

# Learning and Inference for Natural Language Understanding

Dan Roth

Department of Computer Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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(TSD 2015)**

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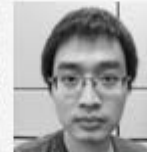
With thanks to:

Collaborators: **Kai-Wei Chang, Xiao Chen, Dan Goldwasser, Daniel Khashabi,  
Gourab Kundu, Haoruo Peng, Lev Ratinov, Vivek Srikumar; others**

Funding: NSF; DHS; NIH; DARPA; IARPA, ARL, ONR, Google, AI2  
DASH Optimization (Xpress-MP); Gurobi.



## People



## CCG GOALS

Our research focuses on the computational foundations of intelligent behavior. We develop theories and systems pertaining to intelligent behavior using a unified methodology – at the heart of which is the idea that learning has a central role in intelligence. Specifically, we focus on developing theories and systems for Natural Language Understanding and Information Access, as well as on Machine Learning and Inference approaches that facilitate it.

Our work spans several aspects of these problems – from theoretical questions in machine learning, knowledge representation and reasoning to experimental paradigms and large scale system development – and draws on methods from theoretical computer science, probability and statistics, artificial intelligence, linguistics and experimental computer science.



### Past Visitors

Wei Lu - Singapore University of Technology and Design

Yao-zhong Zhang - University of Tokyo

### Alumni - Ph.D. (First Position)

Vivek Srikumar - Stanford University

Rajhans Samdani - Google Research

Alla Rozovskaya - Columbia University



# Comprehension

(ENGLAND, June, 1989) - Christopher Robin is alive and well. He lives in England. He is the same person that you read about in the book, Winnie the Pooh. As a boy, Chris lived in a pretty home called Cotchfield Farm. When Chris was three years old, his father wrote a poem about him. The poem was printed in a magazine for others to read. Mr. Robin then wrote a book. He made up a fairy tale land where Chris lived. His friends were animals. There was a bear called Winnie the Pooh. There was also an owl and a young pig, called a piglet. All the animals were stuffed toys that Chris owned. Mr. Robin made them come to life with his words. The places in the story were all near Cotchfield Farm. Winnie the Pooh was written in 1925. Children still love to read about Christopher Robin and his animal friends. Most people don't know he is a real person who is grown now. He has written two books of his own. They tell what it is like to be famous.

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This is an Inference Problem

# Why is it Difficult?

**Meaning**

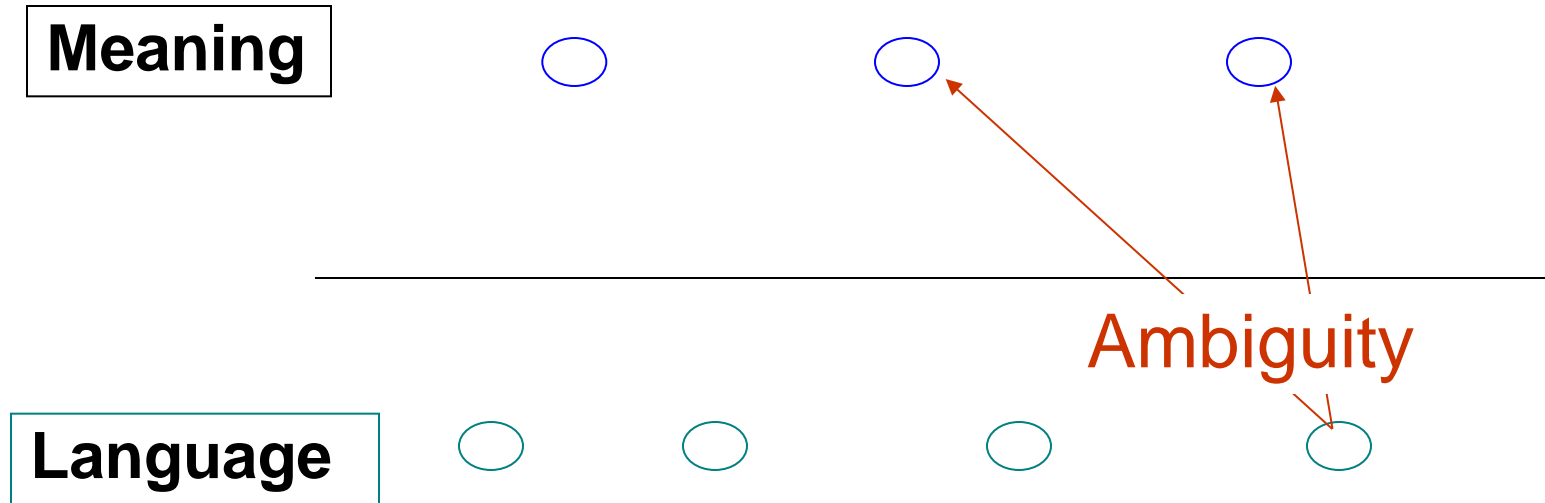


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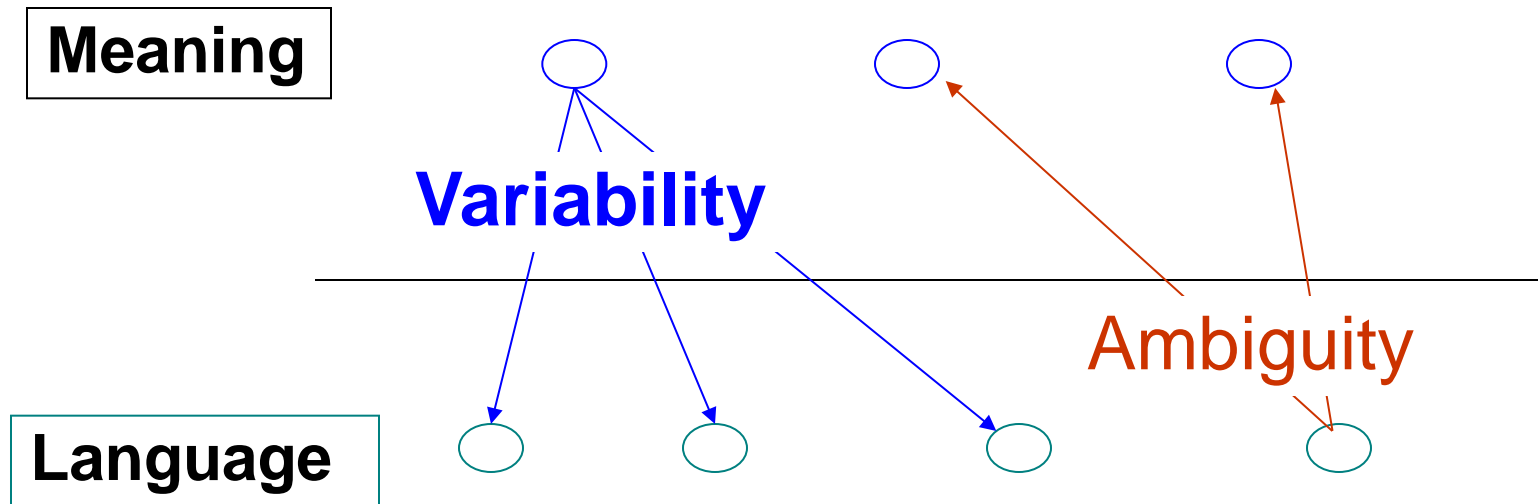
**Language**



# Why is it Difficult?



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# Ambiguity

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

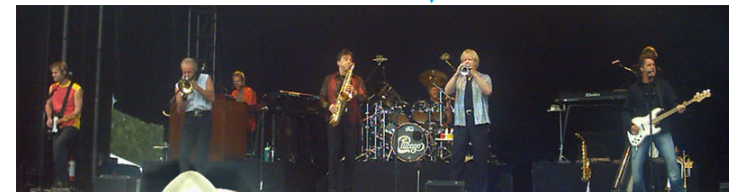
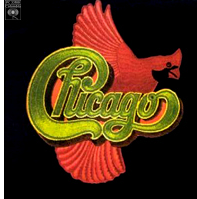
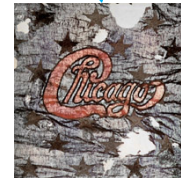
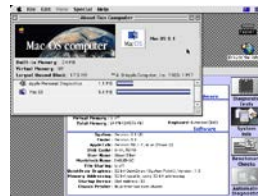
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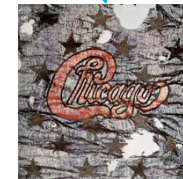


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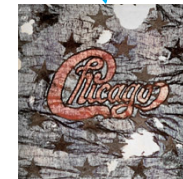


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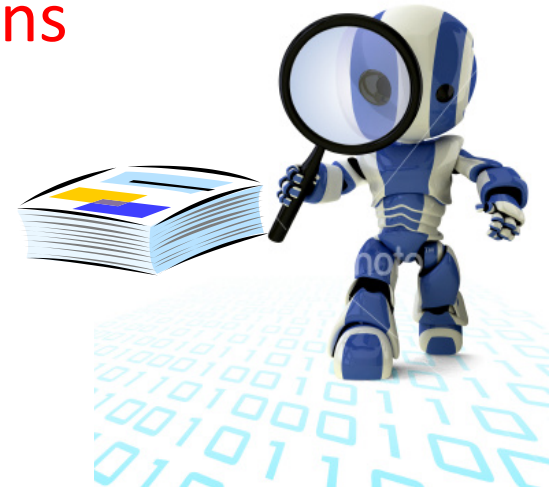
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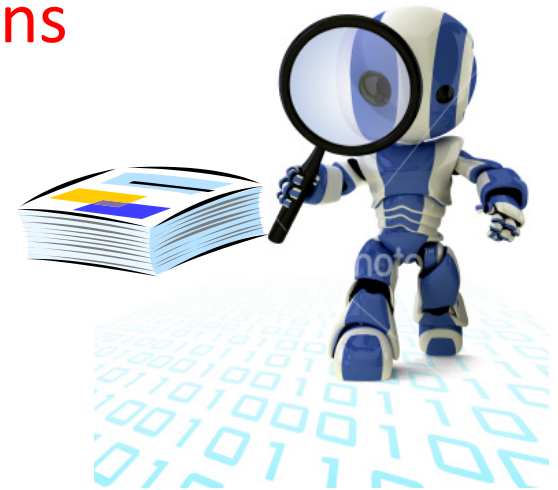
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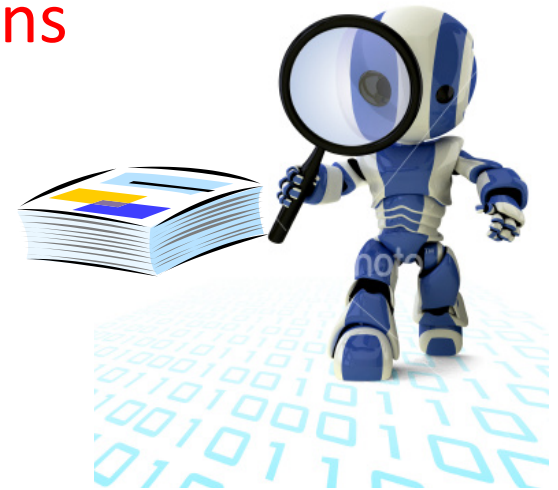
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# Variability in Natural Language Expressions

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The American government employed Jim Carpenter.

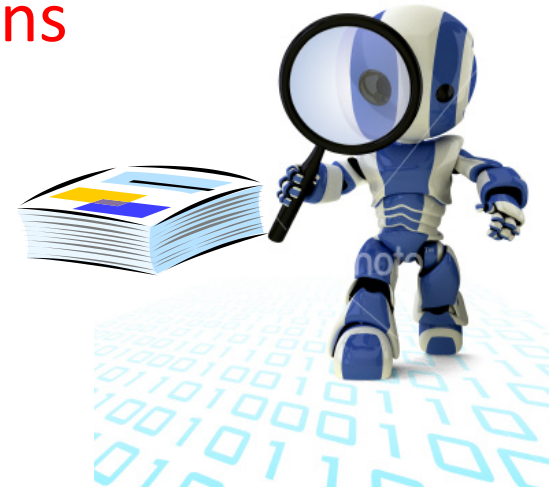
Jim Carpenter was fired by the US Government.

Jim Carpenter worked in a number of important positions.

.... As a press liaison for the IRS, he made contacts in the white house.

Russian interior minister Yevgeny Topolov met yesterday with his US counterpart, Jim Carpenter.

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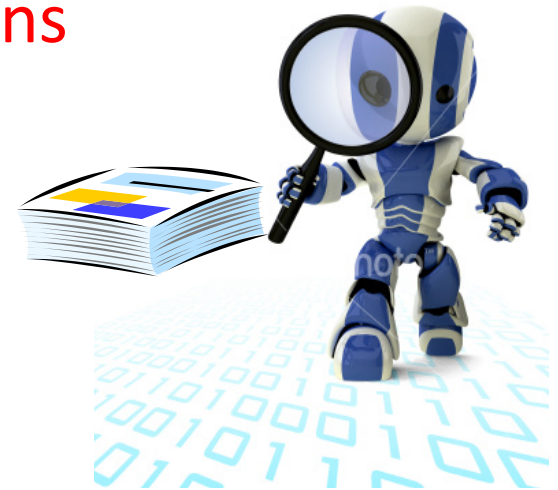
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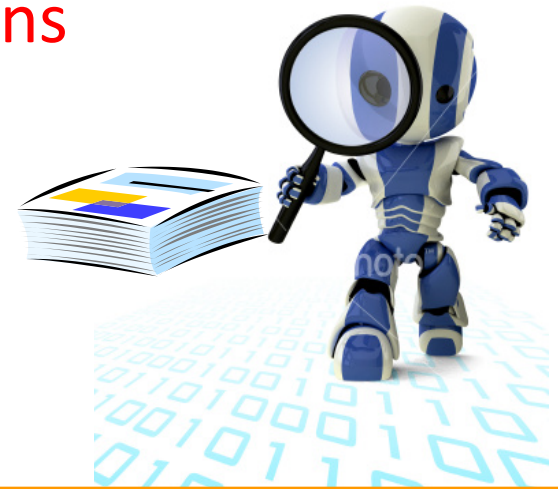
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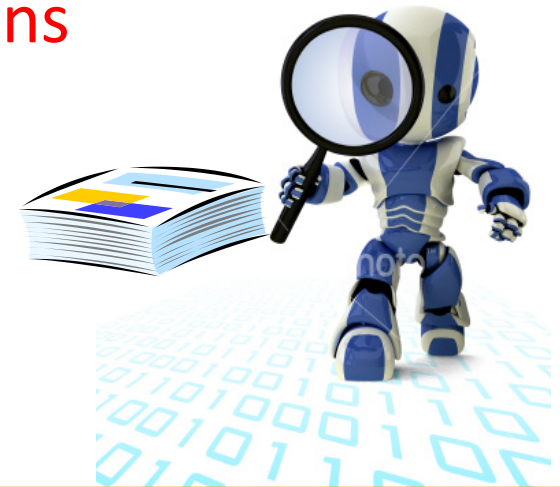
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Needs:

- ❑ Understanding Relations, Entities and Semantic Classes
- ❑ Acquiring knowledge from external resources; representing knowledge
- ❑ Identifying, disambiguating & tracking entities, events, etc.
- ❑ Time, quantities, processes...

# What we do

- Understanding natural language
  - Lexical inference
  - Semantic Parsing
  - Discourse phenomena
  - .....
- Understanding a lot of domains
  - Events
  - Temporal Reasoning
  - Spatial Reasoning
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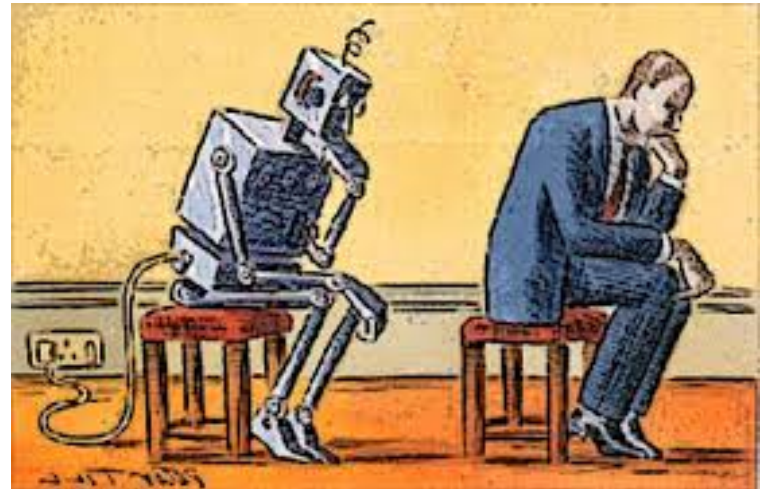
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- How to use knowledge to support textual inference?

# What is Needed?



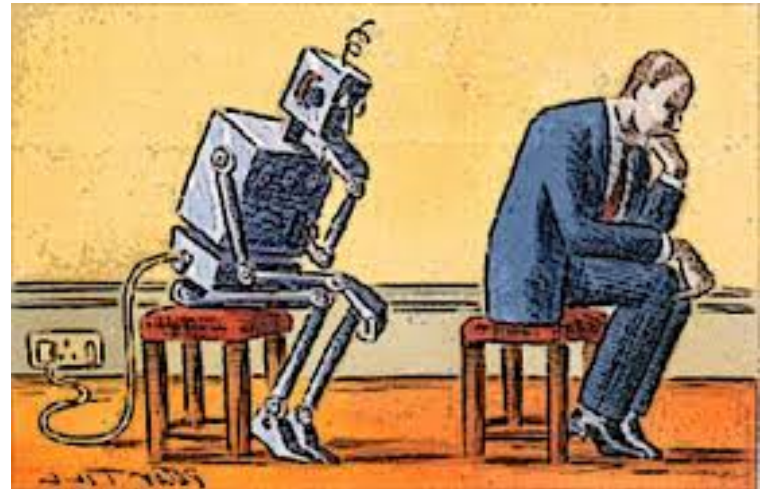


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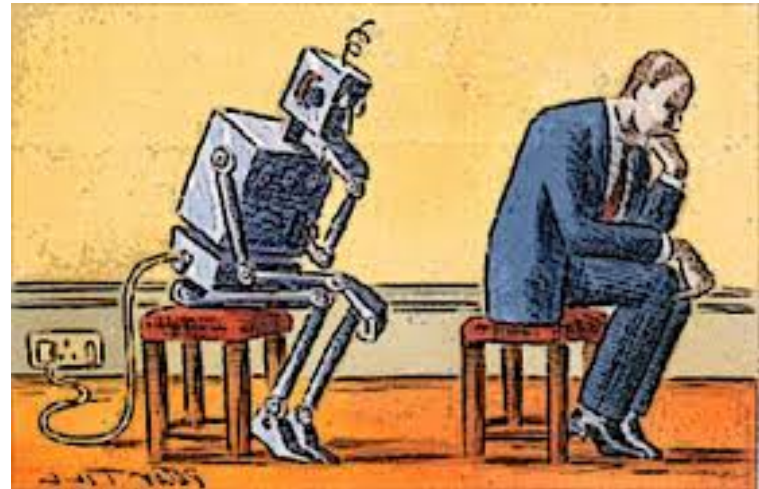
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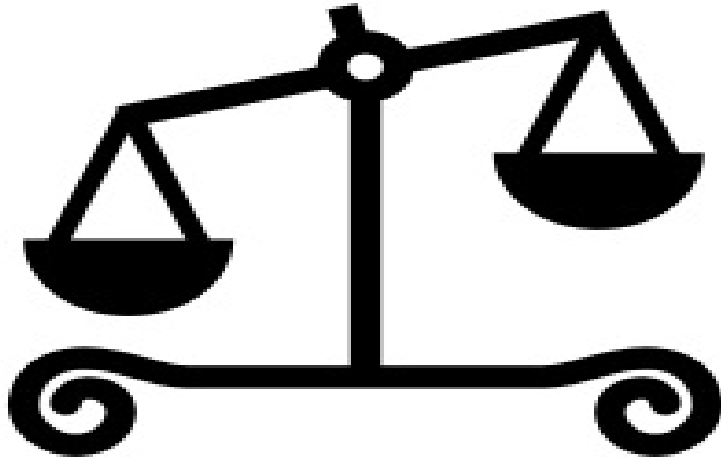
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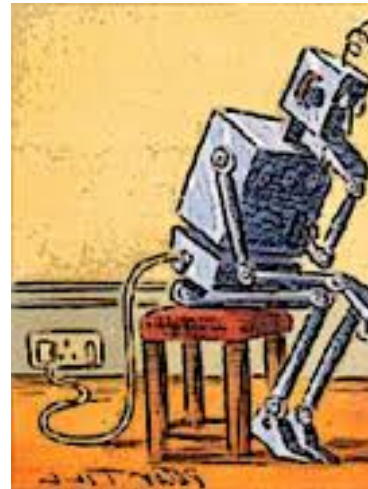
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大走



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- A computational Framework
- Examples:
  - Modeling
  - Learning
  - Inference




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  - Making (local) predictions driven by different models trained in different ways, at different times/conditions/scenarios
  - The ability to put these predictions together coherently
  - Knowledge, that guides the decisions so they satisfy our expectations

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Many forms of Inference; a lot boil down to determining best assignment

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  - Making (local) predictions driven by different models trained in different ways, at different times/conditions/scenarios
  - The ability to put these predictions together coherently
  - Knowledge, that guides the decisions so they satisfy our expectations

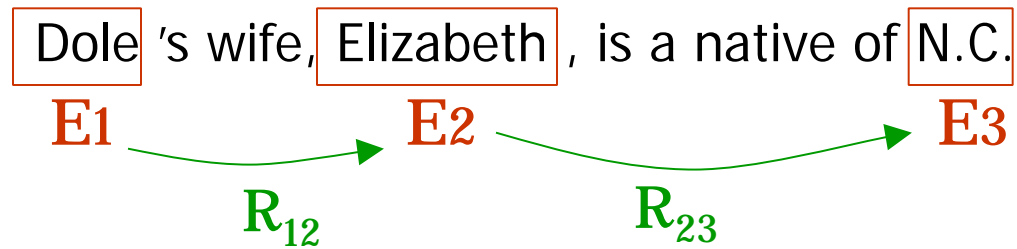
Natural Language Interpretation is a Common Sense driven **Inference Process** that is best thought of as a **knowledge constrained optimization problem**, done on top of multiple statistically learned models.

- **How can we get there?**

**Many forms of Inference; a lot boil down to determining best assignment**

# Joint Inference with General Constraint Structure [Roth&Yih'04,07,...]

## Recognizing Entities and Relations



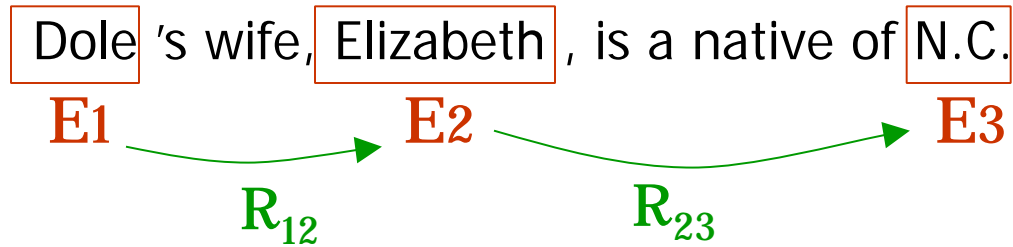
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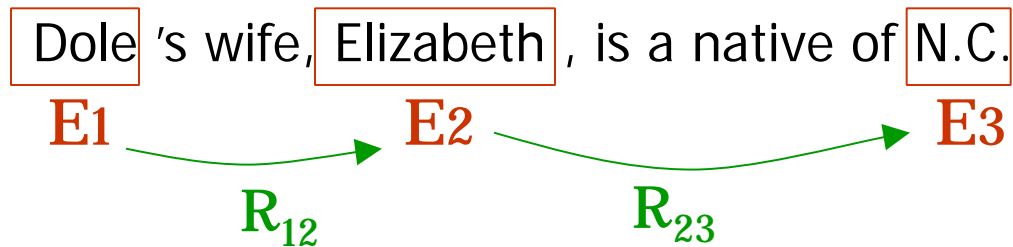
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Dole 's wife, Elizabeth , is a native of N.C.

**E1**

**E2**

**E3**

$R_{12}$

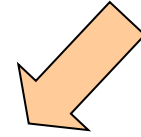
$R_{23}$

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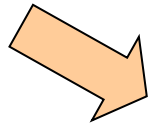
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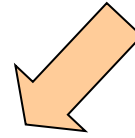


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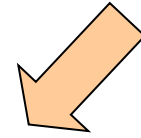
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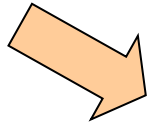
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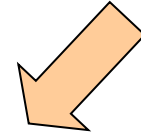


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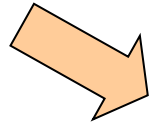
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Joint inference gives good improvement

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How to guide the global inference?  
How to learn the model(s)?

