

Computational Semantics and Recognizing Textual Entailment

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Recognizing Textual Entailment

- Does **Premise P** entail **Hypothesis H**?

P Smoking in restaurants is prohibited by law in most cities in Japan.

H Smoking in public spaces is not allowed in some cities.

Yes (Entailment)

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- relevant factors:

1. syntax

2. logical words: *most, not, some, every*

**Logical/
Compositional semantics**

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- relevant factors:

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2. logical words: *most, not, some, every*

3. content words:

restaurant → *public_space*

prohibited → \neg *allowed*

**Logical/
Compositional semantics**

Lexical Knowledge

Logic-based approaches to entailment

Natural Logic

- formalizes inferences with surface form
- ▲ only allows single premise inferences (mononicity inference)

more efficient
less expressive

MacCartney (2009)

First-order logic (FOL)

- efficient provers exist
- dominate computational linguistics
- ▲ limited expressive power

Boxer (Bos 2008)

Higher-order logic (HOL)

- high expressive power
- dominate formal semantics
- ▲ no general-purpose efficient prover exists

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Our approach



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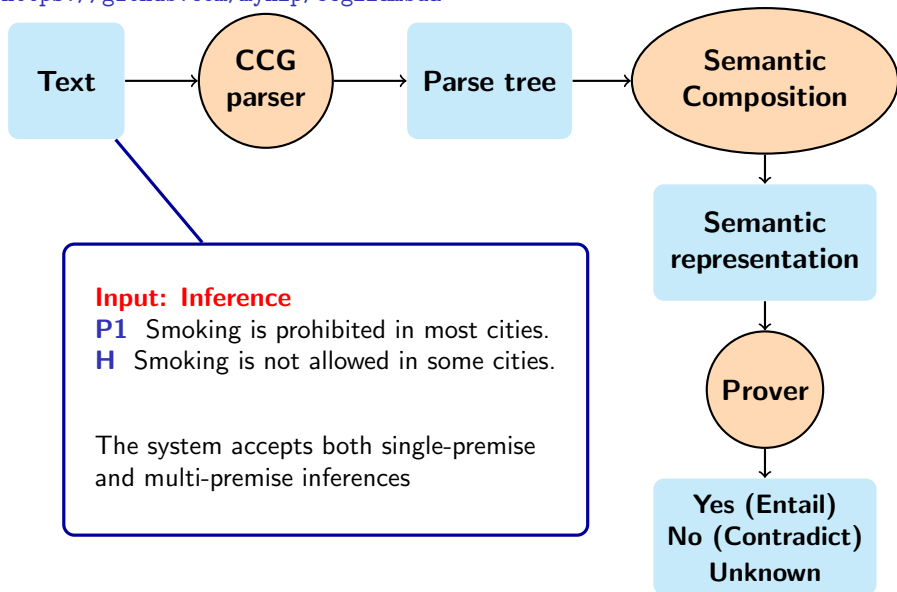
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Our approach

Goal: To develop a higher-order inference system specialized for natural language inferences, and combine it with a wide-coverage parser

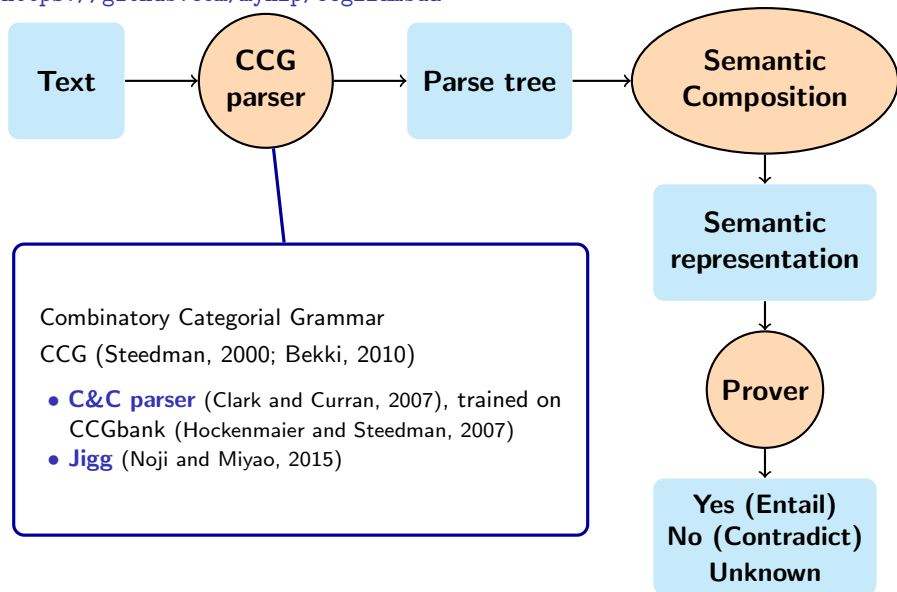
Higher-order inference system: ccg2lambda

