

# Learning, Inference and Supervision for Structured Prediction Tasks

**Dan Roth**

Department of Computer Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**June 2015**

**NOML Summer School, Mumbai, India**

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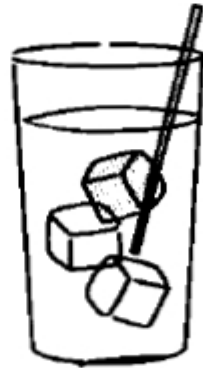
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

With thanks to:

Collaborators: **Kai-Wei Chang, Ming-Wei Chang, Xiao Chen, Dan Goldwasser,  
Gourab Kundu, Lev Ratinov, Vivek Srikumar; Many others**

Funding: NSF; DHS; NIH; DARPA; IARPA, ARL, ONR  
DASH Optimization (Xpress-MP); Gurobi.

**n+**



**2**



**u**

# Nice to Meet You

**n+**



**2**



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# Learning and Inference in NLP

- Natural Language Decisions are Structured
  - Global decisions in which several local decisions play a role but there are mutual dependencies on their outcome.

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  - **TODAY:**
    - How to support real, high level, natural language decisions
    - How to learn models that are used, eventually, to make global decisions
- A framework that allows one to exploit interdependencies among decision variables both in inference (decision making) and in learning.
  - **Inference:** A formulation for incorporating expressive declarative knowledge in decision making.
  - **Learning:** Ability to learn simple models; amplify its power by exploiting interdependencies.

# Comprehension

(ENGLAND, June, 1989) - Christopher Robin is alive and well. He lives in England. He is the same person that you read about in the book, Winnie the Pooh. As a boy, Chris lived in a pretty home called Cotchfield Farm. When Chris was three years old, his father wrote a poem about him. The poem was printed in a magazine for others to read. Mr. Robin then wrote a book. He made up a fairy tale land where Chris lived. His friends were animals. There was a bear called Winnie the Pooh. There was also an owl and a young pig, called a piglet. All the animals were stuffed toys that Chris owned. Mr. Robin made them come to life with his words. The places in the story were all near Cotchfield Farm. Winnie the Pooh was written in 1925. Children still love to read about Christopher Robin and his animal friends. Most people don't know he is a real person who is grown now. He has written two books of his own. They tell what it is like to be famous.

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This is an Inference Problem

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**Many forms of Inference; a lot boil down to determining best assignment**

# Outline

- **Constrained Conditional Models**
  - A formulation for global inference with knowledge modeled as expressive structural constraints
  - Some examples
- **Learning with Constrained Latent Representation**
- **Constraints Driven Learning**
  - Training Paradigms for Constrained Conditional Models
  - Constraints Driven Learning (CoDL)
  - Unified (Constrained) Expectation Maximization
- **Amortized Integer Linear Programming Inference**
  - Exploiting Previous Inference Results
    - **In Inference and in Structured Learning**

# Three Ideas Underlying Constrained Conditional Models

## ■ Idea 1:

Separate modeling and problem formulation from algorithms

- Similar to the philosophy of probabilistic modeling

## ■ Idea 2:

Keep models simple, make expressive decisions (via constraints)

- Unlike probabilistic modeling, where models become more expressive

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Expressive structured decisions can be supported by simply learned models

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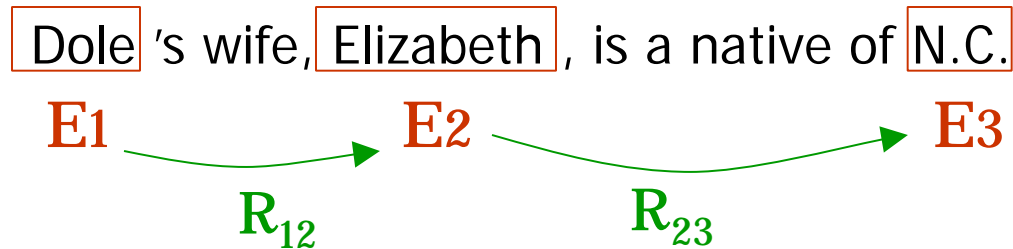
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## Recognizing Entities and Relations



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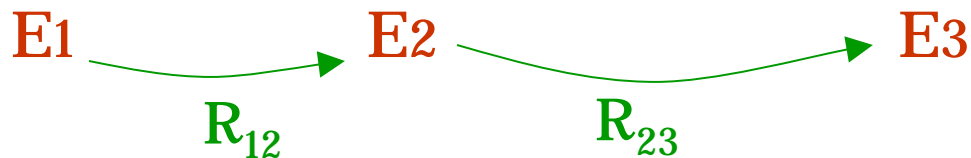
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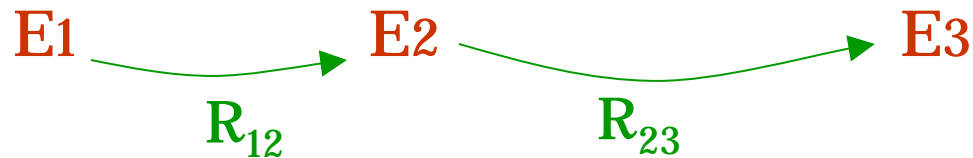
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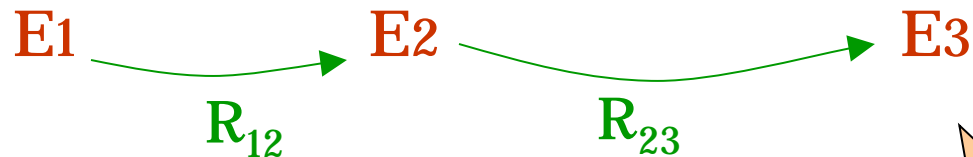
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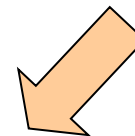


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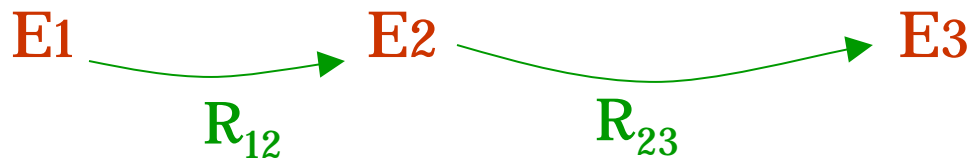


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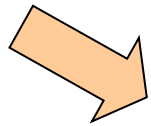
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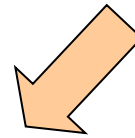


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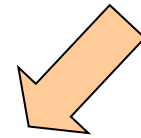
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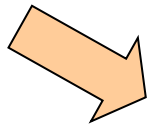
**E1**

**E2**

**E3**

$R_{12}$

$R_{23}$

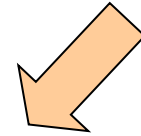


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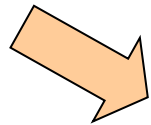
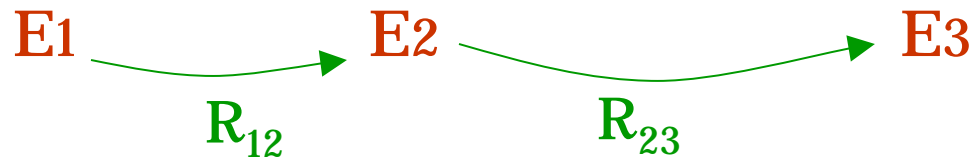


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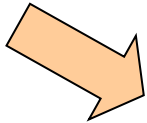
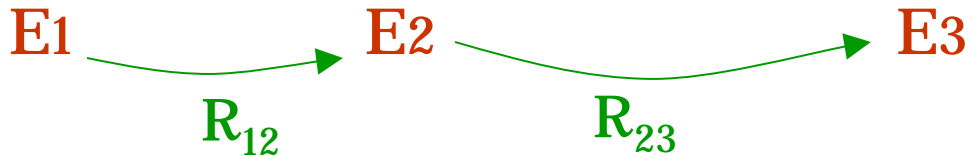
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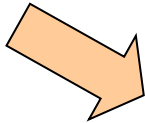
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E2

R<sub>12</sub>

R<sub>23</sub>

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How to learn? Why not Jointly?

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$$Y = \operatorname{argmax} \sum_y \operatorname{score}(y=v) \llbracket [y=v] \rrbracket =$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax} \operatorname{score}(E_1 = \text{PER}) \cdot \llbracket [E_1 = \text{PER}] \rrbracket + \operatorname{score}(E_1 = \text{LOC}) \cdot \llbracket [E_1 = \text{LOC}] \rrbracket + \dots$$

$$\operatorname{score}(R_1 = \text{S-of}) \cdot \llbracket [R_1 = \text{S-of}] \rrbracket + \dots$$

Subject to Constraints

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<b>spouse_of</b>	<b>0.45</b>	spouse_of	0.05
born_in	0.50	<b>born_in</b>	<b>0.85</b>

Models could be learned separately; constraints may come up only at decision time.



# Inference with General Constraint Structure [Roth&Yih]

Recognizing Entities and Relations

Improvement over no inference: 2-5%

other	0.05
-------	------

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-------	------

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-------	------

$Y = \text{argmax}$

$= \text{argmax}$

An Objective function that incorporates **learned models** with **knowledge (constraints)**

A constrained Conditional Model

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  - For some structures, inference is computationally easy.
  - Eg: Using the Viterbi algorithm
  - In general, NP-hard (can be formulated as an ILP)

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- W.l.o.g. (almost) we can thus write the generic structured learning algorithm as follows:

# Structured Prediction: Learning Algorithm

- For each example  $(x_i, y_i)$
- Do: (with the current weight vector  $w$ )
  - Predict: perform Inference with the current weight vector
    - $y_i' = \operatorname{argmax}_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} w^T \phi(x_i, y)$
  - Check the learning constraints
    - Is the score of the current prediction better than of  $(x_i, y_i)$ ?
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In the structured case, the prediction (inference) step is often **intractable** and needs to be done **many times**

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**EASY:** could be feature functions that correspond to an HMM, a linear CRF, or even  $\phi_{\text{EASY}}(x, y) = \phi(x)$ , omitting dependence on  $y$ , corresponding to classifiers. May not be enough if the HARD part is still part of each inference step.

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This is the most commonly used solution in NLP today

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### Sequential Prediction

HMM/CRF based:

$$\operatorname{Argmax} \sum \lambda_{ij} x_{ij}$$

### Linguistics Constraints

Cannot have both A states and B states in an output sequence.

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### Constrained Conditional Models Allow:

- Learning a simple model (or multiple; or pipelines)
- Make decisions with a more complex model
- Accomplished by directly incorporating constraints to bias/re-rank global decisions composed of simpler models' decisions
- More sophisticated algorithmic approaches exist to bias the output [CoDL: Cheng et. al 07,12; PR: Ganchev et. al. 10; Decl, UEM: Samdani et. al 12]

# Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

I left my pearls to my daughter in my will .

[I]<sub>A0</sub> left [my pearls]<sub>A1</sub> [to my daughter]<sub>A2</sub> [in my will]<sub>AM-LOC</sub> .

- **A0**            Leaver
- **A1**            Things left
- **A2**            Benefactor
- **AM-LOC**      Location

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# Algorithmic Approach

- **Identify** argument candidates
  - Pruning [Xue&Palmer, EMNLP'04]
  - Argument Identifier
    - **Binary classification**
- **Classify** argument candidates
  - Argument Classifier
    - **Multi-class classification**
- **Inference**
  - Use the estimated probability distribution given by the argument classifier
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  - Infer the optimal global output

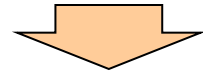
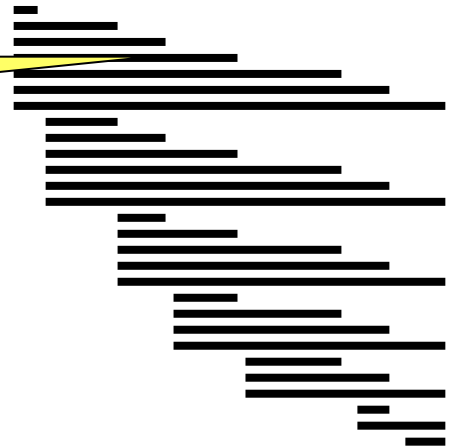


# Algorithmic Approach

candidate arguments

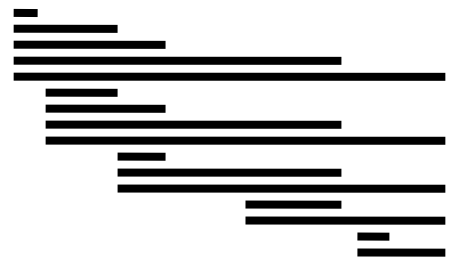
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I left my nice pearls to her



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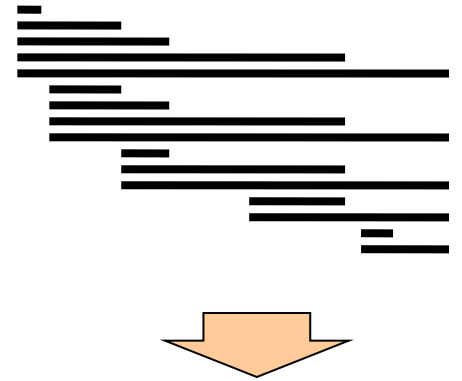
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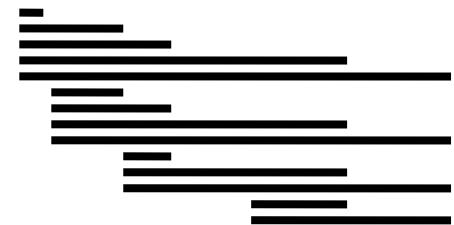
## → ■ **Inference**

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{a,t} \sum_{a,t} y^{a,t} c^{a,t} = \sum_{a,t} 1_{a=t} c_{a=t}$$

Subject to:

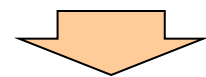
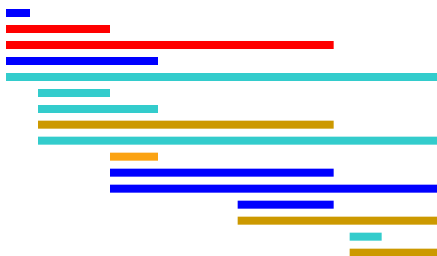
- One label per argument:  $\sum_t y^{a,t} = 1$
- No overlapping or embedding
- Relations between verbs and arguments,....

```
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[ [ [ [
] ] ]   ] ] ]
```



Variable  $y^{a,t}$  indicates whether candidate argument  $a$  is assigned a label  $t$ .  
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No duplicate argument classes  $\forall i, \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} 1_{\{y_i=y\}} = 1$

Unique labels  $\forall y \in \mathcal{Y}, \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=y\}} \leq 1$

$\forall y \in \mathcal{Y}_R, \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=y=\text{"R-Ax"}\}} \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 1_{\{y_i=\text{"Ax"}\}}$

$\forall j, y \in \mathcal{Y}_C, 1_{\{y_j=y=\text{"C-Ax"}\}} \leq \sum_{i=0}^j 1_{\{y_i=\text{"Ax"}\}}$

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Learning Based Java: allows a developer to encode constraints in First Order Logic; these are compiled into linear inequalities automatically.

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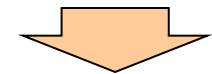
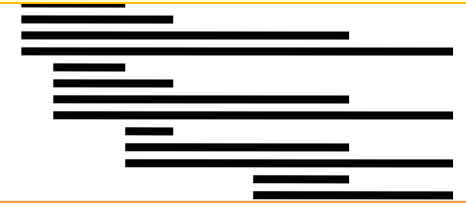
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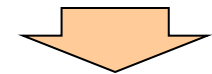
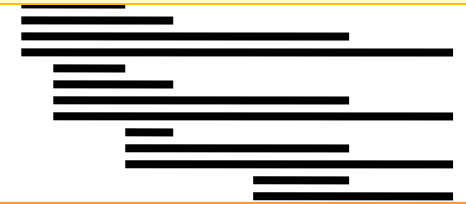
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I left my nice pearls to her

Use the **pipeline architecture's simplicity** while **maintaining uncertainty**: keep probability distributions over decisions & use global inference at decision time.

# SRL: Posing the Problem

maximize  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \lambda_{\mathbf{x}_i, y} \mathbb{1}_{\{y_i=y\}}$

where  $\lambda_{\mathbf{x}, y} = \lambda \cdot F(\mathbf{x}, y) = \lambda_y \cdot F(\mathbf{x})$

subject to

A	bomb [A1]	killer [A0]
car		
bomb		
that	bomb (Reference) [R-A1]	
exploded	V: explode	
outside	location [AM-LOC]	
the		
U.S.		
military	temporal [AM-TMP]	
base		
in	location [AM-LOC]	
Benji		
killed		V: kill
11		corpse [A1]
Iraqi		
citizens		

Demo:

<http://cogcomp.cs.illinois.edu/>

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If there is an Reference-Ax phrase,  
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If there is an Continuation-x  
phrase, there is an Ax before it

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In this case,  
independent learners

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- **Verb Predicate: sleep**

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  - [EMNLP, '11]
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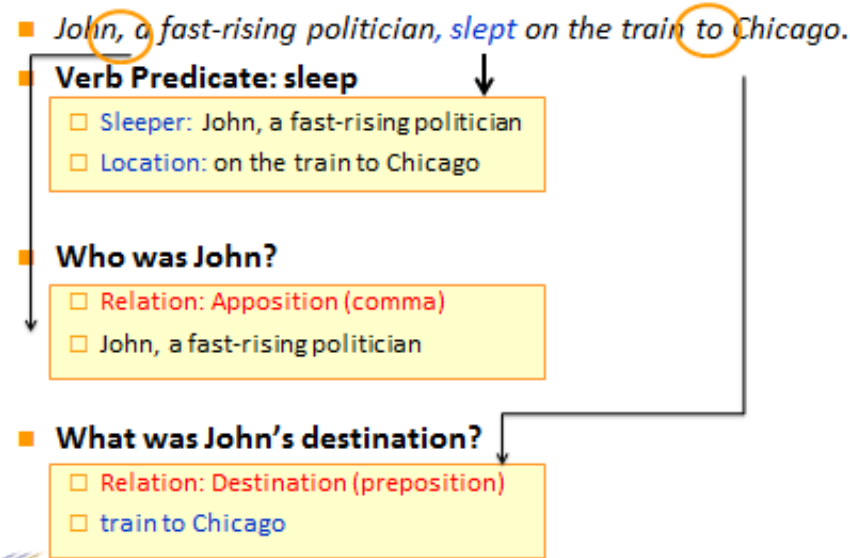
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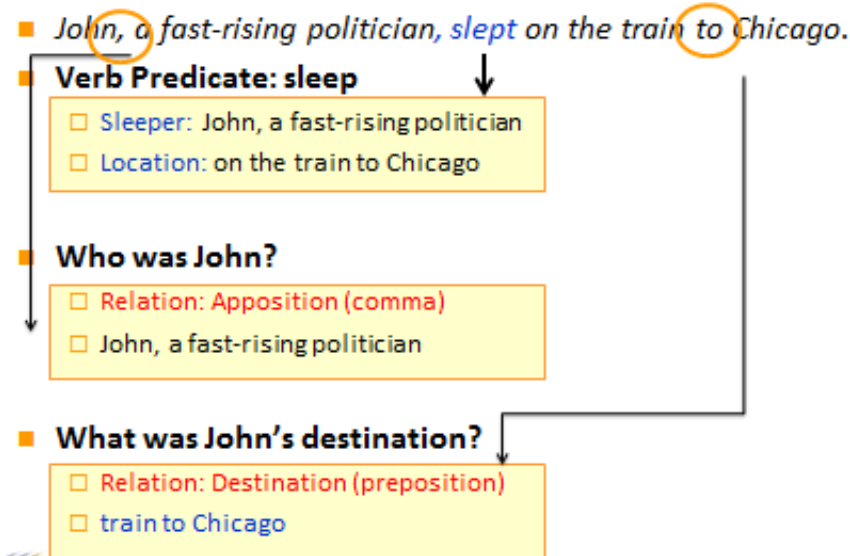
Input &  
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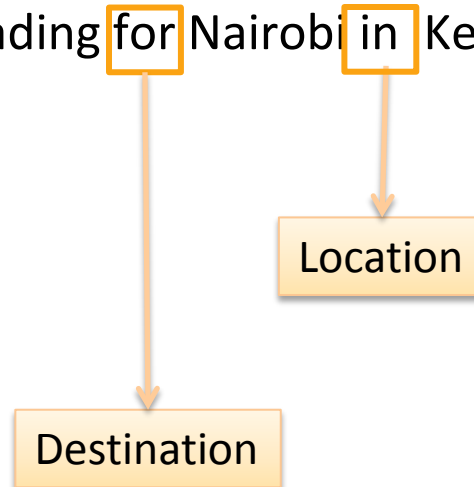
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# Extended Semantic Role labeling I

[EMNLP'12, TACL'13]

Verb Predicates, Noun predicates, prepositions, each dictates some relations, which have to cohere.

The bus was heading for Nairobi in Kenya.

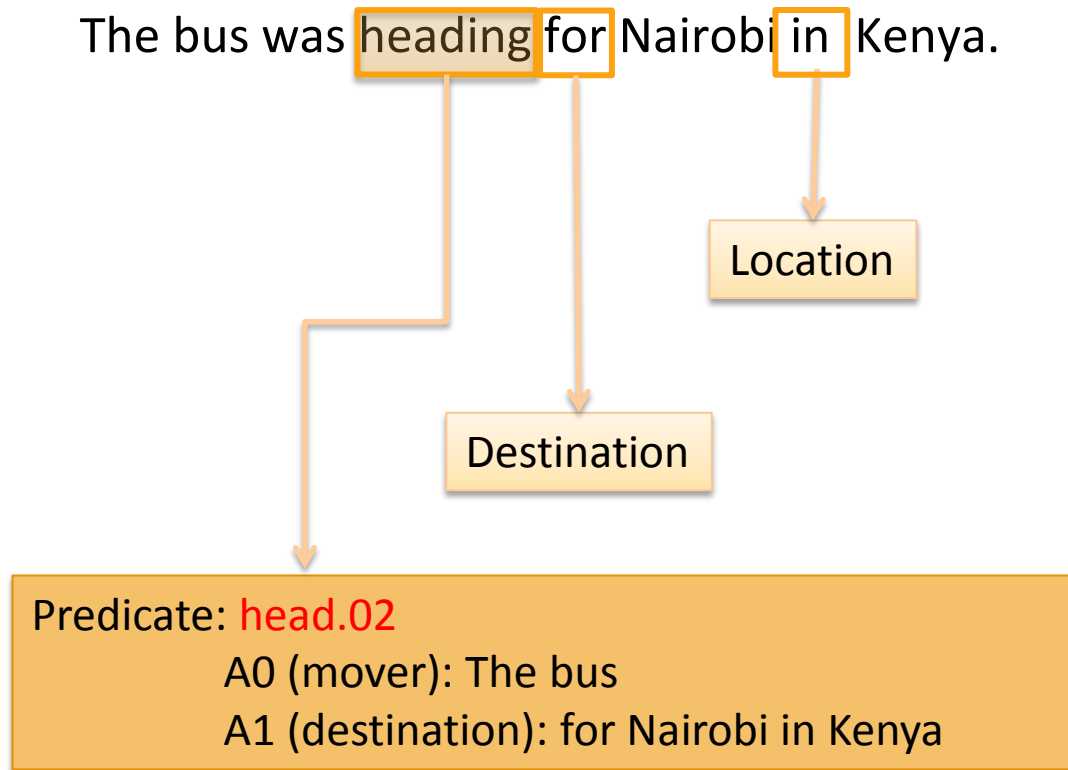


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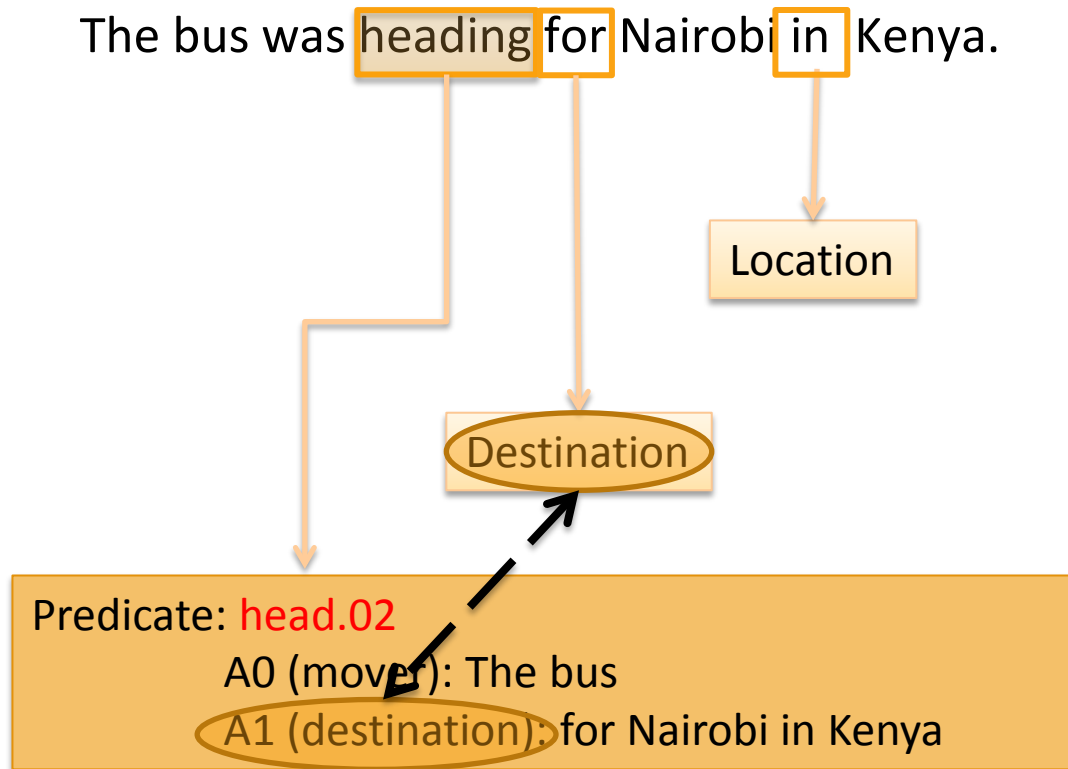


