

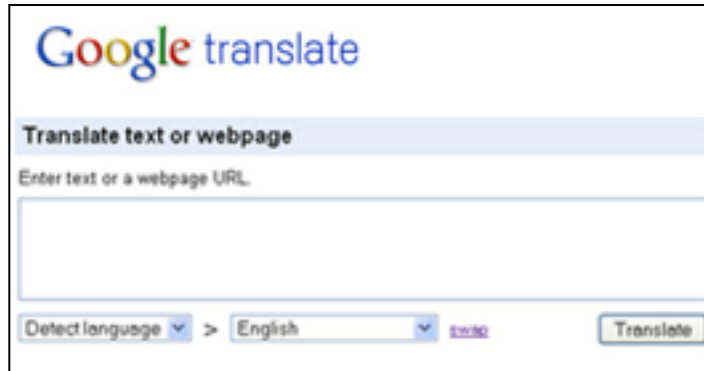
Machine Translation

Jason Baldridge
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Language and Computers

Many slides used from Jim Martin, Kevin Knight, Katrin Erk, Markus Dickinson, and Detmar Meurers



Today: End-User Products



...

US Government funded HLT research



SRI International

many
research +
institutions



IBM T. J. Watson

many
universities +



Columbia University

researchers,
faculty,
graduate students

...

+ US Government
funding of
computing
systems research

Tools for Military & Intelligence

Foreign news broadcast

Foreign speech recognition

English translation

Searchable archive

US Government funded research



Hard for Computers!

olive oil



peanut oil



sesame oil



Hard for Computers!

olive oil



peanut oil



sesame oil



baby oil?



Hard for Computers!

olive oil



peanut oil



sesame oil



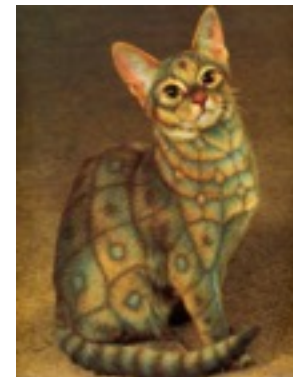
baby oil?



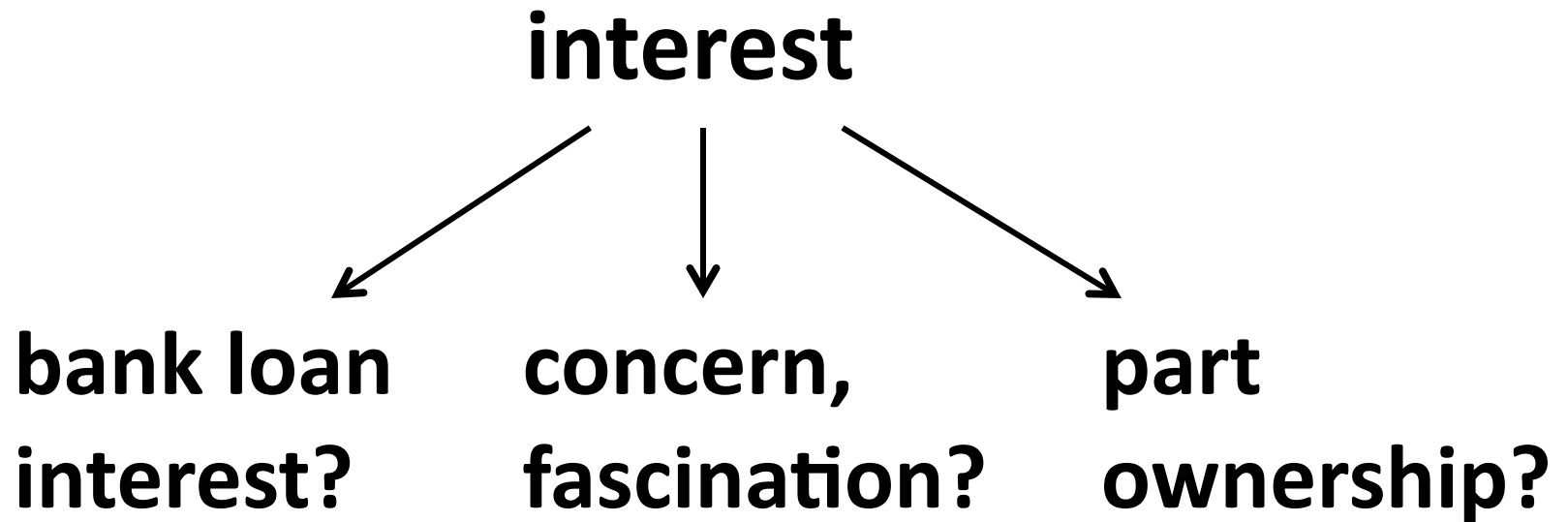
why
cats
paint

≠

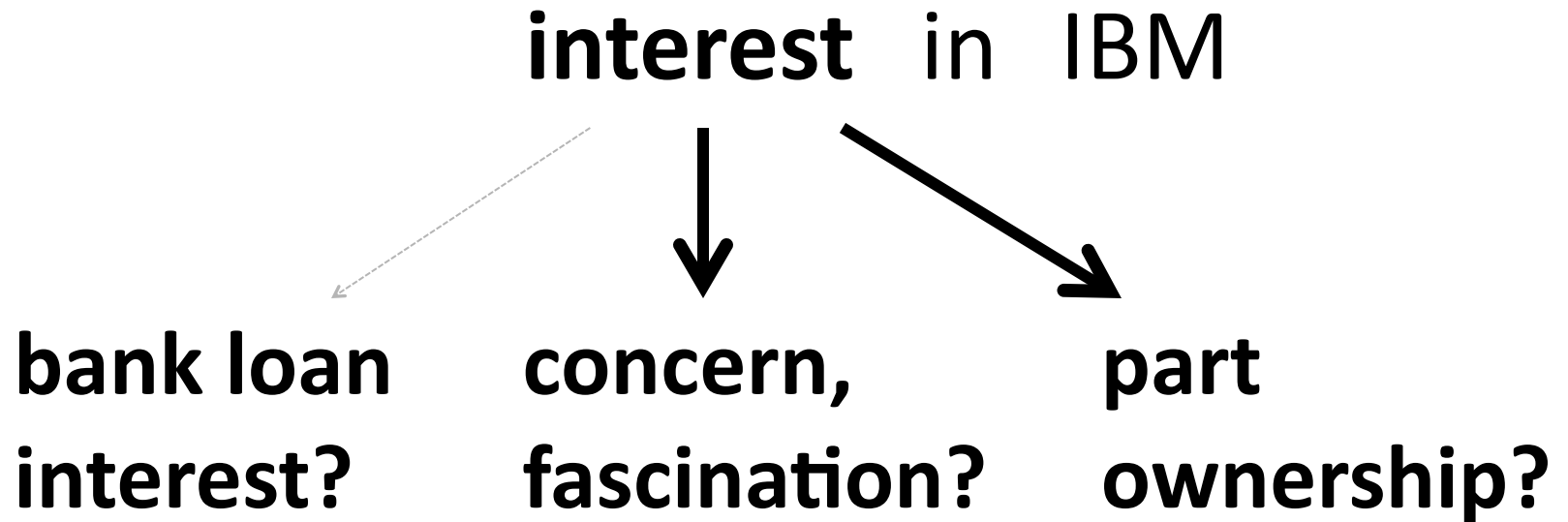
why
paint
cats



Hard for Computers!



Hard for Computers!



Hard for Computers!

a financial **interest** in IBM

The diagram illustrates the ambiguity of the word "interest" in the phrase "a financial interest in IBM". Three arrows originate from the word "interest": a dashed arrow pointing to "bank loan interest?", a dashed arrow pointing to "concern, fascination?", and a solid black arrow pointing to "part ownership?".

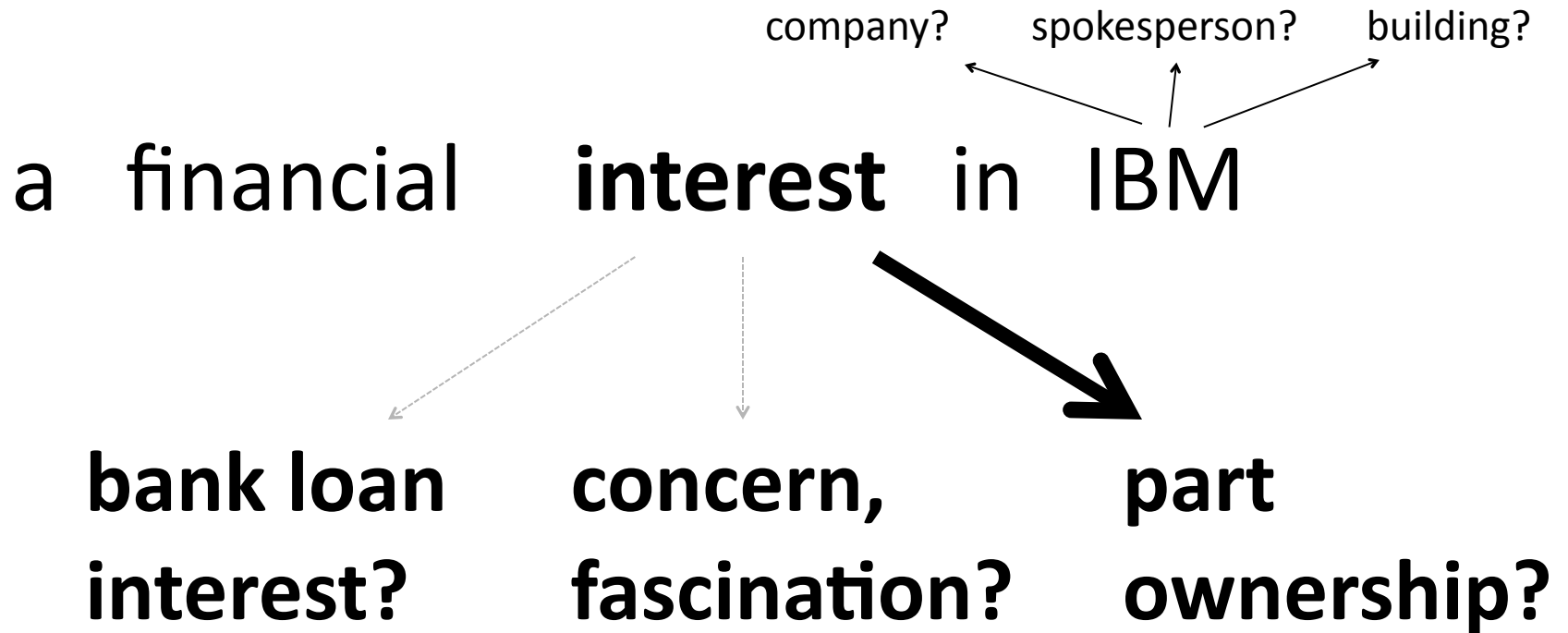
**bank loan
interest?**

**concern,
fascination?**

**part
ownership?**

Humans do this
effortlessly.

Hard for Computers!



Humans do this effortlessly.

Thousands of Languages

MANDARIN	885,000,000
SPANISH	332,000,000
ENGLISH	322,000,000
BENGALI	189,000,000

TURKISH	59,000,000
URDU	58,000,000
MIN NAN (China)	49,000,000
JINYU (China)	45,000,000



GUJARATI	44,000,000
POLISH	44,000,000
ARABIC	42,500,000
UKRAINIAN	41,000,000

ITALIAN	37,000,000
XIANG (China)	36,015,000
MALAYALAM	34,022,000
HAKKA (China)	34,000,000

HINDI	182,000,000
PORTUGUESE	170,000,000
RUSSIAN	170,000,000
JAPANESE	125,000,000
GERMAN	98,000,000

WU (China)	77,175,000
JAVANESE	75,500,800
KOREAN	75,000,000
FRENCH	72,000,000
VIETNAMESE	67,662,000

TELUGU	66,350,000
YUE (China)	66,000,000
MARATHI	64,783,000
TAMIL	63,075,000

KANNADA	33,663,000
ORIYA	31,000,000
PANJABI	30,000,000
SUNDA	27,000,000



- Current examples of machine translation
- How can languages differ?
 - Do differences in language lead to differences in thought? The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
- What makes machine translation hard?
- Evaluating machine translation



- Google has a “Translate this page” button
- Portuguese -> English translation:
 - Folha de Sao Paulo online newspaper: <http://www.folha.uol.com.br>
 - Stories: <http://contadoresdestorias.wordpress.com>
- Exploring Machine Translation:
 - What language other than English do you speak? Do you know an online news page in that language?
 - Translation to English: What are the problems?



