Computational Linguistics Seminar
LING-696G

Week 3
Administrivia

• Guest lecturer:
  – Bryan Heidorn, School of Information
  – ISTA 455/555: Applied NLP
  – Feb 3rd and 17th
  – (No lecture Feb 10th)
Readings in MT

• Chapters for discussion


  Furthermore, in hindsight it can, of course, be agreed that ALPAC was quite right to be sceptical about MT: the quality was undoubtedly poor, and did not appear to justify the level of financial support it had been receiving. It was also correct to identify the need to develop machine aids for translators, and to emphasize the need for more basic research in computational linguistics. However, it can be faulted for concentrating too exclusively on the translation needs of US scientists and of US agencies and not recognizing the broader needs of commerce and industry in an already expanding global economy. In this way,
Readings in MT

• Chapters for discussion

ALPAC began by asking whether, with the overwhelming predominance of English as the language of scientific literature (76% of all articles in 1965), it “might be simpler and more economical for heavy users of Russian translations to learn to read the documents in the original language.” Studies indicated that this could be achieved in 200 hours or less, and “an increasing fraction of American scientists and engineers have such a knowledge,” and it noted that many of the available opportunities for instruction were underutilized (appendix 2).
Statistical Machine Translation

- Let's start and look at Koehn's book