



Coreference Resolution with World Knowledge

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Noun Phrase Coreference

- Identify the noun phrases (NPs) that refer to the same real-world entity

Improving Coreference Systems

- Develop new **models** and **methods**
- Employ sophisticated **linguistic knowledge sources**
 - semantic and world knowledge

World Knowledge

- Knowledge about the world that humans use to interpret referring expressions
 - may not be available from the context of a referring expression

Example

Martha Stewart is hoping people don't run out on her.
The celebrity indicted on charges stemming from ...

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- world knowledge has been shown to improve coreference systems

Three Sources of World Knowledge

1. Online encyclopedia and lexical knowledge bases
 - Wikipedia (Ponzetto and Strube, 2006, 2007)
 - YAGO (Bryl et al., 2010; Uryupina et al., 2011)
2. Coreference-annotated data
3. Unannotated data

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1. Existing work has evaluated a world knowledge source independently of the others
 - do they provide complementary or overlapping knowledge?
 - can they provide further gains when used **in combination**?

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- Evaluate commonly-used and under-investigated world knowledge sources for learning-based coreference resolution
 1. Can they provide further gains when applied **in combination**?
 - do they offer complementary or overlapping knowledge?
 2. Existing work has shown that world knowledge sources can improve the performance of the mention-pair model
 - Can they improve a **more sophisticated coreference model**
 - e.g., the **cluster-ranking** model (Rahman & Ng, 2009)?

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 1. Can they provide further gains when applied **in combination**?
 - do they offer complementary or overlapping knowledge?
 2. Can they improve a **more sophisticated coreference model**
 - e.g., the **cluster-ranking** model (Rahman and Ng, 2009)?
 3. Are the gains dependent on the underlying **annotation scheme**?
 - ACE: coreference among NPs belonging to ACE entity types
 - OntoNotes: “unrestricted” coreference

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- contains 5 million facts derived from Wikipedia and WordNet
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 - **TYPE**: the IS-A relation
 - $\langle \text{AlbertEinstein}, \text{TYPE}, \text{physicist} \rangle$
 - $\langle \text{BarackObama}, \text{TYPE}, \text{US president} \rangle$

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 - **TYPE**: the IS-A relation
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 - **MEANS**: addresses synonymy and ambiguity
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 - **MEANS**: addresses synonymy and ambiguity
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 - provide evidence that the two NPs involved are coreferent

Why YAGO?

- combines the information in Wikipedia and WordNet
- can resolve **the celebrity** to **Martha Stewart**
 - neither Wikipedia nor WordNet alone can

Using YAGO for Coreference Resolution

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 - Mention-pair model
 - Cluster-ranking model

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 - **Mention-pair model**
 - determines whether two NPs are coreferent
 - each instance corresponds to two NPs
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 - **Cluster-ranking model**
 - ranks coreference clusters preceding each NP to be resolved
 - each instance corresponds to NP_k and a preceding cluster c
 - features are defined between NP_k and c
 - $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ if } NP_k \text{ and at least 1 NP in } c \text{ are in a TYPE or MEANS relation} \\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{array} \right.$

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- To resolve **it** to **program trading**, it may be helpful to know
 1. **it** and **program trading** have the same semantic role
 2. **decry** and **decounce** are “semantically related”

Observation

- Features encoding
 - the semantic roles of the two NPs under consideration
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Use FrameNet

- Checks whether the two predicates appear in the same frame
- Consider two verbs related as long as there exists a frame that contains both of them

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- Assume NP_j and NP_k are the arguments of two predicates
 1. Encode knowledge from FrameNet as one of three values
 - The two predicates appear in the same frame
 - Both appear in FrameNet but never in the same frame
 - One or both of them do not appear in FrameNet
 2. Encode semantic roles of NP_j and NP_k as one of five values
 - Arg0-Arg0, Arg1-Arg1, Arg0-Arg1, Arg1-Arg0, OTHERS
 3. Create 15 binary-valued features by pairing the 3 possible values from FrameNet and 5 possible values from ASSERT

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Incorporating Features into Models

- Mention-pair model
 - the 15 features can be employed directly by the mention-pair model, since they are defined on two NPs
- Cluster-ranking model
 - extend their definitions so that they can be computed between an NP and a preceding cluster

Related Work

- No coreference work that employs FrameNet
- But ... related to
 - **Bean & Riloff's (2004)** use of patterns for inducing domain-specific contextual role knowledge
 - **Ponzetto & Strube's (2006)** use of semantic roles for inducing features

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 - Since world knowledge is needed for coreference resolution, a human annotator must have employed world knowledge when coreference-annotating a document
- Goal
 - Design features that can “recover” such world knowledge

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What kind of world knowledge can we extract from annotated data?

