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# Coreference Resolution

Emory Center of Language and Information Research  
NLP Reading Group Presentation

# Overview

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1. Significance of coreference resolution
2. Connection with NER
3. Resolution Structure
  - A. Mention Detection
  - B. Coreference Resolution
4. Current Approaches
  - C. Feature-based
  - D. Unsupervised learning
5. Progression of Coreference Resolution Models (2007-2009)
6. Stanford Sieve System (2011-2013)
7. Topics yet to be Explored

# Importance

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## Purposes:

- Finding mentions in text
- Grouping all relevant mentions together
- Referring them back to the real-world entities
- Connecting Entities across sentences
- A preliminary step for knowledge graph generation

## Connection with NER

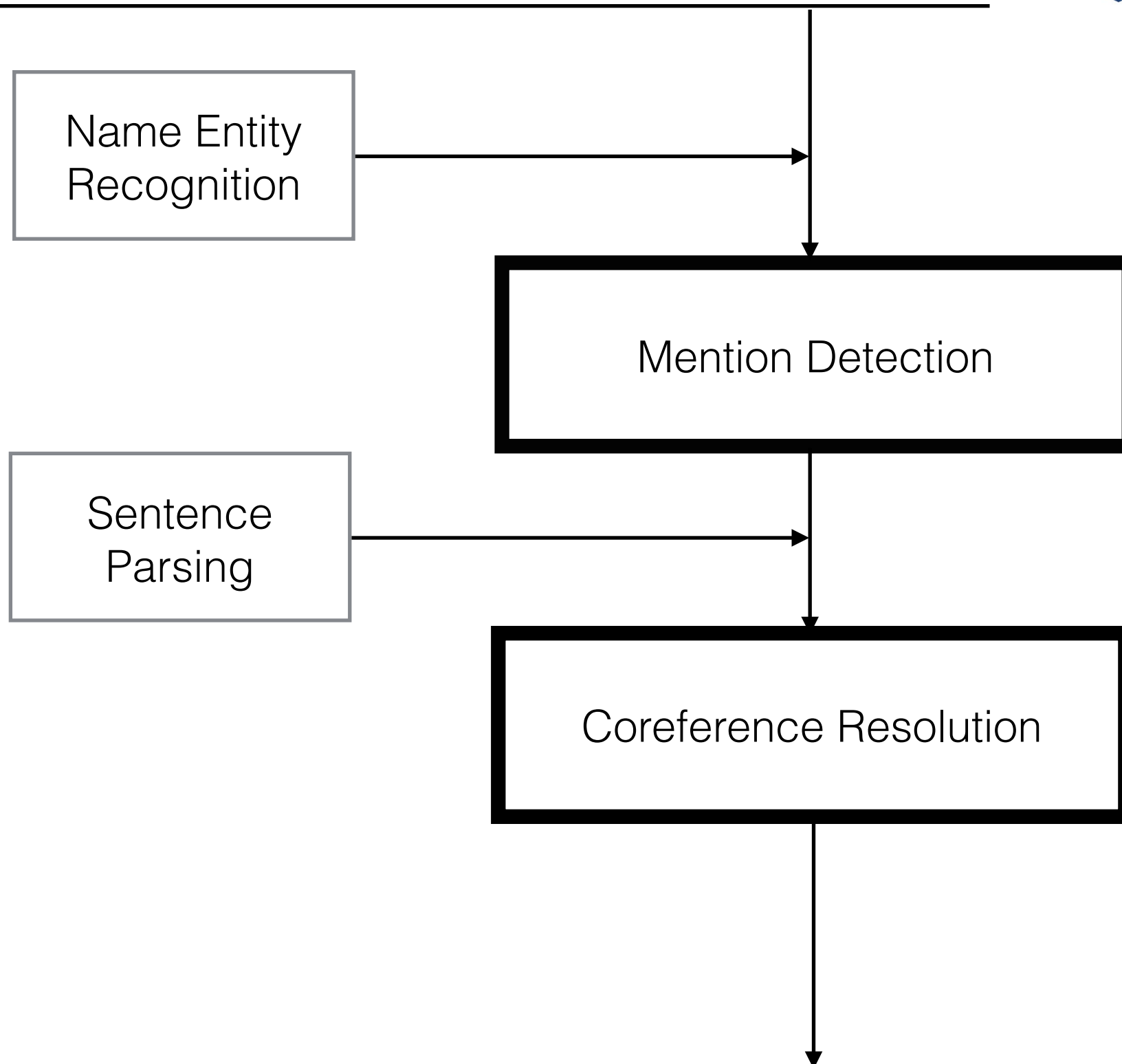
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- NER is a sub-topic of coreference resolution
- Extension to Mention Detection

# Structure



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# Mention Detection



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- 3 types of mentions:
  - Name mention
  - Nominal mention i.e. the guy wearing a blue shirt
  - Pronoun mention

## Named Entity Recognition:

	Person	Organization
1	Henry	Emory University
2	He	

## Coreference:

1	Ment	Henry	is presenting coreference resolution at Emory University NLP Reading group.
2	M	He	feels really stressed there.

# Coreference Resolution



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- Grouping of mentions
  - Directed / Undirected
- Merge/Connect entities together

## Named Entity Recognition:

	Person	Organization
1	Henry	Emory University
2	He	

## Coreference:

1	Ment	Henry	is presenting coreference resolution at Emory University NLP Reading group.
2	M	He	feels really stressed there.

