

Making Sense of Unstructured Data

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ACADEMIC ROUNDTABLE @ ANDREESSEN HOROWITZ

Data Science: Making Sense of (Unstructured) Data

- Most of the data today is unstructured
 - Text, Images, Sensory Data
 - It's not only **BIG**, it's **COMPLEX & Heterogeneous**
- **Challenge:** How to *understand* what the data says? How to deal with the huge amount of unstructured data as if it was organized in a database with a *known* schema.
 - **Organize, access, analyze and synthesize unstructured data.**

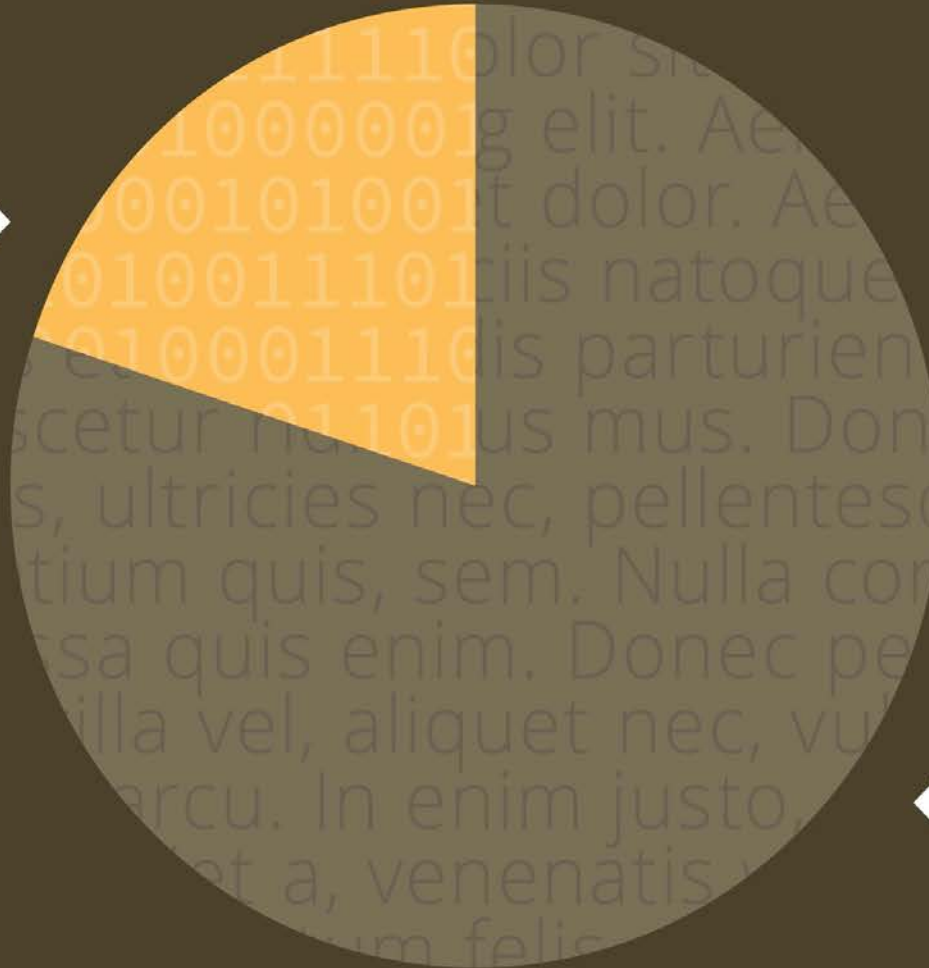
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- **[data → meaning] transformation.**

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- **[data → meaning] transformation.**
- **TODAY: Why is it hard – what we can do....**

BIG DATA



BIG TEXT



More than a **million rules**, requiring companies and their boards to understand what their employees are doing and with whom they are communicating.

Sarbanes
Oxley



2002

Amended
Federal Rules of
Civil Procedure



2006

Amended
Federal
Rules of
Evidence



2008

Dodd-Frank
Act



2010

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\$12.5 BILLION

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WORLD TEXT

90% of the world's text has been created in the last 2 years, and there will be a 50-fold increase by 2020.



2012



2014

2020



**KEYWORD
SEARCH**

A view on Extracting Meaning from Unstructured Text

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Does it say that they'll give my email address away?

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Clear

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Large Scale Data → Meaning Transformation
Massive & Deep

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Why is it difficult?

