

[21271001]



Storm flooding caused back-ups on the freeway , and many commuters had to find rides to BART ' s stations , because parking lots were full before dawn .

Bus schedules were sometimes in disarray , stranding commuters such as Marilyn Sullivan .

Her commute from Petaluma , Calif. , normally takes an hour and 15 minutes , via the Golden Gate Bridge , which connects San Francisco with the North Bay area .

Yesterday , she was still waiting at a bus stop after three hours , trying to transfer to a bus going to the financial district .

" It ' s worse than I thought . " she said .

" I do n't know where all the buses are . "

But while traffic was heavy early in the commute over the Golden Gate , by 8 a.m. it already had thinned out .

" It ' s one of the smoothest commutes I ' ve ever had , " said Charles Catania , an insurance broker on the bus from Mill Valley in Marin County .

" It looks like a holiday .

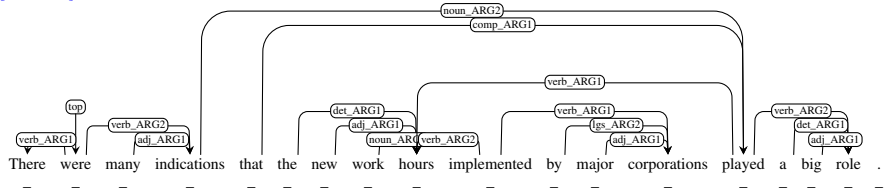
I think a lot of people got scared and stayed home .

However , a spokeswoman for BankAmerica Corp. said yesterday ' s absenteeism at the bank holding company was no greater than on an average day .

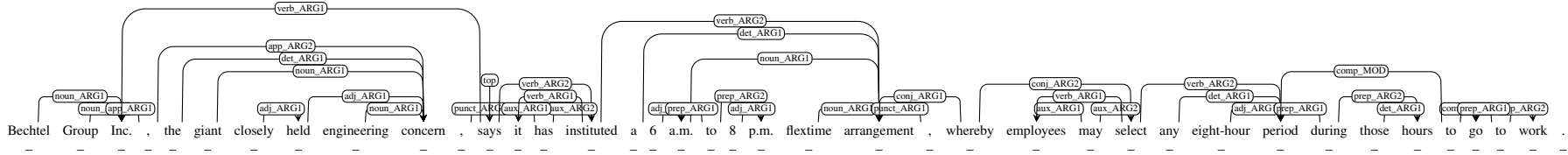
At the San Mateo Bridge , which connects the San Francisco peninsula with the East Bay , police were surprised at the speed with which traffic moved .

" Everybody pretty much pitched in and cooperated , " said Stan Perez , a sergeant with the California Highway Patrol .

