

Neural Semantic Role Labeling: What works and what's next

or: What else can we do other than using 1000
LSTM layers :)

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[†] Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, Univ. of Washington,

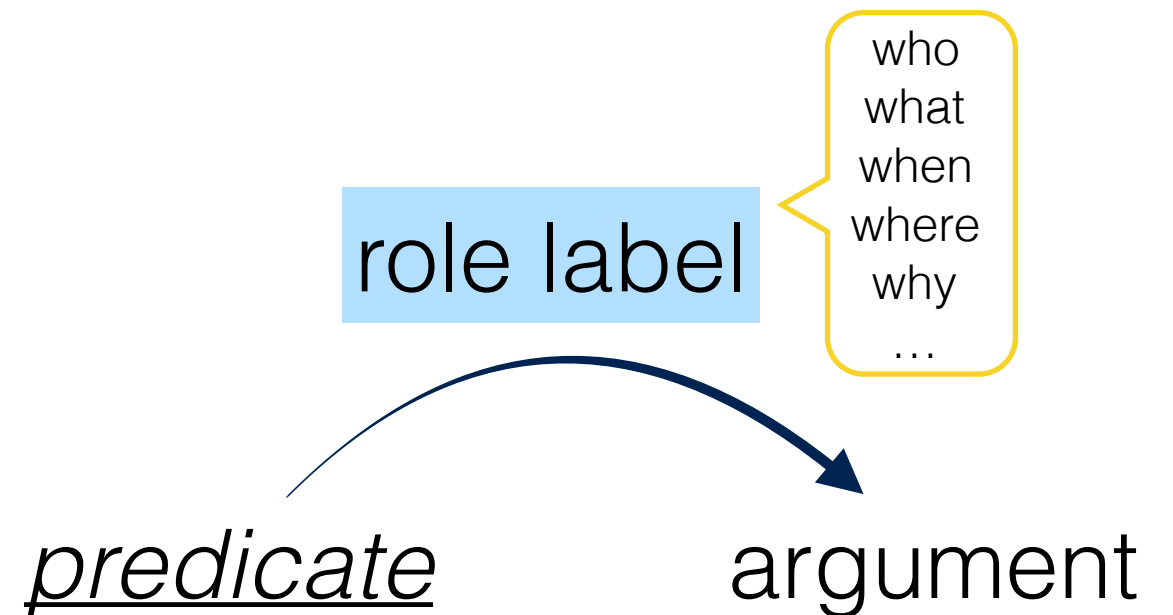
[‡] Facebook AI Research

^{*} Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

Motivation

who did what to whom,
when and where

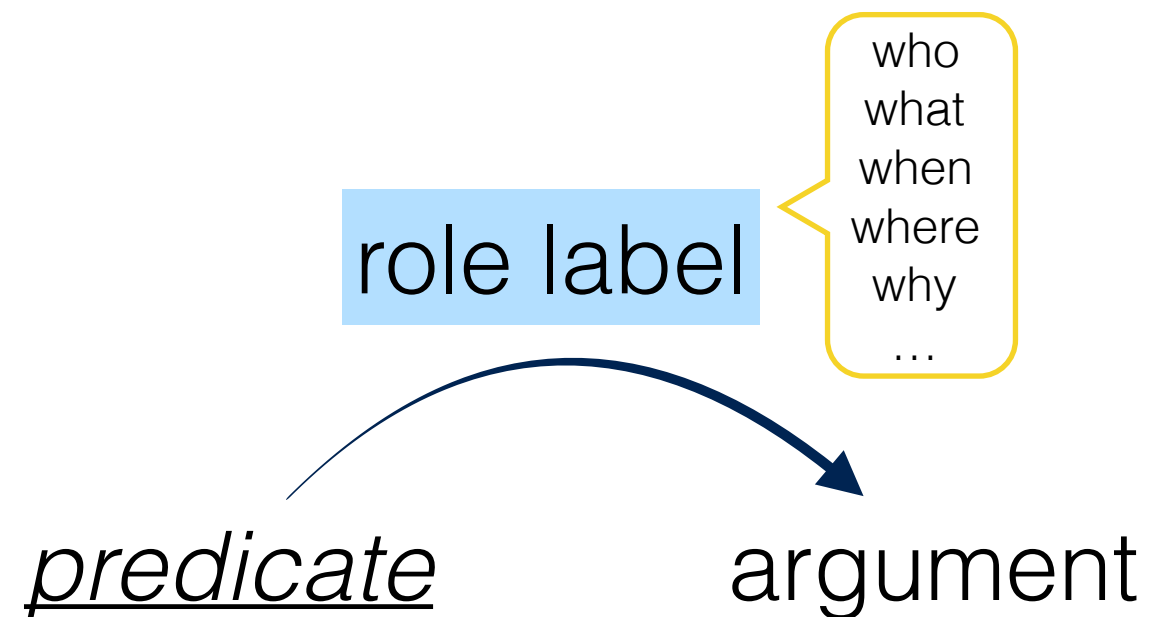


- Find out “who did what to whom” in text.
- Given predicate, identify arguments and label them.

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

Motivation

who did what to whom,
when and where



Applications

Question Answering



Information Extraction



Machine Translation



Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)

The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

My mug broke into pieces immediately.

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.



My mug broke into pieces immediately.

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



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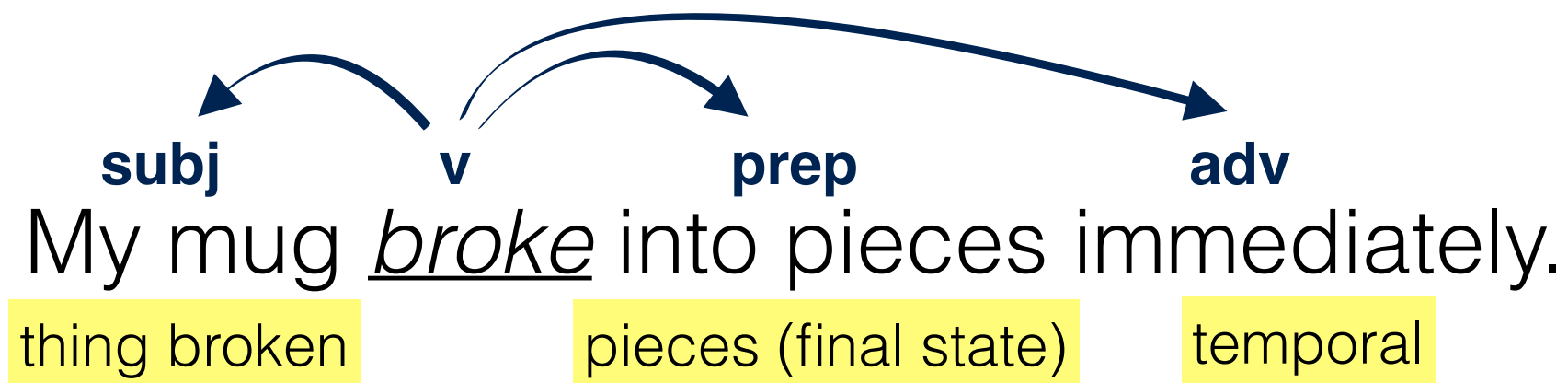
thing broken



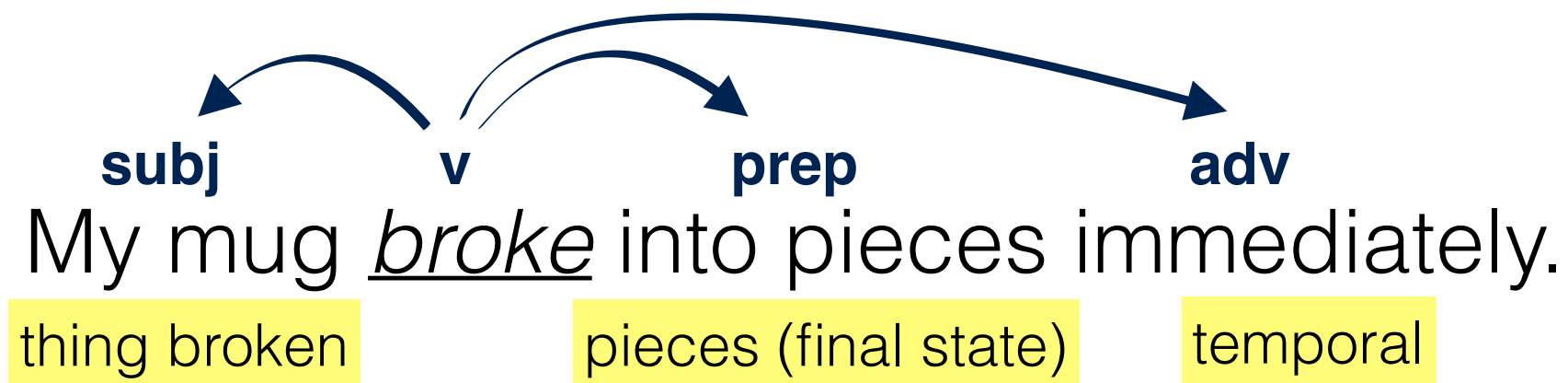
My mug broke into pieces immediately.

thing broken

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



Frame: <u>break.01</u>	
role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?

Semantic Role Labeling (SRL)



The robot broke my favorite mug with a wrench.

breaker

ARG0

thing broken

ARG1

instrument

ARG2



My mug broke into pieces immediately.

thing broken

ARG1

pieces (final state)

ARG3

temporal

ARGM-TMP

Frame: break.01

role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?



The Proposition Bank (PropBank)

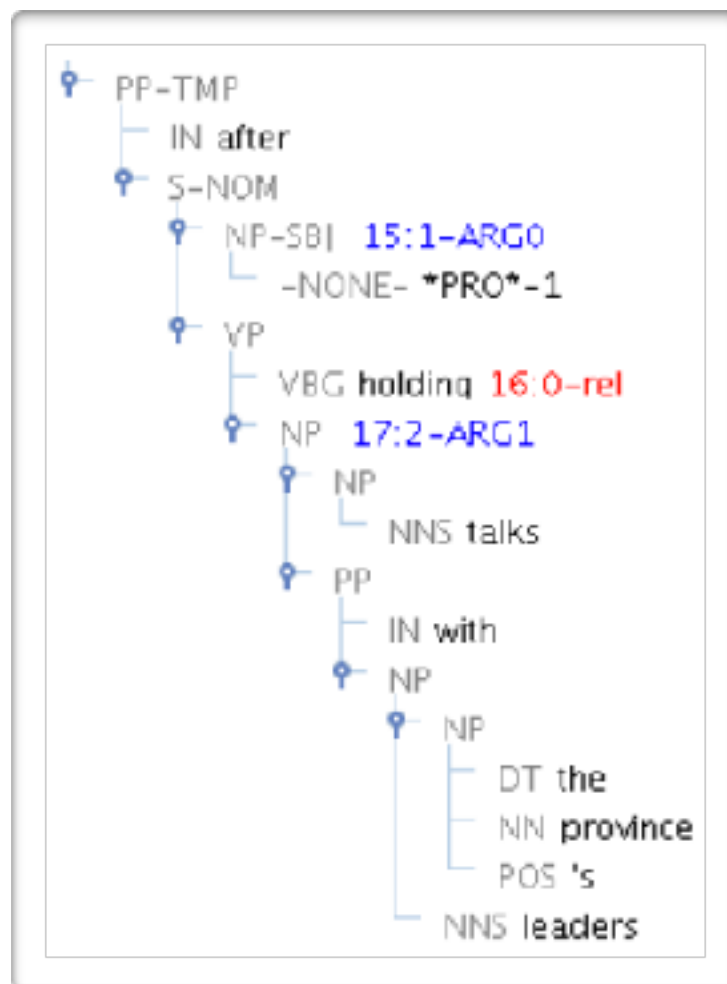
Paul Kingsbury and Martha Palmer. [From Treebank to PropBank](#). 2002



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Annotated on top of the
Penn Treebank Syntax



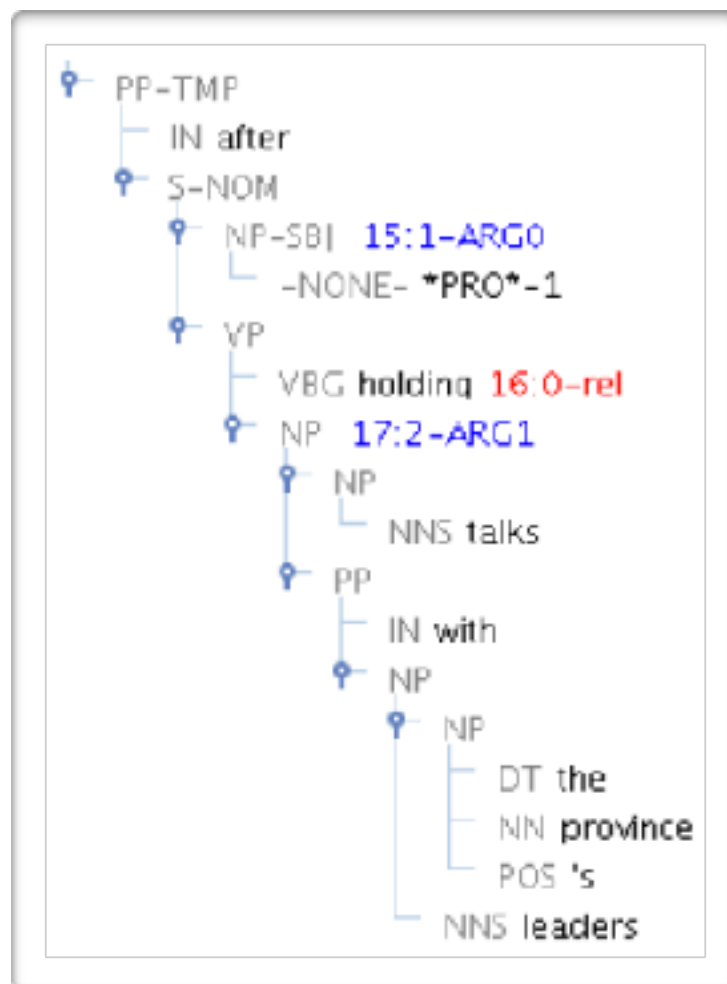
PropBank Annotation Guidelines,
Bonial et al., 2010



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Core roles:

Verb-specific roles (ARG0-
ARG5) defined in frame files

Frame: *break.01*

role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?

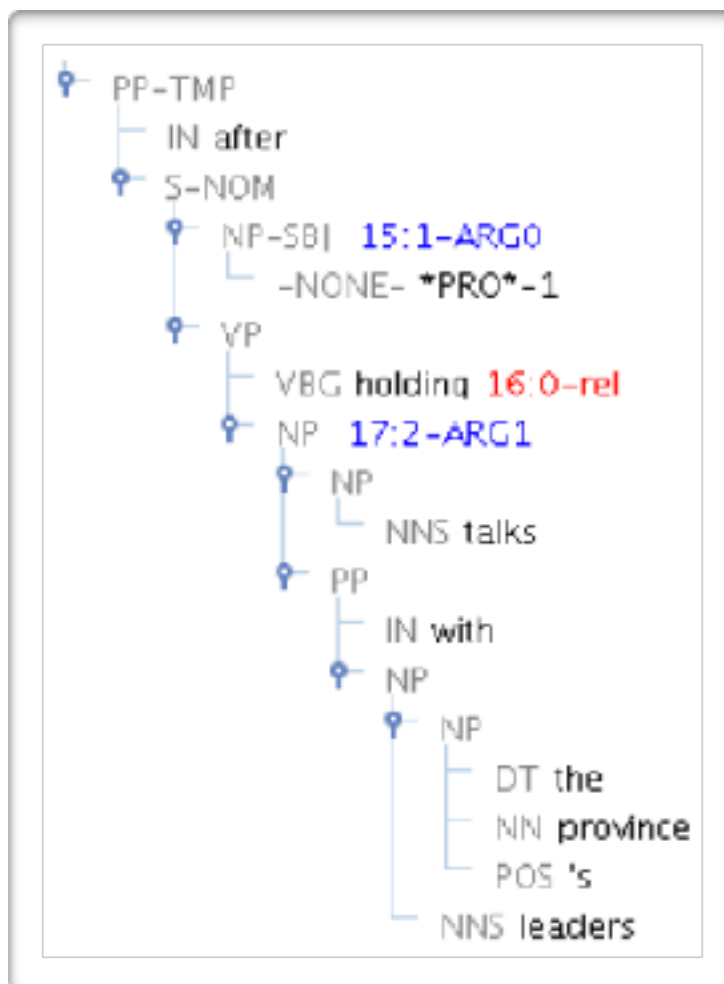
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Core roles:
Verb-specific roles (ARG0-
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Frame: *break.01*

role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument

Frame: *buy.01*

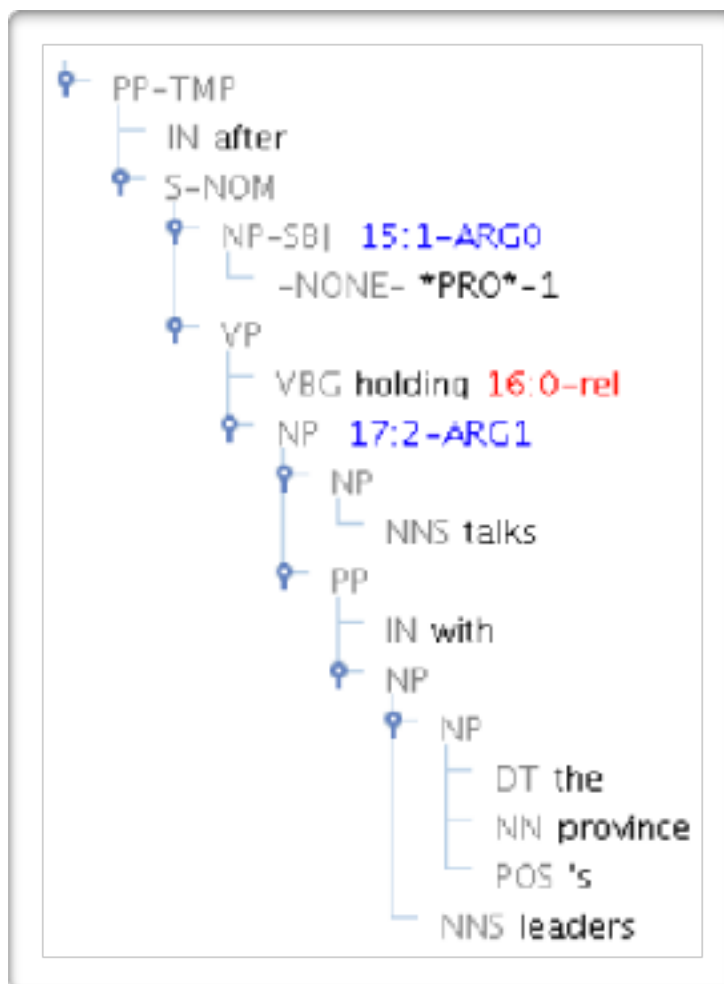
role	description
ARG0	buyer
ARG1	thing bough
ARG2	seller
ARG3	price paid
ARG4	benefactive



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Bonial et al., 2010

Core roles:
Verb-specific roles (ARG0-
ARG5) defined in frame files

Frame: *break.01*

role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument

Frame: *buy.01*

role	description
ARG0	buyer
ARG1	thing bough
ARG2	seller
ARG3	price paid
ARG4	benefactive

Adjunct roles:
(ARGM-) shared
across verbs

role	description
TMP	temporal
LOC	location
MNR	manner
DIR	direction
CAU	cause
PRP	purpose
...	

SRL is a hard problem ...

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- Over 10 years, F1 on the PropBank test set:
79.4 (Punyakanok 2005) — **80.3** (FitzGerald 2015)

SRL is a hard problem ...

- Over 10 years, F1 on the PropBank test set:
79.4 (Punyakanok 2005) — **80.3** (FitzGerald 2015)
- Many interesting challenges:
 - Syntactic alternation
 - Prepositional phrase attachment
 - Long-range dependencies and common sense

Syntactic Alternation

PP Attachment

Long-range Dependencies

The robot plays piano.

ARG0

player

ARG2

instrument

The cafe is playing my favorite song.

ARG0

player

ARG1

thing performed

The music plays softly.

ARG1

thing performed

ARGM-MNR

Syntactic Alternation

PP Attachment

Long-range Dependencies

The robot plays piano.

ARG0

player

ARG2

instrument

subjects

The cafe is playing my favorite song.

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player

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thing performed

The music plays softly.

