

# Question Answering Over Knowledge Graph

Lei Zou



北京大学



# Knowledge Graph

Google launches **Knowledge Graph** project at 2012.

The image is a screenshot of a Google search results page for 'Peking University'. At the top, the Google logo is on the left, the search bar contains 'Peking University', and there are icons for voice search and a magnifying glass. On the right, there is a 'Sign In' button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'All', 'Maps', 'Images', 'News', 'Videos', 'More', 'Settings', and 'Tools'. The 'All' tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says 'About 3,630,000 results (1.07 seconds)'. The search results are listed on the left, and a Knowledge Graph panel is on the right.

**Peking University**  
english.pku.edu.cn/ ▼  
China Exclusive: Carbon-based transistors look to boost China's chip industry. JUL 31. Ambassador of Vietnam to China, Deng Mingkui, visits Peking University.  
[Admission](#) · [Schools & Departments](#) · [International Students](#) · [Peking University](#)

**Schools & Departments - Peking University**  
english.pku.edu.cn/schoolsdepartments/index.htm ▼  
Institute of Ocean Research · school of software & microelectronics · School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science · ShenZhen Graduate School ...

**International Students - Peking University**  
english.pku.edu.cn/Admission/international\_students/whyphu/index.htm ▼  
According to the latest data published by the ESI (Essential Science Indicators), Peking University, among universities and research institutions worldwide, ...

**Peking University - Wikipedia**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking\\_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking_University) ▼  
Peking University is a major Chinese research university located in Beijing and a member of the C9 League. Peking University is consistently ranked as the top ...  
[History](#) · [Academics](#) · [Campus, art and culture](#) · [Peking University](#) ...

[Peking University World University Rankings | THE](#)

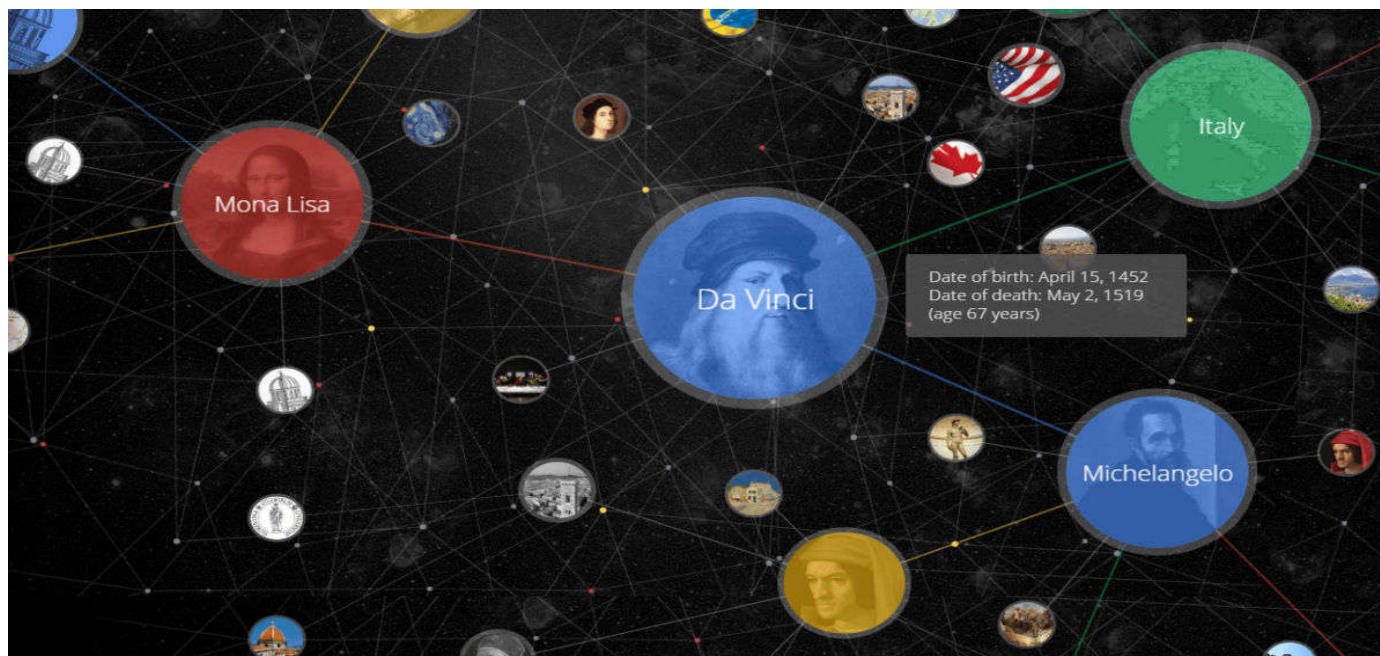
**Peking University**  
University in Beijing, China  
[Website](#) [Directions](#)

Peking University is a major Chinese research university located in Beijing and a member of the C9 League. Peking University is consistently ranked as the top academic institution in China. [Wikipedia](#)

**Address:** 5 Yiheyuan Rd, Haidian Qu, Beijing Shi, China, 100080  
**Total enrollment:** 32,777 (2012)  
**President:** Lin Jianhua (林建华)  
**Phone:** +86 10 6275 1201

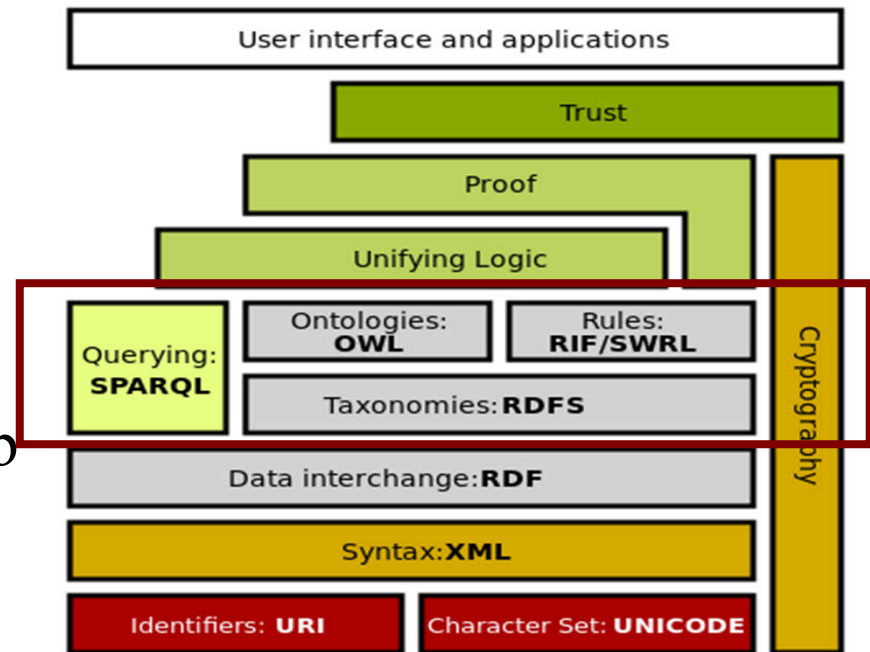
# Knowledge Graph

Essentially, KG is a semantic network, which models **the entities (including properties) and the relation between each other.**



# Resource Description Framework (RDF)

- RDF is an **de facto standard** for Knowledge Graph (KG).
- RDF is a **language** for the conceptual modeling of information about web resources
- A **building block** of semantic web
- Make the information on the web and the interrelationships among them "**Machine Understandable**"



# RDF & SPARQL

## RDF Datasets

| Subject                        | Predicate   | Object              |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Resident_Evil:_Retributi<br>on | type        | film                |
| Resident_Evil:_Retributi<br>on | budget      | "6.5E7"             |
| Resident_Evil:_Retributi<br>on | director    | Paul_W._S._Anderson |
| Paul_W._S._Anderson            | type        | director            |
| Resident_Evil                  | director    | Paul_W._S._Anderson |
| Paul_Anderson_(actor)          | type        | actor               |
| The_Revenant                   | strarring   | Philadelphia        |
| Priestley Medal                | awards      | Paul S. Anderson    |
| Maclovioa_(1948_film)          | distributor | Filmex              |

"What is the budget of the film directed by Paul Anderson ?."

## SPARQL

```
SELECT ?y WHERE
{
  ?x director Paul_W._S._Anderson .
  ?x type film .
  ?x budget ?y.
}
```

# Interdisciplinary Research

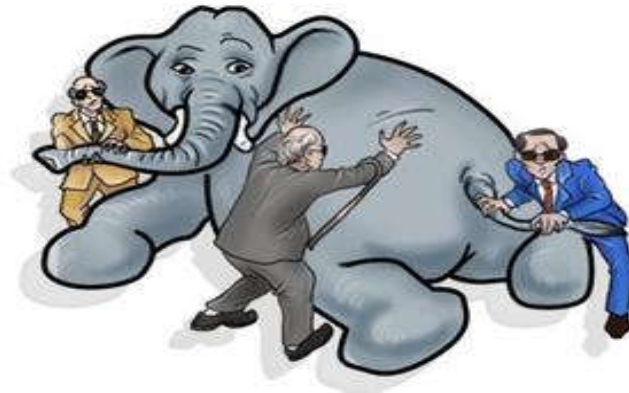
## Database

RDF Database

Data Integration 、 Knowledge Fusion

## Natural Language Processing

Information Extraction  
Semantic Parsing



## Machine Learning

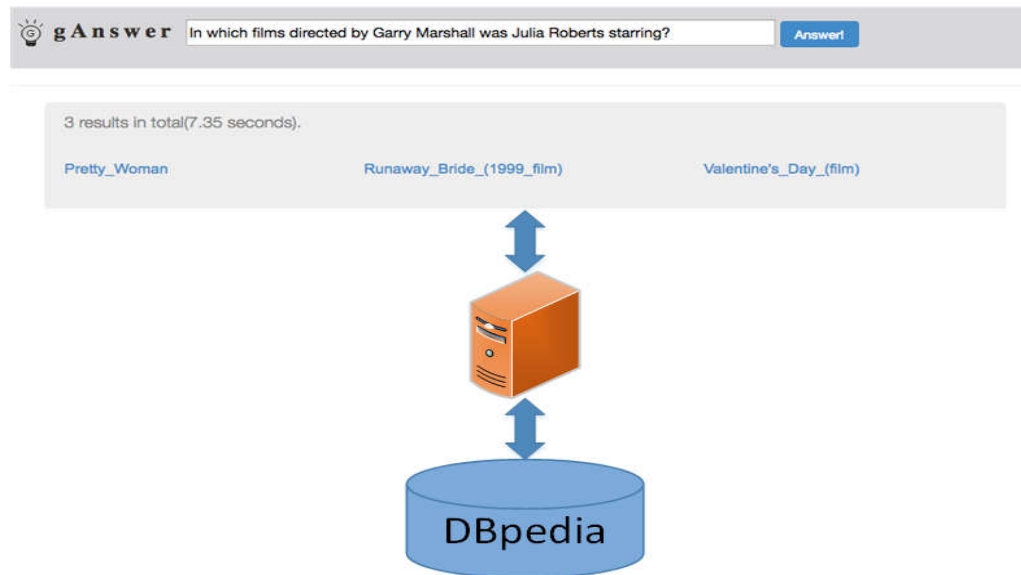
Knowledge  
Representation  
(Graph Embedding)

## Knowledge Engineering

KB construction  
Rule-based Reasoning

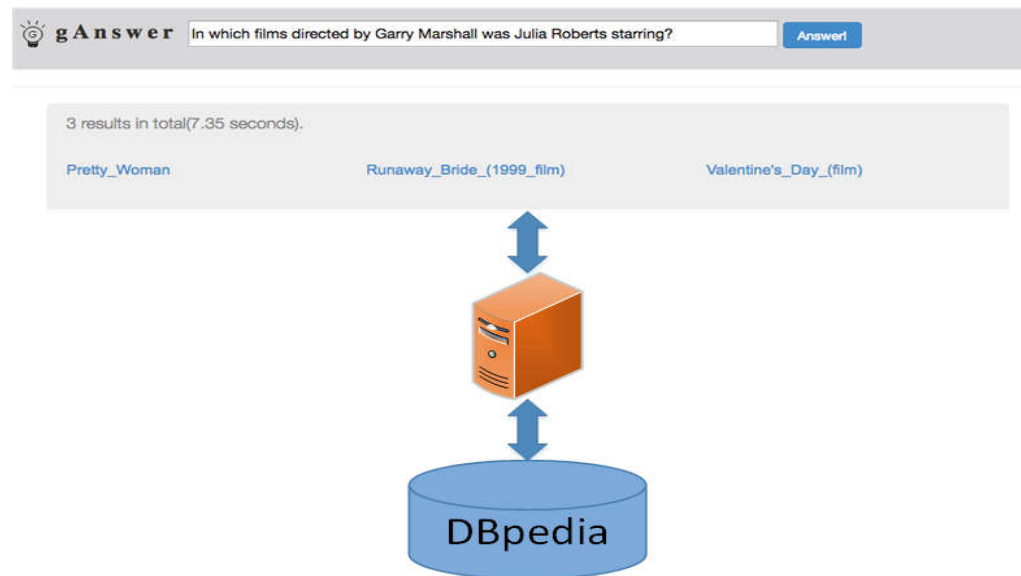
# KG-based Question/Answering

- SPARQL syntax are too complex for ordinary users
- RDF KG is “**schema-less**” data, not like schema-first relational database.



# KG-based Question/Answering

- An **Easy-to-Use** Interface to Access Knowledge Graph
- It is interesting to both **academia** and **industry**.
- **Interdisciplinary research** between database and NLP (natural language processing) communities.





