



Das FLAIR Framework zur automatischen Analyse von Texten (NLP)

Prof. Dr. Alan Akbik

Lehrstuhl “Maschinelles Lernen”

Institut für Informatik

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Very Quick Introduction



Very Quick Introduction



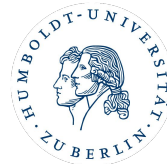
Joined Humboldt-Universität in **January 2020** as professor of
Machine Learning

Very Quick Introduction



Joined Humboldt-Universität in **January 2020** as professor of
Machine Learning

Lots of time in industrial research (IBM Research, Zalando Research)

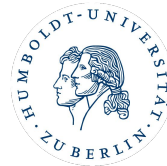


Very Quick Introduction

Joined Humboldt-Universität in **January 2020** as professor of Machine Learning

Lots of time in industrial research (IBM Research, Zalando Research)

Focus on **Natural Language Processing** / deep learning / representation learning / transfer learning / sample-efficient learning



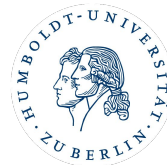
Very Quick Introduction

Joined Humboldt-Universität in **January 2020** as professor of
Machine Learning

Lots of time in industrial research (IBM Research, Zalando Research)

Focus on **Natural Language Processing** / deep learning /
representation learning / transfer learning / sample-efficient learning

Open source **NLP framework *Flair***



Very Quick Introduction

Joined Humboldt-Universität in **January 2020** as professor of Machine Learning

Lots of time in industrial research (IBM Research, Zalando Research)

Focus on **Natural Language Processing** / deep learning / representation learning / transfer learning / sample-efficient learning

Open source **NLP framework** *Flair*

this talk!

Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production



Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos



Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)



Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)
- Sequence Labeling (+research)



Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)
- Sequence Labeling (+research)
- Text-Image

Summary and Outlook



Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)
- Sequence Labeling (+research)
- Text-Image

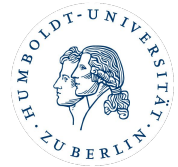
Summary and Outlook



NLP in Industrial Research



Started in 2018 with research at Zalando on *Named Entity Recognition (NER)*



NLP in Industrial Research

Started in 2018 with research at Zalando on *Named Entity Recognition (NER)*

Back in 2000 , **People Magazine** **PUBLISHER** highlighted **Prince Williams'** **PERSON** style who at the time was a little more fashion-conscious , even making fashion statements at times .

Now-a-days the prince mainly wears **navy** **COLOR** **suits** **ITEM** (sometimes **double-breasted** **DESIGN**) , **light blue** **COLOR** **button-ups** **ITEM** with **classic** **LOOK** **pointed** **DESIGN** **collars** **PART** , and **burgundy** **COLOR** **ties** **ITEM** .

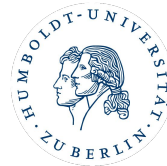
But who knows what the future holds ...

Duchess Kate **PERSON** did wear an **Alexander McQueen** **BRAND** **dress** **ITEM** to the **wedding** **OCCASION** in the **fall of 2017** **SEASON** .

Motivation



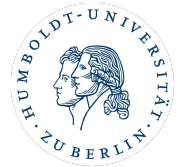
(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers



Motivation

(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

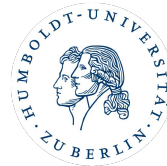
- Some papers only report results (no code)



Motivation

(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

- Some papers only report results (no code)
- Code is released but (borderline) impossible to get running

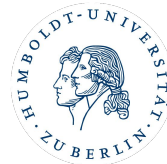


Motivation

(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

- Some papers only report results (no code)
- Code is released but (borderline) impossible to get running

(2) New **state-of-the-art** approach to NER



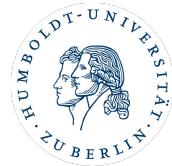
Motivation

(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

- Some papers only report results (no code)
- Code is released but (borderline) impossible to get running

(2) New **state-of-the-art** approach to NER

- How to convince research community of our approach?



Motivation

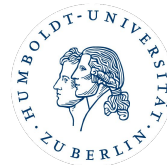
(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

- Some papers only report results (no code)
- Code is released but (borderline) impossible to get running

(2) New **state-of-the-art** approach to NER

- How to convince research community of our approach?

(3) Make research **easy-to-use** by us and others



Motivation

(1) Unhappy with **reproducibility** of papers

- Some papers only report results (no code)
- Code is released but (borderline) impossible to get running

(2) New **state-of-the-art** approach to NER

- How to convince research community of our approach?

(3) Make research **easy-to-use** by us and others

Idea:

Open source it!

