## Finite-State Technology in Natural Language Processing

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### Roadmap

- Linguistic Basics and Weighted Automata
- Part-of-Speech Tagging
- Parsing
- Machine Translation

Always ask questions right away!

#### **Units**

- Sentence (syntactic unit expressing complete thought)
  - Alla sätt är bra utom de dåliga.
  - "Are you serious?" she asked.

#### **Units**

• Sentence (syntactic unit expressing complete thought)

- Clause (grammatically complete syntactic unit)
  - Vännens örfil är ärligt menad, fiendens kyssar vill bedra.
     (2 main clauses)
  - ► People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. (main clause + relative clause)

#### **Units**

• Sentence (syntactic unit expressing complete thought)

Clause (grammatically complete syntactic unit)

Phrases

(smaller syntactic units)

- the green car (noun phrase = noun and its modifiers)
- killed the snake (verb phrase = verb and its objects)

#### **Units**

• Sentence (syntactic unit expressing complete thought)

Clause (grammatically complete syntactic unit)

Phrases

(smaller syntactic units)

- Token (smallest unit = "word"; often derived from lexicon entry)
  - house, car, lived, smallest, 45th, STACS, Knuth
  - but tricky: Knuth's vs. Knuth 's; well-known vs. well known

#### **Tokenization**

Splitting text into sentences and tokens

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### Example (English sentence-ending full stop)

RE . (WhiteSpace)+ [A-Z] covers most cases (in English)

### Example (English)

- tokens usually separated by whitespace
- sentence end marker "." highly ambiguous:
  - common abbreviations
  - dates, ordinals, and phone numbers

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- tokens usually separated by whitespace
- sentence end marker "." highly ambiguous:
  - common abbreviations
  - dates, ordinals, and phone numbers
- STANFORD tokenizer
  - implemented in JAVA
  - compiles RegEx into DFA and runs DFA
  - can process 1,000,000 tokens per second

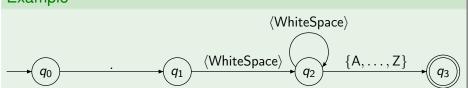
(based on JFlex)

#### **Definition**

A weighted automaton is a system  $(Q, \Sigma, I, \Delta, F, wt)$ 

- finite set Q of states
- input alphabet Σ
- initial states  $I \subseteq Q$
- transitions  $\Delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q$
- final states  $F \subseteq Q$

### Example

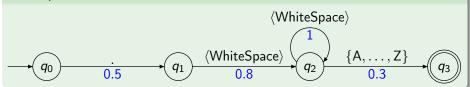


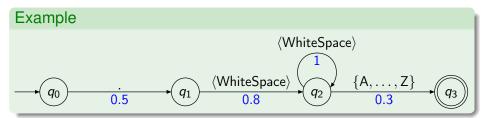
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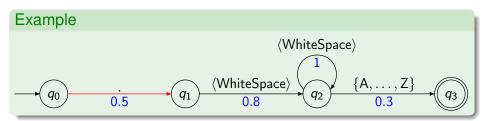
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- transition weights  $\mathrm{wt} \colon \Delta \to [0,1]$

### Example

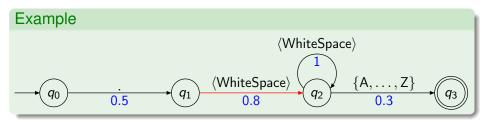






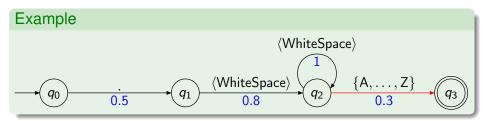
### **Definition (Semantics)**

• Weight of a run: product of the transition weights (run  $(q_0,.,q_1)(q_1,\_,q_2)(q_2,\mathsf{F},q_3)$  has weight  $0.5\cdot0.8\cdot0.3=0.12$ )



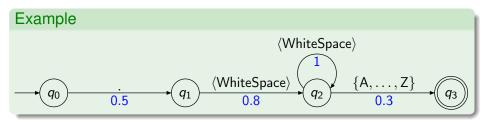
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- Weight of an input: sum of the weights of all successful runs (input ".\_F" has weight 0.12)

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Alla sätt är bra utom de dåliga det. noun verb adj. subord. det. adj. conj.

