

**School of Computer Science**

# Natural Language Processing (23AM603)

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**Designation : Associate Professor**



# Language Technologies



## Goal: Deep Understanding

- Requires context, linguistic structure, meanings...

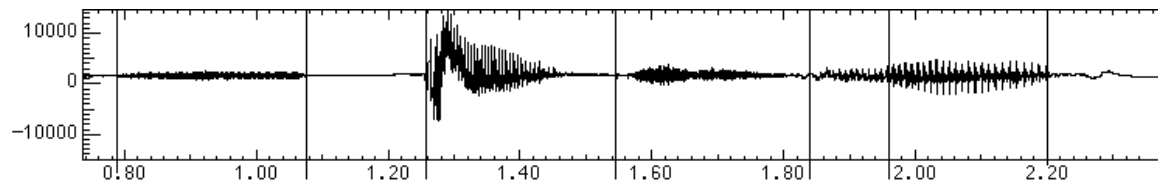
## Reality: Shallow Matching

- Requires robustness and scale
- Amazing successes, but fundamental limitations



# Speech Systems

- Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)
  - Audio in, text out
  - SOTA: 0.3% error for digit strings, 5% dictation, 50%+ TV



“Speech Lab”

- Text to Speech (TTS)
  - Text in, audio out
  - SOTA: totally intelligible (if sometimes unnatural)





# Example: Siri



Image: Wikipedia

- Siri contains
  - Speech recognition
  - Language analysis
  - Dialog processing
  - Text to speech



# Text Data is Superficial

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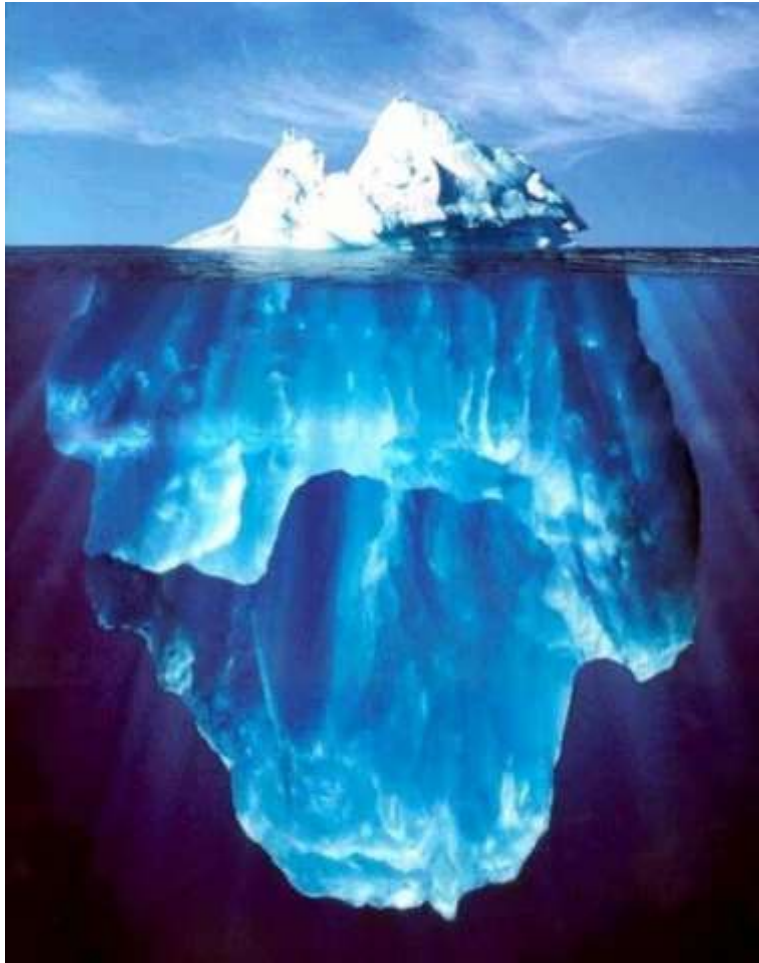
An iceberg is a large piece of freshwater ice that has broken off from a snow-formed glacier or ice shelf and is floating in open water.





## ... But Language is Complex

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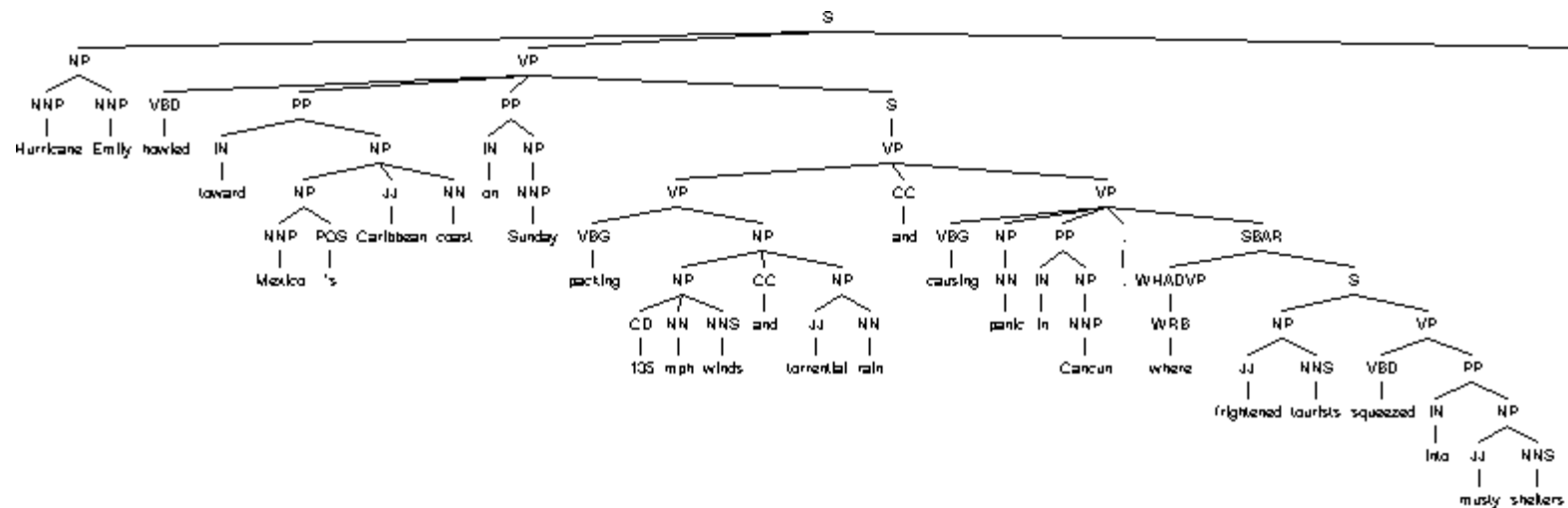