# Approaches

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1. Incorporating more feature into the models, such as mention-pair model and cluster ranking models
  - Knowledge sources for the features
    - A. Semantic knowledge sources. i.e. FrameNet, WordNet, etc.
    - B. Annotated corpora. i.e. ACE, MUC, OntoNotes, etc.
    - C. Unannotated corpora. (represented in horn rules or relations)
2. Shifting from the supervised learning setting to unsupervised learning

# Evaluation methods

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## *MUC*

- *Counts the minimum number of links between mentions*
- *Cannot represent singleton entities (Only mentioned once)*
- *Give no credit for separating singleton entities from a chains*

## *B<sup>3</sup>*

- *Overcome the short-coming of MUC score*
- *Compute precision and recall for all mentions*

$$Precision(m_i) = \frac{|R_{m_i} \cap K_{m_i}|}{|R_{m_i}|}$$

$$Recall(m_i) = \frac{|R_{m_i} \cap K_{m_i}|}{|K_{m_i}|}$$

*R: Responses, K: Key*





## Statistical approach (binary classification) (Denis and Baldridge, 2007)

- Asymmetric interpretation (Nguyen and Kim, 2008)
- Symmetric interpretation

-> Pairwise formulation

-> feature independence assumption

## Cluster-based features

- Convert classification of pairwise models into cluster of mention
- Cluster of mention -> an individual entity (Culotta et al., 2007)



## *First-Order Probabilistic Models for Coreference Resolution*

- Soften the independence assumption of the pairwise model by allowing feature based on first-order logic
- Creating a model over clusters instead of over pairs

$$p(y_{ij}|x_{ij}) = \frac{1}{Z_{x_{ij}}} \exp \sum_k \lambda_k f_k(x_{ij}, y_{ij}) \longrightarrow p(y_j|x^j) = \frac{1}{Z_{x^j}} \exp \sum_k \lambda_k f_k(x^j, y_j)$$

## Training Technique

- Sampling positive and negative examples uniformly using Margin Infused Relaxed Algorithms (MIRA)
- Rank positive example higher than the negative ones
  - > True mentions in bad clusters are not unjustly penalized



## *First-Order Probabilistic Models for Coreference Resolution*

### Result

1. Allows to model constraints like: “do not prefer entities whose only mentions are pronouns”
2. Introduction of a error-driven, rank-based training technique

	<b>F1</b>	<b>Prec</b>	<b>Rec</b>
<b>First-Order MIRA</b>	<b>79.3</b>	86.7	73.2
<b>Pairwise MIRA</b>	72.5	92.0	59.8
<b>First-Order Uniform</b>	<b>69.2</b>	79.0	61.5
<b>Pairwise</b>	62.4	62.5	62.3

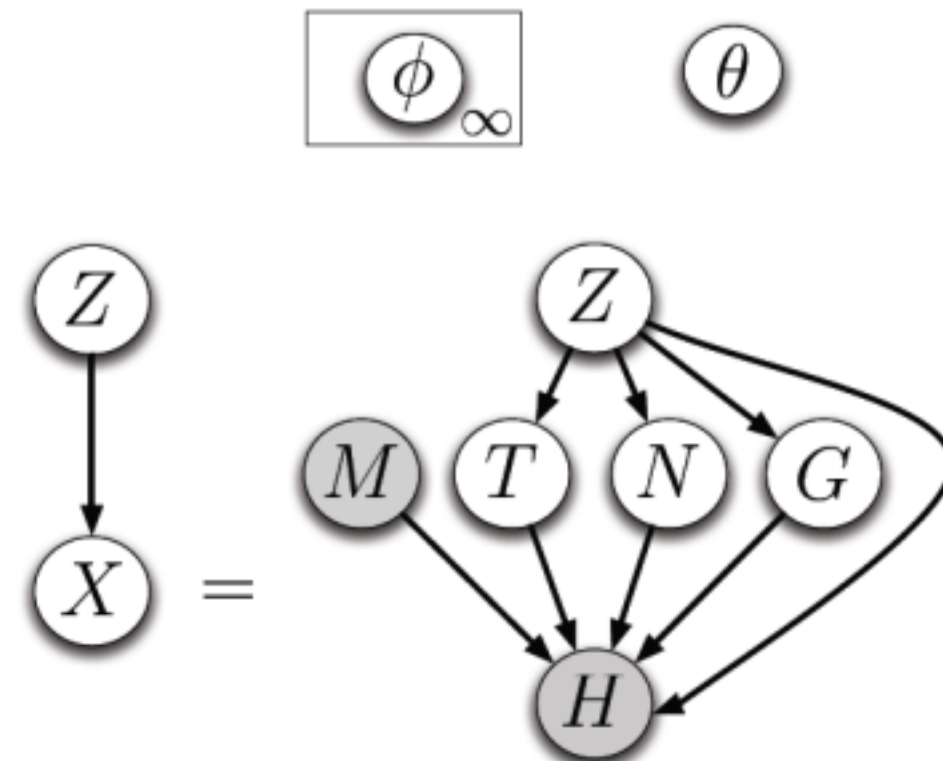
# Progression of Coreference Resolution



## *Unsupervised Coreference Resolution in a Nonparametric Bayesian Model*

- 1st unsupervised method that perform as good as supervised approach
- Proposed a hierarchical Dirichlet Process to find the referents of mentions within a document. Then extends to cross documents

<b>Entity Type</b> $\phi^t$
PERS : 0.97, LOC : 0.01, ORG: 0.01, MISC: 0.01
<b>Gender</b> $\phi^g$
MALE: 0.98, FEM: 0.01, NEUTER: 0.01
<b>Number</b> $\phi^n$
SING: 0.99, PLURAL: 0.01
<b>Head</b> $\phi^h$
Bush : 0.90, President : 0.06, .....



