

# Do we need recursive subtree composition in dependency parsing?

Miryam de Lhoneux



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

10 December 2019

*Workshop on Data-driven Approaches to Parsing and Semantic  
Composition*

# Overview

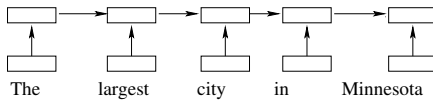
- 1 Tree vs. sequential LSTMs for parsing
- 2 BiLSTM parsing
- 3 Composition in a BiLSTM-parser
- 4 Composition for Auxiliary Verb Constructions
- 5 Conclusion

# Outline for section 1

- 1 Tree vs. sequential LSTMs for parsing
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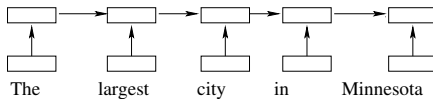
# Recursive vs recurrent NNs

Recurrent

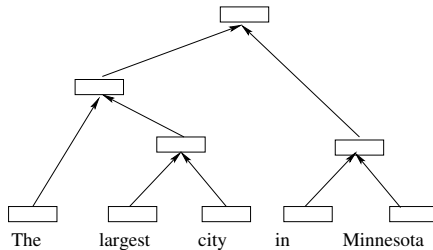


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Recursive



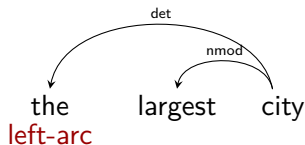
# Recursive NN for Transition-Based Parsing

the      largest      city

# Recursive NN for Transition-Based Parsing

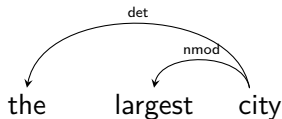


# Recursive NN for Transition-Based Parsing



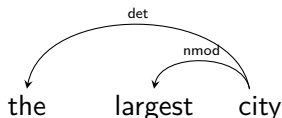


# Recursive NN for Transition-Based Parsing



Recursive composition function in the stack-LSTM parser (Dyer et al., 2015):

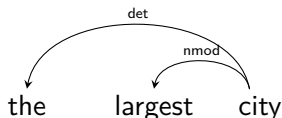
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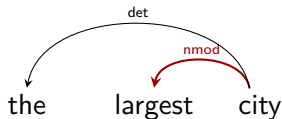


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$$h_i = c(h_{i-1}, d, r)$$

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$$city_1 = c(city_0, largest, left - nmod)$$

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$$city_2 = c(city_1, the, left - det)$$

# Recursive vs recurrent NNs

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English PTB    Chinese CTB

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# Recursive vs recurrent NNs

	English PTB	Chinese CTB
S-LSTM without composition	89.6	83.6



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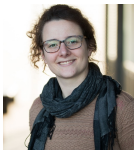
	English PTB	Chinese CTB
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BiLSTM	91.2	85.0

## Recursive Subtree Composition in LSTM-Based Dependency Parsing

Miryam de Lhoneux♣ Miguel Ballesteros◇ Joakim Nivre♣

♣ Department of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University

◇ IBM Research AI, Yorktown Heights, NY

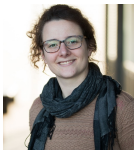


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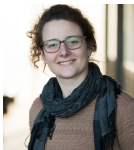


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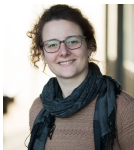
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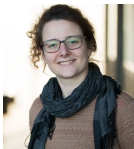
◇ IBM Research AI, Yorktown Heights, NY



- BiLSTM + composition?
- Examine composition in simple architecture
- Typologically diverse languages

## **What Should/Do/Can LSTMs Learn When Parsing Auxiliary Verb Constructions?**

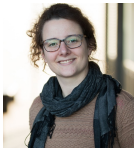
Miryam de Lhoneux, Sara Stymne and Joakim Nivre





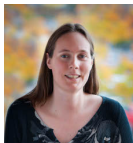
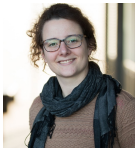
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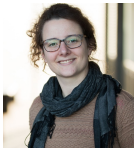
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- Characterise what our parser learns about language

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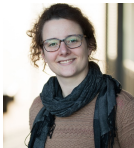
Miryam de Lhoneux, Sara Stymne and Joakim Nivre



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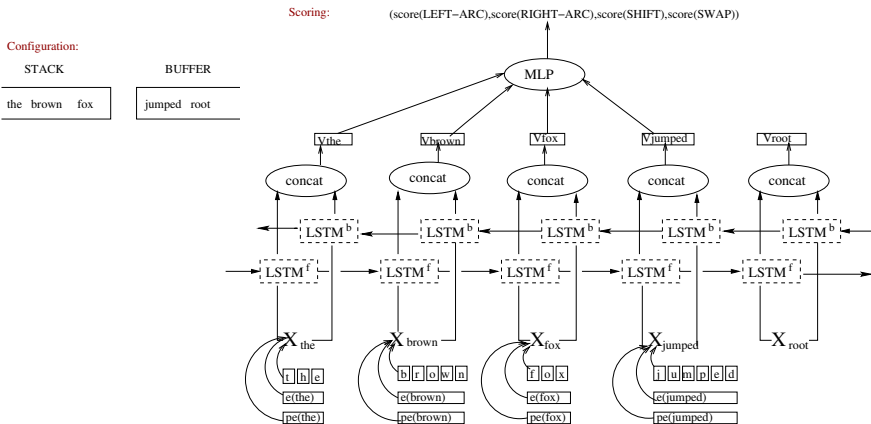


- Characterise what our parser learns about language
- Examine what our parser learns about auxiliary verb constructions (AVCs)
- Investigate the role of composition for AVCs

# Outline for section 2

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# Transition-Based Parsing using BiLSTMs

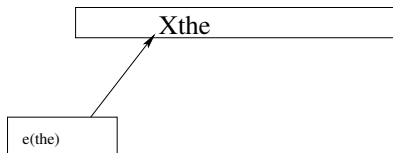


Kiperwasser and Goldberg (2016); de Lhoneux et al. (2017)

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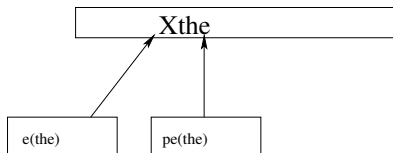
Xthe

# Transition-Based Parsing using BiLSTMs

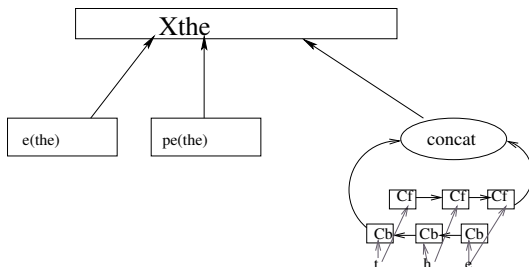




# Transition-Based Parsing using BiLSTMs



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# Transition-Based Parsing using BiLSTMs