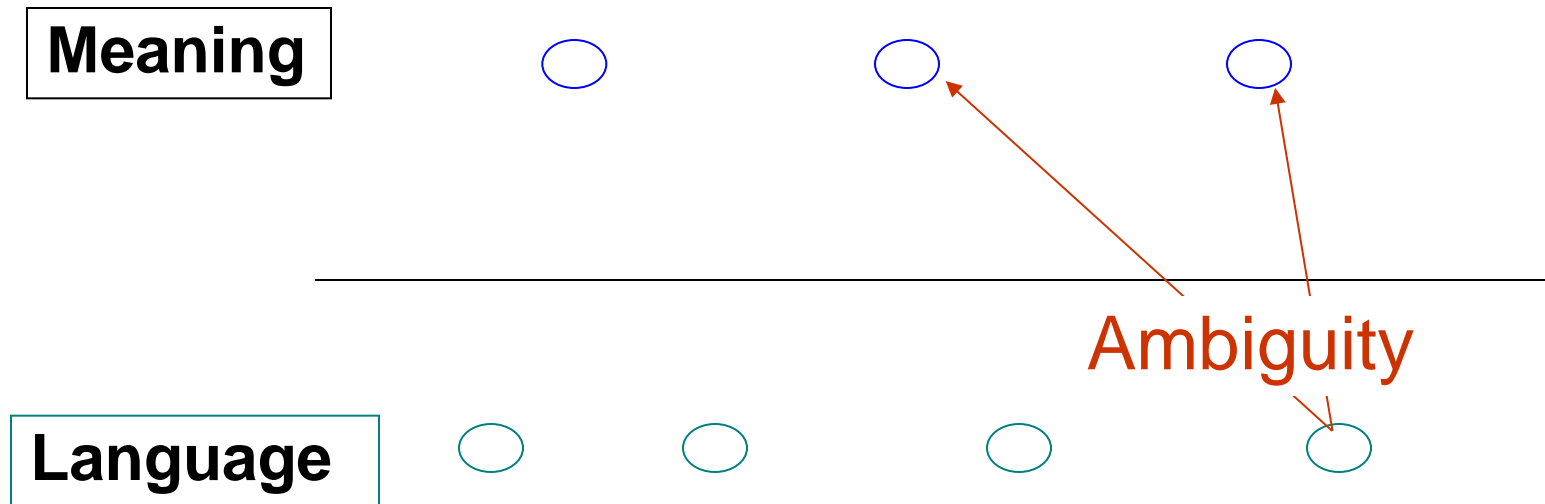
Meaning



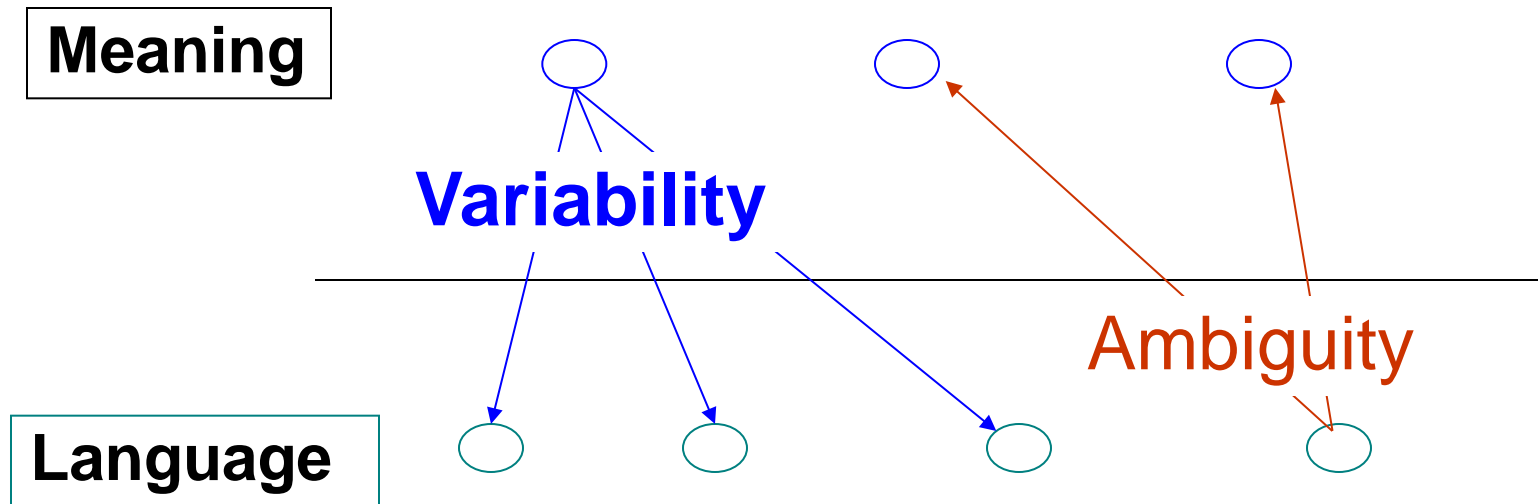
Language



Why is it difficult?



