

# Controlling Text Generation

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(with Sam Wiseman, Yoon Kim, Sebastian Gehrmann)



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## 1 Background: Text Generation and Seq2Seq

2 Controlling Generation

3 Learning Neural Templates

4 Conclusion

## **Text Generation**



## **Text Generation: Talk about Text (Translation / Summarization)**

mexico city , mexico -lrb- cnn -rrb- – heavy rains and flooding have forced hundreds of thousands of people from homes in southern mexico 's state of tabasco over the past four days , with nearly as many trapped by the rising waters , state officials said thursday . officials say about 300,000 people are still trapped by the worst flooding in the region for 50 years . the grijalva river pushed over its banks through the state capital of villahermosa on thursday , forcing government workers to evacuate and leaving up to 80 percent of the city flooded , gov. andres granier 's office told cnn . about 700,000 people have seen their homes flooded , with about 300,000 of those still trapped there , granier 's office reported . one death had been blamed on the floods , which followed weeks of heavy rain in the largely swampy state . tabasco borders guatemala to the south and the gulf of mexico to the north . . .



## Text Generation:

### Talk about Text (Translation / Summarization)

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tabasco and chia-  
pas states hardest  
hit. authorities say  
700,000 affected . . .

## Abstractive Sentence Summarization

(Rush et al, 2015)

Input (First Sentence)

*Russian Defense Minister Ivanov called Sunday for  
the creation of a joint front for combating global terrorism.*

Output (Title)

*Russia calls for joint front against terrorism.*

## **Text Generation:**

### **Talk about Structured Data (Generation)**

---

TEAM	W	L	PTS	...
Heat	11	12	103	...
Hawks	7	15	95	...

---



## Text Generation:

### Talk about Structured Data (Generation)

TEAM	W	L	PTS	...
Heat	11	12	103	...
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The Atlanta Hawks  
defeated the Mi-  
ami Heat, 103 - 95,  
at Philips Arena on  
Wednesday. Atlanta  
...



# E2E NLG Challenge

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**MR**

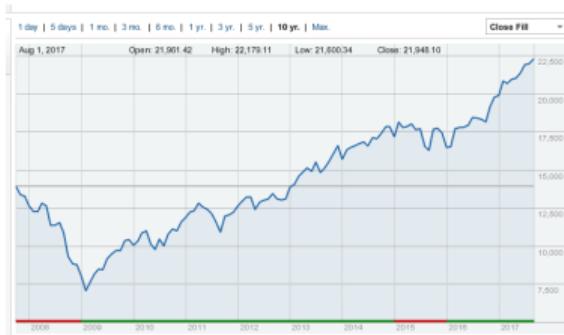
name[The Golden Palace],  
eatType[coffee shop],  
food[Fast food],  
priceRange[cheap],  
customer rating[5 out of 5],  
area[riverside]

---

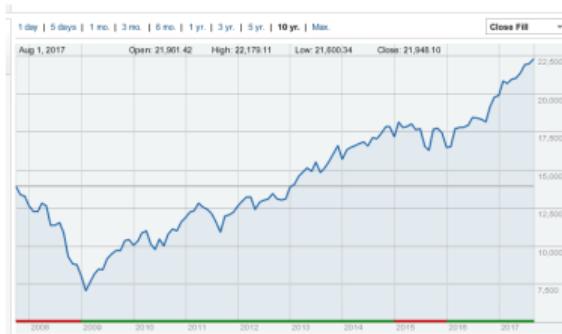
**Reference** A coffee shop located on the riverside called The Golden Palace, has a 5 out of 5 customer rating. Its price range are fairly cheap for its excellent Fast food.

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# Text Generation: Talk about the Environment (Multimodal)



## Text Generation: Talk about the Environment (Multimodal)



Dow and S&P 500  
close out week at  
all-time highs ...

# Image-to-Latex Dataset

(Deng et al, 2017)

$A_0^3(\alpha' \rightarrow 0) = 2g_d \varepsilon_\lambda^{(1)} \varepsilon_\mu^{(2)} \varepsilon_\nu^{(3)} \left\{ \eta^{\lambda\mu} (p_1^\nu - p_2^\nu) + \eta^{\lambda\nu} (p_3^\mu - p_1^\mu) + \eta^{\mu\nu} (p_2^\lambda - p_3^\lambda) \right\}.$ <p><small>(A_{0,0}^3 \rightarrow 0) \Rightarrow g_d \varepsilon_\lambda^{(1)} \varepsilon_\mu^{(2)} \varepsilon_\nu^{(3)} \left\{ \eta^{\lambda\mu} (p_1^\nu - p_2^\nu) + \eta^{\lambda\nu} (p_3^\mu - p_1^\mu) + \eta^{\mu\nu} (p_2^\lambda - p_3^\lambda) \right\}.</small></p>	$\begin{cases} \delta_\epsilon B \sim \epsilon F, \\ \delta_\epsilon F \sim \partial \epsilon + \epsilon B, \end{cases}$ <p><small>\begin{array}{l} \delta_\epsilon B \sim \epsilon F, \\ \delta_\epsilon F \sim \partial \epsilon + \epsilon B, \end{array}</small></p>
$\int_{\mathcal{L}_{d-1}^A} f(H) d\nu_{d-1}(H) = c_3 \int_{\mathcal{L}_2^A} \int_{\mathcal{L}_{d-1}^B} f(H)[H, A]^2 d\nu_{d-1}^L(H) d\nu_2^A(L).$ <p><small>\int_{\mathcal{L}_{d-1}^A} f(H) d\nu_{d-1}(H) = c_3 \int_{\mathcal{L}_2^A} \int_{\mathcal{L}_{d-1}^B} f(H)[H, A]^2 d\nu_{d-1}^L(H) d\nu_2^A(L).</small></p>	$J = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^t & \tilde{f}_2 \\ f_1 & \tilde{A} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & L \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \tilde{f}_1 \\ f_2 & A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{f}_2 L f_2 & \tilde{f}_2 L A \\ \tilde{A} L f_2 & \tilde{A} L A \end{pmatrix}$ <p><small>J = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^t &amp; \tilde{f}_2 \\ f_1 &amp; \tilde{A} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 &amp; 0 \\ 0 &amp; L \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha &amp; \tilde{f}_1 \\ f_2 &amp; A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{f}_2 L f_2 &amp; \tilde{f}_2 L A \\ \tilde{A} L f_2 &amp; \tilde{A} L A \end{pmatrix}</small></p>
$\int \text{limits}_{\{\text{cal L}\}^{\{d-1\}}} f(H) d\nu_{d-1}(H) = c_3 \int \text{limits}_{\{\text{cal L}\}^{\{A\}}}$ <p><small>\int \text{limits}_{\{\text{cal L}\}^{\{d-1\}}} f(H) d\nu_{d-1}(H) = c_3 \int \text{limits}_{\{\text{cal L}\}^{\{A\}}}</small></p>	$(P_{ll'} - K_{ll'})\phi'(z_q) \chi> = 0$ <p><small>(P_{ll'} - K_{ll'})\phi'(z_q) \chi&gt; = 0</small></p>

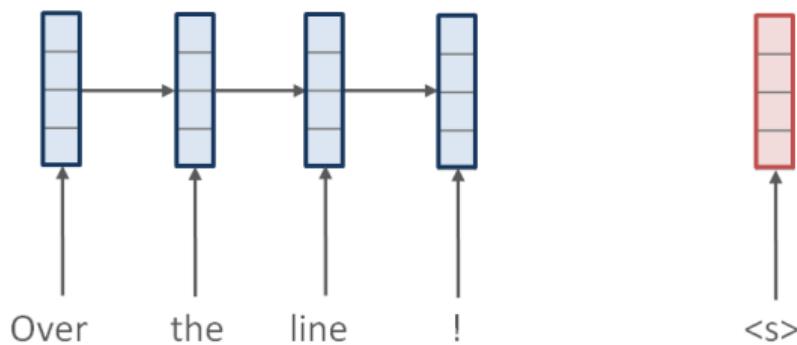
## Image-to-Latex

(Deng et al, 2017)

