

# Learning Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics

Semantic Representations for Textual Inference Workshop – Mar. 10, 2012

Percy Liang

Google/Stanford

joint work with Michael Jordan and Dan Klein

# Motivating Problem: Question Answering

# Motivating Problem: Question Answering

*What is the largest city in California?*

# Motivating Problem: Question Answering

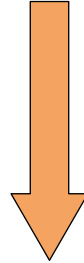
*What is the largest city in California?*

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

# Semantic Interpretation

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*



*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

?

*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

*city(c)*

*Phoenix*



# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

$\text{city}(c) \wedge \exists s.\text{state}(s) \wedge \text{loc}(c, s)$

*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

$\text{city}(c) \wedge \exists s.\text{state}(s) \wedge \text{loc}(c, s) \wedge \text{border}(s, \text{CA})$

*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \exists s.\text{state}(s) \wedge \text{loc}(c, s) \wedge \text{border}(s, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \exists s.\text{state}(s) \wedge \text{loc}(c, s) \wedge \text{border}(s, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

**computation**

*Phoenix*

# Semantic Interpretation

*What is the largest city in a state bordering California?*

?

**computation**

*Phoenix*

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

*What is the largest city in California?*



$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$



# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

## Natural Supervision (new)

*What is the largest city in California?*



*Los Angeles*

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\operatorname{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

## Natural Supervision (new)

*What is the largest city in California?*



**non-expert**

*Los Angeles*

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

## Natural Supervision (new)

- scales up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**non-expert**

*Los Angeles*

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up
- representation-dependent

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\operatorname{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

## Natural Supervision (new)

- scales up

*What is the largest city in California?*



**non-expert**

*Los Angeles*

# Supervision for Semantic Interpretation

## Detailed Supervision (current)

- doesn't scale up
- representation-dependent

*What is the largest city in California?*



**expert**

$\text{argmax}(\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{CA})\}, \text{population})$

## Natural Supervision (new)

- scales up
- representation-independent

*What is the largest city in California?*

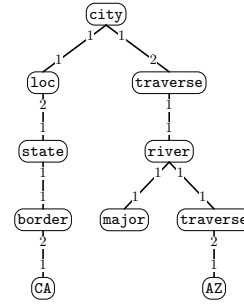


**non-expert**

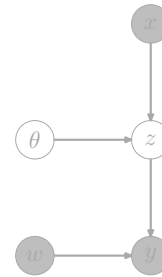
*Los Angeles*

# Outline

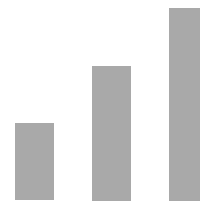
## Representation



## Learning



## Experiments



# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?



# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

$\lambda x.\text{state}(x)$

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

$\lambda x.\text{city}(x)$

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

$\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA})$

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

$\lambda x. \text{state}(x) \wedge \text{border}(x, \text{CA})$

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

`population(CA)`

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

$\text{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

*Los Angeles*

# Considerations

Computational: how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

... LF LF LF LF LF **LF** LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF **LF** ...

*Los Angeles*



# Considerations

**Computational:** how to efficiently search exponential space?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

... LF LF LF LF LF **LF** LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF LF **LF** ...

*Los Angeles*

**Statistical:** how to parametrize mapping from sentence to logical form?

*What is the most populous city in California?*

⋮

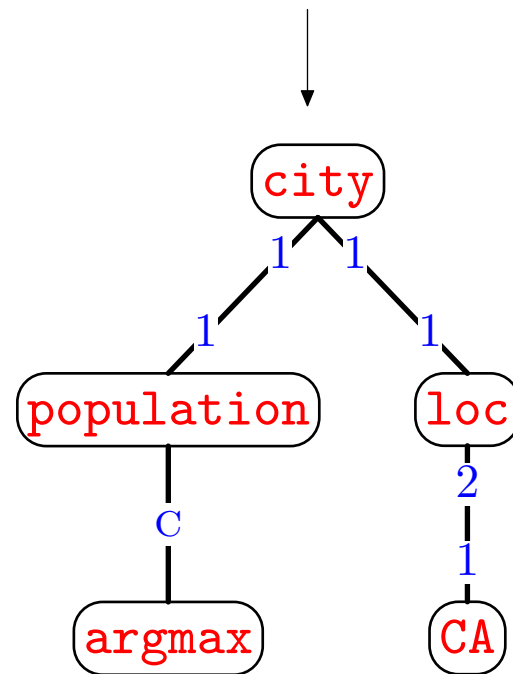
$\operatorname{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

# Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)

*What is the most populous city in California?*

# Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)

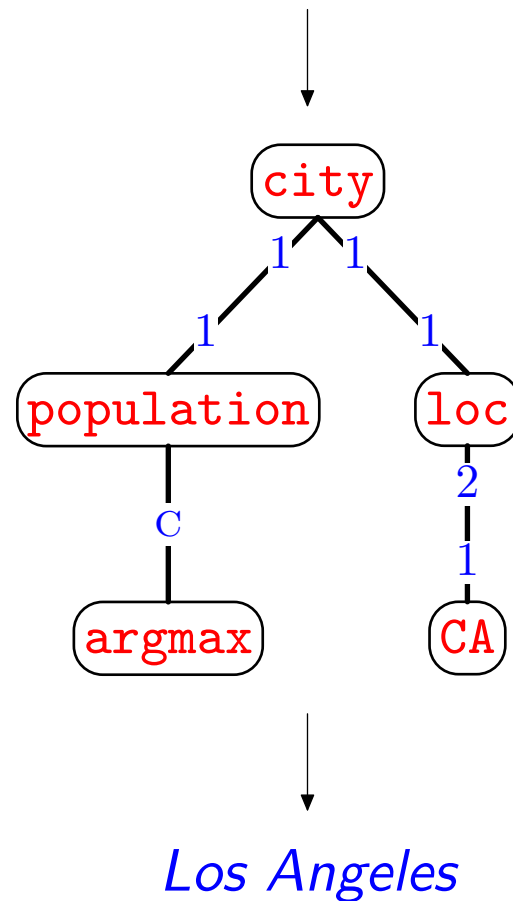
*What is the most populous city in California?*



*Los Angeles*

# Dependency-Based Compositional Semantics (DCS)

*What is the most populous city in California?*

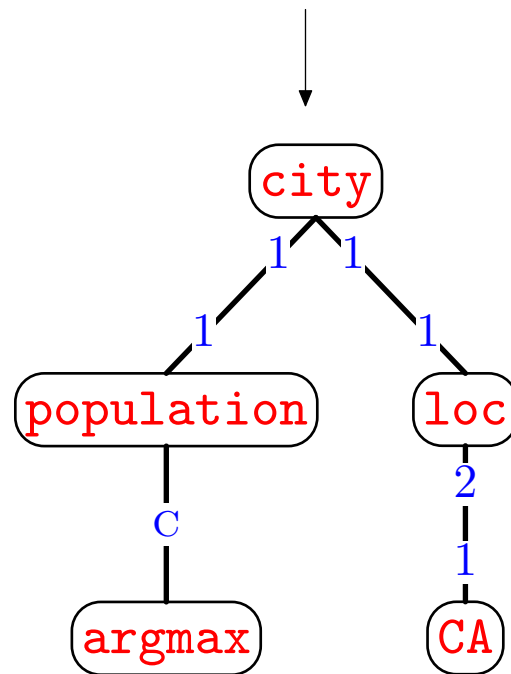


*Los Angeles*

Advantages of DCS: nice computational, statistical, linguistic properties

Where do the answers come from?

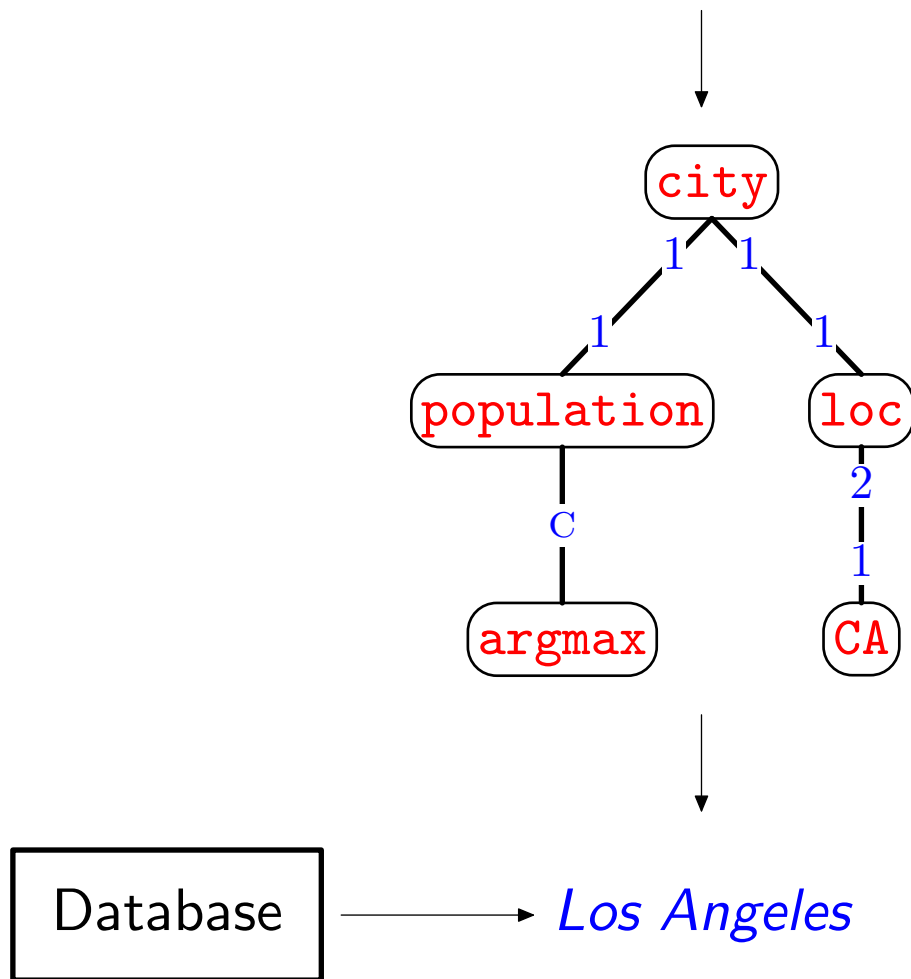
*What is the most populous city in California?*



*Los Angeles*

Where do the answers come from?

*What is the most populous city in California?*



# Database

city

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

state

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

border

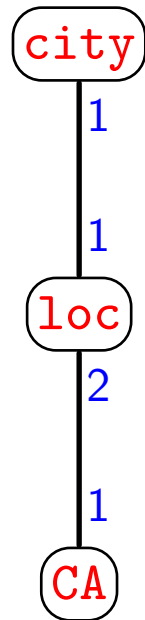
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Idaho
Oregon	Washington
...	...

...

...

# Basic DCS Trees

DCS tree



Database

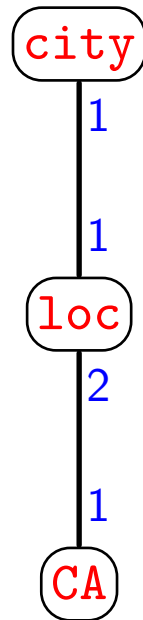


# Basic DCS Trees

DCS tree

Constraints

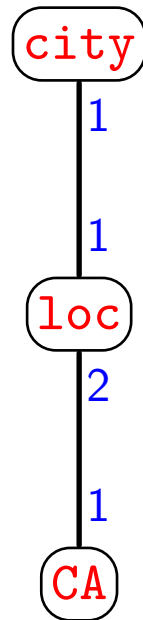
Database



A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

DCS tree



Constraints

$c \in \text{city}$

Database

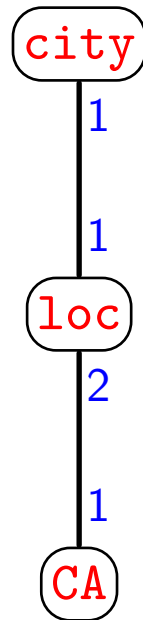
city

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$c \in \text{city}$

$l \in \text{loc}$

## Database

*city*

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

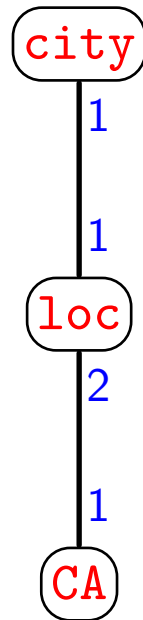
*loc*

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$c \in \text{city}$

$\ell \in \text{loc}$

$s \in \text{CA}$

## Database

city

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

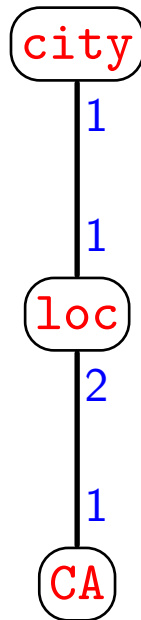
CA

California
------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$$c \in \text{city}$$

$$c_1 = l_1$$

$$l \in \text{loc}$$

$$s \in \text{CA}$$

## Database

city

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

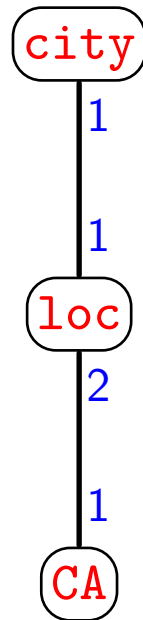
CA

California
------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$$c \in \text{city}$$

$$c_1 = l_1$$

$$l \in \text{loc}$$

$$l_2 = s_1$$

$$s \in \text{CA}$$

## Database

city

San Francisco
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

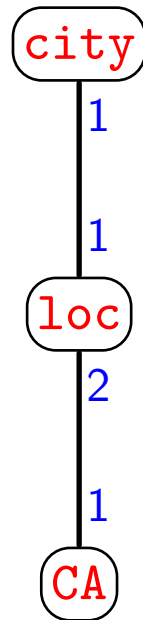
CA

California
------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$$c \in \text{city}$$

$$c_1 = l_1$$

$$l \in \text{loc}$$

$$l_2 = s_1$$

$$s \in \text{CA}$$

## Database

city

<b>San Francisco</b>
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
San Francisco	California
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

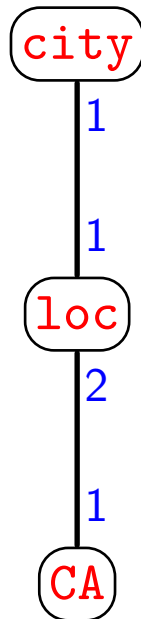
CA

California
------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$c \in \text{city}$

$c_1 = l_1$

$l \in \text{loc}$

$l_2 = s_1$

$s \in \text{CA}$

## Database

city

<b>San Francisco</b>
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>California</b>
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

CA

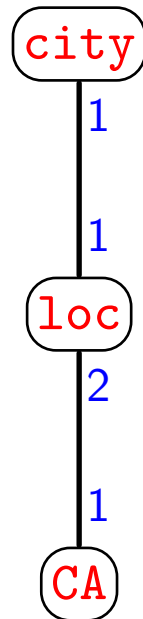
California
------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**



# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$$c \in \text{city}$$

$$c_1 = l_1$$

$$l \in \text{loc}$$

$$l_2 = s_1$$

$$s \in \text{CA}$$

## Database

city

<b>San Francisco</b>
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>California</b>
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

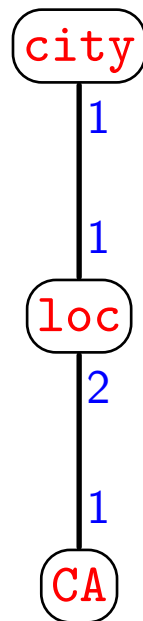
CA

<b>California</b>
-------------------

A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

# Basic DCS Trees

## DCS tree



## Constraints

$$c \in \text{city}$$

$$c_1 = l_1$$

$$l \in \text{loc}$$

$$l_2 = s_1$$

$$s \in \text{CA}$$

## Database

city

<b>San Francisco</b>
Chicago
Boston
...

loc

Mount Shasta	California
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>California</b>
Boston	Massachusetts
...	...