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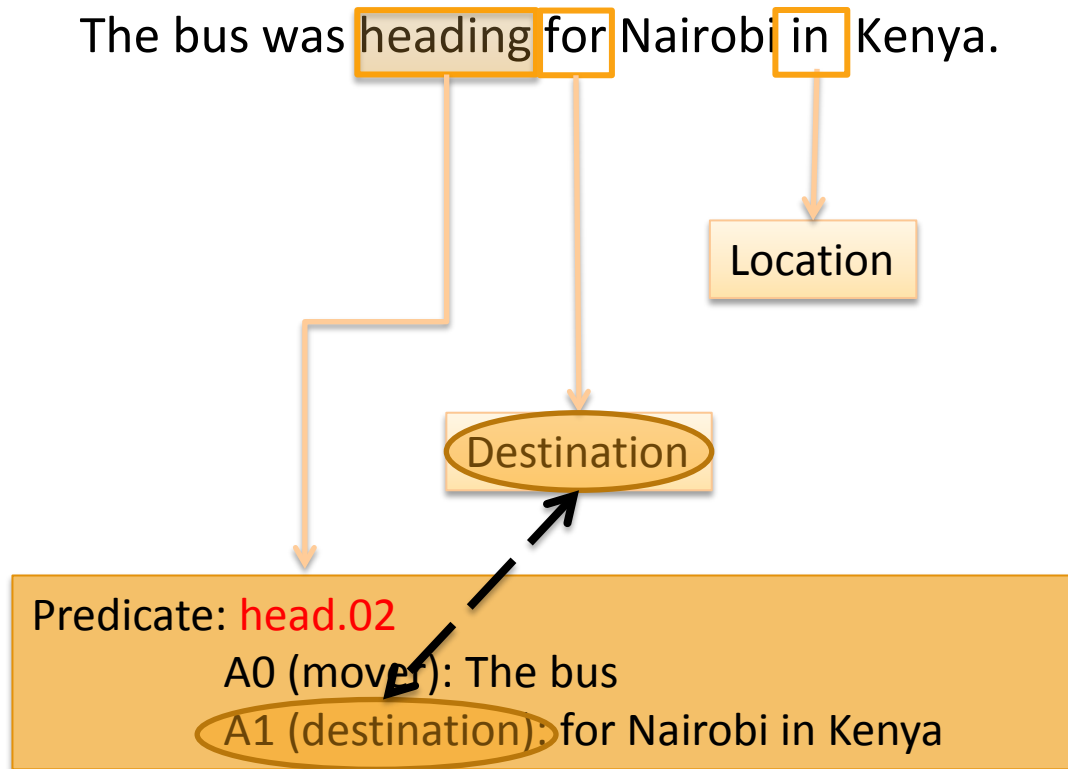
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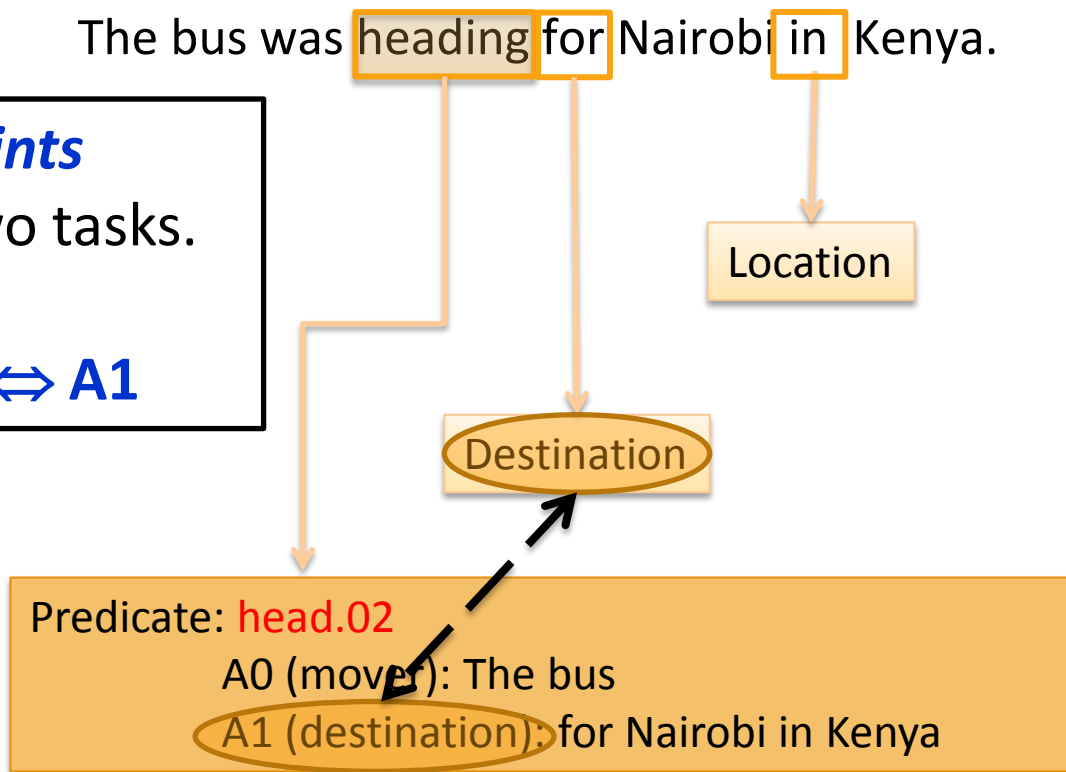
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**Joint constraints**

linking the two tasks.

**Destination**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **A1**



# Joint inference (CCMs)

Verb arguments

$$\max_{\mathbf{y}} \sum_t \sum_a y^{a,t} c^{a,t}$$



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Each argument label

Argument candidates

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Verb SRL constraints

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Preposition relation label

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Verb arguments

Preposition relations

$$\max_{\mathbf{y}} \sum_t \lambda^t \sum_a y^{a,t} c^{a,t} + \sum_r \lambda^r \sum_p y^{r,p} c^{r,p}$$

## Constraints:

Verb SRL constraints

Preposition SRL Constraints

## Joint inference (CCMs)

Variable  $y^{a,t}$  indicates whether candidate argument  $a$  is assigned a label  $t$ .  
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## ESRL II: Predicate-Argument Structure of Prepositions

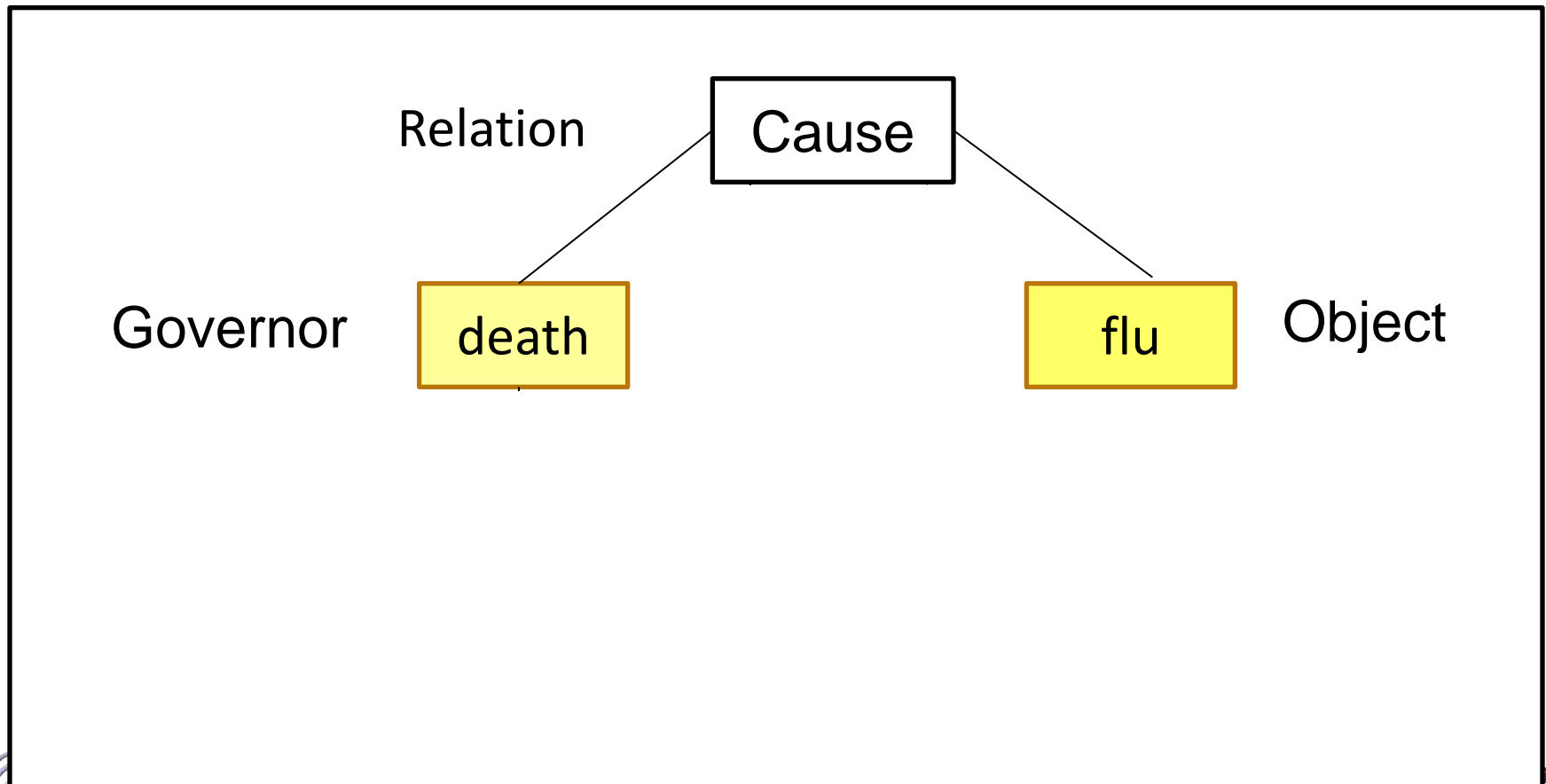
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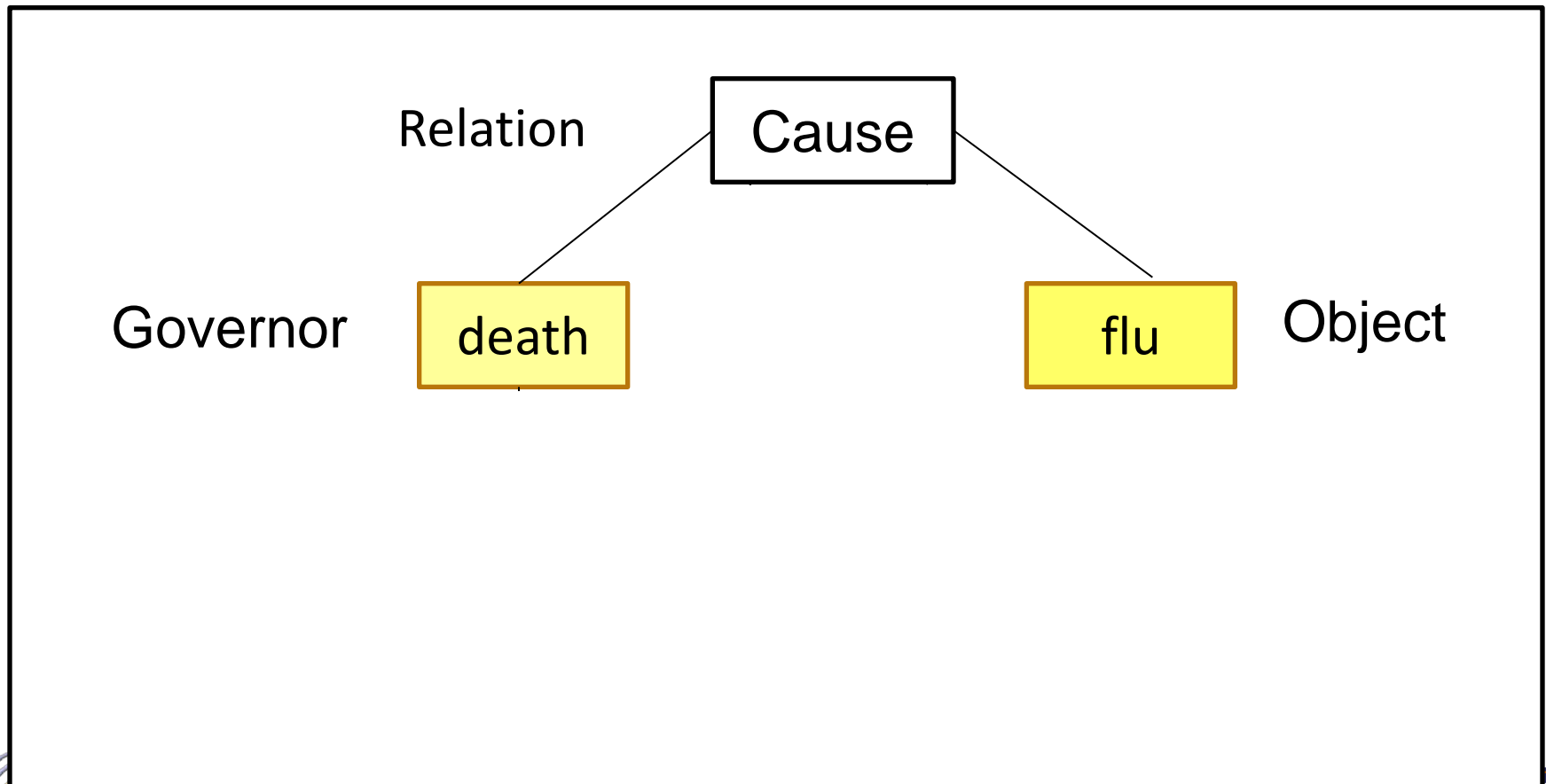
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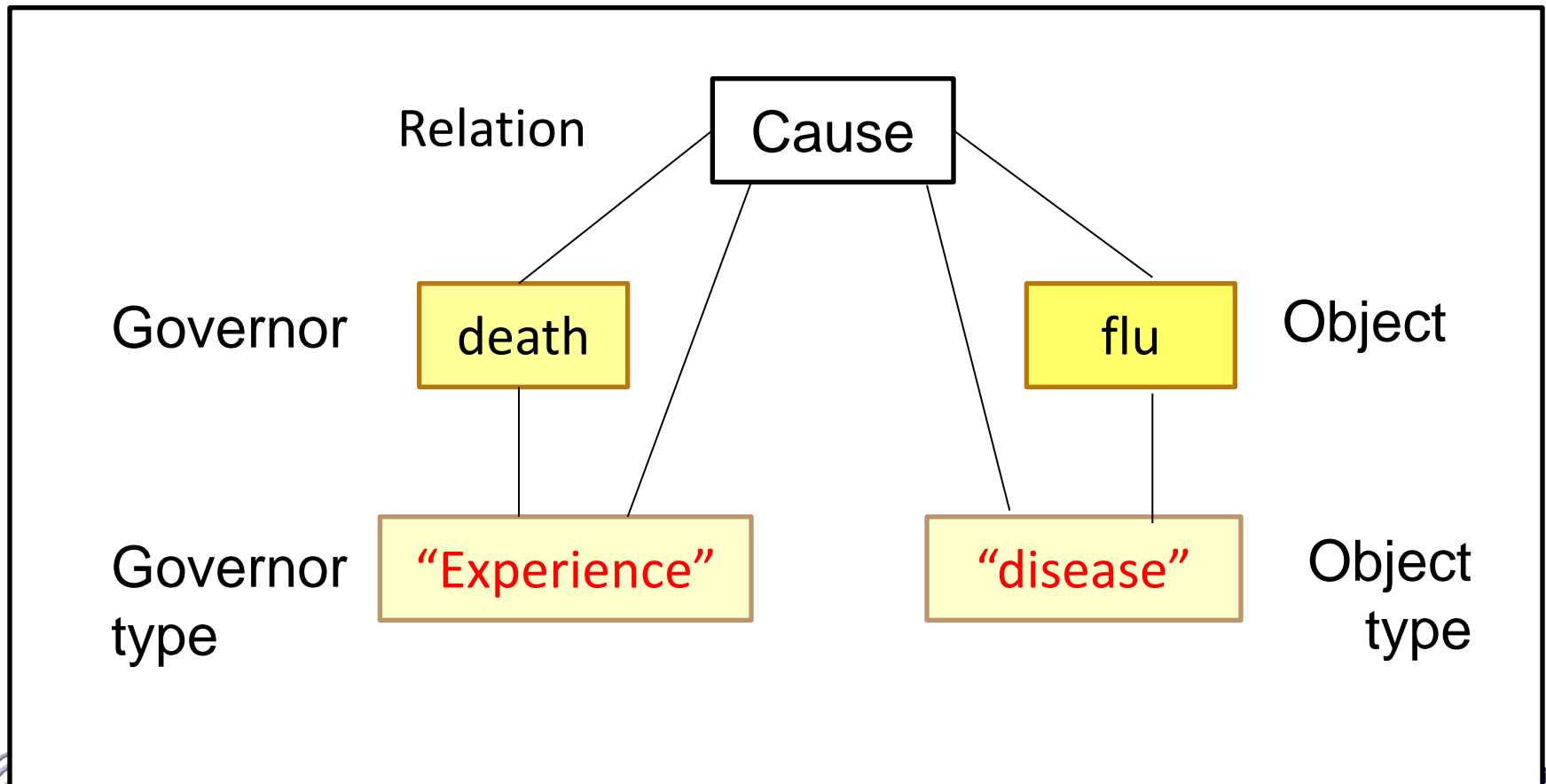
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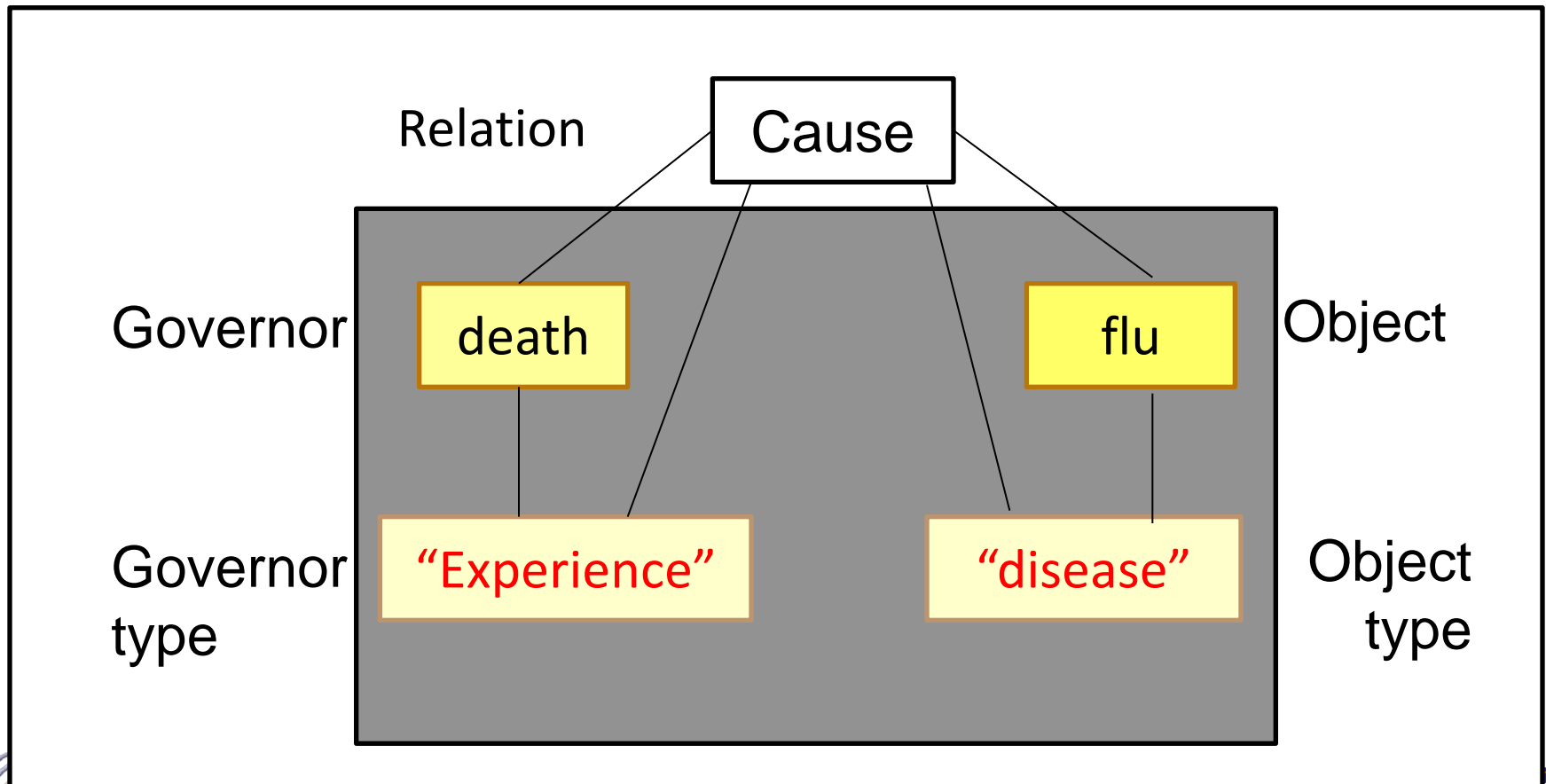
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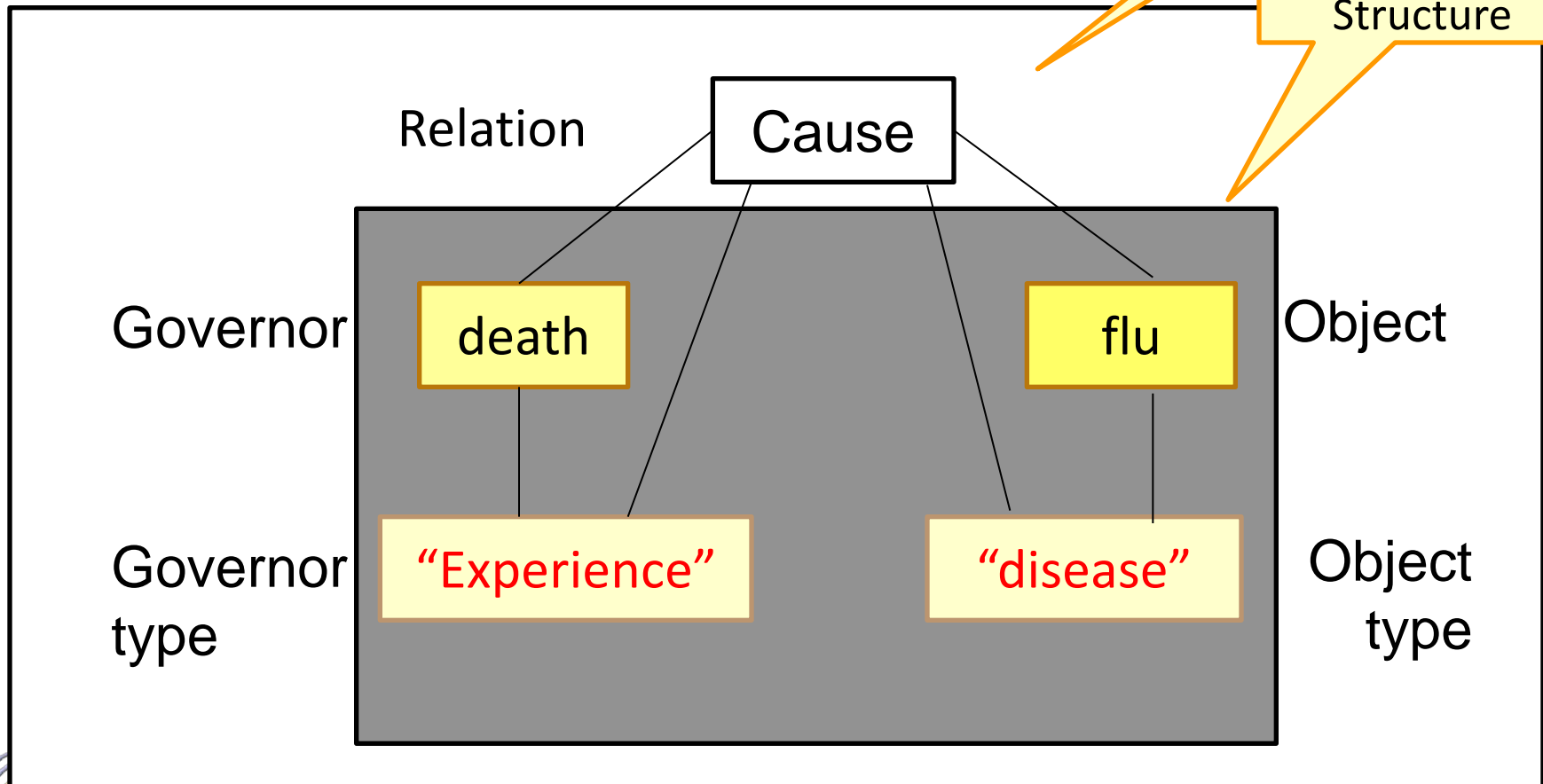
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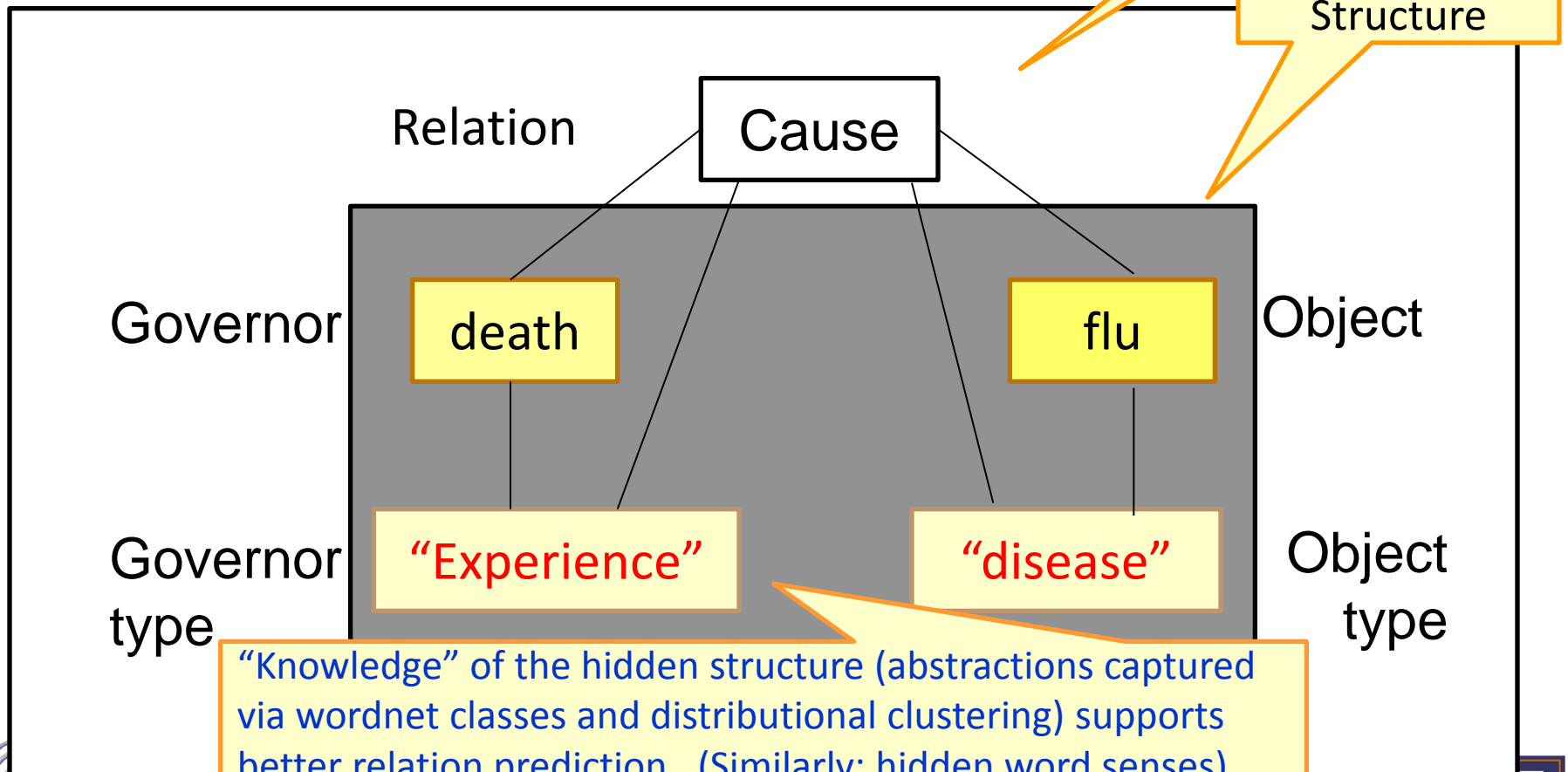
Latent Structure



