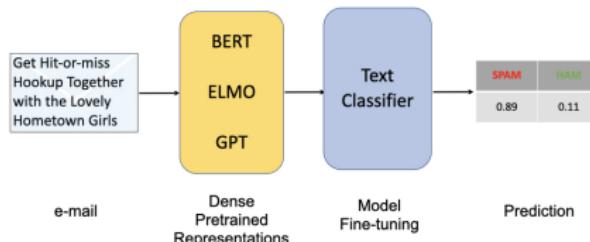
3. Denoising sequence to sequence : **encoder-decoder**

Longtemts je couché suis de bnone || Longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure.  
 $\Rightarrow$  train  $P_{\theta}(w|\tilde{w})$

BART [Lewis et al., 2020], T5 [Raffel et al., 2020], etc.

# Monolingual Pretrained Language Models are Powerful Using $\theta$

1. Learn + fine-tune task-adapted model  $h_{\phi, \theta}(w; c) = h_{\phi}(f_{\theta}(w; c))$



2. With causal LMs, multi-purpose text generation via **prompting**

GEN Of course. In Chorukor, Monday is ilopagar, Tuesday ilopager, ...  
Wednesday ilopagur, Thursday ilopagir ...

Q&A Answer this : What are the birth date and place of Ludvík Vaculík ? ...  
23 July 1926, in Brumov, Moravia

SA "This Czech writer has written some the most wonderful French novels."  
is a positive comment ? ... [Yes | No]

# Monolingual Pretrained Language Models are Powerful

## Using $\theta$

1. Learn + fine-tune task-adapted model  $h_{\phi,\theta}(w; c) = h_\phi(f_\theta(w; c))$
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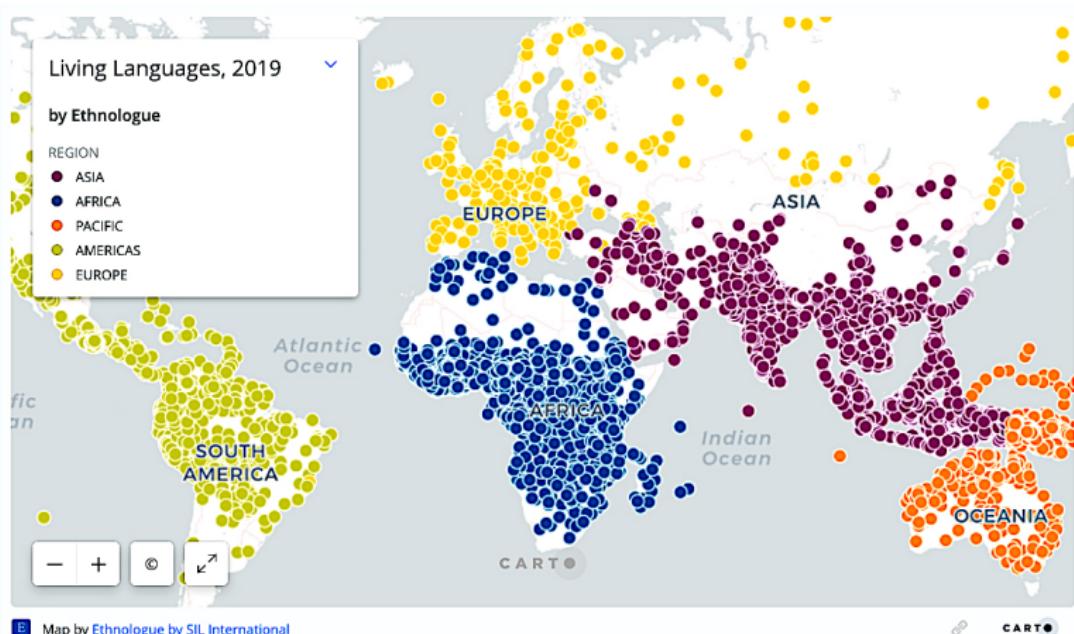
- ⌚ LM pre-training is mostly unsupervised
- ⌚ Instructions can be learned or fine-tuned
- ⌚ Extremely successful for “high resource” languages
- ⌚ Annotation, corpus and model size matter

