#### LARGE-SCALE LANGUAGE GROUNDING WITH VISION

Yejin Choi Computer Science & Engineering WUNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON





HAL (a space odyssey, 1968)

- David Stork (HAL's Legacy, 1998)

"Imagine, for example, a computer that could look at an arbitrary scene anything from a sunset over a fishing village to Grand Central Station at rush hour and produce a verbal description.

This is a problem of overwhelming difficulty, relying as it does on finding solutions to both vision and language and then integrating them.

I suspect that scene analysis will be one of the last cognitive tasks to be performed well by computers"







## Language grounding with vision

- Understanding the meaning of language with perceptual signals
- What does red mean?
  - red --- having a color resembling that of blood
- What does blood mean?
  - blood the red fluid that circulates through the heart...
- red :=
- Not just words, but phrases and sentences.

#### Not just words, but descriptions

• "playing a soccer" vs. "playing a piano"



## "enjoying the ride"













### Automatic Image Captioning

Can be useful for:

- Al agent that can see and talk
- automatic summary of your photo album
- image search with complex natural language queries
  - e.g., find all images with a man with a backpack entering a red car
- equal web access for visually impaired



"In the middle of flickering pages of action comics, appears the logo 'Marvel' in bold letters."

- from the opening credit of "Daredevil"

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In this painting, dozens of irises rise up in waves of color, like green and blue flames fanned by a wind that blows them, now flattens them, ... On the left, a solitary white iris commands the swirl of purple and green from its outpost ...

- example from artbeyondsight.org

### How to obtain rich annotations?

- Label them all (by asking human workers)
  - Flickr 30K
  - MSR CoCo --- 100K images with 5 captions each
- Learn from data in the wild
  - Facebook alone has over 250 billion images as of Jun 2013, with 350 million images added daily by over 1 billion users
  - Flickr has over 2 billion images
  - Data available at a significantly larger scale
  - And significantly noisier

# Example annotations in the CoCo dataset



- the man, the young girl, and dog are on the surfboard.
- a couple of people and a dog in the water.
- people and a dog take a ride on a surfboard
- a man holding a woman and a dog riding the same surfboard.
- a man holding a woman by her inner thighs on top of a surfboard over a small dog in a pink life jacket in the ocean.

#### Flickr captions are noisier (some better examples)



- Dad, daughter and doggie tandem surf ride
- I believe this was a world record with two humans and 7 dogs...

- Oh no... here we go
- Surrounded by splash
- Pulling through
- Tada!
- Nani having a good time
- Digging deep

## Learning from data in the wild

Deja Image-caption corpus (NAACL 2015):

- Of 750 million pairs of image-caption pairs from Flickr
- Retain only those captions that are repeated verbatim by more than one user
- Yielding 4 million images with 180K unique captions



#### Related Work

Compose using detected words + hallucinated words

- Yang et al. (2011)
- Li et al. (2011)
- Kuznetsova et al. (2012)
- Elliot and Keller (2013)
- Mitchell et al (2012)

Generation as whole sentence retrieval

- Farhadi et al. (2010)
- Ordonez et al. (2011)
- Socher et al. (2013)
- Hodosh et al. (2013)

Compose using retrieved text

- Kuznetsova et al. (2012)
- Mason (2013)
- Feng and Lapata (2013)

#### Deep learning variants

- Kiros et al 2014
- Fang et al 2015
- Chen et al 2015
- Xu et al 2015

Donahue et al. 2015 Karpathy et al 2015 Mao et al 2014 Vinyals et al 2015

More precise CVPR<sup>2011</sup> CONUL 201' Fixed/small vocabulary Fixed / formulaic language ACL 2012, ACL 2013, TACL 2014 TACL 2014 Open vocabulary Everyday people's language

Compose using only detected words

- Yao et al. (2010)
- Kulkarni et al. (2011)
- Yatkar et al (2014)
- Thomason et al (2014)
- Guadarrama et al (2013)

#### Plan for the talk

- BabyTalk
  - [CVPR 2011]
- TreeTalk
  - [TACL 2014, ACL 2013, ACL 2012]





"This picture shows one person,



"This picture shows one person, one grass,



"This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair,



"This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair, and one potted plant.



"This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair, and one potted plant. The person is near the green grass,



"This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair, and one potted plant. The person is near the green grass, and in the chair.



"This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair, and one potted plant. The person is near the green grass, and in the chair. The green grass is by the chair, and near the potted plant."