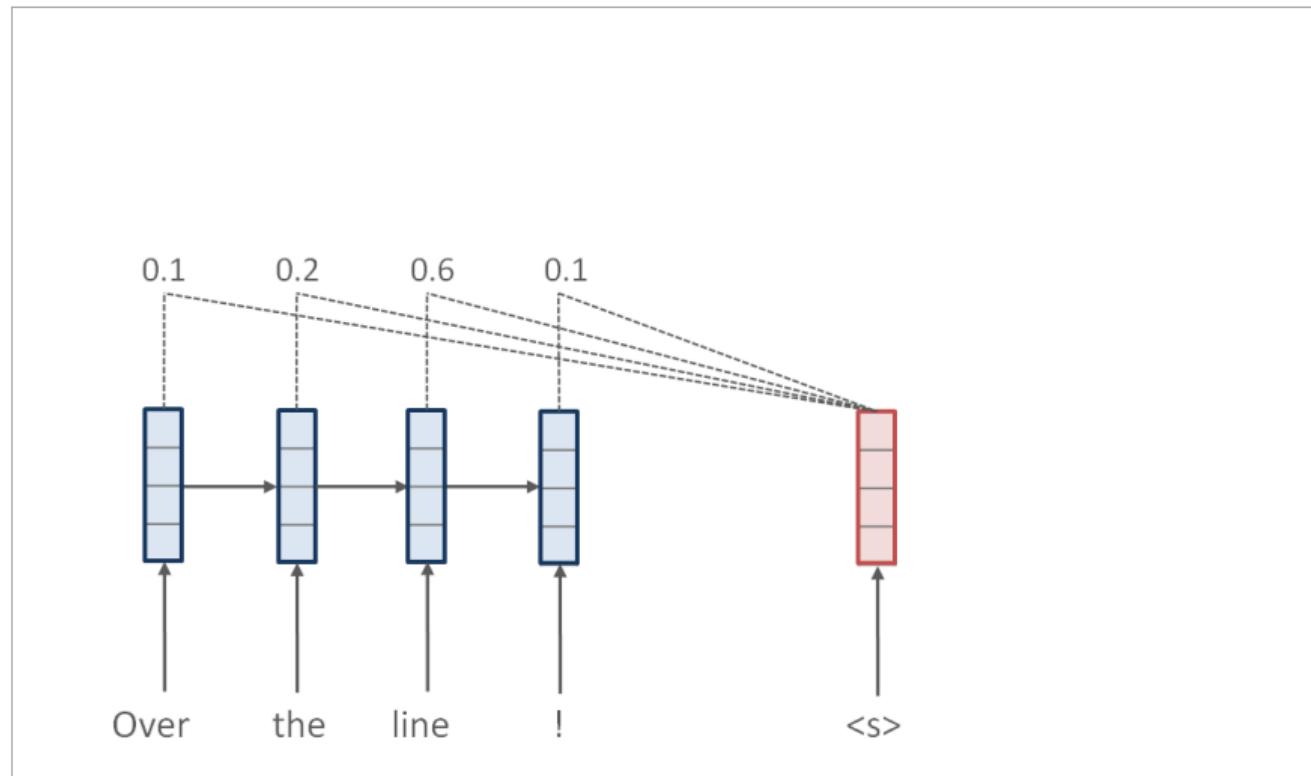
V = i \left[ \begin{matrix} B & 2A \\ -2A & -B \end{matrix} \right]

```
\v = i
\left( \begin{matrix} B & 2 \\ -2 & A \end{matrix} \right) \overline{\left( \begin{matrix} 2 & A \\ -2 & B \end{matrix} \right)}
```

