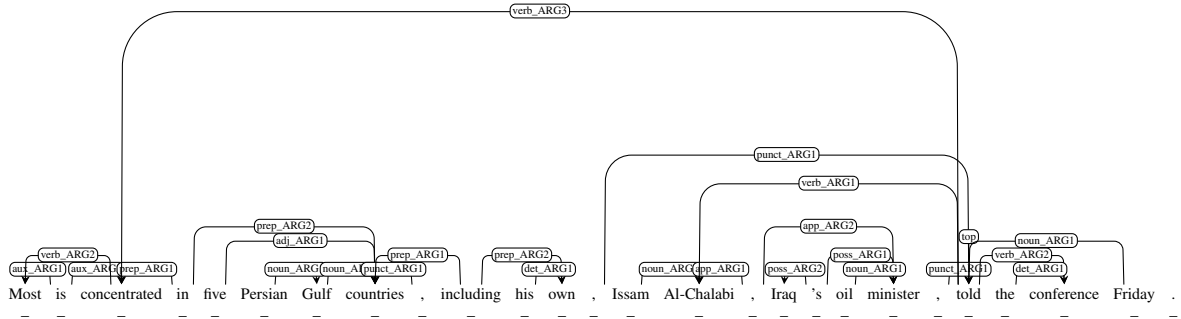
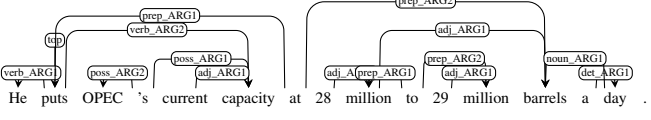


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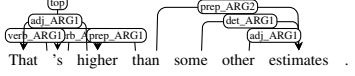




