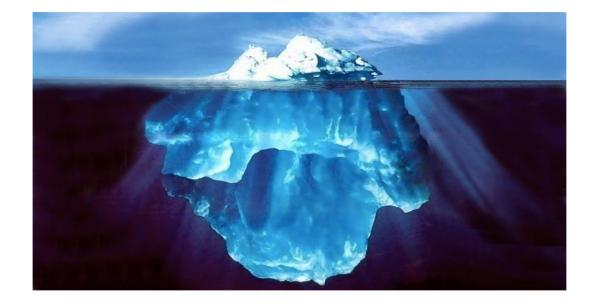
ML4NLP Introduction to Syntax and Parsing



Dan Goldwasser Purdue University

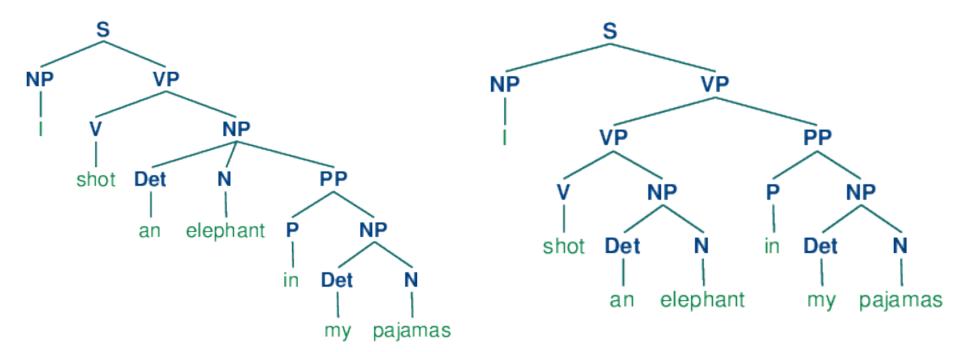
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"I shot an elephant in my pajamas" "How he got into my pajamas, I'll never know."

Groucho Marx

"I shot an elephant in my pajamas."

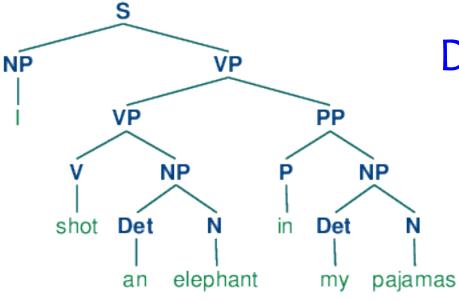


"I shot an elephant in the zoo."

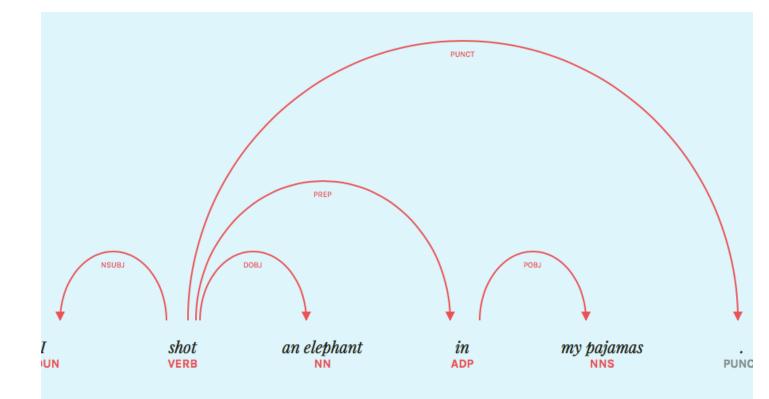
Parsing

Language is not just a stream of words, We want to represent linguistic structure!

- Two views:
 - Constituency Parsing: Build a hierarchical phrase structure
 - Dependency Parsing: Show words dependencies (dependency = modifiers, or arguments)



Dependency and constituent parsing



Constituency Parsing

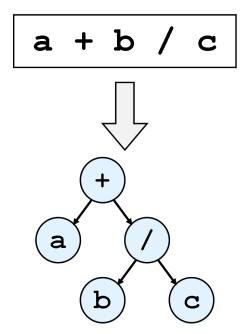
"the good old days..": Write a program!

