# Tree-based and Forest-based Translation

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# Outline

- **n** Part 1: Tree-based Translation
  - q Overview and Motivation
  - **q** Tree-to-String Model and Decoding
  - **q** Tree-to-String Rule Extraction
  - **q** Language Model-Integrated Decoding: Cube Pruning
- n Part 2: Forest-based Translation
  - **Packed Forest**
  - **q** Forest-based Decoding
  - **Forest-based Rule Extraction**
- n Part 3: Extensions
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  - **q** Tree Sequence-based Translation
  - **q** Joint Parsing and Translation
- n Part 4: Conclusion

# Natural Languages are Different



By Google Translate

## **Translation is Hard!**





#### connocting poopie

#### HELP ONESELF TERMINATING MACHINE

## **Machine Translation**

布什 与 沙龙 举行 了 会谈 bushi yu shalong juxing le huitan



#### Bush held a talk with Sharon

## **Word-based MT**



(Brown et al., 1993)

# **Phrase-based MT**



(Koehn et al., 2003; Och and Ney, 2004)

## **Hierarchical Phrase-based MT**



# Syntax-based MT



# Motivation

### **n** Human Translation

- **understand** the source sentence
- **Generate** the target sentence

### n Compiling

- **Parse** input program into a syntax tree
- **Generate** code in machine language

### **Syntax-Directed Translation for Compiling**

n Input: y:=3\*x+zn Parsing: id(y)(y)(z)(3) (x)

(Irons, 1961; Lewis and Stearns, 1968; Aho and Ullman., 1972)

# Motivation

### n Human Translation

- **Understand** the source sentence
- **Generate** the target sentence

### n Compiling

- **Parse** input program into a syntax tree
- **Generate** code in machine language
- **n** Machine Translation
  - **Parse** the source sentence into a tree
  - **Recursively transfer** the tree into the target language

### **Syntax-Directed Translation for MT**

### n Input: *bushi yu shalong juxing le huitan*

n Parsing:



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(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)



<sup>(</sup>Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)







## **Tree-to-String Translation Recursive rewrite by pattern-matching**



(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)

## **Tree-to-String Translation Recursive rewrite by pattern-matching**



→ Sharon



## **Tree-to-String Translation Recursive rewrite by pattern-matching**

Tree-to-string translation

Syntax-directed translation (e.g., Irons, 1961) Tree transducer (e.g., Knight and Graehl, 2005) Synchronous grammar (e.g., Eisner, 2003)

#### Bush held a talk with Sharon

## **Expressive Power**



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#### n Compute target spans



#### n Find admissible nodes



#### n Extract minimal rules



#### n Extract minimal rules





<sup>(</sup>Galley et al., 2004)

### **n** Get composed rules



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(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)

# **Bottom-up Decoding**





# **Bottom-up Decoding**




(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)

# **Bottom-up Decoding**



(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)



(Liu et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2006)

## **Exhaustive Search**



ACL 2010 Tutorial, Uppsala, Sweden

July 11, 2010

# **Update Bigram LM Probability**

p1 = p(``with'') \* p(``Sharon'' | '`with'') p2 = p(``held'') \* p(``a'' | '`held'') \* p(``talk'' | ''a'')

with Sharon

held a talk

Only boundary words are used to update LM probability!

with Sharon held a talk

p1\*p2\*p("held" | "Sharon")/p("held")

held a talk with Sharon

p1\*p2\*p("with" | "talk")/p("with")

#### **Exhaustive Search with a Bigram Language Model**



Mon	<b>PP</b> <sub>1,3</sub>						
VP1,6 PP1,3 VPB3,6			with*	Sharon St	laron Sharon	with Sharon	and
monot		1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5		
ĺ	held * talk	1.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	7.5	
	held * talks	1.1	2.1	4.1	5.1	7.6	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>	hold * talk	2.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	8.5	
	hold * talks	3.5	4.5	6.5	7.5	10.0	