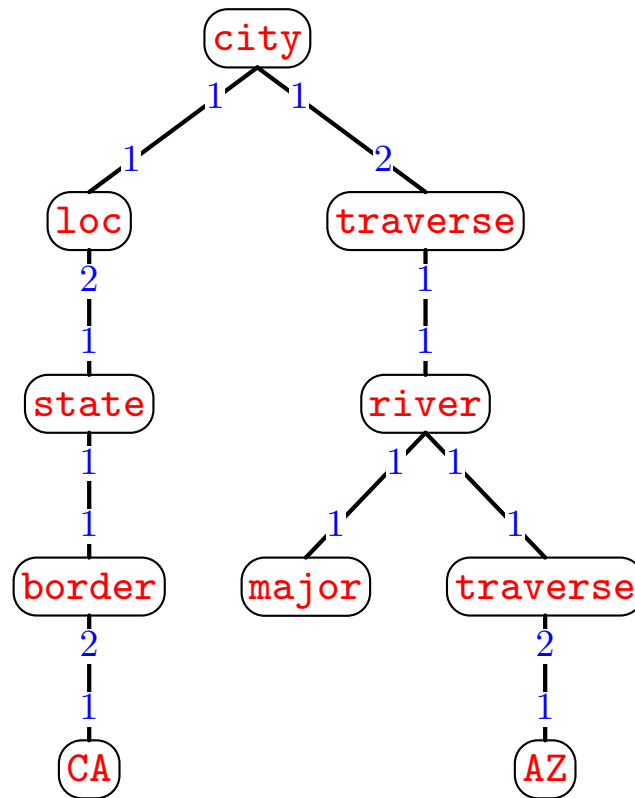
CA

**California**

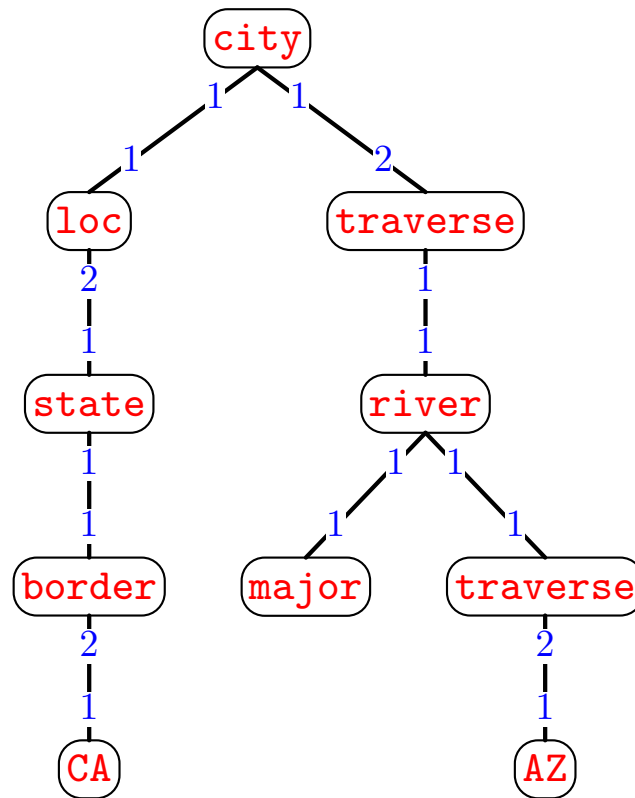
A DCS tree encodes a **constraint satisfaction problem (CSP)**

**Computation:** dynamic programming  $\Rightarrow$  time =  $O(\# \text{ nodes})$

# Properties of DCS Trees

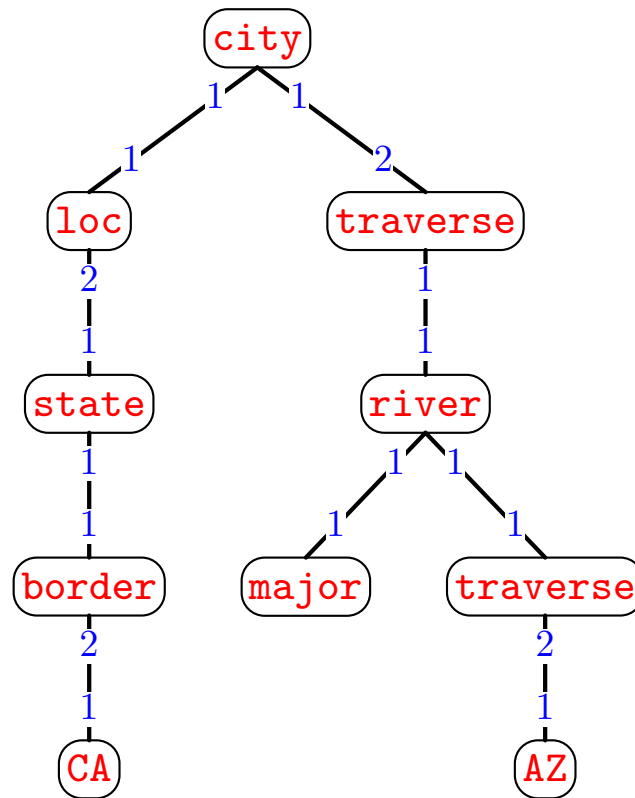


# Properties of DCS Trees



Trees

# Properties of DCS Trees

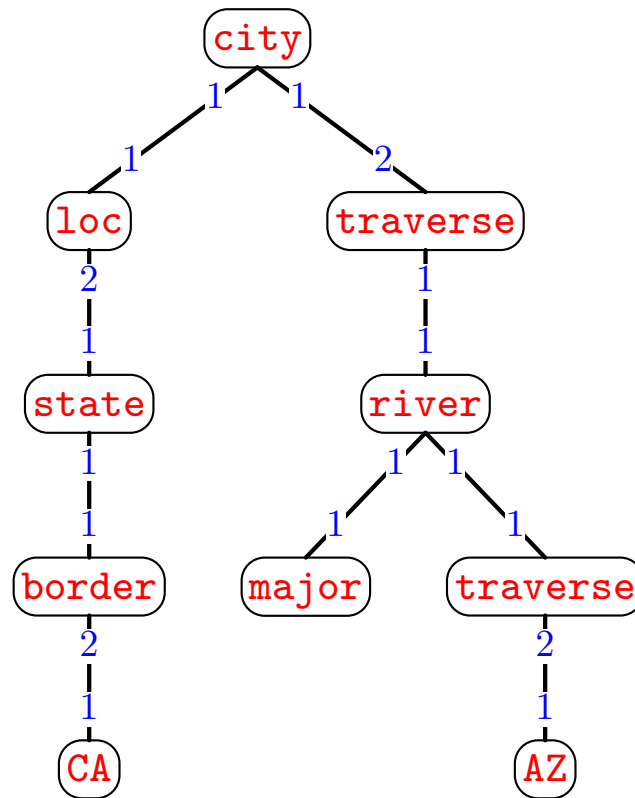


Linguistics  
syntactic locality

.....

Trees

# Properties of DCS Trees



Linguistics  
syntactic locality

.....

Trees

.....

Computation  
efficient interpretation

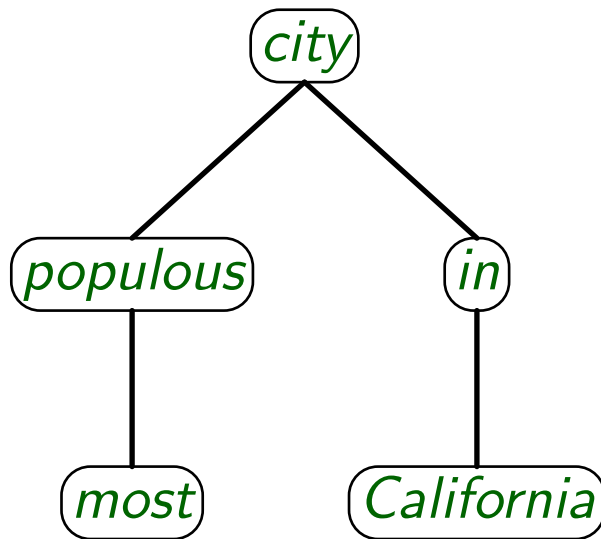
# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

**Syntax**

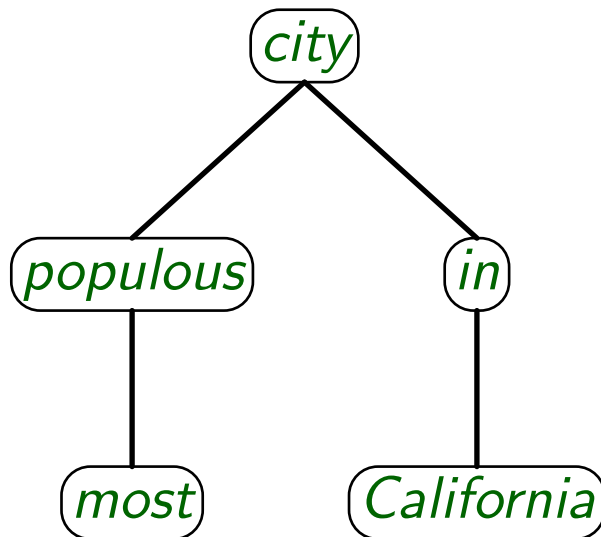




# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

**Syntax**



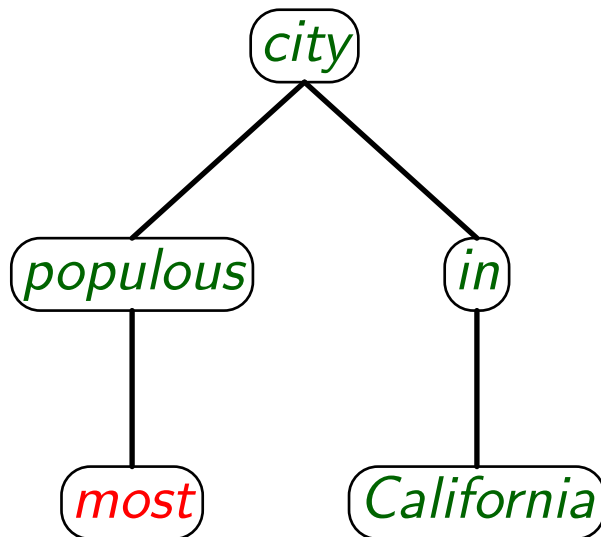
**Semantics**

$\text{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

**Syntax**



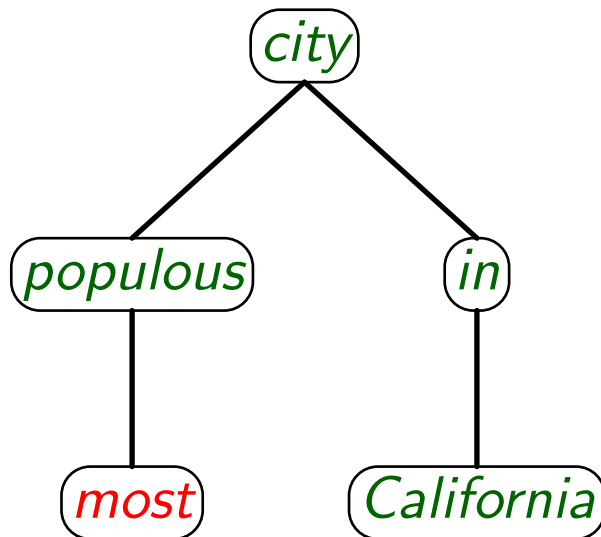
**Semantics**

$\text{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

**Syntax**



**Semantics**

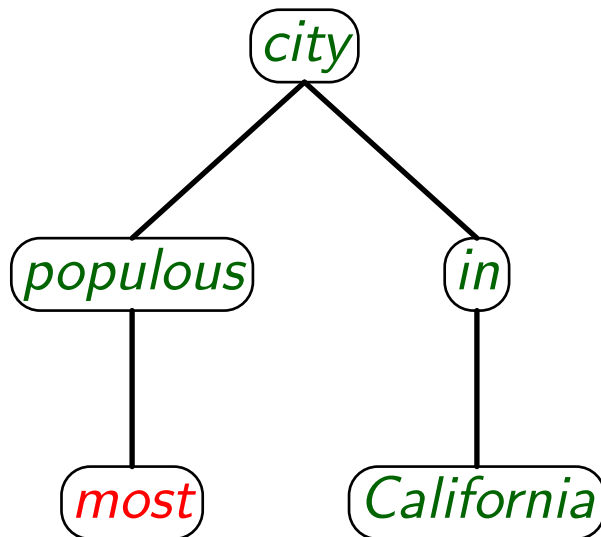
$\text{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

**Problem:** syntactic scope is lower than semantic scope

# Divergence between Syntactic and Semantic Scope

*most populous city in California*

**Syntax**



**Semantics**

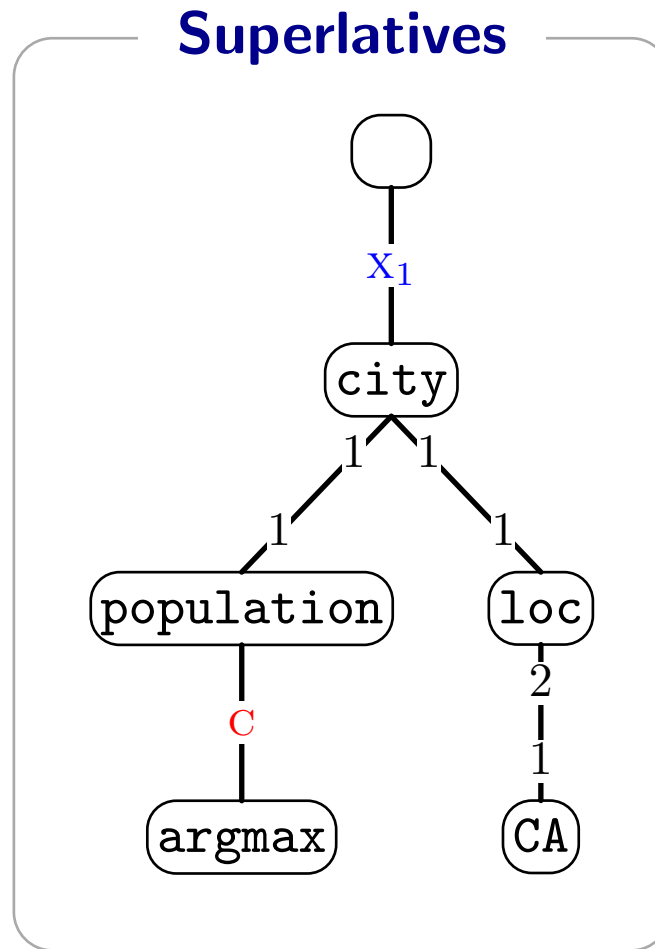
$\text{argmax}(\lambda x.\text{city}(x) \wedge \text{loc}(x, \text{CA}), \lambda x.\text{population}(x))$

**Problem:** syntactic scope is lower than semantic scope

If DCS trees look like syntax, how do we get correct semantics?

