

Language Generation via DAG Transduction

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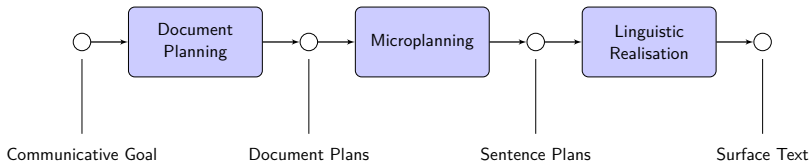
Overview

- 1 Background
- 2 Formal Models
- 3 Our DAG Transducer
- 4 Evaluation

Outline

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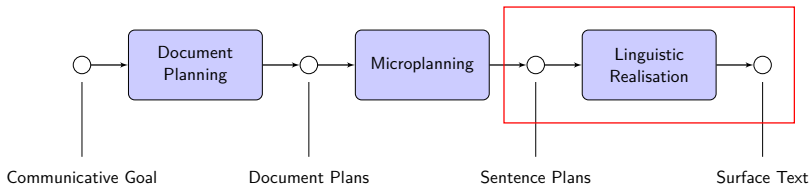
A NLG system Architecture



Reference

Ehud Reiter and Robert Dale, Building **Natural Language Generation Systems**, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

A NLG system Architecture



In this paper, we study surface realization, i.e. mapping meaning representations to natural language sentences.

Meaning Representation

- Logic form, e.g. lambda calculus

A Probabilistic Forest-to-String Model for Language Generation from Typed Lambda Calculus Expressions

Wei Lu and **Hwee Tou Ng**
Department of Computer Science
School of Computing
National University of Singapore
{luwei, nght}@comp.nus.edu.sg

Meaning Representation

- Logic form, e.g. lambda calculus
- **Feature structures**

High Efficiency Realization for a Wide-Coverage Unification Grammar*

John Carroll¹ and Stephan Oepen²

¹ University of Sussex

² University of Oslo and Stanford University

Meaning Representation

- Logic form, e.g. lambda calculus
- Feature structures
- This paper: Graphs!

Graph-Structured Meaning Representation

Different kinds of graph-structured semantic representations:

- **Semantic Dependency Graphs (SDP)**
- Abstract Meaning Representations (AMR)
- Dependency-based Minimal Recursion Semantics (DMRS)
- Elementary Dependency Structures (EDS)

Graph-Structured Meaning Representation

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Graph-Structured Meaning Representation

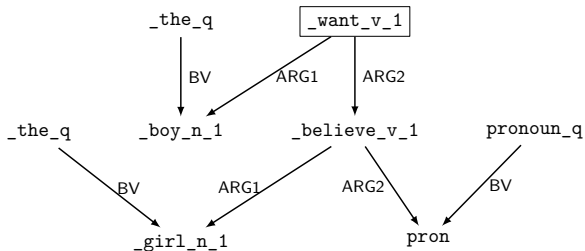
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Graph-Structured Meaning Representation

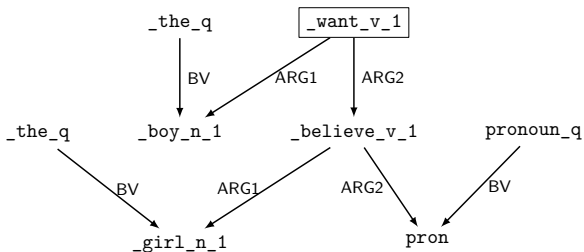
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- **Elementary Dependency Structures (EDS)**



Type-Logical Semantic Graph

EDS graphs are grounded under type-logical semantics. They are usually very *flat* and *multi-rooted* graphs.



The boy wants the girl to believe him.

Previous Work

- 1 Sequence-to-sequence Models. (AMR-to-text)

Reference

Ioannis Konstas, Srinivasan Iyer, Mark Yatskar, Yejin Choi, and Luke Zettlemoyer. 2017. [Neural AMR: Sequence-to-sequence models for parsing and generation.](#)

Previous Work

- ① Sequence-to-sequence Models. (AMR-to-text)
- ② Synchronous Node Replacement Grammar. (AMR-to-text)

Reference

Linfeng Song, Xiaochang Peng, Yue Zhang, Zhiguo Wang, and Daniel Gildea. 2017. [AMR-to-text generation with synchronous node replacement grammar.](#)

Previous Work

- ① Sequence-to-sequence Models. (AMR-to-text)
- ② Synchronous Node Replacement Grammar. (AMR-to-text)
- ③ Other Unification grammar-based methods

Reference

Carroll, John and Oepen, Stephan 2005. [High efficiency realization for a wide-coverage unification grammar](#)

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Formalisms for Strings, Trees and Graphs

Chomsky hierarchy	Grammar	Abstract machines
Type-0	-	Turing machine
Type-1	Context-sensitive	Linear-bounded
-	Tree-adjoining	Embedded pushdown
Type-2	Context-free	Nondeterministic pushdown
Type-3	Regular	Finite

Manipulating Graphs: **Graph Grammar** and **DAG Automata**.

