

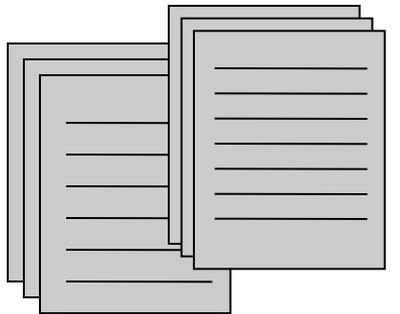
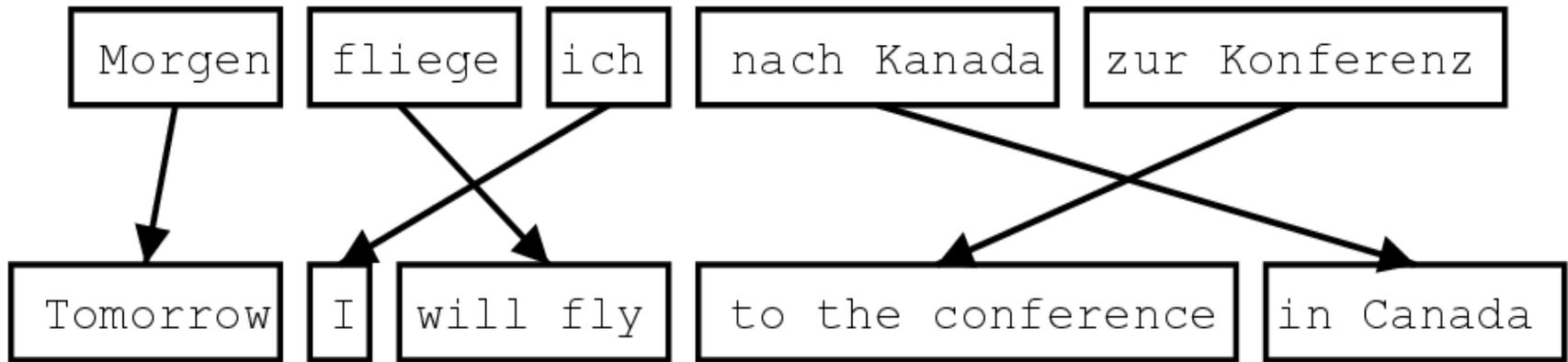
CSE 517  
Natural Language Processing  
Winter 2015

Phrase Based Translation

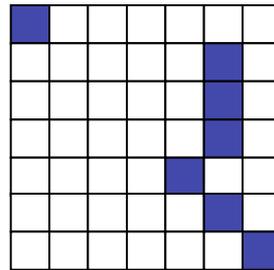
Yejin Choi

Slides from Philipp Koehn, Dan Klein, Luke Zettlemoyer

# Phrase-Based Systems



Sentence-aligned  
corpus



Word alignments



```
cat ||| chat ||| 0.9
the cat ||| le chat ||| 0.8
dog ||| chien ||| 0.8
house ||| maison ||| 0.6
my house ||| ma maison ||| 0.9
language ||| langue ||| 0.9
...
```

Phrase table  
(translation model)



# Phrase Translation Model

---

- Bayes rule

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_{\text{best}} &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{e}) p_{\text{LM}}(\mathbf{e}) \end{aligned}$$

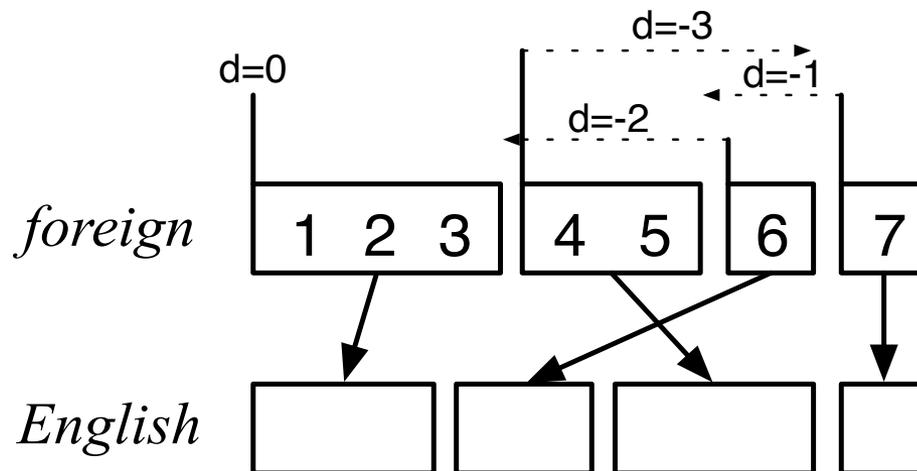
- translation model  $p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f})$
- language model  $p_{\text{LM}}(\mathbf{e})$

- Decomposition of the translation model

$$p(\bar{f}_1^I | \bar{e}_1^I) = \prod_{i=1}^I \phi(\bar{f}_i | \bar{e}_i) d(\text{start}_i - \text{end}_{i-1} - 1)$$

- phrase translation probability  $\phi$
- reordering probability  $d$

# Distortion Model



phrase	translates	movement	distance
1	1-3	start at beginning	0
2	6	skip over 4-5	+2
3	4-5	move back over 4-6	-3
4	7	skip over 6	+1

Scoring function:  $d(x) = \alpha^{|x|}$  — exponential with distance





# Phrase Pair Extraction Example

---

(Maria, Mary), (no, did not), (slap, daba una bofetada), (a la, the), (bruja, witch), (verde, green)

(Maria no, Mary did not), (no daba una bofetada, did not slap), (daba una bofetada a la, slap the), (bruja verde, green witch)

(Maria no daba una bofetada, Mary did not slap), (no daba una bofetada a la, did not slap the), (a la bruja verde, the green witch)

(Maria no daba una bofetada a la, Mary did not slap the), (daba una bofetada a la bruja verde, slap the green witch)

(Maria no daba una bofetada a la bruja verde, Mary did not slap the green witch)

