

# Social Media & Text Analysis

lecture 7 - learn large-scale paraphrase from Twitter



**Instructor: Wei Xu**

**Website: [socialmedia-class.org](http://socialmedia-class.org)**

# Paraphrase

*wealthy*

**word**

*rich*

*the king's speech*

**phrase**

*His Majesty's address*

*... the forced resignation  
of the CEO of Boeing,  
Harry Stonecipher, for ...*

**sentence**

*... after Boeing Co. Chief  
Executive Harry Stonecipher  
was ousted from ...*

# Application

## Information Extraction

end\_job (Harry Stonecipher, Boeing)



**extract**

*... the forced resignation  
of the CEO of Boeing,  
Harry Stonecipher, for ...*

*... after Boeing Co. Chief  
Executive Harry Stonecipher  
was ousted from ...*

# Application

## Question Answering

Who is the CEO stepping down from Boeing?

match

```
graph TD; Q[Who is the CEO stepping down from Boeing?]; A1[... the forced resignation of the CEO of Boeing, Harry Stonecipher, for ...]; A2[... after Boeing Co. Chief Executive Harry Stonecipher was ousted from ...]; Q -- match --> A1; Q -- match --> A2;
```

*... the forced resignation of the CEO of Boeing, Harry Stonecipher, for ...*

*... after Boeing Co. Chief Executive Harry Stonecipher was ousted from ...*



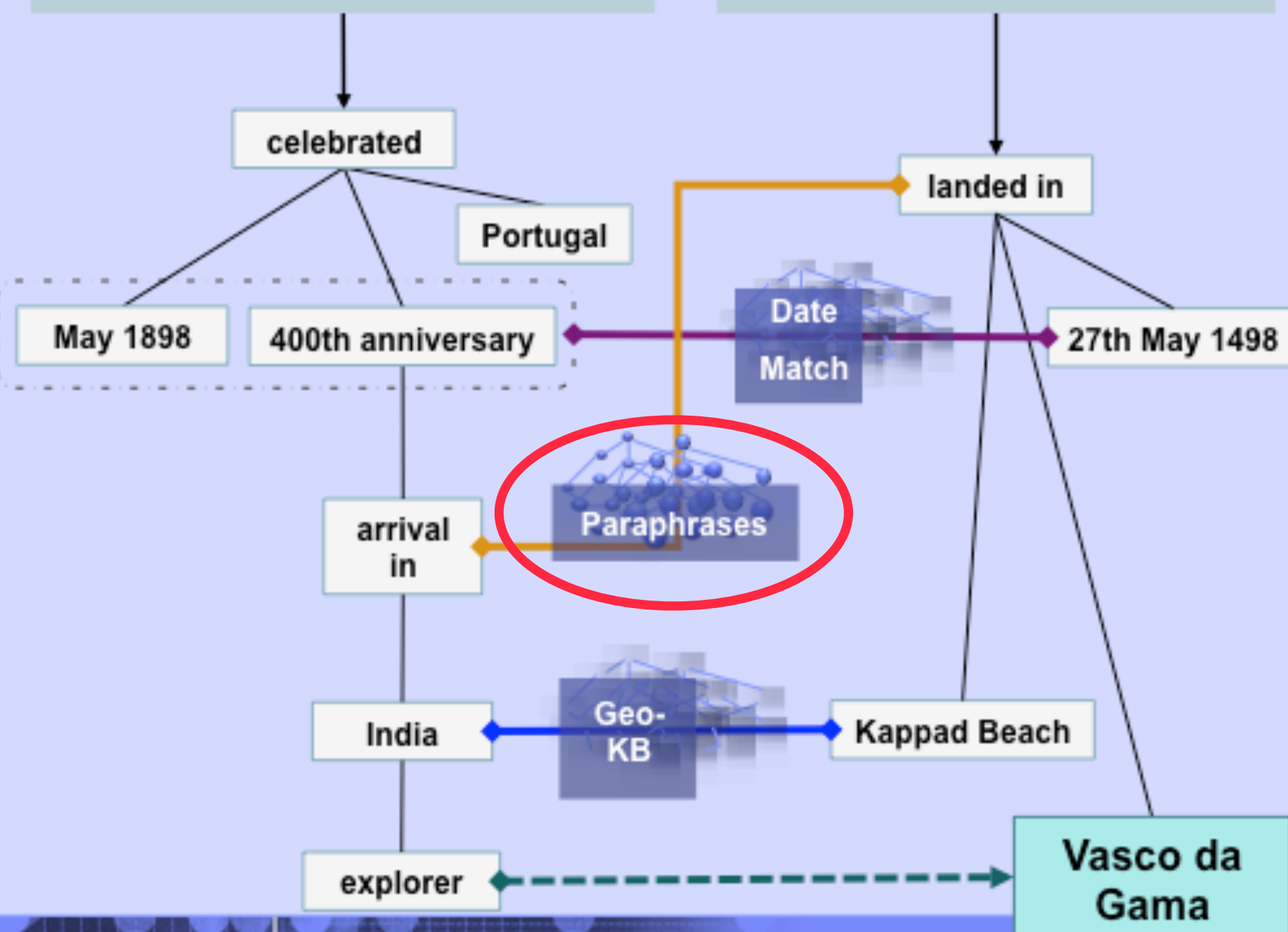
# Watson leverages multiple algorithms to perform deeper analysis

## [Question]

In May 1898 Portugal celebrated the 400th anniversary of this explorer's arrival in India.

## [Supporting Evidence]

On the 27th of May 1498, Vasco da Gama landed in Kappad Beach



## Legend

- Temporal Reasoning
- Statistical Paraphrasing
- GeoSpatial Reasoning
- Reference Text
- Answer

*Stronger evidence can be much harder to find and score...*

- Search far and wide
- Explore many hypotheses
- Find judge evidence
- Many inference algorithms

# Application



## Text Simplification

*They are culturally akin to the coastal peoples of  
Papua New Guinea.*



*Their culture is like that of the coastal peoples of  
Papua New Guinea.*

# Application



## Stylistic Rewriting



Palpatine:

*If you will not be turned, you will be destroyed!*



*If you will not be turn'd, you will be undone!*

Luke:

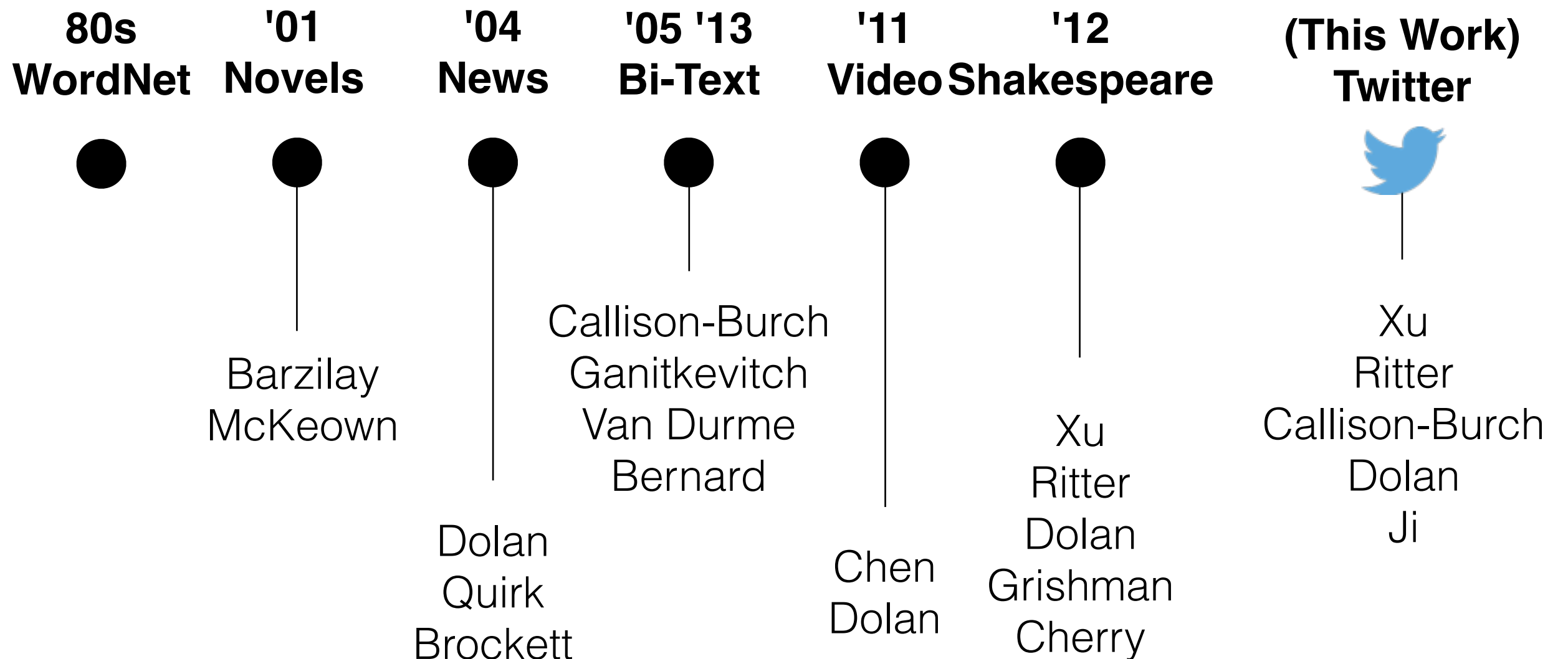
*Father, please! Help me!*



*Father, I pray you! Help me!*



# Paraphrase Data





# Paraphrase Research

**WordNet**   **Novel**   **News**   **Bi-Text**   **Video** **Shakespeare**



**Twitter**

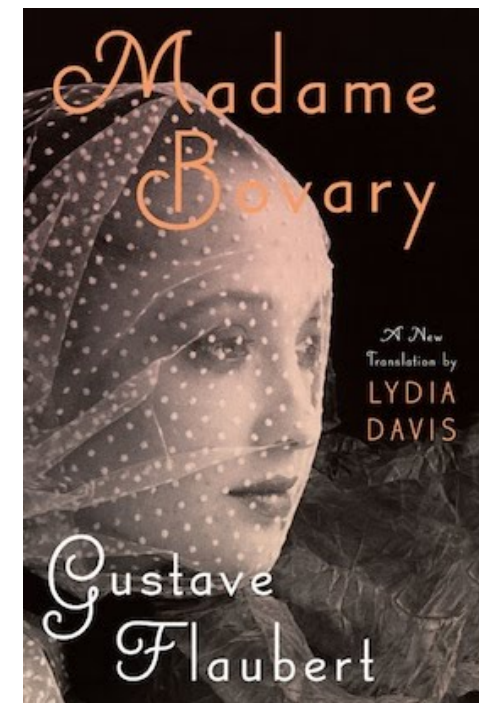
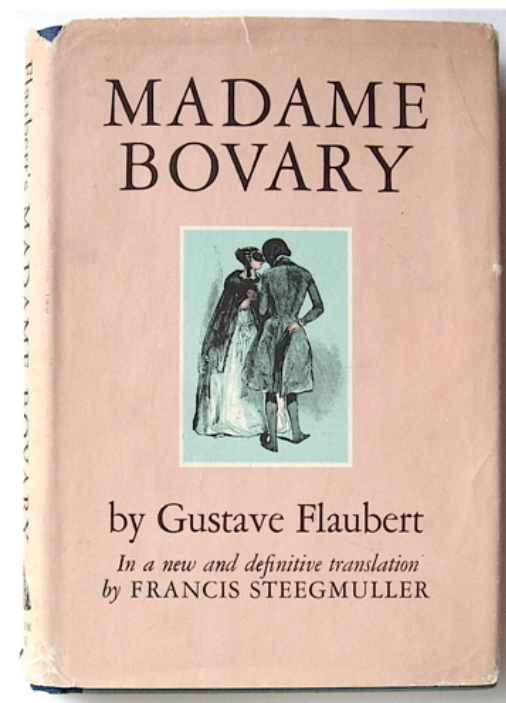
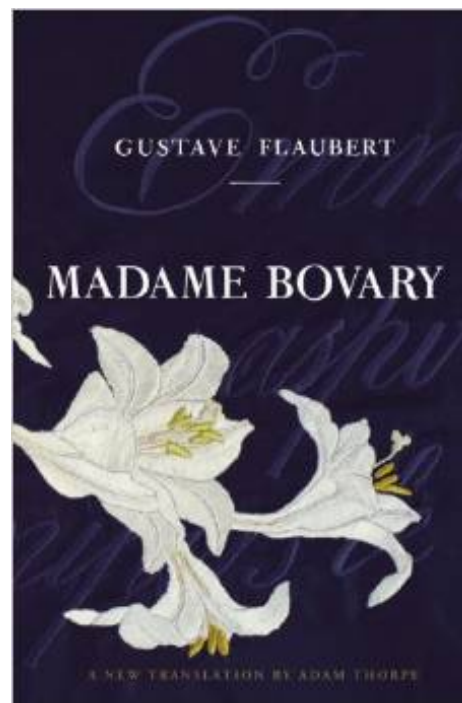


information extraction  
question answering  
semantic similarity  
semantic parsing  
text-to-text generation

...

but, primarily for formal language usage and  
well-edited text

# Previous Work



multiple English translations of novels

# Previous Work



only a few hundreds news agencies  
report big events  
using formal language

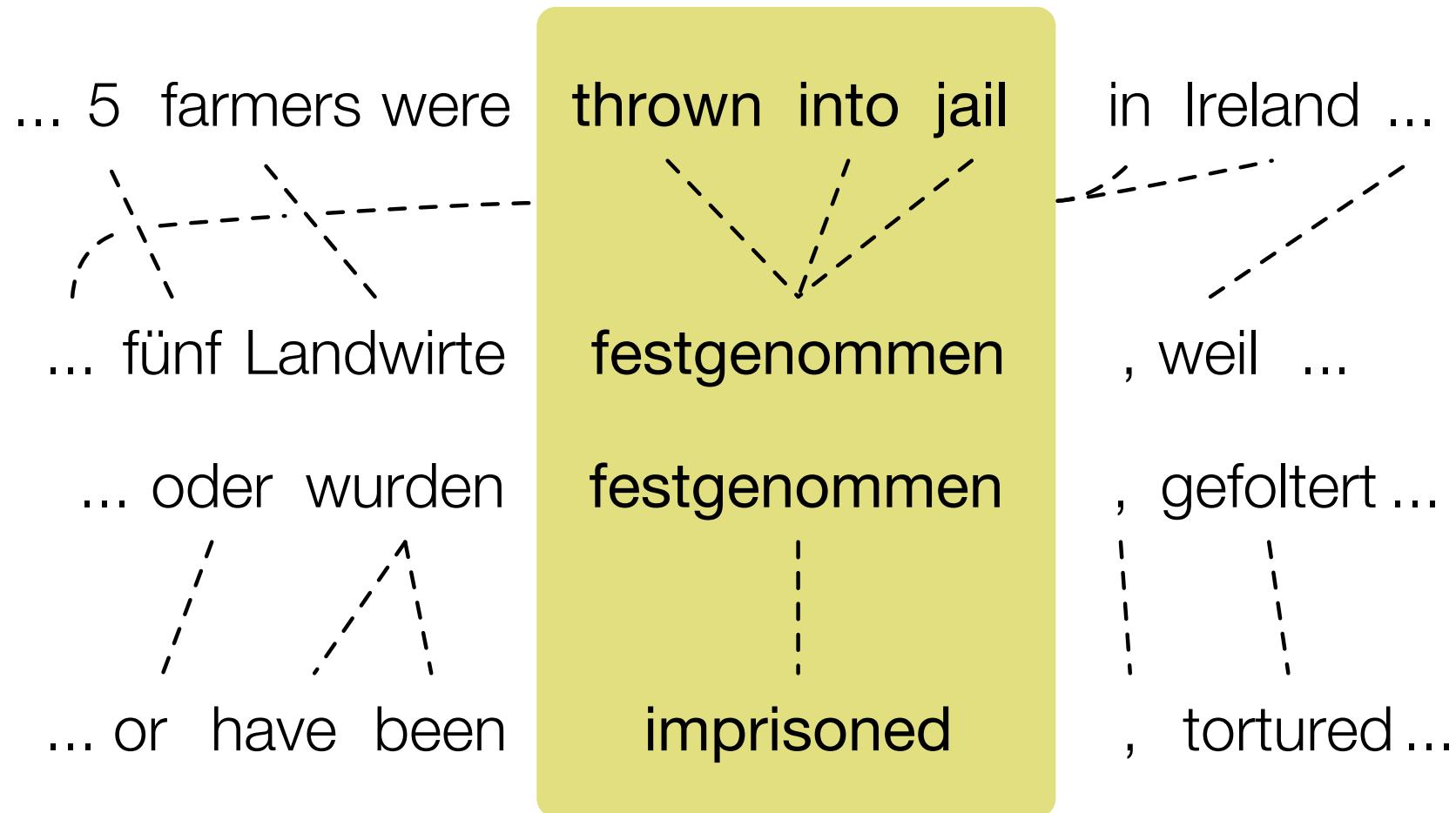
# Previous Work



ask dozens of annotators to write  
one sentence for a short video ( $\leq 10$  seconds)



# Previous Work



pivoting through bilingual text  
from European Parliament proceedings,  
multilingual websites etc.

# Twitter as a new resource



**Rep. Stacey Newman** @staceynewman · 5h

So sad to hear today of former WH Press Sec **James Brady's** passing.  
[@bradybuzz](#) & family will carry on his legacy of [#gunsense](#).



**Jim Sciutto** @jimsciutto · 4h

Breaking: Fmr. WH Press **Sec. James Brady** has died at 73, crusader for gun control after wounded in '81 Reagan assassination attempt



**NBC News** @NBCNews · 2h

**James Brady**, President Reagan's press secretary shot in 1981 assassination attempt, dead at 73 [nbcnews.to/WX1Btq](#) [pic.twitter.com/1ZtuEakRd9](#)



Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Ralph Grishman.