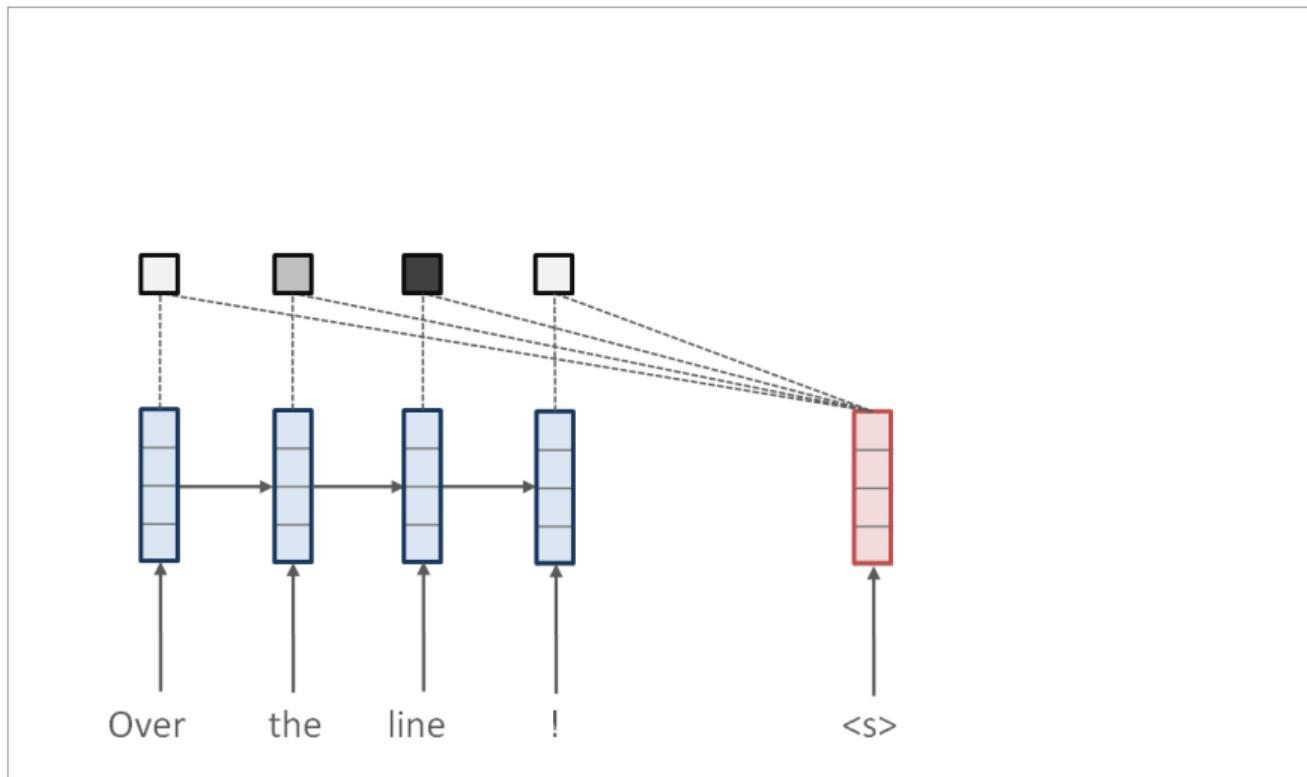
## Seq2Seq+



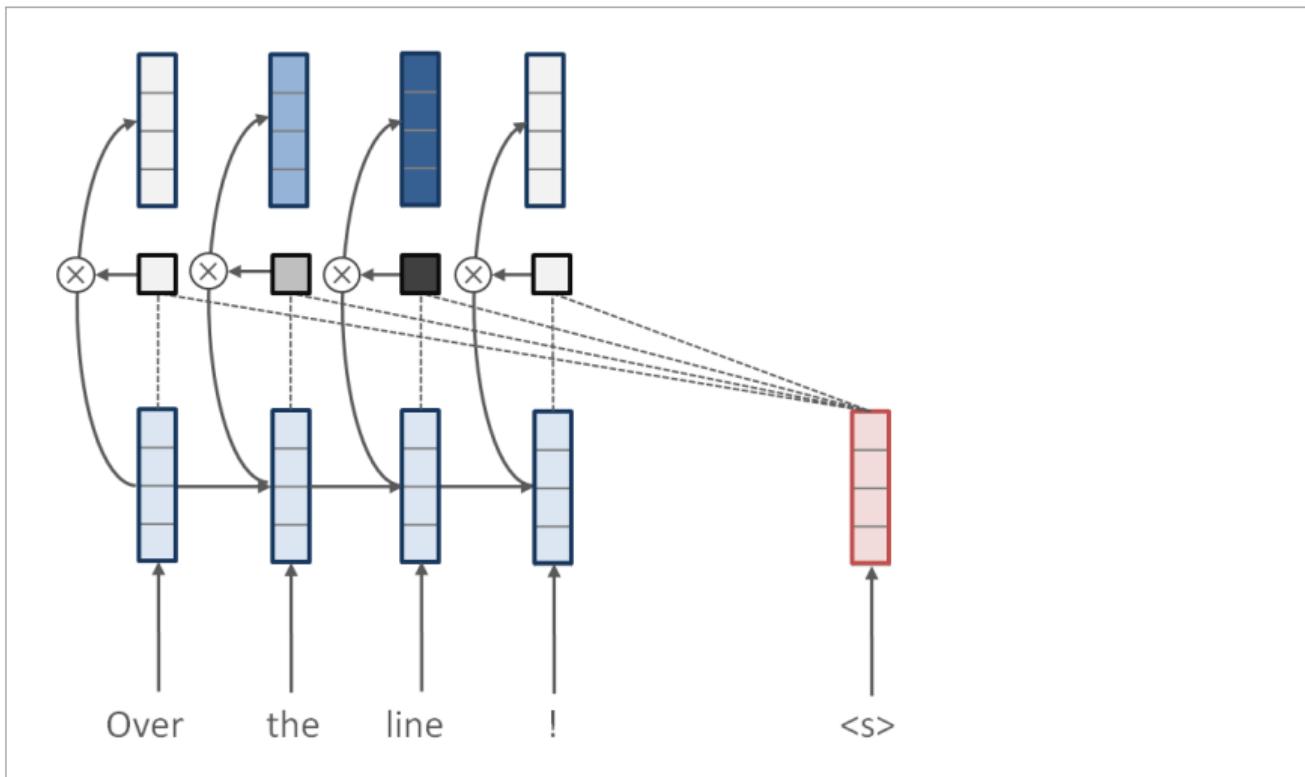
# Seq2Seq+



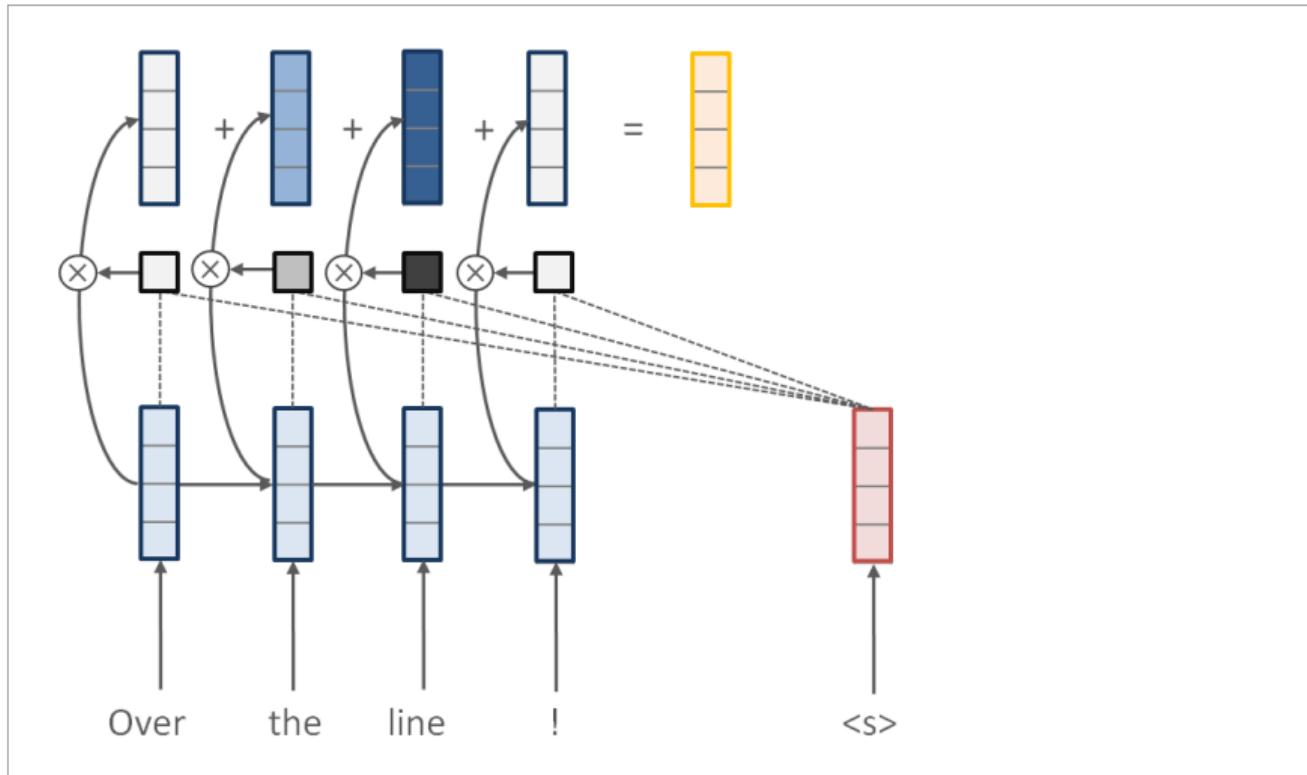
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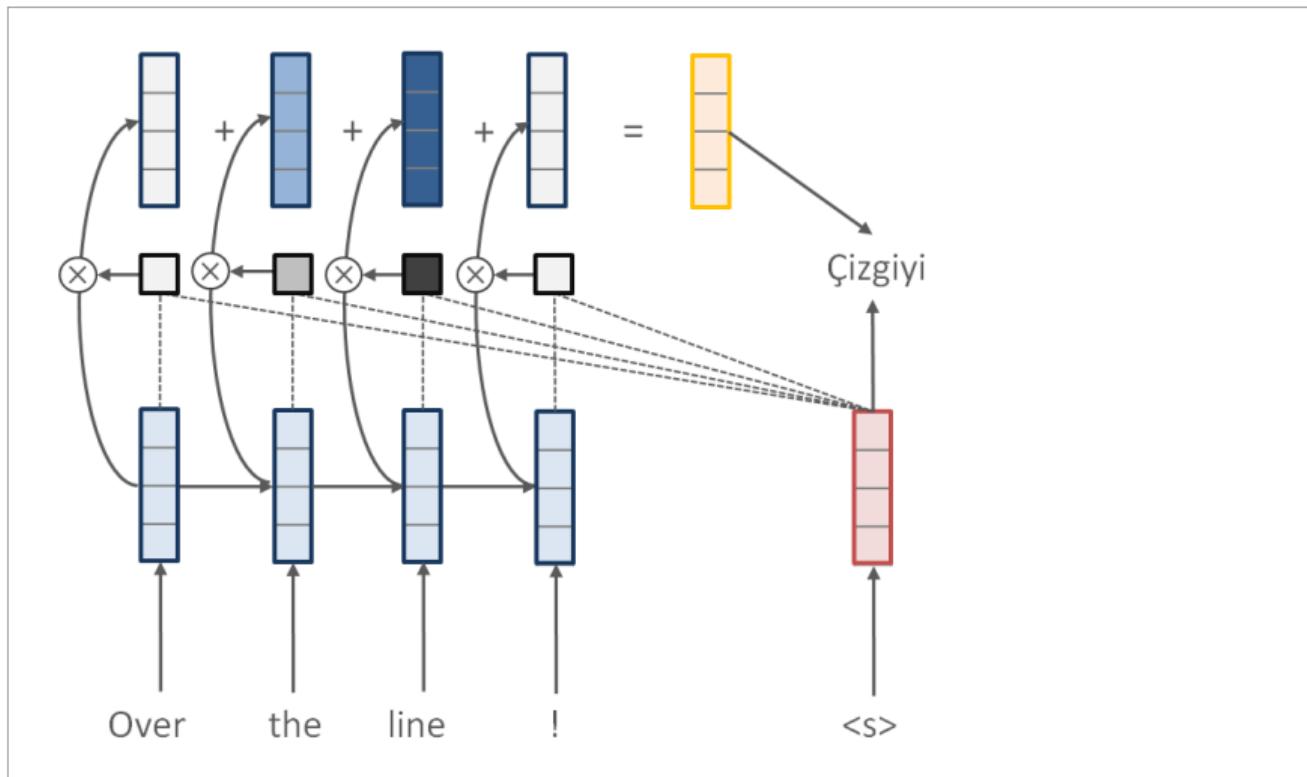
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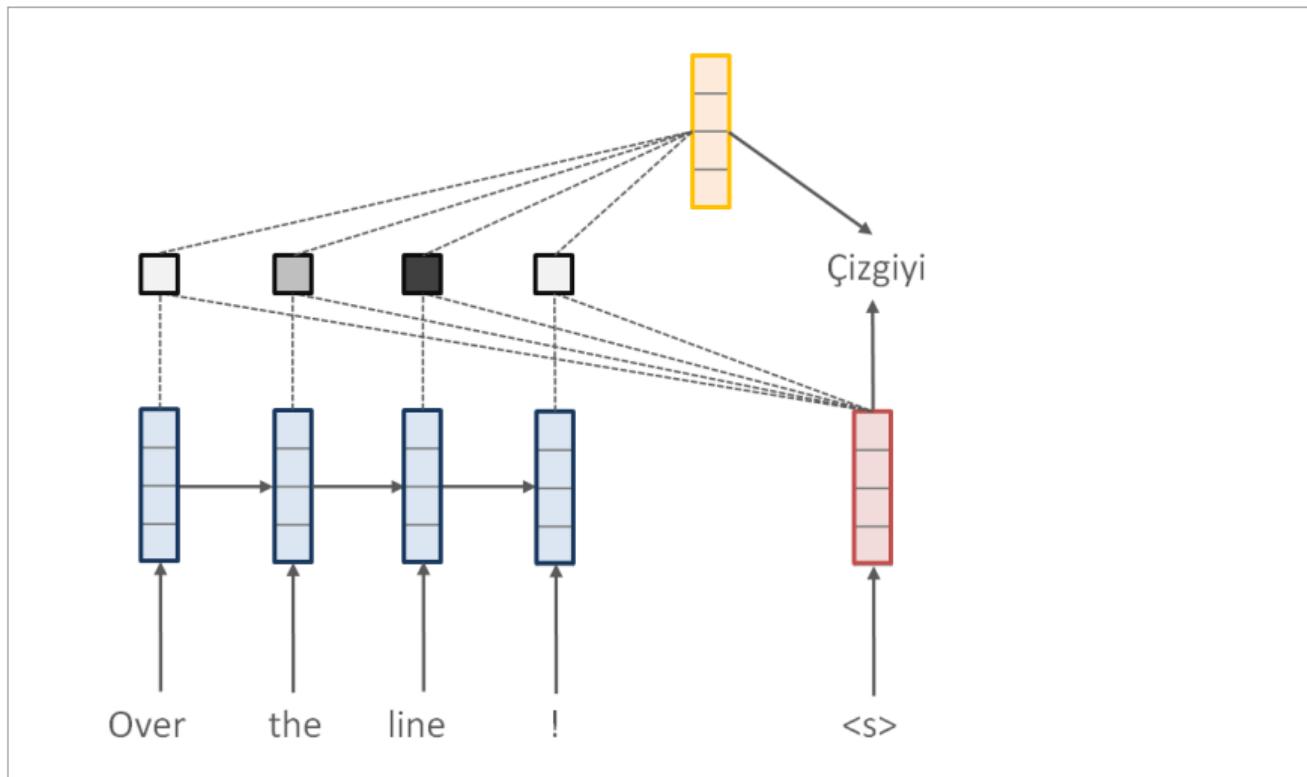
