

# Learning Distributions over Logical Forms for Referring Expression Generation

Nicholas FitzGerald   Yoav Artzi   Luke Zettlemoyer



# Referring Expressions



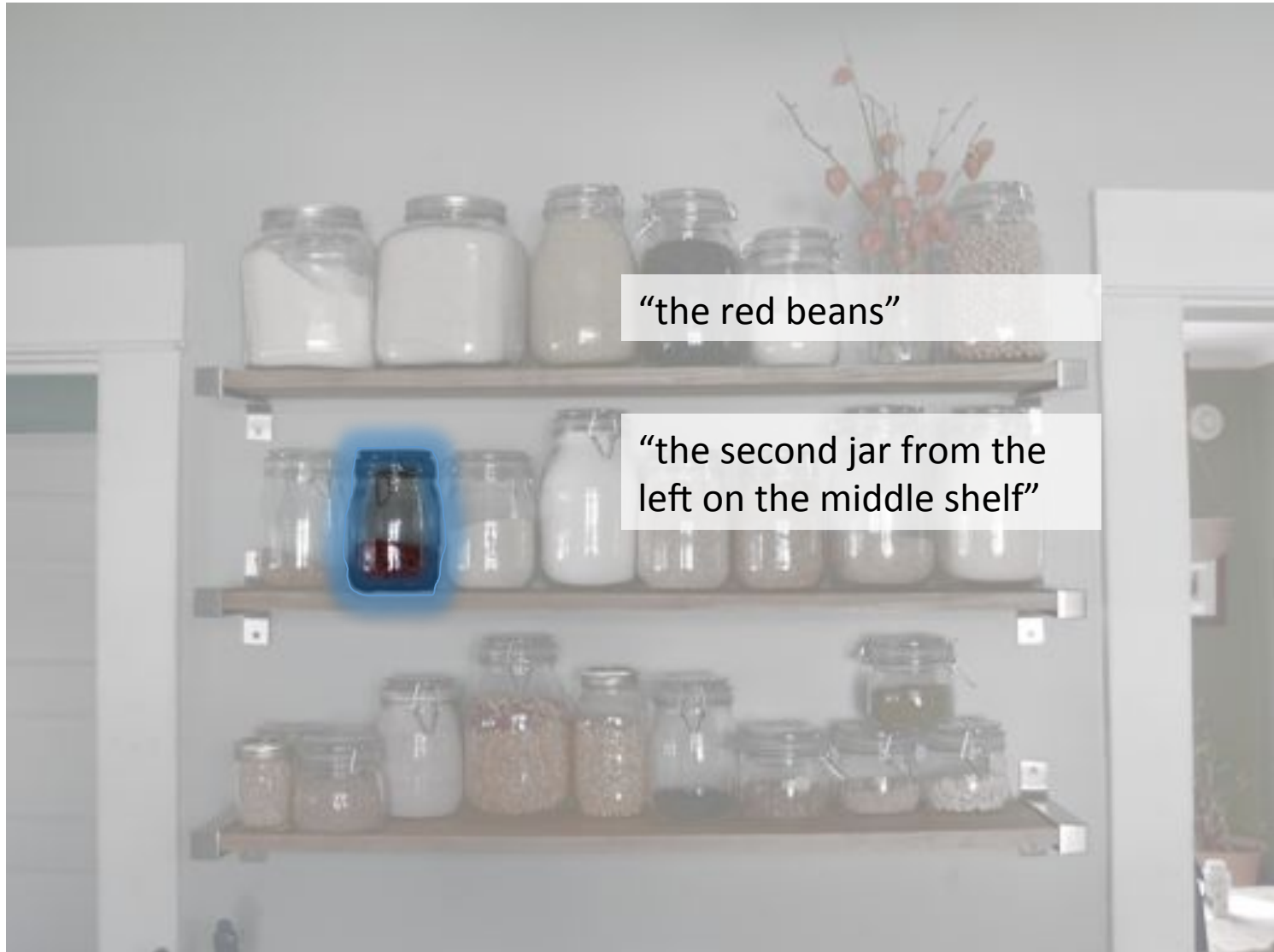
# Referring Expressions



# Referring Expressions



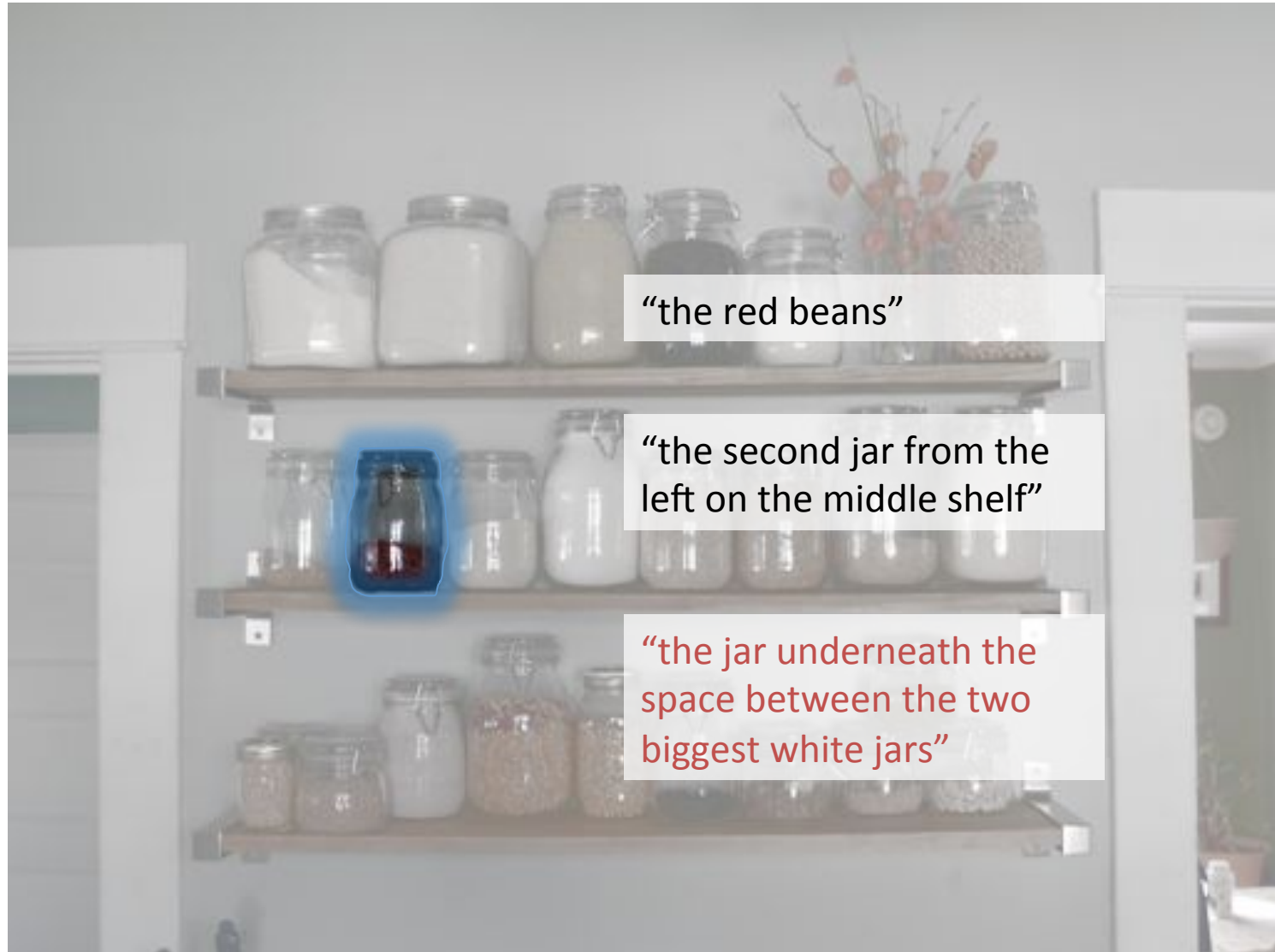
# Referring Expressions



“the red beans”

“the second jar from the left on the middle shelf”

# Referring Expressions



“the red beans”

“the second jar from the left on the middle shelf”

“the jar underneath the space between the two biggest white jars”

# Grounded Language Problems

Physical Scene



Language

“The green  
and red  
balls.”

