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# Machine Translation at Edinburgh

Factored Translation Models and Discriminative Training

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# Overview

- Intro: Machine Translation at Edinburgh
- Factored Translation Models
- Discriminative Training

# The European Challenge

## Many languages

- 11 official languages in EU-15
- 20 official languages in EU-25
- many more minority languages

## Challenge

- European reports, meetings, laws, etc.
- develop technology to **enable use of local languages** as much as possible





# Existing MT systems for EU languages

[from Hutchins, 2005]

	Cze	Dan	Dut	Eng	Est	Fin	Fre	Ger	Gre	Hun	Ita	Lat	Lit	Mal	Pol	Por	Slo	Slo	Spa	Swe		
Czech	–	.	.	1	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	
Danish	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Dutch	.	.	–	6	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	
English	2	.	6	–	.	.	42	48	3	3	29	1	.	.	7	30	2	.	48	1	222	
Estonian	.	.	.	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	
Finnish	.	.	.	2	.	–	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	
French	1	.	2	38	.	.	–	22	3	.	9	.	.	.	1	5	.	.	10	.	91	
German	1	1	1	49	.	1	23	–	.	1	8	.	.	.	4	3	2	.	8	1	103	
Greek	.	.	.	2	.	.	3	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
Hungarian	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Italian	1	.	.	25	.	.	9	8	.	.	–	.	.	.	1	3	.	.	7	.	54	
Latvian	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Lithuanian	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	
Maltese	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	
Polish	.	.	.	6	.	.	1	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	–	2	.	.	1	.	14	
Portuguese	.	.	.	25	.	.	4	4	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	–	.	.	6	.	43	
Slovak	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	.	.	2	
Slovene	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	.	0	
Spanish	1	.	.	42	.	.	8	7	.	.	7	.	.	.	1	6	.	.	–	.	72	
Swedish	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	–	3
	6	1	9	201	0	1	93	99	6	4	58	1	0	0	15	49	4	0	80	2		

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## Goals of the EUROMATRIX Project

- Machine translation between **all EU language pairs**
  - baseline machine translation performance for all pairs
  - starting point for national research efforts
  - more intensive effort on specific language pairs
- Creating an **open research** environment
  - open source **tools** for baseline machine translation system
  - collection of open data **resources**
  - open **evaluation campaigns** and **research workshops** ("marathons")
- Scientific **approaches**
  - **statistical** phrase-based, extended by factored approach
  - **hybrid** statistical/rule-based
  - tree-transfer based on **tecto-grammatic** probabilistic models

## Translating between all EU-15 languages

- Statistical methods allow the rapid development of MT systems
- BLEU scores for 110 statistical machine translation systems

	da	de	el	en	es	fr	fi	it	nl	pt	sv
da	-	18.4	21.1	28.5	26.4	28.7	14.2	22.2	21.4	24.3	28.3
de	22.3	-	20.7	25.3	25.4	27.7	11.8	21.3	23.4	23.2	20.5
el	22.7	17.4	-	27.2	31.2	32.1	11.4	26.8	20.0	27.6	21.2
en	25.2	17.6	23.2	-	30.1	31.1	13.0	25.3	21.0	27.1	24.8
es	24.1	18.2	28.3	30.5	-	40.2	12.5	32.3	21.4	35.9	23.9
fr	23.7	18.5	26.1	30.0	38.4	-	12.6	32.4	21.1	35.3	22.6
fi	20.0	14.5	18.2	21.8	21.1	22.4	-	18.3	17.0	19.1	18.8
it	21.4	16.9	24.8	27.8	34.0	36.0	11.0	-	20.0	31.2	20.2
nl	20.5	18.3	17.4	23.0	22.9	24.6	10.3	20.0	-	20.7	19.0
pt	23.2	18.2	26.4	30.1	37.9	39.0	11.9	32.0	20.2	-	21.9
sv	30.3	18.9	22.8	30.2	28.6	29.7	15.3	23.9	21.9	25.9	-

[from Koehn, 2005]

# Moses: Open Source Toolkit



- **Open source** statistical machine translation system (developed from scratch 2006)
  - state-of-the-art **phrase-based** approach
  - novel methods: **factored translation models**, **confusion network decoding**
  - support for **very large models** through **memory-efficient** data structures
- Documentation, source code, binaries **available at** <http://www.statmt.org/moses/>
- Development also **supported by**
  - EC-funded **TC-STAR** project
  - **US** funding agencies DARPA, NSF
  - universities (Edinburgh, Maryland, MIT, ITC-irst, RWTH Aachen, ...)



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# Factored Translation Models

- **Motivation**
- Example
- Model and Training
- Decoding
- Experiments
- Outlook



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# Statistical machine translation today

- Best performing methods based on **phrases**
  - short sequences of words
  - no use of explicit syntactic information
  - no use of morphological information
  - currently best performing method
- Progress in **syntax-based** translation
  - tree transfer models using syntactic annotation
  - still shallow representation of words and non-terminals
  - active research, improving performance

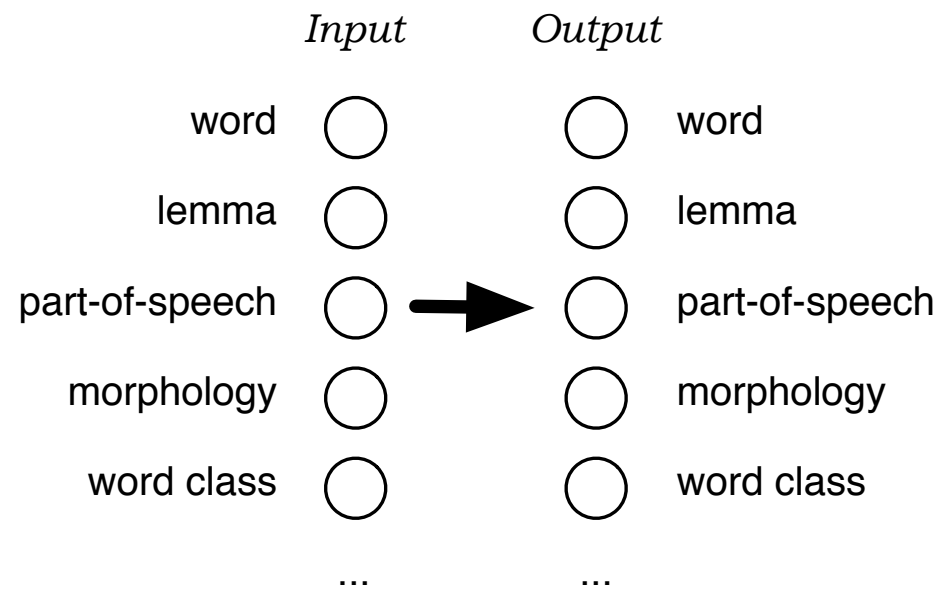
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## One motivation: morphology

- Models treat **car** and **cars** as completely different words
  - training occurrences of **car** have no effect on learning translation of **cars**
  - if we only see **car**, we do not know how to translate **cars**
  - rich morphology (German, Arabic, Finnish, Czech, ...) → many word forms
- Better approach
  - analyze surface word forms into **lemma** and **morphology**, e.g.: *car +plural*
  - translate lemma and morphology separately
  - generate target surface form

# Factored translation models

- **Factored representation** of words



- Goals
  - **Generalization**, e.g. by translating lemmas, not surface forms
  - **Richer model**, e.g. using syntax for reordering, language modeling)

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## Related work

- **Back off** to representations with richer statistics (lemma, etc.)  
[Nießen and Ney, 2001, Yang and Kirchhoff 2006, Talbot and Osborne 2006]
  - Use of additional annotation in **pre-processing** (POS, syntax trees, etc.)  
[Collins et al., 2005, Crego et al, 2006]
  - Use of additional annotation in **re-ranking** (morphological features, POS, syntax trees, etc.)  
[Och et al. 2004, Koehn and Knight, 2005]
- we pursue an **integrated approach**
- Use of syntactic **tree structure**  
[Wu 1997, Alshawi et al. 1998, Yamada and Knight 2001, Melamed 2004, Menezes and Quirk 2005, Chiang 2005, Galley et al. 2006]
- may be **combined** with our approach



