Language Technology

Chapter 12: 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*

Annotation with Parts of Speech

Sentence:

That round table might collapse

Annotation:

Words	Parts of speech	POS tags
that	Determiner	DET
round	Adjective	ADJ
table	Noun	NOUN
might	Modal verb	AUX
collapse	Verb	VERB

The automatic annotation uses predefined POS tagsets such as the Penn Treebank tagset for English

Training Sets: The CoNLL Format

The CoNLL format is a tabular format to distribute annotated texts.
This format was created for evaluations carried out by the Conference in natural language learning
The CoNLL annotation has varied much across the years. We use CoNLL-U, the latest iteration.
Annotation of the Spanish sentence:

> *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'*

Example of Annotation (CoNLL-U)

La reestructuración de los otros bancos checos se está acompañando por la reducción del personal

ID	FORM	LEMMA	UPOS	FEATS
1	La	el	DET	Definite=Def|Gender=Fem|Number=Sing|PronType=Art
2	reestructuración	reestructuración	NOUN	Gender=Fem|Number=Sing
3	de	de	ADP	AdpType=Prep
4	los	el	DET	Definite=Def|Gender=Masc|Number=Plur|PronType=Art
5	otros	otro	DET	Gender=Masc|Number=Plur|PronType=Ind
6	bancos	banco	NOUN	Gender=Masc|Number=Plur
7	checos	checo	ADJ	Gender=Masc|Number=Plur
8	se	se	PRON	Case=Acc|Person=3|PrepCase=Npr|PronType=Prs|Reflex=Yes
9	está	estar	AUX	Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=3|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
10	acompañando	acompañar	VERB	VerbForm=Ger
11	por	por	ADP	AdpType=Prep
12	la	el	DET	Definite=Def|Gender=Fem|Number=Sing|PronType=Art
13	reducción	reducción	NOUN	Gender=Fem|Number=Sing
14	del	del	ADP	AdpType=Preppron
15	personal	personal	NOUN	Gender=Masc|Number=Sing
16	.	.	PUNCT	PunctType=Peri

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

Part-of-Speech Annotation (Universal Dependencies)

Annotation of: *Do museum labels have an impact on how people look at artworks?*

ID	FORM	LEMMA	UPOS	XPOS	FEATS
1	Do	do	AUX	VBP	Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=3|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
2	museum	museum	NOUN	NN	Number=Sing
3	labels	label	NOUN	NNS	Number=Plur
4	have	have	VERB	VB	VerbForm=Inf
5	an	a	DET	DT	Definite=Ind|PronType=Art
6	impact	impact	NOUN	NN	Number=Sing
7	on	on	ADP	IN	_
8	how	how	SCONJ	WRB	PronType=Rel
9	people	person	NOUN	NNS	Number=Plur
10	look	look	VERB	VBP	Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=3|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
11	at	at	ADP	IN	_
12	artworks	artwork	NOUN	NNS	Number=Plur
13	?	?	PUNCT	.	_

Part-of-Speech Annotation (Universal Dependencies)

Annotation of: *Genom skattereformen införs individuell beskattning (särbeskattning) av arbetsinkomster.*

ID	FORM	LEMMA	UPOS	XPOS	FEATS
1	Genom	genom	ADP	PP	_
2	skattereformen	skattereform	NOUN	NN|UTR|SIN|DEF|NOM	Case=Nom|Definite=Def|Gender=Com|Number=Sing
3	införs	införa	VERB	VB|PRS|SFO	Mood=Ind|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin|Voice=Pass
4	individuell	individuell	ADJ	JJ|POS|UTR|SIN|IND|NOM	Case=Nom|Definite=Ind|Degree=Pos|Gender=Com|Number=Sing
5	beskattning	beskattning	NOUN	NN|UTR|SIN|IND|NOM	Case=Nom|Definite=Ind|Gender=Com|Number=Sing
6	(	(	PUNCT	PAD	_
7	särbeskattning	särbeskattning	NOUN	NN|UTR|SIN|IND|NOM	Case=Nom|Definite=Ind|Gender=Com|Number=Sing
8	)	)	PUNCT	PAD	_
9	av	av	ADP	PP	_
10	arbetsinkomster	arbetsinkomst	NOUN	NN|UTR|PLU|IND|NOM	Case=Nom|Definite=Ind|Gender=Com|Number=Plur
11	.	.	PUNCT	MAD	_

