

2019 ACL Short paper

## **Coreference Resolution with Entity Equalization**

**Ben Kantor**

Tel Aviv University

`benkantor@mail.tau.ac.il`

**Amir Globerson**

Tel Aviv University

`amir.globerson@gmail.com`

mention

**John** told **Sally** that **she** should come watch **him** play the **violin**.


antecedent

John told Sally that **she** should come watch him play the violin.  


coreferent

John told Sally that **she** should come watch him play the violin.  


non-anaphoric

John told Sally that she should come watch him play the **violin**.  


[https://blog.csdn.net/Huanq\\_c](https://blog.csdn.net/Huanq_c)

span

General

Electric

said

the

Postal

Service

contacted

the

company

# Coreference Resolution in Two Steps

## 1. Detect the mentions (easy)

“[I] voted for [Nader] because [he] was most aligned with [[my] values],” [she] said

- mentions can be nested!

## 2. Cluster the mentions (hard)

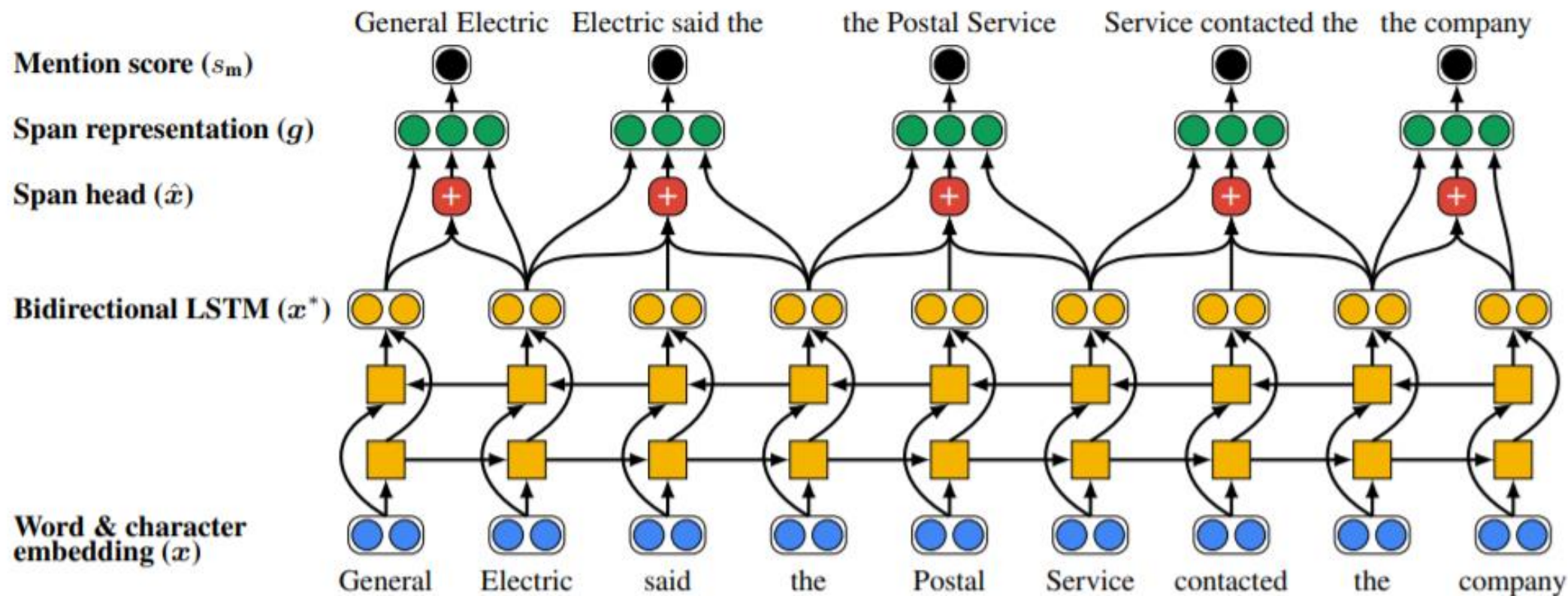
“[I] voted for [Nader] because [he] was most aligned with [[my] values],” [she] said

# Four Kinds of Coreference Models

- Rule-based (pronominal anaphora resolution)
- Mention Pair
- Mention Ranking
- Clustering

# End-to-end Model

- Current state-of-the-art model for coreference resolution (Kenton Lee et al. from UW, EMNLP 2017)
- Mention ranking model
- Improvements over simple feed-forward NN
  - Use an LSTM
  - Use attention
  - Do mention detection and coreference end-to-end

