Learning Open Domain Knowledge from Text

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Stanford University

November 5, 2015

Learning "*Knowledge*?"

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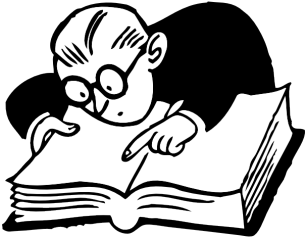
Knowledge = *True Statements*



Harder For Computers Than Humans

...for a human

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School.

...for a computer

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- Syntax is often non-trivial.

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Rattled for Austin, Alaska, Jesus is the mouse in Microsoft Google but Facebook Twitter Snapchat.

- Need to learn lexical items.
- Syntax is often non-trivial.
- Many “facts” in same sentence.

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text

$\Longrightarrow$

Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases

Barack Obama

44th President of the United States

Personal details

Born	Barack Hussein Obama II August 4, 1961 (age 52) Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Michelle LaVaughn Robinson (m. 1992–present)
Children	Malia Ann Obama (b. 1998) Natasha Obama (b. 2001)

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text $\Rightarrow$ **Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases**

(OBAMA; born_in; HONOLULU)
(OBAMA; born_in; HAWAII)
(OBAMA; born_on; 1961-8-4)
(OBAMA; spouse; MICHELLE)
(OBAMA; children; MALIA)
(OBAMA; children; NATASHA)

Types of Knowledge

Active area of research:

- Supervised relation extractors
  [Doddington et al., 2004, Surdeanu and Ciaramita, 2007].
- Distantly supervised extractors
  [Wu and Weld, 2007, Mintz et al., 2009].
- Weakly+distantly supervised extractors
  [Hoffmann et al., 2011, Surdeanu et al., 2012].
- Partially+weakly+distantly supervised extractors
  [Angeli et al., 2014a, Angeli et al., 2014b].

More to Life Than Fixed Relation Schema

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text

1. **Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases**
2. **Open-Domain KBs (Open IE)**

$\Longrightarrow$ (SUBJECT; relation; OBJECT)

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text

1. **Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases**
2. **Open-Domain KBs (Open IE)**

⇒

(CATS; have; TAILS)
(RABBITS; eat; CARROTS)
(OBAMA; enjoys playing; BASKETBALL)

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text

1. **Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases**
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3. **Unstructured Text**

$\Longrightarrow$

cats have tails
rabbits eat carrots
Obama enjoys playing basketball

Types of Knowledge

Unstructured Text

1. **Fixed-Schema Knowledge Bases**
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3. **Unstructured Text**


The New York Times
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007
$25 AND UNDER
The Brisket Speaks With a Texas Accent

$\Longrightarrow$

cats have tails
rabbits eat carrots
Obama enjoys playing basketball

A graduated cylinder is best to measure the volume of a liquid

My Thesis

Store Information as Text (easier)
Query Information as Text (hard!)

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Build a system that:

- **Takes as input** a candidate textual statement.
- **Produces as output** the truth of that statement.

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- Generalizes Fixed-Schema KBs

  ✓ *Obama was born in Hawaii*
  ✗ *Obama was born in Kenya*

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  ✓ *Rabbits eat carrots*

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Build a system that:

Takes as input a candidate textual statement.
Produces as output the truth of that statement.

- Generalizes Fixed-Schema KBs
  ✓ *Obama was born in Hawaii*
  ✗ *Obama was born in Kenya*
- Generalizes Open IE
  ✓ *Rabbits eat carrots*
- More precise than web search
  ✗ *A stopwatch is best to measure the volume of a liquid.*

Prior Work

Flexibility

Prior Work

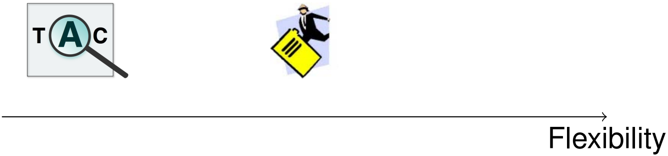
Relation Extraction: (BARACK OBAMA; born_in; ???)

Flexibility

[Hoffmann et al., 2011, Surdeanu et al., 2012, Angeli et al., 2014b]

Prior Work

Open Relation Extraction: (RABBITS; eat; ???)



[Banko et al., 2007, Fader et al., 2011, Mausam et al., 2012]

Prior Work

Entailment: If *a watch measures time*, does *it measure volume*?

Pattern Analysis, Statistical Modelling and Computational Learning

Flexibility

[Glickman et al., 2006, MacCartney, 2009]

Textual Entailment

Single Premise:

Mitsubishi Motors Corp.'s new vehicle sales in the US fell 46 percent in June.

Single Hypothesis:

Mitsubishi sales rose 46 percent.

Classification Task: If you accept the premise, would you accept the hypothesis?

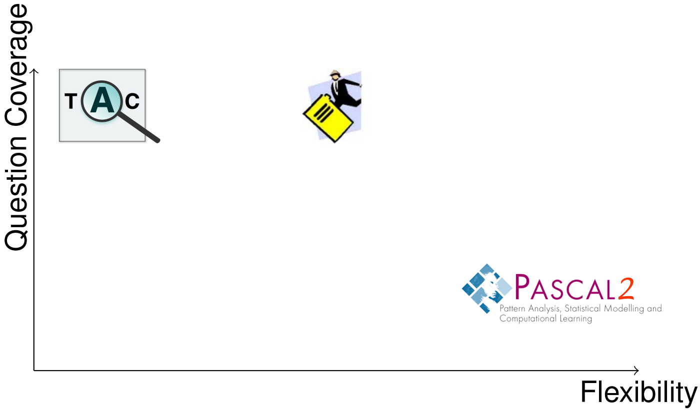
Prior Work

TAC

PASCAL2
Pattern Analysis, Statistical Modelling and Computational Learning

Flexibility

Prior Work


Question Coverage
T A C
PASCAL2
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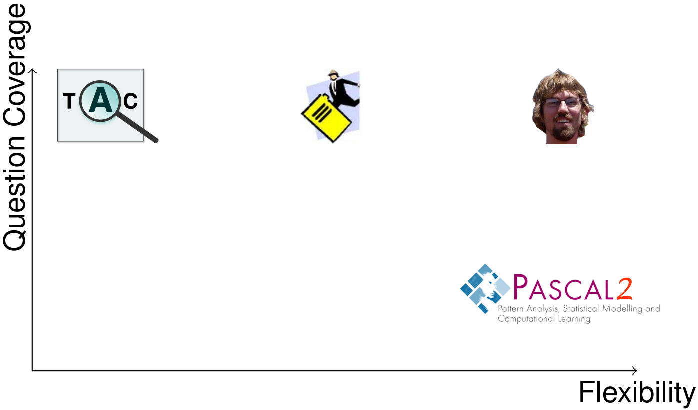
Flexibility

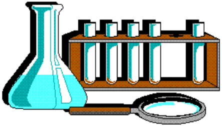
Prior Work

This Thesis: Formal reasoning with text over large corpora



Common Sense Reasoning:
Cats have tails
[Angeli and Manning, 2013, Angeli and Manning, 2014]

Complex premises:
Born in Hawaii, Obama is a graduate of Columbia
[Angeli et al., 2015]



Lexical + Logical Reasoning:
A graduated cylinder would be best to measure the volume of a liquid

Roadmap

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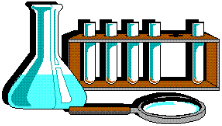

Lexical + Logical Reasoning:
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Reasoning About Common Sense Facts

