

# The Secret Life of Words: Exploring Regularity and Systematicity.

## Part I: Morphological Inflection

**Ekaterina Vylomova<sup>а</sup> ; Ryan Cotterell<sup>г, д</sup>**

<sup>а</sup>University of Melbourne <sup>г</sup>University of Cambridge <sup>д</sup>ETH Zürich

ekaterina.vylomova@unimelb.edu.au   ryan.cotterell@inf.ethz.ch

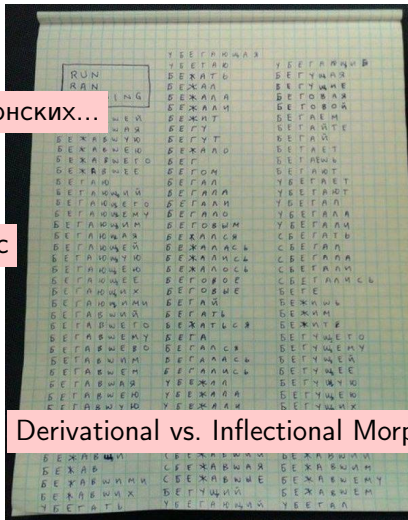
11 ноября 2020 г.

# Russian Morphology

RUN	УБЕГАЮЩАЯ	УБЕГАЮЩИЙ
RAN	УБЕГАЮ	УБЕГАЮЩИЙ
RUNNING	БЕЖАТЬ	БЕГУЩАЯ
	БЕЖАЛА	БЕГУЩИЕ
	БЕЖАЛАА	БЕГОВАЯ
	БЕЖАЛАМ	БЕГОВОЙ
	БЕЖАТ	БЕГАЕМ
БЕЖАВШАЯ	БЕГУТ	БЕГАЙТЕ
БЕЖАВШУЮ	БЕЖАЮ	БЕГАЙ
БЕЖАВШЕЮ	БЕГ	БЕГАЕТ
БЕЖАВШЕЮ	БЕГОМ	БЕГАЕТ
БЕГАЮЩИЙ	БЕГАЛ	УБЕГАЕТ
БЕГАЮЩИЕ	БЕГАЛА	УБЕГАЮТ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕГАЛИ	УБЕГАЛ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕГАЛО	УБЕГАЛА
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕГОВЫМ	УБЕГАЛИ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕЖАЛСЯ	СБЕГАТЬ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕЖАЛАСЬ	СБЕГАЛ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕЖАЛАСЬ	СБЕГАЛА
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕЖАЛОСЬ	СБЕГАЛИ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕГОВОЕ	СБЕГАЛАСЬ
БЕГАЮЩИМ	БЕГОВЫЕ	БЕТЕ
БЕГАВШИЙ	БЕГАЙ	БЕЖИТЬ
БЕГАВШЕГО	БЕГАТЬ	БЕЖИМ
БЕГАВШЕМУ	БЕЖАТЬСЯ	БЕЖИТЕ
БЕГАВШЕРО	БЕГА	БЕГУЩЕГО
БЕГАВШИМ	БЕГАЛСЯ	БЕГУЩЕМУ
БЕГАВШЕМ	БЕГАЛАСЬ	БЕГУЩЕЙ
БЕГАВШАЯ	БЕГАЛАСЬ	БЕГУЩЕЕ
БЕГАВШЕЮ	УБЕЖАЛ	БЕГУЩУЮ
БЕГАВШУЮ	УБЕЖАЛА	БЕГУЩЕЮ
БЕГАВШИМИ	УБЕЖАЛИ	БЕГУЩИХ
БЕГИТЕ	СБЕЖАЛ	БЕГУЩИМ
БЕЖАВ	СБЕЖАЛИ	БЕГУЩИМ
БЕЖАВШИ	СБЕЖАЛИ	БЕЖАВШИЙ
БЕЖАВШИ	СБЕЖАВШАЯ	БЕЖАВШИЙ
БЕЖАВШИМИ	СБЕЖАВШЕ	БЕЖАВШИМ
БЕЖАВШИХ	БЕГУЩИЙ	БЕЖАВШЕМ
УБЕГАТЬ	УБЕГАЮЩИЙ	УБЕГАЛ

Всё смешалось в доме Облонских...

Analytic vs. Synthetic



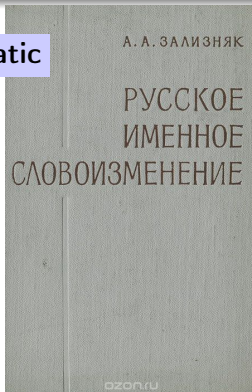
Derivational vs. Inflectional Morphology

## Morphological Inflection

Can we train a system to learn the regularities from data?



Inflectional Morphology is **Paradigmatic**



# Inflectional Morphology: Paradigms (nouns)

## Morphological Inflection

беглец + pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → беглеца



	singular	plural
<b>nominative</b>	<b>беглец</b> beglec	беглецы beglecý
<b>genitive</b>	беглеца́ beglecá	беглецо́в beglecóv
<b>dative</b>	беглецу́ beglecú	беглеца́м beglecám
<b>accusative</b>	беглеца́ beglecá	беглецо́в beglecóv
<b>instrumental</b>	беглецо́м beglecóm	беглеца́ми beglecámi
<b>prepositional</b>	беглеце́ beglecé	беглеца́х beglecáx

ru-noun-table | b | беглец | a=an

# Inflectional Morphology: Classes (nouns)

## Morphological Inflection

беглец + pos=N, case=ACC, num=SG → беглеца



Class	Old class	Nom sg	Nom pl	Gen pl	Declension	Typical gender	Hardness	Examples	Notes
(б)ан(а), #	ь	пале	паль	о(в) палец(а)в	2nd	Masculine	Hard	заба(а), крош(а)	gen pl -ев after sibilants
-а, # -а	ь - а	пале	паль	о(в) палец(а)в	2nd	Masculine	Hard	рука(в)рукав, голова(в)голова	gen pl -ев after sibilants
-ья, # -ья	ь - я	пале	паль	я(в) палец(а)	2nd	Masculine	Hard	дру(г)другья	
яи	ья	пале	паль	я(в) палец(а)	2nd	Masculine	Hard	ангел(а)ангел, христи(а)христиан	
брак, онок, онок	брак, онок, онок, онок	брак	браки	браков	2nd	Masculine	Hard	телев(из)он, акул(а)акул	
брак, онок, онок	брак, онок, онок, онок	брак	браки	браков	2nd	Masculine	Hard	цел(о)брак, мис(т)рмис	
		ь	и	ей	2nd	Masculine	Soft	диск(а), рубль, камень	
		ь	и	ей	2nd	Masculine	Soft	креден(т)креден(т)	includes -ев nouns (old-style -ев)
		я	и	ей	2nd	Masculine	Palatal	чел(о)век, герб(а), река(а)	includes -ев nouns (old-style -ев)
		я	и	ей	2nd	Masculine	Palatal	клуб	includes -ев nouns (old-style -ев)
а	а	пале	паль	палец(а)	1st	Feminine	Hard	собака, голова	gen pl -ев after sibilants (stressed only)
я	я	пале	паль	палец(а)	1st	Feminine	Soft	земля, революция	stressed gen pl -ев except with vowel stems, otherwise -я; includes -ев nouns (old-style -ев) but not -я nouns
ья	ья	пале	паль	палец(а)	1st	Feminine	Soft	судья	stressed gen pl -ев (also patterns -я and -я'), unstressed -ев
о	о	пале, оа	паль, оа	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Hard	стол(а), болель	includes unstressed -ев nouns after шашек; gen pl -ев after sibilants (stressed only)
о-я, о-я	о	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Hard	яблоко(в)яблока, ябло(в)ябло	same as previous
о-ья	о	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Hard	перчатка(в)перчаток, двин(а)двинья	
е, е	ея	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Soft	моро, учение	stressed gen pl -ев except with vowel stems, otherwise -я; includes -ев nouns (old-style -ев) but not -я nouns
е	е	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Soft	бытие, мур	nouns with stressed -е instead of -я; includes nouns in -ев (old-style -ев), which have gen pl in -ев
ья, я	ья	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Neuter	Soft	устья, котья	stressed gen pl -ев, unstressed -я
я-я	я	пале	паль	палец(а)	2nd	Feminine	Soft	даль, краснота	
ня	ня	пале	паль	палец(а)	3rd	Neuter	?	яма, глеть	
ь	пале	пале	паль	палец(а)	Indeclinable	—	—	полутья	

