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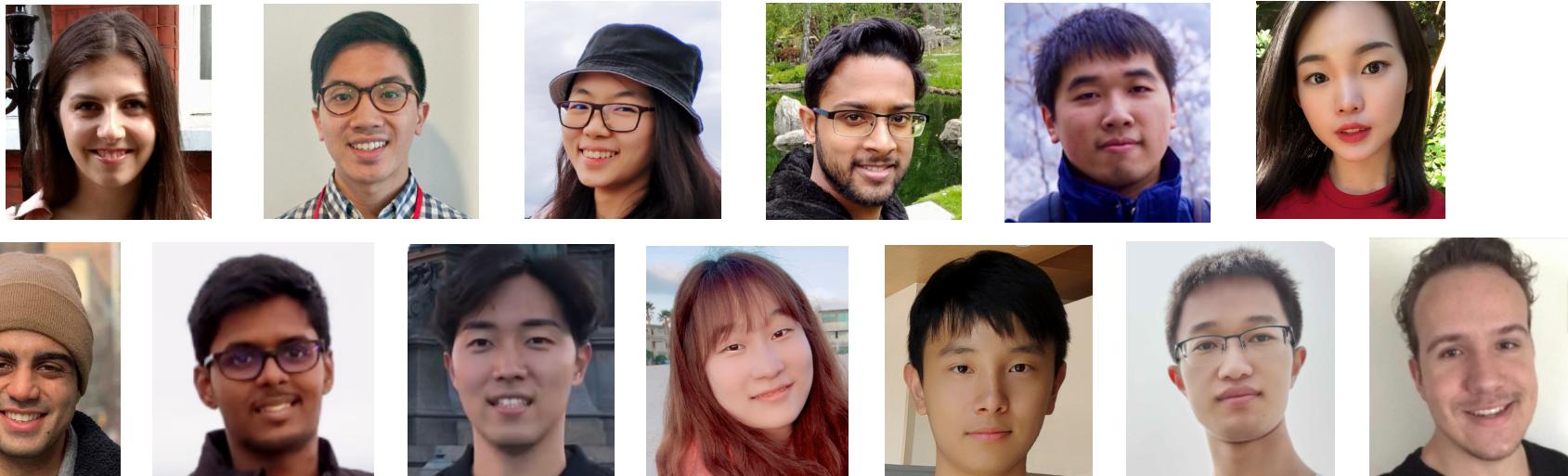
Teaching Machine through Human Explanations

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Students



Research Partnership



Funding



J.P.Morgan

Google

amazon

SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION

Adobe



A Surprisingly “Simple” Recipe for Modern NLP

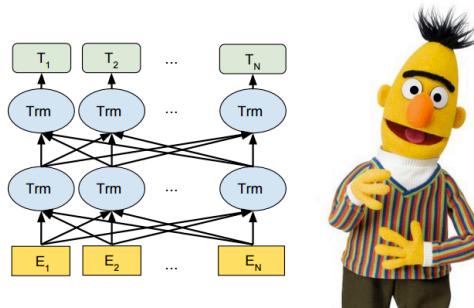
Model

+

Labeled
Data

+

Computing
Power



A Surprisingly “Simple” Recipe for Modern NLP

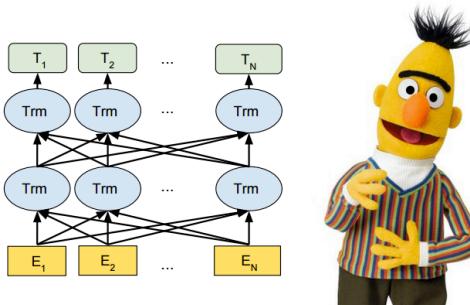
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```
pip install transformers  
from transformers import BertModel  
from transformers import RobertaModel
```



A Surprisingly “Simple” Recipe for Modern NLP

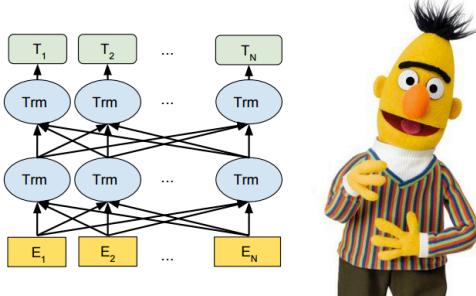
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aws ec2 run-instances \  
--instance-type p3.2xlarge  
--instance-type p3.16xlarge
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A Surprisingly “Simple” Recipe for Modern NLP

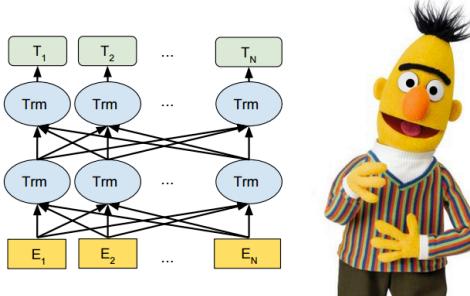
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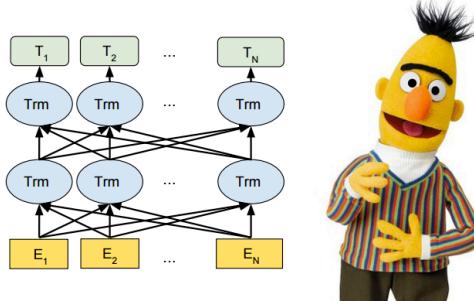


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A Surprisingly “Simple” Recipe for Modern NLP

Model



```
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from transformers import BertModel  
from transformers import RobertaModel
```



Model architectures and computing power
are transferrable across applications
labeled data is not!

Computing
Power



```
aws ec2 run-instances \  
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```



Cost of data labeling: relation extraction

Billy Mays, the bearded, boisterous pitchman who, as the undisputed king of TV yell and sell,
became an unlikely pop culture icon, died at his home in Tampa, Fla, on Sunday.

International Amateur Boxing Association president Anwar Chowdhry, who is from Pakistan, defended the decision to stop the fight.

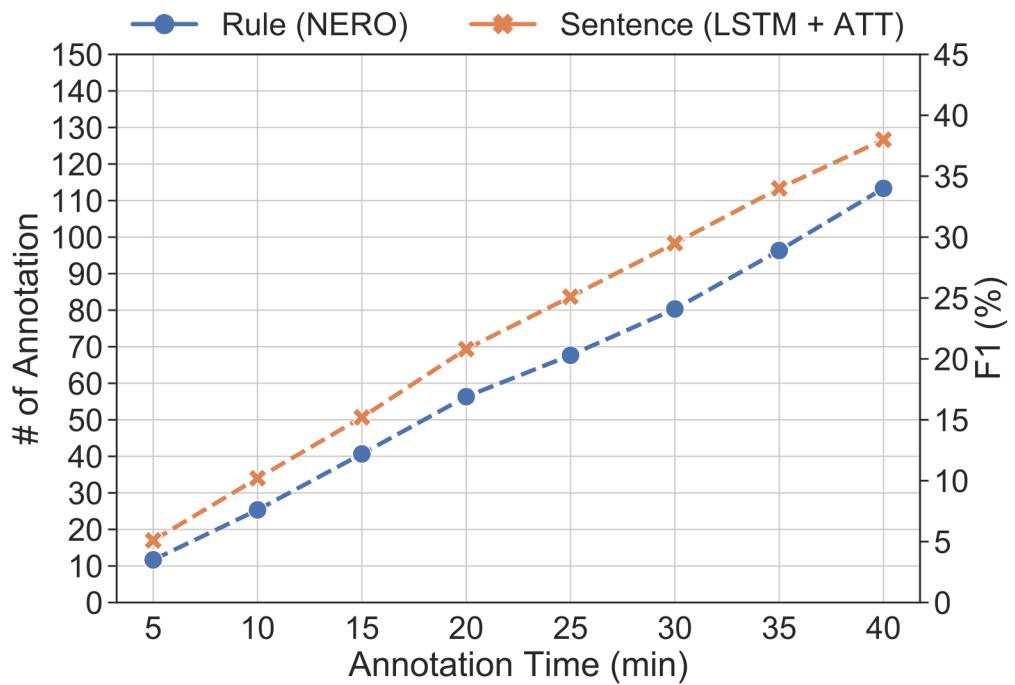
- Anwar Chowdhry is an employee or member of International Amateur Boxing Association (note: politicians are employed by their states, musicians are employed by their record labels)
- International Amateur Boxing Association is a school that Anwar Chowdhry has attended
- No relation/not enough evidence
- Entity is missing/sentence is invalid (happens rarely)

TACRED dataset: 106k labeled instances for 41 relations, crowd-sourced via Amazon Mechanical Turk

Cost of data labeling: relation extraction

Cost on Amazon
Mechanical Turk: \$0.5
per instance → **\$53k!**

Time cost: ~20 second
per instance → **7+ days**



Cost of data labeling: more complex task



Paragraph 1 of 43

Spend around 4 minutes on the following paragraph to ask 5 questions! If you can't ask 5 questions, ask 4 or 3 (worse), but do your best to ask 5. Select the answer from the paragraph by clicking on 'Select Answer', and then highlight the smallest segment of the paragraph that answers the question.

Oxygen is a chemical element with symbol O and atomic number 8. It is a member of the chalcogen group on the periodic table and is a highly reactive nonmetal and oxidizing agent that readily forms compounds (notably oxides) with most elements. By mass, oxygen is the third-most abundant element in the universe, after hydrogen and helium. At standard temperature and pressure, two atoms of the element bind to form dioxygen, a colorless and odorless diatomic gas with the formula O₂.

2. Diatomic oxygen gas constitutes 20.8% of the Earth's atmosphere. However, monitoring of atmospheric oxygen levels show a global downward trend, because of fossil-fuel burning. Oxygen is the most abundant element by mass in the Earth's crust as part of oxide compounds such as silicon dioxide, making up almost half of the crust's mass.