Why is it difficult?



Ambiguity

It's a version of Chicago – the standard classic Macintosh menu font, with that distinctive thick diagonal in the "N".

Chicago was used by default for Mac menus through MacOS 7.6, and OS 8 was released mid-1997..

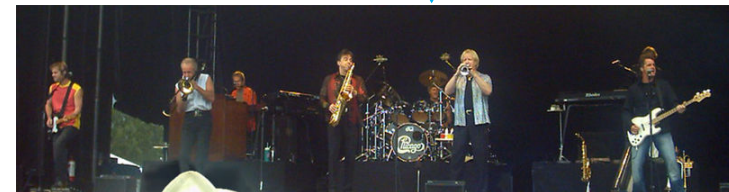
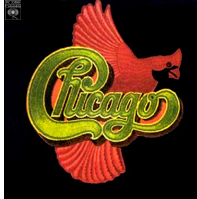
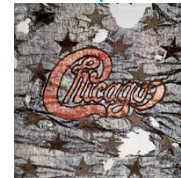
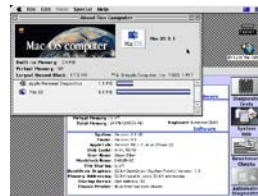
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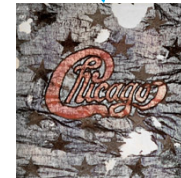


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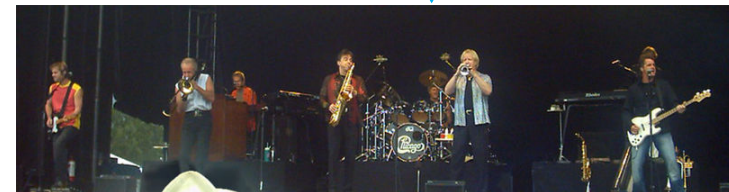
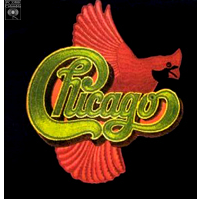
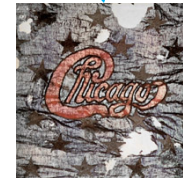


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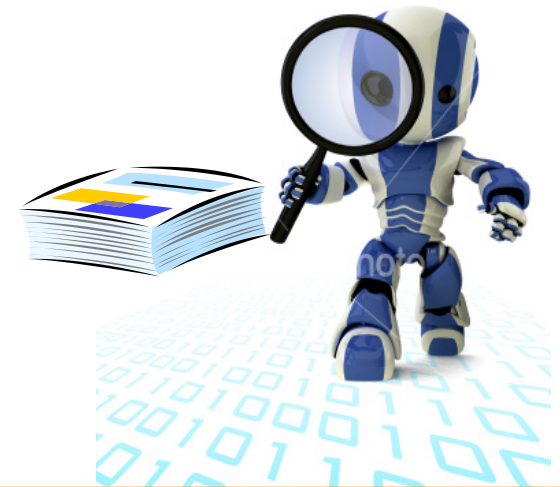
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Needs:

- Relations, Entities and Semantic Classes, NOT keywords
- Bring knowledge from external resources
- Integrate over large collections of text and DBs
- Identify, disambiguate and track entities, events, etc.

What can this give us?

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- Moving towards natural language understanding...

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- A **law office** wants to get the list of all **people** that were mentioned in email correspondence with the office.
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- A **law office** wants to get the list of all **people** that were mentioned in email correspondence with the office.
 - For each name, determine whether is was mentioned adversarially or not.
- A **training facility** of a large corporation wants to provide new employees easy access to all relevant **key concepts**, **entities** (people, techniques, applications) along with **relevant projects** and **background information** when they read material about their new job.

What can this give us?

- Moving towards natural language understanding...
- **Compliance & E-Discovery:** A trading company had half of their sales team leave to start a rival company. The CEO wanted proof they stole company information and broke their employee covenants.
 - Ideally, know about it before it happens
- An analyst in a financial institution sends company A information about company B
 - Mistakenly? Deliberately?