EN Wiktionary: ru-noun-table | б | беглец | а=а

# Inflectional Morphology: Classes (nouns); Differs in En/Ru Wiktionaries

## Morphological Inflection

беглец + pos=N, case=ACC, num=SG → беглеца



Class	Old class	Nom sg	Nom pl	Gen pl	Declension	Typical gender	Hardness	Examples	Notes
(Варяг), #	ь	none	ь/и	ов, [защит]ь	2nd	Masculine	Hard	защита, щипка, чье	gen pl -ев after sibilants
-я, # -я	ь -я	none	а	ов, [защит]ь	2nd	Masculine	Hard	руководитель, руководитель	gen pl -ев after sibilants
-ья, # -ья	ь -ья	none	ья	ья/ья	2nd	Masculine	Hard	друг, дружок	
ия	ия	ия	я	none	2nd	Masculine	Hard	английский, христианский	
ёнок, онок, онок	ёнок, онок, ёнок, онок	ёнок	ята	ят	2nd	Masculine	Hard	телевизор, выключатель	

RU Wiktionary: сущ ru m а 5b | основа=беглец | основа1=беглец | слоги=по-слогам | бег | лец

я	я	и	ятов	2nd	Masculine	Palatal	чай, герб, река	includes -я nouns (old-style -я)
я -я	я	я	ятов	2nd	Masculine	Palatal	чай	includes -я nouns (old-style -я)
я	я	ья	none, [защит]ь	1st	Feminine	Hard	собака, голова	gen pl -ев after sibilants (stressed only)
я	я	и	ья, я	1st	Feminine	Soft	земля, революция	stressed gen pl -ев except with vowel stems, otherwise -я-д; includes -я nouns (old-style -я) but not -я nouns
ья	ья	ья	ья, я	1st	Feminine	Soft	судья	stressed gen pl -ев (also patterns я and я'), unstressed -я
о	о	а	none, я	2nd	Neuter	Hard	стол, солнце	includes unstressed -о nouns after шашек; gen pl -ев after sibilants (stressed only)
о -я, о -я	о	ья	none	2nd	Neuter	Hard	яблоко/яблока, яблоко	same as previous
о-ья	о	ья	я/ья	2nd	Neuter	Hard	перчатка, шпатель/шпатель, двенадцать	
о, я	о/я	я	ья, я	2nd	Neuter	Soft	ябло, учебник	stressed gen pl -ев except with vowel stems, otherwise -я-д; includes -я nouns (old-style -я) but not -я nouns
я	я	я	ья, [я]	2nd	Neuter	Soft	бытие, мур	nouns with stressed -я instead of -я; includes nouns in -я (old-style -я), which have gen pl in -я
ья, я	ья/я	ья	ья, я	2nd	Neuter	Soft	устье, котья	stressed gen pl -я, unstressed -я
я -я	я	я	я	2nd	Feminine	Soft	ябло, яблочность	
ня	ня	ня	ня	2nd	Neuter	?	яма, яма	
я	none	none	none	Indeclinable	—	—	полутья	

EN Wiktionary: ru-noun-table | б | беглец | а=аn

# Inflectional Morphology: Wiktionary annotation is Not Cross-linguistically Consistent

## Other Languages

### Hungarian



Inflection (stem in **-e-**, front unrounded harmony) [less ▲]

	singular	plural
<b>nominative</b>	<b>szökevény</b>	szökevények
<b>accusative</b>	szökevényt	szökevényeket
<b>dative</b>	szökevénynek	szökevényeknek
<b>instrumental</b>	szökevénnel	szökevényekkel
<b>causal-final</b>	szökevényért	szökevényekért
<b>translative</b>	szökevénné	szökevényekké
<b>terminative</b>	szökevényig	szökevényekig
<b>essive-formal</b>	szökevényként	szökevényekként
<b>essive-modal</b>	—	—
<b>inessive</b>	szökevényben	szökevényekben
<b>superessive</b>	szökevényen	szökevényeken
<b>adessive</b>	szökevéynél	szökevényeknél
<b>illative</b>	szökevénybe	szökevényekbe
<b>sublative</b>	szökevényre	szökevényekre
<b>allative</b>	szökevényhez	szökevényekhez
<b>elative</b>	szökevényből	szökevényekből
<b>delative</b>	szökevényről	szökevényekről



[Sylak-Glassman, 2016]

## Universal Annotation (by John Sylak-Glassman)

- 1) 23 dimensions of meaning (TAM, case, number, animacy), 212 features
- 2) A-morphous morphology (Anderson, 1992)
- 3) Paradigms extracted from English Wiktionary (Kirov et al., 2016)



# UniMorph

Schema and datasets for universal morphological annotation

<https://unimorph.github.io/>

[Sylak-Glassman, 2016]

## Universal Annotation (by John Sylak-Glassman)

- 1) 23 dimensions of meaning (TAM, case, number, animacy), 212 features
- 2) A-morphous morphology (Anderson, 1992)
- 3) Paradigms extracted from English Wiktionary (Kirov et al., 2016)



абажур	абажур	N;ACC;SG
абажур	абажур	N;NOM;SG
абажур	абажура	N;GEN;SG
абажур	абажурам	N;DAT;PL
абажур	абажурами	N;INS;PL
абажур	абажурах	N;ESS;PL
абажур	абажуре	N;ESS;SG
абажур	абажуров	N;GEN;PL
абажур	абажуром	N;INS;SG
абажур	абажуру	N;DAT;SG
абажур	абажуры	N;NOM;PL

[Sylak-Glassman, 2016]

## Universal Annotation (by John Sylak-Glassman)

- 1) 23 dimensions of meaning (TAM, case, number, animacy), 212 features
- 2) A-morphous morphology (Anderson, 1992)
- 3) Paradigms extracted from English Wiktionary (Kirov et al., 2016)



абазинский	абазинская	ADJ ; NOM ; FEM ; SG
абазинский	абазинские	ADJ ; ACC ; INAN ; PL
абазинский	абазинские	ADJ ; NOM ; PL
абазинский	абазинский	ADJ ; INAN ; ACC ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинский	ADJ ; NOM ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинским	ADJ ; DAT ; PL
абазинский	абазинским	ADJ ; INS ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинским	ADJ ; INS ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинскими	ADJ ; INS ; PL
абазинский	абазинских	ADJ ; ACC ; ANIM ; PL
абазинский	абазинских	ADJ ; ESS ; PL
абазинский	абазинских	ADJ ; GEN ; PL
абазинский	абазинского	ADJ ; ANIM ; ACC ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинского	ADJ ; GEN ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинского	ADJ ; GEN ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинское	ADJ ; ACC ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинское	ADJ ; NOM ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинской	ADJ ; DAT ; FEM ; SG
абазинский	абазинской	ADJ ; ESS ; FEM ; SG
абазинский	абазинской	ADJ ; GEN ; FEM ; SG
абазинский	абазинской	ADJ ; INS ; FEM ; SG
абазинский	абазинском	ADJ ; ESS ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинском	ADJ ; ESS ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинскому	ADJ ; DAT ; MASC ; SG
абазинский	абазинскому	ADJ ; DAT ; NEUT ; SG
абазинский	абазинскую	ADJ ; ACC ; FEM ; SG

[Sylak-Glassman, 2016]

## Universal Annotation (by John Sylak-Glassman)

- 1) 23 dimensions of meaning (TAM, case, number, animacy), 212 features
- 2) A-morphous morphology (Anderson, 1992)
- 3) Paradigms extracted from English Wiktionary (Kirov et al., 2016)



вынести́сь	вынесемся	V; FUT; 1; PL
вынести́сь	вынесетесь	V; FUT; 2; PL
вынести́сь	вынесется	V; FUT; 3; SG
вынести́сь	вынесешься	V; FUT; 2; SG
вынести́сь	вынесись	V; IMP; 2; SG
вынести́сь	вынеситесь	V; IMP; 2; PL
вынести́сь	вынеслась	V; PST; SG; FEM
вынести́сь	вынеслись	V; PST; PL
вынести́сь	вынеслось	V; PST; SG; NEUT
вынести́сь	вынесся	V; PST; SG; MASC
вынести́сь	вынести́сь	V; NFIN
вынести́сь	вынесу́сь	V; FUT; 1; SG
вынести́сь	вынесутся	V; FUT; 3; PL
вынести́сь	вынесшийся	V.PTCP; ACT; PST
вынести́сь	вынеся́сь	V.CVB; PST

[Cotterell et al., 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages)

Task1: *беглец* + pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*Task2: *беглецами* + pos=N,case=INS, num=PL +  
pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*Task3: *беглецами* + pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*

System	Standard			Restricted		
	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
LMU-1	1.0 (95.56)	1.0 (96.35)	1.0 (95.83)	1.0 (95.56)	1.0 (95.34)	1.0 (90.95)
LMU-2	2.0 (95.56)	2.0 (96.23)	2.0 (95.83)	2.0 (95.56)	2.0 (95.27)	2.0 (90.95)
BIU/MIT-1	—	—	—	4.2 (92.65)	5.2 (77.70)	3.8 (76.39)
BIU/MIT-2	—	—	—	4.2 (93.00)	4.2 (81.29)	—
HEL	—	—	—	3.9 (92.89)	3.5 (86.30)	3.2 (86.48)
MSU	3.8 (84.06)	3.6 (86.06)	3.8 (84.87)	6.2 (84.06)	6.0 (79.68)	6.2 (62.16)
CU	4.6 (81.02)	5.0 (72.98)	5.0 (71.75)	7.3 (81.02)	6.9 (69.89)	5.5 (67.91)
EHU	5.5 (79.24)	—	—	8.0 (79.67)	—	—
COL/NYU	6.5 (67.86)	4.7 (75.59)	4.8 (67.61)	9.2 (67.86)	7.2 (77.34)	6.3 (53.56)
OSU	—	—	—	9.0 (72.71)	—	—
UA	4.6 (81.83)	4.7 (74.06)	4.4 (71.23)	—	—	—
ORACLE.E	97.49	98.15	97.97	98.32	97.84	95.80

