Decoding for SMT

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Monotone word replacement models

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Unconstrained Distortion limit ITG

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Task

Translate a source text (e.g. sentence) Examples:

> um conto de duas cidades nosso amigo comum a loja de antiguidades \rightarrow the old curiosity shop o grill da lareira \rightarrow

 \rightarrow a tale of two cities

- \rightarrow our mutual friend

 - the cricket on the hearth

Defines the space of possible translations

 think of it as a recipe to generate translations [Lopez, 2008]

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Example:

a word replacement model

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Example:

- a word replacement model
- operates in monotone left-to-right order
- with no insertions or deletions
- constrained to known word-to-word bilingual mappings (rule set)

Source: *um conto de duas cidades* Translation rules¹

um	{a, some, one}
conto	{tale, story, narrative, novella}
de	{of, from, 's}
duas	{two, couple}
cidades	{cities, towns, villages}

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um conto de duas cidades a tale of two cities

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um conto de duas cidades a tale of two cities a tale of two **towns**

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um conto de duas cidadesa tale of two citiesa tale of two townsa tale of two villagesa tale of couple cities

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um conto de duas cidades
a tale of two cities
a tale of two towns
a tale of two villages
a tale of couple cities
a tale of couple towns

um conto de duas cidades
a tale of two cities
a tale of two towns
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a tale of couple cities
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This can go very far :(

Monotone word-by-word translation: complexity

Say

- the input has I words
- \blacktriangleright we know at most t translation options per source word

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Monotone word-by-word translation: complexity

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the input has I words

 \blacktriangleright we know at most t translation options per source word This makes ${\cal O}(t^I)$ solutions Note

- WMT14's shared task: I = 40 on average
- last I checked Moses default was t = 100

(for a more complex model)

- silly monotone word replacement model: 10^{80} solutions



um:a um:some um:one conto:tale conto:story conto:narrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:'s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:villages





um:a um:some um:one conto:stale conto:story conto:narrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:'s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:towns cidades:villages





um:a ← um:some um:one conto:stale conto:narrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:'s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:towns cidades:villages





um:a √ um:some ← um:one conto:tale conto:norrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:towns cidades:villages





um:a ✓ um:some ✓ um:one ← conto:tale conto:narrative conto:narrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:'s duas:two duas:couple cidades:tiles cidades:villages





um:a √ um:some √ um:some √ conto:tale ← conto:story conto:narrative conto:novella de:of de:from de:s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:towns cidades:villages





um:a √ um:one √ um:one √ conto:story ← conto:narrative conto:narrative conto:narrative de:f de:from de:s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:cities cidades:villages





uma √ um:some √ um:one √ conto:story √ conto:narrative ← conto:narrative ← conto:novella de:fom de:'s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:villages





um:a ✓ um:some ✓ um:some ✓ conto:tale ✓ conto:story ✓ conto:novella← de:from de:from de:s duas:two duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:towns cidades:villages





um:a ✓ um:some ✓ um:one ✓ conto:story ✓ conto:narrative ✓ conto:novella✓ de:fo de:from de:from duas:couple cidades:cities cidades:cities





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um:a ✓ um:some ✓ um:some ✓ conto:story ✓ conto:narrative ✓ conto:novella√ de:fo ✓ de:fo ✓ de:fo ✓ duas:two ✓ duas:couple ✓ cidades:cities ✓ cidades:towns ← cidades:villages





um:a √ um:some √ um:one √ conto:story √ conto:narrative √ conto:novella√ de:f √ de:from √ de:'s √ duas:tvo √ duas:couple √ cidades:cities √ cidades:towns √ cidades:towns √


Space of solutions as intersection/composition



 $3\times 4\times 3\times 2\times 3=216$ solutions

- ▶ 6 states
- ▶ 3 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 3 = 15 transitions

Packing solutions with finite-state automata

Same $O(t^I)$ solutions using

- \blacktriangleright O(I) states
- O(tI) transitions

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Model of translational equivalences

- defines the space of possible sentence pairs
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- conveniently decomposes into smaller bilingual mappings

- easy to represent using finite-state transducers
- set of translations given by composition
- exponential number of solutions in linear space
- translates infinitely many sentences but not nearly enough interesting cases!









nosso {our, ours}
amigo {friend, mate}
comum {ordinary, common, usual, mutual}



We simply cannot obtain a correct translation

our mutual friend

Reordering

Our model of translational equivalences assumes monotonicity

- a word replacement model
- operates in monotone left-to-right order
- with no insertions or deletions
- constrained to known word-to-word bilingual mappings (rule set)

Reordering

Not anymore!

