

# Introduction to Semantic Parsing with CCG

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- Categorial Grammar (CG)
- Combinatory Categorial Grammar (CCG)

## 2 Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)

- Candidate lexicon generation
- Features, model, learning
- Results

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# Outline

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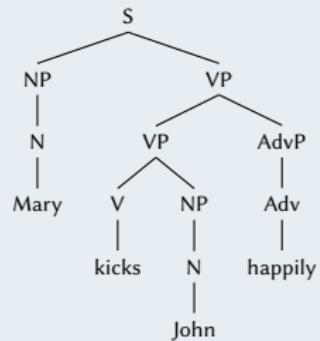
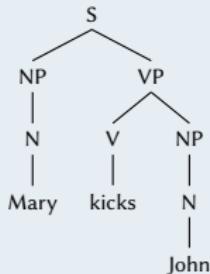
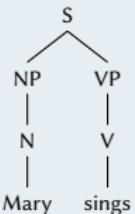
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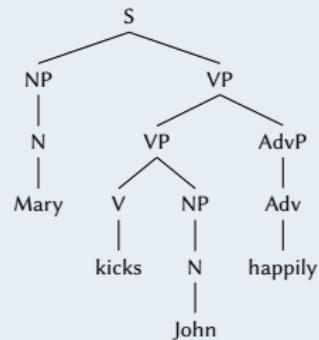
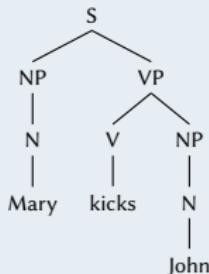
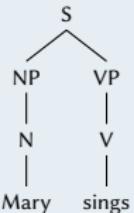
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# Plain old context-free grammars



# Plain old context-free grammars



$S \rightarrow NP \ VP$

$NP \rightarrow N$

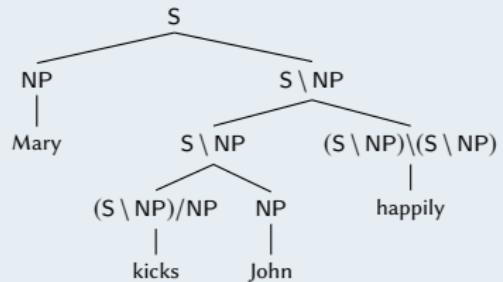
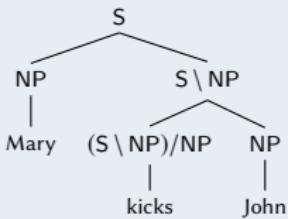
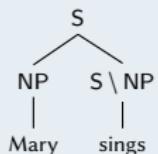
$AdvP \rightarrow Adv$

$VP \rightarrow V$

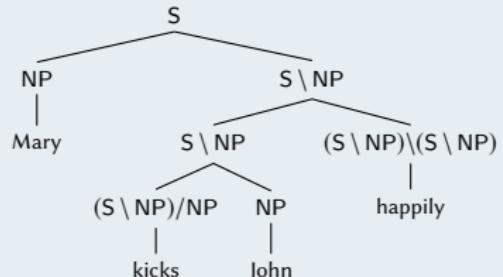
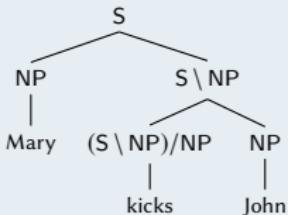
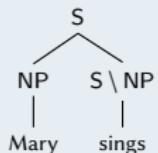
$VP \rightarrow V \ NP$

$VP \rightarrow VP \ AdvP$

# Categorial grammars



# Categorial grammars



$$X \rightarrow X/Y \quad Y$$

$$X \rightarrow Y \quad X \setminus Y$$

# Notation

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \text{sings}}{\frac{\text{NP} \quad \text{S} \setminus \text{NP}}{\text{S}}} <^0$$

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \frac{\text{kicks}}{\text{NP}} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{\text{NP}}}{\frac{\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}}{\text{S}}} >^0$$