# KG-based Question/Answering



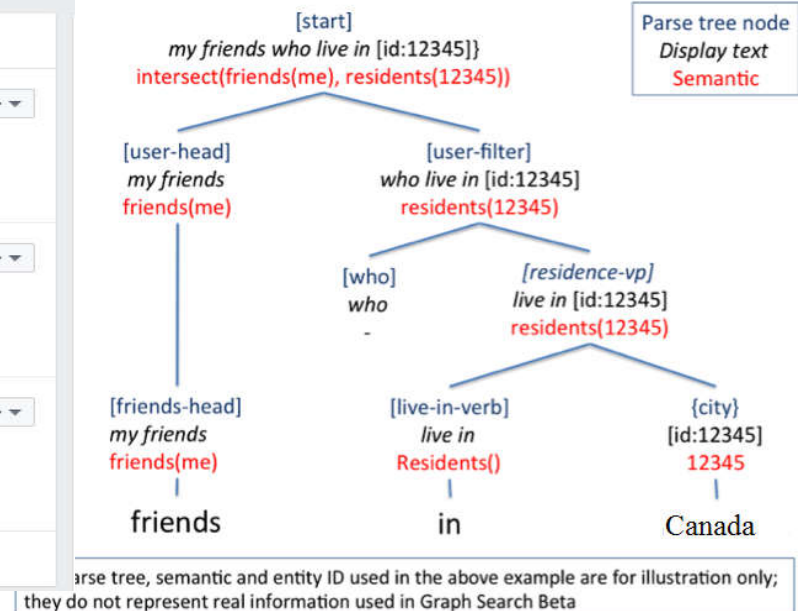
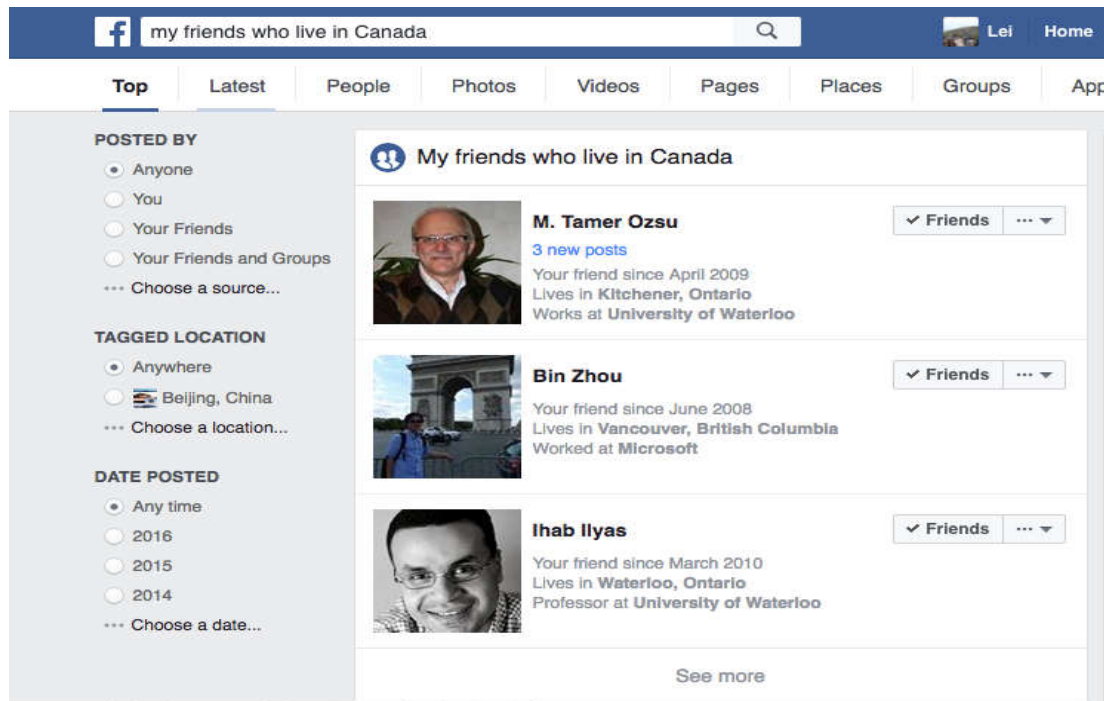
Oren Etzioni, AAIL Fellow

"(Researchers) They must invest much more in bold strategies that can achieve **natural-language searching and answering**"  
---Oren Etzioni, Search needs a shake up, NATURE, Vol 476, p25-26, 2011.

# Facebook Graph Search

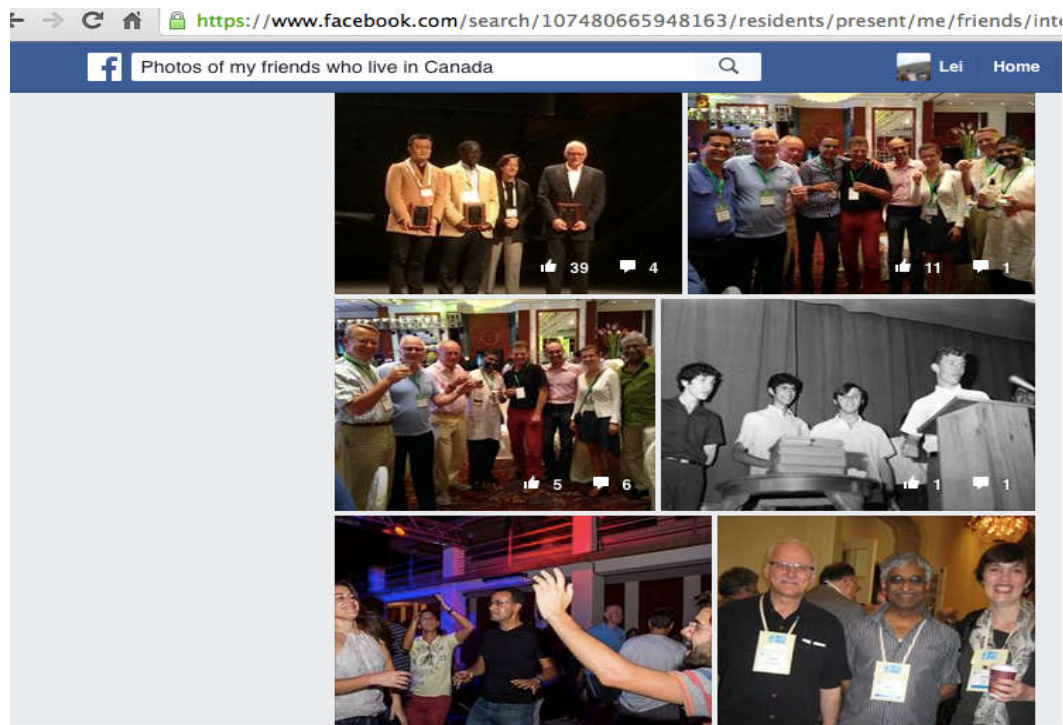
“My friends who live in Canada”

“ Facebook Graph Search”  
-----announced by Mark  
Zuckerberg on January 16,  
2013

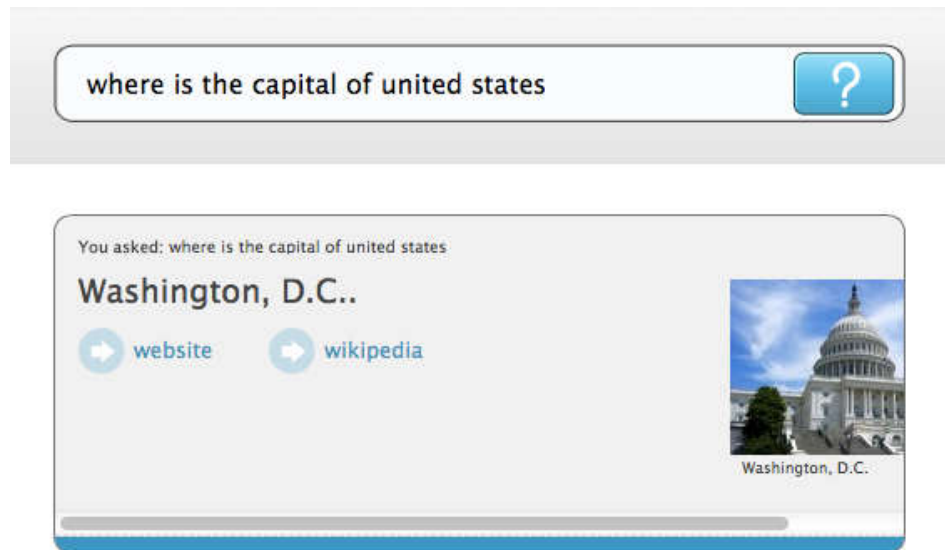


# Facebook Graph Search

"Photos of my friends who live in Canada"



# EVI---(originally, True Knowledge)



|         | Venture Capital    |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2007-09 | 1.2 Million USD    |
| 2008-07 | 4 Million USD      |
| 2012-01 | Acquired by Amazon |

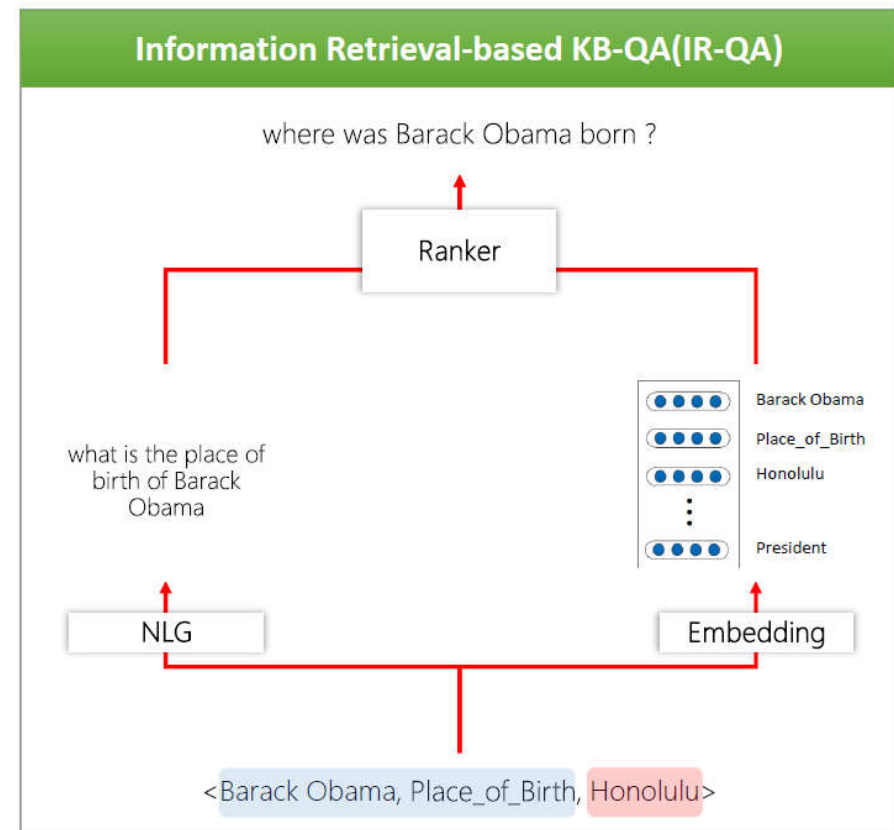
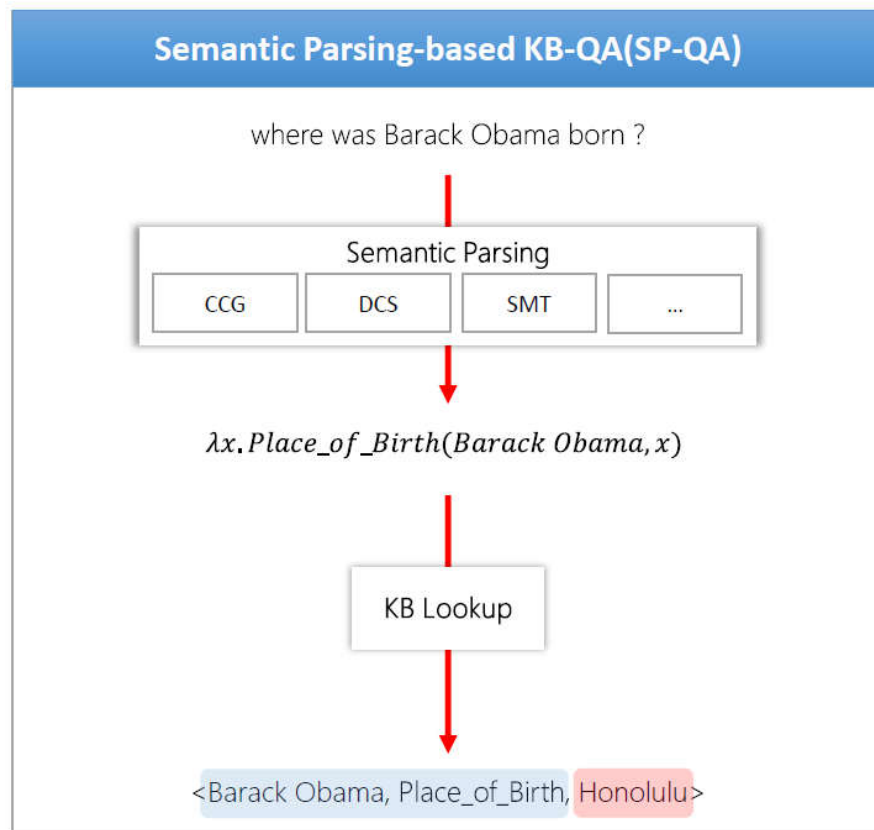
William Tunstall-Pedoe: *True Knowledge: Open-Domain Question Answering using Structured Knowledge and Inference*. AI Magazine 31(3): 80-92 (2010)