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- **An electronic health record (EHR)**:
 - A personal health record in digital format. Includes information relating to:
 - **Current and historical health**, medical conditions, **tests, treatments**,...
 - **A write only document**
 - Use it in medical advice systems; **medication selection and tracking (Vioxx...)**;
 - **Science** – correlating response to drugs with other conditions

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- **An elect**

- A pe
- Cur
- Use it in me
- **Science** – correlating response to drug

Called “Foresight and Understanding from Scientific Exposition,” or FUSE, it scans large volumes of academic journals, patents and other formal scientific documents for hints of emerging technologies. Government

What’s the next big tech trend? This federal agency thinks it can predict the answer

Machine Learning + Inference based NLP

- It's difficult to **program** predicates of interest due to
 - Ambiguity (everything has multiple meanings)
 - Variability (everything you want to say you can say in many ways)
- Models are based on Statistical Machine Learning & Inference

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 - Classification models
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Well understood; easy to build black box categorizers

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 - **Structured models**
 - Learning protocols exploiting Indirect Supervision (**data abundant; not supervised**)
 - **Inference** over learned models as a way to “put things together”, introduce domain & task specific knowledge and constraints
 - Constrained Conditional Models: formulating inference as ILP
- Learn** models; **Acquire** knowledge/constraints; **Make decisions**.

Well understood; easy to build black box categorizers

$$\operatorname{argmax}_y \lambda \cdot F(x, y) - \sum_{i=1}^K \rho_i d(y, 1_{C_i(x)})$$

Extracting Relations via Semantic Analysis

Semantic Role Labeling Output

Input Text:

A car bomb that exploded outside the U.S. military base in Beniji killed 11 Iraqi citizens.

Result: Complete!

▣ General Explanation of Argument Labels

A	bomb [A1]	killer [A0]
car		
bomb		
that	bomb (Reference) [R-A1]	
exploded	V: explode	
outside	location [AM-LOC]	
the		
U.S.		
military	temporal [AM-TMP]	
base		
in	location [AM-LOC]	
Beniji		
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citizens		

- Semantic parsing reveals several **relations** in the sentence along with their **arguments**.

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Screen shot from a CCG demo

<http://cogcomp.cs.illinois.edu/page/demos>

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Extended Semantic Role labeling

- Beyond verb predicates
- Ambiguity and Variability of Prepositional Relations

His first patient died **of** pneumonia. Another, who arrived **from** NY yesterday suffered **from** flu. Most others already recovered **from** flu

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Extended Semantic Role labeling

