

*The Creation of Adam, Michelangelo (1512); Mashberger (1990)*

# Word Embedding and WordNet based Metaphor Identification and Interpretation



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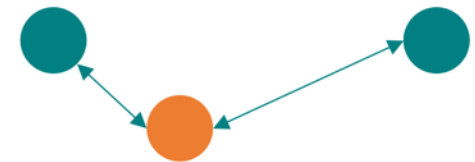
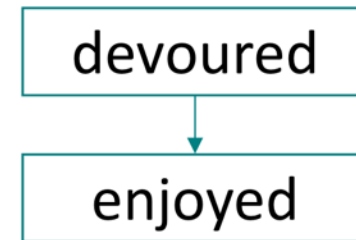
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# Outline.

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
  - Word embedding
  - Framework
  - Machine Translation
3. Experiments and Results
4. Conclusion

# Novelty.

1. Identify and paraphrase metaphors in **whole sentences** from **unrestricted domains**;
2. Using word embedding **input and output vectors** to model a word and its context co-occurrence;
3. Metaphor processing for **Machine Translation**.



# 1. Introduction

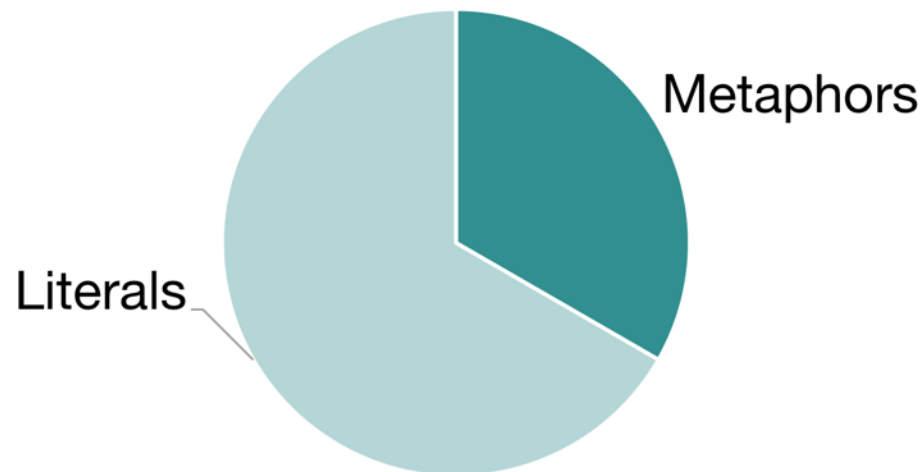


## The definition of metaphor.

Linguistically, **metaphor** is defined as a language expression that uses one or several words to **represent another concept**, rather than taking their literal meanings of the given words in the context (Lagerwerf and Meijers, 2008).

## Metaphors are widespread in natural language.

One third of sentences in typical corpora contain metaphors.



(Cameron, 2003; Martin, 2006; Steen et al., 2010; Shutova 2016)

# 1. Introduction

## Contexts help to find anomalies and identify metaphors.

She devoured his **sandwiches**.

She devoured his **novels**.

} **Anomalies**

---

“devoured” means “**enjoyed avidly**”.

---

“devoured” and “enjoyed” are **different concepts** literally.

“devoured” is **metaphorical**.

Common sense

Interpretation

Identification

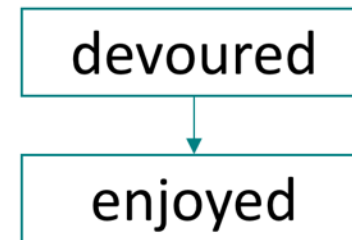
## Motivation.

- Many previous metaphor processing methods are **domain dependent** (Heintz et al., 2013; Strzalkowski et al., 2013).
- Many works simply use **input vectors** (Shutova et al., 2016; Rei et al., 2017).
- Metaphor processing has rarely been applied to a **real-world NLP task**, instead mostly reporting accuracy on metaphor identification or interpretation.

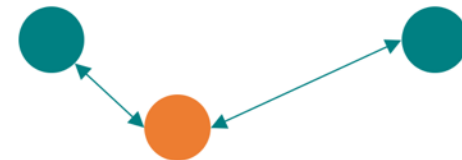


## Contribution.

1. Metaphor detection and interpretation in **sentences** from **unrestricted domains**.



2. Investigate the effectiveness of **input and output vectors** of word embedding.



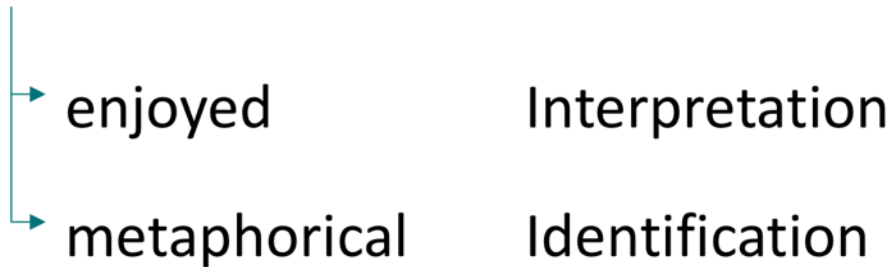
3. Apply metaphor detection and interpretation to improve **Machine Translation**.



# 1. Introduction

## 1. Metaphor detection and interpretation in whole sentence from unrestricted domains.

She **devoured** his novels.



# 1. Introduction

## 1. Metaphor detection and interpretation in whole sentence from unrestricted domains.

Sentence level

This young man knows how to **climb** the social ladder.