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### Example

```
Alla sätt är bra utom de dåliga
det. noun verb adj. subord. det. adj.
conj.
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### Tags (from the PENN tree bank — English)

- DT = determiner
- NN = noun (singular or mass)
- JJ = adjective
- MD = modal
- VB = verb (base form)
- VBD = verb (past tense)
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show

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### Example (Tagging exercise)

the show

DT NN

### History

#### • 1960s

- manually tagged BROWN corpus
- tag lists with frequency for each token e.g., {VB, MD, NN} for can
- excluding ling.-implausible sequences
- most common tag" yields 90% accuracy

(1,000,000 words)

(e.g. DT VB)

[CHARNIAK, 97]

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- hidden MARKOV models (HMM)
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(WA algorithms)

FST in NLP

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#### 1980s

- hidden MARKOV models (HMM)
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#### 2000s

British national corpus

parsers are better taggers

(100,000,000 words) (wTA algorithms)

#### Markov Model

#### Statistical approach

Given a sequence  $w = w_1 \cdots w_k$  of tokens, determine the most likely sequence  $t_1 \cdots t_k$  of part-of-speech tags  $(t_i \text{ is the tag of } w_i)$ 

$$(\hat{t}_{1},...,\hat{t}_{k}) = \underset{(t_{1},...,t_{k})}{\operatorname{arg max}} p(t_{1},...,t_{k} \mid w)$$

$$= \underset{(t_{1},...,t_{k})}{\operatorname{arg max}} \frac{p(t_{1},...,t_{k},w)}{p(w)}$$

$$= \underset{(t_{1},...,t_{k})}{\operatorname{arg max}} p(t_{1},...,t_{k},w_{1},...,w_{k})$$

$$= \underset{(t_{1},...,t_{k})}{\operatorname{arg max}} p(t_{1},w_{1}) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{k} p(t_{i},w_{i} \mid t_{1},...,t_{i-1},w_{1},...,w_{i-1})$$

### Markov Model

#### Modelling as stochastic process

• introduce event  $E_i = w_i \cap t_i = (w_i, t_i)$ 

$$p(t_1, w_1) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{k} p(t_i, w_i \mid t_1, \dots, t_{i-1}, w_1, \dots, w_{i-1})$$

$$= p(E_1) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{k} p(E_i \mid E_1, \dots, E_{i-1})$$

assume Markov property

$$p(E_i \mid E_1, ..., E_{i-1}) = p(E_i \mid E_{i-1}) = p(E_2 \mid E_1)$$

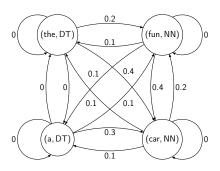
### **Markov Model**

#### Summary

• initial weights p(E)

(not indicated below)

• transition weights  $p(E \mid E')$ 



### Markov Model

### Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

Assume that likelihood = relative frequency in corpus

- initial weights p(E)
   How often does E start a tagged sentence?
- transition weights p(E | E')
   How often does E follow E'?

### Markov Model

### Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

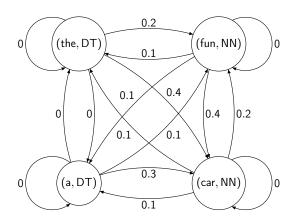
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#### **Problems**

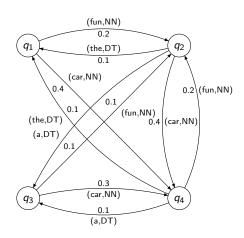
- Vocabulary: ≈ 350,000 English tokens, but only 50,000 tokens (14%) in BROWN corpus
- Sparsity: (car, NN) (fun, NN) not attested in corpus, but plausible (frequency estimates might be wrong)

# Transformation into Weighted Automaton

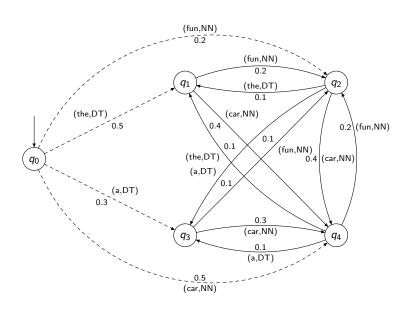


# Transformation into Weighted Automaton





## Transformation into Weighted Automaton



### Typical questions

- Decoding: (or language model evaluation) Given model M and sentence w, determine probability  $M_1(w)$ 
  - project labels to first components
  - evaluate w in the obtained wA  $M_1$
  - efficient: initial-algebra semantics

(forward algorithm)

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Tagging:

Given model M and sentence w, determine the best tag sequence  $t_1 \cdots t_k$ 

- intersect M with the DFA for w and any tag sequence
- determine best run in the obtained wA
- efficient: VITERBI algorithm

### Typical questions

- (Weight) Induction: (or MLE training) Given NFA  $(Q, \Sigma, I, \Delta, F)$  and sequence  $\overline{w}_1, \ldots, \overline{w}_k$  of tagged sentences  $\overline{w}_i \in \Sigma^*$ , determine transition weights wt:  $\Delta \to [0, 1]$  such that  $\prod_{i=1}^k M_{\mathrm{wt}}(\overline{w}_i)$  is maximal with  $M_{\mathrm{wt}} = (Q, \Sigma, I, \Delta, F, \mathrm{wt})$ 
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  - efficient: hill-climbing methods (EM, simulated annealing, etc.)

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  - no closed solution (in general), but many approximations
  - efficient: hill-climbing methods (EM, simulated annealing, etc.)
- Learning: (or HMM induction) Given NFA  $(Q, \Sigma, I, \Delta, F)$  and sequence  $w_1, \ldots, w_k$  of untagged sentences  $w_i$ , determine transition weights wt:  $\Delta \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\prod_{i=1}^k (M_{\text{wt}})_1(w_i)$  is maximal with  $M_{\text{wt}} = (Q, \Sigma, I, \Delta, F, \text{wt})$ 
  - no exact solution (in general), but many approximations
  - efficient: hill-climbing methods (EM, simulated annealing, etc.)

#### Issues

- WA too big (in comparison to training data)
  - cannot reliably estimate that many probabilities  $p(E \mid E')$
  - simplify model
     e.g., assume transition probability only depends on tags

$$p((w,t) \mid (w',t')) = p(t \mid t')$$

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$$\rho((w,t) \mid (w',t')) = \rho(t \mid t')$$

- unknown words
  - no statistics on words that do not occur in corpus
  - allow only assignment of open tags
     (open tag = potentially unbounded number of elements, e.g. NNP)
     (closed tag = fixed finite number of elements, e.g. DT or PRP)
  - use morphological clues (capitalization, affixes, etc.)
  - use context to disambiguate
  - use "global" statistics

FST in NLP

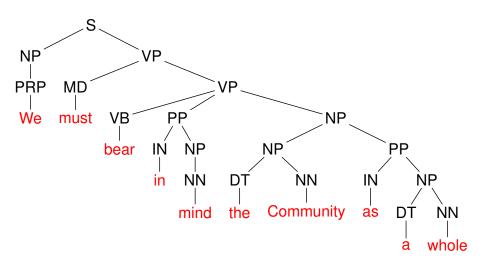
#### TCS contributions

- efficient evaluation and complexity considerations (initial-algebra semantics, best runs, best strings, etc.)
- model simplifications (trimming, determinization, minimization, etc.)
- model transformations (projection, intersection, RegEx-to-DFA, etc.)
- model induction (grammar induction, weight training, etc.)

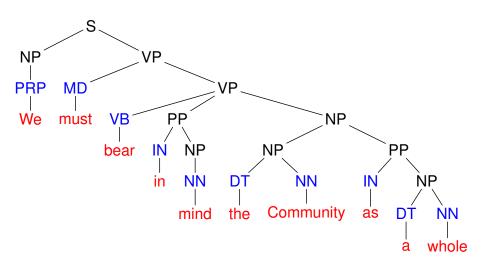
#### Motivation

- (syntactic) parsing
  - = determining the syntactic structure of a sentence
- important in several applications:
  - co-reference resolution
     (determining which noun phrases refer to the same object/concept)
    - comprehension (determining the meaning)
    - speech repair and sentence-like unit detection in speech (speech offers no punctuation; needs to be predicted)

We must bear in mind the Community as a whole



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### **Trees**

Finite sets  $\Sigma$  and W

#### **Definition**

Set  $T_{\Sigma}(W)$  of  $\Sigma$ -trees indexed by W is smallest T

- $w \in T$  for all  $w \in W$
- $\sigma(t_1,\ldots,t_k) \in T$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}, \sigma \in \Sigma$ , and  $t_1,\ldots,t_k \in T$

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#### Notes

obvious recursion & induction principle

#### **Problem**

- assume a hidden  $g \colon W^* \to T_{\Sigma}(W)$  (reference parser)
- given a finite set  $T \subseteq T_{\Sigma}(W)$  (training set) generated by g