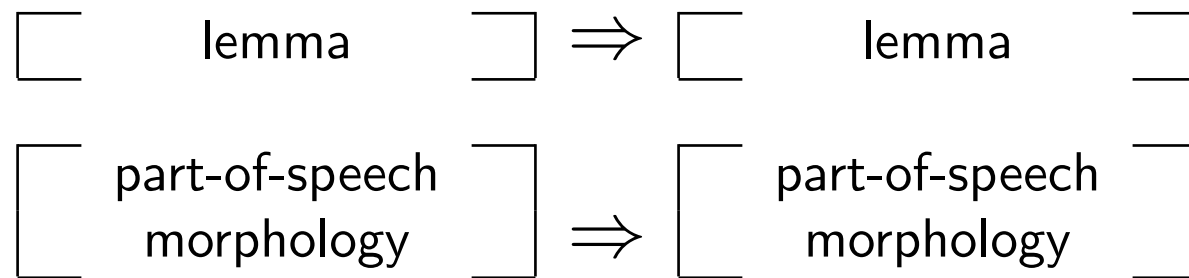
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# Factored Translation Models

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## Decomposing translation: example

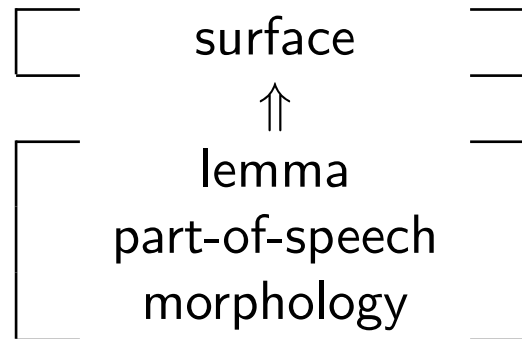
- **Translate** lemma and syntactic information **separately**





## Decomposing translation: example

- **Generate surface** form on target side



## Translation process: example

Input: (Autos, Auto, NNS)

1. Translation step: lemma  $\Rightarrow$  lemma  
(?, car, ?), (?, auto, ?)
2. Generation step: lemma  $\Rightarrow$  part-of-speech  
(?, car, NN), (?, car, NNS), (?, auto, NN), (?, auto, NNS)
3. Translation step: part-of-speech  $\Rightarrow$  part-of-speech  
(?, car, NN), (?, car, NNS), (?, auto, NNP), (?, auto, NNS)
4. Generation step: lemma, part-of-speech  $\Rightarrow$  surface  
(car, car, NN), (cars, car, NNS), (auto, auto, NN), (autos, auto, NNS)





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# Model

- Extension of **phrase model**
- Mapping of foreign words into English words broken up into steps
  - **translation step**: maps foreign factors into English factors (on the phrasal level)
  - **generation step**: maps English factors into English factors (for each word)
- Each step is modeled by one or more **feature functions**
  - fits nicely into log-linear model
  - weight set by discriminative training method
- Order of mapping steps is chosen to optimize search

## Phrase-based training

- Establish word alignment (GIZA++ and symmetrization)

	naturally	john	has	fun	with	the	game
natürlich	■						
hat			■				
john		■					
spass				■			
am					■	■	
spiel							■

# Phrase-based training

- Extract phrase

	naturally	john	has	fun	with	the	game
natürlich	■	■	■				
hat	■	■	■				
john	■	■	■				
spass				■			
am					■	■	
spiel							■

⇒ natürlich hat john — naturally john has

# Factored training

- Annotate training with factors, extract phrase

		ADV	NNP	V	NN	P	DET	NN
ADV	■	■	■					
V	■		■	■				
NNP	■		■	■				
NN					■			
P						■	■	
NN								■

⇒ ADV V NNP — ADV NNP V

## Training of generation steps

- Generation steps map target factors to target factors
  - typically trained on target side of parallel corpus
  - may be trained on additional monolingual data
- Example: **The/DET man/NN sleeps/VBZ**
  - count collection
    - count(**the,DET**)++
    - count(**man,NN**)++
    - count(**sleeps,VBZ**)++
  - evidence for probability distributions (max. likelihood estimation)
    - $p(\text{DET}|\text{the})$ ,  $p(\text{the}|\text{DET})$
    - $p(\text{NN}|\text{man})$ ,  $p(\text{man}|\text{NN})$
    - $p(\text{VBZ}|\text{sleeps})$ ,  $p(\text{sleeps}|\text{VBZ})$

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# Factored Translation Models

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## Phrase-based translation

- Task: **translate this sentence** from German into English

**er**      **geht**      **ja**      **nicht**      **nach**      **hause**



# Translation step 1

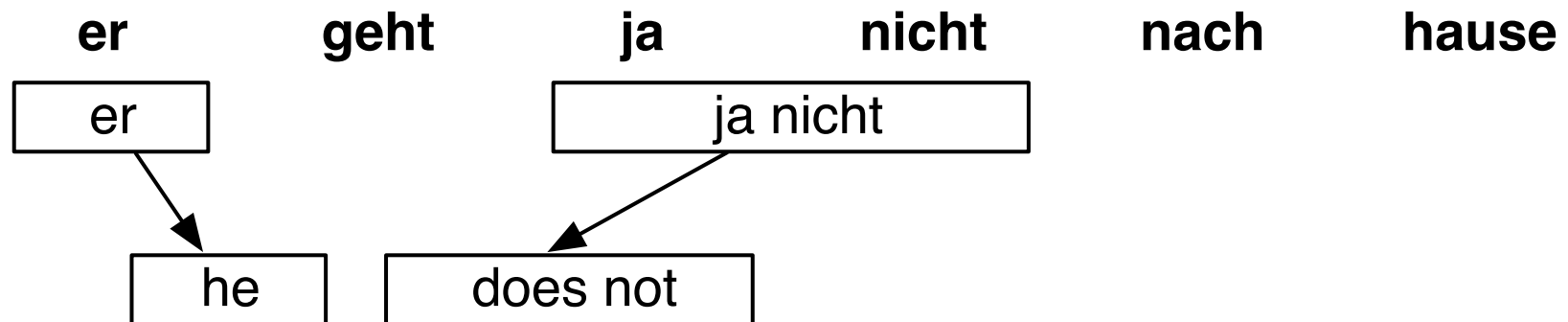
- Task: translate this sentence from German into English



- **Pick** phrase in input, **translate**

## Translation step 2

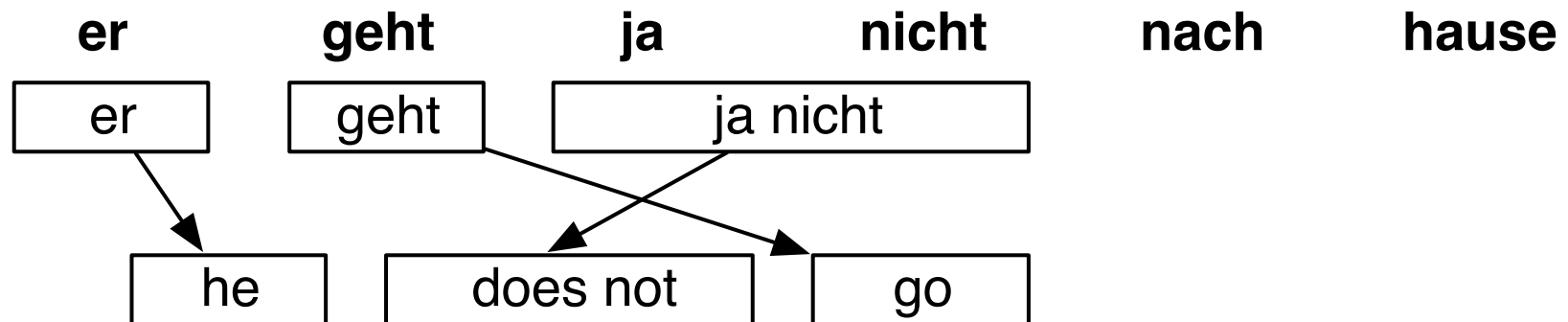
- Task: translate this sentence from German into English



