Machine Translation

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Many slides from John DeNero and Philip Koehn

Translation Task

- Text is both the input and the output.
- Input and output have roughly the same information content.
- Output is more predictable than a language modeling task.
- Lots of naturally occurring examples (but not much metadata).

Translation Examples

English-German News Test 2013 (a standard dev set)

```
Republican leaders justified their policy by the need
to combat electoral fraud.

  Die   Führungskräfte  der     Republikaner
   |          |          |           |
  The   Executives      of the   republican

  rechtfertigen  ihre  Politik   mit   der
        |         |       |       |     |
     justify     your  politics  With  of the

  Notwendigkeit  ,  den  Wahlbetrug      zu
        |        |   |       |            |
      need       ,  the  election fraud  to

  bekämpfen  .
      |      |
    fight    .
```

Variety in Translations?

Human-generated reference translation

A small planet, whose is as big as could destroy a middle sized city, passed by the earth with a distance of 463 thousand kilometers. This was not found in advance. The astronomists got to know this incident 4 days later. This small planet is 50m in diameter. The astonomists are hard to find it for it comes from the direction of sun.

A commercial system from 2002

A volume enough to destroy a medium city small planet is big, flit earth within 463,000 kilometres of close however were not in advance discovered, astronomer just knew this matter after four days. This small planet diameter is about 50 metre, from the direction at sun, therefore astronomer very hard to discovers it.

Google Translate, 2020

An asteroid that was large enough to destroy a medium-sized city, swept across the earth at a short distance of 463,000 kilometers, but was not detected early. Astronomers learned about it four days later. The asteroid is about 50 meters in diameter and comes from the direction of the sun, making it difficult for astronomers to spot it.

From https://catalog.ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2003T17

Evaluation

BLEU Score

BLEU score: geometric mean of 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-gram precision vs. a reference, multiplied by brevity penalty (harshly penalizes translations shorter than the reference).

$$\text{Matched}_i = \sum_{t_i} \min\left\{C_h(t_i), \max_j C_j(t_i)\right\}$$

If "of the" appears twice in hypothesis h but only at most once in a reference, then only the first is "correct"

$$P_i = \frac{\text{Matched}_i}{H_i}$$

"Clipped" precision of n-gram tokens

$$B = \exp\left\{\min\left(0, \frac{n-L}{n}\right)\right\}$$

Brevity penalty only matters if the hypothesis **corpus** is shorter than the sum of (shortest) references.

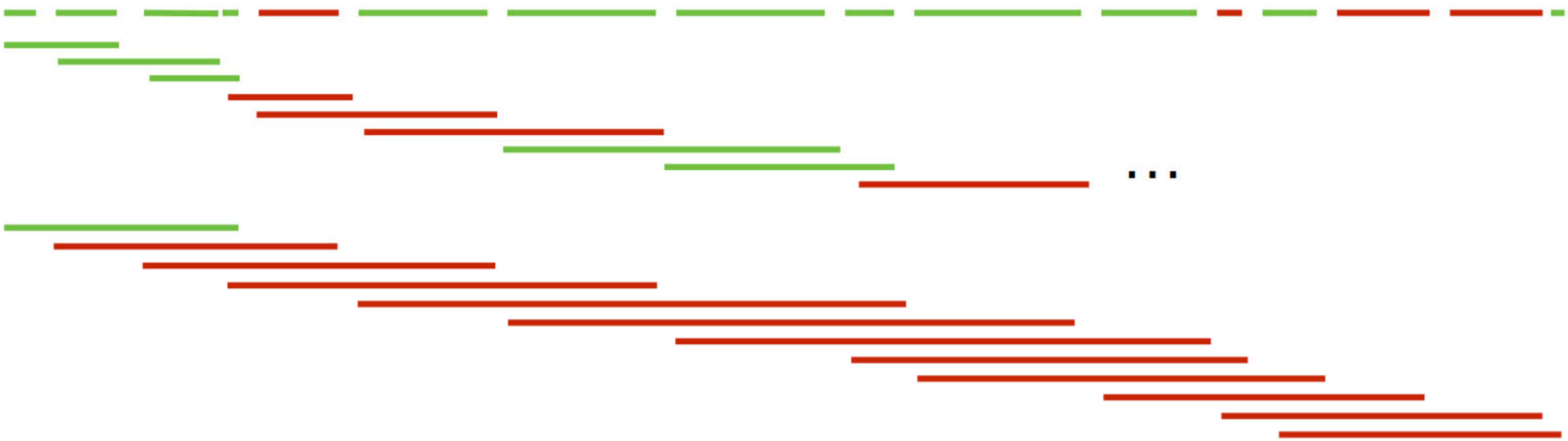
$$\text{BLUE} = B\left(\prod_{i=1}^{4} P_i\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

BLEU is a mean of clipped precisions, scaled down by the brevity penalty.

Evaluation with BLEU

In this sense, the measures will partially undermine the American democratic system.

In this sense, these measures partially undermine the democratic system of the United States.



BLEU = 26.52, 75.0/40.0/21.4/7.7 (BP=1.000, ratio=1.143, hyp_len=16, ref_len=14)

(Papineni et al., 2002) BLEU: a method for automatic evaluation of machine translation.

Corpus BLEU Correlations with Average Human Judgments

These are ecological correlations over multiple segments; segment-level BLEU scores are noisy.

Commercial machine translation providers seem to all perform human evaluations of some sort.

(Ma et al., 2019) Results of the WMT19 Metrics Shared Task: Segment-Level and Strong MT Systems Pose Big Challenges

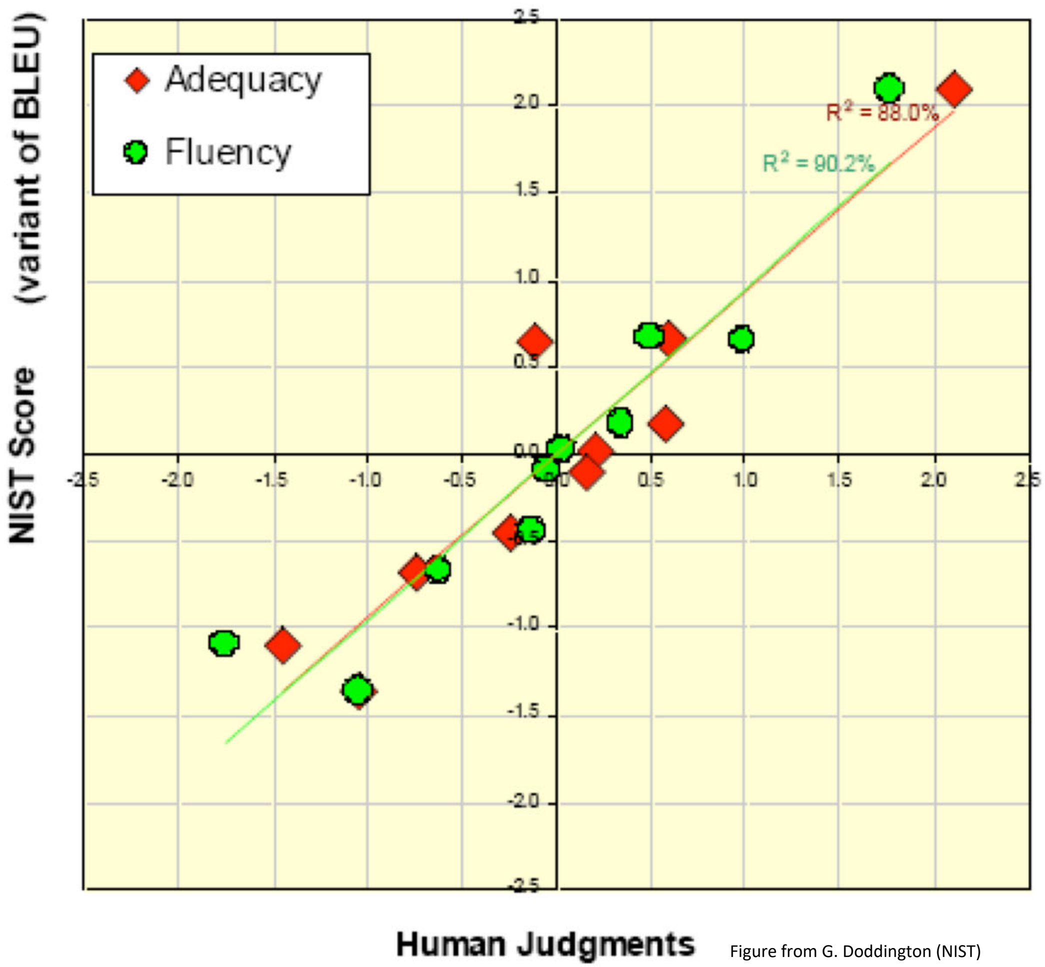


Figure from G. Doddington (NIST)

Human Evaluations

Direct assessment: adequacy & fluency

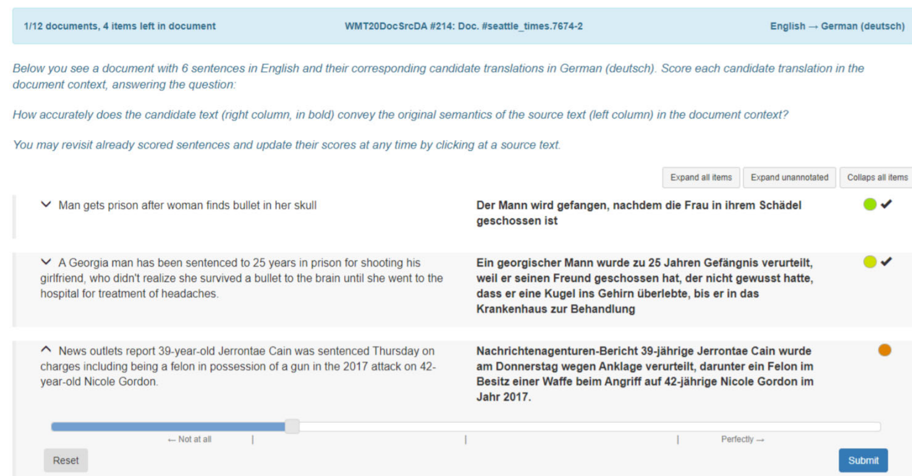
- Monolingual: Ask humans to compare machine translation to a human-generated reference. (Easier to source annotators)
- Bilingual: Ask humans to compare machine translation to the source sentence that was translated. (Compares to human quality)
- Annotators can assess segments (sentences) or whole documents.
- Segments can be assessed with or without document context.

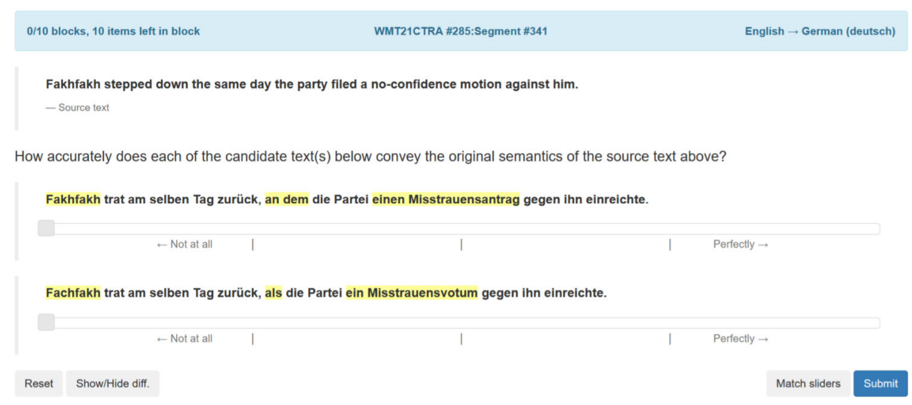
Ranking assessment:

- Raters are presented with 2 or more translations.
- A human-generated reference may be provided, along with the source.
- "In a pairwise ranking experiment, human raters assessing adequacy and fluency show a stronger preference for human over machine translation when evaluating documents as compared to isolated sentences." (Laubli et al., 2018)

Editing assessment: How many edits required to reach human quality

(Laubli et al., 2018) Has Machine Translation Achieved Human Parity? A Case for Document-level Evaluation





(Akhbardeh et al., 2021) Findings of the 2021 Conference on Machine Translation

Translationese and Evaluation

Translated text can: (Baker et al., 1993; Graham et al., 2019)

- be more explicit than the original source
- be less ambiguous
- be simplified (lexical, syntactically and stylistically)
- display a preference for conventional grammaticality
- avoid repetition
- exaggerate target language features
- display features of the source language

"If we consider only original source text (i.e. not translated from another language, or translationese), then we find evidence showing that human parity has not been achieved." (Toral et al., 2018)

(Baker et al., 1993) Corpus linguistics and transla- tion studies: Implications and applications.
(Graham et al., 2019) Translationese in Machine Translation Evaluation.
(Toral et al, 2018) Attaining the Unattainable? Reassessing Claims of Human Parity in Neural Machine Translation

How are We Doing? Example: WMT 2019 Evaluation

2019 segment-in-context direct assessment (Barrault et al, 2019):

- ✓ German to English: many systems are tied with human performance;
- × English to Chinese: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- × English to Czech: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- × English to Finnish: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- ✓ English to German: Facebook-FAIR achieves super-human translation performance; several systems are tied with human performance;
- × English to Gujarati: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- × English to Kazakh: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- × English to Lithuanian: all systems are outperformed by the human translator;
- ✓ English to Russian: Facebook-FAIR is tied with human performance.