The Flair Framework



flair

*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

The Flair Framework



flair

A *very simple* framework for
state-of-the-art NLP

easy to use!

The Flair Framework

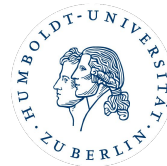


flair

A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP

*NLP
research*

The Flair Framework



flair

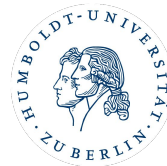
*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

open source!



v0.1

The Flair Framework



flair

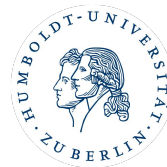
*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

open source!



v0.1 → **v0.2**

The Flair Framework



flair

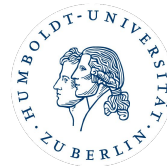
*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

open source!



~~v0.1~~ → ~~v0.2~~ → **v0.3**

The Flair Framework



flair

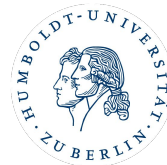
*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

open source!



*v0.1 → v0.2 → v0.3 → **v0.6.1***

The Flair Framework



flair

*A very simple framework for
state-of-the-art NLP*

open source!



v0.1 → v0.2 → v0.3 → v0.6.1

- >110 contributors
- >500 open source dependant projects
- >9.5k stars and >1.4k forks
- >300 languages

Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)
- Sequence Labeling (+research)
- Text-Image

Summary and Outlook

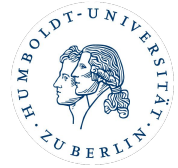


NLP Task: Text Classification



Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

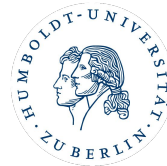
NLP Task: Text Classification



Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

Sentiment Analysis

I really liked this
movie because [...]



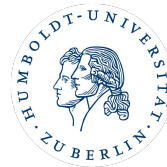
NLP Task: Text Classification

Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

Sentiment Analysis

I really liked this
movie because [...]

→ *POSITIVE*



NLP Task: Text Classification

Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

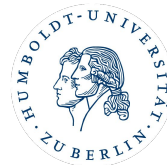
Sentiment Analysis

I really liked this
movie because [...]

→ *POSITIVE*

implemented in

flair



NLP Task: Text Classification

Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

Sentiment Analysis

I really liked this
movie because [...]

→ *POSITIVE*

Hate Speech Detection

Du bist doch ein “§
\$”§\$”§ !!!!!

→ *INSULT*

implemented in
flair

NLP Task: Text Classification

Task: Predict label(s) for a given text

Sentiment Analysis

I really liked this
movie because [...]

→ *POSITIVE*

Hate Speech Detection

Du bist doch ein “§
\$”§\$”§ !!!!!

→ *INSULT*

Applications:

- Spam Filtering
- Chatbots (intents)
- **Political sciences**
 - Hate speech
 - Fake news
 - Political bias

implemented in

flair

Setup Flair



```
pip install flair
```

In a local *python* 3.6+ environment or online environments like [CoLab](#)

NLP Task: Text Classification



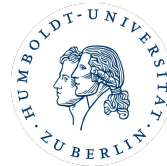
```
from flair.models import TextClassifier
from flair.data import Sentence

tagger = TextClassifier.load('sentiment')

sentence = Sentence('The talk was interesting.')

tagger.predict(sentence)

print(sentence.labels)
```



NLP Task: Text Classification

```
from flair.models import TextClassifier
from flair.data import Sentence
```

```
tagger = TextClassifier.load('sentiment')
```

```
sentence = Sentence('The talk was interesting.')
```

```
tagger.predict(sentence)
```

```
print(sentence.labels)
```



Load classifier
(downloads pre-trained
model on first call)

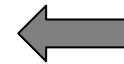
NLP Task: Text Classification



```
from flair.models import TextClassifier
from flair.data import Sentence
```

```
tagger = TextClassifier.load('sentiment')
```

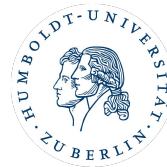
```
sentence = Sentence('The talk was interesting.')
```



Your text
(make object for text you
want to classify)

```
tagger.predict(sentence)
```

```
print(sentence.labels)
```



NLP Task: Text Classification

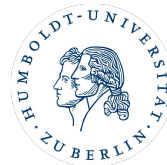
```
from flair.models import TextClassifier
from flair.data import Sentence

tagger = TextClassifier.load('sentiment')

sentence = Sentence('The talk was interesting.')

tagger.predict(sentence) ← Predict

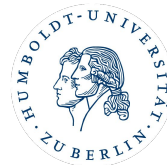
print(sentence.labels)
```