- MT is a very difficult task because languages are vastly different. They differ:
 - Lexically: In the words they use
 - Syntactically: In the constructions they allow
 - Semantically: In the way meanings work
 - Pragmatically: In what readers take from a sentence.
- In addition, there is a good deal of real-world knowledge that goes into a translation.



- “I shot the sherriff”:
 - No direct translation to German
 - **erschiessen**: shoot someone, and that person is dead afterwards
 - **anschiessen**: shoot someone, and that person is wounded but not dead
- “lend”, “borrow” both translate to **leihen** in German
- German **Knopf** can be either **knob** or **button**



- **Synonyms** are words with the same meaning,
 - like **strong/powerful**
 - or **couch/sofa**
- **Synonyms between two languages:**
 - English **book** = Russian **kniga**
 - English **music** = Spanish **música**

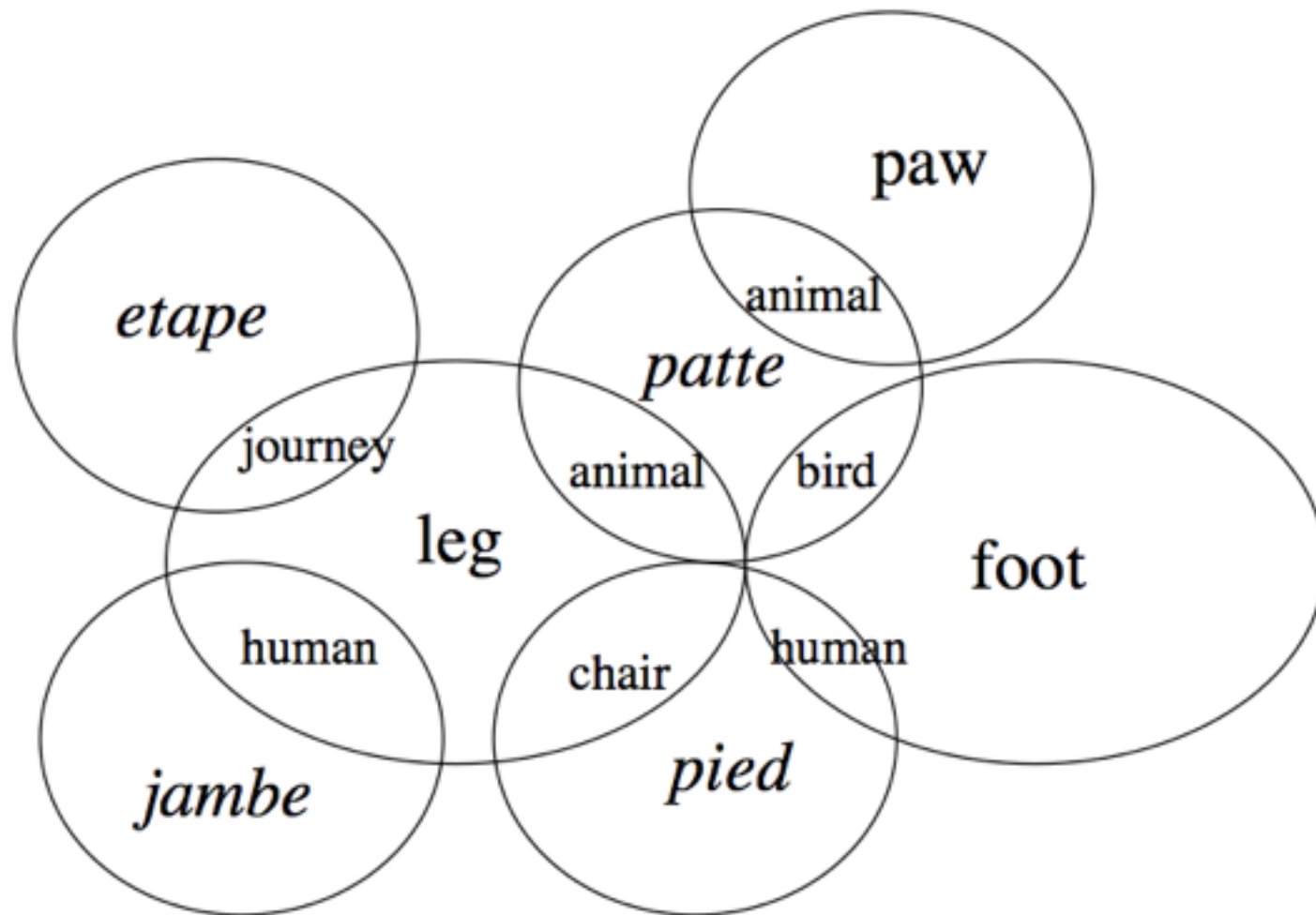


- A **hypernym** is a more general term:
 - **furniture** is a hypernym of **sofa**
- Conversely, a **hyponym** is a more specific term:
 - **sofa** is a hyponym of **furniture**
- Hyponym/hypernym relations between languages:
 - **shoot** is a hypernym of both German **anschiessen** and **erschiessen**
 - English **know** is a hypernym of French **savoir** (know a fact) and **connaître** (be familiar with)
 - English **hand** and **arm** are hyponyms of Russian **ruka**



- ❑ Not always synonymy or hyponymy/hypernymy between languages: sometimes just meaning overlap
- ❑ English **leg** = **étape** (journey), **jambe** (human), **pied** (chair), **patte** (animal)
- ❑ **foot** = **pied** (human), **patte** (bird)
- ❑ **paw** = **patte** (animal)

Representing semantic overlap: Venn diagrams





- ❑ **Lexical gap**: a concept has a word in one language, but not in another
- ❑ Translation will then usually require a whole phrase
- ❑ French **gratiner** means something like **to cook with a cheese coating**
- ❑ Hebrew **stam** means something like **I'm just kidding** or **Nothing special**.

Lexical gap example: Portuguese “saudade”



- “Saudade” is a word that means a deep longing or missing of someone or something, mixed with longing and fond remembrance, including some joy upon that remembrance. It is hard to sum up in a few English words -- for example here is the Wikipedia explanation which tries to do justice to the word:

Saudade (singular) or **saudades** (plural) (pronounced [\[sɐ.uˈdaðɨ\]](#) or [\[sawˈdaðɨ\]](#) in [Portuguese\[1\]](#), is a Portuguese language word difficult to translate adequately, which describes a deep emotional state of nostalgic longing for something or someone that one was fond of and which is lost. It often carries a fatalist tone and a repressed knowledge that the object of longing might really never return.

Saudade has been described as a "vague and constant desire for something that does not and probably cannot exist ... a turning towards the past or towards the future".[\[2\]](#) A stronger form of saudade may be felt towards people and things whose whereabouts are unknown, such as a lost lover, or a family member who has gone missing. It may also be translated as a deep longing or yearning for something which does not exist or is unattainable.

Saudade was once described as "the love that remains" or "the love that stays" after someone is gone. Saudade is the recollection of feelings, experiences, places or events that once brought excitement, pleasure, well-being, which now triggers the senses and makes one live again. It can be described as an emptiness, like someone (e.g., one's children, parents, sibling, grandparents, friends) or something (e.g., places, pets, things one used to do in childhood, or other activities performed in the past) that should be there in a particular moment is missing, and the individual feels this absence. In Portuguese, 'tenho saudades tuas', translated as 'I have *saudades* for you' means 'I miss you', but carries a much stronger tone. In fact, one can have 'saudades' of someone with which one is, but have some feeling of loss towards the past or the future.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudade>



□ kick the bucket:

- means die
- word-by-word translation to another language will be wrong
- Portuguese *chutar o balde*: literally “kick the bucket”, but actually means to give up.

□ Conversely, headline from spiegel.de:

- Mit Tierschutz kraeftig Kohle machen translated as With strong animal protection make coal. Gibberish!
- Kohle machen means make money



- It's **strong** tea, not **powerful** tea
even though **strong** and **powerful** are synonyms
- **heavy smoker**:
 - French **grand fumeur** (great smoker)
 - German **starker Raucher** (strong smoker)
- (Compare collocations and idioms)



□ take into account, take a walk:

- “take” carries little or no meaning
- the meaning of the phrase comes from the noun
- In this case, “take” is a light verb

□ Light verbs usually cannot be translated literally

- Often there will be a different light verb in another language
- English take a walk = French faire une promenade (make a walk)
- English make an attempt = Dutch een poging doen (do an attempt)



□ Word order:

- English: Subject - verb - object (SVO):

John sees a squirrel.

subject verb object

- Japanese: SOV

- Arabic: VSO



□ Fixedness of word order:

- English: Subject, object identified by their position relative to the verb
- Other languages like Czech, Dutch, German, Latin: free(r) word order

□ Hans sieht den Weihnachtsmann.
John sees Santa.
subject verb object

□ Den Weihnachtsmann sieht Hans.
Santa sees John
object verb subject

- works because of **case marking**:
der: nominative case. **den**: accusative case



- Translation becomes even more difficult when we try to translate something in context.
 - *Thank you* is usually translated as *merci* in French, but it is translated as *s'il vous pla^it* 'please' when responding to an offer.
- *Can you drive a stick-shift?* could be a request for you to drive my manual transmission automobile, or it could simply be a request for information about your driving abilities.



- Sometimes we have to use **real-world knowledge** to figure out what a sentence means.
 - *Put the paper in the printer. Then switch **it** on.*
- We know what *it* refers to only because we know that printers, not paper, can be switched on.



- We've seen some translation systems and we know that translation is hard.
- The question now is: How do we evaluate MT systems, in particular for use in large corporations as likely users?
 - How much change in the current setup will the MT system force?
 - How will it fit in with word processors and other software?
 - Will the company selling the MT system be around in the next few years for support and updates?
 - How fast is the MT system?
 - How good is the MT system (quality)?



- Two main components in evaluating quality:
 - **Intelligibility** = how understandable the output is
 - **Accuracy** = how faithful the output is to the input
 - A common (though problematic) evaluation metric is the BLEU metric, based on n-gram comparisons
- And some methods we can use to gauge these properties:
 - **Error analysis** = how many errors we have to sort through and how they affect intelligibility & accuracy
 - **Test suite** = a set of sentences that our system should be able to handle



- Edward Sapir (1884-1939), Benjamin Whorf (1897-1941)
- Linguistic determinism: Language shapes thought
- Weaker version: A person's thoughts are influenced by the language in which they express them
- Influence of language on thought
 - through vocabulary
 - but through grammar as well



- Influence of grammar on thought:
 - Whorf, work on Hopi
 - Whorf claimed that Hopi had neither words nor grammatical constructions referring to time
 - (Has since been disputed)
- Vocabulary influences that have been discussed in the literature:
 - The infamous “Eskimos have N words for snow” (See G. Pullum, “The great Eskimo vocabulary hoax”)
 - Color terms: work by Kay and Berlin



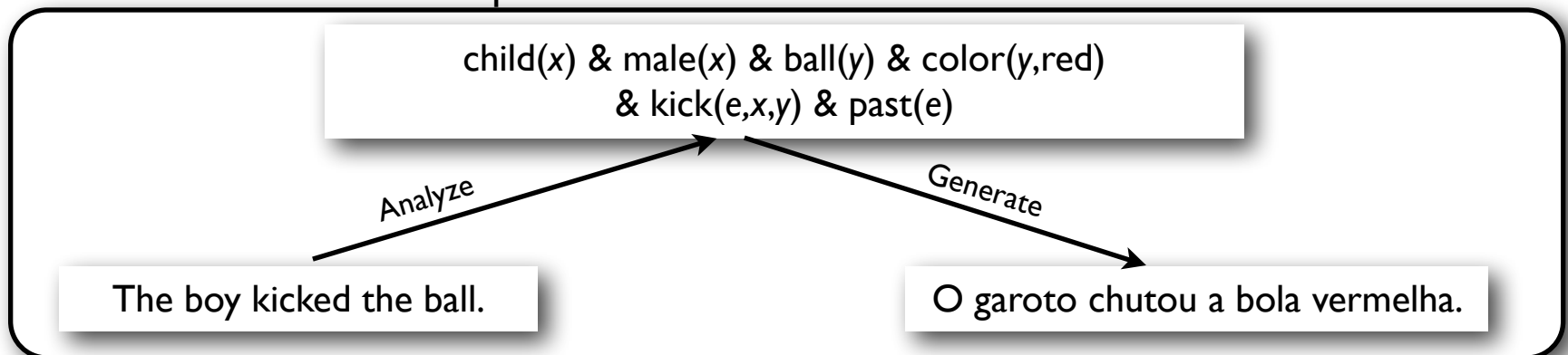
- ❑ Goffman, Lakoff
- ❑ Influencing opinion by modifying language used to refer to a concept
- ❑ Lakoff's example: "tax relief" instead of "tax burden" or "tax responsibilities"
- ❑ Compare "He blinked" and "He winked"
- ❑ Dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO), a potentially dangerous substance?
 - ❑ Against DHMO: <http://www.dhmo.org/>
 - ❑ For DHMO: <http://www.armory.com/~crisper/DHMO/>



