**Viterbi Training Improves** Unsupervised Dependency Parsing

### Valentin I. Spitkovsky

### with **Hiyan Alshawi** (Google Inc.) **Daniel Jurafsky** (Stanford University) and **Christopher D. Manning** (Stanford University)









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- faster, simpler and more accurate

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- easy state-of-the-art results

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### Interpretation

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### Interpretation

- machine learning and linguistic perspectives

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- Interpretation
  - machine learning and linguistic perspectives
  - practical insights (some theoretical underpinning)

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### Core Issue

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#### Interpretation

- machine learning and linguistic perspectives
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#### Core Issue

- provably wrong objective functions



- faster, simpler and more accurate
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### Interpretation

- machine learning and linguistic perspectives
- practical insights (some theoretical underpinning)

### Core Issue

- provably wrong objective functions
- theoretical insights (mathematically sound)

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#### Input: Raw Text

... By most measures, the nation's industrial sector is now growing very slowly — if at all. Factory payrolls fell in September. So did the Federal Reserve ...

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#### • Input: Raw Text (Sentences, Tokens and POS-tags)

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• Input: Raw Text (Sentences, Tokens and POS-tags)

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• **Output:** Syntactic Structures (and a Probabilistic Grammar)



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• our scope is a very specific problem

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- but the high-level ideas may generalize

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• Classic EM: "focus across the board" (hard to see the trees for the forest)

- our scope is a very specific problem
- but the high-level ideas may generalize
- Classic EM: "focus across the board"

(hard to see the trees for the forest)



### • Viterbi EM: zoom in on likeliest tree



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**Directed score:**  $\frac{3}{5} = 60\%$ 

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**Directed score:**  $\frac{3}{5} = 60\%$  (right/left-branching baselines:  $\frac{2}{5} = 40\%$ ).

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### a head-outward model, with word classes and valence/adjacency (Klein and Manning, 2004)

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# Learning: EM, via inside-outside re-estimation

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• sentences  $\{s\}$ 

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#### • sentences $\{s\}$ , legal parse trees $t \in T(s)$

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#### • sentences $\{s\}$ , legal parse trees $t \in T(s)$ , and a gold $t^*$

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- non-convex objective very sensitive to initialization
- maximizing the probability of data (sentence strings):

$$\widehat{ heta}_{\mathsf{UNS}} = rg\max_{ heta} \prod_{s} \underbrace{\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}(s)} \mathbb{P}_{ heta}(t)}_{\mathbb{P}_{ heta}(s)}$$

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• supervised objective would be convex (counting):

$$\hat{ heta}_{\mathsf{SUP}} = rg\max_{ heta} \prod_{s} \mathbb{P}_{ heta}(t^*(s))$$

#### WSJ

# Standard Corpus: WSJk

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• The Wall Street Journal section of the Penn Treebank Project (Marcus et al., 1993)

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- Training: traditionally, WSJ10 (Klein, 2005);
- Evaluation: Section 23 of WSJ<sup>∞</sup> (all sentences).

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Spitkovsky et al. (Stanford & Google)

Viterbi EM

CoNLL (2010-07-15) 9 / 26

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#### Viterbi EM

### Viterbi EM: Results!



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#### Viterbi EM

### Viterbi EM: Results!



Results Viterbi EM

### State-of-the-Art

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#### Section 23 of $WSJ^{\infty}$

#### **Right-Branching Baseline**

(Klein and Manning, 2004)

**32%** 

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#### Section 23 of $WSJ^{\infty}$

#### **Right-Branching Baseline**

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#### DMV with Classic EM

(Klein and Manning, 2004) 34% (Spitkovsky et al., 2010) 45%

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#### Section 23 of WSJ $^{\infty}$

Right-Branching Baseline		
(Klein and Manning, 2004)	32%	
DMV with Classic EM		
(Klein and Manning, 2004)	34%	
(Spitkovsky et al., 2010)	45%	
DMV with Viterbi EM		
with Smoothing	<mark>45</mark> %	

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Right-Branching Baseline (Klein and Manning, 2004)	32%
DMV with Classic EM (Klein and Manning, 2004) (Spitkovsky et al., 2010)	34% 45%
DMV with Viterbi EM with Smoothing + Clever Initialization	45% <mark>48</mark> %

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Right-Branching Baseline (Klein and Manning, 2004)	32%		
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DMV with <mark>Viterbi EM</mark> with Smoothing + Clever Initialization	45% 48%	48% 51%	

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Right-Branching Baseline (Klein and Manning, 2004)	32%		
DMV with Classic EM	210/		
(Kiein and Manning, 2004) (Spitkovsky et al., 2010)	54 <i>%</i> 45%	43%	
DMV with Viterbi EM			
with Smoothing	45%	48%	(+5%)
+ Clever Initialization	48%	<mark>51</mark> %	. ,

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Interpretation

#### Interpretation: Why Does Viterbi EM Work?

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$$w_t = \mathbb{P}_{\theta}(t \mid s)$$

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 could work, given a very powerful model θ...

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... wagged by its very long tail

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- improves with more data (statistics become efficient)

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- Viterbi EM is powered by greed (much like Capitalism)
- does not require ability to properly value all parse trees
- so long as it can spot a decent one (winner-take-all)
- different (weaker?) requirement on models: (like IR) —  $\theta$  needs to be just discriminative enough! (ranking)
- at small scales, data are too sparse (markets are illiquid)
- improves with more data (statistics become efficient)
   really, what we want from unsupervised learners!

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#### • Viterbi EM: focus on the individual best parse trees

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makes rapid progress (the rich get richer)

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 given a bad (uniform) estimate,
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 given a great (supervised) estimate, cuts down the better trees (Dekulakization)

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## Interpretation: Connections

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Interpretation: Connections

 "learning by doing" — (unsupervised) self-training (Clark et al., 2003; Ng and Cardie, 2003; McClosky et al., 2006)

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  - relevance to understanding language acquisition?

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• supervised objective (convex):

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• classic unsupervised parsers:

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- classic unsupervised parsers:
  - train with respect to sentence strings

(learning)

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(learning) (inference)

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(learning) (inference) (evaluation)

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- Viterbi EM fixes one of these ...
  - ... but both flavors of EM
    - walk away from the supervised optimum

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(learning) (inference) (evaluation) **Objective Functions** 

<u>Reminder</u>: Accuracy vs.  $\theta^* \neq \hat{\theta}_{\text{\tiny SUP}}$ 

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#### maximizing likelihood may degrade accuracy (Pereira and Schabes, 1992; Elworthy, 1994; Merialdo, 1994)

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#### • maximizing likelihood may degrade accuracy

(Pereira and Schabes, 1992; Elworthy, 1994; Merialdo, 1994)

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 fitting the (supervised) DMV to contrived symmetries:

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• expected accuracy for  $\hat{\theta}_{sup}$ : 40% (20% for exact trees) — yet could achieve 50% (for both) deterministically **Objective Functions** 

More Subtle: 
$$\theta^* = \hat{\theta}_{_{\sf SUP}}$$
 vs.  $\hat{\theta}_{_{\sf UNS}}$  vs.  $\hat{\theta}_{_{\sf VIT}}$ 

Spitkovsky et al. (Stanford & Google)

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• this time, an organic example:

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#### **Questions?**

Spitkovsky et al. (Stanford & Google)

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