Frame Semantics
Yejin Choi

Some slides adapted from Martha Palmer, Chris Manning, Ray Mooney, Lluis Marquez ...
Frames

**Theory:**
- Frame Semantics (Fillmore 1968)

**Resources:**
- VerbNet (Kipper et al., 2000)
- FrameNet (Fillmore et al., 2004)
- PropBank (Palmer et al., 2005)
- NomBank

**Statistical Models:**
- Task: Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

“Case for Case”
If you got a billion dollars to spend on a huge research project that you get to lead, what would you like to do?

I'd use the billion dollars to build a NASA-size program focusing on natural language processing (NLP), in all of its glory (semantics, pragmatics, etc).

Intellectually I think that NLP is fascinating, allowing us to focus on highly-structured inference problems, on issues that go to the core of "what is thought" but remain eminently practical, and on a technology that surely would make the world a better place.
Although current deep learning research tends to claim to encompass NLP, I'm (1) much less convinced about the strength of the results, compared to the results in, say, vision; (2) much less convinced in the case of NLP than, say, vision, the way to go is to couple huge amounts of data with black-box learning architectures.

I'd invest in some of the human-intensive labeling processes that one sees in projects like FrameNet and (gasp) projects like Cyc. I'd do so in the context of a full merger of "data" and "knowledge", where the representations used by the humans can be connected to data and the representations used by the learning systems are directly tied to linguistic structure. I'd do so in the context of clear concern with the usage of language (e.g., causal reasoning).
Frames

- **Theory:**
  - Frame Semantics (Fillmore 1968)

- **Resources:**
  - VerbNet (Kipper et al., 2000)
  - FrameNet (Fillmore et al., 2004)
  - PropBank (Palmer et al., 2005)
  - NomBank

- **Statistical Models:**
  - Task: Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)
Frame Semantics

- **Frame**: Semantic frames are schematic representations of situations involving various participants, propositions, and other conceptual roles.
- **Frame Elements (FEs)** include events, states, relations, and entities.

- **Frame**: “The case for case” (Fillmore 1968)
  - 8k citations in Google Scholar.

- **Script**: knowledge about situations like eating in a restaurant.
  - “Scripts, Plans, Goals and Understanding: an Inquiry into Human Knowledge Structures” (Schank & Abelson 1977)

- **Political Framings**: George Lakoff’s recent writings on the framing of political discourse.
C4C: Capturing Generalizations over Related Predicates & Arguments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>BUYER</th>
<th>GOODS</th>
<th>SELLER</th>
<th>MONEY</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buy</td>
<td>subject</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sell</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>subject</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Indirect object</td>
<td>subject</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend</td>
<td>subject</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>object</td>
<td>at</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Grammar -> Frames

- Valency: Predicates have arguments (optional & required)
  - Example: “give” requires 3 arguments:
    - Agent (A), Object (O), and Beneficiary (B)
    - Jones (A) gave money (O) to the school (B)

- Frames:
  - commercial transaction frame: Buy/Sell/Pay/Spend
  - Save <good thing> from <bad situation>
  - Risk <valued object> for
    <situation>|<purpose>|<beneficiary>|<motivation>

- Collocations & Typical predicate argument relations
  - Save whales from extinction (not vice versa)
  - Ready to risk everything for what he believes

- Representation Challenges: What matters for practical NLP?

Slide from Ken Church (at Fillmore tribute workshop)
Thematic (Semantic) Roles

- **AGENT** - the volitional causer of an event
  - *The waiter* spilled the soup

- **EXPERIENCER** - the experiencer of an event
  - *John* has a headache

- **FORCE** - the non-volitional causer of an event
  - *The wind* blows debris from the mall into our yards.

- **THEME** - the participant most directly affected by an event
  - *Only after Benjamin Franklin broke the ice ...*

- **RESULT** - the end product of an event
  - *The French government has built a regulation-size baseball diamond ...*
Thematic (Semantic) Roles

- **INSTRUMENT** - an instrument used in an event
  - He turned to poaching catfish, stunning them *with a shocking device* ...

- **BENEFICIARY** - the beneficiary of an event
  - Whenever Ann makes hotel reservations *for her boss* ...