Pre-Trained Models in Flair

Model ID	Task
sentiment	Sentiment Analysis
ner	4-class Named Entity Recognition
ontonotes-ner	12-class Named Entity Recognition
pos	Part-of-Speech Tagging
de-pos	Part-of-Speech Tagging (German)
frame	Semantic Frame Detection
chunk	Syntactic Chunking
multi-pos	Multilingual Part-of-Speech Tagging

Full list [HERE](#)



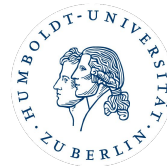
NLP Task: Sequence Labeling

Named Entity Recognition

Belgium **LOC** 's prime minister , Charles Michel **PER** , has disclosed that he held discussions on the possibility in Davos **LOC** with the BBC **ORG** 's director general , Tony Hall **PER** .

implemented in

flair



NLP Task: Sequence Labeling

Named Entity Recognition

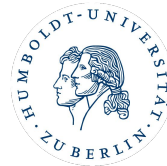
Belgium **LOC** 's prime minister , Charles Michel **PER** , has disclosed that he held discussions on the possibility in Davos **LOC** with the BBC **ORG** 's director general , Tony Hall **PER** .

Part-of-Speech Tagging

The **DET** quick **ADJ** brown **ADJ** fox **NOUN** jumped **VERB**
over **ADP** the **DET** sleepy **ADJ** dog **NOUN** . **PUNCT**

implemented in

flair



NLP Task: Sequence Labeling

Named Entity Recognition

Belgium **LOC** 's prime minister , Charles Michel **PER** , has disclosed that he held discussions on the possibility in Davos **LOC** with the BBC **ORG** 's director general , Tony Hall **PER** .

Part-of-Speech Tagging

The **DET** quick **ADJ** brown **ADJ** fox **NOUN** jumped **VERB**
over **ADP** the **DET** sleepy **ADJ** dog **NOUN** . **PUNCT**

Applications:

- Biomedical domain
- Law / FinTech
- Social sciences

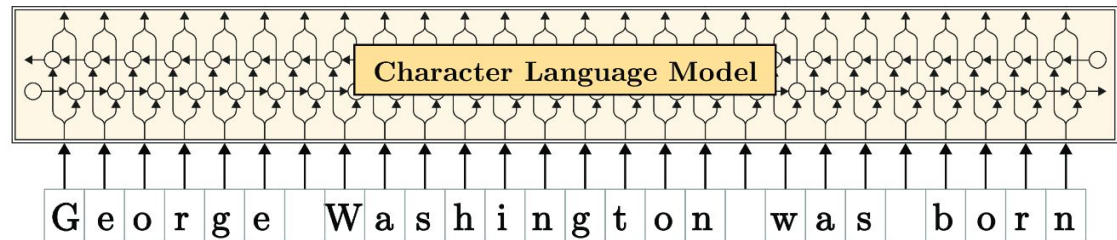
implemented in

flair

Flair Embeddings



Flair Embeddings

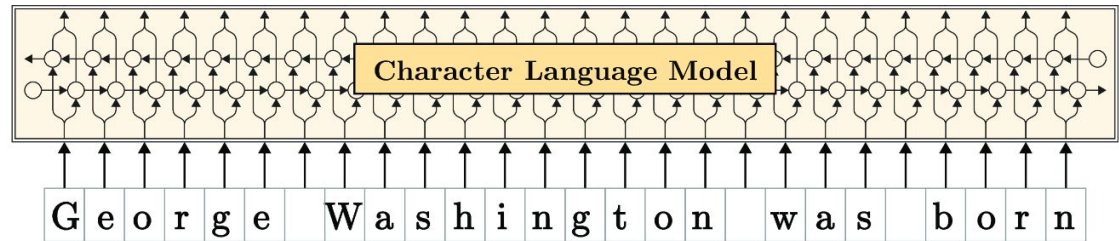


Contextual String Embeddings for Sequence Labeling. A. Akbik, D. Blythe and R. Vollgraf. [COLING 2018](#).

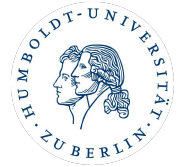
Flair Embeddings



Model of
“General Linguistic
World Knowledge”

