

# **From Statistical to Deep Relational Learning**

**Maria L. Pacheco**



Microsoft  
Research

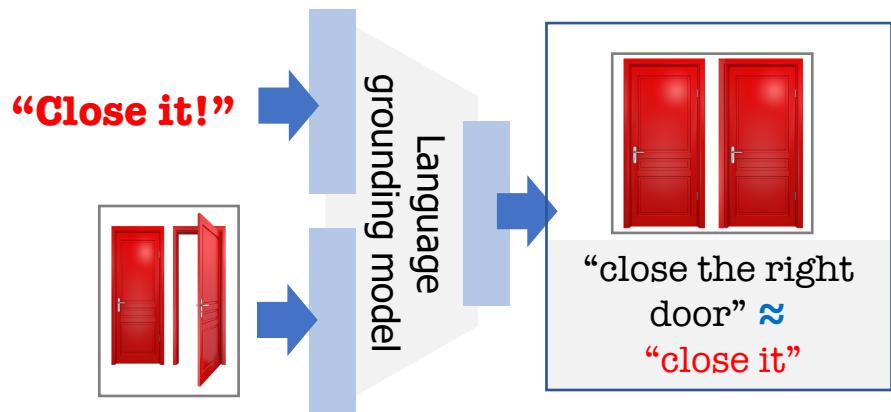


University of Colorado  
Boulder

**Dan Goldwasser**



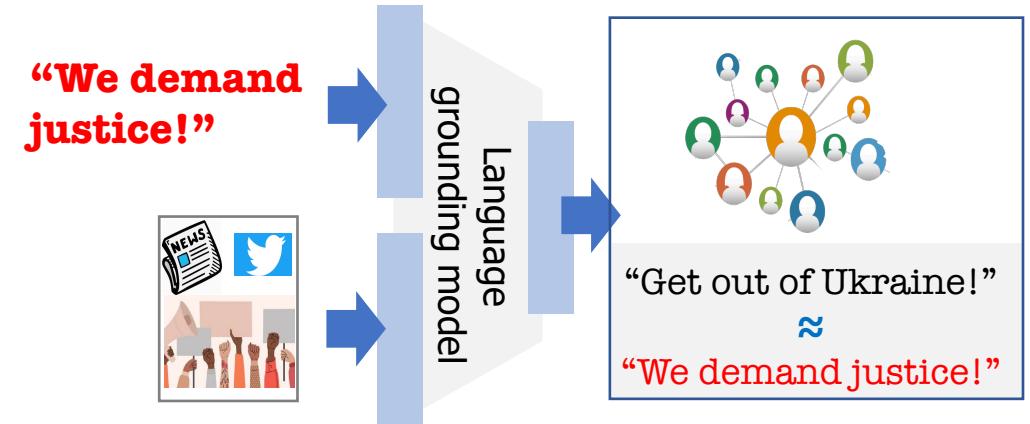
# This Section in one Slide



Real world  
context

Linguistic and real-  
world inferences

- What are the inferences needed?
- What symbols (entities, properties, relations) are they defined over?



Real world  
context

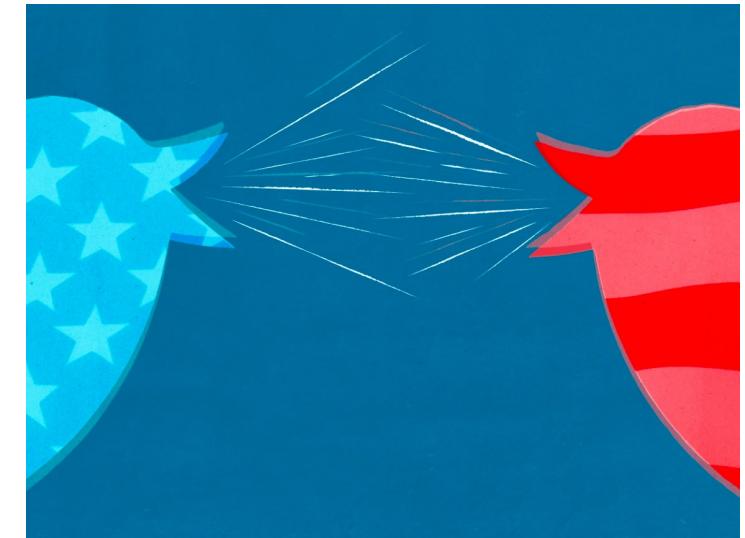
Linguistic and real-  
world inferences

- How about now?
- Can we ask people to help us?

*.. and now this section in a few more slides!*

# Neuro-Symbolic NLP and CSS

- A case for computational social science
  - **Text + Context:** lots of text coupled with behavior
  - **Very dynamic:** *a moving target for supervised learning approaches*
  - **Explanations rely on complex concepts:**
    - Ideology, interests, arguments, many more!



“if you talk about healthcare as a human right then...”

“..probably voted in favor of Obamacare”

$\text{Tweet}(x) \text{ author}(x,y) \text{ HasFrame}(x,\text{fairness}) \text{ HasTopic}(x,\text{healthcare}) \rightarrow \text{VotedFor}(y,\text{Obamacare})$

# Beyond Linguistic Context!

Understanding the real-world context of text can help disambiguate it!

E.g., transformers are very good at disambiguating word usage, **but...**

**This movie is sick!**



**Explanations can also consider the social context of the text!**

"if the author is a Trump supporter, then..."

.. article likely to oppose impeachment"

"if the author follows OAN, then..."

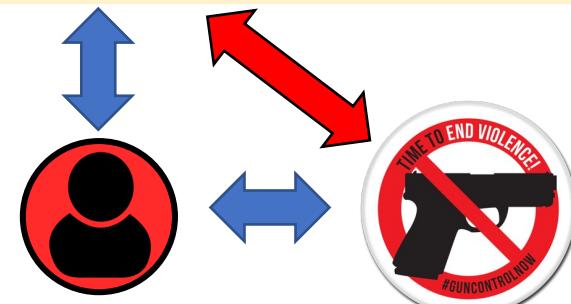
.. author likely to support Trump"

# Characterizing Context through Inference

- Often easier to think about structure in a **declarative way**
- Define **entities** and **relations** and **probabilistic rules**
- **Replace classification with inference:** many decisions that should agree with each other, to support the decision

*MakesClaim(user, claim)  $\wedge$  HasFrame(claim, safety)  $\rightarrow$  IsPro(user, gun-control)*

“Banning guns will create a **safer environment**”



# Characterizing Context through Representation



# Socially Grounded Language Representation

*"ban guns to  
avoid mass  
shootings  
in schools"*

We should  
keep our  
teachers safe!

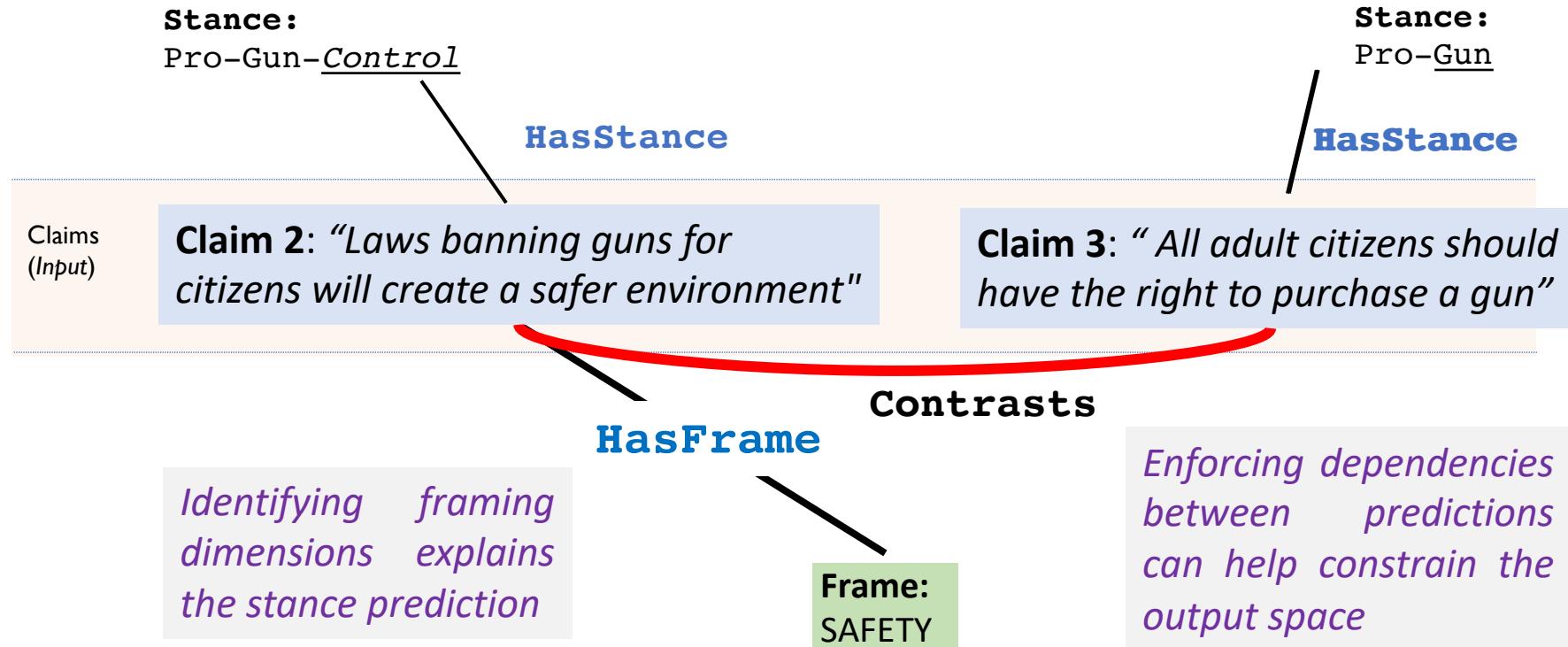
≠

We should  
keep our  
teachers safe!

*"arming  
schoolteachers  
stops active  
shooters"*

**Generalized View:** can we create *context dependent* language representations that will support textual inferences and classification tasks?

# Capturing Symbolic Dependencies



**Generalized View:** what are the relevant symbols and inferences needed for characterizing opinions? Explaining social group membership? Ideological differences?

# Framing theory

- A **lens** through which a topic is perceived, organized and communicated
- Very often, used as a tool to bias the discussion on social issues towards a given stance by creating associations beneficial for holding it
  - Gun regulation as a question of **rights** or **safety**?
- **Challenge for NLP:** *what are the relevant framing dimensions?*
  - Policy Frames (Boydston et-al '14): general policy related framing dimensions (health, safety, crime, economy, etc.), **applicable across different issues**
  - **Domain specific frames**, which can emerge from data directly (Tsur et al., 2015, Demszky et al., 2019, Roy et al. 2020), or developed and coded by humans (Morstatter et al., 2018, Liu et al. 2019, Mendelsohn et al., 2021).