ARG1

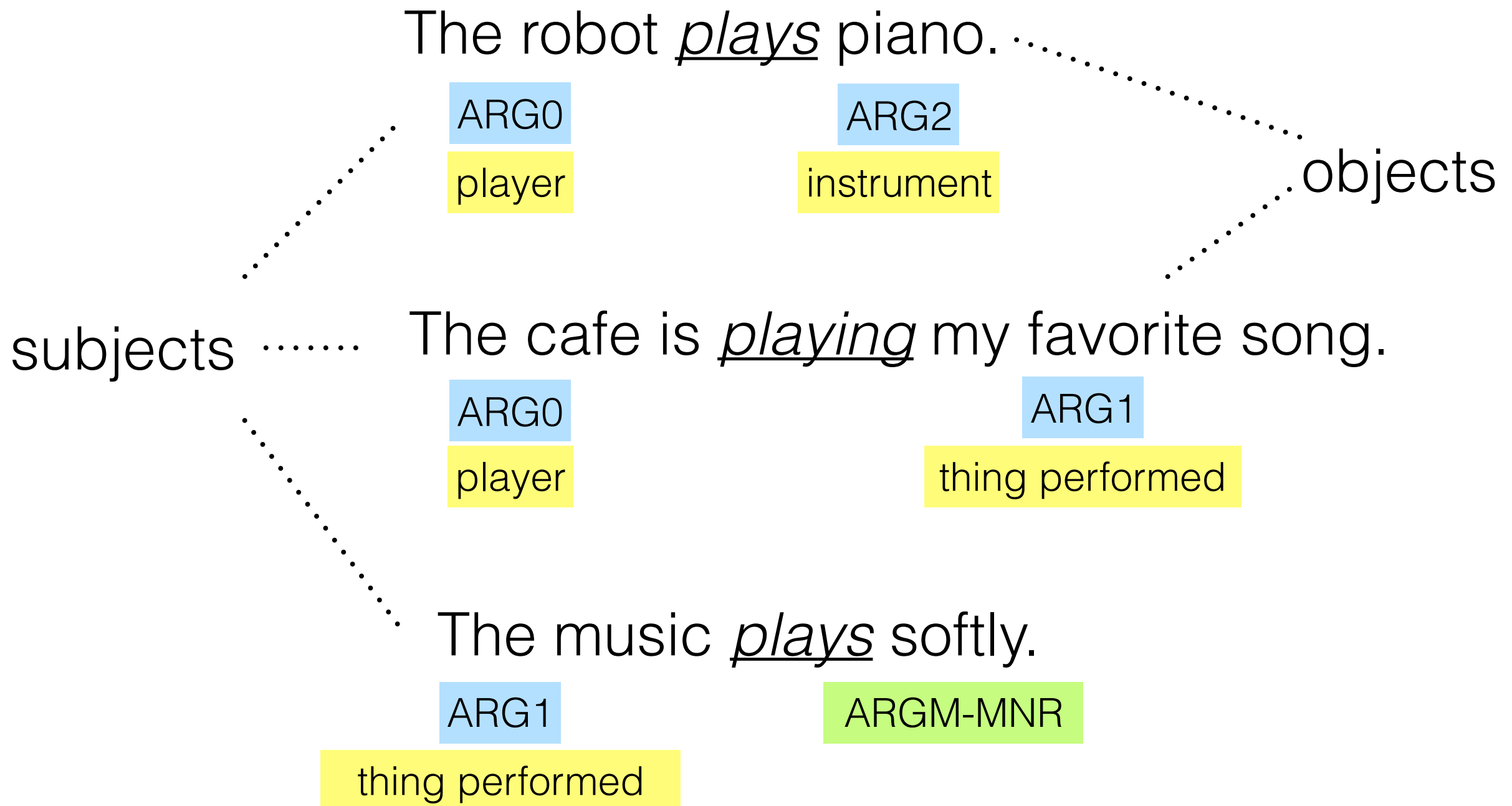
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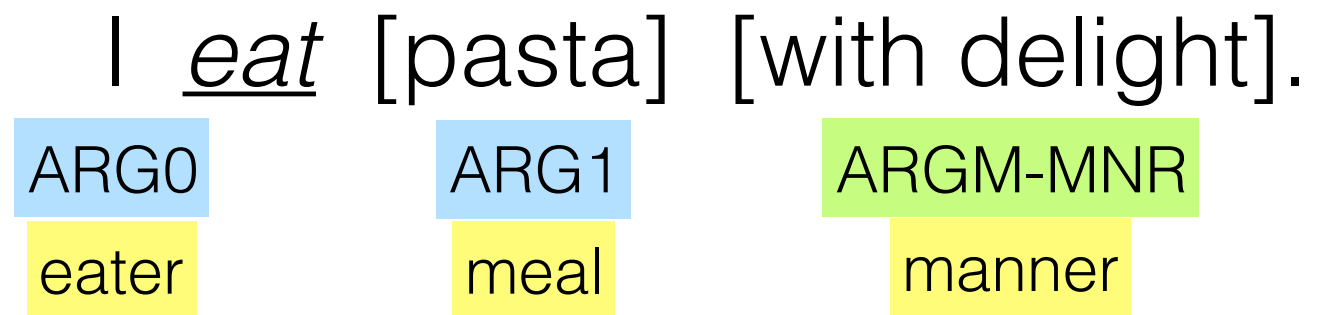
ARGM-MNR

Syntactic Alternation

PP Attachment

Long-range Dependencies





I eat [pasta] [with delight].

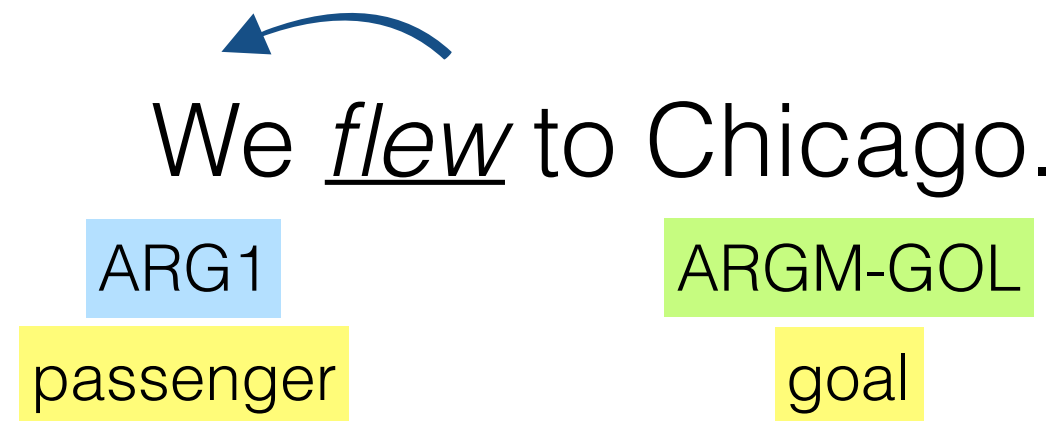
ARG0	ARG1	ARGM-MNR
eater	meal	manner



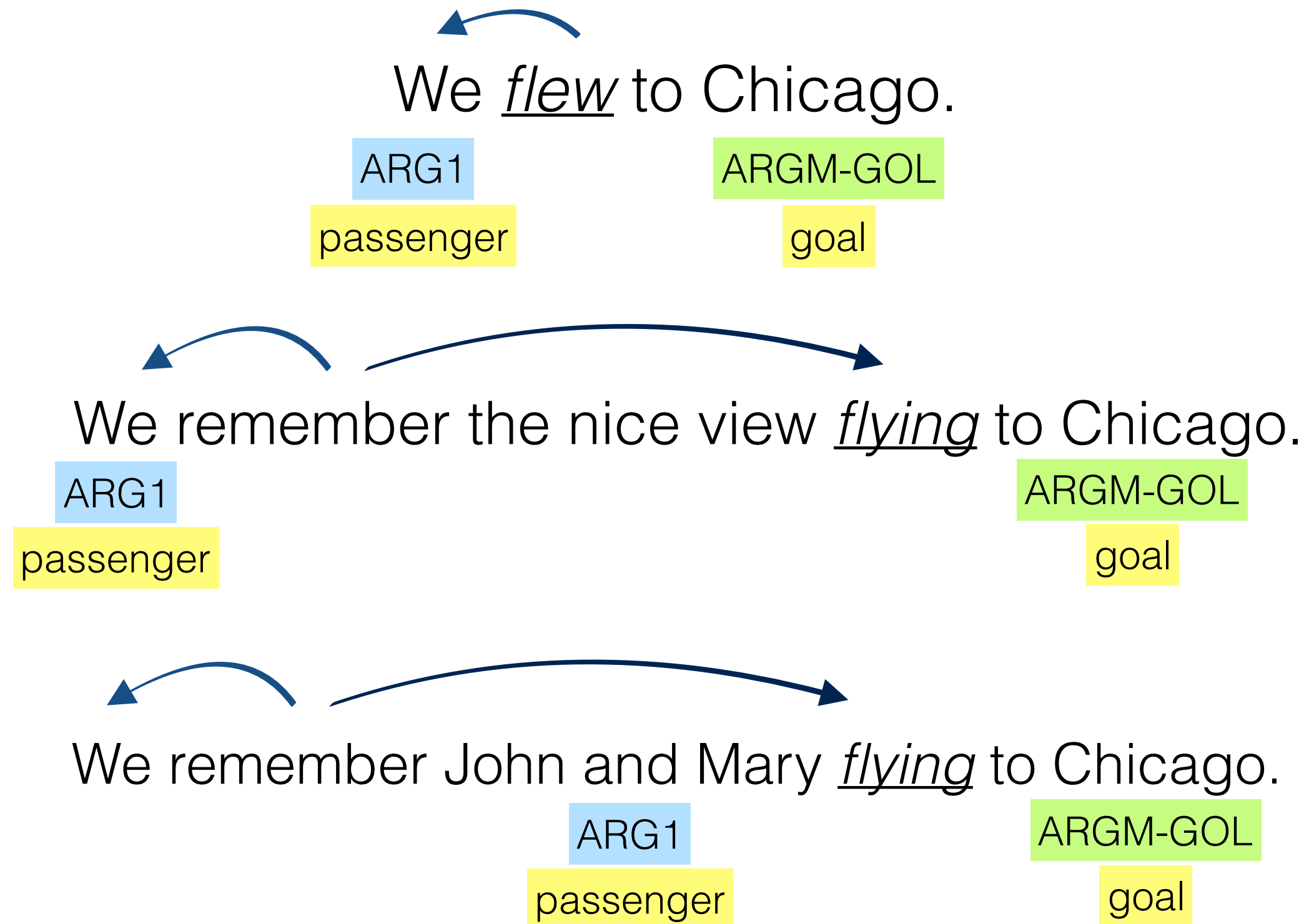
I eat [pasta with broccoli].

ARG0	ARG1
eater	meal







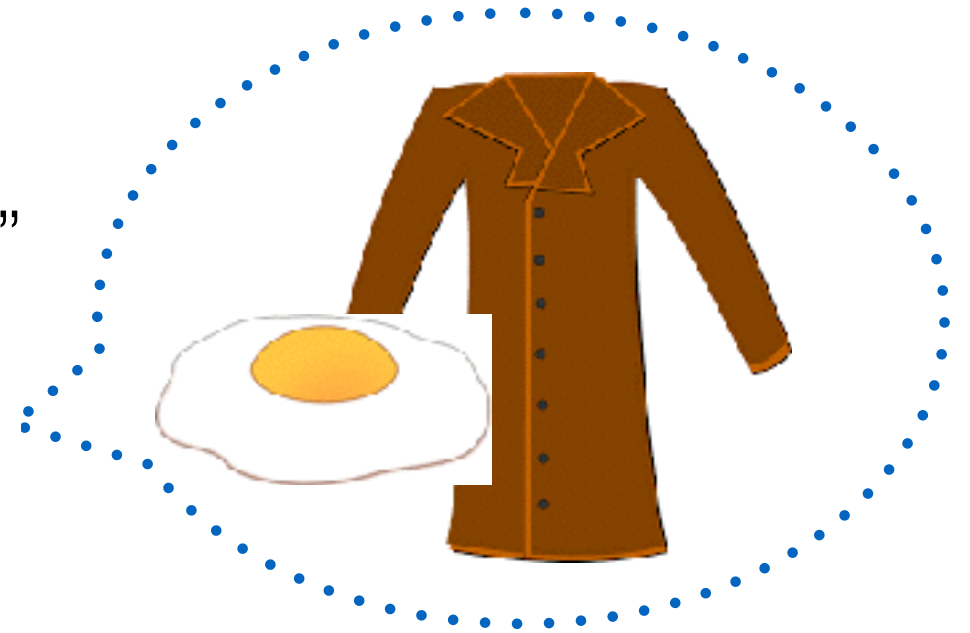


SRL is even harder for out-domain data ...

“Dip chicken breasts into eggs to coat”

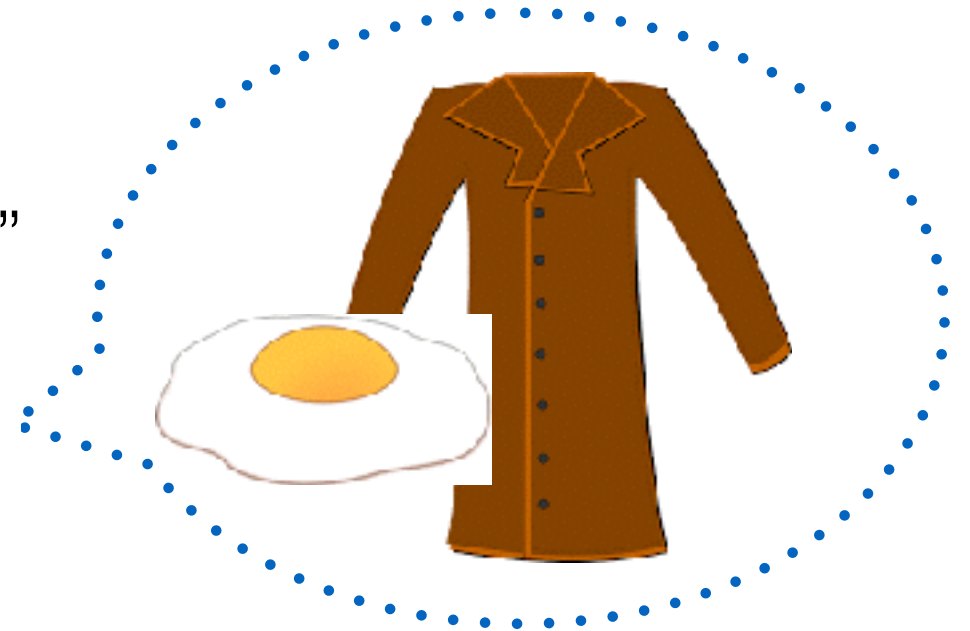
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SRL is even harder for out-domain data ...

“Dip chicken breasts into eggs to coat”



Active, Ser133-phosphorylated CREB effects transcription of CRE-dependent genes via interaction with the 265-kDa ...

Long-term Plan for Improving SRL

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Step 1: Collect more data for SRL

- Question-Answer Driven Semantic Role Labeling (QA-SRL)
- Human-in-the-Loop Parsing

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- *Future work ...*

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Challenge: Complicated annotation process of traditional SRL.

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Challenge: Complicated annotation process of traditional SRL.

Solution: Design a simpler annotation scheme!

Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

Given sentence and a verb:

Last month, we saw the Grand Canyon flying to Chicago.

Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

Given sentence and a verb:

Last month, we saw the Grand Canyon *flying* to Chicago.

Step 1: Ask a question
about the verb:

Who was flying?

Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

Given sentence and a verb:

Last month, we saw the Grand Canyon *flying* to Chicago.

Step 1: Ask a question
about the verb:

Who was flying?

Step 2: Answer with
words in the sentence:

we

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Who was flying?

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Step 3: Repeat, write as many
Q/A pairs as possible ...

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we

Step 3: Repeat, write as many
Q/A pairs as possible ...

Where did someone fly to?

Chicago

When did someone fly?

Last month

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Step 1: Ask a question
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Where did someone fly to?

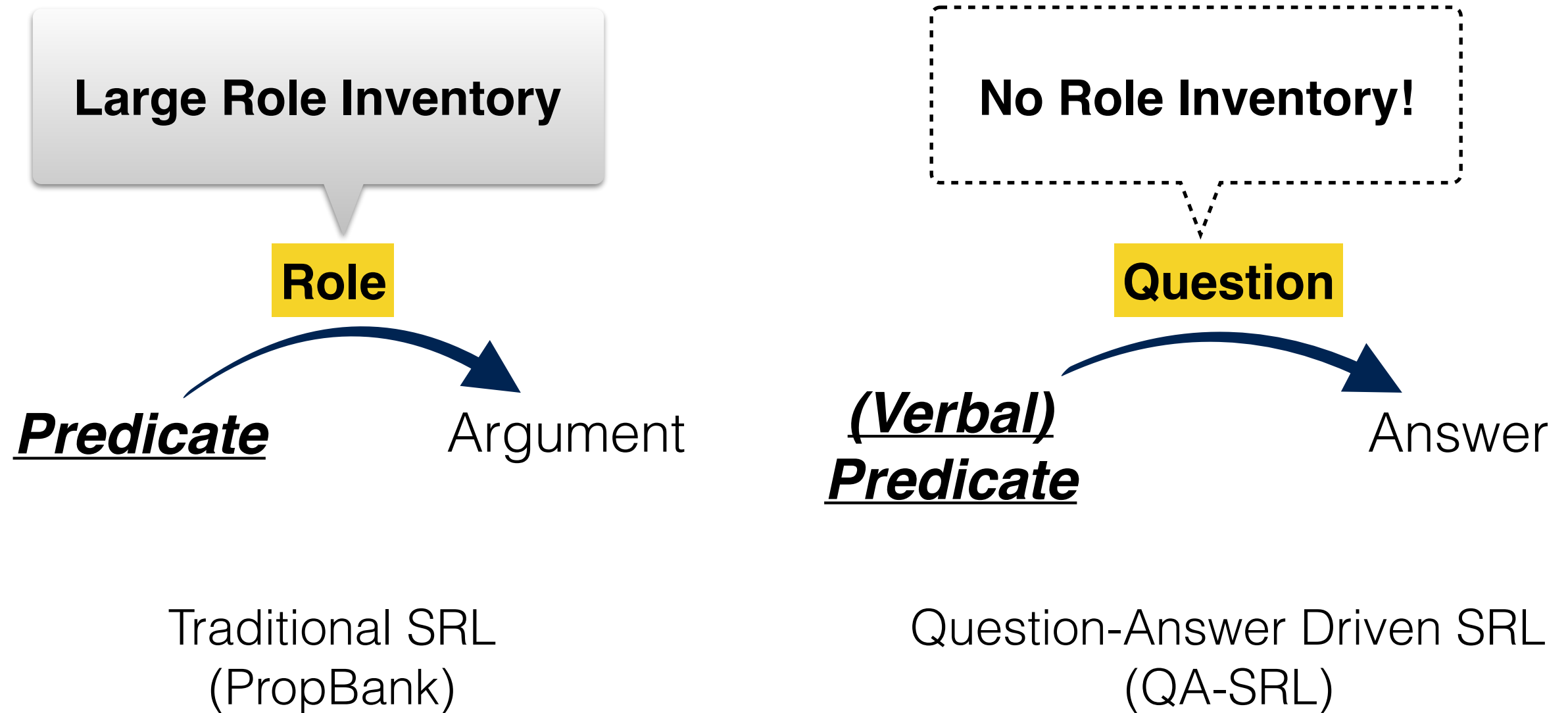
Chicago

When did someone fly?