Existing System

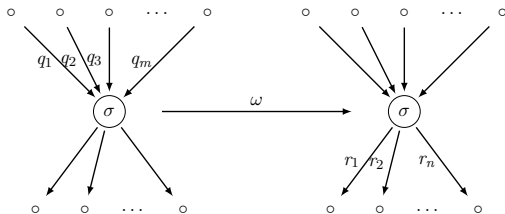
David Chiang, Frank Drewes, Daniel Gildea, Adam Lopez and Giorgio Satta. [Weighted DAG Automata for Semantic Graphs.](#)

the longest NLP paper that I've ever read

DAG Automata

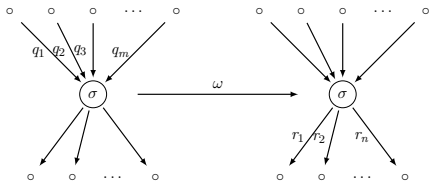
A weighted DAG automaton is a tuple

$$M = \langle \Sigma, Q, \delta, \mathbb{K} \rangle$$



$$\{q_1, \dots, q_m\} \xrightarrow{\sigma/\omega} \{r_1, \dots, r_n\}$$

DAG Automata



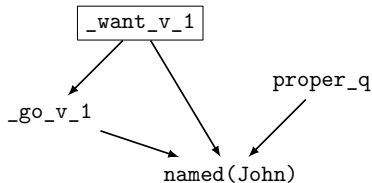
- A **run** of M on DAG $D = \langle V, E, \ell \rangle$ is an edge labeling function $\rho : E \rightarrow Q$.
- The weight of ρ is the product of all weight of local transitions:

$$\delta(\rho) = \bigotimes_{v \in V} \delta \left[\rho(\text{in}(v)) \xrightarrow{\ell(v)} \rho(\text{out}(v)) \right]$$

DAG Automata: Toy Example

States: 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

John wants to go.



Recognition Rules:

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{_want_v_1}} \{\text{😊}, \text{😊}\}$$

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{😊}\}$$

$$\{\text{😊}\} \xrightarrow{\text{_go_v_1}} \{\text{😊}\}$$

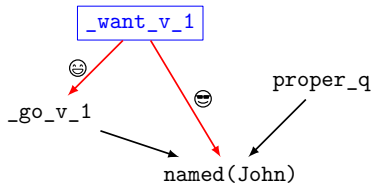
$$\{\text{😊}\} \xrightarrow{\text{_go_v_1}} \{\text{😊}\}$$

$$\{\text{😊}, \text{😊}, \text{😊}\} \xrightarrow{\text{named(John)}} \{\}$$

DAG Automata: Toy Example

States: 😊 😄 😈 😊 😞

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Recognition Rules:

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{_want_v_1}} \{\text{😊}, \text{😈}\}$$

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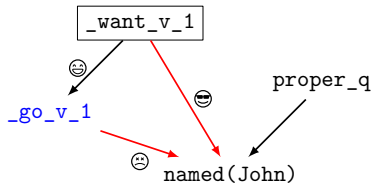
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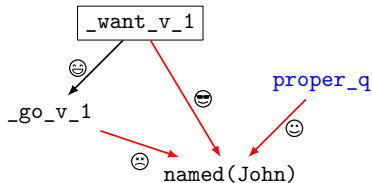
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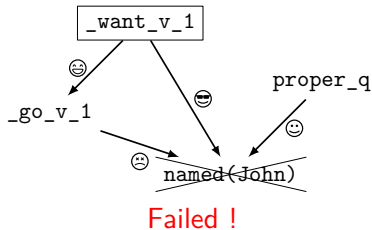
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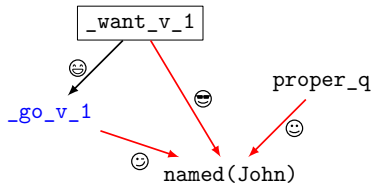
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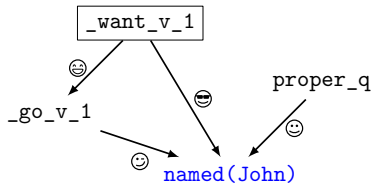
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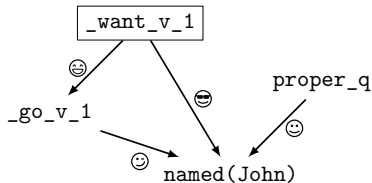
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DAG Automata: Toy Example

