

Part II: Event-event Relation Extraction

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AAAI Tutorials

Recent Advances in Transferable Representation Learning

Events are not isolated...



- ...and there are various types of relationships between two events
 - □ Coreference relations
 - □ Temporal relations
 - □ Parent-child relations
 - Causal relations

□ ...

AAAI-21 is held virtually due to the pandemic. Its attendees are thus giving remote presentations of their research.

[the pandemic]₂ CAUSES [held virtually]₁

[held virtually]₁ CAUSES [giving remote presentations]₄

[Its]₃ REFERS to the conference being [held virtually]₁

[giving remote presentations]₄ is a SUBEVENT of [Its]₃ (i.e., AAAI)

[held virtually]₁ HAPPENS DURING [the pandemic]₂

[their research]₅ HAPPENS BEFORE [giving remote presentations]₄



...and there are various types of relationships between two events

- Coreference relations
 Temporal relations
 Parent-child relations
 Causal relations
 ...
 [Its]₃ REFERS to the conference being [held virtually]₁
 [held virtually]₁ HAPPENS DURING [the pandemic]₂
 [their research]₅ HAPPENS BEFORE [giving remote presentations]₄
 [giving remote presentations]₄ is a SUBEVENT of [Its]₃ (i.e., AAAI)
 [the pandemic]₂ CAUSES [held virtually]₁
 [held virtually]₁ CAUSES [giving remote presentations]₄
- These event-event relationships are important for understanding stories.
 - We can tell a different story with the same set of events but with different relationships (see example next).

[their research]₅ HAPPENS BEFORE [giving remote presentations]₄

AAAI-21 is [held virtually]₁ due to [the pandemic]_{2.} [Its]₃ attendees are thus [giving remote presentations]₄ of [their research]₅.

[their research]₅ HAPPENS BEFORE [giving remote presentations]₄

AAAI-21 is [held virtually]₁ due to [the pandemic]_{2.} [Its]₃ attendees are thus [giving remote presentations]₄ of [their research]₅.

[giving remote presentations]₄ CAUSES [held virtually]₁

[their research]₅ HAPPENS DURING [the pandemic]₂

AAAI-21 is [held virtually]₁ because it has received many requests to [give remote presentations]₄. Many have also reported unexpected delays in [their research]₅ during [the pandemic]₂.



- □ a piece of text
- □ the head phrases of two events
- Extract the relationship(s) between this event pair
 - most works focus on one type of relationship, e.g., only predicting coreference relations, or only predicting temporal relations.
 - □ some also attempts to predict multiple types at the same time.

- Evaluated by
 - □ precision and recall on all relations



- □ a piece of text (often long enough to contain multiple events)
- □ the head phrases of two many events
- Extract the relationship(s) between this all event pairs
 - most works focus on one type of relationship, e.g., only predicting coreference relations, or only predicting temporal relations.
 - some also attempts to predict multiple types at the same time.
 - □ people start to consider multiple events and their relations jointly
- Evaluated by
 - □ precision and recall on all relations
 - □ metrics that consider global coherency (B³, MUC, temporal awareness, etc.)

Cai & Strube, 2010. UzZaman & Allen, 2011. Moosavi & Strube, 2016.



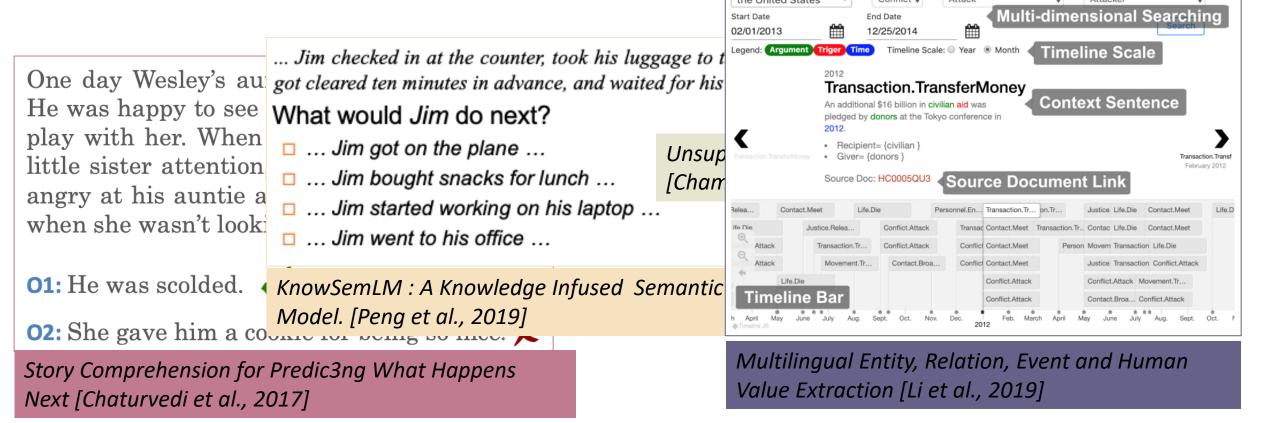
- □ a piece of text (often long enough to contain multiple events)
- ⊟ the head phrases of two many events
- Extract the relationship(s) between this all event pairs
 - most works focus on one type of relationship, e.g., only predicting coreference relations, or only predicting temporal relations.
 - □ some also attempts to predict multiple types at the same time.
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- Evaluated by
 - □ precision and recall on all relations
 - □ metrics that consider global coherency (B³, MUC, temporal awareness, etc.)