Metaphorical



Phrase level

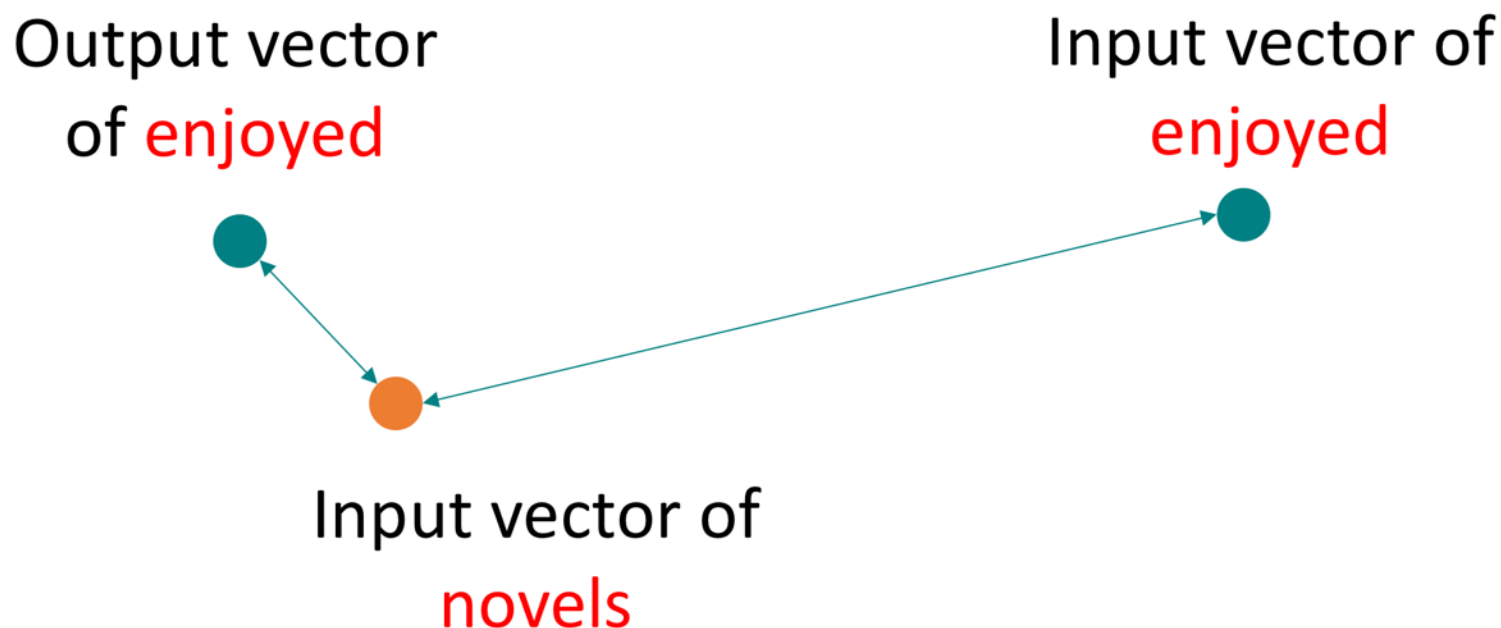
**climb** ladder



Literal

# 1. Introduction

## 2. Investigate the effectiveness of input and output vectors of word embedding.





# 1. Introduction

## 3. Apply metaphor detection and interpretation to improve Machine Translation.

Without metaphor processing

With metaphor processing

**Bad**

**Good**



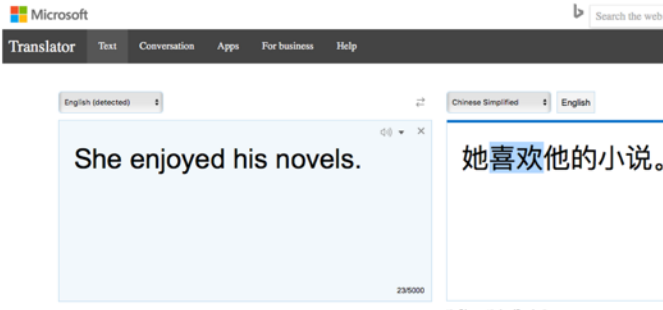
Google Translate interface. Input: "She devoured his novels." Output: "她吞噬了他的小说。" (Tā tūnshì tā de xiǎoshuō.)



Google Translate interface. Input: "She devoured his novels." Output: "她喜欢他的小说。" (Tā xǐhuān tā de xiǎoshuō.)



Microsoft Translator interface. Input: "She devoured his novels." Output: "她狼吞虎咽地写小说。" (Tā láng tūn hǔ yān de xiě xiǎoshuō.)



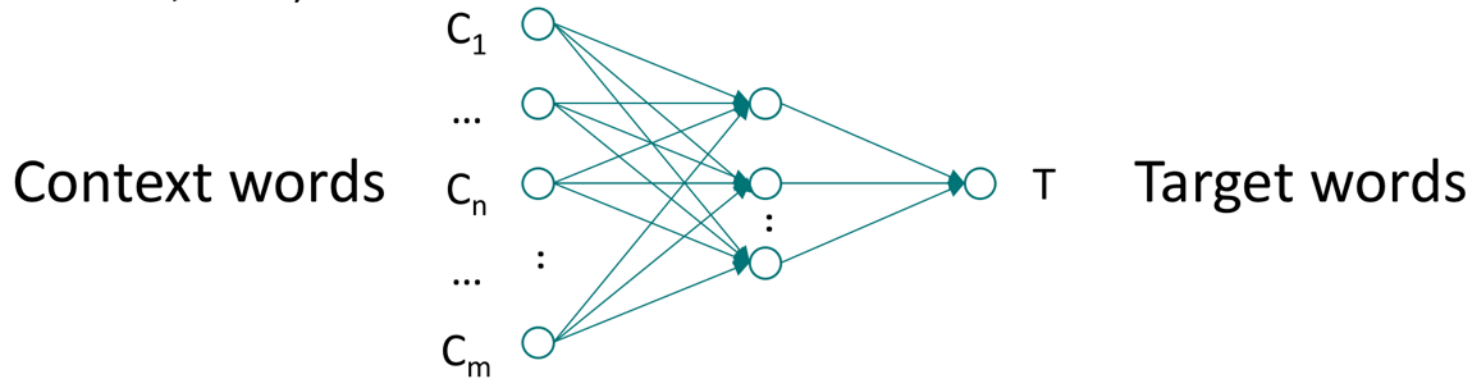
Microsoft Translator interface. Input: "She devoured his novels." Output: "她喜欢他的小说。" (Tā xǐhuān tā de xiǎoshuō.)

## 2. Methodology

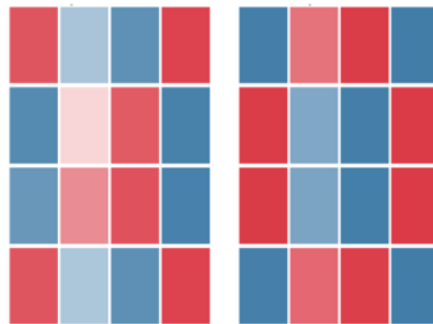
One of novelties of our work is to model co-occurrence between words with input and output vectors.

