

# Deep Learning for Broad Coverage Semantics: SRL, Coreference, and Beyond

Luke Zettlemoyer<sup>\*</sup>

Joint work with **Luheng He<sup>†</sup>**, **Kenton Lee<sup>†</sup>**, **Matthew Peters<sup>\*</sup>**, Christopher Clark<sup>†</sup>,  
Matthew Gardner<sup>\*</sup>, Mohit Iyyer<sup>\*</sup>, Mandar Joshit, Mike Lewis<sup>‡</sup>, Julian Michael<sup>†</sup>, Mark Neumann<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington,

<sup>‡</sup> Facebook AI Research

<sup>\*</sup> Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

*Step 1:*

*Step 2:*

*Step 3:*

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*

*Step 2:*

*Step 3:*

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*



...



*Step 2:*

*Step 3:*

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*



...



*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*

*Step 3:*

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

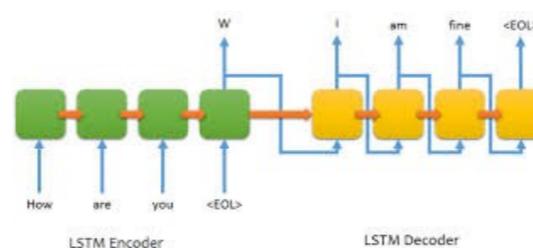
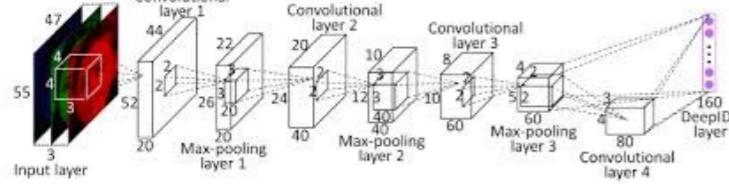
*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*



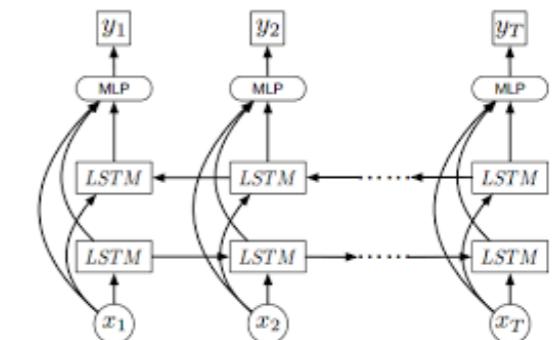
...



*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*



...



*Step 3:*

# Three Simple Steps that will Revolutionize Your ML Research

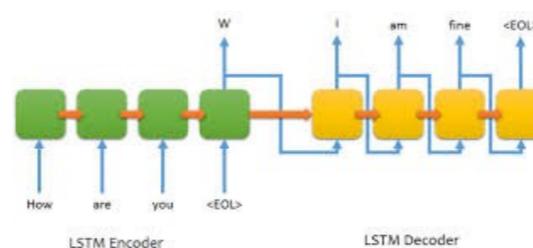
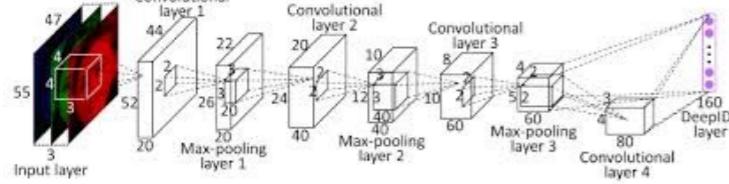
*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*



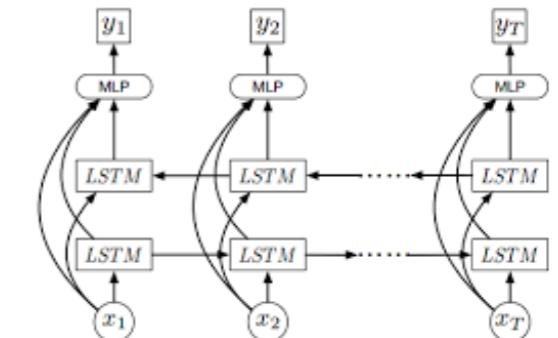
...



*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*



...



*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# Broad Coverage Semantics

*Example Tasks:*

Coreference: clustering NPs

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

Semantic Role Labeling: who did what, etc.

ARG0

NASA

PRED

observe

ARG1

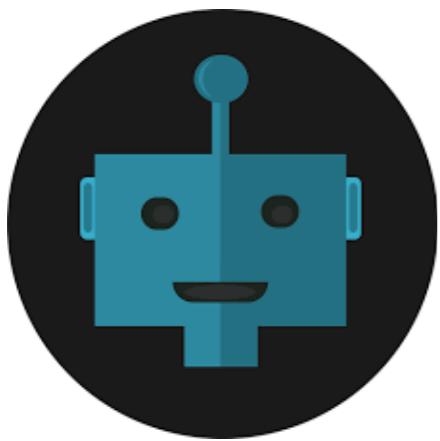
an X-ray flare 400 times brighter than usual

TMP

On January 5, 2015

*Many applications:*

Question Answering



Information Extraction



Machine Translation



# Does the Recipe Work for Broad Coverage Semantics?

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*

*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*

*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# Does the Recipe Work for Broad Coverage Semantics?

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*

**Challenge 1: Data is costly and limited  
(e.g. linguists required to label  
PennTreebank / OntoNotes)**

*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*

*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# Does the Recipe Work for Broad Coverage Semantics?

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*

**Challenge 1: Data is costly and limited  
(e.g. linguists required to label  
PennTreebank / OntoNotes)**

*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*

**Challenge 2: Pipeline of structured prediction problems with cascading errors  
(e.g. POS->Parsing->SRL->Coref)**

*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# New Learning Approaches

*New state-of-the-art results for two tasks:*

Coreference:

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

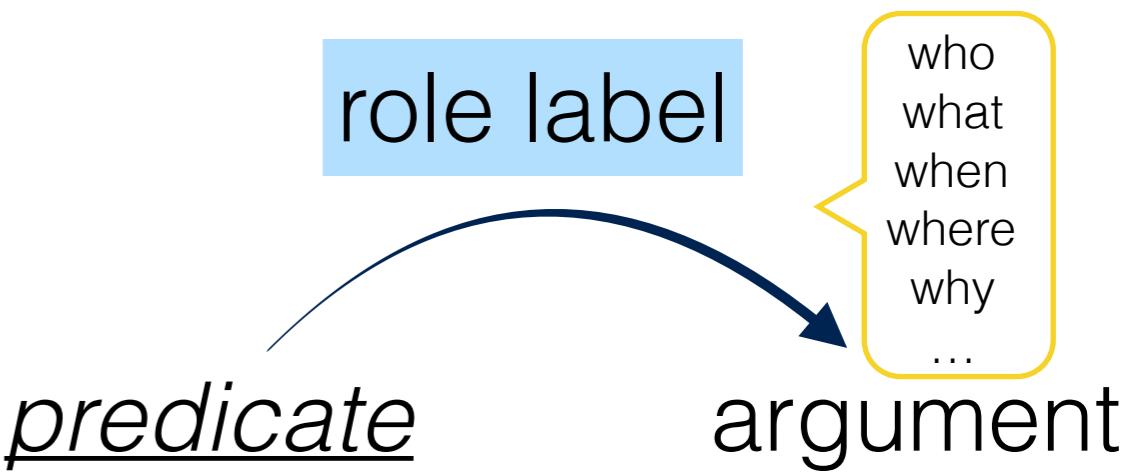
Semantic Role Labeling:

ARG0	NASA
PRED	<u>observe</u>
ARG1	an X-ray flare 400 times brighter than usual
TMP	On January 5, 2015

*Common themes:*

- End-to-end training of deep neural networks
- No preprocessing (e.g., no POS, no parser, etc.)
- Large gains in accuracy with simpler models and no extra training data

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

My mug broke into pieces immediately.

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

role label

who  
what  
when  
where  
why  
...

predicate

argument



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.



My mug broke into pieces immediately.

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

role label

who  
what  
when  
where  
why  
...

predicate

argument



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

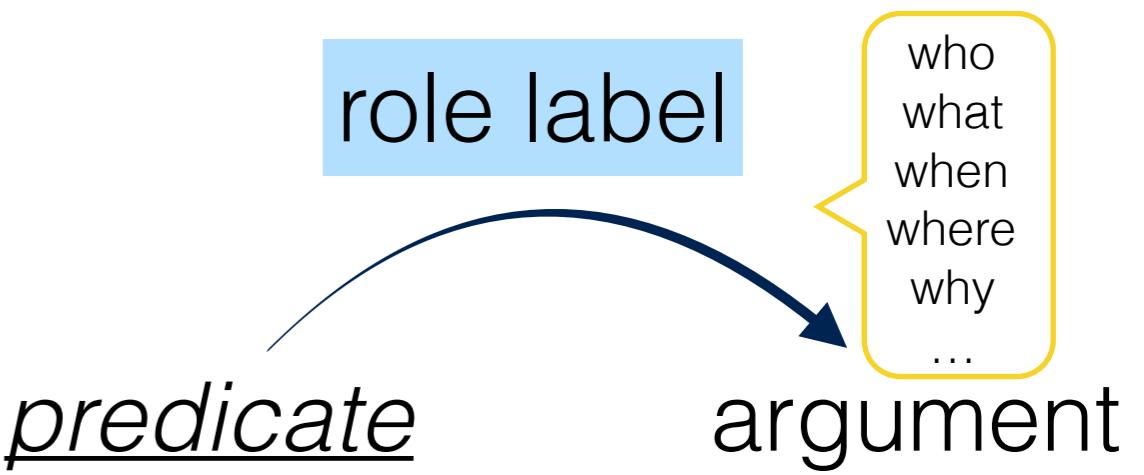
thing broken



My mug broke into pieces immediately.

thing broken

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

breaker

thing broken

instrument



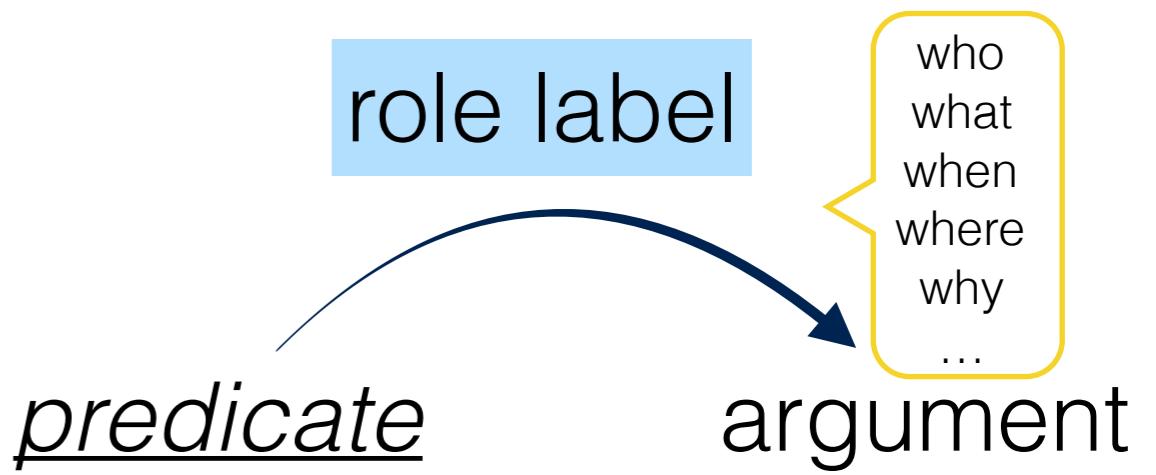
My mug broke into pieces immediately.

thing broken

pieces (final state)

temporal

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

breaker

thing broken

instrument

My mug broke into pieces immediately.

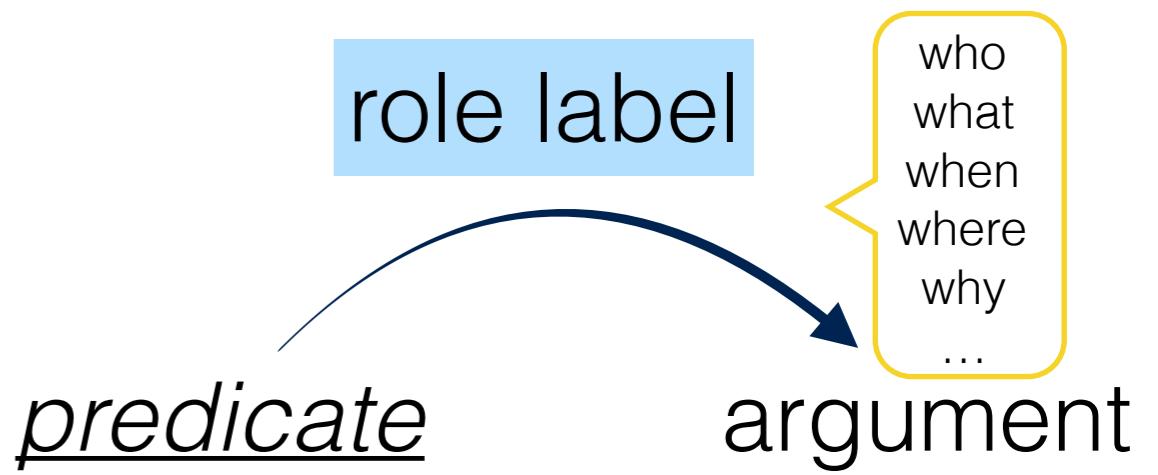
thing broken

pieces (final state)

temporal

Frame: <u>break.01</u>	
role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

breaker  
ARG0

thing broken  
ARG1

instrument  
ARG2

My mug broke into pieces immediately.

thing broken  
ARG1

pieces (final state)  
ARG3

temporal  
ARGM-TMP

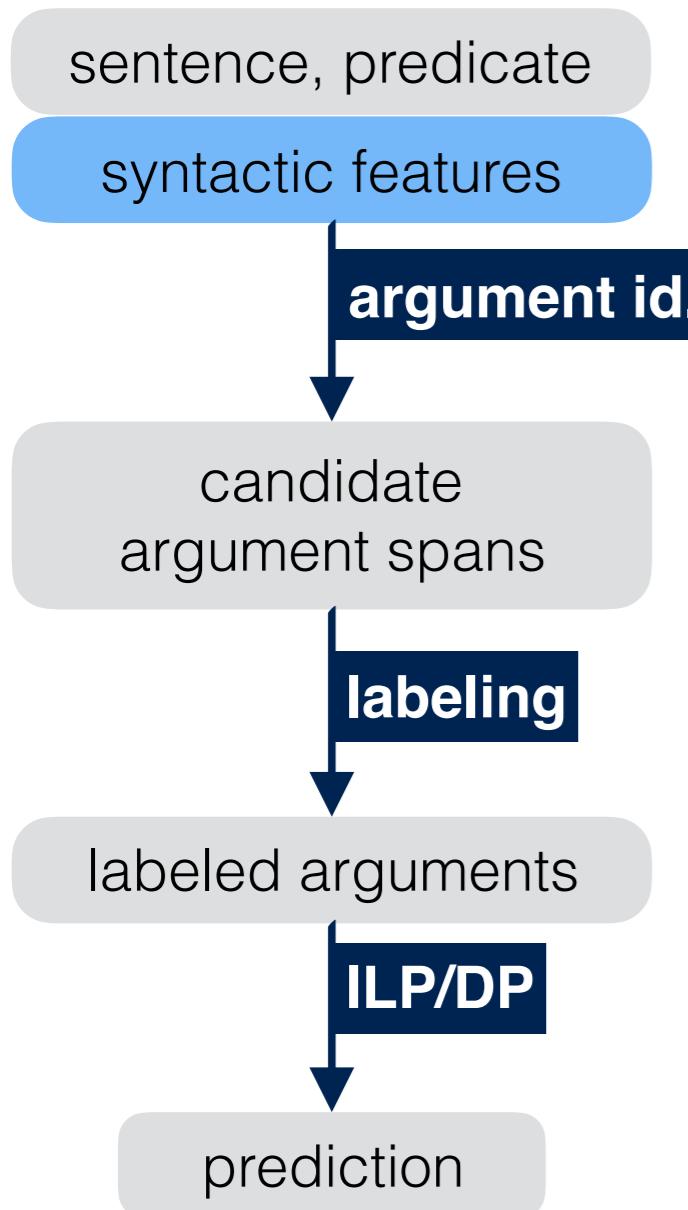
Frame: <u>break.01</u>	
role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?

# SRL is a hard problem ...

- Over 10 years, F1 on PropBank:  
**80.3** (Toutanova et al, 2005) — **80.3** (FitzGerald et al, 2015)
- Many interesting challenges:  
Syntactic alternation  
Prepositional phrase attachment  
Long-range dependencies and common sense

# SRL Systems

## Pipeline Systems



Punyakanok et al., 2008  
Täckström et al., 2015  
FitzGerald et al., 2015

# SRL Systems

## Pipeline Systems

sentence, predicate

syntactic features

**argument id.**

candidate  
argument spans

**labeling**

labeled arguments

**ILP/DP**

prediction

## End-to-end Systems

sentence, predicate

context window  
features

**Deep BiLSTM  
+ CRF layer**

BIO sequence

**Viterbi**

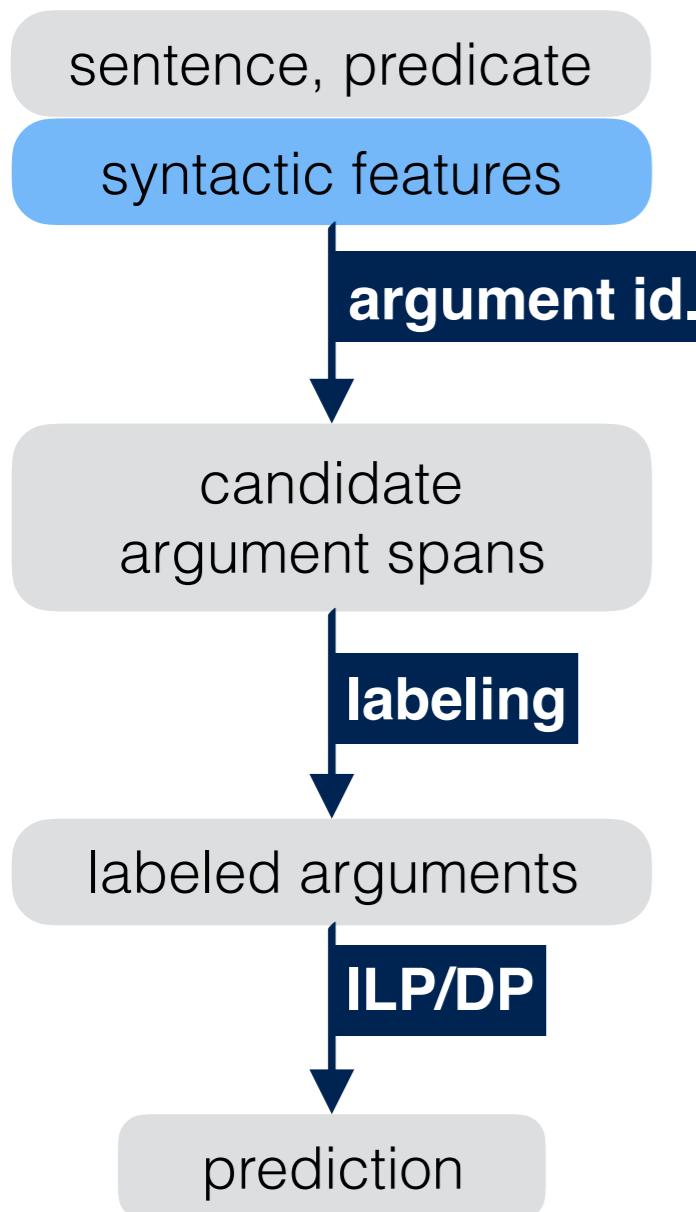
prediction

Punyakanok et al., 2008  
Täckström et al., 2015  
FitzGerald et al., 2015

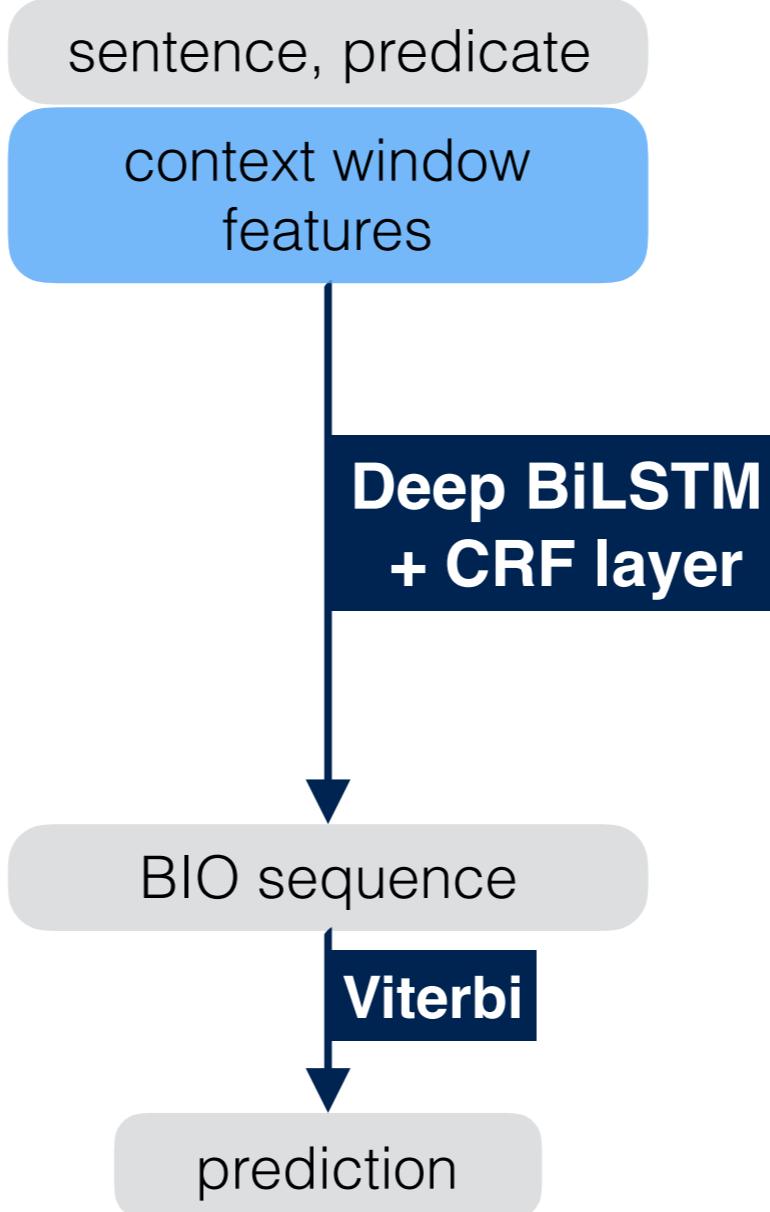
Collobert et al., 2011  
Zhou and Xu, 2015  
Wang et. al, 2015

