

Document 0003

[20003001]

A form of asbestos once used to make Kent cigarette filters has caused a high percentage of cancer deaths among a group of workers exposed to it more than 30 years ago, researchers reported.

[20003002]

The asbestos fiber, crocidolite, is unusually resilient once it enters the lungs, with even brief exposures to it causing symptoms that show up decades later, researchers said.

[20003003]

Lorillard Inc., the unit of New York-based Loews Corp. that makes Kent cigarettes, stopped using crocidolite in its Micronite cigarette filters in 1956.

[20003005]

A Lorillard spokeswoman said, "This is an old story."

[20003007]

There is no asbestos in our products now.

[20003008]

Neither Lorillard nor the researchers who studied the workers were aware of any research on smokers of the Kent cigarettes.

[20003009]

"We have no useful information on whether users are at risk," James A. Talcott of Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute said.

[20003010]

Dr. Talcott led a team of researchers from the National Cancer Institute and the medical schools of Harvard University and Boston University.

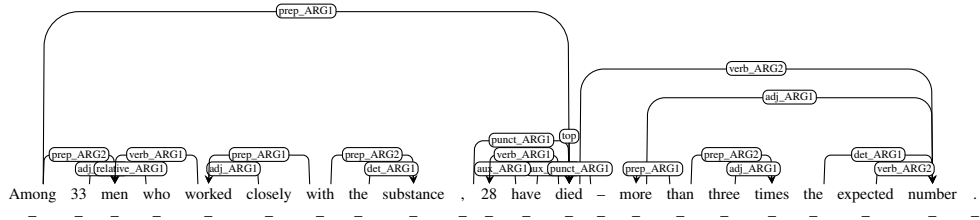
[20003011]

The Lorillard spokeswoman said asbestos was used in "very modest amounts" in making paper for the filters in the early 1950s and replaced with a different type of filter in 1956.

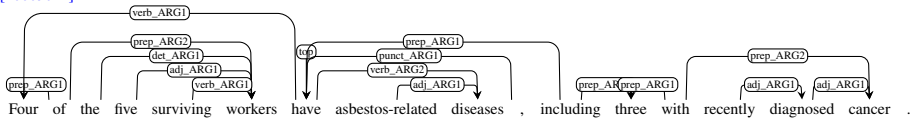
[20003012]

From 1953 to 1955, 9.8 billion Kent cigarettes with the filters were sold, the company said.

