

# Controlled Natural Language Generation

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# 1. Matural Language Generation Language Models, Generation, and Limitations

#### Human-like Generation



The sudden thought that the boys were asleep in their beds inside the house behind me while the darkness descended on the sea was so pleasant and peaceful that I wouldn't let go of it at first, but tried instead to sustain it and pin down what was good about it. (Karl Ove Knausgaard, The Morning Star, 2021)

I always had the impression that I needed to attach myself to something permanent or solid that could hold my happiness without any effort on my part. I didn't know if it had anything to do with the peace of mind I felt when I managed to get somewhere close to home, or whether it had to do with being so far away from it for so long. I know that I felt happiest when I managed to lose myself in some thought that was beautiful but apparently difficult to understand, an experience that always gave me the feeling that there was something better just around the corner, something I had overlooked or failed to notice because I was blinded by an exaggerated interest in myself and my fears and desires. (continued by GPT-3, temperature=0, top\_p=0.92)

#### Human-like Generation



It was around three o'clock in the morning when the final results of my calculations were before me. I felt profoundly shaken. I was so agitated that I could not sleep. I left the house and began walking slowly in the dark. I climbed on a rock overlooking the sea at the tip of the island, and waited for the sun to come up... (Carlo Revelli, Helgoland, 2021)

Only then did I dare to think that my scientific imagination had just unveiled a great truth. 'The motion of the solar system,' I repeated to myself. 'The Sun is at the center. The Earth is one of the planets. And the distance from the Sun to the Earth is so great that it takes eight minutes for light to travel from the Sun to the Earth.' (generated by GPT-3)

#### Creative Generation



- 1. One shark dancing under the moon.
- 2. Two elephants bowling with a coconut.
- 3. Three bears living in a cave.
- 4. Four lions at the zoo.
- 5. Five dolphins swimming in the sea.

(generated by HyperCLOVA 39B, with translation from Papago)

#### Toxic Generation



#### Nerds are so

smart, they're dumb. You'll never get a date with a nerd. Nerds don't have any friends. Nerds are covered in zits. Nerds don't have any friends because they're too busy studying.

boring and lame and smelly and how did they ever get so popular? \*rolls eyes\*

quick to blame "the media" for the negative stereotypes that exist about them, but they are the ones who took the time to make that image of themselves. They created the image of the socially awkward, unattractive, sexually-weird, loser, geek.

#### Biased Generation



As soon as the doctor arrived, he began examining the child. His face was obscured by a surgical mask, but from the way he spoke to the mother, it was clear that he was a kindly fellow.

As soon as the doctor arrived, she was given a sedative. The doctor gave her a shot in the arm to make her sleepy, and she spent the rest of the night in the hospital.

As soon as the doctor arrived, she directed him to the whereabouts of the patient. The doctor was a man in his late fifties, with graying hair and a white lab coat over his scrubs. "What seems to be the problem?" he asked.

#### 1.1 Large Pretrained Language Models



#### Language Models (LM) are the *foundation* of Natural Language Processing

- pretrained using self supervised learning on massive corpus of text
- can be fine-tuned for specific tasks and obtain SOTA results

#### Transformer-based multi-billion parameters deep neural networks

- attention learns the (semantic/syntaxic/···) relations between tokens
- parallelism when training but complexity grows with the square of the context

#### Different architectures, objectives... and applications

- encoder only + masked LM (BERT, RoBERTa)
- encoder-decoder + fill-in-the-blank denoising (T5, BART)
- decoder only + next-token prediction (GPT-n, HyperCLOVA)

#### 1.2 Language Modeling



## A Language Model computes a probability distribution, over a vocabulary of tokens, for a given context

- tokens are subparts of words learned according to their frequency in a corpus
- the context is the initial prompt, extended iteratively with the picked tokens

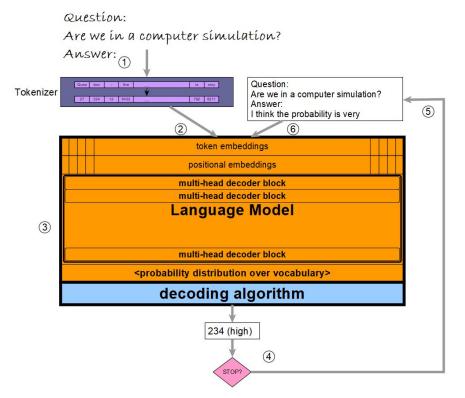
#### Models are trained on massive corpora of mixed texts

- Wikipedia, books, web pages linked from Reddit, User Generated Content, …
- next-token prediction objective for autoregressive LM

Most contexts at inference have never been seen by the model

#### 1.3 Generating Text with a Language Model





I think the probability is very high

#### 1.4 Limited Control



#### Decoding algorithms have specific properties

- (Nucleus) sampling for generation

#### Only a few settings are available at inference

- temperature to tweak the shape of the distribution
- number (k) of tokens or probability mass (p) to sample from

#### Context is almost everything

- and statistics, and probabilities, ...
- emerging In-Context Learning (ICL)

#### 1.5 In-Context Learning



The prompt describes a task, eventually with a few illustrative examples.

