

CS447: Natural Language Processing

<http://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs447>

# Lecture 19: Dependency Grammars and Dependency Parsing

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# Today's lecture

Dependency Grammars

Dependency Treebanks

Dependency Parsing

# The popularity of Dependency Parsing

Currently the main paradigm for syntactic parsing.

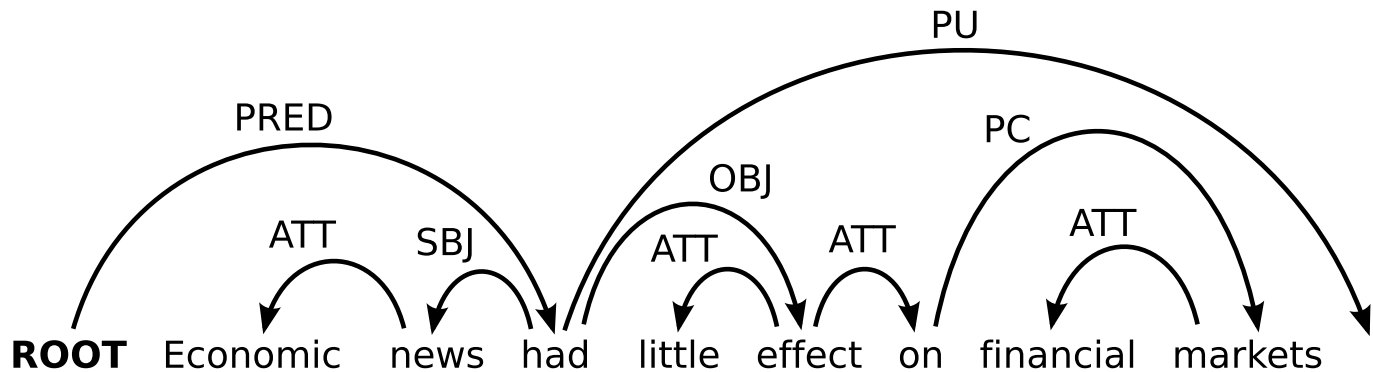
Dependencies are easier to use and interpret for downstream tasks than phrase-structure trees

Dependencies are more natural for languages with free word order

Lots of dependency treebanks are available

# Dependency Grammar

# A dependency parse



Dependencies are **(labeled) asymmetrical binary relations** between two lexical items (words).

*had* —OBJ—> *effect* [*effect* is the object of *had*]

*effect* —ATT—> *little* [*little* is at attribute of *effect*]

We typically assume a special ROOT token as word 0

# Dependency grammar

**Word-word dependencies** are a component of many (most/all?) grammar formalisms.

**Dependency grammar** assumes that syntactic structure consists *only* of dependencies.

Many variants. Modern DG began with Tesnière (1959).

DG is often used for **free word order languages**.

DG is **purely descriptive** (not generative like CFGs etc.), but some formal equivalences are known.

# Dependency trees

Dependencies form a graph over the words in a sentence.

This graph is **connected** (every word is a node) and (typically) **acyclic** (no loops).

## **Single-head constraint:**

Every node has at most **one incoming edge**.

Together with connectedness, this implies that the graph is a **rooted tree**.

# Different kinds of dependencies

**Head-argument:** *eat sushi*

Arguments may be obligatory, but can only occur once.  
The head alone cannot necessarily replace the construction.

**Head-modifier:** *fresh sushi*

Modifiers are optional, and can occur more than once.  
The head alone can replace the entire construction.

**Head-specifier:** *the sushi*

Between function words (e.g. prepositions, determiners)  
and their arguments. Syntactic head  $\neq$  semantic head

**Coordination:** *sushi and sashimi*

Unclear where the head is.



# There isn't one right dependency grammar

Lots of different ways to to represent particular constructions as dependency trees, e.g.:

Coordination (*eat sushi and sashimi, sell and buy shares*)

Prepositional phrases (*with wasabi*)

Verb clusters (*I will have done this*)

Relative clauses (*the cat I saw caught a mouse*)

Where is the head in these constructions?