SQuAD dataset : 23k paragraphs

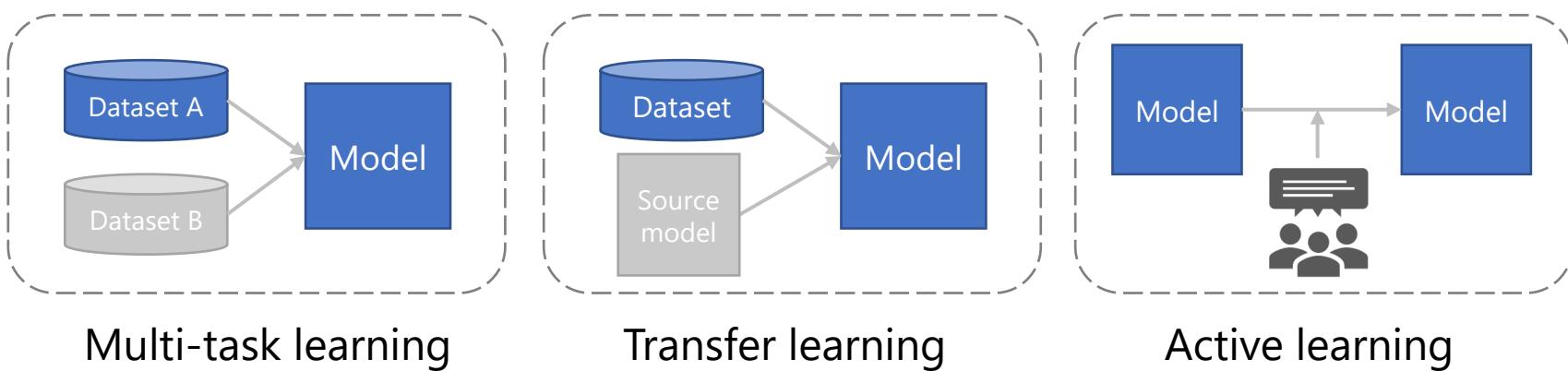
Mechanical Turk : \$9 per 15 paragraphs (1 hour)

Total Cost > \$13k

Time Cost > 60 days

Workaround for (less) data labeling?

Multi-task/transfer/active learning are applied to improve model adaptation and generalization to new data (distribution)

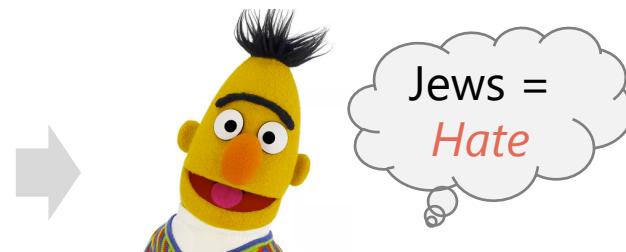


- Assumptions about source-to-target data distribution “gap”
- Annotation format: “instance-label” pairs → carries limited information

How “labels” alone could make things wrong

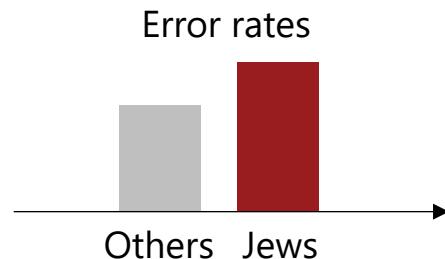
... we hate jews - *Hate*
jews are the most ... - *Hate*

Training examples



Fine-tuned BERT

Models are prone to capture spurious patterns (between labels and features) in training



*There has been a rise and fall
of hate against the jews
- New York Times*



reliability and **robustness** of the models ?

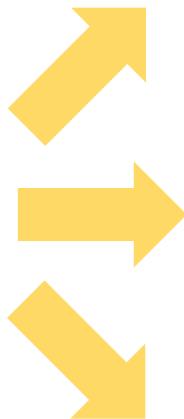
From “*labels*” to “*explanations of labels*”

“One explanation generalizes to many examples”

Input: ... but it was a little hot anyway so our **TERM** was very nice

Label: Positive

Explanation: the phrase “**very nice**” is within 3 words after the **TERM**.



One explanation

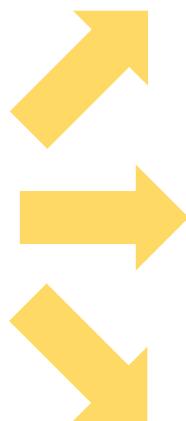
generalizes to

From “labels” to “explanations of labels”

“One explanation generalizes to many examples”

Input: ... but it was a little hot anyway so our **TERM** was very nice
Label: **Positive**

Explanation: the phrase “**very nice**” is within 3 words after the **TERM**.



Input: It's such a wonderful place and the **TERM** here is **very nice**!
Get Label Automatically: **Positive**

Input: Oh my god! The **TERM** here is **extraordinary**!
Get Label Automatically: **Positive**

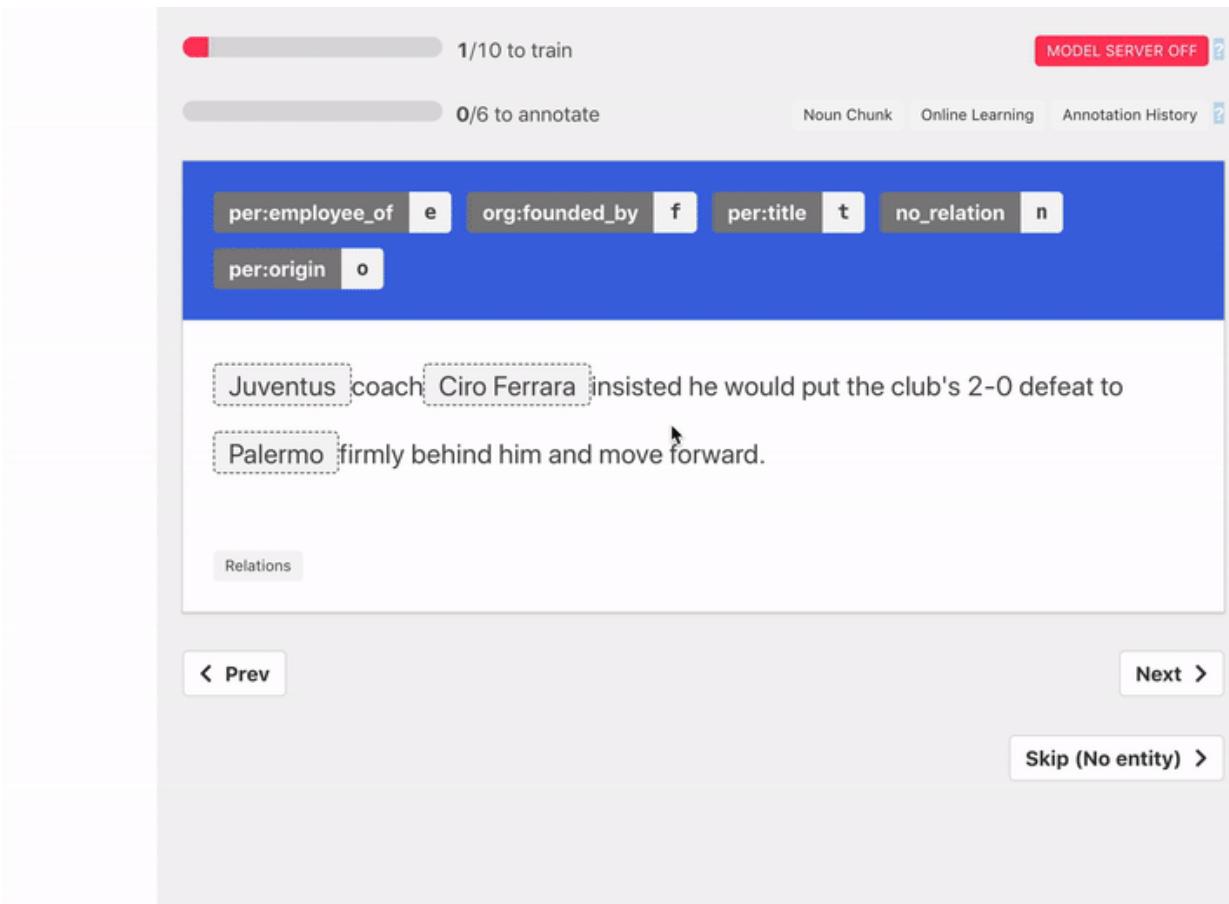
Input: The **TERM** and environment are both **very nice**!
Get Label Automatically: **Positive**

One explanation

generalizes to

many examples.

Learning from Human Explanation



*Machine digests human rationale and learns
how to make decisions*

This Talk

Learning models from labels + explanations

- An explanation-based learning framework
- Soft rule grounding for data augmentation (Zhou et al. WWW20)
- Modularized neural network for soft grounding (Wang et al. ICLR'20)
- Explanation for cross-sentence tasks (Ye et al., EMNLP'20 Findings)

Refining models with labels + explanations

- Explanation regularization (Jin et al. ACL'20)
- Explanation-based model refinement (Yao et al. In Submission)

What is an explanation?

There're different forms ...

Salient spans

Highlight important substrings in the input.

Q: How many touchdown passes did Cutler throw in the second half?

A: 3

....In the third quarter, the Vikings started to rally with running back Adrian Peterson's 1-yard touchdown run (with the extra point attempt blocked). The Bears increased their lead over the Vikings with Cutler's 3-yard TD pass to tight end Desmond Clark. The Vikings then closed out the quarter with quarterback Brett Favre firing a 6-yard TD pass to tight end Visanthe Shiancoe. An exciting with kicker Ryan Longwell's 41-yard field goal, along with Adrian Peterson's second 1-yard TD run. The Bears then responded with Cutler firing a 20-yard TD pass to wide receiver Earl Bennett. The Vikings then completed the remarkable comeback with Favre finding wide receiver Sidney Rice on a 6-yard TD pass on 4th-and-goal with 15 seconds left in regulation. The Bears then took a knee to force overtime.... The Bears then won on Jay Cutler's game-winning 39-yard TD pass to wide receiver Devin Aromashodu. With the loss, not only did the Vikings fall to 11-4, they also surrendered homefield advantage to the Saints.

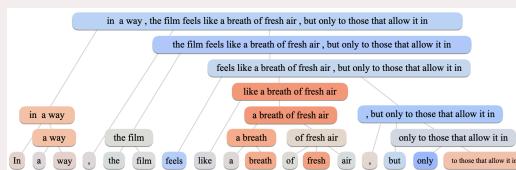
[Dua et al., 2020](#)
[Zaidan et al., 2007](#)
[Lei et al. 2016](#)

Post-hoc Explanations

Interpret a model's prediction after it's trained.



Explaining "Electric Guitar"



[Ribeiro et al., 2016](#)
[Jin et al., 2020](#)

Natural Language

Write free-form sentences that justifies an annotation.

Question: After getting drunk people couldn't understand him, it was because of his what?

Choices: lower standards, slurred speech, falling down

Explanation: People who are drunk have difficulty speaking.