✓ *Kittens play with yarn* ✗ *Kittens play with computers*

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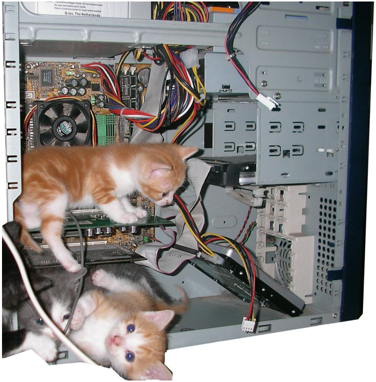

Common Sense Reasoning for NLP

They ate the pizza with anchovies

Start with a large knowledge base

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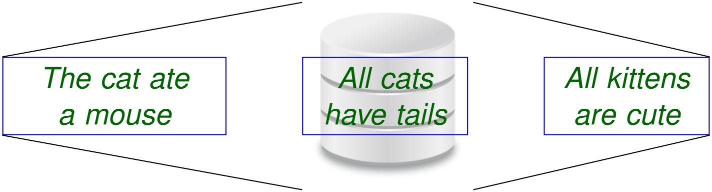
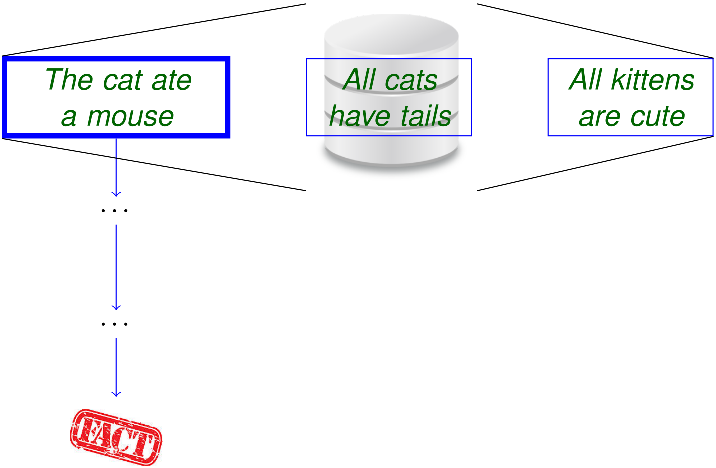


Infer new facts...



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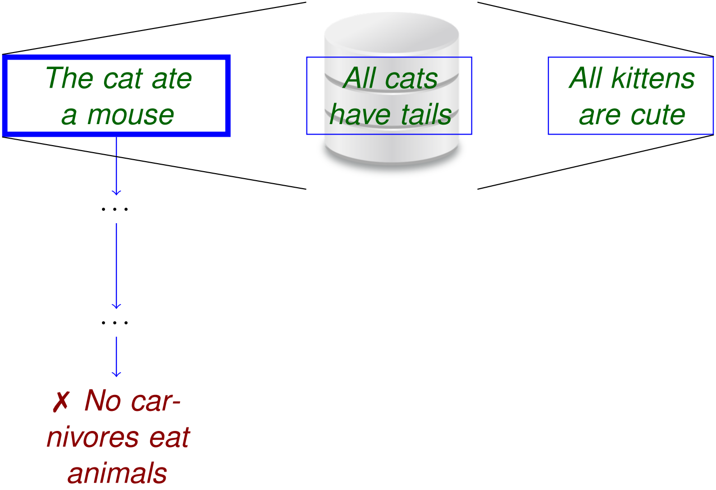

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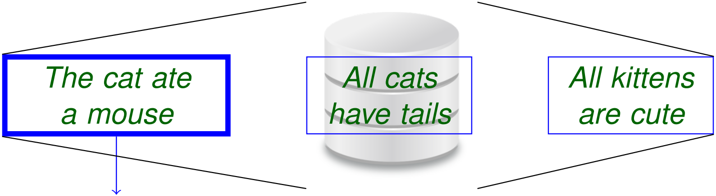

. . .

. . .

✗ *No carnivores eat animals*

↑ Don't want to run inference over every fact!

Infer new facts...

The cat ate a mouse

All cats have tails

All kittens are cute

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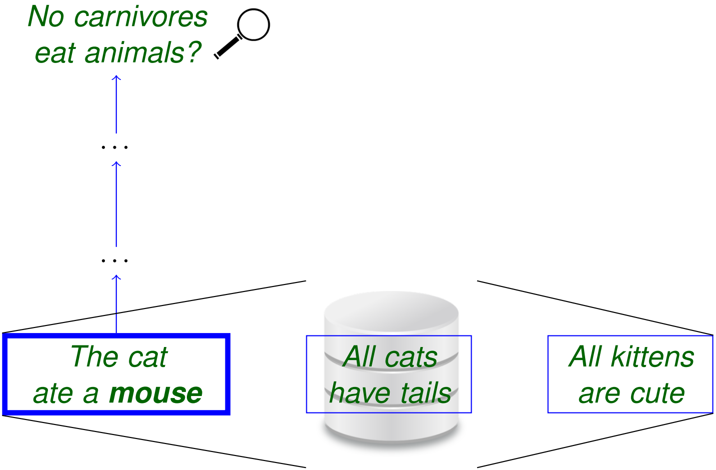
← Don't want to store all of these!

Infer new facts...on demand from a query...



...Using text as the meaning representation...

No carnivores eat animals?

The carnivores eat animals

The **cat** eats animals

The cat ate **an** animal

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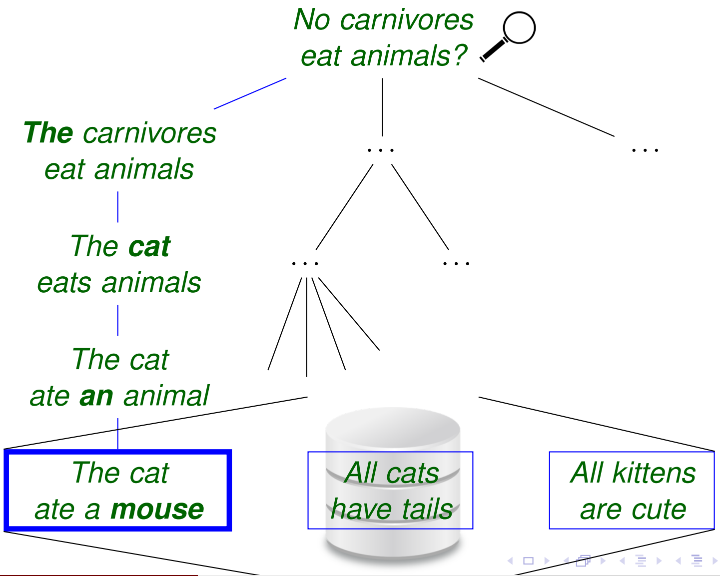
...Without aligning to any particular premise.



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Inference Means Logic

The cat ate a mouse $\vDash \neg$ *No carnivores eat animals*

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Recall: Inference on every query: **speed is important!**

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Recall: Both premise and query are sentences.

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Detour: Let's talk about logic!

First Order Logic is **Intractable**

Theorem Provers

- Propositional logic is already NP-complete!

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Markov Logic Networks

- Grounding 3,800 rules takes 7 hours (Alchemy).

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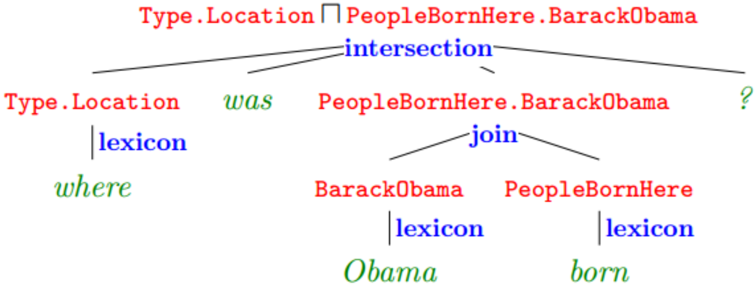
Markov Logic Networks

- Grounding 3,800 rules takes 7 hours (Alchemy).
- Add Chris Ré + decades of DB research: 106 seconds.
- . . . but still slow for open-domain inference.