# Grounded Language Problems

Physical Scene



Logical Form (LF)

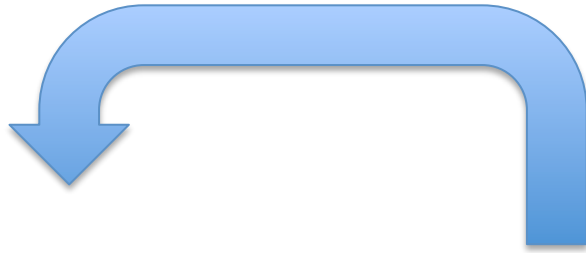
$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

Language

“The green  
and red  
balls.”



# Grounded Language Problems



Physical Scene



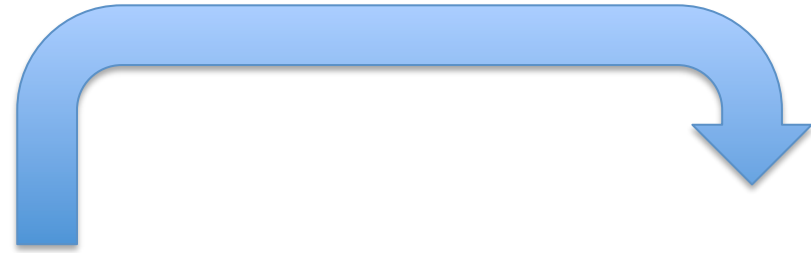
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$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

Language

“The green  
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# Grounded Language Problems



Physical Scene



Logical Form (LF)

$$\iota x. (\text{green}(x) \vee \text{red}(x)) \\ \wedge \text{sphere}(x)$$

Language

“The green  
and red  
spheres.”

# Grounded Language Problems

Grounded Language Understanding  
[Matuszek et. al 2012], [Krishnamurthy et. al 2013]



Physical Scene



Logical Form (LF)

$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

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“The green  
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# Grounded Language Problems

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Physical Scene

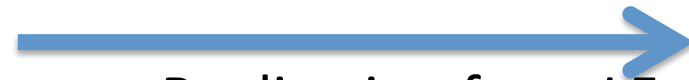


Logical Form (LF)

$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

Language

“The green  
and red  
spheres.”



Realization from LF

[White and Rajkumar 2009], [Lu and Ng 2011]

# Grounded Language Problems

Grounded Language Understanding  
[Matuszek et. al 2012], [Krishnamurthy et. al 2013]



Physical Scene



Logical Form (LF)

$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

Language

“The green  
and red  
spheres.”



LF Generation

Focus of this talk:

Generate Distribution



Realization from LF

[White and Rajkumar 2009], [Lu and Ng 2011]

# Goal: Generate Distributions over LFs



$$\begin{aligned} &\iota x.green(x) \wedge sphere(x) \\ &\cup \iota x.red(x) \wedge sphere(x) \end{aligned}$$

“The green ball  
and the red ball.”

$$\begin{aligned} &\iota x.(green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ &\wedge sphere(x) \end{aligned}$$

“The green and red spheres.”

“The green and red balls.”

$$\iota x.apple(x) \cup \iota x.pear(x)$$

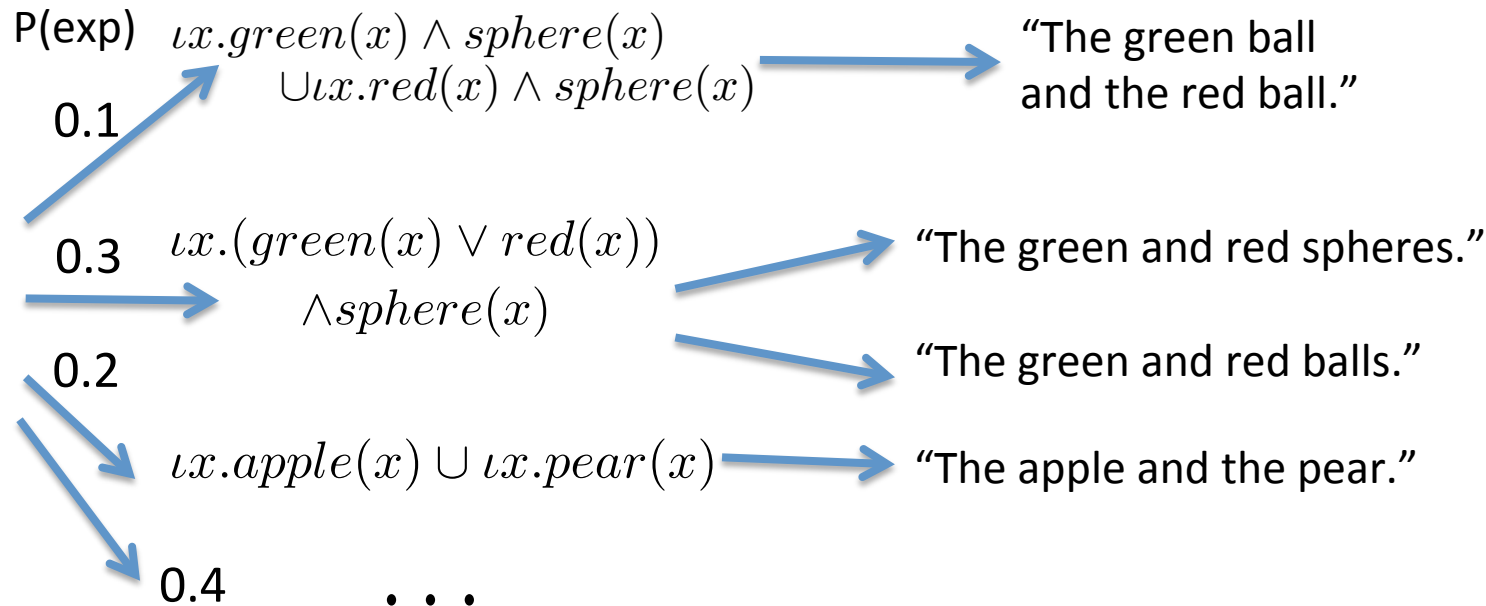
“The apple and the pear.”

...