Last month

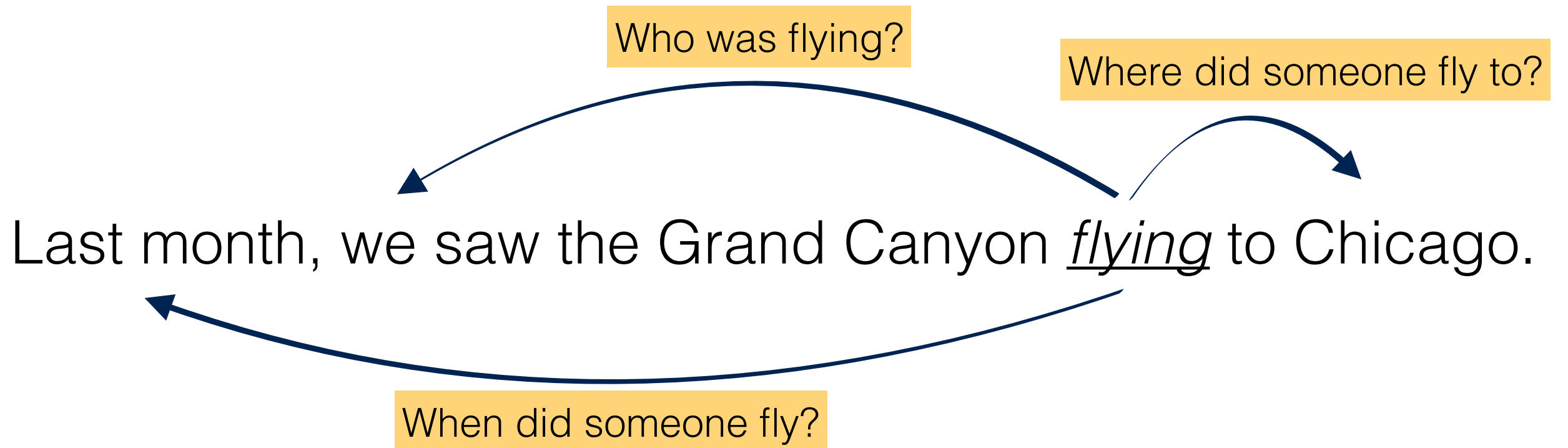
Stop until all Q/A
pairs are exhausted.

Comparing QA-SRL to PropBank



Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

QA-SRL



Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

QA-SRL

PropBank SRL

ARG1

Who was flying?

ARGM-GOL

Where did someone fly to?

Last month, we saw the Grand Canyon flying to Chicago.

When did someone fly?

ARGM-TMP

Question-Answer Driven SRL (QA-SRL)

QA-SRL

PropBank SRL

ARG1

Who was flying?

ARGM-GOL

Where did someone fly to?

Last month, we saw the Grand Canyon flying to Chicago.

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ARGM-TMP

Non-expert annotated QA-SRL has about
80% agreement with PropBank.

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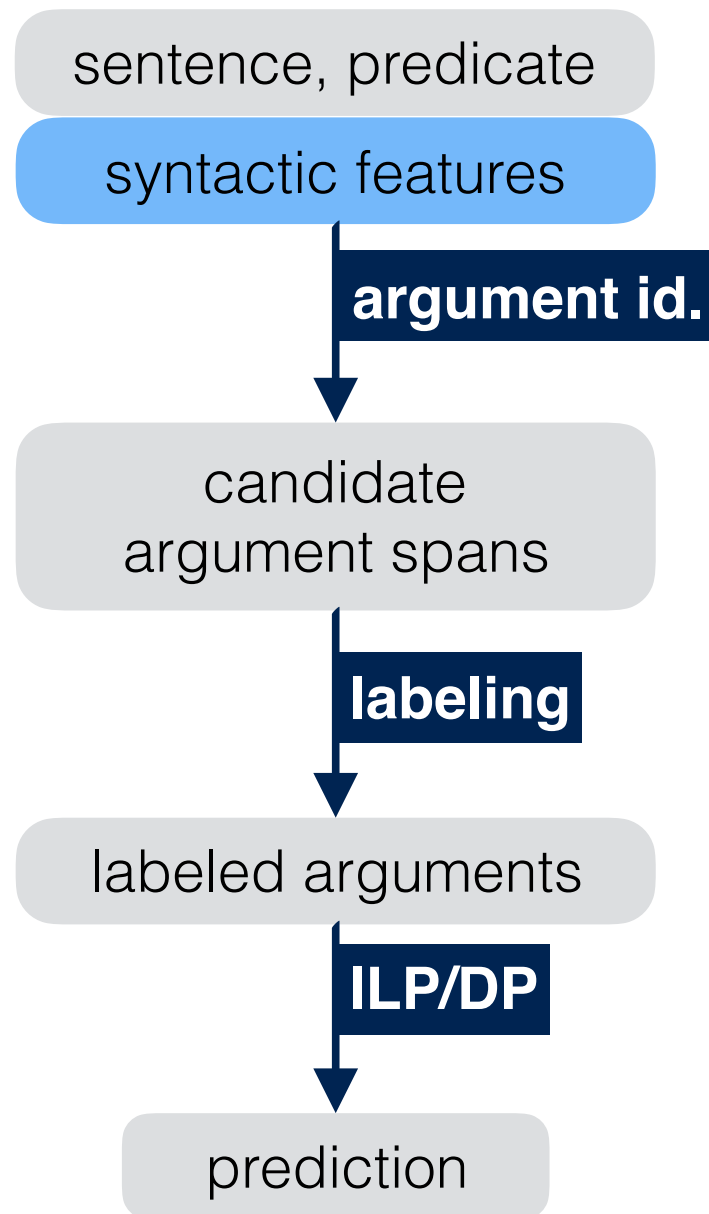
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SRL Systems

Pipeline Systems



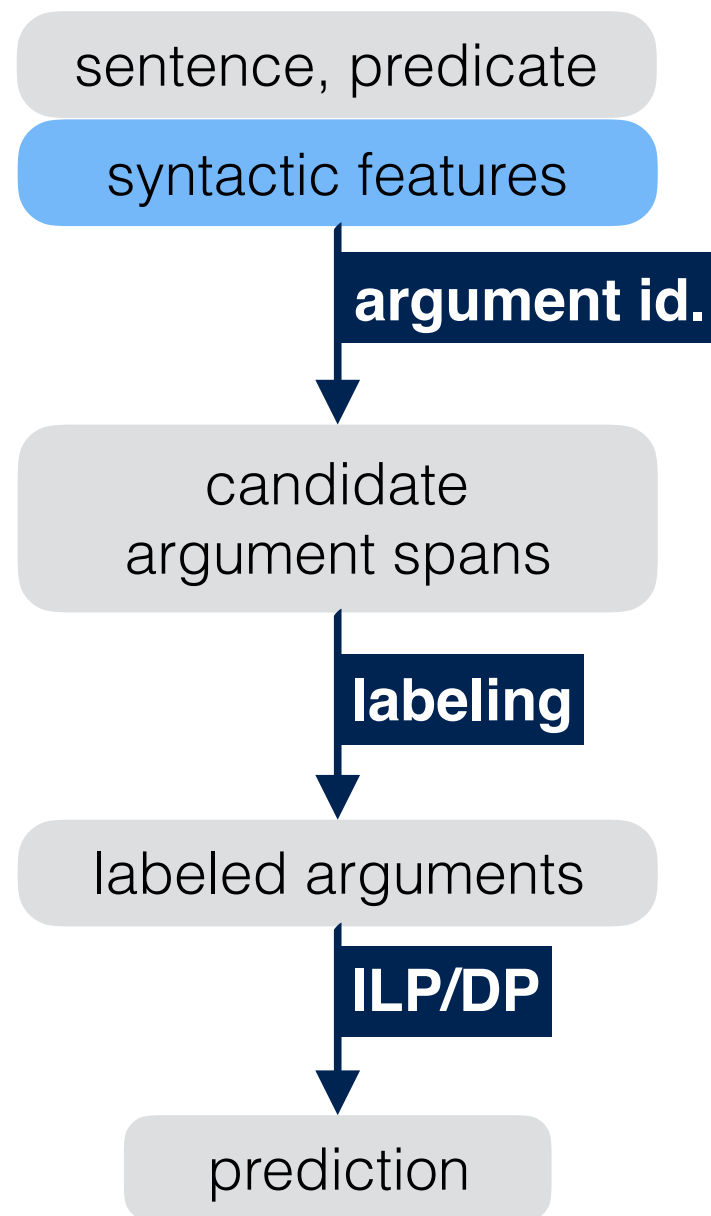
Punyakanok et al., 2008

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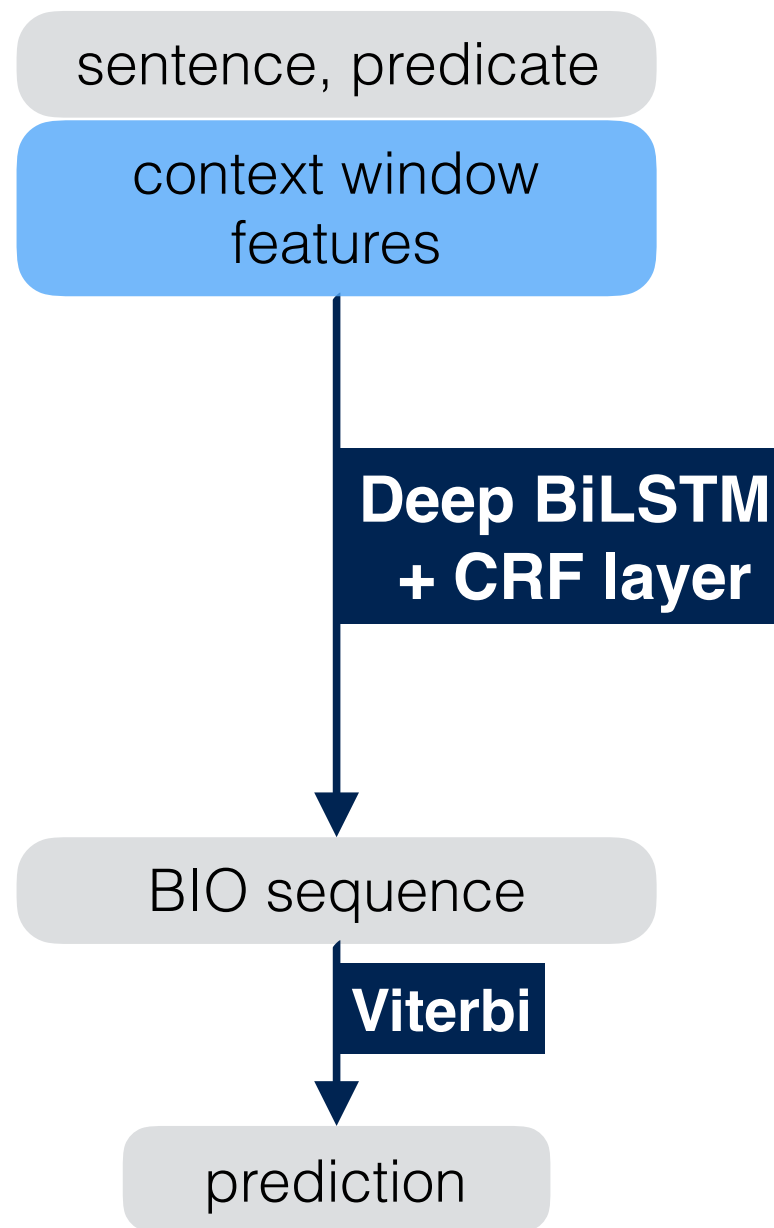
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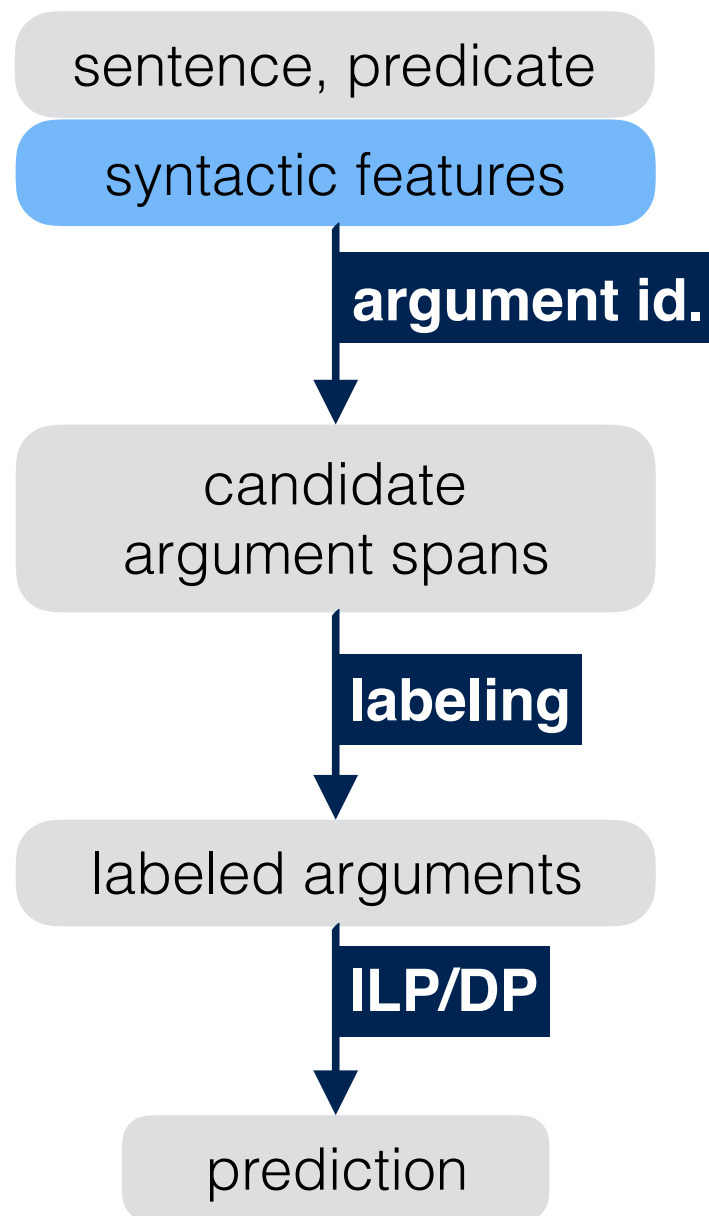
End-to-end Systems



Collobert et al., 2011
Zhou and Xu, 2015
Wang et. al, 2015

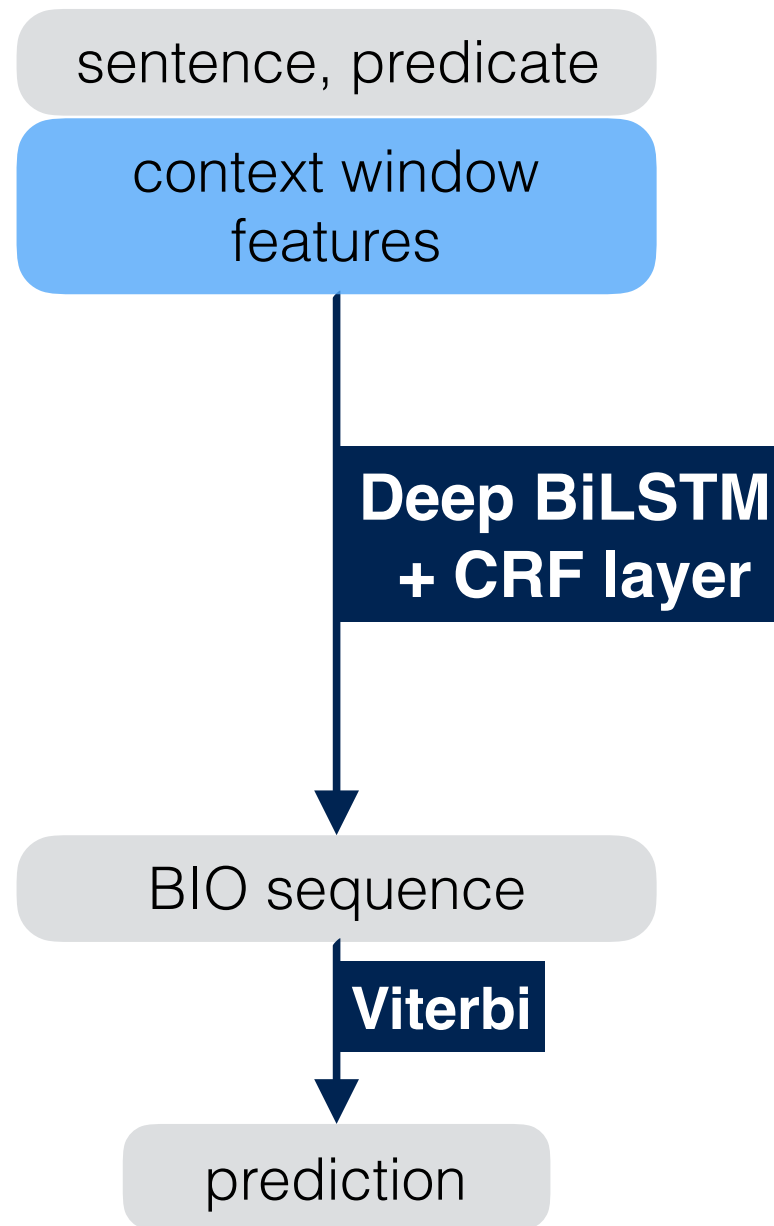
SRL Systems

Pipeline Systems



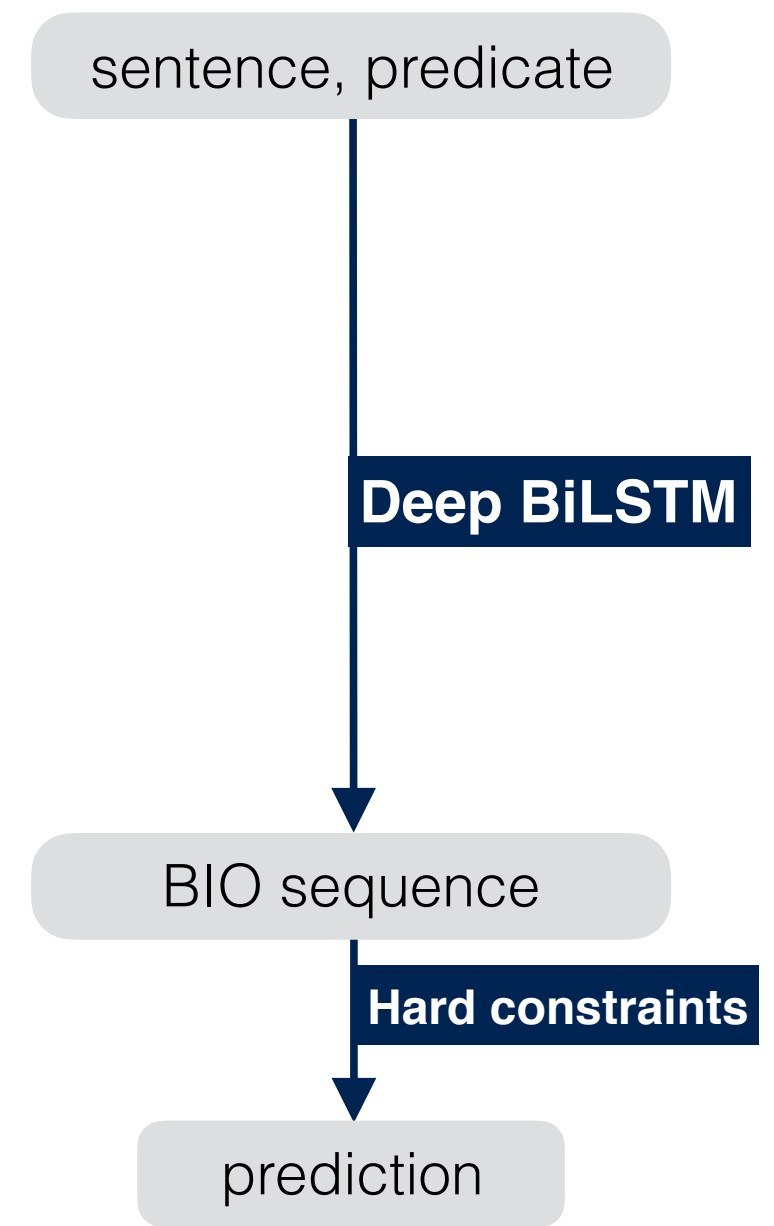
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End-to-end Systems



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*This work



SRL as BIO Tagging Problem

Input (sentence
and predicate):

The

cats

love

hats

.

SRL as BIO Tagging Problem

Input (sentence
and predicate):

The

cats

love

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.

