

# Generating Sentences by Editing Prototypes

Kelvin Guu\*, Tatsunori Hashimoto\*, Yonatan Oren, Percy Liang

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\begin{Overview}

# **Goal:** sentence generation

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$p(y)$  →  $y = \text{"stocks fell by 2 percent"}$

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$p(y)$   $\longrightarrow$   $y = \text{"stocks fell by 2 percent"}$

$x = \text{"死马当活马医"}$   $\xrightarrow{p(y | x)}$   $y = \text{"beating a dead horse"}$

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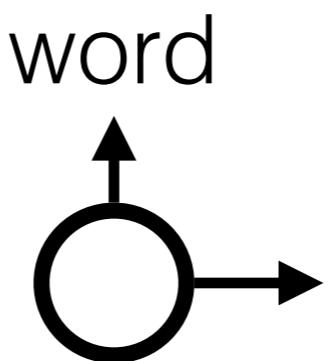
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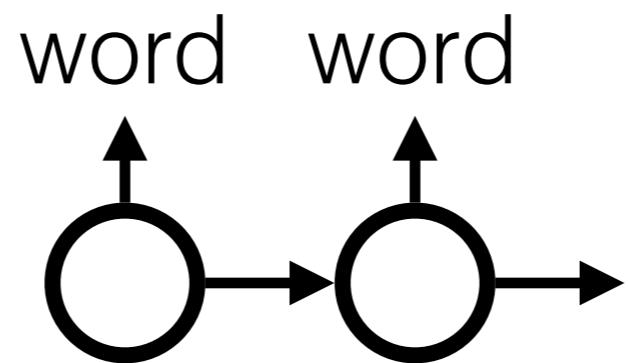
$x = \text{"how are you?"}$   $\xrightarrow{p(y | x)}$   $y = \text{"pretty good, you?"}$

# The status quo

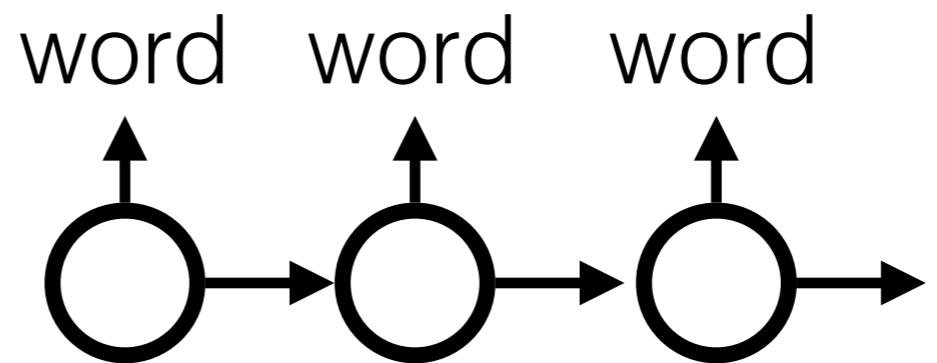
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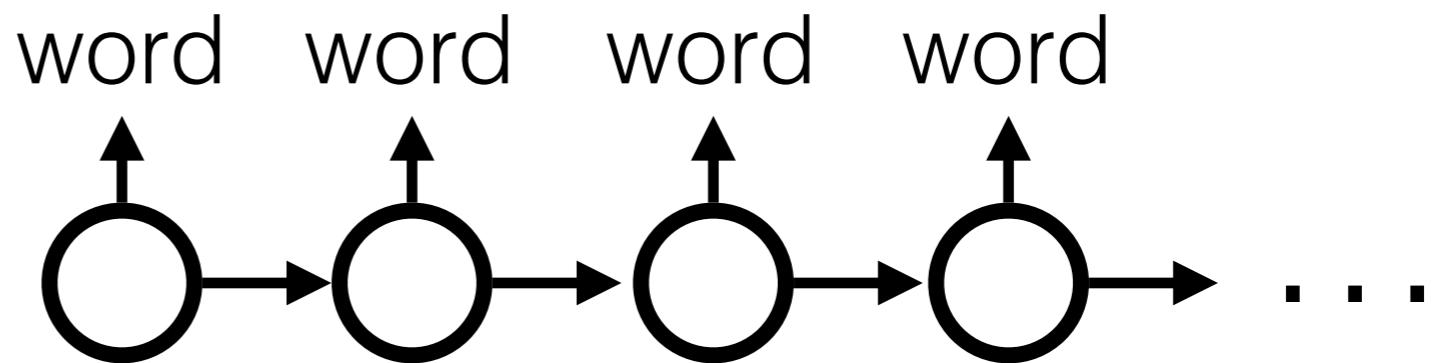
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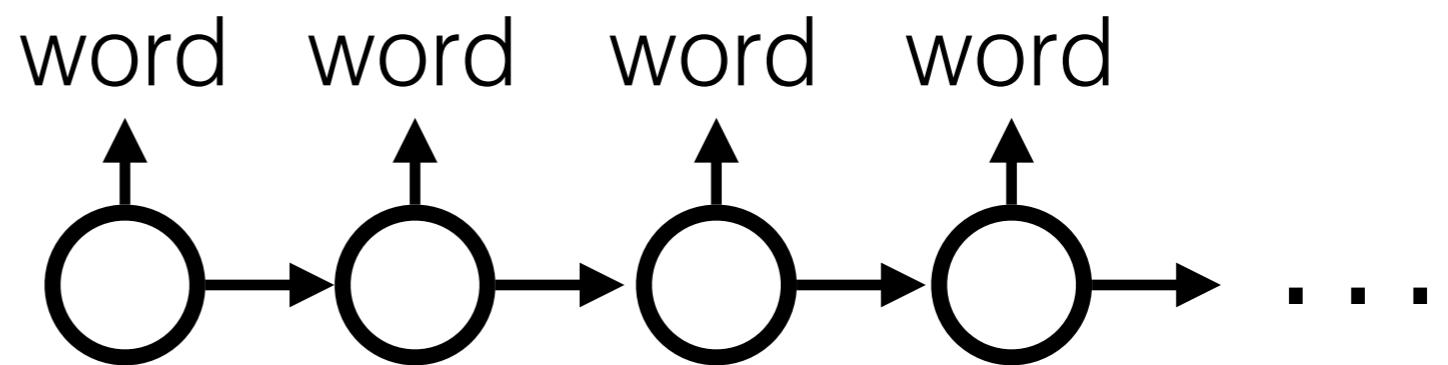


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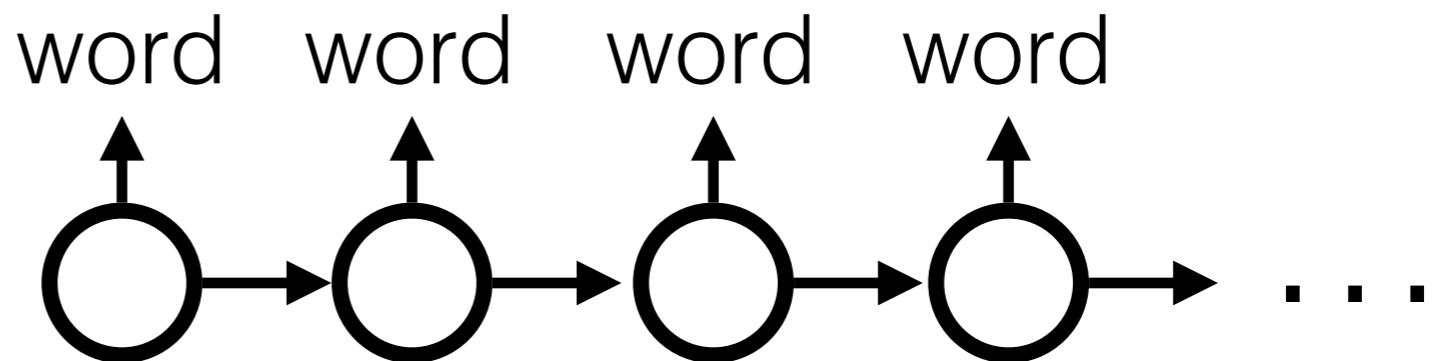
# The status quo

- left to right
- word by word



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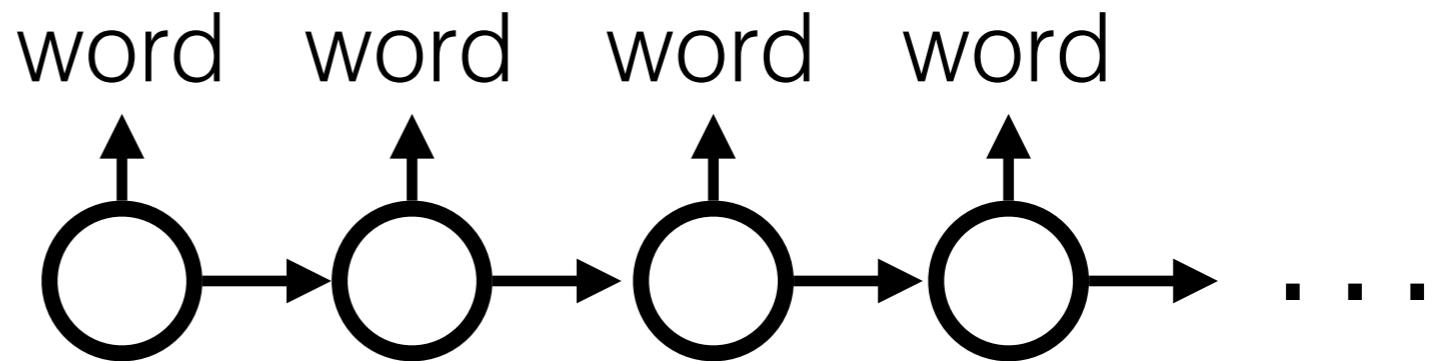
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**Train on wide output distributions**

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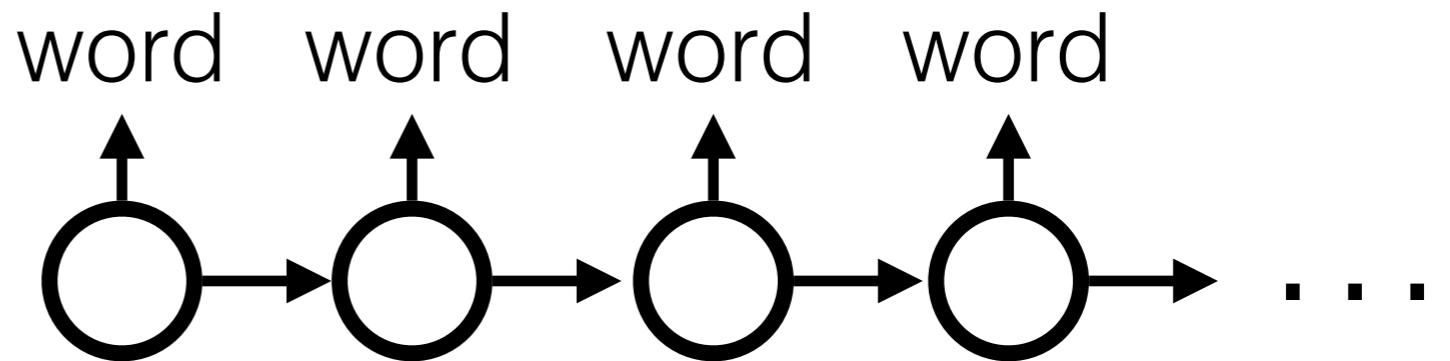


## **Train on wide output distributions**

- low diversity

# The status quo

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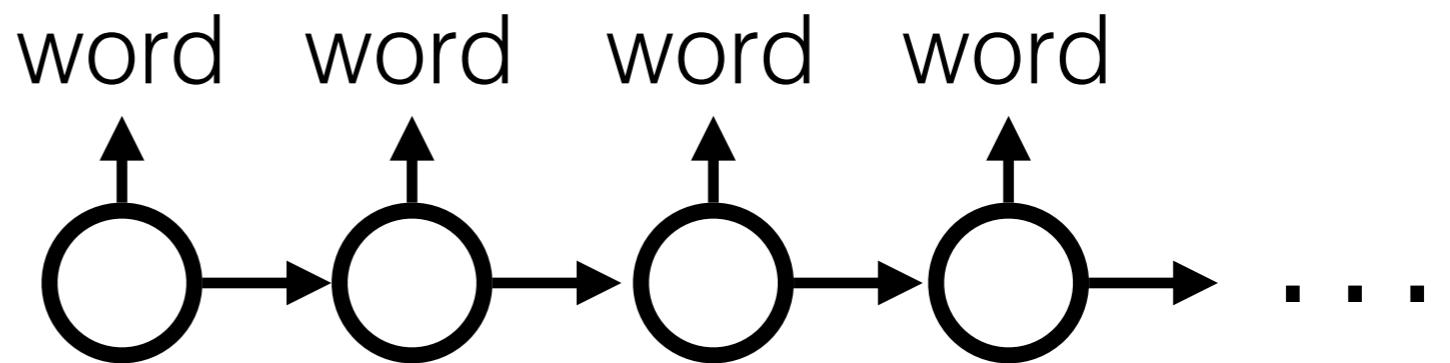


## **Train on wide output distributions**

- low diversity
  - the generic utterance problem

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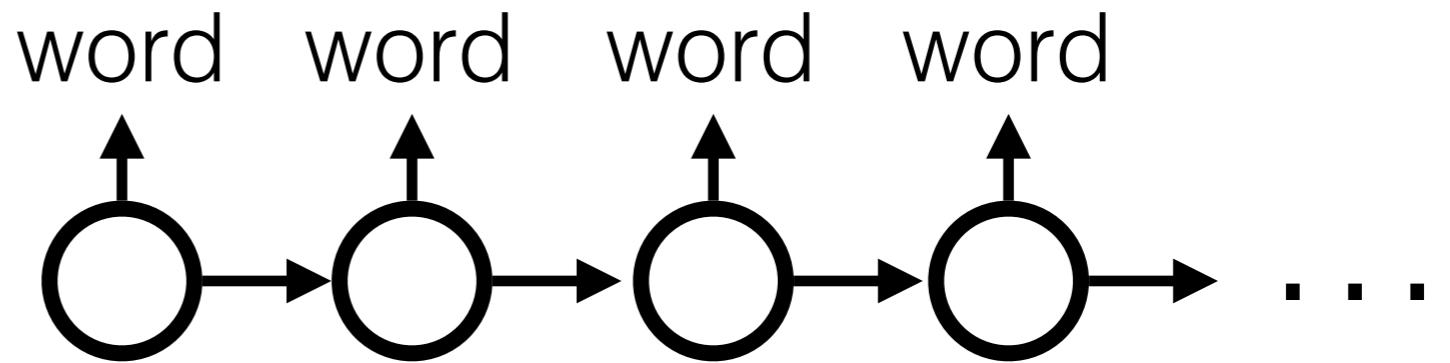


## Train on wide output distributions

- low diversity
  - the generic utterance problem
  - ("*I don't know*", "*I'm sorry*") [Li+ 2016, Serban+ 2016, Ott+ 2018]

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## Train on wide output distributions

- low diversity
  - the generic utterance problem
  - ("*I don't know*", "*I'm sorry*") [Li+ 2016, Serban+ 2016, Ott+ 2018]
- no semantic control [Hu+ 2017]

# **Approach:** prototype, then edit

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Overpriced , overrated , and tasteless food .  
The food here is ok but not worth the price .  
I definitely recommend this restaurante .

Sample from  
the training set



Prototype

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

# Approach: prototype, then edit

Overpriced , overrated , and tasteless food .  
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**Sample from  
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**Prototype**

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

**Edit using  
attention**



**Generation**

The food is mediocre and not worth the ridiculous price .

The food is good but not worth the horrible customer service .

The food here is not worth the drama .

The food is not worth the price .

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prototype controls  
rough semantics

Edit using  
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Generation

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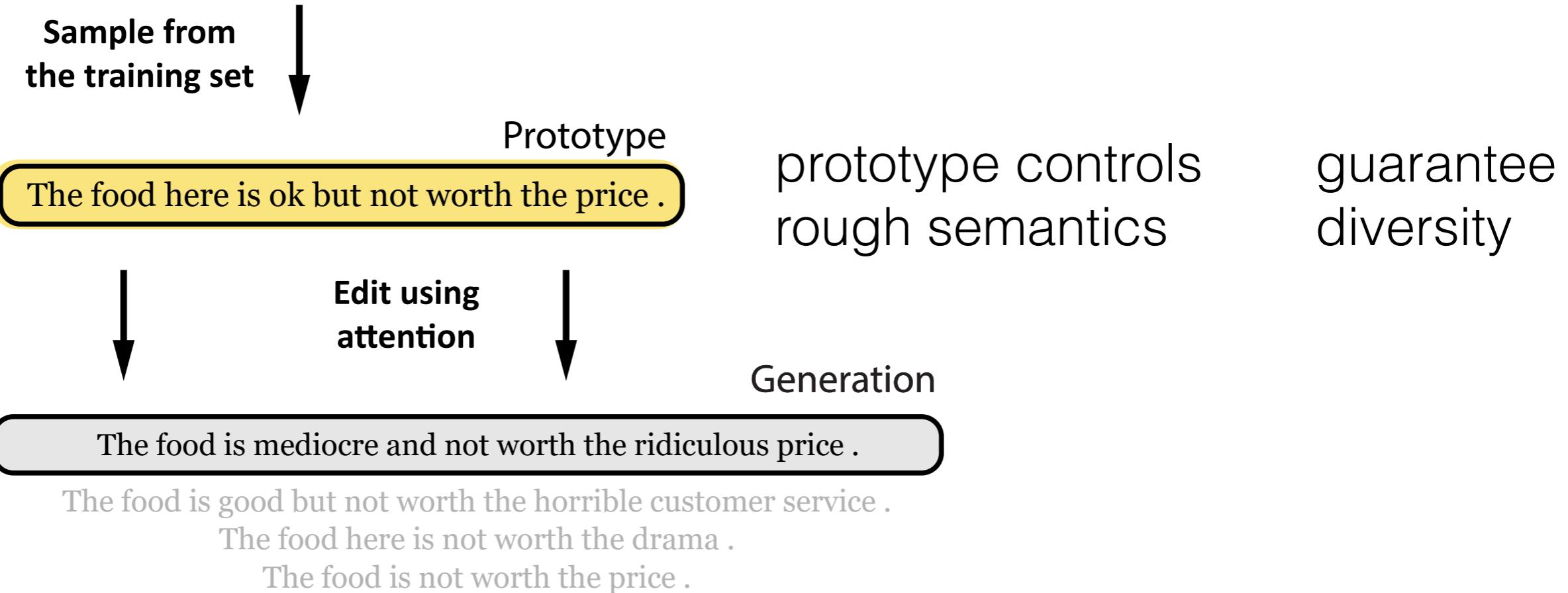
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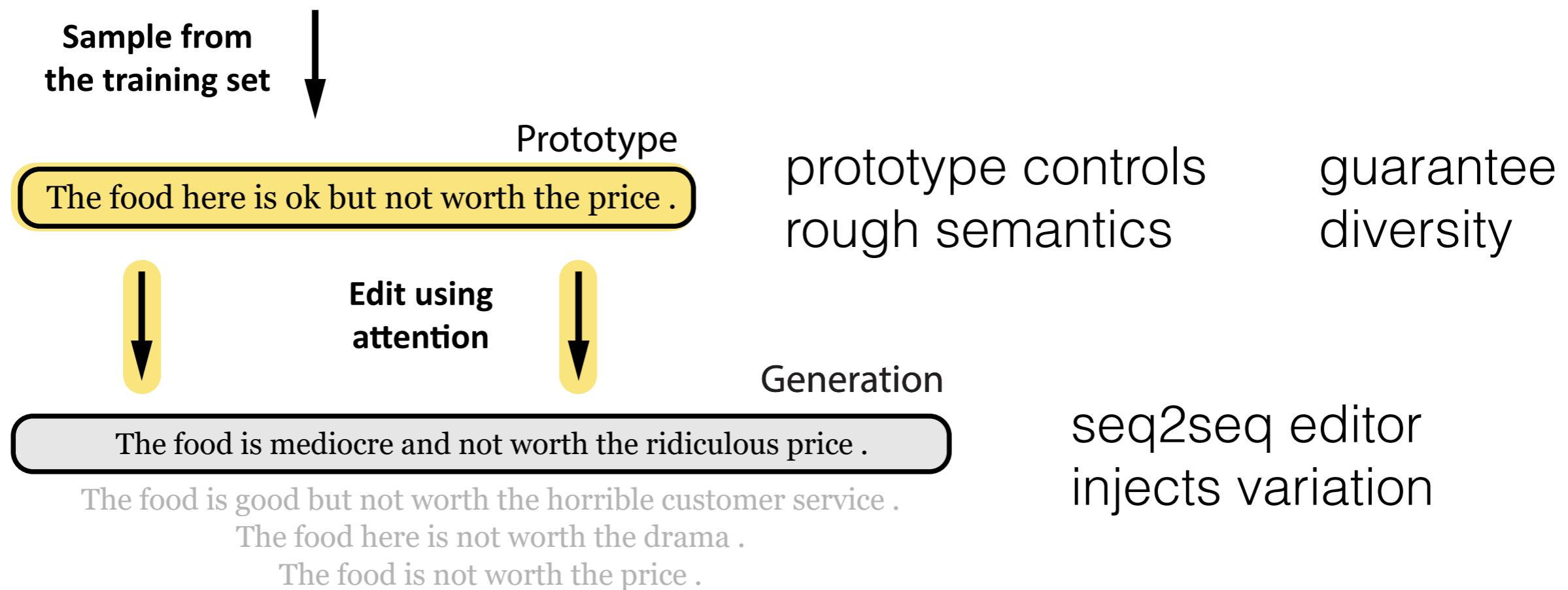
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- **More diverse generations**
- **Higher quality generations** (Mechanical Turk)
- **Better perplexity** (BillionWord, Yelp reviews)
- **Seq2seq edits are semantically interpretable**
  - preserve semantic similarity
  - can be used to perform sentence-level analogies

\end{Overview}

\begin{Approach}

prototype, then edit **(formally)**

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Edit Vector

oooooo

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Prototype

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Edit using  
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Generation

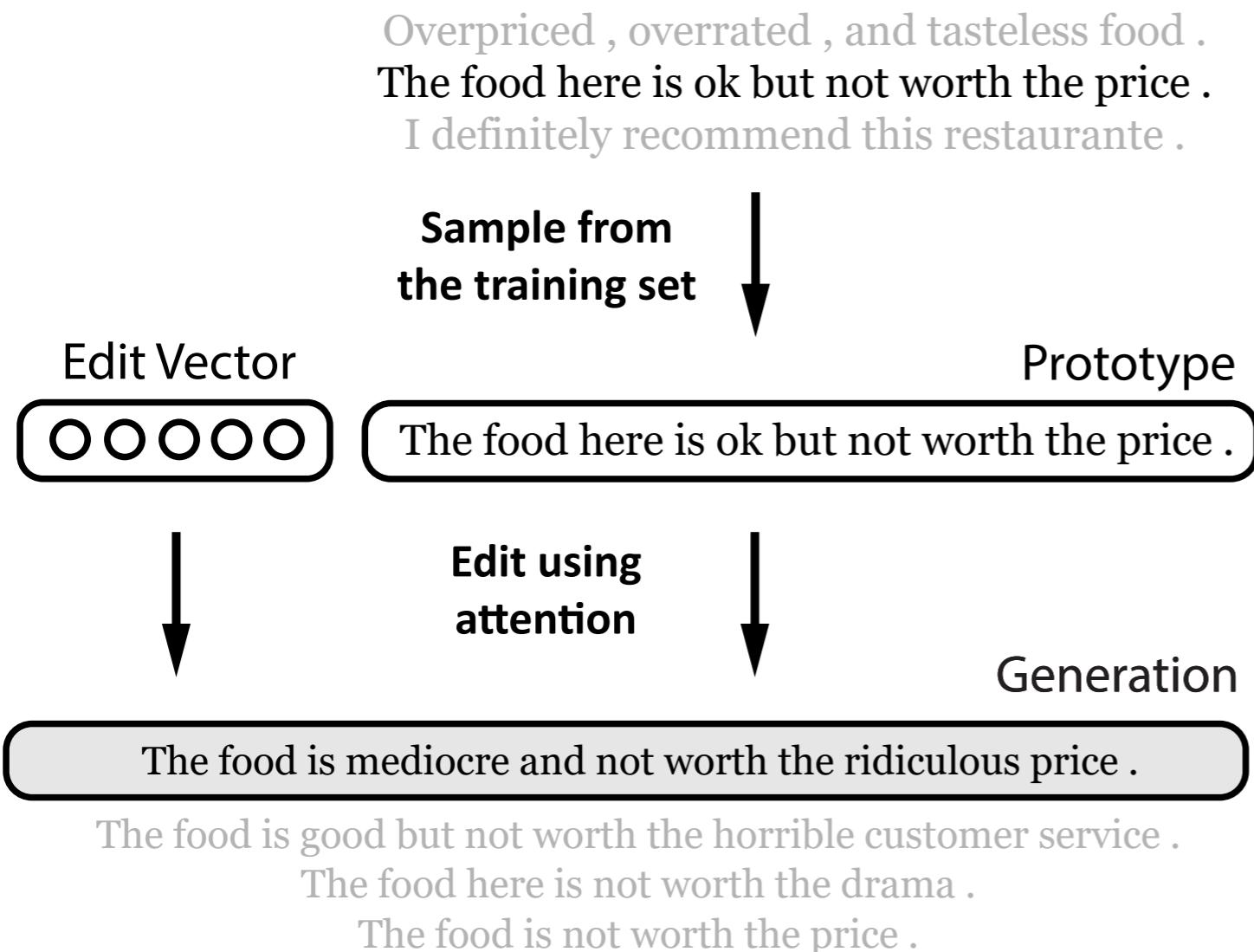
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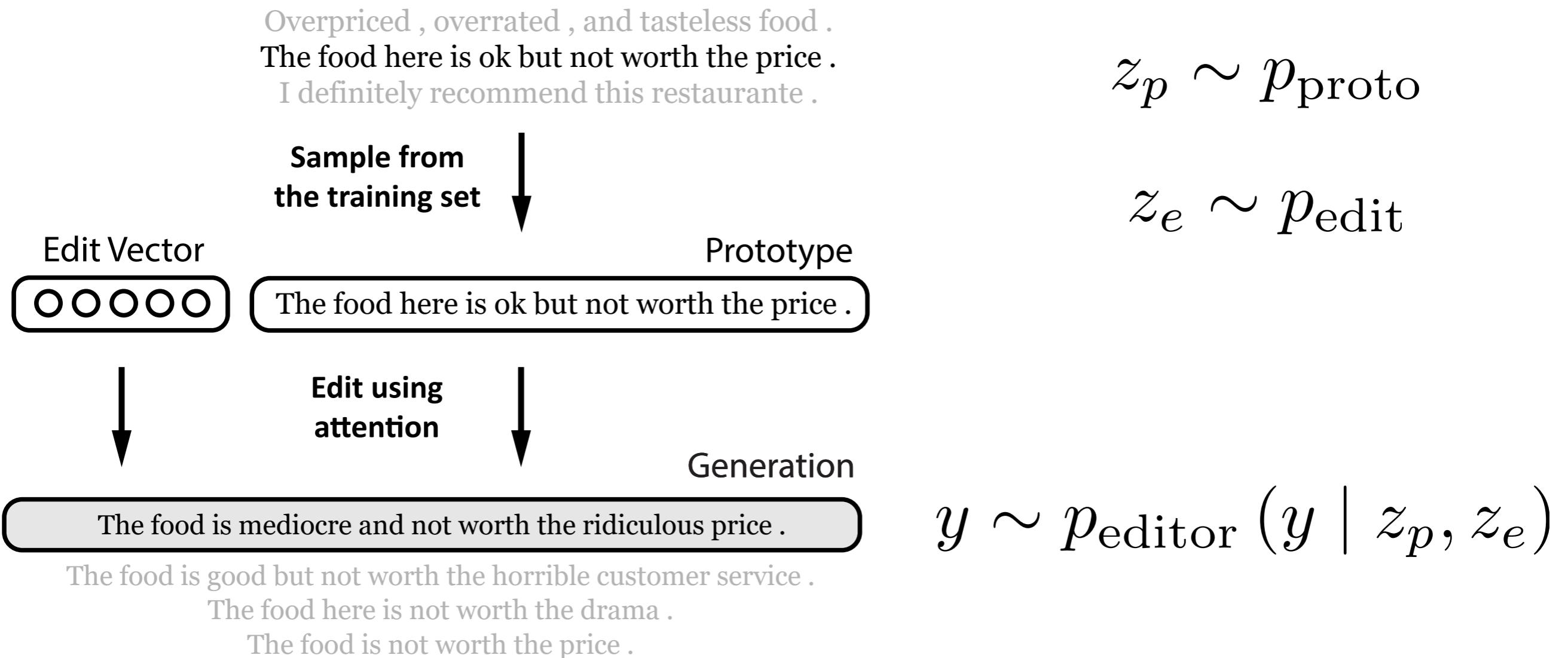


$$z_p \sim p_{\text{proto}}$$

$$z_e \sim p_{\text{edit}}$$

$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$

# prototype, then edit (**formally**)



**y** = output sentence    **z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence    **z<sub>e</sub>** = edit vector

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## **semi-parametric statistics**

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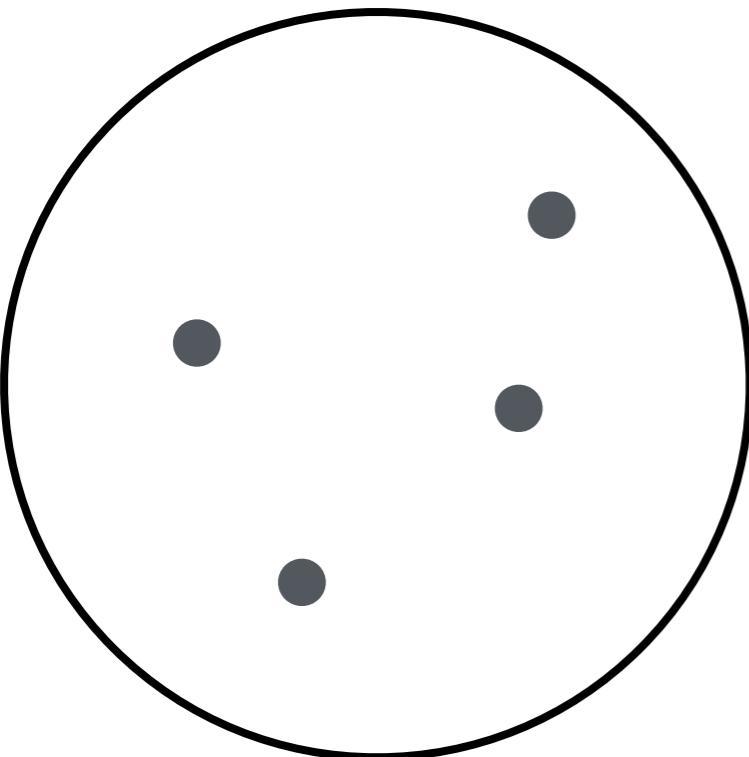
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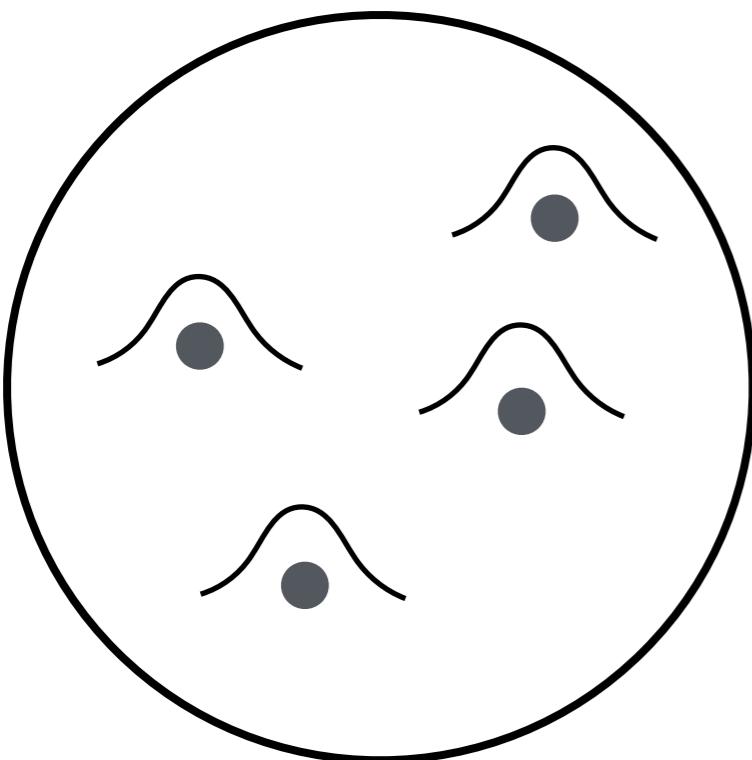
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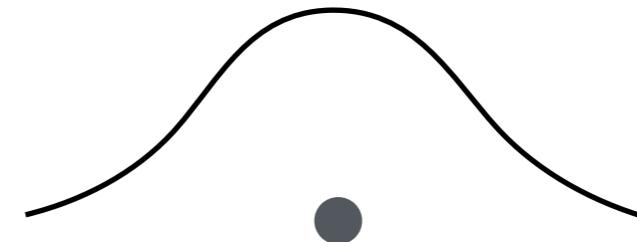
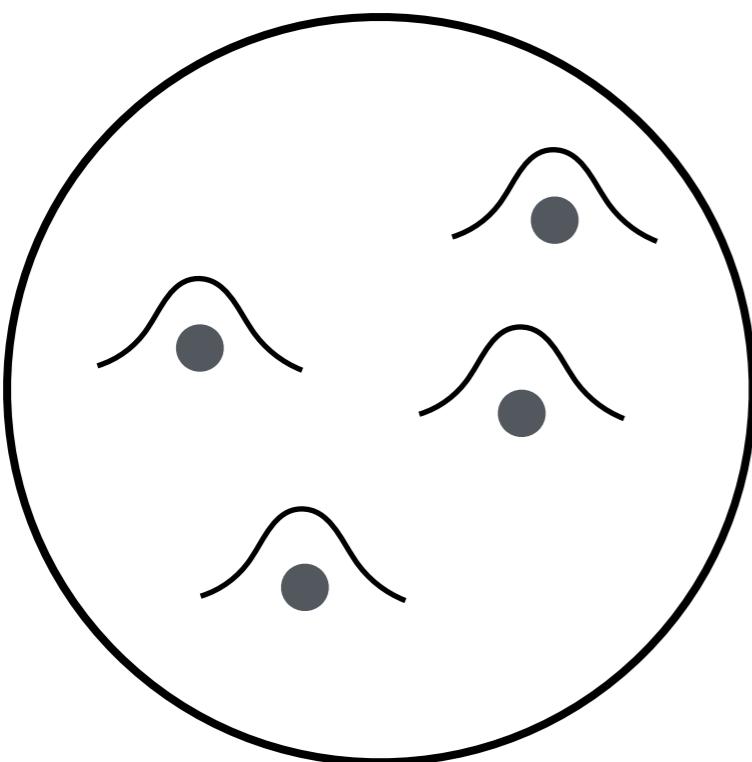
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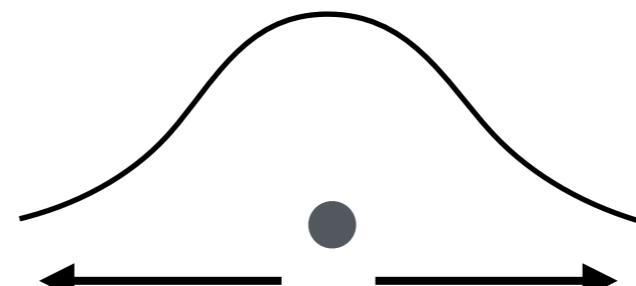
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seq2seq

# Another intuition

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Professor of Computer Science  
The University of Texas at Austin

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*You can't cram the meaning of a whole %&!\$ing sentence into a single \$&!\*ing vector!*

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[Ray Mooney, ACL 2014]

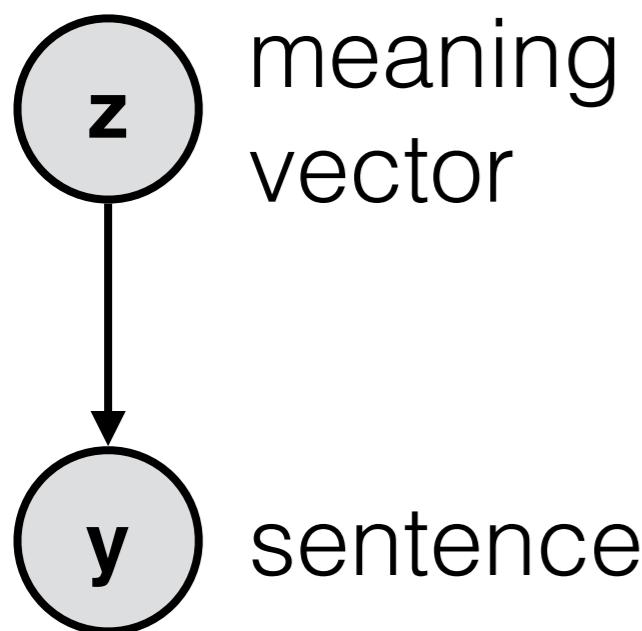
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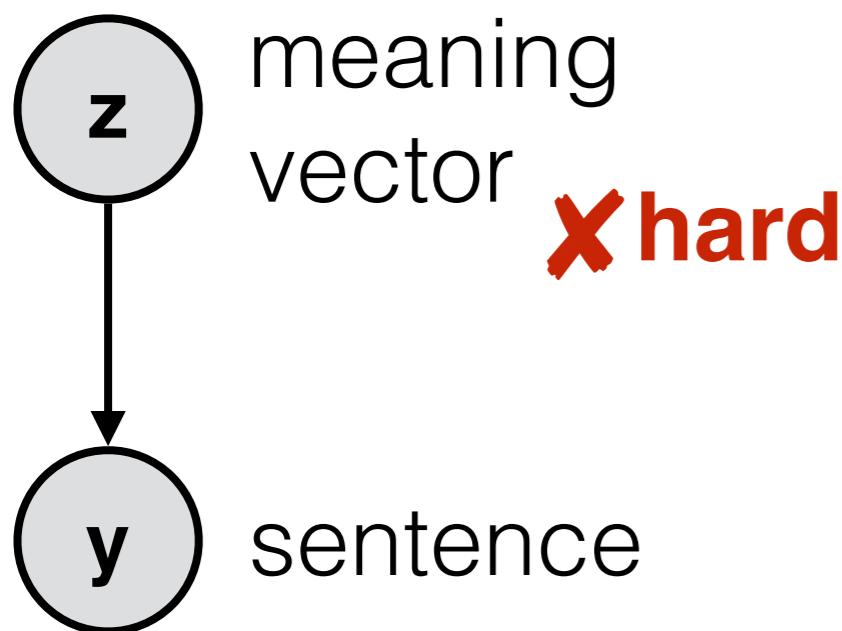
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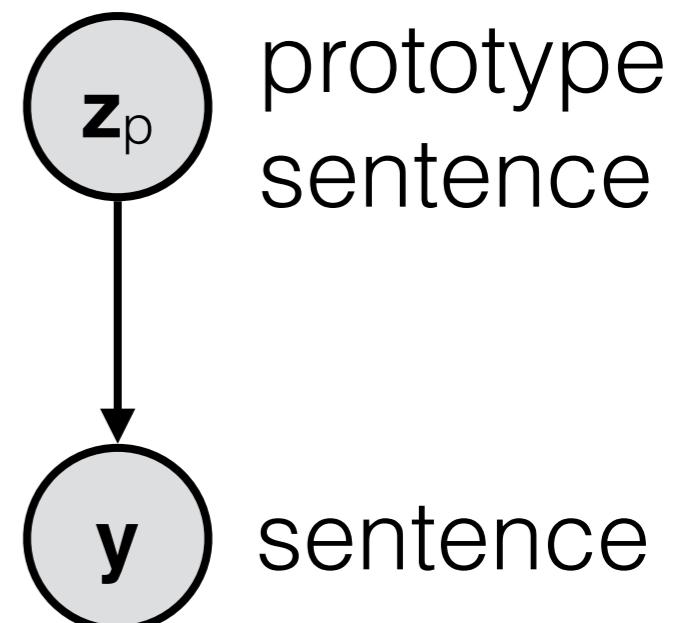
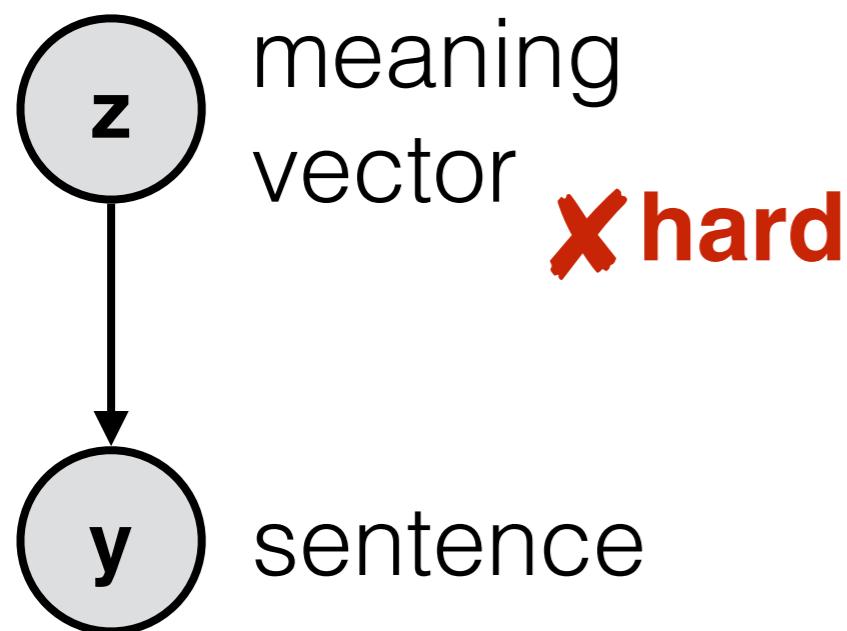
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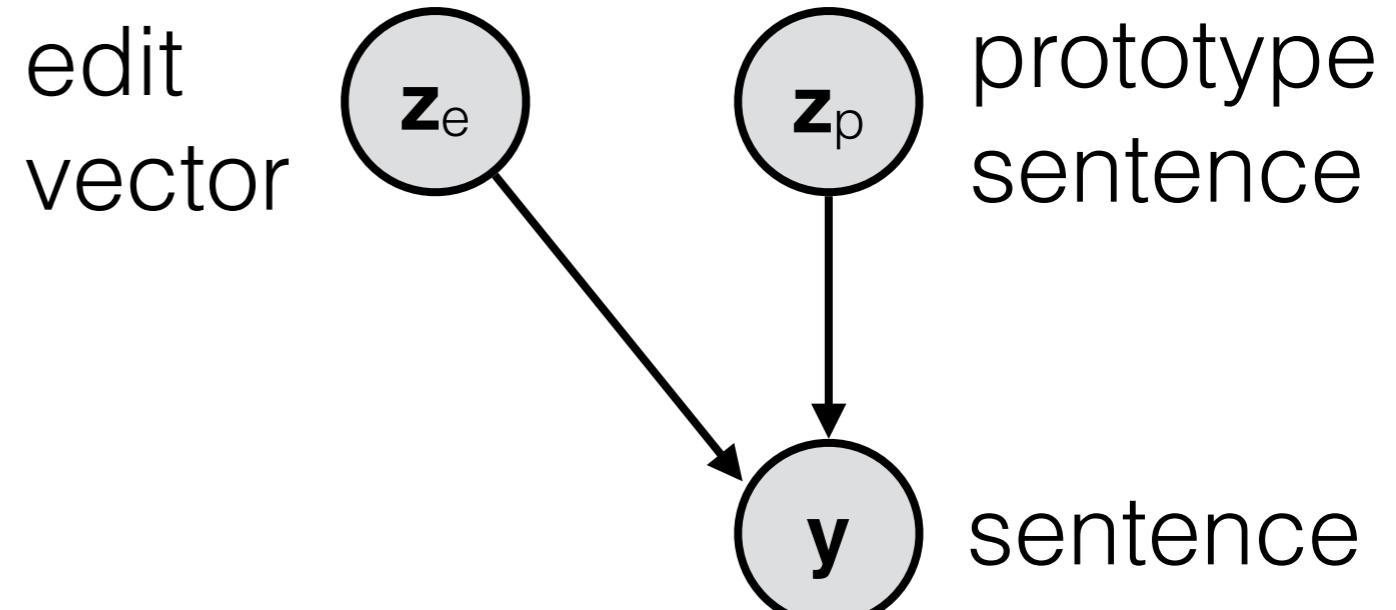
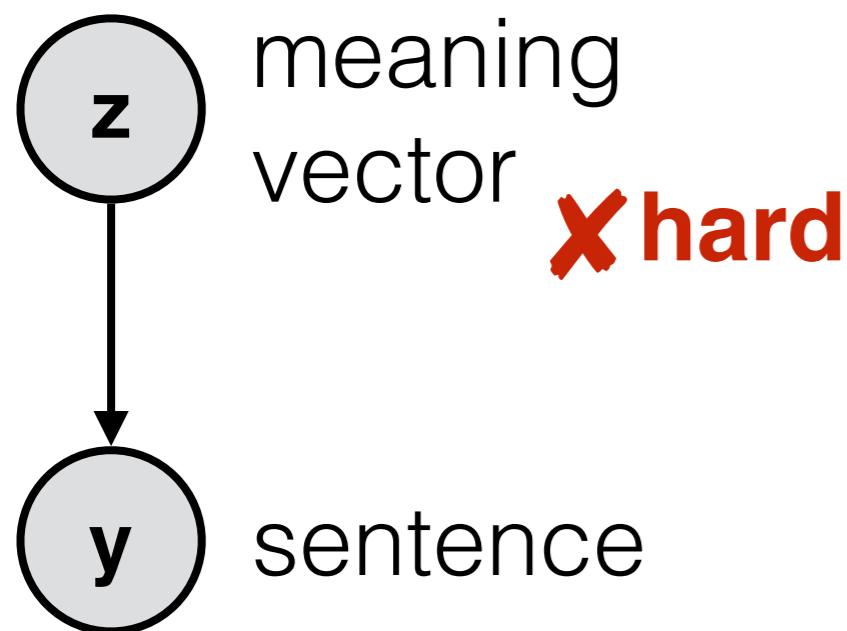
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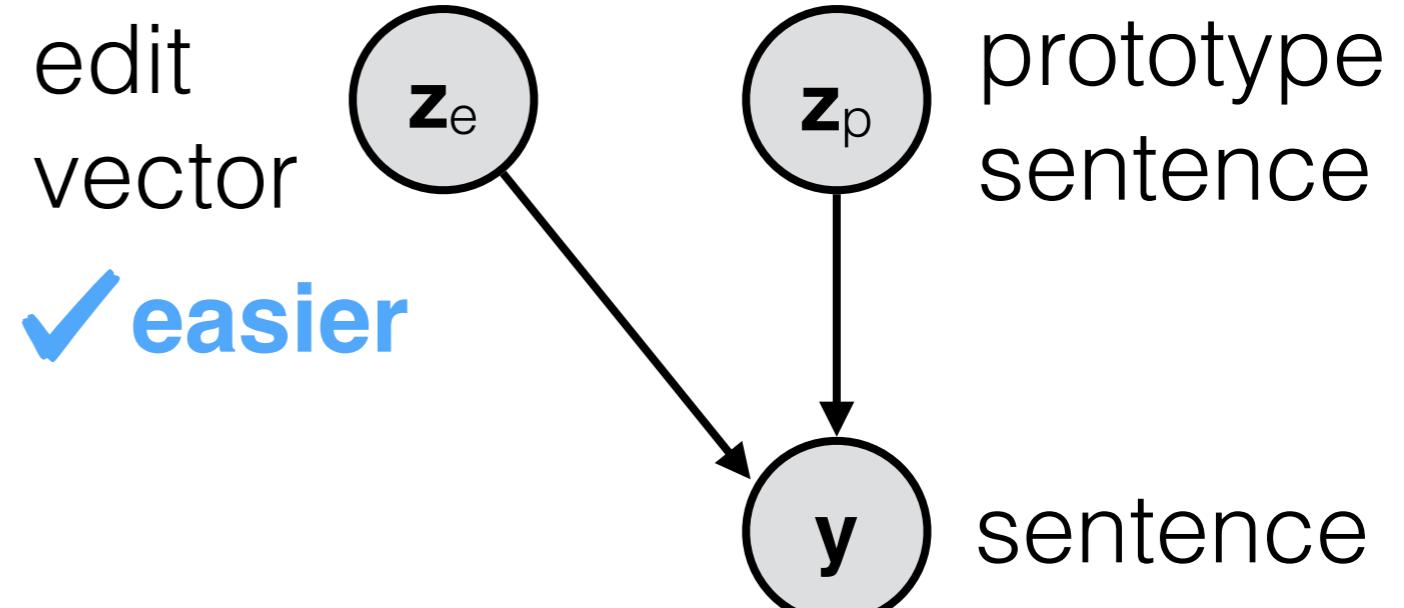
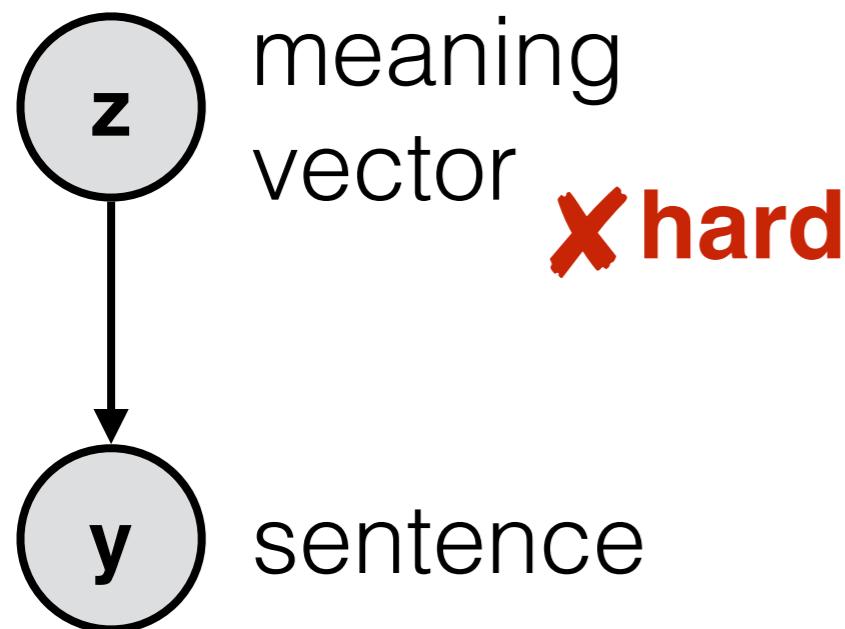
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# Training objective