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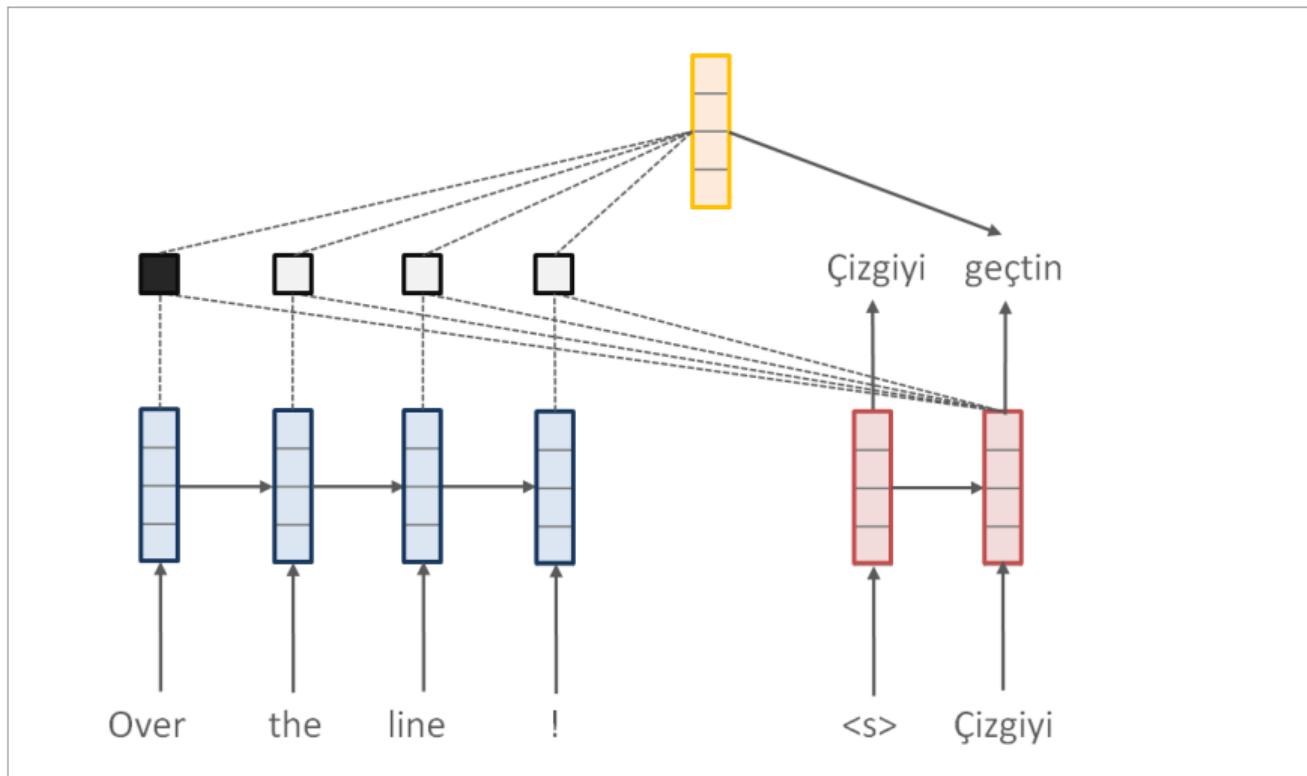
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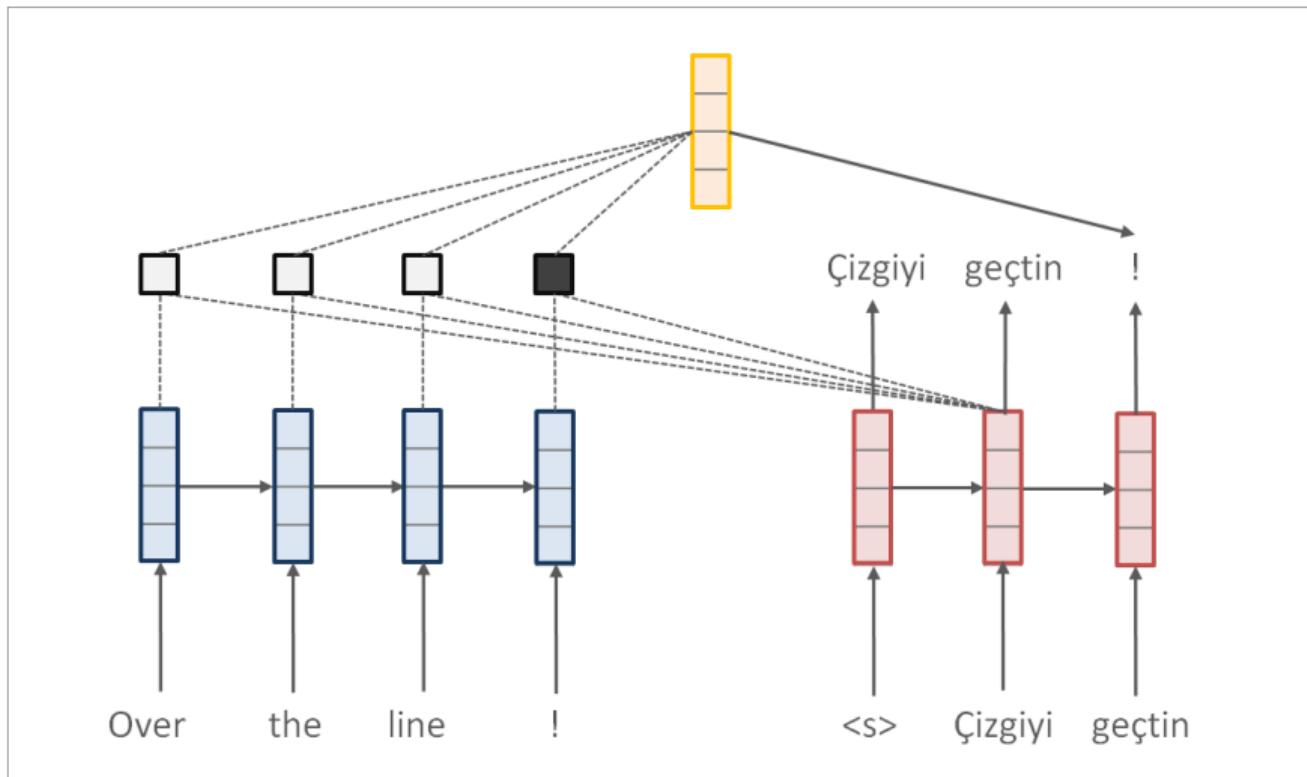
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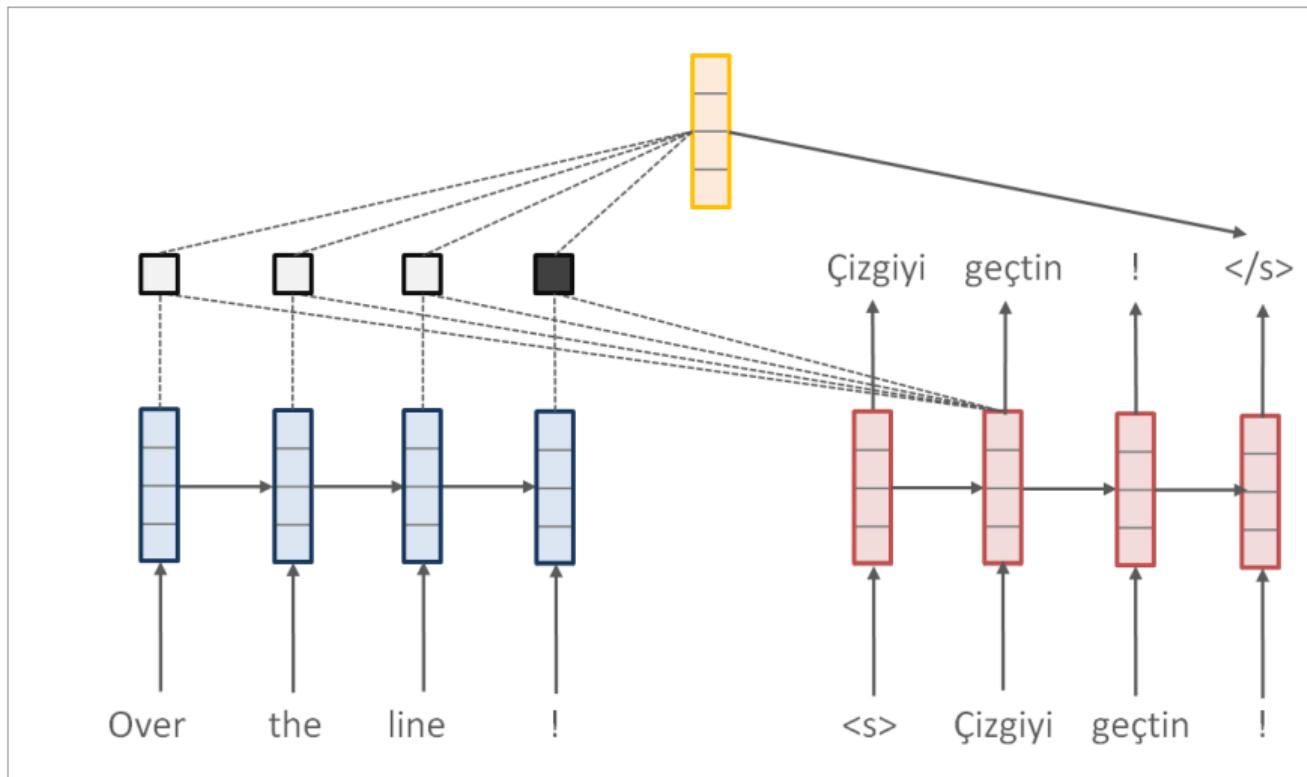
## Seq2Seq+



