Statistical Machine Translation

Adam Lopez
University of Edinburgh → Johns Hopkins University

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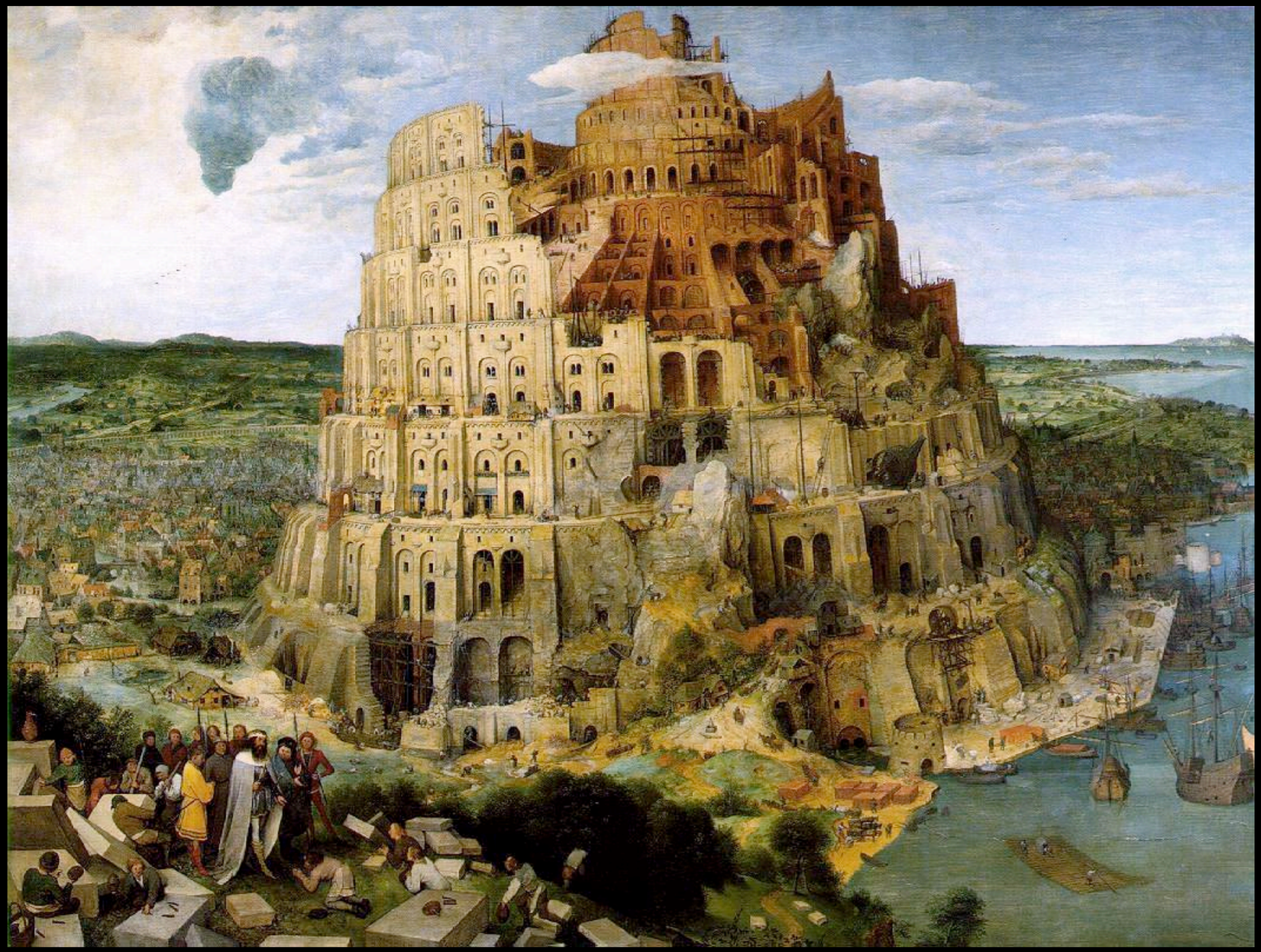
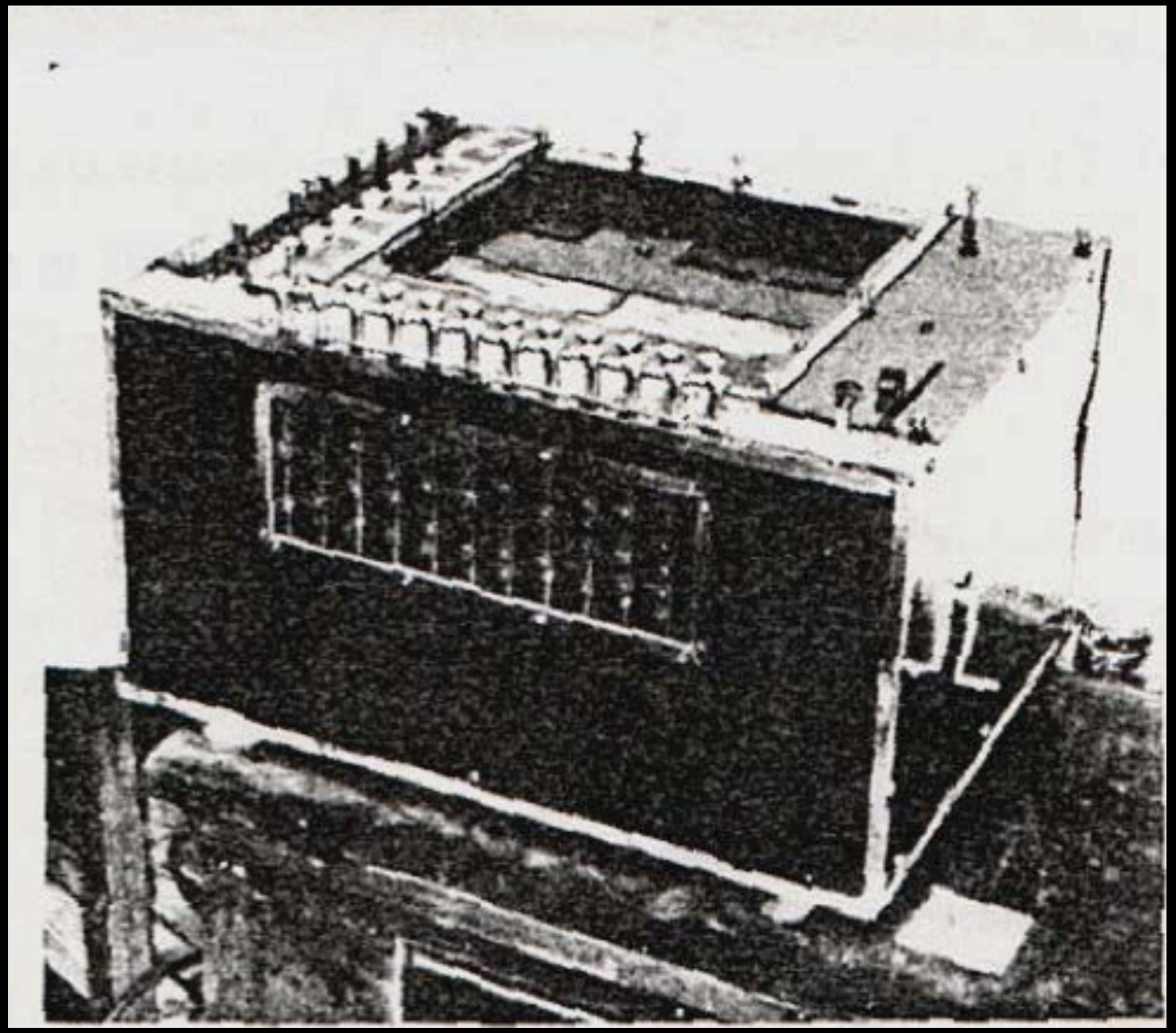
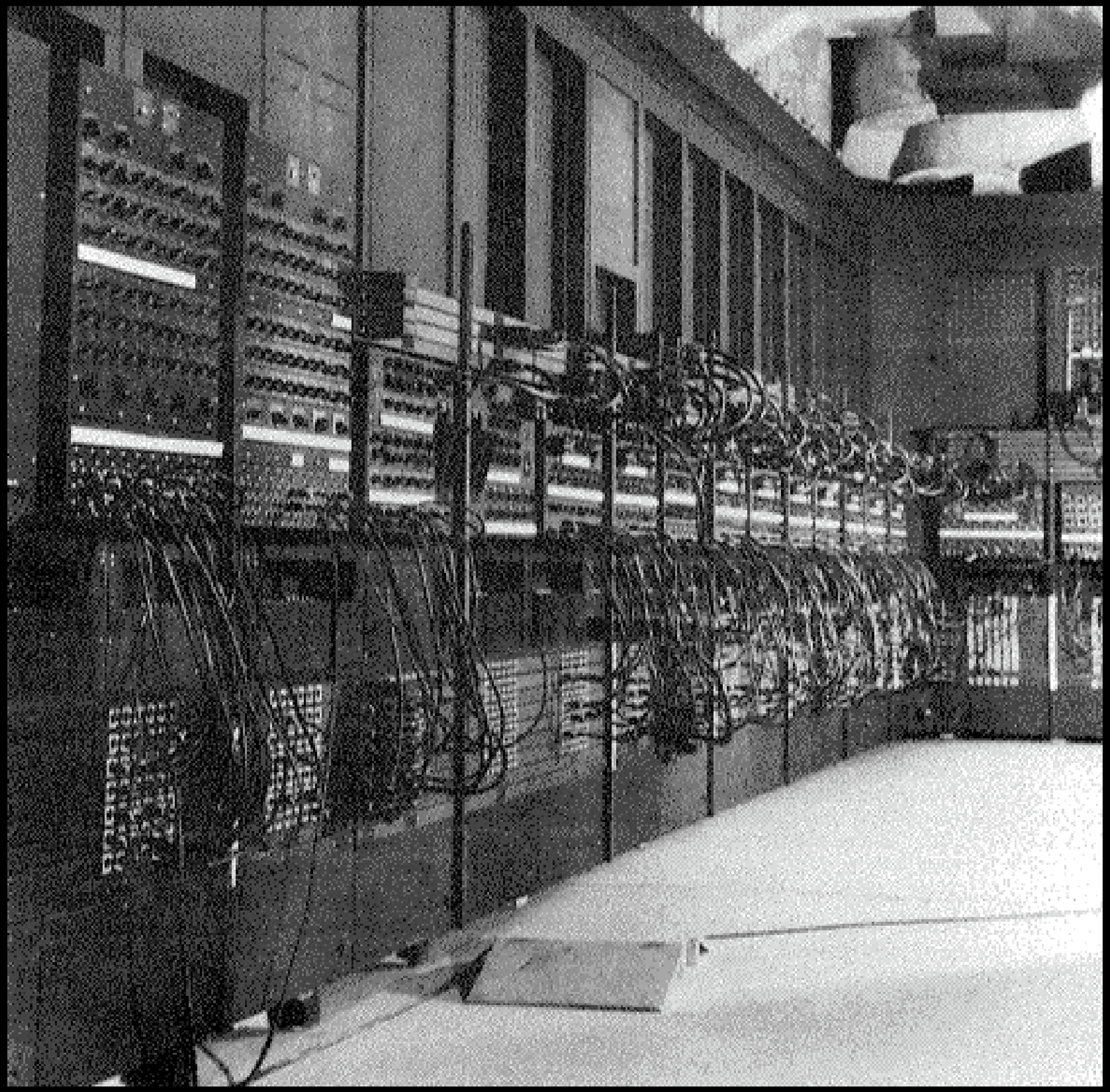


The Tower of Babel

Pieter Brueghel the Elder (1563)



Georges Artsrouni's "mechanical brain",
patented 1933 (France)



ENIAC (1946)

When I look at an article in Russian, I say: "This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode."

Warren Weaver (1949)

Statistical Machine Translation Live

4/28/2006 03:40:00 PM
Franz Och

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My language: English ▾

Example: 1. Search for Bern tourist information.
2. We translate your query into French and German, and find French and German results.
3. Finally, we translate the French and German results back into your language.

Translate text

Bienvenue à Le Mans

French » English Translate

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My language:
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Mans

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Filipino
Finnish
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Galician
German
Greek
Haitian Creole
Hebrew
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Hungarian
Icelandic
Indonesian
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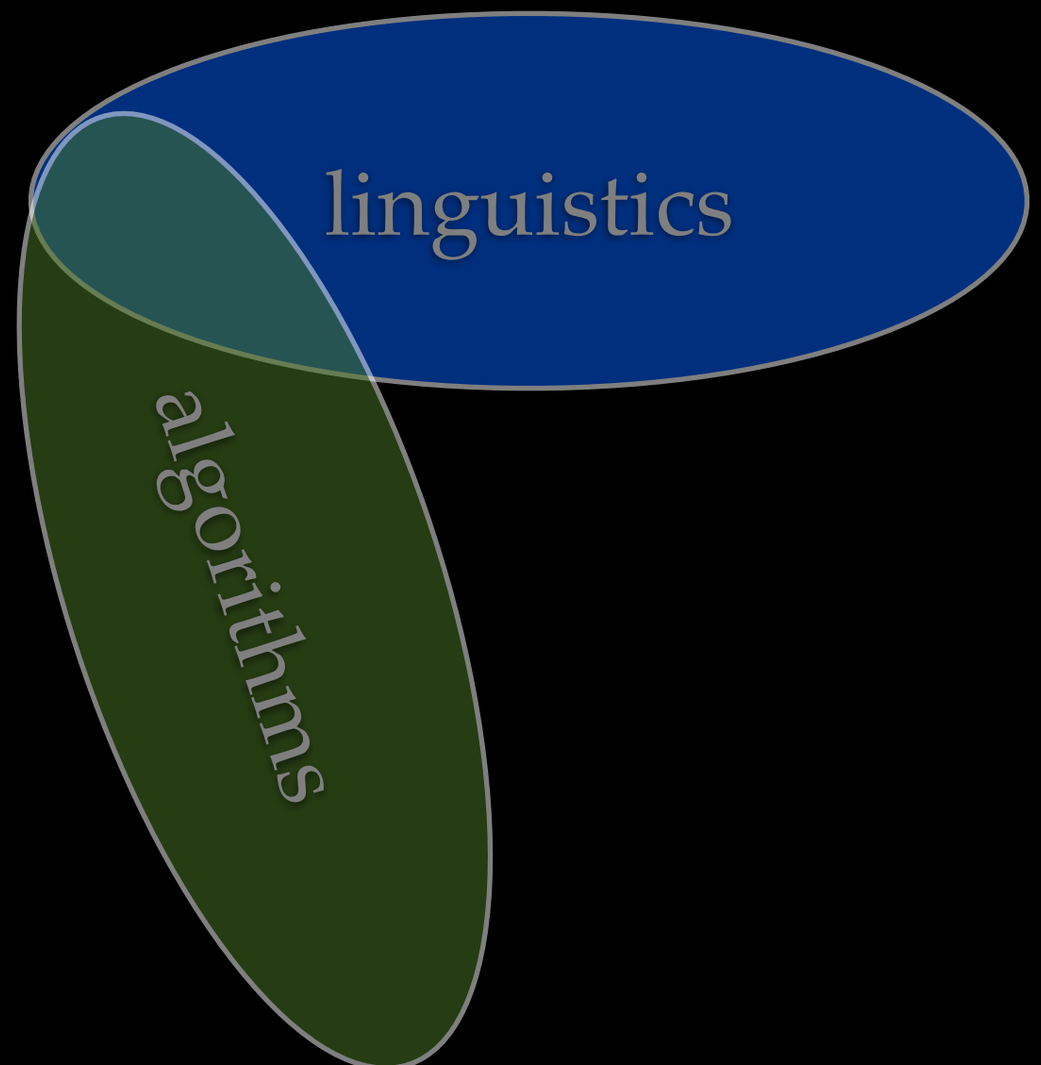
French » English Translate

2756 language pairs!

Statistical Machine Translation

Statistical Machine Translation

Statistical Machine Translation



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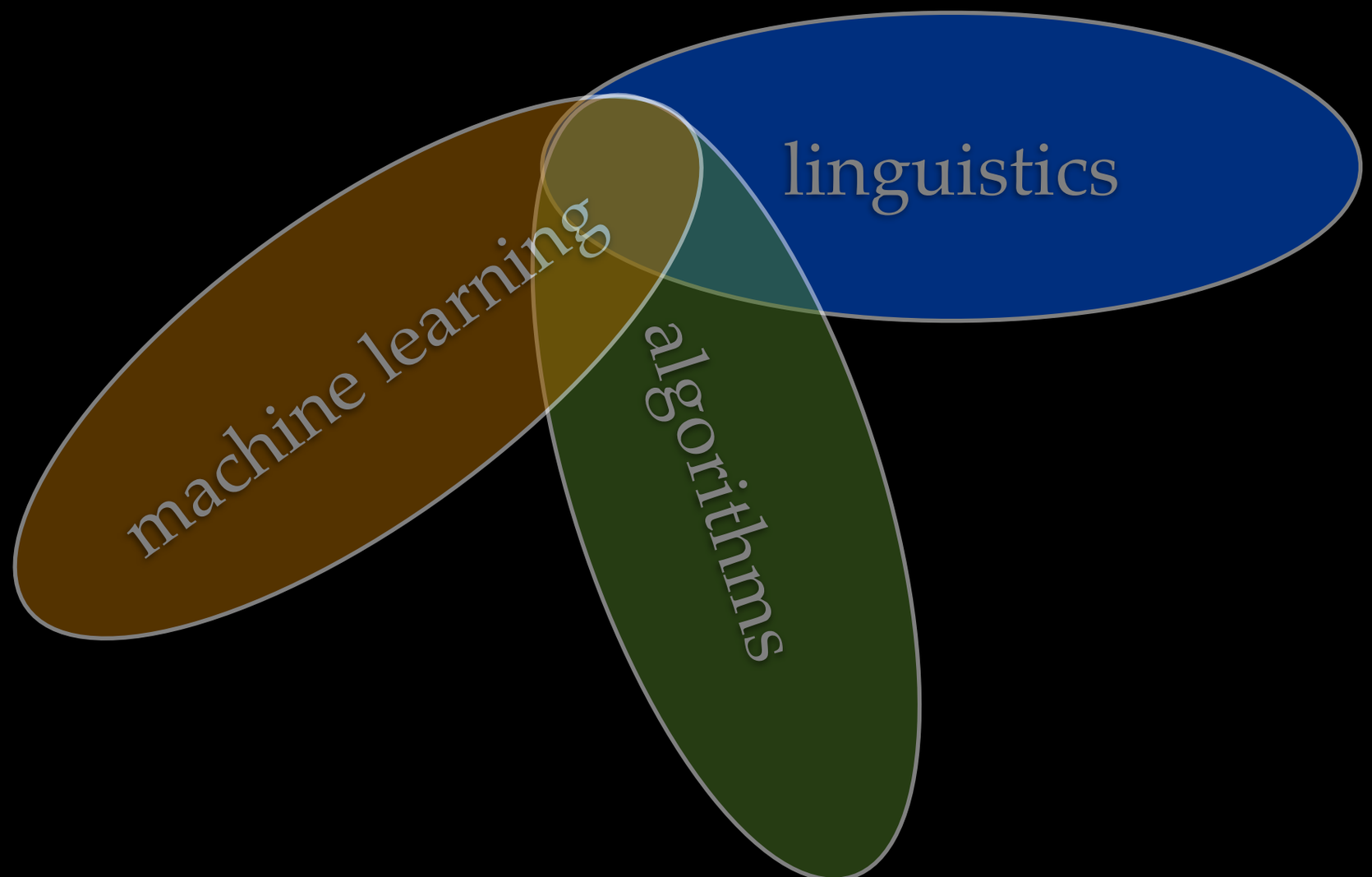

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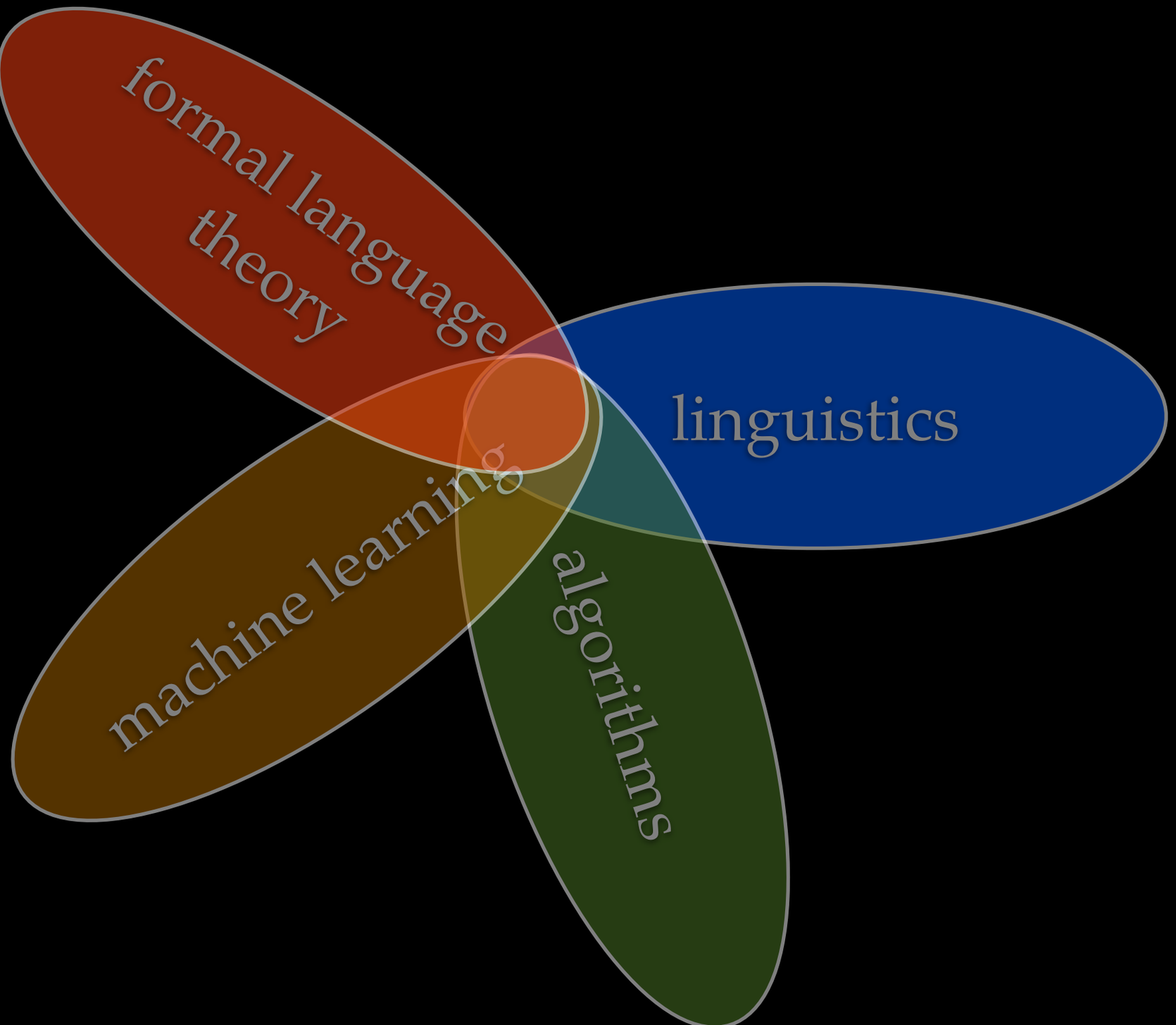

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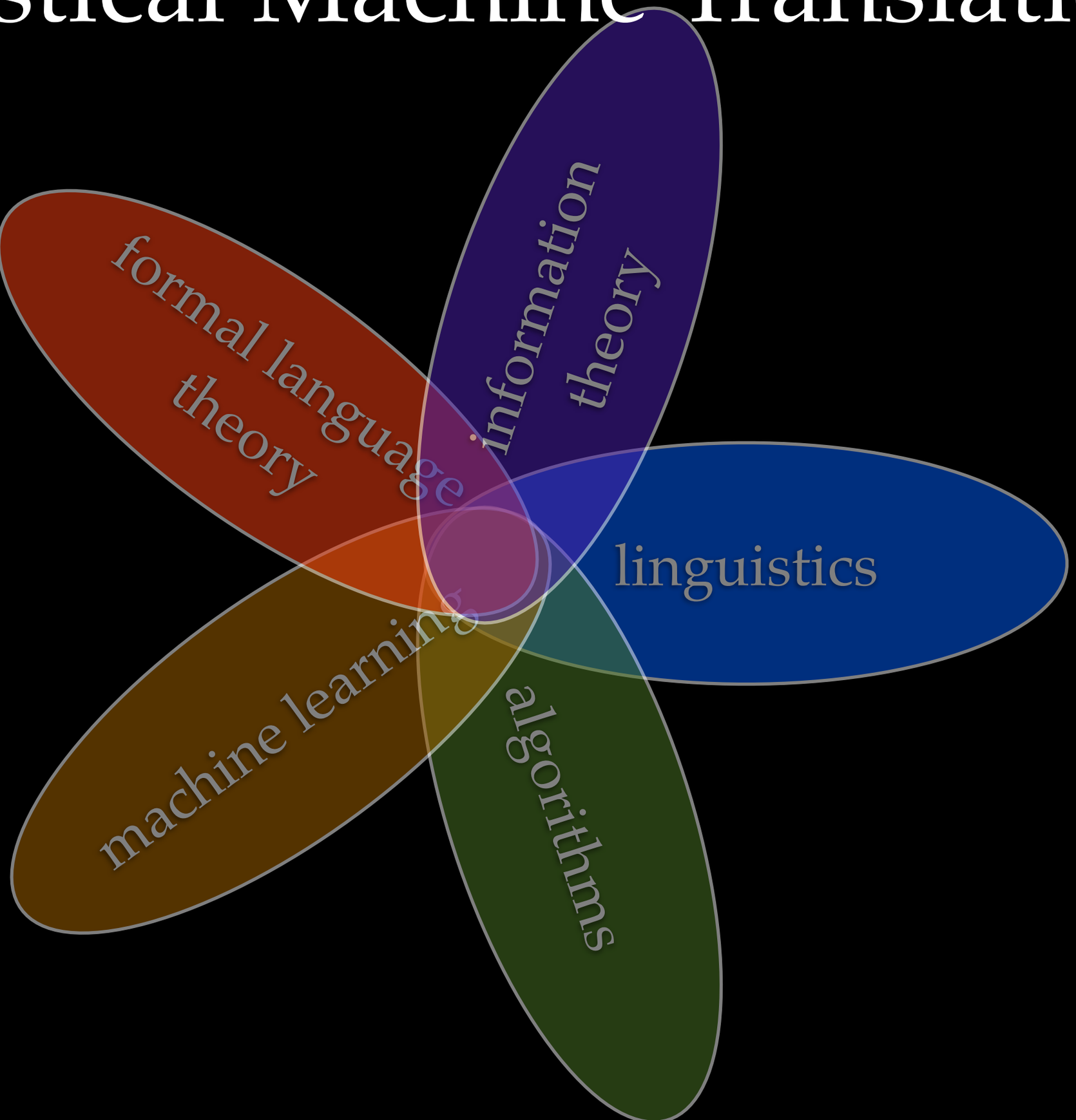

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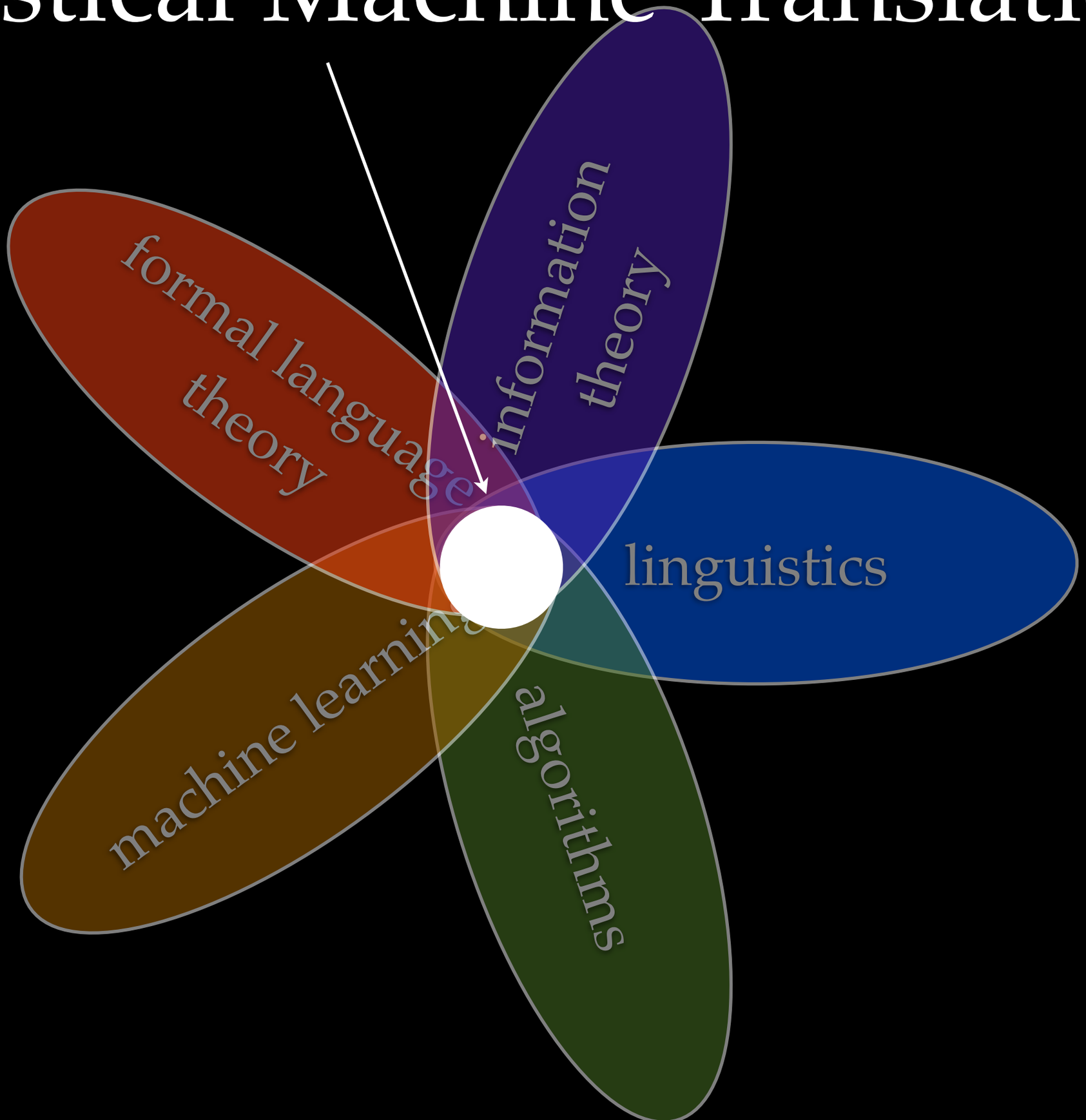

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However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

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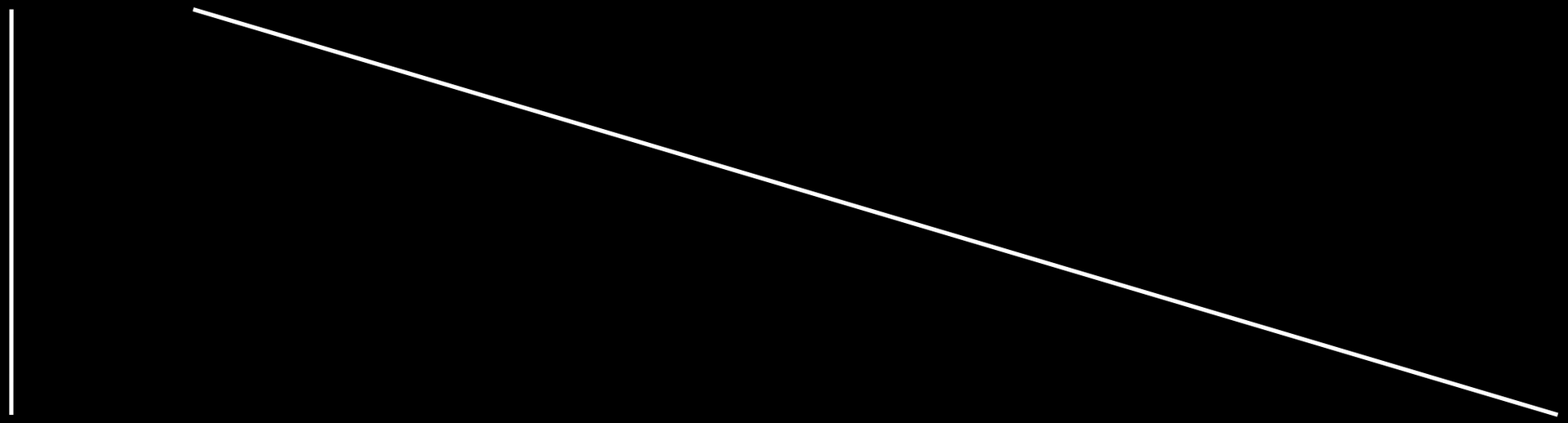

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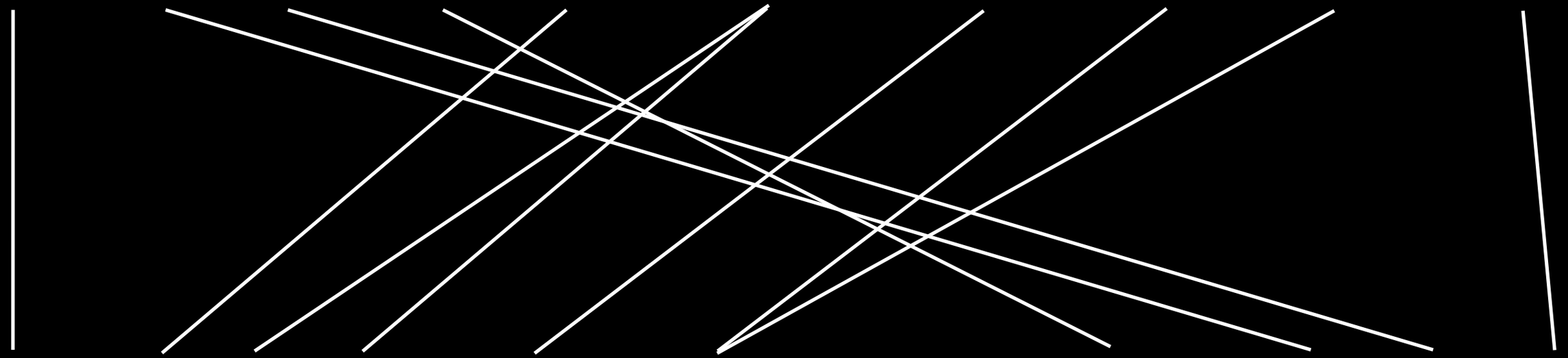

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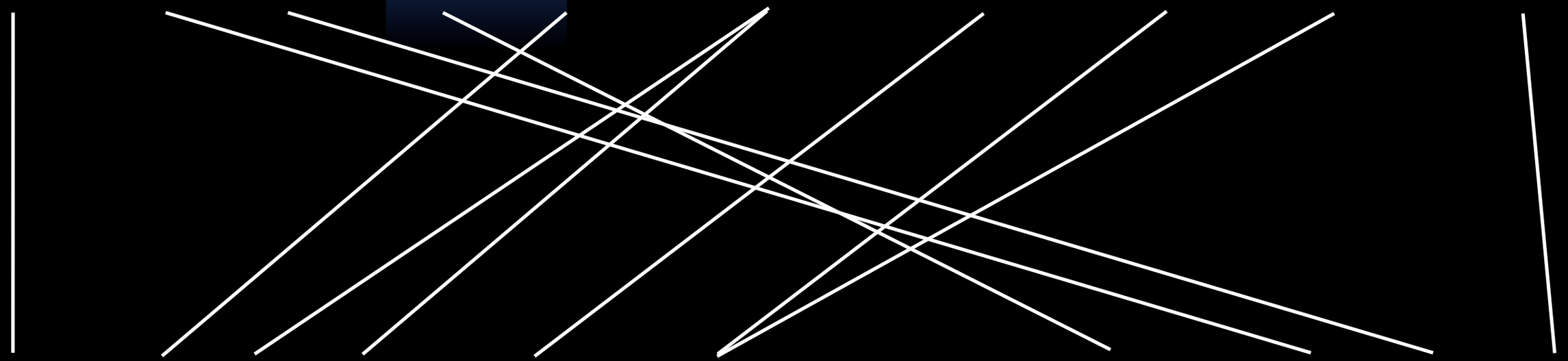

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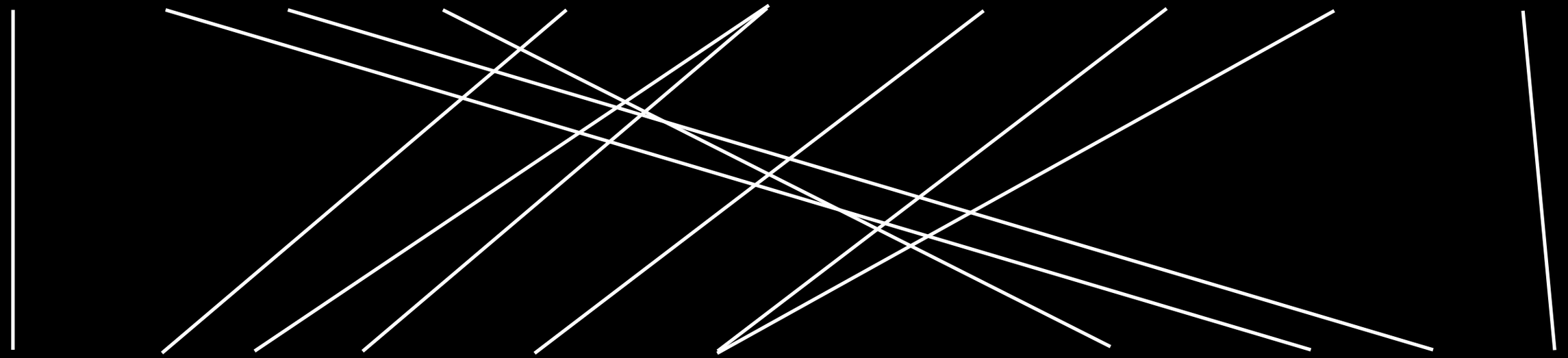

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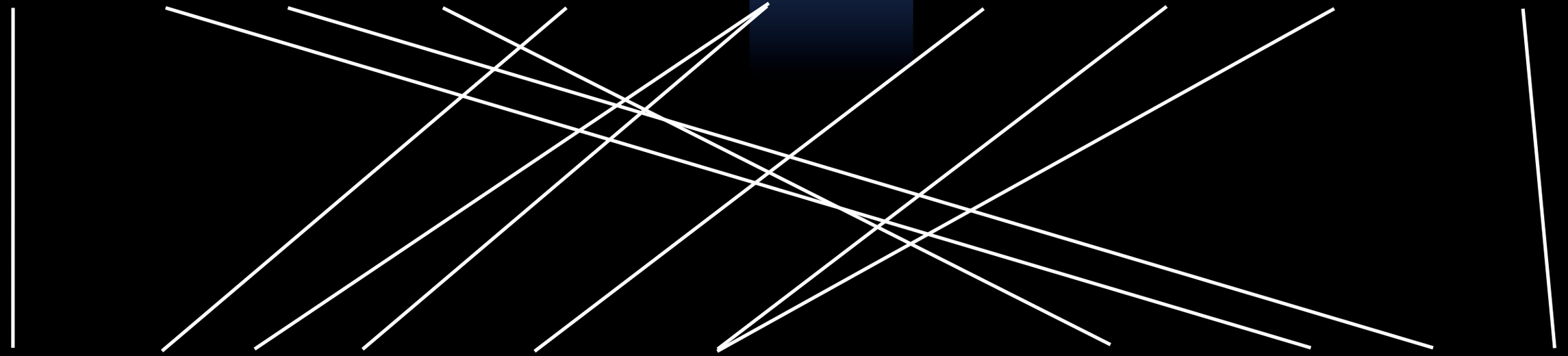

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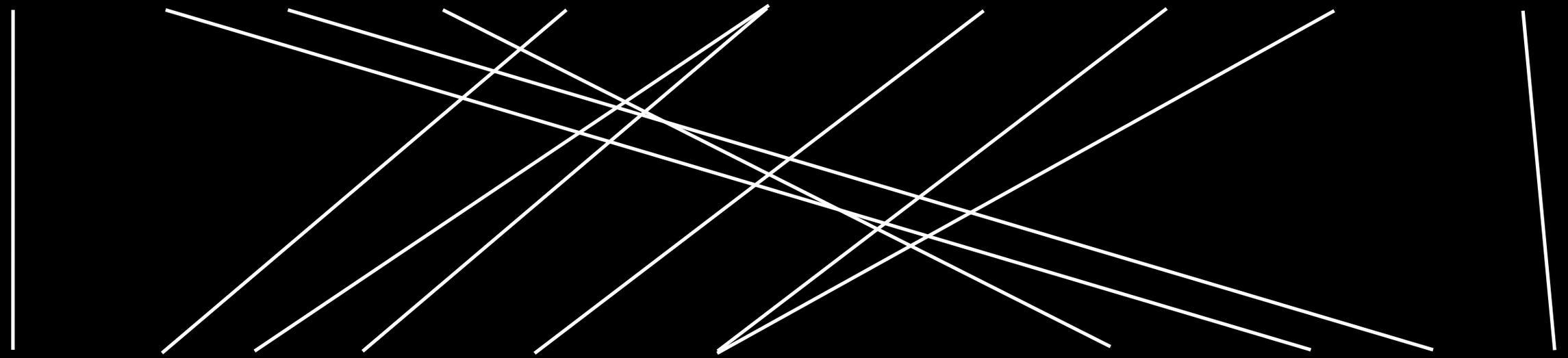