Different dependency treebanks use different conventions for these constructions

# Dependency Treebanks

# Dependency Treebanks

Dependency treebanks exist for many languages:

Czech

Arabic

Turkish

Danish

Portuguese

Estonian

....

Phrase-structure treebanks (e.g. the Penn Treebank) can also be translated into dependency trees (although there might be noise in the translation)

# The Prague Dependency Treebank

Three levels of annotation:

**morphological:** [<2M tokens]

Lemma (dictionary form) + detailed analysis

(15 categories with many possible values = 4,257 tags)

**surface-syntactic (“analytical”):** [1.5M tokens]

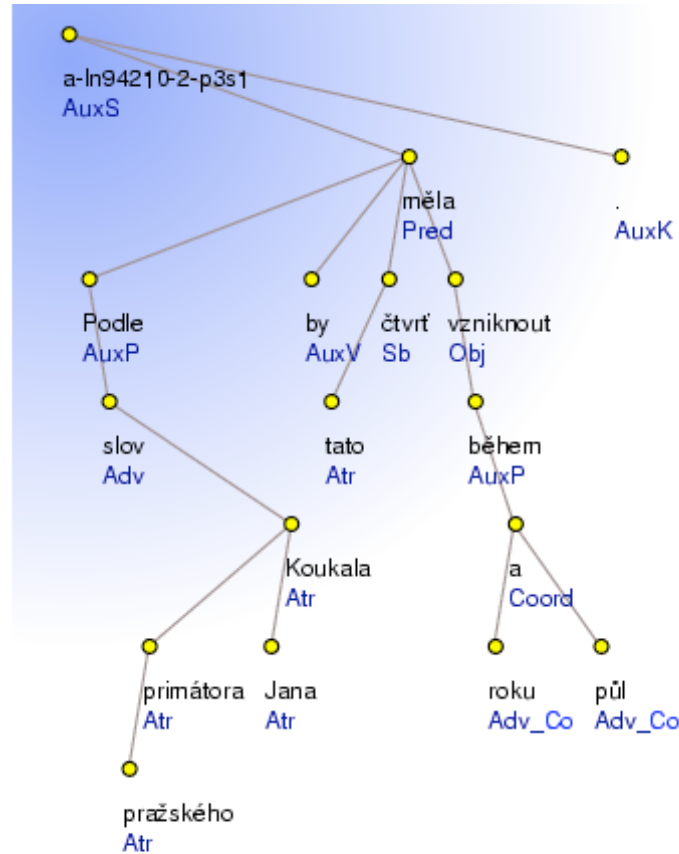
Labeled dependency tree encoding grammatical functions  
(subject, object, conjunct, etc.)

**semantic (“tectogrammatical”):** [0.8M tokens]

Labeled dependency tree for predicate-argument structure,  
information structure, coreference (not all words included)

(39 labels: agent, patient, origin, effect, manner, etc....)

# Examples: analytical level



# METU-Sabancı Turkish Treebank

Turkish is an agglutinative language  
with free word order.