<b>Cube Pruning</b>			PP <sub>1,3</sub>				
queue			1	\$	•	tk.	ر ۲
4-best			with	Sharor Sh	raron sharon	with Sharon	3110
			1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
$\bigcap$	held * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
	held * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
	hold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
	hold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

<b>Cube Pruning</b>			PP <sub>1,3</sub>					
queue	2.5			$\left( \right)$	•		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
4-best				with	Sharon Sh	aron Sharon*	with Sharon*	3114
				1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>		held * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
		held * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
		hold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
		hold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

<b>Cube Pruning</b>			PP <sub>1,3</sub>					
queue	2.4	6.0		$\left( \right)$	•			
4-best	2.5			with	Sharon Sh	aron sharon*	with Sharon	3110
				1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
	$\int$	held * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>		held * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
		hold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
		hold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

<b>Cube Pruning</b>			PP <sub>1,3</sub>					
queue	3.5	5.6 6.0		(	•		.20	
4-best	2.4	2.5		with	Sharon Sh	aron Sharon*	with Sharon*	3714
				1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
	$\int$	held * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>		held * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
		hold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
		hold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

<b>Cube Pruning</b>						PP <sub>1,3</sub>		
queue	4.8 5.6	6.0 7.0		$\left( \right)$	•		.00	
4-best	2.4 2.5	5 3.5		with	Sharon Sh	aron Sharon*	will Sharon*	3714
				1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
		neld * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>		neld * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
		nold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
		nold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

<b>Cube Pruning</b>					PP <sub>1,3</sub>			
queue	5.6	6.0 7.0		(	~			>
4-best	2.4	2.5 3.5 4.8		with	Sharon Sh	Bron Sharon*	with Sharon*	3114
				1.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	
	$\int$	held * talk	1.0	2.5	6.0	9.0	11.5	
VPB <sub>3,6</sub>		held * talks	1.1	2.4	5.6	8.6	10.6	
		hold * talk	2.0	3.5	7.0	10.0	12.5	
		hold * talks	3.5	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.5	

## **Cube Pruning within Rule Group**



# **Cube Pruning within Node**



process all rules simultaneously!

significant savings of computation

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# Syntactic Ambiguity

It is important to choose a correct tree for producing a good translation!



## **Parsing Mistake Propagation**



#### parsing mistakes potentially introduce translation mistakes!

(Quirk and Corston-Oliver, 2006)

#### 1-best Trees => *n*-best Trees?



#### Very few variations among the *n*-best trees!

## **Packed Forest**



(Billot and Lang, 1989; Klein and Manning, 2001; Huang and Chiang, 2005)

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(Mi et al., 2008)















#### **N-best Trees Vs. Forest**



<sup>(</sup>Mi et al., 2008)

## **Forest as Virtual** ∞-**best list**

**n** How often is the *i*th-best tree picked by the decoder?



<sup>(</sup>Mi et al., 2008)

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#### **n** Compute target spans



#### **n** Compute admissible nodes



#### **n** Extract minimal rules



#### **n** Extract minimal rules



#### n Extract minimal rules




## **Forest-based Rule Extraction**





IP

### **Rule Probabilities and Rule Count**



## **Fractional Count**

**Q**: What 's the count of this rule on this training example?





## Results

#### decoding

rule		1-best tree	forest
extrac	1-best tree	0.2560	0.2674
tion	forest	0.2679	0.2816

(Mi and Huang, 2008)

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#### **n** Recursive rewrite by pattern-matching



(Eisner 2003, Zhang, 2007)

#### n Find admissible node pairs



#### n Extract minimal rules



#### **n** Extract minimal rules



#### **n** Extract minimal rules



#### n Get composed rules



# Challenges

**n** Tree-to-tree translation is over-constrained

- **Poorest rule coverage**
- Suffers from parsing mistake propagation on both sides
- n Recent advances
  - **q** Use tree sequence (Zhang et al., 2008)
  - **q** Use packed forest (Liu et al., 2009a)
  - **q** Fuzzy extraction and decoding (Chiang, 2010)