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“Knowledge” of the hidden structure (abstractions captured via wordnet classes and distributional clustering) supports better relation prediction. (Similarly: hidden word senses)  
Inference relating latent and observed variables is a CCM



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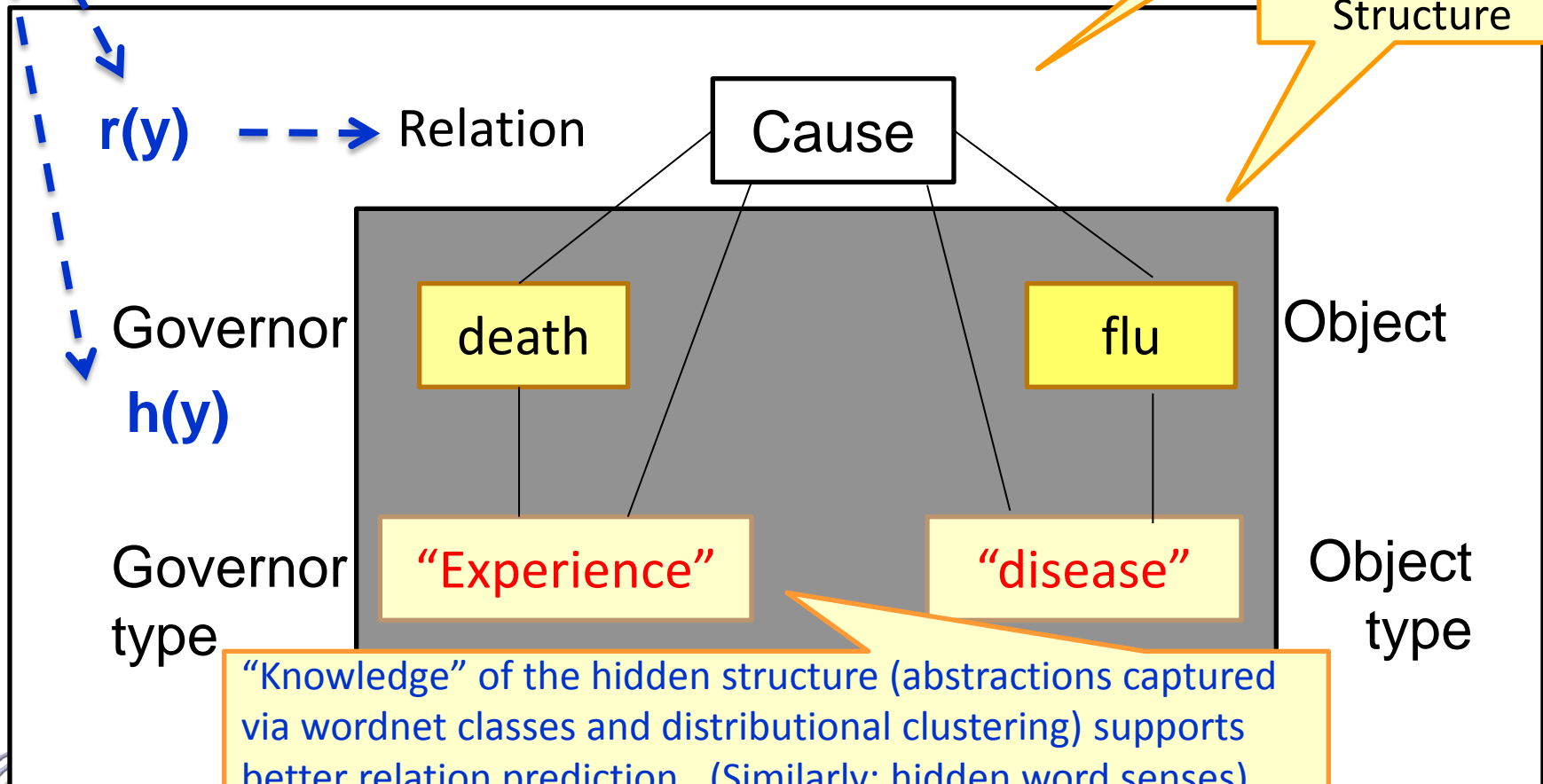
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# Learning with Latent Inference

- Given an example annotated with  $r(y^*)$ , predict with:

$$\operatorname{argmax}_y w^T \phi(x, [r(y), h(y)])$$

$$\text{s.t } r(y^*) = r(y)$$

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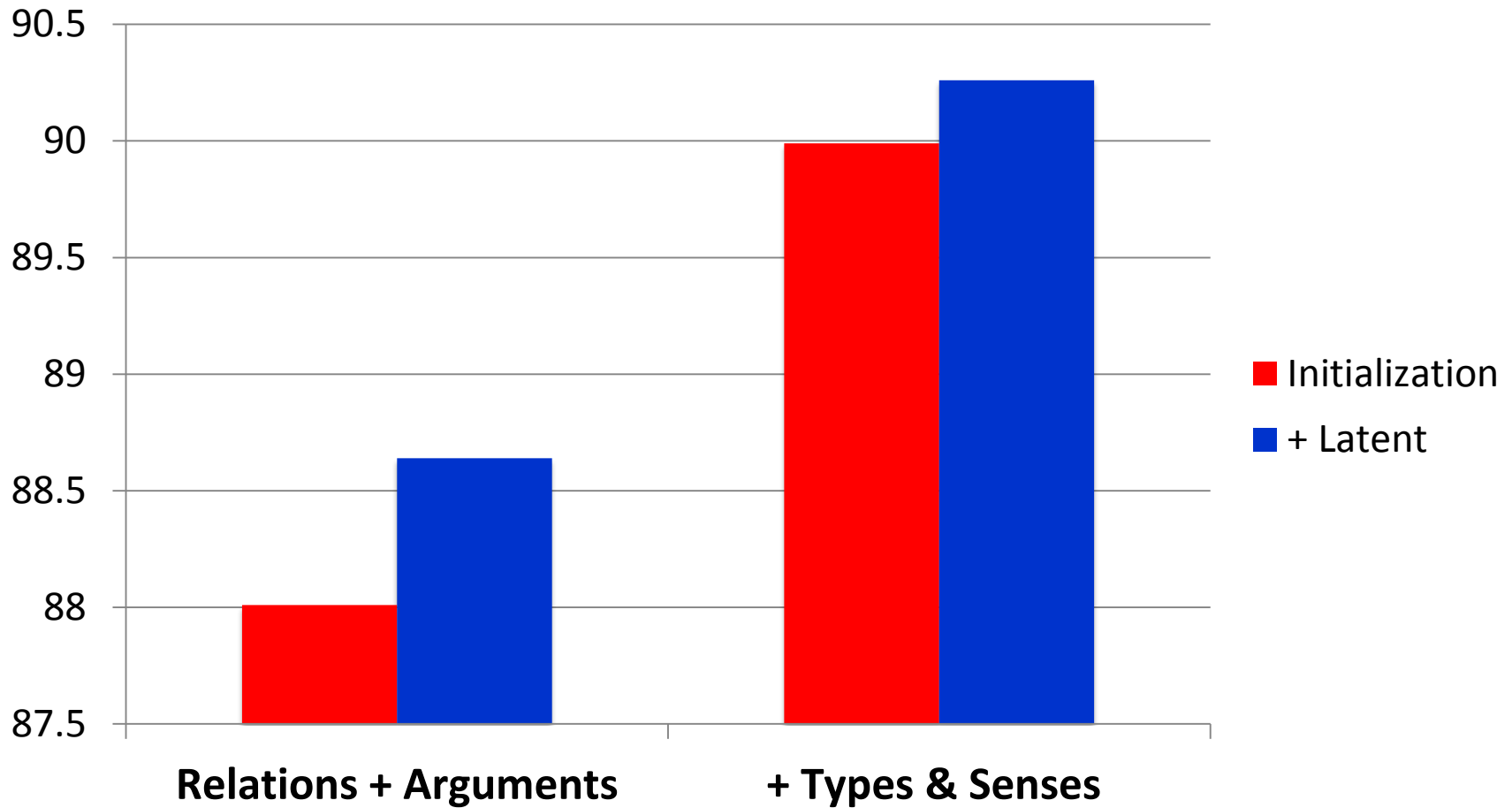
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- That is: “complete the hidden structure” in the best possible

Generalization of Latent Structure SVM [Yu & Joachims '09] &  
Indirect Supervision learning [Chang et. al. '10]

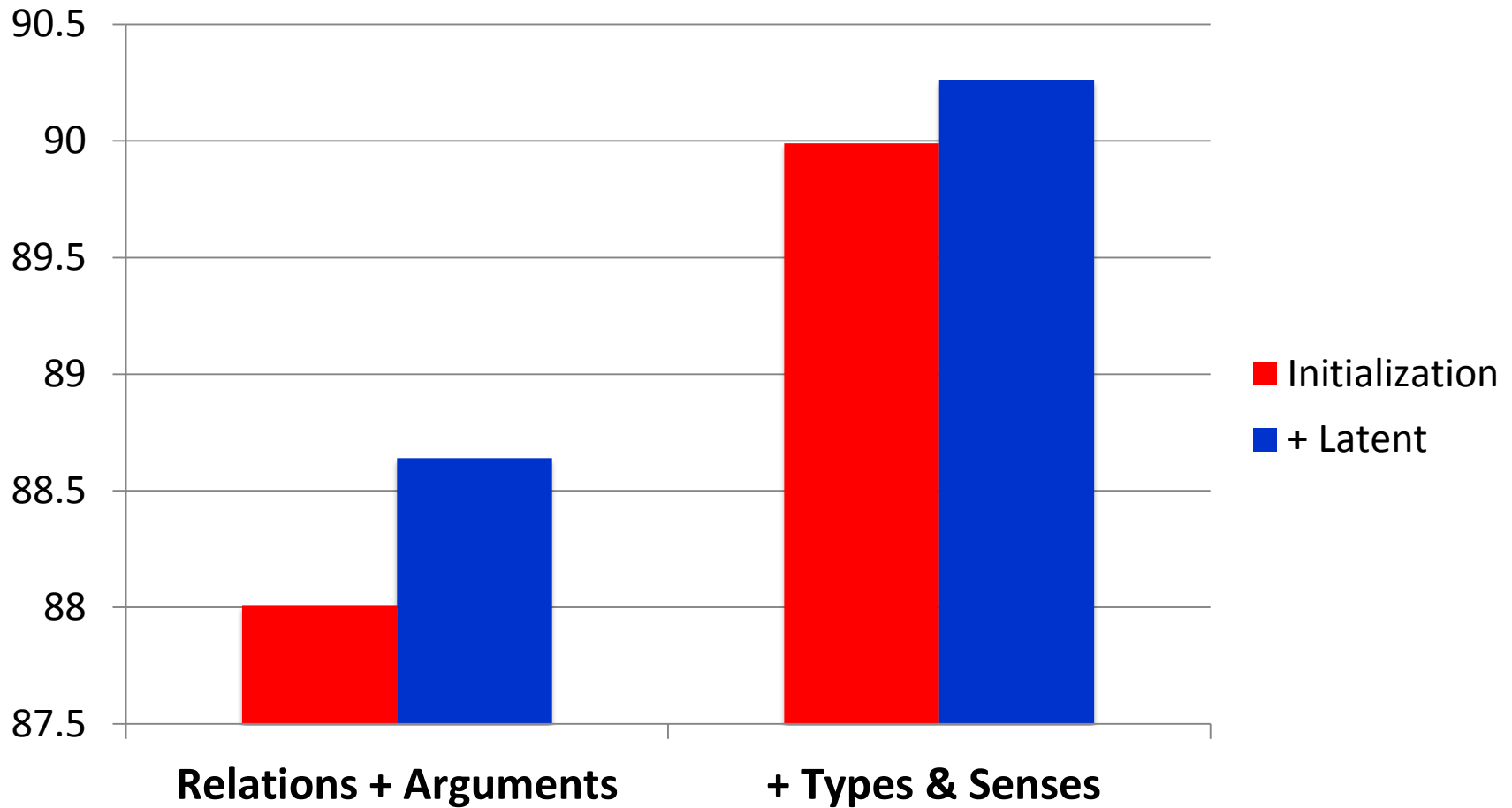
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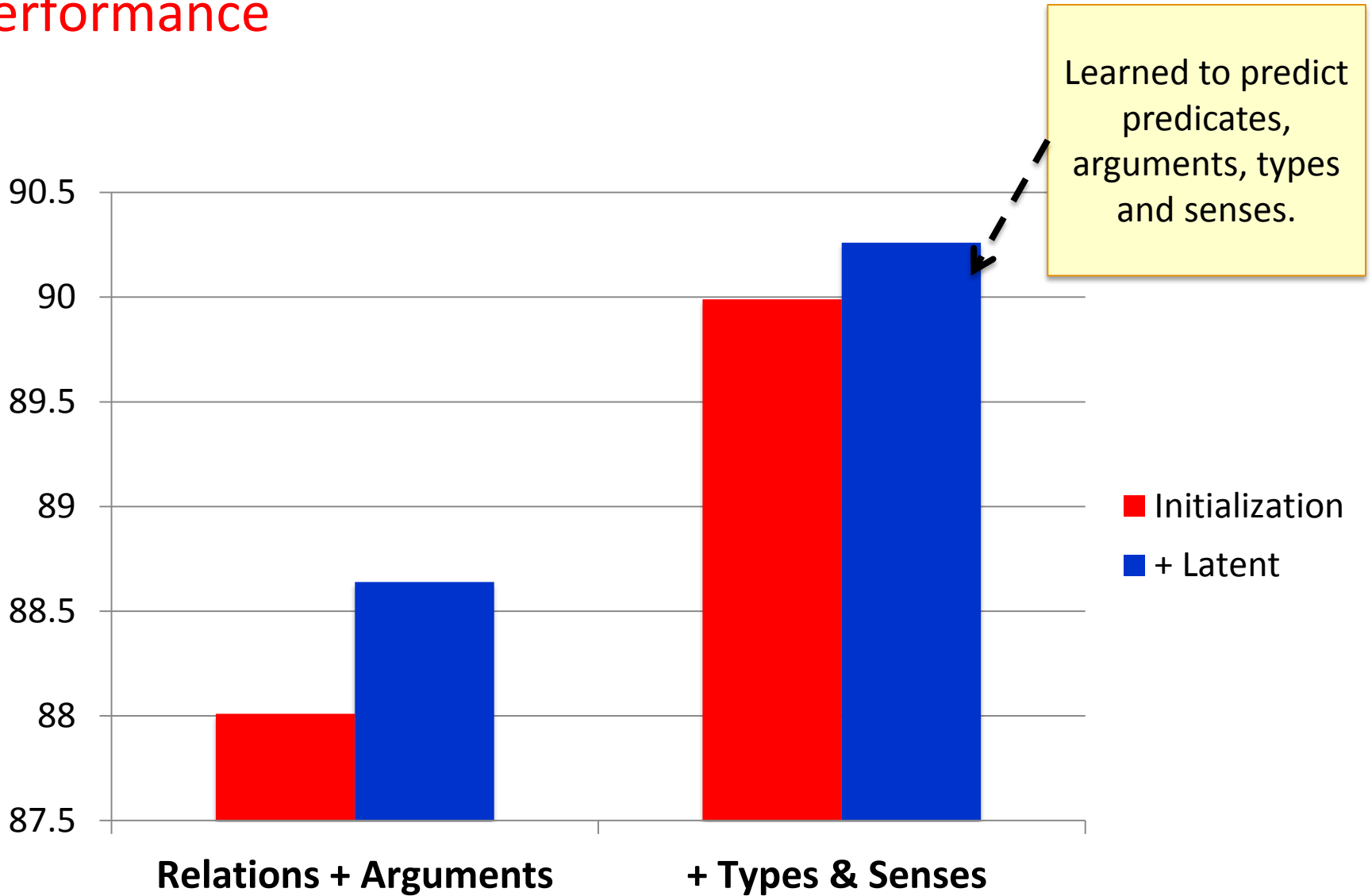




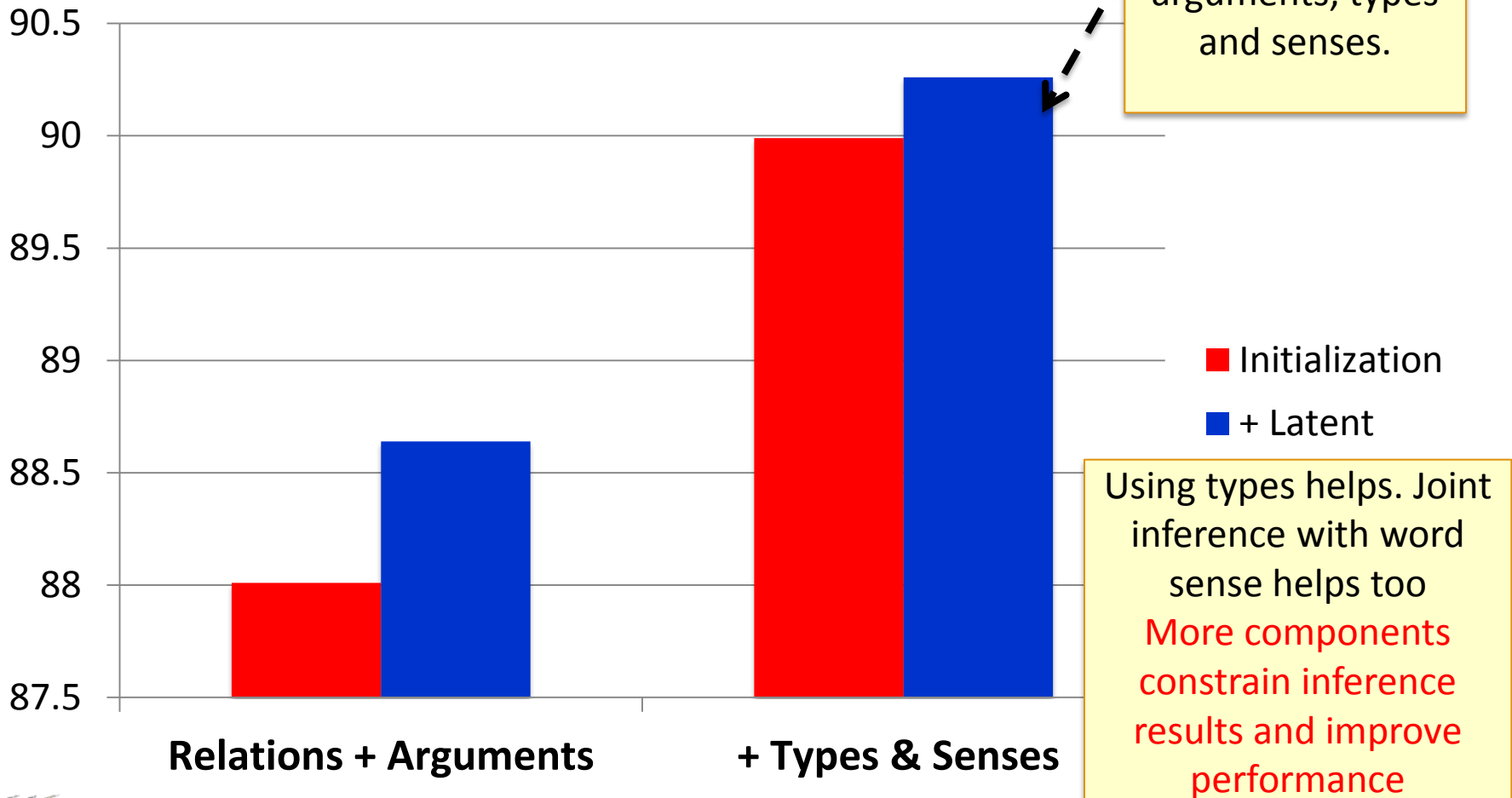
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# Extended SRL [Demo]

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The	<b>leader [A0]</b>			
bus				
was				
heading	<b>V: head</b>		<b>Governor</b>	<b>Governor</b>
to			<b>Destination</b>	
Nairobi	<b>Destination [A1]</b>		<b>Object</b>	
in				<b>Location</b>
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Models trained with latent structure: senses, types, arguments

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Models trained with latent structure: senses, types, arguments

- More to do with other relations, discourse phenomena,...

# Constrained Conditional Models—ILP Formulations

- **Have been shown useful in the context of many NLP problems**
- [Roth&Yih, 04,07: Entities and Relations; Punyakanok et. al: SRL ...]
  - Summarization; Co-reference; Information & Relation Extraction; Event Identifications and causality ; Transliteration; Textual Entailment; Knowledge Acquisition; Sentiments; Temporal Reasoning, Parsing,...
- Some theoretical work on training paradigms [Punyakanok et. al., 05 more; Constraints Driven Learning, PR, Constrained EM...]
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- Good summary and description of training paradigms: [Chang, Ratnov & Roth, Machine Learning Journal 2012]
- **Summary of work & a bibliography: <http://L2R.cs.uiuc.edu/tutorials.html>**



# Outline

- Constrained Conditional Models
  - A formulation for global inference with knowledge modeled as expressive structural constraints
  - Some examples
- Learning with Constrained Latent Representation
- ➔ Constraints Driven Learning
  - Training Paradigms for Constrained Conditional Models
  - Constraints Driven Learning (CoDL)
  - Unified (Constrained) Expectation Maximization
- Amortized Integer Linear Programming Inference
  - Exploiting Previous Inference Results
    - **In Inference and in Structured Learning**

# Constrained Conditional Models (aka ILP Inference)

$$\operatorname{argmax}_y \lambda \cdot F(x, y) - \sum_{i=1}^K \rho_i d(y, 1_{C_i(x)})$$

Weight Vector for  
“local” models

Features, classifiers; log-linear models (HMM, CRF) or a combination

Penalty for violating  
the constraint.

(Soft) constraints  
component

How far  $y$  is from  
a “legal” assignment

## How to solve?

This is an Integer Linear Program

Solving using ILP packages gives an exact solution.

Cutting Planes, Dual Decomposition & other search techniques are possible

## How to train?

**Training** is learning the objective function

Decouple? Decompose?

How to exploit the structure to minimize supervision?



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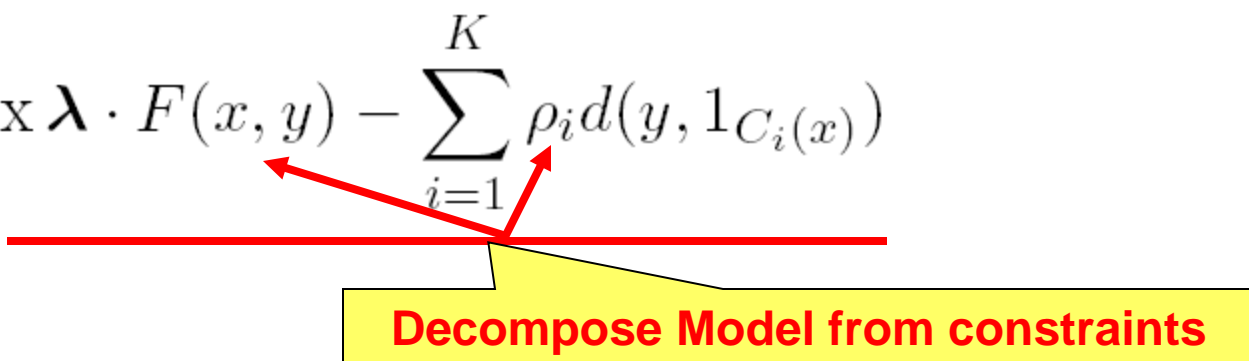
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## Information extraction without **Prior Knowledge**

Lars Ole Andersen . Program analysis and specialization for the C Programming language. PhD thesis. DIKU , University of Copenhagen, May 1994 .