Z: random variable that takes the value of the the index of an entity.  
X: collection of variables associated with a mention in the model  
(namely entity type T, numberN, gender G, head H, mention M).

# Progression of Coreference Resolution



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## *Unsupervised Coreference Resolution in a Nonparametric Bayesian Model*

Dataset	Num Docs.	Prec.	Recall	F <sub>1</sub>
MUC-6	60	80.8	52.8	63.9
+DRYRUN-TRAIN	251	79.1	59.7	68.0
+ENGLISH-NWIRE	381	80.4	62.4	70.3

(a)

Dataset	Prec.	Recall	F <sub>1</sub>
ENGLISH-NWIRE	66.7	62.3	64.2
ENGLISH-BNEWS	63.2	61.3	62.3
CHINESE-NWIRE	71.6	63.3	67.2
CHINESE-BNEWS	71.2	61.8	66.2

(b)

Table 2: Formal Results: Our system evaluated using the MUC model theoretic measure Vilain et al. (1995). The table in (a) is our performance on the thirty document MUC-6 formal test set with increasing amounts of training data. In all cases for the table, we are evaluating on the same thirty document test set which is included in our training set, since our system is unsupervised. The table in (b) is our performance on the ACE 2004 training sets.





## *Unsupervised Models for Coreference Resolution*

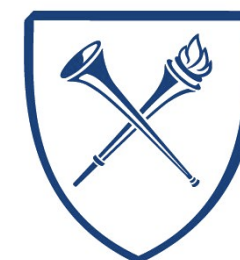
- Conceptualize the problem as inducing coreference partitions on unlabeled document instead of mention pair classification
- Modified Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm, so the number of cluster does not have to be predetermined

Given a document  $D$ , a clustering  $C$ , let  $\theta$  be the model parameters.

**E-step:** Compute the posterior probabilities of the clusterings,  $P(C|D, \theta)$  based on the current  $\theta$ .

**M-step:** Using the value of  $P(C|D, \theta)$  computed in the E-step, find the  $\theta'$  that maximizes the expected log-likelihood:  $\sum_C P(C|D, \theta) \log P(D, C|\theta')$ .

# Progression of Coreference Resolution



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## *Unsupervised Models for Coreference Resolution*

Experiments	Broadcast News (BNEWS)						Newswire (NWIRE)					
	True Mentions			System Mentions			True Mentions			System Mentions		
	R	P	F	R	P	F	R	P	F	R	P	F
1 Heuristic Baseline	27.8	72.0	40.1	30.9	44.3	36.4	31.2	70.3	43.3	36.3	53.4	43.2
2 Degenerate EM Baseline	63.6	53.1	57.9	70.8	36.3	48.0	64.5	42.6	51.3	69.0	25.1	36.8
3 Our EM-based Model	56.1	71.4	<b>62.8</b>	42.4	66.0	51.6	47.0	68.3	<b>55.7</b>	55.2	60.6	<b>57.8</b>
4 Haghighi and Klein Baseline	49.4	60.2	54.3	50.8	40.7	45.2	44.7	55.5	49.5	43.0	40.9	41.9
5 + Relaxed Head Generation	53.0	65.4	58.6	48.3	45.7	47.0	45.1	62.5	52.4	40.9	50.0	45.0
6 + Agreement Constraints	53.6	68.7	60.2	50.4	47.5	48.9	44.6	63.7	52.5	41.7	51.2	46.0
7 + Pronoun-only Salience	56.8	68.3	62.0	52.2	53.0	<b>52.6</b>	46.8	66.2	54.8	44.3	57.3	50.0
8 Fully Supervised Model	53.7	70.8	61.1	53.0	70.3	60.4	52.0	69.6	59.6	53.1	70.5	60.6

Table 4: Results obtained using the MUC scoring program for the Broadcast News and Newswire data sets

Experiments	Broadcast News (BNEWS)						Newswire (NWIRE)					
	True Mentions			System Mentions			True Mentions			System Mentions		
	R	P	F	R	P	F	R	P	F	R	P	F
1 Heuristic Baseline	42.1	75.8	54.1	44.2	48.7	46.3	43.9	73.4	54.9	47.5	53.4	50.3
2 Degenerate EM Baseline	51.2	43.1	46.8	53.7	26.8	35.8	51.0	30.5	38.2	45.1	18.6	26.3
3 Our EM-based Model	53.3	60.5	<b>56.7</b>	47.5	59.6	<b>52.9</b>	49.2	60.7	54.4	53.5	52.1	<b>52.8</b>
4 Haghighi and Klein Baseline	43.7	48.8	46.1	46.0	33.9	39.0	45.5	51.7	48.4	44.6	39.2	41.7
5 + Relaxed Head Generation	45.8	52.4	48.9	45.4	39.6	42.3	46.0	57.0	50.9	44.5	48.3	46.3
6 + Agreement Constraints	51.8	60.5	55.8	50.6	43.8	47.0	47.8	60.1	53.2	46.5	50.4	48.4
7 + Pronoun-only Salience	53.9	59.9	<b>56.7</b>	52.3	49.9	51.1	49.6	62.8	<b>55.4</b>	47.4	55.7	51.2
8 Fully Supervised Model	55.0	63.3	58.8	56.2	64.2	59.9	54.7	64.7	59.3	56.5	65.4	60.6