An iceberg is a large piece of freshwater ice that has broken off from a snow-formed glacier or ice shelf and is floating in open water.

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# Syntactic Analysis



Hurricane Emily howled toward Mexico 's Caribbean coast on Sunday packing 135 mph winds and torrential rain and causing panic in Cancun , where frightened tourists squeezed into musty shelters .

- SOTA: ~90% accurate for many languages when given many training examples, some progress in analyzing languages given few or no examples





# Corpora

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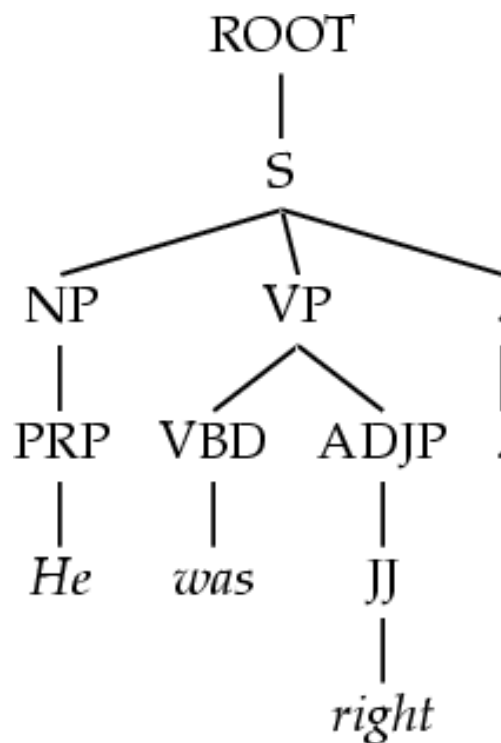
- A corpus is a collection of text
  - Often annotated in some way
  - Sometimes just lots of text
  - Balanced vs. uniform corpora
- Examples
  - Newswire collections: 500M+ words
  - Brown corpus: 1M words of tagged “balanced” text
  - Penn Treebank: 1M words of parsed WSJ
  - Canadian Hansards: 10M+ words of aligned French / English sentences
  - The Web: billions of words of who knows what





# Corpus-Based Methods

- A corpus like a treebank gives us three important tools:
  - It gives us broad coverage

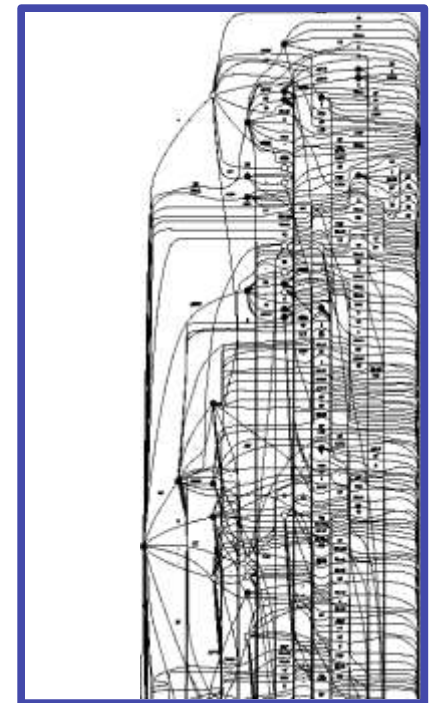
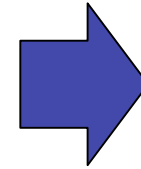


ROOT  $\rightarrow$  S

S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP .

NP  $\rightarrow$  PRP

VP  $\rightarrow$  VBD ADJ

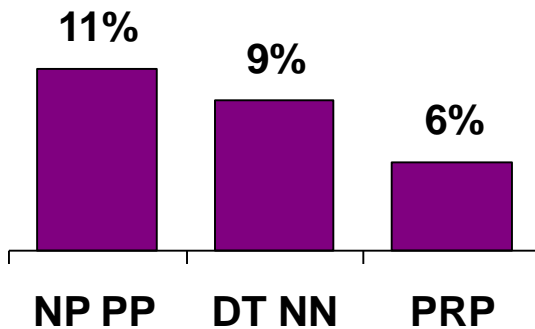




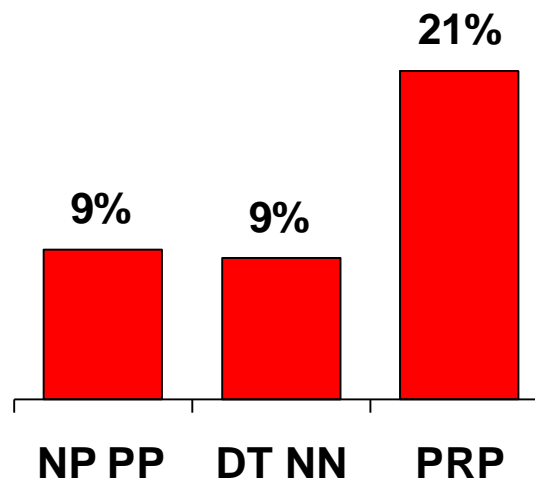
# Corpus-Based Methods

- It gives us statistical information

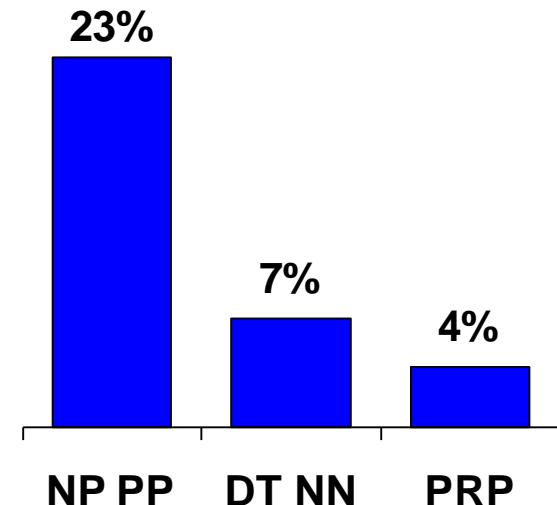
All NPs



NPs under S



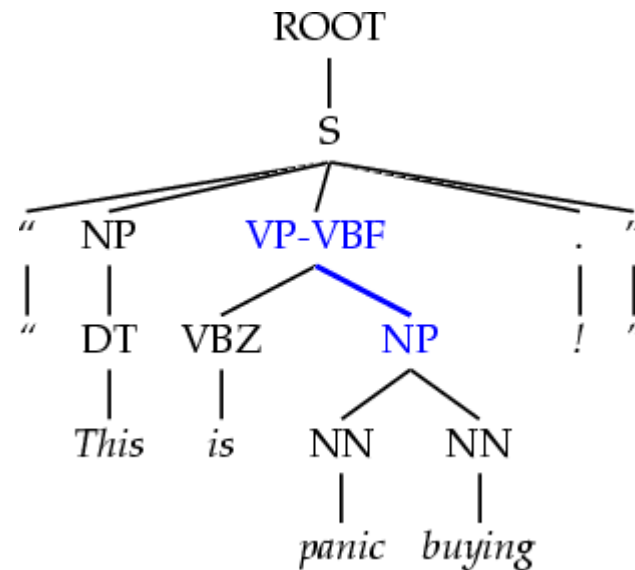
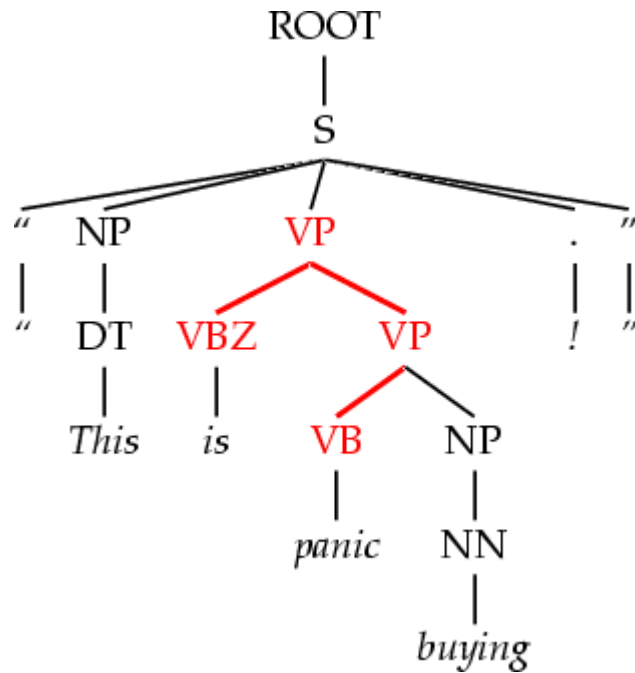
NPs under VP





# Corpus-Based Methods

- It lets us check our answers





# Semantic Ambiguity

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- NLP is much more than syntax!
- Even correct tree structured syntactic analyses don't fully nail down the meaning

*I haven't slept for ten days*

*John's boss said he was doing better*

- In general, every level of linguistic structure comes with its own ambiguities...



# Other Levels of Language

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- Tokenization/morphology:

- What are the words, what is the sub-word structure?
- Often simple rules work (period after “Mr.” isn’t sentence break)
- Relatively easy in English, other languages are harder:
  - Segementation

哲学家维特根斯坦出生于维也纳

- Morphology

<i>sarà</i>	<i>andata</i>
be+fut+3sg	go+ppt+fem
“she will have gone”	

- Discourse: how do sentences relate to each other?
- Pragmatics: what intent is expressed by the literal meaning, how to react to an utterance?
- Phonetics: acoustics and physical production of sounds
- Phonology: how sounds pattern in a language



# Question Answering

- Question Answering:

- More than search
- Ask general comprehension questions of a document collection
- Can be really easy: “What’s the capital of Wyoming?”
- Can be harder: “How many US states’ capitals are also their largest cities?”
- Can be open ended: “What are the main issues in the global warming debate?”

- SOTA: Can do factoids, even when text isn’t a perfect match

Web Images Groups News Froogle Local more »

any US states' capitals are also their largest cities? Search

Web

Your search - **How many US states' capitals are also their largest cities?** - did not match any documents.

Suggestions:

- Make sure all words are spelled correctly.
- Try different keywords.
- Try more general keywords.
- Try fewer keywords.