BIO output:

B-ARG0

I-ARG0

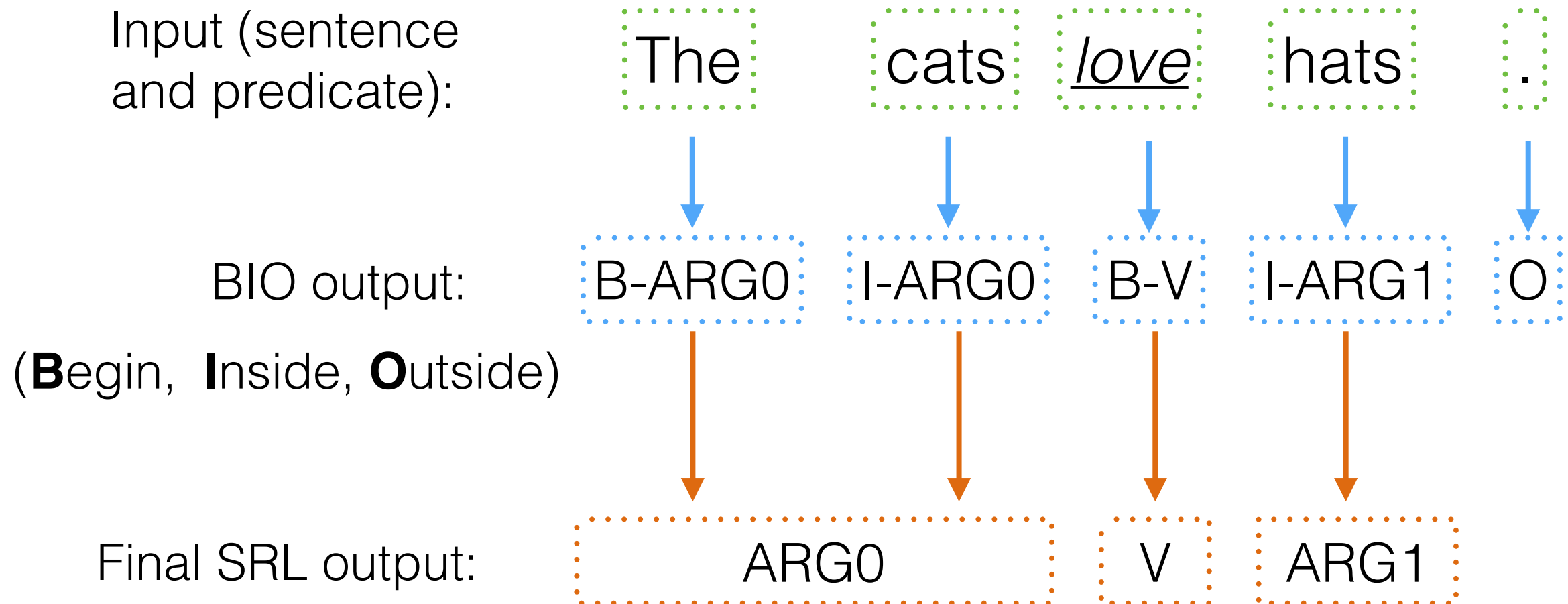
B-V

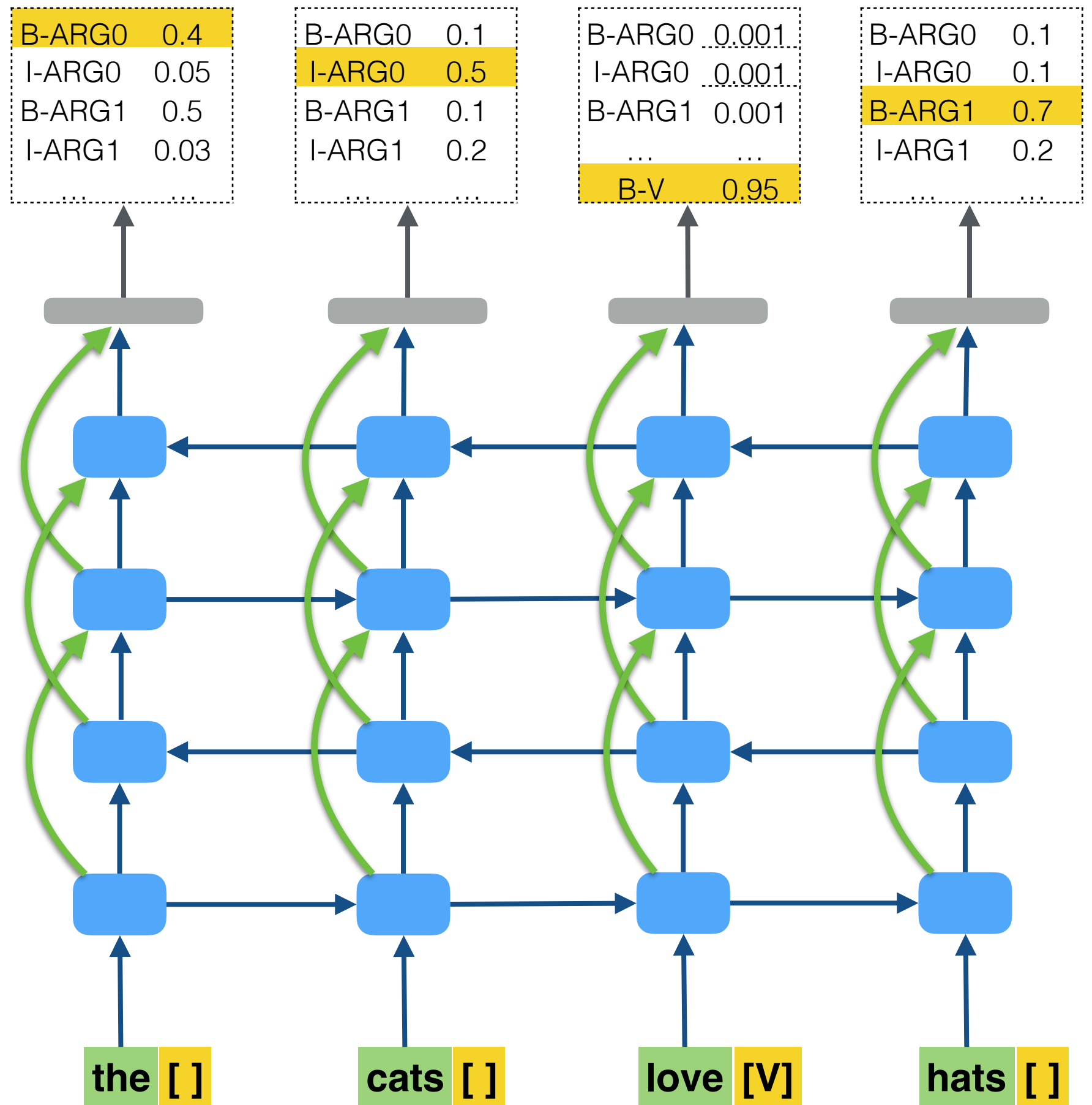
I-ARG1

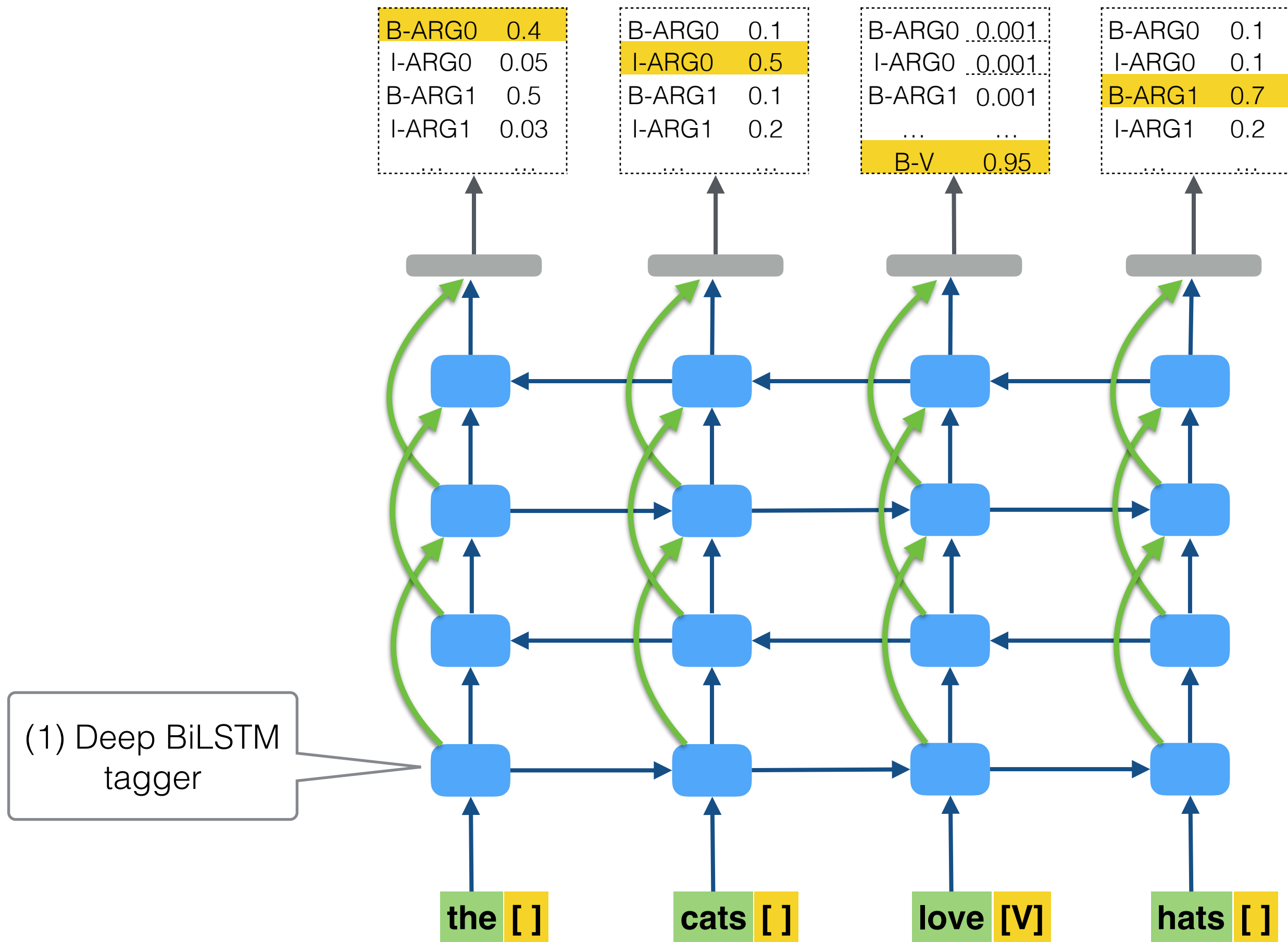
O

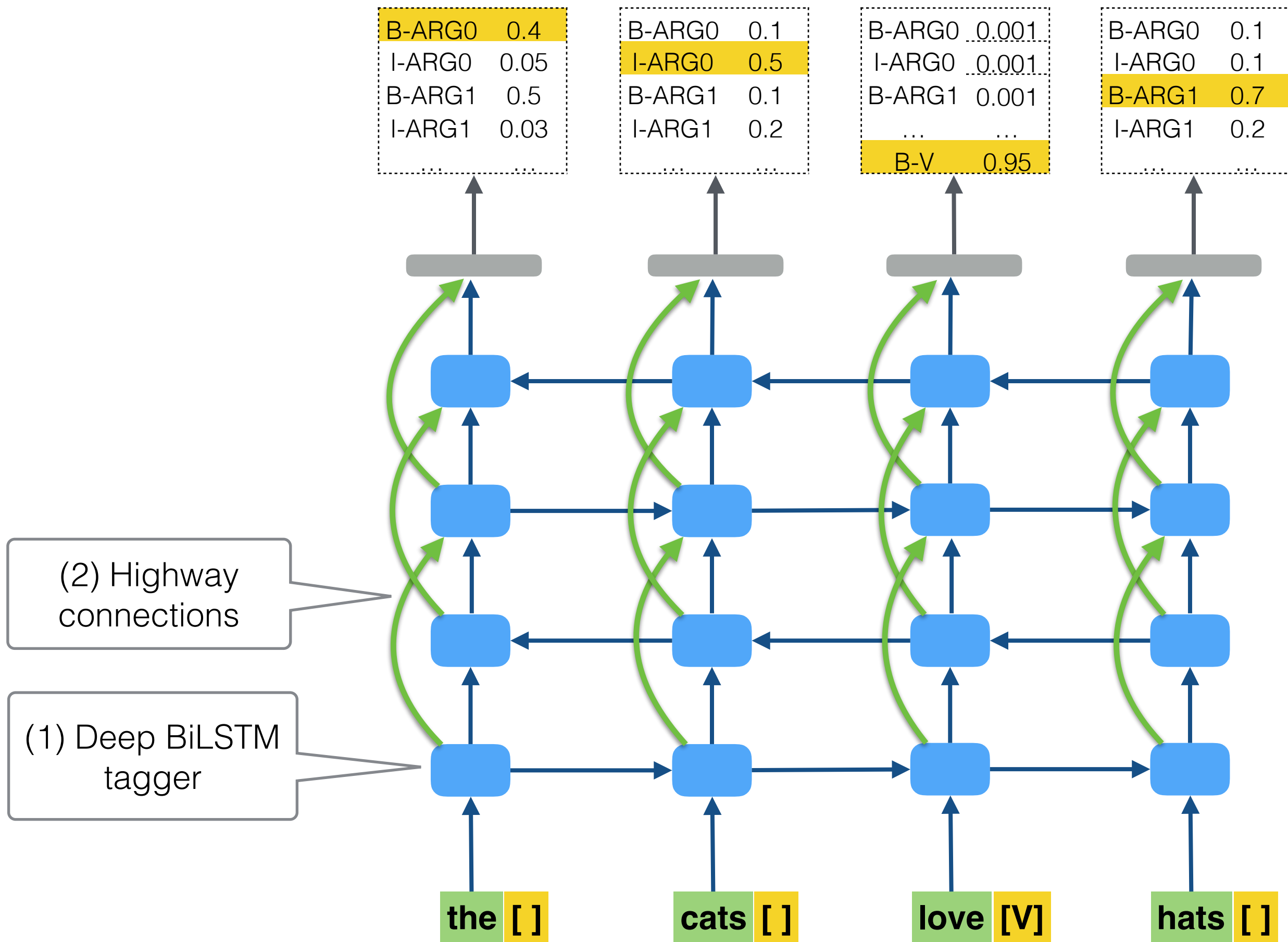
(**B**egin, **I**nside, **O**utside)

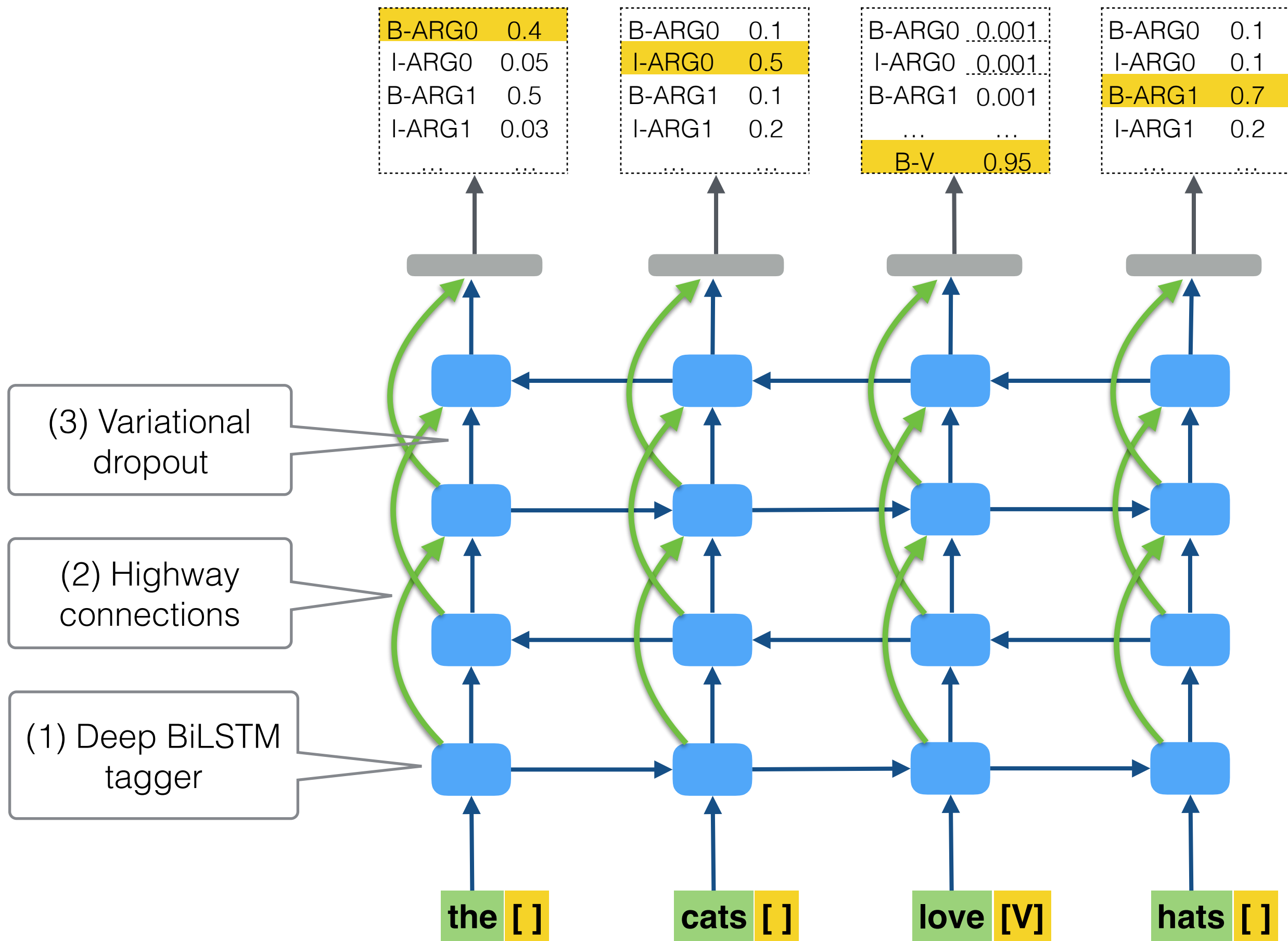
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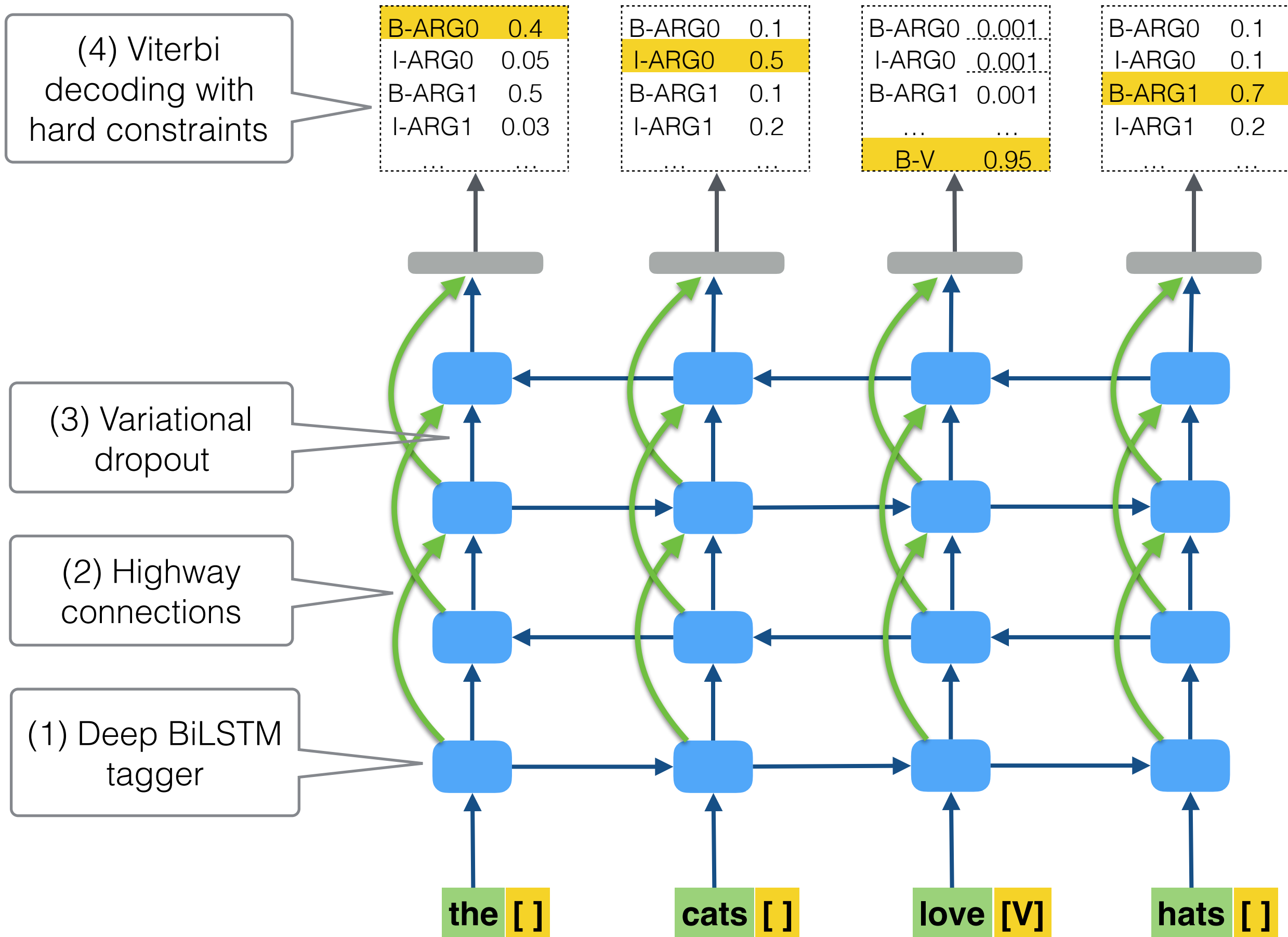