“A Preliminary Study of Tweet Summarization using Information Extraction” in LASM (2014)

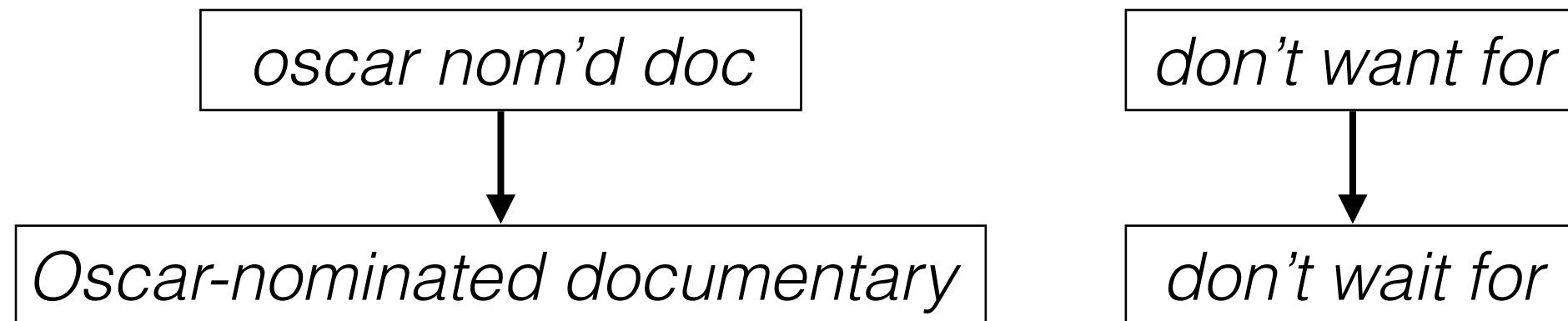
# Twitter as a powerful resource

thousands of users  
talk about both big and micro events  
using formal, informal, erroneous language



# Enables new applications

## Noisy Text Normalization





# Enables new applications

## Human-computer Interaction

*who wants to get a beer?*



*want to get a beer?*

*who else wants to get a beer?*

*who wants to go get a beer?*

*who wants to buy a beer?*

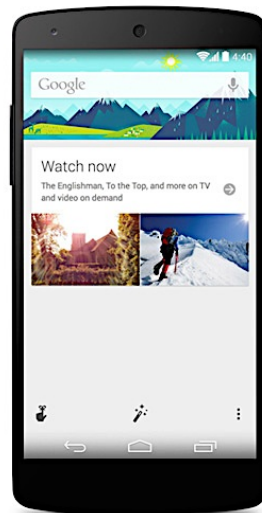
*who else wants to get a beer?*

*trying to get a beer?*

Apple Siri



Google Now



Windows Cortana



*... (21 different ways)*

# Enables new applications

Listen & Speak  
Like a Native Speaker

## Language Education



*Aaaaaaaaand stephen curry is on fire*



*What a incredible performance from Stephen Curry*

# Enables new applications

## Sentiment Analysis



*This nets vs bulls game is great*

*This Nets vs Bulls game is nuts*

*Wowzers to this nets bulls game*

*this Nets vs Bulls game is too live*

*This Nets and Bulls game is a good game*

*This netsbulls game is too good*

*This NetsBulls series is intense*

# Learn Paraphrases

# Learn Paraphrases



**identify parallel sentences automatically  
from Twitter's big data stream**

*Mancini has been sacked by Manchester City*

*Mancini gets the boot from Man City*

Yes!



*WORLD OF JENKS IS ON AT 11*

*World of Jenks is my favorite show on tv*

No!



# Early Attempts on Twitter

- 1242 tweet pairs, tracking celebrity & hashtags  
(Zanzotto, Pennacchiotti, Tsioutsoulis, 2011)
- named entity + date  
(Xu, Ritter, Grishman, 2013)
- bilingual posts  
(Ling, Dyer, Black, Trancoso, 2013)

# Named Entity + Time



**Tyler Anderson**  
@tylerjanderson



Follow

From January 16, Instagram can sell your  
photos without permission  
[geek.com/articles/geek-...](#)



**Jeff Clutter**  
@Pibbbs

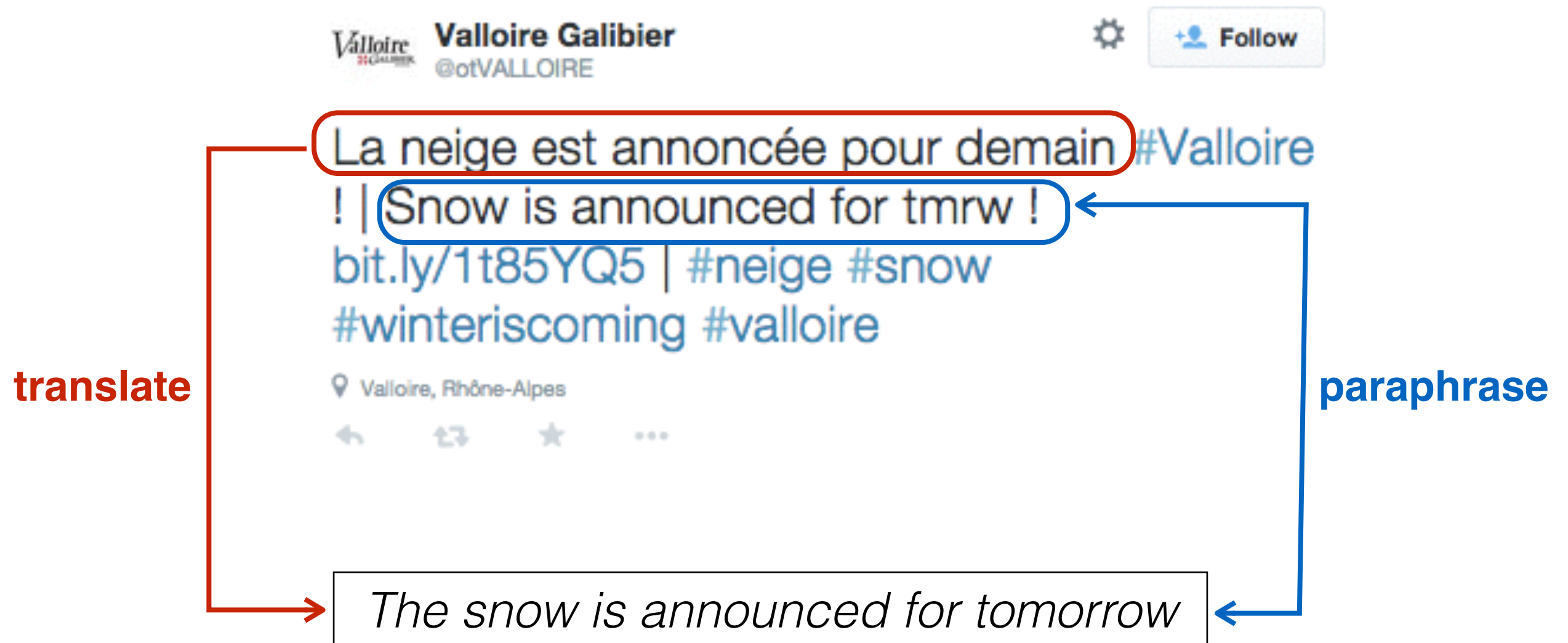


Follow

Instagram can sell your photos without  
consent starting January 16th.



# Self-translation





Design a Model

Train it on data

# A Challenge



*Mancini has been sacked by Manchester City*

*Mancini gets the boot from Man City*

very short  
lexically divergent

(less word overlap, even in high-dimensional space)

# Previous Methods



Algorithm	Reference	Description	Supervision
Vector Based	Mihalcea et al. (2006)	cosine similarity with tf-idf weighting	unsupervised
ESA	Hassan (2011)	explicit semantic space	unsupervised
KM	Kozareva and Montoyo (2006)	combination of lexical and semantic features	supervised
LSA	Hassan (2011)	latent semantic space	unsupervised
RMLMG	Rus et al. (2008)	graph subsumption	unsupervised
MCS	Mihalcea et al. (2006)	combination of several word similarity measures	unsupervised
WTMF	Guo and Diab (2012)	latent semantics model of missing words	unsupervised
STS	Islam and Inkpen (2007)	combination of semantic and string similarity	unsupervised
SSA	Hassan (2011)	salient semantic space	unsupervised
QKC	Qiu et al. (2006)	sentence dissimilarity classification	supervised
ParaDetect	Zia and Wasif (2012)	PI using semantic heuristic features	supervised
SDS	Blacoe and Lapata (2012)	simple distributional semantic space	supervised
matrixJcn	Fernando and Stevenson (2008)	JCN WordNet similarity with matrix	unsupervised
FHS	Finch et al. (2005)	combination of MT evaluation measures as features	supervised
PE	Das and Smith (2009)	product of experts	supervised
WDDP	Wan et al. (2006)	dependency-based features	supervised
SHPNM	Socher et al. (2011)	recursive autoencoder with dynamic pooling	supervised
MTMETRICS	Madnani et al. (2012)	combination of eight machine translation metrics	supervised
LEXLATENT	Ji and Eienstein (2013)	combination of latent space and lexical features	supervised

mostly based on sentence similarity of surface words or latent semantics

# Design a Model

## At-least-one-anchor Assumption

two sentences about the same topic are paraphrases  
if and only if  
they contain at least one word pair that is a paraphrase **anchor**

*That boy Brook Lopez with a deep **3***

*brook lopez hit a **3***

Yes!



# Another Challenge

not every word pair of similar meaning indicates  
sentence-level paraphrase

Iron Man **3** was brilliant fun

Iron Man **3** tonight see what this is like

← No!