# KG-based Question/Answering

- Information Retrieval-based
  - Generate candidate answers
  - Ranking
- Semantic Parsing-based
  - Translate NLQ to logical forms
  - Executing

# Knowledge-based QA (KB-QA)

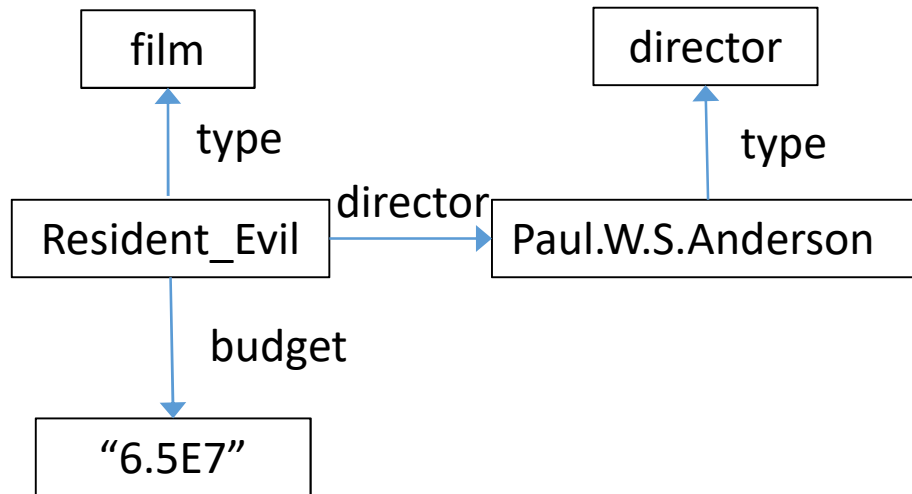
CCG: Combinatory Categorical Grammar  
DCS: Dependency-based Compositional Semantics  
SMT: Statistical Machine Translation



(Cite: Nan Duan, MSRA)

# KG-based Question/Answering

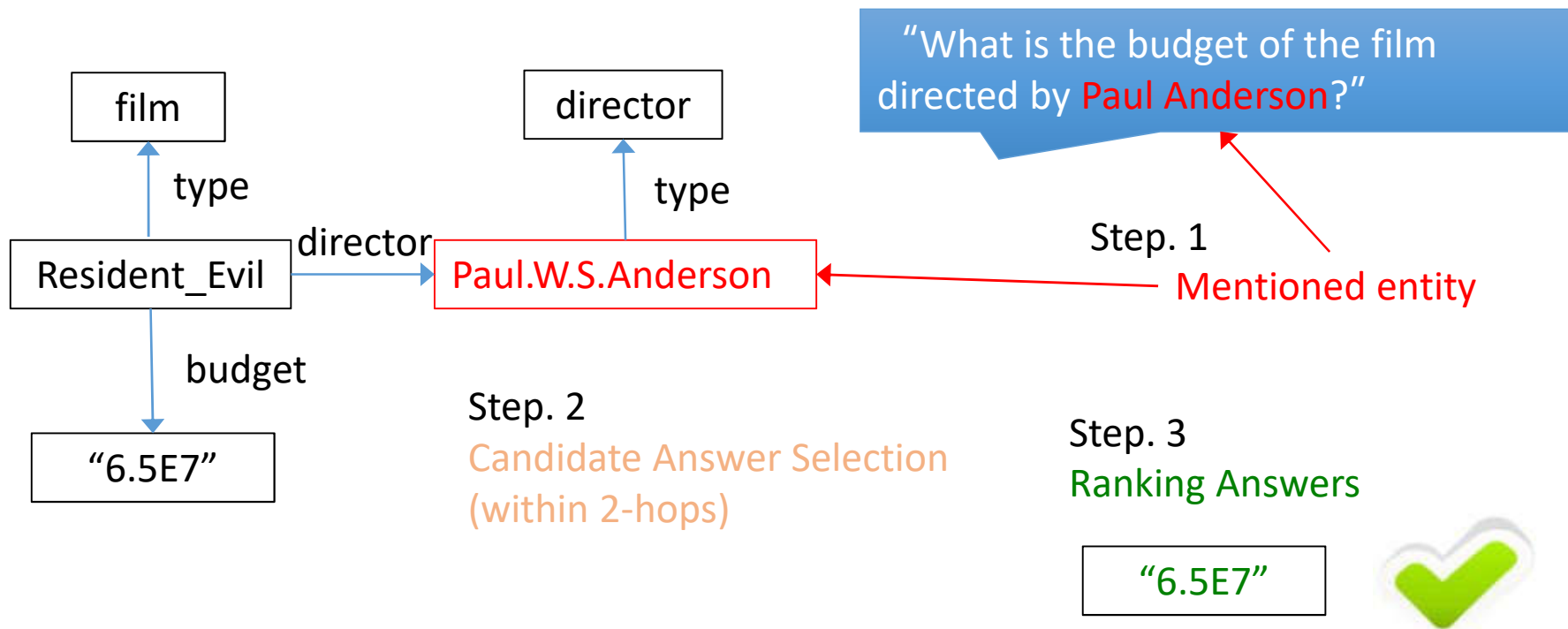
- Information Retrieval-based



"What is the budget of the film directed by Paul Anderson?"

# KG-based Question/Answering

- Information Retrieval-based





# Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings [Bordes et al. EMNLP 2014]

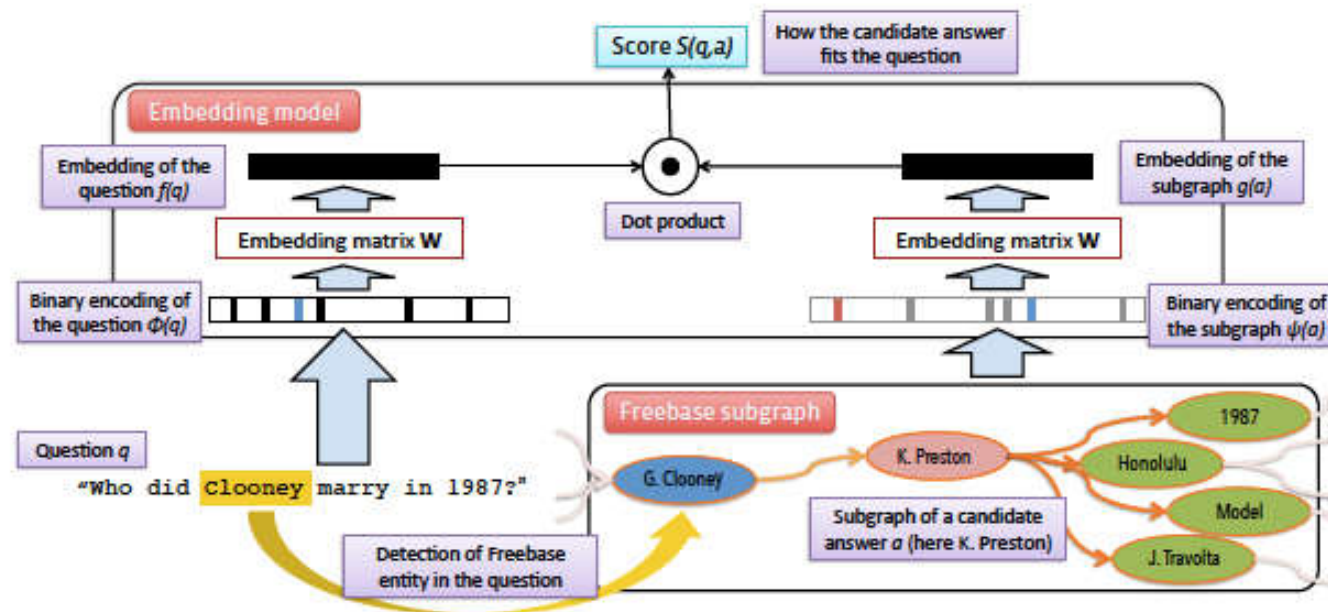


Figure 1: Illustration of the subgraph embedding model scoring a candidate answer: (i) locate entity in the question; (ii) compute path from entity to answer; (iii) represent answer as path plus all connected entities to the answer (the subgraph); (iv) embed both the question and the answer subgraph separately using the learnt embedding vectors, and score the match via their dot product.

## Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings [Bordes et al. EMNLP 2014]

Let  $W$  be a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{k \times N}$

$k$ : the dimension of the embedding space

$N$ :  $N = N_W + N_S$

$N_W$  is the number of words

$N_S$  is the number of entities and relation types

Embedding a question  $q$

$$f(q) = W\phi(q)$$

$\phi(q)$  is a sparse vector indicating the presence of words (usually 0 or 1).

# Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings

## [Bordes et al. EMNLP 2014]

Embedding a candidate answer  $a$

$$g(a) = W\varphi(a)$$

$\varphi(a)$  is a sparse vector  
representation of the answer  $a$

- **Single Entity**

The answer is represented as a single entity:

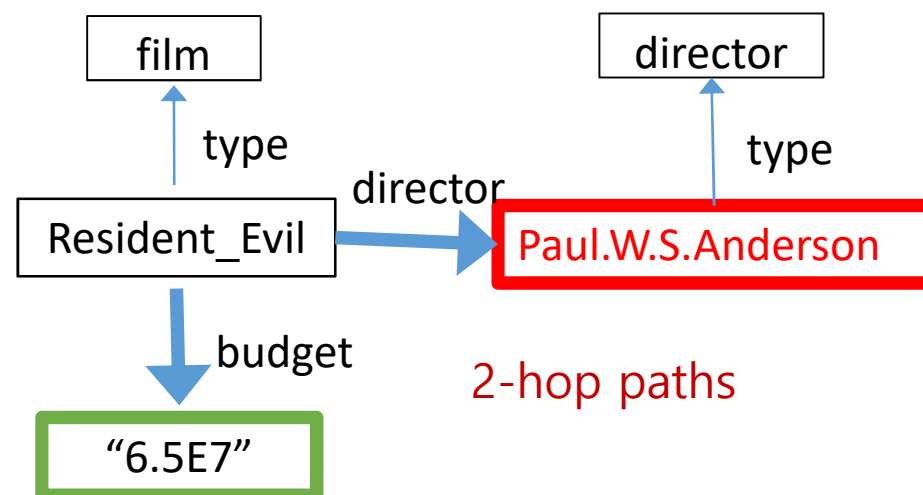
$\varphi(a)$  is a 1-of-Ns coded vector with 1 corresponding the answer.

- **Path Representation**

The answer is represented as a path from the entity mentioned in the question to the answer entity  $a$ .

$\varphi(a)$  is a 3-of-Ns (or 4-of-Ns) coded vector, expressing the start and the end entities of the path and the relation types (but not entities) in-between.

Candidate  
Answer



# Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings

## [Bordes et al. EMNLP 2014]

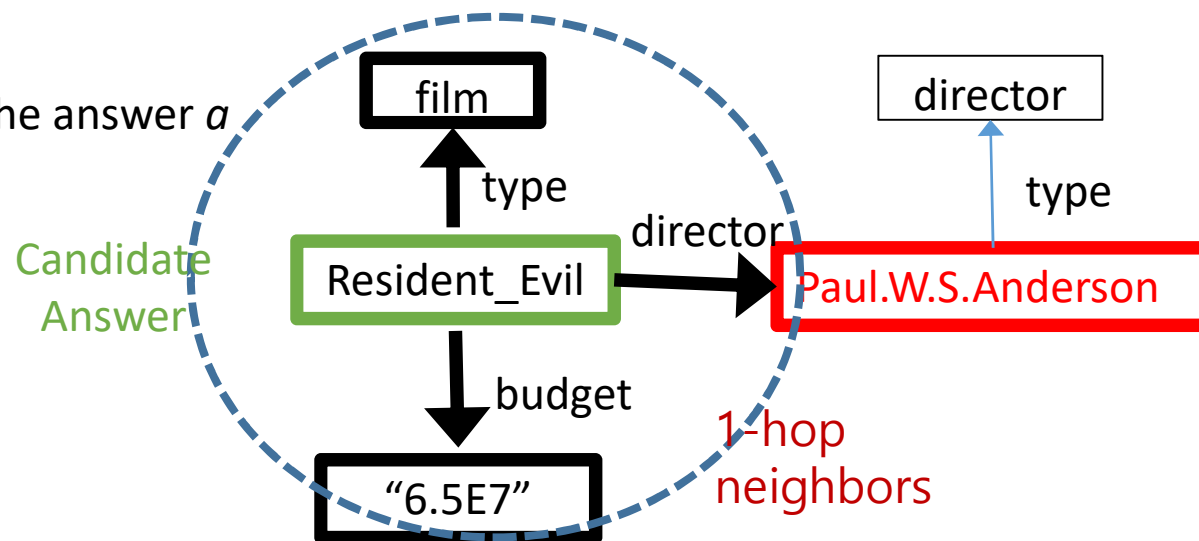
Embedding a candidate answer  $a$

$$g(a) = W\varphi(a)$$

$\varphi(a)$  is a sparse vector  
representation of the answer  $a$

- **Subgraph Representation**

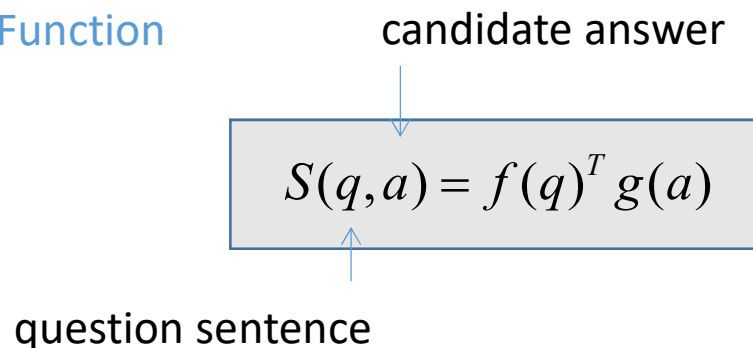
The answer is represented both the path  
and 1-hop neighbors around the answer  $a$ .



# Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings

[Bordes et al. EMNLP 2014]

Scoring Function



The loss function

$$\sum_{i=1}^{|D|} \sum_{a' \in A'(a_i)} \max \{0, m - S(q_i, a_i) + S(q_i, a')\}$$

$A'(a_i)$  is a set of incorrect candidates to question  $q$ .

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

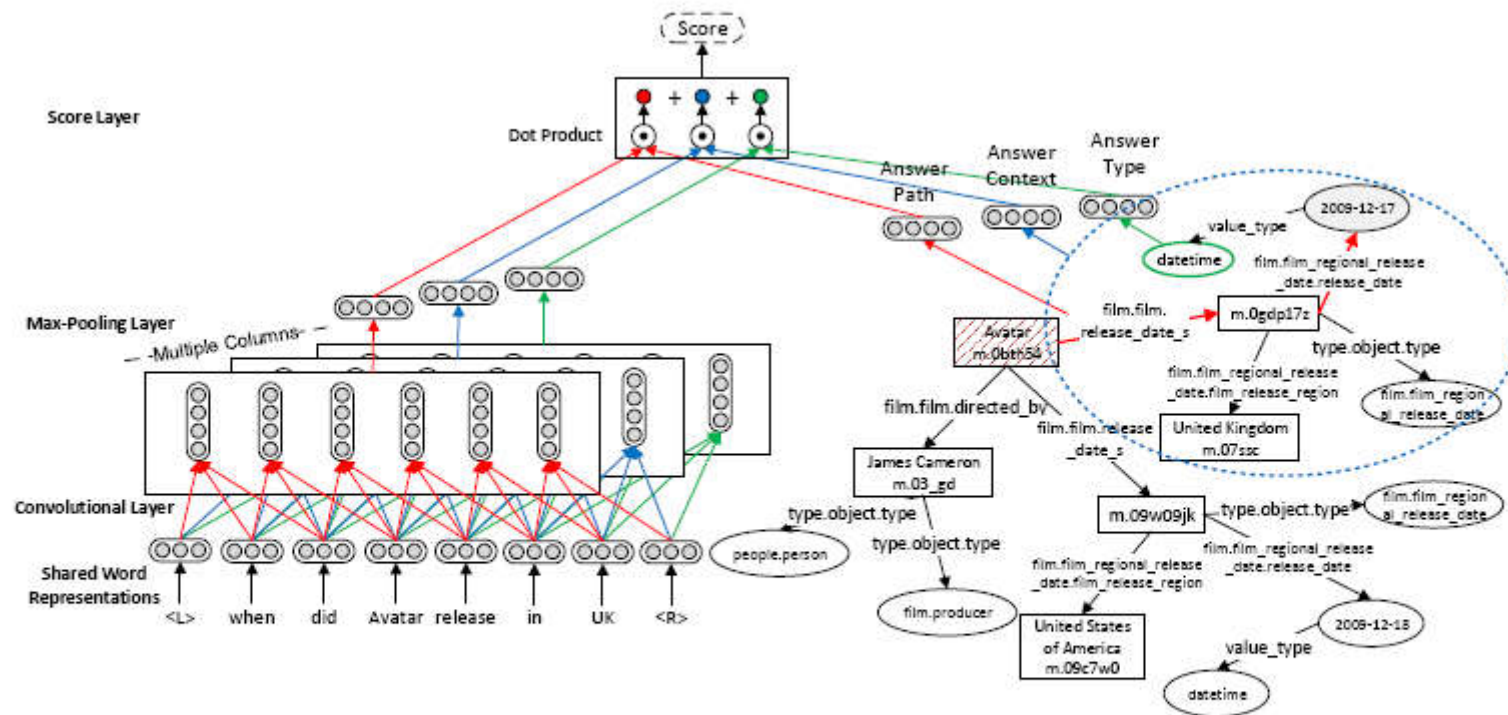


Figure 1: Overview for the question-answer pair (*when did Avatar release in UK, 2009-12-17*). Left: network architecture for question understanding. Right: embedding candidate answers.

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

## Scoring Function

question sentence

candidate answer

$$S(q, a) = f_1(q)^T g_1(a) + f_2(q)^T g_2(a) + f_3(q)^T g_3(a)$$

answer path

answer context

answer type

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

MCCNNs for  
Question Understanding

Let the question  $q = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$

The **look layer transform** every word into a vector

$$w_j = W_v u(w_j)$$

$$W_v \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v \times |V|},$$

$d_v$  is the word embedding dimension and

$|V|$  is the vocabulary size



# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

MCCNNs for  
Question Understanding

Let the question  $q = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$

The **convolutional layer** computes representation of  
the words in sliding windows.

$$x_j = h(W[w_{j-s}^T \dots w_j^T \dots w_{j+s}^T] + b)$$

The **max-pooling layer**

$$f(q) = \max_{j=1, \dots, n} \{x_j\}$$

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

## Embedding Candidate Answers

### Answer Path

$$g_1(a) = \frac{1}{\|u_p(a)\|_1} W_p u_p(a)$$

$u_p(a)$  is a length- $|R|$  binary vector,  
indicating the presence or absence of  
every relation in the answer path.

$W_p \in \mathbb{R}^{d_q \times |R|}$  is the parameter matrix

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

## Embedding Candidate Answers

### Answer Context

The 1-hop entities and relations connected to the answer path are regarded as the *answer context*.

$$g_2(a) = \frac{1}{\|u_c(a)\|_1} W_c u_c(a)$$

$u_c(a)$  is a length- $|C|$  binary vector,  
indicating the presence or absence of  
every entity or relation in the context.

$W_c \in \mathbb{R}^{d_q \times |C|}$  is the parameter matrix

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

## Embedding Candidate Answers

### Answer Type

Type information is an important clue to score candidate answers.

$$g_3(a) = \frac{1}{\|u_t(a)\|_1} W_t u_t(a)$$

$u_t(a)$  is a length- $|T|$  binary vector,  
indicating the presence or absence of  
answer type.

$W_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_t \times |T|}$  is the parameter matrix

# Question Answering over Freebase with Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks [Dong et al., ACL 2015]

## Model Training

For every correct answer  $a$  of the question  $q$ , we randomly sample  $k$  wrong  $a'$  from the set of candidate answers, and use them as the negative instances to estimate parameters.

$$l(q, a, a') = (m - S(q, a) + S(q, a'))_+$$

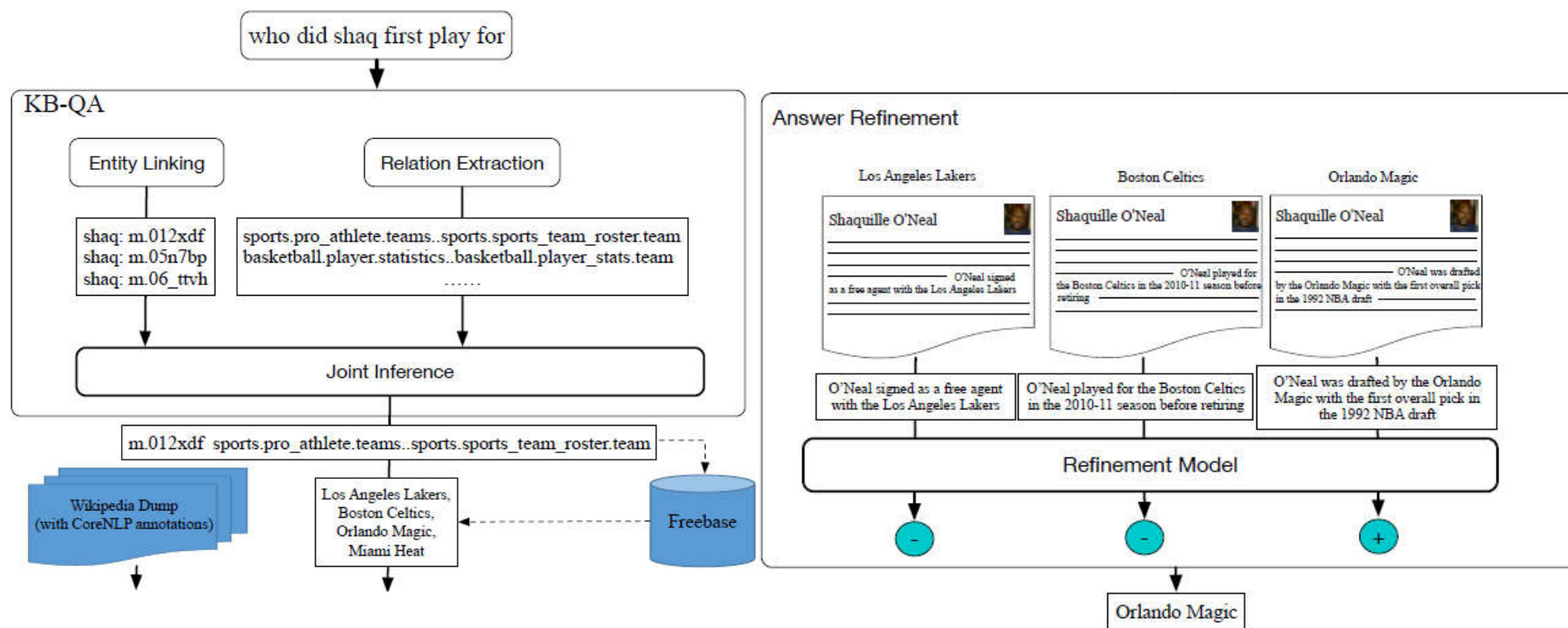
$$\min \sum_q \frac{1}{|A_q|} \sum_{a \in A_q} \sum_{a' \in R_q} l(q, a, a')$$

$$R_q \subseteq C_q \setminus A_q$$

$A_q$  is the correct answer set to question  $q$ .

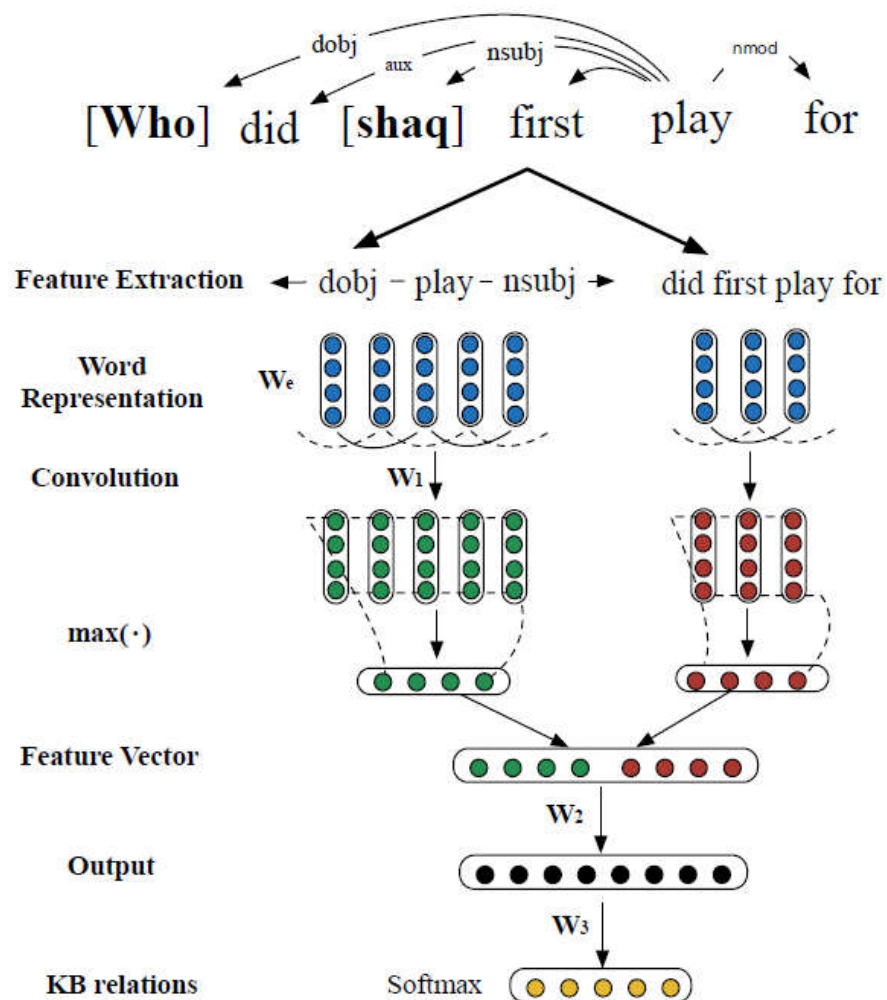
$C_q$  is the set of candidate answer set to question  $q$ .