[Camburu et al., 2018](#)
[Rajani et al., 2019](#)



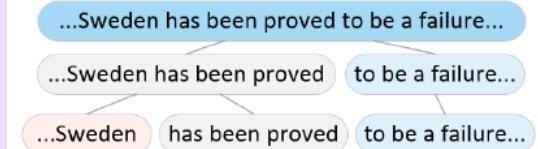
Our Focus: *Natural Language Explanations*

... targeting individual data instances or features,

Input: The TERM is vibrant and eye-pleasing with several semi-private booths on the right side of ...
Label: Positive

Explanation: The term is followed by "vibrant" and "eye-pleasing"

Importance Heat-map:



Explanation: ... “Sweden” is less than 3 dependency steps from “failure” ... Adjust “Sweden” to non-hate; adjust “failure” to hate.

... describing existence of concepts, properties of concepts, interactions of concepts,

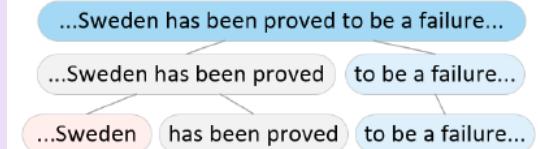
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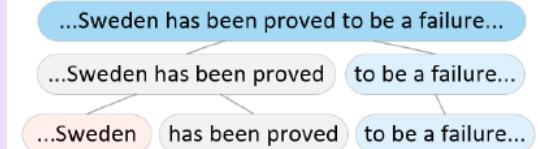
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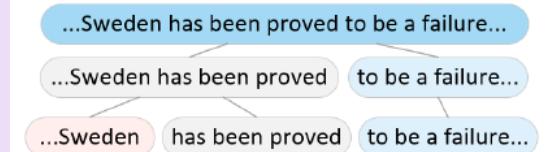
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Importance Heat-map:



Explanation: ... “Sweden” is less than 3 dependency steps from “failure” ... Adjust “Sweden” to non-hate; adjust “failure” to hate.

... describing existence of concepts, properties of concepts, interactions of concepts,

... and being...

Compositional

Putting pieces of evidence together and applying logic.

Self-contained

Clear, deterministic, closely associated to the instance or feature.

Locally Generalizable

May generalize and become applicable to unseen instances.

Learning with Natural Language Explanations

Sentiment on ENT is
positive or **negative**?

x_1 : There was a long wait for a table outside, but it was a little too hot in the sun anyway so our ENT was very nice.

Users' natural language explanations

→ **Positive**, because the words “*very nice*” is within 3 words after the ENT.

Relation between ENT1 and ENT2?

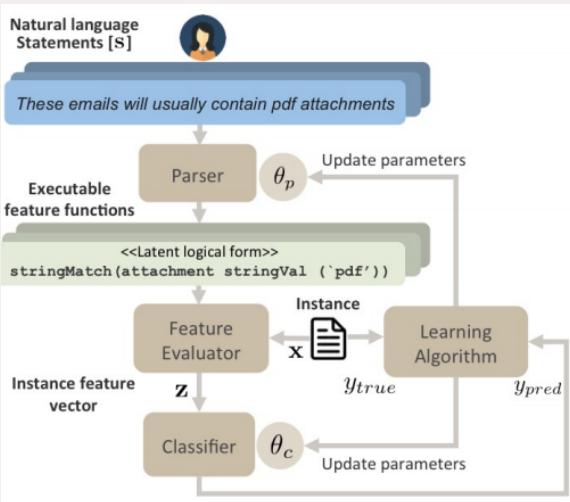
x_2 : Officials in Mumbai said that the two suspects, David Headley, and ENT1, who was born in Pakistan but is a ENT2 citizen, both visited Mumbai before the attacks.

→ **per: nationality**, because the words “*is a*” appear right before ENT2 and the word “*citizen*” is right after ENT2.

How to incorporate explanations in model learning?

Representation Engineering

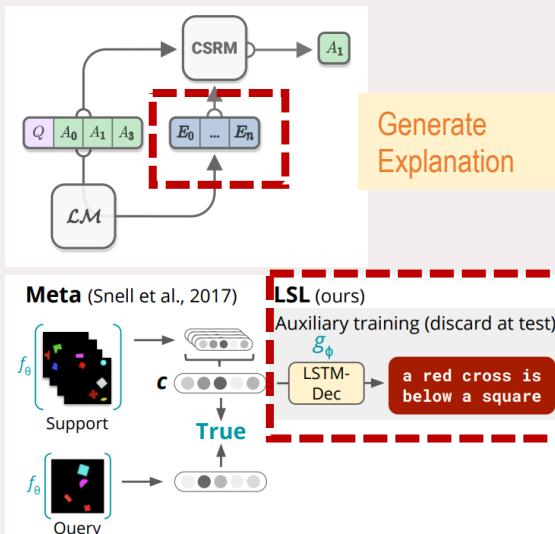
Use explanations as feature functions, or as hidden representation directly.



[Srivastava et al., 2017](#)
[Murty et al., 2020](#)

Auxiliary Task

Train a decoder to generate explanations from hidden representations.

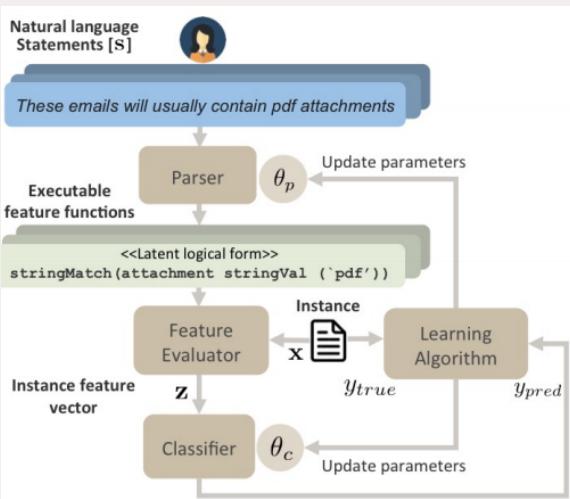


[Rajani et al., 2019](#)
[Mu et al., 2020](#)

How to incorporate explanations in model learning?

Representation Engineering

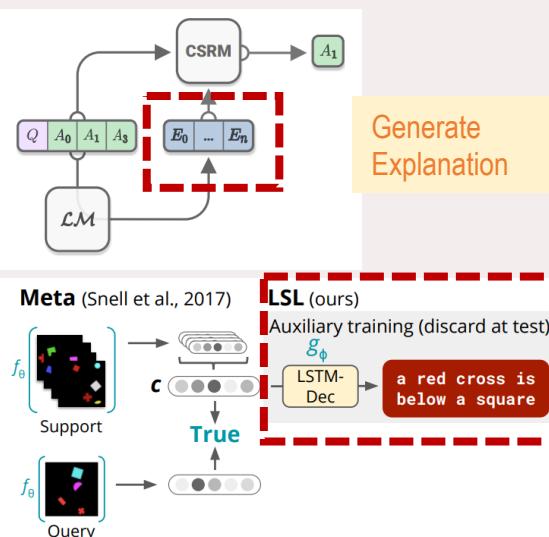
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Auxiliary Task

Train a decoder to generate explanations from hidden representations.



[Rajani et al., 2019](#)
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Create Noisy Annotations

Use one explanation to create multiple labeled instances.

Example

Both cohorts showed signs of optic nerve toxicity due to ethambutol.

Label

Does this chemical cause this disease?

Y N

Explanation

Why do you think so?

Because the words "due to" occur between the chemical and the disease.

Labeling Function

```
def lf(x):  
    return (1 if "due to" in between(x.chemical, x.disease)  
           else 0)
```

[Hancock et al. 2018](#)



Explanations to “labeling rules”

Explanation

The words “who died” precede OBJECT by no more than three words and occur between SUBJECT and OBJECT

predicate assigning

```
@Word @Quote(who died) @Left @OBJECT @AtMost
@Num @Token @And @Is @Between @SUBJECT @And
@OBJECT
```

CCG parsing

Candidate logical forms

```
@And (@Is (@Quote ('who died')), @AtMost (@Left (
@OBJECT), @Num (@Token))), @Is (@Word ('who
died')), @Between (@SUBJECT, @OBJECT))
```

.....
.....

Labeling rule (most plausible)

def LF (x) :

Return (1 if : And (Is (Word ('who died'), AtMost (Left (OBJECT), Num (3, tokens))), Is (Word ('who died'), Between (SUBJECT , OBJECT))); else 0)

function assigning

$$f_i = \arg \max_f P_{\theta^*}(f | \mathbf{e}_i)$$

inference

$$P_{\theta}(f | \mathbf{e}_i) = \frac{\exp \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \phi(f)}{\sum_{f': f' \in \mathcal{Z}_{\mathbf{e}_i}} \exp \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \phi(f')}$$

$$L_{parser} = \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{S}'|} \log \left(\sum_{f: f(\mathbf{x}_i)=1 \wedge h(f)=y_i} P_{\theta}(f | \mathbf{e}_i) \right)$$

Matching labeling rules to create pseudo labeled data

Instance

*quality ingredients preparation all around,
and a very fair **price** for NYC.*

What is the sentiment
polarity w.r.t. “**price**” ?

Human labeling

Label result

Label: **Positive**

Explanation: because the word “**price**” is
directly preceded by **fair**.

Unlabeled instance

*it has delicious food with a
fair price.*

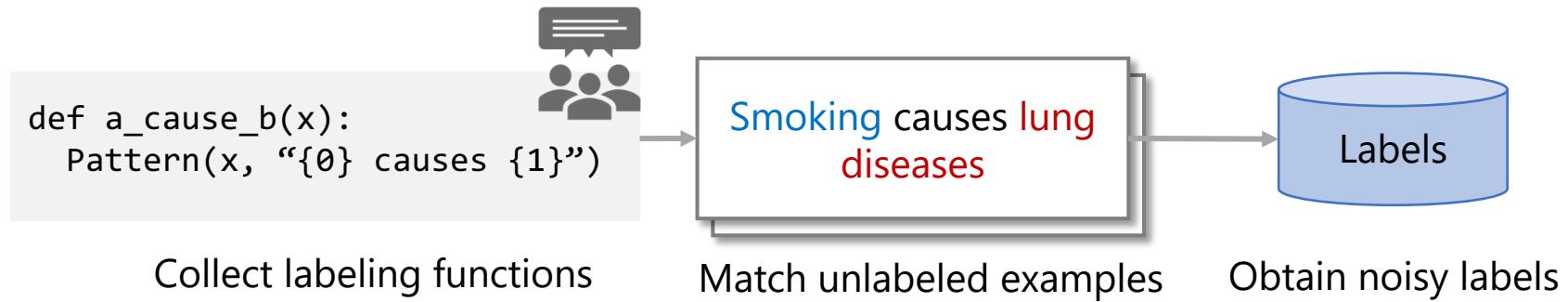
Hard Matching

LF (x)



Data Programming & Snorkel

Annotating an unlabeled dataset with labeling functions collected from human experts (e.g., Snorkel)



Challenge: Language Variations

Corpus

Microsoft was founded by **Bill Gates** in 1975.
Apple was founded by **Steven Jobs** in 1976.
Microsoft was established by **Bill Gates** in 1975.
In 1975, **Bill Gates** launched **Microsoft**.