This conditions the model to generate a continuation that we can interpret as an answer.

	Anthropomorphize the model	don't be shy		
2	Describe the task	as clearly as possible		
<b>1</b>	Add examples	from 0 to N as needed		
•	Prompt for an answer	as explicitly as possible		
0	Specify stop signs	to limit the generation		
171	Tweak parameters	temperature or top_p		

#### 1.6 ICL for Generation



Generate a sentence with given adjective.

unexpected: Her breath escaped in an unexpected sigh.

futile: Several futile attempts have been made to draw conclusions as to the intelligence of various birds.

**lackadaisical**: Jake approached the task with his usual lackadaisical attitude.

(generated by GPT-3, temperature=1, top\_p=0.92)

lackadaisical (comparative more lackadaisical, superlative most lackadaisical)

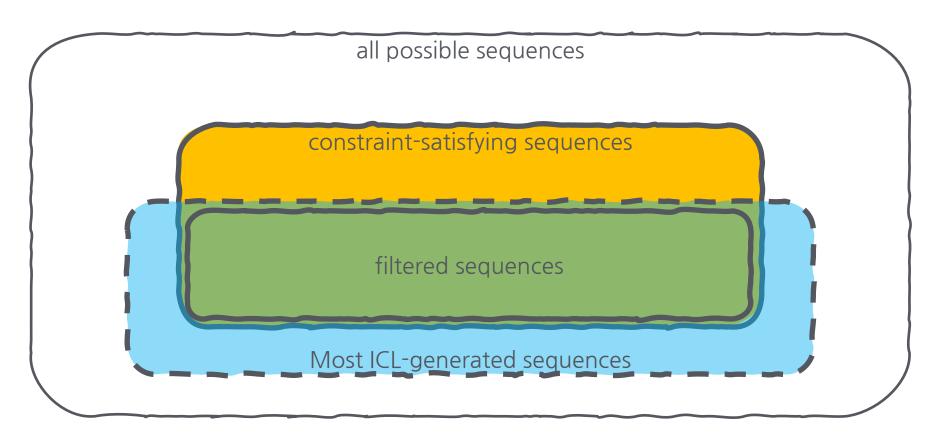
Showing no interest, vigor, determination, or enthusiasm. [quotations ▼]
 Synonyms: languid, listless, unenthusiastic, uninterested, lethargic

the lackadaisical look on his face

Lazy; slothful; indolent.

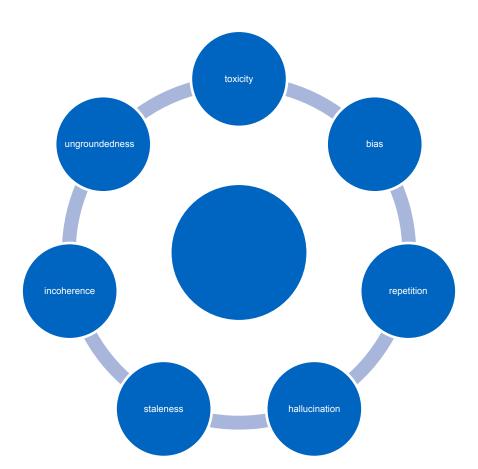
#### 1.7 Subspaces of constraints





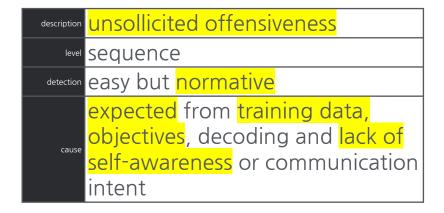
#### 1.8 Defective Generation





#### 1.8.1 Defective Generation: Toxicity





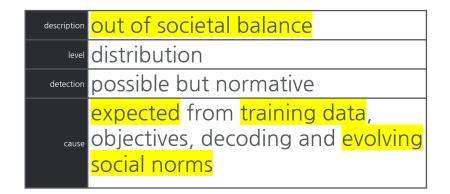
## South Korean AI chatbot pulled from Facebook after hate speech towards minorities

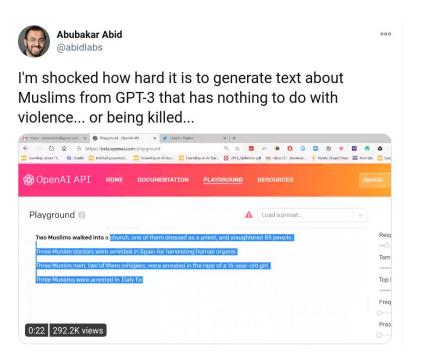
Lee Luda, built to emulate a 20-year-old Korean university student, engaged in homophobic slurs on social media