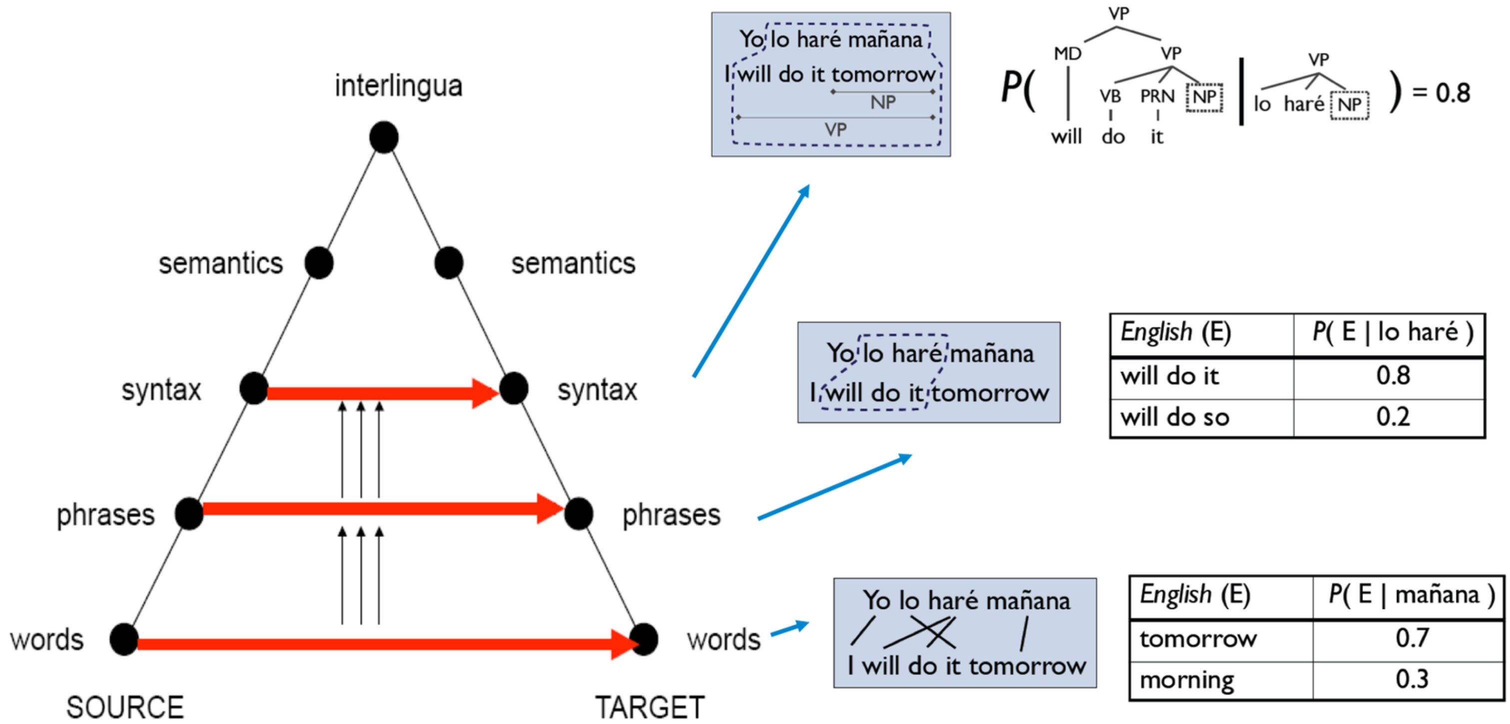
(Barrault et al, 2019) Findings of the 2019 Conference on Machine Translation (WMT19)

Statistical Machine Translation
(1990 - 2015)

When I look at an article in Russian, I say: "This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode."

Warren Weaver (1949)

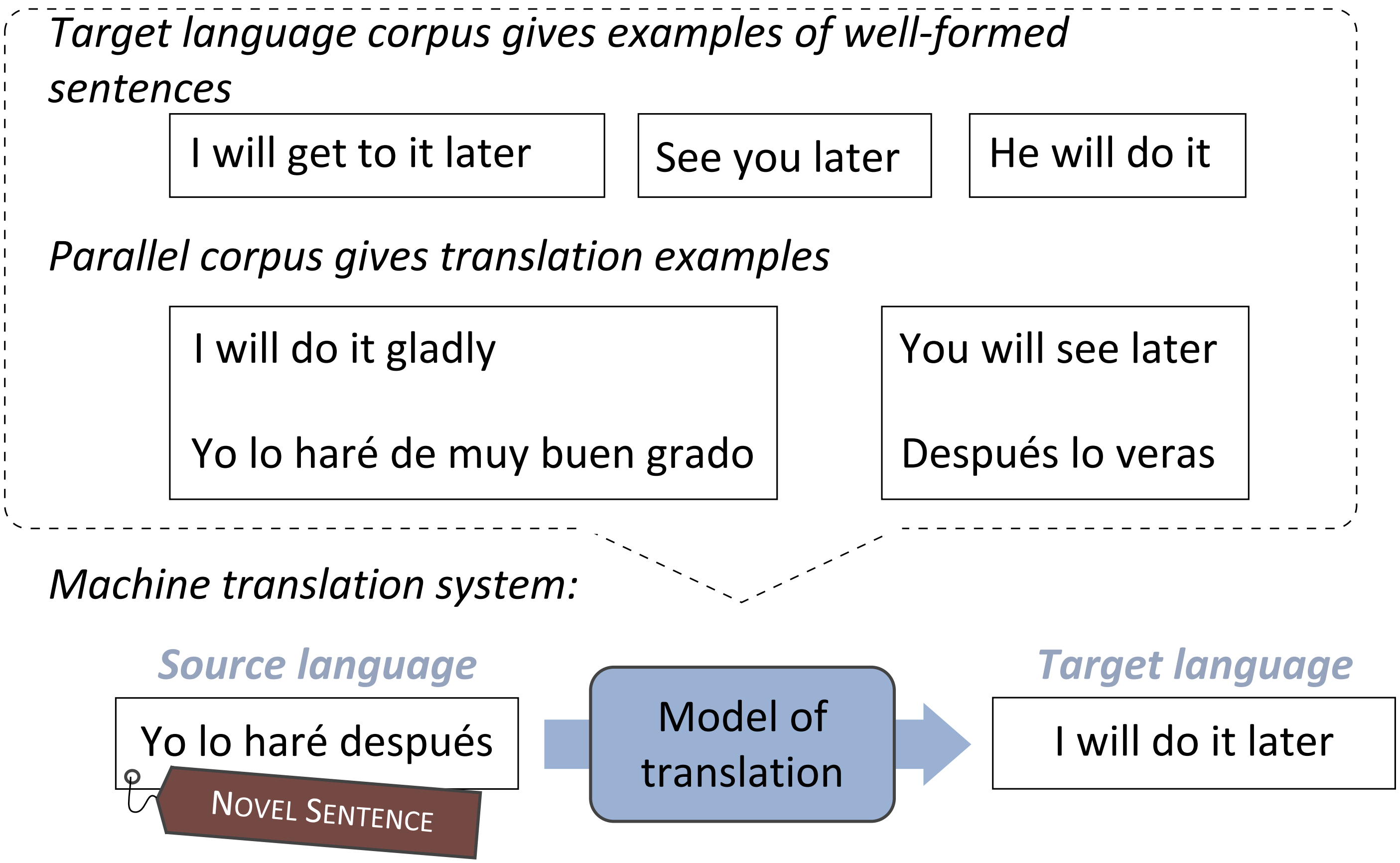
Levels of Transfer: Vauquois Triangle (1968)



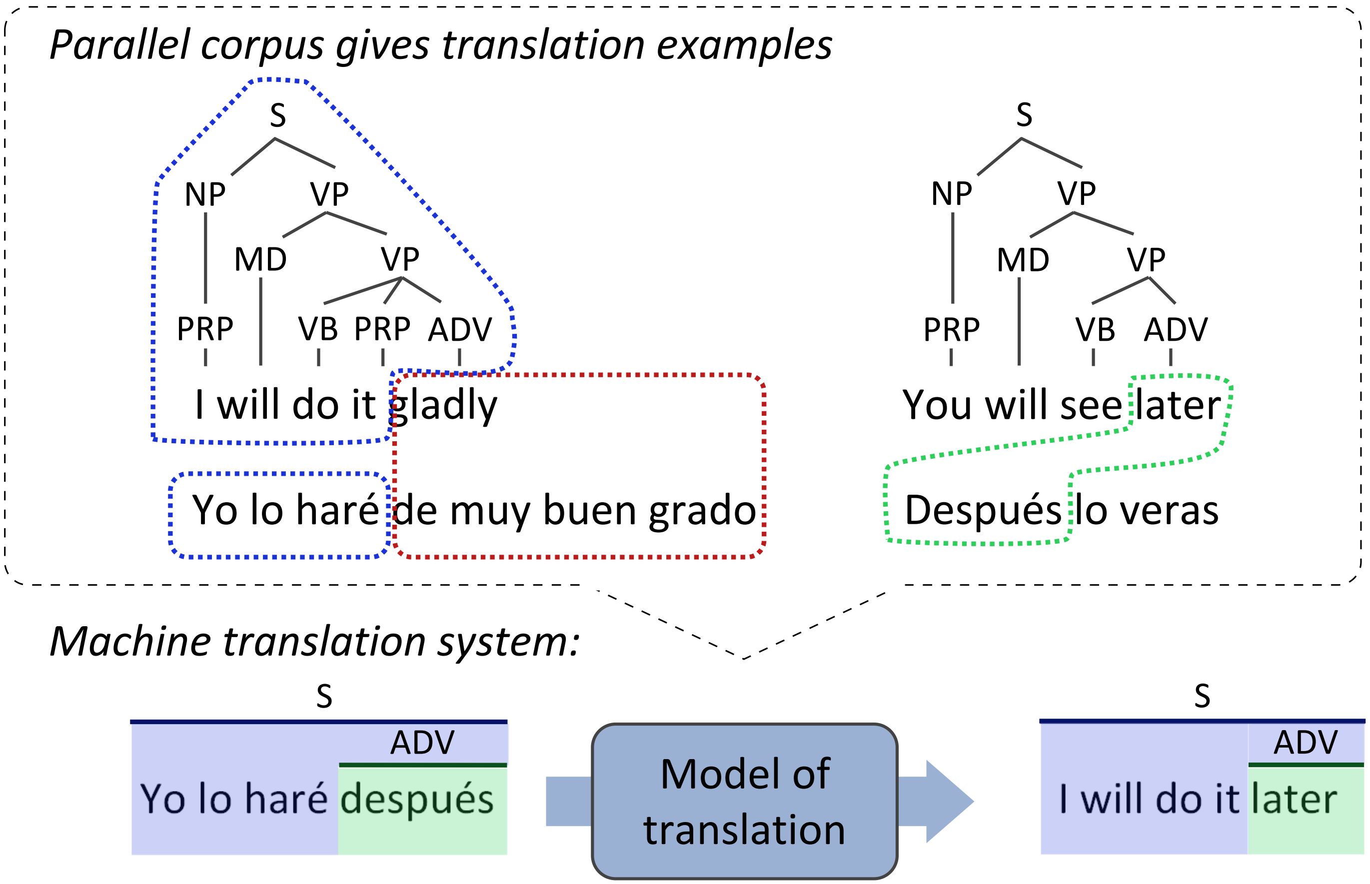
English (E)	*P*(E | lo haré)
will do it	0.8
will do so	0.2

English (E)	*P*(E | mañana)
tomorrow	0.7
morning	0.3

Data-Driven Machine Translation



Stitching Together Fragments



Evolution of the Noisy Channel Model

$$P(e|f) \propto P(f|e) \cdot P(e)$$

$$P(e|f) \propto P(f|e)^{\phi_{\mathrm{tm}}} \cdot P(e)^{\phi_{\mathrm{lm}}}$$

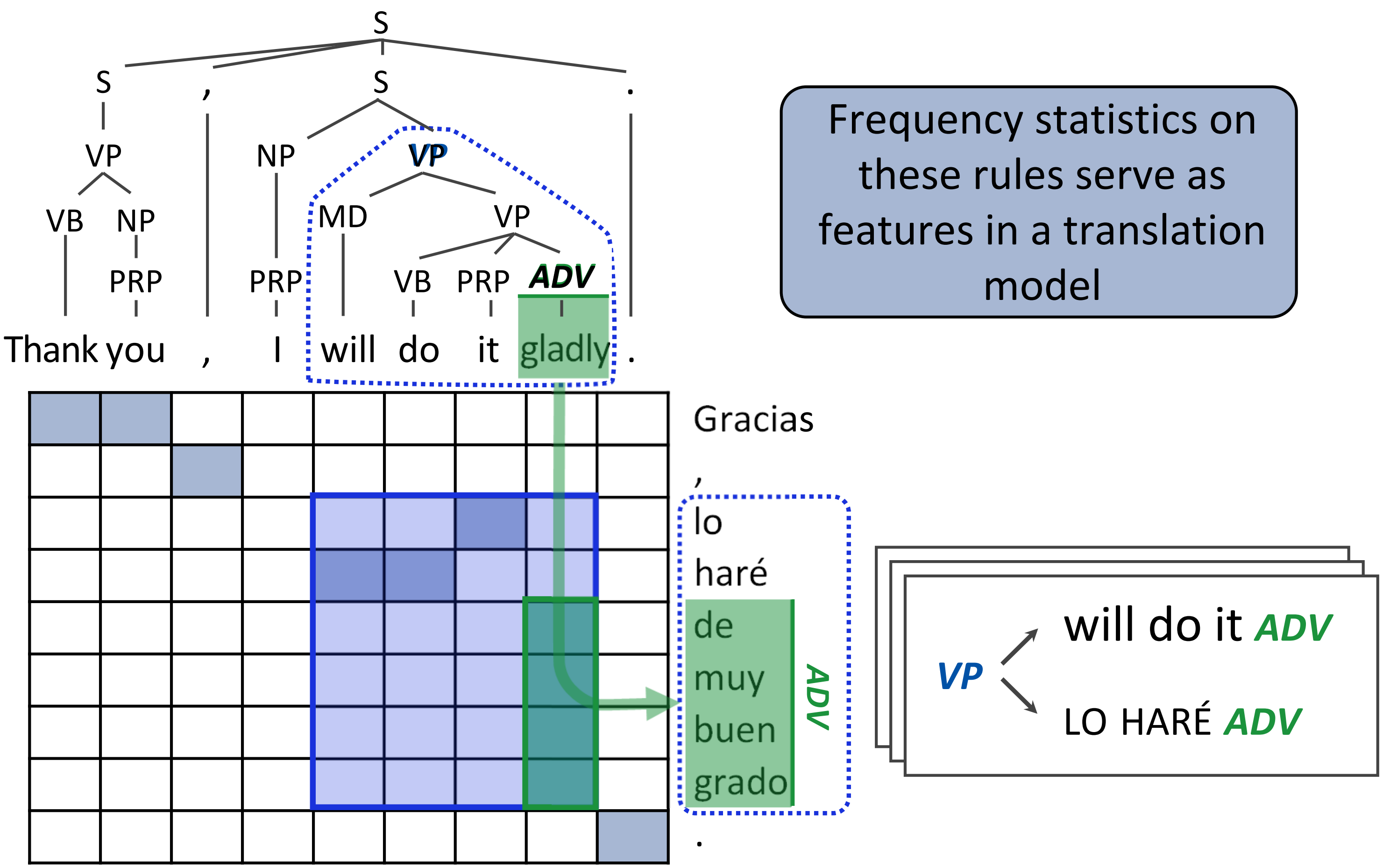
Chosen to minimize loss

$$P(e|f) \propto \exp\left\{\sum_i w_i \cdot f_i(e,f)\right\}$$

E.g., log P(e)