- develop a system representing  $f \colon W^* \to \mathcal{T}_\Sigma(W)$  (parser) approximating g

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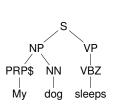
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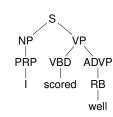
#### Clarification

- T generated by  $g \iff T = g(L)$  for some finite  $L \subseteq W^*$
- for approximation we could use  $|\{w \in W^* \mid f(w) = g(w)\}|$

#### **Short history**

- before 1990
  - hand-crafted rules based on POS tags (unlexicalized parsing)
  - corrections and selection by human annotators
- 1990s
  - PENN tree bank (1,000,000 words)
  - weighted local tree grammars (weighted CFG) as parsers (often still unlexicalized)
  - ► WALL STREET JOURNAL tree bank (30,000,000 words)
- since 2000
  - weighted tree automata (weighted CFG with latent variables)
  - lexicalized parsers





#### LTG production extraction

simply read off CFG productions:

 $\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{S} \longrightarrow \mathsf{NP} \; \mathsf{VP} \\ \mathsf{PRP\$} \longrightarrow \mathsf{My} \\ \mathsf{VP} \longrightarrow \mathsf{VBZ} \end{array}$ 

 $NP \longrightarrow VBZ$ 

 $VP \longrightarrow VBD ADVP$ 

 $ADVP \longrightarrow RB$ 

NP → PRP\$ NN

 $NN \longrightarrow \text{dog}$ 

 $\mathsf{VBZ} \longrightarrow \mathsf{sleeps}$ 

 $PRP \longrightarrow I$ 

 $\mathsf{VBD} \longrightarrow \mathsf{scored}$ 

 $\mathsf{RB} \longrightarrow \mathsf{well}$ 

#### **Observations**

- LTG offer unique explanation on tree level (rules observable in training data; as for POS tagging)
- but ambiguity on the string level

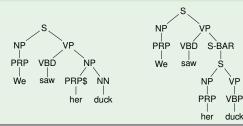
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#### Illustration



#### Definition

A weighted local tree grammar (wLTG) is a weighted CFG G = (N, W, S, P, wt)

- finite set N
- finite set W
- S ⊂ N
- finite set  $P \subseteq N \times (N \cup W)^*$
- mapping wt:  $P \rightarrow [0, 1]$

(nonterminals)

(terminals)

(start nonterminals)

(productions)

(weight assignment)

It computes the weighted derivation trees of the wCFG

#### wLTG production extraction

simply read of CFG productions and keep counts:

$$\begin{split} S &\longrightarrow \text{NP VP } \quad (2) \\ \text{PRP\$} &\longrightarrow \text{My } \quad (1) \\ \text{VP} &\longrightarrow \text{VBZ } \quad (1) \\ \text{NP} &\longrightarrow \text{PRP } \quad (1) \\ \text{VP} &\longrightarrow \text{VBD ADVP } \quad (1) \\ \text{ADVP} &\longrightarrow \text{RB } \quad (1) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{NP} \longrightarrow \text{PRP\$ NN} \quad (1) \\ \text{NN} \longrightarrow \text{dog} \quad (1) \\ \text{VBZ} \longrightarrow \text{sleeps} \quad (1) \\ \text{PRP} \longrightarrow \text{I} \quad (1) \\ \text{VBD} \longrightarrow \text{scored} \quad (1) \\ \text{RB} \longrightarrow \text{well} \quad (1) \end{array}$$

### wLTG production extraction

normalize counts:

$$S \longrightarrow NP VP (2)$$

$$NP \longrightarrow PRP\$ NN (1)$$

$$PRP\$ \longrightarrow My \quad (1)$$

$$NN \longrightarrow dog (1)$$

$$VP \longrightarrow VBZ$$
 (1)

$$VBZ \longrightarrow sleeps$$
 (1)

$$PRP \longrightarrow I$$
 (1)

$$VBD \longrightarrow scored$$
 (1)

$$ADVP \longrightarrow RB$$
 (1)

$$RB \longrightarrow well (1)$$

(here by left-hand side)

$$NP \longrightarrow PRP$$
 (1)

$$VP \longrightarrow VBD ADVP (1)$$

### wLTG production extraction

normalize counts:

(here by left-hand side)

$$S \stackrel{1}{\longrightarrow} NP VP$$

$$NP \xrightarrow{0.5} PRP$ NN$$

$$NP \xrightarrow{0.5} PRP$$

$$\mathsf{PRP\$} \overset{1}{\longrightarrow} \; \mathsf{My}$$

$$NN \stackrel{1}{\longrightarrow} dog$$

$$\text{VP} \xrightarrow{0.5} \text{VBZ}$$