# Monolingual Pretrained Language Models are Powerful

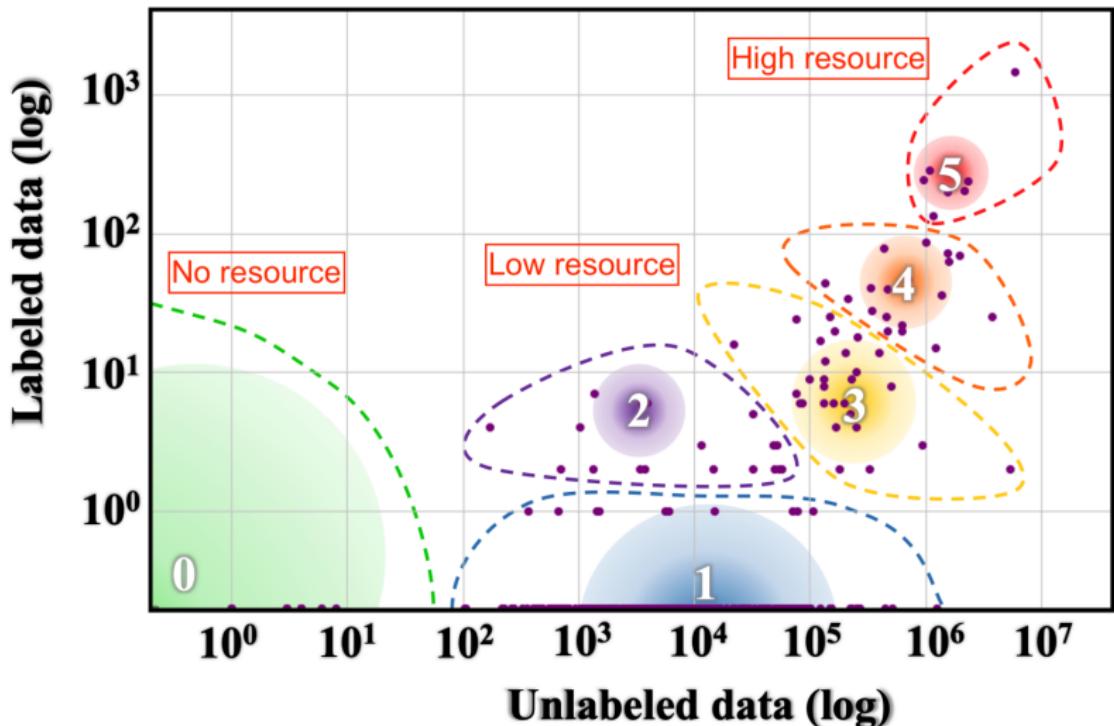
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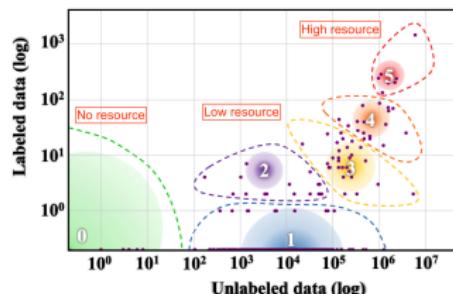
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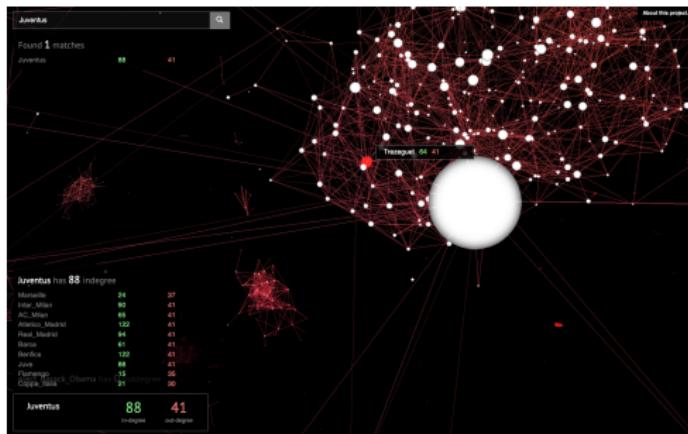
Cls	Example languages	#Lang	#Spkr	% Lang
0	Dahalo, Warlpiri, Popoloca, Wallisian, Bora	2191	1.2B	88.38%
1	Cherokee, Fijian, Greenlandic, Bhojpuri, Navajo	222	30M	5.49%
2	Zulu, Konkani, Lao, Maltese, Irish	19	5.7M	0.36%
3	Indonesian, Ukrainian, Cebuano, Afrikaans, Hebrew	28	1.8B	4.42%
4	Russian, Hungarian, Vietnamese, Dutch, Korean	18	2.2B	1.07 %
5	English, Spanish, German, Japanese, French	7	2.5B	0.28%