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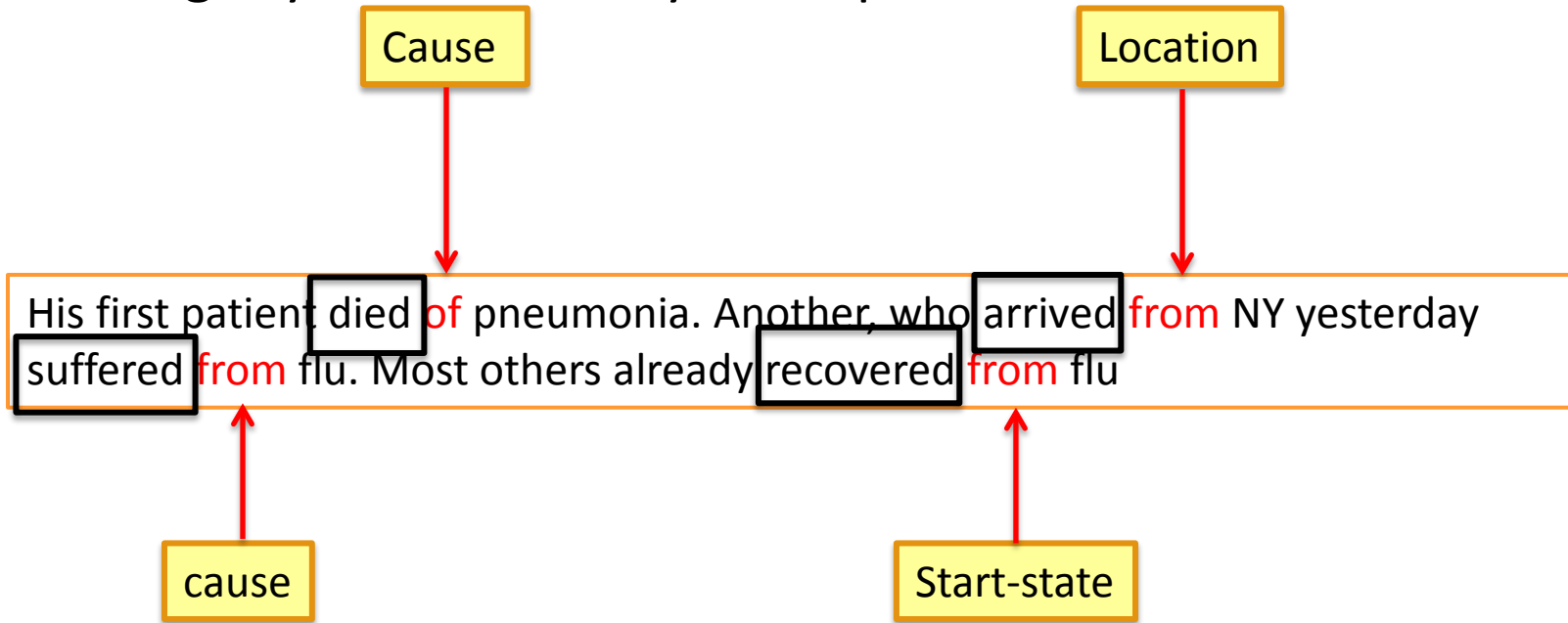
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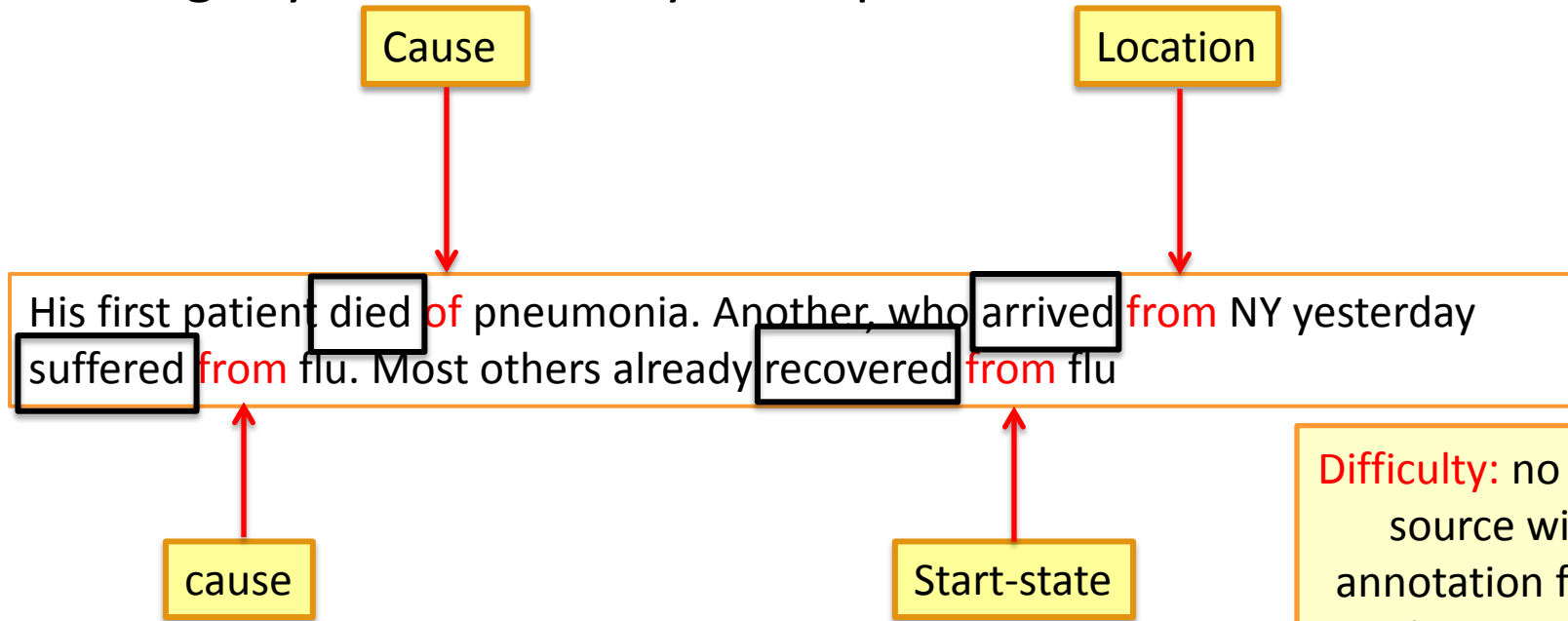
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Difficulty: no single source with annotation for all phenomena

Learn models; Acquire knowledge/constraints; Make decisions.

$$\operatorname{argmax}_y \lambda \cdot F(x, y) - \sum_{i=1}^K \rho_i d(y, 1_{C_i(x)})$$





DEMOS

What We Develop

Most of the information available today is in free form text. Current technologies (google, yahoo) allow us to access text only via key-word search.