[Cotterell et al., 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages)

Task1: *беглец* + pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*Task2: *беглецами* + pos=N,case=INS, num=PL +  
pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*Task3: *беглецами* + pos=N,case=ACC,num=SG → *беглеца*

System	Standard			Restricted		
	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
LMU-1	1.0 (95.56)	1.0 (96.35)	1.0 (95.83)	1.0 (95.56)	1.0 (95.34)	1.0 (90.95)
LMU-2	2.0 (95.56)	2.0 (96.23)	2.0 (95.83)	2.0 (95.56)	2.0 (95.27)	2.0 (90.95)
BIU/MIT-1	—	—	—	4.2 (92.65)	5.2 (77.70)	3.8 (76.39)
BIU/MIT-2	—	—	—	4.2 (93.00)	4.2 (81.29)	—
HEL	—	—	—	—	—	—
MSU	3.8 (84.06)	3.6 (86.00)	—	—	—	—
CU	4.6 (81.02)	5.0 (77.00)	—	—	—	—
EHU	5.5 (79.24)	—	—	—	—	—
COL/NYU	6.5 (67.86)	4.7 (77.00)	—	—	—	—
OSU	—	—	—	—	—	—
UA	4.6 (81.83)	4.7 (77.00)	—	—	—	—
ORACLE.E	97.49	98.00	—	—	—	—

LMU+BIU+Helsinki: Neural (seq2seq) +/- aligner

MSU+Col/NYU: rule-based/heuristics

Others: external aligner+WFST/CRF

[Kann and Schuetze, 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders

- 1) character-level input: `<s> r u n OUT_POS=V OUT_NUM=SG OUT_TENSE=PRES </s>` Output: `<s> r u n s </s>`
- 2) Ensembles of seq2seq (GRUs + soft attention (Bahdanau et al., 2015))
- 3) Enriching the data with combinations of other (non-lemma) forms

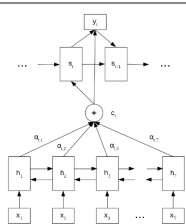


Figure 1: System overview. The input  $x$  consists of characters as well as input and output tags. The output  $y$  consists of characters only.

[Kann and Schuetze, 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders



- 1) character-level input: `<s> r u n OUT_POS=V OUT_NUM=SG OUT_TENSE=PRES </s>` Output: `<s> r u n s </s>`
- 2) Ensembles of seq2seq (GRUs + soft attention (Bahdanau et al., 2015))
- 3) Enriching the data with combinations of other (non-lemma) forms

Dataset	T2, given		T2, restricted		T2, standard	
	no. samples	no. samples	factor	no. samples	factor	
Arabic	14,400	28,800	2	458,814	32	
Finnish	14,400	28,800	2	116,206	8	
Georgian	14,400	28,800	2	196,396	14	
German	14,400	28,800	2	166,148	12	
Hungarian	21,600	43,200	2	643,630	30	
Maltese	21,600	43,200	2	1,629,446	75	
Navajo	14,385	28,770	2	160,332	11	
Russian	14,400	28,800	2	129,302	9	
Spanish	14,400	28,800	2	211,030	15	
Turkish	14,400	28,800	2	392,136	27	



[Kann and Schuetze, 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders

- 1) character-level input: `<s> r u n OUT_POS=V OUT_NUM=SG OUT_TENSE=PRES </s>` Output: `<s> r u n s </s>`
- 2) Ensembles of seq2seq (GRUs + soft attention (Bahdanau et al., 2015))
- 3) Enriching the data with combinations of other (non-lemma) forms



Language	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
Arabic	95.47%	97.38%	96.52%
Finnish	96.80%	97.40%	96.56%
Georgian	98.50%	99.14%	98.87%
German	95.80%	97.45%	95.60%
Hungarian	99.30%	99.67%	99.50%
Maltese	88.99%	88.17%	87.83%
Navajo	91.48%	96.64%	96.20%
Russian	91.46%	91.00%	89.91%
Spanish	98.84%	98.74%	97.96%
Turkish	98.93%	97.94%	99.31%

Table 2: Exact-match accuracy per language for the standard track of the SIGMORPHON 2016 Shared Task.

[Kann and Schuetze, 2016]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders



- 1) character-level input: `<s> r u n OUT_POS=V OUT_NUM=SG OUT_TENSE=PRES </s>` Output: `<s> r u n s </s>`
- 2) Ensembles of seq2seq (GRUs + soft attention (Bahdanau et al., 2015))
- 3) Enriching the data with combinations of other (non-lemma) forms

Language	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
Arabic	95.47%	91.09%	82.80%
Finnish	96.80%	96.81%	93.18%
Georgian	98.50%	98.50%	96.21%
German	95.80%	96.22%	92.41%
Hungarian	99.30%	99.42%	98.37%
Maltese	88.99%	86.88%	84.25%
Navajo	91.48%	97.81%	83.50%
Russian	91.46%	90.11%	87.13%
Spanish	98.84%	98.45%	96.69%
Turkish	98.93%	98.38%	95.00%

Table 3: Exact-match accuracy per language for the restricted track of the SIGMORPHON 2016 Shared Task.

[Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders

1) Extract input-output string alignments; 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)

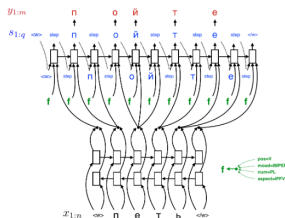


Figure 1: The hard attention network architecture. A round tip expresses concatenation of the inputs it receives. The attention is promoted to the next input element once a step action is predicted.

[Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder-decoders

1) Extract input-output string alignments; 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)



	suffixing+stem changes			circ. GE	suffixing+agg.+v.h.			c.h. NA	templatic		Avg.
	RU	DE	ES		FI	TU	HU		AR	MA	
MED	91.46	95.8	98.84	98.5	95.47	98.93	96.8	91.48	<b>99.3</b>	<b>88.99</b>	95.56
Soft	92.18	96.51	98.88	<b>98.88</b>	<b>96.99</b>	<b>99.37</b>	<b>97.01</b>	<b>95.41</b>	<b>99.3</b>	88.86	<b>96.34</b>
Hard	<b>92.21</b>	<b>96.58</b>	<b>98.92</b>	98.12	95.91	97.99	96.25	93.01	98.77	88.32	95.61

Table 3: Results on the SIGMORPHON 2016 morphological inflection dataset. The text above each language lists the morphological phenomena it includes: circ.=circumfixing, agg.=agglutinative, v.h.=vowel harmony, c.h.=consonant harmony

[Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017]

Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder–decoders

1) Extract input–output string alignments; 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)



## Errors

глядеть pos=V,tense=PRS,per=1,num=SG,aspect=IPFV gold: гляжу predicted: глядею  
увлекаться pos=V,tense=PRS,per=1,num=SG,aspect=IPFV gold: увлекаюсь  
predicted: увлеклюсь

звать pos=V,tense=PRS,per=3,num=SG,aspect=IPFV gold: зовёт predicted: зваёт

[Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017]

Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder–decoders

1) Extract input–output string alignments; 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)



## Errors

зять pos=N,case=GEN,num=PL gold: зятьёв predicted: зятей

перстень pos=N,case=GEN,num=PL gold: перстней predicted: перстеее

телекамера pos=N,case=GEN,num=PL gold: телекамер predicted: телекаморо

[Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017]

## Morphological (Re-)Inflection (10 Languages): Neural encoder–decoders

1) Extract input–output string alignments; 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)



## Errors

лоботряс pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: лоботрясов predicted: лоботрясы

львица pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: львиц predicted: львица

милиционер pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: милиционеров predicted: милиционеры

светлячок pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: светлячков predicted: светлячки

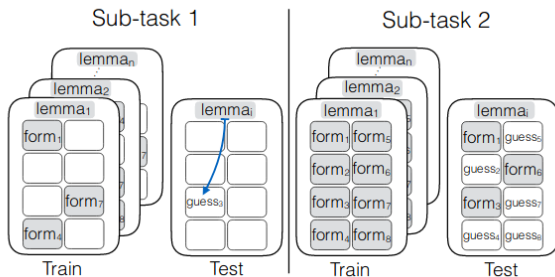
скот pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: скотов predicted: скоты

счёт pos=N,case=ACC,num=PL gold: счета predicted: счёты

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (52 Languages)