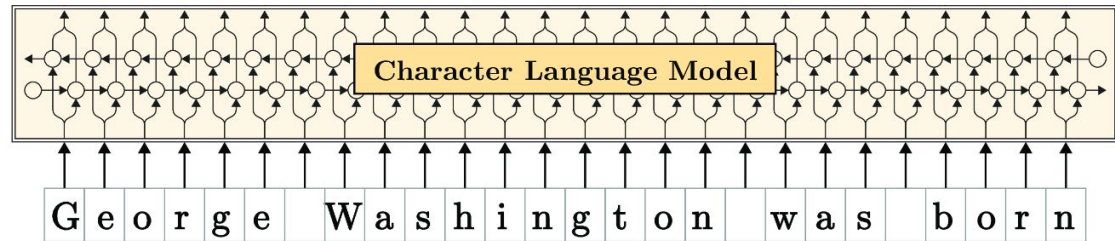


Flair Embeddings

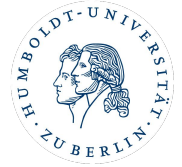


Model of
“General Linguistic
World Knowledge”

pre-trained

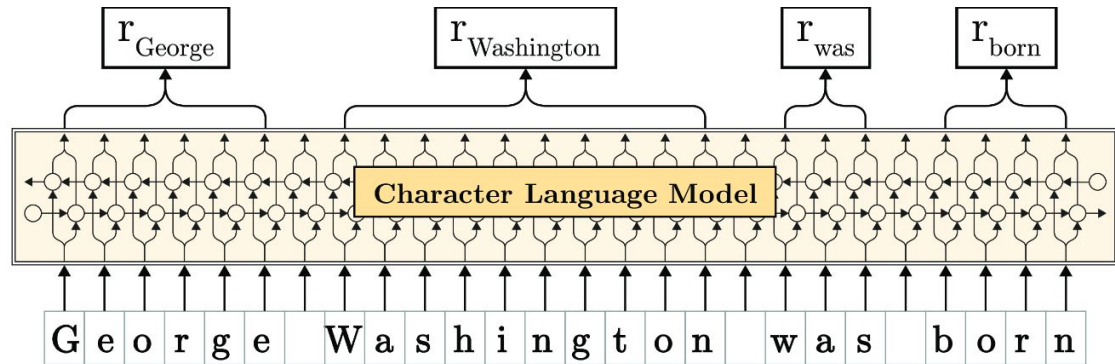


Flair Embeddings

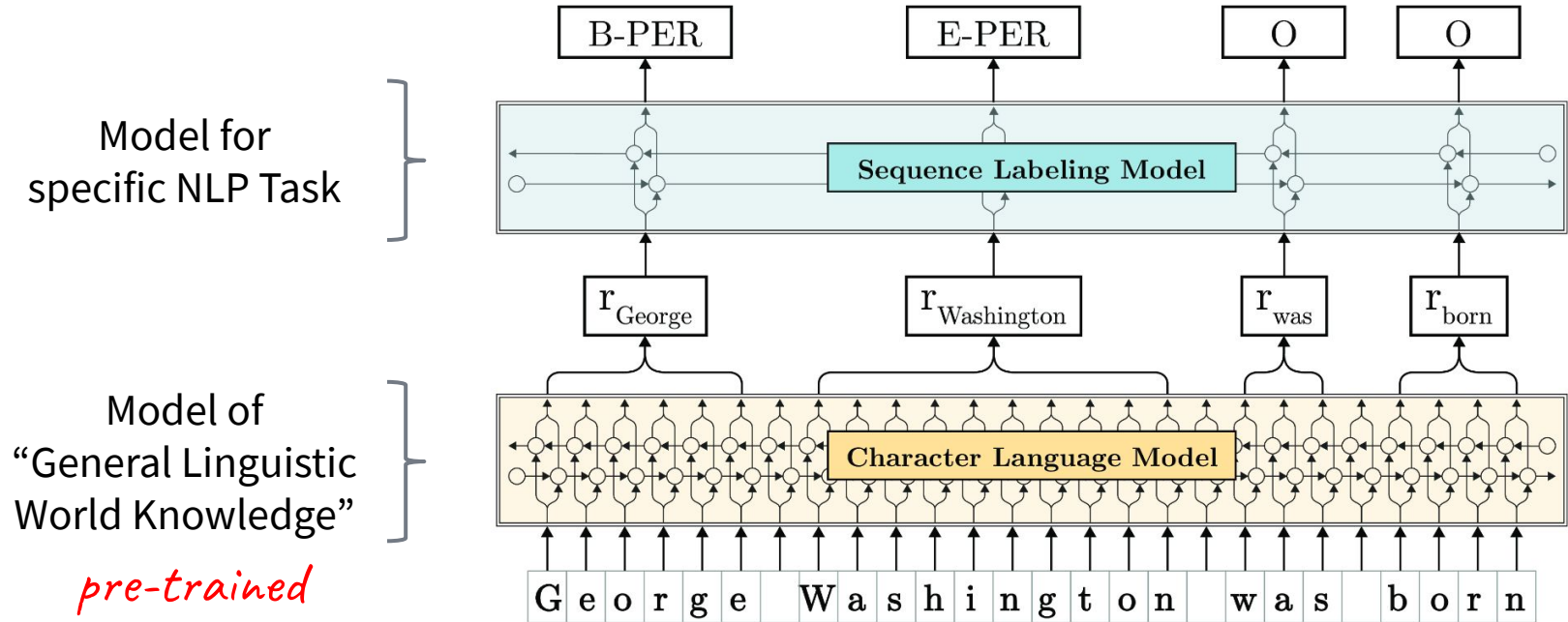
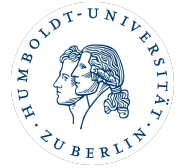