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# Training objective

$$p(y)$$

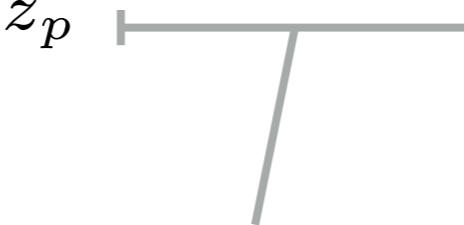
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# Training objective

$$p(y) = \sum_{z_p} p(y | z_p) p_{\text{proto}}(z_p)$$

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# Training objective

$$p(y) = \sum_{z_p} p(y | z_p) p_{\text{proto}}(z_p)$$
$$\int_{z_e} p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e) p_{\text{edit}}(z_e) dz_e$$


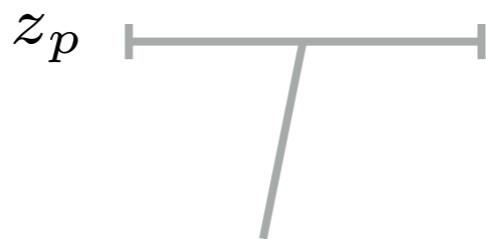
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**maximize**



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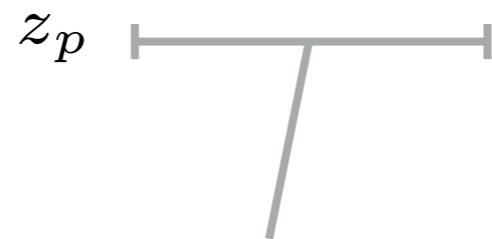
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$$p(y) = \sum_{z_p} p(y | z_p) p_{\text{proto}}(z_p)$$

expensive



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intractable

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key tool: **ELBO** (evidence lower bound)

[Dempster+ '77, Jordan+ '99, Kingma+ '13]

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- more computationally tractable

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- more computationally tractable
- bias towards semantically interpretable edits

# ELBO (in general)

**y** = output sentence    **z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence    **z<sub>e</sub>** = edit vector

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$$\log p(y)$$

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# ELBO (in general)

$$\log p(y) \overline{\int_z} p(y | z) p(z) dz$$

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# ELBO (in general)

$$\log p(y) \geq \int_z \log p(y | z) q(z) dz - KL(q(z) \| p(z))$$
$$\int_z p(y | z) p(z) dz$$

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**q(z)**

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**q(z)**

$KL(q(z) \| p(z))$

**you choose  $q(z)$**

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**q(z)**

**you choose  $q(z)$**

- add helpful biases to the model

# ELBO (in general)

$$\log p(y) \geq \int_z \log p(y | z) q(z) dz - KL(q(z) \| p(z))$$

The diagram shows the ELBO lower bound as a triangle. The top vertex is labeled  $T$ , representing the true log probability  $\log p(y)$ . The bottom-left vertex is labeled  $q(z)$ , representing the approximate posterior distribution. The bottom-right vertex is labeled  $P$ , representing the true prior distribution. The left side of the triangle is labeled with the integral  $\int_z$  and the expression  $p(y | z) p(z) dz$ , representing the expected log likelihood under the approximate posterior. The right side of the triangle is labeled  $-KL(q(z) \| p(z))$ , representing the Kullback-Leibler divergence.

**you choose  $q(z)$**

- add helpful biases to the model
- tightness of the lower bound

# ELBO (in general)

$$\log p(y) \geq \int_z \log p(y | z) q(z) dz - KL(q(z) \| p(z))$$

The diagram shows a horizontal line segment with endpoints labeled  $T$  and  $KL(q(z) \| p(z))$ . Two diagonal lines intersect this horizontal segment at the point  $q(z)$ . One diagonal line connects  $T$  to  $q(z)$ , and the other connects  $KL(q(z) \| p(z))$  to  $q(z)$ .

**you choose  $q(z)$**

- add helpful biases to the model

- tightness of the lower bound  $q(z) \approx p(z | y)$

# ELBO (in general)

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$$\int_z p(y | z) p(z) dz$$

**q(z)**

**you choose  $q(z)$**

- add helpful biases to the model
- tightness of the lower bound

$$q(z) \approx p(z | y)$$

# Training objective

**maximize**



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# ELBO on prototypes

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# ELBO on prototypes

$$\begin{aligned} p(y) &= \sum_{z_p} p(y | z_p) p_{\text{proto}}(z_p) \\ &\geq \sum_{z_p} \log p(y | z_p) q(z_p) - KL(q(z_p) \| p_{\text{proto}}(z_p)) \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

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$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$

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$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y) ?$$

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

## Question

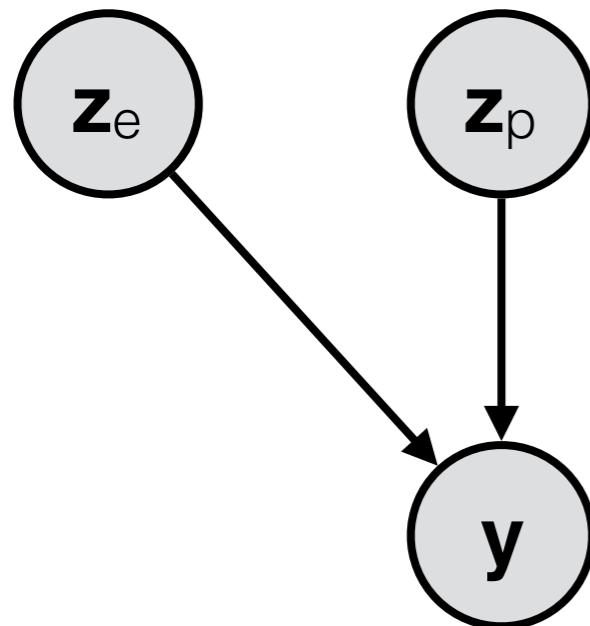
$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

## Question

$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$

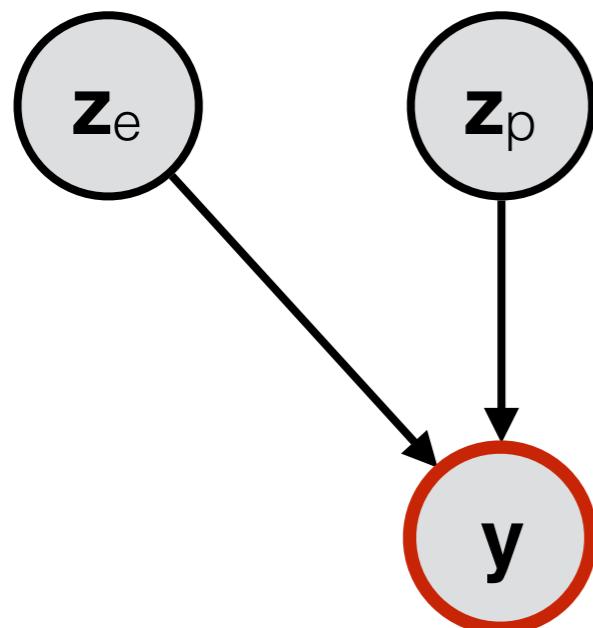


**y** = output sentence     **$z_p$**  = prototype sentence     **$z_e$**  = edit vector

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## Question

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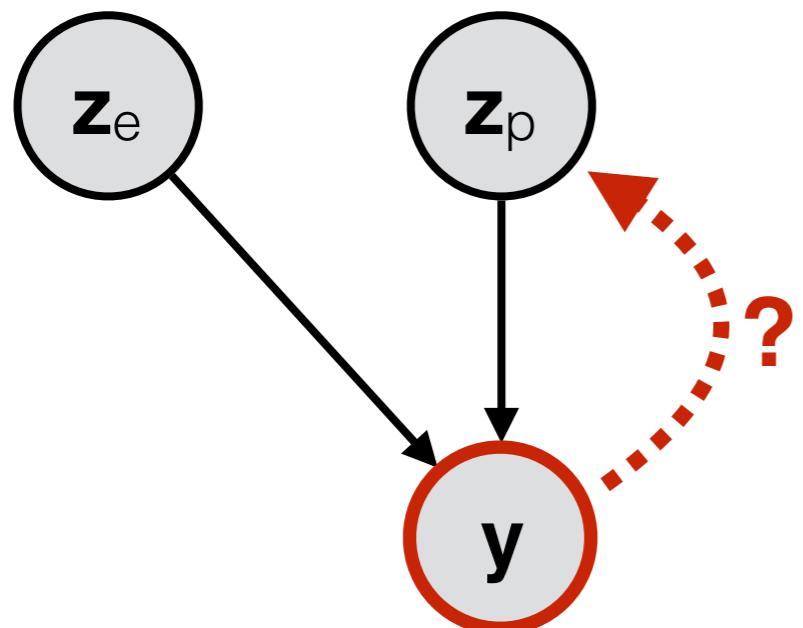


**y** = output sentence     **$z_p$**  = prototype sentence     **$z_e$**  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

## Question

$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$



**y** = output sentence

**z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence

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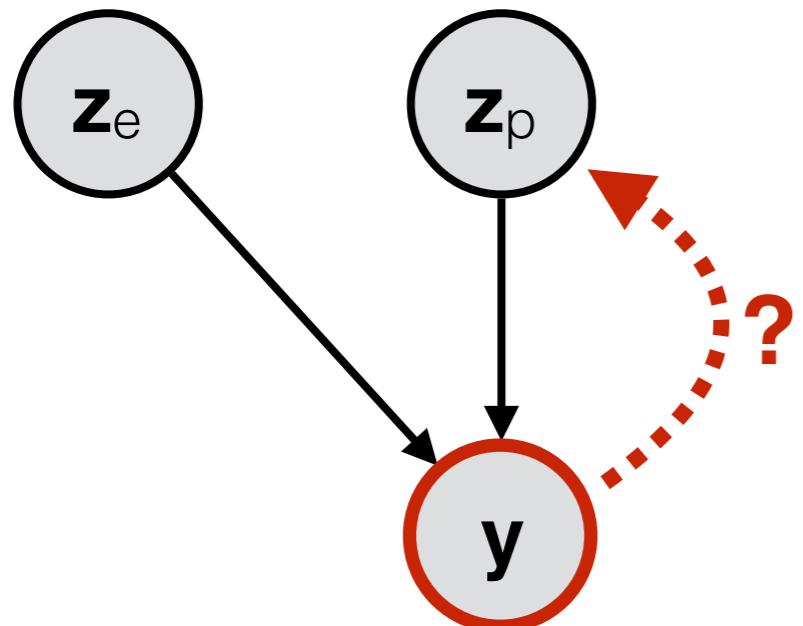
# $q(z)$ over prototypes

## Question

$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$

## Answer

prototype  $\mathbf{z}_p$  was probably not too different from  $\mathbf{y}$ .



$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

$\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence

$\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

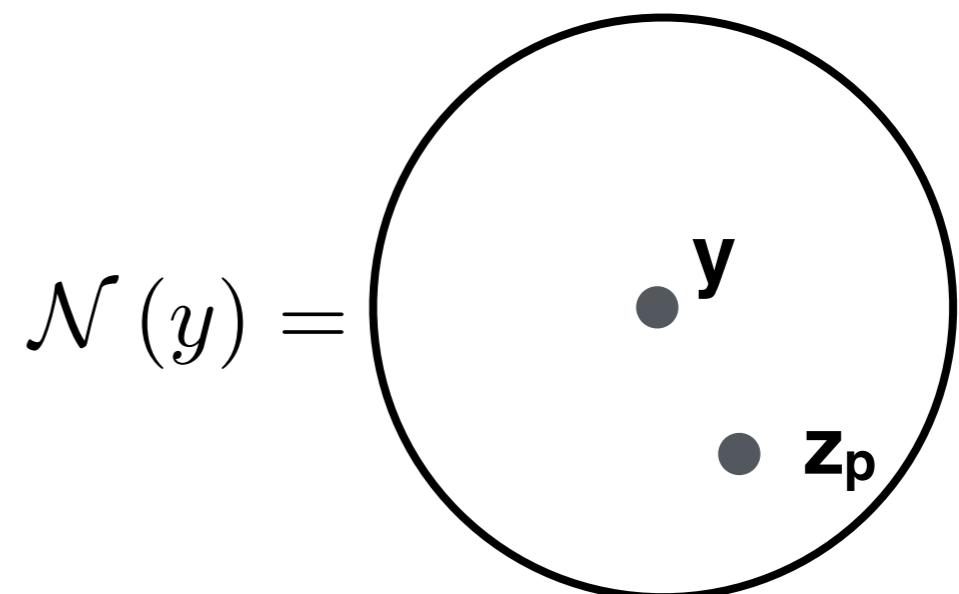
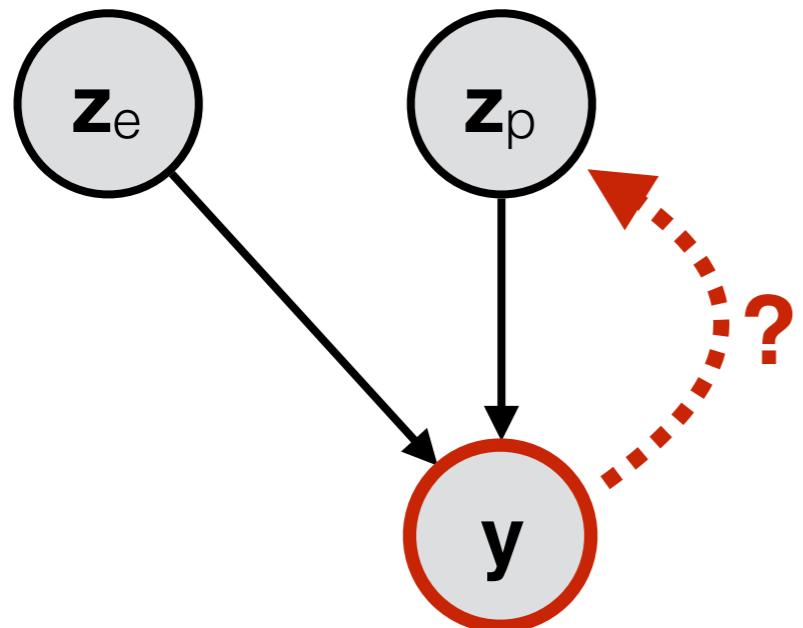
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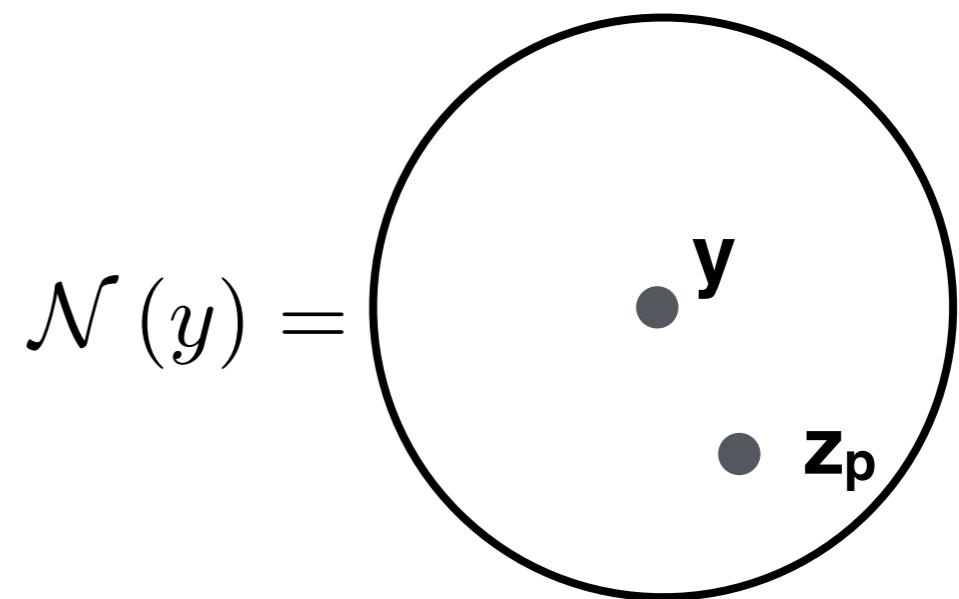
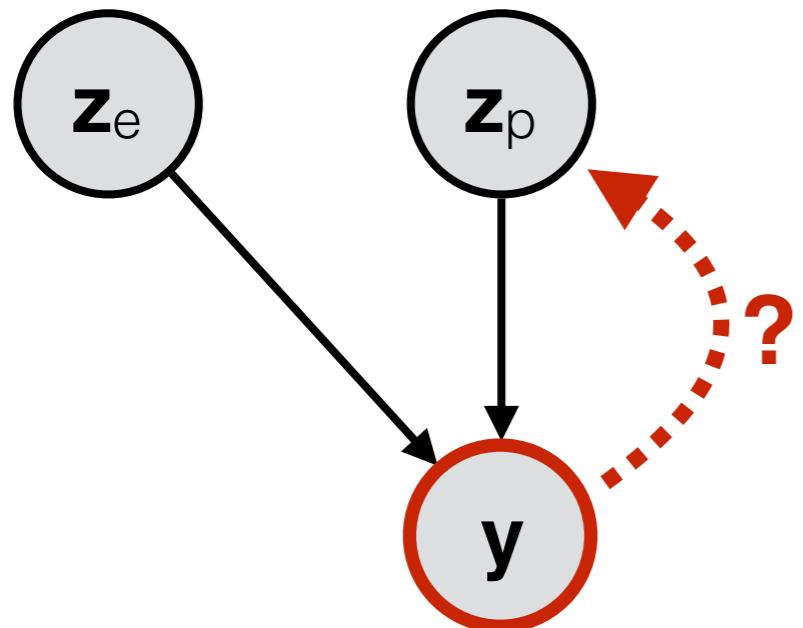
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**N(y)** = all sentences with high token overlap

**y** = output sentence

**z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence

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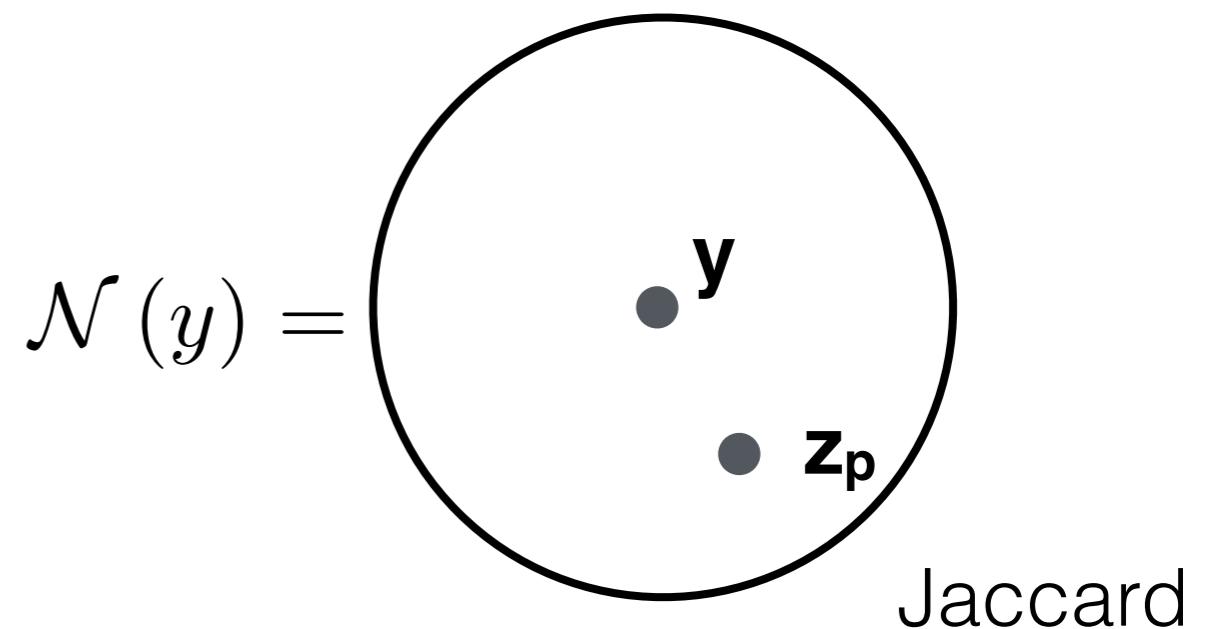
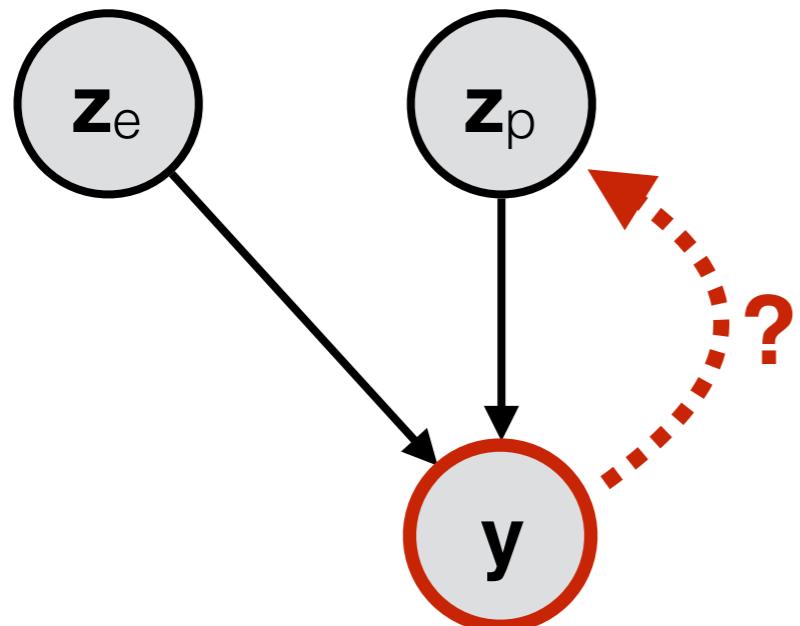
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# $q(z)$ over prototypes

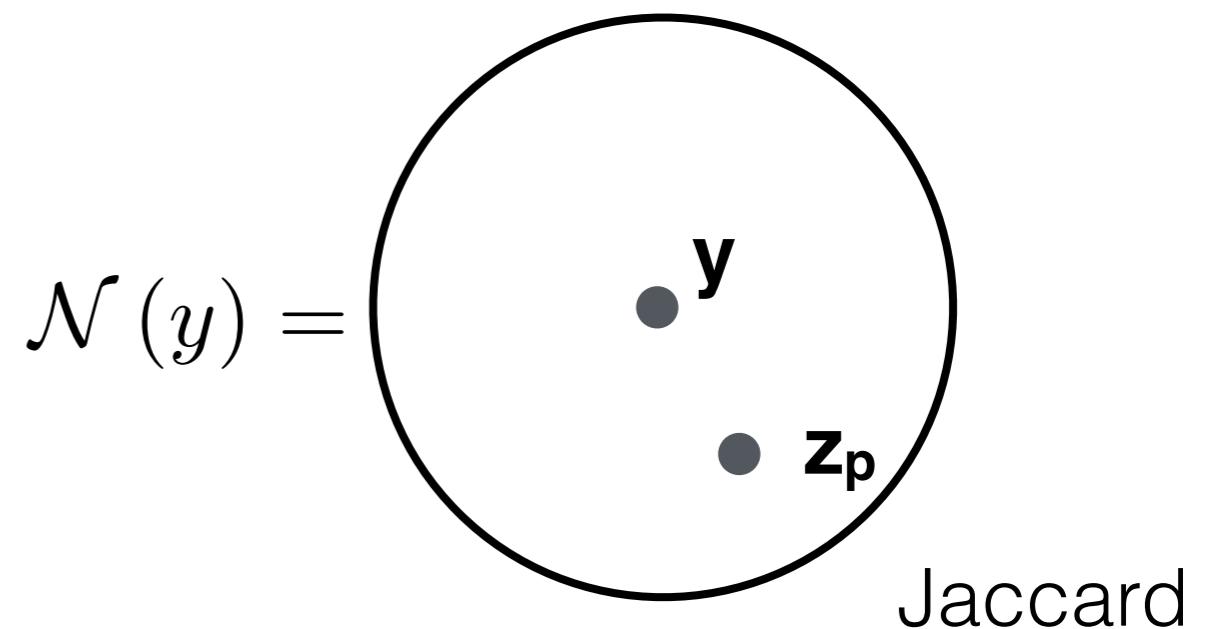
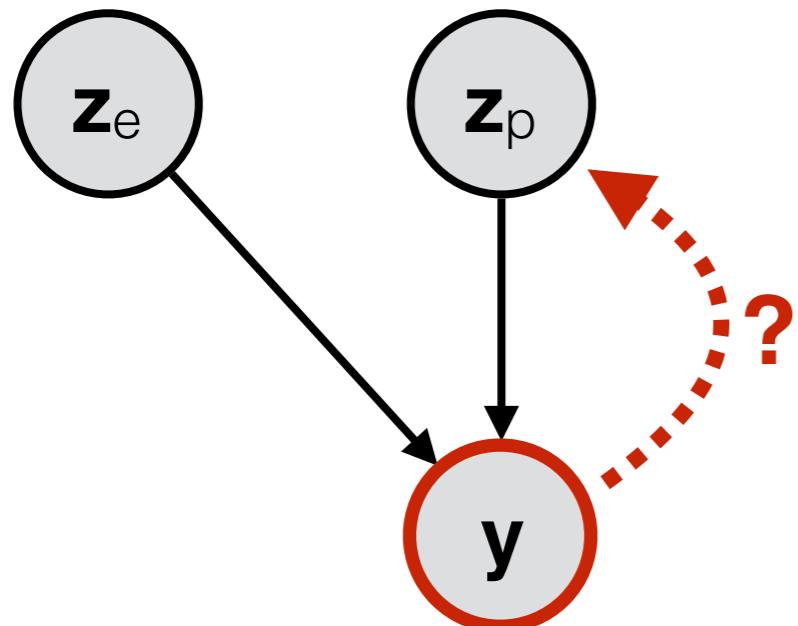
## Question

$$q(z_p) \approx p(z_p | y)$$

## Answer

prototype  $\mathbf{z}_p$  was probably not too different from  $\mathbf{y}$ .

$$q(z_p) := \text{Uniform}(\mathcal{N}(y))$$



**N(y)** = all sentences with high token overlap

**y** = output sentence

**z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence

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# $q(z)$ over prototypes

$$\text{ELBO} = \sum_{z_p} \log p(y | z_p) q(z_p) - KL(q(z_p) \| p_{\text{proto}}(z_p))$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

$$\text{ELBO} = \sum_{z_p} \log p(y | z_p) q(z_p) - KL(q(z_p) \| p_{\text{proto}}(z_p))$$

||

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(y)|} \sum_{z_p \in \mathcal{N}(y)} \log p(y | z_p) + C$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

$$\text{ELBO} = \sum_{z_p} \log p(y | z_p) q(z_p) - KL(q(z_p) \| p_{\text{proto}}(z_p))$$

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Looks like typical **sequence-to-sequence** objective

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

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prototype  $\mathbf{z}_p \rightarrow$  output  $\mathbf{y}$

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**bias towards small edits**

# $q(z)$ over prototypes

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Looks like typical **sequence-to-sequence** objective

prototype  $\mathbf{z}_p \rightarrow$  output  $\mathbf{y}$

✓ bias towards small edits

✓ computationally tractable

# Training objective

**maximize**



$$p(y) = \sum_{z_p} p(y | z_p) p_{\text{proto}}(z_p)$$

expensive

$$\int_{z_e} p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e) p_{\text{edit}}(z_e) dz_e$$

intractable

ELBO

ELBO

**y** = output sentence

**z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence

**z<sub>e</sub>** = edit vector

# ELBO on edit vectors

$$\log p(y \mid z_p)$$

# ELBO on edit vectors

$$\log p(y \mid z_p)$$

$$\geq E_{z_e \sim q(z_e)} [\log p_{\text{editor}}(y \mid z_p, z_e)] - KL(q(z_e) \| p_{\text{edit}}(z_e))$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

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—

reconstruction\_cost

# ELBO on edit vectors

$$\log p(y \mid z_p)$$

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—

reconstruction\_cost

—

KL\_penalty

# ELBO on edit vectors

sample  $\mathbf{z}_e$  from  $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}_e)$

$$\log p(y \mid z_p)$$

$$\geq E_{z_e \sim q(z_e)} [\log p_{\text{editor}}(y \mid z_p, z_e)] - KL(q(z_e) \parallel p_{\text{edit}}(z_e))$$

reconstruction\_cost

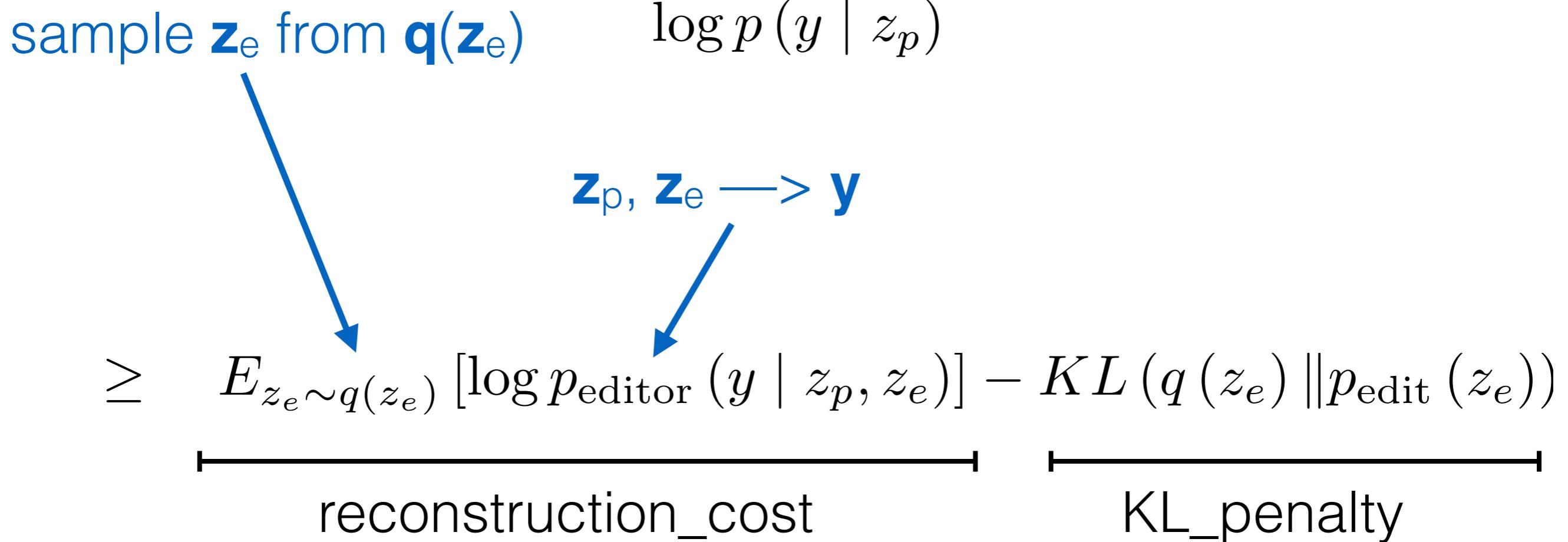
KL\_penalty

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

$\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence

$\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# ELBO on edit vectors

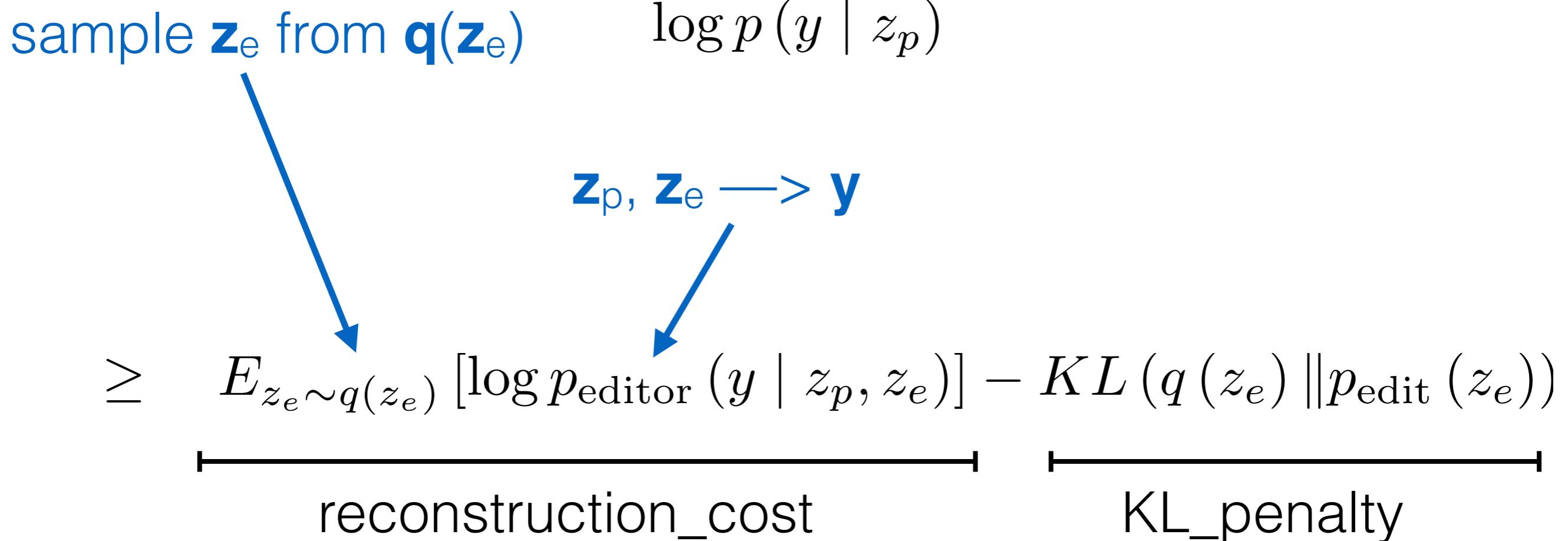


$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

$\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence

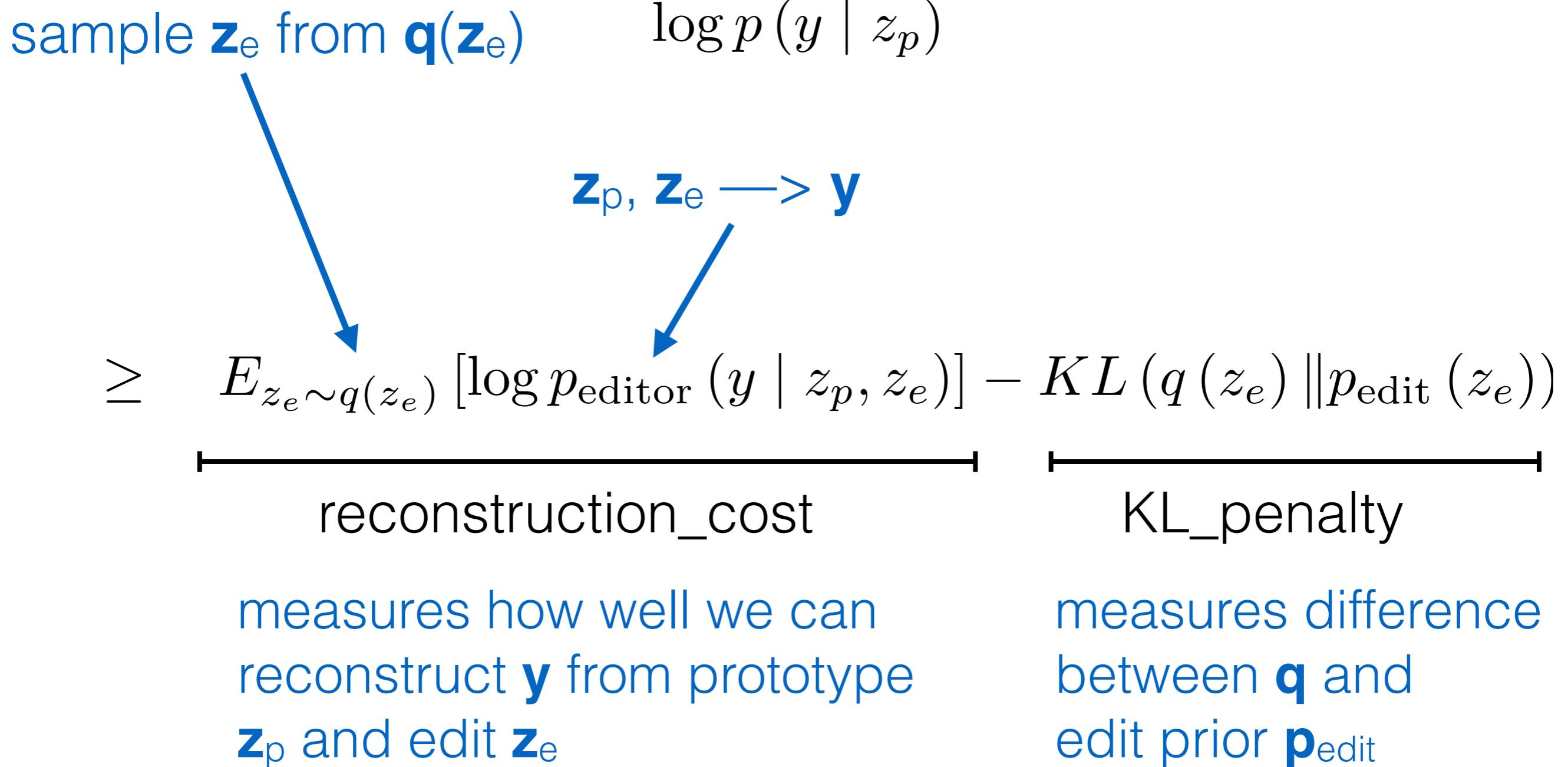
$\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# ELBO on edit vectors



measures how well we can  
reconstruct  $\mathbf{y}$  from prototype  
 $\mathbf{z}_p$  and edit  $\mathbf{z}_e$

# ELBO on edit vectors



$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

$\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence

$\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# ELBO on edit vectors

$$\log p(y \mid z_p)$$

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$$q(z_e) \approx p(z_e \mid y, z_p) ?$$

# $q(z)$ over edits

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over edits

## Question

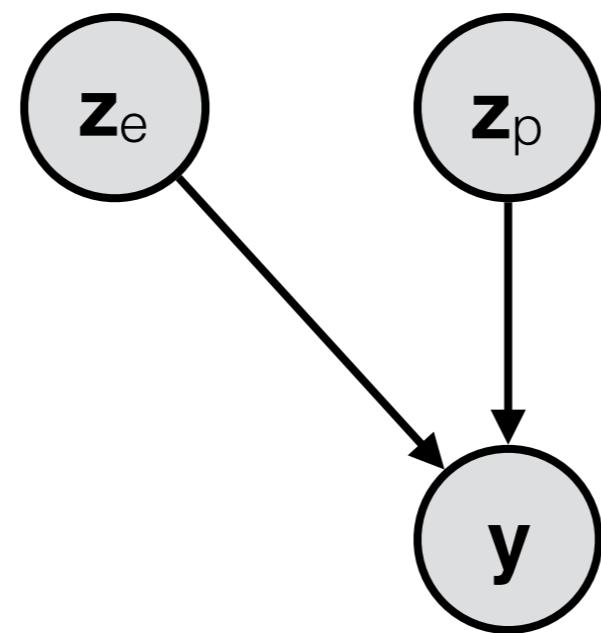
$$q(z_e) \approx p(z_e | y, z_p)$$

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# $q(z)$ over edits

## Question

$$q(z_e) \approx p(z_e | y, z_p)$$

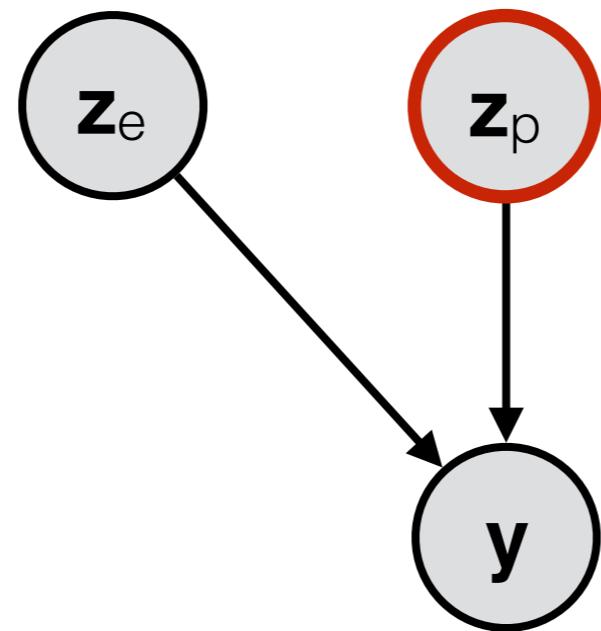


$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

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$$q(z_e) \approx p(z_e | y, z_p)$$

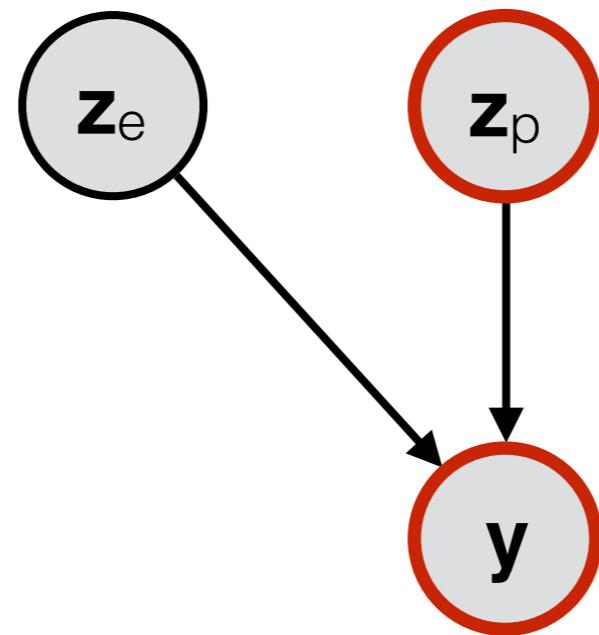


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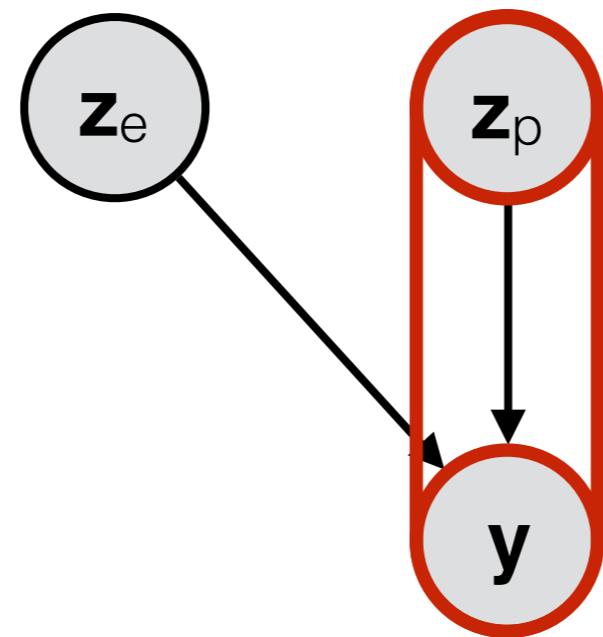


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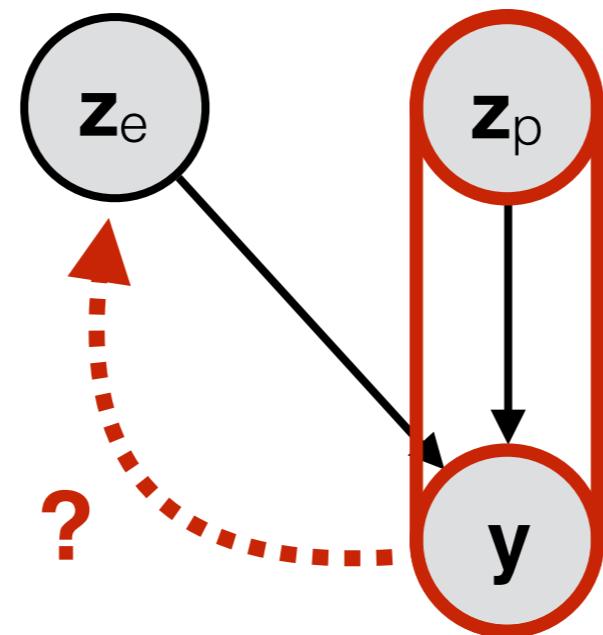


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$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

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# $q(z)$ over edits

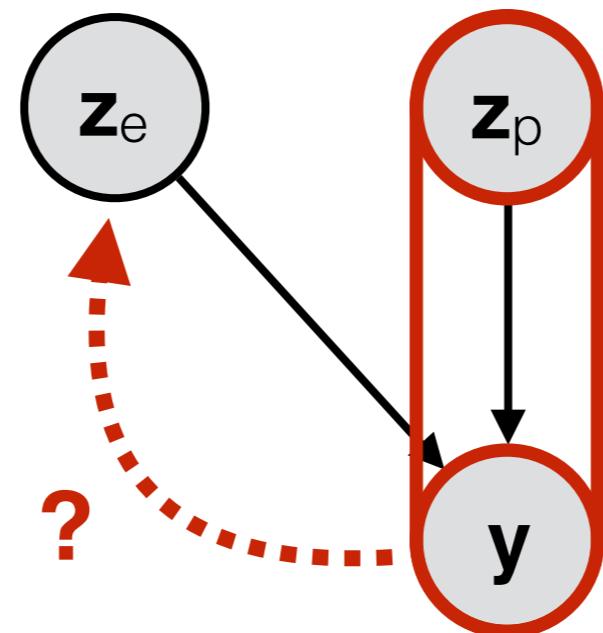
## Question

$$q(z_e) \approx p(z_e | y, z_p)$$

## Answer

Compare the two sentences.