Task1: Morphological Reinflection

Task2: Paradigm Completion



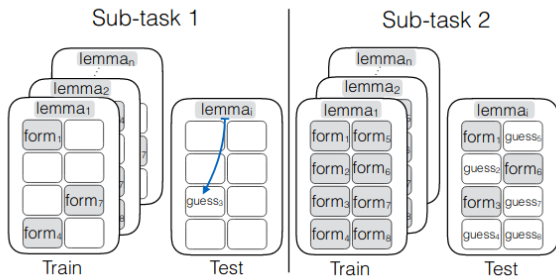


[Cotterell et al., 2017]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (52 Languages)

3 Settings: Low (100 samples), Medium (1000), High (10,000)

Sampled based on their token frequency in Wikipedia corpus (with resampling for syncretic slots)



[Cotterell et al., 2017]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (52 Languages)

3 Settings: Low (100 samples), Medium (1000), High (10,000)  
 Sampled based on their token frequency in Wikipedia corpus (with resampling for syncretic slots)



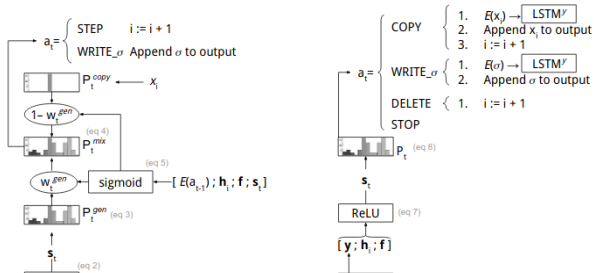
	Sub-task 1			Sub-task 2		
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low
Albanian	99.00(UE-LMU)	89.40(CU-1)	31.00(CU-1)	98.35(LMU-2)	88.81(LMU-1)	66.63(LMU-2)
Arabic	94.50(CLUZH-7)	79.70(LMU-2)	37.00(CLUZH-7)	95.48(LMU-2)	90.21(LMU-2)	80.43(LMU-2)
Armenian	97.50(UE-LMU)	91.50(LMU-2)	58.70(CLUZH-7)	98.78(LMU-2)	97.77(LMU-2)	93.92(LMU-2)
Basque	100.00(UTNII-1)	89.00(UE-LMU)	20.00(LMU-2)	—	94.14(LMU-2)	93.02(LMU-2)
Bengali	100.00(UE-LMU)	99.00(CLUZH-1)	68.00(CLUZH-3)	92.61(LMU-1)	91.72(LMU-2)	90.19(LMU-2)
Bulgarian	98.10(UE-LMU)	82.50(LMU-2)	57.10(CU-1)	85.93(LMU-2)	55.95(LMU-2)	49.58(LMU-2)
Catalan	98.40(CLUZH-1)	92.60(CLUZH-7)	66.40(CU-1)	99.35(LMU-2)	97.06(LMU-2)	94.16(baseline)
Czech	94.10(UE-LMU)	86.30(CU-1)	44.00(CLUZH-7)	86.00(LMU-1)	58.61(LMU-2)	34.96(LMU-2)
Danish	94.50(UE-LMU)	83.60(LMU-2)	75.50(CLUZH-7)	75.74(LMU-2)	71.15(baseline)	53.11(CU-1)
Dutch	96.90(UE-LMU)	86.50(LMU-2)	53.60(baseline)	89.30(LMU-2)	86.53(LMU-2)	56.64(LMU-2)
English	97.20(UE-LMU)	94.70(LMU-2)	90.60(UA-1)	91.60(baseline)	84.00(baseline)	84.40(CU-1)
Estonian	98.90(UE-LMU)	82.40(UE-LMU)	32.90(CLUZH-7)	97.90(LMU-2)	92.43(LMU-2)	77.42(LMU-2)
Faroese	87.80(CLUZH-7)	68.10(CLUZH-7)	42.40(CLUZH-7)	71.90(LMU-2)	68.31(LMU-2)	57.55(LMU-2)
Finnish	95.10(UE-LMU)	78.40(UE-LMU)	19.70(CLUZH-7)	93.67(LMU-2)	89.48(LMU-2)	76.30(LMU-2)
French	89.50(UE-LMU)	80.30(CLUZH-7)	66.00(CLUZH-7)	98.83(LMU-2)	95.38(LMU-2)	87.45(LMU-2)
Georgian	99.40(LMU-2)	93.40(CLUZH-7)	85.60(LMU-2)	96.20(LMU-2)	89.67(LMU-2)	86.82(LMU-2)
German	93.00(UE-LMU)	80.00(CLUZH-4)	68.10(CLUZH-4)	85.88(LMU-2)	77.56(LMU-2)	74.66(LMU-2)

[Makarov et al., 2017]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (52 Languages): Neural encoder–decoders



- 1) (Align & Copy): Based on Aharoni and Goldberg, 2017
- 2) Extract input–output string alignments (add COPY/edit operations)
- 2) Train seq2seq (LSTM-based) models to learn a sequence of operations (hard monotonic attention)



[Makarov et al., 2017]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (52 Languages)

3 Settings: Low (100 samples), Medium (1000), High (10,000)  
 Sampled based on their token frequency in Wikipedia corpus (with  
 resampling for syncretic slots)



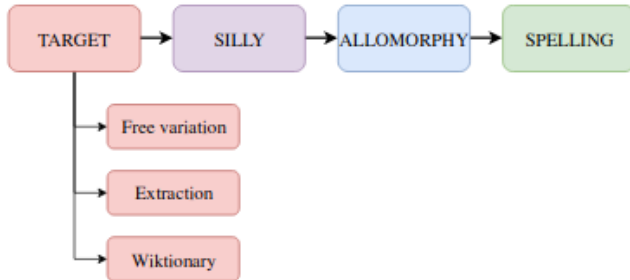
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	$t$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	$t$
$\langle s \rangle$		f		l		o			g				$\langle s \rangle$	$y$	f	l			o	g				$y$
	STEP		STEP		STEP		STEP	STEP		STEP	STEP	STEP			COPY	COPY	DELETE	DELETE		COPY	DELETE	DELETE	STOP	
$\langle s \rangle$	$\langle s \rangle$	f	f	l	l	i	i	e	g	g	e	n	$\langle s \rangle$	$a_t$	f	l	i	e	g	g	e	n	-	$a_t$
0	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	$x_i$	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	7	$x_i$
														$i$										$i$

Table 1: Examples of generating German “flog” from “fliegen”: HACM (left), HAEM (right).  $i$  is the attention pointer,  $x_i$  the currently attended lemma character,  $a$  the sequence of actions,  $y$  the output,  $t$  the index over actions.

[Gorman et al., 2019]

## Error taxonomy

What are common errors that neural systems make?



[Gorman et al., 2019]

## Error taxonomy

What are common errors that neural systems make?



## Types of Errors

- ✓ Free variation error: more than one acceptable form exists
- ✓ Extraction errors: flaws in UniMorph's parsing of Wiktionary
- ✓ Wiktionary errors: errors in the Wiktionary data itself
- ✓ Silly errors: "bizarre" errors which defy any purely linguistic characterization ("\*membled" instead of "mailed" or enters a loop such as "ynawemaylmyylmyylmyylmyylmyylmyym..." instead of "ysnewem")
- ✓ Allomorphy errors: misapplication of existing allomorphic patterns
- ✓ Spelling errors: forms that do not follow language-specific orthographic conventions

[Gorman et al., 2019]

## Error taxonomy

What are common errors that neural systems make?



Language	Target	Silly		Allomorphy		Spelling	
		UE-LMU-1	CLUZH-7	UE-LMU-1	CLUZH-7	UE-LMU-1	CLUZH-7
Dutch	8	1	1	19	16	5	7
English	3	0	0	18	18	7	11
Finnish	11	7	7	33	48	0	0
German	3	4	10	54	67	9	9
Hungarian	83	21	9	37	44	1	0
Italian	5	5	1	11	16	0	2
Latin	119	2	0	76	93	0	0
Polish	5	6	3	60	67	2	4
Portuguese	1	1	0	6	7	1	2
Romanian	54	3	5	61	69	1	2
Russian	7	7	0	48	45	23	28
Spanish	7	2	1	12	12	6	6
Total	306	59	37	435	502	55	71

[Gorman et al., 2019]

## Error taxonomy

What are common errors that neural systems make?