- □ a piece of text (often long enough to contain multiple events)
- ⊟ the head phrases of two many events
- Extract the events and the relationship(s) between this all event pairs
 - most works focus on one type of relationship, e.g., only predicting coreference relations, or only predicting temporal relations.
 - □ some also attempts to predict multiple types at the same time.
 - □ people start to consider multiple events and their relations jointly
 - □ joint extraction of events and relations
- Evaluated by
 - □ precision and recall on all relations
 - □ metrics that consider global coherency (B³, MUC, temporal awareness, etc.)
 - end-to-end metrics that consider event extraction errors



- This part only covers event-event relationships.
- StoryCloze, script learning, schema induction, timeline construction, etc. can also be viewed as tackling relationships among multiple events, but will be covered in later sections of this tutorial.

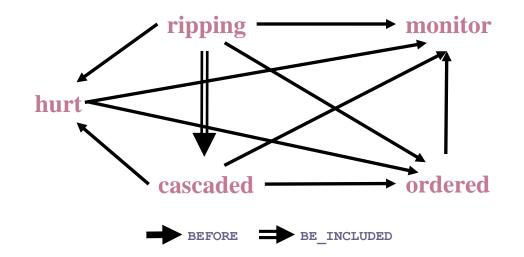




Events are inter-related due to the transitive property of relations

- \Box Coreference: If A == B, B == C, then A == C.
- □ Temporality: If A before B, B before C, then A before C.
- □ Parent-child: If A contains B, B contains C, then A contains C.
- □ Causality: If A leads to B, B leads to C, then A leads to C.*

In Los Angeles that lesson was brought home Friday when tons of earth **cascaded** down a hillside, **ripping** two houses from their foundations. No one was **hurt**, but firefighters **ordered** the evacuation of nearby homes and said they'll **monitor** the shifting ground until March 23rd.



A Structured Learning Approach to Temporal Relation Extraction. Ning et al., 2017.





- Different types of relations are also inter-related
 - Coreference vs other relationships: If event A is a coreference of event B, then other relationships of A must be the same with those of B.
 - Parent-child relationship vs temporal relationship: If A is the parent of B, then the time span of A must include that of B.
 - Causal relationship vs temporal relationship: Physically, a cause should be temporally before its effect

AAAI-21 is [held virtually], due to [the pandemic]₂.

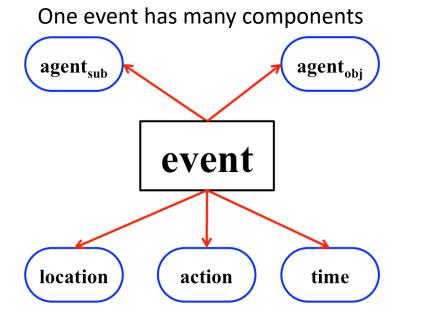
[the pandemic]₂CAUSES [held virtually]₁

[the pandemic]₂ HAPPENS BEFORE [held virtually]₁

Joint Reasoning for Temporal and Causal Relations. Ning et al., ACL2018.

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- Event itself is a complex concept, with many components, and can have different modalities
 - □ which often leads to many difficult cases when designing relation formalisms



Event Detection and Co-reference with Minimal Supervision. Peng et al., 2016.

<u>Events</u> in different modes

The lion had a large meal and slept for 24 hours.

[Negated] The lion didn't sleep after having a large meal.

[Uncertain] The lion may have <u>had</u> a large meal before sleeping.

[Hypothetical] If the lion has a large meal, it will sleep for 24 hours.

[Repetitive] The lion used to sleep for 24 hours after having large meals.

[Generic] After having a large meal, lions may sleep longer.

TORQUE: A Reading Comprehension Dataset of Temporal Ordering Questions. Ning et al., 2020. Researchers [went]₁ to New York to [give presentations]₂ at AAAI in 2020.

- To [give presentations]₂ is the cause of [went]₁
- But, [give presentations]₂ happened after [went]₁

Shouldn't the cause happen before the effect?

He used to take a $[walk]_1$ after $[dinner]_2$. He took a $[walk]_1$ after $[dinner]_2$ today.

[walk]₁ happens after [dinner]₂ in both sentences.

But, are they the same relationship?

He used to take a [walk] $_1$ after [dinner] $_2$.

He took a $[walk]_1$ after $[dinner]_2$ today.

He used to take a $[walk]_1$ after $[dinner]_2$, but today he took a $[walk]_3$ beforehand.

What's their relationship?

