

Semantic Roles & Labeling

LING 571 — Deep Processing in NLP

November 19th, 2018

Ryan Georgi

Questions on HW #8

- For the `mc_similarity` portion
 - You should use $wsim(w_1, w_2) = \max_{c_1, c_2} [sim_{resnik}(c_1, c_2)]$ From Resnik (1999), [eq. 2](#)
 - The numbers in the `example_output` are random. No meaning to them being < 1 !
- For the WSD algorithm:
 - The pseudocode is confusing... so:

Alternative Resnik WSD Pseudocode

```
for input word  $w_0$  and probe words  $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ 
  for  $sense_w$  in NUMSENSSES( $w_0$ ):
    most_informative_lcs = null
    most_information = 0.0
    for  $sense_p$  in NUMSENSSES( $p_n$ ):
       $lcs_{synset}$  = LOWESTCOMMONSUBSUMER( $sense_w$ ,  $sense_p$ )
       $lcs_{info}$  = INFORMATIONCONTENT( $lcs_{synset}$ )
      if  $lcs_{info} > most\_information$ :
        most_informative_lcs =  $lcs_{synset}$ 
        most_information =  $lcs_{info}$ 
    increment support[ $sense_w$ ] by  $most\_information$ 
```

Semantic Roles

Semantic Analysis

- **Full, deep compositional semantics**
 - Creates full logical form
 - Links sentence meaning representation to logical world model representation
 - Powerful, expressive, AI-complete
- **Domain-specific slot-filling:**
 - Common in dialog systems, IE tasks
 - Narrowly targeted to domain/task
 - Often pattern-matching
 - Low cost, but lacks generality, richness, etc

Semantic Role Labeling

- Typically want to know
 - *Who* did *what* to *whom*
 - ...*where*, *when*, and *how*
- **Intermediate level:**
 - Shallower than full deep composition
 - Abstracts away (somewhat) from surface form
 - Captures general predicate-argument structure info
 - Balance generality and specificity

Examples

Yesterday *Tom* chased *Jerry*

Yesterday *Jerry* was chased by *Tom*

Tom chased *Jerry* yesterday

Jerry was chased yesterday by *Tom*

- Semantic roles:
 - *Chaser*: *Tom*
 - *ChasedThing*: *Jerry*
 - *TimeOfChasing*: *yesterday*
- Same across all sentence forms

Full Event Semantics

- Neo-Davidsonian Style:
 - $\exists e \textit{ Chasing}(e) \wedge \textit{Chaser}(e, \textit{Tom}) \wedge \textit{ChasedThing}(e, \textit{Jerry})$
 $\wedge \textit{TimeOfChasing}(e, \textit{Yesterday})$
- Same across all examples
- Roles: *Chaser*, *ChasedThing*, *TimeOfChasing*
 - Specific to verb “chase”
 - a.k.a. “Deep roles”

Issues & Challenges

- How many roles for a language?
 - Arbitrary!
 - Each verb's event structure determines sets of roles

Issues & Challenges

- How can we acquire these roles?
 - Manual construction?
 - Some progress on automatic learning
 - Still only successful on limited domains (ATIS, geography)

Issues & Challenges

- Can we capture generalities across verbs/events?
 - Not really, each event/role is specific

Thematic Roles

- Solution to instantiating a specific role for every verb
- Attempt to capture commonality between roles

Thematic Roles

- Describe common semantic roles of verbal arguments
 - e.g. subject of *break* is **AGENT**
 - **AGENT**: volitional cause
 - **THEME**: things affected by action
- Enables generalization over surface order of arguments
 - John_{AGENT} broke the window_{THEME}
 - The rock_{INSTRUMENT} broke the window_{THEME}
 - The window_{THEME} was broken by John_{AGENT}

Thematic Roles

- Verbs take different roles
- The **break** verb could be formed as:
 - **AGENT**/Subject, **THEME**/Object *(John broke the window)*
 - **AGENT**/Subject, **THEME**/Object, **INSTRUMENT**/PP_{with} *(John broke the window with a rock)*
 - **INSTRUMENT**/Subject, **THEME**/Object *(The rock broke the window)*
 - **THEME**/Subject *(The window was broken)*

Thematic Roles

- Thematic grid, Θ -grid, case frame
 - Set of thematic role arguments of verb
 - subject: **AGENT**; Object: **THEME**, or
 - subject: **INSTR**; Object: **THEME**
- Verb/Diathesis Alternations
 - Verbs allow different surface realizations of roles
 - Doris_{AGENT} gave the book_{THEME} to Carv_{GOAL}
 - Doris_{AGENT} gave Carv_{GOAL} the book_{THEME}

Canonical Roles

Thematic Role	Example
AGENT	The <i>waiter</i> spilled the soup
EXPERIENCER	<i>John</i> has a headache
FORCE	The <i>wind</i> blows debris from the mall into our yards.
THEME	Only after Benjamin Franklin broke <i>the ice</i> ...
RESULT	The French government has built a <i>regulation-size baseball diamond</i> ...
CONTENT	Mona asked “ <i>You met Mary Ann at a supermarket?</i> ”
INSTRUMENT	He turned to poaching catfish, stunning them <i>with a shocking device</i> ...
BENEFICIARY	Whenever Ann Callahan makes hotel reservations <i>for her boss</i> ...
SOURCE	I flew in <i>from Boston</i> .
GOAL	I drove <i>to Portland</i> .