Ambiguity

Words	Possible tags	Example of use
that	Subordinating conjunction	*That he can swim is good*
	Determiner	*That white table*
	Adverb	*It is not that easy*
	Pronoun	*That is the table*
	Relative pronoun	*The table that collapsed*
round	Verb	*Round up the usual suspects*
	Preposition	*Turn round the corner*
	Noun	*A big round*
	Adjective	*A round box*
	Adverb	*He went round*
table	Noun	*That white table*
	Verb	*I table that*
might	Noun	*The might of the wind*
	Modal verb	*She might come*
collapse	Noun	*The collapse of the empire*
	Verb	*The empire can collapse*

Part-of-Speech Ambiguity in Swedish

The word *som* in the *Norstedts svenska ordbok*, 1999, has three entries:

1. *Om jag vore lika vacker som du, skulle jag vara lycklig.* (konjunktion)
2. *Bilen som jag köpte i fjol.* (pronomen)
3. *Som jag har saknat dig.* (adverb)

The part-of-speech difference can be significant:

Swedish. Compare the pronunciation of *vaken*, adjective, as in *Han är aldrig vaken innan klockan sju* and *vaken*, noun, as in *Vi fiskade i vaken i sjön*

English. Compare *object* in *I object to violence*, verb, or *I could see an object*, noun.

Grammatical 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

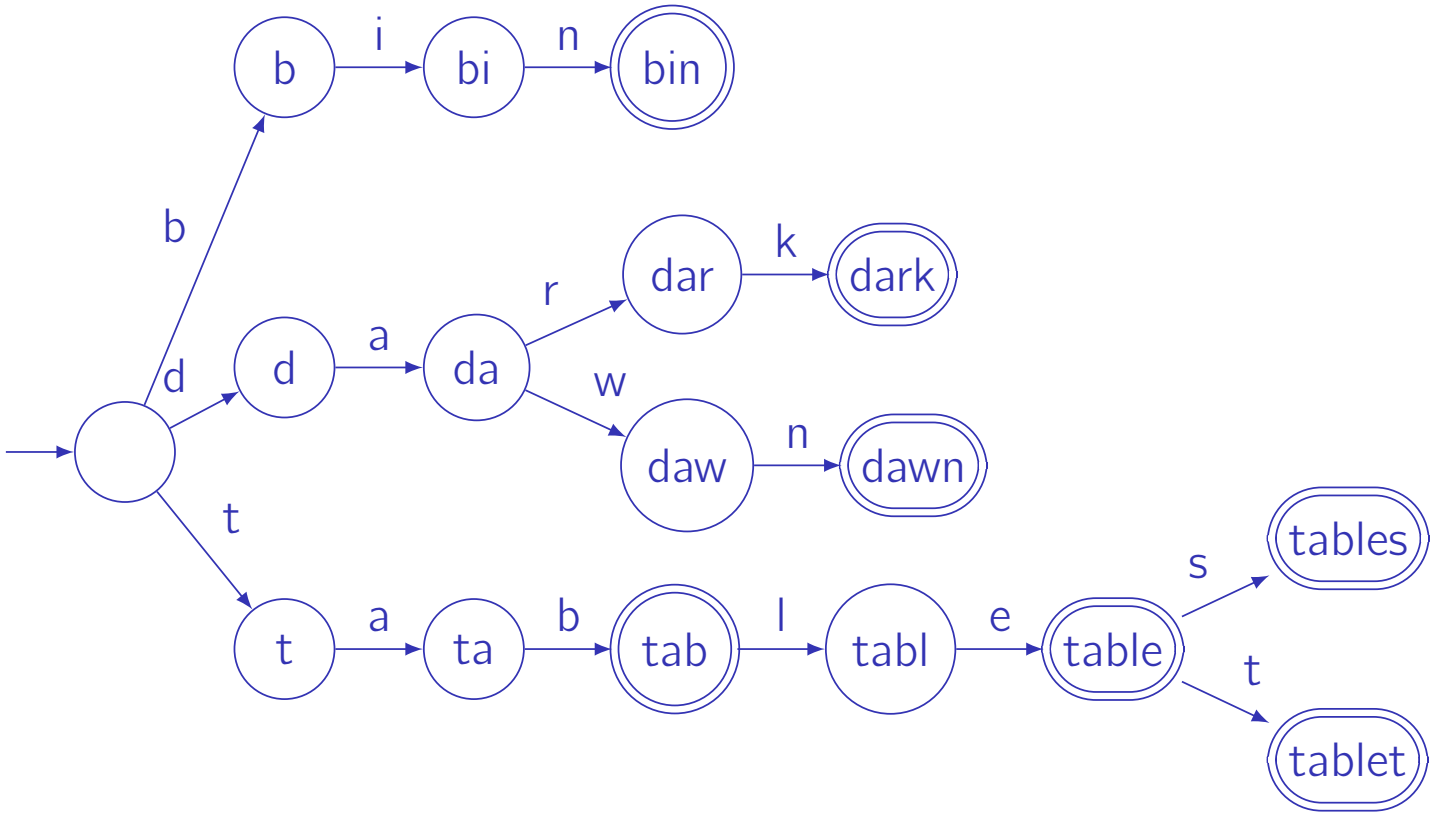
Lexicons: An Excerpt from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Word	Pronunciation	Syntactic tag	Syllable count or verb pattern (for verbs)
a	@	S-*	1
a	EI	Ki$	1
a fortiori	el ,fOtI'Oral	Pu$	5
a posteriori	el ,p0sterI'Oral	OA$,Pu$	6
a priori	el ,praI'Oral	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
abandonment	@'b&nd@nm@nt	L@%	4
abandons	@'b&nd@nz	Ha%	36A,14
abase	@'beIs	H2%	26B
abased	@'beIst	Hc%,Hd%	26B
abasement	@'beIsm@nt	L@%	3