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An Objective function that incorporates learned **models with knowledge** (output constraints)

A Constrained Conditional Model

Key Questions:  
Global inference?

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Weight Vector for  
“local” models

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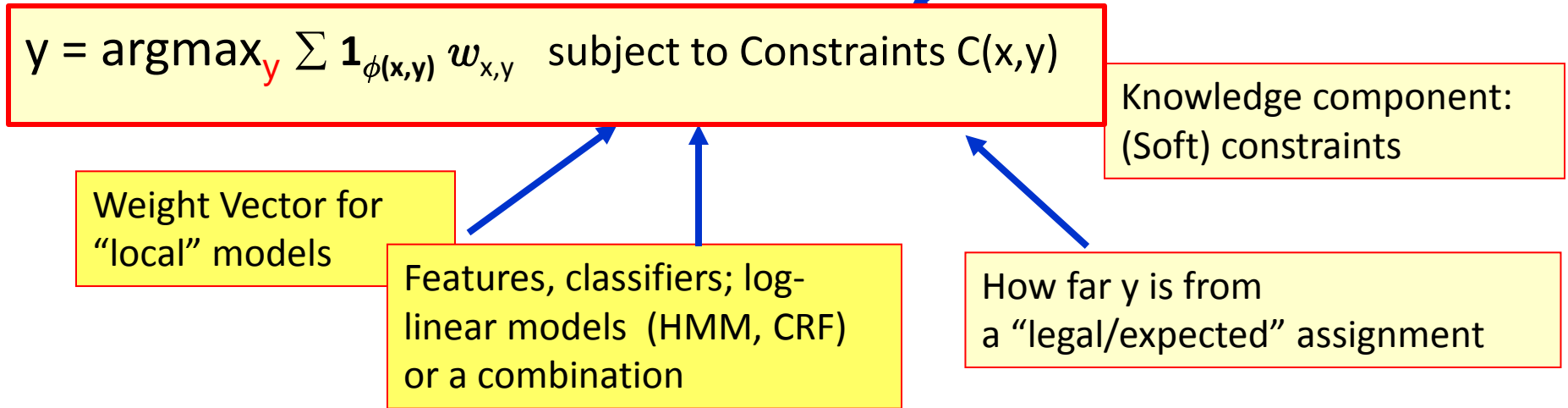
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Any MAP problem w.r.t. any probabilistic model, can be formulated as an ILP  
[Roth+ 04, Taskar 04]

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- The benefits of **thinking** about it as an ILP are **conceptual** and **computational**.

## Examples: CCM Formulations

$$\mathbf{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) + \mathbf{u}^T C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

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### Sequential Prediction

HMM/CRF based:

$$\operatorname{Argmax} \sum \lambda_{ij} x_{ij}$$

### Knowledge/Linguistics Constraints

Cannot have both A states and B states in an output sequence.

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Compression/Summarization:

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Knowledge/Linguistics Constraints

If a modifier chosen, include its head

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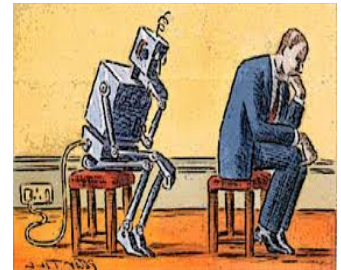
### Constrained Conditional Models Allow:

- Decouple complexity of the learned model from that of the desired output
- Learn a simple model (multiple; pipelines); reason with a complex one.
- Accomplished by incorporating constraints to bias/re-rank global decisions to satisfy (minimally violate) expectations.

# Outline



- Knowledge and Inference
  - Combining the **soft** with the **logical/declarative** nature of Natural Language
    - **Constrained Conditional Models: A formulation for global inference with knowledge** modeled as expressive structural constraints
    - **Some examples**
- Cycles of Knowledge
  - Grounding/Acquisition – knowledge – inference
- Learning with Indirect Supervision
  - Response Based Learning: learning from the world's feedback
- Scaling Up: Amortized Inference
  - Can the k-th inference problem be cheaper than the 1st?



Training  
on the go!  
大走



# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

I left my pearls to my daughter in my will .

[I]<sub>A0</sub> left [my pearls]<sub>A1</sub> [to my daughter]<sub>A2</sub> [in my will]<sub>AM-LOC</sub> .

- **A0**            Leaver
- **A1**            Things left
- **A2**            Benefactor
- **AM-LOC**      Location

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## Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

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# Algorithmic Approach

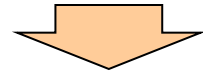
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  - Use the estimated probability distribution given by the argument classifier
  - Use structural and linguistic constraints
  - Infer the optimal global output

# Algorithmic Approach

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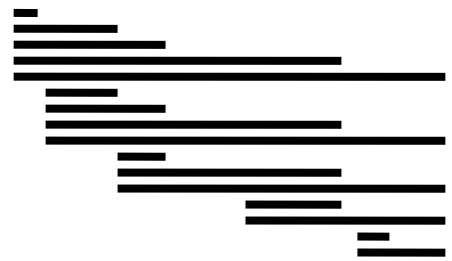
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I left my nice pearls to her



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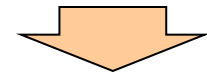
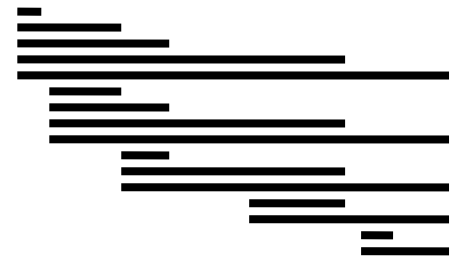
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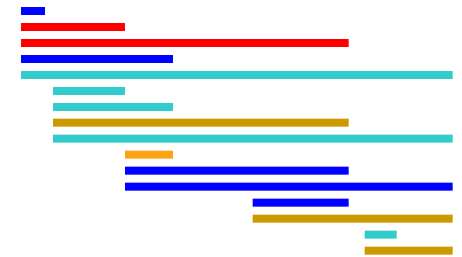
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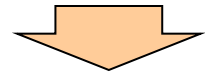
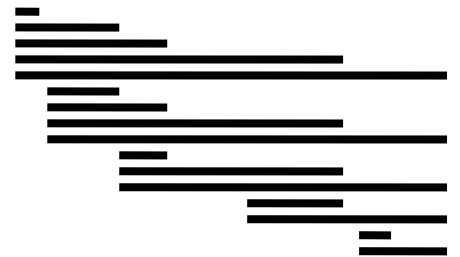




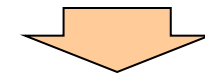
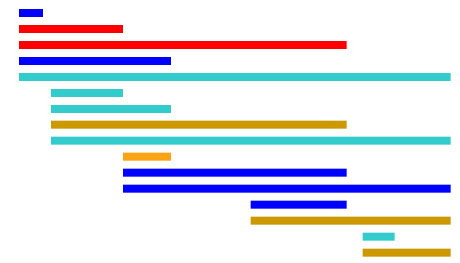
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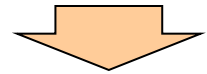
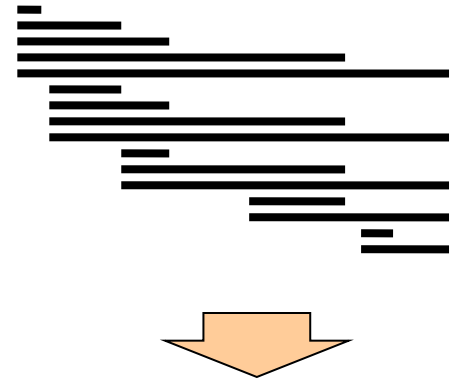
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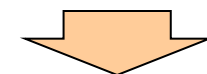
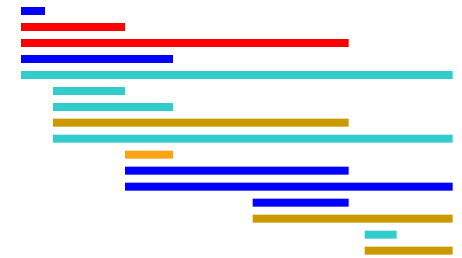
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One inference problem for each verb predicate.

I left my nice pearls to her  
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I left my nice pearls to her



I left my nice pearls to her

I left my nice pearls to her



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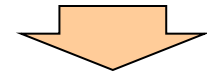
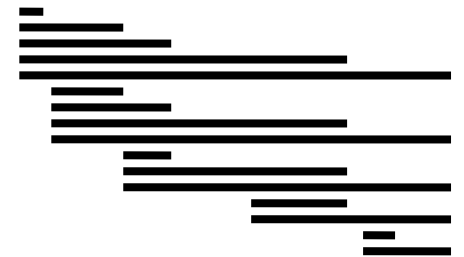
## ➔ Inference

$$\operatorname{argmax} \sum_{a,t} y^{a,t} c^{a,t} = \sum_{a,t} 1_{a=t} C_{a=t}$$

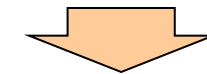
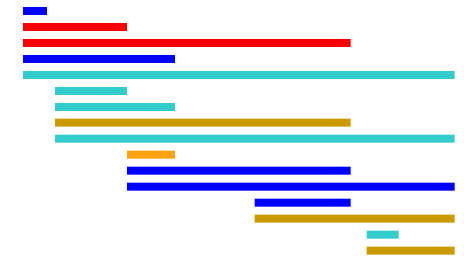
Subject to:

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I left my nice pearls to her  
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I left my nice pearls to her

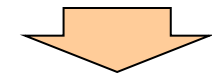
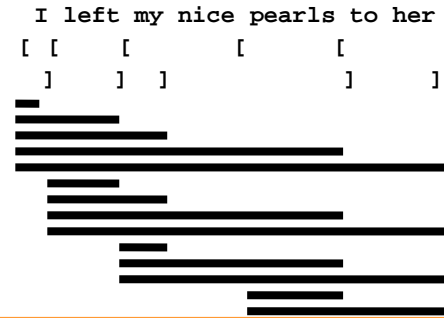


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Variable  $y^{a,t}$  indicates whether candidate argument  $a$  is assigned a label  $t$ .  
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No duplicate argument classes  $\forall i, \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} 1_{\{y_i=y\}} = 1$

Unique labels  $\forall y \in \mathcal{Y}, \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=y\}} \leq 1$

$\forall y \in \mathcal{Y}_R, \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=y=\text{"R-Ax"}\}} \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=\text{"Ax"}\}}$

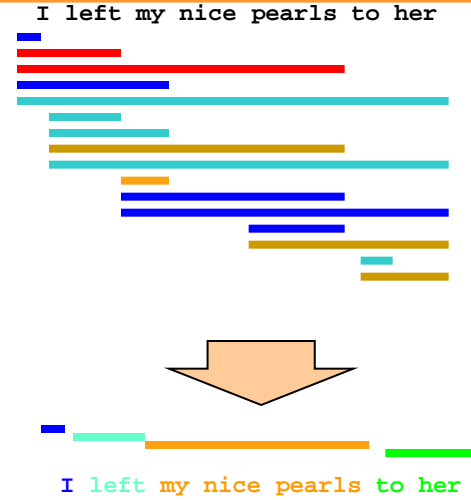
$\forall j, y \in \mathcal{Y}_C, 1_{\{y_j=y=\text{"C-Ax"}\}} \leq \sum_{i=0}^j 1_{\{y_i=\text{"Ax"}\}}$

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Learning Based Java: allows a developer to encode constraints in First Order Logic; these are compiled into linear inequalities automatically.

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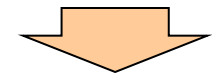
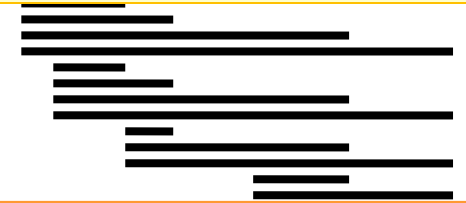
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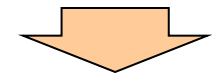
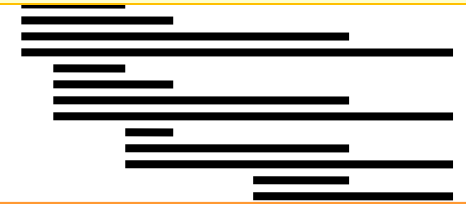
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I left my nice pearls to her

Use the **pipeline architecture's simplicity** while **maintaining uncertainty**: keep probability distributions over decisions & use global inference at decision time.

# Verb SRL is not Sufficient

- *John, a fast-rising politician, **slept** on the train to Chicago.*
- **Verb Predicate: sleep**



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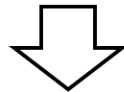
- **What was John's destination?**

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# Extended Semantic Role Labeling

- Improved sentence level analysis; dealing with more phenomena

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's main opposition group called for widespread protests on Sunday in the wake of a powerful bomb attack for which it blamed Syria, posing a challenge to a shaky coalition government that is led by pro-Syrian factions and intensifying fears that Syria's civil war is spilling over into this country.



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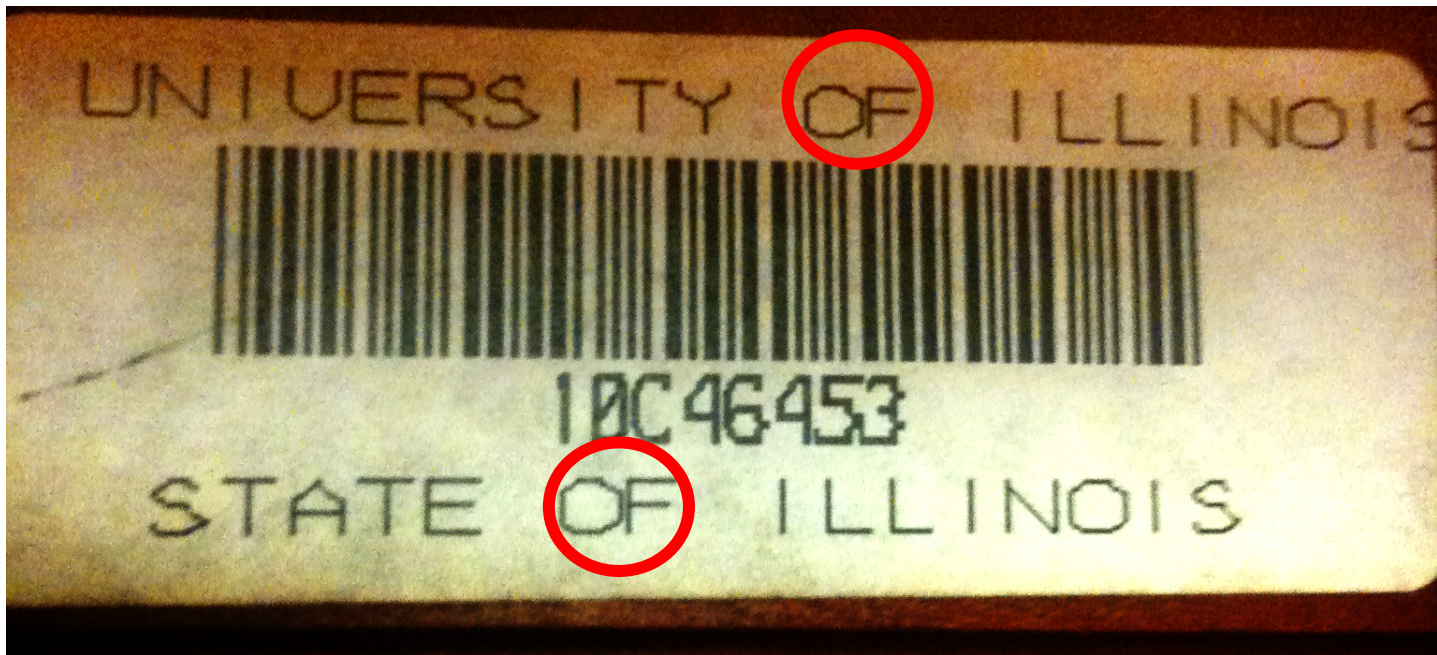


[Beirut] is in [Lebanon].  
[Lebanon] has a main opposition group.  
[Lebanon's main opposition group] called for [widespread protests] [on Sunday].  
There was [a powerful bomb attack].  
[Lebanon's main opposition group] blamed [Syria].  
[Pro-Syrian factions] lead [a shaky coalition government]  
[Syria] has a [civil war].  
[Someone] fears that [Syria's civil war is spilling over into this country].  
...

Sentence level analysis may be influenced by other sentences

# Examples of Preposition Relations

Queen of England



City of Chicago

# Predicates Expressed by Prepositions

live **at** Conway House  
**at:1** ←

Index of definition on Oxford English Dictionary

stopped **at** 9 PM  
**at:2** ←

drive **at** 50 mph  
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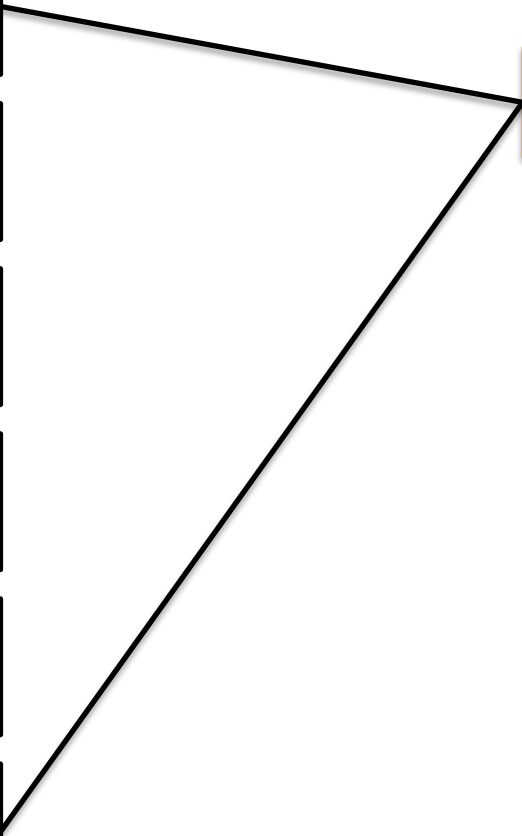
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ObjectOfVerb



# Computational Questions

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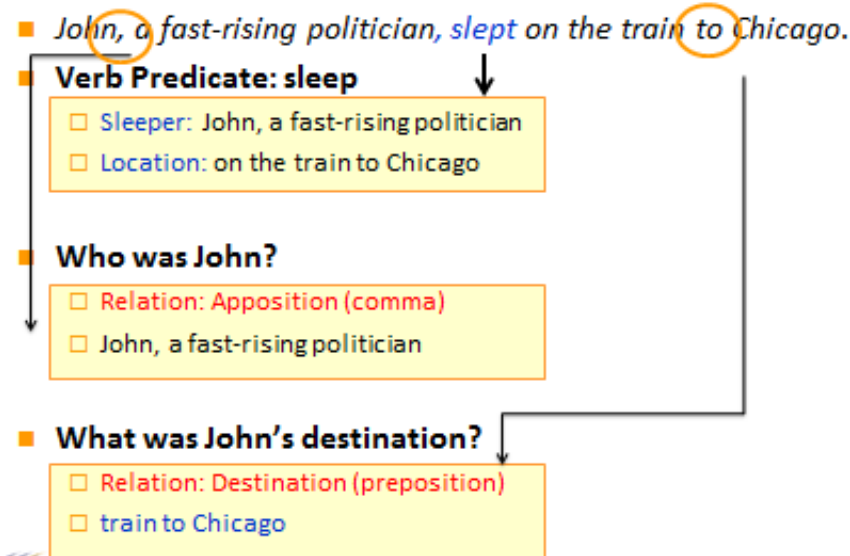
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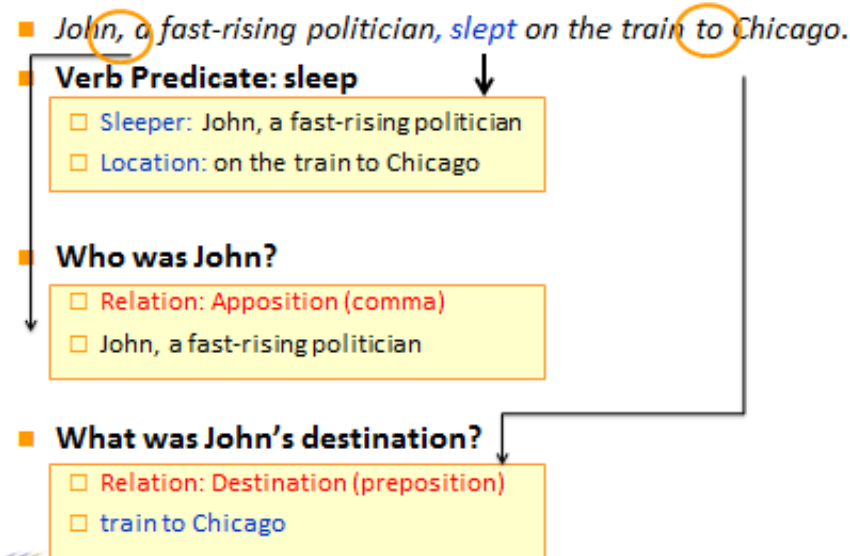
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Argument &  
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  - [EMNLP, '11]
- Identify the relation's **arguments**
  - [Trans. Of ACL, '13]
- Very little supervised data
  - per phenomena
- Minimal annotation
  - only at the predicate level
- The Learning & Inference paradigm exploits two principles:
  - Coherency among multiple phenomena
  - Constraining latent structures (relating observed and latent variables)
  - Skip

## Verb SRL is not Sufficient

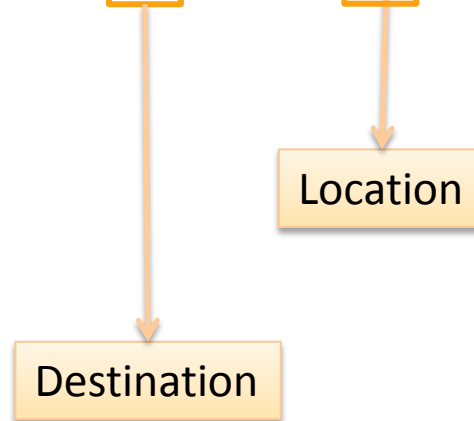


Input &  
relation

Argument &  
their types

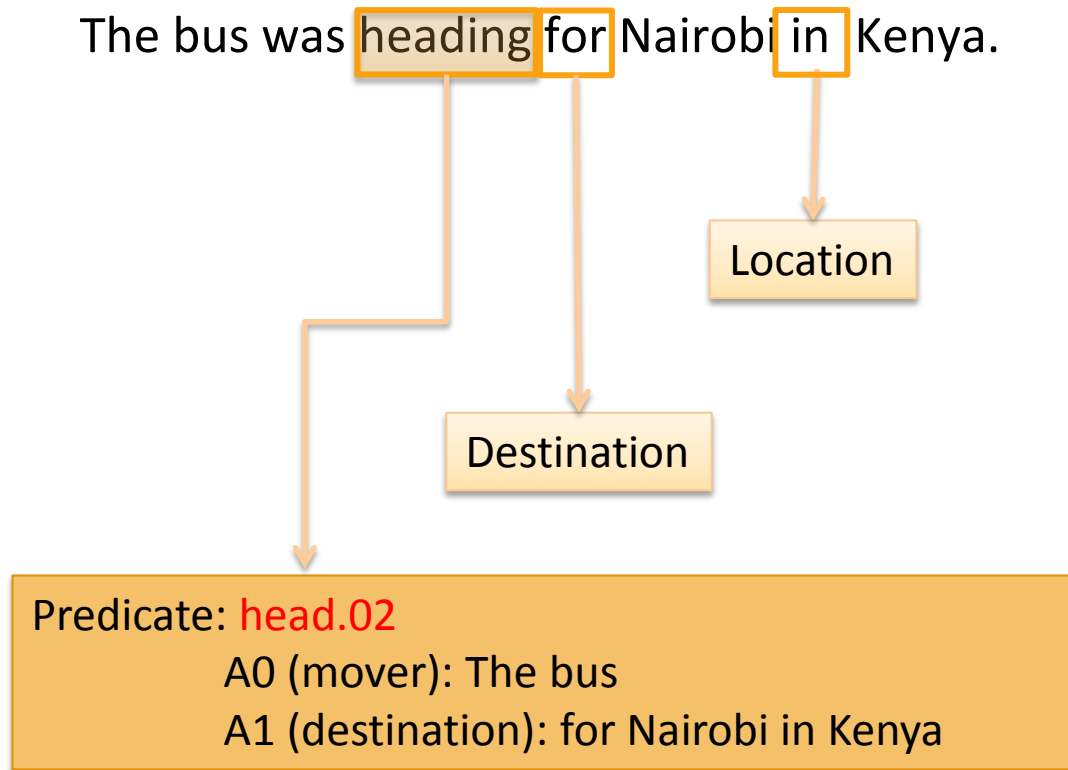
# Prepositional Relations: Coherence of predictions

The bus was heading **for** Nairobi **in** Kenya.