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \frac{\text{kicks}}{\frac{\text{NP}}{\frac{(\text{S} \setminus \text{NP})/\text{NP}}{\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}}}} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{\frac{\text{NP}}{\frac{(\text{S} \setminus \text{NP})\backslash(\text{S} \setminus \text{NP})}{\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}}}}} >^0}{\frac{\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}}{\text{S}}} <^0$$

# Notation

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \text{sings}}{\begin{array}{c} \text{NP} \\ \text{S} \end{array} \backslash \text{NP}} <^0$$

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \frac{\text{kicks}}{\text{NP}} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{\text{NP}}}{\frac{\text{S} \backslash \text{NP}}{\text{S}}} >^0$$

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \frac{\text{kicks}}{\text{NP}} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{\frac{\text{S} \backslash \text{NP}}{\text{S} \backslash \text{NP}}} \quad \frac{\text{happily}}{(\text{S} \backslash \text{NP}) \backslash (\text{S} \backslash \text{NP})}}{\text{S}} <^0$$

$$X/Y \quad Y \Rightarrow X$$

( $>^0$ ) (forward application)

$$Y \quad X \backslash Y \Rightarrow X$$

( $<^0$ ) (backward application)

# Semantics

Mary      kicks      John  
NP                (S \ NP)/NP            NP

# Semantics

Mary            kicks            John  
NP : *mary*     $\frac{}{(S \setminus NP)/NP}$      $\frac{}{NP}$

# Semantics

Mary	kicks	John
NP : <i>mary</i>	(S \ NP)/NP : $\lambda x. \lambda y. kicks(y, x)$	NP

# Semantics

Mary	kicks	John
$\frac{}{\text{NP} : \textit{mary}}$	$\frac{}{(S \setminus NP)/NP : \lambda x. \lambda y. \textit{kicks}(y, x)}$	$\frac{}{\text{NP} : \textit{john}}$

# Semantics

$$\frac{\text{Mary}}{\text{NP} : \textit{mary}} \quad \frac{\text{kicks}}{(\text{S} \setminus \text{NP})/\text{NP} : \lambda x. \lambda y. \textit{kicks}(y, x)} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{\text{NP} : \textit{john}}$$

$X/Y : f \quad Y : g \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (>^0)$  (forward application)

$Y : g \quad X \setminus Y : f \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (<^0)$  (backward application)

# Semantics

$$\frac{\text{Mary} \quad \text{kicks} \quad \text{John}}{\frac{\text{NP : } mary \quad (S \setminus NP)/NP : \lambda x. \lambda y. kicks(y, x) \quad NP : john}{S \setminus NP : \lambda y. kicks(y, john)}} >^0$$

$$X/Y : f \quad Y : g \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (>^0) \quad (\text{forward application})$$
$$Y : g \quad X \setminus Y : f \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (<^0) \quad (\text{backward application})$$

# Semantics

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{Mary} \\ \hline \text{NP : } mary \end{array}}{} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{kicks} \\ \hline (\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}) / \text{NP} : \lambda x. \lambda y. kicks(y, x) \end{array}}{} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{John} \\ \hline \text{NP : } john \end{array}}{>^0}$$
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{S} \setminus \text{NP} : \lambda y. kicks(y, john) \\ \hline \text{S : } kicks(mary, john) \end{array}}{<^0}$$

$X/Y : f \quad Y : g \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (>^0) \quad (\text{forward application})$

$Y : g \quad X \setminus Y : f \Rightarrow X : f(g) \quad (<^0) \quad (\text{backward application})$