Model of
“General Linguistic
World Knowledge”

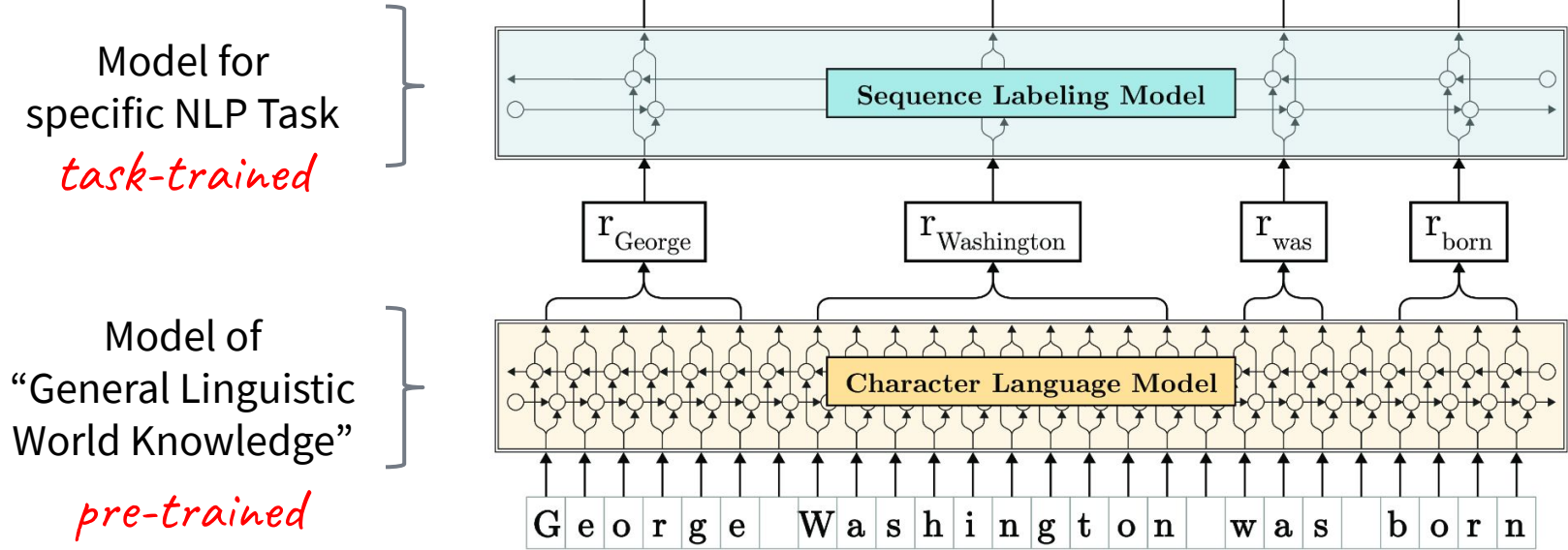
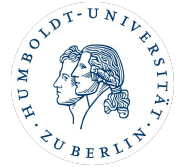
pre-trained