$$VP \xrightarrow{0.5} VBD ADVP$$

$$VBZ \stackrel{1}{\longrightarrow} sleeps$$

$$\mathsf{PRP} \overset{\mathsf{1}}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{I}$$

$$VBD \stackrel{1}{\longrightarrow} scored$$

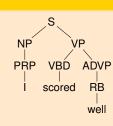
$$ADVP \xrightarrow{1} RB$$

$$RB \xrightarrow{1} well$$

### Weighted parses



weight: 0.25



weight: 0.25

### Weighted LTG productions

(only productions with weight  $\neq$  1)

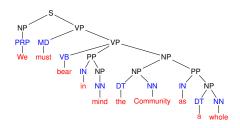
$$NP \xrightarrow{0.5} PRP$ NN$$

$$VP \xrightarrow{0.5} VBZ$$

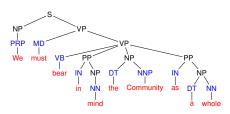
$$\mathsf{NP} \xrightarrow{\mathsf{0.5}} \mathsf{PRP}$$

$$VP \xrightarrow{0.5} VBD ADVP$$

#### BERKELEY parser [Reference]:



### CHARNIAK-JOHNSON parser:



33

### Definition (ParseEval measure)

 precision = number of correct constituents (heading the same phrase as in reference) divided by number of all constituents in parse

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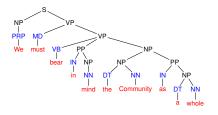
- precision = number of correct constituents (heading the same phrase as in reference) divided by number of all constituents in parse
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   divided by number of all constituents in reference

#### Definition (ParseEval measure)

- precision = number of correct constituents (heading the same phrase as in reference) divided by number of all constituents in parse
- recall = number of correct constituents divided by number of all constituents in reference
- (weighted) harmonic mean

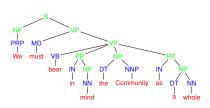
$$F_{\alpha} = (1 + \alpha^2) \cdot \frac{\text{precision} \cdot \text{recall}}{\alpha^2 \cdot \text{precision} + \text{recall}}$$

#### Reference

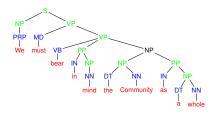


• precision =  $\frac{9}{9}$  = 100%

#### Parser output

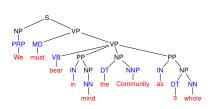


#### Reference

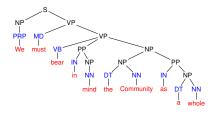


- precision =  $\frac{9}{9}$  = 100%
- $recall = \frac{9}{10} = 90\%$

#### Parser output

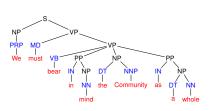


#### Reference



- precision =  $\frac{9}{9}$  = 100%
- $recall = \frac{9}{10} = 90\%$
- $F_1 = 2 \cdot \frac{1.0.9}{1+0.9} = 95\%$

#### Parser output



#### Standardized Setup

- training data: Penn treebank Sections 2–21 (articles from the Wall Street Journal)
- development test data: PENN treebank Section 22
- evaluation data: PENN treebank Section 23

# Experiment [POST, GILDEA, '09]

grammar model	precision	recall	<i>F</i> <sub>1</sub>
wLTG	75.37	70.05	72.61

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# Experiment [POST, GILDEA, '09]

grammar model	precision	recall	F <sub>1</sub>
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These are bad compared to the state-of-the-art!

#### State-of-the-art models

- context-free grammars with latent variables (CFG<sub>Iv</sub>)
   [COLLINS, '99], [KLEIN, MANNING, '03], [PETROV, KLEIN, '07]
- tree substitution grammars with latent variables (TSG<sub>Iv</sub>)
   [SHINDO et al., '12]
- (both as expressive as weighted tree automata)
- other models

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- other models

# Experiment [SHINDO et al., '12]

grammar model	<i>F</i> <sub>1</sub>
wLTG = wCFG	72.6
wTSG [COHN et al., 2010]	84.7
wCFG <sub>Iv</sub> [PETROV, 2010]	91.8
wTSG <sub>lv</sub> [SHINDO et al., 2012]	92.4

#### **Definition**

A grammar with latent variables is

(grammar with relabeling)

- a grammar G generating  $L(G) \subseteq T_{\Sigma}(W)$
- a (total) mapping  $\rho \colon \Sigma \to \Delta$

functional relabeling

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functional relabeling