# Coordination of Functors

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Mary} & \text{sings} & & \text{and} & & \text{dances} & \\ \hline \text{NP} & \text{S} \setminus \text{NP} & & ((\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}) \setminus (\text{S} \setminus \text{NP})) / (\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}) & & \text{S} \setminus \text{NP} & \\ \textit{mary} & \lambda x. \textit{sings}(x) & & \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. g(x) \wedge f(x) & & \lambda x. \textit{dances}(x) & \\ & & & \hline & & & >^0 \\ & & & (\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}) \setminus (\text{S} \setminus \text{NP}) & & & \\ & & & \lambda g. \lambda x. g(x) \wedge \textit{dances}(x) & & & \\ & & & \hline & & & <^0 \\ & & & \text{S} \setminus \text{NP} & & & \\ & & & \lambda x. \textit{sings}(x) \wedge \textit{dances}(x) & & & \\ & & & \hline & & & <^0 \\ & & & \text{S} & & & \\ & & & \textit{sings}(\textit{mary}) \wedge \textit{dances}(\textit{mary}) & & & \end{array}$$

# Coordination of Arguments

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Mary} & \text{and} & \text{John} & \text{sing} \\
 \hline
 \text{NP} & ((S/(S \setminus NP)) \backslash (S/(S \setminus NP))) / (S/(S \setminus NP)) & \text{NP} & S \setminus NP \\
 mary & \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda h. g(h) \wedge f(h) & john & \lambda x. sing(x) \\
 \hline
 S/(S \setminus NP) & T^> & S/(S \setminus NP) & T^> \\
 \lambda f. f(mary) & \hline & \lambda f. f(john) & \hline \\
 & & & >^0 \\
 & & (S/(S \setminus NP)) \backslash (S/(S \setminus NP)) & \\
 & & \lambda g. \lambda h. g(h) \wedge h(john) & <^0 \\
 \hline
 & & S/(S \setminus NP) & \\
 & & \lambda h. h(mary) \wedge h(john) & >^0 \\
 \hline
 & & S & \\
 & & sing(mary) \wedge sing(john) &
 \end{array}$$

$Y : g \Rightarrow T / (T \setminus Y) : \lambda f. f(g)$  ( $T^>$ ) (forward type raising)

$Y : g \Rightarrow T \setminus (T / Y) : \lambda f. f(g)$  ( $T^<$ ) (backward type raising)

# How CGs differ from CFGs

- 1 informative labels (*categories*)
- 2 general rules (*combinators*)
- 3 transparent syntax-semantics interface  
(syntactic dependency  $\cong$  function application)

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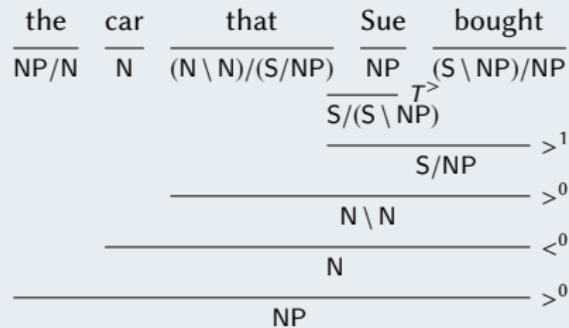
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# Combinatory Categorial Grammar

- type of CG developed by Mark Steedman [1]
- additional combinators
- elegant treatment of “incomplete” constituents
  - object relative clauses
  - non-canonical coordination
  - ...

# Object relative clauses



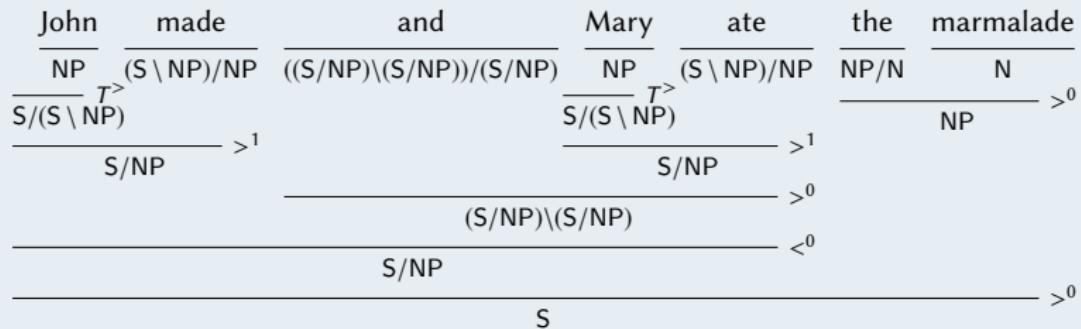
$X/Y \quad Y/Z \Rightarrow X/Z \quad (>^1)$  (forward harmonic composition)