Labels

ORG: FOUNDED_BY
ORG: FOUNDED_BY
No Matched!
No Matched!

SUBJ-ORG was founded by **OBJ-PER** → **ORG: FOUNDED_BY**



Annotator

Have to exhaust all surface patterns?

Neural Rule Grounding for rule generalization

Generalizing *one rule to many instances*

Corpus

Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates in 1975.
Apple was founded by Steven Jobs in 1976.
Microsoft was established by Bill Gates in 1975.
In 1975, Bill Gates launched Microsoft.

Hard-matched instances

Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates in 1975.
Apple was founded by Steven Jobs in 1976.

(x_i, y_i)

ORG: FOUNDED_BY
ORG: FOUNDED_BY

Unmatched instances

Microsoft was established by Bill Gates.
In 1975, Bill Gates launched Microsoft.

(x_i, y_i , matching score)

ORG: FOUNDED_BY 0.8
ORG: FOUNDED_BY 0.7

Labeling Rules

SUBJ-ORG was founded by OBJ-PER → ORG: FOUNDED_BY
SUBJ-PER born in OBJ-LOC → PER: ORIGIN



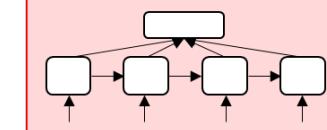
(Zhou et al, WWW20)

Best Paper runner-up, WWW'20

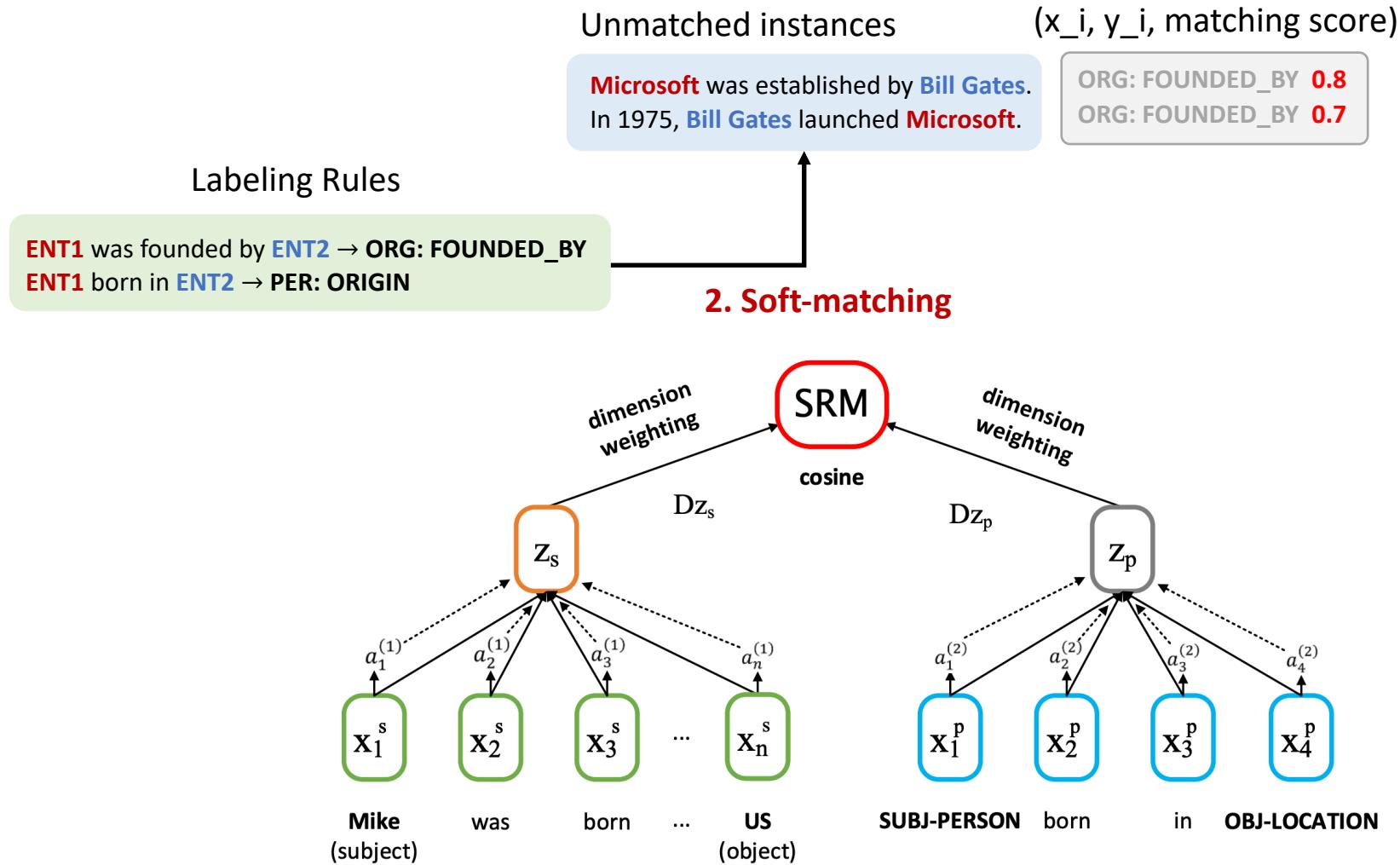
1. Hard-matching

2. Soft-matching

Relation Classifier



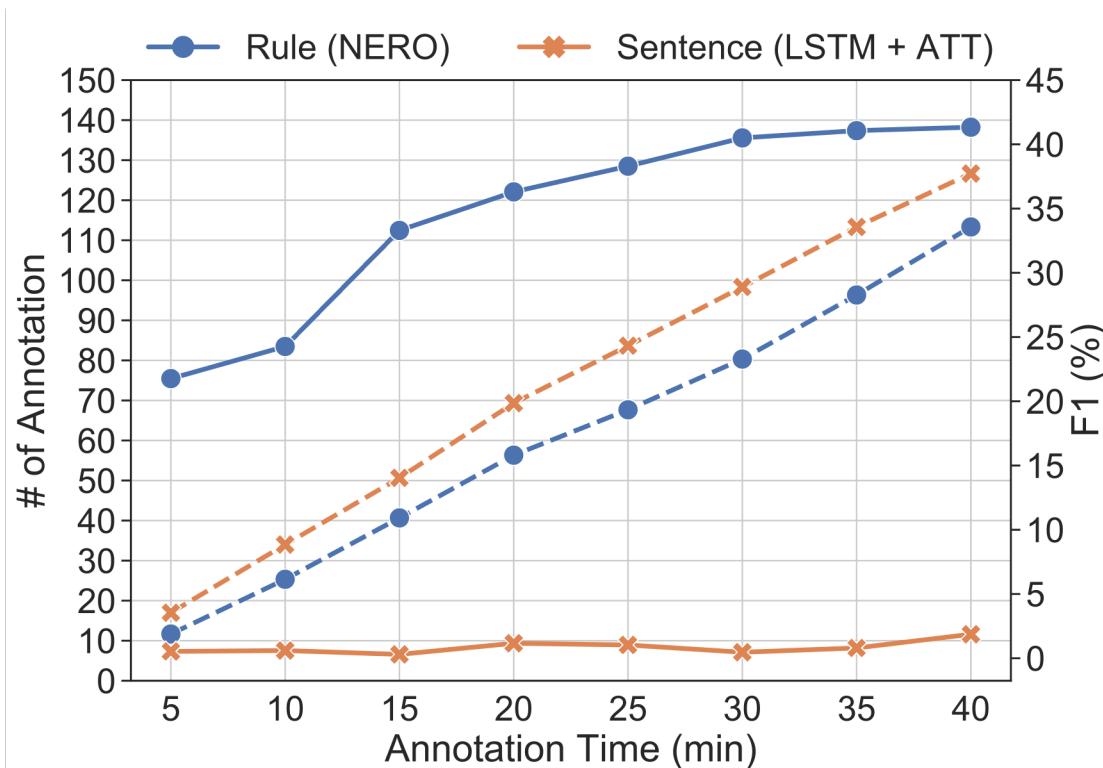
A Learnable, Soft Rule Matching Function



(Zhou et al, WWW20)

Study on Label Efficiency

Spent 40min
on labeling
instances from
TACRED

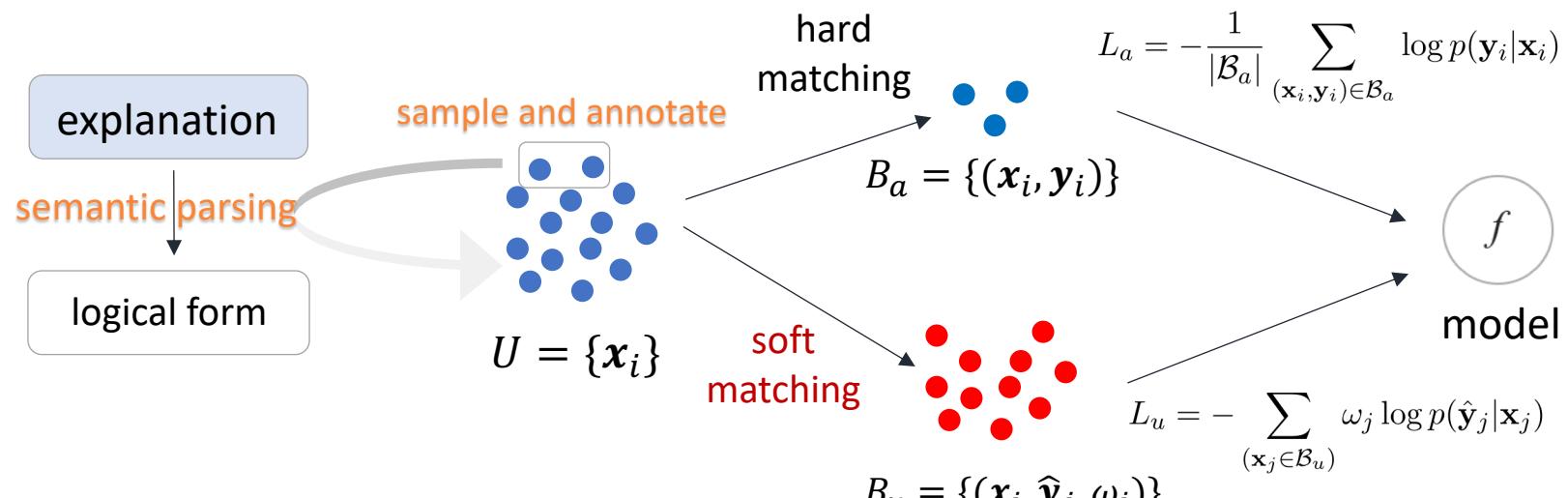


Dashed: Avg # of **rules** / **sentences** labeled by annotators.