# Prepositional Relations: Coherence of predictions

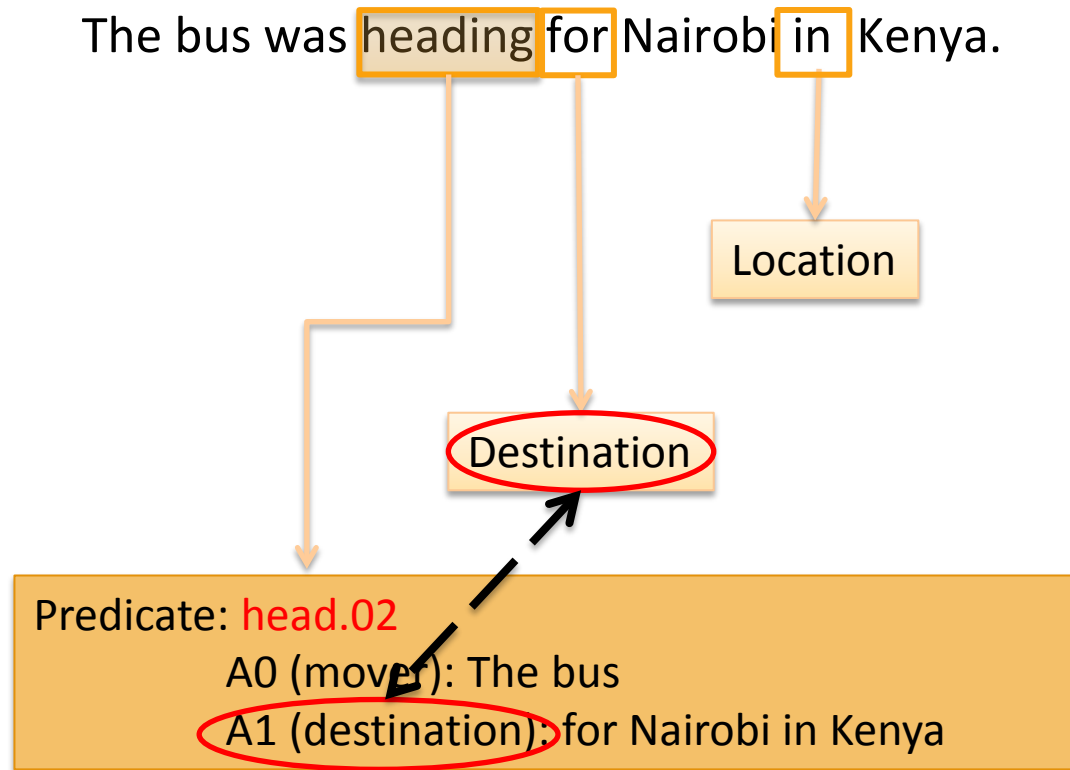
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# Prepositional Relations: Coherence of predictions

The bus was heading for Nairobi in Kenya.



# Prepositional Relations: Coherence of predictions

**Predicate arguments from different triggers should be consistent**

The bus was heading for Nairobi in Kenya.

**Joint constraints**

linking the two tasks.

**Destination**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **A1**

Location

Destination

Predicate: head.02

A0 (mover): The bus

A1 (destination): for Nairobi in Kenya

# Joint inference (CCMs)

Verb arguments

$$\max_{\mathbf{y}} \sum_t \sum_a y^{a,t} c^{a,t}$$

## Joint inference (CCMs)

Variable  $y^{a,t}$  indicates whether candidate argument  $a$  is assigned a label  $t$ .  
 $c^{a,t}$  is the corresponding model score

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Verb arguments

$$\max_y \sum_t \sum_a y^{a,t} c^{a,t}$$

Each argument label

Argument candidates

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**Constraints:**

Verb SRL constraints

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Preposition relations

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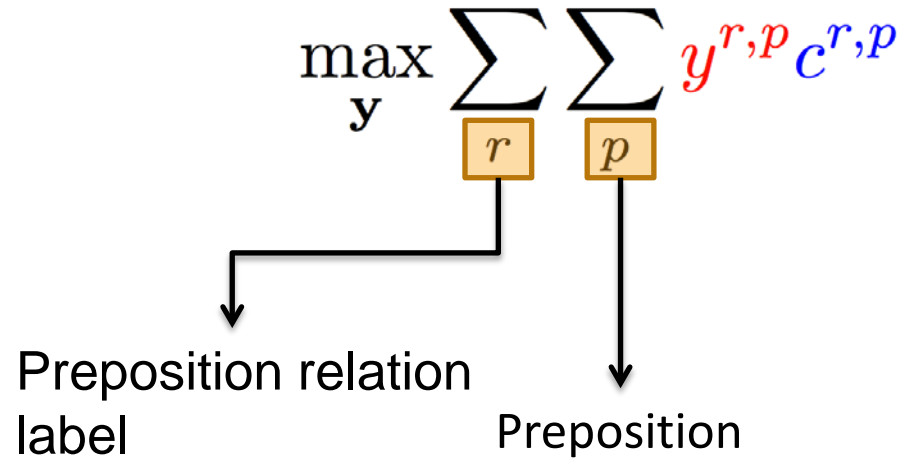
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Preposition SRL Constraints

## Joint inference (CCMs)

Variable  $y^{a,t}$  indicates whether candidate argument  $a$  is assigned a label  $t$ .  
 $c^{a,t}$  is the corresponding model score

Verb arguments

Preposition relations

$$\max_{\mathbf{y}} \sum_t \lambda^t \sum_a y^{a,t} c^{a,t} + \sum_r \lambda^r \sum_p y^{r,p} c^{r,p}$$

**Constraints:**

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Preposition SRL Constraints

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+ Joint constraints between tasks; easy with ILP formulations

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Joint Inference – no (or minimal) joint learning

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# Predicate-Argument Structure of Prepositions

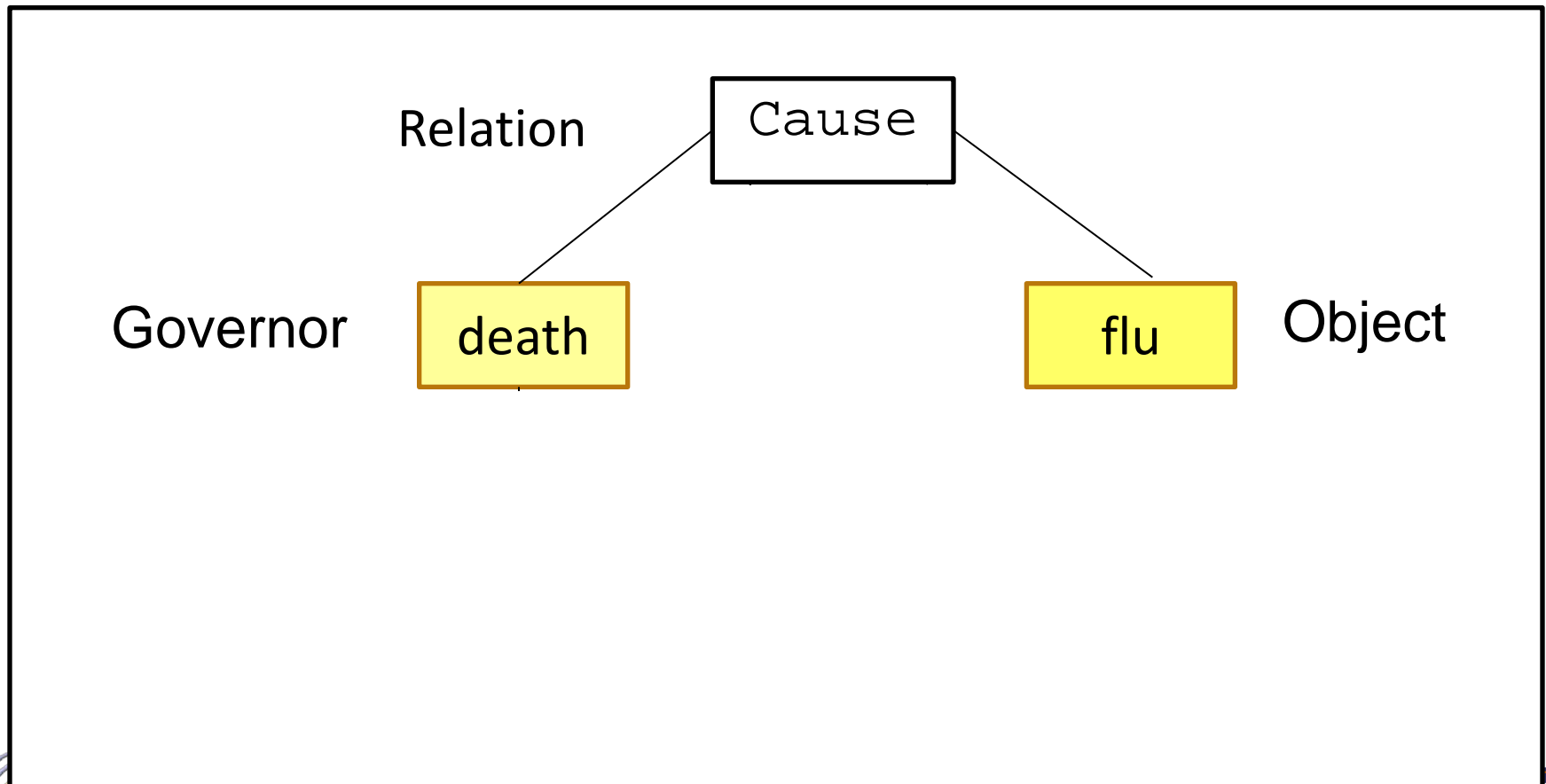
Poor care led to her death **from** flu.

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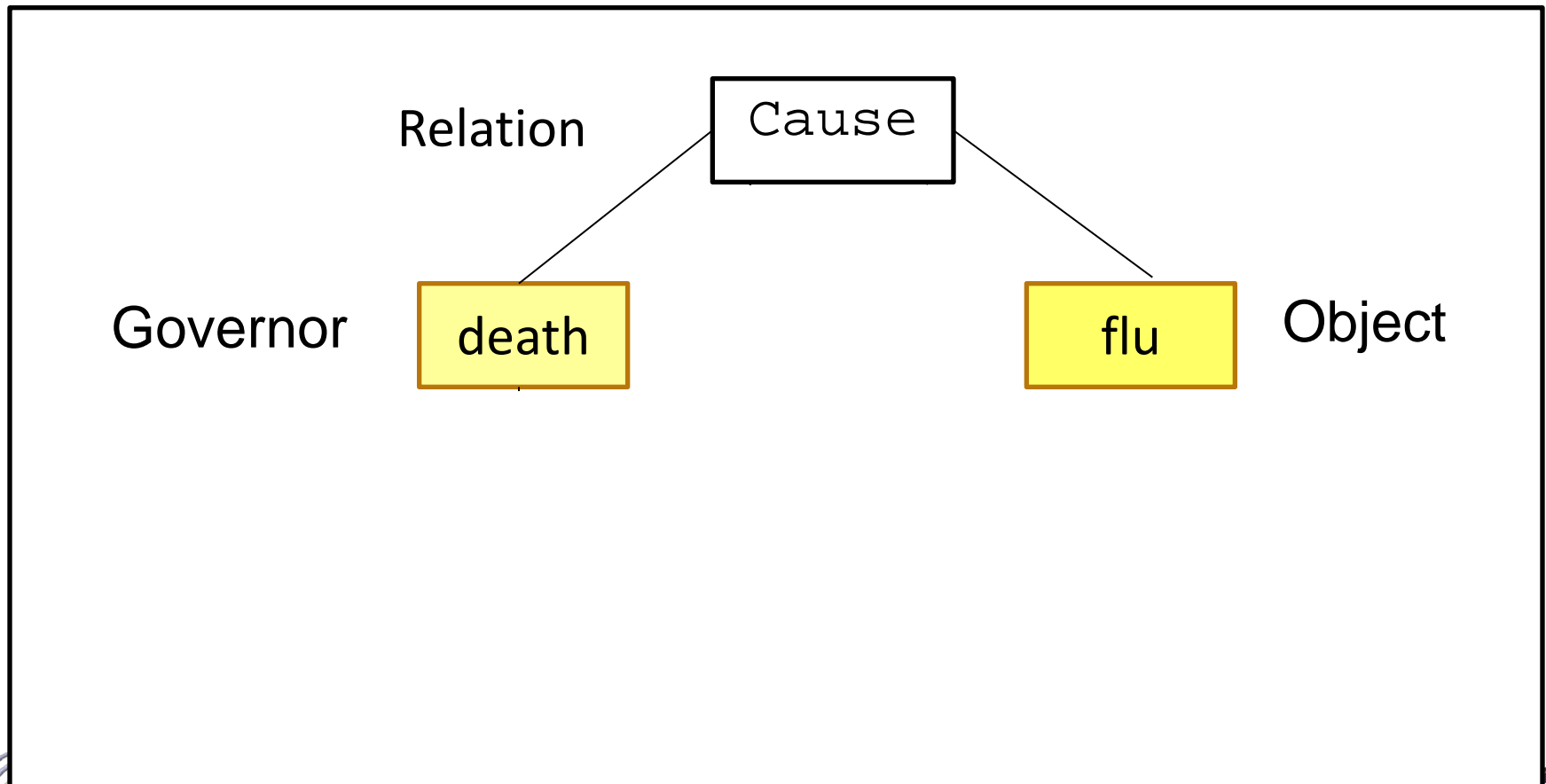




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.....her to suffer **from** infection.

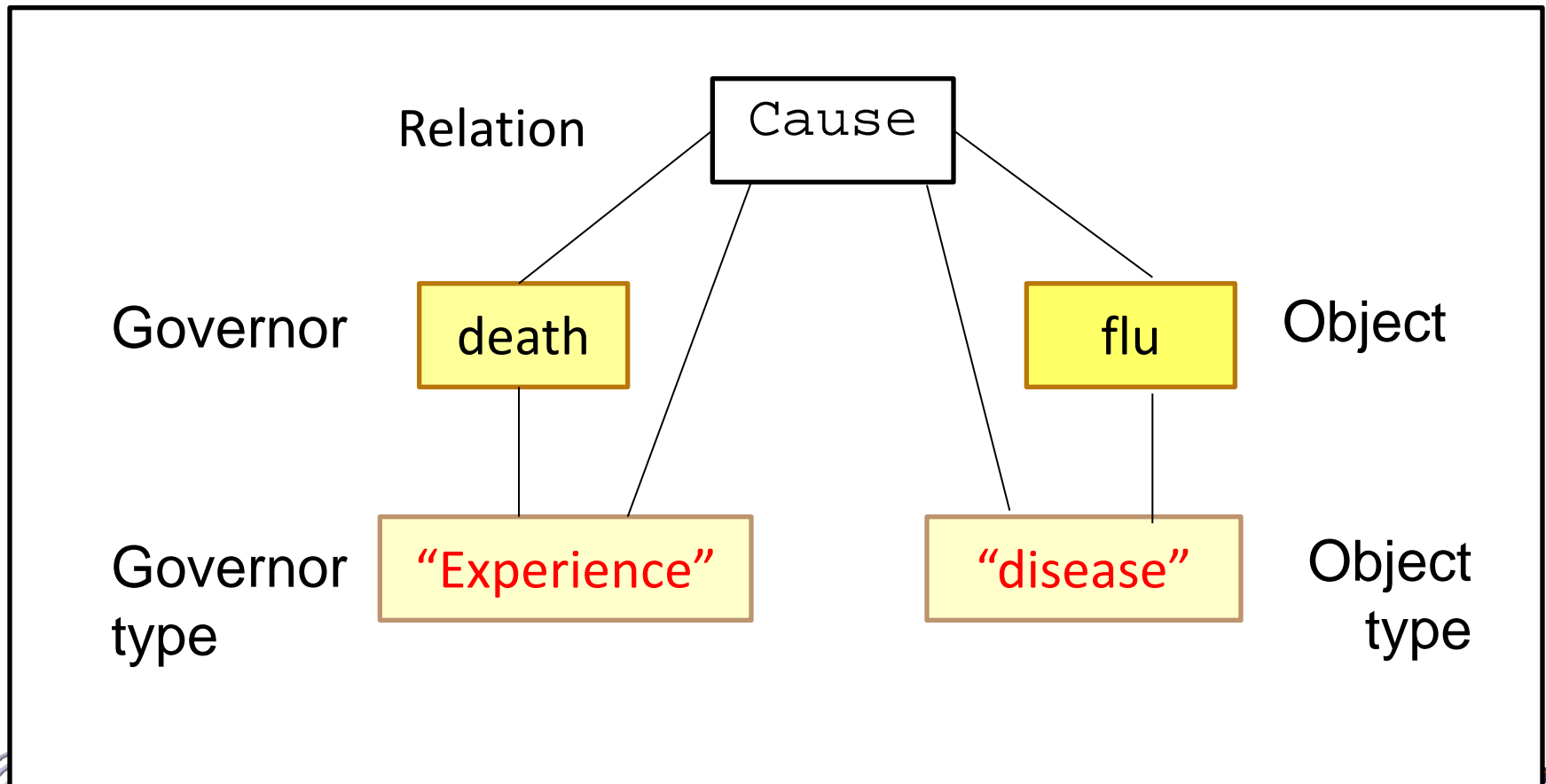
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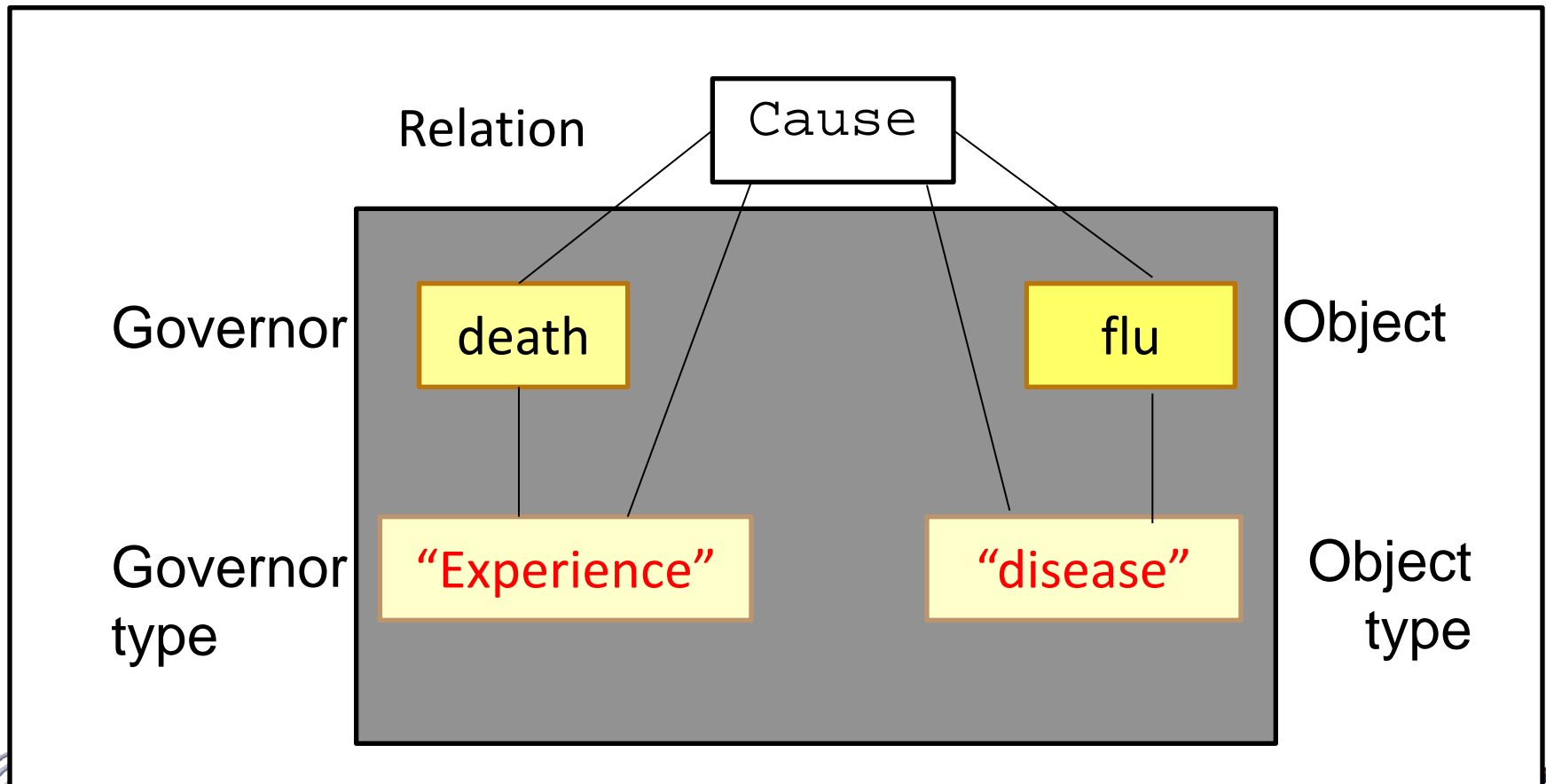
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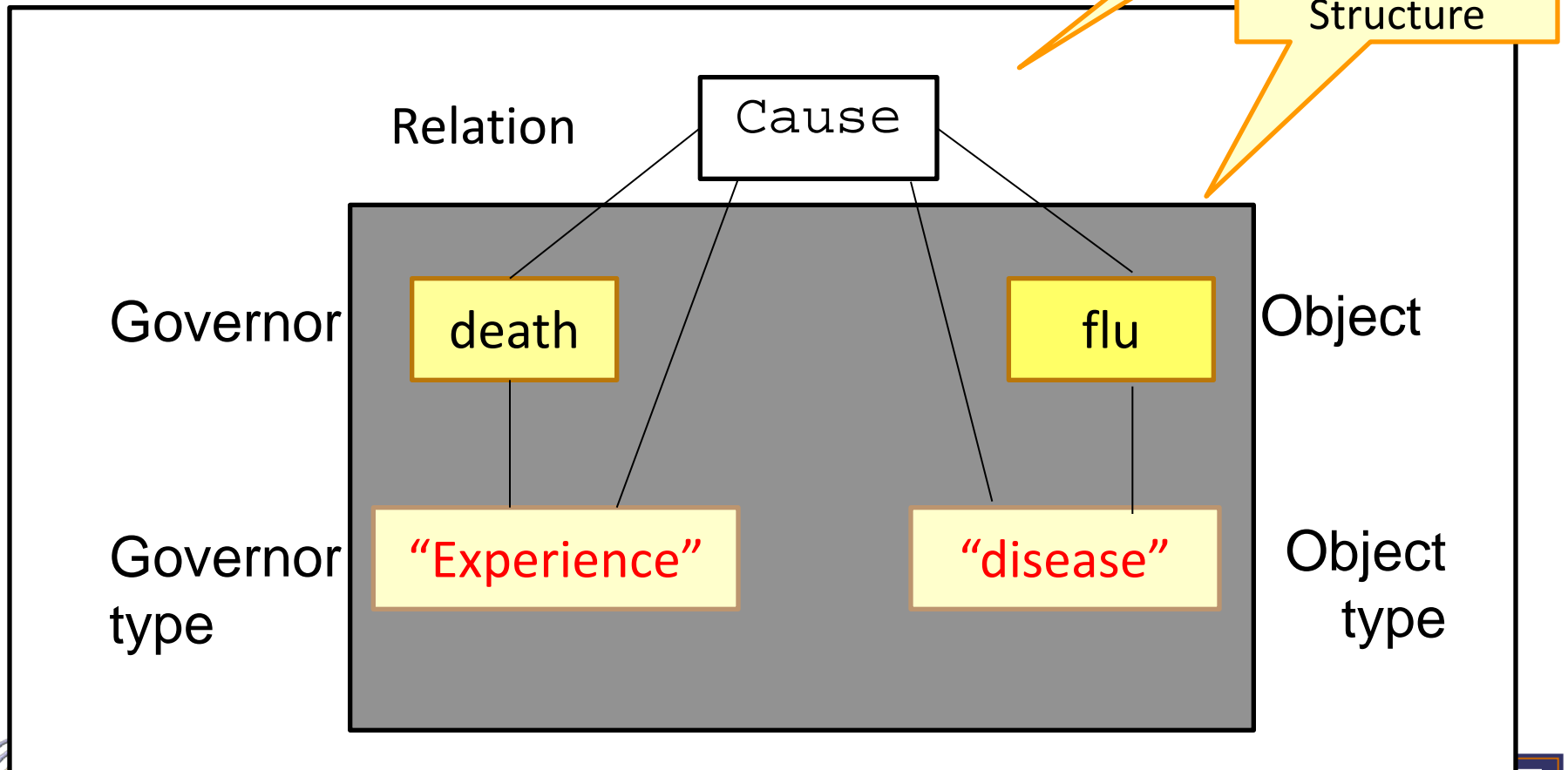
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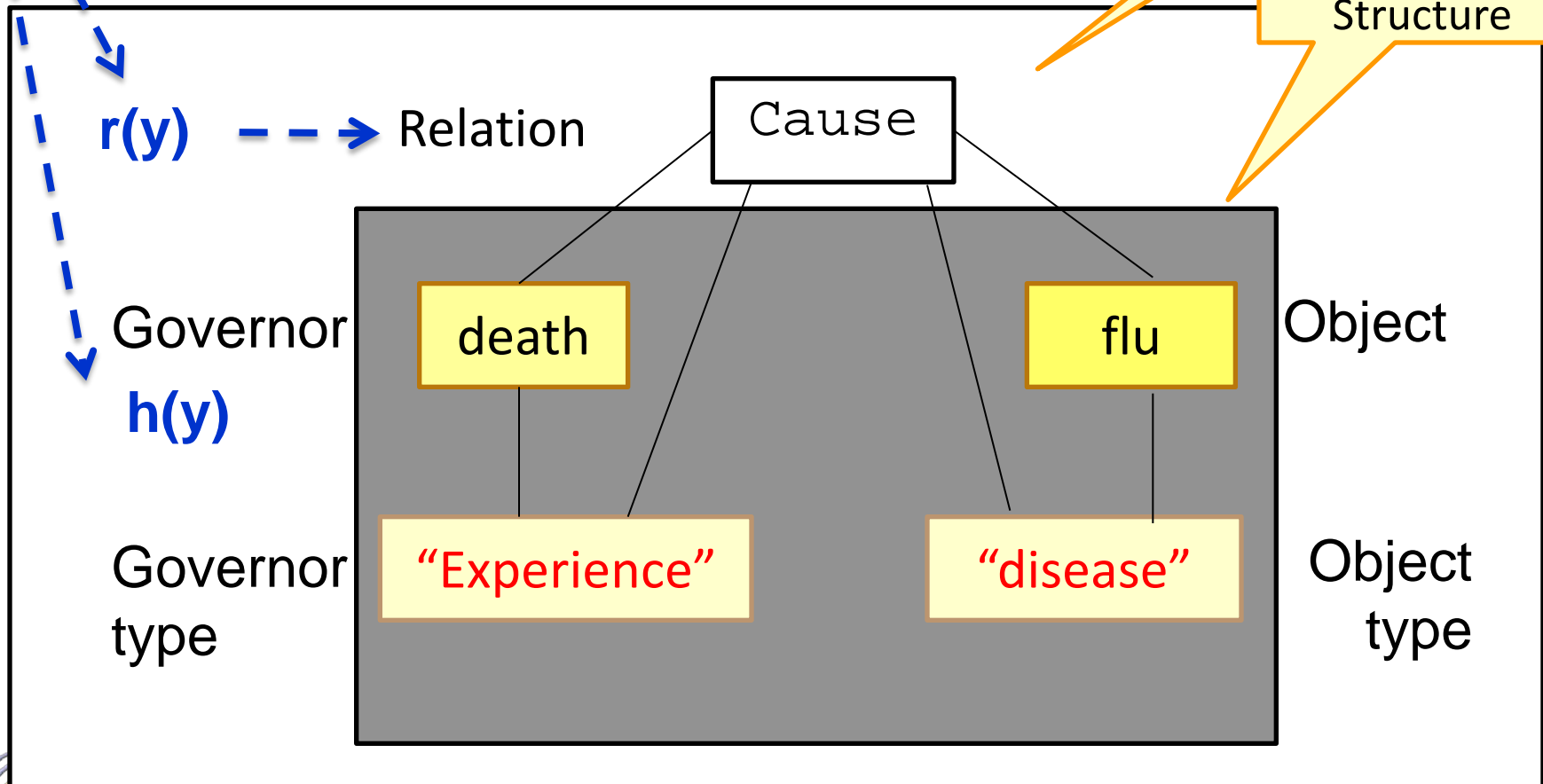