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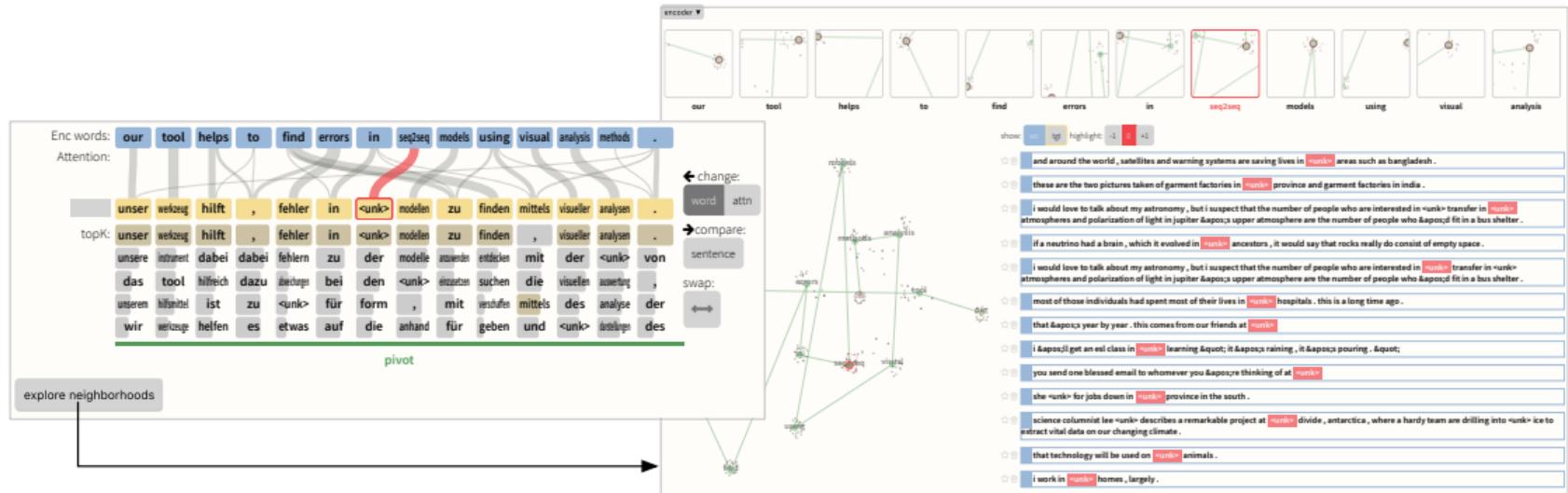


## Seq2Seq+



# Seq2Seq-Vis

## (Strobelt et al, 2018)



**Is generation solved by seq2seq?**

# Challenges of Neural Generation

## (Wiseman et al, 2017)

TEAM	WIN	LOSS	PTS	FG_PCT	RB	AS ...
Heat	11	12	103	49	47	27
Hawks	7	15	95	43	33	20

PLAYER	AS	RB	PT	FG	FGA	CITY ...
Tyler Johnson	5	2	27	8		
Dwight Howard	11	17	23	9		
Paul Millsap	2	9	21	8		
Goran Dragic	4	2	21	8		
Wayne Ellington	2	3	19	7		
Dennis Schroder	7	4	17	8		
Rodney McGruder	5	5	11	3		
...						

The Atlanta Hawks defeated the Miami Heat, 103 - 95, at Philips Arena on Wednesday. Atlanta was in desperate need of a win and they were able to take care of a shorthanded Miami team here. Defense was key for the Hawks, as they held the Heat to 42 percent shooting and forced them to commit 16 turnovers. Atlanta also dominated in the paint, winning the rebounding battle, 47 - 34, and outscoring them in the paint 58 - 26. The Hawks shot 49 percent from the field and assisted on 27 of their 43 made baskets. This was a near wire-to-wire win for the Hawks, as Miami held just one lead in the first five minutes. Miami ( 7 - 15 ) are as beat-up as anyone right now and it's taking a toll on the heavily used starters. Hassan Whiteside really struggled in this game, as

## **Challenges of Neural Generation**

**(Wiseman et al, 2017)**

The Utah Jazz ( 38 - 26 ) defeated the Houston Rockets ( 38 - 26 ) 117 - 91 on Wednesday at Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake City . The Jazz got out to a quick start in this one , out - scoring the Rockets 31 - 15 in the first quarter alone . Along with the quick start , the Rockets were the superior shooters in this game , going 54 percent from the field and 43 percent from the three - point line , while the Jazz went 38 percent from the floor and a meager 19 percent from deep . The Rockets were able to out - rebound the Rockets 49 - 49 , giving them just enough of an advantage to secure the victory in front of their home crowd . The Jazz were led by the duo of Derrick Favors and James Harden . Favors went 2 - for - 6 from the field and 0 - for - 1 from the three - point line to score a game - high of 15 points , while also adding four rebounds and four assists ....

## Challenges of Neural Generation (Wiseman et al, 2017)

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## Quantitative Evaluation / RotoWire

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Model	Relations		Content		Ordering	
	P%	#	P%	R%	DLD%	BLEU
Template	<b>99.35</b>	49.7	<b>45.17</b>	24.85	<b>12.2</b>	6.87
Seq2Seq+Copy	71.07	12.61	21.90	27.27	8.70	<b>14.46</b>

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## What is Missing for Generation?

*Building Natural Language Generation Systems* (Reiter and Dale, 1999)

<i>Module</i>	<i>Content task</i>	<i>Structure task</i>
Document planning	Content determination	Document structuring
Microplanning	Lexicalisation; Referring expression Generation	Aggregation
Realisation	Linguistic realisation	Structure realisation

**Figure 3.1** Modules and tasks.

**Research Direction:**  
**Deep Discrete Latent-Variable Models for NLP**

Goal: Expose controls as *discrete* latent variables.

$$p(y, z; \theta).$$

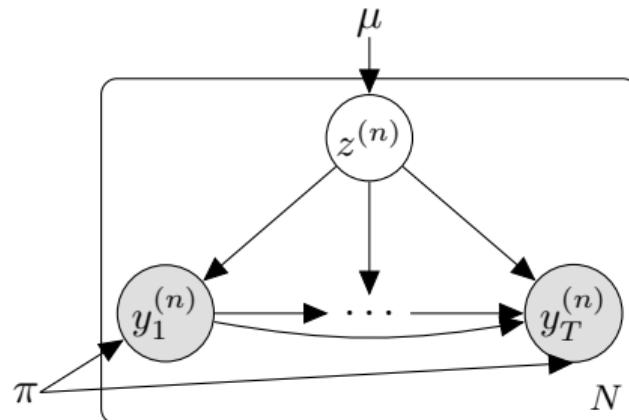
- $y$  is our observed data
- $z$  is a collection of problem-specific latent variables
- $\theta$  are the deterministic, neural network parameters.