$X_{\text{the}}$

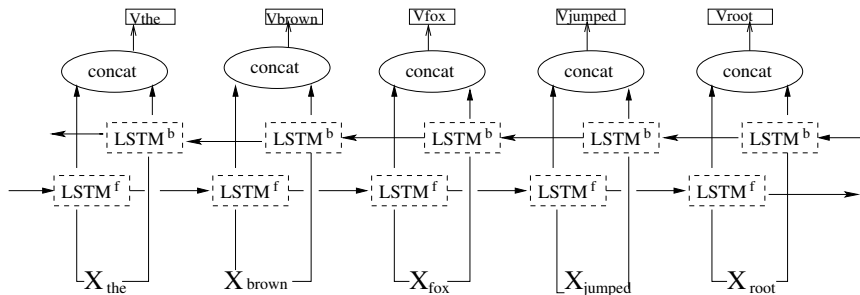
$X_{\text{brown}}$

$X_{\text{fox}}$

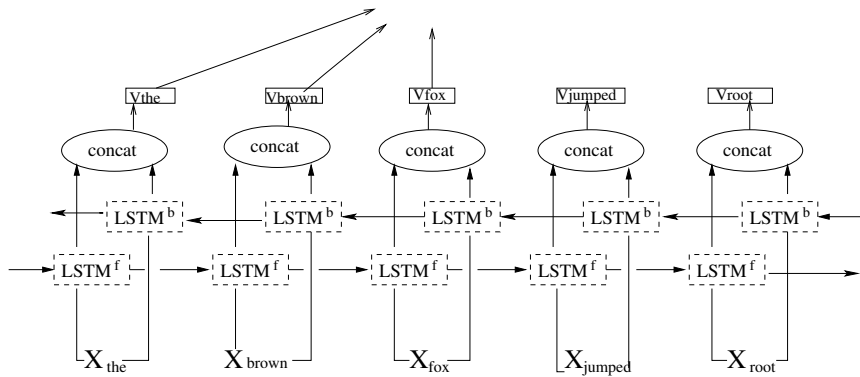
$X_{\text{jumped}}$

$X_{\text{root}}$

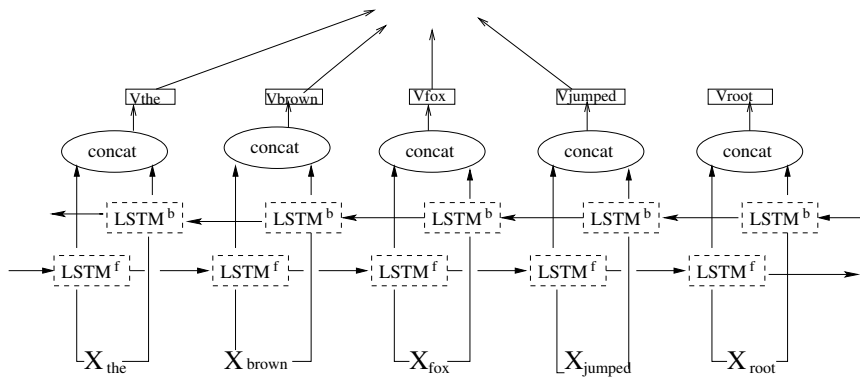
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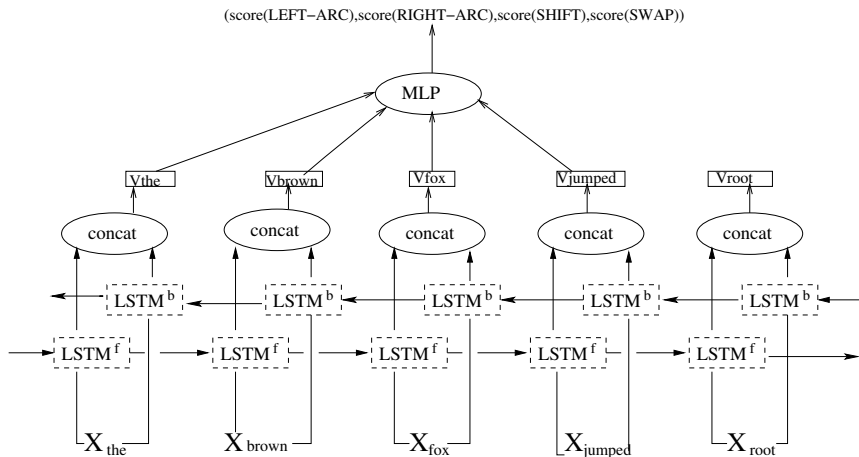
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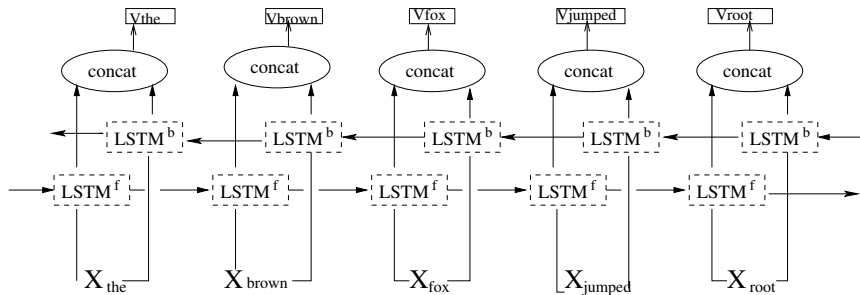
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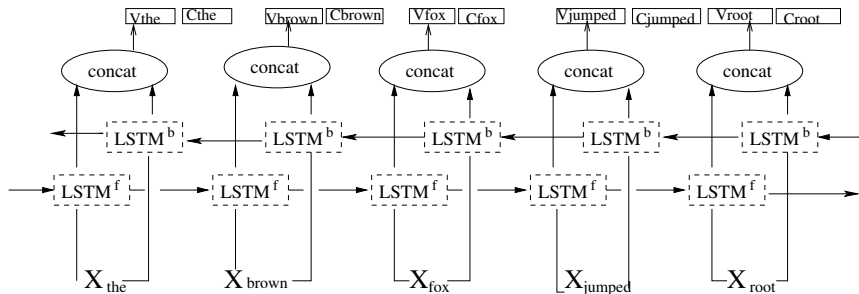