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Prediction  $y$

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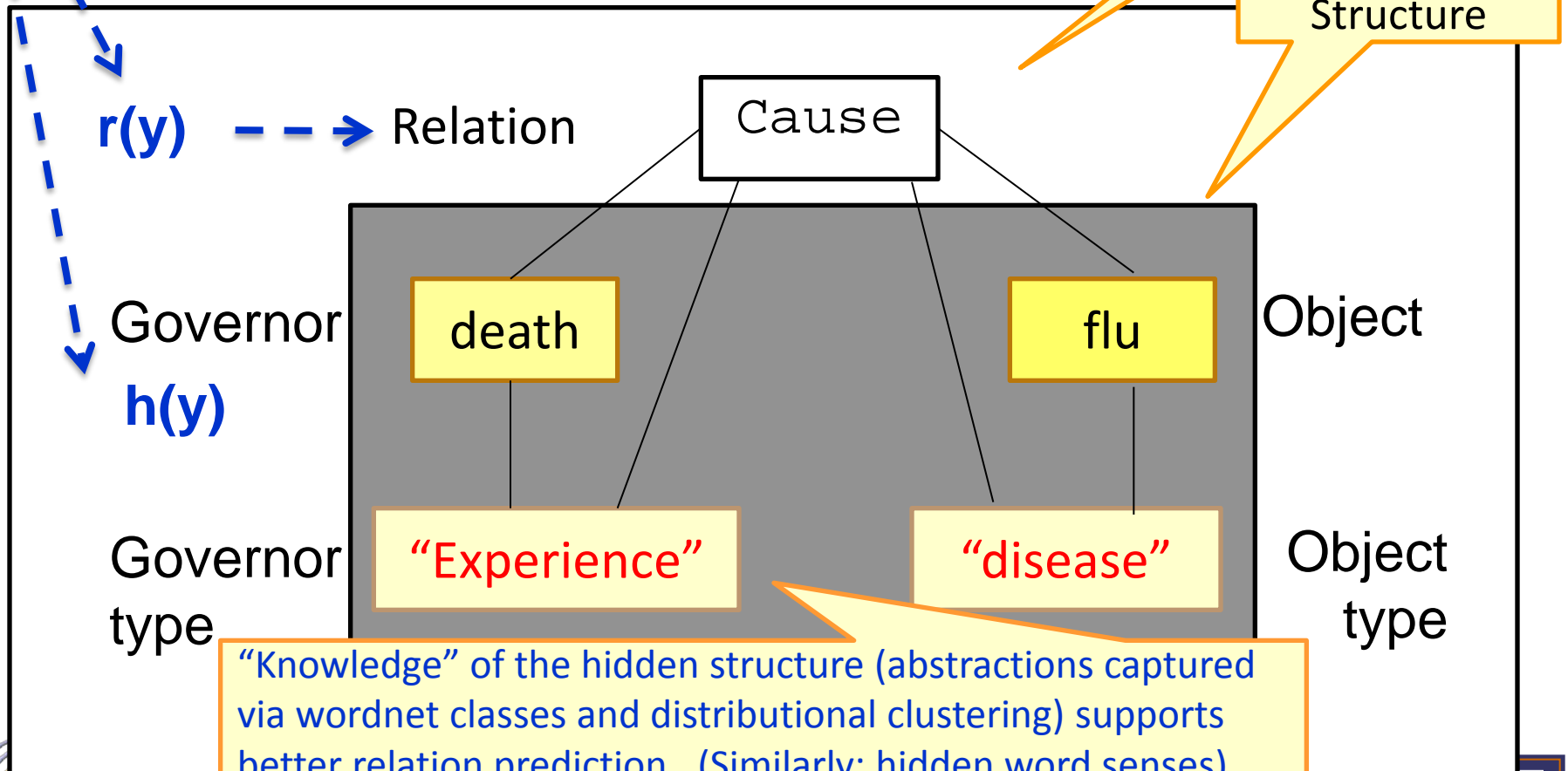


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**Prediction y**

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Supervision

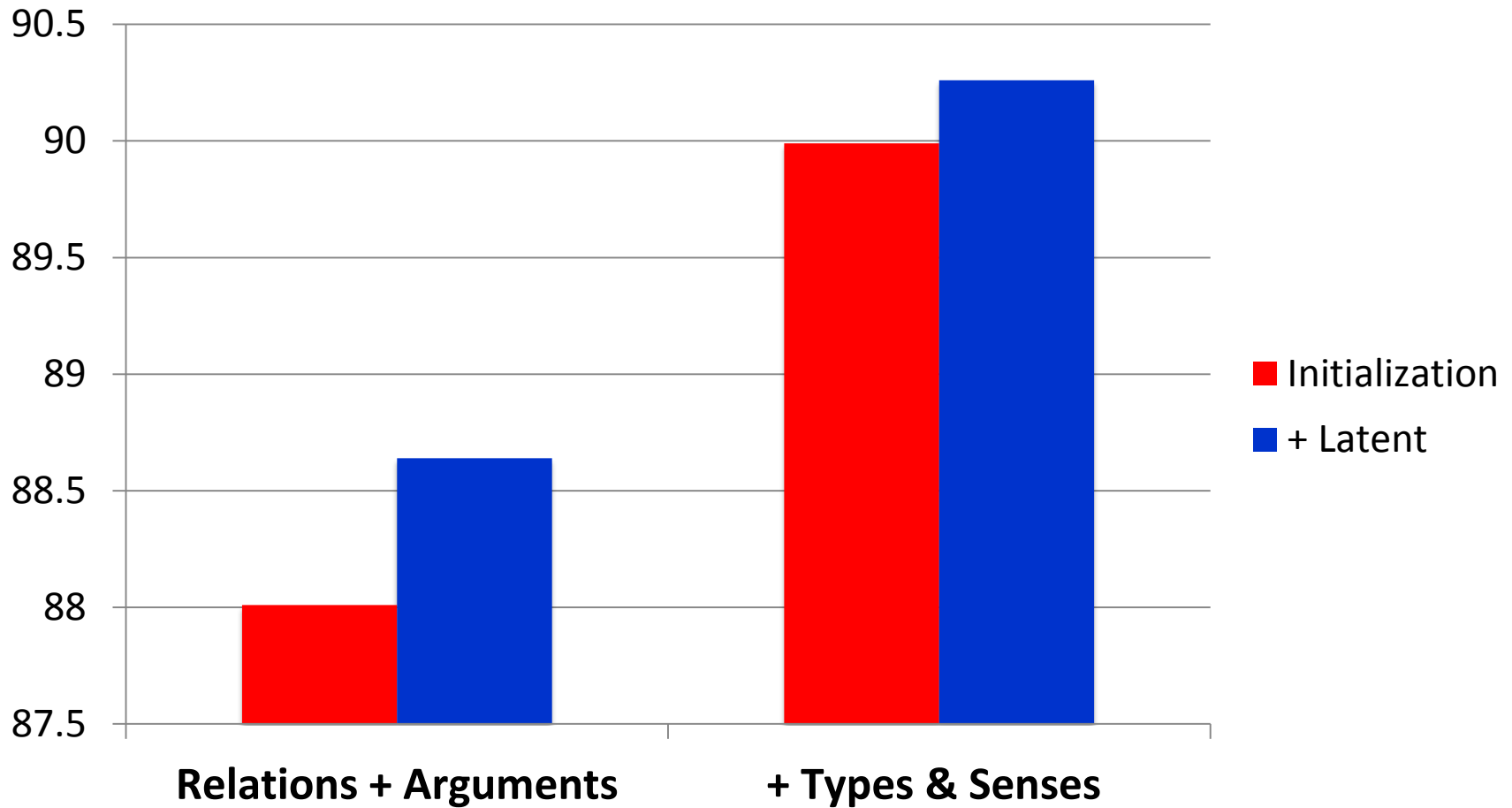
Latent Structure

“Knowledge” of the hidden structure (abstractions captured via wordnet classes and distributional clustering) supports better relation prediction. (Similarly: hidden word senses)  
 Inference relating latent and observed variables is a CCM



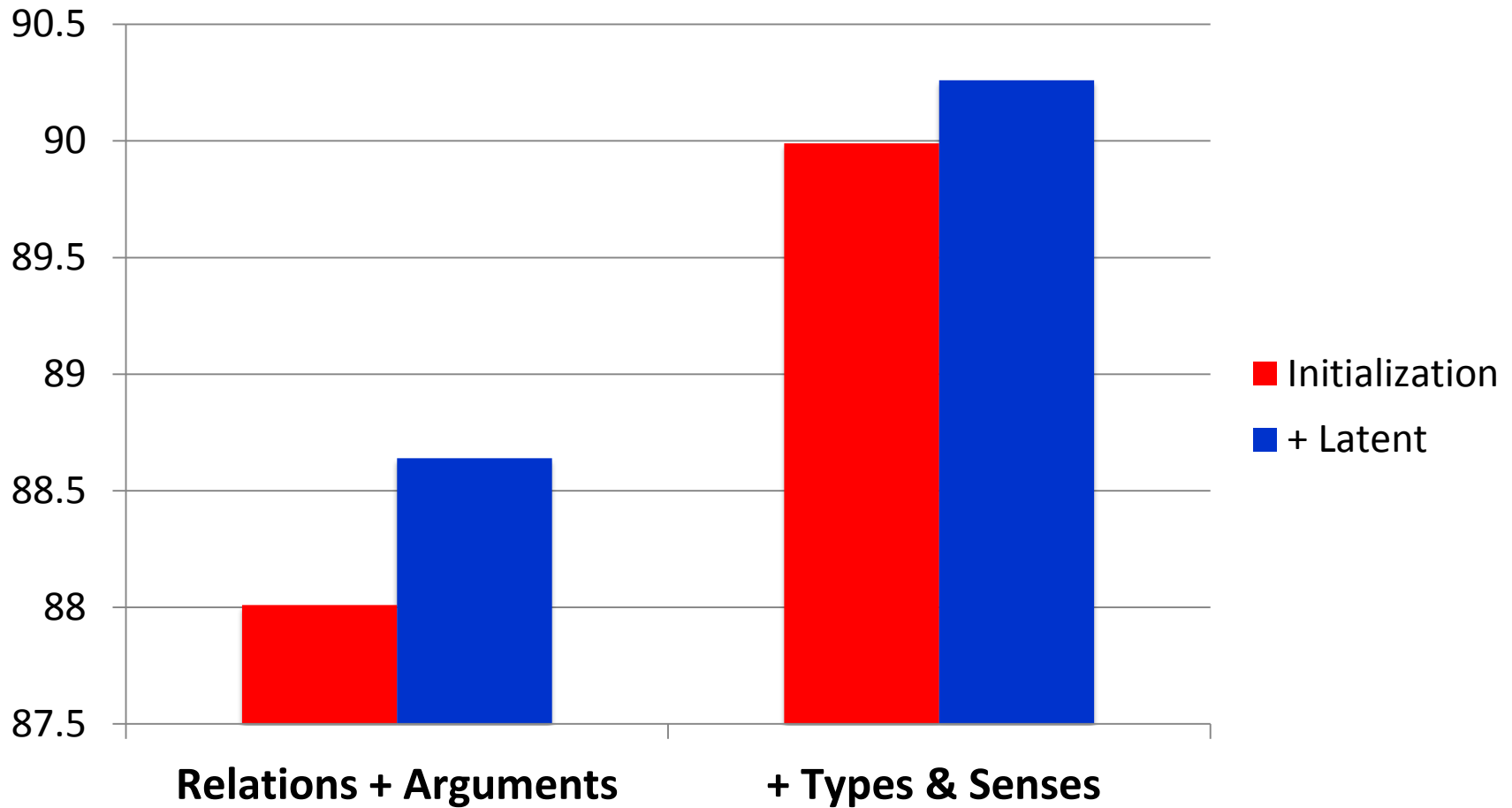
# Performance

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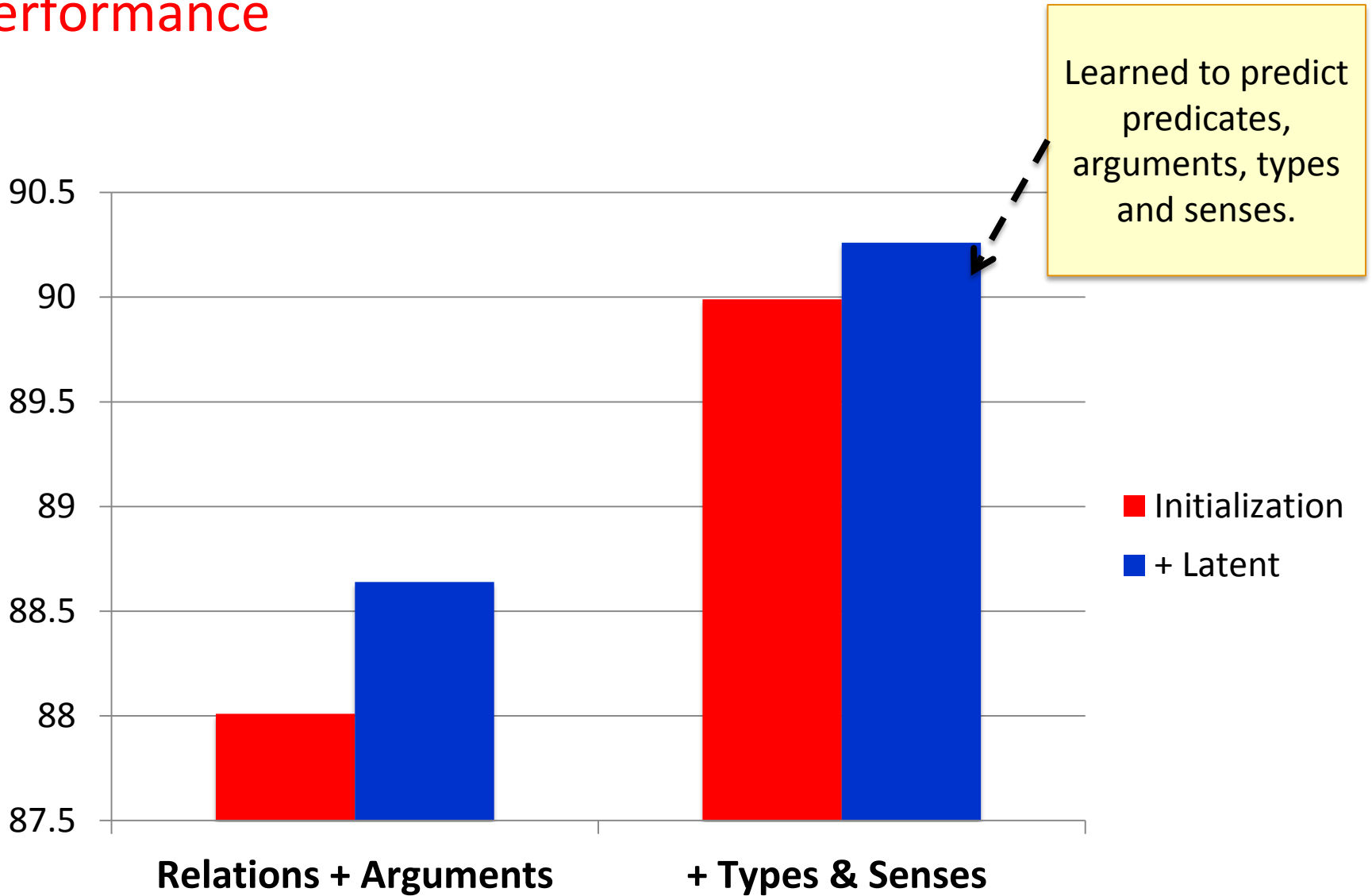




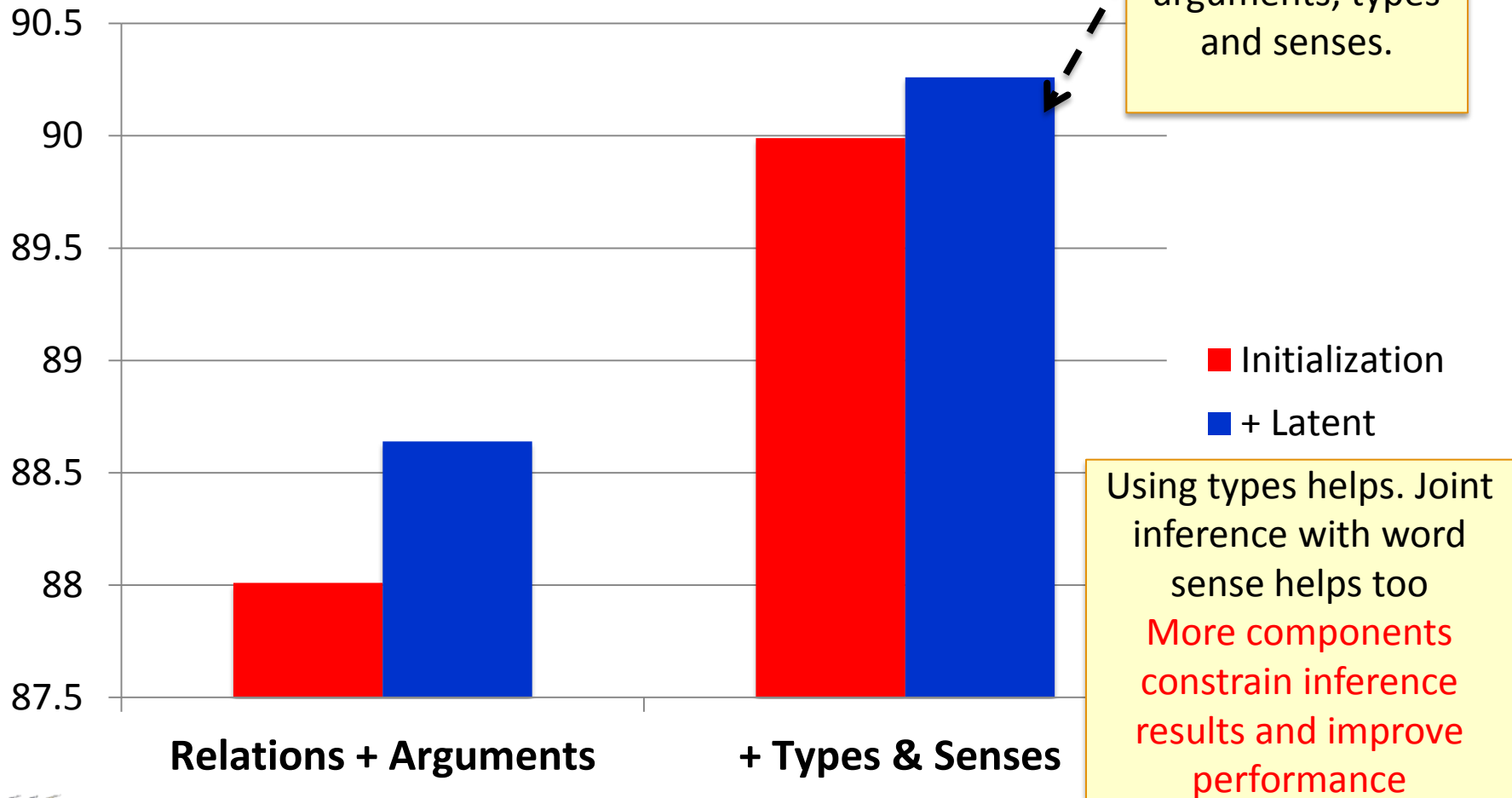
# Performance



# Performance



# Performance



# Extended SRL [Demo]

| [-] SRL |                  | [+] [+] [-] Preposition |             | [-] Preposition |          | [+]    |
|---------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| The     | leader [A0]      |                         |             |                 |          |        |
| bus     |                  |                         |             |                 |          |        |
| was     |                  |                         |             |                 |          |        |
| heading | V: head          |                         | Governor    |                 | Governor |        |
| to      |                  |                         | Destination |                 |          |        |
| Nairobi | Destination [A1] |                         | Object      |                 |          |        |
| in      |                  |                         |             |                 | Location |        |
| Kenya   |                  |                         |             |                 |          | Object |
| .       |                  |                         |             |                 |          |        |

# Extended SRL [Demo]

|         |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
|---------|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|         | <input type="checkbox"/> SRL |  | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Preposition | <input type="checkbox"/> Preposition | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The     | leader [A0]                  |  |  |                                      |                          |
| bus     |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
| was     |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
| heading | V: head                      |  | Governor   | Governor                             |                          |
| to      |                              |  | Destination  |                                      |                          |
| Nairobi | Destination [A1]             |  | Object   |                                      |                          |
| in      |                              |  |  | Location                             |                          |
| Kenya   |                              |  |  | Object                               |                          |
| .       |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |

Joint inference over phenomena specific models to enforce consistency

Models trained with latent structure: senses, types, arguments

# Extended SRL [Demo]

|         |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
|---------|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|         | <input type="checkbox"/> SRL |  | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Preposition | <input type="checkbox"/> Preposition | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The     | leader [A0]                  |  |  |                                      |                          |
| bus     |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
| was     |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |
| heading | V: head                      |  | Governor   | Governor                             |                          |
| to      |                              |  | Destination  |                                      |                          |
| Nairobi | Destination [A1]             |  | Object   |                                      |                          |
| in      |                              |  |  | Location                             |                          |
| Kenya   |                              |  |  | Object                               |                          |
| .       |                              |  |  |                                      |                          |

Joint inference over phenomena specific models to enforce consistency

Models trained with latent structure: senses, types, arguments

- More to do with other relations, discourse phenomena,...