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$ $NP \rightarrow John$ $NP \rightarrow Det N$ $NP \rightarrow Mary$ $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ $N \rightarrow binoculars$ $VP \rightarrow VNP$ $N \rightarrow dog$ $VP \rightarrow VP PP$ $V \rightarrow saw$ $PP \rightarrow PNP$ $P \rightarrow with$ $Det \rightarrow a$

Can you parse: "Mary saw John with binoculars"? How about: "Mary saw a dog with binoculars"?

Constituency Parsing

- "the good old days..": Write a program!
- Can you treat natural and formal languages in the same way?



Constituency Parsing

"Fed raises interests rates 0.5% in effort to control inflation"

How many parsing options? Million of possible parses in a broad-coverage grammar

This explains the popularity of statistical methods in NLP: millions of options, but only a few are **likely**!

CFG

- Formally: a context-free grammar is:
- G = (T,N,S,R)
 - T: terminal symbols
 - N: non-terminals
 - S: start symbol
 - R: production rules $X \rightarrow Y$ (where X is N, Y is T or N)
- A grammar G generates a language L

PCFG

- Formally: a probabilistic context-free grammar:
- G = (T,N,S,R,**P**)
 - T: terminal symbols
 - N: non-terminals
 - S: start symbol
 - R: production rules $X \rightarrow Y$ (where X is N, Y is T or N)
 - P: probability function over R

$$\forall X \in N, \sum_{X \to Y \in R} P(X \to Y) = 1$$

PCFG example

 $S \rightarrow NP VP 1.0$ $NP \rightarrow Det N 0.6$ $NP \rightarrow NP PP 0.4$ $VP \rightarrow V NP 0.6$ $VP \rightarrow VP PP 0.4$ $PP \rightarrow P NP 1.0$ $NP \rightarrow John \quad 0.3$ $NP \rightarrow Mary \quad 0.3$ $N \rightarrow binoculars \quad 0.2$ $N \rightarrow dog \quad 0.2$ $V \rightarrow saw \quad 0.2$ $P \rightarrow with \quad 0.4$ $Det \rightarrow a \quad 0.4$

P(Tree) – The probability of a tree is the product of the probabilities of the rules used to generate it.

Constituency Parsing as Structured Learning

- Can you define PCFG as a structured prediction problem?
 - How would you define the prediction problem?
 - What are the dependencies in the model?
 - What are the parameters you need to learn?
 - What are good features?

CKY Algorithm

- Dynamic programming algorithm for parsing
- Given a CFG G and a string w, determine can G parse w?
- We assume **G** is a CNF:

- Each rule has at most 2 symbols on the right $A \rightarrow BC$ or $A \rightarrow B, A \rightarrow a$

- The algorithm maintains a triangular DP table.
 - Bottom row: parse strings of size 1
 - Second bottom row: parse strings of size 2..
 - Top row: parse the entire sentence!

DP Triangular Table

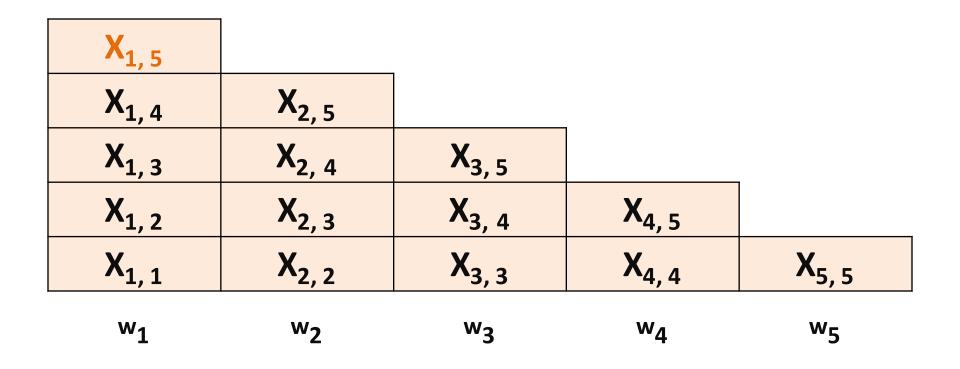
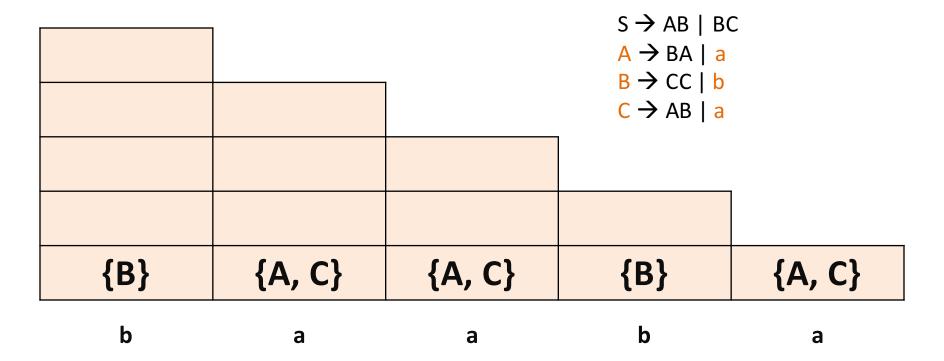