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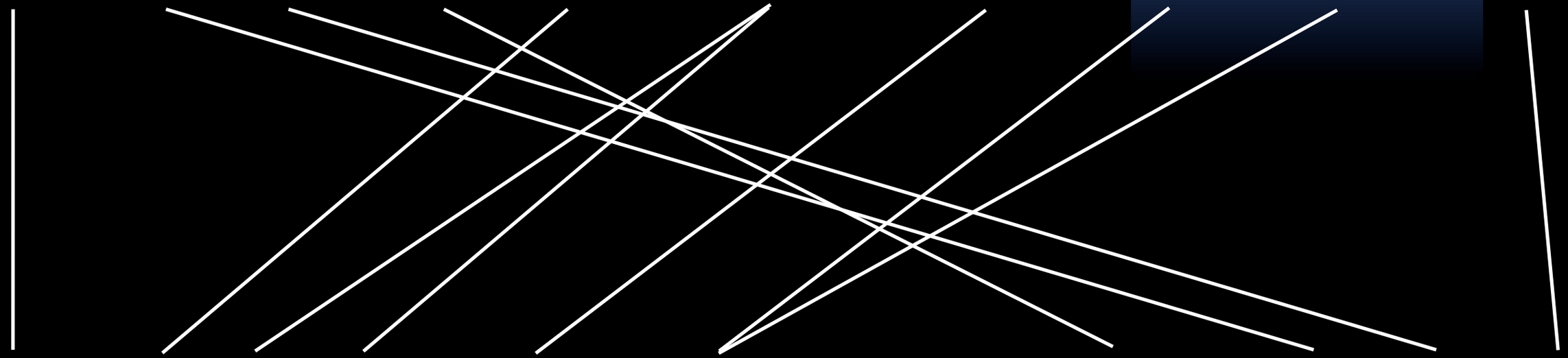

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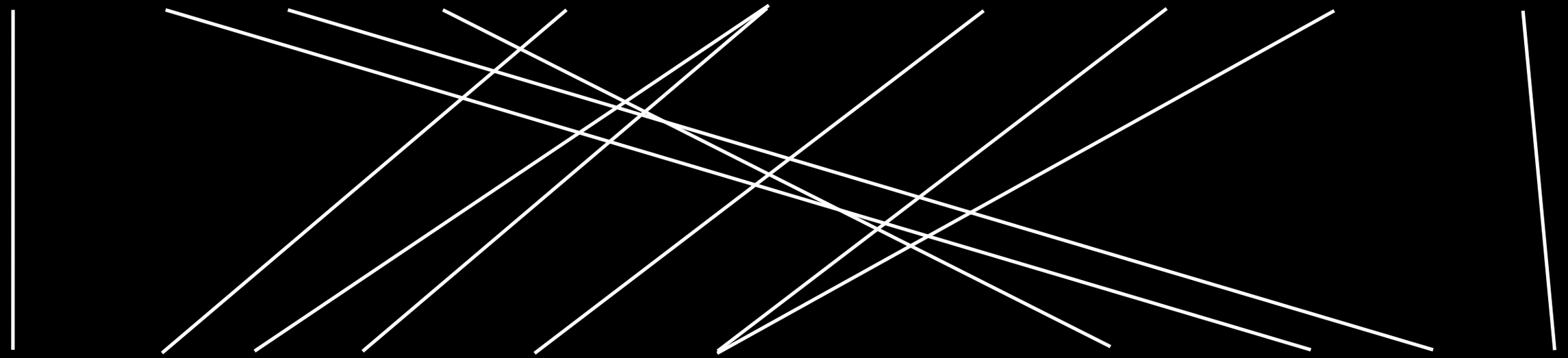

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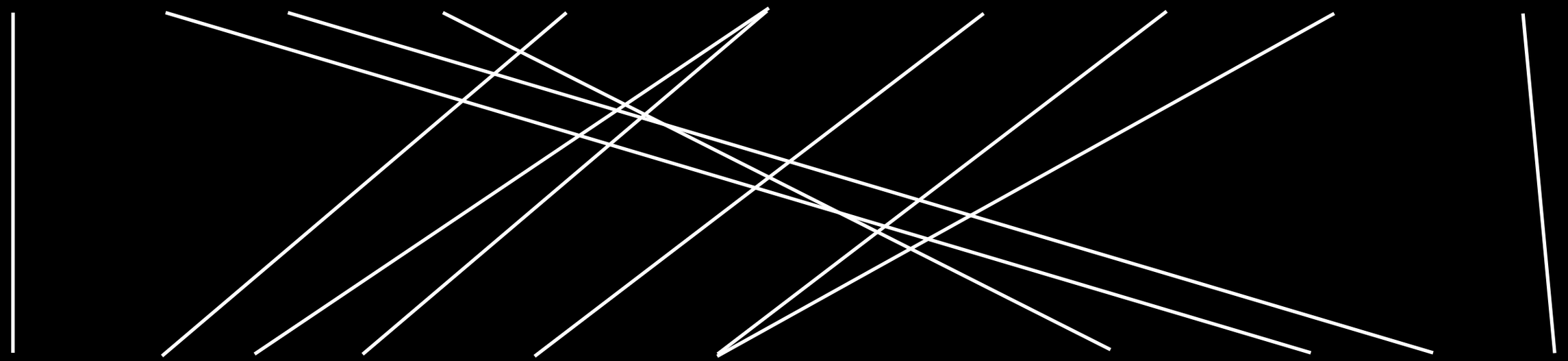

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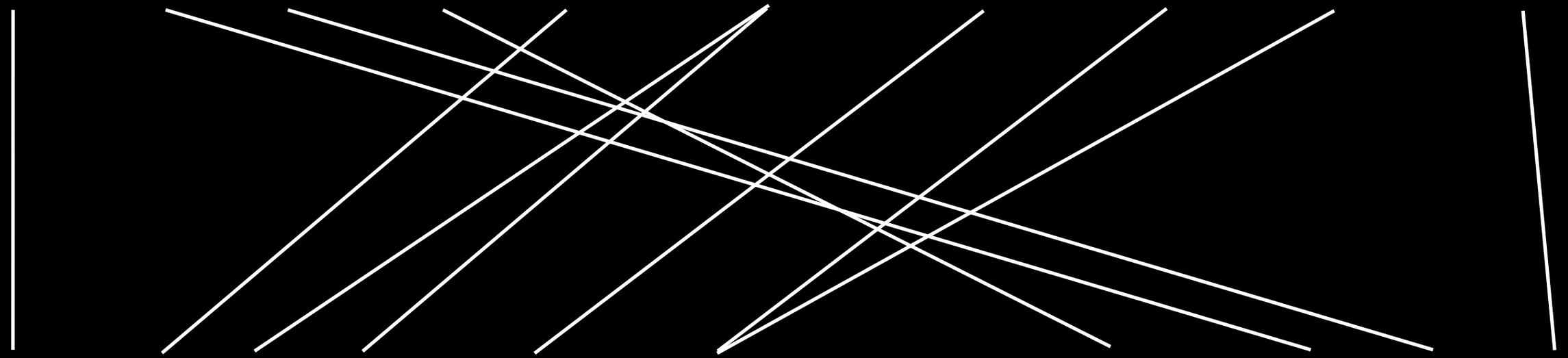

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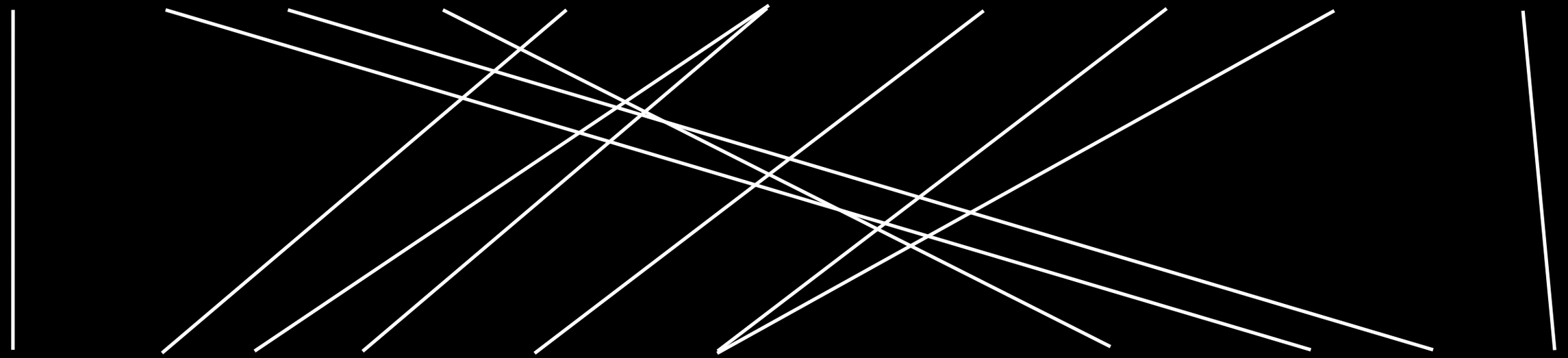

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Despite the strong northerly winds , the sky remains very clear .

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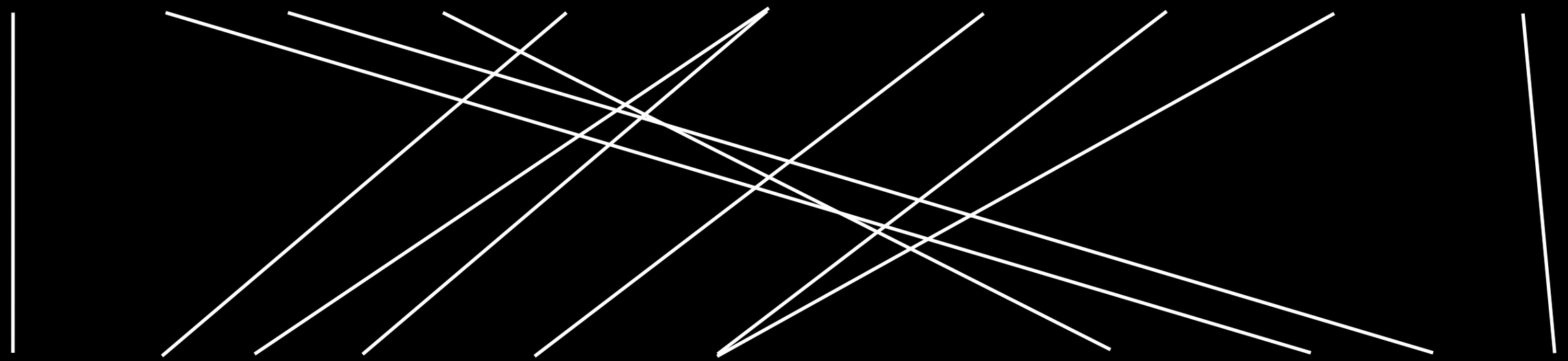

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Despite the strong northerly winds , the sky remains very clear .

The sky was still crystal clear , though the north wind was howling .

Although a north wind was howling , the sky remained clear and blue .

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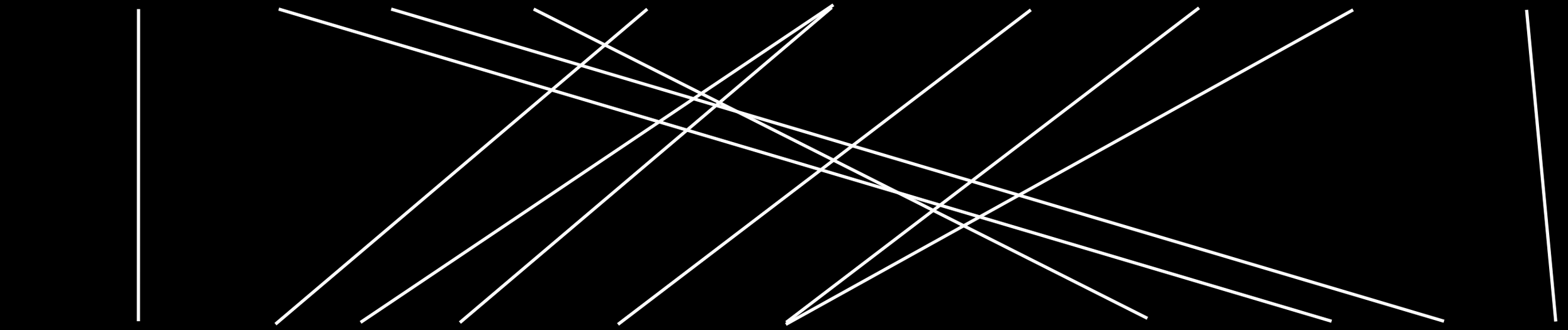

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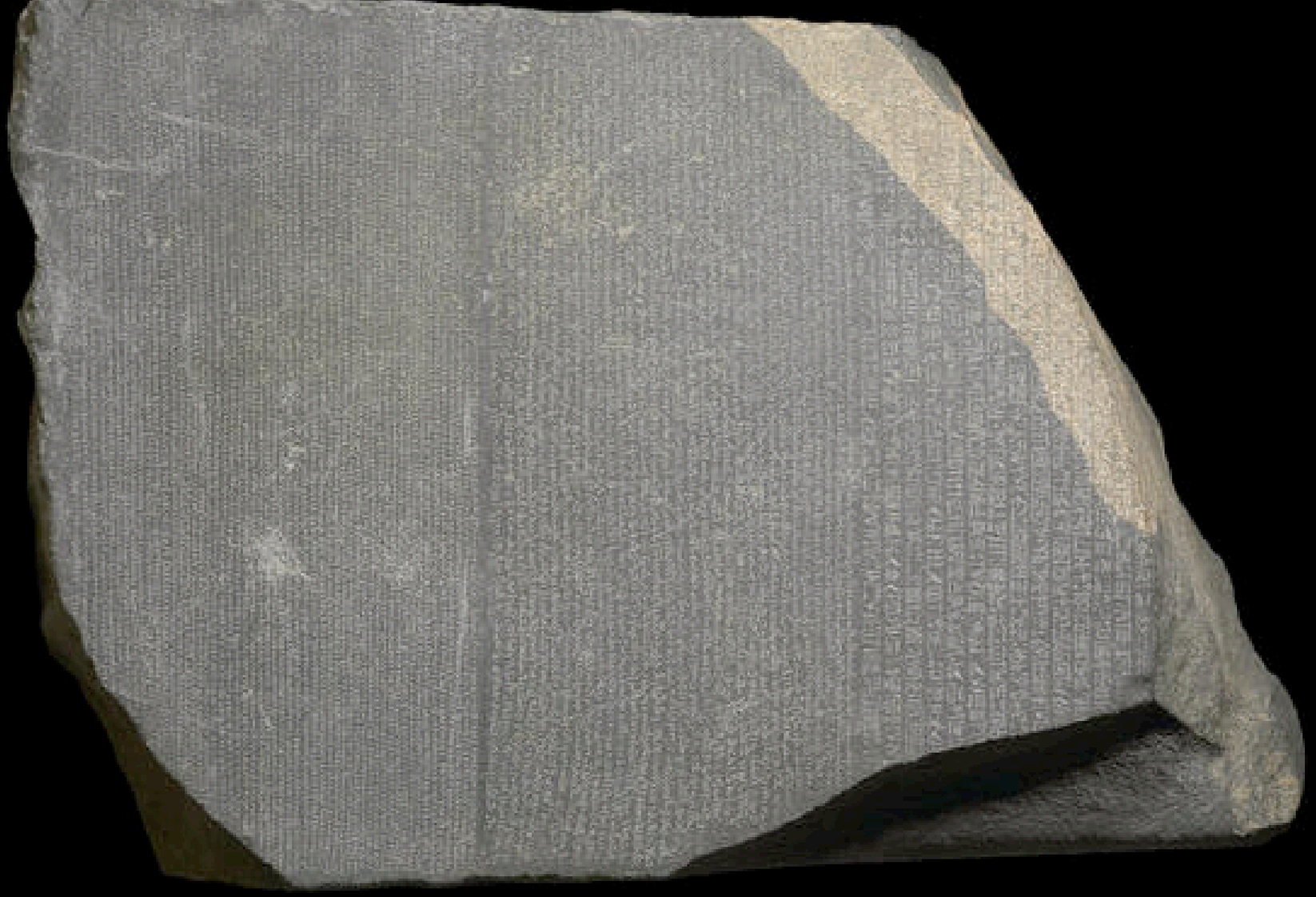

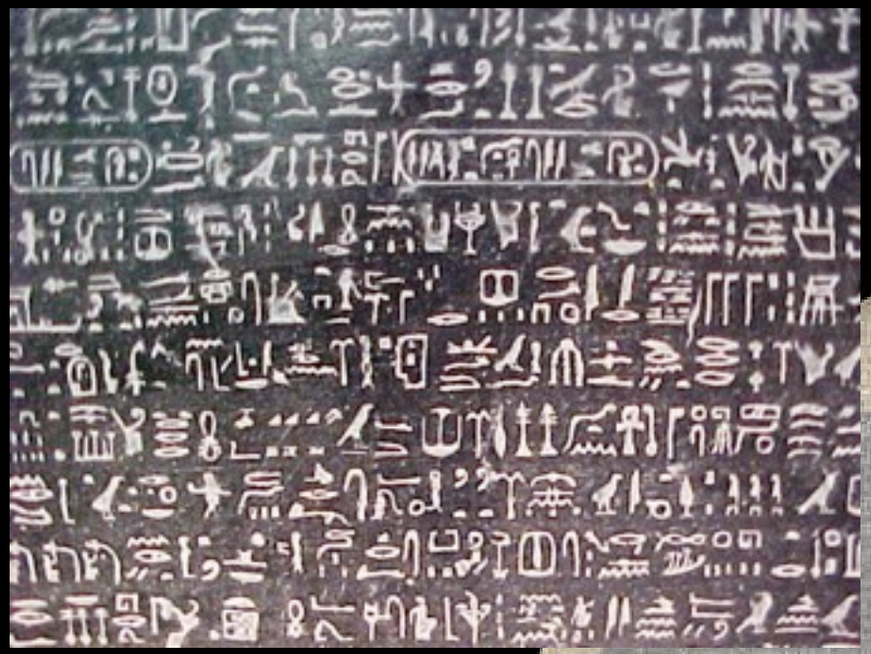

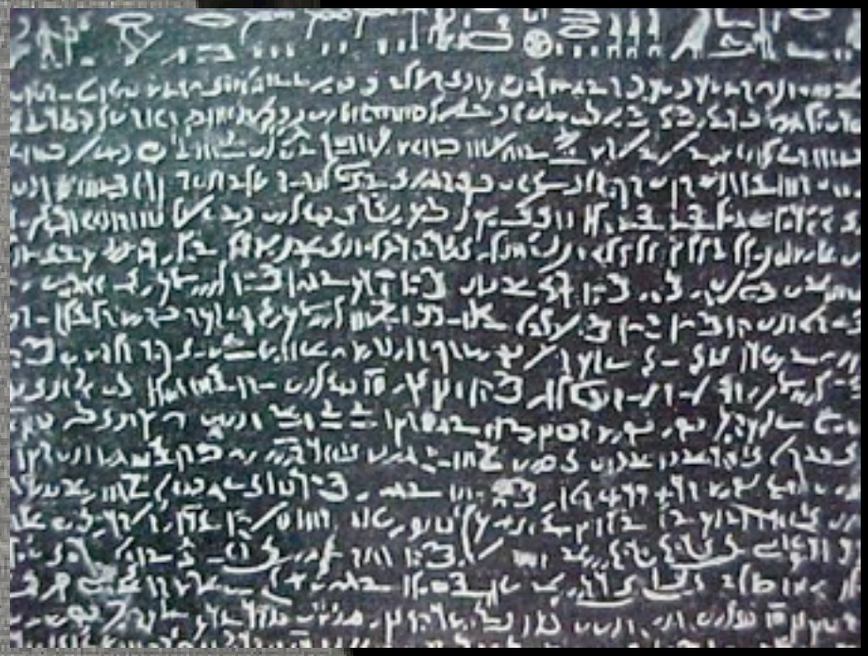

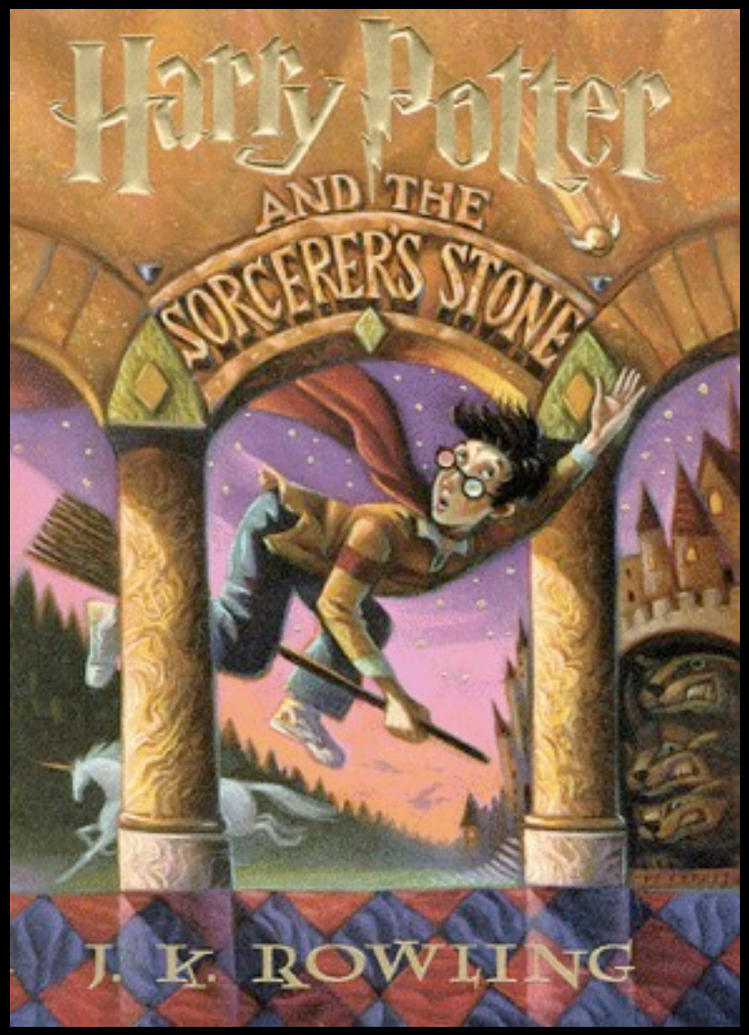
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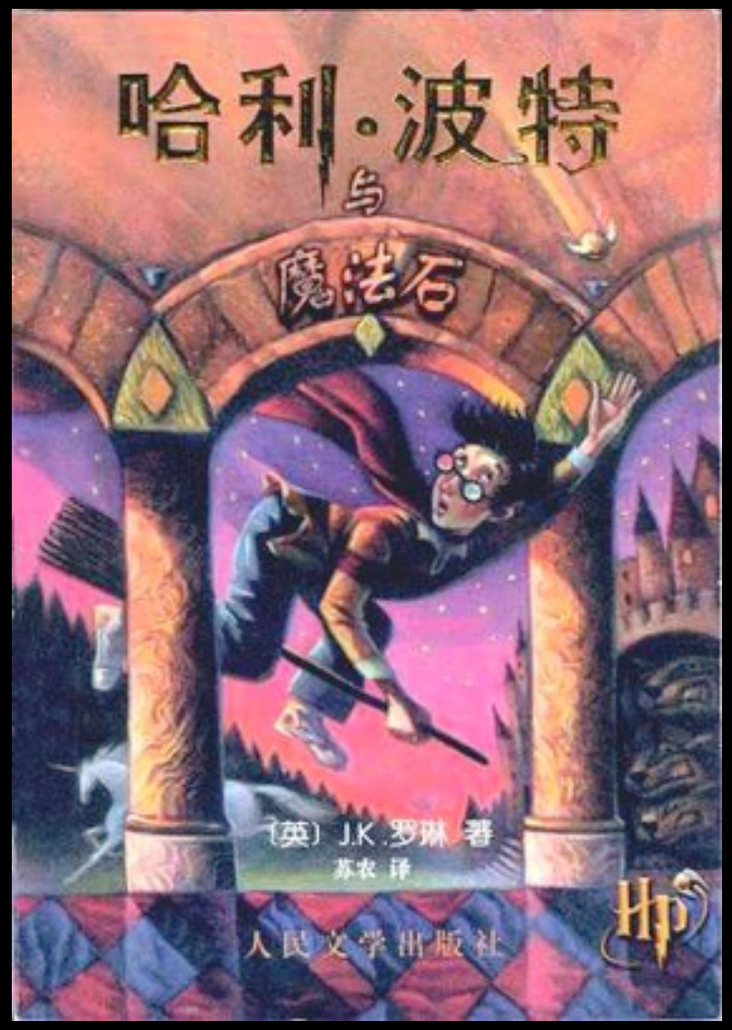
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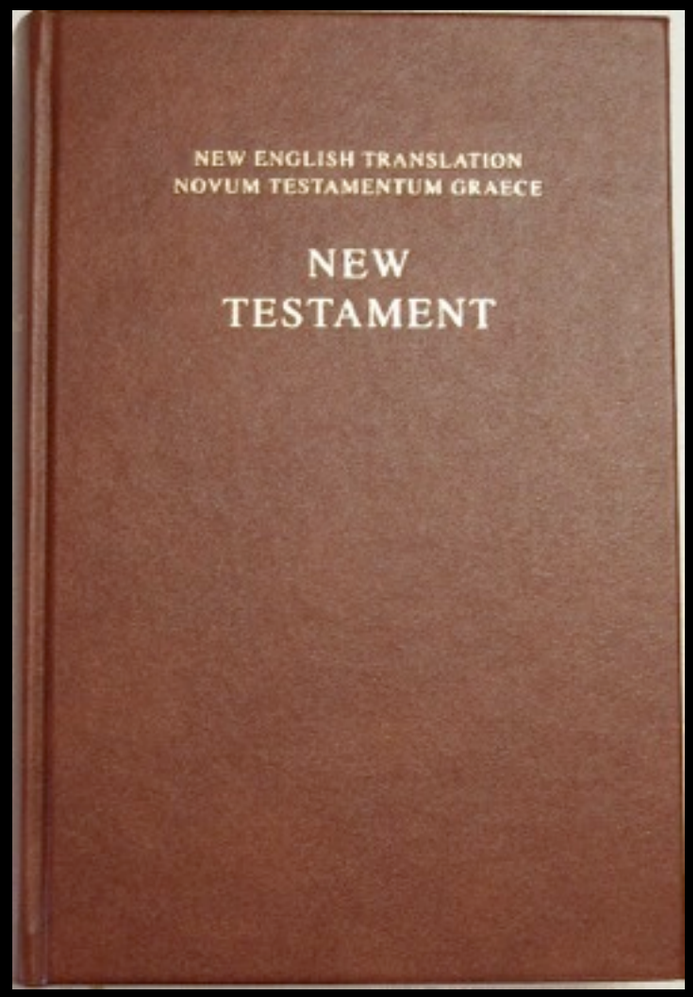
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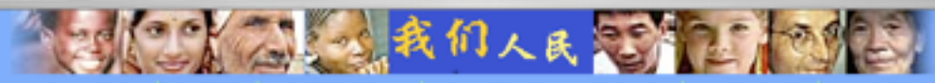

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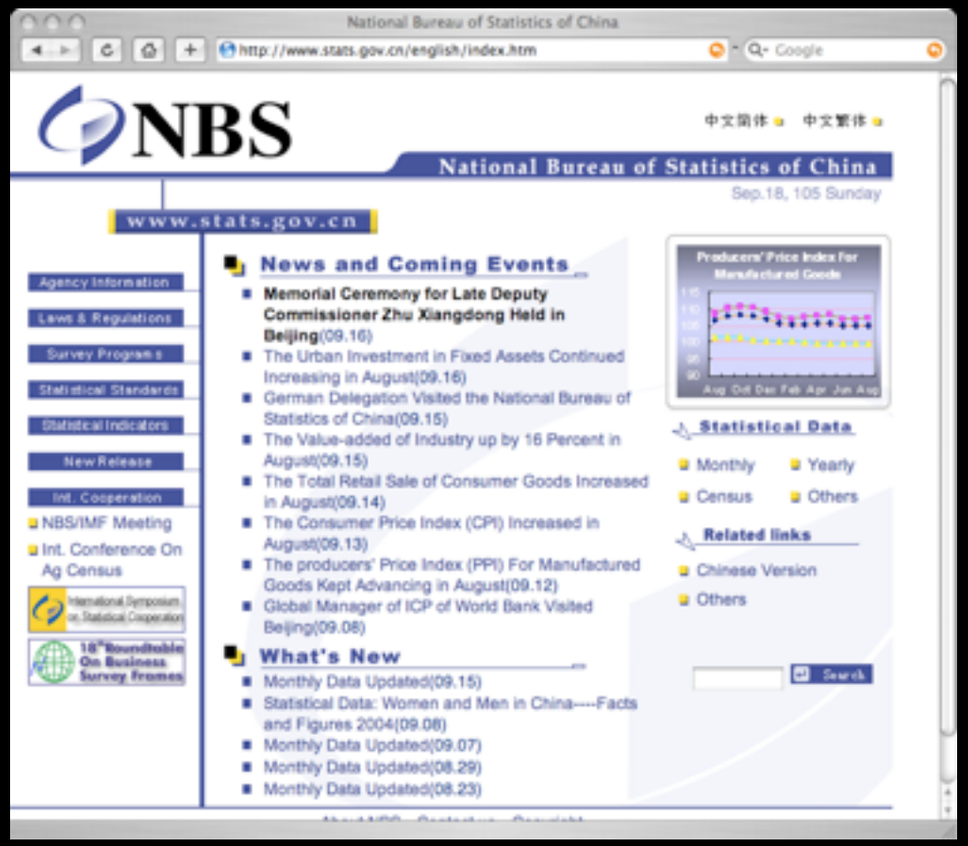
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统计数据：8月份工业增加值 各地区工业增加值（09.15）
1-8月份全国城镇固定资产投资同比增长27.4%（09.15）
加快云南人口城市化进程需解决四大关键问题（09.15）
丹江口：遏止教育乱收费"一费制"深入人心（09.15）
1-8月浙江限额以上固定资产投资同比增长16.4%（09.15）
8月份广西消费品零售额与去年同期相比增长13.6%（09.15）
8月份我国工业实现增加值5968亿 同比增长16%（09.14）
调查显示：广东省企业流动资金短缺问题日益突出（09.14）
实施品牌战略 推动吉林省经济快速可持续发展（09.14）
无锡：城乡居民收入剪刀差十年扩大0.46倍（09.14）
8月份甘肃工业品价格呈现四特点 波动幅度有所加快（09.14）
最新统计动态
河南省县级政府领导干部统计知识培训班举行（09.16）
白银市副市长火焕元勉励统计工作者当好"参谋"（09.16）
吉林舒石市统计机构建设加强 成立实体统计工作站（09.16）
《新疆五十年》出版发行 自治区领导为该书题词（09.16）
国家统计局局长李德水撰文送心得：抢桑田变成地球（09.15）
湖南省副省长肖捷强调统计要实事更要求是（09.15）
山东省统计局实行行政许可办理"窗口"式办公（09.15）
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印发《关于统计上对公有和非公有控股经济的分类办法》的通知
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Memorial Ceremony for Late Deputy Commissioner Zhu Xiangdong Held in Beijing(09.16)
The Urban Investment in Fixed Assets Continued Increasing in August(09.16)
German Delegation Visited the National Bureau of Statistics of China(09.15)
The Value-added of Industry up by 16 Percent in August(09.15)
The Total Retail Sale of Consumer Goods Increased in August(09.14)
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increased in August(09.13)
The producers' Price Index (PPI) For Manufactured Goods Kept Advancing in August(09.12)
Global Manager of ICP of World Bank Visited Beijing(09.08)
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统计机构
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CLASSIC SOUPS

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雪花湯	64.	Egg Drop Soup	1.10	2.10
雲雪湯	65.	Egg Drop Wonton Mix	1.10	2.10
豆腐菜湯	66.	Tofu Vegetable Soup	NA	3.50
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2002
éIRE

EURO

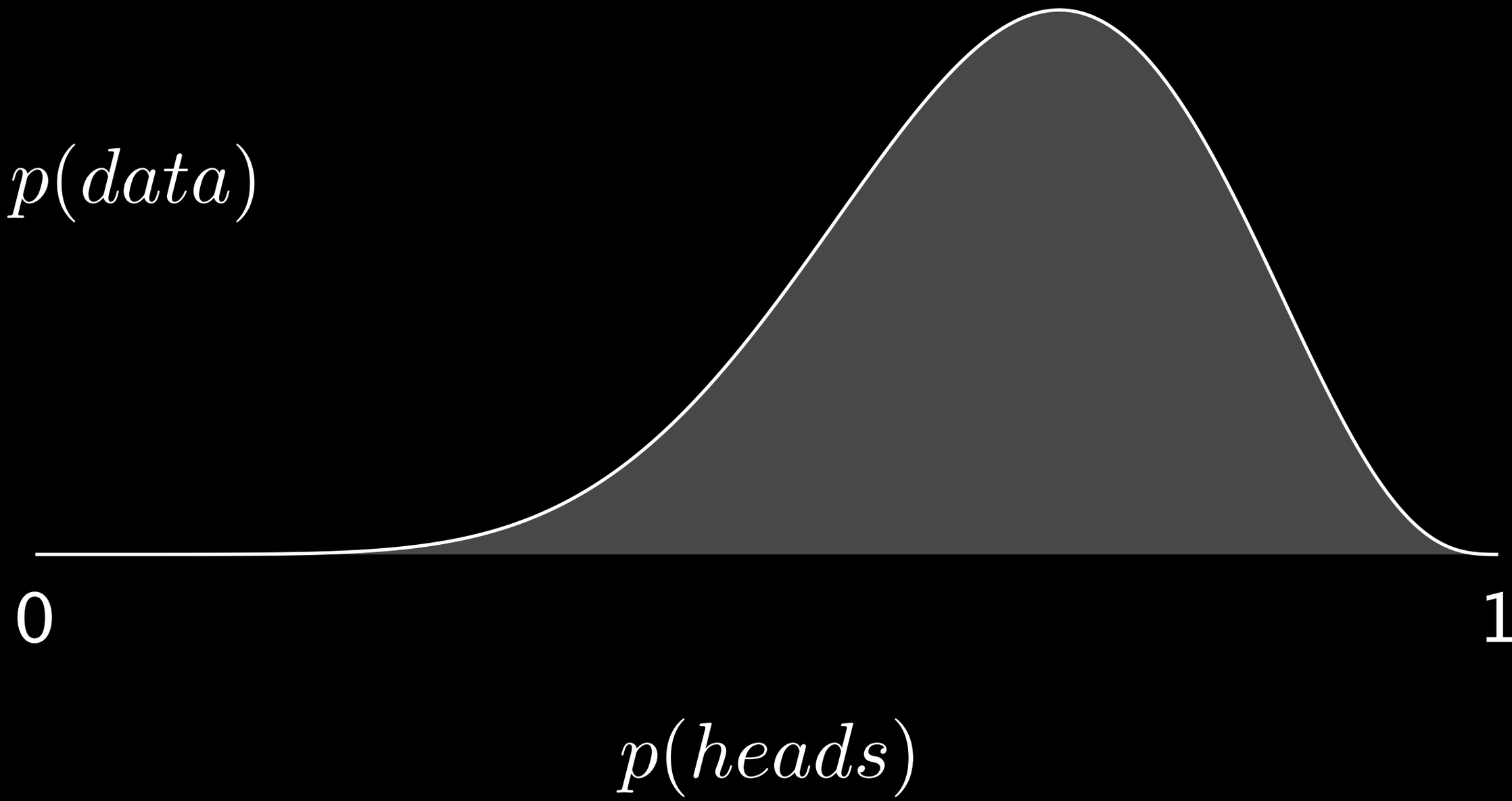
$p(heads)$ $\quad$ $1 - p(heads)$

1
EURO
2002
éIRe

$$p(heads)\,?$$

$$p(data) = p(heads)^7 \times p(tails)^3$$

$$p(data) = p(heads)^7 \times [1 - p(heads)]^3$$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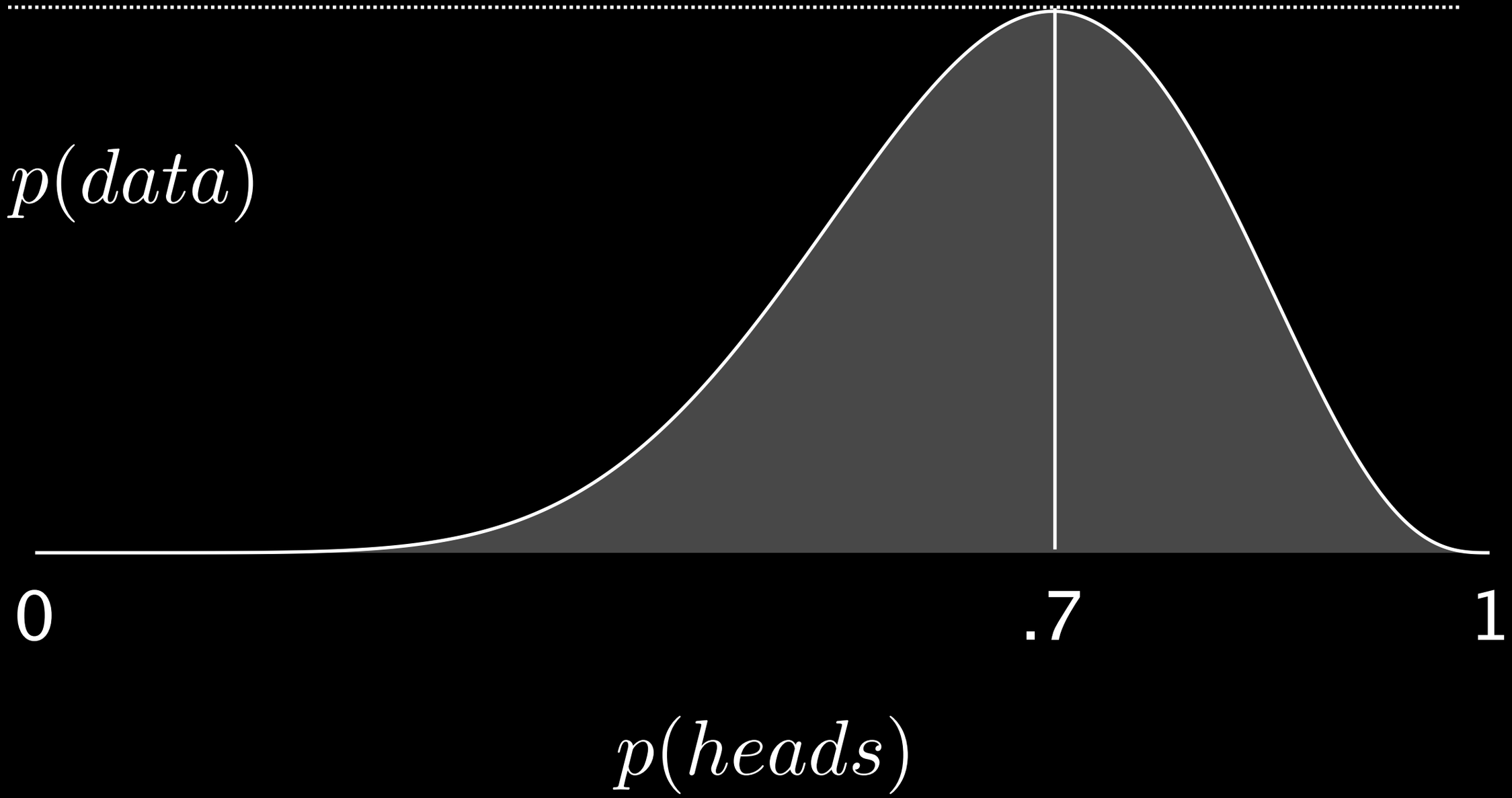
$p(heads)$


$p(data)$
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.7
1
$p(heads)$

THE WORD

- Optimization

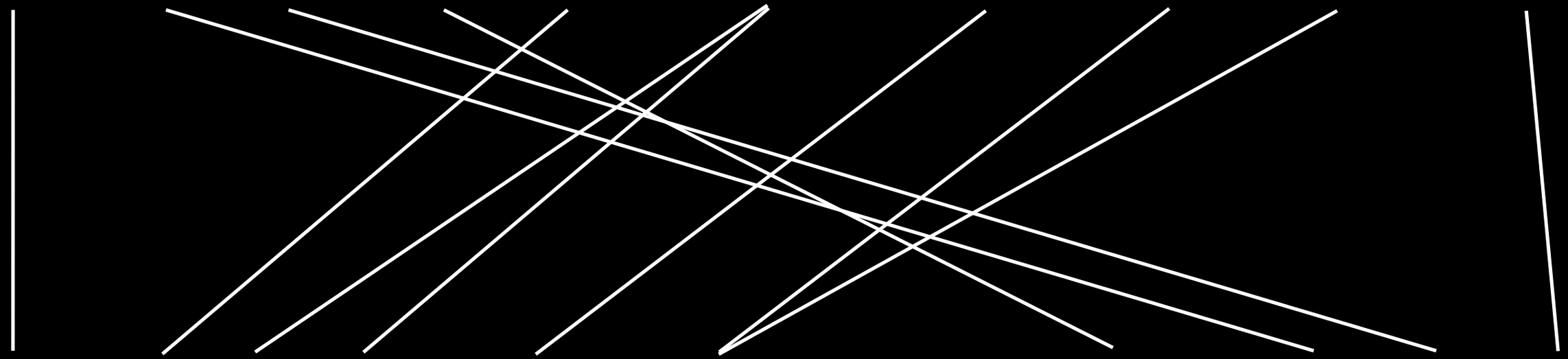
1
EURO

$p(heads)$?

$p(heads)$?

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。



However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

This is a *latent variable* problem

More on learning from parallel data:

Today's lab

Tomorrow's lecture

Statistical Machine Translation

Develop a statistical *model* of translation that can be *learned* from *data* and used to *predict* the correct English translation of new Chinese sentences.

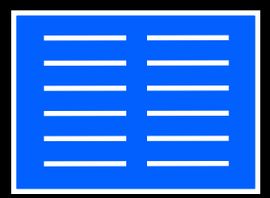
Statistical Machine Translation

Develop a statistical ***model*** of translation that can be ***learned*** from ***data*** and used to ***predict*** the correct English translation of new Chinese sentences.