# Constrained Conditional Models—ILP Formulations

- **Have been shown useful in the context of many NLP problems**
- [Roth&Yih, 04,07: Entities and Relations; Punyakanok et. al: SRL ...]
  - Summarization; Co-reference; Information & Relation Extraction; Event Identifications and causality ; Transliteration; Textual Entailment; Knowledge Acquisition; Sentiments; Temporal Reasoning, Parsing,...
- Some theoretical work on training paradigms [Punyakanok et. al., 05 more; Constraints Driven Learning, PR, Constrained EM...]
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- Good summary and description of training paradigms: [Chang, Ratnov & Roth, Machine Learning Journal 2012]
- **Summary of work & a bibliography: <http://L2R.cs.uiuc.edu/tutorials.html>**

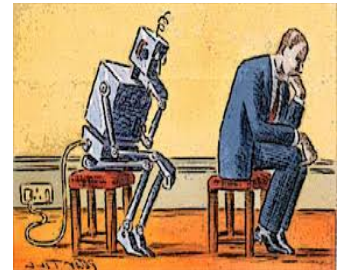


# Outline



- Knowledge and Inference

- Combining the **soft** with the **logical/declarative** nature of Natural Language
  - **Constrained Conditional Models: A formulation for global inference with knowledge** modeled as expressive structural constraints
  - **Some examples**



## Cycles of Knowledge

- Grounding/Acquisition – knowledge – inference

- Learning with Indirect Supervision

- Response Based Learning: learning from the world's feedback



- Scaling Up: Amortized Inference

- Can the k-th inference problem be cheaper than the 1st?



# Wikification: The Reference Problem

Blumenthal (D) is a candidate for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Christopher Dodd (D), and he has held a commanding lead in the race since he entered it. But the Times report has the potential to fundamentally reshape the contest in the Nutmeg State.

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Richard Blumenthal

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Democratic Party (United States)

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Chris Dodd

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*The New York Times*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Chris Dodd  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


The New York Times  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Connecticut  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



# Who is Alex Smith?

Cognitive Computation Group ▶ Demos ▶ Wikifier

 Wikifier Demo


fewer concepts  more concepts

wikify!  clear

*\* If you wish to cite this work, please cite the following publications: (1) Retinov et. al. and (2) Cheng and Roth.*

The Chiefs didn't trade for Alex Smith this offseason solely because they wanted a smart game manager who wouldn't kill their offense with turnovers. They acquired him because they needed a quarterback who knows how to win. Sometimes that requires him to do what he's done for most of this season: throw the safe pass, make the key play when necessary and use his feet to keep the chains moving when his arm can't get the job done. These days it means Smith has to show people more of what he revealed in Sunday's 41-38 loss to San Diego -- that he can elevate his game when his team is in dire straits.

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**Quarterback of the Kansas City Chief**

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**Tight End of the Cincinnati Bengals**

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Tight End of the Cincinnati Bengals

**San Diego:** The San Diego Chargers (A Football team)

# Who is Alex Smith?

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of a 'Wikifier Demo' interface. The interface includes a breadcrumb trail 'Cognitive Computation Group > Demos > Wikifier', a 'Wikifier Demo' logo, and a slider control for 'fewer concepts' to 'more concepts'. Below the slider are search buttons for 'wikify!' and 'clear'. The main content area displays search results for the query 'Alex Smith'. The left result is for 'Alex Smith', a quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs, with a red oval around the name and a yellow callout box below it identifying him as the San Diego Chargers' quarterback. The right result is for 'Alex Smith', a tight end for the Cincinnati Bengals, with a green oval around the name and a yellow callout box below it identifying him as the Baltimore Ravens' tight end. The text in the results is partially obscured by the callouts.

Cognitive Computation Group > Demos > Wikifier

Wikifier Demo

fewer concepts more concepts

wikify! clear

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Tight End of the Cincinnati Bengals

Ravens: The Baltimore Ravens (A Football team)



# Who is Alex Smith?

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of a 'Wikifier Demo' interface. The interface includes a breadcrumb trail 'Cognitive Computation Group > Demos > Wikifier', a 'Wikifier Demo' logo, and a slider control for 'fewer concepts' to 'more concepts'. Below the slider are search buttons for 'wikify!' and 'clear'. The main content area displays a text snippet with several instances of the name 'Smith' circled in red and green. Below the text are two images of football players: Alex Smith (number 11) in a white Kansas City Chiefs uniform and another player in a brown Cincinnati Bengals uniform. Below these images are yellow boxes with their respective team names. A large yellow box at the bottom center contains the text 'Contextual Disambiguation'. On the right side, a text snippet is shown with 'Alex Smith' circled in green and 'Smith' circled in yellow. Below this, a yellow box identifies 'Ravens: The Baltimore Ravens (A Football team)'. On the left side, a yellow box identifies 'San Diego: The San Diego Chargers (A Football team)'. The interface also includes a citation notice: '\* If you wish to cite this work, please cite the following publications: (1) Retinov et. al. and (2) Cheng and Roth.'

Cognitive Computation Group > Demos > Wikifier


Wikifier Demo

fewer concepts more concepts


wikify! clear

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The Chiefs **Alex Smith** game manager who wouldn't kill their offer they needed a quarterback who knows how what he's done for most of this season: three necessary and use his **Smith** the chair These days it **Smith** lost to San Diego -- that he can elevate his



Quarterback of the Kansas City Chief



Tight End of the Cincinnati Bengals

als tight **Alex Smith** for the season. The wrist injury in the third quarter during the regular season Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis described the injury as a "wrist the next day in an interview on 700 WLW with Dave **Smith** an eventuality. More will be on declaring him done. On the other hand, Lewis confirmed the tight end Tyler Eifert and Jermaine Gresham for the next against the Ravens.

San Diego: The San Diego Chargers (A Football team)


Contextual Disambiguation

Ravens: The Baltimore Ravens (A Football team)

# Middle Eastern Politics



Cognitive Computation Group ▶ Demos ▶ Wikifier

 Wikifier Demo

fewer concepts more concepts


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Over and over again I'd hear these **perorations** from certain **Jewish** circles arguing that there is no difference between **Fatah** and **Hamas**, or between **Mahmoud Abbas** and **Khaled Maashal**. I would cringe at such comments, while knowing full well that **Abu Mazen** was hardly the perfect **interlocutor**. I'm a strong believer in identifying the threats to **Israel** without pulling any **punches**. But I also believe that it is important to give peace a chance, to search for signs that the **Palestinians** are open to change from the destructive and self-destructive path they have **pursued** for decades. **Hamas** was and is a hopeless **proposition**. It not only rejects **Israel's** existence on **extremist religious** grounds but it is anti-Semitic to the extreme. Its **charter** sounds like the "**Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion**," blaming **Jews** for all the world's ills since the **French Revolution**. Its leaders have denied the **Holocaust** and blamed the **financial crisis** on **Jewish control**.

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**Mahmoud Abbas**

**Abu Mazen**

**Mahmoud Abbas:**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud\\_Abbas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud_Abbas)

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Mahmoud Abbas

Abu Mazen

**Mahmoud Abbas:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud\\_Abbas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud_Abbas)

**Variability:** Getting around multiple **surface representations**.  
**Co-reference resolution** within & across documents, **with grounding**

**Abu Mazen:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud\\_Abbas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud_Abbas)





# Knowledge Acquisition requires Knowledge (& inference)

- Mubarak,

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- Mubarak, the wife of deposed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak,...



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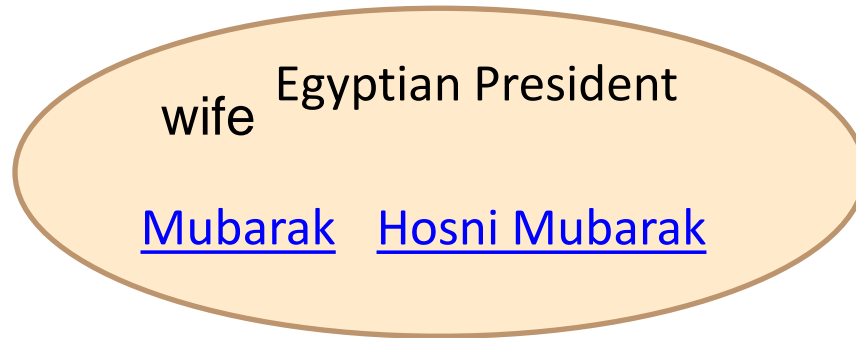


# Relational Inference

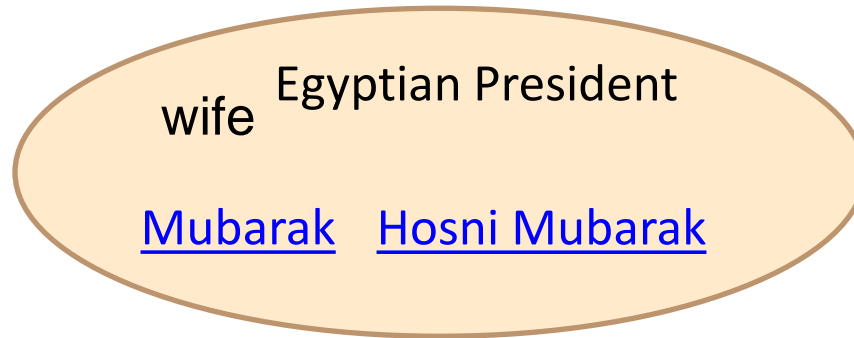
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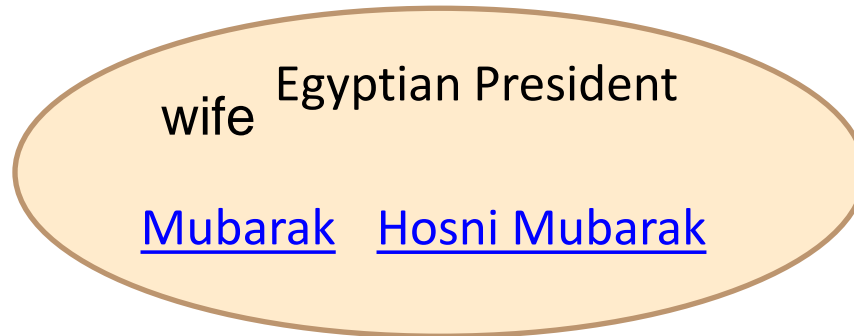
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- What are we missing with Bag of Words (BOW) models?
  - Who is Mubarak?

# Relational Inference

[Mubarak](#), the wife of deposed Egyptian President [Hosni Mubarak](#), ...



- What are we missing with Bag of Words (BOW) models?
  - Who is [Mubarak](#)?
- Textual relations provide another dimension of text understanding
- Can be used to constrain interactions between concepts
  - ([Mubarak](#), wife, [Hosni Mubarak](#))
- Has impact in several steps in the Wikification process:
  - From candidate selection to ranking and global decision

# Formulation

- Goal: Promote concepts that are coherent with textual relations
- Formulate as an Integer Linear Program (ILP):

$$\Gamma_D = \arg \max_{\Gamma} \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_k s_i^k e_i^k}_{\text{coherent with textual relations}} + \sum_{i,j} \sum_{k,l} w_{ij}^{(k,l)} r_{ij}^{(k,l)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s.t. \quad & r_{ij}^{(k,l)} \in \{0, 1\} && \text{Integral constraints} \\ & e_i^k \in \{0, 1\} && \text{Integral constraints} \\ & \forall i \sum_k e_i^k = 1 && \text{Unique solution} \\ & 2r_{ij}^{(k,l)} \leq e_i^k + e_j^l && \text{Relation definition} \end{aligned}$$

- If no relation exists, collapses to the non-structured decision

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weight of variable  $e_i^k$

Boolean variable:  $k$ th candidate corresponds to  $i$ th mention (or not)

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Knowledge + Ability to use it (Inference)  
facilitates additional knowledge acquisition

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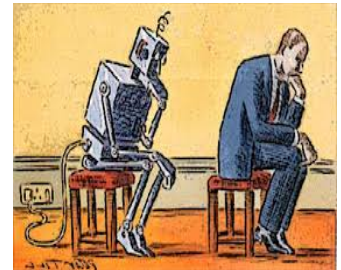
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# Outline



- Knowledge and Inference

- Combining the **soft** with the **logical/declarative** nature of Natural Language
  - **Constrained Conditional Models: A formulation for global inference with knowledge** modeled as expressive structural constraints
  - **Some examples**



- Cycles of Knowledge

- Grounding/Acquisition – knowledge – inference



- Learning with Indirect Supervision

- Response Based Learning: learning from the world's feedback

- Scaling Up: Amortized Inference

- Can the k-th inference problem be cheaper than the 1st?





# Understanding Language Requires Supervision

Can I get a coffee with lots of sugar and no milk



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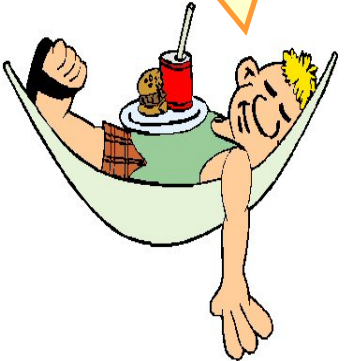
**Semantic Parser**

MAKE(COFFEE,SUGAR=YES,MILK=NO)



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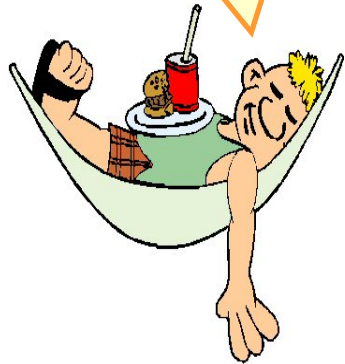
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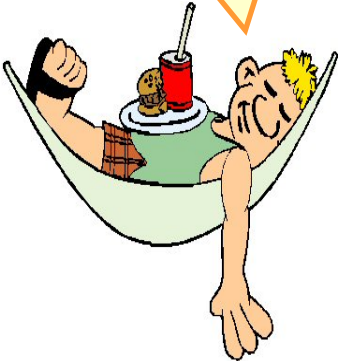
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Arggg



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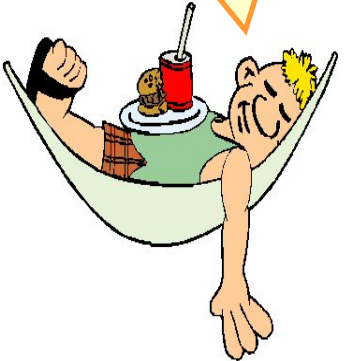




Can we rely on this interaction to provide supervision (and eventually, recover meaning) ?

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- Instead of training with (Sentence, Meaning Representation) pairs
- Think about some **simple derivatives** of the models outputs,
  - Supervise the derivative [verifier] (**easy!**) and
  - Propagate it to learn the **complex, structured, transformation model**

# Scenario I: Freecell with Response Based Learning

- We want to learn a model to transform a **natural language sentence** to some **meaning representation**.



A top card can be moved to the tableau if it has a different color than the color of the top tableau card, and the cards have successive values.

Move (a1,a2) top(a1,x1) card(a1) tableau(a2) top(x2,a2) color(a1,x3) color(x2,x4) not-equal(x3,x4) value(a1,x5) value(x2,x6) successor(x5,x6)

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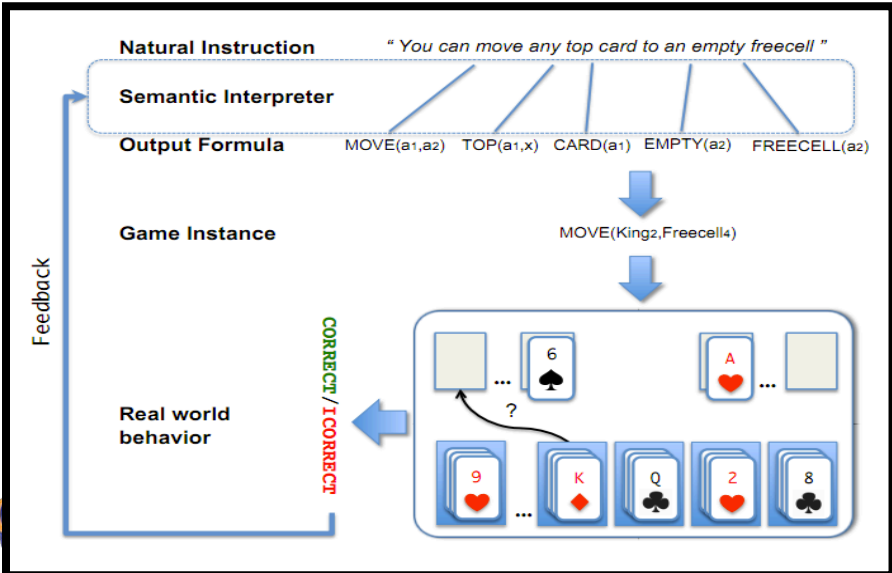
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Play Freecell (solitaire)



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## Scenario II: Geoquery with Response based Learning

- We want to learn a model to transform a **natural language sentence** to some **formal representation**.



What is the largest state that borders NY?

largest( state( next\_to( const(NY))))

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- “Guess” a semantic parse. Is **[DB response == Expected response]** ?
  - **Expected:** Pennsylvania **DB Returns:** Pennsylvania → **Positive Response**
  - **Expected:** Pennsylvania **DB Returns:** NYC, or ??? → **Negative Response**



# Response Based Learning: Using a Simple Feedback

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## LEARNING:

- Train a structured predictor (semantic parse) with this binary supervision
  - Many challenges: e.g., how to make a better use of a **negative** response?
- **Learning with** a constrained latent representation, **making used of** CCM inference, **exploiting knowledge on the structure of the meaning representation**.

# Geoquery: Response based Competitive with Supervised

Clarke, Goldwasser, Chang, Roth CoNLL'10; Goldwasser, Roth IJCAI'11, MLJ'14

| Algorithm  | Training Accuracy | Testing Accuracy | # Training Examples |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| NOLEARN    | 22                | --               | -                   |
| Supervised | --                | 86.07            | <b>600 structs.</b> |



NOLEARN :Initialization point

SUPERVISED : Trained with annotated data

## Response based Learning is gathering momentum:

- Liang, M.I. Jordan, D. Klein, Learning Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics, ACL'11.
- Berant et-al ' Semantic Parsing on Freebase from Question-Answer Pairs, EMNLP'13

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| Liang et-al 2011      | --                | 78.9             | 250 answers         |
| Response-based (2012) | <b>86.8</b>       | <b>81.6</b>      | 250 answers         |
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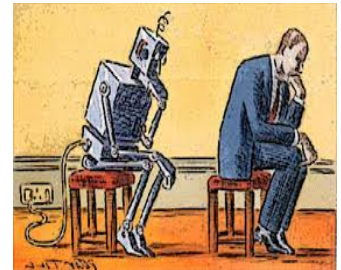
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- Combining the **soft** with the **logical/declarative** nature of Natural Language
  - **Constrained Conditional Models: A formulation for global inference with knowledge** modeled as expressive structural constraints
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## ■ Cycles of Knowledge

- Grounding/Acquisition – knowledge – inference

## ■ Learning with Indirect Supervision

- Response Based Learning: learning from the world's feedback



## ➔ Scaling Up: Amortized Inference

- Can the k-th inference problem be cheaper than the 1st?
- **Computational significance of ILP formulations**



# Inference for BIG TEXT

- In NLP, we typically don't solve a single inference problem.
- We solve one or more **per sentence**.
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|---------|----------|-----|
| He      | She      | PRP |
| is      | is       | VBZ |
| reading | watching | VBG |
| a       | a        | DT  |
| book    | movie    | NN  |

S1 & S2 look very **different** but their output structures are the same

The inference outcomes are the same

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After inferring the POS structure for S1,  
Can we speed up inference for S2 ?