Google Home - - Business Solutions - About Google

[capital of Wyoming: Information From Answers.com](#)  
Note: click on a word meaning below to see its connections and related words.  
The noun **capital** of **Wyoming** has one meaning: Meaning #1 : the **capital**.  
[www.answers.com/topic/capital-of-wyoming](#) - 21k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Cheyenne: Weather and Much More From Answers.com](#)  
Chey·enne ( shī-ăn ' , -ěň ' ) The **capital** of **Wyoming**, in the southeast part of the state near the Nebraska and Colorado borders.  
[www.answers.com/topic/cheyenne-wyoming](#) - 74k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)





# Example: Watson

"a camel is a horse designed by"

About Wiktionary  
a multilingual free encyclopedia  
Des One Vogu en.w  
a ca  
a ca  
anal  
Alter en.w  
Re:  
Re: A  
to: R  
www  
The  
Jan 4  
com  
www  
A ca  
Sep  
com  
bette  
Why  
Jun 2  
vari  
www  
If a camel is a horse de  
If a camel is a horse design

Log in / create account

Entry Discussion Read Edit History Search

a camel is a horse designed by a committee

Contents [hide]  
1 English  
1.1 Alternative forms  
1.2 Proverb

The Phrase Finder

e > Discussion Forum

Google™ Custom Search Search

A camel is a horse designed by committee

Posted by Ruben P. Mendez on April 16, 2004

Does anyone know the origin of this maxim? I heard it way back at the United Nations, which is chockfull of committees. It may have originated there, but I'd like an authoritative explanation. Thanks


- Re: A camel is a horse designed by committee SR 16/April/04
  - Re: A camel is a horse designed by committee Henry 18/April/04



# Summarization

- Condensing documents
- An example of analysis with generation

WASHINGTON (CNN) — President Obama's inaugural address was cooler, more measured and reassuring than that of other presidents making it, perhaps, the right speech for the times.



Some inaugural addresses are known for their soaring, inspirational language. Like John F. Kennedy's in 1961: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Obama's address was less stirring, perhaps, but it was also more candid and down-to-earth.

"Starting today," the new president said, "we must begin."

**STORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Obama's address less stirring than others but more candid, analyst says
- Schneider: At a time of crisis, president must be reassuring
- Country has chosen "hope over fear, unity of purpose over ... discord," Obama said
- Obama's speech was a cool speech, not a hot one, Schneider says

CNN  
President Obama renewed his call for a massive plan to stimulate economic growth.

[more photos »](#)

aid in his first inaugural in 1933, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Or Bill Clinton, who took office during the economic crisis of the early 1990s. "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America," Clinton declared at his first inaugural.

Obama, too, offered reassurance.

"We gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," Obama said.

Obama's call to unity after decades of political division echoed Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address in 1861. Even though he delivered it at the onset of a terrible civil war, Lincoln's speech was not a call to battle. It was a call to look beyond the war, toward reconciliation based on what he called "the better angels of our nature."

Some presidents used their [inaugural address](#) to set out a bold agenda.



# Extractive Summaries

Lindsay Lohan pleaded not guilty Wednesday to felony grand theft of a \$2,500 necklace, a case that could return the troubled starlet to jail rather than the big screen. Saying it appeared that Lohan had violated her probation in a 2007 drunken driving case, the judge set bail at \$40,000 and warned that if Lohan was accused of breaking the law while free he would have her held without bail. The Mean Girls star is due back in court on Feb. 23, an important hearing in which Lohan could opt to end the case early.





# Machine Translation

## "Il est impossible aux journalistes de rentrer dans les régions tibétaines"

Bruno Philip, correspondant du "Monde" en Chine, estime que les journalistes de l'AFP qui ont été expulsés de la province tibétaine du Qinghai "n'étaient pas dans l'illégalité".

**Les faits** Le dalaï-lama dénonce l'"enfer" imposé au Tibet depuis sa fuite, en 1959

**Vidéo** Anniversaire de la rébellion tibétaine, la Chine sur ses gardes



## "It is impossible for journalists to enter Tibetan areas"

Philip Bruno, correspondent for "World" in China, said that journalists of the AFP who have been deported from the Tibetan province of Qinghai "were not illegal."

**Facts** The Dalai Lama denounces the "hell" imposed since he fled Tibet in 1959

**Video** Anniversary of the Tibetan rebellion: China on guard



- Translate text from one language to another
- Recombines fragments of example translations
- Challenges:
  - What fragments? [learning to translate]
  - How to make efficient? [fast translation search]
  - Fluency (next class) vs fidelity (later)



# Machine Translation (French)

International - Le Monde.fr

Translated version of http://www.lemonde.fr

http://translate.google.com/translate?prev=\_t&hl=e Google

**Google™** This page was [automatically translated](#) from French. [View original web page](#) or [mouse over text](#) to view original text.


## "It is impossible for journalists to enter Tibetan areas"

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**Video** Anniversary of the Tibetan rebellion: China on guard

**Portfolio | Reportage | Video**



International - Le Monde.fr

http://www.lemonde.fr

## Le Monde.fr

Mise à jour à 05h17 - Paris


### "Il est impossible aux journalistes d'entrer dans les régions tibétaines"

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**Vidéo** Anniversaire de la rébellion tibétaine : la Chine sur ses gardes

**Portfolio | Reportage | Vidéo**




### Accord sur la TVA : "Sarkozy gagne le cas au pire moment"

Les ministres des finances européens ont atteint un compromis autorisant la réduction de certains secteurs, dont la restauration.

**Compte rendu** Réactions mitigées à une baisse de la TVA

**Les faits** Les taux réduits de TVA au




### Face aux déficits, la hausse paraît inéluctable

Le gouvernement exclut une augmentation. Philippe Séguin tire la sonnette d'alarme.

**Infographie** Finances publiques : les gouvernements

**Les faits** La crise avive le débat fiscal

**Eclairage | Compte rendu**



## Agreement on the VAT: "Sarkozy wins the case at the worst possible time"

The European finance ministers reached on Tuesday to a compromise allowing the reduction of VAT rates in some sectors, including catering.