<https://github.com/mynlp/ccg2lambda>



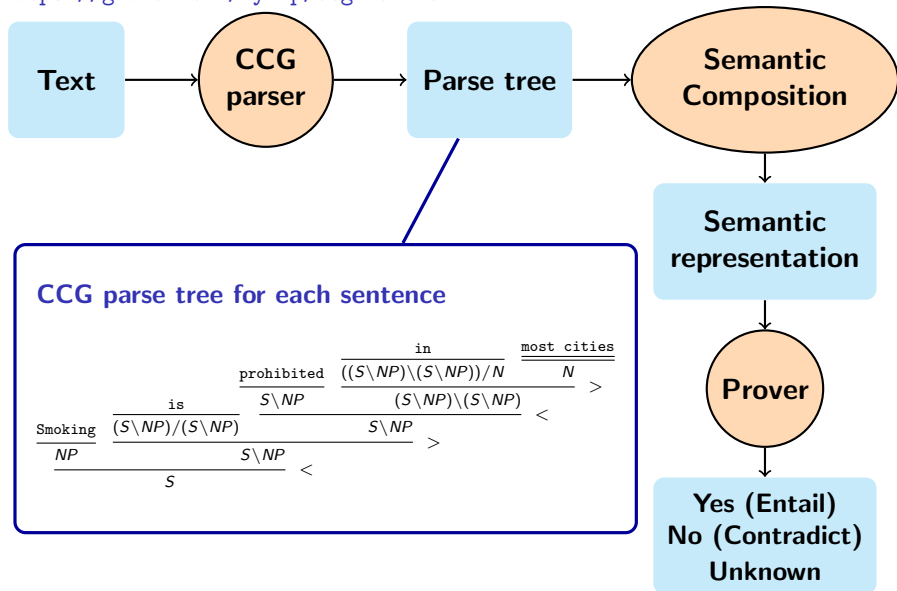
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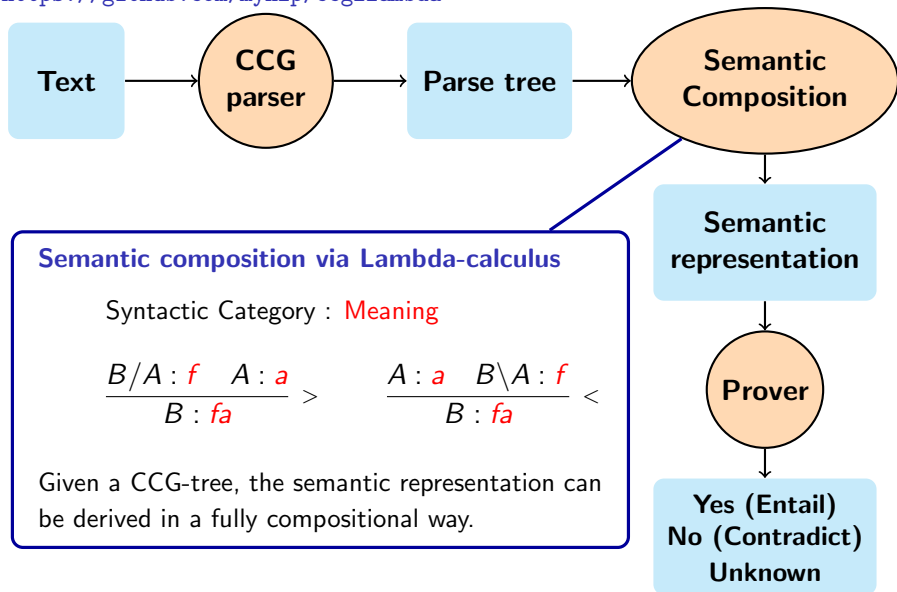
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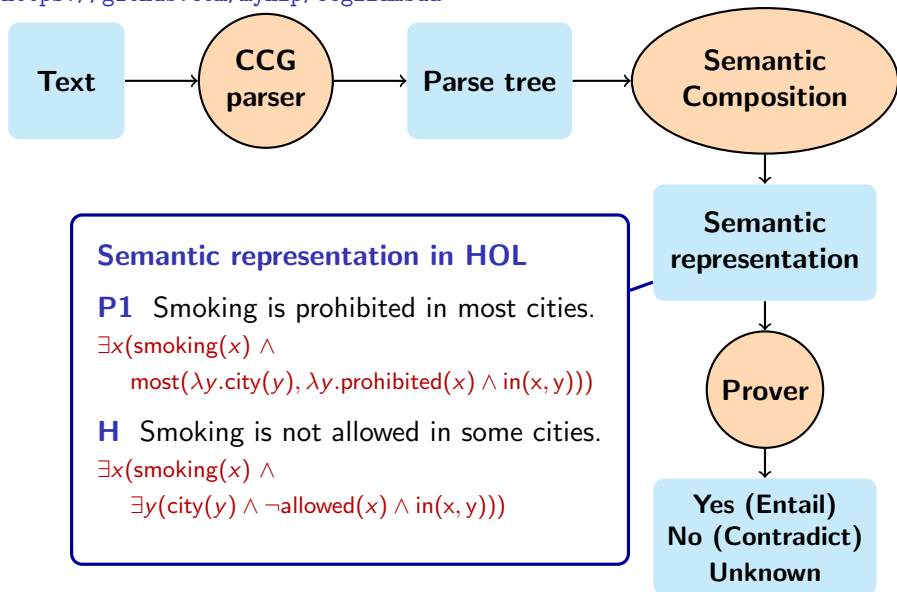