Word Alignment and Phrase Extraction

Extracting Translation Rules



Frequency statistics on these rules serve as features in a translation model

Counting Aligned Phrases

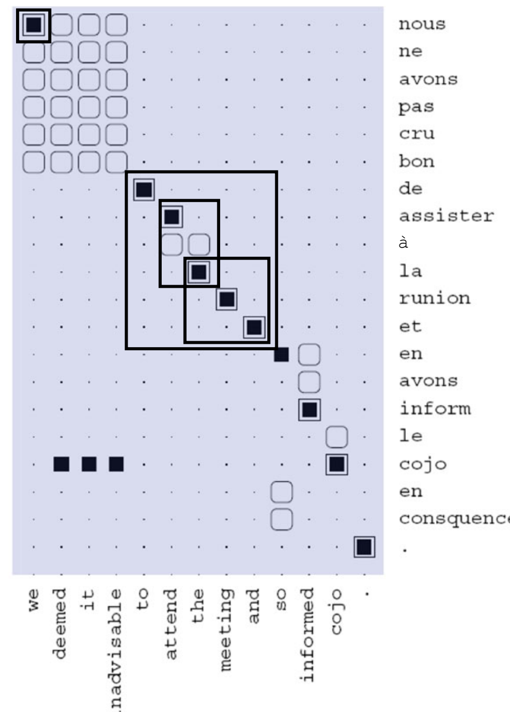
d'assister à la reunion et ||| to attend the meeting and

assister à la reunion ||| attend the meeting

la reunion et ||| the meeting and

nous ||| we

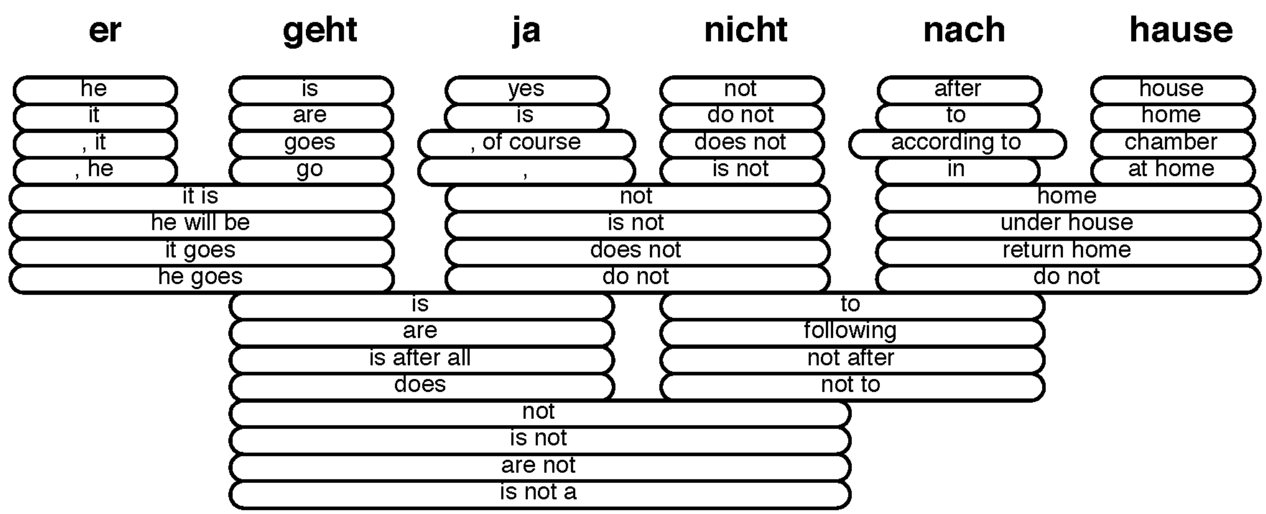
…



- Relative frequencies are the most important features in a phrase-based or syntax-based model.
- Scoring a phrase under a lexical model is the second most important feature.
- Estimation does not involve choosing among segmentations of a sentence into phrases.

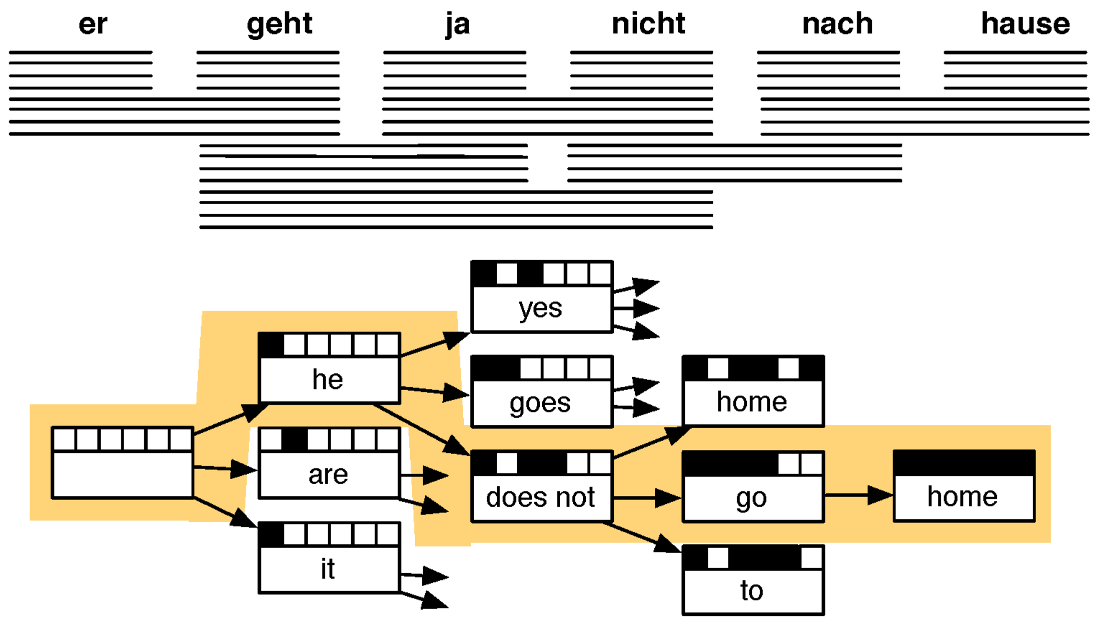
Slide by Greg Durrett

Translation Options



- Many translation options to choose from
  - in Europarl phrase table: 2727 matching phrase pairs for this sentence
  - by pruning to the top 20 per phrase, 202 translation options remain

Decoding: Find Best Path



Phrase-Based Decoding

这	7人	中包括	来自	法国	和	俄罗斯	的	宇航	员	.
the	7 people	including	by some		**and**	the russian	**the**	the astronauts		,
it	7 people included		by france		and the	the russian		international astronautical	of rapporteur .	
this	7 out	including the	**from**	the french	and the russian		the fifth		**.**	
these	7 among	including from		the french and		of the russian	of	space	members	**.**
that	7 persons	including from the		of france	and to	russian	of the	aerospace	members .	
	7 include		from the	of france and		russian		**astronauts**		. the
	7 numbers include		**from france**		and russian		of astronauts who			. "
	7 populations include		those from france		and russian			astronauts .		
	7 deportees included		come from	**france**	**and russia**		in	astronautical	personnel	;
	7 philtrum	including those from		**france and**		**russia**	a space		**member**	
		including representatives from		france and the		**russia**		astronaut		
		include	came from	**france and russia**			by cosmonauts			
		include representatives from		french	**and russia**			cosmonauts		
		include	came from france		and russia 's			cosmonauts .		
		includes	coming from	french and		russia 's		cosmonaut		
				french and russian			's	astronavigation	member .	
				french	**and russia**		**astronauts**			
					and russia 's				special rapporteur	
					, and	**russia**			rapporteur	
					, and russia				rapporteur .	
					, and russia					
					or	russia 's				

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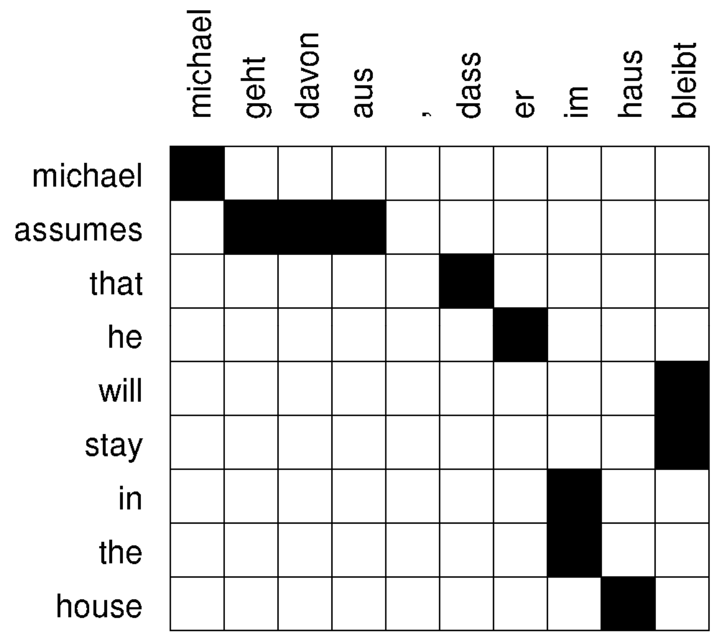
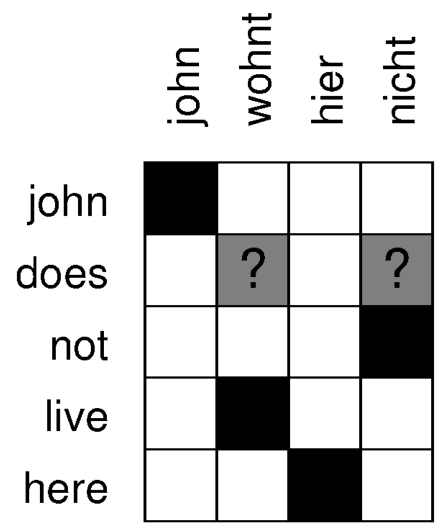
Word Alignments

Word Alignment

Given a sentence pair, which words correspond to each other?

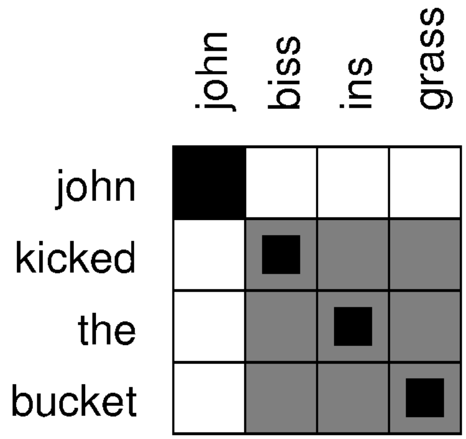


Word Alignment?



Is the English word does aligned to
the German wohnt (verb) or nicht (negation) or neither?

Word Alignment?



How do the idioms kicked the bucket and biss ins grass match up?
Outside this exceptional context, bucket is never a good translation for grass

Lexical Translation / Word Alignment Models

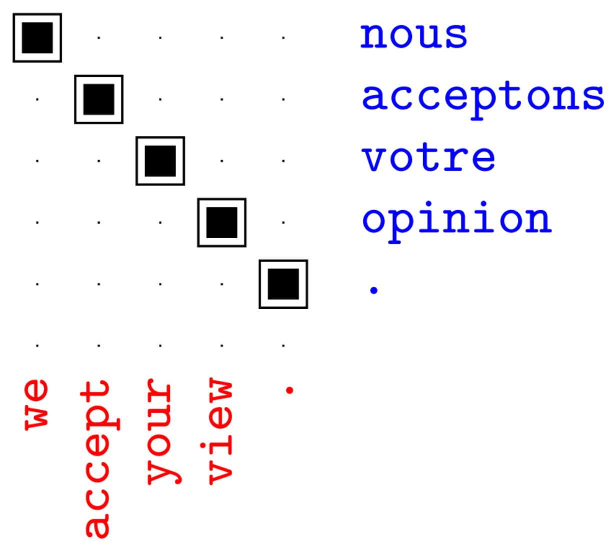
Unsupervised Word Alignment

- Input: a ***bitext***: pairs of translated sentences

```
nous acceptons votre opinion .

we accept your view .
```

- Output: ***alignments***: pairs of translated words
  - When words have unique sources, can represent as a (forward) alignment function a from French to English positions

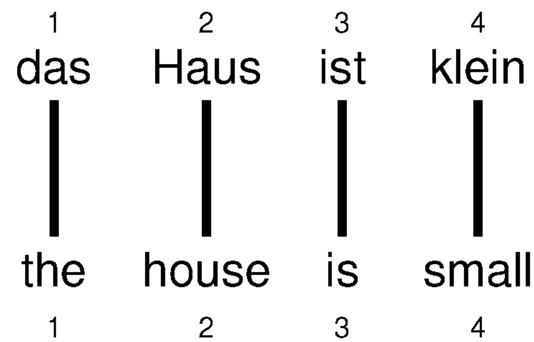


Word Alignment

- Even today models are often built on the IBM alignment models
- Create probabilistic word-level translation models
- The models incorporate latent (unobserved) word alignments
- Optimize the probability of the observed words
- Use the imputed alignments to reveal word-level correspondence
- Throw out the translation models themselves

Alignment

- In a parallel text (or when we translate), we align words in one language with the words in the other



- Word positions are numbered 1–4

Alignment Function

- Formalizing alignment with an alignment function

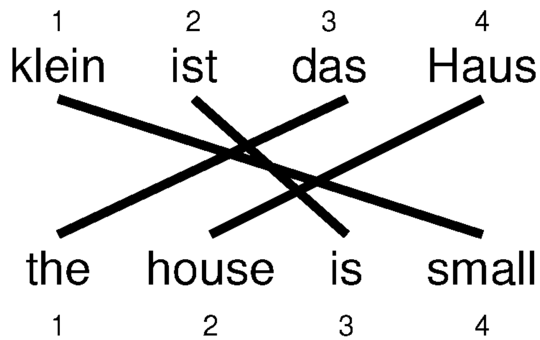
- Mapping an English target word at position i to a German source word at position j with a function $a : i \to j$

- Example

$$a : \{1 \to 1, 2 \to 2, 3 \to 3, 4 \to 4\}$$

Reordering

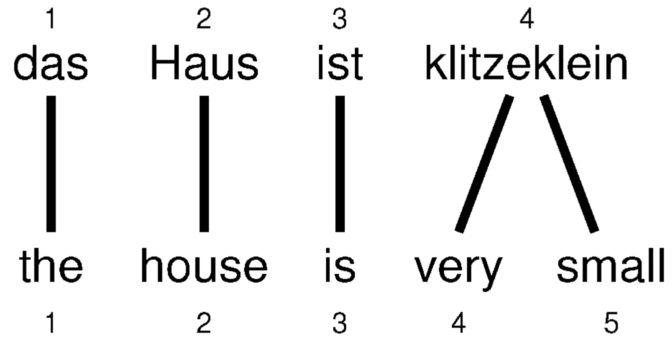
Words may be reordered during translation



$$a : \{1 \rightarrow 3, 2 \rightarrow 4, 3 \rightarrow 2, 4 \rightarrow 1\}$$

One-to-Many Translation

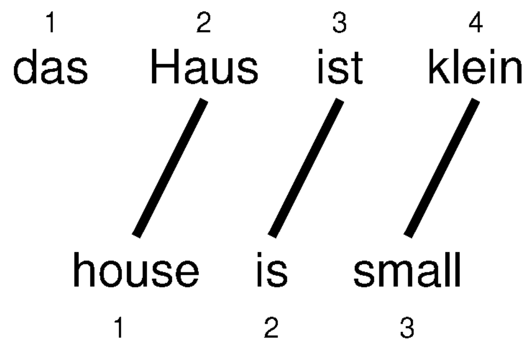
A source word may translate into multiple target words



$$a : \{1 \rightarrow 1, 2 \rightarrow 2, 3 \rightarrow 3, 4 \rightarrow 4, 5 \rightarrow 4\}$$