Overview

Overview

training data
(parallel text)



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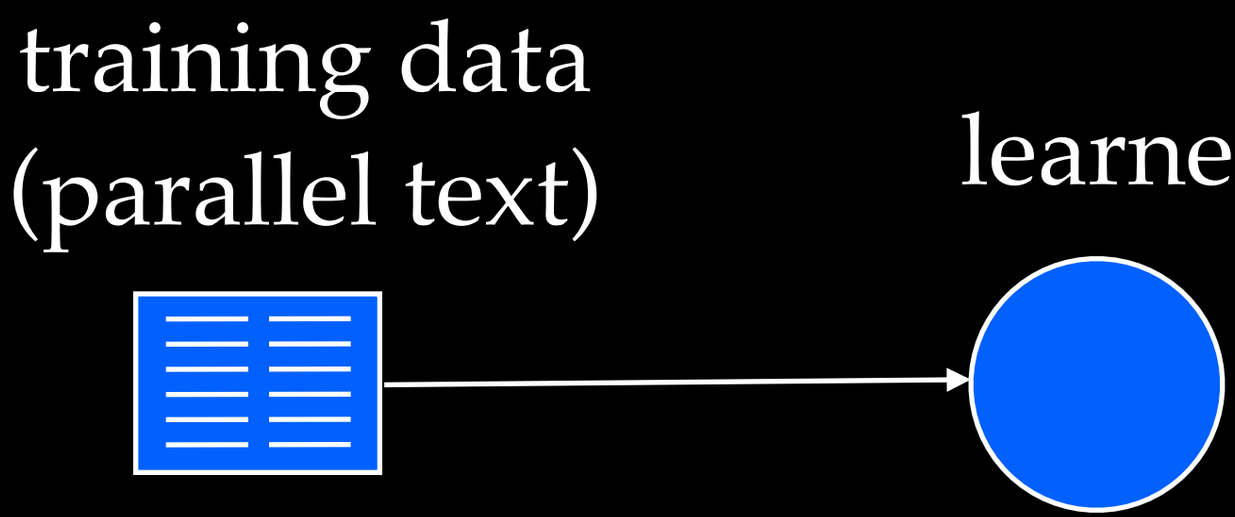

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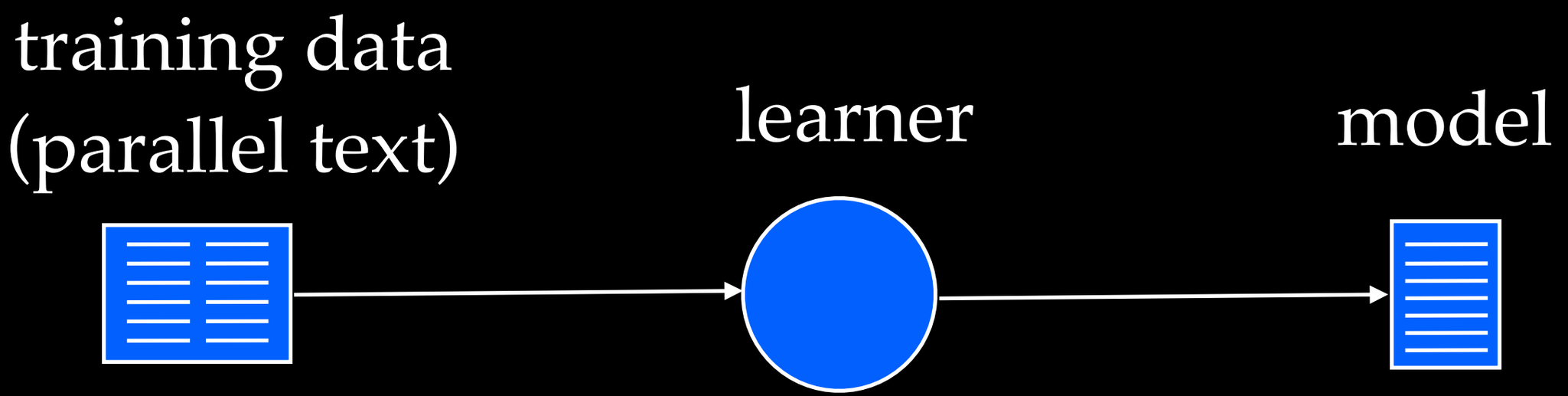

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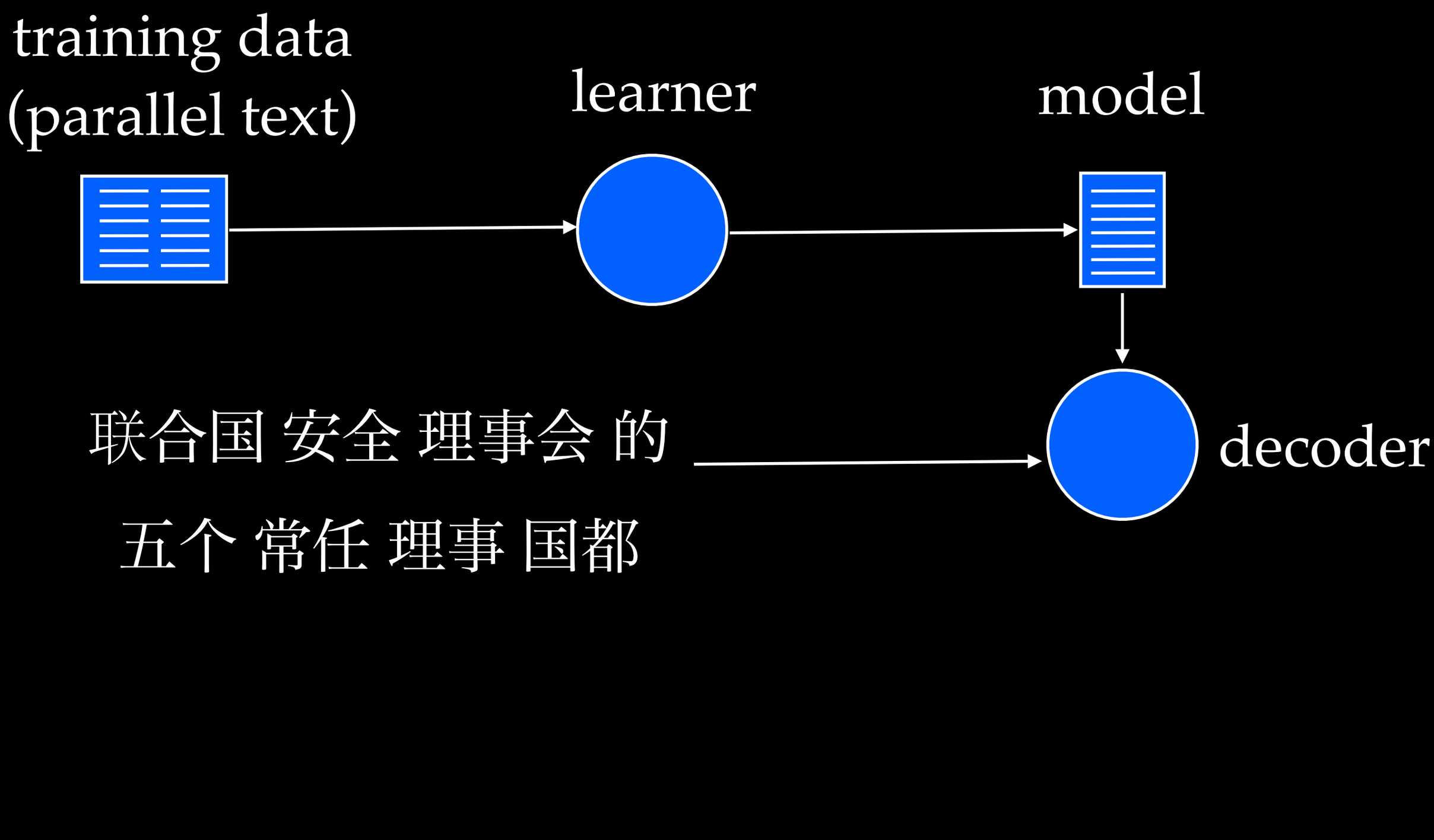
training data
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learner
model
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五个 常任 理事 国都
decoder

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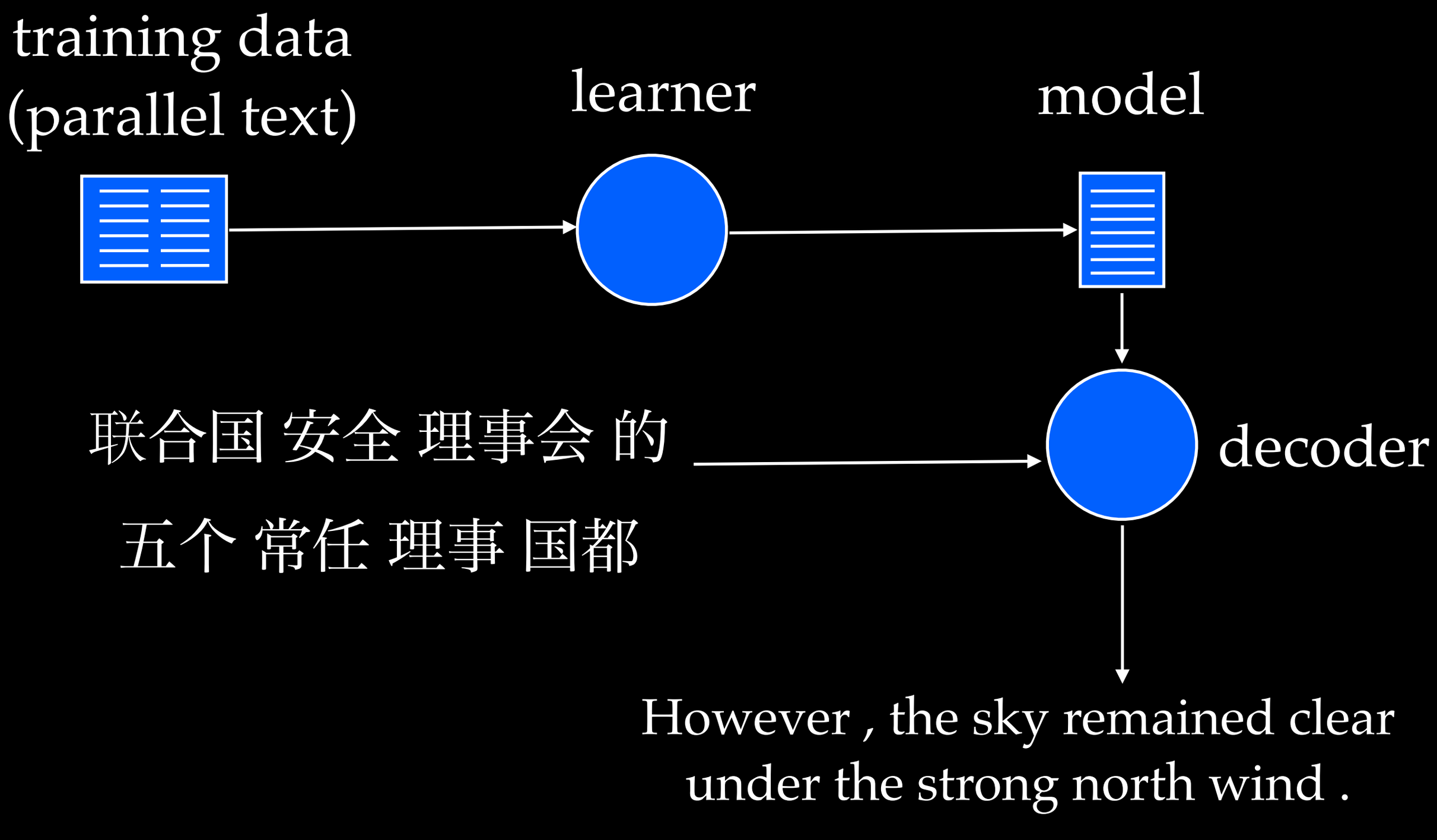
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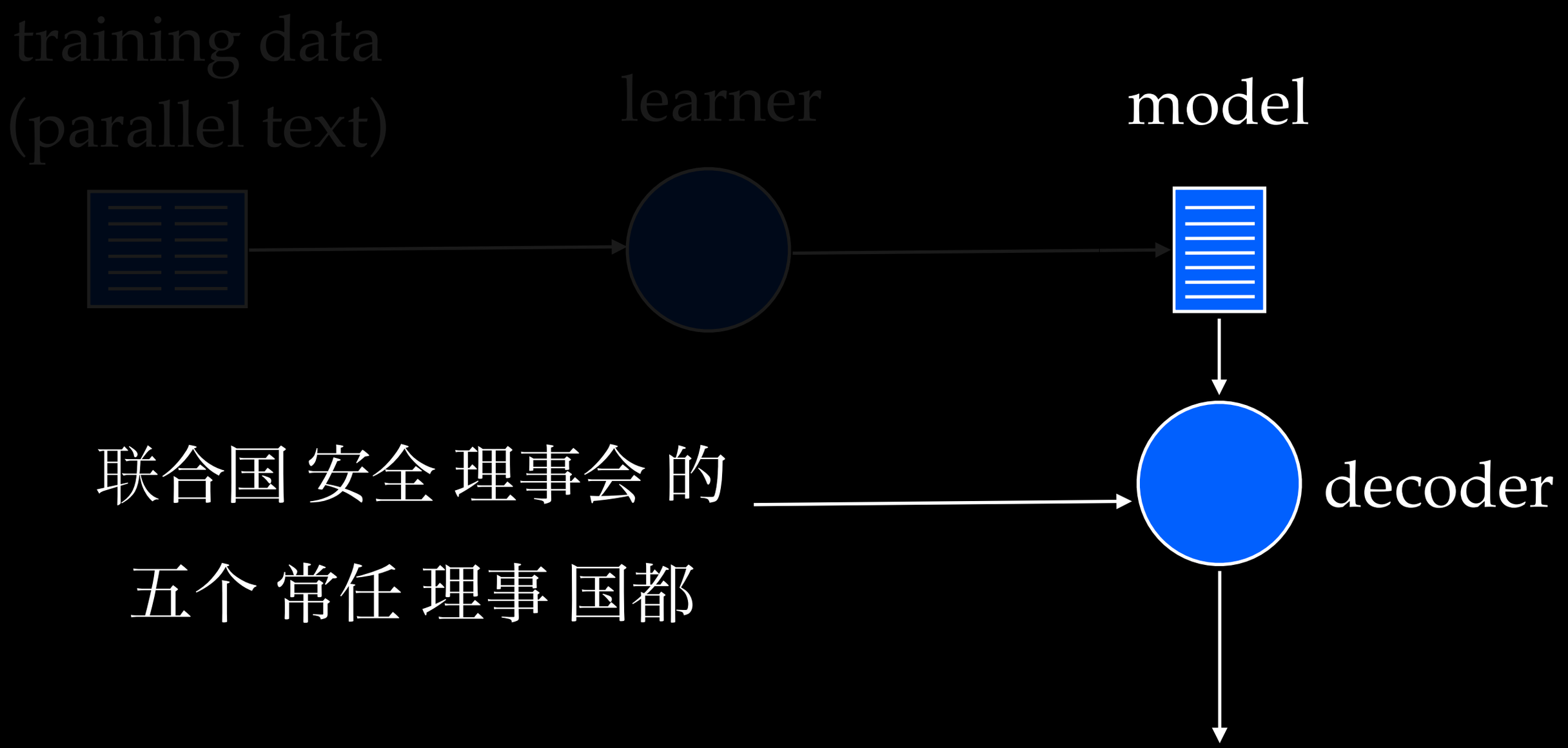
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What's a model?

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For our purposes, a model will be

a probability distribution over sentence pairs.

Why Probability?

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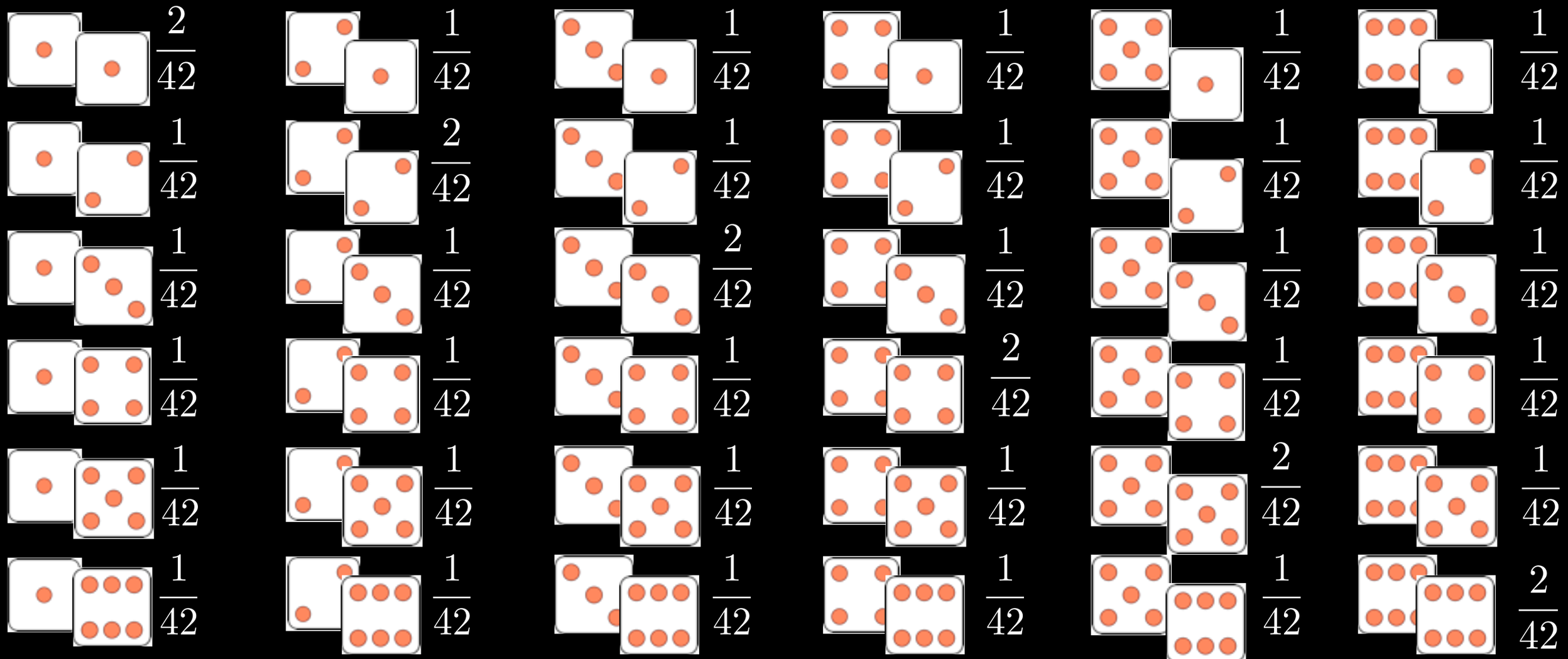
  - Given some partially observed data (e.g. an input sentence), what is the most likely complete data (e.g. a sentence pair)?
- Common sense in mathematical form!

Probabilistic Primer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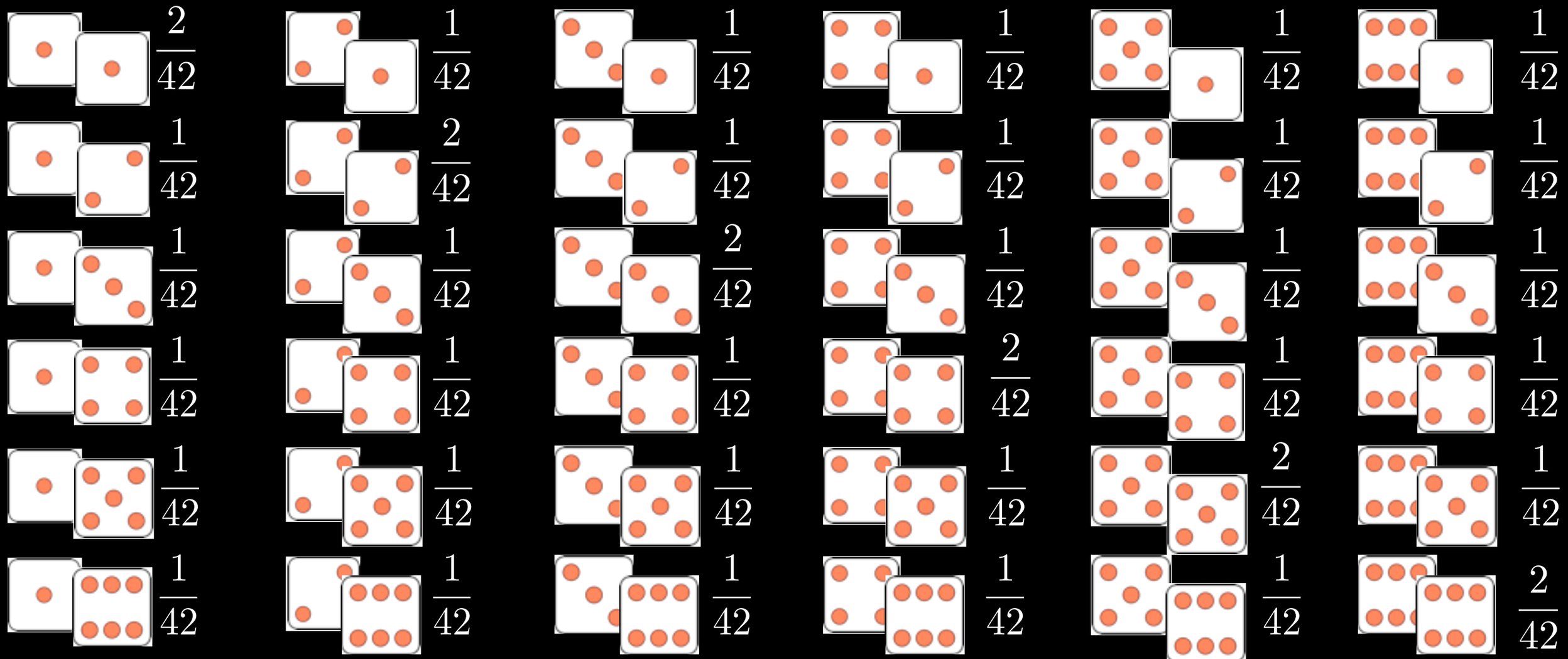
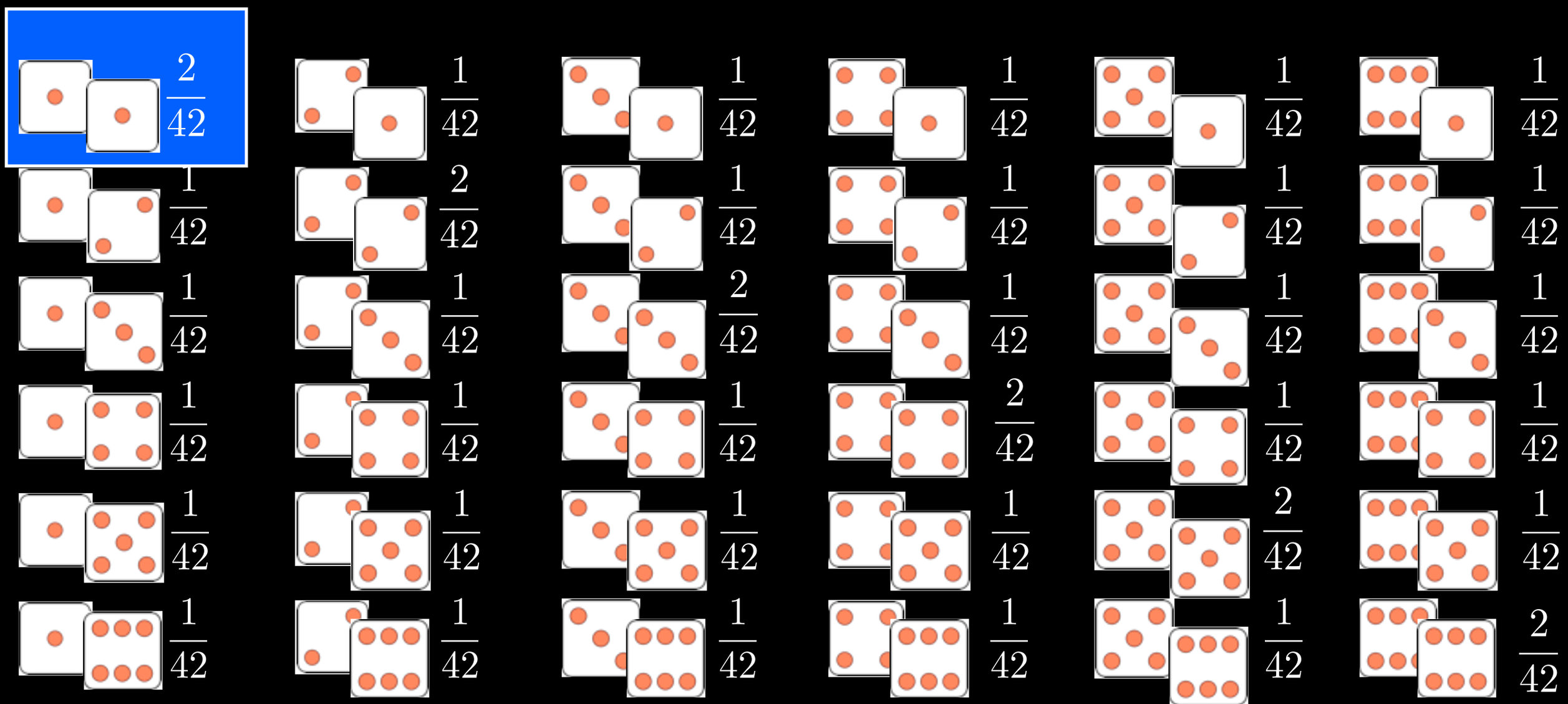
Probabilistic Primer



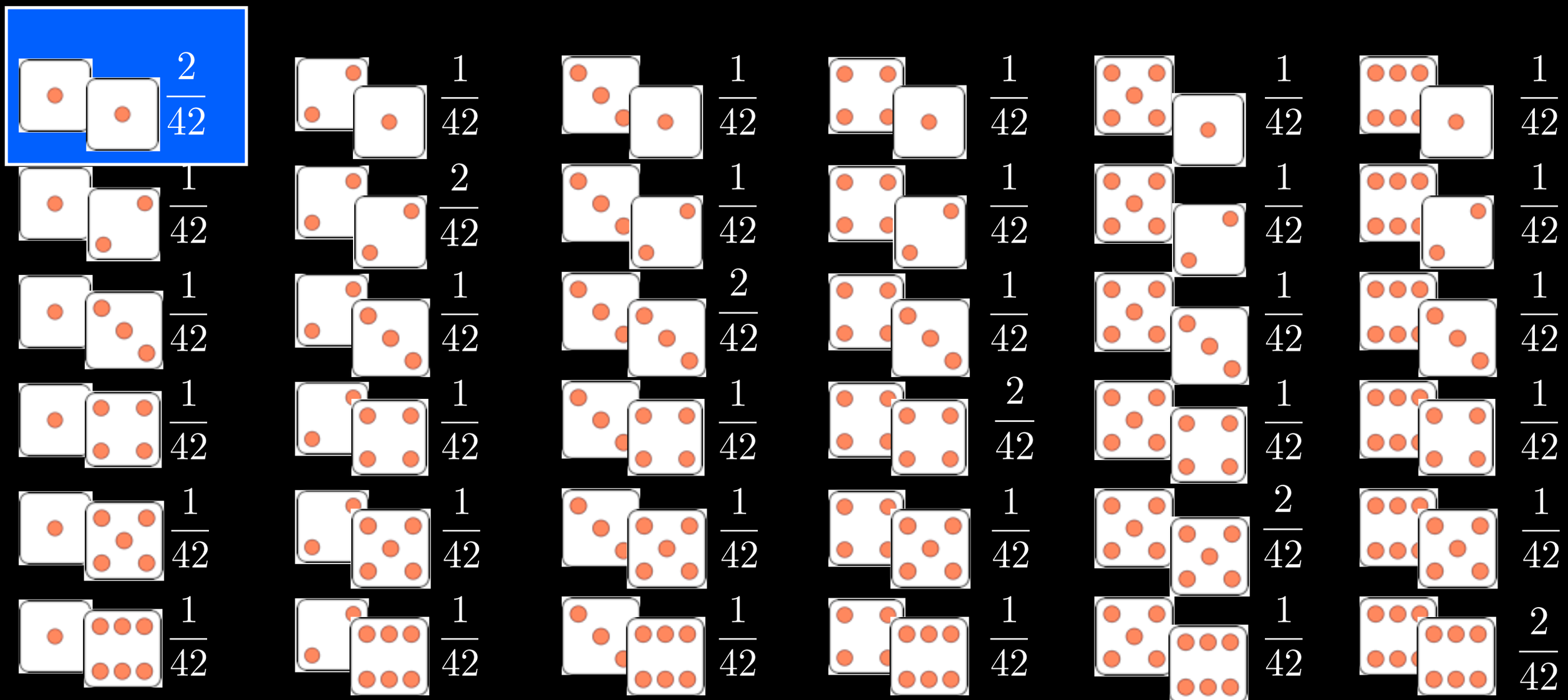
When an event consists of observations about more than one variable, it is a ***joint probability***.

Probabilistic Primer



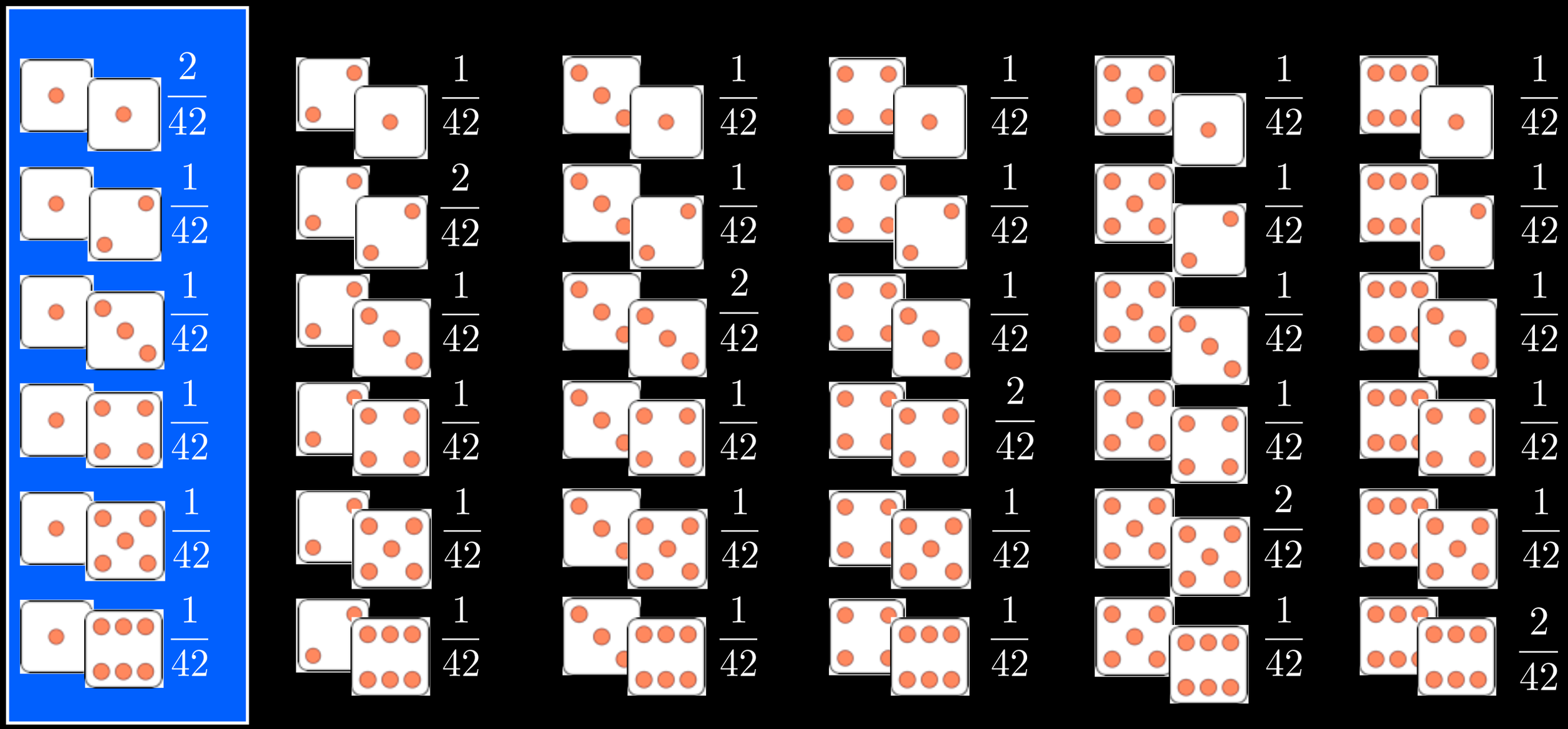
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = \frac{2}{42}$$

Probabilistic Primer



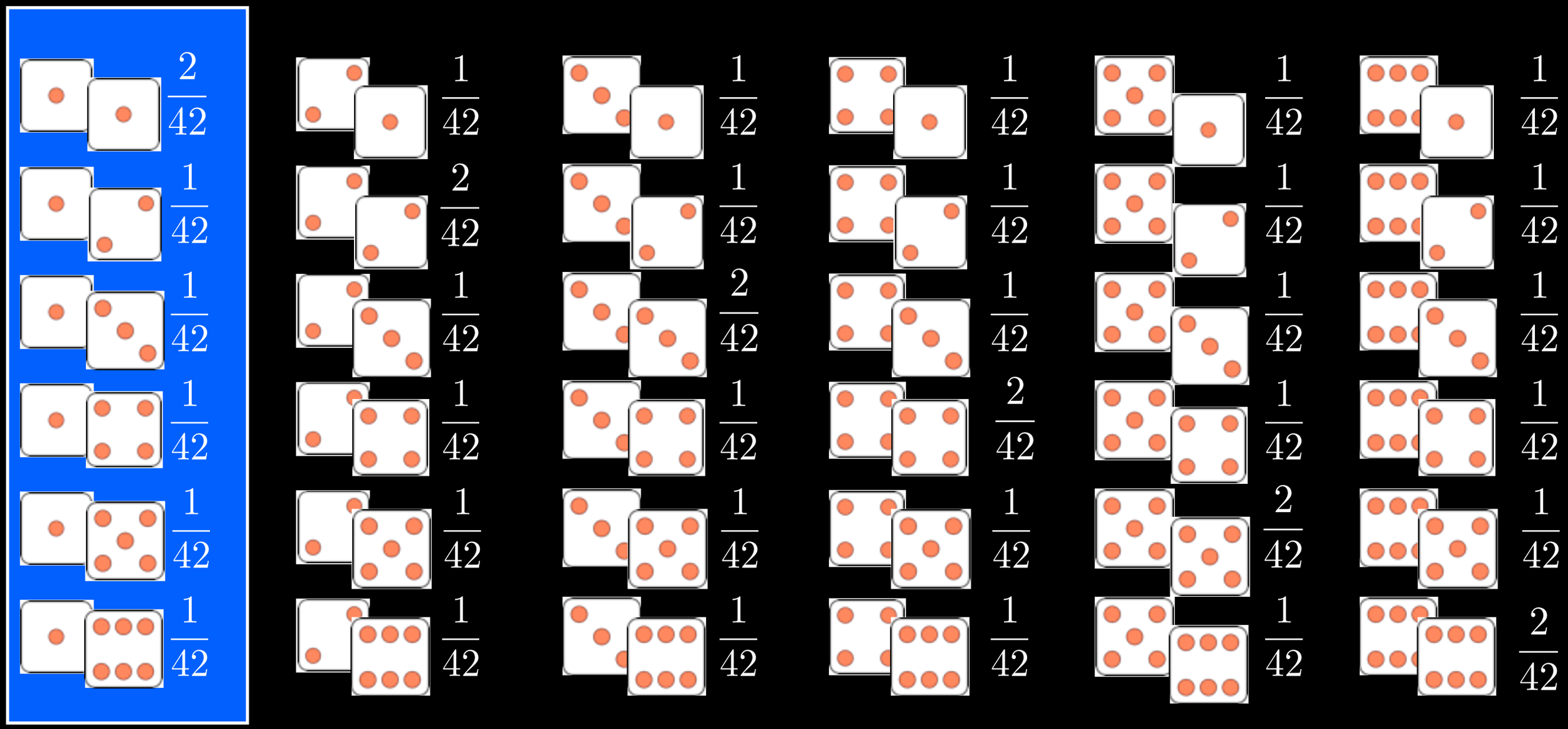
$$p(1,1) = \frac{2}{42}$$

Probabilistic Primer



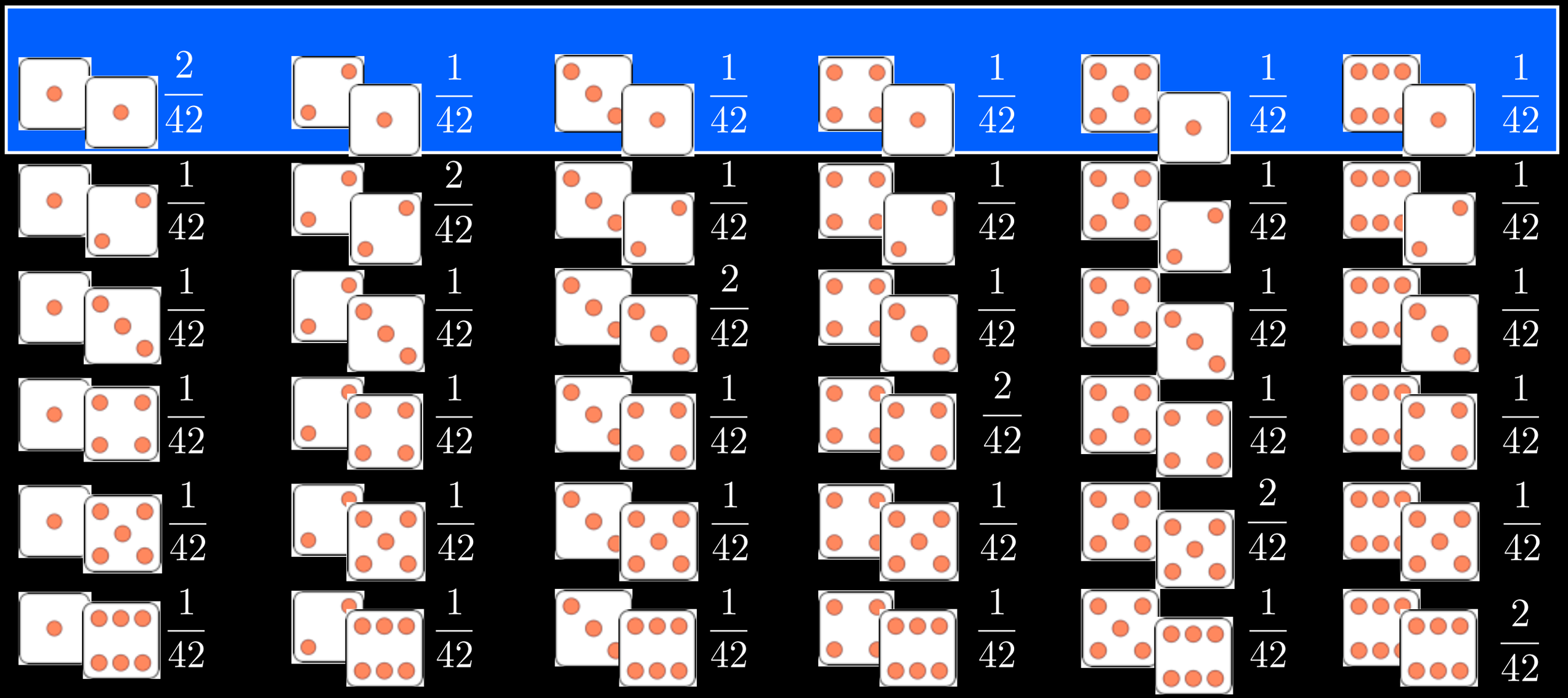
A probability distribution over a subset of variables is a *marginal probability*.