States: 😊 😄 😬 😊 😞

John wants to go.



Accept !

Recognition Rules:

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{_want_v_1}} \{\text{😊}, \text{😬}\}$$

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{😊}\}$$

$$\{\text{😊}\} \xrightarrow{\text{_go_v_1}} \{\text{😊}\}$$

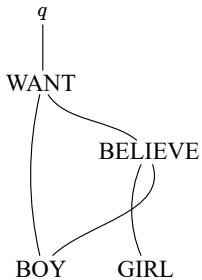
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$$\{\text{😊}, \text{😬}, \text{😊}\} \xrightarrow{\text{named(John)}} \{\}$$

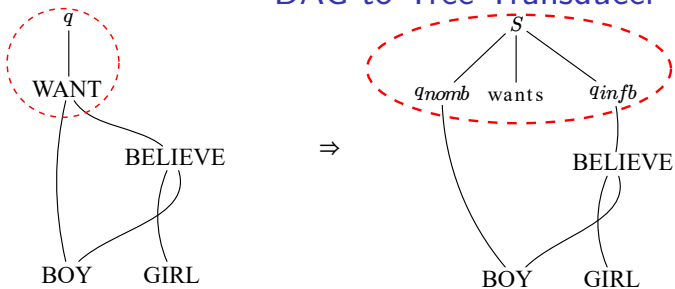
Existing System

Daniel Quernheim and Kevin Knight. 2012. [Towards probabilistic acceptors and transducers for feature structures](#)

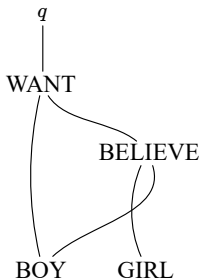
DAG-to-Tree Transducer



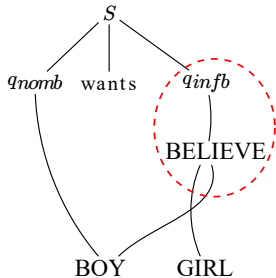
DAG-to-Tree Transducer



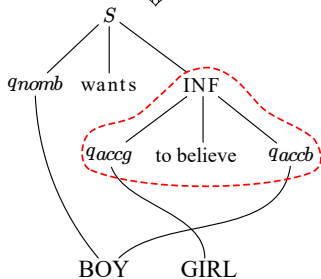
DAG-to-Tree Transducer



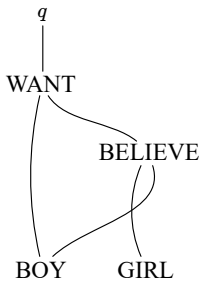
\Rightarrow



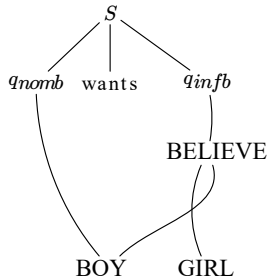
\Downarrow



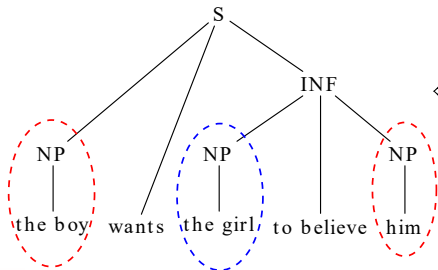
DAG-to-Tree Transducer



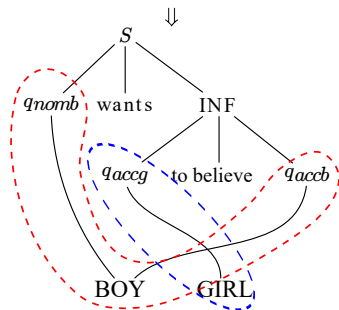
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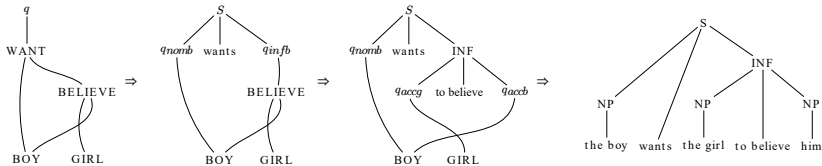
\Downarrow



