EDAN20
Language Technology
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Chapter 6: Words, Parts of Speech, and Morphology

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The Parts of Speech

The parts of speech (POS) are classes that correspond to the lexical – or word – categories

Plato made a distinction between the verb and the noun.

After him, the word categories further evolved and grew in number until Dionysus Thrax formulated and fixed them.

Aelius Donatus popularized the list of the eight parts of speech: noun, pronoun, verb, participle, conjunction, adverb, preposition, and interjection.

Grammarians have adopted these POS for most European languages although they are somewhat arbitrary

POS divide between two main classes: the open class and the closed class

Parts of Speech: Open Class Words

POS	English	French	German
Nouns	*name, Frank*	*nom, François*	*Name, Franz*
Adjectives	*big, good*	*grand, bon*	*groß, gut*
Verbs	*to swim*	*nager*	*schwimmen*
Adverbs	*rather, very, only*	*plutôt, très, uniquement*	*fast, nur, sehr, endlich*

Parts of Speech: Closed Class Words

POS	English	French	German
Determiners	*the, several, my*	*le, plusieurs, mon*	*der, mehrere, mein*
Pronouns	*he, she, it*	*il, elle, lui*	*er, sie, ihm*
Prepositions	*to, of*	*vers, de*	*nach, von*
Conjunctions	*and, or*	*et, ou*	*und, oder*
Auxiliaries and modals	*be, have, will, would*	*être, avoir, pouvoir*	*sein, haben, können*

Part-of-Speech Annotation (CoNLL 2000)

Annotation of: *He reckons the current account deficit will narrow to only # 1.8 billion in September.* We set aside the last column for now.

He	PRP	B-NP
reckons	VBZ	B-VP
the	DT	B-NP
current	JJ	I-NP
account	NN	I-NP
deficit	NN	I-NP
will	MD	B-VP
narrow	VB	I-VP
to	TO	B-PP
only	RB	B-NP
#	#	I-NP
1.8	CD	I-NP
billion	CD	I-NP
in	IN	B-PP
September	NNP	B-NP
.	.	O

Features

Main parts of speech	Features (subcategories)
Adjective, noun, pronoun	Regular base comparative superlative interrogative person number case
Adverb	Regular base comparative superlative interrogative
Article, determiner, preposition	Person case number
Verb	Tense voice mood person number case

Annotation of: *La reestructuración de los otros bancos checos se está acompañando por la reducción del personal* ‘The restructuring of Czech banks is accompanied by the reduction of personnel’.

ID	FORM	LEMMA	CPOS	POS	FEATS
1	La	el	d	da	num=s|gen=f
2	reestructuración	reestructuración	n	nc	num=s|gen=f
3	de	de	s	sp	for=s
4	los	el	d	da	gen=m|num=p
5	otros	otro	d	di	gen=m|num=p
6	bancos	banco	n	nc	gen=m|num=p
7	checos	checo	a	aq	gen=m|num=p
8	se	se	p	p0	_
9	está	estar	v	vm	num=s|per=3|mod=i|tmp=p
10	acompañando	acompañar	v	vm	mod=g
11	por	por	s	sp	for=s
12	la	el	d	da	num=s|gen=f
13	reducción	reducción	n	nc	num=s|gen=f
14	del	del	s	sp	gen=m|num=s|for=c
15	personal	personal	n	nc	gen=m|num=s
16	.	.	F	Fp	_

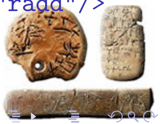
Parts of Speech for Swedish

Bilen framför justitieministern svängde fram och tillbaka över vägen så att hon blev rädd.
'The car in front of the Justice Minister swung back and forth and she was frightened.'

```
<tokens>
  <token id="1">Bilen</token>
  <token id="2">framför</token>
  <token id="3">justitieministern</token>
  <token id="4">svängde</token>
  <token id="5">fram</token>
  <token id="6">och</token>
  <token id="7">tillbaka</token>
  <token id="8">över</token>
  <token id="9">vägen</token>
  <token id="10">så</token>
  <token id="11">att</token>
  <token id="12">hon</token>
  <token id="13">blev</token>
  <token id="14">rädd</token>
  <token id="15">.</token>
</tokens>
```