- Pick phrase in input, translate
  - it is allowed to pick words **out of sequence** (**reordering**)
  - phrases may have multiple words: **many-to-many** translation

## Translation step 3

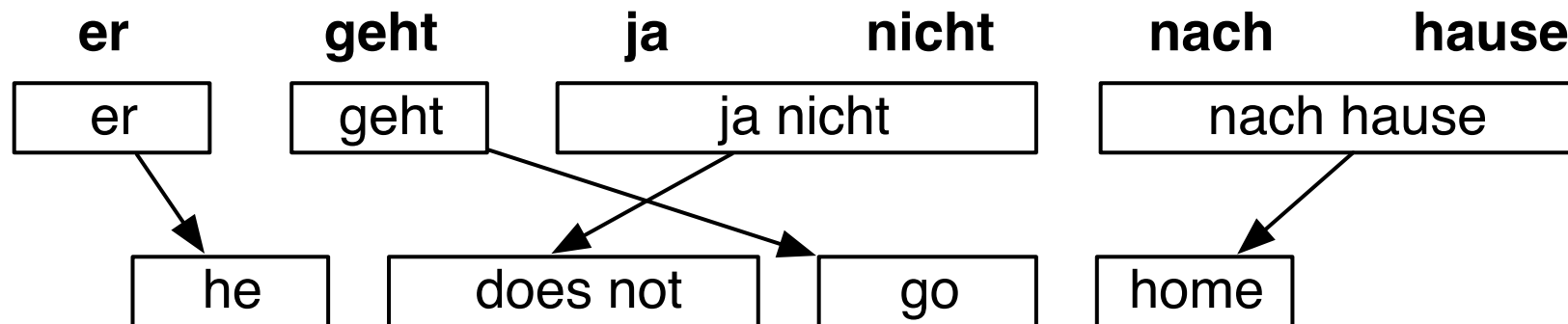
- Task: translate this sentence from German into English



- Pick phrase in input, translate

## Translation step 4

- Task: translate this sentence from German into English



- Pick phrase in input, translate



## Translation options

er	geht	ja	nicht	nach	hause
he	is	yes	not	after	house
it	are	is	do not	to	home
, it	goes	, of course	does not	according to	chamber
, he	go		is not	in	at home
it is		not		home	
he will be		is not		under house	
it goes		does not		return home	
he goes		do not		do not	
	is		to		
	are		following		
	is after all		not after		
	does		not to		
	not				
	is not				
	are not				
	is not a				

- **Many translation options** to choose from
  - in Europarl phrase table: **2727 matching phrase pairs** for this sentence
  - by pruning to the top 20 per phrase, **202 translation options** remain



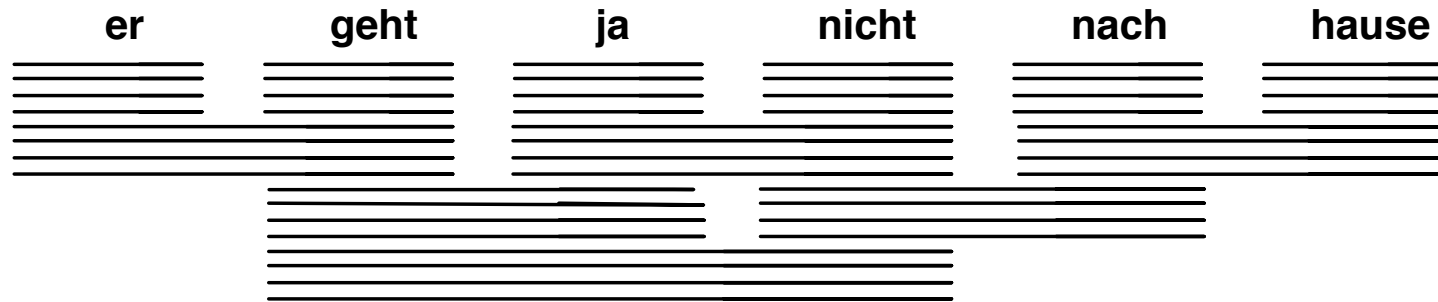
## Translation options

er	geht	ja	nicht	nach	hause
he	is	yes	not	after	house
it	are	is	do not	to	home
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, he	go		is not	in	at home
it is		not		home	
he will be		is not		under house	
it goes		does not		return home	
he goes		do not		do not	
	is		to		
	are		following		
	is after all		not after		
	does		not to		
	not				
	is not				
	are not				
	is not a				

- The machine translation decoder does not know the right answer  
 → **Search problem** solved by heuristic beam search

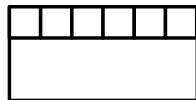
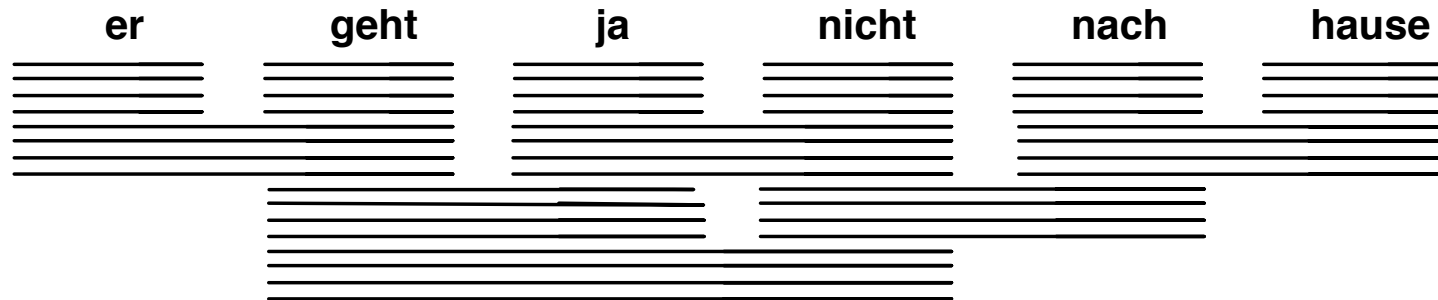


# Decoding process: precompute translation options





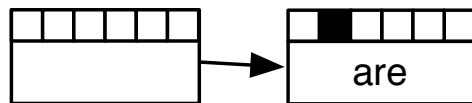
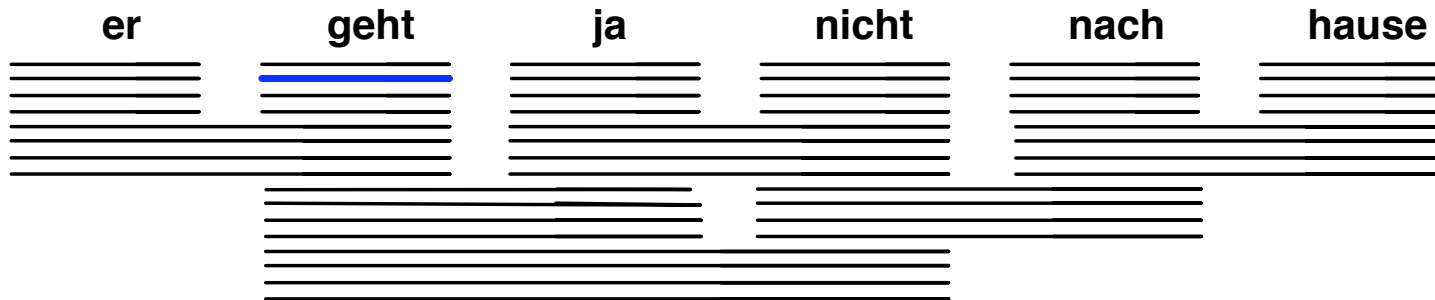
# Decoding process: start with initial hypothesis