Table 5: Results obtained using the CEAF scoring program for the Broadcast News and Newswire data sets

# Progression of Coreference Resolution



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## *Joint Unsupervised Coreference Resolution with Markov Logic*

- Unsupervised model using Markov Logic Network (MLN), first-order knowledge base with a weight attached to each formula
- Behave exactly as first-order logic when weight is infinite
- Soften the constraint imposed by a sets of first-order logic formula

Table 5: Our coreference results in precision, recall, and F1 for pairwise resolution.

<b>Pairwise</b>	Prec.	Rec.	F1
MUC-6	63.0	57.0	59.9
EN-BNEWS	51.2	36.4	42.5
EN-NWIRE	62.6	38.9	48.0
BNEWS	44.6	32.3	37.5
NWIRE	59.7	42.1	49.4
NPAPER	64.3	43.6	52.0

Table 6: Average gold number of clusters per document vs. the mean absolute error of our system.

# Clusters	MUC-6	EN-BN	EN-NW
Gold	15.4	22.3	37.2
Mean Error	4.7	3.0	4.8
# Clusters	BNEWS	NWIRE	NPAPER
Gold	20.4	39.2	55.2
Mean Error	2.5	5.6	6.6



# Progression of Coreference Resolution



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*Joint Determination of Anaphoricity and Coreference Resolution using Integer Programming*

- Using Integer Linear Programming (ILP) to optimize and join together multiple classifiers in coreference
- Model anaphoricity and coreference as a joint task
- Become intractable unless using pairwise independence assumption

System	BNEWS			NPAPER			NWIRE		
	R	P	F	R	P	F	R	P	F
COREF-PAIRWISE	54.4	77.4	63.9	58.1	80.7	67.6	53.8	78.2	63.8
COREF-ILP	62.2	75.5	68.2	67.1	77.3	71.8	60.1	74.8	66.8
JOINT-ILP	62.1	78.0	69.2	68.0	77.6	72.5	60.8	75.8	67.5

Table 2: Recall (R), precision (P), and  $f$ -score (F) on the three ACE datasets for the basic coreference system (COREF-PAIRWISE), the coreference only ILP system (COREF-ILP), and the joint anaphoricity-coreference ILP system (JOINT-ILP). All  $f$ -score differences are significant ( $p < .05$ ).

# Progression of Coreference Resolution



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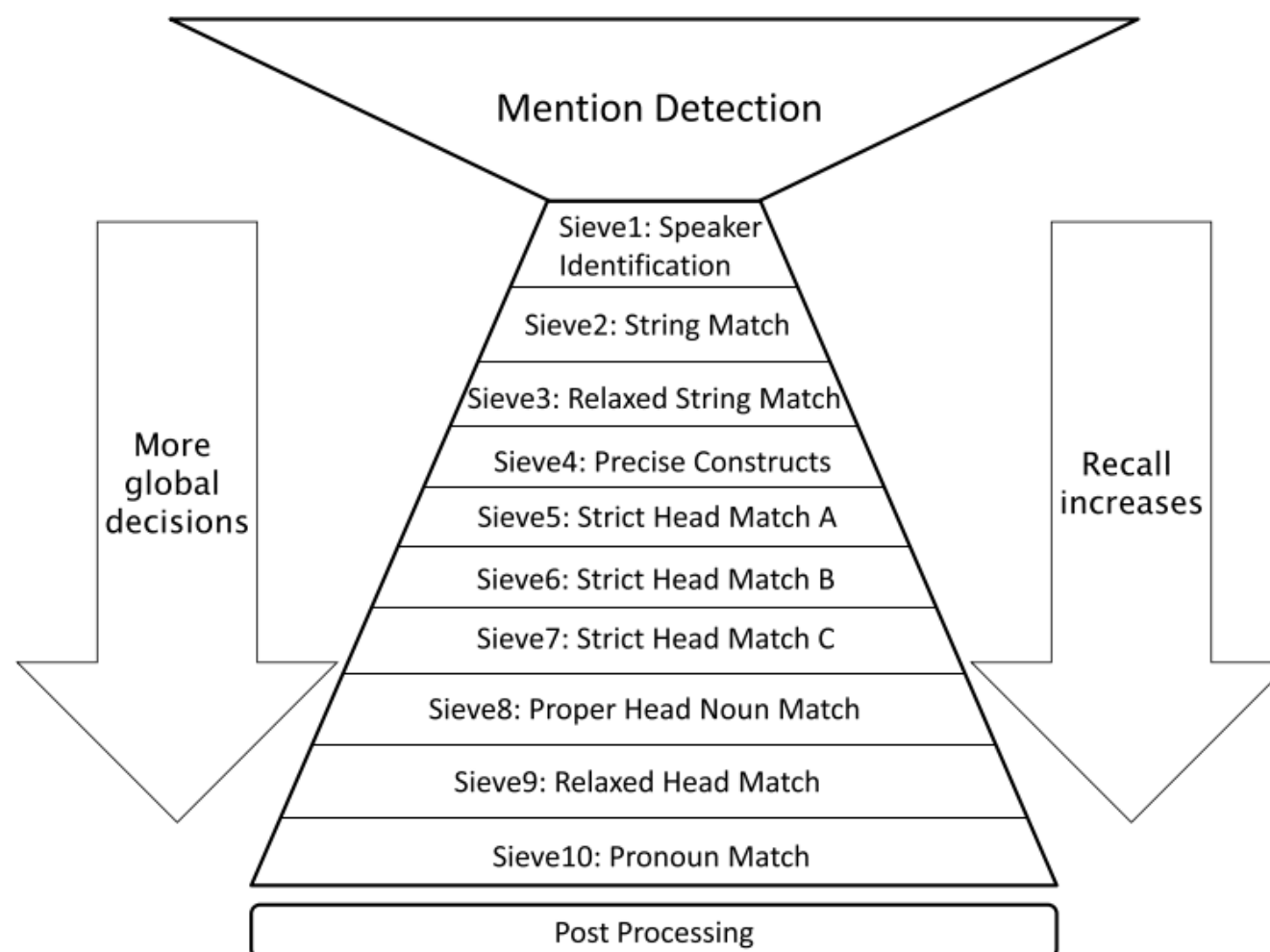
	F1	Precision	Recall
<b><i>First-Order Probabilistic Models</i></b>	79.3 (B3) ~69.0 (MUC)	86.7 (B3) ~ 76.0 (MUC)	73.2 (B3) ~ 63.0 (MUC)
<b><i>Unsupervised Nonparametric Bayesian Model</i></b>	70.3	80.4	62.4
<b><i>Unsupervised Expectation-Maximization Models</i></b>	62.8	71.4	56.1
<b><i>Joint Unsupervised Model with Markov Logic</i></b>	59.9	63.0	57.0
<b>Joint Determination model using Integer Programming</b>	69.2	78.9	62.1

