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[20258001]

Mips Computer Systems Inc. today will unveil a new general-purpose computer that will compete with more expensive machines from companies such as Sun Microsystems Inc. and Digital Equipment Corp .

[20258002]

The closely held Sunnyvale , Calif. , company also will announce an agreement to supply computers to Control Data Corp. , which will sell Mips machines under its own label .

[20258003]

The new Mips machine , called the RC6280 , will cost $ 150,000 for a basic system .

[20258004]

The computer processes 55 million instructions per second and uses only one central processing chip , unlike many rival machines using several processors .

[20258005]

The machine employs reduced instruction-set computing , or RISC , technology .

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At that price , an analyst familiar with the machine said , the computer offers up to 10 times the performance of similar machines .

[20258007]

" In the price range it 's a tremendously high-performing product , " said Sandy Gant , an analyst at the market-research firm InfoCorp .

[20258010]

" This clearly demonstrates that Mips is a systems company rather than just a chip company , " said Mips Vice President John Hime .

[20258012]

RISC technology speeds up a computer by simplifying the internal software .

[20258013]

For Mips , which expects revenue of $ 100 million this year , big-name allies such as Control Data are essential to attract software developers to the company 's RISC architecture .

[20258014]

" The thing it says about Mips is that they 're on a roll right now , " said Ms. Gant at InfoCorp .
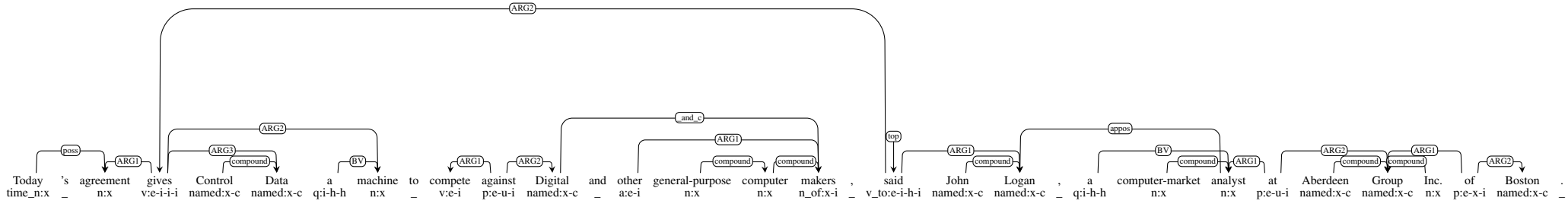
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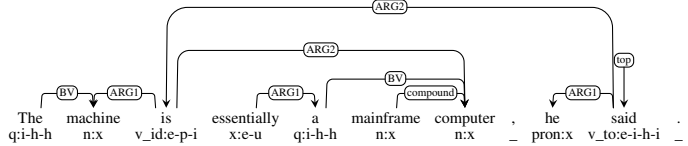
" They 're getting some major wins , " she added .