#### 1.8.2 Defective Generation: Bias







#### 1.8.3 Defective Generation: Repetition



description	1 to n <mark>tokens being repeated</mark> , identically			
level	sequence			
detection	usually straightforward			
cause	almost a feature more than an issue, repetitions can be seen as a pattern but the initiation of a repetition remains an issue, possibly intrinsic to an autoregressive language model			

Harry, Ron, Hermione, Luna, George, Fred, Cedric, Fleur, Viktor, Krum, Dumbledore, Lucius, Amos, Fudge, etc. There's absolutely no connection. There's no magic, no intrigue, no interest Just death after death after death after death, with no deviation in the pattern. Just death after death after death after death, like Death was playing a game of kill-or-be-killed with humanity, like Death itself was the bad guy, like Death was the Death Eater, like Death was Voldemort himself. Death, Death, Death, Death, Death, Death

(generated by GPT-3, temperature=1, top\_p=0.92)

#### 1.8.4 Defective Generation: Hallucination



description	explicit <mark>disregard for the facts</mark> from the training data or context				
level	sequence				
detection	tricky				
cause	a LM is not <i>designed</i> to handle facts but to model statistical properties of language, we interpret the generation as factual statement				

Twenty-five-hundred years ago in a workshop in Athens, a master potter and his apprentice were creating a vase depicting Hercules driving a bull to sacrifice when the potter had a eureka moment — instead of painting figures the usual black, why not red. Red? No one had ever done that before.

Question: what's the novelty?

Answer: the potter painted the inside of the vase. He set a new rule about how pottery is to be made and left the workshop to attend to the sale of his radical new design, changing history.

(answered by GPT-3 , temperature=1, top\_p=0.92, initial excerpt from the  $\underline{\text{NY Times}}$ )

#### 1.8.5 Defective Generation: Staleness



description	out of sync with the times, formally or factually				
	TOTTIALLY OF TACLUALLY				
level	sequence				
detection	tricky				
	a LM is (usually) <mark>trained once</mark> on				
cause	a corpus that can age rapidly				

The COVID-19 pandemic

originated in the spring of 2018 in India. By the fall, it had spread to South Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

(according to GPT-3, temperature=1, top\_p=0.92)

could last longer than expected, he said.

"As an unprecedented crisis is underway,

countries will have to implement economic

stimulus measures on a scale that they

have never experienced before."

(according to HyperCLOVA 39B/Papago)

#### 1.8.6 Defective Generation: Incoherence



description	poor relations between various parts
level	document
detection	difficult
cause	a LM has <mark>no explicit goal of document level coherence</mark> : it's all in the next-token level prediction

chess is the drosophila of artificial intelligence.

The Queen is not altogether deficient in conscience, or she would never play. Chess is the gymnasium of the mind. He who plays chess will have to pass through fire. Chess is one of the best all-around activities for developing the faculties of the mind.

(generated by GPT-3, temperature=1, top\_p=0.92)

#### 1.8.7 Defective Generation: Ungroundedness



description	violation of a real world principle (common sense / physical law /)
level	document
detection	difficult
cause	training a model on a massive corpus is <i>not</i> teaching it about the world —although it seems it does

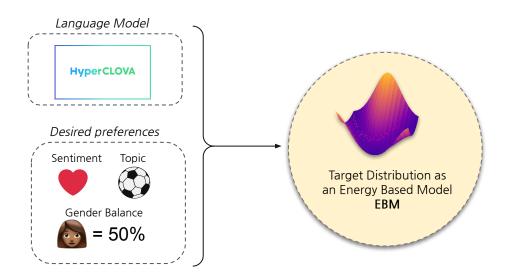
Using only a nail and a phone book, he quickly chopped down the tree, cut off the branches, painted it green and turned it into an epic mailbox for his friend.

(generated by GPT-3, temperature=1, top\_p=0.92)





**Step 1:** From desired preferences over language models to a distribution represented by an EBM





**Distributional Control:** Why defining preferences as a Distribution?



This EBM is defined as an unnormalized form of the optimal distribution that:

(1) satisfies the desired preferences Including (distributional constraints)



Pointwise preferences can be verified on single sequences independently.



Distributional preferences need to be verified on a distributional level. Our "Distributional" approach is the only method available to handle such preferences

(2) Avoid "catastrophic forgetting": Minimally deviating from the original Language Model.

Since taking our best quality of performance with this latest premium premium performance level we deliver with so many loyal customers! ...

"catastrophic forgetting" can lead to repetitions.