**Record** Mixed reactions after the European agreement on reduction in VAT



# More Data: Machine Translation

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SOURCE	Cela constituerait une solution transitoire qui permettrait de conduire à terme à une charte à valeur contraignante.
HUMAN	That would be an interim solution which would make it possible to work towards a binding charter in the long term .
1x DATA	[this] [constituerait] [assistance] [transitoire] [who] [permettrait] [licences] [to] [terme] [to] [a] [charter] [to] [value] [contraignante] [.]
10x DATA	[it] [would] [a solution] [transitional] [which] [would] [of] [lead] [to] [term] [to a] [charter] [to] [value] [binding] [.]
100x DATA	[this] [would be] [a transitional solution] [which would] [lead to] [a charter] [legally binding] [.]
1000x DATA	[that would be] [a transitional solution] [which would] [eventually lead to] [a binding charter] [.]



# Machine Translation (Japanese)

asahi.com (朝日新聞社) : ビジ...

Translated

http://www.asahi.com/business

トップ ニュース スポーツ エンタメ ライフ  
社会 ビジネス 政治 国際 文化 サイエンス

現在位置: asahi.com > ニュース > ビジネス

トップ ニュース 為替 株式 金利 トピックス  
東洋経済ニュース ロイターニュース 宝くじ CSR

ビジネス

最新ニュース

- ▶ 東証は小幅安 金融株の下げ目立つ  
12日の東京株式市場は、前日の大幅高の反動から売り注文が先行し、小幅に値を下げている。日経平均株価..... (11:13) [記事全文]
- ▶ 損保ジャパンと日本興亜が統合交渉 3大陣営に集約へ  
損害保険3位の損保ジャパンと5位の日本興亜損害保険が始めたことが12日、分か..... (10:33) [記事全文]
- ▶ GDP、12、1%減に上方修正 10-12月期  
内閣府が12日発表した08年10~12月期の国内総生産は、物価変動の影響を除いた..... (09:07) [記事全文]
- ▶ 金融サミット、気候変動も議論する可能性=外交関係者
- ▶ 【株式・前引け】利益確定売りが先行、為替円高もTOPIXとも小幅反落 (3/12) (東洋経済)
- ▶ 『今回の上昇は本物か』【森田レポート】 (3/11) (今)

asahi.com : 朝日新聞社の速報ニュースサイト

Translated version of http://www.asahi.com/business

http://translate.google.com/translate?prev=hp&hl=

Google

This page was [automatically translated](#) from Japanese. [View original web page](#) or mouse over text to view original language.

Business

Latest News

- ▶ **The exchange of financial stocks fell slightly prominent lower**  
12 stocks in Tokyo, ahead of sell orders from the backlash of higher yesterday, with slightly lower values. Nikkei ... .. (11:13) [Full article]
- ▶ **Negotiation and integration of Japan Sompo Japan興亜to aggregate in three large camps**  
Sompo Japan Insurance and it's five to start the negotiations for the merger of NIPPONKOA Insurance Co., Ltd. No. 12, 2007, minutes ... .. (10:33) [Full article]




New Prius



# Data and Knowledge

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- Classic knowledge representation worry: How will a machine ever know that...
  - Ice is frozen water?
  - Beige looks like this: 
  - Chairs are solid?
- Answers:
  - 1980: write it all down
  - 2000: get by without it
  - 2020: learn it from data



## Deeper Understanding: Reference

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Q: Who signed the Serve America Act?

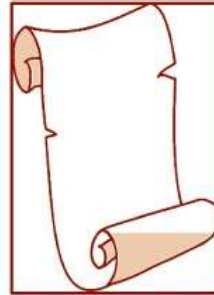
A: Barack Obama

### Los Angeles Times

President Barack Obama received the Serve America Act after congress' vote. He signed the bill last Thursday. The president said it would greatly increase service opportunities for the American people.



# Names vs. Entities



President Barack Obama received the Serve America Act after congress' vote. He signed the bill last Thursday. The president said it would greatly increase service opportunities for the American people.



# Example Errors

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## Input

America Online announced on Monday that the company plans to update its instant messaging service.

## Correct

America Online the company its  
instant messaging service

## Guess

America Online  
the company its  
instant messaging service





# Discovering Knowledge

**America Online** ← → **company**

**America Online, LLC** (commonly known as **AOL**) is an American global Internet services and media company operated by Time Warner. It is headquartered at 770 Broadway in Midtown Manhattan, New York City.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Founded in 1983 as **Quantum Computer Services**, it has franchised its services to companies in several nations around the world or set up international versions of its services.<sup>[4]</sup>