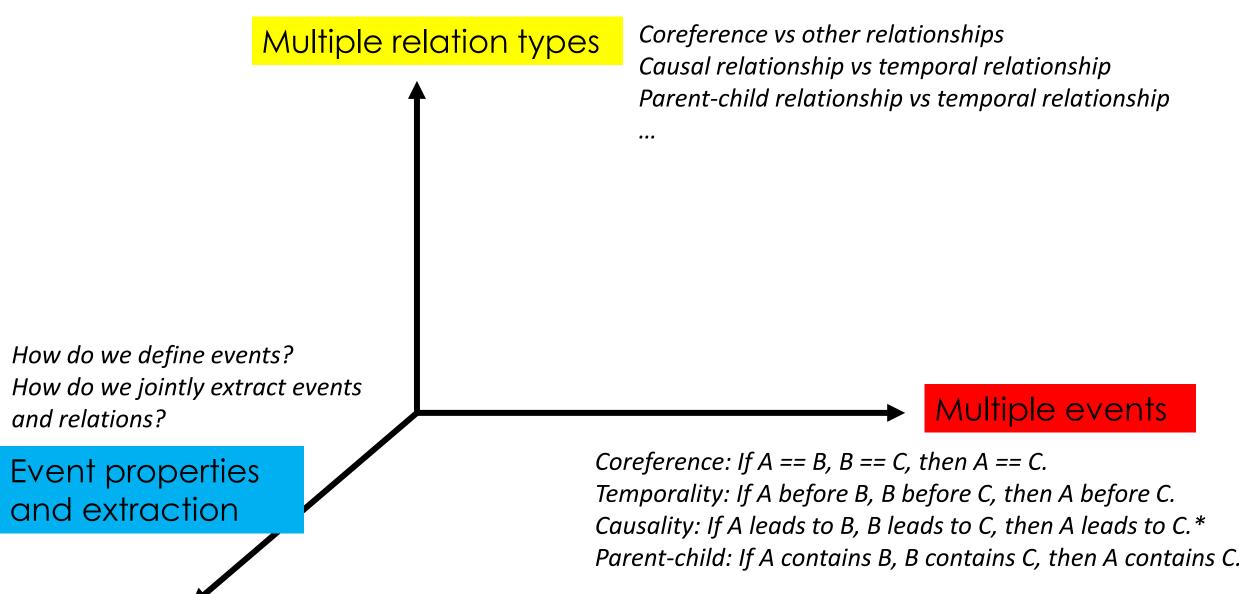
Challenges and How to Handle Them



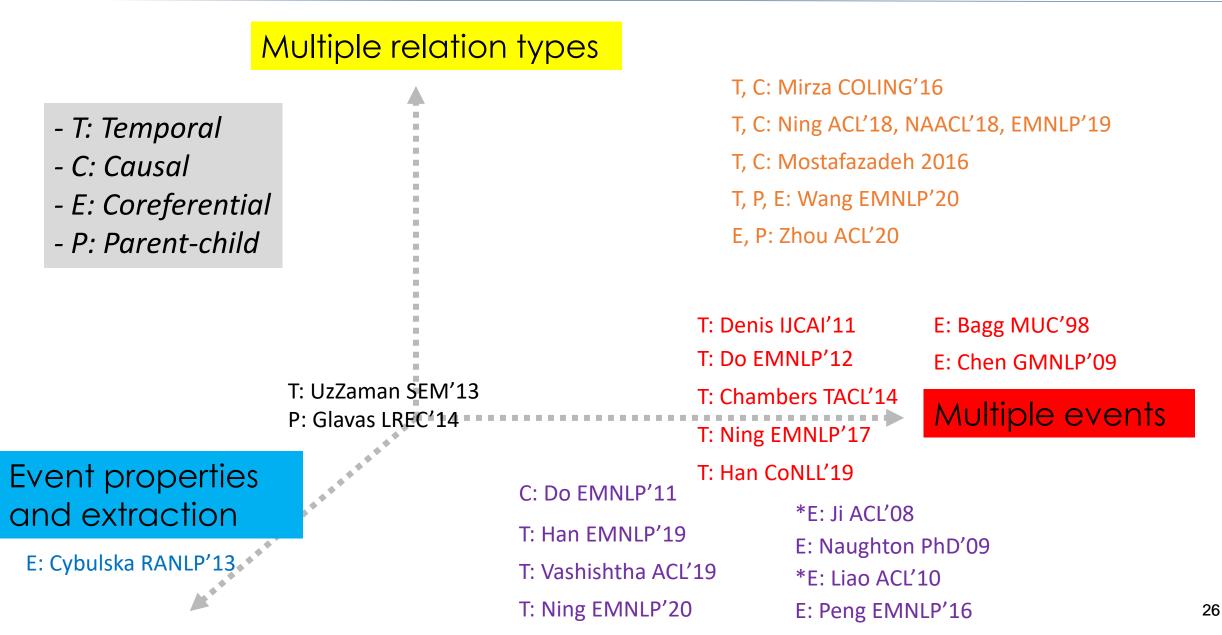
- Events are inter-related due to transitive property of relations
- Different types of relations are also inter-related
- Event itself is a complex concept, with many components, and can have different modalities
- " "Joint" taking into consideration the structural constraints among multiple events, cross multiple relation types, and event properties and extraction.

How to Handle Them









A Non-exhaustive Overview



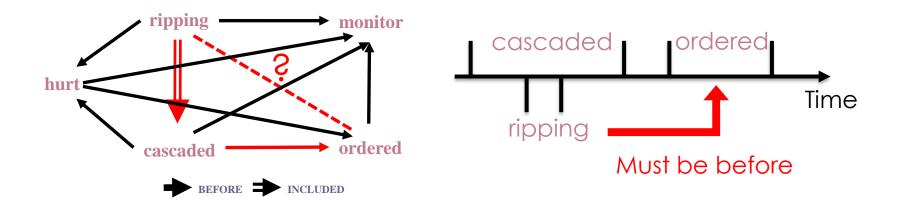
- The general methodology:
- Find structures in data/task
 - Enforce (strictly/loosely) the structure ullet
 - in inference
 - in learning