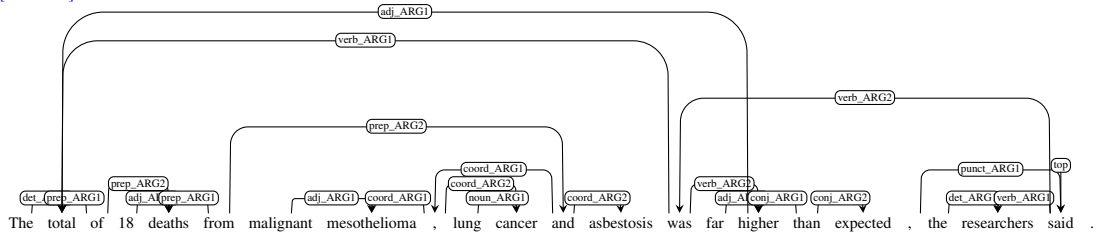
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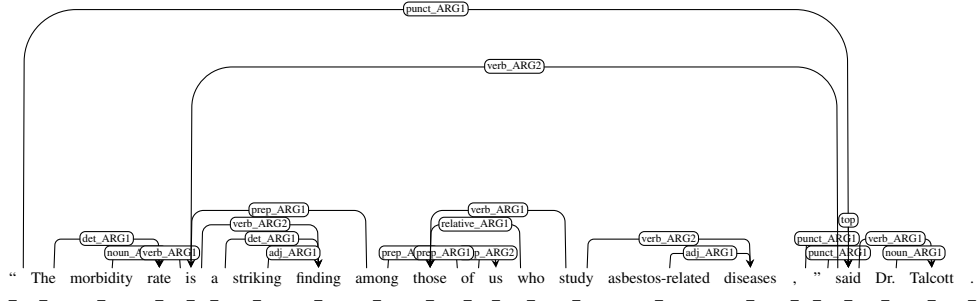
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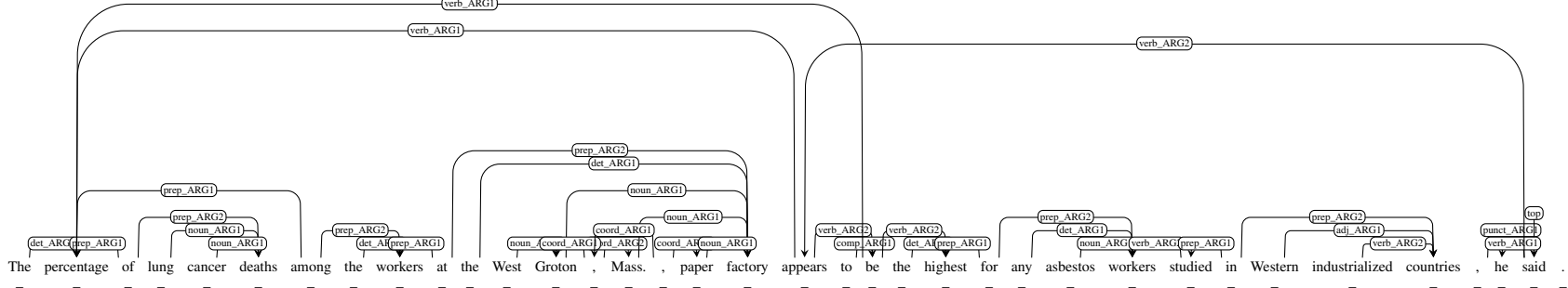
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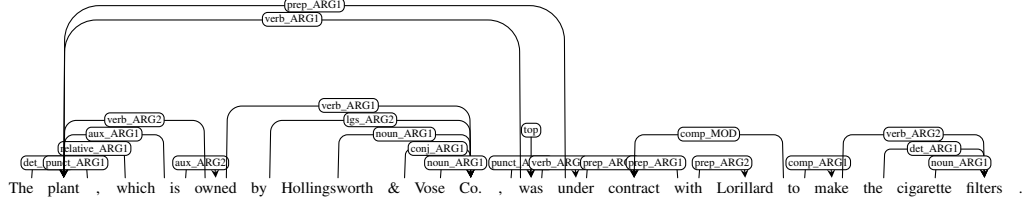
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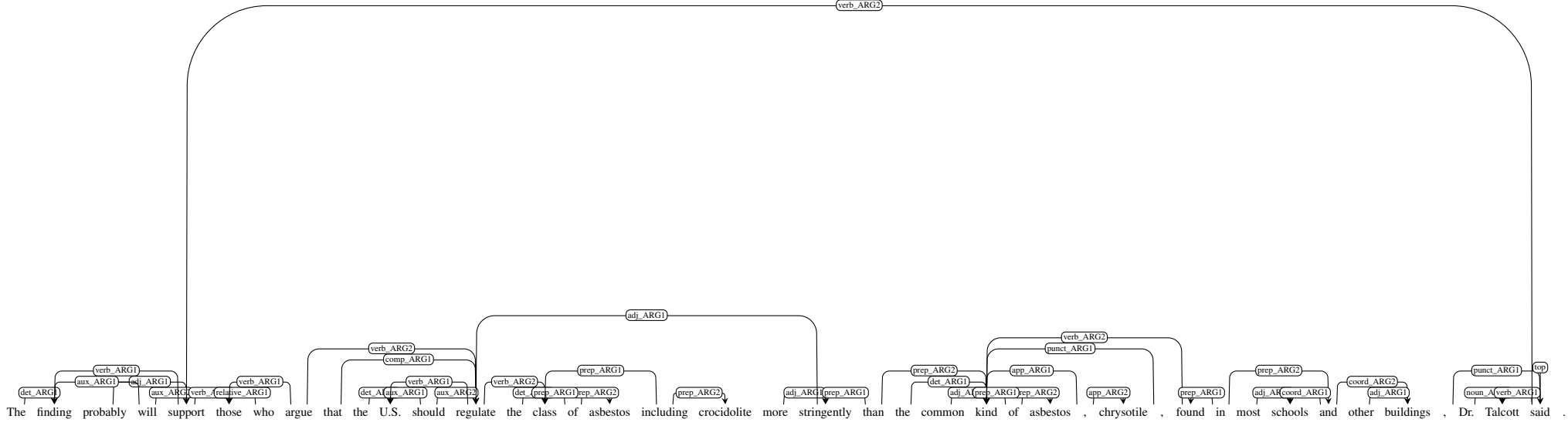
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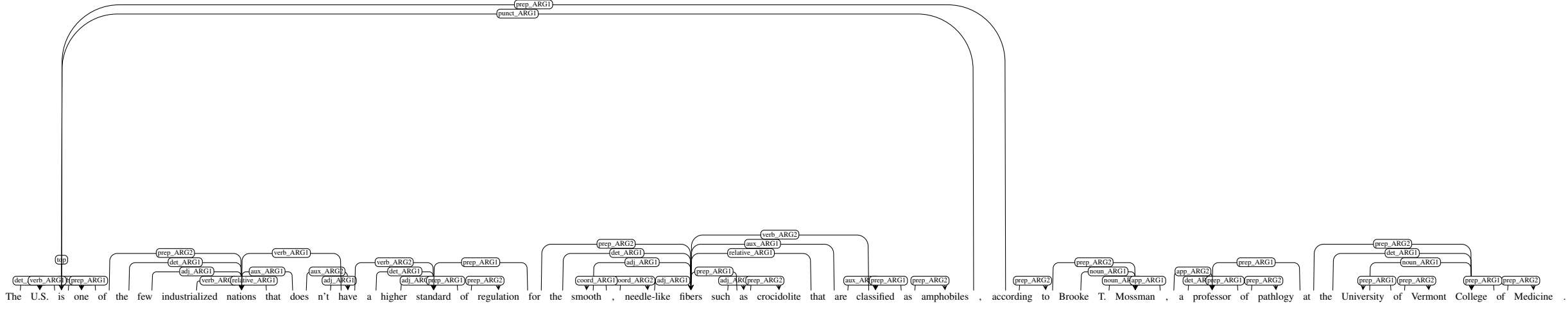