First order logic is **an unnatural language**

$$\exists x\,(\mathrm{location}(x) \wedge \mathrm{born\_in}(\mathrm{Obama}, x))$$



[Berant et al., 2013]

First Order Logic is **Unexpressive**

Some people think that Obama was born in Kenya.

- Second order logic:
  $\exists x \exists P [P = \text{born} \wedge \textbf{think(x, P)} \wedge P(\text{Obama}, \text{Kenya})]$

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Most students who learned a foreign language learned it at a university.

- *Most* is not a first-order quantifier.
- Scoping ambiguities everywhere!

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- Scoping ambiguities everywhere!
- But, can still infer: *Most students learned it at a school.*

Natural Logic

Does a given mutation to a sentence preserve its truth?

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Logic over natural language

- *Instantaneous* and *perfect* semantic parsing!
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- Polynomial time entailment checking [MacCartney and Manning, 2008].

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Expressive (for common inferences)

- Second-order phenomena; *most*; quantifier scoping.

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Tractable

- Polynomial time entailment checking [MacCartney and Manning, 2008].

Expressive (for common inferences)

- Second-order phenomena; *most*; quantifier scoping.
- No free lunch: shallow quantification; single-premise only.

Detour: Natural Logic

[Sánchez Valencia, 1991, Icard and Moss, 2014]

Natural Logic as Syllogisms

s/Natural Logic/Syllogistic Reasoning/g

Some cat ate a mouse

(all mice are rodents)

$\therefore$ *Some cat ate a **rodent***

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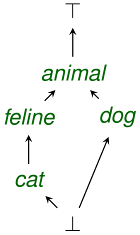
Beyond syllogisms

- General-purpose logic
  - Compositional grammar
  - Arbitrary quantifiers
- Model-theoretic soundness + completeness proof [Icard and Moss, 2014]

Natural Logic and Polarity

Treat hypernymy as a *partial order*.



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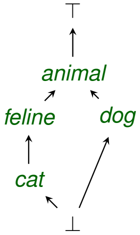

***Polarity* is the direction a lexical item can move in the ordering.**

animal

feline

cat

house cat

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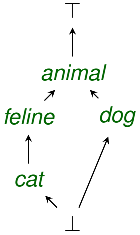

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↑ cat

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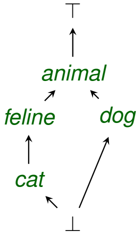

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living thing

animal

$\boxed{\uparrow \text{feline}}$

cat

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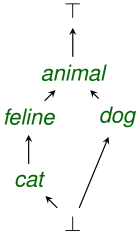

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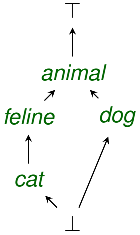

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$\downarrow$ animal

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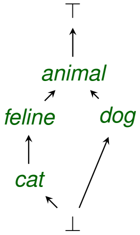

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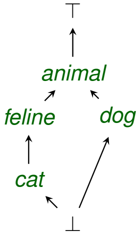

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house cat

An Example Inference

Quantifiers determines the *polarity* ($\uparrow$ or $\downarrow$) of words.

	carnivores		placentals
	felines	consume	rodents
$\uparrow$ **All**$_{\downarrow\uparrow}$	$\downarrow$ cats	$\uparrow$ eat	$\uparrow$ mice
	house cats	slurp	fieldmice

An Example Inference

Quantifiers determines the *polarity* (↑ or ↓) of words.

Mutations must respect *polarity*.

	felines		placentals
	cats	consume	rodents
↑ **All**$_{\downarrow\uparrow}$	↓ house cats	↑ eat	↑ mice
	kitties	slurp	fieldmice

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Quantifiers determines the *polarity* (↑ or ↓) of words.

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	cats		mice
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	kitties	eat	pine vole

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Quantifiers determines the *polarity* (↑ or ↓) of words.

Mutations must respect *polarity*.

Inference is reversible.

	felines		mammals
	cats		placentals
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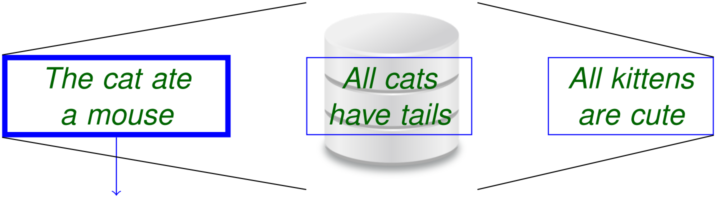
	kitties	eat	mice

Infer new facts...



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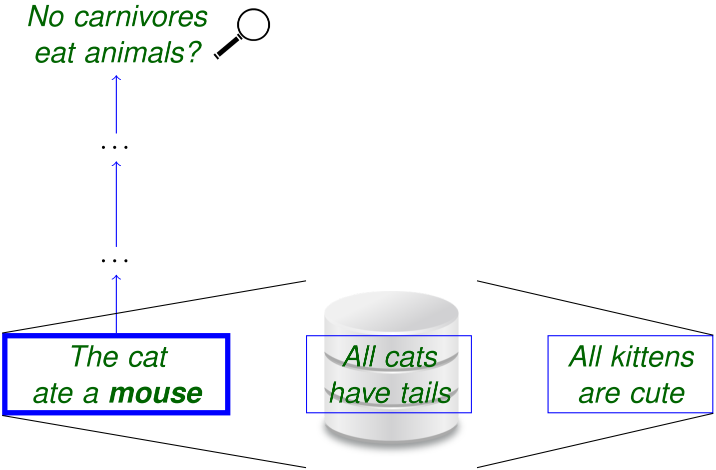
✗ *No carnivores eat animals*

Infer new facts...on demand from a query...



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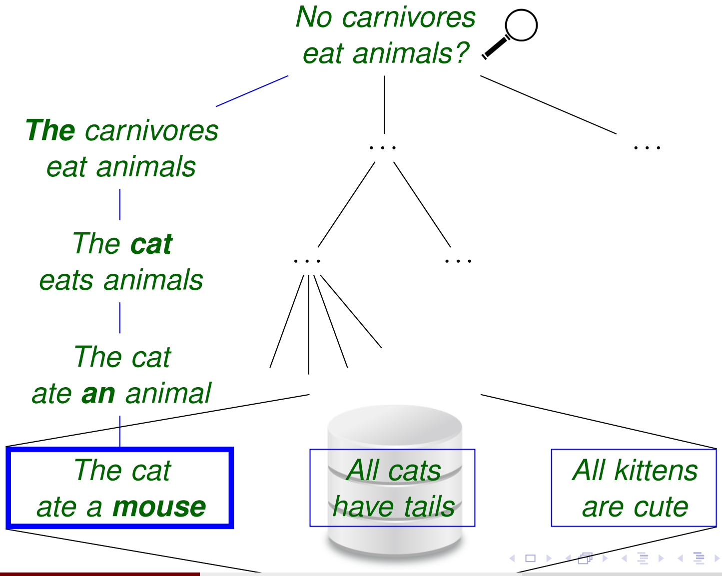
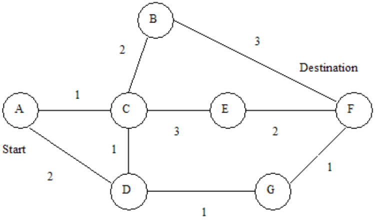
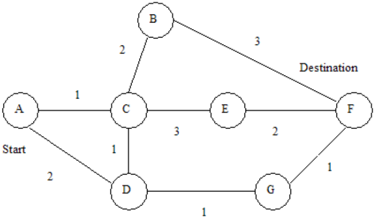


