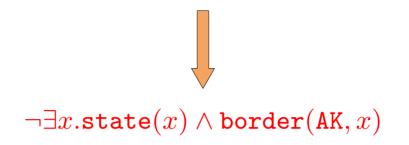
# **Learning Compositional Semantics**

CS224U: Natural Language Understanding Feb. 9, 2012

> Percy Liang Google/Stanford

Last time: Mapping sentences to logical forms (FOL or lambda calculus) Alaska borders no states.



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 $\neg \exists x.\texttt{state}(x) \land \texttt{border}(\texttt{AK}, x)$ 

We assumed the following were given:

Lexicon:	no	$\Rightarrow$	$\mathrm{DT}: \lambda P.\lambda Q. \neg \exists x. P(x) \land Q(x)$
	states	$\Rightarrow$	$\texttt{N}:\lambda x.\texttt{state}(x)$

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We assumed the following were given:

Questions:

But where do they come from? What if a sentence generates multiple logical forms? What if a sentences is slightly ungrammatical?

Today: building real semantic parsers!

sentence —— Semantic Parser —— logical form

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Strategy: break up complex mapping into two parts



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Representation (Lexicon/Grammar):

- Should be simple, require minimal human effort
- Generates set of candidate logical forms Allow overgeneration: state  $\Rightarrow$  N:  $\lambda x.river(x)$



Strategy: break up complex mapping into two parts

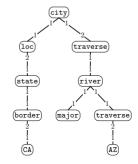
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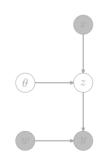
Learning:

- Score/rank candidates based on features
- Optimize feature weights discriminatively to minimize training error

#### Representation



Learning











sentence 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Semantic Parser  $\rightarrow$  logical form  $\rightarrow$  Interpretation  $\rightarrow$  denotation

We are free to choose the semantic formalism:

- What kind of logical forms? FOL? lambda calculus?
- What constitutes the lexicon and grammar?

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#### Desiderata:

Model-theoretic: logical forms must have formal interpretation (mapping from world to true/false)

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Semantic Formalisms:

- Combinatory Categorial Grammar (CCG)
- Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)

Lexicalized formalism: simple grammar rules, heavy lexicon

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Categories (analogous to types in programming languages):

NP VP  $\Rightarrow$  S

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Categories (analogous to types in programming languages):

 $NP VP \Rightarrow S NP S \setminus NP \Rightarrow S$ 

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 $NP VP \Rightarrow S NP S \setminus NP \Rightarrow S$ 

 $V NP \Rightarrow VP$ 

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Categories (analogous to types in programming languages):

Lexicalized formalism: simple grammar rules, heavy lexicon

Categories (analogous to types in programming languages):

In general:

Base categories: S, NP, N

Derived categories: if X, Y are categories, then X/Y and  $X \setminus Y$  are too

Lexicon:

Alice	NP:alice
Bob	NP:bob
saw	$(\mathrm{S} \backslash \mathrm{NP}) / \mathrm{NP} : \lambda y. \lambda x. \mathtt{saw}(x,y)$

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#### Grammar (template):

Forward application (>)  $Y/X : f X : a \Rightarrow Y : f(a)$ Backward application (<)  $X : a Y \setminus X : f \Rightarrow Y : f(a)$ 

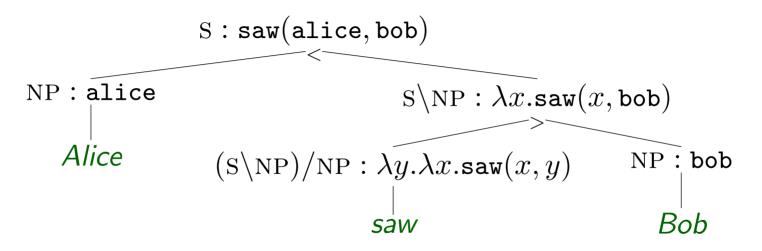
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#### Derivation:

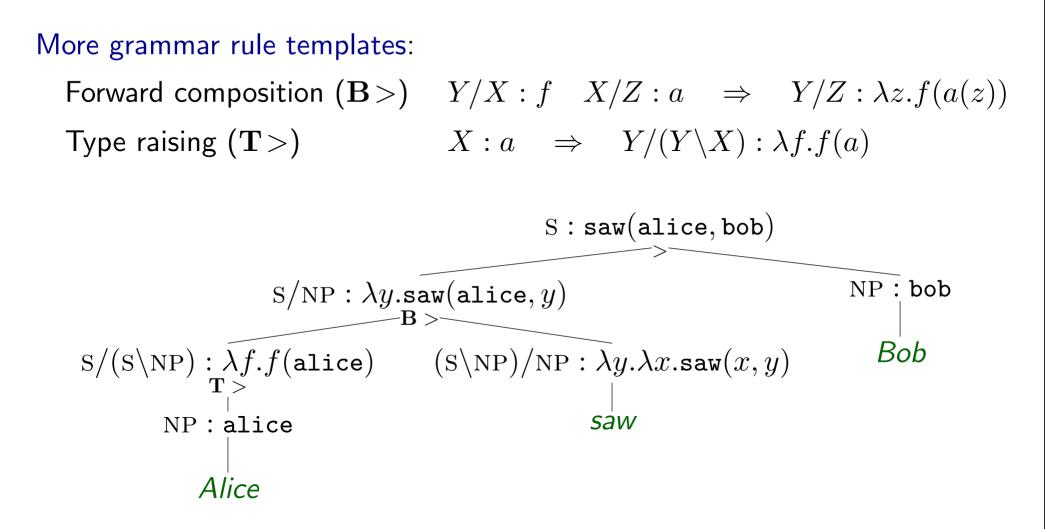


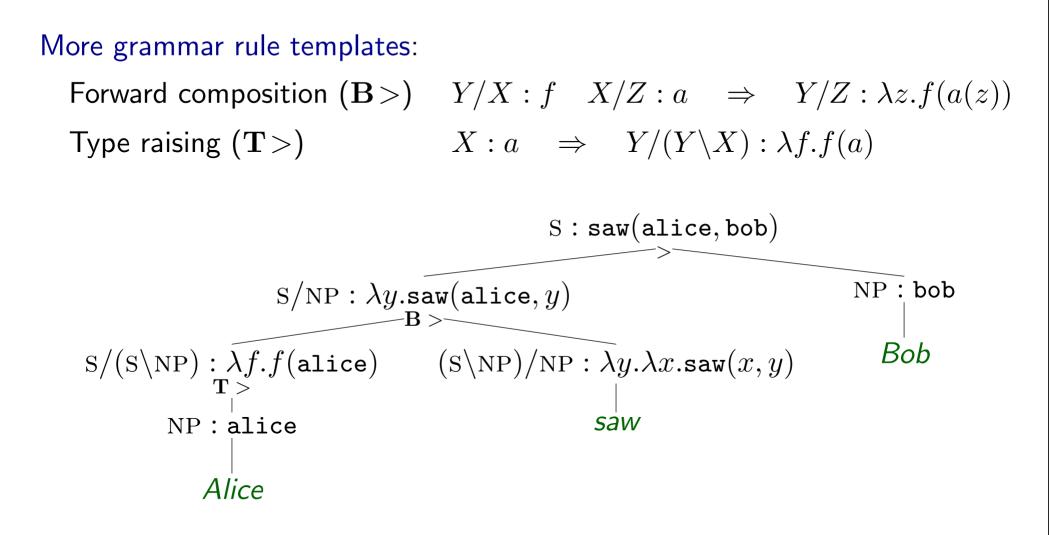
More grammar rule templates:

Forward composition (B>)  $Y/X : f \quad X/Z : a \Rightarrow Y/Z : \lambda z.f(a(z))$ 

More grammar rule templates:

Forward composition (B>) $Y/X : f \quad X/Z : a \Rightarrow Y/Z : \lambda z.f(a(z))$ Type raising (T>) $X : a \Rightarrow Y/(Y \setminus X) : \lambda f.f(a)$ 





Composition creates non-traditional bracketing useful for right-node raising:

```
S: saw(alice, bob) \land heard(carol, bob)
[[Alice saw] and [Carol heard]] Bob.
```

Non-contentful words:

 $\begin{array}{l} \lambda x.\texttt{flight}(x) \wedge \texttt{to}(x,\texttt{boston}) \\ \textit{Show me flights to Boston} \end{array}$ 

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Missing content:

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Non-standard ordering:

 $\lambda x.\texttt{flight}(x) \land \texttt{oneway}(x)$ flights one-way

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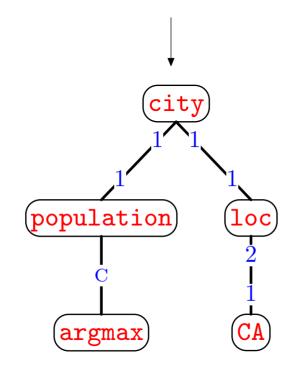
 $\begin{array}{l} \lambda x.\texttt{flight}(x) \wedge \texttt{oneway}(x) \\ \textit{flights one-way} \end{array}$ 

Solution: disharmonic combinators:  $X : a \quad Y/X : f \quad \Rightarrow \quad Y : f(a)$ 

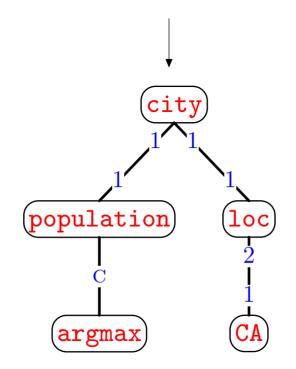
# Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)

What is the most populous city in California?