Investigate the underlying linguistic formalism

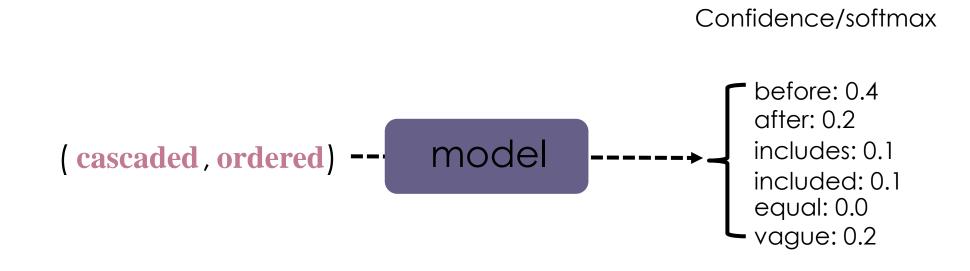


Due to transitivity, temporal relations are not independent

Global inference: respect these transitive constraints in inference

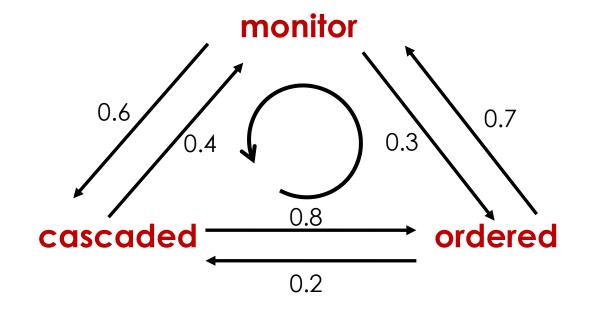






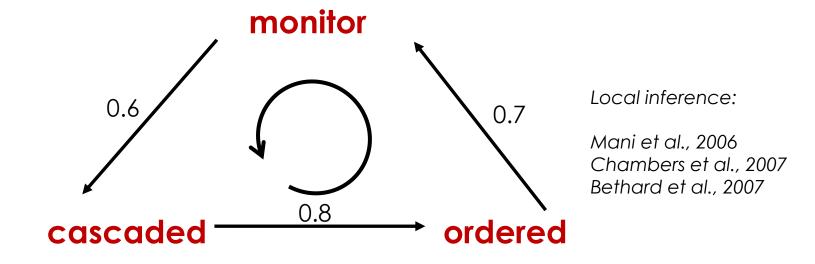
Based on these confidence scores, we need to solve for the final temporal graph.





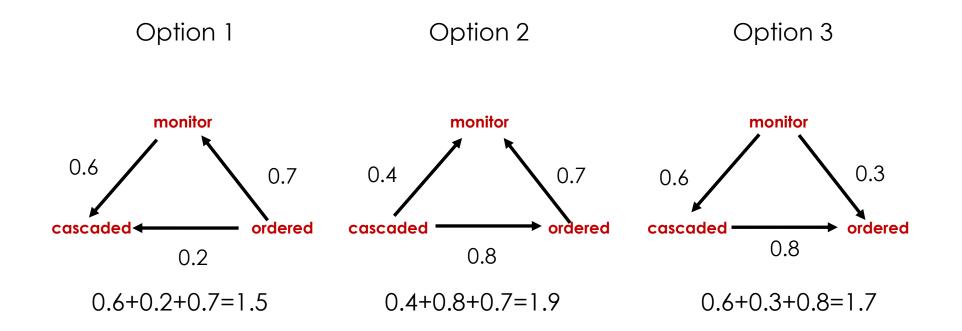
Time cannot be a loop!





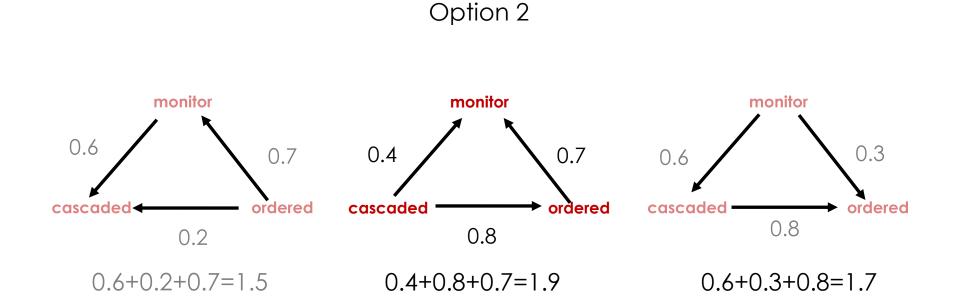
We should not only select the assignment with the best score, but also avoid loops





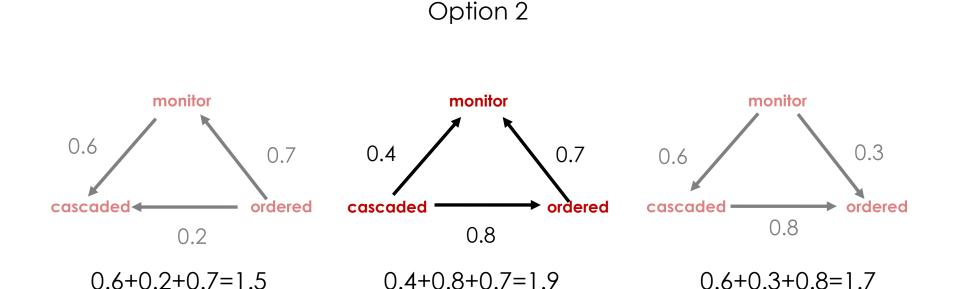
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We should not only select the assignment with the best score, but also avoid loops