Figure out which words were **inserted** and **deleted**.  
Then sum their word vectors.



$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence

$\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence

$\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector



## Prototype

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

## Generation

The food is mediocre and not worth the ridiculous price .

## Prototype

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

## Generation

The food is mediocre and not worth the ridiculous price .

**Identify  
words to edit**



**Insert Set**

mediocre and ridiculous

**Delete Set**

here ok but

## Prototype

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

## Generation

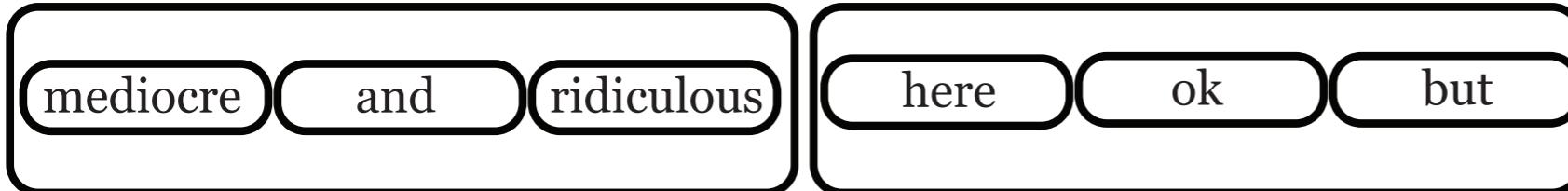
The food is mediocre and not worth the ridiculous price .

**Identify  
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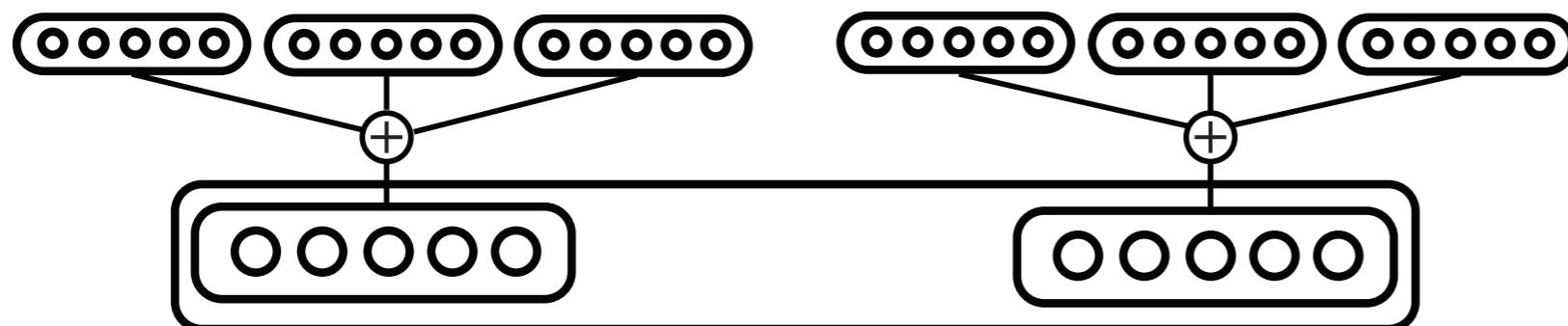


**Insert Set**

**Delete Set**



**Embed, sum, combine**



## Prototype

The food here is ok but not worth the price .

## Generation

The food is mediocre and not worth the ridiculous price .

**Identify  
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**bias towards  
interpretable edits**

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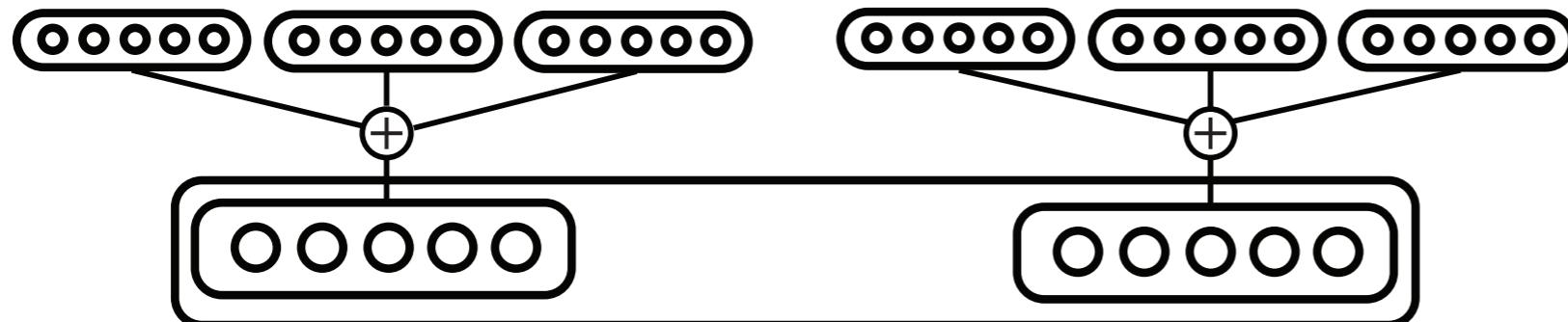
Insert Set

mediocre and ridiculous

Delete Set

here ok but

**Embed, sum, combine**



**add noise**

$\tilde{z}_e$



**bias towards  
interpretable edits**

## Prototype

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## Generation

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**Identify  
words to edit**

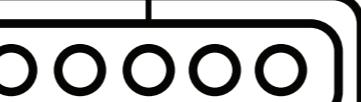
Insert Set

mediocre and ridiculous

Delete Set

here ok but

**Embed, sum, combine**



**add noise**

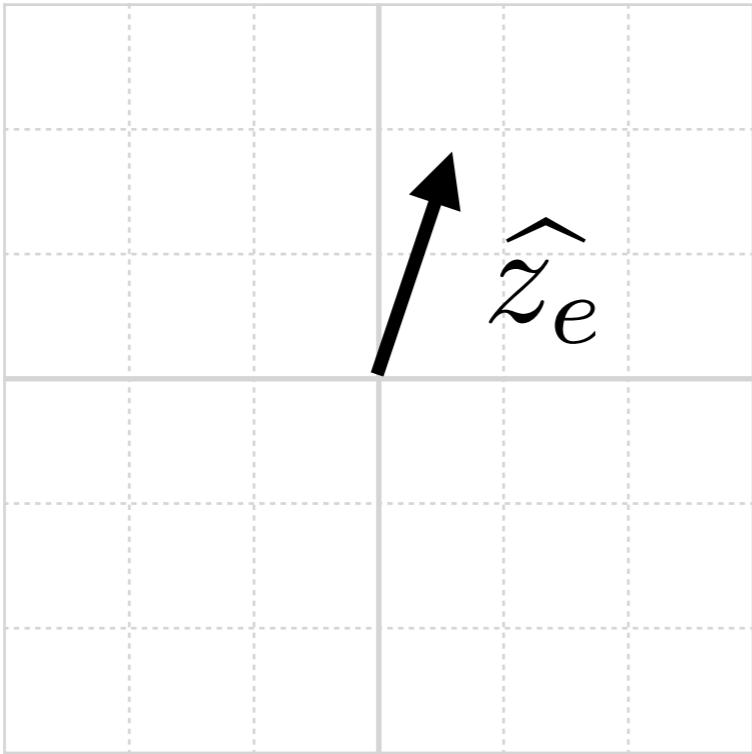
$\hat{z}_e$

$\hat{z}_e$

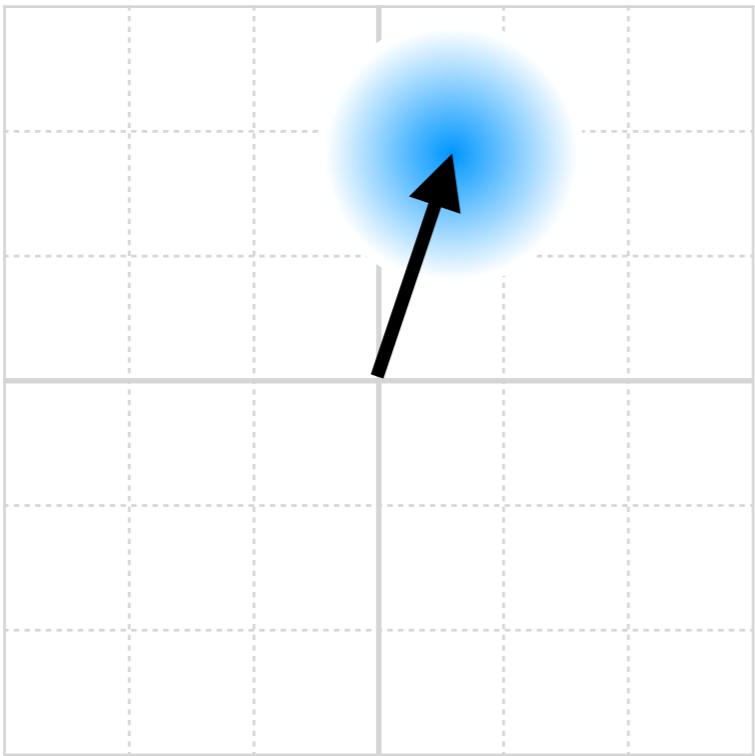


**bias towards  
interpretable edits**

# How to add noise to $\hat{z}_e$ ?

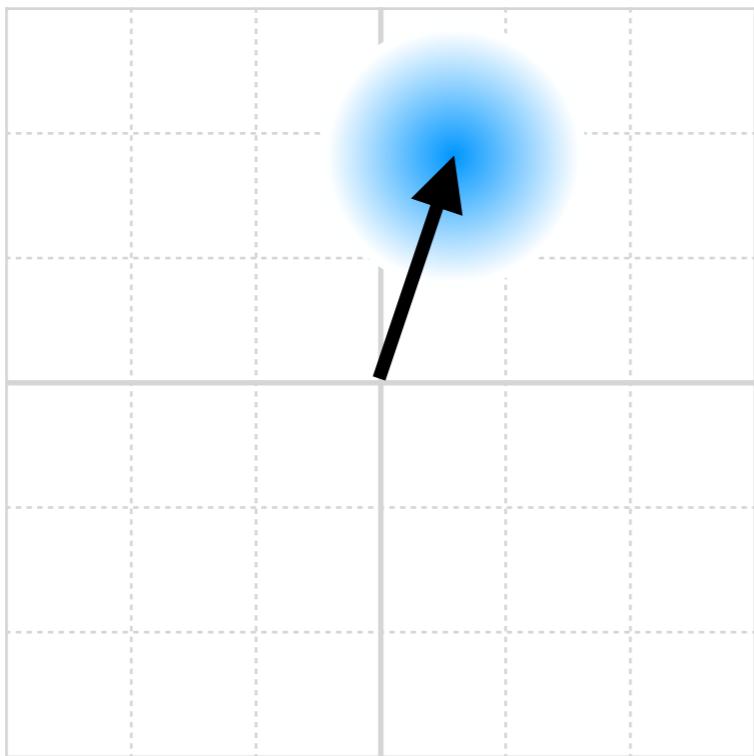


# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian

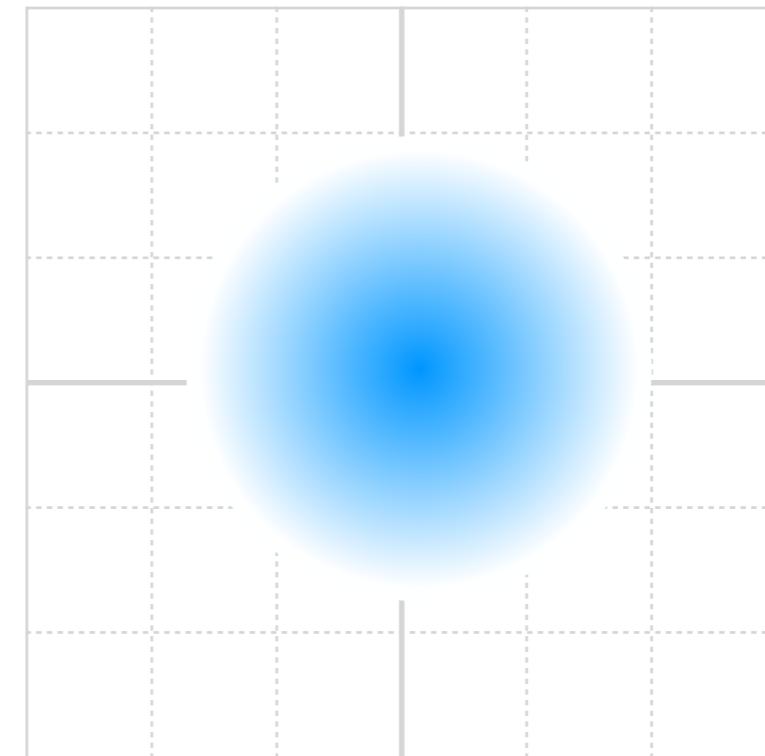


$$q(z_e)$$

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian

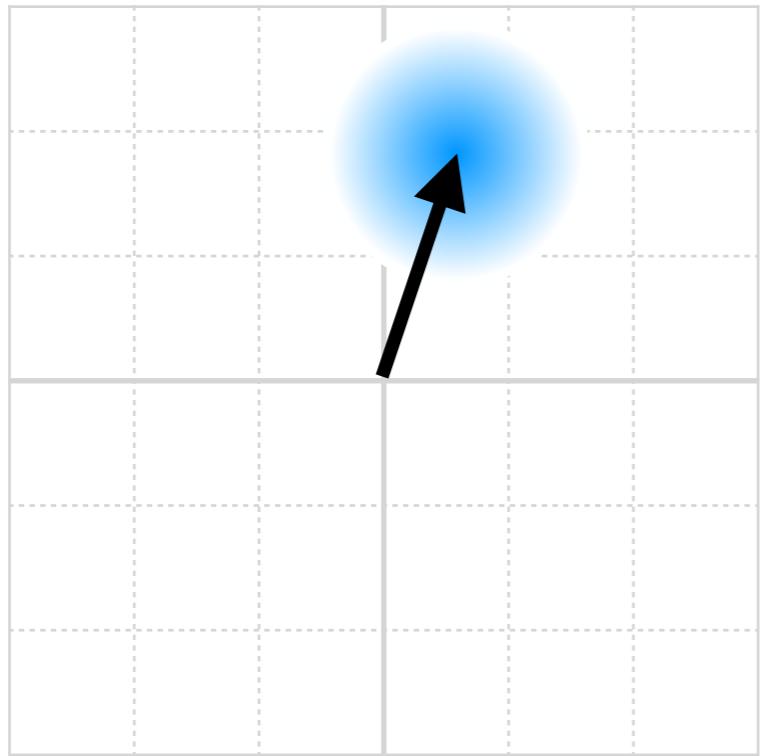


$q(z_e)$

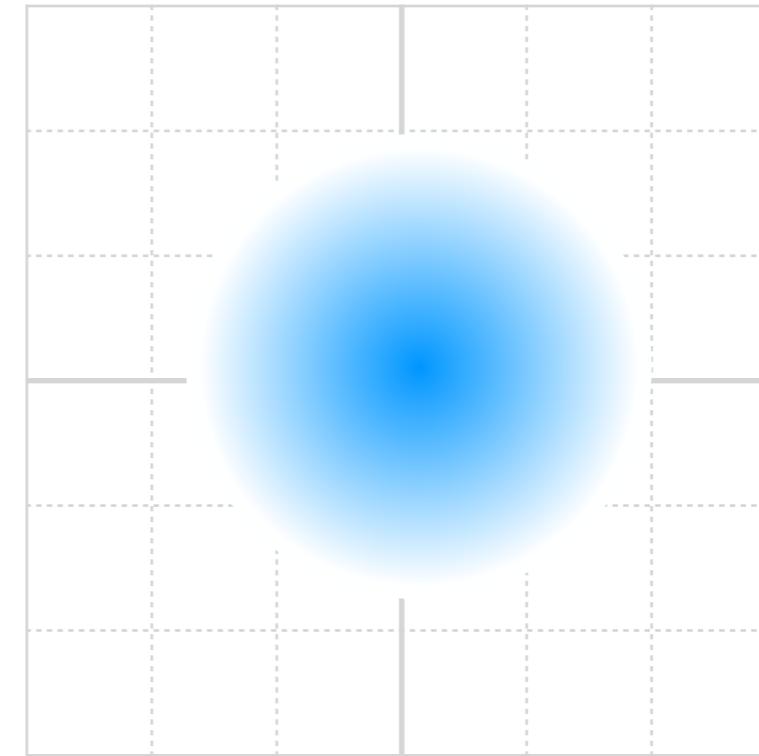


$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian



$q(z_e)$

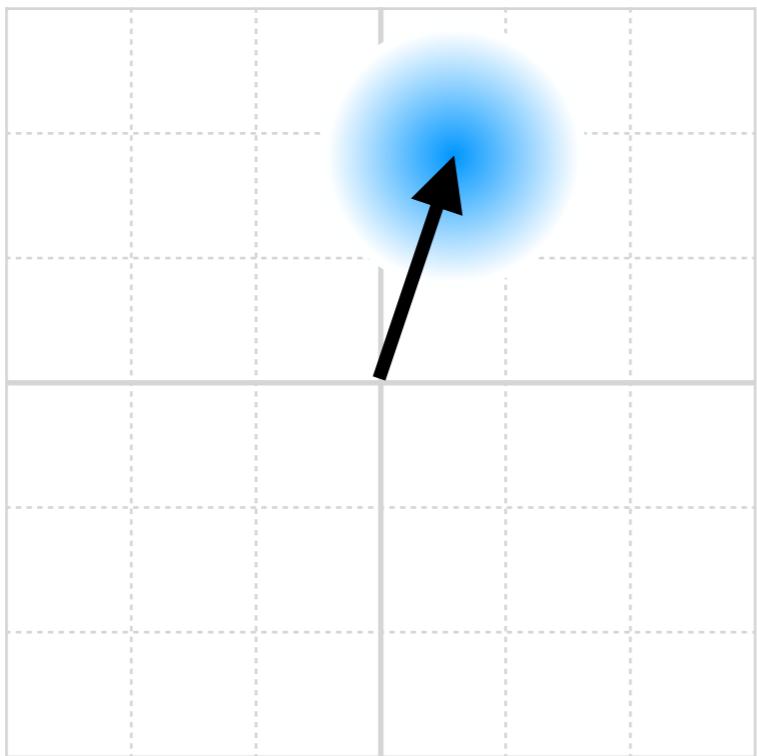


$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

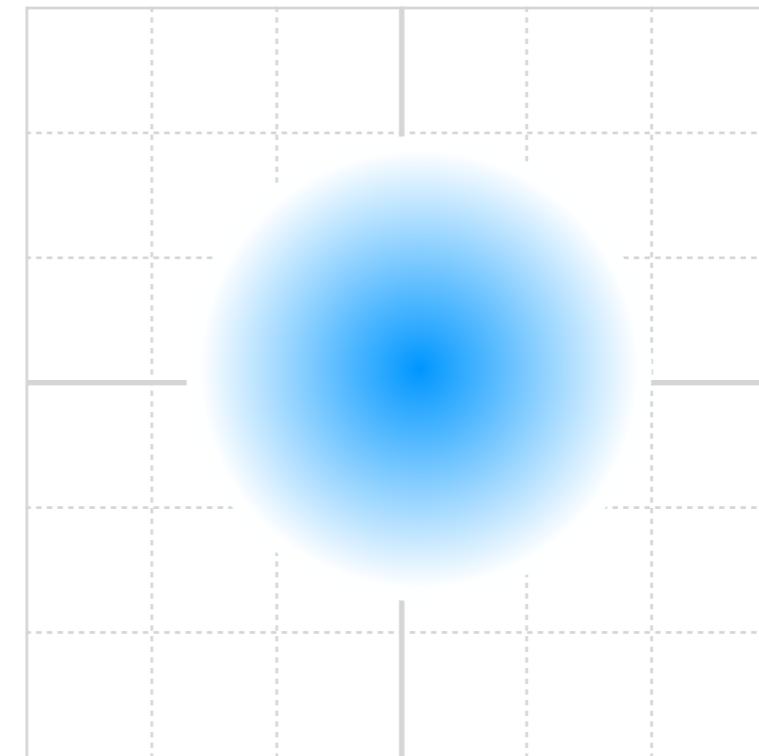


**computationally tractable**

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian



$q(z_e)$

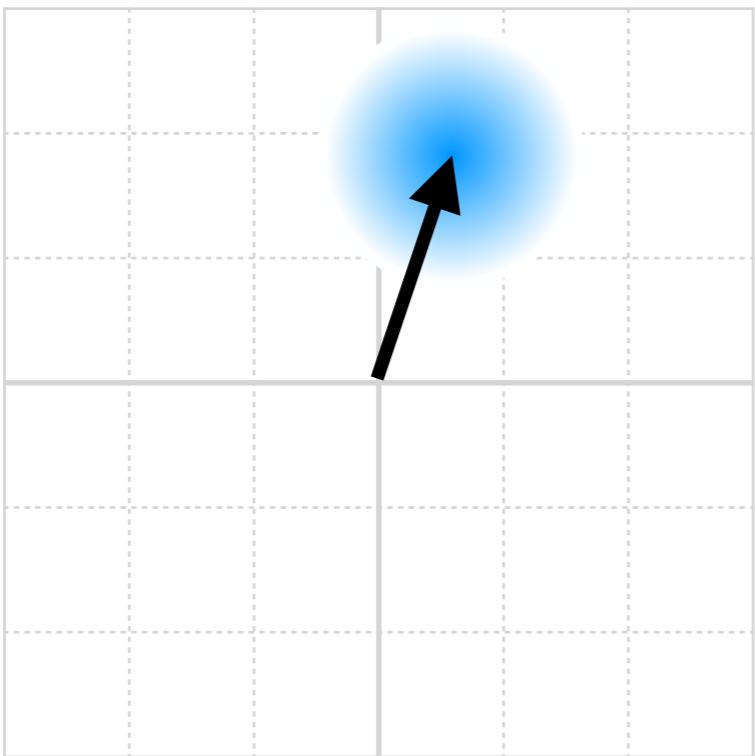


$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

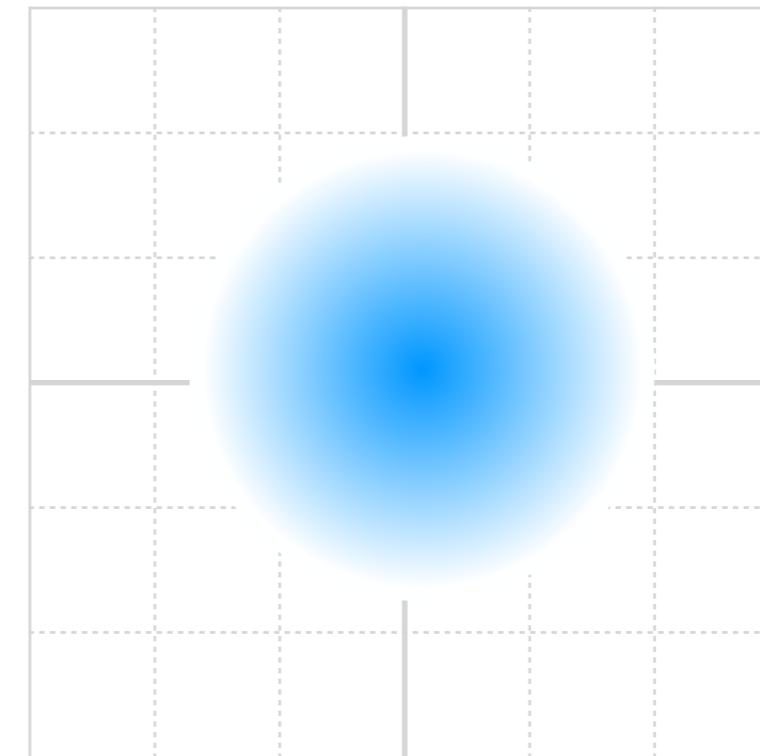
$$\text{ELBO} = \text{reconstruction\_cost} - \text{KL\_penalty}$$

✓ computationally tractable

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian



$q(z_e)$



$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

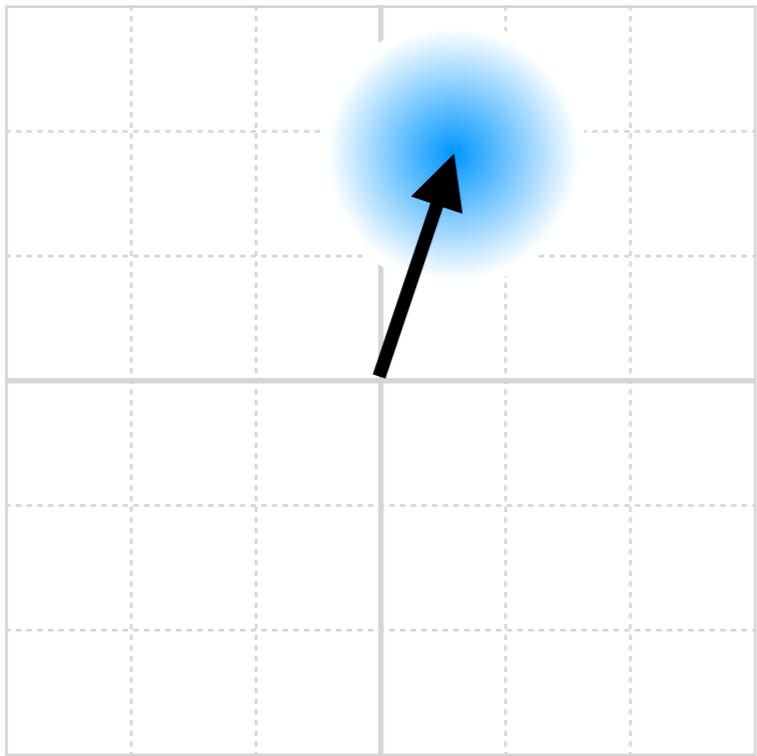
ELBO = reconstruction\_cost - KL\_penalty

**reparameterization trick (VAEs)**

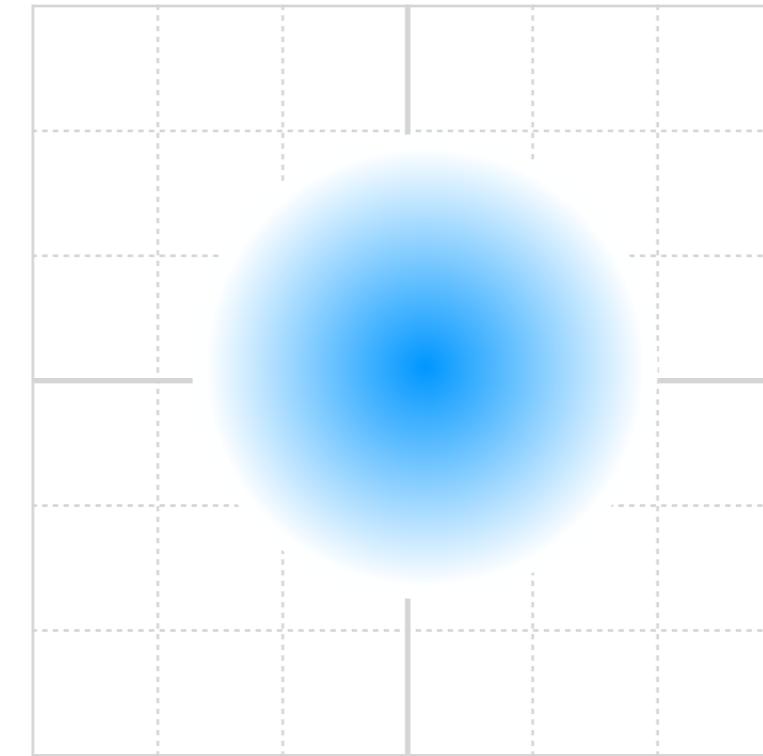


**computationally tractable**

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian



$q(z_e)$



$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

$$\text{ELBO} = \text{reconstruction\_cost} - \text{KL\_penalty}$$

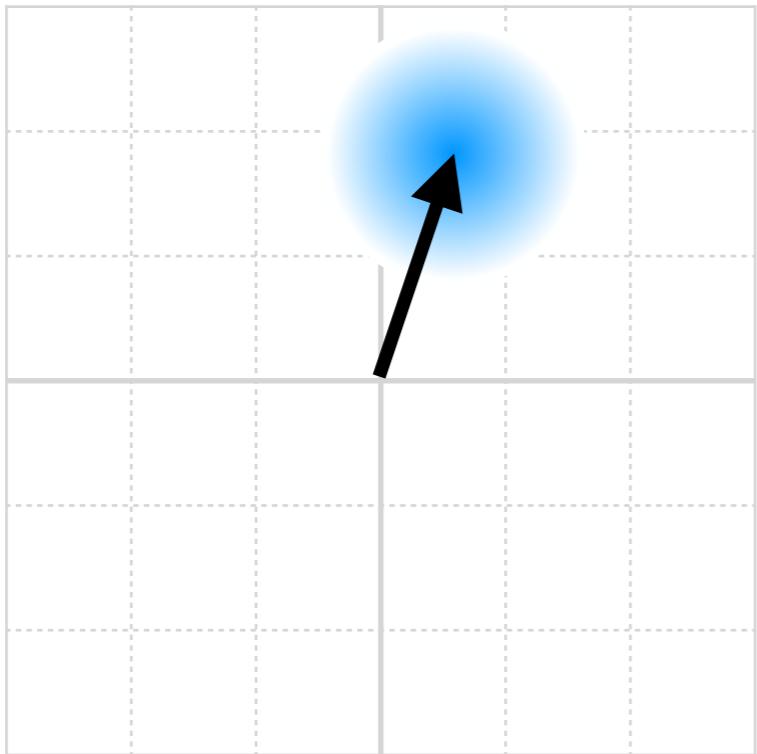
**reparameterization trick (VAEs)**

(low-variance MC estimate of gradient)

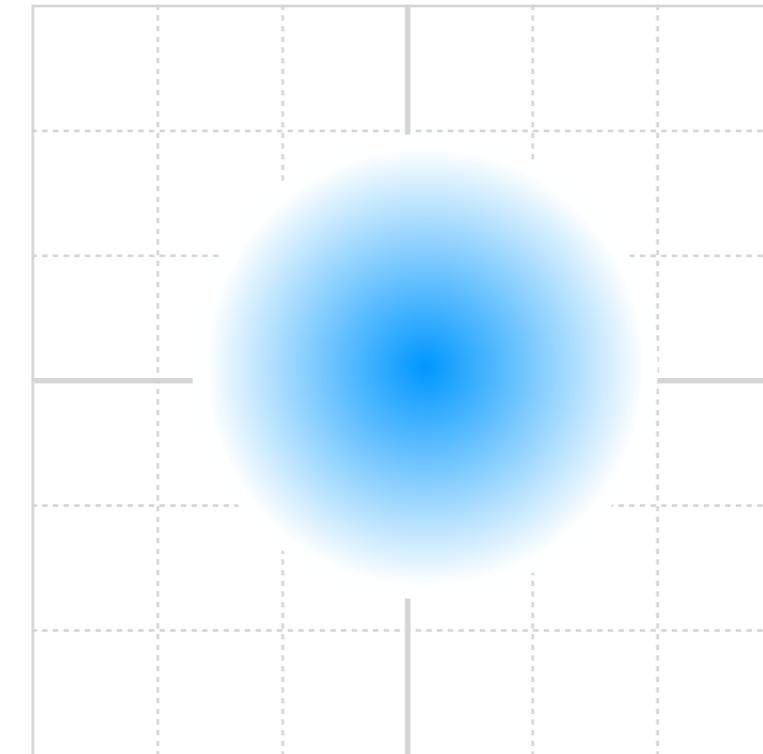


**computationally tractable**

# Standard choice (VAE): Gaussian



$q(z_e)$



$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$

$$\text{ELBO} = \text{reconstruction\_cost} - \text{KL\_penalty}$$

**reparameterization trick (VAEs)**

(low-variance MC estimate of gradient)

**closed form**

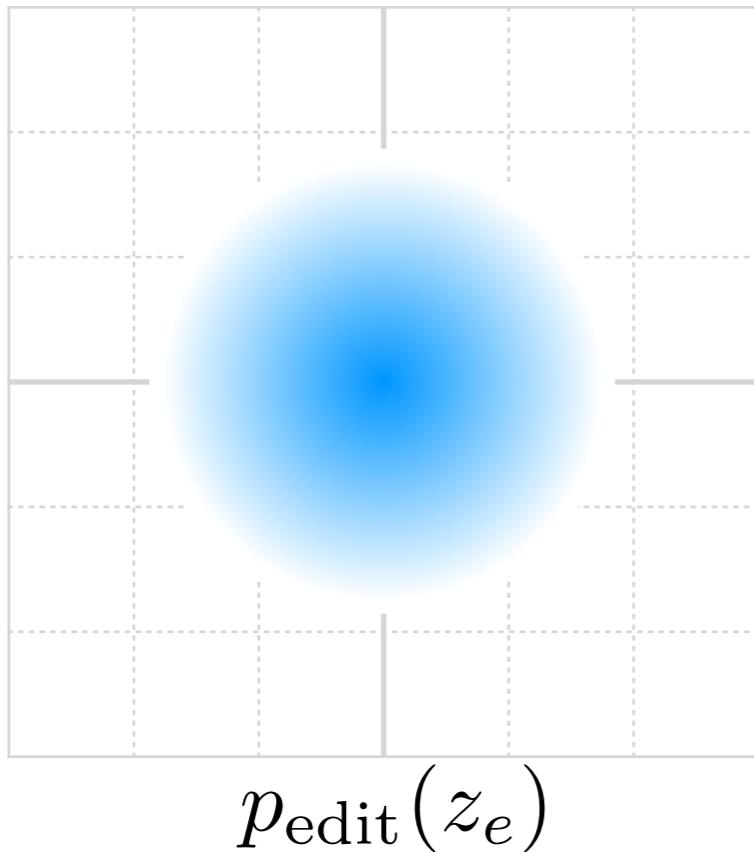


**computationally tractable**

# The problem with a Gaussian prior

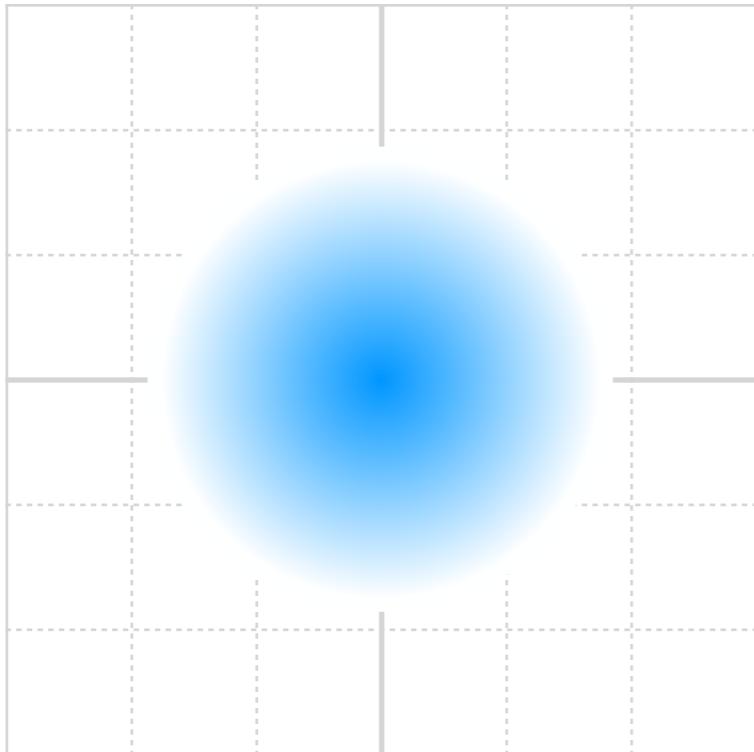
# The problem with a Gaussian prior

low-dim Gaussian



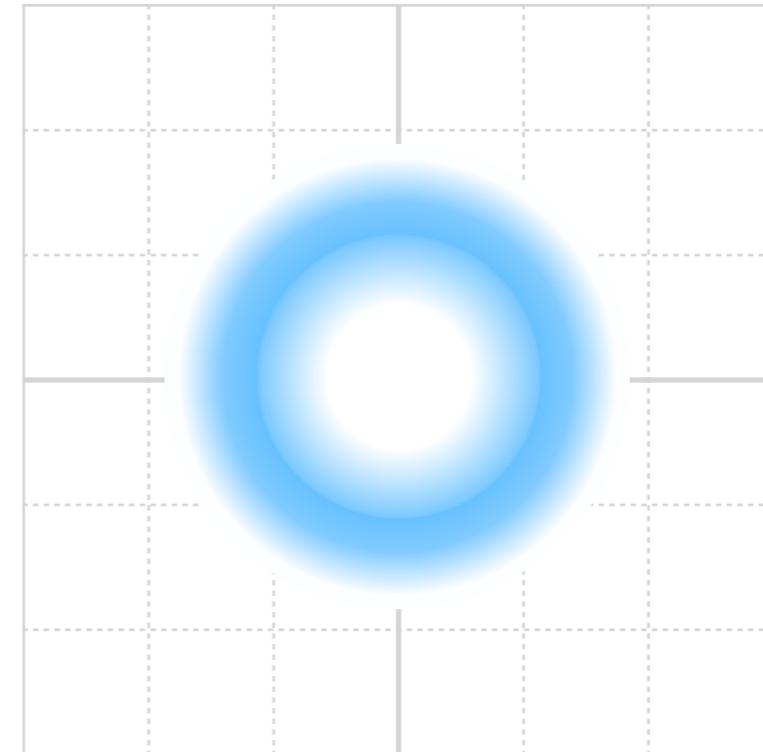
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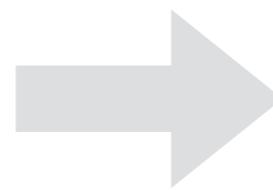


$$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$$

high-dim Gaussian

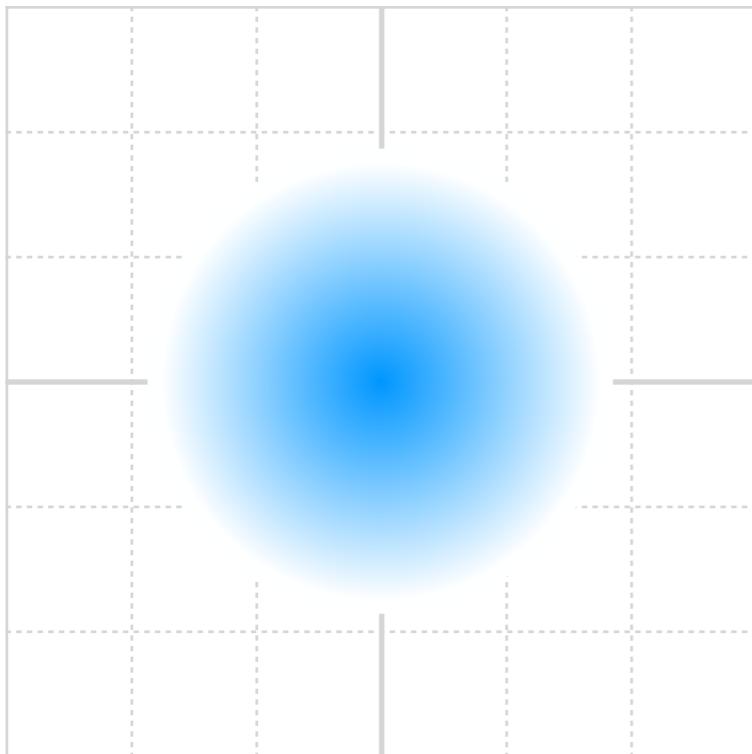


$$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$$



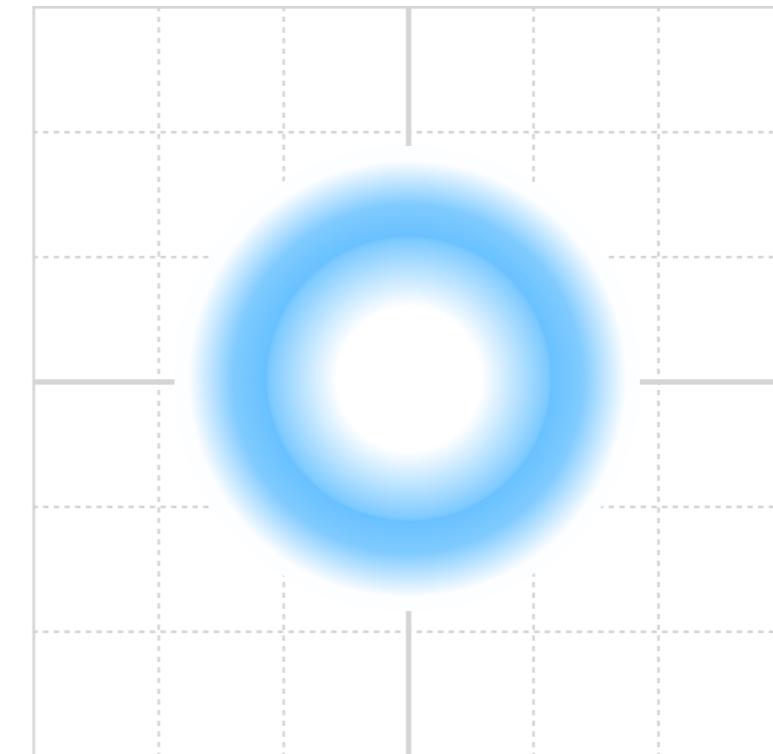
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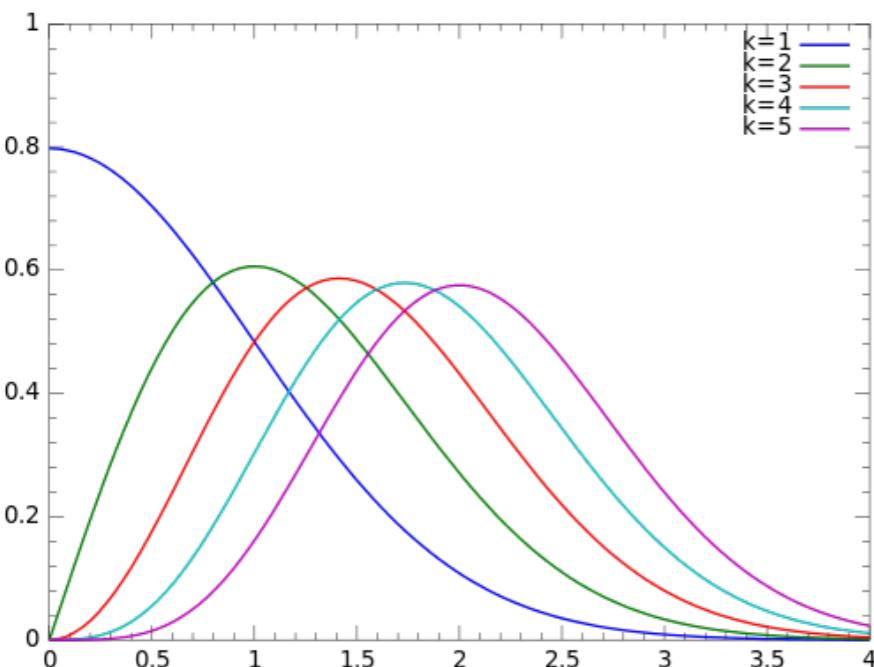