Newer standard:

https://tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/DI.html

Letter Trees



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*

Inflection

	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+∅*

Derivation

Creation of a new word

	English	**French**	**German**
Prefixes	**fore***see*, **un***pleasant*	**pré***voir*, **dé***plaisant*	**vorher***sehen*, **un***angenehm*
Suffixes	*manage***able**, *rigor***ous**	*gér***able**, *rigour***eux**	*vorsicht***ich**, *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

Two-Level Morphology

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 →		
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: ← Surface to lexical form		

Aligning the Two Forms

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

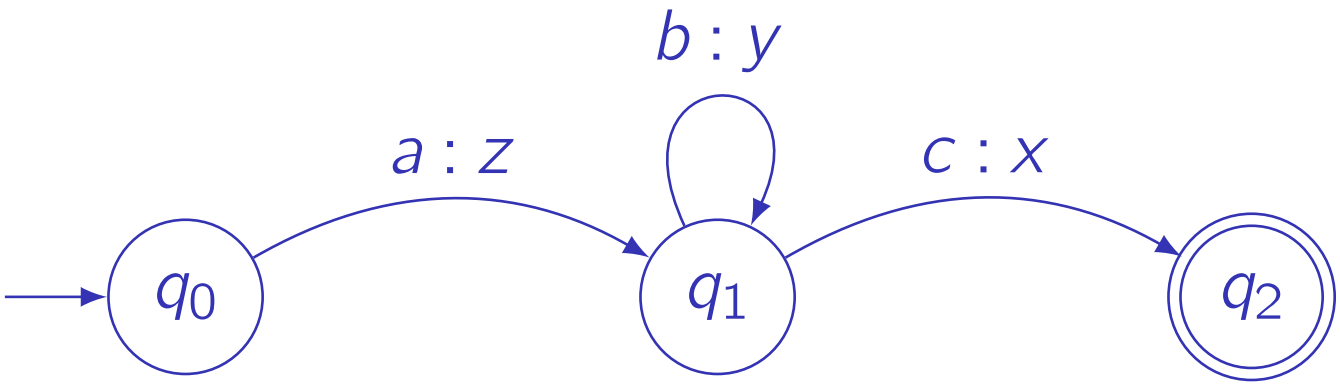
where `+Verb` denotes a verb, `+PastBoth`, either past tense or past participle, and `+123SP` any person, singular or plural; `+Adj` denotes an adjective and `+Comp`, a comparative.