# Amortized ILP based Inference

- Imagine that **you already solved** many structured output inference problems
  - Co-reference resolution; Semantic Role Labeling; Parsing citations; Summarization; dependency parsing; image segmentation,...
  - Your solution method doesn't matter either

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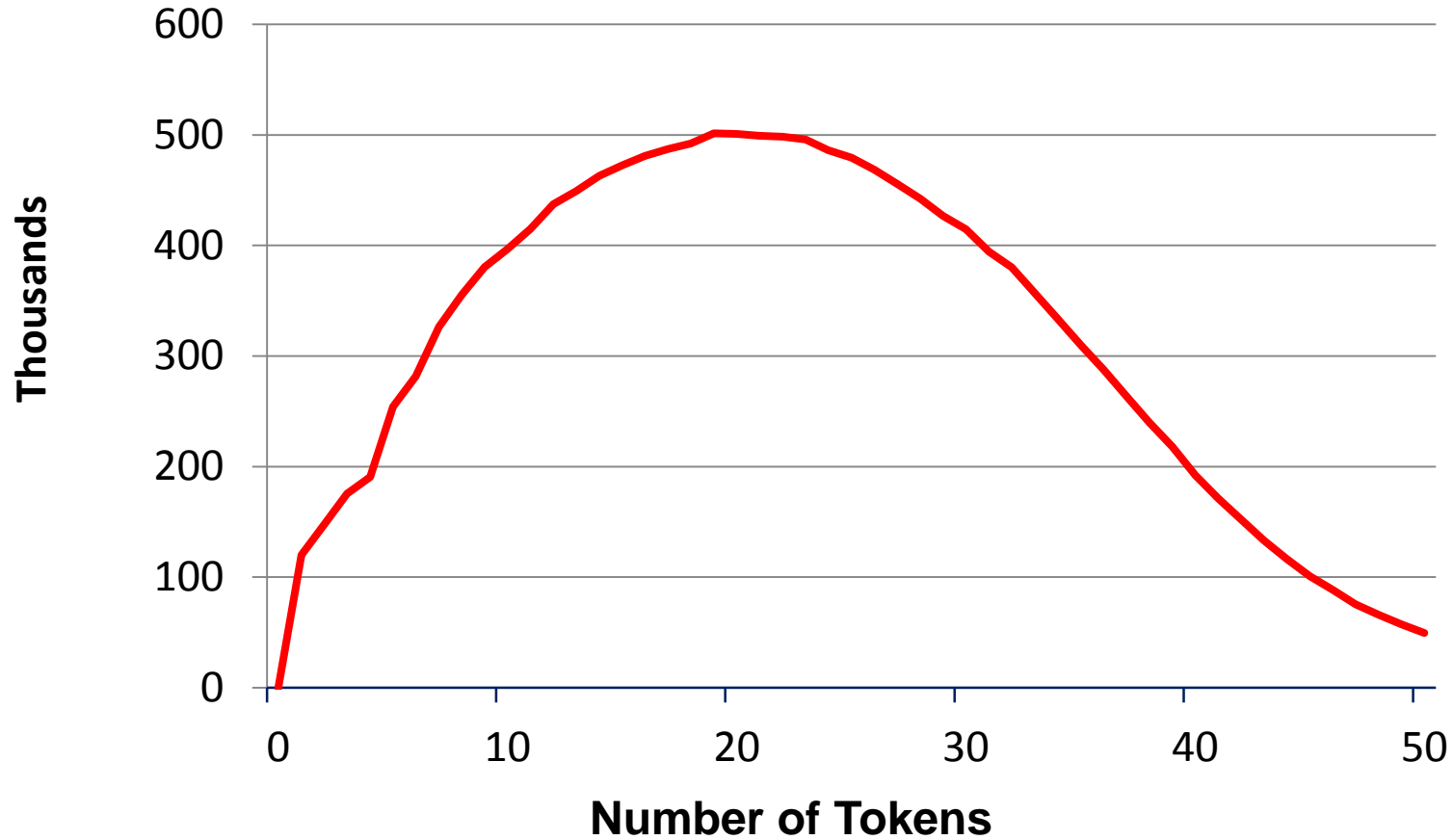
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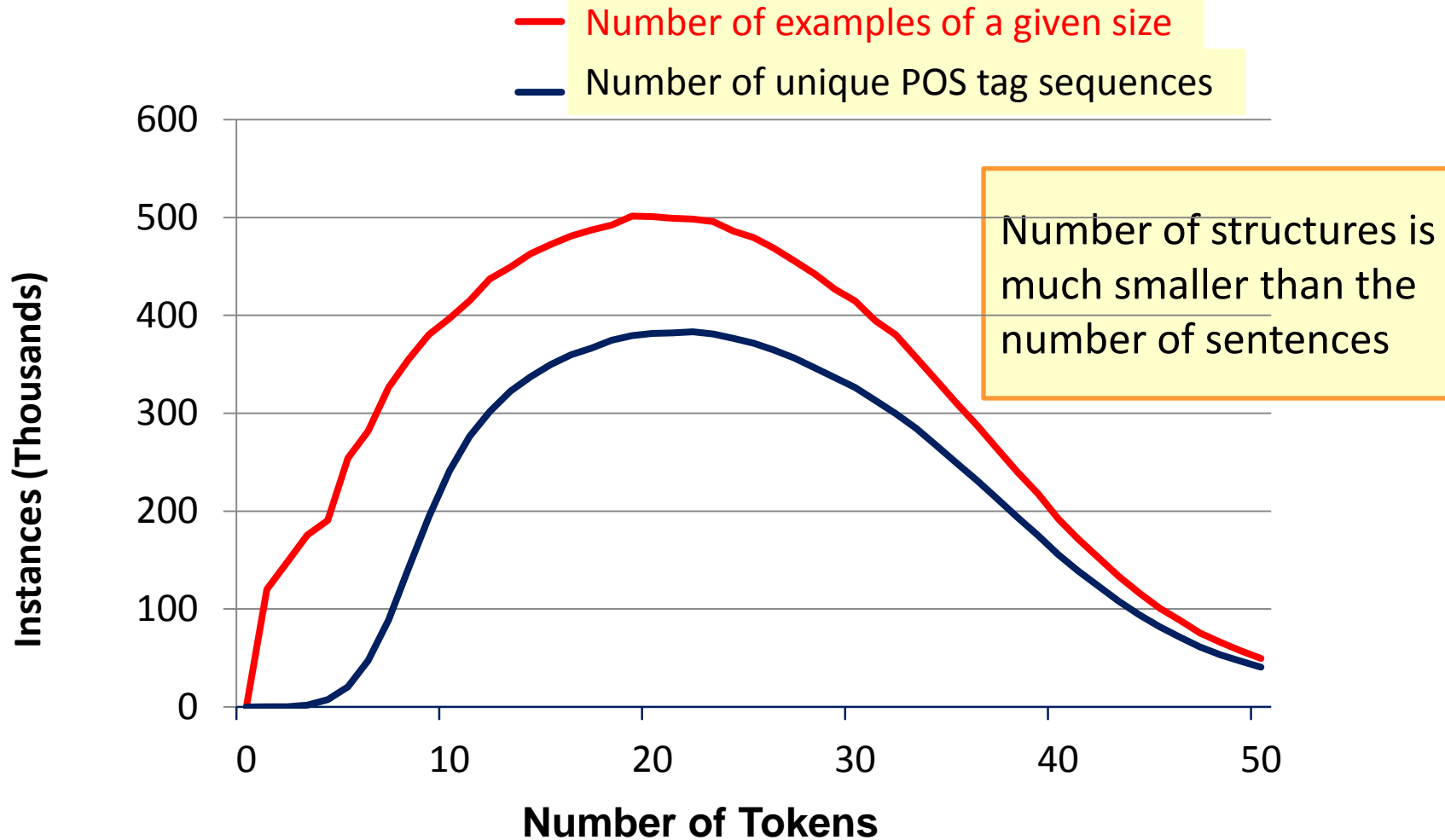
- **Very general:** All discrete MAP problems can be formulated as 0-1 LPs
- We only care about inference formulation, **not** algorithmic solution

# The Hope: POS Tagging on Gigaword

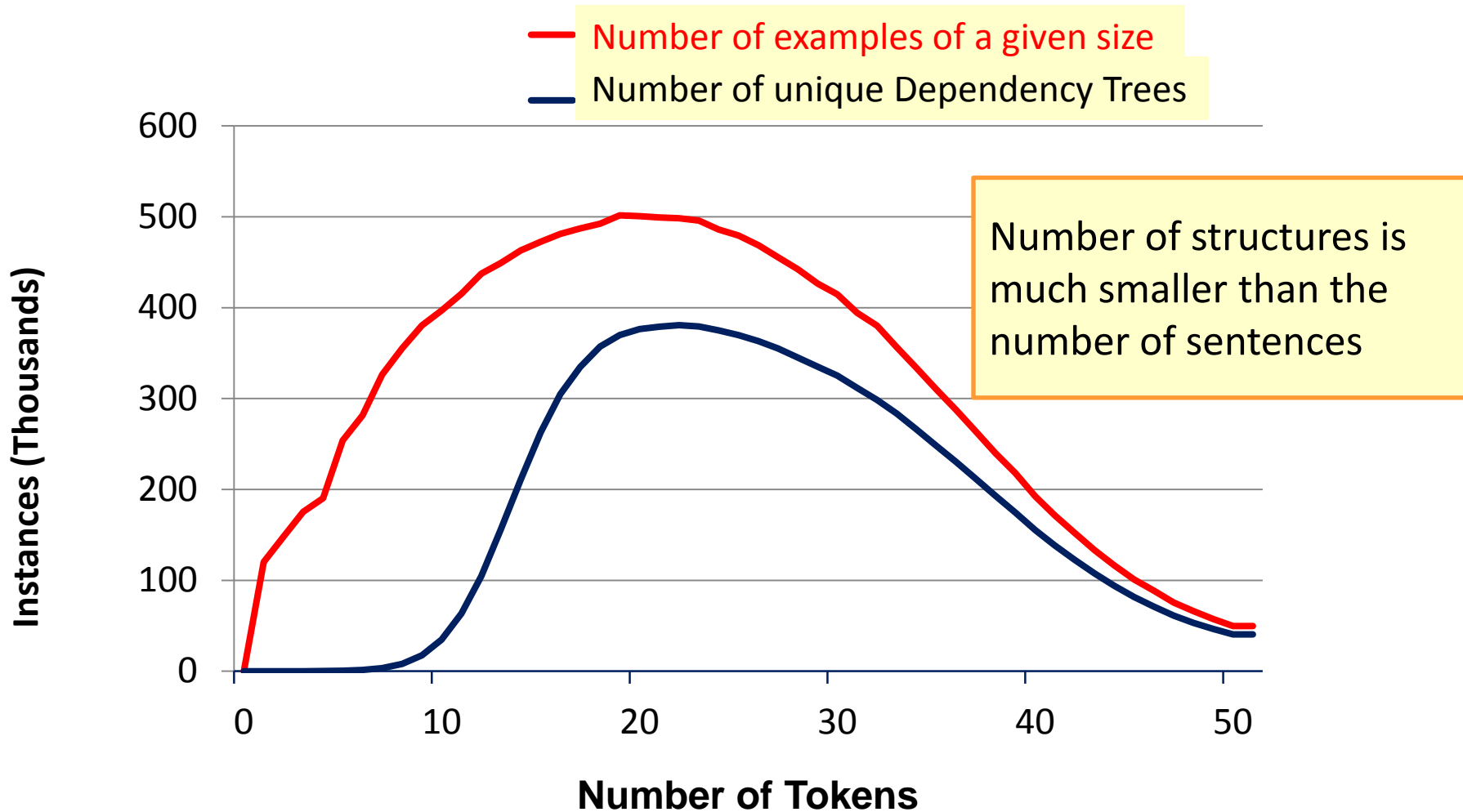
Number of examples of given size



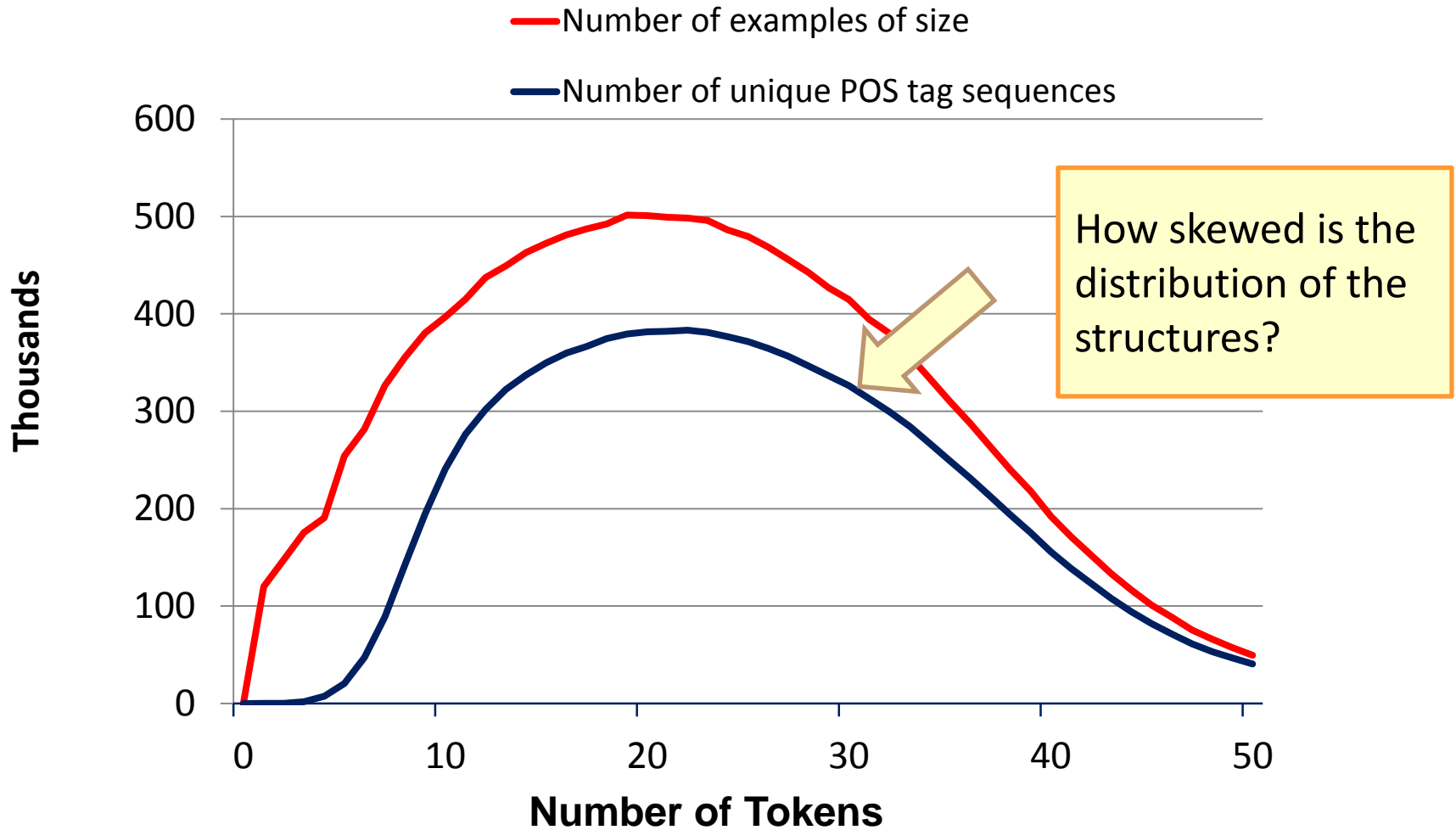
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# The Hope: Dependency Parsing on Gigaword

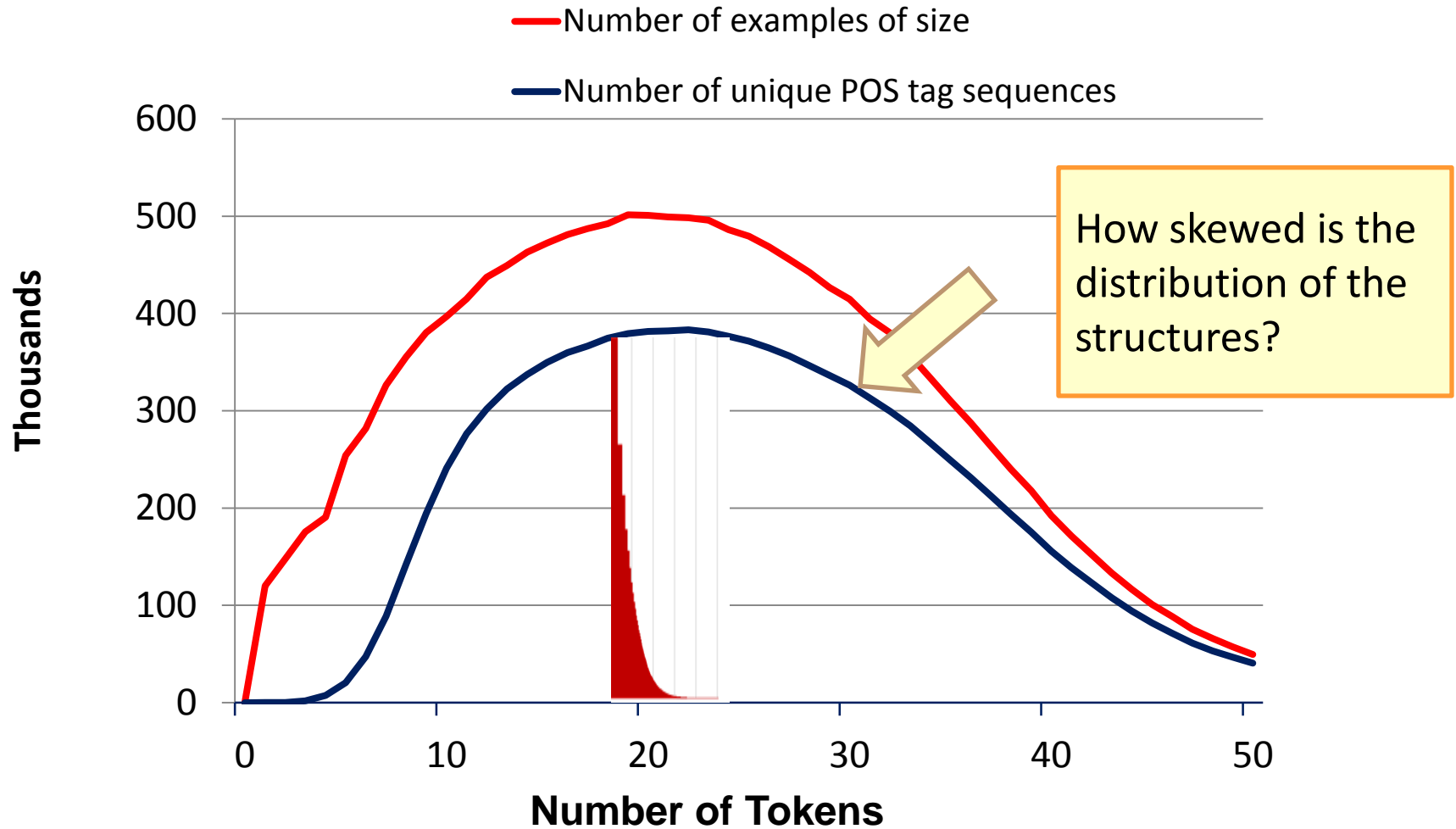


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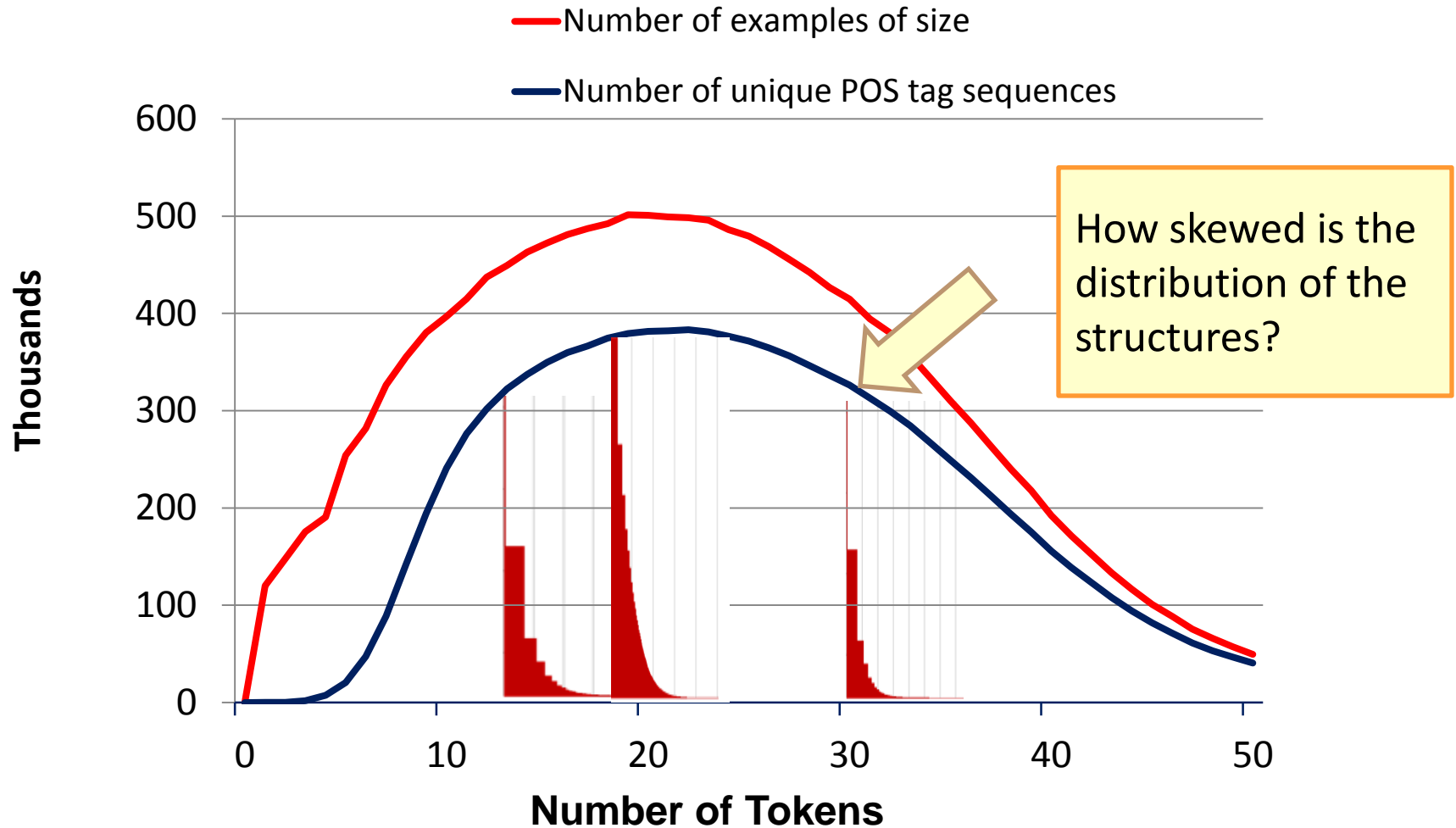




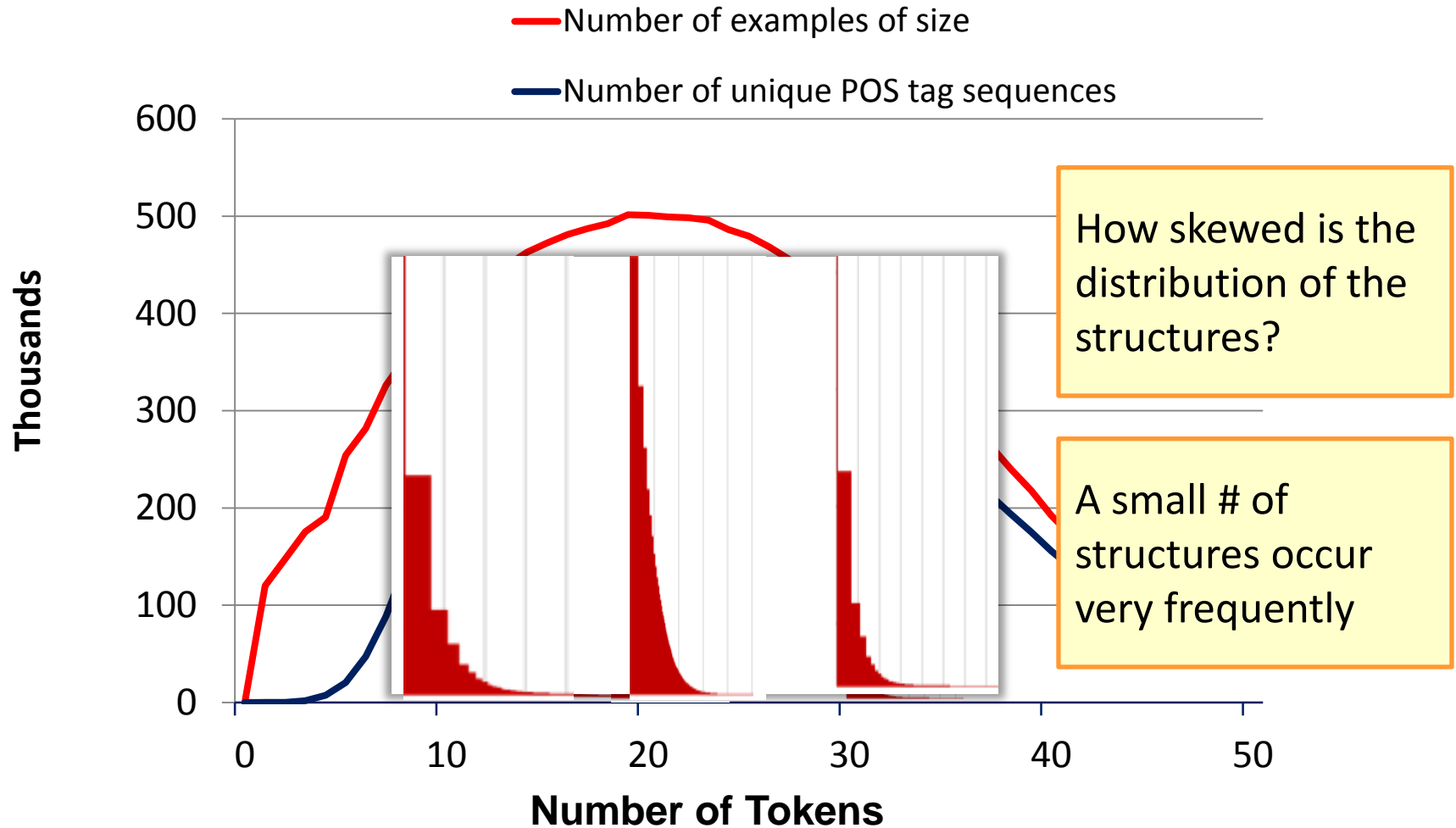
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# Amortized ILP Inference

- These statistics show that many **different instances** are mapped into **identical inference outcomes**.
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We give conditions on the objective functions (for all objectives with the same # of variables and same feasible set), under which the solution of a new problem **Q** is the same as the one of **P** (which we already cached)

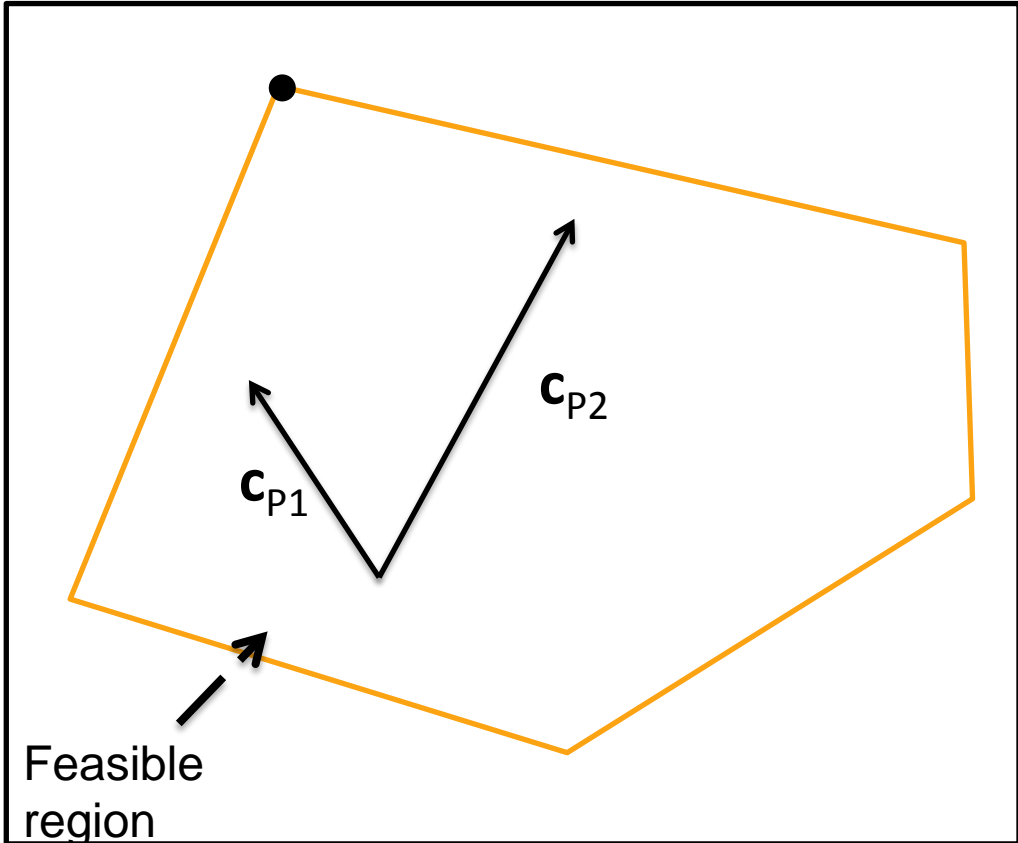
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We argue here that the inference formulation provides a **new level of abstraction**.

