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SCOR Chair on mortality research (Workshop)

# Using Sequences of Life-events to Predict Human Lives



### About Me



- Originally from Latvia
- MSc in Human-Centered AI (DTU)
- PhD in Computational Social Science (DTU)
- (Previously) Lecturer in Algorithmic Fairness, Accountability, and Ethics (ITU)
- Upcoming **Postdoctoral Associate Researcher** at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences (Northeastern University):
  - Trustworthy Network Science
  - Fair and Just Machine Learning
  - Team Formation Problem



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# Using sequences of life-events to predict human lives

<u>Germans Savcisens</u>, <u>Tina Eliassi-Rad</u>, <u>Lars Kai Hansen</u>, <u>Laust Hvas Mortensen</u>, <u>Lau Lilleholt</u>, <u>Anna</u> <u>Rogers</u>, <u>Ingo Zettler</u> & <u>Sune Lehmann</u> <sup>⊡</sup>

Nature Computational Science 4, 43–56 (2024) Cite this article

Code Availability:SocialComplexityLab/life2vec (github.com)carlomarxdk/life2vec-light (github.com)

### Main contributions of the research:

- 1. Propose a framework (transformer-based) to analyze large-scale socioeconomic and health data
- 2. Demonstrate the power of dense representation
- 3. Adapt explainability methods to understand predictions

# Agenda

Introduction

Part I: Data

Part II: Representation Learning and NLP

Part III: Forming Labour and Health Language

**Part IV**: Capturing the structure with the life2vec

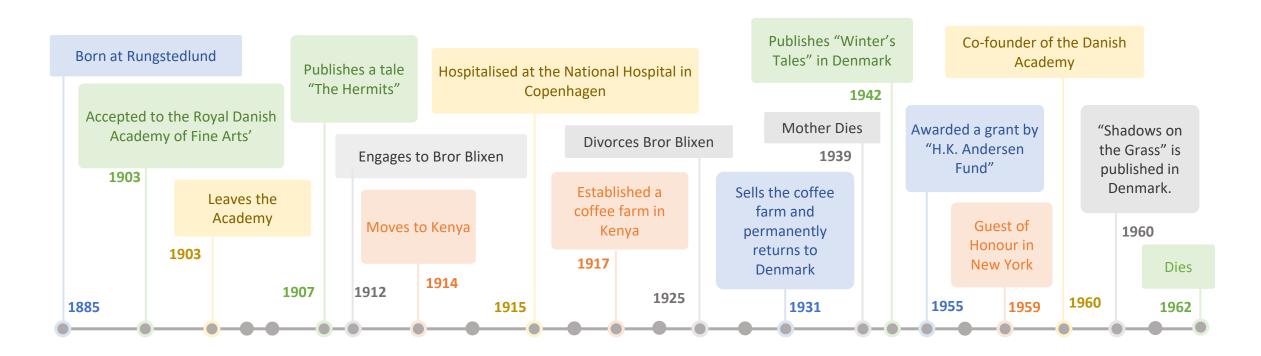
**Part V**: life2vec as a foundation model

Conclusion



# Life Trajectories

Life of Karen Blixen\* (Danish author)



### **The Problem**

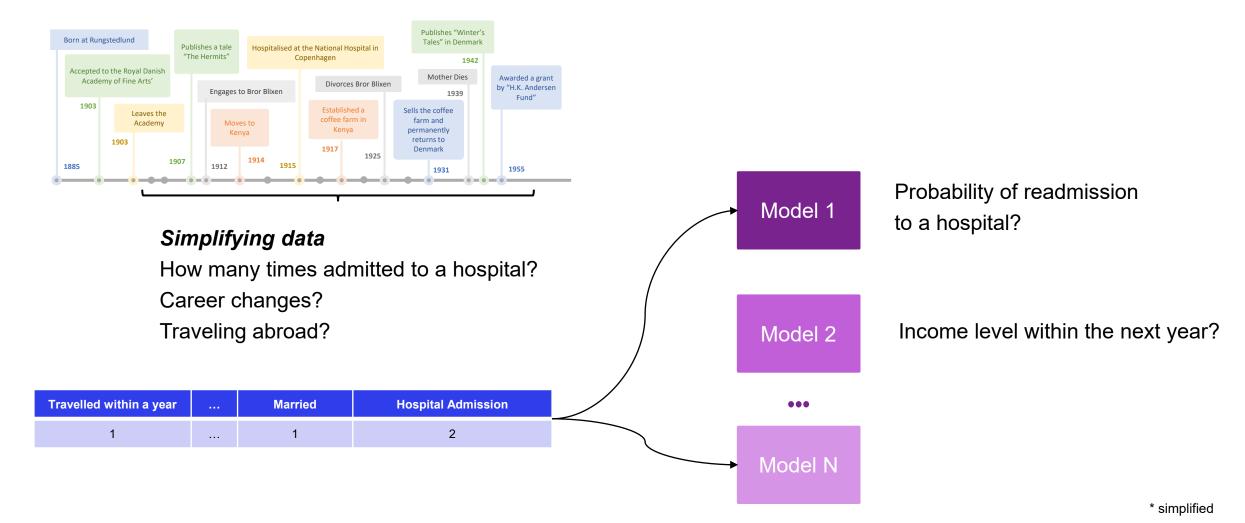
Issues associated with longitudinal data modelling:

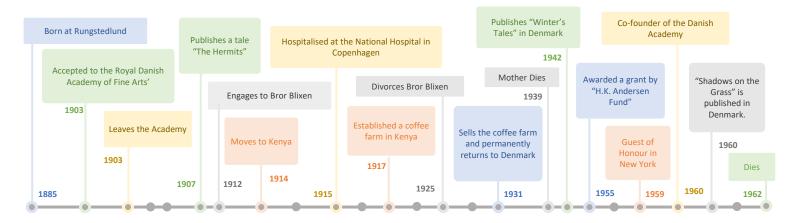
- Features have **mixed formats** (continuous and categorical).
- Various data sources
- Events have an "uneven" sampling rate.
- Missing values
- The number of records per person varies a lot

Classical models are not that good at handling it!

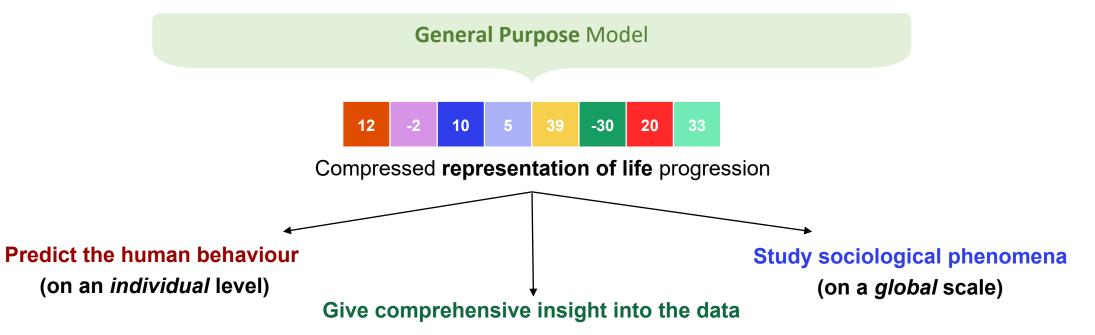


### **The Problem**





### We want a single model that takes nuanced life trajectories

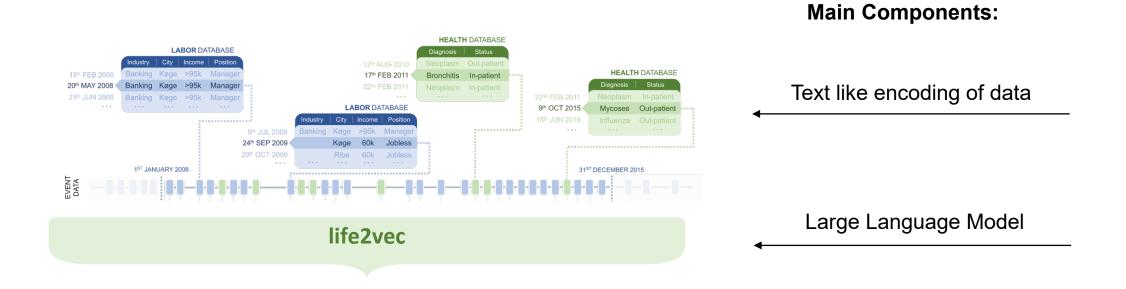




### **Our Work**

We are **not there yet**,

...but we have done the first steps





Part I

# Life-Trajectories and Data



# **Danish National Registry**



### People

Names, population, health, elections, housing, church, gender equality...



### Social conditions

Criminal offences, social benefits for senior citizens, cash benefits, placements...



#### Transport Cars, goods transport, passenger transport, infrastructure, traffic accidents...





Labour and income Employment, unemployment, earnings, income, wealth...



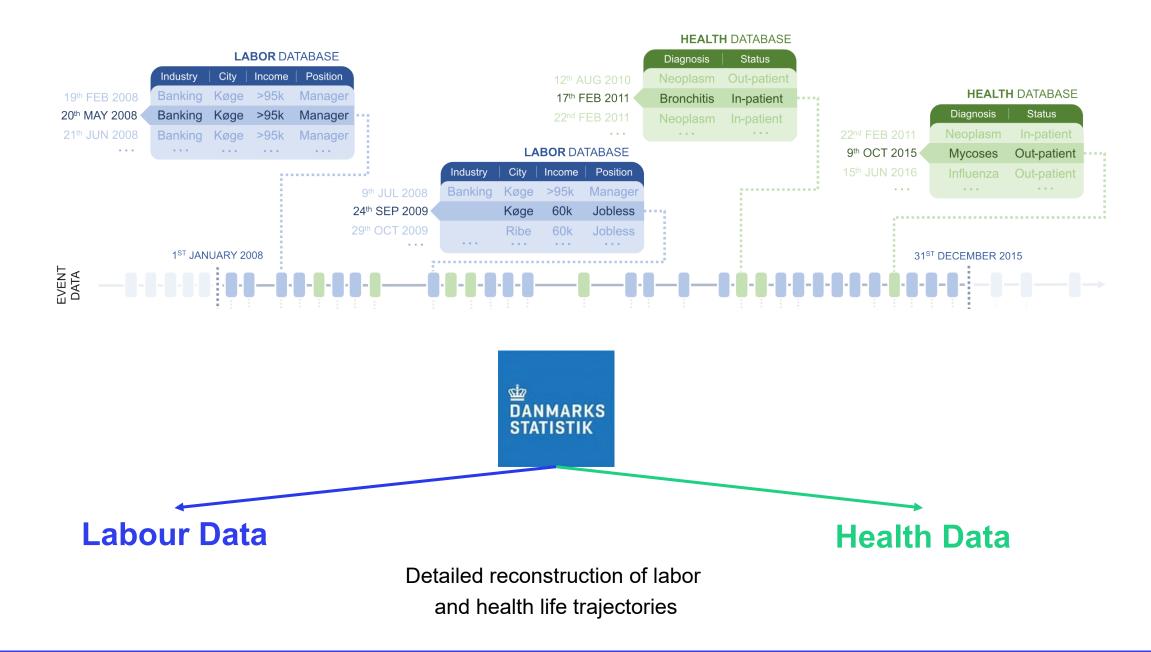
#### Education and research Number of students, education programmes, innovation...



Culture and leisure Film, media, museums, music, digital behaviour, sports...

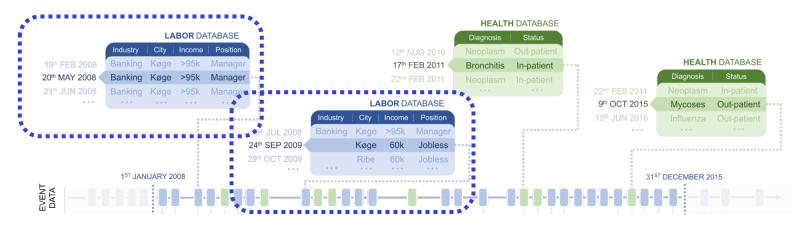
Personal raw data is tied to the Social Security Number (CPR)

\*\*AI-Generated Image





### Labour Data



### **Records of any reported and taxable income:**

- Each record has around 70 features
- Hourly precision
- Timespan: 2008-2020
- Features have underlying structure

### We focus on:

- Income (if applicable):
- Residence
  - Country of Origin / Citizenship
  - Address in Denmark
- Socio-economic status:
  - Age and sex
  - Employment status

### **Labor Data: Hierarchies**

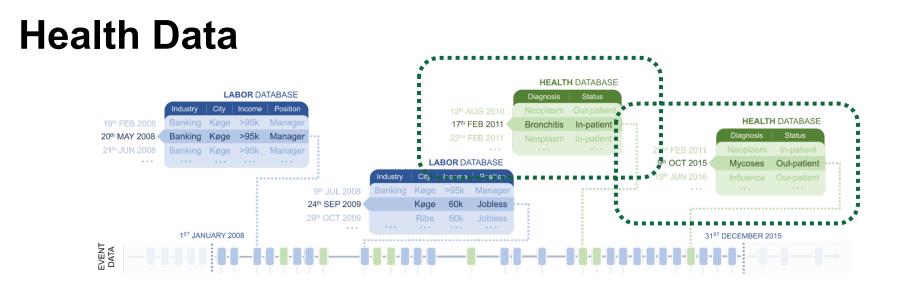
### Example of codes describing the **Industry**

DB07 Code	Interpretation
с	Manufacturing
18	Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media
18. <b>1</b>	Printing and Related Services
18.14	Bookbinding and Similar Services

### Example of codes describing the **Occupation**

ISCO-08 Code	Interpretation
2	Professionals
2 <b>6</b>	Legal, Social and Cultural Professional
265	Creative and Performing Artists
2654	Dancers and Choreographers





# Records of visits to a health practitioner or hospital:

- Focus on 3 features
- Diagnoses encoded in the ICD10 System

### Features we use:

- Diagnosis (Initial, no follow-ups)
- **Patient type**: inpatient, outpatient, and emergency
- **Urgency**: Urgent, Non-urgent



### Health Data: ICD-10

ICD-10 Code	Interpretation
501	Open wound of head
501. <b>3</b>	Open wound of ear
S01.35	Open bite of ear
S01.352	Open bite of left ear
S01.352 <b>D</b>	Open bite of left ear (subsequent encounter)

Examples of ICD10 codes:

- **Y93.D**: Activities involved arts and handcrafts
- **W61.62XD**: Struck by duck, subsequent encounter
- H47.51: Disorders of visual pathways in (due to) inflammatory disorder

### ANATOMY OF AN ICD-10 CODE

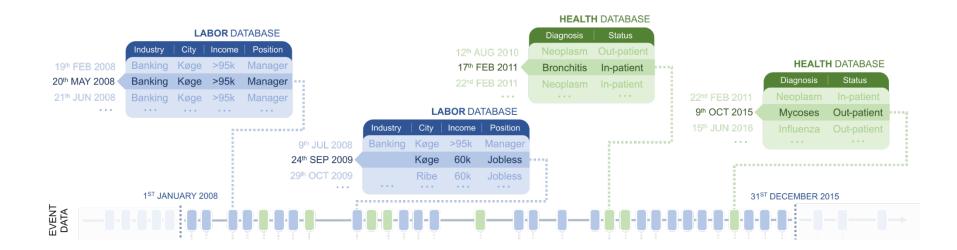


ICD-10 code for torus fracture of lower right end of right radius, initial encounter for closed fracture

# **Power of National Registry**

# The National Registry is a source of **fine-grained information** about **the progression of one life**.

Unique possibility to study life progression and life outcomes.