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 $Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$, where $\delta(q, i, o)$ returns the state where the automaton moves when it is in state q and consumes the input symbol pair $i:o$.

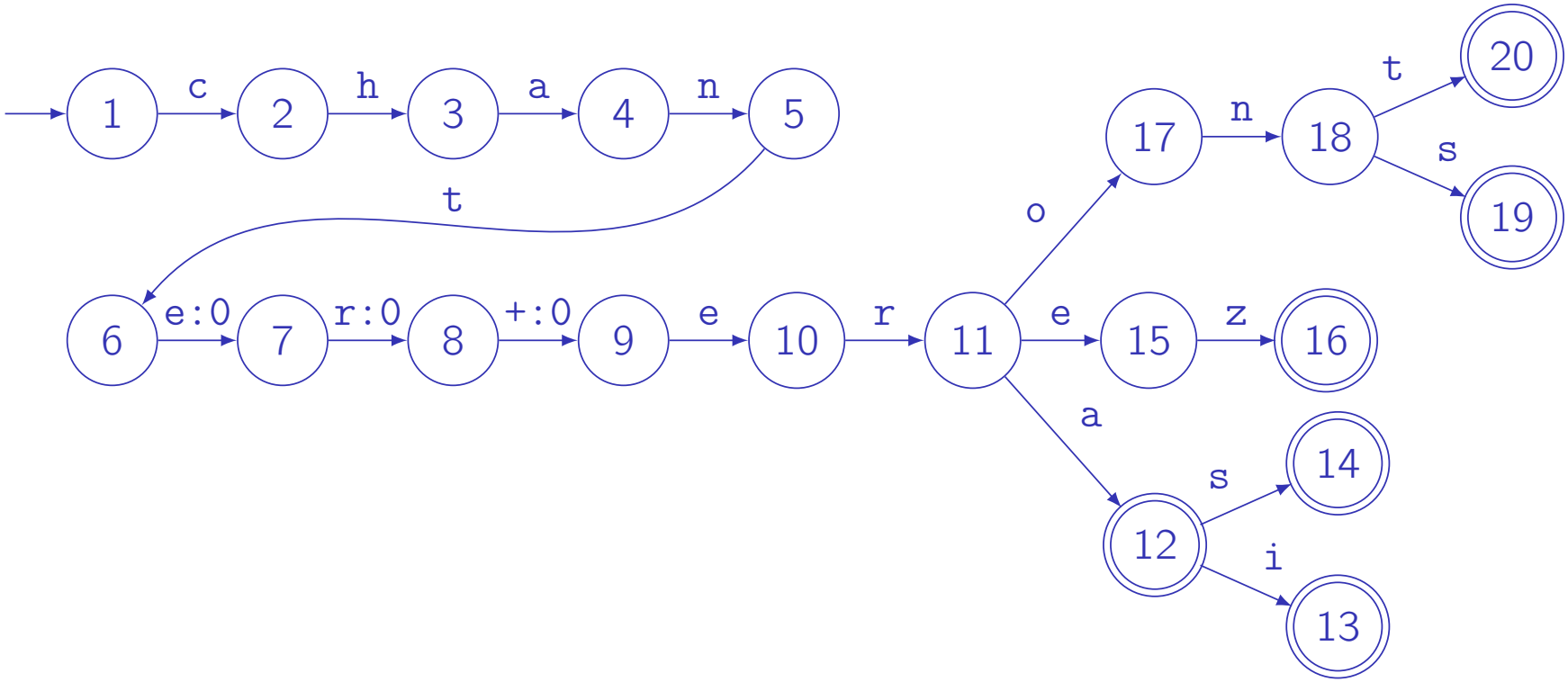
The quintuple defining automaton is $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2\}$,
$\Sigma = \{a:z, b:y, c:x\}$,
$\delta = \{\delta(q_0, a:z) = q_1, \delta(q_1, b:y) = q_1, \delta(q_1, c:x) = q_2\}$, and $F = \{q_2\}$.