$Y\backslash Z \quad X\backslash Y \Rightarrow X\backslash Z \quad (<^1)$  (backward harmonic composition)

$X/Y \quad Y\backslash Z \Rightarrow X\backslash Z \quad (>_x^1)$  (forward crossing composition)

$Y/Z \quad X\backslash Y \Rightarrow X/Z \quad (<_x^1)$  (backward crossing composition)

# Non-canonical coordination



# What makes CCG suitable for semantic parsing?

- few labels
- few rules
- flexible constituency: syntax adapts to semantics
- clear syntax-semantics interface

→ there is not much to learn about syntax, can focus on semantics

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## Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)

- Luke S. Zettlemoyer and Michael Collins (2005): Learning to Map Sentences to Logical Form: Structured Classification with Probabilistic Categorial Grammars [3]
- First paper to apply CCG to semantic parser learning, many followed

# Characteristics of ZC05's parser

NLU representation

list of words

MRL

GEOQUERY and JOBS (in lambda format)

data

sentences (NLUs) + logical forms (MRs)

evaluation metric

exact match (modulo renaming variables)

lexicon representation

CCG categories with lambda terms

## Characteristics of ZC05's parser (cont.)

candidate lexicon generation  
using templates (GENLEX)

parsing algorithm  
CKY-style (chart)

features  
only lexical features

model  
log-linear

training algorithm  
alternates between GENLEX, pruning, and parameter estimation

# Characteristics of ZC05's parser (cont.)

## experimental setup

Geo880, Jobs640 datasets, standard splits

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## Example parse

What	states	border	Texas
$(S/(S \setminus NP))/N$	N	$(S \setminus NP)/NP$	NP
$\lambda f.\lambda g.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge g(x)$	$\lambda x.state(x)$	$\lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$	$texas$
	$>^0$		$>^0$
$S/(S \setminus NP)$		$S \setminus NP$	
$\lambda g.\lambda x.state(x) \wedge g(x)$		$\lambda y.borders(y, texas)$	
	$>^0$		
	S		
		$\lambda x.state(x) \wedge borders(x, texas)$	

# Learning lexicon entries

## Input (a training example)

- (1) a. What states border Texas  
b.  $\lambda x.state(x) \wedge borders(x, texas)$

## Desired output

What :=  $(S/(S \setminus NP))/N : \lambda f.\lambda g.\lambda x.f(x) \wedge g(x)$

states :=  $N : \lambda x.state(x)$

border :=  $(S \setminus NP)/NP : \lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$

Texas :=  $NP : texas$

## Hard-coded cross-domain lexicon entries

What :=  $(S/(S \setminus NP))/N : \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. f(x) \wedge g(x)$

## Lexical entries for names in the domain database

Texas := NP : *texas*

Michigan := NP : *michigan*

Seattle := NP : *seattle*

...

# Candidate lexicon generation with GENLEX

## Input (a training example)

- (2) a. Utah borders Idaho  
b. *borders(utah, idaho)*

## GENLEX output

Utah := NP : *utah*

Idaho := NP : *idaho*

borders := (S \ NP)/NP :  $\lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$

borders := NP : *idaho*

borders Utah := (S \ NP)/NP :  $\lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$

→ spurious items need to be pruned later

# GENLEX

$$\text{GENLEX}(S, L) = \{x := y \mid x \in W(S), y \in C(L)\}$$

where

- $S$  is a sentence
- $L$  is its logical form
- $W(S)$  is the set of all subsequences of words in  $S$
- $C$  maps  $L$  to a set of categories through rules (see next slide)