\Uparrow



DAG-to-Tree Transducer



Challenges for DAG-to-tree transduction on EDS graphs:

- Cannot easily reverse the directions of edges
- Cannot easily handle multiple roots

Outline

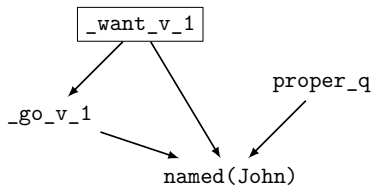
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Our DAG-to-program transducer

The basic idea:

- 😬 Rewriting: directly generating a new data structure piece by piece, during recognizing an input DAG.
- 😊 Obtaining target structures based on side effects of the DAG recognition.

States: 😊 😊 😬 😊



John wants to go.

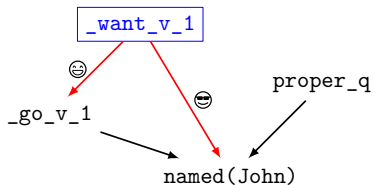
The output of our transducer is a *program*:

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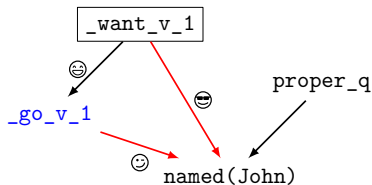
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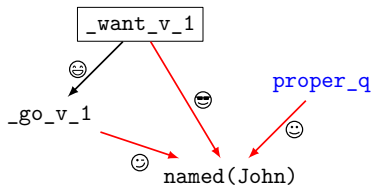
$$S = x_{21} + \text{want} + x_{11}$$

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John wants to go.

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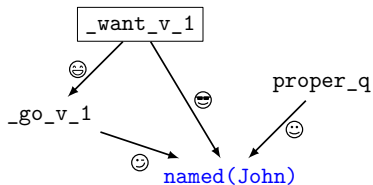
$$x_{11} = \text{to} + \text{go}$$

Our DAG-to-program transducer

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- 😊 Obtaining target structures based on side effects of the DAG recognition.

States: 😊 😊 😬 😊



John wants to go.

The output of our transducer is a *program*:

$$S = x_{21} + \text{want} + x_{11}$$

$$x_{11} = \text{to} + \text{go}$$

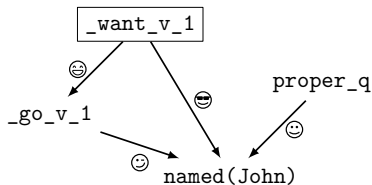
$$x_{41} = \epsilon$$

Our DAG-to-program transducer

The basic idea:

- ☹️ Rewriting: directly generating a new data structure piece by piece, during recognizing an input DAG.
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States: 😊 😊 😊 😊



John wants to go.

The output of our transducer is a *program*:

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$$x_{11} = \text{to} + \text{go}$$

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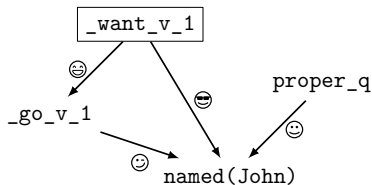
$$x_{21} = x_{41} + \text{John}$$

Our DAG-to-program transducer

The basic idea:

- 😬 Rewriting: directly generating a new data structure piece by piece, during recognizing an input DAG.
- 😊 Obtaining target structures based on side effects of the DAG recognition.

States: 😊 😊 😬 😊



John wants to go.

The output of our transducer is a *program*:

$$S = x_{21} + \text{want} + x_{11}$$

$$x_{11} = \text{to} + \text{go}$$

$$x_{41} = \epsilon$$

$$x_{21} = x_{41} + \text{John}$$

$$\implies \underline{S = \text{John want to go}}$$

Transduction Rules

Recognition Part

A valid DAG Automata transition

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{-want_v_1}} \{\text{😊}, \text{😞}\}$$

Generation Part

Statement template(s)

$$S = v_{\text{😊}} + L + v_{\text{😞}}$$

Transduction Rules

Recognition Part

A valid DAG Automata transition

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{-want_v_1}} \{\text{☺}, \text{☹}\}$$

Generation Part

Statement template(s)

$$S = v_{\text{☺}} + L + v_{\text{☹}}$$

We use **parameterized** states:

`label(number,direction)`

The range of direction: unchanged, empy, reversed.