Probabilistic Primer



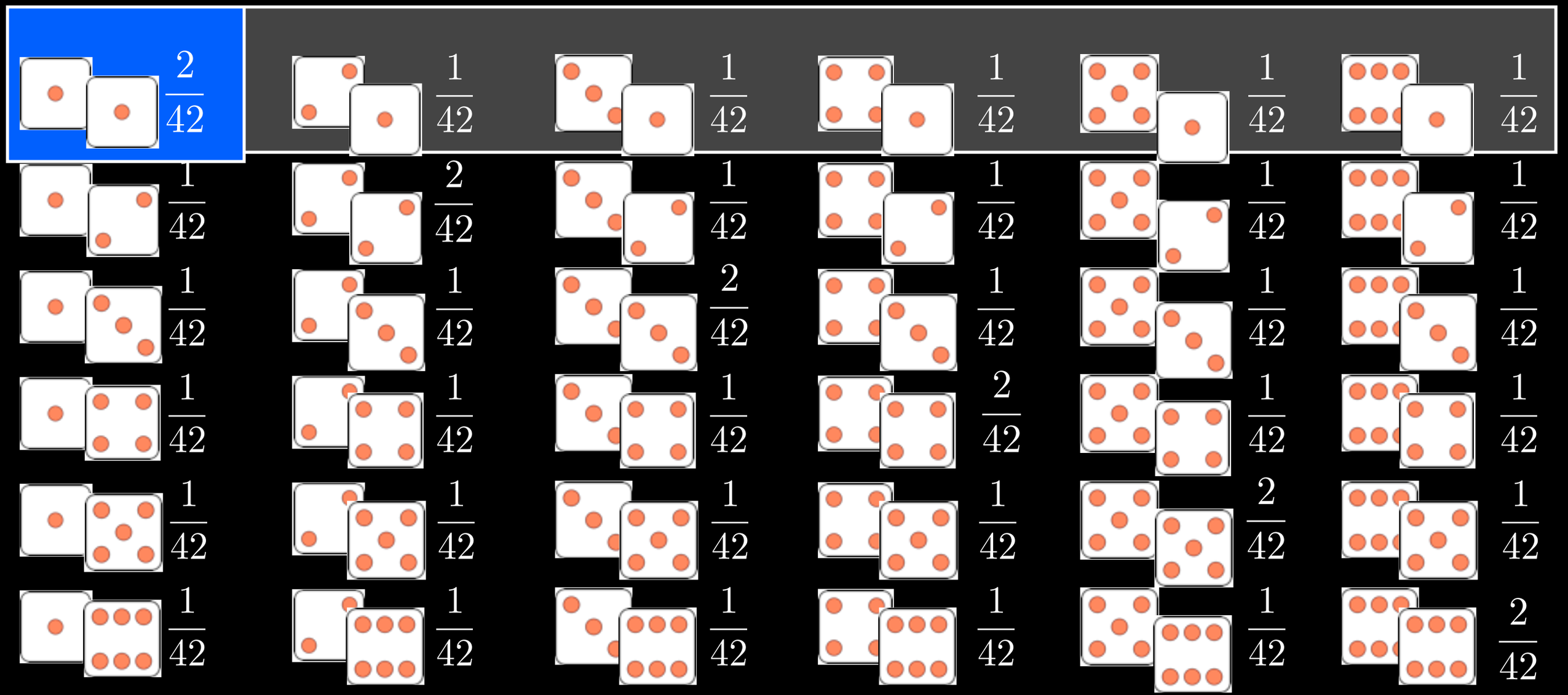
$$p(B = 1) = p(\cdot, 1) = \sum_{a \in A} p(A = a, B = 1) = \frac{1}{6}$$

Probabilistic Primer



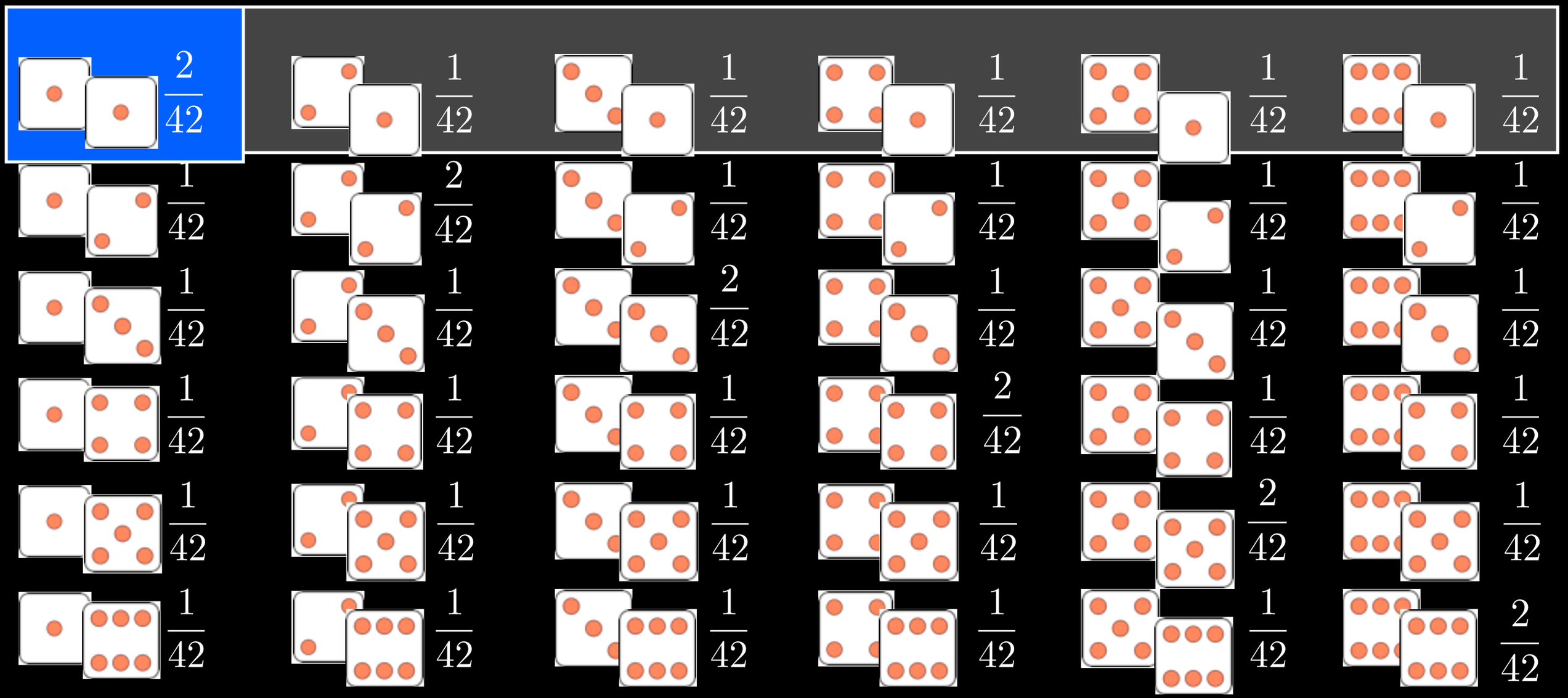
$$p(A = 1) = p(1, \cdot) = \sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b) = \frac{1}{6}$$

Probabilistic Primer



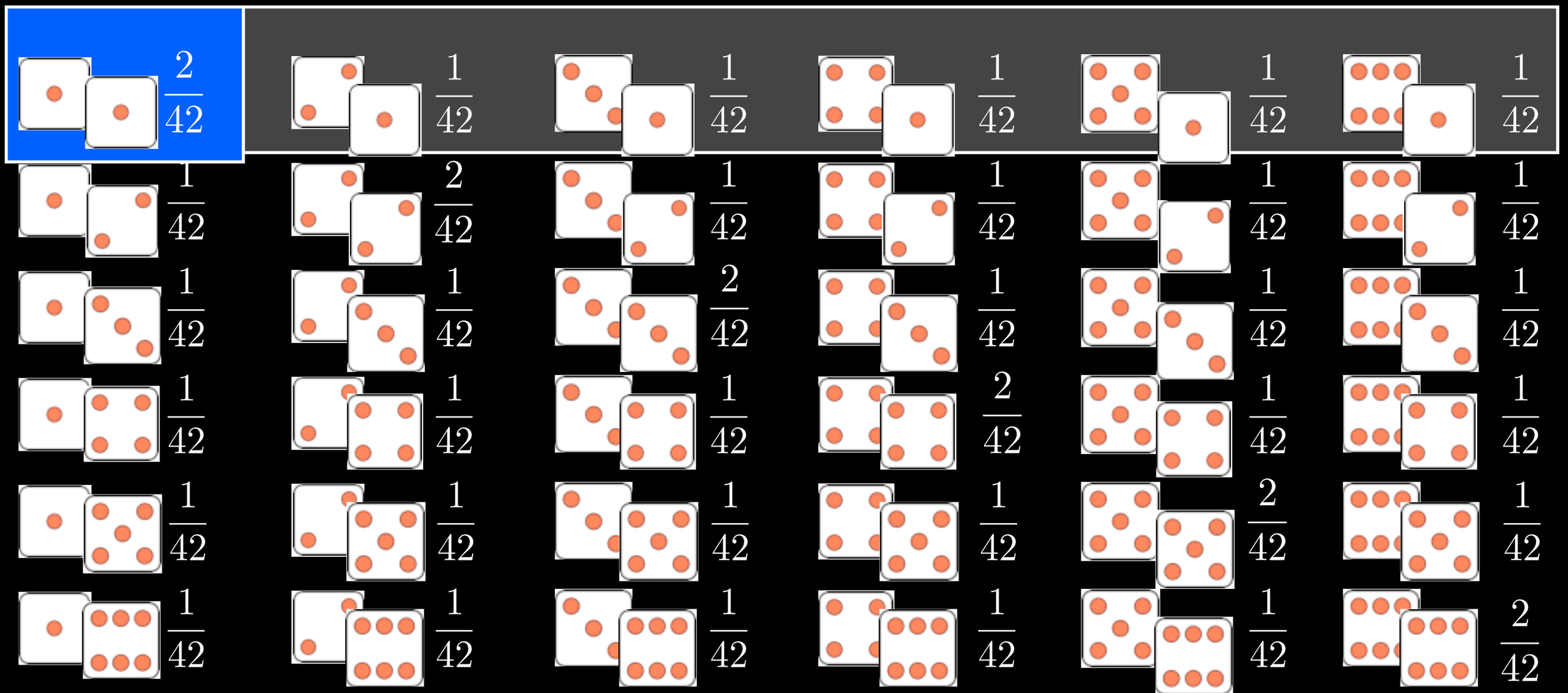
The probability of a variable under the condition that the other variables are fixed is the ***conditional probability***.

Probabilistic Primer



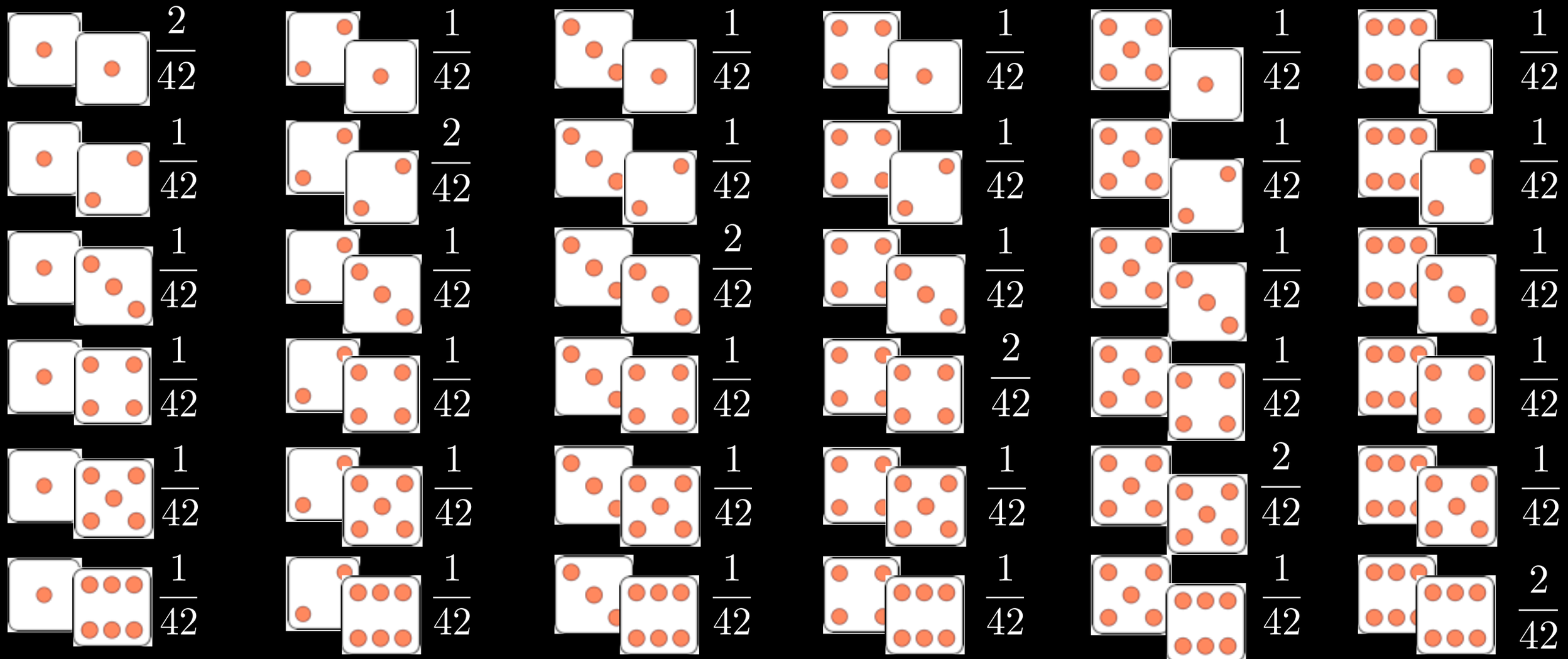
$$p(B = 1|A = 1) = \frac{p(A = 1, B = 1)}{\sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b)} = \frac{2}{7}$$

Probabilistic Primer



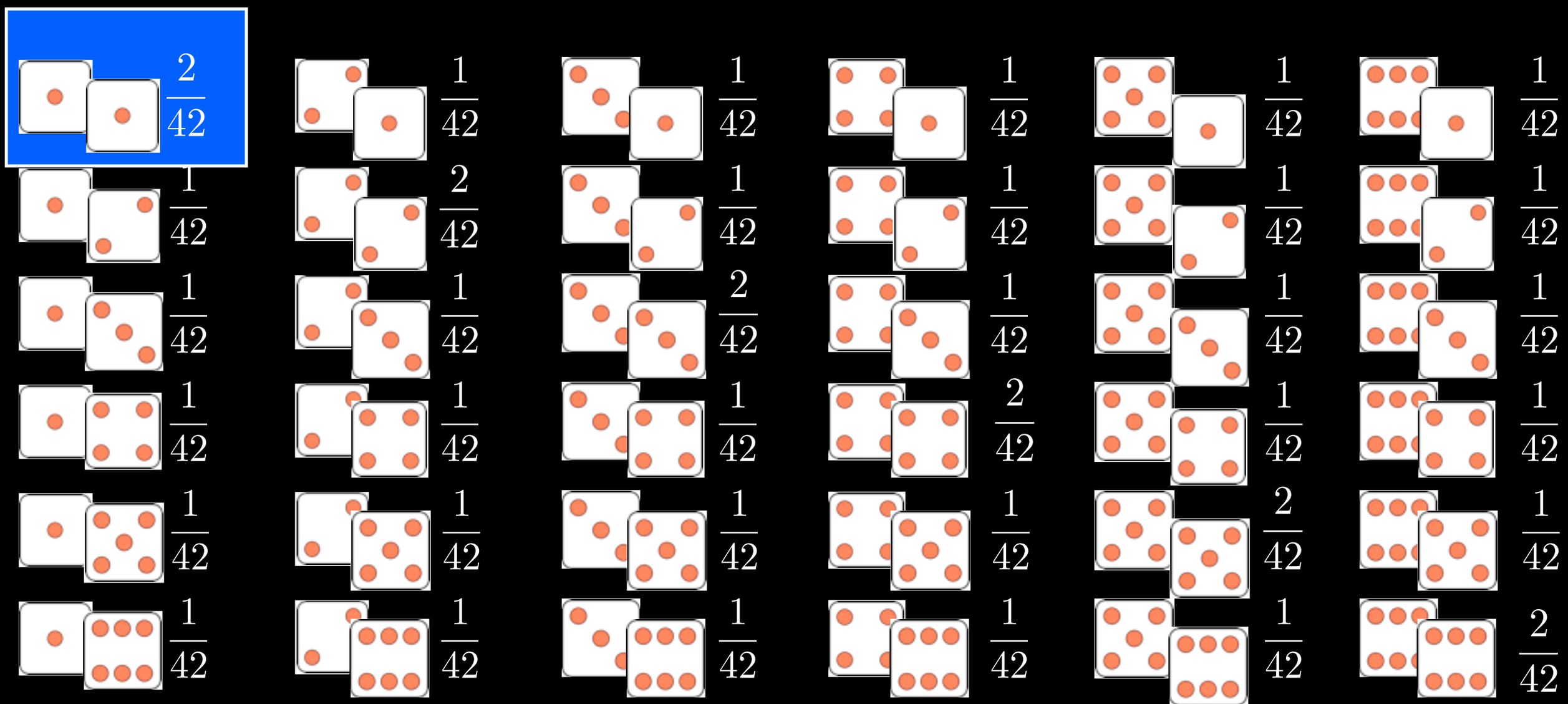
$$p(B = 1|A = 1) = \frac{p(A = 1, B = 1)}{\sum_{b \in B} p(A = 1, B = b)} = \frac{2}{7} \qquad \frac{\text{joint}}{\text{marginal}}$$

Probabilistic Primer



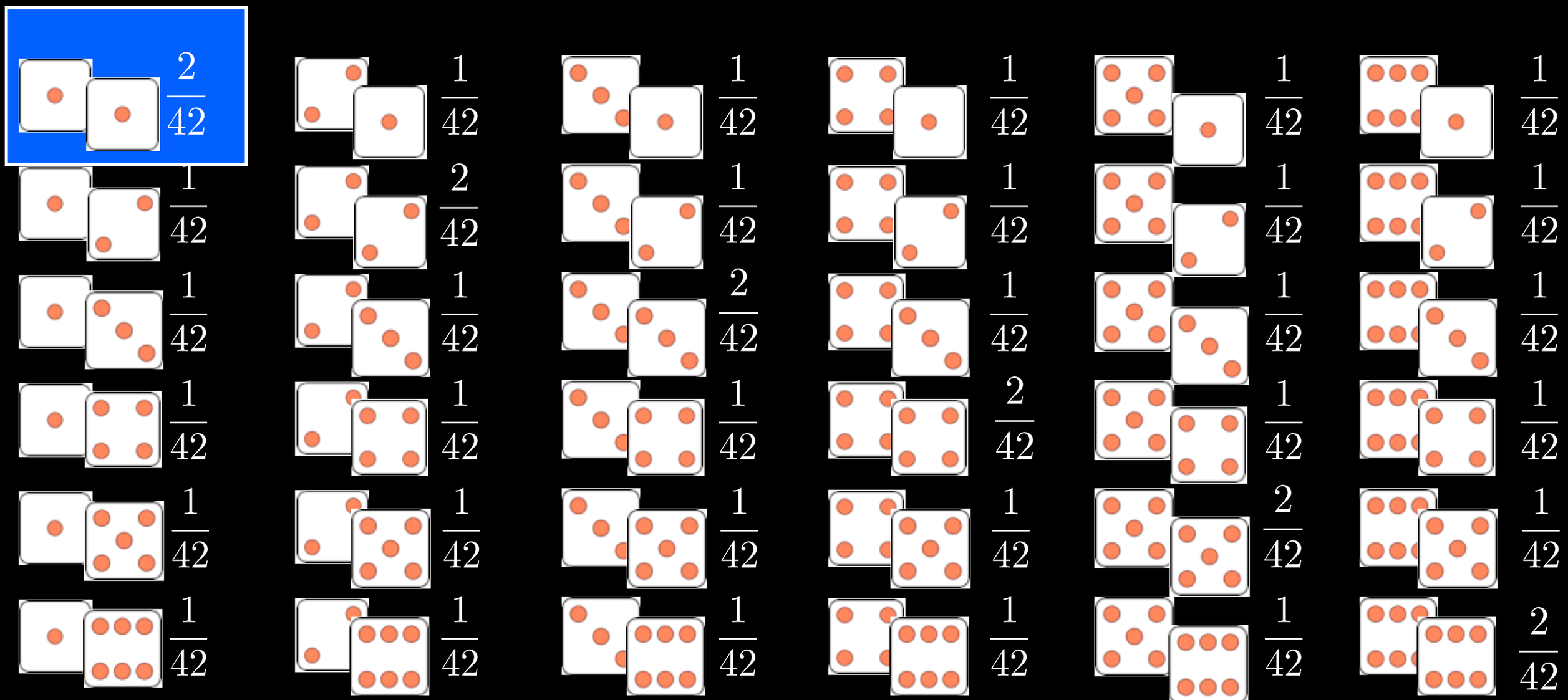
We can still represent the joint distribution as a product of other distributions.

Probabilistic Primer



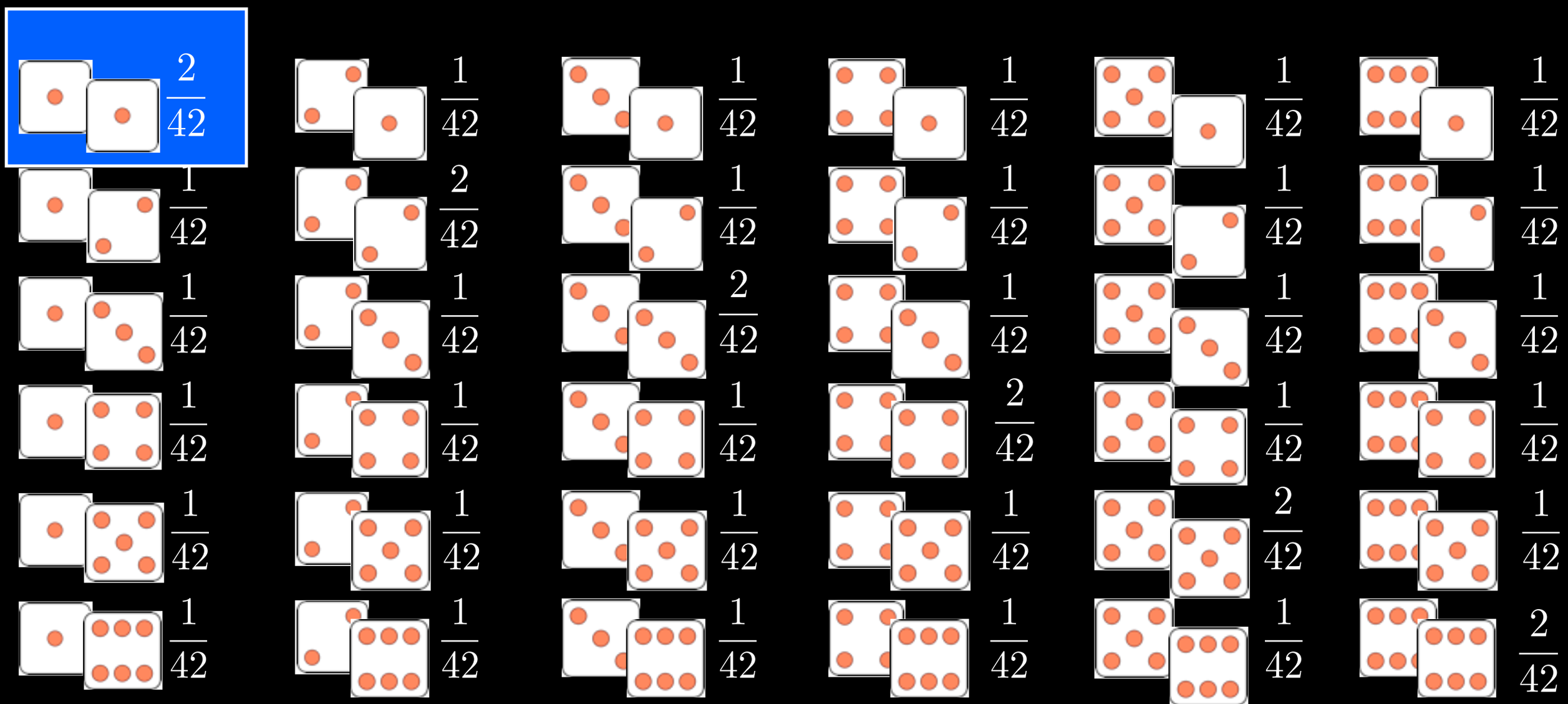
$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = p(A = 1, B = 1)$$

Probabilistic Primer



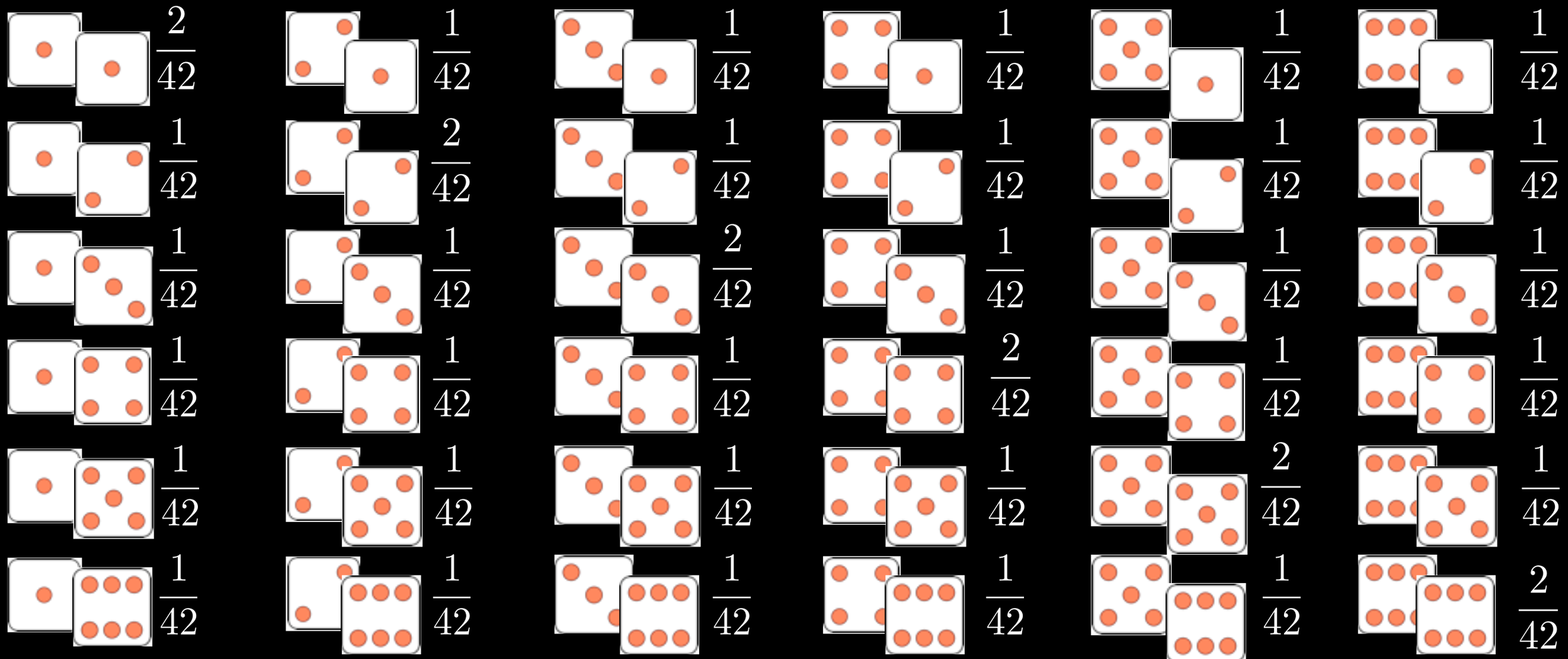
$$p(A=1,B=1) = \sum_{b \in B} p(A=1,B=b) \frac{p(A=1,B=1)}{\sum_{b \in B} p(A=1,B=b)}$$

Probabilistic Primer



$$p(A = 1, B = 1) = p(A = 1) \cdot p(B = 1|A = 1)$$

Probabilistic Primer



$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A)$$

Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A)$$

Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A, B) = p(A) \cdot p(B|A) = p(B) \cdot p(A|B)$$

Probabilistic Primer

$$p(A) \cdot p(B|A) = p(B) \cdot p(A|B)$$

Probabilistic Primer

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

Probabilistic Primer

Bayes' Rule

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

Probabilistic Primer

Bayes' Rule

posterior prior likelihood

$$p(B|A) = \frac{p(B) \cdot p(A|B)}{p(A)}$$

...But the probability that an event has happened is the same as the probability I have to guess right if I guess it has happened. Wherefore the following proposition is evident: If there be two subsequent events, the probability of the 2d b/N and the probability both together P/N, and it being 1st discovered that the 2d event has also happened, the probability I am right is P/b.

Thomas Bayes

Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

configuration

Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

configuration

$p(image|English)$

Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

configuration

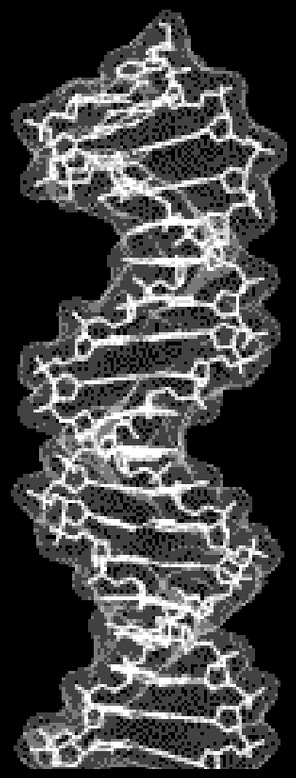
$p(image|English)$

Bayes' Rule

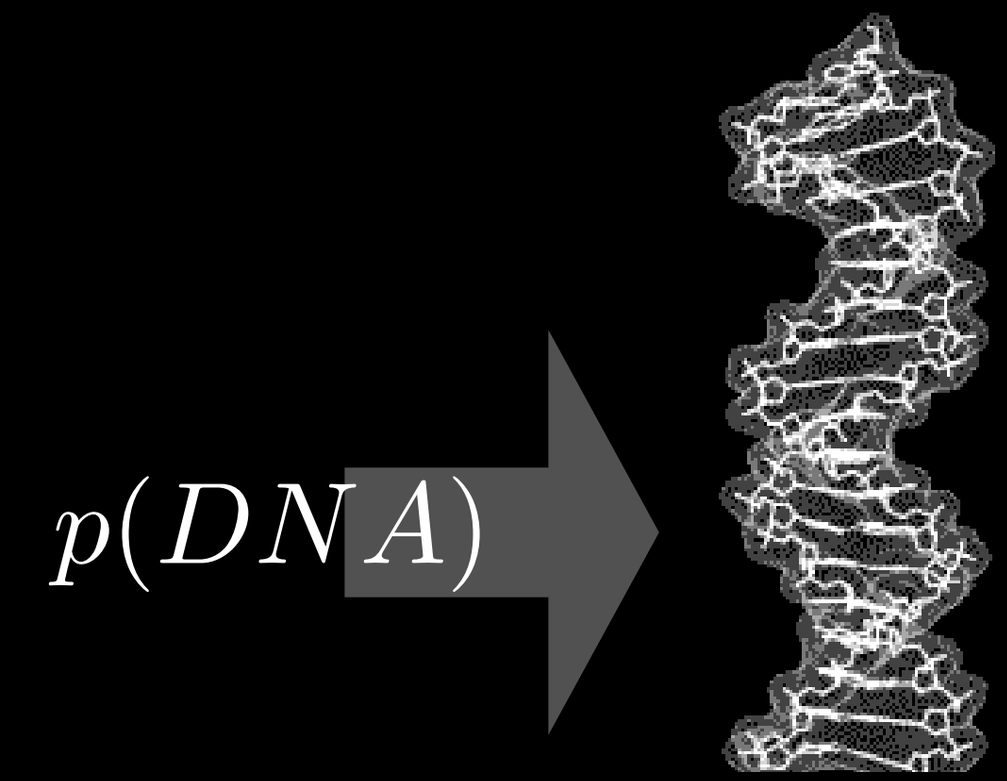
$p(DNA)$

Bayes' Rule

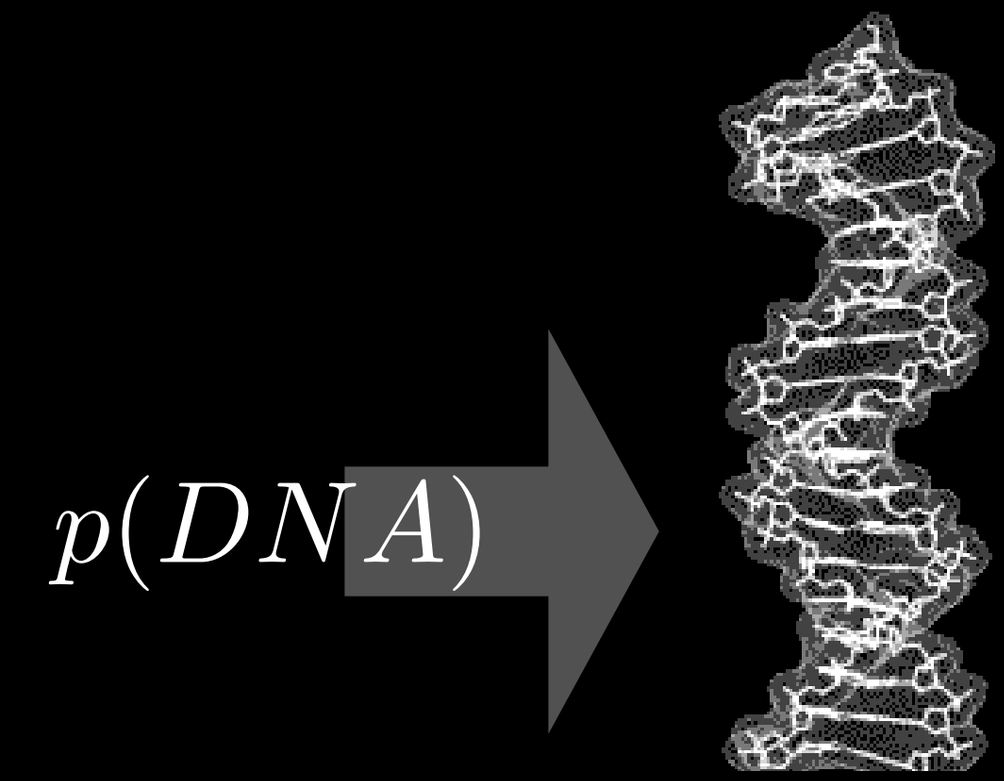
$p(DNA)$

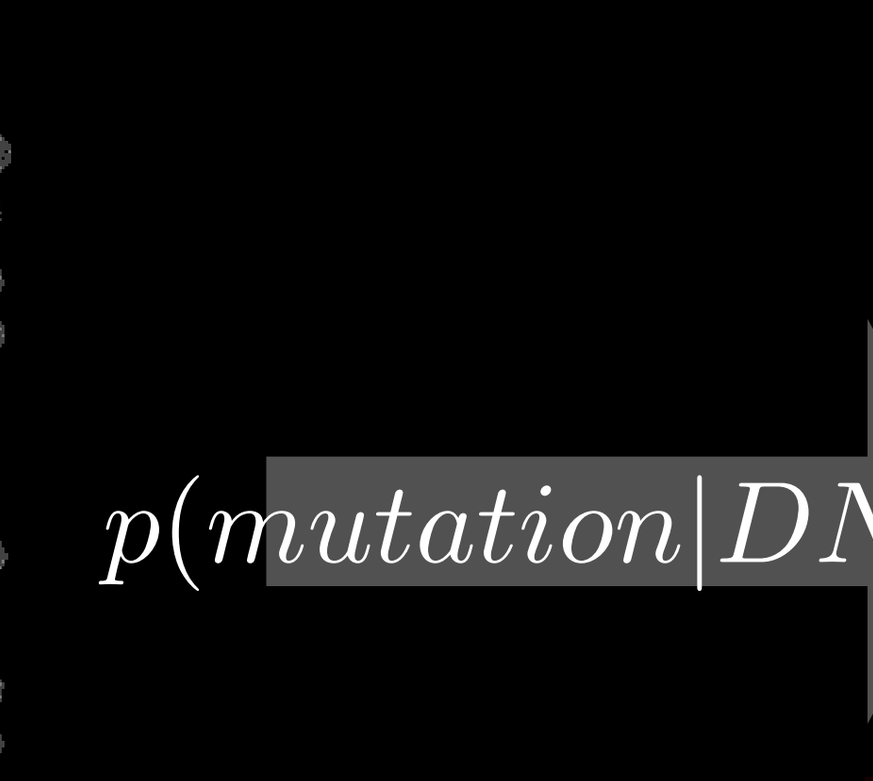


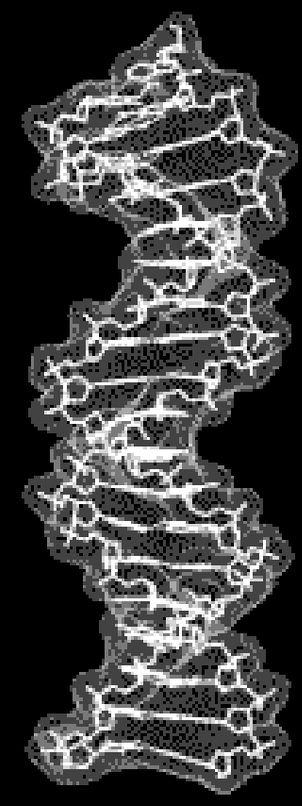
Bayes' Rule

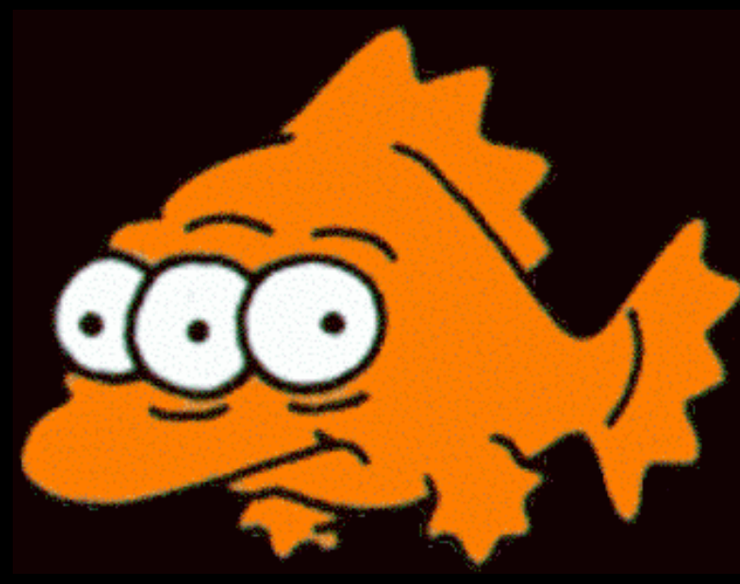


Bayes' Rule









Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

Bayes' Rule

$p(English)$

However, the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$

However, the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

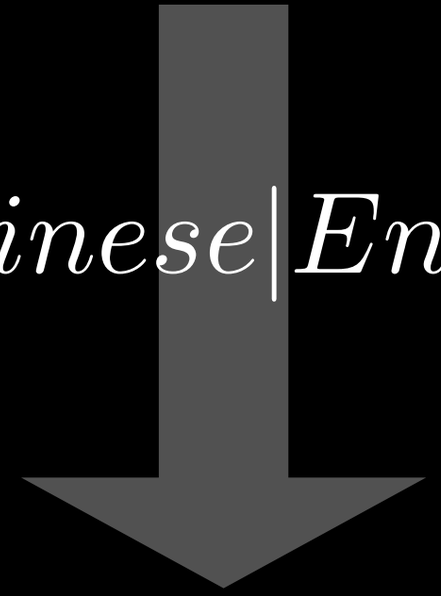
$$p(Chinese|English)$$

Bayes' Rule

$$p(English)$$

However, the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

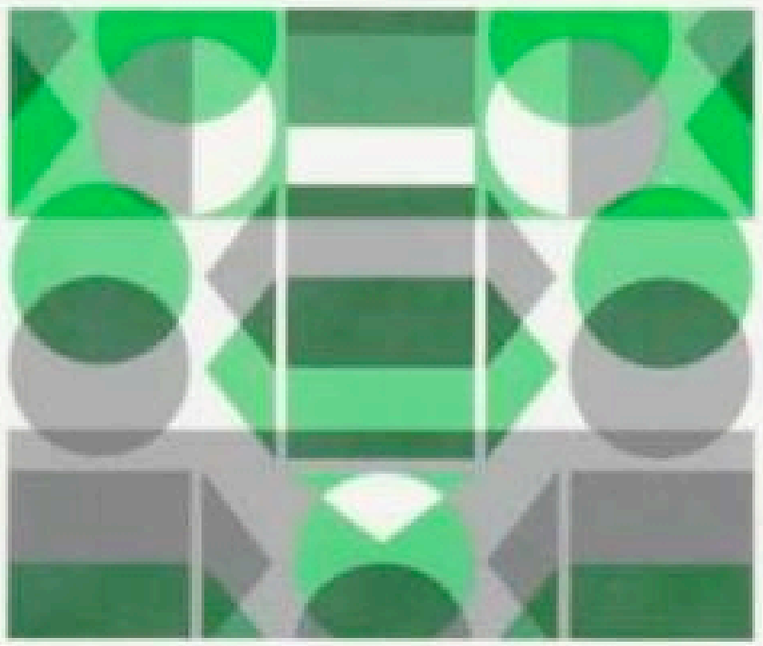
$$p(Chinese|English)$$



虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

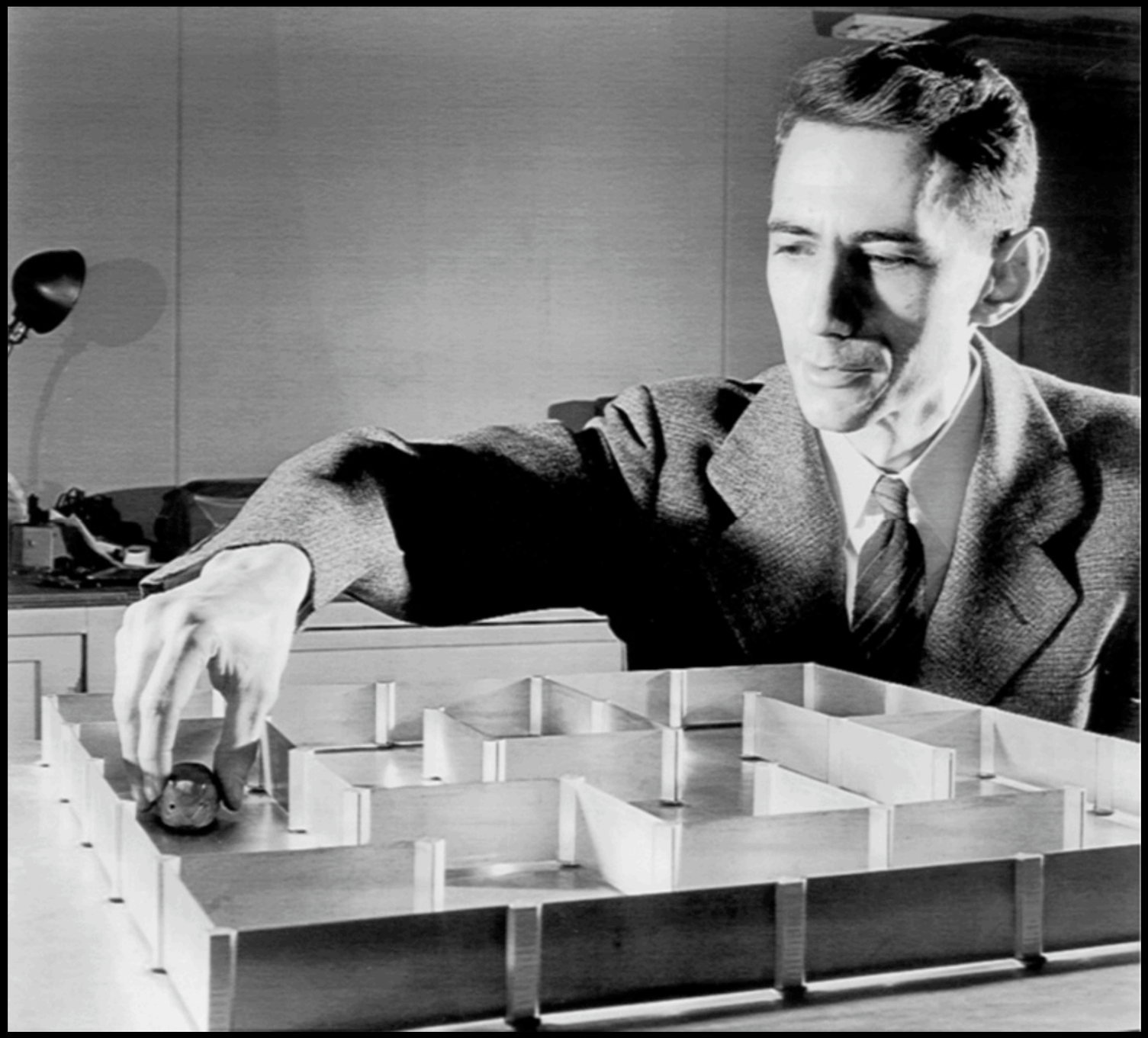
When I look at an article in Russian, I say: "This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode."

