

# A Transition-Based Directed Acyclic Graph Parser for Universal Conceptual Cognitive Annotation

Daniel Hershcovich, Omri Abend and Ari Rappoport



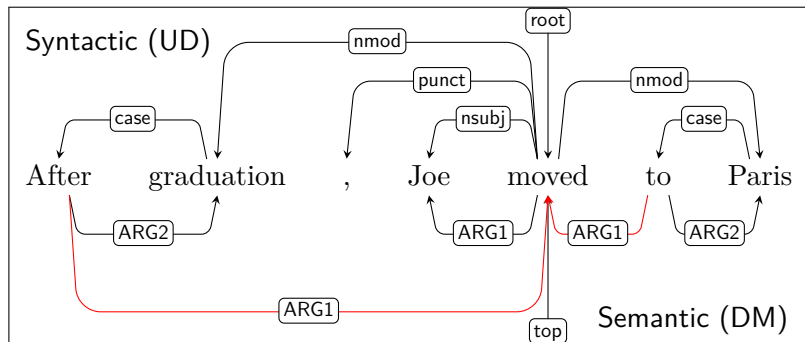
ACL 2017

# Linguistic Structure Annotation Schemes

- Dependency grammar: bilexical tree, purely syntactic.

Semantic representation (Abend and Rappoport, 2017):

- Semantic dependencies: bilexical graph, coupled with syntax.



Bilexical dependencies.

# Linguistic Structure Annotation Schemes

- Dependency grammar: billexical tree, purely syntactic.

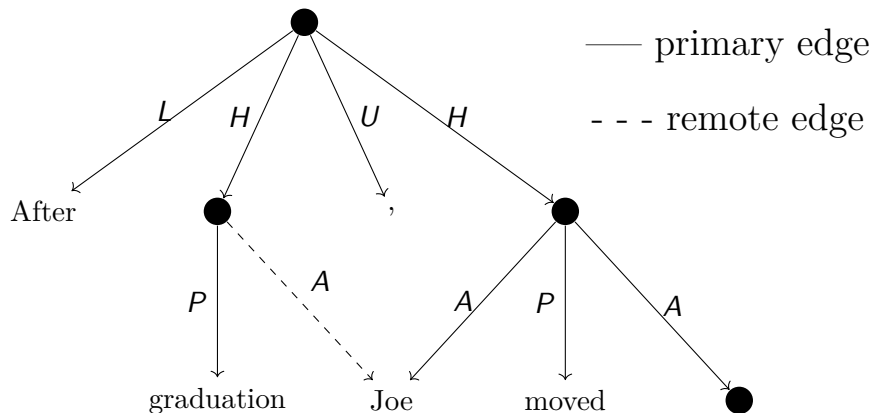
Semantic representation (Abend and Rappoport, 2017):

- Semantic dependencies: billexical graph, coupled with syntax.
- AMR (Banarescu et al., 2013), UCCA (Abend and Rappoport, 2013): direct semantic representation.

...showered = ...took a shower

...’s war against crime = ...fights crime

# Universal Conceptual Cognitive Annotation (UCCA)

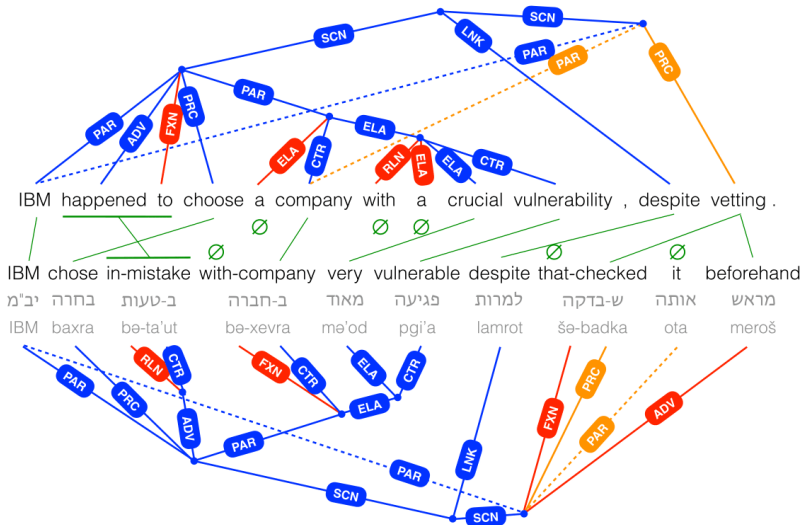


After graduation, Joe moved to Paris

<i>P</i>	<i>process</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>state</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>participant</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>linker</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>linked scene</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>center</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>elaborator</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>adverbial</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>relator</i>
<i>N</i>	<i>connector</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>punctuation</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>function</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>ground</i>				

## The UCCA Semantic Representation Scheme

Cross-linguistically applicable (Abend and Rappoport, 2013).  
Stable in translation (Sulem et al., 2015).



Rapid and intuitive annotation interface (Abend et al., 2017).  
Usable by non-experts. <http://ucca-demo.cs.huji.ac.il>

Linker (L)	i
Ground (G)	i
Participant (A)	i
State (S)	i
Process (P)	i
Adverbial (D)	i
Time (T)	i
Center (C)	i
Elaborator (E)	i
Connector (N)	i
Relator (R)	i
Uncertain (UNC)	i
Unanalyzable (UI)	i
Function (F)	i

William Bradley Pitt was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma , to William Alvin Pitt , who ran a trucking company , and Jane Etta ( née Hillhouse ) , a school counsellor . The family soon moved to Springfield , Missouri , where he lived together with his younger siblings , Douglas ( born 1966 ) and Julie Neal ( born 1969 ). Born into a conservative household , he was raised as Southern Baptist , but has since stated that he does not " have a great relationship with religion " and that he " oscillates between agnosticism and atheism . " Pitt has described Springfield as " Mark Twain country " , Jesse James country " , having grown up with " a lot of hills , a lot of lakes " .