Data and analysis from [Joshi et al., 2020]

# Multilingual Pretrained Language Models - mPLMs

## Multilingual Lexical Representations : Word Embeddings

Map words  $w$  onto vector-space representations  $x$  in context  $c$  as  $x = f_{\theta}(w; c)$   
 $f_{\theta}()$  a complex neural net with parameters  $\theta$ .



Neighbours should be semantically similar **cross-linguistically**

# Multilingual Pretrained Language Models - mPLMs

## Multilingual representations of texts

\_Tous \_les \_être s \_humain s \_na issent \_libre s \_et \_ég aux \_en \_digni té \_et \_en  
\_droits . \_Ils \_sont \_do u és \_de \_raison \_et \_de \_conscience \_et \_doivent \_agir  
\_les \_uns \_en vers \_les \_autres \_dans \_un \_esprit \_de \_frater n ité .

\_Všichni \_lidé \_rod í \_se \_svobod ní \_a \_sobě \_rov ní \_co \_do \_d ū stoj nosti \_a  
\_práv . \_Jsou \_na dán i \_rozum em \_a \_s vědomí m \_a \_mají \_spolu \_jedna t \_v  
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\_Tutti \_gli \_esse ri \_umani \_na scono \_liberi \_ed \_e gu ali \_in \_digni tà \_e \_diritti  
· \_Es si \_sono \_do tati \_di \_ragione \_e \_di \_coscienza \_e \_devono \_agir e \_gli \_uni  
\_verso \_gli \_altri \_in \_spirito \_di \_fra tella nza .

Low-level, language independent segmentations

# Multilingual Pretrained Language Models - mPLMs

## Multilingual representations of texts

\_Tous \_les \_être s \_humain s \_na issent \_libre s \_et \_ég aux \_en \_digni té \_et \_en  
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Low-level, language independent segmentations

# Multilingual Pretrained Language Models - mPLMs

## Learning multilingual $\theta$

Multilingual Mixtures of corpora, simple auxiliary tasks with natural annotations :

1. Predict next word given prefix : **pure decoder**.  
mGPT [Shliazhko et al., 2022], XGLM [Lin et al., 2021], etc
2. Predict missing word given full context : **pure encoder**.  
mBERT [Devlin et al., 2019], XLM-R [Conneau et al., 2020]
3. Denoising sequence to sequence : **encoder-decoder**  
mBART50 [Liu et al., 2020b], mT5 [Xue et al., 2020], etc

+ Complementary objectives to bridge between languages :  
parallel corpora, bilingual dictionaries, synthetic code-switched data [Conneau et al., 2020, Chi et al., 2021], etc.

# Multilingual Pretrained Language Models - mPLMs

## Using multilingual $\theta$

1. Learn / fine-tune task-adapted model  $h_{\phi,\theta}(w; c) = h_\phi(f_\theta(w; c))$  on  $L_1$ ,  
perform zero-shot X-lingual transfer to  $L_2$
2. Multilingual text generation with prompting

Translate into English

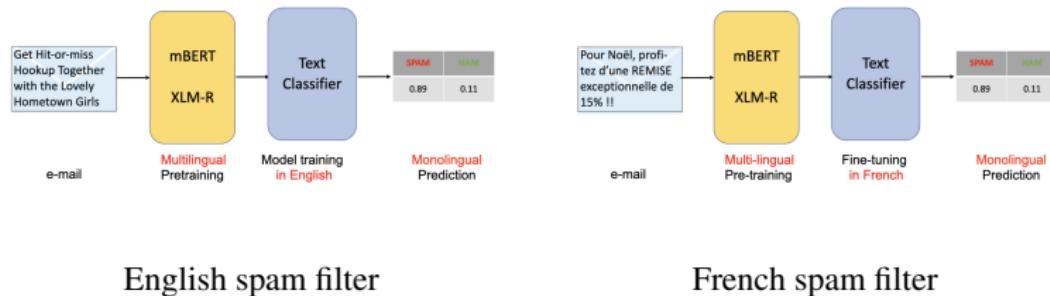
“ By the end of the year, we will have seven new pharmacists. ” :

D’ici la fin de l’année, nous aurons sept nouveaux pharmaciens.