# SRL Systems

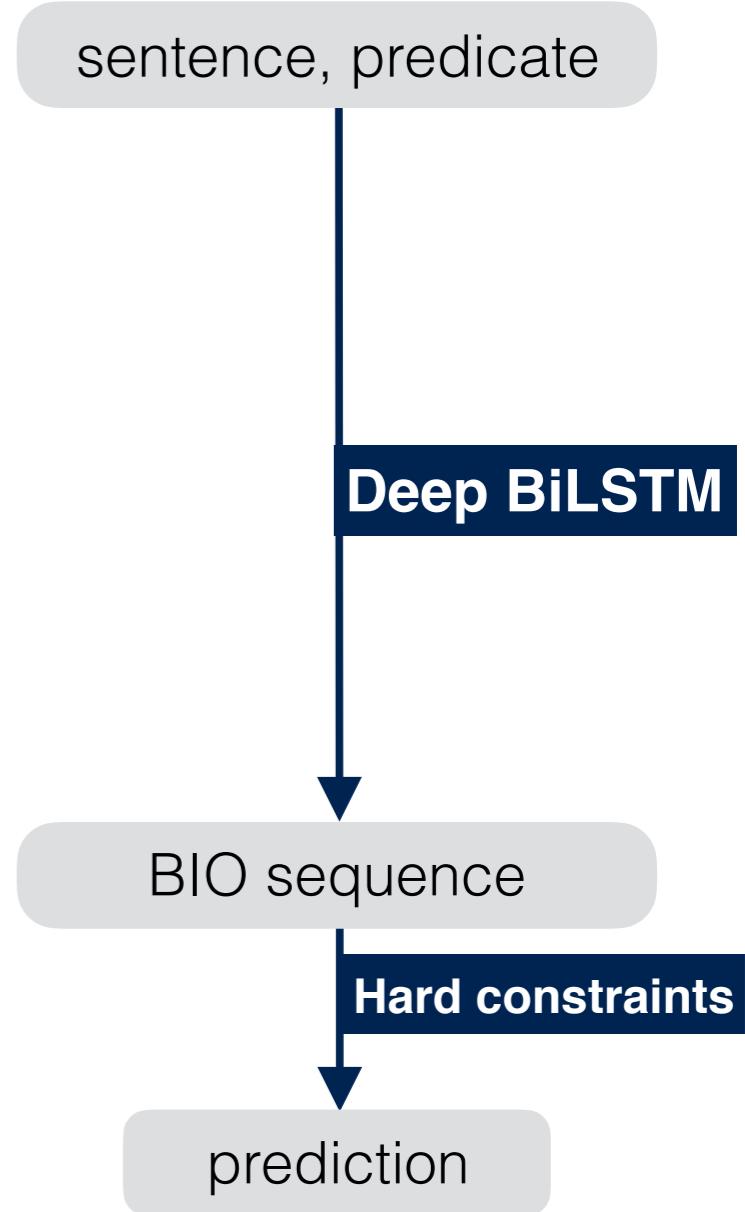
Pipeline Systems



End-to-end Systems



\*This work



Punyakanok et al., 2008  
Täckström et al., 2015  
FitzGerald et al., 2015

Collobert et al., 2011  
Zhou and Xu, 2015  
Wang et. al, 2015

He et al., 2017

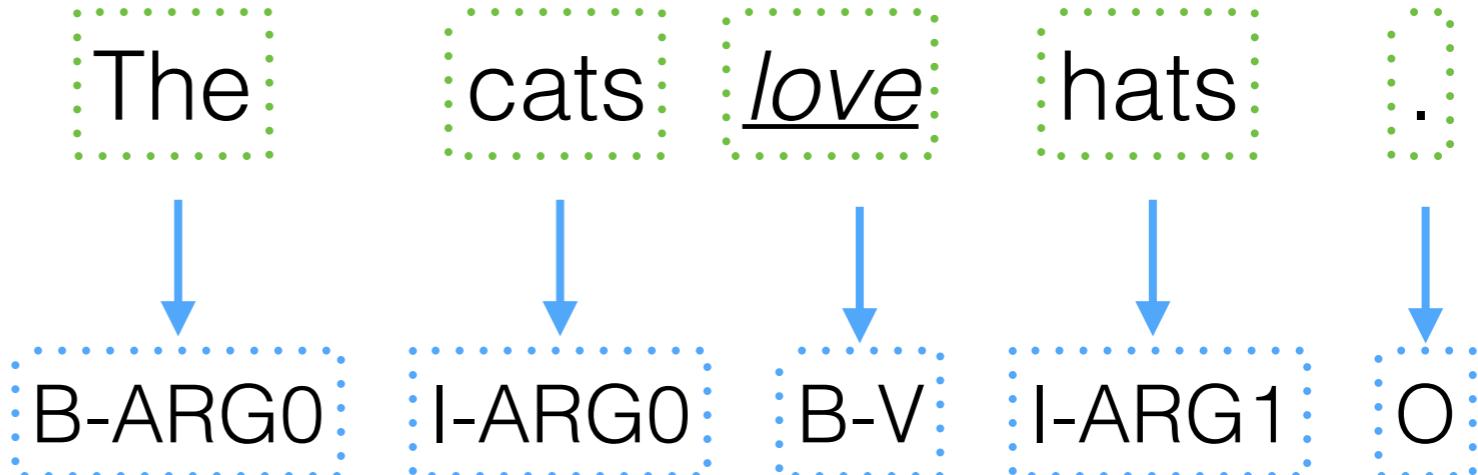
# SRL as BIO Tagging Problem

Input (sentence  
and predicate):

The cats love hats .

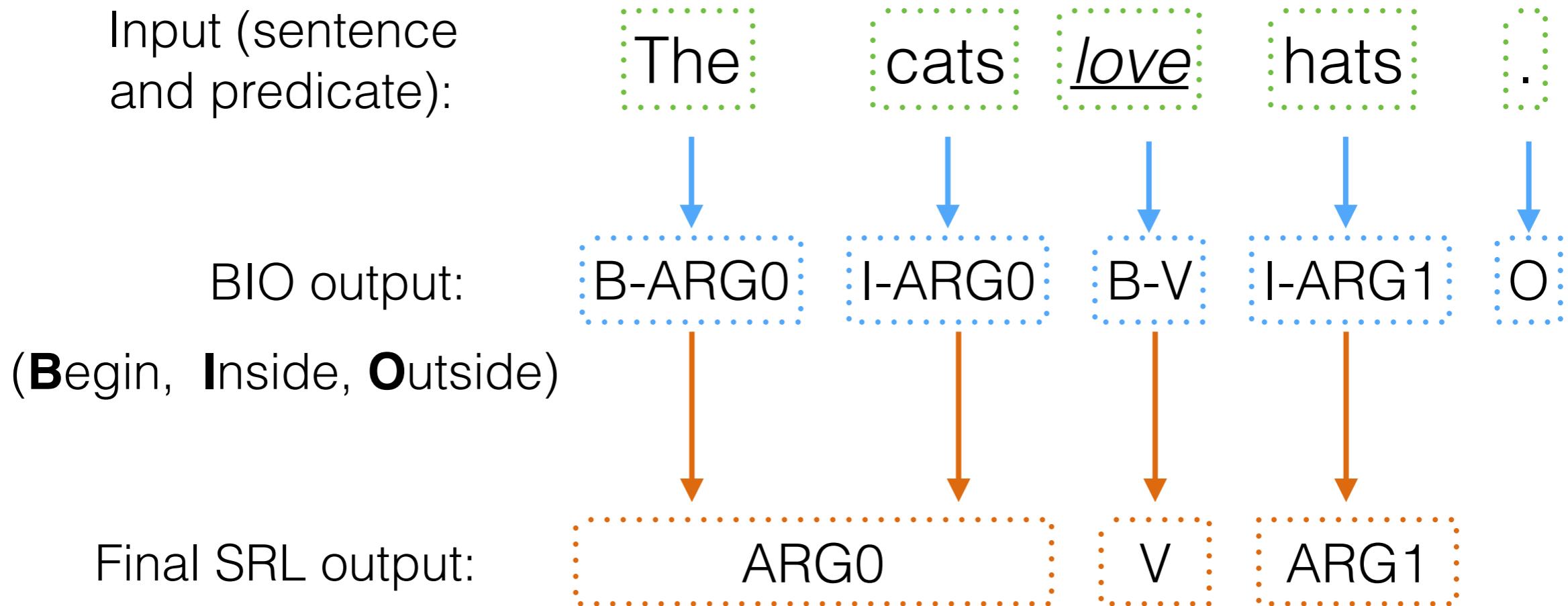
# SRL as BIO Tagging Problem

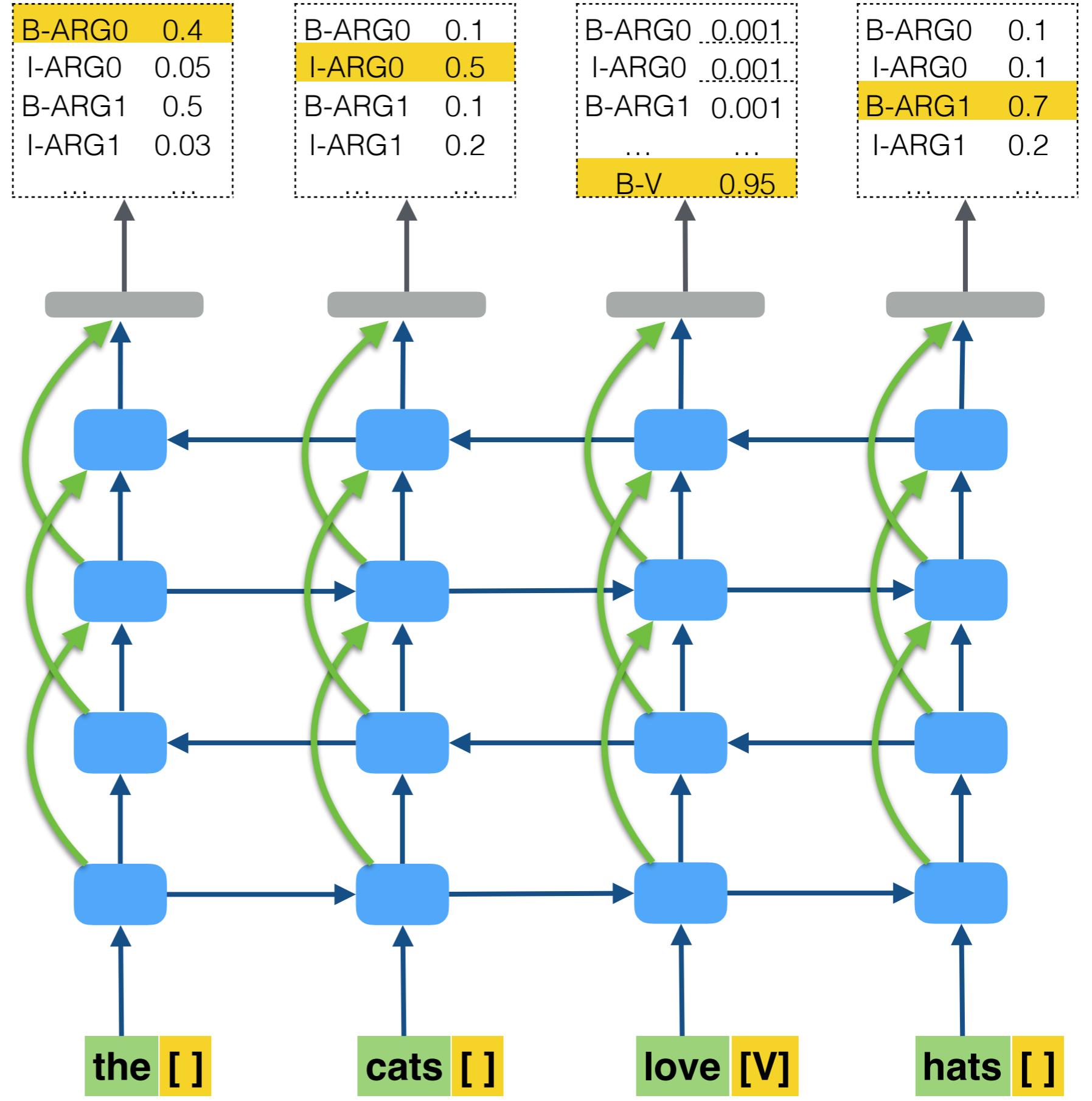
Input (sentence  
and predicate):



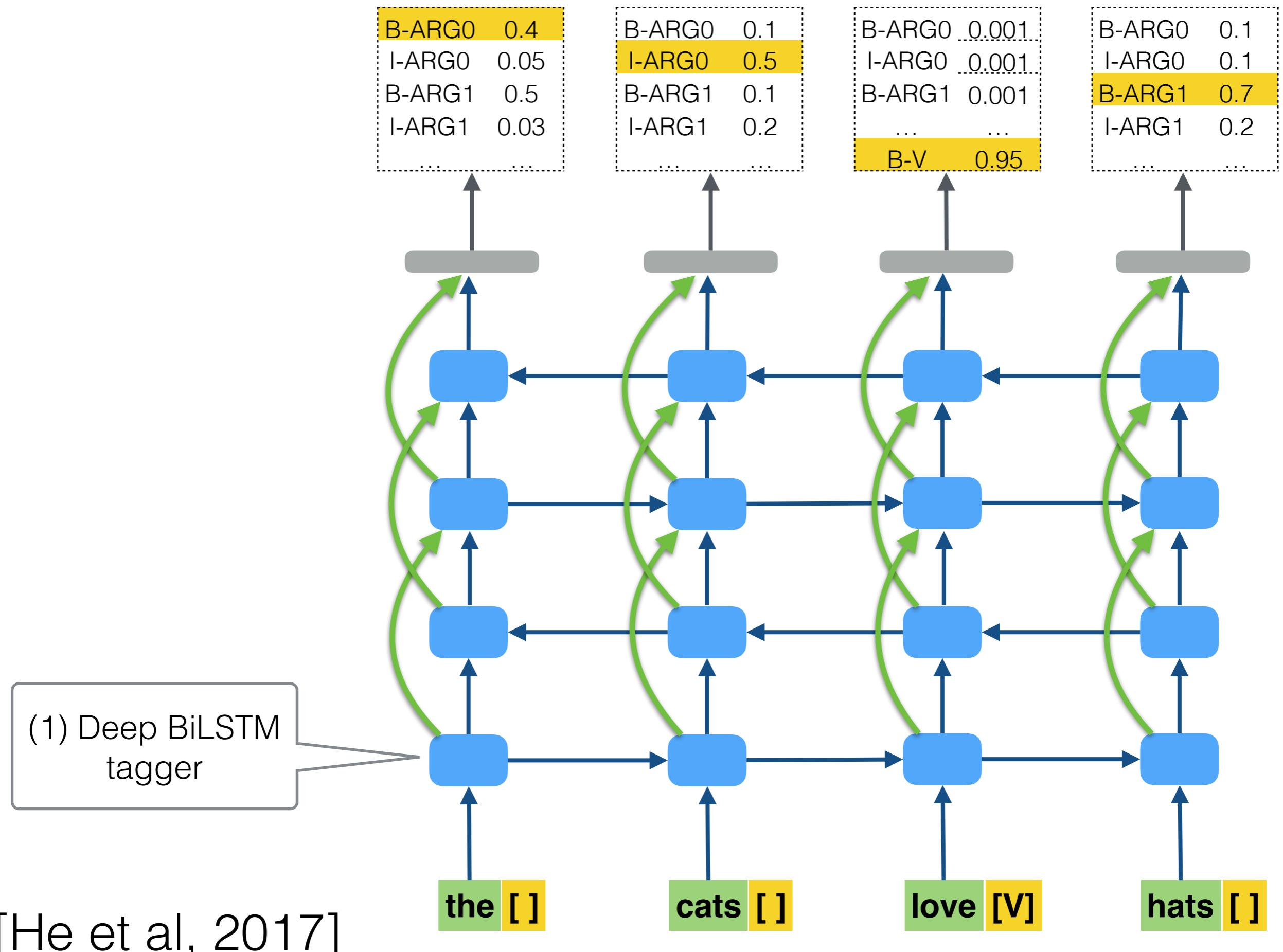
(**B**egin, **I**nside, **O**utside)

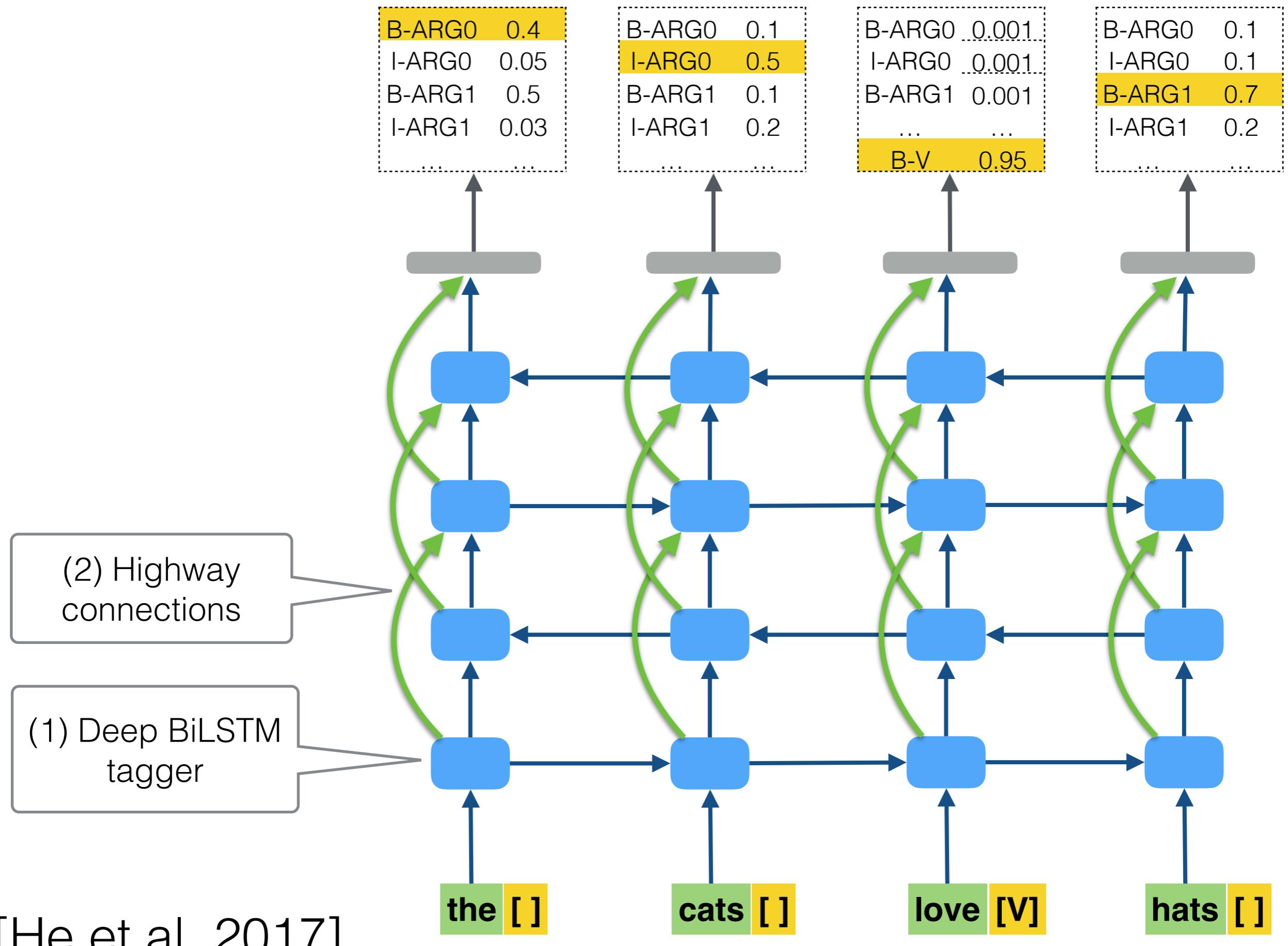
# SRL as BIO Tagging Problem



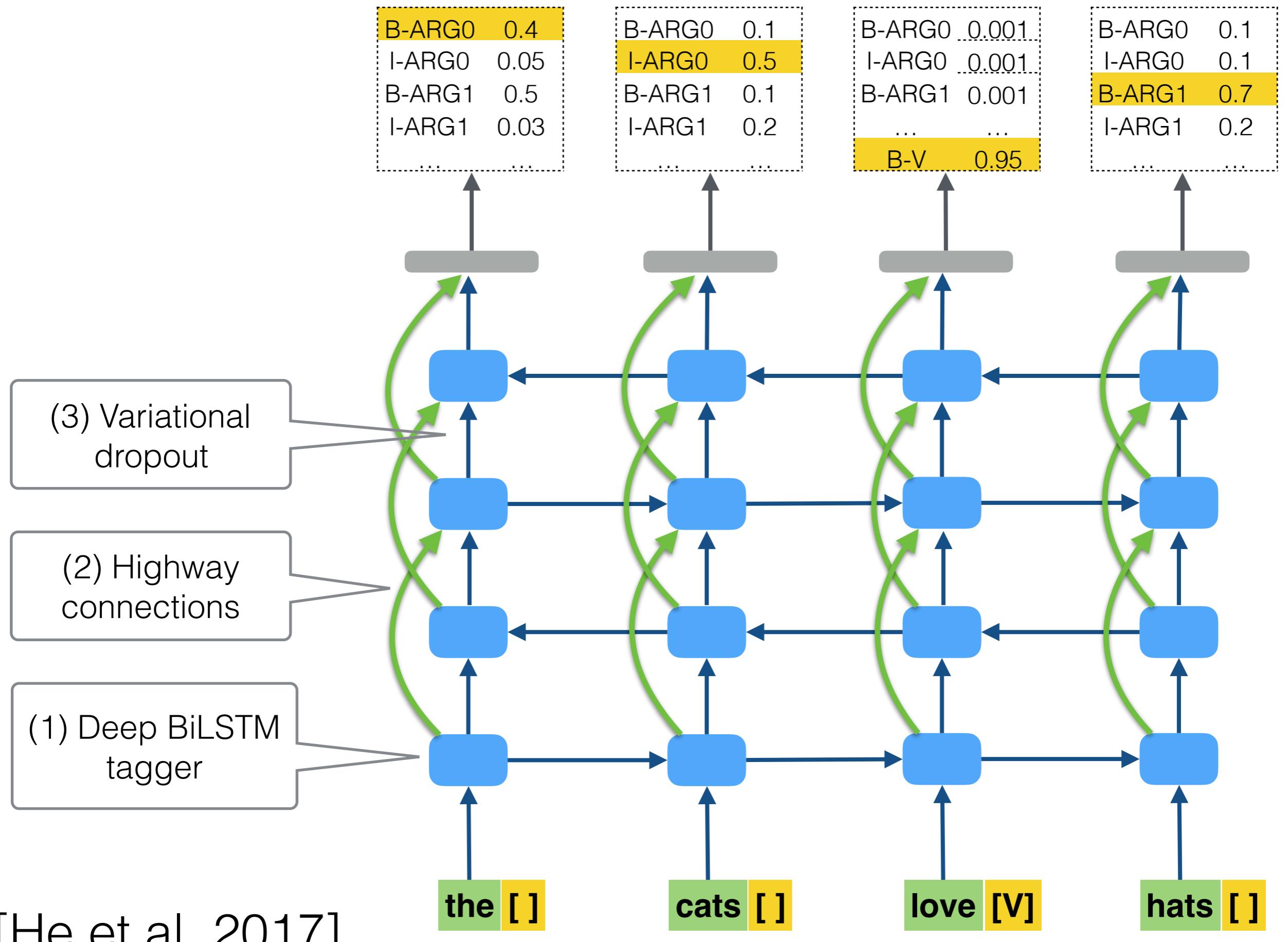


[He et al, 2017]