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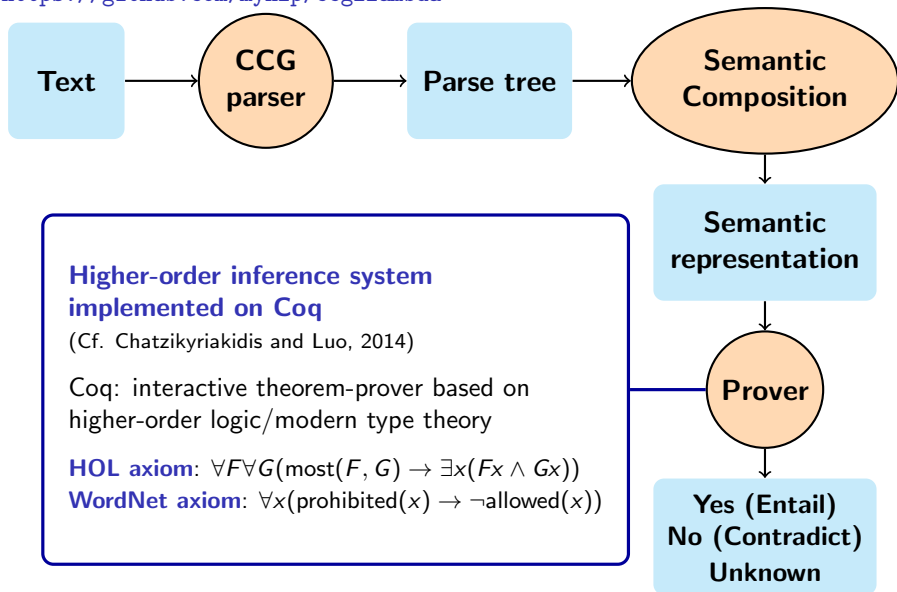
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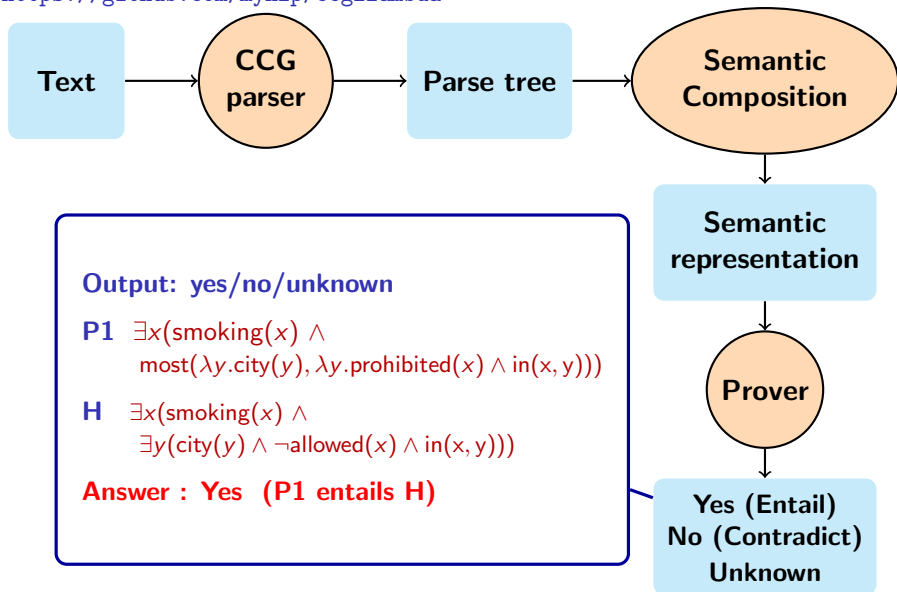
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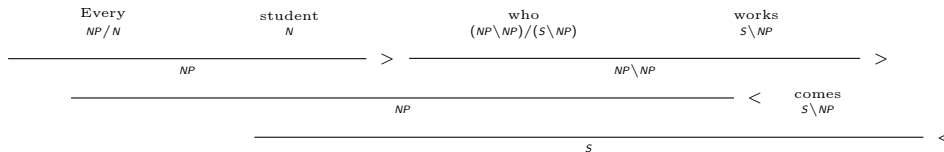