Transduction Rules

Recognition Part

A valid DAG Automata transition

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{-\text{want_v_1}} \{\text{😊}, \text{😞}\}$$

Generation Part

Statement template(s)

$$S = v_{\text{😊}} + L + v_{\text{😞}}$$

We use **parameterized** states:

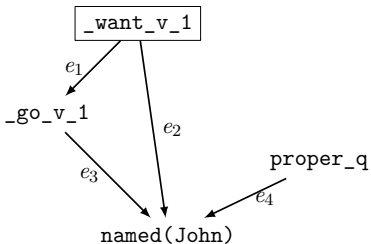
`label(number,direction)`

The range of direction: **u**nchanged, **e**mpy, **r**eversed.

$$\{\} \xrightarrow{-\text{want_v_1}} \{\text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\} \quad S = v_{\text{NP}(1,u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1,u)}$$

Toy Example

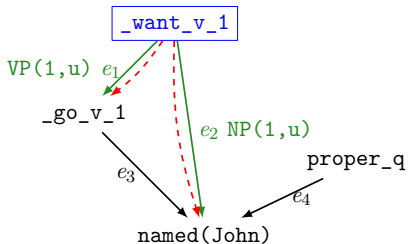
$Q = \{\text{DET}(1,r), \text{Empty}(0,e), \text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$		
Rule	For Recognition	For Generation
1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{DET}(1,r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1,r)} = \epsilon$
2	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{_want_v_1}} \{\text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$	$S = v_{\text{NP}(1,u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1,u)}$
3	$\{\text{VP}(1,u)\} \xrightarrow{\text{_go_v_1}} \{\text{Empty}(0,e)\}$	$v_{\text{VP}(1,u)} = \text{to} + L$
4	$\{\text{NP}(1,u), \text{DET}(1,r)\} \xrightarrow{\text{named}} \{\}$	$v_{\text{NP}(1,u)} = v_{\text{DET}(1,r)} + L$



Recognition: To find an edge labeling function ρ . The red dashed edges make up an intermediate graph $T(\rho)$.

Toy Example

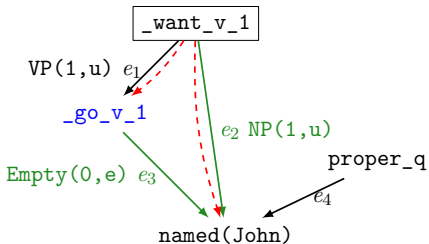
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Rule	For Recognition	For Generation
1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{DET}(1,r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1,r)} = \epsilon$
2	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{_want_v_1}} \{\text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$	$S = v_{\text{NP}(1,u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1,u)}$
3	$\{\text{VP}(1,u)\} \xrightarrow{\text{_go_v_1}} \{\text{Empty}(0,e)\}$	$v_{\text{VP}(1,u)} = \text{to} + L$
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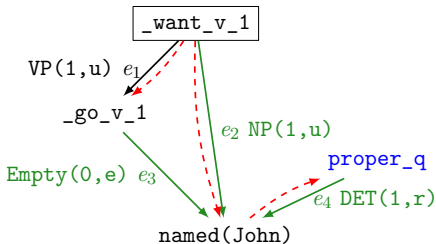
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1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{DET}(1, r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1, r)} = \epsilon$
2	$\{\} \xrightarrow{-\text{want_v_1}} \{\text{VP}(1, u), \text{NP}(1, u)\}$	$S = v_{\text{NP}(1, u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1, u)}$
3	$\{\text{VP}(1, u)\} \xrightarrow{-\text{go_v_1}} \{\text{Empty}(0, e)\}$	$v_{\text{VP}(1, u)} = \text{to} + L$
4	$\{\text{NP}(1, u), \text{DET}(1, r)\} \xrightarrow{\text{named}} \{\}$	$v_{\text{NP}(1, u)} = v_{\text{DET}(1, r)} + L$



Recognition: To find an edge labeling function ρ . The red dashed edges make up an intermediate graph $T(\rho)$.