# Recursive Composition in the BiLSTM parser

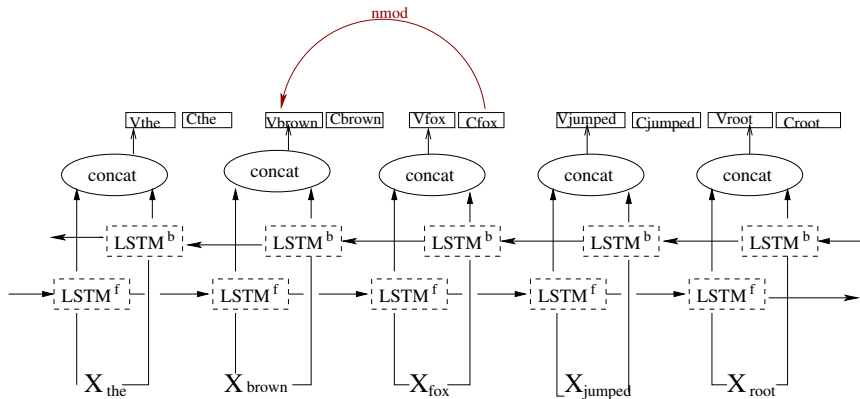




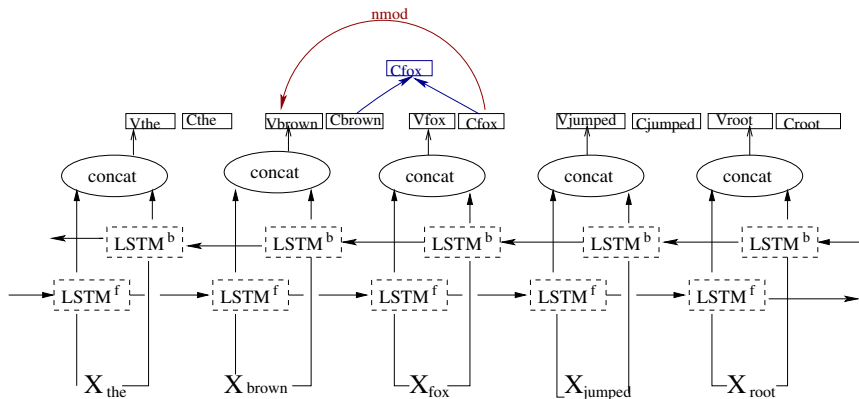
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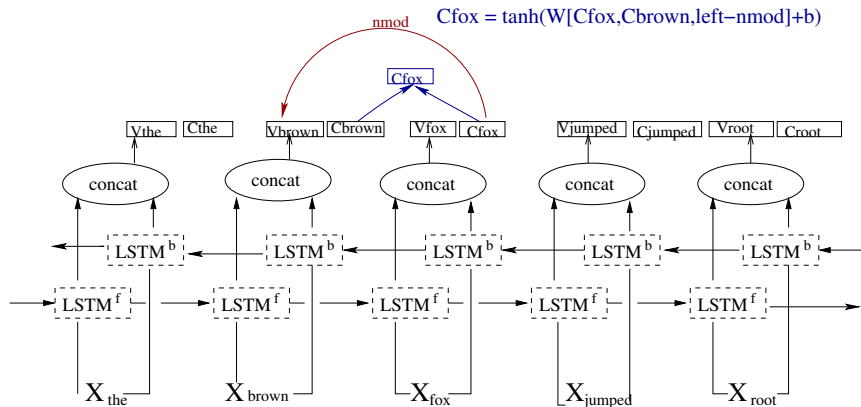
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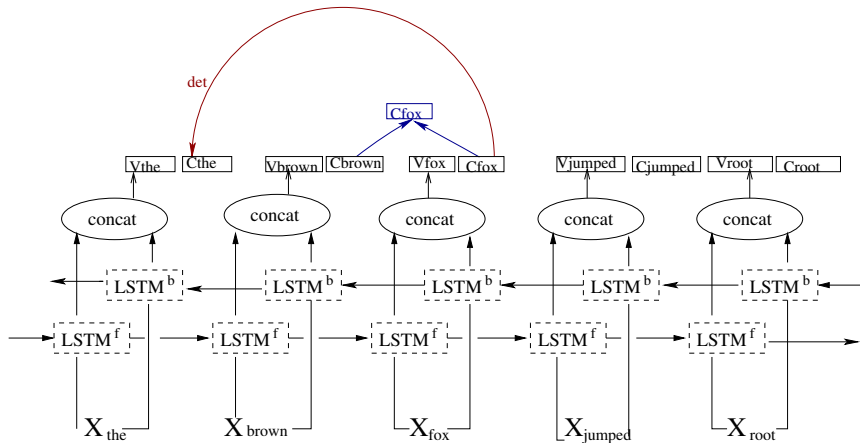
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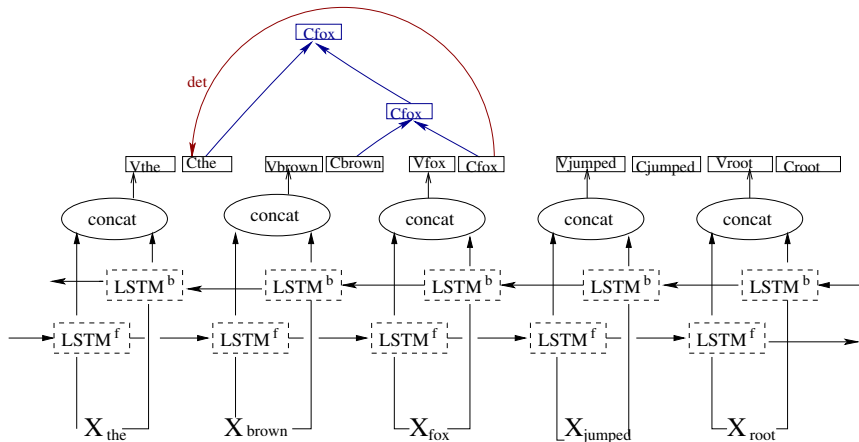
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# Recursive Composition in the BiLSTM parser

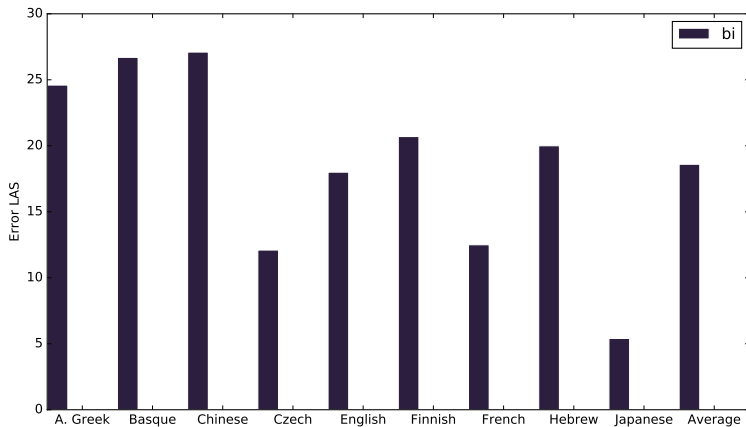
$$c_{head} = \tanh(W[h; d; r] + b) + rc$$