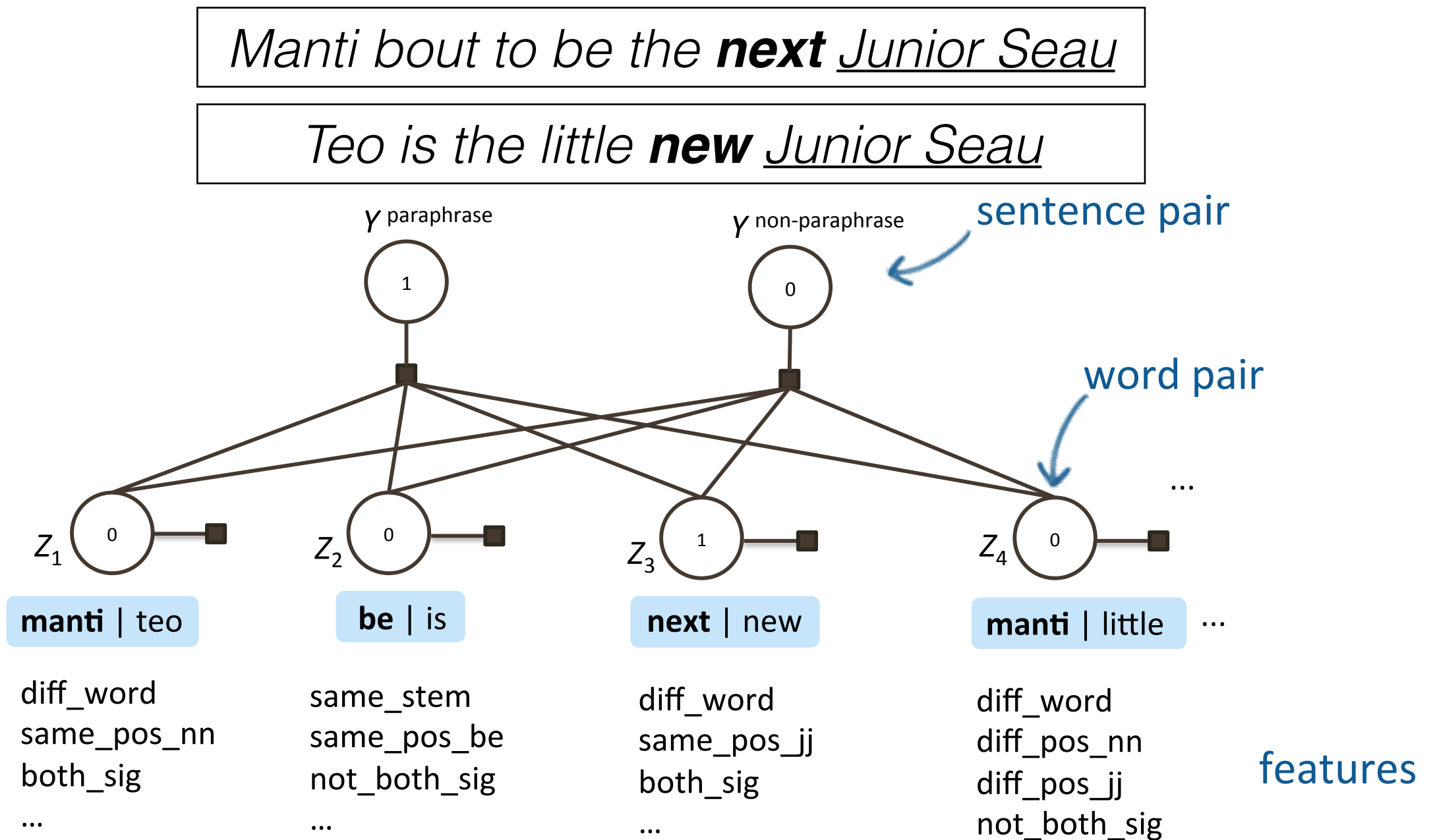
Solution:

a discriminative model using features at word-level

# Features

- String Features:
  - words, stemmed forms, normalized forms
  - same, similar or dissimilar
- POS Features:
  - fine grained tags:  
“a”, “be”, “do”, “have”,  
“get”, “go”, “follow”, “please”
- Topical Features:
  - word significantly associated with each topic
  - e.g. “3” for basketball; “RIP” for death events

# Multi-instance Learning Paraphrase Model

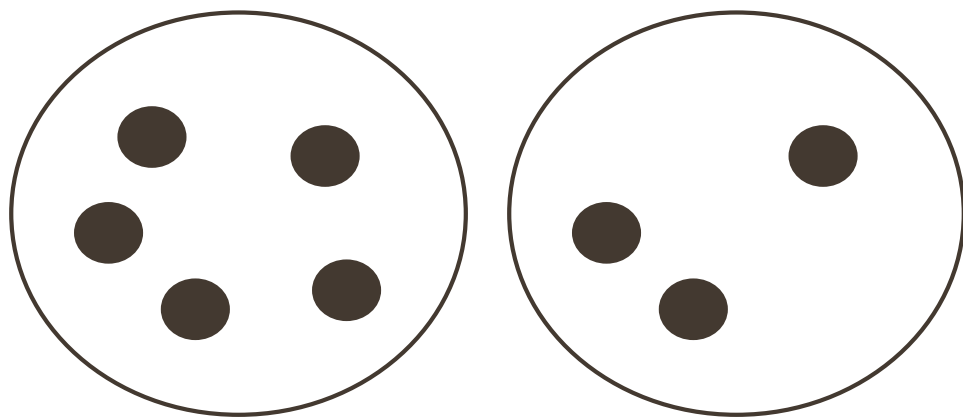


# [Mini Tutorial]

## Multi-instance Learning

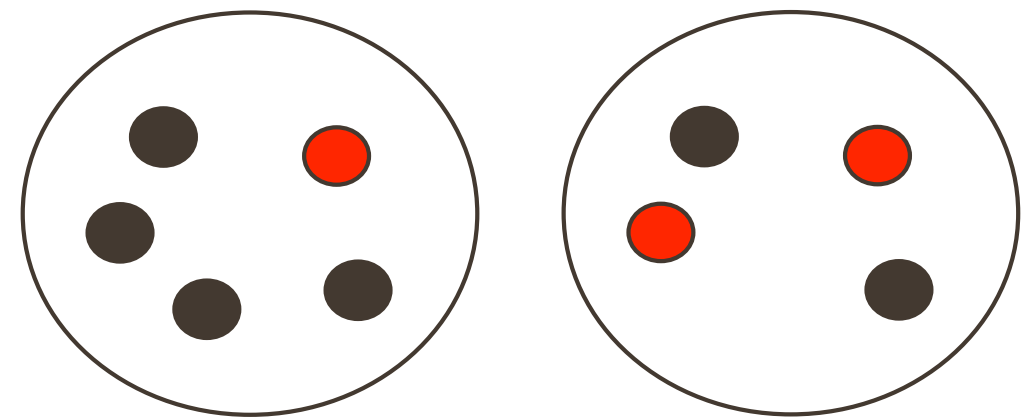
Instead of labels on each individual instance, the learner only observes labels on bags of instances.

Negative Bags



A bag is labeled negative, if **all** the examples in it are negative

Positive Bags



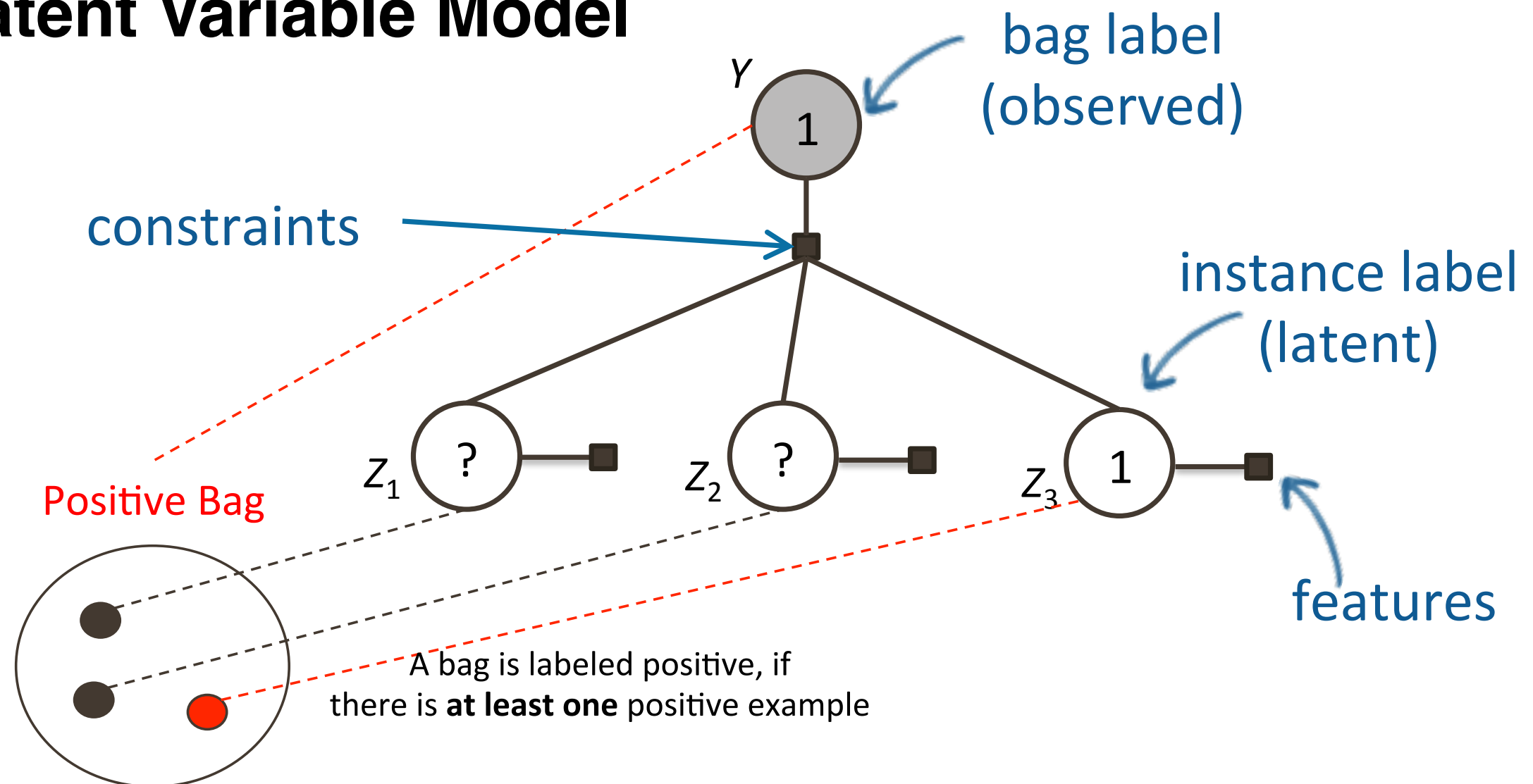
A bag is labeled positive, if there is **at least one** positive example