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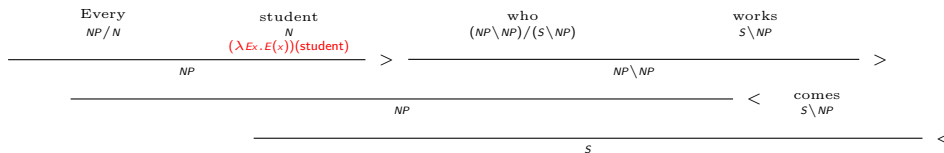


Semantic composition on CCG tree



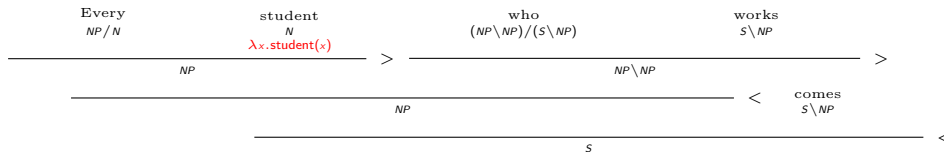
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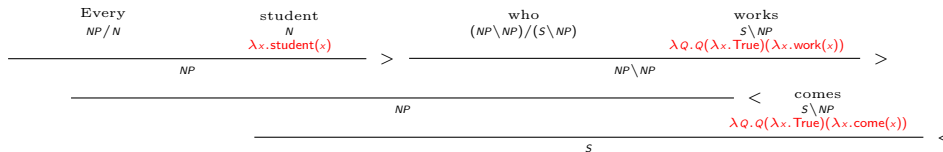
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- Open words: schematic lexical entries match syntactic categories.

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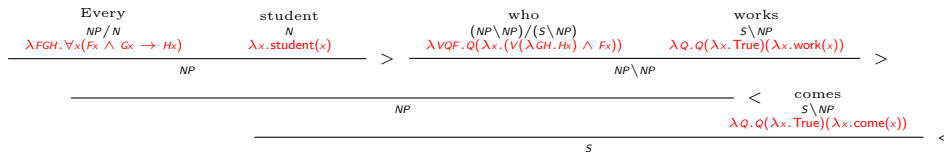
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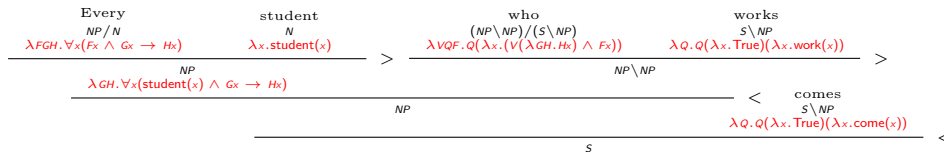
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- Semantics more interesting for verbs.