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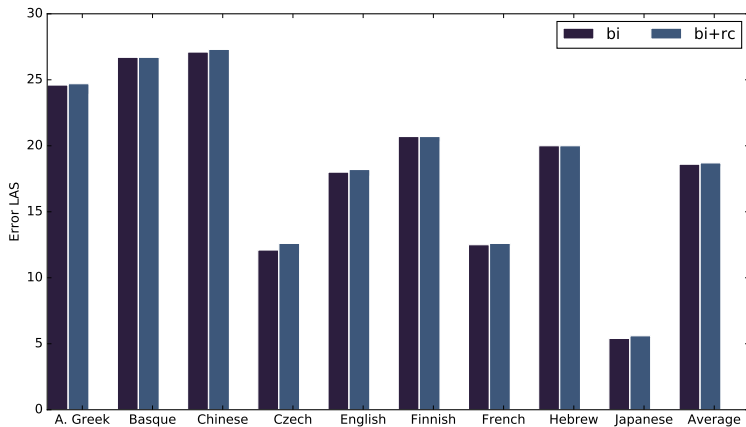
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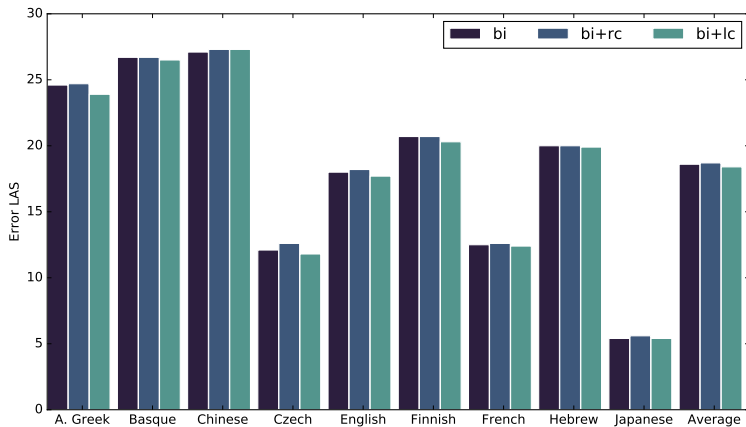
# Results: BiLSTM + composition



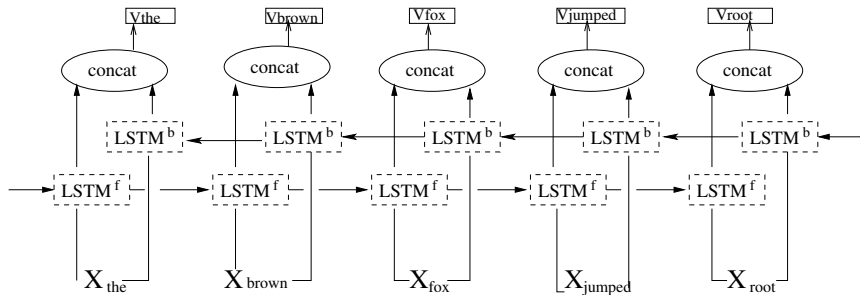
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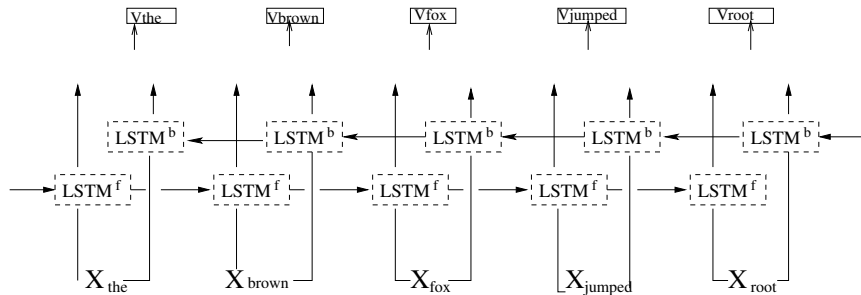
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# LSTM Feature Extractors

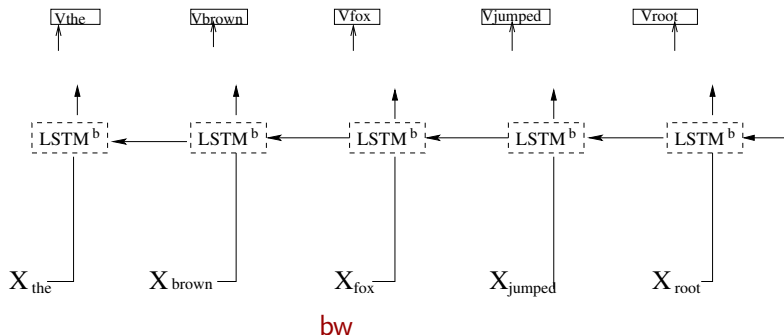


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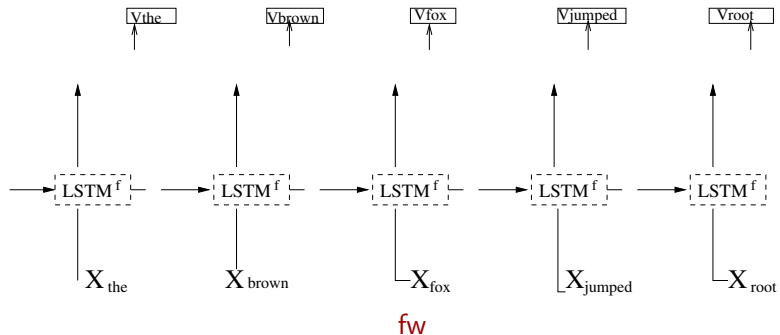