Warren Weaver (1949)



THE MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF COMMUNICATION

by Claude E. Shannon and Warren Weaver



Claude Shannon

Bayes' Rule

$$p(English|Chinese) = \frac{p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)}{p(Chinese)}$$

prior

likelihood

normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

Noisy Channel

$$p(English|Chinese) = \frac{p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)}{p(Chinese)}$$

signal model

channel model

normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

Machine Translation

$$p(English|Chinese) =$$

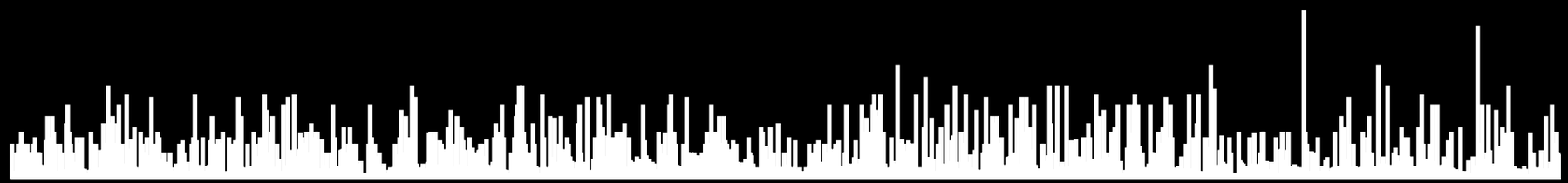
$$\frac{p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)}{p(Chinese)}$$

language model

translation model

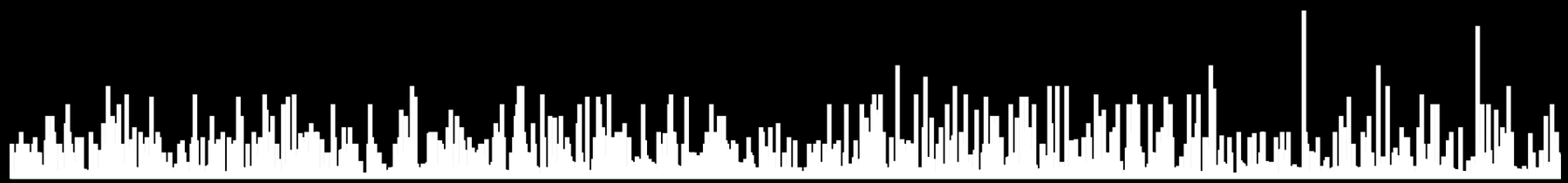
normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

$p(Chinese|English)$

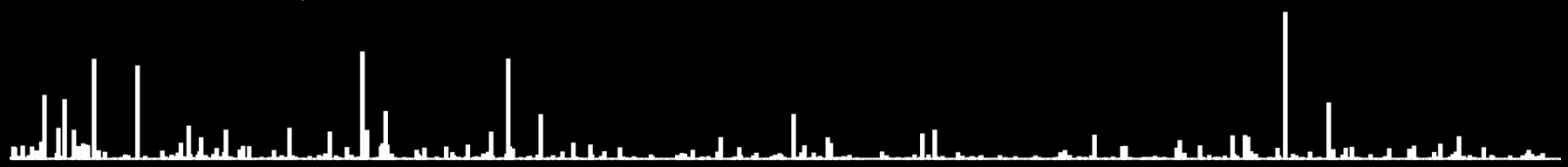


$English$

$p(Chinese|English)$

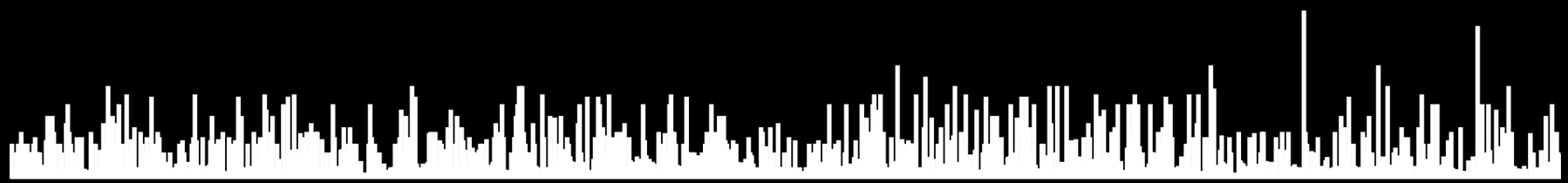


$\times\ p(English)$

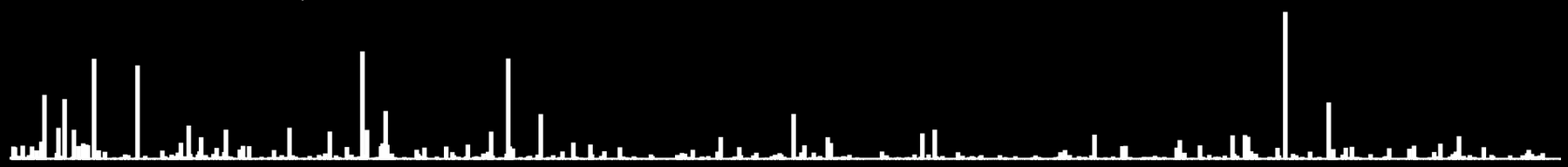


English

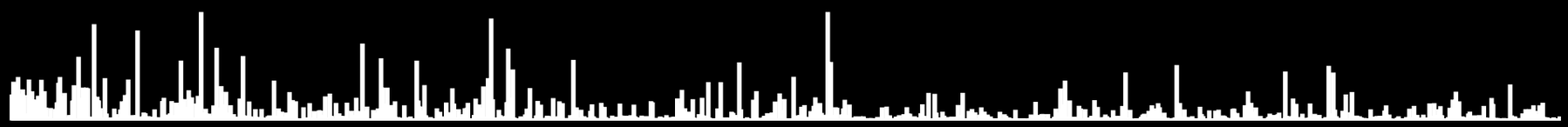
$p(Chinese|English)$



$\times\ p(English)$



$\sim p(English|Chinese)$



$English$

Machine Translation

$$p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)}{p(Chinese)}$$

language model

translation model

normalization term (ensures we're working with valid probabilities).

Machine Translation

$$p(English|Chinese) \sim$$

$$p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)$$

Machine Translation

$$p(English|Chinese) \sim$$

$$p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)$$

What is the probability of an English sentence?

Machine Translation

$$p(English|Chinese) \sim$$

$$p(English) \times p(Chinese|English)$$

What is the probability of an English sentence?

What is the probability of a Chinese sentence, given a particular English sentence?

Language Models

We can think of our probabilistic model as a story that explains every single word in the sentence pair.

Language Models

$$p(However|START)$$

Language Models

However

$$p(However|START)$$

Language Models

However ,

$$p(, | However)$$

Language Models

However , the

$$p(the|,)$$

Language Models

However , the sky

$$p(sky|the)$$

Language Models

However , the sky remained

$$p(remained|sky)$$

Language Models

However , the sky remained clear

$$p(clear|remained)$$

Language Models

$$length(English)$$

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1} p(word_i|word_{i-1})$$

Language Models

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1}^{length(English)} p(word_i|word_{i-1})$$

Note: the prior probability that $word_0$=START is 1.

Language Models

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1}^{length(English)} p(word_i|word_{i-1})$$

Note: the prior probability that $word_0$=START is 1.

This model explains every word in the English sentence.

Language Models

$$p(English) = \prod_{i=1}^{length(English)} p(word_i | word_{i-1})$$

Note: the prior probability that $word_0$=START is 1.

This model explains every word in the English sentence.

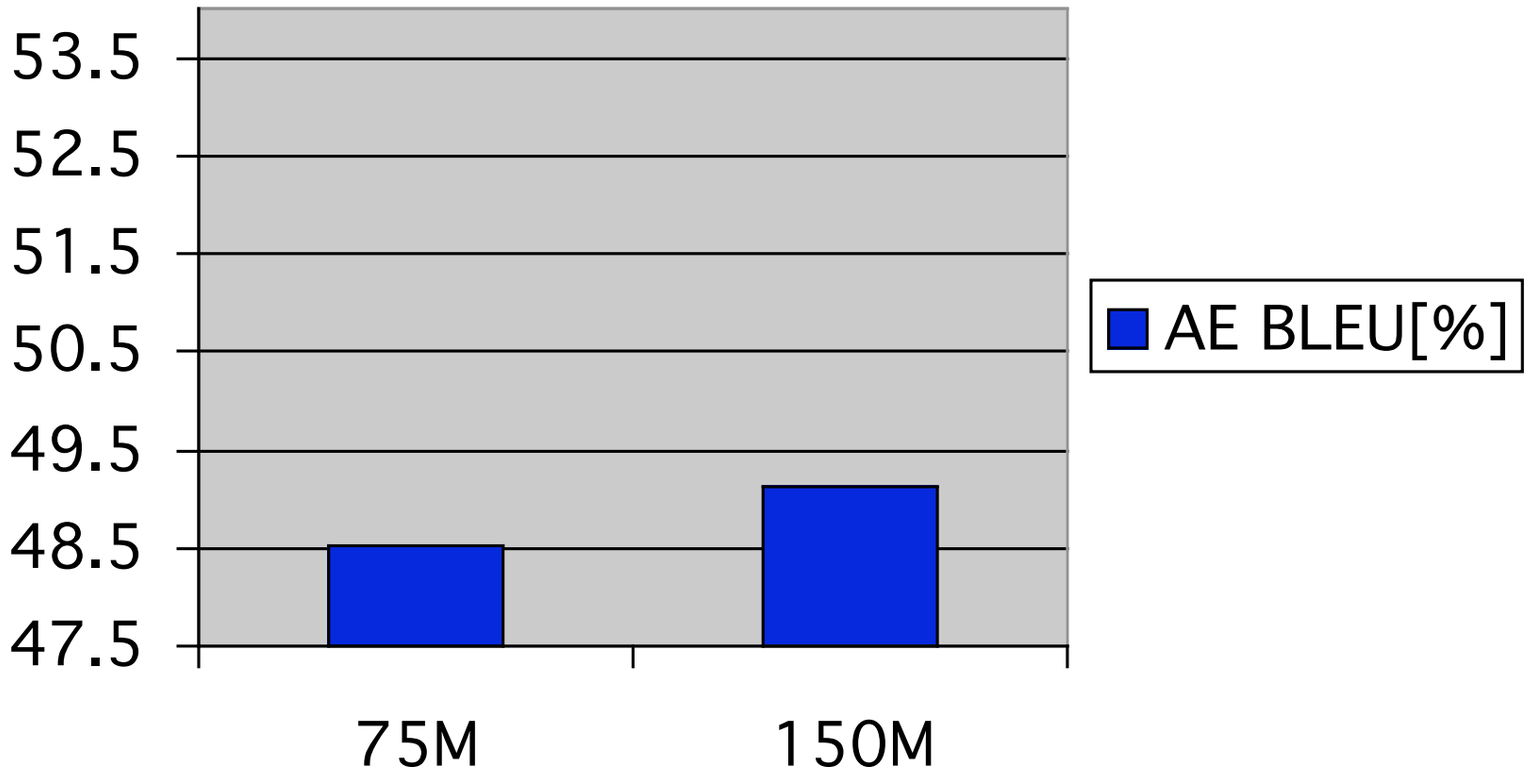
But it makes very strong conditional independence assumptions!

Language Models

- The language model does not depend in any way on parallel data.
- How much English data should we train it on?

Language Models

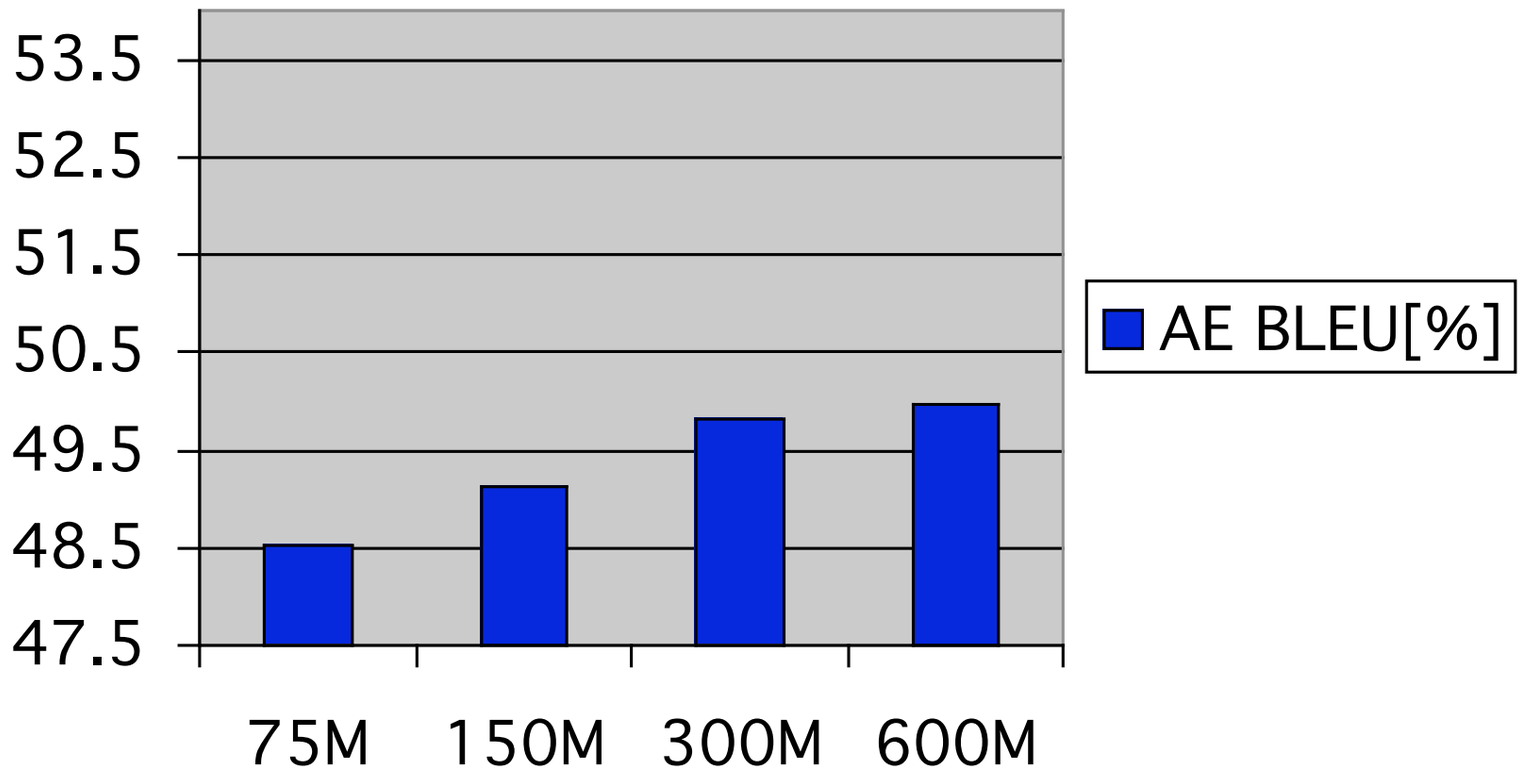
Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system (NIST test data)



Google

Language Models

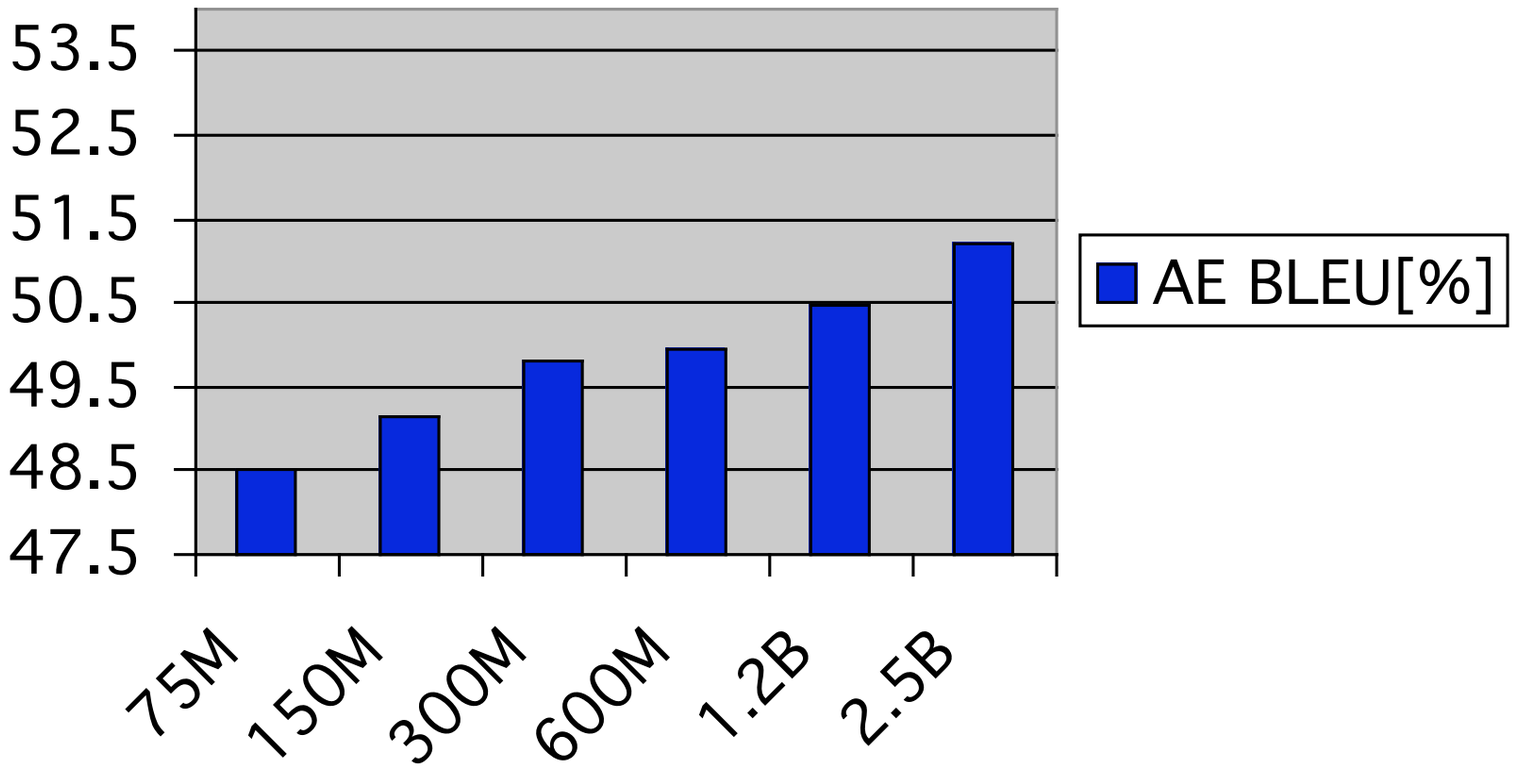
Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



Google

Language Models

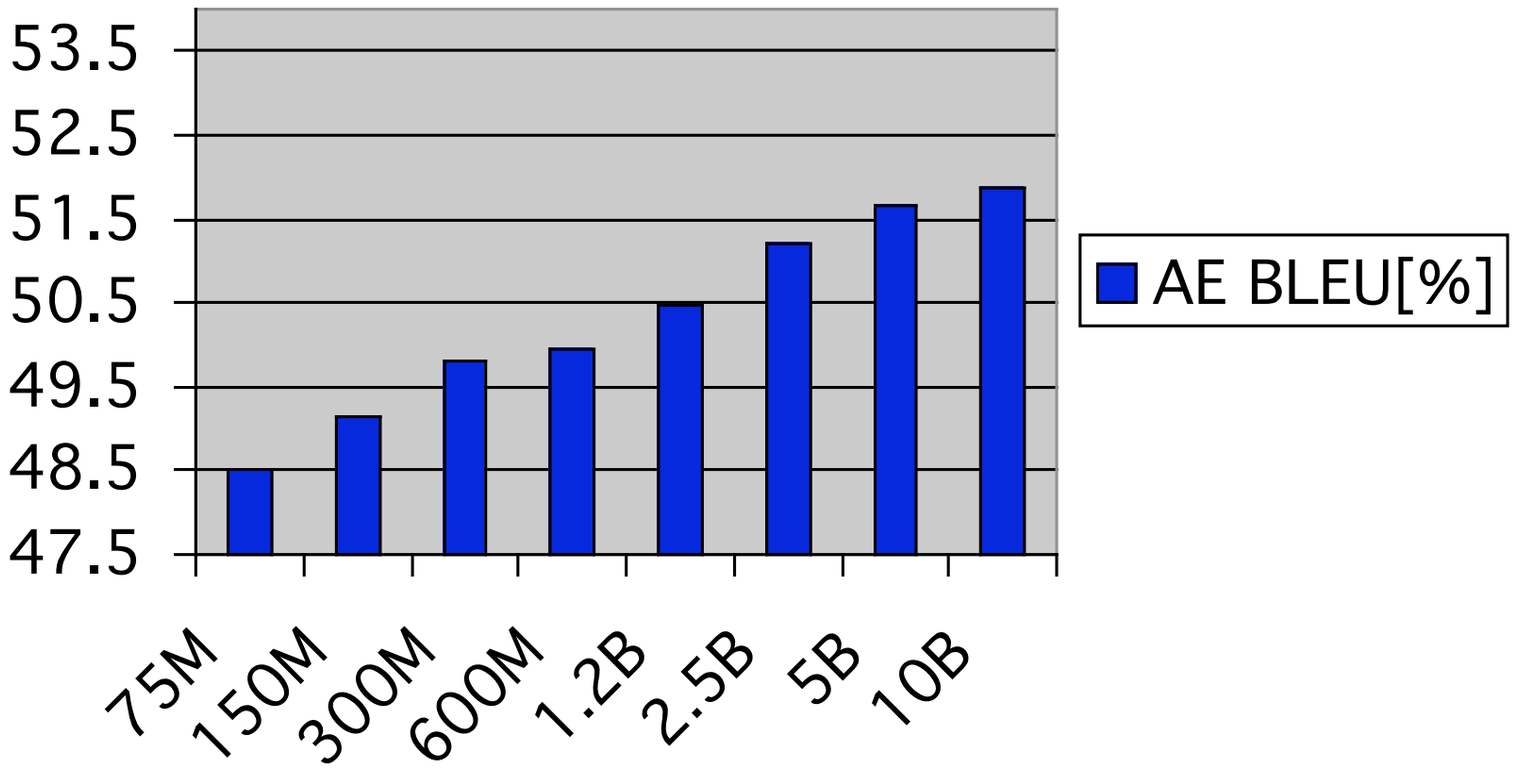
Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



Google

Language Models

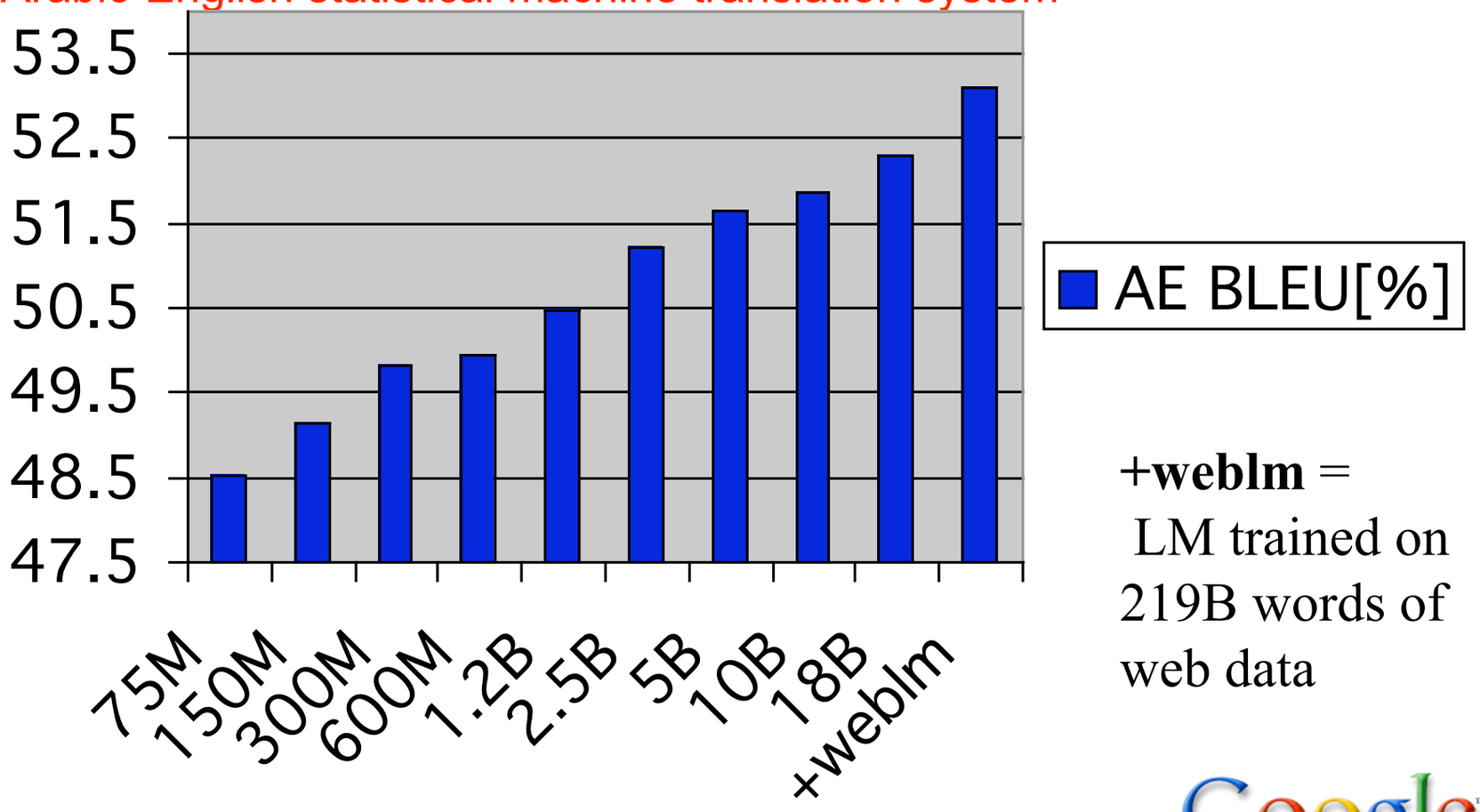
Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



Google

Language Models

Impact on size of language model training data (in words) on quality of Arabic-English statistical machine translation system



+weblm = LM trained on 219B words of web data

Google

Language Models

- There's no data like more data.
- Language models serve a similar function in speech recognition, optical character recognition, and other probabilistic models of text data.
- You'll learn a lot more about them from Nicola Bertoldi on Tuesday and Wednesday

Translation Models

What is a good story about how a Chinese sentence came into being, given that we already have an English sentence?

Translation Models

What is a good story about how a Chinese sentence came into being, given that we already have an English sentence?

Note: in this example I'll show you an English sentence, conditioned on a Chinese sentence. Note that we can apply the same technique in either direction.

Translation Models

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

$$p(English|Chinese)$$

Translation Models

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

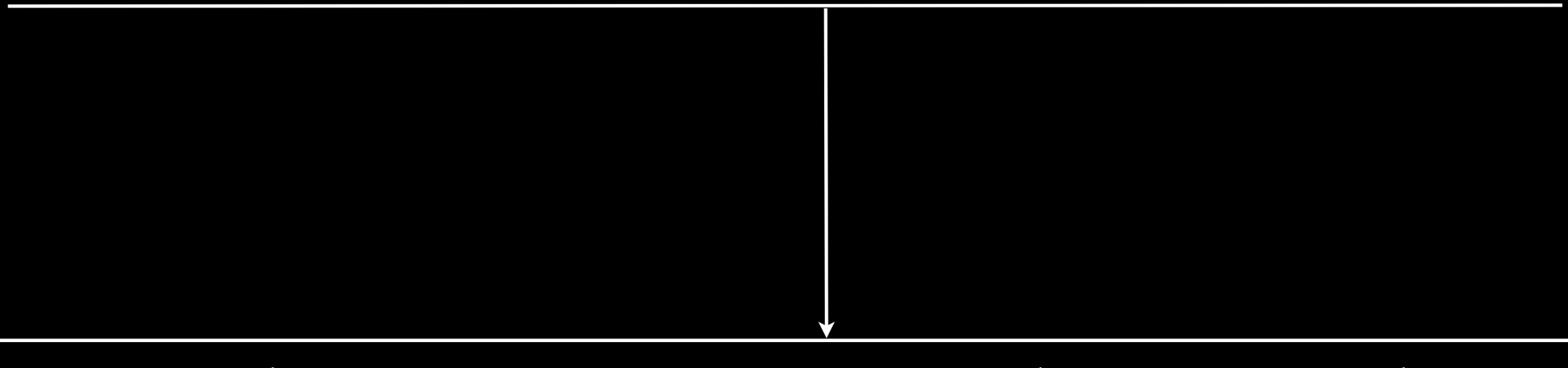
虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

$$p(English|Chinese)$$

Translation Models

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。



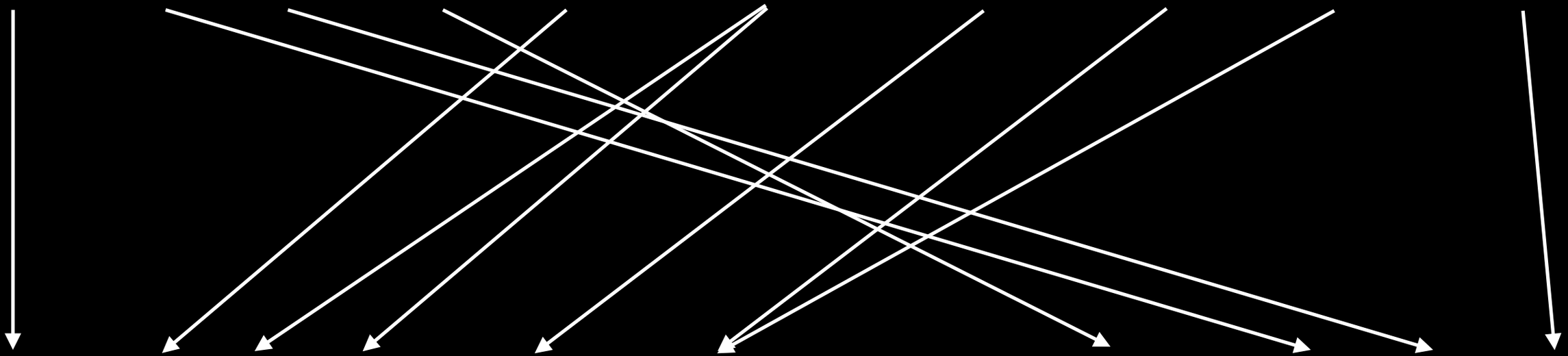
However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

$$p(English|Chinese)$$

Translation Models

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。



However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

Translation Models

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

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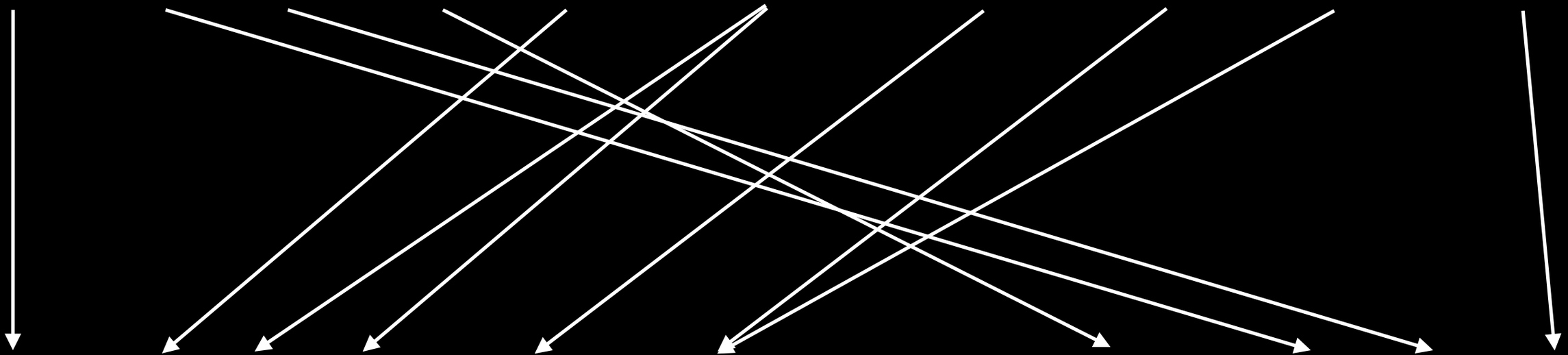


However , the sky remained clear under the strong north wind .

$$p(English|Chinese)?$$

IBM Model 4

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

IBM Model 4

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

↓

虽然

IBM Model 4

Although north wind howls , but sky still very clear .

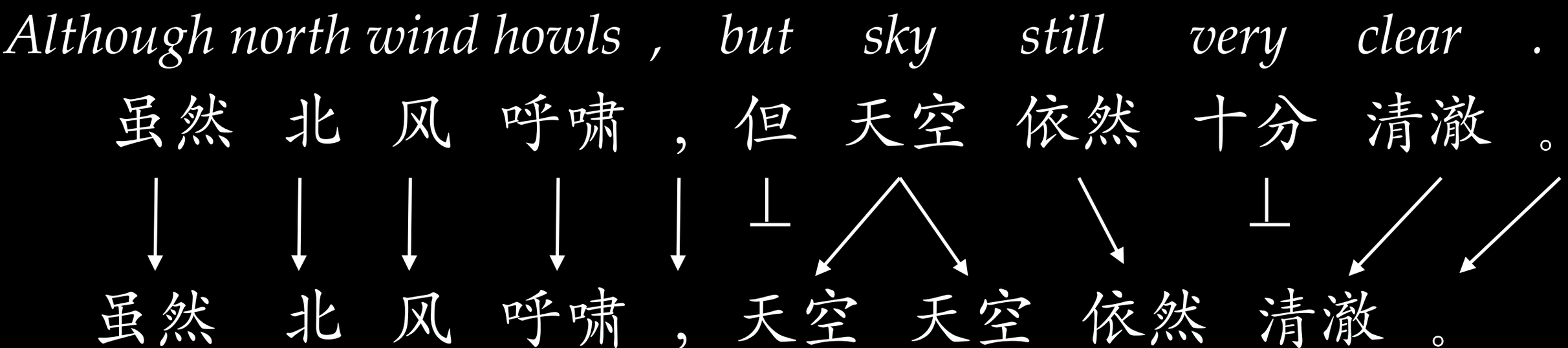
虽然 北 风 呼啸 ，但 天空 依然 十分 清澈 。

↓

虽然

$$p_f(1|\text{虽然})$$

IBM Model 4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⊥
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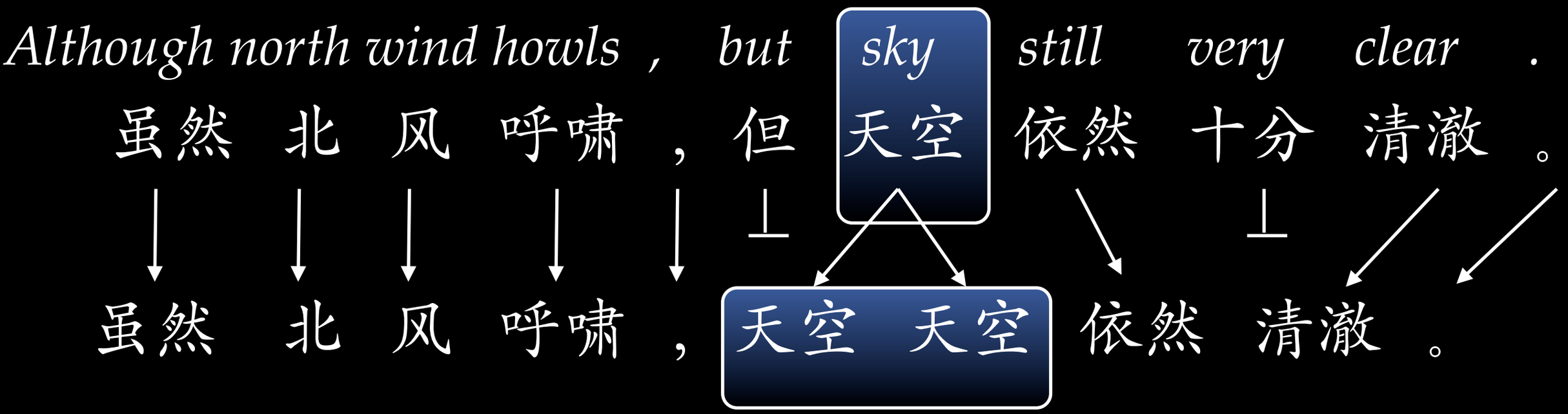
IBM Model 4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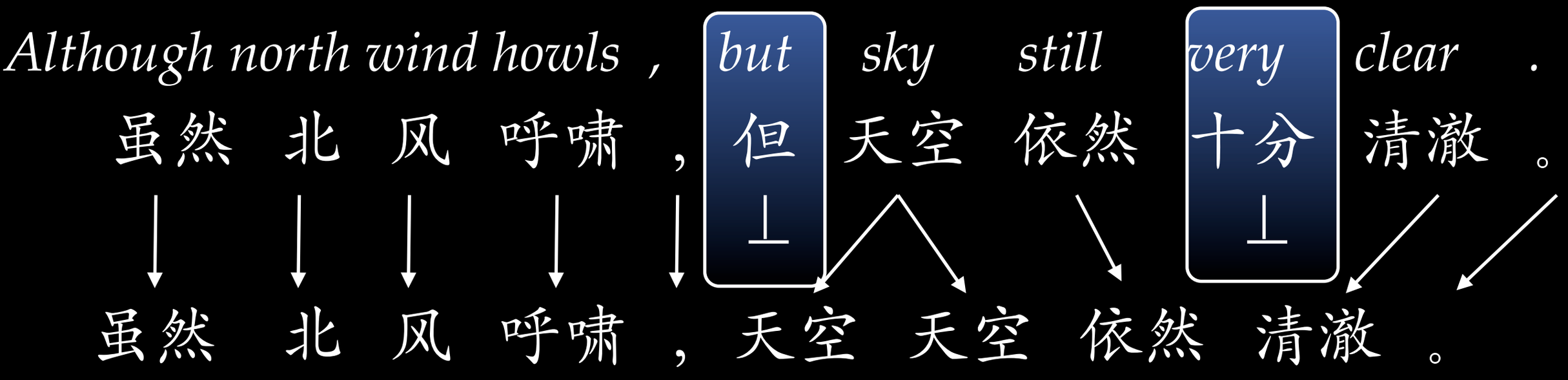
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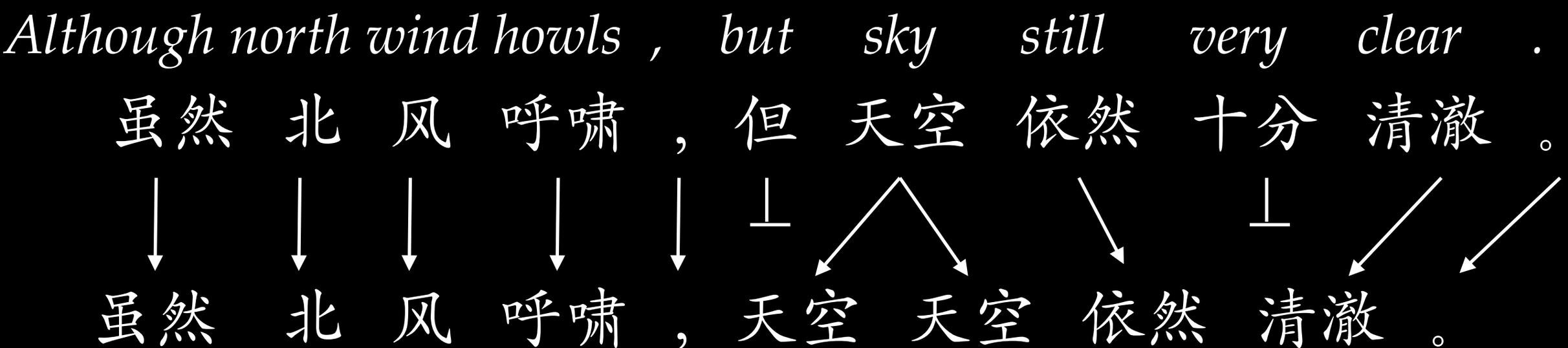
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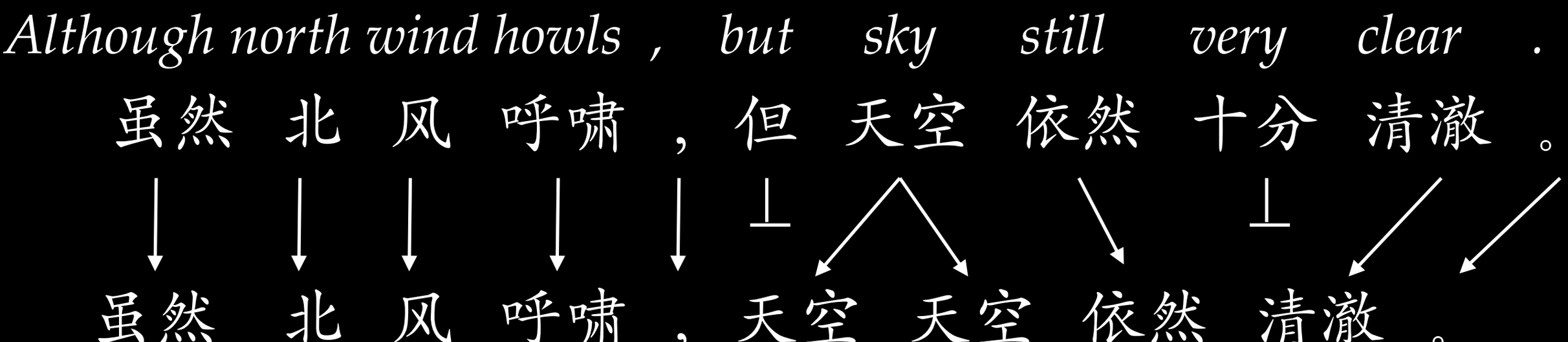
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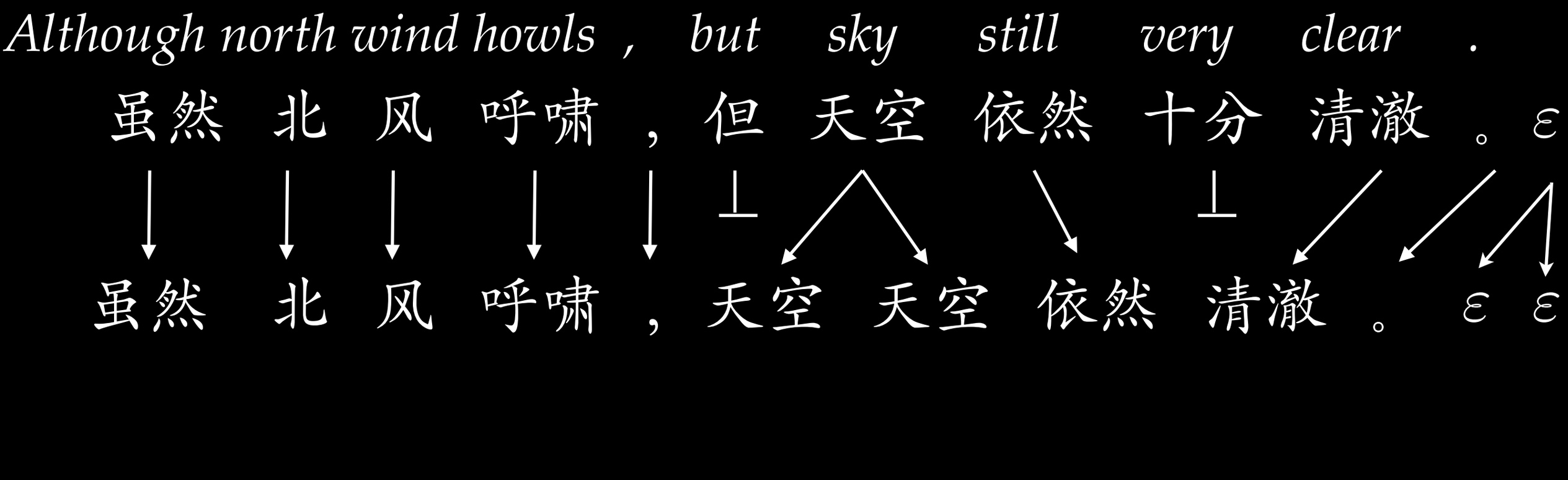
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IBM Model 4