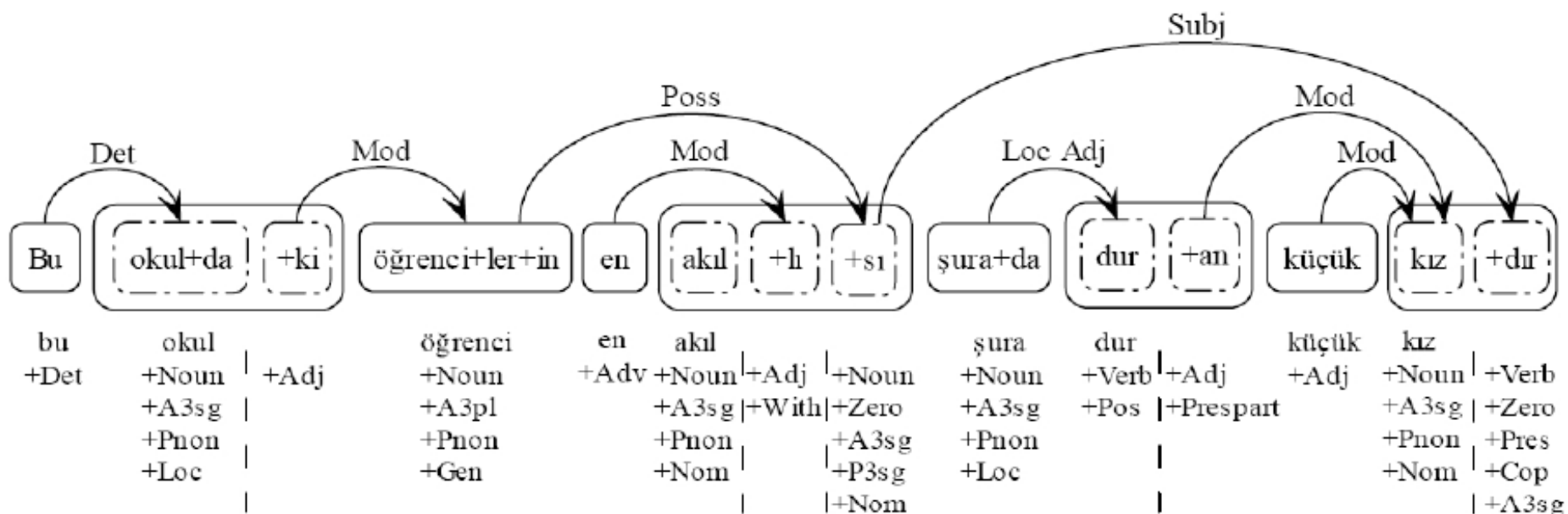
Rich morphological annotations

Dependencies (next slide) are at the morpheme level

- iyileştiriliyorken
  - (literally) while it is being caused to become good
  - while it is being improved
- iyi+Adj ^DB+Verb+Become^DB+Verb+Caus  
^DB+Verb+Pass+Pos+Pres^DB+Adverb+While

Very small -- about 5000 sentences

# METU-Sabancı Turkish Treebank



This school-at+that-is student-s-' most intelligence+with+of there stand+ing little girl+is  
*The most intelligent of the students in this school is the little girl standing there.*

[this and prev. example from Kemal Oflazer's talk at Rochester, April 2007]

# Universal Dependencies

37 syntactic relations, intended to be applicable to all languages (“universal”), with slight modifications for each specific language, if necessary.

<http://universaldependencies.org>



# Universal Dependency Relations

**Nominal core arguments:** `nsubj` (nominal subject), `obj` (direct object), `iobj` (indirect object)

**Clausal core arguments:** `csubj` (clausal subject), `ccomp` (clausal object [“complement”])

**Non-core dependents:** `advcl` (adverbial clause modifier), `aux` (auxiliary verb),

**Nominal dependents:** `nmod` (nominal modifier), `amod` (adjectival modifier),

**Coordination:** `cc` (coordinating conjunction), `conj` (conjunct)

and many more...

# From CFGs to dependencies

# From CFGs to dependencies

Assume each CFG rule has **one head child** (bolded)

The other children are **dependents** of the head.

S → NP **VP**      **VP** is head, NP is a dependent

VP → **V** NP NP

NP → DT **NOUN**

NOUN → ADJ **N**

The **headword** of a constituent is the terminal that is reached by recursively following the head child.

(here, V is the head word of S, and N is the head word of NP).

If in rule  $XP \rightarrow \mathbf{X} Y$ , X is head child and Y dependent, the headword of Y depends on the headword of X.

The **maximal projection** of a terminal  $w$  is the highest nonterminal in the tree that  $w$  is headword of.