## Example Model: Mixture of RNNs

Generative process:

- ① Draw cluster  $z \in \{1, \dots, K\}$  from a Categorical.
- ② Draw words  $y_{1:T}$  from RNNLM with parameters  $\pi_z$ .

$$p(y, z; \theta) = \mu_z \times \text{RNNLM}(y_{1:T}; \pi_z)$$



## Main Requirement: Posterior Inference

For models  $p(y, z; \theta)$ , we'll be interested in the *posterior* over latent variables  $z$ :

$$p(z | y; \theta) = \frac{p(y, z; \theta)}{p(y; \theta)} = \frac{p(y | z; \theta)p(z; \theta)}{\sum_{z'} p(y | z'; \theta)p(z'; \theta)}.$$

How?

- Sum out over all discrete choices (e.g. run  $K$  RNNs).
- Variational inference based methods.

Why?

- Required for training
- Latent  $z$  gives separation of data.

## In Applications: Copy-Attention (Gu et al, 2016) (Gulcehre et al, 2016)

Let  $z$  be a binary latent variable.

- If  $z = 1$ , let the model generate a new word.
- If  $z = 0$ , let the model copy a word from the source based on attention.

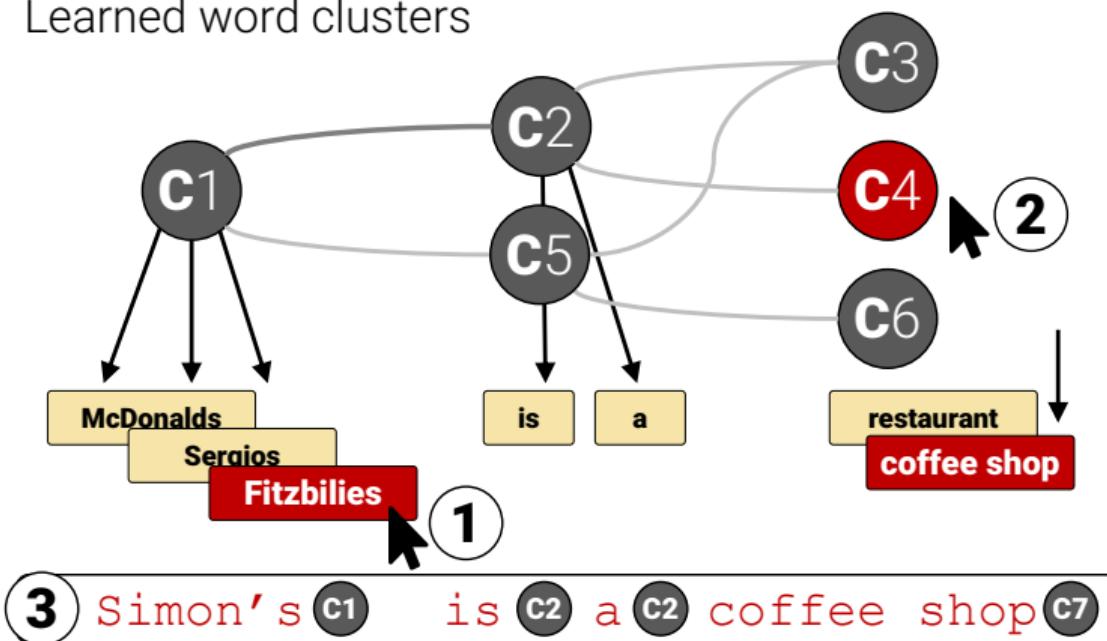
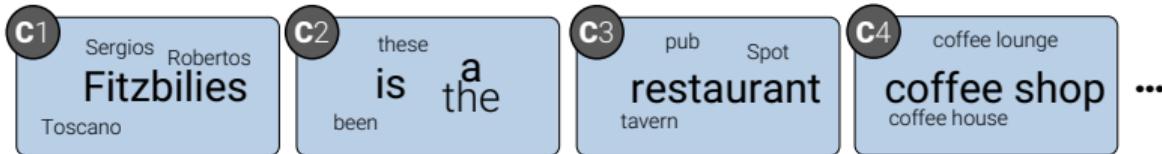
Inference:

### Pointer-generator model + coverage summary

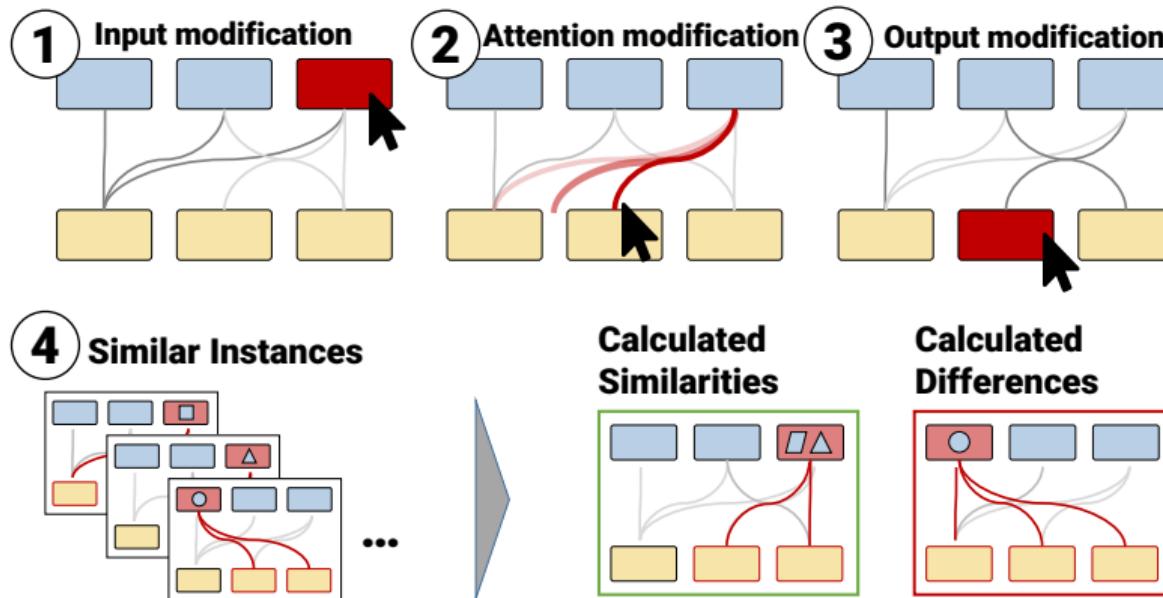
francis saili has signed a two-year deal to join munster later this year .  
the 24-year-old was part of the new zealand under-20 side that won the junior world championship in italy in 2011 ,  
saili 's signature is something of a coup for munster and head coach anthony foley .

(See et al, 2017)

## Today: Learning Neural Templates



## (See Also) Latent Alignment and Variational Attention



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# Template-style Text Generation

A classical NLG template:

```
<restaurant_name> is a  
<food_type> <restaurant_type>  
with a <num_stars> star rating. It is  
located in <neighborhood>, and its  
price range is <price_range>.
```

# Data-to-Text Generation

[c.f., Lebret et al., 2016]

## Frederick Parker-Rhodes

<b>Born</b>	21 November 1914 Newington, Yorkshire
<b>Died</b>	2 March 1987 (aged 72)
<b>Residence</b>	UK
<b>Nationality</b>	British
<b>Known for</b>	Contributions to computational linguistics, combinatorial physics, bit- string physics, plant pathology, and mycology
<b>Scientific career</b>	
<b>Fields</b>	Mycology, Plant Pathology, Mathematics, Linguistics, Computer Science
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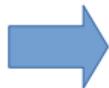


“Frederick Parker-Rhodes (21 November 1914 – 2 March 1987) was an English linguist, plant pathologist, computer scientist, mathematician, mystic, and mycologist.”

# Data-to-Text Generation

[c.f., Novikova et al., 2017]

Name	The Eagle
Eat Type	coffee shop
Food	French
Price Range	moderate
Customer Rating	3/5
Area	riverside
Kids Friendly	yes
Near	Burger King



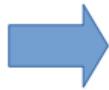
“The three star coffee shop, The Eagle, gives families a mid-priced dining experience featuring a variety of wines and cheeses. Find The Eagle near Burger King.”

# Argument for Templates #1: Interpretability

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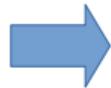


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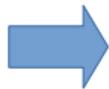
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<name> (born <born>) was a  
<nationality> <occupation>, who  
lived in the <residence>. He was  
known for contributions to <known\_for>.

# Argument for Templates #2: Controllability

Name	The Eagle
Eat Type	coffee shop
Food	French
Price Range	moderate
Customer Rating	3/5
Area	riverside
Kids Friendly	yes
Near	Burger King



<name> is a kid-friendly <eat\_type> serving <food> cuisine in the <area> area.

The <customer\_rating> star rated <name> serves <food> food at a <price\_range> price.

Near <near> is a <food> <eat\_type> with a <customer\_rating> star rating. It is family friendly, and its price range is <price\_range>.