1	H	William Bradley Pitt	was	born	in Shawnee , Oklahoma	+ F X
1-1	A	William Bradley Pitt				+ F X
1-2	F	was				+ F X
1-3	P	born				+ F X
1-4	A	in	Shawnee , Oklahoma			+ F X
1-4-1	R	in				+ F X
1-4-2	C	UNA	Shawnee , Oklahoma			+ F X

# HUME

UCCA facilitates semantics-based human evaluation of machine translation (Birch et al., 2016). <http://ucca.cs.huji.ac.il/mteval>

Für leicht fettleibige Diabetiker kann die Gewichtsschaden - OP hilfreich sein

A B ● ● ● ● ×

For mildly obese diabetics, weight loss surgery may be helpful

■ For mildly obese diabetics, weight loss surgery may be helpful Für leicht fettleibige Diabetiker kann die Gewichtsschaden - OP hilfreich sein A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ For mildly obese diabetics Für leicht fettleibige Diabetiker kann A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ For Für A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ mildly leicht A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ obese fettleibige A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ diabetics Diabetiker kann A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ weight loss surgery Gewichtsschaden - A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ weight loss Gewichtsschaden A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ weight Gewichtsschaden A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ loss A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ surgery - A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ may A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ be helpful hilfreich sein A B ● ● ● ● ×

■ be sein A B ● ● ● ● ×

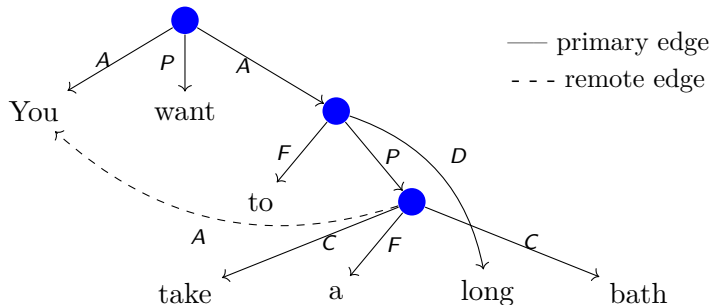
■ helpful hilfreich sein A B ● ● ● ● ×

# Graph Structure

UCCA forms a directed acyclic graph (DAG). Tokens are terminals.

Structural properties:

## 1. Non-terminal nodes



You want to take a long bath

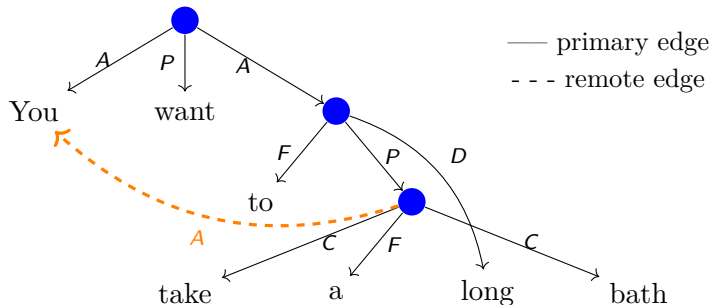


# Graph Structure

UCCA forms a directed acyclic graph (DAG). Tokens are terminals.

Structural properties:

1. Non-terminal nodes
2. Reentrancy



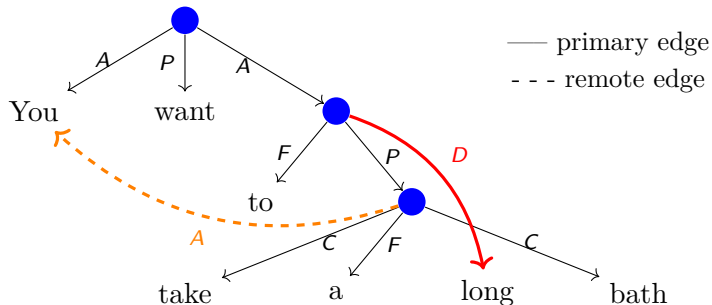
You want to take a long bath

# Graph Structure

UCCA forms a directed acyclic graph (DAG). Tokens are terminals.

Structural properties:

1. Non-terminal nodes
2. Reentrancy
3. Discontinuity



You want to take a long bath

# Transition-Based Parsing

- Parse text  $w_1 \dots w_n$  to graph  $G = (V, E, \ell)$  incrementally.
- Classifier determines transition to apply at each step.
- Trained by an oracle based on gold-standard graph.

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Initial state:

stack

buffer



You	want	to	take	a	long	bath
-----	------	----	------	---	------	------

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Initial state:

stack

buffer



You	want	to	take	a	long	bath
-----	------	----	------	---	------	------

TUPA transitions:

$\{\text{SHIFT}, \text{REDUCE}, \text{NODE}_X, \text{LEFT-EDGE}_X, \text{RIGHT-EDGE}_X, \\ \text{LEFT-REMOTE}_X, \text{RIGHT-REMOTE}_X, \text{SWAP}, \text{FINISH}\}$

Support non-terminal nodes, reentrancy and discontinuity.

# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer

●	You
---	-----

want	to	take	a	long	bath
------	----	------	---	------	------

graph

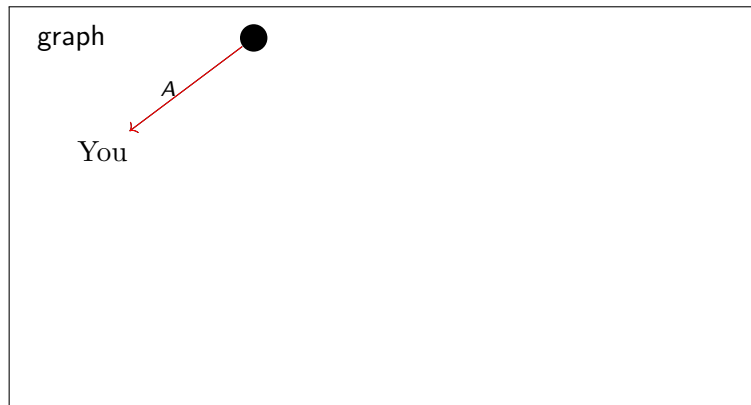
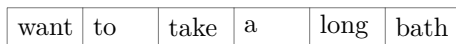
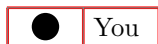