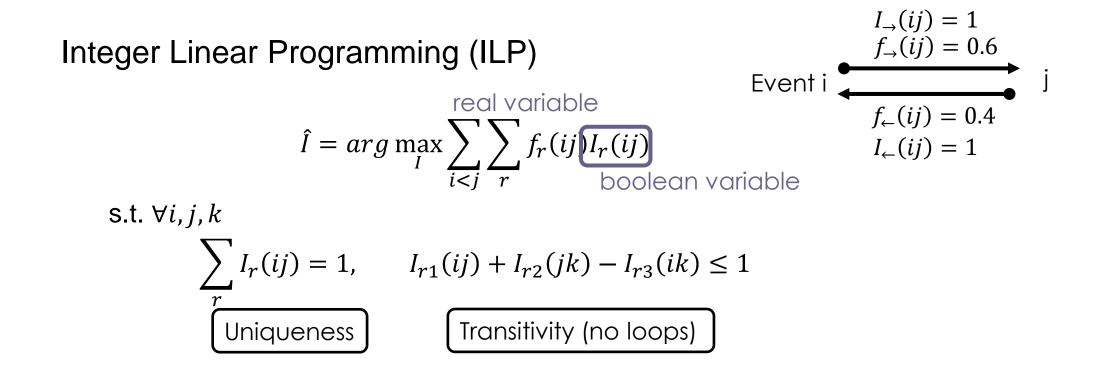


This "global inference" procedure is often formulated as an integer linear programming (ILP) problem.

A Linear Programming Formulation for Global Inference in Natural Language Tasks. Roth & Yih, CoNLL2004.

Global Inference via ILP





We're maximizing the score of an entire graph while enforcing transitivity constraints.

Global inference for temporal relation extraction: Bramsen et al., 2006. Chambers & Jurafsky, 2008. Denis & Muller, 2011. Do et al., 2012. Chambers et al., 2014. Mirza & Tonelli, 2016. Ning et al., 2017. Han et al., 2019.

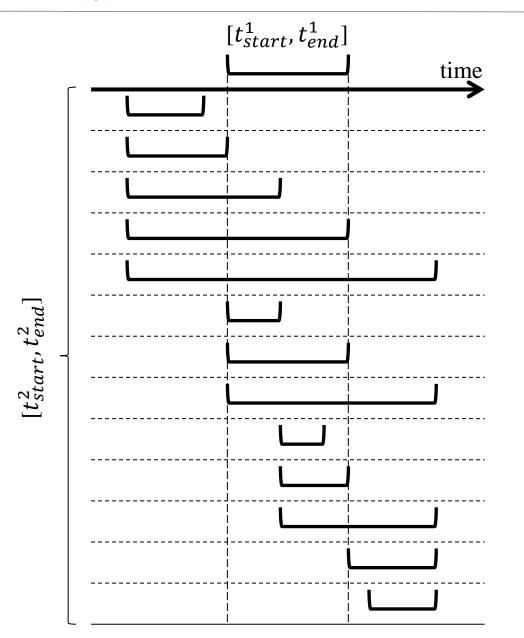




- How do we understand $I_{r1}(ij) + I_{r2}(jk) I_{r3}(ik) \le 1$?
- Recall I_r are binary variables.
- If both $I_{r1}(ij) = I_{r2}(jk) = 1$, then $I_{r3}(ik)$ must be 1 due to this constraint.
- Otherwise, $I_{r3}(ik)$ is not constrained.

Constraints for Temporal Relations





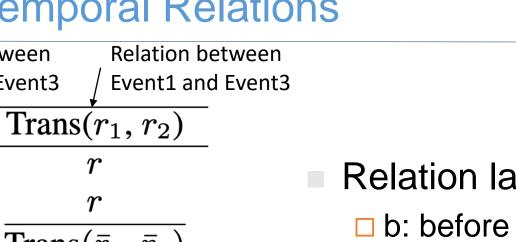
Constraints for Temporal Relations

Relation	between	Re	lation b	etween Relation betweer			
Event1 a	and Event	2 🔪 Eve	ent2 and	년 Event3 🧹 Event1 and Event			
	No.	r_1	r_2	$Trans(r_1, r_2)$			
·	1	r	r	r			
	2	r	S	r			
	3	r_1	r_2	$\overline{\mathrm{Trans}(ar{r}_2,ar{r}_1)}$			
	4	b	i	b , i , v			
	5	b	ii	b, ii, v			
	6	b	V	b, i, ii, v			
	7	a	i	a , i , v			
	8	a	ii	a, ii, v			
	9	a	V	a, i, ii ,v			
	10	i	V	b, a, i, v			
	11	ii	V	b , a , ii , v			

- **Relation labels**

 - □ a: after
 - □ i: including
 - □ ii: included
 - □ s: simultaneously

□ v: vague







- How do we understand $I_{r1}(ij) + I_{r2}(jk) I_{r3}(ik) \le 1$?
- Recall I_r are binary variables.
- If both $I_{r1}(ij) = I_{r2}(jk) = 1$, then $I_{r3}(ik)$ must be 1 due to the constraint.
- Otherwise, $I_{r3}(ik)$ is not constrained.
- What if r_3 has multiple choices?
- A small extension: $I_{r_1}(ij) + I_{r_2}(jk) \sum_{r_3} I_{r_3}(ik) \le 1$
- What if we want to enforce constraints across different relation types, e.g., temporal & causal?