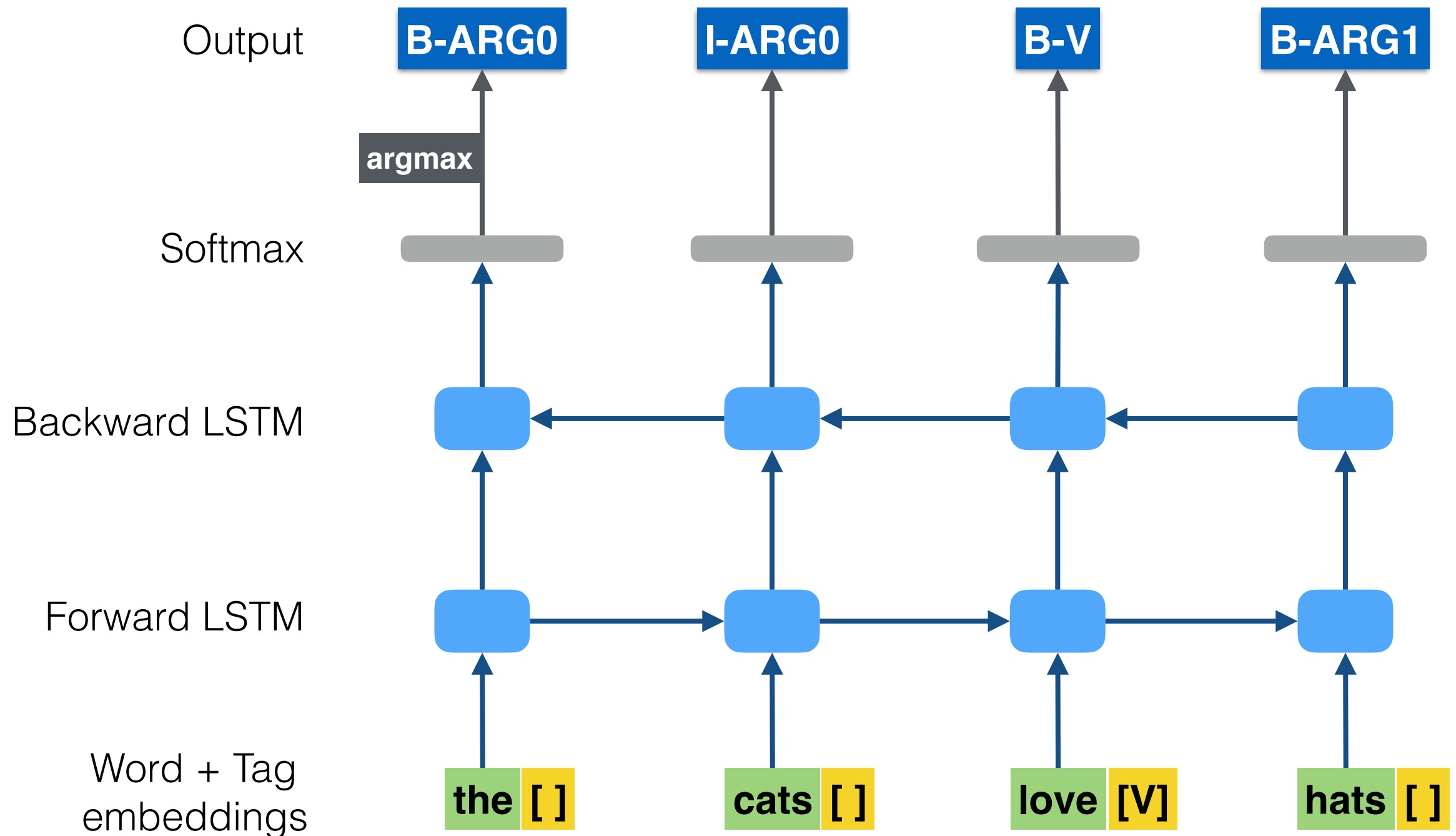


Deep BiLSTM Tagger

Highway
Connections

Variational
Dropout

Viterbi Decoding w/
Hard Constraints

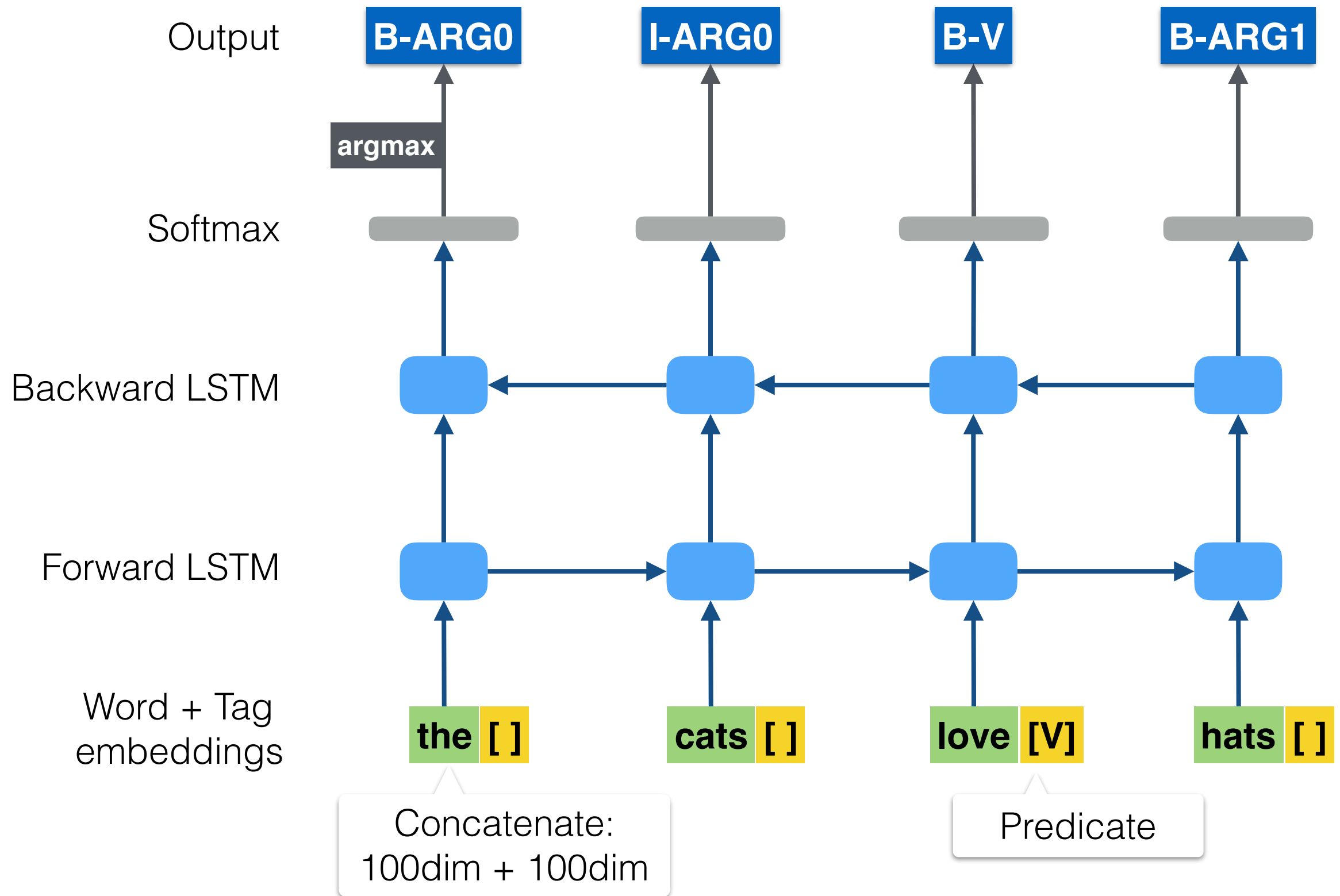


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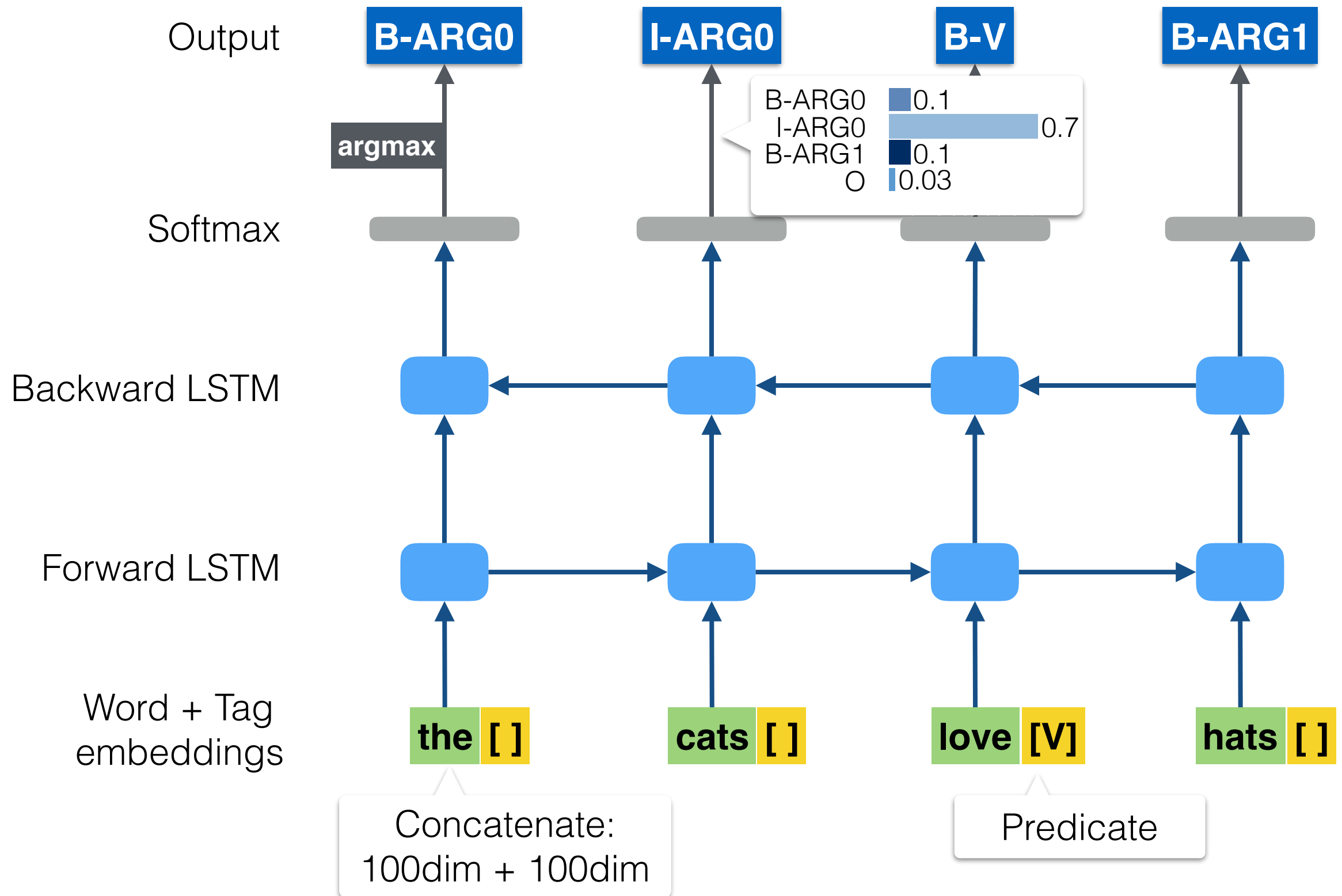


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Trend: Deeper models for higher accuracy

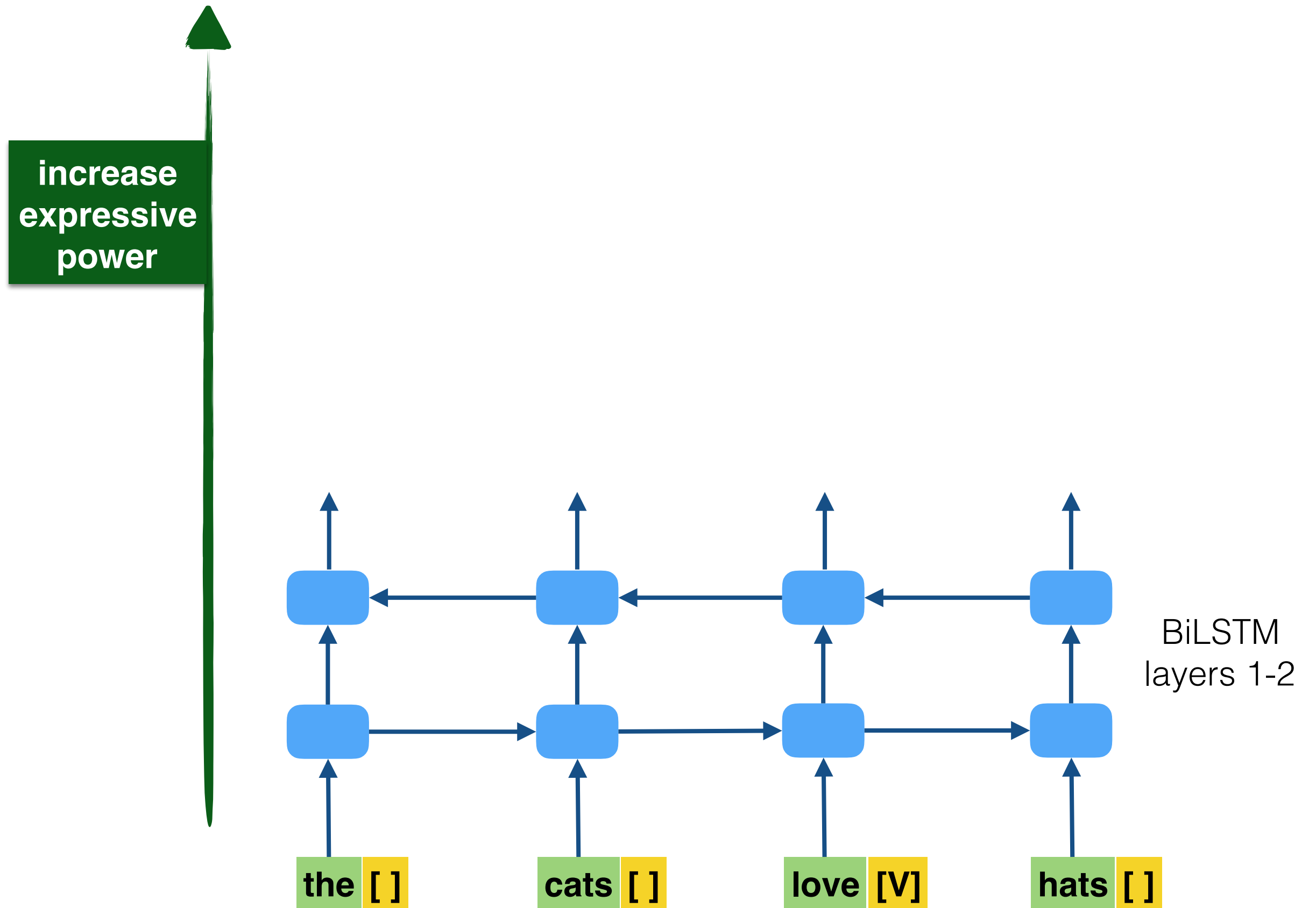
Grammar as a Foreign Language (Vinyals et al., 2014): **3** layers

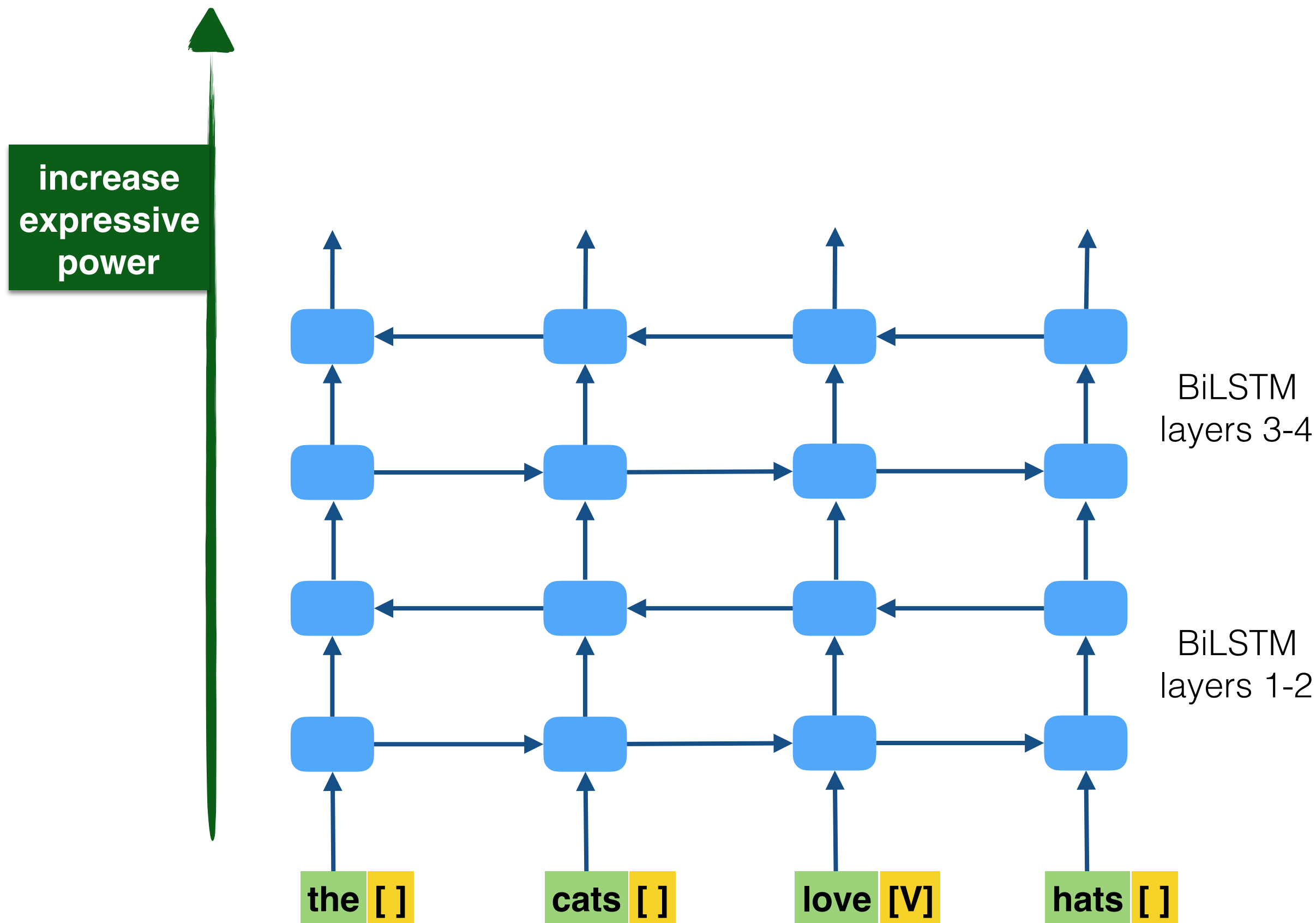
End-to-end Semantic Role Labeling (Zhou and Xu, 2015): **8** layers