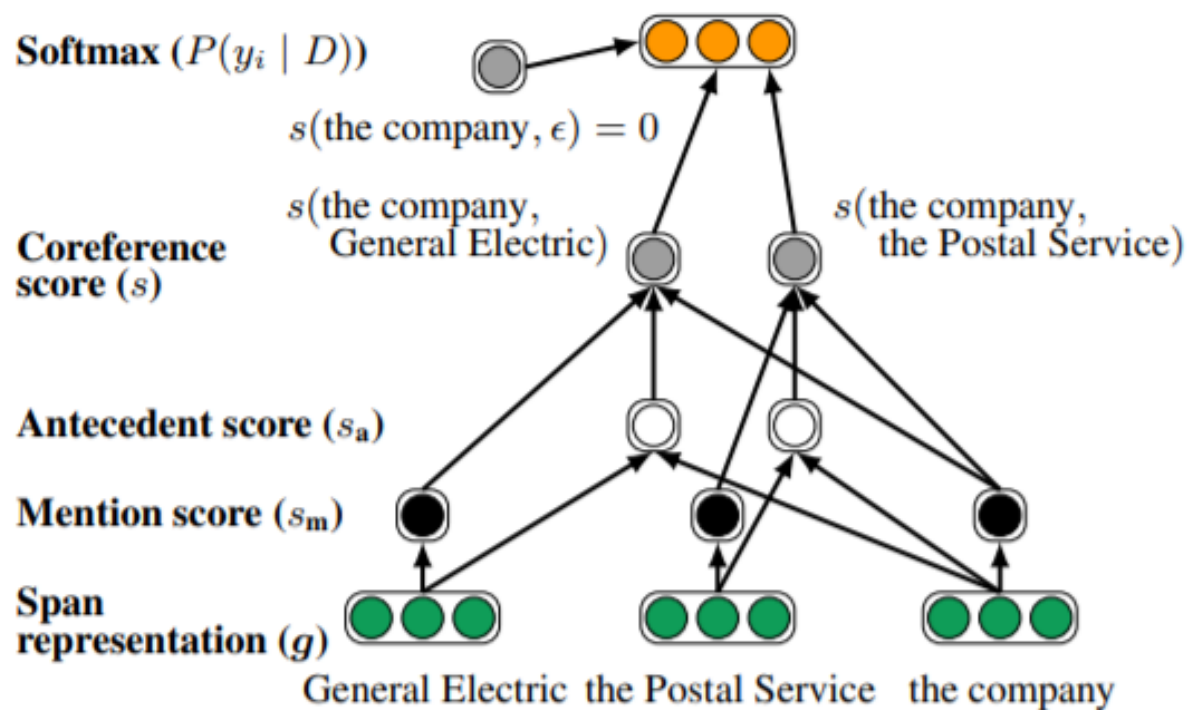


$$g_i = [x_{\text{START}(i)}^*, x_{\text{END}(i)}^*, \hat{x}_i, \phi(i)]$$

$$\alpha_t = \mathbf{w}_\alpha \cdot \text{FFNN}_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_t^*)$$

$$a_{i,t} = \frac{\exp(\alpha_t)}{\sum_{k=\text{START}(i)}^{\text{END}(i)} \exp(\alpha_k)}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = \sum_{t=\text{START}(i)}^{\text{END}(i)} a_{i,t} \cdot \mathbf{x}_t$$



$$s(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & j = \epsilon \\ s_m(i) + s_m(j) + s_a(i, j) & j \neq \epsilon \end{cases}$$

$$s_m(i) = \mathbf{w}_m \cdot \text{FFNN}_m(\mathbf{g}_i)$$

$$s_a(i, j) = \mathbf{w}_a \cdot \text{FFNN}_a([\mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{g}_j, \mathbf{g}_i \circ \mathbf{g}_j, \phi(i, j)])$$

# Motivation

- Entity Equalization

*Speaker 1:* Um and **[I]** think that is what's - Go ahead Linda.

*Speaker 2:* Well and uh thanks goes to **[you]** and to the media to help us... So our hat is off to **[all of you]** as well.



# Motivation

- Entity Equalization
- Entity Equalization VS. Antecedent Averaging  
[John] went to the park and [he] got tired. [John] decided to go back home.