- **Universal grammar:** Are there principles of grammar that all languages share?
 - Human brain pre-wired for language?
- “Poverty of stimulus” argument: Do babies get enough “examples” of language to learn grammar?
- See also: S. Pinker, “The language instinct”



- It seems like we should be able to create an **interlingua**, or language independent representation of meaning, to translate between languages.
 - An English sentence expresses some set of concepts and relations between them.
 - So does a Portuguese sentence.
 - So does a Chinese sentence....
- So, if we had a way to specify such representations, we could translate English sentences into this interlingua, and then go from that representation to any language we like. For example:





- Unfortunately, this doesn't work!
- There is no adequate representation of this nature.
- Hard to say exactly what should be represented. How fine-grained do we need to be?
 - e.g., Japanese distinguishes *older brother* from *younger brother*, so we have to disambiguate English *brother* to put it into the interlingua.
 - Then, if we translate into French, we have to ignore the disambiguation and simply translate it as *frere*, which simply means 'brother'.
- There are massive ambiguities which compound as we perform deeper and deeper levels of analysis.

Translation at different depths: Vauquois triangle



Linguistic meaning can be “transferred” at many different levels of analysis.

Most statistical MT does this, using words and word sequences (phrases).

Some systems do this (mostly, or all, research prototypes).

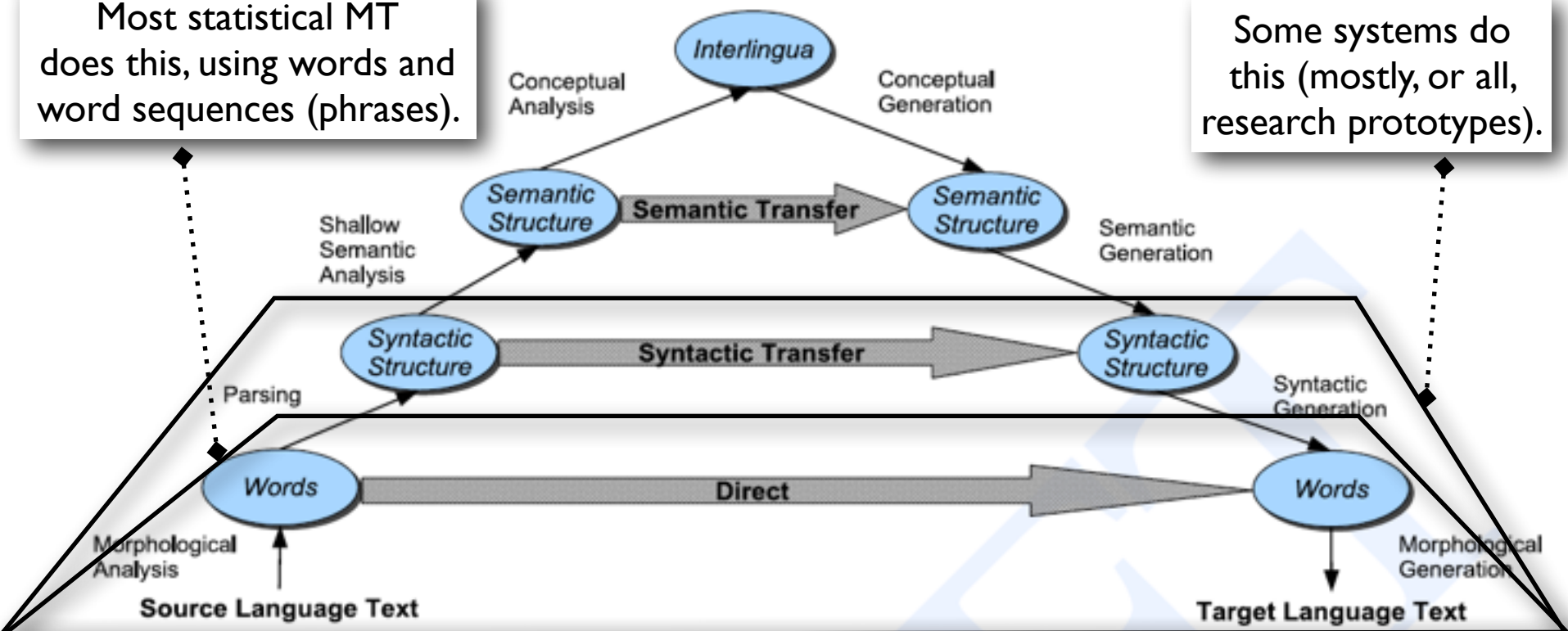


Figure 25.3 from Jurafsky and Martin (2008), *Speech and Language Processing*.

What Has Been Working?

- Focus on **common** linguistic phenomena
 - rather than obscure, difficult cases
- Have machines **learn** from online text and speech data
- **Manage uncertainty** with probabilistic models
- **Evaluate** accuracy of systems
- Develop **common tasks**, compare notes
- **Refine** models

Learning from Data

I have an **interest** in gardening.

I earned 5% **interest** last year.

Zuckerberg holds a controlling **interest**.

My **interest** is purely out of curiosity.

Human annotation
of online text.

Learning from Data

concern,
fascination

bank loan
interest

I have an **interest** in gardening.

I earned 5% **interest** last year.

part
ownership

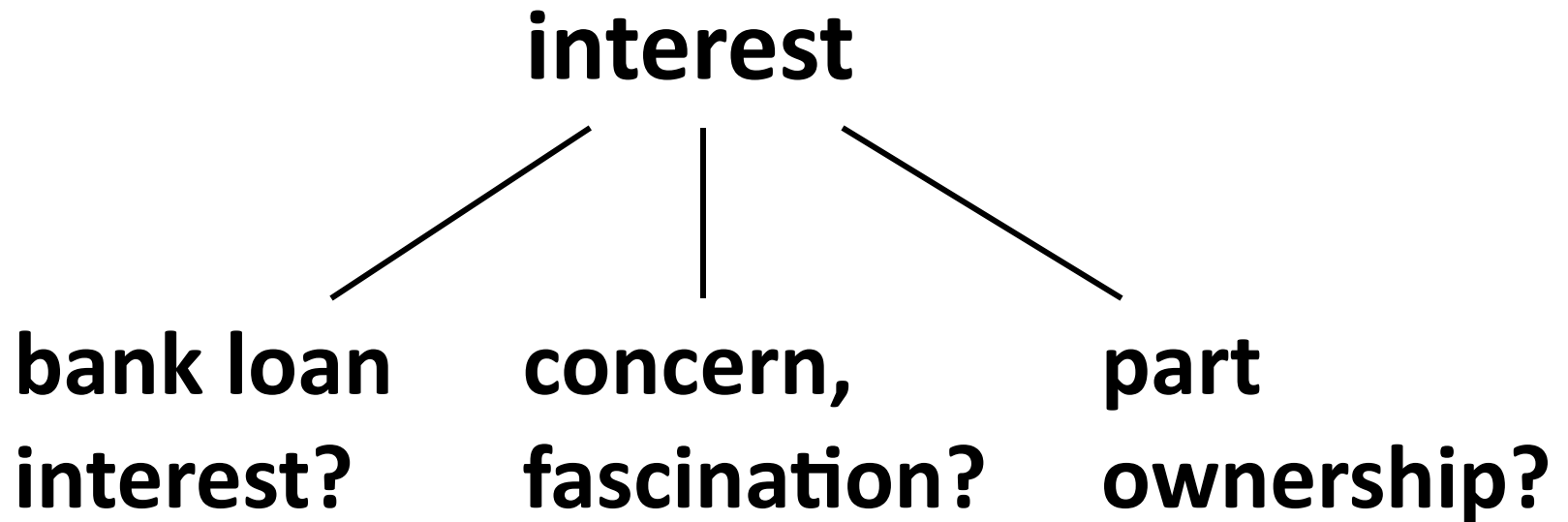
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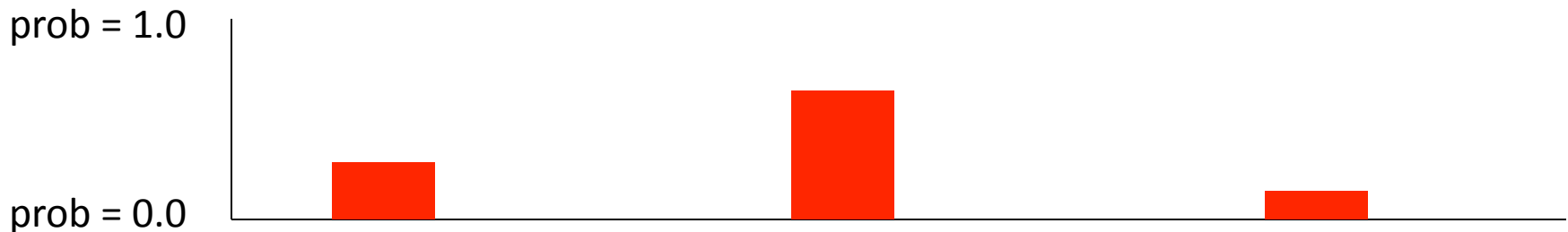
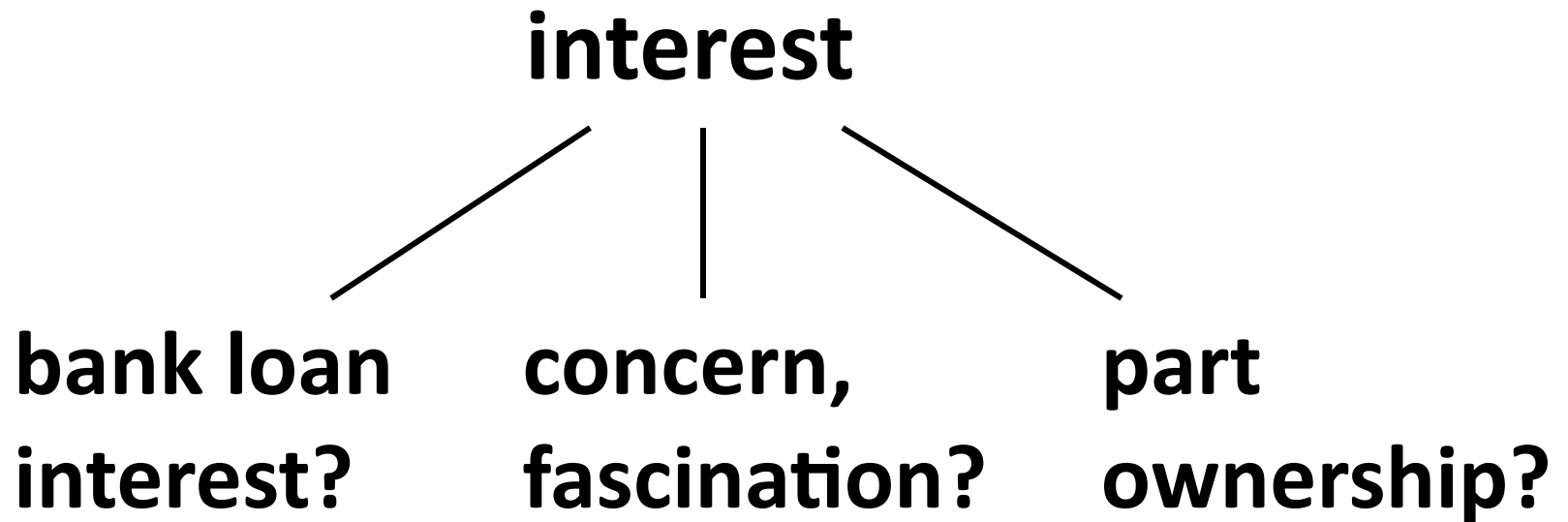
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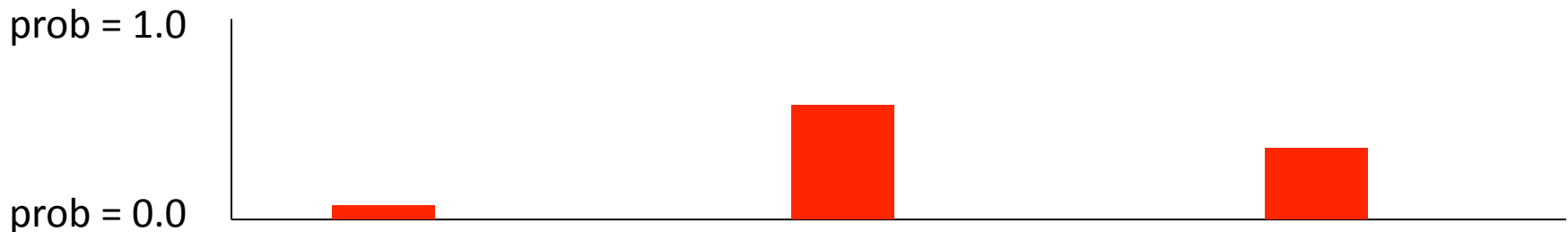
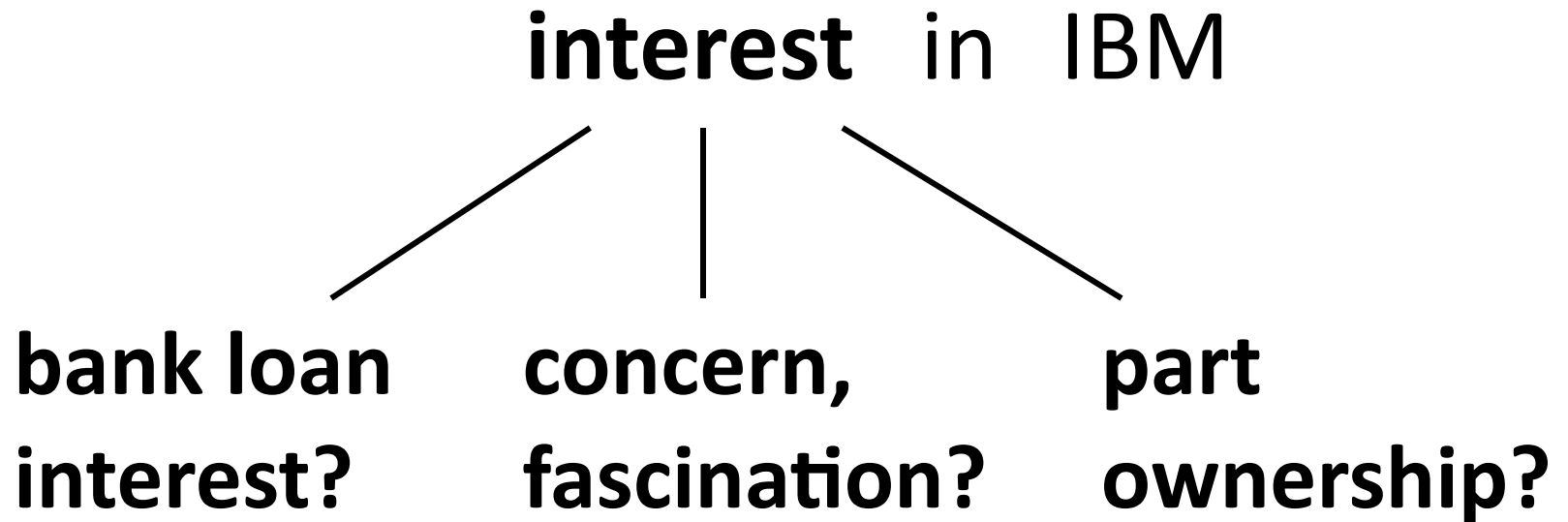
Learning from Data