# Linguistic Phrases?

---

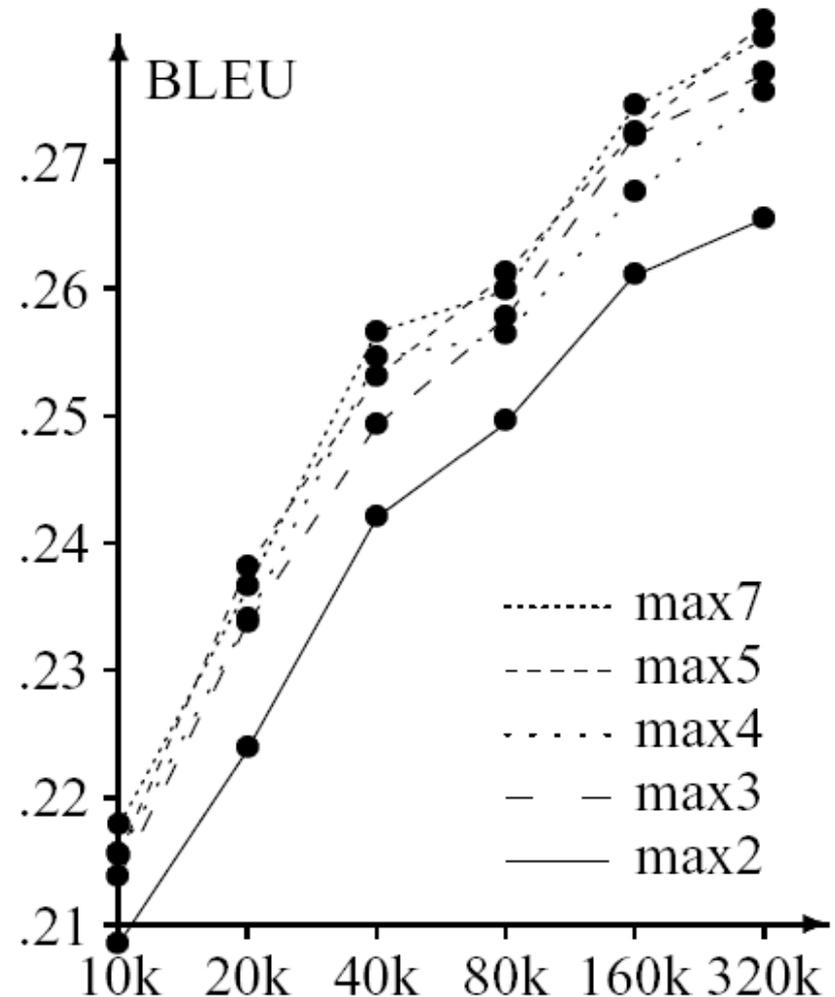
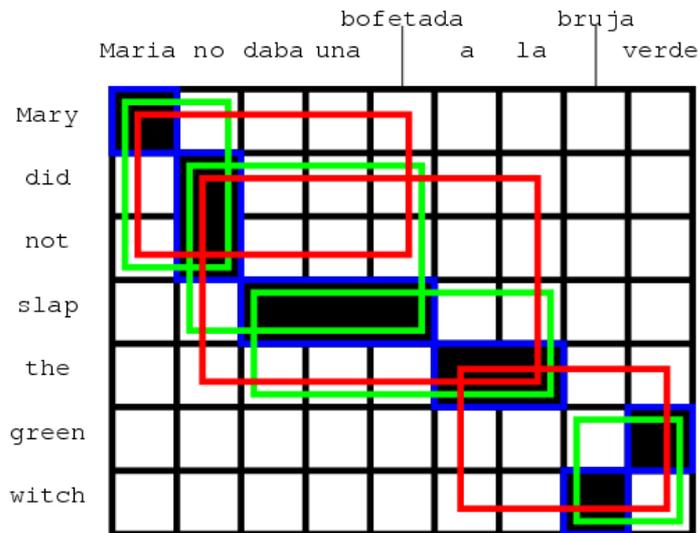
- Model is not limited to linguistic phrases  
(noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases, ...)
- Example non-linguistic phrase pair

spass am → fun with the

- Prior noun often helps with translation of preposition
- Experiments show that limitation to linguistic phrases hurts quality

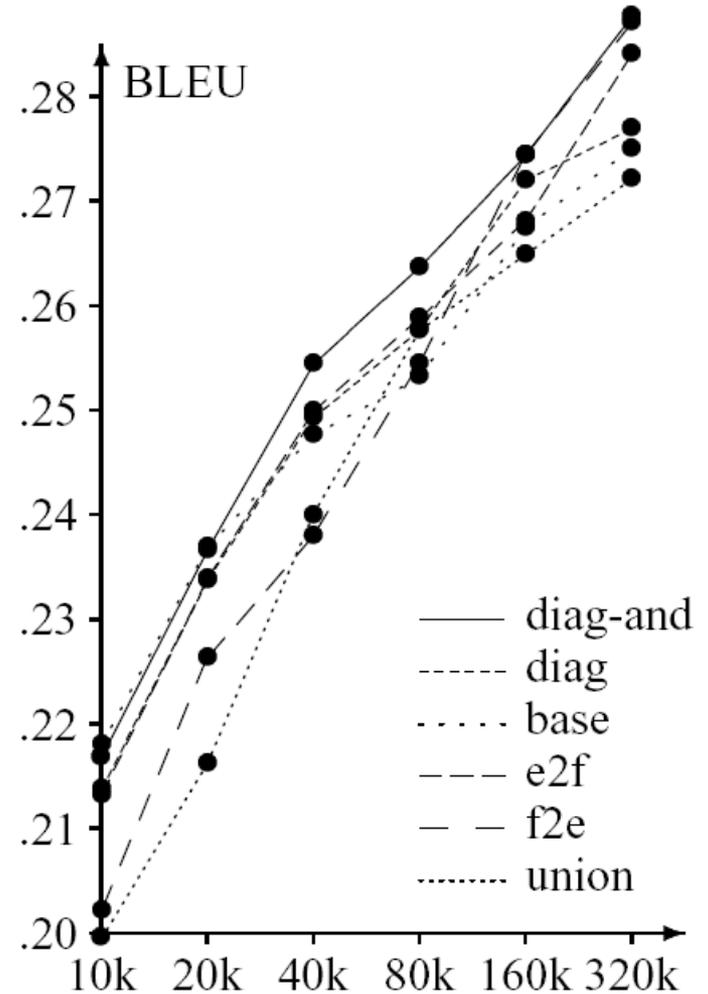
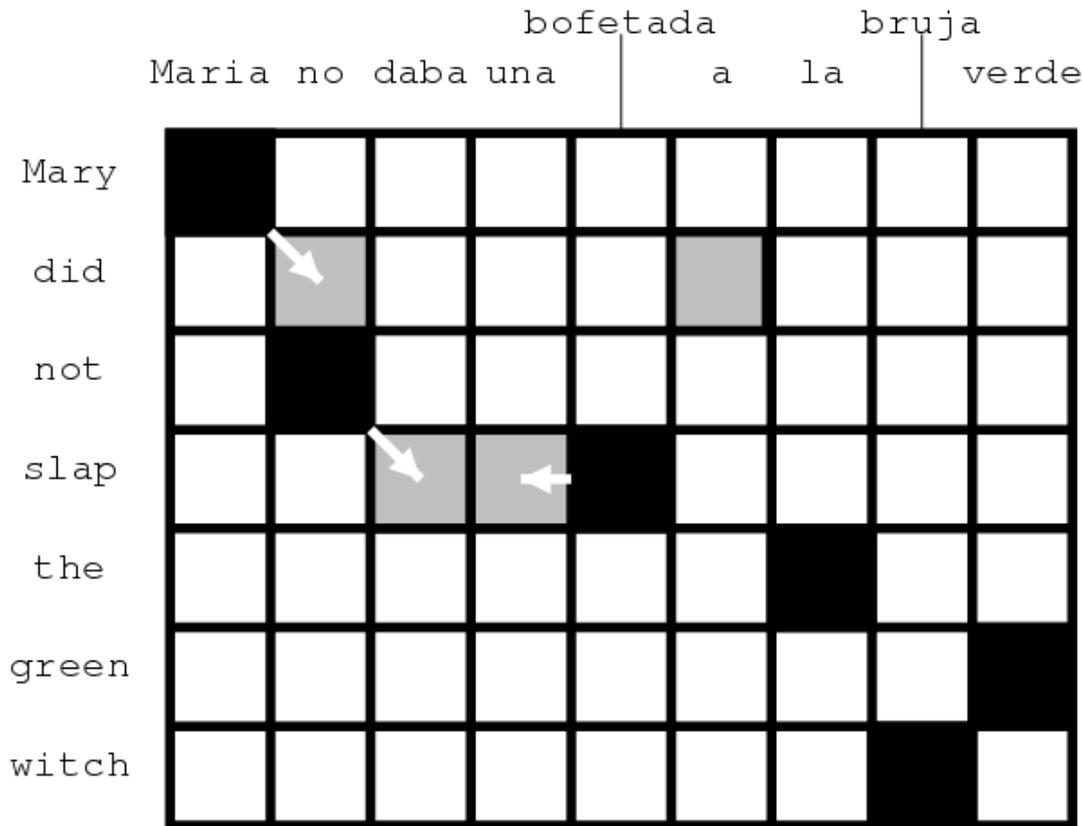
# Phrase Size

- Phrases do help
  - But they don't need to be long
  - Why should this be?