How do we analyze?



# Representation Learning and NLP



# **Natural Language Processing**

"[..] the application of computational techniques to the **analysis** and **synthesis** of natural language and speech."

- Oxford Languages

Natural Language Understanding

**Natural Language Generation** 

Language Inference

**Semantic Analysis** 

Language Modelling

**Text Summarization** 

**Text Classification** 

Information Extraction

Text-to-speech

**Computational Linguistic** 

**Dialogue Systems** 

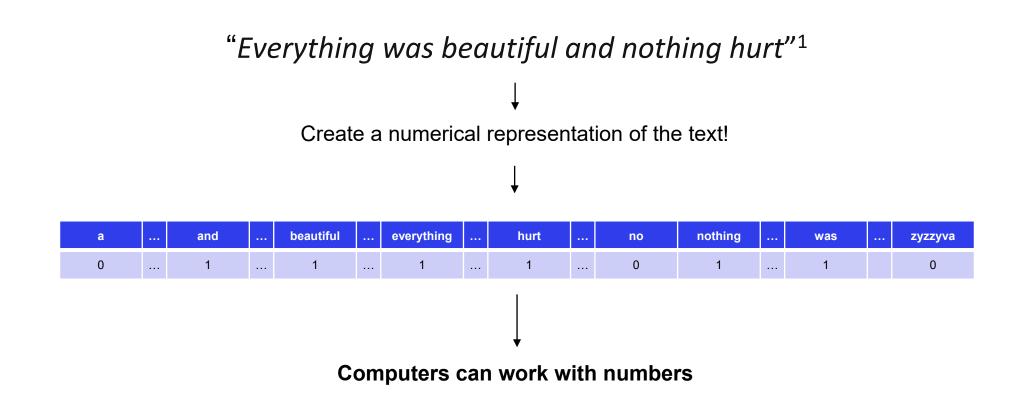


"Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt"<sup>1</sup>



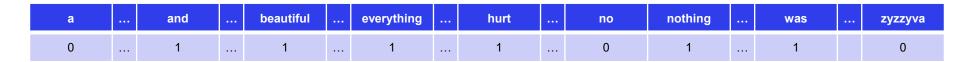
\*\*AI-Generated Image 1. Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut (1969)





1. Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut (1969)





If we reconstruct the sentence

"Beautiful was nothing and everything hurt"

"Everything beautiful hurt and was nothing"

"Everything hurt nothing and was beautiful"

1. Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut (1969)



It is even more obvious issues if we look here.

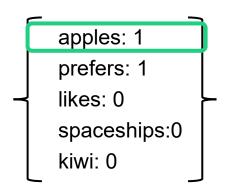
Let's match people based on their description

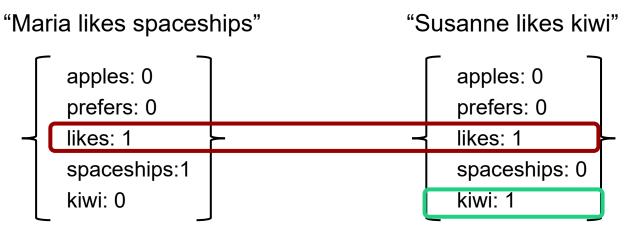






"Viktor prefers apples"





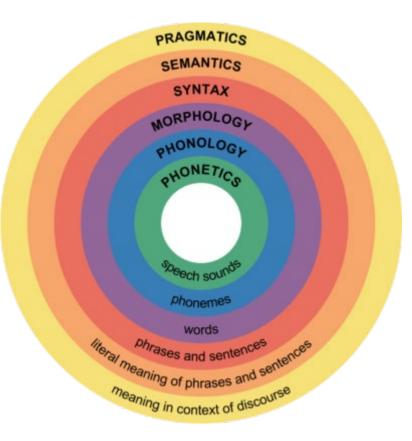
1. Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut (1969)



# **Complexity of Language**

### Language is a super complex signal...

...and it inherits many issues associated with the longitudinal data.

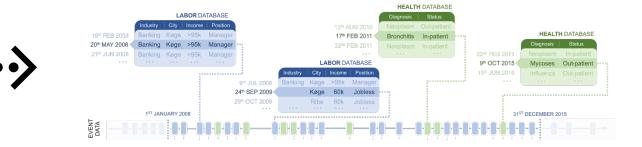


*Image*: Luchmee, D. (2019, July 25). *The Complex Skill of Language*. HappyNeuron. Retrieved March 5, 2024, from https://news.happyneuronpro.com/the-complex-skill-of-language/



### Language and Life Sequences

"Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt"



These two cases have similar issues!





**Word Representations** *Captures aspects of words* 

Large Language Models Handles structured sequences



### **Representation of Places**

	longitude*	latitude*
Great Pyramid	31.08	29.58
Petra	30.19	35.26
Machu Picchu	13.09	35.26
Colosseum	12.29	41.53



These values capture spatial location,

and allow us to reason about the distances ("similarity").

\* simplified

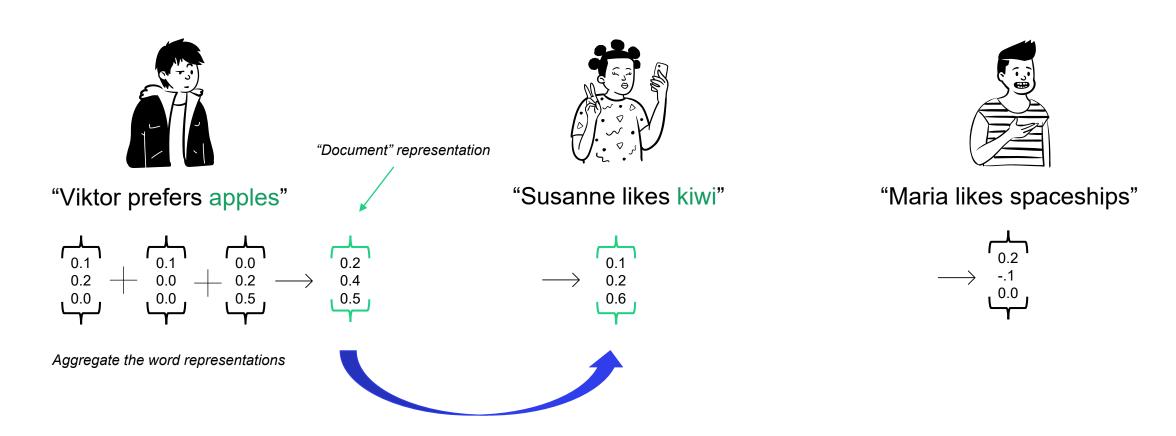
# **Word Representations**

Solution in NLP: Take a step back and assign coordinates to words (capture meaning)

	liveliness	vehicle-(ness)	artificiality
spaceship	0.0	1.0	1.0
apple	0.3	0.0	0.2
kiwi	0.3	0.0	0.3
dog	1.0	0.3	0.1

# **Representation of Documents**

Using these nuanced word embeddings, we can create document embeddings



# Learning Embeddings

### We can employ different methods to create the word embeddings:

- 1. Manually assign values to each dimension (based on questionaries)
- 2. Frequency-based: Count-Vectors, TF-IDF, N-grams
- 3. Prediction-based: SkipGram, CBOW, GLoVE, by-products of training ML algorithms (e.g. RNNs)



# **Embedding Spaces and Structure**

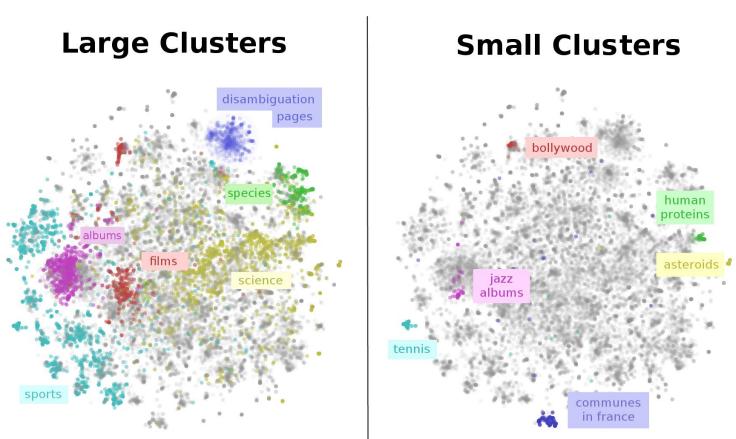
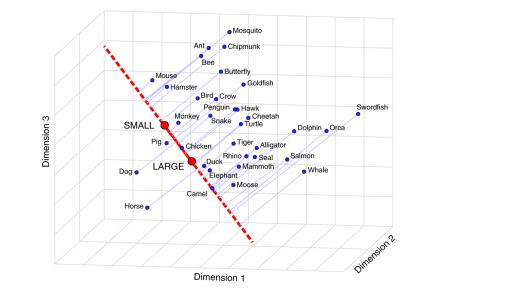


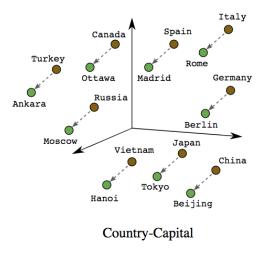
Fig 1: Two-dimensional projection of the word embeddings (word2vec)<sup>1</sup>

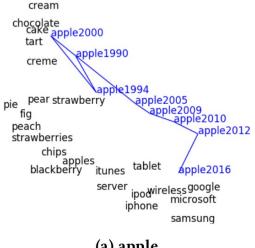
1. Olah, C. (2015, January 16). *Visualizing Representations: Deep Learning and Human Beings*. Colah's Blog. Retrieved March 3, 2024, from <u>https://colah.github.io/posts/2015-01-Visualizing-Representations/</u>



### **Embedding Spaces and Structure**







(a) apple

### Fig.1: Schematic illustration of semantic projection<sup>1</sup>

### Fig.2: Embeddings can produce remarkable analogies<sup>2</sup>

### Fig.3: Trajectories of brand names<sup>3</sup>

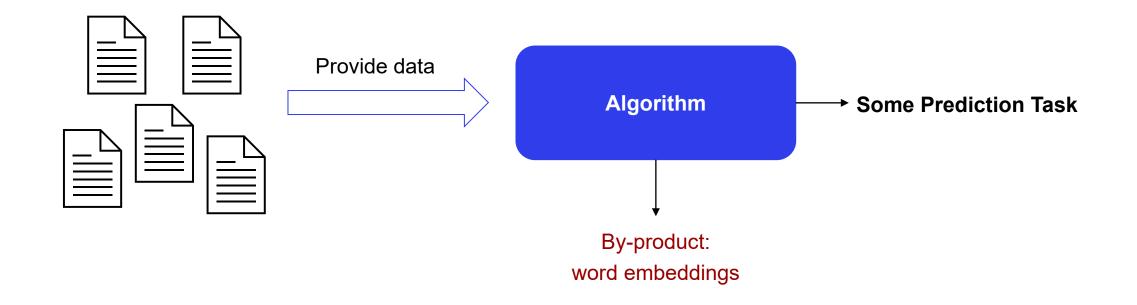
Temporal evolution of terms with word2vec

In the embedding space (GloVe), "animal"-related words projected onto the "small-large" direction

- 1. Grand, G., Blank, I.A., Pereira, F. et al. Semantic projection recovers rich human knowledge of multiple object features from word embeddings. Nat Hum Behav 6, 975–987 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01316-8
- 2. Embeddings: Translating to a Lower-Dimensional Space. Google for Developers. Retrieved March 3, 2024, from https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course/embeddings/translating-to-a-lower-dimensional-space
- Yao, Z., Sun, Y., Ding, W., Rao, N., & Xiong, H. (2018, February). Dynamic word embeddings for evolving semantic discovery. In Proceedings of the eleventh acm international conference on web search and data mining (pp. 673-681). 3.