# Question Answering on Freebase via Relation Extraction and Textual Evidence [Xu et al., ACL 2016]



# Question Answering on Freebase via Relation Extraction and Textual Evidence[Xu et al., ACL 2016]

## Relation Extraction



# Question Answering on Freebase via Relation Extraction and Textual Evidence[Xu et al., ACL 2016]

## Question Decomposition

"who plays ken barlow in coronation street? "

decompose



"who plays ken barlow"

+

"who plays in coronation street"

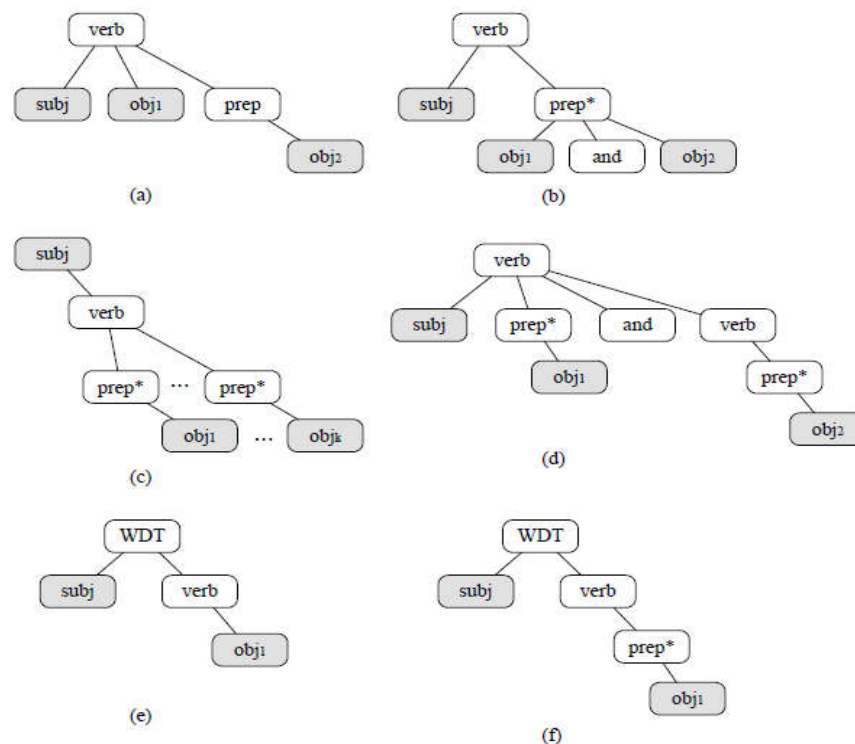


Figure 3: Syntax-based patterns for question decomposition.



# KG-based Question/Answering

- Information Retrieval-based
  - Generate candidate answers
  - Ranking
- Semantic Parsing-based
  - Translate NLQ to logical forms
  - Executing

# Semantic Parsing

[Zettlemoyer et al., UAI 05]

Transforming natural language (NL) sentences into computer executable complete meaning representations (MRs) for domain-specific applications.

E.g., “Which states borders New Mexico ?”



Lambda-calculus [Alonzo Church, 1940 ]

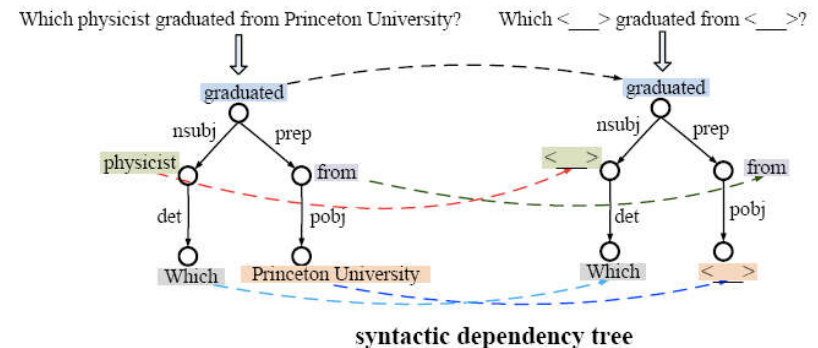
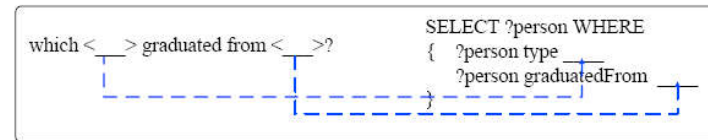
$\lambda x.state(x) \wedge borders(x, new\_mexico)$

“**Simply typed Lambda-calculus** can express various database query languages such as **relational algebra**, fixpoint logic and the complex object algebra.” [Hillebrand et al., 1996]

# Semantic Parsing

- **Manually constructed rules**  
[Pedoe, AI magazine 2010]
- **Grammar-based, e.g.,**  
Combinatory Categorical Grammar  
[Zettlemoyer and Collins, UAI 2005]
- **Supervised Learning**  
[Berant and Liang, ACL 2014]

Template



Template-based Approach [cite:  
Weiguo Zheng, Lei Zou, et al.,  
SIGMOD 15]

## Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base [Yih et al., ACL 2015]

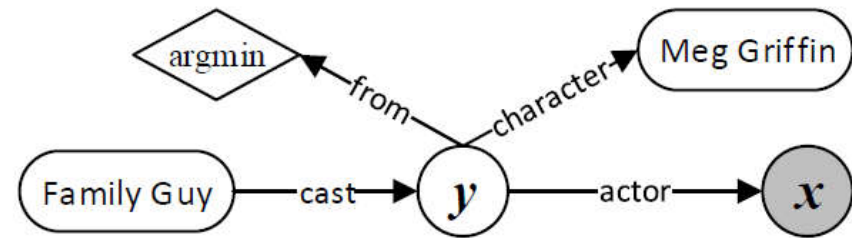
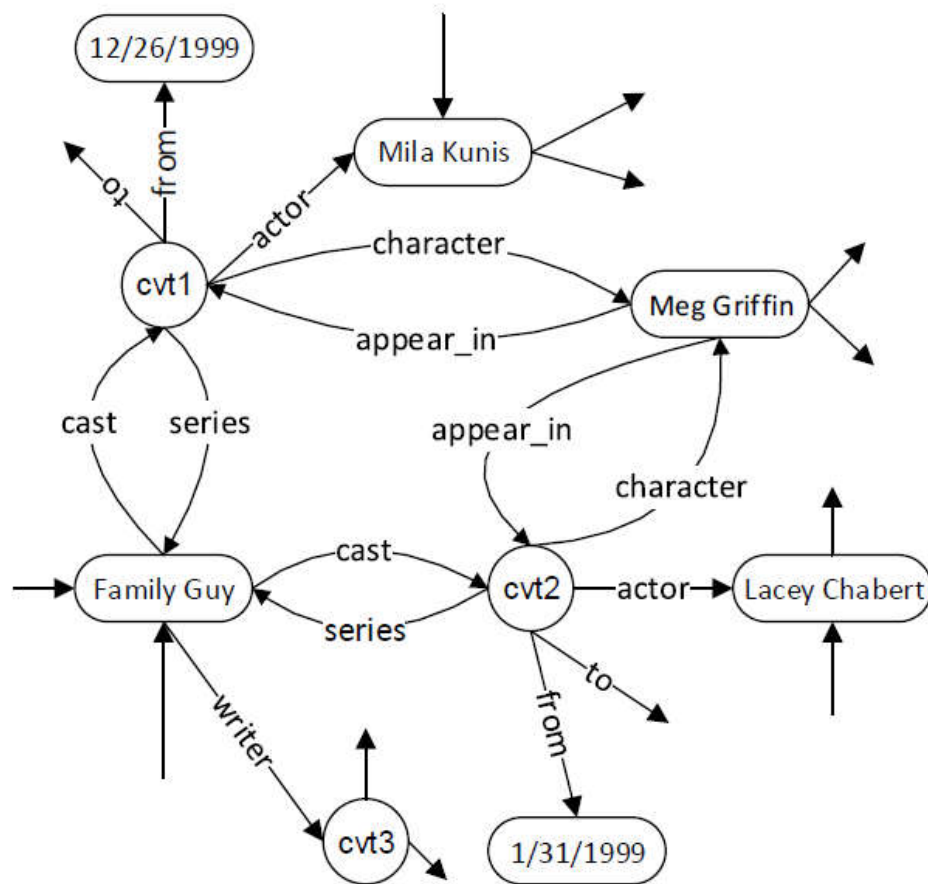


Figure 2: Query graph that represents the question "Who first voiced Meg on Family Guy?"

# Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base [Yih et al., ACL 2015]

## Query Graph Generation

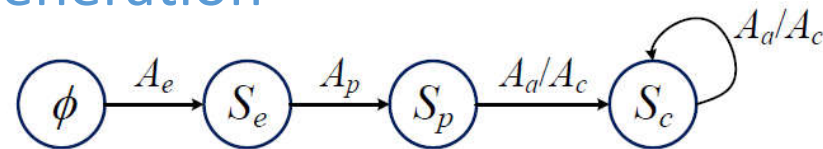


Figure 3: The legitimate actions to *grow* a query graph. See text for detail.

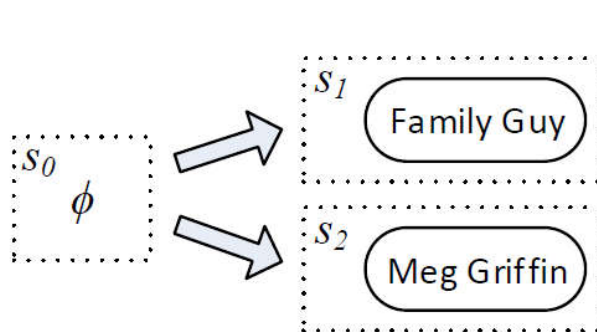


Figure 4: Two possible topic entity linking actions applied to an empty graph, for question “Who first voiced [Meg] on [Family Guy]?”

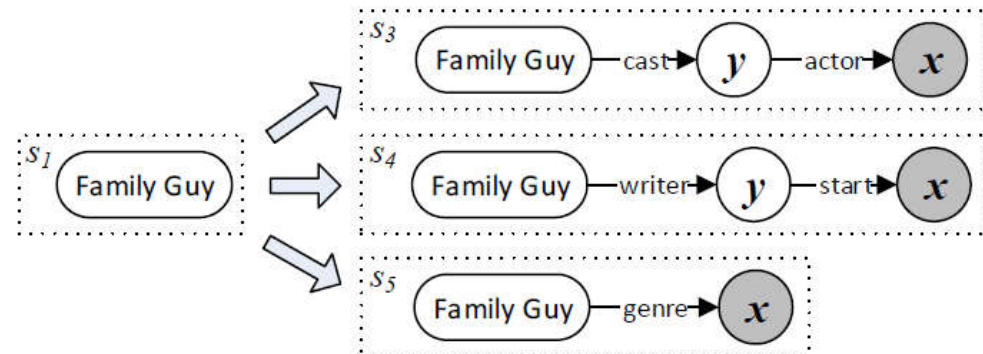


Figure 5: Candidate core inferential chains start from the entity FamilyGuy.

# Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base [Yih et al., ACL 2015]

## Query Graph Generation

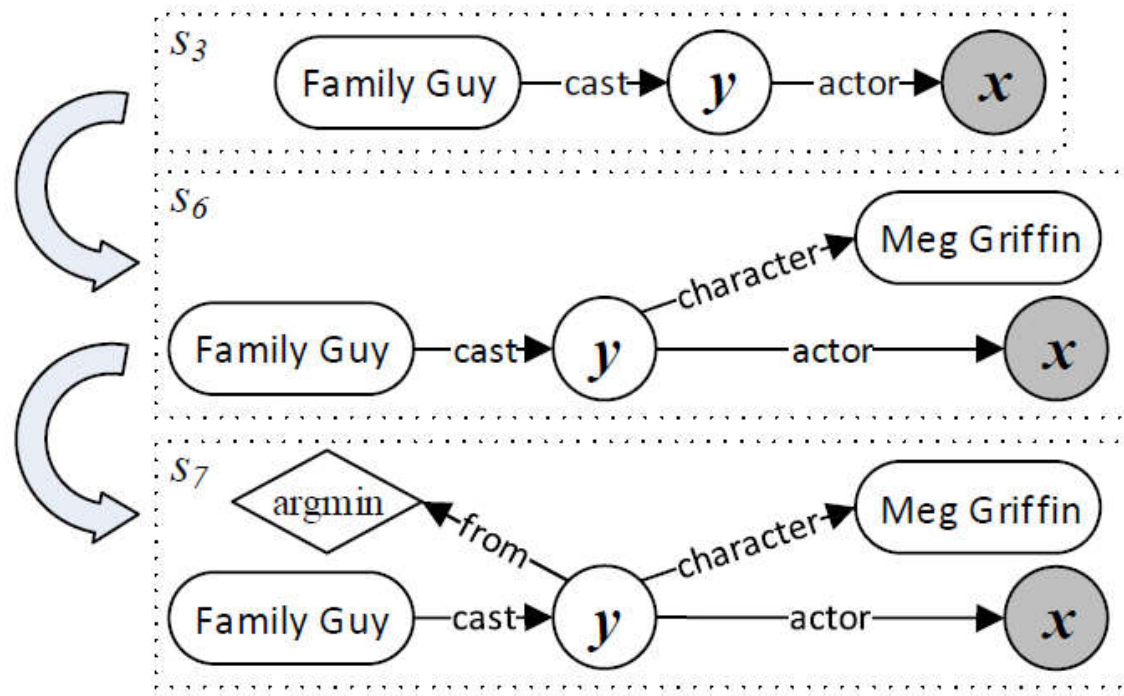


Figure 7: Extending an inferential chain with constraints and aggregation functions.



# Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base [Yih et al., ACL 2015]

## Reward Function

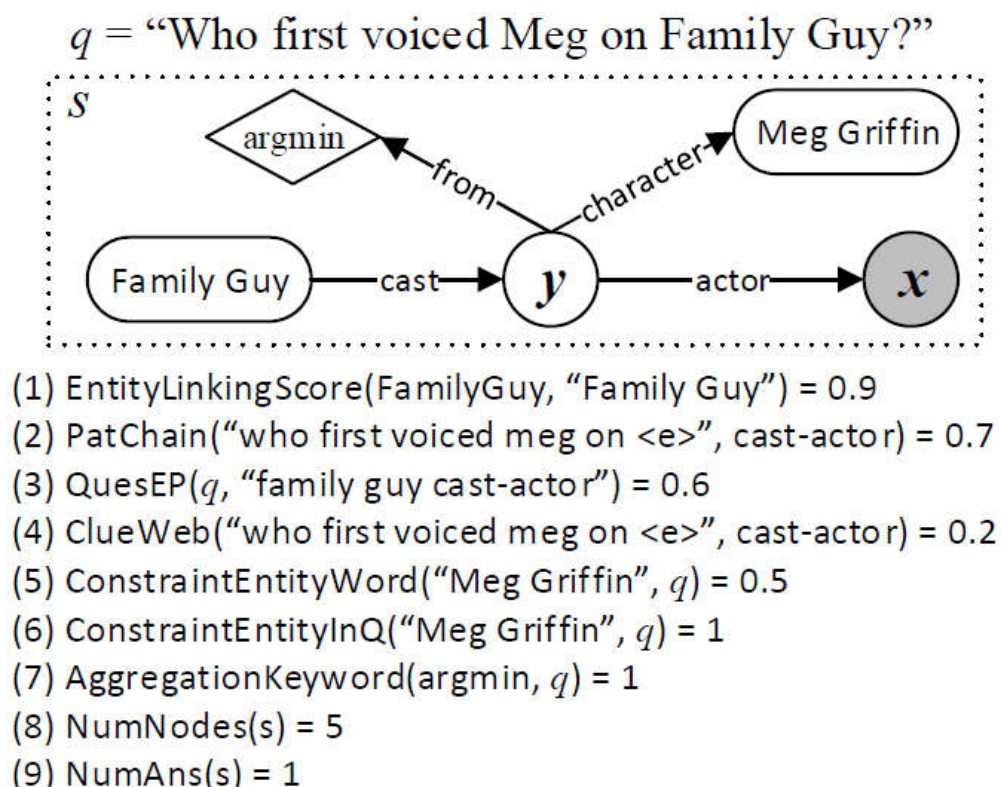


Figure 8: Active features of a query graph  $s$ . (1) is the entity linking score of the topic entity. (2)-(4) are different model scores of the core chain. (5) indicates 50% of the words in "Meg Griffin" appear in the question  $q$ . (6) is 1 when the mention "Meg" in  $q$  is correctly linked to MegGriffin by the entity linking component. (8) is the number of nodes in  $s$ . The knowledge base returns only 1 entity when issuing this query, so (9) is 1.

# Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base [Yih et al., ACL 2015]

## Identifying Core Inferential Chain (Relation Extraction)

two neural networks

- 1) question
- 2) inferential chain

Compute Similarity  
(e.g. cosine)

Semantic layer:  $y$

Semantic projection matrix:  $W_s$

Max pooling layer:  $v$

Max pooling operation

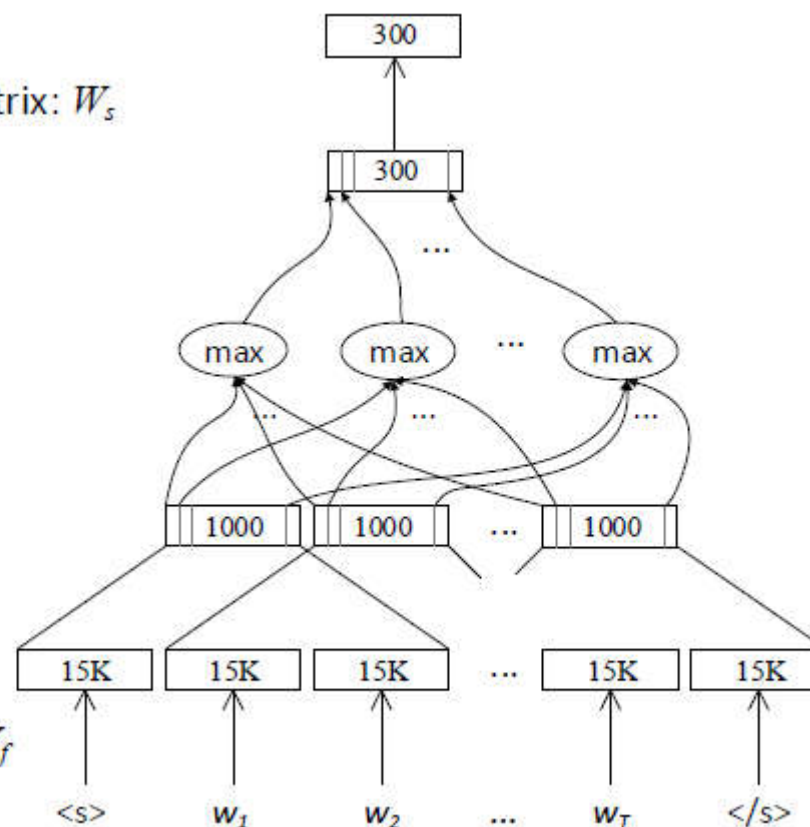
Convolutional layer:  $h_t$

Convolution matrix:  $W_c$

Word hashing layer:  $f_t$

Word hashing matrix:  $W_f$

Word sequence:  $x_t$





## Language to Logical Form with Neural Attention

[Dong et al., ACL 2016]

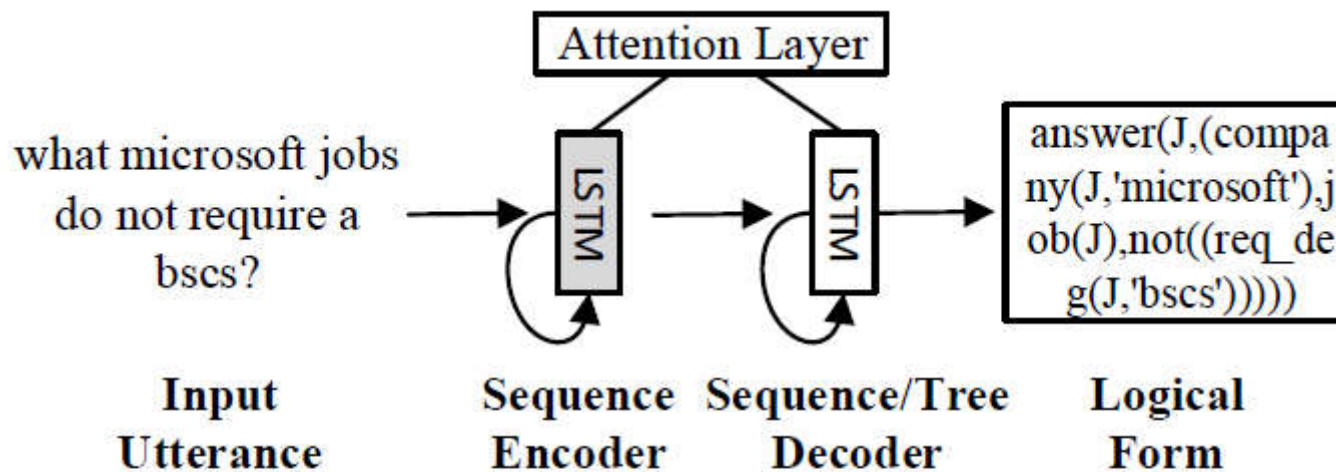


Figure 1: Input utterances and their logical forms are encoded and decoded with neural networks. An attention layer is used to learn soft alignments.

# Language to Logical Form with Neural Attention

## [Dong et al., ACL 2016]

*dallas to san francisco leaving after 4 in the afternoon please*

(lambda \$0 e (and (>(departure\_time \$0) 1600:ti) (from \$0 dallas:ci) (to \$0 san\_francisco:ci)))

---

### Algorithm 1 Decoding for SEQ2TREE

---

**Input:**  $q$ : Natural language utterance

**Output:**  $\hat{a}$ : Decoding result

- 1:  $\triangleright$  *Push the encoding result to a queue*
  - 2:  $Q.init(\{hid : SeqEnc(q)\})$
  - 3:  $\triangleright$  *Decode until no more nonterminals*
  - 4: **while** ( $c \leftarrow Q.pop()$ )  $\neq \emptyset$  **do**
  - 5:      $\triangleright$  *Call sequence decoder*
  - 6:      $c.child \leftarrow SeqDec(c.hid)$
  - 7:      $\triangleright$  *Push new nonterminals to queue*
  - 8:     **for**  $n \leftarrow$  nonterminal in  $c.child$  **do**
  - 9:          $Q.push(\{hid : HidVec(n)\})$
  - 10:  $\hat{a} \leftarrow$  convert decoding tree to output sequence
- 

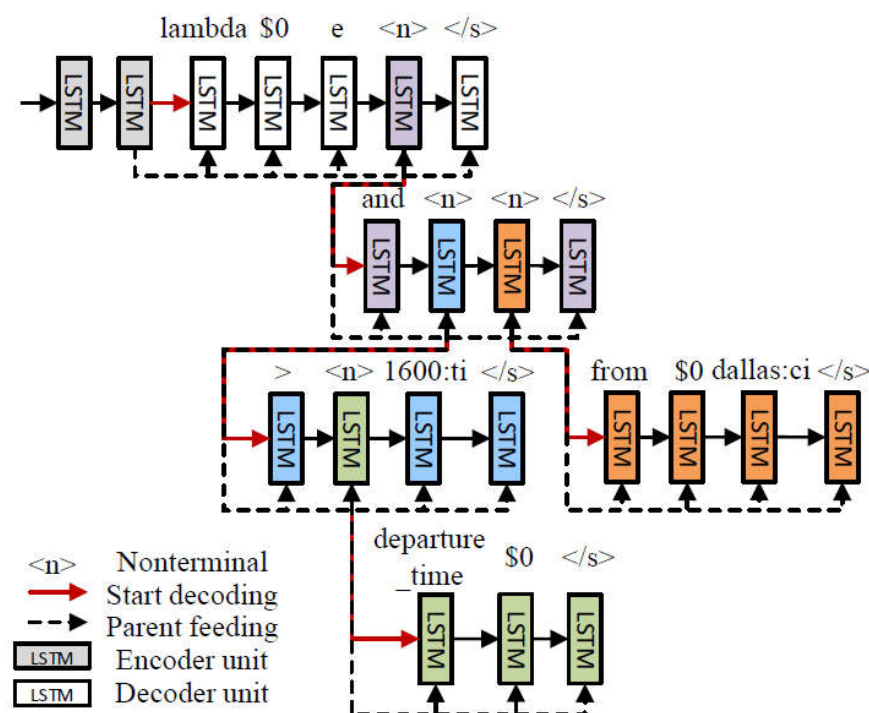
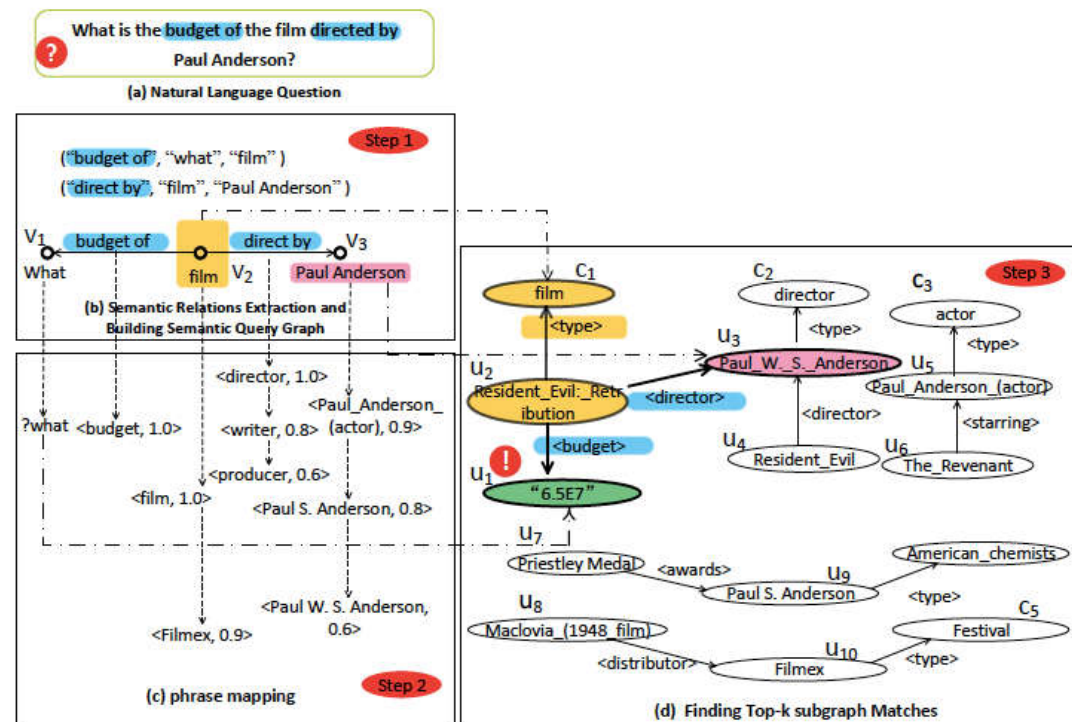


Figure 3: Sequence-to-tree (SEQ2TREE) model with a hierarchical tree decoder.