- ☺ Hardly more difficult than monolingual
- ☺ Bring low resource languages up to steam

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

One model handling multiple languages



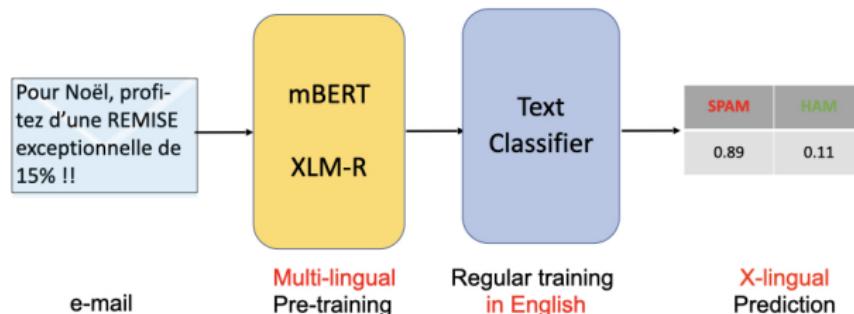
English spam filter

French spam filter

Effective for many languages / tasks [Pires et al., 2019, Wu and Dredze, 2020]

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

Knowledge transfer between languages

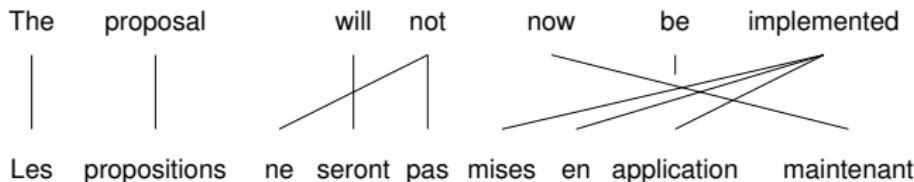


Multilingual zero-shot spam filter

- ⌚ No foreign training data required
- ⌚ Effective for many languages and tasks : X-GLUE [Liang et al., 2020]  
X-TREME+ [Hu et al., 2020, Ruder et al., 2023]

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

## Multilingual Embeddings Align Lexical Representations



- ▶ Word Alignment = Bipartite Graph
- ▶ Multilingual embeddings + graph algorithms = unsupervised alignments
- ▶ Aligns code-switching and multilingual texts
- ▶ Also : unsupervised sentence alignments

Method	ENG-CES		ENG-DEU		ENG-FAS	
	$F_1$	AER	$F_1$	AER	$F_1$	AER
IBM2	.76	.25	.71	.29	.57	.43
IBM4	.75	.26	.77	.23	.51	.49
eflomal	.85	.15	.77	.23	.61	.39
fastText	.70	.30	.60	.40	.50	.50
mBERT[8]	.87	.13	.79	.21	.67	.33
XLM-R[8]	.87	.13	.79	.21	.70	.30

Word alignment, Argmax method

Jalili Sabet et al. [2020]

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

## Unsupervised Alignments in Large Scale Evaluation

Glot-500 [ImaniGooghari et al., 2023] : a multilingual  
(XML-type) model for 500 languages

- ▶ New challenges
  - ▶ data selection and filtering
  - ▶ language identification at scale
- ▶ New evaluation methods
  - ▶ Round trip alignment
  - ▶ Sentence retrieval