CBOW word2vec  
(Mikolov et al, 2013)

Input Hidden Output



Input vector



Input vec Output vec

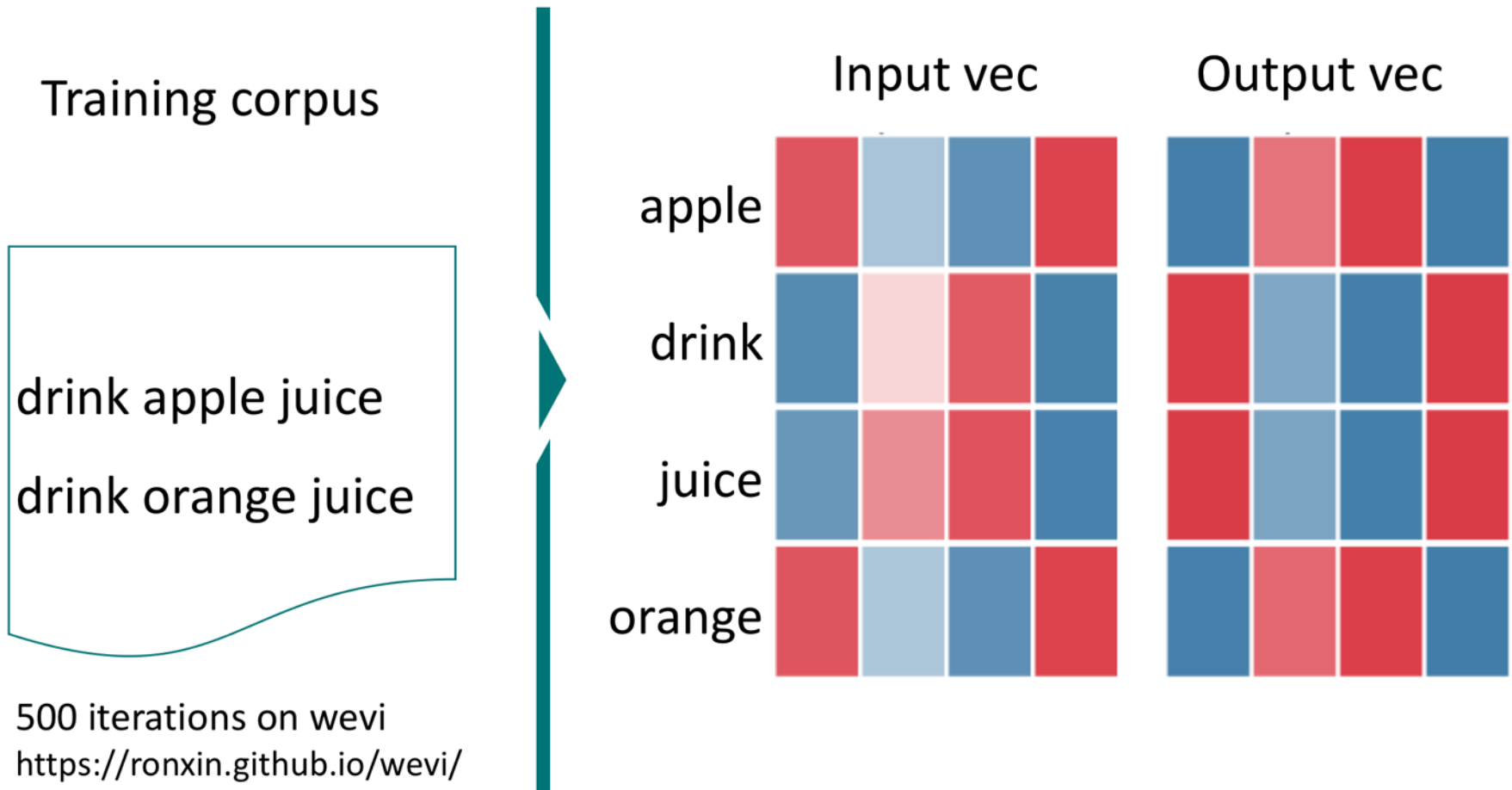
Output vector  
Abandoned

(e.g., gensim word2vec  
(Rehurek and Sojka, 2010))

POSITIVE  
NEGATIVE

## 2. Methodology

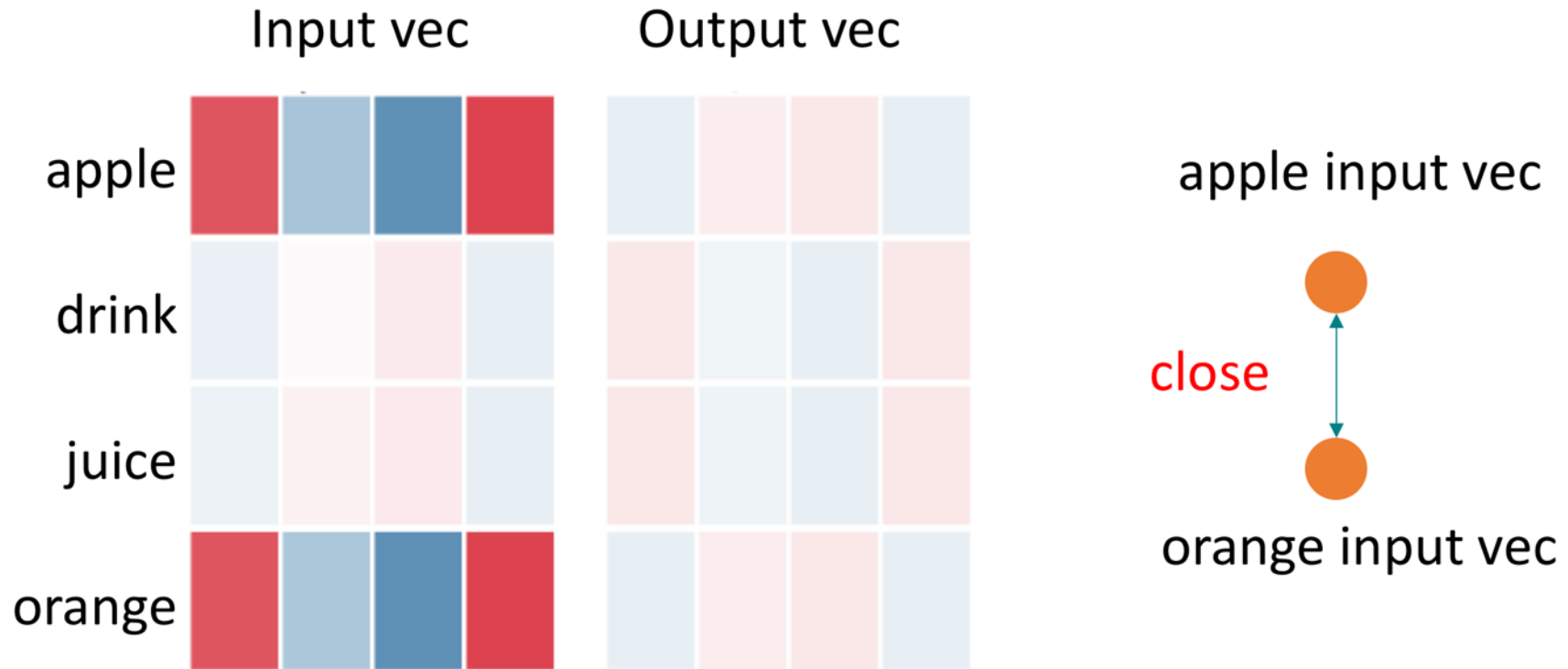
The interaction between input and output vectors represents the co-occurrence of words and contexts.