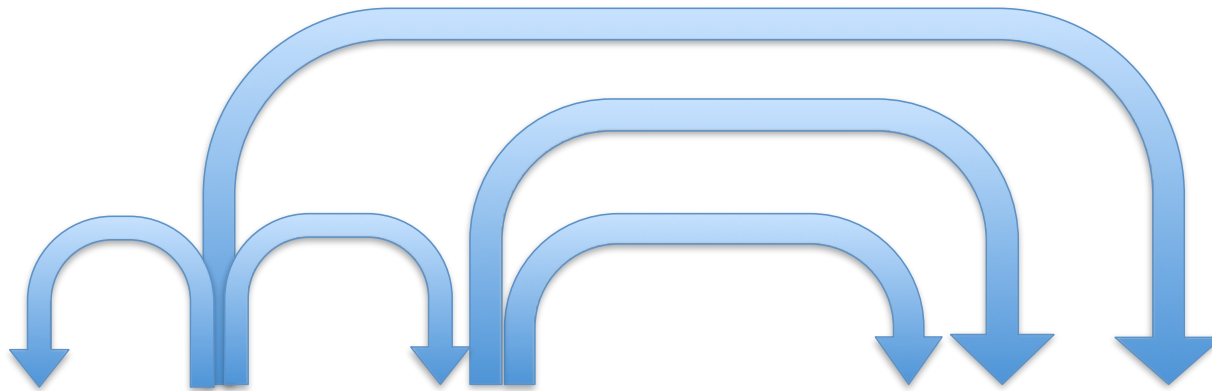
Here, Y is a maximal projection.