# Stanford Sieve System



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*Deterministic Coreference Resolution Based on  
Entity-Centric, Precision-Ranked Rules*



# Stanford Sieve System

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## *Overview*

- A entity-centric coreference model
  - Each decision can be globally informed by previously clustered mentions and their shared attributes
- Using solely simple deterministic rules
- A highly modular system to provide flexibility
  - Lack of language-specific lexical features (language independent)
- Maintain the balance of high precision and recall

# Stanford Sieve System

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## *Mention Detection*

- Value high recall over high precision
- Mark all NPs, pronouns, and name entity mentions
- Apply exclusion rules to remove unwanted mentions

i.e.

- Numeric entities
- Pre-defined dictionary (i.e. American, hmm, etc.)
- Partitive or quantifier expression (i.e. none of...)

\*\*\* The rules might change depending on the corpus annotation



## *Coreference model*

### Mention Selection in a Given Sieve

- Take advantage of the partially clustered mentions
- Look at only the the first mention of each cluster to minimize error

$$\{m_1^1, m_2^2, m_3^2, m_4^3, m_5^1, m_6^2\}$$

- Further prune the search space with a model of *discourse salience*
  - *Disable coreference for ambiguous pronouns/articles*  
( some, other, a, an, etc.)



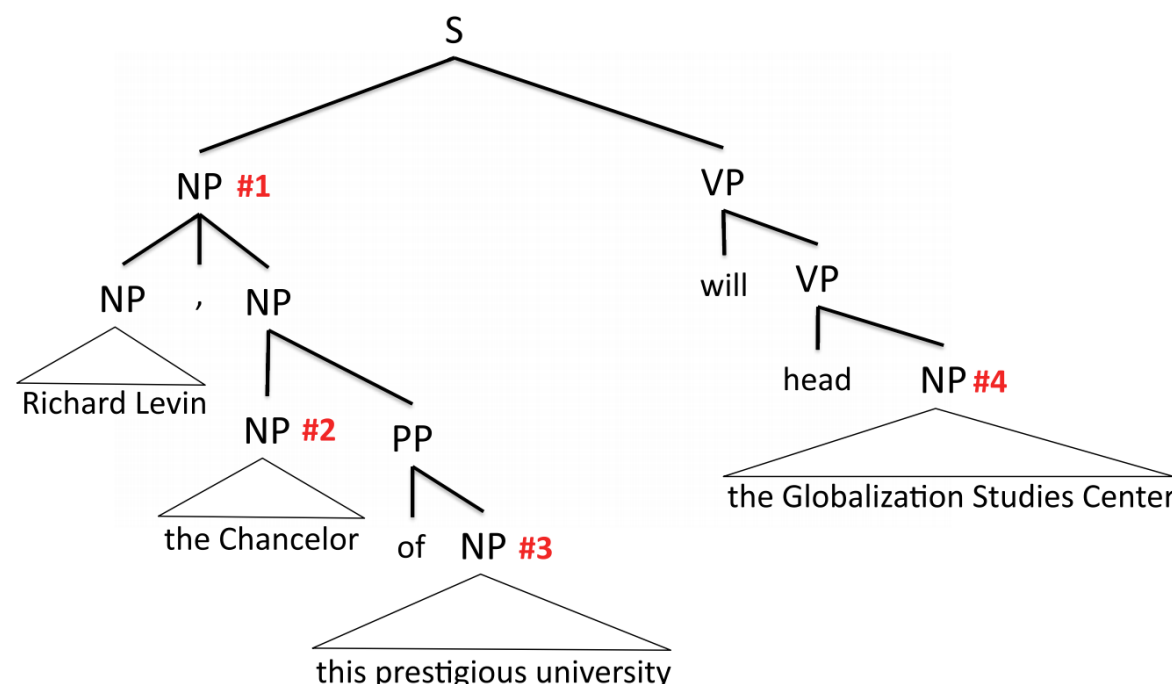
# Stanford Sieve System



## *Coreference model*

### Antecedent Selection for a Given Sieve

- Recursively find all possible antecedents
- Antecedents are sorted based on their textual proximity to the anaphoric mention
- The selection stops when a match is found





## *Coreference model*

### Feature Sharing in the Entity-Centric Model

- Merge all mention attributes as a joint, shared attributes for the cluster to be more inclusive for later resolution
- To avoid negligence of correct links due to missing or mismatch attributes

For example:

*a group of student*: { singular }

*five students* : { plural }

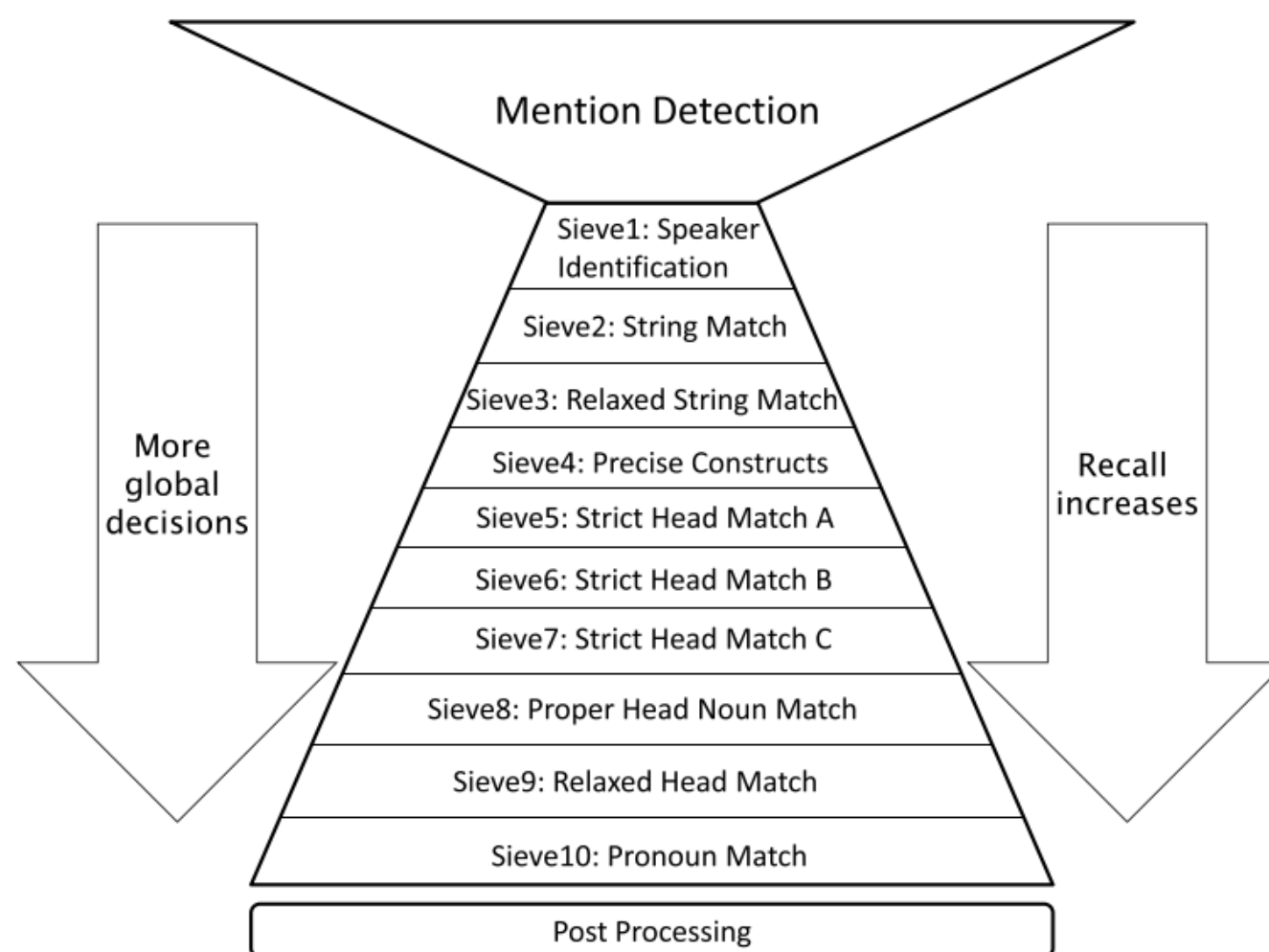
*a group of student* <- *five students*: { singular, plural }