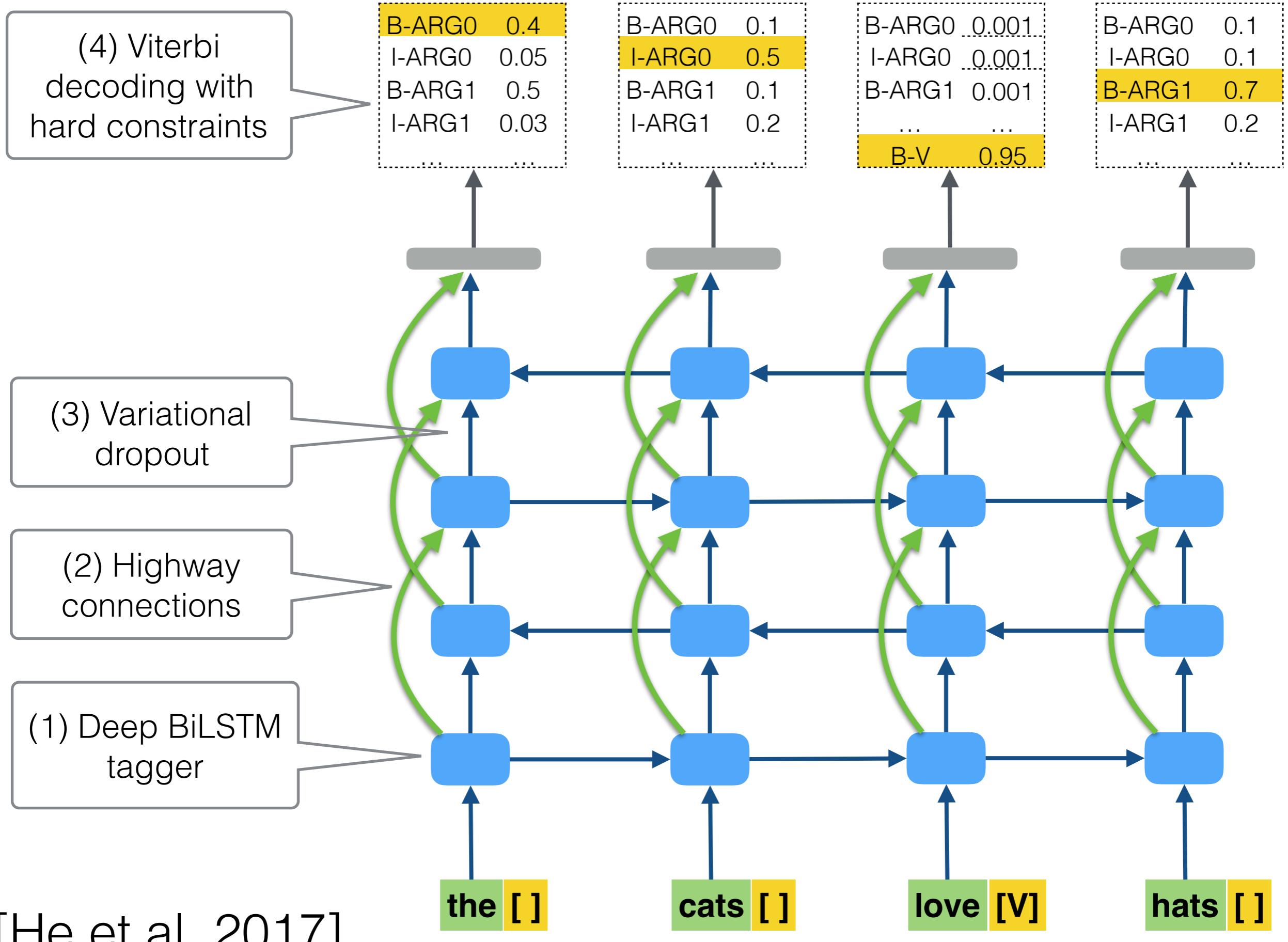




[He et al, 2017]

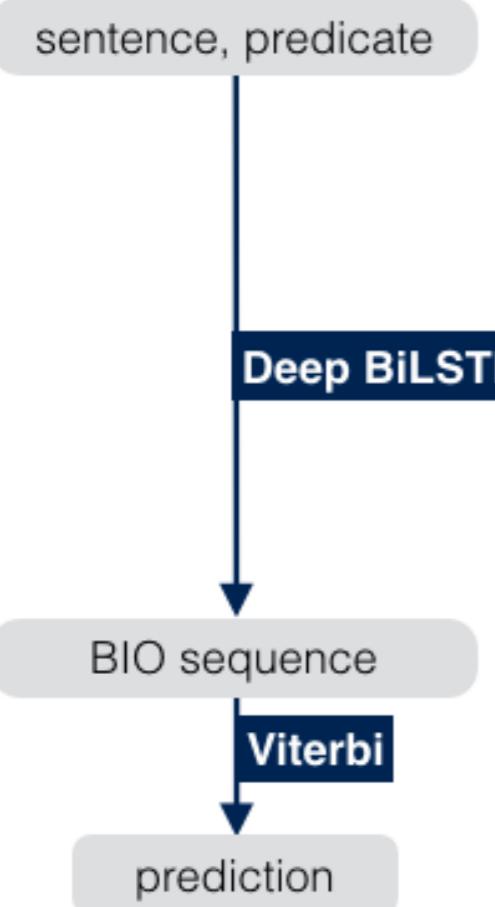


[He et al, 2017]



[He et al, 2017]

# Other Implementation Details ...



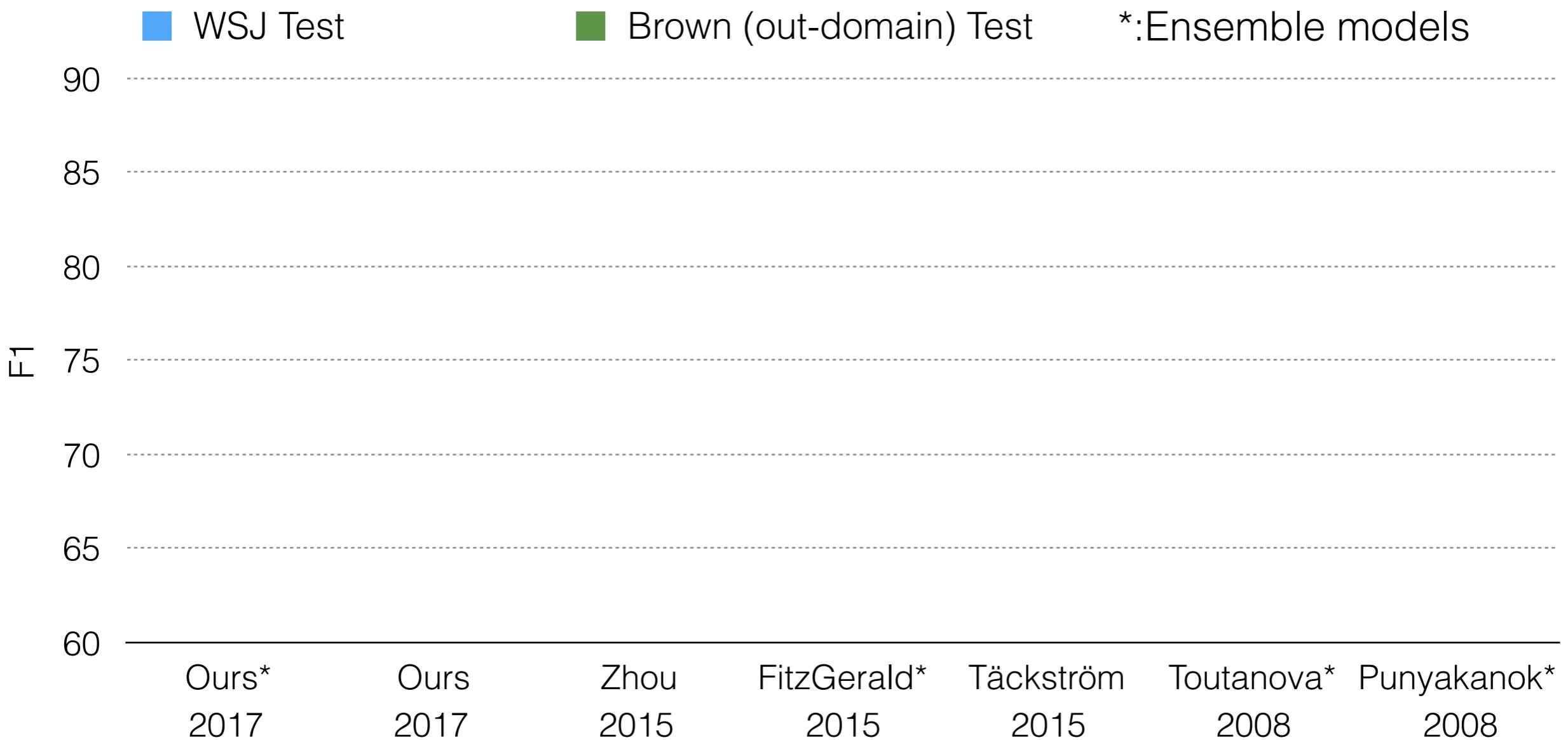
- 8 layer BiLSTMs with 300D hidden layers.
- 100D GloVe embeddings, updated during training.
- **Orthonormal initialization** for LSTM weight matrices (Saxe et al., 2013)
- 5 model ensemble with **product-of-experts** (Hinton 2002)
- Trained for 500 epochs.