# **General Purpose Embeddings**

- But how to make sure that we have a **meaningful space**?
- The nature of the task influences the representations



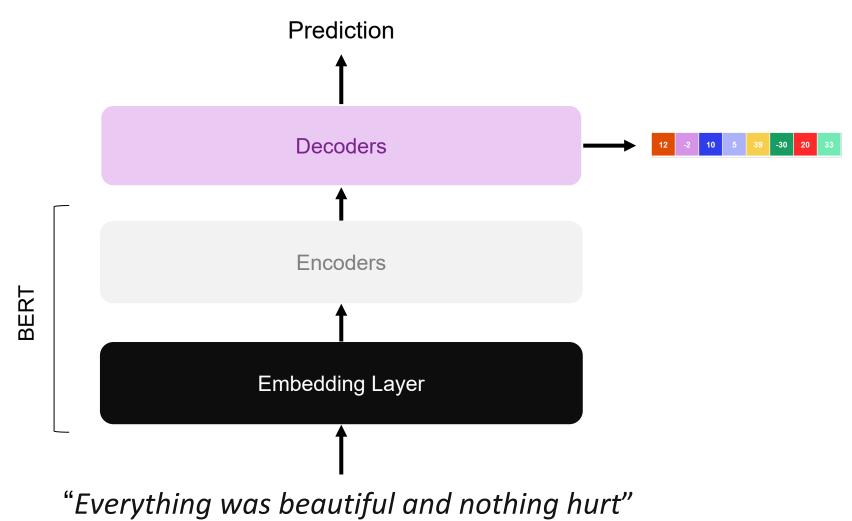
# **Transformer-based Models**

Powerful Sequence Models already exist: Large Language Models

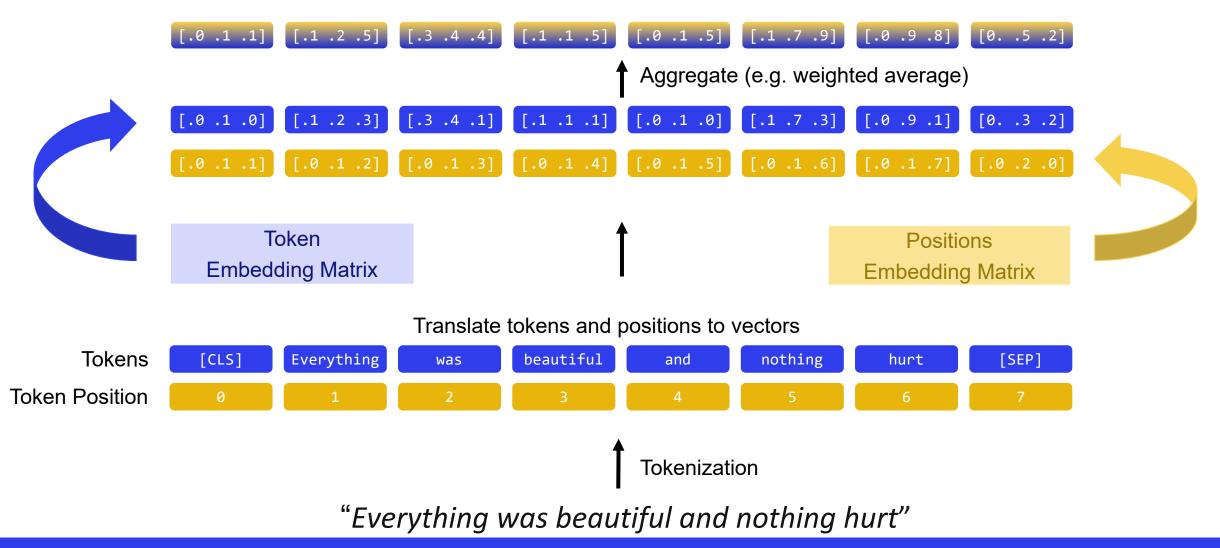
Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) Create nuanced word embeddings and handle complex sequences General-purpose model, adaptable to new tasks



# **Transformer Architecture (BERT)**

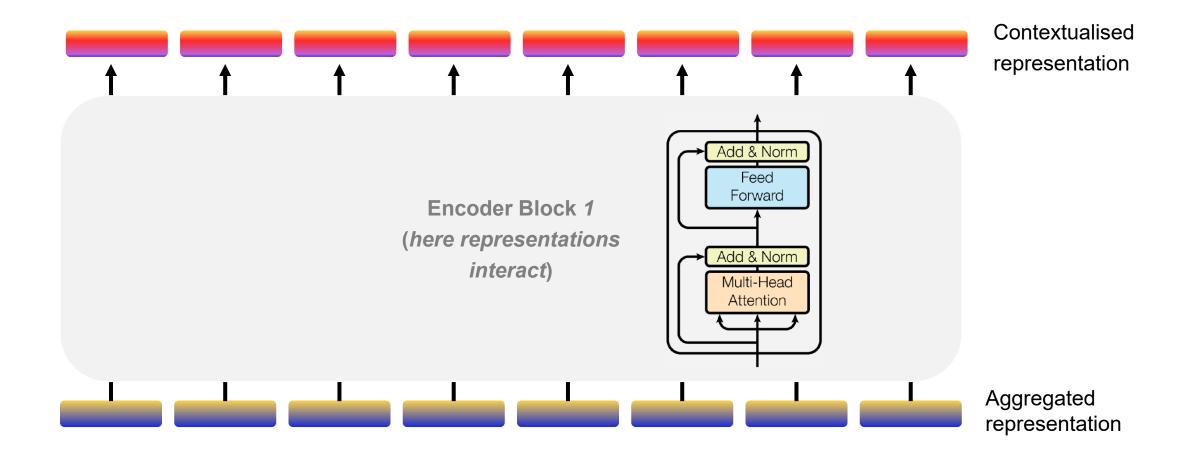


### **Embedding Layer**

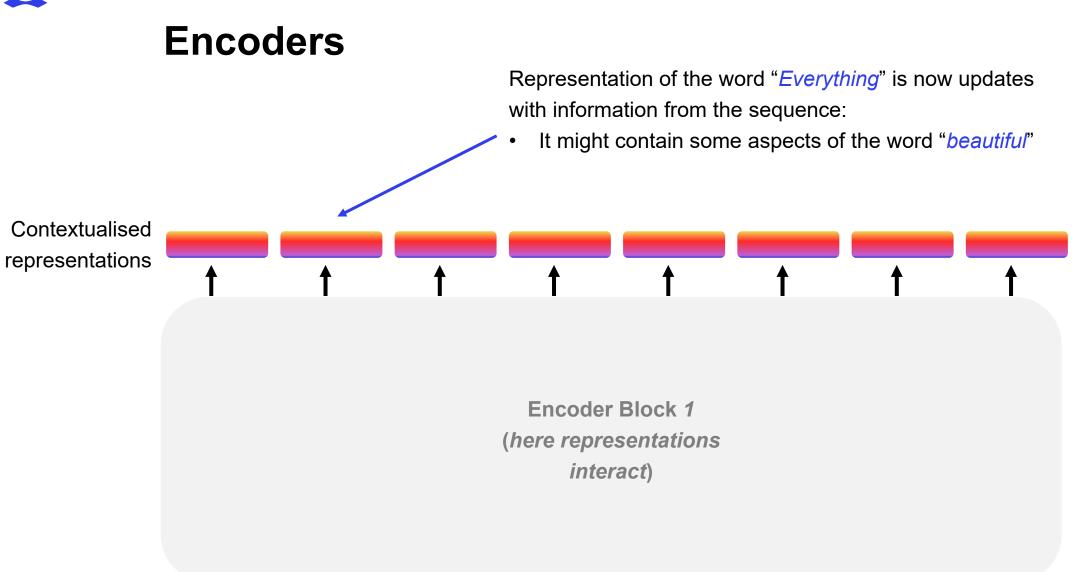




### Encoders







# **BERT Encoders**

Contextualized token representations **contain rich and nuanced information** about the role of a token in a sequence.

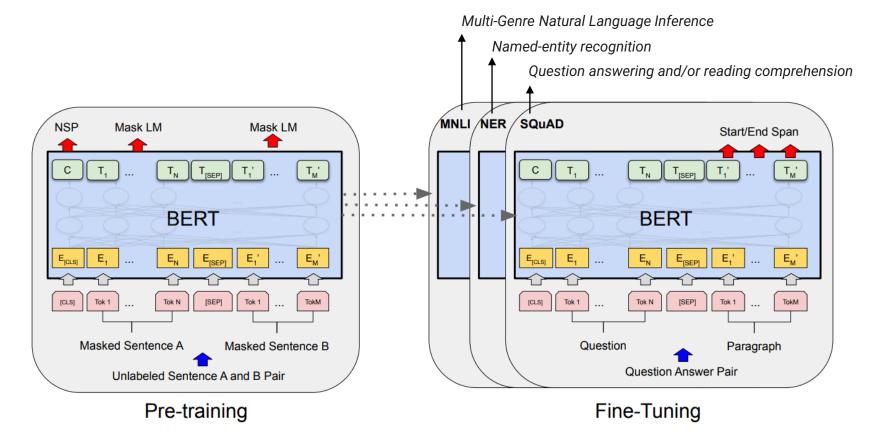
### What you can do with the output of decoders:

- Make predictions on the first token (CLS, more about that later)
- Using any ML model

								Contextualised
1	Ť	1	1	1	1	1	1	representation
			Encoder	Block N				
	-	-	-	-	-		-	
-	-	-			-	-		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			Encoder	Block 1				



# **BERT: Training Stages**

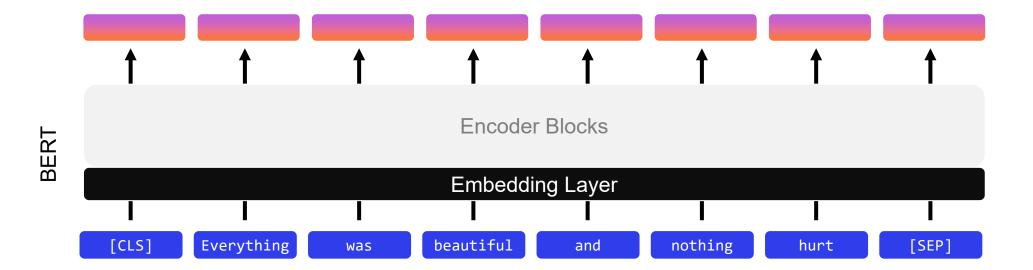


Devlin, Jacob, et al. "Bert: Pre-training of deep bidirectional transformers for language understanding." arXiv preprint arXiv:1810.04805 (2018).



# **BERT: Pretraining**

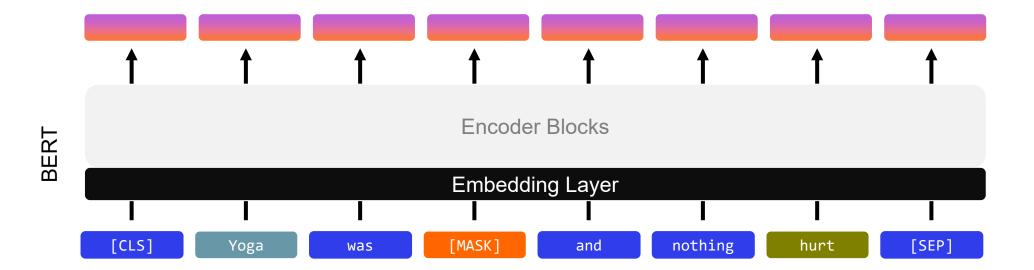
- Mask 15% of tokens (not including [PAD], [SEP], [CLS]):
  - 10% unchanged
  - 10% substituted with random tokens
  - 80% substituted with the [MASK] token



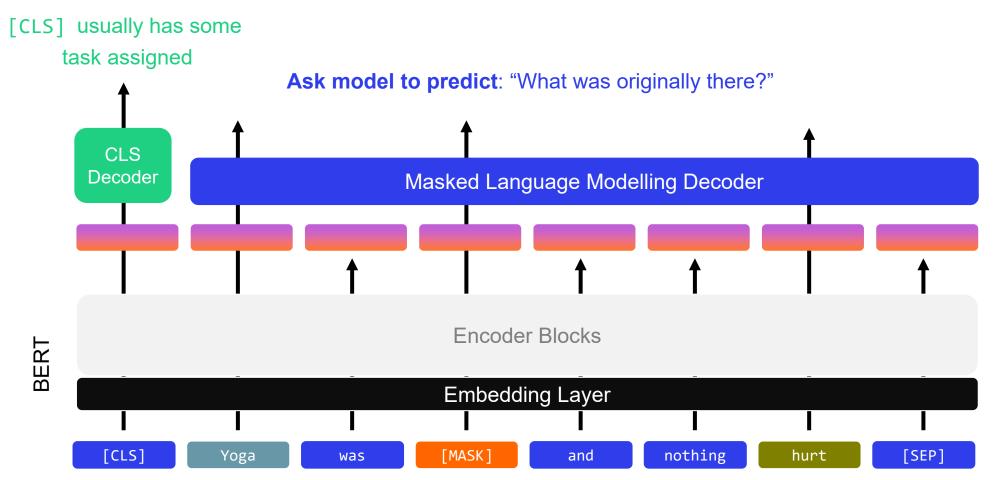


# **BERT: Pretraining**

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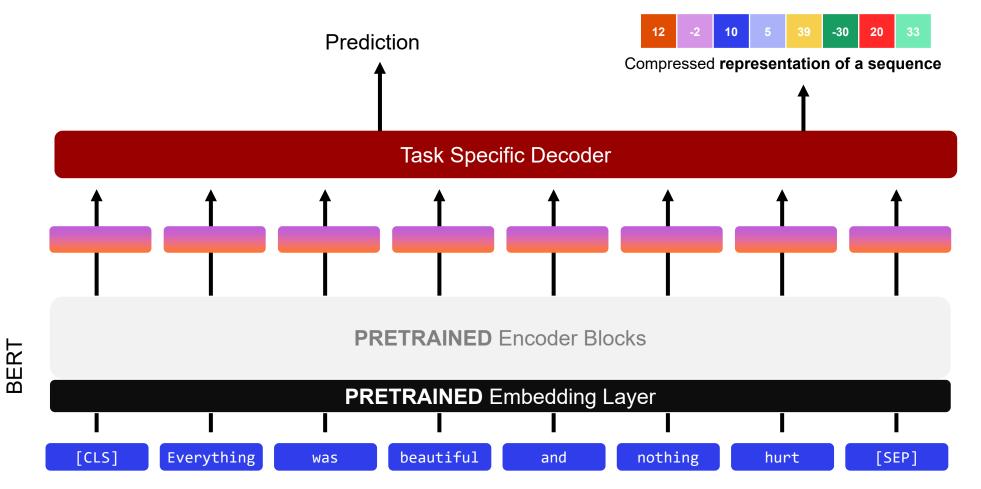