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>A</sub>

stack

buffer



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

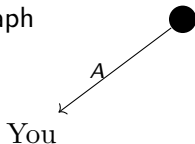
stack

buffer

●	You	want
---	-----	------

to	take	a	long	bath
----	------	---	------	------

graph





# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SWAP

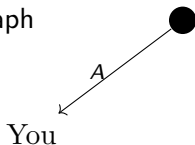
stack

buffer

●	want
---	------

You	to	take	a	long	bath
-----	----	------	---	------	------

graph

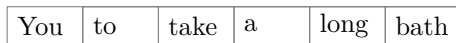
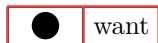


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

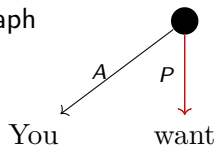
$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>P</sub>

stack

buffer



graph



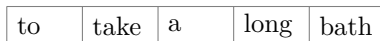
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

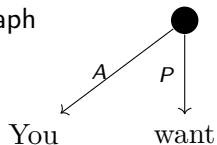
stack



buffer



graph

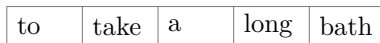
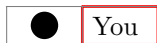


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

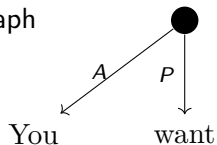
⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer



graph



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

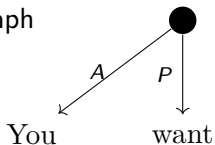
stack

buffer

●	You	to
---	-----	----

take	a	long	bath
------	---	------	------

graph



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow \text{NODE}_F$

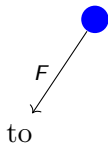
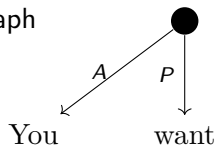
stack

buffer

●	You	to
---	-----	----

●	take	a	long	bath
---	------	---	------	------

graph



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

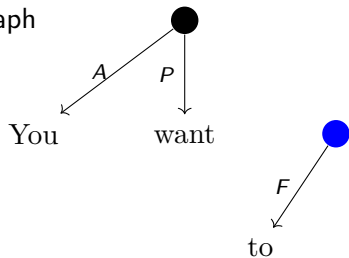
stack

buffer

●	You
---	-----

●	take	a	long	bath
---	------	---	------	------

graph

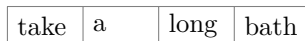
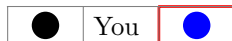


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

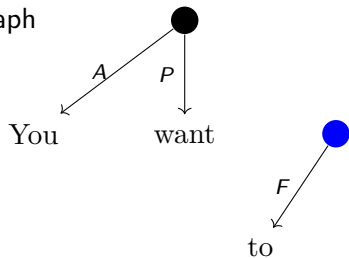
⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer



graph





# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

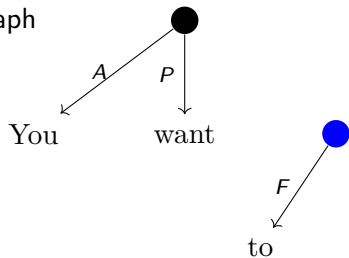
stack

buffer

●	You	●	take
---	-----	---	------

a	long	bath
---	------	------

graph

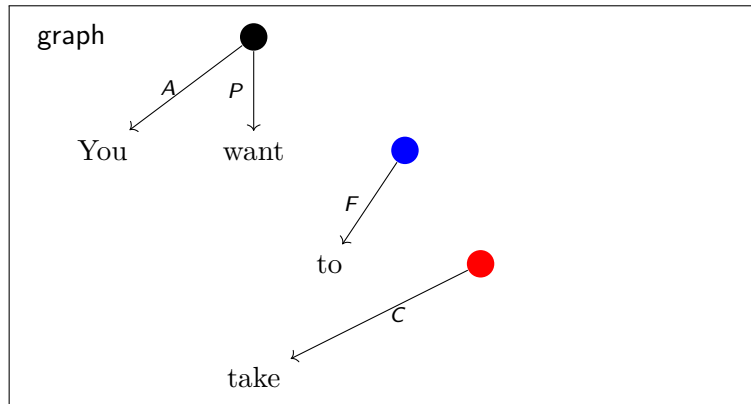
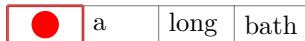
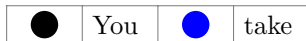


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow \text{NODE}_C$

stack

buffer

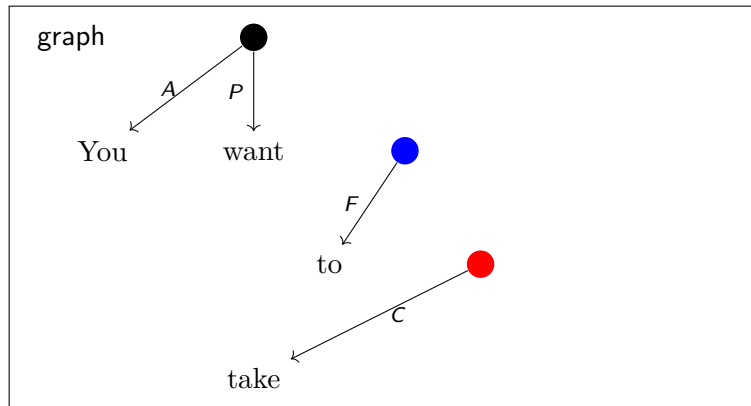
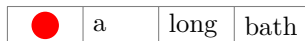
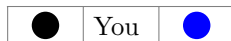


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

stack

buffer

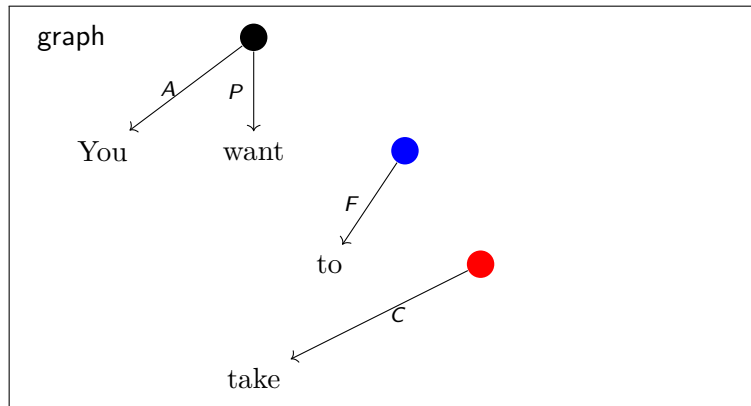
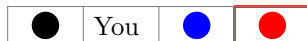