## America Online



**Type**

Subsidiary of Time Warner

**Founded**

1983 as *Quantum Computer Services*





# Grounded Language

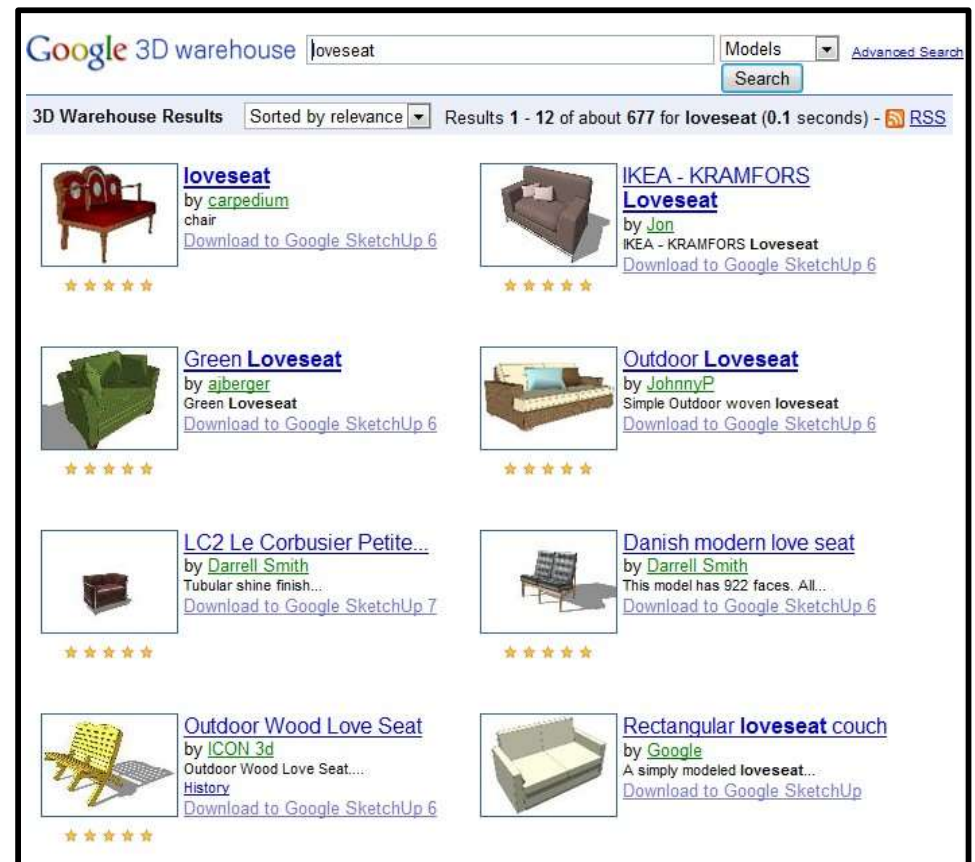
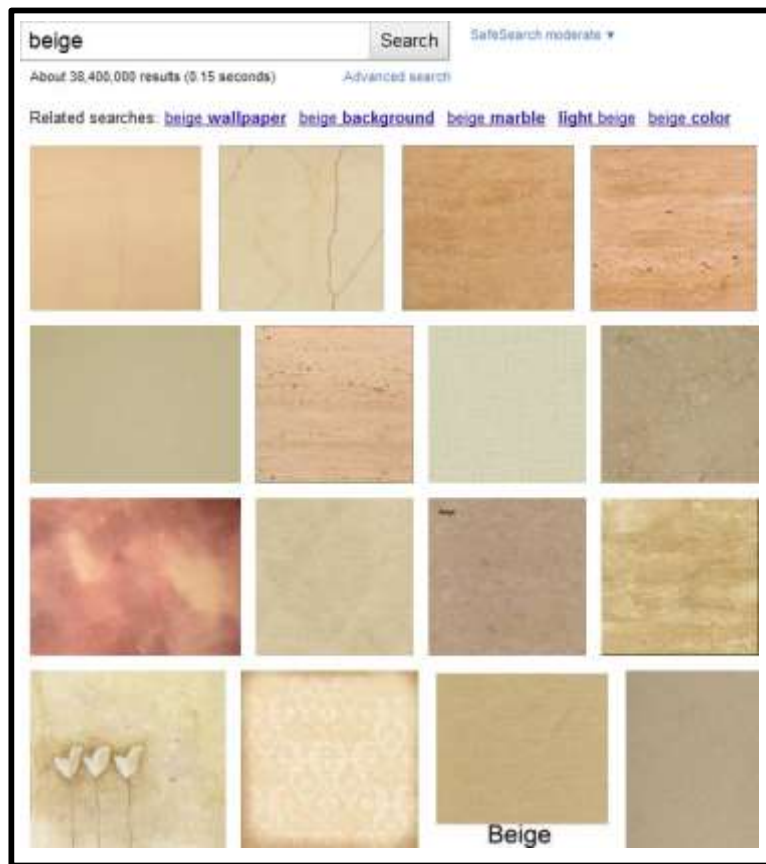
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# Grounding with Natural Data

*... on the beige loveseat.*

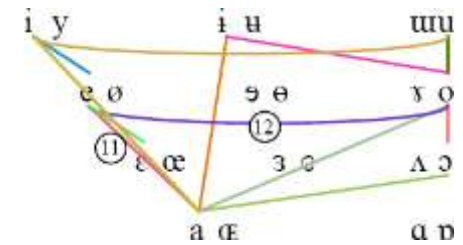




# What is Nearby NLP?

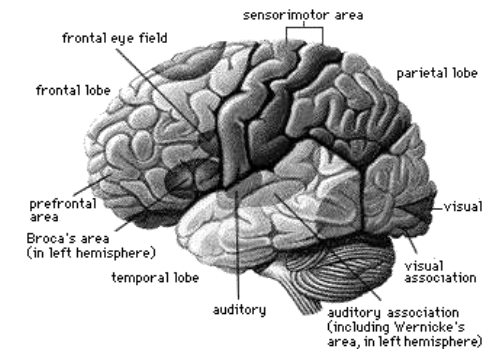
## ■ Computational Linguistics

- Using computational methods to learn more about how language works
- We end up doing this and using it



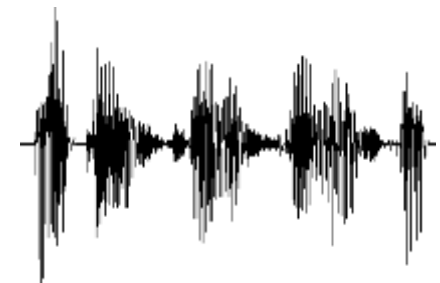
## ■ Cognitive Science

- Figuring out how the human brain works
- Includes the bits that do language
- Humans: the only working NLP prototype!