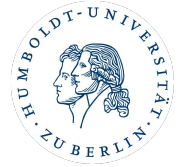
Flair Embeddings



Flair Embeddings

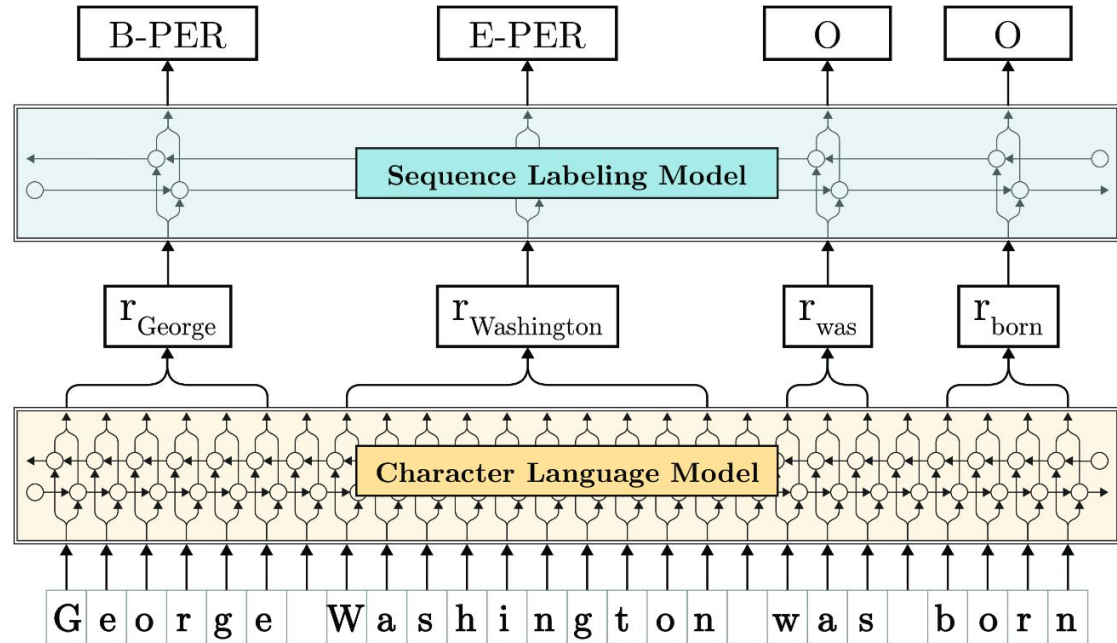


Flair Embeddings



Model for
specific NLP Task
task-trained

Model of
“General Linguistic
World Knowledge”
pre-trained



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training



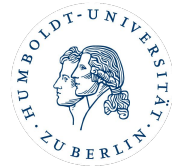
Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training



Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

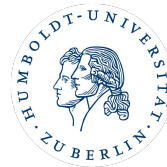


Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”



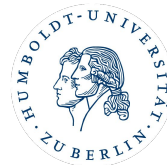
Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

t?
r?



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

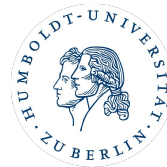
Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

t?
r?

- + no tokenization required
- + very small vocabulary
- + learns subword features

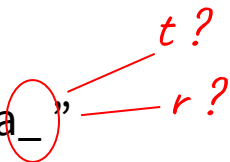


Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

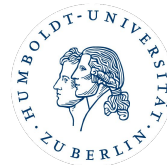
“I started the ca_”



- + no tokenization required
- + very small vocabulary
- + learns subword features

Sample trained model:

“The meaning of life is”:



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

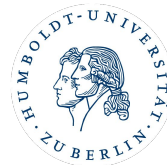
t?
r?

- + no tokenization required
- + very small vocabulary
- + learns subword features

Sample trained model:

“The meaning of life is”:

- so complicated.
- a mere step forward.



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

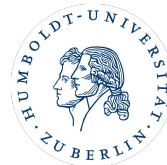
t?
r?

- + no tokenization required
- + very small vocabulary
- + learns subword features

Sample trained model:

“The meaning of life is”:

- so complicated.
- a mere step forward.
- a bit like a particular provocation.
- entirely confined to the world of animals, but the world has to be profitable.



Flair Embeddings: Pre-Training

Idea: Make a prediction problem out of plain text

Train to predict next character

“I started the ca_”

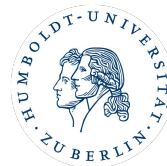
t?
r?

- + no tokenization required
- + very small vocabulary
- + learns subword features

Sample trained model:

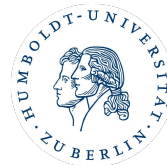
“The meaning of life is”:

- so complicated.
- a mere step forward.
- a bit like a particular provocation.
- entirely confined to the world of animals, but the world has to be profitable.