Parts of Speech for Swedish

```
<taglemmas>
  <taglemma id="1" tag="nn.utr.sin.def.nom" lemma="bil"/>
  <taglemma id="2" tag="pp" lemma="framför"/>
  <taglemma id="3" tag="nn.utr.sin.def.nom" lemma="justitieminister"
  <taglemma id="4" tag="vb.prt.akt" lemma="svänga"/>
  <taglemma id="5" tag="ab" lemma="fram"/>
  <taglemma id="6" tag="kn" lemma="och"/>
  <taglemma id="7" tag="ab" lemma="tillbaka"/>
  <taglemma id="8" tag="pp" lemma="över"/>
  <taglemma id="9" tag="nn.utr.sin.def.nom" lemma="väg"/>
  <taglemma id="10" tag="ab" lemma="så"/>
  <taglemma id="11" tag="sn" lemma="att"/>
  <taglemma id="12" tag="pn.utr.sin.def.sub" lemma="hon"/>
  <taglemma id="13" tag="vb.prt.akt.kop" lemma="bli"/>
  <taglemma id="14" tag="jj.pos.utr.sin.ind.nom" lemma="rädd"/>
  <taglemma id="15" tag="mad" lemma="."/>
</taglemmas>
```



Categories from the Stockholm–Umeå Corpus (SUC)

Code	Swedish category	Example	English translation
AB	Adverb	*inte*	Adverb
DT	Determinerare	*denna*	Determiner
HA	Frågande/relativt adverb	*när*	Interrogative/relative adverb
HD	Frågande/relativ determinerare	*vilken*	Interrogative/relative determiner
HP	Frågande/relativt pronomen	*som*	Interrogative/relative pronoun
HS	Frågande/relativt possessivt pronomen	*vars*	Interrogative/relative possessive
IE	Infinitivmärke	*att*	Infinitive marker
IN	Interjektion	*ja*	Interjection
JJ	Adjektiv	*glad*	Adjective
KN	Konjunktion	*och*	Conjunction

Categories from the Stockholm–Umeå Corpus (SUC)

Code	Swedish category	Example	English translation
NN	Substantiv	*pudding*	Noun
PC	Particip	*utsänd*	Participle
PL	Partikel	*ut*	Particle
PM	Egennamn	*Mats*	Proper noun
PN	Pronomen	*hon*	Pronoun
PP	Preposition	*av*	Preposition
PS	Possessivt pronomen	*hennes*	Possessive
RG	Grundtal	*tre*	Cardinal number
RO	Ordningstal	*tredje*	Ordinal number
SN	Subjunktion	*att*	Subjunction
UO	Utländskt ord	*the*	Foreign word
VB	Verb	*kasta*	Verb

Features from the Stockholm–Umeå Corpus (SUC)

Feature	Value	Legend	POS where feature applies
Gender	UTR	Uter (common)	DT, HD, HP, JJ, NN, PC, PN, PS, (RG, RO)
	NEU	Neuter	
	MAS	Masculine	
Number	SIN	Singular	DT, HD, HP, JJ, NN, PC, PN, PS, (RG, RO)
	PLU	Plural	
Definiteness	IND	Indefinite	DT, (HD, HP, HS), JJ, NN, PC, PN, (PS, RG, RO)
	DEF	Definite	
Case	NOM	Nominative	JJ, NN, PC, PM, (RG, RO)
	GEN	Genitive	
Tense	PRS	Present	VB
	PRT	Preterite	
	SUP	Supinum	
	INF	Infinite	