## Allomorphy Errors

- ✓ Stem-final vowels in Finnish (\*pohjanpystykorvojen); Consonant gradation in Finnish (\*ei kiemurda)
- ✓ Ablaut in Dutch and German (\*pront; \*saupte)
- ✓ Umlaut (\*Einwohnerzähle, \*Förmer), plural suffixes, Verbal prefixes in German (\*umkehre)
- ✓ Linking vowels in Hungarian (\*masszázsakból instead of \*masszázsokból)
- ✓ Yers (\*kłęsek instead of kłęsk), Genitive singular suffixes in Polish (\*izotopa)
- ✓ Animacy in Polish and Russian (грузин vs. магазин in ACC.SG )
- ✓ Aspect in Russian (\*будешь сорвать)
- ✓ Internal inflection in Russian compounds (\*государствах-донорах, \*лёгких промышленности (ACC.PL))



[Cotterell et al., 2018]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (103 Languages)

Task1: Morphological Reinflection (Low, Medium, High)

Task2: Inflection in Context



[Cotterell et al., 2018]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (103 Languages)

Task1: Morphological Reinflection (Low, Medium, High)

Task2: Inflection in Context



	High	Medium	Low
uzb-01	<b>96.00 / 0.08</b>	<b>86.64 / 0.26</b>	57.18 / 1.00
uzb-02	95.97 / 0.08	86.38 / 0.27	<b>57.21 / 1.02</b>
bme-02	94.66 / 0.11	67.26 / 0.88	2.43 / 6.91
iithu-iith-01	94.43 / 0.11	82.90 / 0.34	49.79 / 1.18
iithu-iith-02	94.43 / 0.11	84.19 / 0.32	52.60 / 1.10
bme-03	93.97 / 0.12	67.36 / 0.75	3.63 / 6.75
bme-01	93.88 / 0.12	67.43 / 0.75	3.74 / 6.72
msc-04	91.87 / 0.23	76.40 / 0.55	31.40 / 2.16
it-varanasi-01	91.73 / 0.16	70.17 / 0.66	23.33 / 2.40
waseda-01	91.12 / 0.19	77.38 / 0.67	44.09 / 1.68
msc-03	90.52 / 0.25	75.74 / 0.55	25.86 / 2.38
axsemantics-01	84.19 / 0.40	58.00 / 1.10	72.00 / 0.96
msc-02	82.68 / 0.41	69.45 / 0.79	41.61 / 1.86
racai-01	79.93 / 0.43	— / —	— / —
hamburg-01	77.53 / 0.44	74.03 / 0.54	40.28 / 1.45
axsemantics-02	74.77 / 0.68	60.00 / 1.03	14.89 / 3.89
msc-01	74.33 / 0.78	66.57 / 0.63	— / —
tuebingen-oslo-03	63.05 / 1.15	30.98 / 2.25	1.39 / 5.70
tuebingen-oslo-02	56.60 / 1.34	29.72 / 2.36	4.43 / 5.06
kucst-01	54.37 / 1.57	32.28 / 2.23	2.79 / 5.28
tuebingen-oslo-01	49.52 / 1.67	20.97 / 2.81	0.00 / 7.94
ua-08	— / —	— / —	53.22 / 1.35
ua-05	— / —	— / —	50.53 / 1.34
ua-06	— / —	— / —	49.73 / 1.46
ua-03	— / —	— / —	44.82 / 1.45
ua-02	— / —	— / —	41.61 / 2.47
ua-07	— / —	— / —	39.52 / 1.76
ua-01	— / —	— / —	38.22 / 2.02
ua-04	— / —	— / —	21.25 / 3.43
baseline	77.42 / 0.51	63.53 / 0.90	38.89 / 1.88
oracle-fc	99.87 / —	98.27 / —	77.23 / —
oracle-e	98.90 / —	93.74 / —	74.88 / —

[Cotterell et al., 2018]

## Universal Morphological Reinflection (103 Languages)

Task1: Morphological Reinflection (Low, Medium, High)

Task2: Inflection in Context



Pashto	100.00(waseda-1)	85.00(uzh-1)	48.00(uzh-2)
Persian	99.90(bme-2)	93.40(uzh-2)	67.60(uzh-2)
Polish	93.40(uzh-2)	82.40(uzh-2)	49.40(ua-6)
Portuguese	98.60(uzh-2)	94.80(uzh-2)	75.80(uzh-2)
Quechua	99.90(uzh-2)	98.90(uzh-1)	70.20(uzh-2)
Romanian	89.00(uzh-2)	77.60(uzh-1)	46.20(uzh-1)
Russian	94.40(uzh-2)	86.90(uzh-1)	53.50(uzh-1)
Sanskrit	96.50(uzh-1)	85.90(uzh-2)	58.00(uzh-1)
Scottish-gaelic	—	94.00(iitbhu-iiith-1)	74.00(iitbhu-iiiith-2)
Serbo-croatian	92.40(uzh-2)	86.10(uzh-1)	44.80(ua-3)
Slovak	97.10(uzh-1)	78.60(uzh-1)	51.80(uzh-2)
Slovene	97.40(uzh-1)	86.20(uzh-1)	58.00(uzh-2)

[McCarthy et al., 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context



### Low-resource target training data (Asturian)

facar	“fechu”	V;V.PTCP;PST
aguar	“aguà”	V;PRS;2;PL;IND
⋮	⋮	⋮

### High-resource source language training data (Spanish)

tocar	“tocando”	V;V.PTCP;PRS
bailar	“bailaba”	V;PST;IPFV;3;SG;IND
mentir	“mintió”	V;PST;PFV;3;SG;IND
⋮	⋮	⋮

### Test input (Asturian)

baxar V;V.PTCP;PRS

### Test output (Asturian)

“baxando”

[McCarthy et al., 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context



Team	Avg. Accuracy	Avg. Levenshtein
AX-01	18.54	3.62
AX-02	24.99	2.72
CMU-03	<b>58.79</b>	1.52
IT-IST-01	49.00	<b>1.29</b>
IT-IST-02	50.18	1.32
Tuebingen-01†	34.49	1.88
Tuebingen-02†	20.86	2.36
UAlberta-01*	48.33	1.23
UAlberta-02*†	54.75	1.03
UAlberta-03*†	8.45	4.06
UAlberta-04*†	11.00	3.86
UAlberta-05*	4.10	3.08
UAlberta-06*†	26.85	2.65
Baseline	48.55	1.33

[McCarthy et al., 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context

czech-kashubian	52.0	78.0	CMU-03	polish-kashubian	74.0	78.0	CMU-03
czech-latin	8.4	42.0	CMU-03	polish-old-church-slavonic	40.0	58.0	CMU-03
danish-middle-high-german	72.0	82.0	it-ist-02	portuguese-russian	27.5	76.3	CMU-03
danish-middle-low-german	36.0	44.0	it-ist-01	romanian-latin	6.7	41.3	CMU-03
danish-north-frisian	28.0	46.0	CMU-03	russian-old-church-slavonic	34.0	64.0	CMU-03
danish-west-frisian	42.0	43.0	CMU-03	russian-portuguese	50.5	88.4	CMU-03
danish-yiddish	76.0	67.0	it-ist-01	sanskrit-bengali	33.0	65.0	CMU-03
dutch-middle-high-german	76.0	78.0	it-ist-01 / it-ist-02	sanskrit-pashto	34.0	43.0	CMU-03
dutch-middle-low-german	42.0	52.0	it-ist-02	slovak-kashubian	54.0	76.0	CMU-03
dutch-north-frisian	32.0	46.0	CMU-03	slovene-old-saxon	10.6	53.2	CMU-03
dutch-west-frisian	38.0	51.0	it-ist-02	sorani-irish	27.6	66.3	CMU-03
dutch-yiddish	78.0	64.0	it-ist-01	spanish-friulian	53.0	81.0	CMU-03
english-murrinhpatha	22.0	42.0	it-ist-02	spanish-occitan	57.0	78.0	CMU-03
english-north-frisian	31.0	42.0	CMU-03	swahili-quechua	13.9	92.1	CMU-03
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



[Anastasopoulos and Neubig, 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context



Model	Accuracy	Median
Wu and Cotterell (2019)	48.5	45.5
this work	48.8	67.0
+ $\mathcal{H}$	60.1	66.6
+ $\mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_I$	60.8	66.0
+multi-language transfer	<b>63.8</b>	64.0
oracle	68.2	74.0

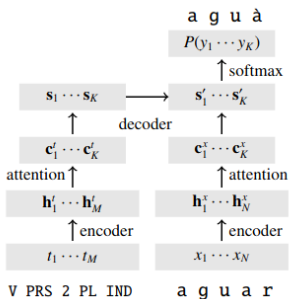
Table 1: Macro-averaged accuracy over 100 language test pairs. Our best model outperforms the baseline by 15 percentage points.

[Anastasopoulos and Neubig, 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context





[Anastasopoulos and Neubig, 2019]

## Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection (100 Language Pairs)

Task1: Cross-lingual Transfer for Morphological Inflection (10k HR +100 LR)

Task2: Inflection in Context



Original triple	<i>stem</i>	<i>stem</i>
lemma	παράκαμπτω	
+V;2; SG;IPFV;PST	παρέκαμπτες	
<hr/>		
Hallucinated		
lemma	πξρ ακάμωτω	
+V;2; SG;IPFV;PST	πξρ έκαμωτες	

Figure 2: Example of our hallucination process (Greek). The lemma and inflected forms are aligned at the character level. The inside of *stem*-considered parts (highlighted) are substituted with random characters, creating hallucinated triples (bottom).