Model how people refer to objects

- Many different expressions for each referent
- Some are more likely to be used in practice
- We need to learn a probability distribution

# Goal: Generate Distributions over LFs



Model how people refer to objects

- Many different expressions for each referent
- Some are more likely to be used in practice
- We need to learn a probability distribution

# Goal: Generate Distributions over LFs

Input:



Output:

0.3

$$\iota x.green(x) \wedge sphere(x) \\ \cup \iota x.red(x) \wedge sphere(x)$$

0.2

$$\iota x.(green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

0.1

$$\iota x.apple(x) \cup \iota x.pear(x)$$

...

...

Several advantages

- Natural variation for generation
- Useful prior for understanding systems



# Learn from Labeled Examples



“The green, red, orange and yellow toys”  
“The green, red, yellow, and orange objects”  
“All the pieces that are not blue or brown”  
“All items that are not brown or blue”  
“Everything that is not brown or blue”  
.....




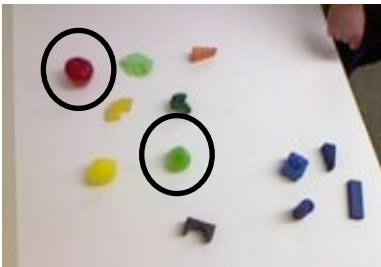
“The red and green balls.”  
“The red and green spheres.”  
“The pear and the apple”  
“The red ball and the green pear”  
“All the balls except the yellow one”  
.....



Lots of variation in practice

- Collected 20 sentences per scene
- Mean of 6 unique logical forms per scene
- Max of 13

# Learn from Labeled Examples

	0.4	$\iota x.(red(x) \vee green(x) \vee orange(x) \vee yellow(x)) \wedge obj(x)$
	0.3	$\mathcal{E}x.obj(x) \setminus (\iota x.brown(x) \wedge triangle(x) \cup (\iota x.blue(x) \wedge lego(x)))$
	...	
	0.1	$\iota x.green(x) \wedge sphere(x) \cup \iota x.red(x) \wedge sphere(x)$
	0.3	$\iota x.(green(x) \vee red(x)) \wedge sphere(x)$
	0.2	$\iota x.apple(x) \cup \iota x.pear(x)$
	...	

Lots of variation in practice

- Collected 20 sentences per scene
- Mean of 6 unique logical forms per scene
- Max of 13

# Overview

Space of Referring Expressions

Probabilistic Model

Learning

Experiments

Results

Conclusion

# Overview

## Space of Referring Expressions

Semantic Modeling

Enumerating Referring Expressions

Probabilistic Model

Learning

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# Semantic Modeling

- Simply-typed lambda calculus
  - [Steedman 1996], [Carpenter 1997], [Steedman 2011]
- Extended to model set reference
  - Capture distinctions present in data
  - As simple as possible

# Semantic Modeling



Two Simple Types:

$e$  : Sets of Objects

$t$  : [True, False]

# Semantic Modeling

Attributes

$\langle e, t \rangle$

$\lambda x. blue(x)$



# Semantic Modeling

Attributes

$\langle e, t \rangle$

$\lambda x.triangle(x)$





# Semantic Modeling

Attributes

Logical Operators

$\langle e, t \rangle$

$\lambda x. \neg blue(x)$



# Semantic Modeling

Attributes

Logical Operators

$\langle e, t \rangle$



$\lambda x. blue(x) \wedge triangle(x)$

# Semantic Modeling

Attributes

Logical Operators

$\langle e, t \rangle$



$\lambda x. blue(x) \vee triangle(x)$

# Semantic Modeling

Attribute Coordination

Logical Operators

Determiners

$\langle \langle e, t \rangle, e \rangle$

$\iota x. triangle(x)$



# Semantic Modeling



Attribute Coordination

Logical Operators

Determiners

$$\langle \langle e, t \rangle, e \rangle$$

$$[ \iota, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A} ]$$

$$\mathcal{E} \approx \forall$$

$$\mathcal{A} \approx \exists$$

# Semantic Modeling



Attribute Coordination

Logical Operators

Determiners

Set Coordination

$\langle \langle e, e \rangle, e \rangle$

$\iota x.triangle(x)$

$\cup \iota x.apple(x)$

# Semantic Modeling



Attribute Coordination

Logical Operators

Determiners

Set Coordination

$\langle \langle e, e \rangle, e \rangle$

$\iota x.triangle(x)$

$\setminus \iota x.blue(x)$

$\wedge triangle(x)$

# Semantic Modeling



Attribute Coordination

Logical Operators

Determiners

Set Coordination

Plurality

Cardinality



# Semantic Modeling

- Simply-typed lambda calculus
  - [Steedman 1996], [Carpenter 1997], [Steedman 2011]
- Extended to model set reference
  - Capture distinctions present in data
  - As simple as possible
- **Two new contributions:**
  - Sets as a primitive type (plurals)
  - Coordination

# Enumerating Logical Forms

- Enumerate candidate Logical Forms
- Problem:
  - Infinite in general
- Goal:
  - finite set with good empirical coverage
  - strategy for enumerating

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5

4

3

2

1

$\lambda x.red(x)$

$\lambda x.blue(x)$

$\lambda x.cube(x)$

$\lambda x.object(x)$

$\lambda x.rect(x)$

...

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5				
4				
3				
2	$\lambda x. \neg red(x)$			
1	$\lambda x. red(x)$	$\lambda x. blue(x)$	$\lambda x. cube(x)$	$\dots$
		$\lambda x. object(x)$	$\lambda x. rect(x)$	

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5				
4				
3				
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$		
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$	$\dots$

