# Bias In NLP Tasks

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#### Agenda

- Bias in Word Embeddings
- Bias in Neural Coreference Resolution
- Debiasing Method
- Future Work

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#### Bias In Word Embeddings

- Man is to Programmer Woman is to (Homemaker)
- Debiasing Method
  - Remove Gender Component from the vector space



# The Usage of Word Embeddings

- The first step in most NLP tasks
- Language Modeling



# Word Embeddings: Trainable or Fixed?

- Word Embedding can be used to replace words as inputs to the model
  - Efficient
  - Will cover most vocabularies if the dataset is small

- Word Representations can be trained as part of a neural net work to solve a particular task
  - Learn Useful representations specific to the task
    - POS: Cat & Human would be similar
  - Expensive
  - Dataset might be too small to learn useful representations
  - Dataset might not cover all the vocabularies
  - Usually word embedding layer is initialized with pretrained word embeddings(word2vec, glove)

#### Does Bias Exist in Downstream Tasks?

- If so, How does bias in word embedding play a role in this?
- Does word embedding play all the role in this?
  - If not, where does the bias come from?
  - How do we fix it?

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# Word Embeddings: Trainable or Fixed?

- Word Embedding can be used to replace words as inputs to the model
  - Efficient
  - Will cover most vocabularies if the dataset is small

Debiasing Word embeddings maybe Helpful?

- Word Representations can be trained as part of a neural net work to solve a particular task
  - Learn Useful representations specific to the task
    - POS: Cat & Human would be similar
  - Expensive
  - Dataset might be too small to learn useful representations
  - Dataset might not cover all the vocabularies
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The bias would be relearned? Debias the weights after training?

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- Bias in Neural Coreference Resolution
- Debiasing Method
- Future Work

#### **Coreference** Resolution

• The task of finding words and expressions(mentions) that refer to the same entity in the world.



#### **Coreference Resolution**

• Noun phrases refer to entities in the world, many pairs of noun phrases co-refer, some nested inside others



# Applications of Coreference Resolution

- Full text understanding:
  - Understanding an extended discourse
  - Machine translation (if languages have different features of gender, number, etc.)
  - Text summarization, including things like web snippets
  - Tasks like information extraction and question answering
  - Correctly answering often involves resolving anaphora
    - He married Claudia Ross in 1971.

# Evaluation of Coreference Resolution

- B Cube Metric:
- Other Metrics:
  - MUC
  - CEAF
- All of them are sort of evaluating getting coreference links/clusters right and wrong



#### Bias in Coreference Resolution



Bias(doctor) = 5.56 - 2.30 = 2.26Bias(Nurse) = 0.44 - 5.22 = -4.78

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# **Coreference Resolution**

#### • Traditional Rule-Based Model (What is being used right now)

- 1. Begin at the NP immediately dominating the pronoun
- 2. Go up tree to first NP or S. Call this X, and the path p.
- 3. Traverse all branches below X to the left of p, left-to-right, breadth-first. Propose as antecedent any NP that has a NP or S between it and X
- 4. If X is the highest S in the sentence, traverse the parse trees of the previous sentences in the order of recency. Traverse each tree left-to-right, breadth first. When an NP is encountered, propose as antecedent. If X not the highest node, go to step 5.
- 5. From node X, go up the tree to the first NP or S. Call it X, and the path p.
- 6. If X is an NP and the path p to X came from a non-head phrase of X (a specifier or adjunct, such as a possessive, PP, apposition, or relative clause), propose X as antecedent (The original said "did not pass through the N' that X immediately dominates", but the Penn Treebank grammar lacks N' nodes....)
- 7. Traverse all branches below X to the left of the path, in a left-to-right, breadth first manner. Propose any NP encountered as the antecedent
- 8. If X is an S node, traverse all branches of X to the right of the path but do not go below any NP or S encountered. Propose any NP as the antecedent.
- 9. Go to step 4

# Rules don't always work

- [The city council] refused [the women] a permit because they feared violence.
- [The city council] refused [the women] a permit because they advocated violence.
  - Winograd (1972)

# Neural Coreference Resolution Models

- A Mention Ranking Model
  - Given all mentions are labeled
  - Explicitly rank all candidate antecedents for a mention



#### Coreference Score

• For each candidate antecedent, a score is given by the model.



 Assign each mention its highest scoring candidate antecedent according to the model

#### Neural Coreference Resolution Models

Ex: The Doctor ran because he is late .