Toy Example

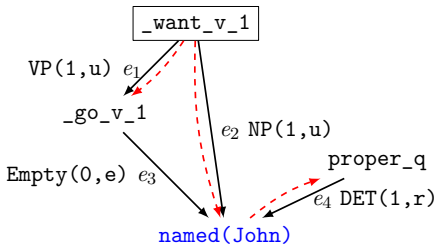
$Q = \{\text{DET}(1,r), \text{Empty}(0,e), \text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$		
Rule	For Recognition	For Generation
1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{DET}(1,r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1,r)} = \epsilon$
2	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{-want_v_1}} \{\text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$	$S = v_{\text{NP}(1,u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1,u)}$
3	$\{\text{VP}(1,u)\} \xrightarrow{\text{-go_v_1}} \{\text{Empty}(0,e)\}$	$v_{\text{VP}(1,u)} = \text{to} + L$
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Recognition: To find an edge labeling function ρ . The red dashed edges make up an intermediate graph $T(\rho)$.

Toy Example

$Q = \{\text{DET}(1,r), \text{Empty}(0,e), \text{VP}(1,u), \text{NP}(1,u)\}$		
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1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper_q}} \{\text{DET}(1,r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1,r)} = \epsilon$
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Recognition: To find an edge labeling function ρ . The red dashed edges make up an intermediate graph $T(\rho)$.

Accept !

Toy Example

$Q = \{\text{DET}(1, r), \text{Empty}(0, e), \text{VP}(1, u), \text{NP}(1, u)\}$		
Rule	For Recognition	For Generation
1	$\{\} \xrightarrow{\text{proper}_q} \{\text{DET}(1, r)\}$	$v_{\text{DET}(1, r)} = \epsilon$
2	$\{\} \xrightarrow{-\text{want}_v^{-1}} \{\text{VP}(1, u), \text{NP}(1, u)\}$	$S = v_{\text{NP}(1, u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1, u)}$
3	$\{\text{VP}(1, u)\} \xrightarrow{-\text{go}_v^{-1}} \{\text{Empty}(0, e)\}$	$v_{\text{VP}(1, u)} = \text{to} + L$
4	$\{\text{NP}(1, u), \text{DET}(1, r)\} \xrightarrow{\text{named}} \{\}$	$v_{\text{NP}(1, u)} = v_{\text{DET}(1, r)} + L$

$$S = v_{\text{NP}(1, u)} + L + v_{\text{VP}(1, u)}$$

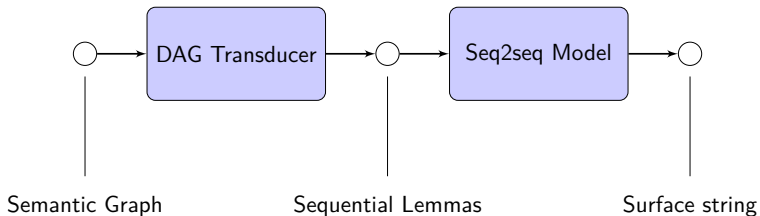
\Downarrow

$$S = x_{21} + \text{want} + x_{11}$$

Instantiation: replace $v_{l(j, d)}$ of edge e_i with variable x_{ij} and L with the output string in the statement templates.

DAG Transduction based-NLG

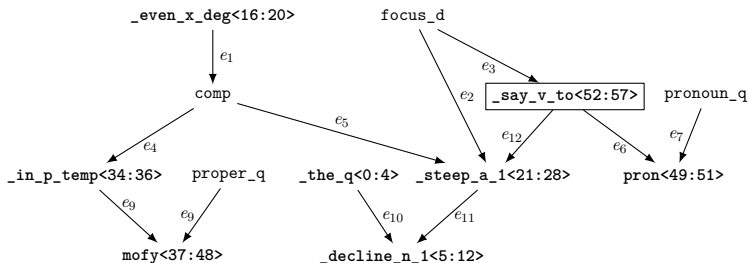
A general framework for DAG transduction based-NLG:



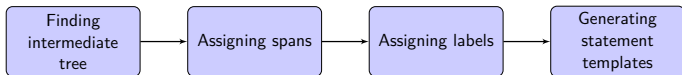
Outline

- 1 Background
- 2 Formal Models
- 3 Our DAG Transducer
- 4 Evaluation**

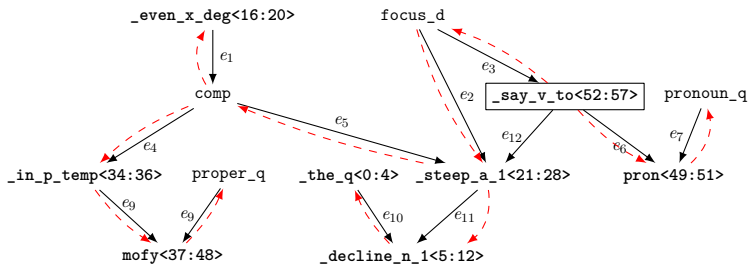
Inducing Transduction Rules



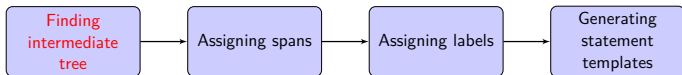
"the decline is even steeper than in September", he said.



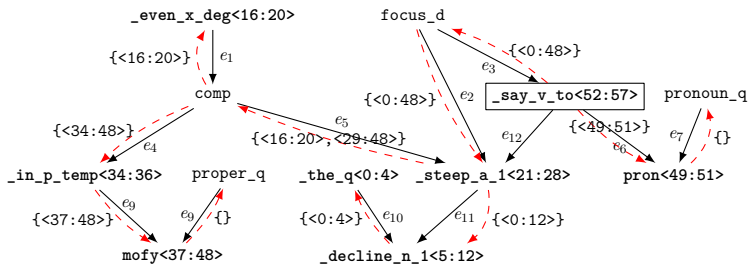
Inducing Transduction Rules



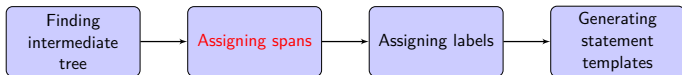
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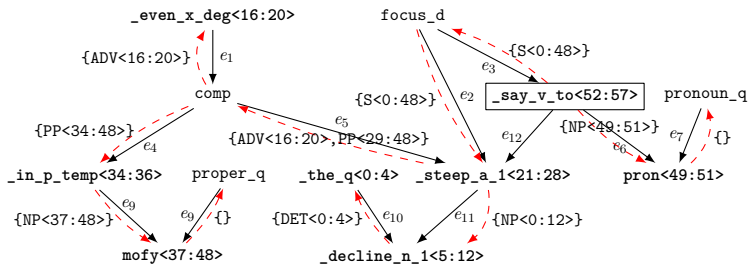
Inducing Transduction Rules



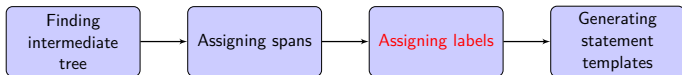
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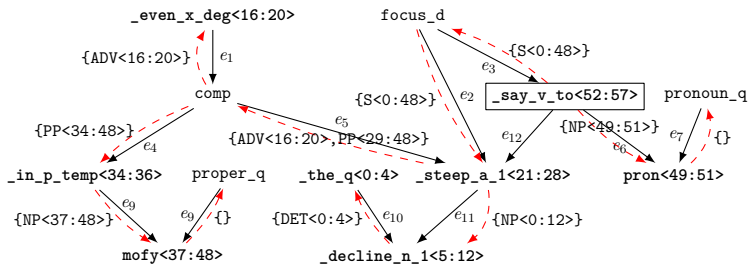
Inducing Transduction Rules



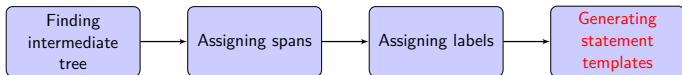
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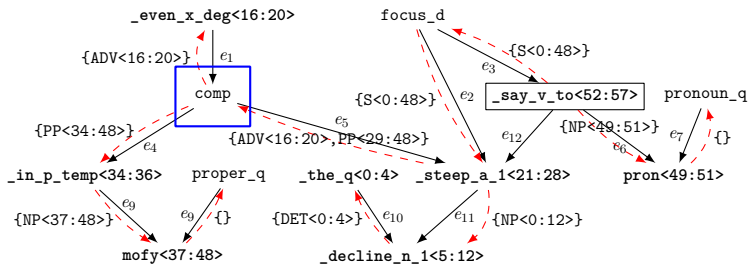
Inducing Transduction Rules



"the decline is even steeper than in September", he said.