# Solution: Mark-Execute

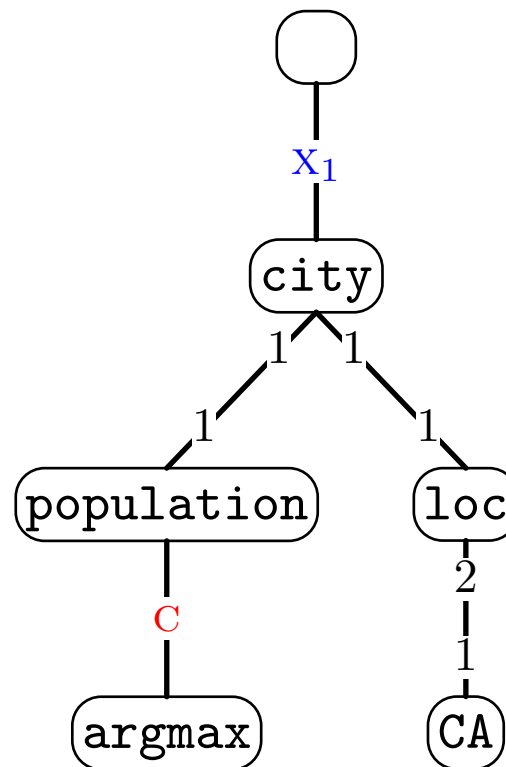
*most populous city in California*



# Solution: Mark-Execute

*most populous city in California*

## Superlatives



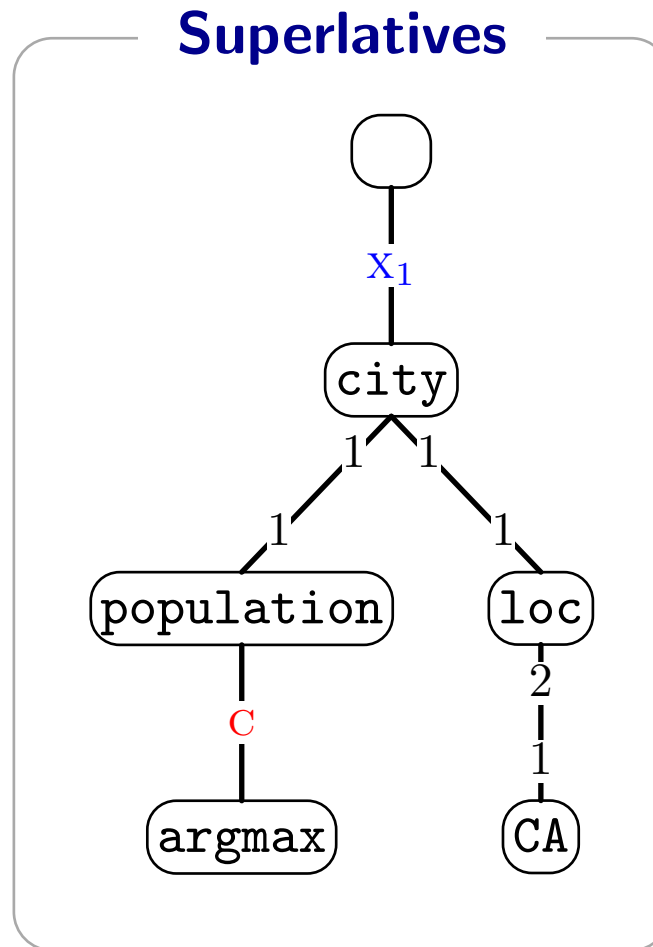
**Mark** at syntactic scope

# Solution: Mark-Execute

*most populous city in California*

**Execute** at semantic scope

**Mark** at syntactic scope

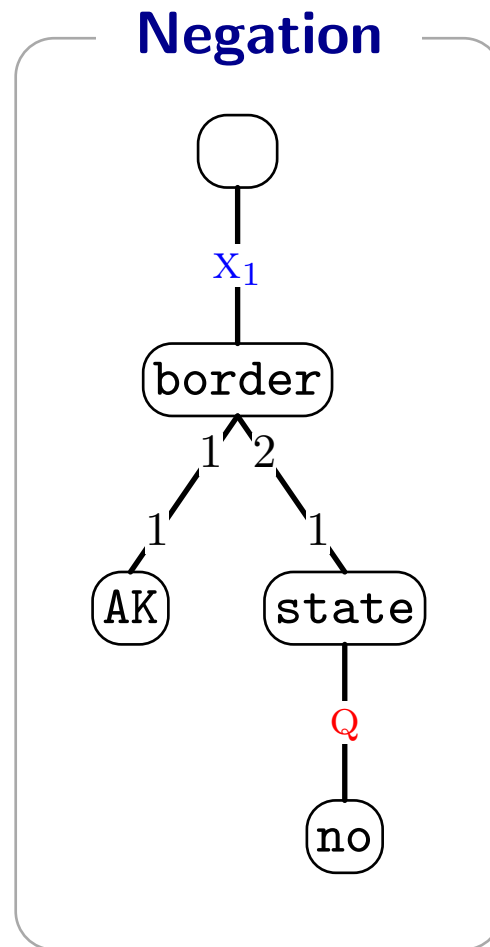


# Solution: Mark-Execute

*Alaska borders no states.*

**Execute** at semantic scope

**Mark** at syntactic scope





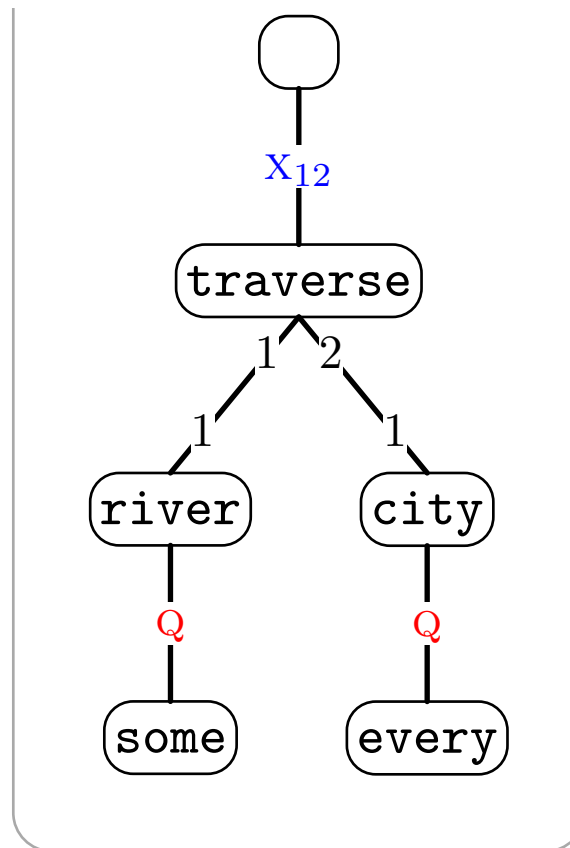
# Solution: Mark-Execute

*Some river traverses every city.*

## Quantification (narrow)

**Execute** at semantic scope

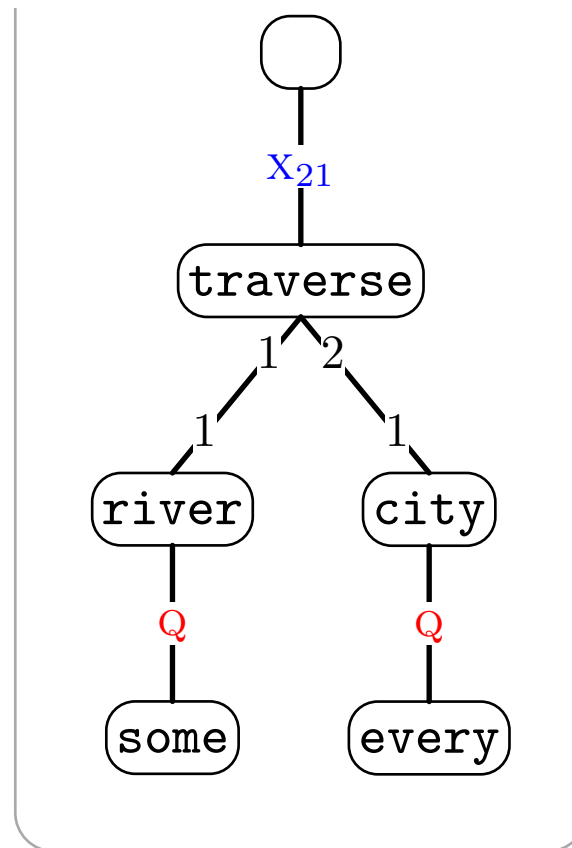
**Mark** at syntactic scope



# Solution: Mark-Execute

*Some river traverses every city.*

## Quantification (wide)



**Execute** at semantic scope

**Mark** at syntactic scope

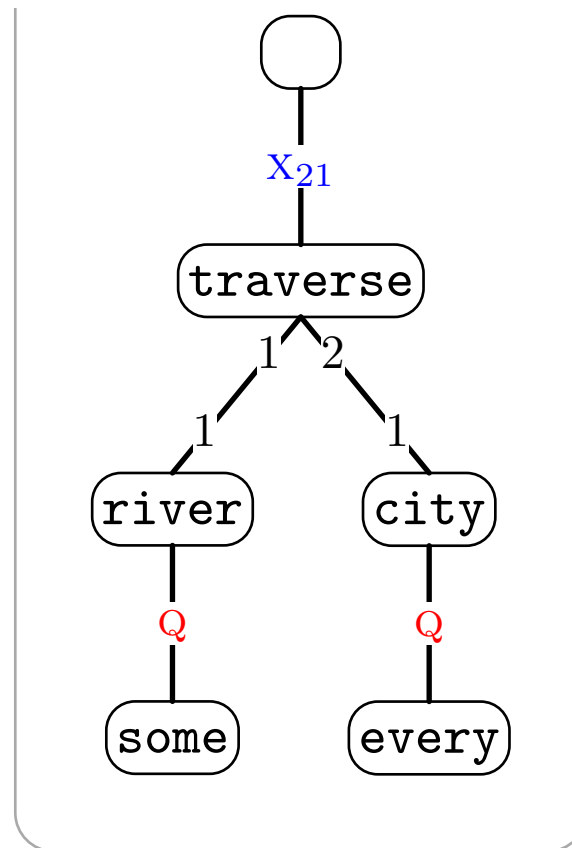
# Solution: Mark-Execute

*Some river traverses every city.*

## Quantification (wide)

**Execute** at semantic scope

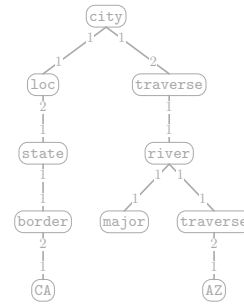
**Mark** at syntactic scope



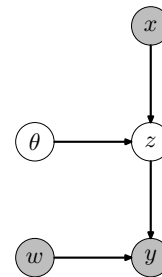
Analogy: Montague's quantifying in, Carpenter's scoping constructor