Natural Logic Inference is Search



Nodes (*fact*, truth maintained $\in \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$)

Natural Logic Inference is Search

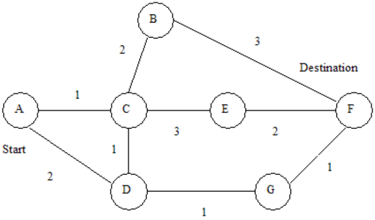


Nodes (*fact*, truth maintained $\in \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$)

Start Node (*query fact*, ✓ *true*)

End Nodes *any known fact*

Natural Logic Inference is Search



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Start Node (*query fact*, ✓ *true*)
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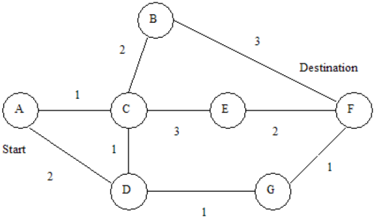
Edges Mutations of the current fact

Natural Logic Inference is Search



Nodes (*fact*, truth maintained $\in \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$)

Start Node (*query fact*, ✓ *true*)
End Nodes *any known fact*

Edges Mutations of the current fact
Edge Costs How “wrong” an inference step is (learned)

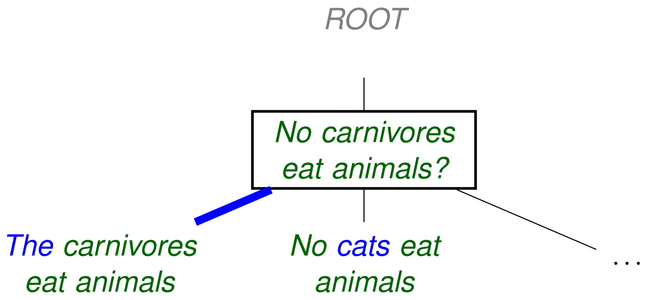
An Example Search

Shorthand for a node:

	organism		living thing
	animal	consume	organism
$\uparrow$ **No**$_{\downarrow\downarrow}$	$\downarrow$ carnivores	$\downarrow$ eat	$\downarrow$ animals
	felines	slurp	chordate

No carnivores eat animals?

An Example Search



An Example Search

No carnivores eat animals

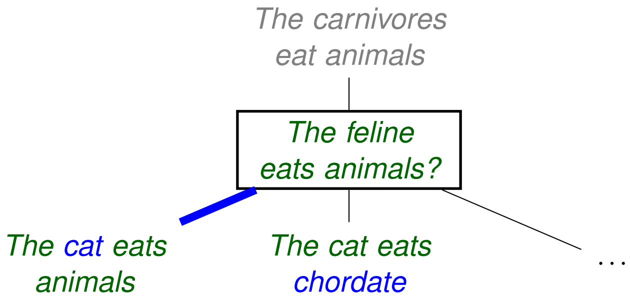
The carnivores eat animals?

The feline eats animals

All carnivores eat animals

. . .

An Example Search



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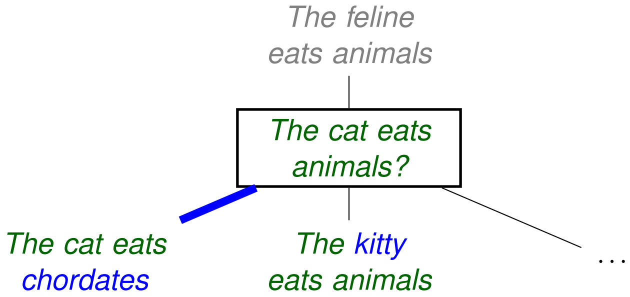


An Example Search

The cat eats animals

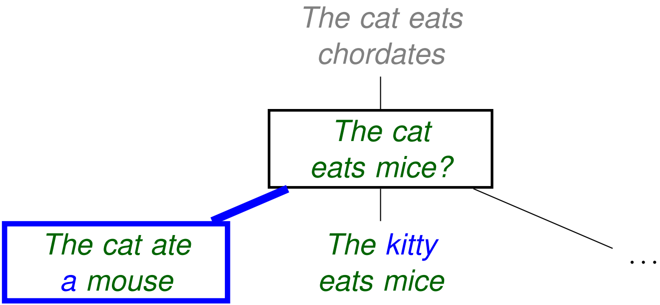
The cat eats chordates?

The cat eats mice

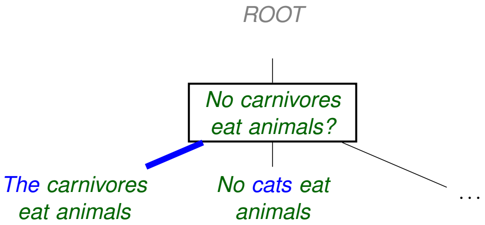
The cat eats dogs

. . .

An Example Search



An Example Search (with edges)



Template	Instance	Edge
Operator Negate		

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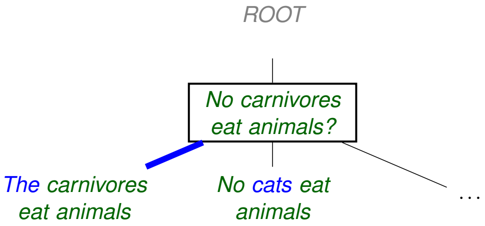

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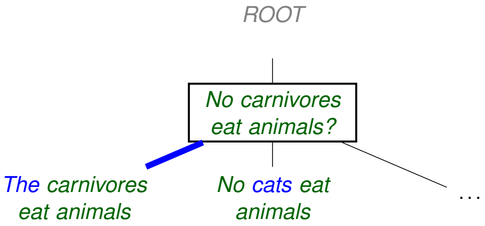

Template	**Instance**	**Edge**
Operator Negate	*No* → *The*	*No carnivores eat animals* → *The carnivores eat animals*

Edge Templates

Template	Instance
Hypernym	*animal* $\rightarrow$ *cat*
Hyponym	*cat* $\rightarrow$ *animal*
Antonym	*good* $\rightarrow$ *bad*
Synonym	*cat* $\rightarrow$ *true cat*
Add Word	*cat* $\rightarrow \cdot$
Delete Word	$\cdot \rightarrow$ *cat*
Operator Weaken	*some* $\rightarrow$ *all*
Operator Strengthen	*all* $\rightarrow$ *some*
Operator Negate	*all* $\rightarrow$ *no*
Operator Synonym	*all* $\rightarrow$ *every*
Nearest Neighbor	*cat* $\rightarrow$ *dog*

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Cost of a path is $\theta \cdot \mathbf{f}$.
Can learn parameters θ.

Experiments

ConceptNet:

- A semi-curated collection of common-sense facts.
  - ✓ *not all birds can fly*
  - ✓ *noses are used to smell*
  - ✓ *nobody wants to die*
  - ✓ *music is used for pleasure*
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Our Knowledge Base:

- 270 million lemmatized Ollie extractions.

ConceptNet Results

Systems

Direct Lookup: Lookup by lemmas.

Thesis: This thesis.

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- 4x improvement in recall.

Success?