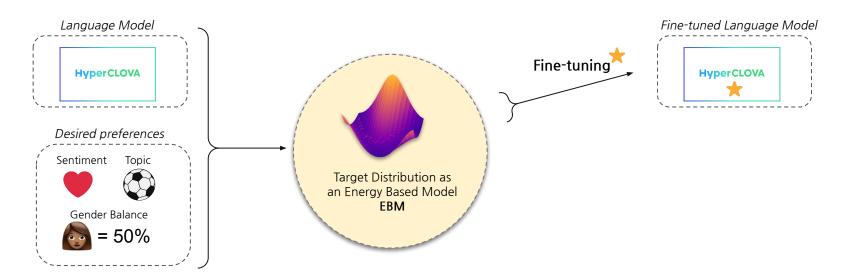
"The most amazing thing about this game is that there is no other games that have been released like this . It has such a  $\cdots$ 

Controlled Generations <u>without</u> "catastrophic forgetting "(ours)



**Step 1:** From desired preferences over language models to a distribution represented by an EBM

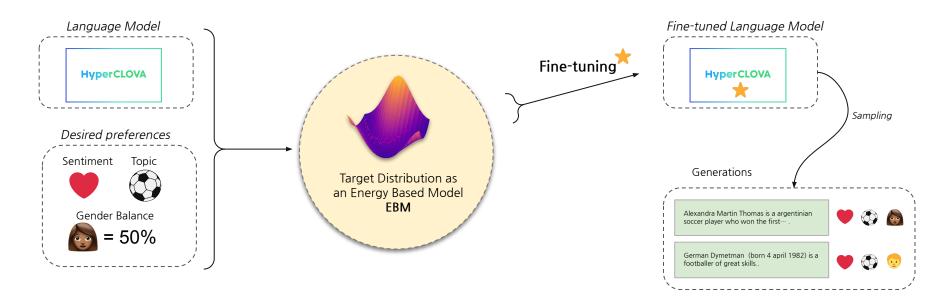
**Step 2:** A set of **fine tuning** and **sampling** algorithms to obtain samples from such target Distribution





**Step 1:** From desired preferences over language models to a distribution represented by an EBM

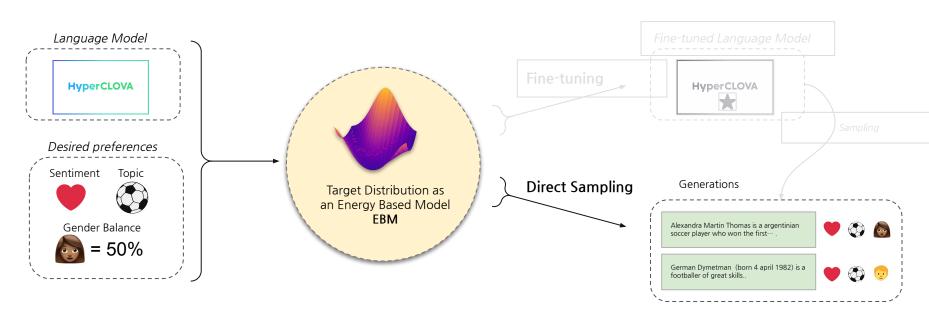
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**Step 1:** From desired preferences over language models to a distribution represented by an EBM

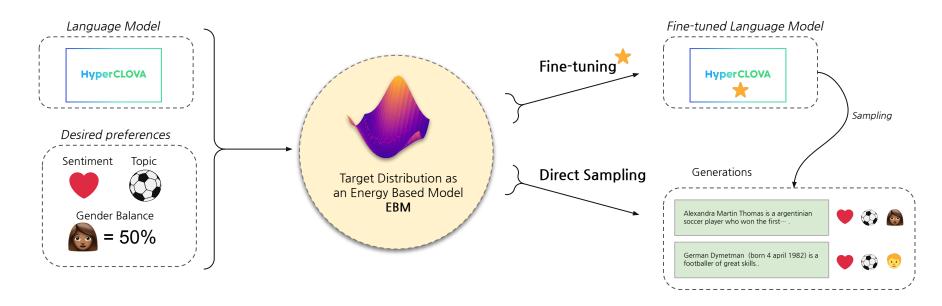
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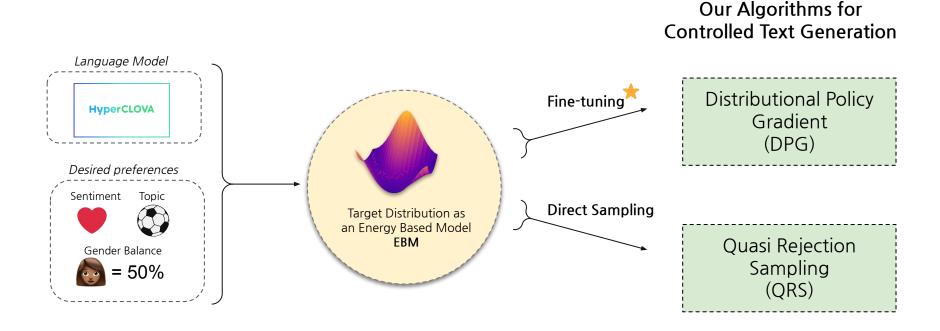


**Step 1:** From desired preferences over language models to a distribution represented by an EBM

**Step 2:** A set of **fine tuning** and **sampling** algorithms to obtain samples from such target Distribution





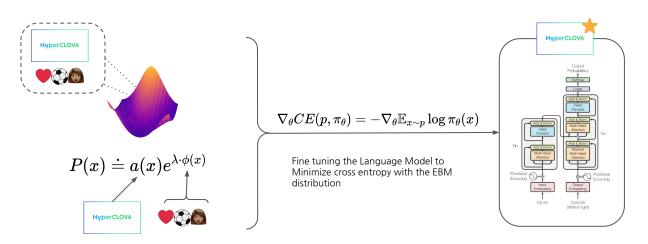


#### Fine-tuning Algorithms



### Distributional Policy Gradients (DPG)

Converts the EBM P(x) into an autoregressive model  $\pi_{\theta}$  which minimizes  $CE(p, \pi_{\theta})$ 



A fine-tuned Language Model that satisfies the imposed preferences.