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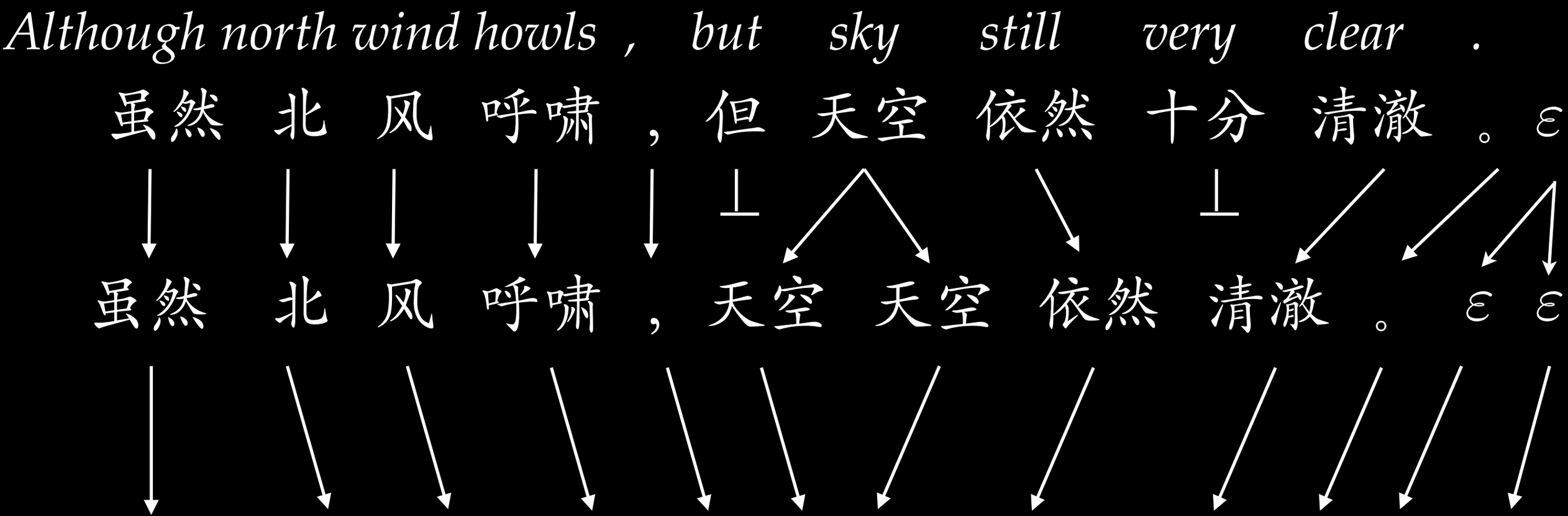
However

IBM Model 4

$$p_t(However|\text{虽然})$$

IBM Model 4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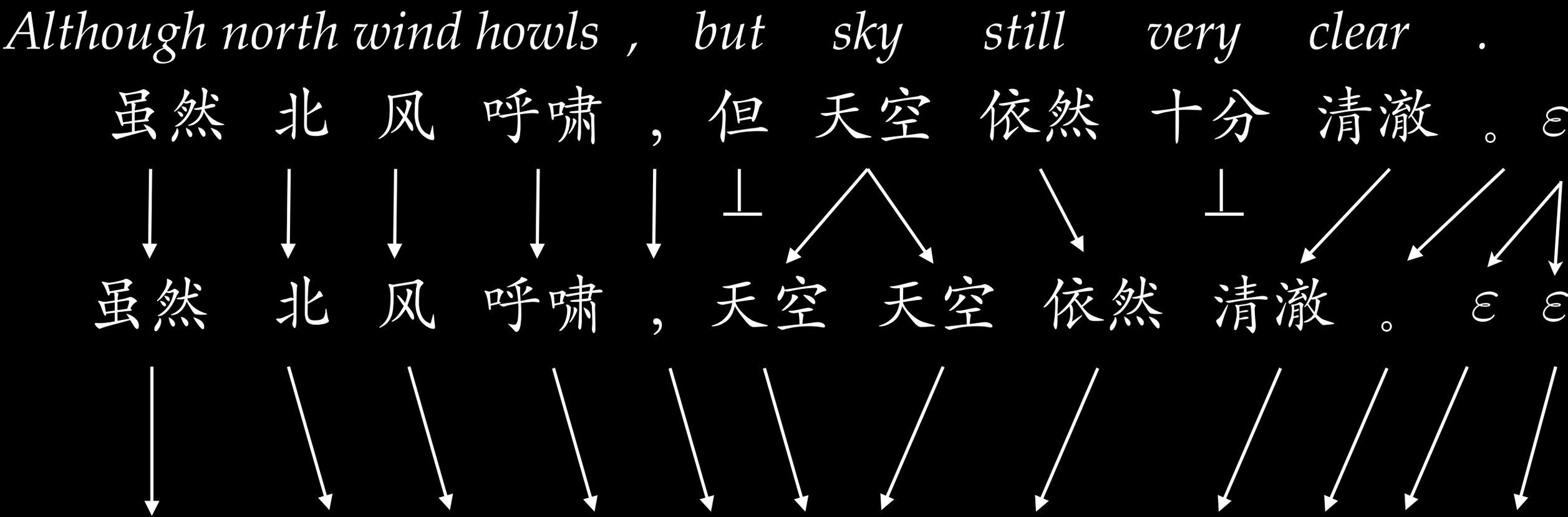
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$p_d(0|However)$

IBM Model 4

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However north wind strong , the sky remained clear . under the

$p_d(8|north)$

IBM Model 4

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⊥
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$$p(English, alignment|Chinese) = \prod_{p_f} \prod_{p_t} \prod_{p_d}$$

IBM Model 4

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$$p(English|Chinese) = \sum_{alignments} \prod_{p_f} \prod_{p_t} \prod_{p_d}$$

The IBM Models

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- Fertility probabilities.

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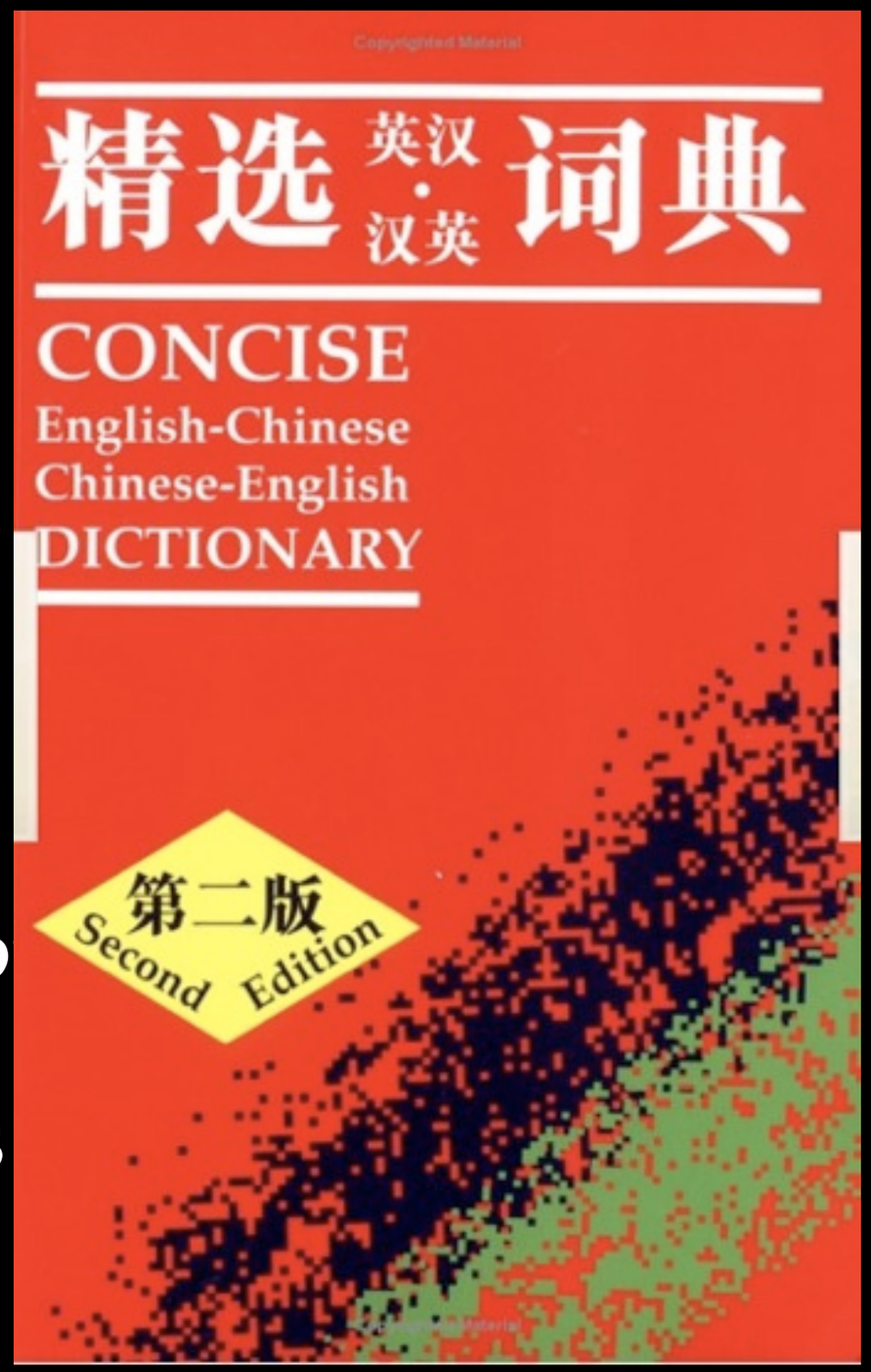

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IBM Model 4 Again

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IBM Model 4 Again

Phrase-based Models

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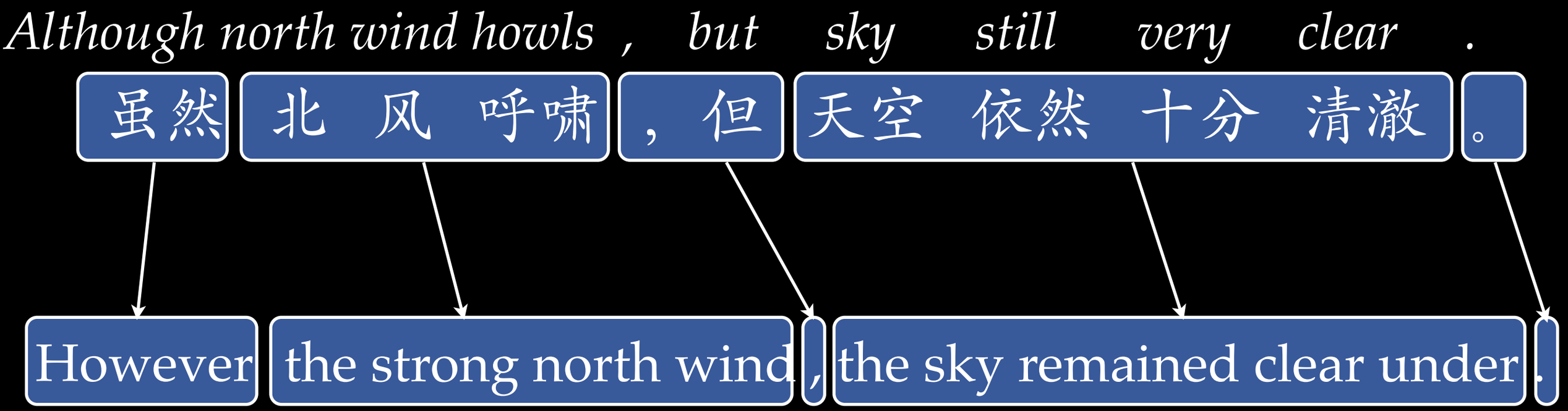
Phrase-based Models



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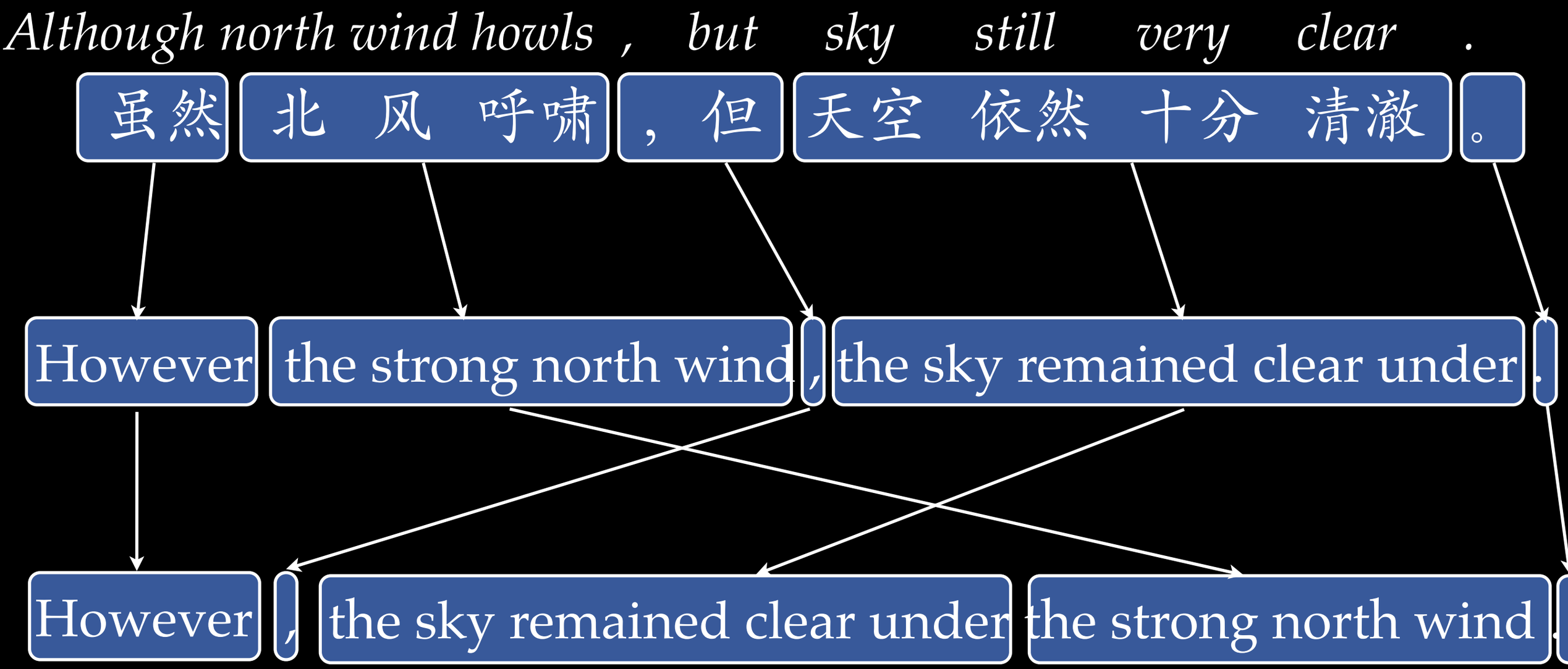
Phrase-based Models



$$p(English, alignment|Chinese) =$$
$$p(segmentation) \cdot p(translations) \cdot p(reorderings)$$

Phrase-based Models

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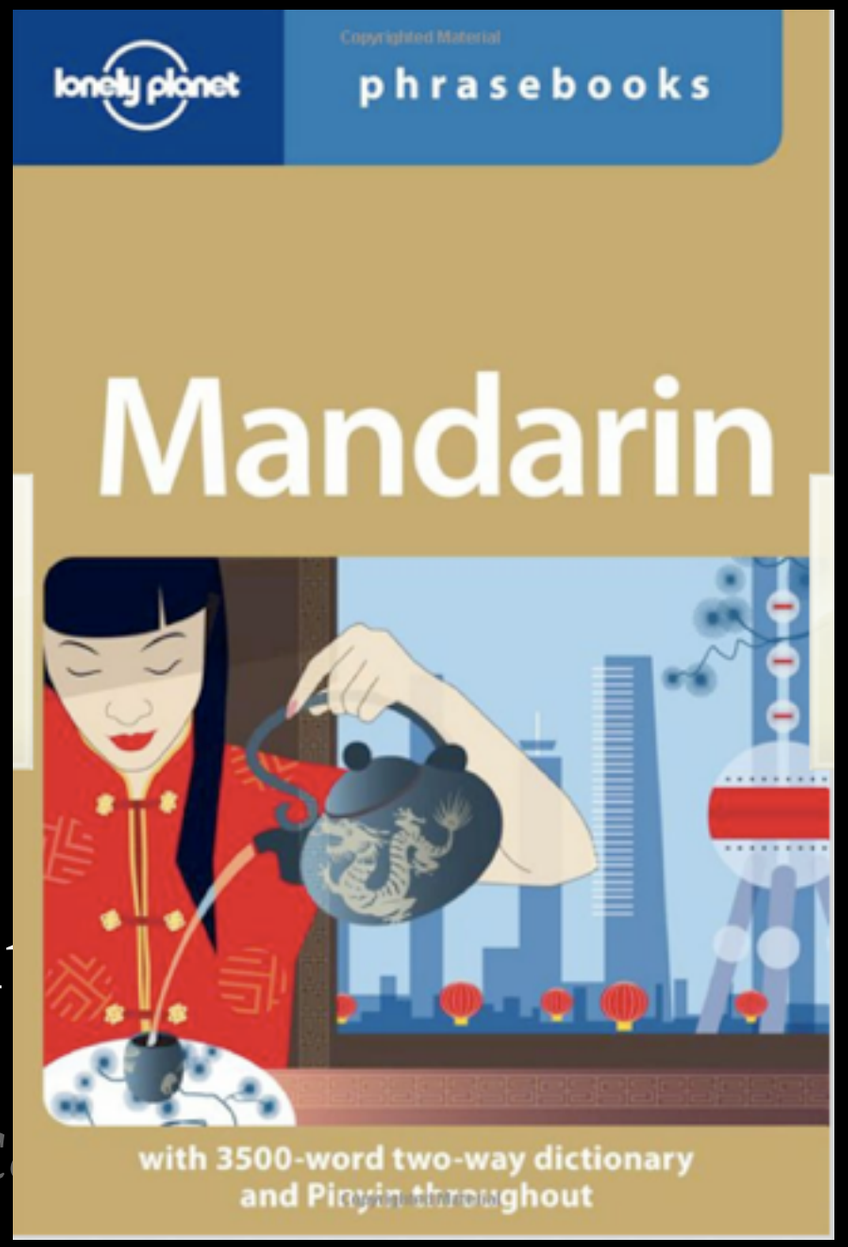

Phrase-based Models

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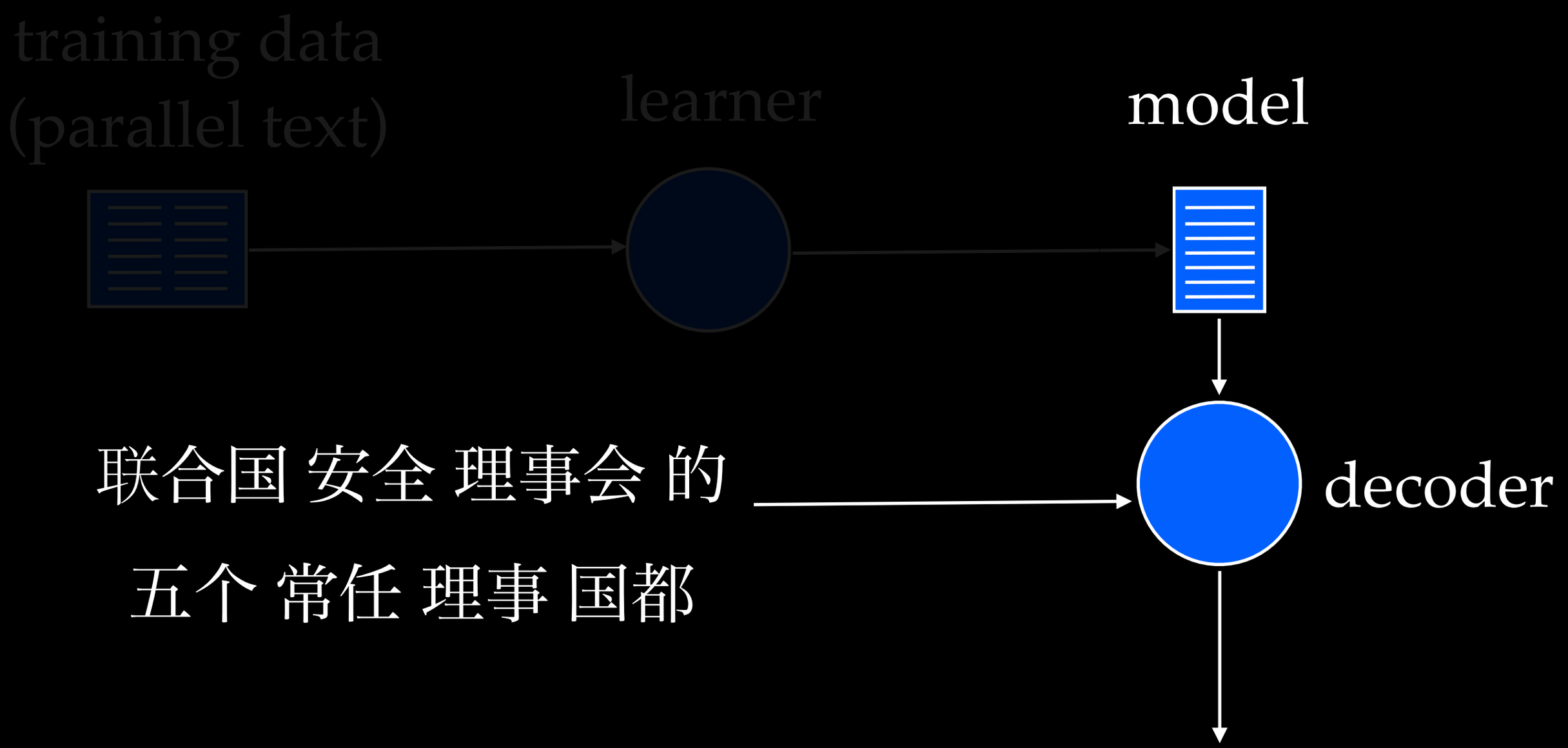
Overview


training data
(parallel text)
learner
model
联合国 安全 理事会 的
五个 常任 理事 国都
decoder
However , the sky remained clear
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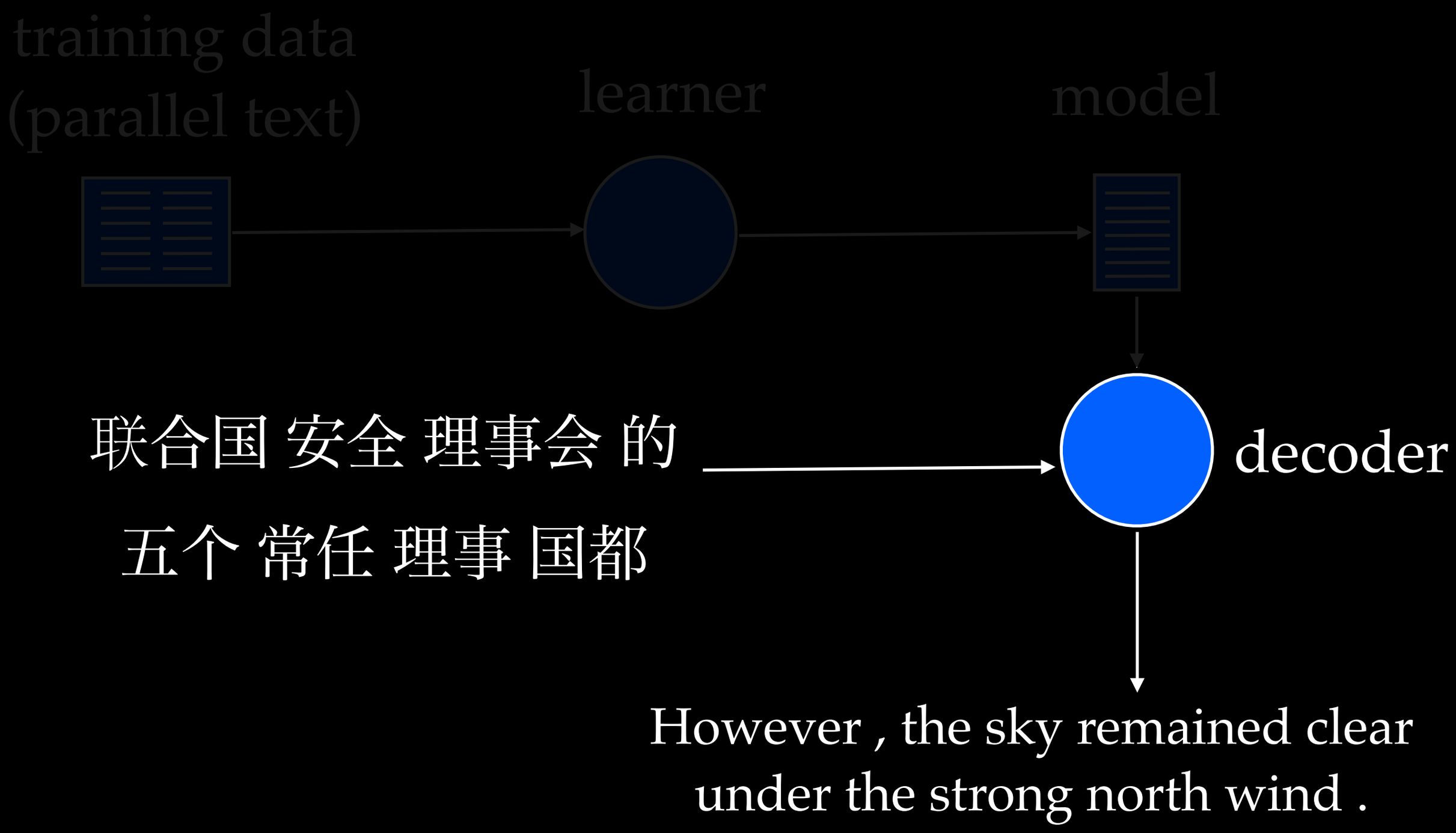
Overview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Decoding

Probability models allow us to make predictions:
Given a particular Chinese sentence, what is the most probable English sentence corresponding to it?

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Given a particular Chinese sentence, what is the most probable English sentence corresponding to it?

In math:

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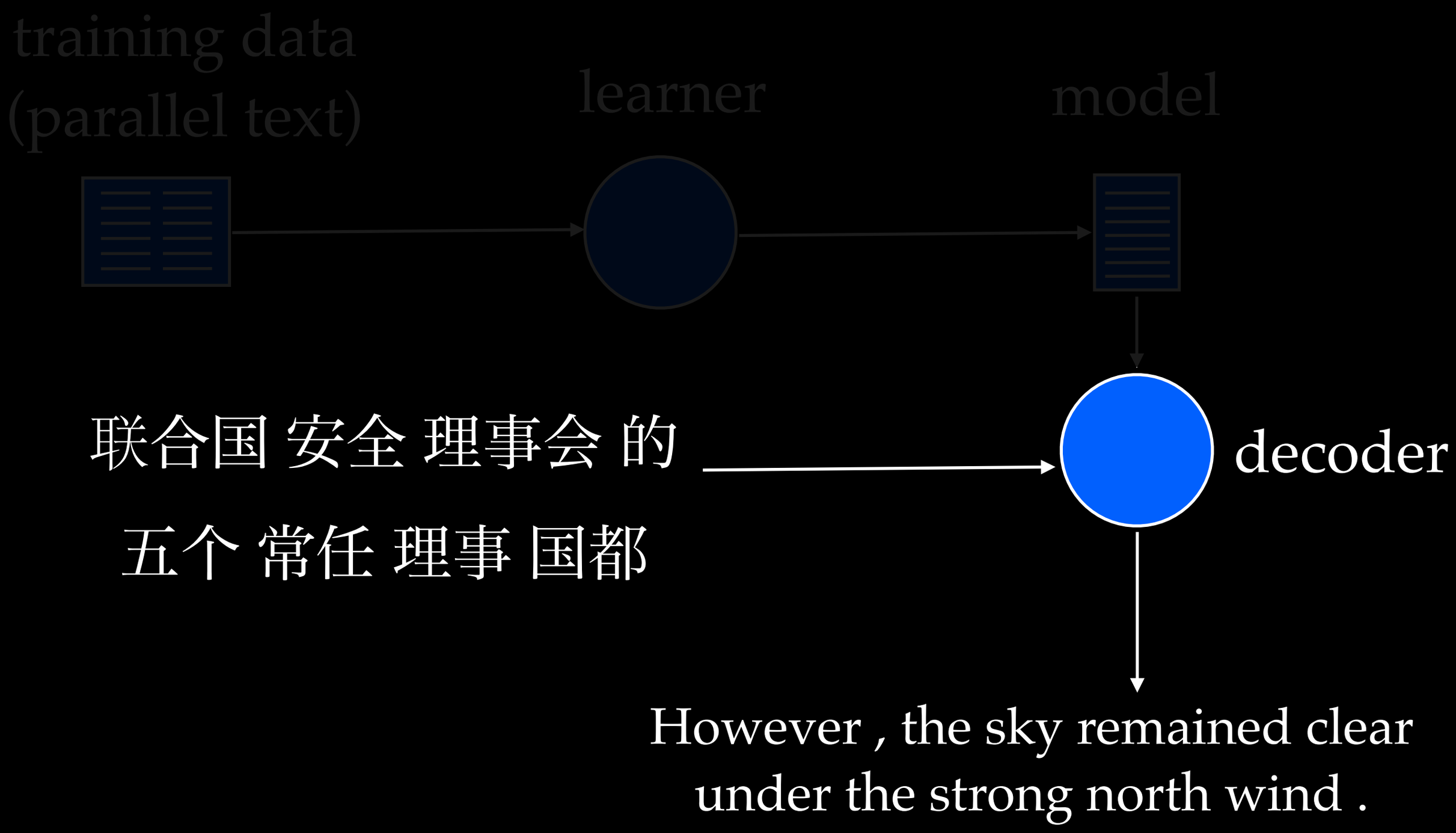
problem: there are a lot of English sentences to choose from!

THE WORD

- Optimization

Overview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北　风　呼啸　。

北　风　呼啸　。

segmentations

substitutions

permutations

北 风 呼啸 。

segmentations $O(2^n)$

substitutions

permutations

北 风 呼啸 。

segmentations	$O(2^n)$
substitutions	$O(5^n)$
permutations	

北 风 呼啸 。

segmentations	$O(2^n)$
substitutions	$O(5^n)$
permutations	$O(n!)$

北 风 呼啸 。

segmentations	$O(2^n)$
substitutions	$O(5^n)$
permutations	$O(n!)$

240,000 possibilities!

北　风　呼啸　。

北 风 呼啸 。

the strong north wind .

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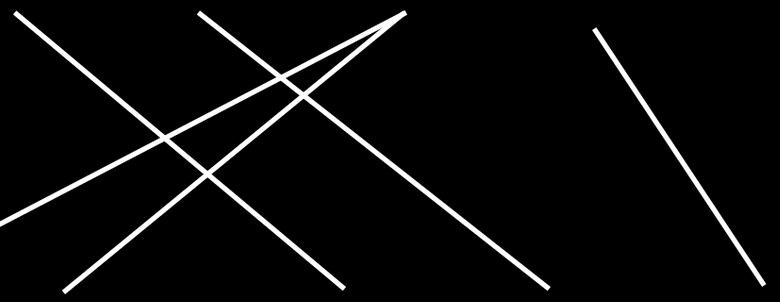

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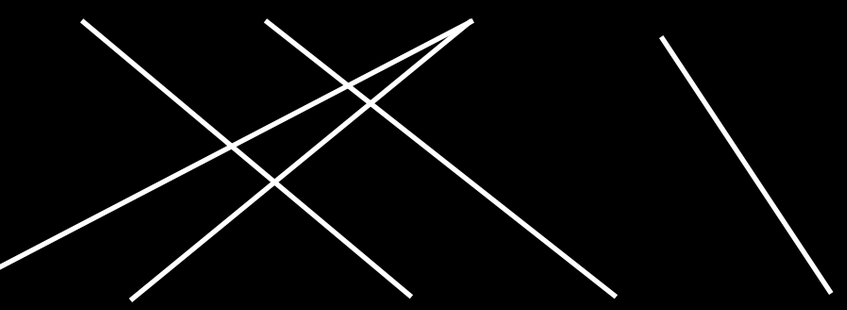

the strong north wind .

Given a sentence pair and an alignment, we can easily calculate

$p(English, alignment|Chinese)$

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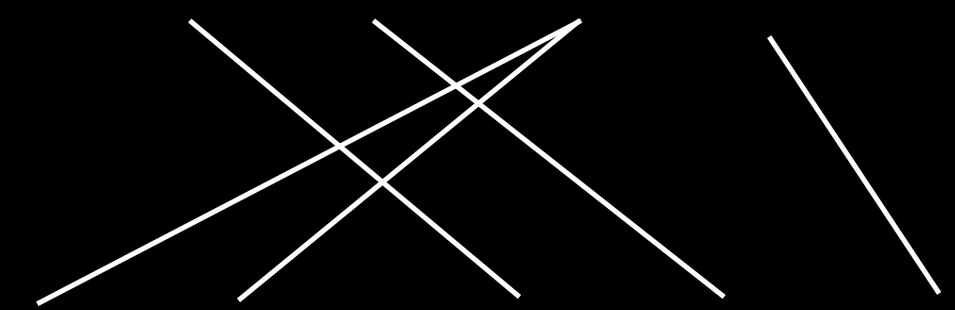

the strong north wind .

Given a sentence pair and an
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Can we do this without enumerating $O(10^n n!)$ pairs?

Key Idea

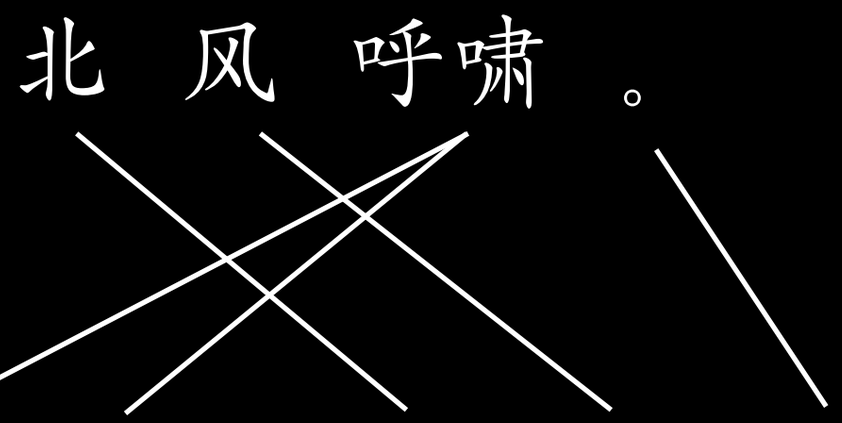
北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

北 风 呼啸 。

the strong north wind .

Key Idea



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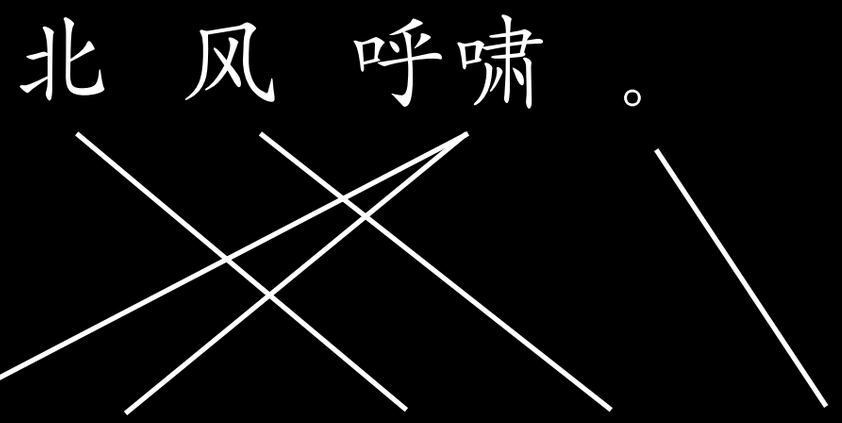
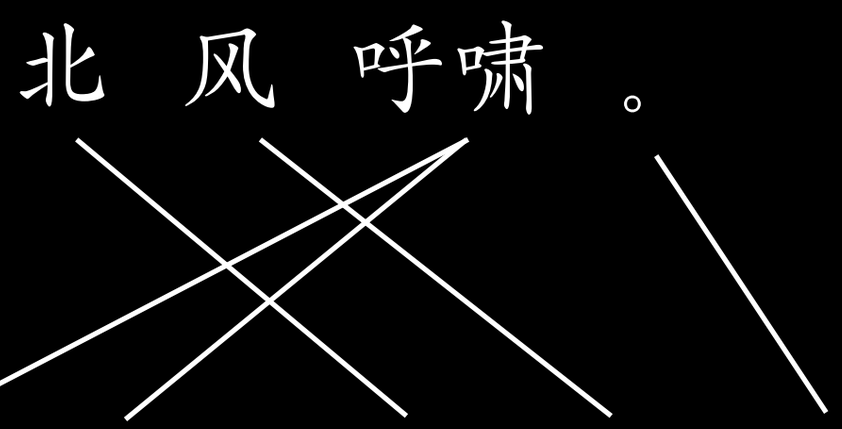


the strong north wind .

There are $O(10^n n!)$ target sentences.

Key Idea



the strong north wind .

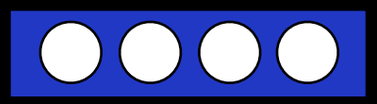
There are $O(10^n n!)$ target sentences.

But there are only $O(5n^2)$ ways to start them.