### Methodology Overview



Input Imag



This is a photograph of one person and one brown sofa and one dog. The person is against the brown sofa. And the dog is near the person, and beside the

#### Conditional Random Fields (CRF)





( binary & ternary) potentials  $\psi$ (attribute\_*i*,object\_*i*)  $\psi$ (object\_*i*,preposition\_*ij*,object\_*j*)





<u>Learning</u>: mixture coefficients of different types of potentials (grid search)

Inference: Tree Re-Weighted message passing (TRW-S) (Kolmogorov 2006)

unary potentials

relational ( binary & ternary) potentions  $\psi$ (object\_*i*)  $\psi$ (attribute\_*i*)  $\psi$ (preposition\_*ij*)

 $\psi$ (attribute\_*i*,object\_*i*)  $\psi$ (object\_*i*,preposition\_*ij*,object\_*j*)

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## Generation (aka "surface realization")

Template filling (traversing the graph and reading off the detected objects, attributes, and their spatial relations in sequence)



### Cherry-picked examples



This is a picture of one sky, one road and one sheep. The gray sky is over the gray road. The gray sheep is by the gray road.





Here we see one road, one sky and one bicycle. The road is near the blue sky, and near the colorful bicycle. The colorful bicycle is within the blue sky.

This is a picture of two dogs. The first dog is near the second furry dog.

#### Lemons



There are one road and one cat. The furry road is in the furry cat.



This is a picture of one tree, one road and one person. The rusty tree is under the red road. The colorful person is near the rusty tree, and under the red road.

#### Computer vs Human Generated Caption



Computer: "This picture shows one person, one grass, one chair, and one potted plant. The person is near the green grass, and in the chair. The green grass is by the chair, and near the potted plant."

#### Human (UIUC Pascal dataset):

- A. A Lemonaide stand **is manned by** a blonde child with a cookie.
- B. A small child at a lemonade and cookie stand **on a city corner.**
- C. Young child behind lemonade stand eating a cookie.

## (1) formulaic, robotic and unnatural(2) limited semantic expressiveness, especially, no verb except "be" verb



# How can we reduce the gap between these two?

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Two Challenges:

recognition: we don't have descriptive-verb recognizers at scale.

 e.g., "attracted\_recognizer", "feeding\_on\_recognizer"
 formalism: not easy for humans to formalize all these variations of meanings in symbolic meaning representation and annotate them



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Reflection on BabyTalk:

Humans decide

{what can be described} = {what can be recognized}



#### Web in 1995



day so please come offen. **ONE MILLION TITLES** 

Search Amazon.com's million title catalog by author, subject, title, keyword, and more ... Or take a look at the books we recommend in over 20 categories. Check out our customer reviews and the award winners from the Hugo and Nebula to the Pulitzer and Nobel ... and bestsellers are 30% off the publishers list.

#### EYES & EDITORS, A PERSONAL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

Like to know when that book you want comes out in paperback or when your favorite author
## Web Today: Increasingly Visual **flickr** -- social media, news media, online shopping *Pinterest*



Facebook.com has over 250 billion images uploaded as of Jun 2013
1.15 billion users uploading 350 million images a day on average

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meanings in symbolic meaning representation and annotate them

Humans decide Reflection on BabyTalk: {what can be described} = {what can be recognized} Key Idea: {what can be described} **⊃** {what can be recognized} ~ Farhadi et al. 2010 Data decides Distributional Hypothesis (Harris 1954) "Butterfly feeding on a flower" "A butterfly having lunch"

### Plan for the talk

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### **Operational Overview**

Given a query image (& an object)

1,000,000 (image, caption)

Harvest tree branches

SBU Captioned Photo Dataset (Ordonez et al. 2011)

**2**Compose a new tree by combining tree branches

# Description Generation



# Retrieving VPs





Contented dog just laying on the edge of the road in front of a house..



Peruvian dog sleeping on city street in the city of Cusco, (Peru)

#### ~ Distributional Hypothesis (Harris 1954)

Detect: dog

Find matching detections by pose similarity

--- using color, texton, HoG and SIFT



this dog was laying in the middle of the road on a back street in jaco



Closeup of my dog sleeping under my desk.

# Retrieving PPstuff

#### Find matching regions by appearance + arrangement similarity

--- using color, texton, HoG and SIFT



#### Detect: stuff

Comfy chair under a tree.

Cordoba - lonely

orange treg

elephant under an





I positioned the chairs around the lemon tree -it's like a shrine



### **Operational Overview**

Given a query image

1 Harvest tree branches<sup>4</sup>



SBU Captioned Photo Dataset

**2** Compose a new tree by combining tree branches

### Input to Sentence Composition :=





- 1. Select a subset of harvested phrases
- 2. Decide the ordering of the selected phrases



A cow in the grass was staring at me in the countryside

A cow was staring at me in the grass in the countryside



- 1. Select a subset of harvested phrases
- 2. Decide the ordering of the selected phrases



A cow in the grass was staring at me in the countryside

A cow was staring at me in the grass in the countryside



In the grass --- was staring at me --- a cow



In the grass --- was staring at me --- a cow



In the grass --- was staring at me --- a cow



# Sentence Compositionas Constraint OptimizationIn the grass --- was starusing Integer Linear Programming



 → different from parsing because we must consider different choices of subtree selection and re-ordering simultaneously
 → finding the optimum selection+ordering = NP-hard (~= TSP)