Table for string 'w' that has length 5

Constructing The Triangular Table



At each point consider possible rules, and their probabilities

S						
	VP					
S						
	VP			PP		
S		NP			NP	
NP	V, VP	Det.	Ν	Р	Det	Ν
she	eats	а	fish	with	а	fork

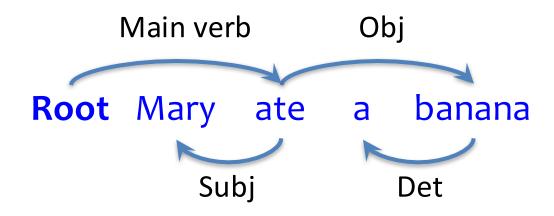
CYK Algorithm

- Similar to Viterbi, keep backpointers to reconstruct the parse tree from the table
- The rule activation scoring function depends on the dependency assumptions
 - Look at the probability of previous row activation, and consider the conditional probability of the rule given previous parses.
- Overall Complexity: O(n³ G)

Option 2: dependency parsing

 Key idea: syntactic structure represented as relations between lexical items, called *dependencies*

Dependencies can be represented as a graph, where the nodes are words, and edges are dependencies, which are: (1) directional (2) often **typed**



Non-Projective Structure

Projective structure: *no crossing edges*

Are those really needed?



However, we will often assume non-projectivity.

- It makes life easier
- It doesn't occur often

Dependency Parsing

- We need to answer two questions
 - How can you make parsing decisions? (i.e., *inference*)
 - How do you learn the parameters to score these decisions?

Dependency Parsing

• **Parser**: for each word, choose which *other* word it depends on.

- You can choose to label these dependencies

• Constraints:

- Only one root
- No cycles
- → Essentially, force a tree structure
- Additional Constraints: no crossing dependencies

Parsing Approaches

- Two competing approaches –
- Exact Inference: mostly graph based algorithms (e.g., spanning tree) but also ILP
- Approximate inference: *linear time* transition parser
- Transition based parser are very popular!

Greedy Transition-based Dependency Parsing (Nivre'03)

- Parser operates by maintaining two data structures:
 Stack and Buffer
- Parsing is done via a sequence of operations.
 - Pushing the words from the buffer to the stack, and associating dependency edges over words in the stack.
 - Shift: take a word from the top of the buffer, and put it on top of the stack.
 - Left/Right Arc: Dependency operations associate dependencies between words in the stack, and remove the dependent word from the stack.
- Parsing sequence ends when the stack and buffer are empty

Stack	Buffer
[Root]	I like lettuce
shift	
[Root] I	like lettuce
shift	
[Root] I like	lettuce
Left Arc	
[Root] like	lettuce
Shift	
[Root] like lettuce	
Right Arc	
[Root] like	
Right Arc	
[Root]	

Learning for Dependency Parsing

 Learning a transition parser: use data to build a scoring function for parser operations.

– This should sound familiar..

 Break the data into a sequence of decisions, and train a "next-state" function.