# Political Issue Stance and Framing



Inhofe Press Office

@InhofePress

Follow

Six years later, health care costs have skyrocketed and millions have lost access to their doctors. #RepealObamacare

**Stance:**  
*Clearly, not a fan.*

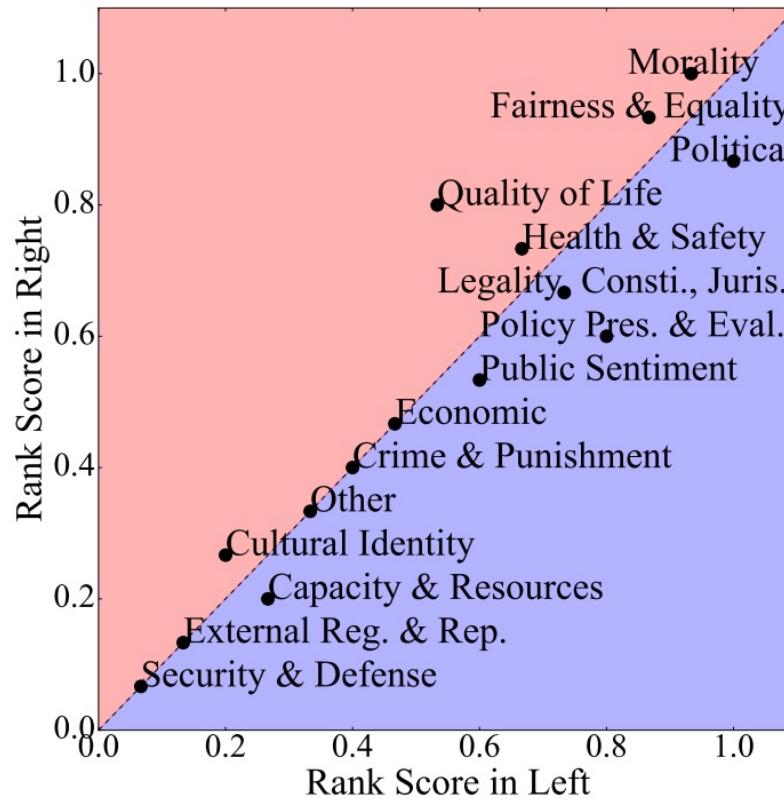
**Framing:** what are the right abstractions of the tweet,  
capturing the arguments supporting the stance?

*“Obamacare should be repealed since it is too expensive”*

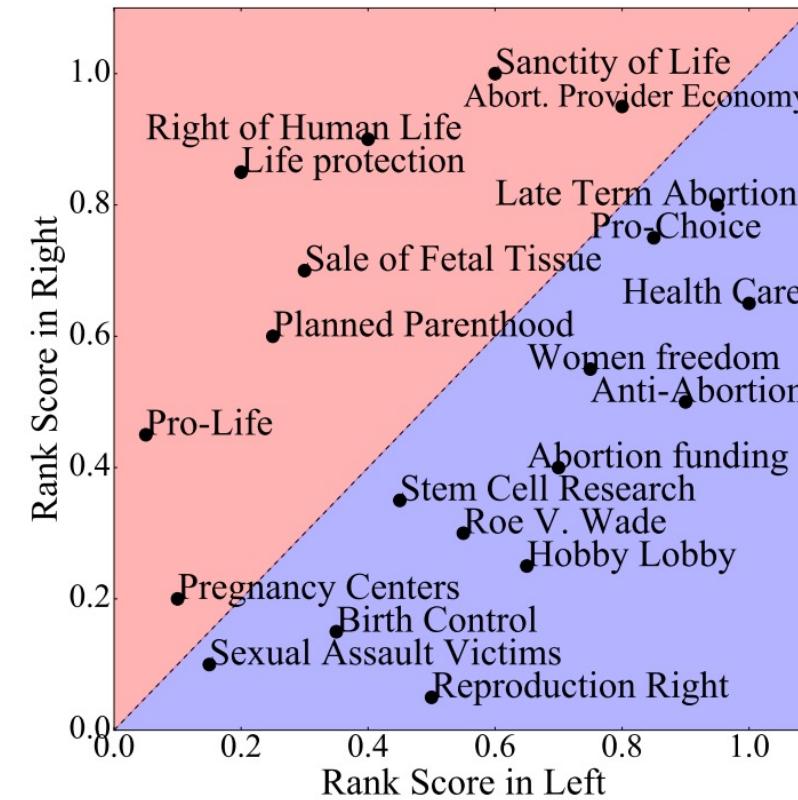


*Healthcare is framed as an **economic** issue*

# Policy Frames vs. Domain Specific Frames



(a) Frame Usage



(b) Subframe Usage

# Moral Foundations in Tweets



America woke up to heartbreaking news from Las Vegas. **We stand united** in our shock, our condolences, & our prayers.

Another **horrific shooting**. Another **unspeakable horror**. My thoughts are with everyone at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after this terrible day.

**.. Stance can be harder to determine..**

# Moral Foundations

**Human morality organized around 5 foundations, emerging from evolutionary, cultural and social origins (Haidt, 2004)**

- ***Each foundation has a positive and negative aspect (praise/judgement)***
1. Care/ Harm: care for others, generosity, compassion, sensitivity to suffering of others
  2. Fairness/ Cheating: Fairness, justice, reciprocity, rights, autonomy, prohibits cheating
  3. Loyalty/ Betrayal: Group affiliation and solidarity, patriotism, self-sacrifice
  4. Authority/ Subversion: Fulfilling social roles, authority, hierarchy, tradition.
  5. Purity/ Degradation: association with sacred and holy, disgust contamination, an elevated life.

Rising popularity in the NLP community, used for analyzing news media (Fulgoni et al., 2016 Shahid Et al. 2020), social media (Johnson et al 2018, Hoover et al., 2020 ), explain moral values (Forbes et al., 2020, Hulpuş et al., 2020)

# From Moral Foundations to Morality Frames

- Moral Foundation Theory was repeatedly used to explain behaviors.
  - Liberals emphasize Fairness, Conservatives emphasize Loyalty and Authority
- ***But.. Everybody CAREs ... but not about the same things!***

If the **target of CARE** is “illegal immigrants”,  
then author more likely to be a...

Morality Frames: identifies the moral roles of different entities. Distinguishes between agents/targets, as well as positive/negative roles

If the **causer of HARM** is “illegal immigrants”,  
then author more likely to be a...

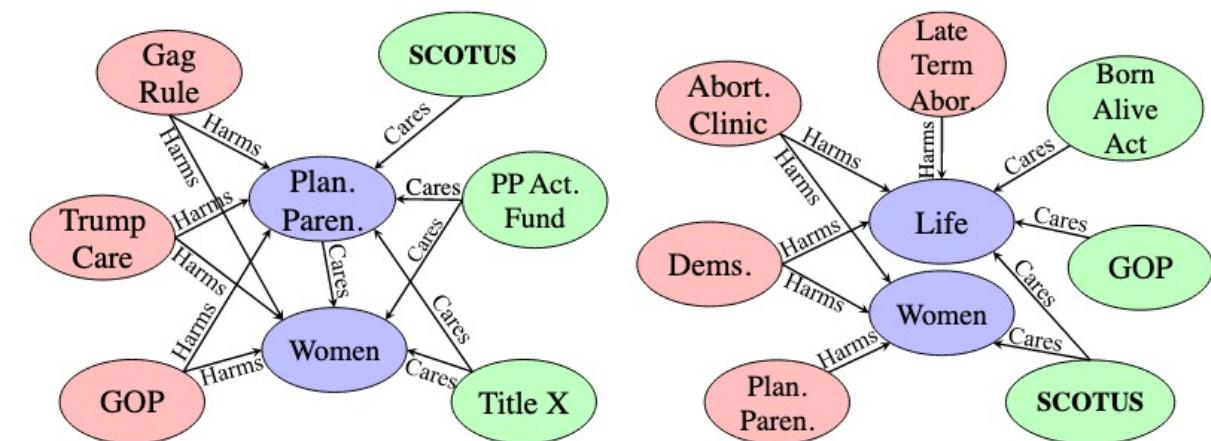
MORAL FOUNDATIONS	MORAL ROLES
<b>CARE/HARM:</b> Care for others, generosity, compassion, ability to feel pain of others, sensitivity to suffering of others, prohibiting actions that harm others.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Target of care/harm</li><li>2. Entity causing harm</li><li>3. Entity providing care</li></ol>

# Analysis: Morality Frames as Explanations

- On the topic of Abortion Rights

*If the text describes X as Y then it reflects a Right/Left perspective*

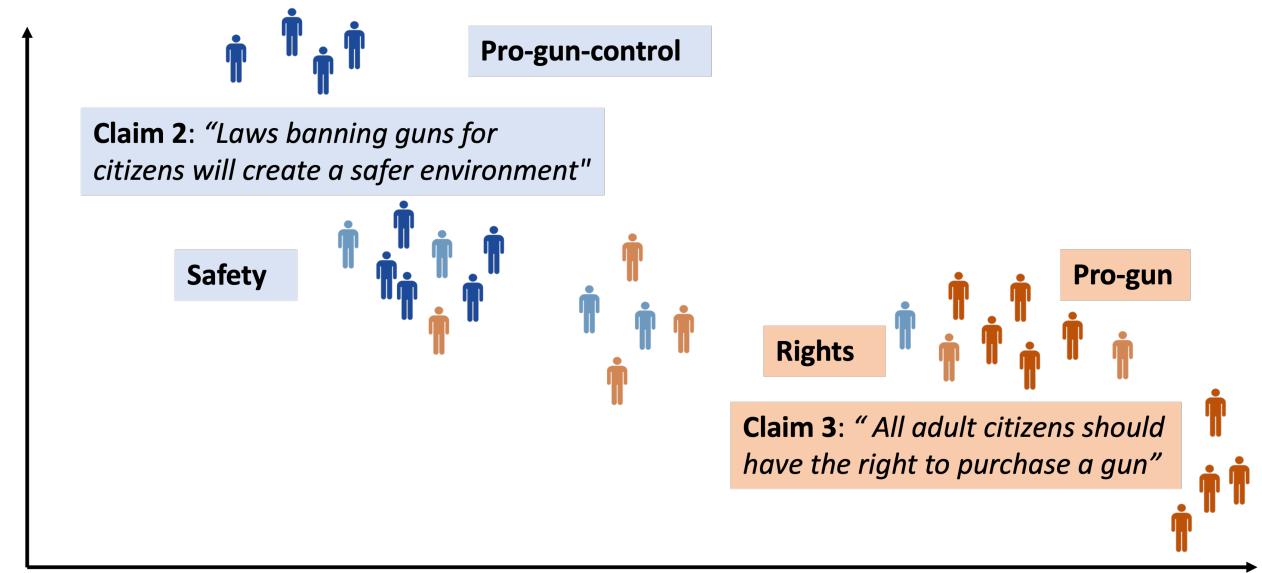
	Most Frequent Entities	Most Associated Moral Roles
In Left	Woman	Target of fairness/cheating
	Reproduction Right	Target of fairness/cheating
	Planned Parenthood	Target of loyalty/betrayal
	Reproductive Care	Target of fairness/cheating
	SCOTUS	Entity ensuring fairness
In Right	Life	Target of purity/degradation
	Planned Parenthood	Entity doing cheating
	Democrats	Failing authority
	Born Alive	Target of purity/degradation
	Woman	Target of care/harm