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  - *Born in Hawaii, Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School.*

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- Where was Obama born?
  - *Born in Hawaii, Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School.*
    $\Rightarrow$ *Obama was born in Hawaii*.
- Let's store the inferred fact instead

Roadmap

Common Sense Reasoning:
Cats have tails
[Angeli and Manning, 2013, Angeli and Manning, 2014]

Complex premises:
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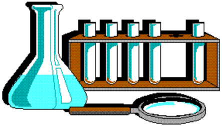

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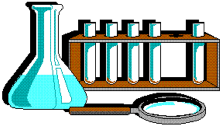

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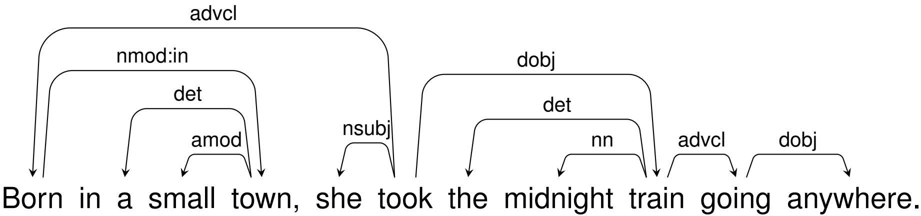
Atomic Clauses from Sentences

Input: Long sentence.
Born in a small town, she took the midnight train going anywhere.

Output: Short clauses.
she was born in a small town.



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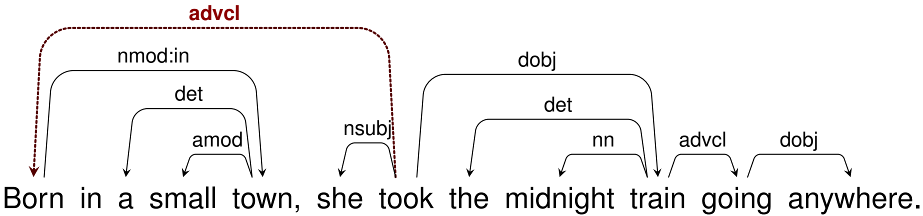

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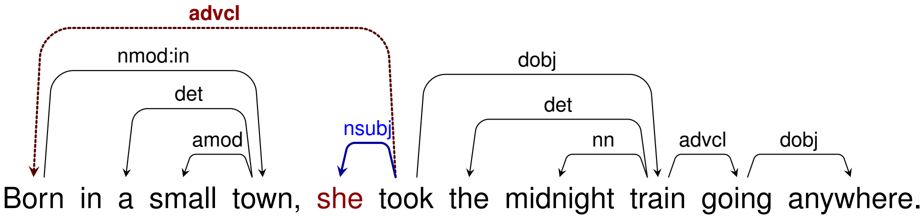

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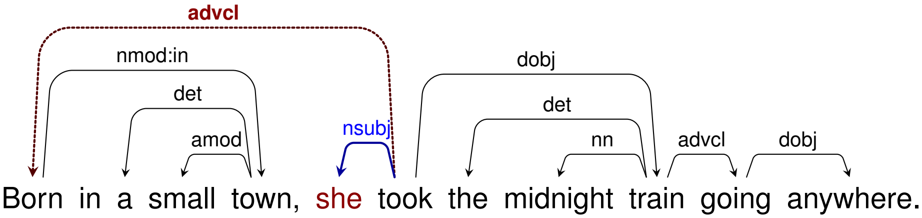

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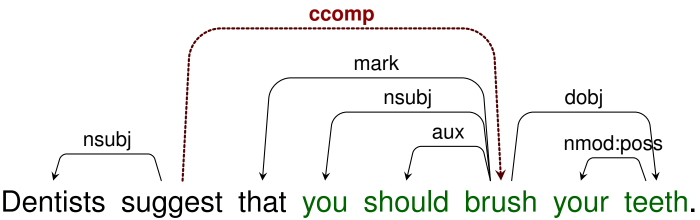

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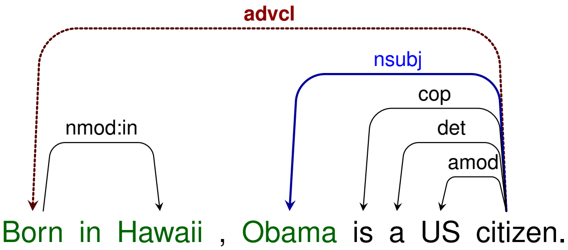

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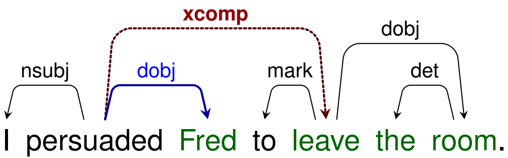

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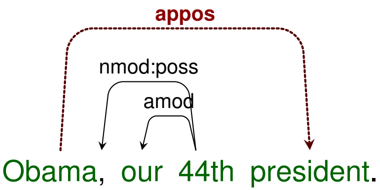

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- **Yield (Parent Subject)** (*Obama is our 44th president*)

Classifier Training

Training Data Generation

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Features:

- Edge label; incoming edge label.
- Neighbors of governor + dependent; number of neighbors.
- Existence of subject/object edges at governor; dependent.
- POS tag of governor; dependent.

Maximally Shorten Clauses

Some strange, nuanced function:

*Heinz Fischer **of Austria***	$\Longrightarrow$	✓ *Heinz Fischer*
***United States president** Obama*	$\Longrightarrow$	✓ *Obama*
*All **young** rabbits drink milk*	$\not\Longrightarrow$	✗ *All rabbits drink milk*
*Some **young** rabbits drink milk*	$\Longrightarrow$	✓ *Some rabbits drink milk*
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Natural Logic For Clause Shortening

Quantifiers determines the *polarity* (↑ or ↓) of words.

Mutations must respect *polarity*.

Polarity determines valid deletions.

	mammals		something
	rabbits	consume	liquid
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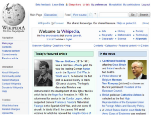
	…	

5 dependency tree patterns (+ 8 nominal patterns)

Extrinsic Evaluation: Knowledge Base Population

Unstructured Text



$\Longrightarrow$

Structured Knowledge Base

Barack Obama

44th President of the United States

Personal details

Born	Barack Hussein Obama II August 4, 1961 (age 52) Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Michelle LaVaughn Robinson (m. 1992–present)
Children	Malia Ann Obama (b. 1998) Natasha Obama (b. 2001)

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- Precision: answers marked correct by humans.
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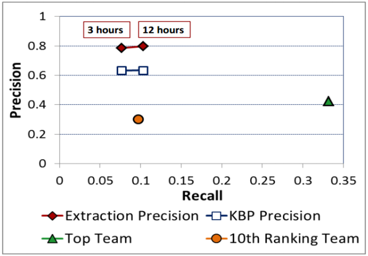
Comparison: *Open Information Extraction to KBP Relations in 3 Hours*. [Soderland et al., 2013]



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$$p(r_k, r_o \mid t_1, t_2) = \frac{\text{count}(r_k, r_o, t_1, t_2)}{\sum_{r'_k, r'_o} \text{count}(r'_k, r'_o, t_1, t_2)}.$$

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   - Rank by PMI$^2(r_o, r_k \mid t_1, t_2)$:

$$\mathrm{PMI}^2(r_k, r_o \mid t_1, t_2) = \log\left(\frac{p(r_k, r_o | t_1, t_2)^2}{p(r_k | t_1, t_2) \cdot p(r_o | t_1, t_2)}\right).$$

Map Triples to Structured Knowledge Base

KBP Relation	Text	PMI^2
Per:Date_Of_Birth	*be bear on*	1.83
	bear on	1.28
Per:Date_Of_Death	*die on*	0.70
	be assassinate on	0.65
Per:LOC_Of_Birth	*be bear in*	1.21
Per:LOC_Of_Death	**elect president of*	2.89
Per:Religion	*speak about*	0.67
	popular for	0.60
Per:Parents	*daughter of*	0.54
	son of	1.52
Per:LOC_Residence	*of*	1.48
	**independent from*	1.18

Results

TAC-KBP 2013 Slot Filling Challenge:

- End-to-end task: includes IR + consistency.
- **Precision:** facts LDC evaluators judged as correct.
  Recall: facts other teams (including LDC annotators) also found.