$\lambda x.object(x)$        $\lambda x.rect(x)$

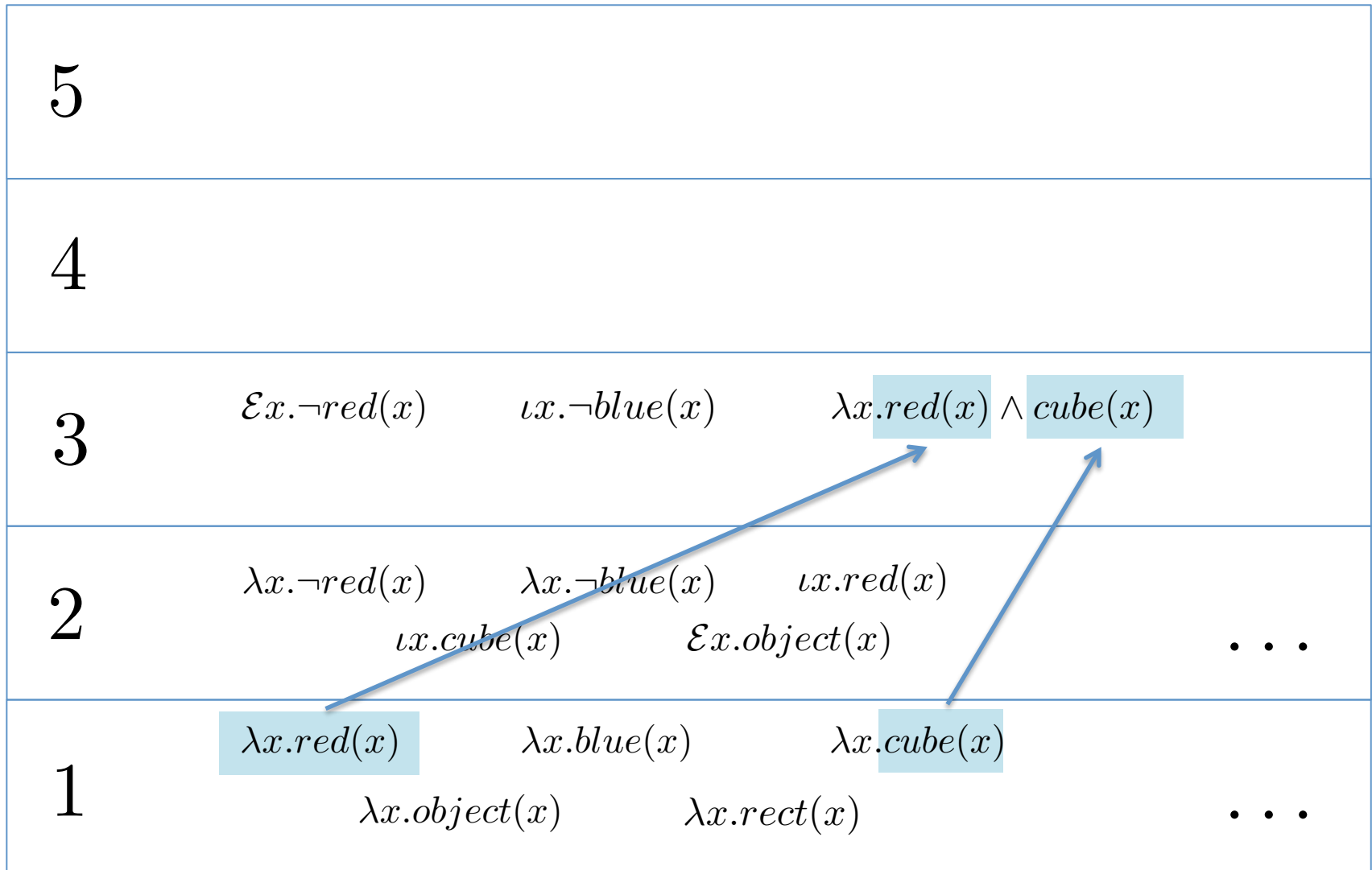
# Enumerating Logical Forms

5				
4				
3				
2	$\lambda x. \neg red(x)$	$\lambda x. \neg blue(x)$	$\iota x. red(x)$	
		$\iota x. cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x. object(x)$	...
1	$\lambda x. red(x)$	$\lambda x. blue(x)$	$\lambda x. cube(x)$	
		$\lambda x. object(x)$	$\lambda x. rect(x)$	...

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5				
4				
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$		
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$	...
		$\iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$	
		$\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

# Enumerating Logical Forms





# Enumerating Logical Forms

5			
4			
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$
	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\wedge$	$object(x)$
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$
	$\iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	...
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$
	$\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5				
4				
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$	
	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$		$\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$	...
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$	
	$\iota x.cube(x)$		$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	...
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$	
	$\lambda x.object(x)$		$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5			
4	$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$ $\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$ $\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$	...
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$ $\lambda x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$ $\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$ ...
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$ $\iota x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$ $\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$ ...
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$ $\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$ $\lambda x.rect(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$ ...

# Enumerating Logical Forms

5	$\iota x.red(x) \cup \iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x) \setminus \iota x.cube(x)$	
	$\lambda x.object(x) \wedge equal(x, \mathcal{A}y.cube(y))$		...
4	$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$	
	$\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$	...
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$
	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$	...
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$
	$\iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	...
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$
	$\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

$M$ 

# Enumerating Logical Forms



5

 $\iota x.red(x) \cup \iota x.cube(x) \quad \mathcal{E}x.object(x) \setminus \iota x.cube(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.object(x) \wedge equal(x, \mathcal{A}y.cube(y))$ 

...

4

 $\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$ 
 $\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$ 

...

3

 $\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$ 
 $\iota x.\neg blue(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$ 

...

2

 $\lambda x.\neg red(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$ 
 $\iota x.red(x)$ 
 $\iota x.cube(x)$ 
 $\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$ 

...

1

 $\lambda x.red(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.blue(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.cube(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.object(x)$ 
 $\lambda x.rect(x)$ 

...

# Overview

Space of Referring Expressions

**Probabilistic Model**

Global Model

Explicit Pruning Model

Features

Learning

Experiments

Results

Conclusion

# Global Model

$$P(z \mid S, G), z \in \mathcal{Z}$$

# Global Model

$$P(z \mid S, G), z \in \mathcal{Z}$$

## World State



obj1: red, sphere, apple

obj2: brown, triangle

obj3: yellow, fries

...

...



# Global Model

$$P(z \mid S, G), z \in \mathcal{Z}$$

Target Set



# Global Model

- Global Density-Estimation Model
  - Multinomial Log-linear over expressions  $z$  that name the set  $G$  in state  $S$

$$P_G(z \mid S, G; \theta) = \frac{1}{C} e^{\theta \cdot \phi(z, S, G)}$$

Parameters  $\theta \in \mathcal{R}^n$

Features  $\phi(z, S, G) \in \mathcal{R}^n$

Normalization constant  $C = \sum_{z' \in \mathcal{Z}} e^{\theta \cdot \phi(z', S, G)}$

# Global Model

- Global Density-Estimation Model
  - Multinomial Log-linear

$$P_G(z \mid S, G; \theta) = \frac{1}{C} e^{\theta \cdot \phi(z, S, G)}$$

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Features  $\phi(z, S, G) \in \mathcal{R}^n$

Normalization constant  $C = \sum_{z' \in \mathcal{Z}} e^{\theta \cdot \phi(z', S, G)}$

**Too Big!**

(Exponential in max number of constants M)

$M$ 

# Pruning

5	$\iota x.red(x) \cup \iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x) \setminus \iota x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.object(x) \wedge equal(x, \mathcal{A}y.cube(y))$	...		
4	$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$	...	
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$	...	
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	...	
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

$M$ 

# Pruning

5	$\iota x.red(x) \cup \iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x) \setminus \iota x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.object(x) \wedge equal(x, \mathcal{A}y.cube(y))$	...		
4	$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$	...	
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$	...	
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$	$\iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$	...
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.object(x)$	$\lambda x.rect(x)$	...

# Pruning

$M$



5	$\iota x.red(x) \cup \iota x.cube(x)$	$\mathcal{E}x.object(x) \setminus \iota x.cube(x)$	$\lambda x.object(x) \wedge equal(x, \mathcal{A}y.cube(y))$
4	$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$	$\mathcal{A}x.red(x) \vee object(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg cube(x) \wedge object(x)$ $\lambda x.\neg(cube(x) \vee object(x))$
3	$\mathcal{E}x.\neg red(x)$	$\iota x.\neg blue(x)$	$\lambda x.red(x) \wedge cube(x)$ $\lambda x.red(x) \vee cube(x)$
2	$\lambda x.\neg red(x)$	$\lambda x.\neg blue(x)$	$\iota x.red(x)$ $\iota x.cube(x)$ $\mathcal{E}x.object(x)$
1	$\lambda x.red(x)$	$\lambda x.blue(x)$	$\lambda x.cube(x)$ $\lambda x.object(x)$ $\lambda x.rect(x)$

Top- $k$   
(Beam Search)