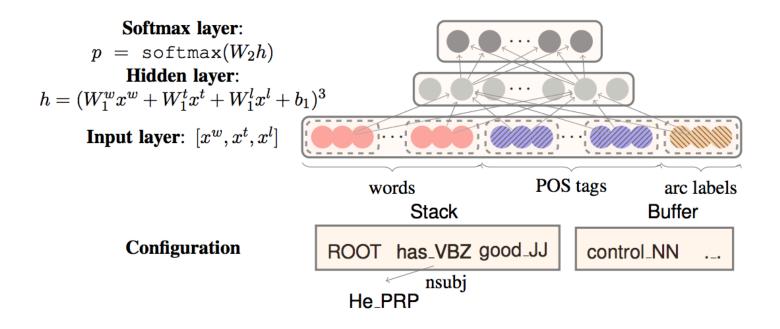
- Local learning, (greedy) inference only at test time.

- Traditionally: SVM, LR,..
 - Essentially a multiclass classifier over the current state of the parser.

Learning for Dependency Parsing

• Which features would you consider?

Deep Learning for Dependency Parsing (Chen, Manning'14)





From Syntax to Semantics

- The syntactic structure of the sentence captures some semantic properties (e.g., recall the PP attachment problem).
- However, it does not account for meaning in a broad sense.
- Interesting question: What is a computational model for *meaning*?

What is the meaning of meaning?

Semantic

• We distinguish between:

• Lexical semantics: meaning of words

• **Compositional semantics**: Combine individual units to form the meaning of larger units.

Applications

- Semantics is what we really care about:
 - Question answering
 - Intelligent information access
 - Robot communication
 - Summarization
 - ...

Deep vs. Shallow Semantics

- Surprisingly, we tend to believe that dogs understand much more!
- Similarly shallow
 NLP performs
 surprisingly well!



Semantics

• We will look at two semantics problems:

- Formal Semantic Representation: find a mathematical representation of meaning
- Information Extraction: "machine reading" viewpopulate a DB of facts from text .

Formal Models of Meaning



Who are the tallest Chicago Bulls players?

Q

Chicago Bulls / Roster (by Height) / Pau Gasol



Pau Gasol 7' 0"



Joakim Noah 6' 11"

Bobby Portis



Cristiano Felício 6' 10"



6' 10"

6'7"



Mike Dunleavy, Jr. 6' 9"



Who are the shortest Chicago Bulls players?



Chicago Bulls / Roster (by Height)



Aaron Brooks 6' 0"



Derrick Rose 6' 3"



E'Twaun Moore

6' 4"





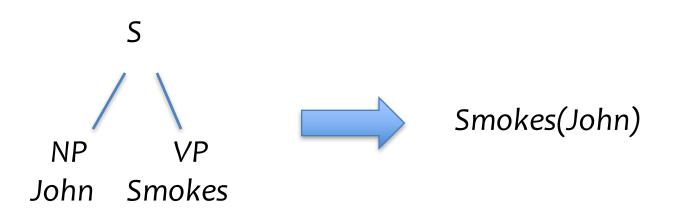




Tony Snell

Formal Models of Meaning

- Formal model for compositional semantics:
 - Form the semantics of parents, based on the semantics of the children
- We assume a dictionary of items:
 - Constant symbols
 - Functions



Constants and Functions

Constants

- Purdue University
- Barak Obama

• Properties:

- Red (x), Small (x),..

• Relations:

– Love(x,y), PresidentOf(Barak Obama, USA)

Generating a meaning representation

• We assume that syntactic representations and compositional semantics are highly dependent

• Simple algorithm:

- Create a parse tree
- Find semantic representation of words (leaf nodes)
- Combine semantics of children into parent node (bottom up)

Semantic Parser

- Key idea: augment syntactic parsing with meaning!
 - $S \rightarrow NP VP$ $NP \rightarrow Det N$ $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ $VP \rightarrow V NP$ $VP \rightarrow VP PP$ $PP \rightarrow P NP$
- NP \rightarrow John NP \rightarrow Mary N \rightarrow binoculars N \rightarrow dog V \rightarrow saw P \rightarrow with Det \rightarrow a

Semantic Parser

• Key idea: augment syntactic parsing with meaning!