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Last month , for example , Mips agreed to supply its computers to Nixdorf Computer AG of West Germany and France 's Groupe Bull .
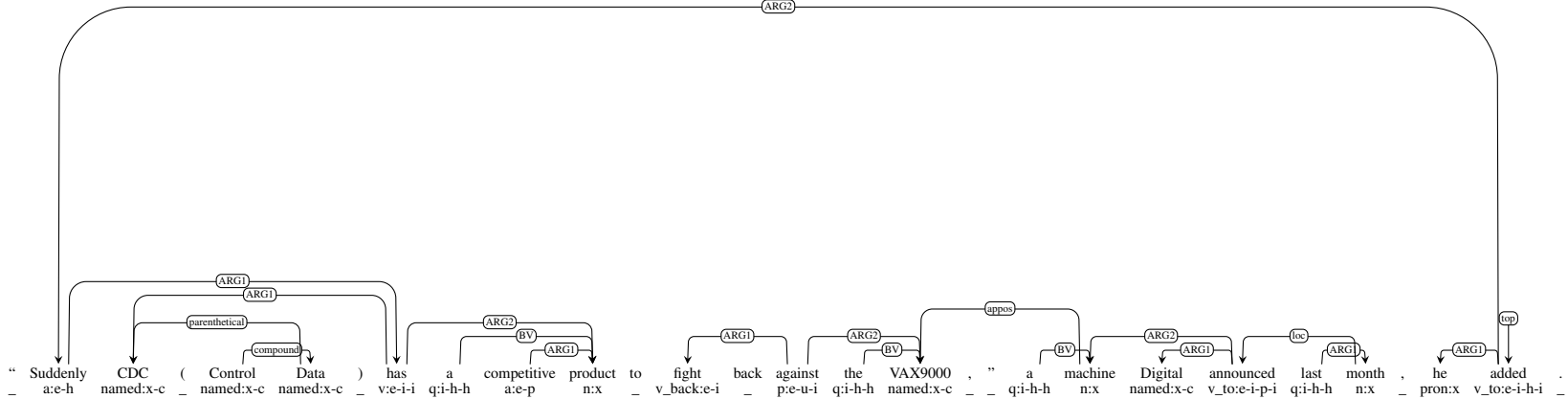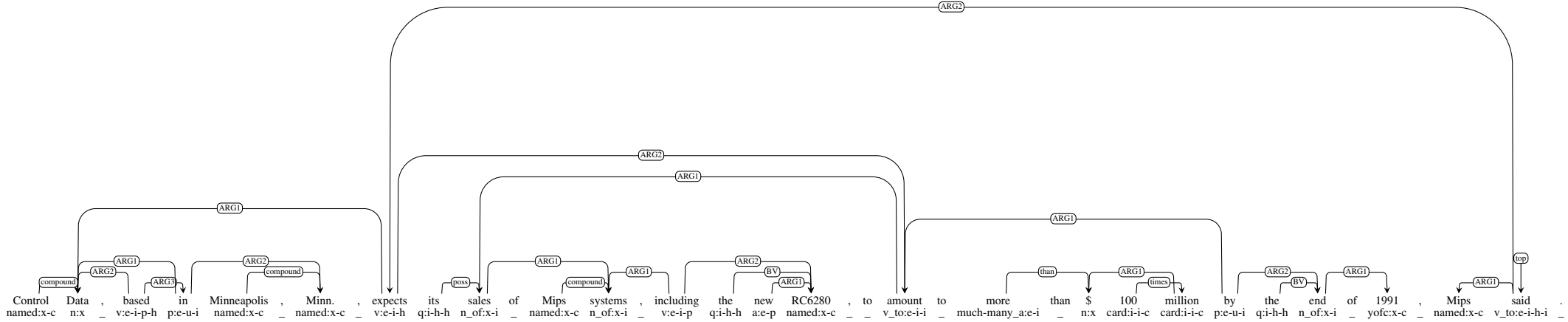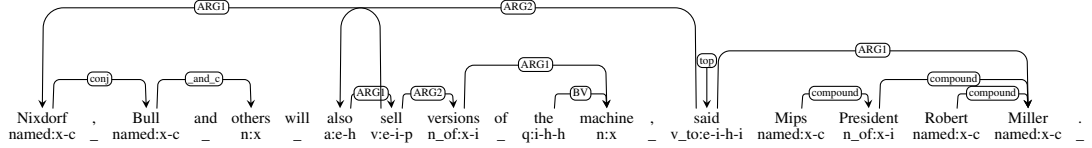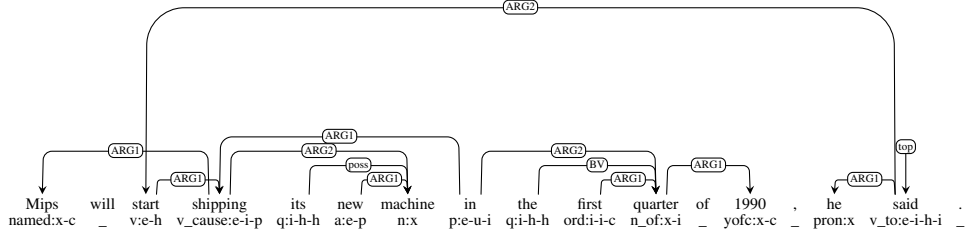
[20258018]

[20258019]

Today 's agreement gives Control Data a machine to compete against Digital and other general-purpose computer makers , said John Logan , a computer-market analyst at Aberdeen Group Inc. of Boston .

The machine is essentially a mainframe computer , he said .

[20258020]

" Suddenly CDC (Control Data) has a competitive product to fight back against the VAX9000 , " a machine Digital announced last month , he added .

[20258021]

Control Data , based in Minneapolis , Minn. , expects its sales of Mips systems , including the new RC6280 , to amount to more than $ 100 million by the end of 1991 , Mips said .

[20258022]

Nixdorf , Bull and others will also sell versions of the machine , said Mips President Robert Miller .

[20258023]

Mips will start shipping its new machine in the first quarter of 1990 , he said .

[20258025]

The computer can process 13.3 million calculations called floating-point operations every second .

[20258026]

The machine can run software written for other Mips computers , the company said .