# Goal: Learned Template-style Generation

- **Idea:** use a Hidden Semi-Markov Model (HSMM) decoder
  - Preserve most of the encoder/decoder setup
  - Learn template-like representations jointly with learning to generate

# Hidden Semi-Markov Models

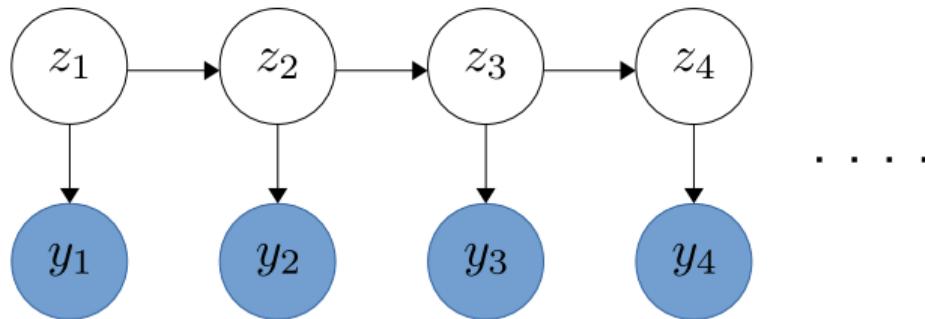
[Gales and Young, 1993; Ostendorf et al., 1996]

- Give a joint distribution over observations  $y_{1:T}$  and discrete latents  $z_{1:S}$ 
  - Like HMMs, but observations can last multiple time-steps:

# Hidden Semi-Markov Models

[Gales and Young, 1993; Ostendorf et al., 1996]

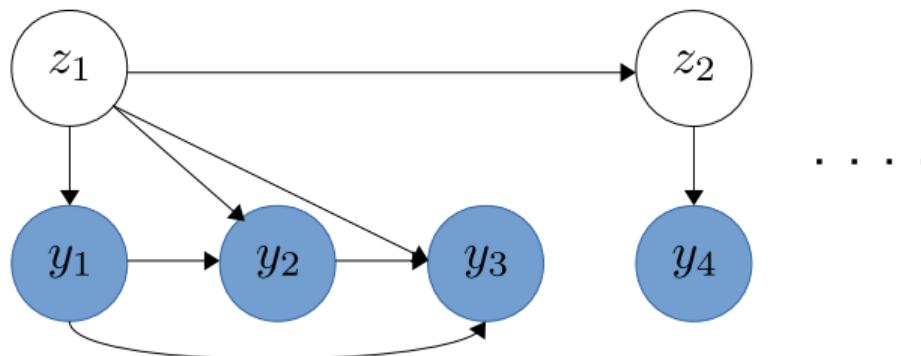
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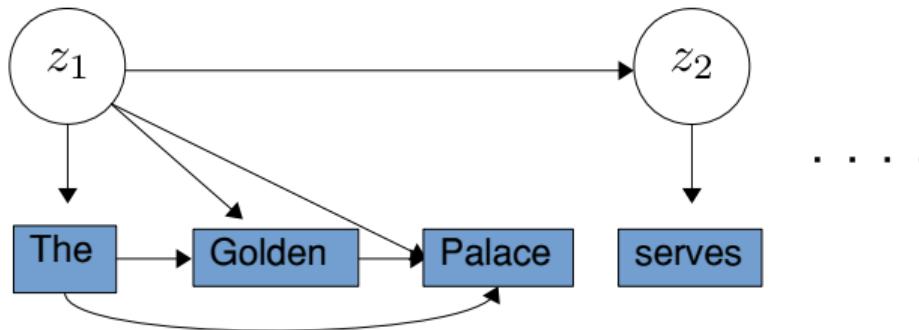
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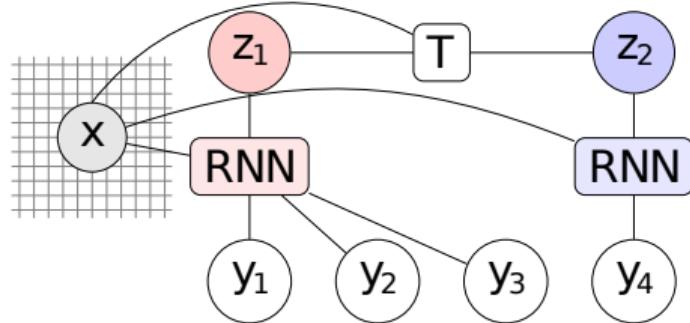


**Upshot:** HSMMs give us typed segmentations.

# A Conditional (Neural) HSMM

$$p(y, z | x) = \prod_{s=1}^S \underbrace{p(z_s | z_{s-1}, x)}_{\text{transition prob}} \underbrace{p(l_s | z_s)}_{\text{length prob}} \underbrace{p(y_{t_0(s):t_1(s)} | z_s, l_s, x)}_{\text{segment prob}}$$

- We parameterize probabilities with neural components:
  - Segment probabilities are given by an RNN + attention + copy attention



# Learning

- We're given a dataset of  $x, y$  pairs
- Segmentations  $z$  are unobserved at training time
- **Maximize**  $\ln p(y_{1:T} | x) = \ln \sum_z p(y_{1:T}, z | x)$ 
  - Can use a dynamic program analogous to the forward or backward algorithm used in learning HMMs [c.f., Murphy 2002]
  - Can simply backprop through the dynamic program
    - Easy with pytorch!

# Generation

- Given an input  $x$ , we could generate by approximating  $\arg \max_{y,z} p(y, z | x)$
- Instead, we'll first extract "templates":
  - 1) Viterbi-segment the training data

# Generation

- Given an input  $x$ , we could generate by approximating  $\arg \max_{y,z} p(y, z | x)$
- Instead, we'll first extract "templates":
  - 1) Viterbi-segment the training data

```
[The Golden Palace]55 [is a]59 [coffee shop]12 [providing]3 [Indian]50
[food]1 [in the]17 [ $\text{£}20\text{-}25$ ]125 [price range]16 [.]2 [It is]8 [located
in the]25 [riverside]40 [.]53 [Its customer rating is]19 [high]23 [.]2
```