# **BERT: Pretraining**



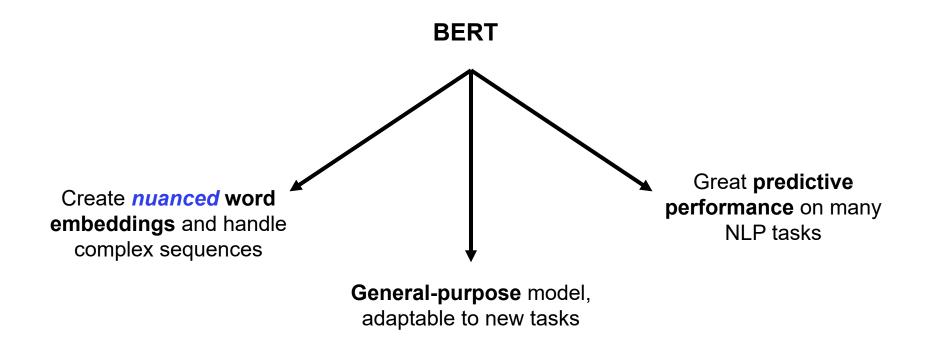


# **BERT:** Finetuning

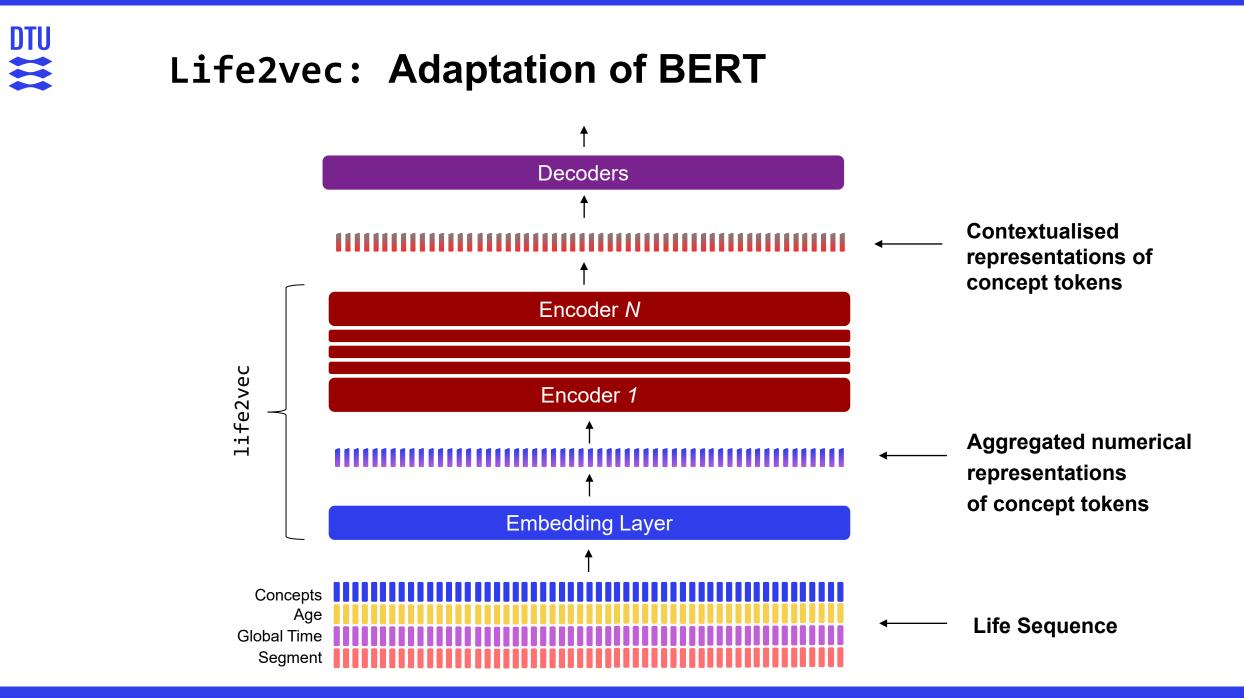




# **Transformer-based Models**



### LIFE2VEC Adapts BERT for life-sequences

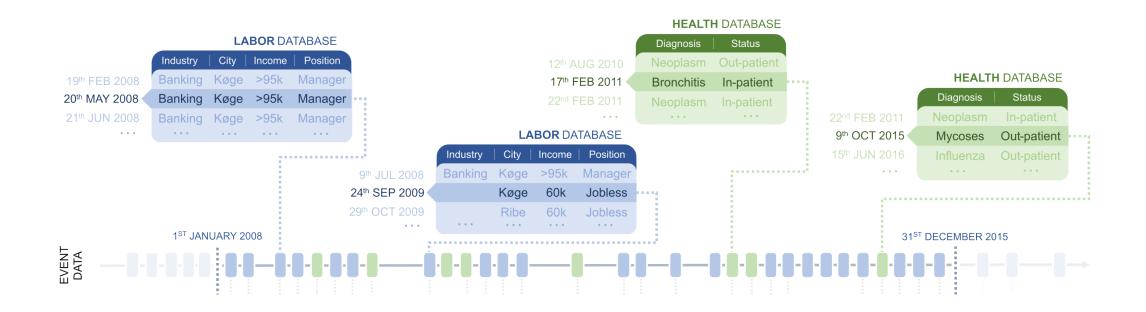




# **Creating Life-**<br/>**Sequences**



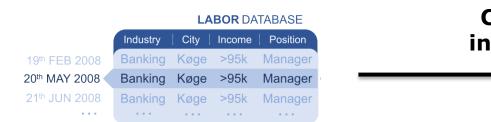
## Unfolding the data



**Tabular to Textual Representation?** 



# Forming a Language



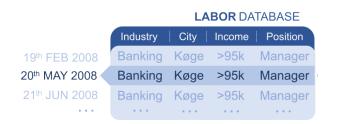
Convey the content in a spoken language

"In May 2008, Riley received >95k as a manager in Bank."

Language allows for super flexible and nuanced communication



# Forming a Language



Convey the content in a spoken language

"In May 2008, Riley received >95k as a manager in Bank."

Language allows for super flexible and nuanced communication

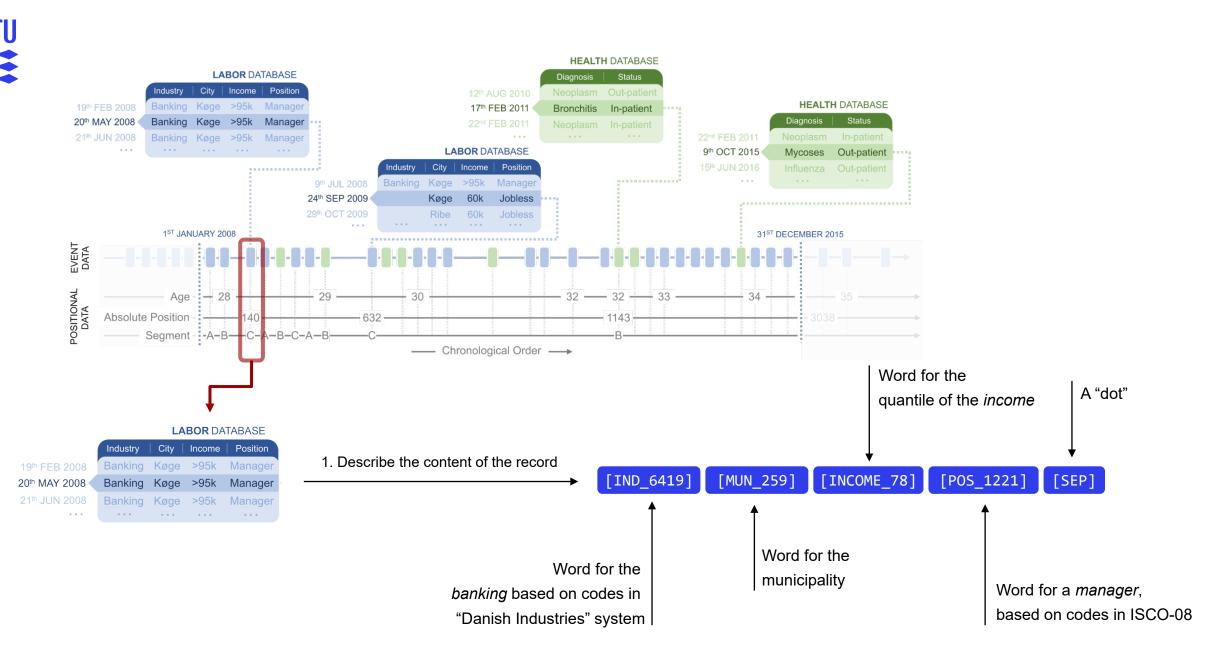
Not all of the structure in the English language is of interest to us



# Forming a Language

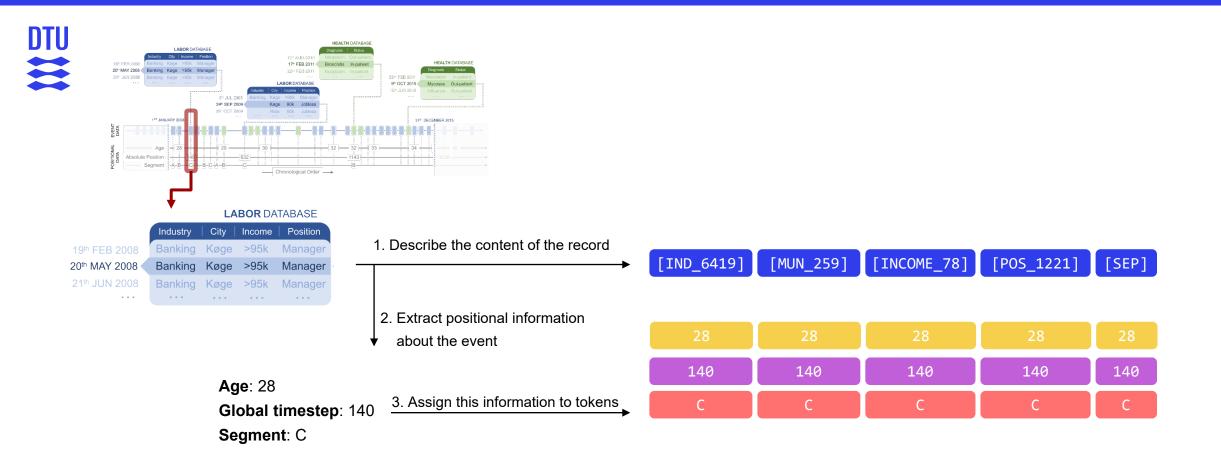


### Vocabulary consists of all the possible categories that any of the variable can take

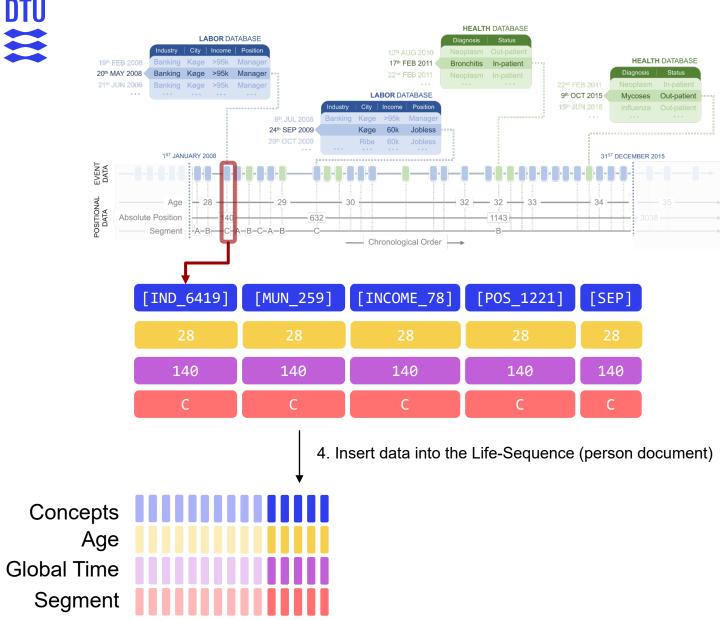


51

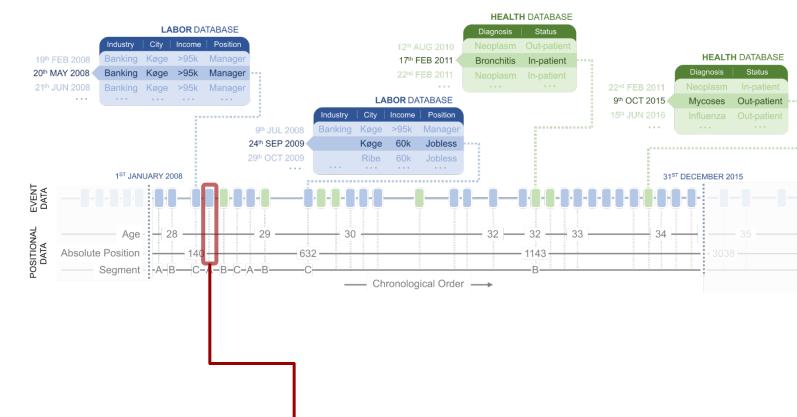
LABOR OXTARASE	HEALTH DATABASE			
LABOR DATABASE				
IndustryCityIncomePosition19th FEB 2008BankingKøge>95kManager20th MAY 2008BankingKøge>95kManager	1. Describe the content of the record	[IND_6419] [MUN_259] [INCOME_78	[POS_1221]	[SEP]
21 <sup>th</sup> JUN 2008 Banking Køge >95k Manager				
	<ul><li>2. Extract positional information</li><li>about the event</li></ul>			
	Age: 28   ← Global timestep: 140   ← Segment: C ←	<ul> <li>age at the time of the event</li> <li>number of days since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2008</li> <li>additional sentence identifier</li> </ul>		