# [Mini Tutorial]

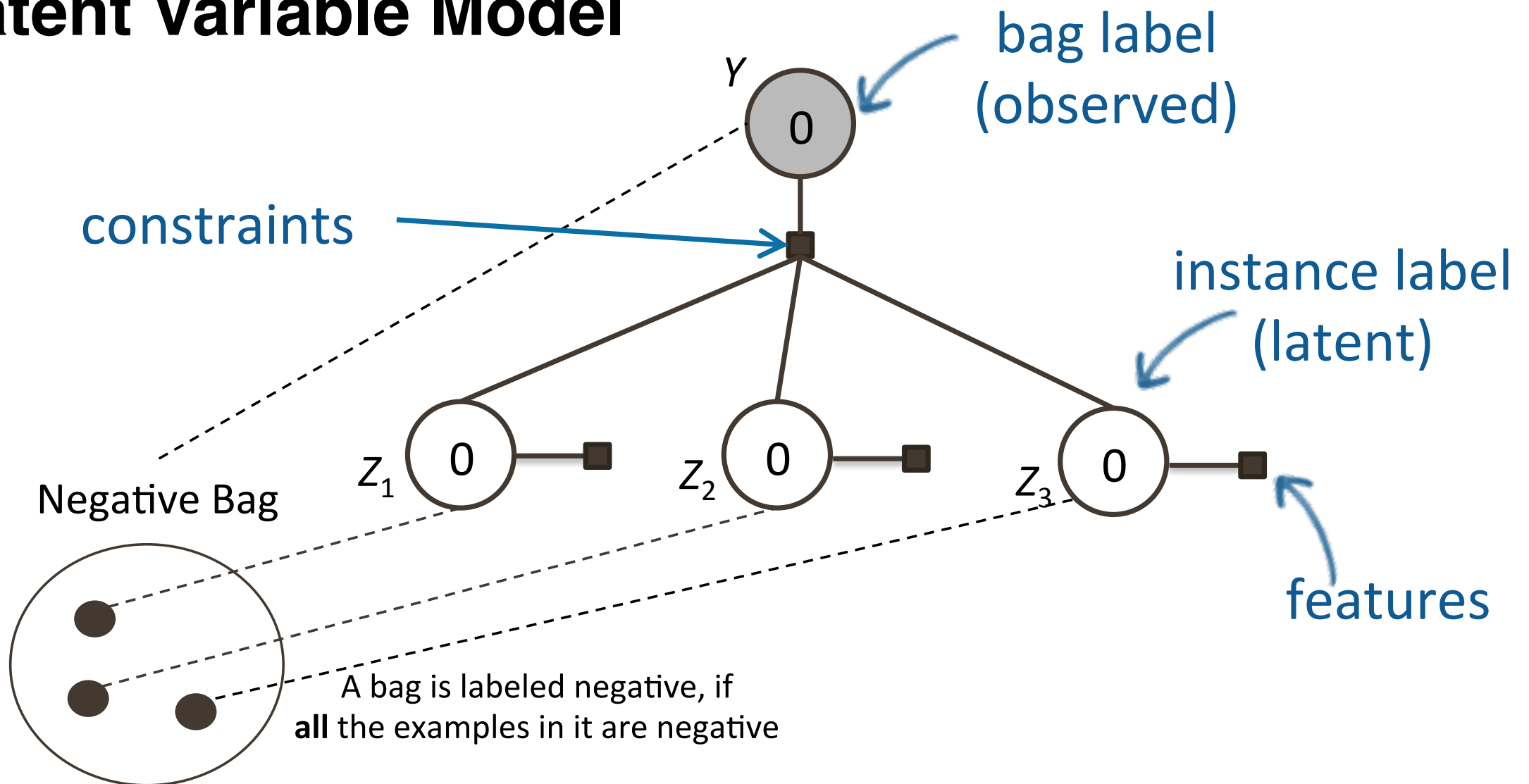
## Multi-instance Learning

### Latent Variable Model



# Multi-instance Learning

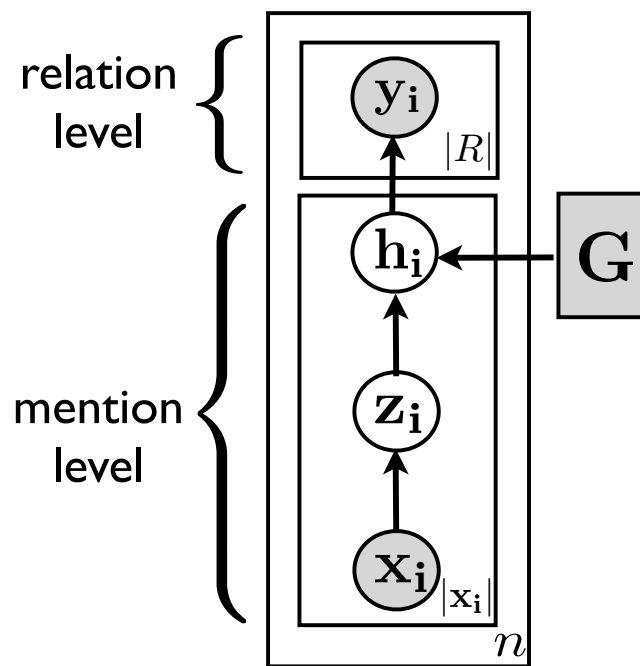
# Latent Variable Model



# [Mini Tutorial]

## Multi-instance Learning

### Distantly Supervised Information Extraction



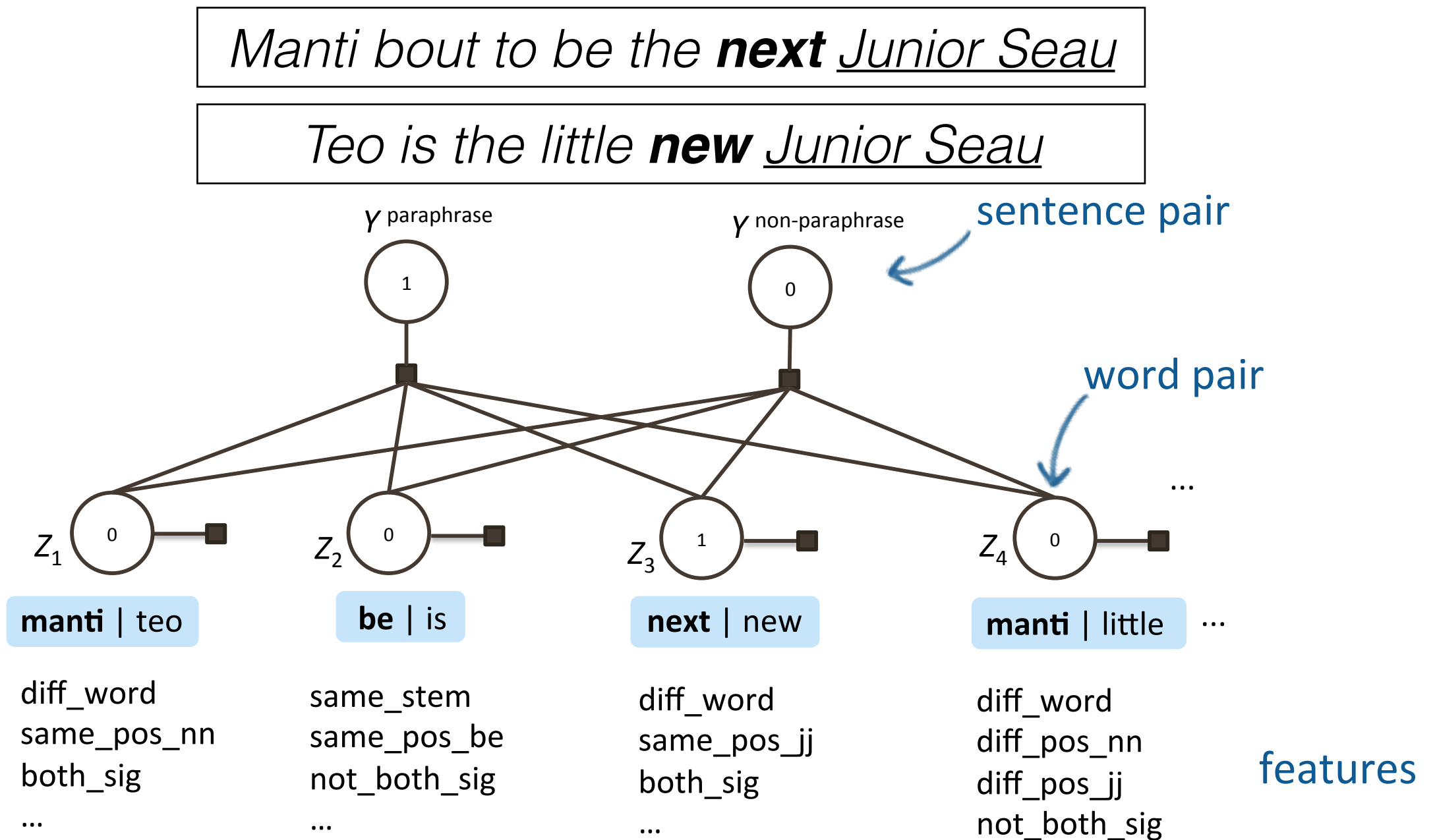
1. incomplete knowledge base problem
2. distant supervision + human-labeled data
3. IE + IR

Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman, Le Zhao. "Passage Retrieval for Information Extraction using Distant Supervision" In IJCNLP (2011)

Wei Xu, Raphael Hoffmann, Le Zhao, Ralph Grishman. "Filling Knowledge Base Gaps for Distant Supervision of Relation Extraction" In ACL (2013)

Wei Xu, Maria Pershina, Bonan Min, Wei Xu, Ralph Grishman. "Infusion of Labeled Data into Distant Supervision for Relation Extraction" In ACL (2014)