Datasets

# CoNLL 2005 Results

CoNLL 2012  
(OntoNotes) Results

Ablations



Datasets

# CoNLL 2005 Results

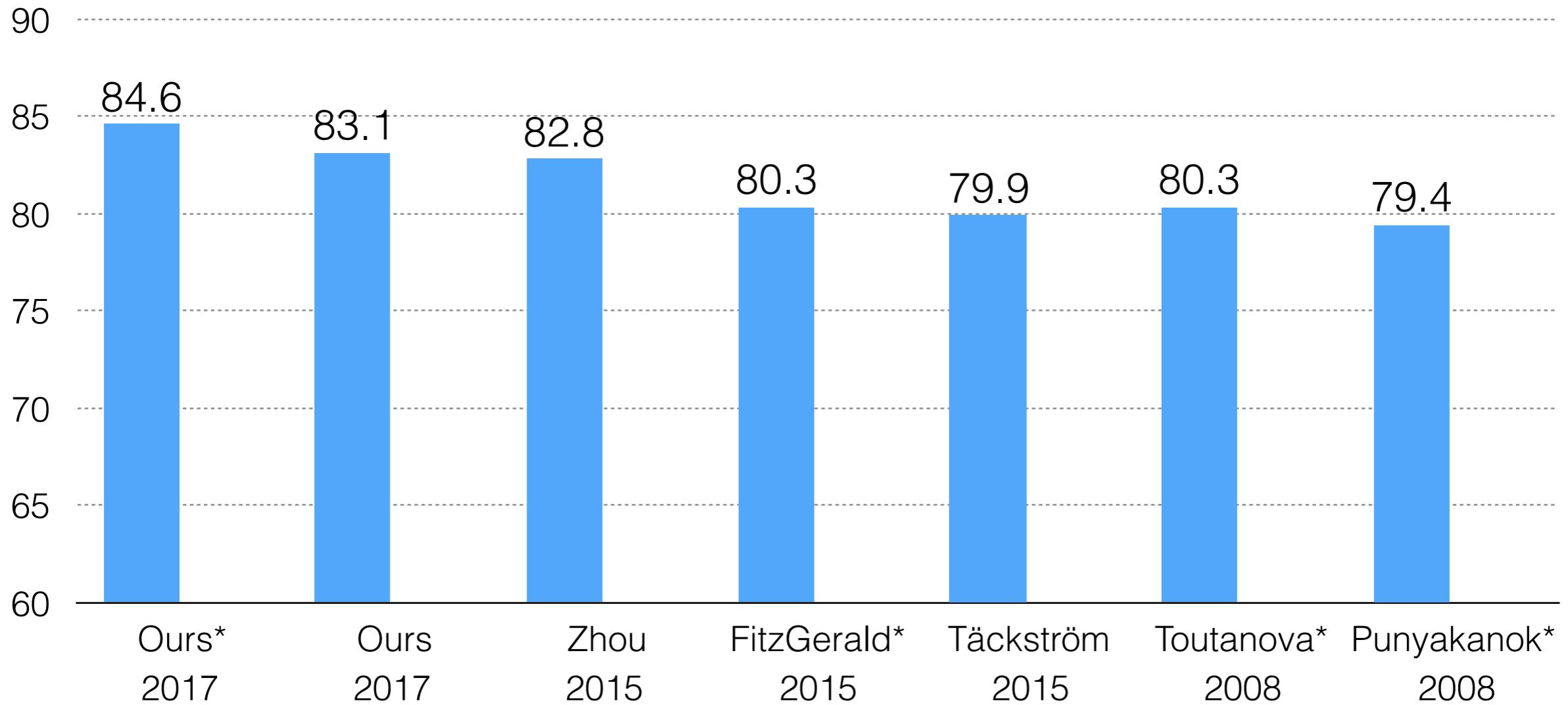
CoNLL 2012  
(OntoNotes) Results

Ablations

WSJ Test

Brown (out-domain) Test

\*:Ensemble models



Datasets

# CoNLL 2005 Results

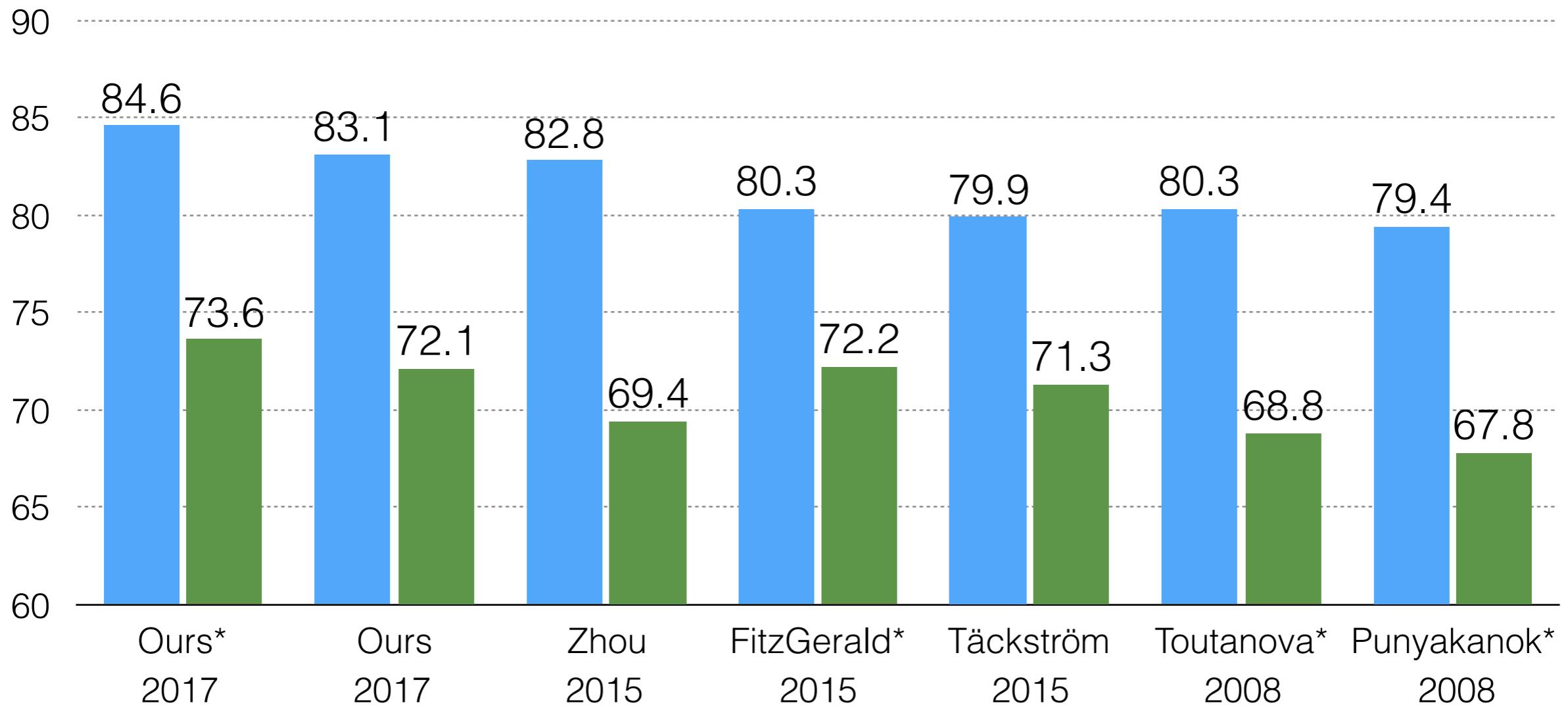
CoNLL 2012  
(OntoNotes) Results

Ablations

WSJ Test

Brown (out-domain) Test

\*:Ensemble models

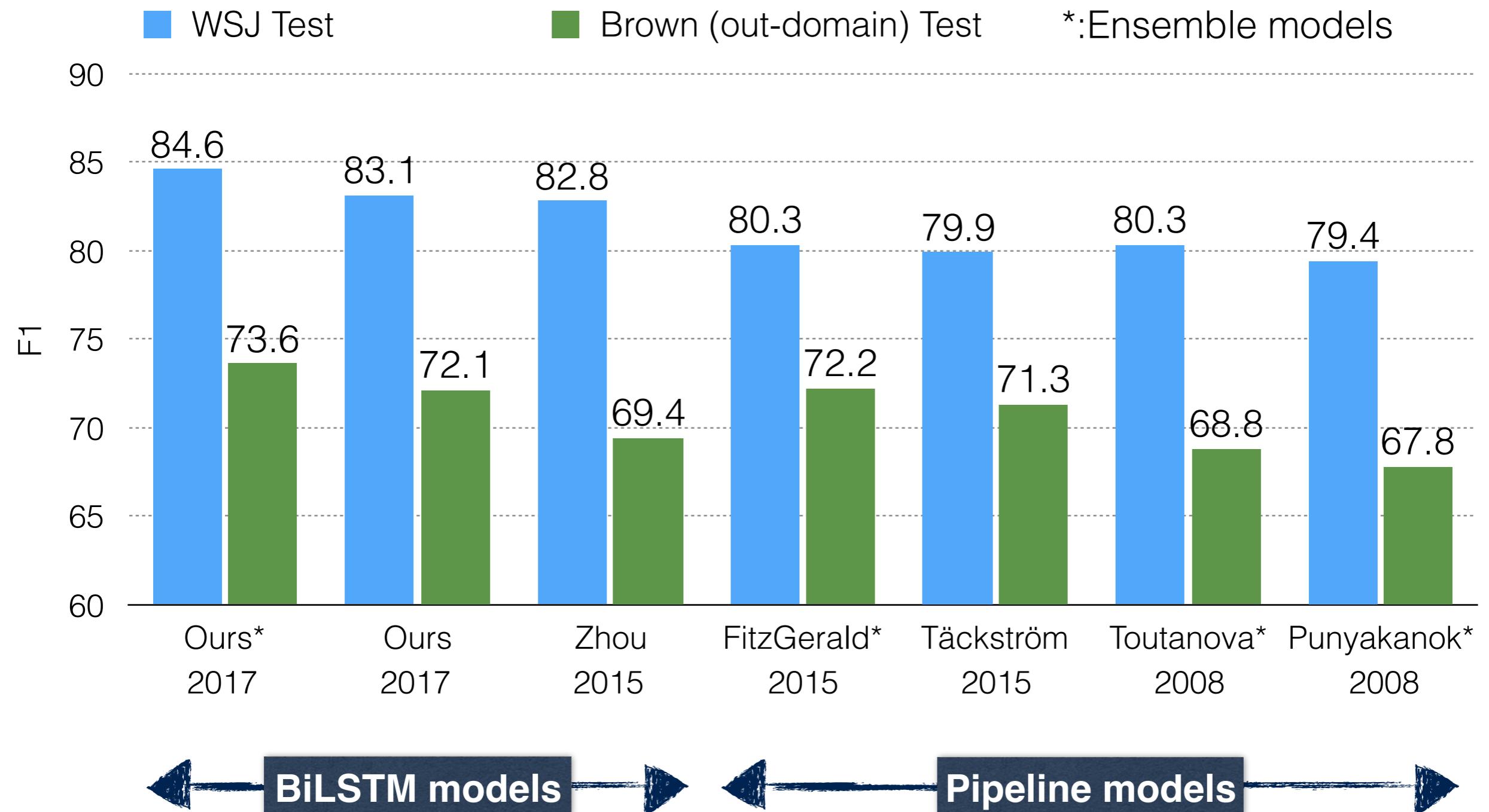


Datasets

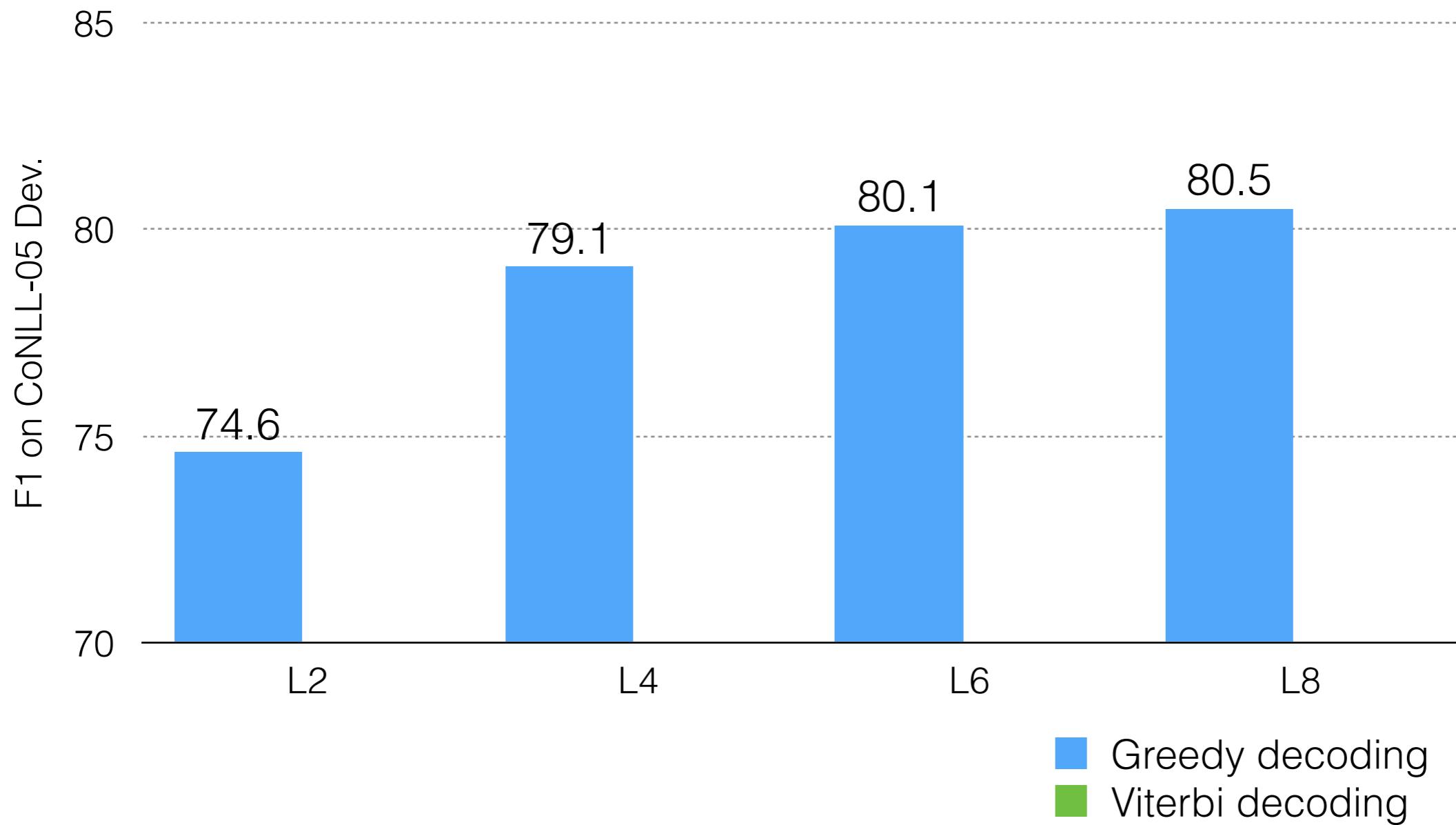
# CoNLL 2005 Results

CoNLL 2012  
(OntoNotes) Results

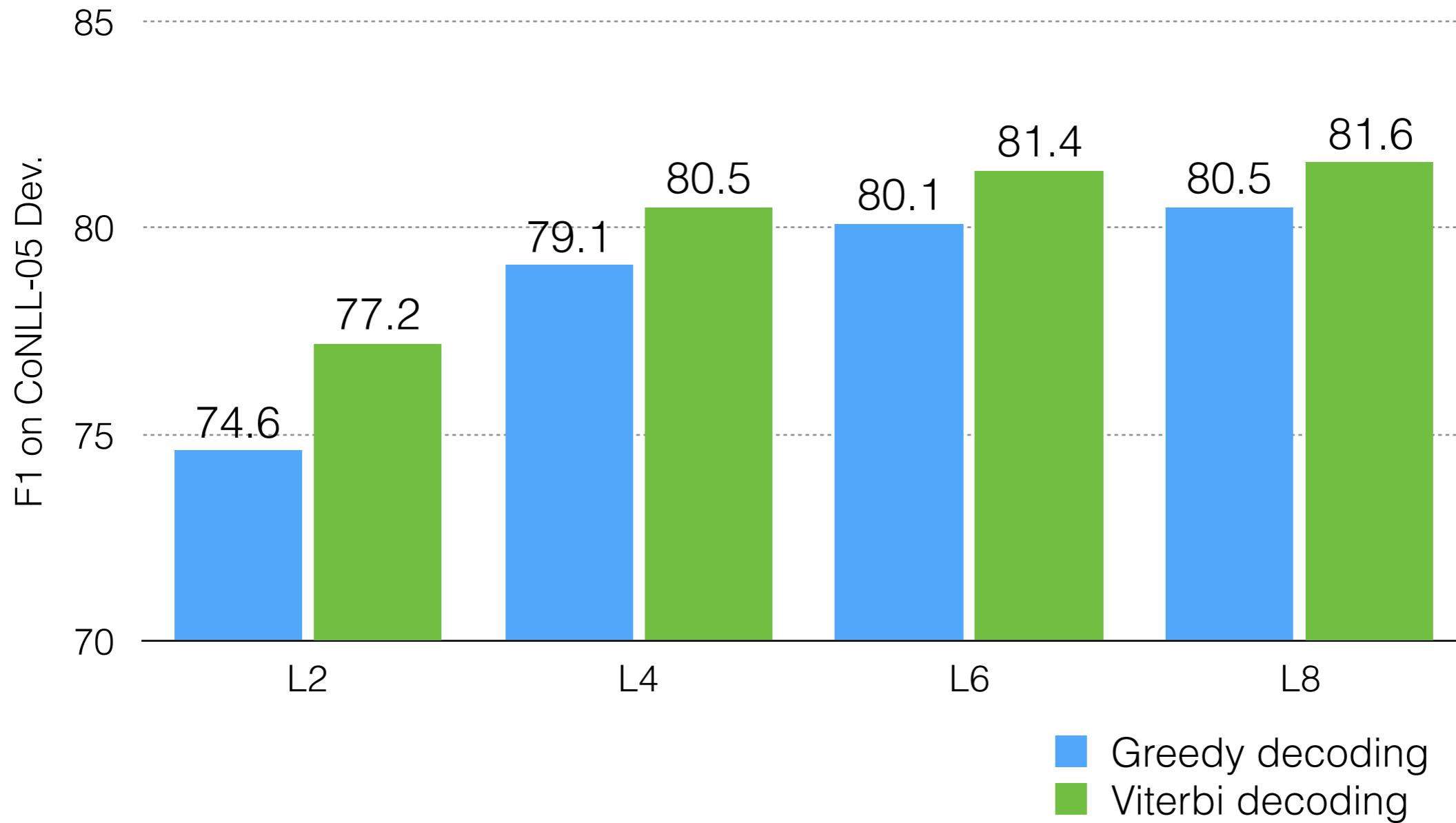
Ablations



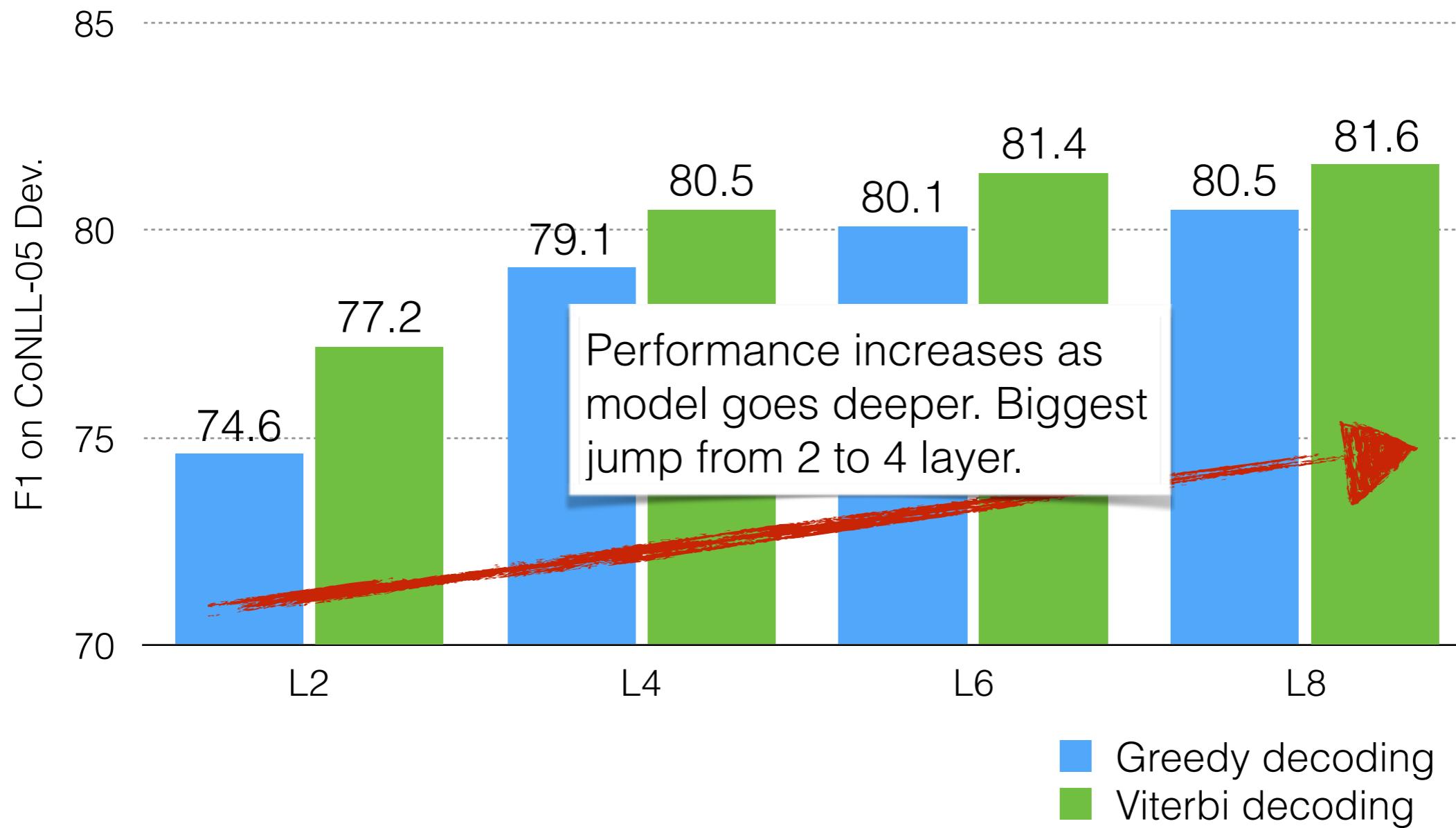
# Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)



# Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)

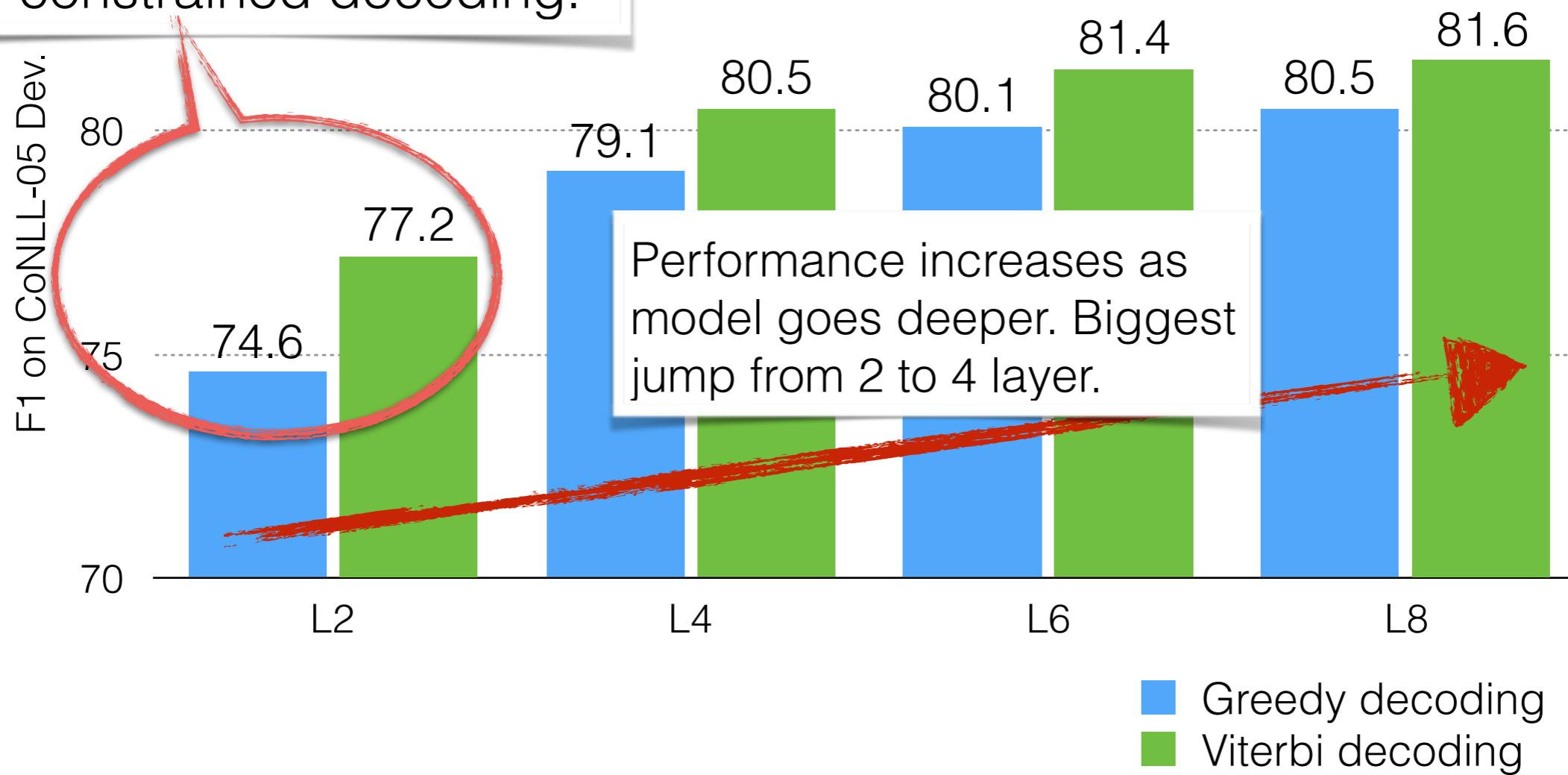


# Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)



# Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)

Shallow models benefit more from constrained decoding.



# New Learning Approaches

*New state-of-the-art results for two tasks:*

Coreference:

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

Semantic Role Labeling:

ARG0	NASA
PRED	<u>observe</u>
ARG1	an X-ray flare 400 times brighter than usual
TMP	On January 5, 2015

*Common themes:*

- End-to-end training of deep neural networks
- No preprocessing (e.g., no POS, no parser, etc.)
- Large gains in accuracy with simpler models and no extra training data

# Coreference Resolution

## **Input document**

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

# Coreference Resolution

## Input document

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

**Cluster #1**

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory

the blaze in the four-story building

# Coreference Resolution

Input document
A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

<b>Cluster #1</b>	A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory	the blaze in the four-story building
<b>Cluster #2</b>	a Bangladeshi garment factory	the four-story building

# Coreference Resolution

Input document
A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

<b>Cluster #1</b>	A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory	the blaze in the four-story building
<b>Cluster #2</b>	a Bangladeshi garment factory	the four-story building
<b>Cluster #3</b>	at least 37 people	the deceased

# Two Subproblems

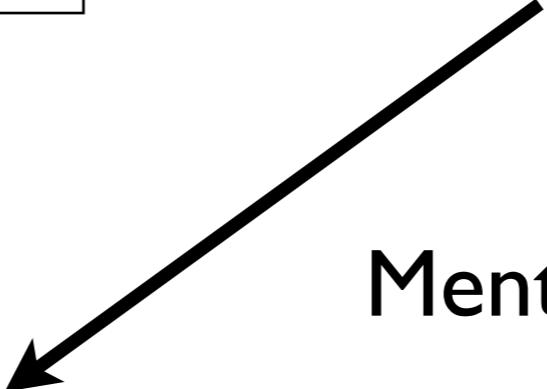
Input document
A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

Mention  
detection



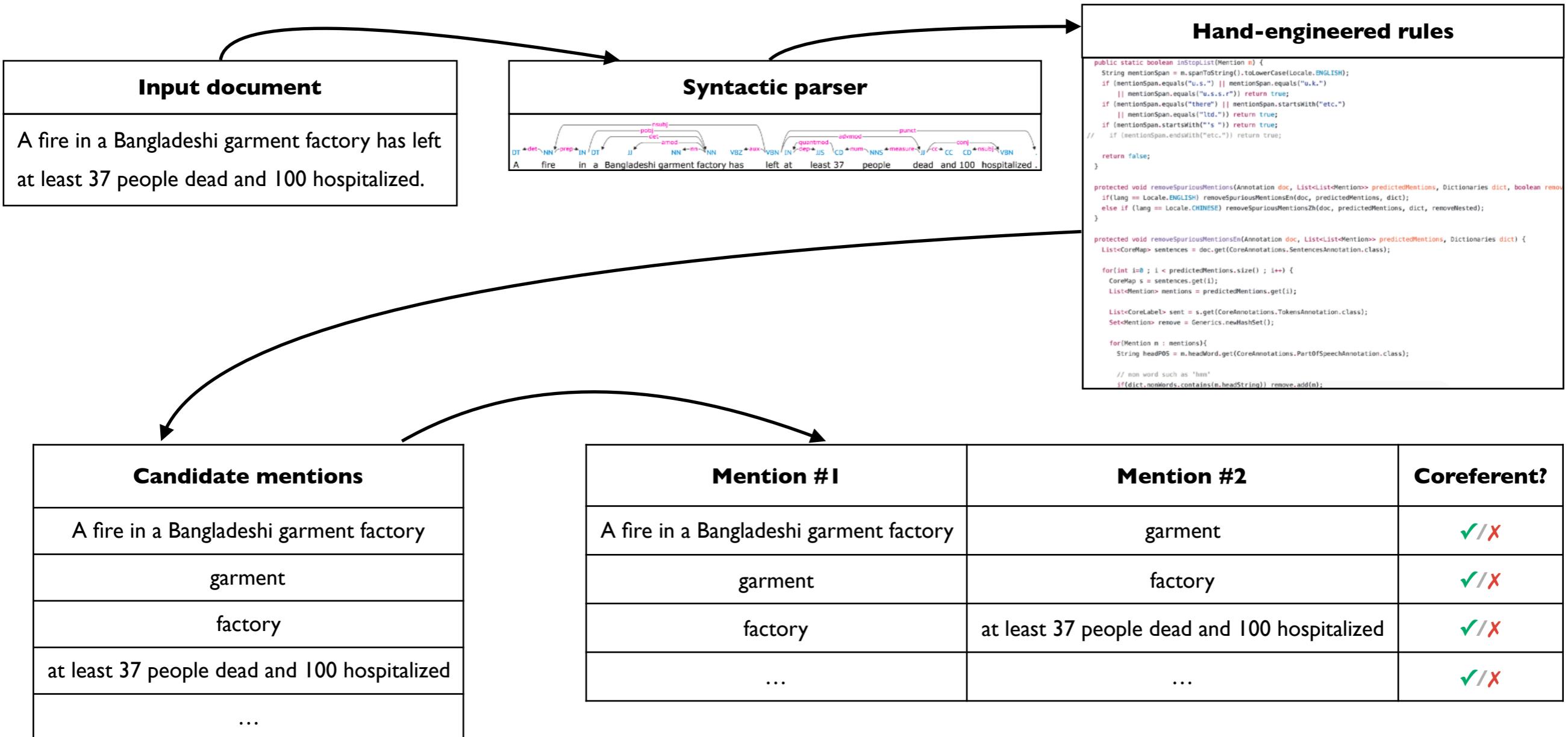
A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory
at least 37 people
...
the four-story building