Learning from Data



Learning from Data



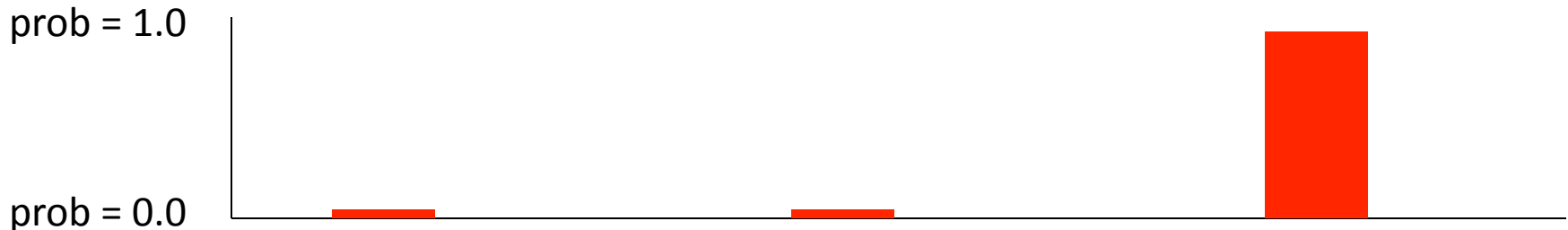
Learning from Data

a financial **interest** in IBM

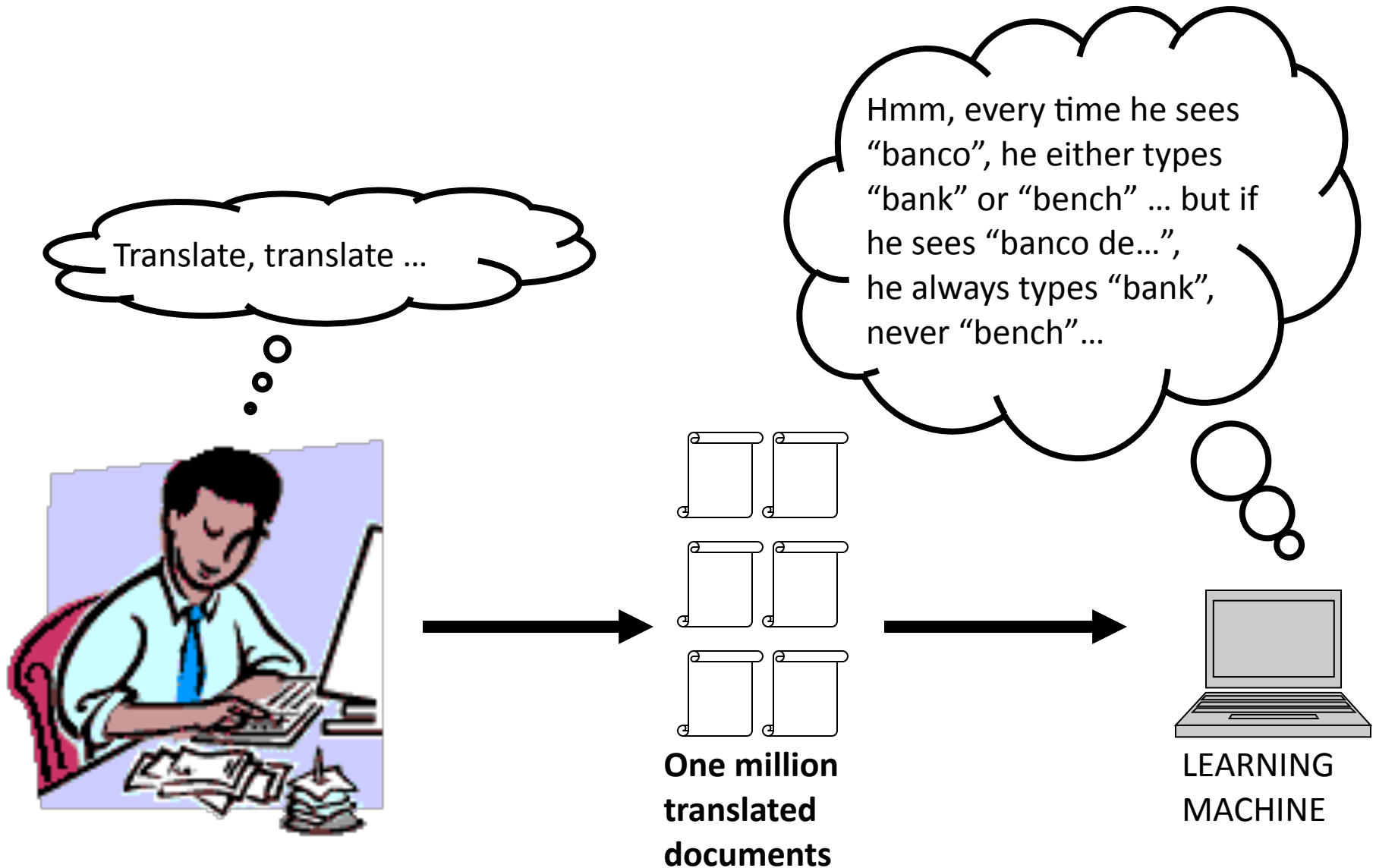
**bank loan
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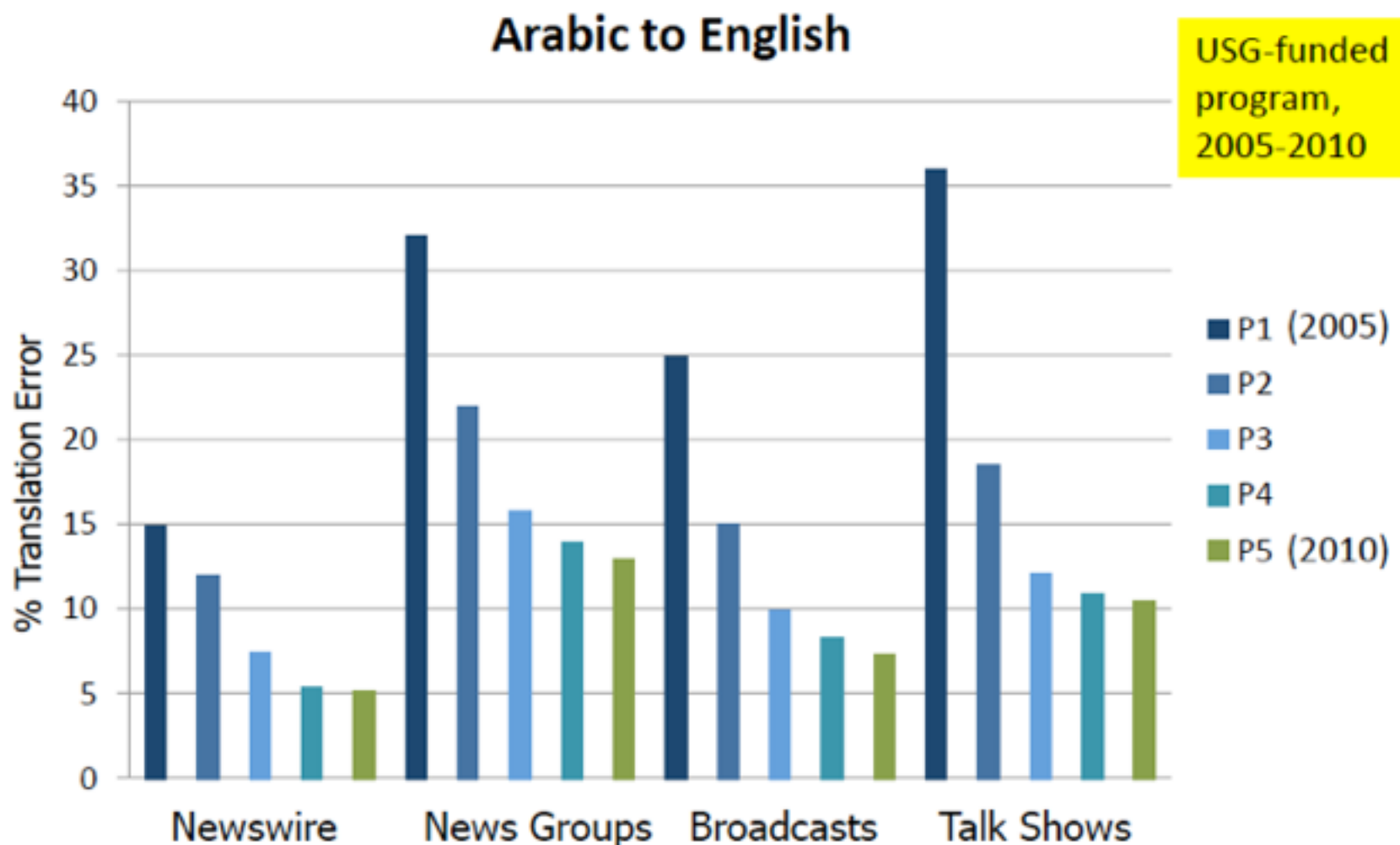
**part
ownership?**



Learning to Translate



Machine Translation Error Rate



source: DARPA



- Same old noisy channel model...
- If we're translating French to English the French we're seeing is just a weird garbled version of English
- There must have been some process that generated the French from the original English
- The key is to **decode** the garbles back into the original English by...
- $\text{Argmax } P(E \mid F)$ by Bayes
- A very old idea



When I look at an article in Russian, I say to myself: This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode.