- **SOURCE** - the origin of the object of a transfer event
  - I flew in *from Boston*

- **GOAL** - the destination of an object of a transfer event
  - I drove *to Portland*

- Can we read semantic roles off from PCFG or dependency parse trees?
Semantic roles ≠ Grammatical roles

- **Agent** – the volitional causer of an event
  - usually “subject”, sometimes “prepositional argument”, ...
- **Theme** – the participant directly affected by an event
  - usually “object”, sometimes “subject”, ...
- **Instrument** – an instrument (method) used in an event
  - usually prepositional phrase, but can also be a “subject”

- John broke the window.
- John broke the window with a rock.
- The rock broke the window.
- The window broke.
- The window was broken by John.
Ergative Verbs

- Ergative verbs
  - subject when intransitive = direct object when transitive.
  - "it broke the window" (transitive)
  - "the window broke" (intransitive).
- Most verbs in English are not ergative (the subject role does not change whether transitive or not)
  - "He ate the soup" (transitive)
  - "He ate" (intransitive)
- Ergative verbs generally describe some sort of “changes” of states:
  - Verbs suggesting a change of state — break, burst, form, heal, melt, tear, transform
  - Verbs of cooking — bake, boil, cook, fry
  - Verbs of movement — move, shake, sweep, turn, walk
  - Verbs involving vehicles — drive, fly, reverse, run, sail
FrameNet
Frames

- **Theory:**
  - Frame Semantics (Fillmore 1968)

- **Resources:**
  - VerbNet (Kipper et al., 2000)
  - FrameNet (Fillmore et al., 2004)
  - PropBank (Palmer et al., 2005)
  - NomBank

- **Statistical Models:**
  - Task: Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)
Words in “change_position_on_a_scale” frame:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERBS:</th>
<th>dwindle</th>
<th>move</th>
<th>soar</th>
<th>escalation</th>
<th>shift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advance</td>
<td>edge</td>
<td>mushroom</td>
<td>swell</td>
<td>explosion</td>
<td>tumble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>climb</td>
<td>explode</td>
<td>plummet</td>
<td>swing</td>
<td>fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decline</td>
<td>fall</td>
<td>reach</td>
<td>triple</td>
<td>fluctuation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decrease</td>
<td>fluctuate</td>
<td>rise</td>
<td>tumble</td>
<td>gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diminish</td>
<td>gain</td>
<td>rocket</td>
<td>gain</td>
<td>growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dip</td>
<td>grow</td>
<td>shift</td>
<td>NOUNS:</td>
<td>hike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double</td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>skyrocket</td>
<td>decline</td>
<td>increase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drop</td>
<td>jump</td>
<td>slide</td>
<td>decrease</td>
<td>rise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVERBS:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>increasingly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Frame := the set of words sharing a similar predicate-argument relations
- Predicate can be a verb, noun, adjective, adverb
- The same word with multiple senses can belong to multiple frames
Roles in “change_position_on_a_scale” frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Roles</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATTRIBUTE</strong></td>
<td>The ATTRIBUTE is a scalar property that the ITEM possesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DIFFERENCE</strong></td>
<td>The distance by which an ITEM changes its position on the scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL_STATE</strong></td>
<td>A description that presents the ITEM’s state after the change in the ATTRIBUTE’s value as an independent predication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL_VALUE</strong></td>
<td>The position on the scale where the ITEM ends up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INITIAL_STATE</strong></td>
<td>A description that presents the ITEM’s state before the change in the ATTRIBUTE’s value as an independent predication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INITIAL_VALUE</strong></td>
<td>The initial position on the scale from which the ITEM moves away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ITEM</strong></td>
<td>The entity that has a position on the scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VALUE_RANGE</strong></td>
<td>A portion of the scale, typically identified by its end points, along which the values of the ATTRIBUTE fluctuate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some Non-Core Roles