Constraints for Multiple Relation Types



Temporal only

 $\hat{I} = \arg \max_{I} \sum_{i < j} \sum_{r} f_{r}(ij) I_{r}(ij)$ s.t. $\forall i, j, k$ $\sum_{r} I_{r}(ij) = 1,$ $I_{r1}(ij) + I_{r2}(jk) - I_{r3}(ik) \le 1$

Temporal & Causal

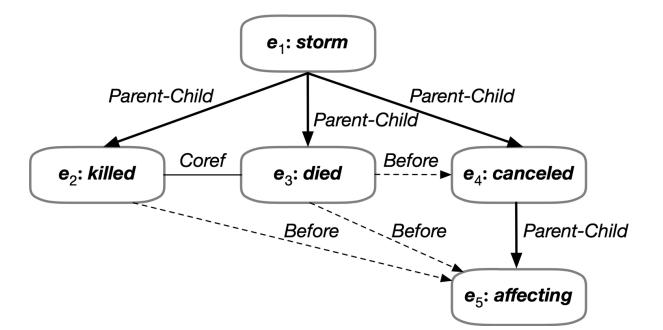
 $\hat{I} = \arg \max_{l} \sum_{i < j} (\sum_{r} f_{r}(ij) I_{r}(ij) + \sum_{c} h_{c}(ij) J_{c}(ij))$ s.t. $\forall i, j, k$ $\sum_{r} I_{r}(ij) = 1,$ $I_{r1}(ij) + I_{r2}(jk) - I_{r3}(ik) \leq 1$

 $J_{causes}(ij) \leq I_{before}(ij)$

Constraints for Temporal, Parent-child, and Coreference

- Temporal Relations
- Subevent Relations
- Event Coreference

On Tuesday, there was a typhoon-strength $(e_1:storm)$ in Japan. One man got $(e_2:killed)$ and thousands of people were left stranded. Police said an 81-year-old man $(e_3:died)$ in central Toyama when the wind blew over a shed, trapping him underneath. Later this afternoon, with the agency warning of possible tornadoes, Japan Airlines $(e_4:canceled)$ 230 domestic flights, $(e_5:affecting)$ 31,600 passengers.





Constraints for Temporal, Parent-child, and Coreference



	on between 2 and Event3							
$\alpha \beta$	PC	СР	CR	NR	BF	AF	EQ	VG
PC	PC, $\neg AF$	—	PC, $\neg \mathbf{AF}$	$\neg CP, \neg CR$	<mark>BF</mark> , ¬CP, ¬CR	—	BF , ¬CP, ¬CR	_
CP	—	CP, ¬ <mark>BF</mark>	CP, ¬ <mark>BF</mark>	$\neg PC, \neg CR$	—	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	_
CR	PC, ¬AF	CP, ¬ <mark>BF</mark>	CR, <mark>EQ</mark>	NR	<mark>BF</mark> , ¬CP, ¬CR	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	EQ	VG
NR	$\neg CP, \neg CR$	$\neg PC, \neg CR$	NR	_	—	—	—	_
BF	BF , ¬CP, ¬CR	_	<mark>BF</mark> , ¬CP, ¬CR	_	<mark>BF</mark> , ¬CP, ¬CR	—	BF , ¬CP, ¬CR	$\neg AF, \neg EQ$
AF	—	<mark>AF</mark> , ¬PC, ¬CR	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	_	—	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	$\neg BF, \neg EQ$
EQ	¬AF	¬BF	EQ	_	<mark>BF</mark> , ¬CP, ¬CR	AF , $\neg PC$, $\neg CR$	EQ	VG, ¬CR
VG	_	—	VG, ¬CR	—	¬AF, ¬EQ	$\neg BF, \neg EQ$	VG	—
•								

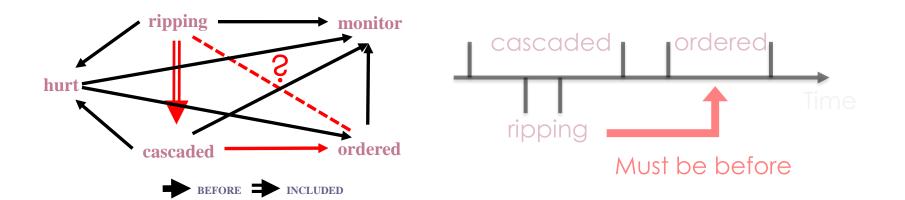
Relation between Event1 and Event2

Constrained Learning for Event-Event Relation Extraction. Wang et al., EMNLP2020.

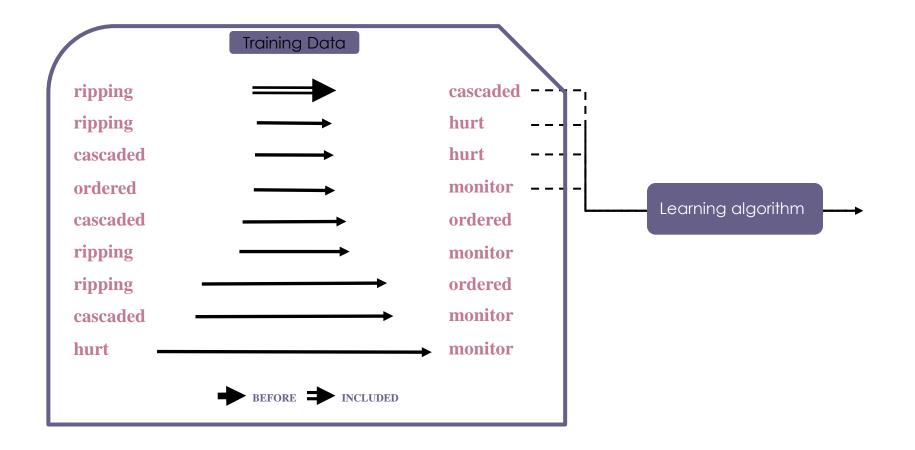


Due to transitivity, temporal relations are not independent

Existing methods: global inference with local learning







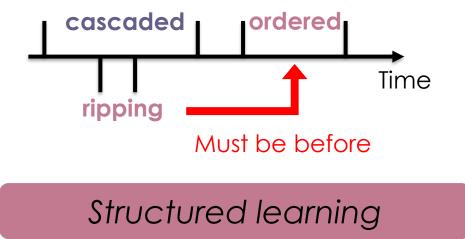
Local learning is not sufficient



tons of earth cascaded down a hillside,

...**ripping** two houses...firefighters **ordered** the evacuation of nearby homes...