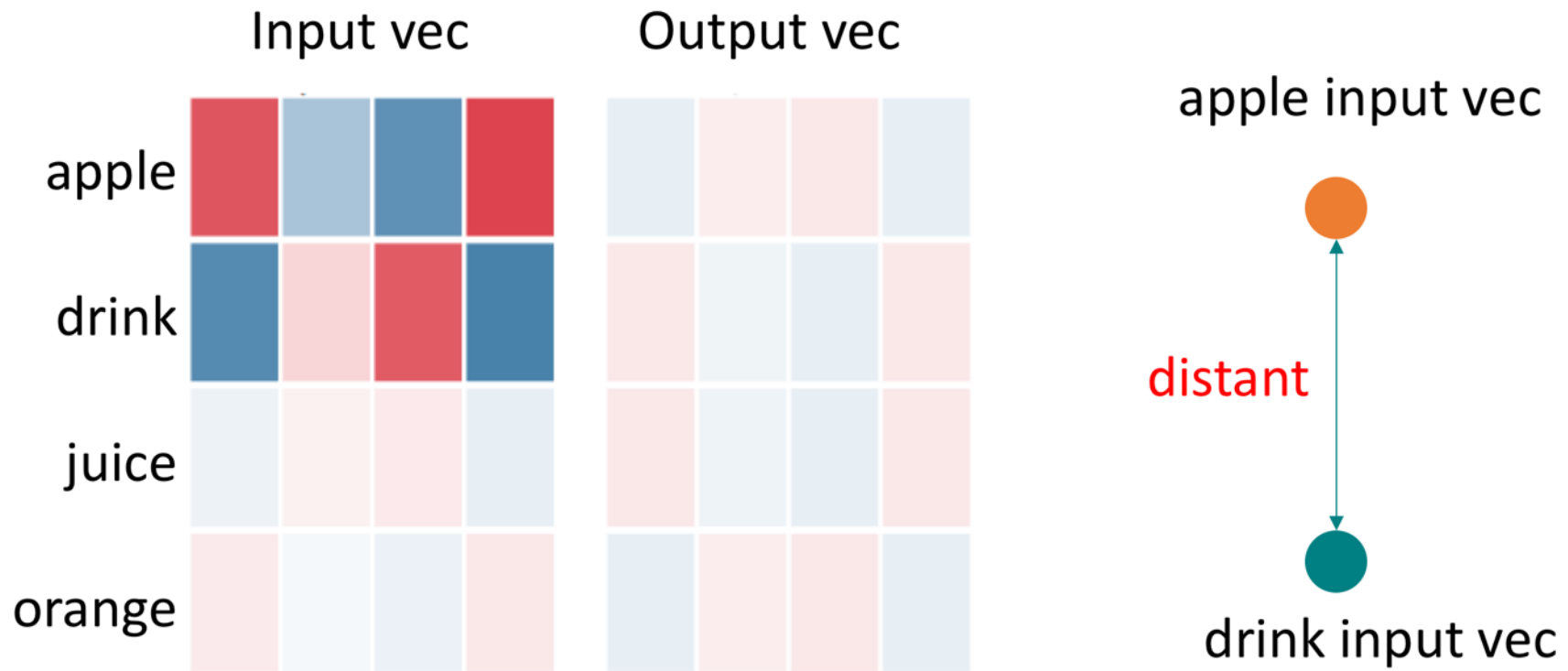
## 2. Methodology

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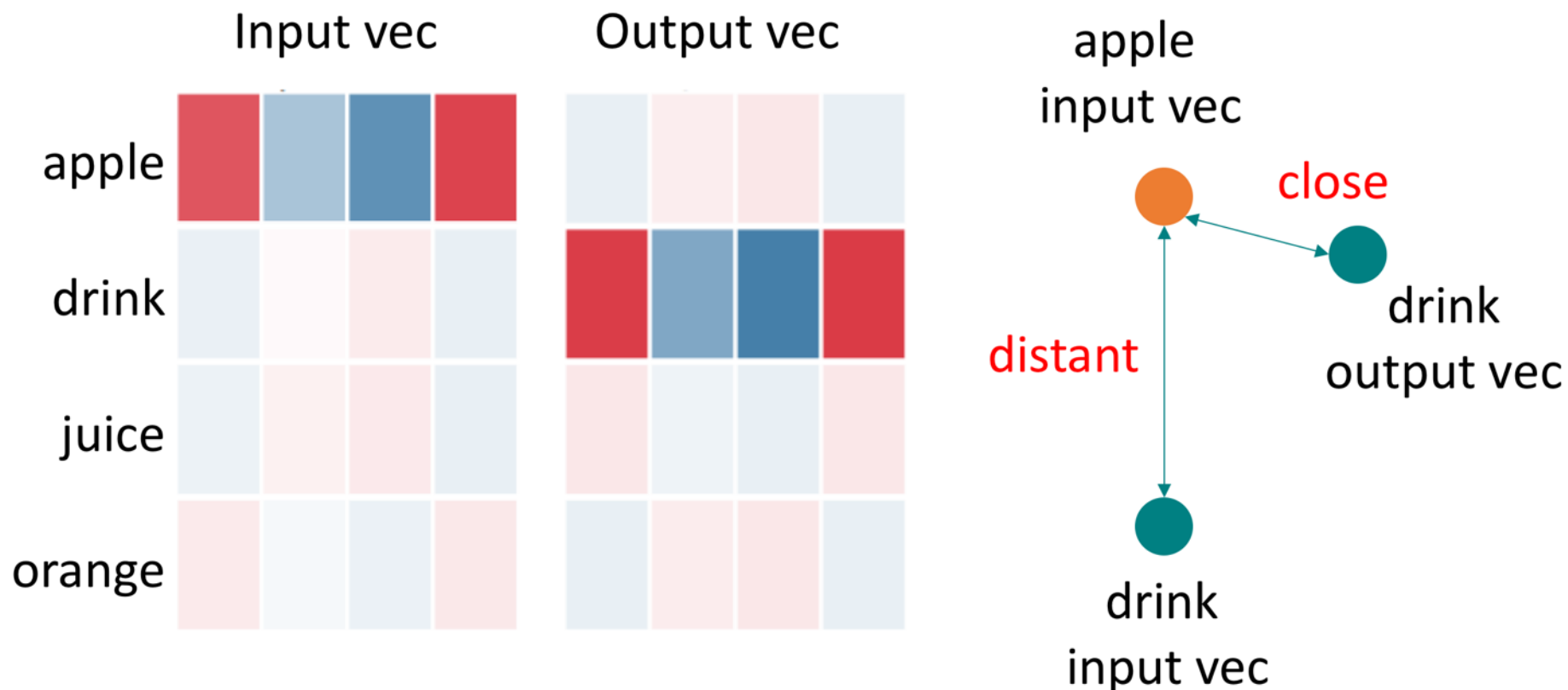
## 2. Methodology