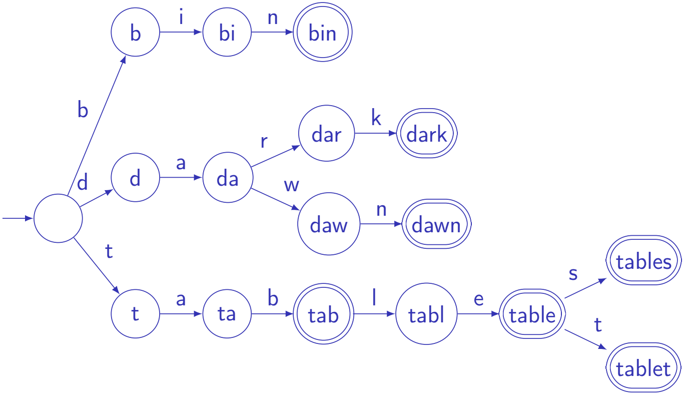
Features from the Stockholm–Umeå Corpus (SUC)

Feature	Value	Legend	POS where feature applies
Voice	AKT	Active	
	SFO	S-form (passive or deponential)	
Mood	KON	Subjunctive (Sw. konjunktiv)	
Participle form	PRS	Present	PC
	PRF	Perfect	
Degree	POS	Positive	(AB), JJ
	KOM	Comparative	
	SUV	Superlative	
Pronoun form	SUB	Subject form	PN
	OBJ	Object form	
	SMS	Compound (Sw. sammansättningsform)	All parts-of-speech

Lexicons: An Excerpt from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Word	Pronunciation	Syntactic tag	Syllable count or verb pattern (for verbs)
a	@	S-*	1
a	EI	Ki$	1
a fortiori	eI ,fOtI'OraI	Pu$	5
a posteriori	eI ,p0sterI'OraI	OA$,Pu$	6
a priori	eI ,praI'OraI	OA$, Pu$	4
a's	Eiz	Kj$	1
ab initio	&b I'nISI@U	Pu$	5
abaci	'&b@saI	Kj$	3
aback	@'b&k	Pu%	2
abacus	'&b@k@s	K7%	3
abacuses	'&b@k@sIz	Kj%	4
abaft	@'bAft	Pu$,T-$	2
abandon	@'b&nd@n	H0%,L@%	36A,14
abandoned	@'b&nd@nd	Hc%,Hd%,OA%	36A,14
abandoning	@'b&nd@nIN	Hb%	46A,14

Letter Trees



Letter Trees in Prolog

```
[
 [b, [i, [n, bin]]]
 [d, [a, [r, [k, dark]],
         [w, [n, dawn]]]]
 [t, [a, [b, tab,
             [l, [e, table,
                     [s, tables],
                     [t, tablet]]]]]]]
]
```

Finding a Word in a Trie

```
% Checks if a word is in a trie
% is_word_in_trie(+WordChars, +Trie, -Lex)
is_word_in_trie([H | T], Trie, Lex) :-
  member([H | Branches], Trie),
  is_word_in_trie(T, Branches, Lex).
is_word_in_trie([], Trie, LexList) :-
  findall(Lex, (member(Lex, Trie), atom(Lex)), LexList),
  LexList \= [].
% We assume that the word lexical entry is an atom
```

Morphemes

	Word	Morpheme decomposition
English	*disentangling*	*dis*+*en*+***tangle***+*ing*
	rewritten	*re*+***write***+*en*
French	*désembrouillé*	*dé*+*em*+***brouiller***+*é*
	récrite	*re*+***écrire***+*te*
German	*entwirrend*	*ent*+***wirren***+*end*
	wiedergeschrieben	*wieder*+*ge*+***schreiben***+*en*

	Plural of nouns	Morpheme decomposition
English	*hedgehogs*	*hedgehog+s*
	churches	*church+es*
	sheep	*sheep+∅*
French	*hérissons*	*hérisson+s*
	chevaux	*cheval+ux*
German	*Gründe*	*Grund+(¨)e*
	Hände	*Hand+(¨)e*
	Igel	*Igel+∅*