We would like to facilitate content-based access to information. Examples include:

- Topical and Functional categorization of documents: Find documents that deal with stem cell research, but only Call for Proposals.
- Semantic categorization: Find documents about Columbus (the City, not the Person).
- Retrieval of concepts and entities rather than strings in text: Find documents about JFK, the president; include those documents that mention him as "John F. Kennedy, John Kennedy, Congressman Kennedy or any other possible writing; but not those that mention the baseball player John Kennedy, nor any of JFK's relatives.
- Extraction of information based on semantic categorization: Find a list of all companies that participated in merges in the last year. List all professors in Illinois that do research in Machine Learning.

Most Popular Demos

[Part of Speech Tagging](#)



[Shallow Parsing](#)



[Semantic Role Labeling](#)



[Context-Sensitive Spelling Correction](#)



[Named Entity Recognition](#)



Running the Demos

Achieving these tasks requires that we develop programs that can, at some level, understand natural language. The collection of demos below shows some of the technologies we are developing in order to address these and related questions. Some address direct Information Extraction tasks, and some exhibit fundamental natural language technologies that we are developing in order to support better access to information. The demonstrations below build on our research in Machine Learning - the fundamental research area that allows us to write programs that learn from their experience, and thus support 'closer to human capabilities' of natural language. Feel free to insert your text to test out these demonstrations of our applications.





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- Extraction of information based on semantic categorization: Find a list of all companies that participate in research in Illinois that do research in Machine Learning.

Most Popular Demos

[Part of Speech Tagging](#) >>

[Shallow Parsing](#) >>

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[Context-Sensitive Spelling Correction](#) >>

[Named Entity Recognition](#) >>

Shallow (semantic) parsing

Entities

Temporal & Quantities Normalization

Wikification Entity Linking

Running the Demos

Achieving these tasks requires that we develop systems that can understand

[Relation Identification](#) >>

[Semantic Role Labeling](#) >>

[Shallow Parsing](#) >>

[Temporal Extraction and Coreference](#) >>

[Text Analysis](#) >>

[Textual Entailment](#) >>

[Wikifier](#) >>

[Word Similarity](#) >>

[\[Run Demo\]](#)

[\[Run Demo\]](#)

[\[Run Demo\]](#)

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Most Popular Demos

[Part of Speech Tagging](#) >>

[Shallow Parsing](#) >>

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[Word Similarity](#) >>

[\[Run Demo\]](#)



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Most Popular Demos

- Part of Speech Tagging >>
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Shallow (semantic) parsing

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- Text Analysis >> [Run Demo]
- Textual Entailment [Run Demo]
- Wikifier >> [Run Demo]
- Word Similarity >> [Run Demo]



Jason Leib

From: Troy Henikoff
To: Jason Leib
Sent: April 12, 2014
Subject: Techstars Offer

Dear Christopher, Ye, Jason, Alan and Dan,

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Identify Entities
Realize that
Christopher ==Chris == Kit ==...

FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: [REDACTED] Leib
SENT: [REDACTED] April 12, 2014
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Techstars Offer

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Events, Locations, Dates

Normalization

From: Nikon
To: Jon Leib
Sent: April 12, 2014
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Events, Locations, Dates

Normalization

From: Henrikon
To: Jon Leib
Sent: April 12, 2014
Subject: Techstars Offer

Who does what to whom?

"We"?