French Verb Transducers for *chanter*

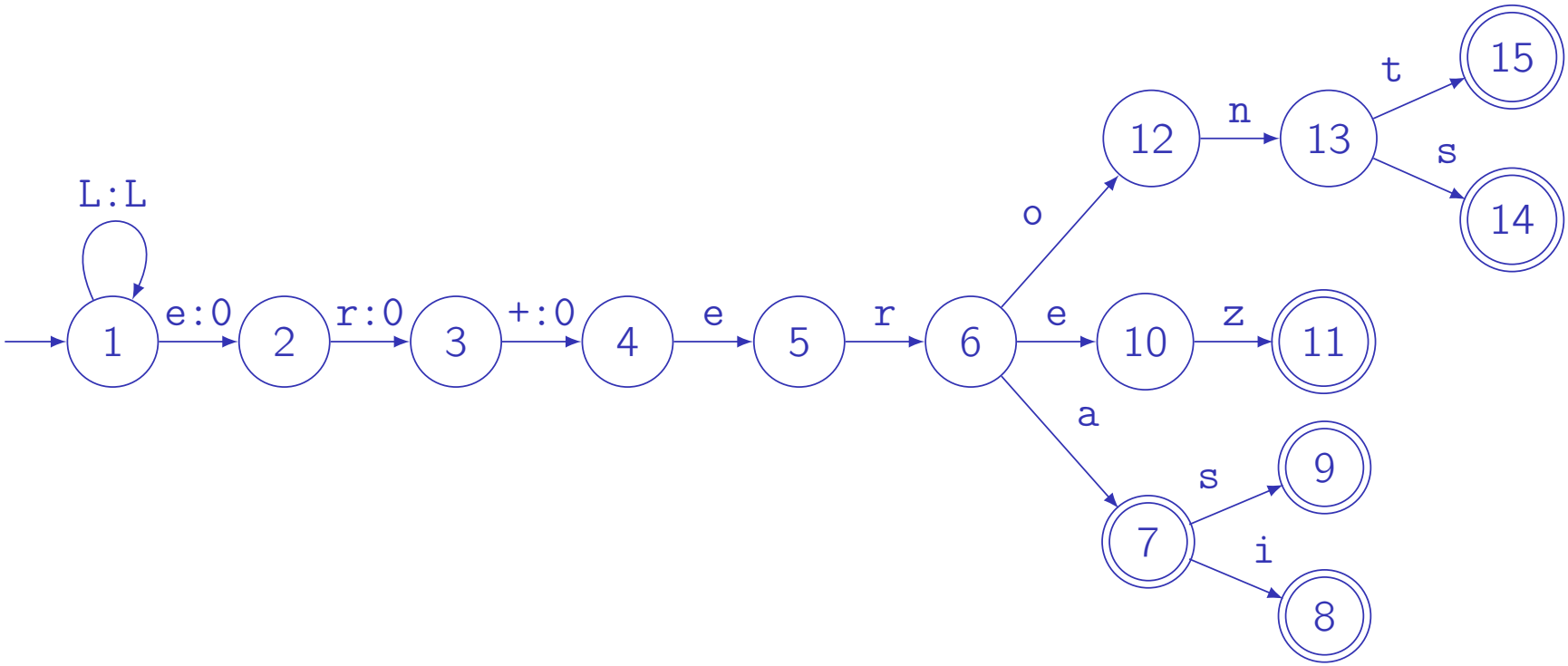
Number\Person	First	Second	Third
singular	*chanterai*	*chanteras*	*chantera*
plural	*chanterons*	*chanterez*	*chanteront*

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`

Transducer for *chanter*



French Verb Transducers: Future, 1st Group



To implement it, you can use either Prolog or OpenFst (`https://www.openfst.org/`)

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*

Course Content: 2023

The rest of the slides in this document is not part of the course in 2023.

You can nonetheless read it if you are curious.

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'