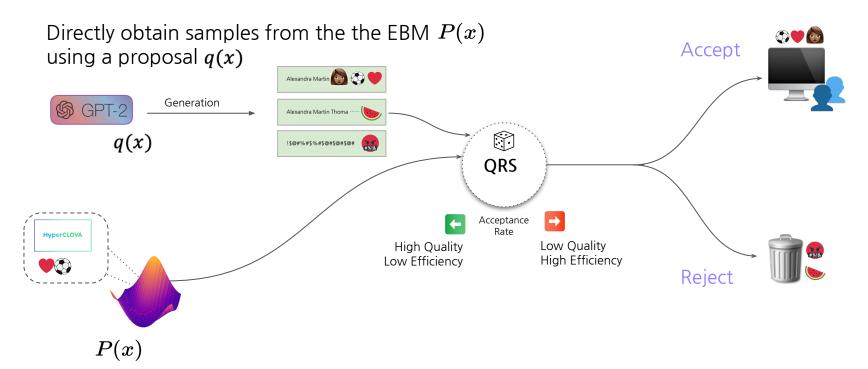
#### Advantages:

- Easy to deploy in production similar to any Deep learning model.
- Fast generation speed.

#### Sampling Algorithms



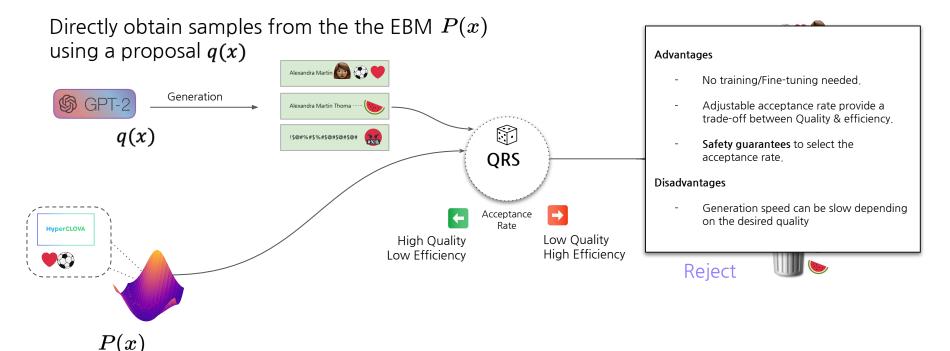
#### Quasi Rejection Sampling (QRS)



#### Sampling Algorithms



### Quasi Rejection Sampling (QRS)



#### Different Flavours of the GDC Framework



	Full Preference Satisfaction	Training needed	Generation Time
DPG (Fine Tuning only)	×	Fine-tuning	High speed
QRS (Sampling)	<	No training	Adjustable
DPG + QRS (Fine Tuning → Sampling)	<	Fine-tuning	Adjustable

Combining DPG and QRS allow faster generation speed.

#### GDC Framework vs Other Controlled NLG methods



	Sequence level preferences  Sentiment Topic	Distributional Preferences  = 50%	Handling Catastrophic forgetting	Full Preference Satisfaction	Training needed	Generation Time
PPLM	<b>✓</b>	×	0	0	No Training	U
CTRL (ctrl tokens)	<b>♦</b>	×	0	×	Full training	1
PPO (Fine Tuning)	<b>♦</b>	X	<b>♦</b>	×	Fine-tuning	1
GeDI	<b>♦</b>	X	0	×	No Training	<b>■</b>
GDC (Fine Tuning only)	<b>✓</b>	<b>♦</b>	<b>♦</b>	×	Fine-tuning	1
GDC (Sampling)	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>♦</b>	<b>♦</b>	No training	Adjustable
GDC (Fine Tuning → Sampling)	<b>✓</b>	<	<b>♦</b>	<b>♦</b>	Fine-tuning	<b>← →</b> Adjustable