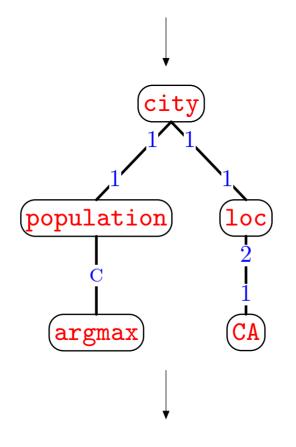
# Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)



## How to interpret the logical form?

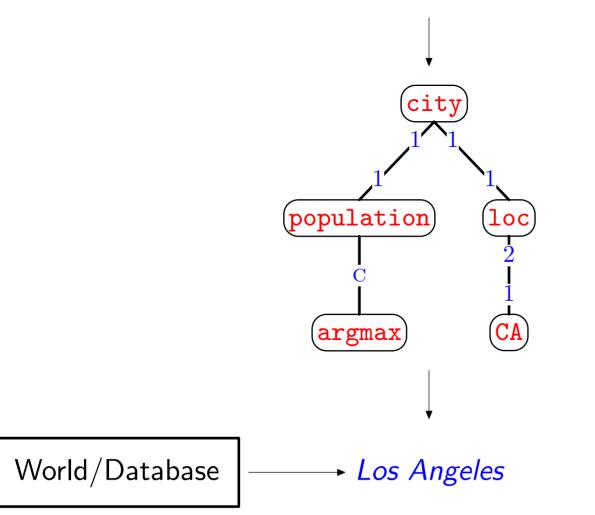


## How to interpret the logical form?

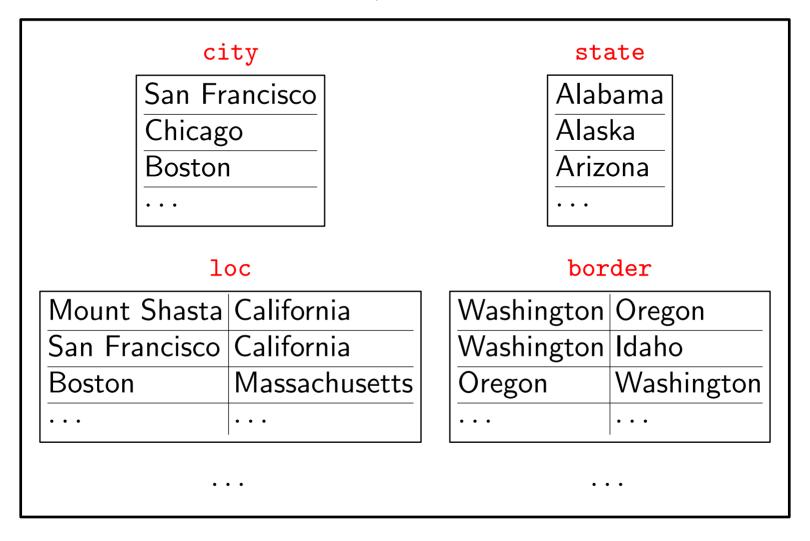


Los Angeles

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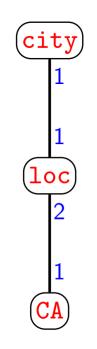


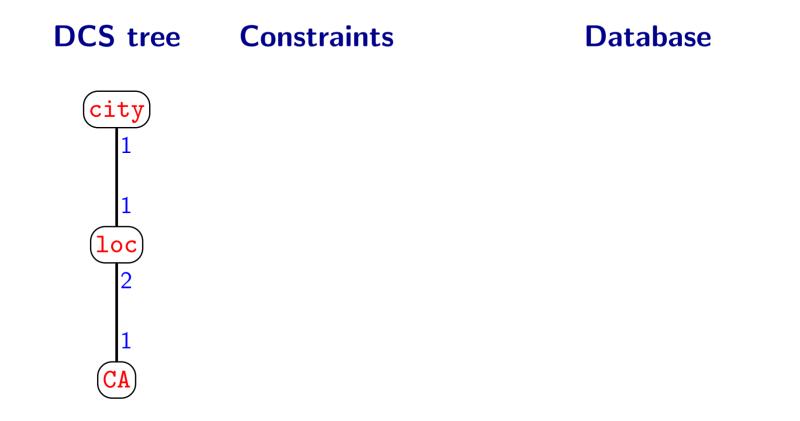
#### World/Database

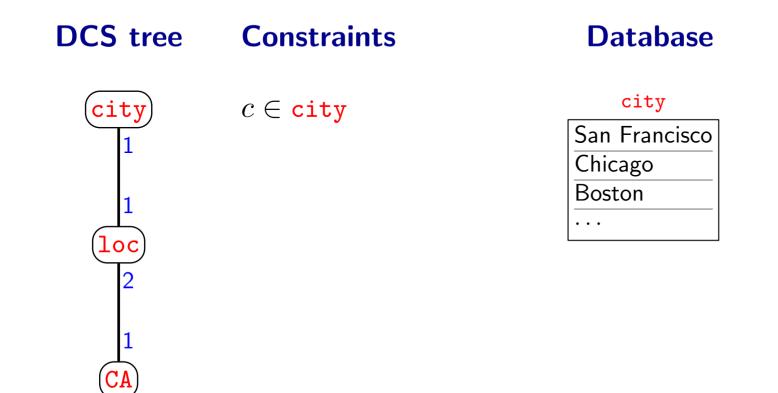


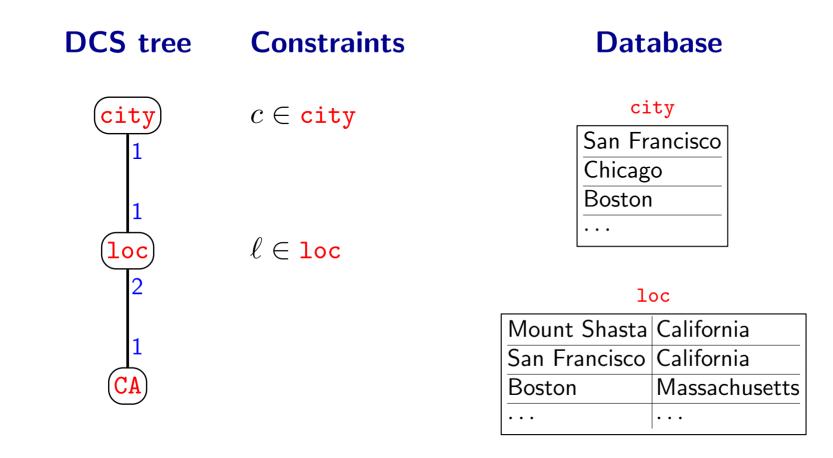
#### **DCS** tree

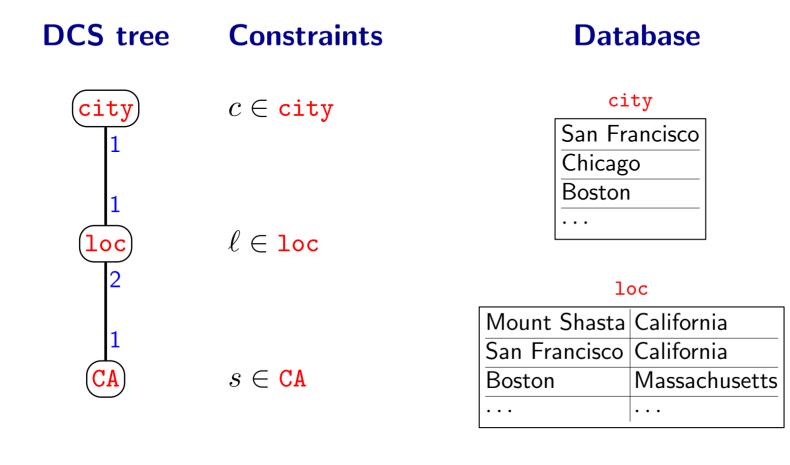
#### Database



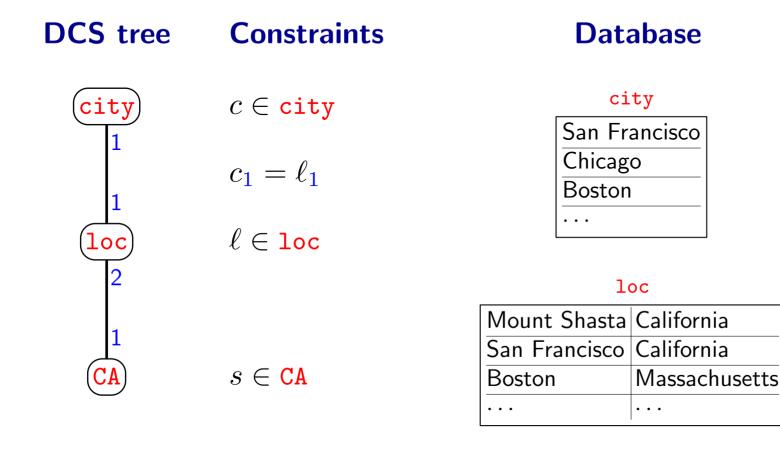














DCS tree	Constraints	Database
City	$c \in \texttt{city}$	city San Francisco
1	$c_1 = \ell_1$	Chicago Boston
	$\ell \in {\tt loc}$	
2	0	loc
	$\ell_2 = s_1$	Mount Shasta California
	$s\inCA$	San Francisco California
		Boston Massachusetts
))		••••



DCS tree	Constraints	Database
city 1	$c \in \texttt{city}$	city San Francisco
1	$c_1 = \ell_1$	Chicago Boston
loc 2	$\ell \in \texttt{loc}$	loc
1	$\ell_2 = s_1$	Mount Shasta California
	$s\inCA$	San Francisco California Boston Massachusetts
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DCS tree	Constraints	Database
city 1 1 1 loc	$c \in \texttt{city}$ $c_1 = \ell_1$ $\ell \in \texttt{loc}$	city San Francisco Chicago Boston 
2 1 CA	$\ell_2 = s_1$ $s \in \mathbf{CA}$	locMount ShastaCaliforniaSan FranciscoCaliforniaBostonMassachusetts



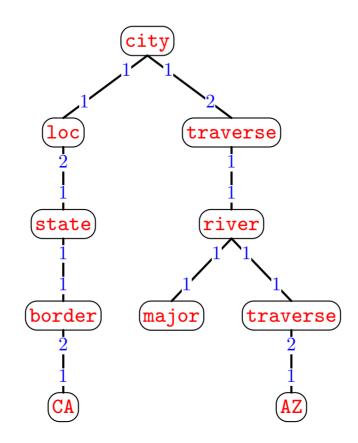
DCS tree	Constraints	Database
city 1 1 (loc)	$c \in \texttt{city}$ $c_1 = \ell_1$ $\ell \in \texttt{loc}$	city San Francisco Chicago Boston 
2 1 CA	$\ell_2 = s_1$ $s \in \mathbf{CA}$	LocMount ShastaCaliforniaSan FranciscoCaliforniaBostonMassachusetts