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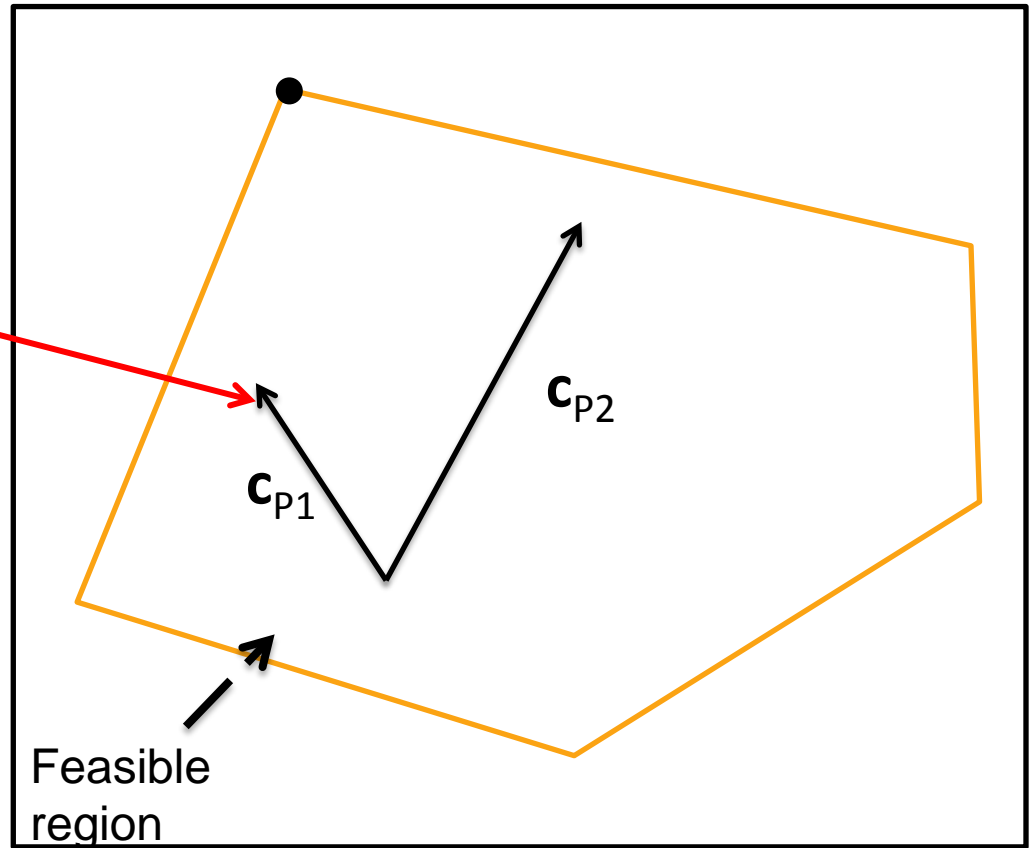
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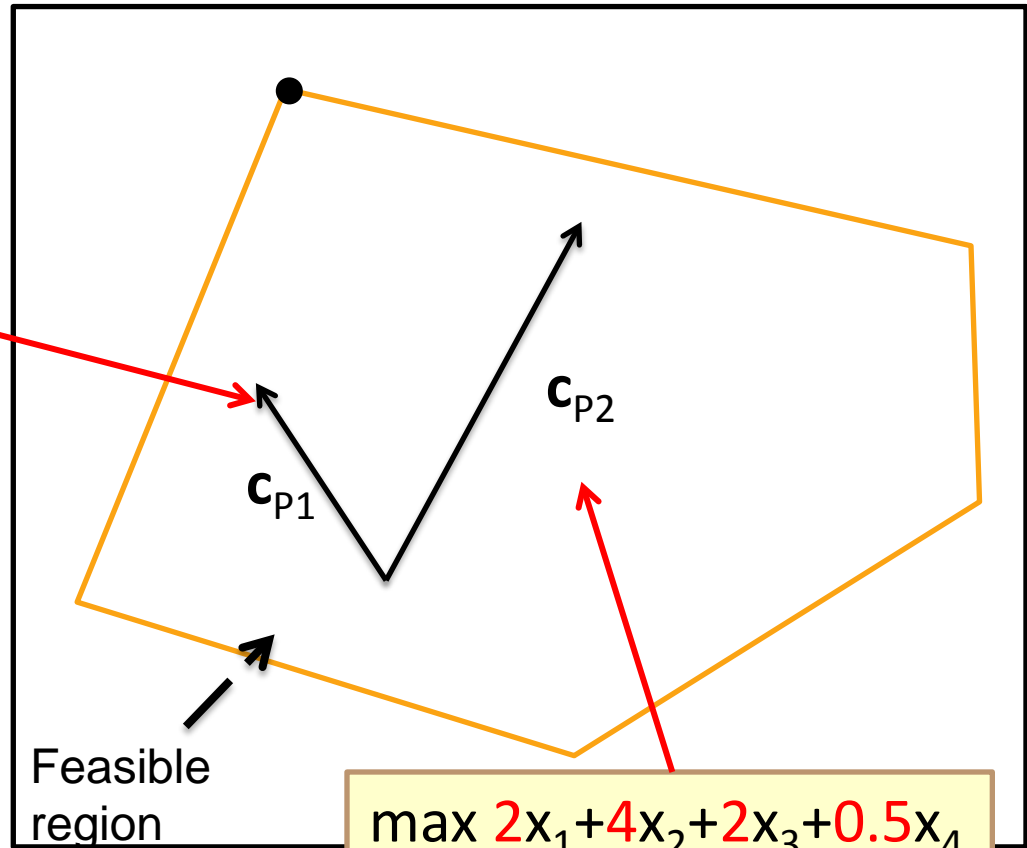
$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & 2x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 1x_4 \\ & x_1 + x_2 \leq 1 \\ & x_3 + x_4 \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$





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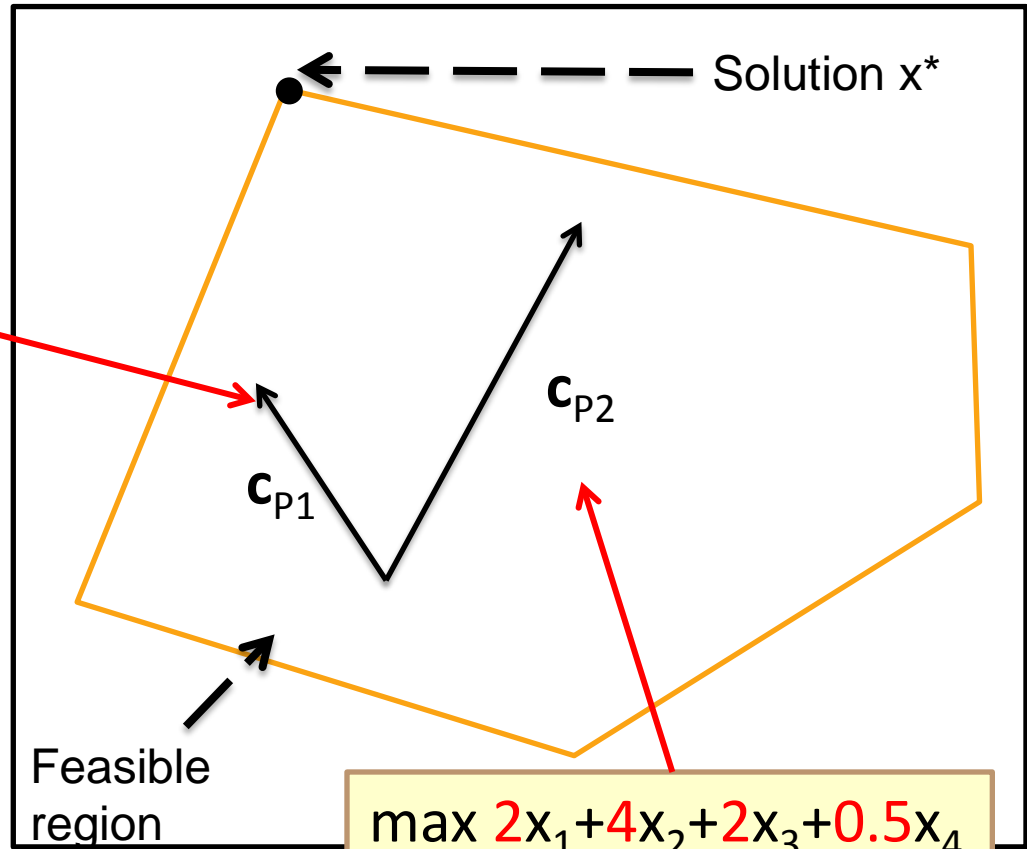
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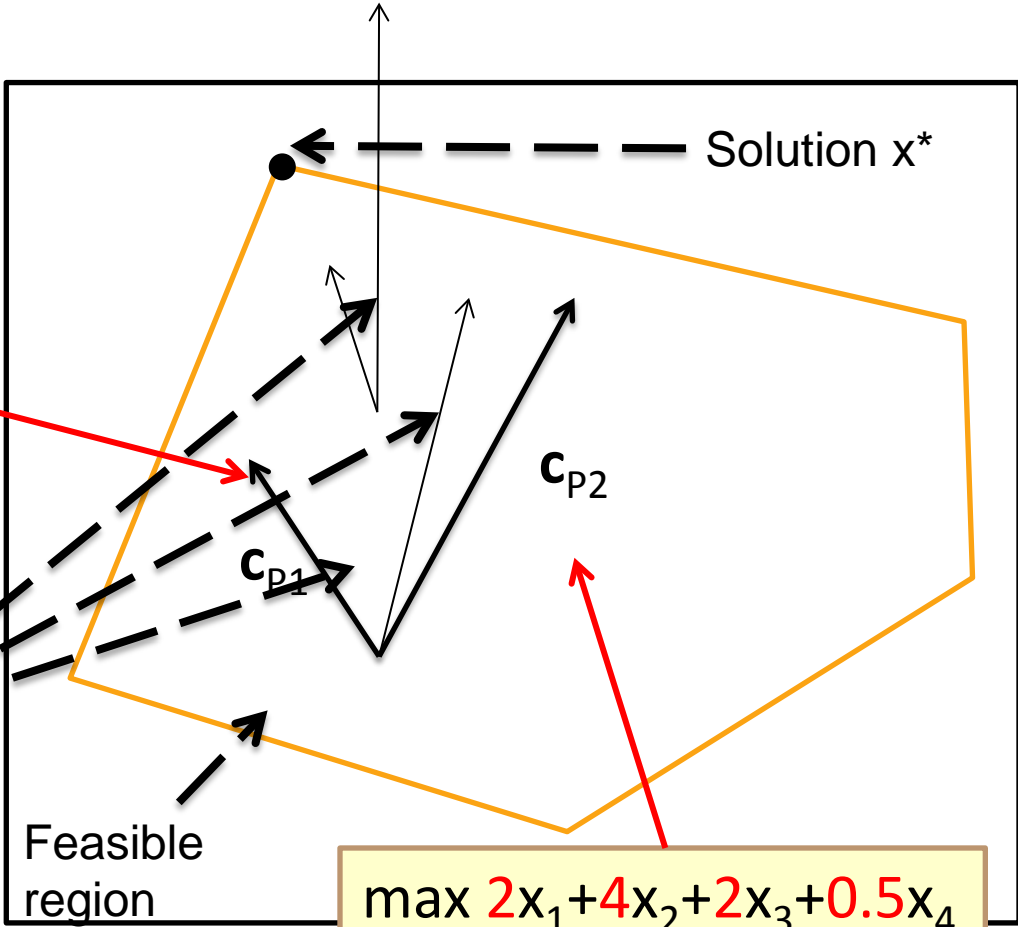


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ILPs corresponding to all these objective vectors will share the same maximizer for this feasible region



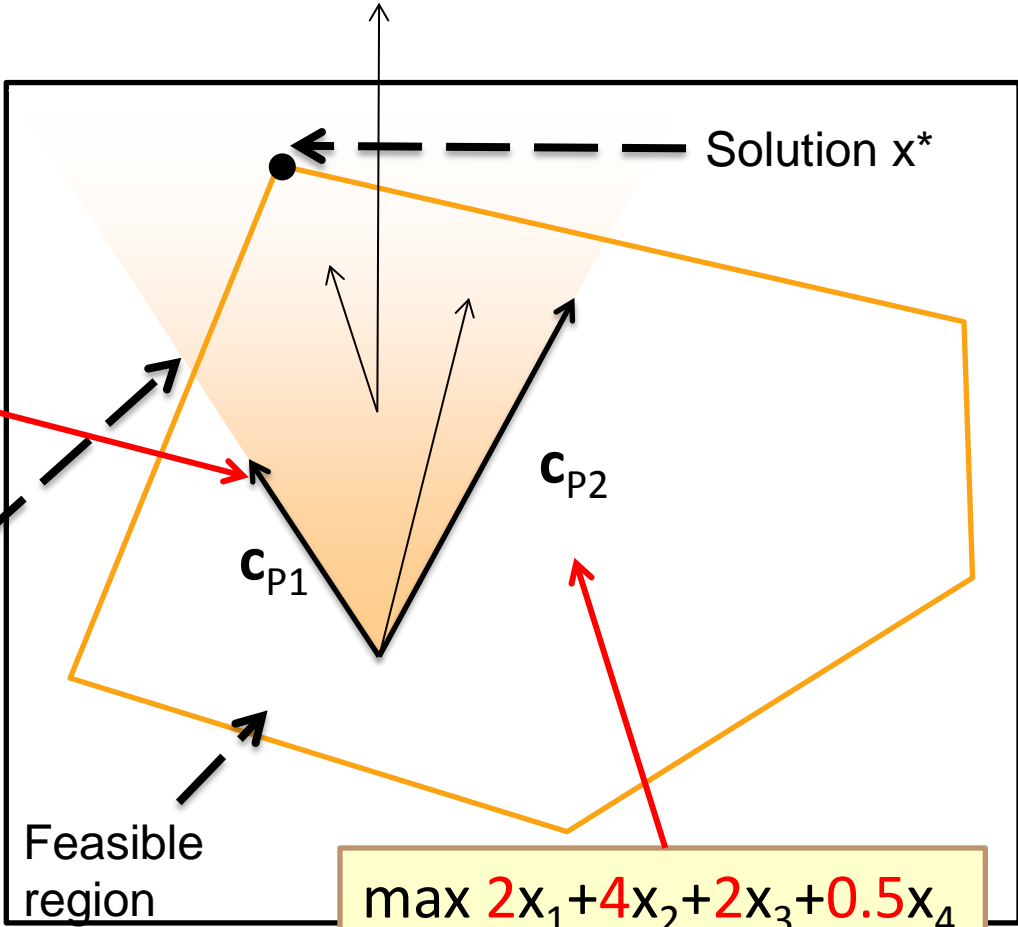
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- Verb semantic role labeling; Entity and Relations
- Speedup & Accuracy are measured over WSJ test set (Section 23) and Test of E & R
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No training data is needed for this method.

Once you have a model, you can generate a large cache that will be then used to save you time at evaluation time.

# Speedup & Accuracy

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{\text{number of inference calls without amortization}}{\text{number of inference calls with amortization}}$$

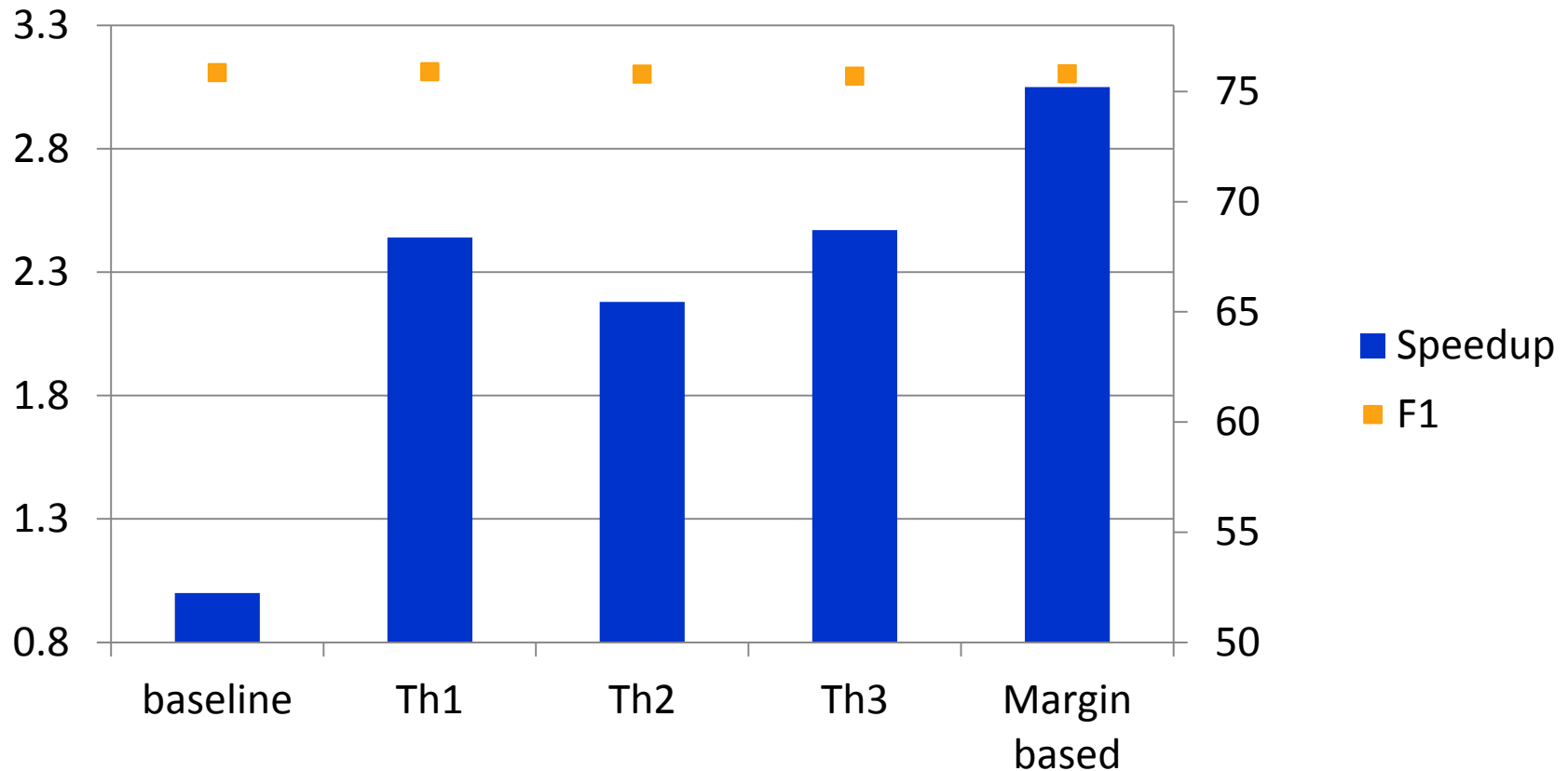
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**Amortization schemes** [EMNLP'12, ACL'13]