# Pruning Model

Good Referring  
Expression

$\neq$

Good Sub-  
Expression

# Pruning Model

Good Referring  
Expression

$\neq$

Good Sub-  
Expression

$$P_j(a \mid S, G) =$$

Binary probability distribution indicating whether an expression should be pruned at complexity-level  $j$



# Pruning Model

- Binary Log-Linear Model for each complexity-level  $j$

$$P_j(a \mid S, G; \pi_j) = \frac{e^{\pi_j \cdot \phi(a, S, G)}}{1 + e^{\pi_j \cdot \phi(a, S, G)}}$$

Parameters  $\pi_j$

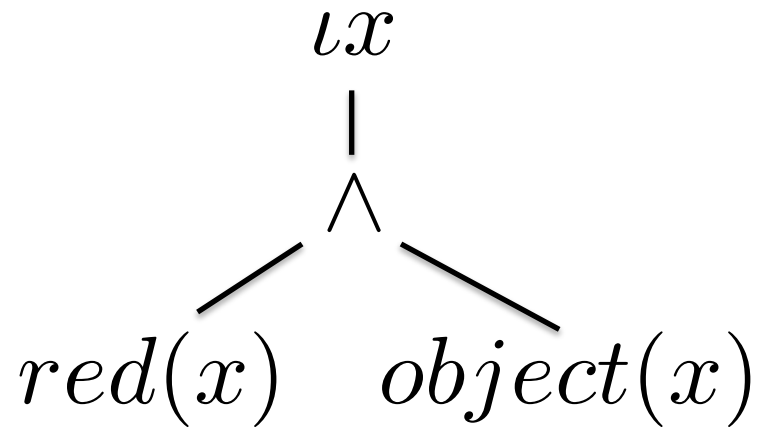
# Features

- Structural Features
  - Logical form  $z$  only
  - Capture common combinations of predicates
- Situated Features
  - LF  $z$ , world-state  $S$  and target-set  $G$
  - Capture how sub-expressions of  $z$  group sets of objects in the scene
- Complexity Feature

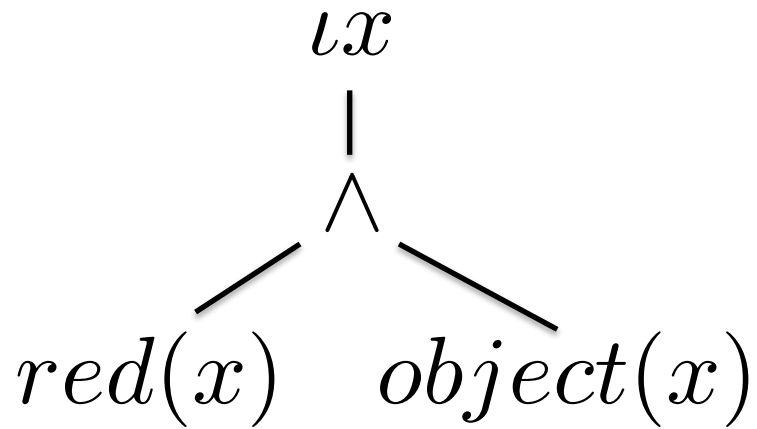
# Structural Features

$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$

# Structural Features



# Structural Features



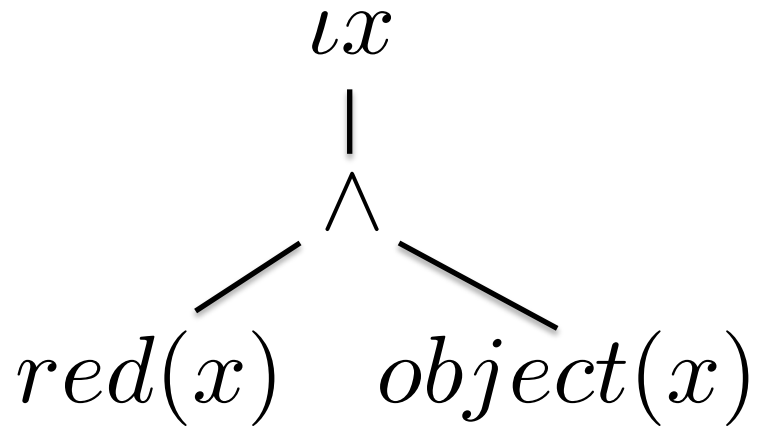
## Head Bigram

$[lx, \wedge]$

$[\wedge, color]$

$[\wedge, object]$

# Structural Features

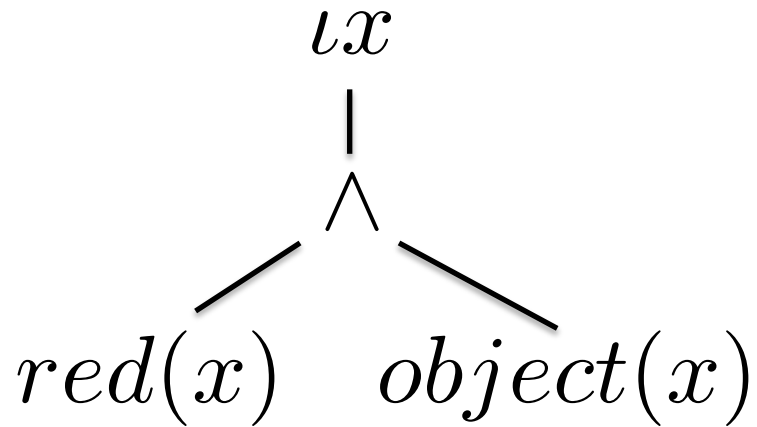


Head Bigram

Coordination Children

[ $\wedge$ ; *color, object*]

# Structural Features



Head Bigram

Coordination Children

Coordination Duplicate

Head Predicate

Head Trigram

# Situated Features

$G$  :



Coverage

$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$



# Situated Features

$G :$



Coverage

*SUB*

$\iota x. red(x) \wedge object(x)$



# Situated Features

$G$  :