# **Definition (Semantics)**

$$L(G, \rho) = \rho(L(G)) = \{ \rho(t) \mid t \in L(G) \}$$

Language class:  $REL(\mathcal{L})$  for language class  $\mathcal{L}$ 

# Weighted Tree Automata

#### **Definition**

A weighted tree automaton (wTA) is a system G = (Q, N, W, S, P, wt)

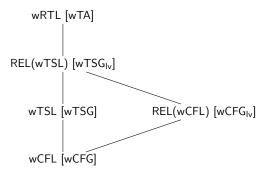
- finite set Q (states)
- finite set N (nonterminals)
- finite set W
- ullet  $S\subseteq Q$  (start states)
- finite set  $P \subseteq (Q \times N \times (Q \cup W)^+) \cup (Q \times W)$  (productions)
- mapping wt:  $P \rightarrow [0, 1]$  (weight assignment)

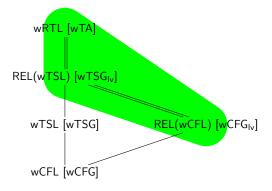
production  $(q, n, w_1, \dots, w_k)$  is often written  $q \to n(w_1, \dots, w_k)$ 

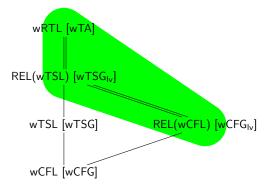
(terminals)

#### **Theorem**

$$REL(wLTL) = REL(wTSL) = wRTL$$







here: latent variables ≈ finite-state

#### Typical questions

- Decoding: (or language model evaluation) Given model M and sentence w, determine probability M(w)
  - ▶ intersect M with the DTA for w and any parse
  - evaluate w in the obtained WTA
  - efficient: initial-algebra semantics

(forward algorithm)

#### Typical questions

• Decoding: (or language model evaluation) Given model M and sentence w, determine probability M(w)

- ▶ intersect *M* with the DTA for *w* and any parse
- evaluate w in the obtained WTA
- efficient: initial-algebra semantics

(forward algorithm)

Parsing:

Given model *M* and sentence *w*, determine the best parse *t* for *w* 

- intersect M with the DTA for w and any parse
- determine best tree in the obtained WTA
- efficient: none (NP-hard even for wLTG)

### Statistical parsing approach

Given wLTG M and sentence w, return highest-scoring parse for w

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Given wLTG M and sentence w, return highest-scoring parse for w

#### Consequence

The first parse should be prefered

("duck" more frequently a noun, etc.)

#### TCS contributions

- efficient evaluation and complexity considerations (initial-algebra semantics, best runs, best trees, etc.)
- model simplifications (trimming, determinization, minimization, etc.)
- model transformations
   (intersection, normalization, lexicalization, etc.)
- model induction
   (grammar induction, weight training, spectral learning, etc.)

#### NLP contribution to TCS

- good source of (relevant) problems
- good source for practical techniques (e.g., fine-to-coarse decoding)
- good source of (relevant) large wTA

language	states	non-lexical productions
English	1,132	1,842,218
Chinese	994	1,109,500
German	981	616,776

# **Applications**

Technical manuals

# Example (An mp3 player)

The synchronous manifestation of lyrics is a procedure for can broadcasting the music, waiting the mp3 file at the same time showing the lyrics.

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Technical manuals

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#### **Applications**

- Technical manuals
- US military

# Example (Speech-to-text [JONES et al., '09])

E: Okay, what is your name?

A: Abdul.

E: And your last name?

A: Al Farran.

#### **Applications**

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#### Example (Speech-to-text [JONES et al., '09])

E: Okay, what is your name?

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E: And your last name?

A: Al Farran.

E: Okay, what's your name?

milk a mechanic and I am here

I mean yes

#### **Applications**

- Technical manuals
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A: Abdul.

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Okay, what's your name?

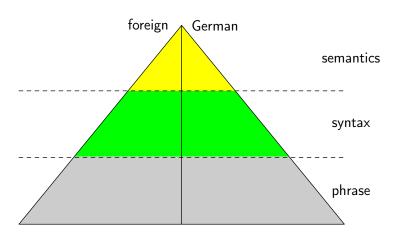
milk a mechanic and I am here I mean yes