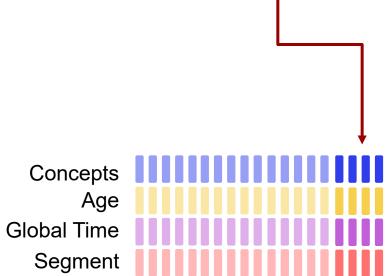




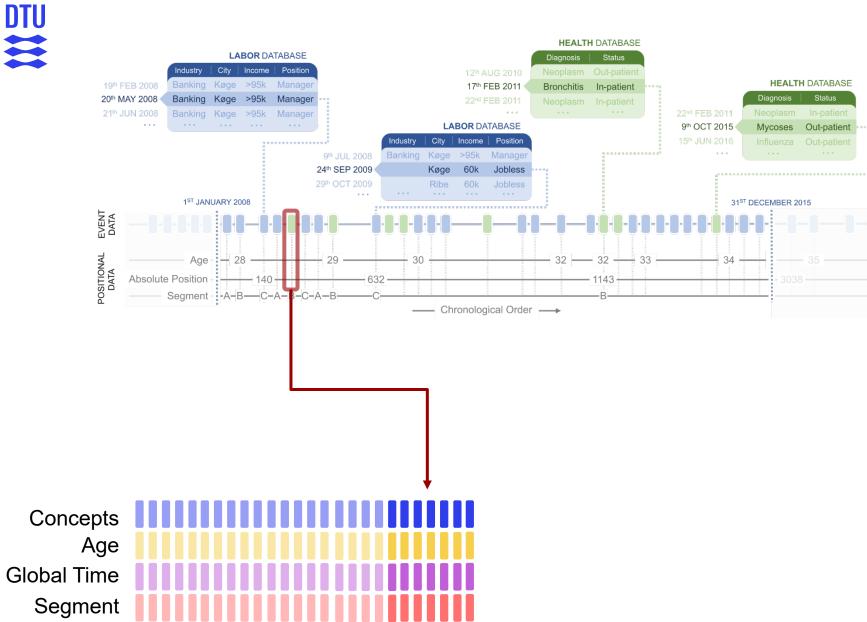




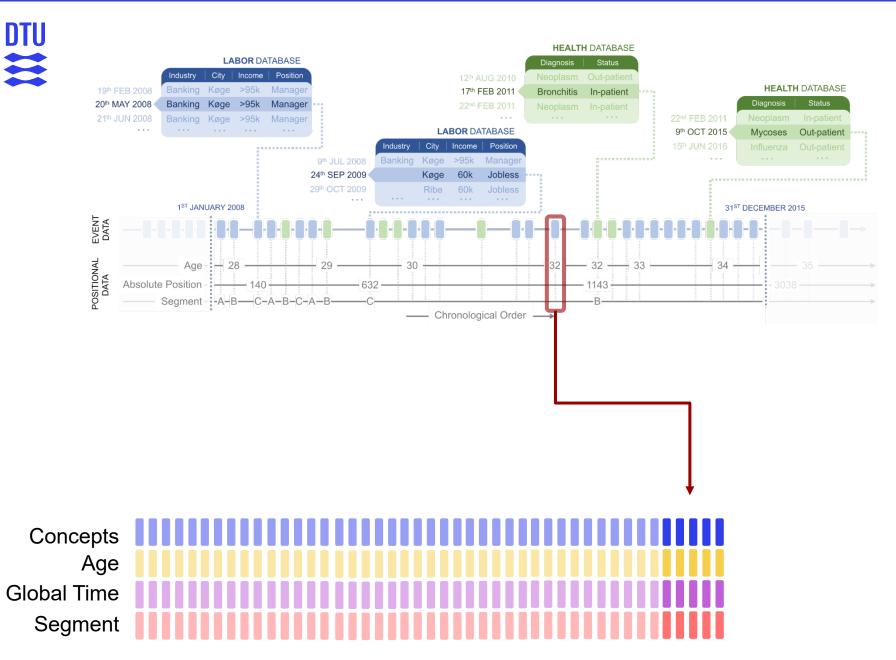




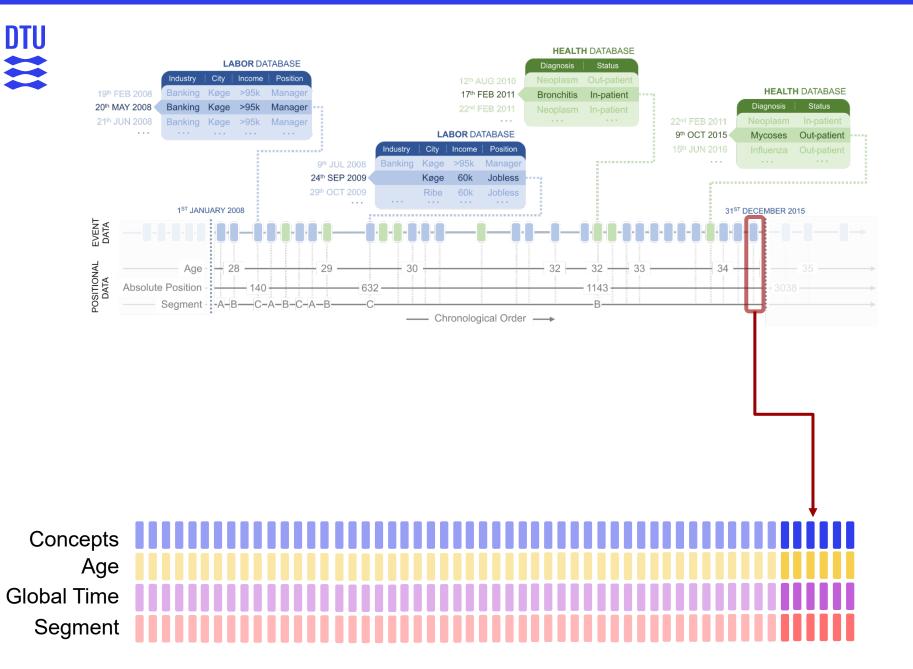
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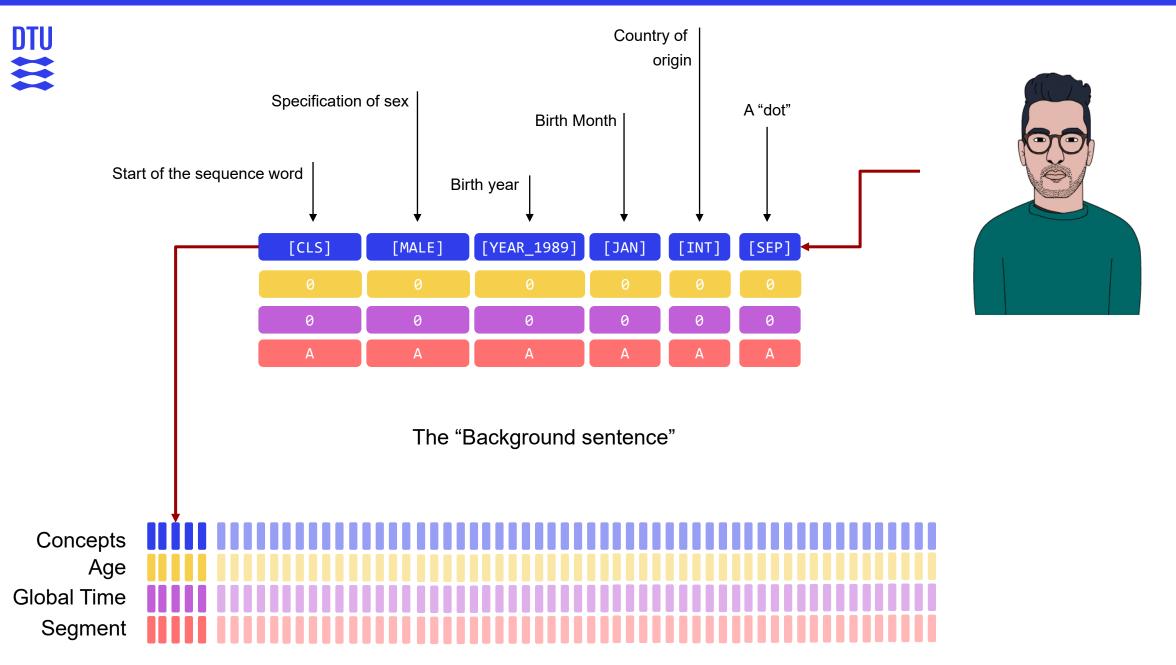






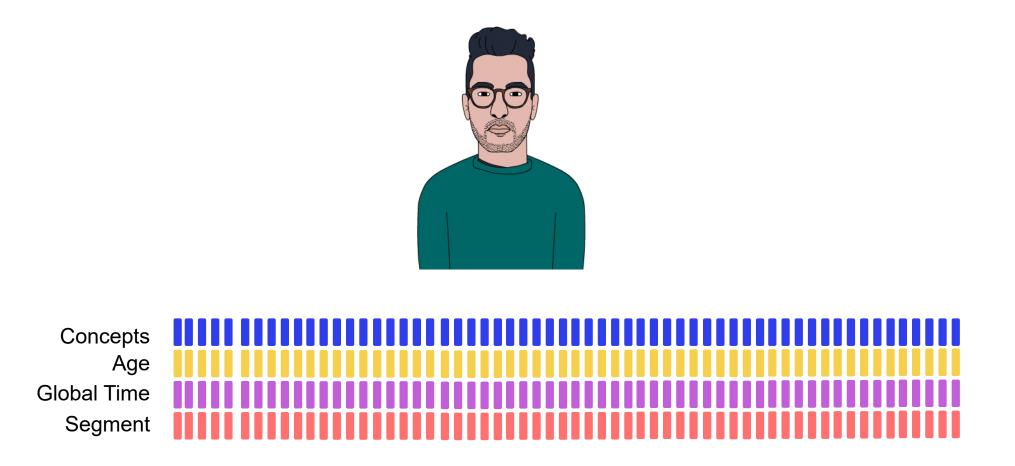








# Individual Life-Sequence



Input to the life2vec model



# Vocabulary

Туре	Variables	# Categories	Encoding	
	Sex	2 binary	Male, Female	
Background Information	Birth Month	12	Jan-Feb	
	Birth Year	45	1946-1991	
	Country of Origin	2 binary	National or International	
	Municipality of Residence	97	Danish municipality codes	
	Tax Bracket	6	DST definitions	
	Income Level	100	Quantile-based	
Labour	Labour Force Status	35	DST definitions	
	Labour Force Status (Modification)	58	DST definitions	
Records	Labour-Force-Interval	10	Quantile based	
	Industry Area (Company)	290	DB07	
	Job type	359	ISCO-08	
	Enterprise Type (Company)	15	ESA-2010	
Health	Diagnosis	704	ICD-10	
Records	Urgency	3	Urgent, Non-Urgent, Emergency	
Records	Patient Type	2	In-, out- patient	
Special Special		10	[PAD] [UNK]	

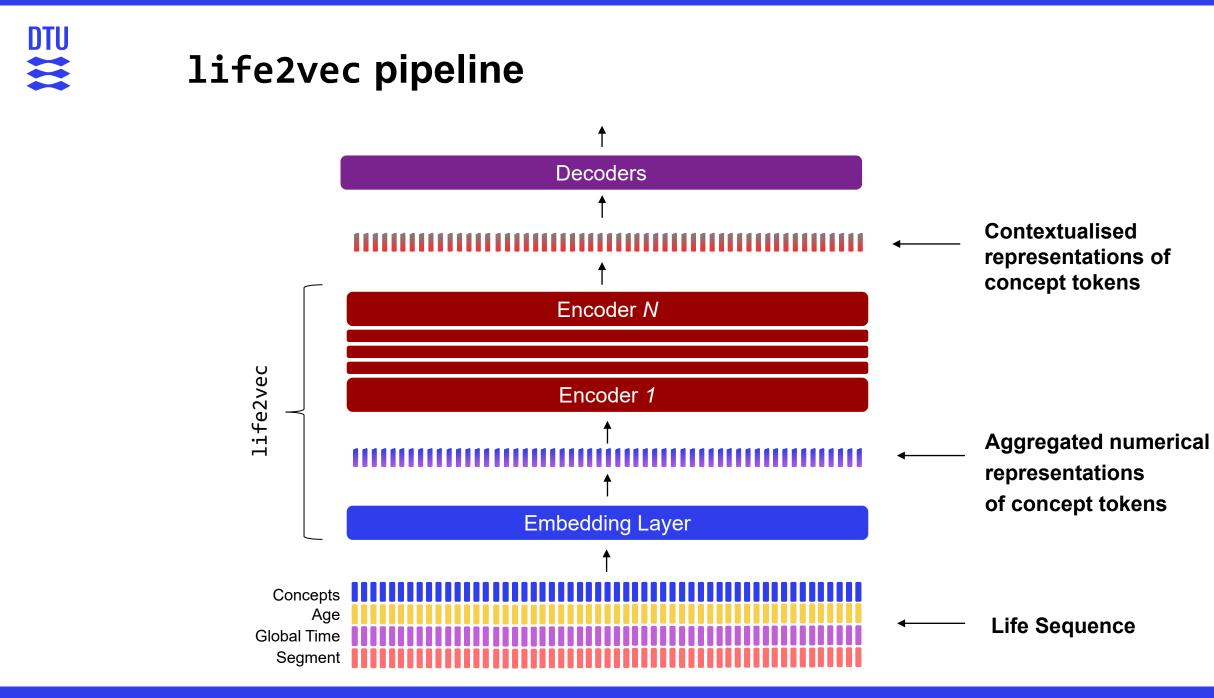


Part IV

the structure

life2vec: capturing

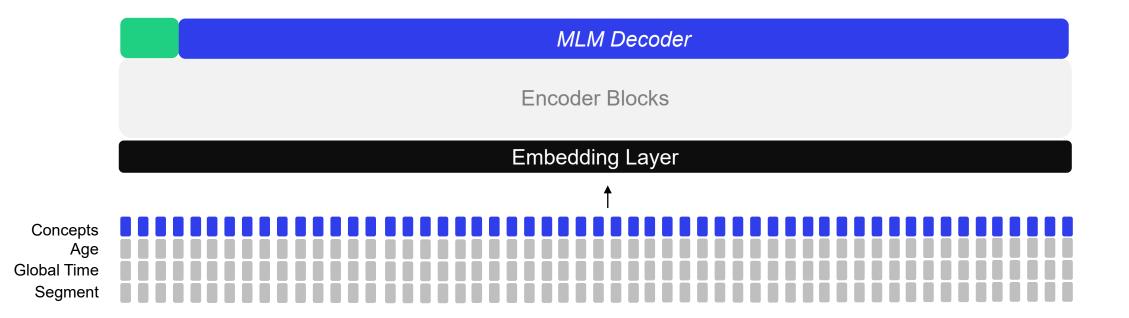
### 62



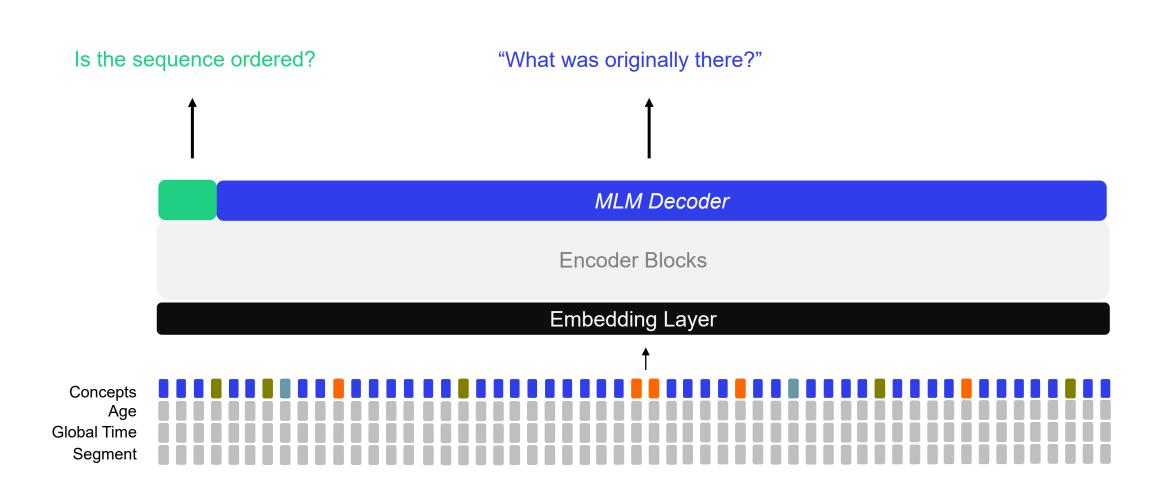


# life2vec: pre-training

- Mask 30% of tokens (not including [PAD], [SEP], [CLS]):
  - 10% unchanged
  - 10% substituted with random tokens
  - 80% substituted with the [MASK] token