$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$



Coverage

*SUB*

*SPR*

*DISJ*

*ALL*

*EMPTY*

*OTHER*

# Structural Features



$\iota x.red(x) \wedge object(x)$

Head Predicate and Coverage

$[\iota, SUB]$

$[\wedge, SUB]$

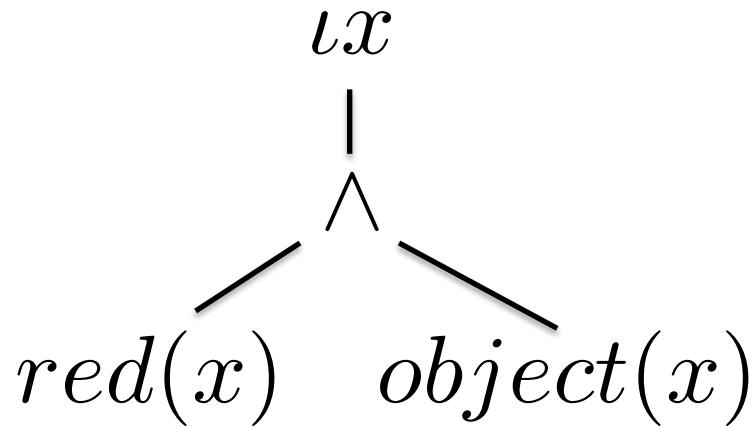
$[color, SUB]$

$[object, ALL]$

# Situated Features

Head Predicate and Coverage

Coordination Child Coverage



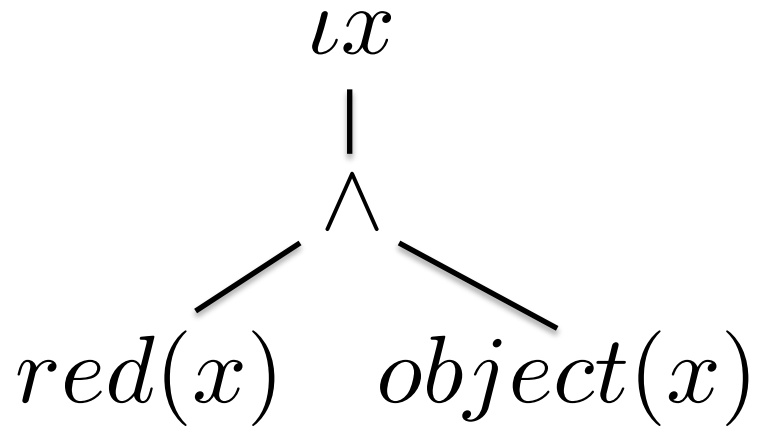
$[\wedge; SUB, ALL]$

# Situated Features

Head Predicate and Coverage

Coordination Child Coverage

Coordination Relative Cov.



# Overview

Space of Referring Expressions

Probabilistic Model

**Learning**

Data

Algorithm

Experiments

Results

Conclusion

# Learning – Data

$$\{(S_i, G_i, Z_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

# Learning – Data

$$\{(S_i, G_i, Z_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

## World State



```
obj1: red, sphere, apple  
obj2: brown, triangle  
obj3: yellow, fries  
...  
...
```



# Learning – Data

$$\{(S_i, G_i, Z_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

Target Set



# Learning – Data

$$\{(S_i, G_i, Z_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

## Labeled Logical Forms

$\iota x.(\text{yellow}(x) \vee \text{orange}(x) \vee \text{red}(x) \vee \text{green}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

$\iota x.(\text{yellow}(x) \vee \text{orange}(x) \vee \text{red}(x) \vee \text{green}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

$\iota x.(\text{yellow}(x) \vee \text{orange}(x) \vee \text{red}(x) \vee \text{green}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

$\iota x.\neg(\text{brown}(x) \vee \text{blue}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

$\iota x.\neg(\text{brown}(x) \vee \text{blue}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

$\mathcal{E}x.\neg(\text{brown}(x) \vee \text{blue}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{sg}(x)$

⋮  
⋮

# Learning – Data

$$\{(S_i, G_i, Z_i) : i = 1 \dots n\}$$

## Empirical Distribution: $Q_i$

$$\hat{Q}(z \mid S_i, G_i)$$

0.1  $\iota x.(\text{yellow}(x) \vee \text{orange}(x) \vee \text{red}(x) \vee \text{green}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

0.3  $\iota x. \neg(\text{brown}(x) \vee \text{blue}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{plu}(x)$

0.2  $\mathcal{E}x. \neg(\text{brown}(x) \vee \text{blue}(x)) \wedge \text{object}(x) \wedge \text{sg}(x)$

...

...

# Learning Algorithm

- Online
- Stochastic Gradient Descent

# Learning Algorithm

For  $t = 1 \dots T, i = 1 \dots n$ :

**Step 1:** (Update Global Model)

- a. Compute the stochastic gradient
- b. Update the parameters

**Step 2:** (Update Pruning Model)

For  $j = 1 \dots M$

- a. Construct a set of positive and negative examples
- b. Compute mini-batch stochastic gradient
- c. Update complexity- $j$  pruning parameters

# Learning Algorithm

For  $t = 1 \dots T, i = 1 \dots n$ :

**Step 1:** (Update Global Model)

a. Compute the stochastic gradient

$$\Delta\theta \leftarrow E_{Q_i(z|S_i, G_i)}[\phi_i(z)] - E_{\hat{P}(z|G_i, S_i; \theta, \Pi)}[\phi_i(z)]$$

b. Update the parameters

$$\gamma \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_0}{1+c \times \tau} \text{ where } \tau = i + t \times n$$
$$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \gamma \Delta\theta$$

**Step 2:** (Update Pruning Model)

# Learning Algorithm

For  $t = 1 \dots T, i = 1 \dots n$ :

**Step 1:** (Update Global Model)

**Step 2:** (Update Pruning Model)

For  $j = 1 \dots M$

a. Construct a set of positive and negative examples

$$\mathcal{D}^+ \leftarrow \bigcup_{z \in Z_i} SUB(j, z).$$

$$\mathcal{D}^- \leftarrow \mathcal{A}_j \setminus \mathcal{D}^+$$

b. Compute mini-batch stochastic gradient

c. Update complexity- $j$  pruning parameters

# Learning Algorithm

For  $t = 1 \dots T, i = 1 \dots n$ :

**Step 1:** (Update Global Model)

**Step 2:** (Update Pruning Model)

For  $j = 1 \dots M$

- a. Construct a set of positive and negative examples
- b. Compute mini-batch stochastic gradient

$$\Delta_{\Pi_j} \leftarrow \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}^+|} \sum_{z \in \mathcal{D}^+} (1 - P_j(z | S_i, G_i; \Pi_j)) \phi_i(z) - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}^-|} \sum_{z \in \mathcal{D}^-} P_j(z | S_i, G; \Pi_j) \phi_i(z)$$

- c. Update complexity- $j$  pruning parameters

$$\Pi_j \leftarrow \Pi_j + \gamma \Delta_{\Pi_j}$$



# Overview

Space of Referring Expressions

Probabilistic Model

Learning

**Experiments**

**Results**

Conclusion

# Data Collection



“Please pick up  
\_\_\_\_\_”

- 269 scenes  
20 expressions / scene  
5380 expressions
- Data Split
  - Training:
    - 196 scenes (3920 exps)
    - Labeled semi-automatically
  - Dev:
    - 20 scenes (400 exps)
    - Hand-Labeled
  - Test:
    - 43 scenes (860 exps)
    - Hand-Labeled

# Training Data

- Semi-Automatic Labeling
  - Trained semantic parser on initialization set
    - 10 scenes, 100 sentence-expression pairs
  - Hand engineered lexicon
  - 95% precision, 70% recall
  - Labeled 196 scenes (3920 exps)
  - Use scenes with at least 15 successful labels
- Total training set:
  - 141 scenes, 2587 expressions

# Related Work

- **Most previous systems are deterministic**  
[Dale and Reiter 1995], [van Deemter 2002], [Gardent 2002], [Horacek 2004], [Gatt and van Deemter 2007], [Areces et al. 2008], [Ren et al. 2010], [Krahmer and van Deemter 2012], [van Deemter et al. 2012], ...
- **Learning to refer to a single objects**
  - Compare state of the art approach
  - Visual Objects Algorithm [Mitchell et al 2013]
- **Learning to refer to sets of objects**
  - Requires more complex logical expressions
  - Present the first learning results + ablations