# Alignment Heuristics



# Size of Phrase Translation Table

---

- Phrase translation table typically bigger than corpus  
... even with limits on phrase lengths (e.g., max 7 words)

→ Too big to store in memory?

- Solution for training
  - extract to disk, sort, construct for one source phrase at a time
- Solutions for decoding
  - on-disk data structures with index for quick look-ups
  - suffix arrays to create phrase pairs on demand

# Why not Learn Phrases w/ EM?

---

## EM Training of the Phrase Model

- We presented a heuristic set-up to build phrase translation table (word alignment, phrase extraction, phrase scoring)
- Alternative: align phrase pairs directly with EM algorithm
  - initialization: uniform model, all  $\phi(\bar{e}, \bar{f})$  are the same
  - expectation step:
    - \* estimate likelihood of all possible phrase alignments for all sentence pairs
  - maximization step:
    - \* collect counts for phrase pairs  $(\bar{e}, \bar{f})$ , weighted by alignment probability
    - \* update phrase translation probabilities  $p(\bar{e}, \bar{f})$
- However: method easily overfits (learns very large phrase pairs, spanning entire sentences)

# Phrase Scoring

$$g(f, e) = \log \frac{c(e, f)}{c(e)}$$

$$g(\text{les chats}, \text{cats}) = \log \frac{c(\text{cats}, \text{les chats})}{c(\text{cats})}$$

	<i>les chats</i>	<i>le</i>	<i>aiment</i>	<i>poisson</i>			
<i>cats</i>	■	■					
<i>like</i>			■				
<i>fresh</i>					■	■	
<i>fish</i>					■		
<i>.</i>							■

Green brackets indicate groupings: a horizontal bracket under the first two columns, a horizontal bracket under the third column, a horizontal bracket under the last three columns, a vertical bracket on the right side of the first row, a vertical bracket on the right side of the second row, and a large vertical bracket on the right side of the last three rows.

- Learning weights has been tried, several times:
  - [Marcu and Wong, 02]
  - [DeNero et al, 06]
  - ... and others
- Seems not to work well, for a variety of partially understood reasons
- Main issue: big chunks get all the weight, obvious priors don't help
  - Though, [DeNero et al 08]

# Translation: Codebreaking?

---

*“Also knowing nothing official about, but having guessed and inferred considerable about, the powerful new mechanized methods in cryptography—methods which I believe succeed even when one does not know what language has been coded—one naturally wonders if the problem of translation could conceivably be treated as a problem in cryptography.*

*When I look at an article in Russian, I say: ‘This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now **proceed to decode.**’ ”*



- Warren Weaver (1955:18, quoting a letter he wrote in 1947)

# Translation is hard!



zi zhu zhong duan  
自 助 终 端

self help terminal device

help oneself terminating machine

(ATM, “self-service terminal”)

# Translation is hard!



# Translation is hard!



# Translation is hard!



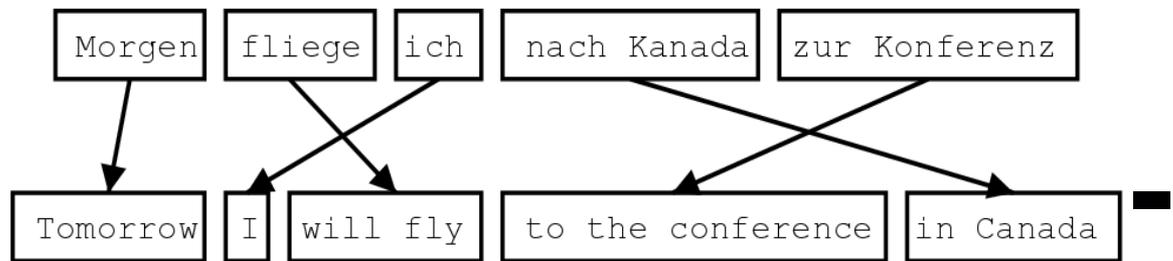
# Translation is hard!



or even...



# Scoring:



- Basic approach, sum up phrase translation scores and a language model

- Define  $y = p_1 p_2 \dots p_L$  to be a translation with phrase pairs  $p_i$
- Define  $e(y)$  be the output English sentence in  $y$
- Let  $h()$  be the log probability under a tri-gram language model
- Let  $g()$  be a phrase pair score (from last slide)
- Then, the full translation score is:

$$f(y) = h(e(y)) + \sum_{k=1}^L g(p_k)$$

- Goal, compute the best translation

$$y^*(x) = \arg \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}(x)} f(y)$$

# Phrase Scoring

$$g(f, e) = \log \frac{c(e, f)}{c(e)}$$

$$g(\text{les chats}, \text{cats}) = \log \frac{c(\text{cats}, \text{les chats})}{c(\text{cats})}$$

	<i>aiment</i>		<i>poisson</i>		
	<i>les chats</i>	<i>le</i>	<i>frais</i>	.	
<i>cats</i>	■	■			
<i>like</i>		■			
<i>fresh</i>				■	
<i>fish</i>			■		
.					■

Green brackets highlight the following cells: (cats, les chats), (cats, le), (like, le), (fresh, frais), (fish, frais), and (., frais).

- Learning weights has been tried, several times:
  - [Marcu and Wong, 02]
  - [DeNero et al, 06]
  - ... and others
- Seems not to work well, for a variety of partially understood reasons
- Main issue: big chunks get all the weight, obvious priors don't help
  - Though, [DeNero et al 08]

# Phrase-Based Translation

这 7人 中包括 来自 法国 和 俄罗斯 的 宇航 员 .

the	7 people	including	by some	and	the russian	the	the astronauts	,
it	7 people included		by france	and the	the russian		international astronautical	of rapporteur .
this	7 out	including the	from	the french	and the russian	the fifth		.
these	7 among	including from		the french and	of the russian	of	space	members .
that	7 persons	including from the		of france	and to	russian	of the	aerospace
	7 include		from the	of france and	russian		astronauts	. the
	7 numbers include		from france		and russian		of astronauts who	."
	7 populations include		those from france		and russian		astronauts .	
	7 deportees included		come from	france	and russia	in	astronautical	personnel ;
	7 philtrum	including those from		france and	russia	a space		member
		including representatives from		france and the	russia		astronaut	
		include	came from	france and russia			by cosmonauts	
		include representatives from		french	and russia		cosmonauts	
		include	came from france		and russia 's		cosmonauts .	
		includes	coming from	french and	russia 's		cosmonaut	
				french and	russian	's	astronavigation	member .
				french	and russia		astronauts	
					and russia 's			special rapporteur
					, and russia			rapporteur
					, and russia			rapporteur .
					, and russia			
				or	russia 's			

Table 1: #11# the seven - member crew includes astronauts from france and russia .

Scoring: Try to use phrase pairs that have been frequently observed.  
 Try to output a sentence with frequent English word sequences.