# Context-free grammars

CFGs capture only **nested** dependencies

The dependency graph is a **tree**

The dependencies **do not cross**

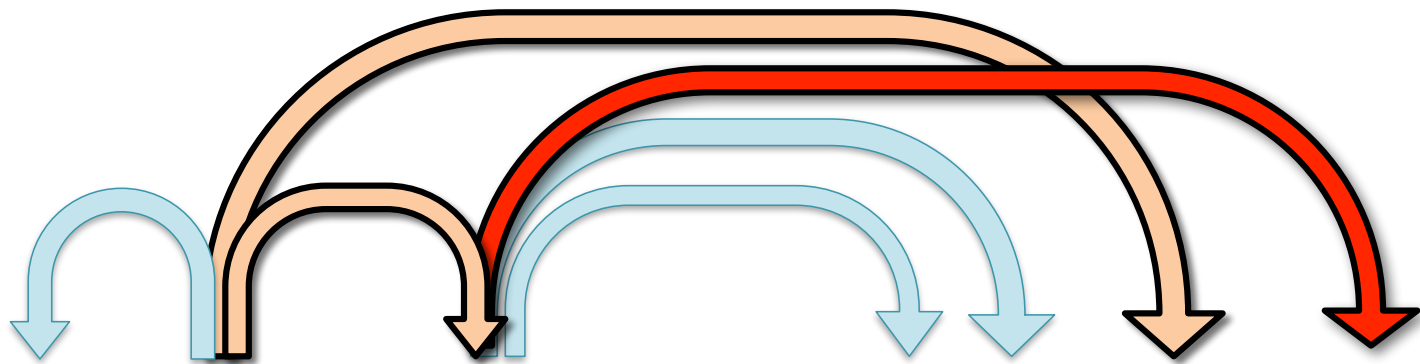


# Beyond CFGs: Nonprojective dependencies

Dependencies: **tree with crossing branches**

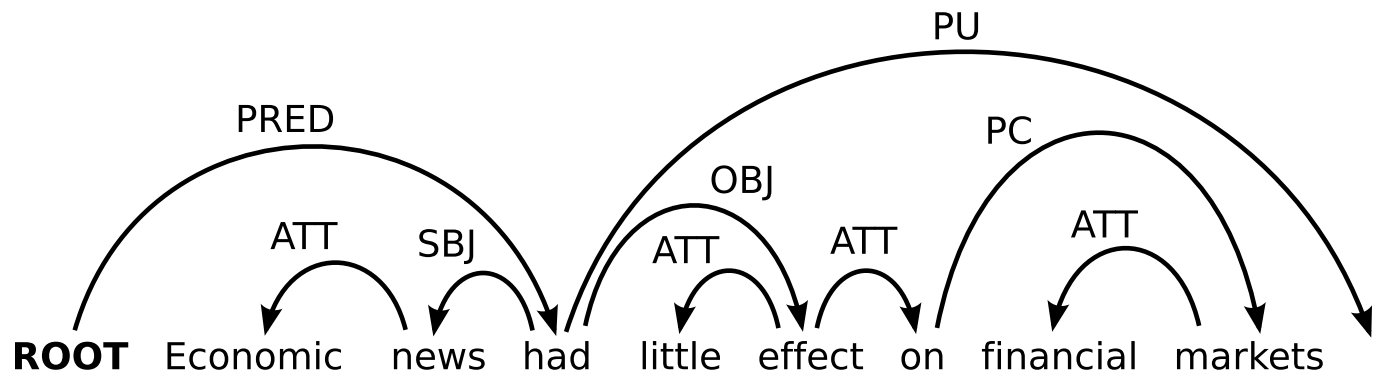
Arise in the following constructions

- (Non-local) **scrambling** (free word order languages)  
*Die Pizza* hat Klaus *versprochen* zu *bringen*
- **Extraposition** (*The guy is coming who is wearing a hat*)
- **Topicalization** (*Cheeseburgers, I thought he likes*)



# Dependency Parsing

# A dependency parse



Dependencies are **(labeled) asymmetrical binary relations** between two lexical items (words).

# Parsing algorithms for DG

## ‘Transition-based’ parsers:

learn a sequence of actions to parse sentences

### **Models:**

State =     stack of partially processed items  
          + queue/buffer of remaining tokens  
          + set of dependency arcs that have been found already

Transitions (actions) = add dependency arcs; stack/queue operations

## ‘Graph-based’ parsers:

learn a model over dependency graphs

### **Models:**

a function (typically sum) of local attachment scores

For dependency trees, you can use a minimum spanning tree algorithm



# Transition-based parsing (Nivre et al.)

# Transition-based parsing: assumptions

This algorithm works for **projective dependency trees**.

## Dependency tree:

Each word has a single parent

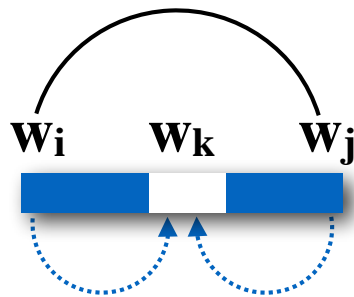
(Each word is a **dependent of** [is attached to] **one other word**)

## Projective dependencies:

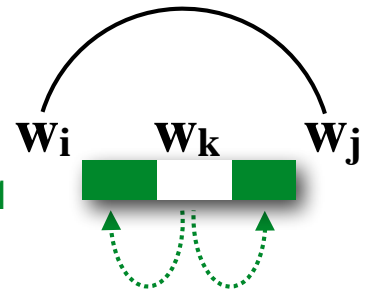
There are **no crossing dependencies**.

For any  $i, j, k$  with  $i < k < j$ : if there is a dependency between  $w_i$  and  $w_j$ , the **parent of  $w_k$**  is a **word  $w_l$  between** (possibly including)  $i$  and  $j$ :  $i \leq l \leq j$ , while **any child  $w_m$  of  $w_k$**  has to occur **between** (excluding)  $i$  and  $j$ :  $i < m < j$

the parent of  $w_k$ :  
one of  $w_i \dots w_j$



any child of  $w_k$ :  
one of  $w_{i+1} \dots w_{j-1}$



# Transition-based parsing

Transition-based shift-reduce parsing processes the sentence  $S = w_0w_1\dots w_n$  from left to right. Unlike CKY, it constructs a **single tree**.