- a word replacement model
- operates in arbitrary order
- with no insertions or deletions
- constrained to known word-to-word bilingual mappings (rule set)



mutual

< □ > < 큔 > < 클 > < 클 > < 클 > 클| = ∽ Q (~ 10/53





ordinary

common

usual

mutual

3

2

ours

our



amigo nosso comum



comum nosso amigo



nosso comum amigo







amigo comum nosso



amigo nosso comum



comum nosso amigo





ordinary

common

usual

mutual

2

friend

mate

3

amigo nosso comum



comum nosso amigo



comum amigo nosso



amigo comum nosso

nosso comum amigo

ours

our







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Powerset (all subsets) of $\{1, 2, \ldots, I\}$

► 2^{*I*} subsets think of a vector of *I* bits ;)

Lattice



Deductive logic

< □ > < □ > < □ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ > < ■ 3 < ℃
<ロト <回ト < 国ト < 国ト < 国ト 三日 のへの 13/53



Source: *nosso*₁ *amigo*₂ *comum*₃















くちゃ 不良 く ボット キャ くらく























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Word replacement with unconstrained reordering

Source: nosso amigo comum

Word replacement with unconstrained reordering



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1. arbitrary permutations: $O(2^{I})$ states

Word replacement with unconstrained reordering



Source: nosso amigo comum

- 1. arbitrary permutations: $O(2^{I})$ states
- 2. intersection with the rule set: $O(tI2^{I})$ transitions

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is it sensible to consider the space of all permutations?

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constrain reordering :D

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► is it sensible to consider the space of **all permutations**? Solution

- constrain reordering :D
- **0.o** but how?

Ad-hoc distortion limit

Several flavours of distortion limit [Lopez, 2009]

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limit reordering as a function of the number of skipped words

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limit reordering as a function of the number of skipped words
Moses allows reordering within a window of length d

starting from the leftmost uncovered word

WLd (example)

Suppose d = 2 and I = 3
















Suppose d = 2 and I = 3 (e.g. nosso amigo comum)



WLd (logic)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ITEM} & \left[[1..I+1], \{0,1\}^{d-1} \right] \\ \text{GOAL} & \left[I+1, C \right] \\ \text{AXIOM} \\ \hline \hline \hline [1,0^{d-1}] \\ \text{ADJACENT} \\ \hline \hline \begin{bmatrix} l,C \end{bmatrix} & i=l \\ \text{where } n=\#_1(C)+1 \\ \text{NON-ADJACENT} \\ \hline \hline \begin{bmatrix} l,C \end{bmatrix} & l < i \leq I \\ \hline \hline \begin{bmatrix} l,C \end{bmatrix} & \delta(i,l) \leq d \\ c_{i-l} = \bar{0} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $O(Id2^{d-1})$ states
- ▶ $O(Id2^{d-1})$ transitions

Word replacement with reordering constrained by WL2

Complexity: $O(I2^{d-1})$ states



Word replacement with reordering constrained by WL2

Complexity: $O(tI2^{d-1})$ transitions



Limit reordering to a fixed-length window

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- what about languages with very different syntax?
 e.g. OV vs VO, head-initial vs head-final

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- convenient (linear complexity), but
- what about languages with very different syntax?
 e.g. OV vs VO, head-initial vs head-final
- can we do better?