# Phrase-Based Translation

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the	7 people	including	by some	and	the russian	the	the astronauts	,
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	7 numbers include	from france		and russian			of astronauts who			."
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				french	and russia		astronauts			
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				, and russia					rapporteur	.
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	7 include	from the	of france and	and	astronaut	astronauts				
	7 numbers include	from france	and russian		of astronauts who					
	7 populations include	those from france	and russian		astronauts .					
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		include	came from	france and russia	by cosmonauts					
		include representatives from	french	and russia	cosmonauts					
		include	came from france	and russia 's	cosmonauts .					
		includes	coming from	french and	russia 's	cosmonaut				
			french and russian	's	astronaut	member .				
			french	and russia	astronauts					
				and russia 's		special rapporteur				
				, and russia		rapporteur				
				, and russia		rapporteur .				
				, and russia						
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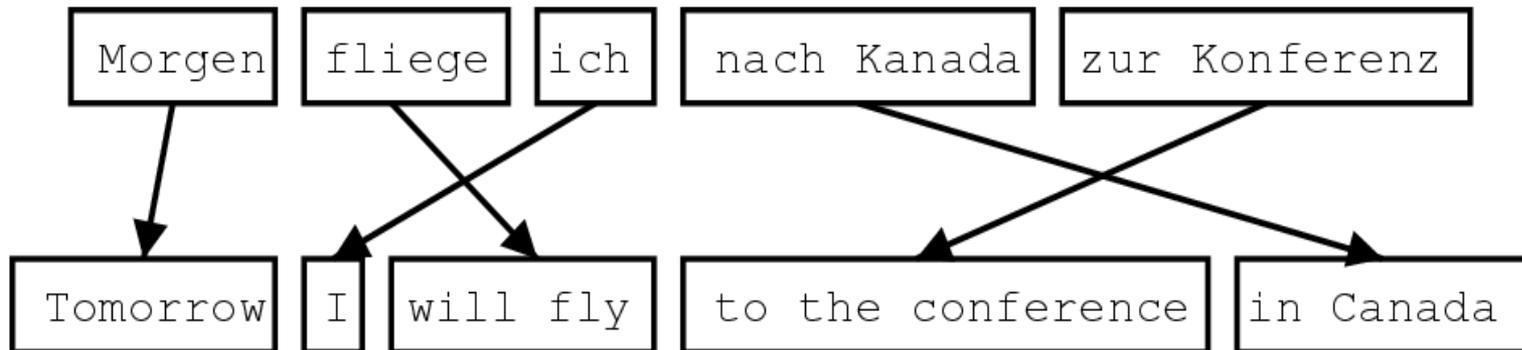
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Scoring: Try to use phrase pairs that have been frequently observed.  
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# The Pharaoh Decoder

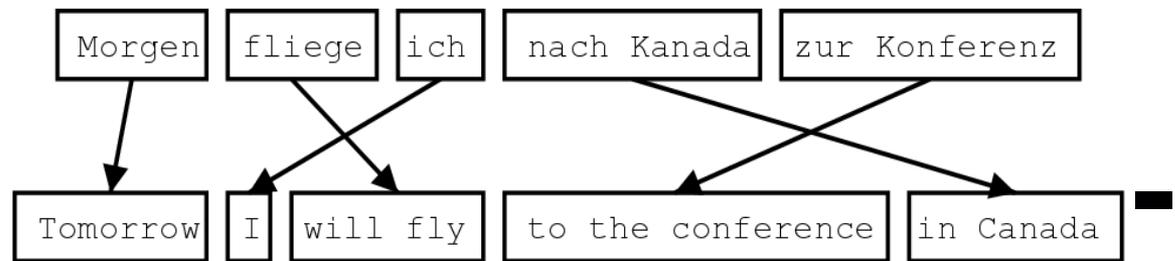
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## Space of possible translations

- Phrase table constrains possible translations
- Output sentence is built left to right
  - but source phrases can match any part of sentence
- Each source word can only be translated once
- Each source word must be translated

# Scoring:



- In practice, much like for alignment models, also include a distortion penalty
  - Define  $y = p_1 p_2 \dots p_L$  to be a translation with phrase pairs  $p_i$
  - Let  $s(p_i)$  be the start position of the foreign phrase
  - Let  $t(p_i)$  be the end position of the foreign phrase
  - Define  $\eta$  to be the distortion score (usually negative!)
  - Then, we can define a score *with distortion penalty*:

$$f(y) = h(e(y)) + \sum_{k=1}^L g(p_k) + \sum_{k=1}^{L-1} \eta \times |t(p_k) + 1 - s(p_{k+1})|$$

- Goal, compute the best translation

$$y^*(x) = \arg \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}(x)} f(y)$$

# Hypothesis Expansion

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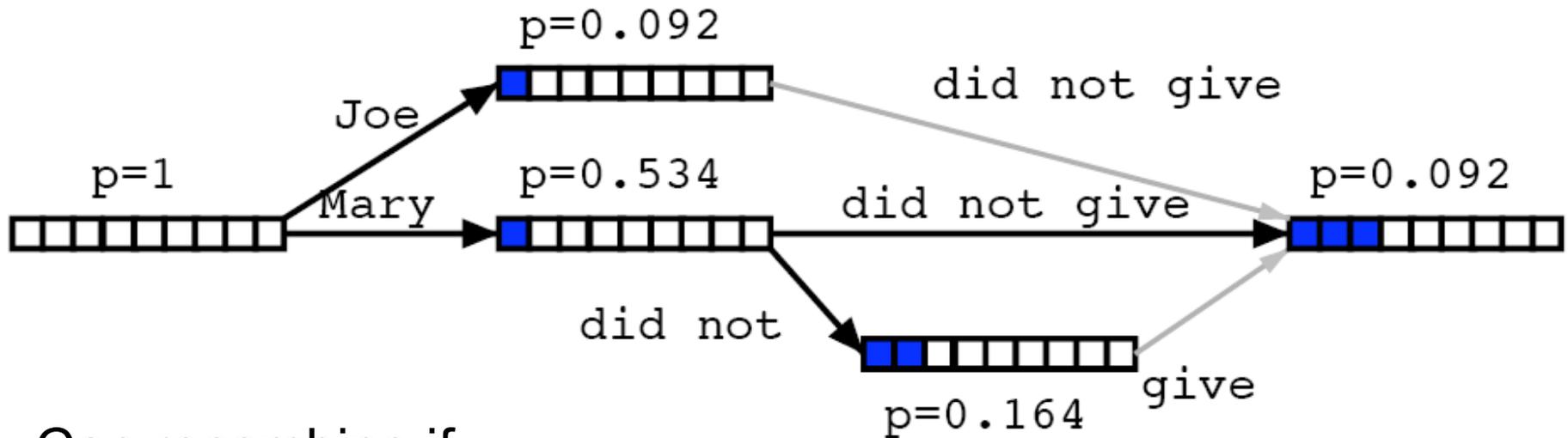
# Hypothesis Explosion!

---

- Q: How much time to find the best translation?
  - Exponentially many translations, in length of source sentence
  - NP-hard, just like for word translation models
  - So, we will use approximate search techniques!

# Hypothesis Lattices

Maria	no	dio	una	bofetada	a	la	bruja	verde
<u>Mary</u>	<u>not</u>	<u>give</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>slap</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>the</u>	<u>witch</u>	<u>green</u>
	<u>did not</u>		<u>a slap</u>		<u>by</u>		<u>green witch</u>	
	<u>no</u>		<u>slap</u>		<u>to the</u>			
	<u>did not give</u>				<u>to</u>			
					<u>the</u>			
			<u>slap</u>			<u>the witch</u>		



Can recombine if:

- Last two English words match
- Foreign word coverage vectors match

# Decoder Pseudocode

---

Initialization: Set beam  $Q = \{q_0\}$  where  $q_0$  is initial state with no words translated

For  $i=0 \dots n-1$  [where  $n$  is input sentence length]

• For each state  $q \in \text{beam}(Q)$  and phrase  $p \in \text{ph}(q)$

1.  $q' = \text{next}(q, p)$  [compute the new state]

2.  $\text{Add}(Q, q', q, p)$  [add the new state to the beam]

Notes:

•  $\text{ph}(q)$ : set of phrases that can be added to partial translation in state  $q$

•  $\text{next}(q, p)$ : updates the translation in  $q$  and records which words have been translated from input

•  $\text{Add}(Q, q', q, p)$ : updates beam,  $q'$  is added to  $Q$  if it is in the top- $n$  overall highest scoring partial translations