# [Recap] Multi-instance Learning Paraphrase Model



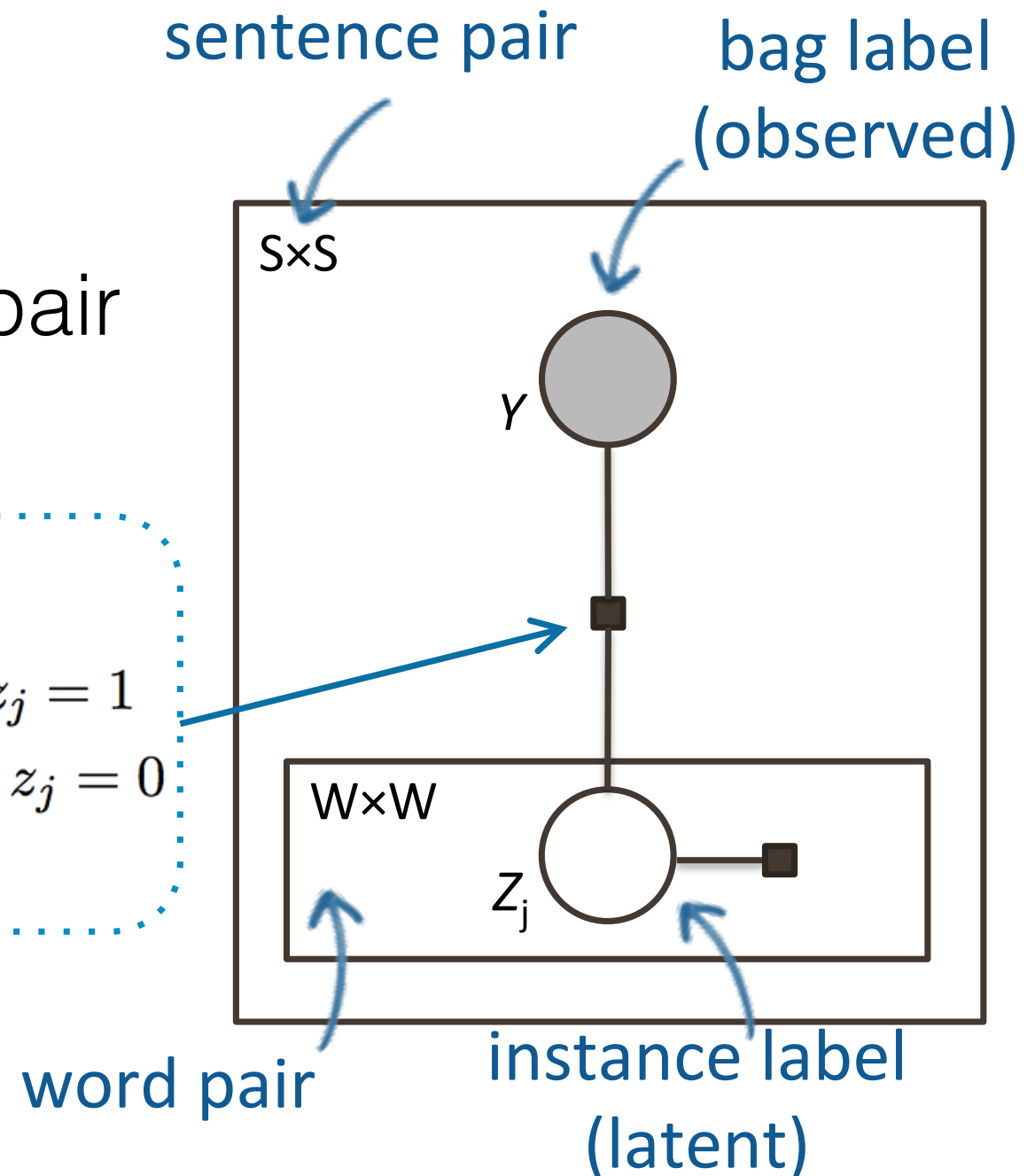
# Joint Word-Sentence Model

## Model the assumption:

sentence-level paraphrase  
is anchored by at-least-one word pair

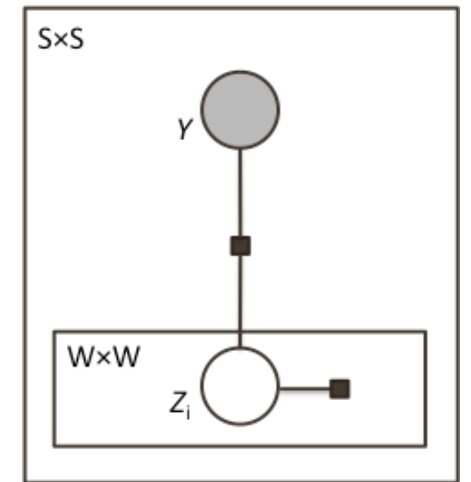
deterministic OR

$$\sigma(\mathbf{z}_i, y_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_i = \text{true} \wedge \exists j : z_j = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } y_i = \text{false} \wedge \forall j : z_j = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



# Joint Word-Sentence Model

$i$ th sentence pair's label  
(observed or to be predicated)



$$P(\mathbf{z}_i, y_i | \mathbf{w}_i; \theta) = \prod_{j=1}^m \exp(\theta \cdot f(z_j, w_j)) \times \sigma(\mathbf{z}_i, y_i)$$

$j$ th word pair

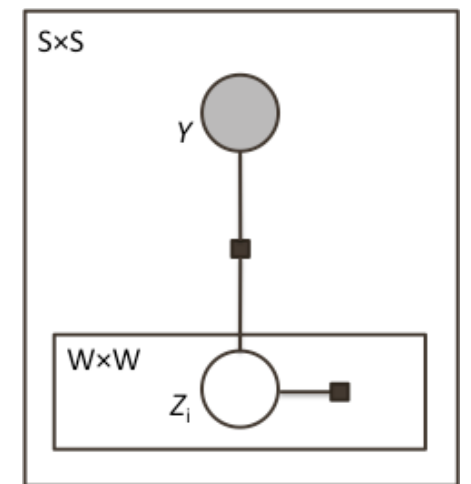
parameters      features      deterministic OR

latent labels for all word pairs  
in the  $i$ th sentence pair

# Learning Algorithm

## Objective:

learn the parameters that maximize likelihood over the training corpus



$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{w}; \theta) = \arg \max_{\theta} \prod_i \sum_{\mathbf{z}_i} P(\mathbf{z}_i, y_i | \mathbf{w}_i; \theta)$$

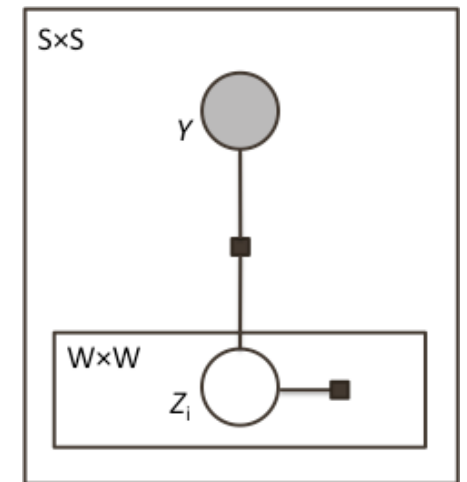
*i*th training sentence pair

all possible values  
of the latent variables

# Learning Algorithm

## Perceptron-style Update:

Viterbi approximation + online learning  
 $O(\# \text{ word pairs})$



$$\frac{\partial \log P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{w}; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \approx \underbrace{\sum_i f(\mathbf{z}_i^*, \mathbf{w}_i)}_{\text{reward correct}} - \underbrace{\sum_i f(\mathbf{z}'_i, \mathbf{w}_i)}_{\text{penalize wrong}}$$

**reward correct**  
**(conditioned on labels)**

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \max_{\mathbf{z}} P(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y}; \theta)$$

**penalize wrong**  
**(ignoring labels)**

$$\mathbf{y}', \mathbf{z}' = \arg \max_{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}} P(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}|\mathbf{w}; \theta)$$



# Training Data

# Twitter Trends

Near you

## Pittsburgh Trends · Change

#Odyssey

 Promoted by Odyssey

#DukevsUNC

Tyus Jones

#EmpireFOX

Pittsburgh

Tar Heels

Steeler ←

Vanilla Ice

Xbox

Walmart



**Jaquam Bodden** @JaquamBodden · 38m

Good move by ESPN by Hiring former **steeler** Ryan Clark as an NFL analyst.



**Cyndi Lee** @cil\_lee · 58m

Safety Ryan Clark retires a **Steeler** after 13-year career - NFL - SI.com  
[smar.ws/o5MJH](https://smar.ws/o5MJH) #SmartNews

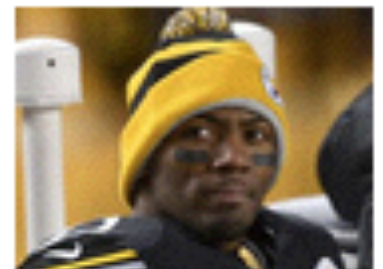


Sports Illustrated

**Safety Ryan Clark retires as a Steeler after 13-year NFL career**

NFL safety Ryan Clark announced his retirement on ESPN on Wednesday as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

[View on web](#)



**Tony** @Fordfan991716 · 58m

@Realrclark25 congrats on a great career...a great **Steeler**!



**Siva Kodali** @kodali\_siva · 1h

Bruce Feldman on Twitter: "**Steeler** DB Ryan Clark retires on ESPN."