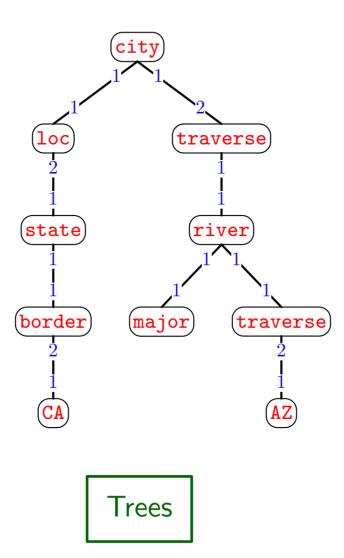


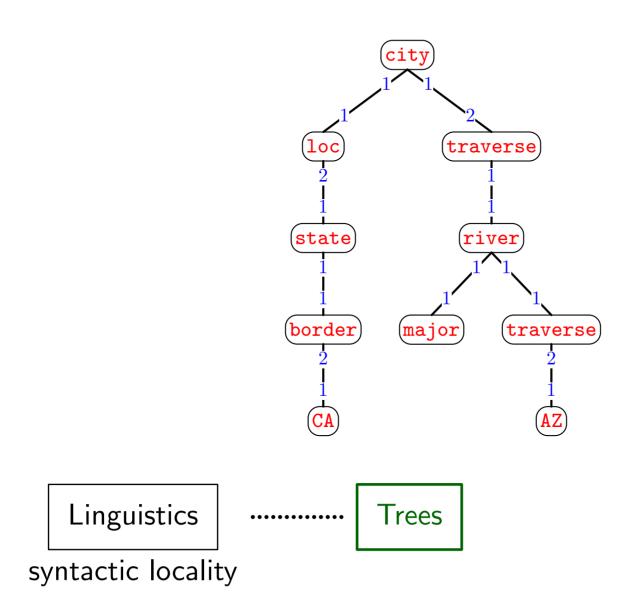
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UN	J C OA	

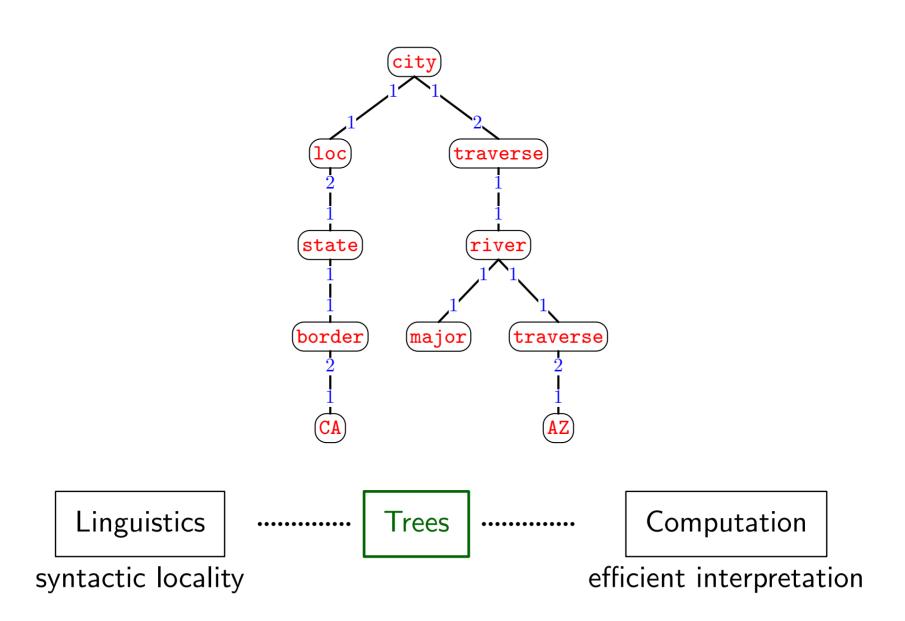


A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem** (CSP) **Computation**: dynamic programming  $\Rightarrow$  time = O(# nodes)



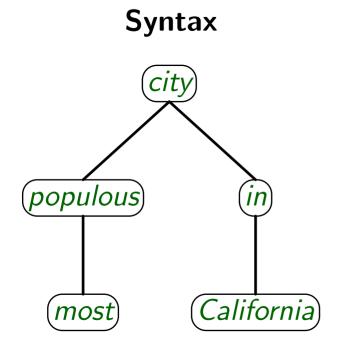






most populous city in California

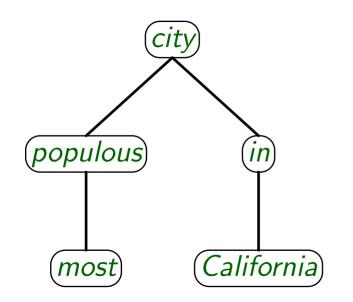
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most populous city in California

**Syntax** 

**S**emantics

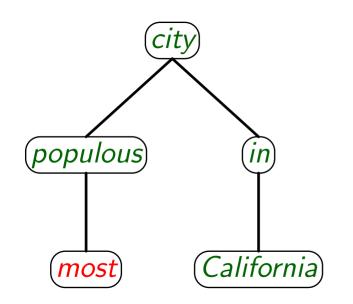


 $\texttt{argmax}(\lambda x.\texttt{city}(x) \land \texttt{loc}(x,\texttt{CA}), \lambda x.\texttt{population}(x))$ 

most populous city in California

**Syntax** 

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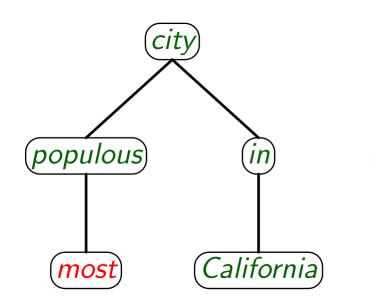


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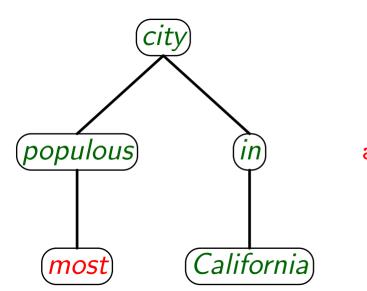
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Problem: syntactic scope is lower than semantic scope

most populous city in California

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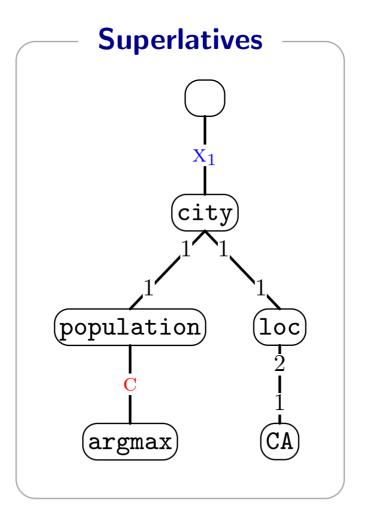


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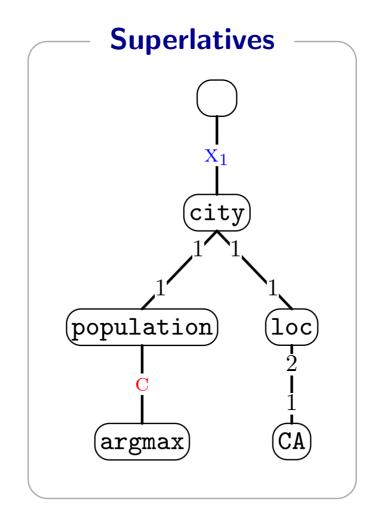
Problem: syntactic scope is lower than semantic scope

If DCS trees look like syntax, how do we get correct semantics?

most populous city in California

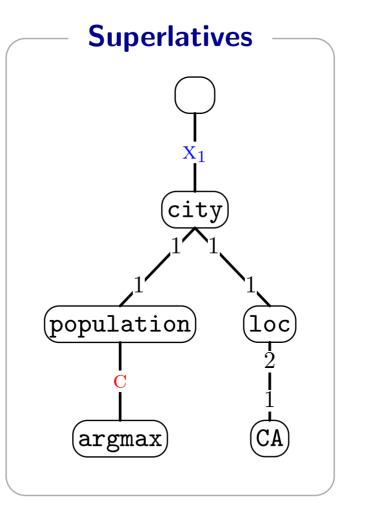


most populous city in California



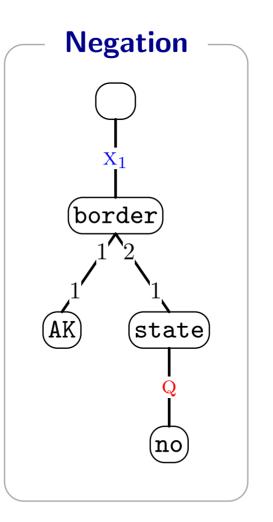
most populous city in California

**Execute** at semantic scope



Alaska borders no states.

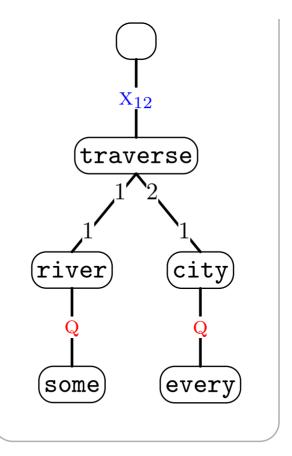
**Execute** at semantic scope



Some river traverses every city.

#### **Quantification (narrow)**

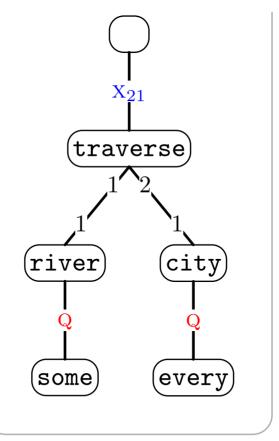
**Execute** at semantic scope



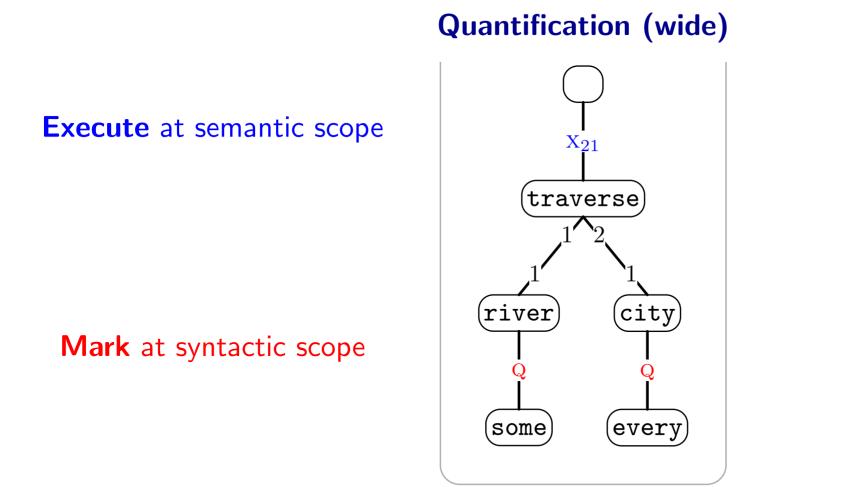
Some river traverses every city.