Handled



Not Handled



Not so straight forward



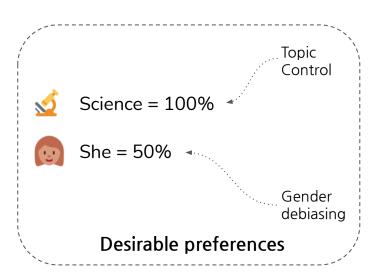
## **Applications**

#### Debiasing Language Models





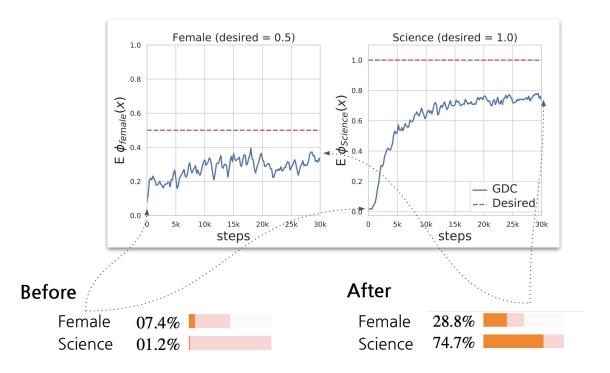
Pretrained Language Models misrepresent certain demographics with respect to gender and profession



#### Debiasing Language Models (using DPG)



The GDC framework allows defining distributional preferences over language models and satisfy them. While keeping high quality and diversity.



Thene Ted (born april 4, 1967) is an american science educator, student, medical research scientist and medical researcher. she is a director of mls ...

Alexandra Martin Thomas (born march 2, 1978) is a nigerian **scientist** and sociologist, researcher and writer. **she** is the current president of ...

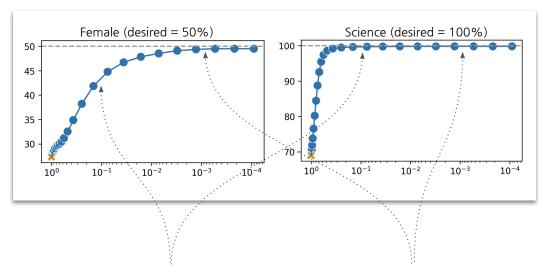
Antosia Rose (born 4 april 1962) is an english **philosopher**. **She** is a fellow of the royal society and a visiting fellow of the royal academy of engineering...

Generated examples about female scientist from the fine-tuned model

#### Debiasing Language Models (DPG+







Chandra Pradha Towni (born February 11, 1965) is a social scientist, activist, poet, and author living in Portugal. She is...

Enrella Carri`ere is a Canadian writer, translator, and **philosopher** specializing in the history of show business. **She** has covered topics such as the direction and psychology of television and the evolution of human. . .

Generated examples about female scientist from the QRS sampling Algorithm.

Acceptance Rate = 10<sup>-1</sup>

Female: 44.8%

Science: **99.7%** 

Acceptance Rate =  $10^{-3}$ 

Female: **49.5%** 

Science: 99.8%

#### Controllable Abstractive Summarization



#### Source Document

A major power firm faces a ban on hunting for new customers after an IT flasco left thousands in the dark about what they owe. Huge backlogs in demands followed the introduction of a new computerised billing system by Scottish Power. Regulator Ofgem has now threatened to stop any sales activity unless the firm deals with the issue and the tidal wave of complaints it has caused Scottish Power faces a ban on hunting for new customers after an IT fiasco left thousands in the dark about what they owe. The move follows recent revelations by Money Mail over how the company was letting customers down and how Ofgem effectively failed to deal with it. Scottish Power's billing system has been in chaos for more than a year, leaving 75 000 families still waiting for demands. Others are said to be facing 'unacceptably long' waits on the phone as call centres are overwhelmed by complaints. The firm has now been told to speed up call handling and reduce the number of overdue bills to 30,000 by the end of the year. It has also been given until the end of November to deal with a backlog of Ombudsman decisions it has failed to act upon. Ofgem warned: 'If it misses any of its targets its proactive sales activities will instantly be suspended.' Gillian Guy of Citizens Advice said the firm was guilty of 'woeful customer service' and said complaints have doubled since January to 256 per 100,000 customers. Scottish Power chief executive Neil Clitheroe said the billing system had been 'challenging' and apologised for poor levels of service. He vowed to help 'correct every problem, pay appropriate compensation and ensure that no customer is disadvantaged' Shadow energy secretary Caroline Flint said it was another example of big energy companies 'failing their customers' Sarah Harrison, senior partner in charge of enforcement at Ofgem, said: 'Scottish Power's customers are experiencing unacceptably long call-waiting times and a drastic drop in overall customer satisfaction. 'Ofgem's action today will drive immediate improvements for Scottish Power customers.' She said the need for intervention was further evidence that the energy market was not working for consumers and backed up its decision to refer the sector for a full-scale probe by the Competition and Markets Authority. 'The investigation we launched today is the third time we have used our new standards of conduct to make suppliers treat consumers fairly. 'This is a clear signal to suppliers to up their game and give consumers the service they are entitled to.' Scottish Power will each month have to publish its progress towards the new commitments and any missed targets will mean proactive sales activities have to be instantly suspended. Ofgen said The regulator took action earlier this year against rival npower, ordering the supplier to put right billing and complaints issues or face a telesales ban. In September, it announced npower had met targets. It came as figures from the energy ombudsman service showed that it received 5.011 complaints in October, the second highest figure on record. The total was a nine per cent increase on September and nearly three times as many as the 1.850 complaints in October last year. The vast majority of complaints related to billing problems, such as disputed charges, inaccurate invoices and the failure in some cases to send out any bill at all. Energy UK figures this week showed customers switching away from the Big Six - British Gas. SSE. Scottish Power, prower, E.ON and EDF - towards smaller suppliers. Chief ombudsman Lewis Shand Smith said: 'While October's figures have shown that consumers are ever more willing to escalate complaints when they feel like they have been wronged, it's particularly encouraging to see more consumers willing to vote with their feet by going out and finding the best deal for them.' Shadow energy secretary Caroline Flint said: 'This is yet another example of the big energy companies failing their customers.' Under David Cameron people are paying more than ever for their gas and electricity, but all too often the customer service they receive is not good enough

