

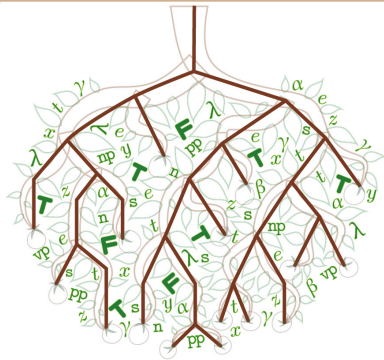
# Natural Theorem Proving for Natural Language Theory & Application

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- Semantic tableau method
- Simple type theory
- Natural Tableau
- Scaling up the Natural Tableau
- NL theorem prover
- Experiments
- Conclusion



# Semantic tableau method

A **semantic tableau method** [Beth, 1955, Hintikka, 1955] is a proof procedure for formal logics:

**Input:** a set of signed formulas

$P_1 : \mathbb{T}, \dots, P_m : \mathbb{T}, Q_1 : \mathbb{F}, \dots, Q_n : \mathbb{F}$

**Output:** some or no model satisfying the input

☞ A model search problem

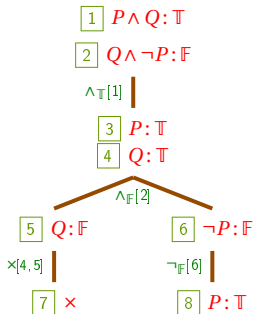
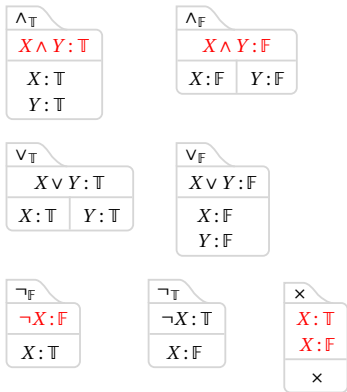
Prove  $\varphi$  by failing to refute  $\varphi$ :

**Prove:**  $P \wedge Q \models Q \wedge \neg P$

**Try:** Justify the counterexample  $P \wedge Q : \mathbb{T}, Q \wedge \neg P : \mathbb{F}$

# Propositional tableau (signed version)

Propositional tableau rules:



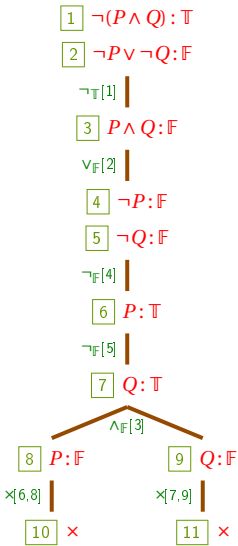
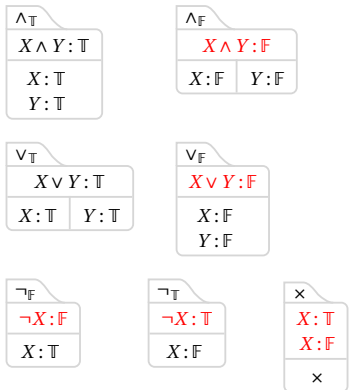
A situation supporting a counterexample:  $P : T, Q : T$   
 Therefore,  $P \wedge Q \not\models Q \wedge \neg P$   
 is refuted!

# Closed tableau

Prove:  $\neg(P \wedge Q) \models \neg P \vee \neg Q$  **Proved!**

Counterexample:  $\neg(P \wedge Q) : \text{T}, \neg P \vee \neg Q : \text{F}$

Propositional tableau rules:



# Rules for quantifiers

Rules for  $\exists$ :

$\exists_T$

$\exists x.\phi : T$
$\phi[x/c] : T$
<i>c is fresh</i>

$\exists_F^c$

$\exists x.\phi : F$
$\phi[x/c] : F$
<i>c is old</i>

Rules for  $\forall$ :

$\forall_F$

$\forall x.\phi : F$
$\phi[x/c] : F$
<i>c is fresh</i>

$\forall_T^c$

$\forall x.\phi : T$
$\phi[x/c] : T$
<i>c is old</i>

 Dangerous zone!

1  $\forall x.\exists y.\text{love}(x,y) : T$

2  $\forall z.\text{love}(z,z) : F$

$\forall_F[2]$

3  $\text{love}(c,c) : F$

$\forall_T^c[1]$

4  $\exists y.\text{love}(c,y) : T$

$\exists_T^c[4]$

5  $\text{love}(c,d) : T$

$\forall_T^d[1]$

6  $\exists y.\text{love}(d,y) : T$

⋮

# Simple type theory

Use Simple Type Theory [Church, 1940] as a Higher-Order Logic.

A type system is built up from  $\{e, t\} + \{np, s, n, pp\}$ .

- $e, t, np, s, n, pp$  are types;
- if  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are types, so are  $(\alpha\beta)$

A subtyping as a syntax-semantic interface:

- $s <: t; e <: np; n <: et; pp <: et;$
- $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) <: (\beta_1, \beta_2)$  iff  $\beta_1 <: \alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2 <: \beta_2$

Typing terms:

- **love** of type  $np, (np, s) \equiv np, np, s \equiv np, vp$
- **love**<sub>np, vp</sub>  $x_{np}$  is of type  $np, s$
- **love**<sub>np, vp</sub>  $x_{np}$  **john**<sub>np</sub> is of type  $s$
- $\lambda x.$  **love**<sub>np, vp</sub>  $x_{np}$  **john**<sub>np</sub> is of type  $vp$

# Interface of syntactic & semantic terms

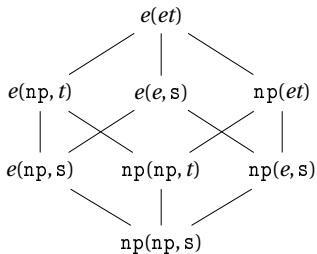
Terms of multiple types:

- $\text{cat}_n$  is of type  $et$
- $\text{red}_{n,n}$  is of type  $(n, et)$  and  $(et, et)$
- $\text{love}_{np,np,s}$  is of type  $np(np, t)$ ,  $eet$ , ...

Syntactic and semantic terms together:

- $\text{cat}_n c_e$
- $\text{love}_{np,np,s} \text{john}_{np} c_e$
- $\text{on}_{pp} d_e$

Types of  $\text{love}_{np,np,s}$





# Simple type theory as Natural Logic

**Natural logic** is a hypothetical logic which is built in natural language and represents its integral part.

It is a theory about “the regularities governing the notion of a valid argument for reasoning in natural language” [Lakoff, 1970].

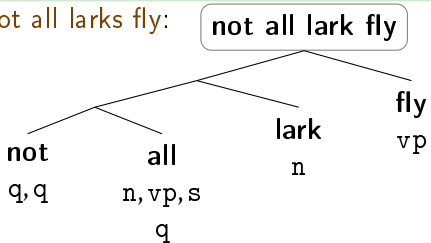
“Natural logic is a somewhat loose [...] term for [...] attempts [...] at describing basic patterns of human reasoning directly in natural language without the intermediate of some formal system” [van Benthem, 2008].

Natural logic is “the study of inference in natural language, done as close as possible to the surface forms” [Moss, 2010].

