From language to vision and back again





Center for Brains, Minds & Machines

Andrei Barbu



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Torralba et al 2003







Perception is unreliable.

Top-down knowledge affects our perception.

One integrated representation for many tasks.

Reco	gniti	ion
	0	

Retrieval

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos

Translation

Planning

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Theory of mind

Give me the cup. Which chair should I sit in? This is an apple. To win this game you have to make a straight line out of your pieces.

Recognition
Retrieval
Generation
Question answering
Disambiguation
Acquiring language
Images, not videos

Translation

Planning

Theory of mind



The person rode the skateboard leftward.

object detector, tracker, event recognizer

language \leftrightarrow vision



Object detection

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Source: Barbu, Andrei, Aaron Michaux, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, and Jeffrey Mark Siskind. "Simultaneous object detection, tracking, and event recognition." Advances in Cognitive Systems: 203-220 (2012).

Object detection

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. Please see the video.

Source: Barbu, Andrei, Aaron Michaux, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, and Jeffrey Mark Siskind. "Simultaneous object detection, tracking, and event recognition." Advances in Cognitive Systems: 203-220 (2012).

Object detection

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Felzenszwalb et al 2008

Object detectors work poorly

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. Please see the video. Source: Russakovsky, Olga, Jia Deng, Hao Su, Jonathan Krause, Sanjeev Satheesh, Sean Ma, Zhiheng Huang et al. "Imagenet large scale visual recognition challenge." International Journal of Computer Vision 115, no. 3 (2015): 211-252.

> Russakovsky et al 2015 August 28, 2015

Fixing bad detectors with higher-level knowledge



detection / object / frame temporally coherent track object detector confidence (f) motion coherence (g) optimal path through the lattice of detections dynamic programming Bellman (1957), Viterbi (1967)

$$\max_{j^1,...,j^T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{f}(b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T \mathbf{g}(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^t}^t)$$

Barbu et al 2012 August 28, 2015

Fixing bad detectors with higher-level knowledge



Courtesy of Andrei Barbu, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi, Lara Schmidt, Jiangnan Shangguan, Jeffrey Mark Siskind, Jarrell Waggoner, Song Want, Jinlian Wei, Yifan Yin & Zhiqi Zhang. Used with permission. Source: Barbu, Andrei, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi et al. "Large-scale automatic labeling of video events with verbs based on event-participant interaction." arXiv preprint arXiv:1204.3616 (2012). detection / object / frame temporally coherent track object detector confidence (f) motion coherence (g) optimal path through the lattice of detections dynamic programming Bellman (1957), Viterbi (1967)

$$\max_{j^1,...,j^T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T g(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^t}^t)$$

Barbu *et al* 2012 August 28, 2015

language \leftrightarrow vision

Feature vector — single participant



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Feature vector — dual participant



Event recognition



Event recognition



$$\max_{k^1,...,k^T} \sum_{t=1}^T h(k^t, b^t_{j^t}) + \sum_{t=2}^T a(k^{t-1}, k^t)$$

The person carried something. The person went away. The person walked. The person had the bag. The person left leftward and upward.

Barbu et al 2012 August 28, 2015



Tracking in the context of event recognition



$$\max_{j^1,...,j^T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T g(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^t}^t) + \max_{k^1,...,k^T} \sum_{t=1}^T h(k^t, b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T a(k^{t-1}, k^t)$$

Tracking in the context of event recognition



$$\max_{j^1,\dots,j^T} \max_{k^1,\dots,k^T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T g(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=1}^T h(k^t, b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T a(k^{t-1}, k^t)$$

Tracking in the context of event recognition



$$\max_{j^1,...,j^T} \max_{k^1,...,k^T} \sum_{t=1}^T f(b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T g(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=1}^T h(k^t, b_{j^t}^t) + \sum_{t=2}^T a(k^{t-1}, k^t)$$

Tracking in the context of event recognition in action



tracking

tracking and event recognition

Courtesy of Andrei Barbu, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi, Lara Schmidt, Jiangnan Shangguan, Jeffrey Mark Siskind, Jarrell Waggoner, Song Want, Jinlian Wei, Yifan Yin & Zhiqi Zhang. Used with permission. Source: Barbu, Andrei, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi et al. "Large-scale automatic labeling of video events with verbs based on event-participant interaction." arXiv preprint arXiv:1204.3616 (2012).

Tracking in the context of event recognition in action



tracking

tracking and event recognition



Viterbi tracker

track 1



$$\max_{j_1^1,\ldots,\,j_1^T}$$

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} f(b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}) + \sum_{t=2}^{T} g(b_{j_{l}^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t})$$

Siddharth et al 2014 August 28, 2015

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Event tracker for intransitive verbs





word 1

 $\max_{j_1^1,\ldots,\,j_1^T} \max_{k_1^1,\ldots,\,k_1^T}$

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} f(b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}) + \sum_{t=2}^{T} g(b_{j_{l}^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}) + \sum_{t=1}^{T} h(k^{t}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}) + \sum_{t=2}^{T} a(k^{t-1}, k^{t})$$

Siddharth et al 2014

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language \leftrightarrow vision



Siddharth et al 2014

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Sentence tracker



Siddharth et al 2014

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Sentences

The tall person quickly rode the horse leftward away from the other horse. agent-location patient-location source-location

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Understanding sentences as a whole



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We can differentiate events based on the verb:

The person picked up an object. The person put down an object.