# life2vec: pre-training

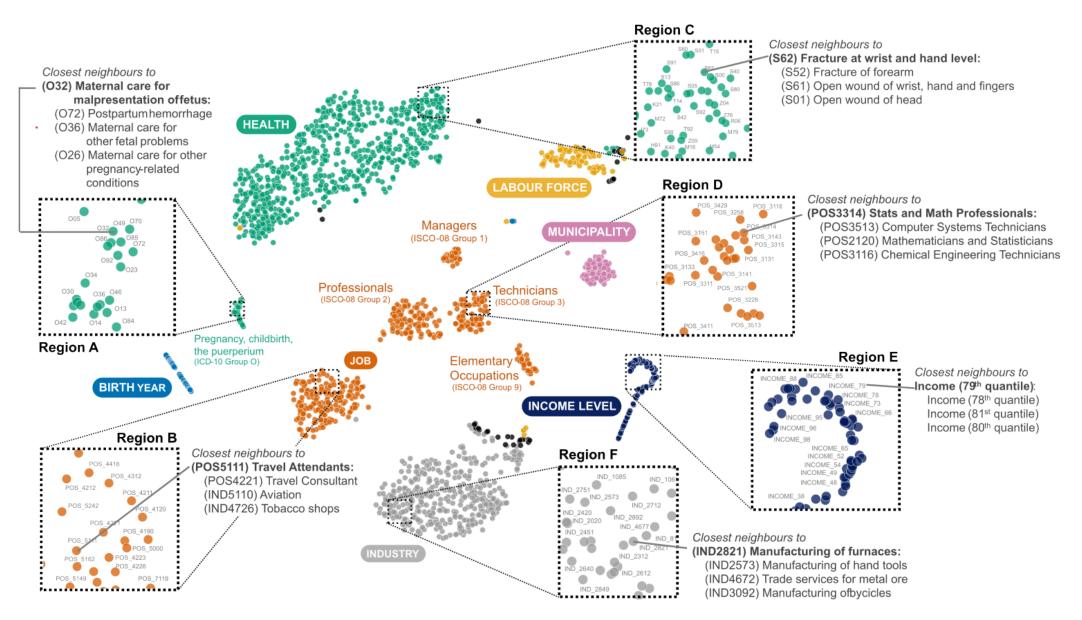




# What did our model learn on pretraining?



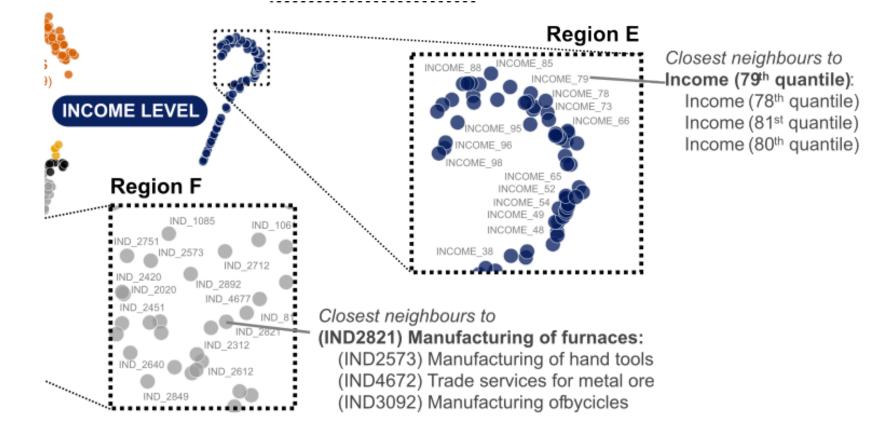
### Space of Concept Tokens (with PaCMAP)



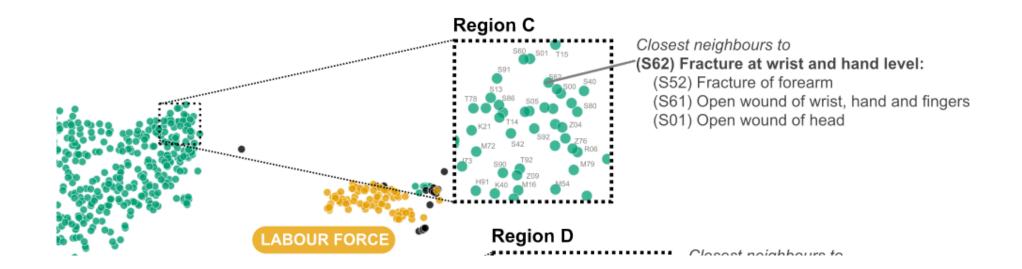
Savcisens, G., Eliassi-Rad, T., Hansen, L. K., Mortensen, L. H., Lilleholt, L., Rogers, A., ... & Lehmann, S. (2023). Using sequences of life-events to predict human lives. *Nature Computational Science*, 1-14.

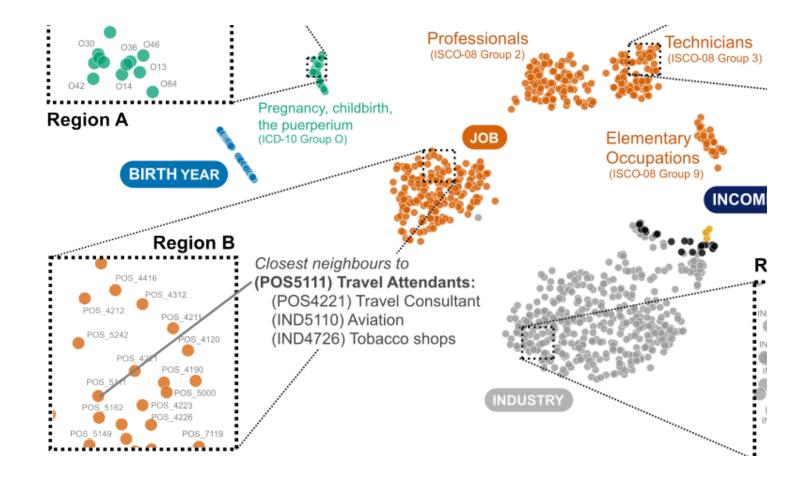


### Space of concept tokens (with PaCMAP)





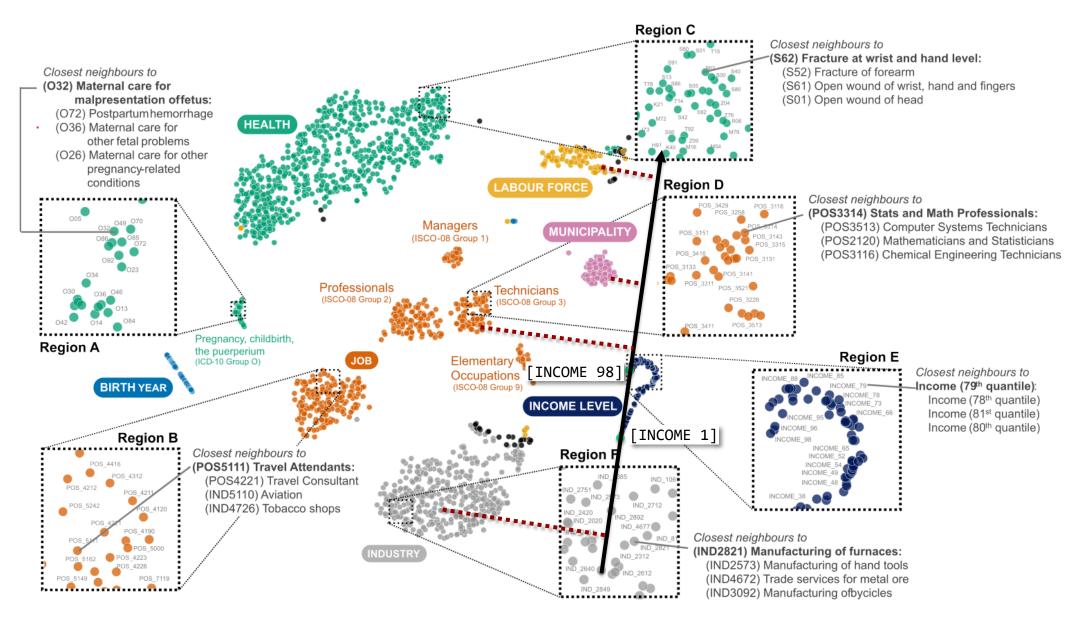




### Visually structure corresponds to the structure of the variables



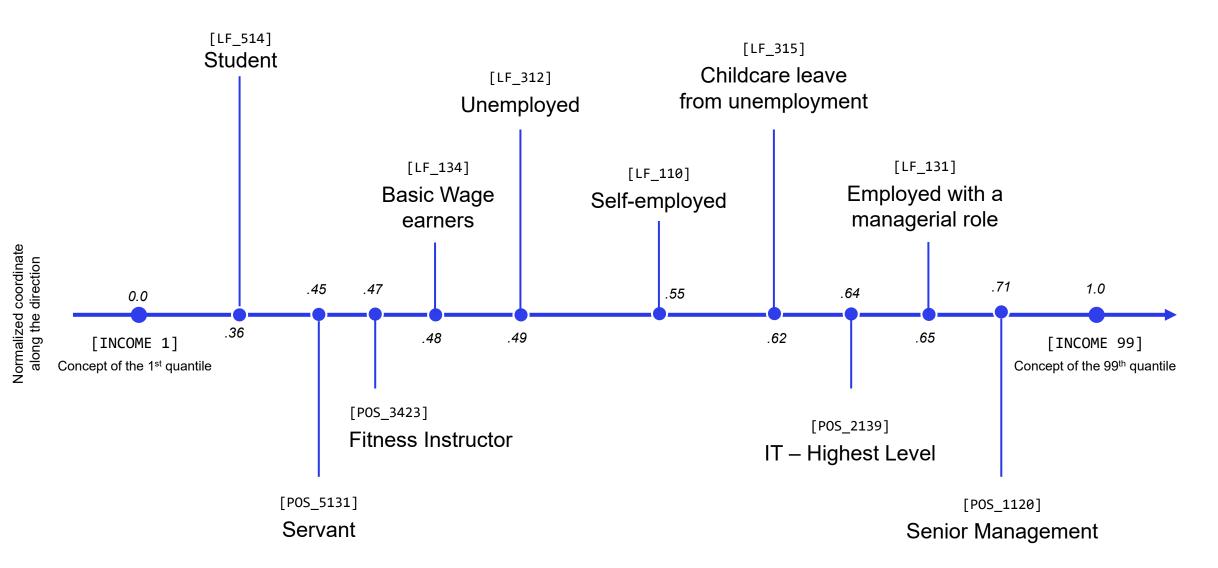
### Space of Concept Tokens (with PaCMAP)



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LF – Labor Force Status POS – Prof. Position

# Projection to "Income" Direction



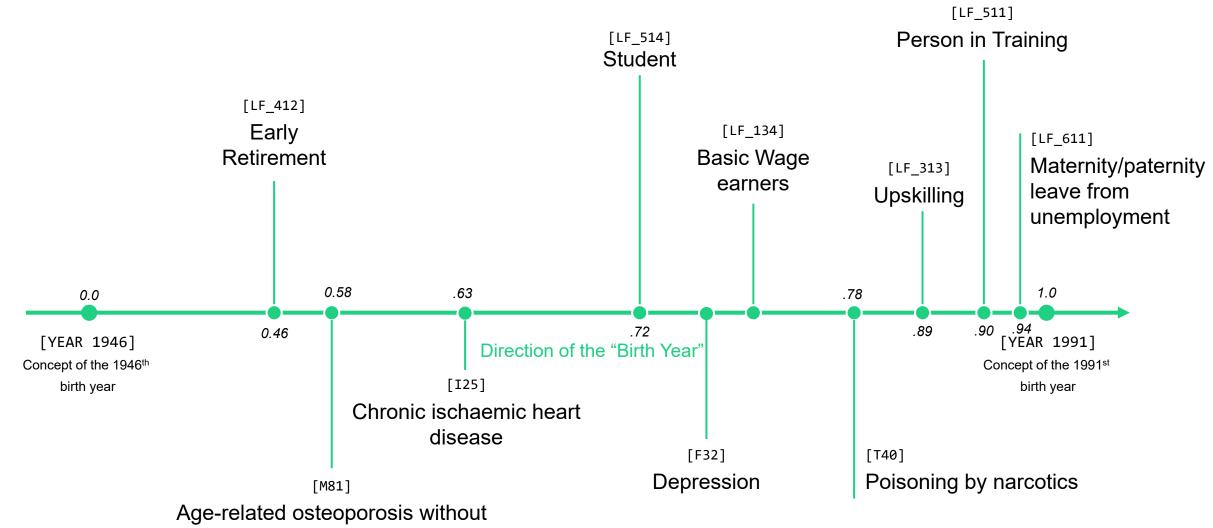
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Normalized coordinate along the direction



current pathological fracture

#### Projection to "Occupation" Direction

The opposite job of a chef and head cook is a physicist.