Mention clustering

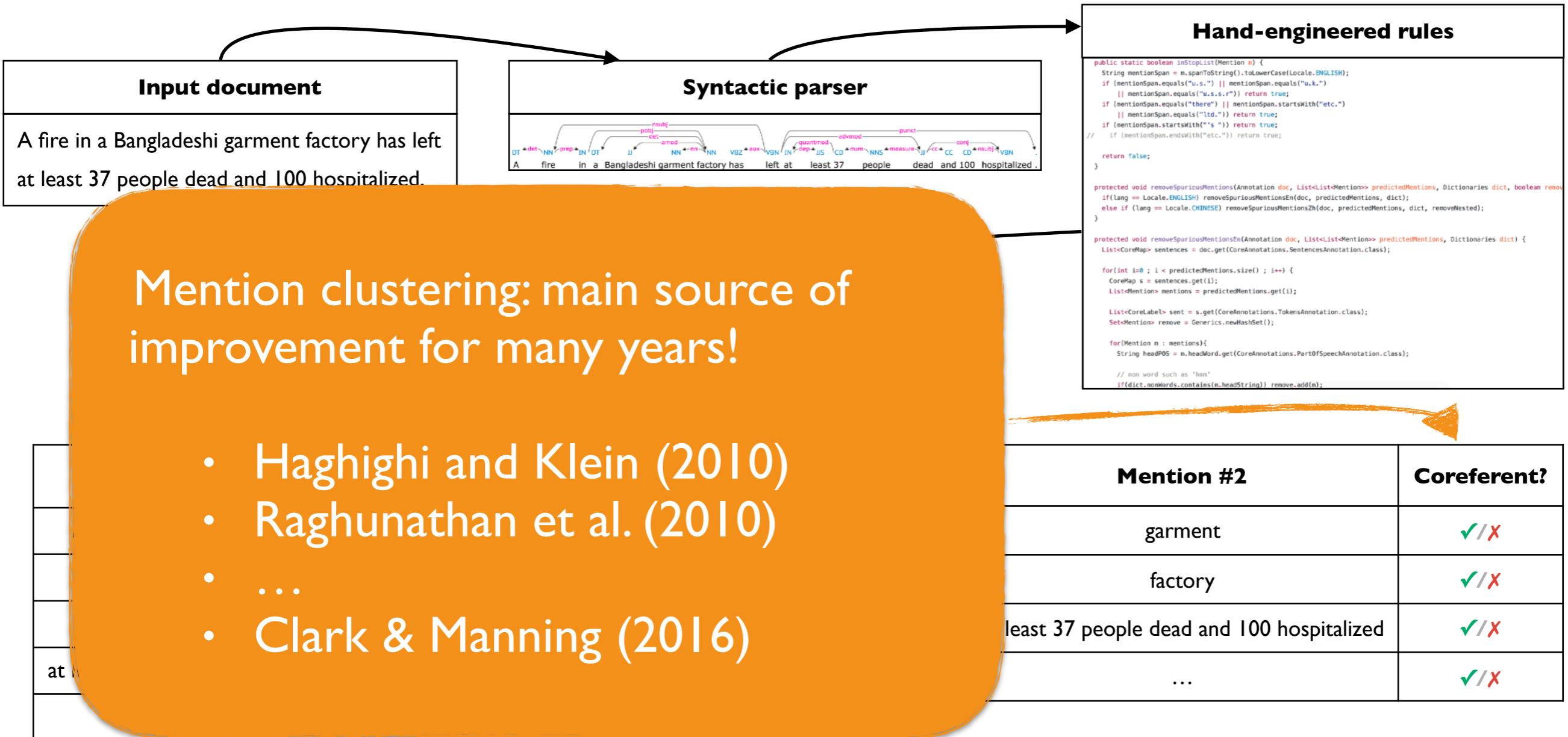


<b>Cluster #1</b>	A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory	the blaze in the four-story building
<b>Cluster #2</b>	a Bangladeshi garment factory	the four-story building
<b>Cluster #3</b>	at least 37 people	the deceased

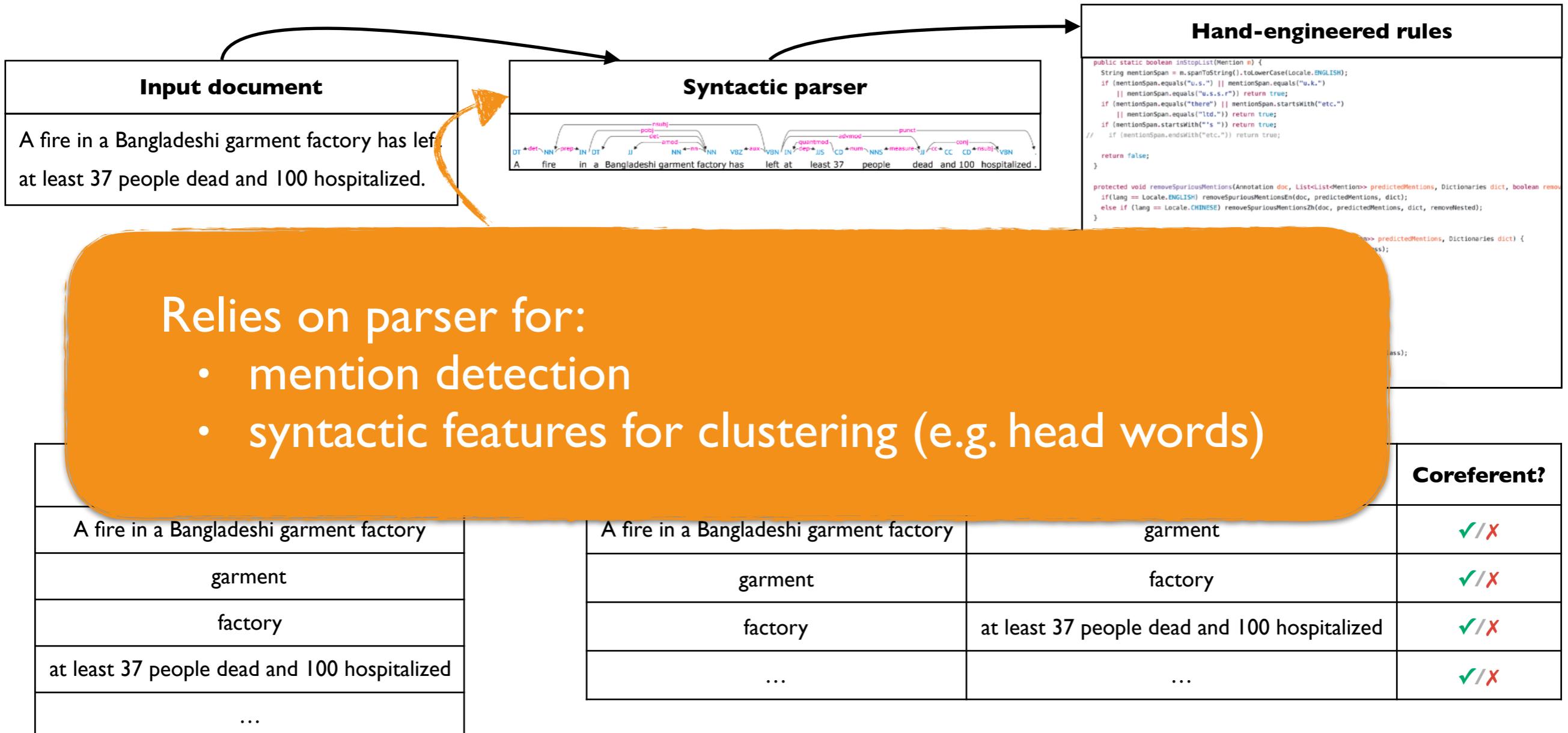
# Previous Approach: Rule-based pipeline



# Previous Approach: Rule-based pipeline



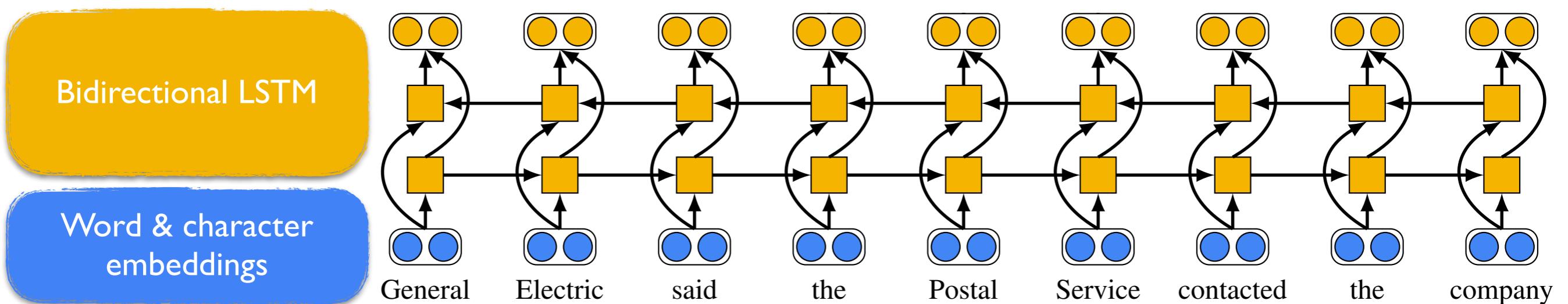
# Previous Approach: Rule-based pipeline



# End-to-end Approach

- Consider all possible spans
- Learn to rank antecedent spans
- Factored model to prune search space

# Key Idea: Span Representations



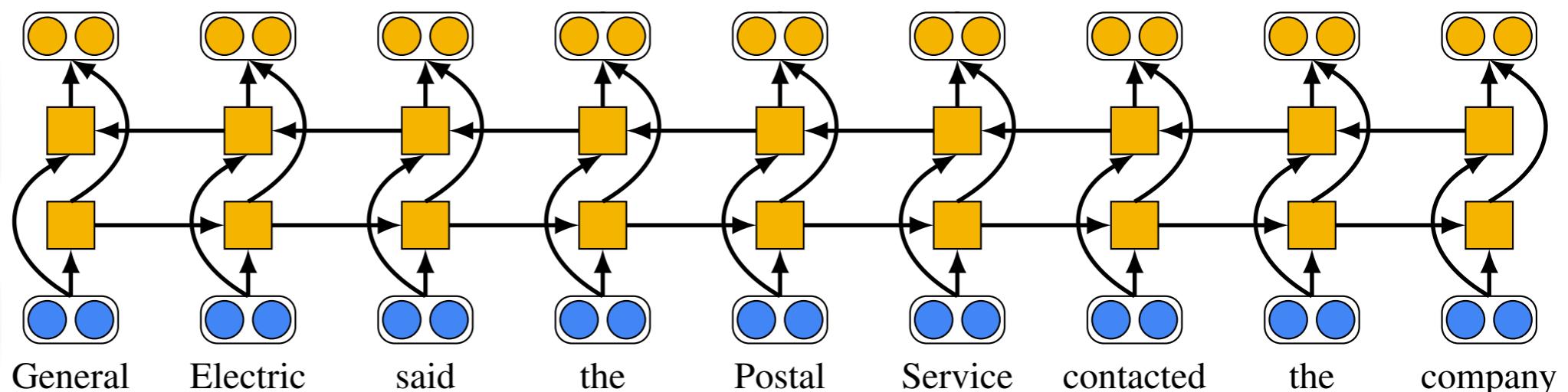
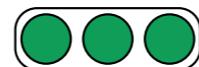
# Key Idea: Span Representations

Span representation

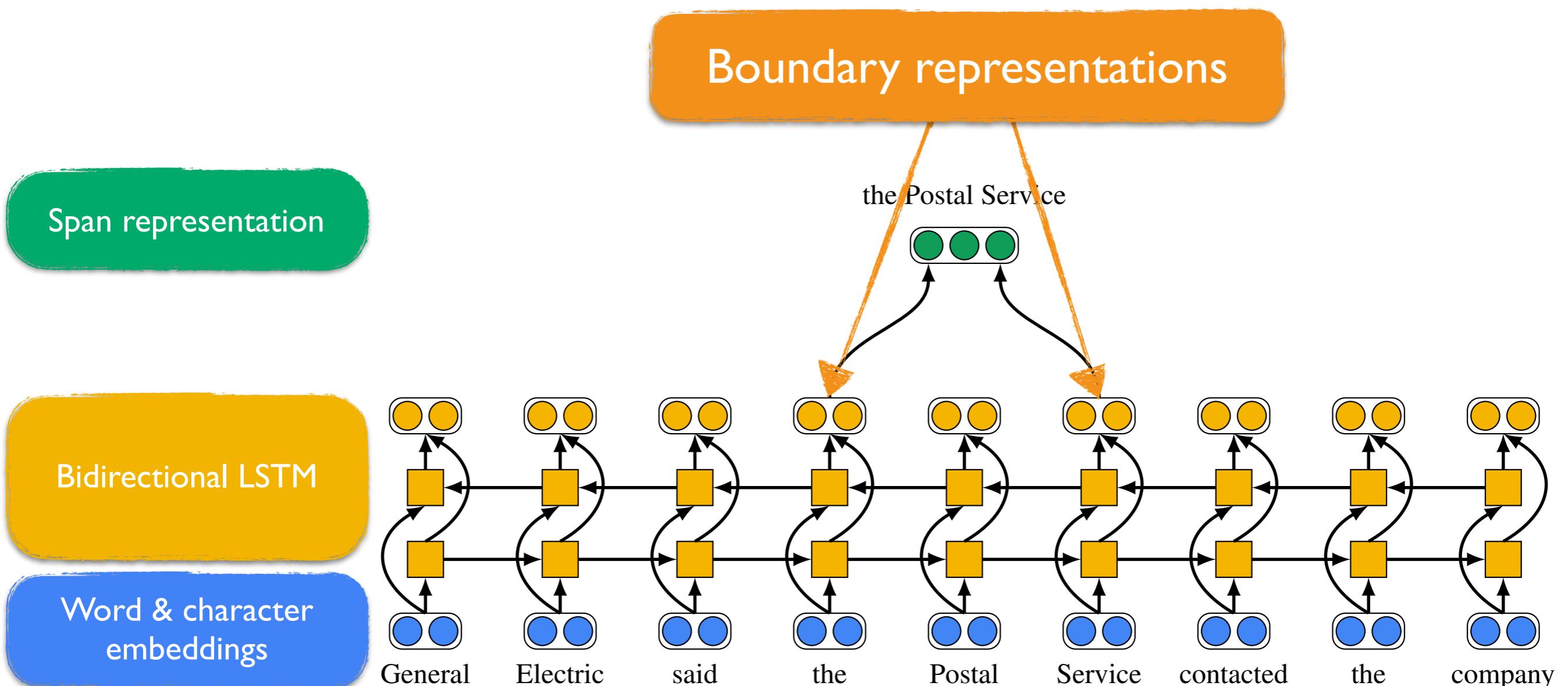
Bidirectional LSTM

Word & character embeddings

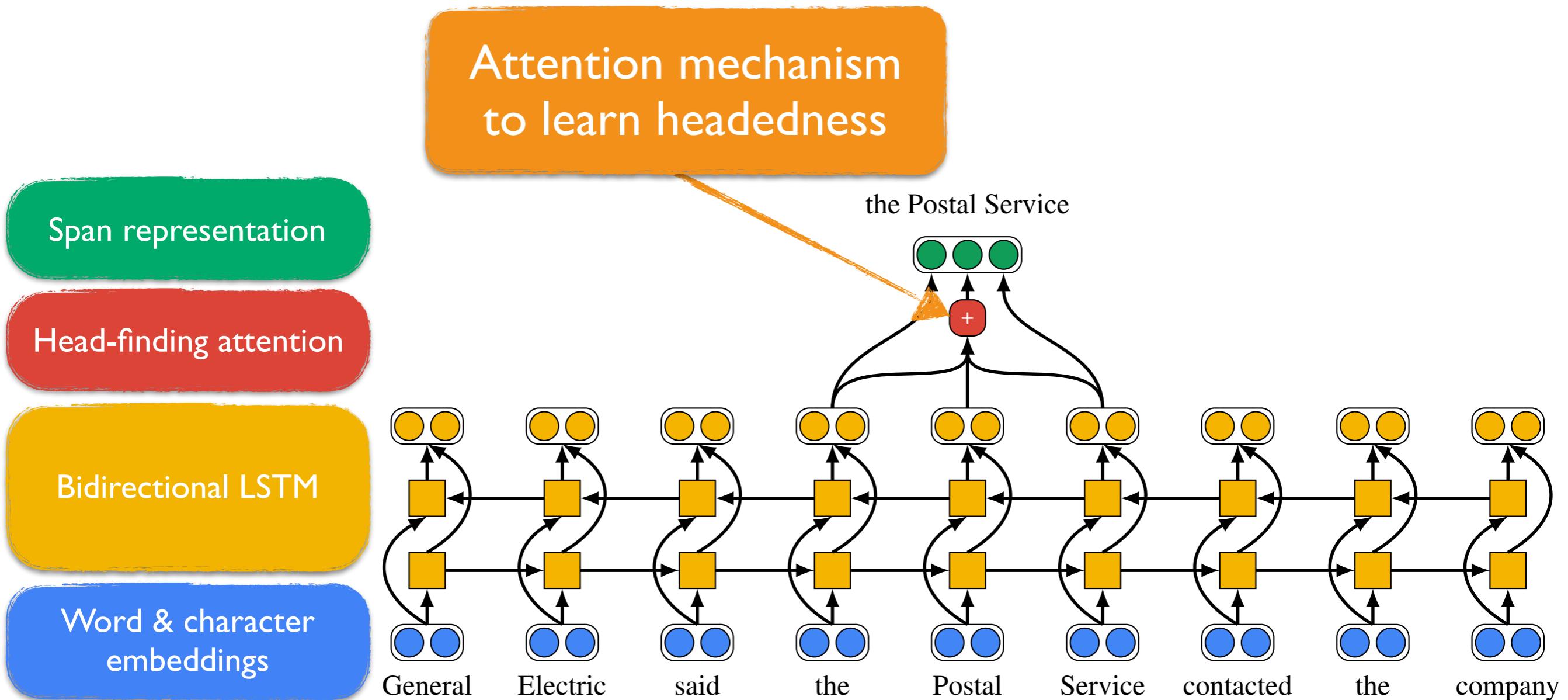
the Postal Service



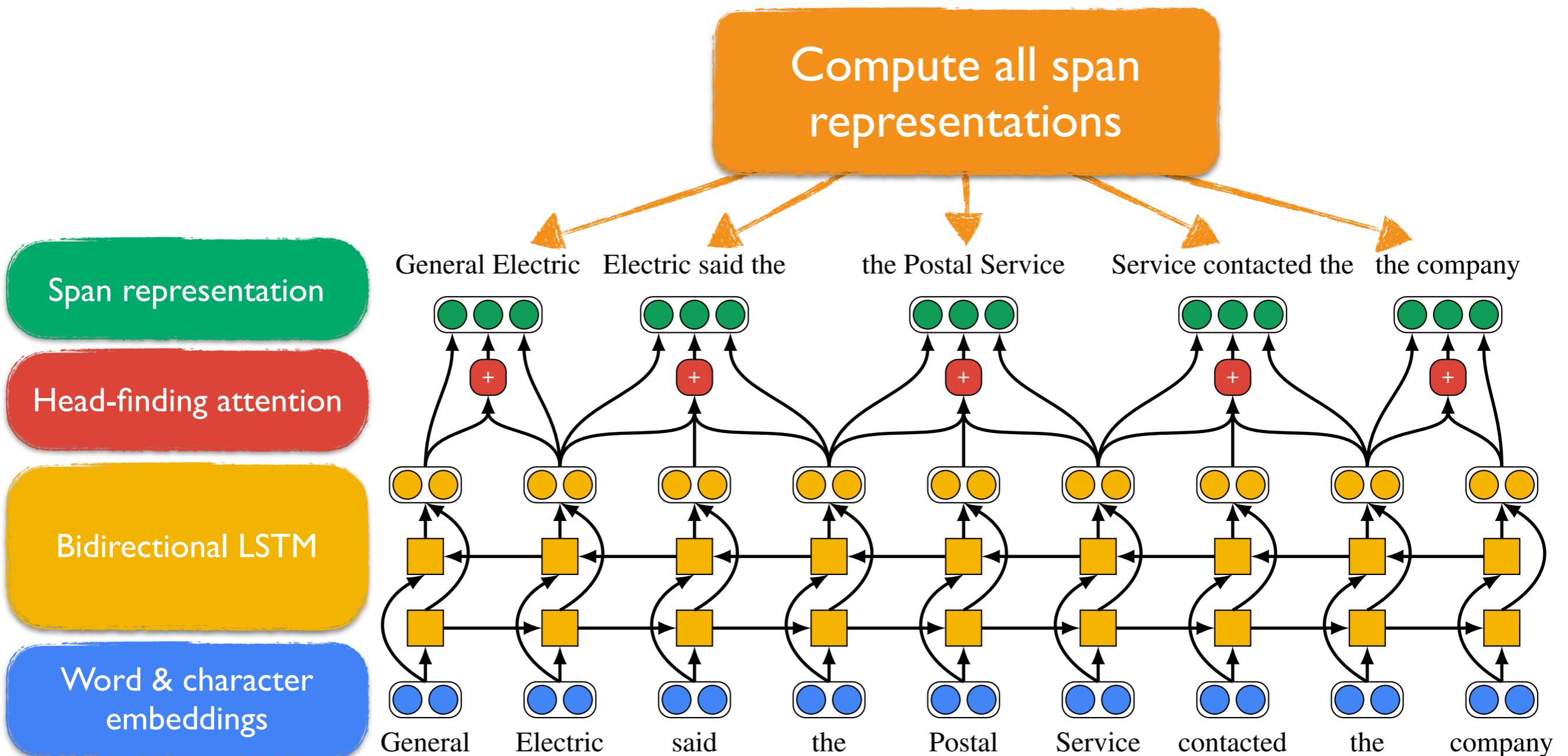
# Key Idea: Span Representations



# Key Idea: Span Representations



# Key Idea: Span Representations



# Mention Ranking

Every span independently chooses an antecedent

<b>Input document</b>
<p>A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building. Witnesses say the only exit door was on the ground floor, and that it was locked when the fire broke out.</p>

# Mention Ranking

- Reason over all possible spans
- Assign an antecedent to every span

$$y_3 \in \{\epsilon, 1, 2\}$$

	<b>Span</b>	<b>Antecedent</b>
1	A	$y_1$
2	A fire	$y_2$
3	A fire in	$y_3$
...	...	...
M	out	$y_M$

# Example Clustering

## Input document

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building. Witnesses say the only exit door was on the ground floor, and that it was locked when the fire broke out.

Span	Antecedent ( $y_i$ )
A	$\epsilon$
A fire	$\epsilon$
...	...
a Bangladeshi garment factory	$\epsilon$
...	...
the four-story building	a Bangladeshi garment factory
...	...
out	$\epsilon$

# Example Clustering

## Input document

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building. Witnesses said floor, and that it was locked when the fire broke out.

Not a mention

Span	Antecedent ( $y_i$ )
A	$\epsilon$
A fire	$\epsilon$
...	...
a Bangladeshi garment factory	$\epsilon$
...	...
the four-story building	a Bangladeshi garment factory
...	...
out	$\epsilon$

# Example Clustering

## Input document

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building. Witnesses say the only exit door was on the ground floor, and that it was locked when the fire broke out.

Span	Antecedent ( $y_i$ )
...	...
a Bangladeshi garment factory	$\epsilon$
...	...
the four-story building	a Bangladeshi garment factory
...	...
out	$\epsilon$

No link with previously occurring span



# Example Clustering

## Input document

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of the deceased were killed in the crush as workers tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building. Witnesses say the only exit door was on the ground floor, and that it was locked when the fire broke out.