Language-Script	XLM-R-B	XLM-R-L	Glot500-m	Language-Script	XLM-R-B	XLM-R-L	Glot500-m	Language-Script	XLM-R-B	XLM-R-L	Glot500-m
ck_Lat	3.55	2.25	6.23	mk_Lat	3.61	4.19	6.26	trk_Lat	3.19	4.16	4.31
el_Grek	2.79	3.38	6.77	ugk_Lat	2.38	3.28	3.68	trg_Lat	3.43	1.84	2.28
eng_Latin	4.02	4.49	6.39	mgr_Lat	3.32	4.96	4.39	trz_Lat	2.01	2.64	3.63
esn_Lat	3.75	3.77	5.14	msa_Lat	2.37	3.22	5.52	trv_Lat	3.50	2.15	2.19
spa_Lat	4.01	4.83	5.83	msn_Lat	2.62	3.05	3.78	tpi_Lat	2.48	2.71	5.96
rlt_Lat	4.54	3.24	8.23	mgm_Lat	2.23	3.15	4.02	trp_Lat	2.79	5.39	4.67
slv_Lat	3.12	4.32	4.81	mlm_Lat	2.09	4.03	4.97	trq_Lat	2.42	3.12	4.63
swr_Lat	2.85	3.67	4.74	msk_Lat	3.34	3.81	6.33	trw_Lat	2.80	3.05	6.06
tsa_Lat	3.85	4.62	5.75	mrk_Lat	2.94	3.57	4.87	trz_Lat	2.60	3.14	4.28
uz_Lat	4.54	4.54	5.97	msn_Lat	3.07	3.74	4.90	trz_Uzb	1.43	1.85	2.26
vi_Lat	2.81	3.17	4.94	mpk_Lat	1.90	1.65	3.85	trz_Vie	2.47	2.83	4.53
kl_Lat	3.98	3.92	6.08	per_Lat	2.81	3.44	4.49	trz_Cyrl	2.76	3.68	4.53
lv_Lat	3.98	4.00	6.07	psk_Lat	2.03	2.85	4.94	trz_Arab	2.43	3.23	3.24
loz_Lat	1.63	1.89	3.78	msn_Lat	3.17	3.50	8.88	trz_Lat	3.41	4.11	6.18
frz_Lat	3.19	3.97	5.81	msn_Lat	1.74	1.99	3.20	trz_Lat	3.18	4.96	7.45
trz_Lat	3.26	3.00	4.44	msn_Lat	1.74	2.11	3.83	trz_Lat	3.05	4.05	4.79
gsz_Lat	2.74	3.28	6.61	myz_Myan	1.54	1.55	2.46	trz_Cyrl	2.31	2.83	3.53
gl_Lat	2.76	3.30	6.38	oyz_Cyrl	2.90	3.42	4.46	trz_Lat	2.16	2.56	3.08
grz_Lat	1.93	2.00	4.55	msn_Lat	2.00	2.35	4.90	trz_Lat	2.01	2.37	2.77
gz_Lat	1.93	2.07	3.31	msn_Lat	1.99	2.51	2.86	trz_Cyrl	2.80	3.48	4.72
plz_Lat	3.88	2.25	5.48	msn_Lat	2.42	3.16	4.41	trz_Arab	2.50	3.11	3.61
phz_Lat	2.90	2.90	4.44	msn_Lat	1.77	2.30	3.29	trz_Cyrl	2.26	2.78	3.79
gz_Lat	3.52	4.24	4.49	shz_Lat	3.09	3.87	4.85	trz_Cyrl	3.71	5.96	7.47
glz_Lat	3.76	3.38	6.39	nsz_Lat	2.18	2.74	3.41	trz_Arab	1.88	2.88	3.96
phz_Lat	1.93	2.00	4.44	msn_Lat	2.04	2.64	4.00	trz_Cyrl	2.29	3.97	4.63
prz_Lat	2.73	3.73	3.71	nsz_Lat	3.32	3.81	6.87	trz_Cyrl	2.73	3.28	7.24
grz_Lat	1.11	1.00	2.22	nsz_Lat	4.00	4.00	6.61	trz_Cyrl	3.13	3.99	4.97
phz_Lat	1.66	2.00	3.23	nsz_Lat	3.85	4.00	6.84	trz_Cyrl	2.41	3.65	4.86
pgz_Lat	2.60	3.23	4.78	nsb_Lat	2.98	3.69	4.70	trz_Cyrl	2.96	3.64	5.54
plz_Gogr	2.18	4.01	4.33	ngz_Deva	3.02	3.47	4.63	trz_Lat	1.90	4.48	6.60
grz_Lat	2.18	3.39	3.33	ngz_Deva	1.88	2.34	3.89	trz_Lat	2.87	3.65	4.24
gz_Lat	2.18	2.54	4.56	nsz_Lat	2.75	3.47	4.24	trz_Lat	3.74	3.74	4.43
grz_Lat	2.04	2.04	4.44	nsz_Lat	2.83	3.63	4.06	trz_Lat	2.80	3.49	4.53
grz_Lat	2.11	2.63	4.63	nsz_Lat	3.30	4.27	5.85	trz_Lat	3.47	4.68	6.16
brz_Lat	3.21	3.64	6.39	nsz_Lat	2.46	3.15	4.80	trz_Lat	0.87	1.03	1.12
brz_Lat	3.69	4.24	6.34	nsz_Lat	2.47	3.64	4.74	trz_Lat	1.81	2.42	3.96
brz_Lat	2.25	3.63	5.68	nsb_Lat	3.88	4.81	8.83	trz_Lat	2.95	5.55	6.09
brz_Hbrz	1.85	2.41	3.92	nsz_Lat	3.31	4.14	5.82	trz_Lat	2.01	2.66	3.87
brz_Lat	2.40	3.00	4.38	nsz_Lat	3.19	4.80	8.83	trz_Lat	3.43	5.41	6.40
brz_Lat	2.92	3.44	4.98	nsz_Lat	3.29	4.06	5.74	trz_Lat	3.21	4.06	5.17
brz_Lat	3.39	3.80	6.13	nsz_Lat	3.06	3.82	8.81	trz_Lat	2.24	2.68	3.88
brz_Lat	2.84	2.40	4.79	nsz_Lat	2.98	3.82	8.89	trz_Lat	2.40	2.73	3.86
brz_Lat	2.63	3.49	6.12	nsz_Lat	2.77	3.90	8.89	trz_Lat	2.37	3.19	2.95
brz_Lat	2.48	2.53	4.99	nsz_Lat	2.21	2.78	3.86	trz_Lat	3.22	3.78	5.21
brz_Lat	2.14	2.14	4.44	nsz_Lat	2.20	2.82	4.20	trz_Lat	2.77	3.48	4.63
brz_Lat	3.52	3.88	5.19	otz_Osyz	2.77	2.77	3.82	trz_Lat	4.79	5.15	7.64
brz_Lat	4.14	5.24	7.67	otz_Osyz	3.27	3.28	4.20	trz_Lat	3.65	4.45	5.36
brz_Lat	3.84	3.84	5.47	otz_Cyrl	2.22	2.22	3.82	trz_Lat	4.47	5.07	8.83
brz_Lat	6.54	6.16	8.62	otz_Lat	1.89	2.25	3.86	trz_Lat	3.87	5.79	6.64
brz_Lat	1.70	2.00	2.42	pig_Lat	2.93	3.44	4.86	trz_Lat			