# Annotation

## Crowdsourcing



# Annotation

## Crowdsourcing

**Here Is The Question To You:**

Original Sentence: ***Borussia Dortmund advanced to the final***

Select ALL sentences that have similar meaning from below:

- ☐ Borussia Dortmund has clinched their Champions League final spot
- ☐ Real Madrid efforts are not enough as Cinderella Borussia Dortmund advances to the Champions League Final
- ☐ But it s Borussia Dortmund whose heading to Wembley Park
- ☐ Congratulations Borussia Dortmund s going to Wembley



# A Problem

only **8%** sentence pairs about the same topic  
have similar meaning

hurts both quantity and quality

non-experts lower their bars

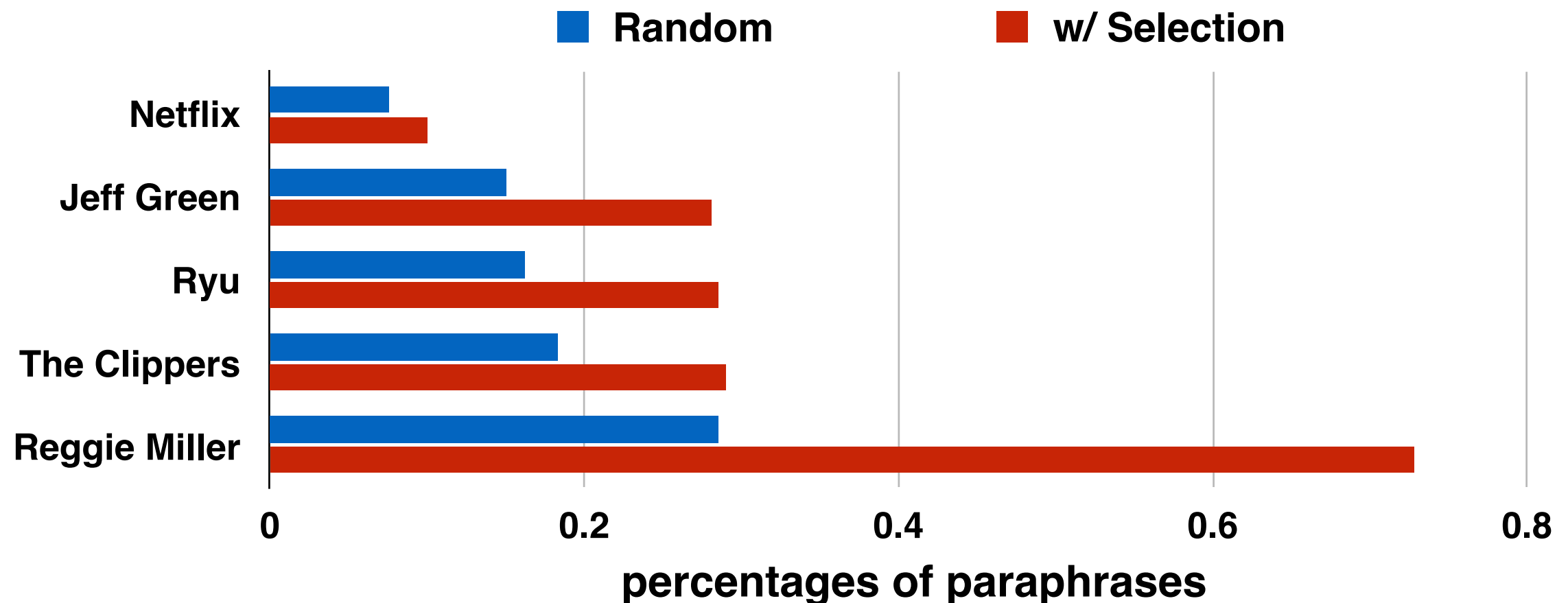


# Sentence Selection

## SumBasic Algorithm

8% → 16%

$$\text{Salience}(s) = \sum_{w_i \in s} \frac{P(w_i)}{|w_i|w_i \in s|}$$





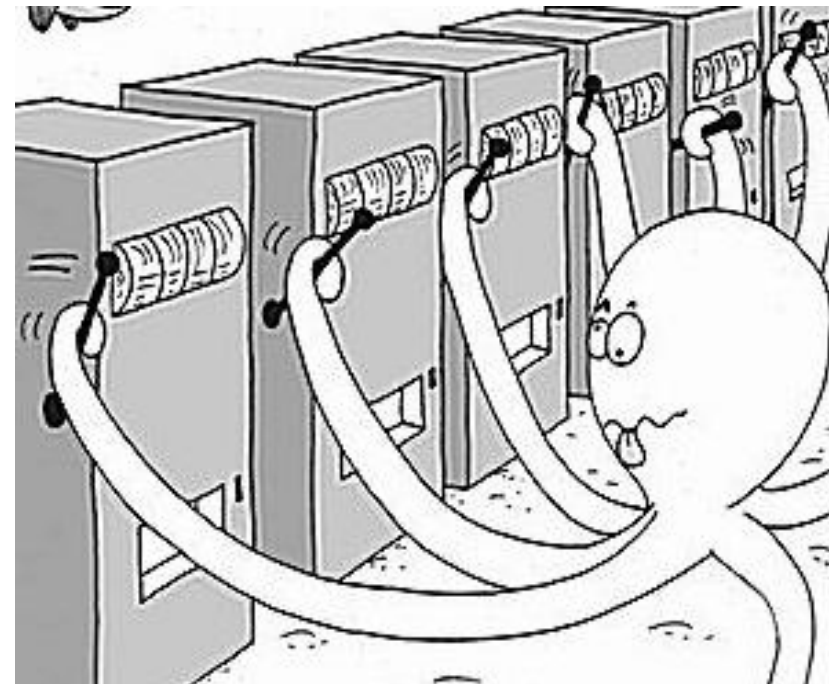
# Topic Selection

## Multi-Armed Bandits

16% → 34%

$$\max \sum_{\{i|r_i(t_0)>0\}} \hat{\mu}_i(t_0)r_i(t_1)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_i c_i r_i(t_1) \leq (1 - \epsilon)B, \forall i : 0 \leq r_i(t_1) \leq l - r_i(t_0).$$





# Twitter Paraphrase Dataset

18,762 sentence pairs labeled  
cost only \$200

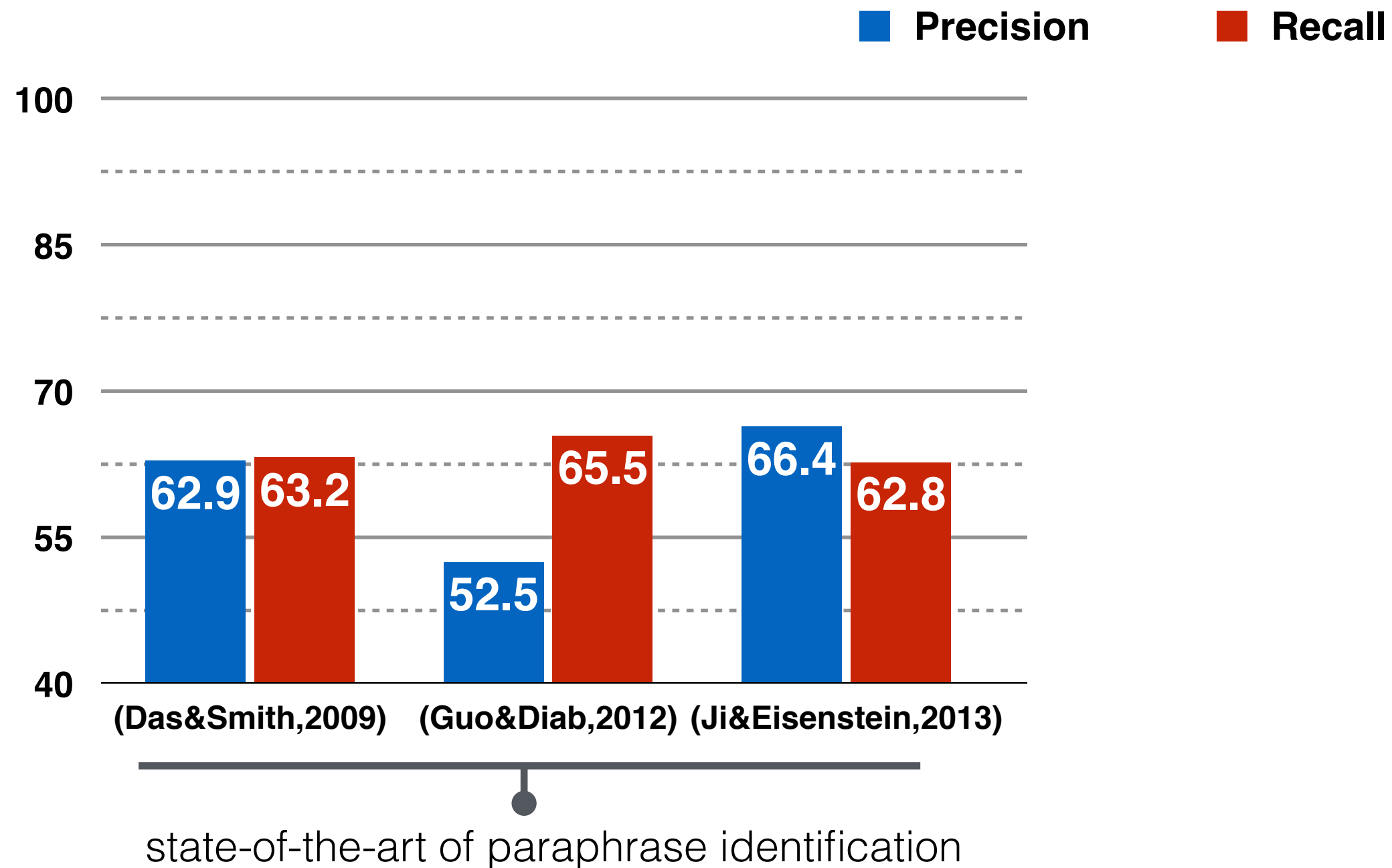
important but difficult to obtain

1/3 paraphrase, 2/3 non-paraphrase (very balanced)