Inducing Transduction Rules



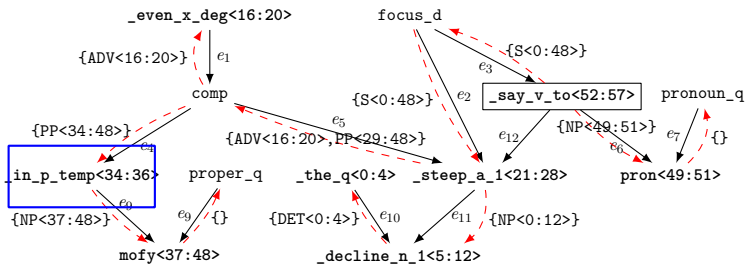
“the decline is even steeper than in September”, he said.

$$\{\text{ADV}(1, r)\} \xrightarrow{\text{comp}} \{\text{PP}(1, u), \text{ADV_PP}(2, r)\}$$

$$u_{\text{ADV_PP}(1, r)} = u_{\text{ADV}(1, r)}$$

$$u_{\text{ADV_PP}(2, r)} = \text{than} + u_{\text{PP}(1, u)}$$

Inducing Transduction Rules



"the decline is even steeper than in September", he said.

$$\{PP(1, u)\} \xrightarrow{-in_p_temp} \{NP(1, u)\}$$

$$v_{PP(1, u)} = in + v_{NP(1, u)}$$

NLG via DAG transduction

Experimental set-up

- Data: DeepBank + Wikiwoods
- Decoder: Beam search (beam size = 128)
- About 37,000 ***induced rules*** are directly obtained from DeepBank training dataset by a group of heuristic rules.
- Disambiguation: global linear model

Transducer	Lemmas	Sentences	Coverage
induced rules	89.44	74.94	67%

Fine-to-coarse Transduction

To deal with data sparseness problem, we use some heuristic rules to generate ***extended rules*** by slightly changing an induced rule.
Given a induced rule:

$$\{\text{NP}, \text{ADJ}\} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{X}} \{\} \quad v_{\text{NP}} = v_{\text{ADJ}} + L$$

New rule generated by deleting:

$$\{\text{NP}\} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{X}} \{\} \quad v_{\text{NP}} = L$$

Fine-to-coarse Transduction

To deal with data sparseness problem, we use some heuristic rules to generate ***extended rules*** by slightly changing an induced rule.
Given a induced rule:

$$\{\text{NP}, \text{ADJ}\} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}} \{\} \quad v_{\text{NP}} = v_{\text{ADJ}} + L$$

New rule generated by copying:

$$\{\text{NP}, \text{ADJ}_1, \text{ADJ}_2\} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}} \{\} \quad v_{\text{NP}} = v_{\text{ADJ}_1} + v_{\text{ADJ}_2} + L$$

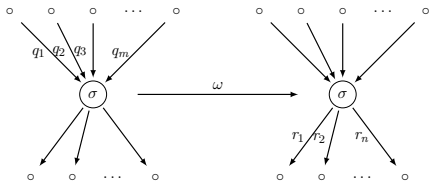
NLG via DAG transduction

Experimental set-up

- Data: DeepBank + Wikiwoods
- Decoder: Beam search (beam size = 128)
- About 37,000 *induced rules* and 440,000 *extended rules*
- Disambiguation: global linear model

Transducer	Lemmas	Sentences	Coverage
induced rules	89.44	74.94	67%
induced and extended rules	88.41	74.03	77%

Fine-to-coarse transduction



During decoding, when neither induced nor extended rule is applicable, we use markov model to *create* a dynamic rule on-the-fly:

$$P(\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} | C) = P(r_1 | C) \prod_{i=2}^n P(r_i | C) P(r_i | r_{i-1}, C)$$

- $C = \langle \{q_1, \dots, q_m\}, D \rangle$ represents the context.
- r_1, \dots, r_n denotes the outgoing states.

NLG via DAG transduction

Experimental set-up

- Data: DeepBank + Wikiwoods
- Decoder: Beam search (beam size = 128)
- Other tool: OpenNMT

Transducer	Lemmas	Sentences	Coverage
induced rules	89.44	74.94	67%
induced and extended rules	88.41	74.03	77%
induced, extended and dynamic rules	82.04	68.07	100%
DFS-NN	50.45		100%
AMR-NN		33.8	100%
AMR-NRG		25.62	100%

Conclusion and Future Work

English Resouce Semantics is fantastic!

Conclusion

- Formalism works for graph-to-string mapping, not surprisingly or surprisingly

Future work

- Is the decoder perfect? No, not even close
- Is the disambiguation model a neural one? No, graph embedding is non-trivial.



QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?