# How do we approach this challenge?

*MakesClaim(user, claim)  $\wedge$   
HasFrame(claim, safety)  $\rightarrow$   
HasStance(user, pro-gun-control)*

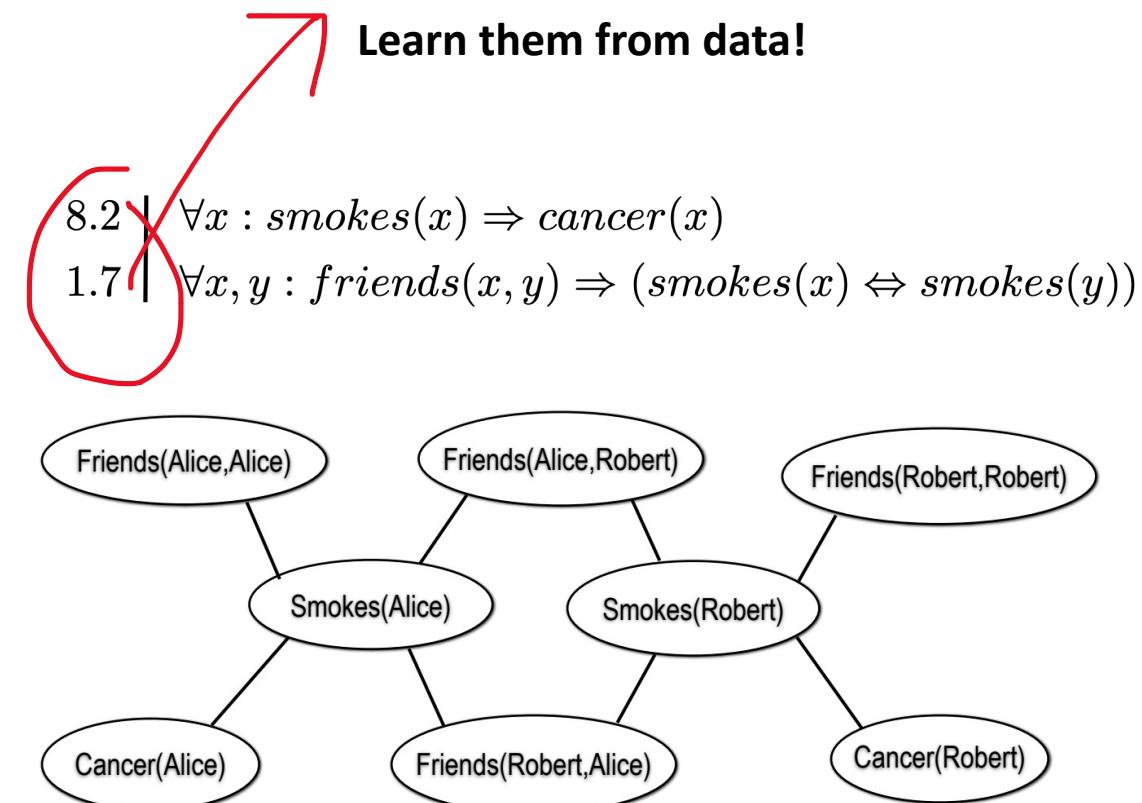
**Inference**



**Representation**

# Lessons from the Past: Statistical Rel. Learning

- Key idea: **add weights to first-order formulae**
  - Expresses the strength of the formula
- Problem as a set of pairs <Formula\_i, weight\_i>
- Describes an **undirected graphical model**
- Ground it in data and use it for **inference**



Richardson, M., Domingos, P. "Markov Logic Networks" **Machine Learning** 2006

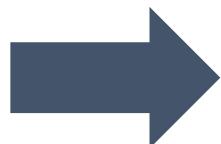
Bach S. et al. "Hinge-Loss Markov Fields and Probabilistic Soft Logic", **JMLR** 2017

# Limitations of SRL in Abstract Settings

- How to model CSS+NLP problems in a framework like PSL?

## 1. Enumerating relevant surface forms

(Johnson et al., 2017)



```
Unigram(T, U) -> HasLabel(T, L)
Unigram(T, U) & Bigram(T, B) -> HasLabel(T, L)

Retweets(T1,T2) & HasLabel(T1,L) -> HasLabel(T2, L)
```

## 2. Using local classifiers as priors

(Sridhar et al., 2015)



```
localLabel(T, L) -> HasLabel(T, L)
localAgree(T1, T2) -> Agree(T1, T2)

Agree(T1,T2) & HasLabel(T1, L) => HasLabel(T2,L)
```

# Declarative Deep Relational Learning

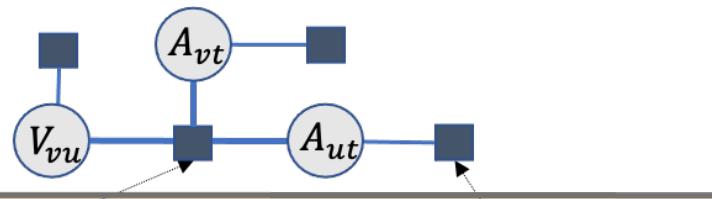
- Rules as context, using a graphical model

## DRaiL Program

```
rule_def:  
    Debates(u, t) -> Agree(u, t)
```

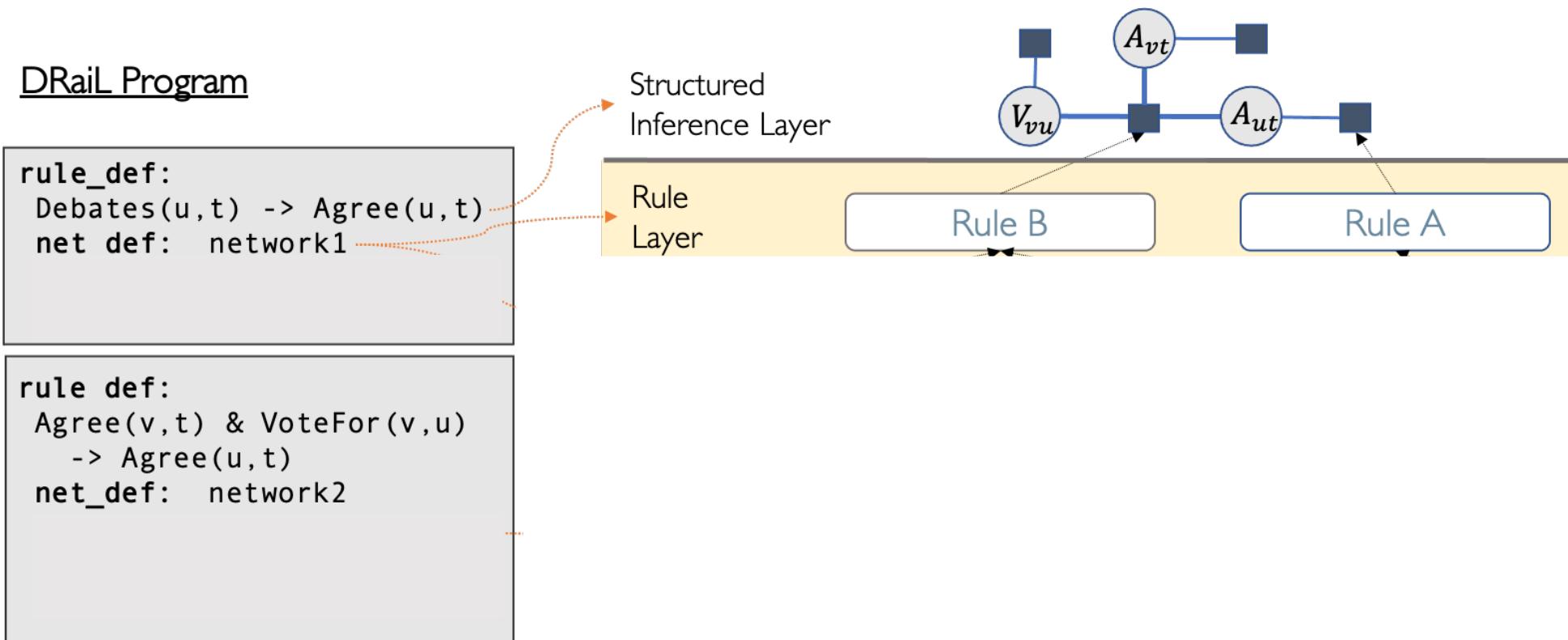
```
rule def:  
    Agree(v, t) & VoteFor(v, u)  
    -> Agree(u, t)
```