### Prediction result of a trained HMM

[AUTHOR]

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Violates lots of **natural** constraints!

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## ■ (Pure) Machine Learning Approaches

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## ■ Other options?

- Constrain the output to **make sense**
- Push the (simple) model in a direction that **makes sense**

## Examples of Constraints

- Each field must be a **consecutive list of words and** can appear at most **once** in a citation.
- State transitions must occur on **punctuation marks**.
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Easy to express pieces of “knowledge”

Non Propositional; May use Quantifiers

# Information Extraction with “Expectation” Constraints

- Adding constraints, we get **correct** results!
  - **Without changing the model**

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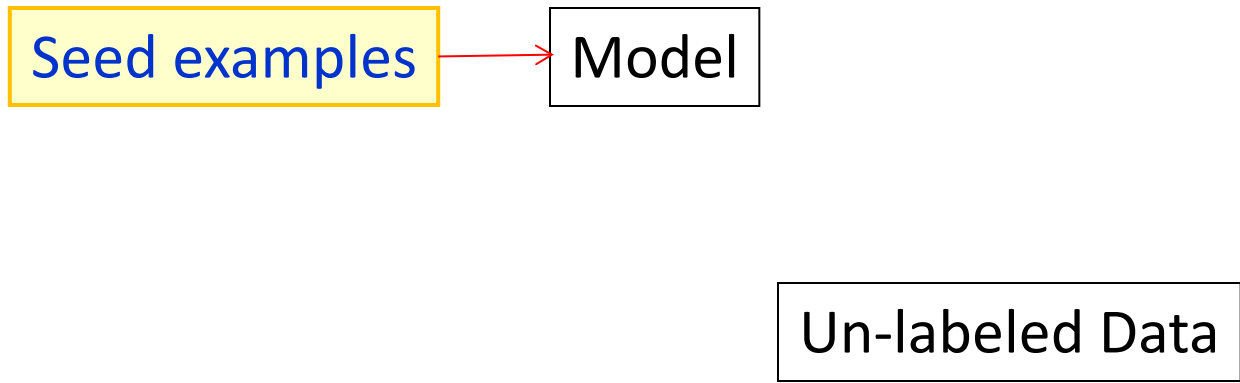
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## Constrained Conditional Models Allow:

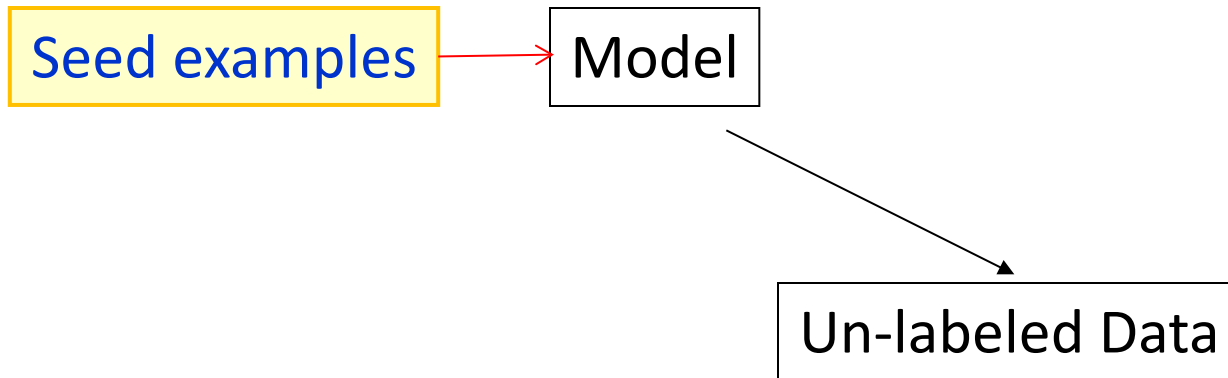
- Learning a simple model
- Make decisions with a more complex model
- Accomplished by directly incorporating constraints to bias/re-rank decisions made by the simpler model

# Guiding (Semi-Supervised) Learning with Constraints

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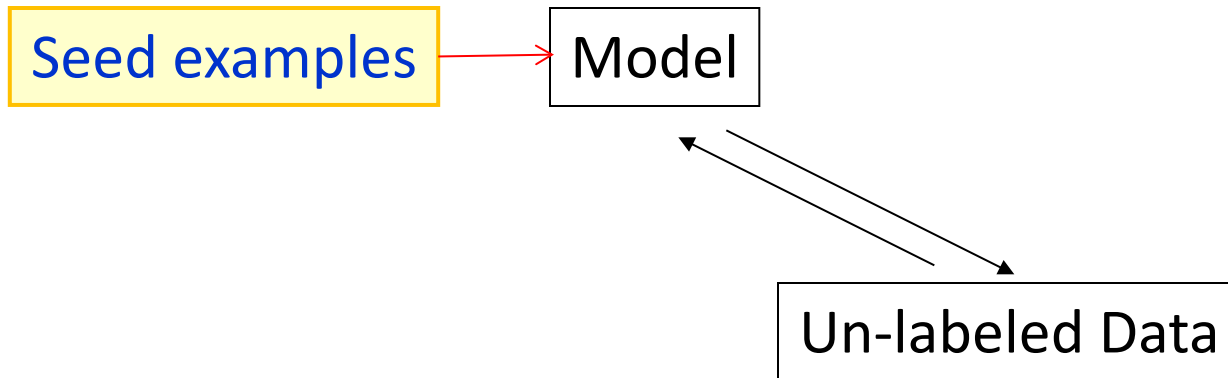


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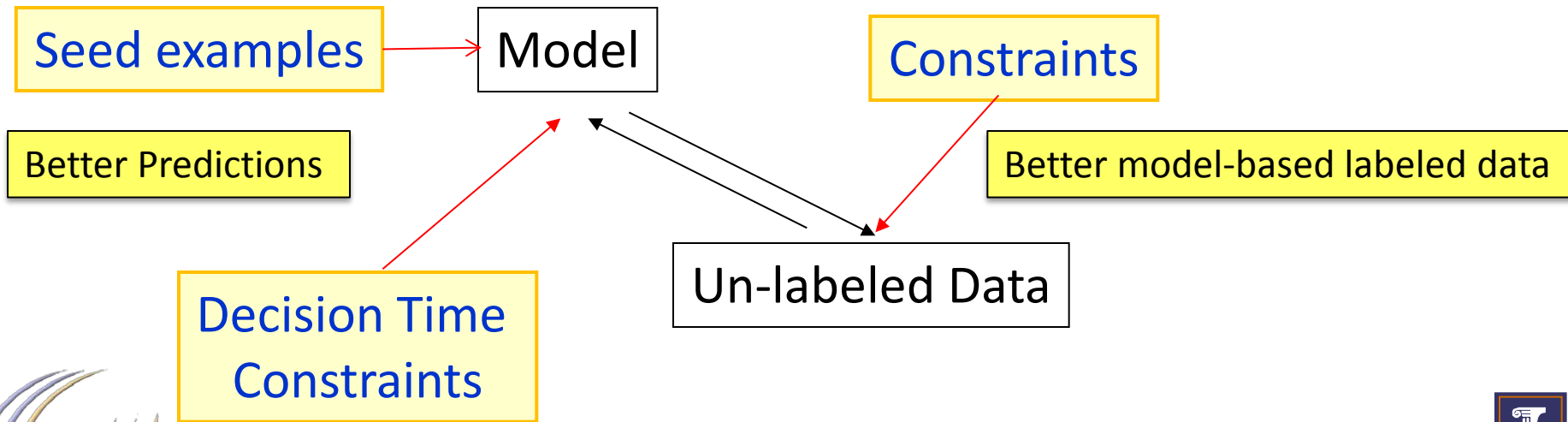
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# Guiding (Semi-Supervised) Learning with Constraints

- In traditional Semi-Supervised learning the model can drift away from the correct one.
- Constraints can be used to **generate better training data**
  - At **training** to improve labeling of un-labeled data (and thus improve the model)
  - At **decision time**, to bias the objective function towards favoring constraint satisfaction.



# Constraints Driven Learning (CoDL)

[Chang, Ratnov, Roth, ACL'07; ICML'08, MLJ'12]

See also: Ganchev et. al. 10 (PR)

$(w, \rho) = \text{learn}(L)$

For N iterations do

$T = \phi$

For each  $x$  in **unlabeled dataset**

$h \leftarrow \text{argmax}_y w^T \phi(x, y) - \sum \rho d_C(x, y)$

$T = T \cup \{(x, h)\}$

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**Inference with constraints:** augment the training set

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**Supervised learning algorithm parameterized by  $(w, \rho)$ .** Learning can be justified as an optimization procedure for an objective function

**Inference with constraints:** augment the training set

**Learn from new training data**  
Weigh supervised & unsupervised models.

# Constraints Driven Learning (CoDL)

Archetypical Semi/un-supervised learning: **A constrained EM**

[Chang, Ratnov, Roth, ACL'07; ICML'08, MLJ'12]  
See also: Ganchev et. al. 10 (PR)

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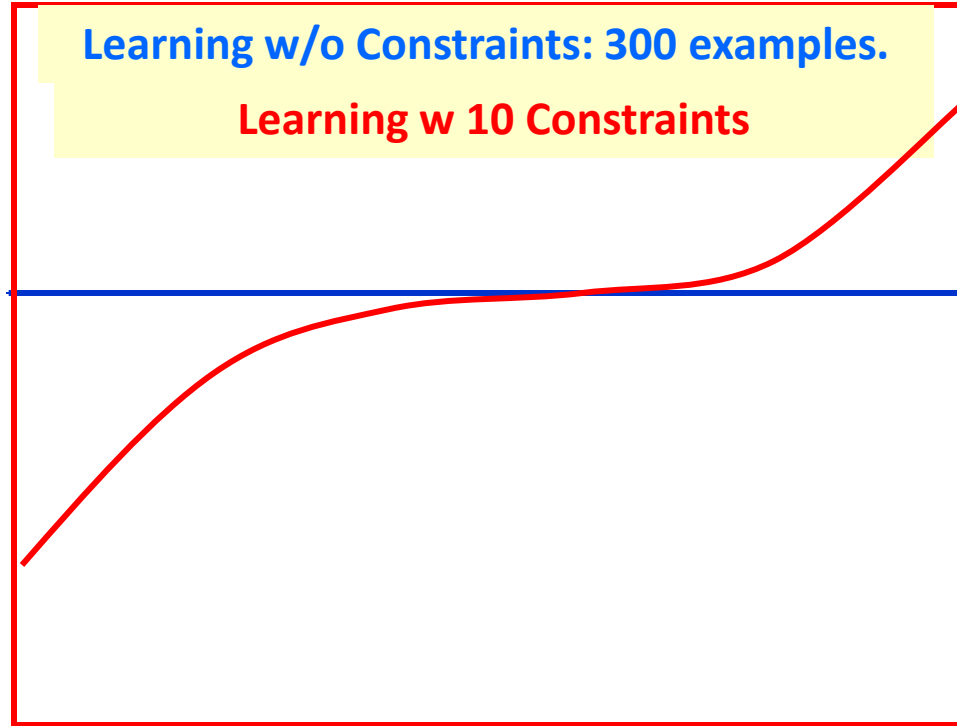
**Excellent Experimental Results** showing the advantages of using constraints, especially with small amounts of labeled data [Chang et. al, Others]

# Value of Constraints in Semi-Supervised Learning

Objective function:

Learning w/o Constraints: 300 examples.

Learning w 10 Constraints



# of available labeled examples

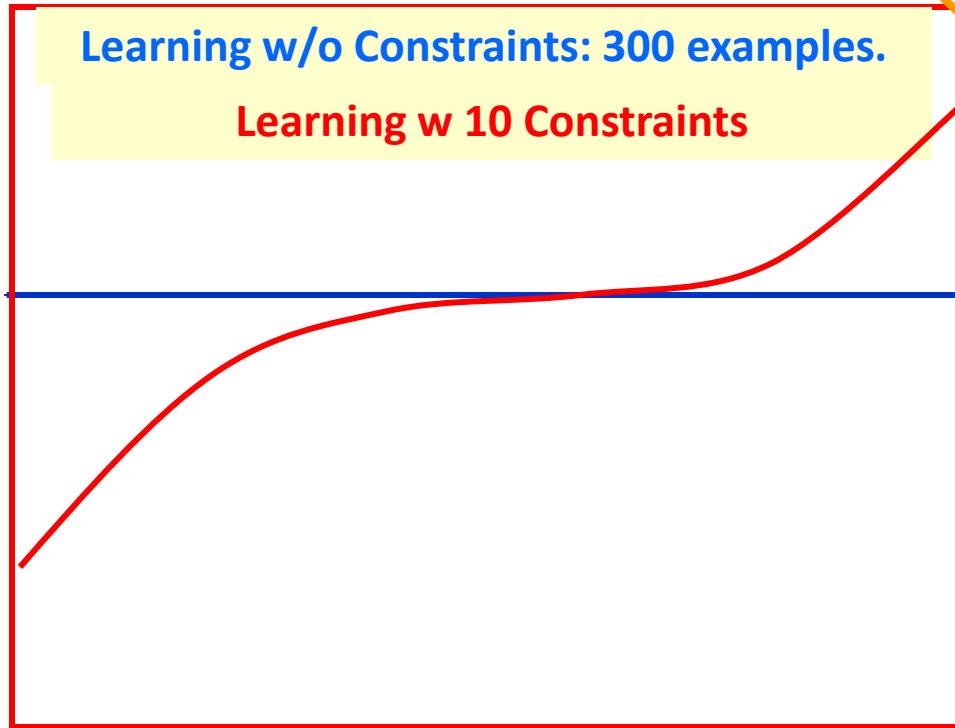
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Constraints are used to Bootstrap a semi-supervised learner  
Poor model + constraints used to annotate unlabeled data, which in turn is used to keep training the model.

# of available labeled examples

# CoDL as Constrained Hard EM

- Hard EM is a popular variant of EM
- While EM estimates a distribution over all  $\mathbf{y}$  variables in the E-step,
- ... Hard EM predicts the best output in the E-step

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- This is the **Posterior Regularization** model [PR; Ganchev et al, 10]

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- Similar issues exist in the constrained case: [CoDL vs. PR](#)
- **Unified EM (UEM)** [Samdani et. al., NAACL-12]
  - Provides a **continuum of algorithms** – from EM to hard EM, and infinitely many new EM algorithms in between.
  - Implementation wise, not more complicated than EM



## Unifying Existing EM Algorithms

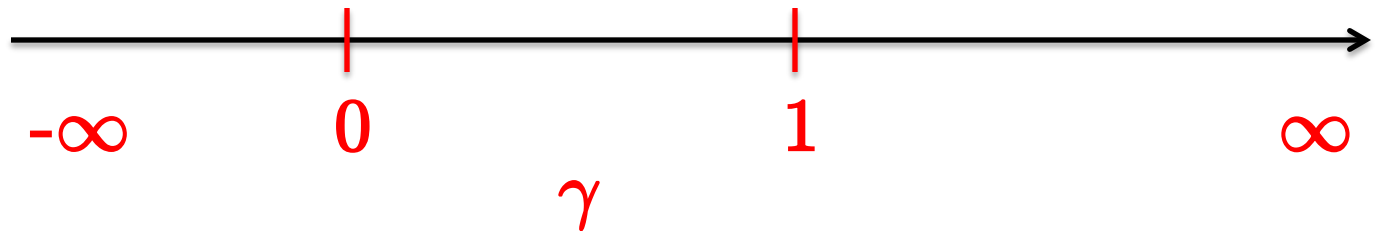
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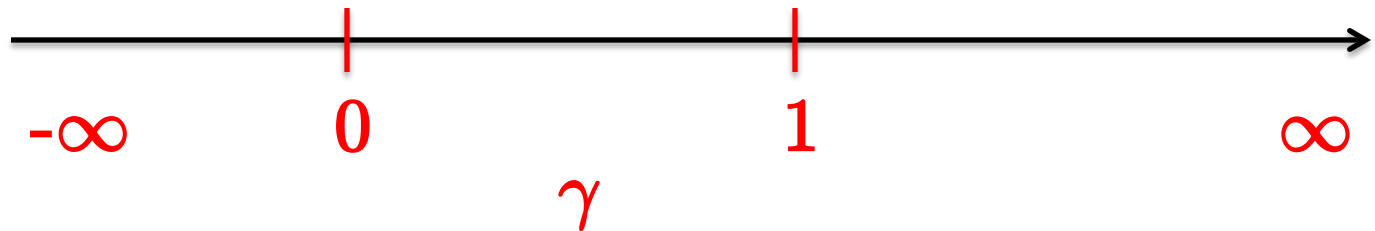


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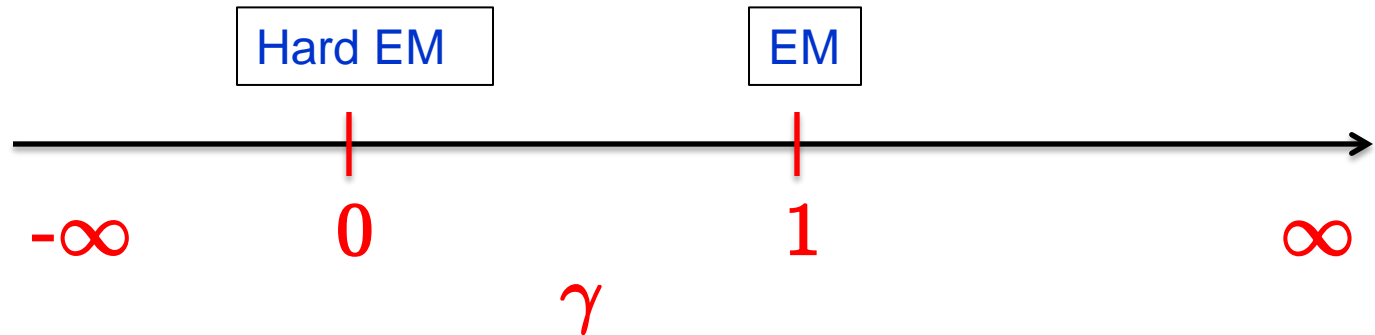