#### Chefs and Head Cooks use these skills the most

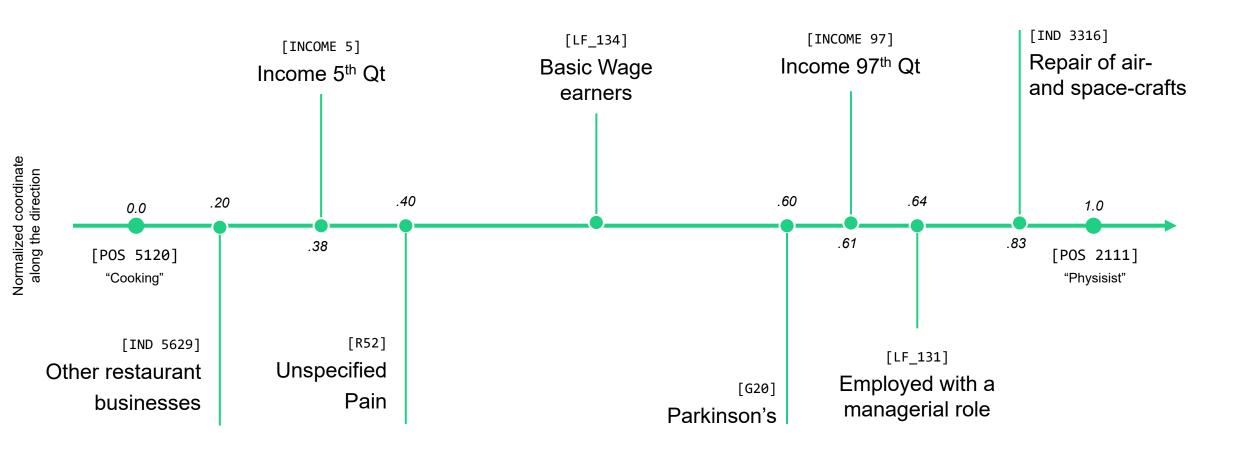
#### Physicists use these skills the most

1 Management of material resources	1 Physics
2 Management of financial resources	2 Mathematical reasoning
3 Management of personnel resources	3 Number facility
4 Coordination	4 Ability to organize groups in different ways
5 Negotiation	5 Information ordering
6 Monitoring	6 Mathematics
7 Time management	7 Oral comprehension
8 Persuasion	8 Mathematics
9 Social perceptiveness	9 Originality
10 Learning strategies	10 Speech clarity

(n.d.). What Is Your Opposite Job? The New York Times. Retrieved March 11, 2024, from <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/08/upshot/what-is-your-opposite-job.html">https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/08/upshot/what-is-your-opposite-job.html</a>

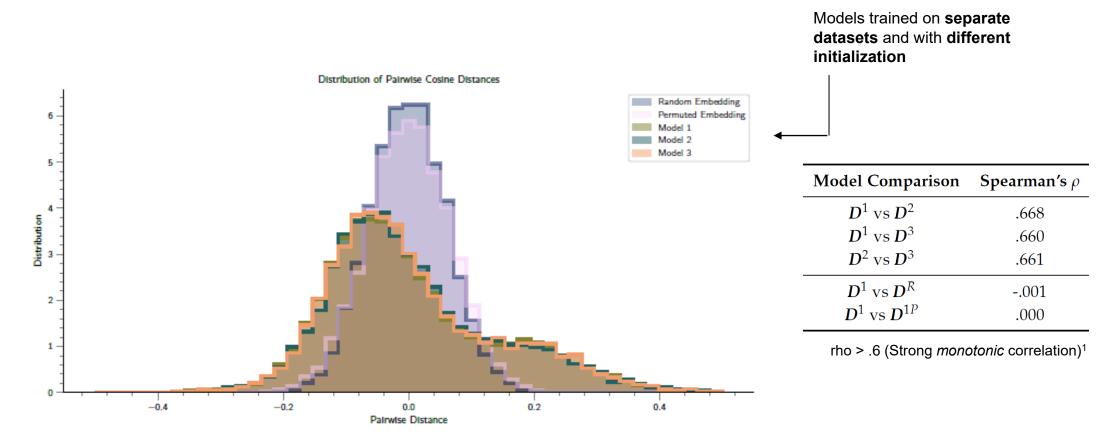


#### Projection to "Occupation" Direction





#### **Concept Space Robustness: Permutation Test**



1. Schober, P., Boer, C., & Schwarte, L. A. (2018). Correlation coefficients: appropriate use and interpretation. *Anesthesia & analgesia*, *126*(5), 1763-1768.

#### What does it tell us?

- Life2vec as proof of concept
  - Algorithms understand the textual representation of life-sequences
  - Transformers can capture structure in such a language

#### Study the dynamic within the data source

- Health and labor modelled in one space
- Can use embedding space to analyse relationships between categories



Part V

life2vec as a

foundation model

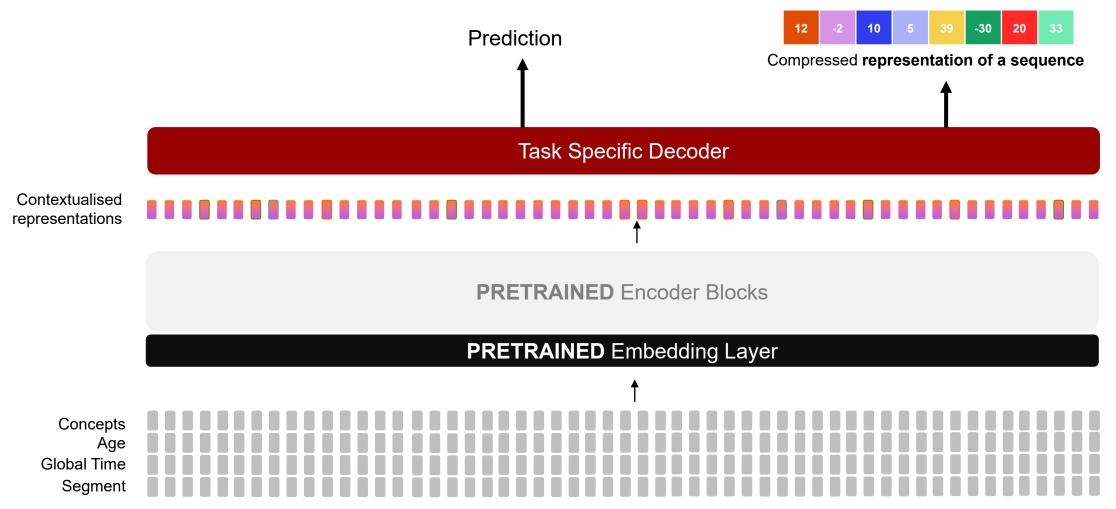
#### **Foundation Models**

"Train one model on a huge amount of data and **adapt it to many applications**. We call such a model a foundation model." <sup>1</sup>

"[...] rather than developing a bespoke model for each specific use case (as was done traditionally), a single FM can instead be **reused across a broad range of downstream tasks** with minimal adaptation or retraining needed per task."<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Developing and understanding responsible foundation models. Stanford CRFM. (n.d.). https://crfm.stanford.edu/
- Wornow, M., Xu, Y., Thapa, R., Patel, B., Steinberg, E., Fleming, S., ... & Shah, N. H. (2023). The shaky foundations of large language models and foundation models for electronic health records. *npj Digital Medicine*, 6(1), 135.

#### life2vec: finetuning





#### **Life-Summaries**

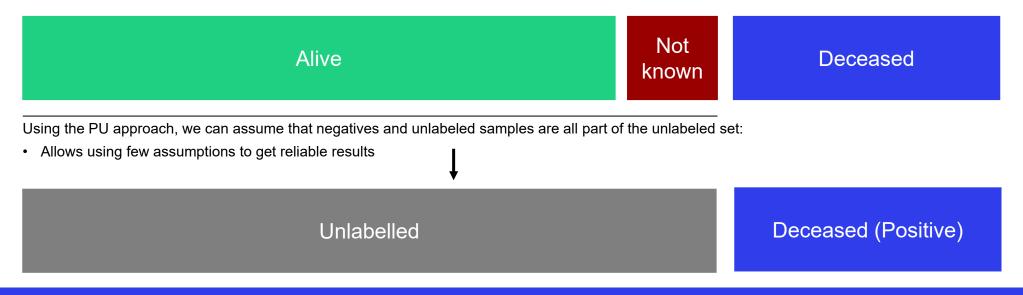
- We want high predictive power and explainability
- We condition life2vec on three tasks:
  - Early Mortality Prediction
  - Emigration Prediction
  - Self-reported personality assessment



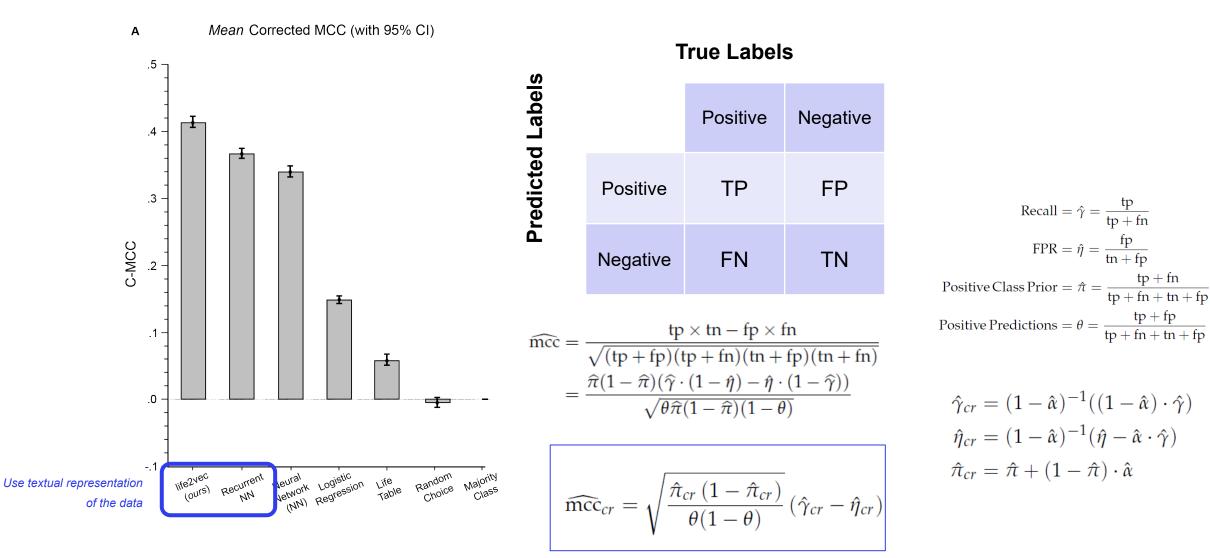
#### **Early Mortality Prediction**

- Task: "Is a person going to be deceased within the next 4 years after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015?"
  - Split people into ones who are marked as dead, and all others
  - Some people do not have "a label".
    - This is a Positive Unlabelled (PU)-Learning Problem

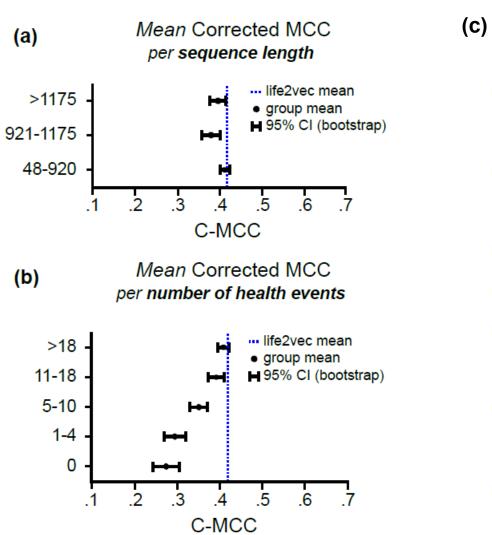
#### Why PU Learning? (Mortality Example)

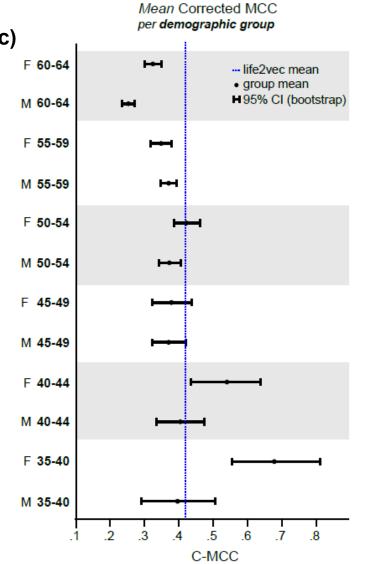


## **Early Mortality Prediction**



## **Early Mortality Prediction: Auditing**







#### **Early Mortality Prediction: Data Use**

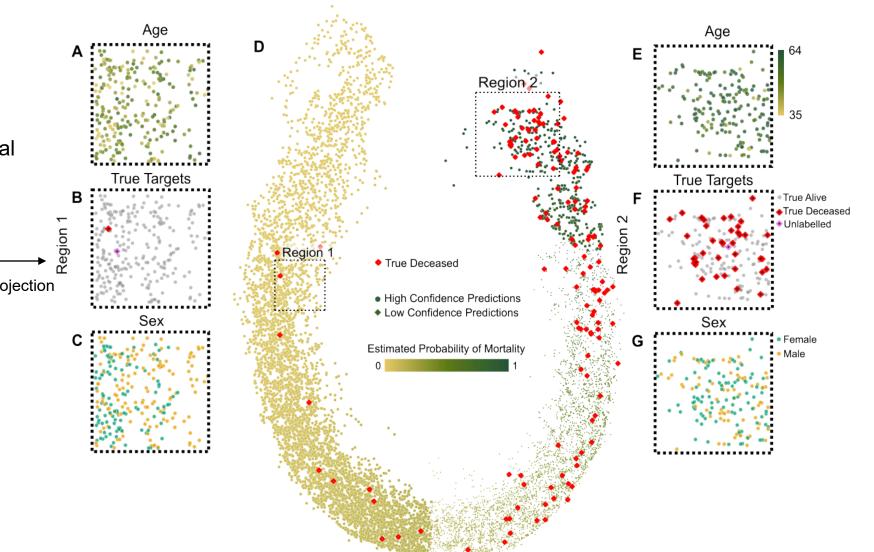
Retrain the model on different variations of the dataset

Data	<b>C-MCC,</b> 95%- <b>C</b> I	AUL	Vocab Size
Full Labor & Health	0.413 [0.410, 0.422]	0.845	2043
Partial Labor & Health	0.375 [0.367, 0.384]	0.837	1034
Only Full Labor	0.319 [0.312, 0.327]	0.809	1290
Only Partial Labor	0.278 [0.271, 0.285]	0.782	281

Partial Labor: no industry, sector, position and labour force

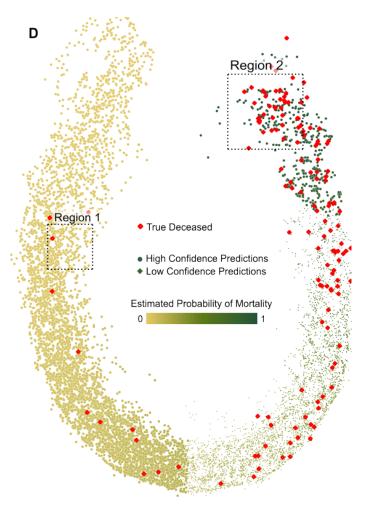
We can look at the low dimensional space of life-summaries.





Kim, Been, et al. "Interpretability beyond feature attribution: Quantitative testing with concept activation vectors (tcav)." *International conference on machine learning*. PMLR, 2018.

## **Explainability with TCAV (Mortality Prediction):**



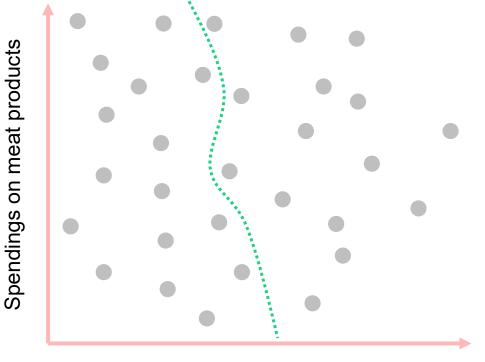
In the Concept space, we can find *somewhat* explainable directions!