Creation of a new word

	English	**French**	**German**
Prefixes	***fore***_see_,	***pré***_voir_,	***vorher***_sehen_,
	un_pleasant_	***dé***_plaisant_	***un***_angenehm_
Suffixes	_manage_***able***,	_gér_***able***,	_vorsicht_***ich***,
	rigor***ous***	_rigour_***eux***	_streit_***bar***

Morphological Processing

Generation →

English		**French**		**German**	
dog+s	*dogs*	*chien+s*	*chiens*	*Hund+e*	*Hunde*
work+ing	*working*	*travailler+ant*	*travaillant*	*arbeiten+end*	*arbeitend*
un+do	*undo*	*dé+faire*	*défaire*		

← **Parsing**

Language Differences (Source: Xerox)

Language	# stems	# inflected forms		Lex. size (kb)
English	55,000	240,000		200–300
French	50,000	5,700,000		200–300
German	50,000	350,000	or	450
		infinite	(compounding)	
Japanese	130,000	200	suffixes	500
		20,000,000	word forms	500
Spanish	40,000	3,000,000		200–300

Ambiguities

	Words	Words in context	Lemmatization
E	*Run*		
		1. *A **run** in the forest*	1. **run**: noun sing.
		2. *Sportsmen **run** everyday*	2. **run**: verb present third pers. pl.
F	*Marche*		
		1. *Une **marche** dans la forêt*	1. **marche**: noun sing. fem.
		2. *Il **marche** dans la cour*	2. **marcher**: verb present third pers. sing.
G	*Lauf*		
		1. *Der **Lauf** der Zeit*	1. **Der Lauf**: noun, sing, masc
		2. ***Lauf** schnell!*	2. **laufen**: verb, imp., sing.

Current morphological parsers are based on the two-level model of Kimmo Koskenniemi (1983).
It links the surface form of a word – the word as it is in a text – to its lexical or underlying form – its sequence of morphemes

Surface:	disentangled
Lexical (or underlying):	dis+en+tangle+ed

Examples

	Generation: Lexical to surface form $\rightarrow$	
English	*dis+en+tangle+ed*	*disentangled*
	happy+er	*happier*
	move+ed	*moved*
French	*dés+em+brouiller+é*	*désembrouillé*
	dé+chanter+erons	*déchanterons*
German	*ent+wirren+end*	*entwirrend*
	wieder+ge+schreiben+en	*wiedergeschrieben*
	Parsing: $\leftarrow$ Surface to lexical form	

Aligning the Two Forms

English	dis+en+tangle+ed $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ dis0en0tangl00ed	happy+er $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ happi0er	move+ed $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ mov00ed
French	dé+chanter+erons $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ dé0chant000erons	cheval+ux $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ cheva00ux	cheviller+é $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ chevill000é
German	singen+st $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ singe00st	Grund+¨e $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ Gründ00e	Igel+∅ $\updownarrow\updownarrow \ldots$ Igel00

Interpreting the Morphemes

Suffixes have a grammatical interpretation: *erons* in a French verb corresponds to verb + future + 1st person + plural

Morphological parsers can represent the lexical form as a concatenation of the stem and its features instead of the stem and the suffix.

The Xerox parser output for *disentangled* and *happier* is:

```
disentangle+Verb+PastBoth+123SP
happy+Adj+Comp
```

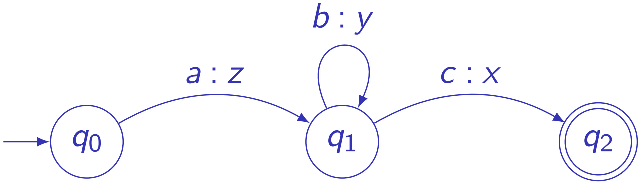
where `+Verb` denotes a verb, `+PastBoth`, either past tense or past participle, and `+123SP` any person, singular or plural; `+Adj` denotes an adjective and `+Comp`, a comparative.