S [SM] → NP [NPM] VP [VPM], VP [VPM] → V [VM] NP [NPM], NP [NPM] → N [NM],

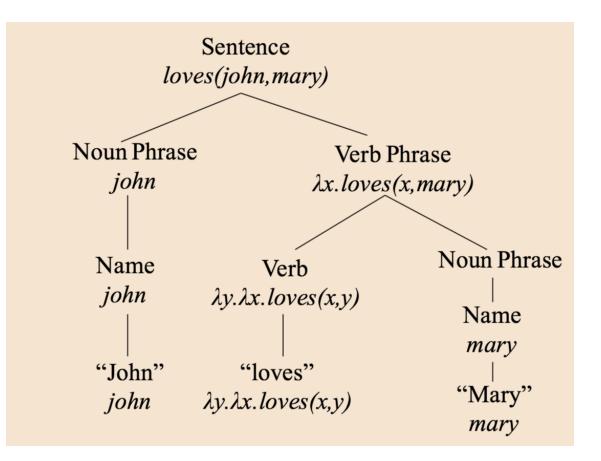
Apply(SM, NPM,VPM) Apply(VPM, VM,NPM) Apply(NP, N)

N [john] \rightarrow John N [mary] \rightarrow Mary V [$\lambda x.saw(x)$] \rightarrow saw

This is sometimes called a lexicon



Generating a meaning representation



Learning for Semantic Parsing

- Similar to syntactic parsing, there are many possible meaning derivation for a single sentence
 - Each could result in a different semantic representation!
- To help us disambiguate the meaning of a sentence, we can define probabilistic parser:

N [john] \rightarrow John 0.4 N [mary] \rightarrow Mary 0.2 V [$\lambda x.saw(x)$] \rightarrow saw 0.9

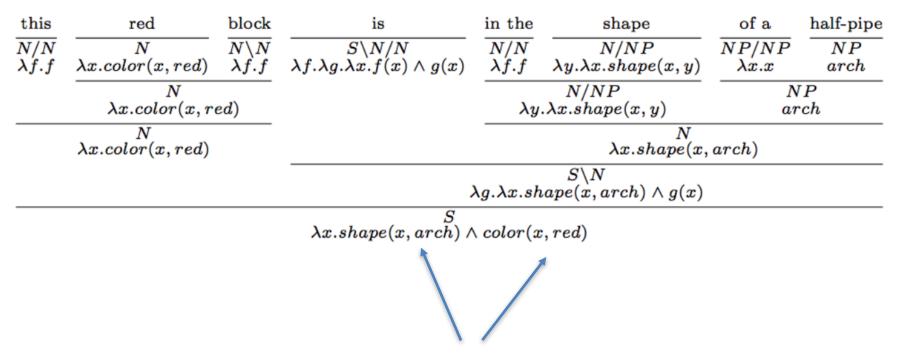
- Compositionality: constructing meaning by composing the meaning of lower level units.
 - Lowest level ("leaves") are typically constant symbols
- Where do the symbols come from?
- We assume a world model, providing the relevant set of symbols
 - People on your smartphone, transactions in a DB, entities on wikipedia, real world objects ("pick up that block")
- Analyzing the difficulty of semantic interpretation:
 - Complexity of the input language, complexity of the set of symbols, complexity of their mapping

- "pick up the green piece"
- "pick up the green piece that's next to the blue piece"
- "pick up the green piece that's shaped like a lettuce"
- "pick up the green piece that's at the left end of the bottom row.



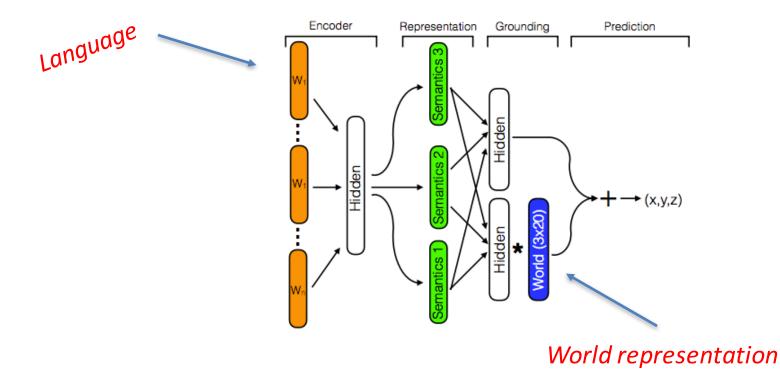
A Joint Model of Language and Perception for Grounded Attribute Learning. Matuszek et-al. 2012

• Create a meaning representation capturing the mapping from language to precepts in the real world



The (probability of) truth value of these predicts depends on real world grounding

Create a scoring function, connecting the two representations



Natural Language Communication with Robots. Bisk et-al.2016

- Two competing approaches.
 - Create an explicit meaning representation
 - Create a scoring function that ranks meaning representations (or their outcomes)
- We discussed it in the context of grounded representations ("real world objects")
 - Similar discussion for different settings (e.g., DB access).
- Which one will be easier to learn? What kind of supervision effort is needed in either?