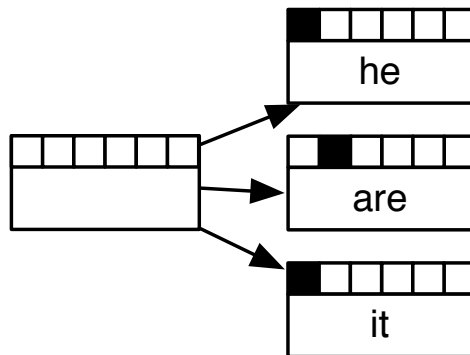
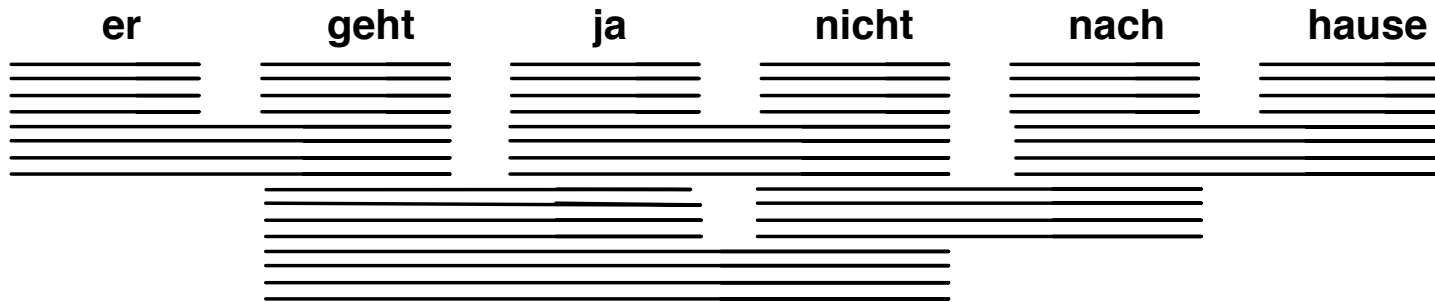




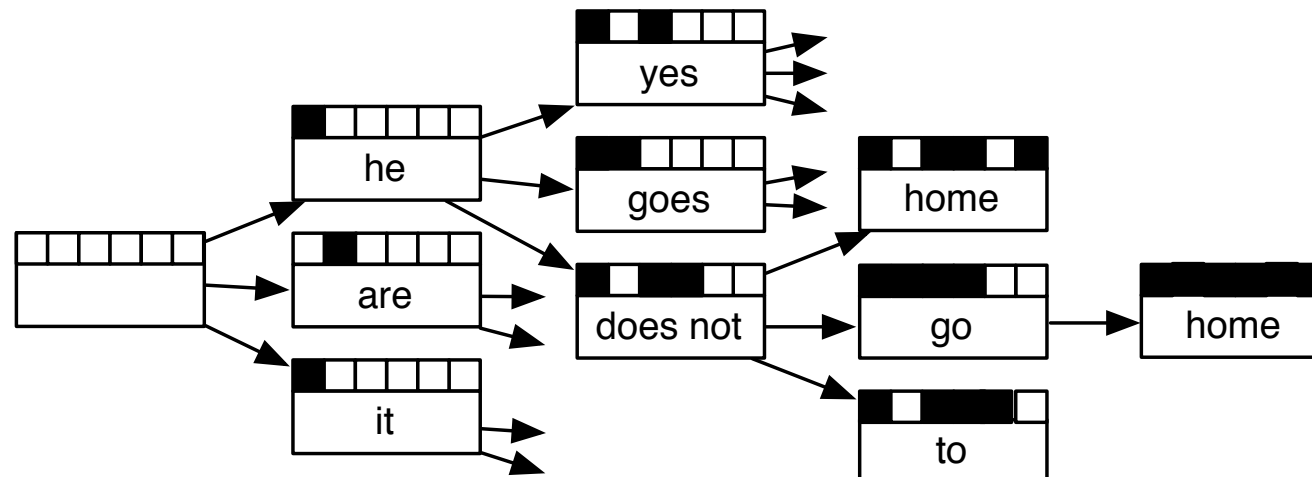
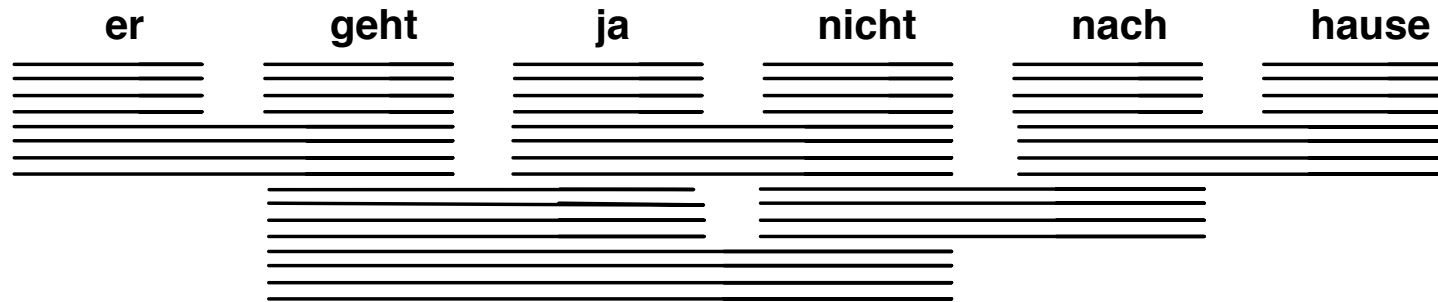
## Decoding process: hypothesis expansion



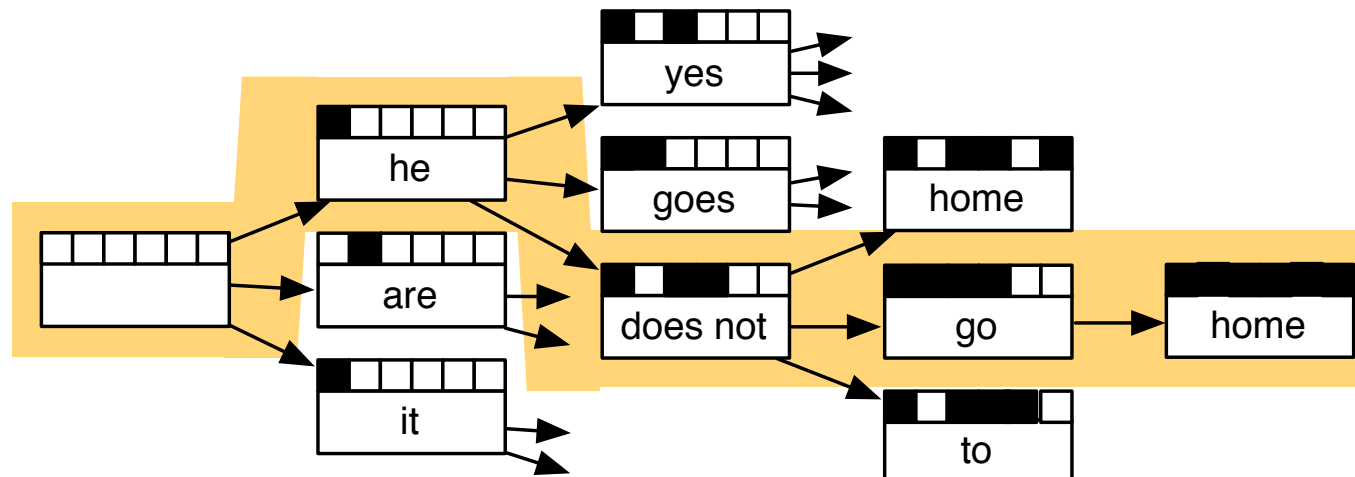
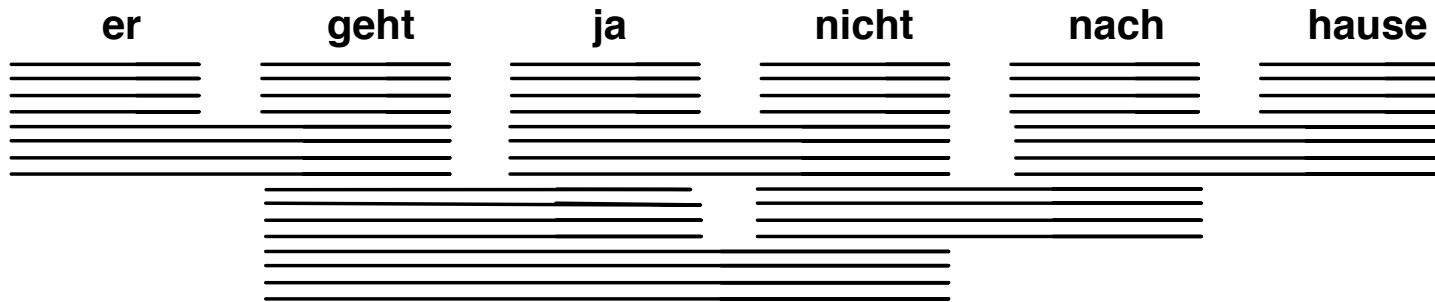
# Decoding process: hypothesis expansion