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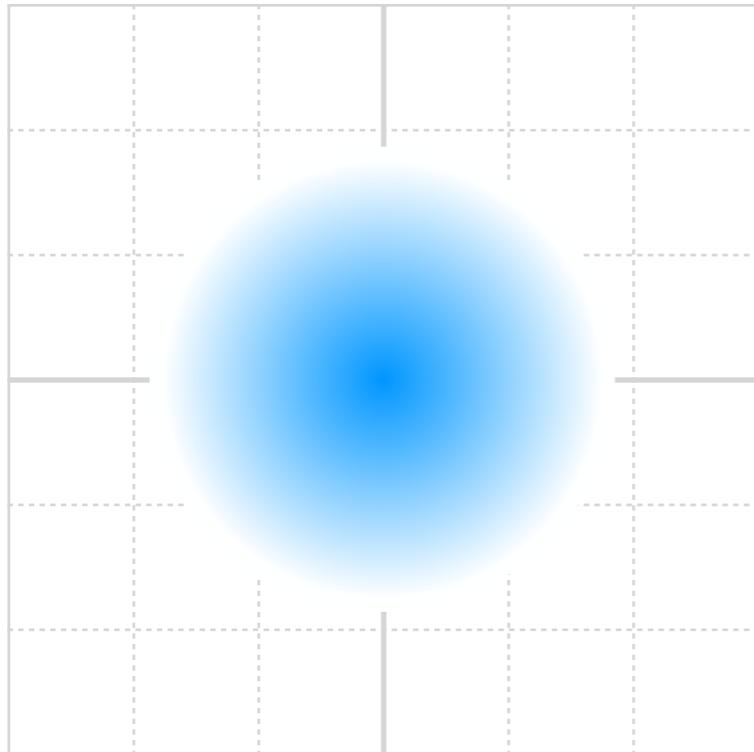


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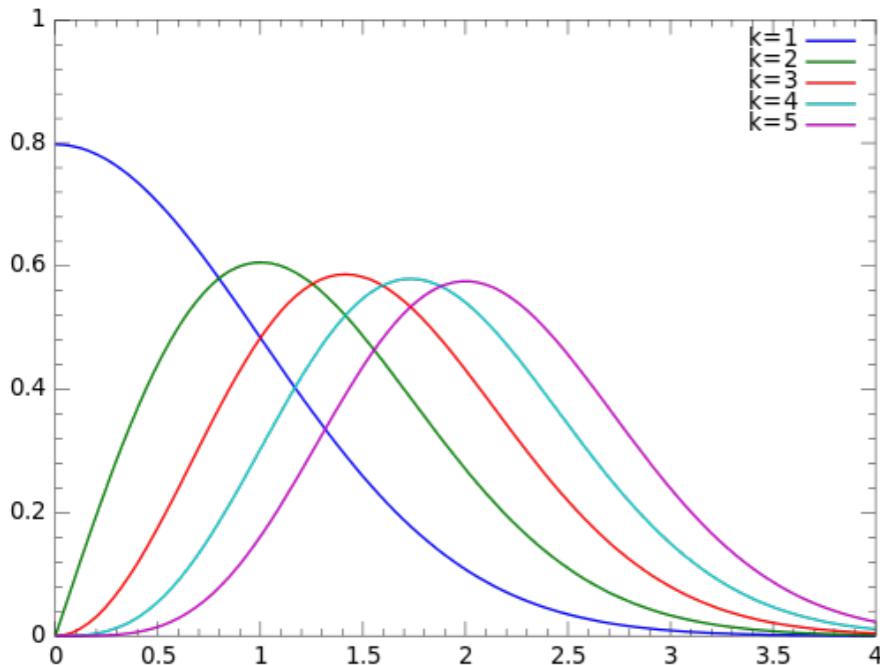


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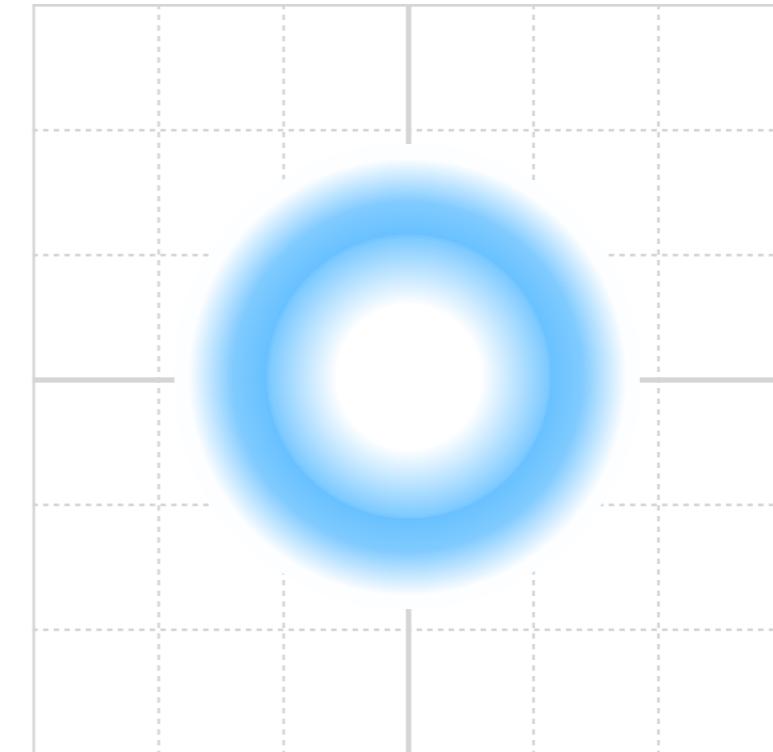
low-dim Gaussian



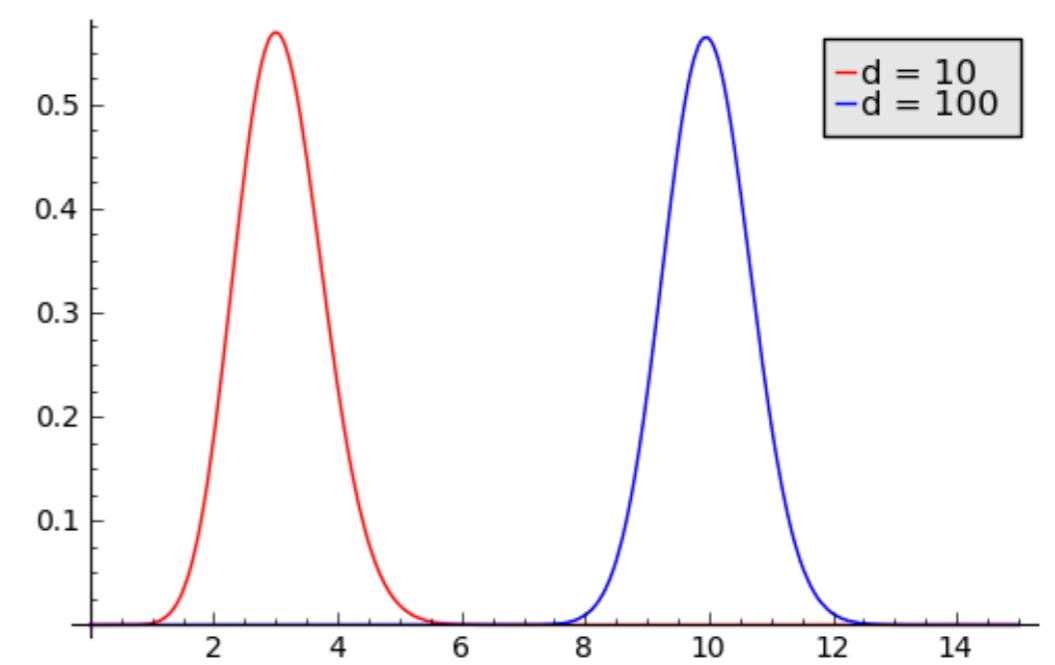
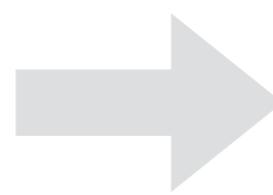
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high-dim Gaussian



$$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$$



# Better edit prior

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

# Better edit prior

$\text{mag} \sim \text{Unif}[0, 10]$

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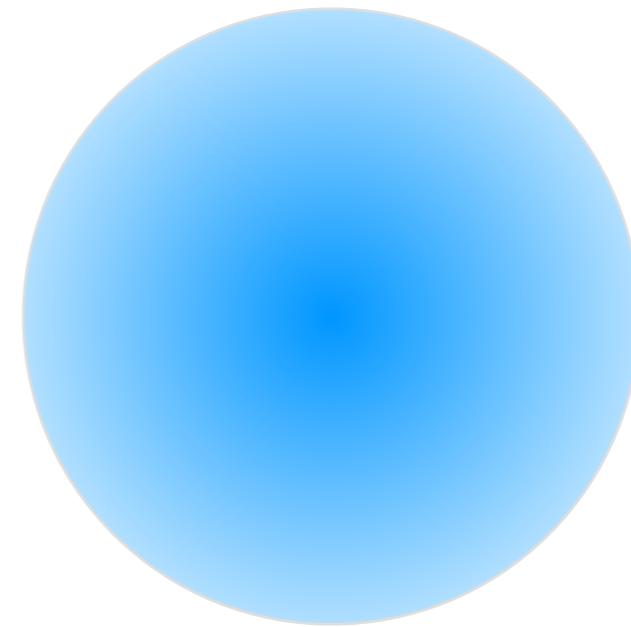
$\text{dir} \sim \text{unif. over sphere}$

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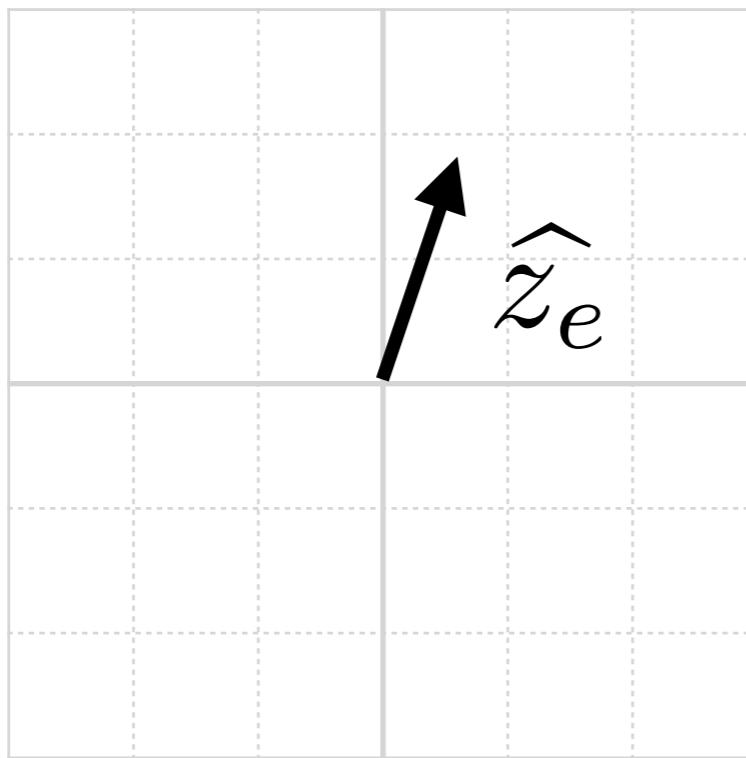
$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$



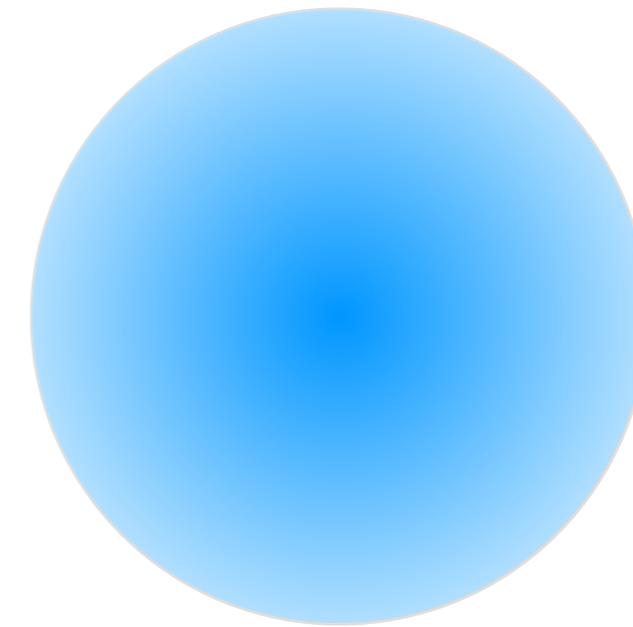
# Better edit prior

$q(z_e) ?$

mag  $\sim \text{Unif}[0, 10]$   
dir  $\sim \text{unif. over sphere}$



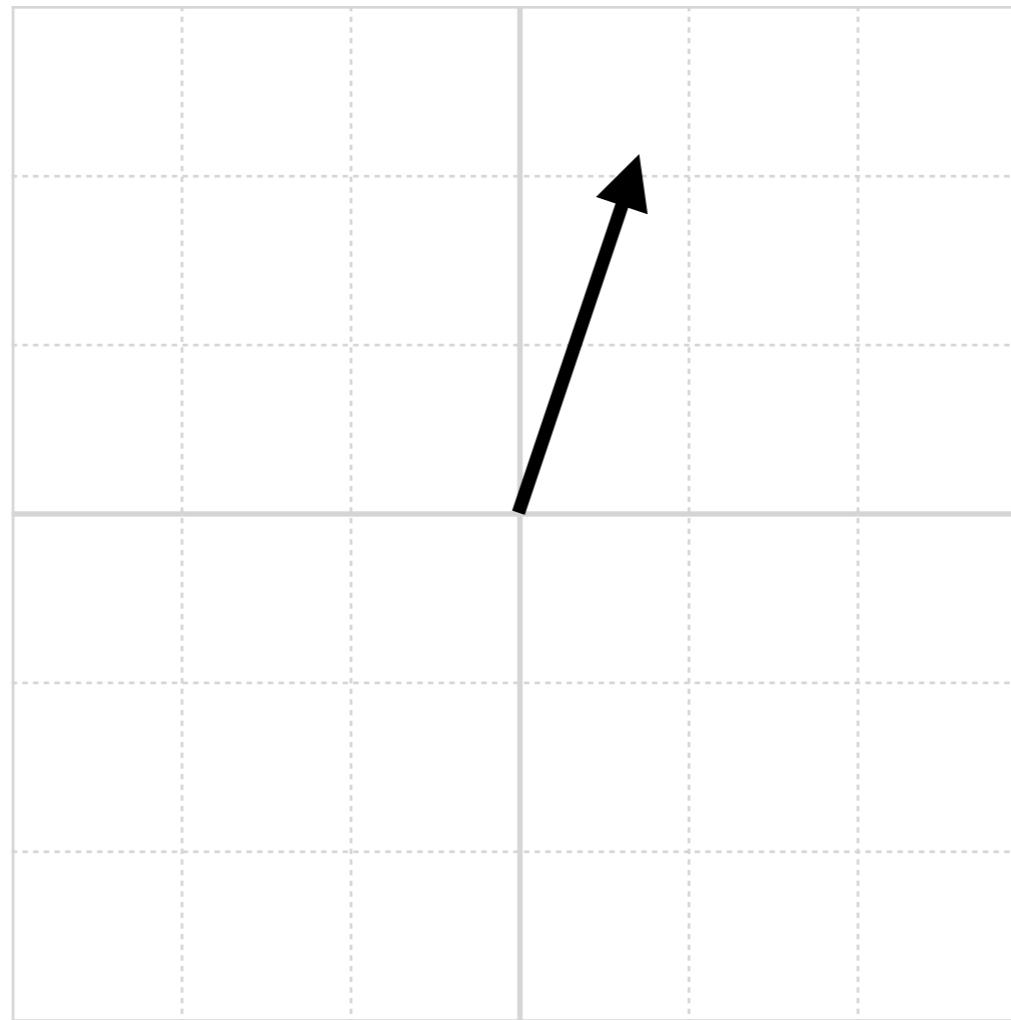
$p_{\text{edit}}(z_e)$



$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

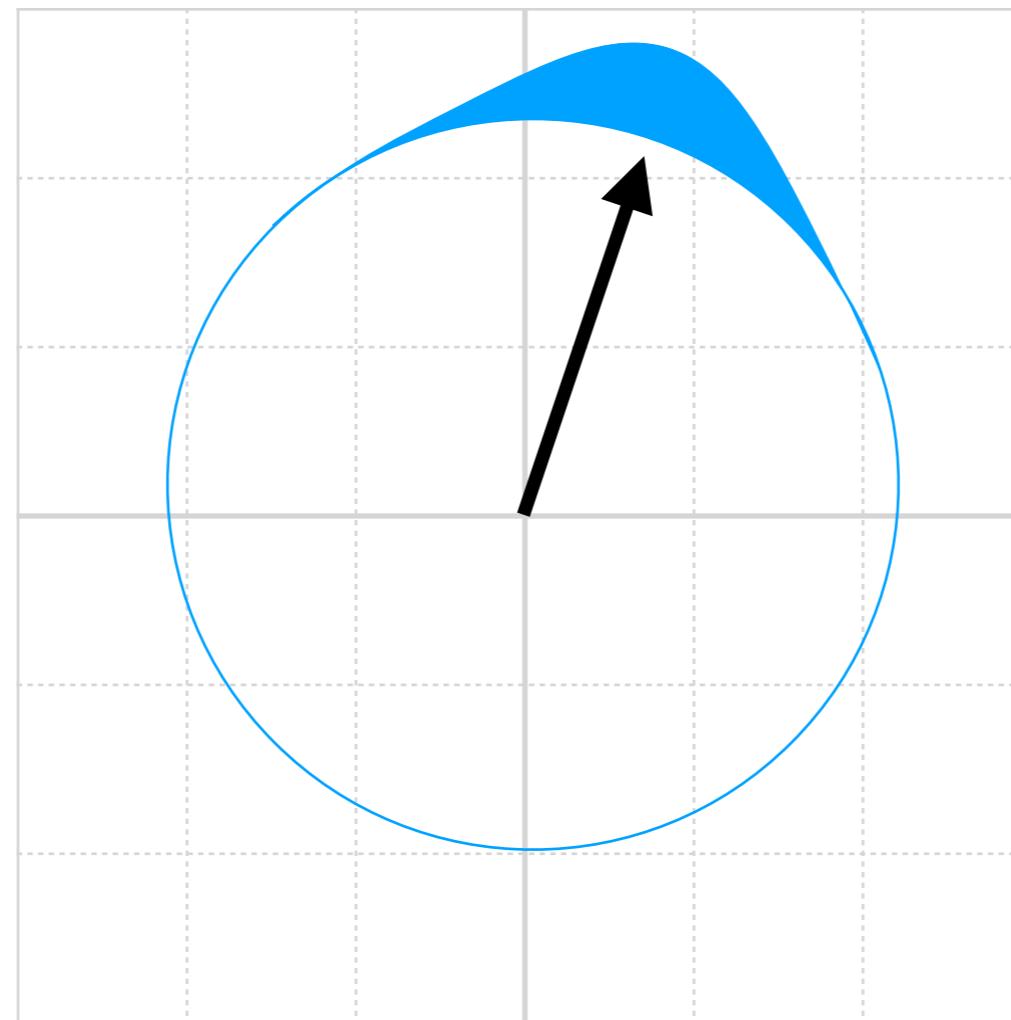
# How to add noise to $\hat{z}_e$ ?

$$\hat{z}_e$$



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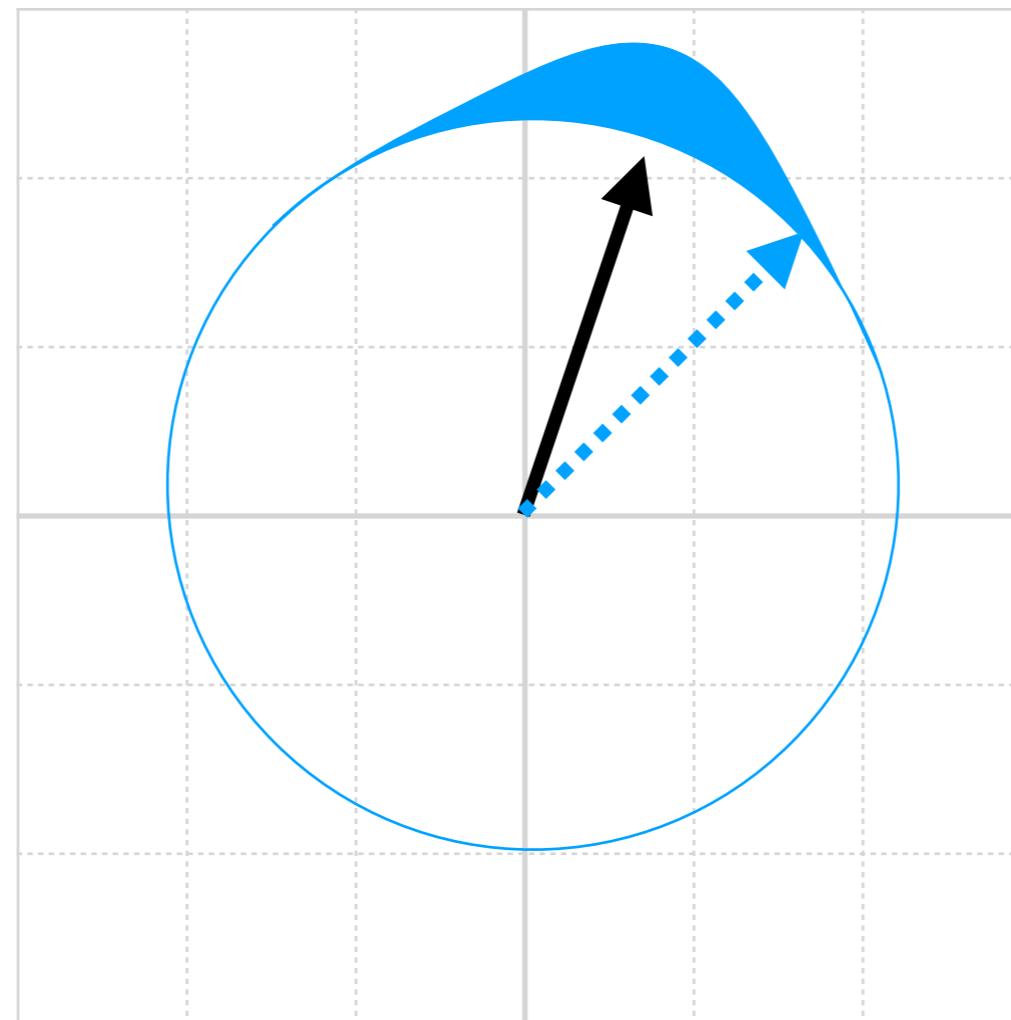
$\hat{z}_e$



random rotation  
von Mises-Fisher  
distribution

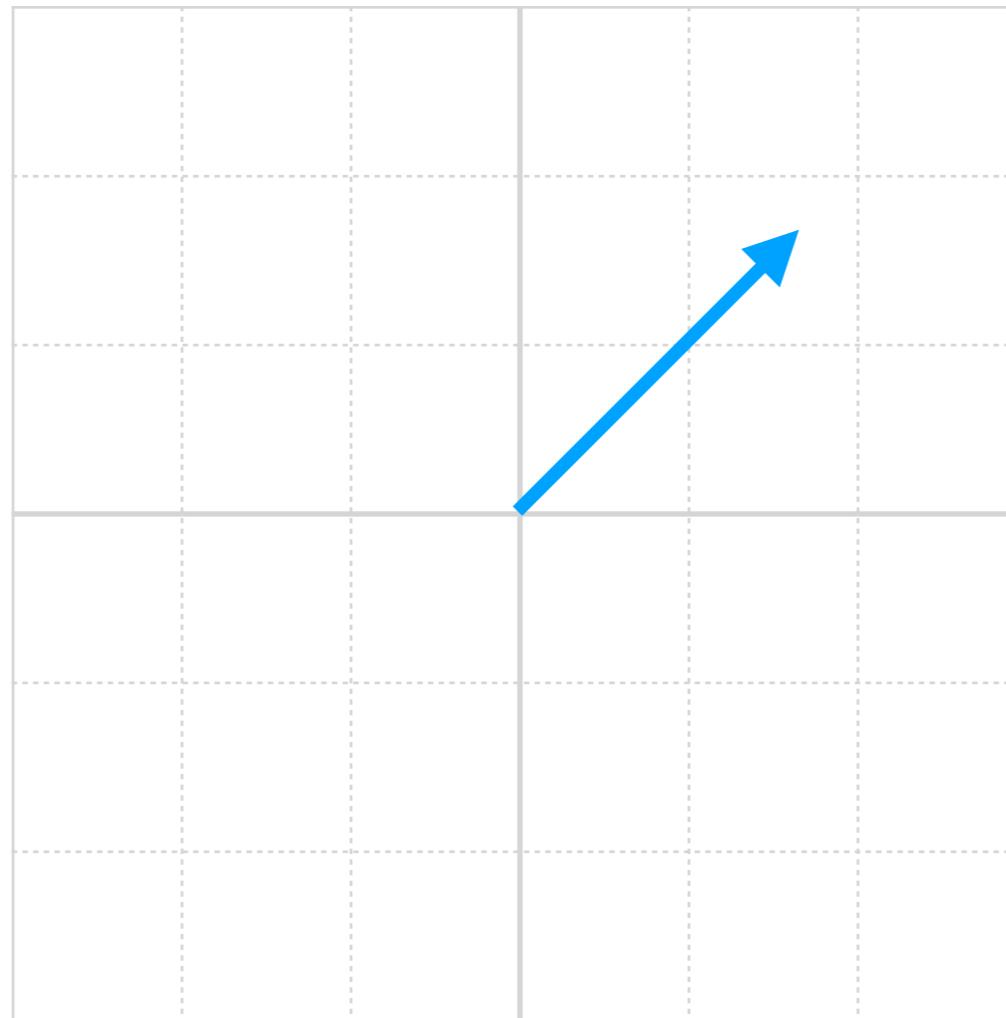
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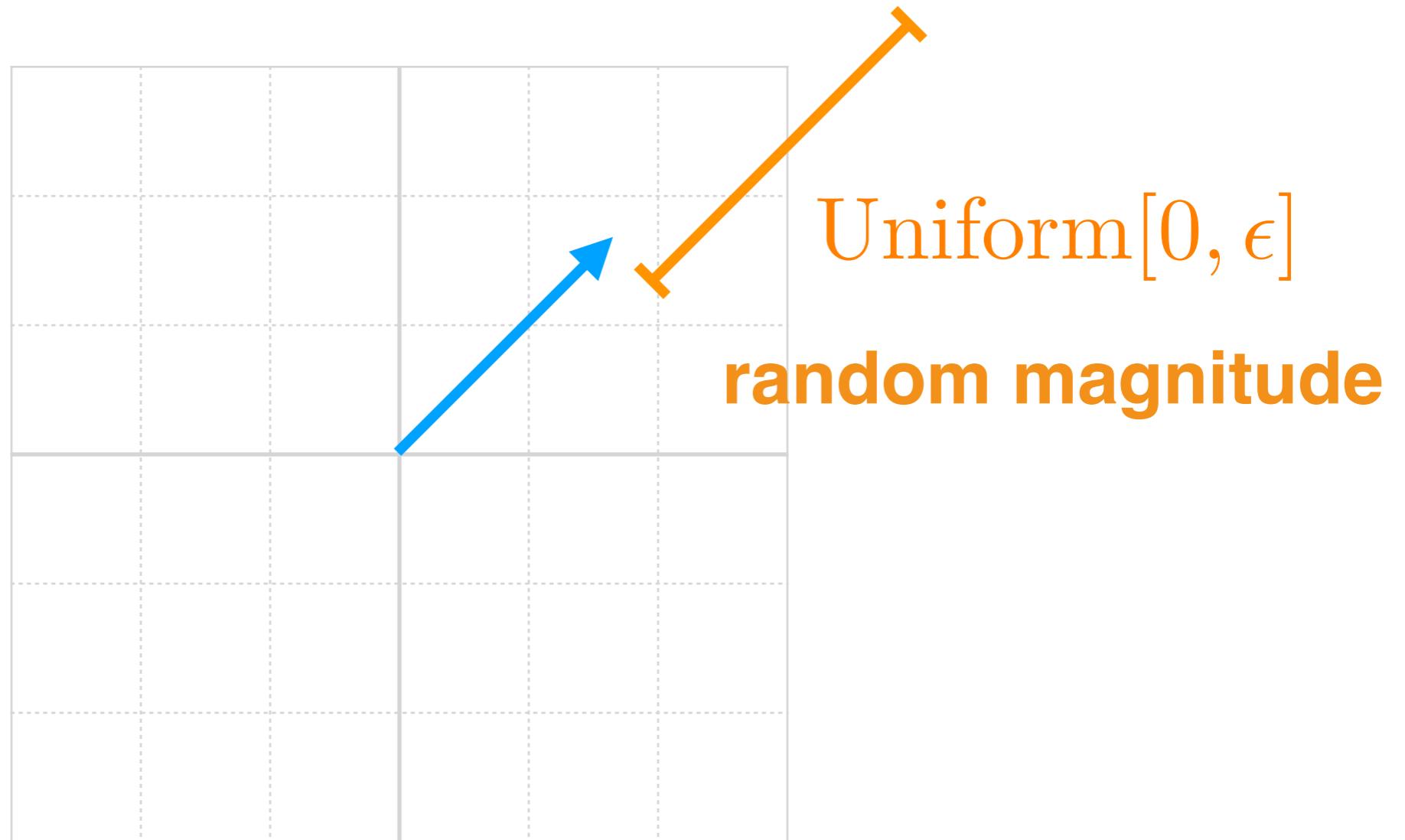


**random rotation**  
von Mises-Fisher  
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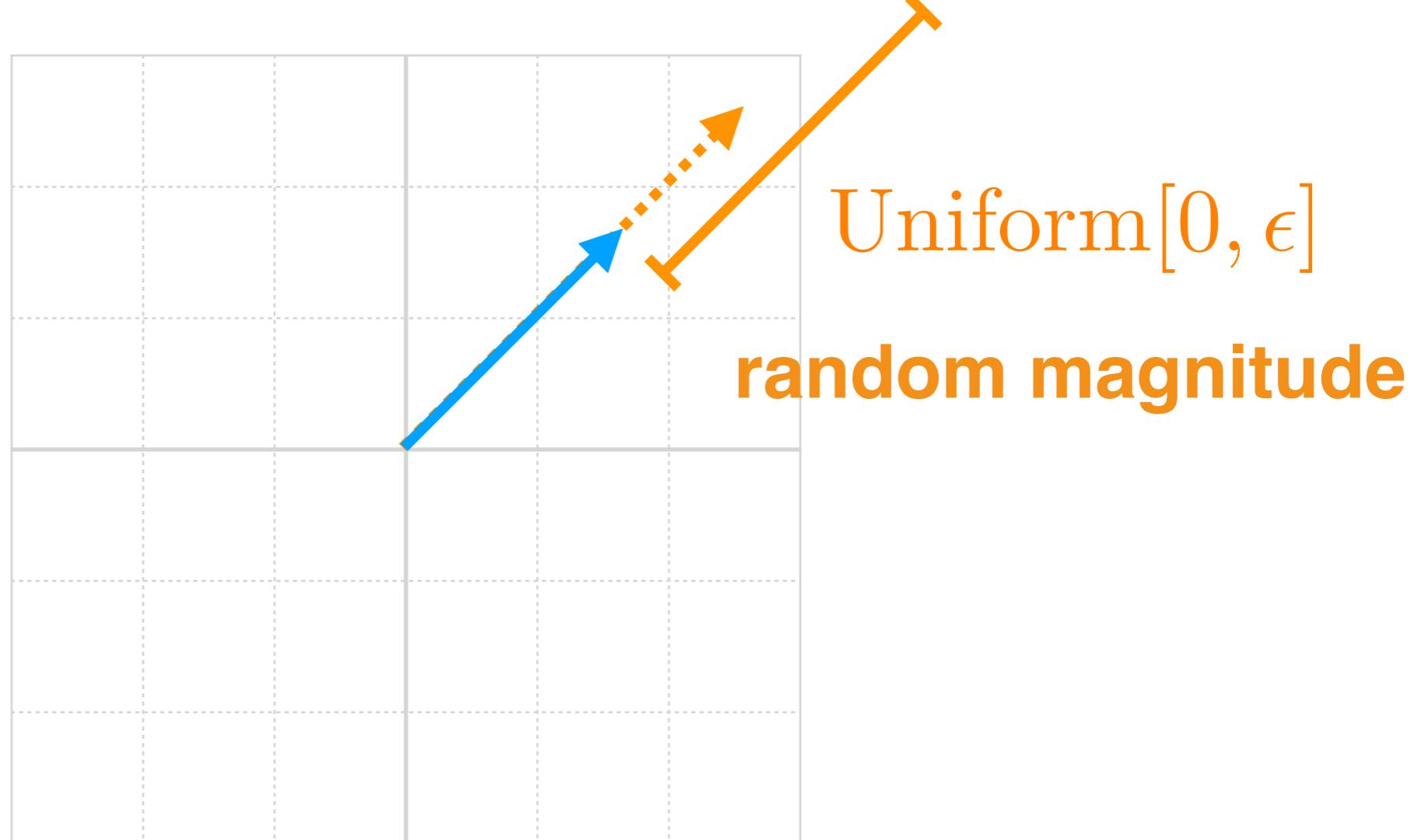
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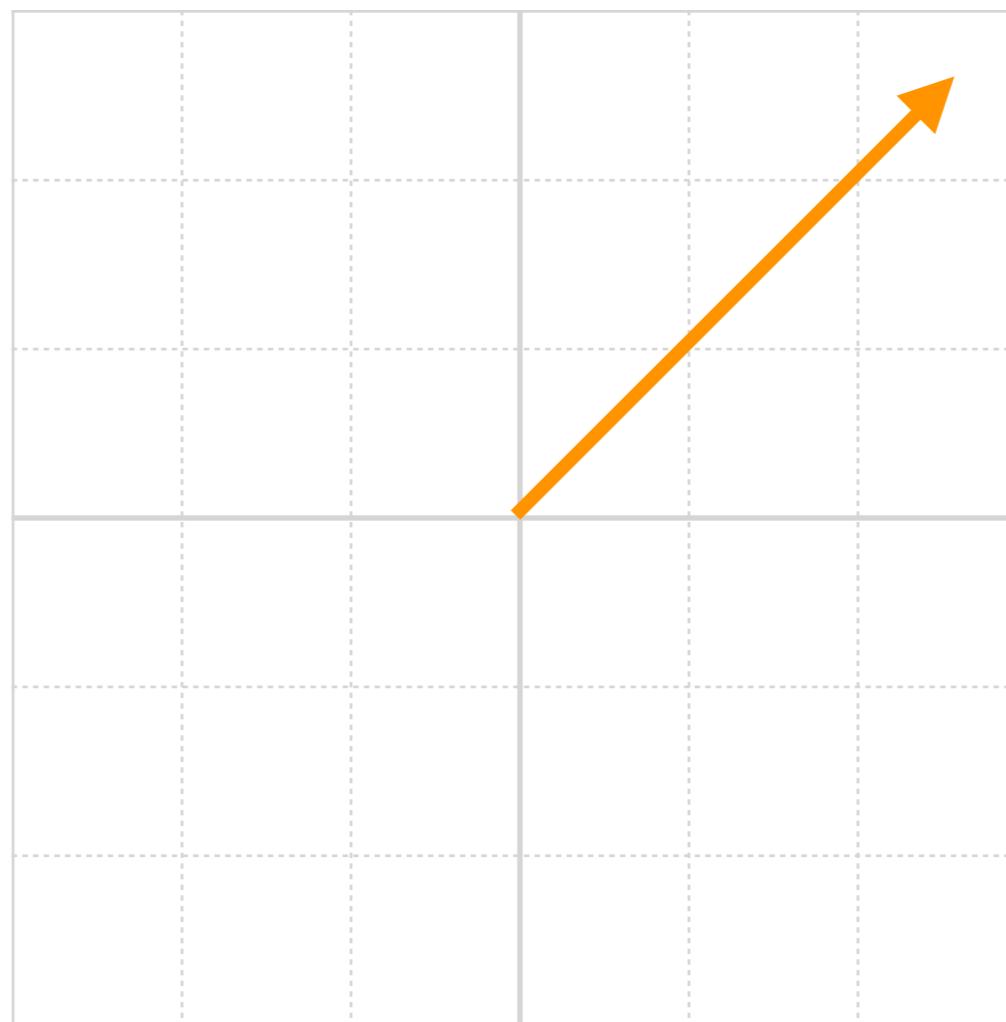


# How to add noise to $\hat{z}_e$ ?



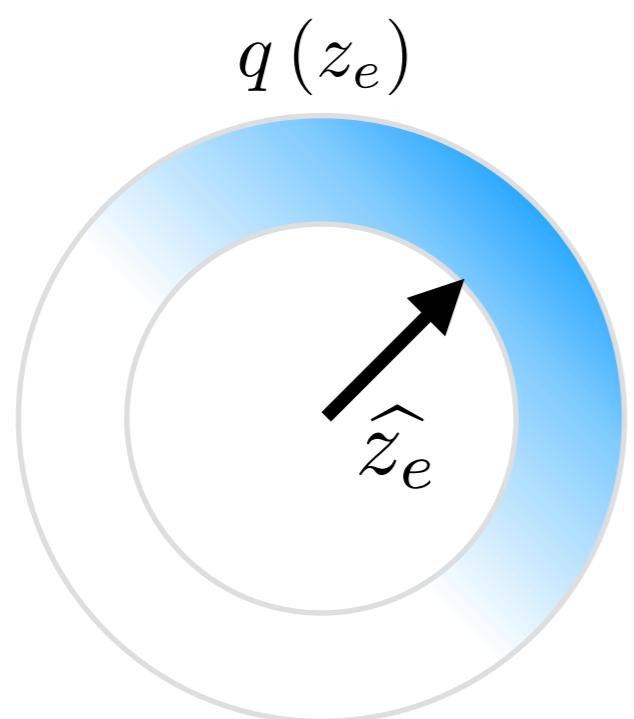
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$z_e$

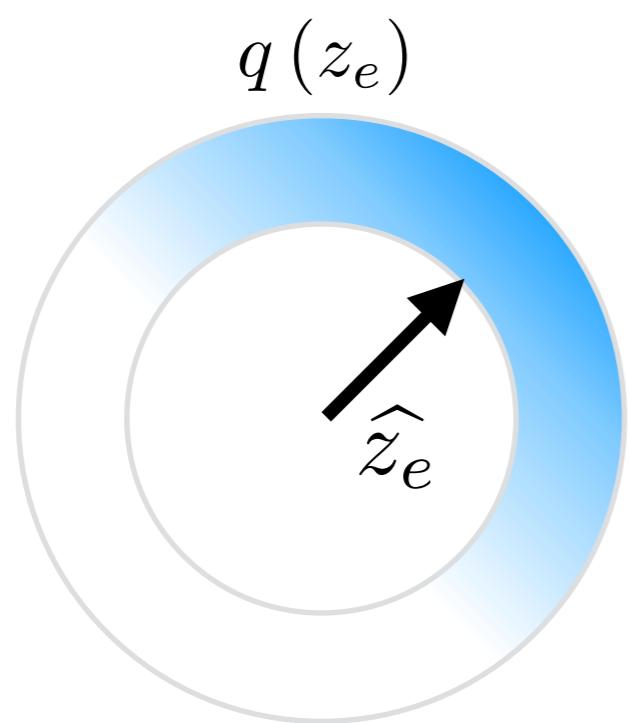


$q(z)$  over edits

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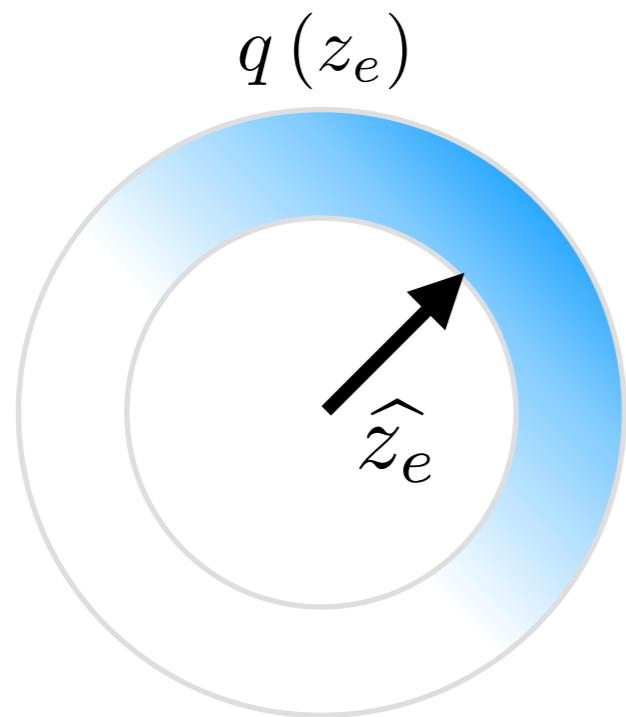


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$$\text{dir} \sim \text{vMF}\left(\hat{\text{dir}}, \kappa\right)$$

