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After gaining strength during a brief run-up when trading began , the Nasdaq Composite Index weakened under selling pressure .

During the last two hours of trading, the composite almost drew even on the day before shipping again.

The Nasdaq Composite closed down 1.05 , or 0.2 % , to 459.93 .

The action was confined to Nasdaq's biggest and most liquid stocks, traders said

The Nasdaq 100 Index began the day at 449.89, lost 2% at one point, and was up 0.4% at another.

The barometer of the biggest nonfinancial stocks settled at 448.49, off 1.40.

The volatility was dizzying for traders

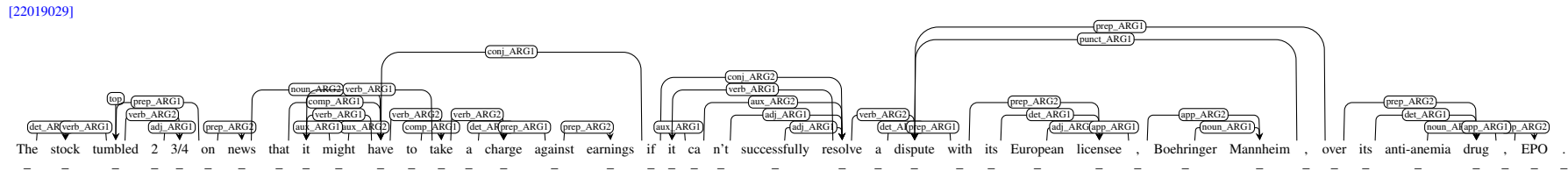
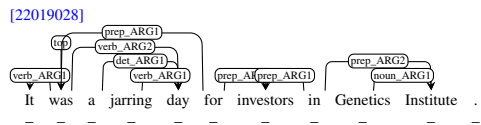
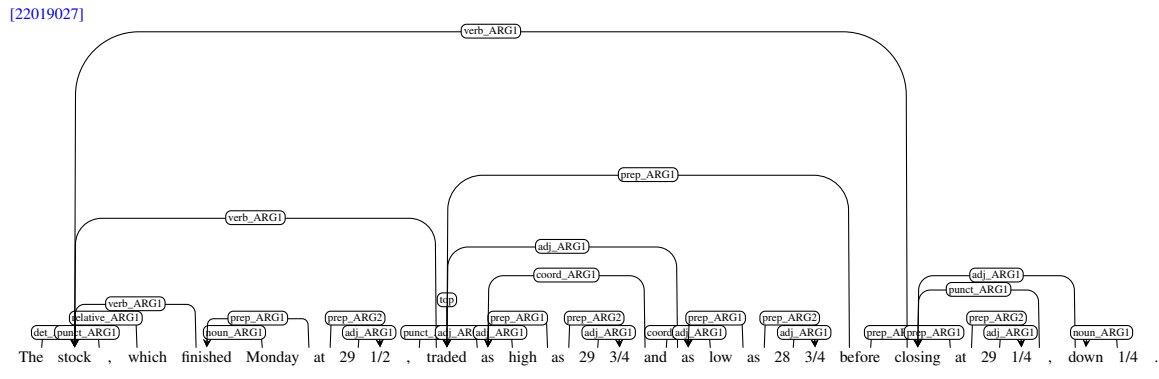
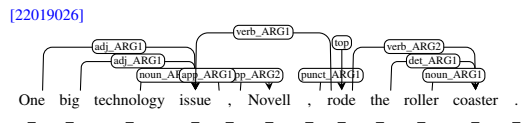
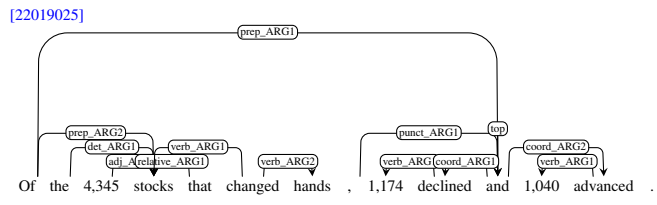
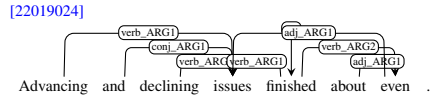
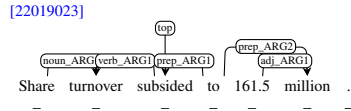
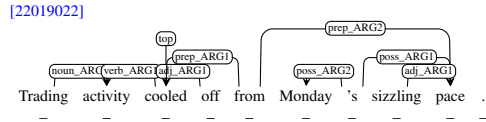
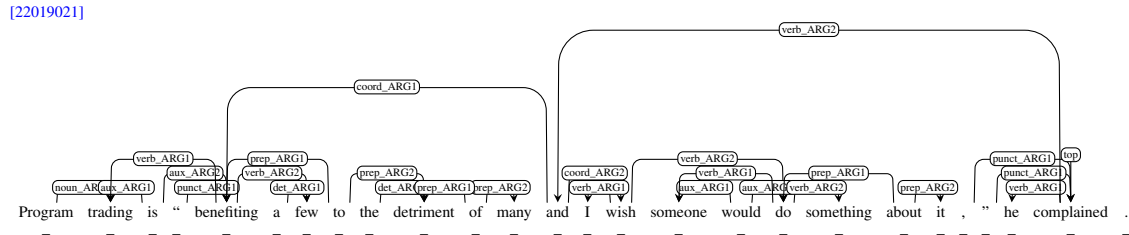
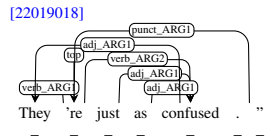
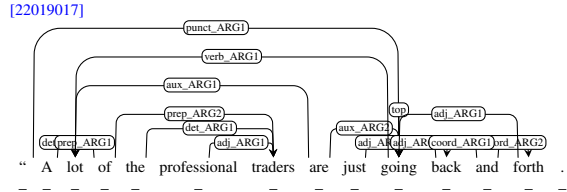
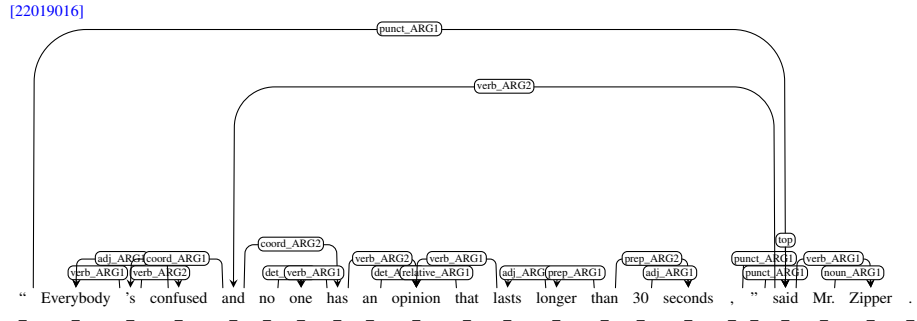
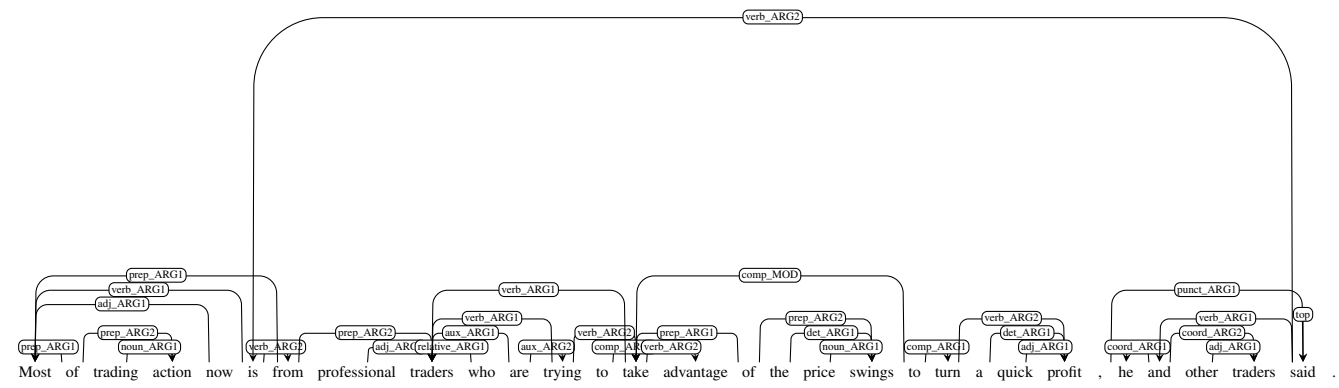
" The market must have turned up and down 15 different times , - commented Lance Zipper , head of OTC trading at Kipper Peabody