Structured  
Inference Layer



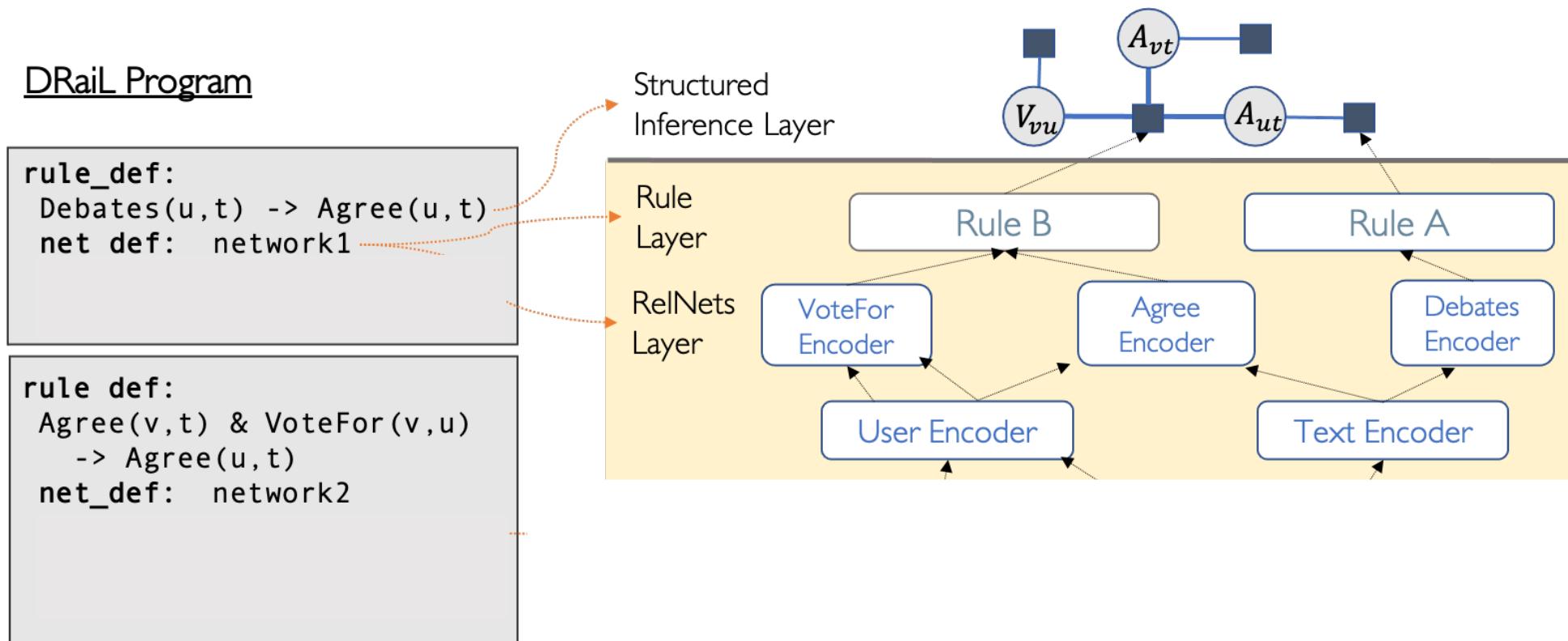
# Declarative Deep Relational Learning

- Rules as context, using a graphical model *with neural potentials*



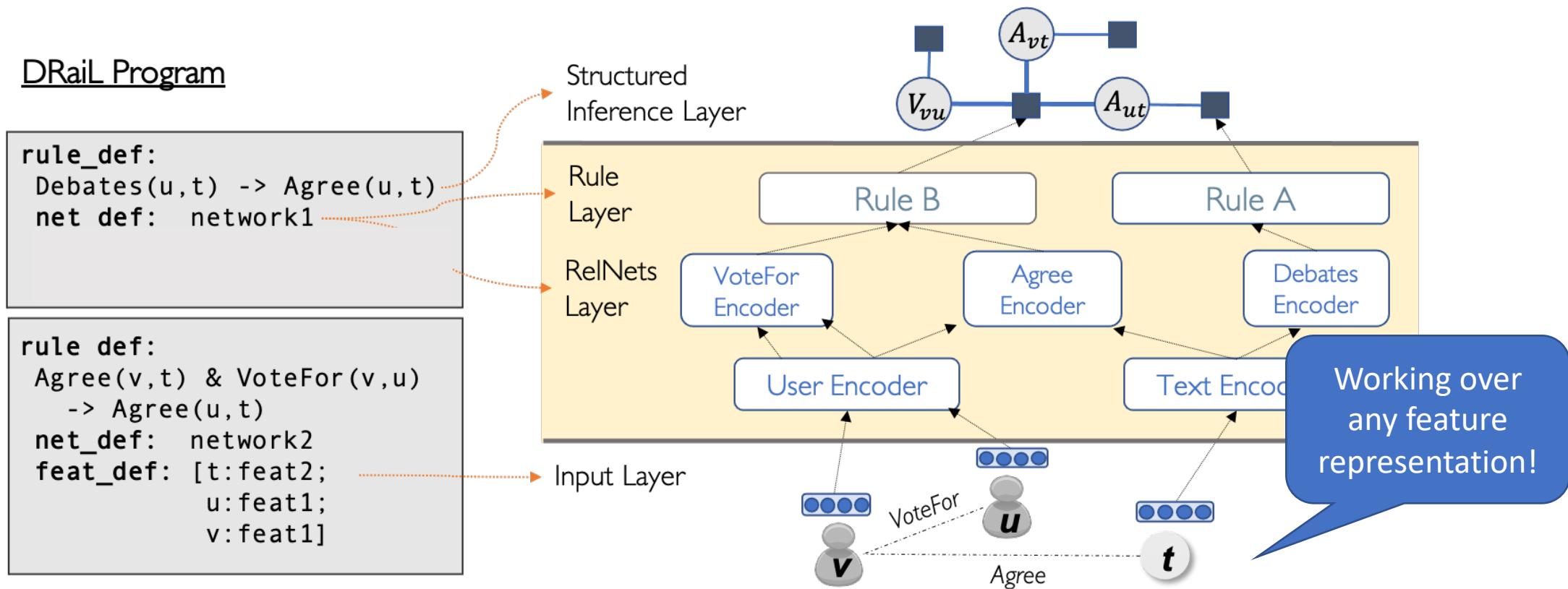
# Declarative Deep Relational Learning

- Rules as context, using a graphical model *with neural potentials*
- Representation as context, using neural architectures



# Declarative Deep Relational Learning

- Rules as context, using a graphical model *with neural potentials*
- Representation as context, using neural architectures



# Deep Relational Learning

*Neural potentials over a relational embedding space*

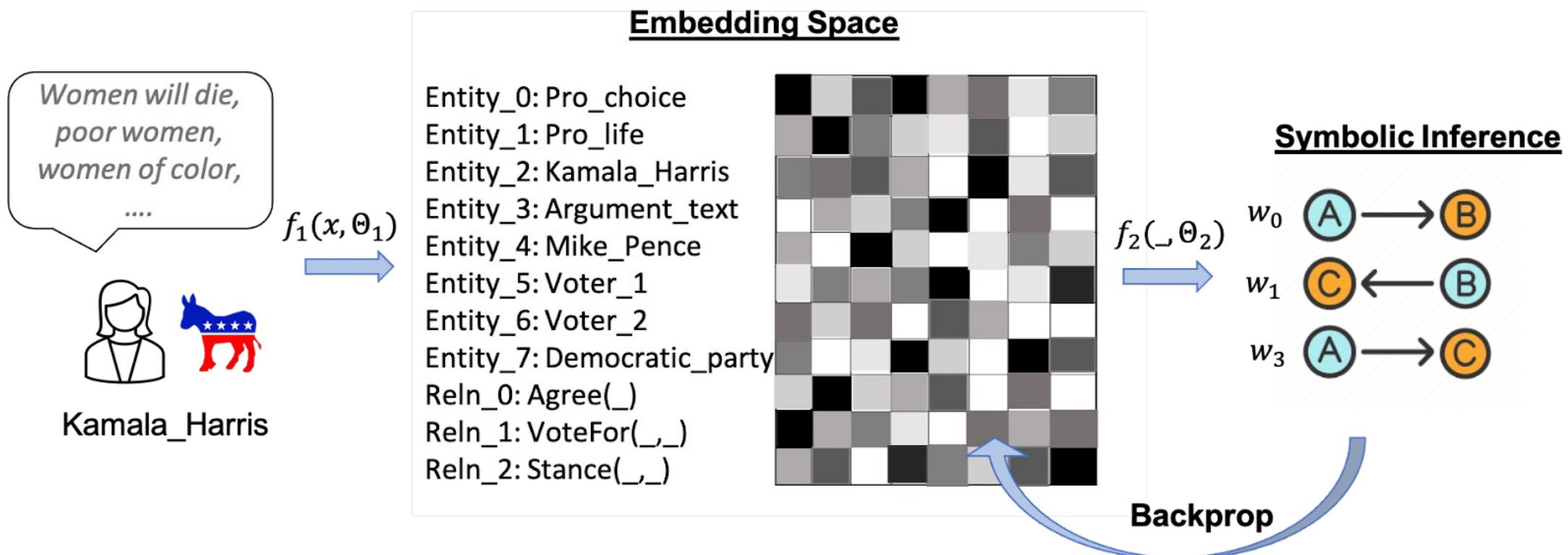
$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{y} \in \{0,1\}^n} P(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) \equiv \arg \max_{\mathbf{y} \in \{0,1\}^n} \sum_{\psi_{r,t} \in \Psi} w_r \psi_r(\mathbf{x}_r, \mathbf{y}_r)$$

$$s.t. c(\mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{y}_c) \leq 0; \quad \forall c \in C$$

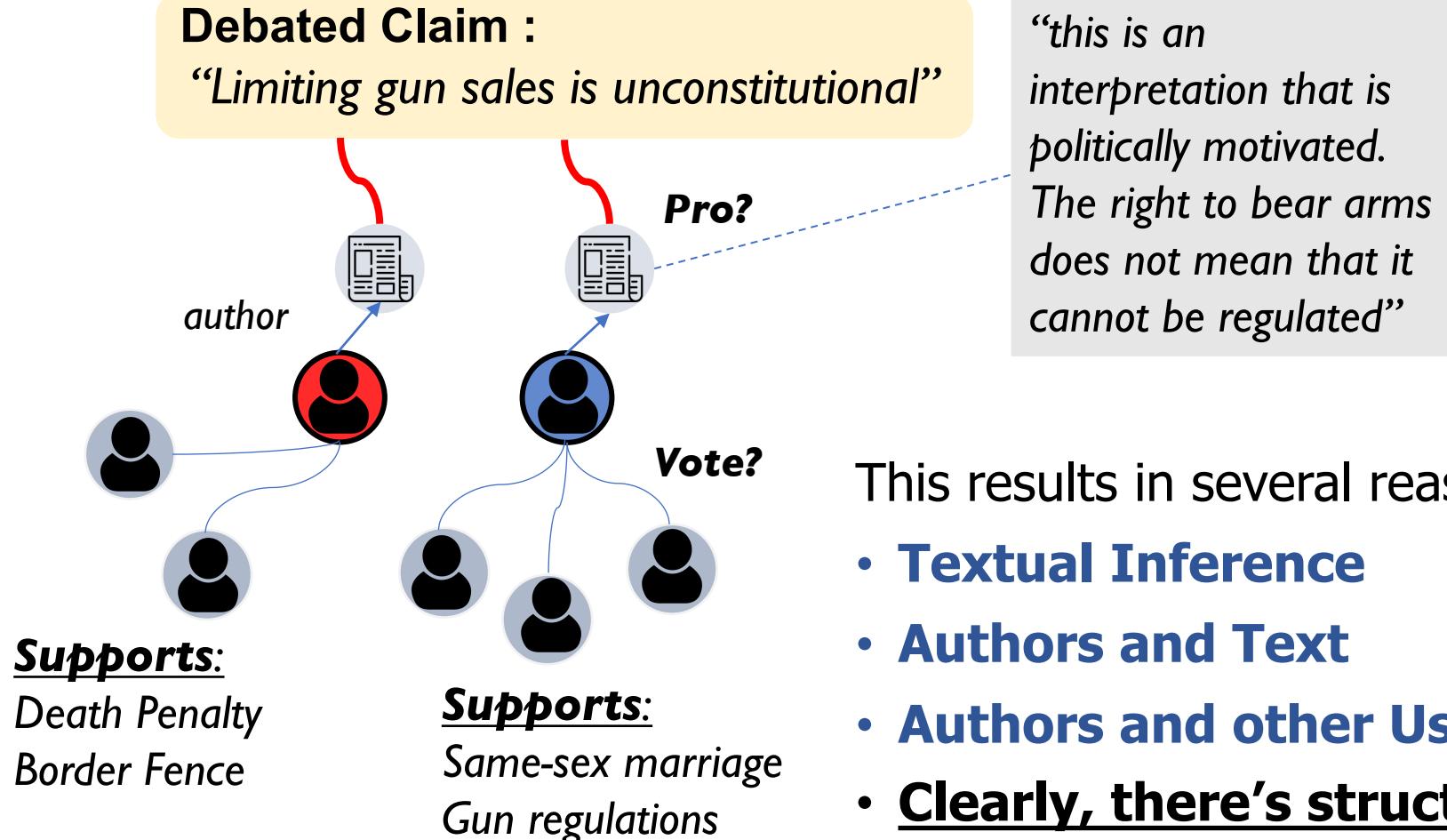
**Learning:** We use the structured hinge-loss over the neural representation