Centauri/Arcturan Parallel Corpus [Knight, 1997]



1a. ok-voon ororok sprok .	7a. lalok farok ororok lalok sprok izok enemok .
1b. at-voon bichat dat .	7b. wat jjat bichat wat dat vat eneath .
2a. ok-drubel ok-voon anak plok sprok .	8a. lalok brok anak plok nok .
2b. at-drubel at-voon pippat rrat dat .	8b. iat lat pippat rrat nnat .
3a. erok sprok izok hihok ghrok .	9a. wiwok nok izok kantok ok-yurp .
3b. totat dat arrat vat hilat .	9b. totat nnat quat oloat at-yurp .
4a. ok-voon anak drok brok jok .	10a. lalok mok nok yorok ghrok klok .
4b. at-voon krat pippat sat lat .	10b. wat nnat gat mat bat hilat .
5a. wiwok farok izok stok .	11a. lalok nok crrrok hihok yorok zanzanok .
5b. totat jjat quat cat .	11b. wat nnat arrat mat zanzanat .
6a. lalok sprok izok jok stok .	12a. lalok rarok nok izok hihok mok .
6b. wat dat krat quat cat .	12b. wat nnat forat arrat vat gat .

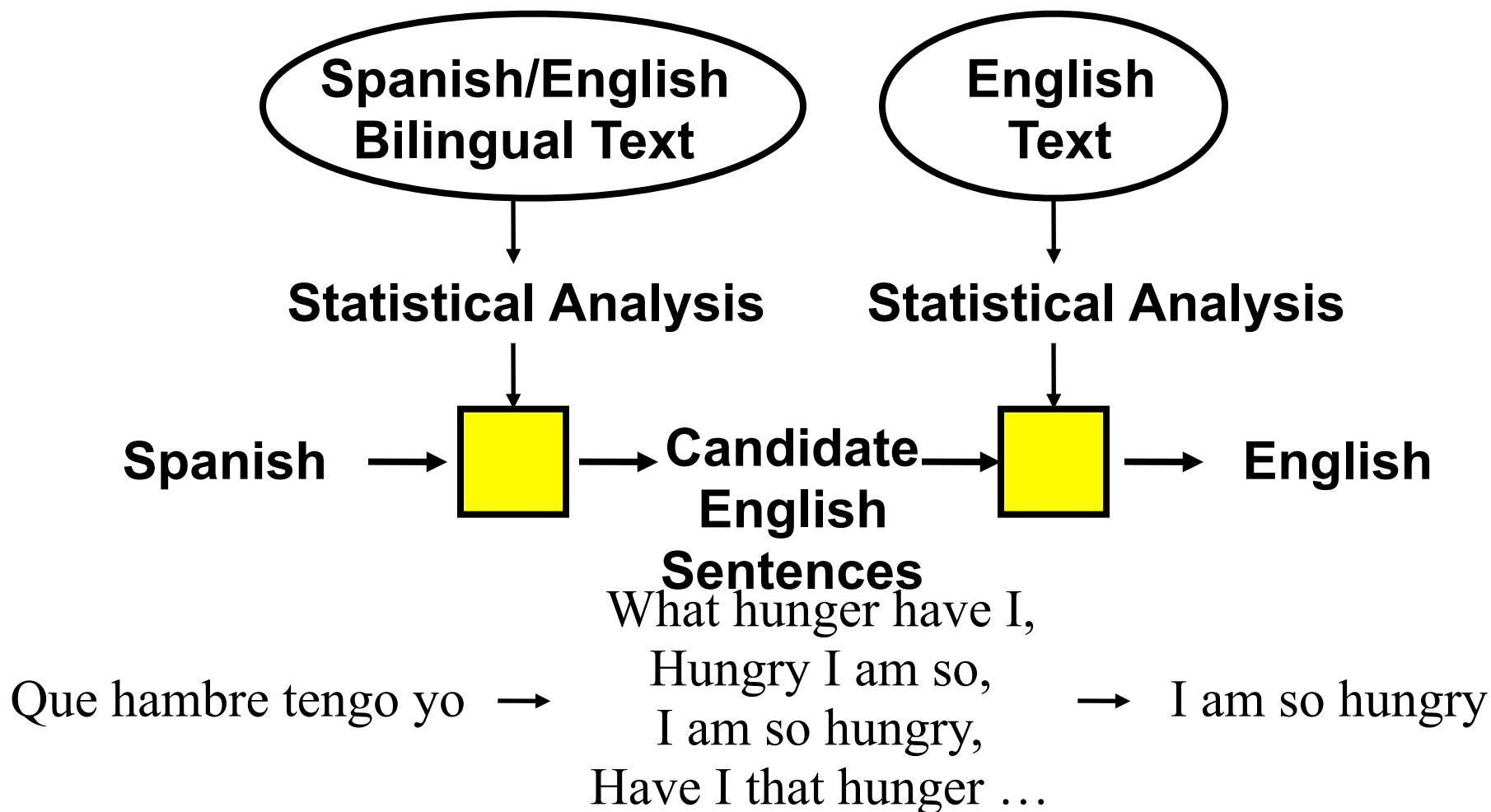
Translate this from Centauri to Arcturan:
lalok mok farok kantok ok-yurp crrrok hihok yorok klok jok

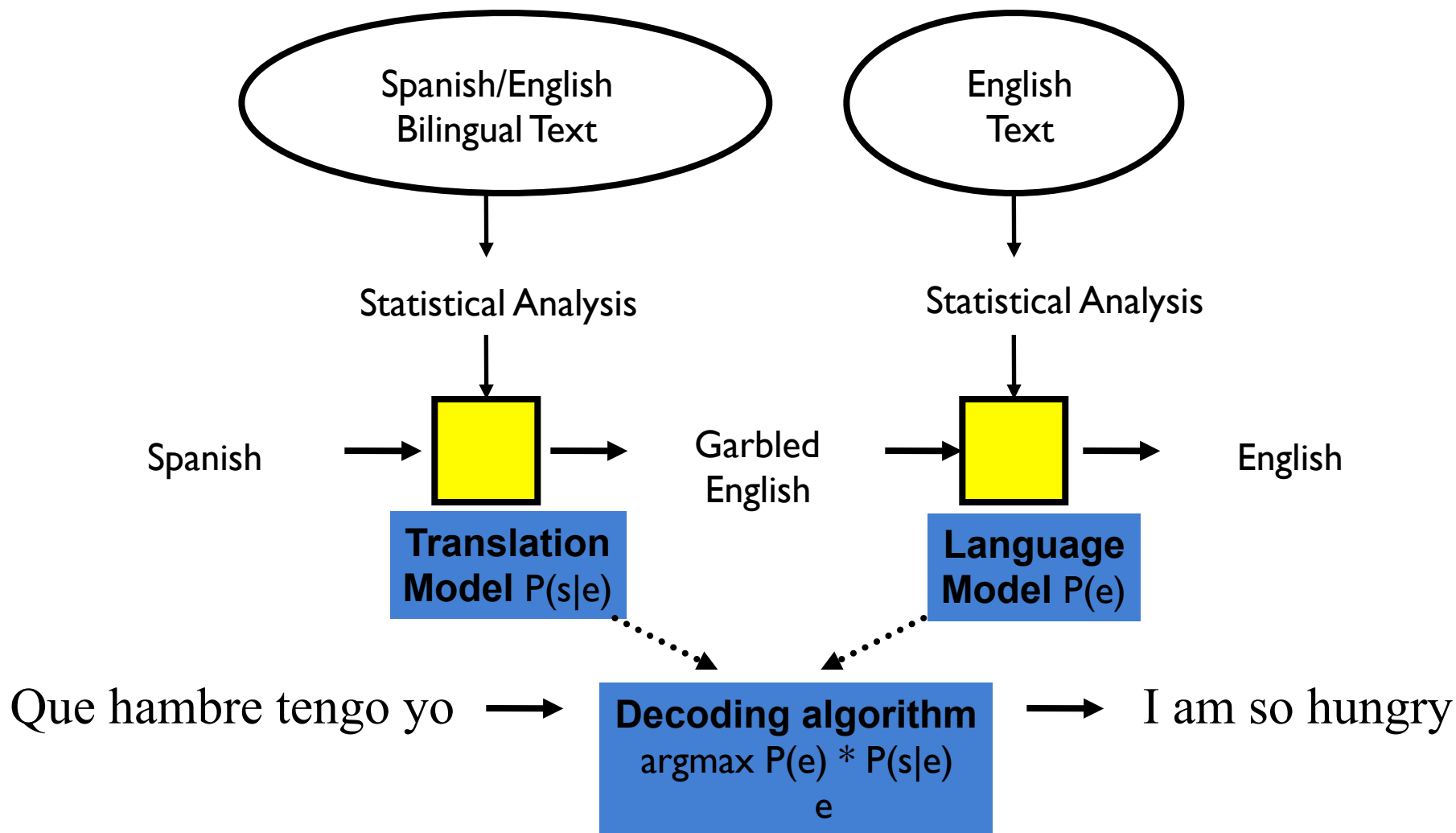
English/Spanish Parallel Corpus [Knight, 1997]

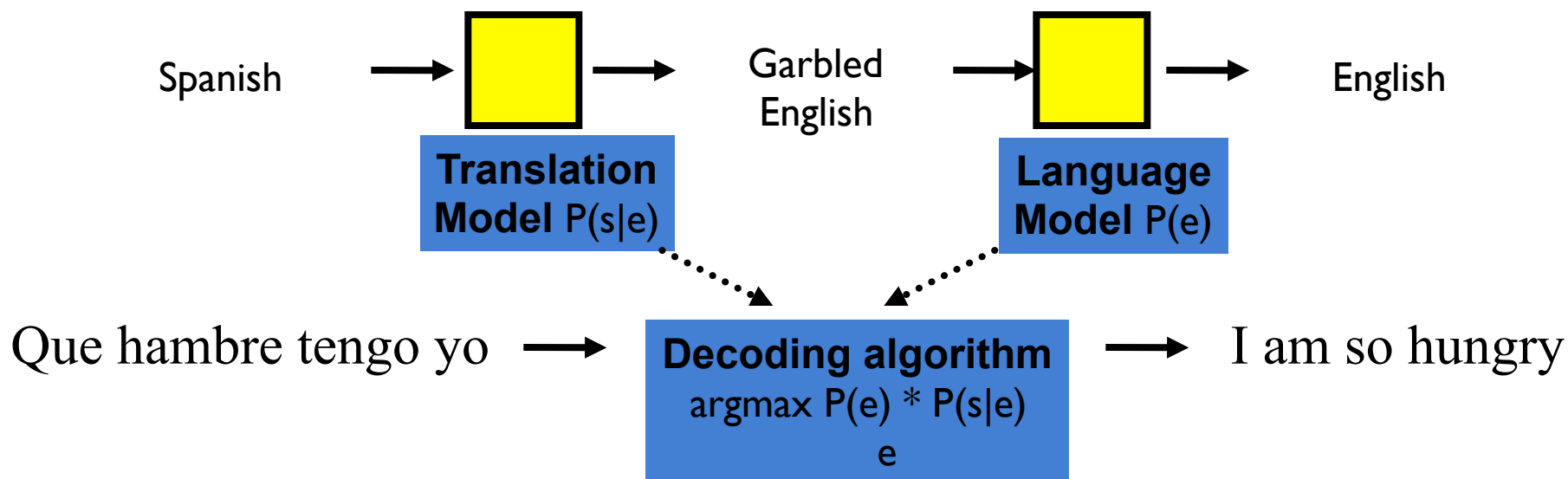


1a. Garcia and associates .	7a. the clients and the associates are enemies .
1b. Garcia y asociados .	7b. los clientes y los asociados son enemigos .
2a. Carlos Garcia has three associates .	8a. the company has three groups .
2b. Carlos Garcia tiene tres asociados.	8b. la empresa tiene tres grupos .
3a. his associates are not strong .	9a. its groups are in Europe .
3b. sus asociados no son fuertes .	9b. sus grupos estan en Europa .
4a. Garcia has a company also .	10a. the modern groups sell strong pharmaceuticals.
4b. Garcia tambien tiene una empresa .	10b. los grupos modernos venden medicinas fuertes .
5a. its clients are angry .	11a. the groups do not sell zenzanine .
5b. sus clientes estan enfadados.	11b. los grupos no venden zanzanina .
6a. the associates are also angry .	12a. the small groups are not modern.
6b. los asociados tambien estan enfadados.	12b. los grupos pequenos no son modernos .