### Quantification (wide)

**Execute** at semantic scope



Some river traverses every city.



#### Analogy: Montague's quantifying in, Carpenter's scoping constructor

# From Sentences to DCS Trees

Lexicon (very simple/crude)

no	$\Rightarrow$	no	

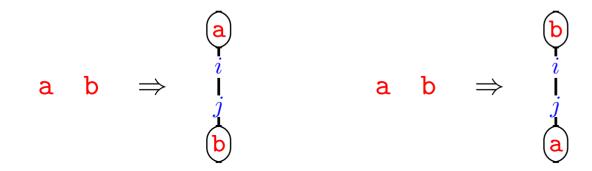
state  $\Rightarrow$  state

## From Sentences to DCS Trees

Lexicon (very simple/crude)

 $no \Rightarrow no$  $state \Rightarrow state$ 

Grammar (very simple/crude)

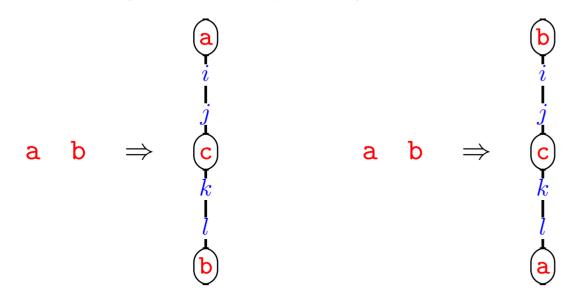


#### From Sentences to DCS Trees

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Grammar (very simple/crude)



What is the most populous city in CA ?



Lexical Triggers:

1. String match  $CA \Rightarrow CA$ 



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- 1. String match  $CA \Rightarrow CA$
- 2. Function words (20 words)  $most \Rightarrow argmax$

				city	city			
				state	state			
				river	river			
			argmax	population	population		CA	
What	is	the	most	populous	city	in	CA	?

#### Lexical Triggers:

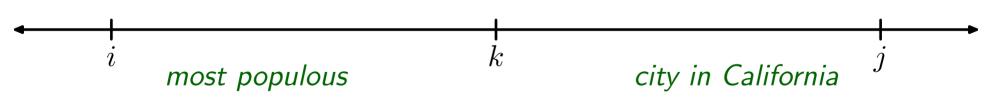
- 1. String match  $CA \Rightarrow CA$
- 2. Function words (20 words)  $most \Rightarrow argmax$
- 3. Nouns/adjectives  $city \Rightarrow city state river population$

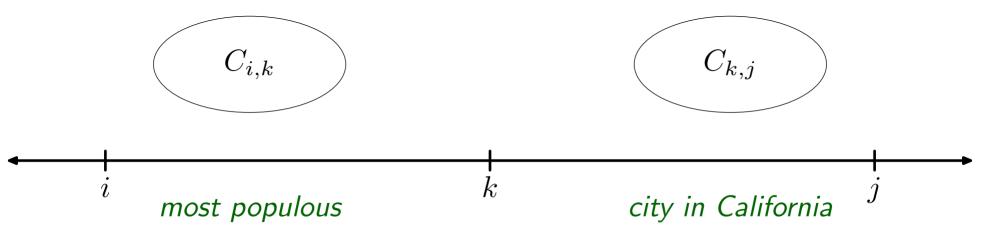
 $C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span [i, j]



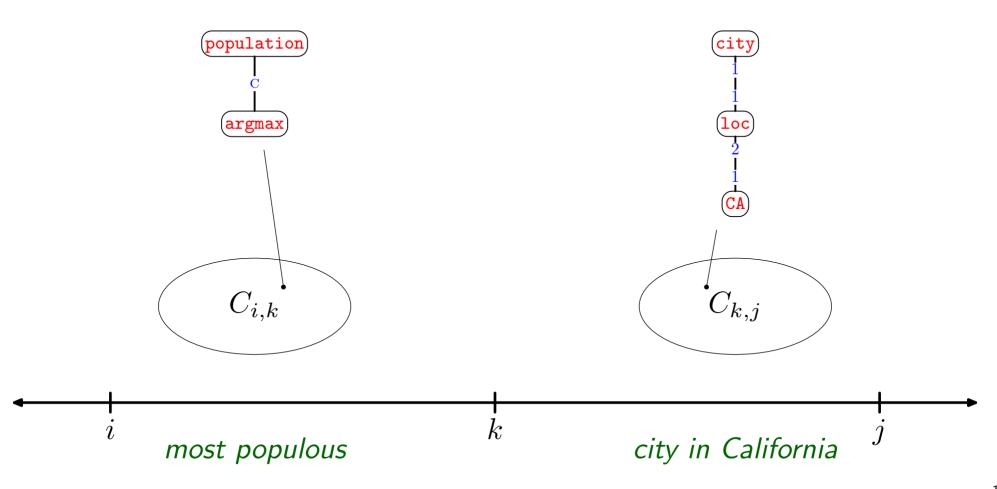
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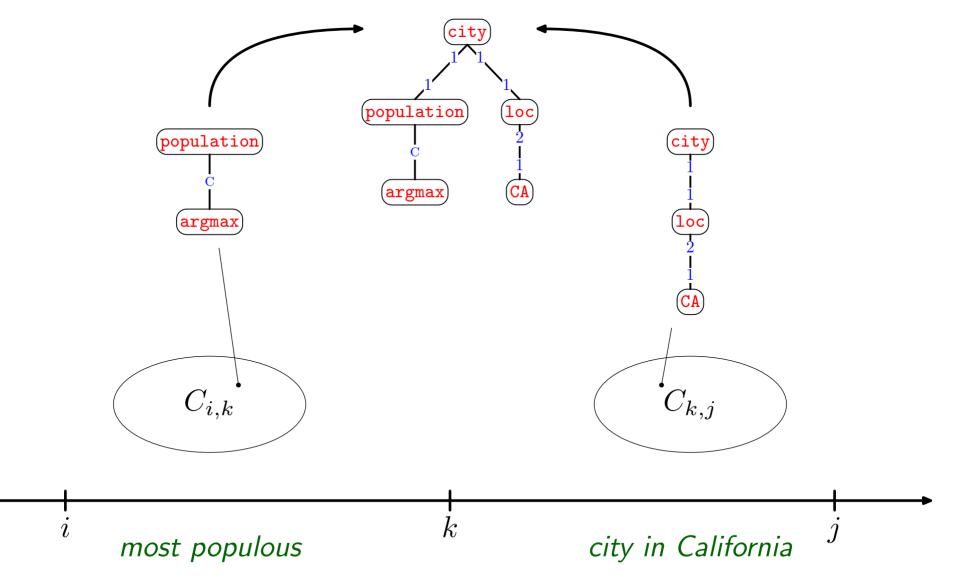