| **DURATION**            | The length of time over which the change takes place.             |
| **SPEED**               | The rate of change of the VALUE.                                  |
| **GROUP**               | The GROUP in which an ITEM changes the value of an ATTRIBUTE in a specified way. |
### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTRIBUTE</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
<th>FINAL_STATE</th>
<th>INITIAL_STATE</th>
<th>FINAL_VALUE</th>
<th>INITIAL_VALUE</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>VALUE_RANGE</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
<th>SPEED</th>
<th>GROUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Oil] rose</td>
<td>[in price]</td>
<td>[by 2%].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[It] has increased</td>
<td>[to having them 1 day a month].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a steady increase</td>
<td>[from 9.5]</td>
<td>[to 14.3]</td>
<td>[in dividends].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a [5%] [dividend] increase…</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribute/Difference</td>
<td>[Oil] rose [in price] [by 2%].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final State</td>
<td>[It] has increased [to having them] [1 day a month].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Value</td>
<td>[Microsoft shares] fell [to 7 5/8].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial State</td>
<td>[cancer incidence] fell [by 50%] [among men].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Value</td>
<td>a steady increase [from 9.5] [to 14.3] [in dividends].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Value Range</td>
<td>a [5%] [dividend] increase…</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration Speed Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Find “Difference” & “Final_Value” roles?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTRIBUTE DIFFERENCE</th>
<th>[Oil] rose [in price] [by 2%].</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FINAL_STATE</td>
<td>[It] has increased [to having them] [1 day a month].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL_VALUE INITIAL_STATE</td>
<td>[Microsoft shares] fell [to 7 5/8].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INITIAL_VALUE</td>
<td>[cancer incidence] fell [by 50%] [among men].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITEM VALUE RANGE</td>
<td>a steady increase [from 9.5] [to 14.3] [in dividends].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DURATION SPEED GROUP</td>
<td>a [5]% [dividend] increase…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FrameNet (2004)

- Project at UC Berkeley led by Chuck Fillmore for developing a database of frames, general semantic concepts with an associated set of roles.

- Roles are specific to frames, which are “invoked” by the predicate, which can be a verb, noun, adjective, adverb
  - **JUDGEMENT frame**
    - Invoked by: V: blame, praise, admire; N: fault, admiration
    - Roles: JUDGE, EVALUTEE, and REASON

- Specific frames chosen, and then sentences that employed these frames selected from the British National Corpus and annotated by linguists for semantic roles.

- Initial version: 67 frames, 49,013 sentences, 99,232 role fillers
PropBank
(proposition bank)
PropBank := proposition bank (2005)

- Project at Colorado led by Martha Palmer to add semantic roles to the Penn treebank.
- Proposition := verb + a set of roles
- Annotated over 1M words of Wall Street Journal text with existing gold-standard parse trees.
- Statistics:
  - 43,594 sentences  99,265 propositions
  - 3,324 unique verbs  262,281 role assignments
PropBank argument numbering

- Numbered roles, rather than named roles.
  - Arg0, Arg1, Arg2, Arg3, ...
- Different numbering scheme for each verb sense.
- The general pattern of numbering is as follows.

- **Arg0** = “Proto-Agent” (agent)
- **Arg1** = “Proto-Patient” (direct object / theme / patient)
- **Arg2** = indirect object (benefactive / instrument / attribute / end state)
- **Arg3** = start point (benefactive / instrument / attribute)
- **Arg4** = end point
Different “frameset” for each verb sense

- Mary left the room.
- Mary left her daughter-in-law her pearls in her will.

Frameset **leave.01** "move away from":
- Arg0: entity leaving
- Arg1: place left

Frameset **leave.02** "give":
- Arg0: giver
- Arg1: thing given
- Arg2: beneficiary
Semantic Role Labeling
Semantic Role Labeling (Task)

- Shallow meaning representation beyond syntactic parse trees
- Question Answering
  - “Who” questions usually use Agents
  - “What” question usually use Patients
  - “How” and “with what” questions usually use Instruments
  - “Where” questions frequently use Sources and Destinations.
  - “For whom” questions usually use Beneficiaries
  - “To whom” questions usually use Destinations
- Machine Translation Generation
  - Semantic roles are usually expressed using particular, distinct syntactic constructions in different languages.
- Summarization, Information Extraction
SRL $^{\text{def}}$ detecting basic event structures such as *who did what to whom, when and where* [IE point of view]

Example from Lluis Marquez
SRL $\overset{\text{def}}{=} \text{identify the arguments of a given verb and assign them semantic labels describing the roles they play in the predicate (i.e., identify predicate argument structures)}$ [CL point of view]
Linguistic nature of the problem

- Argument identification is strongly related to syntax

- Role labeling is a semantic task
  - e.g., selectional preferences should play an important role

Example from Lluis Marquez
SRL as Parse Node Classification

- Assume that a syntactic parse is available
- Treat problem as classifying parse-tree nodes.
- Can use any machine-learning classification method.
- Critical issue is engineering the right set of features for the classifier to use.

**Color Code:**
- not-a-role
- agent
- patient
- source
- destination
- instrument
- beneficiary