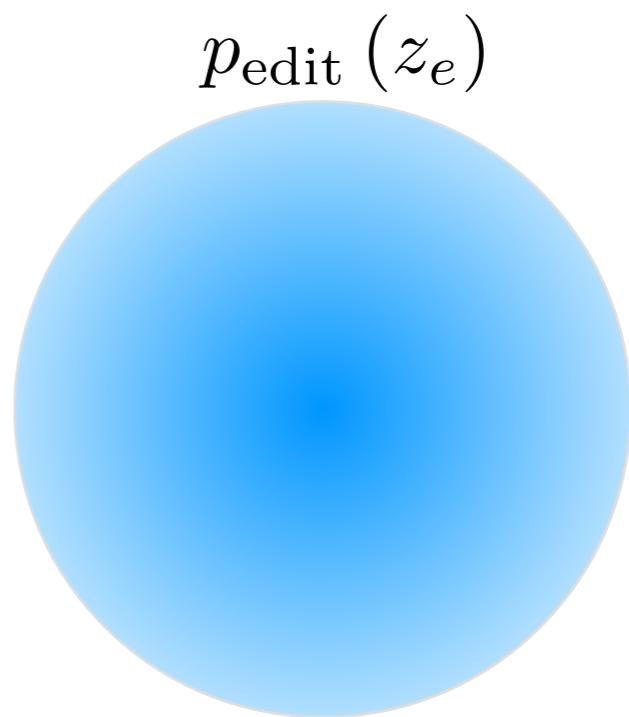
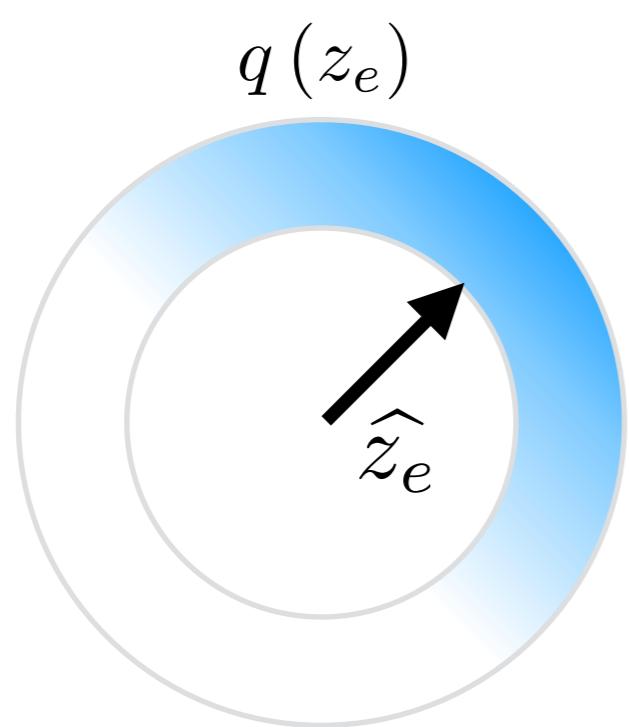
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$$\text{mag} \sim \text{Unif} [\hat{\text{mag}}, \hat{\text{mag}} + \epsilon]$$

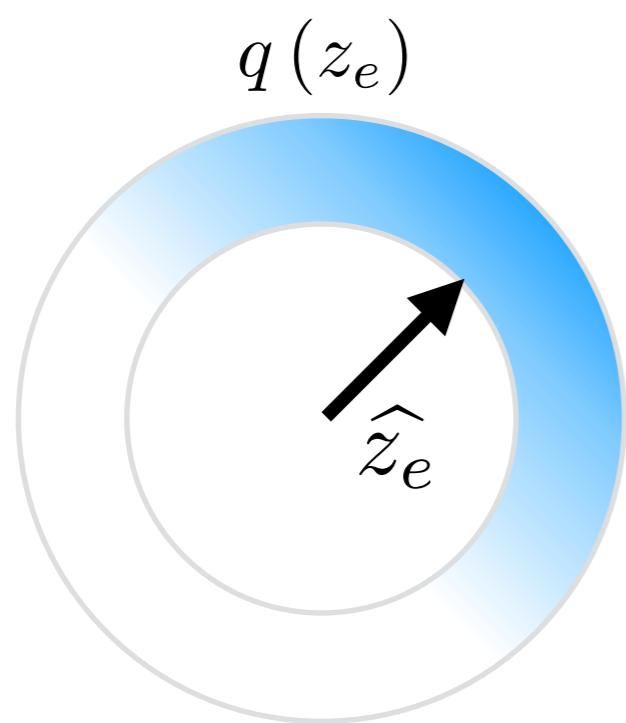
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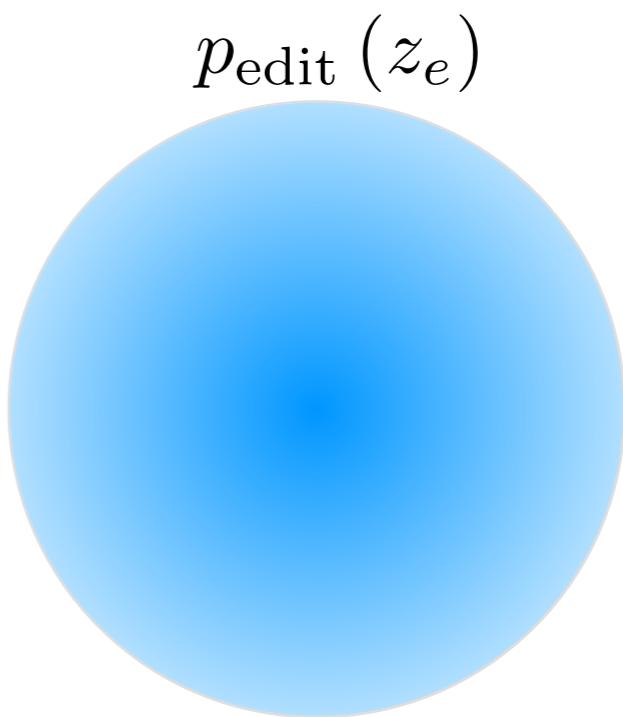
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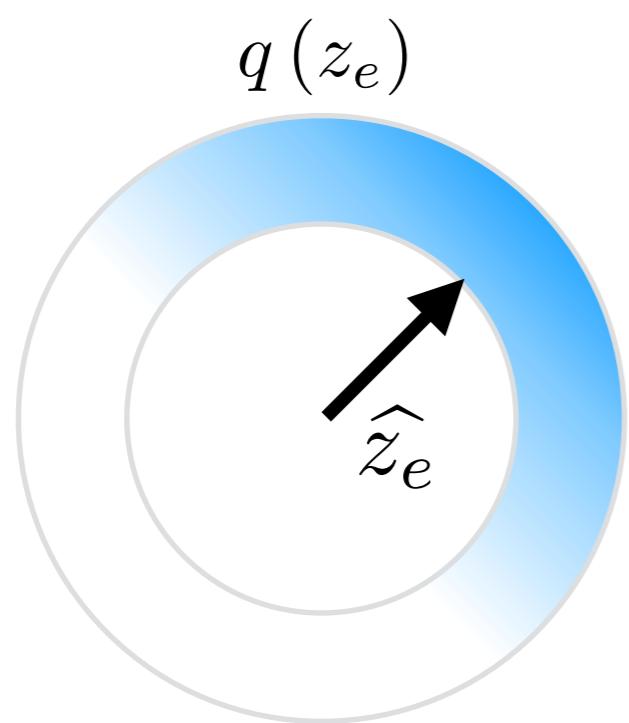
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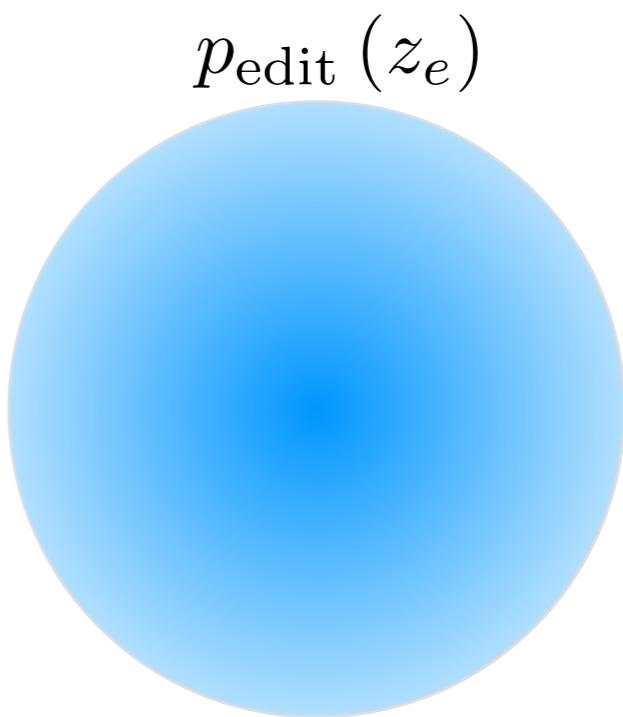
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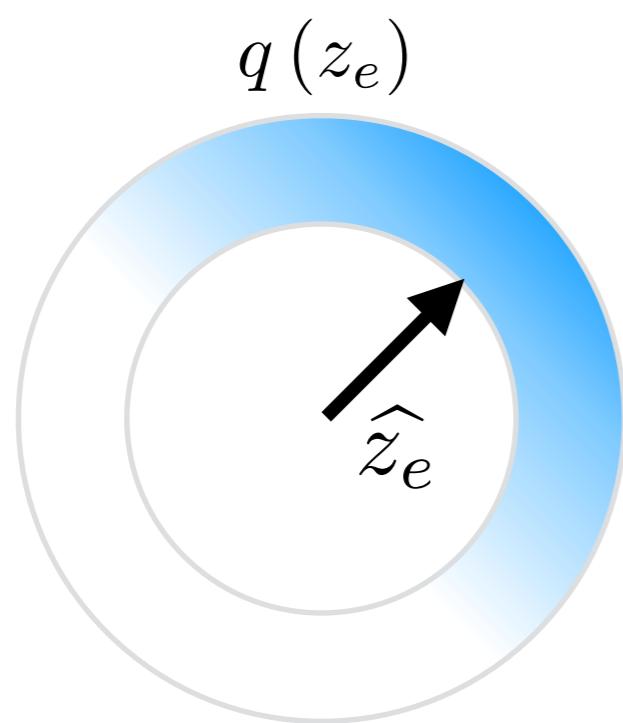
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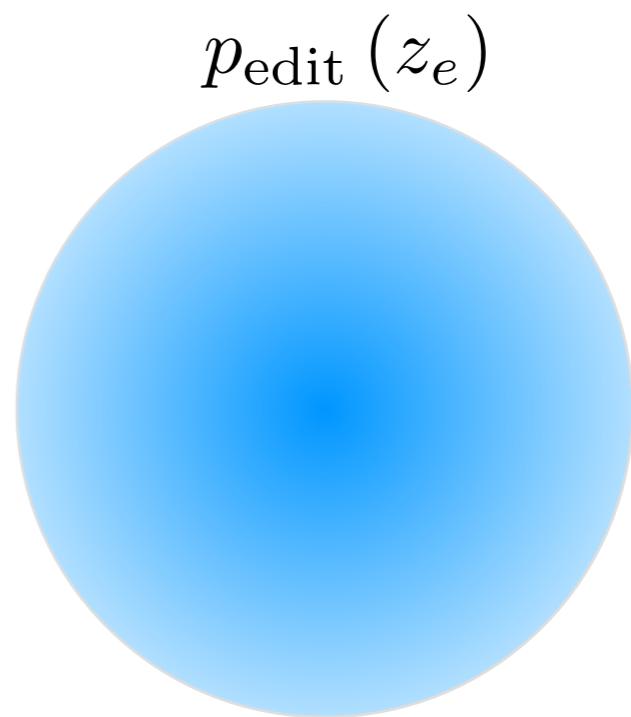
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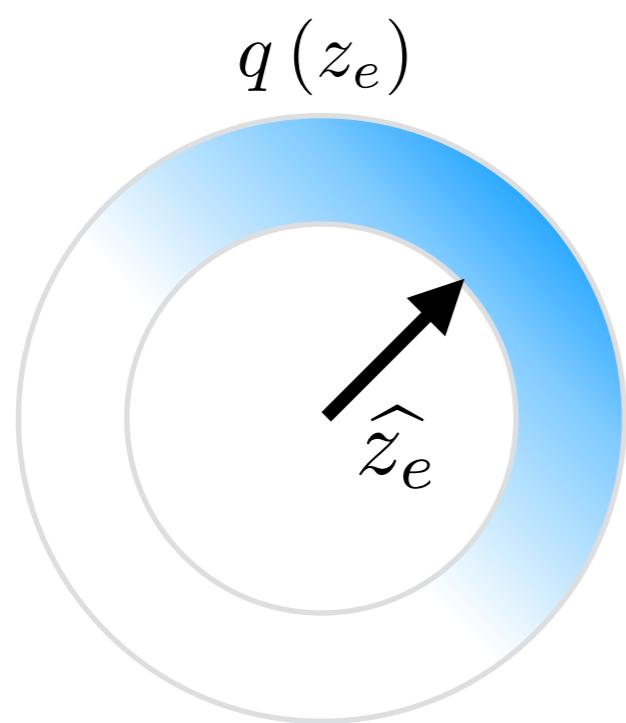


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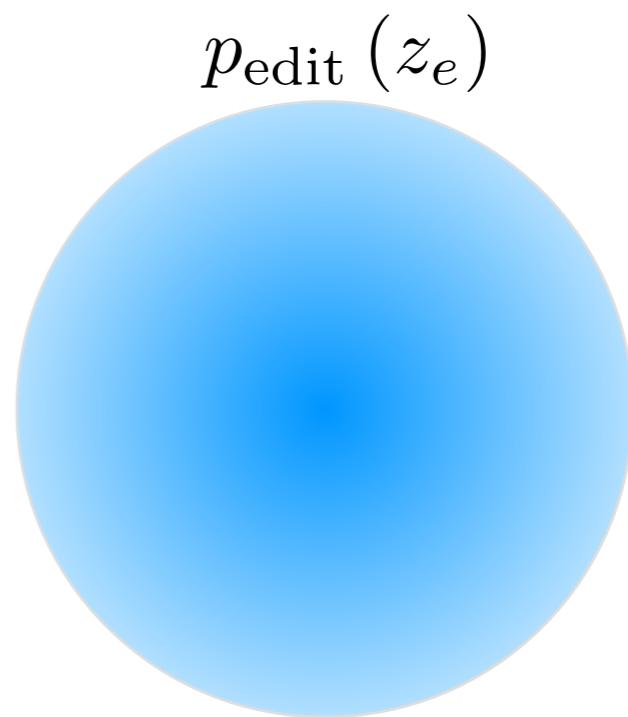
$$\text{ELBO} = \text{reconstruction\_cost} - \text{KL\_penalty}$$

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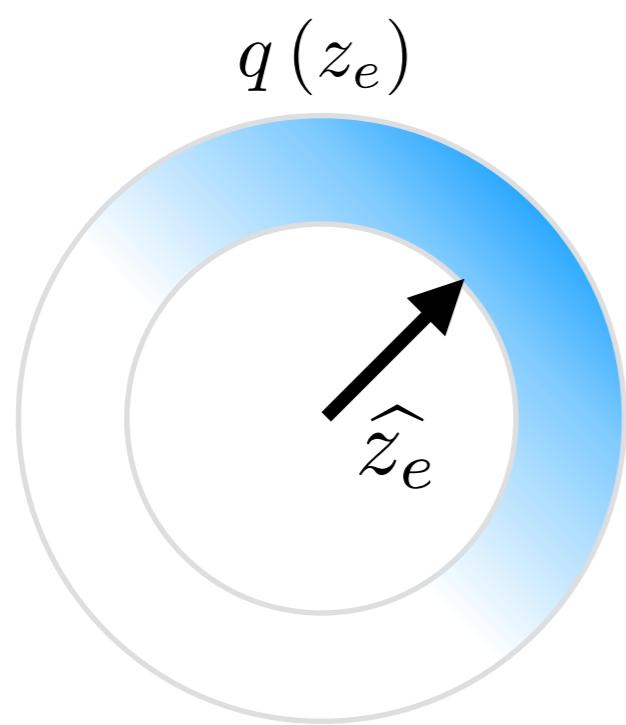
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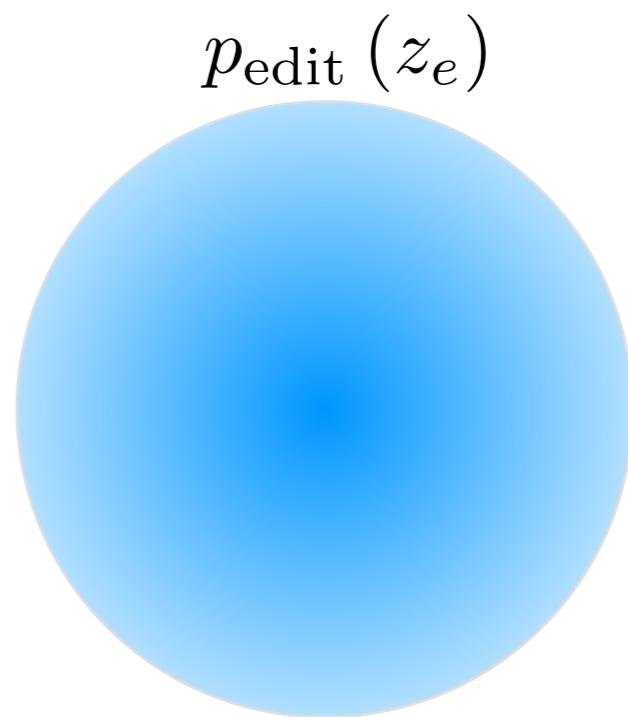
**reparameterization trick (VAEs)**

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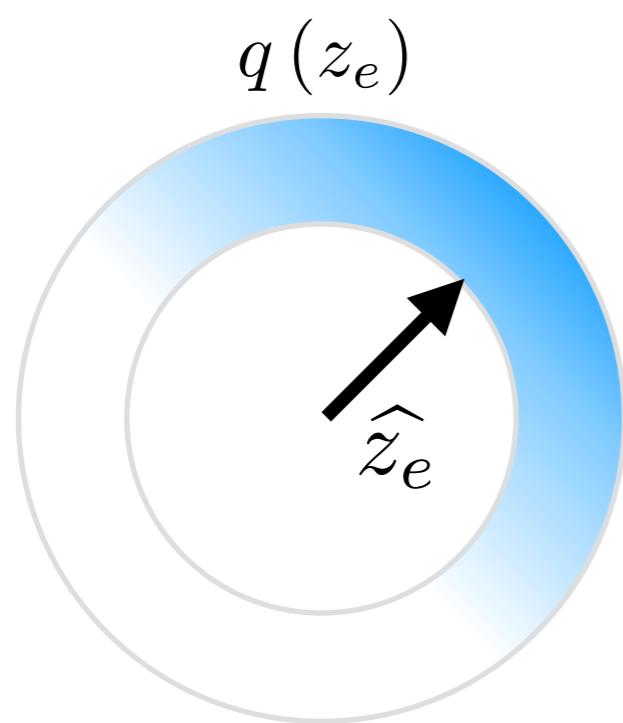
dir  $\sim$  unif. over sphere

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ELBO = reconstruction\_cost  
**reparameterization trick (VAEs)**

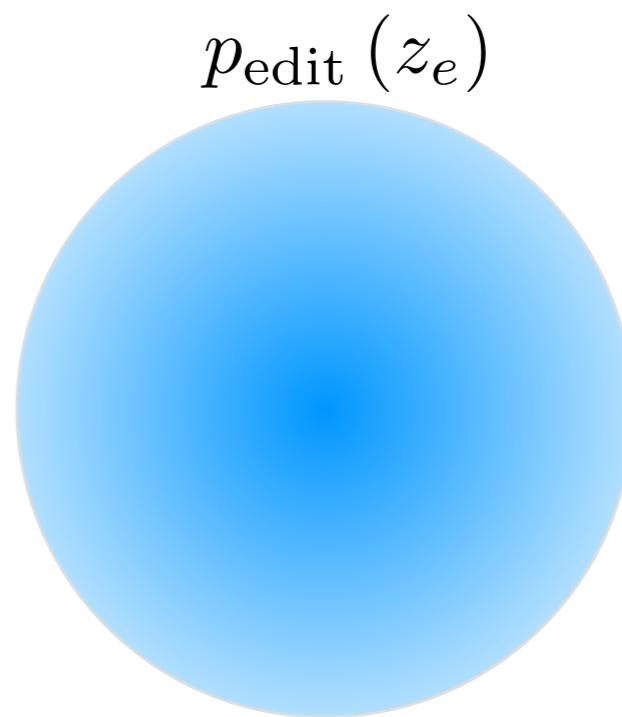
- KL\_penalty  
**just a constant**

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dir ~ unif. over sphere

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**reparameterization trick (VAEs) just a constant**

✓ computationally tractable

# Summary of training

$\mathbf{y}$  = output sentence     $\mathbf{z}_p$  = prototype sentence     $\mathbf{z}_e$  = edit vector

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- Build a training set of lexically similar sentence pairs ( $\mathbf{z}_p, \mathbf{y}$ )

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- For each pair of sentences ( $\mathbf{z}_p, \mathbf{y}$ )

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`\end{Approach}`

\begin{Results}

i had the fried whitefish taco which was decent, but i've had much better.

"hash browns" are unseasoned, frozen potato shreds burnt to a crisp on the outside and mushy on the inside.

i'm not sure what is preventing me from giving it <cardinal> stars, but i probably should.

quick place to grab light and tasty teriyaki.

sad part is we've been there before and its been good.

i had the <unk> and the fried carnitas tacos, it was pretty tasty, but i've had better.

the hash browns were crispy on the outside, but still the taste was missing.

i'm currently giving <cardinal> stars for the service alone.

this place is good and a quick place to grab a tasty sandwich.

i've been here several times and always have a good time.

# Prototype $z_p$

i had the fried whitefish taco which was decent, but i've had much better.	i had the <unk> and the fried carnitas tacos, it was pretty tasty, but i've had better.
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## Prototype $z_p$

## Output $y$

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Prototype $\mathbf{z}_p$	(random edit vector)	Output $\mathbf{y}$
i had the fried whitefish taco which was decent, but i've had much better.	i had the <unk> and the fried carnitas tacos, it was pretty tasty, but i've had better.	
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quick place to grab light and tasty teriyaki.	this place is good and a quick place to grab a tasty sandwich.	
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# Overview of results

- **More diverse generations**
- **Higher quality generations**
- **Better perplexity** (BillionWord, Yelp reviews)
- **Edits are semantically meaningful**
  - preserve semantic similarity
  - can be used to perform sentence-level analogies

# Overview of results

- **More diverse generations**
- **Higher quality generations**
- **Better perplexity** (BillionWord, Yelp reviews)



## **Edits are semantically meaningful**

- preserve semantic similarity
- can be used to perform sentence-level analogies

# Edits are semantically meaningful

$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$

**y** = output sentence    **z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence    **z<sub>e</sub>** = edit vector

# Edits are semantically meaningful

$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$



plug in your own edit vector!

# Edits are semantically meaningful

✓ **semantic control**

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**semantic smoothness:**

# Edits are semantically meaningful



**semantic control**

$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$



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## **semantic smoothness:**

small magnitude edit vector should cause small changes

# Edits are semantically meaningful



**semantic control**

$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$



plug in your own edit vector!

**semantic smoothness:**

small magnitude edit vector should cause small changes

**consistent edit behavior:**

**y** = output sentence

**z<sub>p</sub>** = prototype sentence

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$$y \sim p_{\text{editor}}(y | z_p, z_e)$$



✓ **semantic control**

plug in your own edit vector!

## **semantic smoothness:**

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## **consistent edit behavior:**

apply the same edit vector to different sentences

# Edits are semantically meaningful



**semantic control**

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plug in your own edit vector!

## **semantic smoothness:**

small magnitude edit vector should cause small changes

## **consistent edit behavior:**

apply the same edit vector to different sentences  
should cause semantically analogous edits

# Semantic smoothness

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**random walk in  
sentence space**

# Semantic smoothness

**random walk in  
sentence space**



$z_p$

# Semantic smoothness



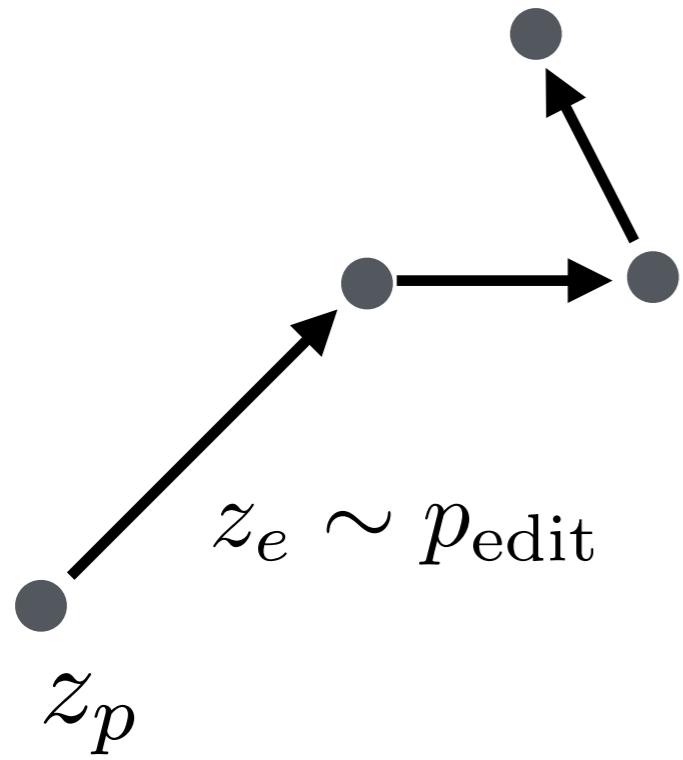
# Semantic smoothness



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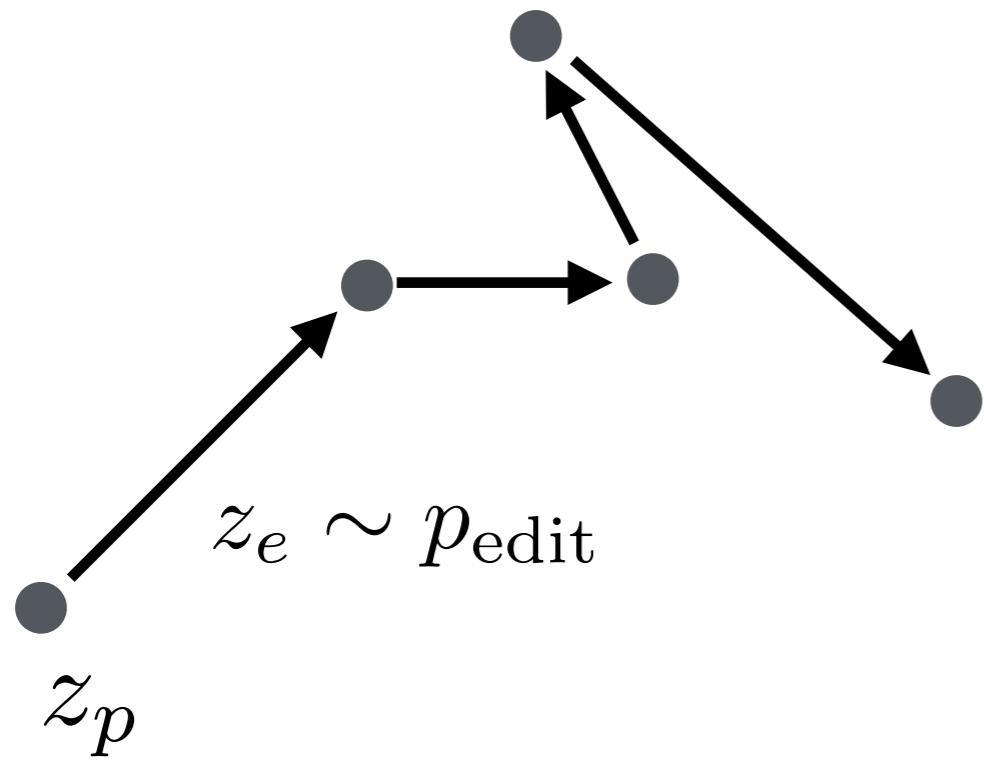


# Semantic smoothness



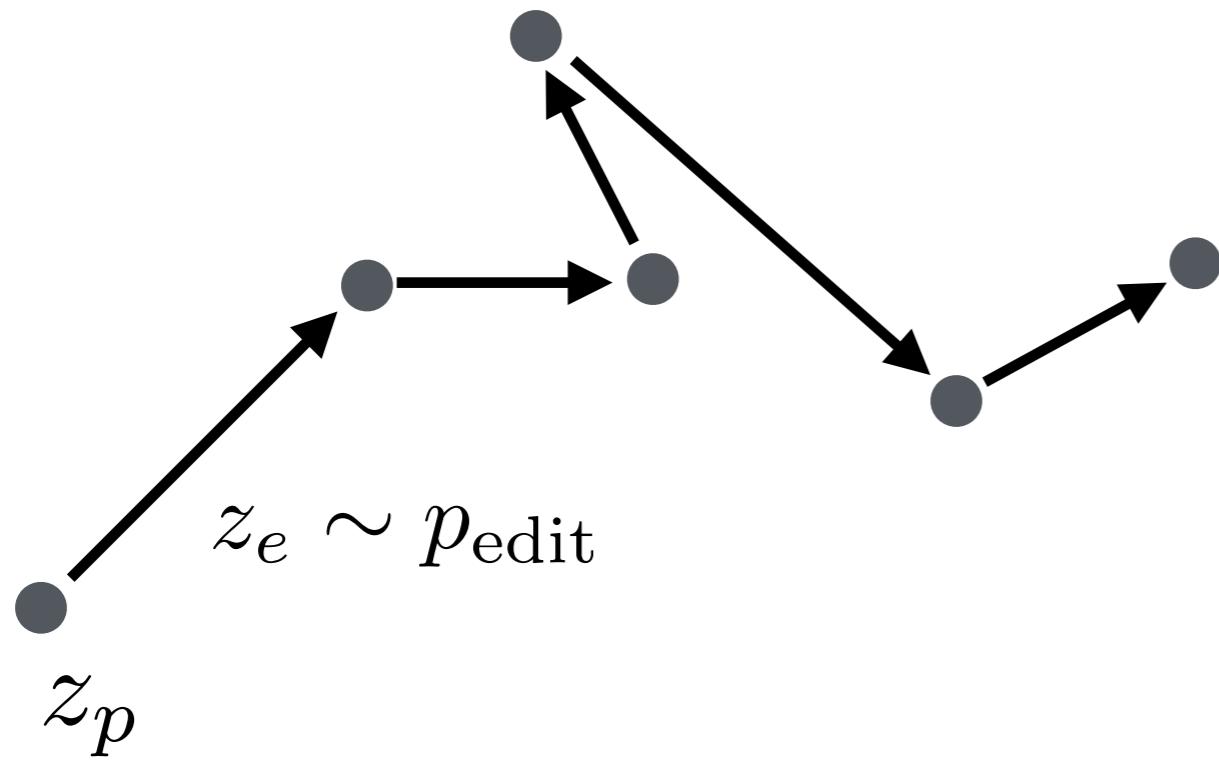
**random walk in  
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# Semantic smoothness



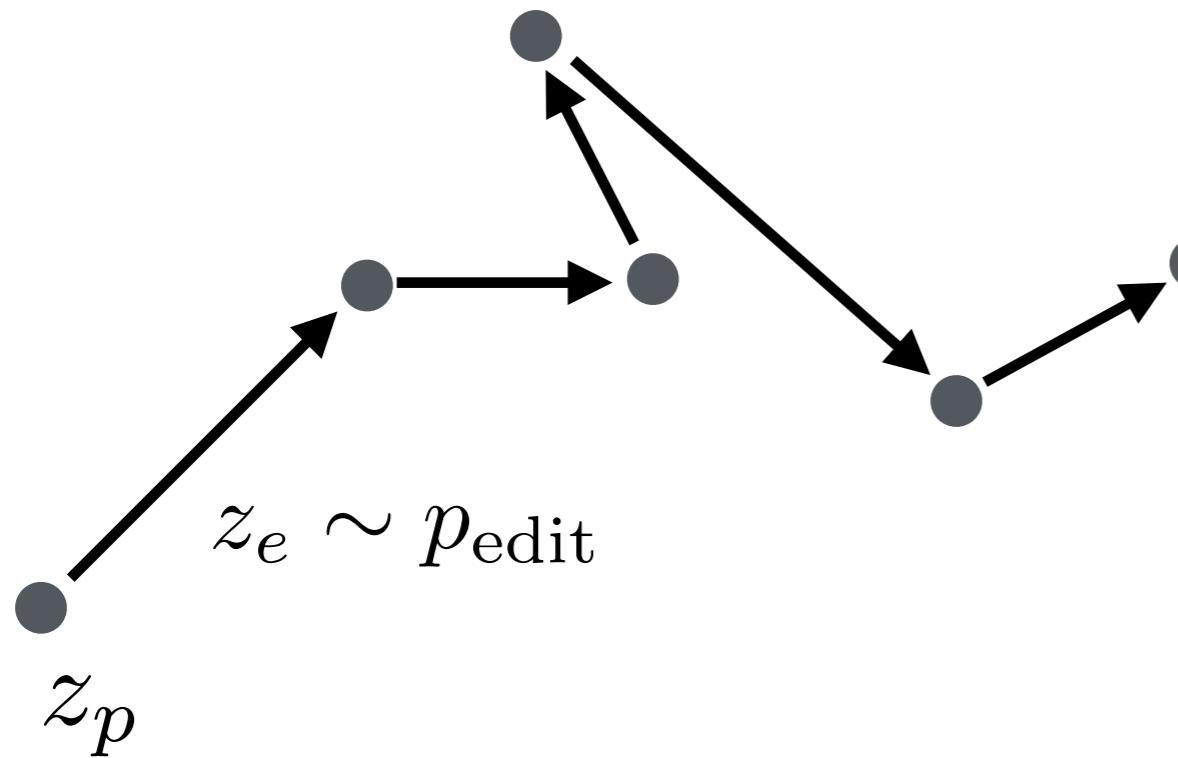
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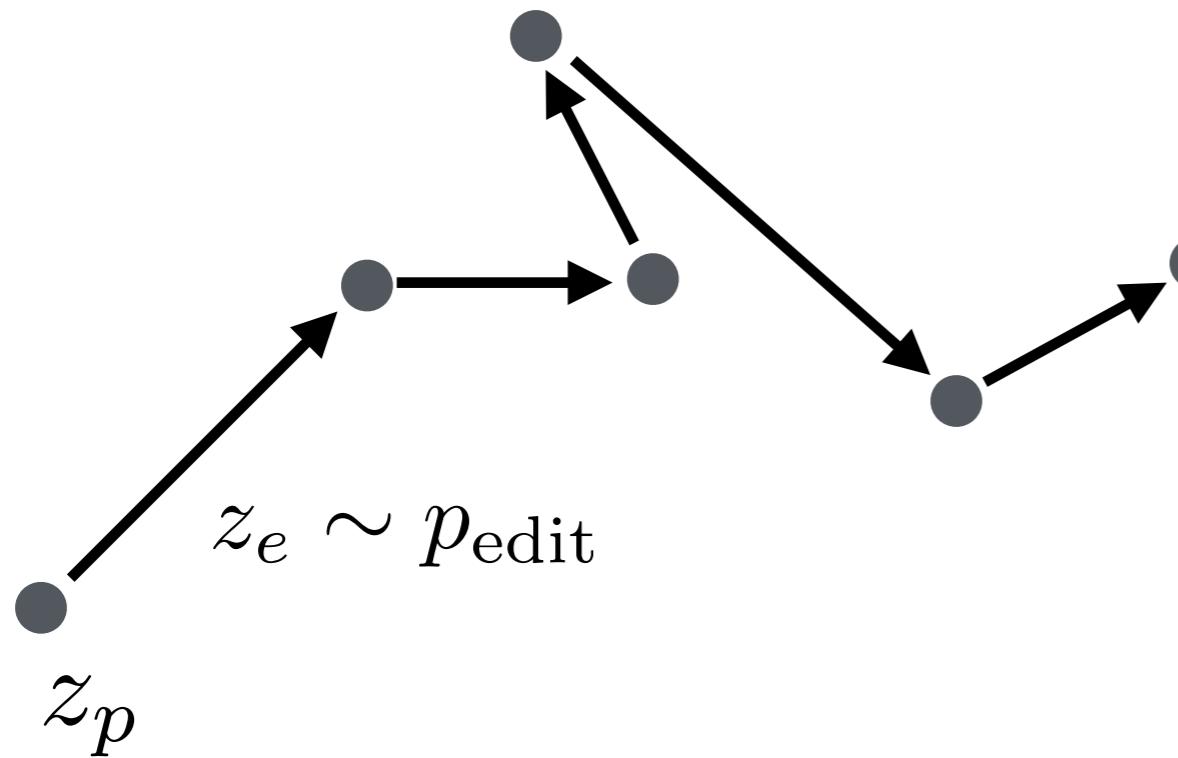
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**random walk in  
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- ice cream was one of the best i've ever tried .

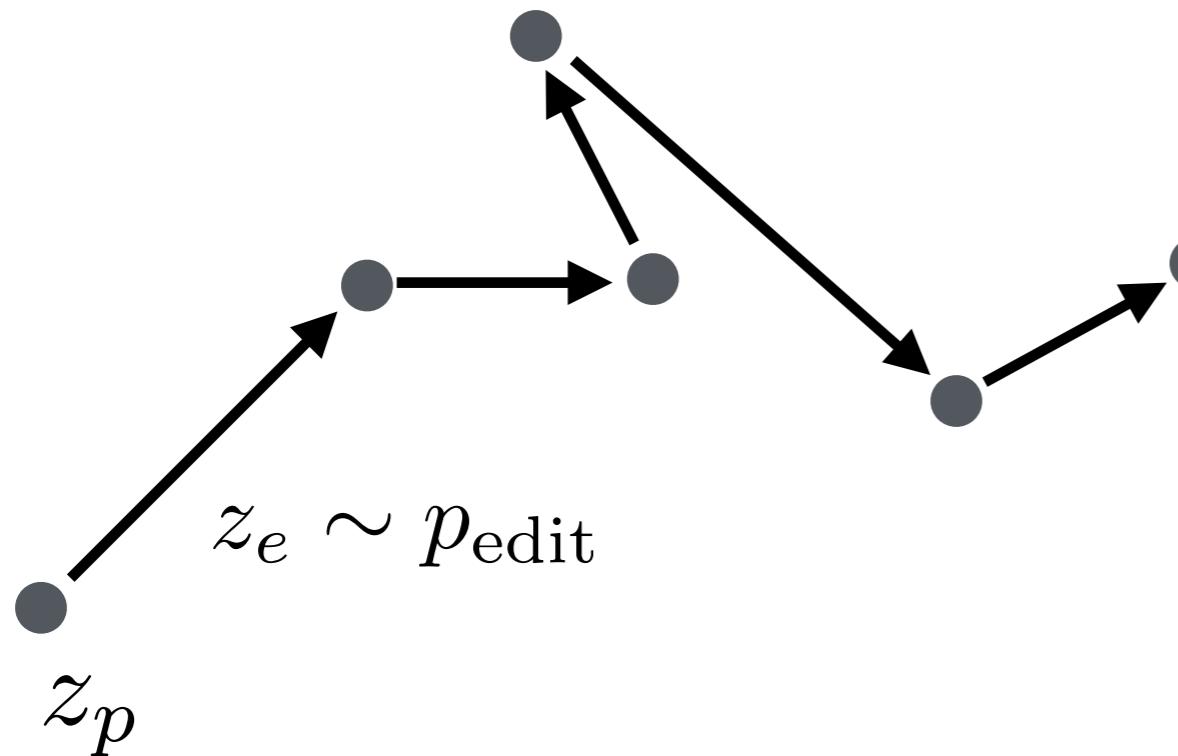
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**random walk in  
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- ice cream was one of the best i've ever tried .
- some of the best ice cream we've ever had .

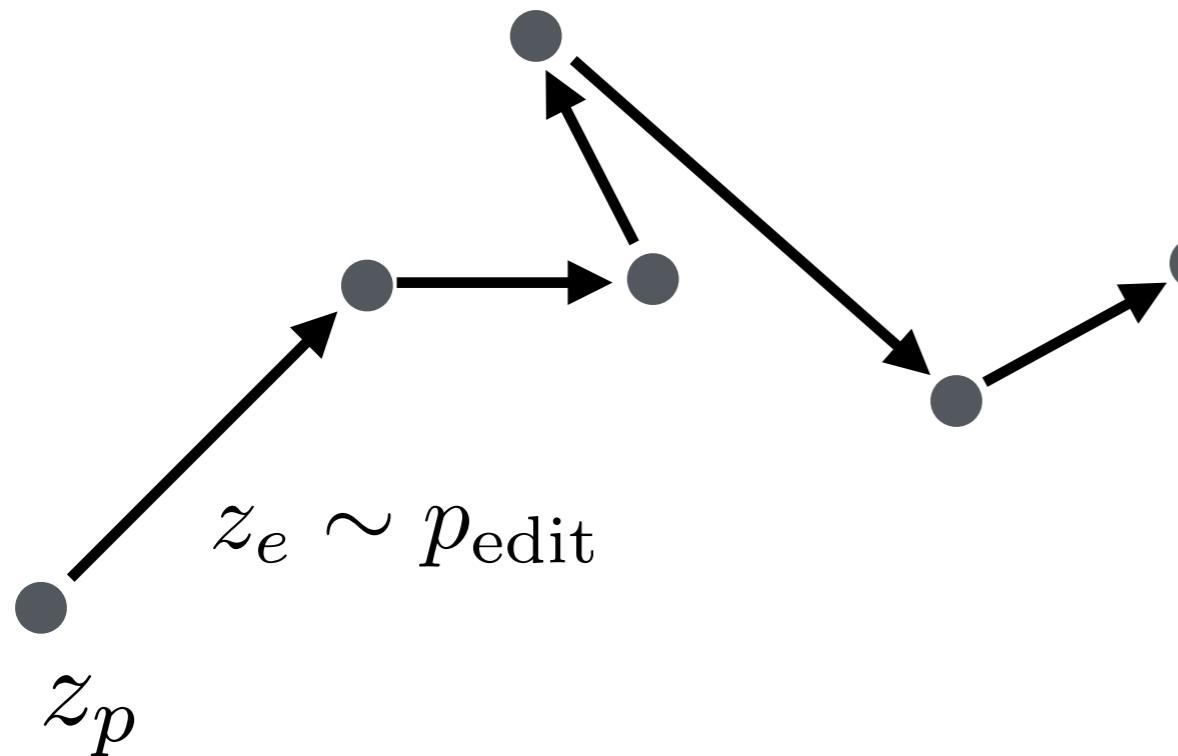
# Semantic smoothness



**random walk in  
sentence space**

- ice cream was one of the best i've ever tried .
- some of the best ice cream we've ever had .
- just had the best ice - cream i've ever had !

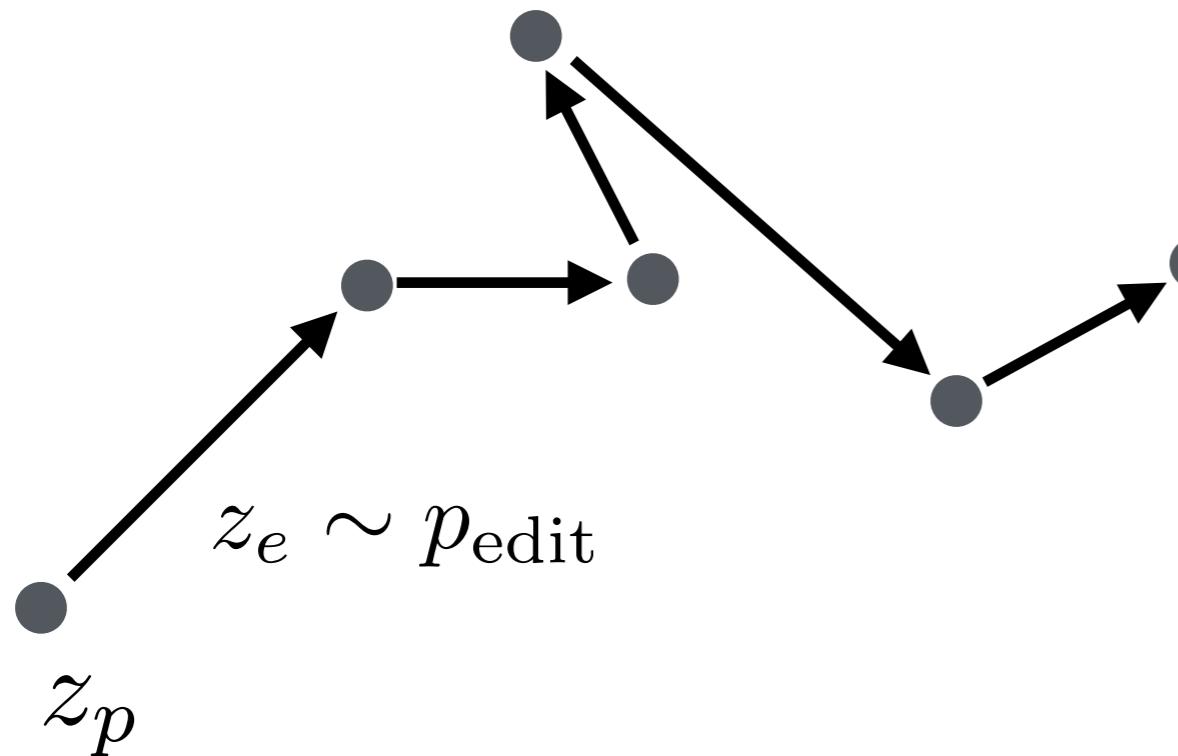
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**random walk in  
sentence space**

- ice cream was one of the best i've ever tried .
- some of the best ice cream we've ever had .
- just had the best ice - cream i've ever had !
- some of the best pizza i've ever tasted !