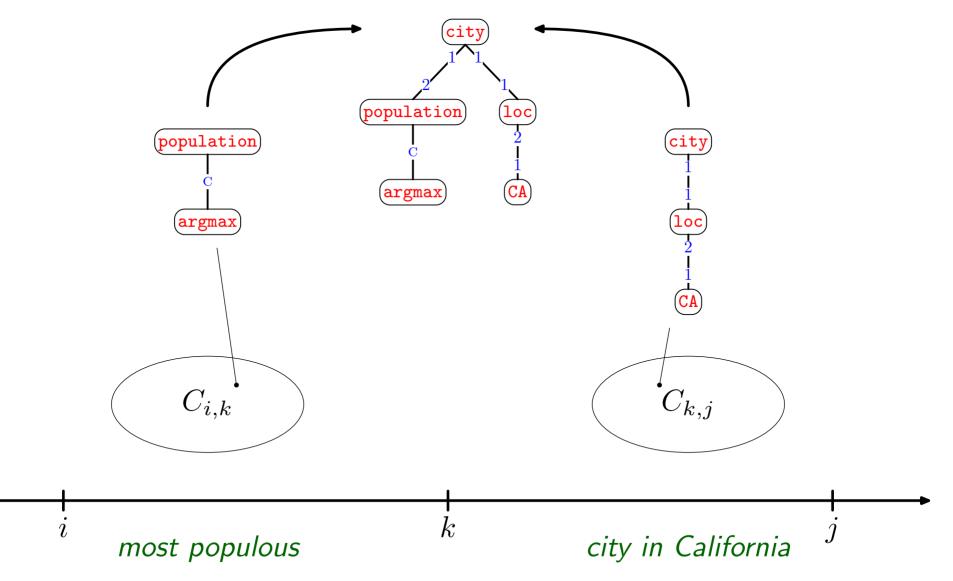


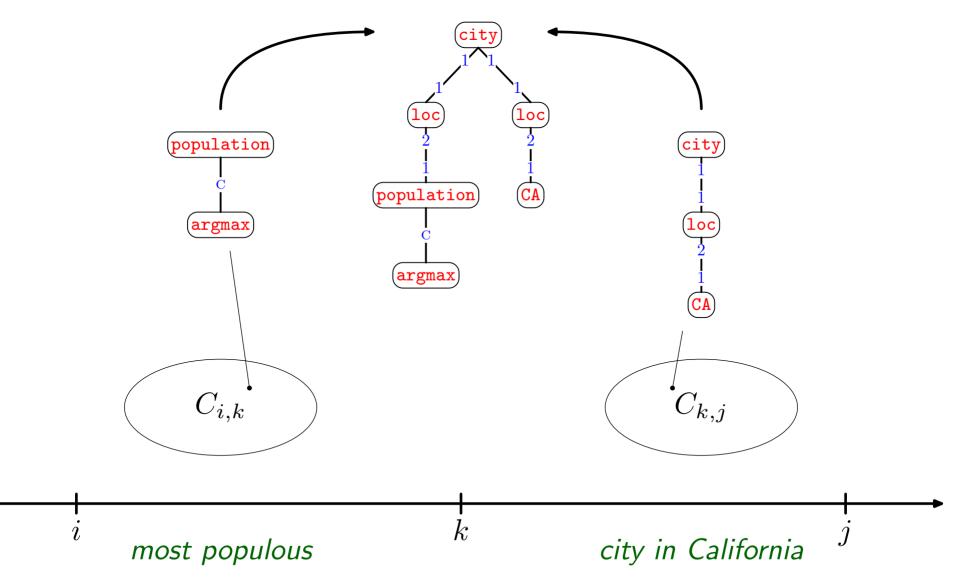


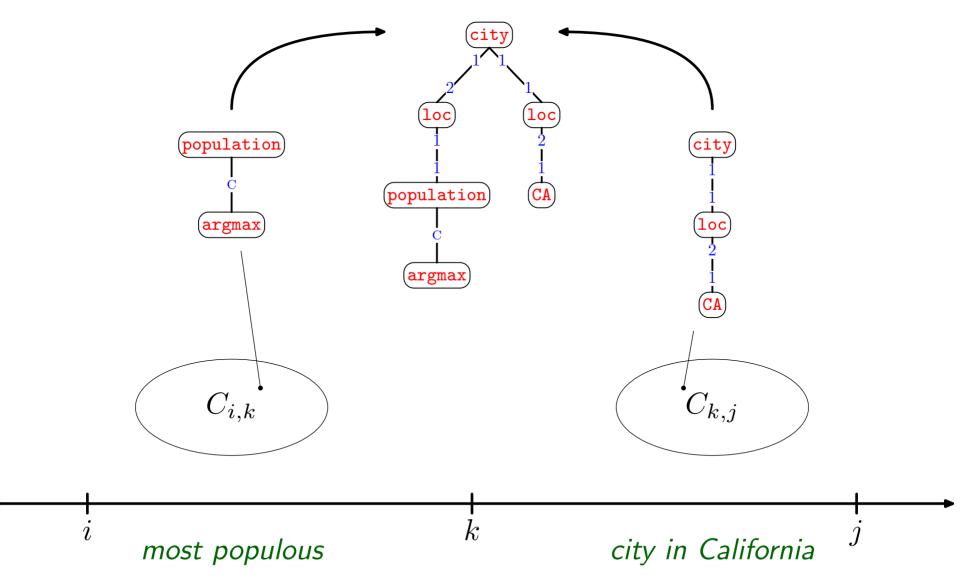


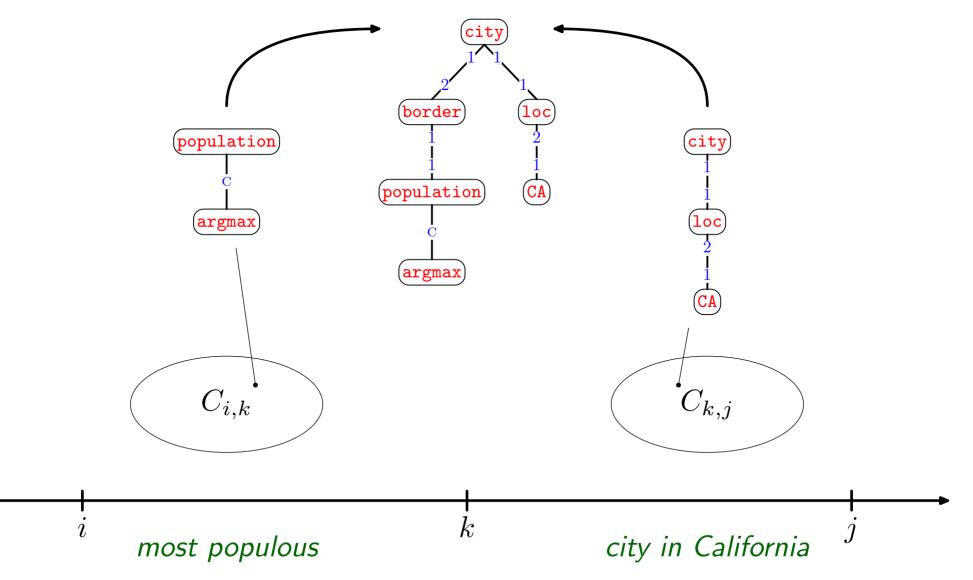


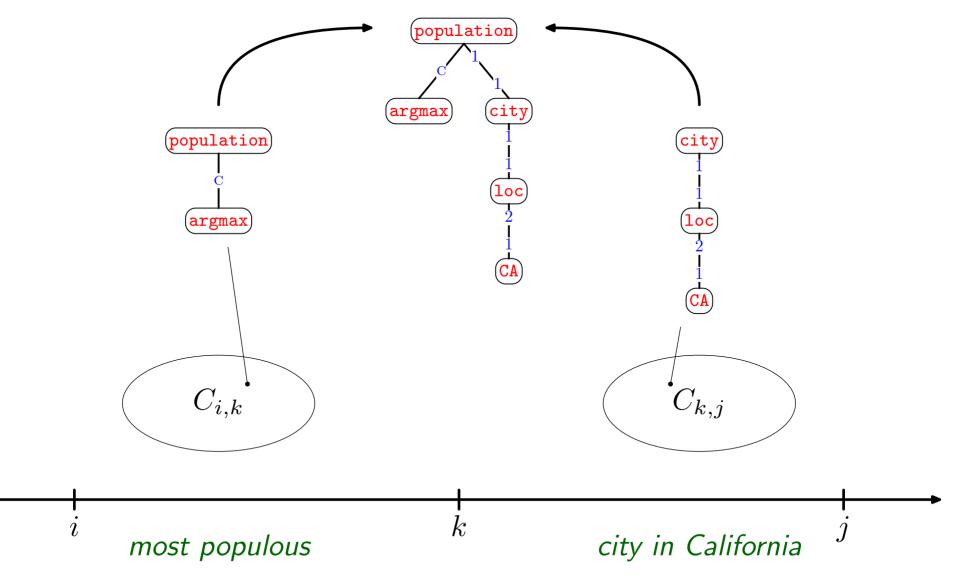
















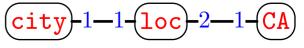
DCS

#### CCG

Logical form lambda calculus formulae

 $\lambda x.\mathtt{city}(x) \wedge \mathtt{loc}(x,\mathtt{CA})$ 

DCS trees



Logical form

CCG lambda calculus formulae  $\lambda x.\operatorname{city}(x) \wedge \operatorname{loc}(x, \operatorname{CA})$ 

DCS trees

Lexiconcategories + lambda calculusmajorN/N :  $\lambda f. \lambda x. f(x) \wedge major(x)$ 

predicates major

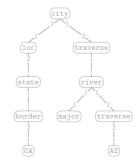
Logical form	CCG lambda calculus formulae $\lambda x. \texttt{city}(x) \land \texttt{loc}(x,\texttt{CA})$	<b>DCS</b> DCS trees $(ty)^{-1}^{-1}^{-1}^{-1}^{-2}^{-1}^{-1}^{-CA}$
Lexicon <i>major</i>	$ ext{categories} +  ext{lambda calculus} \ { m N/N}: \lambda f. \lambda x. f(x) \wedge { m major}(x)$	predicates major
Grammar	combinator rules $Y/X$ : a $X$ : b $\Rightarrow$ $Y$ : a(b)	$\approx$ dependency parsing <b>a</b> - <i>i</i> - <i>j</i> - <b>b</b>

Logical form	CCG lambda calculus formulae $\lambda x. \texttt{city}(x) \land \texttt{loc}(x, \texttt{CA})$	<b>DCS</b> DCS trees city-1-1-loc-2-1-CA
Lexicon <i>major</i>	$ ext{categories} +  ext{lambda calculus} \ { ext{N}/ ext{N}} : \lambda f. \lambda x. f(x) \wedge { ext{major}}(x)$	predicates major
Grammar	combinator rules $Y/X$ : a $X$ : b $\Rightarrow$ $Y$ : a(b)	$\approx$ dependency parsing a - i - j - b
Nature	tighter control	simple/permissive

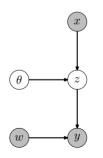
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Grammar	combinator rules $Y/X: \mathbf{a}  X: \mathbf{b}  \Rightarrow  Y: \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{b})$	$\approx$ dependency parsing <b>a</b> $-i$ $-j$ - <b>b</b>
Nature	tighter control	simple/permissive
Origin	linguistics	NLP

### Outline

#### Representation



#### Learning







**Detailed Supervision** 

What is the largest city in California?

 $\verb|argmax|{c:city(c) \land loc(c, CA)}, population)|$ 

**Detailed Supervision** 

What is the largest city in California? expert  $argmax(\{c: city(c) \land loc(c, CA)\}, population)$ 

#### **Detailed Supervision**

- doesn't scale up

What is the largest city in California?  $\begin{array}{c} & & \\$ 

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What is the largest city in California?  $\bigvee expert$  argmax({ $c: city(c) \land loc(c, CA)$ }, population)

#### **Natural Supervision**

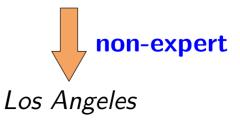


#### **Detailed Supervision**

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#### **Natural Supervision**



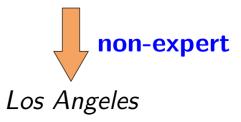
#### **Detailed Supervision**

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#### **Detailed Supervision**

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- scales up
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**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

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What is the most populous city in California?

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 $\lambda x.\texttt{state}(x)$ 

**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

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**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

 $\lambda x.\texttt{city}(x) \wedge \texttt{loc}(x,\texttt{CA})$ 

**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

 $\lambda x.\texttt{state}(x) \wedge \texttt{border}(x,\texttt{CA})$ 

**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

population(CA)

#### Considerations

**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

 $\texttt{argmax}(\lambda x.\texttt{city}(x) \land \texttt{loc}(x,\texttt{CA}), \lambda x.\texttt{population}(x))$ 

Los Angeles

#### Considerations

**Computational**: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

Los Angeles

#### Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

What is the most populous city in California?

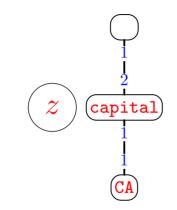
#### 

Los Angeles

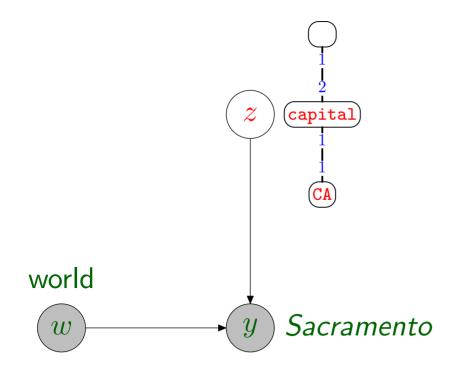
Statistical: how to parametrize mapping from sentence to logical form?

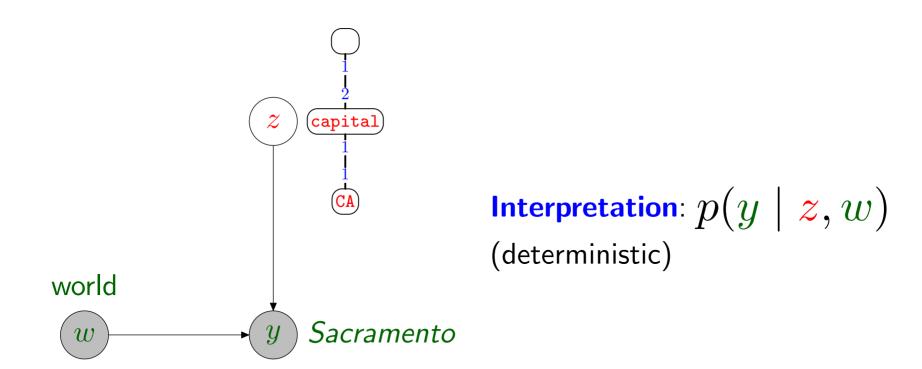
What is the most populous city in California?