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer

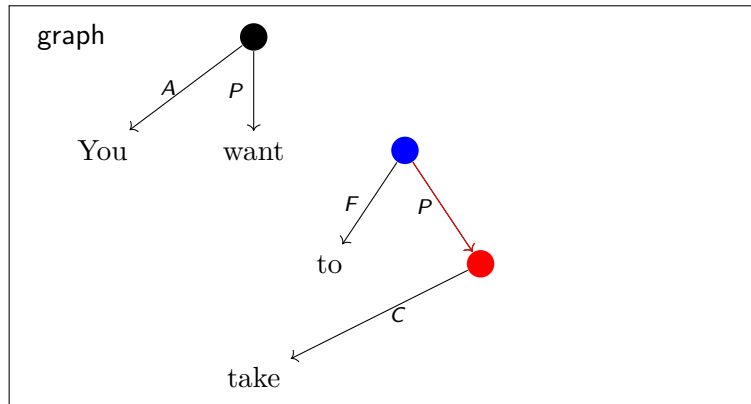


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>P</sub>

stack

buffer

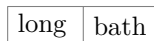


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

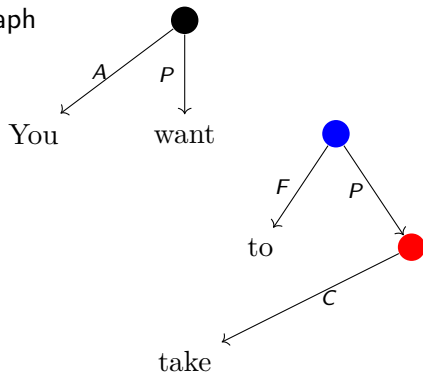
⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer



graph

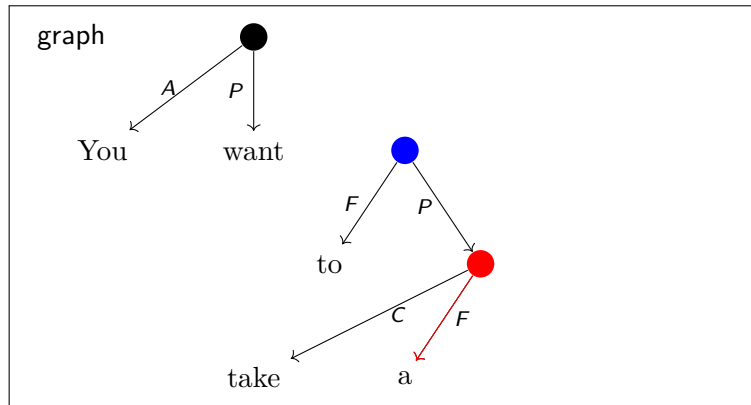
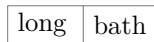


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow \text{RIGHT-EDGE}_F$

stack

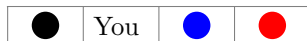
buffer



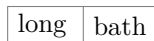
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

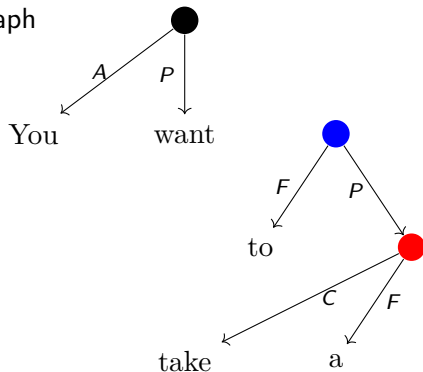
stack



buffer



graph





# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

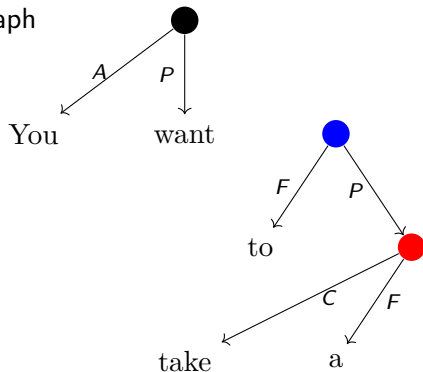
⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer



graph

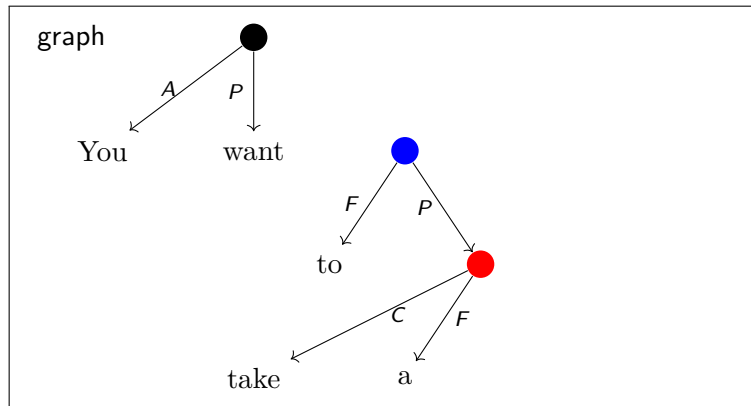
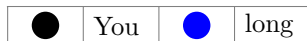