# Decoder Pseudocode

---

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Possible State Representations:

- Full:  $q = (e, b, \alpha)$ , e.g. (“Joe did not give,” 11000000, 0.092)
  - $e$  is the partial English sentence
  - $b$  is a bit vector recorded which source words are translated
  - $\alpha$  is score of translation so far

# Decoder Pseudocode

---

Initialization: Set beam  $Q = \{q_0\}$  where  $q_0$  is initial state with no words translated

For  $i=0 \dots n-1$  [where  $n$  is input sentence length]

• For each state  $q \in \text{beam}(Q)$  and phrase  $p \in \text{ph}(q)$

1.  $q' = \text{next}(q, p)$  [compute the new state]

2.  $\text{Add}(Q, q', q, p)$  [add the new state to the beam]

Possible State Representations:

• Full:  $q = (e, b, \alpha)$ , e.g. (“Joe did not give,” 11000000, 0.092)

• Compact:  $q = (e_1, e_2, b, r, \alpha)$ ,

• e.g. (“not,” “give,” 11000000, 4, 0.092)

•  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are the last two words of partial translation

•  $r$  is the length of the partial translation

• Compact representation is more efficient, but requires back pointers to get the final translation

# Pruning

Maria no dio una bofetada a la bruja verde

-----  
          ↓  
e: Mary did not  
f: \*\*-----  
p: 0.154

**better  
partial  
translation**

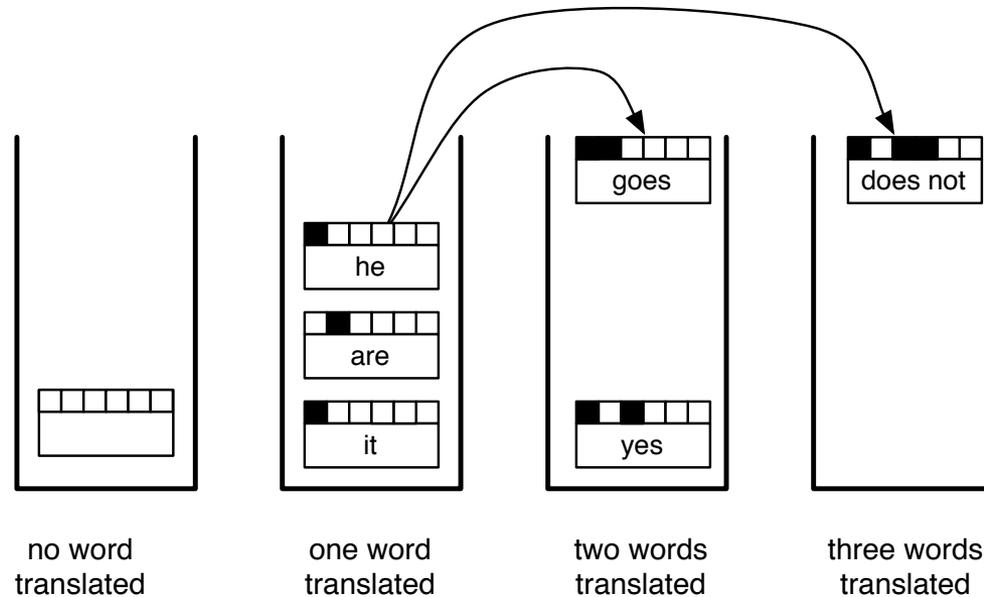
-----  
          ↓  
e: the  
f: -----\*\*--  
p: 0.354

**covers  
easier part  
--> lower cost**

- **Problem: easy partial analyses are cheaper**
  - Solution 1: separate bean for each number of foreign words
  - Solution 2: estimate forward costs (A\*-like)

# Stack Decoding

## Stacks



- Hypothesis expansion in a stack decoder
  - translation option is applied to hypothesis
  - new hypothesis is dropped into a stack further down

# Stack Decoding

---

## Stack Decoding Algorithm

```
1: place empty hypothesis into stack 0
2: for all stacks  $0 \dots n - 1$  do
3:   for all hypotheses in stack do
4:     for all translation options do
5:       if applicable then
6:         create new hypothesis
7:         place in stack
8:         recombine with existing hypothesis if possible
9:         prune stack if too big
10:      end if
11:    end for
12:  end for
13: end for
```

# Decoder Pseudocode (Multibeam)

---

Initialization:

- set  $Q_0 = \{q_0\}$ ,  $Q_i = \{\}$  for  $i = 1 \dots n$  [ $n$  is input sent length]

For  $i=0 \dots n-1$

- For each state  $q \in \text{beam}(Q_i)$  and phrase  $p \in \text{ph}(q)$ 
  1.  $q' = \text{next}(q, p)$
  2.  $\text{Add}(Q_{i+1}, q', q, p)$  where  $i = \text{len}(q')$

Notes:

- $Q_i$  is a beam of all partial translations where  $i$  input words have been translated
- $\text{len}(q)$  is the number of bits equal to one in  $q$  (the number of words that have been translated)

# Making it Work (better)

---

The “Fundamental Equation of Machine Translation” (Brown et al. 1993)

$$\hat{e} = \operatorname{argmax}_e P(e | f)$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_e P(e) \times P(f | e) / P(f)$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_e P(e) \times P(f | e)$$

# Making it Work (better)

---

What StatMT people do in the  
privacy of their own homes

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e | f) =$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e) \times P(f | e) / P(f) =$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e)^{1.9} \times P(f | e) \quad \dots \text{ works better!}$$

Which model are you now paying more attention to?

# Making it Work (better)

---

What StatMT people do in the  
privacy of their own homes

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e | f) =$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e) \times P(f | e) / P(f)$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e P(e)^{1.9} \times P(f | e) \times 1.1^{\operatorname{length}(e)}$$

↑  
Rewards longer hypotheses, since  
these are 'unfairly' punished by  $P(e)$

# Making it Work (better)

---

What StatMT people do in the  
privacy of their own homes

$$\operatorname{argmax}_e \underbrace{P(e)^{1.9} \times P(f | e) \times 1.1^{\operatorname{length}(e)} \times \text{KS}^{3.7} \dots}$$

Lots of knowledge sources vote on any given hypothesis. Each has a weight

“Knowledge source” = “feature function” = “score component”.