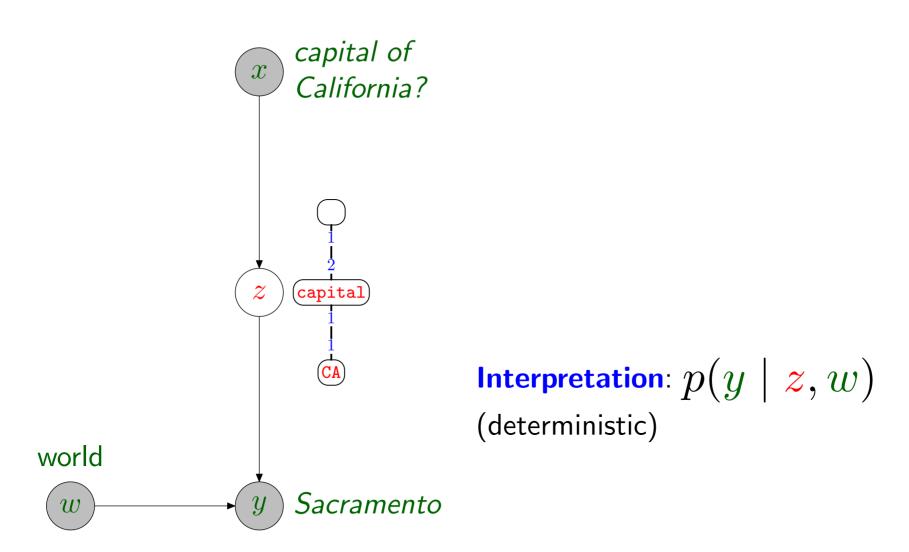
 $\operatorname{argmax}(\lambda x.\operatorname{city}(x) \land \operatorname{loc}(x, \operatorname{CA}), \lambda x.\operatorname{population}(x))$ 