Solid: Avg **model F1** trained with corresponding annotations.

{Rules + Neural Rule Grounding} produces much more effective model with limited time!

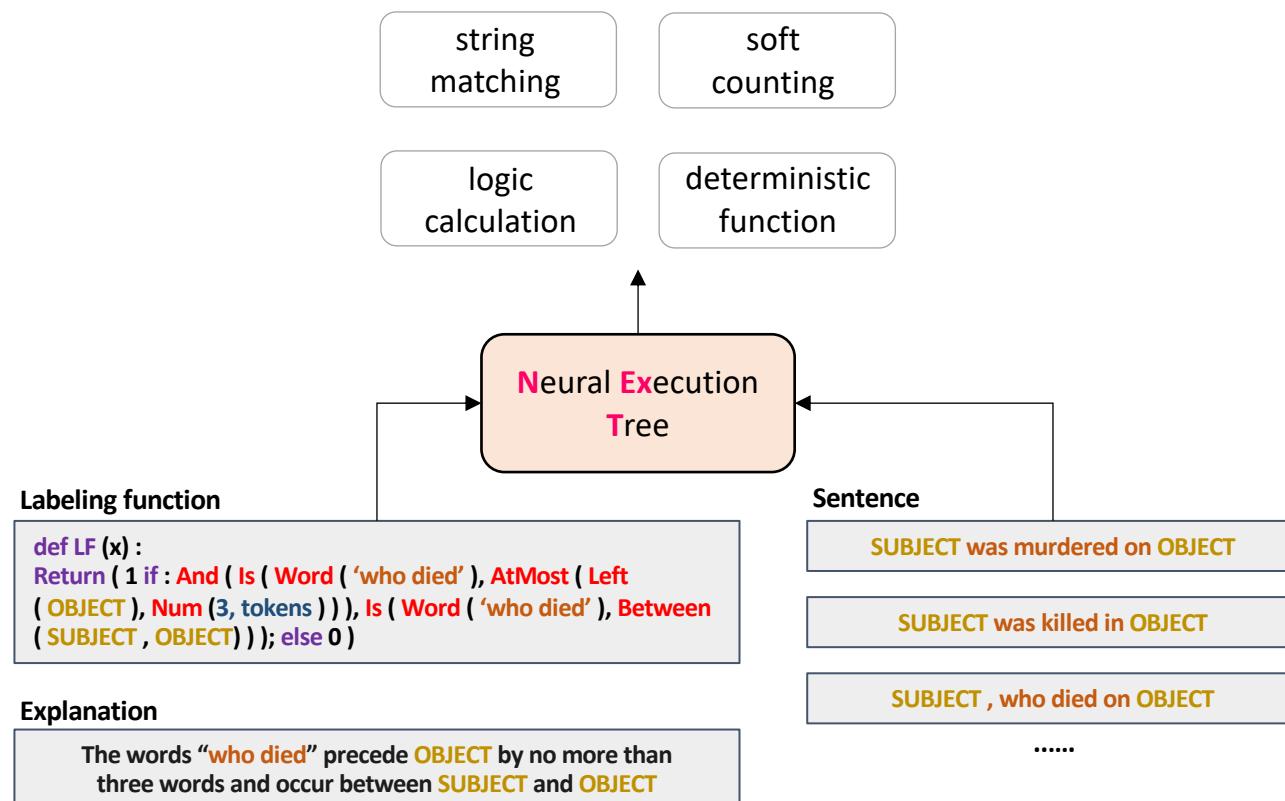
Learning with Hard & Soft Matching



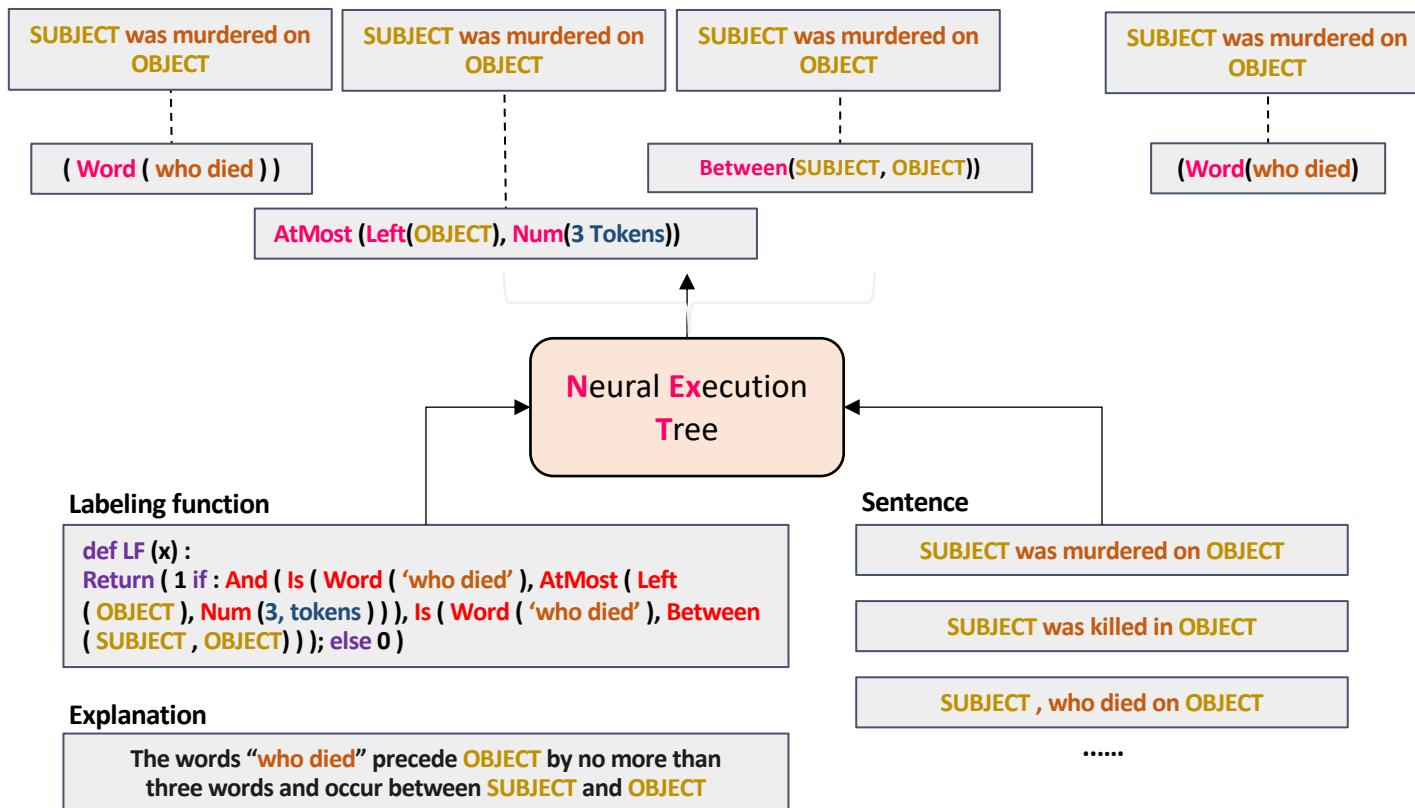
*New Challenge:
compositional nature of the
human explanations*

per: nationality, because the words “*is a*” appear right before ENT2 **and** the word “*citizen*” is right after ENT2.

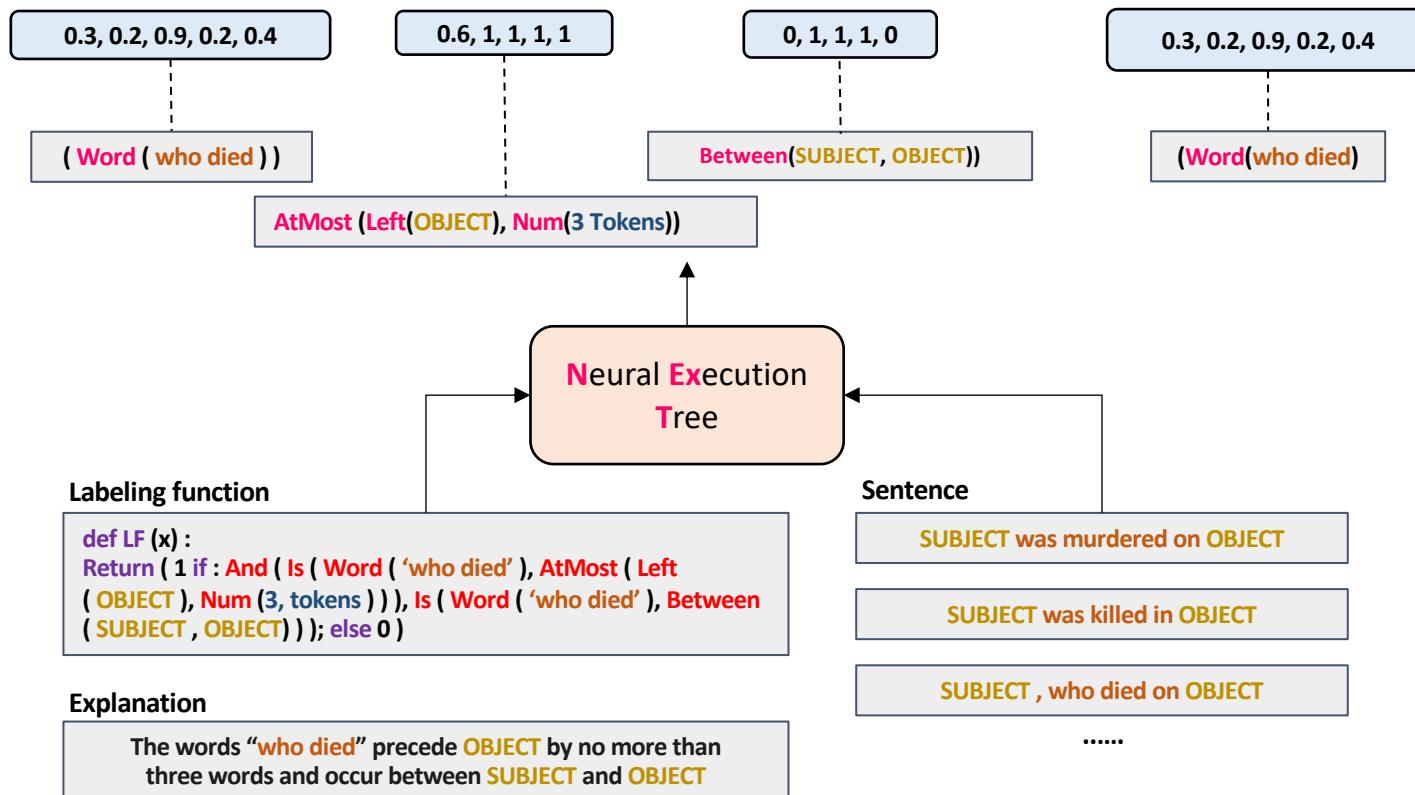
Neural Execution Tree (NExT) for Soft Matching