	John <sub>1</sub>	he	John <sub>2</sub>
John <sub>1</sub>	1	0	0
he	1	0	0
John <sub>2</sub>	1	0	0

[2018NAACL] Higher-order Coreference Resolution with Coarse-to-fine Inference

[2019ACL] Coreference Resolution with Entity Equalization

# Baseline Model

Higher-order

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \sum_{y_i \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} P(y_i) \cdot \mathbf{g}_{y_i}$$

$$\mathbf{f}_i = f_f(\mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{a}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{g}'_i = \mathbf{f}_i \circ \mathbf{g}_i + (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{f}_i) \circ \mathbf{a}_i$$

$$P(y_i) = \frac{e^{s(i, y_i)}}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} e^{s(i, y')}}}$$

$$P'(y_i) = \frac{e^{s(\mathbf{g}'_i, \mathbf{g}'_{y_i})}}{\sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} e^{s(\mathbf{g}'_i, \mathbf{g}'_y)}}$$

# Baseline Model

## Coarse-to-fine Inference

$$s_c(i, j) = \mathbf{g}_i^\top \mathbf{W}_c \mathbf{g}_j$$

$$s(i, j) = s_m(i) + s_m(j) + s_c(i, j) + s_a(i, j)$$

**First stage** Keep the top  $M$  spans based on the mention score  $s_m(i)$  of each span.

**Second stage** Keep the top  $K$  antecedents of each remaining span  $i$  based on the first three factors,  $s_m(i) + s_m(j) + s_c(i, j)$ .

**Third stage** The overall coreference  $s(i, j)$  is computed based on the remaining span pairs. The

# Entity Equalization

$$Q(i \in E_j) = \begin{cases} \sum_{k=j}^{i-1} P(y_i = k) \cdot Q(k \in E_j) & \text{if } j < i \\ P(y_i = \epsilon) & \text{if } j = i \\ 0 & \text{if } j > i \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_i^{(t)} = \sum_{j=1}^t Q(j \in E_i) \cdot \mathbf{g}_j$$

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \sum_{j=1}^i Q(i \in E_j) \cdot \mathbf{e}_j^{(i)}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_i = \sum_{y_i \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} P(y_i) \cdot \mathbf{g}_{y_i}$$

	MUC			$B^3$			$CEAF_{\phi_4}$			
	Prec.	Rec.	F1	Prec.	Rec.	F1	Prec.	Rec.	F1	Avg. F1
Lee et al. (2018)	81.4	79.5	80.4	72.2	69.5	70.8	68.2	67.1	67.6	73.0
+ BERT	<b>83.51</b>	82.8	83.16	<b>74.51</b>	74.14	74.32	71.93	70.6	71.26	76.25
– Second-order	82.61	83.48	83.04	73.56	75.44	74.49	71.6	<b>71.55</b>	71.57	76.37
+ EE (Ours)	82.63	<b>84.14</b>	<b>83.38</b>	73.31	<b>76.17</b>	<b>74.71</b>	<b>72.37</b>	71.14	<b>71.75</b>	<b>76.61</b>

Table 1: Results on the test set of the English CoNLL-2012 shared task. The average F1 of MUC,  $B^3$  and  $CEAF_{\phi_4}$  is the main evaluation metric.