Span	Antecedent ( $y_i$ )
A	$\epsilon$
A fire	$\epsilon$
	...
	$\epsilon$
...	...
the four-story building	a Bangladeshi garment factory
...	...
out	$\epsilon$

Predicted coreference link



# Span Ranking Model

$$\begin{aligned} P(y_1, \dots, y_M \mid D) &= \prod_{i=1}^M P(y_i \mid D) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{e^{s(i, y_i)}}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} e^{s(i, y')}} \end{aligned}$$

Factor coreference score  $s(i, j)$  to enable span pruning:

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

# Span Ranking Model

$$P(y_1, \dots, y_M \mid D) = \prod_{i=1}^M P(y_i \mid D)$$

Is this span a mention?

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

Factor coreference score  $s(i, j)$  to enable span pruning:

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

# Span Ranking Model

$$P(y_1, \dots, y_M \mid D) = \prod_{i=1}^M P(y_i \mid D)$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{e^{s(i, y_i)}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}(i)} e^{s(j, y_j)}}$$

Is span  $j$  an antecedent of span  $i$ ?

Factor coreference score  $s(i, j)$  to enable span pruning:

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

# Span Ranking Model

$$\begin{aligned} P(y_1, \dots, y_M \mid D) &= \prod_{i=1}^M P(y_i \mid D) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{e^{s(i, y_i)}}{\sum_{y' \in \mathcal{Y}(i)} e^{s(i, y')}} \end{aligned}$$

Factor coreference score  $s(i, j)$  to enable span pruning:

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

Dummy antecedent  
has a fixed zero score

# Experimental Setup

**Dataset:** English OntoNotes (CoNLL-2012)

**Genres:** Telephone conversations, newswire, newsgroups, broadcast conversation, broadcast news, weblogs

**Documents:** 2802 training, 343 development, 348 test

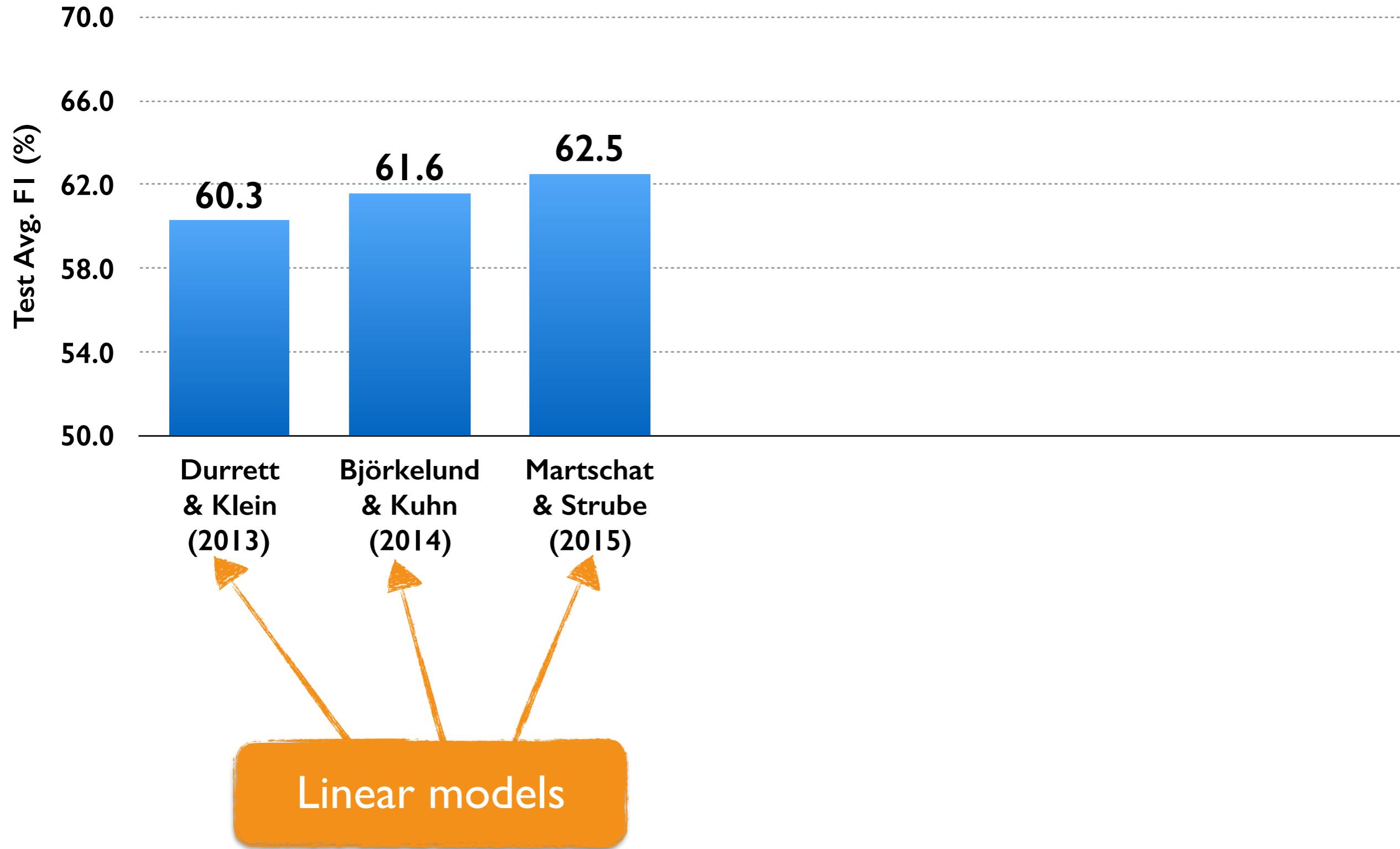
Longest document has 4009 words!

**Aggressive pruning:** Maximum span width, maximum sentence training, suppress spans with inconsistent bracketing, maximum number of antecedents

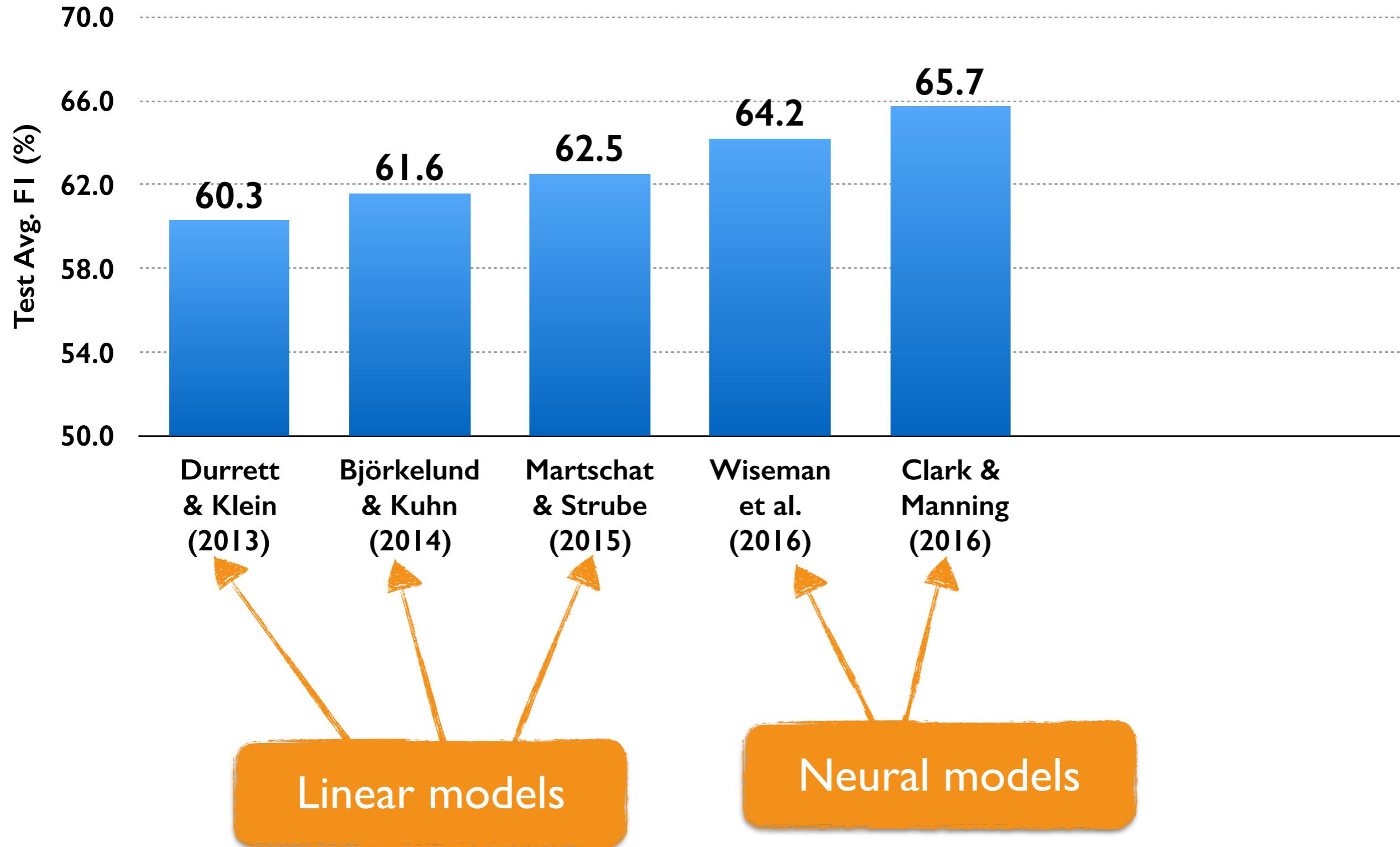
**Features:** distance between spans, span width

**Metadata:** speaker information, genre

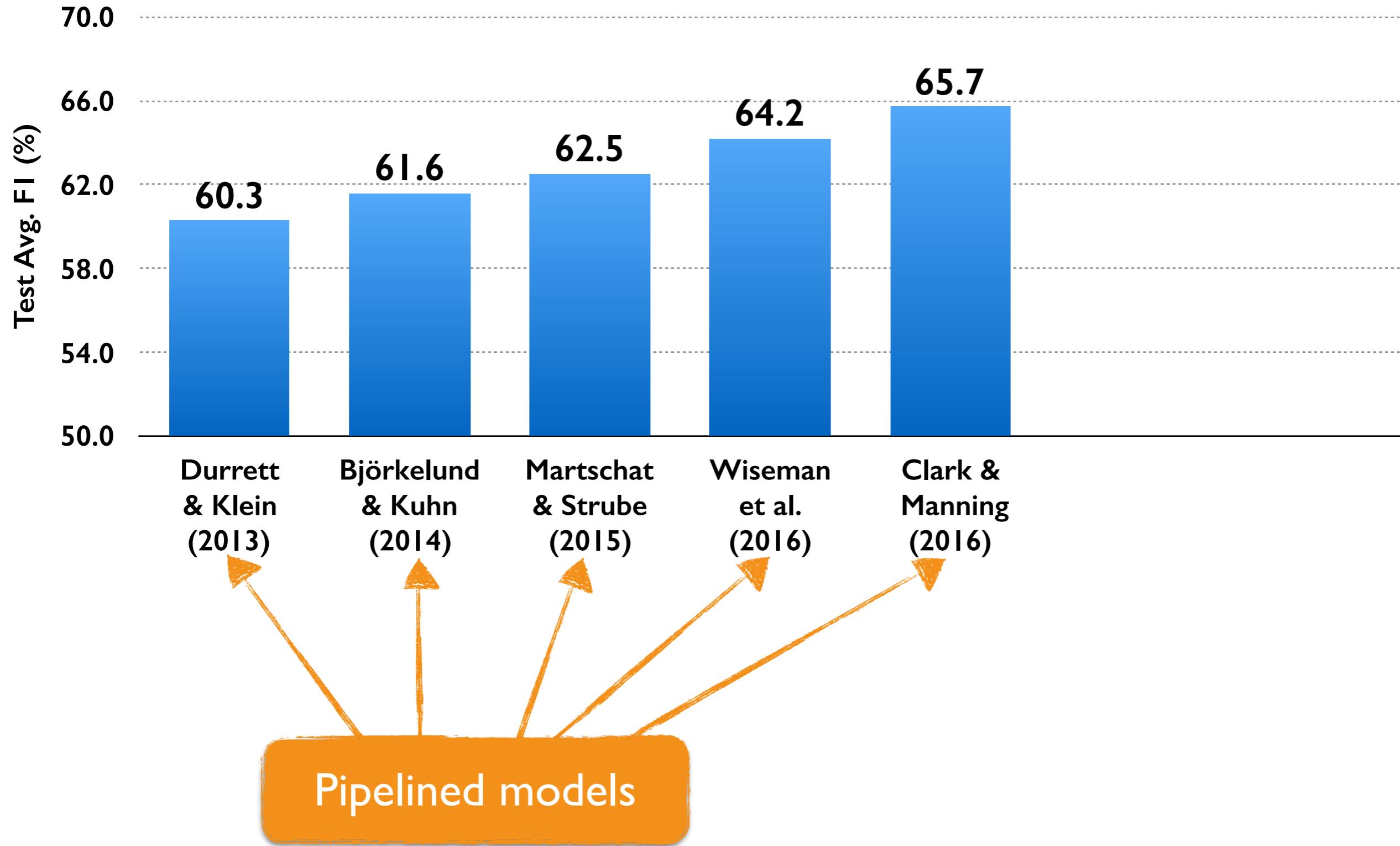
# Coreference Results



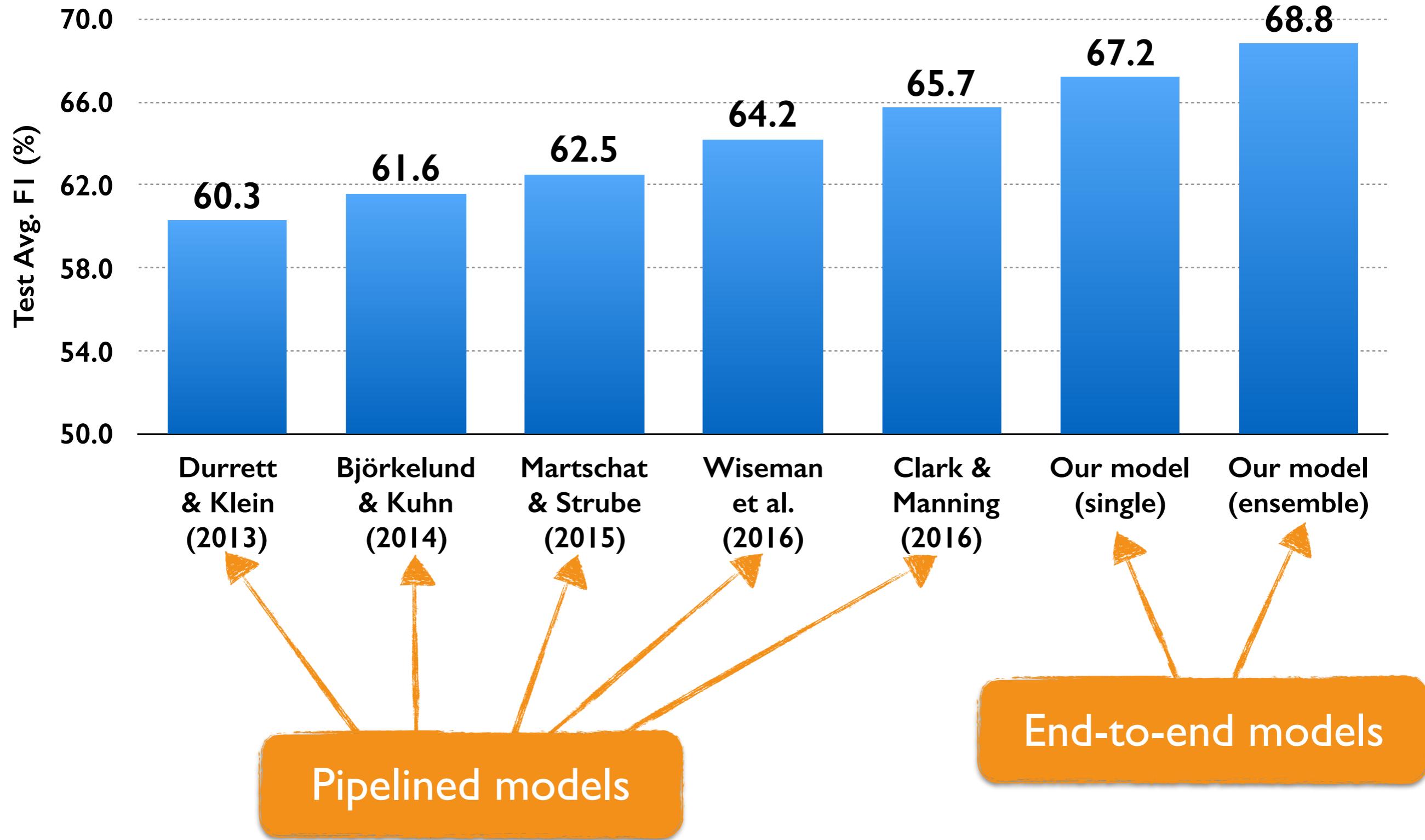
# Coreference Results



# Coreference Results



# Coreference Results



# Qualitative Analysis



: Mention in a predicted cluster



: Head-finding attention weight

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at

least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of  
the deceased were killed in the crush as workers  
tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

# Qualitative Analysis



: Mention in



: Head-finding

Attention-based head finder facilitates  
soft similarity cues

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at

least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of

the deceased were killed in the crush as workers

tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

# Qualitative Analysis



: Mention in a predicted cluster



: Head Good head-finding requires word-order information!

A fire in a Bangladeshi garment factory has left at

least 37 people dead and 100 hospitalized. Most of  
the deceased were killed in the crush as workers  
tried to flee the blaze in the four-story building.

# Common Error Case



: Mention in a predicted cluster



: Head-finding attention weight

The flight attendants have until 6:00 today

to ratify labor concessions. The pilots

union and ground crew did so yesterday.

# Common Error Case



: Mention in a predicted cluster



: Head-finding attention weight

The flight attendants have until 6:00 today

to ratify labor concessions. The pilots

union and ground crew did so yesterday.

Conflating **relatedness**  
with **paraphrasing**

# Does the Recipe Work for Broad Coverage Semantics?

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*

**Challenge 1: Data is costly and limited  
(e.g. linguists required to label  
PennTreebank / OntoNotes)**

*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*



**Challenge 2: Pipeline of structured prediction problems with cascading errors  
(e.g. POS->Parsing->SRL->Coref)**

*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# Where Will the Data Come From???

# Where Will the Data Come From???

## **Option 1:** Semi-supervised learning

- E.g. word2vec and GloVe are in wide use  
[Mikolov et al., 2013; Pennington et al., 2014]

# Where Will the Data Come From???

## **Option 1:** Semi-supervised learning

- E.g. word2vec and GloVe are in wide use  
[Mikolov et al., 2013; Pennington et al., 2014]
- Can we learn better word representations?

# Where Will the Data Come From???

## **Option 1:** Semi-supervised learning

- E.g. word2vec and GloVe are in wide use  
[Mikolov et al., 2013; Pennington et al., 2014]
- Can we learn better word representations?

## **Option 2:** Supervised learning

# Where Will the Data Come From???

## **Option 1:** Semi-supervised learning

- E.g. word2vec and GloVe are in wide use  
[Mikolov et al., 2013; Pennington et al., 2014]
- Can we learn better word representations?

## **Option 2:** Supervised learning

- Can we gather more direct forms of supervision?