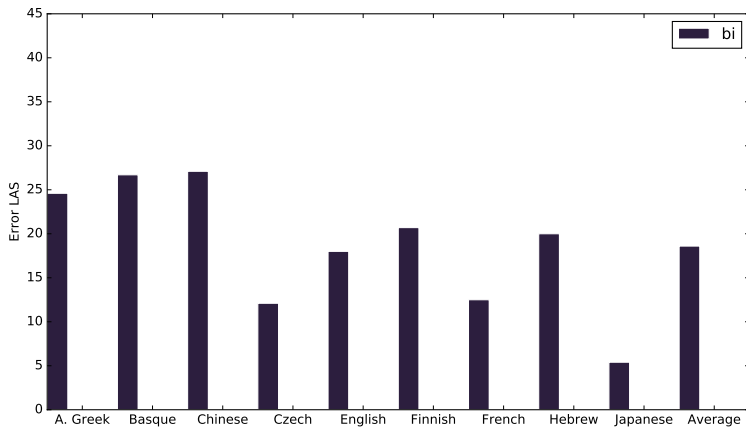
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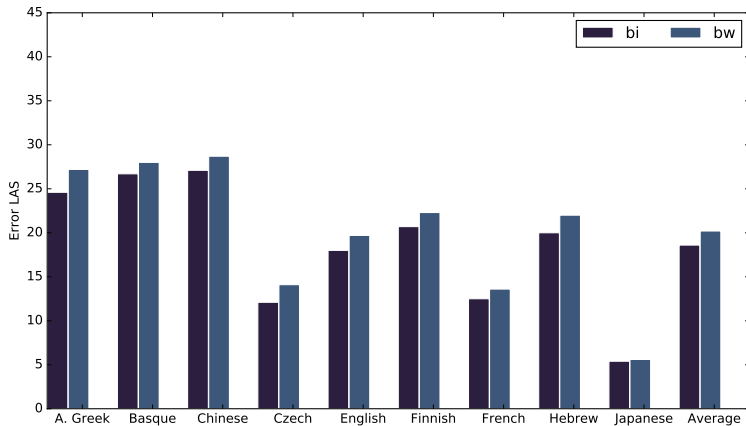
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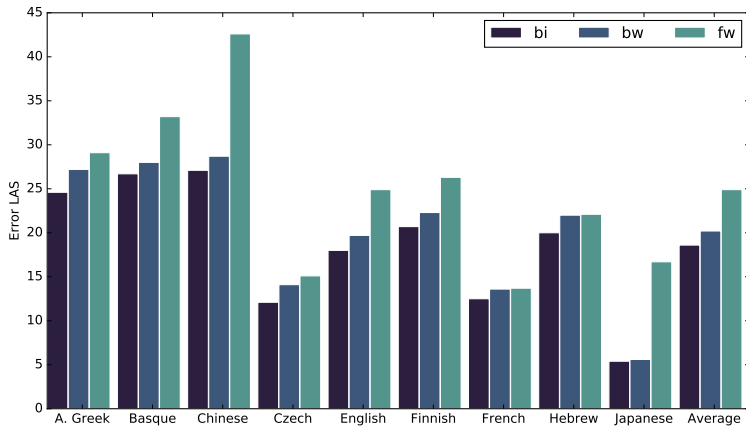
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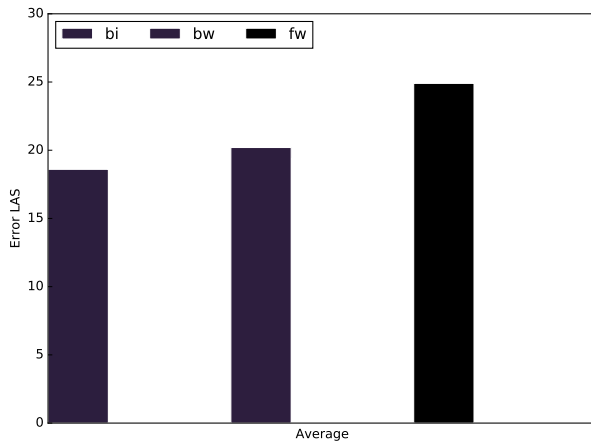
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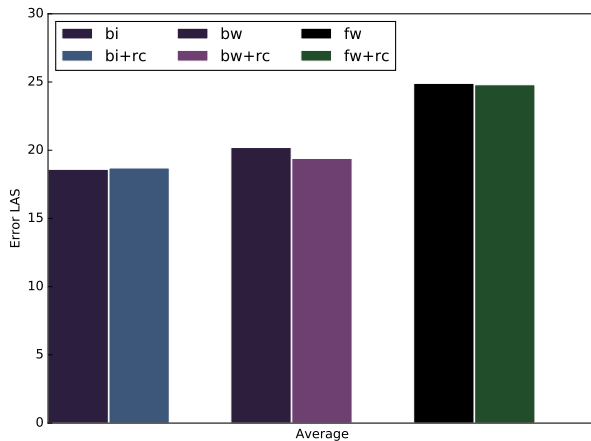
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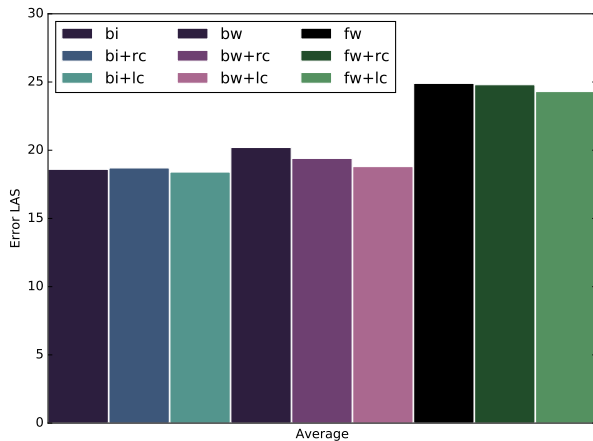
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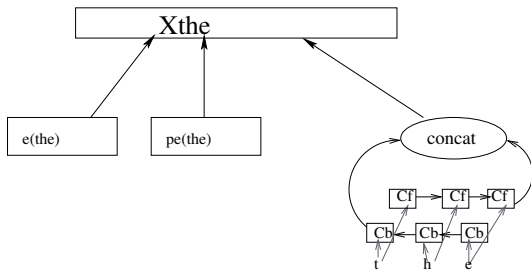


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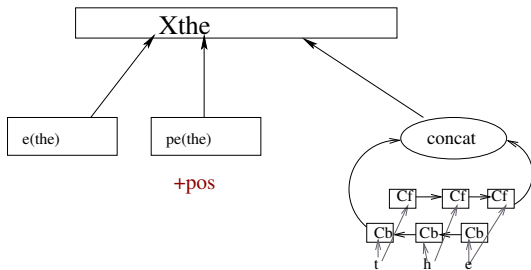




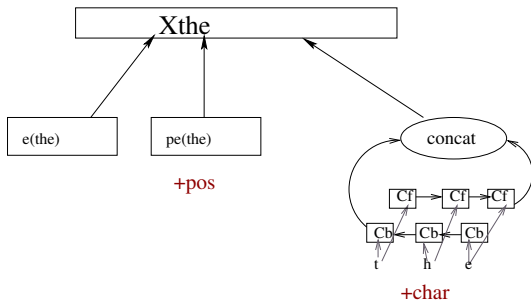
# Word representation



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# Composition gap recovery

	[bw+lc]-bw	[fw+lc]-fw
<b>pos+char+</b>	1.4	0.6
<b>pos+char-</b>	1.3	0.6
<b>pos-char+</b>	1.6	0.7
<b>pos-char-</b>	2	1

Average

# Composition gap recovery

	[bw+lc]-bw	bi-bw	%rec.	[fw+lc]-fw	bi-fw	%rec.
<b>pos+char+</b>	1.4	1.6	87.5	0.6	6.3	9.5
<b>pos+char-</b>	1.3	1.8	72.2	0.6	6.6	9.1
<b>pos-char+</b>	1.6	1.9	84.2	0.7	7.3	9.6
<b>pos-char-</b>	2	3.1	64.5	1	8.7	11.5

Average

# Conclusions from this study

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- The backward part of the BiLSTM is crucial, especially for right-headed languages
- The forward part of the BiLSTM is less crucial
- A backward LSTM + subtree composition performs close to a BiLSTM
- POS information and subtree composition are two partially redundant ways of constructing contextual information

# Broader perspective

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- All information needed is in small set of token representations from stack and buffer
  - Token representations encode subtree information?
    - Do we even need parsing algorithms? (Nivre, 2019)
    - Trees can be decoded directly from BERT contextual embeddings (Hewitt and Manning, 2019)

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- Ravfogel et al. (2018) and Ravfogel et al. (2019): Yes but using local heuristics
- Something like that happening here?