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SWAP

stack

buffer

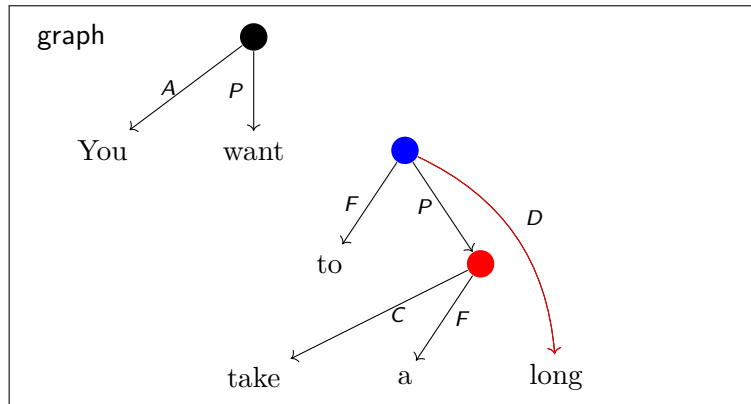


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>D</sub>

stack

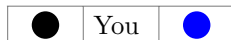
buffer



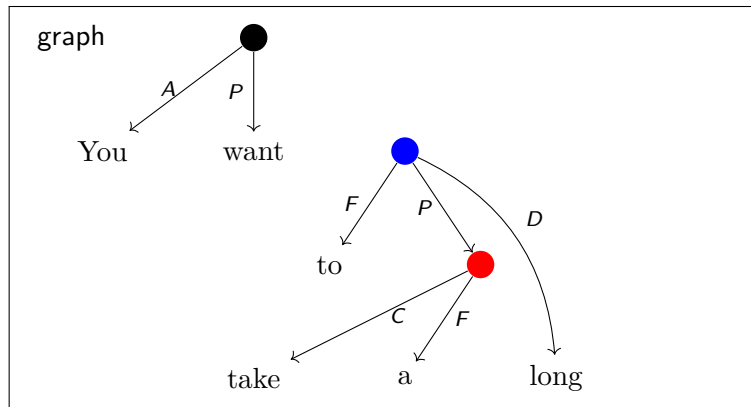
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

stack



buffer

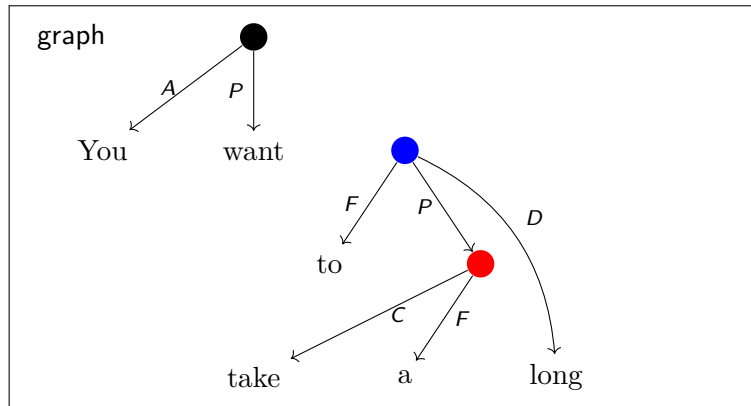


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SWAP

stack

buffer



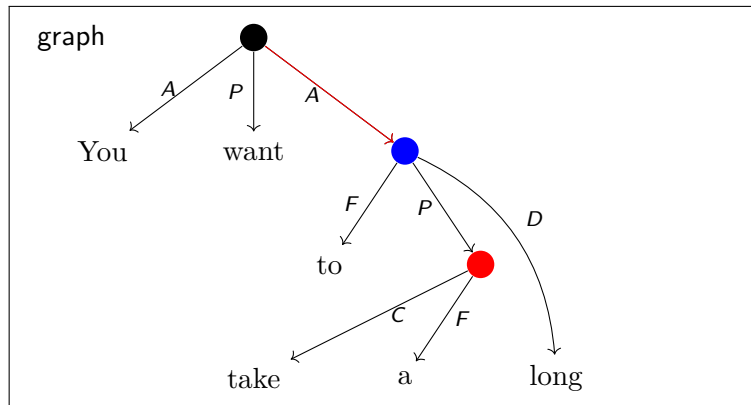
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>A</sub>

stack



buffer



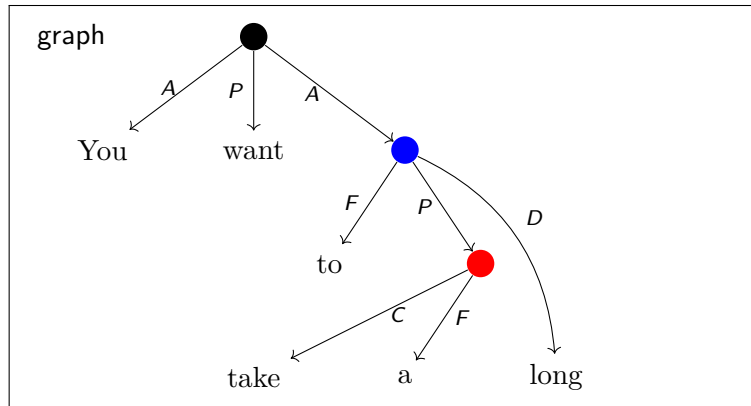
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ REDUCE