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Semantic composition on CCG tree



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- Open words: schematic lexical entries match syntactic categories.
- β -reduction with lemmas as arguments.
- Semantics more interesting for verbs.
- Closed words: direct assignment.
- Semantic composition from leaves to root.

Lexical entries

- 1 For **closed words**: lexical entries directly assigned to surface form (a limited number of grammatical and logical expressions): 80 entries

Example

- **category**: NP/N
- **semantics**: $\lambda F \lambda G \lambda H. \forall x (Fx \wedge Gx \rightarrow H)$
- **surf**: every

- 2 For **open words**: schematic lexical entry (semantic templates) assigned to syntactic categories: 57 entries

Example

- **category**: N
- **semantics**: $\lambda E \lambda x. E(x)$

“E” is a position in which a particular lexical item appears.

HOL as representation language

Higher-order constructions in natural languages

① Generalized quantifiers

Most students work \rightsquigarrow $\text{most}(\lambda x.\text{student}(x), \lambda x.\text{work}(x))$

② Modals

John might come \rightsquigarrow $\text{might}(\text{come}(j))$

③ Veridical and anti-veridical predicates

Someone managed to come \rightsquigarrow $\exists x(\text{manage}(x, \text{come}(x)))$

Someone failed to come \rightsquigarrow $\exists x(\text{fail}(x, \text{come}(x)))$

④ Attitude verbs

John knows that some student came. \rightsquigarrow

$\text{know}(j, \exists x(\text{student}(x) \wedge \text{come}(x)))$

- Alternative: first-order decomposition/reification (Hobbs, 1985)

Axioms for non-first-order constructions

Inference pattern	Axiom
Existential import	$\forall F \forall G (\text{most}(F, G) \rightarrow \exists x(Fx \wedge Gx))$
Conservativity	$\forall F \forall G (\text{most}(F, G) \rightarrow \text{most}(F, \lambda x.(Fx \wedge Gx)))$
Monotonicity (right-upward)	$\forall F \forall G \forall H (\text{most}(F, G) \rightarrow (\forall x(Gx \rightarrow Hx) \rightarrow \text{most}(F, H)))$
Veridicality	$\forall P(\text{true}(P) \rightarrow P)$ $\forall x \forall P(\text{manage}(x, P) \rightarrow P)$ $\forall x \forall P(\text{know}(x, P) \rightarrow P)$
Anti-veridicality	$\forall P(\text{false}(P) \rightarrow \neg P)$ $\forall x \forall P(\text{fail}(x, P) \rightarrow \neg P)$

Experiments on the FraCaS test suite

- The FraCaS test suite (Cooper et al., 1994): the textual inference problems to test theories of formal and computational semantics
- Most problems do not require lexical/world knowledge, but contain linguistically challenging problems.
- Three types of answer: yes, no, unknown
- Single-premise problems (55%) and multiple-premise problems (45%)

Example

fracas-026 answer: **yes** (the premises entail the hypothesis)

P1 Most Europeans are resident in Europe.

P2 All Europeans are people.

P3 All people who are resident in Europe can travel freely within Europe.

H Most Europeans can travel freely within Europe.

fracas-038 answer: **no** (the premise contradicts the hypothesis)

P1 No delegate finished the report.

H Some delegate finished the report on time.

