Non-Projective Parsing for Statistical Machine Translation

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Phrase-based Translation



segmentation + phrase selection + distortion

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Phrase-based Translation with TAG operations



segmentation + s-phrase selection + adjunctions

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Phrase-based Translation with TAG operations

Contributions (I)

A TAG-based syntactic translation model. Properties:

Retains the full set of lexical entries of a phrase-based system

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Straightforward integration of a syntactic language model



segmentation + s-phrase selection + non-projective adjunctions

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segmentation + s-phrase selection + non-projective adjunctions

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segmentation + s-phrase selection + non-projective adjunctions

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Contributions (II)

We model reordering with flexible non-projective adjunctions.

How to control reorderings?

 A discriminative model inspired by work in dependency parsing (e.g. [McDonald et al. 05])

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- Hard constraints
- How to decode efficiently?
 - A novel beam-search algorithm



Translation as TAG-based Parsing

Constraints on Reorderings

Efficient Decoding

Experiments



A TAG formalism [Carreras, Collins and Koo 2008]



Basic units are spines

Spines are combined using adjunction operations

A TAG formalism [Carreras, Collins and Koo 2008]



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Basic units are spines

Spines are combined using adjunction operations

S-phrases: Syntactic Phrase-entries for Translation



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An s-phrase consists of:

- Foreign words
- English words
- A syntactic structure
- An alignment



Training example = source sentence + English sentence + English parse tree

▶ We use phrasal entries from a standard phrase-based approach



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Derivations

wir müssen auch diese kritik ernst nehmen

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Derivations



A derivation:

Step 1: segment the input sentence,

and choose an s-phrase for each segment

Derivations



A derivation:

- Step 1: segment the input sentence,
 - and choose an s-phrase for each segment
- Step 2: connect s-phrases with adjunctions

▶ Model score for a derivation *d*:

$$score(d) = score_{LM}(d) + score_{P}(d)$$

+ $score_{SYN}(d) + score_{R}(d)$

- score_{LM} is a trigram language model
- score_P is a sum of standard phrase-based scores
- score_{SYN} is a syntactic language model [Charniak et al. 03] [Shen et al. 08] (probabilities are associated with adjunctions)
- score_R is a sum of discriminative adjunction scores

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Two challenges

All permutations of s-phrases are possible.

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Two challenges:

- 1. Constraining reorderings
- 2. Search



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$score_R$: A Discriminative Dependency Model



 $score_R(d)$ is a **discriminative dependency model** (related to work in dependency parsing (e.g. [McDonald et al. 05]))

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π -constituent constraint

Define π -constituent: a head spine with all its descendants **Constraint** any π -constituent must be aligned to a contiguous substring in the source sentence



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Decoding as Parsing



- > Projective parsing: each constituent has an associated **span**
- A generalization: each constituent has a **bit-string** recording which foreign words have been translated
- Beam search strategy: ensures that the top N analyses for each foreign word are explored at each stage



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Experiments

German to English using Europarl data (750K training sentences) Development:

| System | BLEU score |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Syntax-based | 25.2 |
| Syntax (no disc. model) | 23.7 (-1.5) |
| Syntax (no π -c constraint) | 24.4 (-0.8) |

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Test:

| System | BLEU score |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Phrase-based system (Pharaoh) | 24.58 |
| Syntax-based system | 25.04 (+0.46) |

significant (p = 0.021) under paired bootstrap resampling [Koehn 04] close to significant (p = 0.058) under the sign test [Collins et al. 05]

Human Evaluations

Ref: Now, however, we are seeing that president Putin is pursuing a policy of openness towards the west.

Now, however, we see that mr president Putin is pursuing a policy of openness towards the west.

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We are, however, now that president Putin a policy of openness to the west out of blackmail.

Human Evaluations

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Syn: Now, however, we see that mr president Putin is pursuing a policy of openness towards the west.

PB: We are, however, now that president Putin a policy of openness to the west out of blackmail.

| | Syntax | PΒ | = | Total |
|--------|--------|----|----|-------|
| Syntax | 51 | 3 | 7 | 61 |
| PB | 1 | 25 | 11 | 37 |
| = | 21 | 14 | 67 | 102 |
| Total | 73 | 42 | 85 | 200 |

both results are significant with p < 0.05 under the sign test

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Summary

A TAG-based syntactic tranlastion model



Non-projective adjunctions for reordering:

- Arbitrary reorderings
- Discriminative dependency model

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Future work: Condition on syntactic structure of the source string

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