# Semantic smoothness

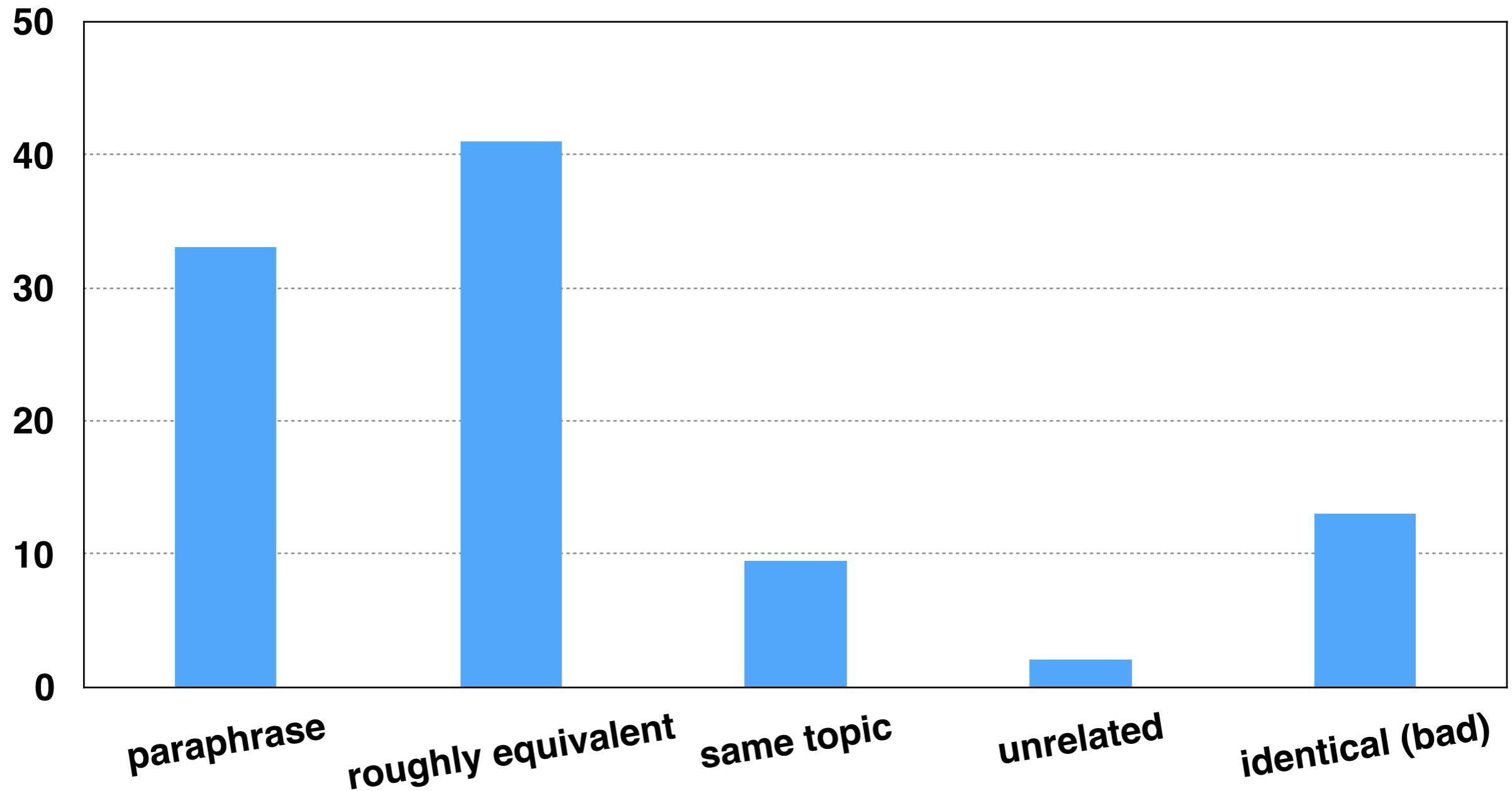


**random walk in  
sentence space**

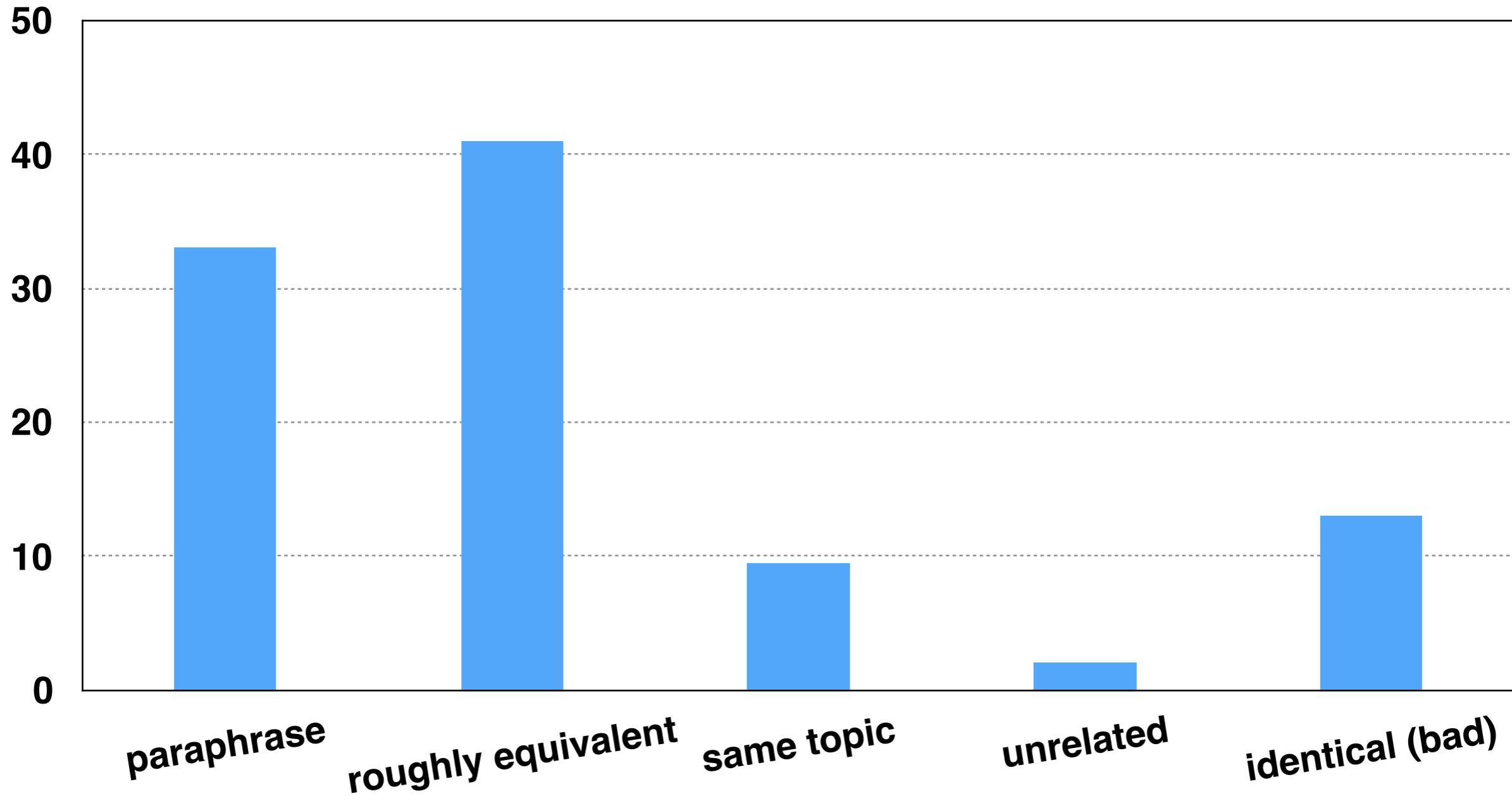
- ice cream was one of the best i've ever tried .
- some of the best ice cream we've ever had .
- just had the best ice - cream i've ever had !
- some of the best pizza i've ever tasted !
- that was some of the best pizza i've had in the area .

# Turkers: how jumpy is each step?

# Turkers: how jumpy is each step?



# Turkers: how jumpy is each step?



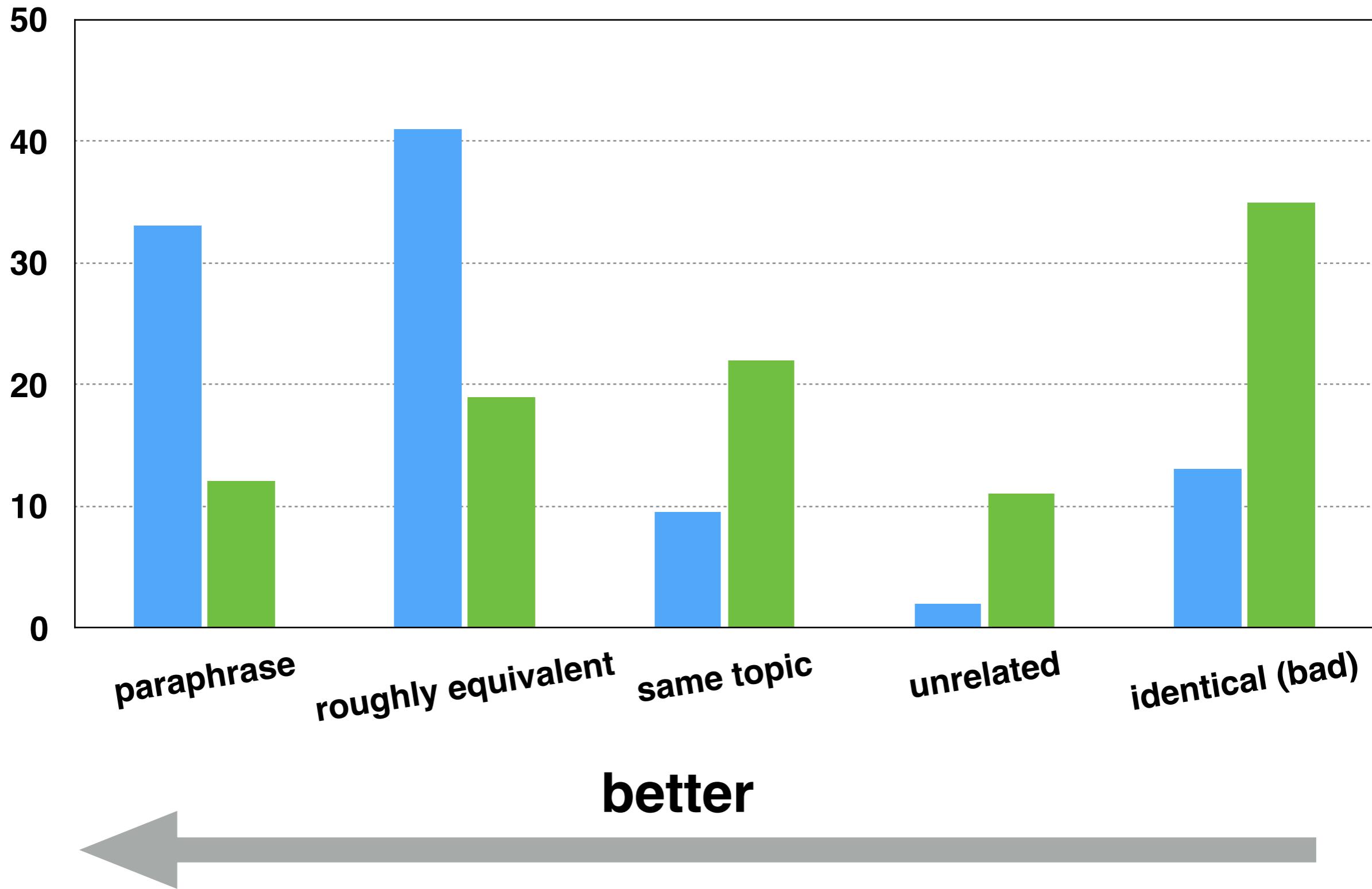
**better**



# Turkers: how smooth is the random walk?

**blue** = NeuralEditor

**green** = SVAE [Bowman+ 2015]

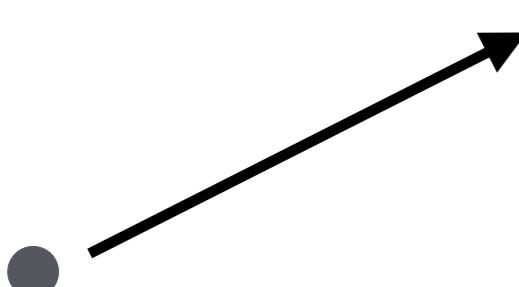


# Consistent edit behavior

# Consistent edit behavior

- This was a good restaurant .

# Consistent edit behavior

- This was a good restaurant .
  - This was the best restaurant !
- 

# Consistent edit behavior

- This was a good restaurant .
  - This was the best restaurant !
  - Their cake was great.

# Consistent edit behavior

- This was a good restaurant .
  - This was the best restaurant !
- Their cake was great.
  - **Their cake was the greatest !**

# Sentence analogy dataset

# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]

# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]

**is**    past tense  
  →    **was**

# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]



# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]



This **is** the place to go.

This **was** the place to go.



# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]



This **is** the place to go.

This **was** the place to go.



He **comes** home tired and happy.

He **came** home happy and tired.

# Sentence analogy dataset

Lexical analogies [Mikolov+ 2013]



This **is** the place to go.

This **was** the place to go.



He **comes** home tired and happy.

He **came** home happy and tired.

(allow reordering and stopwords)

# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.

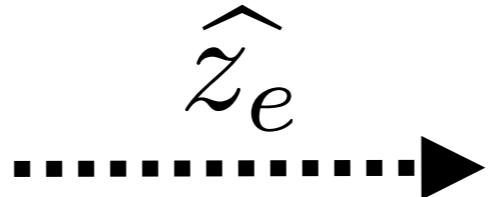
This **was** the place to go.

He **comes** home tired and happy.

He **came** home happy and tired.

# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.



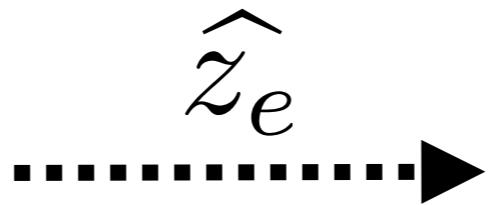
This **was** the place to go.

He **comes** home tired and happy.

He **came** home happy and tired.

# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.



This **was** the place to go.

$z_p$

He **comes** home tired and happy.

He **came** home happy and tired.

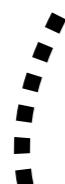
# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.

$$\cdots \cdots \cdots \widehat{z}_e \rightarrow$$

This **was** the place to go.

He **comes** home tired and happy.



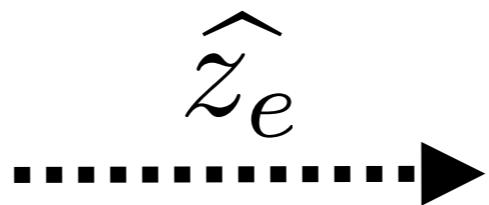
He **came** home happy and tired.

$$\widehat{z}_e \rightarrow$$

$$\hat{y}$$

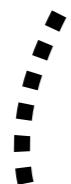
# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.



This **was** the place to go.

He **comes** home tired and happy.



He **came** home happy and tired.

$\widehat{z}_e$

$\hat{y}$

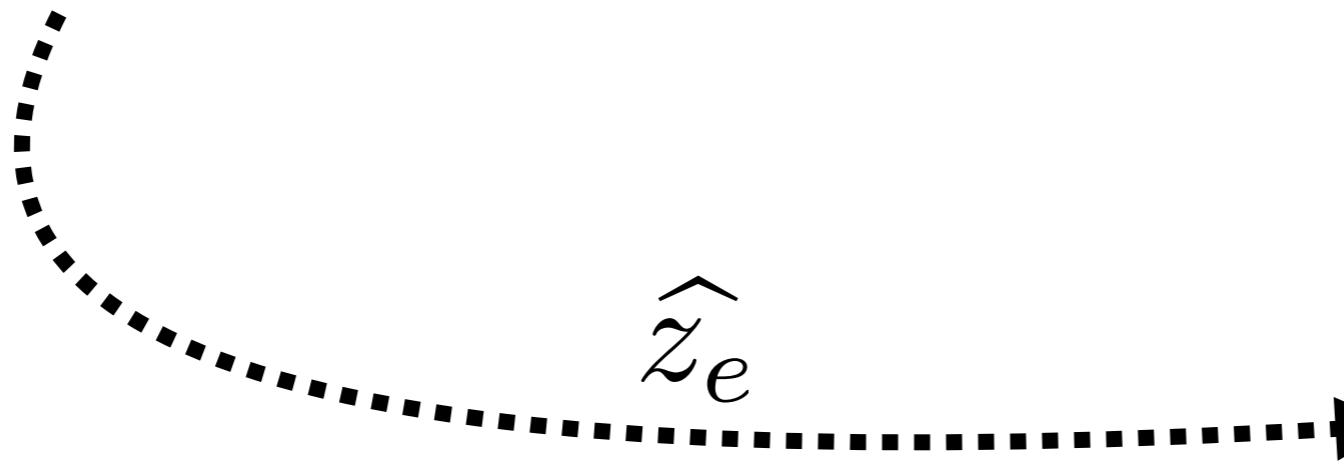
# Sentence analogy dataset

This **is** the place to go.



This **was** the place to go.

He **comes** home tired and happy.



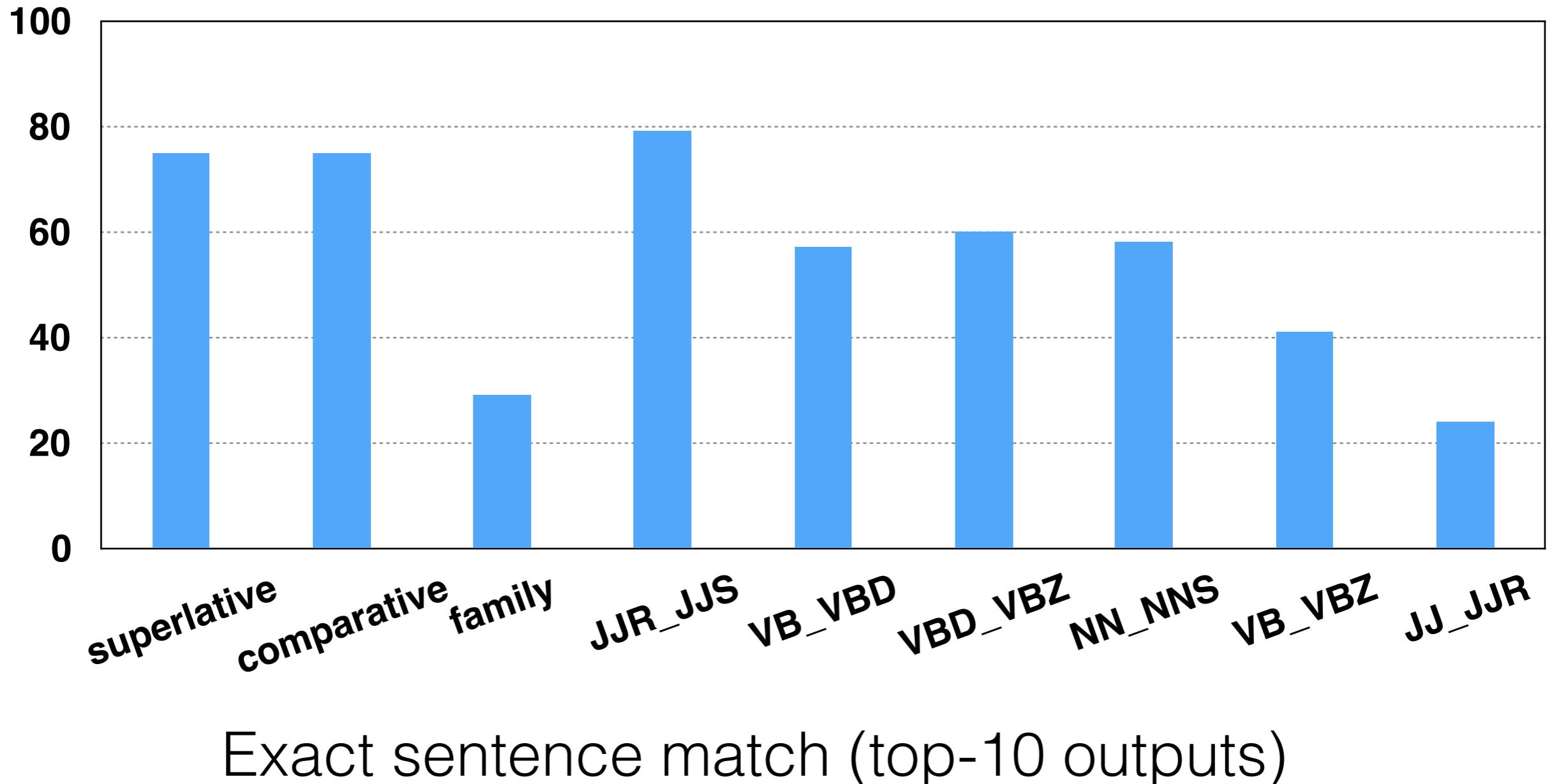
$y$

?  
↑↓

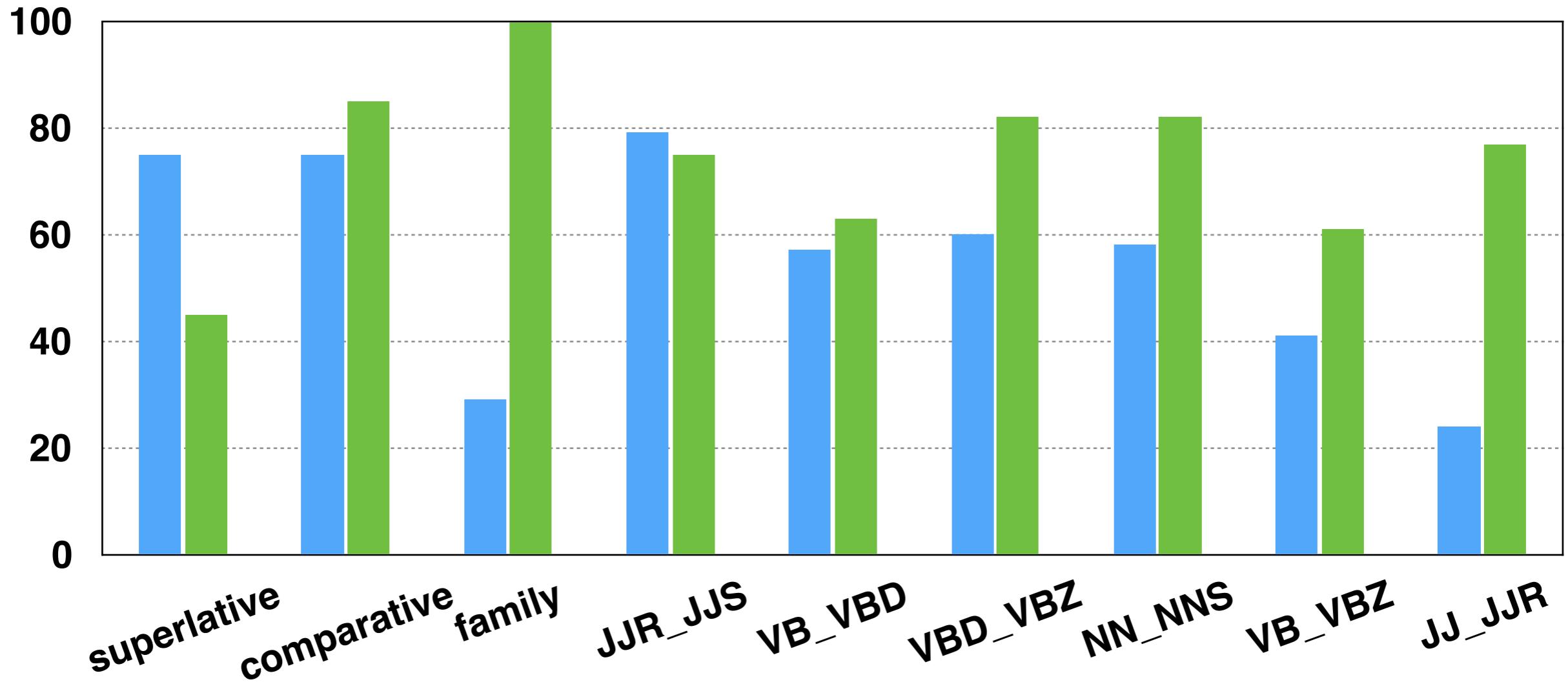
$\hat{y}$

# Sentence analogy results

# Sentence analogy results



# Sentence analogy results



**blue** = exact sentence match (top-10 outputs)

**green** = exact word match (GloVe)

# Results

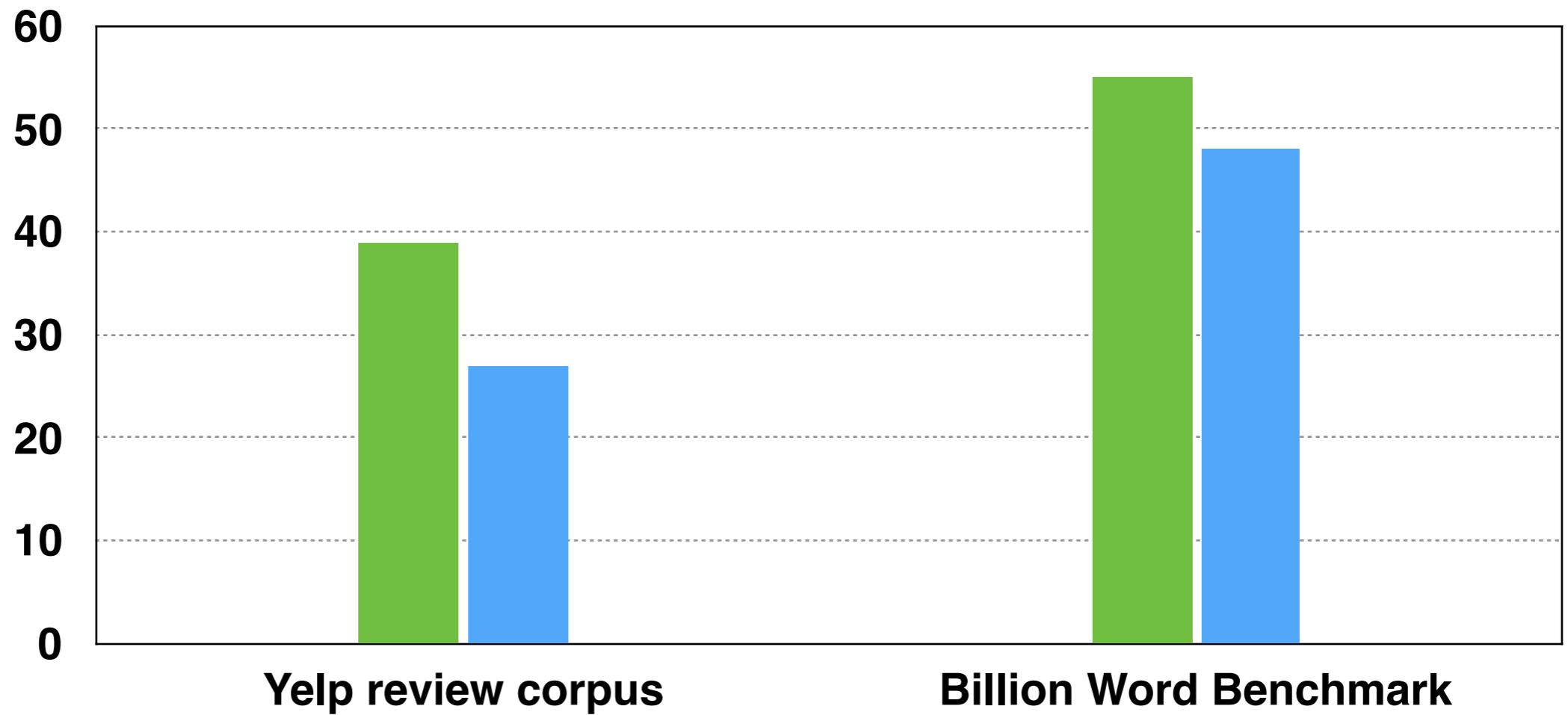
- **More diverse generations**
  - **Higher quality generations**
  - **Better perplexity** (BillionWord, Yelp reviews)
- ✓ **Edits are semantically meaningful**
- preserve semantic similarity
  - can be used to perform sentence-level analogies

# Results

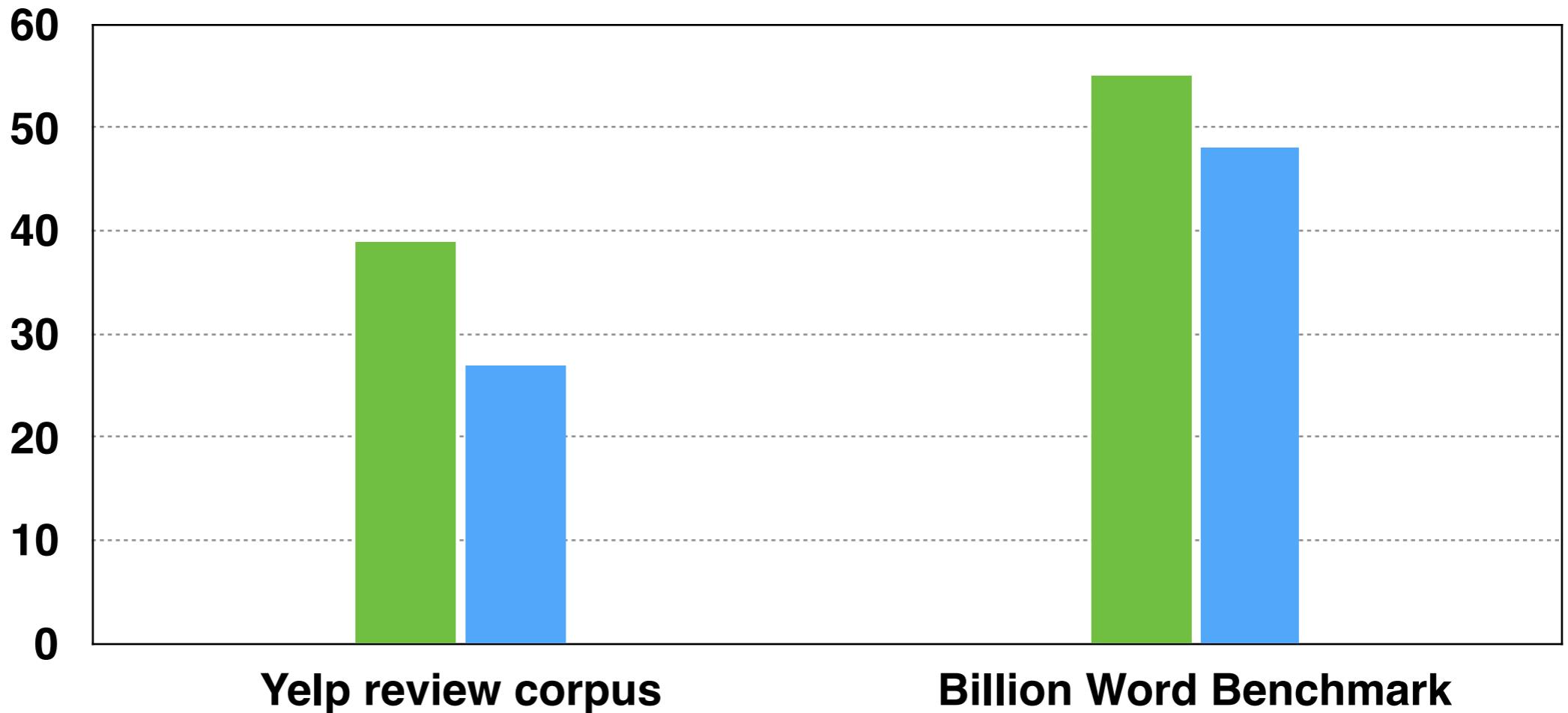
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# Perplexity

# Perplexity



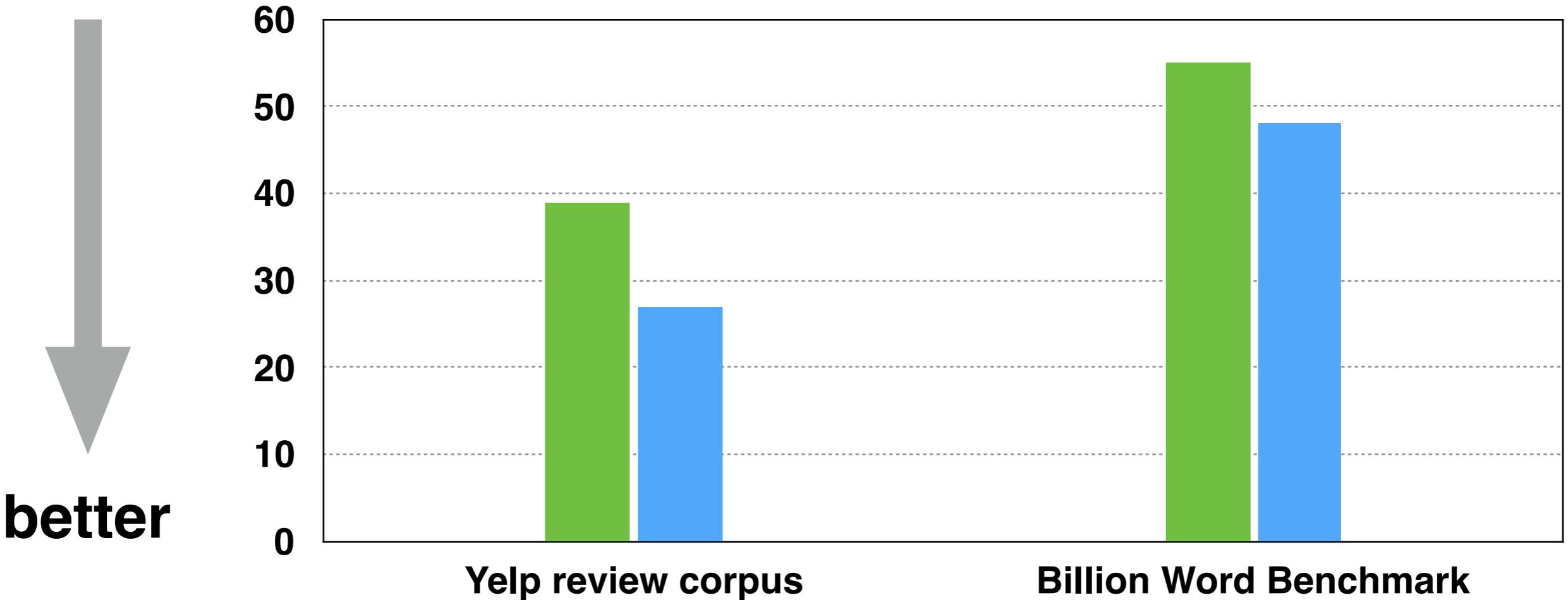
# Perplexity



**green** = standard NLM

**blue** = NeuralEditor (**same** decoder architecture)  
+ backoff to standard NLM

# Perplexity



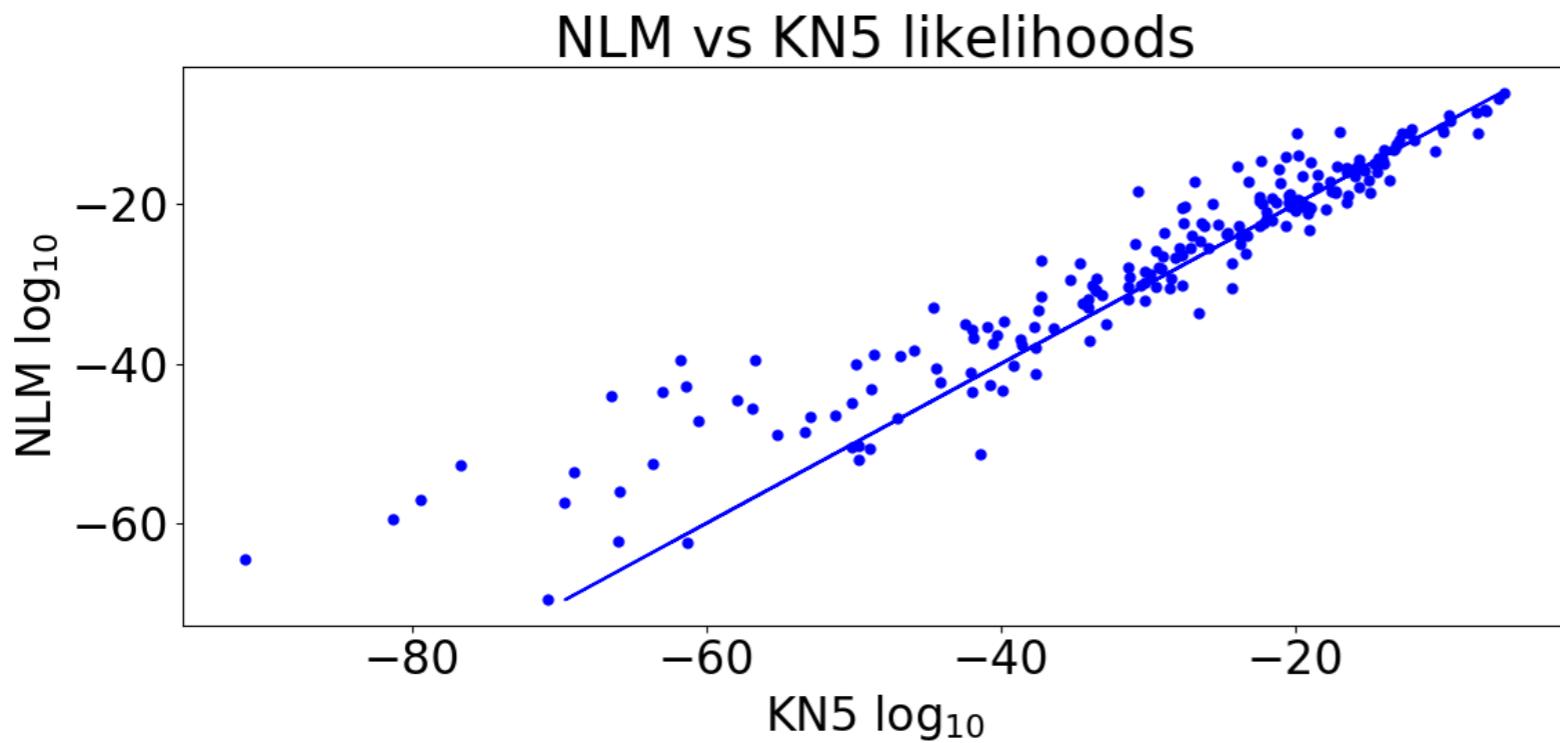
better

**green** = standard NLM

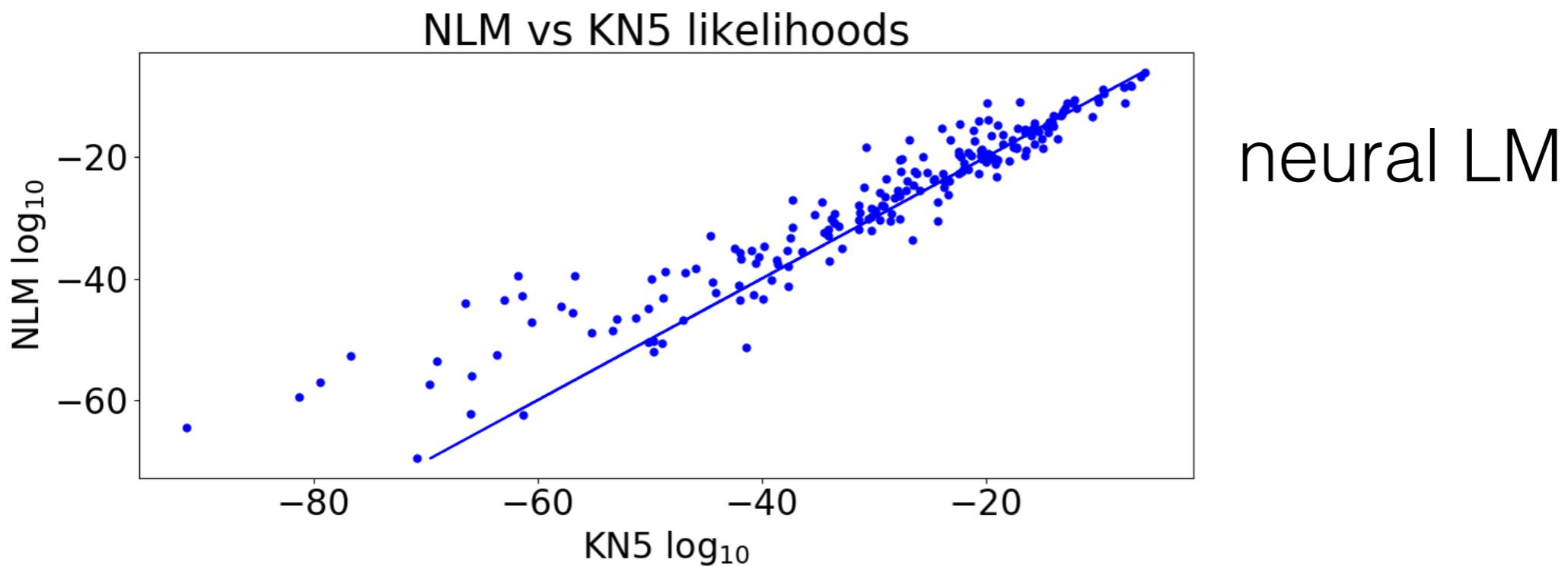
**blue** = NeuralEditor (**same** decoder architecture)  
+ backoff to standard NLM

# Perplexity (closer look)

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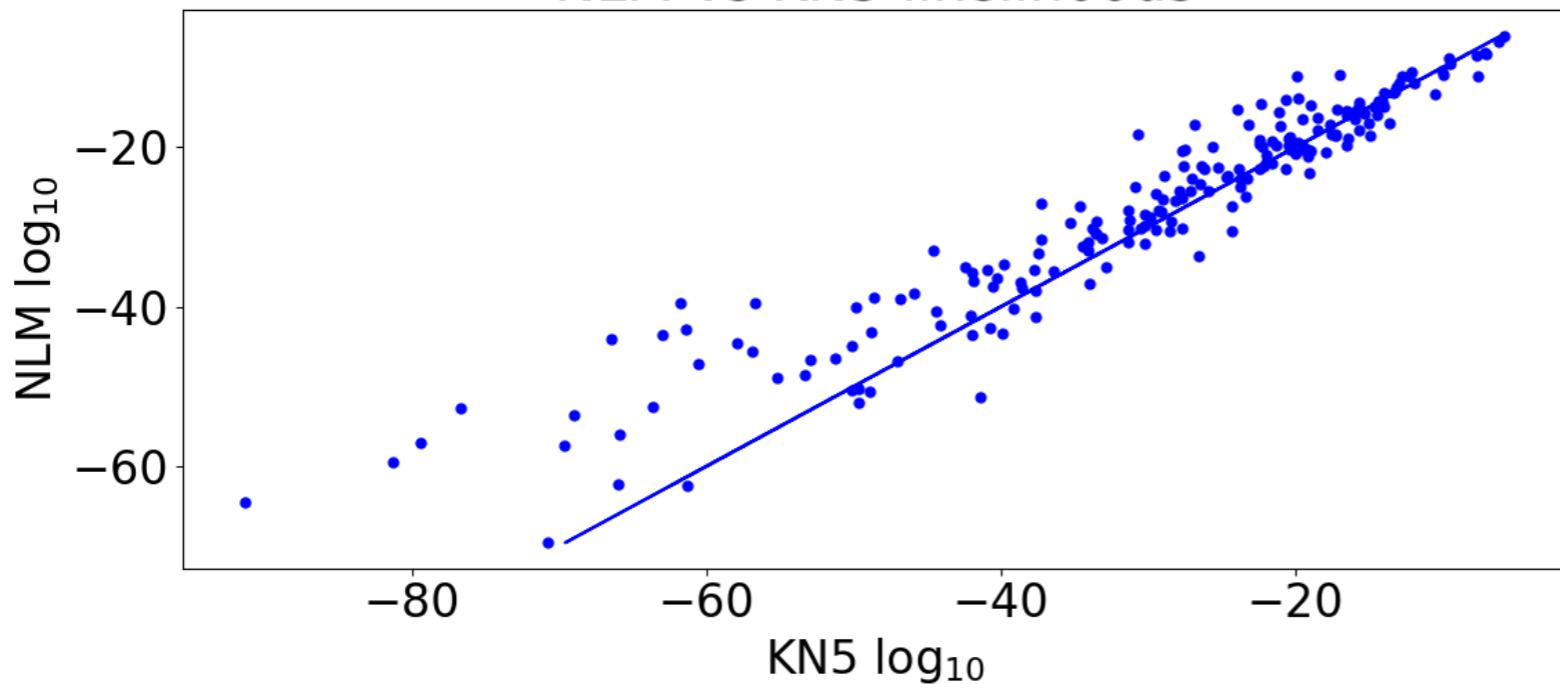