Key Idea

北 风 呼啸 。

Key Idea



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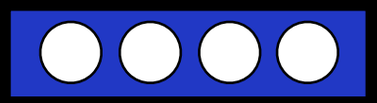

coverage vector

北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

coverage vector

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Key Idea

$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

coverage vector

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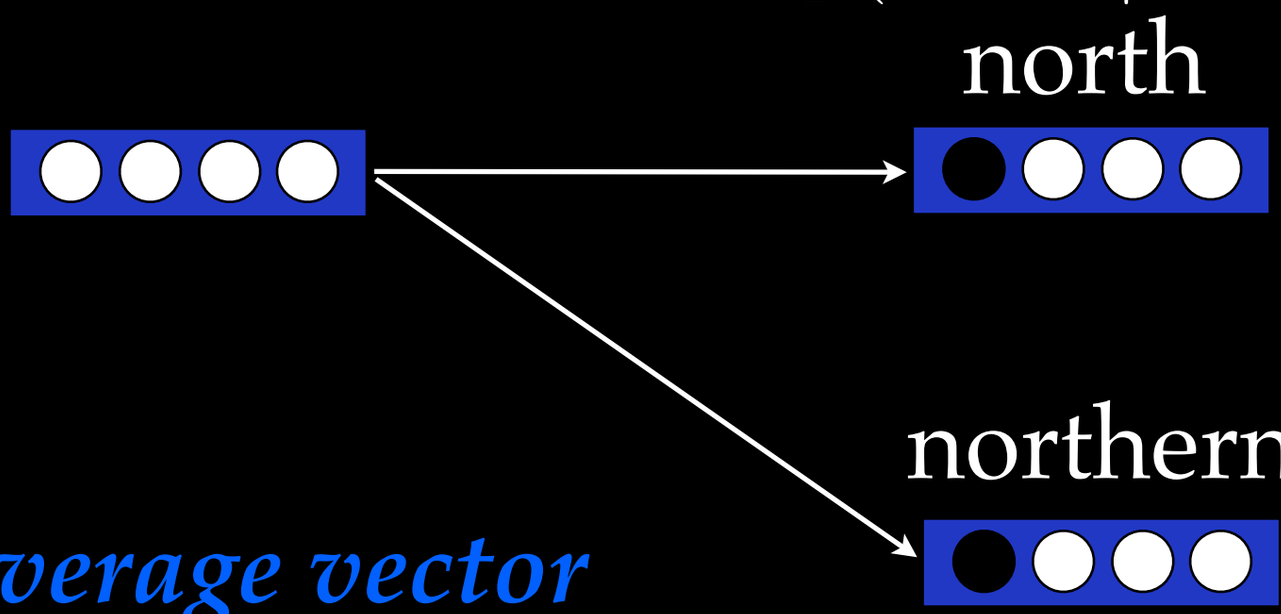
$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

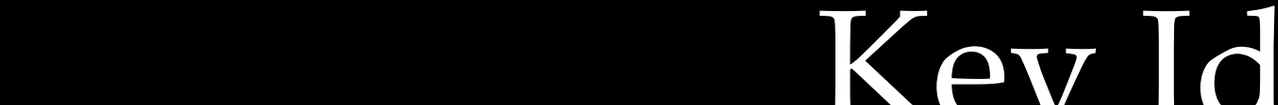


北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

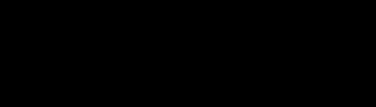
$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

north



$p(northern|START) \cdot p(北|northern)$

northern



coverage vector

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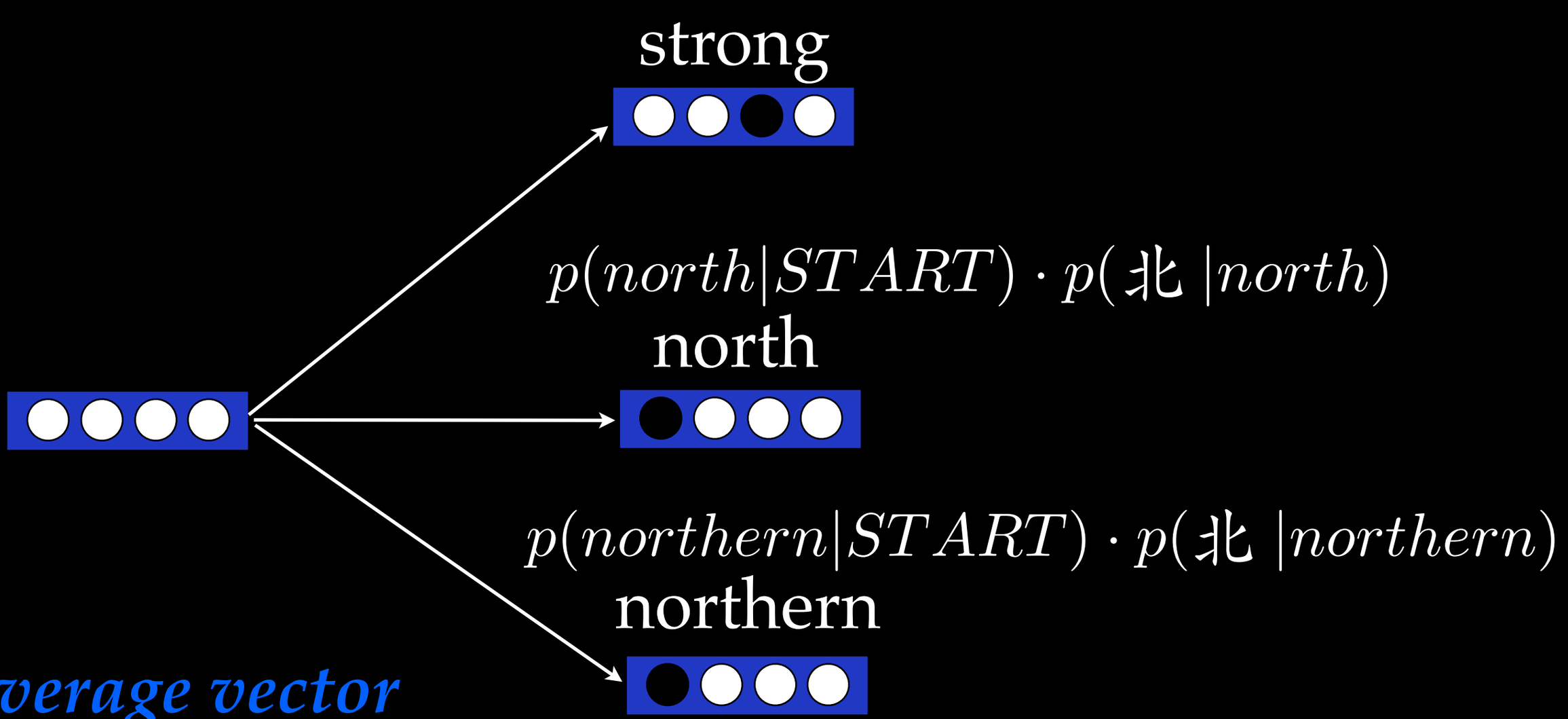
Key Idea

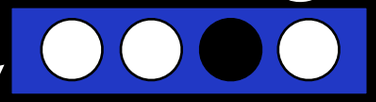


北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

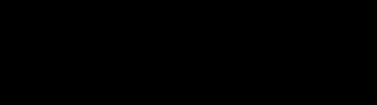
$p(strong|START) \cdot p(\text{呼啸}|strong)$

strong



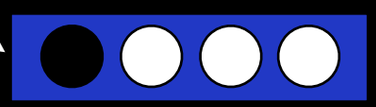
$p(north|START) \cdot p(\text{北}|north)$

north



$p(northern|START) \cdot p(\text{北}|northern)$

northern



coverage vector

北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

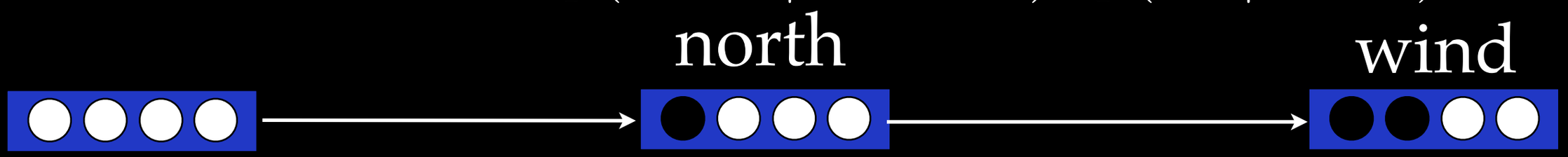
$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

coverage vector

北 风 呼啸 。

Key Idea

$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

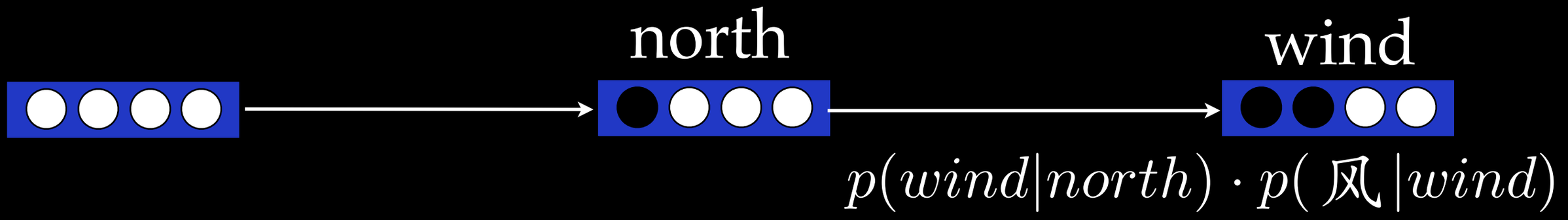


coverage vector

北 风 呼啸 。

Key Idea

$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$

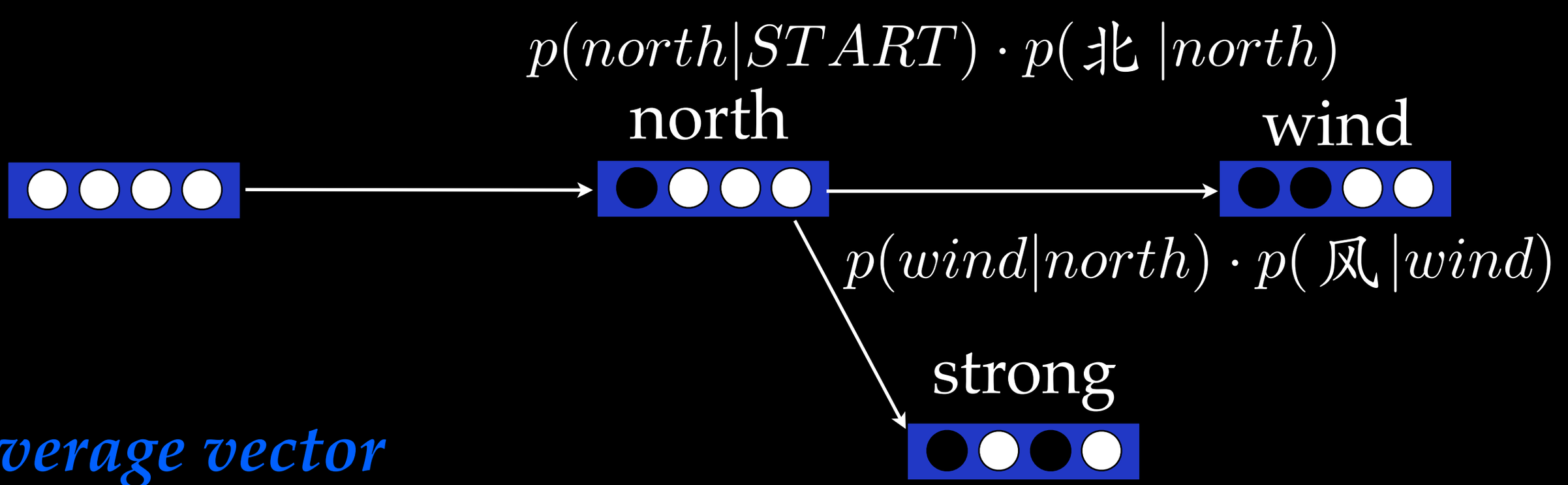


$p(wind|north) \cdot p(风|wind)$

coverage vector

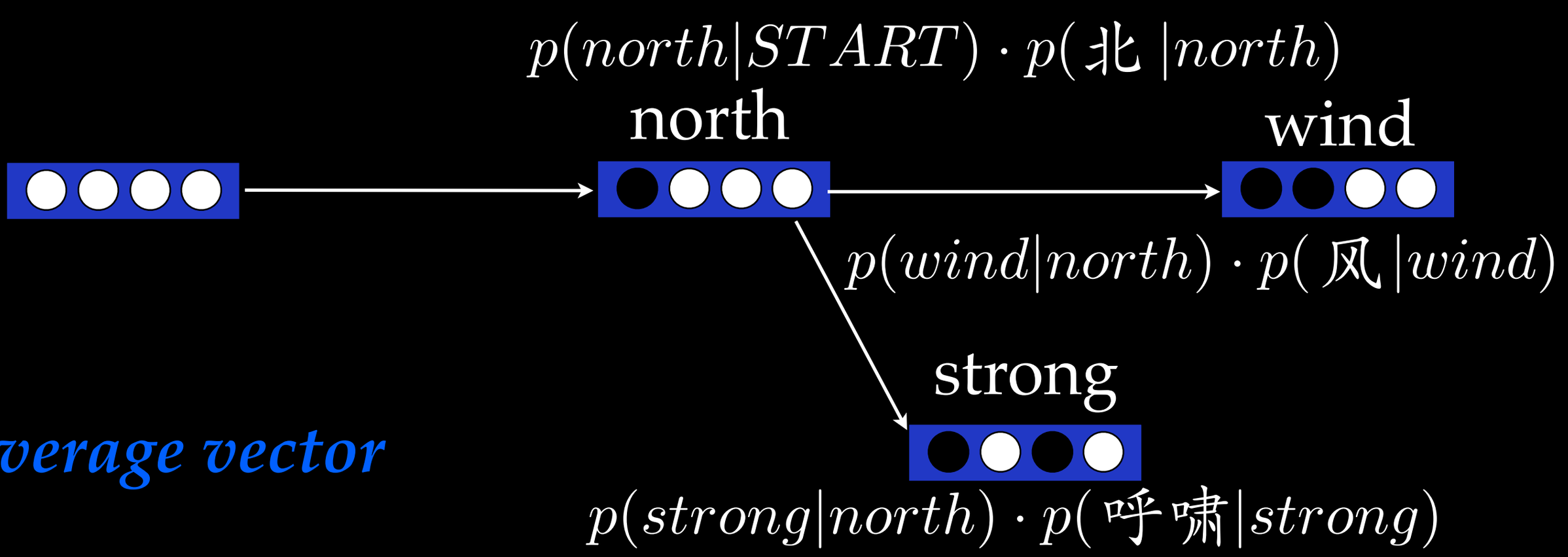
北 风 呼啸 。

Key Idea



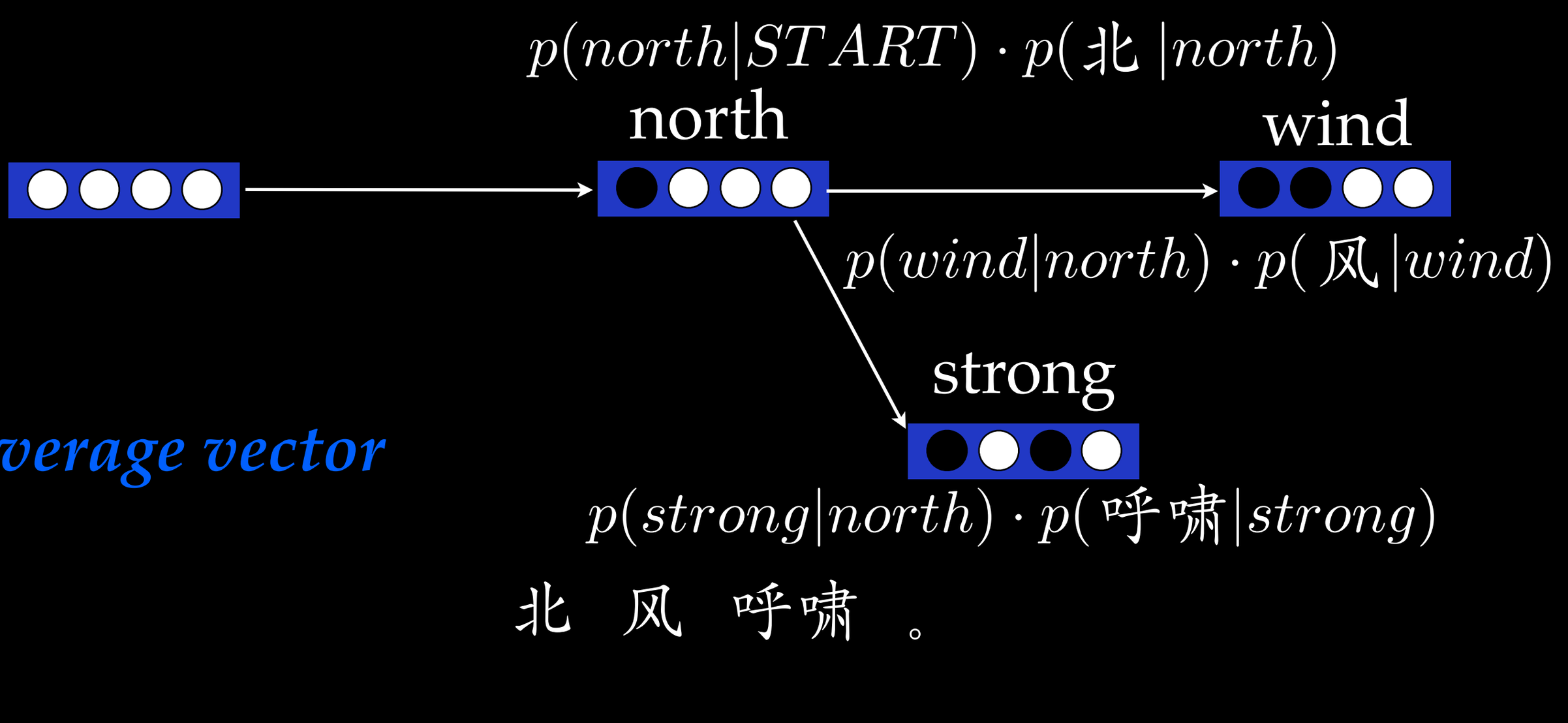
北　风　呼啸　。

Key Idea

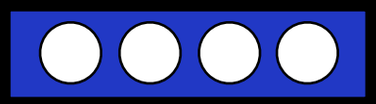

$p(north|START) \cdot p(北|north)$
north
wind
$p(wind|north) \cdot p(风|wind)$
strong
$p(strong|north) \cdot p(呼啸|strong)$
coverage vector
北 风 呼啸 。

Key Idea

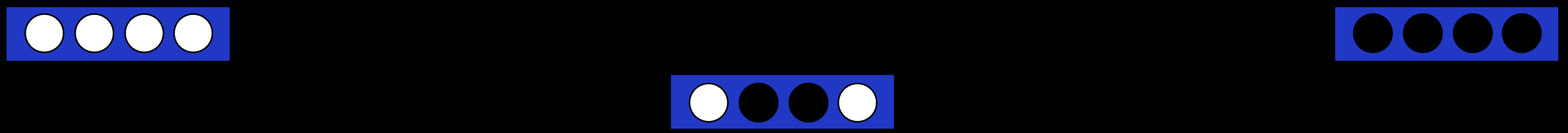
Work done at sentence beginnings is shared across many possible output sentences!



Key Idea



Key Idea



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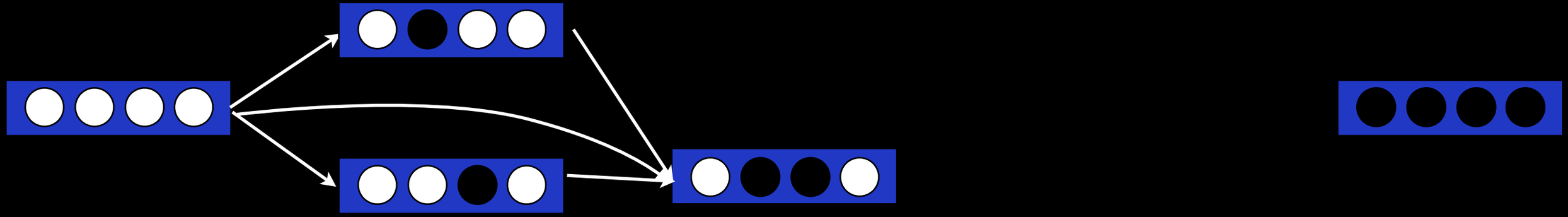

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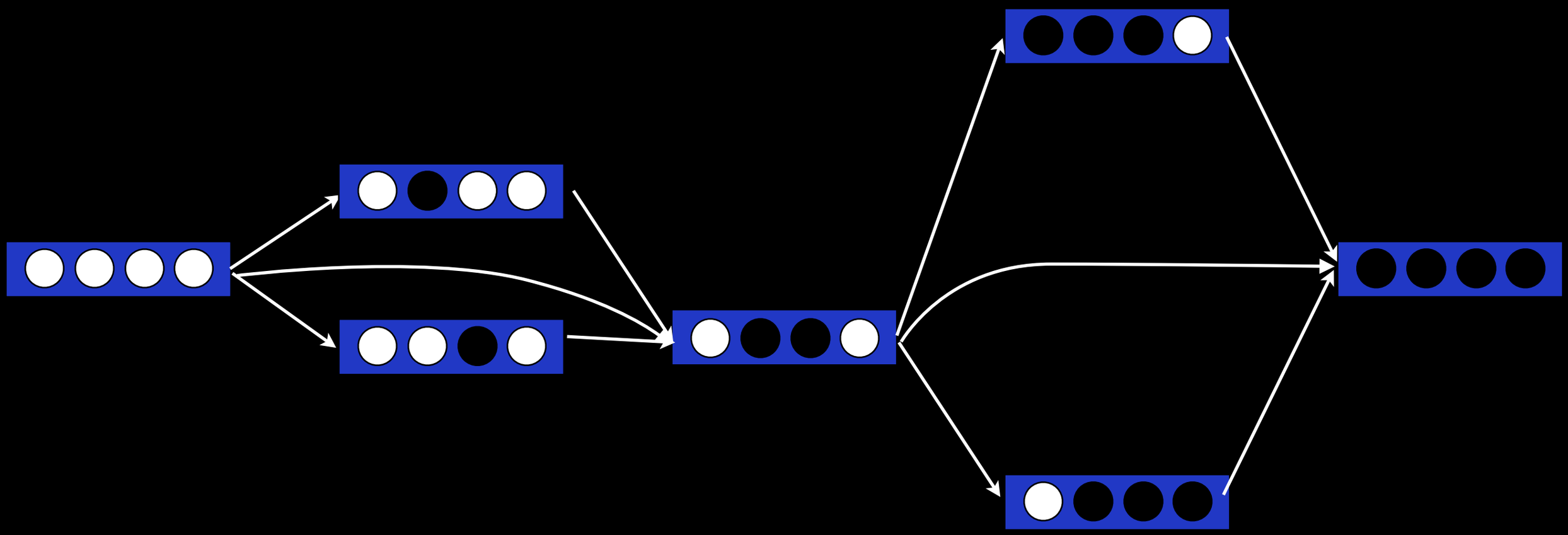

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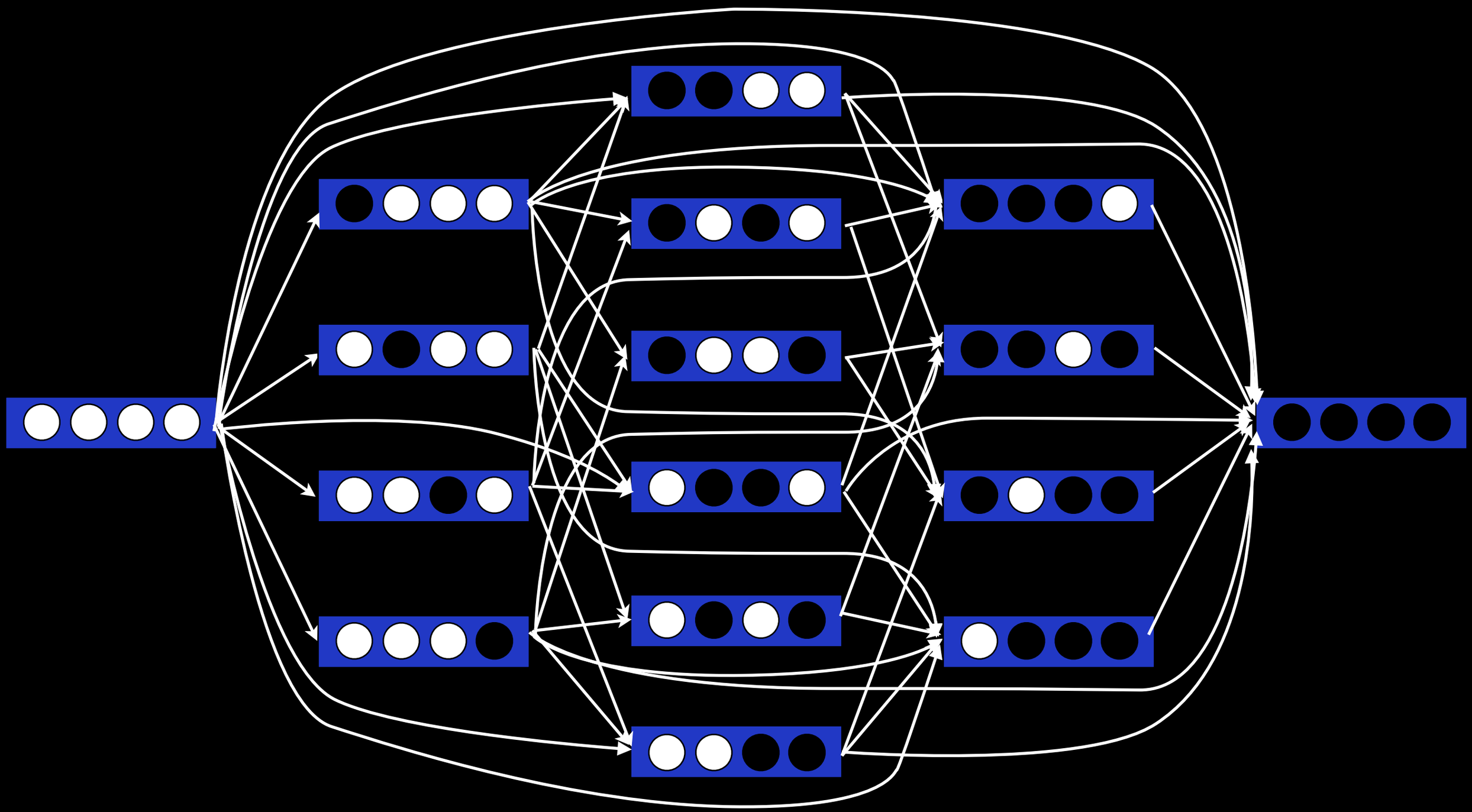
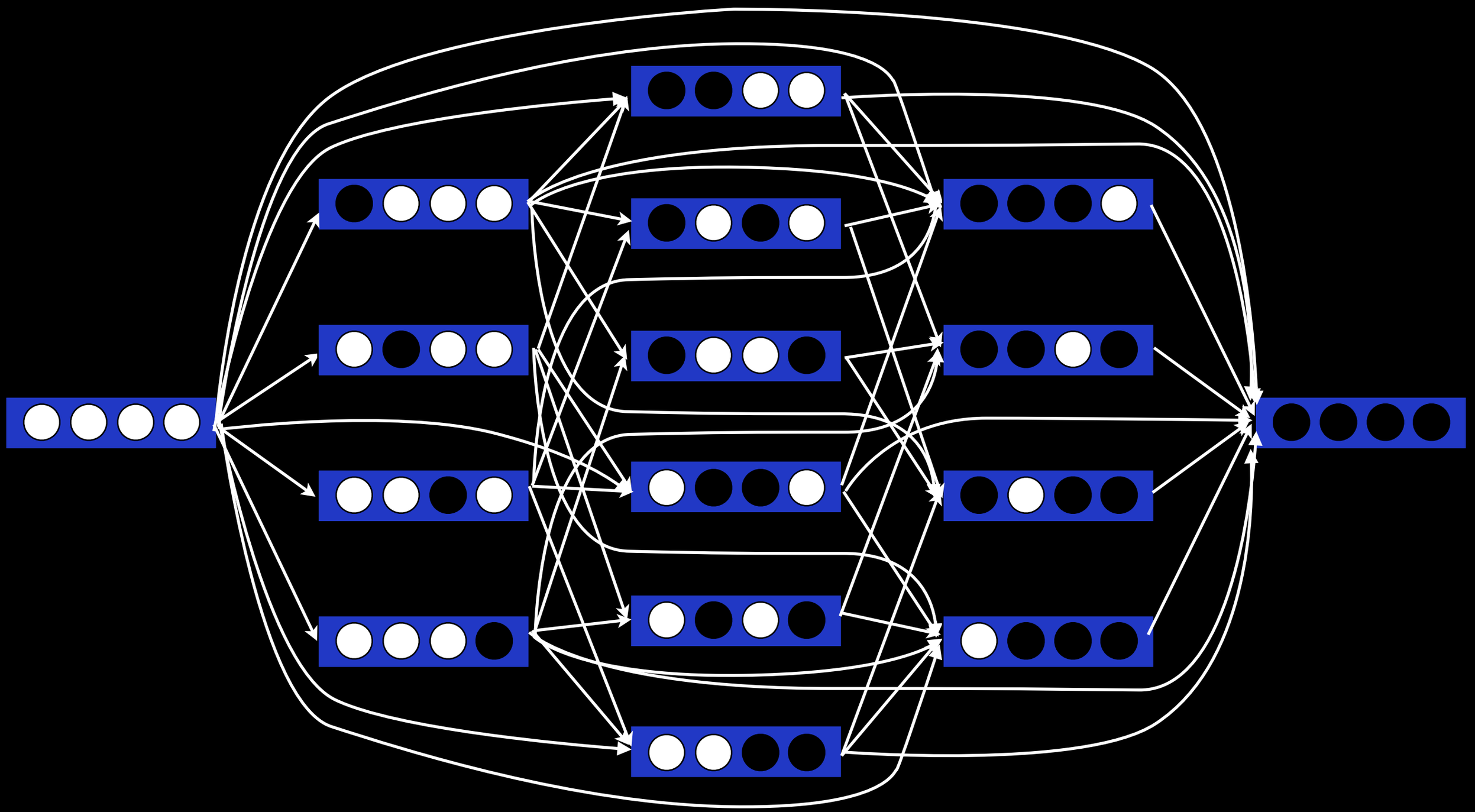


Key Idea

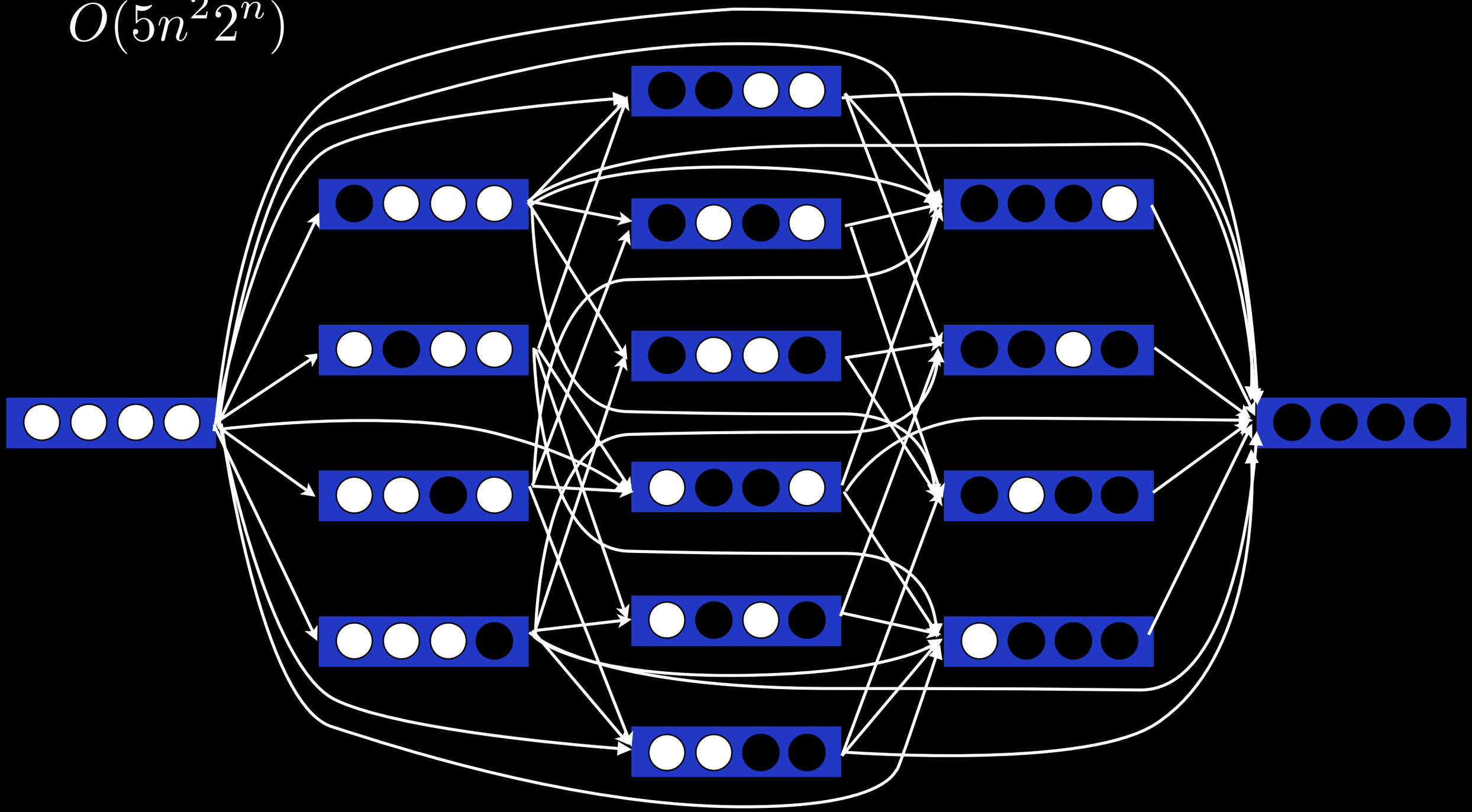


Dynamic Programming

Key Idea

amount of work:

$O(5n^2 2^n)$



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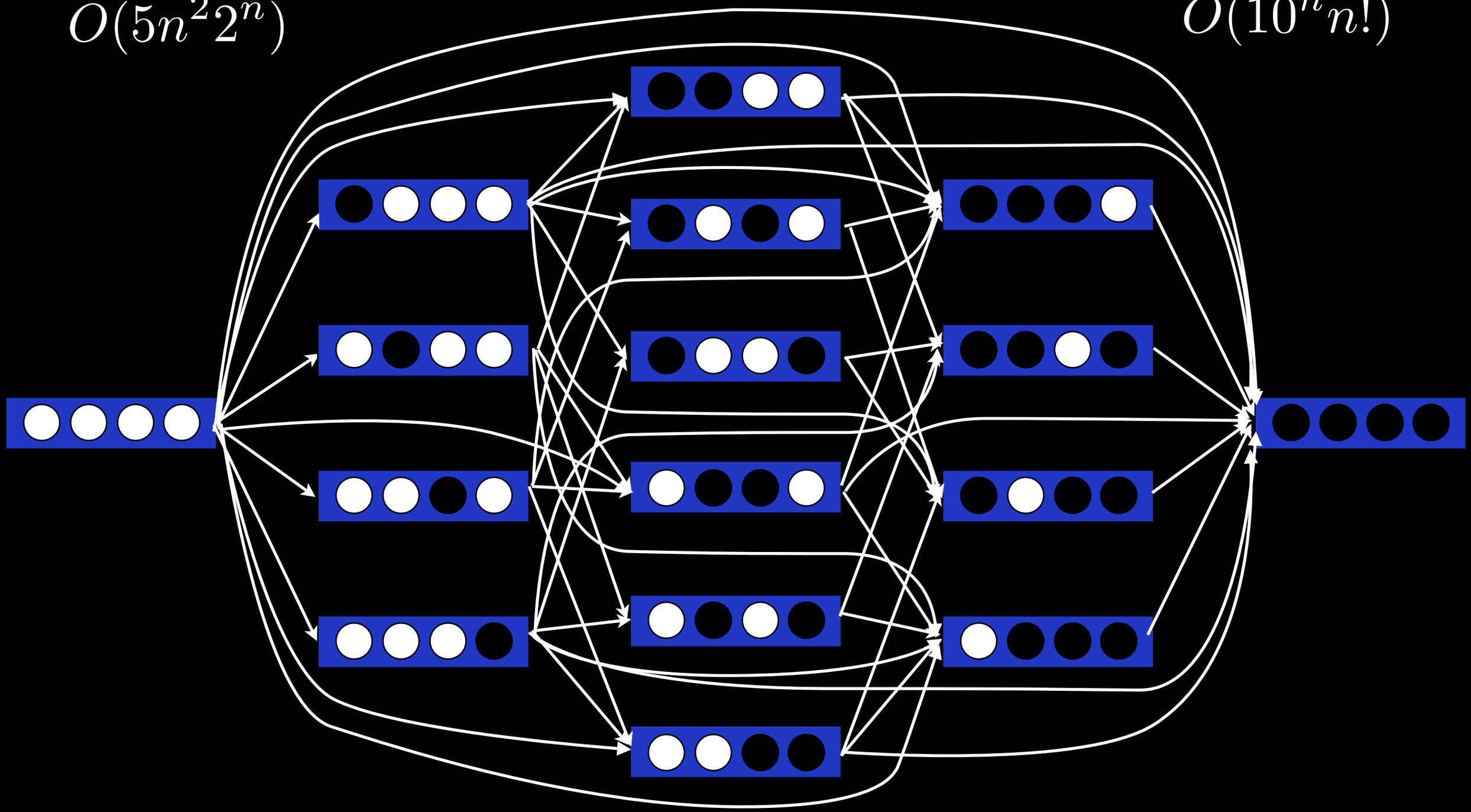
bad, but much better than

$O(10^n n!)$



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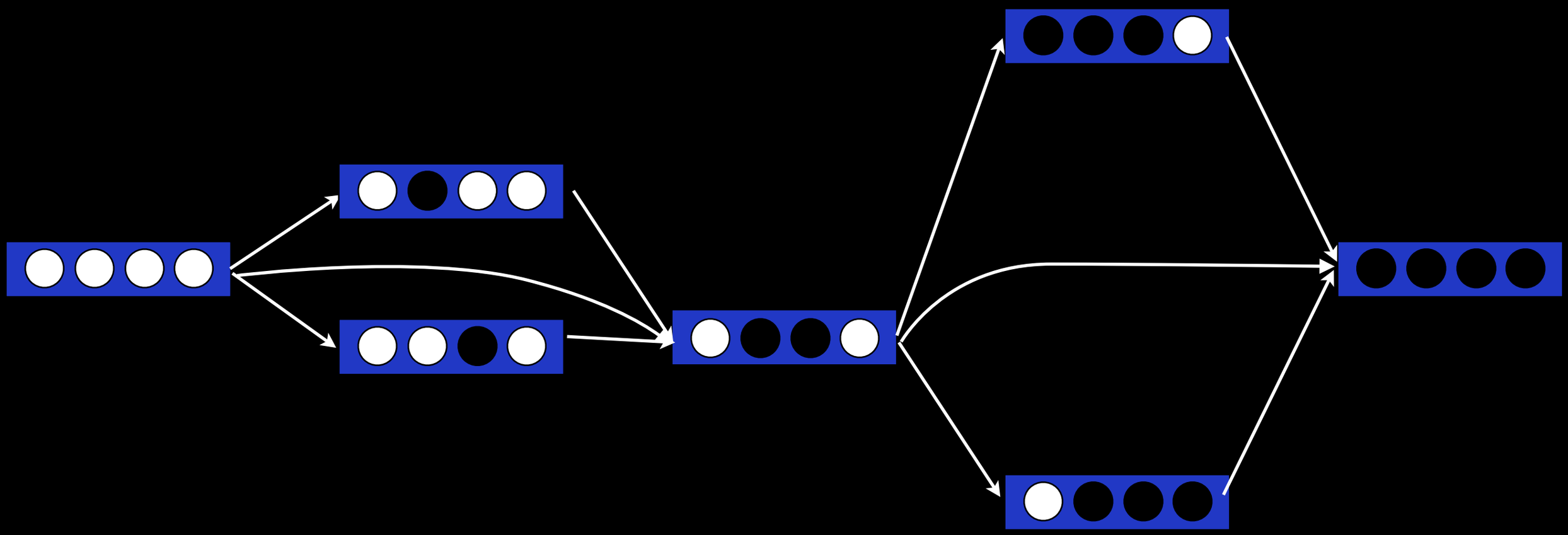