Notation:

$w_0$  is a special ROOT token.

$V_S = \{w_0, w_1, \dots, w_n\}$  is the vocabulary of the sentence

$R$  is a set of dependency relations

The parser uses three data structures:

$\sigma$ : a **stack of partially processed words**  $w_i \in V_S$

$\beta$ : a **buffer of remaining input words**  $w_i \in V_S$

$A$ : a **set of dependency arcs**  $(w_i, r, w_j) \in V_S \times R \times V_S$

# Parser configurations $(\sigma, \beta, A)$

The **stack**  $\sigma$  is a list of **partially processed words**

We push and pop words onto/off of  $\sigma$ .

$\sigma|w$  :  $w$  is on top of the stack.

Words on the stack are not (yet) attached to any other words.

Once we attach  $w$ ,  $w$  can't be put back onto the stack again.

The **buffer**  $\beta$  is the **remaining input words**

We read words from  $\beta$  (left-to-right) and push them onto  $\sigma$

$w|\beta$  :  $w$  is on top of the buffer.

The **set of arcs**  $A$  defines the **current tree**.

We can add new arcs to  $A$  by attaching the word on top of the stack to the word on top of the buffer, or vice versa.

# Parser configurations $(\sigma, \beta, A)$

We start in the **initial configuration**  $([w_0], [w_1, \dots, w_n], \{\})$

(**Root token**, **Input Sentence**, **Empty tree**)

We can attach the first word ( $w_1$ ) to the root token  $w_0$ ,  
or we can push  $w_1$  onto the stack.

( $w_0$  is the only token that can't get attached to any other word)

We want to end in the **terminal configuration**  $([], [], A)$

(**Empty stack**, **Empty buffer**, **Complete tree**)

Success!

We have read all of the input words (empty buffer) and have  
attached all input words to some other word (empty stack)

# Transition-based parsing

We process the sentence  $S = w_0w_1\dots w_n$  from left to right (“incremental parsing”)

In the parser configuration  $(\sigma|w_i, w_j|\beta, A)$ :

$w_i$  is on top of the stack.  $w_i$  may have some children

$w_j$  is on top of the buffer.  $w_j$  may have some children

$w_i$  precedes  $w_j$  ( $i < j$ )

We have to either attach  $w_i$  to  $w_j$ , attach  $w_j$  to  $w_i$ , or decide that there is no dependency between  $w_i$  and  $w_j$

If we reach  $(\sigma|w_i, w_j|\beta, A)$ , all words  $w_k$  with  $i < k < j$  have already been attached to a parent  $w_m$  with  $i \leq m \leq j$

# Parser actions

$(\sigma, \beta, A)$ : Parser configuration with stack  $\sigma$ , buffer  $\beta$ , set of arcs  $A$

$(w, r, w')$ : Dependency with head  $w$ , relation  $r$  and dependent  $w'$

**SHIFT**: Push the next input word  $w_i$  from the buffer  $\beta$  onto the stack  $\sigma$

$$(\sigma, w_i | \beta, A) \Rightarrow (\sigma | w_i, \beta, A)$$

**LEFT-ARC<sub>r</sub>**: ...  $w_i \dots w_j \dots$  (dependent precedes the head)

Attach dependent  $w_i$  (top of stack  $\sigma$ ) to head  $w_j$  (top of buffer  $\beta$ ) with relation  $r$  from  $w_j$  to  $w_i$ . Pop  $w_i$  off the stack.