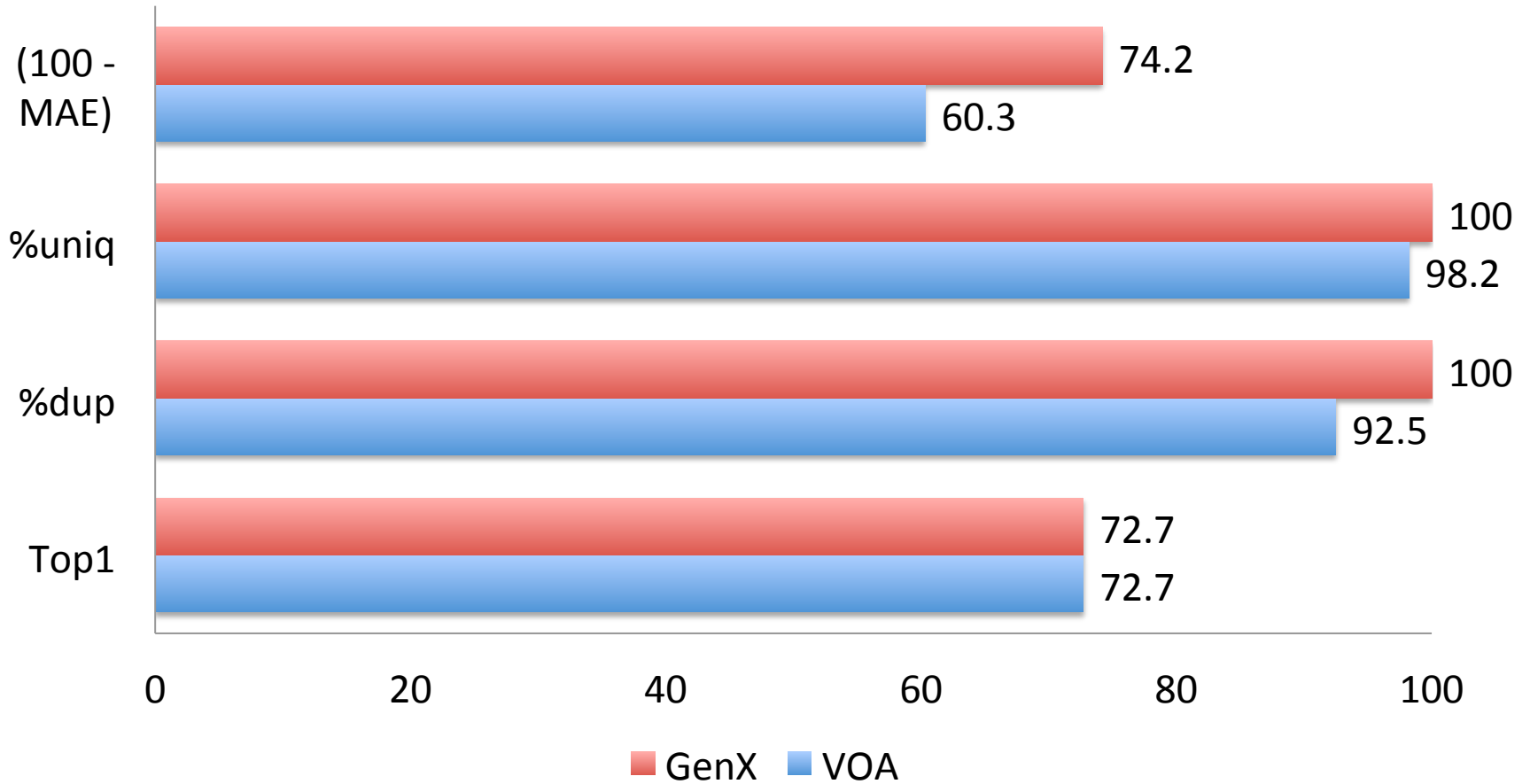
# Evaluation

- Mean absolute error (100 - MAE)

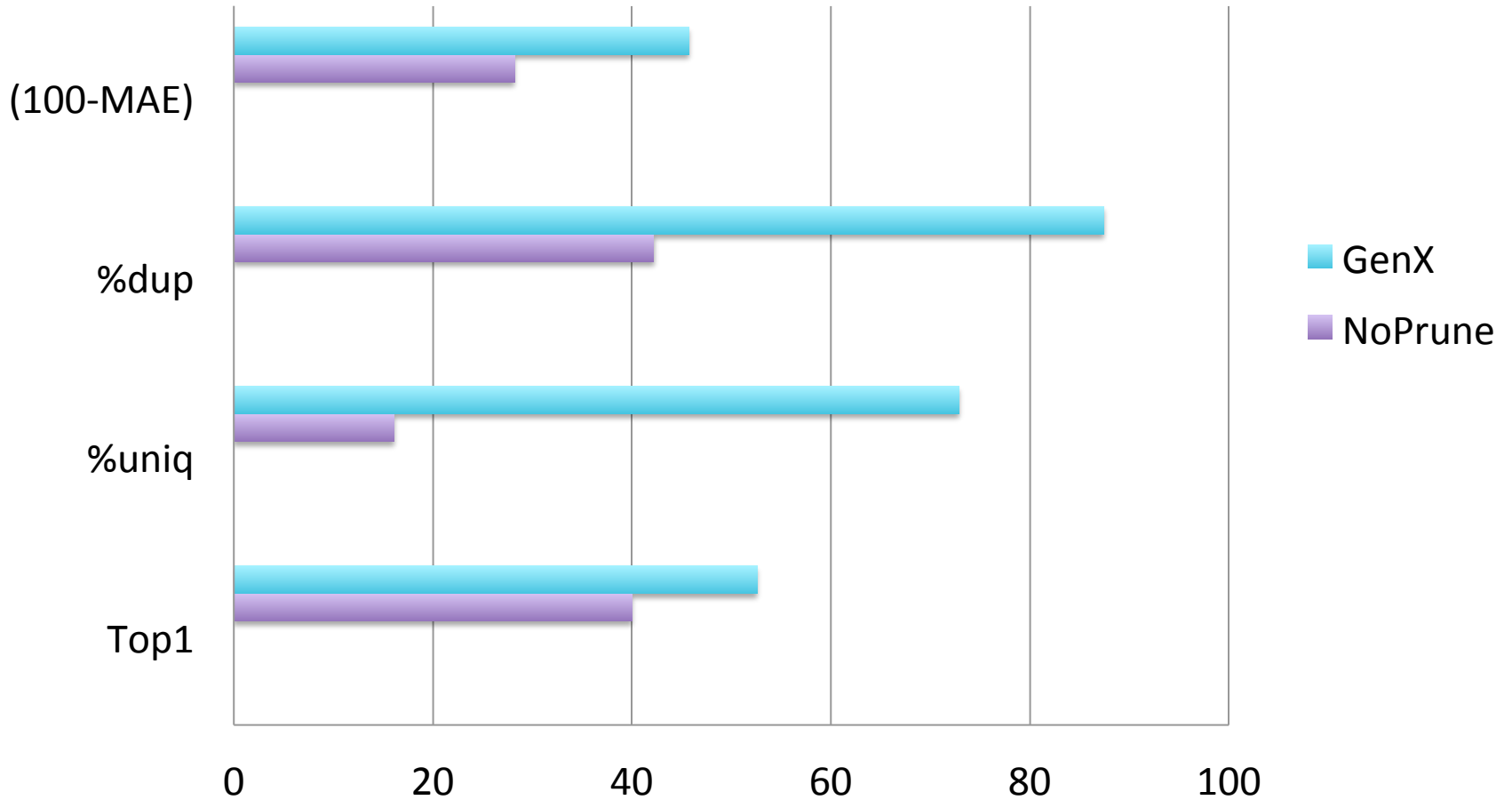
$$MAE = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} |P(z | S_i, G_i) - Q(z | S_i, G_i)|$$