# Making it Work (better)

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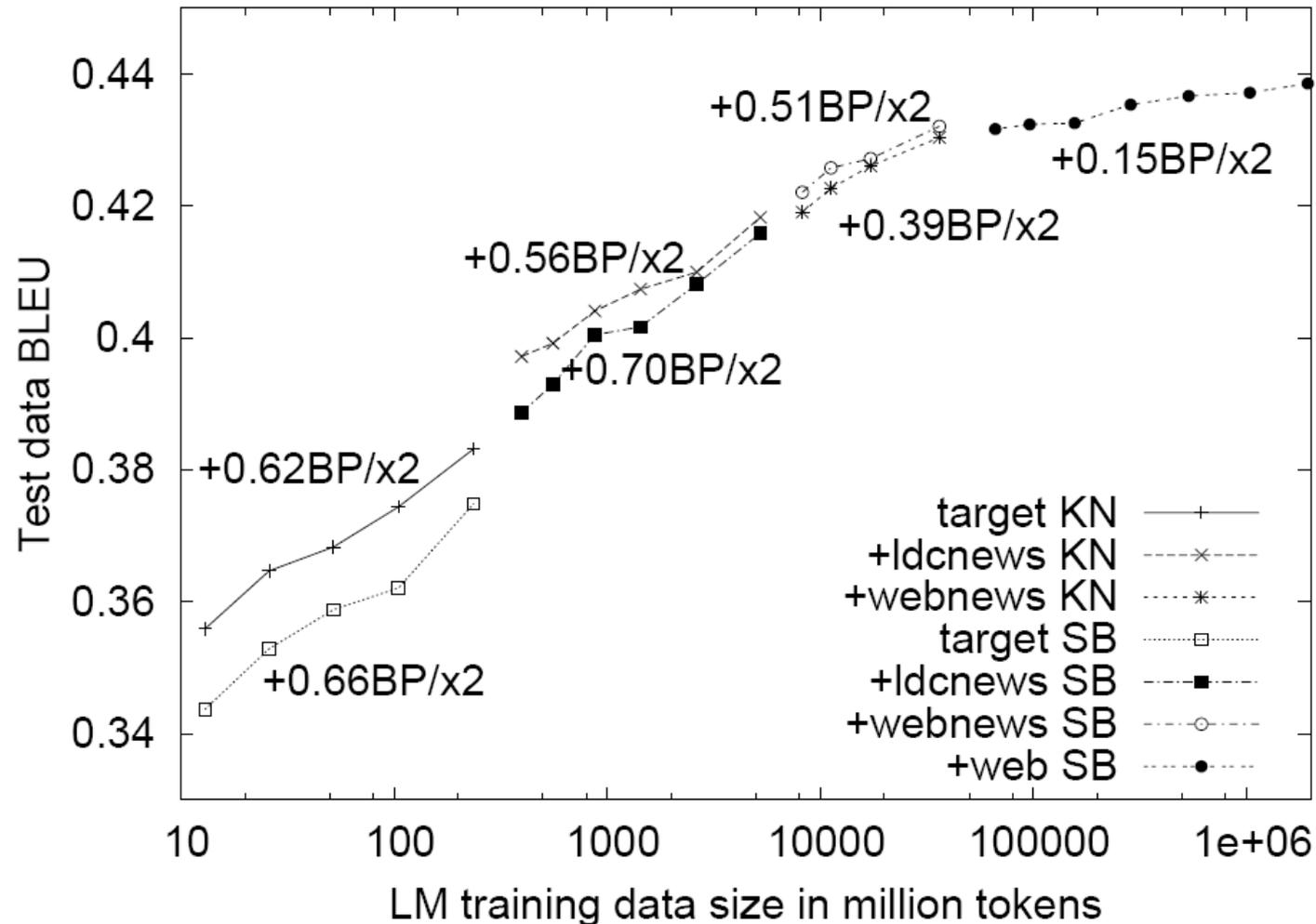
## Log-linear feature-based MT

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{argmax}_e 1.9 \times \log P(e) + 1.0 \times \log P(f | e) + \\ & \quad 1.1 \times \log \text{length}(e) + 3.7 \times \text{KS} + \dots \\ & = \operatorname{argmax}_e \sum_i w_i f_i \end{aligned}$$

So, we have two things:

- “Features”  $f$ , such as log language model score
- A weight  $w$  for each feature that indicates how good a job it does at indicating good translations

# No Data like More Data!



- Discussed for LMs, but can new understand full model!

# Tuning for MT

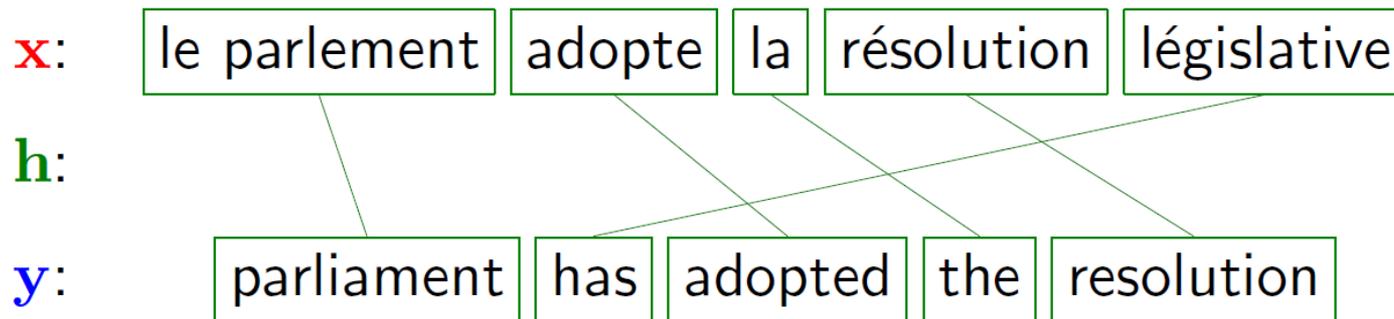
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- Features encapsulate lots of information
  - Basic MT systems have around 6 features
  - $P(e|f)$ ,  $P(f|e)$ , lexical weighting, language model
- How to tune feature weights?
- Idea 1: Use your favorite classifier

# Why Tuning is Hard

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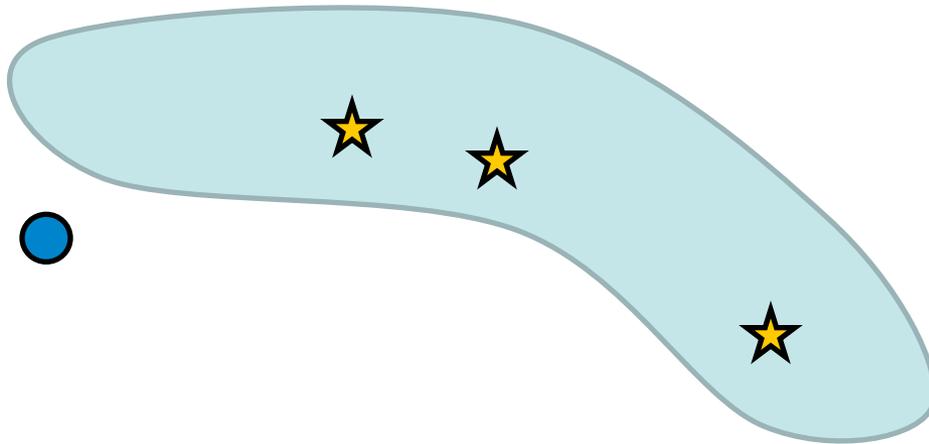
- Problem 1: There are latent variables
  - Alignments and segmentations
  - Possibility: forced decoding (but it can go badly)



# Why Tuning is Hard

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- Problem 2: There are many right answers
  - The reference or references are just a few options
  - No good characterization of the whole class



- BLEU isn't perfect, but even if you trust it, it's a corpus-level metric, not sentence-level

# Linear Models: Perceptron

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- The perceptron algorithm
  - Iteratively processes the training set, reacting to training errors
  - Can be thought of as trying to drive down training error
- The (online) perceptron algorithm:
  - Start with zero weights
  - Visit training instances  $(x_i, y_i)$  one by one
    - Make a prediction

$$y^* = \arg \max_y w \cdot \phi(x_i, y)$$

- If correct ( $y^* == y_i$ ): no change, goto next example!
- If wrong: adjust weights

$$w = w + \phi(x_i, y_i) - \phi(x_i, y^*)$$

# Perceptron training

For each training example  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ : [Collins '02]

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t) & \mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{y} \\ -\Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p) & \mathbf{y}_p = \text{DECODE}(\mathbf{x}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) & \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t = ??? \\ -\Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p) & \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p = \text{DECODE}(\mathbf{x}) \end{array}$$

# Update strategies

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) - \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p)$$

Training example (reference)