Dropping Words

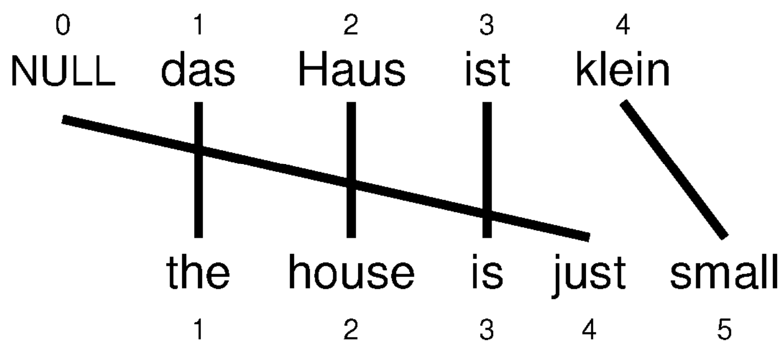
Words may be dropped when translated
(German article das is dropped)



$a : \{1 \to 2, 2 \to 3, 3 \to 4\}$

Inserting Words

- Words may be added during translation
  - The English just does not have an equivalent in German
  - We still need to map it to something: special NULL token



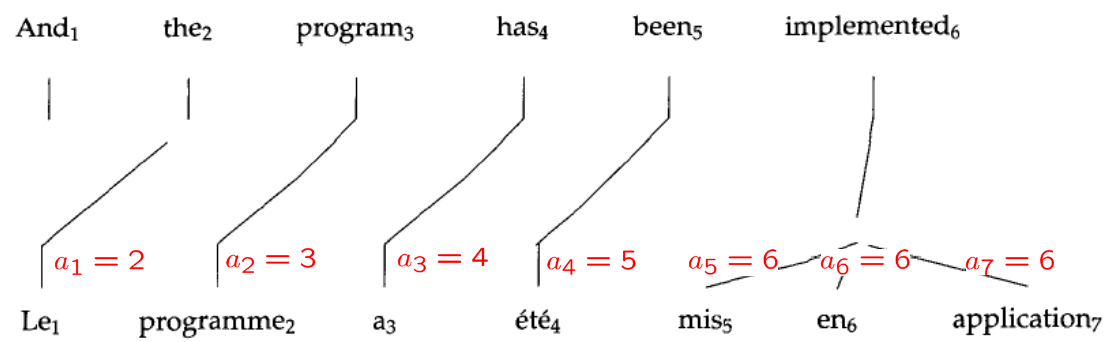
$$a : \{1 \rightarrow 1, 2 \rightarrow 2, 3 \rightarrow 3, 4 \rightarrow 0, 5 \rightarrow 4\}$$

IBM Model 1: Allocation

IBM Model 1 (Brown 93)

- Alignments: a hidden vector called an *alignment* specifies which English source is responsible for each French target word.

$$a = a_1 \dots a_J$$



$$P(f, a|e) = \prod_j P(a_j = i) P(f_j|e_i)$$

$$= \prod_j \frac{1}{I+1} P(f_j|e_i)$$

$$P(f|e) = \sum_a P(f, a|e)$$

Example

das

e	$t(e\|f)$
the	0.7
that	0.15
which	0.075
who	0.05
this	0.025

Haus

e	$t(e\|f)$
house	0.8
building	0.16
home	0.02
household	0.015
shell	0.005

ist

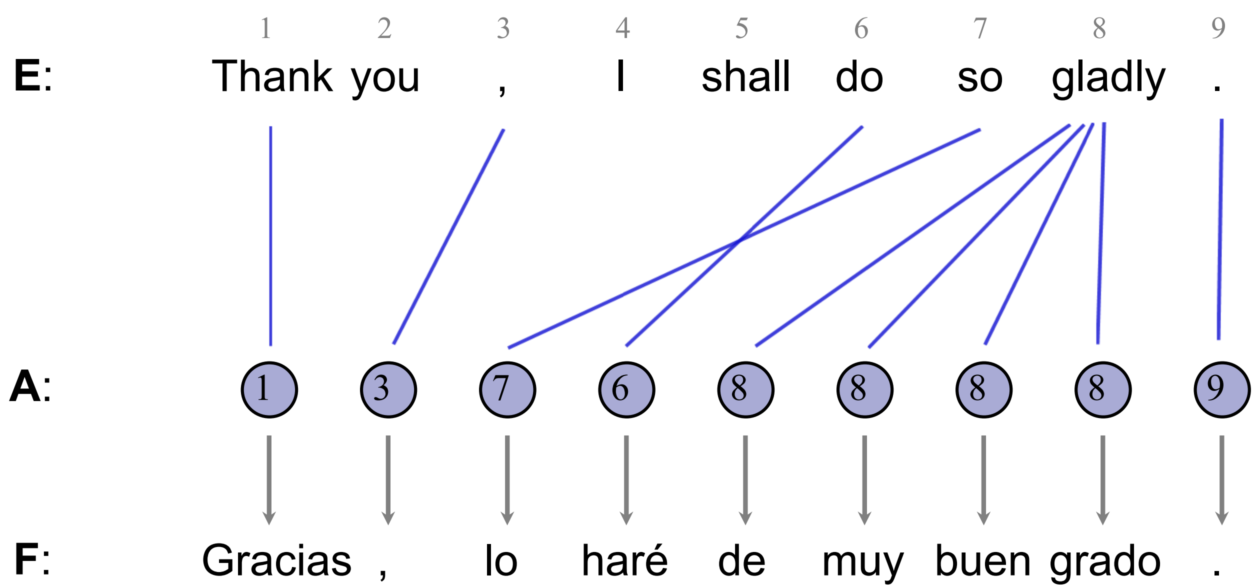
e	$t(e\|f)$
is	0.8
’s	0.16
exists	0.02
has	0.015
are	0.005

klein

e	$t(e\|f)$
small	0.4
little	0.4
short	0.1
minor	0.06
petty	0.04

$$\begin{aligned} p(e,a|f) &= \frac{\epsilon}{4^3} \times t(\text{the}|\text{das}) \times t(\text{house}|\text{Haus}) \times t(\text{is}|\text{ist}) \times t(\text{small}|\text{klein}) \\ &= \frac{\epsilon}{4^3} \times 0.7 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.4 \\ &= 0.0028\epsilon \end{aligned}$$

IBM Models 1/2



Model Parameters

Translation: P(F_1 = Gracias | E_{A_1} = Thank) *Alignment*: P(A_2 = 3)

Expectation Maximization

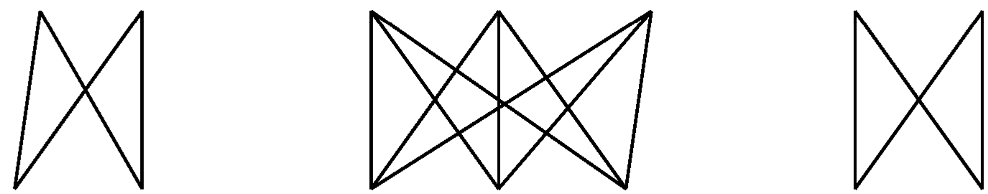
EM Algorithm

- Incomplete data
  - if we had *complete data*, would could estimate *model*
  - if we had *model*, we could fill in the *gaps in the data*

- Expectation Maximization (EM) in a nutshell
  1. initialize model parameters (e.g. uniform)
  2. assign probabilities to the missing data
  3. estimate model parameters from completed data
  4. iterate steps 2–3 until convergence

EMAlgorithm

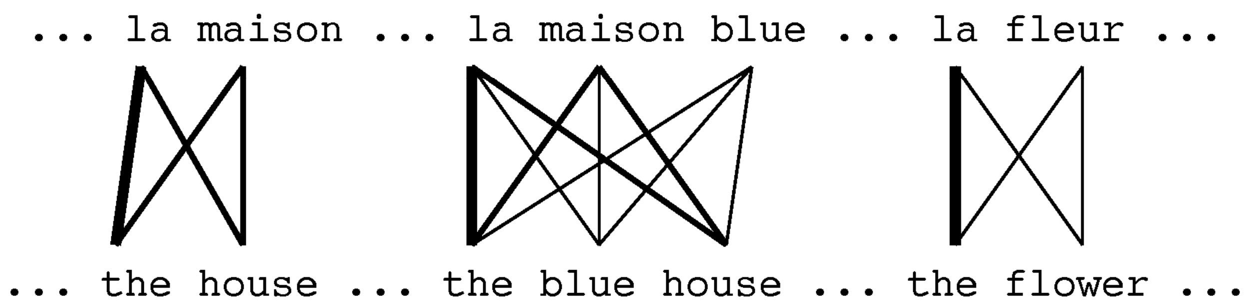
`... la maison ... la maison blue ... la fleur ...`



`... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...`

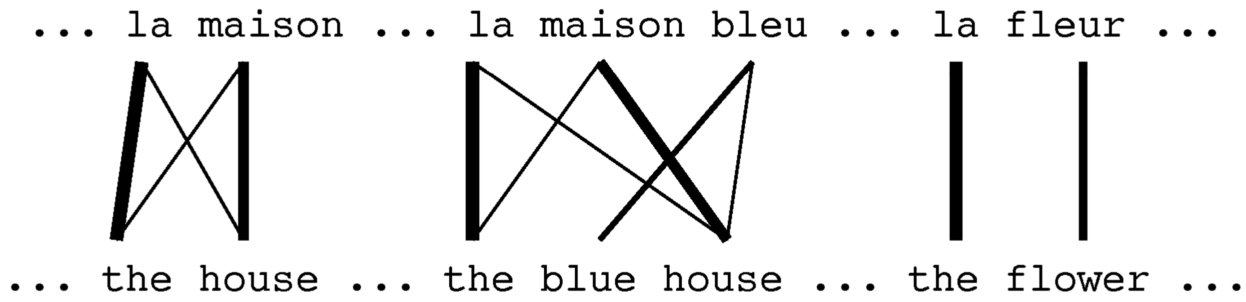
- Initial step: all alignments equally likely
- Model learns that, e.g., la is often aligned with the

EM Algorithm



- After one iteration
- Alignments, e.g., between la and the are more likely

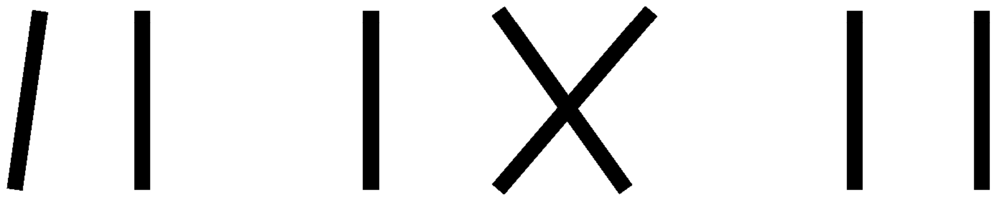
EM Algorithm



- After another iteration
- It becomes apparent that alignments, e.g., between fleur and flower are more likely (pigeon hole principle)

EM Algorithm

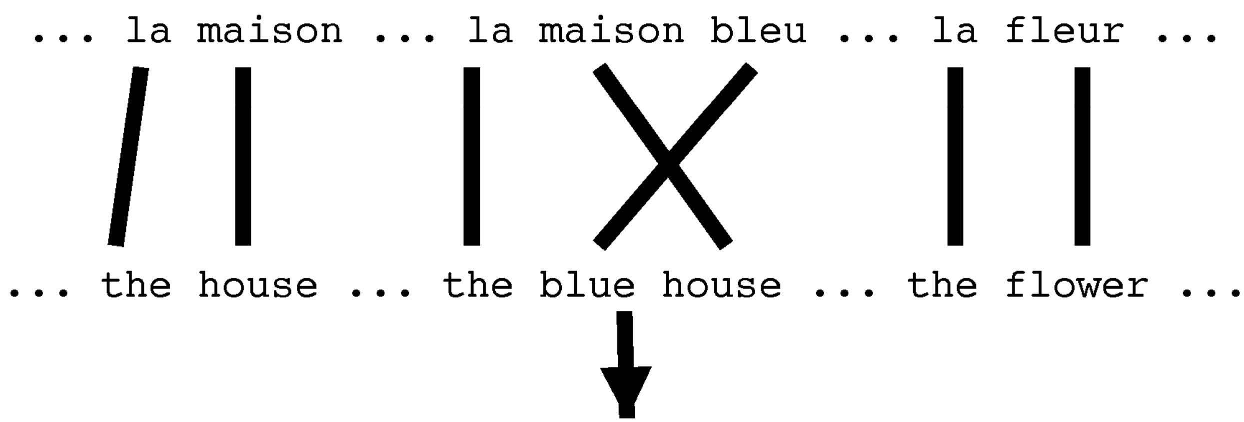
`... la maison ... la maison bleu ... la fleur ...`



`... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...`

- Convergence
- Inherent hidden structure revealed by EM

EM Algorithm



$$p(\text{la}|\text{the}) = 0.453$$
$$p(\text{le}|\text{the}) = 0.334$$
$$p(\text{maison}|\text{house}) = 0.876$$
$$p(\text{bleu}|\text{blue}) = 0.563$$
...

