

Word Embedding Activity

Language, Power, Computation

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Figure 1: A unicorn. Just because. You can color it in if you want. Image from <https://freesvg.org/unicorn-for-coloring>

1. Grab some sticks and a glue gun. Maybe grab some cardboard, too, so the glue doesn't get on the table.
2. Use the glue and sticks to make a coordinate system.
3. Using duct tape and markers (or other methods if you wish), label the three axes: valence, arousal, dominance, in that order. Choose a right-handed coordinate system.
4. We will then give you some words. Give each word a score between 0 and 1 for the following categories:
 - **Valence.** How positive or pleasurable the word¹ is
 - **Arousal.** How excited or active the word is.
 - **Dominance.** How powerful or controlling the word is.

Debate and ponder for a bit. Obviously, there is no right answer.

5. Use a stick to plot each of your words as a vector in the coordinate system you made. Label your words.
6. Which of your words are close together? How would you measure this?
7. What issues/questions/concerns/dilemmas did you encounter while doing this exercise?

¹I.e., the meaning or meanings of the word