# Perplexity (closer look)



# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods

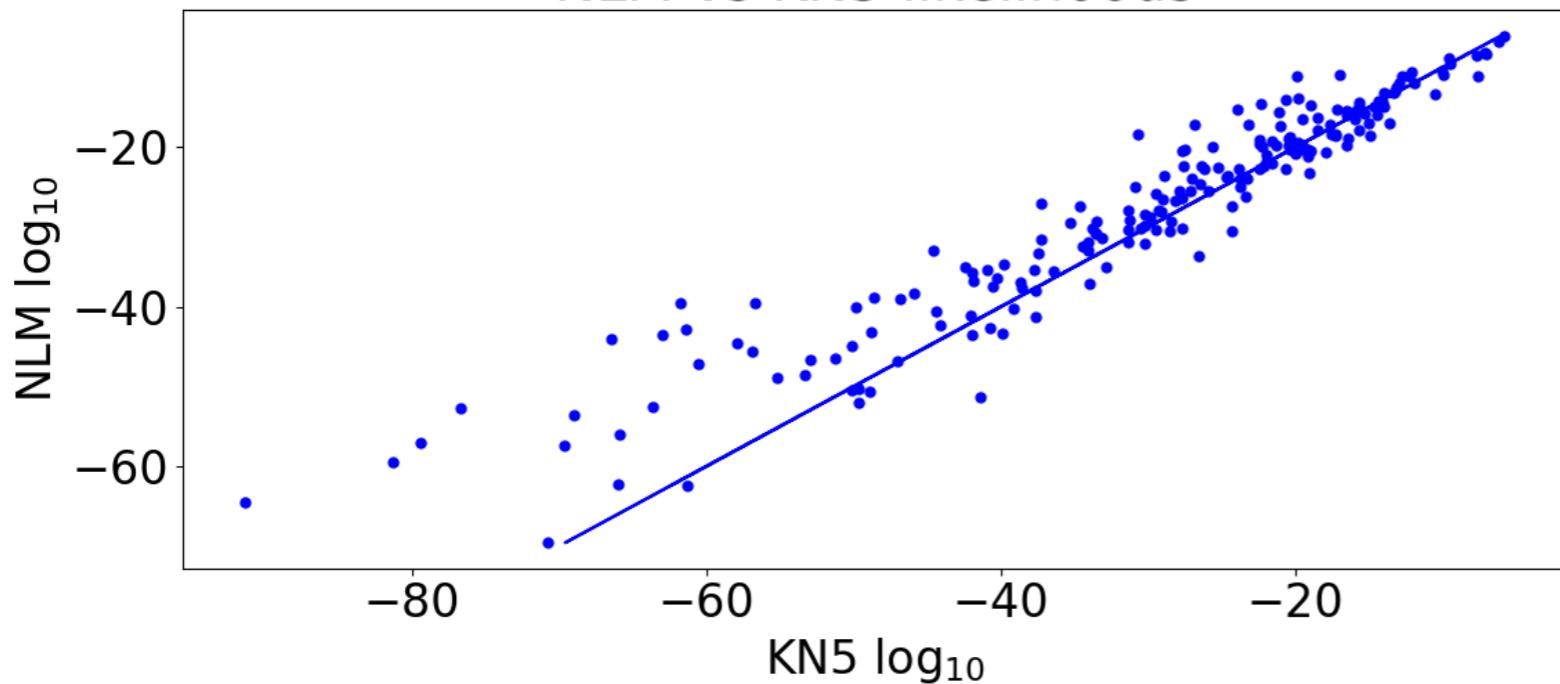


neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods



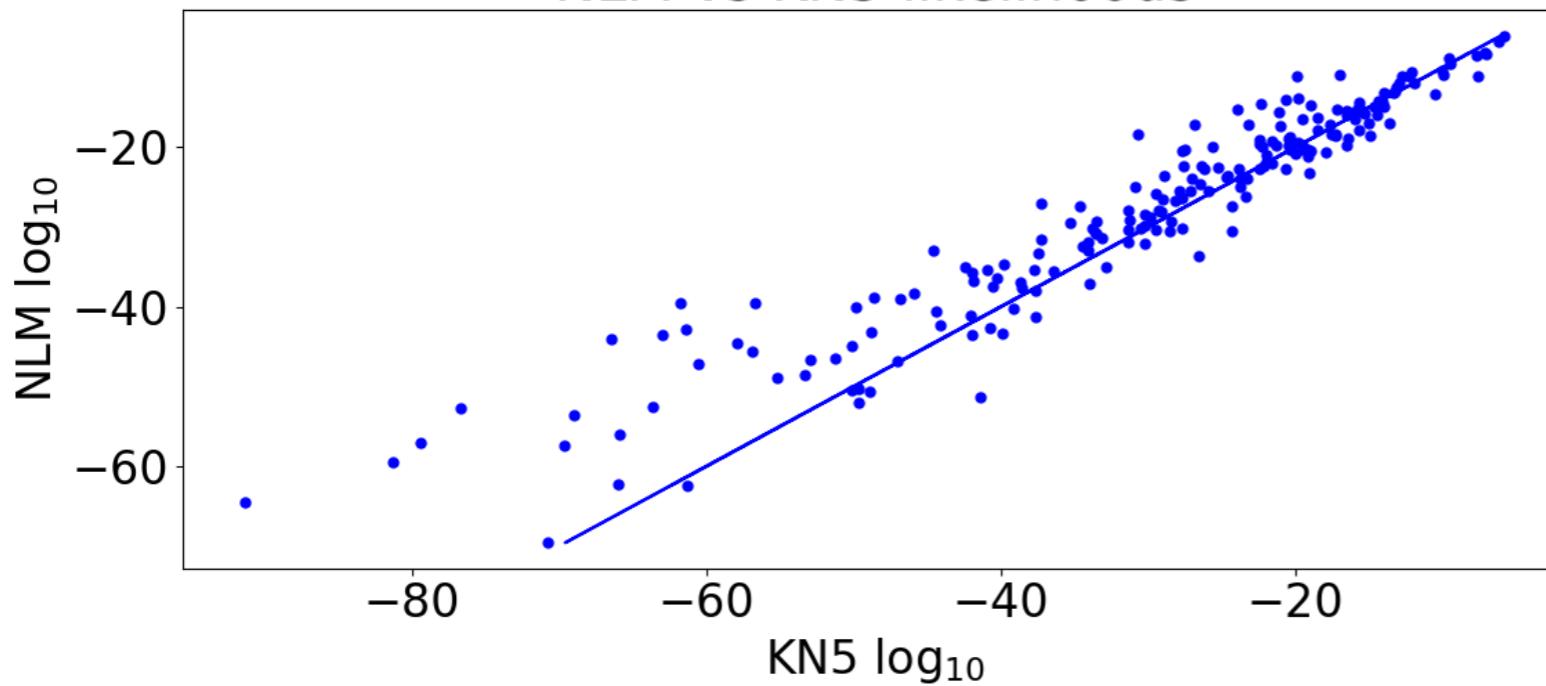
neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

**similar**

# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods

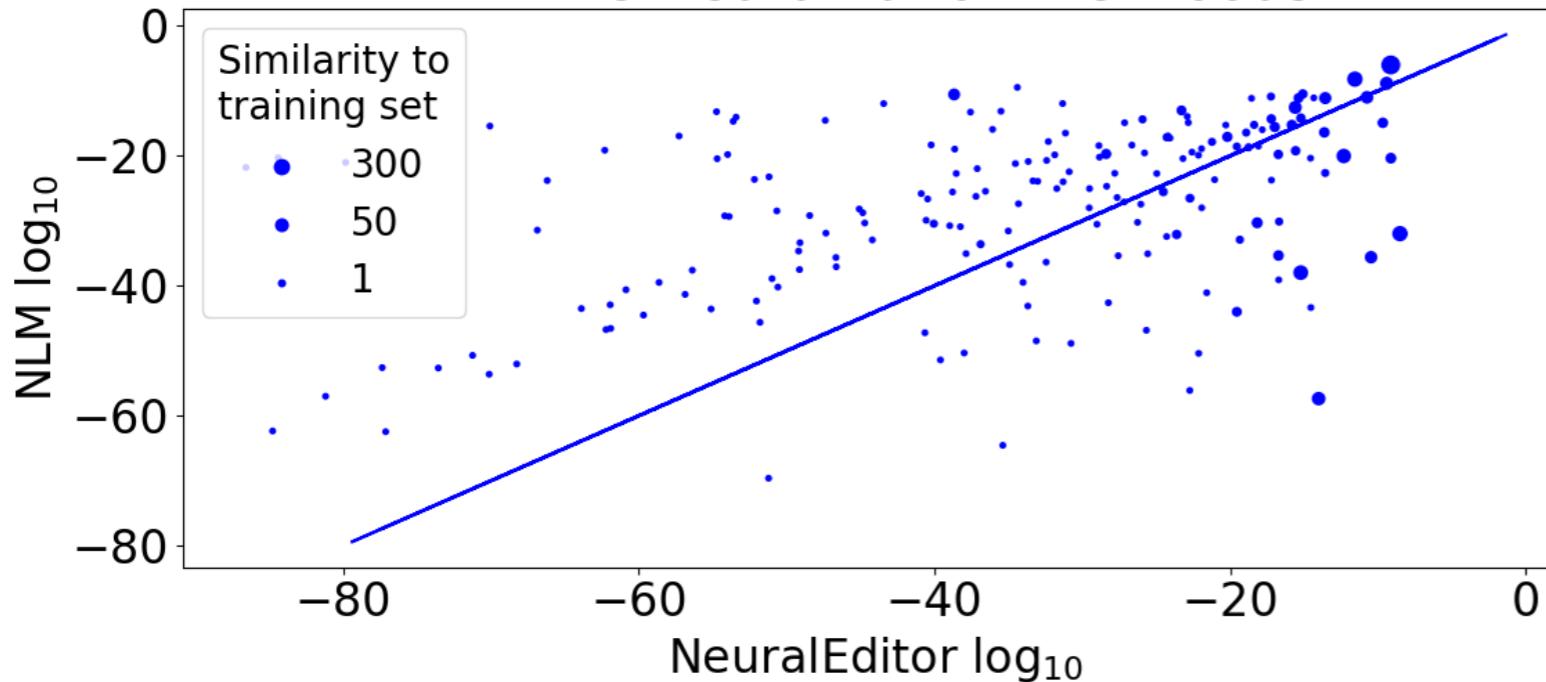


neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

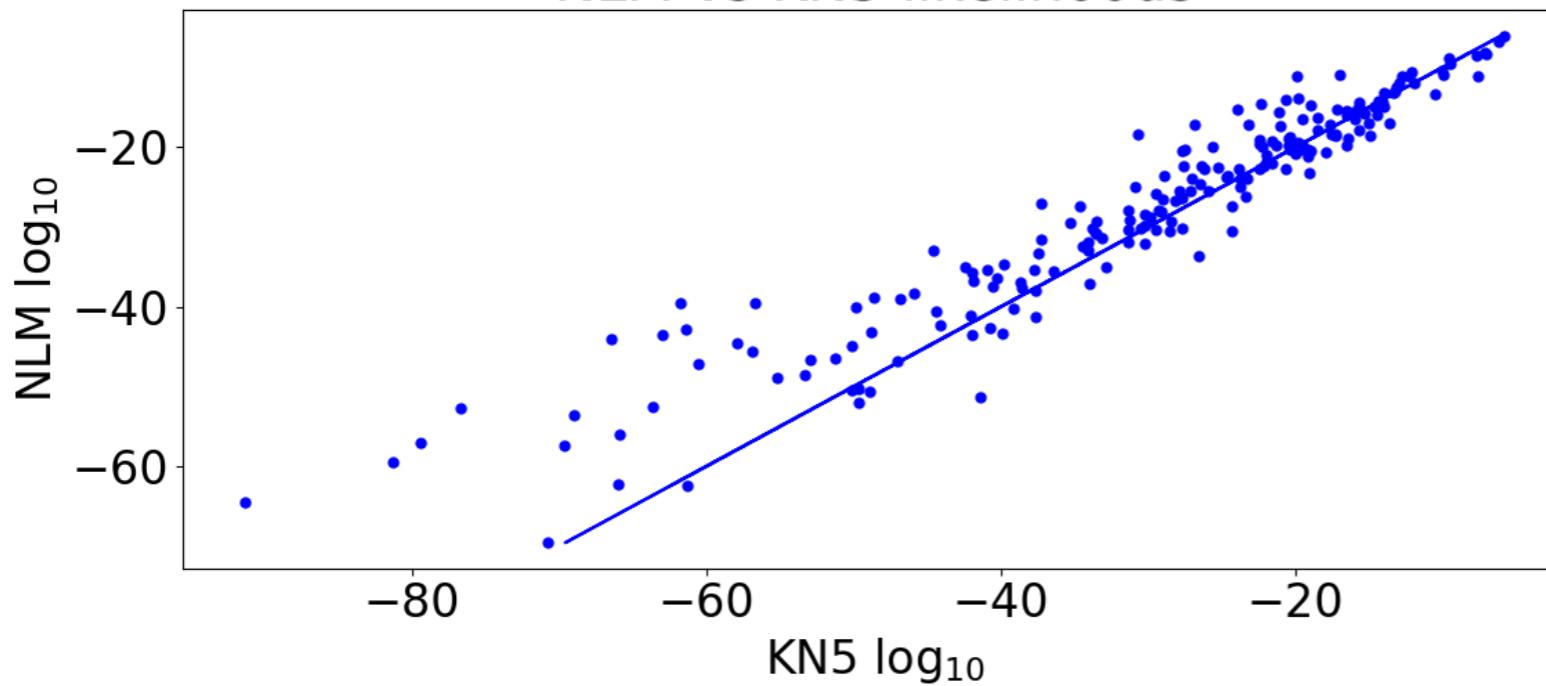
**similar**

NLM vs NeuralEditor likelihoods



# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods

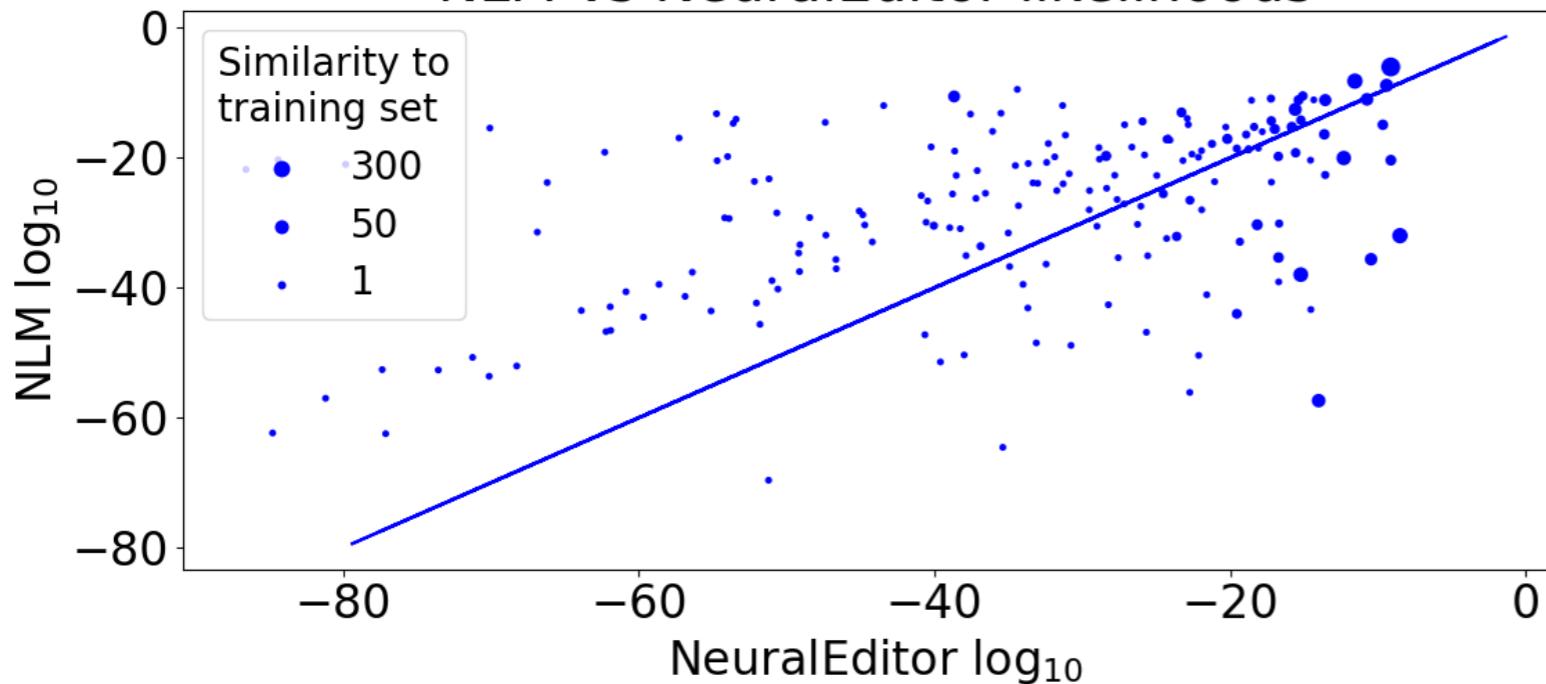


neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

**similar**

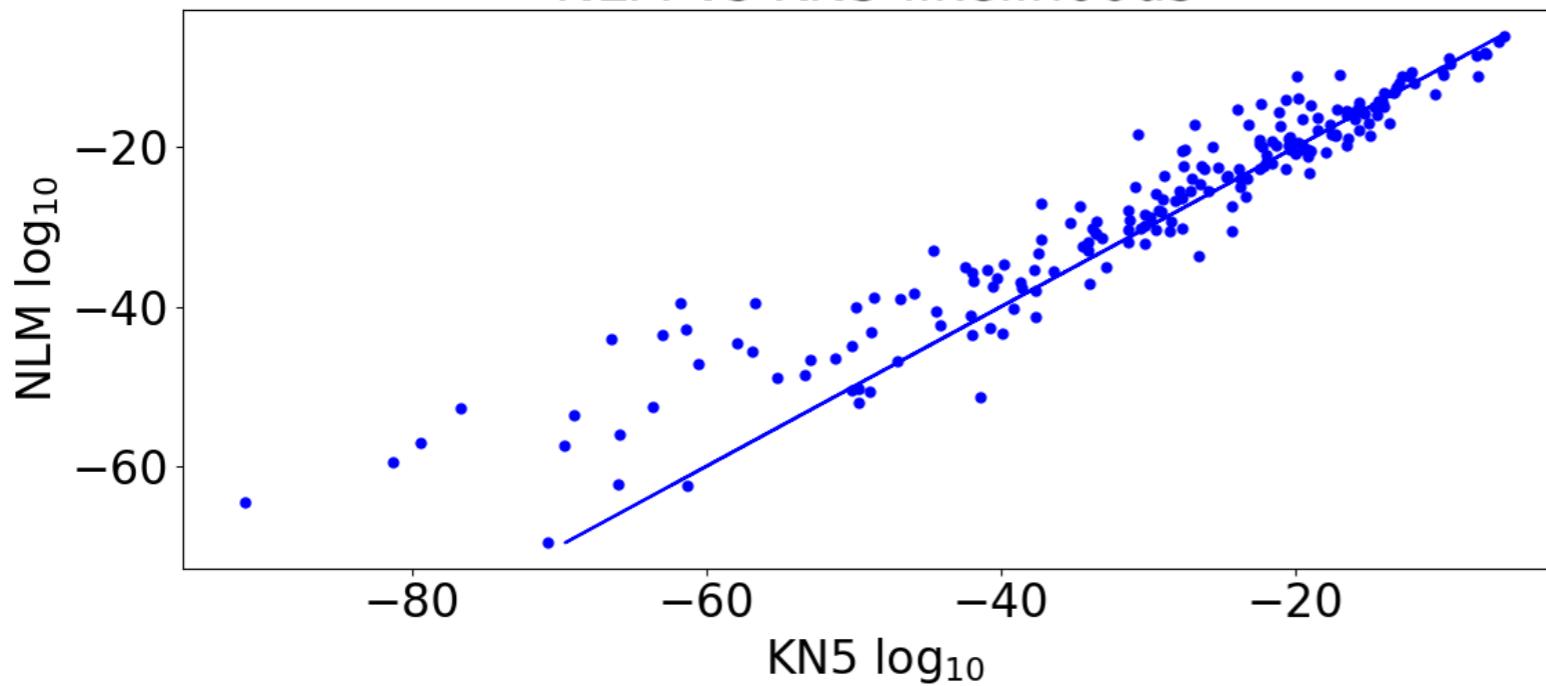
NLM vs NeuralEditor likelihoods



neural LM

# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods

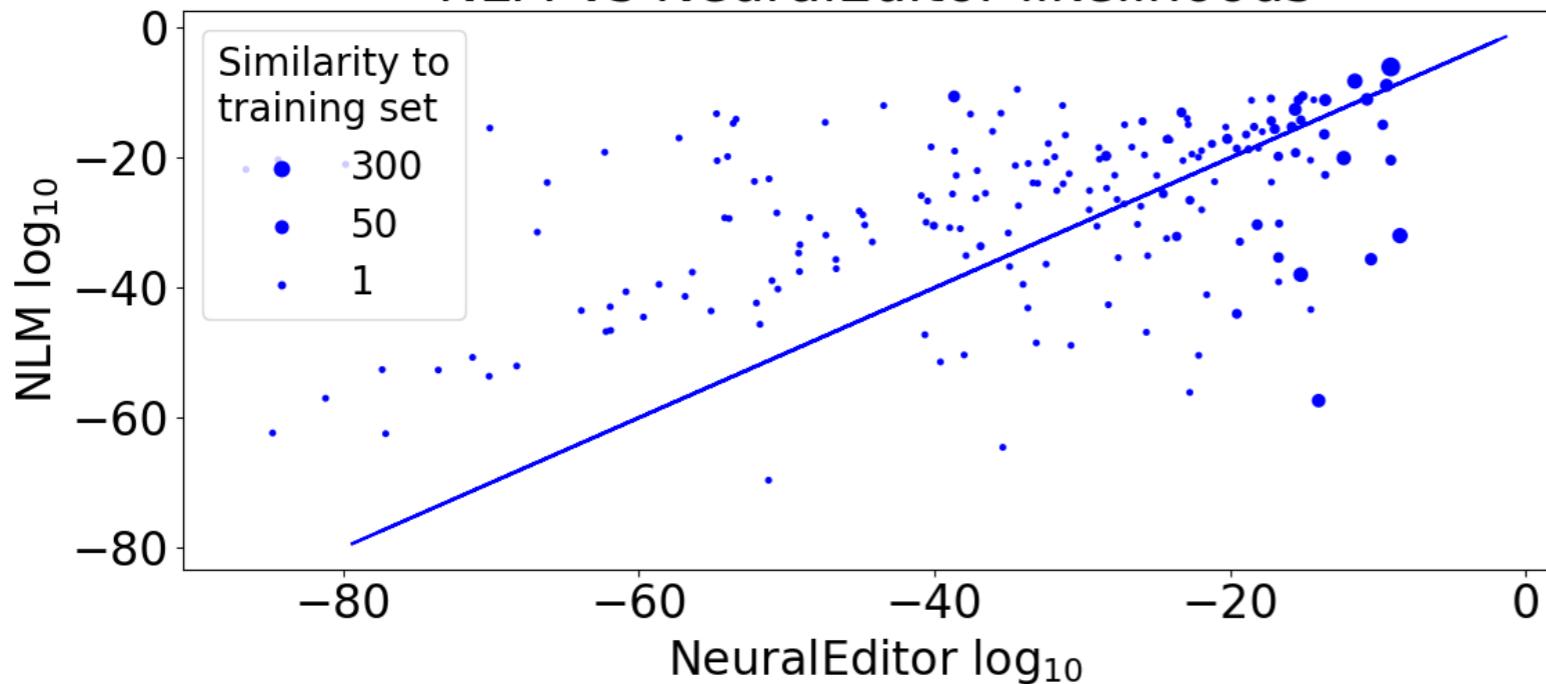


neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

**similar**

NLM vs NeuralEditor likelihoods

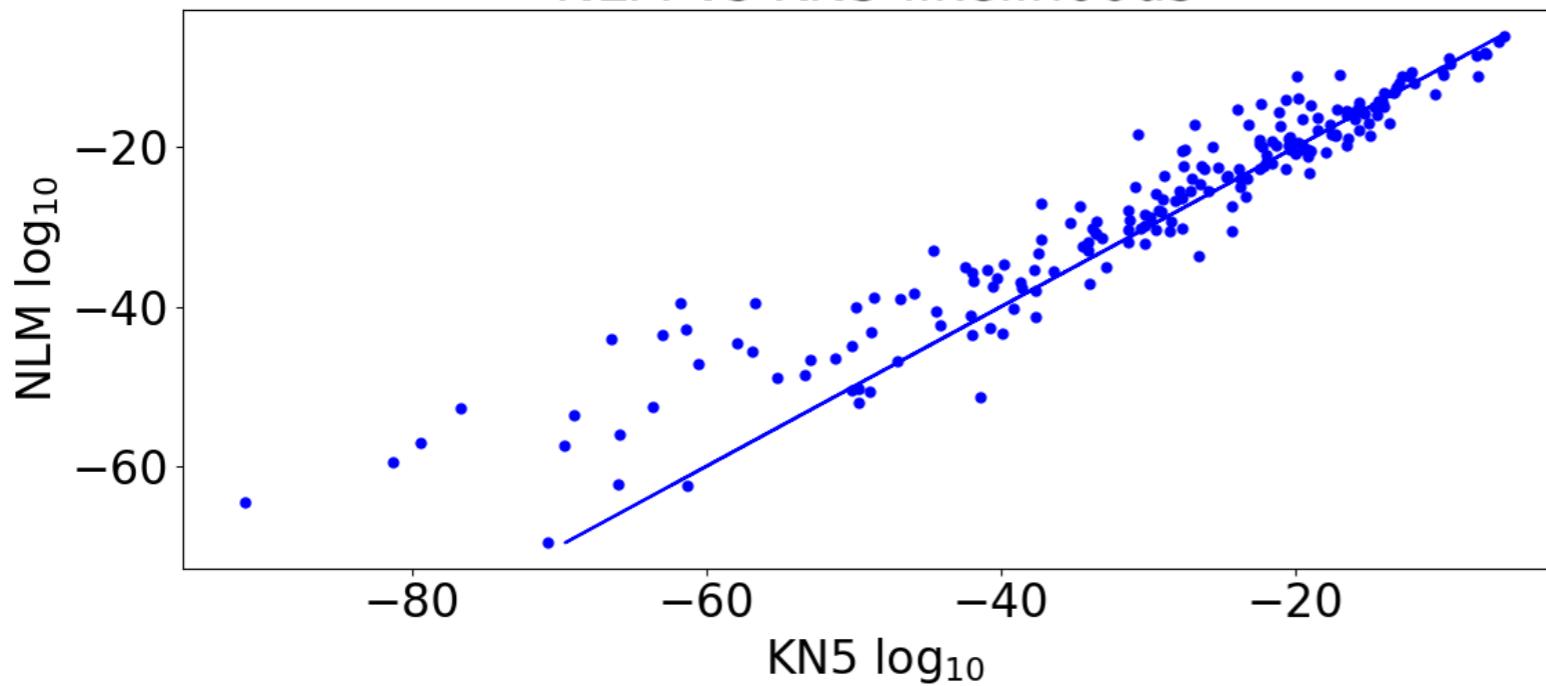


neural LM

NeuralEditor

# Perplexity (closer look)

NLM vs KN5 likelihoods

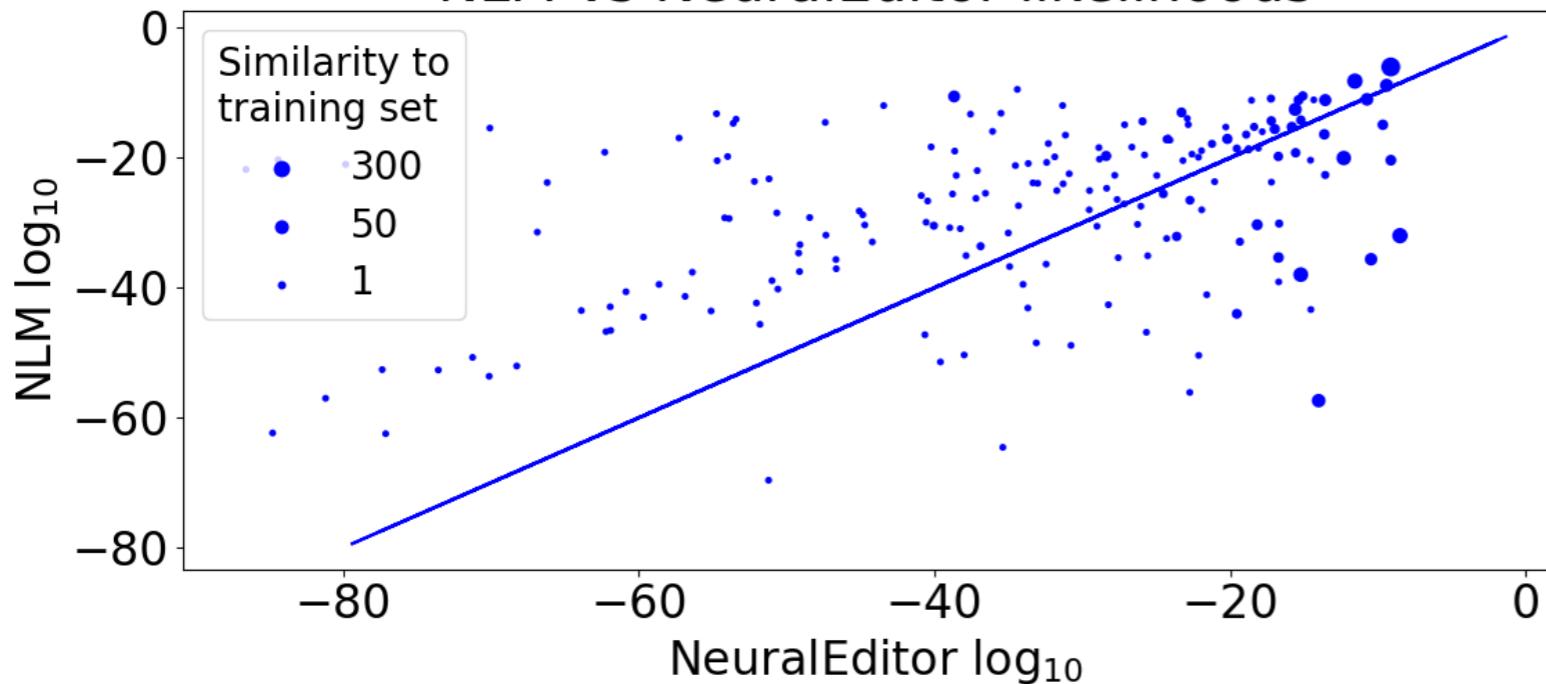


neural LM

classic Kneser-Ney LM

**similar**

NLM vs NeuralEditor likelihoods



neural LM

NeuralEditor

**different**

# Results

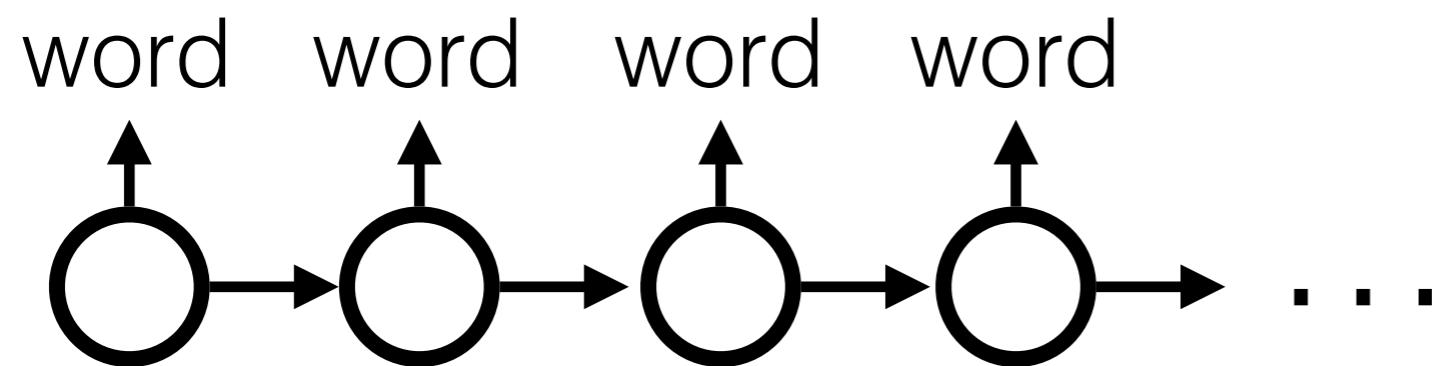
- **More diverse generations**
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# Results

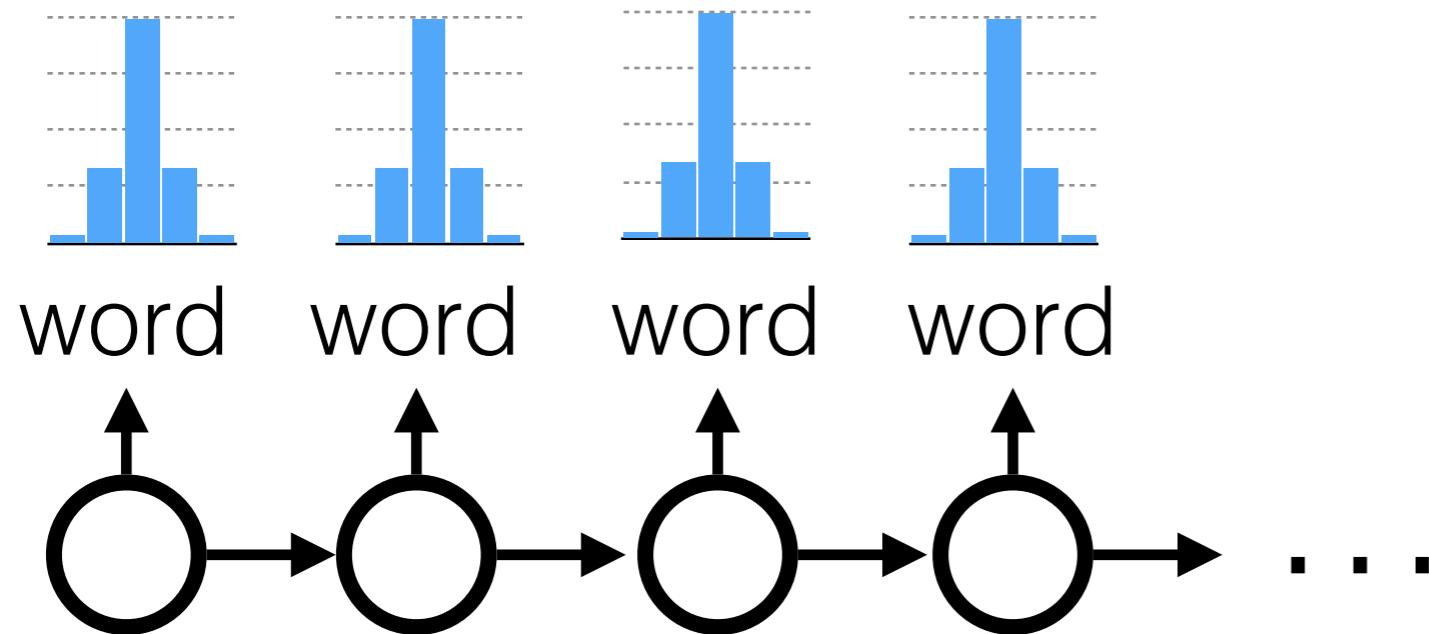
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# Naive way to increase diversity

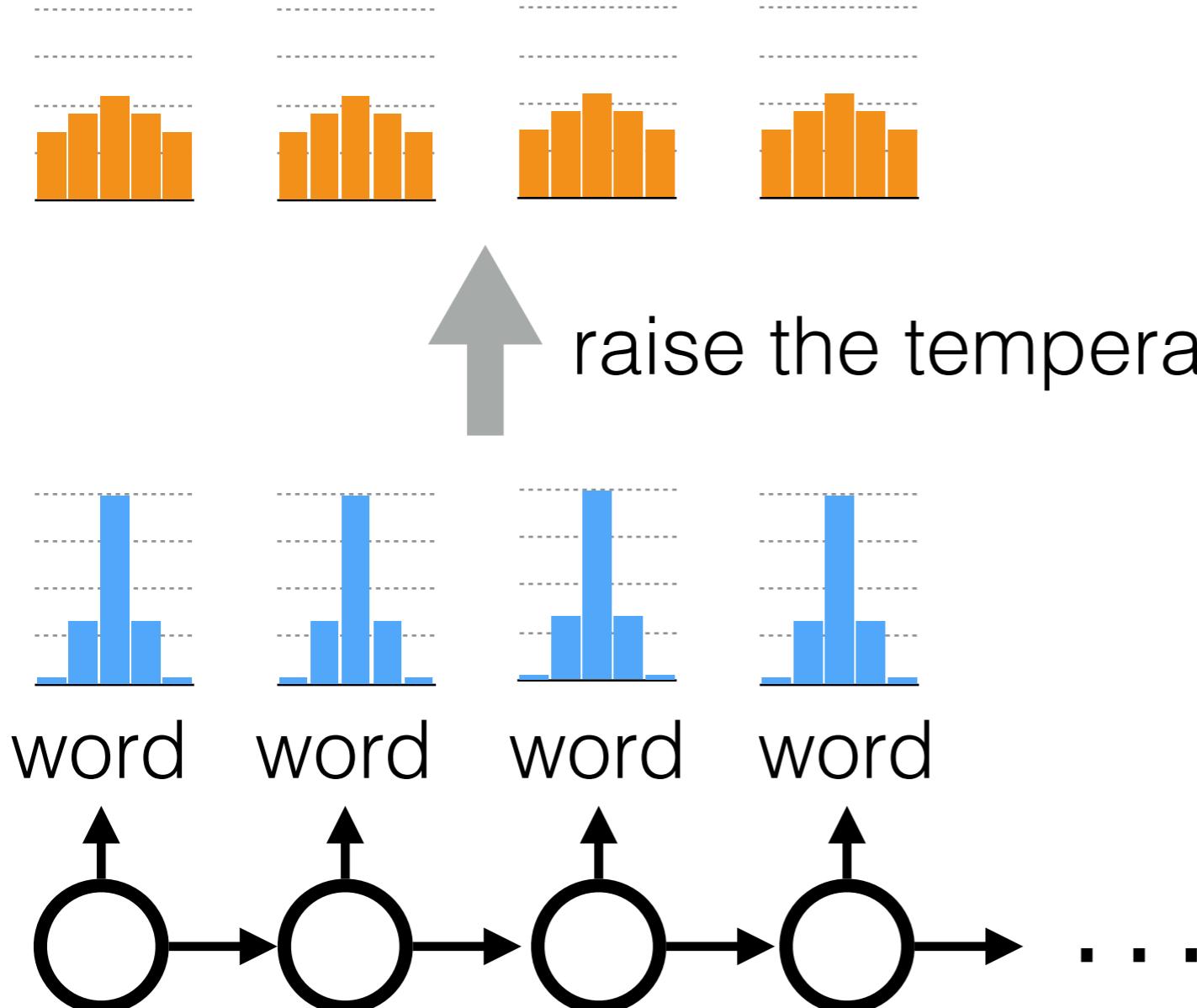
# Naive way to increase diversity



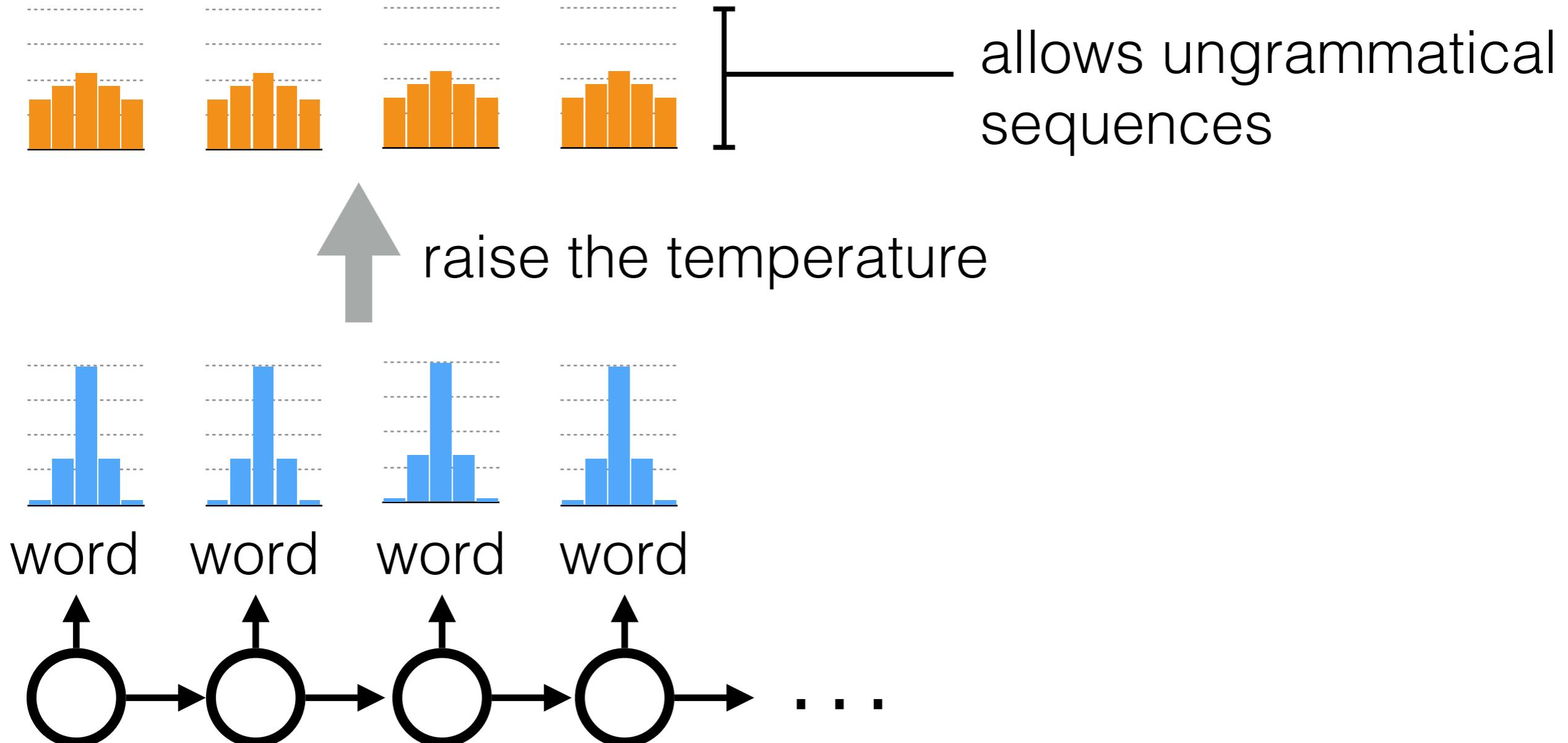
# Naive way to increase diversity



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# Naive way to increase diversity



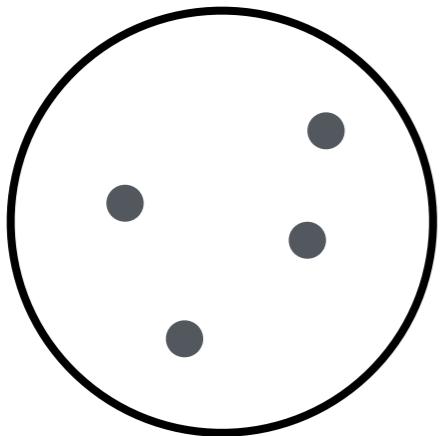
# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor

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$$z_p \sim p_{\text{proto}}$$