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### Summary.

- Input vectors can better model the **similarity** between words with similar semantics and syntax;
- Output vector can better model the **co-occurrence** between words with different Part-of-Speech

The co-occurrence between a target word and its context is measured by

$$score_{cooccur} = \cos(v_T^o, v_{context}^i)$$

$$v_{context}^i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m v_{c,n}^i$$

# Hypotheses.

**H1.** Literal sense is more common than metaphorical.

(Cameron, 2003; Martin, 2006; Steen et al., 2010; Shutova 2016)

Detect the anomalies

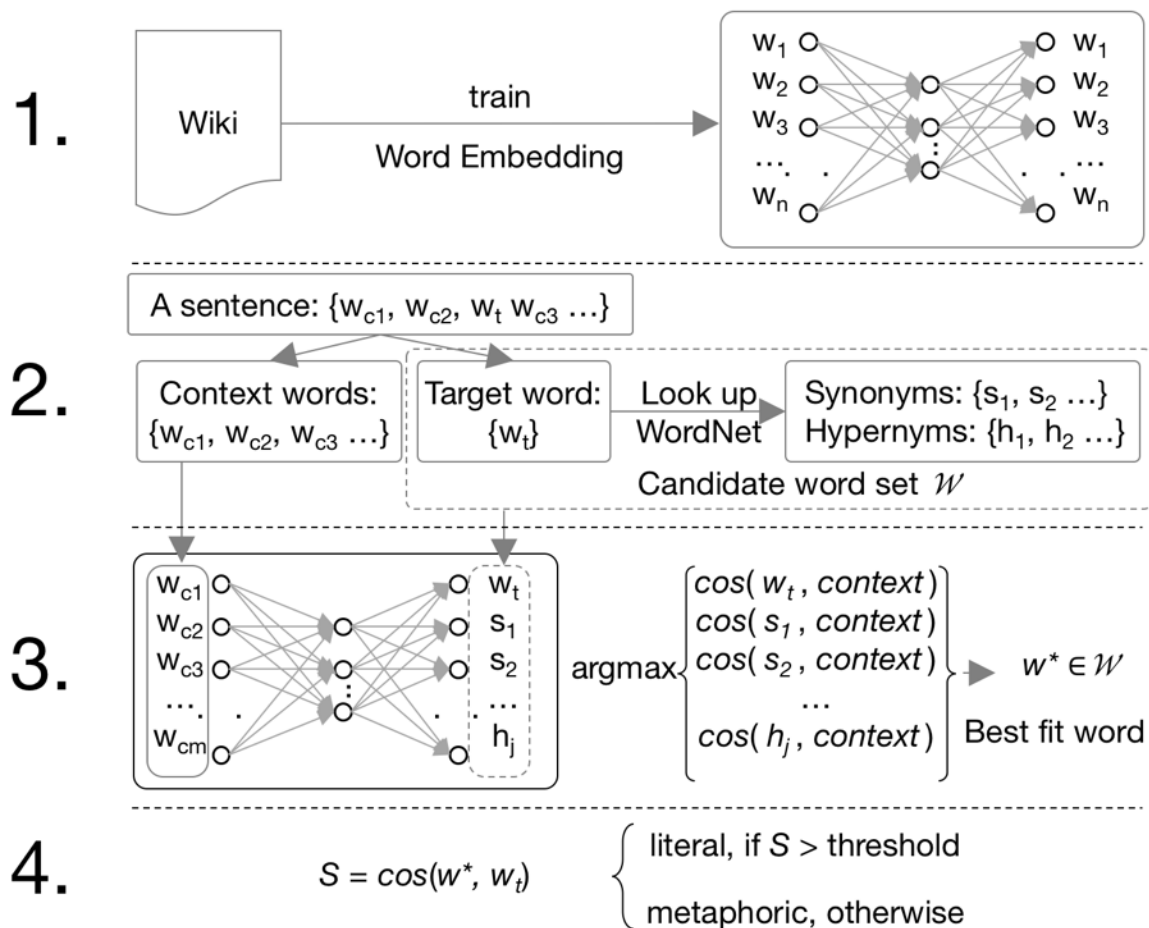
One third of sentences in typical corpora contain metaphors.