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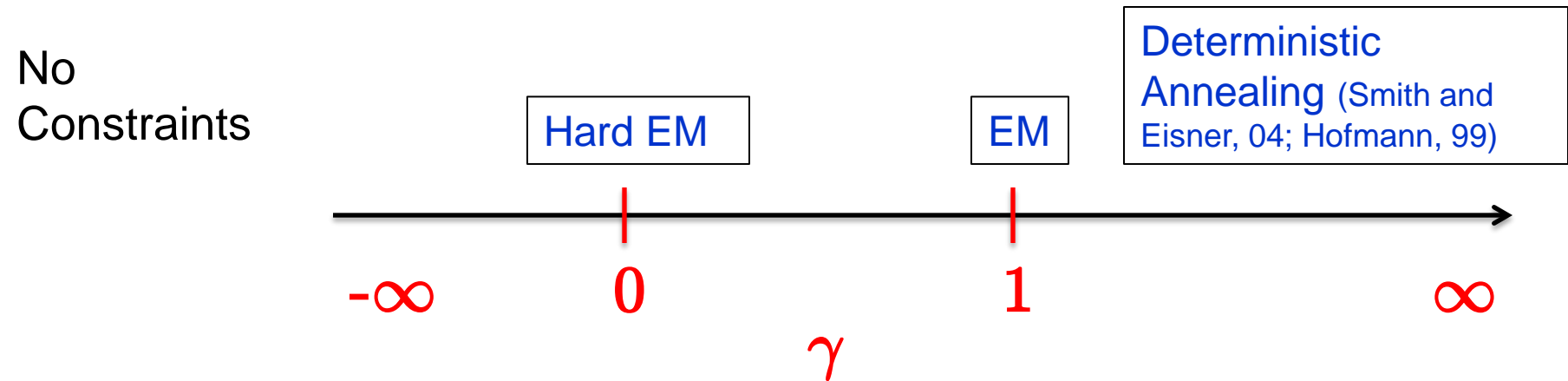
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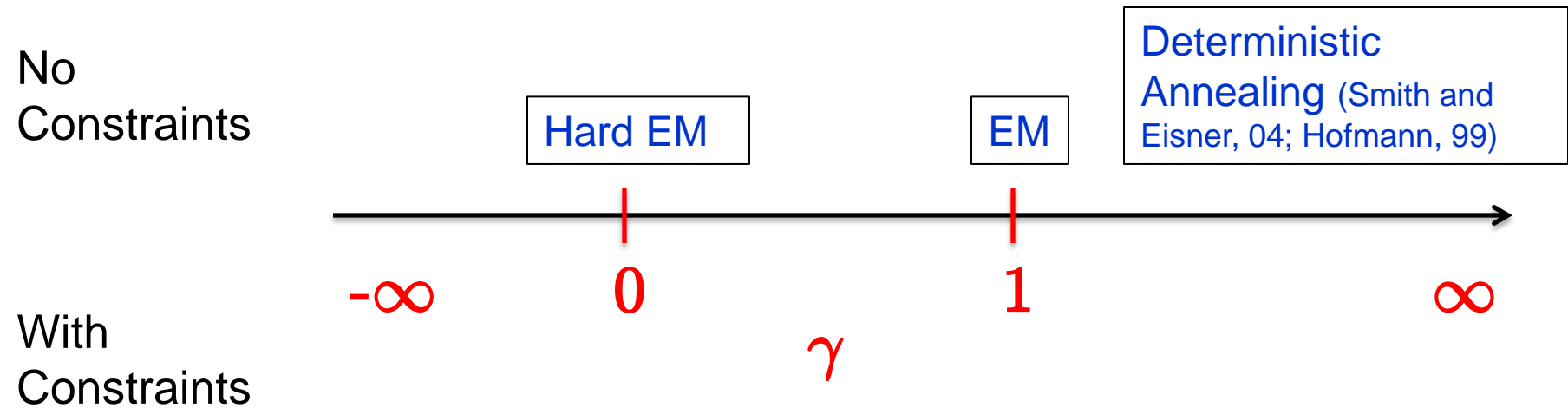
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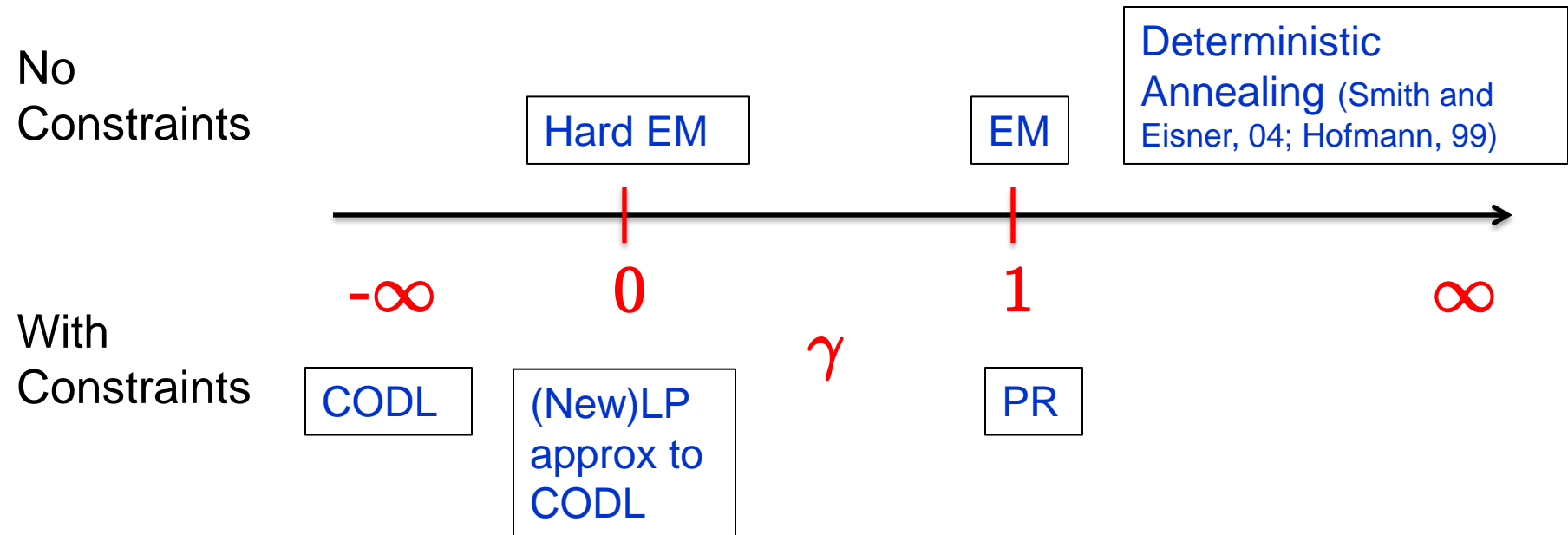
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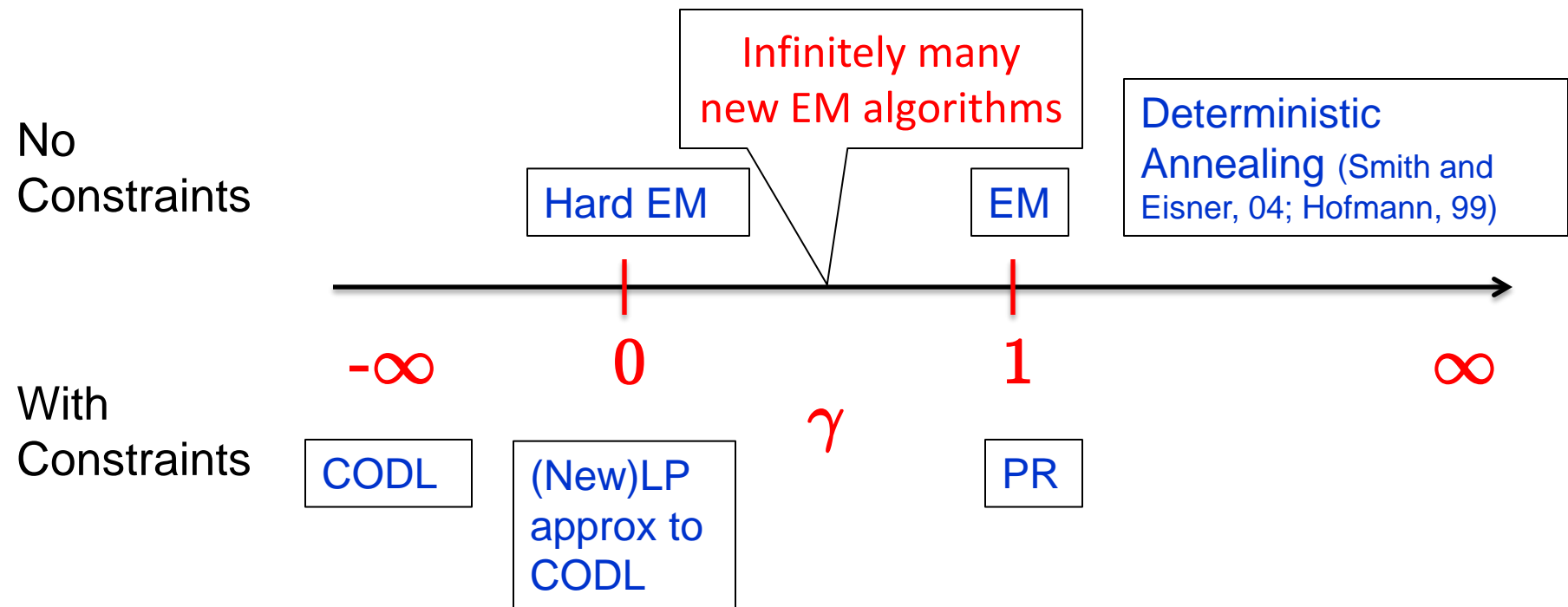
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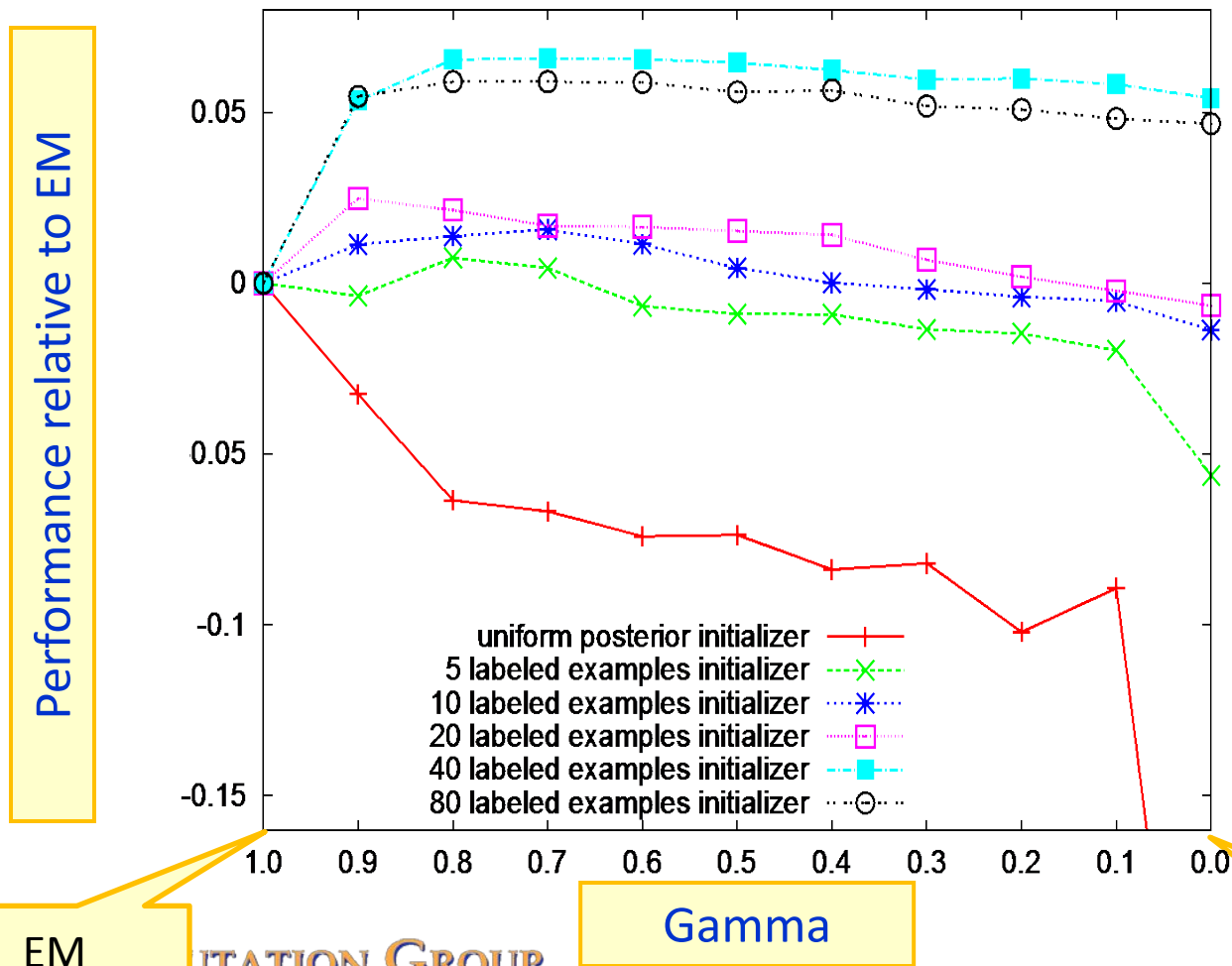
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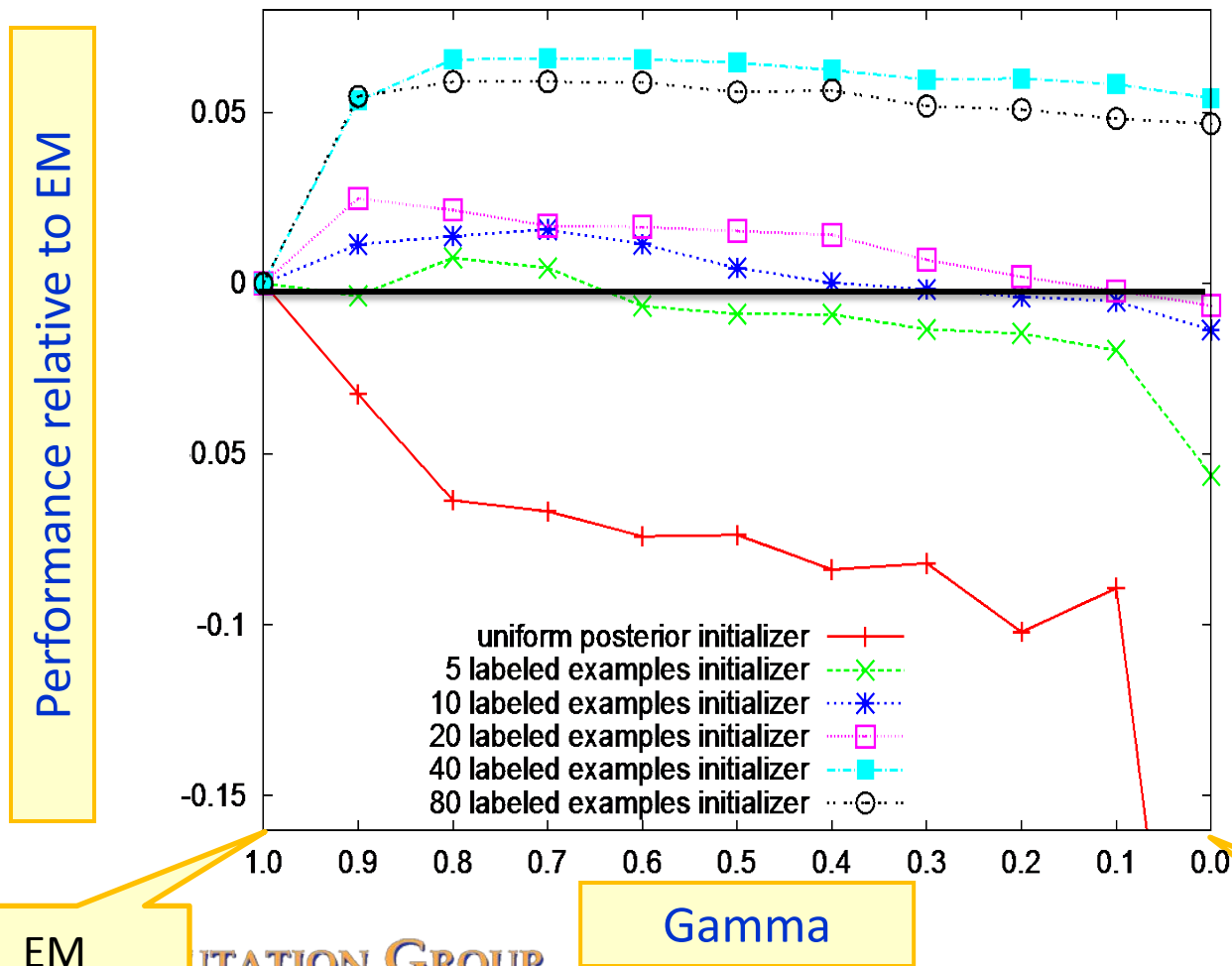
# Unsupervised POS tagging: Different EM instantiations

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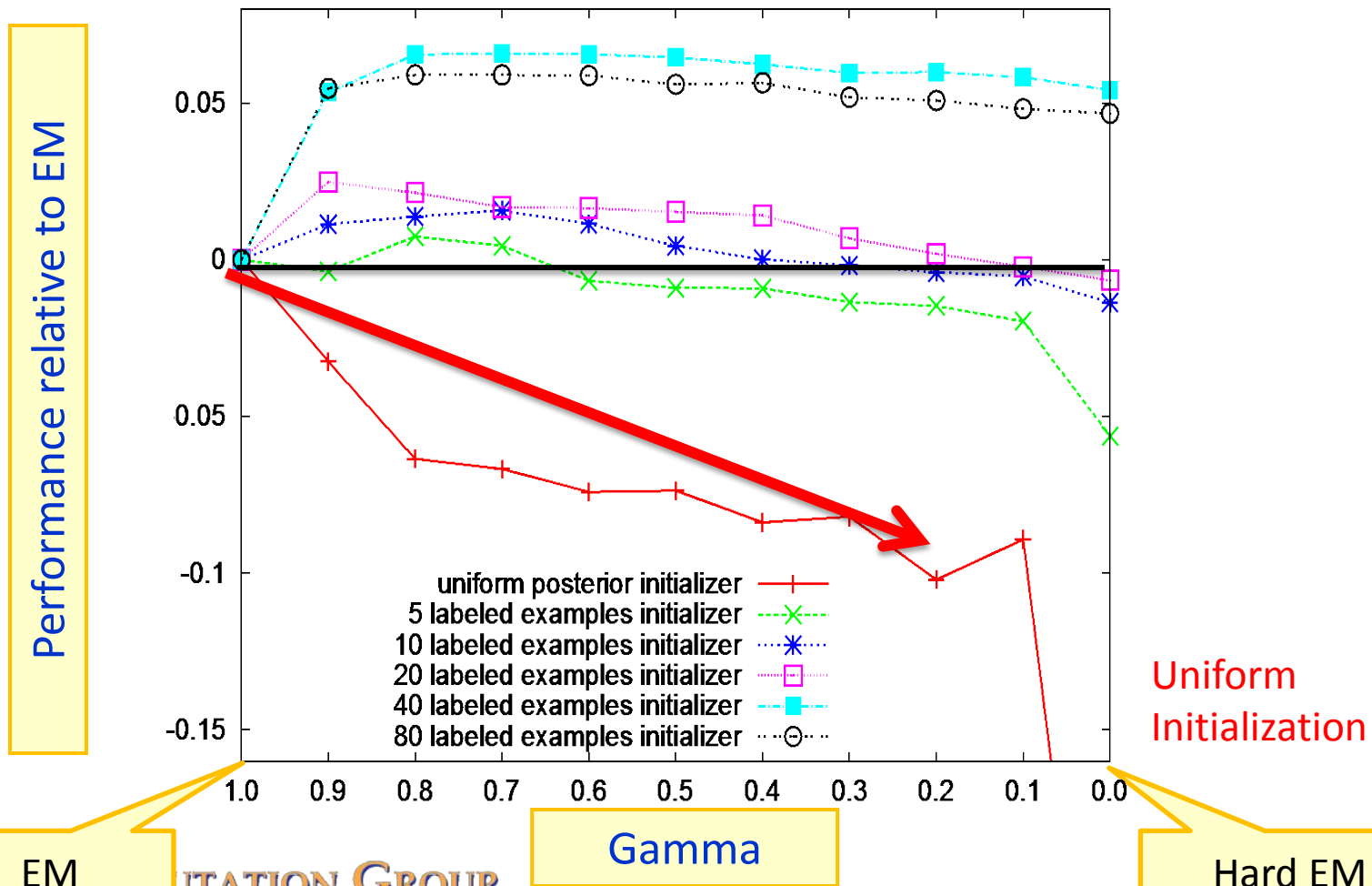
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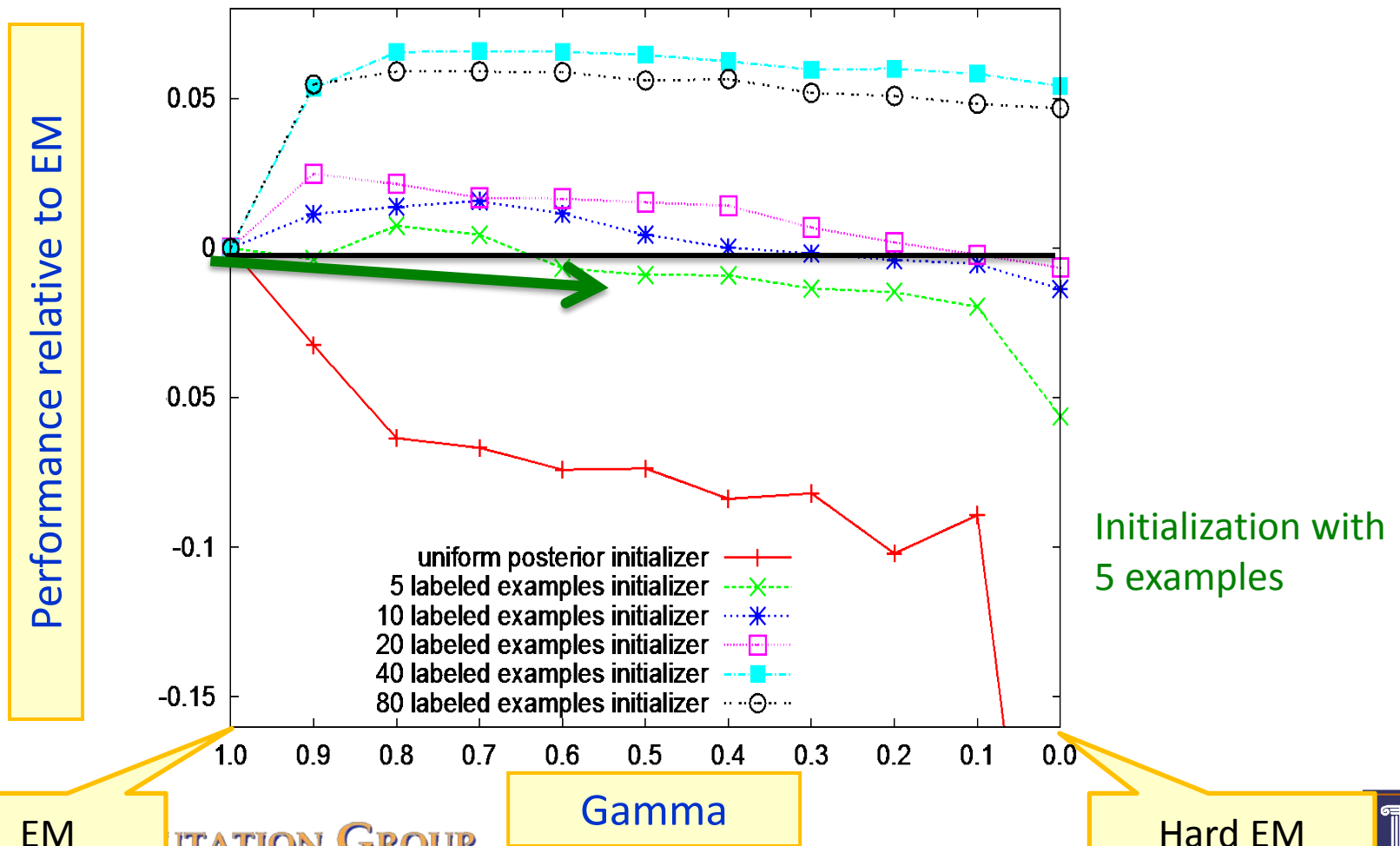
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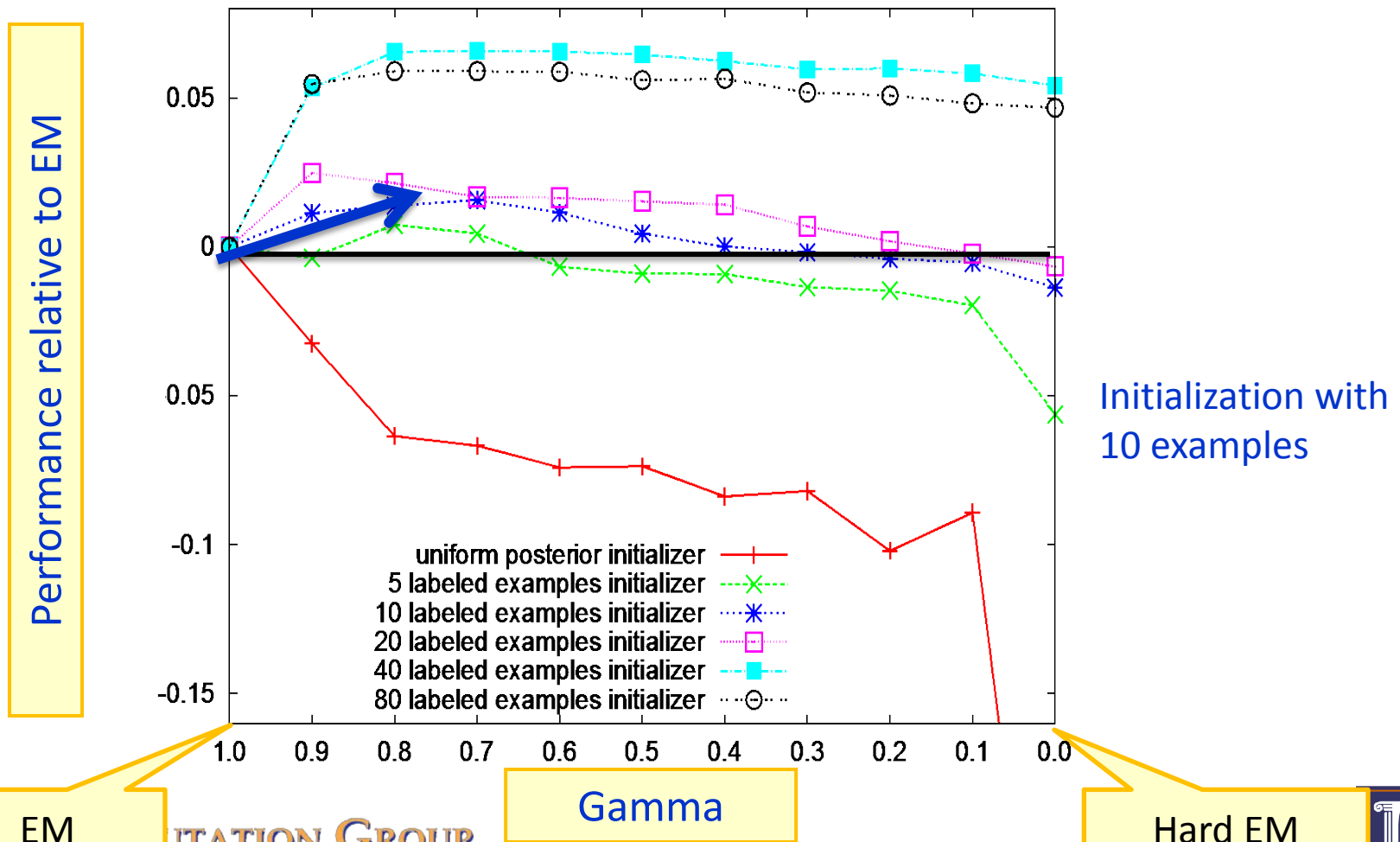
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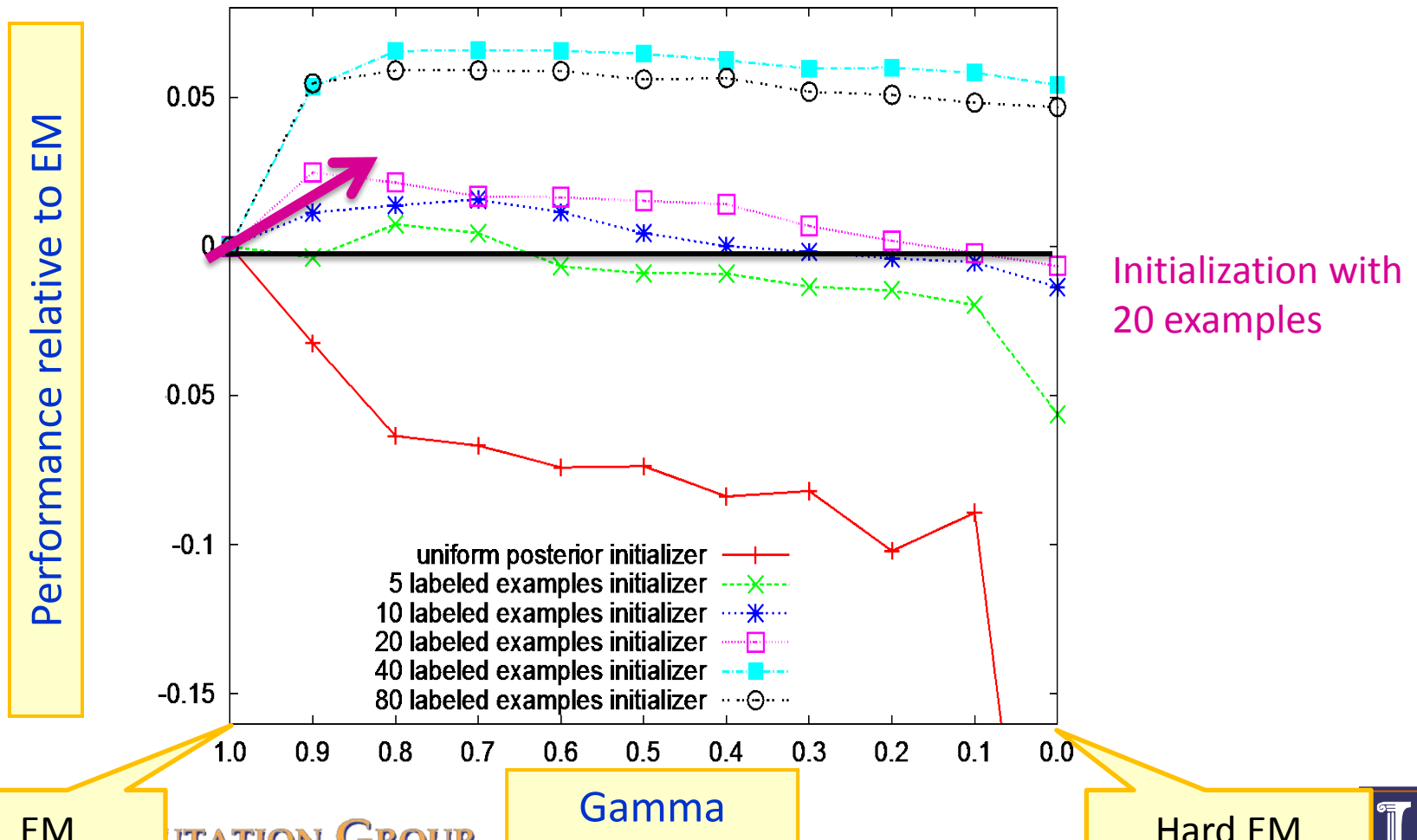
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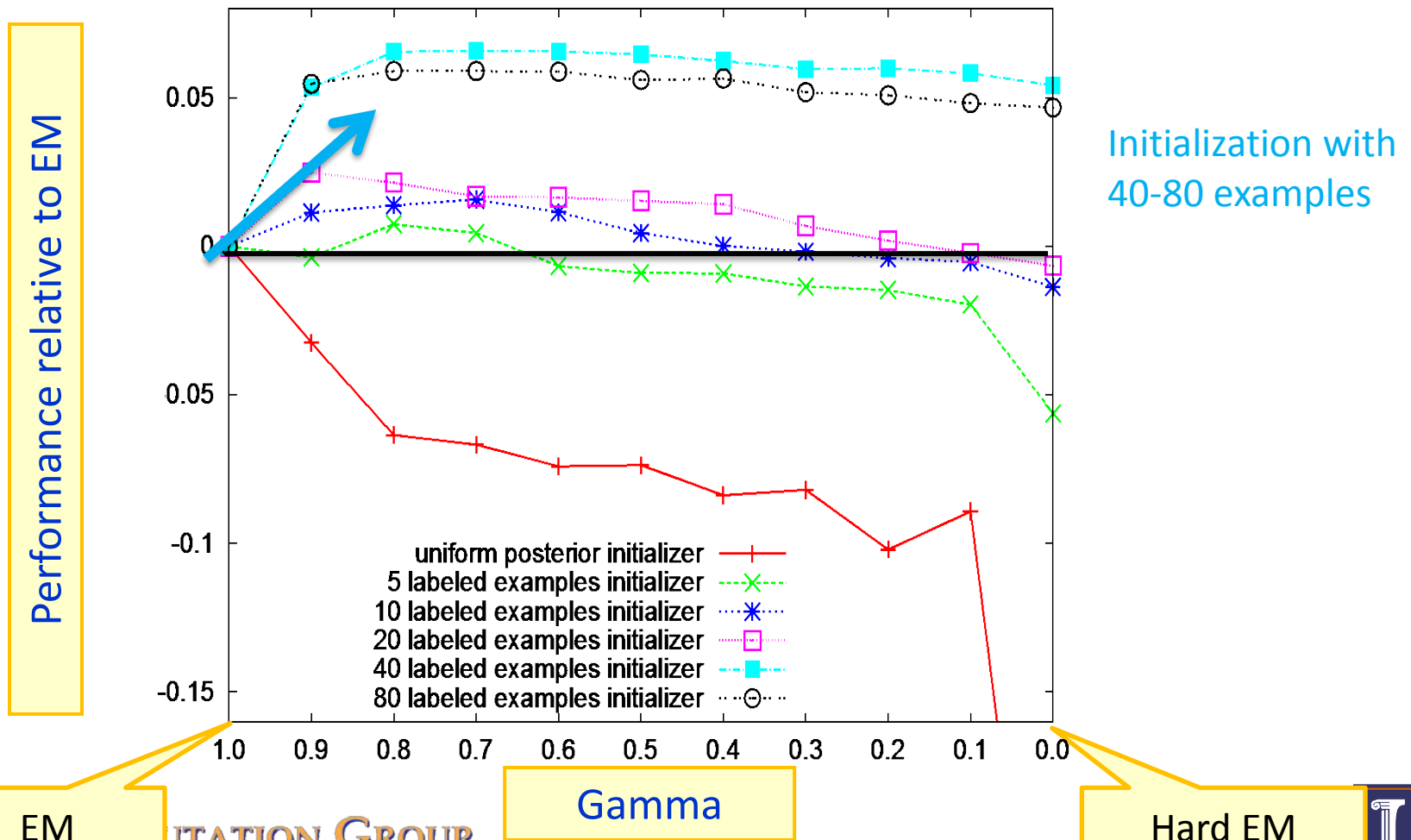
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- Related literature:
  - Constraint-driven Learning (Chang et al, 07; MLJ-12),
  - Posterior Regularization (Ganchev et al, 10),
  - Generalized Expectation Criterion (Mann & McCallum, 08),
  - Learning from Measurements (Liang et al, 09)
  - **Unified EM (Samdani et al 2012: NAACL-12)**