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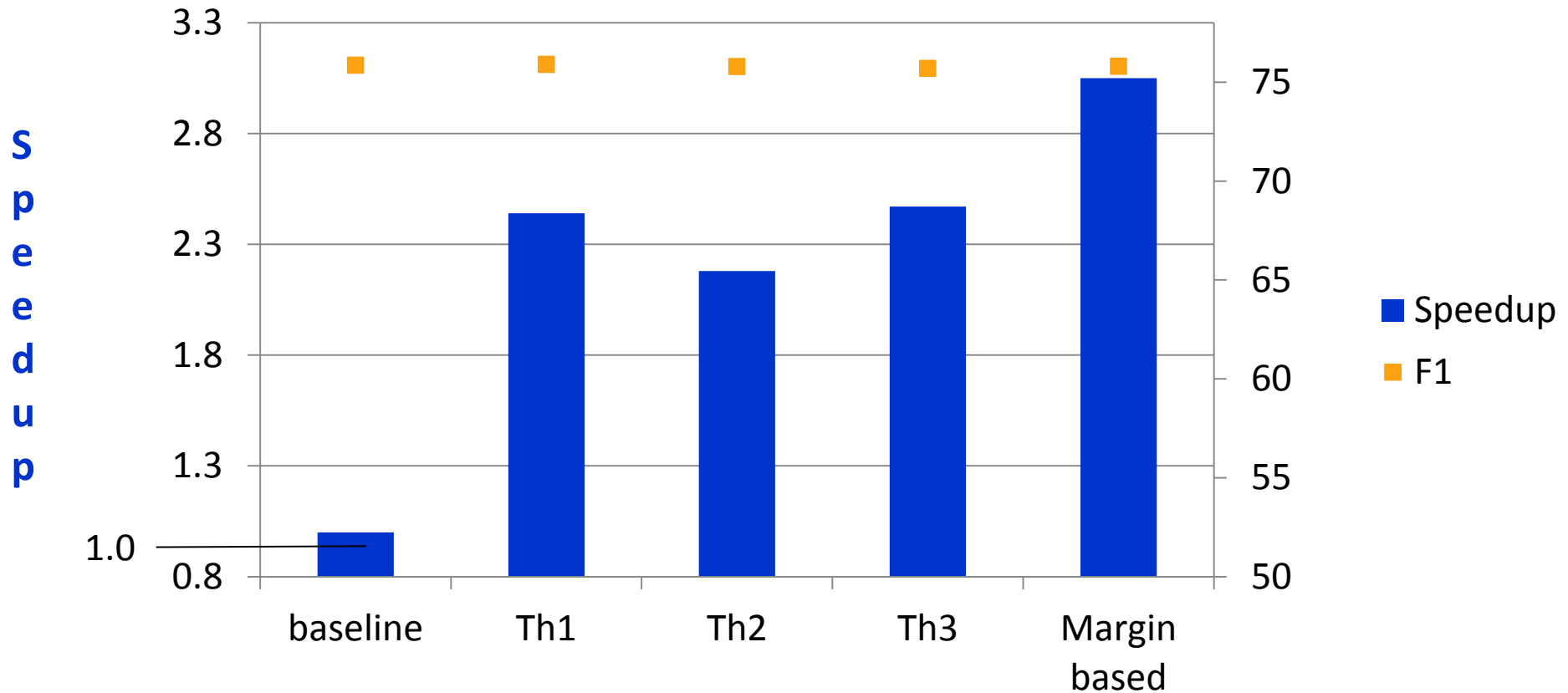
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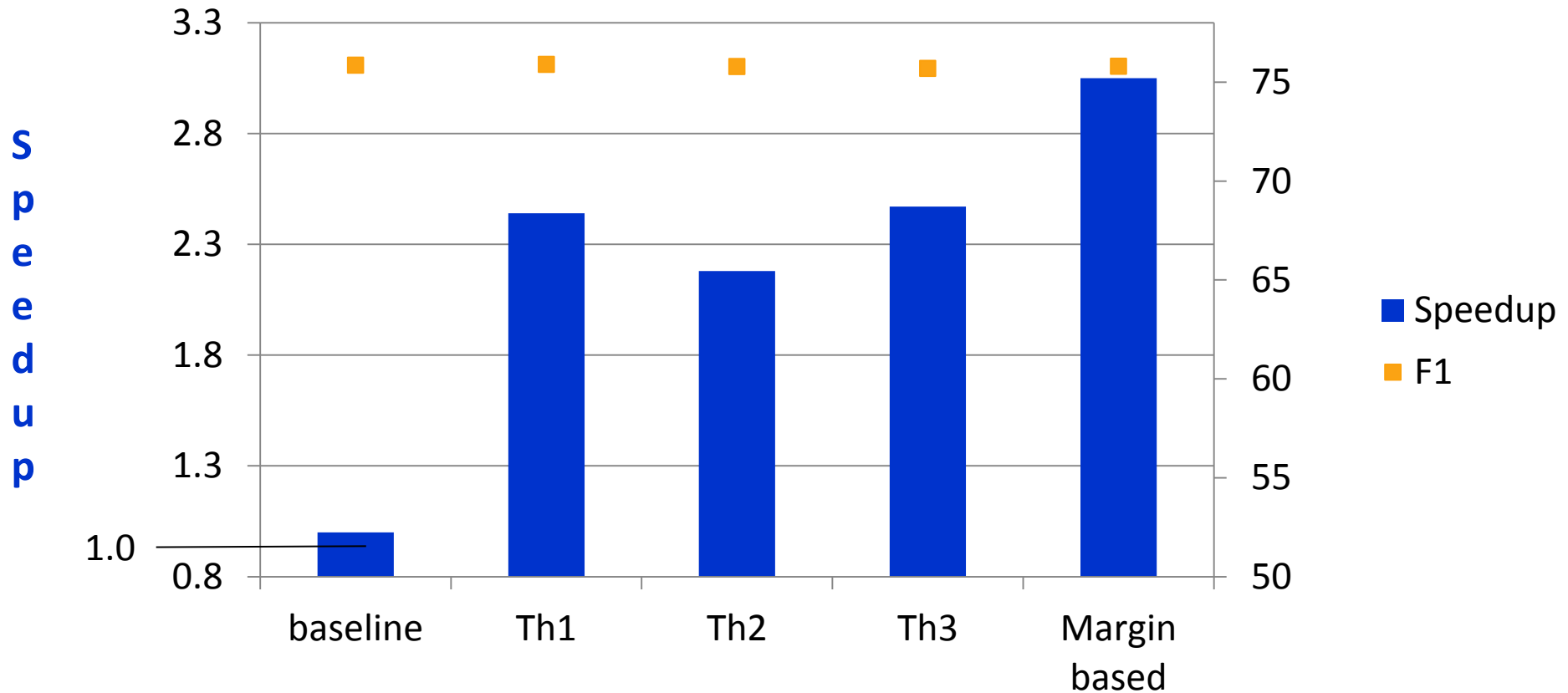
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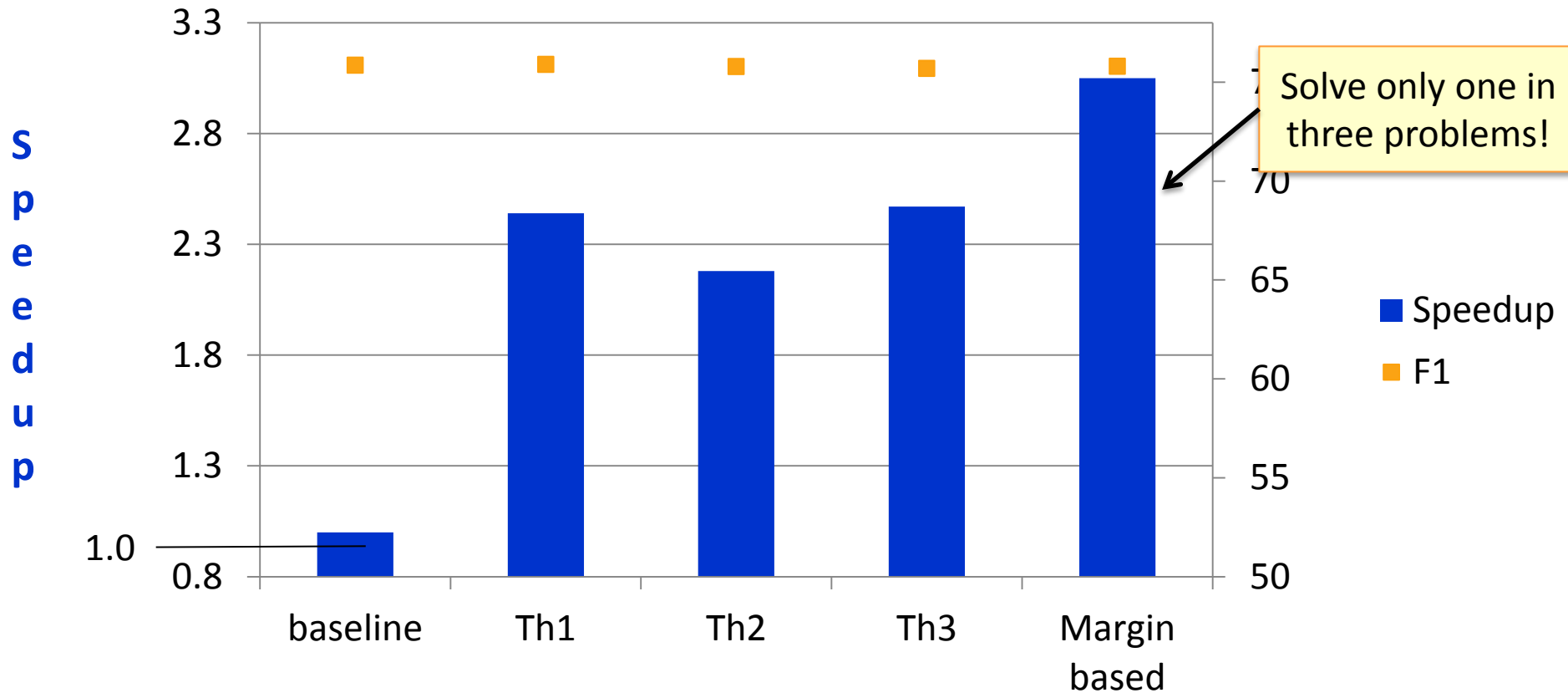
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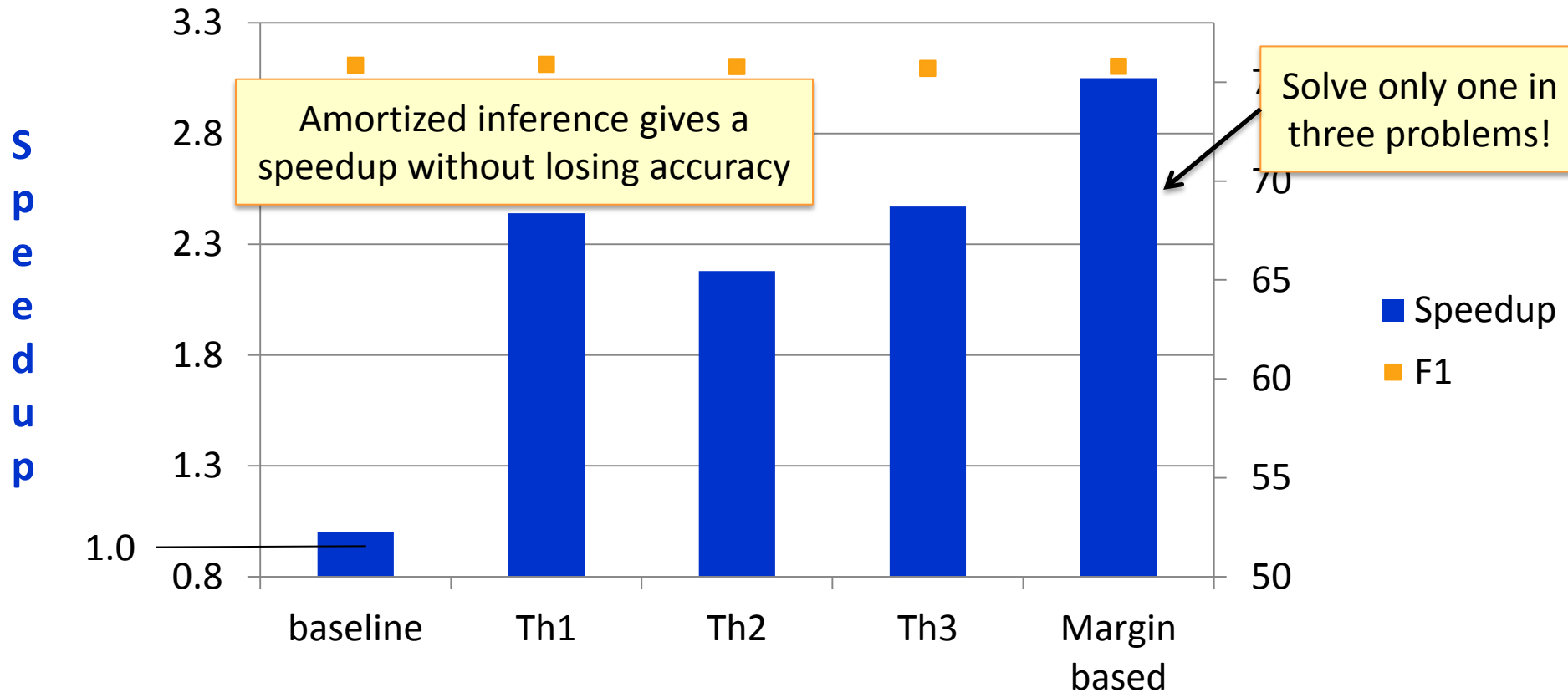
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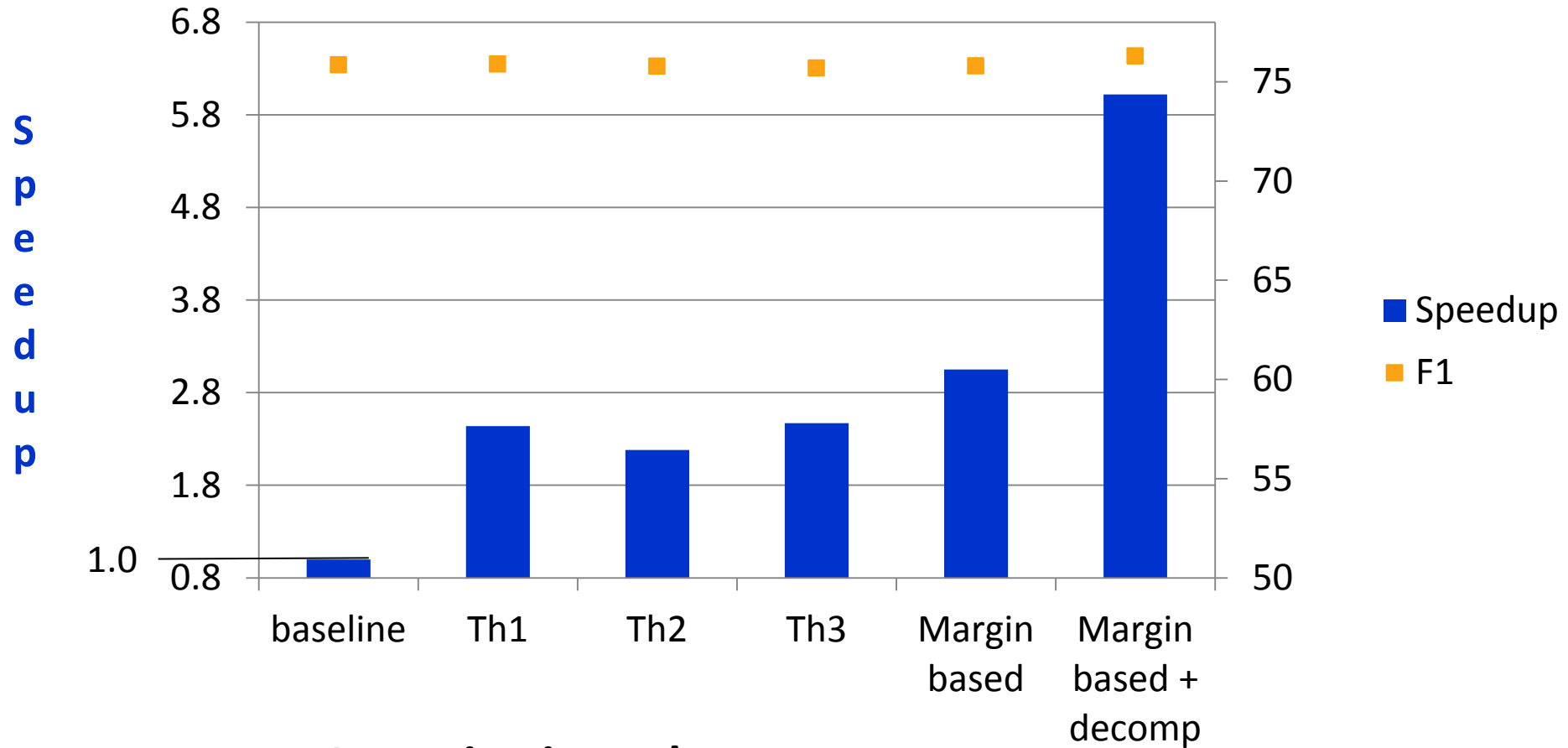
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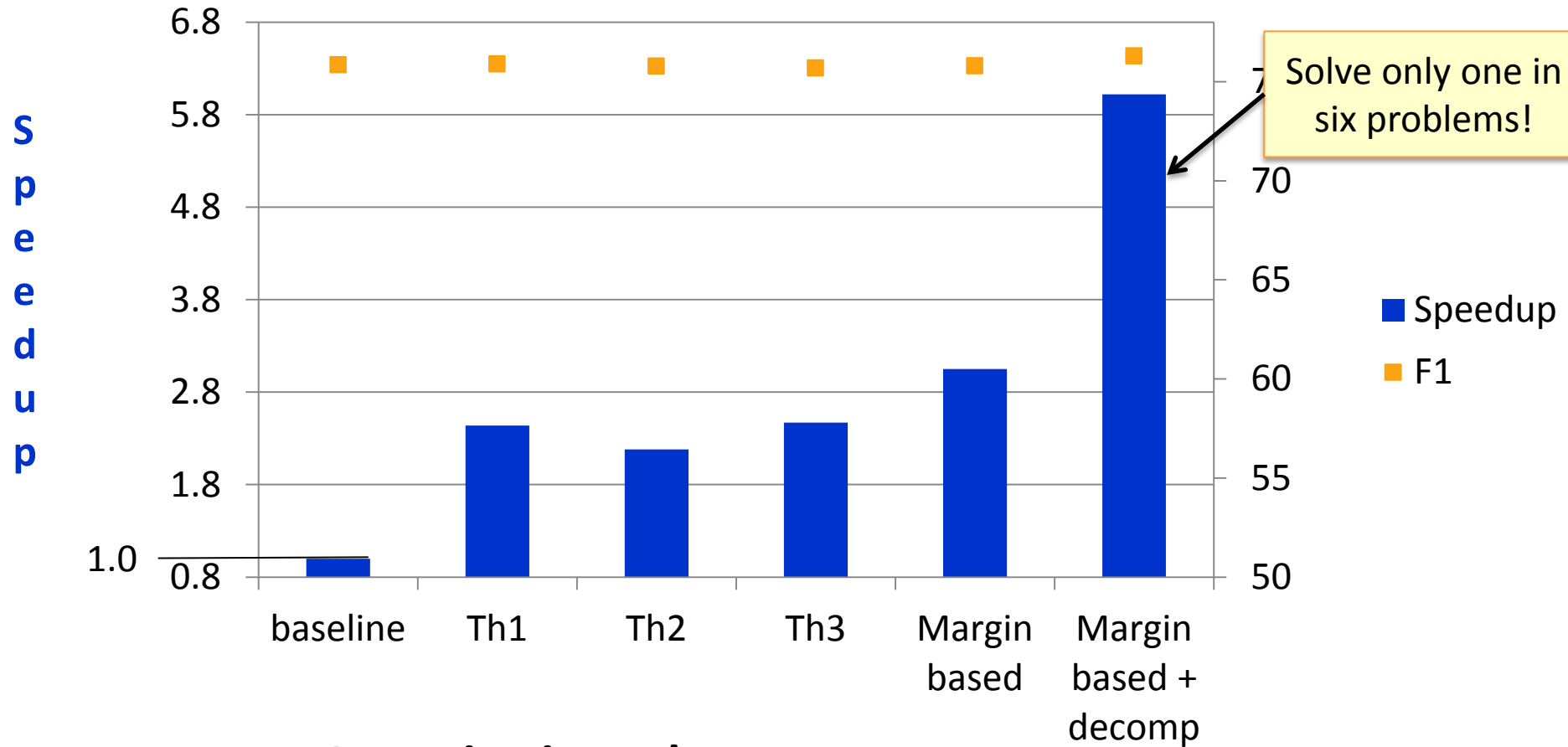
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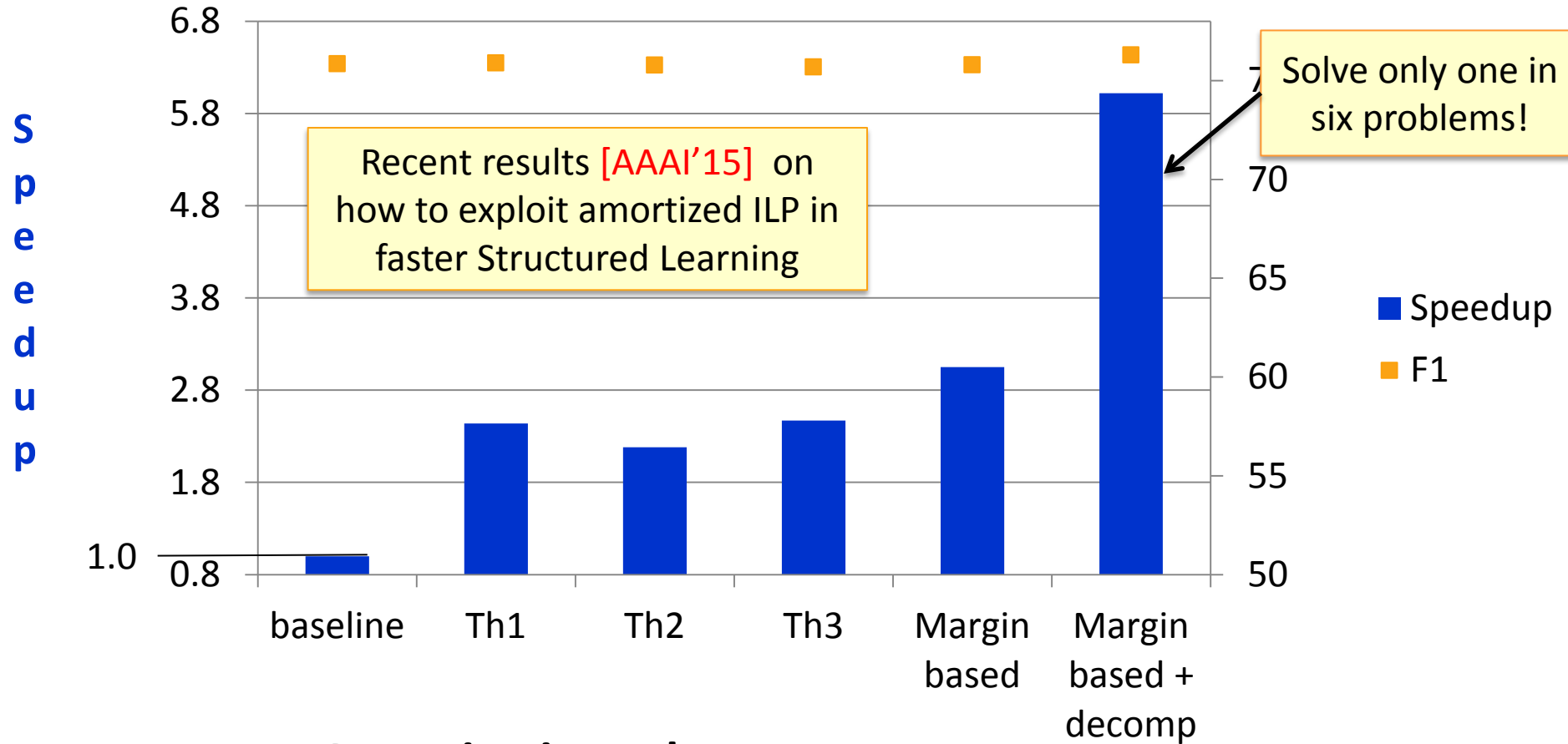
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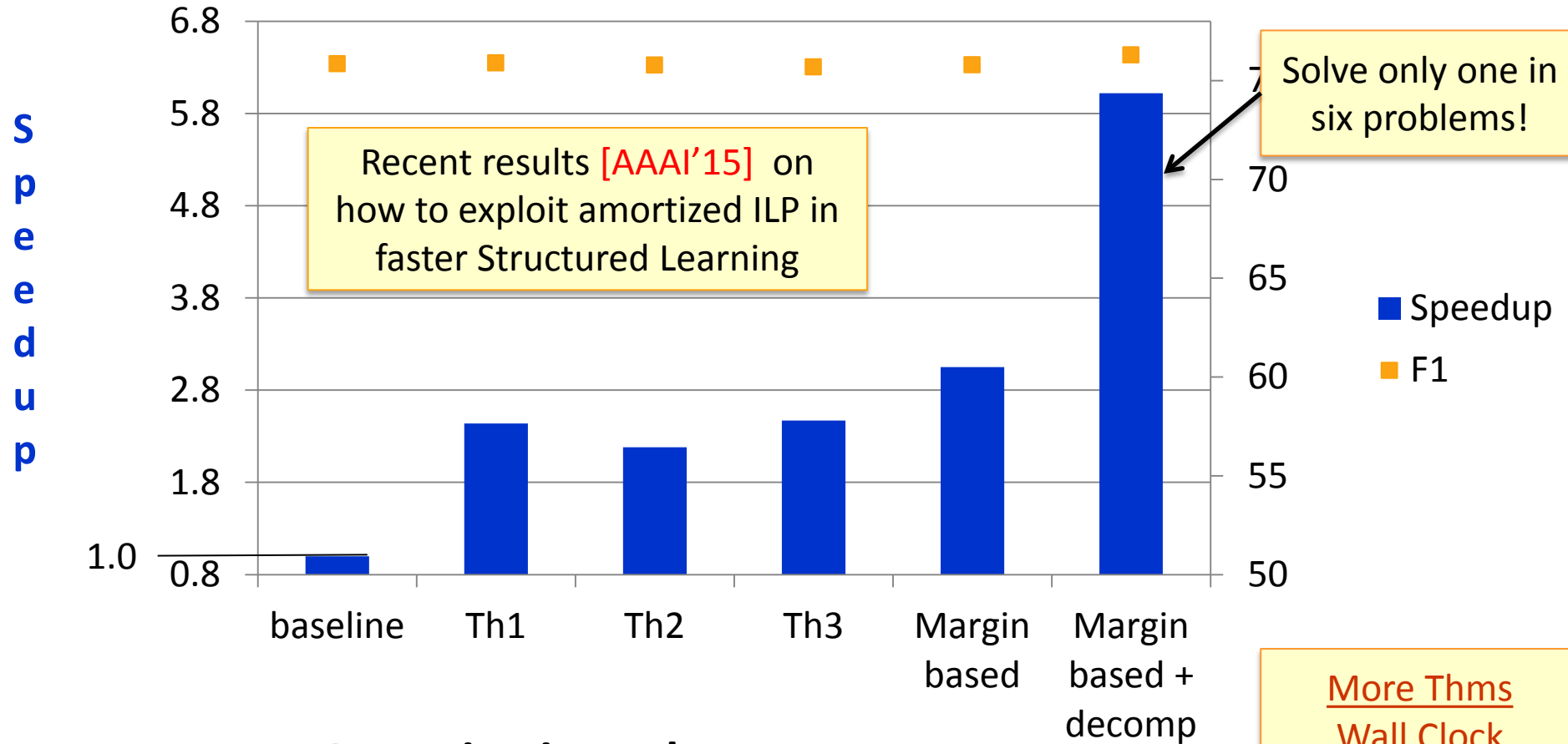
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More Thms  
Wall Clock

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