**H2.** A metaphorical word can be identified, if the sense the word takes within its context and its literal sense come from **different domains**. (Wilks, 1975, 1978)

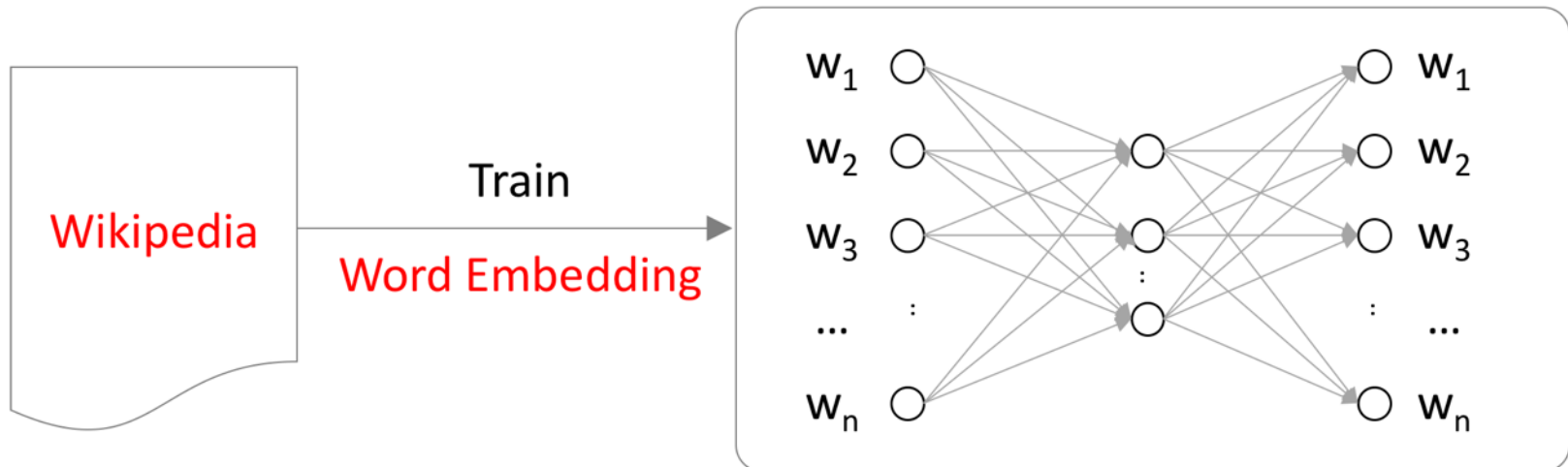
Identify a metaphor

## Framework.



## 2. Methodology

Step 1: training word embedding models on Wikipedia, so that we can model the common expressions.

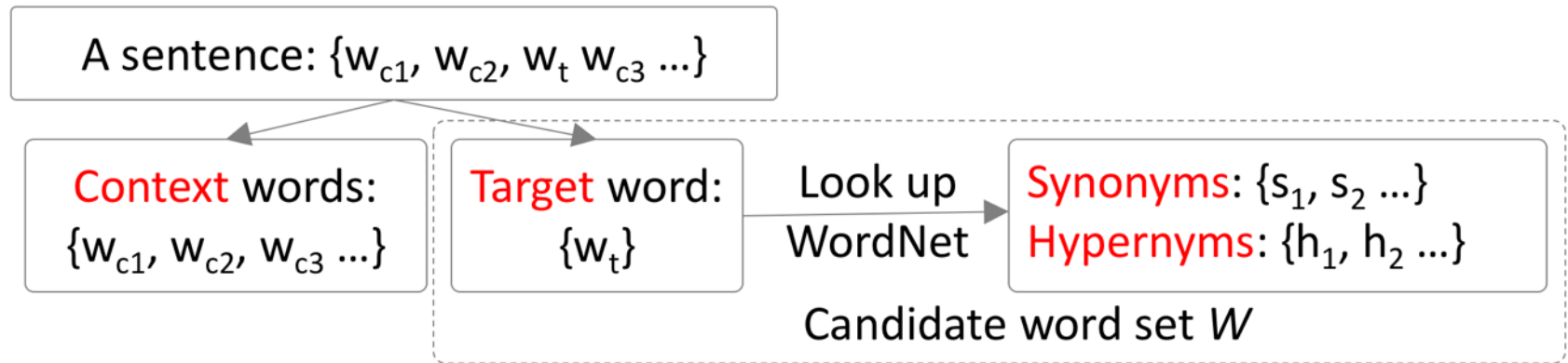


- Wikipedia's language could be **more literal**.
- We model the literal so that we can identify the **anomalies** in metaphor in next steps. **(H1)**



## 2. Methodology

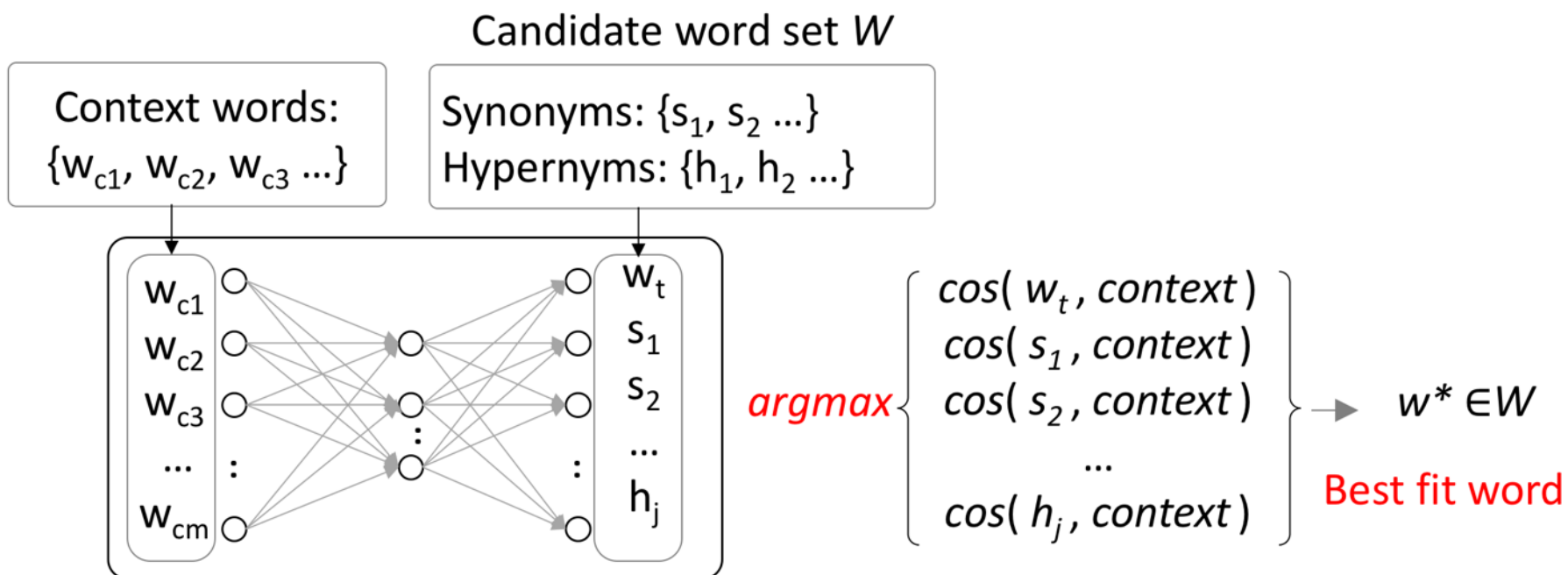
### Step 2: look up WordNet to list all possible senses of a target word.