# Generation

- Given an input  $x$ , we could generate by approximating  $\arg \max_{y,z} p(y, z | x)$
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in the]25 [riverside]40 [.]53 [Its customer rating is]19 [high]23 [.]2
```

**Note:** each segment gets a latent-state label.

- We'll call a sequence of labels  $z^{(i)}$  a "template."
- E.g.,  $z^{(i)} = 55, 59, 12, 3, \dots$

# What's Good about these “Templates”?

## 1) Dim. reduction: latent states correspond to functional categories.

1. The Eagle provides Indian food in the high price range. It is located near riverside city centre. Its customer rating is 1 out of 5. It has a average rating. They are located in the near It's located near Cafe Sicilia. The price range is high.
2. Located near The Portland Arms is an Italian restaurant called The Waterman. Located in the riverside city centre. It is a family friendly fast food place called Cocum. There is a French restaurant named Loch Fyne.
3. A Italian restaurant is The Waterman. An fast food pub coffee shop is called Cocum. French named Loch Fyne.
4. Located near The Portland Arms. Located in the riverside city centre. The Eagle is a cheap Italian restaurant. The Golden Curry is a family-friendly fast food pub coffee shop. Zizzi is an family friendly French restaurant.
5. A Italian restaurant is The Waterman. An fast food pub coffee shop is called Cocum. French named Loch Fyne. The Eagle is a cheap Italian restaurant. The Golden Curry is a family-friendly fast food pub coffee shop. Zizzi is an family friendly French restaurant.

# What's Good about these “Templates”?

## 1) Dim. reduction: latent states correspond to functional categories.

1. aftab ahmed | born 1951 | is an american | actor  
anderson da silva | ( | born on 1970 | ) | was an american | actress |.  
david jones | ; | born 1974 | } | is an english | cricketer |.  
... ... ... ... ...
2. aftab ahmed | was a world war i member of the austrian house of representatives  
anderson da silva | is a former liberal party member of the pennsylvania legislature  
david jones | is a baseball recipient of the montana senate |.  
... ... ... ...
3. adjutant | aftab ahmed | was a world war i member of the knesset  
lieutenant | anderson da silva | is a former liberal party member of the scottish parliament |.  
captain | david jones | is a baseball recipient of the fc lokomotiv liski |.  
... ... ... ...
4. william | " billy " watson | 1913 | 1917 | was an american | football player  
john william | smith | ( | c. 1900 | in surrey, england | was an australian | rules footballer  
james " | jim " edward | 1913 | - | british columbia | ) | is an american | defenceman  
... ... ... ...
5. who plays for | collingwood | in the victorial football league | vfl  
who currently plays for | st kilda | of the national football league | afl  
who played with | carlton | and the australian football league | nfl |.  
... ... ... ...
6. aftab ahmed | is a member of the knesset  
anderson da silva | is a former party member of the scottish parliament |.  
david jones | is a female recipient of the fc lokomotiv liski |.  
... ... ... ...

# What's Good about these “Templates”?

2) We can use them to control generation:

- Select a template  $z^{(i)} = z_1^{(i)}, \dots, z_S^{(i)}$
- Generate by computing  $\arg \max_y p(y, z = z^{(i)} | x)$
- Gives a different generation for each  $z^{(i)}$ 
  - (Examples in a few slides...)

# Generation Recap

- 1) Viterbi-segment the training data
- 2) Collect frequent “templates”  $z^{(i)} = z_1^{(i)}, \dots, z_S^{(i)}$
- 3) Given a new input  $x$ , generate by finding  $\arg \max_y p(y, z^{(i)} | x)$  for a chosen template  $z^{(i)}$

# Methods

- 1) Condition RNNs on latent state by concatenating state-embedding to RNN input
- 2) Helpful to train with hard constraints: disallow splitting up segments appearing in tables
- 3) Segment RNNs can condition on all preceding *tokens*

# E2E Validation Results

(Val)	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE	CIDEr	METEOR
D&J (2017)	69.25	8.48	72.57	2.40	47.03
Substitution BL					
Neural Template					

- D&J (2017) is an enc/dec + reranker system used in the E2E Challenge
- Substitution BL finds maximally similar training table and performs substitution in corresponding description
- K=60; 1x300 LSTM as segment models
- Used 100 most common  $z^{(i)}$  and selected highest overall scorer

# E2E Validation Results

(Val)	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE	CIDEr	METEOR
D&J (2017)	69.25	8.48	72.57	2.40	47.03
Substitution BL	43.71	6.72	55.35	1.41	37.87
Neural Template					

- D&J (2017) is an enc/dec + reranker system used in the E2E Challenge
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(Val)	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE	CIDEr	METEOR
D&J (2017)	69.25	8.48	72.57	2.40	47.03
Substitution BL	43.71	6.72	55.35	1.41	37.87
Neural Template	67.07	7.98	69.50	2.29	43.07

- D&J (2017) is an enc/dec + reranker system used in the E2E Challenge
- Substitution BL finds maximally similar training table and performs substitution in corresponding description
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- Used 100 most common  $z^{(i)}$  and selected highest overall scorer

# E2E Test Results

(Val)	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE	CIDEr	METEOR
D&J (2017)	65.93	8.59	68.50	2.23	44.83
Substitution BL	43.78	6.88	54.64	1.39	37.35
Neural Template	59.80	7.56	65.01	1.95	38.75

- D&J (2017) is an enc/dec + reranker system used in the E2E Challenge
- Substitution BL finds maximally similar training table and performs substitution in corresponding description
- K=60; 1x300 LSTM as segment models
- Used 100 most common  $z^{(i)}$  and selected highest overall scorer

# WikiBio Results

	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE-4
Template KN	19.8	5.19	10.7
NNLM (field)	33.4	7.52	23.9
NNLM (field & word)	34.7	7.98	25.8
Neural Template	34.8	7.59	38.6

- Encoder/decoder and template-style baselines from Lebret et al. (2016)
- K=45; 1x300 LSTMs as segment/history models
- Used 100 most common  $z^{(i)}$  and selected highest overall scorer

# WikiBio Results

	BLEU	NIST	ROUGE-4
Template KN	19.8	5.19	10.7
NNLM (field)	33.4	7.52	23.9
NNLM (field & word)	34.7	7.98	25.8
Neural Template	34.8	7.59	38.6
Liu et al. (2018)	43.7	-	40.3

- Encoder/decoder and template-style baselines from Lebret et al. (2016)
- K=45; 1x300 LSTMs as segment/history models
- Used 100 most common  $z^{(i)}$  and selected highest overall scorer

# Controllability Example (E2E)

`z = 55, 59, 43, 11, 25, 50,  
53`

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> 3 star<sub>43</sub> restaurant<sub>11</sub>  
located near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

<b>Name</b>	Travellers Rest Beefeater
<b>Customer Rating</b>	3 out of 5
<b>Area</b>	riverside
<b>Near</b>	Raja Indian Cuisine

# Controllability Example (E2E)

$z = 31, 29, 44, 55, 3, 50,$   
 $1, 2$

Name	Travellers Rest Beefeater
Customer Rating	3 out of 5
Area	riverside
Near	Raja Indian Cuisine

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> 3 star<sub>43</sub> restaurant<sub>11</sub> located near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

Near<sub>31</sub> riverside<sub>29 · 44</sub> Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> serves<sub>3</sub> 3 star<sub>50</sub> food<sub>1 · 2</sub>

# Controllability Example (E2E)

$z = 55, 59, 12, 3, 50, 1, 17,$   
 $26, 16, 2, 8, 25, 40, 53$

Name	Travellers Rest Beefeater
Customer Rating	3 out of 5
Area	riverside
Near	Raja Indian Cuisine

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> 3 star<sub>43</sub> restaurant<sub>11</sub> located near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

Near<sub>31</sub> riverside<sub>29 · 44</sub> Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> serves<sub>3</sub> 3 star<sub>50</sub> food<sub>1 · 2</sub>

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> restaurant<sub>12</sub> providing<sub>3</sub> riverside<sub>50</sub> food<sub>1</sub> and has a<sub>17</sub> 3 out of 5<sub>26</sub> customer rating<sub>16 · 2</sub>. It is<sub>8</sub> near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

# Controllability Example (E2E)

Name	Travellers Rest Beefeater
Customer Rating	3 out of 5
Area	riverside
Near	Raja Indian Cuisine

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> 3 star<sub>43</sub> restaurant<sub>11</sub> located near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

Near<sub>31</sub> riverside<sub>29 · 44</sub> Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> serves<sub>3</sub> 3 star<sub>50</sub> food<sub>1 · 2</sub>

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> restaurant<sub>12</sub> providing<sub>3</sub> riverside<sub>50</sub> food<sub>1</sub> and has a<sub>17</sub> 3 out of 5<sub>26</sub> customer rating<sub>16 · 2</sub>. It is<sub>8</sub> near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> place to eat<sub>12</sub> located near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

Travellers Rest Beefeater<sub>55</sub> is a<sub>59</sub> 3 out of 5<sub>5</sub> rated<sub>32</sub> riverside<sub>43</sub> restaurant<sub>11</sub> near<sub>25</sub> Raja Indian Cuisine<sub>40 · 53</sub>

# Interpretability Example (WikiBio)

Jimmy Deacon		
Personal information		
<b>Full name</b>	James Deacon	
<b>Date of birth</b>	23 January 1906	
<b>Place of birth</b>	<a href="#">Glasgow, Scotland</a>	
<b>Date of death</b>	1976 (aged 69–70)	
<b>Height</b>	5 ft 7 in (1.70 m)	
<b>Playing position</b>	Forward	
Senior career*		
Years	Team	Apps (Gls)
	Darlington	2 (-)
1929–1934	<a href="#">Wolverhampton Wanderers</a>	149 (52)
1934–1939	<a href="#">Southend United</a>	100 (3)
1939–1940	<a href="#">Hartlepool</a>	- (-)

\* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only

james deacon<sub>42</sub> (born<sub>30</sub> 23 january 1906<sub>11</sub>)<sub>22</sub>  
was a<sub>14</sub> scottish<sub>8</sub> football<sub>19</sub> forward<sub>24</sub> · 43

Yang Sung-chul	
<b>Born</b>	20 November 1939 (age 78) <a href="#">Gokseong County, Jeollanam-do</a>
<b>Citizenship</b>	South Korea
<b>Alma mater</b>	<a href="#">Seoul National University</a> <a href="#">University of Hawaii at Manoa</a> <a href="#">University of Kentucky</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	Political scientist
<b>Employer</b>	Graduate School of International Studies, <a href="#">Korea University</a>
<b>Known for</b>	Member of the <a href="#">National Assembly</a> Ambassador to the United States
<b>Political party</b>	<a href="#">National Congress for New Politics</a>
<b>Children</b>	Two

yang sung-chul<sub>42</sub> (born<sub>30</sub> 20 november 1939<sub>11</sub>)<sub>21</sub> in<sub>21</sub> gokseong county, jeollanam-do<sub>39</sub>)<sub>22</sub> is a<sub>14</sub> south korean<sub>8</sub> political scientist<sub>24</sub> · 43

## **Interpretability and Robustness in Generation**

- End-to-end modeling gives accurate and natural responses.
- Discrete structure provides high-precision guarantees.
- System is post-hoc checkable and adjustable by humans.

- 1 Background: Text Generation and Seq2Seq
- 2 Controlling Generation
- 3 Learning Neural Templates
- 4 Conclusion

## **Conclusion**

- Discrete latent variables are a natural fit for NLP
- Methods can be integrated naturally into many problems.
- Tools for training these approaches are coming along fast. (Pyro, Edward, etc.)
- Also check out our tutorial: Deep Latent-Variable NLP [bit.do/lvnlp](https://bit.do/lvnlp)