stack



buffer



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

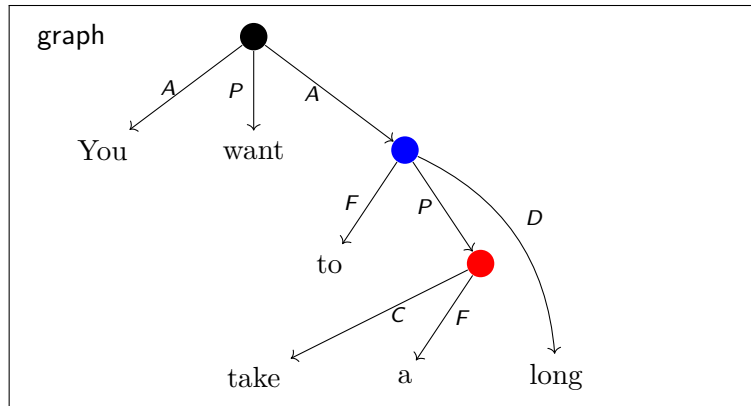
⇒ REDUCE

stack

buffer

□

You	●	bath
-----	---	------





# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

stack

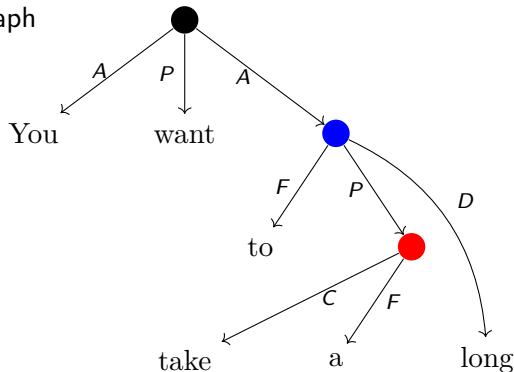
You

buffer



bath

graph



# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

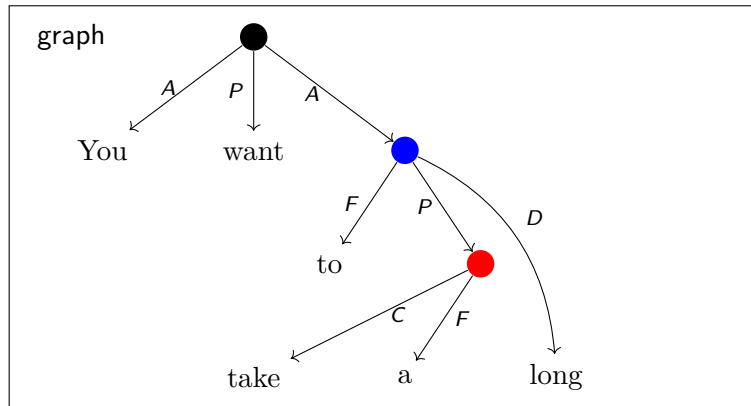
⇒ SHIFT

stack

You ●

buffer

bath



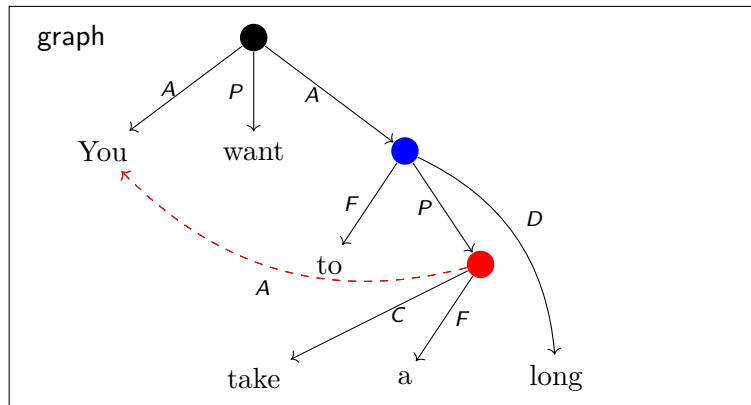
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  LEFT-REMOTE<sub>A</sub>

stack



buffer

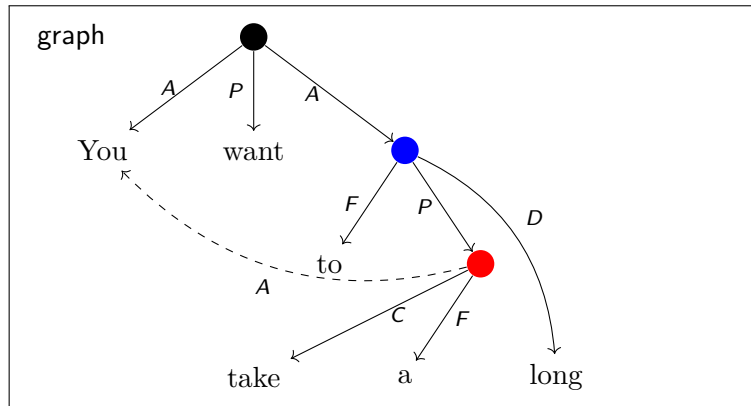


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ SHIFT

stack

buffer

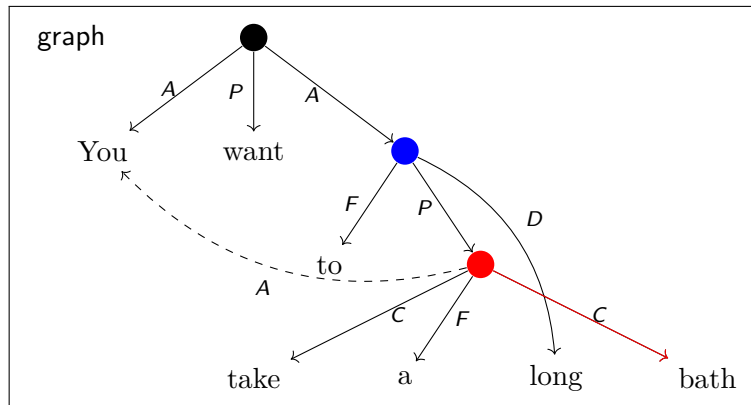


# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

$\Rightarrow$  RIGHT-EDGE<sub>C</sub>

stack

buffer



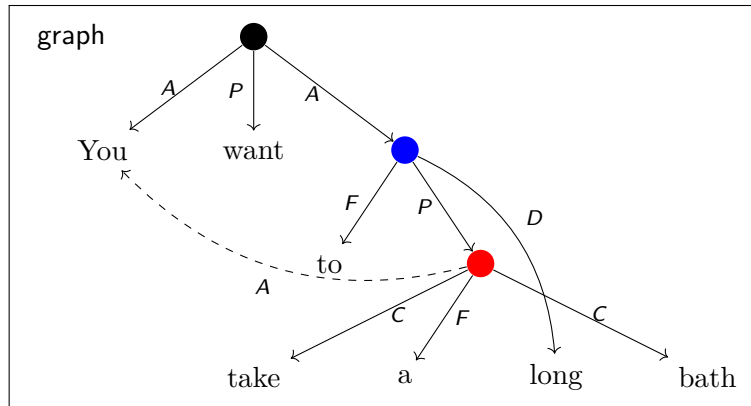
# Transition-Based UCCA Parsing

⇒ FINISH

stack

buffer

You	●	bath
-----	---	------



# TUPA Model

Greedy parsing, experimenting with three classifiers:

- Sparse**      Perceptron with sparse features.
- MLP**        Embeddings + feedforward NN classifier.
- BiLSTM**    Embeddings + deep bidirectional LSTM + MLP.