## SIGMORPHON Shared Task 2016–2019

*PLAY* + PRESENT PARTICIPLE → *playing*

*played* + PRESENT PARTICIPLE → *playing*

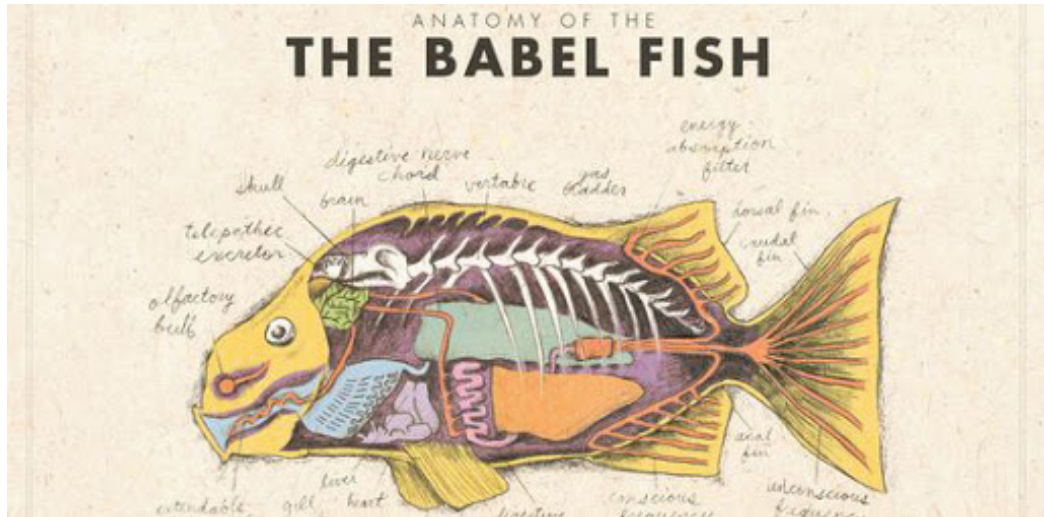


Lemma	Tag	Form
<i>RUN</i>	PAST	<i>ran</i>
<i>RUN</i>	PRES;1SG	<i>run</i>
<i>RUN</i>	PRES;2SG	<i>run</i>
<i>RUN</i>	PRES;3SG	<i>runs</i>
<i>RUN</i>	PRES;PL	<i>run</i>
<i>RUN</i>	PART	<i>running</i>

But much less well  
in low-resource setting

2018 :~ 96% accuracy on avg.  
in high-resource setting

# Increasing Multilinguality



# Languages differ in many ways!

Some exhibit rich grammatical case systems (e.g., 12 in Erzya and 24 in Veps)

Some mark possessiveness

Others might have complex verbal morphology (e.g., Oto-Manguean languages)

Even “decline” nouns for tense (e.g., Tupi–Guarani languages)

# Languages differ in many ways!

Let's Discuss The Following Dimensions:

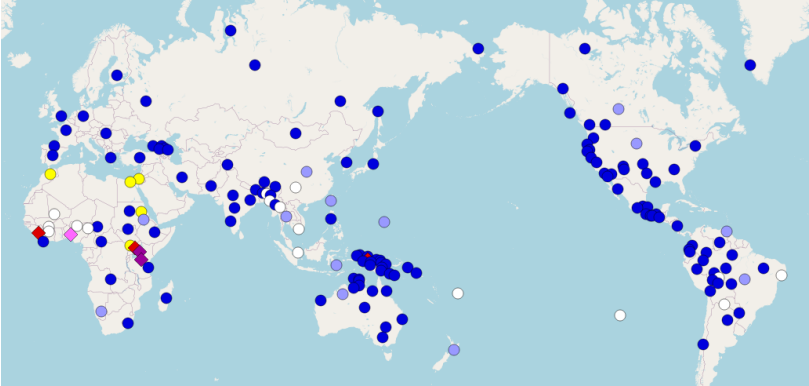


**Fusion**

**Inflectional Synthesis**

**Position of Case Affixes**

# Fusion (WALS 20A)



●	Exclusively concatenative	125
○	Exclusively isolating	16
◆	Exclusively tonal	3
◆	Tonal/isolating	1
◆	Tonal/concatenative	2
●	Ablaut/concatenative	5
●	Isolating/concatenative	13

# Fusion (WALS 20A)

From isolating to concatenative

Concatenative morphology is the most common system

Non-linearities such as ablaut or tonal morphology can also be present

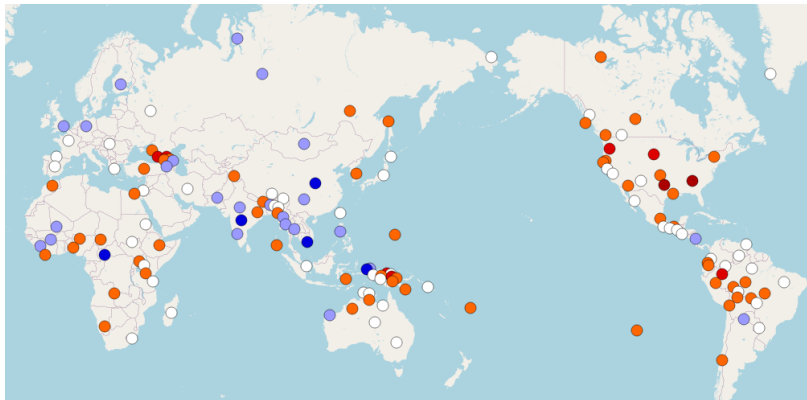
Isolating languages: the Sahel Belt in West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Tonal-concatenative morphology can be found in Mesoamerican languages



●	Exclusively concatenative	120
○	Exclusively isolating	16
◆	Exclusively tonal	3
◆	Tonal/isolating	1
◆	Tonal/concatenative	2
●	Ablaut/concatenative	5
●	Isolating/concatenative	13

# Inflectional Synthesis of the Verb (WALS 22A)



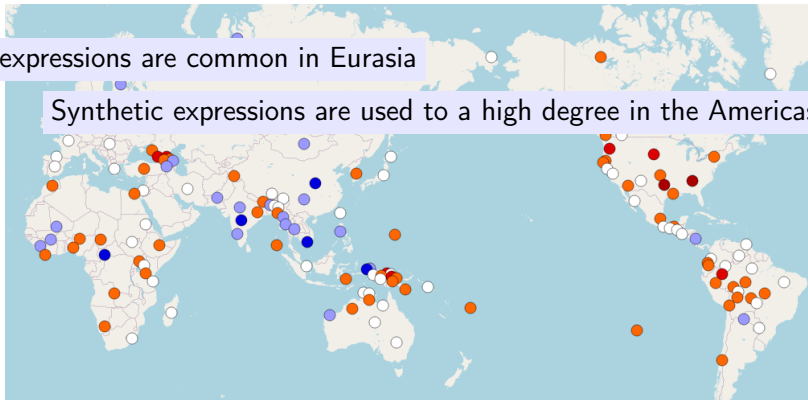
● (Dark Blue)	0-1 category per word	5
● (Light Blue)	2-3 categories per word	24
○ (White)	4-5 categories per word	52
● (Orange)	6-7 categories per word	31
● (Light Orange)	8-9 categories per word	24
● (Red)	10-11 categories per word	7
● (Dark Red)	12-13 categories per word	2



# Inflectional Synthesis of the Verb (WALS 22A)

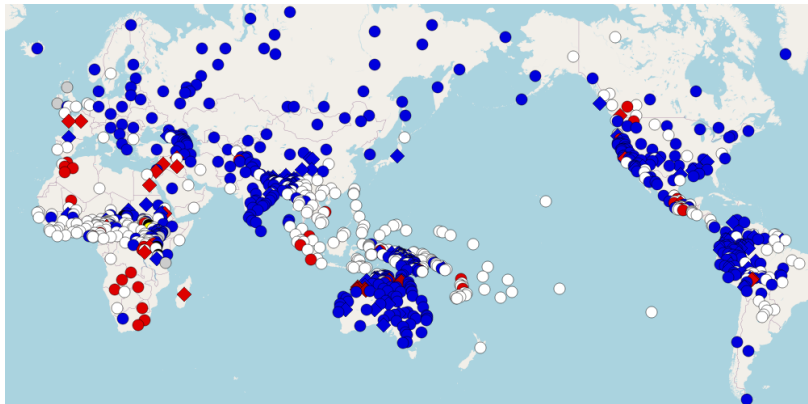
Analytic expressions are common in Eurasia

Synthetic expressions are used to a high degree in the Americas



● (Dark Blue)	0-1 category per word	5
● (Light Blue)	2-3 categories per word	24
○ (White)	4-5 categories per word	52
● (Orange)	6-7 categories per word	31
● (Light Orange)	8-9 categories per word	24
● (Red)	10-11 categories per word	7
● (Dark Red)	12-13 categories per word	2

# Position of Case Affixes (WALS 51A)



●	Case suffixes	452
●	Case prefixes	38
●	Case tone	5
●	Case stem change	1
●	Mixed morphological case	9
◆	Postpositional clitics	123
◆	Prepositional clitics	17
◆	Inpositional clitics	7

# Position of Case Affixes (WALS 51A)

Can variably surface as prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes

Suffixation: Most Eurasian and Australian languages

to a lesser extent in South American and New Guinean languages

Prefixation: Mesoamerican languages and African languages spoken below the Sahara



●	Case suffixes	452
●	Case prefixes	38
●	Case tone	5
●	Case stem change	1
●	Mixed morphological case	9
◆	Postpositional clitics	123
◆	Prepositional clitics	17
◆	Inpositional clitics	7

As Bender(2009, 2016) notes architectures and training and tuning algorithms still present language-specific biases



As Bender(2009, 2016) notes architectures and training and tuning algorithms still present language-specific biases



Let's focus on typological diversity and aim to investigate systems' ability to generalize across typologically distinct languages!