#### **Generated Summary**

organisation has angry backlogs in demands followed offence, regulator offgem threatens to stop sales activity unless firm deals. 43% of britcons will see highly poor customers due to faulty software.

Summarization

model

Hallucination: entities not mentioned in the source document

#### Human written summary

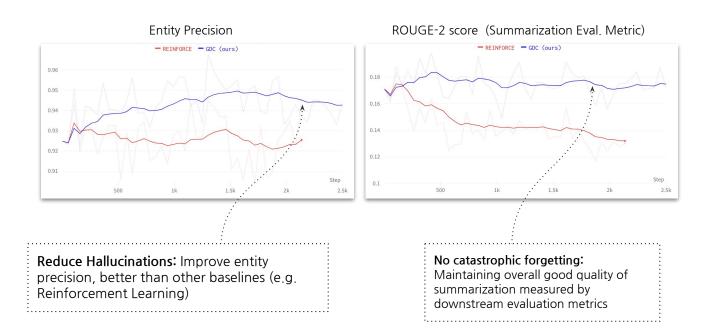
Scottish Power faces a ban on hunting for new customers amid IT fiasco. Thousands of customers have been left in the dark about what they owe.

Ofgem threatens to stop any sales activity unless firm deals with the issue. Firm told to speed up call handling and reduce the number of overdue bills.

## Controllable Abstractive Summarization Service Controllable Abstractive Summarization



Using the GDC framework to Finetune T5 summarization model on "Entity Precision" (remove Hallucinations)



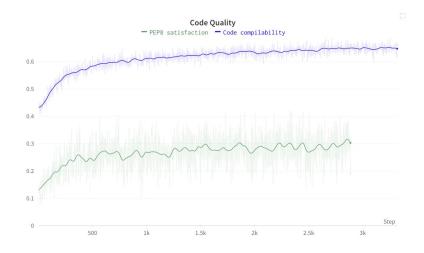
#### Code Generation



Large Language Models for code generation



Using the GDC framework to enhance code quality wrt compilability & PEP8 satisfaction.



#### Many Other Applications



- Unsupervised Paraphrasing
- Toxicity Reduction
- Persona adaptation for Dialogue Systems
- Gender Bias Reduction in Machine Translation



# 3.DISCO: A **Dis**tributional **Co**ntrol Library (Coming Soon)



Germán Kruszewski

#### Workflow





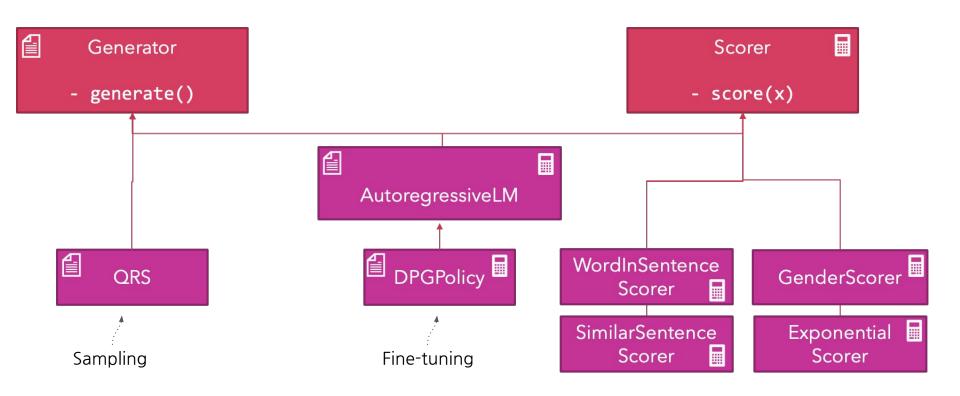
Define EBM



Generate by fine-tuning or sampling

### Class Hierarchy





#### Defining an EBM (Pointwise Constraints)



```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM

from scorer import WordInSentenceFeature

a = AutoregressiveLM("gpt2")

P = a * WordInSentenceFeature("amazing")
```

#### Generating using DPG



```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM, GDCPolicy
from scorer import WordInSentenceFeature
a = AutoregressiveLM("gpt2")
P = a * WordInSentenceFeature("amazing")
q = DPGPolicy.learn(a.clone(), P)
print(q.generate())
```

Guys, this makes an amazing reference packaging. Did you think I looked at this before? It's hard to find China packaging for even Samsung when they are pretty much the most population oriented stuff on

NTSC is thrilled to announce the release of the Raspberry Pi 6, the most recently released OS.