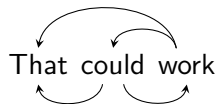
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## Dependency Parsing

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing

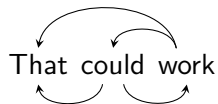




# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

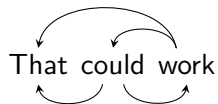
Dependency Parsing

Tesnière

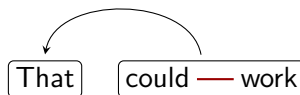


# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing

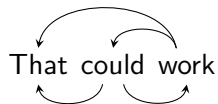


Tesnière

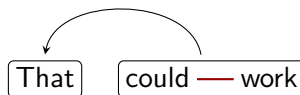


# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing



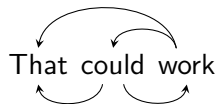
Tesnière



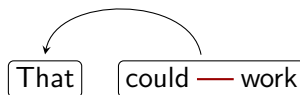
	parsing	Tesnière

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing



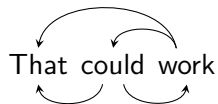
Tesnière



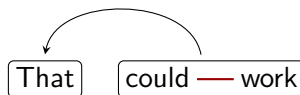
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax		

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing



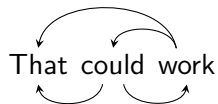
Tesnière



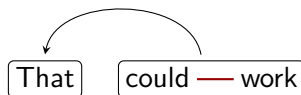
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing



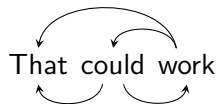
Tesnière



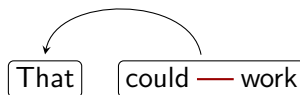
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing



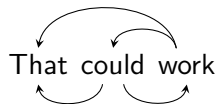
## Tesnière



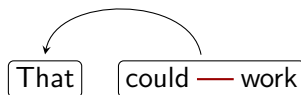
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus
Relations between words		

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

Dependency Parsing



Tesnière

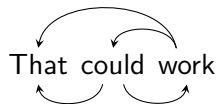


	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus
Relations between words	dependency	

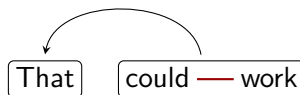


# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing



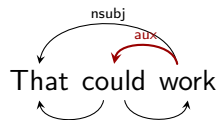
## Tesnière



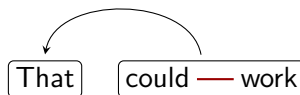
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus
Relations between words	dependency	dependency, transfer, junction

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing



## Tesnière

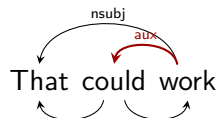


	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus
Relations between words	dependency	dependency, transfer, junction

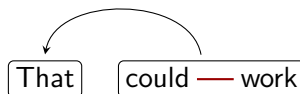
UD compatible with Tesnière

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing



## Tesnière



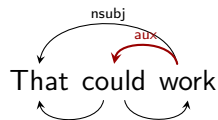
	parsing	Tesnière
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UD compatible with Tesnière

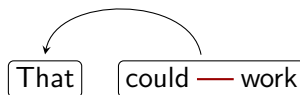
But parsers don't know that

# Auxiliary Verb Constructions

## Dependency Parsing



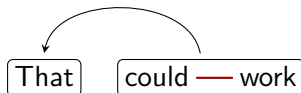
## Tesnière



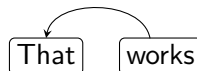
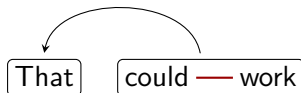
	parsing	Tesnière
Unit of syntax	words	nucleus
Relations between words	dependency	dependency, transfer, junction

UD compatible with Tesnière  
But parsers don't know that  
Or do they?

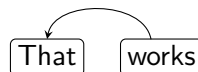
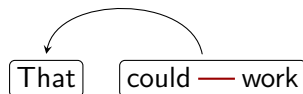
# Research questions



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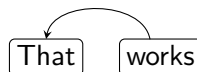
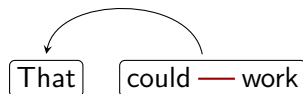


# Research questions



Do LSTM-based parsers learn the notion of dissociated nucleus?

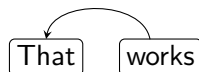
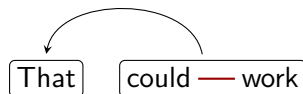
# Research questions



Do LSTM-based parsers learn the notion of dissociated nucleus?  
Dissociated nucleus  $\sim$  nucleus



# Research questions

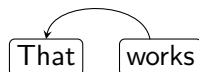
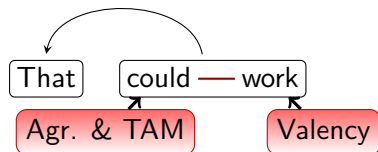


Do LSTM-based parsers learn the notion of dissociated nucleus?

Dissociated nucleus  $\sim$  nucleus

Diagnostic classifier

# Research questions

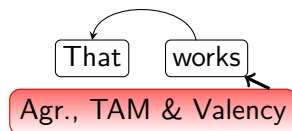
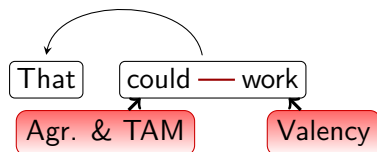


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Dissociated nucleus  $\sim$  nucleus

Diagnostic classifier

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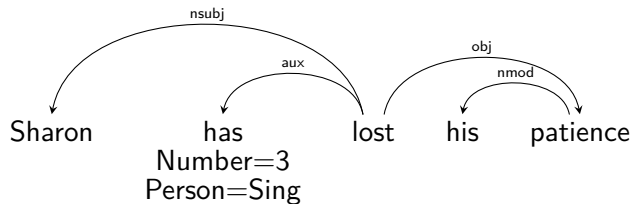


Do LSTM-based parsers learn the notion of dissociated nucleus?