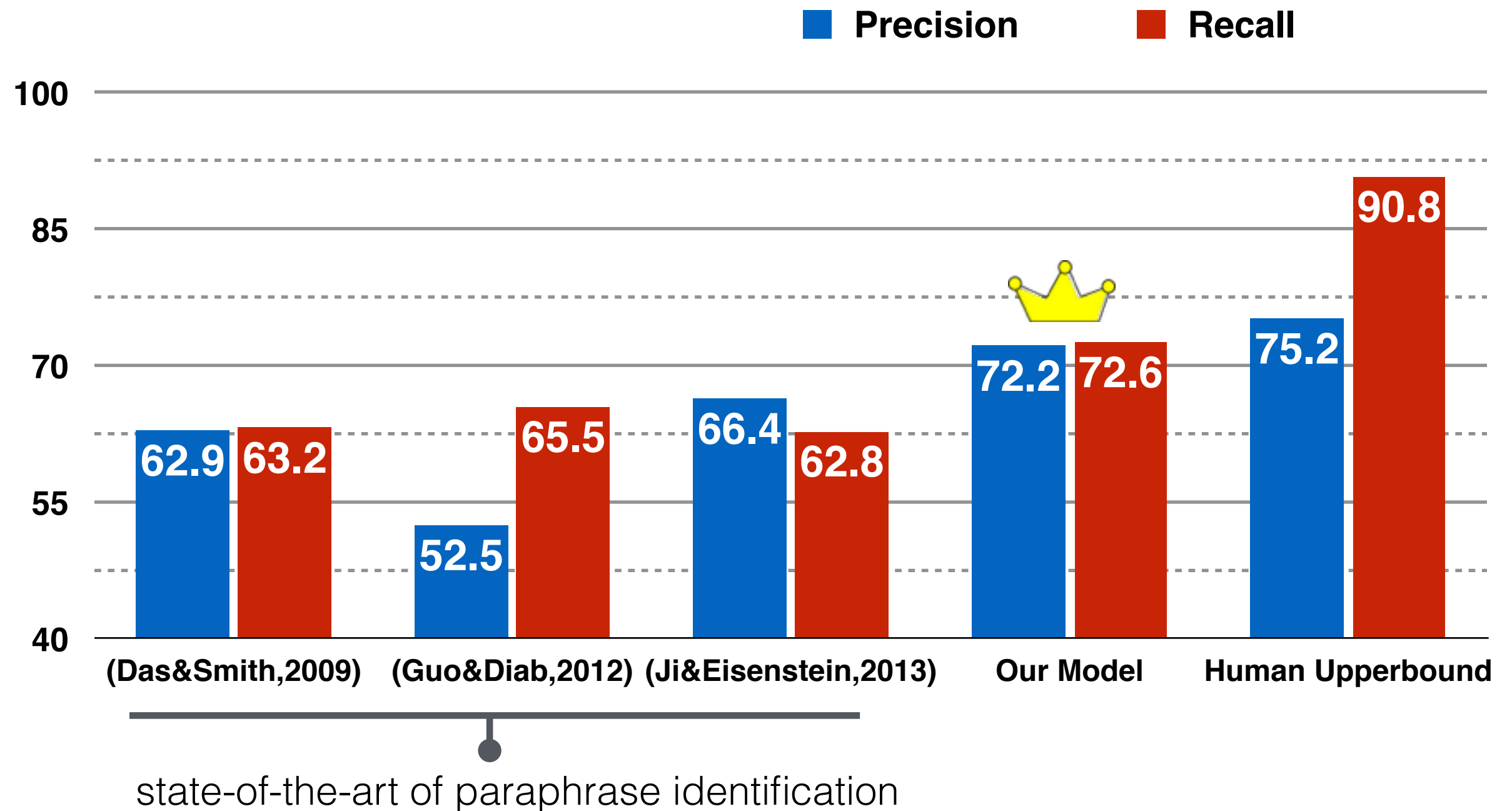
including a very broad range of paraphrases:  
synonyms, misspellings, slang, acronyms and colloquialisms

# Performance

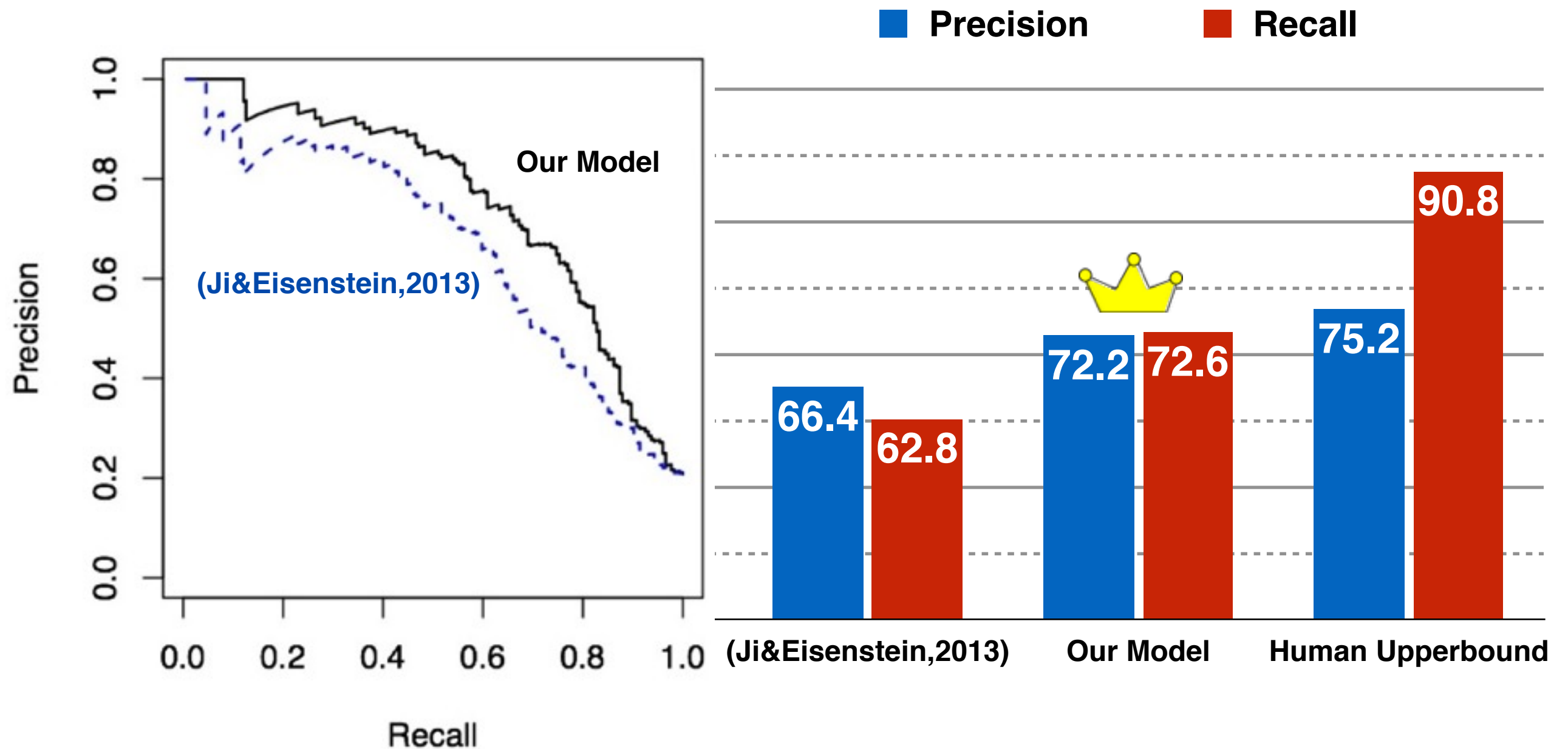
# Performance



# Performance



# Performance



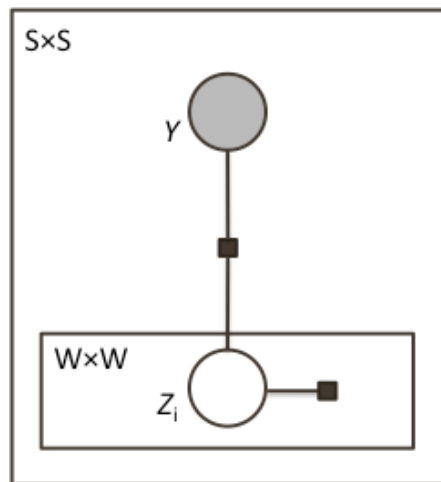
# Innovations

That boy Brook Lopez with a deep **3**

brook lopez hit a **3**

Yes!

## Multi-instance Learning Paraphrase Model (MultiP)



- Twitter's big data stream
- potential beyond Twitter and English
- joint sentence-word alignment
- extensible latent variable model

(a lot of space for future work)

# Impact

Shared Task: Paraphrase and Semantic Similarity in Twitter  
19 research groups participated (100+ requested the data)





thank you very much

thank u 4 ur time

# Thank you

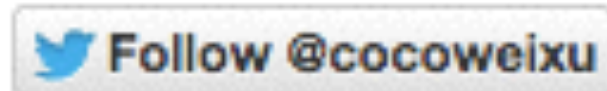
thanks

thanking you

gratitude

appreciate it

thx



3x

say thanks

**Instructor: Wei Xu**

**[www.cis.upenn.edu/~xwe/](http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~xwe/)**

tyvm

thnx

**Course Website: [socialmedia-class.org](http://socialmedia-class.org)**

wawwww thankkkkkkkkkkkk you alottttttttttt!

thanks a lot

am grateful