Aligning Morphemes and Features

Lexical:	d	i	s	e	n	t	a	n	g	l	e	+Verb	+PastBoth	+123sp
	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
Surface:	d	i	s	e	n	t	a	n	g	l	0	0	e	d

Lexical:	h	a	p	p	y	+Adj	+Comp
	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
Surface:	h	a	p	p	i	e	r

Transducers



The string abbbc is transduced into zyyyx

Mathematical Definition of a FST

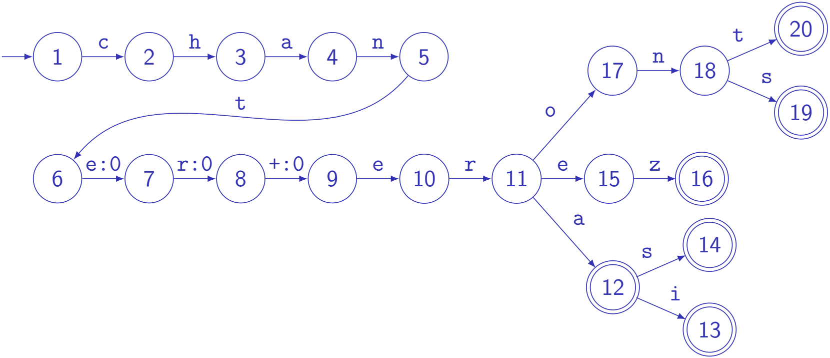
1. Q is a finite set of states.
2. Σ is a finite set of symbol or character pairs $i : o$, where i is a symbol of the input alphabet and o of the output alphabet. As we saw, both alphabets may include epsilon transitions.
3. q_0 is the start state, $q_0 \in Q$.
4. F is the set of final states, $F \subseteq Q$.
5. δ is the transition function $Q \times \Sigma \to Q$, where $\delta(q, i, o)$ returns the state where the automaton moves when it is in state q and consumes the input symbol pair $i : o$.

The quintuple defining automaton is $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$,
$\Sigma = \{a : z, b : y, c : x\}$,
$\delta = \{\delta(q_0, a : z) = q_1, \delta(q_1, b : y) = q_1, \delta(q_1, c : x) = q_2\}$, and $F = \{q_2\}$.

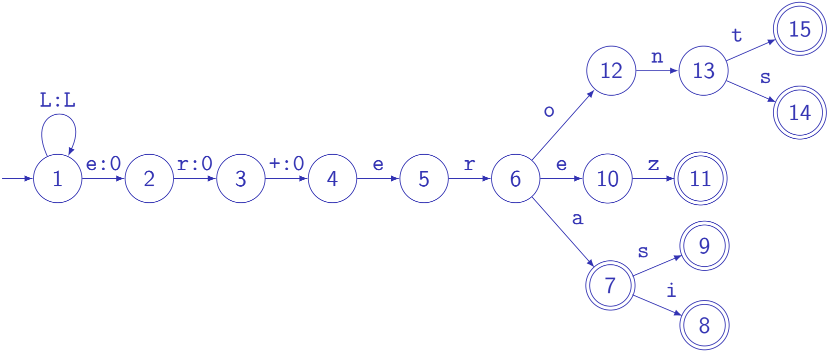
French Verb Transducers for *chanter*

Number\Person	First	Second	Third
singular	*chanterai*	*chanteras*	*chantera*
plural	*chanterons*	*chanterez*	*chanteront*

Number\Pers.	First	Second	Third
singular	`chanter+erai`	`chanter+eras`	`chanter+era`
	`chant000erai`	`chant000eras`	`chant000era`
plural	`chanter+erons`	`chanter+erez`	`chanter+eront`
	`chant000erons`	`chant000erez`	`chant000eront`


1
c
2
h
3
a
4
n
5
t
6
e:0
7
r:0
8
+:0
9
e
10
r
11
o
17
n
18
t
20
s
19
e
15
z
16
a
12
s
14
i
13