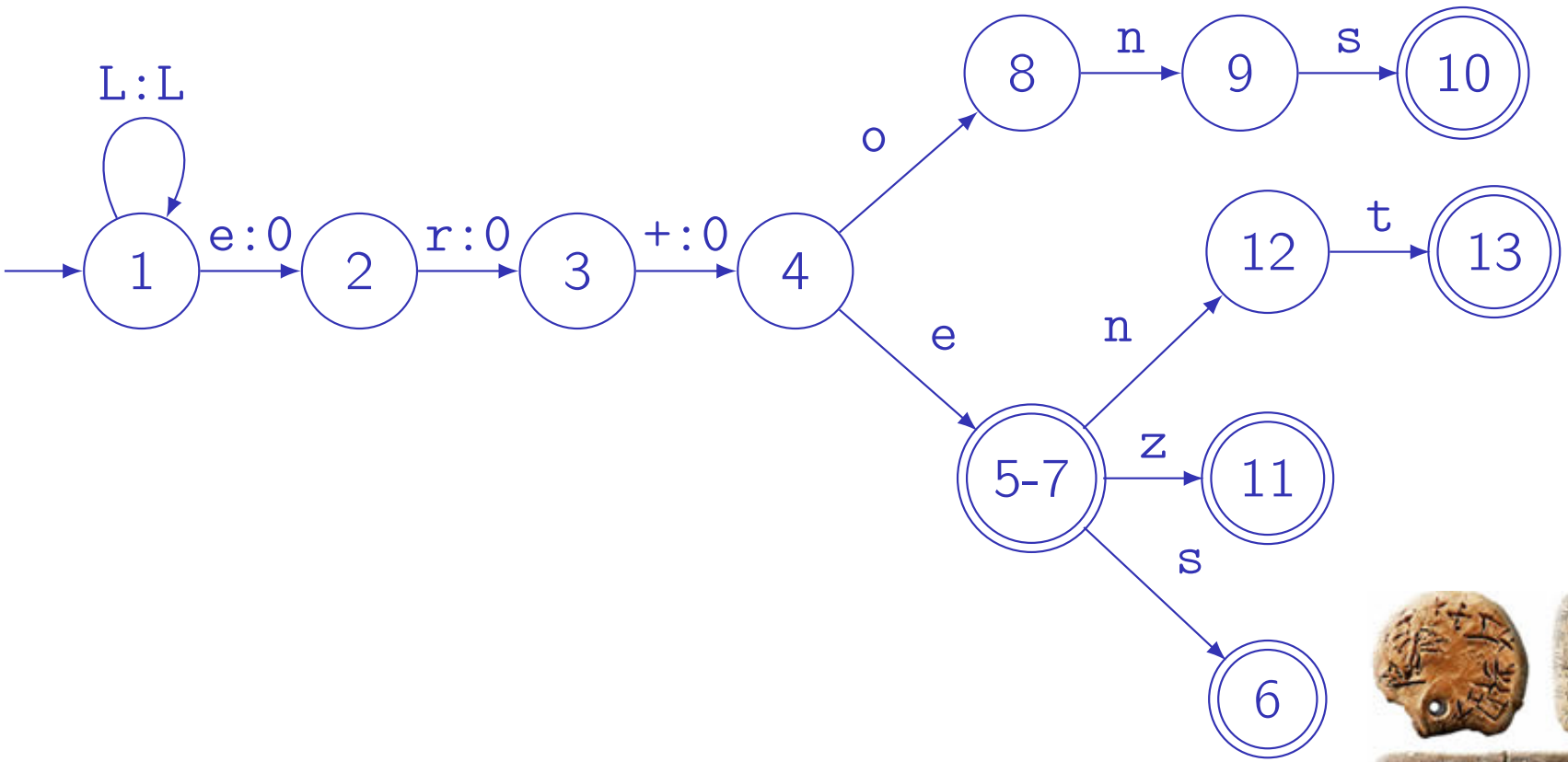
Number\Person	**First**	**Second**	**Third**
singular	*chante*	*chantes*	*chante*
plural	*chantons*	*chantez*	*chantent*

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 ⇐ C:C __ +:0 e:e r:r`
2. `y:i ⇐ C:C __ +:e s:s`
3. `y:i ⇐ C:C __ +:0 e:e d:d`