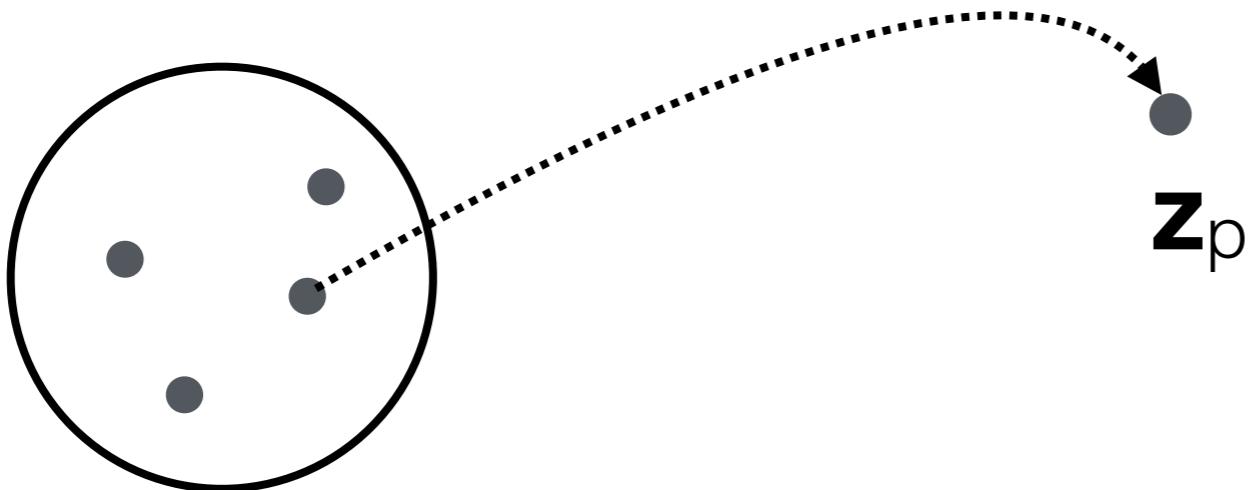
# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor

$$z_p \sim p_{\text{proto}}$$



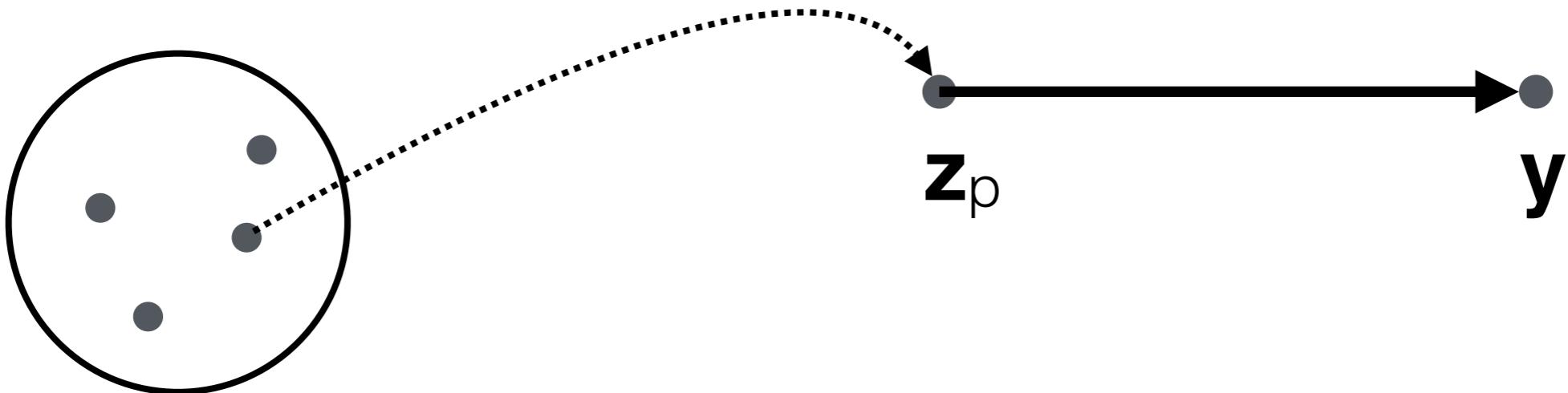
# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor

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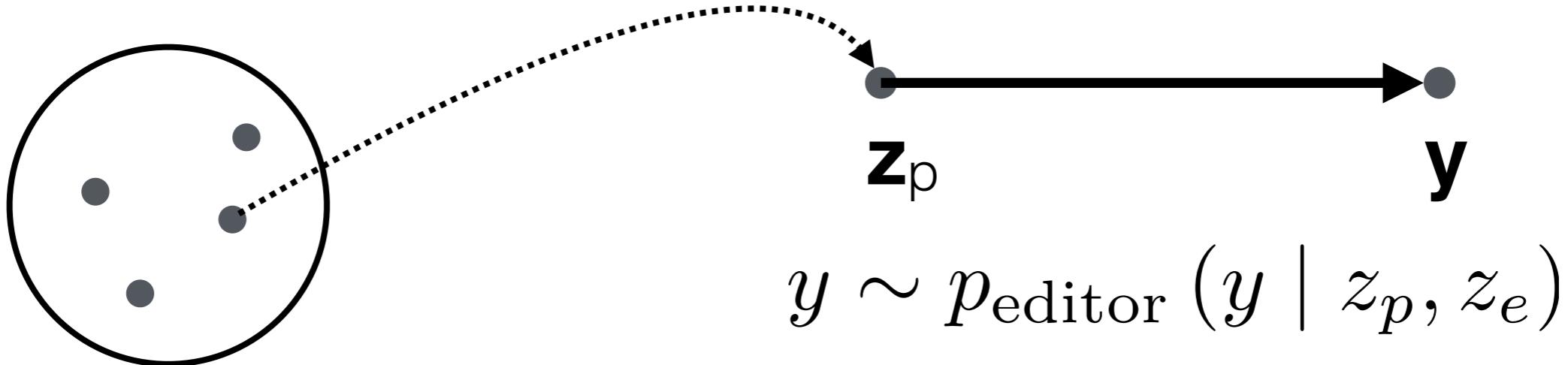
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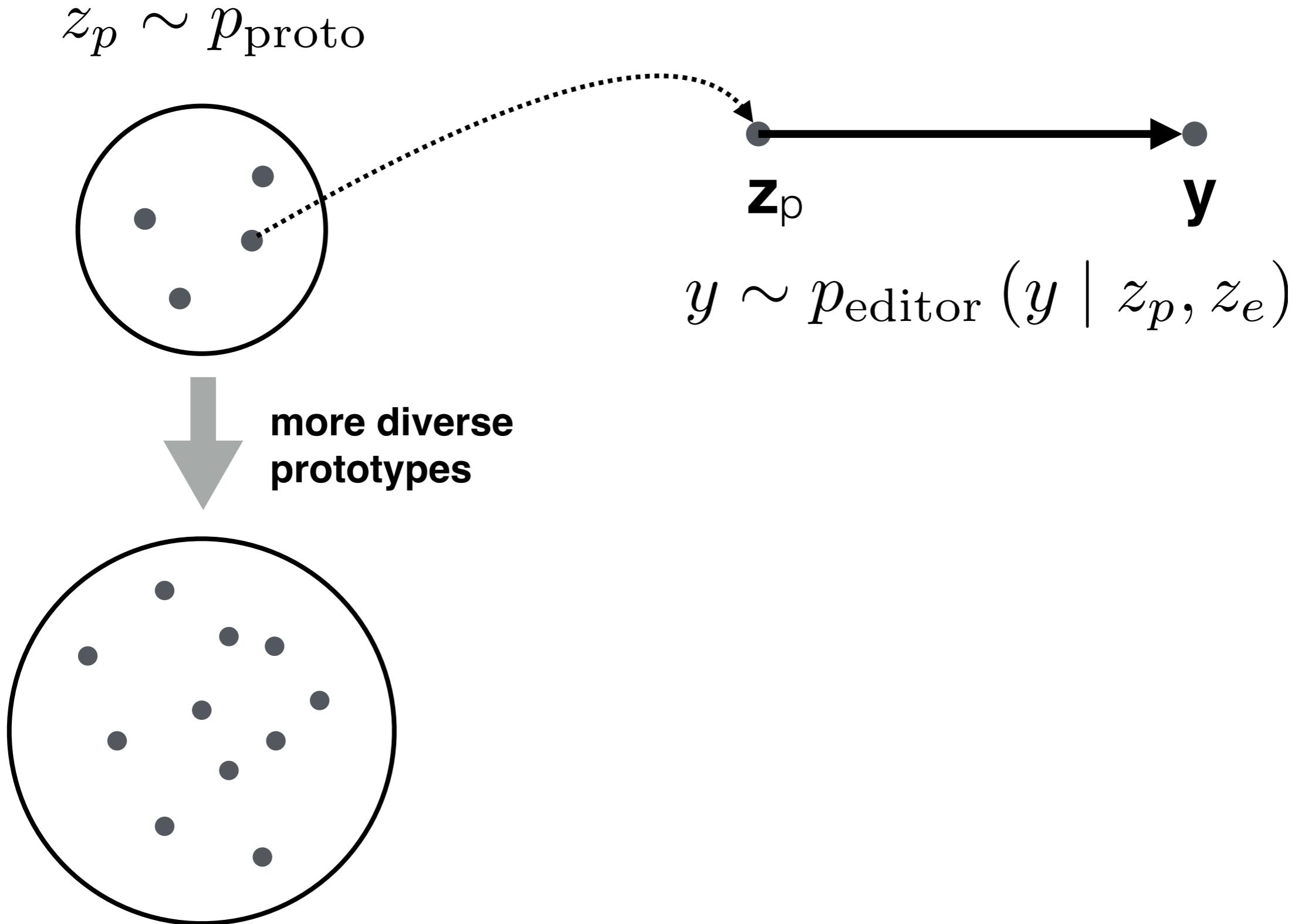


# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor

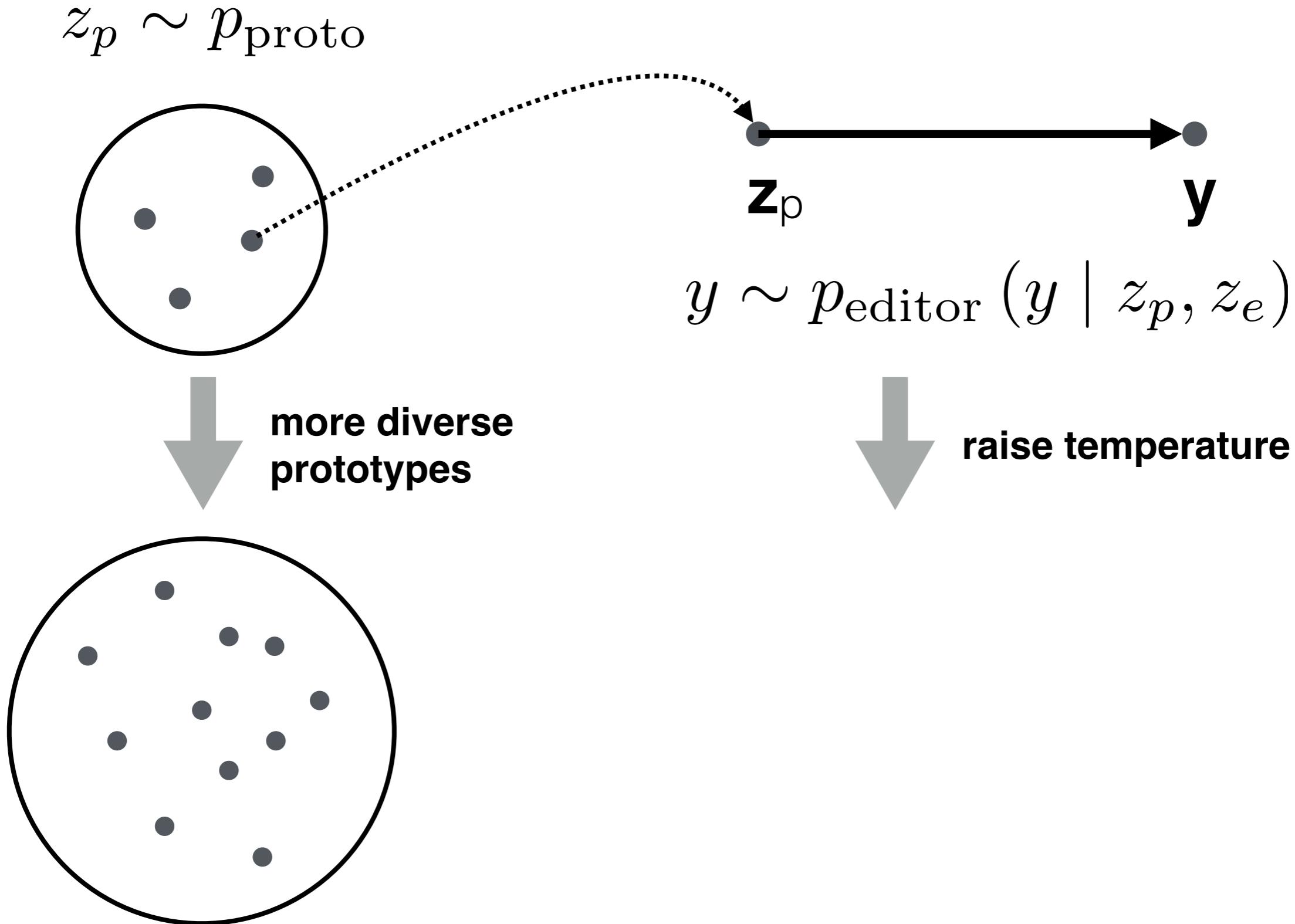
$$z_p \sim p_{\text{proto}}$$



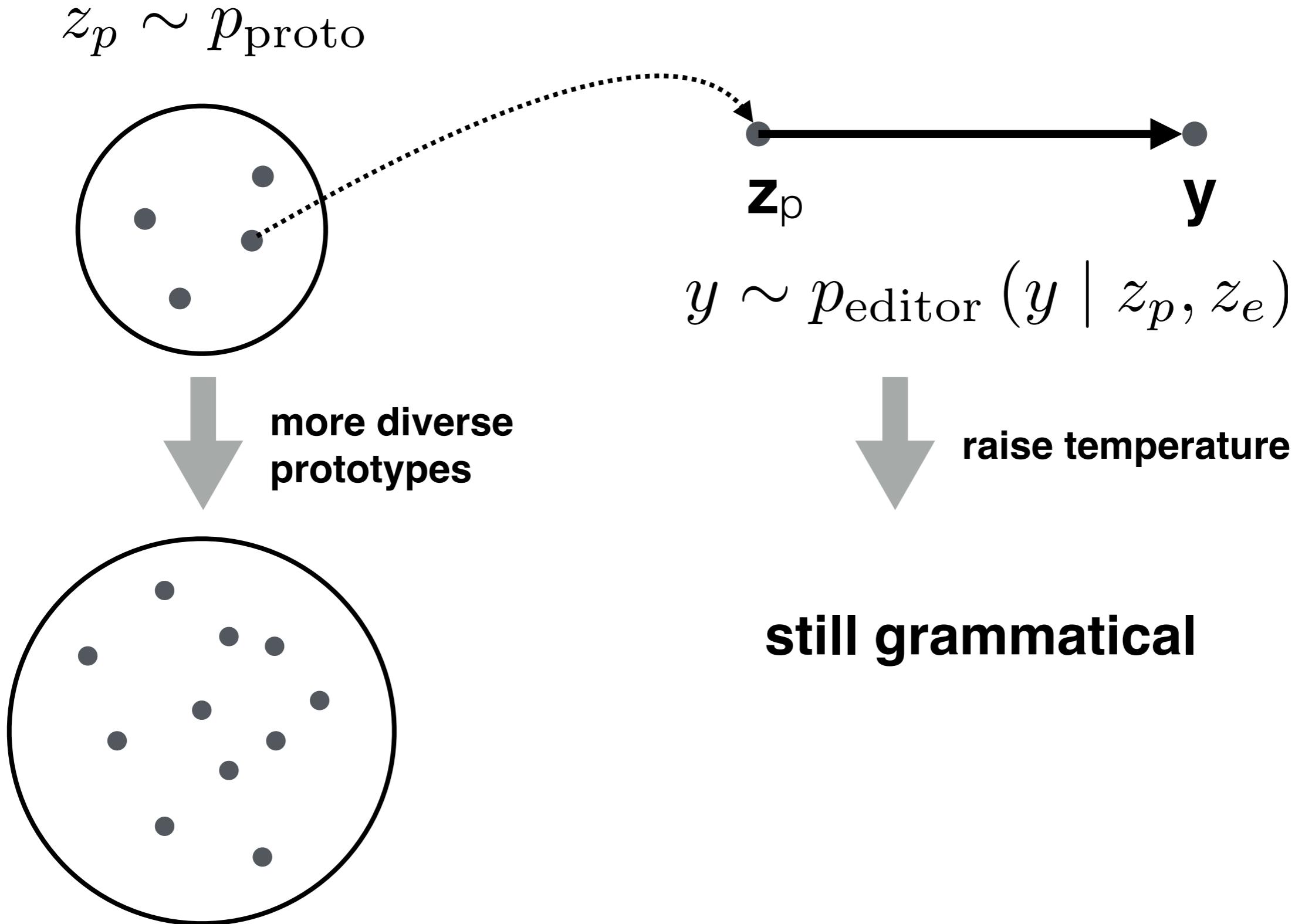
# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor



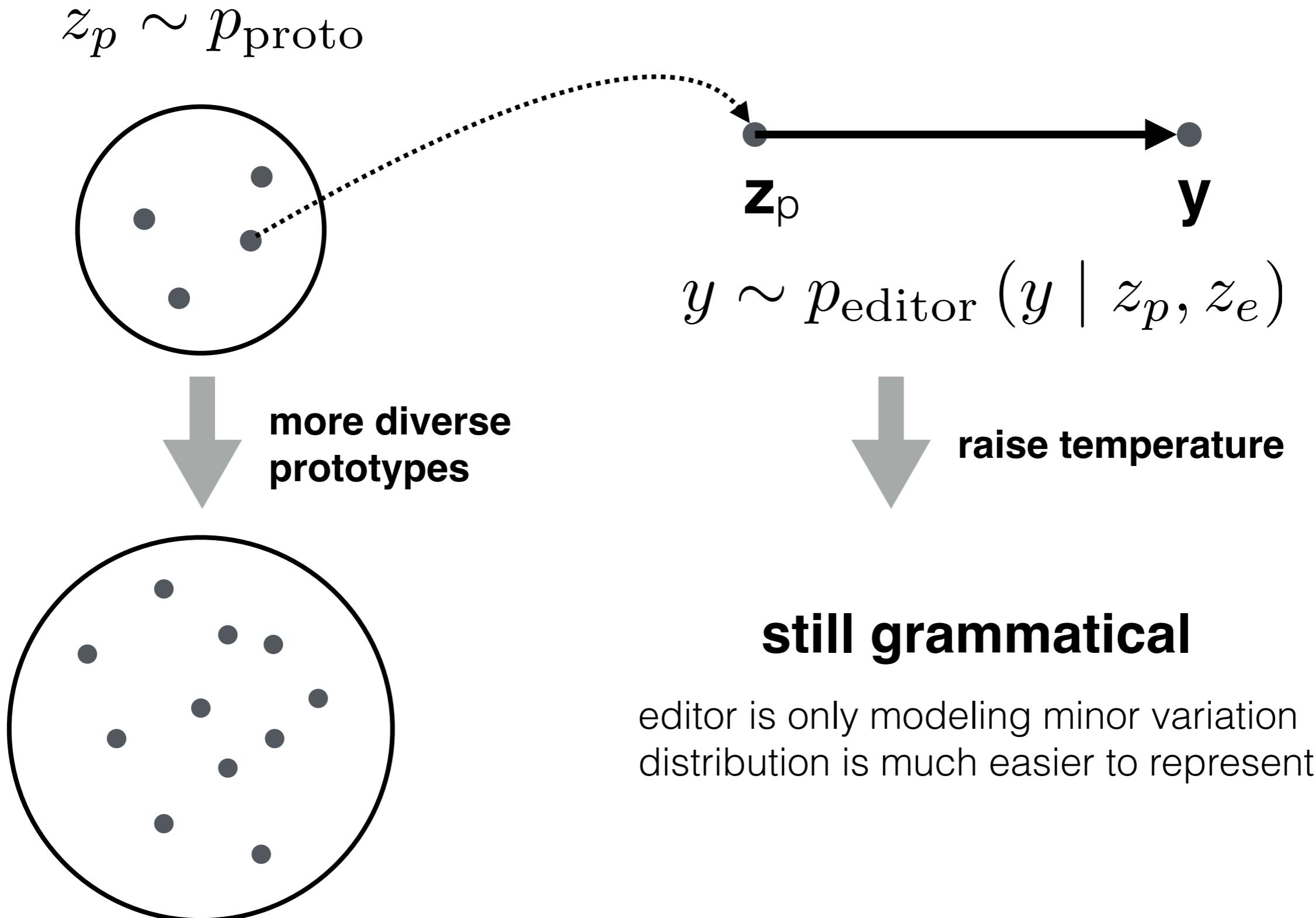
# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor



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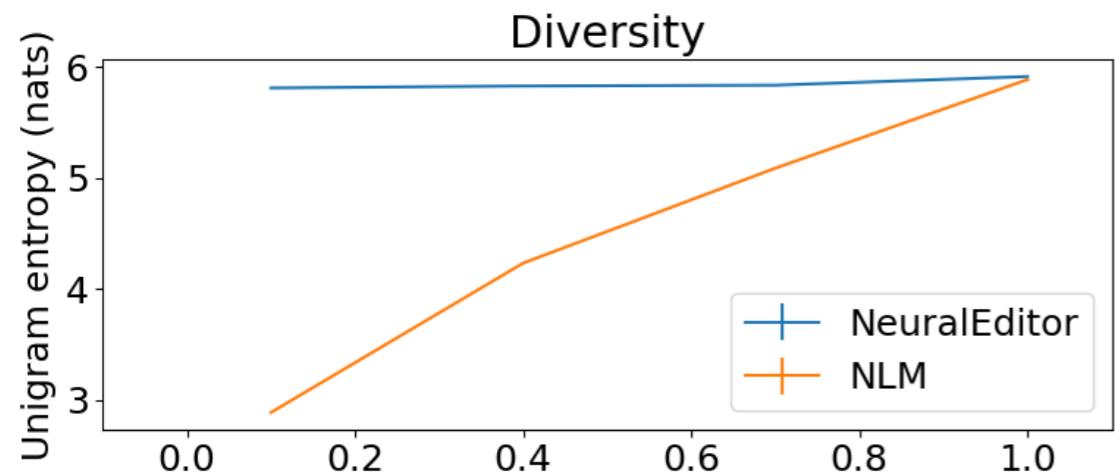


# Increasing diversity of NeuralEditor

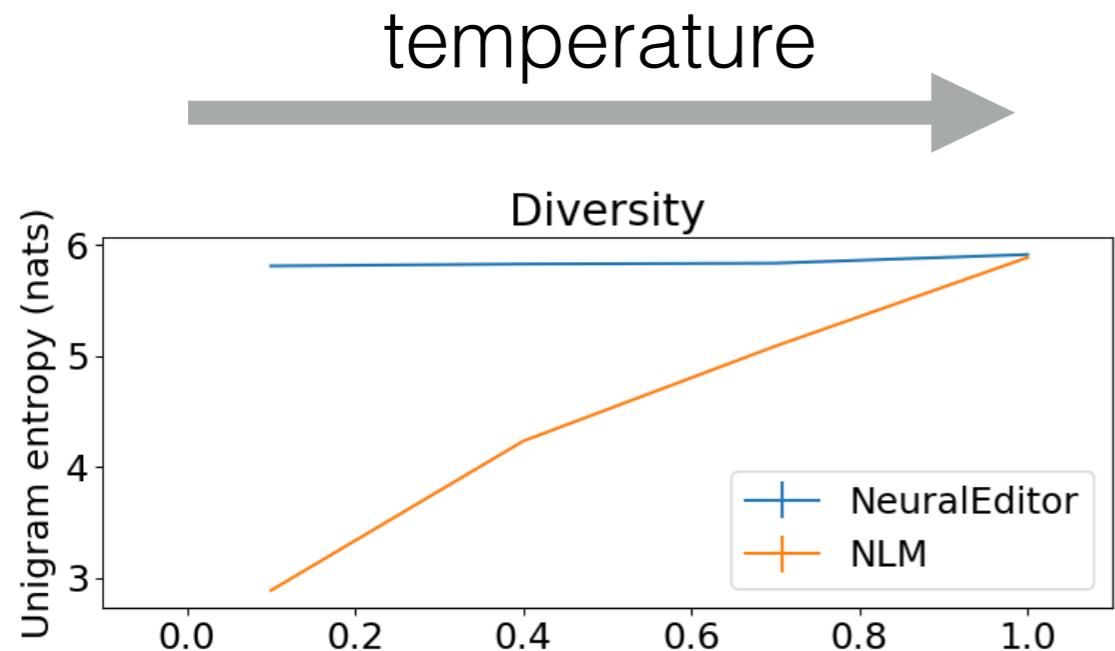


# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor

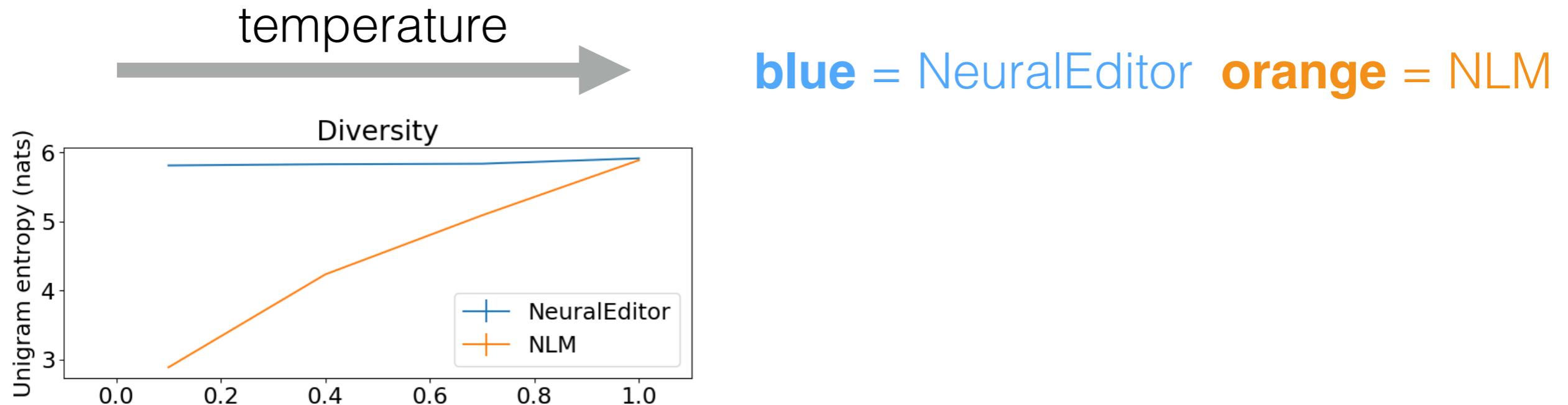
# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor



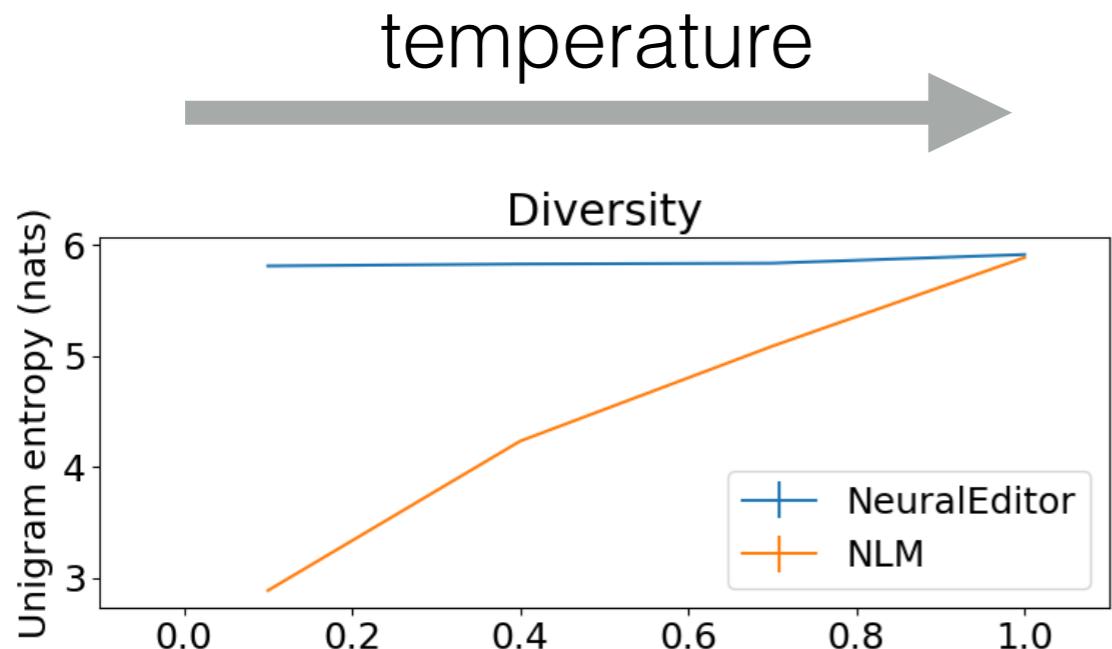
# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor



# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor



# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor



**blue** = NeuralEditor **orange** = NLM

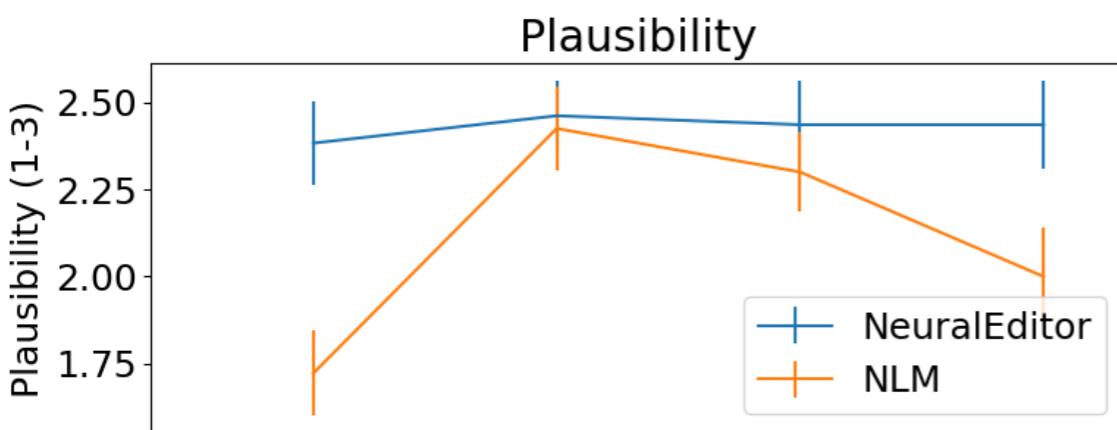
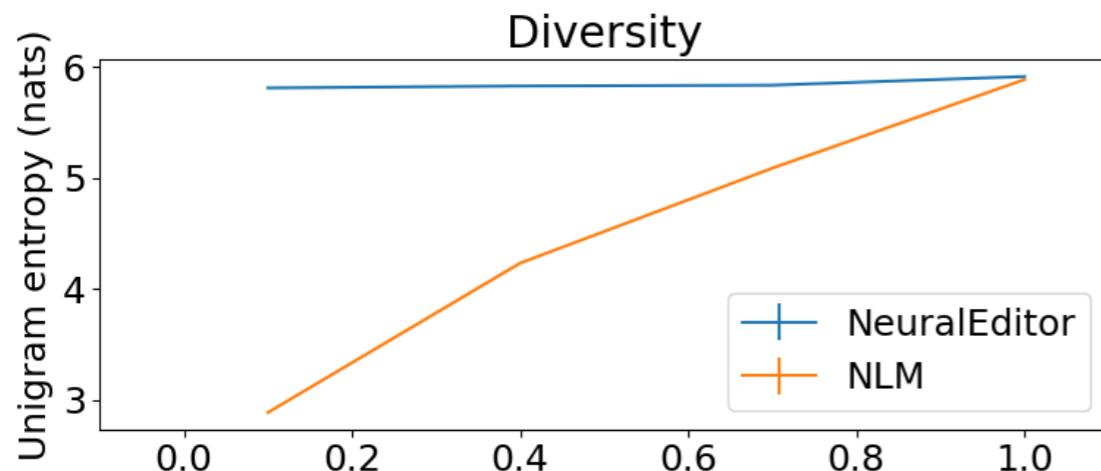
**NeuralEditor** is always diverse  
even at temperature = 0

# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor

temperature



**blue** = NeuralEditor **orange** = NLM

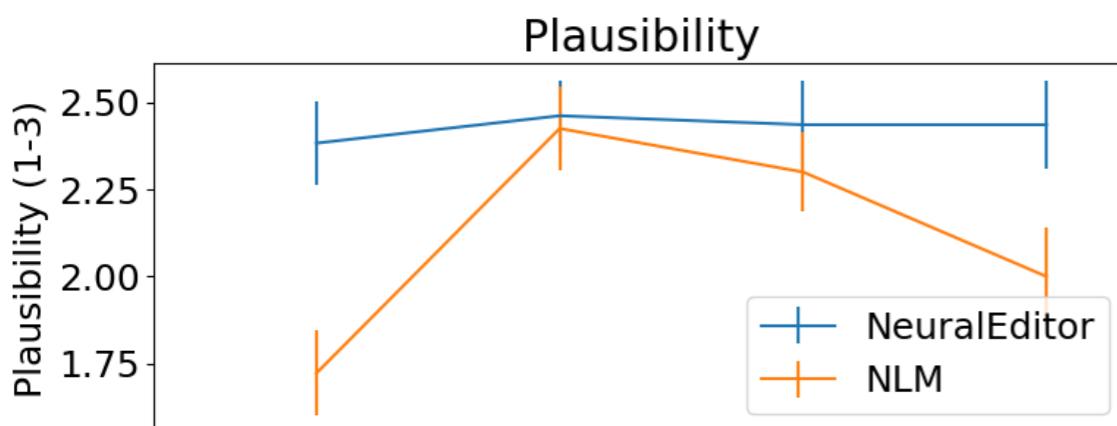
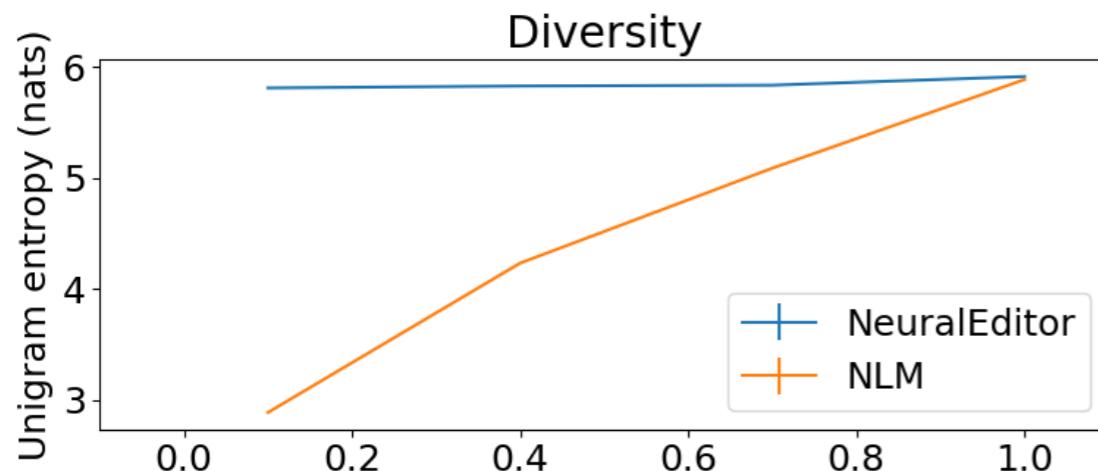


**NeuralEditor** is always diverse  
even at temperature = 0

# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor

temperature →

**blue** = NeuralEditor **orange** = NLM



**NeuralEditor** is always diverse  
even at temperature = 0

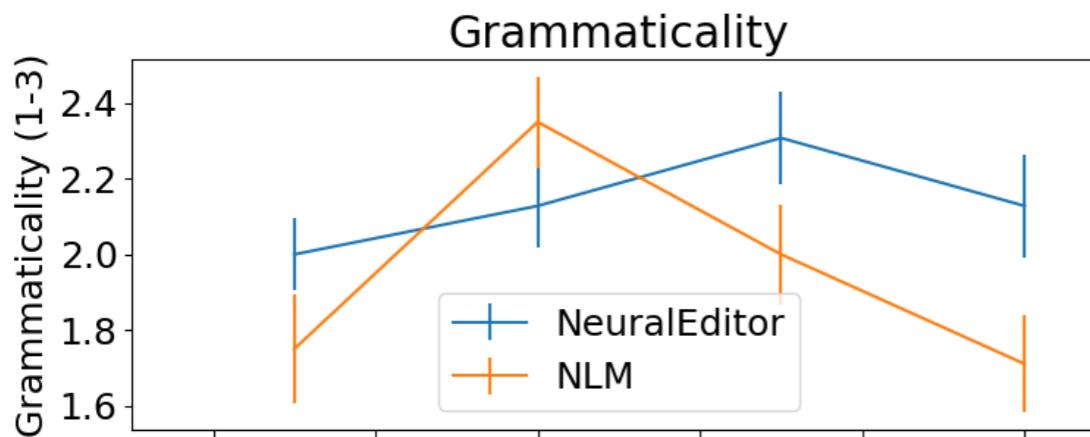
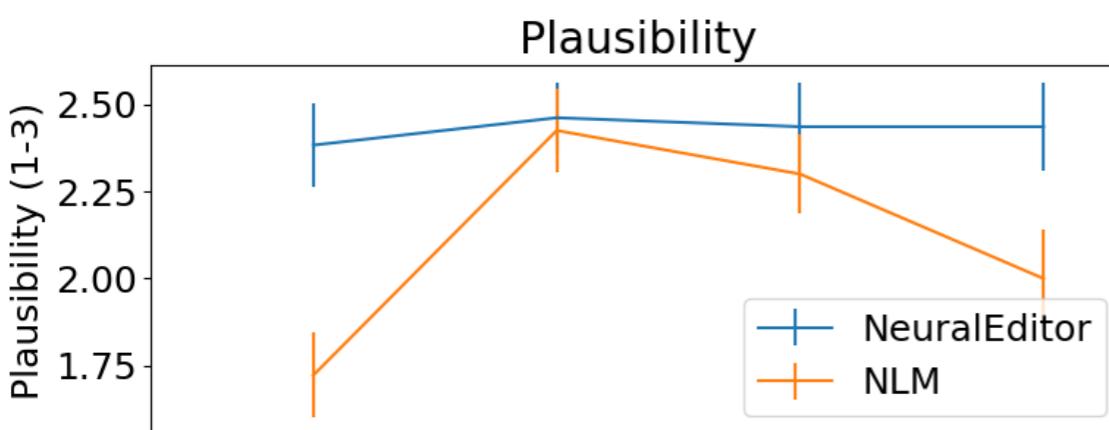
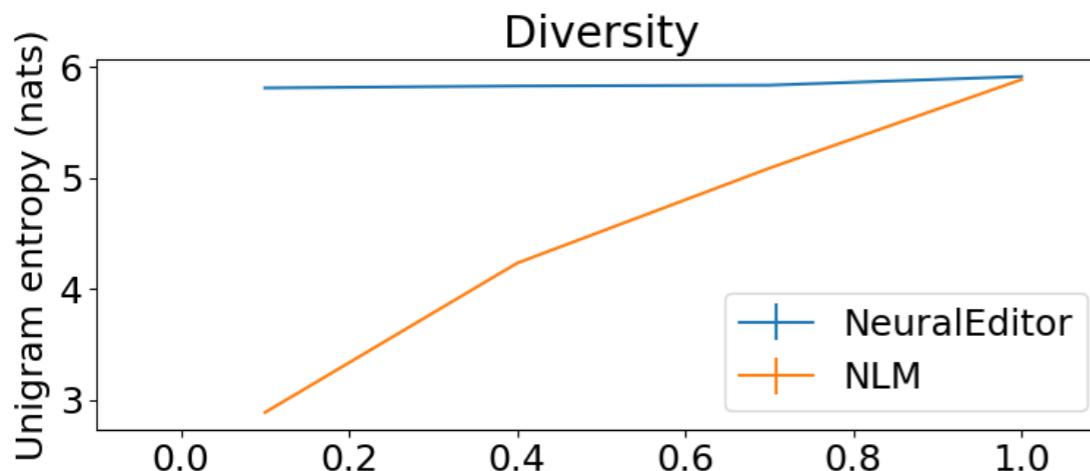
**NeuralEditor** generations  
more plausible at all temps

# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor

temperature



**blue** = NeuralEditor **orange** = NLM



**NeuralEditor** is always diverse even at temperature = 0

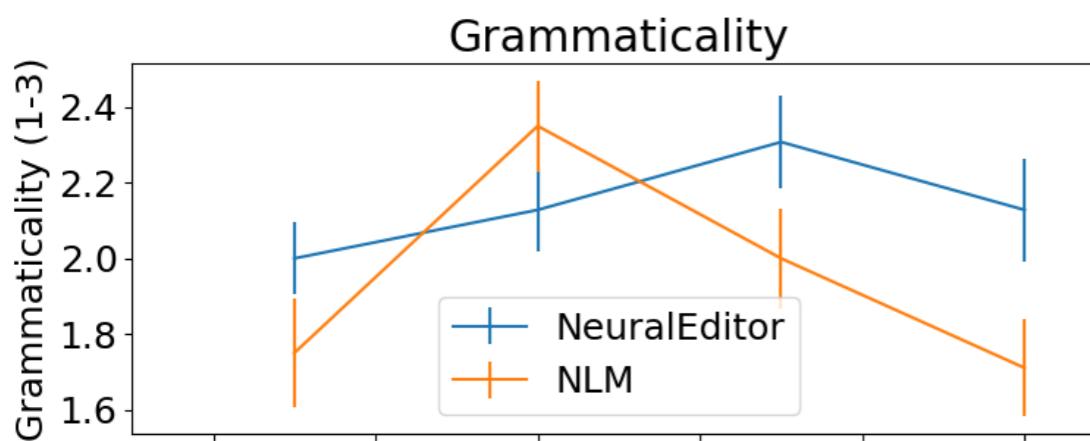
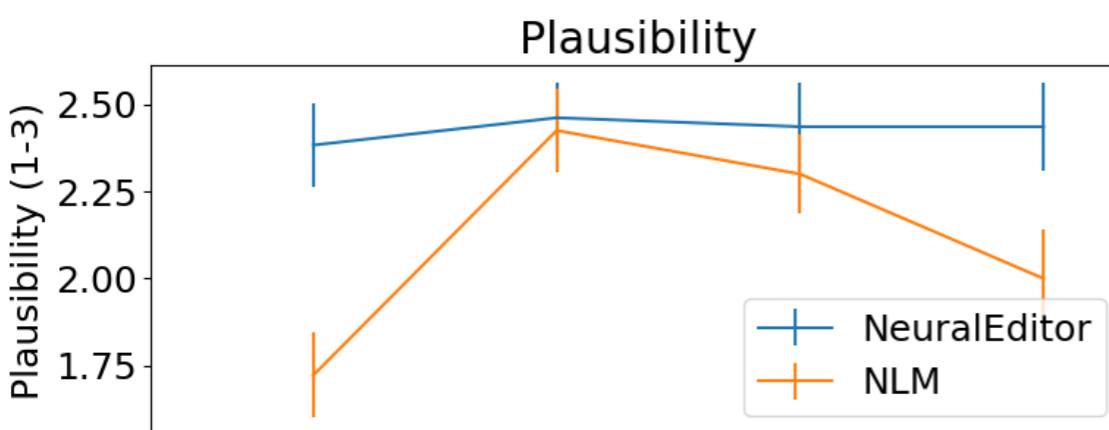
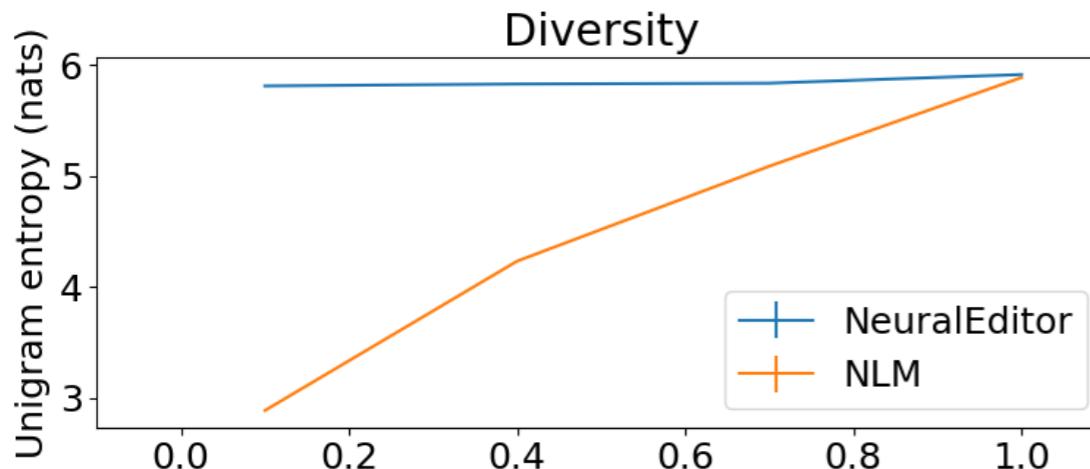
**NeuralEditor** generations more plausible at all temps

# Diversity: NLM vs NeuralEditor

temperature



**blue** = NeuralEditor **orange** = NLM



**NeuralEditor** is always diverse even at temperature = 0

**NeuralEditor** generations more plausible at all temps

**NLM** grammaticality suffers for higher temperatures

# Results

- ✓ **More diverse generations**
- ✓ **Higher quality generations**
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- ✓ **Edits are semantically meaningful**
  - preserve semantic similarity
  - can be used to perform sentence-level analogies

`\end{Results}`