- Parameter estimation from the aligned corpus

IBM Model 1 and EM

- EM Algorithm consists of two steps
- Expectation-Step: Apply model to the data
  - parts of the model are hidden (here: alignments)
  - using the model, assign probabilities to possible values
- Maximization-Step: Estimate model from data
  - take assign values as fact
  - collect counts (weighted by probabilities)
  - estimate model from counts
- Iterate these steps until convergence

IBM Model 1 and EM

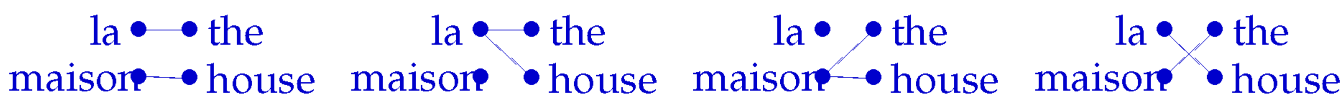
- We need to be able to compute:
  - Expectation-Step: probability of alignments
  - Maximization-Step: count collection

IBM Model 1 and EM

- **Probabilities**

$$p(\text{the}|\text{la}) = 0.7 \qquad p(\text{house}|\text{la}) = 0.05$$
$$p(\text{the}|\text{maison}) = 0.1 \qquad p(\text{house}|\text{maison}) = 0.8$$

- **Alignments**



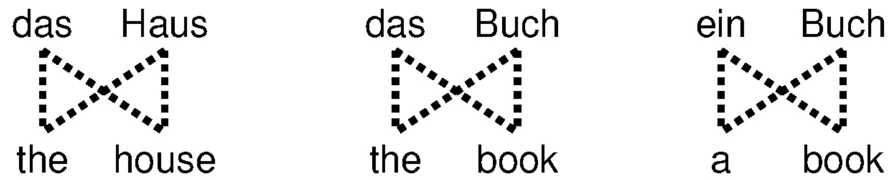
$$p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) = 0.56 \qquad p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) = 0.035 \qquad p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) = 0.08 \qquad p(\mathbf{e}, a|\mathbf{f}) = 0.005$$

$$p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = 0.824 \qquad p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = 0.052 \qquad p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = 0.118 \qquad p(a|\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f}) = 0.007$$

- **Counts**

$$c(\text{the}|\text{la}) = 0.824 + 0.052 \qquad c(\text{house}|\text{la}) = 0.052 + 0.007$$
$$c(\text{the}|\text{maison}) = 0.118 + 0.007 \qquad c(\text{house}|\text{maison}) = 0.824 + 0.118$$

Convergence



e	f	initial	1st it.	2nd it.	3rd it.	...	final
the	das	0.25	0.5	0.6364	0.7479	...	1
book	das	0.25	0.25	0.1818	0.1208	...	0
house	das	0.25	0.25	0.1818	0.1313	...	0
the	buch	0.25	0.25	0.1818	0.1208	...	0
book	buch	0.25	0.5	0.6364	0.7479	...	1
a	buch	0.25	0.25	0.1818	0.1313	...	0
book	ein	0.25	0.5	0.4286	0.3466	...	0
a	ein	0.25	0.5	0.5714	0.6534	...	1
the	haus	0.25	0.5	0.4286	0.3466	...	0
house	haus	0.25	0.5	0.5714	0.6534	...	1

Perplexity

- How well does the model fit the data?
- Perplexity: derived from probability of the training data according to the model

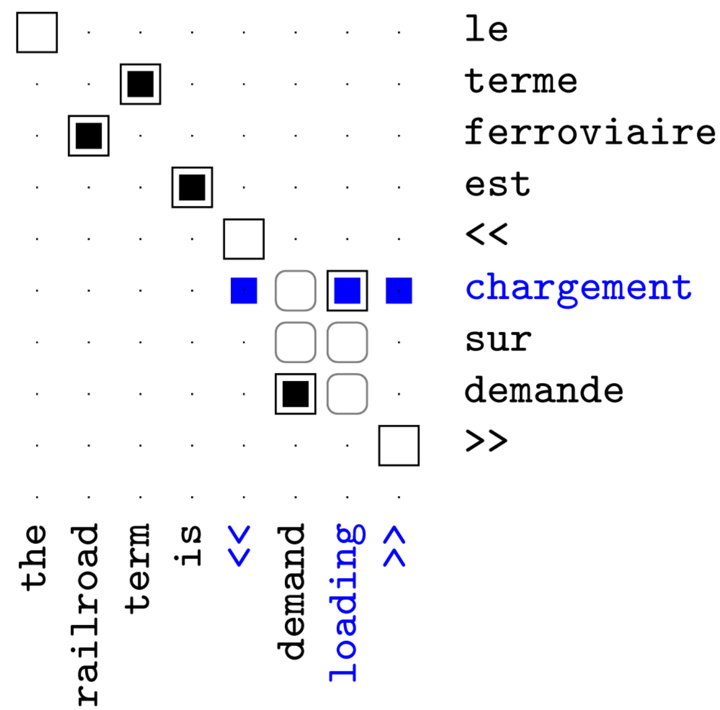
$$\log_2 PP = -\sum_s \log_2 p(\mathbf{e}_s|\mathbf{f}_s)$$

- Example (ϵ=1)

	initial	1st it.	2nd it.	3rd it.	...	final
p(the haus|das haus)	0.0625	0.1875	0.1905	0.1913	...	0.1875
p(the book|das buch)	0.0625	0.1406	0.1790	0.2075	...	0.25
p(a book|ein buch)	0.0625	0.1875	0.1907	0.1913	...	0.1875
perplexity	4095	202.3	153.6	131.6	...	113.8

Problems with Model 1

- There's a reason they designed models 2-5!
- Problems: alignments jump around, align everything to rare words
- Experimental setup:
  - Training data: 1.1M sentences of French-English text, Canadian Hansards
  - Evaluation metric: alignment error Rate (AER)
  - Evaluation data: 447 hand-aligned sentences



IBM Model 2: Global Monotonicity

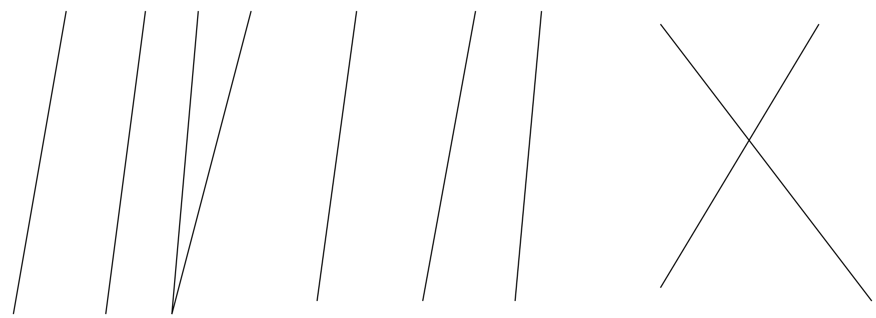
Monotonic Translation

Japan shaken by two new quakes

Le Japon secoué par deux nouveaux séismes

Local Order Change

Japan is at the junction of four tectonic plates



Le Japon est au confluent de quatre plaques tectoniques

IBM Model 2

- Alignments tend to the diagonal (broadly at least)

$$P(f,a|e) = \prod_j P(a_j = i|j,I,J)P(f_j|e_i)$$

$$P(dist = i - j\frac{I}{J})$$

$$\frac{1}{Z}e^{-\alpha(i-j\frac{I}{J})}$$

EM for Models 1/2

- Model 1 Parameters:
  Translation probabilities (1+2) $P(f_j|e_i)$
  Distortion parameters (2 only) $P(a_j = i|j, I, J)$
- Start with $P(f_j|e_i)$ uniform, including $P(f_j|null)$
- For each sentence:
  - For each French position j
    - Calculate posterior over English positions

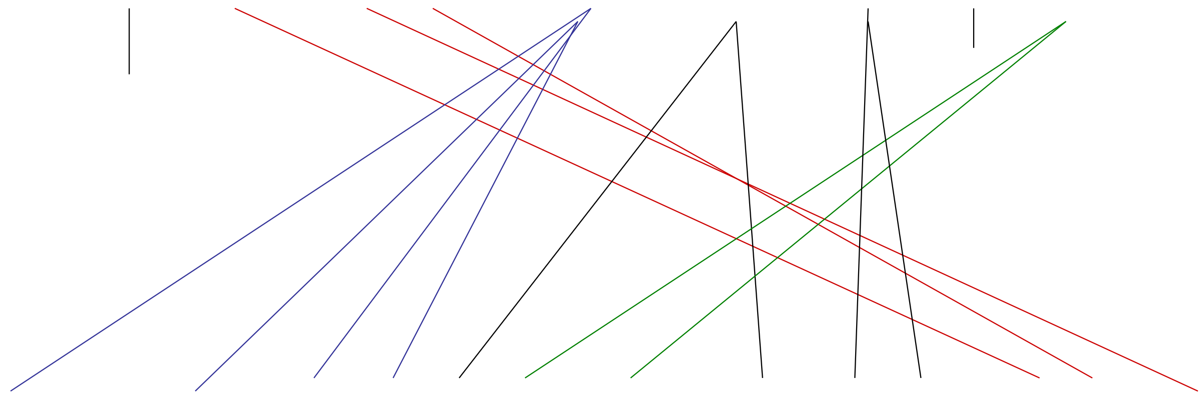
$$P(a_j = i|f, e) = \frac{P(a_j = i|j, I, J)P(f_j|e_i)}{\sum_{i'} P(a_j = i'|j, I, J)P(f_j|e'_i)}$$

    - (or just use best single alignment)
    - Increment count of word f_j with word e_i by these amounts
    - Also re-estimate distortion probabilities for model 2
- Iterate until convergence

HMM Model: Local Monotonicity

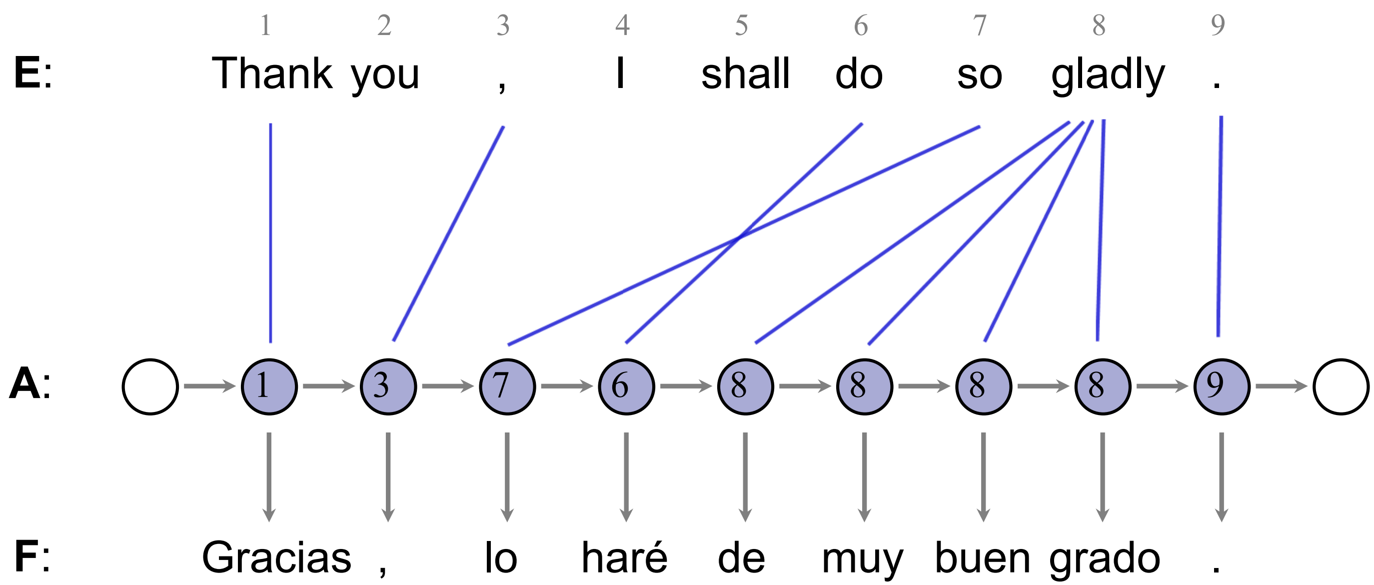
Phrase Movement

On Tuesday Nov. 4, earthquakes rocked Japan once again



Des tremblements de terre ont à nouveau touché le Japon jeudi 4 novembre.

The HMM Model



Model Parameters

Emissions: $P(F_1 = \text{Gracias} \mid E_{A_1} = \text{Thank})$ *Transitions*: $P(A_2 = 3 \mid A_1 = 1)$

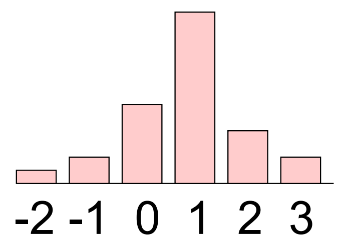
The HMM Model

- Model 2 preferred global monotonicity
- We want local monotonicity:
  - Most jumps are small
- HMM model (Vogel 96)

f	$t(f \mid e)$
nationale	0.469
national	0.418
nationaux	0.054
nationales	0.029

$$P(f,a|e) = \prod_j P(a_j|a_{j-1}) P(f_j|e_i)$$

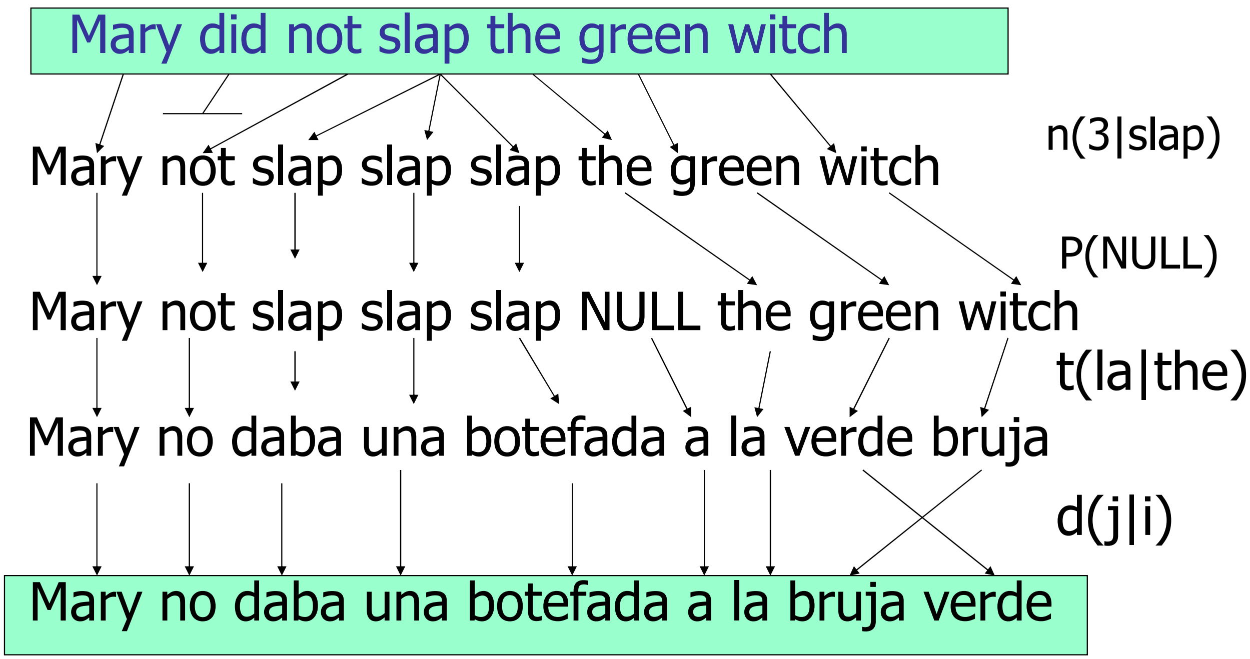
$$P(a_j - a_{j-1})$$



  - Re-estimate using the forward-backward algorithm
  - Handling nulls requires some care
- What are we still missing?