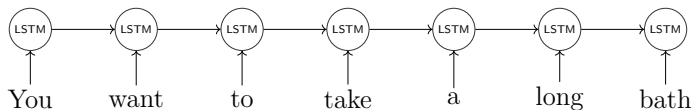
Features: words, POS, syntactic dependencies, existing edge labels from the stack and buffer + parents, children, grandchildren; ordinal features (height, number of parents and children)

stack

buffer

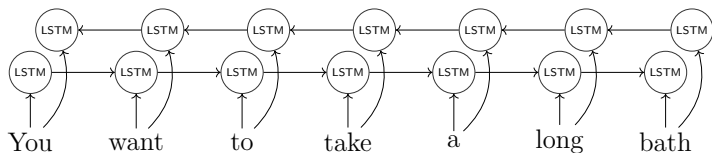


# BiLSTM

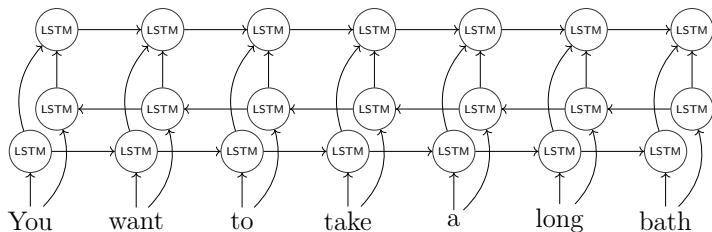




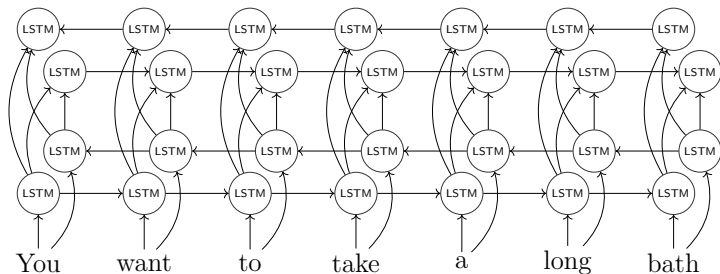
# BiLSTM



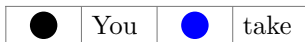
# BiLSTM



# BiLSTM



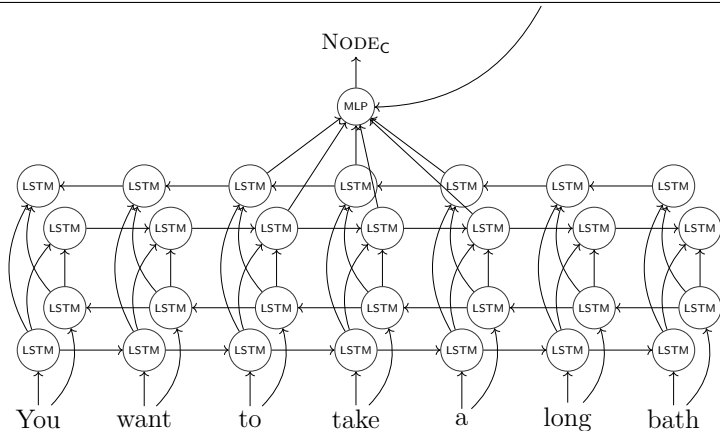
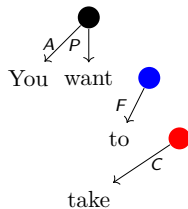
stack



buffer

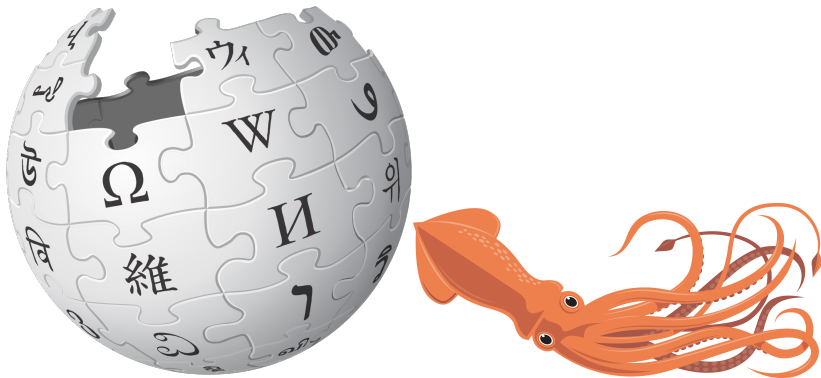


graph



# Experimental Setup

- UCCA Wikipedia corpus ( $4268^{\text{train}} + 454^{\text{dev}} + 503^{\text{test}}$  sentences).
- Out-of-domain: English part of English-French parallel corpus, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (506 sentences).



# Results

	Primary			Remote		
	LP	LR	LF	LP	LR	LF
Sparse	64.5	63.7	64.1	19.8	13.4	16
MLP	65.2	64.6	64.9	23.7	13.2	16.9
BiLSTM	74.4	72.7	<b>73.5</b>	47.4	51.6	<b>49.4</b>

Results on the Wiki test set.

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	Primary			Remote		
	LP	LR	LF	LP	LR	LF
Sparse	59.6	59.9	59.8	22.2	7.7	11.5
MLP	62.3	62.6	62.5	20.9	6.3	9.7
BiLSTM	68.7	68.5	<b>68.6</b>	38.6	18.8	<b>25.3</b>

Results on the 20K Leagues out-of-domain set.

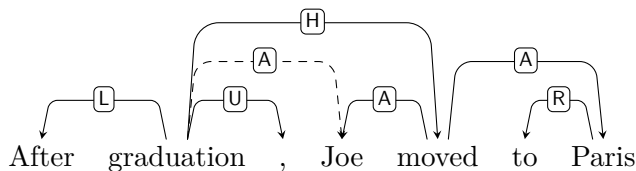
# Baselines

Bilexical DAG parsers:

- DAGParser (Ribeyre et al., 2014): transition-based.
- TurboParser (Almeida and Martins, 2015): graph-based.

Tree parsers (all transition-based):

- MaltParser (Nivre et al., 2007): bilexical tree parser.
- LSTM Parser (Dyer et al., 2015): bilexical tree parser.
- UPARSE (Maier, 2015): allows non-terminals, discontinuity.