# Stanford Sieve System



## *Coreference sieves*



- Sieve 1. Speaker Identification
- Sieve 2. Exact String Match
- Sieve 3. Relaxed String Match
- Sieve 4. Precise Constructs
- Sieve 5-7. Strict Head Match A-C
- Sieve 8. Proper Head Match
- Sieve 9. Relaxed Head Match
- Sieve 10. Pronoun Resolution

# Stanford Sieve System

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## *Post processing*

- Implementations of several transformations
- Ensure the output of the model matches the annotation specification of corresponding corpus

# Stanford Sieve System



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## Performance

- CoNLL '11

**Table 4**

Performance of the top systems in the CoNLL-2011 shared task. All these systems use automatically detected mentions. We report results for both the closed and the open tracks, which allowed the use of resources not provided by the task organizers. MD indicates mention detection, and gold boundaries indicate that mention boundary information is given.

System	MD			MUC			B <sup>3</sup>			CEAF- $\phi_4$			BLANC			CoNLL
	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	F1
<b>Closed Track</b>																
This paper	75.1	66.8	70.7	61.8	57.5	59.6	68.4	68.2	68.3	43.4	47.8	45.5	70.6	76.2	73.0	57.8
Sapena	92.4	28.2	43.2	56.3	63.2	59.6	62.8	72.1	67.1	44.8	38.4	41.3	69.5	73.1	71.1	56.0
Chang	68.1	62.0	64.9	57.2	57.2	57.2	67.1	70.5	68.8	41.9	41.9	41.9	71.2	77.1	73.7	56.0
Nugues	69.9	68.1	69.0	60.2	57.1	58.6	66.7	64.2	65.5	38.1	41.1	39.5	72.0	70.3	71.1	54.5
Santos	67.8	63.3	65.5	59.2	54.3	56.7	68.8	62.8	65.7	35.9	40.2	37.9	73.4	66.9	69.5	53.4
Song	57.8	80.4	67.3	53.7	67.8	60.0	60.7	66.1	63.2	43.4	30.7	36.0	69.5	59.7	61.5	53.1
Stoyanov	70.8	65.0	67.8	63.6	54.0	58.4	72.6	53.3	61.4	32.0	40.8	35.9	73.2	58.9	60.9	51.9
Sobha	67.8	62.1	64.8	51.1	49.9	50.5	62.6	65.4	64.0	40.7	41.8	41.2	61.4	68.4	63.9	51.9
Kobdani	62.1	60.0	61.0	55.6	51.5	53.5	69.7	62.4	65.9	32.3	35.4	33.8	61.9	63.5	62.6	51.0
Zhou	61.1	63.6	62.3	45.7	52.8	49.0	57.1	72.9	64.1	43.2	36.8	39.7	61.1	73.9	64.7	50.9
Charton	65.9	62.8	64.3	55.1	50.1	52.5	66.3	58.4	62.1	34.3	39.1	36.5	69.9	62.2	64.8	50.4
Yang	71.9	57.5	63.9	59.9	46.4	52.3	71.6	55.1	62.3	30.3	42.4	35.3	71.1	61.8	64.6	50.0
Hao	64.5	64.1	64.3	57.9	51.4	54.5	67.8	55.4	61.0	30.1	35.8	32.7	72.6	62.4	65.4	49.4
Xinxin	65.5	58.7	61.9	48.5	44.9	46.6	61.6	62.3	61.9	35.2	38.6	36.8	63.0	65.8	64.3	48.5
Zhang	55.4	68.3	61.1	42.0	55.6	47.9	52.6	73.1	61.1	42.0	30.3	35.2	62.8	69.2	65.2	48.1
Kummerfeld	69.8	57.0	62.7	46.4	39.6	42.7	63.6	57.3	60.3	35.1	42.3	38.3	58.7	61.6	59.9	47.1
Zhekova	67.5	37.6	48.3	28.9	20.7	24.1	67.1	56.7	61.5	31.6	41.2	35.8	52.8	57.1	53.8	40.4
Irwin	17.1	61.1	26.7	12.5	50.6	20.0	35.1	89.9	50.5	45.8	17.4	25.2	51.5	56.8	51.1	31.9
<b>Open Track</b>																
This paper	74.3	67.9	70.9	62.8	59.3	61.0	68.9	69.0	68.9	43.3	46.8	45.0	71.9	76.6	74.0	58.3
Cai	67.2	67.6	67.4	56.7	58.9	57.8	64.6	71.0	67.7	42.7	40.7	41.7	69.8	74.0	71.6	55.7
Uryupina	70.6	66.3	68.4	59.7	55.7	57.6	66.3	64.1	65.2	38.3	42.2	40.2	69.2	68.5	68.9	54.3
Klenner	64.4	60.3	62.3	49.0	50.7	49.9	61.7	68.6	65.0	41.3	39.7	40.5	66.1	73.9	69.1	51.8
Irwin	24.6	62.3	35.3	18.6	51.0	27.2	39.0	85.6	53.6	43.3	19.4	26.8	51.6	52.9	51.8	35.8
<b>Closed Track - gold boundaries</b>																
This paper	79.5	71.3	75.2	65.9	62.1	63.9	69.5	70.6	70.0	46.3	50.5	48.3	72.0	78.6	74.8	60.7
Nugues	74.2	70.7	72.4	64.3	60.1	62.1	68.3	65.2	66.7	39.9	44.2	41.9	72.5	71.0	71.8	56.9
Chang	63.4	73.2	67.9	55.0	65.5	59.8	62.2	76.7	68.7	46.8	37.2	41.4	71.0	79.3	74.3	56.6
Santos	65.8	69.9	67.8	57.8	61.4	59.5	64.5	70.3	67.3	41.4	38.2	39.7	72.7	72.0	72.3	55.5
Kobdani	67.1	65.1	66.1	62.6	56.8	59.6	73.2	62.2	67.3	32.9	37.3	34.9	64.1	64.1	64.1	53.9
Stoyanov	76.9	64.7	70.3	69.8	55.0	61.5	77.1	52.5	62.5	31.0	44.8	36.6	76.6	60.3	63.0	53.6
Zhang	59.6	71.2	64.9	46.1	58.8	51.6	53.9	73.4	62.2	43.5	32.1	37.0	64.1	70.5	66.5	50.3
Song	58.4	77.6	66.7	46.7	68.4	55.5	54.4	70.2	61.3	43.8	25.9	32.5	66.3	58.8	60.2	49.8
Zhekova	69.2	57.3	62.7	33.5	37.2	35.2	55.5	68.2	61.2	38.3	34.7	36.4	53.5	63.3	54.8	44.3