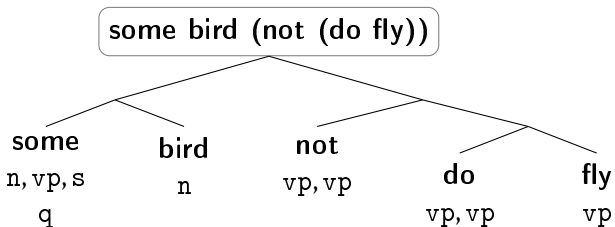
Let's use the simple type theory as natural logic and call its terms **Lambda Logical Forms**.

# Examples of LLFs

Not all larks fly:



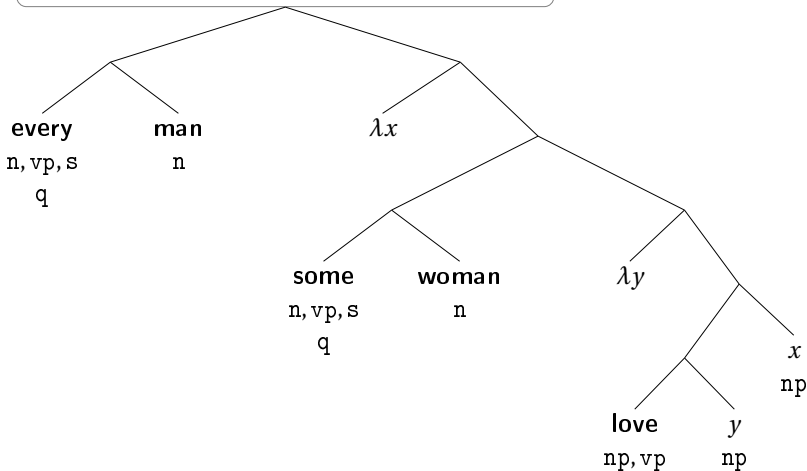
Some bird does not fly:



# Zooming in on LLFs (scope ambiguity)

Every man loves some woman:

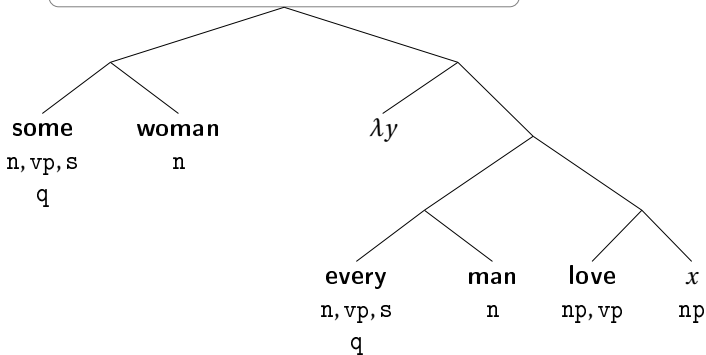
every man ( $\lambda x$ . some woman ( $\lambda y$ . love  $y$   $x$ ))



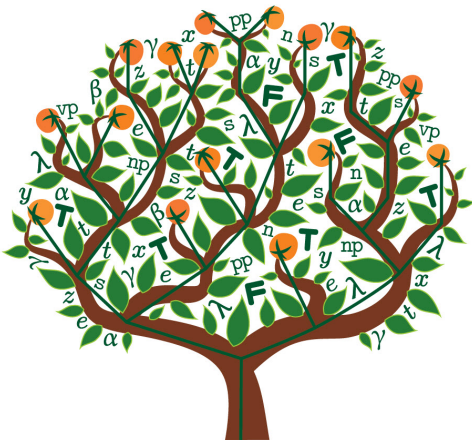
# Zooming in on LLFs (scope ambiguity)

Every man loves some woman:

some woman ( $\lambda y.$  every man (love  $y$ ))



# Natural Tableau



An Analytic Tableau System for Natural Logic [Muskens, 2010]

# LLFs & tableau entries

LLFs are represented in tableau entries as:

LLF:argumentList:truthSign  
 Binary format of a term

Different binary representations of the same signed term:

love john:[mary]:F      love:[john,mary]:F

Two advantages of argumentList:

- Traverse through a recursive structure of a term
- Align the shared arguments and contrast different terms:

no:[little bird, fly]:T  
 some (littlebird) fly:[]:T  
 some (little bird):[fly]:T  
 some:[little bird, fly]:T

# Ordering over LLFs

Remember we use types built up from  $e$  and  $t$ .

We have two truth values 1 (*true*) and 0 (*false*), where  $0 < 1$ .

With the help of  $0 < 1$ , we can have (partial) ordering over the terms of type  $\vec{\alpha}t$ :

- **dog<sub>n</sub>** is more specific than **animal<sub>n</sub>**, because for any  $x$ , **dog**  $x$  is less than or equal to **animal**  $x$
- **kiss<sub>np,vp</sub>** is more specific than **touch<sub>np,vp</sub>**, because for any  $x, y$ , **kiss**  $x y$  is less than or equal to **touch**  $x y$
- For  $A_{\vec{\alpha}t}$  and  $B_{\vec{\alpha}t}$ , we define  $A \sqsubseteq B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \vec{X}. A\vec{X} \leq B\vec{X}$

Sequence/vector notation conventions:

- $\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n t \equiv \vec{\alpha}t$
- $AB_1B_2 \dots B_n \equiv A\vec{B}$

# Tableau rules in action

**A>**

$A B : [\vec{C}] : X$

$A : [B, \vec{C}] : X$

**A<**

$A : [B, \vec{C}] : X$

$A B : [\vec{C}] : X$

**$\neg$**

**not**  $A : [\vec{C}] : X$

$A : [\vec{C}] : \bar{X}$

**$\exists_{\mathbb{F}}^c$**

**some**  $A B : [] : F$

$A : [c_e] : F$     $B : [c_e] : F$

*c is old*

**$\forall_{\mathbb{F}}$**

**every**  $A B : [] : F$

$A : [c_e] : T$

$B : [c_e] : F$

*c is fresh*

**$\times \subseteq$**

$A : [\vec{C}] : T$

$B : [\vec{C}] : F$

$\times$

$A \subseteq B$

1 not all bird fly : [] : T

2 some bird (not fly) : [] : F

    A>[1] |

3 not all bird : [fly] : T

    A>[3] |

4 not all : [bird, fly] : T

$\neg$ [4] |

5 all : [bird, fly] : F

    A<[5] |

6 all bird : [fly] : F

    A<[6] |

7 all bird fly : [] : F

$\forall_{\mathbb{F}}$ [7] |

8 bird : [c\_e] : T

9 fly : [c\_e] : F

$\exists_{\mathbb{F}}$ [2] |

10 bird : [c] : F      11 not fly : [c] : F

$\times \subseteq$ [8,10] |       $\neg$ [11] |

12  $\times$       13 fly : [c] : T

$\times \subseteq$ [9,13] |

                    14  $\times$

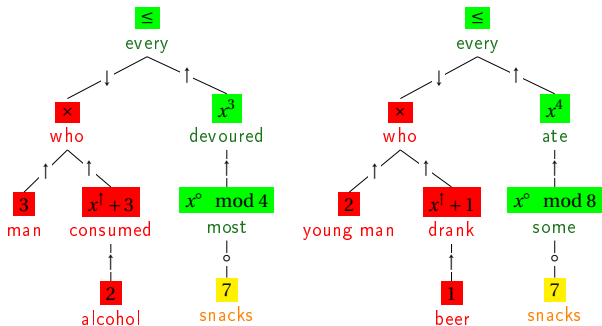


# Monotonicity reasoning

GOLD: entailment

P:  $3 \times [x+3](2) \leq [x^3]([x \bmod 4](7))$

H:  $2 \times [x+1](1) \leq [x^4]([x \bmod 8](7))$



GOLD: entailment

P: Every **man** who **consumed alcohol** **devoured most** snacks

H: Every **young man** who **drank beer** **ate some** snacks

# Monotonicity rules (Upward)

## Definition (Upward monotonicity)

A function term  $F$  of type  $(\vec{\alpha}t)\vec{\gamma}t$  is upward monotone ( $\uparrow$ ), denoted as  $F^\uparrow$ , if it satisfies one of the following equivalent properties:

$$\forall XY((X \sqsubseteq Y) \rightarrow (FX \sqsubseteq FY))$$

$\uparrow \sqsubseteq$	
$G^\uparrow A: [\vec{C}]: \mathbb{T}$	
$H B: [\vec{C}]: \mathbb{F}$	
$A: [\vec{D}]: \mathbb{T}$	$G: [B, \vec{C}]: \mathbb{T}$
$B: [\vec{D}]: \mathbb{F}$	$H: [B, \vec{C}]: \mathbb{F}$

# Monotonicity rules (Downward)

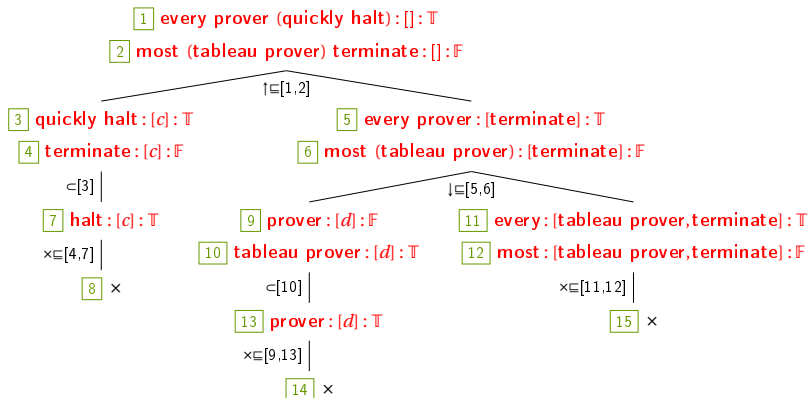
## Definition (Downward monotonicity)

A function term  $F$  of type  $(\vec{\alpha} t) \vec{\gamma} t$  is downward monotone ( $\downarrow$ ), denoted as  $F^\downarrow$ , if it satisfies one of the following equivalent properties:

$$\forall XY((X \sqsubseteq Y) \rightarrow (FY \sqsubseteq FX))$$

$\downarrow \sqsubseteq$	
$G^\downarrow A: [\vec{C}]: \top$	
$H B: [\vec{C}]: \bot$	
$A: [\vec{D}]: \bot$	$G: [B, \vec{C}]: \top$
$B: [\vec{D}]: \top$	$H: [B, \vec{C}]: \bot$

# Monotonicity rules in action



↑⊆

$G^1 A : [\vec{C}] : T$	
$H B : [\vec{C}] : F$	
$A : [\vec{d}] : T$	$G : [B, \vec{C}] : T$
$B : [\vec{d}] : F$	$H : [B, \vec{C}] : F$

↓⊆

$G^1 A : [\vec{C}] : T$	
$H B : [\vec{C}] : F$	
$A : [\vec{d}] : F$	$G : [B, \vec{C}] : T$
$B : [\vec{d}] : T$	$H : [B, \vec{C}] : F$

⊆

$A^c N : [\vec{C}] : T$
$N : [\vec{C}] : T$
$\forall X (A^c X \subseteq X)$

×⊆

$A : [\vec{C}] : T$
$B : [\vec{C}] : F$
×
$A \subseteq B$

# LLFs and Categorical Grammar

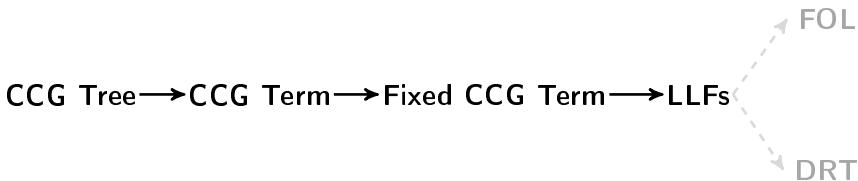
LLFs are similar to formal derivations studied in **Categorical Grammars (CGs)** [Ajdukiewicz, 1935, Hillel, 1953].

**Combinatory Categorical Grammar (CCG)** [Steedman, 2000] is the only CG that is scaled up for wide-coverage text processing:

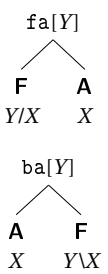
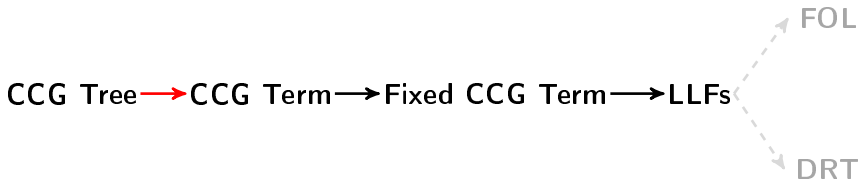
- CCG is well-studied from linguistic perspectives;
- There exists robust and accurate wide-coverage parsers for CCG, e.g., **C&C parser** [Clark and Curran, 2007] and **EasyCCG** [Lewis and Steedman, 2014].

# LLF generation

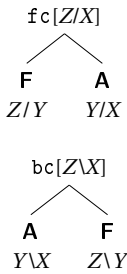
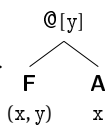
Producing an LLF from a CCG derivation consists of several steps:



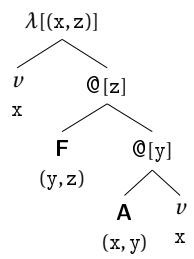
# CCG Tree $\rightarrow$ CCG term



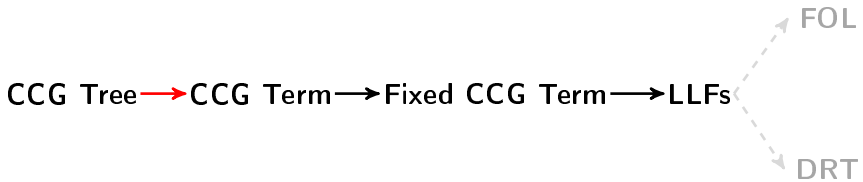
$\Rightarrow$



$\Rightarrow$



# CCG Tree $\rightarrow$ CCG term



**Removing directionality:**

$Y \setminus X$  and  $Y / X \rightsquigarrow (x, y)$

$\text{ba}(A_X, F_{Y \setminus X}) \rightsquigarrow FA$

$\text{fxc}(F_{Z/Y}, A_{Y \setminus X}) \rightsquigarrow \lambda x. F(Ax)$

$\text{tr}(T/(T \setminus X), A_X) \rightsquigarrow \lambda x. xA$

$\text{lx}(Y, A_X) \rightsquigarrow [A_X]_Y$

$\text{conj}(C_{\text{conj}}, A_X) \rightsquigarrow C_{X, X, X}A$



# CCG term $\rightarrow$ fixed CCG term



## Correcting CCG terms:

- $[\text{Dow}_{n,n}^{\text{PER}} \text{Jones}_{n,n}^{\text{PER}}]_{np} \rightsquigarrow \text{Dow\_Jones}_{np}$
- $\text{nobody}_{np} \rightsquigarrow \text{no}_{n,np} \text{person}_n$
- $[\text{ice}_n]_{np} \rightsquigarrow \text{a}_{n,np} \text{ice}_n$
- $[\text{two}_{n,n} \text{dogs}_n]_{np} \rightsquigarrow \text{two}_{n,np} \text{dogs}_n$
- $[\text{working}_{np,s}]_{n,n} \rightsquigarrow \text{who}_{(np,s),n,n} \text{working}$
- $\text{who } V(Q_{n,np} N) \rightsquigarrow Q_{n,np} (\text{who}' VN)$