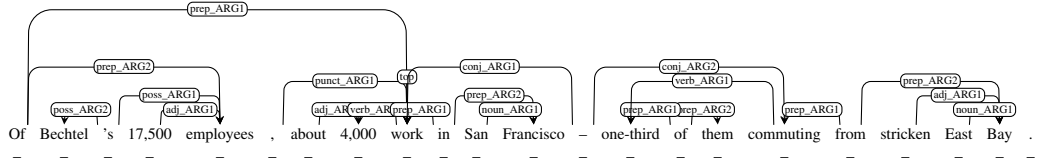
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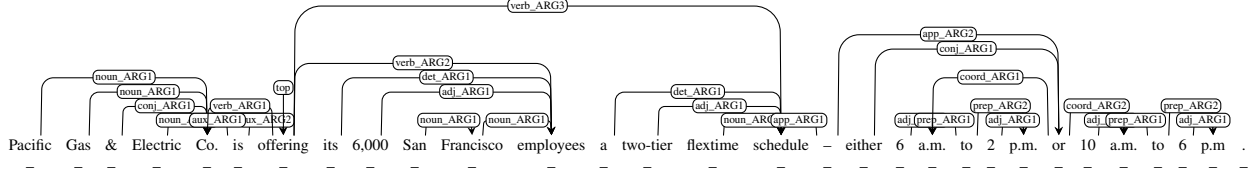
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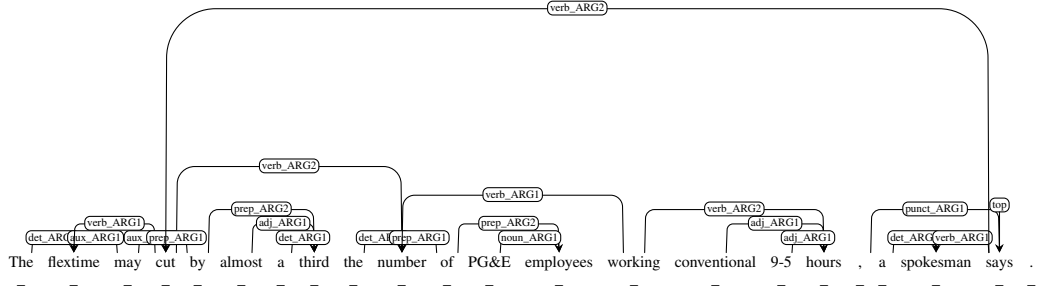
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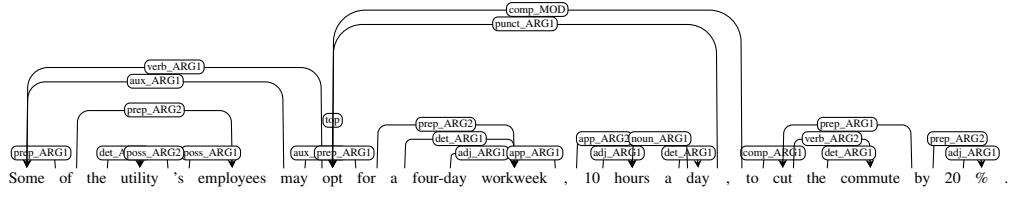
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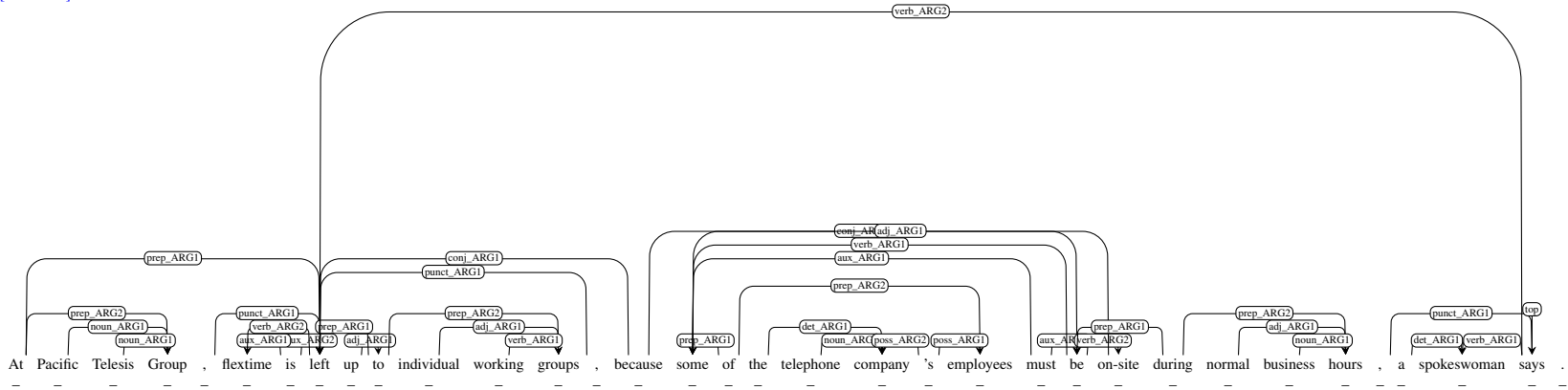
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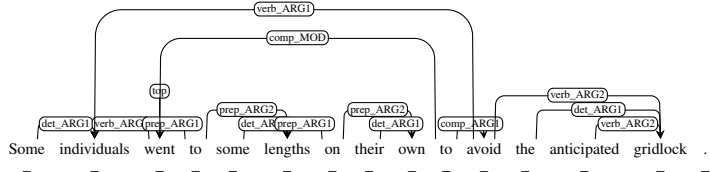
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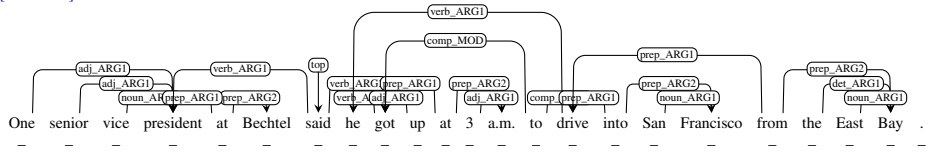
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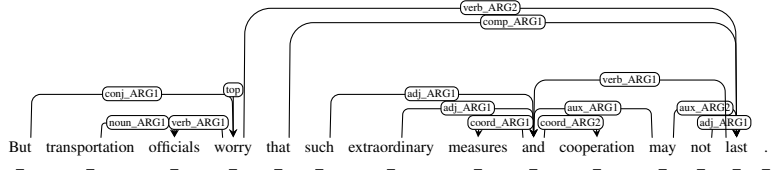
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