Table 22: Accuracy of XLM-R-B, XLM-R-L, and Glot500-m on Round Trip Alignment (Part II).

## Round Trip alignments, Part II

From  $100^2$  to  $500^2$  unsupervised word alignments

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

## Multilingual Text Generation

If the French says : Ça n'arrête pas, nous sommes bien placés pour le savoir...  
then the English should say : It doesn't stop, we know that well...

Model	En-Fr	Fr-En
GPT-2 [1,5b] [Radford et al., 2019]	5	11.5
GPT-3 [175b] [Brown et al., 2020]	21.2	25.2
PALM [540B] [Chowdhery et al., 2022]	38.5	41.1
BLOOM [176B] [BigScience et al., 2022]	??	??
SOTA [Liu et al., 2020a]	44.1	-

Closing the gap with well trained bilingual MT, really ?

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

## Understanding MT performance of BLOOM

- ▶ Methods :

- ▶ Multiple prompts, in multiple languages
- ▶ 3 datasets and tasks
- ▶ Dozens of language pairs (H-H, L-H, L-L)
- ▶ Multiple metrics

- ▶ Main takeaways

- ▶ a call for clarity when reporting results
- ▶ the failures of 0-shot learning, “language hallucinations”
- ▶ “Free-rider effects” and language similarities
- ▶ poor MT quality for LR languages

Src ↓	Trg →	ar	en	es	fr	zh
ar	BLOOM	—	40.3	23.3	33.1	17.7
	M2M	—	25.5	16.7	25.7	13.1
en	BLOOM	28.2	—	29.4	45.0	26.7
	M2M	17.9	—	25.6	42.0	19.3
es	BLOOM	18.8	32.7	—	24.8	20.9
	M2M	12.1	25.1	—	29.3	14.9
fr	BLOOM	23.4	45.6	27.5	—	23.2
	M2M	15.4	37.2	25.6	—	17.6
zh	BLOOM	15.0	30.5	20.5	26.0	—
	M2M	11.6	20.9	16.9	24.3	—