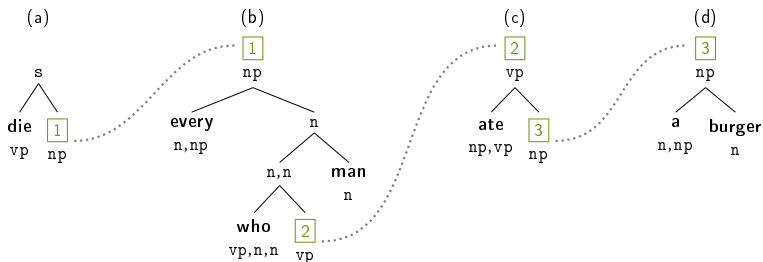
# fixed CCG term $\rightarrow$ LFs

Every man who ate a burger died

$\text{die}_{vp} (\text{every}_{n,np} (\text{who}_{vp,n,n} (\text{eat}_{np,vp} (\text{a}_{n,np} \text{burger}_n)) \text{man}_n)) \rightsquigarrow$

$\text{EVERY}_{n,vp,s} (\text{who} (\lambda x. \text{A}_{n,vp,s} \text{burger} (\lambda y. \text{eat } y_{np} x_{np})) \text{man}) \text{die}$

$\text{A}_{n,vp,s} \text{burger} (\lambda y. \text{EVERY}_{n,vp,s} (\text{who} (\lambda x. \text{eat } y_{np} x_{np})) \text{man}) \text{die}$



# Sentence coordination

For sentence coordination, the quantified NP raising algorithm avoids scope interaction across the sentences.

Every man sleeps and some woman worries

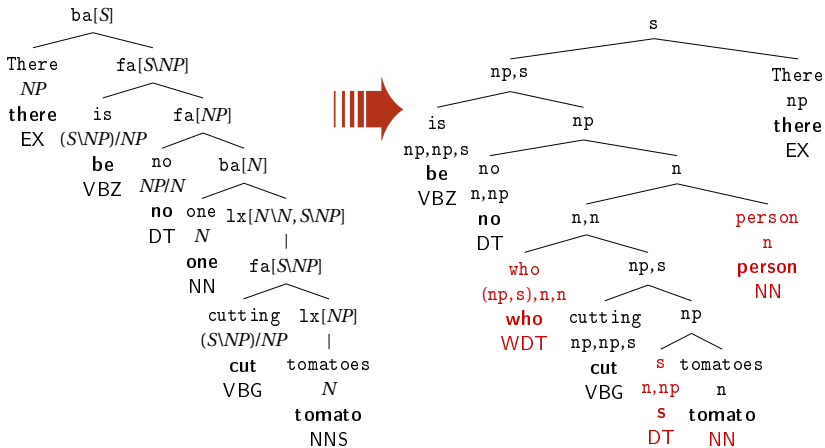
$\text{and}_{s,s,s}(\text{sleep}_{vp}(\text{every}_{n,np} \text{man}_n))(\text{worry}_{vp}(\text{some}_{n,np} \text{woman}_n))$

$\text{and}(\text{EVERY}_{n,vp,s} \text{man sleep})(\text{SOME}_{n,vp,s} \text{woman worry})$

$\text{SOME}_{n,vp,s} \text{woman}(\lambda y. \text{EVERY}_{n,vp,s} \text{man}(\lambda x. \text{and}(\text{sleep } x)(\text{worry } y)))$

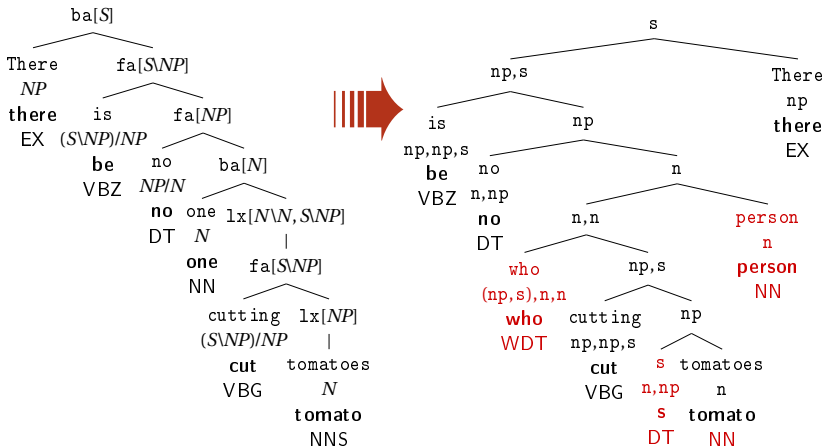
$\text{EVERY}_{n,vp,s} \text{man}(\lambda x. \text{SOME}_{n,vp,s} \text{woman}(\lambda y. \text{and}(\text{sleep } x)(\text{worry } y)))$

# LLFgen: CCG tree → fixed CCG term → LLFs



There is no one cutting tomatoes  $\rightsquigarrow$   
**be(no(who(cut(s tomato))person))there**

# LLFgen: CCG tree $\rightarrow$ fixed CCG term $\rightarrow$ LLFs

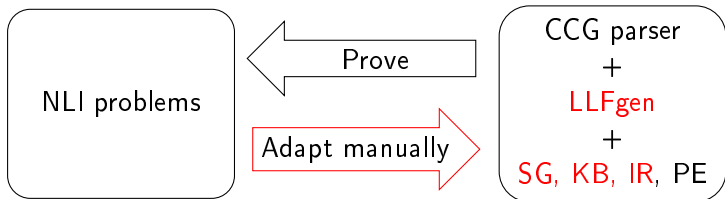


$be(no(who(cut(s\ tomato)))person))there \rightsquigarrow$   
 $no(who(\lambda x. s\ tomato(\lambda y. cut\ yx))\ person)(\lambda z. be\ z\ there)$   
 $s\ tomato(\lambda y. no(who(cut\ y)\ person)(\lambda z. be\ z\ there))$

# Linguistic Rules

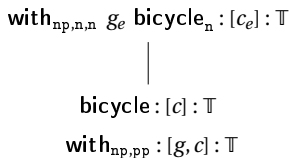
Linguistic rules, in contrast to the algebraic rules, account for a certain syntactic constructions:

- Collected in a data-drive fashion using real LLFs;
- Remedy errors coming from syntactic parsers.