Results: accuracy and speed

- Nutcracker = C&C parser + Boxer* + FOL prover (*bliksem*)
+ FOL model-builder (*mice*) + WordNet
- * disabled the option to use modal semantics (it didn't improve the results)

Accuracy

Section	#	Ours	Nut	L & S 13	Tian 14
Quantifiers	74	.77	.53	.62	.80
Plurals	33	.67	.52	–	–
Adjectives	22	.68	.32	–	–
Comparatives	31	.48	.45	–	–
Verbs	8	.62	.62	–	–
Attitudes	13	.77	.46	–	–
Total	181	.69*	.50	–	–

- * Total accuracy drops to 59% when ablating the higher-order rules
- L & S 13 = Lewis and Steedman (2013): CCG + FOL prover
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Speed

Parsing and inference	sec./problem
CCG Parsing (C&C parser)	3.76
Our system with higher-order inference	3.72
Our system w/o higher-order inference	3.46
Nutcracker with first-order inference (first-order prover + model builder)	11.23

ccg2lambda: a few more words

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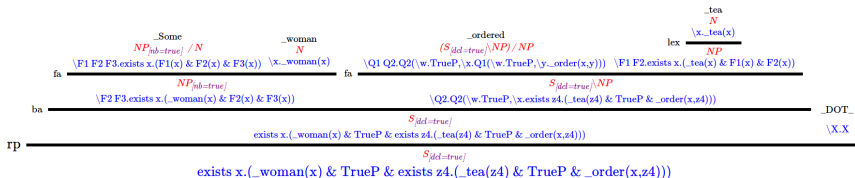
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```
1 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?>
2 <root>
3   <document>
4     <sentences>
5       <sentence>
6         <tokens>
7           <token id="t0_0" pos="DT" cat="NP[nb]/N" surf="Some" base="some"/>
8           <token id="t0_1" pos="NN" cat="N" surf="woman" base="woman"/>
9           <.../>
10        </tokens>
11        <ccg root="s0_sp0" id="s0_ccg0">
12          <span id="s0_sp0" child="s0_sp1 s0_sp9" category="S[dcl=true]" rule="rp"/>
13          <span id="s0_sp1" child="s0_sp2 s0_sp5" category="S[dcl=true]" rule="ba"/>
14          <...>
15        </ccg>
16        <semantics status="success" root="s0_sp0">
17          <span id="s0_sp0" child="s0_sp1 s0_sp9"
18            sem="exists x.(_woman(x) & TrueP & exists z1.(_tea(z1) & TrueP & _order(x,z1)))"/>
19          <span id="s0_sp4" type="woman : Entity -> Prop"
20            sem="\x._woman(x)"/>
21          <...>
22        </semantics>
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26 </root>
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- Easy to extend (declarative).

```
– semantics :  $\lambda$ -formula  
  category : syntactic_category  
  cond2 : value2  
  condi : valuei
```

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- Easy to extend (declarative).
- Easy to process (XML output).

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

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Motivation

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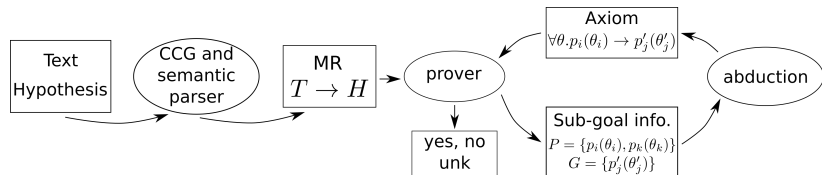
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- With the knowledge:
 - ① $\forall v. \text{saw}(v) \rightarrow \text{cut}(v)$
 - ② $\forall x. \text{log}(x) \rightarrow \text{wood}(x)$
- Lack of lexical knowledge obstructs applicability of formal semantics to real tasks.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Approach



- Introduce knowledge at inference stage.
- Only if needed (on-demand).
- Lexical correspondences as axioms.
- Incremental.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Related work

- Nutcracker uses WordNet and Paraphrase Database (PPDB).
 - We contrast WordNet and a similarity on word embeddings.
- Pavlick et. al (2015) use classifier to signal entailing relations.
 - We assess entailing relations only when needed.
- Beltagy et. al (2013) use Boxer and distributional similarity scores.
 - We restrict our candidates by using logic clues.
- Abzianidze (2013) uses CCG, natural logic tableaux and WordNet.
 - We try to compensate missing knowledge using word embeddings.
- Tian et. al (2014) use their own logics, but otherwise similar to ours.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Abduction mechanism

- Use natural deduction as a proof calculus (prove $T \rightarrow H$).
- Decompose Text T and Hypothesis H into:
 - $P = \{p_0(\theta_0), \dots, p_n(\theta_n)\}$, a pool of logical premises.
 - $G = \{p'_0(\theta'_0), \dots, p'_m(\theta'_m)\}$, a pool of logical sub-goals.