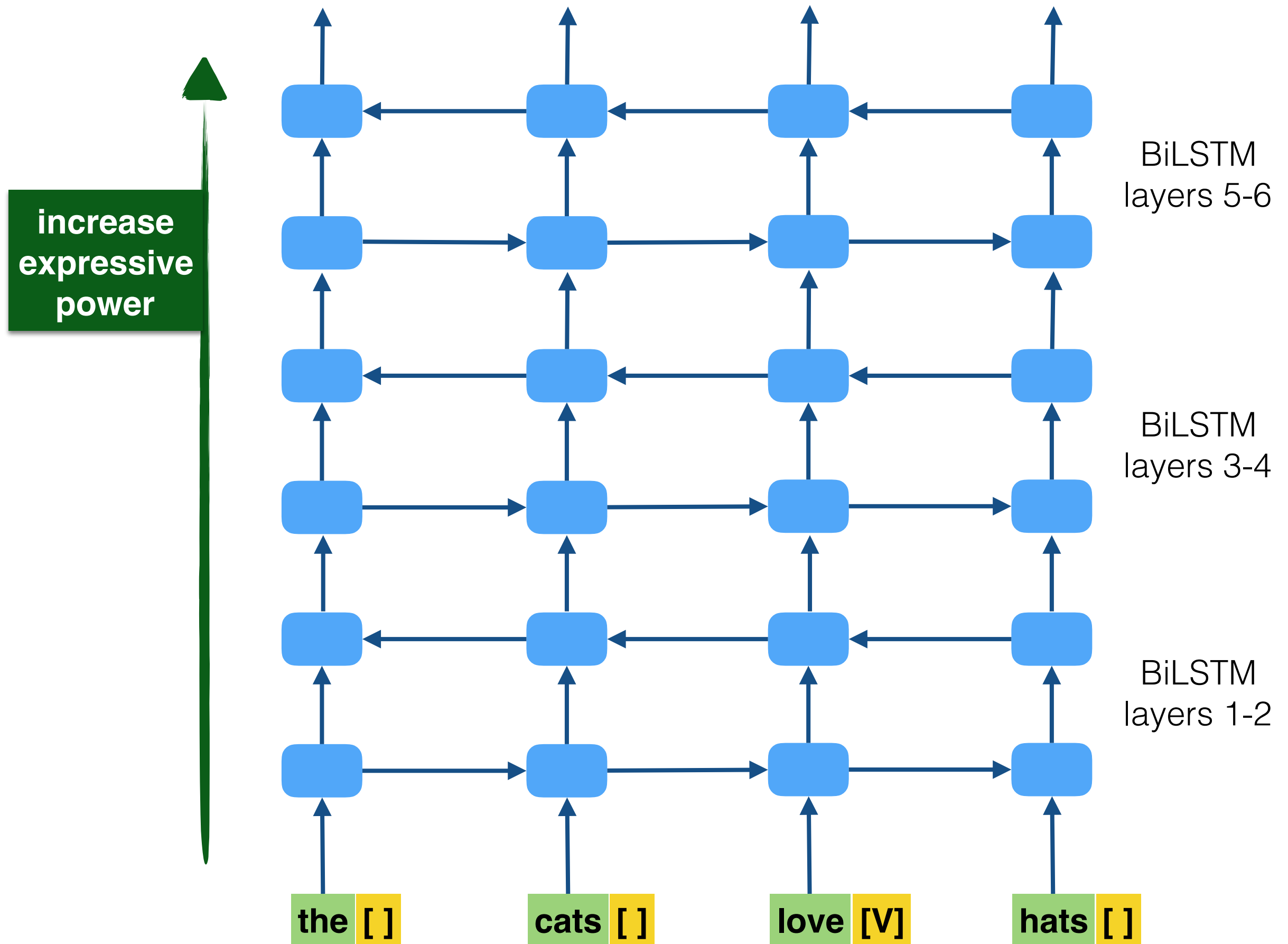
Google's Neural Machine Translation (GNMT, Wu et al., 2016): **8** layers

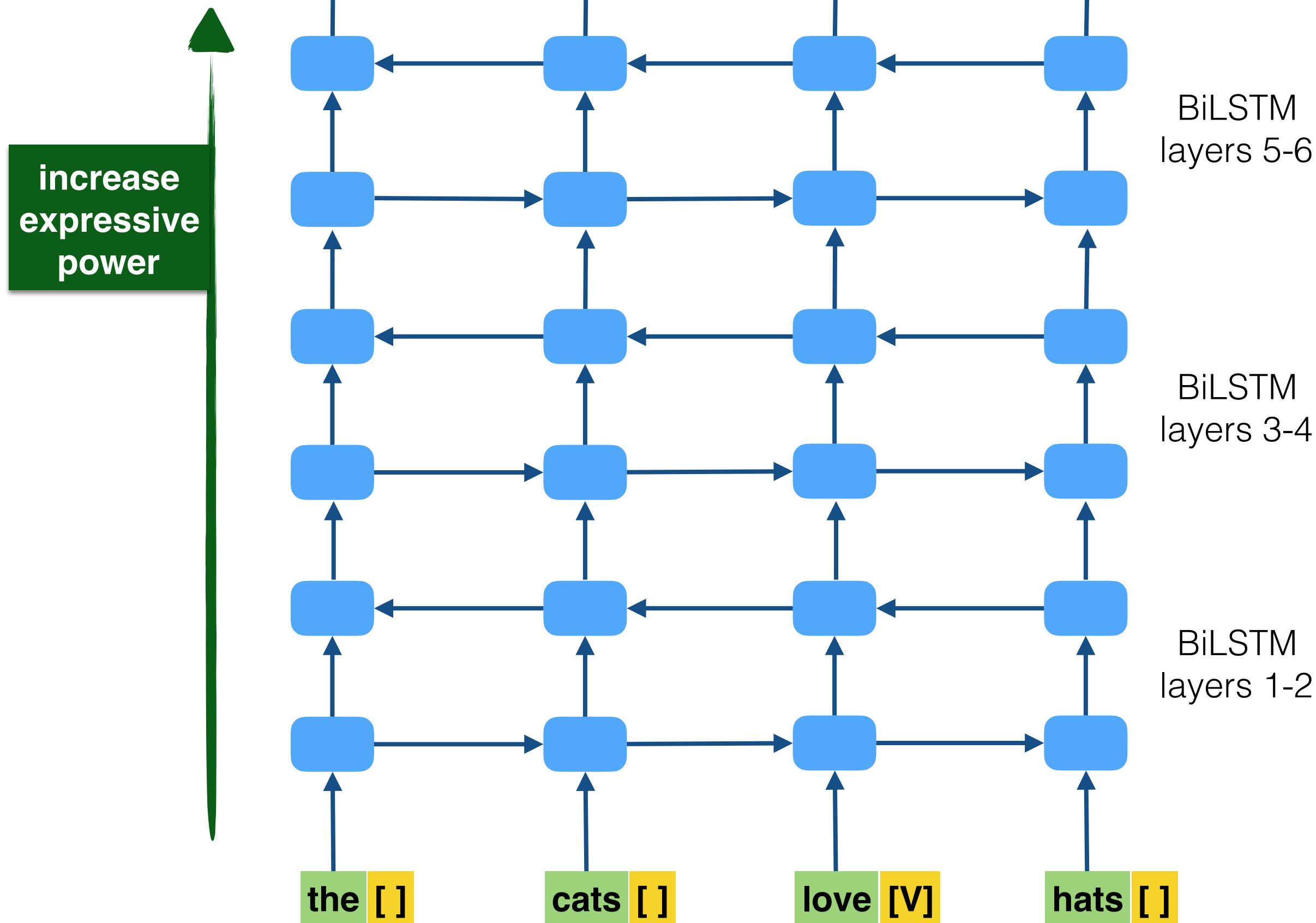
this work: **8** layers

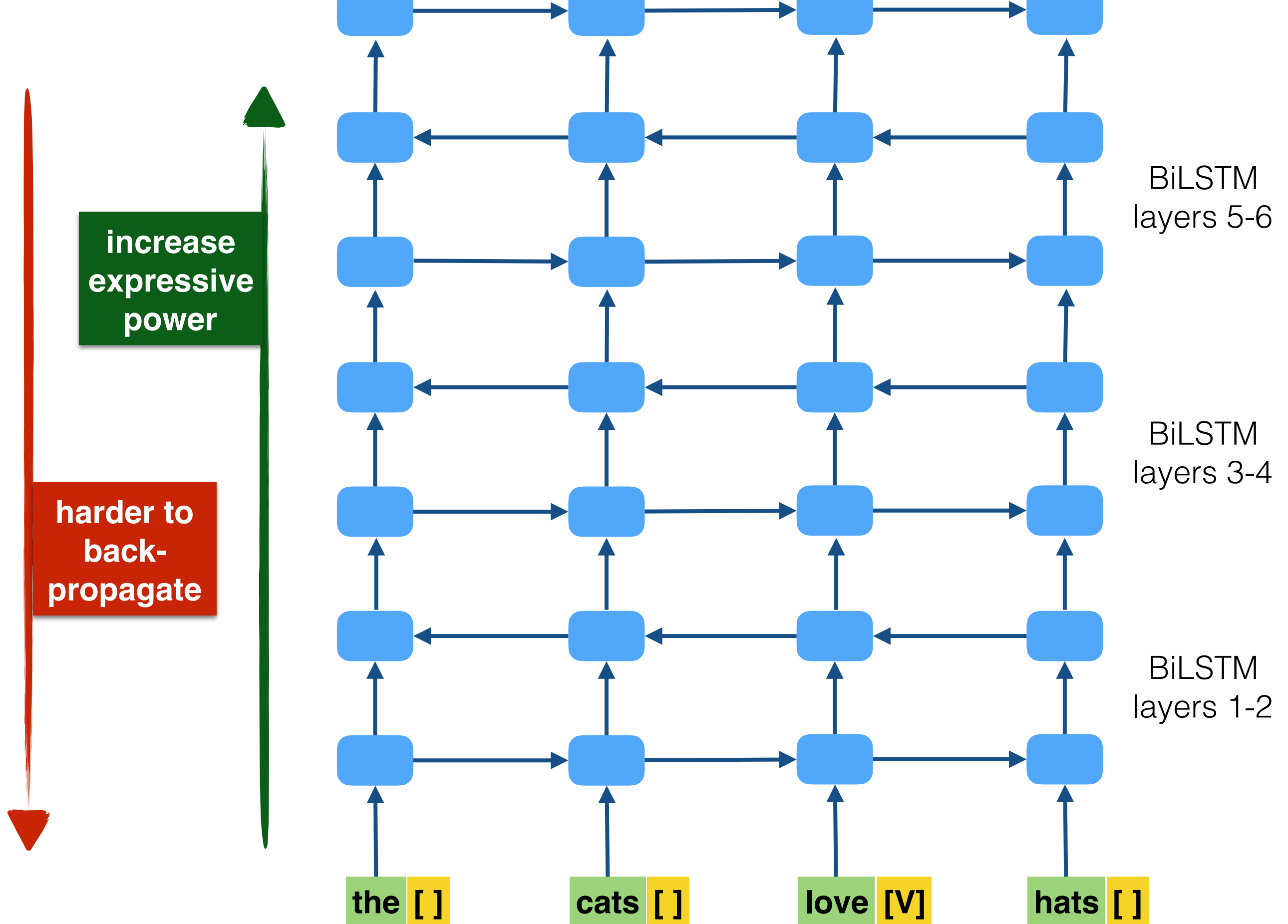
Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition (He et al, 2016): **152** layers











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→ use different learning
rates for different layers
(harder to reimplement)

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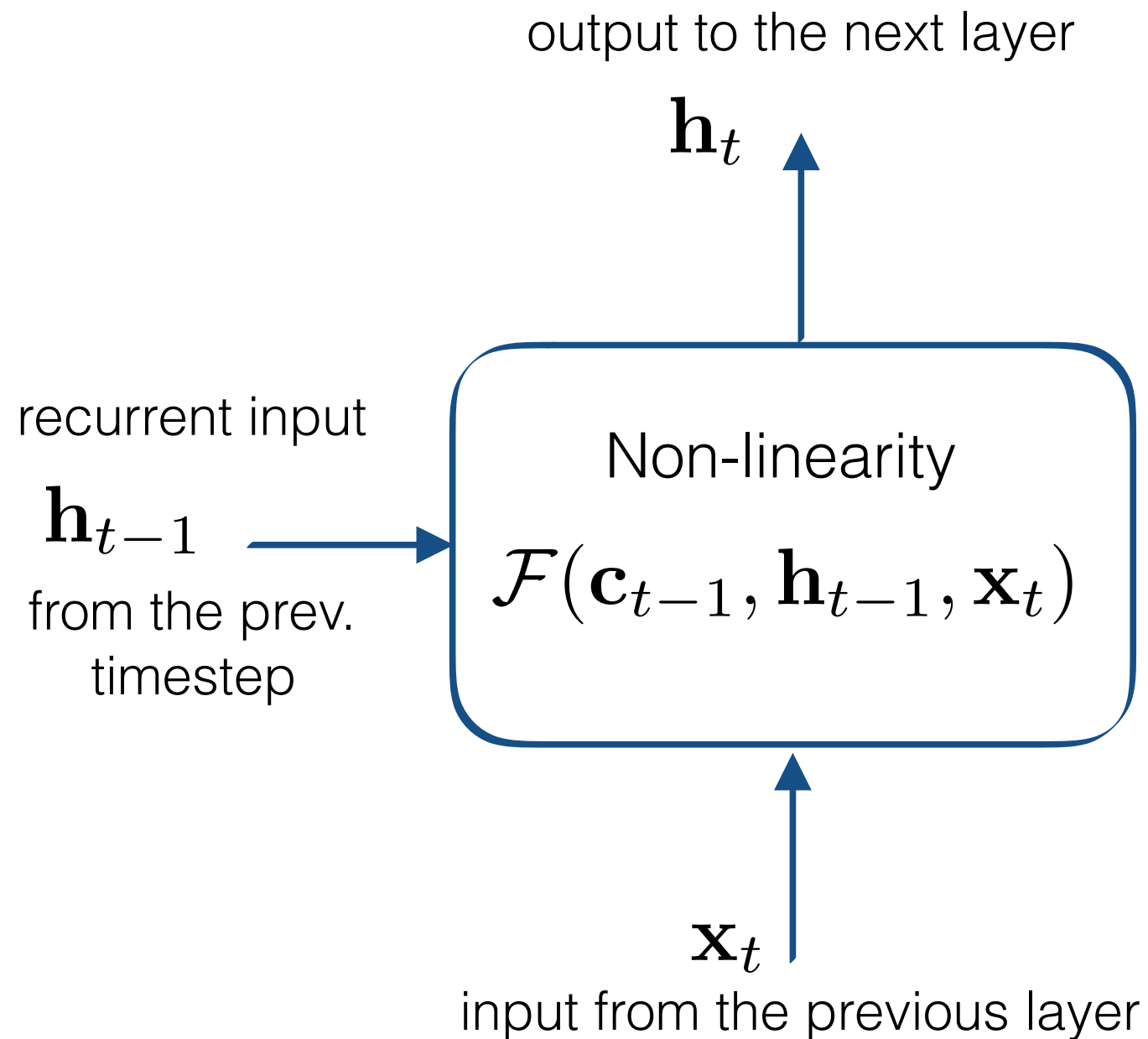
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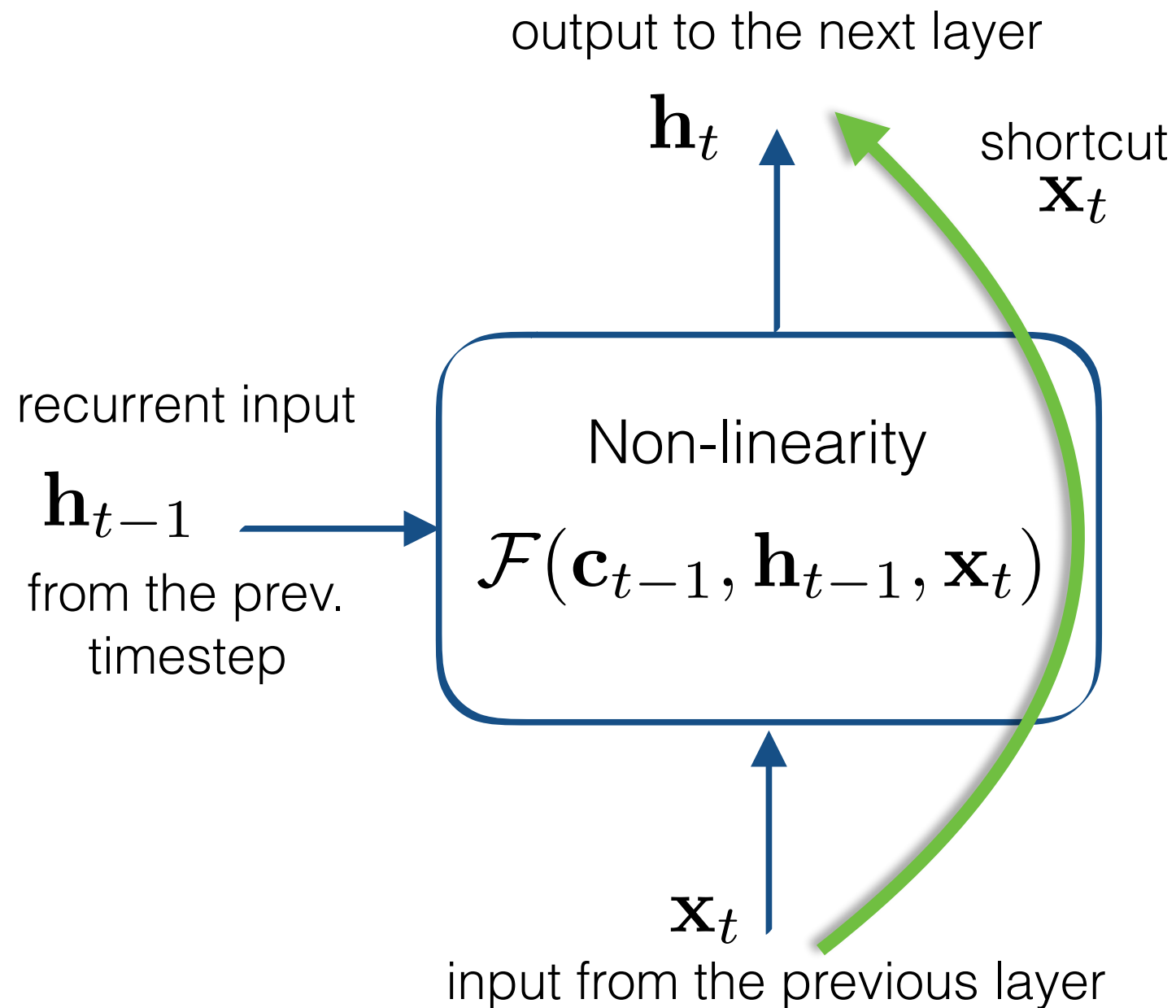
→ Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition (He et al, 2016): **152** layers

→ use different learning rates for different layers (harder to reimplement)

→ use shortcut connections between layers ("highway" or "residual")