# GENLEX (cont.)

Input Trigger	Rules	Output Category	Categories produced from logical form
constant $c$		$NP : c$	$NP : texas$
arity one predicate $p_1$		$N : \lambda x.p_1(x)$	$N : \lambda x.state(x)$
arity one predicate $p_1$		$S \setminus NP : \lambda x.p_1(x)$	$S \setminus NP : \lambda x.state(x)$
arity two predicate $p_2$	$(S \setminus NP) / NP : \lambda x.\lambda y.p_2(y, x)$		$(S \setminus NP) / NP : \lambda x.\lambda y.borders(y, x)$
arity two predicate $p_2$	$(S \setminus NP) / NP : \lambda x.\lambda y.p_2(x, y)$		$(S \setminus NP) / NP : \lambda x.\lambda y.borders(x, y)$
arity one predicate $p_1$	$N / N : \lambda g.\lambda x.p_1(x) \wedge g(x)$		$N / N : \lambda g.\lambda x.state(x) \wedge g(x)$
literal with arity two predicate $p_2$ and constant second argument $c$	$N / N : \lambda g.\lambda x.p_2(x, c) \wedge g(x)$		$N / N : \lambda g.\lambda x.borders(x, texas) \wedge g(x)$
arity two predicate $p_2$	$(N \setminus N) / NP : \lambda x.\lambda g.\lambda y.p_2(x, y) \wedge g(x)$		$(N \setminus N) / NP : \lambda g.\lambda x.\lambda y.borders(x, y) \wedge g(x)$
an arg max / min with second argument arity one function $f$	$NP / N : \lambda g. \text{arg max} / \text{min}(g, \lambda x.f(x))$		$NP / N : \lambda g. \text{arg max}(g, \lambda x.size(x))$
an arity one numeric-ranged function $f$		$S / NP : \lambda x.f(x)$	$S / NP : \lambda x.size(x)$

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# Probabilistic CCG parsing

- mapping a sentence  $S$  to  $(T, L)$  where  $T$  is a parse tree (derivation) and  $L$  is a logical form
- even with a perfect lexicon, one  $S$  can have multiple  $(T, L)$  pairs (lexical ambiguity, attachment ambiguity, spurious ambiguity...)
- solution: define probability distribution  $P(L, T|S)$

## Probabilistic CCG parsing (cont.)

- here: features = lexicon entries used in a parse
- feature function  $\bar{f}$  maps parses  $(L, T, S)$  to a feature vector that indicates for each lexicon entry how often it is used in  $T$
- assume a parameter vector  $\bar{\theta}$  that scores individual lexical features such that  $P(L, T|S; \bar{\theta}) = \frac{e^{\bar{f}(L, T, S) \cdot \bar{\theta}}}{\sum_{(L, T)} e^{\bar{f}(L, T, S) \cdot \bar{\theta}}}$  (log-linear model)
- Given  $S$ , return the parse  $(L, T)$  with the highest  $P(L, T|S; \theta)$
- problem: how to find a good lexicon and a good  $\bar{\theta}$ ?

## Bird's-eye view of the learning algorithm

Input: initial lexicon  $\Lambda_0$ , training examples

$$E = \{(S_i, L_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

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Initialization:  $\bar{\theta}^0$  := vector with 0.1 for lexicon entries in  $\Lambda_0$ , 0.01 for all other lexicon entries

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**for**  $t = 1 \dots T$  **do** ▷ epochs

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$$\lambda := \Lambda_0 \cup \text{GENLEX}(S_i, L_i)$$

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$$\pi := \text{PARSE}(S_i, L_i, \lambda, \bar{\theta}^{t-1})$$

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$$\lambda_i := \text{the set of lexicon entries in } \pi$$

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Input: initial lexicon  $\Lambda_0$ , training examples

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**end for**

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**end for**

$$\Lambda_t := \Lambda_0 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \quad \triangleright \text{update the lexicon}$$