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Talking about

Money

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Talking about

Money

We like you

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We like you

Attempts to analyze the email like
a human would, but in m-secs

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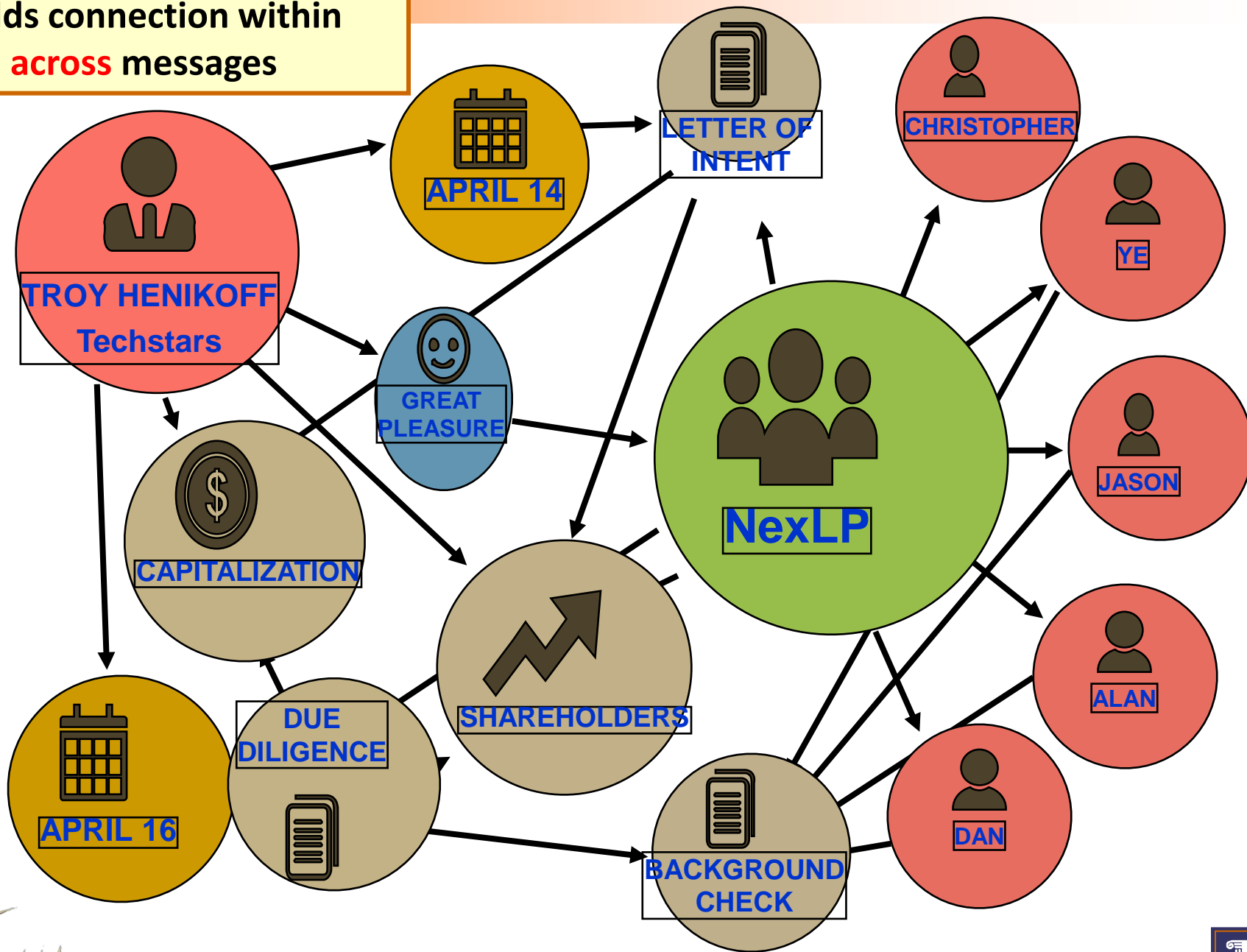
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Builds connection within
and **across** messages





HENCEWORTH TRADINGS



TEAM OF LAWYERS
X 3 WEEKS =

\$250,000

True Story (de-identified) A trading company had half of their sales team leave to start a rival company. The CEO wanted proof they stole company information and broke their employee covenants.



HENCEWORTH TRADINGS



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X 3 WEEKS =

\$250,000









Looking at these specific messages showed James working with his mom to recruit employees.

James Haggins

6/30/2013 7:28:00 AM

To: James Haggins; James Haggins; Laura Haggins

Subject: Re: rumors

f765488113c744f5a8510911db140ab0

mom,

take a look at the lease I sent to you last night, should be final.

Can you give a shout on the mobile to Jack and Steve from currency desk? I gave you their numbers. See if they are willing to come with me. Keep it on the down low.

Love you,

Jim

Laura Haggins

7/1/2013 8:03:00 AM

To: James Haggins

Subject: Re: rumor

44ed3bf6ea804fea9bab0b9e47063d17

Didn't you want me to take a look at the lease?

Threads Inclusive Docs Included Docs Recommended

Subject	Start	Hits	Doc Count	Seg
Re: rumor	6/29/2013 11:28:00	1	4	
Re: Next visit to London	6/27/2013 11:12:00	6	35	

25 Page 1 of 1 1 to 2 of 2



From: James Haggins
Subj: Re: rumors
To: James Haggins; James Haggins; Laura Haggins

And, showed James sending customer information to his fiancé and working with her to recruit existing clients

James Haggins

To: Susan Miller; James Haggins

Subject:FW: more people to be contacted ASAP

6/8/2013 6:37:00 PM

d66603b5ea784fdab2fba7e5f0ca81a

Sue,

Get your vm about the hotel for the wedding, sounds beautiful.

Contact scott on his personal email, tell him to reach out to Raji, who just bought from me last week.