Models 3+: Fertility

IBM Models 3/4/5



[from Al-Onaizan and Knight, 1998]

Examples: Translation and Fertility

the

f	$t(f \mid e)$	ϕ	$n(\phi \mid e)$
le	0.497	1	0.746
la	0.207	0	0.254
les	0.155		
l'	0.086		
ce	0.018		
cette	0.011		

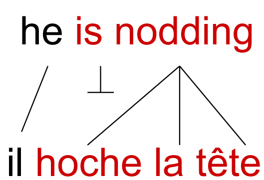
not

f	$t(f \mid e)$	ϕ	$n(\phi \mid e)$
ne	0.497	2	0.735
pas	0.442	0	0.154
non	0.029	1	0.107
rien	0.011		

farmers

f	$t(f \mid e)$	ϕ	$n(\phi \mid e)$
agriculteurs	0.442	2	0.731
les	0.418	1	0.228
cultivateurs	0.046	0	0.039
producteurs	0.021		

Example: Idioms



nodding

f	$t(f \mid e)$	ϕ	$n(\phi \mid e)$
signe	0.164	4	0.342
la	0.123	3	0.293
tête	0.097	2	0.167
oui	0.086	1	0.163
fait	0.073	0	0.023
que	0.073		
hoche	0.054		
hocher	0.048		
faire	0.030		
me	0.024		
approuve	0.019		
qui	0.019		
un	0.012		
faites	0.011		

Example: Morphology

should

f	$t(f \mid e)$	ϕ	$n(\phi \mid e)$
devrait	0.330	1	0.649
devraient	0.123	0	0.336
devrions	0.109	2	0.014
faudrait	0.073		
faut	0.058		
doit	0.058		
aurait	0.041		
doivent	0.024		
devons	0.017		
devrais	0.013		

Getting Phrases

Word Alignment with IBM Models

- IBM Models create a **many-to-one** mapping
  - words are aligned using an alignment function
  - a function may return the same value for different input
    (one-to-many mapping)
  - a function can not return multiple values for one input
    (no many-to-one mapping)
- Real word alignments have **many-to-many** mappings

Symmetrization

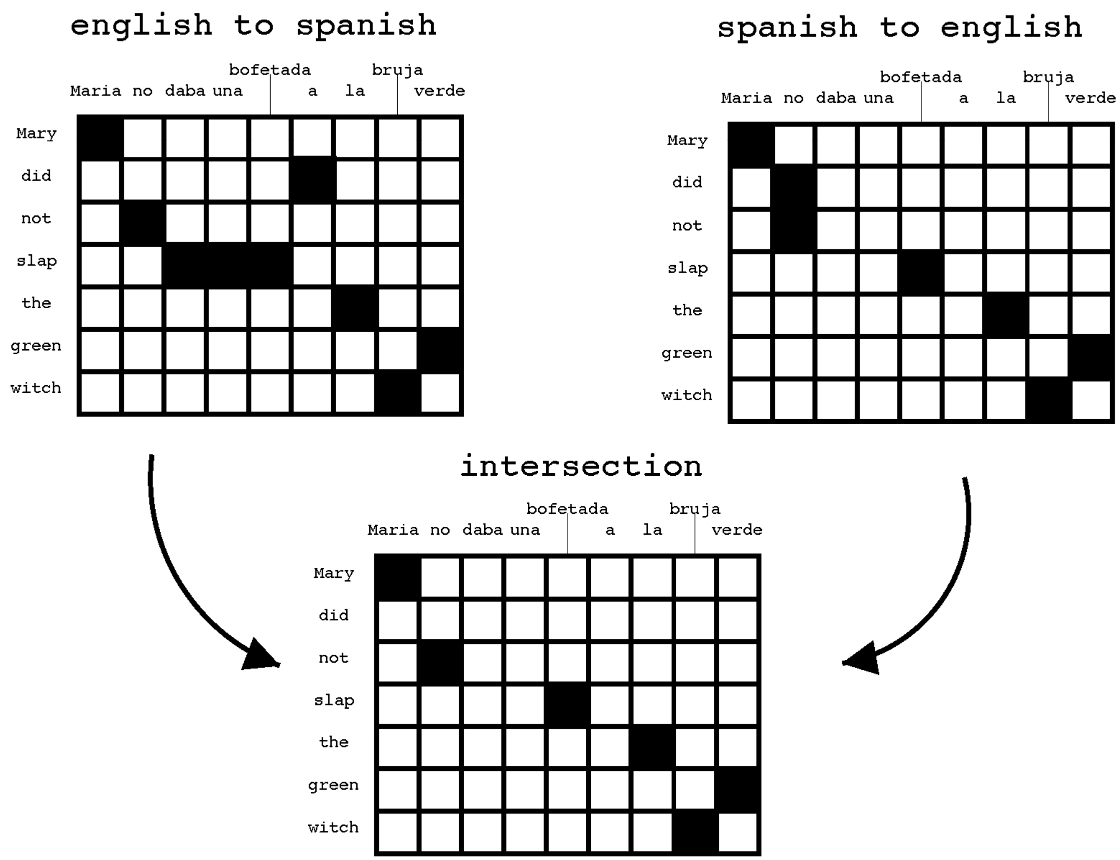
- Run IBM Model training in both directions

$\rightarrow$ two sets of word alignment points

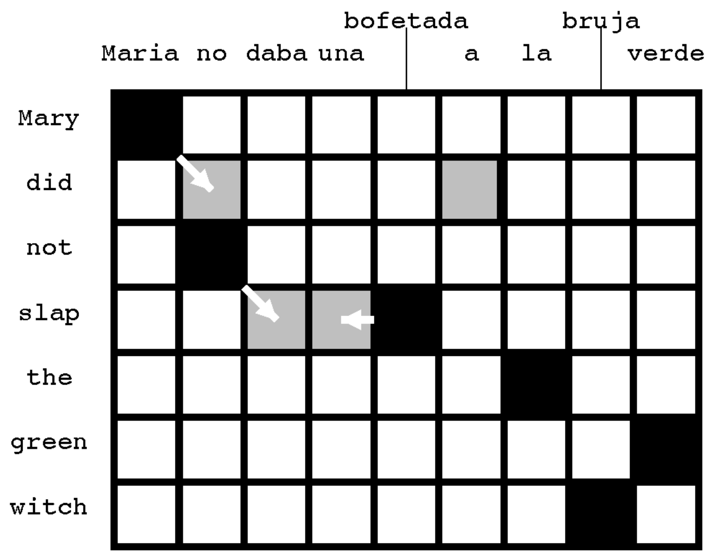
- Intersection: high precision alignment points
- Union: high recall alignment points

- Refinement methods explore the sets between intersection and union

Example


english to spanish
spanish to english
intersection
Maria no daba una bofetada a la bruja verde
Mary
did
not
slap
the
green
witch

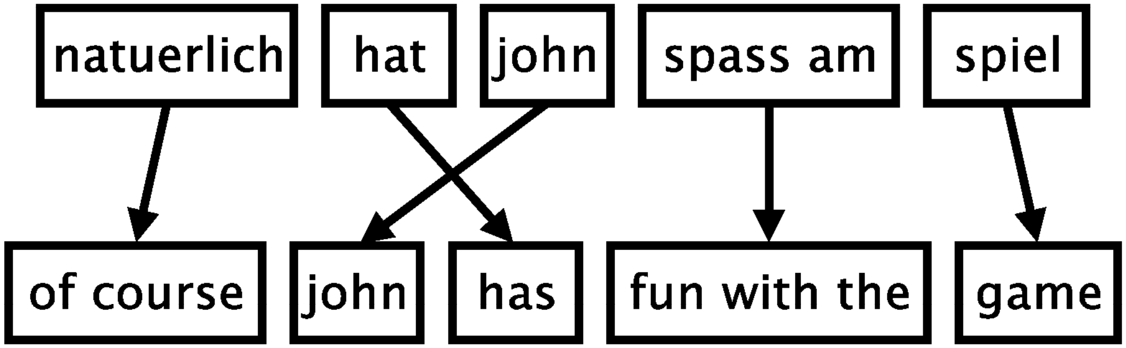
Growing Heuristics



black: intersection **grey**: additional points in union

- Add alignment points from union based on heuristics:
  - directly/diagonally neighboring points
  - finally, add alignments that connect unaligned words in source and/or target
- Popular method: grow-diag-final-and

Phrase-Based Model



- Foreign input is segmented in phrases
- Each phrase is translated into English
- Phrases are reordered

Phrase Translation Table

- Main knowledge source: table with phrase translations and their probabilities
- Example: phrase translations for natuerlich

Translation	Probability $\phi(\bar{e}|f)$
of course	0.5
naturally	0.3
of course ,	0.15
, of course ,	0.05

Scoring Phrase Translations

- Phrase pair extraction: collect all phrase pairs from the data
- Phrase pair scoring: assign probabilities to phrase translations
- Score by relative frequency:

$$\phi(\bar{f}|\bar{e}) = \frac{\text{count}(\bar{e}, \bar{f})}{\sum_{\bar{f}_i} \text{count}(\bar{e}, \bar{f}_i)}$$

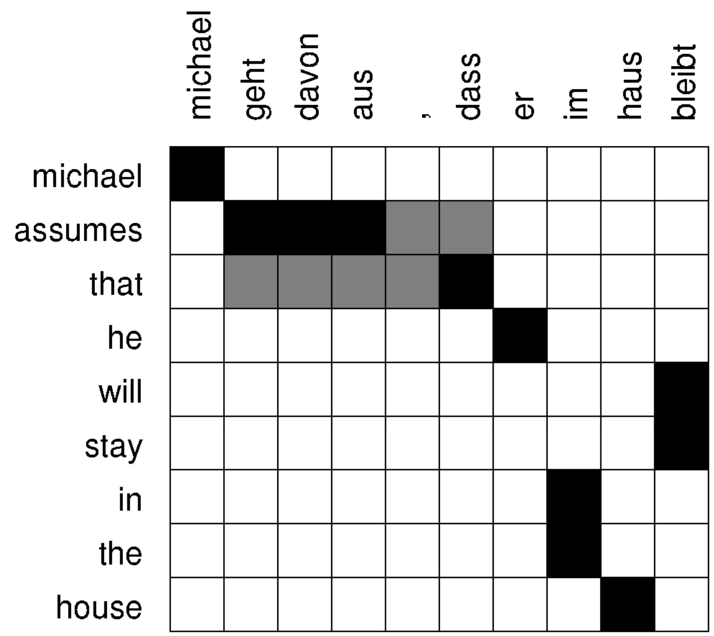
Real Example

- Phrase translations for den Vorschlag learned from the Europarl corpus:

English	$\phi(\bar{e}\|f)$	English	$\phi(\bar{e}\|f)$
the proposal	0.6227	the suggestions	0.0114
's proposal	0.1068	the proposed	0.0114
a proposal	0.0341	the motion	0.0091
the idea	0.0250	the idea of	0.0091
this proposal	0.0227	the proposal ,	0.0068
proposal	0.0205	its proposal	0.0068
of the proposal	0.0159	it	0.0068
the proposals	0.0159	...	...

  – lexical variation (proposal vs suggestions)
  – morphological variation (proposal vs proposals)
  – included function words (the, a, ...)
  – noise (it)

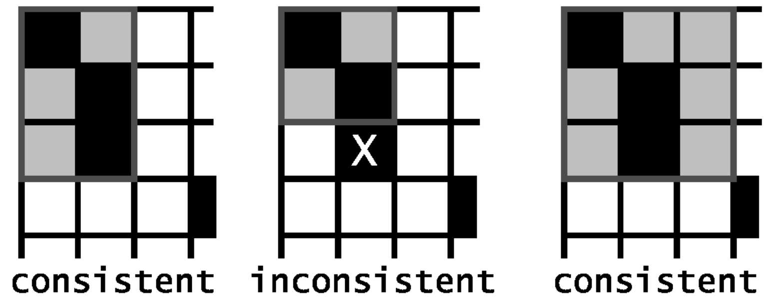
Extracting Phrase Pairs



extract phrase pair consistent with word alignment:

assumes that / geht davon aus , dass

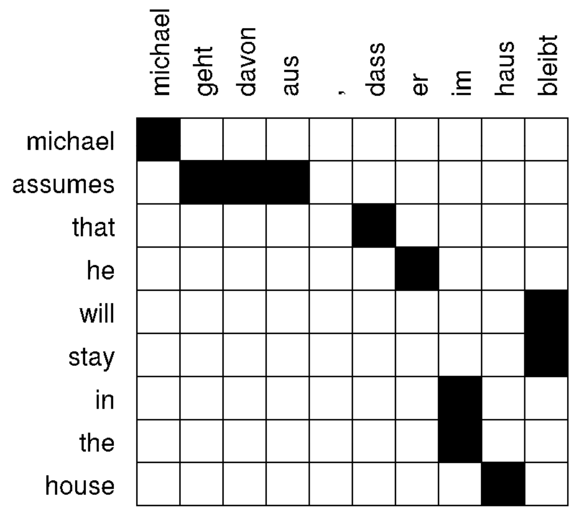
Consistent



ok	**violated** one alignment point outside	**ok** unaligned word is fine

All words of the phrase pair have to align to each other.