2019 ACL Short paper

# **The Referential Reader: A Recurrent Entity Network for Anaphora Resolution**

**Fei Liu \***

The University of Melbourne  
Victoria, Australia

**Luke Zettlemoyer**

Facebook AI Research  
University of Washington  
Seattle, USA

**Jacob Eisenstein**

Facebook AI Research  
Seattle, USA

- Coreference with named entities

text

Barack Obama

Obama

world



- Anaphora

text

Barack Obama

he

world





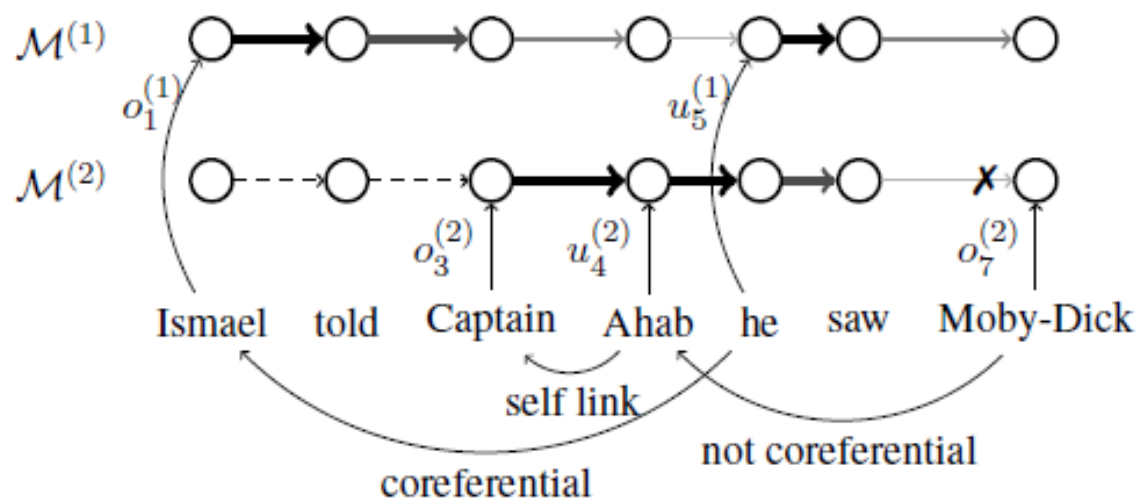


Figure 1: A referential reader with two memory cells. Overwrite and update are indicated by  $o_t^{(i)}$  and  $u_t^{(i)}$ ; in practice, these operations are continuous gates. Thickness and color intensity of edges between memory cells at neighboring steps indicate memory salience;  $\times$  indicates an overwrite.

As each token is encountered, the reader must decide whether to:

- (a) link the token to an existing memory, thereby creating a coreference link,
- (b) overwrite an existing memory and store a new entity,
- (c) disregard the token and move ahead.

As memories are reused, their salience increases, making them less likely to be overwritten.

# Model

For a given document consisting of a sequence of tokens  $\{w_t\}_{t=1}^T$ , we represent text at two levels:

- Tokens: represented as  $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}_{t=1}^T$ , where the vector  $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{D_x}$  is computed from any token-level encoder.
- Entities: represented by a fixed-length memory  $\mathcal{M}_t = \{(\mathbf{k}_t^{(i)}, \mathbf{v}_t^{(i)}, s_t^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ , where each memory is a tuple of a key  $\mathbf{k}_t^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_k}$ , a value  $\mathbf{v}_t^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{D_v}$ , and a salience  $s_t^{(i)} \in [0, 1]$ .

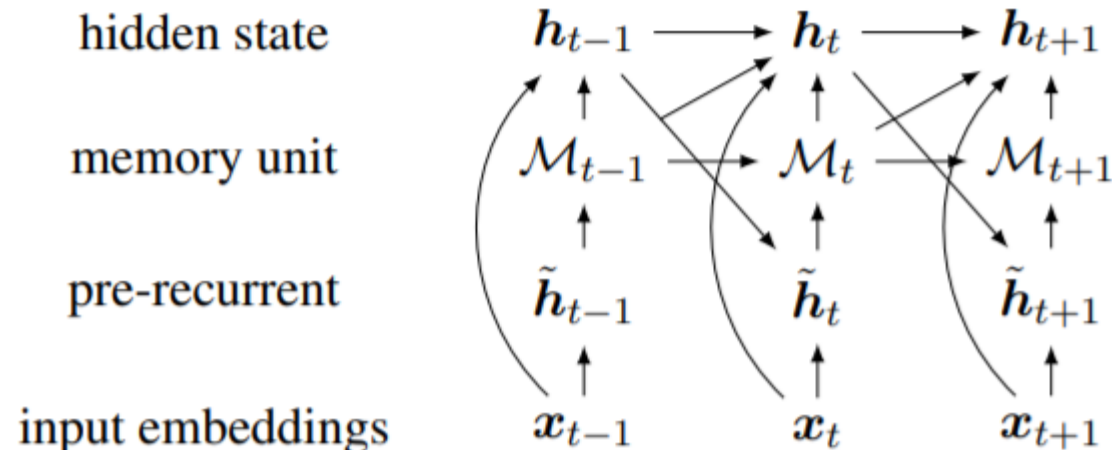


Figure 2: Overview of the model architecture.