# Decoding process: hypothesis expansion



# Decoding process: find best path

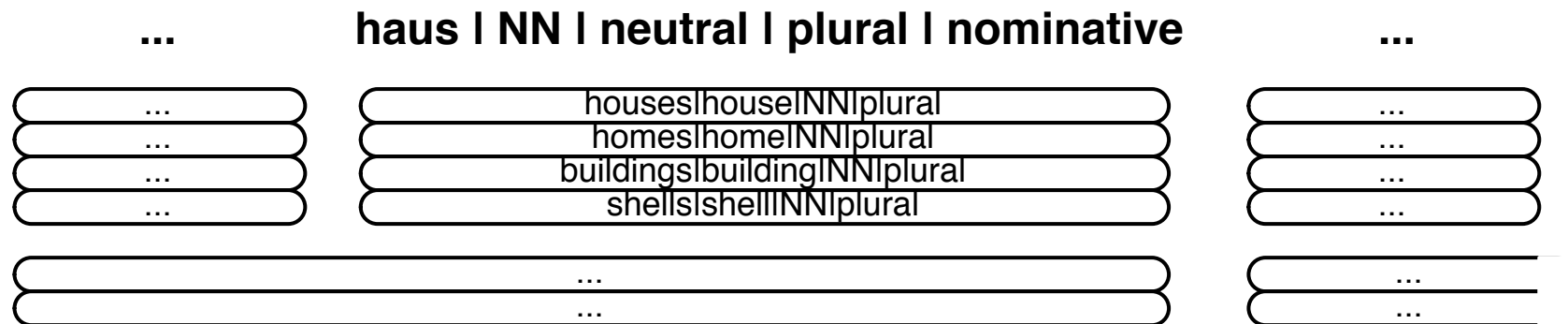


## Factored model decoding

- Factored model decoding introduces **additional complexity**
- Hypothesis expansion not any more according to simple translation table, but by **executing a number of mapping steps**, e.g.:
  1. translating of lemma → lemma
  2. translating of part-of-speech, morphology → part-of-speech, morphology
  3. generation of surface form
- Example: haus|NN|neutral|plural|nominative  
→ { houses|house|NN|plural, homes|home|NN|plural,  
buildings|building|NN|plural, shells|shell|NN|plural }
- Each time, a hypothesis is expanded, these mapping steps have to applied

# Efficient factored model decoding

- Key insight: executing of mapping steps can be **pre-computed** and stored as translation options
  - apply mapping steps to all input phrases
  - store results as **translation options**
  - decoding algorithm **unchanged**



## Efficient factored model decoding

- Problem: **Explosion** of translation options
  - originally limited to 20 per input phrase
  - even with simple model, now 1000s of mapping expansions possible
- Solution: **Additional pruning** of translation options
  - **keep only the best** expanded translation options
  - current default 50 per input phrase
  - decoding only about 2-3 times slower than with surface model

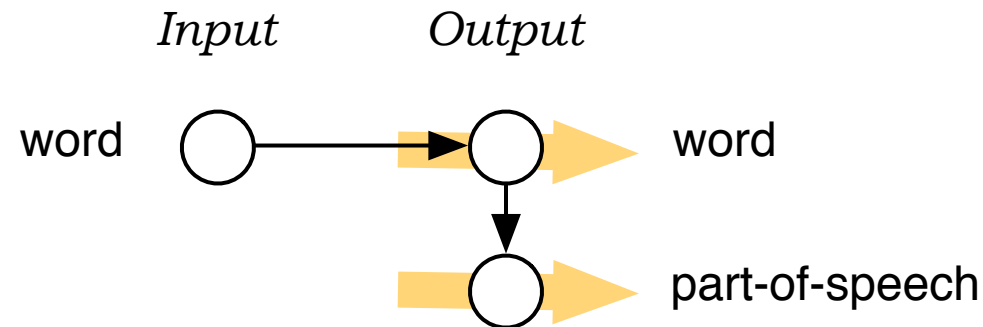
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# Factored Translation Models

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- **Experiments**
- Outlook



## Adding linguistic markup to output



- Generation of POS tags on the target side
- Use of high order language models over POS (7-gram, 9-gram)
- Motivation: syntactic tags should enforce syntactic sentence structure model not strong enough to support major restructuring

## Some experiments

- English–German, Europarl, 30 million word, test2006

Model	BLEU
best published result	18.15
baseline (surface)	18.04
surface + POS	18.15

- German–English, News Commentary data (WMT 2007), 1 million word

Model	BLEU
Baseline	18.19
With POS LM	19.05

- Improvements under sparse data conditions
- Similar results with CCG supertags [Birch et al., 2007]

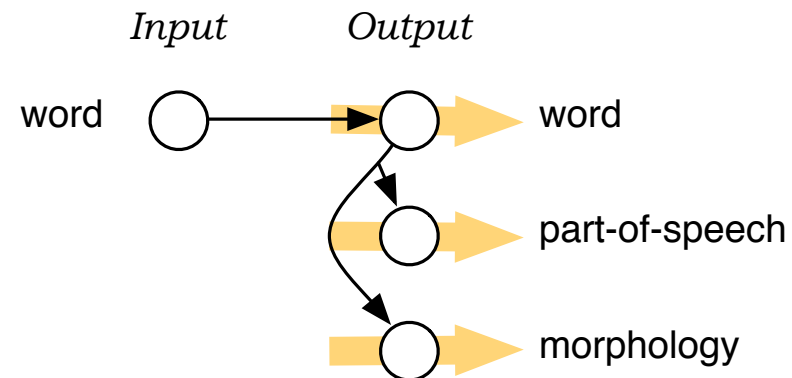


## Sequence models over morphological tags

<b>die</b>	<b>hellen</b>	<b>Sterne</b>	<b>erleuchten</b>	<b>das</b>	<b>schwarze</b>	<b>Himmel</b>
(the)	(bright)	(stars)	(illuminate)	(the)	(black)	(sky)
fem	fem	fem	-	neutral	neutral	male
plural	plural	plural	plural	sgl.	sgl.	sgl
nom.	nom.	nom.	-	acc.	acc.	acc.