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 - $G = \{\text{boy}(x'), \text{eat}(x', y'), \text{fruit}(y')\}$
- Select premises and sub-goals sharing arguments: apple - fruit.
- Test linguistic relations either with WordNet or word2vec.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Linguistic Relations

Using WordNet

- Relations and corresponding axioms:
 - synonymy (e.g. house \rightarrow home),
 - hypernymy (e.g. sea \rightarrow water),
 - adjectival similarity (e.g. huge \rightarrow big),
 - derivationally related forms (accommodating \rightarrow accommodation),
 - inflection relations (e.g. wooded \rightarrow wood),
 - antonymy relations (e.g. big \rightarrow \neg small).

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Using word2vec

- Compute cosine similarity between source and target words.
- If similarity is beyond a threshold, then insert entailing axiom.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Experiments: Setup

Dataset: SICK, test split

Basic statistics	Test
Number of problems	4,927
Percentage yes/no/unk	.29/.15/.57
Running words	105,040
Vocabulary	2,269
Avg. premise length	10.7
Avg. conclusion length	10.5
Avg. OoV w.r.t. T	3.62
Avg. OoV w.r.t. H	3.76

Other conditions:

- C&C and EasyCCG derivations.
- ccg2lambda for composition: github.com/mynlp/ccg2lambda
- Event semantics, Coq prover.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Experiments: Setup

Some examples of problems

Problem ID	T-H pairs	Entailment
1412	T: <i>Men are sawing logs .</i> H: <i>Men are cutting wood .</i>	Yes
4114	T: <i>There is no man eating food .</i> H: <i>A man is eating a pizza .</i>	No
718	T: <i>A few men in a competition are running outside .</i> H: <i>A few men are running competitions outside .</i>	Unknown

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Experiments: Results

System	Precision	Recall	Accuracy
Illinois-LH	81.56	81.87	84.57
ECNU	84.37	74.37	83.64
UNAL-NLP	81.99	76.80	83.05
SemantiKLUE	85.40	69.63	82.32

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The Meaning Factory	93.63	60.64	81.60
LangPro Hybrid-800	97.95	58.11	81.35
Nutcracker + WN, PPDB	—	—	78.60
Nutcracker + WN	—	—	77.50
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Nutcracker + WN	—	—	77.50
Nutcracker	—	—	74.30
Baseline (majority)	—	—	56.69

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Illinois-LH	81.56	81.87	84.57
ECNU	84.37	74.37	83.64
UNAL-NLP	81.99	76.80	83.05
SemantiKLUE	85.40	69.63	82.32
The Meaning Factory	93.63	60.64	81.60
LangPro Hybrid-800	97.95	58.11	81.35
Nutcracker + WN, PPDB	—	—	78.60
Nutcracker + WN	—	—	77.50
Nutcracker	—	—	74.30
Baseline (majority)	—	—	56.69
No abduction	99.09	46.34	76.63

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

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Nutcracker	—	—	74.30
Baseline (majority)	—	—	56.69
No abduction	99.09	46.34	76.63
SPSA WordNet	97.50	62.32	83.05
SPSA word2vec@0.4	83.54	60.55	77.80

- Effective use of WordNet with SPSA, increasing accuracy by 6.5%.
 - Use of WordNet is more effective than other systems (e.g. Nutcracker).
- SPSA method minimizes false positives, by restricting candidates.

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Error analysis: WordNet

Prob. ID	T-H pairs	Gold	System	Axioms
True positives $\times 32$ (w.r.t to no-abduction system)				
1412	T: <i>Men are sawing logs .</i> H: <i>Men are cutting wood .</i>	Yes	Yes	$\forall v. \text{saw}(v) \rightarrow \text{cut}(v)$ $\forall x. \text{log}(x) \rightarrow \text{wood}(x)$
211	T: <i>Two dogs are playing by a tree .</i> H: <i>Two dogs are playing by a plant .</i>	Yes	Yes	$\forall x. \text{tree}(x) \rightarrow \text{plant}(x)$
2404	T: <i>The lady is slicing a tomato .</i> H: <i>There is no one cutting a tomato .</i>	No	No	$\forall v. \text{slice}(v) \rightarrow \text{cut}(v)$