# Outline

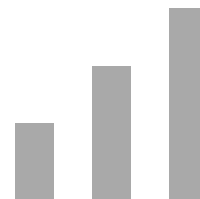
Representation



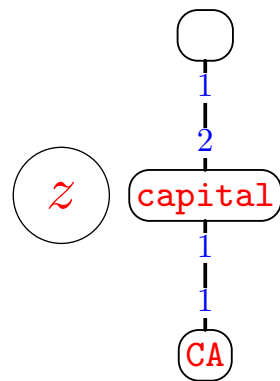
Learning



Experiments



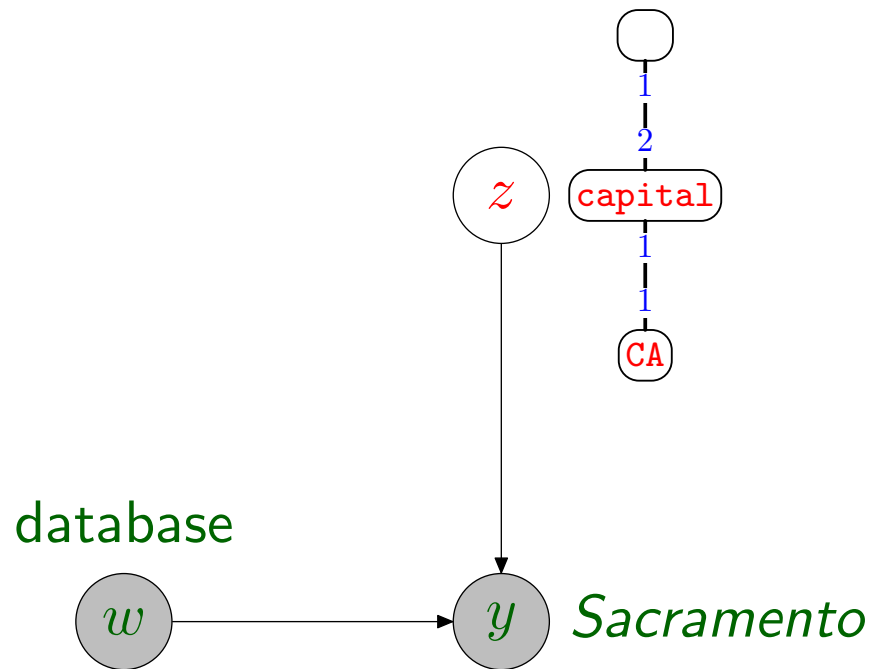
# Graphical Model



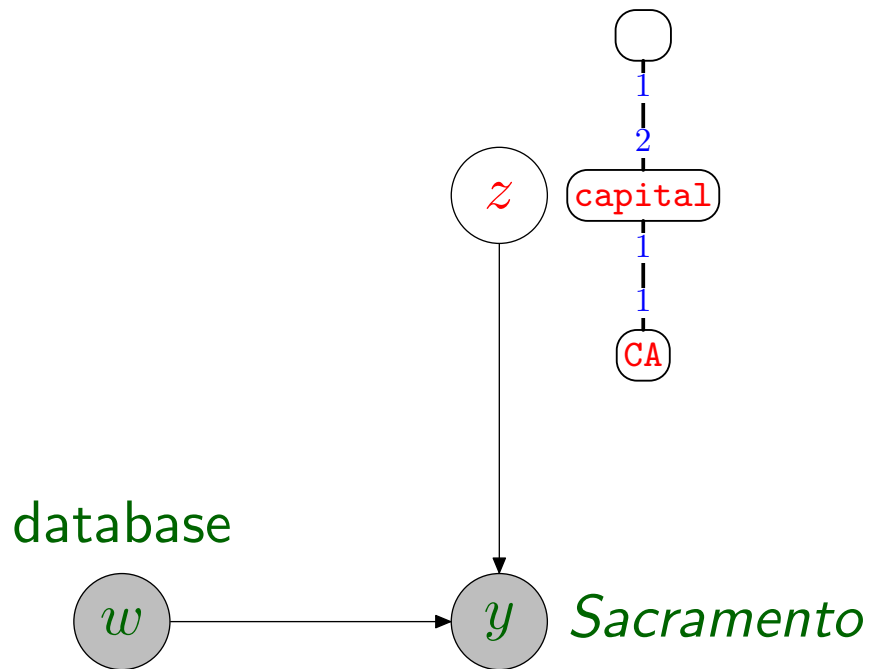
database



# Graphical Model

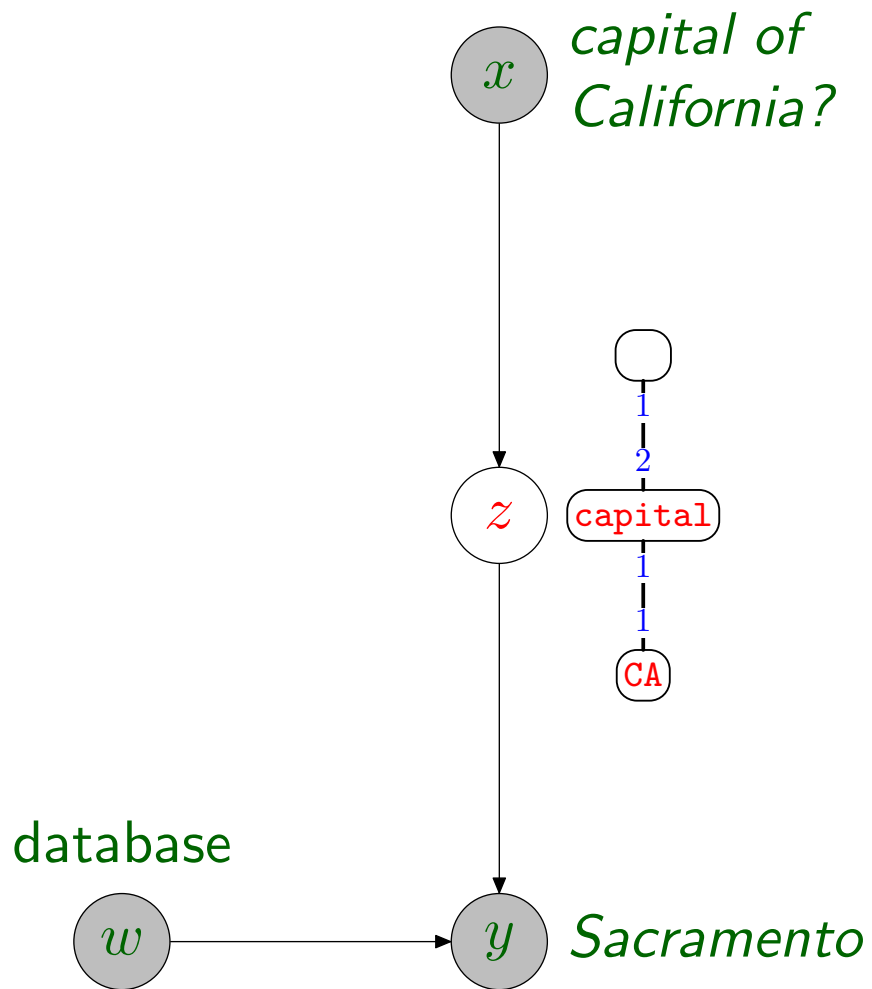


# Graphical Model



**Interpretation:**  $p(y \mid z, w)$   
(deterministic)

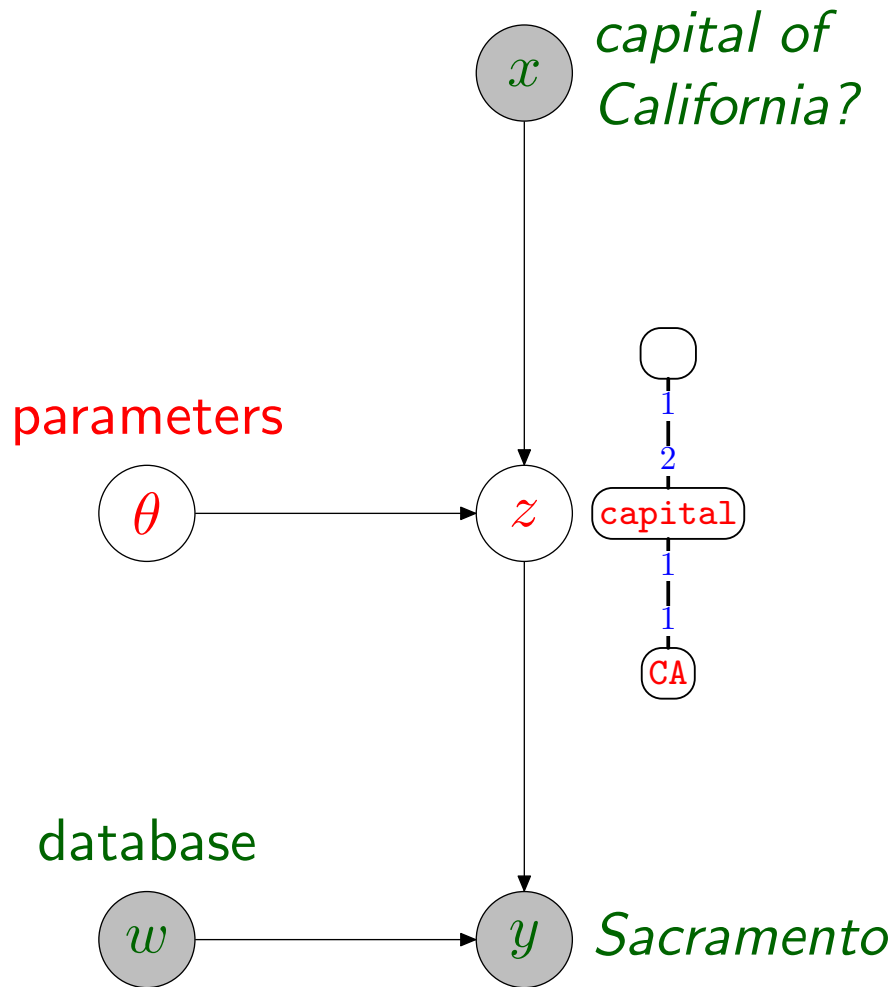
# Graphical Model



**Interpretation:**  $p(y \mid z, w)$   
(deterministic)

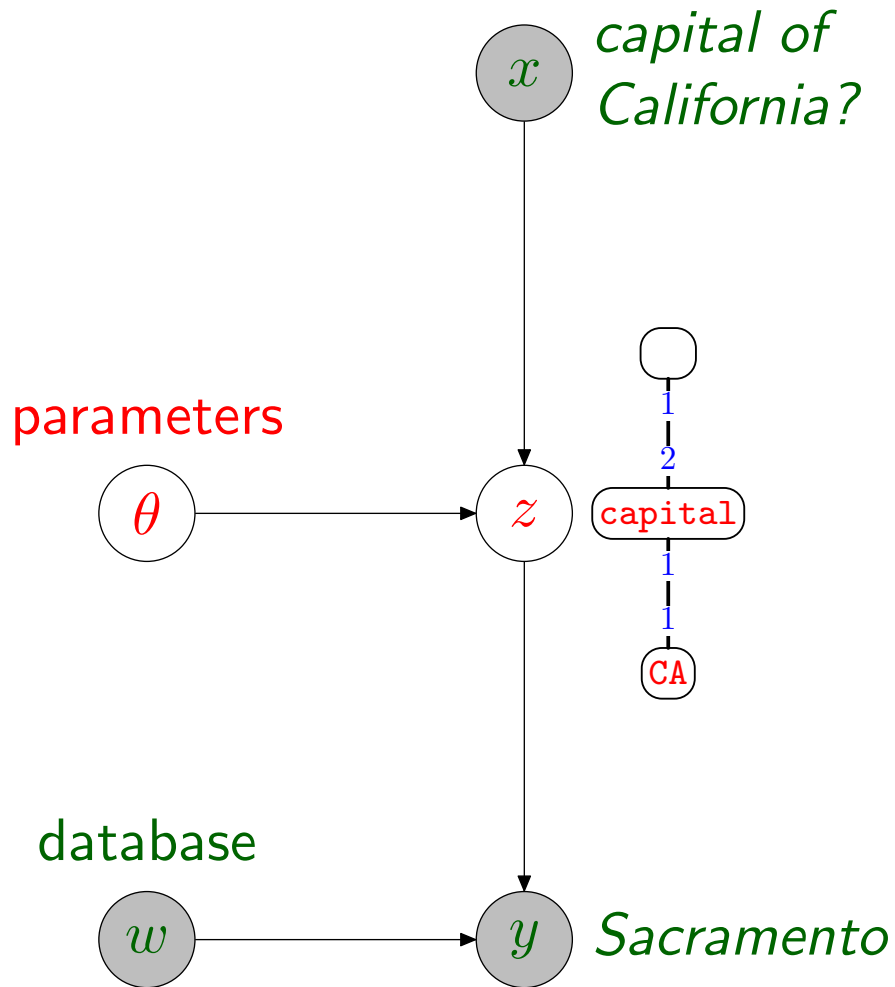


# Graphical Model



**Interpretation:**  $p(y \mid z, w)$   
(deterministic)

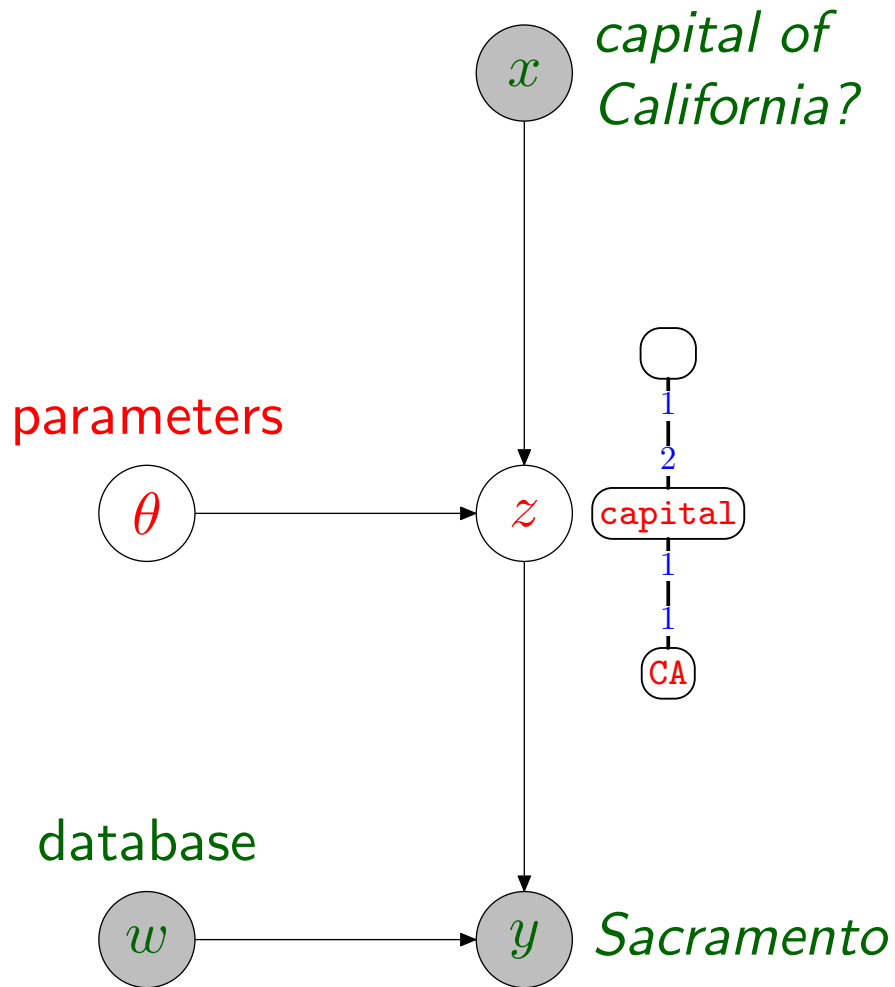
# Graphical Model



**Semantic Parsing:**  $p(z \mid x, \theta)$   
(probabilistic)

**Interpretation:**  $p(y \mid z, w)$   
(deterministic)

# Plan



- What's **possible**?  $z \in \mathcal{Z}(x)$
- What's **probable**?  $p(z | x, \theta)$
- **Learning**  $\theta$  from  $(x, y)$  data

# Words to Predicates (Lexical Semantics)

*What is the most populous city in CA ?*

# Words to Predicates (Lexical Semantics)

*What is the most populous city in <sup>CA</sup>CA ?*

Lexical Triggers:

1. String match

*CA*  $\Rightarrow$  *CA*

# Words to Predicates (Lexical Semantics)

*What is the <sup>argmax</sup> most populous city in <sup>CA</sup> CA ?*

Lexical Triggers:

1. String match  $CA \Rightarrow CA$
2. Function words (20 words)  $most \Rightarrow \text{argmax}$

# Words to Predicates (Lexical Semantics)

city city  
state state  
river river

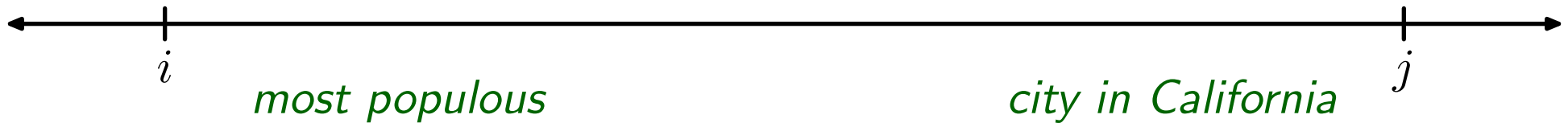
*What is the* argmax *most* population population CA  
*populous* *city* *in* *CA* ?

## Lexical Triggers:

1. String match CA  $\Rightarrow$  CA
2. Function words (20 words) *most*  $\Rightarrow$  argmax
3. Nouns/adjectives *city*  $\Rightarrow$  city state river population

# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

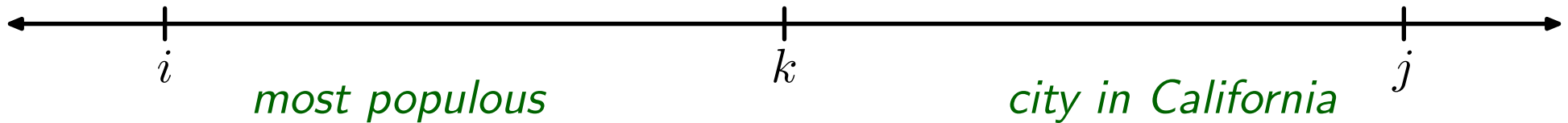
$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$





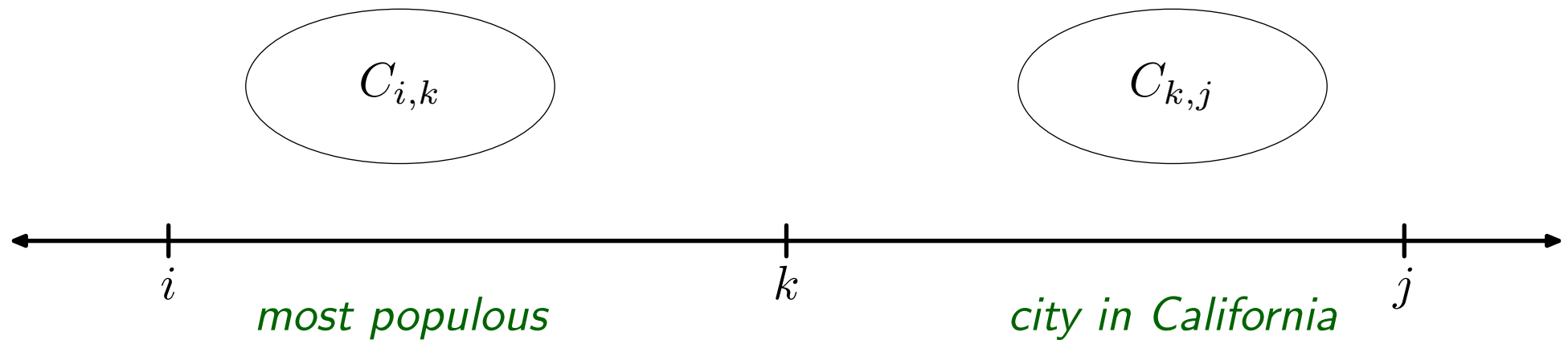
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



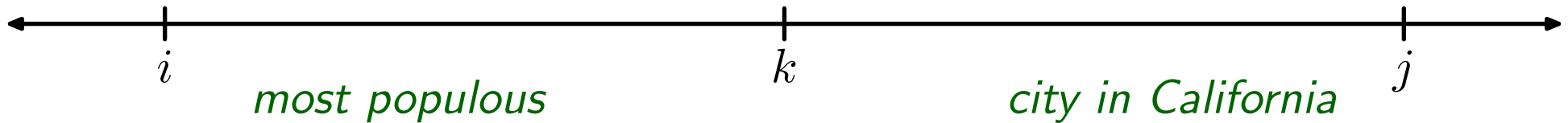
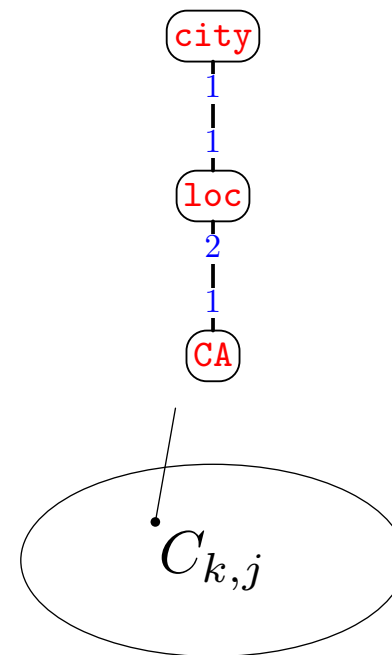
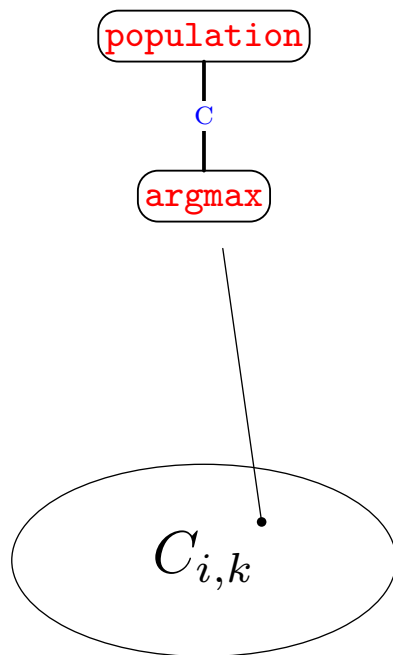
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



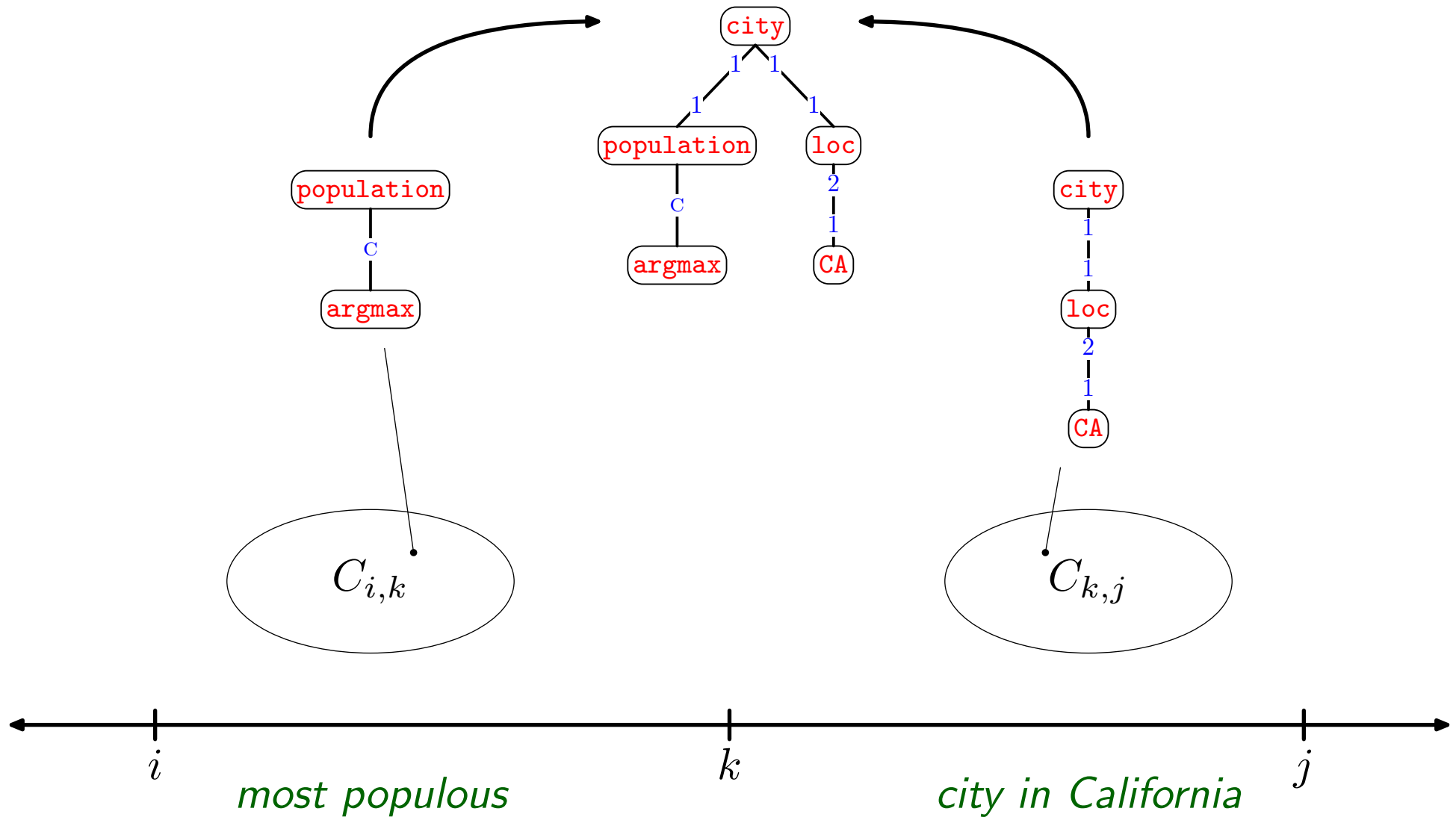
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



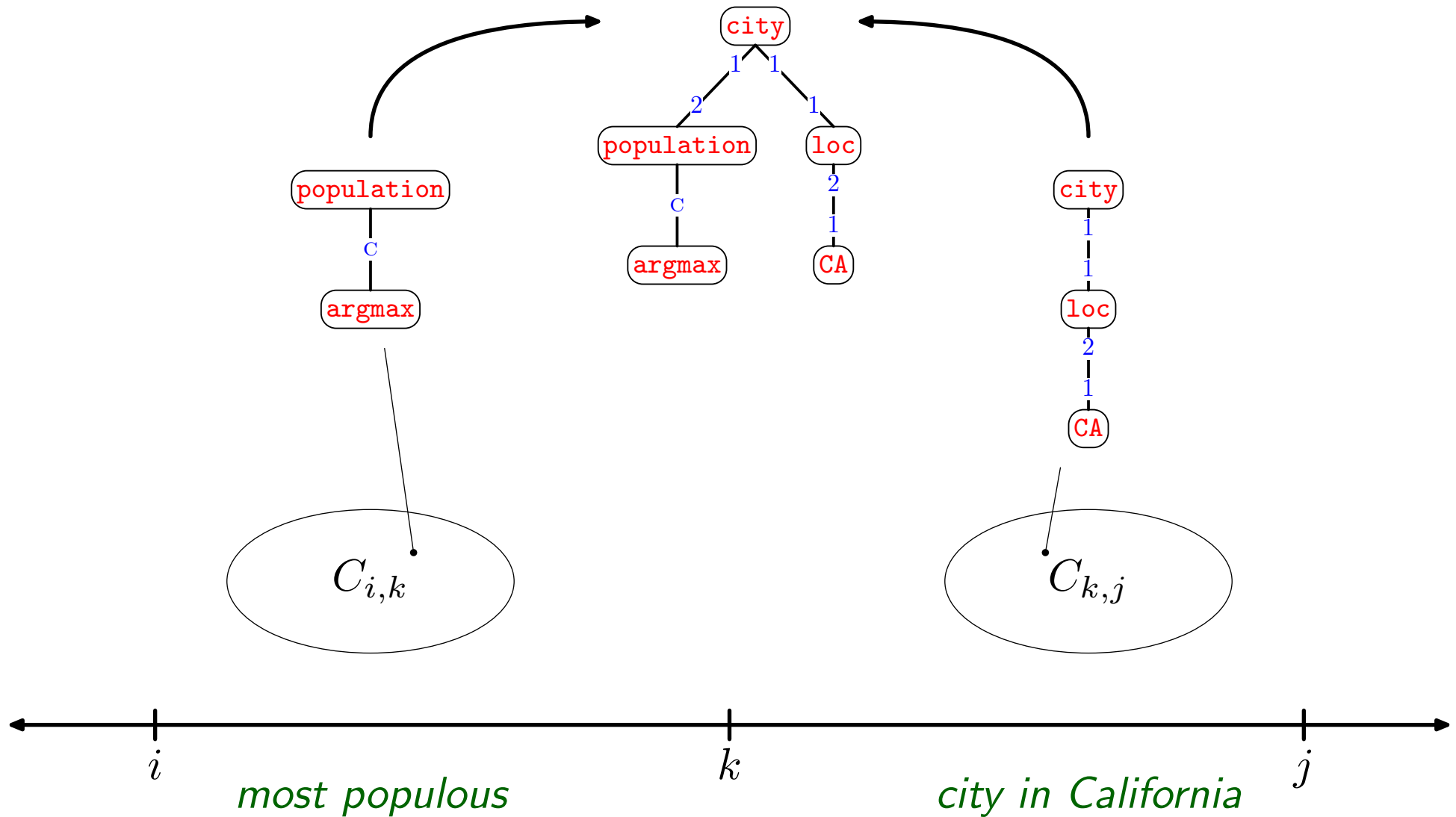
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