# Recurrent Unit

$$\mathbf{m}_t = \sum_{i=1}^N s_t^{(i)} \mathbf{v}_t^{(i)}.$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t = \tanh(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \mathbf{U}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t).$$

$$\mathbf{h}_t = \text{GRU}(\mathbf{x}_t, (1 - c_t) \times \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + c_t \times \mathbf{m}_t)$$

$$c_t = \min(\sigma(\mathbf{W}_c \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t + b_c), \sum_i s_t^{(i)})$$

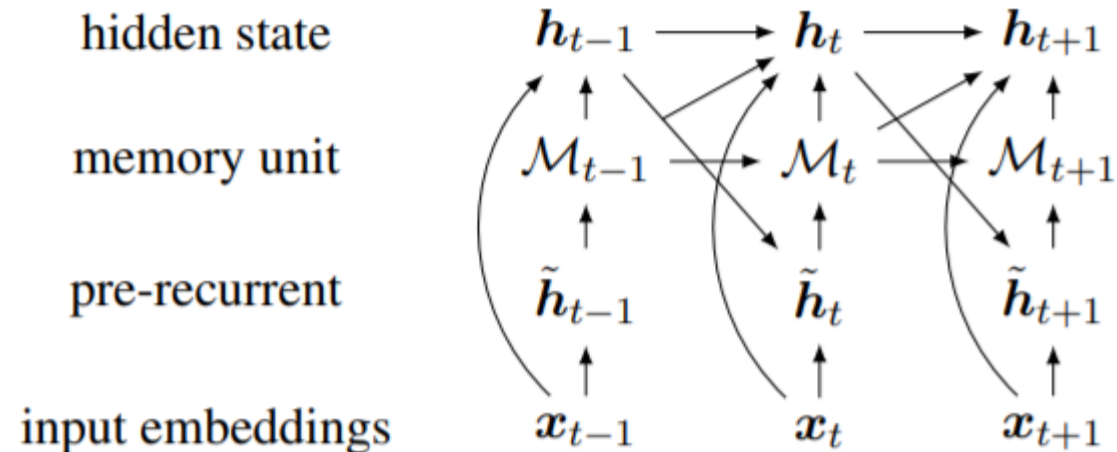


Figure 2: Overview of the model architecture.

# Memory Unit

memory gates  $\{(u_t^{(i)}, o_t^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ ,

entity gate  $e_t = \sigma(\phi_e \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t)$ ,

reference gate  $r_t = \sigma(\phi_r \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t) \times e_t$ ,

## Updating existing entities

query vector,  $\mathbf{q}_t = f_q(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t)$

attention scores,  $\alpha_t^{(i)} = r_t \times \text{SoftMax}(\mathbf{k}_{t-1}^{(i)} \cdot \mathbf{q}_t + b)$ ,

update gate:  $u_t^{(i)} = \min(\alpha_t^{(i)}, 2s_{t-1}^{(i)})$ .

## Storing new entities.

$$\tilde{o}_t = e_t - \sum_{i=1}^N u_t^{(i)}$$

overwrite the memory with the lowest salience.

$$o_t^{(i)} = \tilde{o}_t \times \text{GSM}^{(i)}(-s_{t-1}, \tau)$$

$$\mathbf{s}_t = \{s_t^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$$

## Memory salience.

$$r_t^{(i)} = 1 - u_t^{(i)} - o_t^{(i)}$$

$$\lambda_t = (e_t \times \gamma_e + (1 - e_t) \times \gamma_n)$$

$$s_t^{(i)} = \lambda_t \times r_t^{(i)} \times s_{t-1}^{(i)} + u_t^{(i)} + o_t^{(i)}.$$

## Memory state.

$$\tilde{\mathbf{k}}_t = f_k(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t) \quad \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_t = f_v(\tilde{\mathbf{h}}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_t^{(i)} = u_t^{(i)} \text{GRU}_k(\mathbf{k}_{t-1}^{(i)}, \tilde{\mathbf{k}}_t) + o_t^{(i)} \tilde{\mathbf{k}}_t + r_t^{(i)} \mathbf{k}_{t-1}^{(i)}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_t^{(i)} = u_t^{(i)} \text{GRU}_v(\mathbf{v}_{t-1}^{(i)}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_t) + o_t^{(i)} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_t + r_t^{(i)} \mathbf{v}_{t-1}^{(i)}.$$

## Coreference Chains

$$\omega_{t_1, t_2}^{(i)} = \prod_{t=t_1+1}^{t_2} (1 - o_t^{(i)})$$

$$\hat{\psi}_{t_1, t_2} = \sum_{i=1}^N (u_{t_1}^{(i)} + o_{t_1}^{(i)}) \times u_{t_2}^{(i)} \times \omega_{t_1, t_2}^{(i)}.$$

## Training

$$\text{cross-entropy} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{j=i+1}^T H(\hat{\psi}_{i,j}, y_{i,j})$$