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Initialization:  $\bar{\theta}^0$  := vector with 0.1 for lexicon entries in  $\Lambda_0$ , 0.01 for all other lexicon entries

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$$\pi := \text{PARSE}(S_i, L_i, \lambda, \bar{\theta}^{t-1})$$

$\lambda_i$  := the set of lexicon entries in  $\pi$

**end for**

$$\Lambda_t := \Lambda_0 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \quad \text{▷ update the lexicon}$$

$$\bar{\theta}^t := \text{ESTIMATE}(\Lambda_t, E, \bar{\theta}^{t-1}) \quad \text{▷ parameter estimation}$$

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Initialization:  $\bar{\theta}^0$  := vector with 0.1 for lexicon entries in  $\Lambda_0$ , 0.01 for all other lexicon entries

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**for**  $i = 1 \dots n$  **do** ▷ lexical generation

$$\lambda := \Lambda_0 \cup \text{GENLEX}(S_i, L_i)$$

$$\pi := \text{PARSE}(S_i, L_i, \lambda, \bar{\theta}^{t-1})$$

$\lambda_i$  := the set of lexicon entries in  $\pi$

**end for**

$$\Lambda_t := \Lambda_0 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \quad \text{▷ update the lexicon}$$

$$\bar{\theta}^t := \text{ESTIMATE}(\Lambda_t, E, \bar{\theta}^{t-1}) \quad \text{▷ parameter estimation}$$

**end for**

## Bird's-eye view of the learning algorithm

Input: initial lexicon  $\Lambda_0$ , training examples

$$E = \{(S_i, L_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

Initialization:  $\bar{\theta}^0$  := vector with 0.1 for lexicon entries in  $\Lambda_0$ , 0.01 for all other lexicon entries

**for**  $t = 1 \dots T$  **do** ▷ epochs

**for**  $i = 1 \dots n$  **do** ▷ lexical generation

$$\lambda := \Lambda_0 \cup \text{GENLEX}(S_i, L_i)$$

$$\pi := \text{PARSE}(S_i, L_i, \lambda, \bar{\theta}^{t-1})$$

$\lambda_i$  := the set of lexicon entries in  $\pi$

**end for**

$$\Lambda_t := \Lambda_0 \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \quad \text{▷ update the lexicon}$$

$$\bar{\theta}^t := \text{ESTIMATE}(\Lambda_t, E, \bar{\theta}^{t-1}) \quad \text{▷ parameter estimation}$$

**end for**

Output: lexicon  $\Lambda_T$ , parameters  $\bar{\theta}^T$

# Outline

## 1 Introduction to CCG

- Categorial Grammar (CG)
- Combinatory Categorial Grammar (CCG)

## 2 Zettlemoyer and Collins (2005)

- Candidate lexicon generation
- Features, model, learning
- Results

## 3 References

# Results

	Geo880		Jobs640	
	Precision	Recall	Precision	Recall
Zettlemoyer & Collins [3]	96.25	79.29	97.36	79.29
Tang & Mooney [2]	89.92	79.40	93.25	79.84

## Some learned lexicon entries

states := N :  $\lambda x.state(x)$

major := N/N :  $\lambda f.\lambda x.major(x) \wedge f(x)$

population := N :  $\lambda x.population(x)$

cities := N :  $\lambda x.river(x)$

rivers := N :  $\lambda x.river(x)$

run through := (S \ NP)/NP :  $\lambda x.\lambda y.traverse(y, x)$

the largest := NP/N :  $\lambda f.\arg\max(f, \lambda x.size(x))$

river := N :  $\lambda x.river(x)$

the highest := NP/N :  $\lambda f.\arg\max(f, \lambda x.elev(x))$

the longest := NP/N :  $\lambda f.\arg\max(f, \lambda x.len(x))$

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## 3 References

- [1] Steedman, Mark. 2001. *The syntactic process*. The MIT Press.
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