Flair Embeddings: Evaluation

Approach	NER-English F1-score	NER-German F1-score	Chunking F1-score	POS Accuracy
<i>proposed</i>				
PROPOSED	91.97±0.04	85.78 ± 0.18	96.68±0.03	97.73±0.02
PROPOSED _{+WORD}	93.07±0.10	88.20 ± 0.21	96.70±0.04	97.82±0.02
PROPOSED _{+CHAR}	91.92±0.03	85.88 ± 0.20	96.72±0.05	97.8±0.01
PROPOSED _{+WORD+CHAR}	93.09±0.12	88.32 ± 0.20	96.71±0.07	97.76±0.01
PROPOSED _{+ALL}	92.72±0.09	n/a	96.65±0.05	97.85±0.01
<i>baselines</i>				
HUANG	88.54±0.08	82.32 ± 0.35	95.4±0.08	96.94±0.02
LAMPLE	89.3±0.23	83.78 ± 0.39	95.34±0.06	97.02±0.03
PETERS	92.34±0.09	n/a	96.69±0.05	97.81± 0.02
<i>best published</i>				
	92.22±0.10 (Peters et al., 2018)	78.76 (Lample et al., 2016)	96.37±0.05 (Peters et al., 2017)	97.64 (Choi, 2016)
	91.93±0.19 (Peters et al., 2017)	77.20 (Seyler et al., 2017)	95.96±0.08 (Liu et al., 2017)	97.55 (Ma and Hovy, 2016)
	91.71±0.10 (Liu et al., 2017)	76.22 (Gillick et al., 2015)	95.77 (Hashimoto et al., 2016)	97.53±0.03 (Liu et al., 2017)
	91.21 (Ma and Hovy, 2016)	75.72 (Qi et al., 2009)	95.56 Søgaard et al. (2016)	97.30 (Lample et al., 2016)



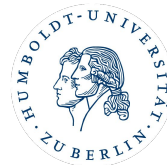
Flair Embeddings: Evaluation

Approach	NER-English F1-score	NER-German F1-score	Chunking F1-score	POS Accuracy
<i>proposed</i>				
PROPOSED	91.97±0.04	85.78 ± 0.18	96.68±0.03	97.73±0.02
PROPOSED _{+WORD}	93.07±0.10	88.20 ± 0.21	96.70±0.04	97.82±0.02
PROPOSED _{+CHAR}	91.92±0.03	85.88 ± 0.20	96.72±0.05	97.8±0.01
PROPOSED _{+WORD+CHAR}	93.09±0.12	88.32 ± 0.20	96.71±0.07	97.76±0.01
PROPOSED _{+ALL}	92.72±0.09	n/a	96.65±0.05	97.85±0.01
<i>baselines</i>				
HUANG	88.54±0.08	82.32 ± 0.35	95.4±0.08	96.94±0.02
LAMPLE	89.3±0.23	83.78 ± 0.39	95.34±0.06	97.02±0.03
PETERS	92.34±0.09	n/a	96.69±0.05	97.81± 0.02
<i>best published</i>				
	92.22±0.10 (Peters et al., 2018)	78.76 (Lample et al., 2016)	96.37±0.05 (Peters et al., 2017)	97.64 (Choi, 2016)
	91.93±0.19 (Peters et al., 2017)	77.20 (Seyler et al., 2017)	95.96±0.08 (Liu et al., 2017)	97.55 (Ma and Hovy, 2016)
	91.71±0.10 (Liu et al., 2017)	76.22 (Gillick et al., 2015)	95.77 (Hashimoto et al., 2016)	97.53±0.03 (Liu et al., 2017)
	91.21 (Ma and Hovy, 2016)	75.72 (Qi et al., 2009)	95.56 Søgaard et al. (2016)	97.30 (Lample et al., 2016)

One Model, Many Languages



Most models are language specific (English NER, German NER etc.)



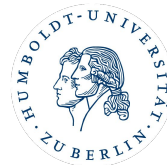
One Model, Many Languages

Most models are language specific (English NER, German NER etc.)

It is possible to train a **single model** using training data from multiple languages [Akbik et al., 2019]

- especially if we use multilingual language models
- language identification is implicit

Multilingual Sequence Labeling With One Model. Alan Akbik, Tanja Bergmann and Roland Vollgraf. *Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop, NLDL 2019.* [\[pdf\]](#)



One Model, Many Languages

Most models are language specific (English NER, German NER etc.)

It is possible to train a **single model** using training data from multiple languages [Akbik et al., 2019]

- especially if we use multilingual language models
- language identification is implicit

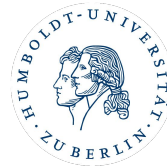
implemented in

flair

Multilingual Sequence Labeling With One Model. Alan Akbik, Tanja Bergmann and Roland Vollgraf. *Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop, NLDL 2019.* [\[pdf\]](#)

NLP Task: Named Entity Recognition - Domains



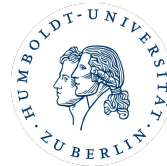


NLP Task: Named Entity Recognition - Domains

Biomedical Domain

HunFlair [Weber et al., 2020]

suggested as a promising approach in **patients** **SPECIES** with **COVID-19** **DISEASE** who are admitted to hospitals . In addition to antiviral therapy , potential **ACE2-** **GENE** and **AT1-R** **GENE** - inhibiting strategies and other supportive care , we suggest other potential **JAK** **GENE** inhibitors (JAKinibs) and novel anti - inflammatory combination therapies that affect the **JAK** **GENE** - **STAT** **GENE** pathway in **patients** **SPECIES** with **COVID-19** **DISEASE** . Since the combination of **MTX** **CHEMICAL** and **baricitinib** **CHEMICAL** leads to outstanding clinical outcomes , the addition