# Learning Better Word Representations

**Goal:** Model contextualized syntax and semantics

$$R(w_i, w_1 \dots w_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

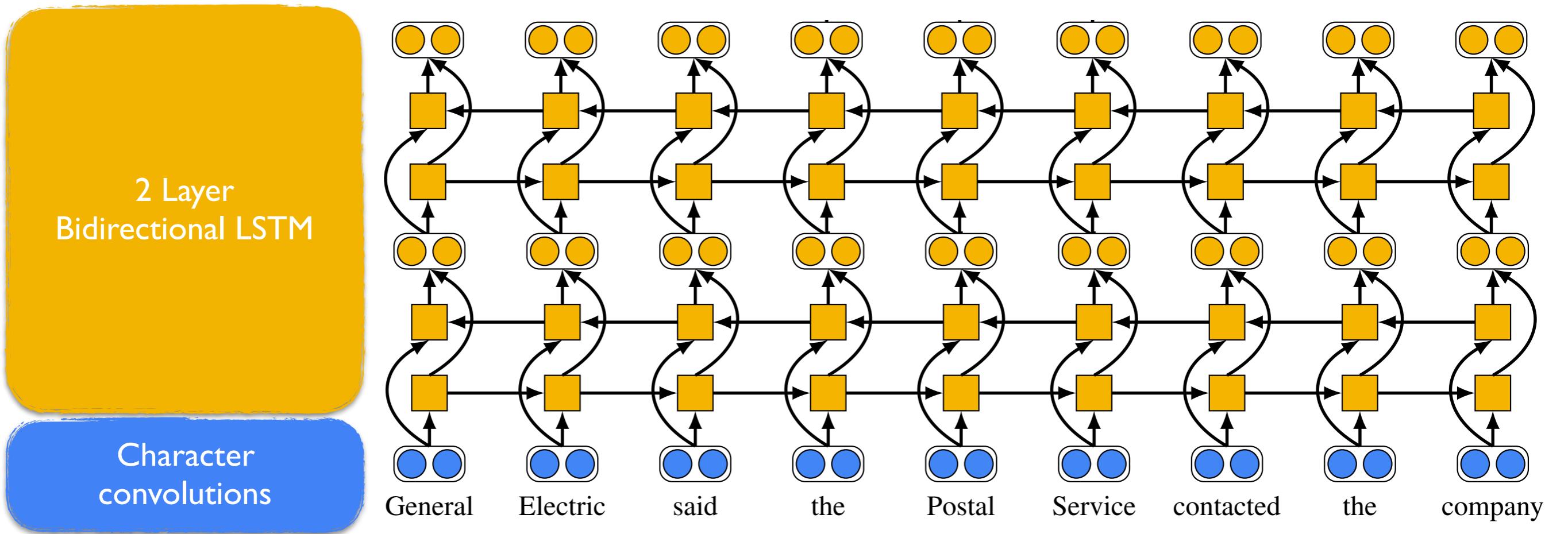
$R(\text{plays}, \text{"The robot plays piano."})$

$\neq$

$R(\text{plays}, \text{"The robot starred in many plays."})$

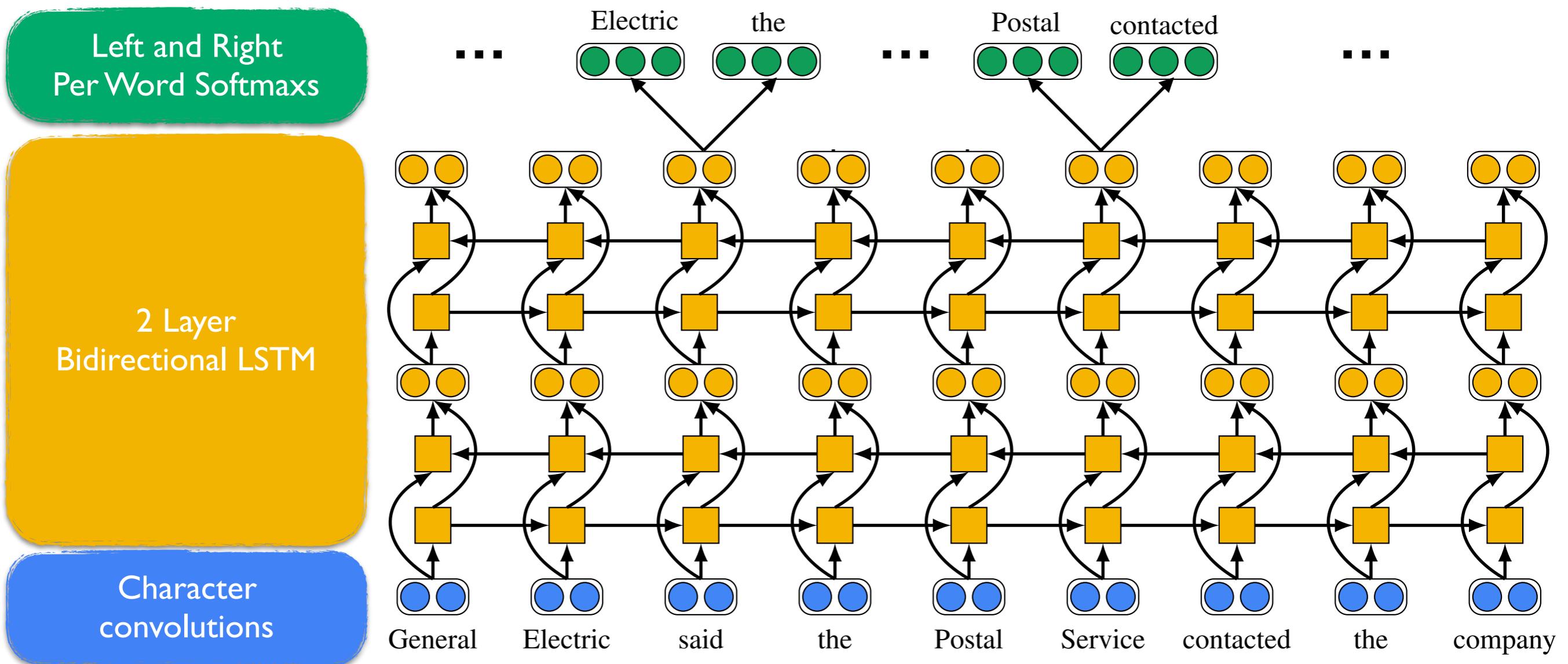
# Word Embeddings from a Language Model

**Step 1:** Train a large BiLM on unlabeled data



# Word Embeddings from a Language Model

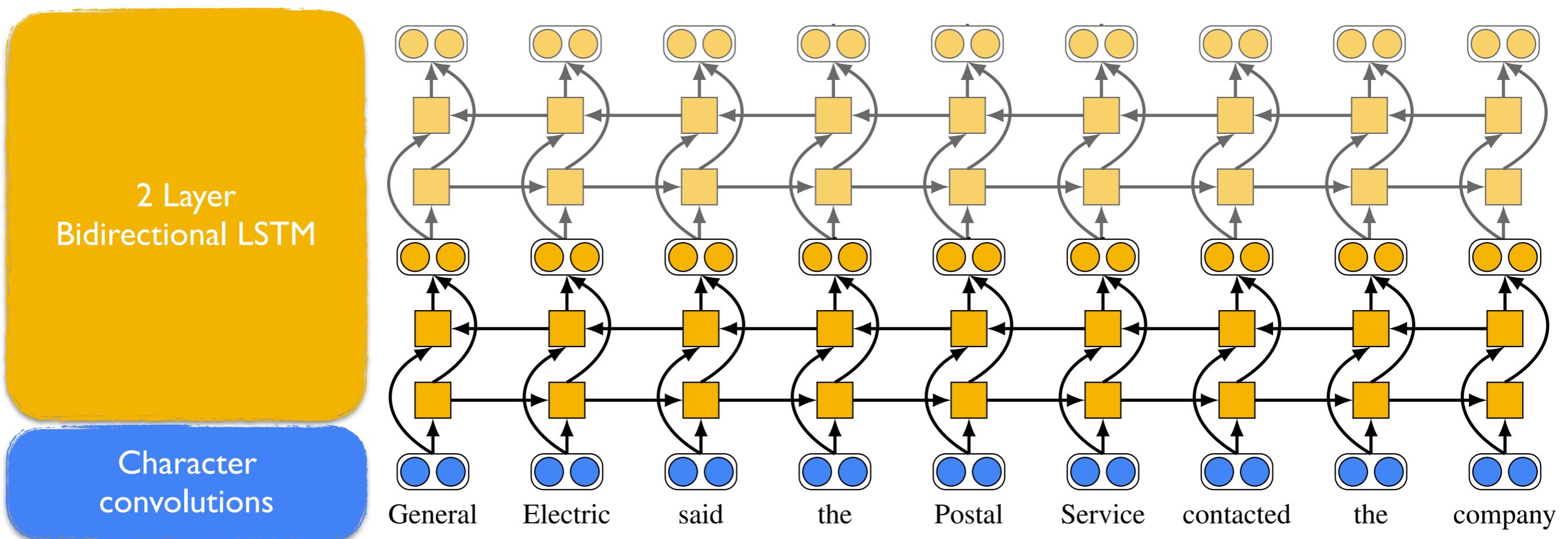
**Step 1:** Train a large BiLM on unlabeled data



# Word Embeddings from a Language Model

**Step 1:** Train a large BiLM on unlabeled data

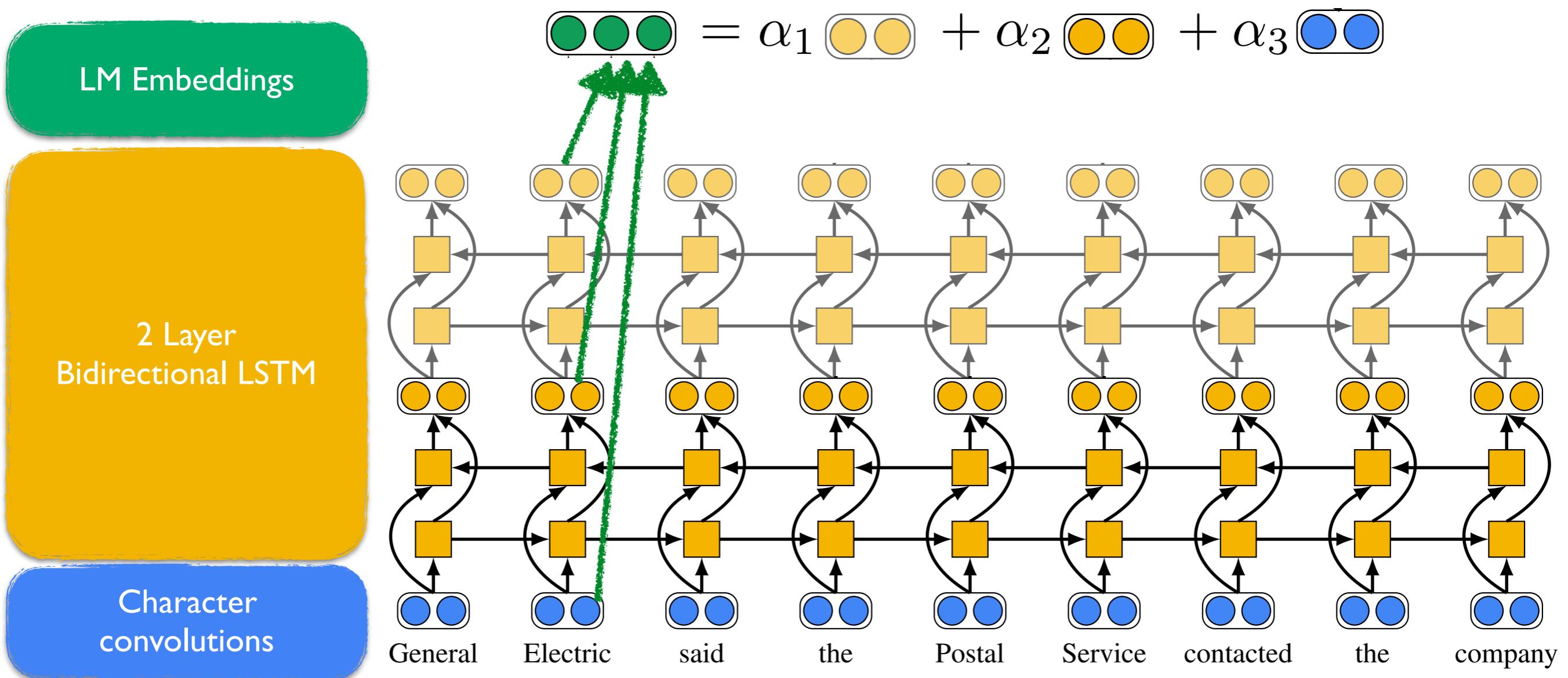
**Step 2:** Compute linear function of pre-trained model



# Word Embeddings from a Language Model

**Step 1:** Train a large BiLM on unlabeled data

**Step 2:** Compute linear function of pre-trained model

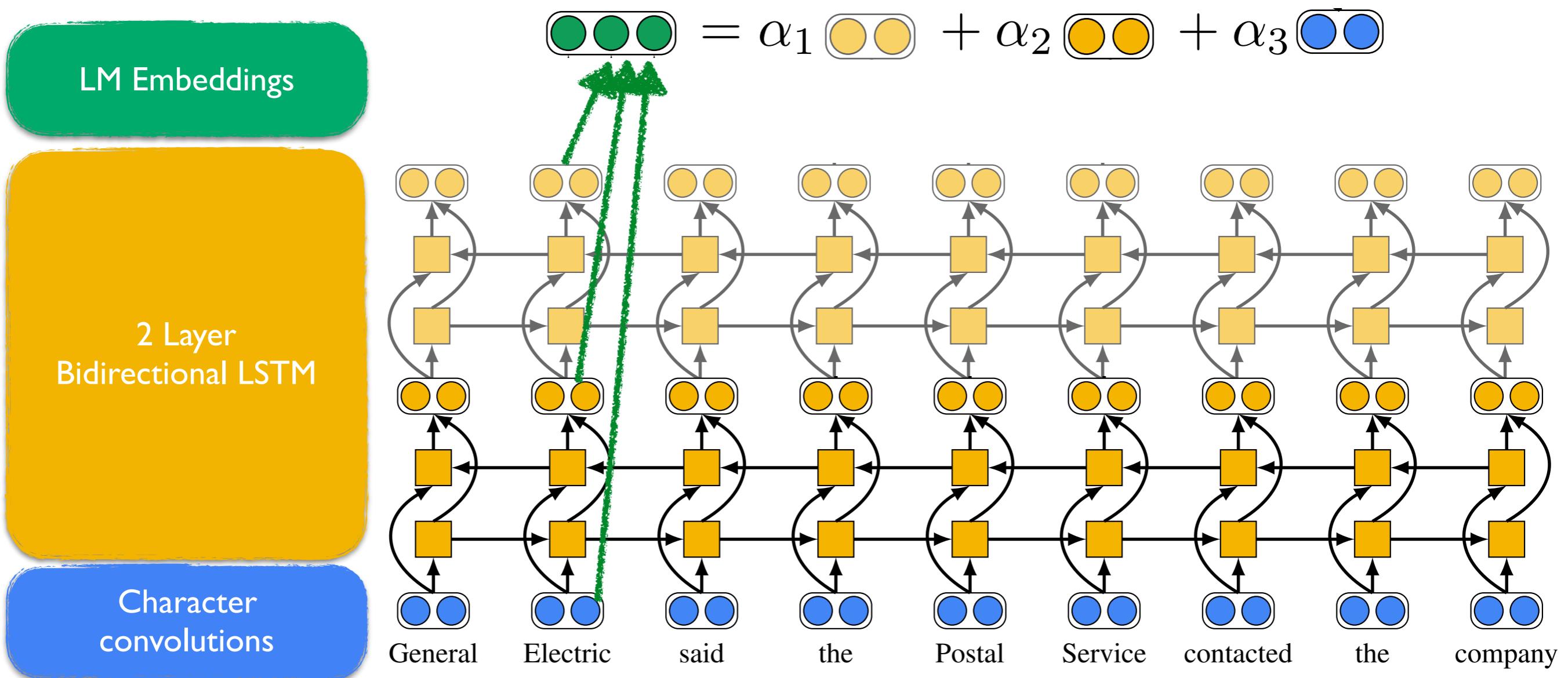


# Word Embeddings from a Language Model

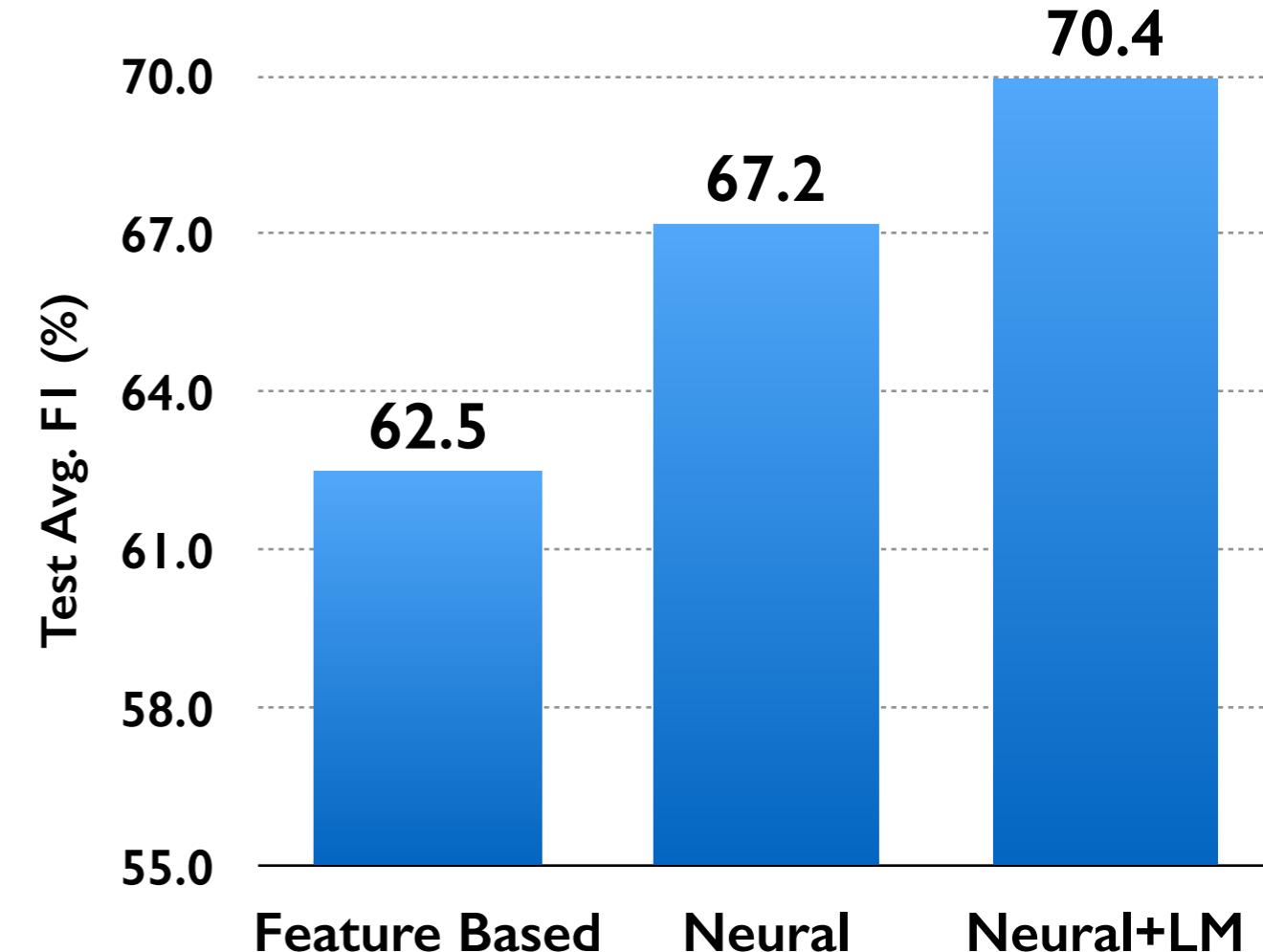
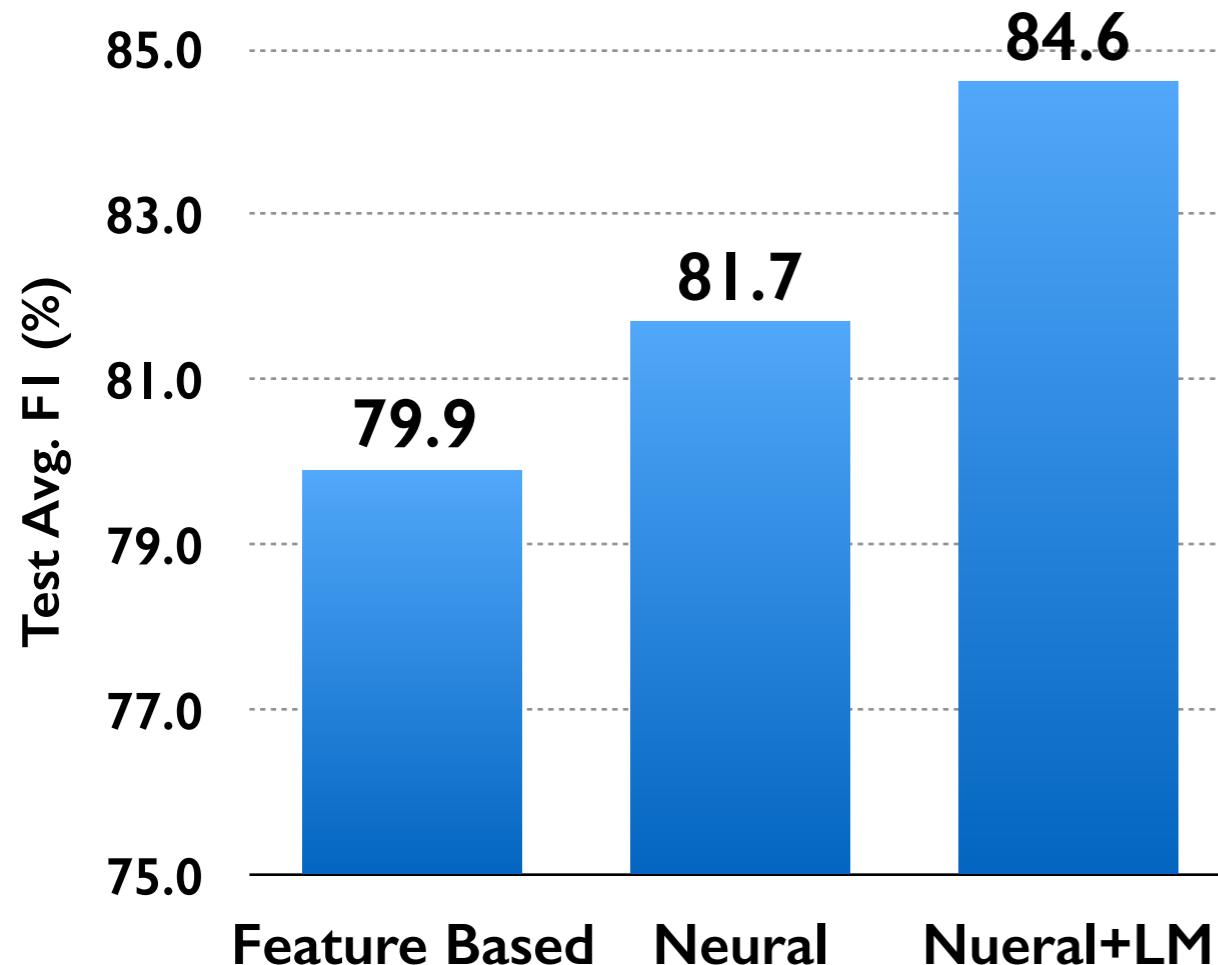
**Step 1:** Train a large BiLM on unlabeled data