World Knowledge from Annotated Data

1. world knowledge for **identifying coreference relations**

- if **Barack Obama** and **U.S. president** appear in the same coreference chain in a training text, we can gather the world knowledge that **Barack Obama** is a **U.S. president**

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2. world knowledge for determining **non-coreference**

- infer that a **lion** and a **tiger** are unlikely to refer to the same entity after realizing that they never appear in the same coreference chain in the training data
 - features computed based on **WordNet distance** or **distributional similarity** may incorrectly suggest that the two are coreferent

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- Observation
 - The NP pairs collected from coreference-annotated training data could be useful features (e.g., <Obama, U.S. president>)
- How to compute values for these features?
 - **Mention-pair model**: feature value is
$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the feature is composed of the two NPs under consideration} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 - **Cluster-ranking model**
 - Extend this feature definition so that the feature can be applied to an NP and a preceding cluster

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- Potential problem
 - **Data sparsity**: many NP pairs in training data may not appear in test data

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- Solution
 - Employ not only the NP pairs as features but also generalized versions of these features. E.g.,
 - replace a named entity by its named entity tag
 - replace a common NP by its head noun
 - ...

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- Recall that ... features encoding
 - the semantic roles of two NPs
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- Goal: create **variants** of these features

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Each feature is represented by two verbs and the semantic roles

- e.g., <decry, denounce, Arg1-Arg1>

Why would these features be useful for coreference?

- They allow a learner to learn from annotated data whether two NPs serving as the objects of *decry* and *denounce* are likely to be coreferent, for instance

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World Knowledge from Unannotated Data

- can extract syntactic appositions heuristically
 - shown to be useful for coreference resolution
(e.g., Daume & Marcu, 2005, Ng, 2007, Haghghi & Klein, 2009)
- Each extraction is an NP pair. E.g.,
 - <Barack Obama, the president>, ...

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- Each extraction is an NP pair. E.g.,
 - <Barack Obama, the president>, <Delta Airlines, the carrier>
- Create a database consisting of the syntactic appositions extracted from an unannotated corpus
 - 1.057 million NP pairs

Features based on Syntactic Appositions

- Create a binary-valued feature
- **Mention-pair model**: feature value is
$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the two NPs appear as a pair in the database} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
- **Cluster-ranking model**
 - extend the definition above so that the feature can be applied to an NP and a preceding cluster

Evaluation

- Evaluate world knowledge sources for coreference resolution

Experimental Setup

- Corpus
 - 410 texts that appear in both OntoNotes-2 and ACE 2004/2005
 - 80% for training, 20% for testing
- NPs extracted automatically
 - ACE: use mention extractor trained on training texts
 - OntoNotes: use Reconcile's markable identification system
- Scoring programs
 - B³
 - CEAF

Baseline System

- Feature set
 - does not encode world knowledge
 - 39 linguistic features from Rahman & Ng (2009)
- Models
 - trained using linear SVM

B³ Results on ACE (Baseline)

	Mention-Pair			Cluster-Ranking		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	56.5	69.7	62.4	61.7	71.2	66.1

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- The cluster-ranking model outperforms the mention-pair model

Next ...

- Apply the world knowledge sources in isolation to Baseline

Applying World Knowledge Sources in Isolation to Baseline (B³ Results on ACE)

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Baseline+YAGO Means	56.7	70.0	62.7	62.0	71.4	66.4
Baseline+Noun Pairs	57.5	70.6	63.4	64.1	73.4	68.4
Baseline+FrameNet	56.4	70.9	62.8	61.8	71.9	66.5
Baseline+Verb Pairs	56.9	71.3	63.3	62.1	72.2	66.8
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- Each type of features improves the Baseline for both MP and CR

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- Except for FrameNet, F-score improvements are always accompanied by a simultaneous rise in recall and precision
 - knowledge sources were computed with high accuracies

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- Adding the YAGO Type feature and the Noun Pairs yield the largest improvements over Baseline

Next ...