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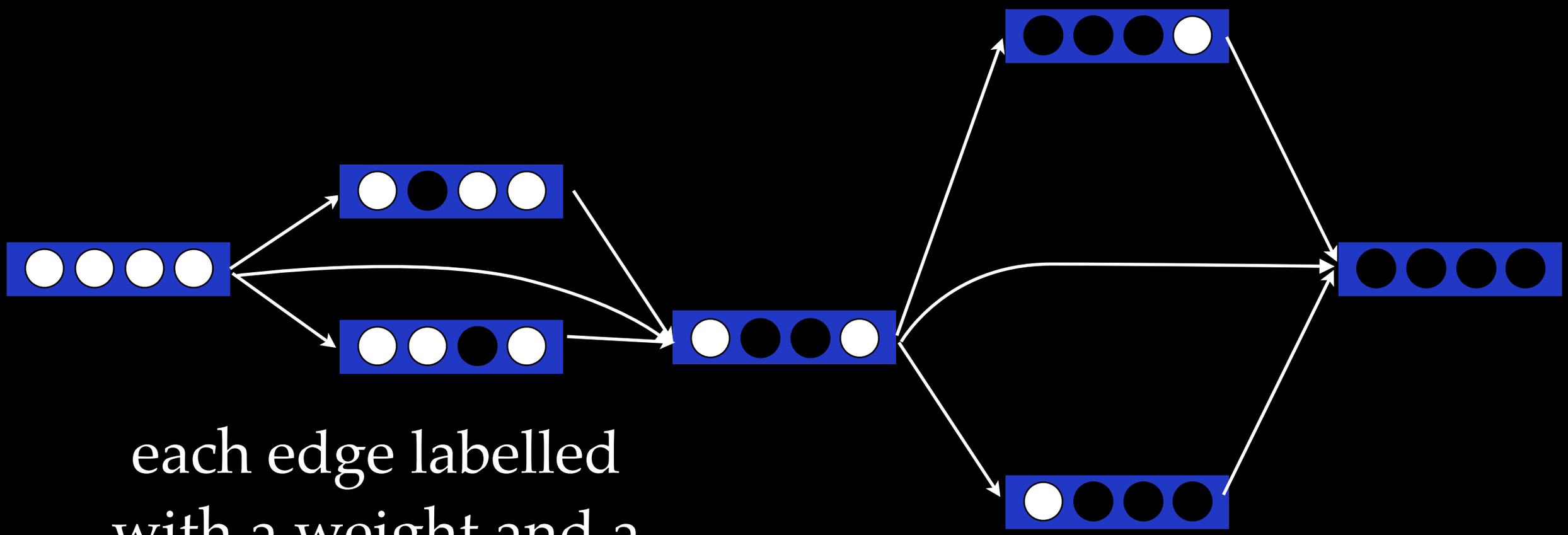

each edge labelled with a weight and a word (or words)

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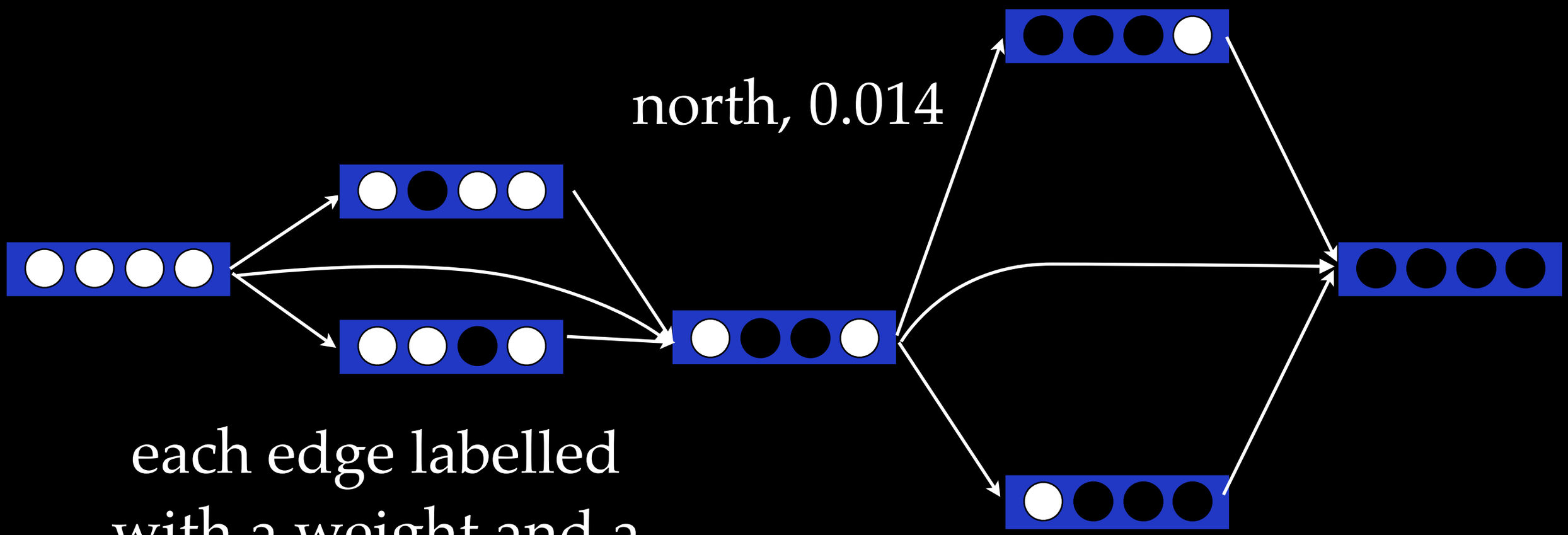

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Dynamic Programming

Key Idea

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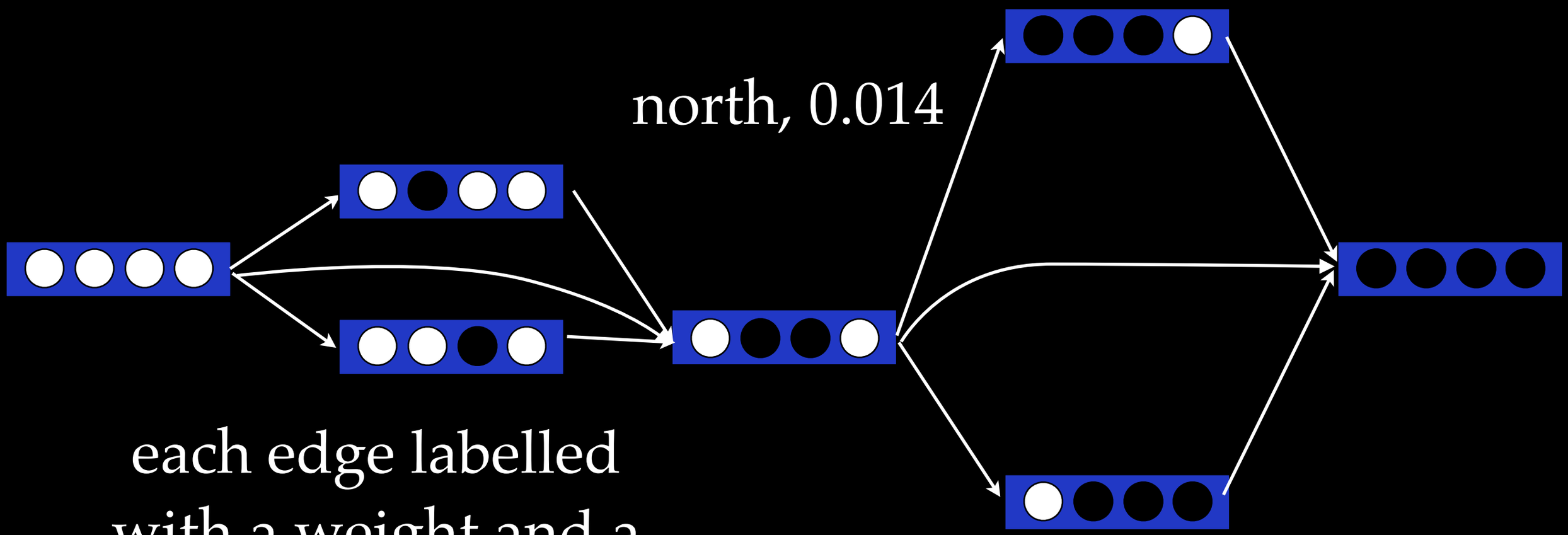
weighted finite-state automata



each edge labelled with a weight and a word (or words)

Dynamic Programming

Weighted languages

- The lattice describing the set of all possible translations is a ***weighted finite state automaton***.
- So is the language model.
- Since regular languages are closed under intersection, we can intersect the devices and run shortest path graph algorithms.
- Taking their intersection is equivalent to computing the probability under Bayes' rule.

Practical Issues

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Can we do better?

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NO! Knight (1999) shows that this is NP-Complete.

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Can we do better?

NO! Knight (1999) shows that this is NP-Complete.

Barry Haddow will tell you how we can still
make it work on Thursday.

Recap

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- Probability theory enables us to learn from data.

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- Very simple models get us pretty far!

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- Phrase-based models are similar, but more effective.
- *All* of these models are weighted regular languages.
- Need dynamic programming with approximations.
- Is this the best we can do? Stay tuned on Thursday.

ارتفاع عجز الميزان التجاري الأردني

قيمة الواردات الأردنية بلغت 7.39 مليارات دولار في النصف الأول من العام (الجزيرة نت)

أفادت بيانات رسمية بأن العجز في الميزان التجاري الأردني ارتفع في النصف الأول من العام الحالي بنسبة 18.1% نتيجة زيادة حجم الواردات مقابل الصادرات، كما تراجع حجم القروض الائتمانية التي قدمتها البنوك الأردنية بنسبة 11% خلال الفترة نفسها.

وقالت بيانات لدائرة الإحصاءات العامة نشرت اليوم الاثنين إن قيمة العجز في الميزان التجاري بلغت 2.79 مليار دينار أردني (3.94 مليار دولار أميركي).

وأشارت البيانات إلى ارتفاع حجم الصادرات خلال النصف الأول من العام بنسبة 16.6%, حيث بلغت 2.05 مليار دينار (2.91 مليار دولار)، كما ارتفعت قيمة الواردات بنسبة 11.7% لتبلغ 5.23 مليارات دينار (7.39 مليارات دولار).

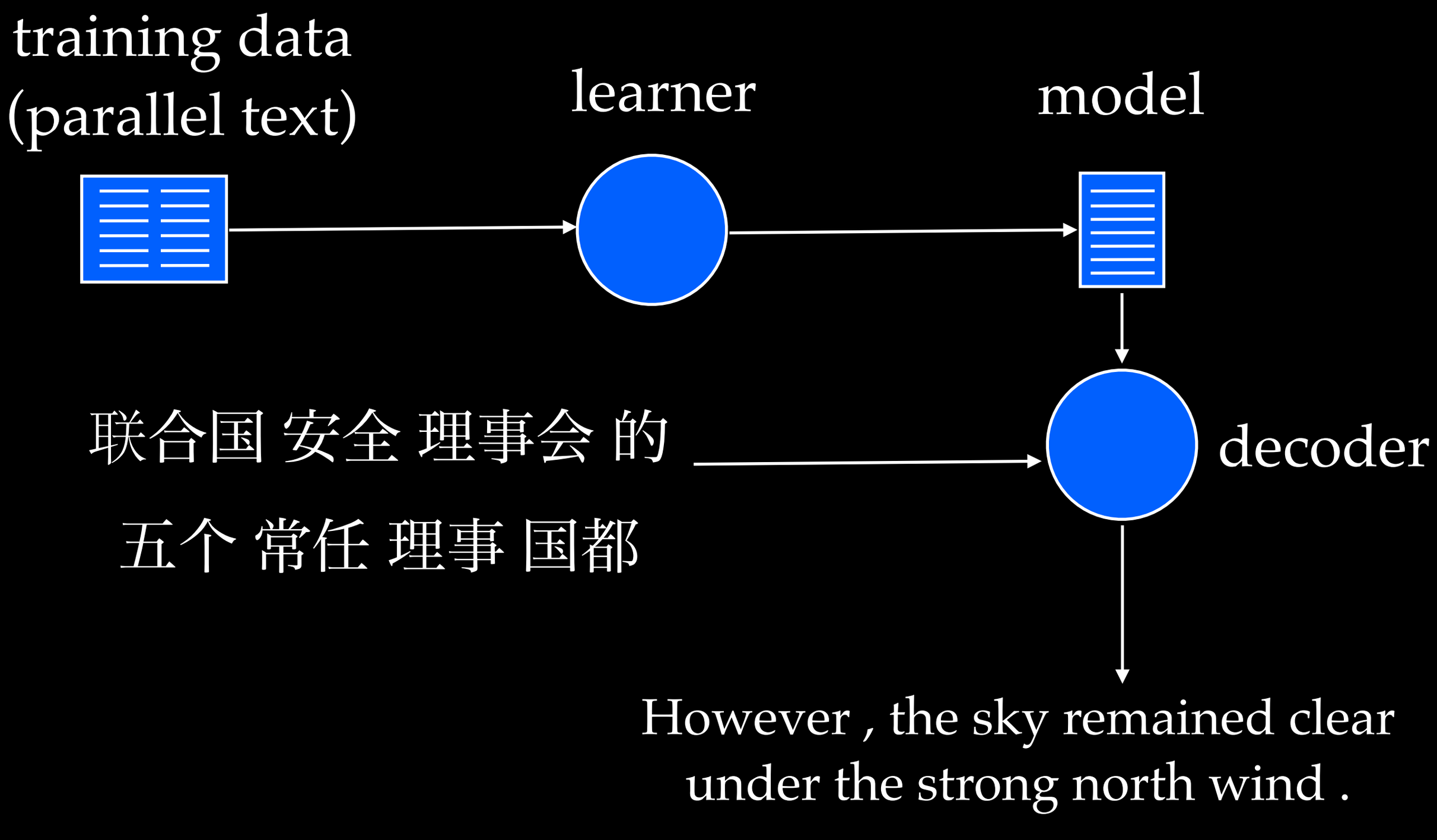
Value of Jordanian imports amounted to 7.39 billion dollars in the first half of the year (island Net)

According to official statements that the trade balance deficit rose Jordan in the first half of this year by 18.1% due to increased volume of imports versus exports, as the decline in the volume of credit provided by banks of Jordan by 11% during the same period.

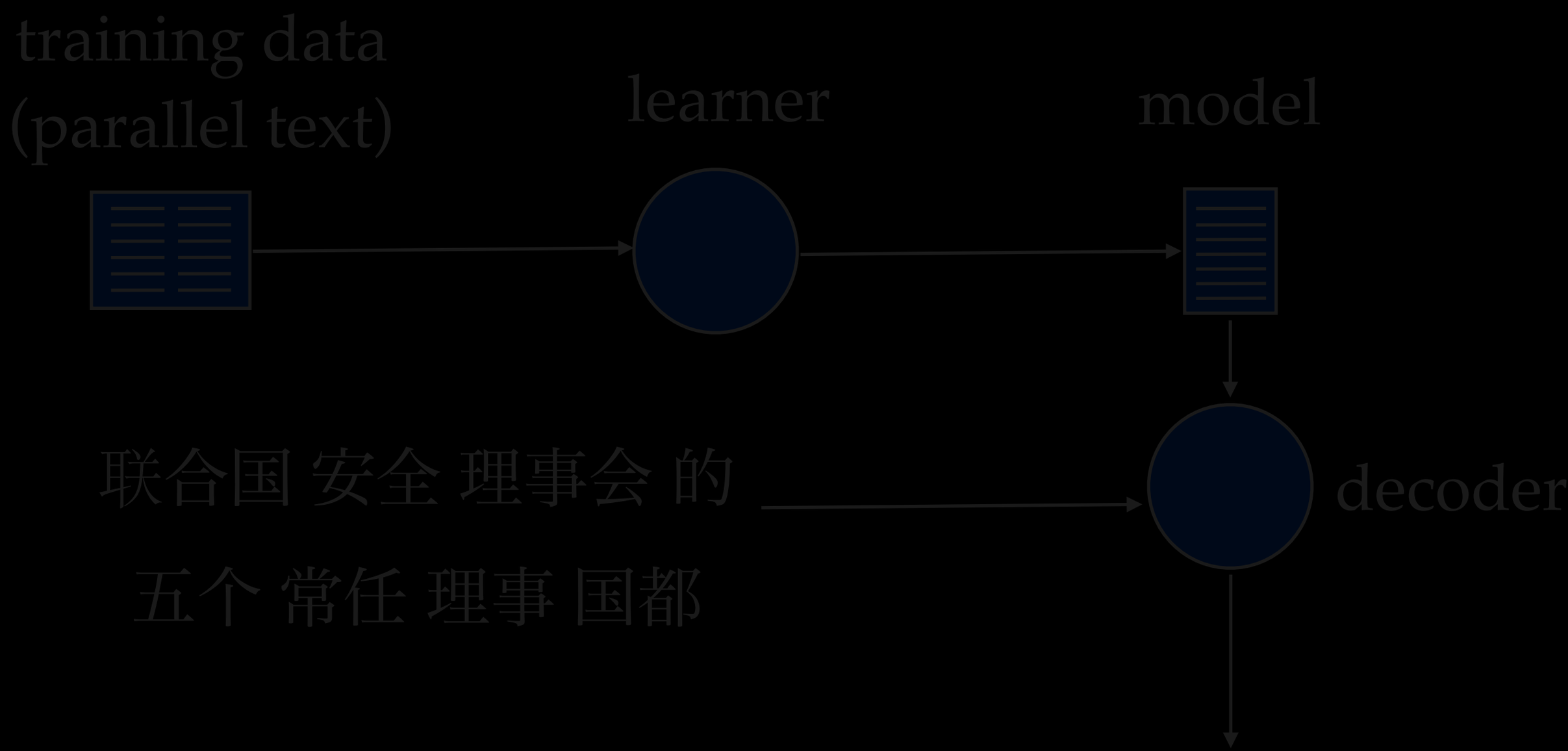
The data for the Department of Statistics published on Monday that the value of the trade balance deficit amounted to 2.79 billion Jordanian dinars (3.94 billion U.S. dollars). The data indicated the high volume of exports during the first half of the year by 16.6%, reaching 2.05 billion dinars (2.91 billion dollars), as imports rose by 11.7% to 5.23 billion dinars (7.39 billion dollars).

The export value increased significantly for the countries of the Greater Arab Free Trade, including Saudi Arabia, and the countries of the free trade agreement for North America, including the United States, as well as non-Arab Asian

Overview


training data
(parallel text)
learner
model
联合国 安全 理事会 的
五个 常任 理事 国都
decoder
However , the sky remained clear
under the strong north wind .

Overview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Overview

Evaluation

More has been written about machine translation evaluation than about machine translation itself.

Yorick Wilks

- Why evaluate?
  - Rank systems
  - Evaluate incremental changes
  - Assess new ideas objectively

美国愿和北韩谈判但拒绝再付出报酬

US willing to negotiate with North Korea but not to pay more compensation.

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US willing to negotiate with North Korea but not to pay more compensation.

The United States is willing to hold talks with North Korea but refused to pay remuneration.

“奋进”号因机械手故障推迟到升空

Launch of “Endeavour” delayed by robotic arm problems.

“奋进”号因机械手故障推迟到升空

Launch of “Endeavour” delayed by robotic arm problems.

“Progress” postponed because of mechanical hand into the sky.

Chinese people in the traditional Spring Festival is approaching, the CPC Central Committee this afternoon in Zhongnanhai on the 22nd non-Party personages to convene a forum in Spring Festival, invited the central committees of democratic parties, the leadership of the National Federation of Industry and Commerce and personages without party affiliation on behalf of comrades gathered together State yes, talked in length about the friendship, to greet the Chinese New Year. CPC Central Committee General Secretary and State President and Central Military Commission Chairman Hu Jintao on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council, to the central committees of democratic parties, leaders of the National Federation of Industry and Commerce and personages without party affiliation, to members of the united front, to extend my New Year's blessing.

Although the northern wind shrieked across the sky , it was still very clear .

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Although a north wind was howling , the sky remained clear and blue .

The sky was still crystal clear , though the north wind was howling .

Despite the strong northerly winds , the sky remains very clear .

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unigram: 11/15 bigram: 4/14 trigram: 1/13

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brevity penalty: 3/12

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BLEU

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brevity penalty: 3/12

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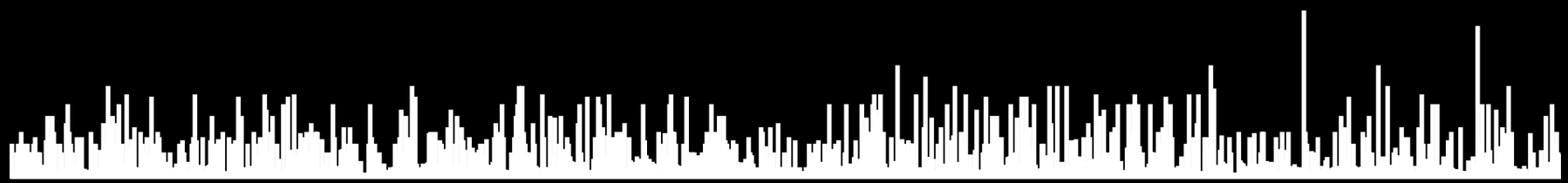
BLEU-1
BLEU-4
BLEU-v11b
BLEU-v12
METEOR-v0.6
NIST-v11b
TER-v0.7.254-GRR
ATEC1
ATEC2
ATEC3
ATEC4
Meteor-v0.7

BEwT-E
Badger
BadgerLite
Bleu-sbp
BleuSP
CDer
DP-Or
DP-Orp
DR-Or
EDPM
LET
METEOR-ranking
MaxSim

RTE
RTE-MT
SEPIA1
SEPIA2
SNR
SR-Or
SVM-Rank
TERp
ULCh
ULCopt
invWer
mBLEU
mTER

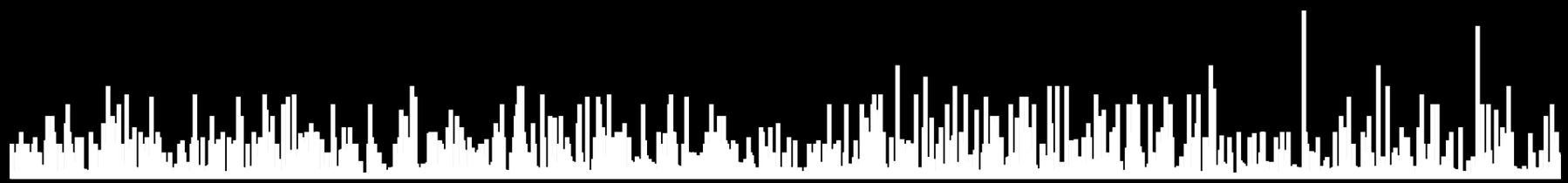
A bit more on learning...

$p(Chinese|English)$

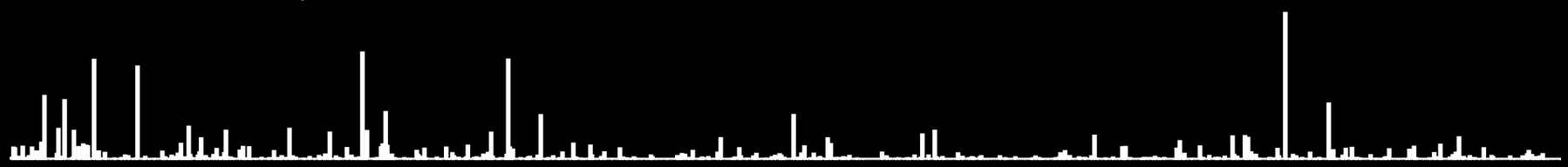


$English$

$p(Chinese|English)$



$\times\ p(English)$



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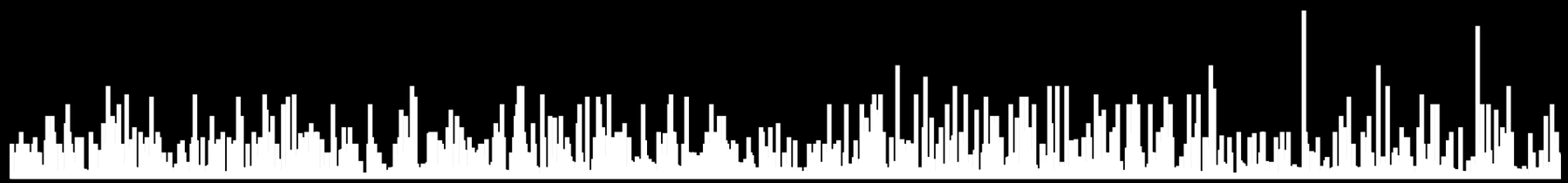

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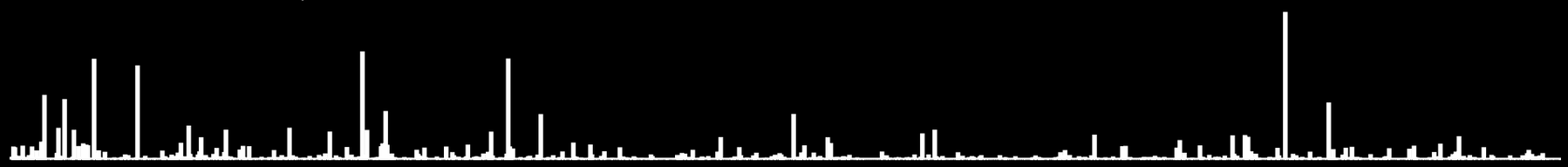
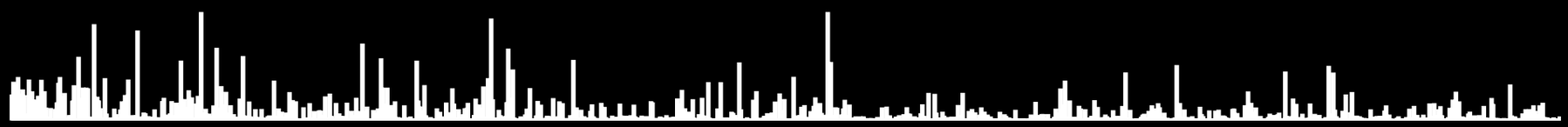
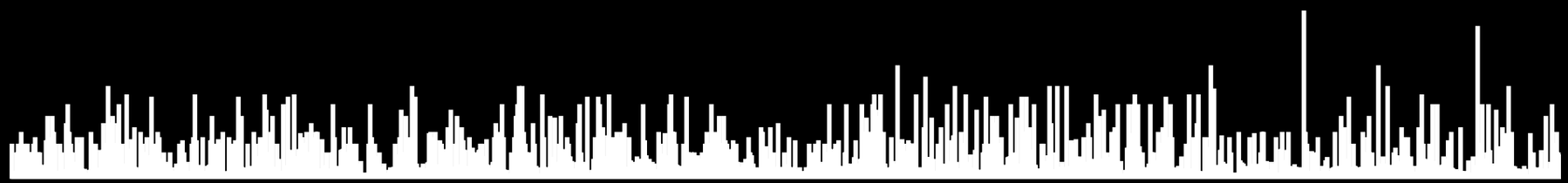


$\sim p(English|Chinese)$

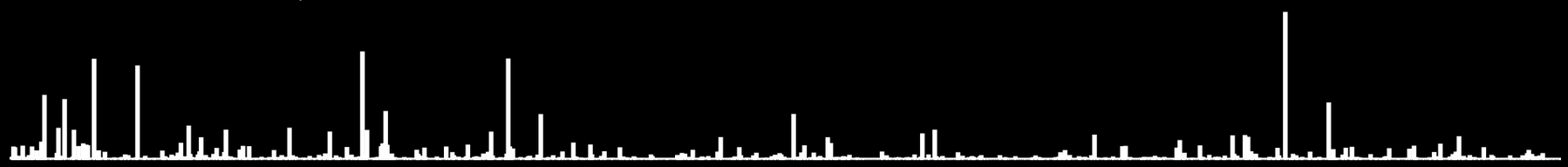


$English$

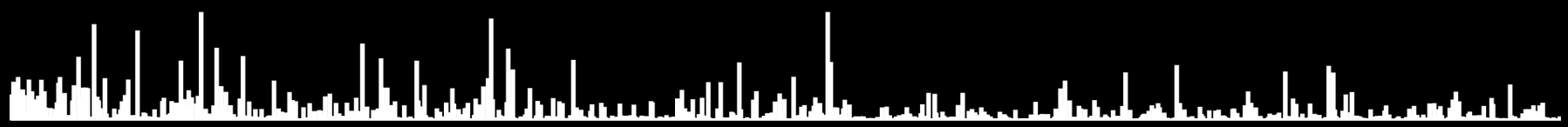
$$p(Chinese|English)^1$$



$$\times\ p(English)^1$$

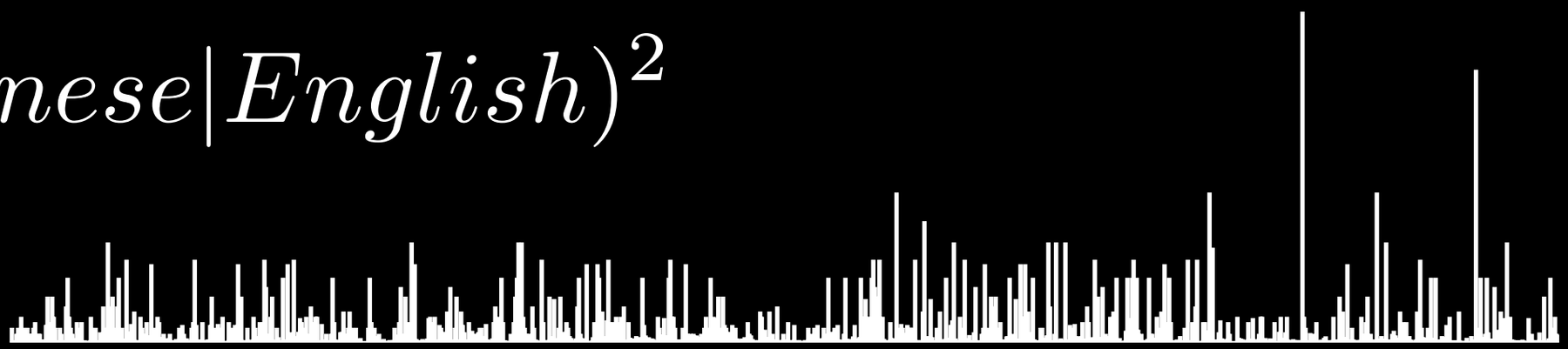


$$\sim p(English|Chinese)$$

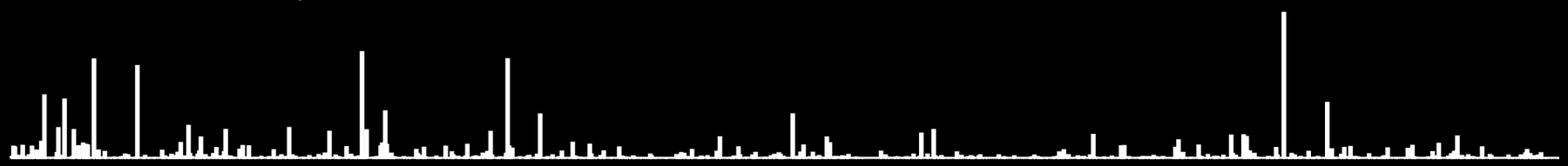


$$English$$

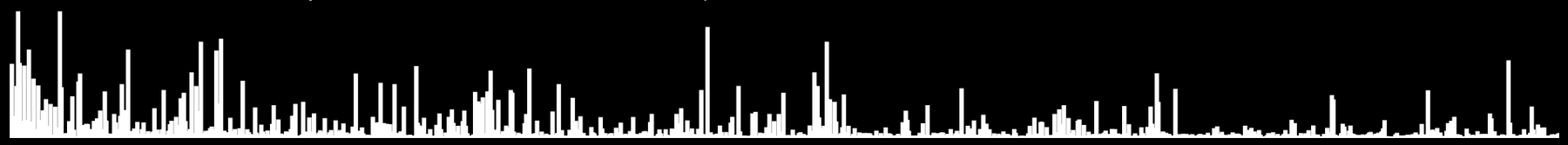
$$p(Chinese|English)^2$$



$$\times\ p(English)^1$$



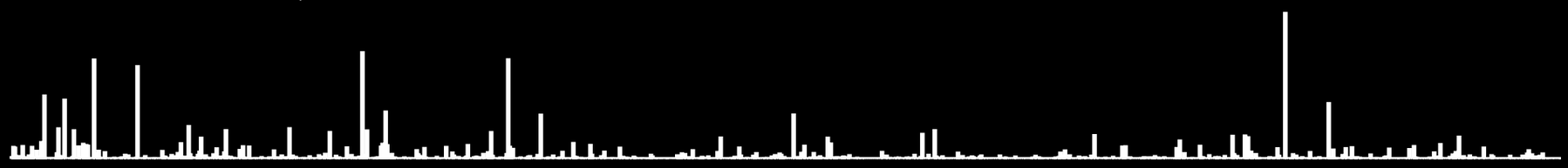
$$\sim p(English|Chinese)$$



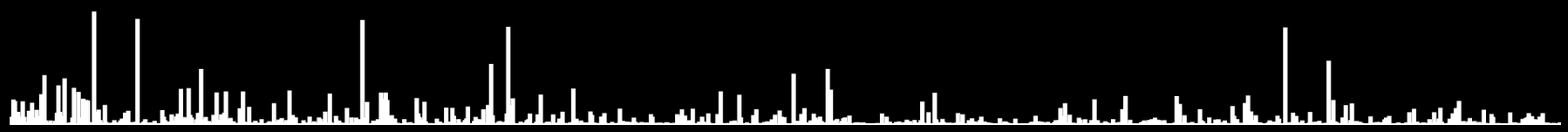
$$English$$

$$p(Chinese|English)^{1/2}$$

$$\times\ p(English)^{1}$$



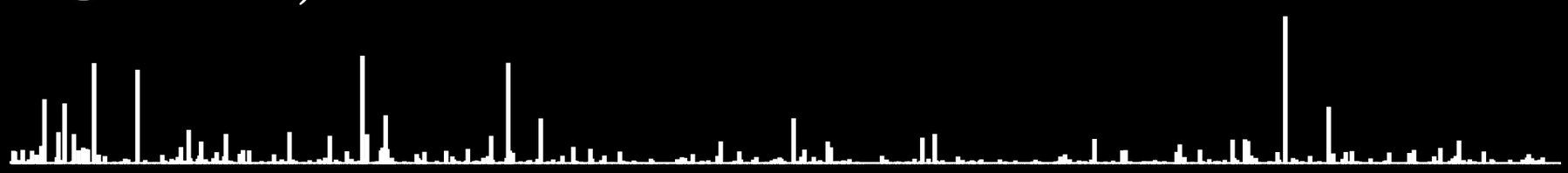
$$\sim p(English|Chinese)$$



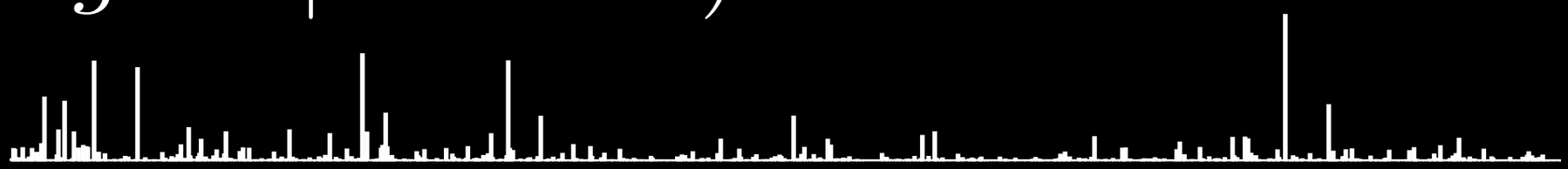
$$English$$

$$p(Chinese|English)^0$$

$$\times\ p(English)^1$$



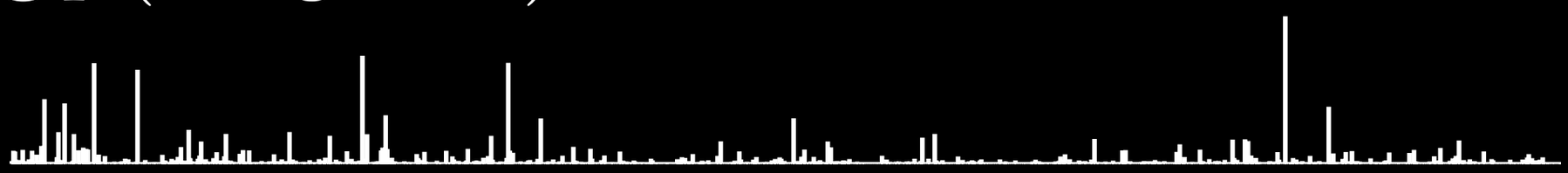
$$\sim p(English|Chinese)$$



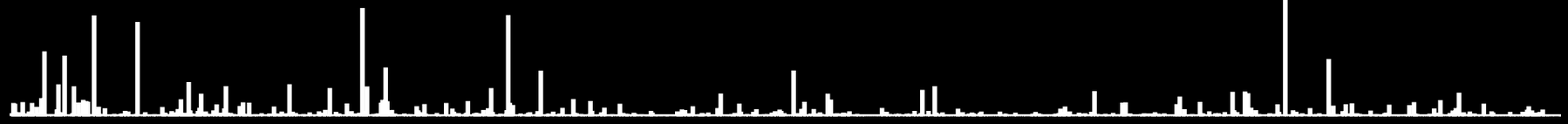
$$English$$

$$0 \cdot \log p(Chinese|English)$$

$$+1 \cdot \log p(English)$$



$$\sim p(English|Chinese)$$



English

$$p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}\left[\lambda_1 \log p(Chinese|English) + \lambda_2 \log p(English)\right]$$

$$p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

$$\underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\ p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

log-linear model
conditional random field
case-factor diagram
undirected model

$$\underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\ p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

$$\underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\ p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

$$\underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\ p(English|Chinese) = \underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

$$\underset{English}{\text{argmax}}\ p(English|Chinese) =$$

$$\left[\sum_i \lambda_i h_i(Chinese, English)\right]$$

linear model

Linear Models

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Linear Models

- We could optimize lambdas for likelihood (this would be a log-linear model).
- Good news: optimization is convex.
- Bad news: computing Z is intractable.
- Question: why should we bother with likelihood?

$$BLEU(MT\ output)$$

$$BLEU(\text{argmax}\, score(English|Chinese))$$

$$English$$

$$\sum_{Chinese \in Test} BLEU(\underset{English}{\operatorname{argmax}}\, score(English|Chinese))$$

- Ôptimization

Max Blues

Things to Remember

- Probability gives us a well-founded framework in which to explore a wide variety of models.
- We get many tools for learning and prediction.
- We can express many models in terms of weighted languages.

- Optimization

More Information

Related ESSLLI course web page:
http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/alopez/esslli2010.html

Statistical Machine Translation

ADAM LOPEZ
University of Edinburgh

8

Statistical machine translation (SMT) treats the translation of natural language as a machine learning problem. By examining many samples of human-produced translation, SMT algorithms automatically learn how to translate. SMT has made tremendous strides in less than two decades, and new ideas are constantly introduced. This survey presents a tutorial overview of the state of the art. We describe the context of the current research and then move to a formal problem description and an overview of the main subproblems: translation modeling, parameter estimation, and decoding. Along the way, we present a taxonomy of some different approaches within these areas. We conclude with an overview of evaluation and a discussion of future directions.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: G.3 [**Probability and Statistics**]: Statistical computing; I.2.6 [**Artificial Intelligence**]: Learning—*Parameter learning*; I.2.7 [**Artificial Intelligence**]: Natural Language Processing—*Machine translation*; I.5.1 [**Pattern Recognition**]: Models—*Statistical*

General Terms: Algorithms

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Natural language processing, machine translation

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1. INTRODUCTION

Machine translation (MT) is the automatic translation from one natural language into another using computers. Interest in MT is nearly as old as the electronic computer—popular accounts trace its modern origins to a letter written by Warren Weaver in 1949, only a few years after ENIAC came online.[1] It has since remained a key application in the field of natural language processing (NLP). A good historical overview is given by Hutchins [2007], and a comprehensive general survey is given by Dorr, Jordan, and Benoit [1999].

[1]This letter is reproduced as Weaver [1955].

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Adam Lopez. 2008.
In ACM Computing Surveys 40(3).

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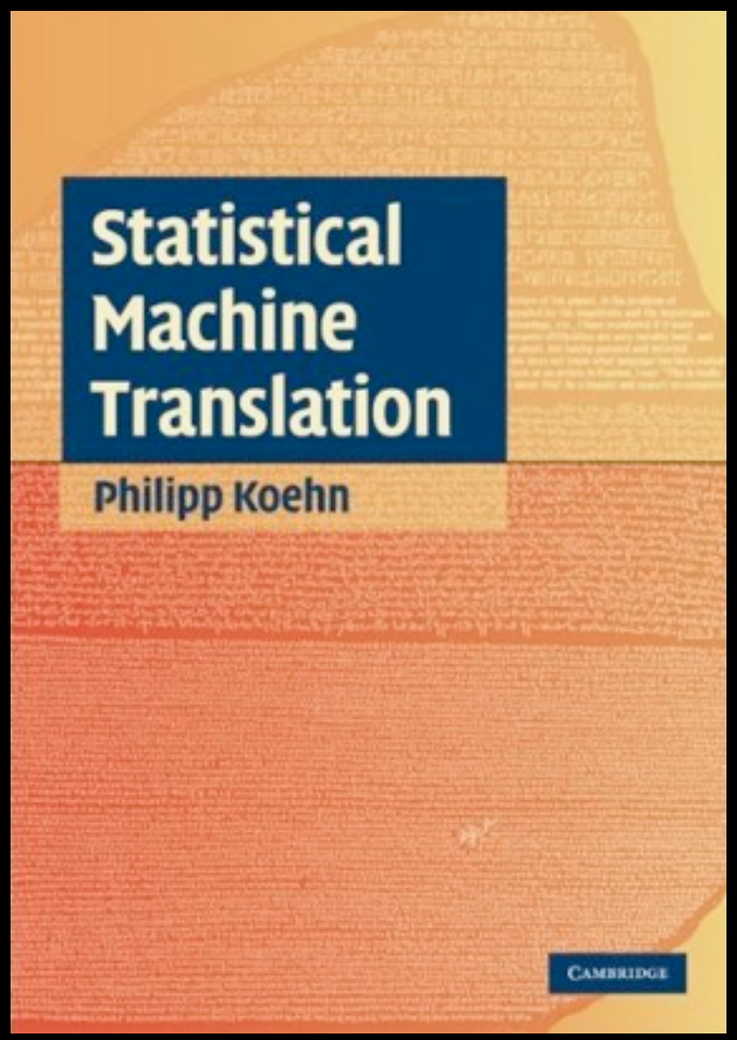

Statistical Machine Translation.
Philipp Koehn. 2010.

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