Phrase Pair Extraction



Smallest phrase pairs:

michael — michael

assumes — geht davon aus / geht davon aus ,

that — dass / , dass

he — er

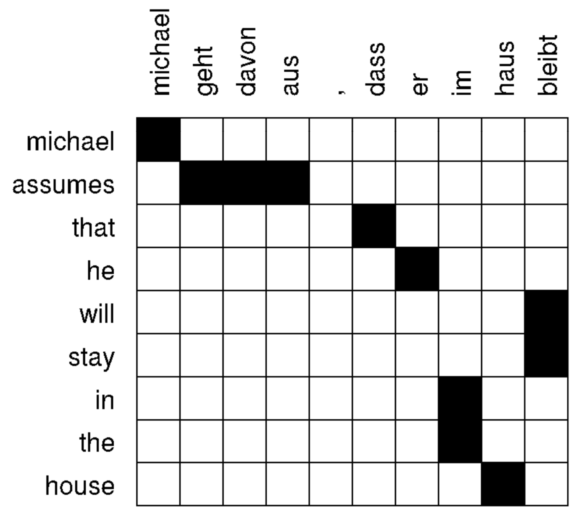
will stay — bleibt

in the — im

house — haus

unaligned words (here: German comma) lead to multiple translations

Larger Phrase Pairs

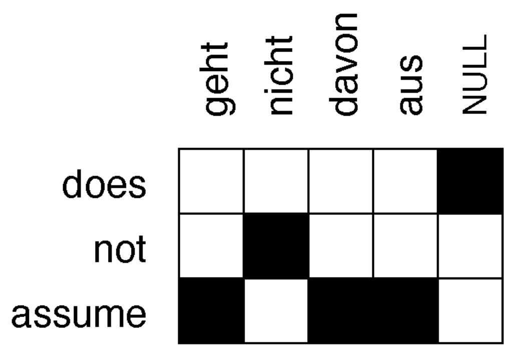


michael assumes — michael geht davon aus / michael geht davon aus ,
assumes that — geht davon aus , dass ; assumes that he — geht davon aus , dass er
that he — dass er / , dass er ; in the house — im haus
michael assumes that — michael geht davon aus , dass
michael assumes that he — michael geht davon aus , dass er
michael assumes that he will stay in the house — michael geht davon aus , dass er im haus bleibt
assumes that he will stay in the house — geht davon aus , dass er im haus bleibt
that he will stay in the house — dass er im haus bleibt ; dass er im haus bleibt ,
he will stay in the house — er im haus bleibt ; will stay in the house — im haus bleibt

Other Scoring Terms

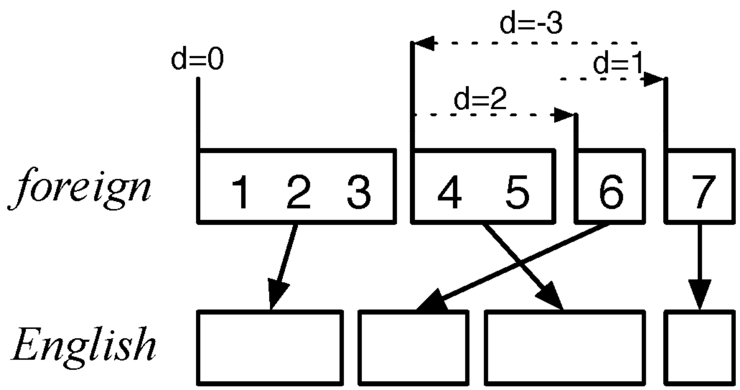
More Feature Functions

- Bidirectional alignment probabilities: $\phi(\bar{e}|\bar{f})$ and $\phi(\bar{f}|\bar{e})$
- Rare phrase pairs have unreliable phrase translation probability estimates
  $\rightarrow$ lexical weighting with word translation probabilities



$$\text{lex}(\bar{e}|\bar{f},a) = \prod_{i=1}^{\text{length}(\bar{e})} \frac{1}{|\{j|(i,j) \in a\}|} \sum_{\forall (i,j) \in a} w(e_i|f_j)$$

Distance-Based Reordering

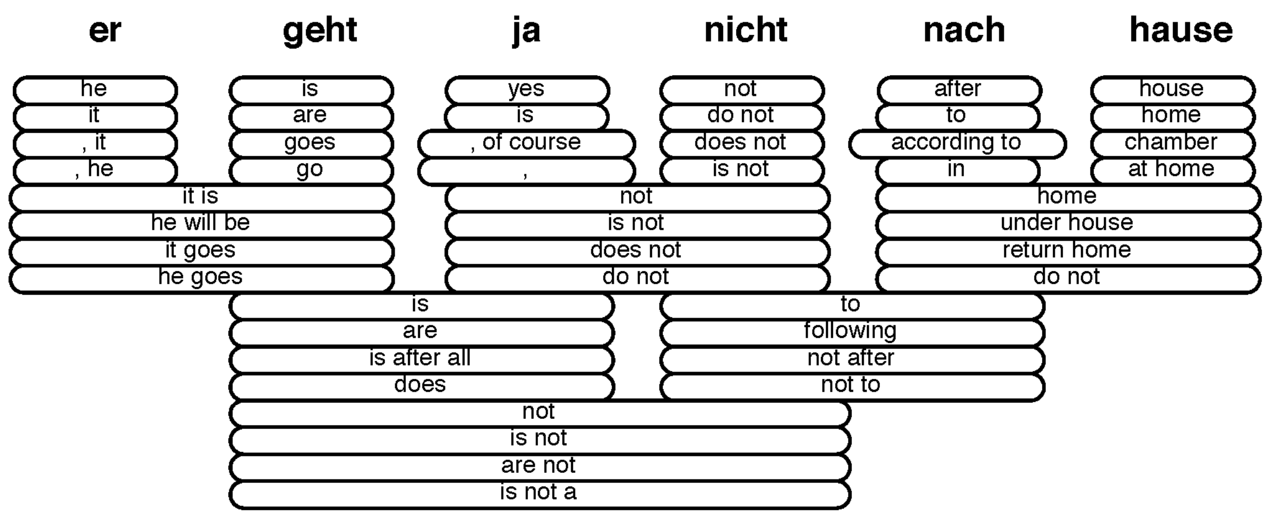


phrase	translates	movement	distance
1	1–3	start at beginning	0
2	6	skip over 4–5	+2
3	4–5	move back over 4–6	-3
4	7	skip over 6	+1

Scoring function: $d(x) = \alpha^{|x|}$ — exponential with distance

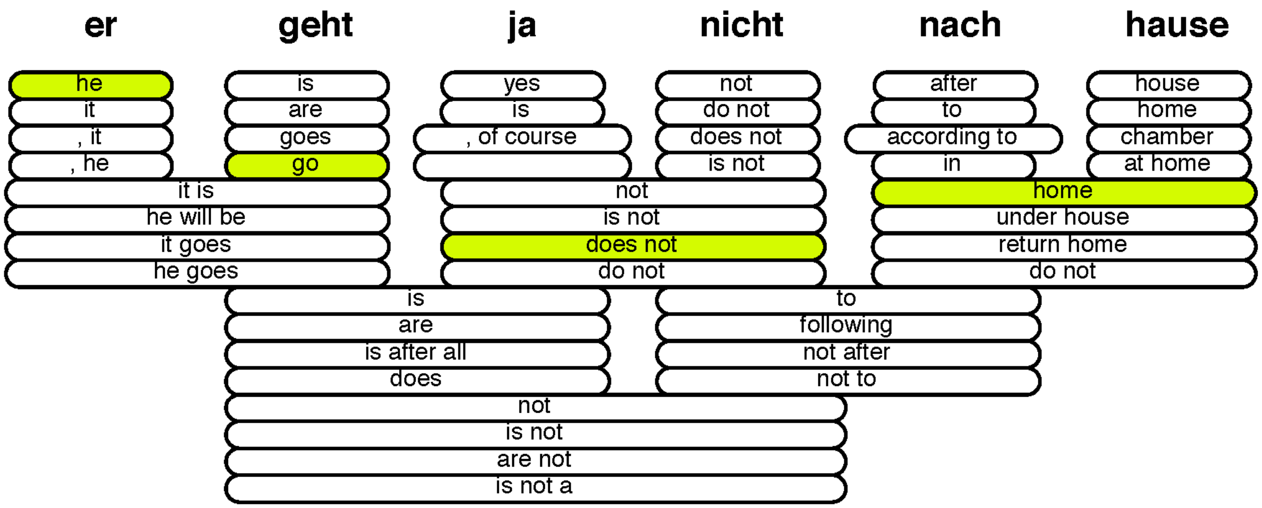
Phrase-Based Decoding

Translation Options



- Many translation options to choose from
  - in Europarl phrase table: 2727 matching phrase pairs for this sentence
  - by pruning to the top 20 per phrase, 202 translation options remain

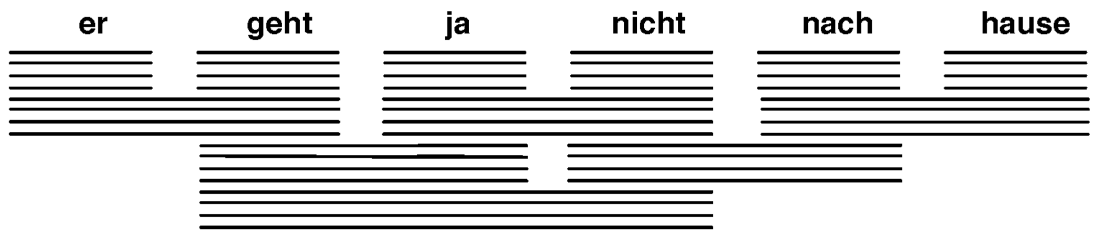
Translation Options



- The machine translation decoder does not know the right answer
  - picking the right translation options
  - arranging them in the right order

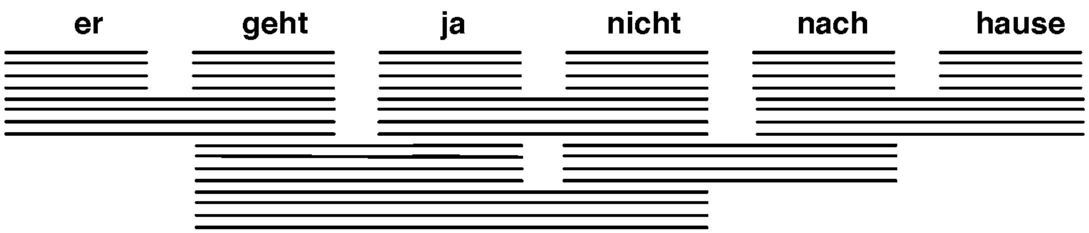
→ Search problem solved by heuristic beam search

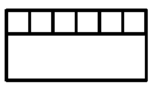
Decoding: Precompute Translation Options



consult phrase translation table for all input phrases

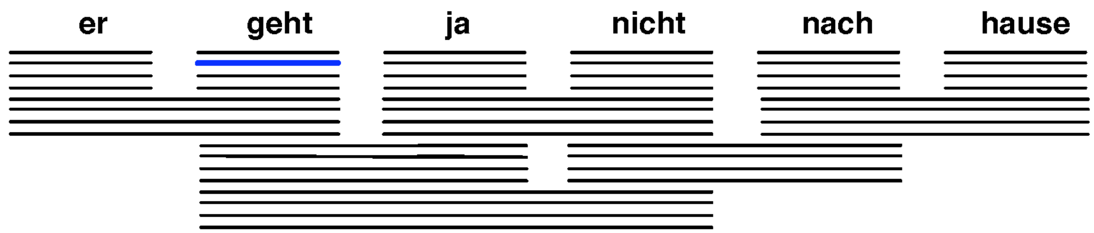
Decoding: Start with Initial Hypothesis

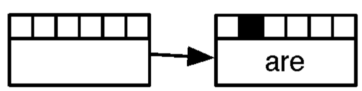




initial hypothesis: no input words covered, no output produced

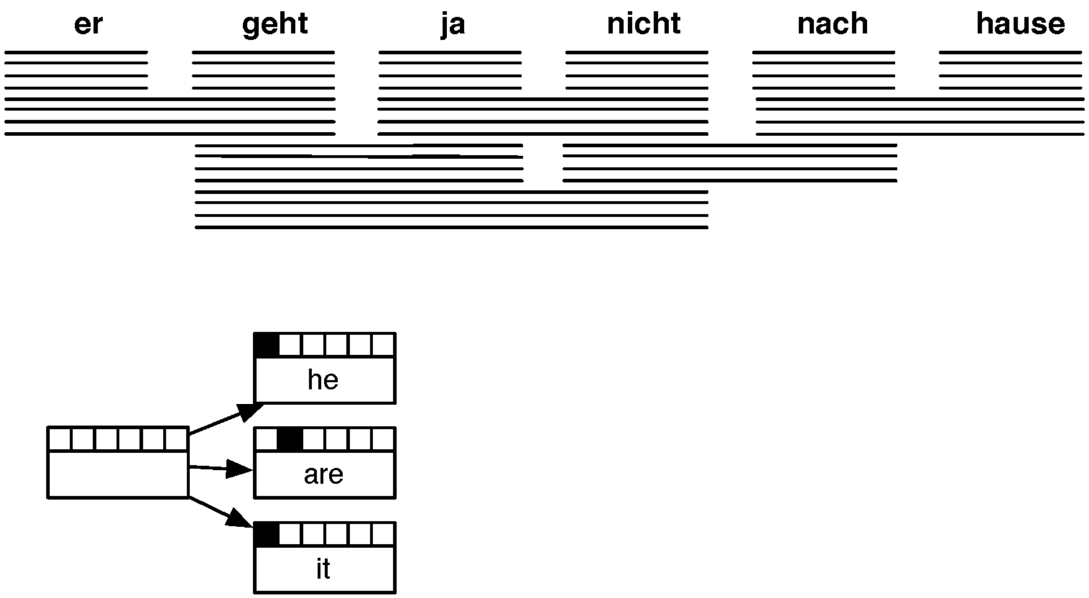
Decoding: Hypothesis Expansion





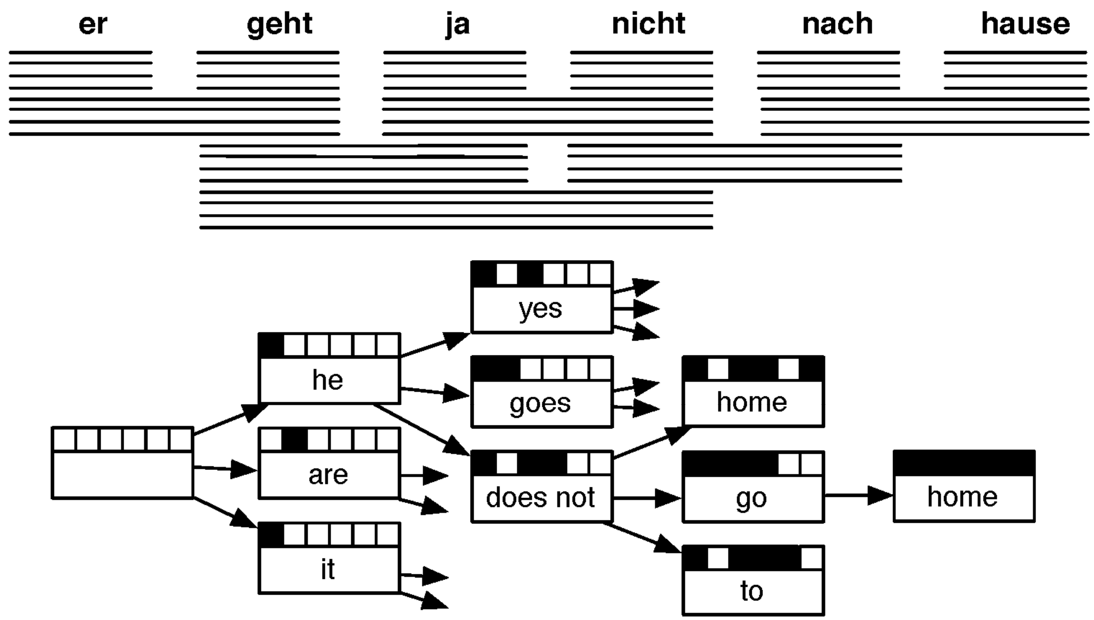
pick any translation option, create new hypothesis