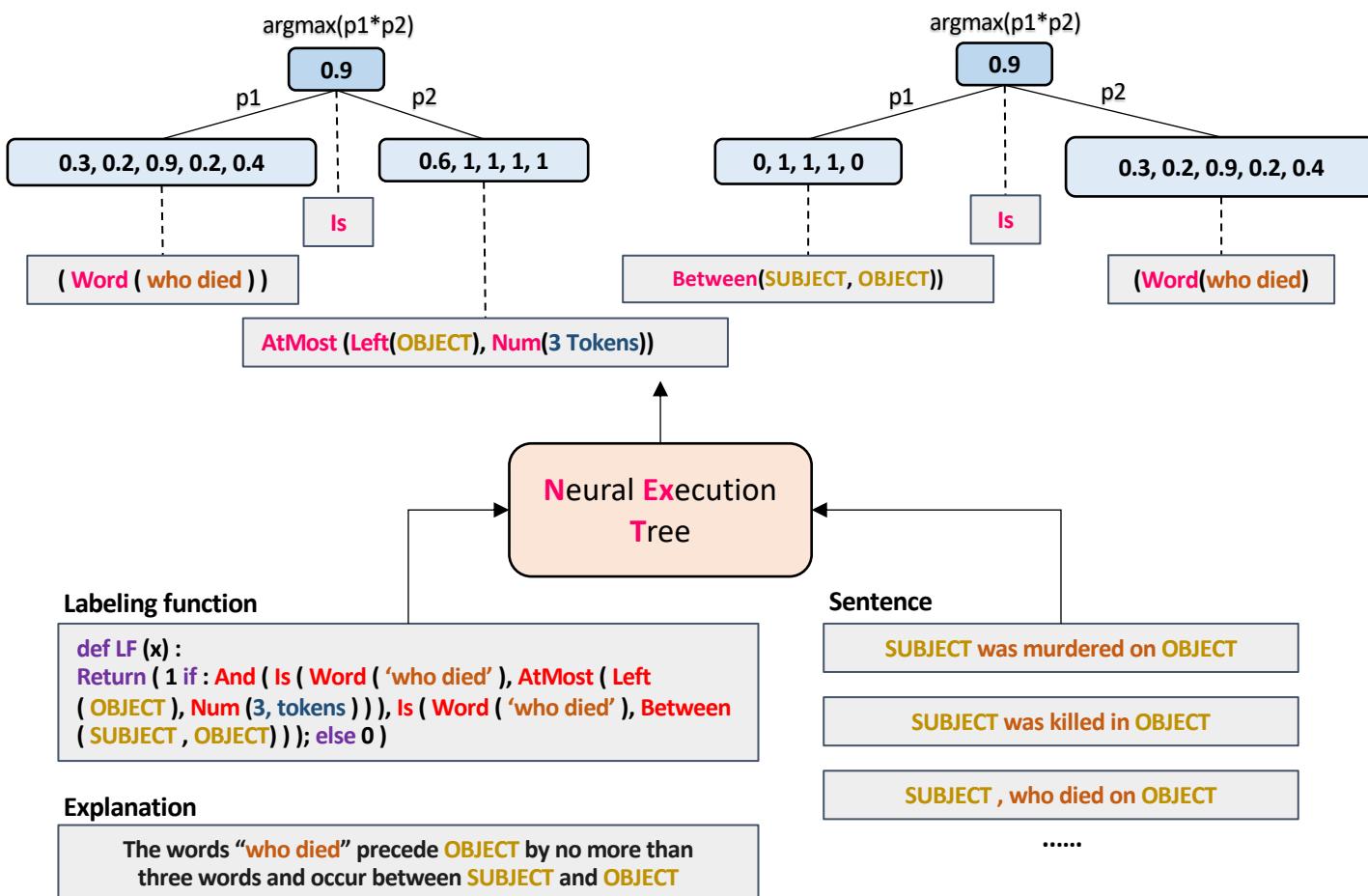
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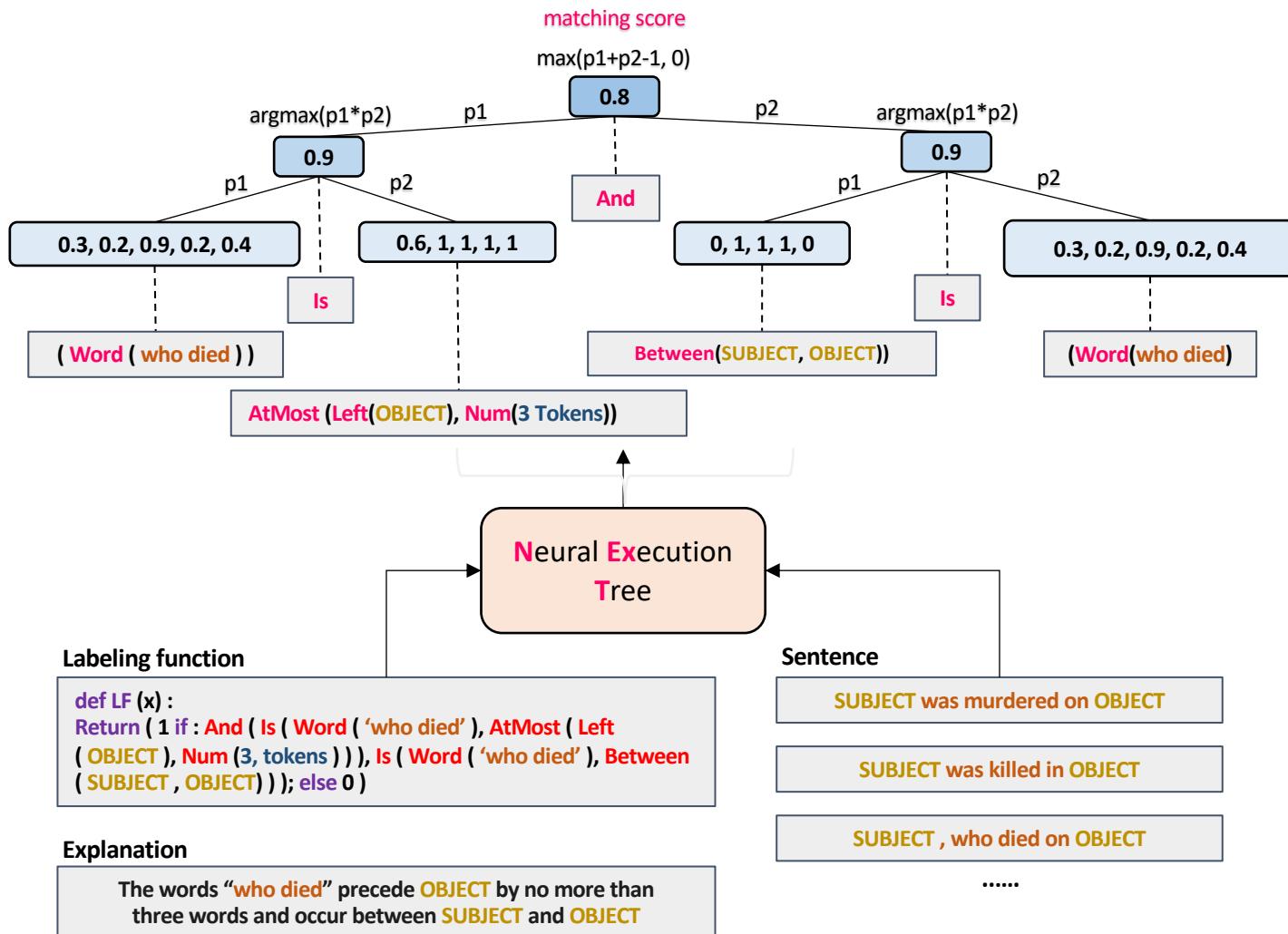
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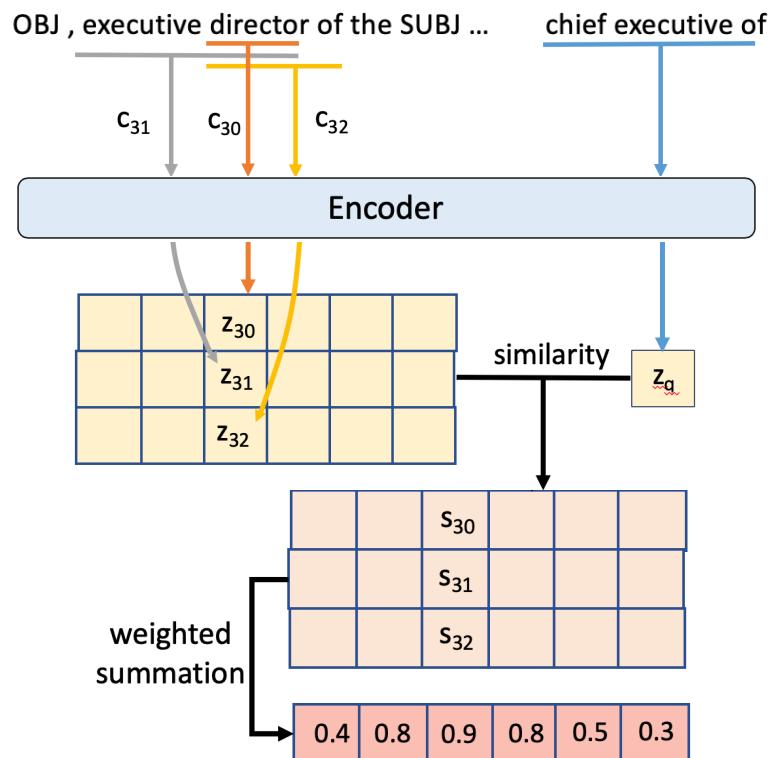