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Siddharth et al 2014
Understanding sentences as a whole



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We can differentiate events based on the subject noun:

The backpack approached the bin. The chair approached the bin.

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Understanding sentences as a whole



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We can differentiate events based on an adjective in the subject NP:

The red object approached the chair. The blue object approached the chair.

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Understanding sentences as a whole



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We can differentiate events based on a preposition in the object NP:

The person picked up an object to the right of the bin. The person picked up an object to the left of the bin.

Siddharth et al 2014

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Recognition	S(sentend
Retrieval	$\operatorname*{argmax}_{v \in V} S$
Generation	
Question answering	
Disambiguation	
Acquiring language	
Images, not videos	
Translation	
Planning	
Theory of mind	

Sentential retrieval



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Recognition

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Theory of mind

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S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(s, v)$

Generating sentences

$$\begin{split} S &\rightarrow NP \, VP \\ NP &\rightarrow D \, [A] \, N \, [PP] \\ D &\rightarrow an \mid the \\ A &\rightarrow blue \mid red \\ N &\rightarrow person \mid backpack \mid chair \mid bin \mid object \\ PP &\rightarrow P \, NP \\ P &\rightarrow to the left of \mid to the right of \\ VP &\rightarrow V \, NP \, [Adv] \, [PP_M] \\ V &\rightarrow approached \mid carried \mid picked up \mid put down \\ Adv &\rightarrow quickly \mid slowly \\ PP_M &\rightarrow P_M \, NP \\ P_M &\rightarrow towards \mid away from \end{split}$$

147,123,874,800 sentences without recursion

"the person carried the backpack"

Generated sentences



The person to the right of the bin picked up the backpack.

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Generation

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S'(s, s_q, v)$ Recognition

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(Q(s, s_q), v)$

Question answering



What did the person put on top of the red car? The person put NP on top of the red car. The person put the pear on top of the red car.

Question answering



Who put an object on top of the red car?

Who put an object on top of the red car? NP put an object on top of the red car. ... The person put an object on top of the red car. Who put an object on top of the red car? NP put an object on top of the red car. ... The person put an object on top of the red car. Who put an object on top of the red car? NP put an object on top of the red car. ... The person put an object on top of the red car. ... The person on the left of the car put an object on top of the red car.

Question answering



Who put an object on top of the red car? NP put an object on top of the red car. The person on the left of the car put an object on top of the red car.

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S(sentence, video)

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Disambiguation

Danny approached the chair with a bag.





Berzak et al 2015 August 28, 2015

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Disambiguation

Danny approached the chair with a bag.



Danny looked at Andrei with a telescope.



Courtesy of Yevgeni Berzak, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz & Shimon Ullman. License CC BY. Source: Berzak, Yevgeni, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz, and Shimon Ullman. "Do you see what I mean? visual resolution of linguistic ambiguities." arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08079 (2016).

> Berzak et al 2015 August 28, 2015

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VP Attachment

Andrei approached the person holding a green chair.





VP Attachment

Conjunction

Danny and Andrei picked up the yellow bag and chair.



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VP Attachment

Conjunction

Logical Form

Someone put down the bags.





VP Attachment

Conjunction

Logical Form

Anaphora

Danny picked up the bag and the chair. It is yellow.



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VP Attachment

Conjunction

Logical Form

Anaphora

Ellipsis

Danny left Andrei. Also Yevgeni.



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Danny and Andrei moved a chair.

Danny and Andrei move the same chair. **chair**(*x*) **move**(Danny, *x*), **move**(Andrei, *x*)

Danny and Andrei move different chairs. **chair**(x), **chair**(y) **move**(Danny, x), **move**(Andrei, y), $x \neq y$ Danny and Andrei moved a chair.

Danny and Andrei move the same chair. chair(x), person(y), person(z), $y \neq z$ move(y, x), move(z, x)

Danny and Andrei move different chairs. chair(x), chair(y), person(z), person(w), $z \neq w$ move(z, x), move(w, y), $x \neq y$

Recognition

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(Q(s, s_q), v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{i \in \text{parser}(s)} S(i, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{p} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$

Language learning

Split into two tasks: Learning word meaning Learning syntax

Language learning: word meaning



The person picked up the chair.





The chair approached the backpack.

The person picked up the backpack.