$$\max(0, \max_{\mathbf{y} \in Y} (\Delta(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) + \sum_{\psi_r \in \Psi} \Phi_t(\mathbf{x}_r, \mathbf{y}_r; \theta^t)) - \sum_{\psi_r \in \Psi} \Phi_t(\mathbf{x}_r, \mathbf{y}_r; \theta^t))$$

# Embedding Space is Updated!



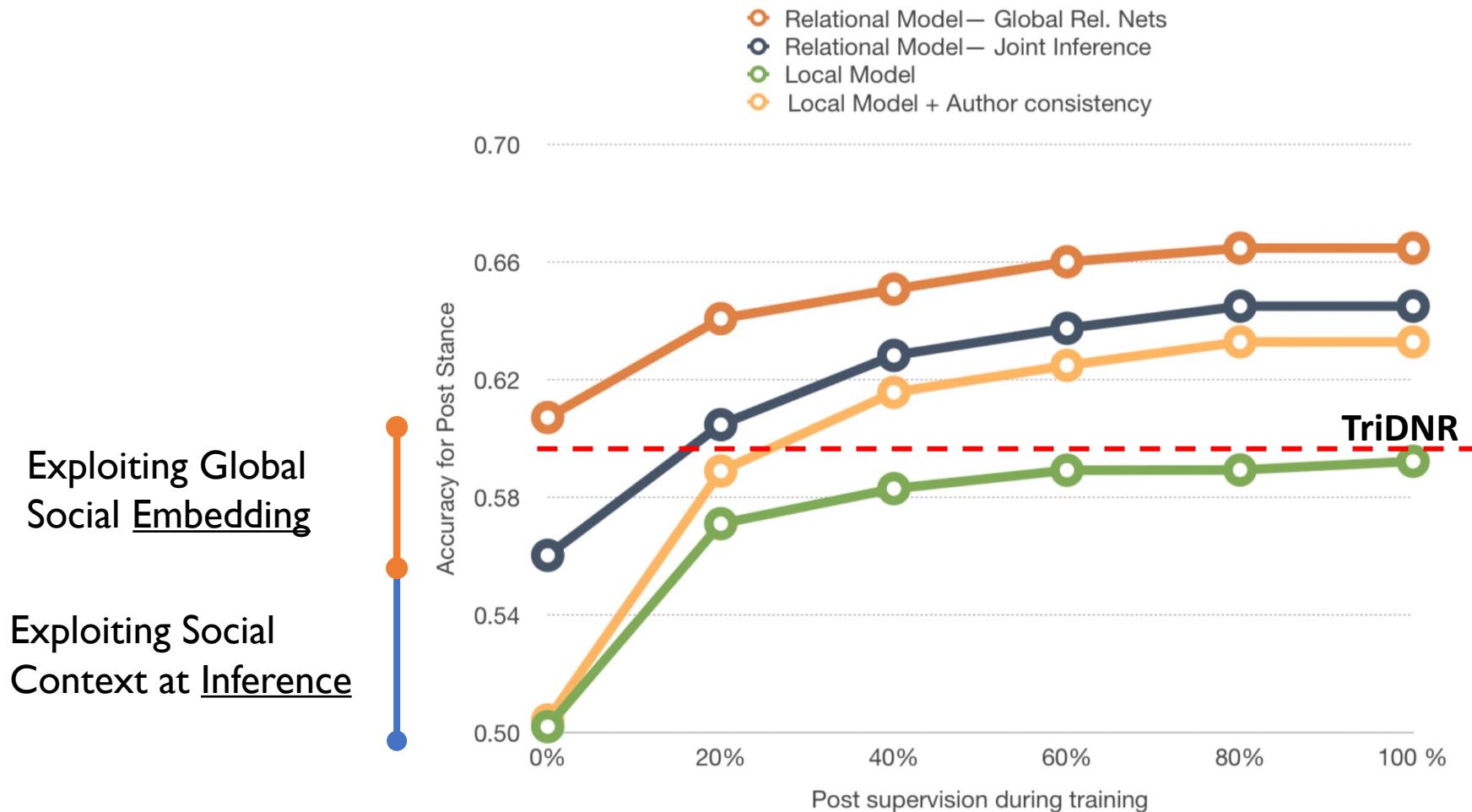
# Scenario: Understanding Debate Networks



This results in several reasoning tasks:

- **Textual Inference**
- **Authors and Text**
- **Authors and other Users**
- **Clearly, there's structure to be exploited!**

# Evaluating Modeling Choices



# Other Examples of this Paradigm

- *ProbLog* is a probabilistic logic programming framework

```
0.1 :- burglary. 0.5 :- hears_alarm(mary).  
0.2 :- earthquake. 0.4 :- hears_alarm(john).
```

```
alarm :- earthquake.  
alarm :- burglary.  
calls(X) :- alarm, hears_alarm(X).
```

- *DeepProbLog* extends it to handle neural predicates

$$nn(m_q, \vec{t}, \vec{u}) :: q(\vec{t}, u_1); \dots; q(\vec{t}, u_n) :- b_1, \dots, b_m$$
$$nn(m_{\text{digit}}, \sigma, [0, \dots, 9]) :: \text{digit}(\sigma, 0); \dots; \text{digit}(\sigma, 9).$$

# DeepProbLog: Inference and Learning

- **Inference:** As in ProbLog, forward pass on Neural predicates

- **Jointly learn parameters** for probabilistic facts and Nnets

- Loss based on single query output

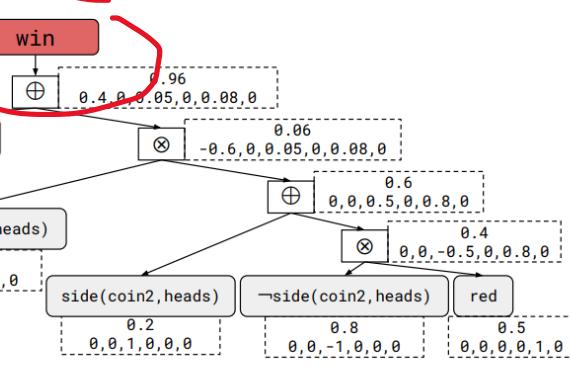
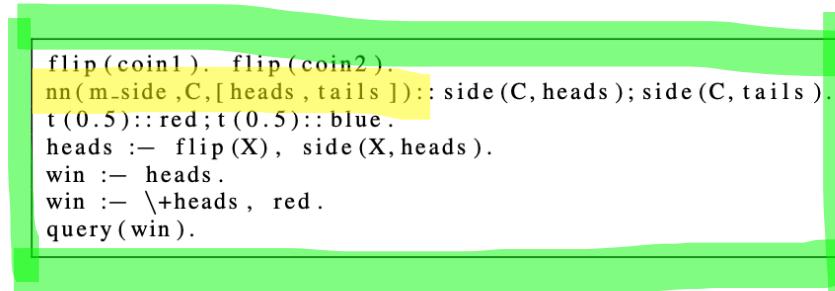
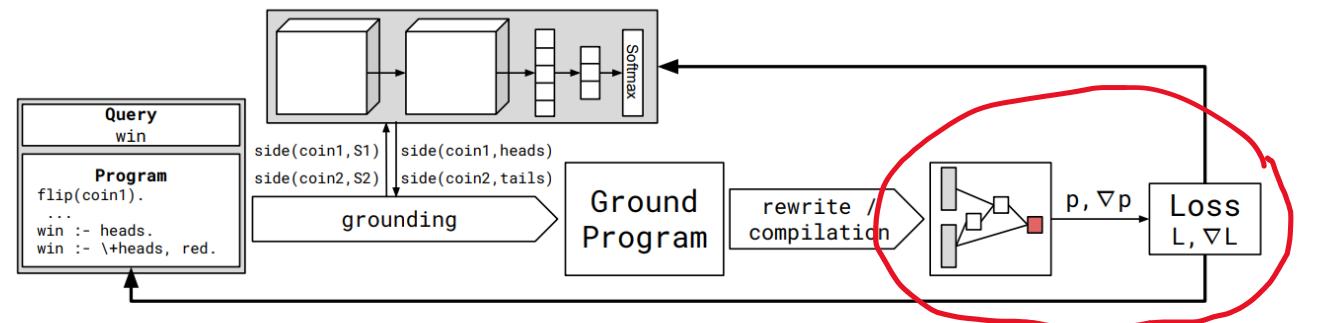
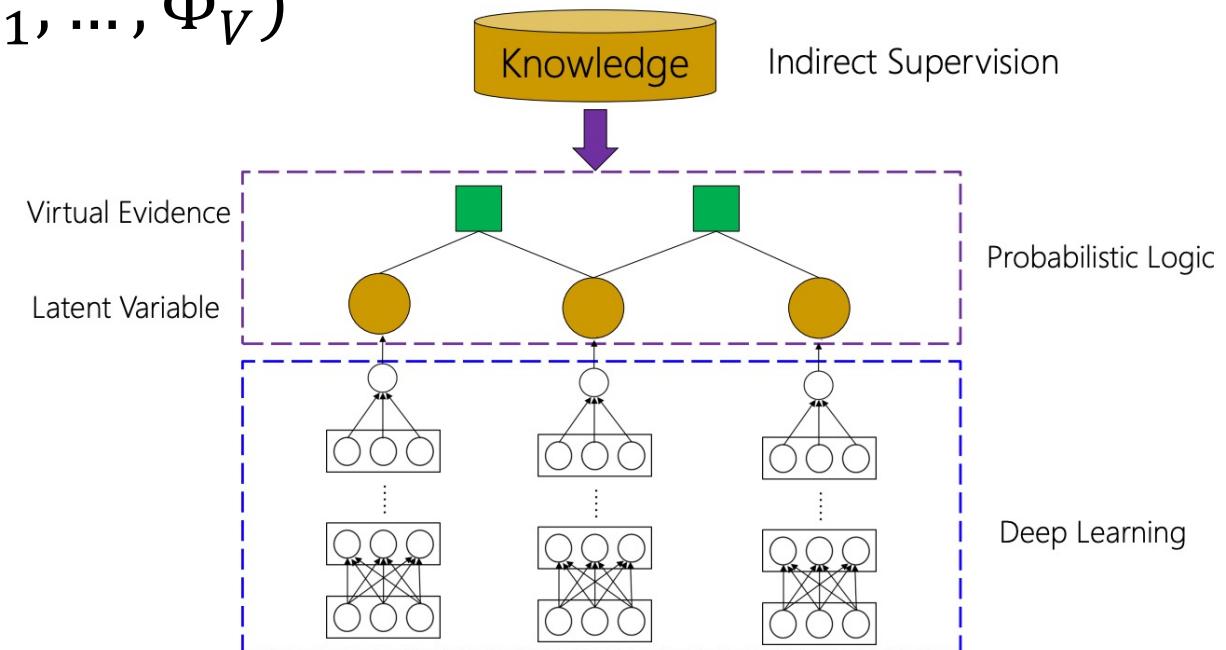