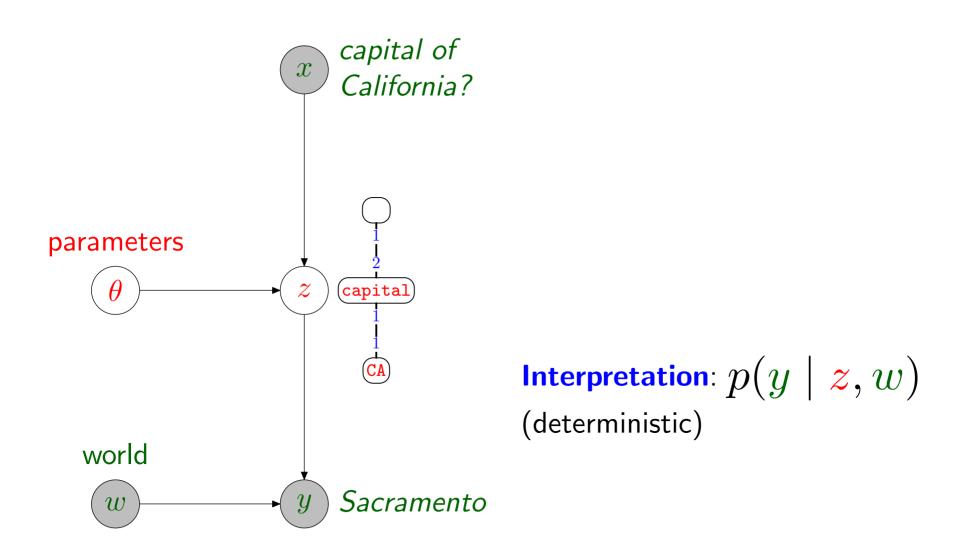


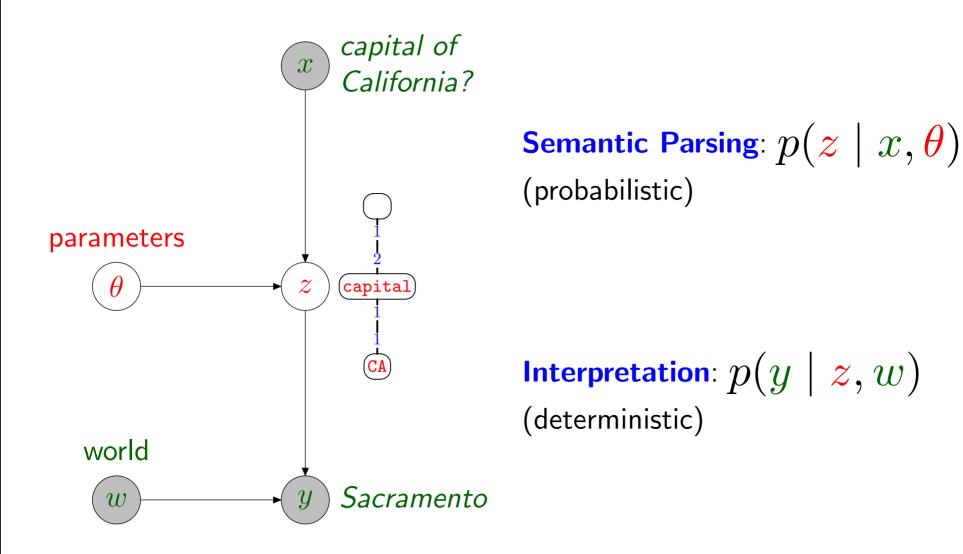


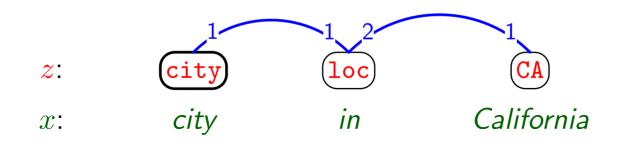


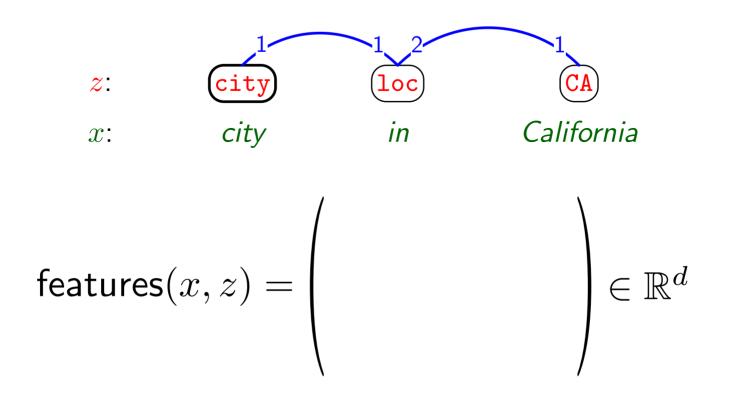


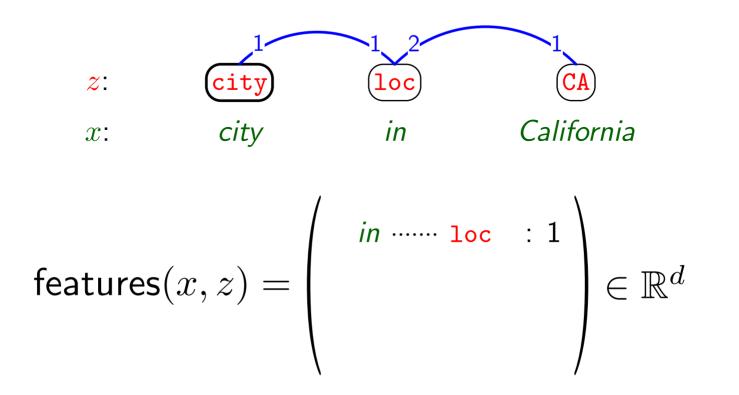


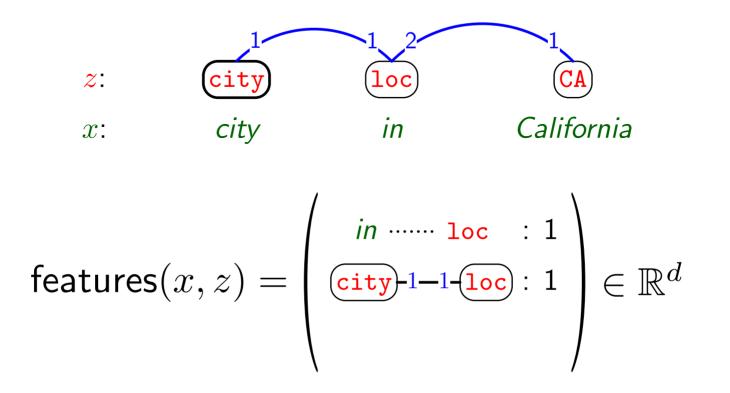


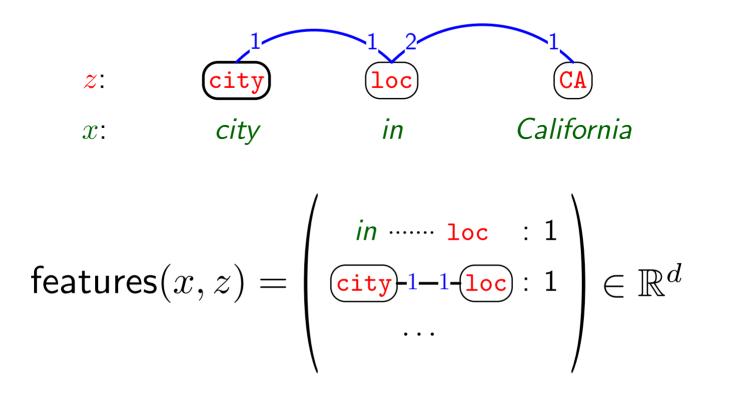


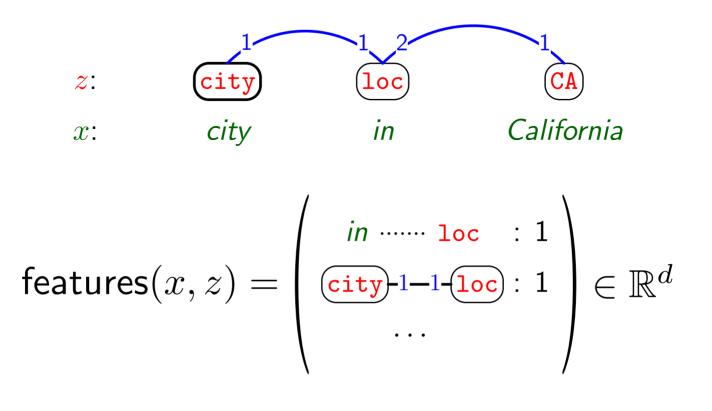




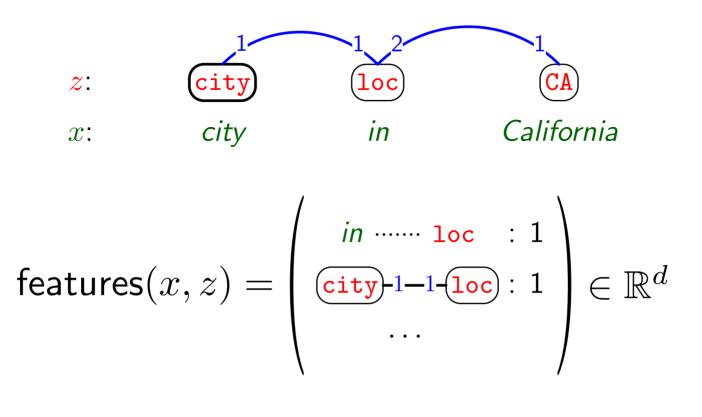








 $\mathsf{score}(x,z) = \mathsf{features}(x,z) \cdot \pmb{\theta}$ 



 $score(x, z) = features(x, z) \cdot \theta$ 

$$p(z \mid x, \theta) = \frac{e^{\operatorname{score}(x, z)}}{\sum_{z' \in \mathcal{Z}(x)} e^{\operatorname{score}(x, z')}}$$

**Objective Function:** 

 $p(y \mid \boldsymbol{z}, w) p(\boldsymbol{z} \mid \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ 

Interpretation Semantic parsing

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 $p(y \mid \boldsymbol{z}, w) p(\boldsymbol{z} \mid \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ 

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**Objective Function:** 

 $\max_{\theta} \sum_{z} p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$ 

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$$\max_{\theta} \sum_{z} p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$ 

 $(0,0,\ldots,0)$ 

**Objective Function:** 

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_{z} p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$ 

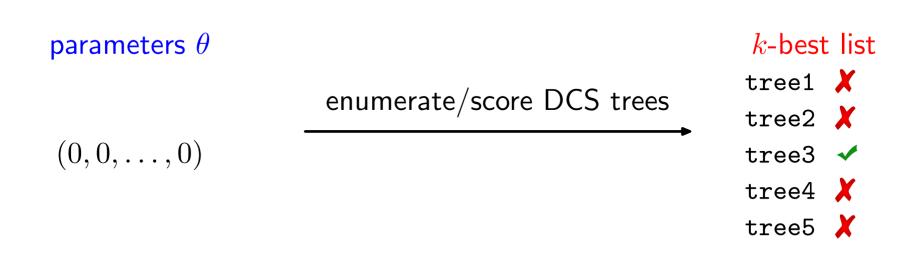
enumerate/score DCS trees

 $(0, 0, \ldots, 0)$ 

**Objective Function:** 

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_{z} p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation Semantic parsing

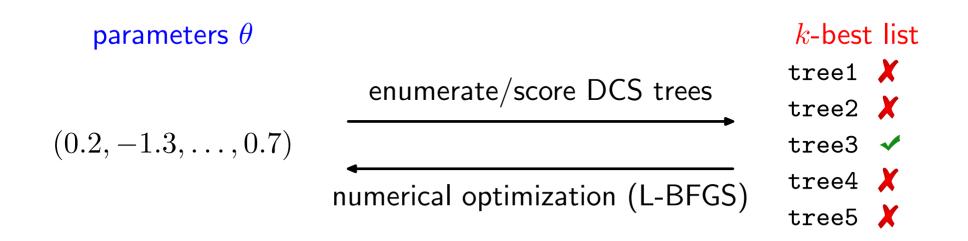


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Interpretation S

Semantic parsing

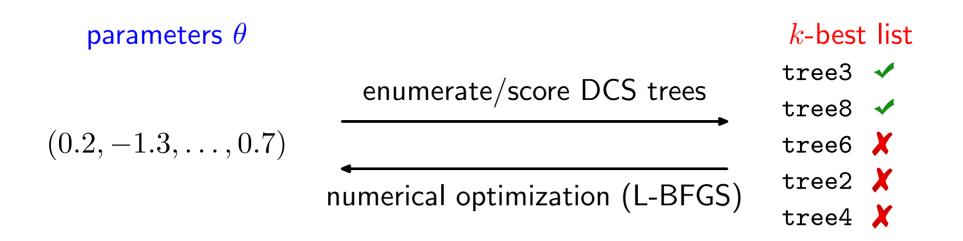


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Interpretation S

#### Semantic parsing

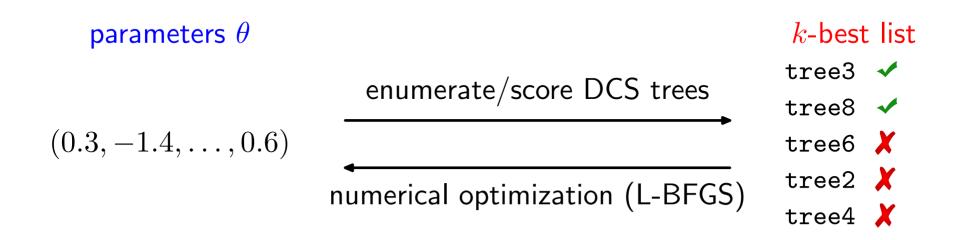


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Interpretation S

#### Semantic parsing

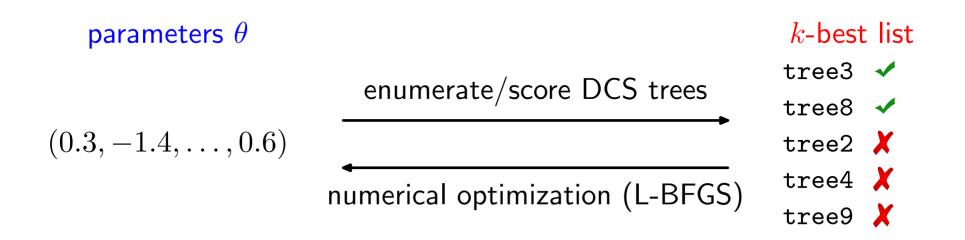


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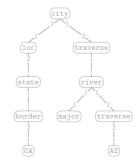
Interpretation S

#### Semantic parsing

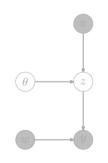


## Outline

#### Representation



Learning







Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s 600 training examples, 280 test examples

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s 600 training examples, 280 test examples

What is the highest point in Florida?

How many states have a city called Rochester?

What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?

Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s 600 training examples, 280 test examples

What is the highest point in Florida? ⇒ answer(A,highest(A,(place(A),loc(A,B),const(B,stateid(florida))))) How many states have a city called Rochester? ⇒ answer(A,count(B,(state(B),loc(C,B),const(C,cityid(rochester,\_))),A)) What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee? ⇒ answer(A,longest(A,(river(A),traverse(A,B),state(B),next\_to(B,C),const(C,stateid(tennessee))))) Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point? ⇒ answer(A,lowest(B,(state(A),traverse(C,A),const(C,riverid(mississippi)),loc(B,A),place(B))))

Supervision in past work: question + program

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s 600 training examples, 280 test examples

What is the highest point in Florida? ⇒ Walton County

How many states have a city called Rochester?  $\Rightarrow 2$ 

What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee? ⇒ Missouri

Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?  $\Rightarrow$  Louisiana

Supervision in past work: question + program Supervision in this work: question + answer

# Input to Learning Algorithm

#### **Training data** (600 examples)

What is the highest point in Florida?	$\Rightarrow$	Walton County
How many states have a city called Rochester?	$\Rightarrow$	2
What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?	$\Rightarrow$	Missouri
Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?	$\Rightarrow$	Louisiana
•••		•••

# Input to Learning Algorithm

#### **Training data** (600 examples)

What is the highest point in Florida?	$\Rightarrow$	Walton County
How many states have a city called Rochester?	$\Rightarrow$	2
What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?	$\Rightarrow$	Missouri
Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?	$\Rightarrow$	Louisiana
•••		•••

#### Lexicon (20 general, 22 specific)

no	$\Rightarrow$	no
argmax	$\Rightarrow$	most
city	$\Rightarrow$	city
state	$\Rightarrow$	state
mountain	$\Rightarrow$	mountain
• • • •		•••

# Input to Learning Algorithm

#### **Training data** (600 examples)

What is the highest point in Florida? $\Rightarrow$ Walton CountyHow many states have a city called Rochester? $\Rightarrow$ 2What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee? $\Rightarrow$ MissouriOf the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point? $\Rightarrow$ Louisiana............