Neural Execution Tree (NExT) for Soft Matching

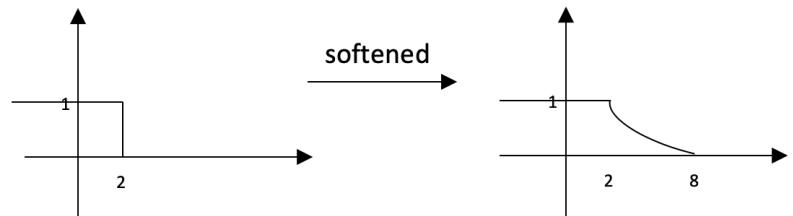


Module Functions in NExT

1. String matching



2. Soft counting



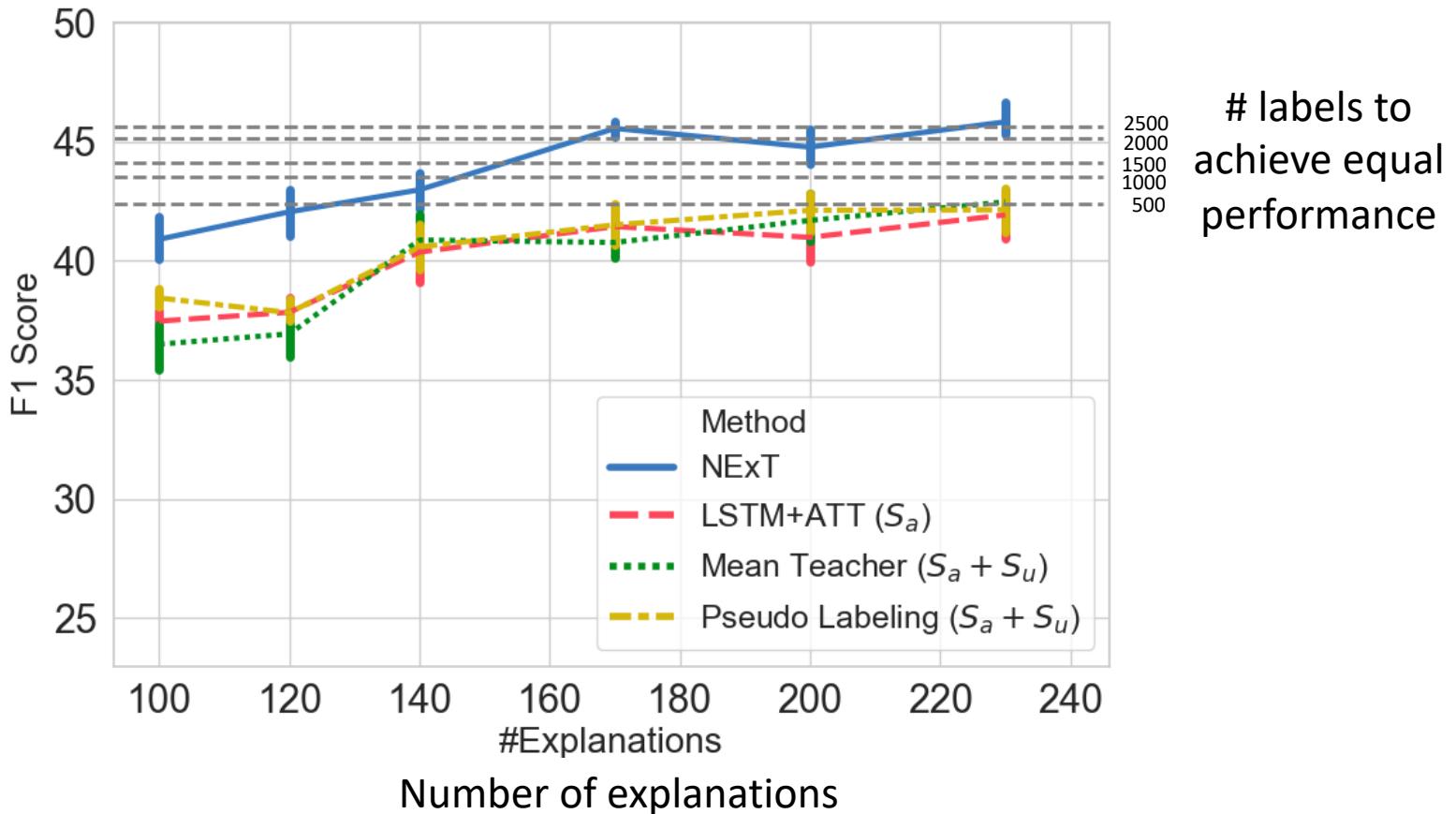
3. Soft logic

$$p_1 \wedge p_2 = \max(p_1 + p_2 - 1, 0),$$

$$p_1 \vee p_2 = \min(p_1 + p_2, 1), \quad \neg p = 1 - p,$$

4. Deterministic functions

Study on Label Efficiency (TACRED)



Annotation time cost:

giving a label + an explanation $\sim= 2x$ giving a label

Problem: Extending to complex tasks that go beyond a single sentence?



Explanations for Machine Reading Comprehension

Question: What is the **atomic number** for **Zinc**?

Context: **Zinc** is a chemical element with symbol Zn and **atomic number 30**.

Answer: 30

Define variables

Describe the question

Explanation: X is **atomic number**. Y is **Zinc**. The question contains "number", so the answer should be a number. The answer is directly after X. "for" is directly before Y and directly after X in the question.

Describe words that provide clues

Relative location of X, Y and the answer

Explanations for Machine Reading Comprehension

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Describe words that provide clues

Relative location of X, Y and the answer

Use the explanation to answer similar questions!

X = phone number
Y = CS front desk

Question: What is the **phone number** for **CS front desk**?

Context: You can contact **CS front desk** with **phone number 213-000-0000**.

Use explanation to answer a similar question

A Seen Example

Question: What is the **atomic number** for **Zinc**?

Context: **Zinc** is a chemical element with symbol Zn and **atomic number 30**.

Explanation:

X is **atomic number**.

Y is **Zinc**.

The question contains "number", so the answer should be a number.

The answer is directly after X.

"for" is directly before Y and directly after X in the question.

An Unseen Example

Question: What is the phone number for CS front desk?

Context: You can contact CS front desk with phone number 213-000-0000.

Answer: ? **213-000-0000**

Matching Procedure:

X and Y are noun phrases in the question.

- X = phone number, phone, number, CS front desk, front desk
- Y = phone number, phone, number, CS front desk, front desk

ANS is a number

- ANS = 213-000-0000

List each combination

- Comb1: X = phone number, Y = CS front desk, ANS = 213-000-0000
- Comb2: X = front desk, Y = phone number, ANS = 213-000-0000
- Comb3: X = phone, Y = front desk, ANS = 213-000-0000

For each combination, see if all constraints are satisfied

- For Comb1, ✓ every constraint is satisfied
- For Comb2, ✗ "for" is directly before Y and directly after X in the question.
- For Comb3, ✗ The answer is directly after X.

Matching Result

- X = **phone number**, Y = **CS front desk**, ANS = **213-000-0000**

*How can we **generalize** with softened matching?*

Question: What is the **telephone number** for **CS front desk**?

Mentions are slightly different...?

Context: You can contact **CS front desk** with
phone number 213-000-0000.

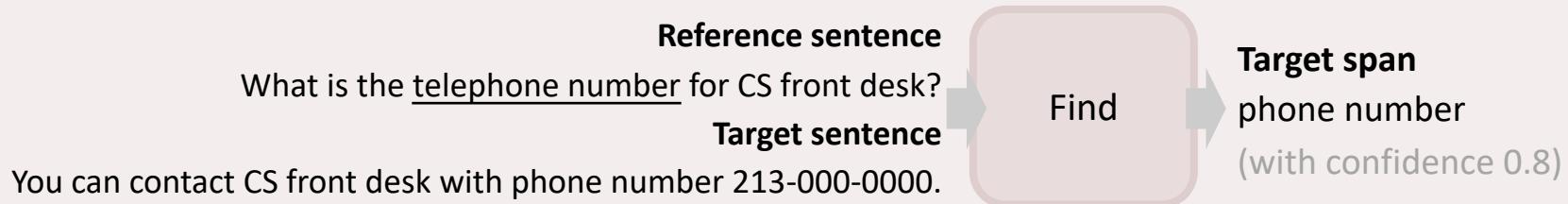
Answer: ? **213-000-0000** (with confidence 0.8)

How can we **generalize** with softened matching?

Question: What is the **telephone number** for **CS front desk**?
Mentions are slightly different...?

Context: You can contact **CS front desk** with
phone number 213-000-0000.

Answer: ? **213-000-0000** (with confidence 0.8)



*How can we **generalize** with softened matching?*

The answer is *directly* after
X (phone number).

Constraint is slightly violated?

Question: What is the **phone number** for **CS front desk**?

Context: If you want to contact **CS front desk**, the **phone number** *is* 213-000-0000.

Answer: ? **213-000-0000** (with confidence 0.75)

*How can we **generalize** with softened matching?*

The answer is *directly* after
X (phone number).

Constraint is slightly violated?

Question: What is the **phone number** for **CS front desk**?

Context: If you want to contact **CS front desk**, the **phone number** *is* 213-000-0000.

Answer: ? **213-000-0000** (with confidence 0.75)

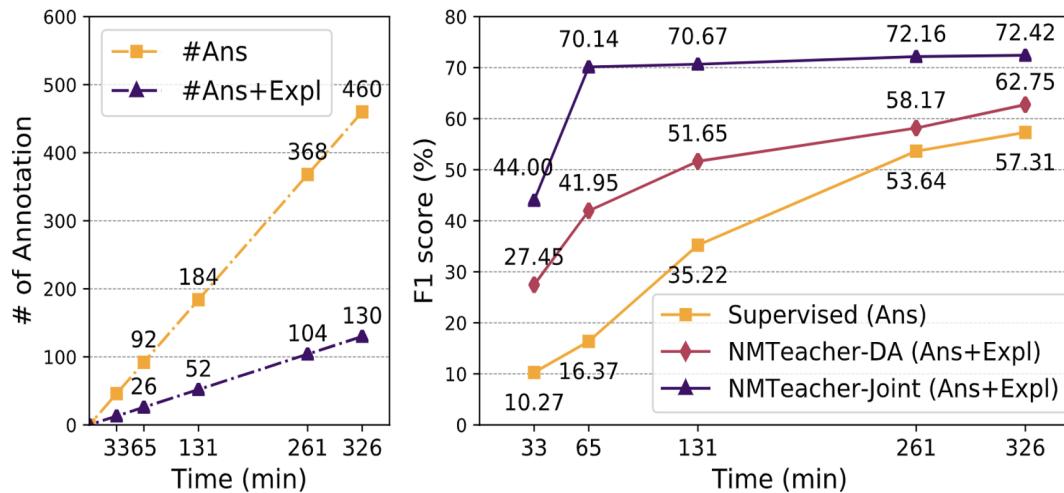


Results on SQuAD: Label Efficiency

Collecting **one answer** takes **43 seconds**.