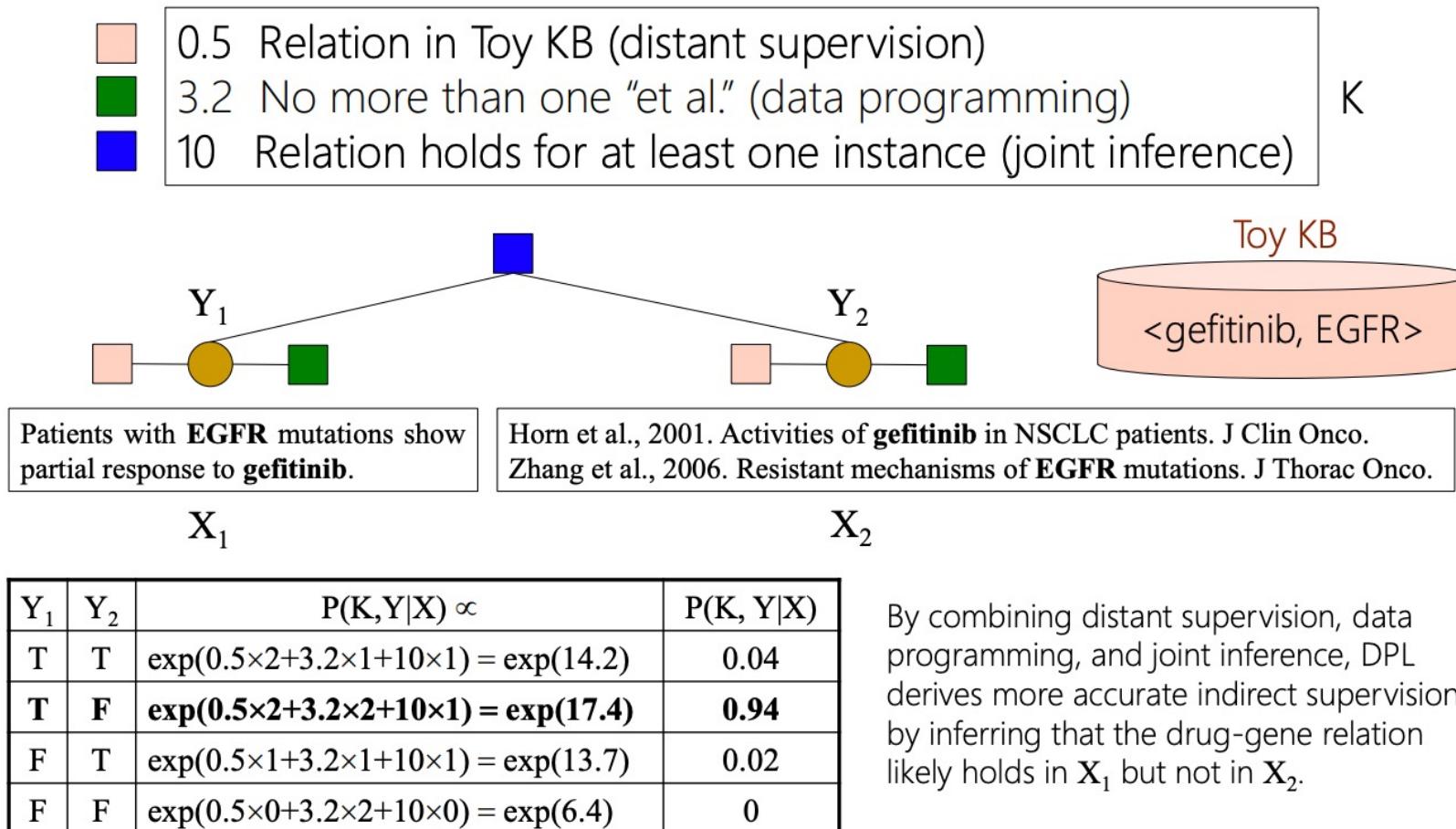
Figure 2: Parameter learning in DeepProbLog.

# DPL: The Case for Indirect Supervision

- We want to learn model  $P(y|x)$  using a NNet, but Y is unobserved
- Weak labeling functions  $K = (\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_V)$
- Dependencies between weak labels and output
- Constraints on instances or model expectations



# DPL: The Case for Indirect Supervision



# Human Interaction as Indirect Supervision

- Humans are great “reasoning machines”
  - Learn by matching new data to previously acquired concepts
- We can characterize the learning problem **using intermediate concepts** which can be shared across many learning problems
- Learning as a form of **knowledge communication**
  - Intermediate concepts can be viewed as a shared vocabulary supporting interaction between machine learner and human teacher
  - Human teacher can “debug” the learner’s internal representation

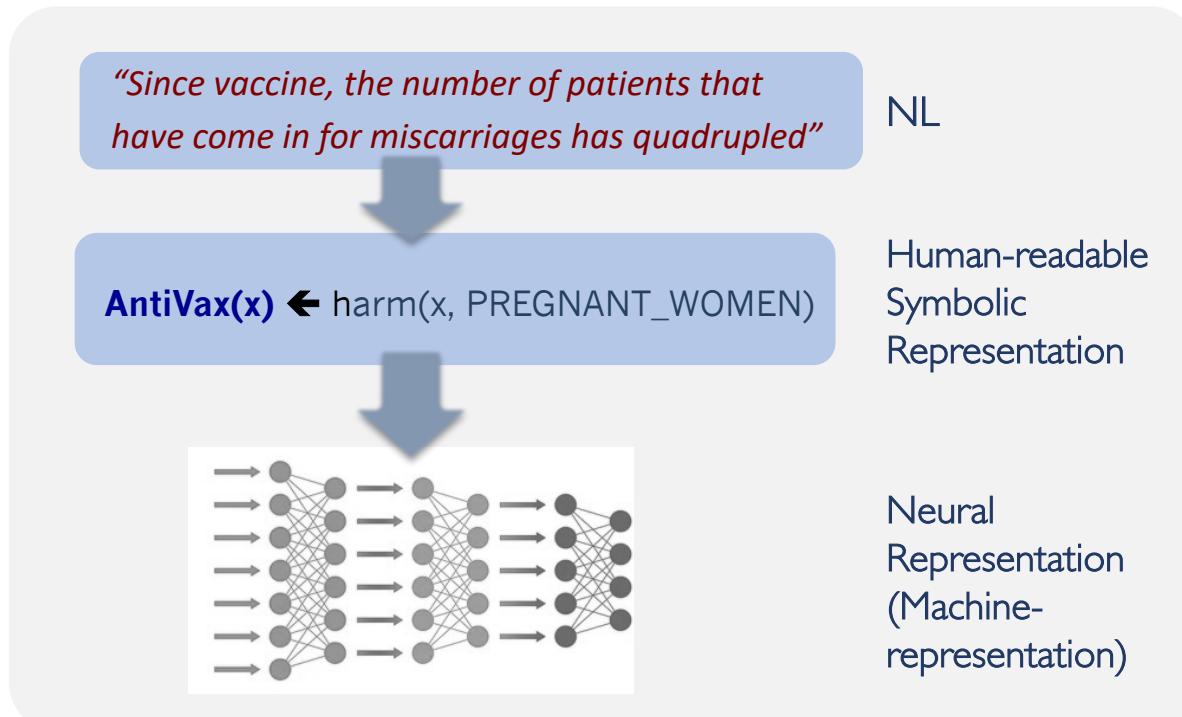
My teacher said that lightning is dangerous.  
Knives are also dangerous, they are sharp.  
Lightning is sharp too!



# The Role of Symbols in Human Interaction

- **Working definition:** communicate human's rationale about the task, via intermediate judgements and explanations, sub-goals or steps.