Bilexical DAG approximation.



# Results

TUPA<sub>BiLSTM</sub> obtains the highest F-scores in all metrics:

	Primary			Remote		
	LP	LR	LF	LP	LR	LF
TUPA <sub>Sparse</sub>	64.5	63.7	64.1	19.8	13.4	16
TUPA <sub>MLP</sub>	65.2	64.6	64.9	23.7	13.2	16.9
TUPA <sub>BiLSTM</sub>	74.4	72.7	<b>73.5</b>	47.4	51.6	<b>49.4</b>
Bilexical DAG	(91)			(58.3)		
DAGParser	61.8	55.8	58.6	9.5	0.5	1
TurboParser	57.7	46	51.2	77.8	1.8	3.7
Bilexical tree	(91)			—		
MaltParser	62.8	57.7	60.2	—	—	—
LSTM Parser	73.2	66.9	69.9	—	—	—
Tree	(100)			—		
UPARSE	60.9	61.2	61.1	—	—	—

Results on the Wiki test set.

# Results

Similar on out-of-domain test set:

	Primary			Remote		
	LP	LR	LF	LP	LR	LF
TUPA <sub>Sparse</sub>	59.6	59.9	59.8	22.2	7.7	11.5
TUPA <sub>MLP</sub>	62.3	62.6	62.5	20.9	6.3	9.7
TUPA <sub>BiLSTM</sub>	68.7	68.5	<b>68.6</b>	38.6	18.8	<b>25.3</b>
Bilexical DAG	(91.3)			(43.4)		
DAGParser	56.4	50.6	53.4	—	0	0
TurboParser	50.3	37.7	43.1	100	0.4	0.8
Bilexical tree	(91.3)			—		
MaltParser	57.8	53	55.3	—	—	—
LSTM Parser	66.1	61.1	63.5	—	—	—
Tree	(100)			—		
UPARSE	52.7	52.8	52.8	—	—	—

Results on the 20K Leagues out-of-domain set.

# Conclusion

- UCCA's semantic distinctions require a graph structure including challenging structural properties.
- TUPA is a transition-based parser suitable for UCCA, achieving high accuracy with BiLSTM model.
- Outperforms conversion-based parsing with a variety of strong bilexical DAG and tree baselines.

Corpora: <http://www.cs.huji.ac.il/~oabend/ucca.html>

Code: <https://github.com/danielhers/tupa>

Demo: <http://bit.ly/tupademo>

# Conclusion

- UCCA's semantic distinctions require a graph structure including challenging structural properties.
- TUPA is a transition-based parser suitable for UCCA, achieving high accuracy with BiLSTM model.
- Outperforms conversion-based parsing with a variety of strong bilexical DAG and tree baselines.

## Future Work:

- More languages (German corpus construction is underway).
- Parsing other schemes, such as AMR.
- Application to text simplification and other tasks.

Corpora: <http://www.cs.huji.ac.il/~oabend/ucca.html>

Code: <https://github.com/danielhers/tupa>

Demo: <http://bit.ly/tupademo>

Thank you

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# UCCA Corpora

	Wiki			20K
	Train	Dev	Test	Leagues
# passages	300	34	33	154
# sentences	4268	454	503	506
# nodes	298,993	33,704	35,718	29,315
% terminal	42.96	43.54	42.87	42.09
% non-term.	58.33	57.60	58.35	60.01
% <b>discont.</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.81</b>
% <b>reentrant</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>2.03</b>
# edges	287,914	32,460	34,336	27,749
% primary	98.25	98.75	98.74	97.73
% remote	1.75	1.25	1.26	2.27
Average per non-terminal node				
# children	1.67	1.68	1.66	1.61

Corpus statistics.



# Evaluation

*Mutual edges* between predicted graph  $G_p = (V_p, E_p, \ell_p)$  and gold graph  $G_g = (V_g, E_g, \ell_g)$ , both over terminals  $W = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ :

$$M(G_p, G_g) = \left\{ (e_1, e_2) \in E_p \times E_g \mid y(e_1) = y(e_2) \wedge \ell_p(e_1) = \ell_g(e_2) \right\}$$

The yield  $y(e) \subseteq W$  of an edge  $e = (u, v)$  in either graph is the set of terminals in  $W$  that are descendants of  $v$ .  $\ell$  is the edge label.

Labeled precision, recall and F-score are then defined as:

$$\text{LP} = \frac{|M(G_p, G_g)|}{|E_p|}, \quad \text{LR} = \frac{|M(G_p, G_g)|}{|E_g|},$$

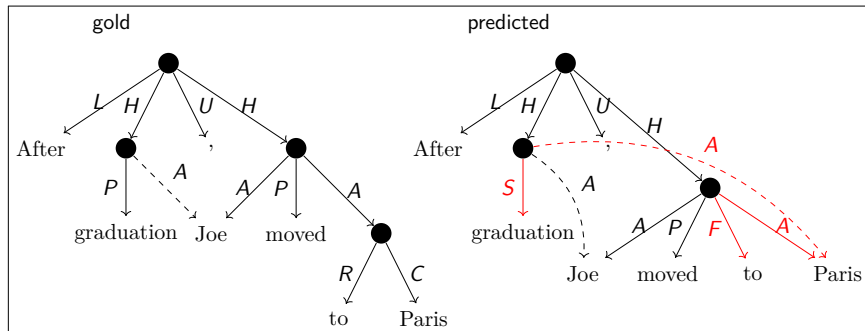
$$\text{LF} = \frac{2 \cdot \text{LP} \cdot \text{LR}}{\text{LP} + \text{LR}}.$$

Two variants: one for primary edges, and another for remote edges.

# Evaluation

Comparing graphs over the same sequence of tokens,

- Match edges by their terminal yield and label.
- Calculate labeled precision, recall and F1 scores.
- Separate primary and remote edges.



Primary:  $\frac{LP}{6/9 = 67\%}$   $\frac{LR}{6/10 = 60\%}$   $\frac{LF}{64\%}$

Remote:  $\frac{LP}{1/2 = 50\%}$   $\frac{LR}{1/1 = 100\%}$   $\frac{LF}{67\%}$