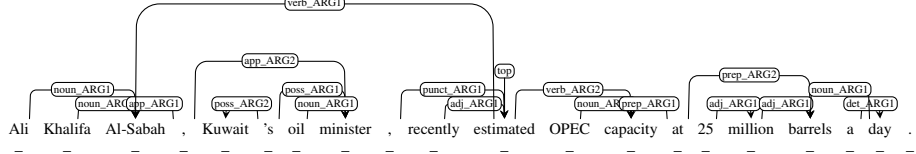
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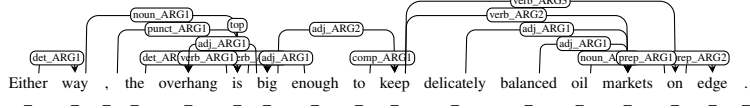
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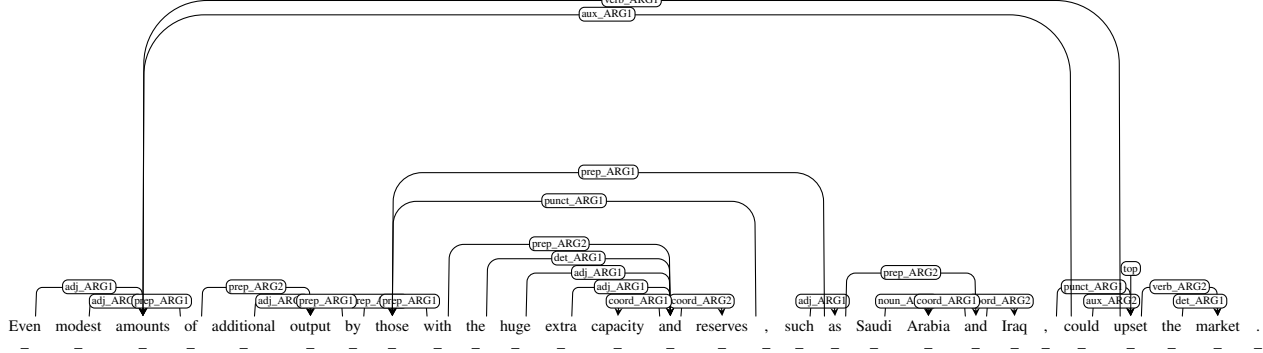
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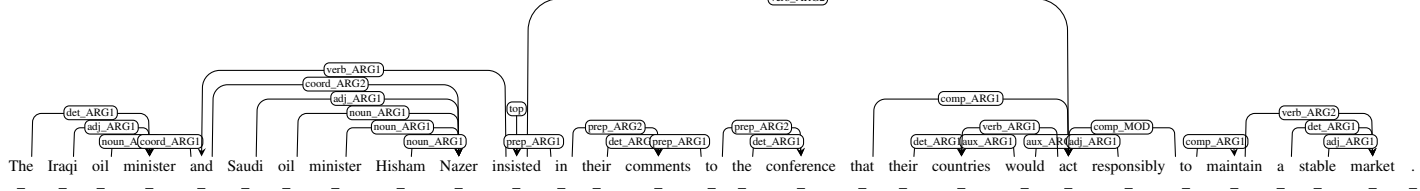
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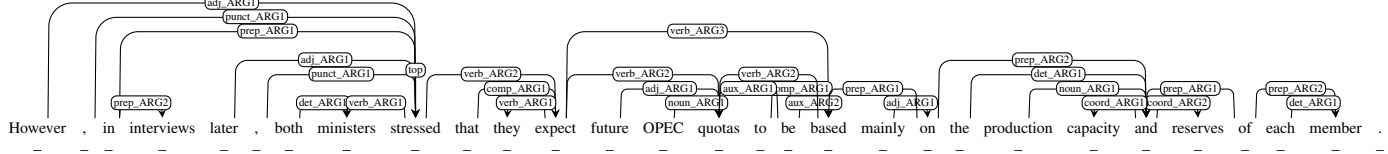
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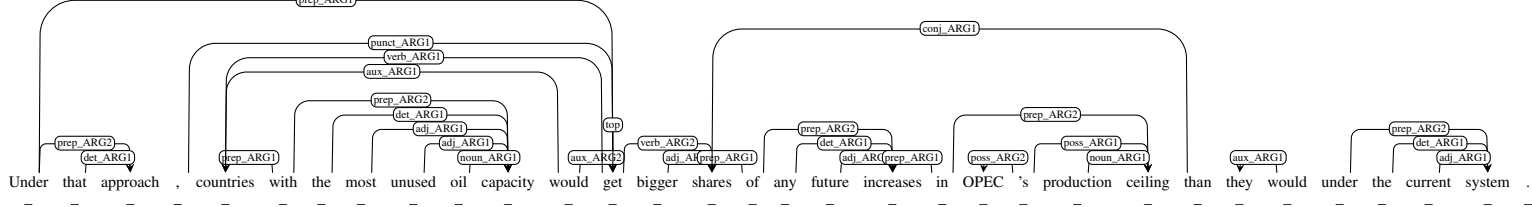
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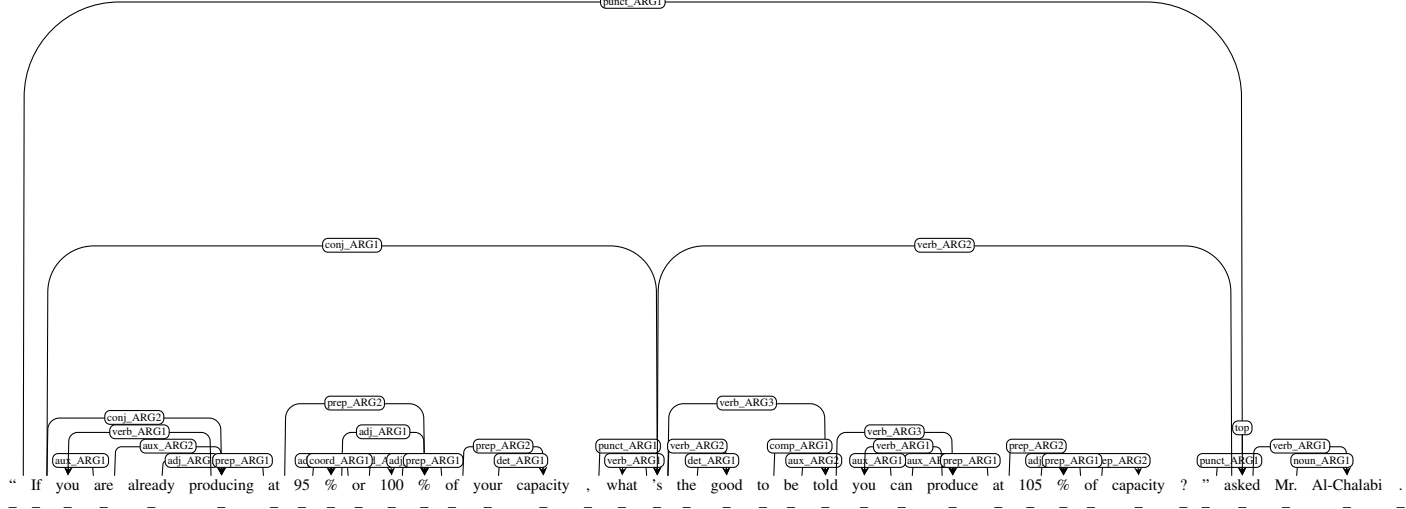
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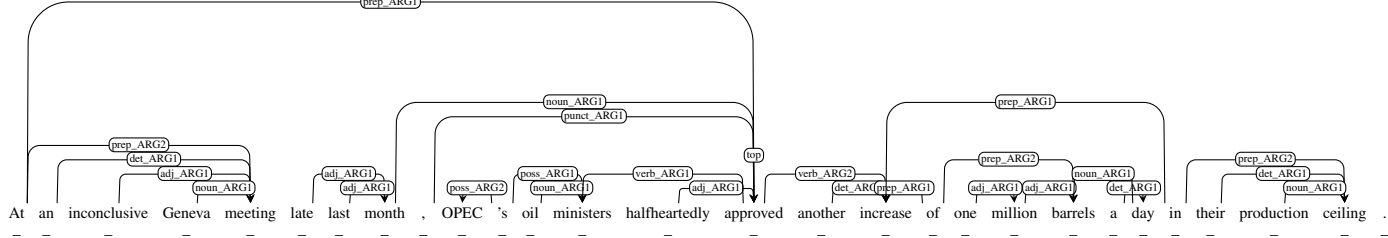
[21428019]