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Language learning: word meaning



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> Yu et al 2014 August 28, 2015

Split into two tasks: Learning word meaning Learning syntax

Language learning: syntax; in progress



Language learning: syntax; in progress





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> Pilley and Reid 2011 August 28, 2015

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S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(s, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{s \in L} S(Q(s, s_q), v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{i \in \text{parser}(s)} S(i, v)$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{p} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$ S(sentence video)
Recognition

Retrieval

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos

Translation

Planning

Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(s, s_q), v)$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ argmax $\overline{\int S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})}$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image))

Single-frame optical flow



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Single-frame optical flow



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S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(s, s_q), v)$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ argmax $\prod S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})$ р *S*(sentence, Flow(image))

 $\underset{\mathbf{s'} \in L_b}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s'})$

Reco	gniti	on
	0	

Generation

Question answering

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}_q), \mathbf{v})$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ argmax $\prod S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image)) $\operatorname*{argmin}_{s' \in L_b} \int_v |S(s',v) - S(s,v)|$

Statistical machine translation



In Thai you specify siblings by age not gender.

In English you specify relative time but you don't need to in Chinese.

Guugu Yimithirr language only uses absolute directions.

Many languages don't distinguish blue/green.

Swahili specifies color as "the color of X".

In Turkish you have to report if something is hearsay.

Translation by imagination



Reco	gniti	on
	0	

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}_q), \mathbf{v})$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ $\operatorname{argmax} \prod S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image)) $\operatorname*{argmin}_{s' \in L_b} \int_v |S(s',v) - S(s,v)|$ $\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S(s, v_0 : v : v_n)$

Reco	gniti	on
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Generation

Question answering

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Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}_q), \mathbf{v})$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ $\operatorname{argmax} \overline{\prod} S(\boldsymbol{s}(p), \boldsymbol{v})$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image)) $\operatorname*{argmin}_{s' \in L_b} \int_v |S(s',v) - S(s,v)|$ $\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S(s, v_0 : v : v_n)$

Reco	gniti	on
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Generation

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Theory of mind

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Reco	gniti	on
	0	

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos

Translation

Planning

Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}_q), \mathbf{v})$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ $\operatorname{argmax} \prod S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image)) $\operatorname*{argmin}_{s' \in L_b} \int_v |S(s',v) - S(s,v)|$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{\sim} \int S(\mathbf{s}, v_0 : v : v_n)$

 $S(\text{planner}, \text{tracks})S(\mathbf{s}, \text{tracks})S(\text{tracks}, \mathbf{v})$

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Test +X	000.0+ 3(*	Test -Y	+Y 0.000	Test +2	+2 +8,000	-Center 2	+ -0.6103	Stop Videos
-H Span	+H Span 7.9	-V Span	+V Span 1.75	-V Separation	+V Sep 0.9	-Focal Length	+ 1419.615	
-angle	+angle 0	-length	+length 46.705	-hesight	<pre>+height 30.400</pre>	Ragnt		
-pan	+pan 6.741	-tilt	*tilt 35.136	-bracket	+bracket 0.	-separation	supparation 10.	
Load Ground Truth	Load Result	Load Inage	Hent	Previous	Dow structure	Show Ground Truth	Show Grid	
Get Pose	Get Structure	Cycle Structures	View Dre	Get Inage	Merge Views	Forget Second	Language	Disassentia

Siddharth et al 2012

84 Andrei Barbu (MIT)

Tui

The long road ahead . . .

Coherent stories

3D

Forces & contact relations



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The long road ahead ...

Coherent stories 3D Forces & contact relations Segmentation Parts and low-level features



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The long road ahead . . .

Coherent stories 3D Forces & contact relations Segmentation Parts and low-level features Theory of mind Physics Modification



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The long road ahead ...

Coherent stories 3D Forces & contact relations Segmentation Parts and low-level features Theory of mind Physics Modification The vast majority of verbs: absolve, admire, anger, approve, bark, bend, chase, cheat, complete, concede, discover, fire, follow, fumble, hurry, race, recruit, reject, scratch, steal,

taste, want, etc.

Metaphoric extension

etc.

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Yevgeni Berzak, Danny Harari, Maximilian Nickel, Candance Ross, Victor Carbarera, Santiago Perez, Boris Katz, Shimon Ullman, Tomaso Poggio

Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Jeffrey Siskind, Sven Dickinson, Song Wang, Haonan Yu, Caiming Xiong

Reco	gniti	on
	0	

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos

Translation

Planning

Theory of mind

S(sentence, video)

 $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $v \in V$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$ $s \in L$ $\operatorname{argmax} S(Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}_q), \mathbf{v})$ argmax $S(i, \mathbf{v})$ $i \in parser(s)$ $\operatorname{argmax} \prod S(\mathbf{s}(p), \mathbf{v})$ *S*(sentence, Flow(image)) $\operatorname*{argmin}_{s' \in L_b} \int_v |S(s',v) - S(s,v)|$ $\operatorname{argmax}_{\sim} \int S(\mathbf{s}, v_0 : v : v_n)$

 $S(\text{planner}, \text{tracks})S(\mathbf{s}, \text{tracks})S(\text{tracks}, \mathbf{v})$

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Resource: Brains, Minds and Machines Summer Course Tomaso Poggio and Gabriel Kreiman

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