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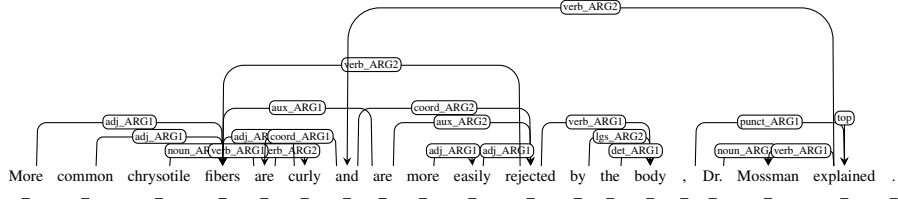
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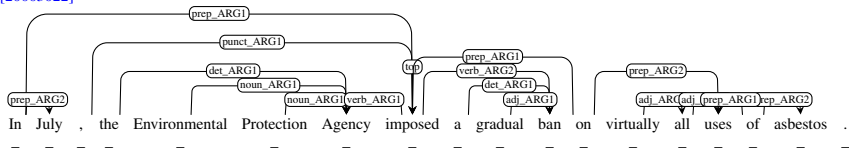
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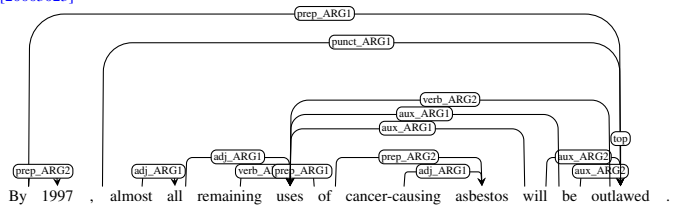
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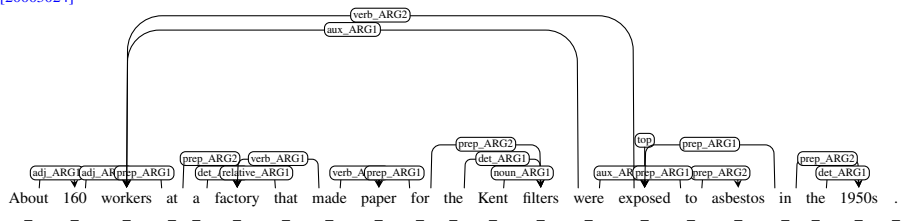
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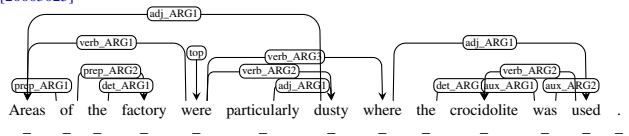