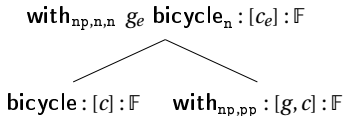


# Rules for prepositions

PP@N $\top$
$p_{np,n,n}^{\top N} dN : [c] : \top$
$N : [c] : \top$
$p_{np,pp} : [d, c] : \top$



PP@N $\bot$
$p_{np,n,n}^{\top N} dN : [c] : \bot$
$N : [c] : \bot$
$p_{np,pp} : [g, c] : \bot$



# Problem of PP attachment

PP attachment is characterised with an attachment **site** and a **nature** of the attachment:

- John [[ate a roll]<sub>VP/PP</sub> [with his hands]<sub>PP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (1)
- John [[ate a roll]<sub>VP</sub> [with Sam]<sub>VP\VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (2)
- John ate a [roll<sub>N</sub> [with eel]<sub>N\N</sub>]<sub>N</sub> (3)
- John ate a [roll<sub>N/PP</sub> [of sushi]<sub>PP</sub>]<sub>N</sub> (4)

Parsers can introduce errors in the PP attachments:

- John ate a [[roll]<sub>N</sub> [with his hands]<sub>N\N</sub>]<sub>N</sub> (1a)
- John [[ate a roll]<sub>VP/PP</sub> [with Sam]<sub>PP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (2a)
- John [[ate a roll]<sub>VP</sub> [with eel]<sub>VP\VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (3a)

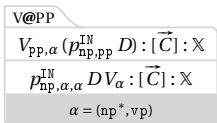


# Treating a nature of PP attachment

SICK-9069 GOLD: entailment BY: C&C

Two boys are  $[[\text{laying}_{VP} [\text{in the ocean}]_{VP\backslash VP}] [\text{close to the beach}]_{VP\backslash VP}]$

Two boys are  $[[\text{laying}_{VP/PP} [\text{in the water}]_{PP}] [\text{close to the beach}]_{VP\backslash VP}]$



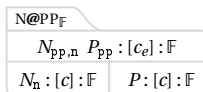
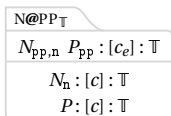
$lie_{pp, vp} (in_{np, pp} o_e) : [c] : \mathbb{F}$

$in_{np, vp, vp} o_e lie_{vp} : [c] : \mathbb{F}$

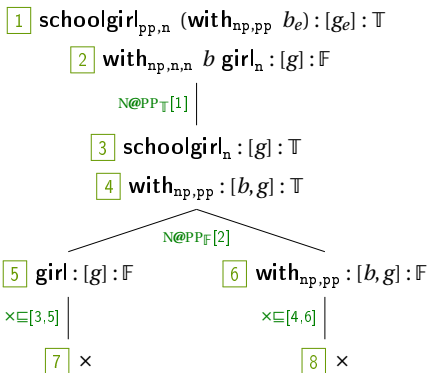
SICK-340 GOLD: entailment BY: C&C

$[\text{schoolgirl}_{N/PP} [\text{with a black bag}]_{PP}]$  is on a crowded train

$[\text{girl}_N [\text{with a black bag}]_{N\backslash W}]$  is on a crowded train



# Treatment case

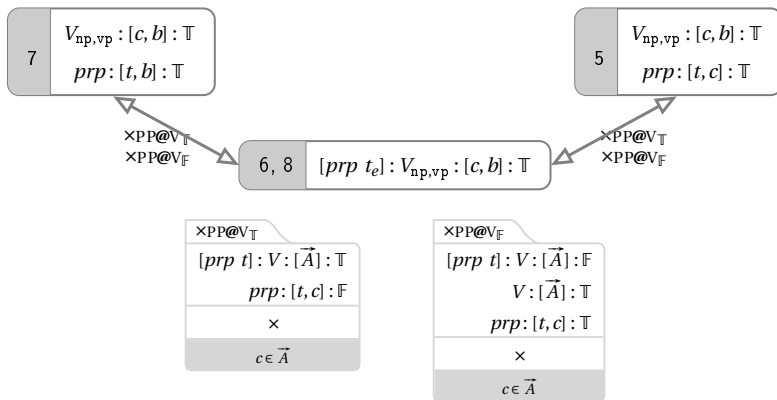


$N@PP_{\top}$	
$N_{pp,n}$	$P_{pp} : [c_e] : \top$
$N_n$	$[c] : \top$
$P$	$[c] : \top$

$N@PP_{\top}$	
$N_{pp,n}$	$P_{pp} : [c_e] : \top$
$N_n$	$[c] : \top$
$P$	$[c] : \top$

# Treating a site of PP attachment

- A boy saw a [criminal<sub>N</sub> [with a telescope]<sub>MN</sub>]<sub>N</sub> (5)  
 A boy [[saw a criminal]<sub>VP</sub> [with a telescope]<sub>VP\VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (6)  
 A criminal was seen by a [boy<sub>N</sub> [with a telescope]<sub>NW</sub>]<sub>N</sub> (7)  
 A criminal [[was seen by a boy]<sub>VP</sub> [with a telescope]<sub>VP\VP</sub>]<sub>VP</sub> (8)



# Lexical closure rules

Open compound nouns:

×CPN	
$N_n : [d] : \mathbb{T}$	
$H_{pp,n} (pp\ d) : [c] : \bar{\mathbb{X}}$	
$A_{n,n} H_n : [c] : \mathbb{X}$	
×	
$N \approx A$ or $N \approx_d A$	

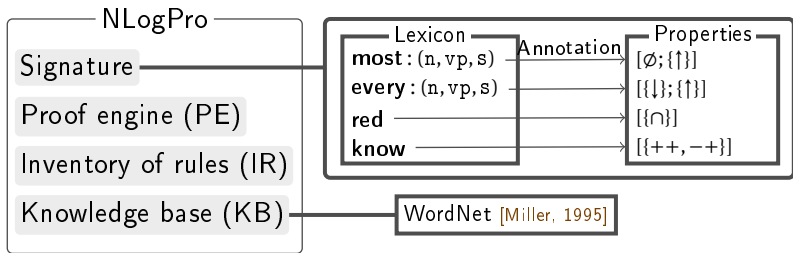
$$\frac{\text{protection}_n : [d_e] : \mathbb{T} \quad \text{gear}_{pp,n} (\text{for}_{np,pp} d_e) : [c_e] : \mathbb{F} \quad \text{protective}_{n,n} \text{gear}_n : [c_e] : \mathbb{T}}{\times} (\times\text{CPN}^*)$$

Light verb constructions:

×LVC	
$l_{\vec{\alpha},vp} : [c, \vec{D}] : \mathbb{X}$	
$u_n : [c] : \mathbb{T}$	
$v_{\vec{\alpha},s} : [D] : \bar{\mathbb{X}}$	
×	
$l \in \{\text{do, get, give, have, make, take}\},$ $\vec{\alpha}$ is formed by np and pp, and $u \approx_d v$	

$$\frac{\text{do}_{np,vp} : [d_e, h_e] : \mathbb{T} \quad \text{dance}_n : [d_e] : \mathbb{T} \quad \text{dance}_{vp} : [h_e] : \mathbb{F}}{\times} (\times\text{LVC}^*)$$

# Natural logic theorem prover (NLogPro)



KB uses 4 relations from WordNet 3.0:

- derivation
- similarity
- hyponymy/hypernymy
- antonymy

⚠ No word sense disambiguation system is used.