- Violation of noun phrase agreement in gender
  - **das schwarze** and **schwarze Himmel** are perfectly fine bigrams
  - but: **das schwarze Himmel** is not
- If relevant n-grams does not occur in the corpus, a lexical n-gram model would **fail to detect** this mistake
- Morphological sequence model:  $p(\text{N-male}|\text{J-neutral}) > p(\text{N-male}|\text{J-neutral})$

# Local agreement (esp. within noun phrases)



- High order language models over POS and morphology
- Motivation
  - DET-sg| NOUN-sg| good sequence
  - DET-sg| NOUN-plural bad sequence

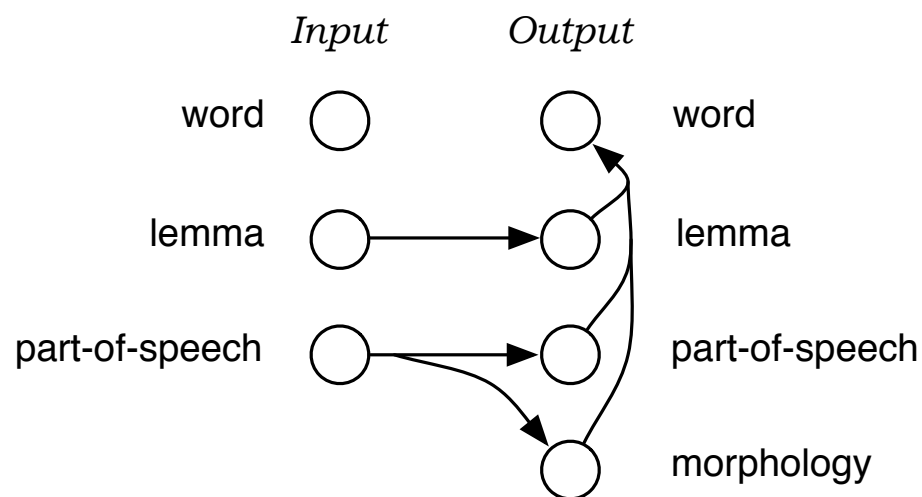
## Agreement within noun phrases

- Experiment: 7-gram POS, morph LM in addition to 3-gram word LM
- Results

Method	Agreement errors in NP	devtest	test
baseline	15% in NP $\geq$ 3 words	18.22 BLEU	18.04 BLEU
factored model	4% in NP $\geq$ 3 words	18.25 BLEU	18.22 BLEU

- Example
  - baseline: ... zur zwischenstaatlichen methoden ...
  - factored model: ... zu zwischenstaatlichen methoden ...
- Example
  - baseline: ... das zweite wichtige änderung ...
  - factored model: ... die zweite wichtige änderung ...

# Morphological generation model



- Our motivating example
- Translating lemma and morphological information more robust

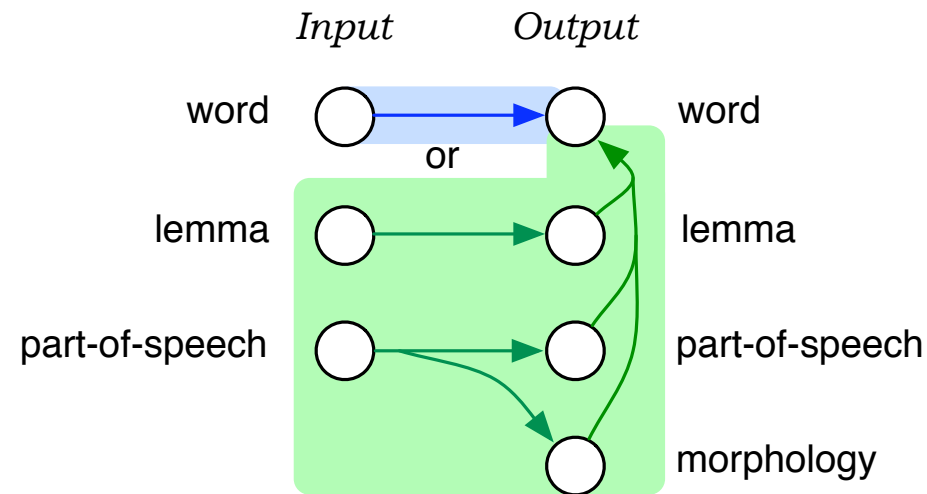
## Initial results

- Results on 1 million word News Commentary corpus (German–English)

System	In-doman	Out-of-domain
Baseline	18.19	15.01
With POS LM	19.05	15.03
Morphgen model	14.38	11.65

- What went wrong?
  - why back-off to lemma, when we know how to translate surface forms?
  - loss of information

## Solution: alternative decoding paths



- Allow both surface form translation and morphgen model
  - prefer surface model for known words
  - morphgen model acts as back-off



## Results

- Model now beats the baseline:

System	In-doman	Out-of-domain
Baseline	<b>18.19</b>	<b>15.01</b>
With POS LM	19.05	15.03
Morphgen model	14.38	11.65
Both model paths	<b>19.47</b>	<b>15.23</b>

## Using POS in reordering

- **Reordering** is often due to syntactic reasons
  - French-English: NN ADJ → ADJ NN
  - Chinese-English: NN1 F NN2 → NN1 NN2
  - Arabic-English: VB NN → NN VB
- Extension of lexicalized reordering model
  - already have model that learns  $p(\text{monotone}|\text{bleue})$
  - can be extended to  $p(\text{monotone}|\text{ADJ})$
- Gains in preliminary experiments

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## Other experiments

- Use of CCG supertags on target side
  - Birch et al. [ACL-WS-SMT 2007]
  - Hassan et al. [ACL 2007]
- Handling rich Czech morphology
  - Bojar [ACL WS on SMT, 2007]
- Use of automatic word classes
  - Shen et al. [IWSLT 2006]
- Using POS in reordering
  - Rawlik [UG4 project at U Edinburgh, 2006]
- Additional experiments
  - Report from JHU Summer Workshop 2006



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- **Outlook**

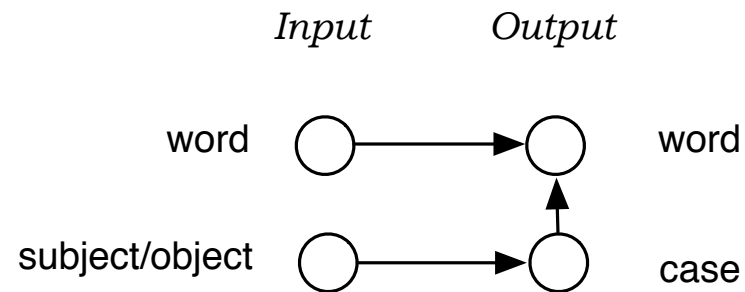
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## Adding annotation to the source

- Source words may **lack sufficient information** to map phrases
  - English-German: what case for noun phrases?
  - Chinese-English: plural or singular
  - pronoun translation: what do they refer to?
- Idea: **add additional information** to the source that makes the required information available locally (where it is needed)



## Case information for English–German



- Detect in English, if noun phrase is subject/object (using parse tree)
- Map information into case morphology of German
- Use case morphology to generate correct word form

## Long range agreement

- Lexical n-gram language model would prefer

the paintings of the old man is beautiful

old man is is a **better trigram** than old man are

- Correct translation

the paintings of the old man are beautiful  
- SBJ-plural - - - V-plural -

- **Special tag** that tracks *count* of *subject* and *verb*

$p(-, \text{SBJ-plural}, -, -, -, \text{V-plural}, -) > p(-, \text{SBJ-plural}, -, -, -, \text{V-singular}, -)$

## Shallow syntactic features

<b>the</b>	<b>paintings</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>old</b>	<b>man</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>beautiful</b>
-	plural	-	-	-	singular	plural	-
B-NP	I-NP	B-PP	I-PP	I-PP	I-PP	V	B-ADJ
SBJ	SBJ	OBJ	OBJ	OBJ	OBJ	V	ADJ

- Shallow syntactic tasks have been formulated as sequence labeling tasks
  - base noun phrase chunking
  - syntactic role labeling



## Long range reordering

- **Long range** reordering
  - movement often not limited to local changes
  - German-English: **SBJ AUX OBJ V** → **SBJ AUX V OBJ**
- **Asynchronous** models
  - some factor mappings (POS, syntactic chunks) may have longer scope than others (words)
  - larger mappings form template for shorter mappings
  - computational problems with this

---

## Conclusions

- Framework for integration additional annotation
  - integrated in model and search
- Improvements shown with low-level syntactic markup
  - POS, morphology
  - word classes [Shen et al., 2006], CCG [Birch et al., 2007]
- Implemented in open source Moses decoder
  - try it yourself!

