

CCG Parsing



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What	states	border	Texas
$(S/(S \backslash NP))/N$	N	$(S \backslash NP)/NP$	NP
$\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. f(x) \wedge g(x)$	$\lambda x. state(x)$	$\lambda x. \lambda y. borders(y, x)$	$texas$
$\xrightarrow{\quad}$			
$(S \backslash NP)$			
$\lambda y. borders(y, texas)$			

- ▶ “What” is a **very** complex type: needs a noun and needs a S\NP to form a sentence. S\NP is basically a verb phrase (*border Texas*)

Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)



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$\xrightarrow{\quad}$		$\xrightarrow{\quad}$	
$S/(S \backslash NP)$		$(S \backslash NP)$	
$\lambda g. \lambda x. state(x) \wedge g(x)$		$\lambda y. borders(y, texas)$	
$\xrightarrow{\quad}$			
S			
$\lambda x. state(x) \wedge borders(x, texas)$			

- ▶ “What” is a **very** complex type: needs a noun and needs a S\NP to form a sentence. S\NP is basically a verb phrase (*border Texas*)
- ▶ *What* in this case knows that there are two predicates (*states* and *border Texas*). This is not a general thing Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)



CCG Parsing

- ▶ These question are *compositional*: we can build bigger ones out of smaller pieces

What states border Texas?

What states border states bordering Texas?

What states border states bordering states bordering Texas?

- ▶ In general, answering this does require parsing and not just slot-filling



CCG Parsing

Show me	flights	to	Prague
S/N $\lambda f.f$	N $\lambda x.flight(x)$	$(N \backslash N) / NP$ $\lambda y.\lambda f.\lambda x.f(y) \wedge to(x, y)$	NP PRG
$N \backslash N$ $\lambda f.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge to(x, PRG)$			
N $\lambda x.flight(x) \wedge to(x, PRG)$			
S $\lambda x.flight(x) \wedge to(x, PRG)$			

- ▶ “to” needs an NP (destination) and N (parent)
- ▶ “Show me” is a no-op

Slide credit: Dan Klein



CCG Parsing

- ▶ Many ways to build these parsers
- ▶ One approach: run a “supertagger” (tags the sentence with complex labels), then run the parser

What	states	border	Texas
$(S/(S \backslash NP))/N$ $\lambda f.\lambda g.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge g(x)$	N $\lambda x.state(x)$	$(S \backslash NP)/NP$ $\lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$	NP $texas$

- ▶ Parsing is easy once you have the tags, so we’ve reduced it to a (hard) tagging problem

Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)



Training CCG Parsers

- ▶ Training data looks like pairs of sentences and logical forms

What states border Texas $\lambda x.state(x) \wedge borders(x, e89)$

What borders Texas $\lambda x.borders(x, e89)$

...

- ▶ What can we learn from these?
- ▶ Problem: we don’t know the derivation
 - ▶ Texas corresponds to NP | e89 in the logical form (easy to figure out)
 - ▶ What corresponds to $(S/(S \backslash NP))/N$ | $\lambda f.\lambda g.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge g(x)$
 - ▶ How do we infer that without being told it?



Lexicon

- ▶ GENLEX: takes sentence S and logical form L. Break up logical form into chunks C(L), assume any substring of S might map to any chunk
- What states border Texas $\lambda x.state(x) \wedge borders(x, e89)$
- ▶ Chunks inferred from the logic form based on rules:
 - ▶ NP: e89 ▶ $(S \backslash NP)/NP: \lambda x.\lambda y.borders(x, y)$
 - ▶ Any substring can parse to any of these in the lexicon
 - ▶ Texas -> NP: e89 is correct
 - ▶ border Texas -> NP: e89
 - ▶ What states border Texas -> NP: e89
 - ▶ ...

Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)



Learning

- ▶ Unsupervised learning of correspondences, like word alignment
- ▶ Iterative procedure: estimate “best” parses that derive each logical form, retrain the parser using these parses with supervised learning
- ▶ Eventually we converge on the right parses at the same time that we learn a model to build them

Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)

Seq2seq Semantic Parsing



Semantic Parsing as Translation

“what states border Texas”



`lambda x (state (x) and border (x , e89)))`

- ▶ Write down a linearized form of the semantic parse, train seq2seq models to directly translate into this representation
- ▶ What are some benefits of this approach compared to grammar-based?
- ▶ What might be some concerns about this approach? How do we mitigate them?