Thematic Role Issues

- Hard to produce
- Standard set of roles
 - Fragmentation: Often need to make more specific
 - e.g. **INSTRUMENTS** can be subject or not
- Standard definition of roles
 - Most **AGENTS**: animate, volitional, sentient, causal
 - But not all...

Thematic Role Issues

- Strategies:
 - Generalized semantic roles: PROTO-AGENT/PROTO-PATIENT
 - Defined heuristically: PropBank
- Define roles specific to verbs/nouns: [FrameNet](#)

PropBank

- Sentences annotated with semantic roles
 - Penn and Chinese Treebank
 - Roles specific to verb sense
 - Numbered: $Arg_0, Arg_1, Arg_2, \dots$
 - Arg_0 : PROTO-AGENT; Arg_1 : PROTO-PATIENT, etc

PropBank

- Arguments > 1 are Verb-specific
 - e.g. *agree.01*
 - Arg₀: Agreeer
 - Arg₁: Proposition
 - Arg₂: Other entity agreeing
 - Ex 1: [Arg₀ The group] agreed [Arg₁ it wouldn't make an offer]

PropBank

- Resources:
 - Annotated sentences
 - Started w/Penn Treebank
 - Now: Google answerbank, SMS, webtext, etc
 - Also English and Arabic
 - Framesets:
 - Per-sense inventories of roles, examples
 - Span verbs, adjectives, nouns (e.g. event nouns)

PropBank

- propbank.github.io
- Recent status:
 - 5940 verbs w/8121 framesets
 - 1880 adjectives w/2210 framesets

FrameNet (Fillmore et al)

- Key insight:
 - Commonalities not just across different sentences w/same verb but across different verbs (and nouns and adjectives)
- **PropBank**
 - [Arg0 Big Fruit Co.] increased [Arg1 the price of bananas].
 - [Arg1 The price of bananas] was increased by [Arg0 BFCo].
 - [Arg1 The price of bananas] increased [Arg2 5%].
- **FrameNet**
 - [ATTRIBUTE The price] of [ITEM bananas] increased [DIFF 5%].
 - [ATTRIBUTE The price] of [ITEM bananas] rose [DIFF 5%].
 - There has been a [DIFF 5%] rise in [ATTRIBUTE the price] of [ITEM bananas].

FrameNet

- Semantic roles specific to frame
 - Frame: script-like structure, roles (frame elements)
 - e.g. CHANGE_POSITION_ON_SCALE: increase, rise
 - ATTRIBUTE; INITIAL_VALUE; FINAL_VALUE
 - Core, non-core roles
 - Relationships between frames, frame elements
 - Add causative: CAUSE_CHANGE_POSITION_ON_SCALE

Change of position on scale

VERBS:

advance

climb

decline

decrease

diminish

dip

double

drop

dwindle

edge

explode

fall

fluctuate

gain

grow

increase

jump

move

mushroom

plummet

reach

rise

rocket

shift

skyrocket

slide

soar

swell

swing

triple

tumble

NOUNS:

decline

decrease

escalation

explosion

fall

fluctuation

gain

growth

hike

increase

rise

shift

tumble

ADVERBS:

increasingly

Core Roles

Core Roles

ATTRIBUTE	The ATTRIBUTE is a scalar property that the ITEM possesses.
DIFFERENCE	The distance by which an ITEM changes its position on the scale.
FINAL_STATE	A description that presents the ITEM's state after the change in the ATTRIBUTE's value as an independent predication.
FINAL_VALUE	The position on the scale where the ITEM ends up.
INITIAL_STATE	A description that presents the ITEM's state before the change in the ATTRIBUTE's value as an independent predication.
INITIAL_VALUE	The initial position on the scale from which the ITEM moves away.
ITEM	The entity that has a position on the scale.
VALUE_RANGE	A portion of the scale, typically identified by its end points, along which the values of the ATTRIBUTE fluctuate.

Some Non-Core Roles

DURATION	The length of time over which the change takes place.
SPEED	The rate of change of the VALUE.
GROUP	The GROUP in which an ITEM changes the value of an ATTRIBUTE in a specified way.