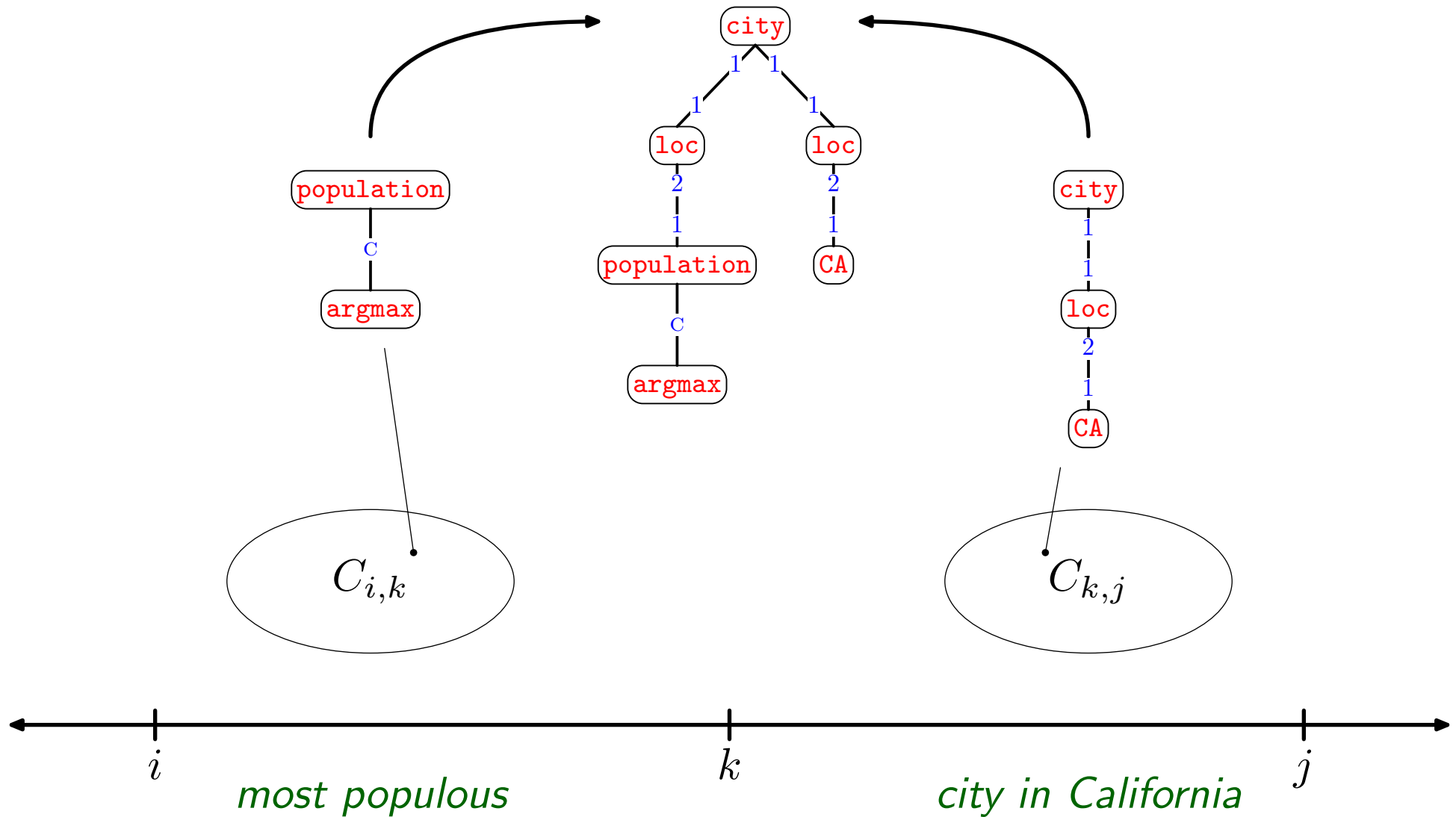
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



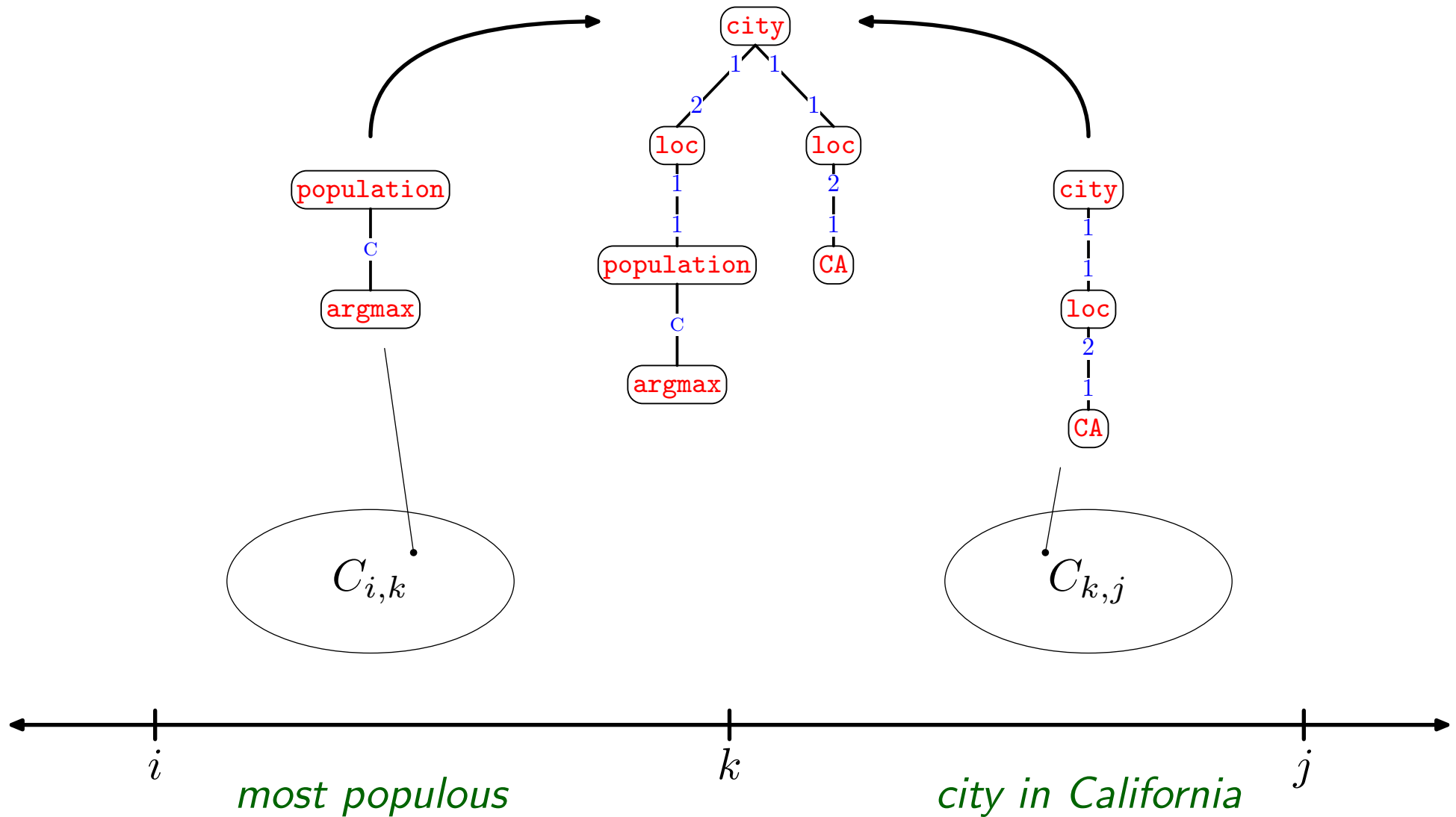
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



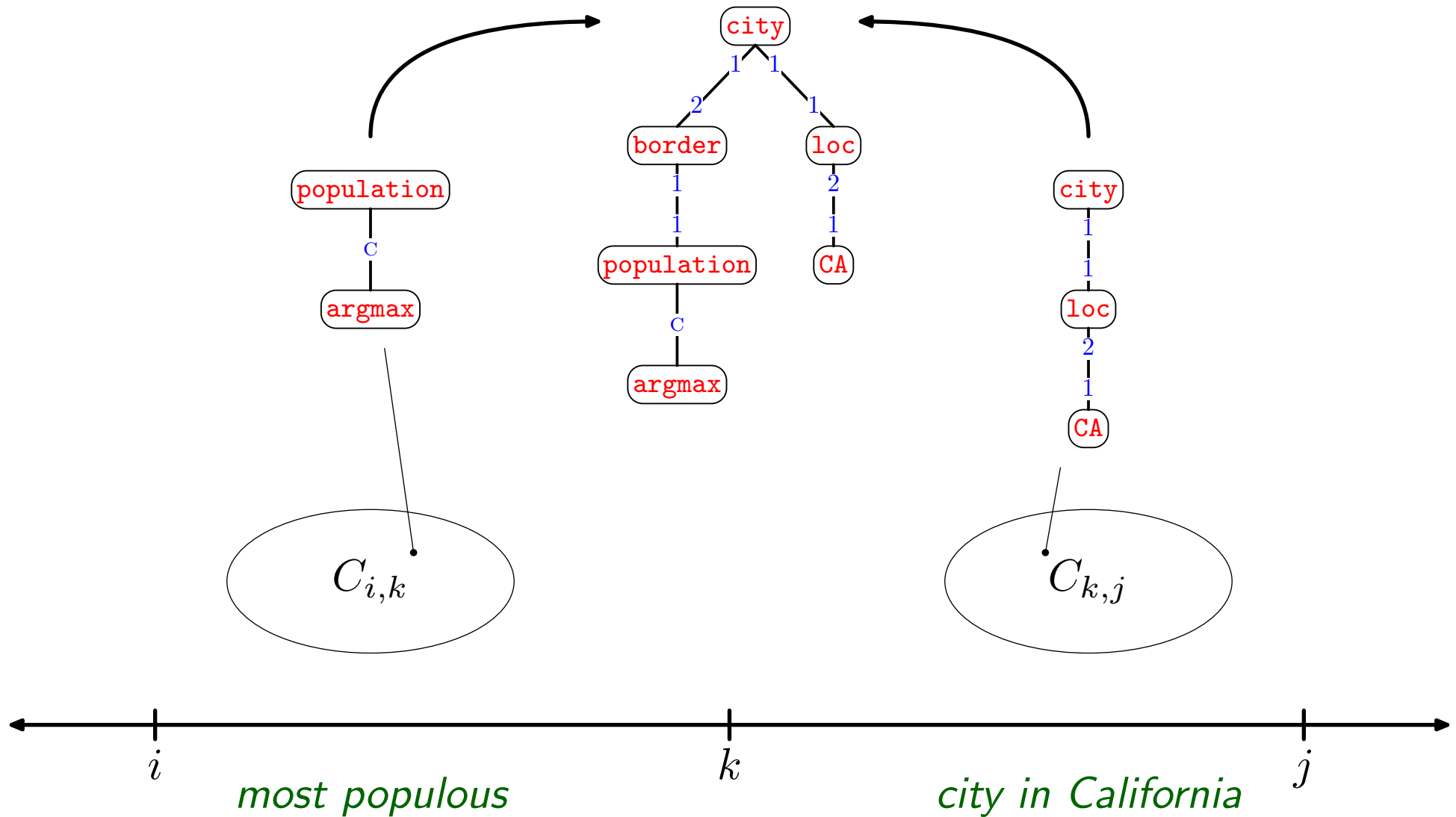
# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

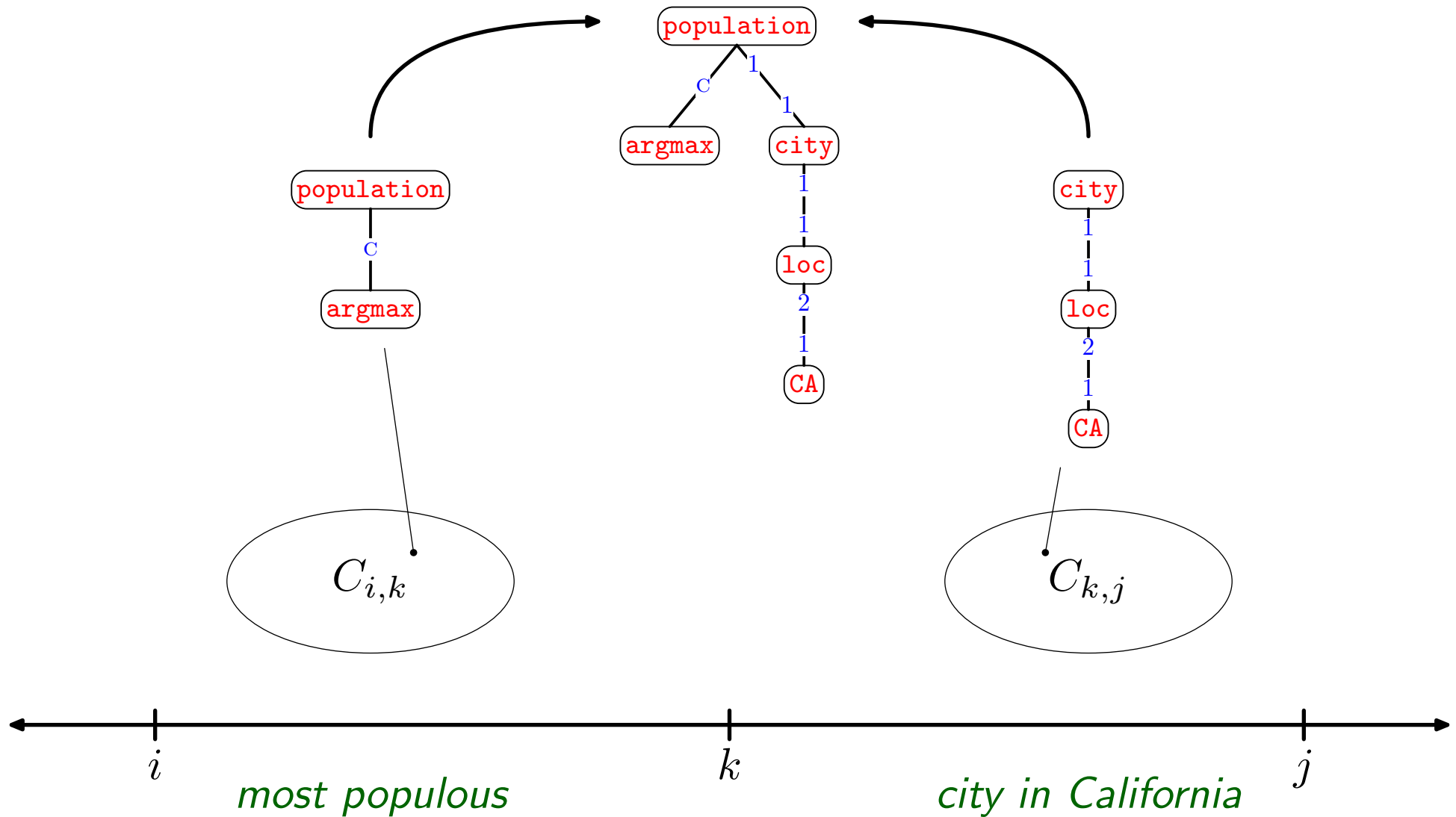
$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$



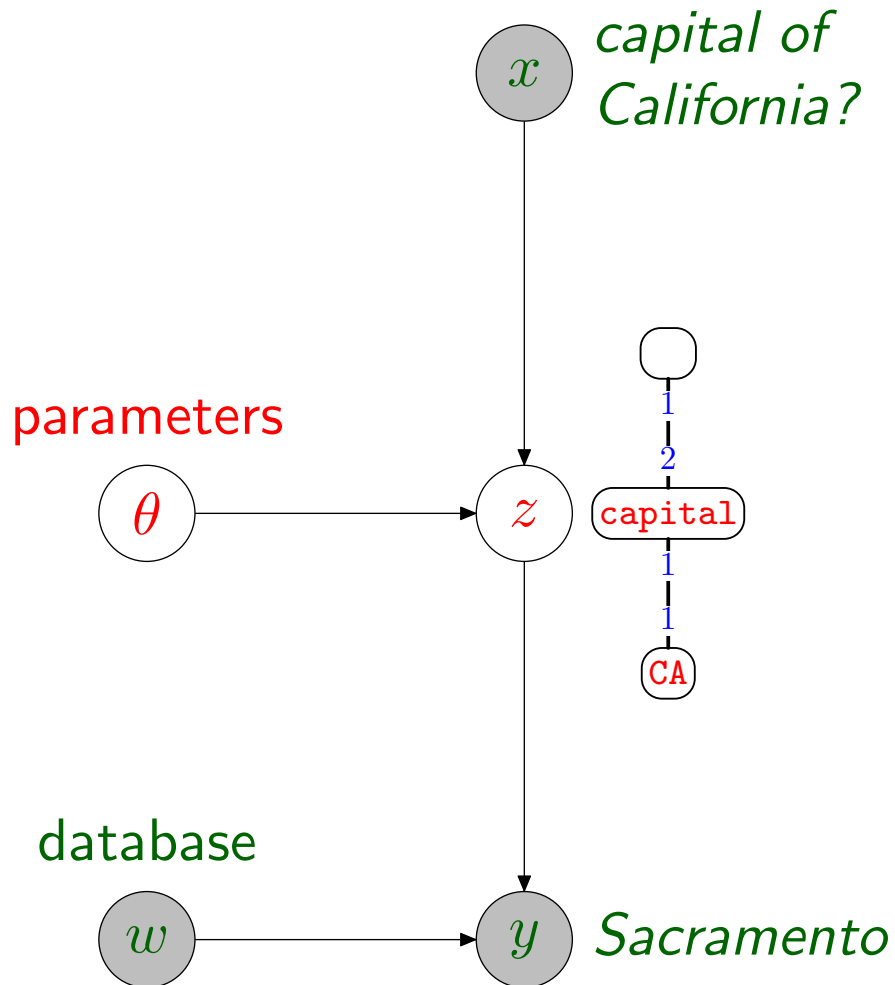


# Predicates to DCS Trees (Compositional Semantics)

$C_{i,j}$  = set of DCS trees for span  $[i, j]$

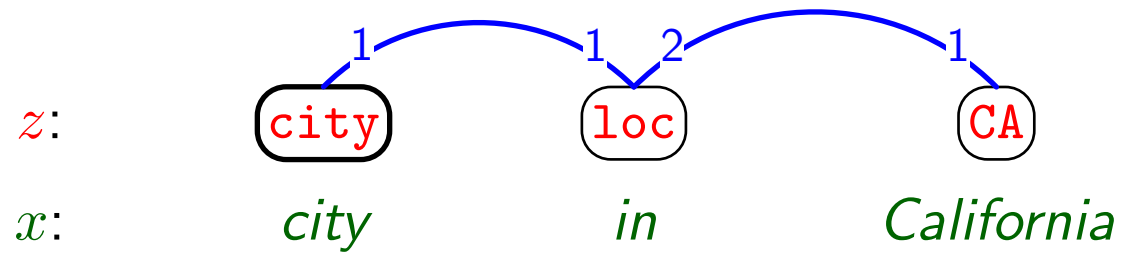


# Plan

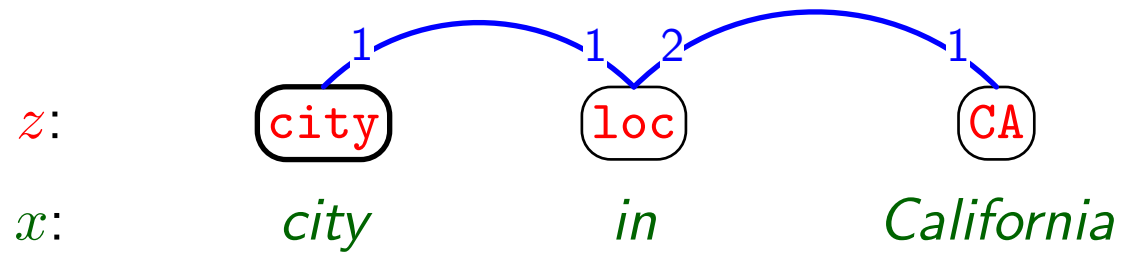


- What's **possible**?  $z \in \mathcal{Z}(x)$
- What's **probable**?  $p(z \mid x, \theta)$
- **Learning**  $\theta$  from  $(x, y)$  data