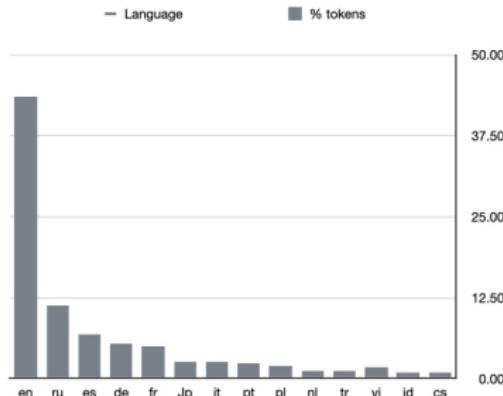
(a) High-resource language pairs.

Src ↓	Trg →	en	fr	hi	id	vi
en	BLOOM	—	45.0	27.2	39.0	28.5
	M2M	—	42.0	28.1	37.3	35.1
fr	BLOOM	45.6	—	18.5	31.4	32.8
	M2M	37.2	—	22.9	29.1	30.3
hi	BLOOM	35.1	27.6	—	—	—
	M2M	27.9	25.9	—	—	—
id	BLOOM	43.2	30.4	—	—	—
	M2M	33.7	30.8	—	—	—
vi	BLOOM	38.7	26.8	—	—	—
	M2M	29.5	25.8	—	—	—

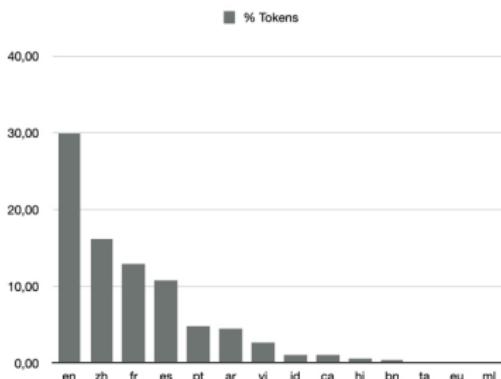
(b) High→mid-resource language pairs.

# The effectiveness of multilingual PLMs

## Caveats



Languages in mT5  
(104 languages)



Languages in Bloom  
(59 languages)

- ⌚ English centric
- ⌚ Poorly documented, hard to reproduce – what is a language anyway ?

# What we would like to know

Why can this work ?

- ▶ Lexical overlap not necessary

L1 : Longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure .

L2 : Mpohufnqt kf nf tvjt dpvdiê ef cpoof ifvsf !

- ▶ Transfer breaks with reversal or words shuffle

L1 :Longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure .

L2 :. heure bonne de douché suis me je longtemps

- ▶ Vocabulary alignment helps
- ▶ Language typological similarity helps

Analyses in [K et al., 2020, Dufter and Schütze, 2020, Deshpande et al., 2022, ImaniGooghari et al., 2023], etc

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Analyses in [K et al., 2020, Dufter and Schütze, 2020, Deshpande et al., 2022, ImaniGooghari et al., 2023], etc

- ? Impact of language distributions
- ? Impact of model size
- ? Impact of number of languages - curse of multilinguality
- ? Which linguistic properties help / break X-lingual transfer
- ? Metrics for “coverage”

# What we would like to know

Can mPLMs handle truly multilingual texts ?

- ? Generate **code-switched** output

Et le premier ministre nous répond que *a farmer is a farmer a Canadian is a Canadian* d'un bout à l'autre du Canada.

Autrement dit *they are getting out of the closet* parce que cela leur donne le droit d'avoir deux enfants.

(Exemples from [Carpuat, 2014])

- ? Generate text with **multilingual prompts**

Přeložit do angličtiny : Ça n'arrête pas, nous sommes bien placés pour le savoir... ;

It doesn't stop, we know that well...

- ? Answer questions X-linguistically

- ? Generate summaries from **multilingual sources**

## Take Aways

Large mPLMs serve practical purposes

They learn linguistic features

They display amazing emerging properties

Multilingual models also useful in MT, parsing, etc

They improve technological support for many languages [Ruder et al., 2023]

They remain poorly understood

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