- Coverage
  - All logical forms:  $\%_{dup}$
  - Unique logical forms:  $\%_{uniq}$
- Top-1 Accuracy

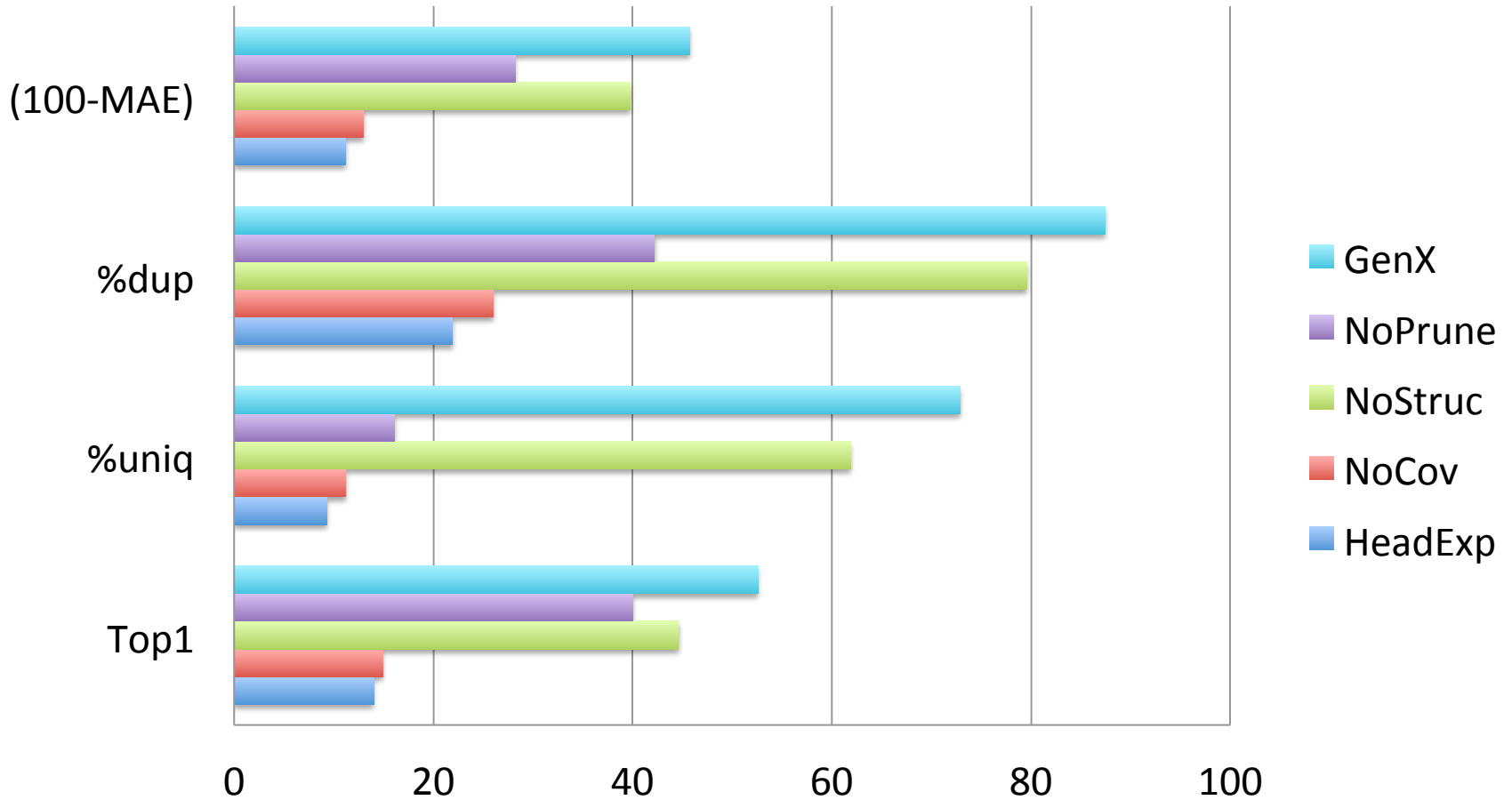
# Results – Single Objects



# Results – Object Sets



# Results – Object Sets





# Qualitative Results



$Q$	$\hat{P}$	$z$
.750	.320	$\iota(\lambda x. object(x) \wedge (yellow(x) \vee red(x)))$
	.114	$\iota(\lambda x. lego(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge apple(x))$
	.114	$\iota(\lambda x. yellow(x) \wedge lego(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. apple(x))$
	.044	$\iota(\lambda x. lego(x) \vee (red(x) \wedge apple(x)))$
	.044	$\iota(\lambda x. (yellow(x) \wedge lego(x)) \vee apple(x))$
	.036	$\iota(\lambda x. lego(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge sphere(x))$
	.026	$\iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge lego(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge sphere(x))$
	.050	$\iota(\lambda x. (lego(x) \wedge yellow(x)) \vee (red(x) \wedge apple(x)))$
.050	.017	$\iota(\lambda x. (lego(x) \wedge yellow(x)) \vee (red(x) \wedge sphere(x)))$
	.014	$\iota(\lambda x. yellow(x) \wedge lego(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge sphere(x))$
.100	.010	$\iota(\lambda x. yellow(x) \wedge object(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. apple(x))$
.050	.007	$\iota(\lambda x. yellow(x) \wedge object(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge sphere(x))$
.050	.005	$\iota(\lambda x. yellow(x) \wedge object(x)) \cup \iota(\lambda x. red(x) \wedge object(x))$

# Conclusion

- Referring Expression Generation as Density Estimation
  - Global Model
  - Learned Pruning Model
- First results on density estimation for set reference
- State-of-the-art results on single objects

# Future Work

- Full joint approach to REG

# Future Work

- Full joint approach to REG

Physical Scene



Logical Form (LF)

$$\iota x. (green(x) \vee red(x)) \\ \wedge sphere(x)$$

Sentence

“The green  
and red  
spheres.”

# Future Work

- Joint approach to REG
- Extend to more general referring expressions

“the second jar to the left of the middle shelf”



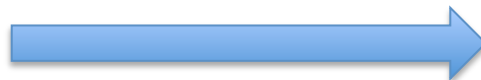
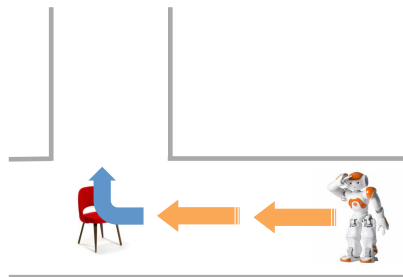
# Future Work

- Joint approach to REG
- Extend to more general referring expressions
- Extend to other grounded language problems

States		
Abbr.	Capital	Pop.
AL	Montgomery	3.9
AK	Juneau	0.4
AZ	Phoenix	2.7
WA	Olympia	4.1
NY	Albany	17.5
IL	Springfield	11.4



“What is the largest state?”



“Move to the chair and turn right.”

# Questions?

<http://nfitz.net>

Data: Available Now  
Code: Available Soon