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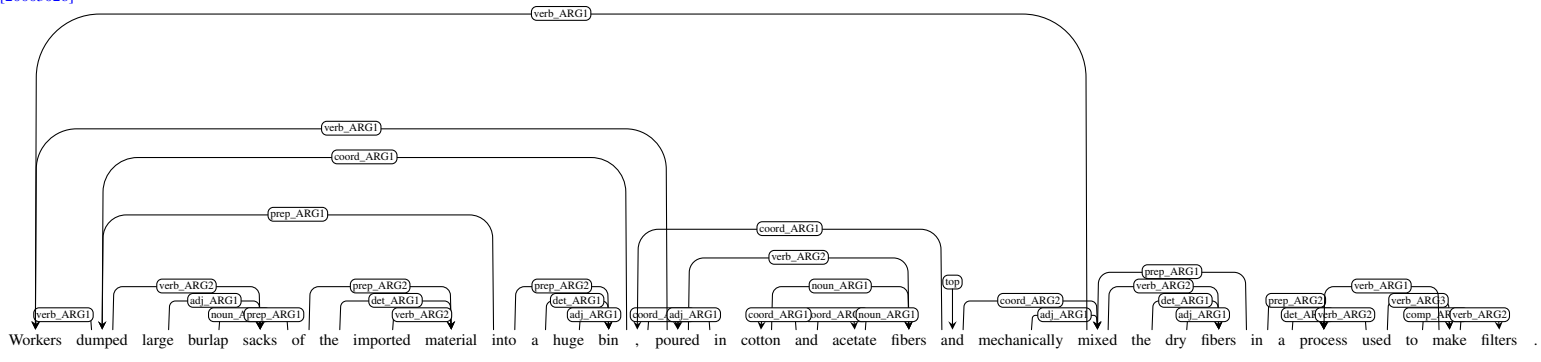
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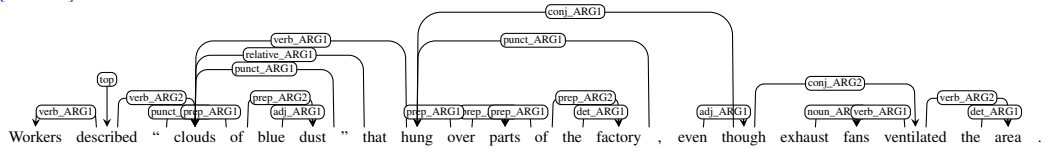
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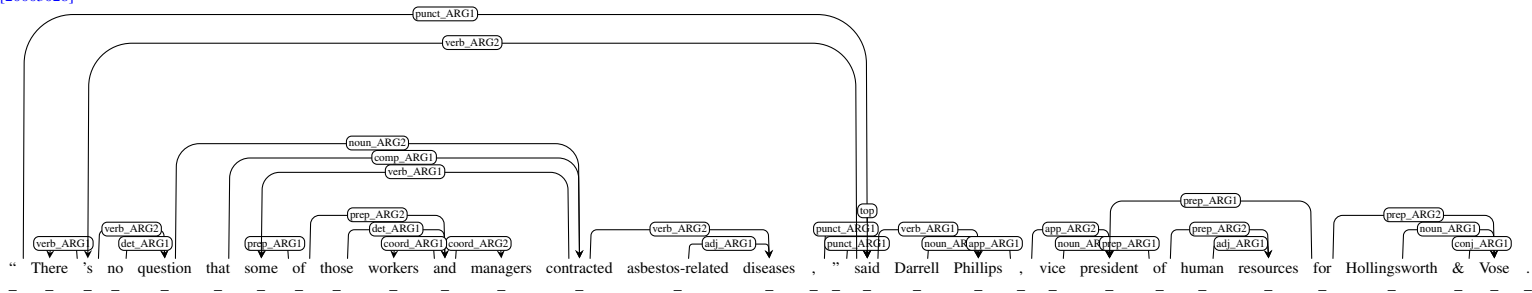
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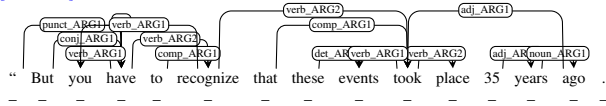
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[20003028]



[20003029]



[20003030]