I copied his info from CRM at work:

Company name: Continental Mobiles

First name: Nason

Surname: Rajif

Email: nason.rajif@hotmail.com

Mobile phone: +9718700876d, +9717688740

Landline phone: +9714 7008786

Fax number: +9714 7993410

Whatsapp:

Skype:nason-magic

BB Pin: 2DYU765d

Website:

Address: office no: 300, 287 mobile plaza building behind car parking building

City: Dubai

Country: United Arab Emirates

Region: Middle East

].

Threads	Inclusive Docs	Included Docs	Recommended	
Subject	Start	Hits	Doc Count	Seg
FW: more people to be contacted ASAP	6/8/2013 3:45:09	1	2	
Thoughts on leasing	6/8/2013 5:29:00	1	1	
FW:	6/8/2013 3:18:00	1	1	
take a look	6/8/2013 8:02:02	1	1	
out of town	6/8/2013 2:34:00	1	1	
FW: flight	6/8/2013 7:32:30	1	1	
Re: vacation	6/8/2013 7:30:25	1	1	
hi don't worry	6/8/2013 11:45:00	1	1	
late for dinner	6/8/2013 9:59:00	1	1	

25

Page 1

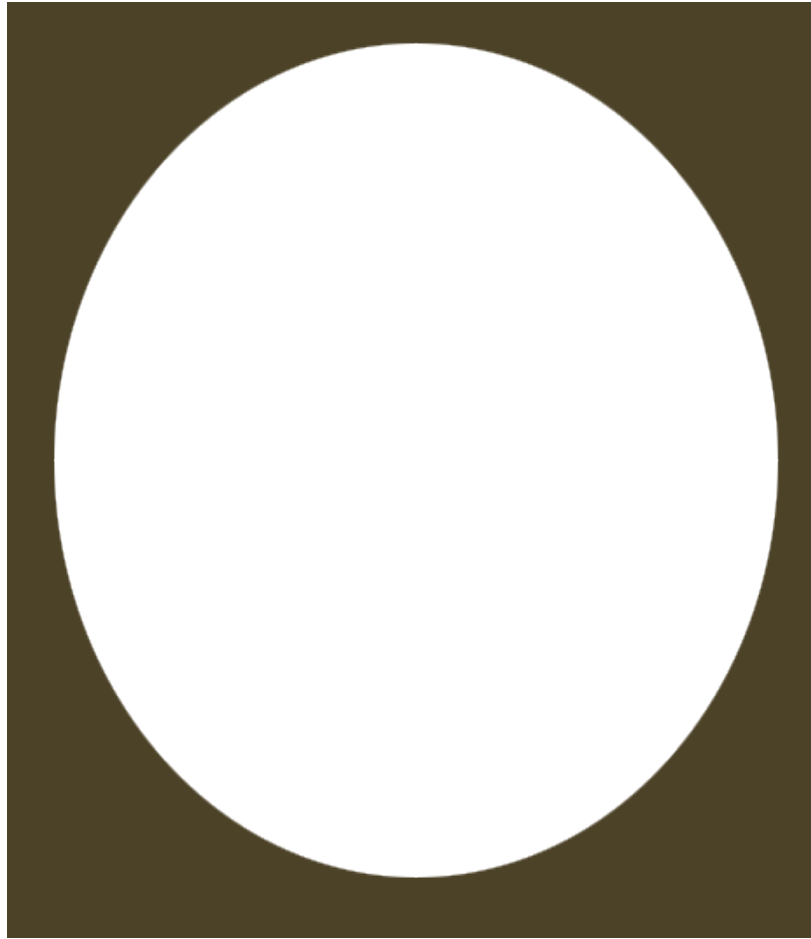
of 2

1 to 25 of 32



From: James Haggins
Subj: FW: more people to be contacted ASAP
To: Susan Miller; James Haggins





It took 90 minutes to find two key emails in a large collection; a team of lawyers spent 3 weeks on the same collection and could not find this evidence....





The goal is to provide realtime notifications – reduce the impact of compliance infractions, potential fraud and even customer issues



Summary: Making Sense of Unstructured Data

- A lot of today's information is in text
- 80% of data corporations deal with is TEXT
- We are trying to push the level of automatic text understanding
- Very significant progress over the last 10 years or so
 - Mostly using statistical machine learning methods
- The problem isn't solved – a very active research area
 - We mostly work at a sentence level
 - We make a lot of mistakes
 - We don't understand events, intention,...
 - We don't know how to use background knowledge and common sense

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- We still don't **understand** text. But, we can offer **practical solutions and working tools** that reliably address a range a problems **researchers** and **corporations** are interested in.

Summary: Making Sense of Unstructured Data

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