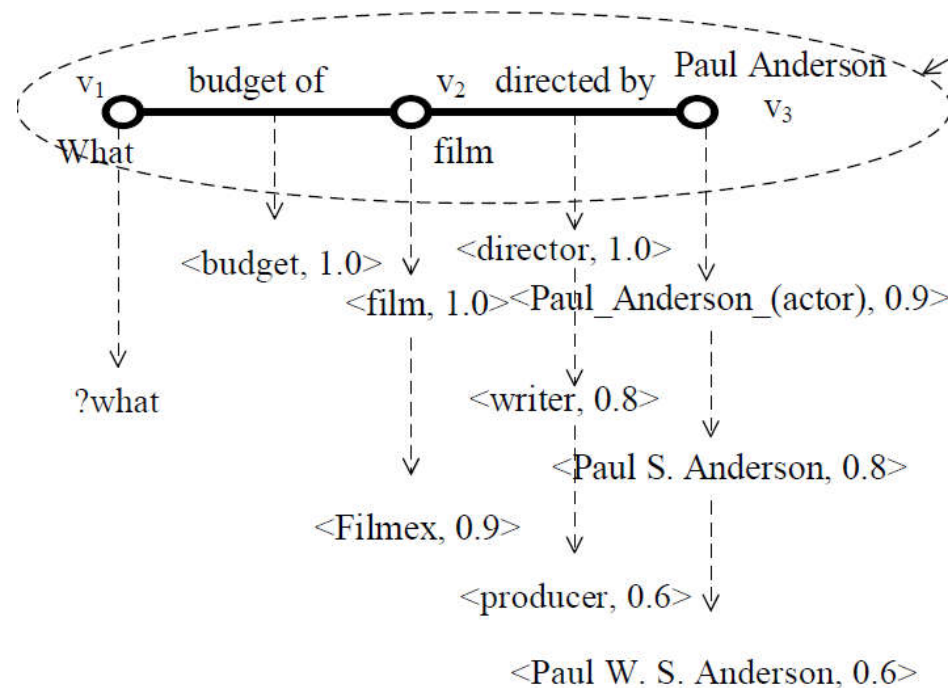
# Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Using graph matching-based method
- Graph Matching-based Disambiguation
- Combing Disambiguation and Query together



# Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

## Semantic Query Graph



## Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

Besides KG, we require two dictionaries.

- Entity Mention Dictionary




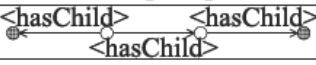
It helps the entity linking task

[Spitkovsky et al., LERC 12; Chisholm et al, TACL 15].

- Relation Mention Dictionary

Mapping the natural language relation phrases to predicate in RDF dataset.

[Nakashole et al., EMNLP-CoNLL 2012]

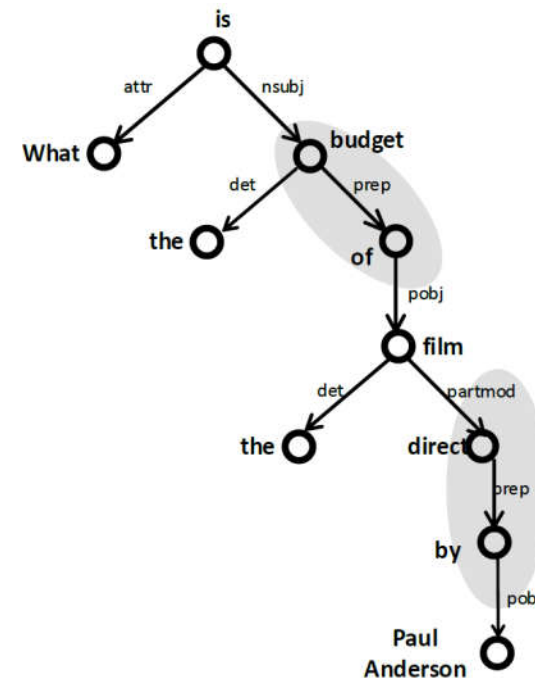
| Relation Phrases | Predicates or Predicate Paths  | Confidence Probability |
|------------------|--|------------------------|
| “be married to”  | <spouse><br>                              | 1.0                    |
| “play in”        | <starring><br>                          | 0.9                    |
| “play in”        | <director><br>                          | 0.5                    |
| “uncle of”       | <br><hasChild> <hasChild><br><hasChild> | 0.8                    |
| ... ..           | ... ..   | ... ..                 |

# Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Question Understanding
  - Relation extraction

| Relation Phrases | Predicates or Predicate Paths  | Confidence Probability |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| “directed by”    | <director><br>●→●              | 1.0                    |
| “starred by”     | <starring><br>●→●              | 0.9                    |
| “budget of”      | <budget><br>●→●                | 0.8                    |
| “uncle of”       | <hasChild>→<hasChild><br>●→●→● | 0.8                    |
| ... ..           | ... ..                         | ... ..                 |

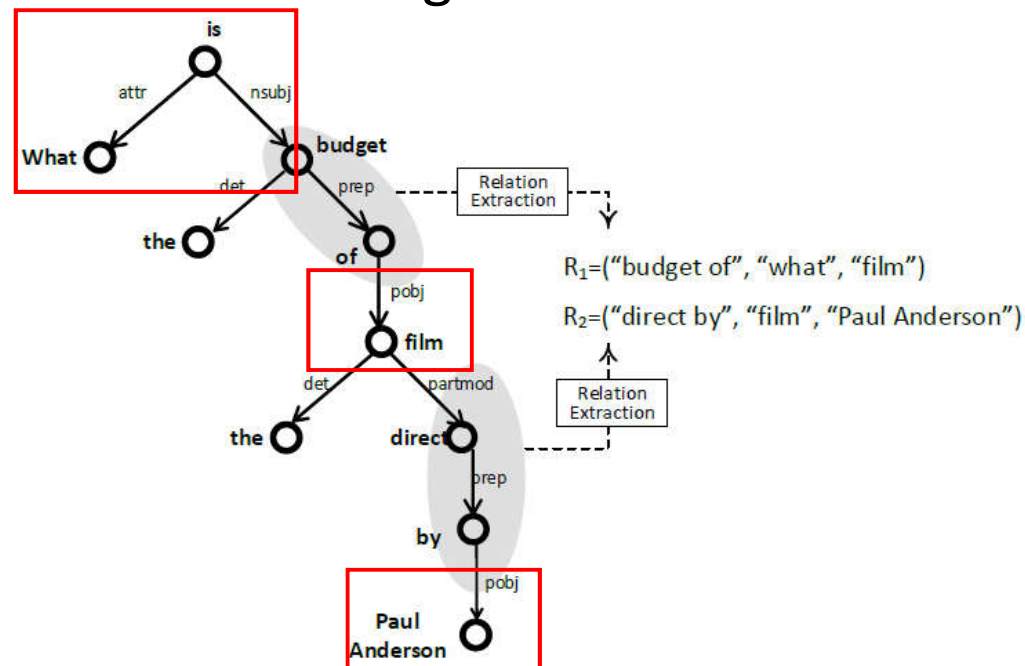
Relation Paraphrase Dictionary



# Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework

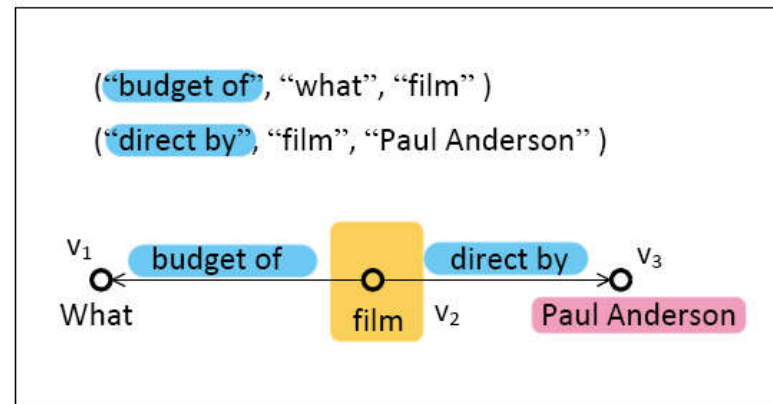
## gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Question Understanding
  - Find associated arguments



## Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Question Understanding
  - Query Graph Assembly



Semantic Relations Extraction and  
Building Semantic Query Graph



# Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Query Execution

---

**Algorithm 3** Generating Top-k SPARQL Queries

---

**Require:** **Input:** A semantic query graph  $Q^S$  and a RDF  $G$ . **Output:** Top-k SPARQL Queries, i.e., the top-k matches from  $Q^S$  to  $G$ .

- 1: Sorting all candidates in a non-ascending order
  - 2: Set the threshold  $\theta = -\infty$
  - 3:  $n = |E(Q^S)| + |V(Q^S)|$
  - 4: Initialize  $n$  bit vector  $\Gamma$  with zero
  - 5: Initialize maximum heap  $H$  with one element  $(\Gamma, \text{score}(\Gamma))$
  - 6: **while**  $(\Gamma, s) \leftarrow H.\text{pop}()$  **do**
  - 7:    $QG = \text{BuildQueryGraph}(Q^S, \Gamma)$
  - 8:    $\text{SubgraphMatching}(G, QG)$  // Any subgraph isomorphism algorithm such as VF2
  - 9:   Update the threshold  $\theta$  to be the top-k match score so far.
  - 10: **for** Each candidate list  $L_i$  **do**
  - 11:    $\Gamma = \Gamma + (1 \leftarrow i)$
  - 12:    $H.\text{push}(\Gamma, \text{score}(\Gamma))$
  - 13:   **if** already find k matches **then**
  - 14:     Break
  - 15: Output the top-k matches
-

## Our Approach- Data Driven & Relation-first framework gAnswer [Zou et al, SIGMOD 14]

- Limitations
  - Still highly relied on parser and heuristic rules
  - Can not handle implicit relations

What is the budget of the film directed by Paul Anderson  
and starred by a **Chinese girl**

<?girl, dbo:country, dbr:China>

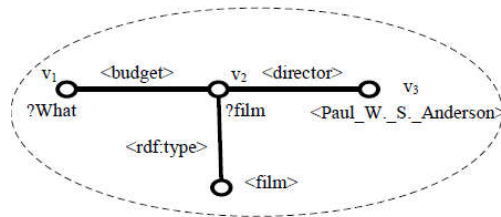
## **Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]**

- Data Driven!
  - The structure of query graph can be modified in execution stage.
  - First recognize nodes.

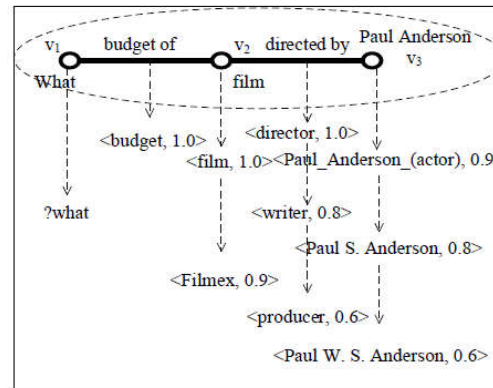
# Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

## Hyper Query Graph

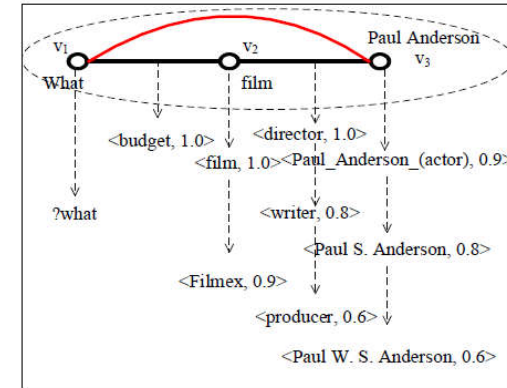
- Extend SQG by *allowing false edges*.



query graph



semantic query graph



hyper query graph

## Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework

- Question Understanding
  - Node recognizing

## entity extraction + conflict resolution

- entity, type, literal, wildcard
- constant, variable
- modified, hidden information

What is the budget of the film directed by Paul Anderson and starred by a Chinese girl?

\_\_\_\_\_

variable      variable      variable                  constant                  constant    variable  
                                 type                                  entity                                  entity

## Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

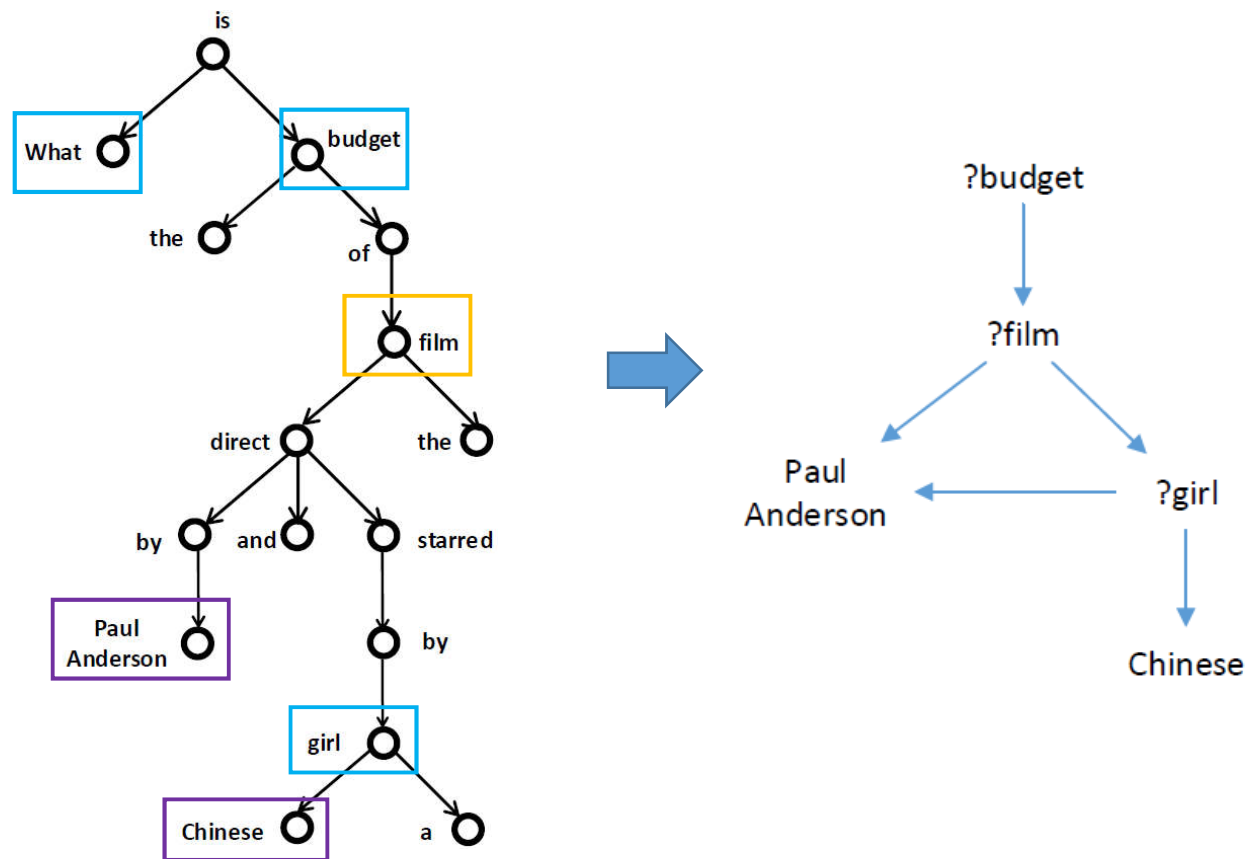
- Question Understanding
  - Build structure of HQG

connect which two nodes?