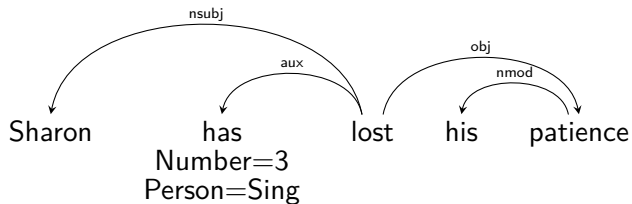
Dissociated nucleus  $\sim$  nucleus

Diagnostic classifier

# Diagnostic classifier: task

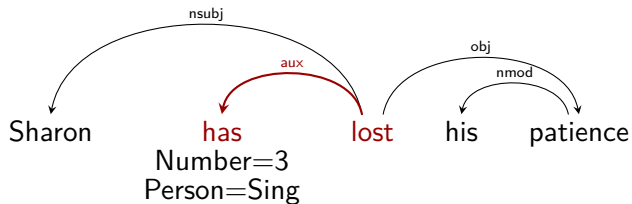


# Diagnostic classifier: task



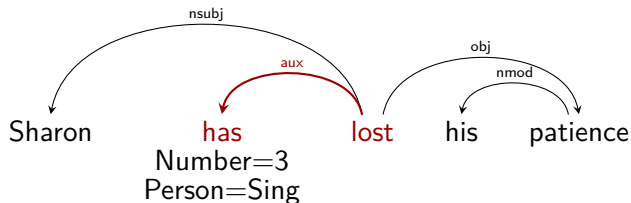
AVC

# Diagnostic classifier: task



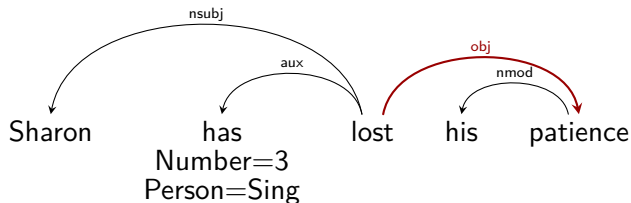
AVC

# Diagnostic classifier: task



Transitivity: has object? True/False

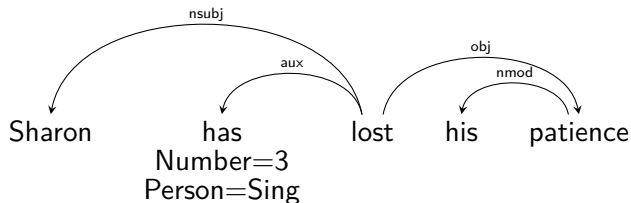
# Diagnostic classifier: task



Transitivity: has object? True/False

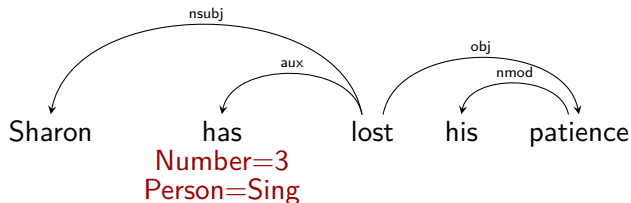


# Diagnostic classifier: task



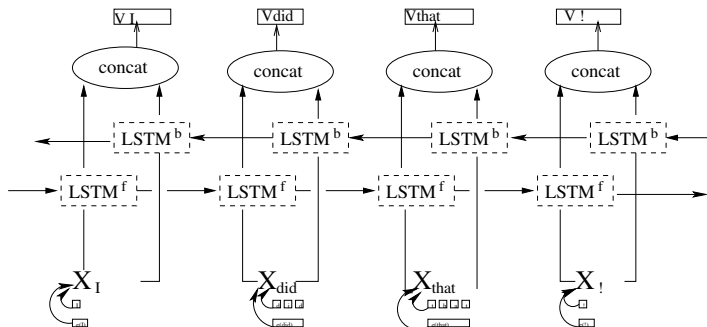
Agreement: Person + Number (sg/pl + 1/2/3)

# Diagnostic classifier: task

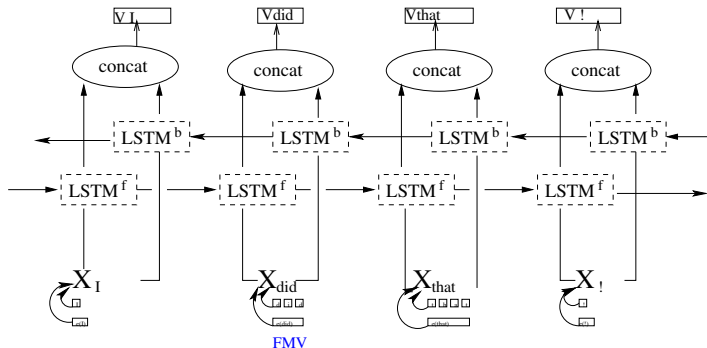


Agreement: Person + Number (sg/pl + 1/2/3)

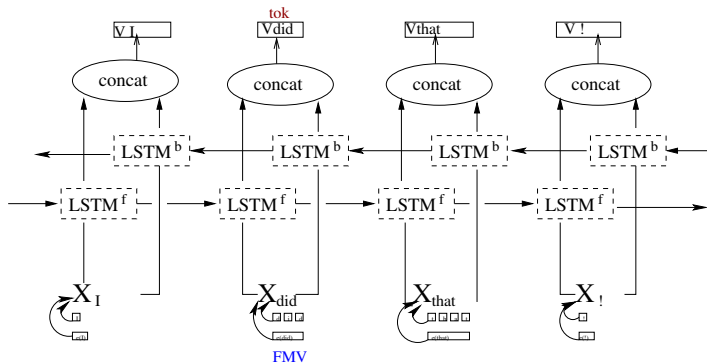
# Vectors



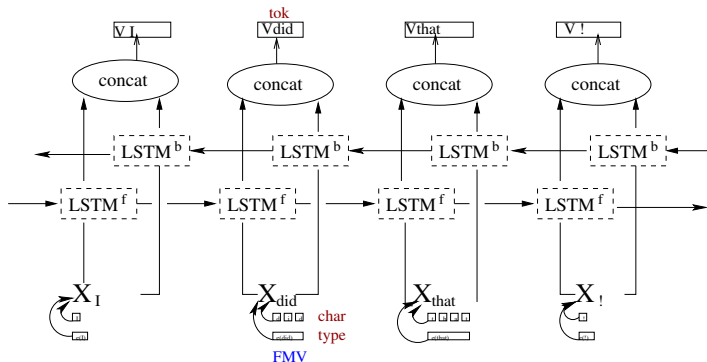
# Vectors



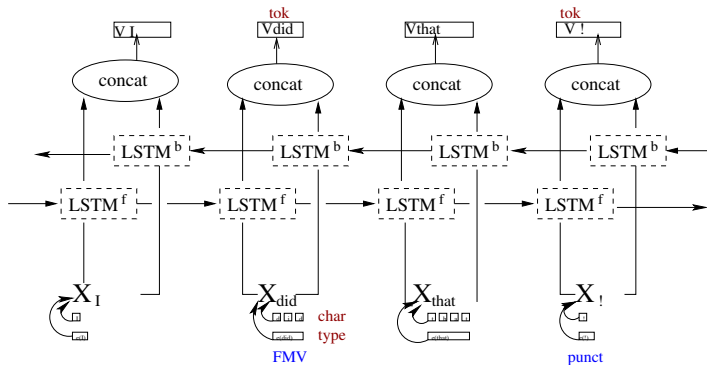
# Vectors



# Vectors



# Vectors



# Dataset

		FMV		punct		AVC	
		train	dev	train	dev	train	dev
T	Catalan	14K	2K	7K	964	12K	2K
	Croatian	6K	803	4K	491	5K	653
	Dutch	9K	618	6K	516	5K	251
	Finnish	12K	1K	9K	1K	4K	458
A	Catalan	14K	2K	7K	964	12K	2K
	Croatian	6K	803	4K	491	5K	653
	Dutch	9K	618	6K	516	5K	246
	Finnish	10K	1K	8K	850	4K	443