# Outline

- Constrained Conditional Models
  - A formulation for global inference with knowledge modeled as expressive structural constraints
  - Some examples
- Learning with Constrained Latent Representation
- Constraints Driven Learning
  - Training Paradigms for Constrained Conditional Models
  - Constraints Driven Learning (CoDL)
  - Unified (Constrained) Expectation Maximization
- ➔ Amortized Integer Linear Programming Inference
  - Exploiting Previous Inference Results
    - **In Inference and in Structured Learning**

# Amortized ILP based Inference

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- **Very general:** All discrete MAP problems can be formulated as 0-1 LPs
- We only care about inference formulation, **not** algorithmic solution



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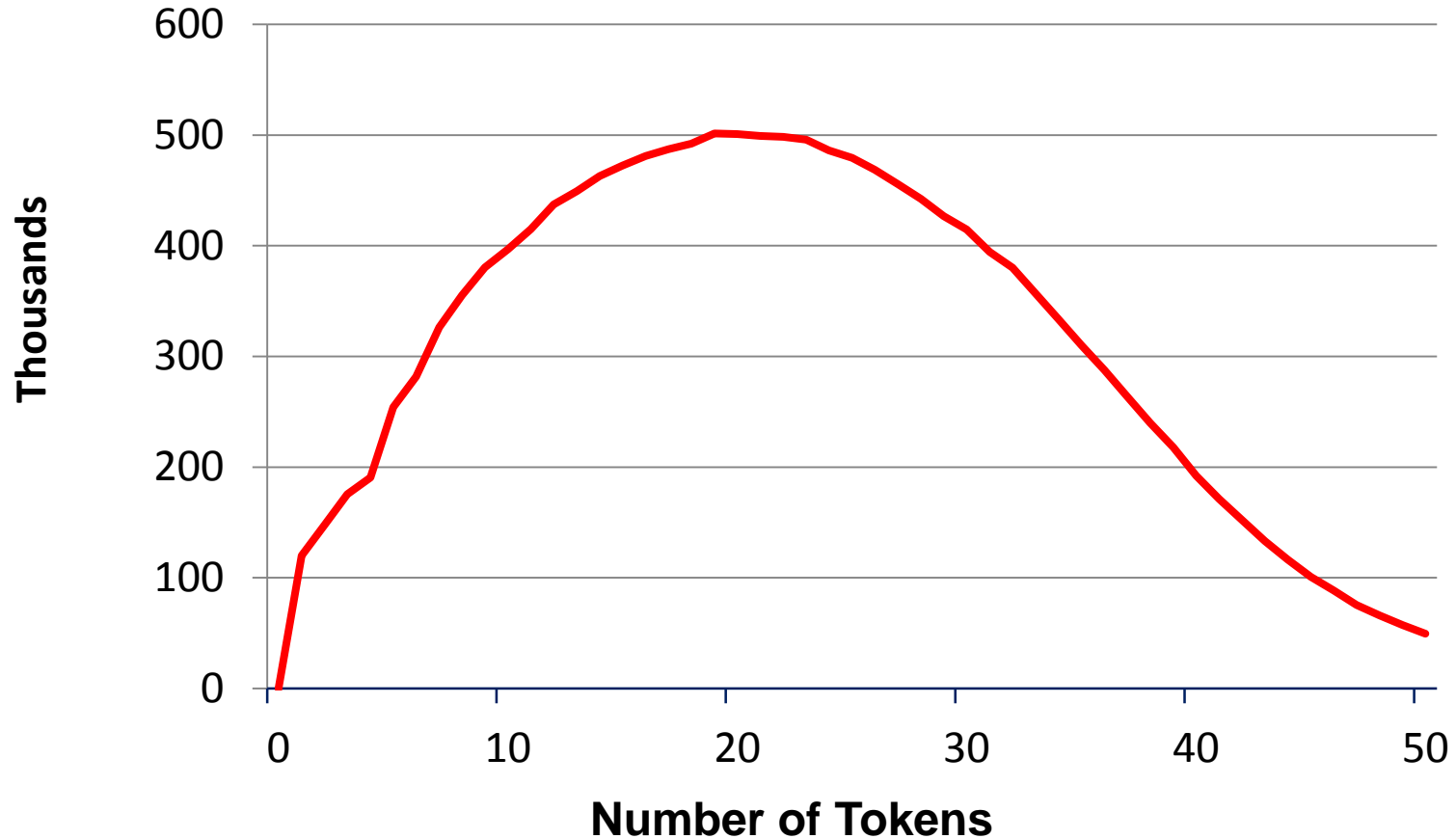
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After inferring the POS structure for S1,  
Can we speed up inference for S2 ?

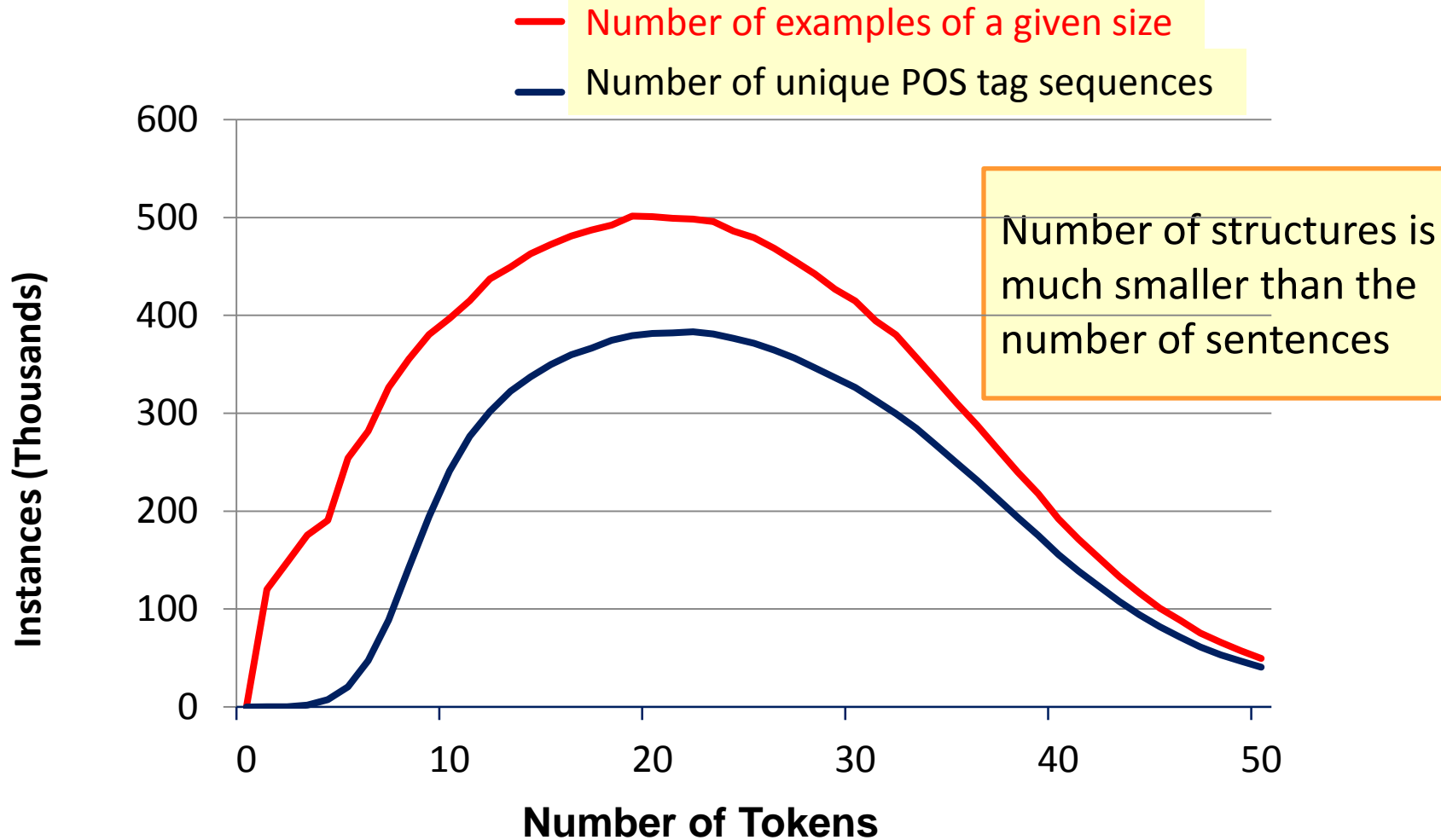


# The Hope: POS Tagging on Gigaword

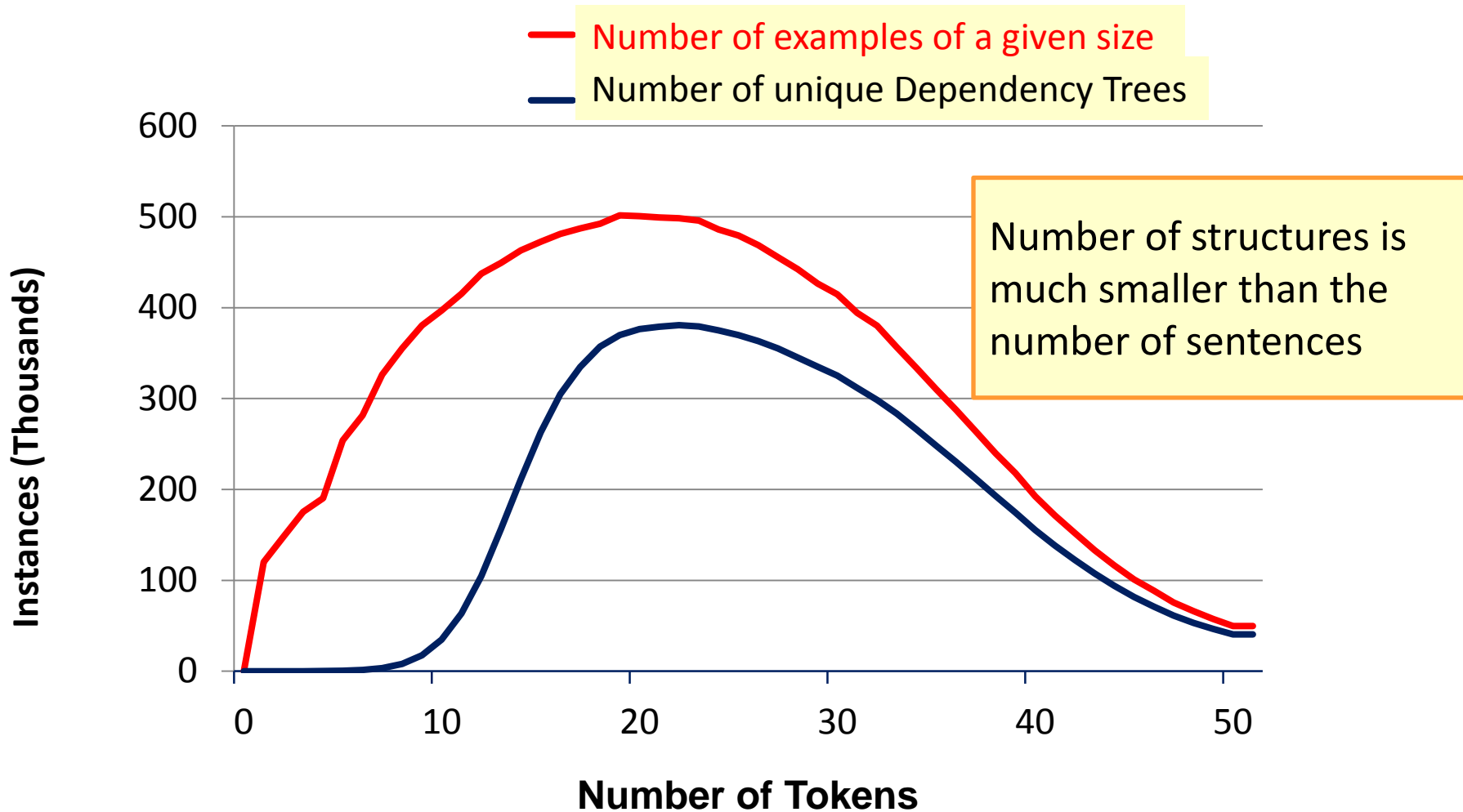
Number of examples of given size



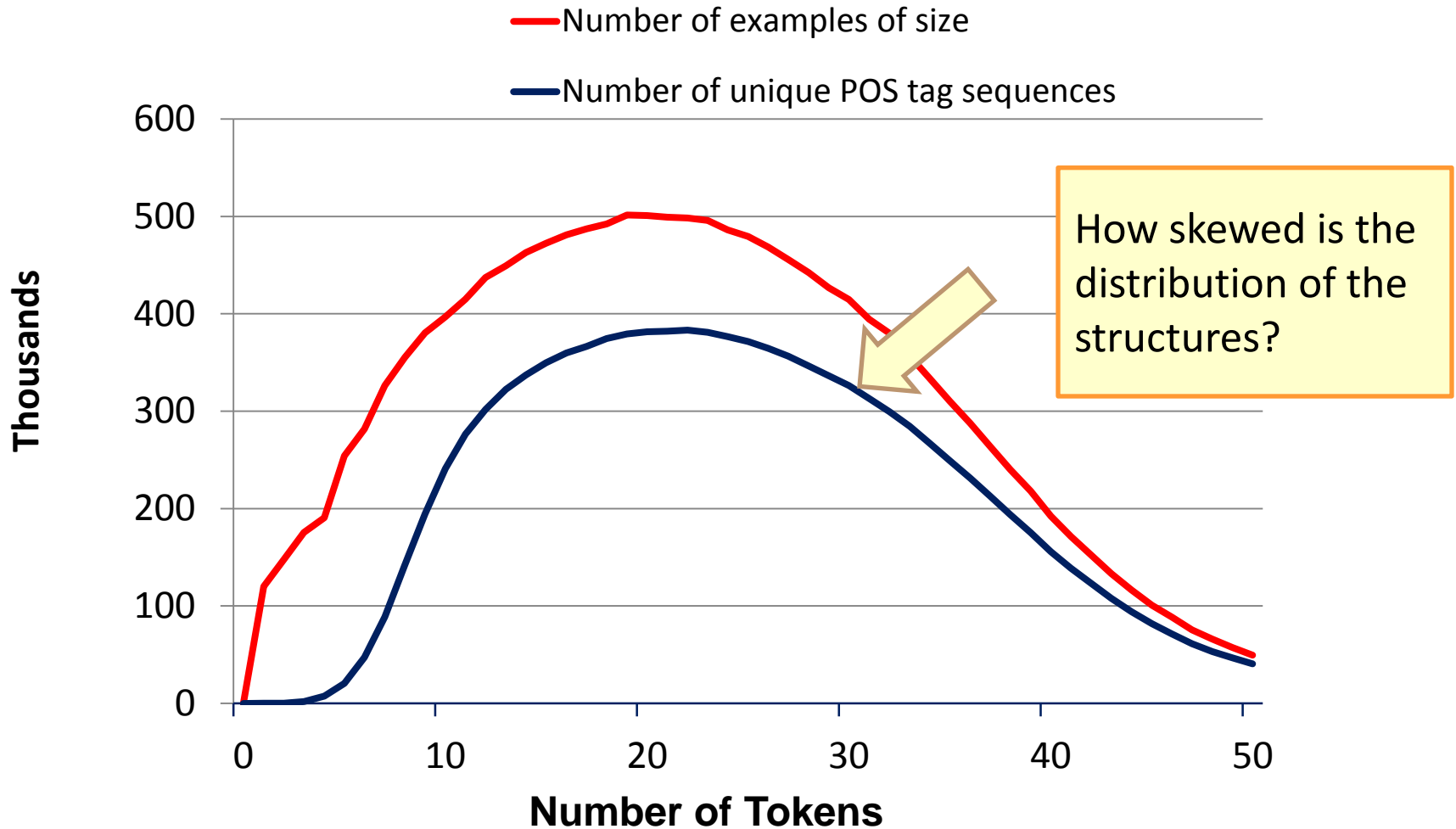
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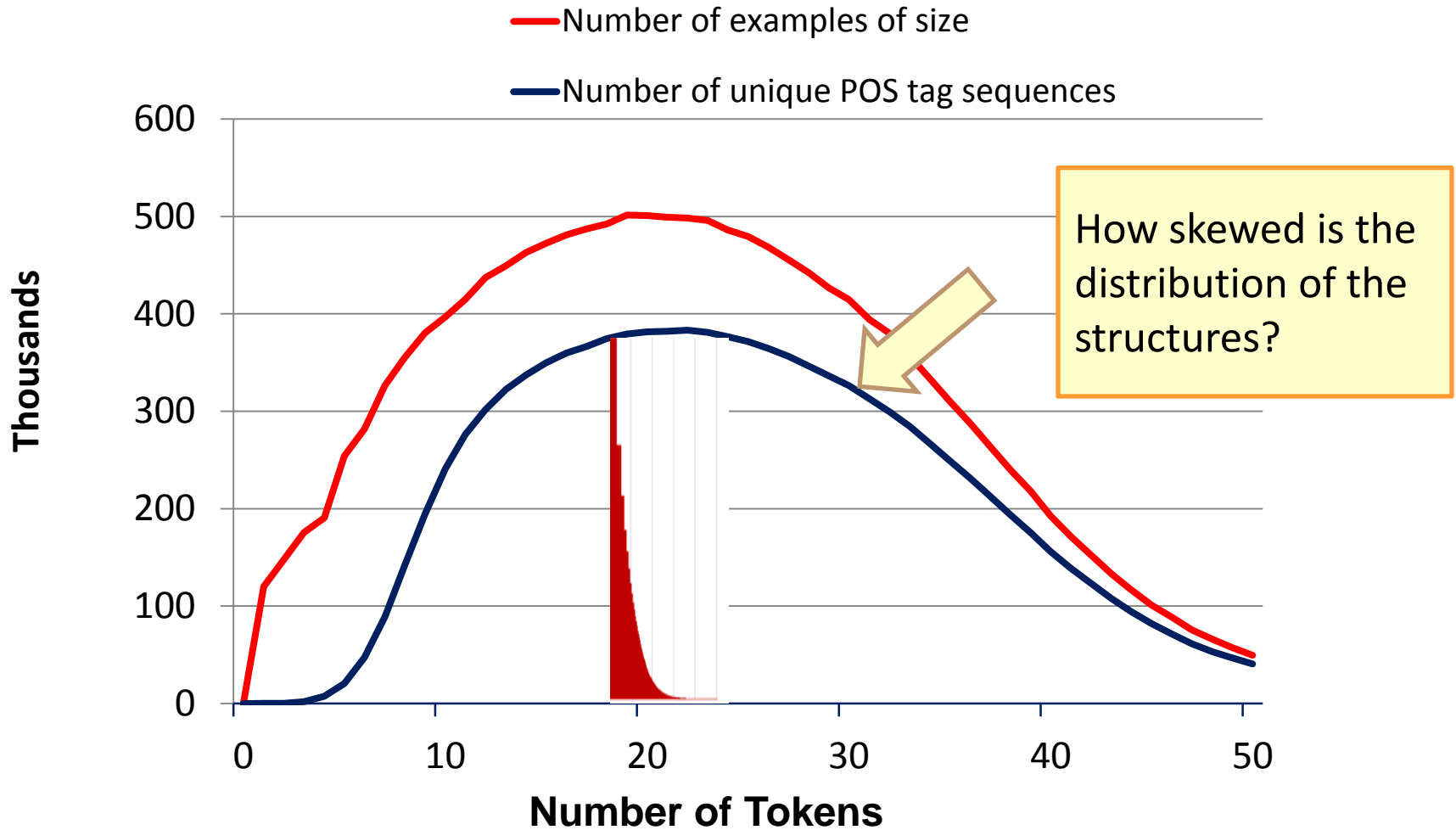
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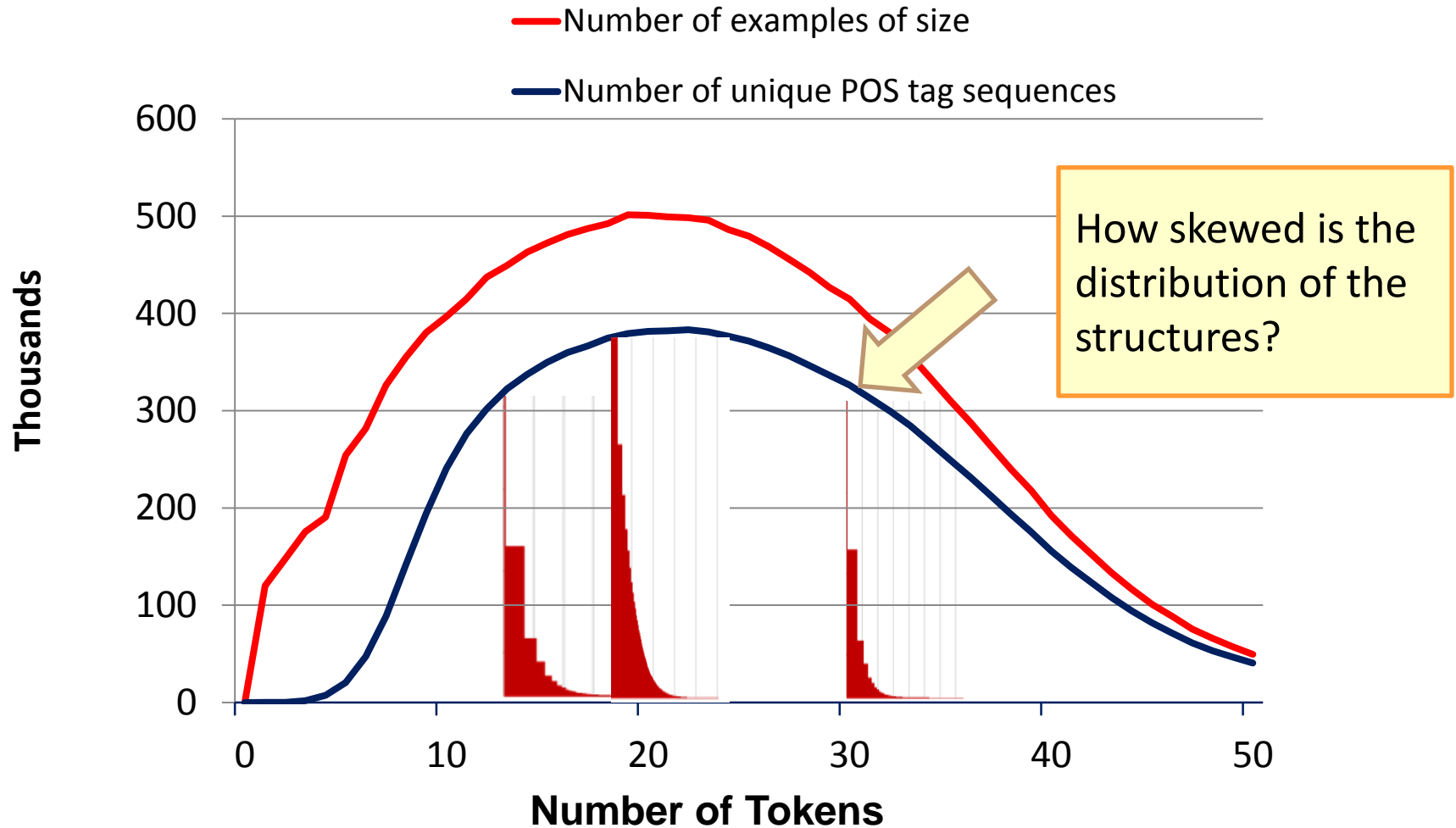