# Some derivable rules

Derivable rules are shortcuts for several rule applications.

$\exists_F^n$
$q_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : F$ $N : [c_e] : T$
$V : [c] : F$
$q \in \{a, \text{some}, \text{the}, s\}$

$\forall_T^n$
$q_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : T$ $N : [c_e] : T$
$V : [c] : T$
$q \in \{\text{every}, \text{the}\}$

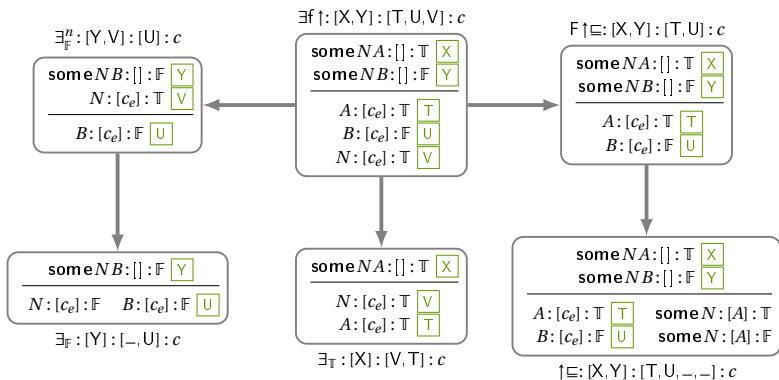
$NO_T^n$
$no_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : T$ $N : [c_e] : T$
$V : [c] : F$

$\exists_F^v$
$q_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : F$ $V : [c_e] : T$
$N : [c] : F$
$q \in \{a, \text{some}, \text{the}, s\}$

$\forall_T^v$
$q_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : T$ $V : [c_e] : F$
$N : [c] : F$
$q \in \{\text{every}, \text{the}\}$

$NO_T^v$
$no_{n,vp,s}NV : [] : T$ $V : [c_e] : T$
$N : [c] : F$

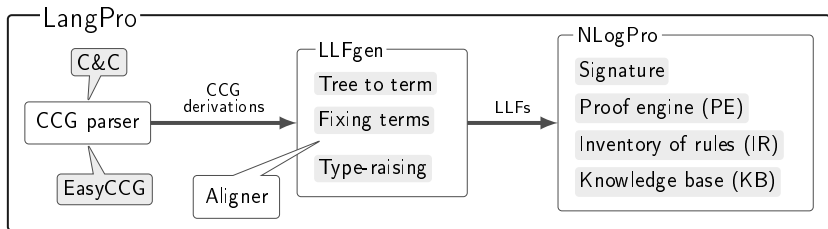
# Rule application subsumption



$$\exists_F^n : [Y, V] : [U] : c \Rightarrow \exists_F : [Y] : [-, U] : c$$

# Natural language theorem prover (LangPro)

Chaining a CCG parser, the LLF generator and NLogPro results in a theorem prover for natural language.



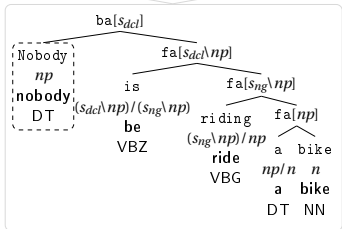
Online demo at: <http://naturallogic.pro/LangPro>



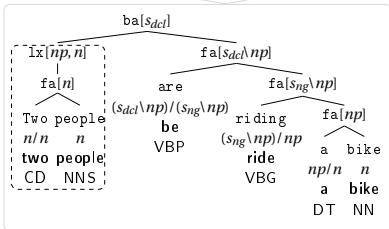
# LangPro in action

SICK-2865: Nobody is riding a bike  $\Rightarrow$  Two people are riding a bike

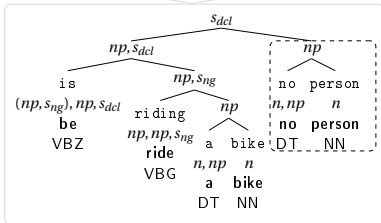
the C&C parser



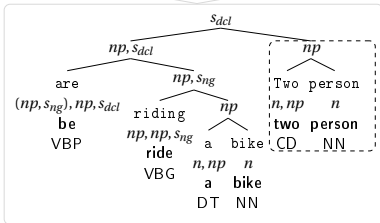
the C&C parser



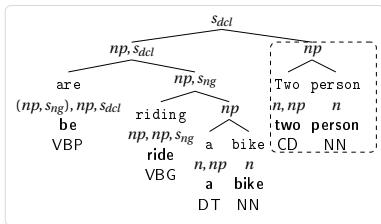
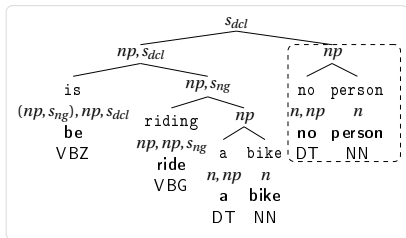
Fixing



Fixing



# LangPro in action (2)



Type-raising

Type-raising

no person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ )  
 a bike  $(\lambda x. no\ person\ (be\ (ride\ x)))$

two person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ )  
 a bike  $(\lambda x. two\ person\ (be\ (ride\ x)))$

Proving by PE using IR & KB

intial nodes for entailment checking:  
 no person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ ): []:  $\top$   
 two person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ ): []:  $\top$

intial nodes for contradiction checking:  
 no person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ ): []:  $\top$   
 two person (be  $(\lambda x. (a\ bike)\ (\lambda y. ride\ y\ x))$ ): []:  $\top$

# LangPro in action (3)

1 no person (be( $\lambda x$ . (a bike) ( $\lambda y$ . ride y x))): [] :  $\top$

2 two person (be ( $\lambda x$ . (a bike) ( $\lambda y$ . ride y x))): [] :  $\top$

$\exists_{\top}[2]$  |

3 person: [c] :  $\top$

4 be( $\lambda x$ . (a bike) ( $\lambda y$ . ride y x)): [c] :  $\top$

$no_{\top}^n[1,4]$  |

5 person: [c] :  $\text{F}$

6  $\times$

$$\frac{\text{no } A \ B: [] : \top \quad A: [c] : \top}{B: [c] : \text{F}} \text{no}_{\top}^n$$

$$\frac{N^{\text{CD}} \ A \ B: [] : \top}{A: [c] : \top \quad B: [c] : \top} \exists_{\top}$$

# The SICK dataset

SICK [Marelli et al., 2014b] contains Sentences Involving Compositional Knowledge:

- 10K Text-Hypothesis pairs with E, C, & N labels.
- Contains no encyclopedic knowledge, no named entities, relatively small vocabulary, less MWE and no lengthy sentences ( 9 words per sentence).
- Contradictions (86%) rely too much on negative words and antonyms [Lai and Hockenmaier, 2014].
- A benchmark for the SemEval-14 RTE task [Marelli et al., 2014a]: Trial (5%), Train (45%), and test (50%).
- 84% of crowd workers' labels match the gold labels.

# The FraCaS dataset

The FraCaS test suite [Cooper et al., 1996] was an early attempt to creating a semantic benchmark for NLP systems.