Translate this from English to Spanish:
the modern clients in Europe do not sell pharmaceuticals also .







Given a source sentence s , the decoder should consider many possible translations ... and return the target string e that maximizes

$$P(e | s)$$

By Bayes Rule, we can also write this as:

$$P(e) \times P(s | e) / P(s)$$

and maximize that instead. $P(s)$ never changes while we compare different e 's, so we can equivalently maximize this:

$$P(e) \times P(s | e)$$

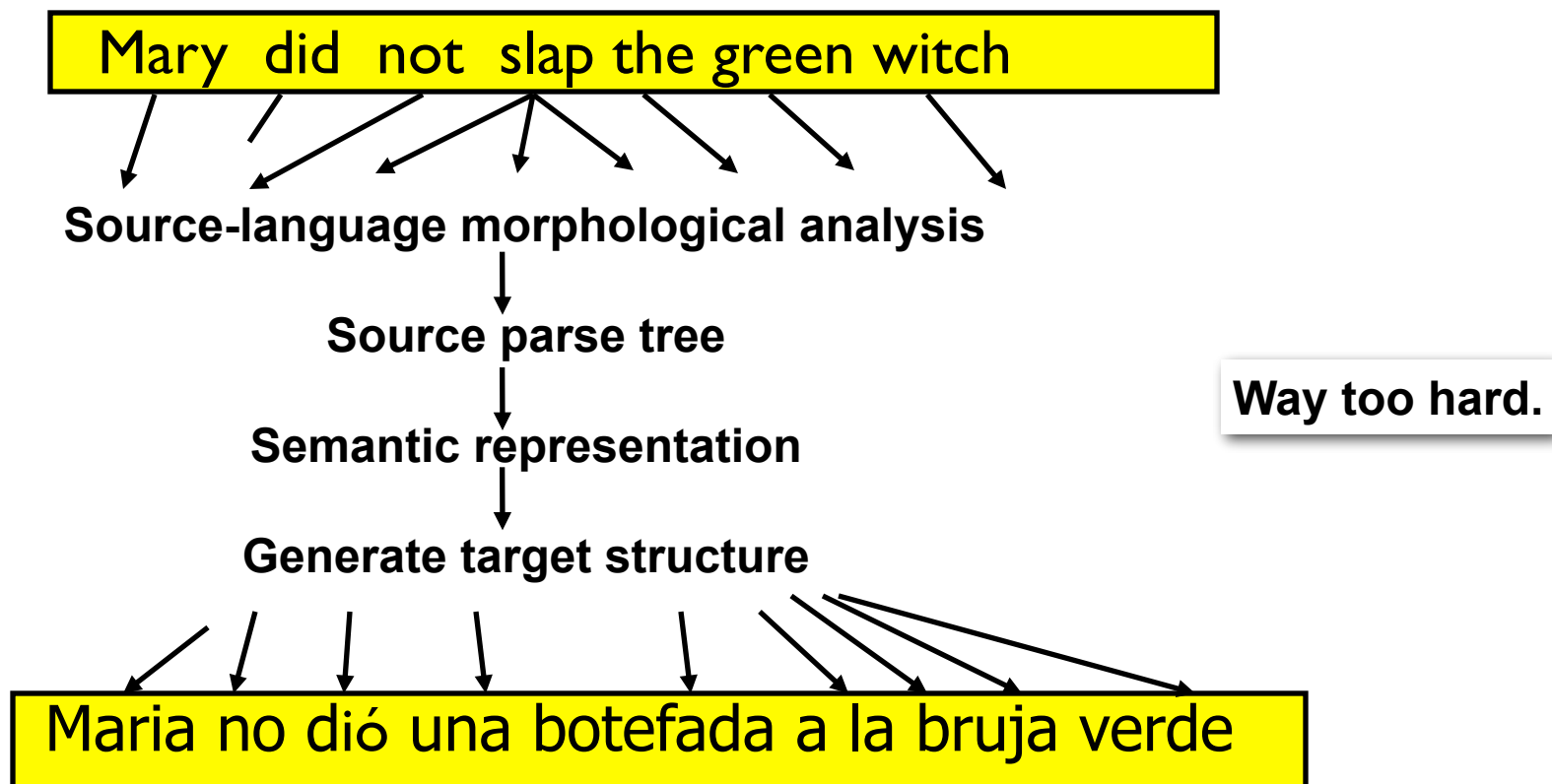
Three Sub-Problems of Statistical MT



- Language model
 - ♦ Given an English string e , assigns $P(e)$ by formula
 - ♦ good English string \rightarrow high $P(e)$
 - ♦ random word sequence \rightarrow low $P(e)$
- Translation model
 - ♦ Given a pair of strings $\langle f, e \rangle$, assigns $P(f | e)$ by formula
 - ♦ $\langle f, e \rangle$ look like translations \rightarrow high $P(f | e)$
 - ♦ $\langle f, e \rangle$ don't look like translations \rightarrow low $P(f | e)$
- Decoding algorithm
 - ♦ Given a language model, a translation model, and a new sentence f
... find translation e maximizing $P(e) * P(f | e)$



Generative story:

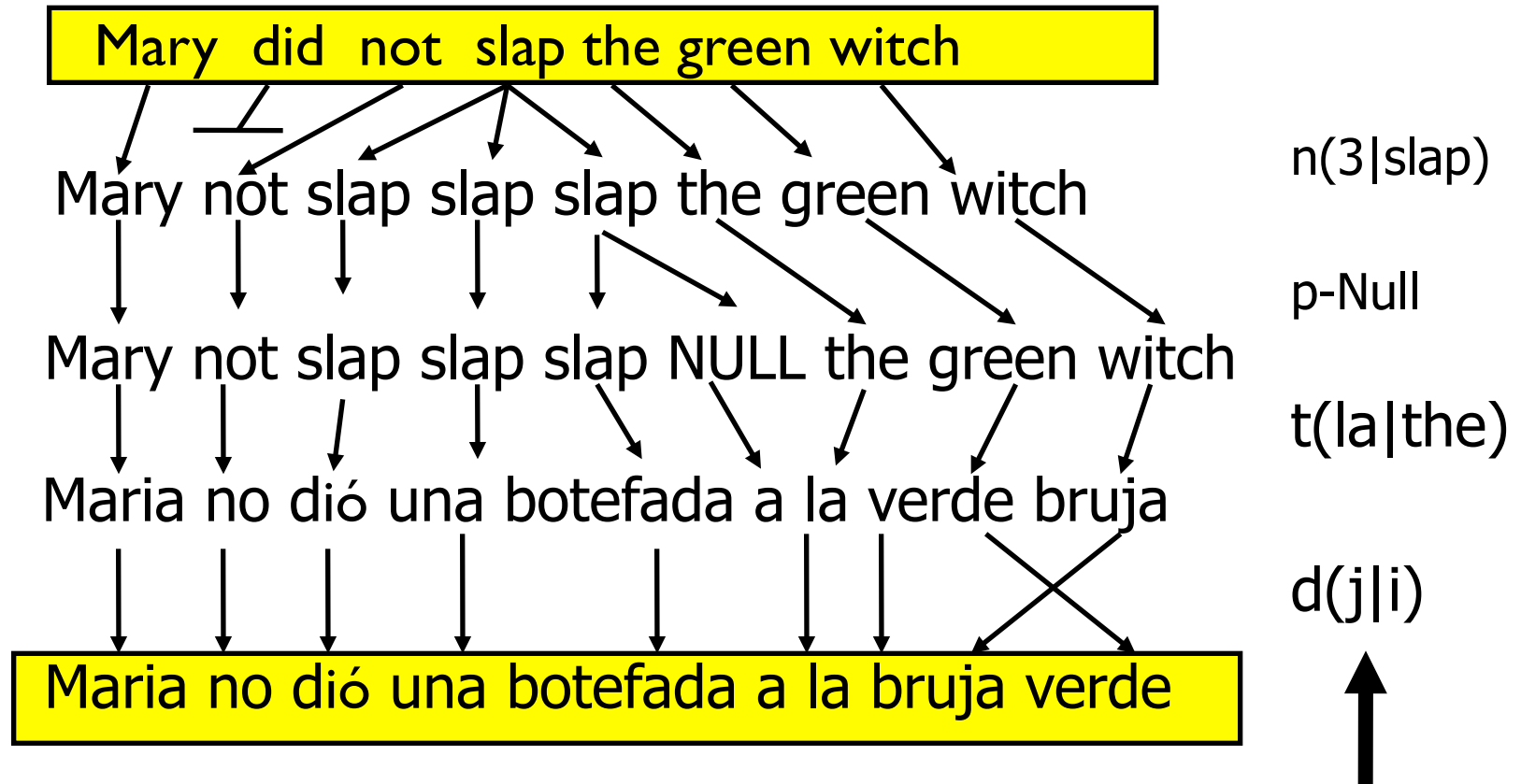


The Classic Translation Model



Word Substitution/Permutation [IBM Model 3, Brown et al., 1993]

Generative story:





- We need probabilities for
 - ◆ $n(x|y)$: The probability that word y will yield x outputs in the translation... (fertility)
 - ◆ p_{null} : The probability of a null insertion
 - ◆ $t(t_{\text{word}} | s_{\text{word}})$: The actual word translation probability table; the probability of a target word given a source word.
 - ◆ $d(j|i)$ the probability that a word at position i will make an appearance at position j in the translation
- ◆ Every one of these can be learned from a word aligned corpus.
- ◆ We'll look at how to determine the translation probabilities.

Translation probabilities from word-aligned parallel texts.



- Say you had the English/Portuguese parallel corpus given below.
- The words can be aligned such that the English words expressing a concept are connected to the Portuguese words expressing the same concept.

1a. is he tall ?

1b. ele e alto ?

Diagram showing word alignment for example 1. A vertical line connects 'is' to 'e' and another vertical line connects 'tall' to 'alto'. An 'X' is drawn over the word 'he' in both sentences, indicating it is not aligned with any word in the Portuguese sentence.

2a. I saw you when you were walking in the tall building .

2b. eu te vi quando voce estava andando no predio alto .

Diagram showing word alignment for example 2. Vertical lines connect 'I' to 'eu', 'saw' to 'vi', 'when' to 'quando', 'you' to 'voce', 'were' to 'estava', 'walking' to 'andando', 'in' to 'no', 'the' to 'predio', and 'tall' to 'alto'. An 'X' is drawn over the word 'building' in sentence 2a, indicating it is not aligned with any word in the Portuguese sentence.

3a. is the tall dog that is with you yours ?

3b. o cachorro alto que esta com voce e seu ?

Diagram showing word alignment for example 3. A single long line connects the words 'is the tall dog that is with you yours' in sentence 3a to the words 'o cachorro alto que esta com voce e seu' in sentence 3b. This indicates that the entire English phrase is aligned with the entire Portuguese phrase, with no individual word-to-word alignments shown.

Translation probabilities from word-aligned parallel texts.



- The probability of a Portuguese word given an English word can simply be read off the alignments.

1a. is he tall ?

2a. I saw you when you were walking in the tall building .

1b. ele e alto ?

2b. eu te vi quando voce estava andando no predio alto .

3a. is the tall dog that is with you yours ?