**Step 2:** Compute linear function of pre-trained model

**Step 3:** Learn weights for each end task



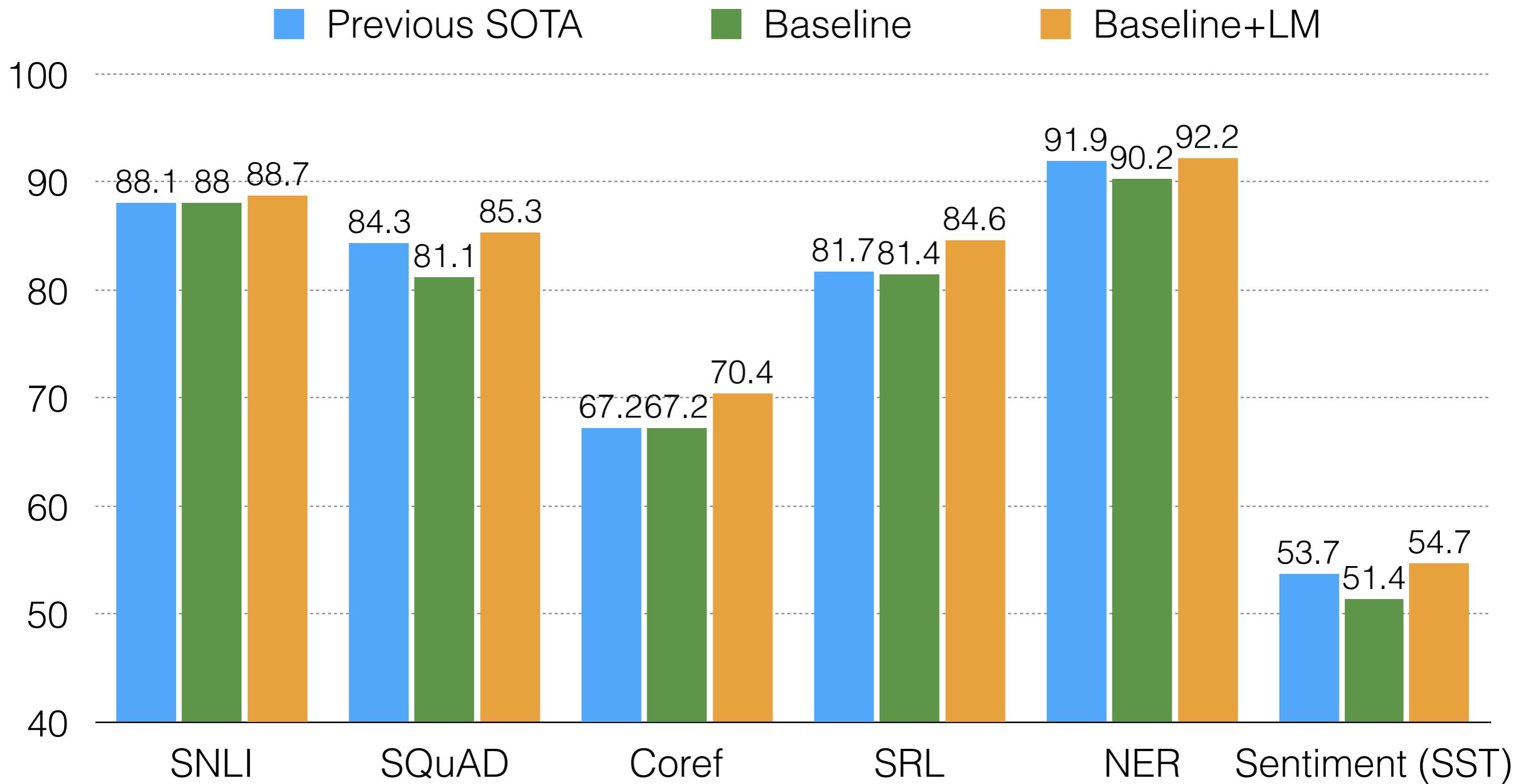
# Best Single System Results



SRL  
(+2.9 FI)

Coreference  
(+3.2 FI)

# SOTA For Many Others Tasks



# What Does it Learn?

# What Does it Learn?

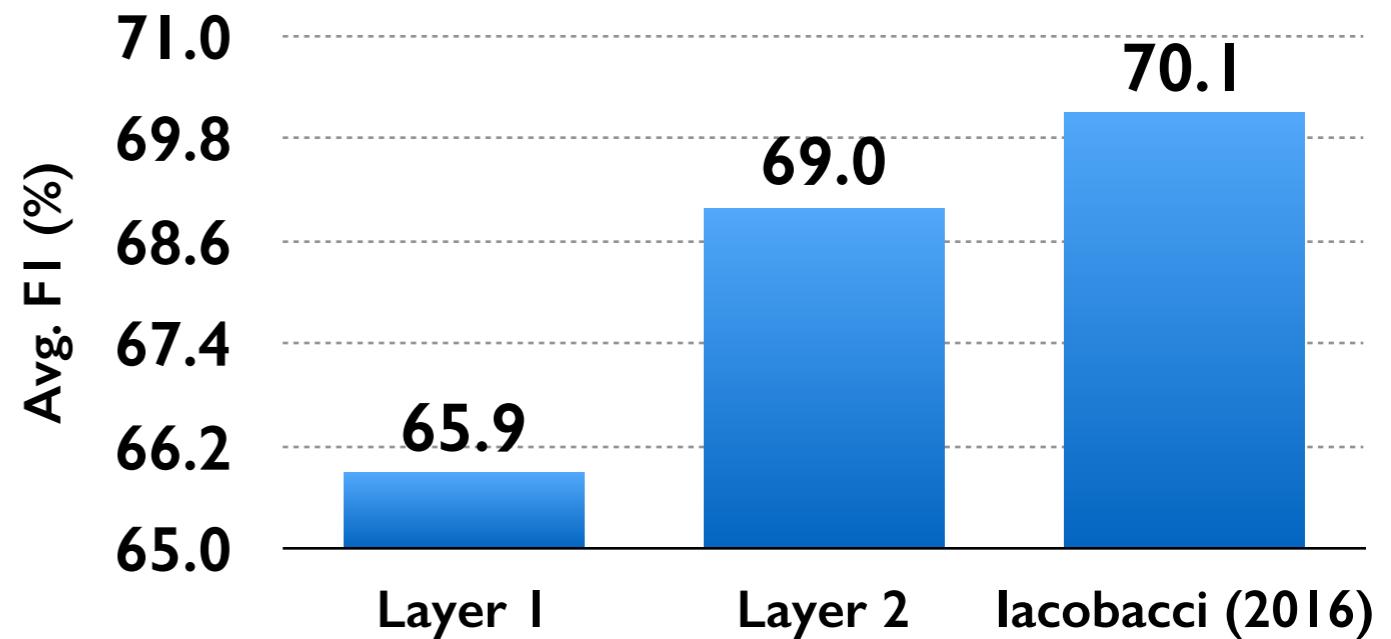
## Semantics:

- Supervised WSD task  
[Miller et al., 1994]
- Use N-th layer in NN  
classifier

# What Does it Learn?

## Semantics:

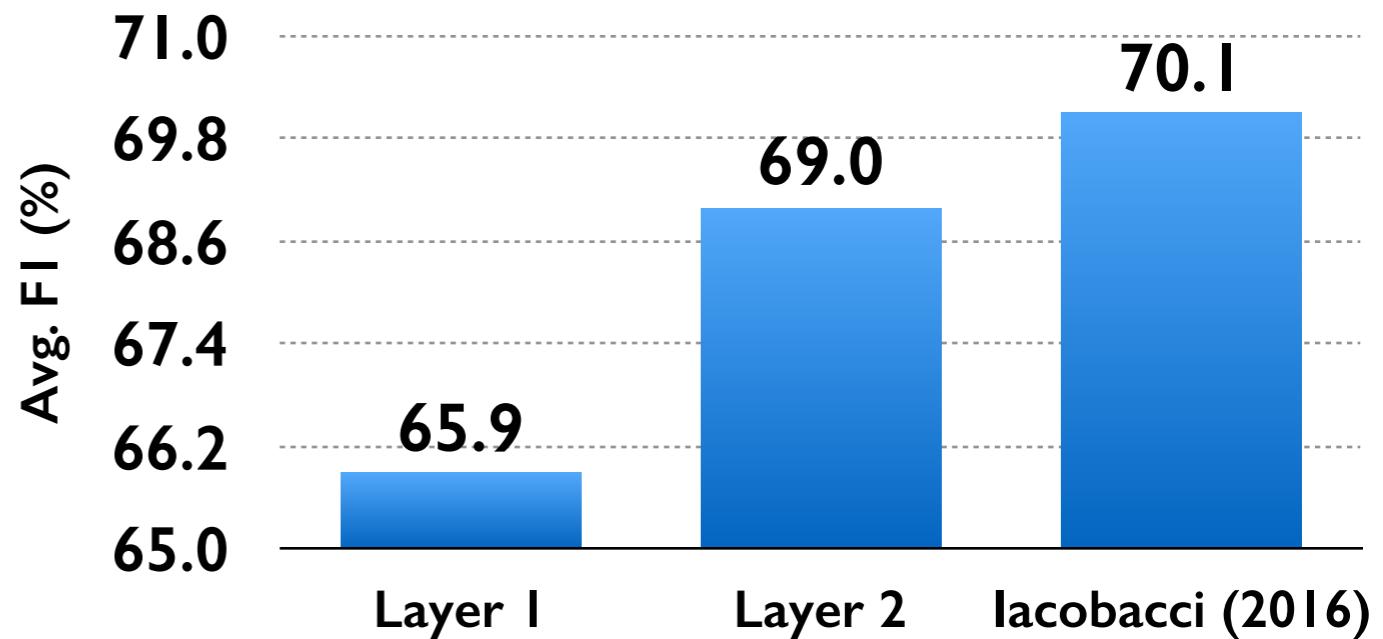
- Supervised WSD task [Miller et al., 1994]
- Use N-th layer in NN classifier



# What Does it Learn?

## Semantics:

- Supervised WSD task [Miller et al., 1994]
- Use N-th layer in NN classifier



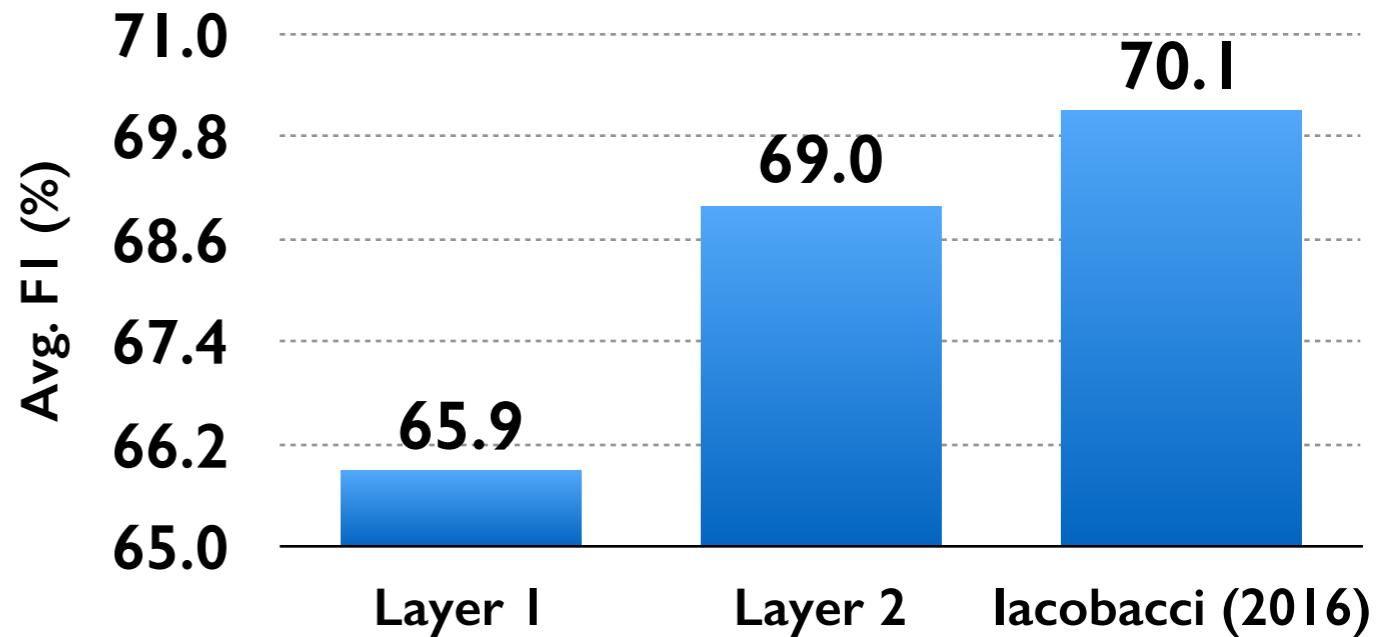
## Syntax:

- Label POS corpus [Marcus et al., 1993]
- Learn classifier on N-th layer

# What Does it Learn?

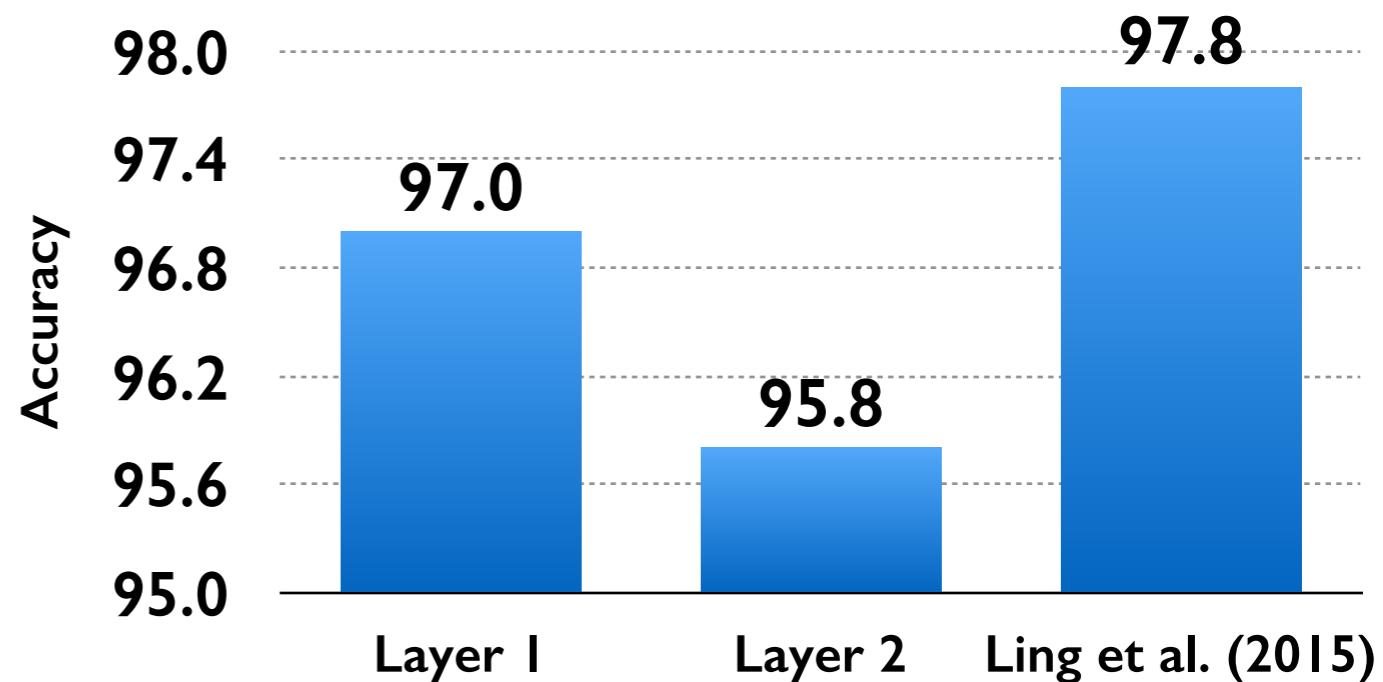
## Semantics:

- Supervised WSD task [Miller et al., 1994]
- Use N-th layer in NN classifier



## Syntax:

- Label POS corpus [Marcus et al., 1993]
- Learn classifier on N-th layer



# Where Will the Data Come From???

## **Option 1:** Semi-supervised learning

- E.g. word2vec and GloVe are in wide use  
[Mikolov et al., 2013; Pennington et al., 2014]
- Can we learn better word representations?



## **Option 2:** Supervised learning

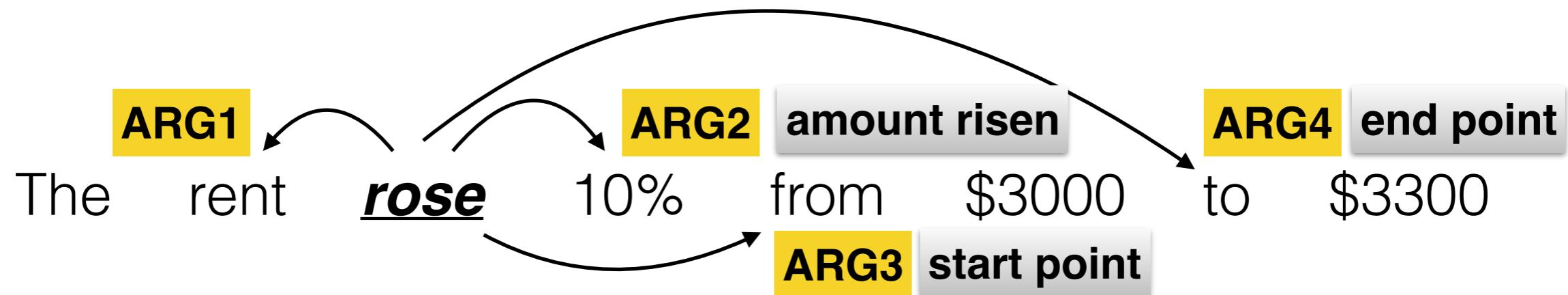
- Can we gather more direct forms of supervision?

# A First Data Step: QA-SRL

- Introduce a **new SRL** formulation with **no frame or role inventory**
- Use **question-answer pairs** to model verbal predicate-argument relations
- Annotated **over 3,000 sentences in weeks** with **non-expert**, part-time annotators
- Showed that this data is **high-quality** and **learnable**

[He et al, 2015]

# Previous Method: Annotation with Frames



Frameset: ***rise.01 , go up***

**Arg1-**: *Logical subject, patient, thing rising*

**Arg2-EXT**: *EXT, amount risen*

**Arg3-DIR**: *start point*

**Arg4-LOC**: *end point*

**Argm-LOC**: *medium*

- Depends on pre-defined frame inventory, requires syntactic parses
- Annotators need to:
  - 1) Identify the Frameset
  - 2) Find arguments in the parse
  - 3) Assign labels accordingly
- If frame doesn't exist, create new

# Our Annotation Scheme

**Given sentence and a verb:**

They **increased** the rent this year .

# Our Annotation Scheme

**Given sentence and a verb:**

They ***increased*** the rent this year .

**Step 1: Ask a question  
about the verb:**

Who increased something ?

# Our Annotation Scheme

**Given sentence and a verb:**

They ***increased*** the rent this year .

**Step 1: Ask a question  
about the verb:**

Who increased something ?

**Step 2: Answer with words  
in the sentence:**

They

# Our Annotation Scheme

**Given sentence and a verb:**

They ***increased*** the rent this year .

**Step 1: Ask a question  
about the verb:**

Who increased something ?

**Step 2: Answer with words  
in the sentence:**

They

**Step 3: Repeat, write as many  
QA pairs as possible ...**

# Our Annotation Scheme

**Given sentence and a verb:**

They ***increased*** the rent this year .

**Step 1: Ask a question  
about the verb:**

Who increased something ?

**Step 2: Answer with words  
in the sentence:**

They

**Step 3: Repeat, write as many  
QA pairs as possible ...**

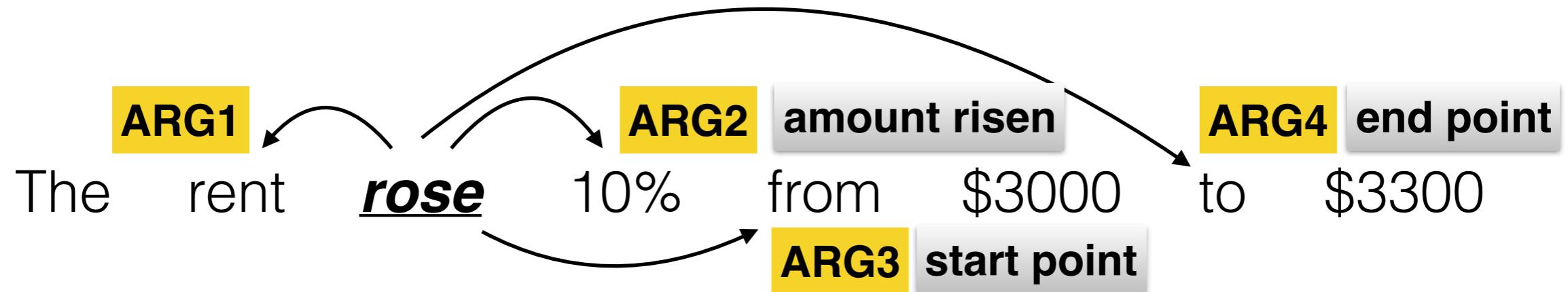
What is increased ?

the rent

When is something increased ?

this year

# Our Method: Q/A Pairs for Semantic Relations



## Wh-Question

What rose ?

How much did something rise ?

What did something rise from ?

What did something rise to ?

## Answer

the rent

10%

\$3000

\$3300

# Wh-words vs. PropBank Roles

	<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>HowMuch</b>
<b>ARG0</b>	1575	414	3	5	17	28	2
<b>ARG1</b>	285	2481	4	25	20	23	95
<b>ARG2</b>	85	364	2	49	17	51	74
<b>ARG3</b>	11	62	7	8	4	16	31
<b>ARG4</b>	2	30	5	11	2	4	30
<b>ARG5</b>	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
<b>AM-ADV</b>	5	44	9	2	25	27	6
<b>AM-CAU</b>	0	3	1	0	23	1	0
<b>AM-DIR</b>	0	6	1	13	0	4	0
<b>AM-EXT</b>	0	4	0	0	0	5	5
<b>AM-LOC</b>	1	35	10	89	0	13	11
<b>AM-MNR</b>	5	47	2	8	4	108	14
<b>AM-PNC</b>	2	21	0	1	39	7	2
<b>AM-PRD</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>AM-TMP</b>	2	51	341	2	11	20	10

## **Advantages**

- Easily explained
- No pre-defined roles, few syntactic assumption
- Can capture implicit arguments
- Generalizable across domains

## **Limitations**

- Only modeling verbs (for now)
- Not annotating verb senses directly
- Can have multiple equivalent questions

## **Challenges**

- What questions to ask?
- How much data do we need?
- Can we generalize to other tasks, such as coref?

# Does the Recipe Work for Broad Coverage Semantics?

*Step 1: Gather lots of training data!*



**Challenge 1: Data is costly and limited  
(e.g. linguists required to label  
PennTreebank / OntoNotes)**

*Step 2: Apply Deep Learning!!*



**Challenge 2: Pipeline of structured  
prediction problems with cascading errors  
(e.g. POS->Parsing->SRL->Coref)**

*Step 3: Observe Impressive Gains!!!*

# Contributions

## Models

- End-to-end deep learning for SRL and coreference
- No preprocessing (e.g. no parser or POS tagger)

## Data

- Contextualized word embeddings from a language model
- First steps towards scalable data annotation

# The End: Questions?

## Future Directions

- Multi-task learning, given architectural similarities
- Multi-lingual should work, in theory...
- Need to scale up data annotation efforts, and focus on out of domain performance

## Recent Release

- AllenNLP: Deep Learning Semantic NLP toolkit
- See demos and code at [AllenNLP.org](https://allenlp.org)