

Useful visualization for evaluating systems which:

1. Should return only one interpretation
2. May decline to give an interpretation

Misunderstanding
wrong interpretation (error)

Trade-off

Non-understanding
failure to give an interpretation

How old are dinosaurs?



Misunderstanding leads to inappropriate response

We were first compiled just months ago

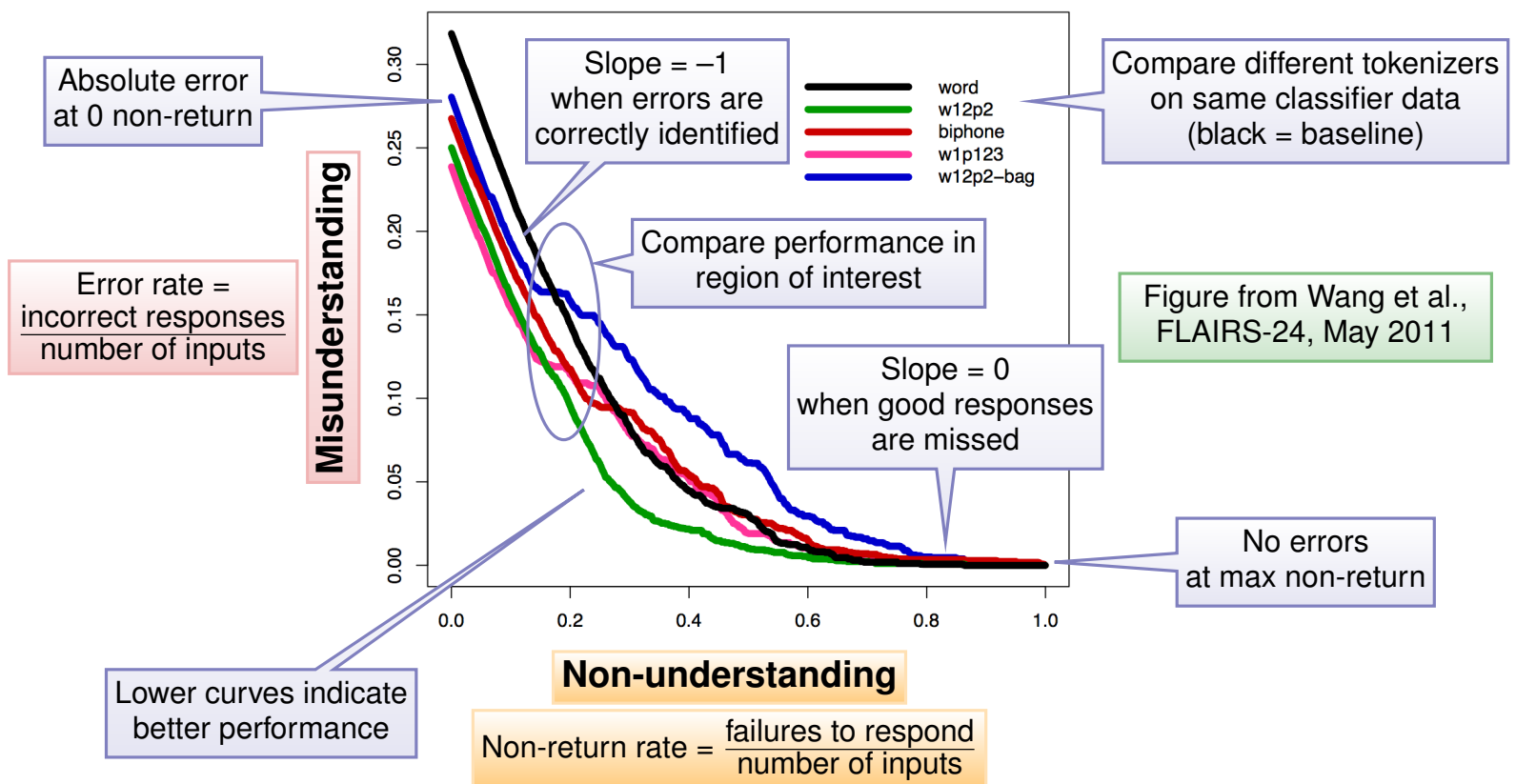
Could you repeat that?

Non-understanding leads to appropriate but uninformative response

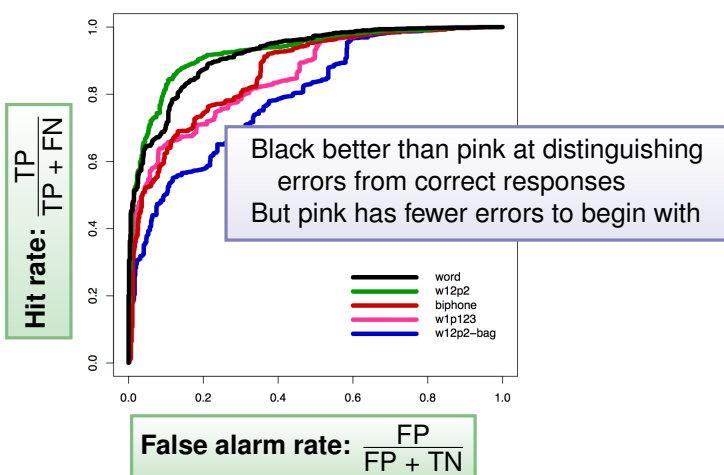
Non-understanding is the result of a 2-step process:

1. Determine the best interpretation (may turn out to be correct or incorrect)
2. Decide if it's likely to be correct (non-understanding when below a confidence threshold)

Visualization: Plot **misunderstanding** against **non-understanding** while varying the response threshold



ROC curves ignore actual error rate



TP = Correct response above threshold
FP = Error response above threshold
TN = Error response below threshold
FN = Correct response below threshold

Precision/recall not very useful when each input receives at most one interpretation

Advantages of the error return plot

- Directly represents the tradeoff between misunderstanding and non-understanding.
- Visual indication if one system dominates another.
- Represents both the actual error rate, and the system's ability to identify errors.
- Slope of curve shows how much is gained by increasing non-understanding at each point.
- Shows performance at the appropriate level of non-understanding (varies by application).

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