# Agreement and Transitivity in FMVs

Agreement

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Agreement



did  
FMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in FMVs

Agreement



did  
FMV

Transitivity

# Agreement and Transitivity in FMVs

Agreement



did  
FMV

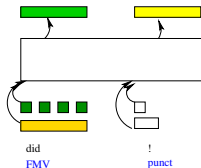
Transitivity



did  
FMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in FMVs

Agreement



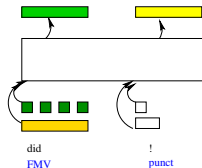
Transitivity



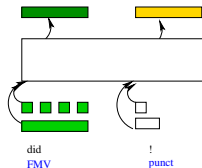
did  
FMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in FMVs

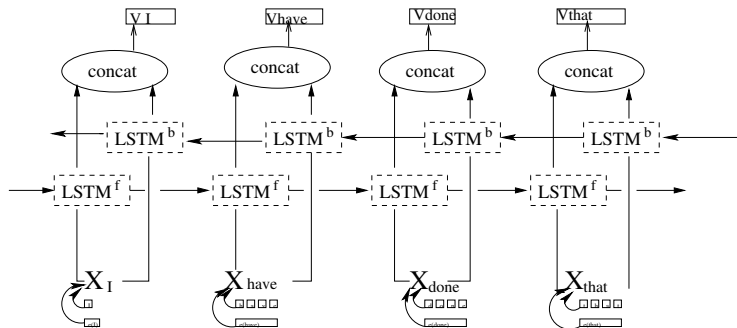
Agreement



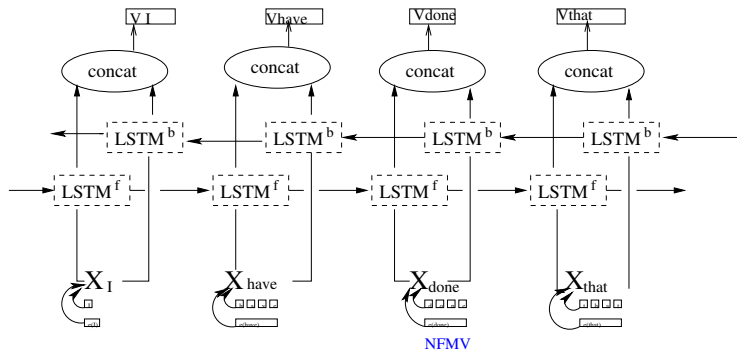
Transitivity



# Vectors AVC

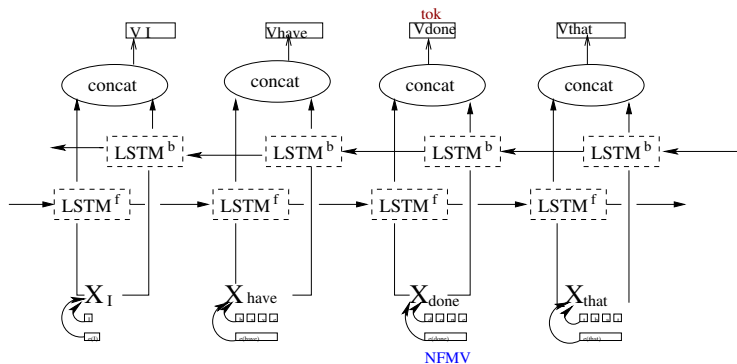


# Vectors AVC

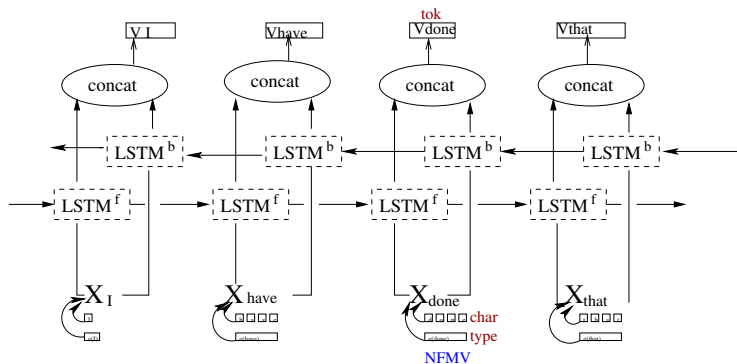




# Vectors AVC



# Vectors AVC



# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement



did  
FMV

Transitivity



did  
FMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement



did  
FMV

done  
NFMV

Transitivity



did  
FMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement



did  
FMV

done  
NFMV

Transitivity

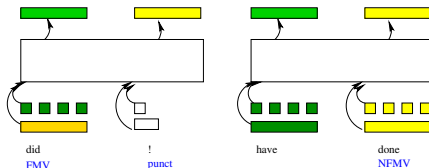


did  
FMV

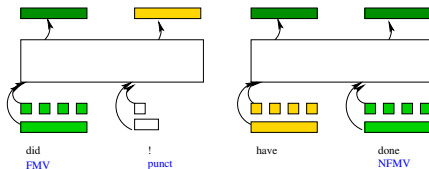
done  
NFMV

# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement

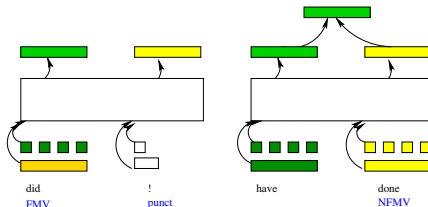


Transitivity

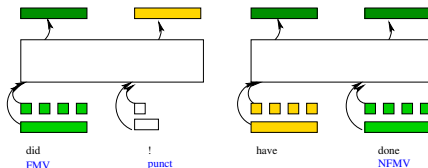


# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement

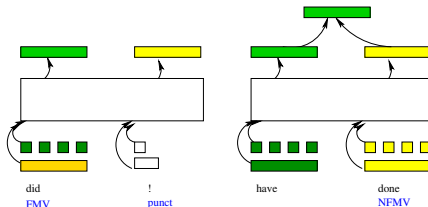


Transitivity

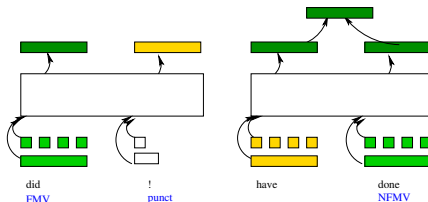


# Agreement and Transitivity in AVCs vs FMVs

Agreement



Transitivity





# Conclusions from this study

- Our parser does not learn the notion of dissociated nucleus

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# Outline for section 5

- 1 Tree vs. sequential LSTMs for parsing
- 2 BiLSTM parsing
- 3 Composition in a BiLSTM-parser
- 4 Composition for Auxiliary Verb Constructions
- 5 Conclusion**

## Conclusions

- Composition does not help accuracy of a BiLSTM parser

# General conclusions

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## Future Work

- Token vectors encode subtrees or parser uses heuristics?

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## Future Work

- Token vectors encode subtrees or parser uses heuristics?
- LSTMs vs Transformer

# Thanks!

Thanks!



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