What is your last name?

A: every two weeks

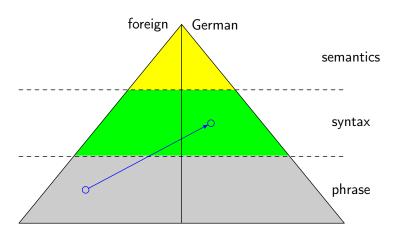
my son's name is ismail

### VAUQUOIS triangle:



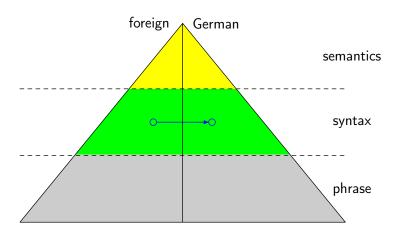
Translation model:

# VAUQUOIS triangle:



Translation model: string-to-tree

### VAUQUOIS triangle:



Translation model: tree-to-tree

# Training data

- parallel corpus
- word alignments
- parse trees for the target sentences

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#### **Parallel Corpus**

linguistic resource containing example translations

(sentence level)

would

#### parallel corpus, word alignments, parse tree

your

advice

Könnten Sie mir eine Auskunft zu Artikel 143 im Zusammenhang mit der Unzulässigkeit geben

Rule

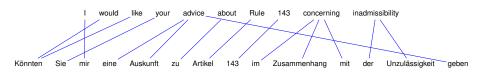
143

concerning

inadmissibility

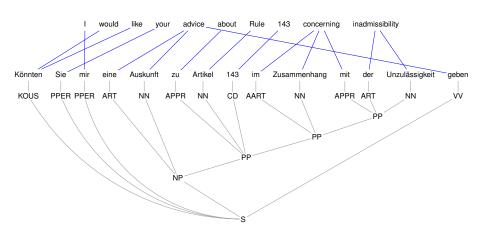
about

#### parallel corpus, word alignments, parse tree



via GIZA++ [OCH, NEY, '03]

parallel corpus, word alignments, parse tree



via BERKELEY parser [PETROV et al., '06]

#### **Extended Tree Transducer**

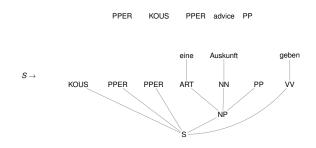
# Extended top-down tree transducer (STSG)

- variant of [M., GRAEHL, HOPKINS, KNIGHT, '09]
- rules of the form NT  $\rightarrow$   $(r, r_1)$  for nonterminal NT
  - right-hand side r of context-free grammar rule
  - right-hand side r<sub>1</sub> of regular tree grammar rule

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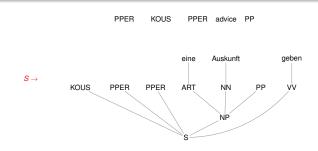
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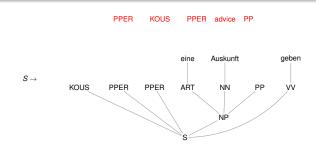
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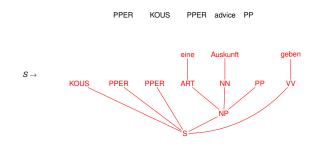
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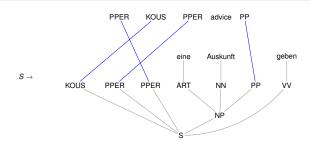
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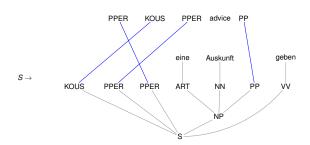
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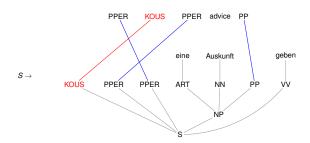
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- rules of the form NT  $\rightarrow$   $(r, r_1)$  for nonterminal NT
  - right-hand side r of context-free grammar rule
  - ▶ right-hand side r₁ of regular tree grammar rule
- (bijective) synchronization of nonterminals





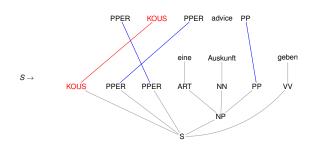
# Rule application

Selection of synchronous nonterminals



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#### Rule application

Selection of synchronous nonterminals

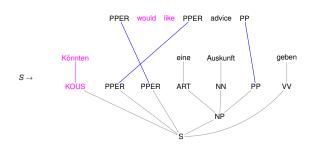
Selection of suitable rule

would like

Könnten

KOUS

KOUS →



#### Rule application

Selection of synchronous nonterminals

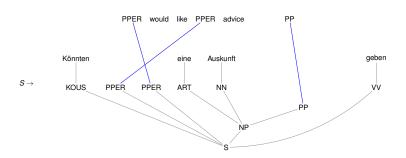
Selection of suitable rule

Replacement on both sides

would like

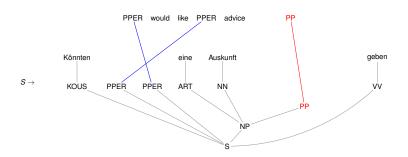
KOUS → Könnten

KOUS



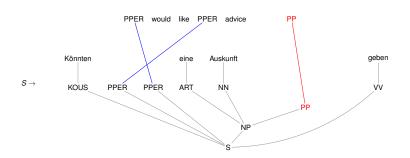
# Rule application





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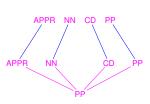
synchronous nonterminals



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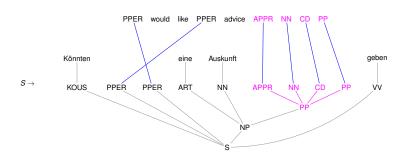
synchronous nonterminals

suitable rule



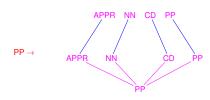
FST in NLP A. Maletti .

 $PP \rightarrow$ 

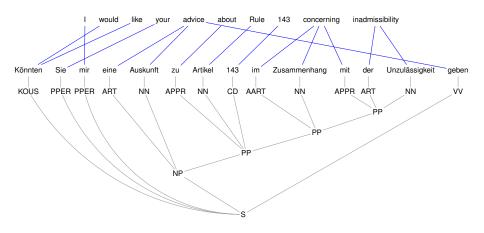


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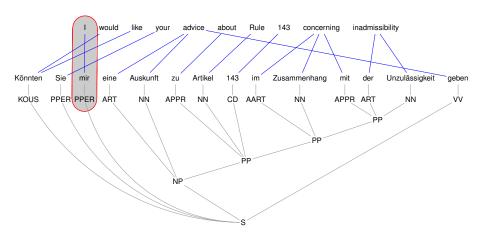
- synchronous nonterminals
- suitable rule
- replacement



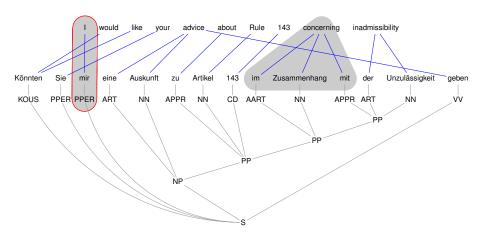
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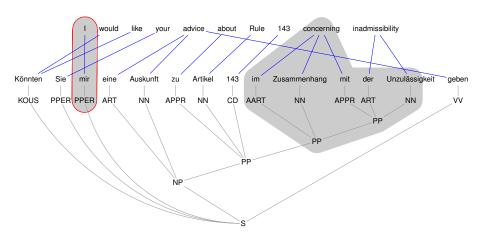
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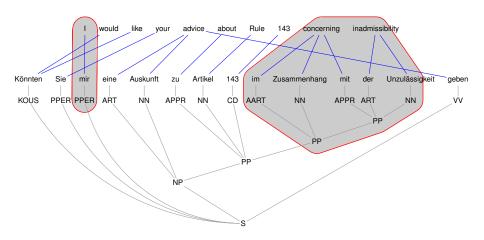
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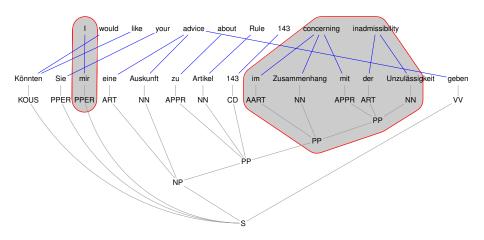