## Factored models: open questions

- Same **phrase segmentation** for all translation steps?
- Better parameter **estimation** (too many features for MERT?)
- **Other decoding steps** besides phrase translation and word generation (for instance alignment templates)?
- Integration of simple **tools** such as morphological analyzers/generators?
- What **annotation** is useful?
  - translation: mostly lexical, or lemmas for richer statistics, enriching source
  - reordering: syntactic information useful
  - language model: syntactic information for overall grammatical coherence

---

# Discriminative Training

- Evolution from generative to discriminative models
  - IBM Models: purely generative
  - MERT: discriminative training of generative components
  - More features → better discriminative training needed
- Perceptron algorithm
- Problem: overfitting
- Problem: matching reference translation

## The birth of SMT: generative models

- The definition of translation probability follows a **mathematical derivation**

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{e}} p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{e}) p(\mathbf{e})$$

- Occasionally, some **independence assumptions** are thrown in for instance IBM Model 1: word translations are independent of each other

$$p(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{f}, a) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_i p(e_i|f_{a(i)})$$

- Generative story leads to **straight-forward estimation**
  - maximum likelihood estimation of component probability distribution
  - **EM algorithm** for discovering hidden variables (alignment)

## Log-linear models

- IBM Models provided mathematical justification for factoring **components** together

$$p_{LM} \times p_{TM} \times p_D$$

- These may be **weighted**

$$p_{LM}^{\lambda_{LM}} \times p_{TM}^{\lambda_{TM}} \times p_D^{\lambda_D}$$

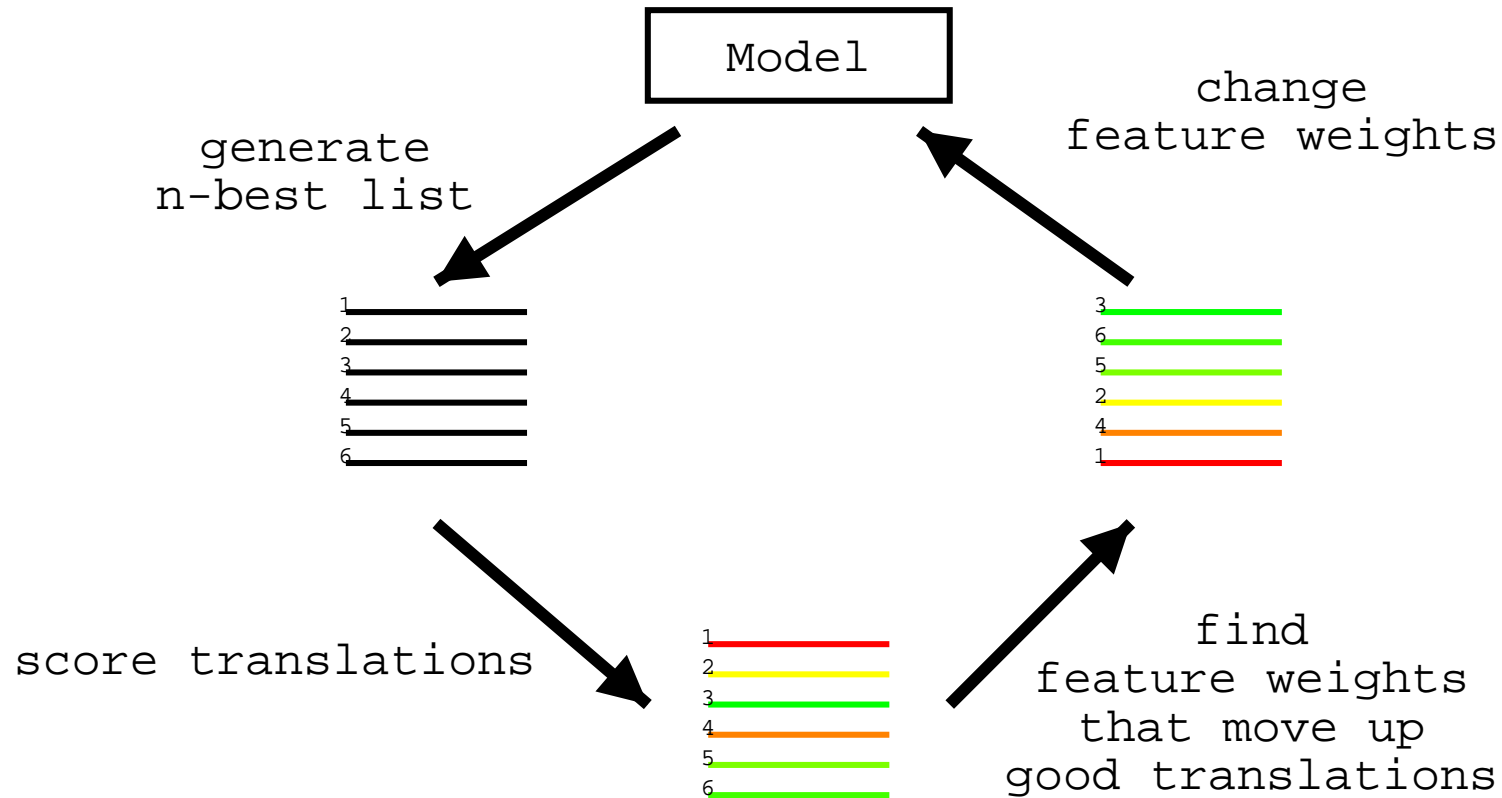
- **Many components**  $p_i$  with weights  $\lambda_i$

$$\prod_i p_i^{\lambda_i} = \exp\left(\sum_i \lambda_i \log(p_i)\right)$$

$$\log \prod_i p_i^{\lambda_i} = \sum_i \lambda_i \log(p_i)$$



# Discriminative training





# Och's minimum error rate training (MERT)

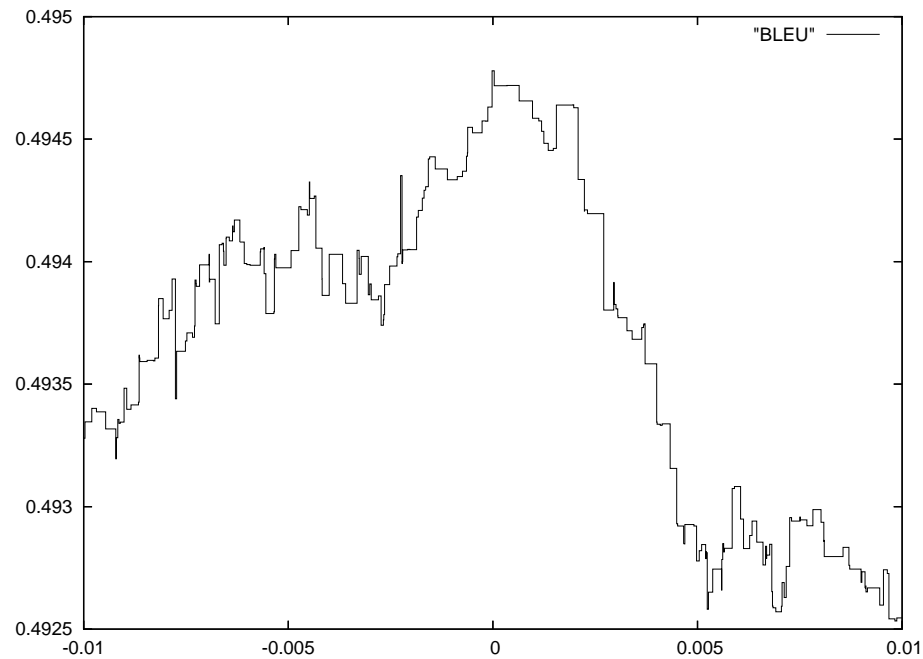
- **Line search** for best feature weights

```
given: sentences with n-best list of
translations
iterate n times
    randomize starting feature weights
    iterate until convergences
        for each feature
            find best feature weight
            update if different from current
return best feature weights found in any
iteration
```