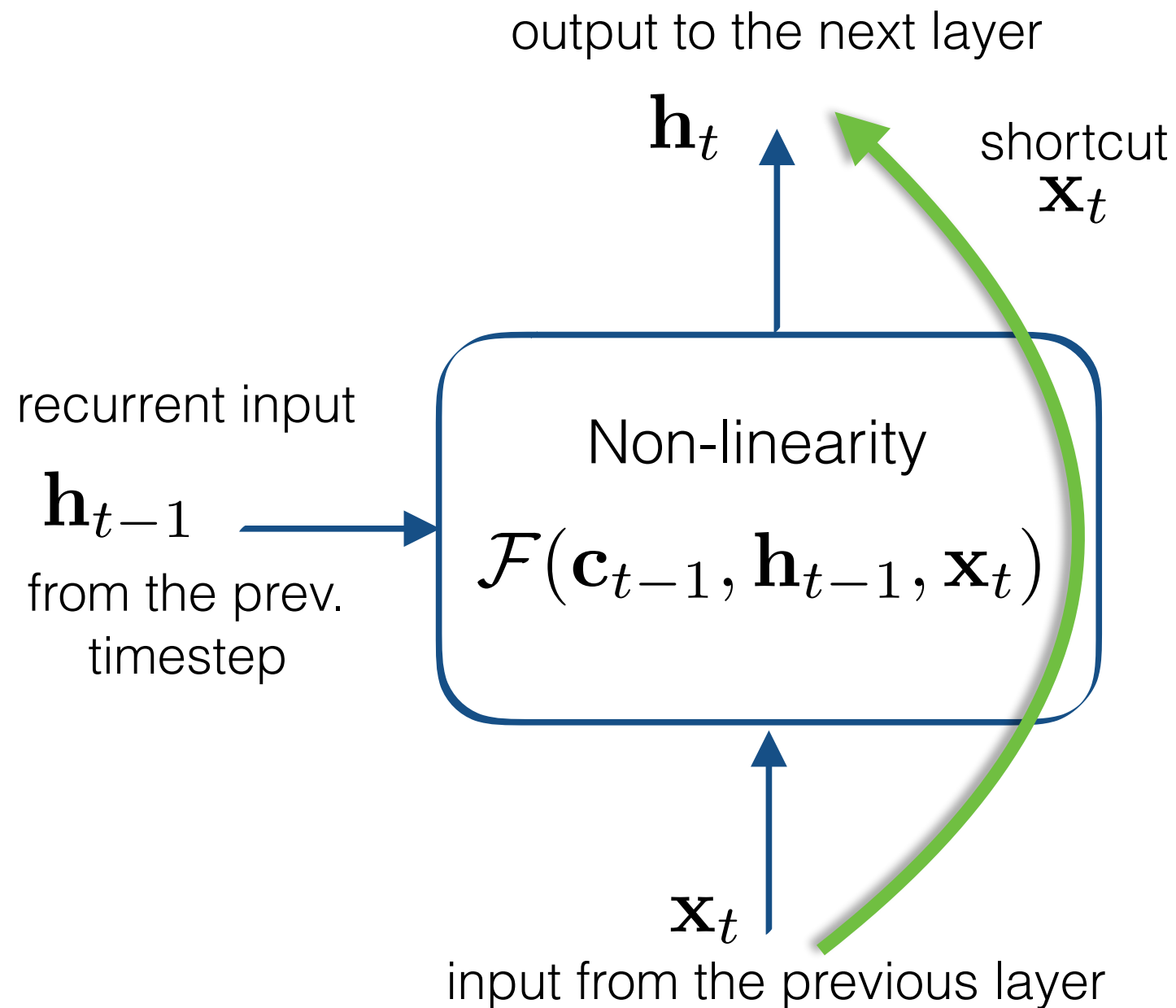


References:



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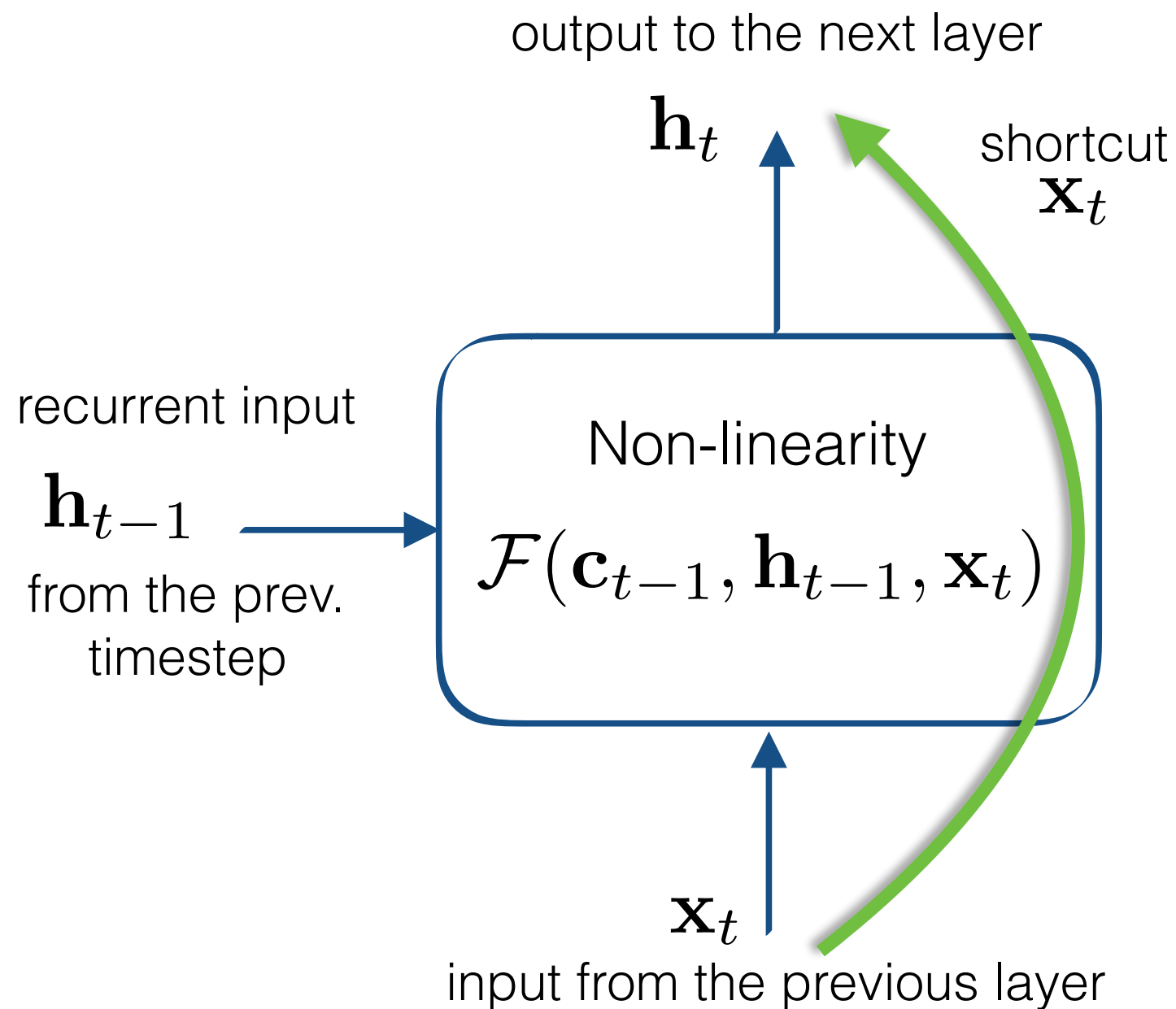
new output:

residual net

$$\mathbf{h}_t + \mathbf{x}_t$$

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residual net

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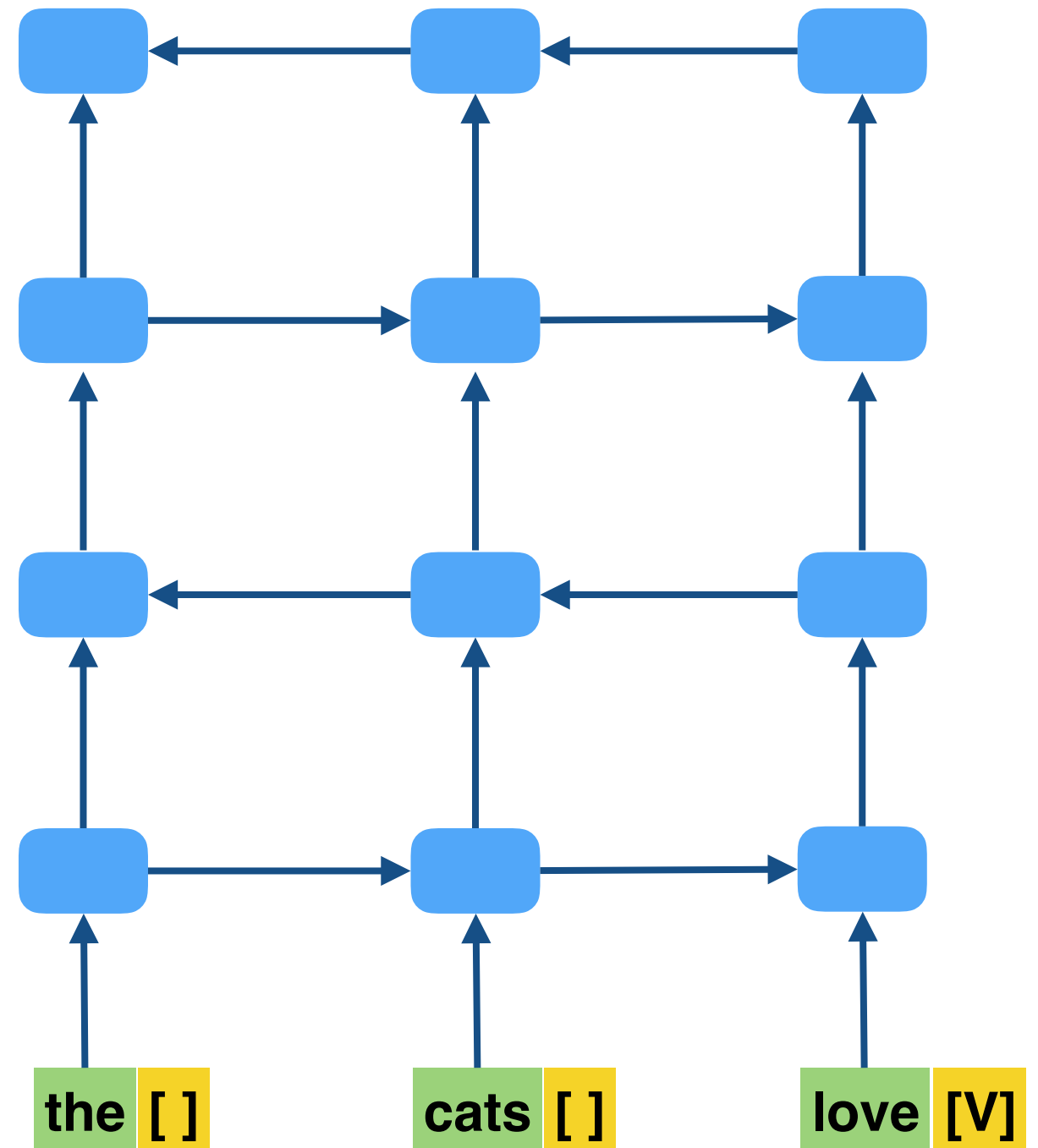
gated highway network:

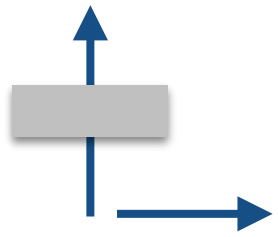
$$\mathbf{r}_t \circ \mathbf{h}_t + (1 - \mathbf{r}_t) \circ \mathbf{x}_t$$

$$\mathbf{r}_t = \sigma(f(\mathbf{h}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_t))$$

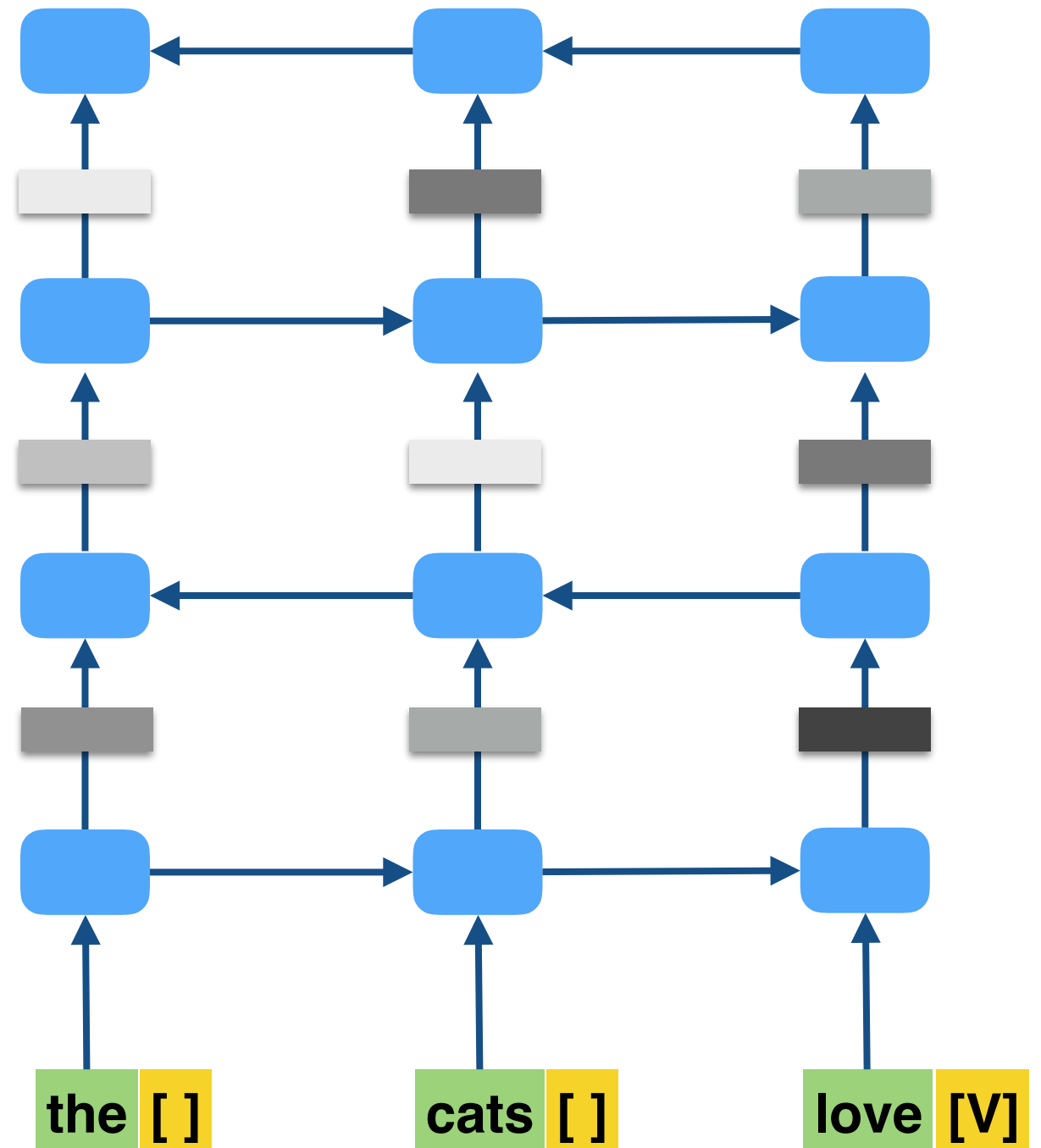
References:

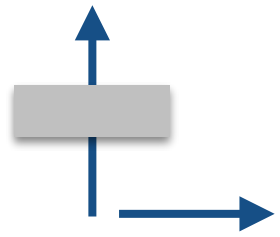
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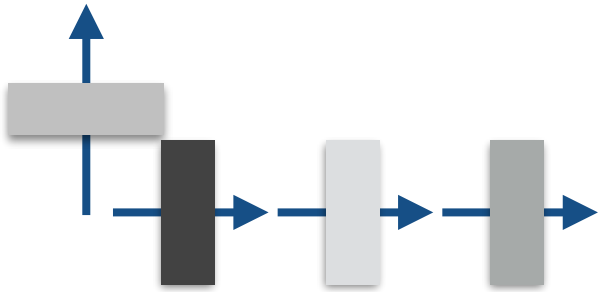


Traditionally, dropout masks are only applied to vertical connections.

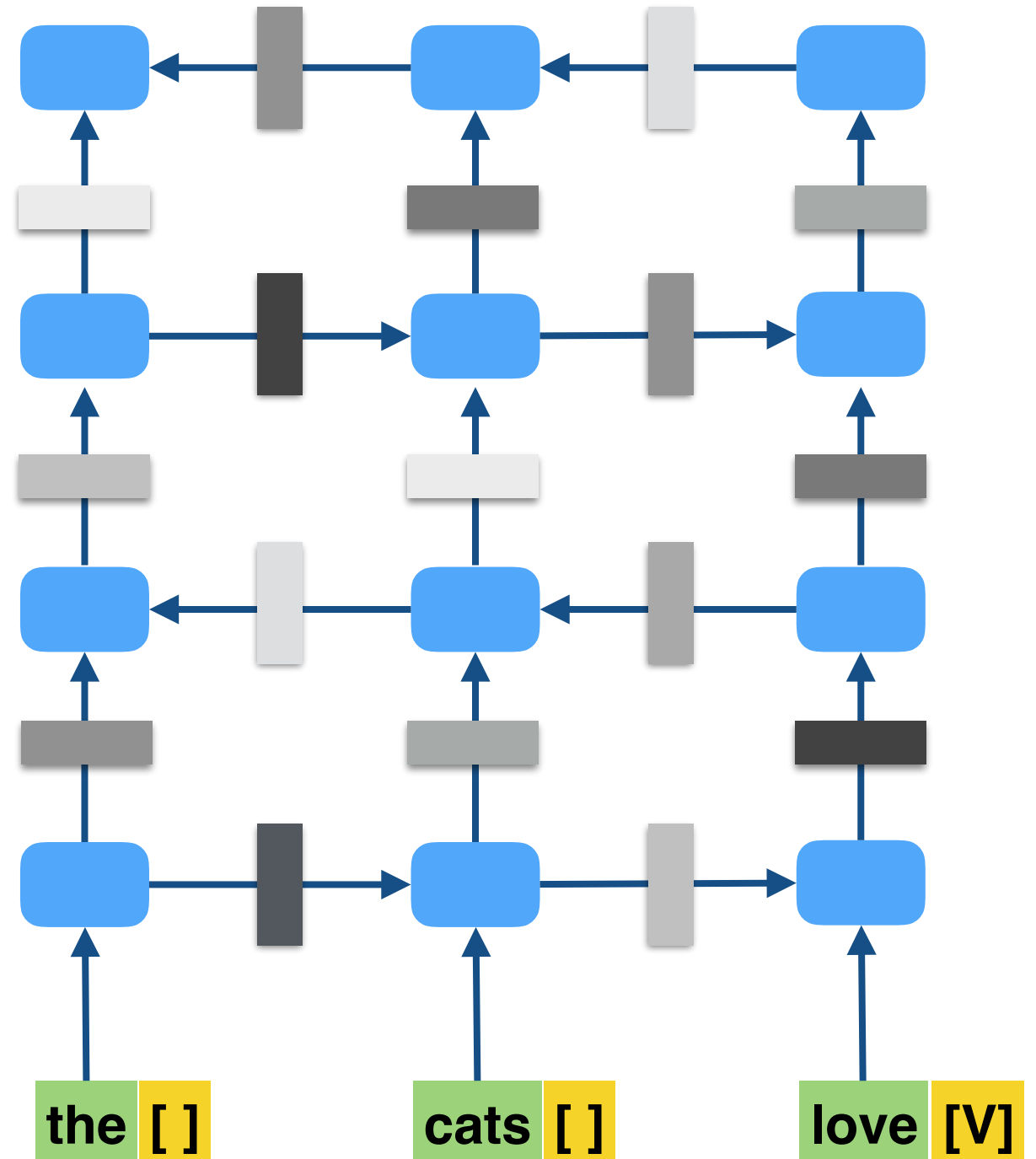


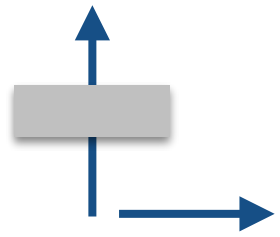


Traditionally, dropout masks are only applied to vertical connections.

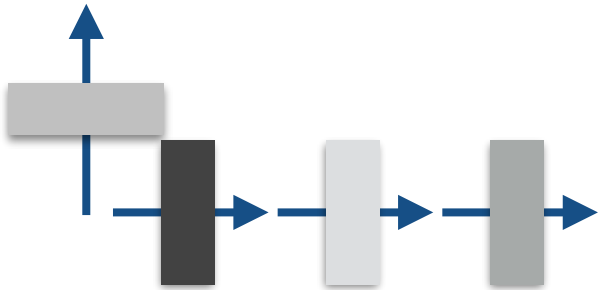


Applying dropout to recurrent connections causes too much noise amplification.