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Median Team			18.6
Our System +  + 	58.6	18.6	28.3
Top Team	45.7	35.8	40.2

Roadmap

Common Sense Reasoning:

Cats have tails

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Complex premises:

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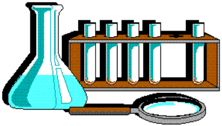

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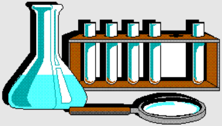

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An Example Search

ROOT

Rain and snow are types of precipitation?

Rain and snow are forms of precipitation

Rain and snow are types of weather

. . .

An Example Search

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An Example Search

Rain and snow are types of precipitation

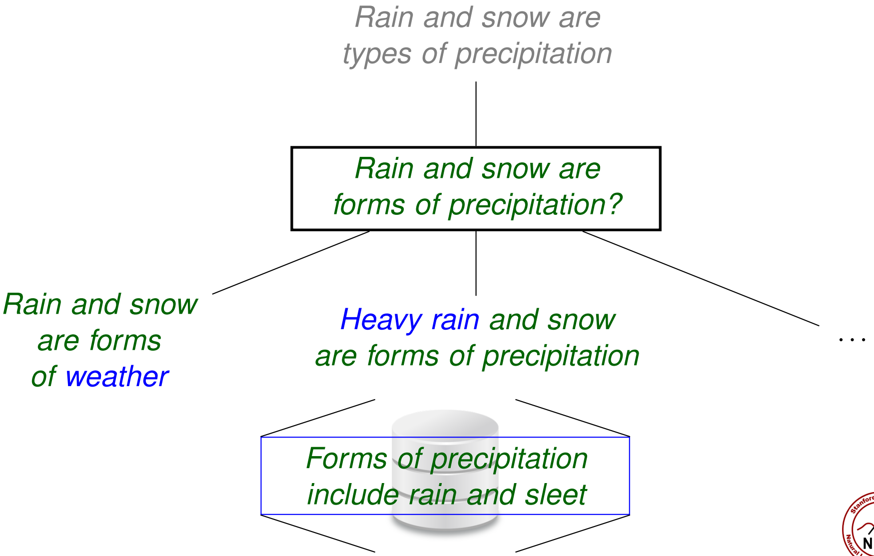
Rain and snow are forms of precipitation?

Rain and snow are forms of weather

Heavy rain and snow are forms of precipitation

...

An Example Search



An Example Search

Rain and snow are types of precipitation

Rain *and snow are* ***forms*** *of* ***precipitation****?*

Rain and snow are forms of weather

Heavy rain and snow are forms of precipitation

. . .

Forms *of* ***precipitation*** *include* ***rain*** *and sleet*

Lexical Alignment Classifier

Forms of precipitation include rain and sleet

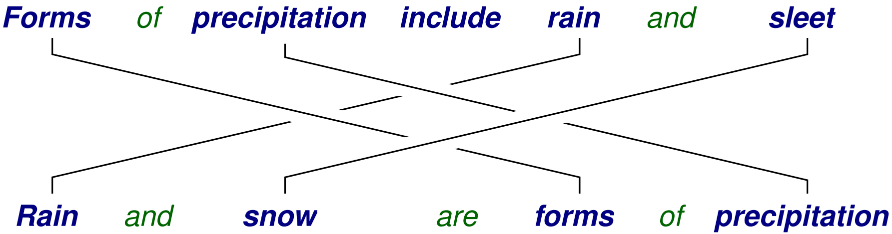
Rain and snow are forms of precipitation

Lexical Alignment Classifier

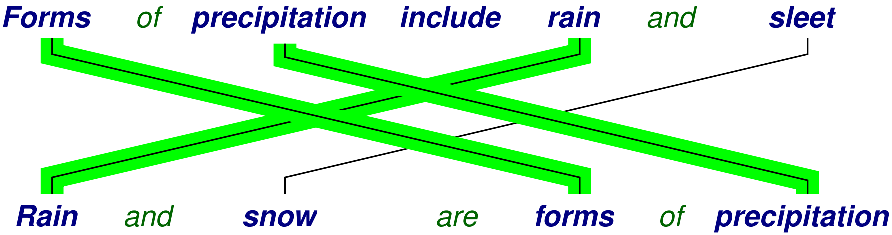
Forms *of* ***precipitation*** ***include*** ***rain*** *and* ***sleet***

Rain *and* ***snow*** *are* ***forms*** *of* ***precipitation***

Lexical Alignment Classifier



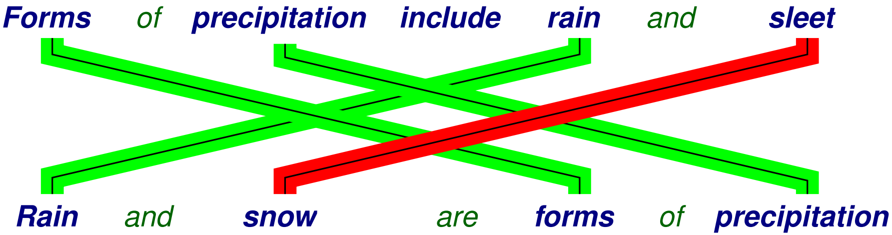
Lexical Alignment Classifier



Features

1. Matching words

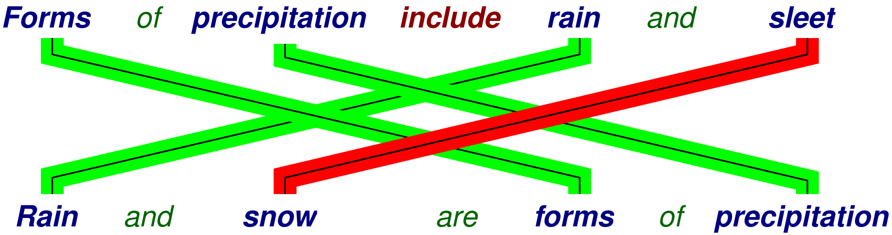
Lexical Alignment Classifier



Features

1. Matching words
2. Mismatched words

Lexical Alignment Classifier



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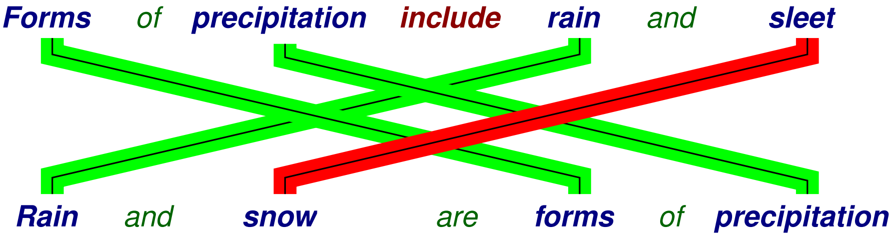
Lexical Alignment Classifier



Features

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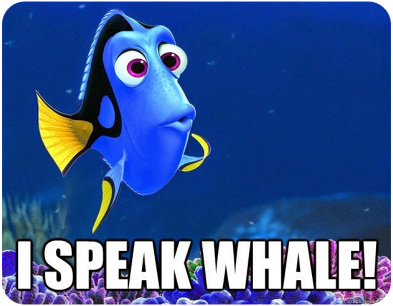
Competitive with Stanford RTE system (63% on RTE3)

Old Problem: Logic + Lexical Classifiers

FOL and lexical classifiers don't speak the same language

Old Problem: Logic + Lexical Classifiers

FOL and lexical classifiers don't speak the same language
...but natural logic does!