# Log-linear Model

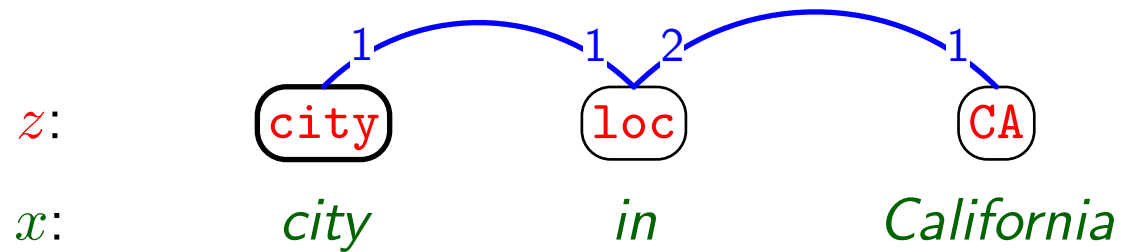


# Log-linear Model



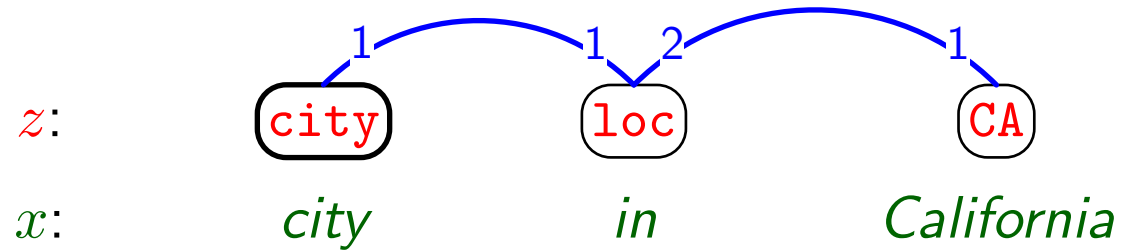
$$\text{features}(x, z) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \right) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# Log-linear Model



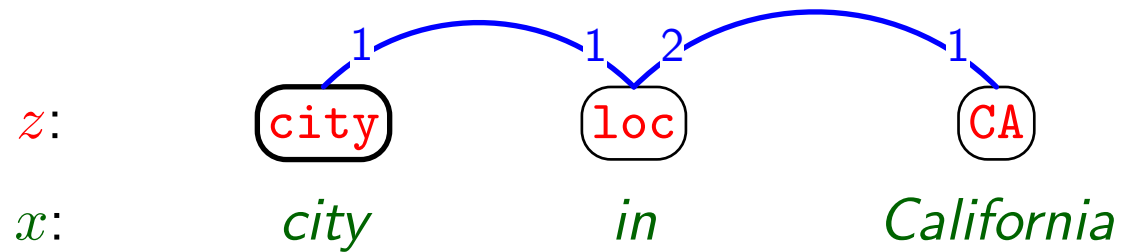
$$\text{features}(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{in} \dots \text{loc} : 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# Log-linear Model



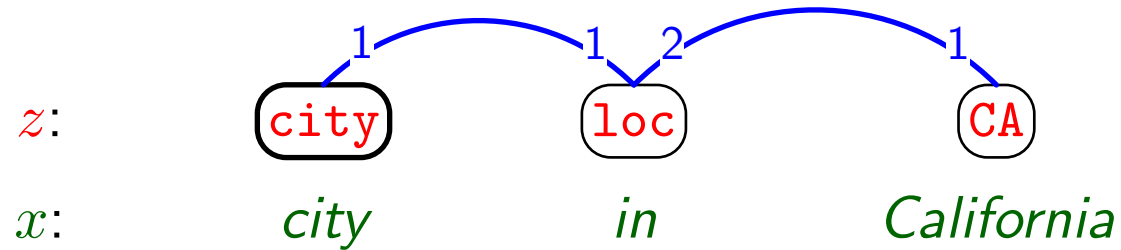
$$\text{features}(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \textit{in} \dots \text{loc} : 1 \\ \text{city}^{-1} \text{loc} : 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# Log-linear Model



$$\text{features}(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \textit{in} \dots \textit{loc} : 1 \\ \text{city}^{-1} \text{loc}^{-1} : 1 \\ \dots \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

# Log-linear Model

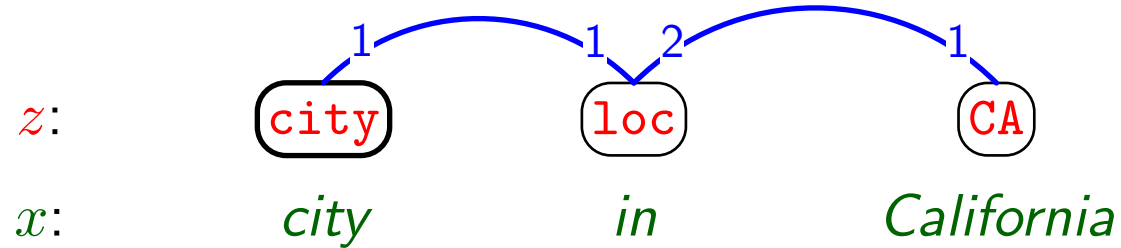


$$\text{features}(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \textit{in} \cdots \textit{loc} & : & 1 \\ \text{city} -1 -1 \text{loc} & : & 1 \\ \cdots & & \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\text{score}(x, z) = \text{features}(x, z) \cdot \theta$$



# Log-linear Model

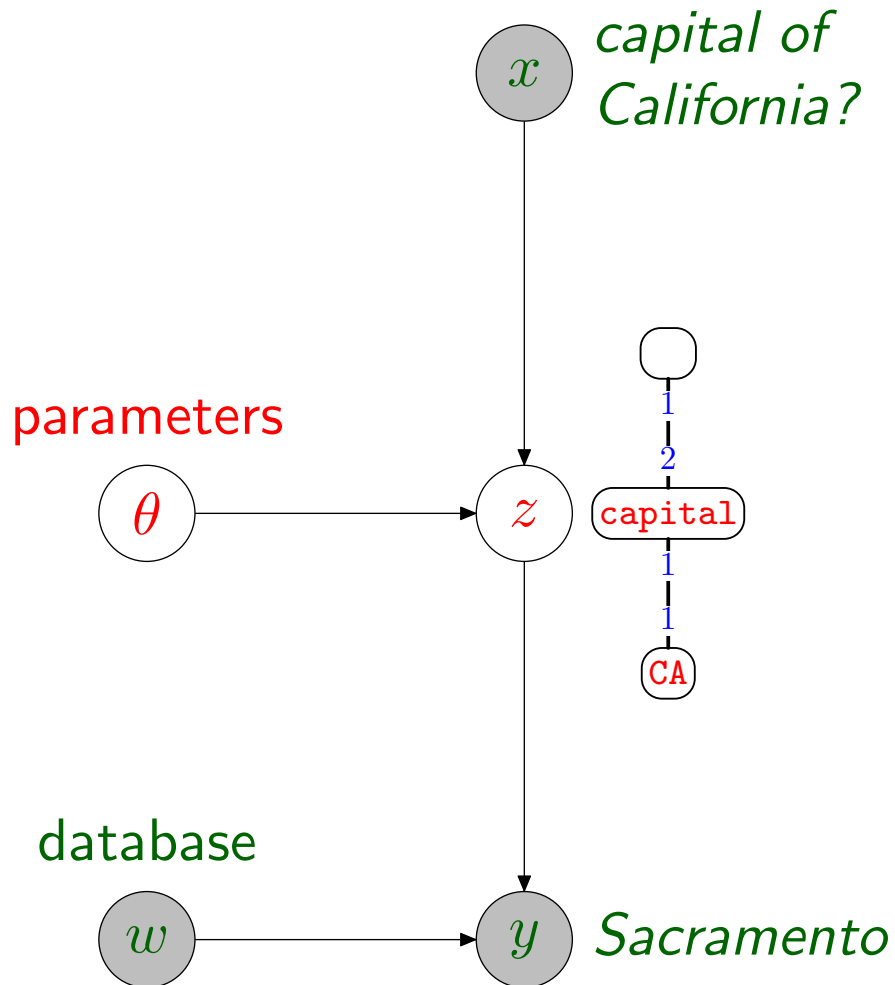


$$\text{features}(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{in} \cdots \text{loc} & : & 1 \\ \text{city} -1 -1 -\text{loc} & : & 1 \\ \dots & & \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\text{score}(x, z) = \text{features}(x, z) \cdot \theta$$

$$p(z \mid x, \theta) = \frac{e^{\text{score}(x, z)}}{\sum_{z' \in \mathcal{Z}(x)} e^{\text{score}(x, z')}}$$

# Plan



- What's possible?  $z \in \mathcal{Z}(x)$
- What's probable?  $p(z | x, \theta)$
- **Learning**  $\theta$  from  $(x, y)$  data

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$p(y \mid z, w) \quad p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

**Interpretation**      **Semantic parsing**

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

**Interpretation      Semantic parsing**

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

**Interpretation          Semantic parsing**

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

**Interpretation          Semantic parsing**

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0, 0, \dots, 0)$

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation      Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0, 0, \dots, 0)$

enumerate/score DCS trees



# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation          Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0, 0, \dots, 0)$

enumerate/score DCS trees



*k*-best list

tree1 ✗  
tree2 ✗  
tree3 ✓  
tree4 ✗  
tree5 ✗



# Learning

Objective Function:

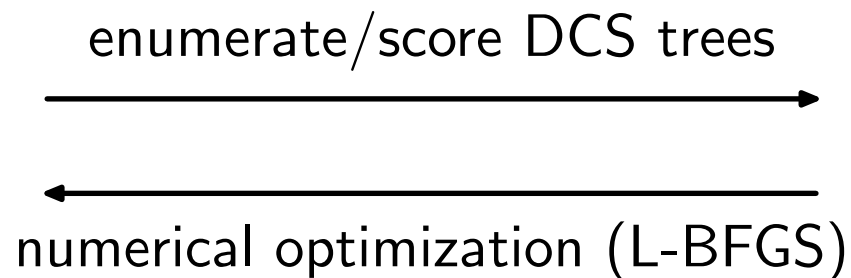
$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation      Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

(0.2, -1.3, ..., 0.7)



*k*-best list

tree1 ✗  
tree2 ✗  
tree3 ✓  
tree4 ✗  
tree5 ✗

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation      Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0.2, -1.3, \dots, 0.7)$

enumerate/score DCS trees  
→  
←  
numerical optimization (L-BFGS)

*k*-best list

tree3 ✓  
tree8 ✓  
tree6 ✗  
tree2 ✗  
tree4 ✗

# Learning

Objective Function:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation          Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0.3, -1.4, \dots, 0.6)$

enumerate/score DCS trees  
→  
←  
numerical optimization (L-BFGS)

*k*-best list

tree3 ✓  
tree8 ✓  
tree6 ✗  
tree2 ✗  
tree4 ✗

# Learning

Objective Function:

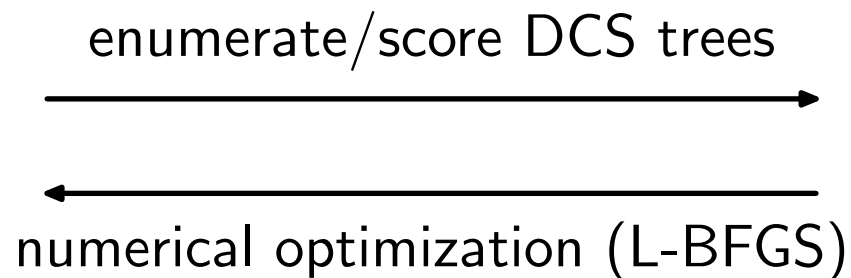
$$\max_{\theta} \sum_z p(y \mid z, w) p(z \mid x, \theta)$$

Interpretation          Semantic parsing

EM-like Algorithm:

parameters  $\theta$

$(0.3, -1.4, \dots, 0.6)$

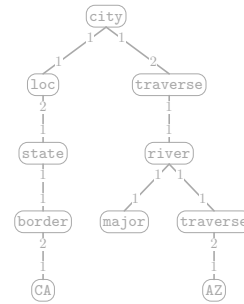


*k*-best list

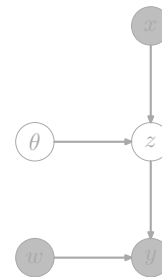
tree3 ✓  
tree8 ✓  
tree2 ✗  
tree4 ✗  
tree9 ✗

# Outline

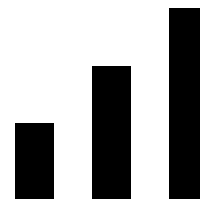
Representation



Learning



Experiments



# US Geography Benchmark

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s

600 training examples, 280 test examples

# US Geography Benchmark

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s

600 training examples, 280 test examples

*What is the highest point in Florida?*

*How many states have a city called Rochester?*

*What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?*

*Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?*

...

# US Geography Benchmark

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s

600 training examples, 280 test examples

*What is the highest point in Florida?*

⇒ `answer(A, highest(A, (place(A), loc(A, B), const(B, stateid(florida))))))`

*How many states have a city called Rochester?*

⇒ `answer(A, count(B, (state(B), loc(C, B), const(C, cityid(rochester, -))), A))`

*What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?*

⇒ `answer(A, longest(A, (river(A), traverse(A, B), state(B), next_to(B, C), const(C, stateid(tennessee))))))`

*Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?*

⇒ `answer(A, lowest(B, (state(A), traverse(C, A), const(C, riverid(mississippi)), loc(B, A), place(B))))`

...

Supervision in past work: question + program



# US Geography Benchmark

Standard semantic parsing benchmark since 1990s

600 training examples, 280 test examples

*What is the highest point in Florida?*

⇒ *Walton County*

*How many states have a city called Rochester?*

⇒ *2*

*What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?*

⇒ *Missouri*

*Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?*

⇒ *Louisiana*

...

Supervision in past work: question + program

Supervision in this work: question + answer

# Input to Learning Algorithm

## Training data (600 examples)

<i>What is the highest point in Florida?</i>	⇒	<i>Walton County</i>
<i>How many states have a city called Rochester?</i>	⇒	<i>2</i>
<i>What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?</i>	⇒	<i>Missouri</i>
<i>Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?</i>	⇒	<i>Louisiana</i>
...		...

# Input to Learning Algorithm

## Training data (600 examples)

<i>What is the highest point in Florida?</i>	⇒	<i>Walton County</i>
<i>How many states have a city called Rochester?</i>	⇒	<i>2</i>
<i>What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?</i>	⇒	<i>Missouri</i>
<i>Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?</i>	⇒	<i>Louisiana</i>
...		...

## Lexicon (75 words)

<i>city</i>	⇒	<i>city</i>
<i>state</i>	⇒	<i>state</i>
<i>mountain</i>	⇒	<i>mountain, peak</i>
...		...

# Input to Learning Algorithm

## Training data (600 examples)

*What is the highest point in Florida?* ⇒ *Walton County*  
*How many states have a city called Rochester?* ⇒ *2*  
*What is the longest river that runs through a state that borders Tennessee?* ⇒ *Missouri*  
*Of the states washed by the Mississippi river which has the lowest point?* ⇒ *Louisiana*  
...