## BLEU error surface

- Varying one parameter: a rugged line with many local optima





## Unstable outcomes: weights vary

component	run 1	run 2	run 3	run 4	run 5	run 6
distance	0.059531	0.071025	0.069061	0.120828	0.120828	0.072891
lexdist 1	0.093565	0.044724	0.097312	0.108922	0.108922	0.062848
lexdist 2	0.021165	0.008882	0.008607	0.013950	0.013950	0.030890
lexdist 3	0.083298	0.049741	0.024822	-0.000598	-0.000598	0.023018
lexdist 4	0.051842	0.108107	0.090298	0.111243	0.111243	0.047508
lexdist 5	0.043290	0.047801	0.020211	0.028672	0.028672	0.050748
lexdist 6	0.083848	0.056161	0.103767	0.032869	0.032869	0.050240
lm 1	0.042750	0.056124	0.052090	0.049561	0.049561	0.059518
lm 2	0.019881	0.012075	0.022896	0.035769	0.035769	0.026414
lm 3	0.059497	0.054580	0.044363	0.048321	0.048321	0.056282
ttable 1	0.052111	0.045096	0.046655	0.054519	0.054519	0.046538
ttable 1	0.052888	0.036831	0.040820	0.058003	0.058003	0.066308
ttable 1	0.042151	0.066256	0.043265	0.047271	0.047271	0.052853
ttable 1	0.034067	0.031048	0.050794	0.037589	0.037589	0.031939
phrase-pen.	0.059151	0.062019	-0.037950	0.023414	0.023414	-0.069425
word-pen	-0.200963	-0.249531	-0.247089	-0.228469	-0.228469	-0.252579



## Unstable outcomes: scores vary

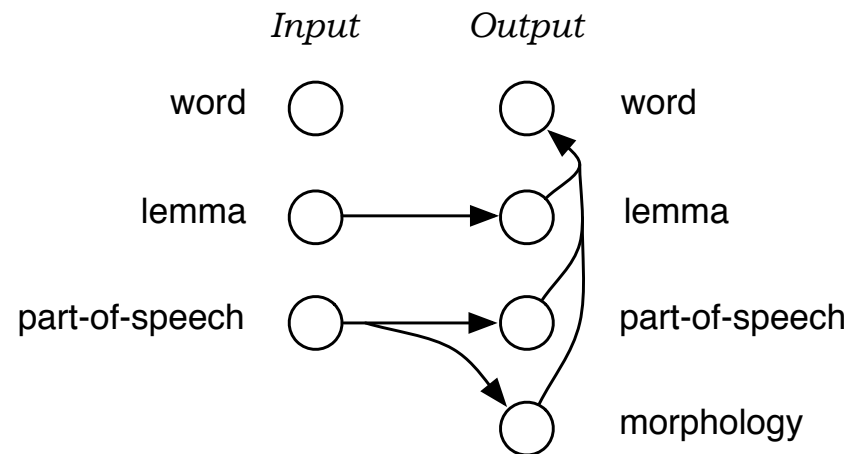
- Even different scores with different runs (varying 0.40 on dev, 0.89 on test)

run	iterations	dev score	test score
1	8	50.16	51.99
2	9	50.26	51.78
3	8	50.13	51.59
4	12	50.10	51.20
5	10	50.16	51.43
6	11	50.02	51.66
7	10	50.25	51.10
8	11	50.21	51.32
9	10	50.42	51.79

## More features: more components

- We would like to add **more components** to our model
  - multiple language models
  - domain adaptation features
  - various special handling features
  - using linguistic information
- MERT becomes even **less reliable**
  - runs many more iterations
  - fails more frequently

## More features: factored models



- Factored translation models break up phrase mapping into smaller steps
  - multiple translation tables
  - multiple generation tables
  - multiple language models and sequence models on factors

→ **Many more features**

---

## Millions of features

- Why **mix** of discriminative training and generative models?
- Discriminative training of all components
  - phrase table [Liang et al., 2006]
  - language model [Roark et al, 2004]
  - additional features
- **Large-scale** discriminative training
  - millions of features
  - training of full training set, not just a small development corpus

## Perceptron algorithm

- Translate each sentence
- If no match with reference translation: update features

```
set all lambda = 0
do until convergence
  for all foreign sentences f
    set e-best to best translation according to model
    set e-ref to reference translation
    if e-best != e-ref
      for all features feature-i
        lambda-i += feature-i(f,e-ref)
                  - feature-i(f,e-best)
```

## Problem: overfitting

- Fundamental problem in machine learning
  - what works best for training data, may not work well in general
  - **rare, unrepresentative features** may get too much weight
- **Especially severe problem** in phrase-based models
  - **long phrase pairs** explain well *individual sentences*
  - ... but are less general, *suspect to noise*
  - EM training of phrase models [Marcu and Wong, 2002] has same problem



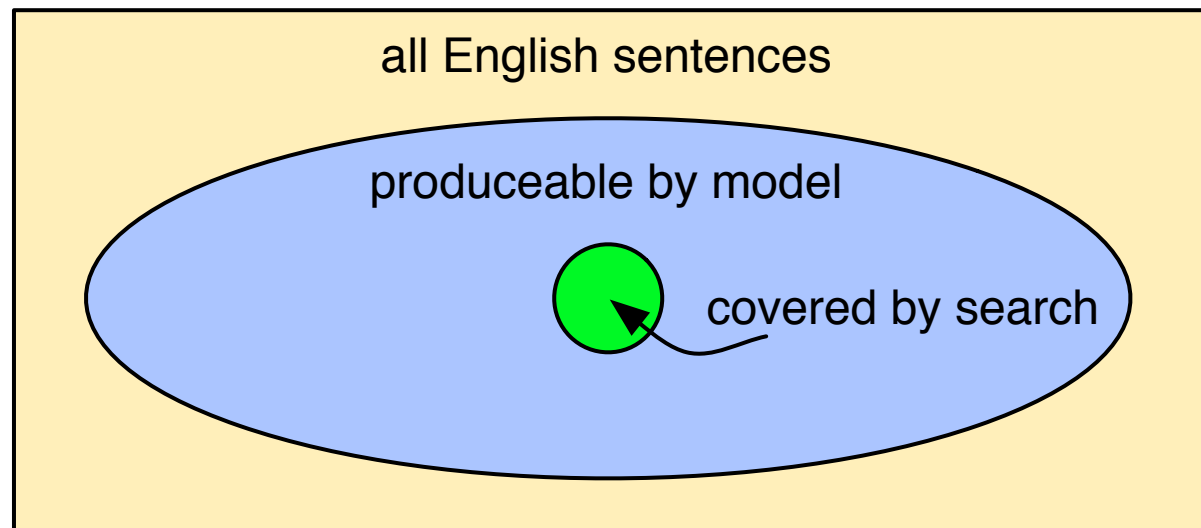
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## Solutions

- **Restrict to short phrases**, e.g., maximum 3 words (current approach)
  - limits the power of phrase-based models
  - ... but not very much [Koehn et al, 2003]
- **Jackknife**
  - collect phrase pairs from one part of corpus
  - optimize their feature weights on another part
- IBM direct model: **only one-to-many** phrases [Ittycheriah and Salim Roukos, 2007]

## Problem: reference translation

- Reference translation may be anywhere in this box



- If produceable by model  $\rightarrow$  we can compute feature scores
- If not  $\rightarrow$  we can not

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## Some solutions

- **Skip sentences**, for which reference can not be produced
  - invalidates large amounts of training data
  - biases model to shorter sentences
- Declare candidate translations closest to reference as **surrogate**
  - closeness measured for instance by smoothed BLEU score
  - may be not a very good translation: odd feature values, training is severely distorted

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## Conclusions

- Currently have proof-of-concept implementation
- Future work: Overcome various technical challenges
  - reference translation may not be produceable
  - overfitting
  - mix of binary and real-valued features
  - scaling up
- More and more features are unavoidable, let's deal with them