3b. o cachorro alto que esta com voce e seu ?

$$p(f=\text{"ele"} | e=\text{"he"}) = 1/1 = 1.0$$

$$p(f=\text{"voce"} | e=\text{"you"}) = ??$$

$$p(f=\text{"alto"} | e=\text{"tall"}) = 3/3 = 1.0$$

$$p(f=\text{"e"} | e=\text{"is"}) = 2/3 = .67$$

$$p(f=\text{"esta"} | e=\text{"is"}) = 1/3 = .33$$

Note: .67 + .33 = 1.0



- Every one of these can be learned from a sentence aligned corpus...
 - ♦ I.e. A corpus where sentences are paired but nothing else is specified
 - ♦ And the EM algorithm



- Word alignments require human annotation (costs money), so we'd prefer to learn model parameters without them.
- But, this is a type of chicken-and-egg problem:
 - if we have word alignments we can estimate the parameters of the model
 - if we have parameters, we can estimate the word alignments
- The answer: the expectation-maximization algorithm applied to sentence aligned parallel texts.



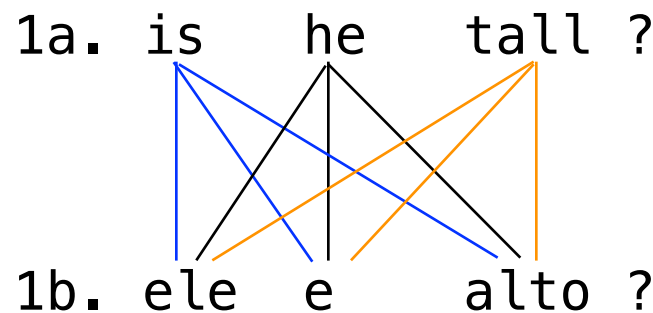
- The EM algorithm works forwards and backwards to estimate the model parameters:

1. initialize model parameters (e.g. uniform or random)
2. (re-)assign probabilities to the missing data
3. (re-)estimate model parameters from completed data (weighted counts)
4. iterate, i.e., repeat steps 2 & 3 until you hit some stopping point

- The k-means algorithm we looked at for authorship attribution is actually a form of EM.
- We guessed at initial centroids.
- We then re-estimated the centroids based on the how the initial centroids clustered the data.

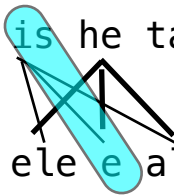


- We assume that sentences are aligned.
- We treat each sentence as an unordered collection of words (the bag-of-words we've seen before).
- We use a simple heuristic to generate initial translation probabilities: If a word appears in a sentence, then we act as if it is aligned with every word in the translated sentence.
- Here's what it looks like:



Translation probabilities from sentence-aligned parallel texts.



1a.  is he tall ? 2a. I saw you when you were walking in the tall building .

1b. ele e alto ? 2b. eu te vi quando voce estava andando no predio alto .

3a. is the tall dog that is with you yours ?

3b. o cachorro alto que esta com voce seu ?

Examples

$$p(f=\text{"ele"} | e=\text{"he"}) = 1/3 = .33$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(f=\text{"e"} | e=\text{"is"}) \\ = (1+1+1)/(3+9+9) = 3/21 = .14 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(f=\text{"ele"} | e=\text{"is"}) \\ = 1/(3+9+9) = 1/21 = .05 \end{aligned}$$

Is that right?!

Answer: it isn't right or wrong -- what matters is (1) relative probability and (2) this is just a starting point!

There is a simple refinement to make these values better. Can you spot it?

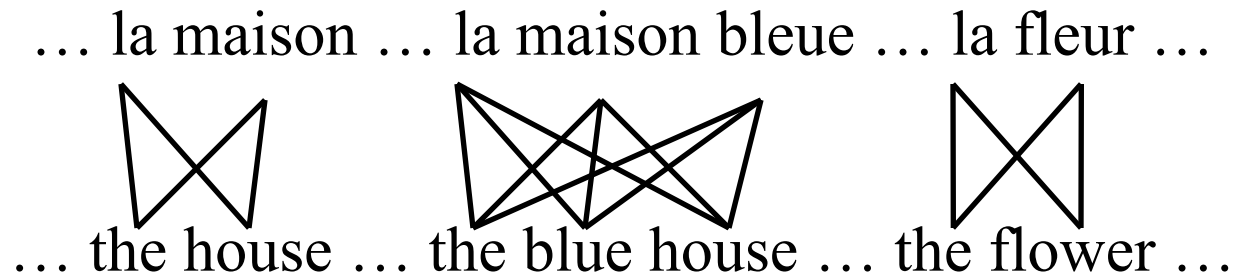
Answer: use counts that encode the length of the sentence so that short sentences are more convincing evidence of translation equivalence, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} p(f=\text{"e"} | e=\text{"is"}) \\ = (1/3 + 1/9 + 1/9)/(3/3 + 9/9 + 9/9) \\ = (5/9) / 3 \\ = 5/27 \\ = .19 \end{aligned}$$

(This won't be on the test, but forms the basis for what we'll discuss next.)



- With more sentences, the probability of the correct translations will rise, because words and their translations are more likely to co-occur in sentence pairs than are random word pairs.
 - E.g., *e* and *esta* will tend to occur more often, compared to *e/le* “he”, *eu* “I”, *voce* “you”, etc., in sentences whose translation includes “is”.
- Also, these are just initial weights for the EM procedure, which will iteratively re-estimate them and converge to much better values.
- A high-level view of this is given in the following slides.



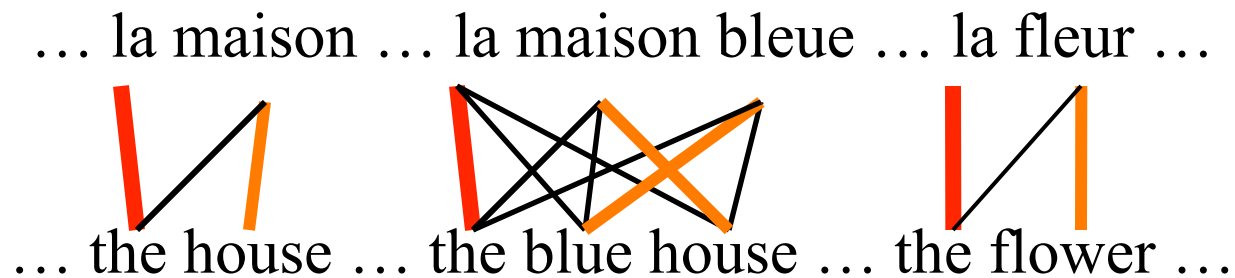
- Assume that All word alignments equally likely.
- That is, that all $P(\text{french-word} \mid \text{english-word})$ are equal
- Recall that we want $P(f|e)$



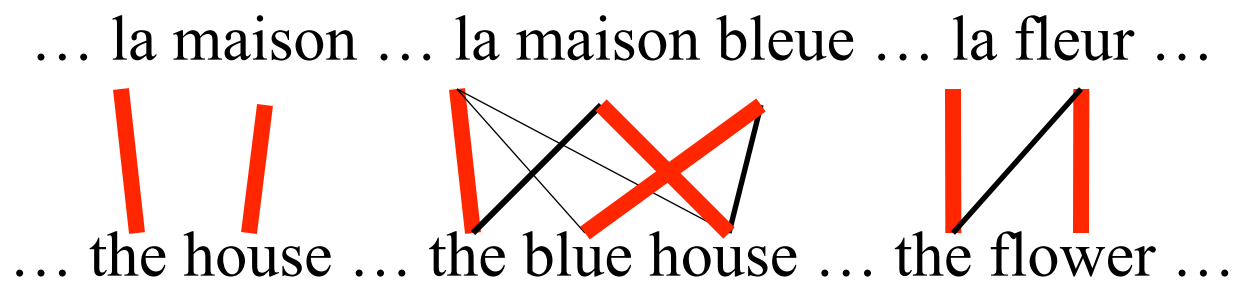
... la maison ... la maison bleue ... la fleur ...

... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...

“la” and “the” observed to co-occur frequently,
so $P(\text{la} \mid \text{the})$ is increased.



Connections between e.g. fleur and flower are more likely (pigeon hole principle).

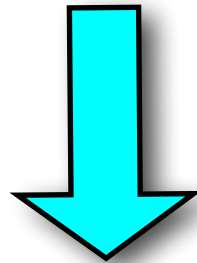


settling down after another iteration



Inherent hidden structure revealed by EM training!

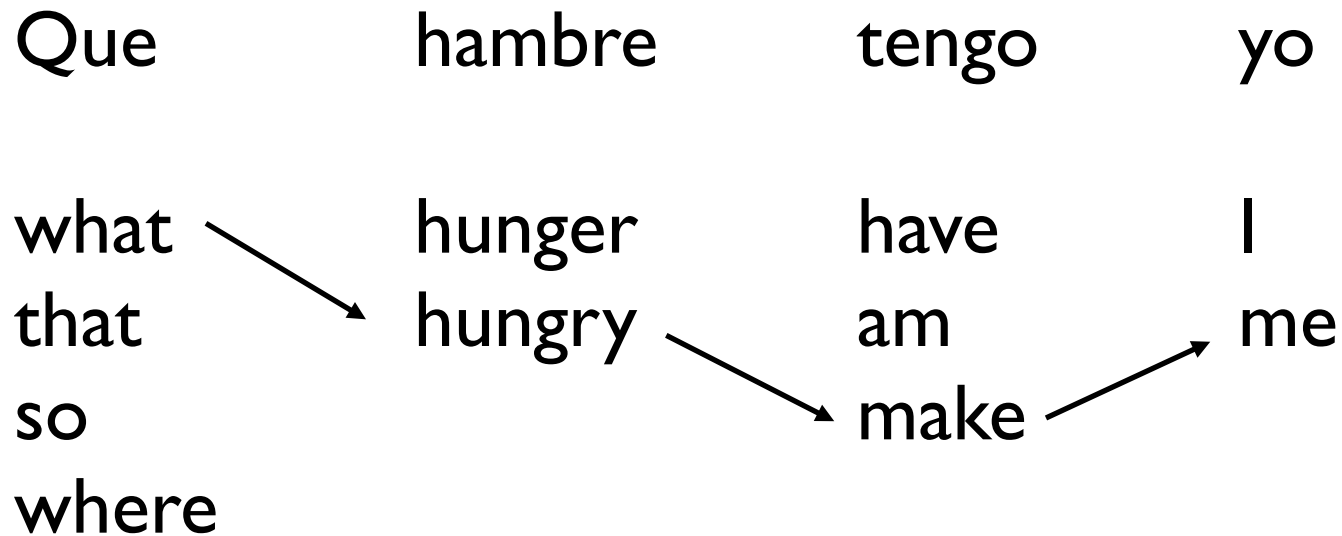
... la maison ... la maison bleue ... la fleur ...
... the house ... the blue house ... the flower ...