## Learning from Explanations



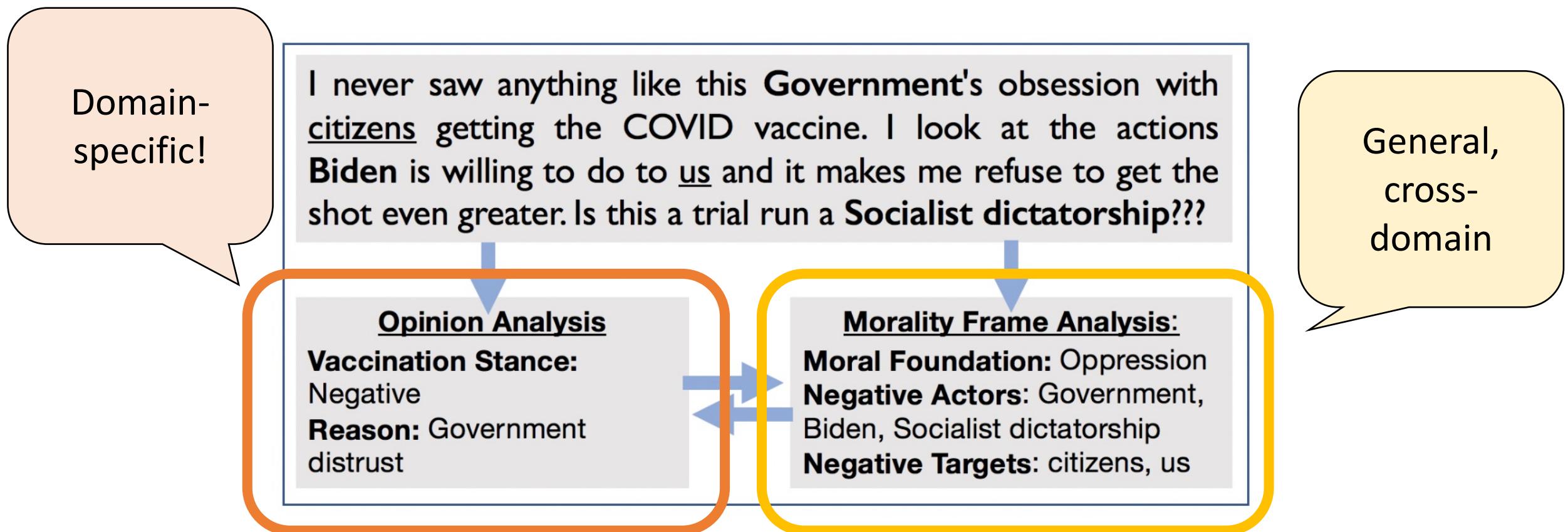
Interaction over the symbolic representation

- Dependencies between concepts.

### Open Problems

- Where do relevant concepts come from?
- How to ground concepts in raw data?
- How can the symbolic representation be "compiled" into a classifier?

# Putting all Pieces Together: Opinion Analysis

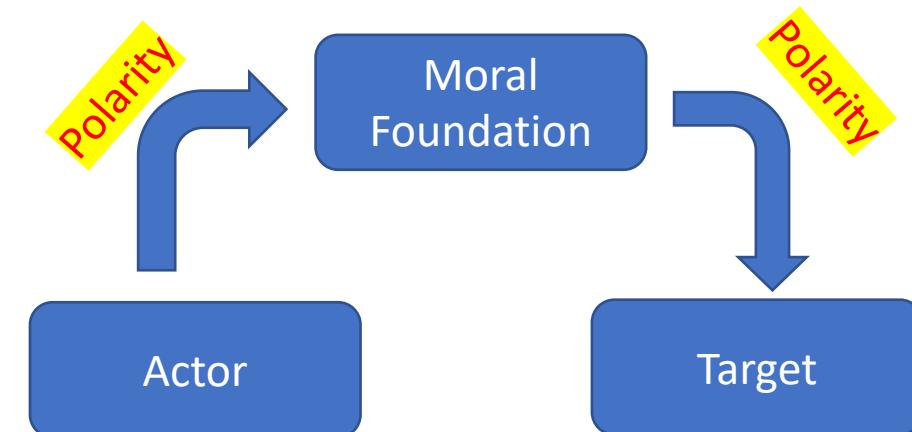


# Morality Frames Can Help us Explain Opinions

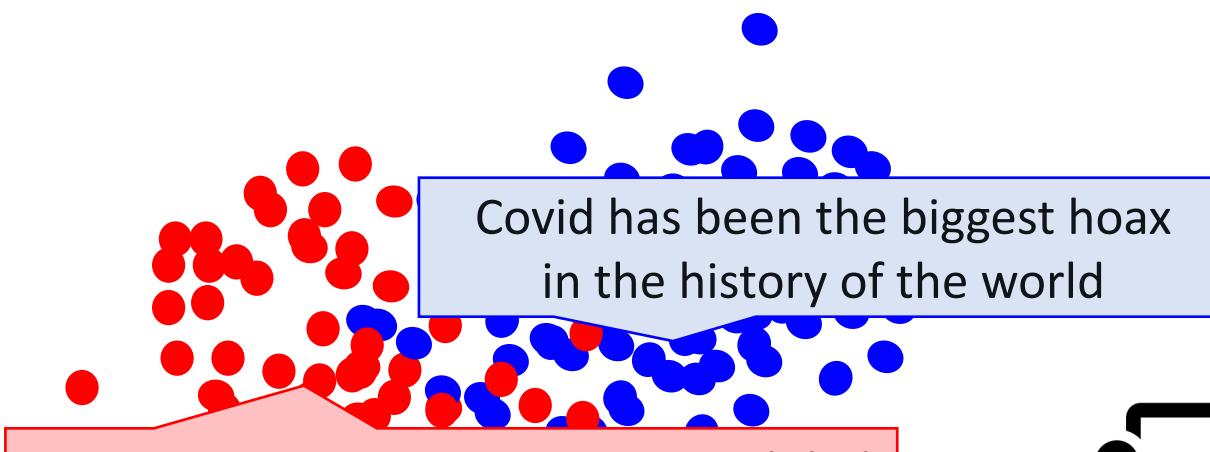
- **Reminder:** Morality frames capture differences in the **actors / targets** of moral sentiment
- They can help us *explain opinions*

If the actor of **AUTHORITY** is “Fauci”, the author is more likely to be *pro-vaccine*, and to express *Trust in Science*

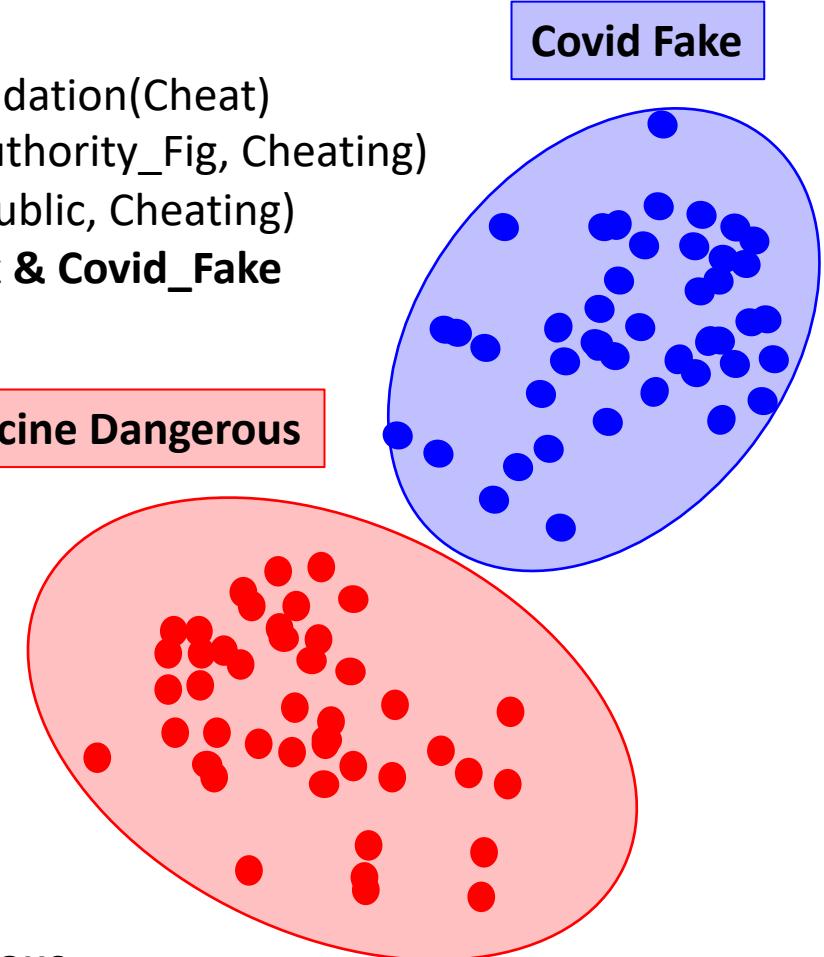
If the actor of **HARM** is “Fauci”, the author is more likely to be *anti-vaccine*, and to express *Distrust in Government*



# Humans Can Help tie General Concepts to Domain-Specific Outputs

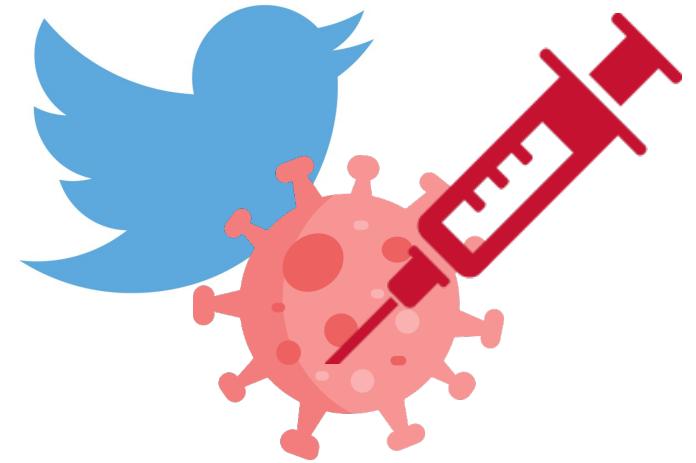


MoralFoundation(Harm)  
& Actor(Vaccine, Harming)  
& Target(Public, Harming)  
=> AntiVax & Vaccine\_Dangerous



# A Small Experiment

- 3 NLP/CSS Researchers in **two** 1-hour sessions
- 85,000 unlabeled tweets about the covid vaccine
- **Initial set of themes:** main reasons people cite to refuse the vaccine  
e.g: “**The vaccine is dangerous**” (Wawrutza et. al, 2021)
- **Interactive session:** identifying **high-level argumentative patterns** and contributing 2-5 examples



# Joint Model for Opinions and Morality Frames

## Basic Classifiers

- Map tweets to stance/reason/MF
- Map entities to role and polarity

[DRaiL: Deep Relational Learning](#)  
[Pacheco and Goldwasser, 2020]

**W: Harm(Fauci) -> AntiVax(Tweet)**

## Dependencies between different dimensions

- If Fauci harming, likely anti-vax

## Stance consistency preferences

- If two tweets talk about Fauci, and they are both anti-vax, likely same polarity