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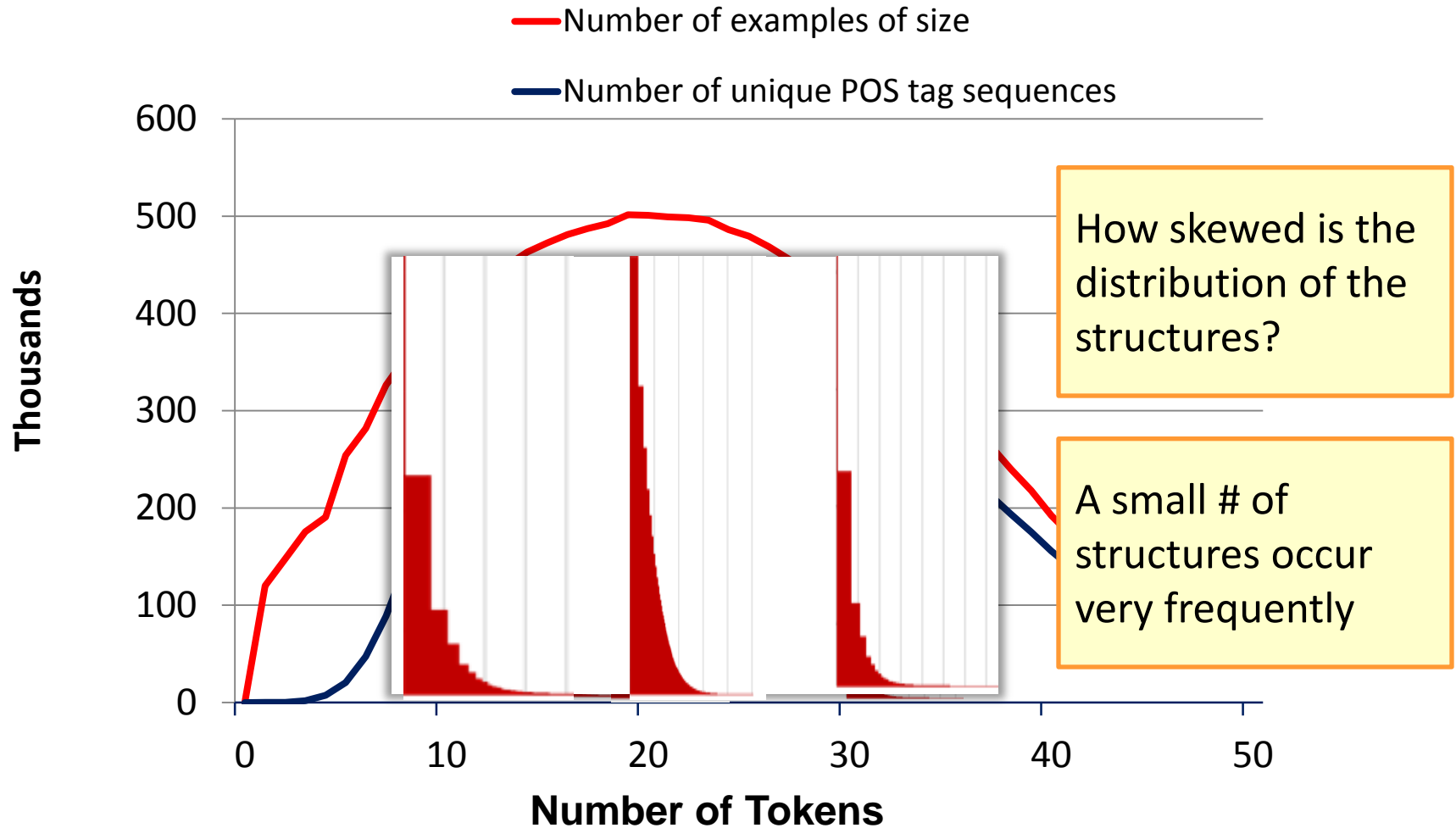




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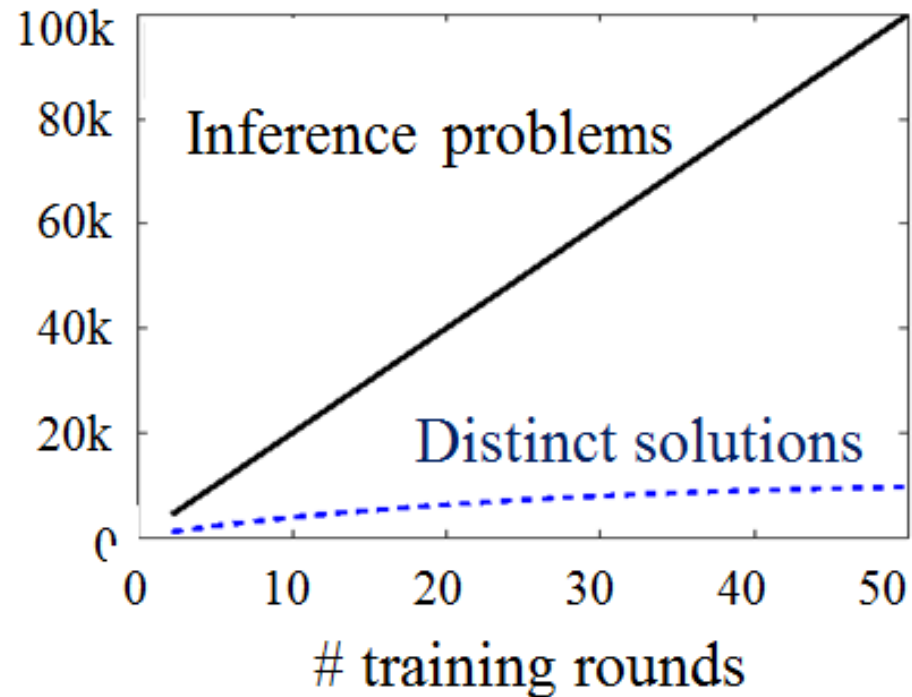


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If **CONDITION** (problem *cache*, *new problem*)

0.04 ms

then (no need to call the solver)

**SOLUTION**(*new problem*) = old solution

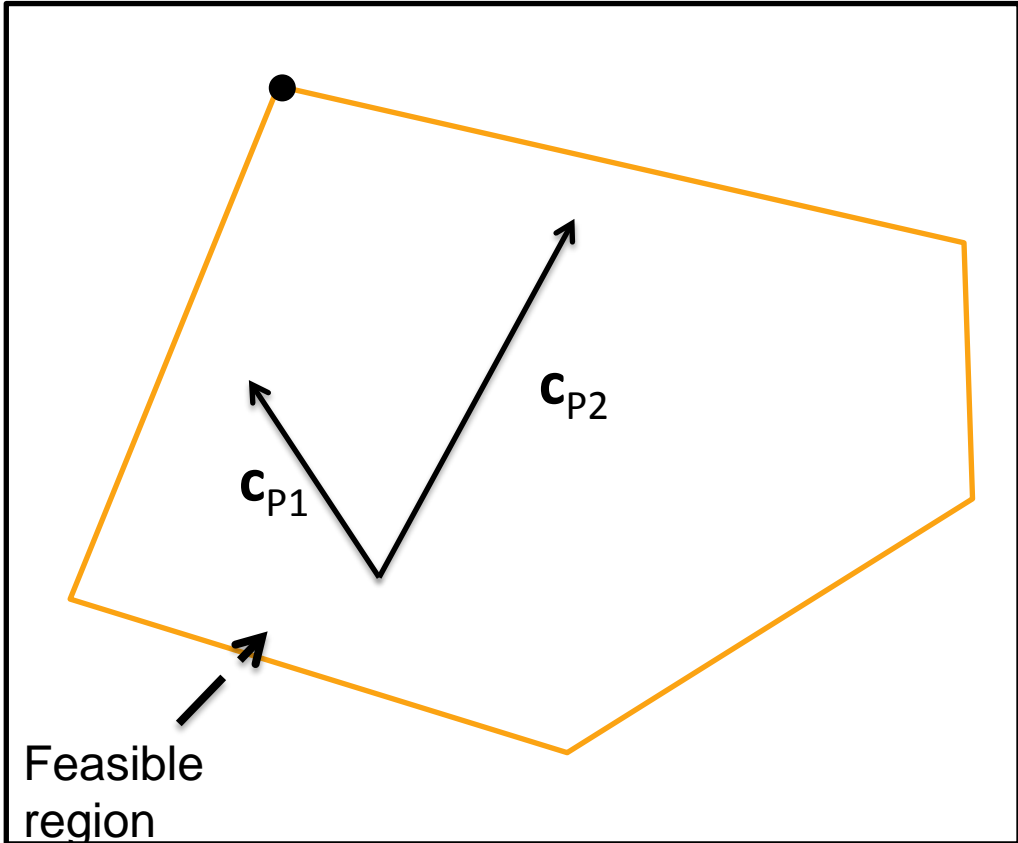
Else

Call **base solver** and update *cache*

2 ms

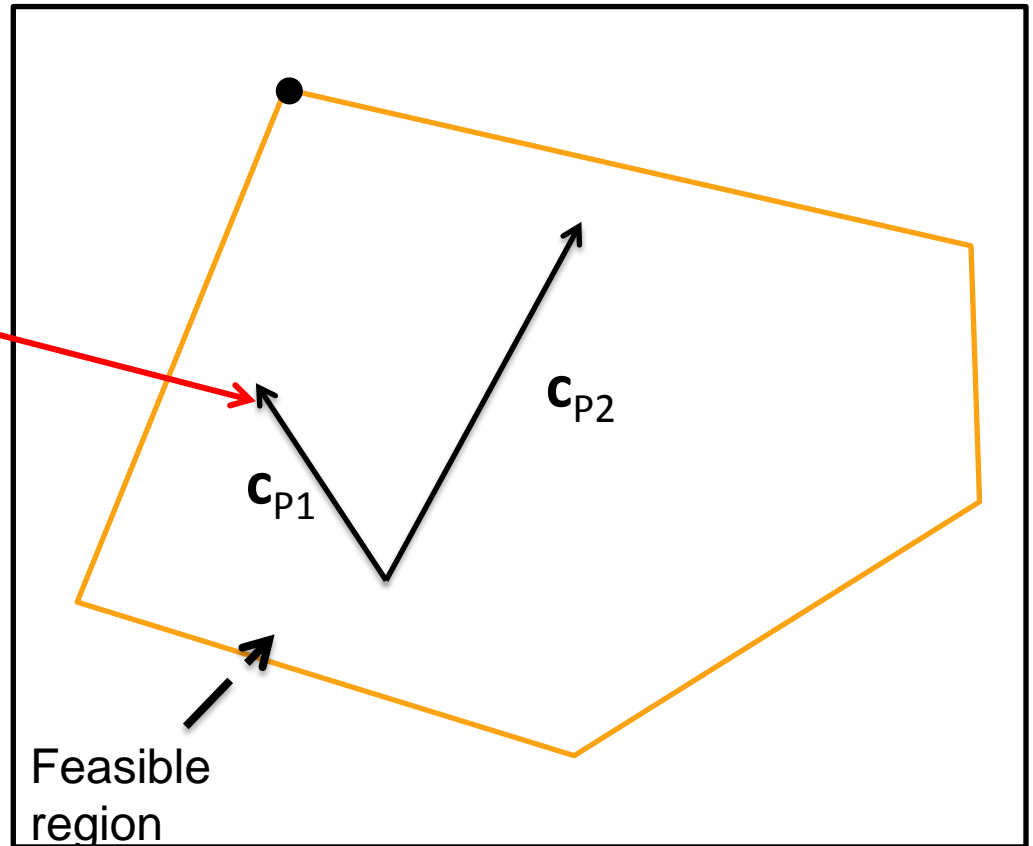
End

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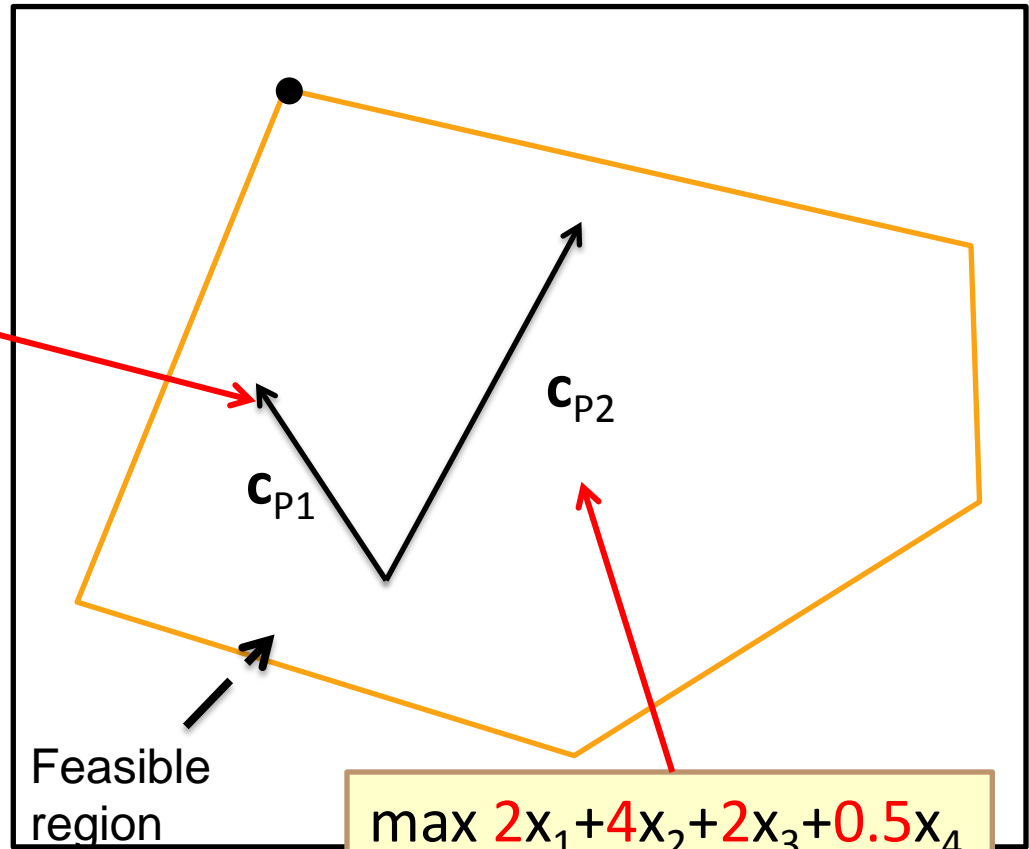
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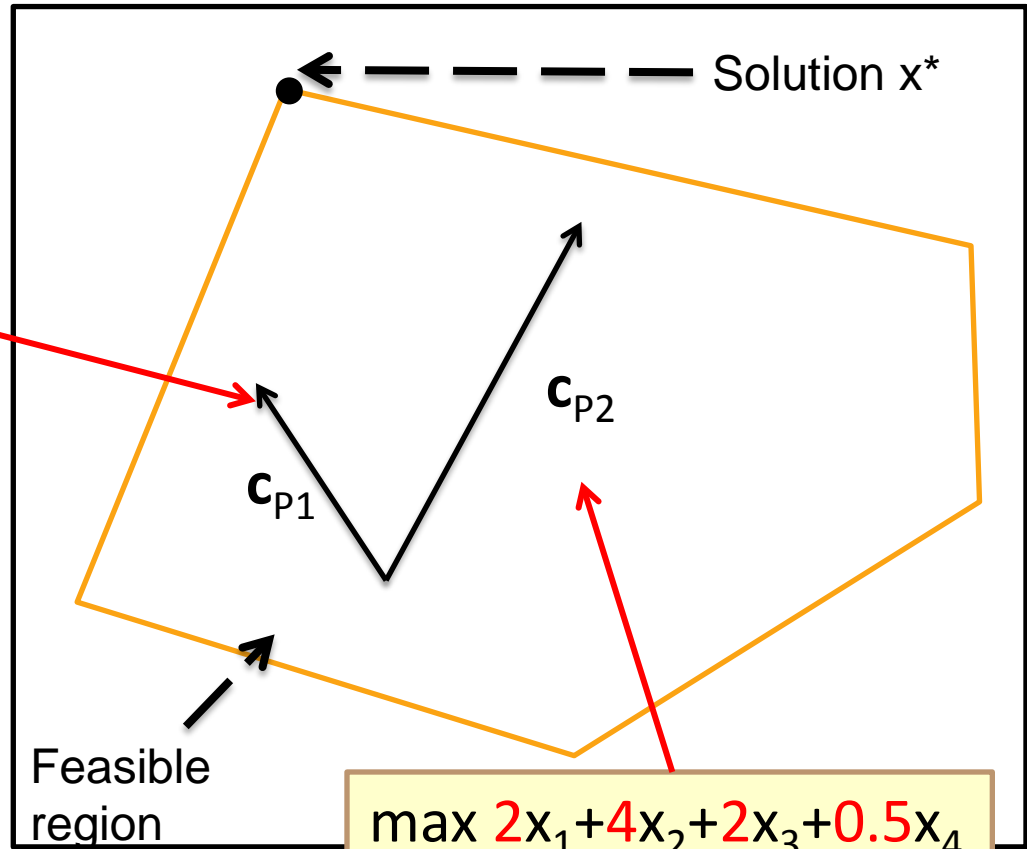
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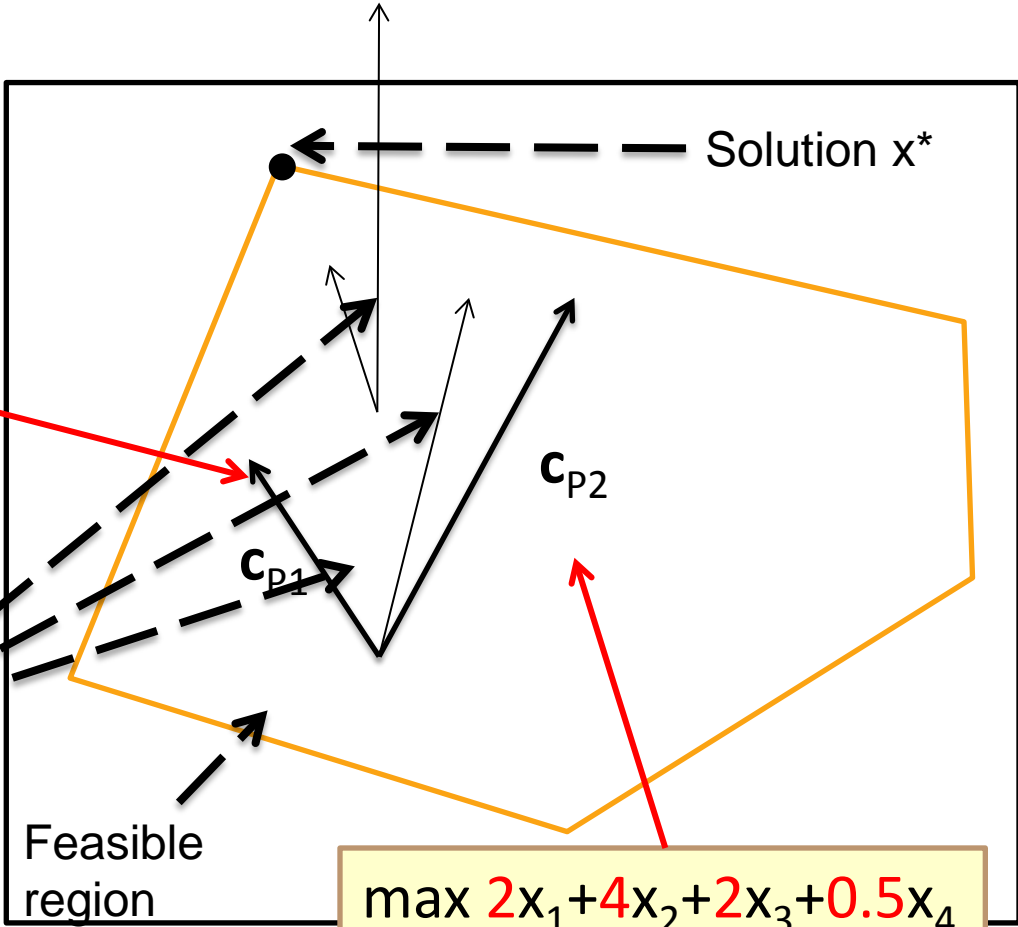


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ILPs corresponding to all these objective vectors will share the same maximizer for this feasible region



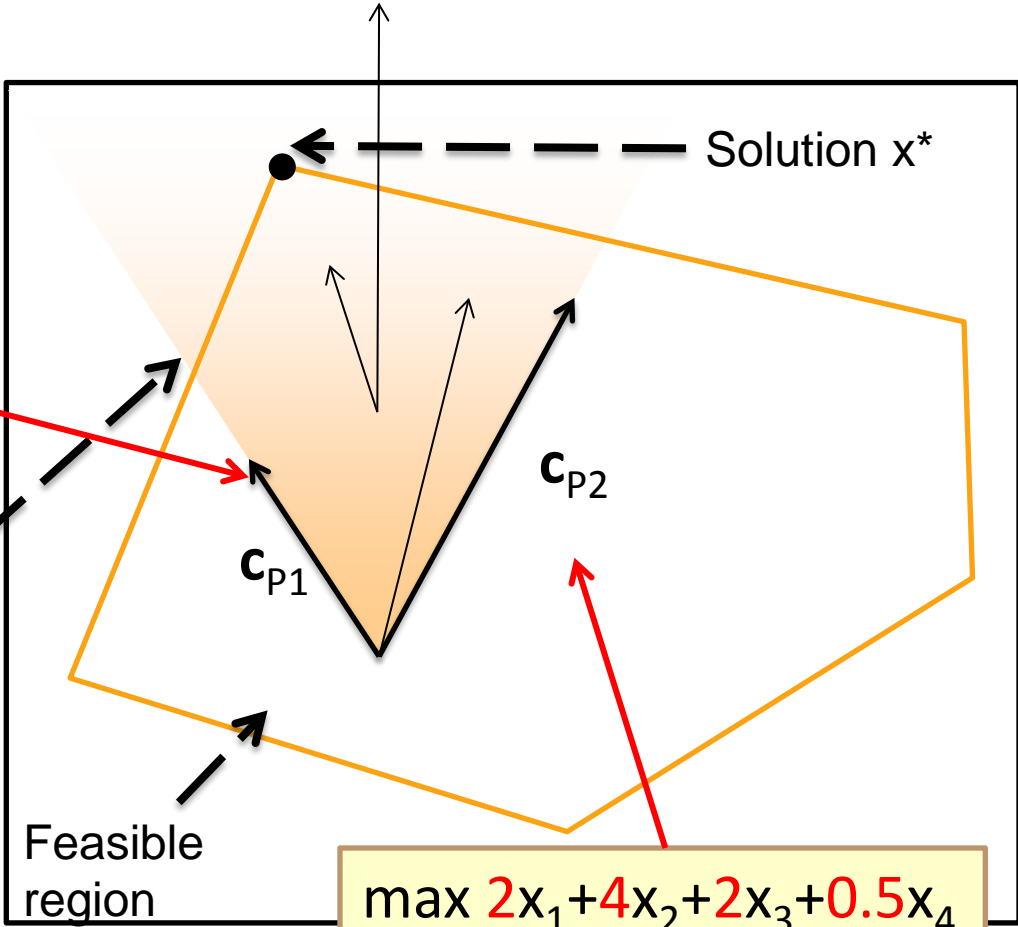
$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 + 0.5x_4 \\ & x_1 + x_2 \leq 1 \\ & x_3 + x_4 \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$



# Theorem II (Geometric Interpretation)

$$\begin{aligned} \max & 2x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 1x_4 \\ & x_1 + x_2 \leq 1 \\ & x_3 + x_4 \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

All ILPs in the **cone** will share the maximizer



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# Theorem I

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$$\max 2x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4$$

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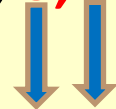
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The objective coefficients of **active** variables **did not decrease** from P to Q

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**Structured Learning:** Dual coordinate descent for structured SVM still returns an **exact model** even if approx. amortized inference is used.

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# Amortized Inference Experiments

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- Verb semantic role labeling; Entity and Relations
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No training data is needed for this method.

Once you have a model, you can generate a large cache that will be then used to save you time at evaluation time.