French Verb Transducers: Future, 1st Group



Transducers in Prolog

```
arc(1,1,C,C) :- letter(C).
arc(1,2,e,0).   arc(6,7,a,a).     arc(6,12,o,o).
arc(2,3,r,0).   arc(7,8,i,i).     arc(12,13,n,n).
arc(3,4,+,0).   arc(7,9,s,s).     arc(13,14,s,s).
arc(4,5,e,e).   arc(6,10,e,e).    arc(13,15, t, t).
arc(5,6,r,r).   arc(10,11,z,z).

final_state(7).    final_state(9).     final_state(14).
final_state(8).    final_state(11).    final_state(15).

% letter(+L) describes the French lower-case letters
letter(L) :- atom_codes(L, [Code]), 97 =< Code, Code =< 122, !.
letter(L) :-
  member(L, [à, â, ä, ç, é, è, ê, ë, î, ï, ô, ö, ù, û, ü, œ]), !.
```

Running the Transducer

```
transduce(+Start, ?Final, ?Underlying, ?Surface).
% arc(Start, End, UnderlyingChar, SurfaceChar) describes the automat

% transduce(+Start, ?Final, ?UnderlyingString, ?SurfaceString)
transduce(Start, Final, [U | UnderlyingString], SurfaceString) :-
  arc(Start, Next, U, 0),
  transduce(Next, Final, UnderlyingString, SurfaceString).
transduce(Start, Final, UnderlyingString, [S | SurfaceString]) :-
  arc(Start, Next, 0, S),
  transduce(Next, Final, UnderlyingString, SurfaceString).
transduce(Start, Final, [U | UnderlyingString],
    [S | SurfaceString]) :-
  arc(Start, Next, U, S),
  U \== 0, S \== 0,
  transduce(Next, Final, UnderlyingString, SurfaceString).
transduce(Final, Final, [], []) :- final_state(Final).
```

OpenFst is a library to create and process transducers. We encode the lexical and surface forms of the conjugation as:

```
1 1 a a
1 1 b b
1 1 c c
...
1 2 e <epsilon>
2 3 r <epsilon>
3 4 + <epsilon>
4 5 e e
5 6 r r
6 7 a a
7 8 i i
7 9 s s
6 10 e e
10 11 z z
6 12 o o
12 13 n n
13 14 s s
13 15 t t
7
8
9
11
14
15
```

that we store the `first_group_future.fst` file.

Transducers with OpenFst (II)

We encode `rêver+era` as a single chain automaton:

```
0 1 r
1 2 ê
2 3 v
3 4 e
4 5 r
5 6 +
6 7 e
7 8 r
8 9 a
9
```

```
$ fstcompile --isymbols=symbols.txt --osymbols=symbols.txt \
 first_group_future.fst first_group_future.bin
$ fstcompile --isymbols=symbols.txt --acceptor \
 rêver+era.fst rêver+era.bin
```

where the `symbols.txt` file contains all the letters of the alphabet and the

Transducers with OpenFst (III)

We generate the surface form by composing the input with the transducer:

```
$ fstcompose rêver+era.bin first_group_future.bin | \
 fstprint --isymbols=symbols.txt --osymbols=symbols.txt
0 1 r r
1 2 ê ê
2 3 v v
3 4 e <epsilon>
4 5 r <epsilon>
5 6 + <epsilon>
6 7 e e
7 8 r r
8 9 a a
9
```

Transducers with OpenFst (IV)

To remove the ε, we need to project the results using the `fstproject` command that restricts a transducer to an acceptor with only the output and we and apply the `fstrmepsilon` command:

```
$ fstcompose rêver+era.bin first_group_future.bin | \
 fstproject --project_output | fstrmepsilon | \
 fstprint --isymbols=symbols.txt --osymbols=symbols.txt
0 1 r r
1 2 ê ê
2 3 v v
3 4 e e
4 5 r r
5 6 a a
6
```