# Joint Model for Opinions and Morality Frames

## Basic Classifiers

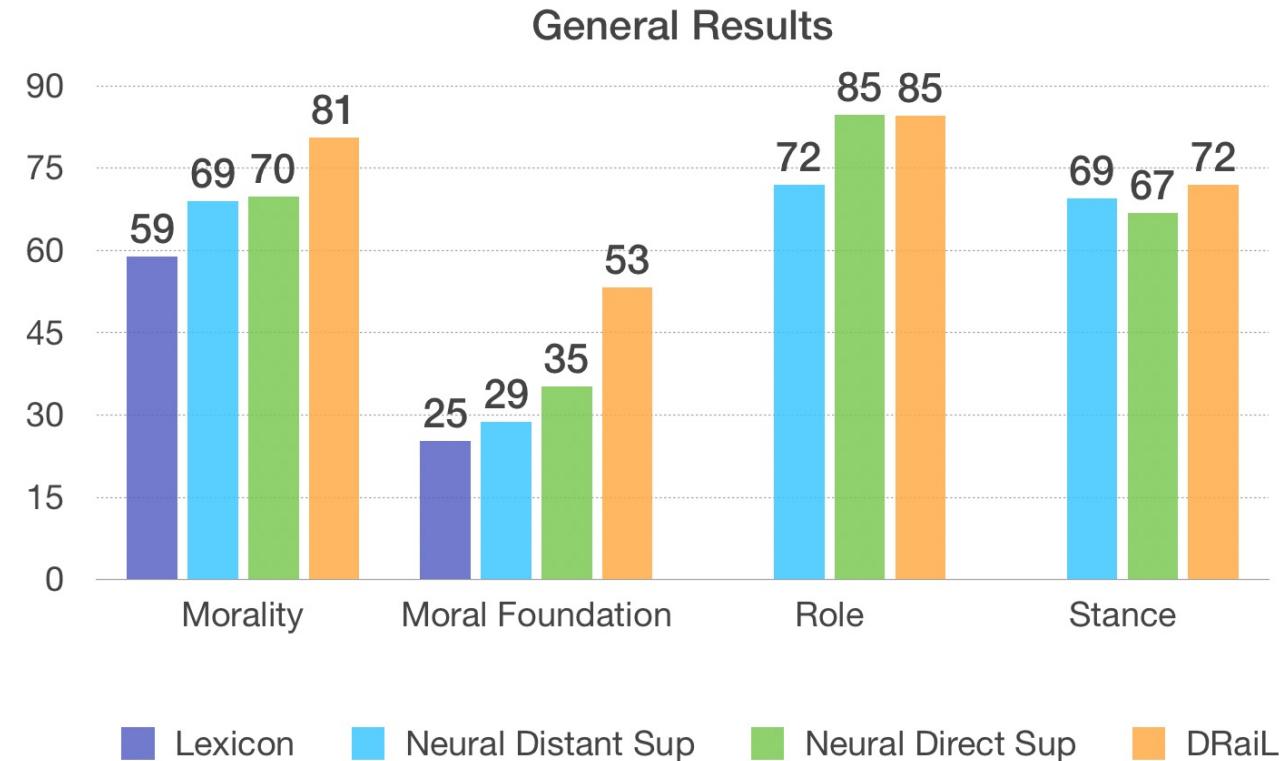
- Map tweets to stance/reason/MF
- Map entities to role and polarity

## Dependencies between different dimensions

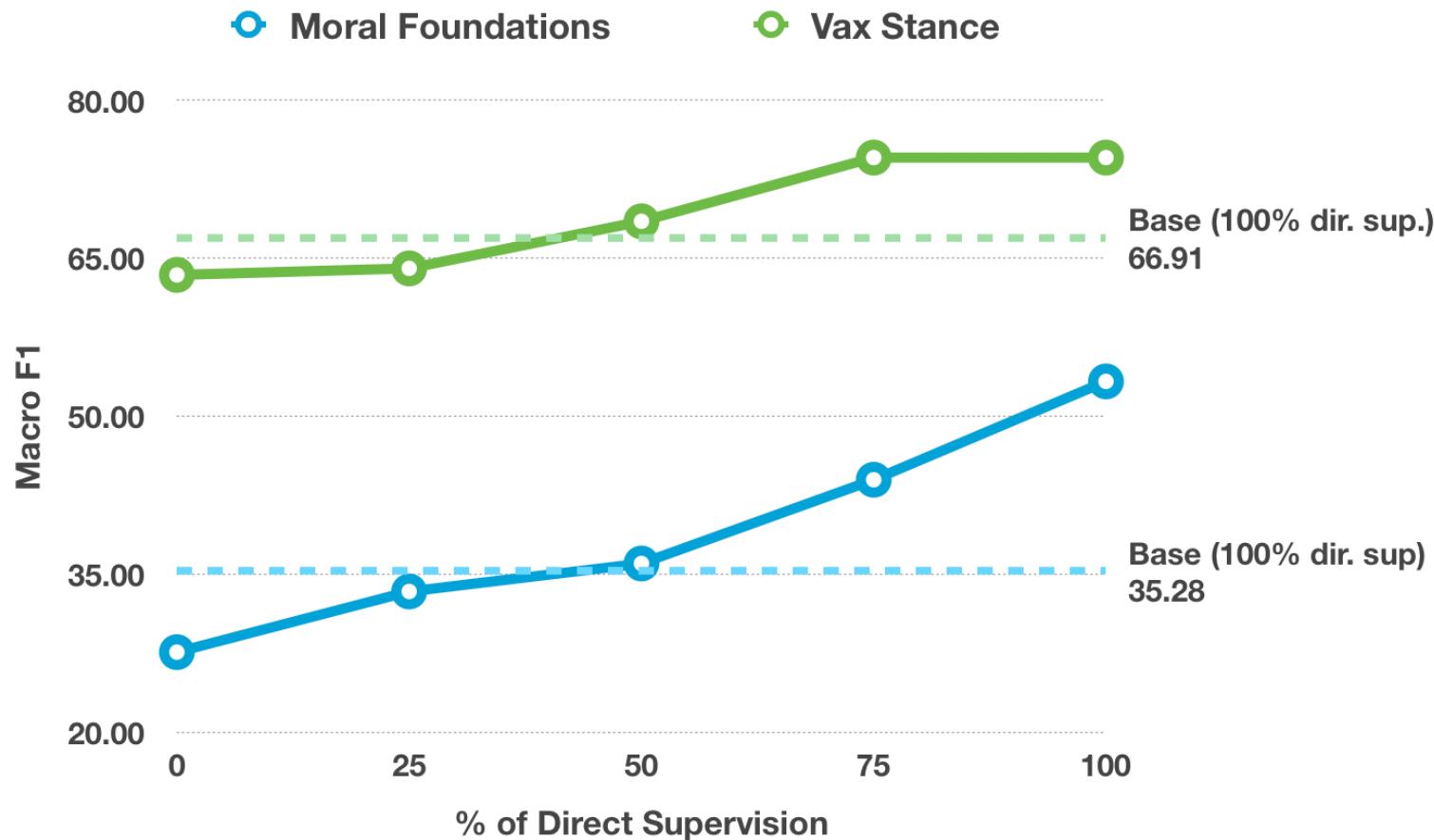
- If Fauci harming, likely anti-vax

## Stance consistency preferences

- If two tweets talk about Fauci, and they are both anti-vax, likely same polarity

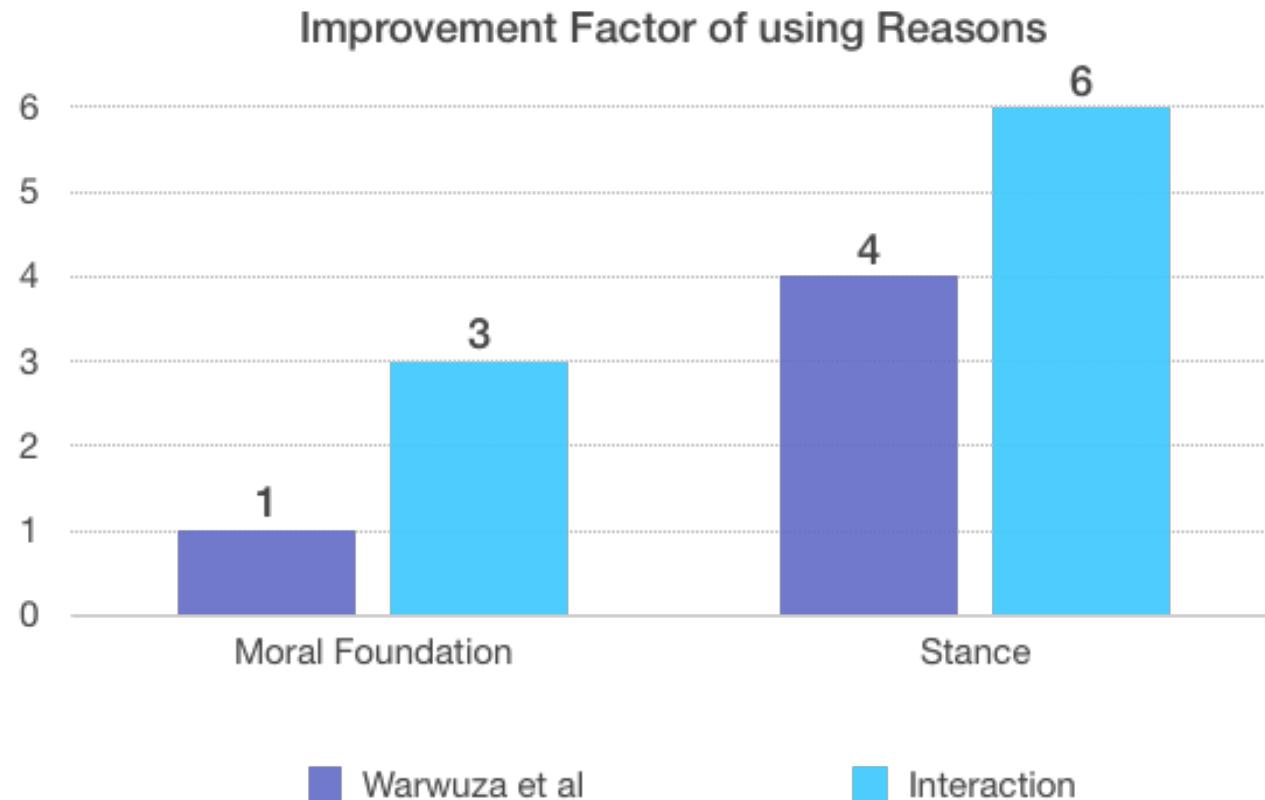


# The Impact of Inference



- **Joint inference** makes our model competitive with just 25% of direct supervision
- We beat the fully supervised base model with 50% of direct supervision

# The Impact of Interaction



# Summary: Deep Relational Learning

- **A general framework for combining symbolic and neural representations**
- **Neural:** captures “implicit” interactions between entities in the embedding space.
- **Symbolic:** explicit interactions between entities, forced to provide a consistent view
- **Neuro-Symbolic:** consistency constraints are propagated to the embedding space
- Provides a convenient way to compile symbolic explanations into neural classifiers, **amenable to human intervention**