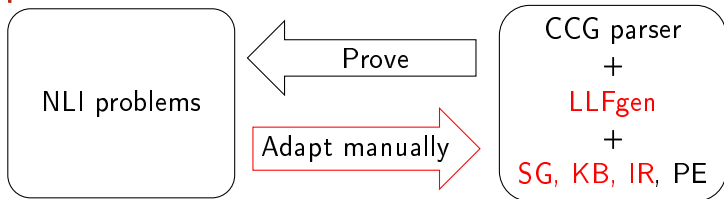
- 346 problems (45% multi-premised).
- Covers GQs, plurals, anaphora, ellipsis, adjectives, comparatives, temporal reference, verbs and attitudes.
- Three-way annotated by the authors of the dataset.
- Has some ambiguous sentences and erroneous problems.
- Requires almost no lexical or world knowledge

Later, the FraCaS question-answer pairs were converted into an NLI format [MacCartney and Manning, 2007].

# Learning phase

The prover LangPro is (semi-automatically) trained on the NLI datasets [Abzianidze, 2016a].

- **Adaptation:**



Used datasets: SICK-trial and FraCaS

- **Development:**

Finding optimal values for certain parameters of the prover.

**NB:** Only C&C parser is used in the learning phase in order to test LangPro for an unseen parser, EasyCCG, later.

# Adaptation: negative cases

Avoid fitting the data by adopting unsound/non-general solutions.

The problems that were not solved during the adaptation:

- Sentence with non-S or no categories;
- The error is analysis is too specific to fix:

At   most   ten   commissioners   spend   time   at   home  
*(S/S)/NP*   *N/N*   *N/N*   *N*   *(VP/PP)/NP*   *N*   *PP/NP*   *N*

- Lexical relation is context dependent:

SICK-4505   GOLD: entailment

The doctors are healing a **man**

The doctor is helping the **patient**

SICK-384   GOLD: entailment

A white and tan dog is running through the **tall and green grass**

A white and tan dog is running through a **field**

# Adaptation: positive cases

The problems that were solved by upgrading one of the components of the prover:

- Treat **few** as  $\downarrow$  in its 1st arg (*absolute* reading):

FraCaS-76 GOLD: entailment  
 Few committee members are from southern Europe  


---

 Few female committee members are from southern Europe

- Introduce **fit**  $\sqsubseteq$  **apply** and **food**  $\sqsubseteq$  **meal**:

SICK-4734 GOLD: entailment  
 A man is **fitting** a silencer to a pistol  


---

 A man is **applying** a silencer to a gun

SICK-5110 GOLD: entailment  
 A chef is preparing some **food**  


---

 A chef is preparing a **meal**



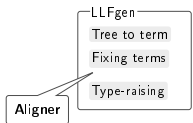
# Development phase

Optimal values of the following parameters are searched:

- The number of word senses to consider;
- The upper bound for the number of rule applications;
- Use a term aligner:
  - **Weak aligner** aligns everything but terms of type np:
 

SICK-727 GOLD: contradiction  
 The man in a grey t-shirt is sitting on a rock in front of the waterfall  
 There is no man in a grey t-shirt sitting on a rock in front of the waterfall
  - **Strong aligner** aligns everything but terms of type np with ↓arg.
 

SICK-423 GOLD: contradiction  
 Two men are not holding fishing poles  
 Two men are holding fishing poles



- Efficiency criterion of tableau rules.

# Efficiency criterion

Tableau rules have the following properties:

- Non-branching or branching (so called,  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  rules);
- Semantic equivalence vs proper entailment;
- Consuming (so called,  $\gamma$  rule) vs non-consuming;
- Producing (so called,  $\delta$  rule) vs non-producing.

An example of an efficiency criterion:

$$EC = \langle \text{nonBr}, \text{semEqui}, \text{nonConsum}, \text{nonProd} \rangle$$

An efficiency vectors based on the  $EC$  efficiency criterion:

- $V_{EC}(\wedge_{\top}) = 1111$
- $V_{EC}(\vee_{\top}) = 0111$
- $V_{EC}(\exists_{\top}) = 1110$
- $V_{EC}(\exists_{\text{F}}) = 0001$

**What is the optimal efficiency criterion?**

# Greedy search for optimal parameters

Acc%	Prec%	Rec%	Sense	Efficiency criterion	Aligner	RAL	Parser
75.09	98.5	43.6	1	[nonP,nonB,equi,nonC]	No	200	C&C
76.42	98.3	46.8	1-5	-	-	-	-
76.89	97.8	48.1	All	-	-	-	-
78.44	97.9	51.7	-	[equi,nonB,nonP,nonC]	-	-	-
79.33	97.9	53.8	-	-	Weak	-	-
81.5	97.7	59.0	-	-	Strong	-	-
81.53	97.7	59.1	-	-	Strong	400	-
81.38	98.0	58.5	-	-	Strong	400	EasyCCG
<b>82.6</b>	97.7	61.6	-	-	Strong	400	<b>Both</b>

The results are given on the SICK-train problems.

FraCaS-21 GOLD: entailment

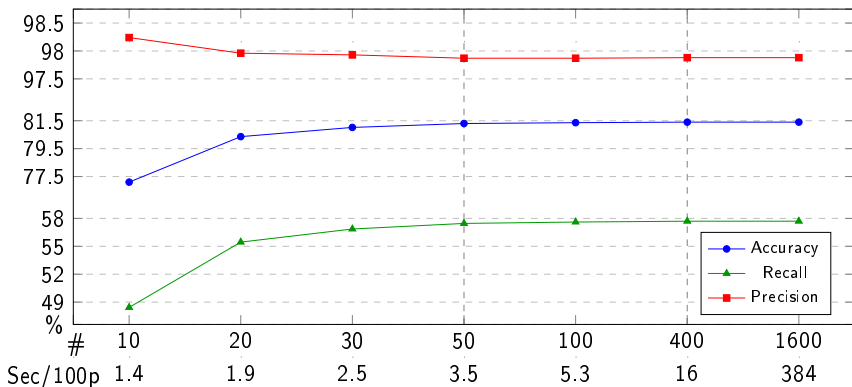
The residents of member states have the right to live in Europe

All residents of member states are individuals

Every individual who has the right to live in Europe can travel freely within Europe

The residents of member states can travel freely within Europe

# Efficient and optimal rule application numbers



The results are given on the SICK-train problems.

## Solving FraCaS [Abzianidze, 2016b]

LangPro with C&C				+	LangPro with EasyCCG				=
Gold\ccLP	yes	no	unk		Gold\easyLP	yes	no	unk	
yes	<b>51</b>	0	19 + 4		yes	<b>52</b>	0	22	
no	1	<b>14</b>	2		no	1	<b>12</b>	4	
unk	1	0	<b>44 + 6</b>		unk	2	0	<b>49</b>	
P = .97, R = .71, Acc = .81					P = .96, R = .70, Acc = .80				

LangPro			
Gold\LP	yes	no	unk
yes	<b>60</b>	0	14
no	1	<b>14</b>	2
unk	2	0	<b>49</b>
P = .96, R = .81, Acc = .87			

FraCaS-109 GOLD: contradiction LP: [entailment](#)

**Just one** accountant attended the meeting

Some accountants attended the meeting

# Related work (FraCaS)

[MacCartney and Manning, 2008] and [Angeli and Manning, 2014] employ a natural logic that is driven by sentence edits.