- Separate **context** words and a **target** word.
- A candidate word set consists of hypernyms and synonyms of the target word, which represents **all possible senses** of the target word.

## 2. Methodology

### Step 3: identify the most likely sense from the candidate set.



- Compute the most likely word appearing in the context.
- The best fit word is **interpreted** as the **sense** that metaphor takes. **(H1)**

### Step 4: identify the metaphoricity of a target word.

$$S = \cos(w^*, w_t) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{literal, if } S > \text{threshold} \\ \text{metaphoric, otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- A metaphor could be identified as the real sense and its literal sense come from different domains. **(H2)**

## 2. Methodology

### An example in Step 2.

She **devoured** his novels.

Context words: {She, his, novels}

Target word: {devoured}

Candidate word set: {

{devour, devoured, devours, devouring}

Sense 1: {destroy, ruin, ...}

Sense 2: {enjoy, bask, ...}

Sense 3: {demolish, down, ..., eat up, finish}

...

}



WordNet

A Lexical Database for English

(Fellbaum, 1998)

HYPERNYMS  
 SYNONYMS

## An example in Step 3.

$$v_{context}^i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m v_{c,n}^i = \frac{1}{3} (v_{She}^i + v_{his}^i + v_{novels}^i)$$

$$\text{arg max} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cos(v_{devoured}^o, v_{context}^i) = -0.01 \\ \cos(v_{destroyed}^o, v_{context}^i) = -0.04 \\ \cos(v_{ruined}^o, v_{context}^i) = -0.01 \\ \cos(v_{enjoyed}^o, v_{context}^i) = \mathbf{0.02} \\ \dots \end{array} \right\}$$

Best fit word = **enjoyed**

### An example in Step 4.

$$S = \cos(v_{enjoy}^i, v_{devour}^i)$$

Best fit word      Target word

{ literal, if  $S > \text{threshold}$   
metaphoric, otherwise

$$S = -0.04 < \text{threshold} = 0.6$$



**Metaphoric**

### Different setups in Step 3.

$$(1) \text{ SIM-CBOW}_I = \cos(v_{k,cbow}^i, v_{context,cbow}^i)$$

$$(2) \text{ SIM-CBOW}_{I+O} = \cos(v_{k,cbow}^o, v_{context,cbow}^i)$$

$$(3) \text{ SIM-SG}_I = \cos(v_{k,sg}^i, v_{context,sg}^i)$$

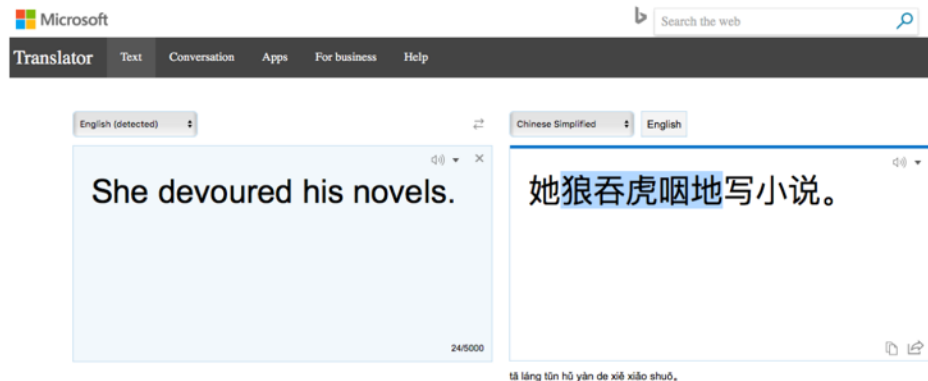
$$(4) \text{ SIM-SG}_{I+O} = \cos(v_{k,sg}^o, v_{context,sg}^i)$$

## 2. Methodology

# Examine on Machine Translation (before paraphrasing).



- She (physically) swallowed his novels.



- She voraciously wrote novels.



## 2. Methodology

# Examine on Machine Translation (after paraphrasing).



- She enjoyed his novels.



- She enjoyed his novels.

## 3. Experiments and Results

# Experiment setup.

## Metaphor identification:

- **Sentence** level: inputs are original sentences
- **Phrase** level: inputs are parsed phrases

## Metaphor interpretation:

- Machine Translation

# Dataset and baselines.

## Mohammad et al. (2016)

- 10 annotators
- 409 metaphors
- 1,230 literals

## Sentence evaluation

- 212 meta.
- 212 lite.

Mao et al. (2018)

## Phrase evaluation

- 316 meta.
- 331 lite.

Shutova et al. (2016),  
Rei et al. (2017)

## Phrase evaluation baselines:

- Shutova et al. (2016) used Skip-gram input vectors to model the similarity between two component words.
- Rei et al. (2017) used sigmoid function, projecting Skip-gram input vectors into another space, then training a deep neural network based classifier.

## Sentence evaluation baseline:

- Melamud et al. (2016) used LSTM trained context embeddings to predict the center word.

# Metaphor identification results.

	<b>Method</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F1</b>
Phrase	Shutova et al. (2016)	0.67	0.76	0.71
	Rei et al. (2017)	<b>0.74</b>	0.76	<b>0.74</b>
	SIM-CBOW <sub>I+O</sub>	0.66	0.78	0.72
	SIM-SG <sub>I+O</sub>	0.68	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.74*</b>
Sent.	Melamud et al. (2016)	0.60	0.80	0.69
	SIM-SG <sub>I</sub>	0.56	<b>0.95</b>	0.70
	SIM-SG <sub>I+O</sub>	0.62	0.89	0.73
	SIM-CBOW <sub>I</sub>	0.59	0.91	0.72
	SIM-CBOW <sub>I+O</sub>	<b>0.66</b>	0.88	<b>0.75*</b>

**Table 1:** Metaphor identification results. NB: \* denotes that our model outperforms the baseline significantly, based on two-tailed paired t-test with  $p < 0.001$ .

