Vectorization in terms of language modelling and natural language processing

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Tell me plainly what vectorization means in terms of language modeling and natural language processing.

Vectorization in the context of language modeling and natural language processing (NLP) refers to the process of converting textual data into numerical representations (vectors). These vectors capture the semantic meaning and relationships between words and phrases.

A simplified explanation:

Text to Numbers: Each word or phrase is assigned a unique numerical vector.

Semantic Representation: The values in the vector represent the word's meaning and how it relates to other words.

Mathematical Operations: Once words are represented as vectors, mathematical operations like addition, subtraction, and multiplication can be performed on them to analyze relationships, similarities, and differences.

Why is vectorization important?

Machine Learning: Vectorization allows computers to understand and process text data, which is crucial for machine learning tasks like sentiment analysis, text classification, and language translation.

Similarity Measures: By comparing the vectors of different words or phrases, we can determine their similarity or relatedness.

Mathematical Modeling: Vectorization enables the use of powerful mathematical techniques to analyze and understand language patterns.