### Sentence Composition as Constraint Optimization using Integer Linear Programming



### Sentence Composition as Constraint Optimization using Integer Linear Programming



### Sentence Composition as Constraint Optimization using Integer Linear Programming



![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### as **Constraint Optimization** using **Integer Linear Programming**

#### Constraints:

Consistency between sequence variables -----  $\alpha_{ijk}$ & tree leaf variables -----  $\beta_{ijs}$ 

$$\forall_{ijk}, \alpha_{ijk} \leq \sum_{s \in S^j} \beta_{kks}$$
$$\forall_k, \sum_{ij} \alpha_{ijk} = \sum_{s \in S} \beta_{kks}$$

#### Valid PCFG parse tree

 $\begin{aligned} &\forall_{ij}, \sum_{s \in S} \beta_{ijs} \leq 1 \\ &\forall_{i,j>i,h}, \beta_{ijh} = \sum_{k=i}^{j-1} \sum_{r \in R_h} \beta_{ijkr} \\ &\forall_{k \in [1,N)}, \sum_{s \in S} \beta_{kks} \leq \sum_{t=k}^{N-1} \sum_{s \in S} \beta_{0ts} \\ &\forall_{ij} \sum_{k} \gamma_{ijk} \leq 1 \end{aligned}$ 

#### Objective function:

$$F = \sum_{ij} F_{ij} \times \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \alpha_{ijk}$$

(Content selection ~ Visual Rec)

![](_page_58_Figure_10.jpeg)

(Sequential cohesion ~ Lang Model)

![](_page_58_Figure_12.jpeg)

#### (Tree structure ~ PCFG Model)

Decision variable:		
$lpha_{ijk}$	$\alpha_{ijkpq(k+1)}$	(Sequential)
$eta_{ijs}$	$eta_{ijkr}$	(Tree structure)

### Automatic Evaluation

![](_page_59_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Half-Successful Examples (to Motivate Tree Pruning)

![](_page_60_Picture_1.jpeg)

An old clock overlooks the old river bridge in Potes in Cantabria , Spain.

Harvested phrases contain overly extraneous information

generalize captions before extracting tree branches

Just a duck swimming in the river Des Peres in Heman Park , UNiversity City , Missouri - May 13 , 2008.

![](_page_60_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **Operational Overview**

![](_page_61_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Image Caption Generalization via Tree Compression

Optimization:  $F = \Phi$ (Visual Salience) +  $\Phi$ (Sequence Cohesion) +  $\Phi$ (Tree Structure)

![](_page_63_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Image Caption Generalization via Tree Compression

Optimization:  $F = \Phi$ (Visual Salience) +  $\Phi$ (Sequence Cohesion) +  $\Phi$ (Tree Structure)

- sentence compression with light-weight parsing
- DP algorithm possible (modification to CKY parsing)

![](_page_64_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Good Examples

![](_page_66_Picture_1.jpeg)

# The flower was so vivid and attractive.

### The duck sitting in the water.

![](_page_66_Picture_4.jpeg)

This window depicts the church.

Highly expressive!

correct choice of

an action verb

![](_page_66_Picture_7.jpeg)

Blue flowers are running rampant in my garden.

### Mini Turing Test: our system wins in ~ 24 % cases!

![](_page_67_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Picture_2.jpeg)

Spring in a white dress.

![](_page_67_Picture_4.jpeg)

Blue flowers have no scent. Small white flowers have no idea what they are.

Almost poetic, situationally relevant

![](_page_67_Picture_7.jpeg)

Scenes around the lake on my bike ride.

![](_page_67_Picture_9.jpeg)

This horse walking along the road as we drove by.

![](_page_67_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Picture_13.jpeg)

Maybe the most common bird in the neighborhood, not just the most common water fowl in the neighborhood!

![](_page_67_Picture_15.jpeg)

The duck was having a feast.

#### Examples with Mistakes

![](_page_68_Picture_1.jpeg)

The couch is definitely bigger than it looks in this photo.

![](_page_68_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Yellow ball suspended in water.

Incorrect

A high chair in

the trees.

Composition

Incorrect Object Recognition

![](_page_68_Picture_6.jpeg)

My cat laying in my duffel bag.

Incorrect Scene Matching

#### Examples with Mistakes

A cat looking for a home. The other cats are making the computer room. **???** 

![](_page_69_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_69_Picture_3.jpeg)

The castle known for being the home of Hamlet in the Shakespeare play.

### Conclusion

![](_page_71_Figure_0.jpeg)


- Start with a precise (but small) set of {what to recognize}, and increase the set
- Start with a large (but noisy) set of {what to describe}, and decrease the noise

## Future: Seeing beyond What's in the Image



- What's happening?
- How / why did this happen?
- What are the intent / goal of the participants?
- Sentiment: are they happy?
- Reaction: do we need to act on them (e.g., dispatching help)?

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