Jia and Liang (2016)



Handling Invariances

“what states border Texas”

“what states border Ohio”

- ▶ Parsing-based approaches handle these the same way
 - ▶ Possible divergences: features, different weights in the lexicon
- ▶ Can we get seq2seq semantic parsers to handle these the same way?
- ▶ Key idea: don’t change the model, change the data
- ▶ “Data augmentation”: encode invariances by automatically generating new training examples



Data Augmentation

Jia and Liang (2016)

ROOT → { “what states border STATEID ?”,
 answer (NV, (state (V0), next_to (V0, NV), const (V0, stateid (STATEID)))) }
 STATEID → { “texas”, texas }
 STATEID → { “ohio”, ohio }

- ▶ Lets us synthesize a “what states border ohio ?” example
- ▶ Abstract out entities: now we can “remix” examples and encode invariance to entity ID. More complicated remixes too



Semantic Parsing as Translation

GEO
 x: “what is the population of iowa ?”
 y: _answer (NV , (_population (NV , V1) , _const (V0 , _stateid (iowa))))
ATIS
 x: “can you list all flights from chicago to milwaukee”
 y: (_lambda \$0 e (_and (_flight \$0) (_from \$0 chicago : _ci) (_to \$0 milwaukee : _ci)))
Overnight
 x: “when is the weekly standup”
 y: (call listValue (call getProperty meeting.weekly_standup (string start_time)))

- ▶ Prolog
- ▶ Lambda calculus
- ▶ Other DSLs

- ▶ Handle all of these with uniform machinery!

Jia and Liang (2016)



Semantic Parsing as Translation

	GEO	ATIS
Previous Work		
Zettlemoyer and Collins (2007)		84.6
Kwiatkowski et al. (2010)	88.9	
Liang et al. (2011) ²	91.1	
Kwiatkowski et al. (2011)	88.6	82.8
Poon (2013)		83.5
Zhao and Huang (2015)	88.9	84.2
Our Model		
No Recombination	85.0	76.3
ABSENTITIES	85.4	79.9
ABS WHOLE PHRASES	87.5	
CONCAT-2	84.6	79.0
CONCAT-3		77.5
AWP + AE	88.9	
AE + C2		78.8
AWP + AE + C2	89.3	
AE + C3		83.3

- ▶ Three forms of data augmentation all help
- ▶ Results on these tasks are still not as strong as hand-tuned systems from 10 years ago, but the same simple model can do well at all problems

Jia and Liang (2016)



Applications

- ▶ GeoQuery (Zelle and Mooney, 1996): answering questions about states (~80% accuracy)
- ▶ Jobs: answering questions about job postings (~80% accuracy)
- ▶ ATIS: flight search
- ▶ Can do well on all of these tasks if you handcraft systems and use plenty of training data: these domains aren’t that rich



Regex Prediction

- ▶ Can use for other semantic parsing-like tasks
- ▶ Predict regex from text

Natural Language Encoder



- ▶ Problem: requires a lot of data: 10,000 examples needed to get ~60% accuracy on pretty simple regexes

Locascio et al. (2016)



SQL Generation

- ▶ Convert natural language description into a SQL query against some DB

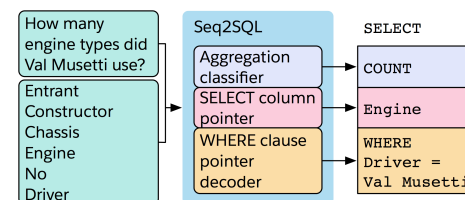
Question:

How many CFL teams are from York College?

SQL:

```
SELECT COUNT CFL Team FROM  
CFLDraft WHERE College = "York"
```

- ▶ How to ensure that well-formed SQL is generated?
 - ▶ Three seq2seq models
 - ▶ How to capture column names + constants?
 - ▶ Pointer mechanisms



Zhong et al. (2017)