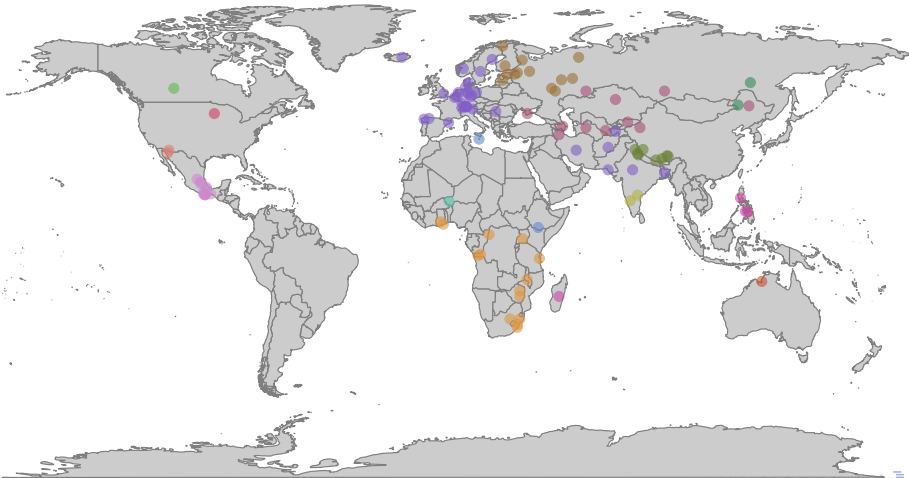
As Bender(2009, 2016) notes architectures and training and tuning algorithms still present language-specific biases



Let's focus on typological diversity and aim to investigate systems' ability to generalize across typologically distinct languages!

If a model works well for a sample of IE languages, should the same model also work well for Tupi-Guarani languages?

90 Languages from 13 languages families



# Three Phases

## Development

2 months; train & dev: 45 languages from 5 families (Austronesian, Niger-Congo, Oto-Manguean, Uralic, IE)

## Generalization

1 week; train & dev: 45 languages from 10 families ( Afro-Asiatic, Algic, Dravidian, Indo-European, Niger-Congo, Sino-Tibetan, Siouan, Songhay, Southern Daly, Tungusic, Turkic, Uralic, and Uto-Aztecan)

## Evaluation

1 week; test: all 90 languages



## Preparation

- ✓ Manually converted their features (tags) into the UniMorph format
- ✓ Canonicalized (<https://github.com/unimorph/um-canonicalize>) the converted language data

## Splitting

- ✓ Used only noun, verb, and adjective forms to construct training, development, and evaluation sets.
- ✓ Randomly sampled 70%, 10%, and 20% for train, development, and test, respectively.
- ✓ Zarma, Tajik, Lingala, Ludian, Māori, Sotho, Võro, Anglo-Norman, and Zulu contain less than 400 training samples

## Non-neural

Simple alignment-based as in previous years (Cotterell et al., 2017;2018)

## Neural

- ✓ Neural transducer (Wu et al, 2019), which is essentially a hard monotonic attention model (mono-\*)
- ✓ Transformer adopted for character-level tasks Wu et al, (2020; trm-\*), SoTA on ST 2017
- + data augmentation technique used by Anastasopoulos et al. (2019;-aug-)
- + family-wise shared parameters (\*-shared)

Team	Description	System	Model Features			
			Neural	Ensemble	Multilingual	Hallucination
Baseline	wu2019exact	mono-single	✓			
		mono-aug-single	✓			✓
		mono-shared	✓		✓	
		mono-aug-shared	✓		✓	✓
	wu2020applying	trm-single	✓			
		trm-aug-single	✓			✓
		trm-shared	✓		✓	
		trm-aug-shared	✓		✓	✓

10 teams submitted 22 systems in total, out of which 19 were neural

Team	Description	System	Model Features			
			Neural	Ensemble	Multilingual	Hallucination
CMU Tartan	Jayarao et al.(2020)	cmu_tartan_00-0	✓			✓
		cmu_tartan_00-1	✓		✓	✓
		cmu_tartan_01-0	✓			✓
		cmu_tartan_01-1	✓		✓	✓
		cmu_tartan_02-1	✓		✓	✓
CU7565	Beemer et al. (2020)	CU7565-01-0				
		CU7565-02-0				
CULing	Liu et al. (2020)	CULing-01-0	✓	✓		
DeepSpin	Peters et al. (2020)	deepspin-01-1	✓		✓	
		deepspin-02-1	✓		✓	
ETH Zurich	Forster et al. (2020)	ETHZ00-1	✓		✓	
		ETHZ02-1	✓		✓	
Flexica	Scherbakov (2020)	flexica-01-0				
		flexica-02-1	✓		✓	
		flexica-03-1	✓		✓	✓
IMS	Yu et al. (2020)	IMS-00-0	✓	✓		✓
LTI	Murikinati et al. (2020)	LTI-00-1	✓		✓	✓
NYU-CUBoulder	Singer et al. (2020)	NYU-CUBoulder-01-0	✓	✓		✓
		NYU-CUBoulder-02-0	✓			✓
		NYU-CUBoulder-03-0	✓	✓		✓
		NYU-CUBoulder-04-0	✓			✓
UIUC	Canby et al. (2020)	uiuc-01-0	✓			

## Systems: Description (\* – winning system)

### Improving neural baselines

- ✓ **\*UIUC**: transformers with synchronous bidirectional decoding technique (Zhou et al., 2019) and family-wise fine-tuning
- ✓ **ETH Zurich**: exact decoding strategy that uses Dijkstra's search algorithm

### Improving previous years' models: Hard Monotonic Attention

- ✓ **IMS**: L2R+R2L models with a genetic algorithm for ensemble search and data hallucination
- ✓ **Flexica**: multilingual (family-wise) model with improved alignment strategy
- + new data hallucination technique based on phonotactic modelling

## Systems: Description (\* – winning system)

### Improving their 2019 models

- ✓ **LTI**: multi-source encoder–decoder with two-step attention architecture + cross-lingual transfer + data hallucination + romanization of scripts
- ✓ **\*DeepSpin**: massively multilingual (all languages) gated sparse two-headed attention model with sparsemax
- + 1.5-entmax

### Transformer vs. LSTMs

- ✓ **CMU Tartan**: compared transformer- and LSTM-based encoder–decoders trained mono- and multilingually with data hallucination

## Systems: Description (\* – winning system)

### Ensembles of Transformers

- ✓ **NYU-CUBoulder**: compared vanilla and pointer-generator (monolingual) transformers + ensembles of three and five pointer-generator transformers + data hallucination (less than 1,000 samples)
- ✓ **\*CULing**: ensemble of three (monolingual) transformers + augmented the initial input (that only used the lemma as a source form) with entries corresponding to other (non-lemma) slots (reinflection) to improve learning of principal parts of paradigm

## Systems: Description (\* – winning system)

### Non-neural systems

- ✓ **CU7565**: manually developed finite-state grammars for 25 languages
- + hierarchical paradigm clustering (based on similarity of string transformation rules)
- ✓ **Flexica**: a method similar to Hulden (2014) but with transformation rules treated independently and assigned a score based on their frequency, specificity and diversity of surrounding characters



# Evaluation

- ✓ Per-language accuracy
- ✓ Per-language Levenstein distance
- ✓ Takes into account the statistical significance of differences between systems

## Ranking

Any system which is the same (as assessed via statistical significance) as the best performing one is also ranked 1<sup>st</sup> for that language.

For genus/family:

We aggregate the systems' ranks and re-rank them based on the amount of times they ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.

