# Inferring Meaning from Form. The Boundaries of Distributional Semantics

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The idea that we can learn the meaning of a word by analyzing the other linguistic forms it co-occurs with is the central tenet of distributional semantics. Highly sophisticated models and methods are available to acquire knowledge from linguistic co-occurrences in large corpora, which have become de facto the only source of meaning used by Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence systems. In this talk, I will discuss the achievements and limits of distributional semantic methods. What can we extract about word meanings from corpora? Is the new generation of methods, like the most recent neural language models, the real breakthrough that is often heralded? Why do certain aspects of meaning seem to be constantly elusive? What challenges are in front of us in this research area?