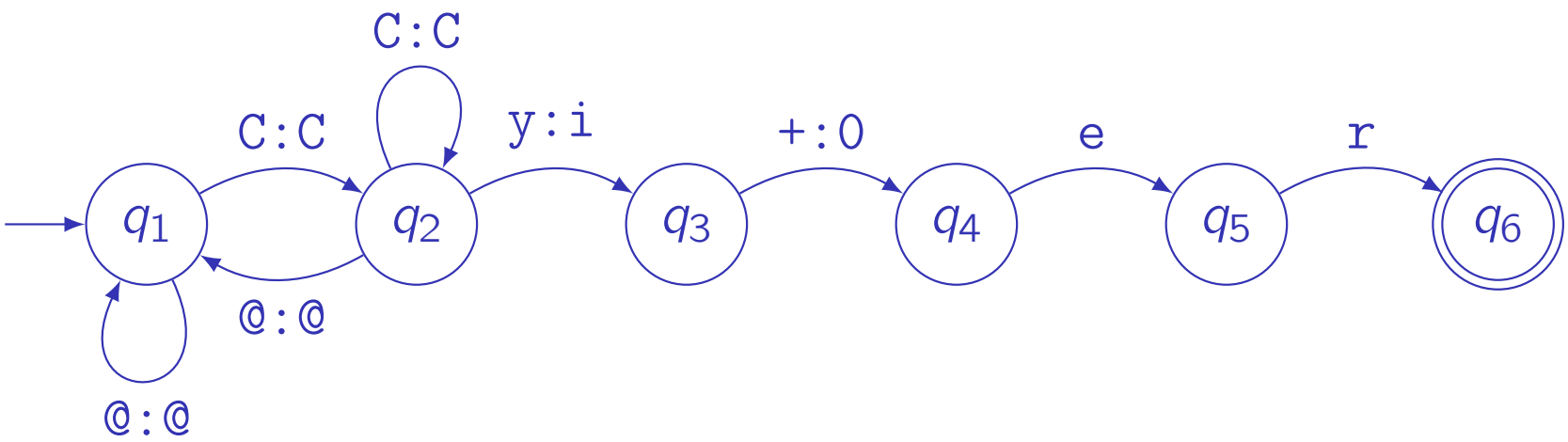
Two-level Rules

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

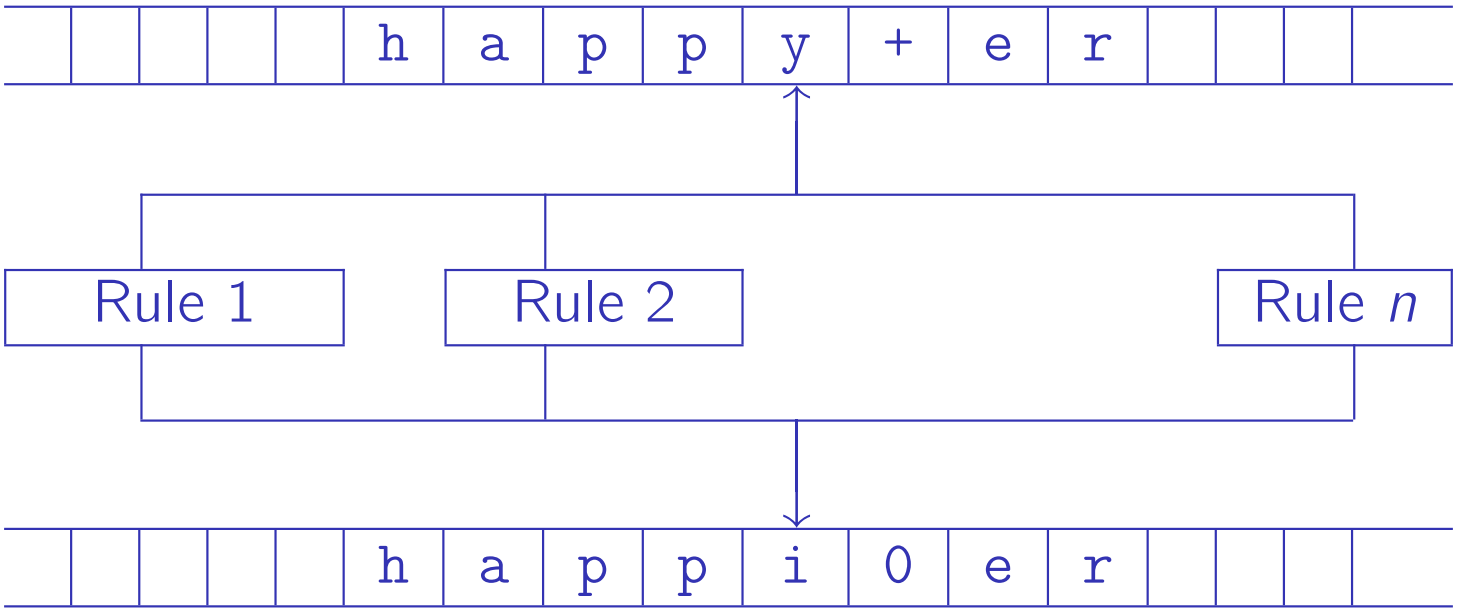
Parallel Rules

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



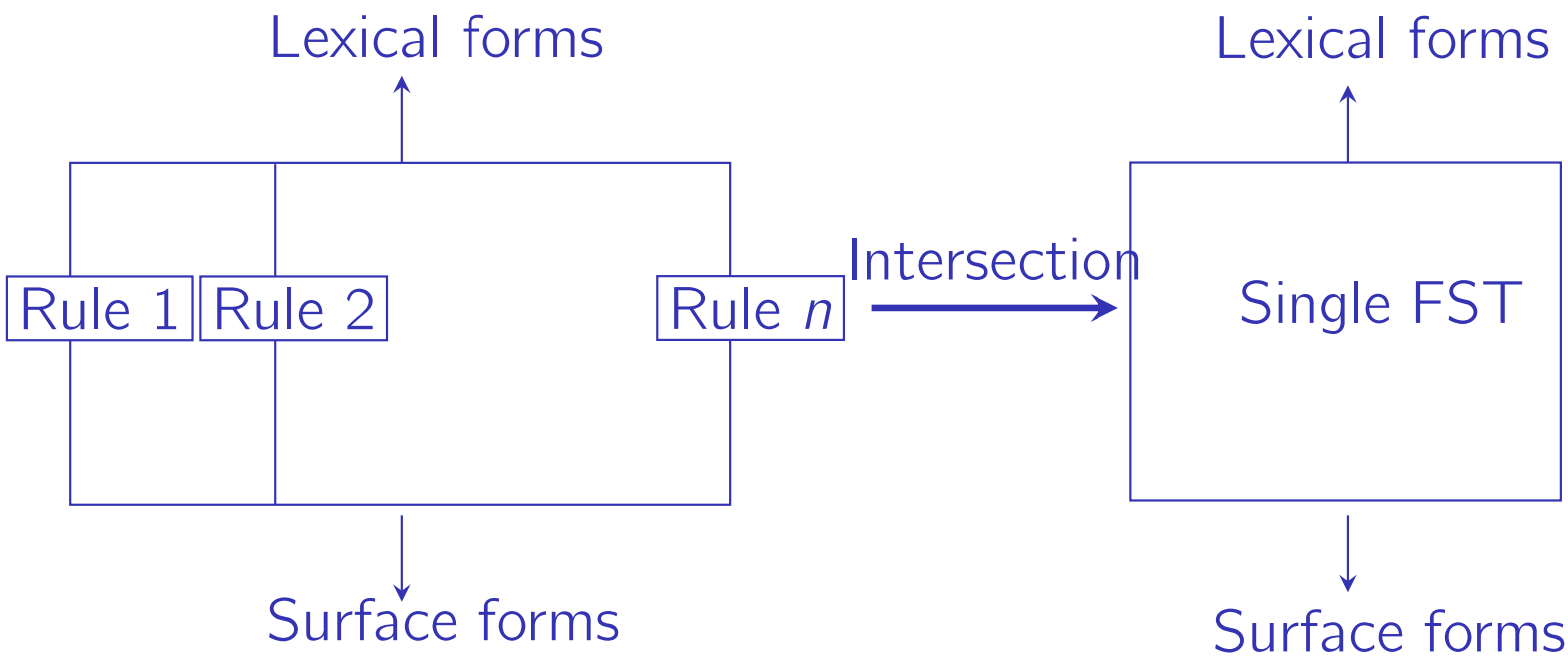
Rules and Transducers

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.

Morphology of French Verbs

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.	cour**s**	**dors**	**bats**	**peins**	écris
Second person sing.	cour**s**	**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
↕	↕		↕
Intermediate form: inflection	dorm	+IndP	+SG +P1
↕	↕		↕
Intermediate form: deletion of *m* followed by *s*	dorm		s
↕	↕		↕
Surface form:	dor		s

From *peindre* to *peins*

n:0 ⇔ g __ [s|t]

Composition and Intersection