- Add different types of features **incrementally** to Baseline

Adding Knowledge Sources **Incrementally** to the Baseline (B³ Results on ACE)

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Baseline+YT+YM	57.8	70.9	63.6	63.9	72.6	68.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	59.5	71.9	65.1	66.1	75.4	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	59.7	72.4	65.4	66.4	75.7	70.7

Adding Knowledge Sources **Incrementally** to the Baseline (B³ Results on ACE)

	Mention-Pair			Cluster-Ranking		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	56.5	69.7	62.4	61.7	71.2	66.1
Baseline+YT	57.3	70.3	63.1	63.5	72.4	67.6
Baseline+YT+YM	57.8	70.9	63.6	63.9	72.6	68.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	59.5	71.9	65.1	66.1	75.4	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	59.7	72.4	65.4	66.4	75.7	70.7

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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
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	Mention-Pair			Cluster-Ranking		
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Baseline+YT+YM	57.8	70.9	63.6	63.9	72.6	68.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	59.5	71.9	65.1	66.1	75.4	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	59.7	72.4	65.4	66.4	75.7	70.7

- Best result: add all but Appositives to the Baseline

Adding Knowledge Sources **Incrementally** to the Baseline (B³ Results on ACE)

	Mention-Pair			Cluster-Ranking		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	56.5	69.7	62.4	61.7	71.2	66.1
Baseline+YT	57.3	70.3	63.1	63.5	72.4	67.6
Baseline+YT+YM	57.8	70.9	63.6	63.9	72.6	68.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	59.5	71.9	65.1	66.1	75.4	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	59.7	72.4	65.4	66.4	75.7	70.7

- Best result: add all but Appositives to the Baseline
 - F-score increases by 3.2 (MP) and 4.8 (CR) in comparison to Baseline

Adding Knowledge Sources **Incrementally** to the Baseline (B³ Results on ACE)

	Mention-Pair			Cluster-Ranking		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	56.5	69.7	62.4	61.7	71.2	66.1
Baseline+YT	57.3	70.3	63.1	63.5	72.4	67.6
Baseline+YT+YM	57.8	70.9	63.6	63.9	72.6	68.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	59.5	71.9	65.1	66.1	75.4	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	59.6	72.1	65.3	66.3	75.1	70.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	59.9	72.5	65.6	66.6	75.9	70.9
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	59.7	72.4	65.4	66.4	75.7	70.7

- F-score almost always increases after adding each type of features
 - Different types of features provide complementary knowledge

Next ...

- Examine whether the improvements observed in evaluations using **ACE annotations** carry over to **OntoNotes annotations**

B³ Results based on the ACE and OntoNotes Annotation Schemes: Cluster Ranking

	ACE			OntoNotes		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	61.7	71.2	66.1	59.6	68.8	63.8
Baseline+YT	63.5	72.4	67.6	61.7	70.0	65.5
Baseline+YT+YM	63.9	72.6	68.0	62.1	70.4	66.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	66.1	75.4	70.4	62.9	72.4	67.3
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	66.3	75.1	70.4	63.1	72.3	67.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	66.6	75.9	70.9	63.5	72.9	67.9
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	66.4	75.7	70.7	63.3	72.9	67.8

B³ Results based on the ACE and OntoNotes Annotation Schemes: Cluster Ranking

	ACE			OntoNotes		
	R	P	F	R	P	F
Baseline	61.7	71.2	66.1	59.6	68.8	63.8
Baseline+YT	63.5	72.4	67.6	61.7	70.0	65.5
Baseline+YT+YM	63.9	72.6	68.0	62.1	70.4	66.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	66.1	75.4	70.4	62.9	72.4	67.3
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	66.3	75.1	70.4	63.1	72.3	67.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	66.6	75.9	70.9	63.5	72.9	67.9
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Baseline+YT+YM	63.9	72.6	68.0	62.1	70.4	66.0
Baseline+YT+YM+NP	66.1	75.4	70.4	62.9	72.4	67.3
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	66.3	75.1	70.4	63.1	72.3	67.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	66.6	75.9	70.9	63.5	72.9	67.9
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- Performance trends are similar for both annotation schemes

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Baseline+YT+YM+NP	66.1	75.4	70.4	62.9	72.4	67.3
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	66.3	75.1	70.4	63.1	72.3	67.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	66.6	75.9	70.9	63.5	72.9	67.9
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- Performance trends are similar for both annotation schemes
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Baseline+YT+YM+NP	66.1	75.4	70.4	62.9	72.4	67.3
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN	66.3	75.1	70.4	63.1	72.3	67.4
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP	66.6	75.9	70.9	63.5	72.9	67.9
Baseline+YT+YM+NP+FN+VP+AP	66.4	75.7	70.7	63.3	72.9	67.8

- Performance trends are similar for both annotation schemes
 - Best results achieved by adding all but Appositives to Baseline
 - F-score almost always increases after adding each feature type

Summary

- Evaluated different sources of world knowledge when used by the mention-pair model and the cluster-ranking model
 - each type of features improves Baseline when used in isolation
 - all but the Appositive features improve F-score when added incrementally to the Baseline
 - performance trends remain the same regardless of the underlying coreference model and annotation scheme
 - while each type of features provides small gains, their cumulative benefits are substantial