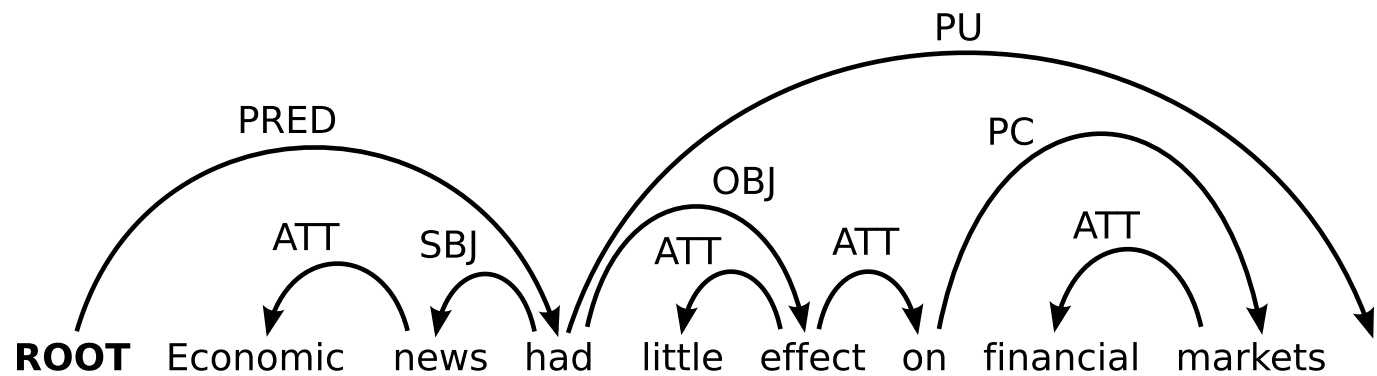
$$(\sigma | w_i, w_j | \beta, A) \Rightarrow (\sigma, w_j | \beta, A \cup \{(w_j, r, w_i)\})$$

**RIGHT-ARC<sub>r</sub>**: ...  $w_i \dots w_j \dots$  (dependent follows the head)

Attach dependent  $w_j$  (top of buffer  $\beta$ ) to head  $w_i$  (top of stack  $\sigma$ ) with relation  $r$  from  $w_i$  to  $w_j$ . Move  $w_i$  back to the buffer

$$(\sigma | w_i, w_j | \beta, A) \Rightarrow (\sigma, w_i | \beta, A \cup \{(w_i, r, w_j)\})$$

# An example sentence & parse





Economic news had little effect on financial markets .

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Transition	Configuration
([ROOT],	[Economic, . . . , .], $\emptyset$ )

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RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect], [on, .], $A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$ )

# Economic news **had** little **effect** **on** financial markets .

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LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[news, . . . , .],	$A_1 = \{(news, ATT, Economic)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, news],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_1$
LA <sub>SBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_2 = A_1 \cup \{(had, SBJ, news)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[little, . . . , .],	$A_2$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, little],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_2$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_3 = A_2 \cup \{(effect, ATT, little)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, . . . , .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[financial, markets, .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . , financial],	[markets, .],	$A_3$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[markets, .],	$A_4 = A_3 \cup \{(markets, ATT, financial)\}$
RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, .],	$A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$
RA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, .],	$A_6 = A_5 \cup \{(effect, ATT, on)\}$
RA <sub>OBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, .],	$A_7 = A_6 \cup \{(had, OBJ, effect)\}$

# Economic news **had** little effect on financial markets .

Transition	Configuration		
	([ROOT],	[Economic, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, Economic],	[news, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[news, . . . , .],	$A_1 = \{(news, ATT, Economic)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, news],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_1$
LA <sub>SBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_2 = A_1 \cup \{(had, SBJ, news)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[little, . . . , .],	$A_2$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, little],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_2$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_3 = A_2 \cup \{(effect, ATT, little)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, . . . , .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[financial, markets, .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . , financial],	[markets, .],	$A_3$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[markets, .],	$A_4 = A_3 \cup \{(markets, ATT, financial)\}$
RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, .],	$A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$
RA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, .],	$A_6 = A_5 \cup \{(effect, ATT, on)\}$
RA <sub>OBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, .],	$A_7 = A_6 \cup \{(had, OBJ, effect)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[.],	$A_7$