$\mathbf{x}$ : voté sur demande d ' urgence

$\mathbf{y}$ : vote on a request for urgent procedure

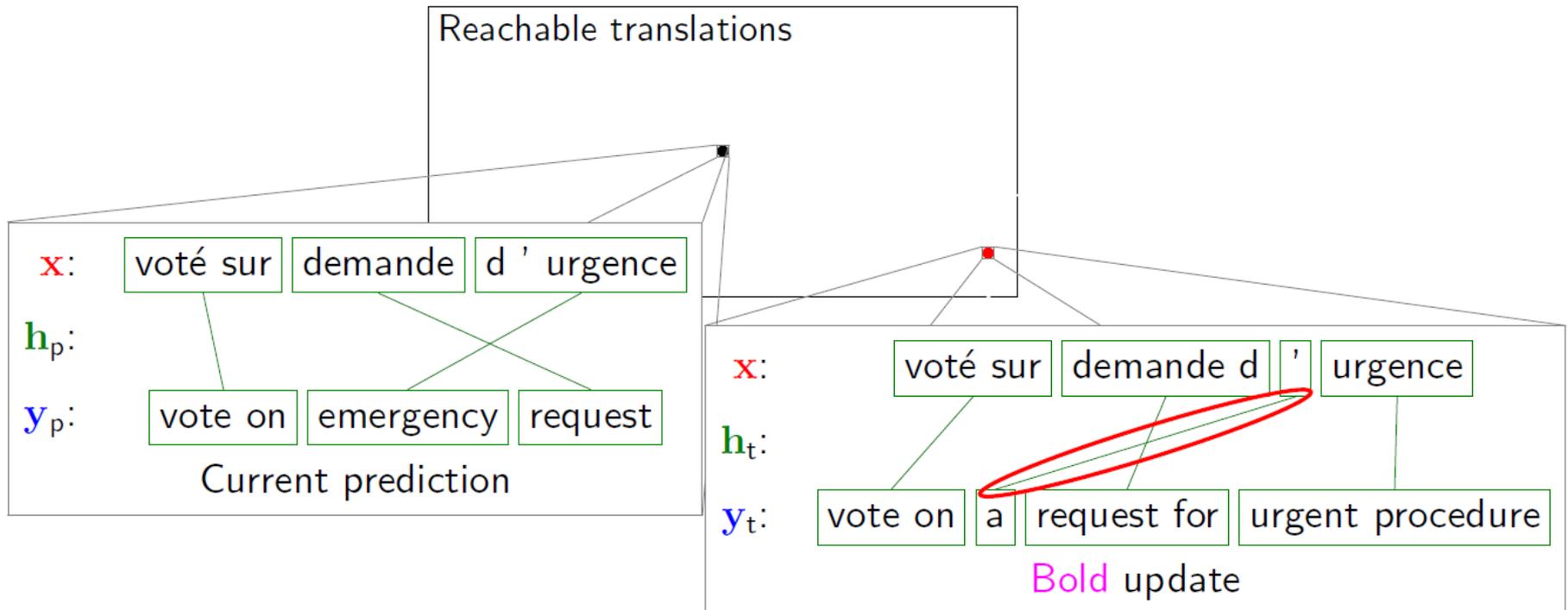
# Update strategies

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) - \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p)$$

Training example (reference)

$\mathbf{x}$ : voté sur demande d ' urgence

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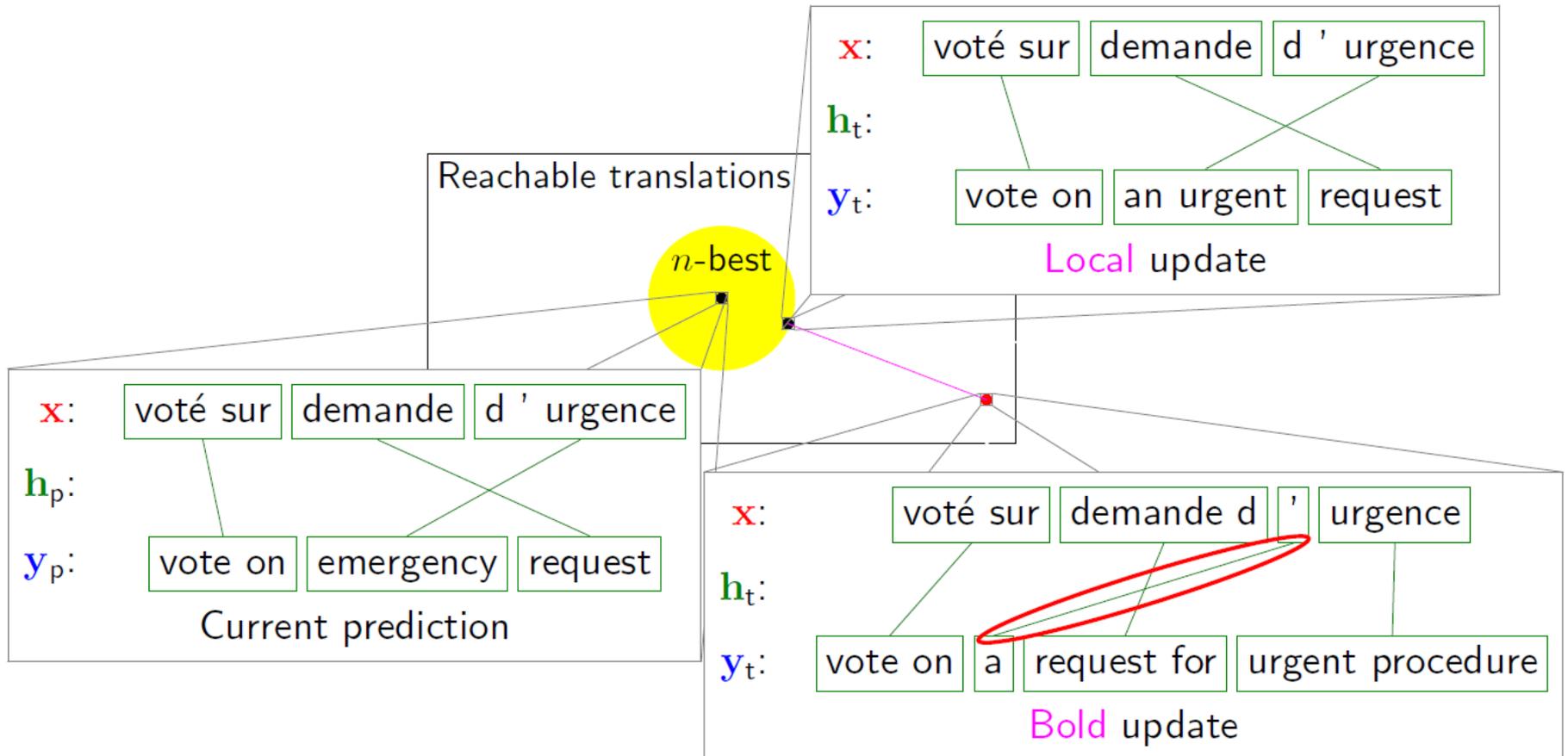
# Update strategies

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) - \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p)$$

Training example (reference)