## Lexicon (75 words)

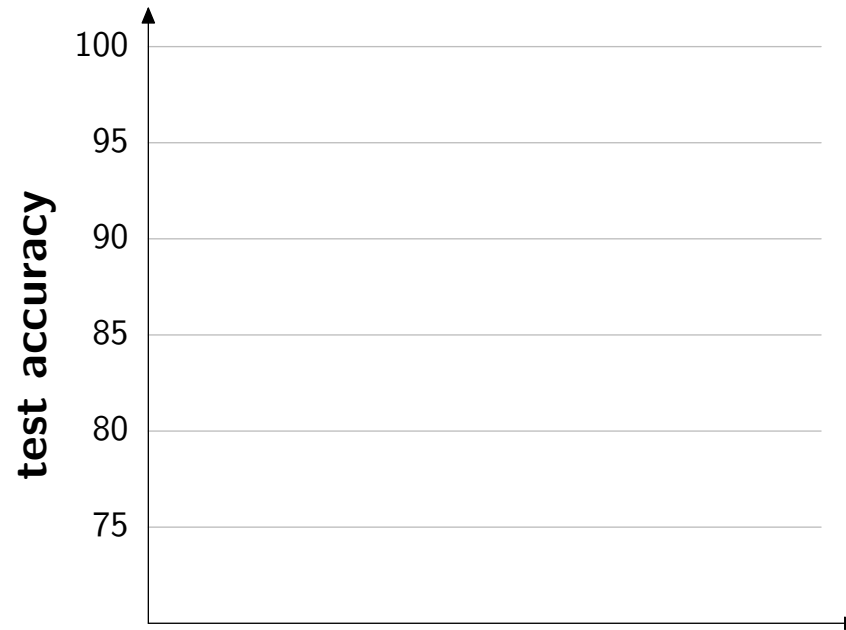
*city* ⇒ *city*  
*state* ⇒ *state*  
*mountain* ⇒ *mountain, peak*  
...

## Database

<i>city</i>	<i>state</i>
San Francisco	Alabama
Chicago	Alaska
Boston	Arizona
...	...
<i>loc</i>	<i>border</i>
Mount Shasta   California	Washington   Oregon
San Francisco   California	Washington   Idaho
Boston   Massachusetts	Oregon   Washington
...	...
...	...

# Experiment 1

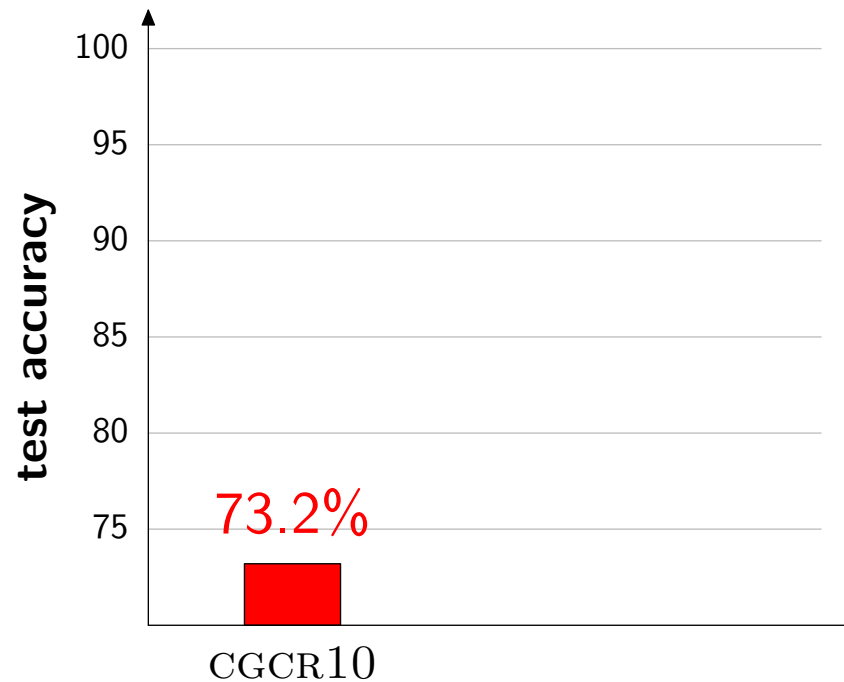
On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples



# Experiment 1

On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples

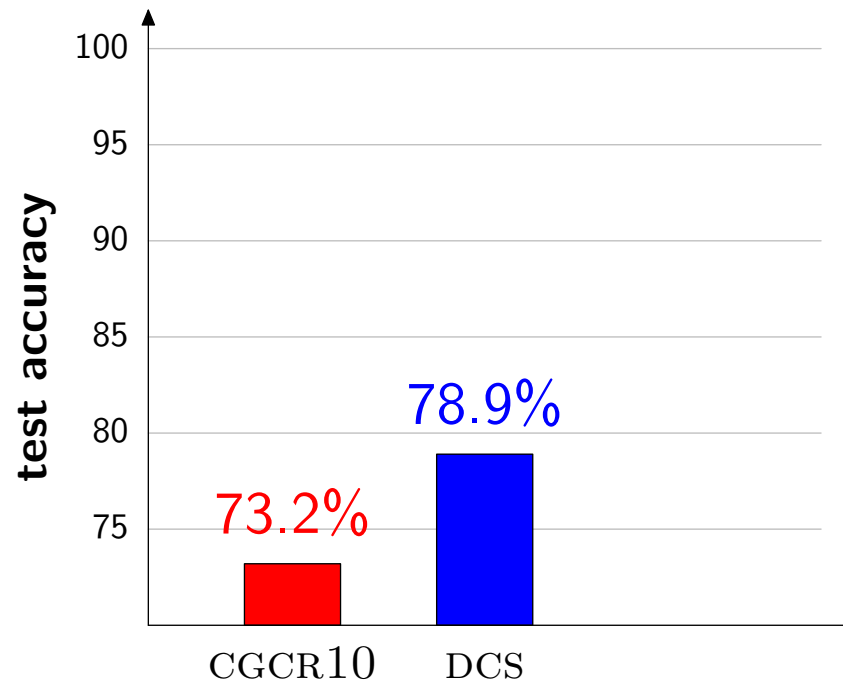
System	Description	Lexicon (gen./spec.)	Logical forms
CGCR10	FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]	✓ ✓	✗



# Experiment 1

On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples

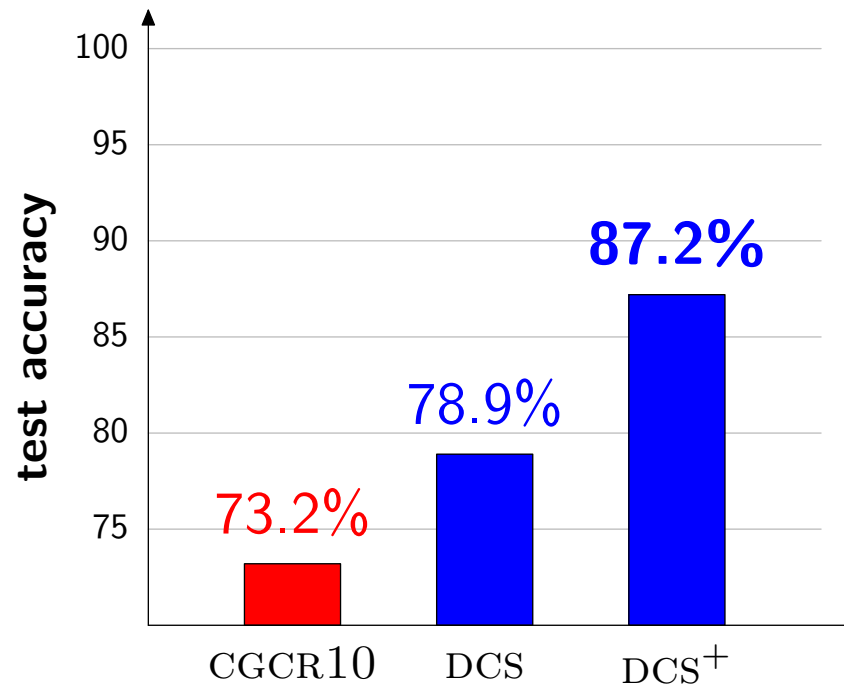
System	Description	Lexicon (gen./spec.)	Logical forms
CGCR10	FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]	✓ ✓	✗
DCS	our system	✓ ✗	✗



# Experiment 1

On GEO, 250 training examples, 250 test examples

System	Description	Lexicon (gen./spec.)	Logical forms
CGCR10	FunQL [Clarke et al., 2010]	✓ ✓	✗
DCS	our system	✓ ✗	✗
DCS <sup>+</sup>	our system	✓ ✓	✗





## Experiment 2

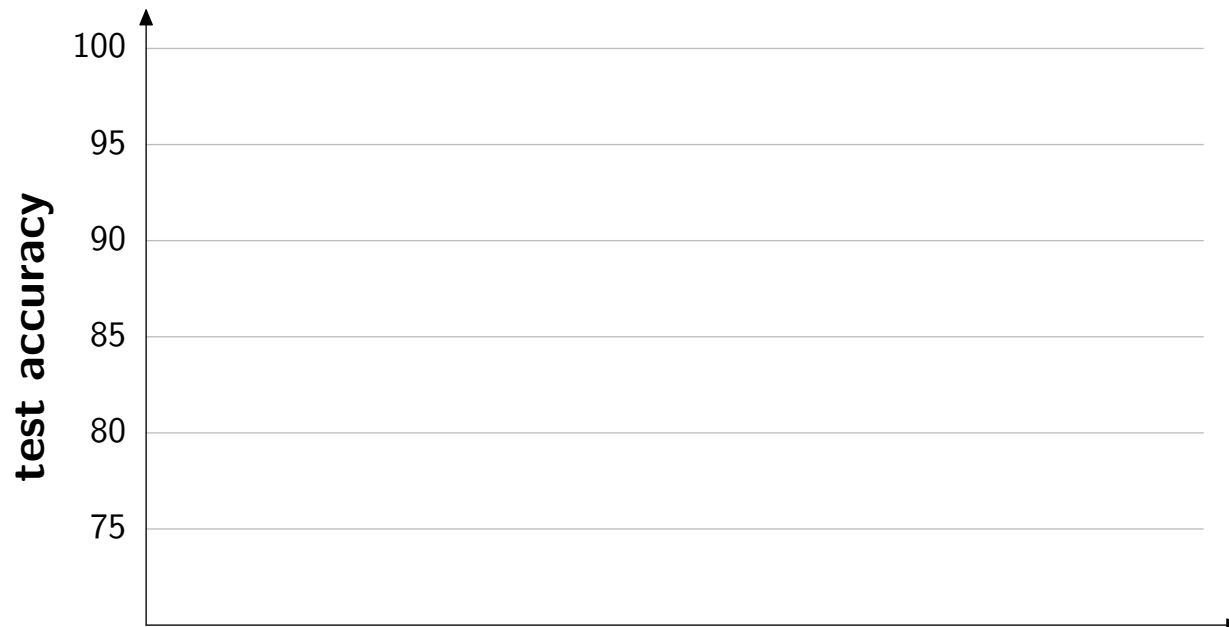
On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

# Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

**System Description**

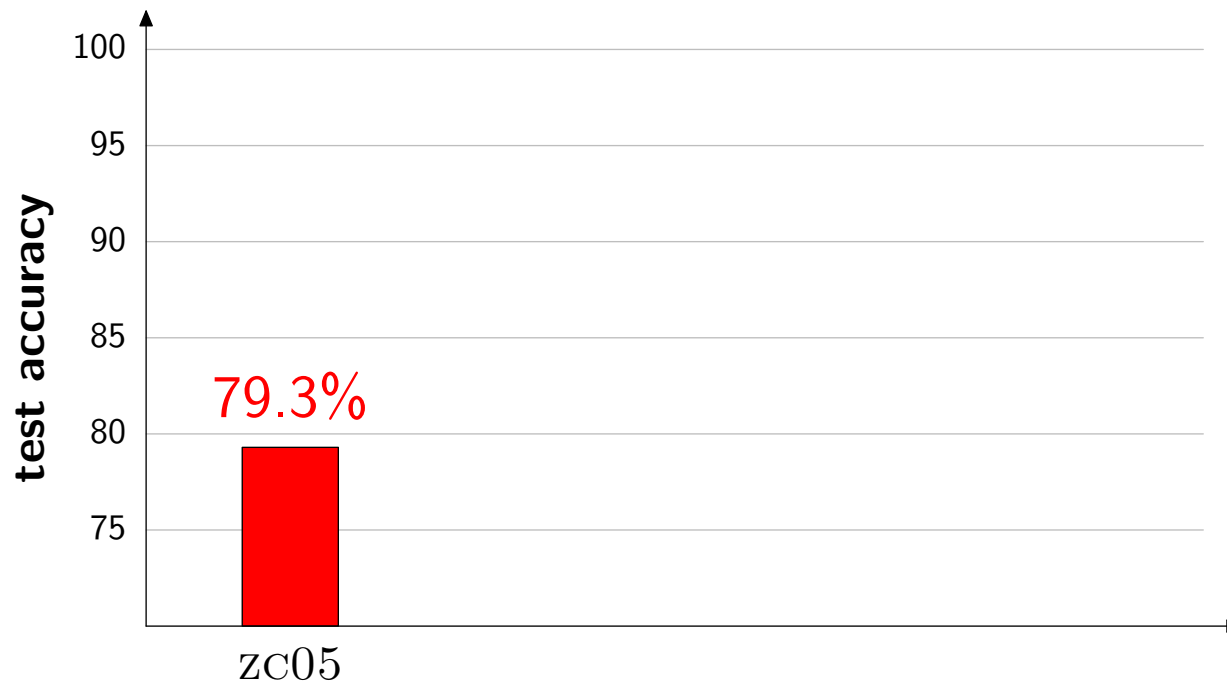
**Lexicon Logical forms**



## Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

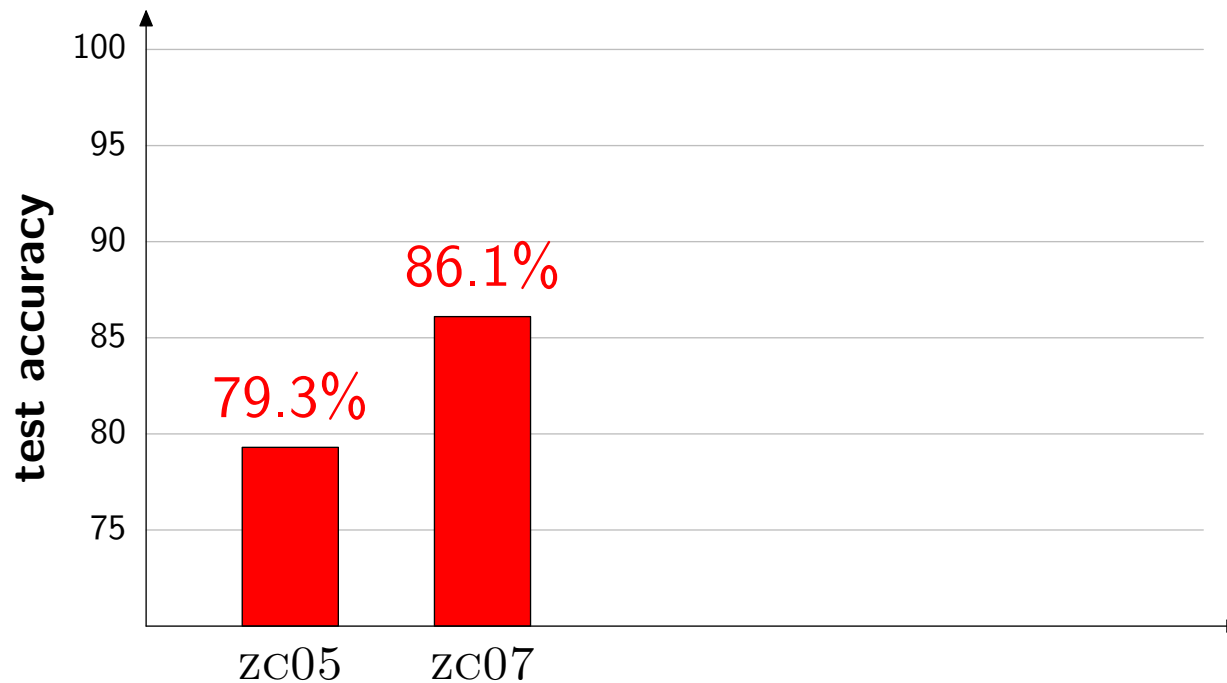
System	Description	Lexicon	Logical forms
zc05	CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]	✗ ✗	✓



## Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

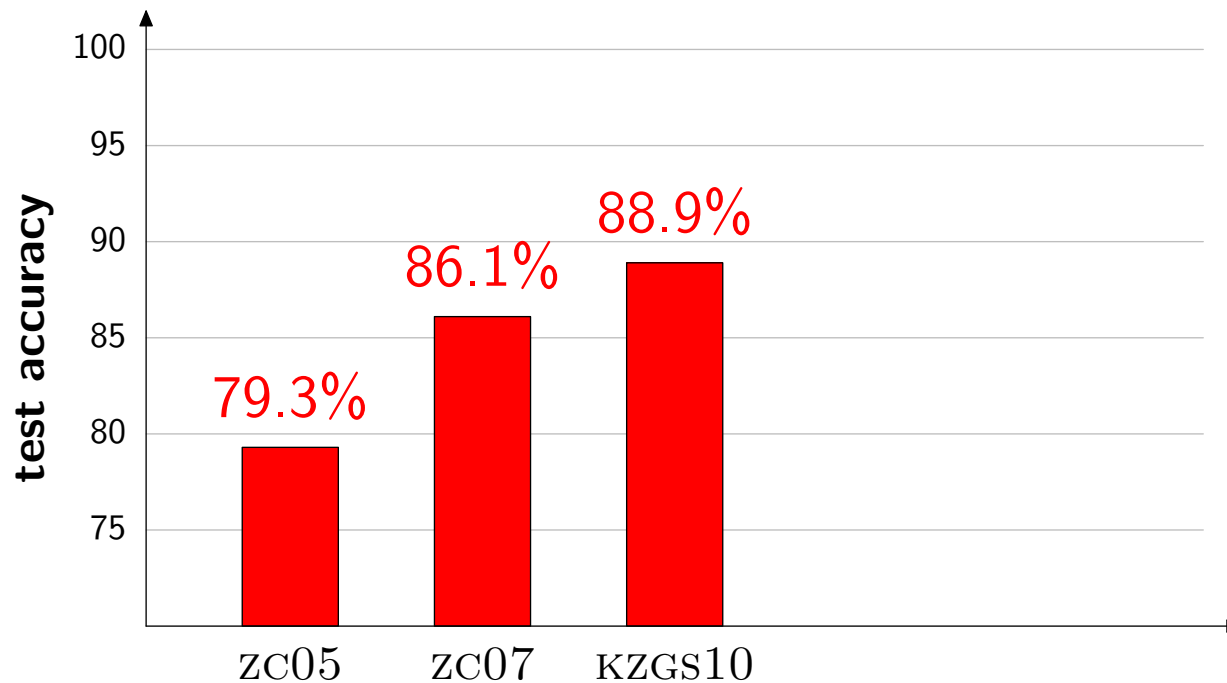
System	Description	Lexicon	Logical forms
zc05	CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]	✗ ✗	✓
zc07	relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]	✗ ✗	✓



## Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

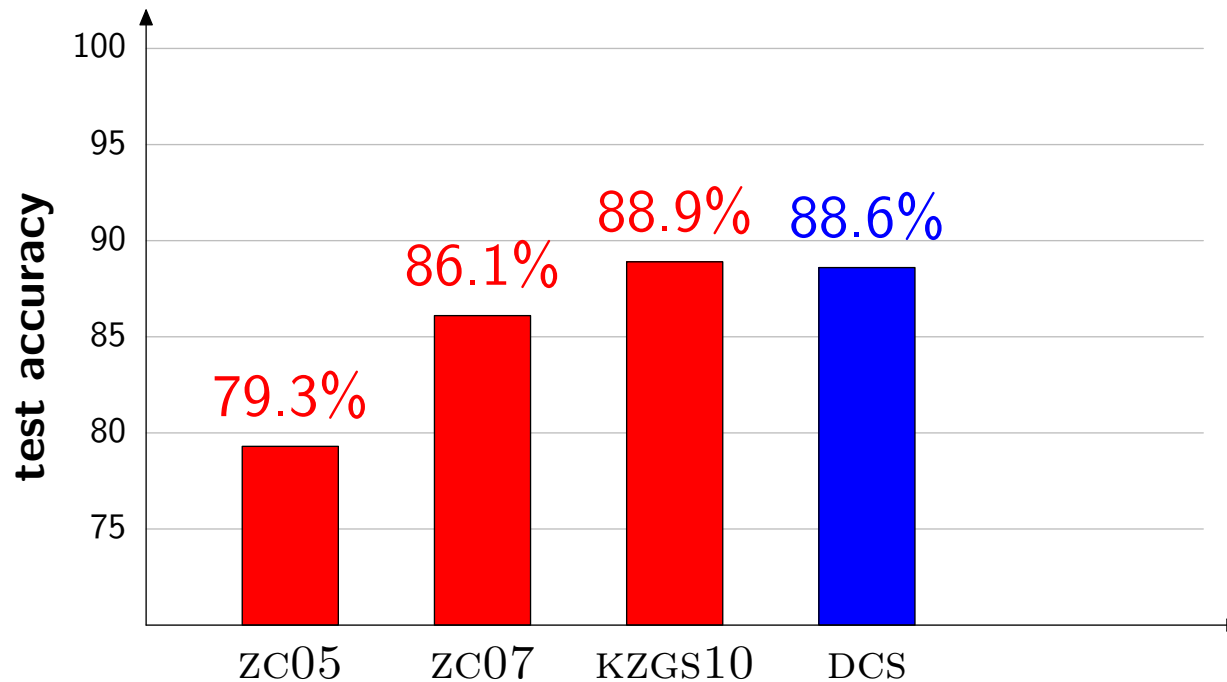
System	Description	Lexicon	Logical forms
zc05	CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]	✗ ✗	✓
zc07	relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]	✗ ✗	✓
KZGS10	CCG w/unification [Kwiatkowski et al., 2010]	✗ ✗	✓



## Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

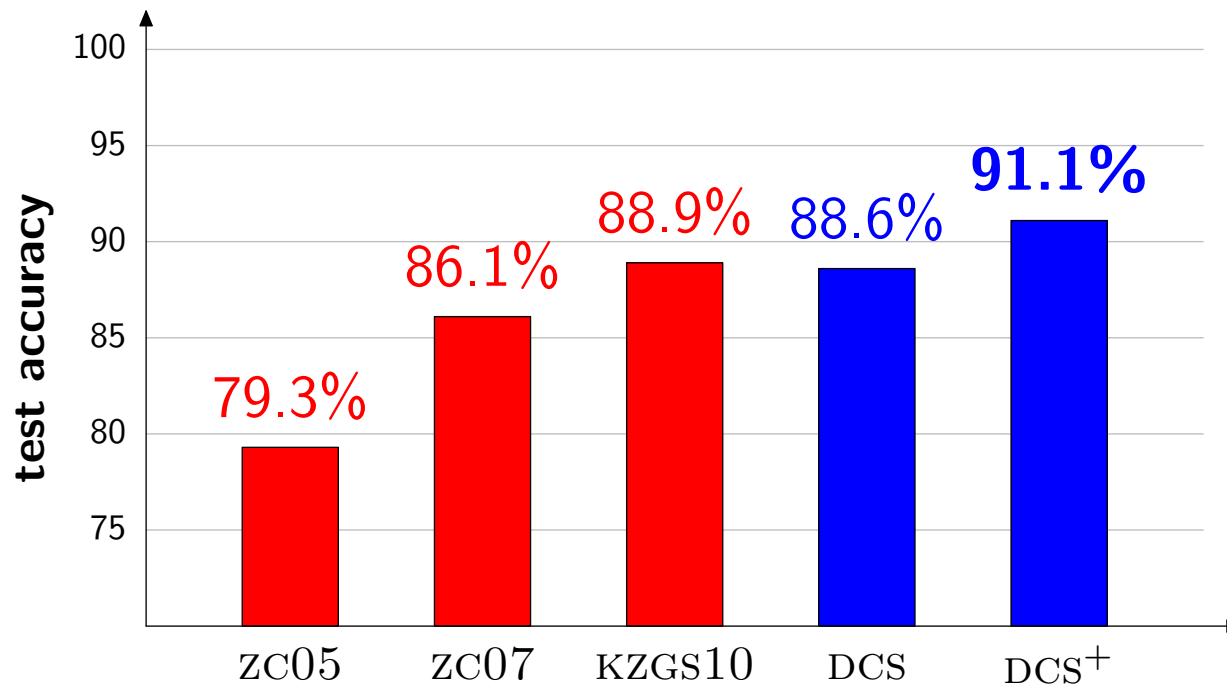
System	Description	Lexicon	Logical forms
zc05	CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]	✗ ✗	✓
zc07	relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]	✗ ✗	✓
KZGS10	CCG w/unification [Kwiatkowski et al., 2010]	✗ ✗	✓
DCS	our system	✓ ✗	✗



## Experiment 2

On GEO, 600 training examples, 280 test examples

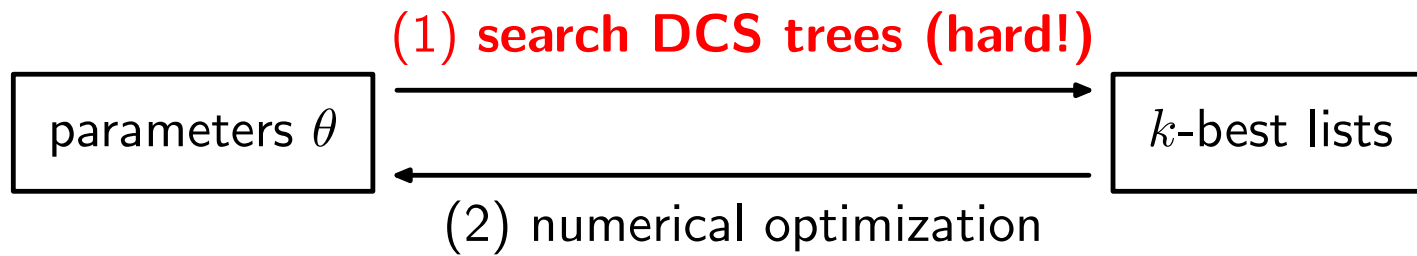
System	Description	Lexicon	Logical forms
zc05	CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2005]	✗ ✗	✓
zc07	relaxed CCG [Zettlemoyer & Collins, 2007]	✗ ✗	✓
KZGS10	CCG w/unification [Kwiatkowski et al., 2010]	✗ ✗	✓
DCS	our system	✓ ✗	✗
DCS <sup>+</sup>	our system	✓ ✓	✗



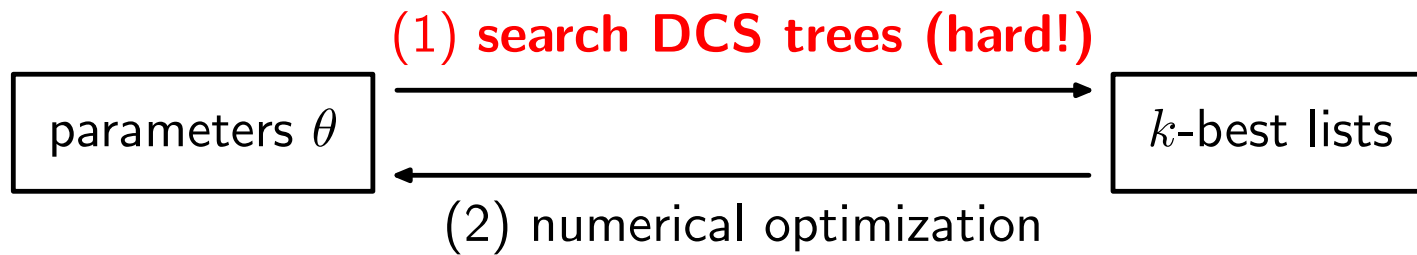
# Some Intuition on Learning



# Some Intuition on Learning

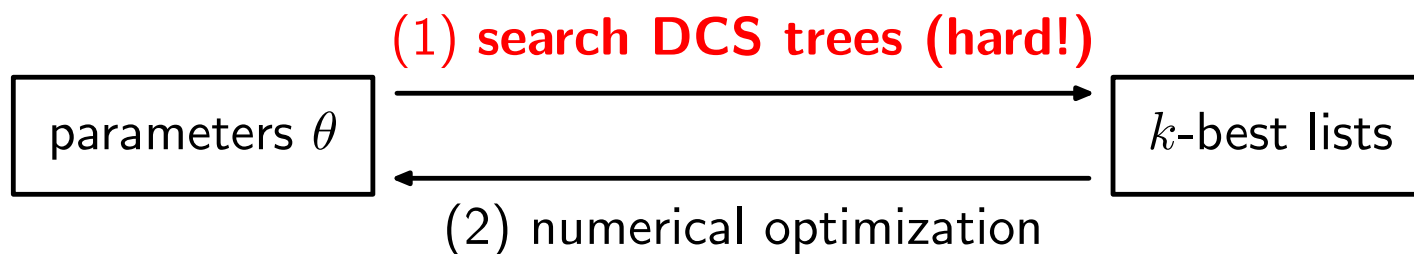


# Some Intuition on Learning

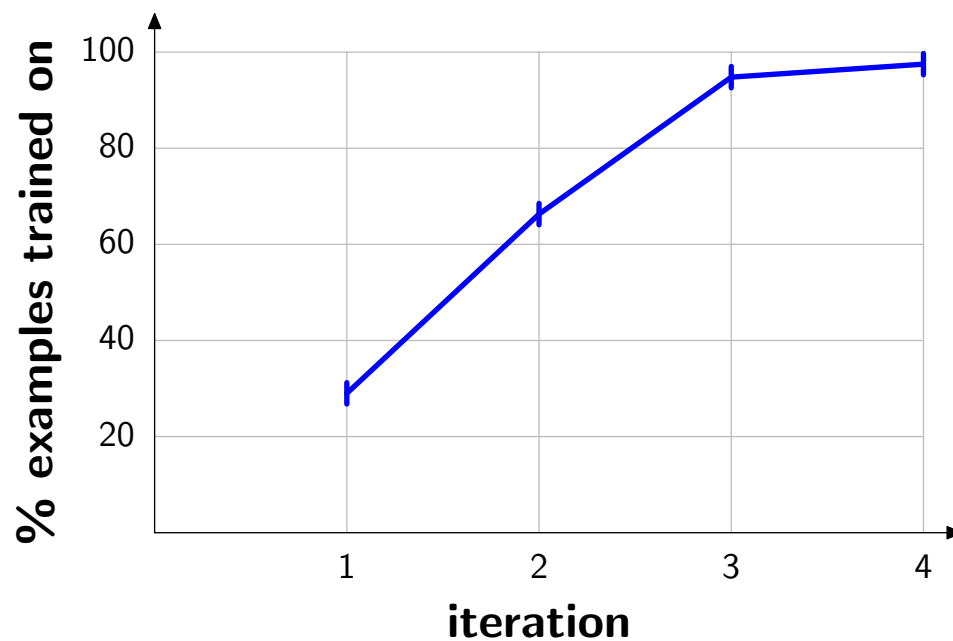


If no DCS tree on  $k$ -best list is correct, skip example in (2)

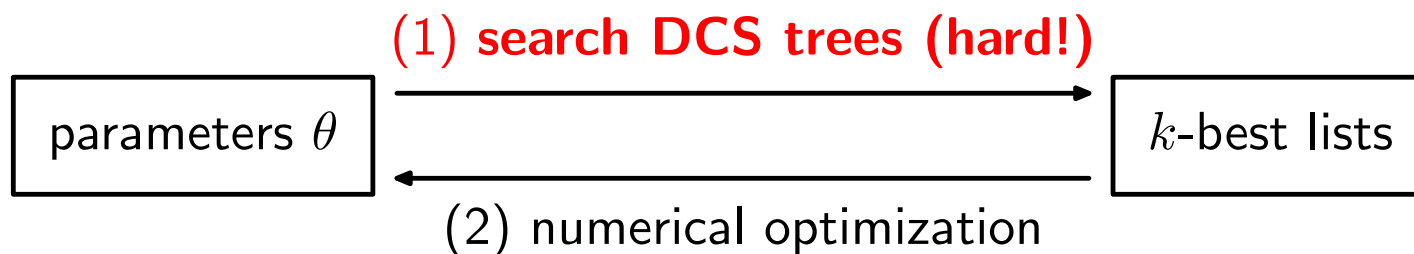
# Some Intuition on Learning



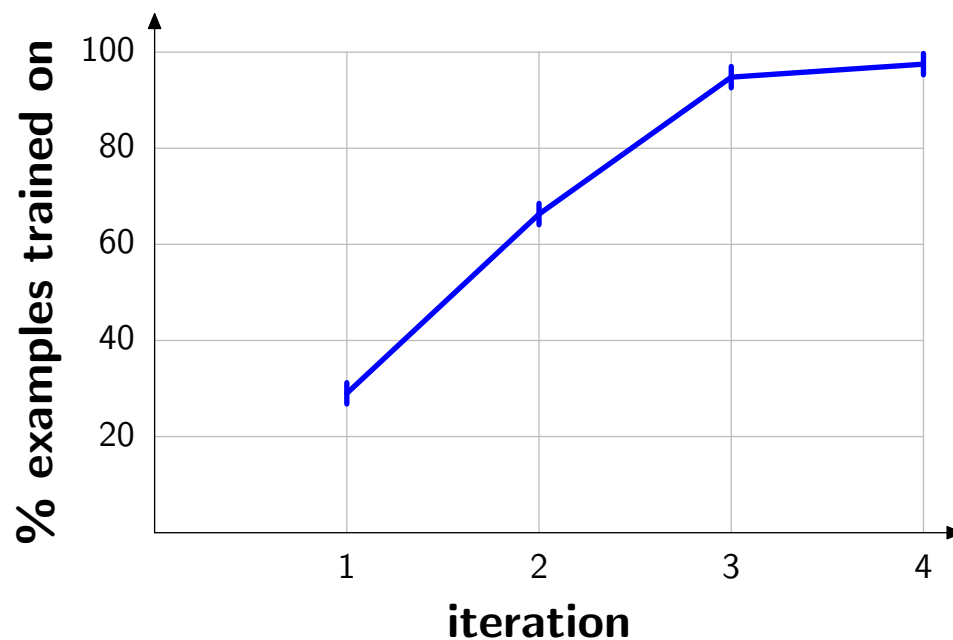
If no DCS tree on  $k$ -best list is correct, skip example in (2)



# Some Intuition on Learning



If no DCS tree on  $k$ -best list is correct, skip example in (2)



Effect: automatic curriculum learning, learning improves search

# Current Limitations

# Current Limitations

Only using forward information

Execute program to get answer, but want to invert

# Current Limitations

## Only using forward information

Execute program to get answer, but want to invert

## Non-identifiability of program

If all cities in database are in US, then

can't distinguish  $\{c : \text{city}(c)\}$  and  $\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{US})\}$

# Current Limitations

## Only using forward information

Execute program to get answer, but want to invert

## Non-identifiability of program

If all cities in database are in US, then

can't distinguish  $\{c : \text{city}(c)\}$  and  $\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{US})\}$

## Unknown facts: *How far is Los Angeles from Boston?*

Database has no distance information



# Current Limitations

## Only using forward information

Execute program to get answer, but want to invert

## Non-identifiability of program

If all cities in database are in US, then

can't distinguish  $\{c : \text{city}(c)\}$  and  $\{c : \text{city}(c) \wedge \text{loc}(c, \text{US})\}$

## Unknown facts: *How far is Los Angeles from Boston?*

Database has no distance information

## Unknown concepts: *What states are landlocked?*

Need to induce database view for  $\text{landlocked}(x) = \neg \text{border}(x, \text{ocean})$

# Conclusion

**Goal:** learn to answer questions from question/answer pairs

# Conclusion

Goal: learn to answer questions from question/answer pairs

Empirical result:

DCS (no logical forms)  $\cong$  existing systems (with logical forms)

# Conclusion

**Goal:** learn to answer questions from question/answer pairs

**Empirical result:**

DCS (no logical forms)  $\cong$  existing systems (with logical forms)

**Conceptual contribution:** DCS trees

- Trees: connects dependency syntax with efficient evaluation

# Conclusion

**Goal:** learn to answer questions from question/answer pairs

**Empirical result:**

DCS (no logical forms)  $\cong$  existing systems (with logical forms)

**Conceptual contribution:** DCS trees

- Trees: connects dependency syntax with efficient evaluation
- Mark-Execute: unifying framework for handling scope

thank

2

1

you