# Economic news **had** little effect on financial markets .

Transition	Configuration		
	([ROOT],	[Economic, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, Economic],	[news, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[news, . . . , .],	$A_1 = \{(news, ATT, Economic)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, news],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_1$
LA <sub>SBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_2 = A_1 \cup \{(had, SBJ, news)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[little, . . . , .],	$A_2$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, little],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_2$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_3 = A_2 \cup \{(effect, ATT, little)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, . . . , .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[financial, markets, .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . , financial],	[markets, .],	$A_3$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[markets, .],	$A_4 = A_3 \cup \{(markets, ATT, financial)\}$
RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, .],	$A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$
RA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, .],	$A_6 = A_5 \cup \{(effect, ATT, on)\}$
RA <sub>OBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, .],	$A_7 = A_6 \cup \{(had, OBJ, effect)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[.],	$A_7$
RA <sub>PU</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had],	$A_8 = A_7 \cup \{(had, PU, .)\}$

# Economic news **had** little effect on financial markets .

Transition	Configuration		
	([ROOT],	[Economic, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, Economic],	[news, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[news, . . . , .],	$A_1 = \{(news, ATT, Economic)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, news],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_1$
LA <sub>SBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_2 = A_1 \cup \{(had, SBJ, news)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[little, . . . , .],	$A_2$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, little],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_2$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_3 = A_2 \cup \{(effect, ATT, little)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, . . . , .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[financial, markets, .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . , financial],	[markets, .],	$A_3$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[markets, .],	$A_4 = A_3 \cup \{(markets, ATT, financial)\}$
RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, .],	$A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$
RA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, .],	$A_6 = A_5 \cup \{(effect, ATT, on)\}$
RA <sub>OBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, .],	$A_7 = A_6 \cup \{(had, OBJ, effect)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[.],	$A_7$
RA <sub>PU</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had],	$A_8 = A_7 \cup \{(had, PU, .)\}$
RA <sub>PRED</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ ],	[ROOT],	$A_9 = A_8 \cup \{(ROOT, PRED, had)\}$

# Economic news had little effect on financial markets .

Transition	Configuration		
	([ROOT],	[Economic, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, Economic],	[news, . . . , .],	$\emptyset$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[news, . . . , .],	$A_1 = \{(news, ATT, Economic)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, news],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_1$
LA <sub>SBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, . . . , .],	$A_2 = A_1 \cup \{(had, SBJ, news)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[little, . . . , .],	$A_2$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, little],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_2$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, . . . , .],	$A_3 = A_2 \cup \{(effect, ATT, little)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, . . . , .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[financial, markets, .],	$A_3$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . , financial],	[markets, .],	$A_3$
LA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, . . . on],	[markets, .],	$A_4 = A_3 \cup \{(markets, ATT, financial)\}$
RA <sub>PC</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had, effect],	[on, .],	$A_5 = A_4 \cup \{(on, PC, markets)\}$
RA <sub>ATT</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[effect, .],	$A_6 = A_5 \cup \{(effect, ATT, on)\}$
RA <sub>OBJ</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had, .],	$A_7 = A_6 \cup \{(had, OBJ, effect)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT, had],	[.],	$A_7$
RA <sub>PU</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[had],	$A_8 = A_7 \cup \{(had, PU, .)\}$
RA <sub>PRED</sub> $\Rightarrow$	([ ],	[ROOT],	$A_9 = A_8 \cup \{(ROOT, PRED, had)\}$
SH $\Rightarrow$	([ROOT],	[ ],	$A_9$

# Transition-based parsing in practice

Which action should the parser take under the current configuration?

We also need a **parsing model** that assigns a score to each possible action given a current configuration.

- Possible actions:

  - SHIFT, and for any relation  $r$ : LEFT-ARC $_r$ , or RIGHT-ARC $_r$

- Possible features of the current configuration:

  - The top  $\{1,2,3\}$  words on the buffer and on the stack, their POS tags, distances between the words, etc.

We can learn this model from a dependency treebank.