*Definition 10. (Assumption 1)* Given a question sentence  $N$  with appropriate query graph  $G$ , if  $T$  is a correct dependency tree of  $N$ , the following condition should be satisfied: There is no such three nodes  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3\}$  where  $n_1$  connect  $n_2$  in  $G$  and  $n_3 \in \text{ShortestPath}(n_1, n_2)$  in  $T$ .

---

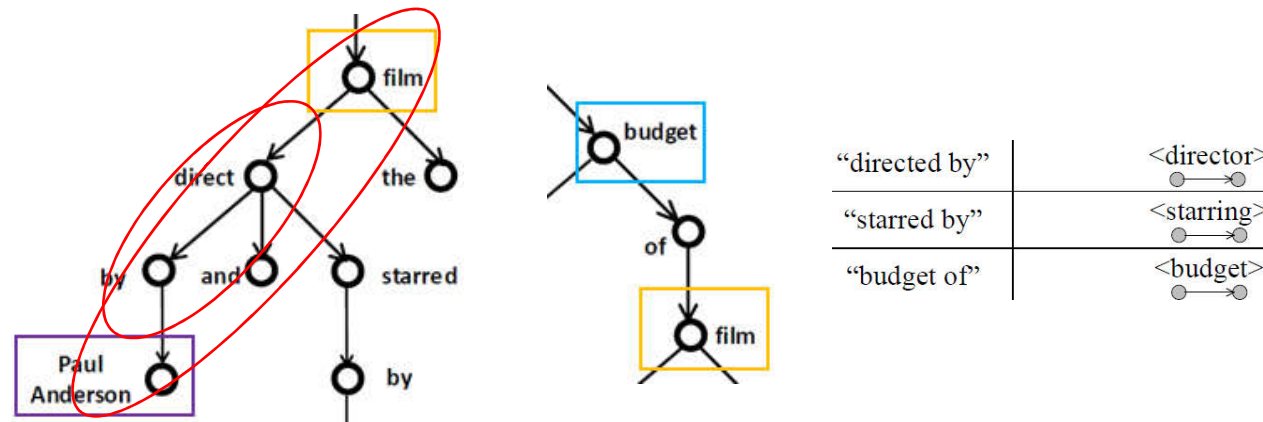
## Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]



# Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

- Question Understanding
  - Finding relations

Explicit relation



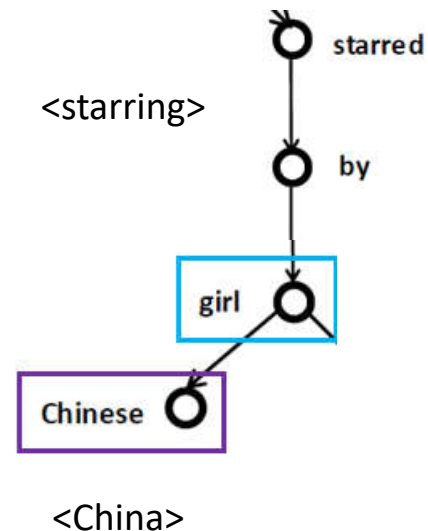


## Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

- Question Understanding
  - Finding relations

Implicit relation

- Locating the two nodes in KG and finding the frequent predicate between them.



## **Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]**

- Query Executing
    - A top-down algorithm
  - Naïve method
    - (1) Enumerate spanning subgraph of HQG,
    - (2) Call algorithm SQG executing algorithm
    - (3) Sort and select top-k matches
  - Advanced method
    - (1) Add <drop, 0> to the candidate list of unsteady edges
    - (2) Call algorithm 3
-

## Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+[Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

- Query Executing
  - A top-down algorithm

### Drawbacks

- Query graphs with higher scores may have no matches

| s     | p     | o   |
|-------|-------|-----|
| $e_1$ | $p_1$ | var |
| ...   | ...   |     |
| $e_n$ | $p_m$ |     |

## **Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]**

- Query Executing
  - A bottom-up algorithm

### Intuition

- Growing structures step by step
- Keep correct structures when growing
- Find matches of multi-label query graph (SQG)
- Drop useless candidates as early as possible

# Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]

- Query Executing
  - A bottom-up algorithm

```
1: Initialize result set  $MS$ , query graph  $QG$ , queue  $que$ 
2:  $QG \leftarrow$  start node  $st$ 
3:  $que.push(st)$ 
4: while  $x = que.pop()$  do
5:   /*Try to expand current query graph*/
6:   for each  $\overline{v_i x} \in E(Q^H) \wedge \overline{v_i x} \notin QG$  do
7:      $TQG = QG \leftarrow \overline{v_i x}$ 
8:     if GraphExplore( $G, TQG$ ) == TRUE then
9:        $QG = TQG$ 
10:    else
11:       $QG = \text{Backtrack}(QG, \overline{v_i x})$ 
12:    if  $\overline{v_i x} \in QG$  then
13:       $que \leftarrow v_i$ 
14: Sort the graph explore results of  $QG$  and select top-k matches
```

## **Our Approach- Data Driven & Node-first framework gAnswer+ [Hu and Zou et al, TKDE 17]**

- Query Executing
  - A bottom-up algorithm

### Optimization

- Call GraphExplore() only when adding unsteady edges
  - Design cost model to estimate the best explore order
-

## Experiments

QALD is a series of evaluation campaigns on question answering over linked data.

TABLE 7  
Evaluating QALD-6 Testing Questions (Total Question Number=100)

|            | Processed | Right | Recall      | Precision   | F-1         |
|------------|-----------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>NFF</b> | 100       | 68    | <b>0.70</b> | <b>0.89</b> | <b>0.78</b> |
| RFF        | 100       | 40    | 0.43        | 0.77        | 0.55        |
| CANaLI     | 100       | 83    | 0.89        | 0.89        | 0.89        |
| UTQA       | 100       | 63    | 0.69        | 0.82        | 0.75        |
| KWGAnswer  | 100       | 52    | 0.59        | 0.85        | 0.70        |
| SemGraphQA | 100       | 20    | 0.25        | 0.70        | 0.37        |
| UIQA1      | 44        | 21    | 0.63        | 0.54        | 0.25        |
| UIQA2      | 36        | 14    | 0.53        | 0.43        | 0.17        |
| DEANNA     | 100       | 20    | 0.21        | 0.74        | 0.33        |
| Aqqu       | 100       | 36    | 0.37        | 0.39        | 0.38        |

QALD-6 Competition Results

## Experiments

WebQuestions is widely used in Question Answering literatures and does not contain golden SPARQL queries.

TABLE 8  
Evaluating WebQuestions Testing Questions


|                     | Average F1   |
|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>NFF</b>          | 49.6%        |
| RFF                 | 31.2%        |
| Sempre              | 35.7%        |
| ParaSempre          | 39.9%        |
| Aqqu                | 49.4%        |
| STAGG               | 52.5%        |
| Yavuz et al. (2016) | <b>52.6%</b> |

WebQuestions Results



# Online Demo

URL: <http://ganswer.gstore-pku.com/>

 **gAnswer**

Which mountains are located in Anhui

Answer

NBgAnswer results

5 results in total(1.08 seconds).

Huangshan

Mount\_Langya

Mount\_Tianzhu

RBgAnswer results

Jing\_Ting\_Mountain

Mount\_Qiyun

KWgAnswer results

# Is it Possible ?

Semantic Parsing (NLP) + Query Evaluation (DB)

Where is the  
nearest post office?

$\arg \min(\lambda x. POST(x) \wedge dis(HERE, x))$



**SPARQL**

```
SELECT ?x WHERE {  
  ?x rdf:type Post.  
  ?x :longitude ?o.  
  ?x :latitude ?a. }  
ORDER BY Dist(HERE, [?o, ?a])  
LIMIT 1
```

# 与深圳狗尾草公司合作.



### 参考文献:

- Antoine Bordes, Nicolas Usunier, Alberto García-Durán, Jason Weston, Oksana Yakhnenko: Translating Embeddings for Modeling Multi-relational Data. NIPS 2013: 2787-2795
- Luke S. Zettlemoyer, Michael Collins: Learning to Map Sentences to Logical Form: Structured Classification with Probabilistic Categorical Grammars. UAI 2005: 658-666
- Pablo N. Mendes, Max Jakob, Christian Bizer: DBpedia: A Multilingual Cross-domain Knowledge Base. LREC 2012: 1813-1817
- Fabian M. Suchanek, Gjergji Kasneci and Gerhard Weikum, Yago - A Core of Semantic Knowledge, 16th international World Wide Web conference (WWW 2007)
- Kurt D. Bollacker, Colin Evans, Praveen Paritosh, Tim Sturge, Jamie Taylor: Freebase: a collaboratively created graph for structuring human knowledge. SIGMOD Conference 2008: 1247-1250
- Peter Buneman, Gao Cong, Wenfei Fan, Anastasios Kementsietsidis: Using Partial Evaluation in Distributed Query VLDB 2006: 211-222
- Yuk Wah Wong, Raymond J. Mooney: Learning for Semantic Parsing with Statistical Machine Translation. HLT-NAACL 2006
- C. Unger, L. Bühmann, J. Lehmann, A.-C. N. Ngomo, D. Gerber, and P. Cimiano. Template-based question answering over data. In WWW, pages 639–648, 2012
- Lei Zou, Ruizhe Huang, Haixun Wang, Jeffrey Xu Yu, Wenqiang He and Dongyan Zhao, Natural Language Question Answering over RDF ---- A Graph Data Driven Approach , SIGMOD (2014)
- Lei Zou, Jinghui Mo, Lei Chen, M. Tamer Özsu, Dongyan Zhao, gStore: Answering SPARQL Queries Via Subgraph Matching, in Proceedings of 37th International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB), 2011.
- Peng Peng, Lei Zou, Tamer Ozsu, Lei Chen, Dongyan Zhao, Processing SPARQL queries over distributed RDF graphs, accepted by VLDB Journal
- Church, A. "A Formulation of the Simple Theory of Types". Journal of Symbolic Logic 5: 1940. doi:10.2307/2266170

### 参考文献:

- C. Unger, L. Bühmann, J. Lehmann, A.-C. N. Ngomo, D. Gerber, and P. Cimiano. Template-based question answering over data. In WWW, pages 639–648, 2012
- Lei Zou, Ruizhe Huang, Haixun Wang, Jeffrey Xu Yu, Wenqiang He and Dongyan Zhao, Natural Language Question Answering over RDF ---- A Graph Data Driven Approach , SIGMOD (2014)
- Lei Zou, Jinghui Mo, Lei Chen, M. Tamer Özsu, Dongyan Zhao, gStore: Answering SPARQL Queries Via Subgraph Matching, in Proceedings of 37th International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB), 2011.
- Antoine Bordes, Sumit Chopra, Jason Weston: Question Answering with Subgraph Embeddings. EMNLP 2014: 615-620
- William Tunstall-Pedoe: True Knowledge: Open-Domain Question Answering using Structured Knowledge and Inference. AI Magazine 31(3): 80-92 (2010)
- Luke S. Zettlemoyer, Michael Collins: Learning Context-Dependent Mappings from Sentences to Logical Form. ACL/IJCNLP 2009: 976-984
- Jonathan Berant and Percy Liang. 2014. Semantic parsing via paraphrasing. In Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL'14), Baltimore, USA
- Kun Xu, Siva Reddy, Yansong Feng, Songfang Huang, Dongyan Zhao: Question Answering on Freebase via Relation Extraction and Textual Evidence. ACL (1) 2016
- Sen Hu, Lei Zou, Jeffrey Xu Yu, Haixun Wang, Dongyan Zhao, Answering Natural Language Questions by Subgraph Matching over Knowledge Graphs, accepted by IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, 2017
- Wen-tau Yih, Ming-Wei Chang, Xiaodong He, Jianfeng Gao: Semantic Parsing via Staged Query Graph Generation: Question Answering with Knowledge Base. ACL (1) 2015: 1321-1331
- Li Dong, Mirella Lapata: Language to Logical Form with Neural Attention. ACL (1) 2016



# Thanks !

[zoulei@pku.edu.cn](mailto:zoulei@pku.edu.cn)



北京大学