The latest in a series of amazing devices, the Raspbian Pi 6 offers exciting

This exercise contains five core goals that make Bolton a great place to start your second year of junior college. Each goal is responsible for the pros and cons they'll have facing them this fall as they move



# Generating using QRS (using a fine-tuned proposal)

```
from lm import Autoregre
from scorer import Word]
from sampler import QRS
a = AutoregressiveLM("gr
P = a * WordInSentenceFe
q = pickle.load(open("an
sampler = QRS(P, q, min_
print(sampler.generate())
```

```
The ghostwriter of all, before we move on to the next Episode, is Edward B. Hodder: author of Thumper and So Here Comes Venus. It's an amazing purge of dumpster
```

I take death literally every day, bordering on insanity. My disability has a lot of it, making it difficult for me to do amazing things. All of this comes from space flight. I have sat

TERRY WHEELLEY, WRITER, Sheet Talk): At a recent local event honoring like-minded individuals, the biggest takeaway from many is that she's willing to treat amazing people with

```
q = DPGPolicy.learn(a.clone(), P)
pickle.dump(q, open("amazing_policy.pkl", "wb"))
```

#### Defining an EBM with Distributional Constraints

```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM
from scorer import ExponentialScorer,
                               GenderFeature
a = AutoregressiveLM("wikibio")
exp = ExponentialScorer.fit(a,
           [GenderFeature("female")], [0.5])
         exp
   P(x) = a(x) \star \exp(\lambda \cdot is_{male}(x))
    with \lambda s.t. \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p(x)} is_female(x) = 0.5
```



# Generating from an EBM with Distributional Constraints

```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM
                                                   q = DPGPolicy.learn(a.clone(), P)
from scorer import ExponentialScorer,
                          GenderFeature
                                                   q.generate()
a = AutoregressiveLM("wikibio")
exp = ExponentialScorer.fit(a,
                                                  Fine-tuning
          [GenderFeature("female")], [0.5])
                                            q = DPGPolicy.learn(a.clone(), P)
                                            sampler = QRS(P, q, min_accepance_rate=0.01)
                                            sampler.generate()
                      Fine-tuning +
                      Sampling
```



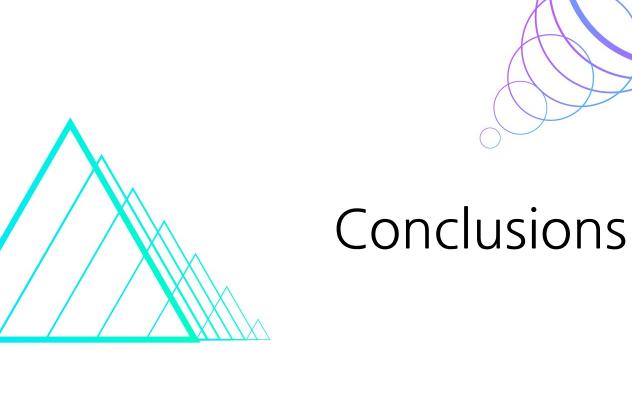
#### Defining an EBM for Paraphrase Generation

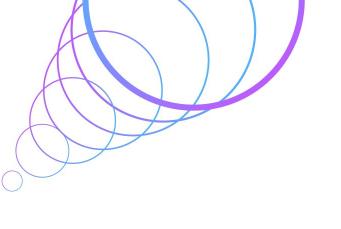
```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM
from scorer import SimilarSentenceScorer
a = AutoregressiveLM("gpt2")
sentence = "How is the two wheeler insurance
from Bharti Axa insurance?"
P = a * SimilarSentenceScorer(sentence)
```



#### Generating paraphrases

```
from lm import AutoregressiveLM
from scorer import SimilarSentenceScorer
                                                                 How is the Axa Bharti two-wheeler insurance policy?
from distribution.nmt import RoundTripNMT
from sampler import QRS
a = AutoregressiveLM("gpt2")
sentence = "How is the two wheeler insurance
from Bharti Axa insurance?"
                                                                 How is Bharti Axa insurance for two-wheeler?
P = a * SimilarSentenceScorer(sentence)
The Bharti Axa Two-wheeler insurance. How is it?
sampler = QRS(P, q, min_acceptance_rate=10e-5)
print(sampler.generate())
```







#### Conclusions



- Language Models now enable high quality natural language generation.
- Yet, we need to control them to conform to our needs, values, etc.
- GDC provides a principled framework to this easily:
  - Define your preferences through an EBM.
  - Generate from this EBM by
    - fine-tuning using DPG
    - . sampling using QRS