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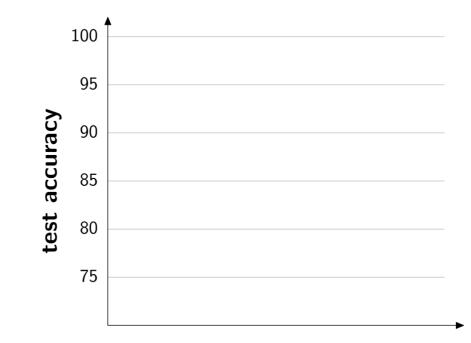
no	$\Rightarrow$	no
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•••		•••

#### city state San Francisco Alabama Chicago Alaska Boston Arizona . . . . . . loc border Mount Shasta California Washington Oregon San Francisco California Washington Idaho Massachusetts Oregon Washington Boston . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### World/Database

#### Experiment 1

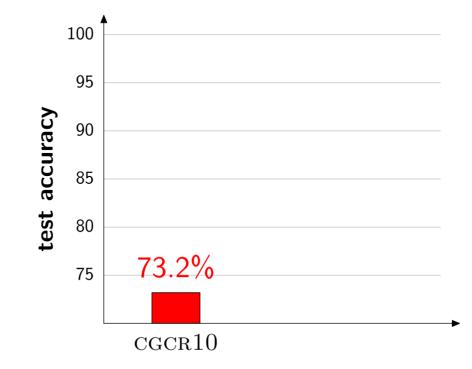
On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples



## Experiment 1

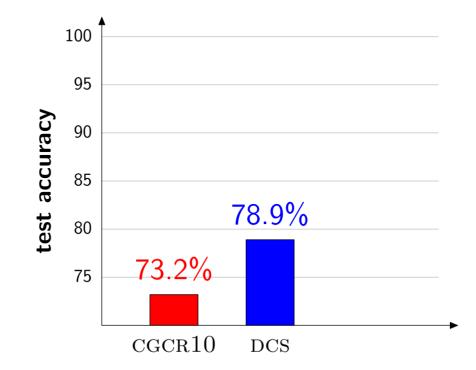
On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples

SystemDescriptionLexicon (gen./spec.)Logical formsCGCR10FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]



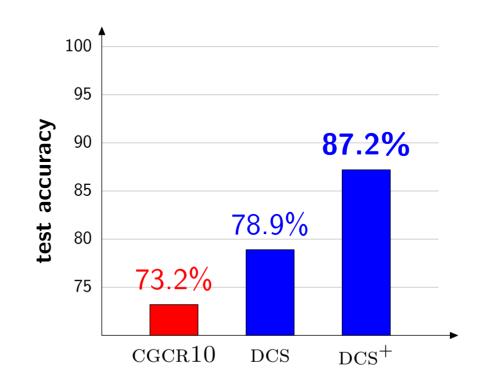
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SystemDescriptionLexicon (gen./spec.)Logical formsCGCR10FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]LJK11DCS [Liang et al., 2011]



On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples

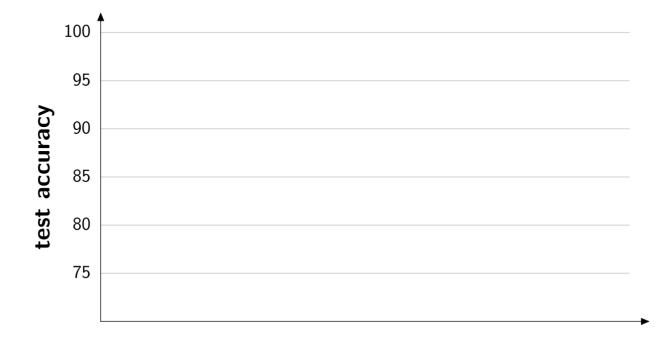
SystemDescriptionLexicon (gen./spec.)Logical formsCGCR10FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]✓✓✗LJK11DCS [Liang et al., 2011]✓✓✗LJK11<sup>+</sup>DCS [Liang et al., 2011]✓✓



On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

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System Description Le

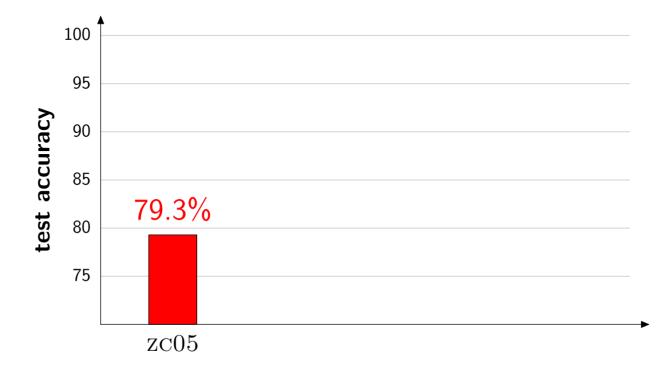
Lexicon Logical forms



On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

SystemDescriptionZC05CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]



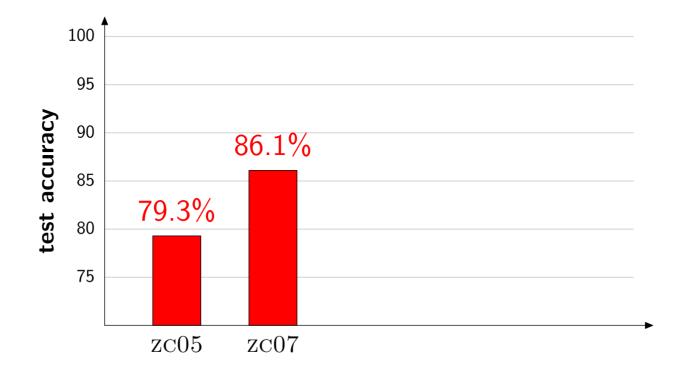


On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

#### **System Description Lexicon Logical forms** CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005] ZC05XX

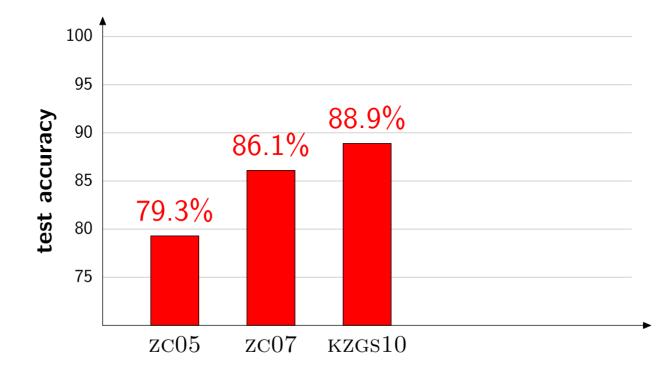
zc07 relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]

XX



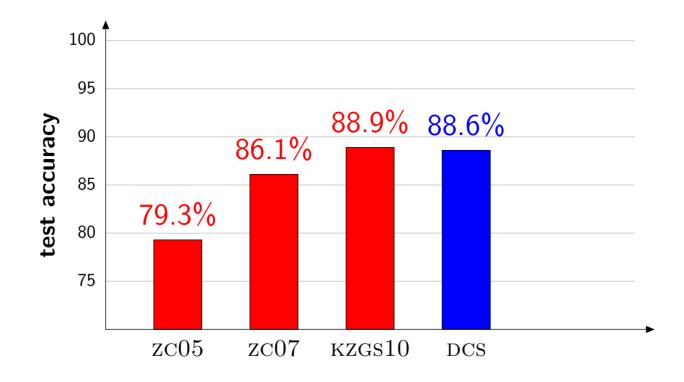
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### SystemDescriptionLexiconLogical formsZC05CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]X X✓ZC07relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]X X✓KZGS10CCG w/unification [Kwiatkowski et al., 2010]X X✓



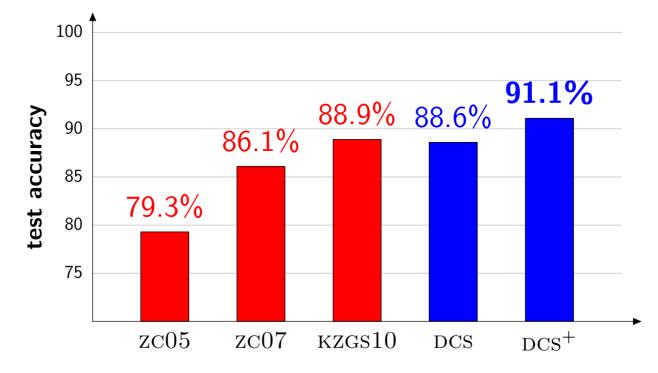
On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

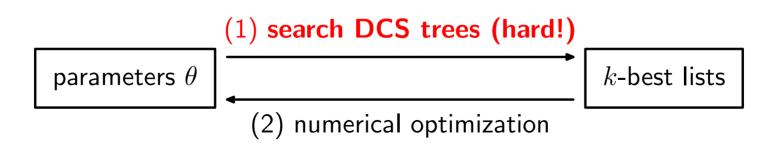
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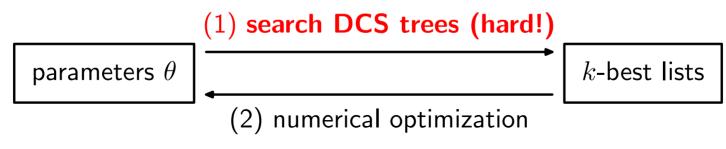


On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

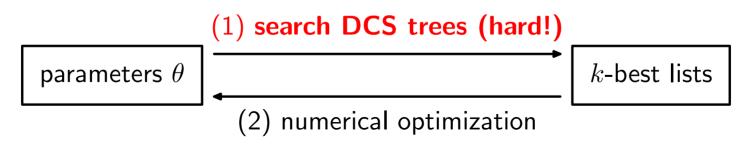
# SystemDescriptionLexiconLogical formsZC05CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]X XImage: Collins & Coll



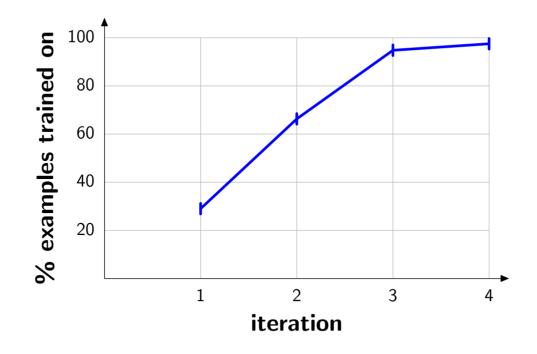


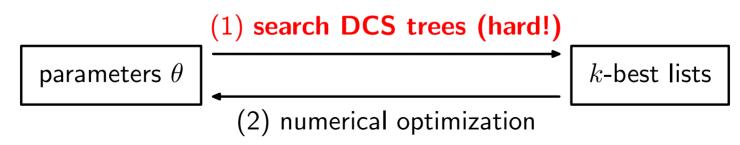


If no DCS tree on k-best list is correct, skip example in (2)



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Effect: automatic curriculum learning, learning improves search

#### **Current Limitations**

Unknown facts: *How far is Los Angeles from Boston?* Database has no distance information

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Unknown concepts: What states are landlocked? Need to induce database view for landlocked(x) =  $\neg$ border(x, ocean)

Unknown words: What is the largest settlement in California? Training examples do not contain the word settlement

#### Summary

sentence 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Semantic Parser  $\rightarrow$  logical form  $\rightarrow$  Interpretation  $\rightarrow$  denotation

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sentence 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Semantic Parser  $\rightarrow$  logical form  $\rightarrow$  Interpretation  $\rightarrow$  denotation

#### Learning from Weak Supervision

- Model logical form as latent variable
- Semantic formalisms: CCG, DCS

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sentence 
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 Semantic Parser  $\rightarrow$  logical form  $\rightarrow$  Interpretation  $\rightarrow$  denotation

#### Learning from Weak Supervision

- Model logical form as latent variable
- Semantic formalisms: CCG, DCS

Strategy:

- Lexicon/grammar generates set of candidate logical forms
- Learned feature weights capture linguistic generalizations