NLP Task: Named Entity Recognition - Domains

Biomedical Domain

HunFlair [Weber et al., 2020]

suggested as a promising approach in **patients** **SPECIES** with **COVID-19** **DISEASE** who are admitted to hospitals . In addition to antiviral therapy , potential **ACE2-** **GENE** and **AT1-R** **GENE** - inhibiting strategies and other supportive care , we suggest other potential **JAK** **GENE** inhibitors (JAKinibs) and novel anti - inflammatory combination therapies that affect the **JAK** **GENE** - **STAT** **GENE** pathway in **patients** **SPECIES** with **COVID-19** **DISEASE** . Since the combination of **MTX** **CHEMICAL** and **baricitinib** **CHEMICAL** leads to outstanding clinical outcomes , the addition

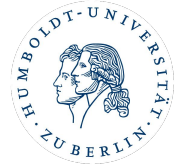
Legal Tech Domain

vom 6. August 2020. Alle Beschwerdeführer befinden sich derzeit gemeinsam im Urlaub auf der Insel **Mallorca** **LANDSCHAFT** , die vom **Robert-Koch-Institut** **ORG** als Risikogebiet eingestuft wird. Sie wollen am 29. August 2020 wieder nach **Deutschland** **LAND** einreisen, ohne sich gemäß **§ 1 Abs. 1 bis Abs. 3 der Verordnung zur Testpflicht** **VERORDNUNG** Einreisenden aus Risikogebieten auf das SARS-CoV-2-Virus testen zu lassen. Die Verordnung sei wegen eines Verstoßes der ihr zugrunde liegenden gesetzlichen Ermächtigungsgrundlage, des **§ 36 Abs. 7 IfSG** **GESETZ** ,

Other NLP Tasks (Beta)



Other NLP Tasks (Beta)



Text Regression

*I really liked
this movie
because [...]*



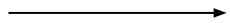
80% JOY

Other NLP Tasks (Beta)



Text Regression

*I really liked
this movie
because [...]*



80% JOY

Dataset: [WASSA-2018 Shared Task on Implicit Emotions](#):

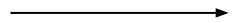
- JOY, ANGER, FEAR, ...

Other NLP Tasks (Beta)



Text Regression

*I really liked
this movie
because [...]*



80% JOY

Dataset: [WASSA-2018 Shared Task on Implicit Emotions](#):

- JOY, ANGER, FEAR, ...

Similarity Learning

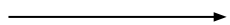
*dog
catching a
frisbee in
the park*



Other NLP Tasks (Beta)

Text Regression

*I really liked
this movie
because [...]*



80% JOY

Dataset: [WASSA-2018 Shared Task on Implicit Emotions](#):

- JOY, ANGER, FEAR, ...

Similarity Learning

*dog
catching a
frisbee in
the park*



Dataset: Feidegger [Lefakis et al., 2018]

- Fashion images and German-language descriptions

FEIDEgger: A Multi-modal Corpus of Fashion Images and Descriptions in German. Leonidas Lefakis, Alan Akbik and Roland Vollgraf. *11th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, LREC 2018*. [\[pdf\]](#)

Overview

Motivation: From Research to Production

NLP Tasks & Demos

- Text Classification (+usage)
- Sequence Labeling (+research)
- Text-Image

Summary and Outlook

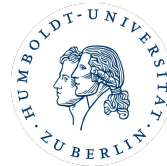


Summary



Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

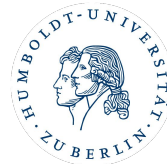


Summary

Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

try it out!



Summary

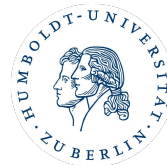
Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

try it out!

Upcoming

- “FLERT” Sequence Labeling



Summary

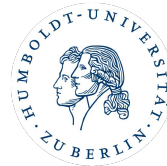
Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

try it out!

Upcoming

- “FLERT” Sequence Labeling
- Few-Shot Learning



Summary

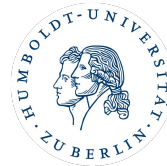
Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

try it out!

Upcoming

- “FLERT” Sequence Labeling
- Few-Shot Learning
- Multilinguality



Summary

Application

- NLP models in action (sentiment analysis, named entity recognition)
- Introduced Flair Framework for NLP

try it out!

Upcoming

- “FLERT” Sequence Labeling
- Few-Shot Learning
- Multilinguality

Flair 0.7

Thank You!

Questions?



Foto: Heike Zappe