# Speedup & Accuracy

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{\text{number of inference calls without amortization}}{\text{number of inference calls with amortization}}$$

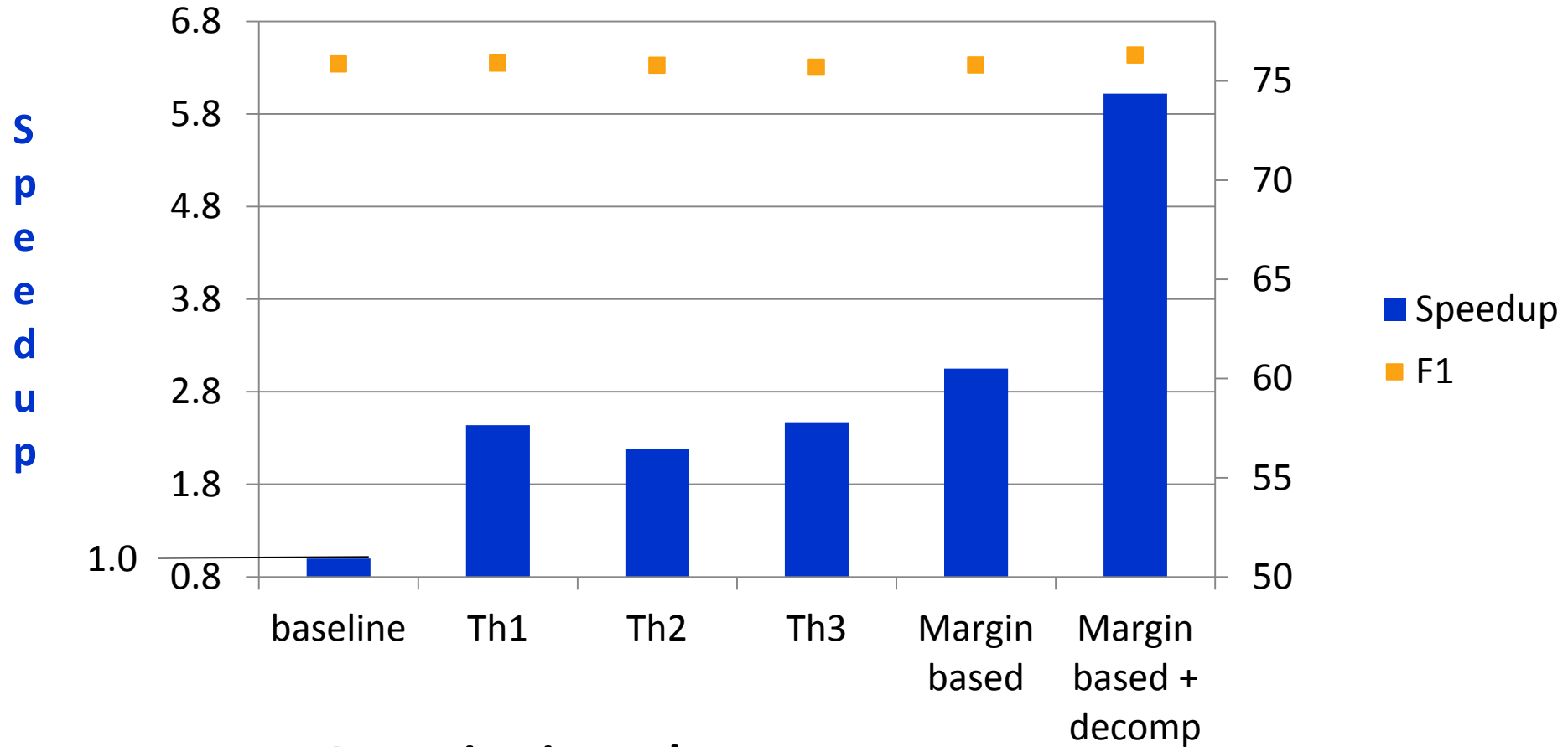
S  
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**Amortization schemes** [EMNLP'12, ACL'13]

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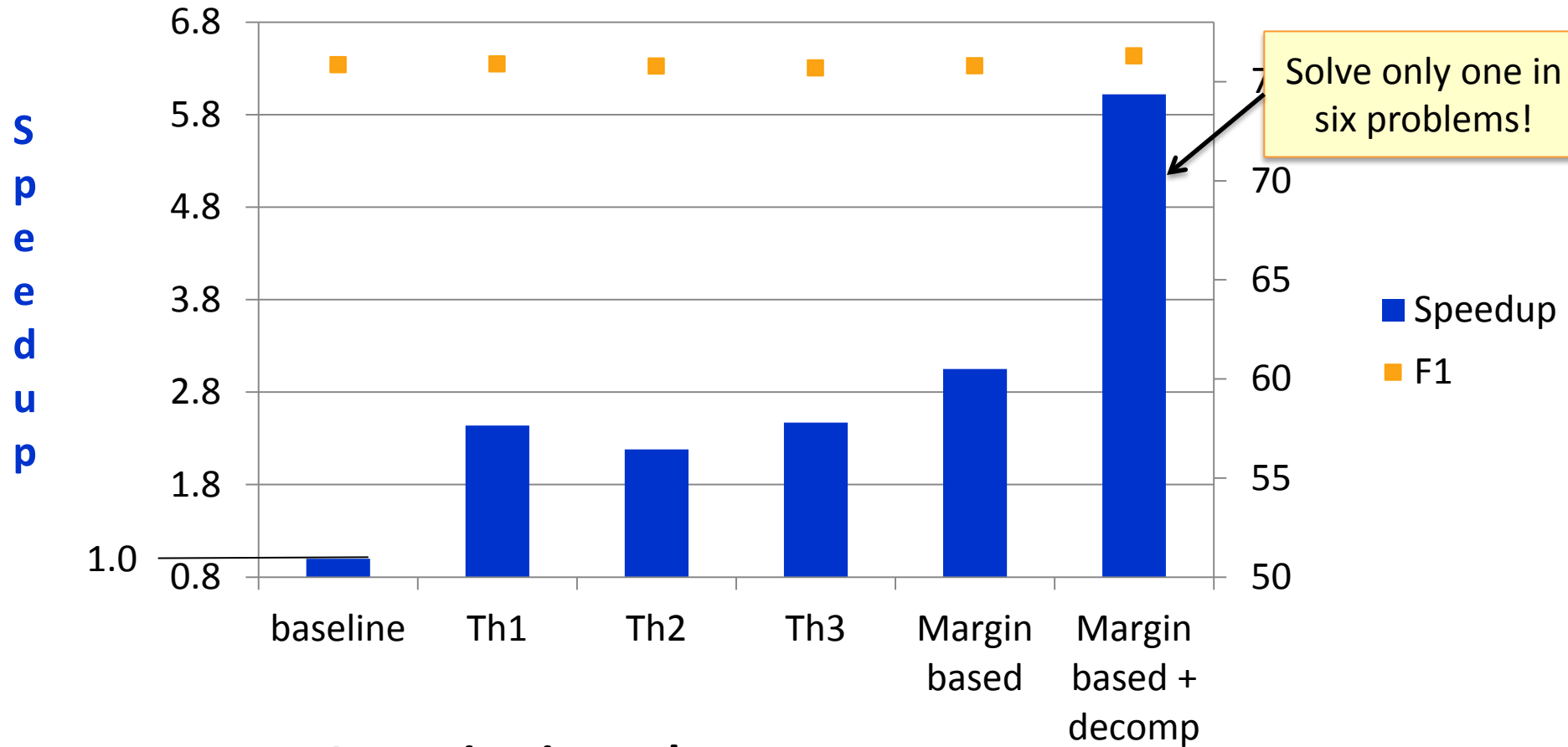
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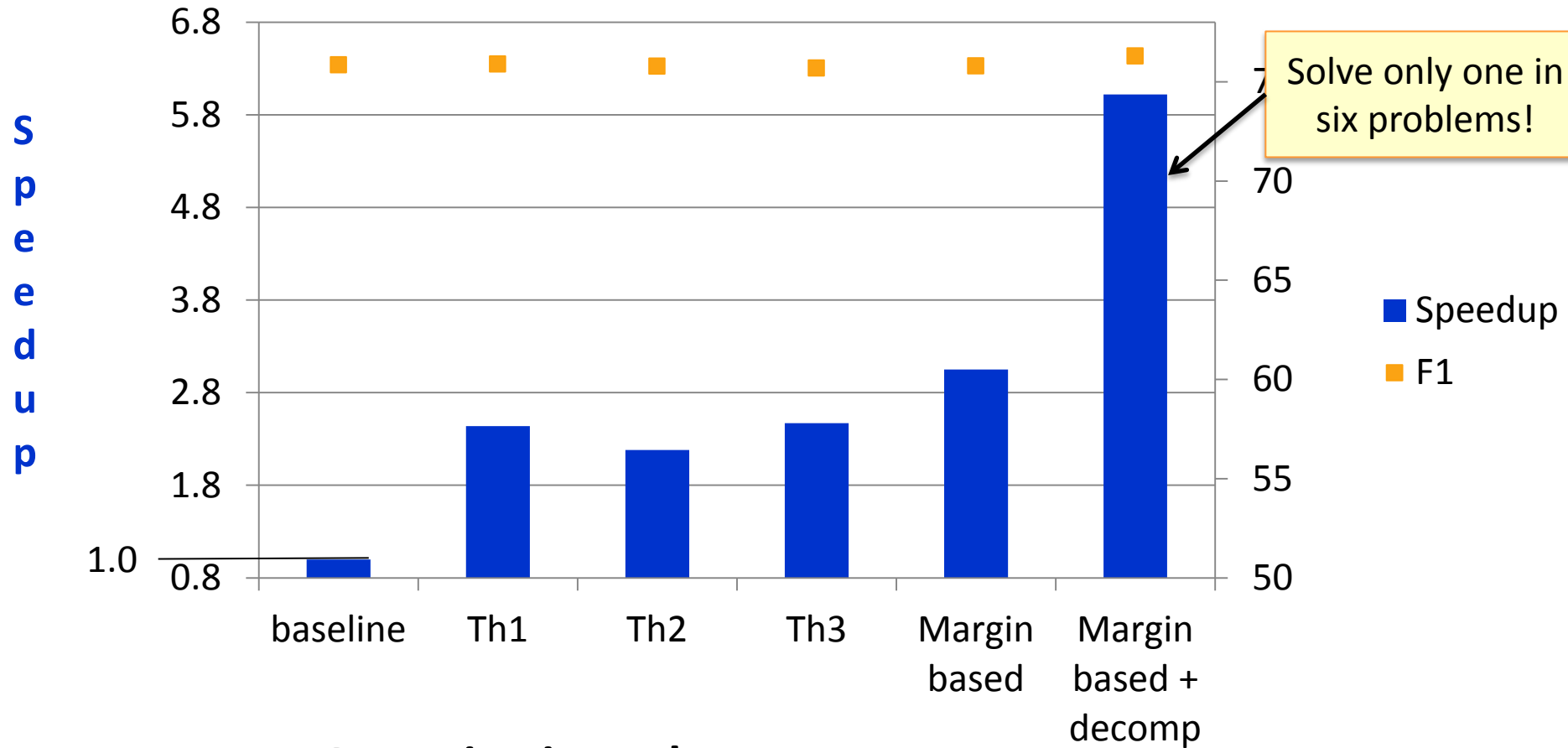


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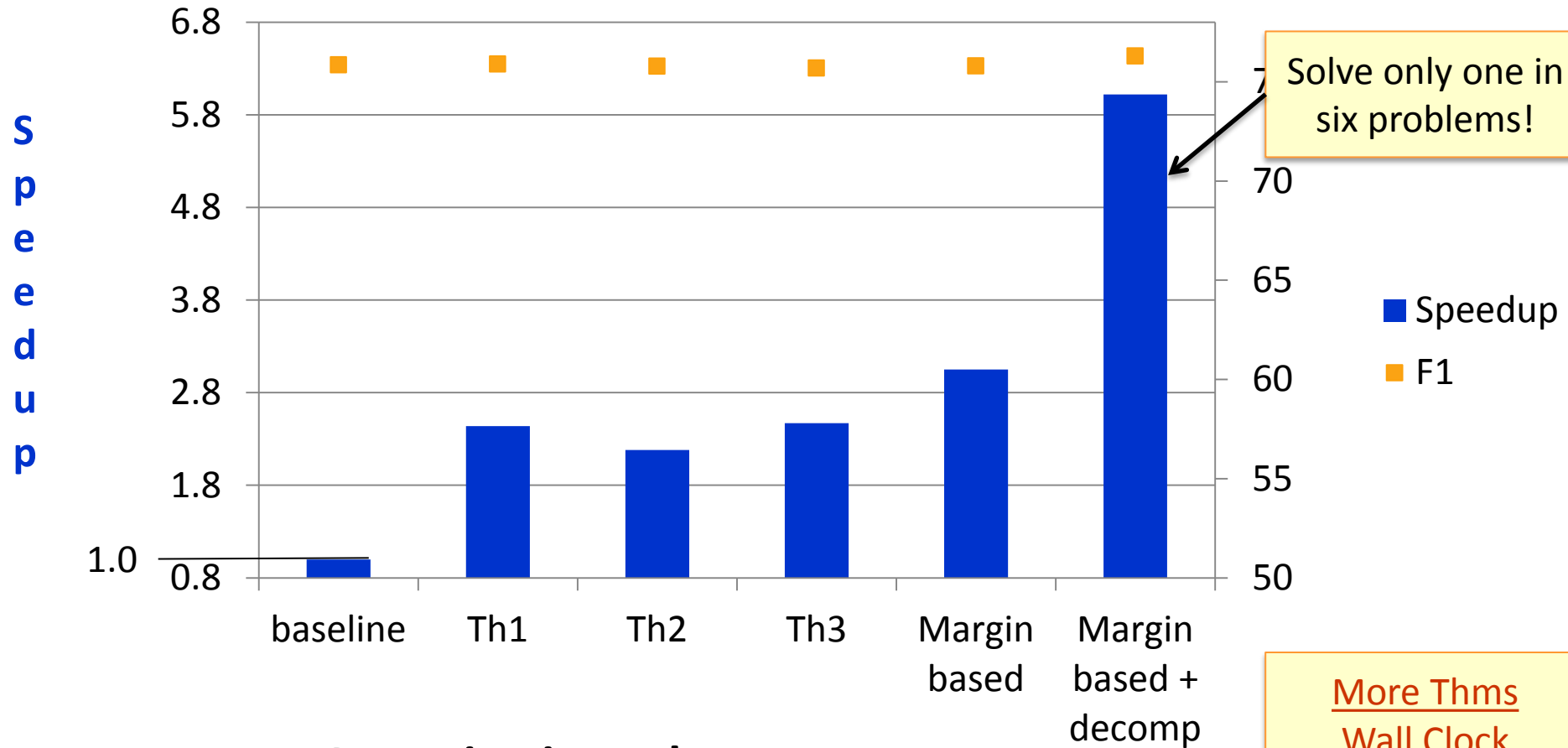


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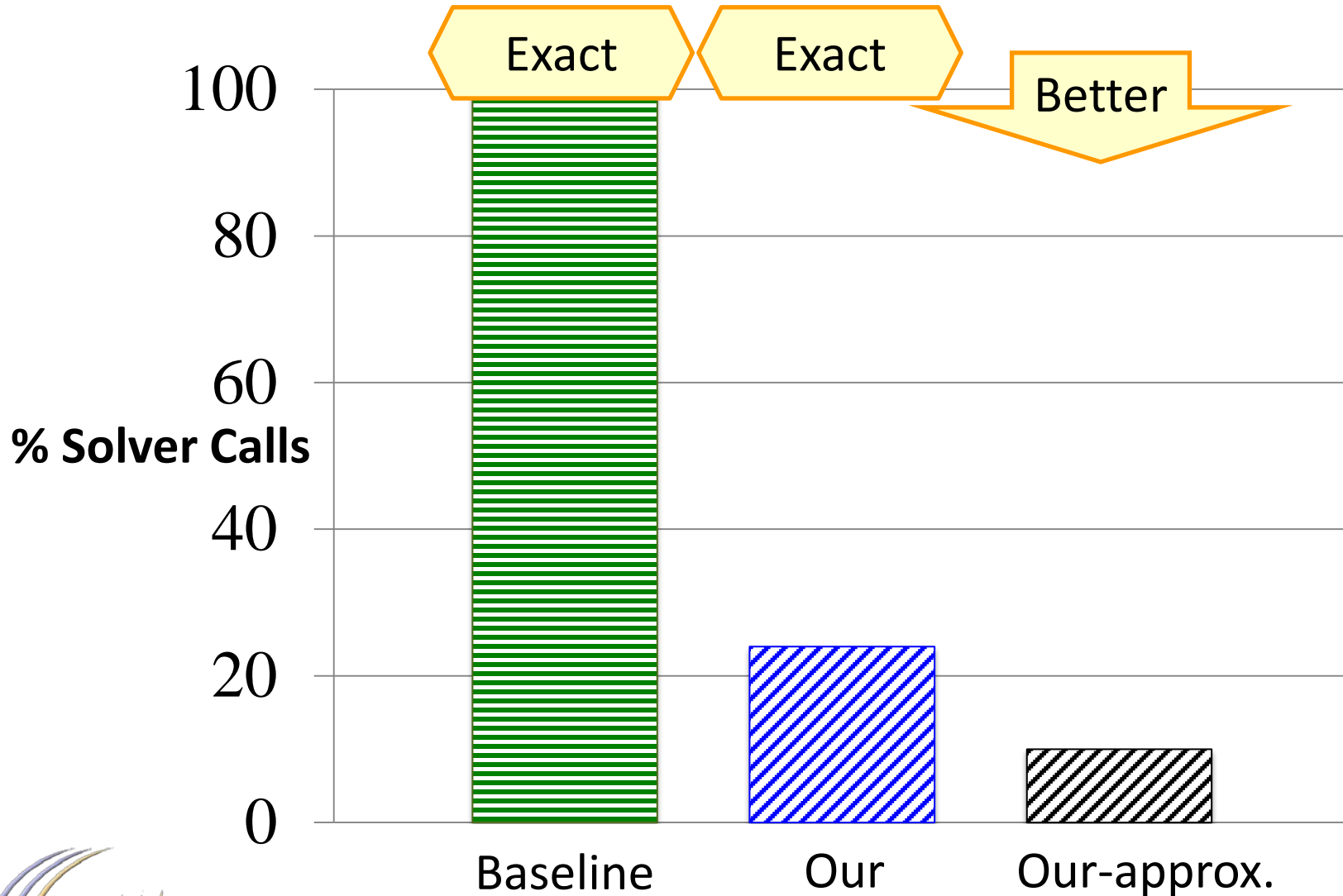


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More Thms  
Wall Clock



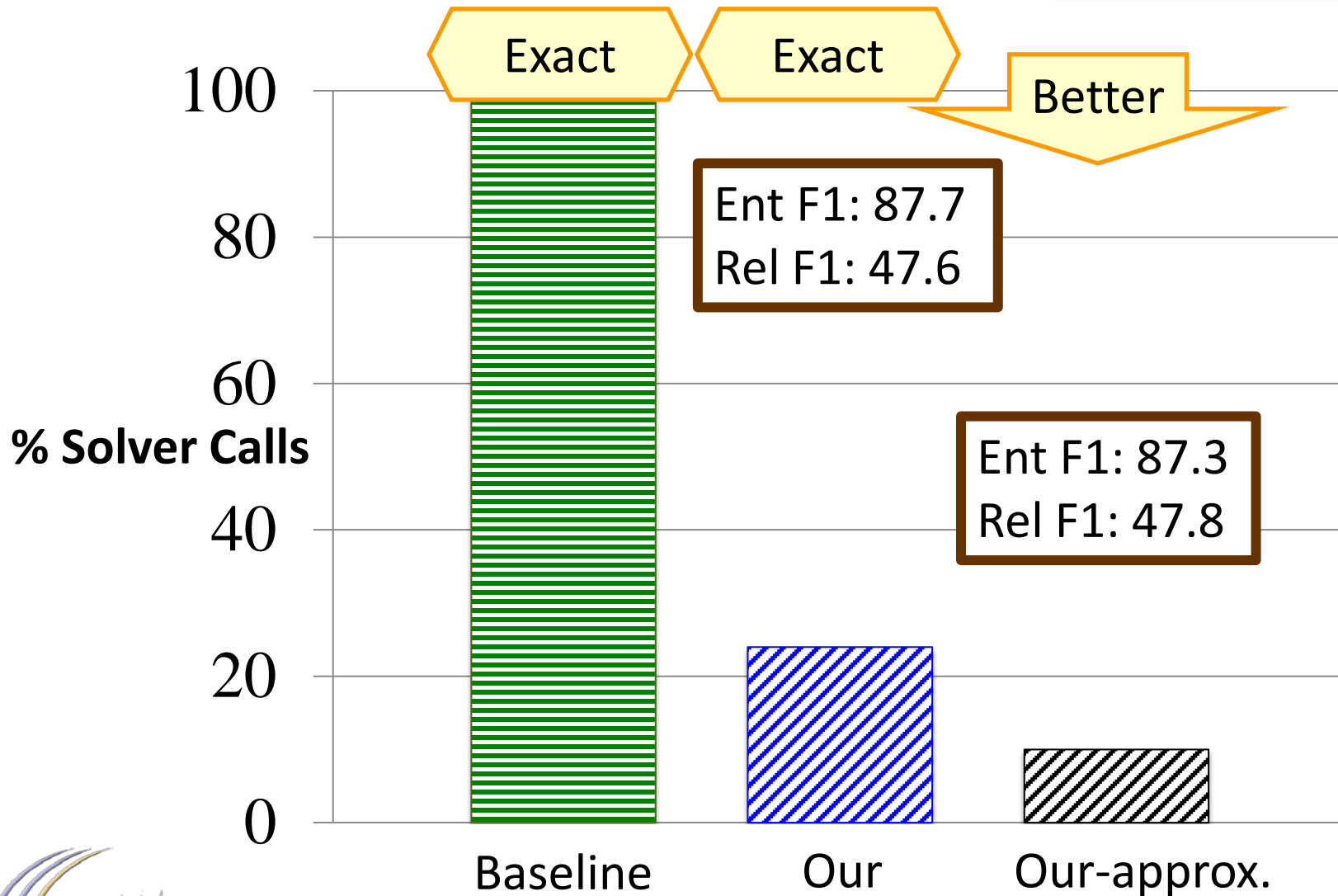
# # Solver Calls (Entity-Relation Extraction)





Recent results [AAAI'15] on how to exploit amortized ILP in faster Structured Learning

# # Solver Calls (Entity-Relation Extraction)



# Conclusion

- Presented **Constrained Conditional Models**:
  - An ILP based computational framework that augments **statistically learned linear models** with **declarative constraints** as a way to incorporate knowledge and support decisions in an expressive output spaces
  - Maintains modularity and tractability of training
- A powerful & modular learning and inference paradigm for high level tasks.
- **Learning issues**:
  - Constraints driven learning, constrained EM
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# Bonus Slides

- Response Based Learning

- [From Clarke et. al. CoNLL'10 to Goldwasser & Roth MLJ'14]

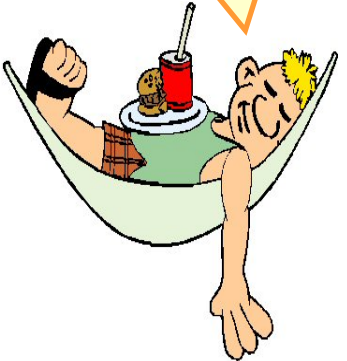
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Can I get a coffee with lots of sugar and no milk



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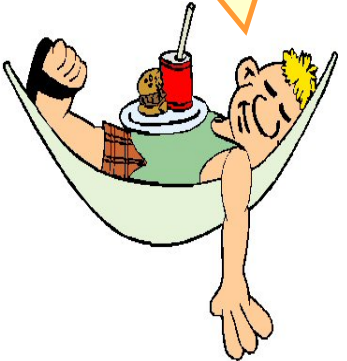
**Semantic Parser**

MAKE(COFFEE,SUGAR=YES,MILK=NO)



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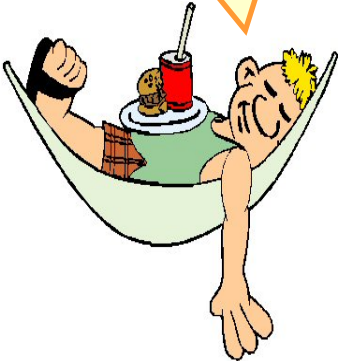


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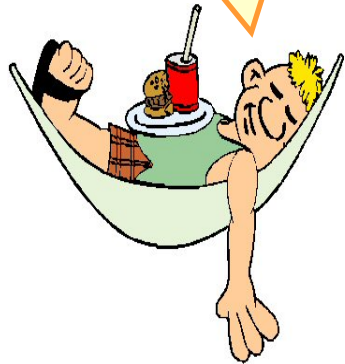
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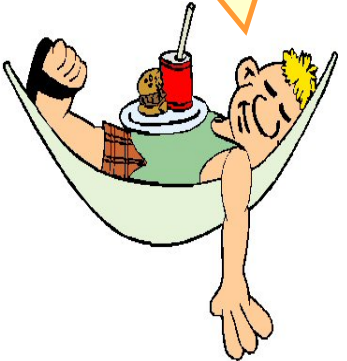
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Arggg



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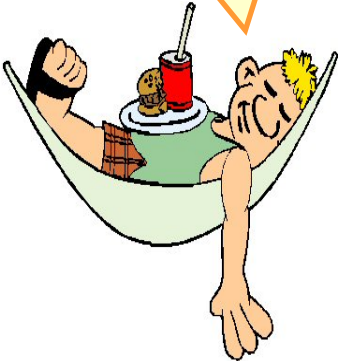
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Can we rely on this interaction to provide supervision (and eventually, recover meaning) ?

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  - Supervise the derivative [verifier] (**easy!**) and
  - Propagate it to learn the **complex, structured, transformation model**

# Scenario I: Freecell with Response Based Learning

- We want to learn a model to transform a **natural language sentence** to some **meaning representation**.



A top card can be moved to the tableau if it has a different color than the color of the top tableau card, and the cards have successive values.

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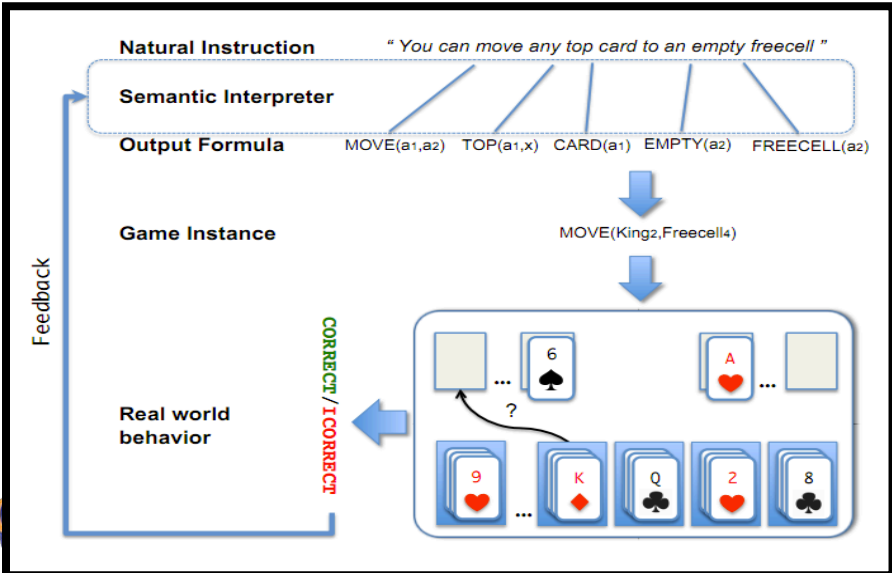
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**Play Freecell (solitaire)**



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## Scenario II: Geoquery with Response based Learning

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- “Guess” a semantic parse. Is **[DB response == Expected response]** ?
  - **Expected:** Pennsylvania **DB Returns:** Pennsylvania → **Positive Response**
  - **Expected:** Pennsylvania **DB Returns:** NYC, or ??? → **Negative Response**

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## LEARNING:

- Train a structured predictor (semantic parse) with this binary supervision
  - Many challenges: e.g., how to make a better use of a **negative** response?
- **Learning with** a constrained latent representation, **making used of** CCM inference, **exploiting knowledge on the structure of the meaning representation**.

# Geoquery: Response based Competitive with Supervised

Clarke, Goldwasser, Chang, Roth CoNLL'10; Goldwasser, Roth IJCAI'11, MLJ'14

Algorithm	Training Accuracy	Testing Accuracy	# Training Examples
NOLEARN	22	--	-
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NOLEARN :Initialization point

SUPERVISED : Trained with annotated data

## Response based Learning is gathering momentum:

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