[21428020]



[21428021]



[21428022]

They doled it out using the existing formula , however , which meant that even those countries that could n't produce more received higher official allotments .

[21428023]

The main effect of the ceiling boost was to " legitimize " some of the overproduction already coming from the quota cheaters .

[21428024]

Still , there was a breakthrough at Geneva .

[21428025]

Previously , no OPEC member had been willing to accept a reduction in its percentage share of the group 's total output target , or ceiling .

[21428026]

But the concept of disproportionate quotas for those with unused capacity , advanced there in an Iranian proposal , was generally endorsed by the ministers .

[21428027]

In the end politics got in the way .

[21428028]

Libya accepted Iran 's proposal only so long as it was promised production parity with Kuwait .

[21428029]

And the United Arab Emirates , a chronic quota cheater , refused to give any guarantee it would change its ways .

[21428030]

But the oil ministers continue to study the plan , and it will probably be the basis for discussion at next month 's meeting .

[21428031]

It 's understood several compromises already have been worked into the plan .

[21428032]

The ceiling would be lifted to 21.5 million barrels to provide Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates much higher official quotas while reducing percentage shares of some others .

[21428033]

Libya 's previous conditions are no longer considered a problem , although the United Arab Emirates is still an issue .

[21428034]

Saudi Arabia , OPEC 's kingpin , also has surfaced as a possible obstacle , some OPEC sources said .

[21428035]