FrameNet

- Current status:
 - 1224 frames
 - 13640 lexical units (mostly verbs, nouns)
 - Annotations over:
 - Newswire (WSJ, AQUAINT)
 - American National Corpus
- Under active development
- Still only ~6K verbs, limited coverage

Semantic Role Labeling

Semantic Role Labeling

- Task of automatically assigning semantic roles for each argument

Typical Strategy

- Assign Parse to Input String
- Traverse parse to find all predicates
- For each predicate, examine each node and decide semantic role (if any)

Typical Strategy

function SEMANTICROLELABEL(*words*) **returns** **labeled tree**

parse ← PARSE(*words*)

for each *predicate* **in** *parse* **do**

for each *node* **in** *parse* **do**

featurevector ← EXTRACTFEATURES(*node*, *predicate*, *parse*)

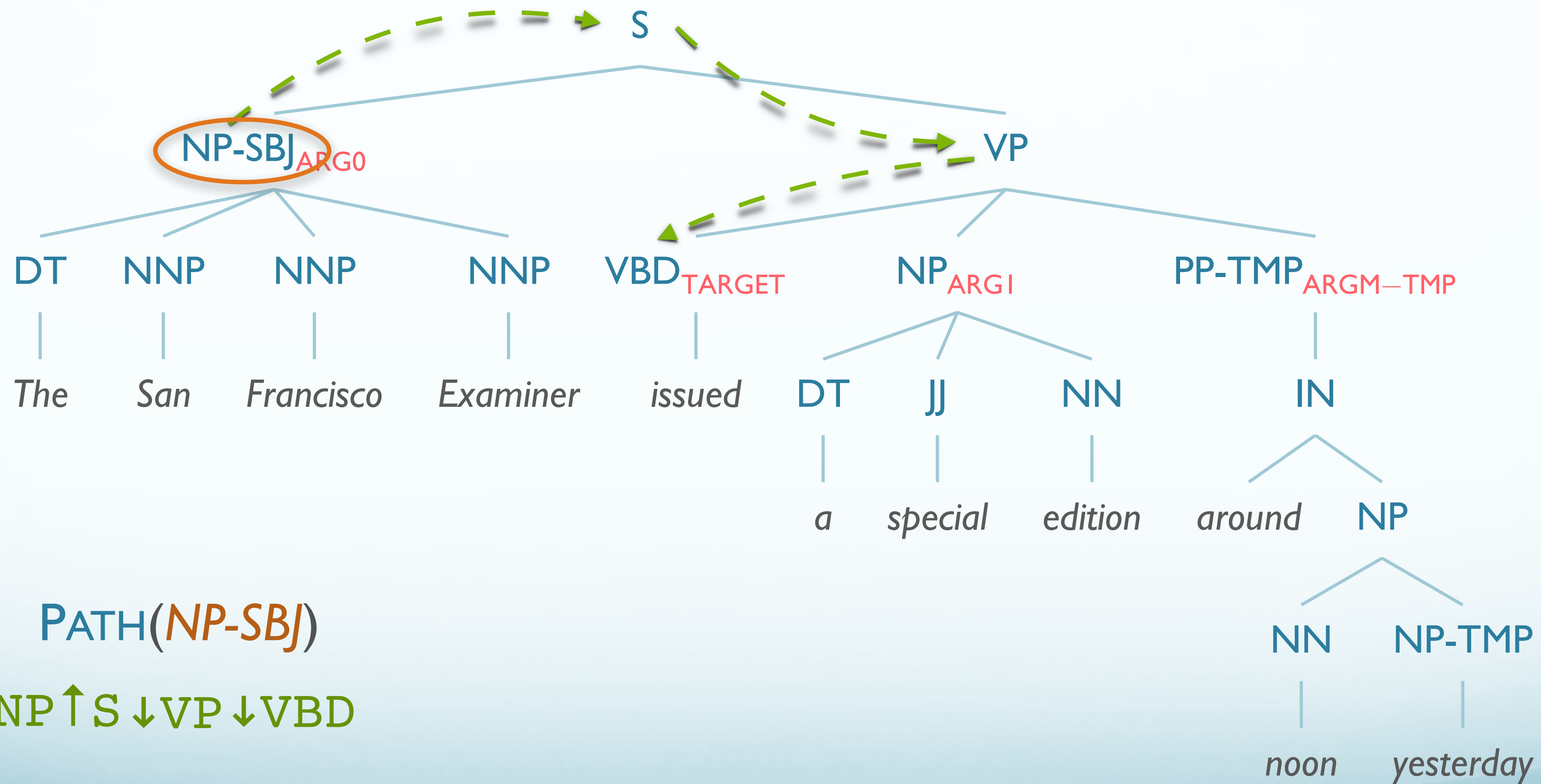
CLASSIFYNODE(*node*, *featurevector*, *parse*)

J&M 3rd ed, p.385

Semantic Role Labeling Features

- Governing predicate
- Phrase Type (NP, VP, etc)
- Headword of constituent
- Headword POS
- PATH from current node to predicate (NP↑S↓VP↓VBD)
- ...

Typical Strategy



Some Semantic Role Labeling Applications

- Question answering:
 - Who did what to whom?
- Machine translation
 - Maintain agents/thematic roles through translation

AMR

- “Abstract Meaning Representation”
 - Sentence-level semantic representation
- Nodes: Concepts
 - English words; PropBank: predicates; or keywords (‘person’)
- Edges: Relations
 - PropBank thematic roles (ARG0-ARG5)
 - Others including ‘location,’ ‘name,’ ‘time,’ etc...
 - ~100 in total

AMR 2

- AMR Bank: (now) ~40K annotated sentences
- JAMR parser: 63% F-measure (2015)
 - Alignments between word spans & graph fragments
- Example: “*I saw Joe’s dog, which was running in the garden.*”

From [Liu et. al \(2015\)](#)