Run our usual search

1. If we find a premise, great!

Big Picture

Run our usual search

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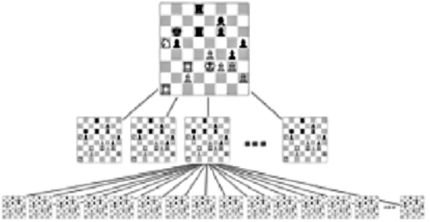
2. If not, use lexical classifier as an *evaluation function*



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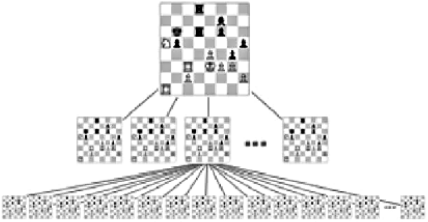

Visit 1M nodes / second: We have to be fast!

Dissecting Our Classifier

Anatomy of a Classifier

- Features f (matching / mismatched / unmatched words)
- Weights w
- Entailment pair x

$$p(\text{entail} \mid x) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x))}$$

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$$p(\text{entail} \mid x) \text{ monotone w.r.t. } \left(w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)\right)$$

- Only need $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$ during search to compute $\max p(\text{entail} \mid x)$
- $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$ is our evaluation function

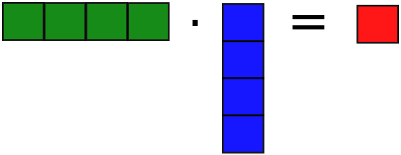
Incorporating our Evaluation Function

Anatomy of a Search Step

1. Mutate a word, or
2. Delete a word, or
3. Insert a word.

Each step updates a small number of features

$$w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x) = v$$



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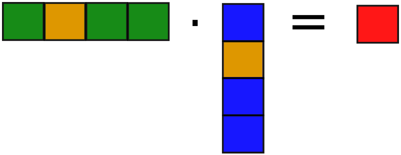

Incorporating our Evaluation Function

Anatomy of a Search Step

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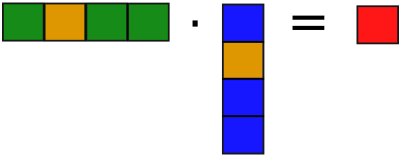
$$v' = v - w_i \cdot f_i + w_i \cdot f_i$$



Why Is This Important?

Faster Search = Deeper Reasoning

- **Speed:** Around 1M search states visited per second
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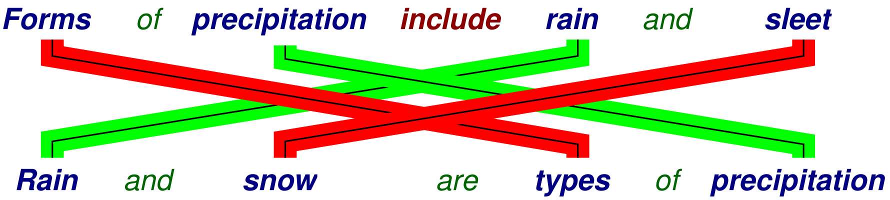
Memory: Never store intermediate fact as String.

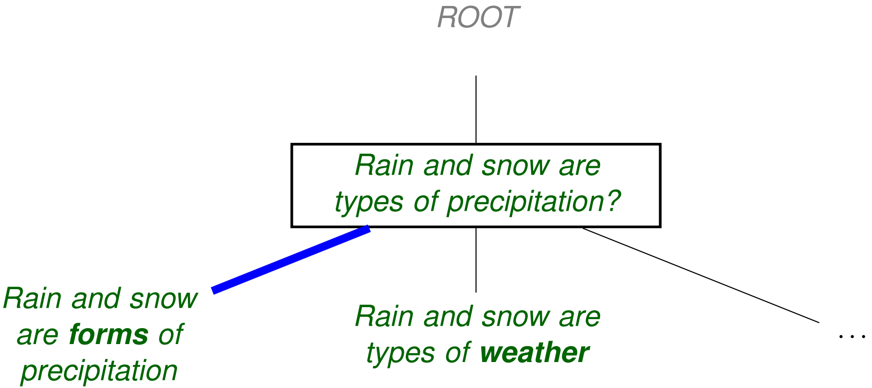
An Example Search



Score $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$**:** -0.5

Feature	w	$f(x)$
Matching words	2.0	2
Mismatched words	-1.0	2
Unmatched premise	-0.5	1
Unmatched consequent	-0.75	0
Bias	-2.0	1

An Example Search



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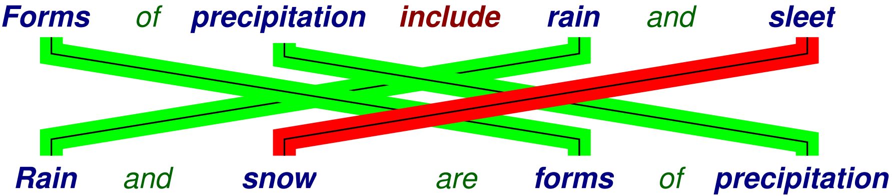

Score $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$**:** -0.5 + 2 – -1

Feature	w	$f(x)$
Matching words	2.0	**3**
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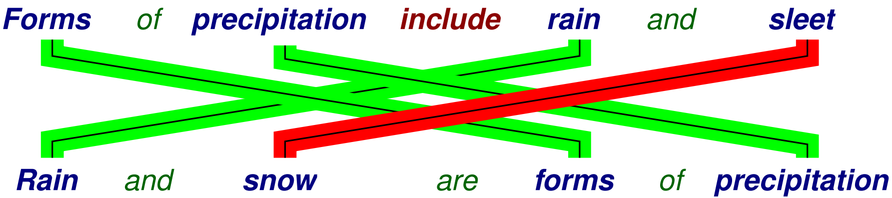
An Example Search



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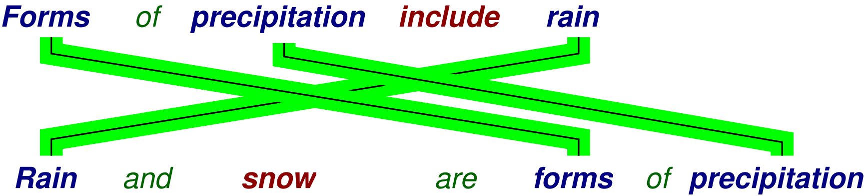

Score $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$**:** 2.5 $-$ -1 $+$ -0.75