Romance Languages

Language	Number\Person	First	Second	Third
Italian				
	singular	*canterò*	*canterai*	*canterà*
	plural	*canteremo*	*canterete*	*canteranno*
Spanish				
	singular	*cantaré*	*cantarás*	*cantará*
	plural	*cantaremos*	*cantaréis*	*cantarán*
Portuguese				
	singular	*cantarei*	*cantarás*	*cantará*
	plural	*cantaremos*	*cantareis*	*cantarão*

Ambiguity

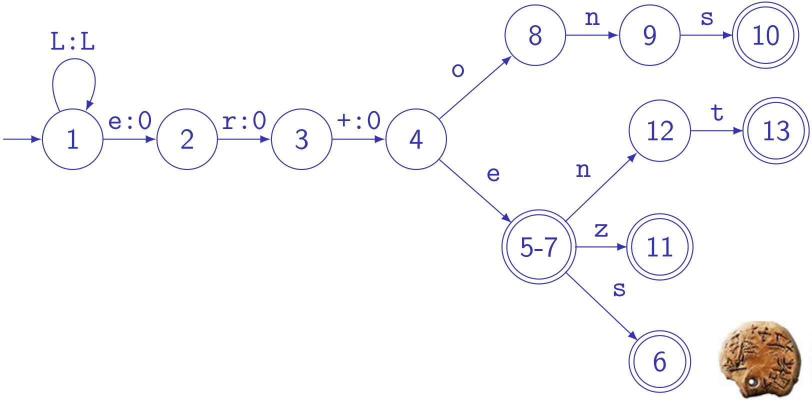
In the transducer for future tense, there is no ambiguity: A surface form has only one lexical form with a unique final state.
This is not the case with the present tense

> *(je) chante 'I sing'*
> *(il) chante 'he sings'*

Number\Person	**First**	**Second**	**Third**
singular	*chante*	*chantes*	*chante*
plural	*chantons*	*chantez*	*chantent*

Transducer Ambiguity

Final states 5 and 7 are the same.
The implementation in Prolog is similar to that of the future tense.
Using backtracking, the transducer can produce all the final states reflecting the morphological ambiguity.



Koskenniemi's Rules

Koskenniemi described morphology with declarative rules.
They use the left and right context and the $\Rightarrow$, $\Leftarrow$, $\Leftrightarrow$, or $/\Leftarrow$ operators
In English, a lexical *y* can correspond to a surface *i* as in *happier*.
It occurs when *y* is preceded by a consonant and followed by *-er*, *-ed*, or *-s*.

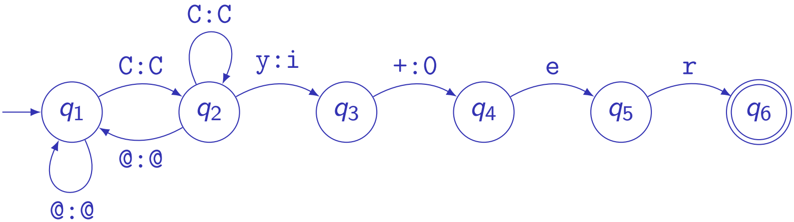
1. `y:i` $\Leftarrow$ `C:C __ +:0 e:e r:r`
2. `y:i` $\Leftarrow$ `C:C __ +:e s:s`
3. `y:i` $\Leftarrow$ `C:C __ +:0 e:e d:d`

Two-level Rules

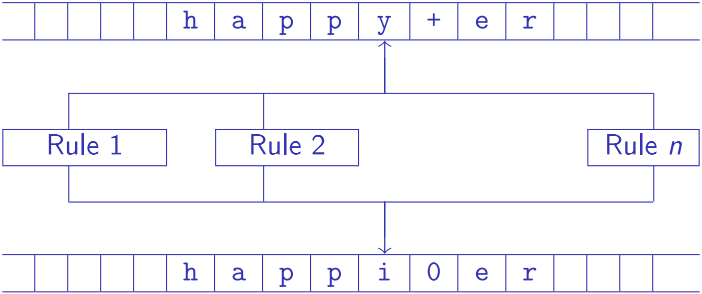
Lexical:surface transduction is described by rules.