# Evaluation with different thresholds.

$\tau$	Sentence			Phrase	
	P	R	F1	$F1_{SIM-CBOW_{I+O}}$	$F1_{SIM-SG_{I+O}}$
0.3	0.75	0.60	0.67	0.56	0.46
0.4	0.69	0.75	0.72	0.65	0.63
0.5	0.67	0.82	0.74	0.71	0.72
<b>0.6</b>	0.66	0.88	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.74</b>
0.7	0.64	0.88	0.74	0.72	0.73
0.8	0.63	0.89	0.74	0.72	0.73
0.9	0.63	0.89	0.74	0.71	0.73
1.0	0.50	1.00	0.67	0.65	0.65

**Table 2:** Model performance vs. different threshold ( $\tau$ ) settings. NB: the sentence level results are based on  $SIM-CBOW_{I+O}$ .

# Experiment design for Machine Translation evaluation.

## Sample Questionnaire

The ex-boxer's job is to **bounce** people who want to enter this private club.

bounce: eject from the premises

Good / Bad

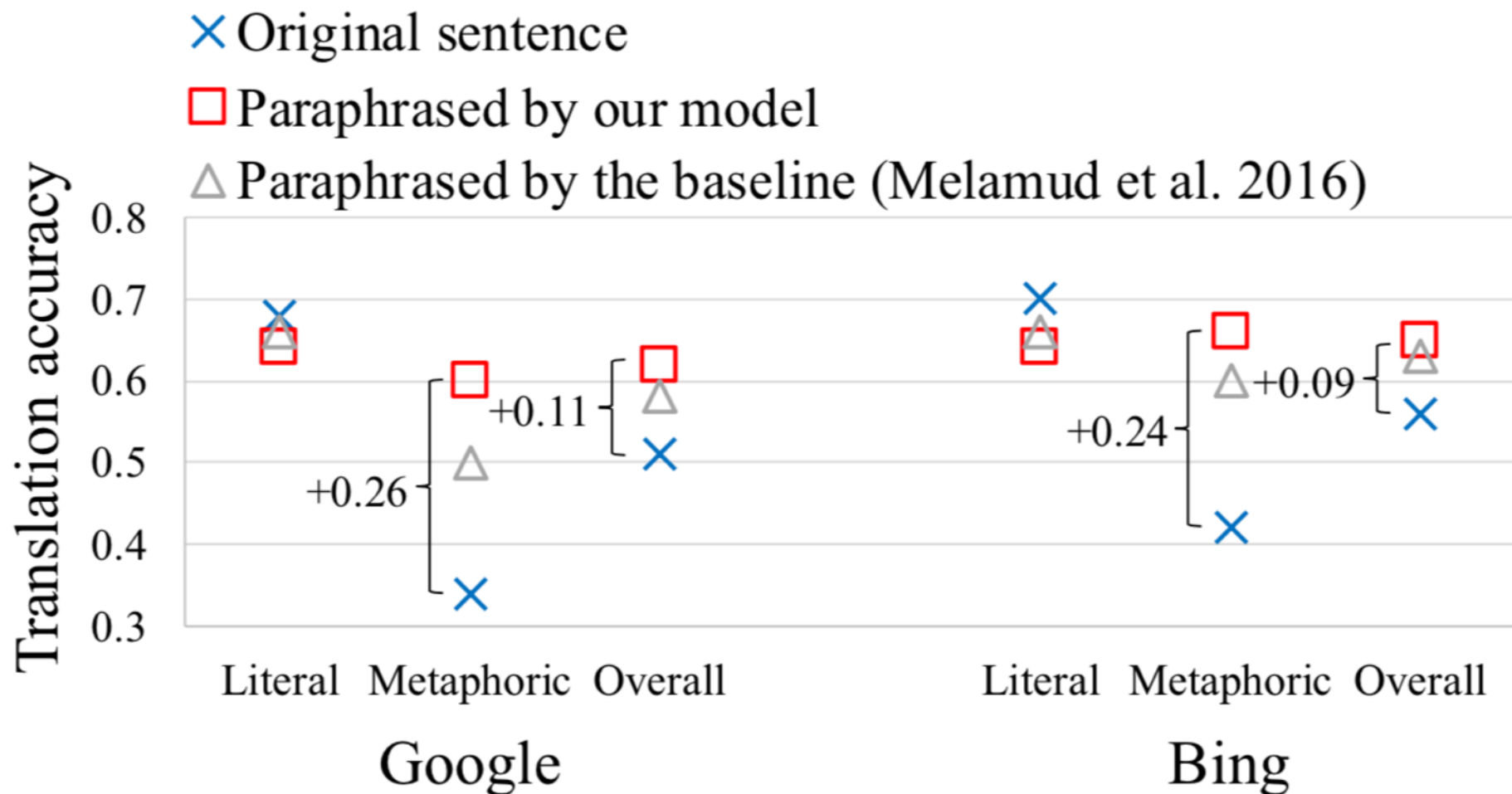
1. 前拳击手的工作是**反弹**人谁想要进入这个私人俱乐部。
2. 前拳击手的工作是让想要进入这个私人俱乐部的人**弹跳**。
3. 前拳击手的工作是**拒绝**谁想要进入这个私人俱乐部的人。
4. 前拳击手的工作是**拒绝**那些想进入这个私人俱乐部的人。
5. 前拳击手的工作是**打人**谁想要进入这个私人俱乐部。
6. 前拳击手的工作是**打击**那些想进入这个私人俱乐部的人。

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Google translation on the **original** sentence.
2. Bing Translation on the **original** sentence.
3. Google translation on **our model** paraphrased sentence.
4. Bing Translation on **our model** paraphrased sentence.
5. Google translation on **Context2Vec** paraphrased sentence.
6. Bing Translation on **Context2Vec** paraphrased sentence.

### 3. Experiments and Results

## Metaphor interpretation results.






## 4. Conclusion

### Takeaway.

- A novel **model** for metaphor identification and interpretation on **sentence** level.
- A metaphor could be **identified** by its **interpretation**.
- **Input and output vectors** could better model the co-occurrence between two words.
- Effective paraphrasing of metaphors could improve **Machine Translation**.

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