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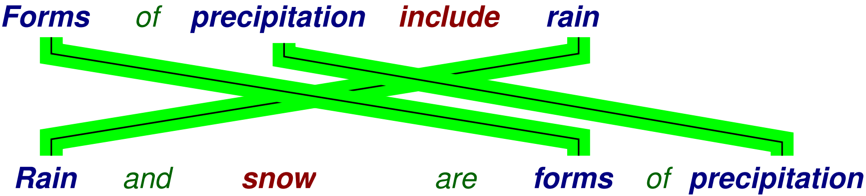
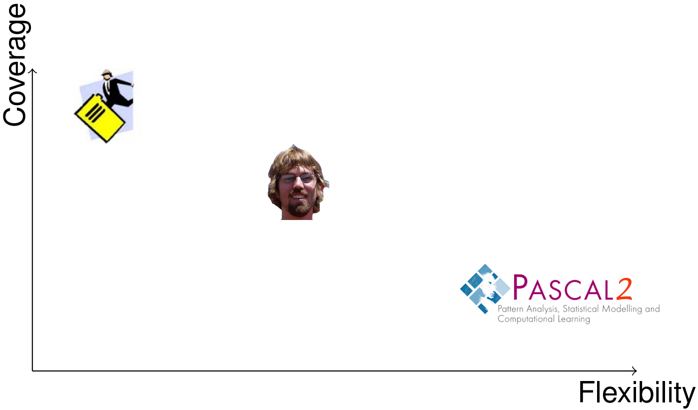


Score $w^{\mathrm{T}} f(x)$**:** 2.75

Feature	w	$f(x)$
Matching words	2.0	3
Mismatched words	-1.0	**0**
Unmatched premise	-0.5	1
Unmatched consequent	-0.75	**1**
Bias	-2.0	1

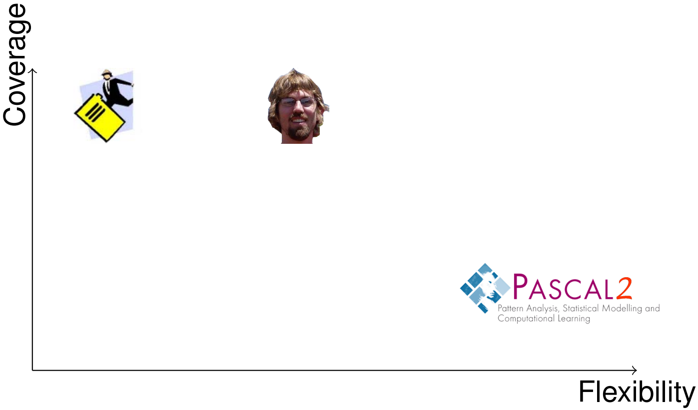
The Full System

Common Sense Reasoning



The Full System

+ **Complex Premises**



The Full System

+ Evaluation Function

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Common Sense Facts

- Natural logic inference as search
- Soft relaxation of “strict” inference
- 4x improvement in recall

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- Split the premise into atomic clauses
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The Full System

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High Recall

- Use lexical classifier as evaluation function
- Detect likely entailment / contradictions

Solving 4^{th} Grade Science

Multiple choice questions from real 4^{th} grade science exams

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Multiple choice questions from real 4^{th} grade science exams

Which activity is an example of a good health habit?

(A) Watching television
(B) Smoking cigarettes
(C) Eating candy
(D) Exercising every day

Solving 4^{th} Grade Science

Multiple choice questions from real 4^{th} grade science exams

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In our corpus:

- *Plasma TV's can display up to 16 million colors … great for watching TV … also make a good screen.*
- *Not smoking or drinking alcohol is good for health, regardless of whether clothing is worn or not.*
- *Eating candy for diner is an example of a poor health habit.*
- *Healthy is exercising*

Solving 4^{th} Grade Science

Multiple choice questions from real 4^{th} grade science exams

System	Train	Test
KNOWBOT	45	
KNOWBOT (ORACLE)	57	

[Hixon et al., 2015]

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KNOWBOT	45	
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[Hixon et al., 2015]

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IR Baseline	49	
My Thesis	52	
More Data + IR Baseline	62	
More Data + My Thesis	**65**	

[Hixon et al., 2015]

Solving 4^{th} Grade Science

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System	Train	Test
KNOWBOT	45	–
KNOWBOT (ORACLE)	57	–
IR Baseline	49	42
My Thesis	52	51
More Data + IR Baseline	62	58
More Data + My Thesis	**65**	**61**

[Hixon et al., 2015]

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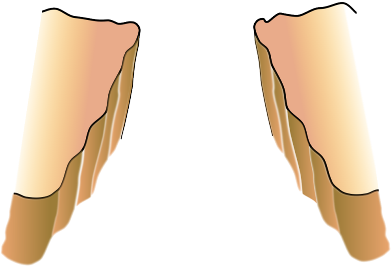
We're able to pass 4th grade science!

[Hixon et al., 2015]

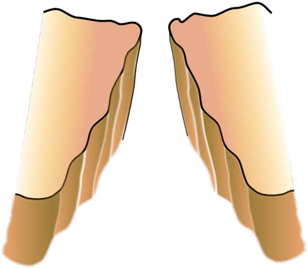
Remaining Work

First Order Logic **Lexical Methods**



Remaining Work

Natural Logic **Lexical Methods**



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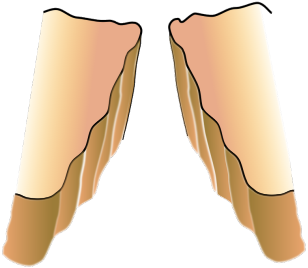

- Already useful for textual entailment [MacCartney and Manning, 2008, MacCartney, 2009]

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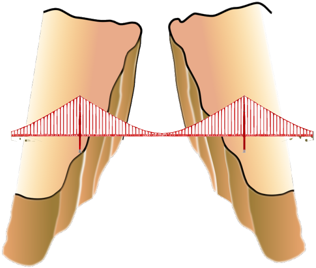
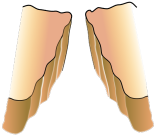


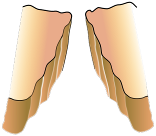
- Already useful for textual entailment [MacCartney and Manning, 2008, MacCartney, 2009]
- **This thesis:** Useful for question answering
  This thesis: We can bridge the two methods

Remaining Work



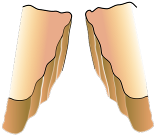
1. Encode logic in traditionally lexical representations [Bowman, 2014, Bowman et al., 2015]

Remaining Work



1. Encode logic in traditionally lexical representations [Bowman, 2014, Bowman et al., 2015]
2. Make natural logic more expressive

Remaining Work



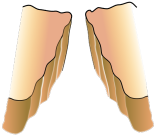
1. Encode logic in traditionally lexical representations [Bowman, 2014, Bowman et al., 2015]
2. Make natural logic more expressive
   - Propositional + Natural logics:

     Apples are red $\vee$ *Bananas are red*

     Bananas are not red

     $\therefore$ *Apples are red*

Remaining Work



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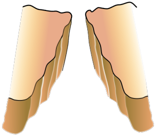

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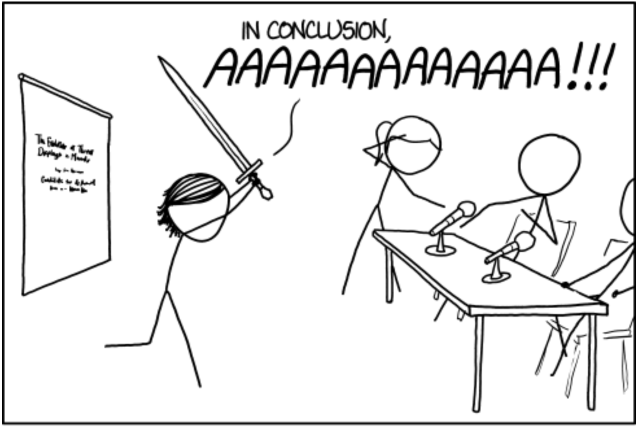
     $\therefore$ *Apples are red*
   - Syntactic and idiomatic entailment models: SNLI corpus?

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks!

Questions?



THE BEST THESIS DEFENSE IS A GOOD THESIS OFFENSE.

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