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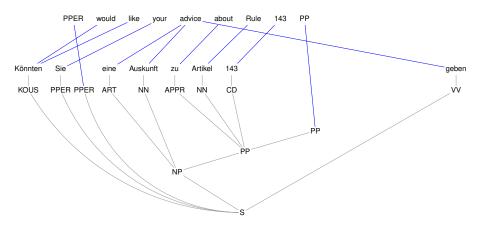
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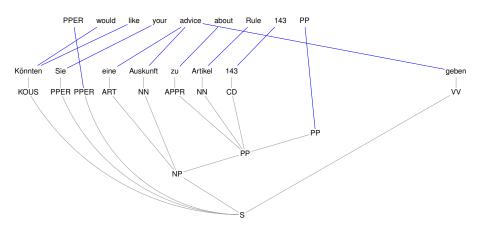
#### Removal of extractable rule:



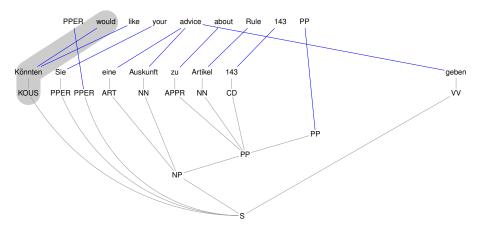
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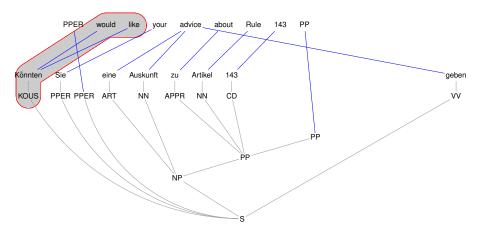
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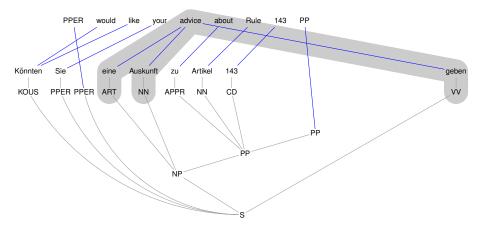
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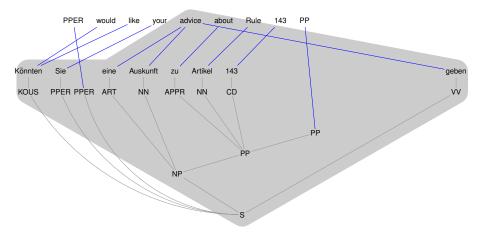
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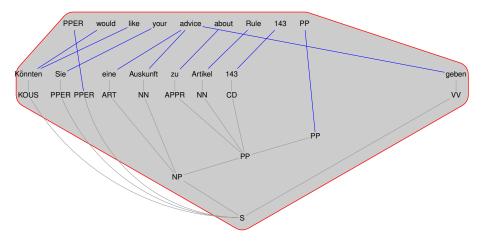
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# **Advantages**

- very simple
- implemented in Moses [Koehn et al., '07]
- "context-free"

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- very simple
- implemented in Moses [Koehn et al., '07]
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#### Disadvantages

- problems with discontinuities
- composition and binarization not possible [M. et al., '09] and [ZHANG et al., '06]
- "context-free"

#### Remarks

- synchronization breaks almost all existing constructions (e.g., the normalization construction)
- → the basic grammar model very important

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- → the basic grammar model very important
  - tree-to-tree models use trees on both sides

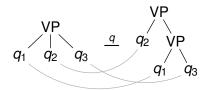
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- linear top-down tree transducer (with look-ahead)
  - input-side: tree automaton
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  - synchronization: mapping output NT to input NT

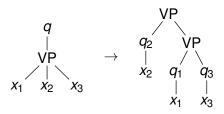
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- 2 linear extended top-down tree transducer (w. look-ahead)
  - input-side: regular tree grammar
  - output-side: regular tree grammar
  - synchronization: mapping output NT to input NT

#### Synchronous grammar rule:



## "Classical" top-down tree transducer rule:



#### Syntactic restrictions

- nondeleting if synchronization bijective
- (in all rules) (for all rules  $q \rightarrow (r, r_1)$ )

strict if r<sub>1</sub> not a nonterminal
ε-free if r not a nonterminal

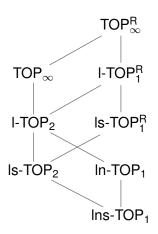
(for all rules  $q \rightarrow (r, r_1)$ )

# Composition (COMP)

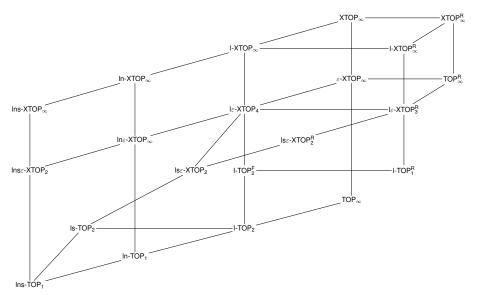
executing transformations  $\tau \subseteq T_{\Sigma} \times T_{\Delta}$  and  $\tau' \subseteq T_{\Delta} \times T_{\Gamma}$  one after the other:

$$au$$
;  $au' = \{(s, u) \mid \exists t \in T_{\Delta} \colon (s, t) \in \tau, (t, u) \in \tau'\}$ 

# Top-down Tree Transducer



composition closure indicated in subscript



composition closure indicated in subscript

# **Machine Translation**

#### TCS contributions

- efficient evaluation and complexity considerations (exact decoding, best runs, best translations, etc.)
- evaluation of expressive power (which linguistic phenomena can be captured? relationship to other models)
- model transformations
   (intersection, language model integration, parse forest decoding, etc.)
- very little on model induction so far (mostly local models so far; power of finite-state not yet explored)

# **Evaluation**

Task	System	BLEU
English → German	STSG	15.22
	MBOT	15.90
	phrase-based	16.73
	hierarchical	16.95
	GHKM	17.10
English → Arabic	STSG	48.32
	MBOT	49.10
	phrase-based	50.27
	hierarchical	51.71
	GHKM	46.66
English → Chinese	STSG	17.69
	MBOT	18.35
	phrase-based	18.09
	hierarchical	18.49
	GHKM	18.12

from [SEEMANN et al., '15]

# Selected Literature

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