	$F_1^M$	$F_1^F$	$\frac{F_1^F}{F_1^M}$	$F_1$
Clark and Manning (2015) <sup>†</sup>	53.9	52.8	0.98	53.3
Lee et al. (2017) <sup>†</sup>	67.7	60.0	0.89	64.0
Lee et al. (2017), re-trained	67.8	66.3	0.98	67.0
Parallelism <sup>†</sup>	69.4	64.4	0.93	66.9
Parallelism+URL <sup>†</sup>	72.3	68.8	0.95	70.6
RefReader, LM objective <sup>‡</sup>	61.6	60.5	0.98	61.1
RefReader, coref objective <sup>‡</sup>	69.6	68.1	0.98	68.9
RefReader, LM + coref <sup>‡</sup>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>72.1</b>
RefReader, coref + BERT <sup>★</sup>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>78.8</b>

Table 1: GAP test set performance. <sup>†</sup>: reported in Webster et al. (2018); <sup>‡</sup>: strictly incremental processing; <sup>★</sup>: average over 5 runs with different random seeds.

$$\sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{j=i+1}^T H(\hat{\psi}_{i,j}, y_{i,j}).$$

$$P(w_{t+1} \mid \mathbf{h}_t)$$



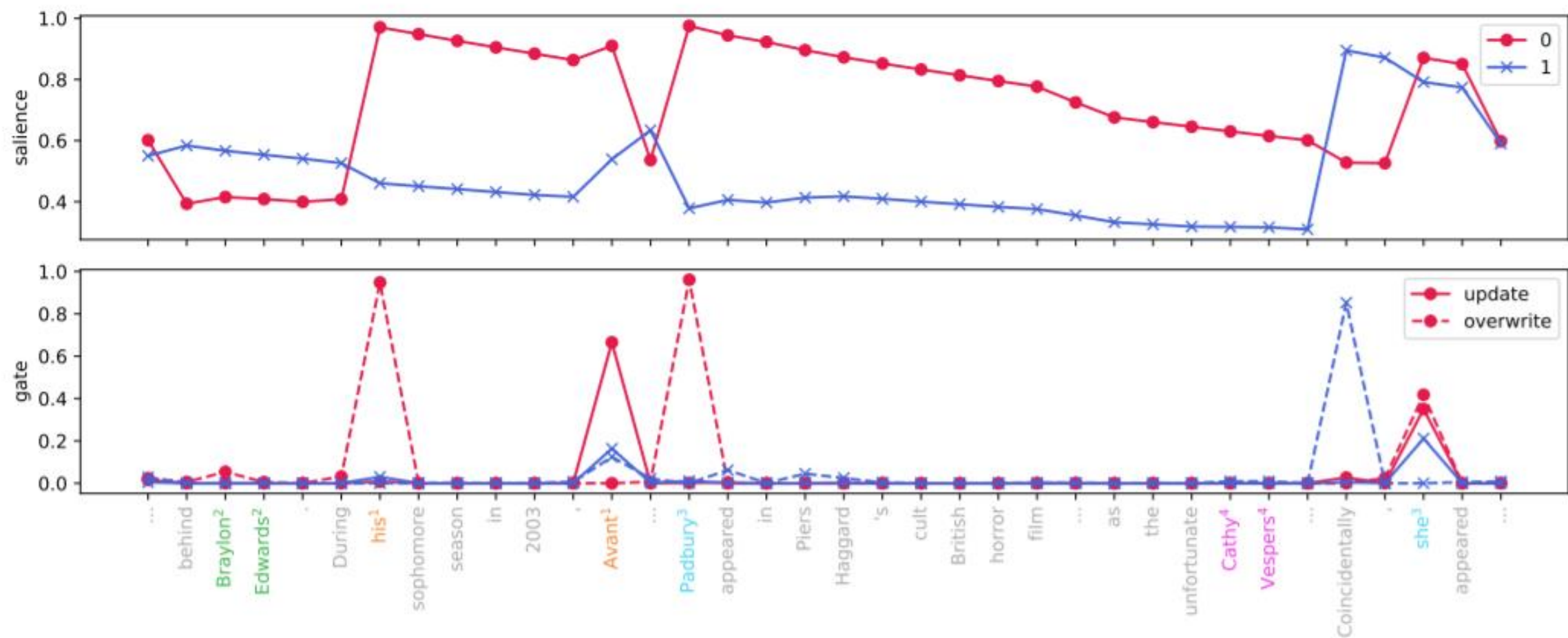


Figure 3: An example of the application the referential reader to a concatenation of two instances from GAP. The ground truth is indicated by the color of each token on the  $x$ -axis as well as the superscript.