Scaling up

- Voters go to the polls in four states on Tuesday, with Michigan the biggest prize for both parties.
- Donald J. Trump seeks to strengthen his position as the Republican front-runner, while his rivals look to slow his drive toward the nomination.
- For the Democrats, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont faces a crucial test in his upstart campaign to derail Hillary Clinton. Here are some of the things we will be watching in the contests in Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan and Mississippi.

NYTimes article

Machine Reading

• More realistic task: *given unstructured text, create structured knowledge*

- Simple Examples:
 - Named Entity Recognition
- More complicated:

 Relationships between
 entities



IE Example

Bernie Sanders is-from Vermont

Bernie Sanders is-a democrat

For the Democrats, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont faces a crucial test in his upstart campaign to derail Hillary Clinton. Here are some of the things we will be watching in the contests in Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan and Mississippi.

Relation Extraction

- We make a distinction between *closed* and *open* IE
- Closed: focus on a small set of relations
 - Easy to think about as a supervised task
- Open: find all relations

Relation Extraction

- Popular task: ACE 2003 defined 4 types:
 - Role: member, owner, affiliate, client
 - Part: subsidiary, physical part-of, set membership
 - At: location, based-in, residence
 - Social: parent, sibling, spouse
- Realistic settings: Freebase has thousands of relations!

Building Relation Extractors

• Simple pattern recognition

Hearst (1992)

Agar is a substance prepared from a mixture of red algae, such as Gelidium, for laboratory or industrial use.

What does Gelidium mean?

Pattern based Relation Extraction

Y such as X ((, X)* (, and/or) X) such Y as X... X... or other Y X... and other Y Y including X... Y, especially X...

Hearst, 1992. Automatic Acquisition of Hyponyms.

Pattern based Relation Extraction

Hearst pattern	Example occurrences
X and other Y	temples, treasuries, and other important civic buildings.
X or other Y	bruises, wounds, broken bones or other injuries
Y such as X	The bow lute, such as the Bambara ndang
such Y as X	such authors as Herrick, Goldsmith, and Shakespeare.
Y including X	common-law countries, including Canada and England
Y, especially X	European countries, especially France, England, and Spain

Bootstrapping

- Simple idea:
 - Given a small seed set of relations (e.,g by mining patterns)
 - And A LOT of unsupervised text
 - Find mentions of relation in the text
 - Use mentions to come up with new patterns!
 - Grep/Google for "Mark Twain" and "Elmira"

"Mark Twain is buried in Elmira, NY."

 \rightarrow X is buried in Y

"The grave of Mark Twain is in Elmira"

 \rightarrow The grave of X is in Y

"Elmira is Mark Twain's final resting place"

→ Y is X's final resting place

Supervised Relation Extraction

- Given a sentence, find the list of entities, and predict if there is a relation.
- Key problem: finding a good feature representation

Features	Р	R	F	
Words	69.2	23.7	35.3	
+Entity Type	67.1	32.1	43.4	
+Mention Level	67.1	33.0	44.2	
+Overlap	57.4	40.9	47.8	
+Chunking	61.5	46.5	53.0	
+Dependency Tree	62.1	47.2	53.6	
+Parse Tree	62.3	47.6	54.0	
+Semantic Resources	63.1	49.5	55.5	

relation subtypes in the test data

Zhou et al. 2005

Scaling up RE

- **Key problem**: realistic machine reading requires dealing with thousands of relations.
- Directly annotating for this task is not reasonable, how can we scale up?
- Key idea: *distant supervision*

Similar to Bootstrapping + Learning

Distant Supervision

- Assume we have a collection of relations
 Easy! (e.g., Freebase, Wikipedia,..)
- ..and that if two entities appear in a relation, sentences containing these two entities will express this relationship.
- Use such sentences as noisy training data!

Distant Supervision Example

2 Log in / create account

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