$\mathbf{x}$ : voté sur demande d ' urgence

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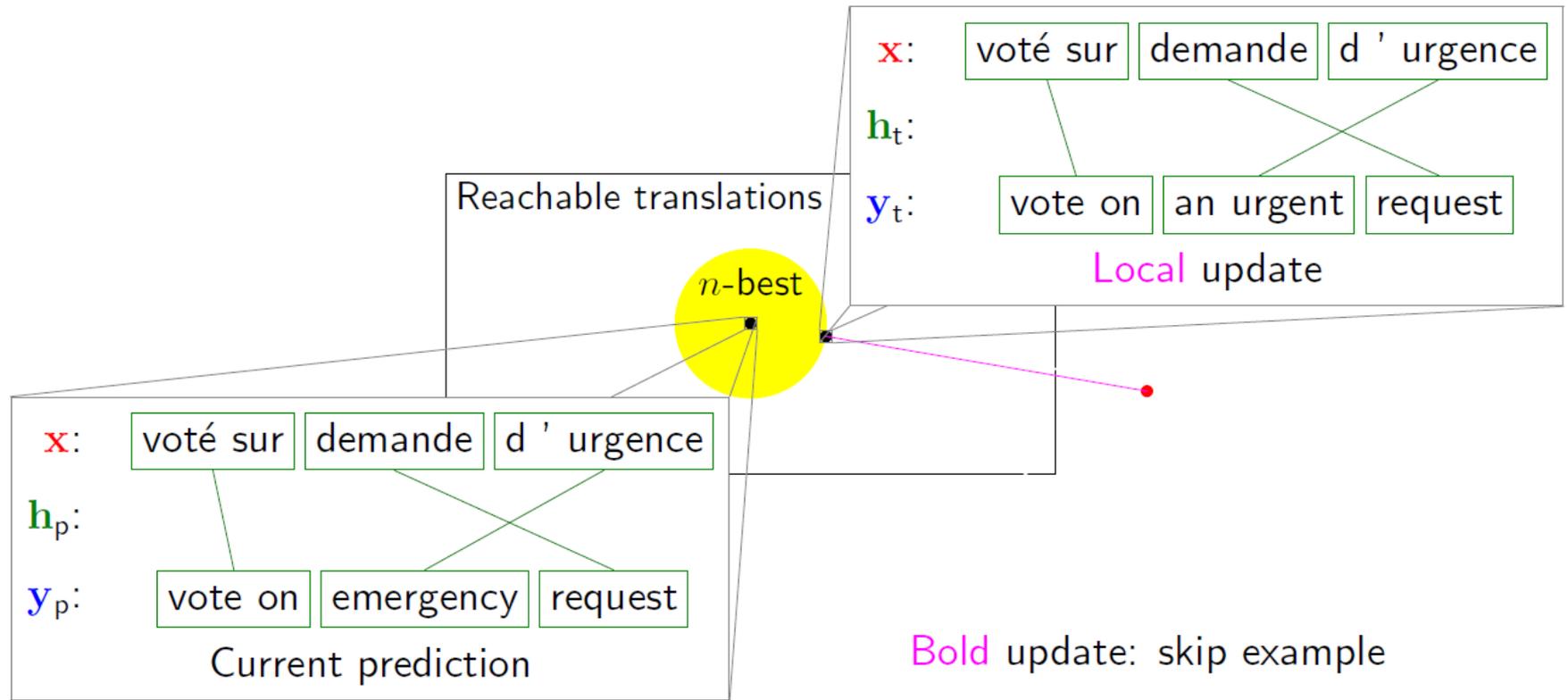
# Update strategies

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) - \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p)$$

Training example (reference)

$\mathbf{x}$ : voté sur demande d ' urgence

$\mathbf{y}$ : vote on a request for urgent procedure



# Update strategies

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{h}_t) - \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_p, \mathbf{h}_p)$$

Training example (reference)

$\mathbf{x}$ : voté sur demande d'urgence

$\mathbf{y}$ : vote on a request for urgent procedure

$\mathbf{x}$ :

$\mathbf{h}_t$ :

Decoder	Bold	Local
Monotonic	34.3	<b>34.6</b>
Limited distortion	33.5	<b>34.7</b>

te

$\mathbf{x}$ :

$\mathbf{h}_p$ :

$\mathbf{y}_p$ :

Current prediction

Bold update: skip example

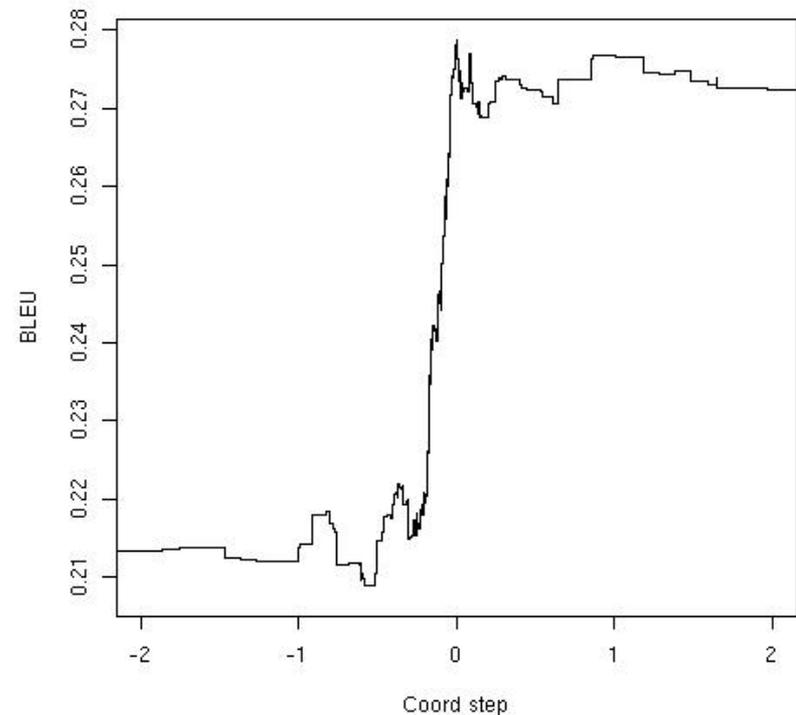
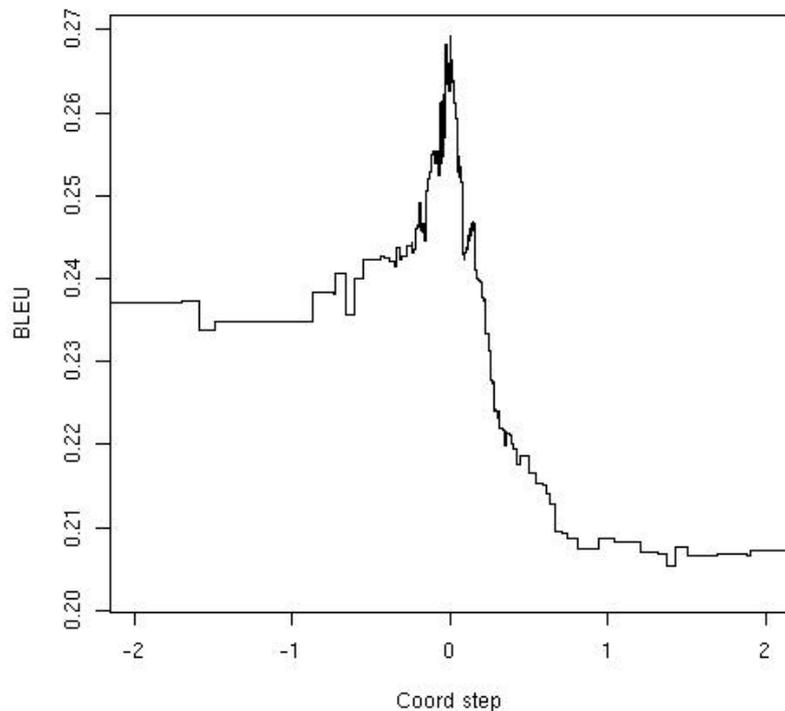
# Why Tuning is Hard

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- Problem 3: Computational constraints
  - Discriminative training involves repeated decoding
  - Very slow! So people tune on sets much smaller than those used to build phrase tables

# Minimum Error Rate Training

- Standard method: minimize BLEU directly (Och 03)
  - MERT is a discontinuous objective
  - Only works for max ~10 features, but works very well then
  - Here: k-best lists, but forest methods exist (Machery et al 08)



# MERT: Convex Upper Bound of BLEU

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