Collecting **one answer with explanation** takes **151 seconds** (3.5x slower).

But if we compare performance when **annotation time is held constant**...



Or if we want to achieve **70% F1** on SQuAD,

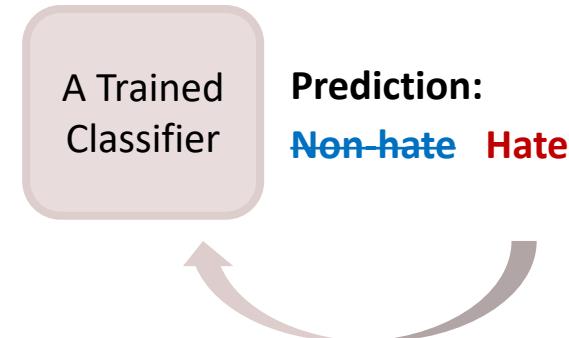
You need either **1,100 answers (13.1 hours)** or **26 answers with explanations (1.1 hours)**

12x speed-up



Now, suppose you have a working model

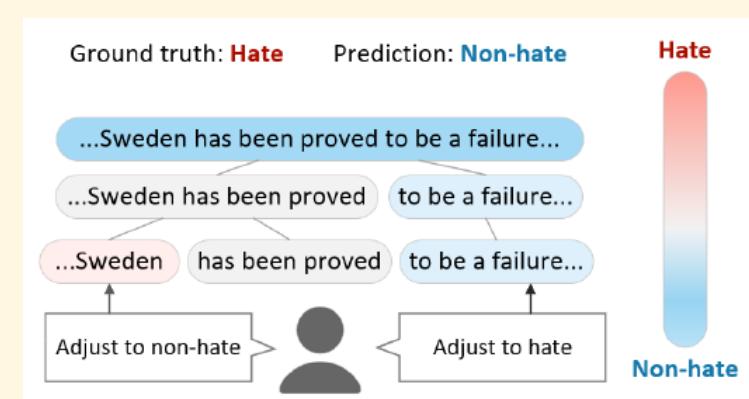
Task: Hate Speech Detection



Update the model with the correct label...



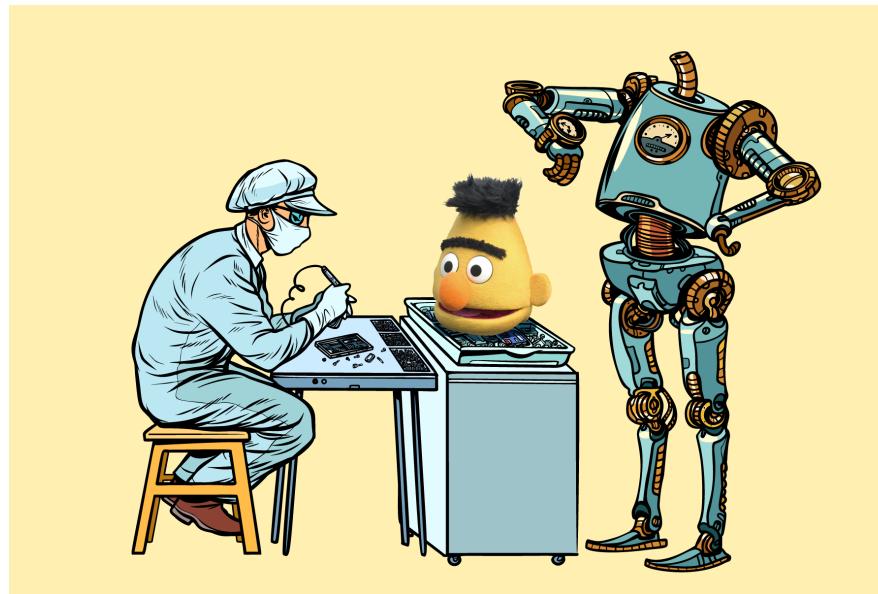
We only have one example ...



Tell the model why it got wrong...



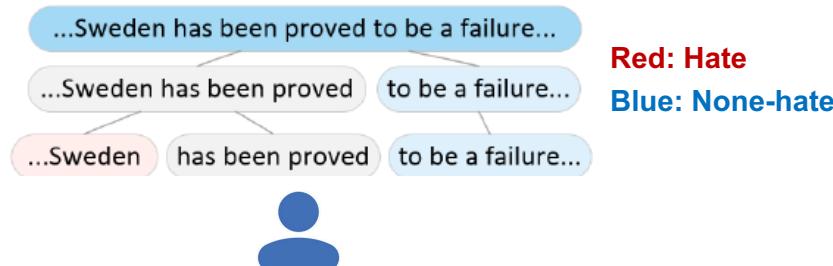
Can we update a model through human explanations on “why it goes wrong”?



Refining neural models through compositional explanations



1. Inspect Post-hoc Explanation Heatmaps



2. Write Compositional Explanation

Because the word “**Sweden**” is a country, “**failure**” is negative, and “**Sweden**” is less than 3 dependency steps from “**failure**”, attribution score of “**Sweden**” should be decreased. Attribution score of “**failure**” should be increased. The interaction score of “**Sweden**” and “**failure**” should be increased.

3. First-Order Logic Rule

```
@Is(Word1, country)  
^ @Is(Word2, negative)  
^ @LessThan(Word1, Word2) →  
DecreaseAttribution(Word1)  
^ IncreaseAttribution(Word2)  
^ IncreaseInteraction(Word1, Word2).
```

4. Rule Matching

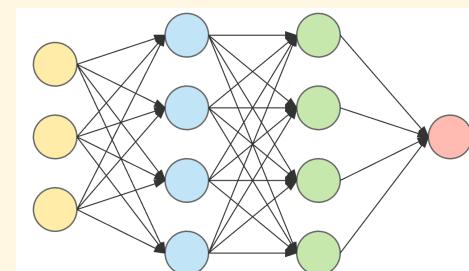
Input

“Another Reminder that **Britain**’s establishment is **stupid** beyond the point of saving.”

Adjustment

Attribution score of “**Britain**” should be decreased. Attribution score of “**stupid**” should be increased. The interaction score of “**Britain**” and “**stupid**” should be increased.

5. Explanation regularization



Explanation Regularization



Attribution score of “**Sweden**” should be decreased.
Attribution score of “**failure**” should be increased.
The interaction score of “**Sweden**” and “**failure**” should be increased.

Adjust Attribution Scores

$$\mathcal{L}^{attr} = \sum_c^C \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}} (\phi^c(p; x) - t_p^c)^2;$$

Attribution of p (“**Sweden**”) in the sentence x (“Sweden has been proved to be a failure”) towards the prediction c (Non-hate)

Adjust Interactions

$$\mathcal{L}^{inter} = \sum_c^C \sum_{\{p,q\} \in \mathcal{R}} (\varphi^c(p, q; x) - \tau_{p,q}^c)^2.$$

Final Loss Term

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' + \alpha(\mathcal{L}^{attr} + \mathcal{L}^{inter}),$$

Explanation Regularization



Attribution score of “**Sweden**” should be decreased.
Attribution score of “**failure**” should be increased.
The interaction score of “**Sweden**” and “**failure**” should be increased.

Adjust Attribution Scores

$$\mathcal{L}^{attr} = \sum_c^C \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}} (\phi^c(p; \mathbf{x}) - t_p^c)^2;$$

“Decrease”, adjust to zero

Adjust Interactions

$$\mathcal{L}^{inter} = \sum_c^C \sum_{\{p,q\} \in \mathcal{R}} (\varphi^c(p, q; \mathbf{x}) - \tau_{p,q}^c)^2.$$

Final Loss Term

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' + \alpha(\mathcal{L}^{attr} + \mathcal{L}^{inter}),$$

Explanation Regularization



Attribution score of “**Sweden**” should be decreased.
Attribution score of “**failure**” should be increased.
The interaction score of “**Sweden**” and “**failure**” should be increased.

Adjust Attribution Scores

$$\mathcal{L}^{attr} = \sum_c^C \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}} (\phi^c(p; \mathbf{x}) - t_p^c)^2;$$

Adjust Interactions

Interaction between p(“**Sweden**”) and q(“**failure**”) towards the prediction c
(Non-hate)

$$\mathcal{L}^{inter} = \sum_c^C \sum_{\{p,q\} \in \mathcal{R}} (\varphi^c(p, q; \mathbf{x}) - \tau_{p,q}^c)^2.$$

Final Loss Term

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' + \alpha(\mathcal{L}^{attr} + \mathcal{L}^{inter}),$$

Explanation Regularization



Attribution score of “**Sweden**” should be decreased.
Attribution score of “**failure**” should be increased.
The interaction score of “**Sweden**” and “**failure**” should be increased.

Adjust Attribution Scores

$$\mathcal{L}^{attr} = \sum_c^C \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}} (\phi^c(p; \mathbf{x}) - t_p^c)^2;$$

Adjust Interactions

$$\mathcal{L}^{inter} = \sum_c^C \sum_{\{p,q\} \in \mathcal{R}} (\varphi^c(p, q; \mathbf{x}) - \tau_{p,q}^c)^2.$$

“Increase”, adjust to one.

Final Loss Term

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' + \alpha(\mathcal{L}^{attr} + \mathcal{L}^{inter}),$$

Results: Hate Speech (Binary) Classification

Source dataset: HatEval → “source model”

Target dataset: Gap Hate Corpus (HGC)

Dataset	HatEval → G HC		
Metrics	Source F1 (↑)	Target F1 (↑)	FPRD (↓)
Source model	64.2±0.3	29.5±2.5	115.6
<i>With only reg.</i>			
- Hard reg. with IG	63.2±0.6	34.4±1.4	197.2
- Hard reg. with SOC	63.1±0.4	37.6±2.6	73.6
- Soft reg. with IG	63.2±0.3	33.2±0.8	204.9
- Soft reg. with SOC	63.2±1.1	39.5±1.5	19.4

Source vs. Target F1: model’s performance on source vs. target dataset

FPRD: false-positive rate difference → metric of model fairness

Take-aways

- “*One explanation generalizes to many examples*” --- better label efficiency vs. conventional supervision
- “*Explanation carries more information than label*” --- learning reliable & robust models
- Model updates via attribution/interaction on features & their compositions
- A new paradigm for constructing & maintaining NLP models?

Thank you!

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Code: <https://github.com/INK-USC>

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