[Lewis and Steedman, 2013] employ Boxer-style [Bos et al., 2004] translation into FOL, Prover9 and distributional relation clustering.

[Mineshima et al., 2015] also uses the Boxer-style translation but some HOGQs are treated as higher-order terms. Their inference system is implemented in the proof assistant Coq.

[Tian et al., 2014] and [Dong et al., 2014] uses abstract denotations obtained from DCS trees [Liang et al., 2011].

[Bernardy and Chatzikyriakidis, 2017] uses Grammatical Framework and Coq. They use gold standard GF trees.

## Comparison on FraCaS

Sec (Sing/All)	Single-premised (Acc %)								Overall (Acc %)				
	BL	NL07,08	LS P/G	NLI	T14a,b	M15	LP	BL	LS P/G	T14a,b	M15	LP	
1 GQs (44/74)	45	84 <b>98</b>	70 89	95	80 93	82	93	50	62 85	80 <b>95</b>	78	<b>95</b>	
2 Plur (24/33)	58	42 <b>75</b>	-	<b>38</b>	-	67	<b>75</b>	61	-	-	67	<b>73</b>	
5 Adj (15/22)	40	60 80	-	<b>87</b>	-	<b>87</b>	<b>87</b>	41	-	-	68	<b>77</b>	
9 Att (9/13)	67	<del>56</del> 89	-	<del>22</del>	-	78	<b>100</b>	62	-	-	77	<b>92</b>	
1,2,5,9 (92/142)	50	- <b>88</b>	-	-	-	78	<b>88</b>	52	-	-	74	<b>87</b>	

**NL07** [MacCartney and Manning, 2007], **NL08** [MacCartney and Manning, 2008], **NLI** [Angeli and Manning, 2014], **LS** [Lewis and Steedman, 2013],  
**M15** [Mineshima et al., 2015], **T14a** [Tian et al., 2014] and **T14b** [Dong et al., 2014]

Advantages of our approach over the related ones include:

- Reasoning (with the semantic tableau) over multiple-premises;
- Logical forms close to surface forms;
- Underlying expressive high-order logic.

## Curing SICK [Abzianidze, 2015]

LangPro \ Gold SICK-test	Ent	Cont	Neut
Entailment	<b>805</b>	0	609
Contradiction	2	<b>482</b>	236
Neutral	26	7	<b>2760</b>

P=**97.4%**, R=**60.3%**, Acc=**82.14%**

Mainly the usage of WordNet and noisy gold labels are blamed for false proofs.

ID G/LP	Premise	Conclusion
1405 N/E	A <b>prawn</b> is being cut by a woman	A woman is cutting <b>shrimps</b>
4443 N/E	A man is singing to a <b>girl</b>	A man is singing to a <b>woman</b>
2870 N/C	Two people are riding a <b>motorcycle</b>	Nobody is riding a <b>bike</b>
8913 N/C	A couple is not looking at a map	A couple is looking at a map
363 C/C	P: A soccer ball is not rolling into a goal net C: A soccer ball is rolling into a goal net	



# False neutrals

Reason for false neutrals are knowledge sparsity (ca 50%), a lack of rules (ca 25%), wrong labels and parsing mistakes.

ID	G/LP	Premise	Conclusion
4974	E/N	Someone is holding a <b>hedgehog</b>	Someone is holding a <b>small animal</b>
6258	E/N	P: A <b>policeman</b> is sitting on a <b>motorcycle</b> C: The cop is sitting on a <b>police bike</b>	
4553	E/N	P: A man is emptying a <b>container made of plastic</b> C: A man is emptying a <b>plastic container</b>	
4720	E/N	A <b>monkey</b> is practicing martial arts	A <b>chimp</b> is practicing martial arts
6447	C/N	P: <b>[A small boy [in a yellow shirt]]</b> is laughing on the beach C: There is no small boy <b>[in a yellow shirt [laughing on the beach]]</b>	

# Comparison on SICK

SemEval-14 systems	Prec%	Rec%	Acc%	(+LP)	NWS%
Baseline (majority)	-	-	56.69		39.7
Illinois-LH	81.56	<b>81.87</b>	<b>84.57</b>	(+0.65)	72.8
ECNU	84.37	74.37	83.64	(+1.77)	72.7
UNAL-NLP	81.99	76.80	83.05	(+1.48)	71.2
SemantiKLUE	85.40	69.63	82.32	(+2.84)	71.5
The Meaning Factory	93.63	60.64	81.59	(+2.78)	73.0
UTexas (Prob-FOL)	<b>97.87</b>	38.71	73.23	(+9.44)	62.5
<b>LangPro</b>	<b>97.35</b>	60.31	82.14		<b>74.8</b>

RTE systems	Acc%
Prob-FOL	76.52
Prob-FOL*+Rules	<b>85.10</b>
Nutcracker+PPDB	79.60
LSTM RNN+SNLI	80.80
ABCNN-3	<b>86.20</b>
BERT/RoBERTa	? 90

# “Hard” problems

The problems from SICK-test that were proved correctly by both ccLangPro and easyLangPro but failed by all the top five systems at the SemEval-14 task.

ID	G	Text	Hypothesis
247	C	T: The woman is not wearing glasses or a headdress H: A woman is wearing an Egyptian headdress	
406	E	T: A group of scouts are hiking through the grass H: People are walking	
2895	C	The man isn't lifting weights	The man is lifting barbells
3527	E	T: A person is jotting something with a pencil H: A person is writing	
3570	C	The piece of paper is not being cut	Paper is being cut with scissors
3608	N	T: A monkey is riding a bike H: A bike is being ridden over a monkey	
3806	E	A man in a hat is playing a harp	A man is playing an instrument
4479	E	The boy is playing the piano	The boy is playing a musical instrument

# Conclusion

Natural Tableau is a wide-coverage but still logic-based reasoning system inspired by Natural Logic.

It represents a proof-theoretic approach to NLI.

Pros and cons of Natural Tableau:





- ✓ Employs higher-order logic to model linguistic semantics;
- ✓ Allows deep logical and shallow (e.g. monotonicity) reasoning;
- ✓ Getting logical form is similar to syntactic parsing;
- ✗ Heavily hinges on CCG parsing;
- ✗ Heavily hinges on knowledge;
- ✓ Proofs are highly reliable ( $\leq 3\%$  false proofs);
- ✗ Suffers from multi-sense words;
- ✗ Suffers from multi-sense words and out-of-context knowledge;
- ✓ Possible to train on the data;
- ✓ Its decision procedure is transparent and explanatory;

## Future work






There are **really many** directions for future work:

- Explore different types of RTE data, e.g., the newswire or human generated data [Bowman et al., 2015];
- Incorporate more knowledge in KB, e.g., paraphrase database [Ganitkevitch et al., 2013].
- Model different phenomena: comparatives, anaphora, cardinals, etc.
- Pairing with distributional semantics:  $R(w_1, w_2, r)$  and weighted closure branches;
- Improve knowledge induction with abductive reasoning;
- Generate LLFs from Universal Dependency trees
  - + the Universal Semantic Tagging [Abzianidze and Bos, 2017]
  - <sup>?</sup> Multilingual Natural Tableau








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