#### Bias in Coreference Resolution



# Agenda

- Bias in Word Embeddings
- Bias in Neural Coreference Resolution
- Debiasing Method
- Future Work

# The bias comes from the data

- Simplest solution: Collect better data!
  - Not realizable
- Fix the model
  - Make the model learn less bias!
  - Well, we don't know how the model works...
    - (Need Explanations!)
  - Invasive, could hurt performance
- Synthesize Better data?
  - Create counterfactuals!
    - Data Augmentation
  - Out-of-distribution from real-world data
  - Need Labeling

#### Counterfactual Retraining in NCR



# Counterfactual Retraining in NCR

- Step 1: Create a list of gendered word pairs
  - (He,she),(man,woman),(actor,actress),(monk,nun).....(actors,actresses)
- Step 2: Identify the correct situations to flip
  - Bill Clinton....He is a great President
    - Can't flip! Bill Clinton....She is a great President.
  - Rule: If the gendered word is in the same cluster with a proper noun, should not flip.
- Step 3: Handle other corner cases
  - Ex: Her (his/him)

# Experiment on Real NCR Modles

- Model I (Lee at al 2017)
  - EMNLP 2017
  - Fixed Embedding layer
    - Glove, 300 dimension
    - Some other model variations
- Model II (Clark et al 2016)
  - EMNLP 2016
  - Trainable embedding layer
    - Initialized with word2vec
    - 50 dimensions

Table 1: Comparison of 4 models for Lee et al. [2017]

Index	Model	Test Acc. (F1)	$\Delta$ Test Acc.	L1 Bias	$\Delta Bias\%$
1.1	Original Model	67.24 <sup>1</sup>	-	2.46	-
1.2	Boosted Model	67.04	-0.20	0.91	-63%
1.3	Original Model w/ Debiased Embeddings	66.70	-0.54	1.35	-45%
1.4	Boosted Model w/ Debiased Embeddings	66.82	-0.42	0.51	-79%

For N sentence templates, the gender bias towards occupation word o is defined is

$$Bias_o = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |s_i(she, o) - s_i(he, o)|$$

Original Model

Boosted Model



Original Model

 Original Model w/ debiased Embedding



Original Model

• Boosted Model + Debiased WE



# Model II(Clark & Manning, 2016)

Model	Test Acc. (F1)	$\Delta$ Test Acc.	L1 Bias	$\Delta Bias\%$
Orig. Model	69.10	-	2.95	-
Orig. Model with debiased initialization	68.82	-0.28	2.50	-15%
Orig. Model with debiased weights	66.04	-3.06	0.9	-69%
Boosted Model	69.02	-0.08	0.93	-68%
Boosted Model with debiased initialization	68.5	-0.60	0.72	-75%

Table 3: Comparison of 5 models for Clark and Manning [2016b]

- The Usage of Word Embeddings
  - Only for initialization
  - Learnable Embedding layer
- Debiasing of WE
  - Debiasing Initialization
  - Debiasing the weights after the model is trained

#### Model II(Clark & Manning, 2016)

Original Model

Boosted Model



# Model II(Clark & Manning, 2016)

Original Model

 Original Model with debiased initialization



# Agenda

- Bias in Word Embeddings
- Bias in Neural Coreference Resolution
- Debiasing Method
- Future Work

#### Future Work

- Bias in Other NLP tasks
  - Language Modeling
  - Machine Translation

# Bias in Language Modeling

Sentence	Perplexity of individual sentence
The doctor is a man .	26.17
The doctor is a woman .	28.85
The professor is a man .	36.16
The professor is a woman .	37.51
The nurse is a man .	52.93
The nurse is a woman .	34.42

#### Bias in Machine Translation

• English-Hungarian

English -	Ŷ	•	$\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\leftarrow}$	Hungarian 🔻	$\Box$	•
He She Edit				Ő Ő		
Open in Google Translate						Feedback
Hungarian – detected <del>-</del>	Ŷ		$\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\leftarrow}$	English <del>-</del>		•
Ő egy orvos Ő egy nővér				He is a doctor She is a nurse		
Open in Google Translate						Feedba

# Bias in Machine Translation

• English-Chinese

English - detected 🕶 🛛 🌷

They are pretty. They are girls. They are talented. Chinese (Simplified)  $\checkmark$ 

她们很美丽。 他们是女孩。 他们很有才华。

Tāmen hěn měilì. Tāmen shì nůhái. Tāmen hěn yǒu cáihuá.

#### Bias in Machine Translation

• English-French

English - detected -

This nurse is talented. This male nurse is talented. Edit Cette infirmière a du talent. Cet infirmier a du talent.

French **•**