Decoding: Hypothesis Expansion



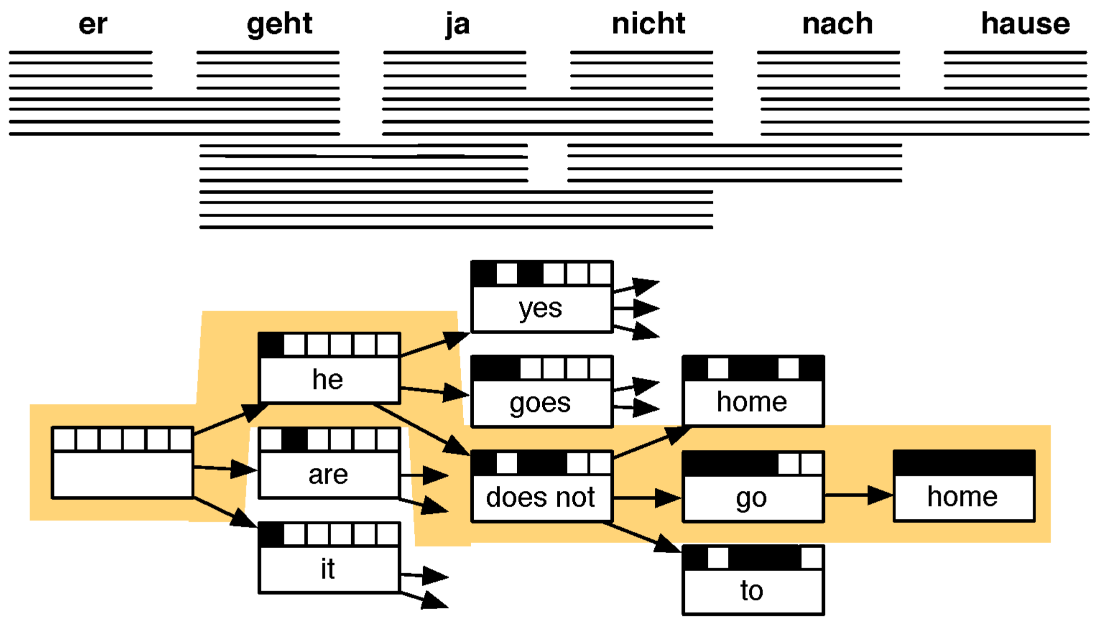
create hypotheses for all other translation options

Decoding: Hypothesis Expansion



also create hypotheses from created partial hypothesis

Decoding: Find Best Path



backtrack from highest scoring complete hypothesis

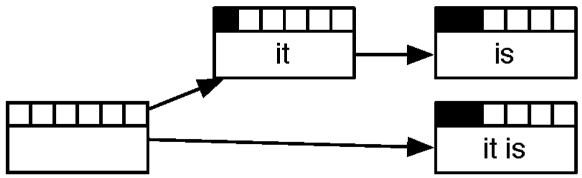
Dynamic Programming

Computational Complexity

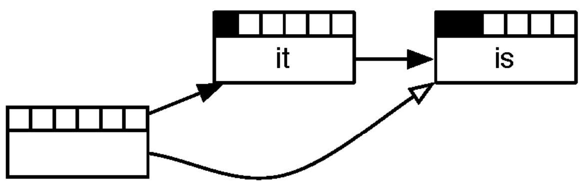
- The suggested process creates exponential number of hypothesis
- Machine translation decoding is NP-complete
- Reduction of search space:
  - recombination (risk-free)
  - pruning (risky)

Recombination

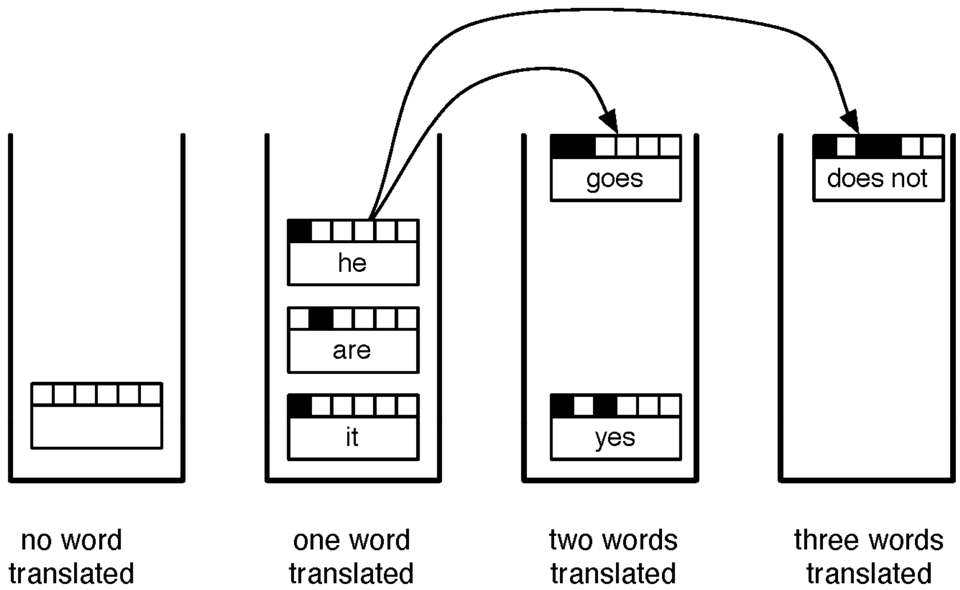
- Two hypothesis paths lead to two matching hypotheses
  - same foreign words translated
  - same English words in the output



- Worse hypothesis is dropped



Stacks



- Hypothesis expansion in a stack decoder
  - translation option is applied to hypothesis
  - new hypothesis is dropped into a stack further down

Stack Decoding Algorithm

```
place empty hypothesis into stack 0
for all stacks 0...n − 1 do
    for all hypotheses in stack do
        for all translation options do
            if applicable then
                create new hypothesis
                place in stack
                recombine with existing hypothesis if possible
                prune stack if too big
            end if
        end for
    end for
end for
```

Pruning

Pruning

- Pruning strategies
  - histogram pruning: keep at most k hypotheses in each stack
  - stack pruning: keep hypothesis with score $\alpha \times$ best score ($\alpha < 1$)

- Computational time complexity of decoding with histogram pruning

$$O(\text{max stack size} \times \text{translation options} \times \text{sentence length})$$

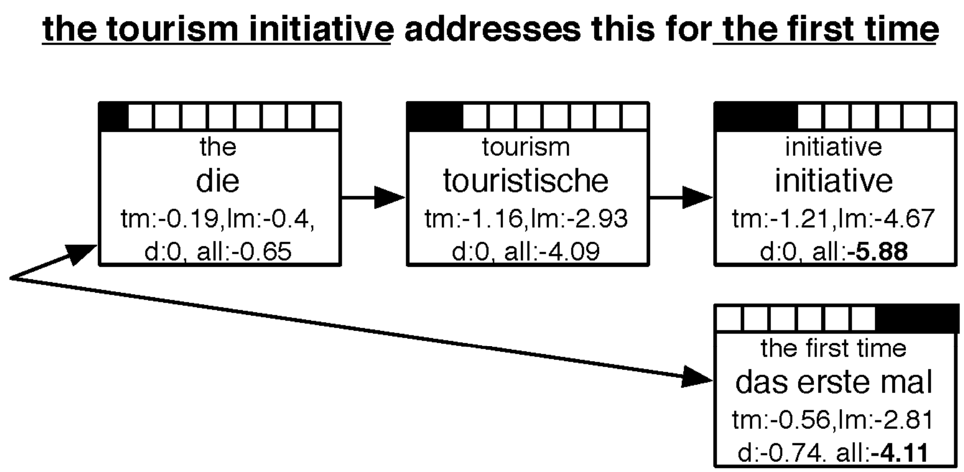
- Number of translation options is linear with sentence length, hence:

$$O(\text{max stack size} \times \text{sentence length}^2)$$

- Quadratic complexity

Future Costs

Translating the Easy Part First?

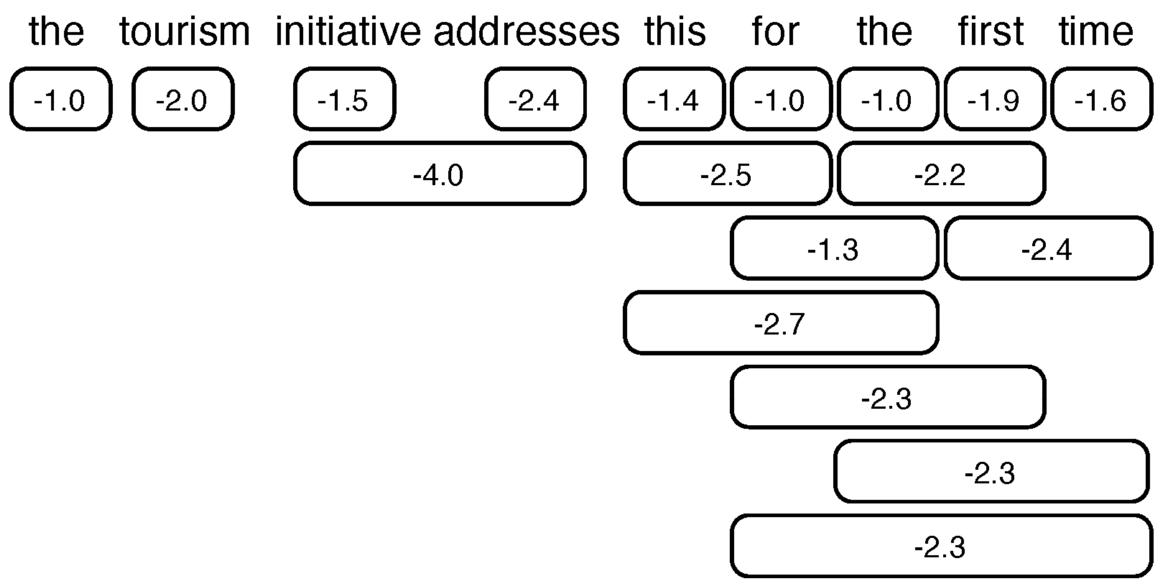


both hypotheses translate 3 words
worse hypothesis has better score

Estimating Future Cost

- Future cost estimate: how expensive is translation of rest of sentence?
- Optimistic: choose cheapest translation options
- Cost for each translation option
  - **translation model**: cost known
  - **language model:** output words known, but not context
    $\rightarrow$ estimate without context
  - **reordering model:** unknown, ignored for future cost estimation

Cost Estimates from Translation Options



cost of cheapest translation options for each input span (log-probabilities)

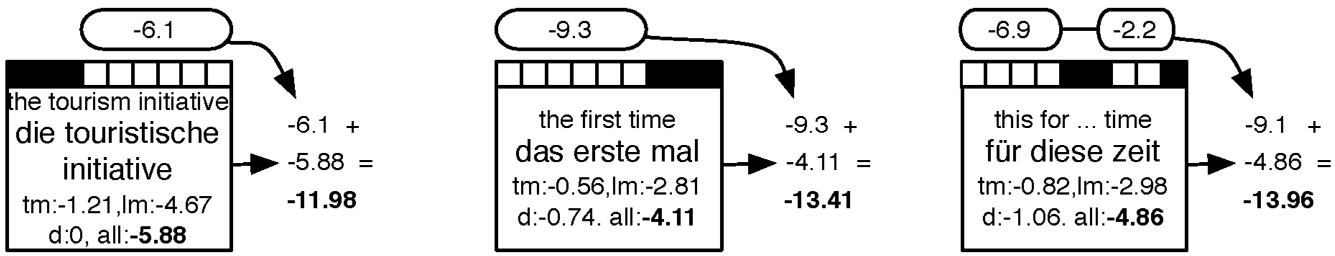
Cost Estimates for all Spans

- Compute cost estimate for all contiguous spans by combining cheapest options

first word	future cost estimate for n words (from first)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
the	-1.0	-3.0	-4.5	-6.9	-8.3	-9.3	-9.6	-10.6	-10.6
tourism	-2.0	-3.5	-5.9	-7.3	-8.3	-8.6	-9.6	-9.6	
initiative	-1.5	-3.9	-5.3	-6.3	-6.6	-7.6	-7.6		
addresses	-2.4	-3.8	-4.8	-5.1	-6.1	-6.1			
this	-1.4	-2.4	-2.7	-3.7	-3.7				
for	-1.0	-1.3	-2.3	-2.3					
the	-1.0	-2.2	-2.3						
first	-1.9	-2.4							
time	-1.6								

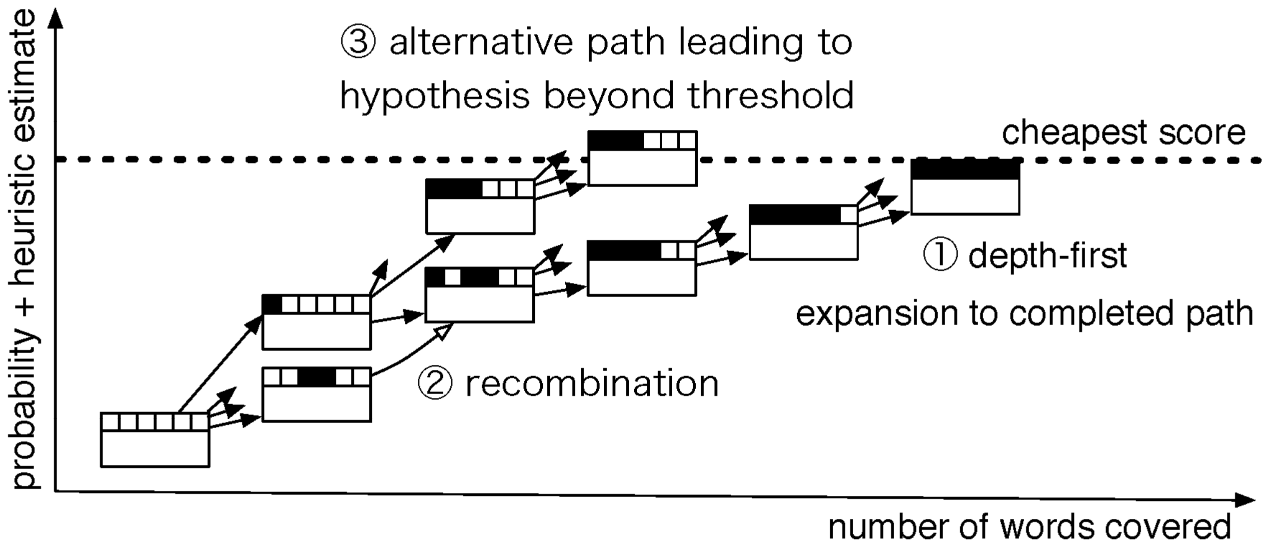
- Function words cheaper (the: -1.0) than content words (tourism -2.0)
- Common phrases cheaper (for the first time: -2.3) than unusual ones (tourism initiative addresses: -5.9)

Combining Score and Future Cost



- Hypothesis score and future cost estimate are combined for pruning
  - left hypothesis starts with hard part: the tourism initiative
    score: -5.88, future cost: -6.1 → total cost -11.98
  - middle hypothesis starts with easiest part: the first time
    score: -4.11, future cost: -9.3 → total cost -13.41
  - right hypothesis picks easy parts: this for ... time
    score: -4.86, future cost: -9.1 → total cost -13.96

A* Search



- Uses *admissible* future cost heuristic: never overestimates cost
- Translation agenda: create hypothesis with lowest score + heuristic cost
- Done, when complete hypothesis created