

Brief History of SLMs

- **1950s~1980: Early work**, mostly done by the **IR community**
 - Main applications are to select indexing terms and rank documents
 - Language model-based approaches “lost” to vector space approaches in empirical IR evaluation
 - Limited models developed
- **1980~2000: Major progress** made mostly by the **speech recognition community** and **NLP community**
 - Language model was recognized as an important component in statistical approaches to speech recognition and machine translation
 - Improved language models led to reduced speech recognition errors and improved machine translation results
 - Many models developed!