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## **Non-Constituent Phrase Pairs**



(Marcu et al., 2006)

## **Non-Constituent Phrase Pairs**



## **Non-Constituent Phrase Pairs**



(Marcu et al., 2006)

# **Rule Coverage**



phrase pair	s2s	t2s	s2t	t2t
(bushi, Bush)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(yu, with)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(shalong, Sharon)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(huitan, talk)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(yu shalong, with Sharon)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(juxing le, held)	$\checkmark$	×	$\checkmark$	×
(juxing huitan, held talk)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	×	×
(yu huitan, held Sharon)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
(bushi huitan, Bush Sharon)	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
	100%	<b>89</b> %	<b>89</b> %	<b>78</b> %

# **Rule Coverage**

model	human	automatic
string-to-string	100%	100%
tree-to-string	<b>78</b> %	75%
string-to-tree	76%	72%
tree-to-tree	<b>68</b> %	60%

#### **Results from (Chiang, 2010)**

## **Solutions**

#### **n** Extend to larger rules







## **Tree-Sequence + Forest**

system	input	rule	BLEU
Moses	string	string-to-string	25.7
	troo	tree-to-string	26.1
trac to string	tree	tree-sequence-to-string	27.0
tree-to-string	forest	tree-to-string	27.7
		tree-sequence-to-string	28.8

#### **Results from (Zhang et al., 2009)**

## **Other Solutions**

- n Re-structure syntax-trees (Wang et al., 2007)
- n Offer more trees (Mi and Huang, 2008)
- n Re-align syntax trees and strings (May and Knight, 2007)
- n Well-formed dependency structures (Shen et al., 2008)
- n Gibbs sampling (Cohn and Blunsom, 2009)
- n Joint decoding (Liu et al., 2009b)

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# **Separate Parsing and Translation**



- **J** Separate grammar for parsing and translation
- **J** decoding is fast!

## Joint Parsing and Translation



- Its search space is larger than tree/forest
- It is a translator as well as a parser
- Parsing interacts with translation

(Liu and Liu, 2010)

## **Tree-to-String Translation as Parsing**

NPB │ bushi → Bush



## **Tree-to-String Translation as Parsing**






















# **Translation Evaluation**

algorithm	input	parsing model	rules	BLEU	time
matching	tree	none	1.2M	29.8	0.56
	forest	PCFG	1.9M	31.6	9.49
parsing	string	none	7.7M	32.0	51.41
		PCFG		32.4	55.52
		Lex		32.6	89.35
		PCFG+Lex		32.7	91.72

(Liu and Liu, 2010)

# **Parsing Evaluation**

parsing model	F1	time
none	62.7	23.9
PCFG	65.4	24.7
Lex	79.8	48.8
PCFG + Lex	80.6	50.4

(Liu and Liu, 2010)

# **Results on Tree-to-Tree**

task	extraction	rules	features	BLEU
Chinese	string-to-string	<b>440M</b>	1K	23.7
	tree-to-tree	50M	5K	23.9
Arabic	string-to-string	790M	1K	48.9
	tree-to-tree	38M	5K	47.5

**Results from (Chiang, 2010)** 

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# Conclusion

#### **n** Statistical machine translation

- ч Word-based
- q Phrase-based
- **q** Syntax-based
  - n String-to-String
  - n String-to-Tree
  - n Tree-to-String
  - n Tree-to-Tree

*flat* 



**hierarchical** 

## Conclusion

#### **n** Tree-based translation

- **Pros**: simplicity, faster decoding, expressive grammar, no need for binarization
- **Cons:** commits to 1-best tree
- **n** Forest-based translation
  - G Compromise between tree-based and string-based, combining the advantages of both
    - **n** Fast decoding, but does not commit to 1-best trees
    - Significant improvement of translation performance over tree-based



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