Others: tree/plant, eat/devour, lady/woman, barbell/weight, pencil/cosmetic, place/put, talk/speak, lemon/fruit, canoe/boat, large/big, woman/people, dark/dim, young/little, grass/grassy, field/area, hurl/throw, pizza/food, bounce/jump, draw/drawing, banana/fruit, man/person, pause/stop, street/road, dog/animal, ocean/water, big/huge,

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211	T: <i>Two dogs are playing by a tree .</i> H: <i>Two dogs are playing by a plant .</i>	Yes	Yes	$\forall x. \text{tree}(x) \rightarrow \text{plant}(x)$
2404	T: <i>The lady is slicing a tomato .</i> H: <i>There is no one cutting a tomato .</i>	No	No	$\forall v. \text{slice}(v) \rightarrow \text{cut}(v)$
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False positives $\times 2$ (w.r.t to no-abduction system)				
530	T: <i>A biker is wearing gear which is black .</i> H: <i>A biker wearing black is breaking the gears .</i>	Unk	Yes	$\forall v. \text{wear}(v) \rightarrow \text{break}(v)$

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False positives $\times 2$ (w.r.t to no-abduction system)				
530	T: <i>A biker is wearing gear which is black .</i> H: <i>A biker wearing black is breaking the gears .</i>	Unk	Yes	$\forall v. \text{wear}(v) \rightarrow \text{break}(v)$
False negatives: missing word-to-word axioms $\times 12$				
1495	T: <i>A man is playing a guitar .</i> H: <i>A man is strumming a guitar .</i>	Yes	Unk	$\forall v. \text{play}(v) \rightarrow \text{strum}(v)$
4360	T: <i>A man is cutting a note .</i> H: <i>A man is cutting a paper .</i>	Yes	Unk	$\forall x. \text{note}(x) \rightarrow \text{paper}(x)$
Others: healing/helping, fitting/applying, ringers/wrestlers, lunging/jumping, drawing/tattoo, lady/girl, elder/elderly, woman/lady				

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True positives ×32 (w.r.t to no-abduction system)				
1412	T: <i>Men are sawing logs</i> . H: <i>Men are cutting wood</i> .	Yes	Yes	$\forall v. \text{saw}(v) \rightarrow \text{cut}(v)$ $\forall x. \text{log}(x) \rightarrow \text{wood}(x)$
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False positives ×2 (w.r.t to no-abduction system)				
530	T: <i>A biker is wearing gear which is black</i> . H: <i>A biker wearing black is breaking the gears</i> .	Unk	Yes	$\forall v. \text{wear}(v) \rightarrow \text{break}(v)$
False negatives: missing word-to-word axioms ×12				
1495	T: <i>A man is playing a guitar</i> . H: <i>A man is strumming a guitar</i> .	Yes	Unk	$\forall v. \text{play}(v) \rightarrow \text{strum}(v)$
4360	T: <i>A man is cutting a note</i> . H: <i>A man is cutting a paper</i> .	Yes	Unk	$\forall x. \text{note}(x) \rightarrow \text{paper}(x)$
Others: healing/helping, fitting/applying, ringers/wrestlers, lunging/jumping, drawing/tattoo, lady/girl, elder/elderly, woman/lady				
False negatives: missing phrase axioms ×38				
1266	T: <i>A band is playing on a stage</i> . H: <i>A band is playing onstage</i> .	Yes	Unk	"on a stage" \rightarrow "onstage"
1584	T: <i>A hole is being burrowed by the badger</i> . H: <i>A badger is shrewdly digging the earth</i> .	Yes	Unk	"burrow a hole" \rightarrow "dig the earth"
Others: wooded area/woods, cut up/cut into pieces, sew with a machine/use machine made for sewing, in white/wearing white clothes, burn with a blow torch/set, fire, doing a dance/dancing, oil for cooking/cooking oil, green ball/gren colored ball, water scooter/scooter for water, tall and green grass/field, climb/climb up, ...				

Introducing Lexical Knowledge

Conclusions

Future work

- Introduce progressively features of DTS.
- Solve phrase-to-phrase axioms.

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- Competitive logics system is possible.
- There is a lot of potential to produce even better results.

Thanks!

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