• Here, we do not – we need to find them!

#### **TCAV** allows to find these directions

- Interpretation of the directions of the person-summary space
- Sensitivity of the model towards these directions
- Global Interpretability



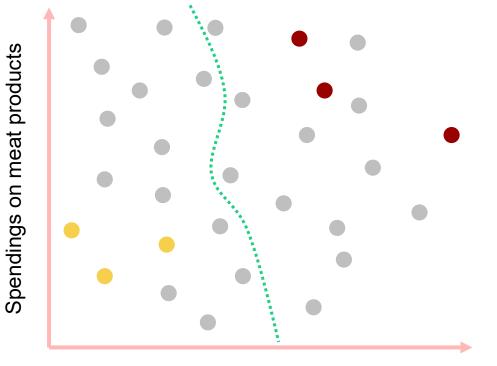


Let's imagine an algorithm that predicts whether a person has a dog

..... decision boundary of the algorithm

# of visits to a park





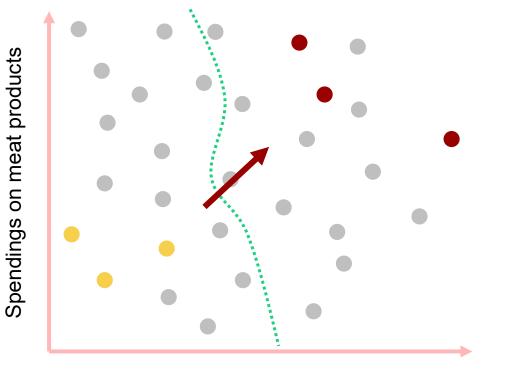
# of visits to a park

Let's imagine you have extra information

..... decision boundary of the algorithm

- Lives in a rental
- Owns an apartment



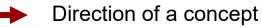


# of visits to a park

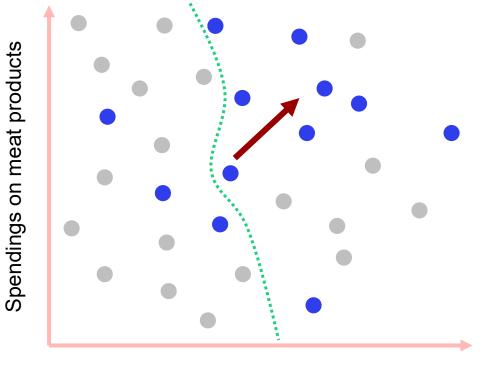
Let's imagine you have extra information

decision boundary of the algorithm

- Lives in a rental
- Owns an apartment





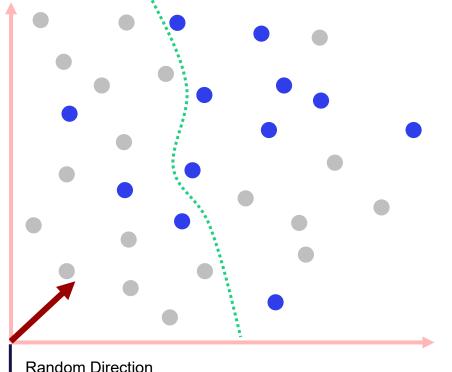


# of visits to a park

**Interpretation**: If we move in a certain direction (the one that is associated with a concept), how strongly would it influence the output of our model (on average)

- decision boundary of the algorithm
  - Randomly sampled point
  - Direction of a concept





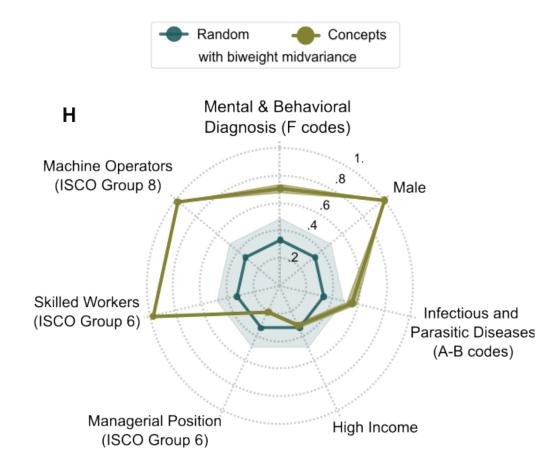
Concept Direction (if we move around it, our predictions would change)

Random Direction

(if we move around here, our predictions won't change much)

**Interpretation**: If we move in a certain direction (the one that is associated with a concept), how strong would it influence the output of our model (on average).

#### **Explainability with TCAV (Mortality Prediction):**

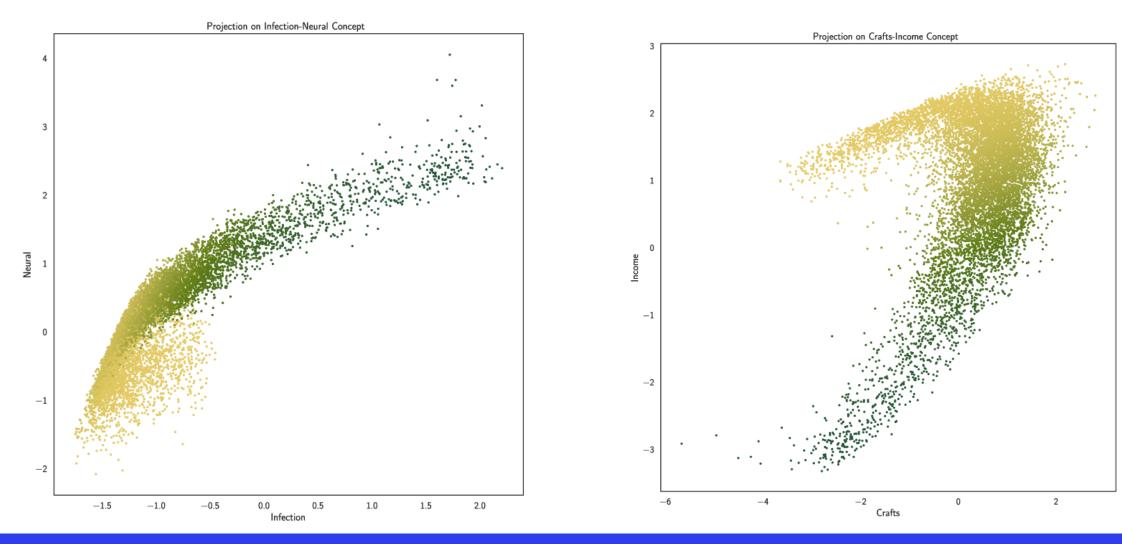


TCAV Score per "Direction"

- Interpretation of the directions of the person-summary space
- Sensitivity of the model towards these directions
- Global Interpretability



#### **Projection to TCAV Directions**



# Iife2vec and Personality Traits

- We focus on Extroversion Facets:
  - Sociability (tendency to enjoy social interactions)
  - Liveliness (one's typical enthusiasm and energy)
  - **Self-esteem** (tendency to have positive self-regard)
  - **Boldness** (comfort within a variety of social situations)



1. In social situations, I'm usually the one who makes the first move

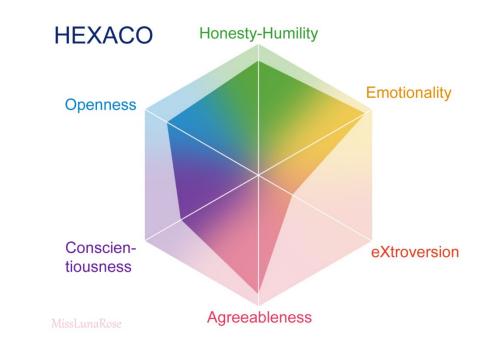


Image source: <u>Wikipedia</u> Inventory Descriptions: The HEXACO Personality Inventory - Revised

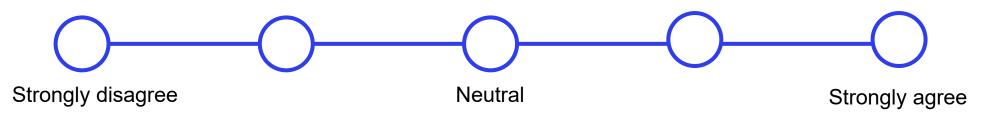


#### **Extraversion Nuance Prediction**

- Task: "What kind of replies does the person give to the 10 questions evaluating their Extraversion? "
  - Multiclass prediction
  - Ordinal Classification task (i.e. labels have ordered)
  - Highly Imbalanced Data
  - We do not have much data

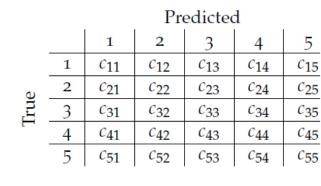
#### Statement:

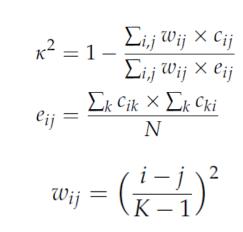
In social situations, I'm usually the one who makes the first move

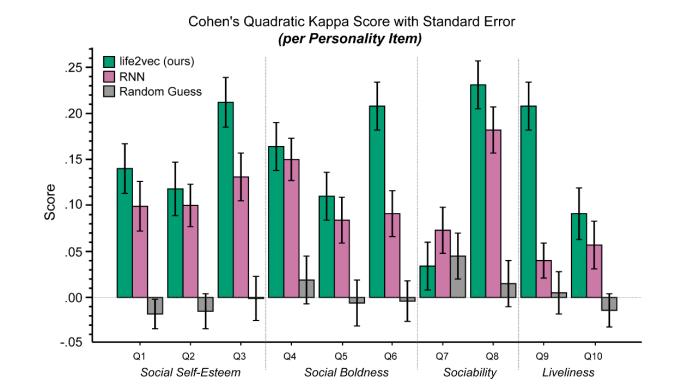




#### **Quadratic Kappa Score**







Accounts for the distance from predicted to target classes

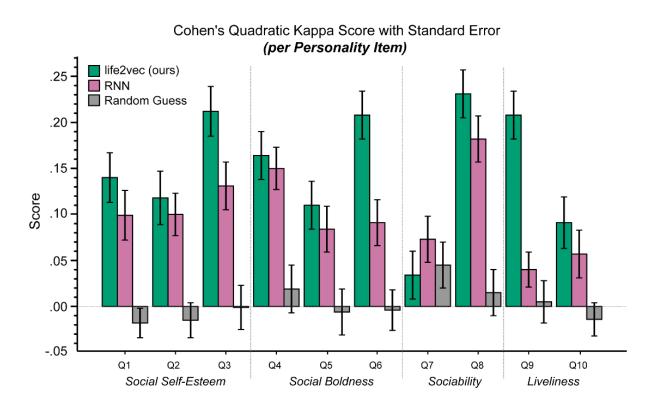
08/04/2024 Technical University of Denmark



#### **Questions**:

6. Most people are more upbeat and dynamic than I generally am (liveliness)

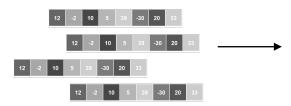
7. The first thing that I always do in a new place is to make friends (social I)

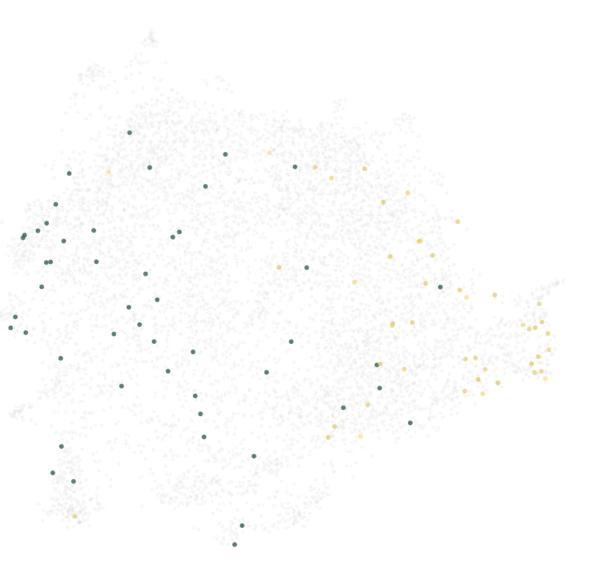


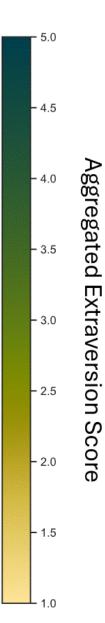
## DTUPersonality Summaries(PaCMAP projection)score < 0.01</td>

score < 0.01 QT and score> 0.99 QT

We can look at the low-dimensional space of life-summaries.









#### What does it tell us?

#### **Performance:**

- You can use pretrained life2vec for downstream tasks
- Provides somewhat interpretable predictions
- Interpretations align with the literature

#### **Person-summaries**:

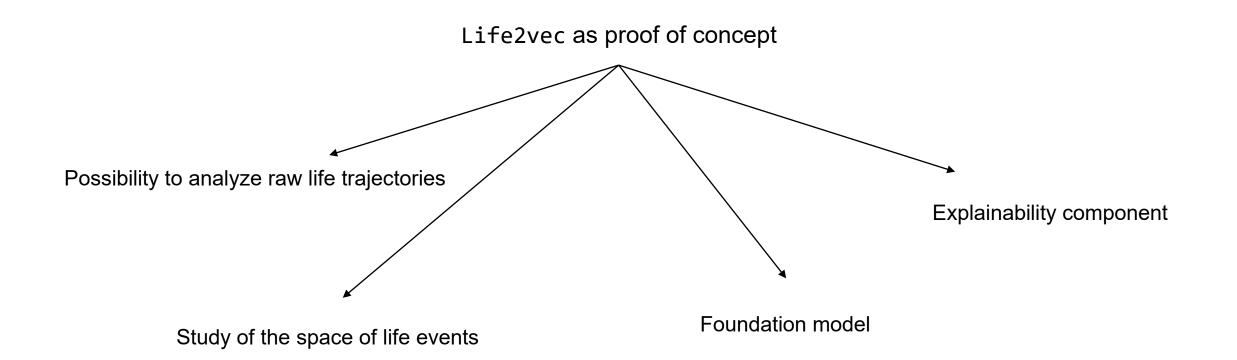
- Meaningful space
- Can be used to study various phenomena



# Conclusion



#### Conclusion





# Thank you for attention!