Rules			Description
`a:b`	$\Rightarrow$	`lc __ rc`	`a` is transduced as `b` **only** when it has `lc` to the left and `rc` to the right
`a:b`	$\Leftarrow$	`lc __ rc`	`a` is **always** transduced as `b` when it has `lc` to the left and `rc` to the right
`a:b`	$\Leftrightarrow$	`lc __ rc`	`a` is transduced as `b` **always and only** when it has `lc` to the left and `rc` to the right
`a:b`	$/\Leftarrow$	`lc __ rc`	`a` is **never** transduced as `b` when it has `lc` to the left and `rc` to the right

All the rules are applied in parallel (provided that their context match)

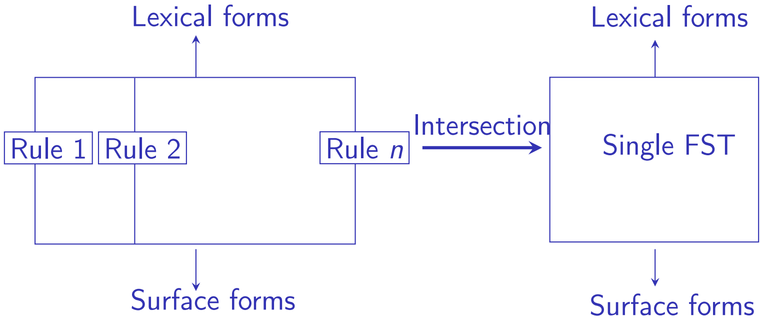


Rules can be compiled as an equivalent transducer



Rule Intersection

The parallel transducers are then combined into a single one using the transducer intersection.



Problems with Intersection

The intersection of two finite automata defines a finite-state automaton
It is not always the case for finite-state transducers.
Kaplan and Kay (1994) demonstrated that when surface and lexical pairs have the same length – without ε –, the intersection is a transducer.
This property is sufficient to intersect the rules in practical applications.
In fact, transducers obtained from two-level rules are intersected by treating the ε symbol as an ordinary symbol (Beesley and Karttunen 2003, p. 55).

Xerox

Originally, rules were compiled by hand.
However, it can quickly become intractable especially when it comes to managing conflicting rules or when rule contexts interfere with transduced symbols.
To solve it, we can use a compiler that creates transducers automatically from two-level rules.
The Xerox's XFST is an example of it. It is a publicly available tool and to date the only serious implementation of a morphological rule compiler.

We used the stem and a set of suffixes for French regular verbs.
French irregular verbs are notoriously more complex.
Chanod (1994) gives an example of decomposition into simple rules.

Infinitive	**courir**	**dormir**	**battre**	**peindre**	**écrire**
First person sing.	cours	**dors**	**bats**	**peins**	écris
Second person sing.	cours	**dors**	**bats**	**peins**	écris
Third person sing.	cour**t**	**dort**	**bat**	**peint**	écrit
First person pl.	cour**ons**	dormons	battons	peignons	**écrivons**
Second person pl.	cour**ez**	dormez	battez	peignez	**écrivez**
Third person pl.	cour**ent**	dorment	battent	peignent	**écrivent**

French Morphology

Lexical form: stem	dormir	+IndP +SG +P1
	$\updownarrow$	$\updownarrow$
Intermediate form: inflection	dorm	+IndP +SG +P1
	$\updownarrow$	$\updownarrow$
Intermediate form: deletion of *m* followed by *s*	dorm	s
	$\updownarrow$	$\updownarrow$
Surface form:	dor	s

From *peindre* to *peins*

n:0 $\Leftrightarrow$ g __ [s|t]

Composition and Intersection