# Results: 4 winning systems (outperform baselines)

uiuc-01-0	2.4	90.5
deepspin-02-1	2.9	90.9
BASE: trm-single	2.8	90.1
CULing-01-0	3.2	91.2
deepspin-01-1	3.8	90.5
BASE: trm-aug-single	3.7	90.3
NYU-CUBoulder-04-0	7.1	88.8
NYU-CUBoulder-03-0	8.9	88.8
NYU-CUBoulder-02-0	8.9	88.7
IMS-00-0	10.6	89.2
NYU-CUBoulder-01-0	9.6	88.6
BASE: trm-shared	10.3	85.9
BASE: mono-aug-single	7.5	88.8
cmu_tartan_00-0	8.7	87.1
BASE: mono-single	7.9	85.8
cmu_tartan_01-1	9.0	87.1
BASE: trm-aug-shared	12.5	86.5
BASE: mono-shared	10.8	86.0
cmu_tartan_00-1	9.4	86.5
LTI-00-1	12.0	86.6
BASE: mono-aug-shared	12.8	86.8
cmu_tartan_02-1	10.6	86.1
cmu_tartan_01-0	10.9	86.6
flexica-03-1	16.7	79.6
ETHZ-00-1	20.1	75.6
*CU7565-01-0	24.1	90.7
flexica-02-1	17.1	78.5
*CU7565-02-0	19.2	83.6
ETHZ-02-1	17.0	80.9
flexica-01-0	24.4	70.8
Oracle (Baselines)		96.1
Oracle (Submissions)		97.7
Oracle (All)		97.9

# Results: 4 winning systems (outperform baselines)

The baselines and the submissions are complementary

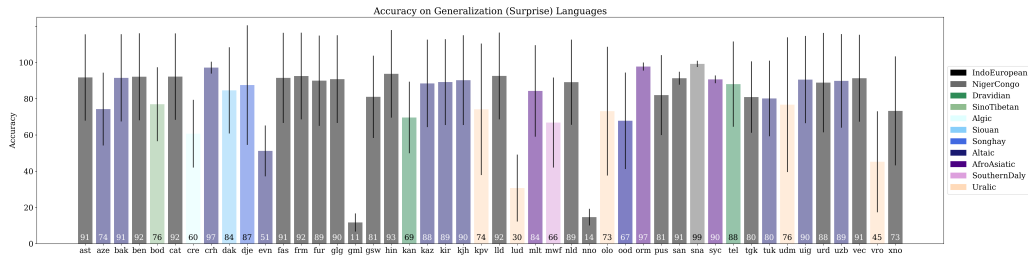
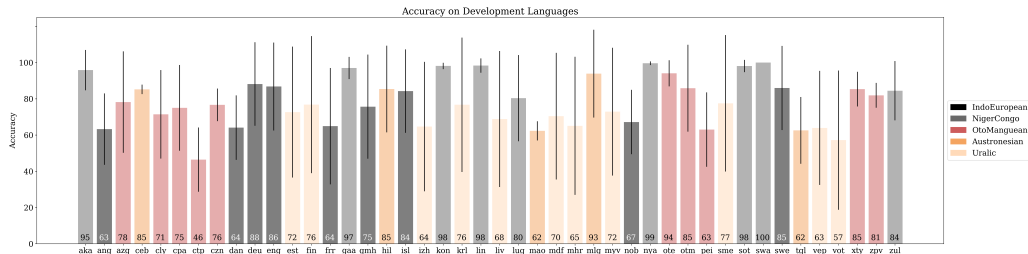
adding them together increases the oracle scored

The largest gaps in oracle systems are observed in Algic, Oto-Manguean

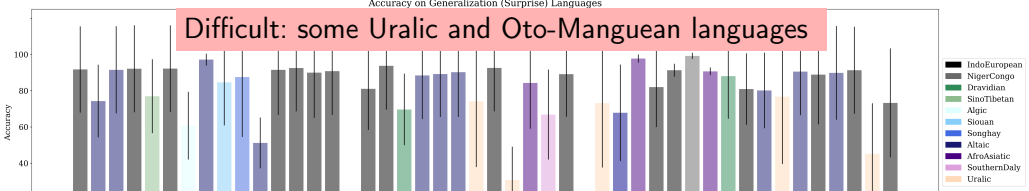
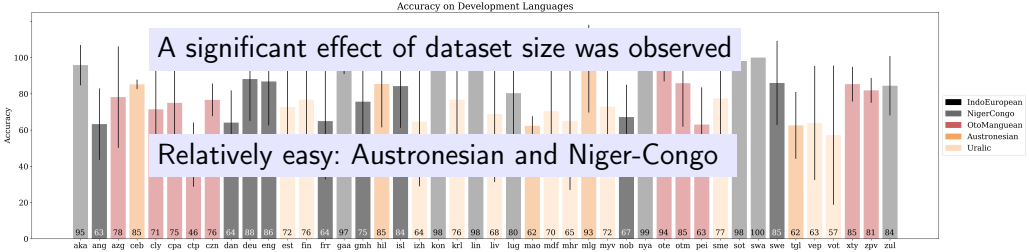
Sino-Tibetan, Southern Daly, Tungusic, and Uto-Aztecan families

uiuc-01-0	2.4	90.5
deensin-01-1	3.8	90.5
NYU-CUBoulder-03-0	8.9	88.8
NYU-CUBoulder-02-0	8.9	88.7
IMS-00-0	10.6	89.2
NYU-CUBoulder-01-0	9.6	88.6
BASE: trm-shared	10.3	85.9
BASE: mono-aug-single	7.5	88.8
cmu_tartan_00-0	8.7	87.1
BASE: mono-aug-shared	10.8	86.0
BASE: mono-aug-shared	12.8	86.8
cmu_tartan_02-1	10.6	86.1
cmu_tartan_01-0	10.9	86.6
flexica-03-1	16.7	79.6
ETHZ-00-1	20.1	75.6
*CU7565-01-0	24.1	90.7
flexica-02-1	17.1	78.5
*CU7565-02-0	19.2	83.6
ETHZ-02-1	17.0	80.9
flexica-01-0	24.4	70.8
Oracle (Baselines)		96.1
Oracle (Submissions)		97.7
Oracle (All)		97.9

# Accuracy by language averaged across all submissions



# Accuracy by language averaged across all submissions



Challenging: Ludic, Norwegian Nynorsk, Middle Low German, Evenki, and O'odham

Is developing morphological grammars manually worthwhile?



**CU7565** manually designed finite-state grammars for 25 languages

- ✓ Paradigms of some languages were relatively easy to describe but neural networks also performed quite well
- ✓ For Ingrian and Tagalog (LRL) grammars demonstrate superior performance but this comes at the expense of a significant amount of person-hours

What is the best training strategy for low-resource languages?



- ✓ Hallucinated data highlighted its utility for LRLs.
- ✓ Augmenting the data with tuples where lemmas are replaced with non-lemma forms and their tags
- ✓ Multilingual training
- ✓ Ensembles

Systematic Errors:



## Data Inconsistency

The train, development and test sets contain 2%, 0.3%, and 0.6% inconsistent entries

Highest rates: Azerbaijani, Old English, Cree, Danish, Middle Low German , Kannada, Norwegian Bokmål, Chichimec, and Veps

Dialectal variations in Finno-Ugric and Tungusic





## Niger-Congo

---



Mean accuracy across systems was very good at 96.4 (62.8% to 100%)

✓ Most languages in this family are considered low resource, and the resources used for data gathering may have been biased towards the languages' regular forms

## Sino-Tibetan (Tibetan)



Mean accuracy across systems was average at 82.1% (67.9% to 85.1%)

- ✓ Majority errors are related to allomorphy
- ✓ Nonce words and impossible combinations of component units (Di et al., 2019)



## Tungusic (Evenki)



Mean accuracy across systems was average at 53.8% (43.5% to 59.0%)

- ✓ The dataset was created from oral speech samples in various dialects of the language; there was little attempt at any standardization in the oral speech transcription
- ✓ Annotation: various past tense forms are all annotated as PST, or there are several comitative suffixes all annotated as COM
- ✓ Annotation: some features are present in the word form but they receive no annotation at all

## AND.....TO CONCLUDE:



- ✓ Submissions were able to make productive use of multilingual training
- ✓ Data augmentation techniques such as hallucination helped
- ✓ Combined with architecture tweaks like sparsemax, it resulted in excellent overall performance on many languages
- ✓ Some morphology types and language families (Tungusic, Oto-Manguean, Southern Daly) are still challenging
- ✓ In some languages (Ingrian, Tajik, Tagalog, Zarma, and Lingala) hand-encoding linguist knowledge in finite state grammars resulted in best performance



## AN Some Linguistic Analysis:

Modeling morphological learning, typology, and change:

✓ Submi What can the neural sequence-to-sequence framework contribute?

✓ Data : (Elsner, Sims et al, 2019) ch as hallucination helped

✓ Combined with architecture tweaks like sparsemax, it resulted in excellent overall performance on many languages

✓ Some morphology types and language families (Tungusic, Oto-Manguean, Southern Daly) are still

## Some Linguistic Analysis:

✓ In Lexical databases for computational analyses: a, and Lingala) hand-encoding linguist

know A linguistic perspective mmars resulted in best performance

(Malouf, Ackerman, Semenuks, 2020)

## SIGMORPHON–UNIMORPH 2021 Shared Task! Please Join!



- ✓ Part 1: Generalization Across Languages (focusing on under-resourced languages; extracting data from FSTs (e.g., Apertium) and grammar books)
- ✓ Part 2 (with Ben Ambridge): Human-like Generalization: “wug” tests across languages

Thank you! Questions?