ITGs

- $X \to XX$ direct order
- $X \to \langle XX \rangle$ inverted order

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- $X \to XX$ direct order
- $X \to \langle XX \rangle$ inverted order
- ► $X \to f/e$, where $(f, e) \in R$ bilingual mappings









































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Example

$(nosso \langle amigo \ comum \rangle) \rightarrow our \ mutual \ friend$





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- 2. then we incorporated **unconstrained permutations** of the input

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- 3. to avoid NP-completeness, we constrained permutations using a **distortion limit**
- 4. we can instead constrain permutations using an $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{ITG}}$

But we still perform translation word-by-word with no insertion or deletion!

1-1 mappings: fail!

Source: $o_1 \text{ grilo}_2 \ da_3 \text{ lareira}_4$ Target: the₁ cricket₂ [on the]₃ hearth₄

a phrase replacement model

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Mappings of contiguous sequences of words

learnt directly (e.g. stochastic ITGs)

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 e.g. *a loja de antiguidades*/old curiosity shop

Rules o {the, a} grilo {cricket, annoyance} da {on the, of, from} hearth {lareira}

Rules o {the, a} grilo {cricket, annoyance} da {on the, of, from} hearth {lareira}

Using FST



Rules

o{the, a}grilo{cricket, annoyance}da{on the, of, from}hearth{lareira}

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Using FST

grilo:cricket



Rules

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hearth {lareira}

Using FST

grilo:annoyance



Rules

o {the, a}
grilo {cricket, annoyance}
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o{the, a}grilo{cricket, annoyance}da{on the, of, from}hearth{lareira}

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Rules

o {the, a}
grilo {cricket, annoyance}
da {on the, of, from}
hearth {lareira}

Using FST

lareira:hearth



Rules

o {the, a}
grilo {cricket, annoyance}
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Using FST

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Using FST

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- the union represents the rule set

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Using FST

- each rule can be seen as a transducer
- the union represents the rule set
- standard intersection mechanisms do the rest

We can translate a lattice encoding the $\mathsf{WL}d$ permutations

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Phrase permutations' translation with $\mathsf{WL}d$

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 - it is sensible to limit phrases to a maximum length

Phrase permutations' translation with $\mathsf{WL}d$

We can translate a lattice encoding the WLd permutations

- a truncated window controls reordering
- there is a number of different segmentations of the input
 - ▶ $O(I^2)$ segments
 - it is sensible to limit phrases to a maximum length
- complexity remains
 - linear with sentence length
 - exponential with distortion limit

Simply extend the terminal rules

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Examples

 $X \rightarrow o/the$ $X \rightarrow grilo/cricket$ $X \rightarrow da/on the$

Simply extend the terminal rules

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Examples

- $X \to \mathbf{o}/\mathbf{the}$
- $X \to {\sf grilo}/{\sf cricket}$
- $X \rightarrow \mathrm{da/on}$ the

The intersection mechanisms do the rest

- ▶ O(I³) nodes (phrases are limited in length)
- ▶ $O(tI^3)$ edges



We have

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We have

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- 1. defined different models of translational equivalence
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- 2. efficiently represented the set of translations supported by these models for a given input sentence
 - trivially expressed in terms of intersection/composition
 - a logic program can do the same (sometimes more convenient, e.g. WLd constraints)



Phrase-based SMT [Koehn et al., 2003]

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 - the space of solutions is cubic in length

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- the space of solutions grows linearly with input length and exponentially with the distortion limit
- ITG [Wu, 1997]
 - the space of solutions is cubic in length
 - better motivated constraints on reordering

Hierarchical phrase-based models [Chiang, 2005]

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more general SCFG rules (typically up to 2 nonterminals)

¹Other than monotone translation with glue rules $\langle \Box \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle$ 34/53

Hierarchical phrase-based models [Chiang, 2005]

- more general SCFG rules (typically up to 2 nonterminals)
- weakly equivalent to an ITG (same set of pairs of strings)

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e.g. $X \rightarrow \text{loja}$ de antiguidades/old curiosity shop

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- ► as well as lexicalised recursive rules e.g. X → X₁ de X₂ / X₂ 's X₁

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no purely unlexicalised rules¹

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- ▶ purely lexicalised rules e.g. X → loja de antiguidades/old curiosity shop
- ► as well as lexicalised recursive rules e.g. X → X₁ de X₂ / X₂ 's X₁
- no purely unlexicalised rules¹
- same cubic dependency on input length (as ITGs)

¹Other than monotone translation with glue rules $\langle \Box \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle$

What are we missing?