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This is a tough market . "

Mr. Zipper said the market is still settling down after the recent correction .



The stock recovered somewhat to finish 1 1/4 lower at 26 1/4 .

In a statement , Genetics Institute said the dispute with Boehringer centers on questions of the usability of certain batches of EPO material valued at \$ 13.6 million .

Earlier this week , Genetics Institute reported wider losses in its fiscal third quarter ended Aug. 31 .

Price Co. jumped 2 1/4 to 44 on 1.7 million shares .

The company also pleased analysts by announcing four new store openings planned for fiscal 1990 , ending next August .

That will bring the total for the year to 10 , from five during fiscal 1989 .

" Every year we 've been waiting for stepped-up expansion from the company .

The news could n't have been better . " said Linda Kristiansen , a Dean Witter Reynolds analyst , in an interview .

Intermec , a maker of optical character-recognition devices , also reported higher third-quarter earnings .

Its shares added 3/4 to 30 3/4 .

MCI Communications tumbled 2 5/8 to 42 3/8 on 4.7 million shares even though the telecommunications giant reported a 63 % increase in third-quarter profit .

CoreStates Financial slipped 3/8 to 43 1/8 in active trading after reporting that third-quarter earnings improved to \$ 1.27 a share from \$ 1.15 a share a year earlier .

However , the bank holding company 's loan-loss reserves rose to \$ 177.3 million from \$ 154 million a year earlier .

A&W Brands lost 1/4 to 27 .

But its thirdquarter earnings rose to 26 cents a share from 18 cents a share last year .

Capital Associates dropped 1 to 5 3/8 .