- Q: (ripping, ordered)=? (difficult even for humans)
- Annotation says "before", if we update the parameters to fit it,
- Then it leads to overfitting
- Overfitting is mitigated.



Structured learning



Standard Perceptron

For each (x, y) $\hat{y} = sgn(w^T x)$ If $y \neq \hat{y}$ Update w

- (x, y): feature and label
 for a single pair of
 events
- Unaware of decisions in other pairs

Structured Perceptron

For each (X, Y) $\widehat{Y} =$ "solution to ILP"

If $Y \neq \hat{Y}$

Update W

- (X, Y): features and labels from the entire graph
- Aware of other pairs thanks to the global inference in-between

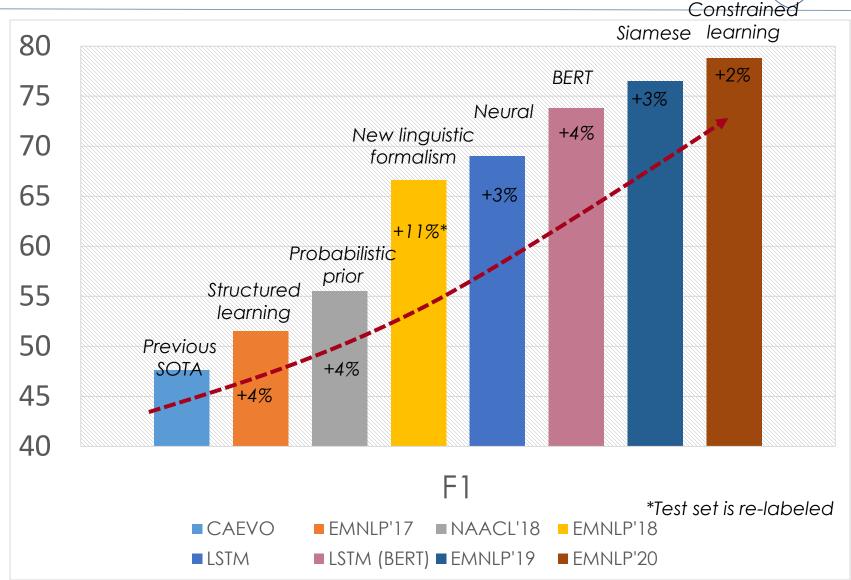


$$L = L_A + \lambda_S L_S + \lambda_C L_C$$

 $L_A = \sum -w_r \log r_{(e_1, e_2)}$ Fidelity to annotations $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{E}_D$ $L_S = \sum |\log \alpha_{(e_1, e_2)} - \log \bar{\alpha}_{(e_2, e_1)}|$ Symmetry constraints $e_1.e_2 \in \mathcal{E}.\alpha \in \mathcal{R}_S$ $L_C = \sum |L_{t_1}| + \sum$ $|L_{t_2}|$ Transitivity constraints $\begin{array}{ccc} e_1, e_2, e_3 \in \mathcal{E}_D, & e_1, e_2, e_3 \in \mathcal{E}_D, \\ \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{R}, \gamma \in \operatorname{De}(\alpha, \beta) & \alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{R}, \delta \notin \operatorname{De}(\alpha, \beta) \end{array}$ $L_{t_1} = \log \alpha_{(e_1, e_2)} + \log \beta_{(e_2, e_3)} - \log \gamma_{(e_1, e_3)}$ $L_{t_2} = \log \alpha_{(e_1, e_2)} + \log \beta_{(e_2, e_3)} - \log(1 - \delta_{(e_1, e_3)})$

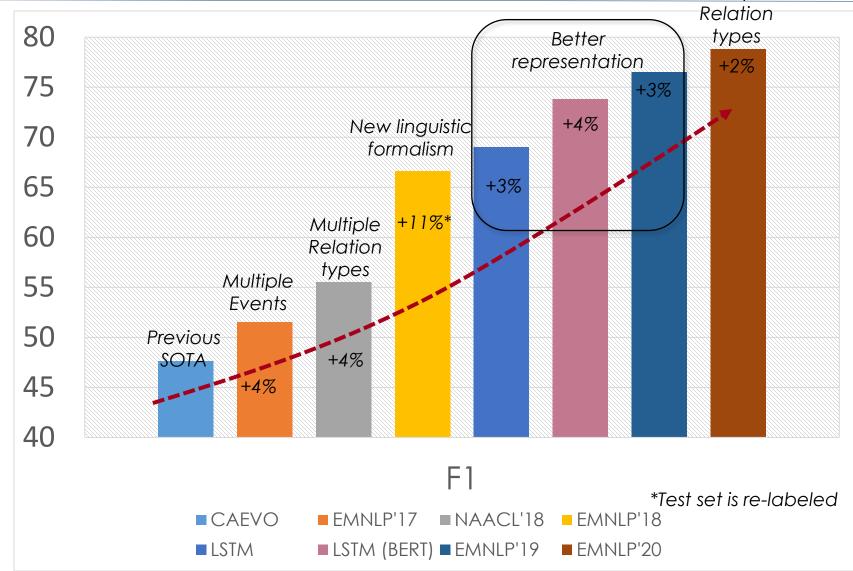
Temporal relation extraction in recent years