# Stanford Sieve System



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## Performance

### - ACE & MUC

**Table 5**

Comparison of our system with the other reported results on the ACE and MUC corpora. All these systems use gold mention boundaries.

System	MUC			B <sup>3</sup>		
	R	P	F1	R	P	F1
<b>ACE2004-Culotta-Test</b>						
This paper	70.2	82.7	75.9	74.5	88.7	81.0
Haghighi and Klein (2009)	77.7	74.8	79.6	78.5	79.6	79.0
Culotta et al. (2007)	–	–	–	73.2	86.7	79.3
Bengston and Roth (2008)	69.9	82.7	75.8	74.5	88.3	80.8
<b>ACE2004-nwire</b>						
This paper	75.1	84.6	79.6	74.1	87.3	80.2
Haghighi and Klein (2009)	75.9	77.0	76.5	74.5	79.4	76.9
Poon and Domingos (2008)	70.5	71.3	70.9	–	–	–
Finkel and Manning (2008)	58.5	78.7	67.1	65.2	86.8	74.5
<b>MUC6-Test</b>						
This paper	69.1	90.6	78.4	63.1	90.6	74.4
Haghighi and Klein (2009)	77.3	87.2	81.9	67.3	84.7	75.0
Poon and Domingos (2008)	75.8	83.0	79.2	–	–	–
Finkel and Manning (2008)	55.1	89.7	68.3	49.7	90.9	64.3



# Stanford Sieve System



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## Performance

- Sieves comparison

**Table 8**

Cumulative performance as sieves are added to the system.

	MUC			B <sup>3</sup>			CEAF- $\phi_4$			BLANC			CoNLL
	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	R	P	F1	F1
Sieve 1	8.7	72.7	15.5	32.4	96.4	48.5	50.6	15.4	23.7	57.2	80.3	60.2	29.2
+ Sieve 2	29.5	71.8	41.9	46.4	90.4	61.4	51.8	23.8	32.6	63.0	82.2	67.8	45.3
+ Sieve 3	29.7	71.2	41.9	46.7	90.1	61.5	51.6	24.0	32.7	63.0	82.0	67.8	45.4
+ Sieve 4	30.2	71.0	42.3	47.1	89.9	61.8	51.5	24.1	32.9	63.2	81.7	68.0	45.7
+ Sieve 5	34.4	66.1	45.2	51.5	86.6	64.6	50.8	27.6	35.8	64.1	80.8	68.8	48.5
+ Sieve 6	34.9	65.8	45.6	51.9	86.1	64.8	50.4	27.8	35.9	64.2	80.6	68.9	48.8
+ Sieve 7	35.8	64.0	45.9	53.3	85.0	65.5	49.8	28.9	36.6	64.4	80.3	69.1	49.3
+ Sieve 8	36.2	63.5	46.1	53.7	84.5	65.7	49.4	29.1	36.6	64.6	79.9	69.2	49.5
+ Sieve 9	36.7	63.2	46.5	54.2	84.0	65.9	49.2	29.4	36.8	64.7	79.5	69.2	49.7
+ Sieve 10	59.6	60.9	60.3	68.6	73.3	70.9	47.5	46.2	46.9	73.5	79.3	76.0	59.3

# Topics yet to be Explored

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- Common noun coreference resolution
- Coreference resolution with NER integration
- Wildcard pronoun coreference resolution
- Object hierarchy handling (i.e. gems, diamonds, rubies)

# Wildcard Pronoun Resolution

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## I. Relatives & Superlatives

- Tome gives more than Sam.
- What is the smallest?

## II. Quantity Modifiers

- He gave 3 to Jessica.
- Henry has none.

## III. Abstract Quantities

- I have only a little.
- He ate a few.

## IV. Unit-like Pronouns

- Johnny has the same amount as Mike
- She only received a portion

## V. Inclusive & Status Pronoun

- We have the rest.
- They brought home the remaining.



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Q & A