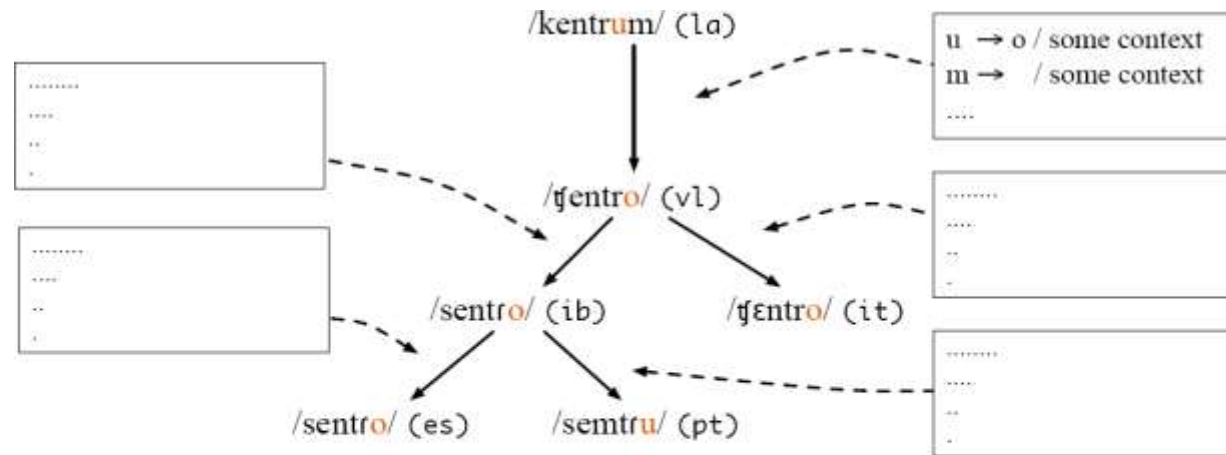
## ■ Speech Processing

- Mapping audio signals to text
- Traditionally separate from NLP, converging?
- Two components: acoustic models and language models
- Language models in the domain of stat NLP





# Example: NLP Meets CL



Gloss	Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese
Word/verb	verb <u>u</u> m	verb <u>o</u>	verb <u>o</u>	verb <u>u</u>
Center	centr <u>u</u> m	centr <u>o</u>	centr <u>o</u>	centr <u>o</u>

- Example: Language change, reconstructing ancient forms, phylogenies  
... just one example of the kinds of linguistic models we can build



# What is NLP research?

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- Three aspects we often investigate:
  - Linguistic Issues
    - What are the range of language phenomena?
    - What are the knowledge sources that let us disambiguate?
    - What representations are appropriate?
    - How do you know what to model and what not to model?
  - Statistical Modeling Methods
    - Increasingly complex model structures
    - Learning and parameter estimation
    - Efficient inference: dynamic programming, search, sampling
  - Engineering Methods
    - Issues of scale
    - Where the theory breaks down (and what to do about it)



# Some Early NLP History

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- 1950's:
  - Foundational work: automata, information theory, etc.
  - First speech systems
  - Machine translation (MT) hugely funded by military
    - Toy models: MT using basically word--substitution
  - Optimism!
- 1960's and 1970's: NLP Winter
  - Bar--Hillel (FAHQT) and ALPAC reports kills MT
  - Work shifts to deeper models, syntax
  - ... but toy domains / grammars (SHRDLU, LUNAR)
- 1980's and 1990's: The Empirical Revolution
  - Expectations get reset
  - Corpus--based methods become central
  - Deep analysis often traded for robust and simple approximations
  - *Evaluate everything*
- 2000+: Richer Statistical Methods
  - Models increasingly merge linguistically sophisticated representations with statistical methods, confluence and clean--up
  - *Begin to get both breadth and depth*





# Problem: Structure

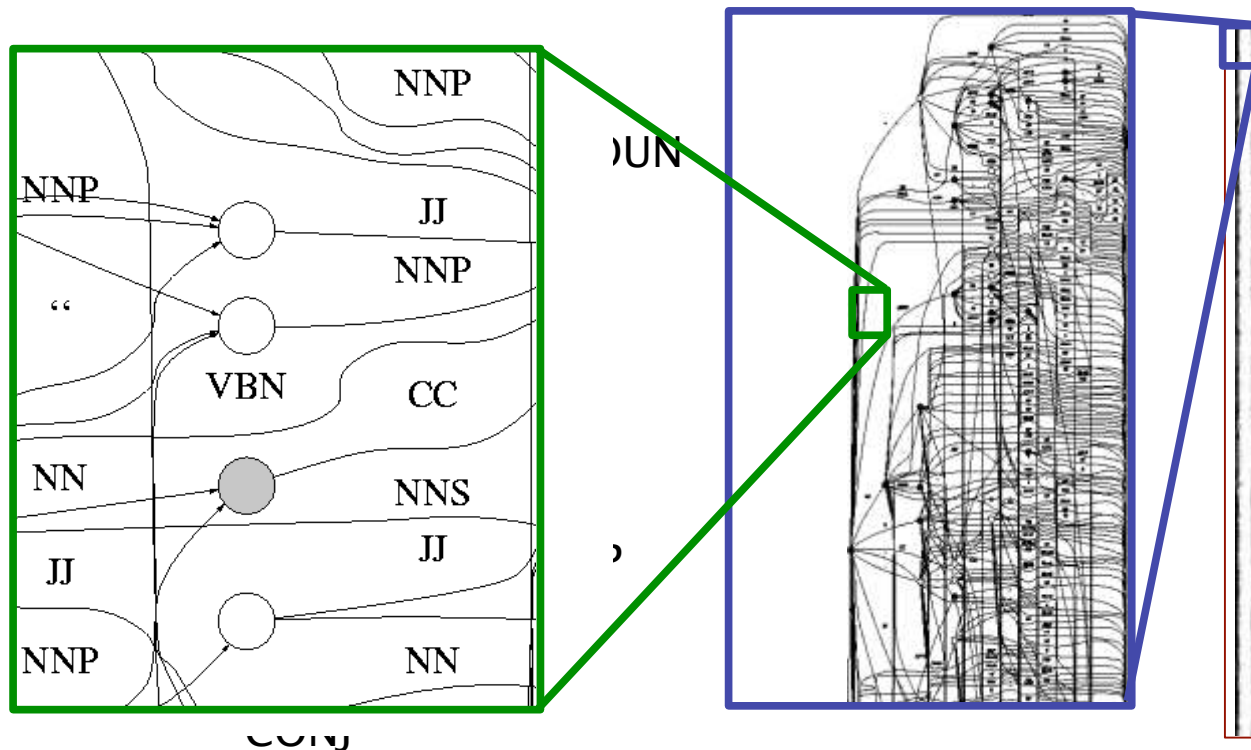
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- Headlines:
  - Enraged Cow Injures Farmer with Ax
  - Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
  - Hospitals Are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
  - Ban on Nude Dancing on Governor's Desk
  - Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
  - Stolen Painting Found by Tree
  - Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
  - Local HS Dropouts Cut in Half
  