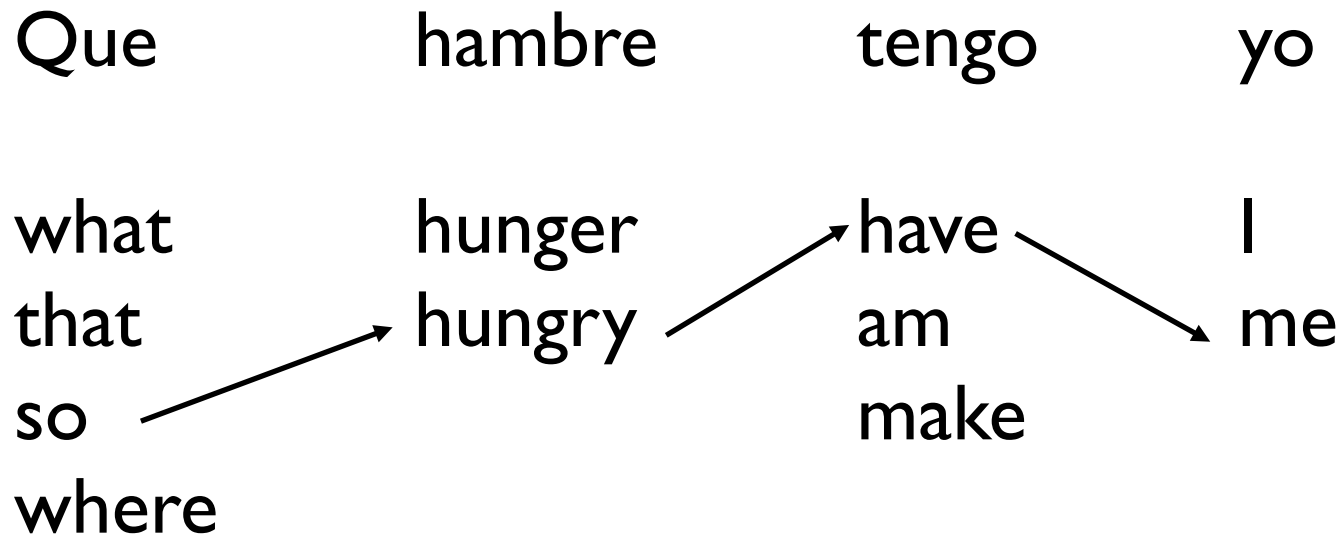
$$\begin{aligned}p(\text{la}|\text{the}) &= 0.453 \\p(\text{le}|\text{the}) &= 0.334 \\p(\text{maison}|\text{house}) &= 0.876 \\p(\text{bleu}|\text{blue}) &= 0.563\end{aligned}$$



- Given a sentence alignment we can induce a word alignment
- Given that word alignment we can get the p, t, d and n parameters we need for the model.
- ie. We can $\text{argmax } P(f|e)$ by max over $P(f|e) * P(e) \dots$ and we can do that by iterating over some large space of possibilities.



what hungry make me



so hungry have me



Que	hambre	tengo	yo
what	hunger	have	I
that	hungry	am	me
so		make	
where			

what hunger have I



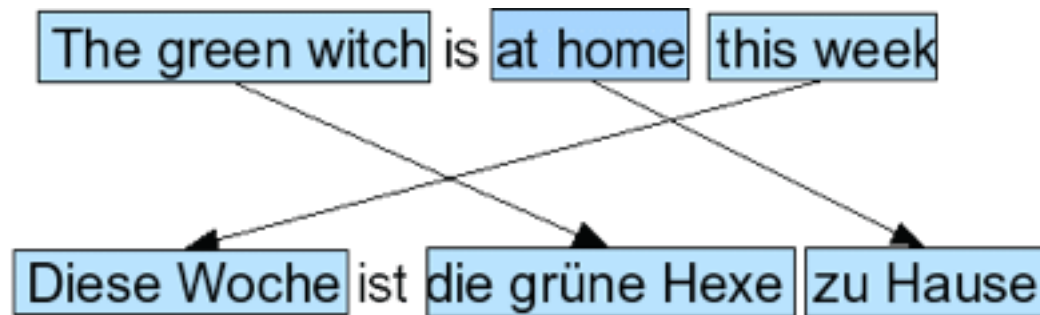
Que	hambre	tengo	yo
what	hunger	have	I
that	hungry	am	me
so		make	
where			

Arrows indicate word relationships: from 'hunger' to 'so', from 'hungry' to 'so', and from 'I' to 'am'.

I am so hungry



- Multiple English words for one French word
 - ♦ IBM models can do one-to-many (fertility) but not many-to-one
- Phrasal Translation
 - ♦ “real estate”, “note that”, “interest in”
- Syntactic Transformations
 - ♦ Languages with differing word orders (SVO vs. VSO)
 - ♦ Translation model penalizes any proposed re-ordering
 - ♦ Language model not strong enough to force the verb to move to the right place



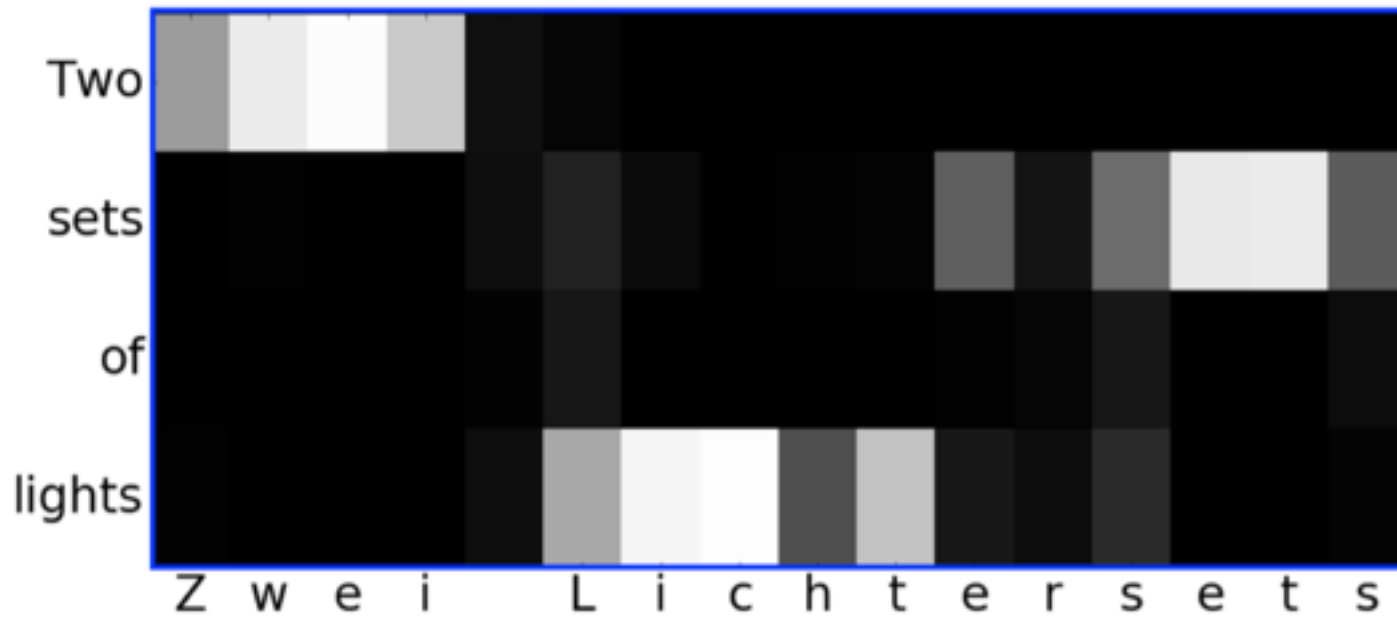
- Generative story has three steps
 - 1) Group words into phrases
 - 2) Translate each phrase
 - 3) Move the phrases around



- Many-word-to-many-word translations can handle non-compositional phrases (e.g., “real estate”)
- Local context is very useful for disambiguating
 - ♦ “Interest rate” → ...
 - ♦ “Interest in” → ...
- The more data, the longer the learned phrases
 - ♦ Sometimes whole sentences
 - Interesting parallel to concatenative synthesis for TTS



- New MT architectures are now coming out that use deep learning and operate at the level of characters.
- Advantages: words are no longer unanalyzable chunks, and overall system has fewer components.

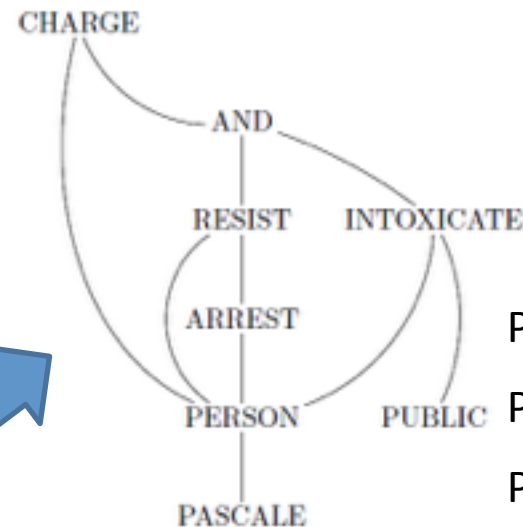
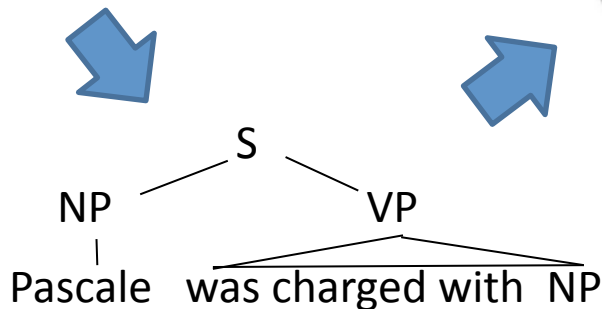


Character-level alignments: Chung et al (2016), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1603.06147>

Lots of Progress, But ...

- Machines make lots of errors
- Machines need a **deeper understanding** of what they read and hear

Pascale was charged with public intoxication and resisting arrest.



Pascale was charged

Pascale was intoxicated (?)

Pascale was resisting (?)

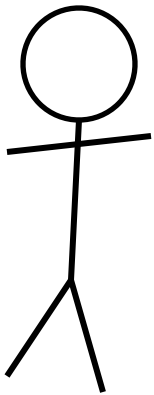
Pascale was being arrested

Things We Can't Do Yet

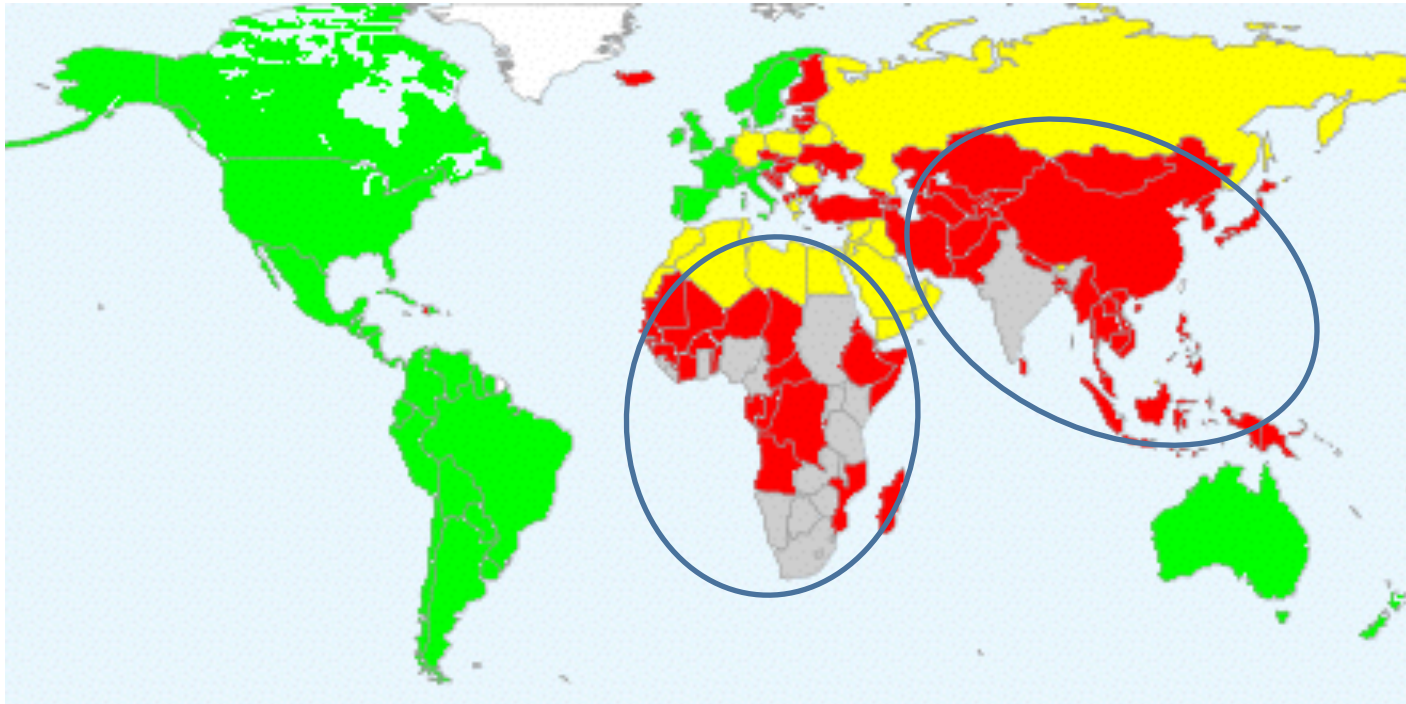
Ask that guy I had lunch with to send me the paper he mentioned.

Drive me to that Italian place in Santa Monica.

Publish my story in Bengali.



Let's Not Forget ...



- Good machine translation
- Passable translation
- Poor translation



- Translation can go dramatically wrong even with humans



The Welsh text says:

I am not in the office at the moment. Send any work to be translated.