We have characterised the set of solutions "backed" by our transfer model

these solutions are unweighted

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- there is no obvious way to discriminate them

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- there is no obvious way to discriminate them
- we cannot make decisions like that

We are missing a parameterisation of the model

 the scoring function which will guide the decision making process

Linear models

Let's call derivation

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- along with any latent structure assumed by the transfer model e.g. phrase segmentation, alignment
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Think of it as a surrogate for translation quality at decoding time [Berger et al., 1996] [Och and Ney, 2002]

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Feature functions

Independently capture different aspects of the translation, such as

- adequacy
 - translation probabilities
 - confidence on lexical choices
- fluency
 - LM probabilities
 - confidence on reodering

Our transfer model makes independence assumptions

 "translation happens by concatenating isolated rules" e.g. flat mappings, hierarchical mappings Our transfer model makes independence assumptions

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Certain aspects of translation quality comply with such assumptions

how likely a certain translation rule is
 e.g. relative frequency in a bilingual corpus











Scoring rules independently



inference runs in time linear with the size of the automaton

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Certain aspects do not comply with such assumptions

fluency as captured by an n-gram LM component























requires unpacking the representation



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No factorisation at the phrase (nor *n*-gram) level

- requires fully unpacking the representation
- making dependencies explicit through the graphical structure

Scoring whole sentences: example



Exhaustive enumeration

Not all is lost

Most features we can reliably estimate

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are rarely sensitive to global context

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 - there are up to $|\Delta|^{n-1}$ contexts that must be made explicit
 - nodes must group derivations sharing the same context
 - polynomial, though often prohibitive (impracticable)



1. a characterisation the space of solutions

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- 2. a linear parameterisation of the model

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- more examples of models and impact on representation
 - distance-based reordering
 - Iexicalised models
 - a global feature function
- inference algorithms

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What's left?

- more examples of models and impact on representation
 - distance-based reordering
 - Iexicalised models
 - a global feature function
- inference algorithms
- techniques to make inference feasible for interesting models

What do we pick out of the (whole) weighted space of solutions?

- best translation
- "minimum-loss" translation

Best translation

MAP

$$\mathbf{y}^* = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{y}} \sum_{\mathbf{y}[\mathbf{d}] = \mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{x})$$

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Viterbi (approximation to MAP)

$$\mathbf{d}^* = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{d}} f(\mathbf{d} | \mathbf{x})$$

assumes the most likely derivation is enough

MBR

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$$\mathbf{y} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathbf{y}} \left\langle \operatorname{loss}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}') \right\rangle_{p(\mathbf{y}' | \mathbf{x})}$$

MBR

$$\mathbf{y} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{y}} \left\langle \operatorname{gain}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}') \right\rangle_{p(\mathbf{y}' | \mathbf{x})}$$

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$$\mathbf{y} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{y}} \left\langle \mathrm{BLEU}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}') \right\rangle_{p(\mathbf{y}' \mid \mathbf{x})}$$

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incorporates a loss (or gain) function

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- can be estimated by sampling translations
- can be estimated from samples of derivations

Explore a truncated version of the full space

only a budgeted set of outgoing edges form each node

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[Koehn et al., 2003] [Chiang, 2007]

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- centred around the Viterbi solution by design (due to beam search)
Uses derivations in an *n*-best list as samples

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[Kumar and Byrne, 2004] [Tromble et al., 2008]

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1. design a simpler upperbound (e.g. unigram LM)

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 - you will hear from us (project 14) ;)

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1. broad view of distribution

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- 2. potential to incorporate arbitrarily complex features (at the sentence level at least)
- 3. sometimes unbiased
- 4. ideal for MBR and tuning
- 5. typically stupid simple to parallelise

Thanks!

Questions?

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