- Why are these funny?



# Problem: Scale

- People *did* know that language was ambiguous!
  - ...but they hoped that all interpretations would be “good” ones (or ruled out pragmatically)
  - ...they didn’t realize how bad it would be





# Classical NLP: Parsing

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- Write symbolic or logical rules:

## Grammar (CFG)

ROOT $\rightarrow$ S	NP $\rightarrow$ NP PP
S $\rightarrow$ NP VP	VP $\rightarrow$ VBP NP
NP $\rightarrow$ DT NN	VP $\rightarrow$ VBP NP PP
NP $\rightarrow$ NN NNS	PP $\rightarrow$ IN NP

## Lexicon

NN $\rightarrow$ interest
NNS $\rightarrow$ raises
VBP $\rightarrow$ interest
VBZ $\rightarrow$ raises

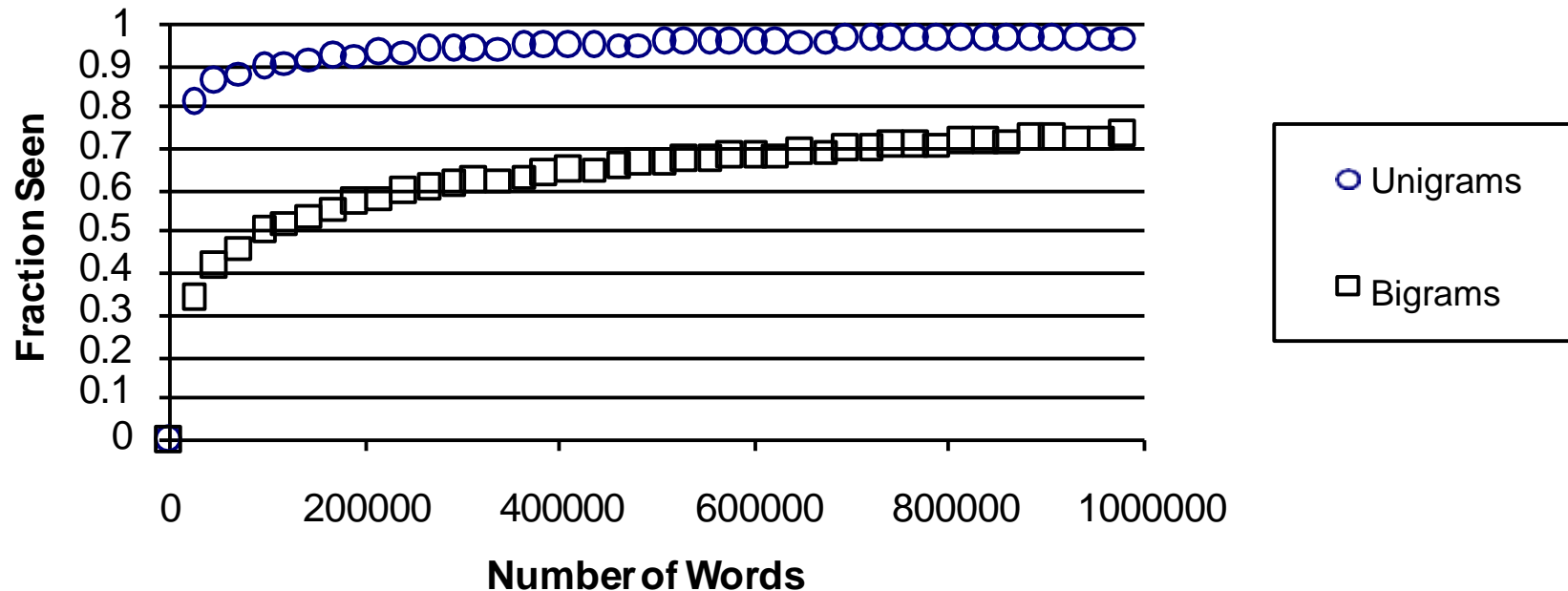
...

- Use deduction systems to prove parses from words
  - Minimal grammar on “Fed raises” sentence: 36 parses
  - Simple 10-rule grammar: 592 parses
  - Real-size grammar: many millions of parses
- This scaled very badly, didn’t yield broad coverage tools



# Problem: Sparsity

- However: sparsity is always a problem
  - New unigram (word), bigram (word pair), and rule rates in newswire





# The (Effective) NLP Cycle

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- Pick a problem (usually some disambiguation)
- Get a lot of data (usually a labeled corpus)
- Build the simplest thing that could possibly work
- Repeat:
  - Examine the most common errors are
  - Figure out what information a human might use to avoid them
  - Modify the system to exploit that information
    - Feature engineering
    - Representation redesign
    - Different machine learning methods
- We're do this over and over again