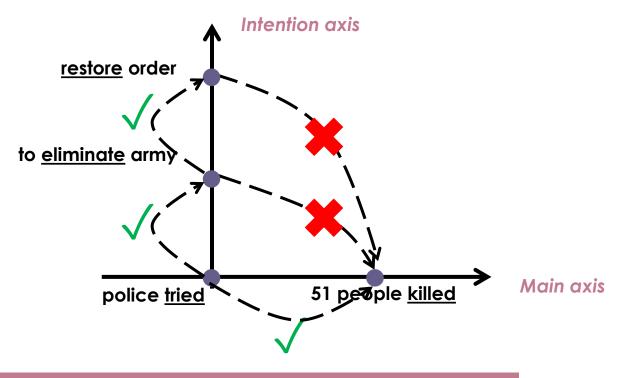
Temporal relation extraction in recent years







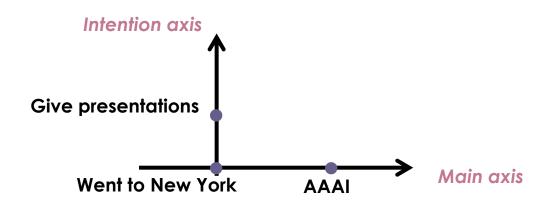
- Time is one-dimensional physically.
- But, multiple time axes may exist in natural language (*Ning et al., 2018*)
 - Police tried to eliminate the pro-independence army and restore order. At least 51 people were killed in clashes between police and citizens in the troubled region.



Researchers [went]₁ to New York to [give presentations]₂ at AAAI in 2020.

- To [give presentations]₂ is the cause of [went]₁
- But, [give presentations]₂ happened after [went]₁

Shouldn't the cause happen before the effect?



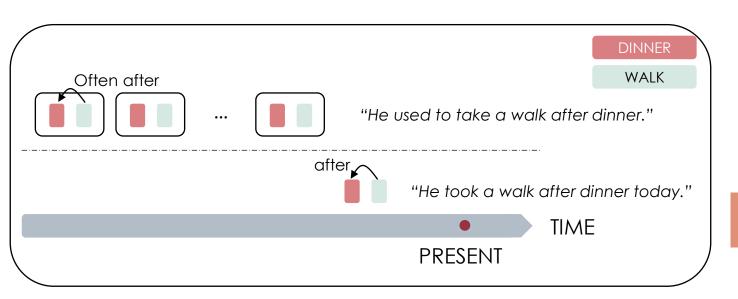
MATRES: A Multi-Axis Annotation Scheme for Event Temporal Relations. Ning et al., ACL2018.

He used to take a [walk]₁ after [dinner]₂.

He took a [walk]₁ after [dinner]₂ today.

[walk]₁ happens after [dinner]₂ in both sentences.

But, are they the same relationship?



This can be easily distinguished by the two questions below:

Q1: What did he often do after dinner?

Q2: What did he do after dinner today?

TORQUE: A Reading Comprehension Dataset of Temporal Ordering Questions. Ning et al., EMNLP2020.

TORQUE

Heavy <u>snow</u> is <u>causing disruption</u> to <u>transport</u> across the UK, with heavy <u>rainfall bringing flooding</u> to the south-west of England. Rescuers <u>searching</u> for a woman <u>trapped</u> in a <u>landslide</u> at her home <u>said</u> they had <u>found</u> a body.

Q1: What event has already finished?A: searching trapped landslide said foundQ2: What event has begun but has not finished?A: snow causing disruption rainfall bringing floodingQ3: What will happen in the future?A: No answers.

Hard-coded questions

Q4: What happened before a woman was trapped? A: landslide

Q5: What had started before a woman was trapped?

A: snow rainfall landslide

Q6: What happened while a woman was trapped?

A: searching

Q7: What happened after a woman was trapped?

A: searching said found

Group of contrast questions

Q8: What happened at about the same time as the snow? A: rainfall

Q9: What happened after the snow started?

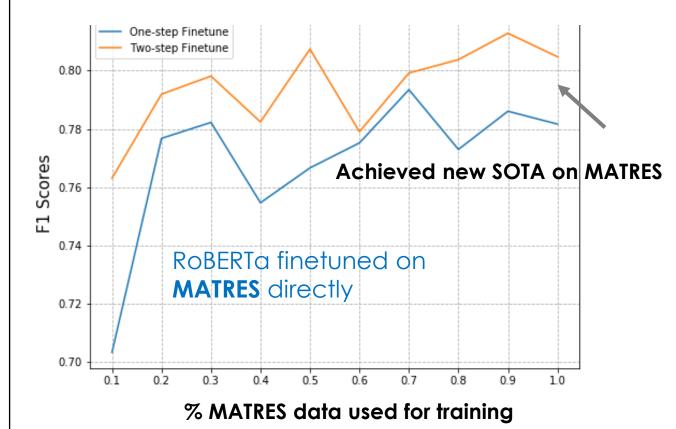
A: causing disruption bringing flooding searching trapped landslide said found

Q10: What happened before the snow started?

A: No answers.

Group of contrast questions

RoBERTa finetuned on **TORQUE** first and then on **MATRES**



TORQUE: A Reading Comprehension Dataset of Temporal Ordering Questions. Ning et al., EMNLP2020.





- Relations between events are important for story understanding.
- Event relation extraction is difficult because
 - □ Each type of relation forms a complex structure
 - Different types of relations also influences each other
 - Event formalisms are naturally difficult to define
- A key word in existing works is "JOINT"
 - □ Find event structures
 - □ Enforce these structures in inference and/or in learning
- But, the more important problem often lies in "how should we define these relations?", or more fundamentally, "what is an event?".

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