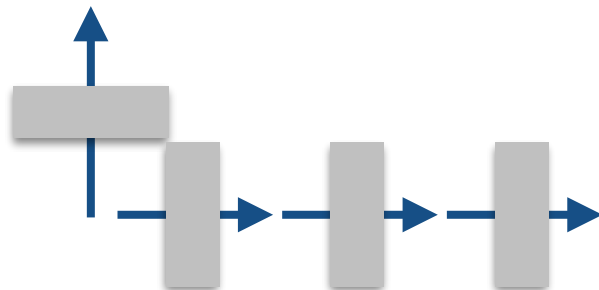




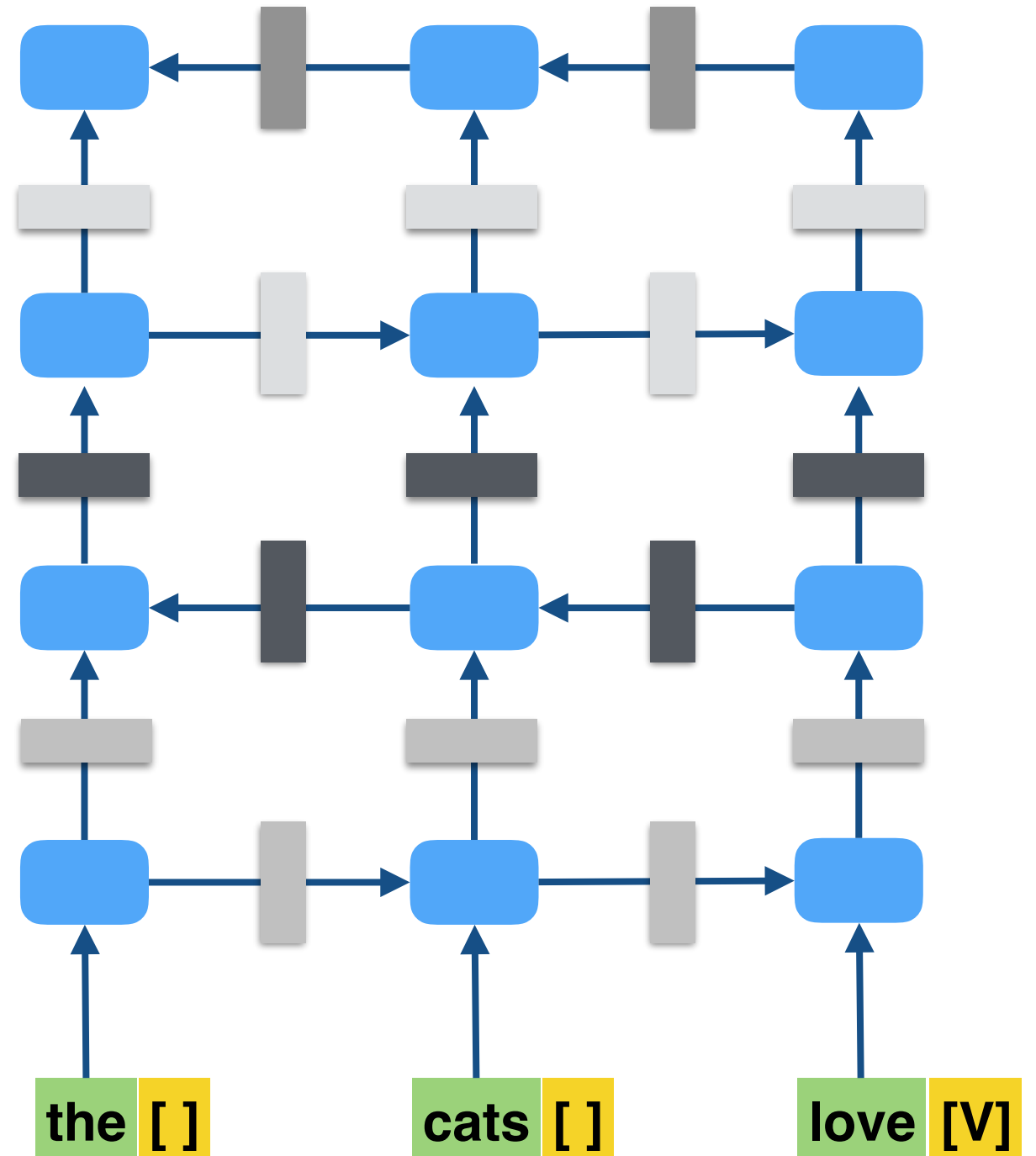
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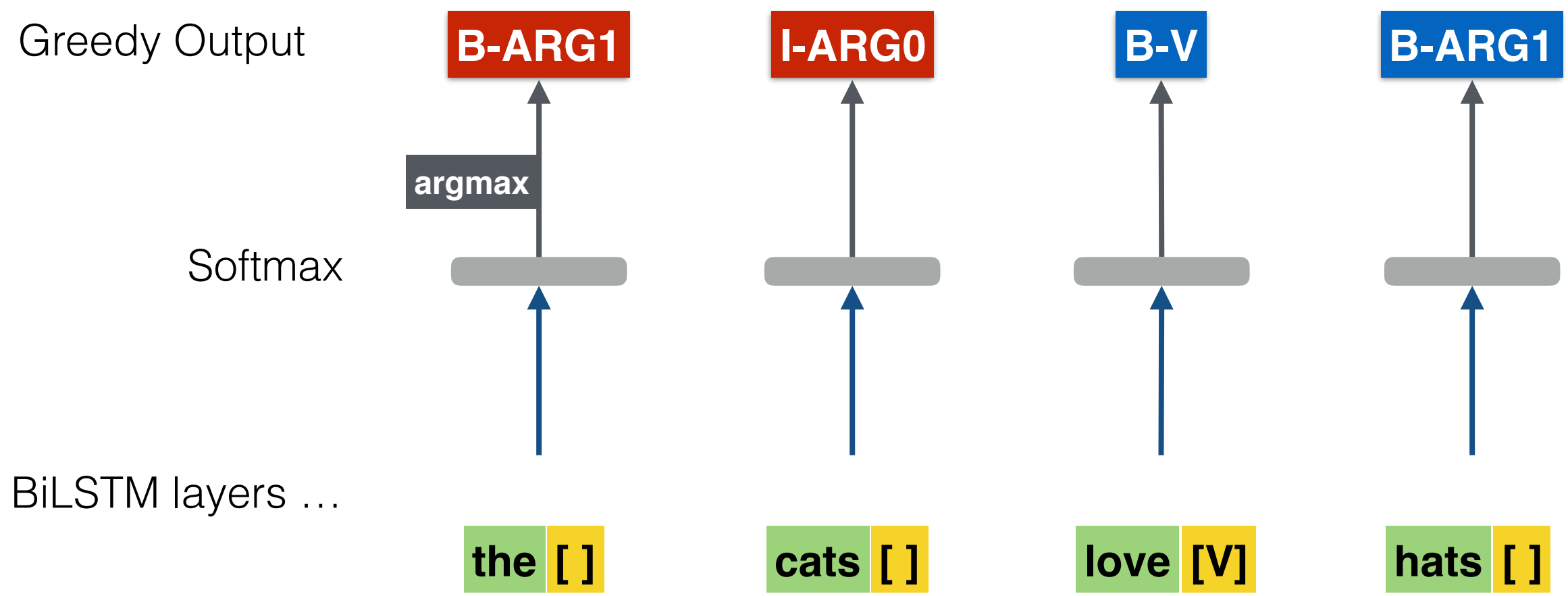
Applying dropout to recurrent connections causes too much noise amplification.

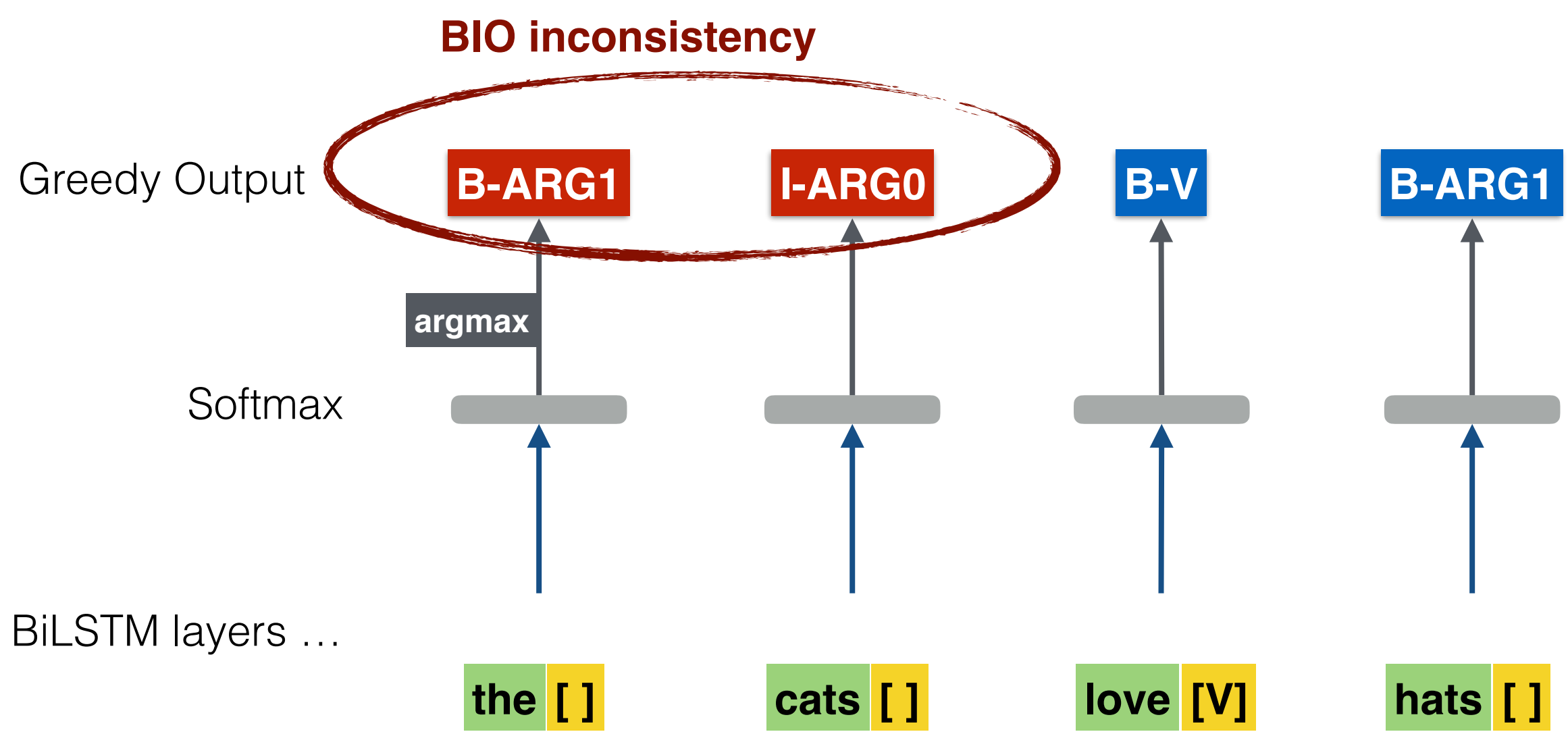


Variational dropout: Reuse the same dropout mask for each timestep.
Gal and Ghahramani, 2016



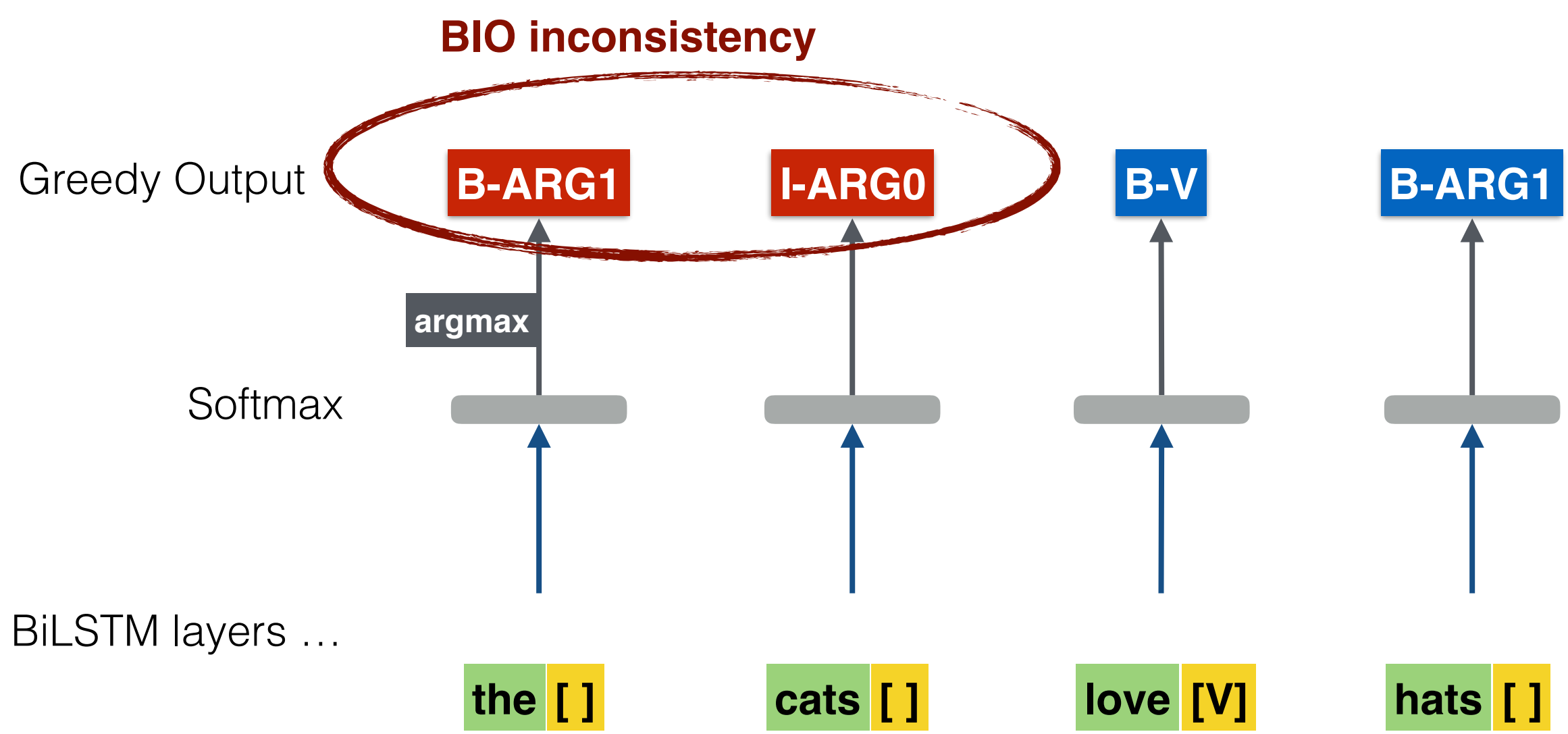
Viterbi Decoding w\ Hard Constraints





Heuristic transition
scores

$s(\text{B-ARG0} \rightarrow \text{I-ARG0}) = 0$
 $s(\text{B-ARG1} \rightarrow \text{I-ARG0}) = -\text{inf}$
...



Heuristic transition
scores

$s(\text{B-ARG0} \rightarrow \text{I-ARG0}) = 0$
 $s(\text{B-ARG1} \rightarrow \text{I-ARG0}) = -\text{inf}$
...

Viterbi decoding

B-ARG0	0.4
I-ARG0	0.05
B-ARG1	0.5
I-ARG1	0.03
...	...
O	0.01

B-ARG0	0.1
I-ARG0	0.5
B-ARG1	0.1
I-ARG1	0.2
...	...
O	0.05

B-ARG0	0.001
I-ARG0	0.001
B-ARG1	0.001
I-ARG1	0.002
...	...
B-V	0.95

B-ARG0	0.1
I-ARG0	0.1
B-ARG1	0.7
I-ARG1	0.2
...	...
O	0.05

Softmax

BiLSTM layers ...

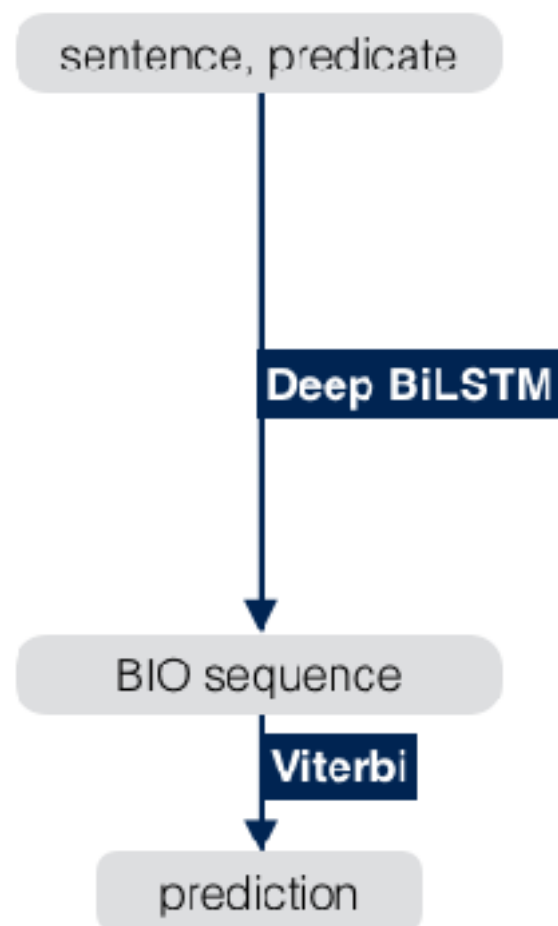
the []

cats []

love [V]

hats []

Other Implementation Details ...

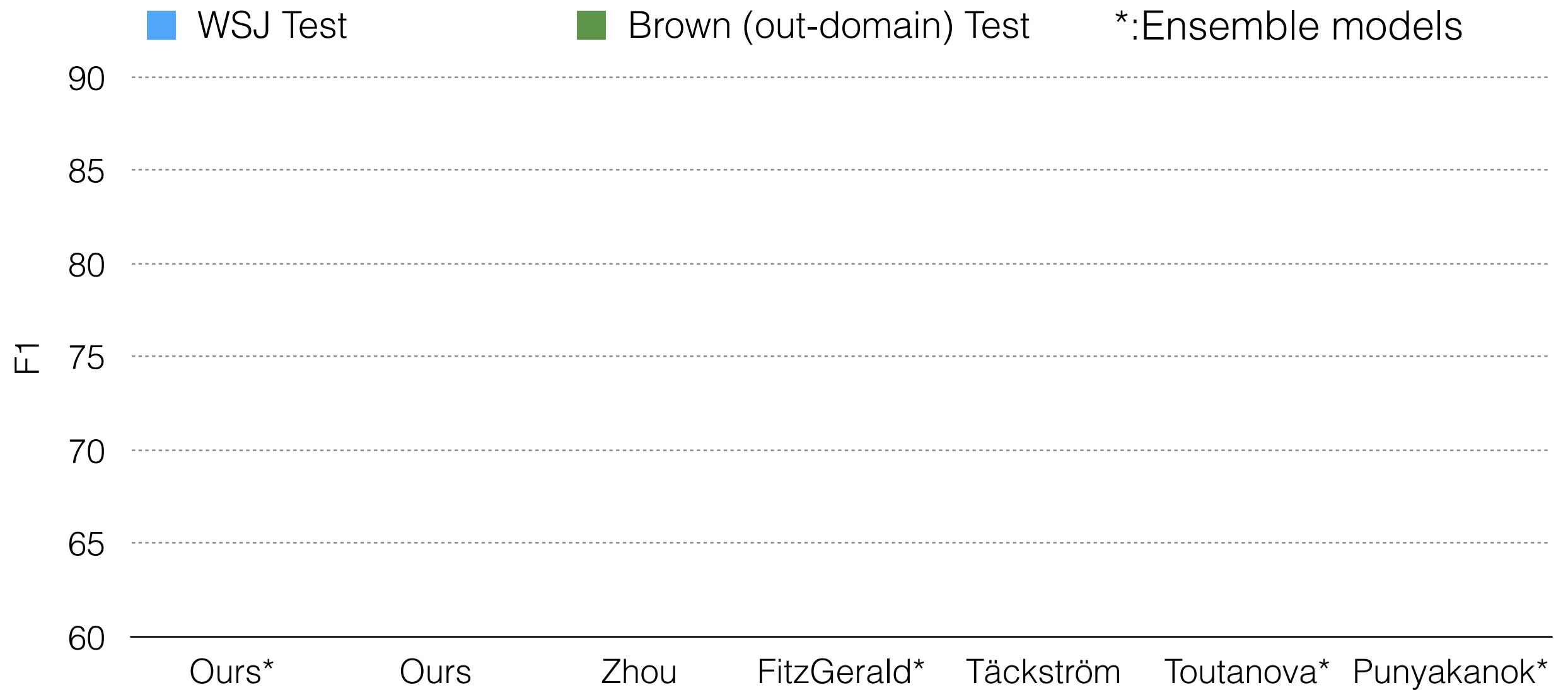


- 8 layer BiLSTMs with 300D hidden layers.
- 100D GloVe embeddings, updated during training.
- **Orthonormal initialization** for LSTM weight matrices (Saxe et al., 2013)
- 5 model ensemble with **product-of-experts** (Hinton 2002)
- Trained for 500 epochs.

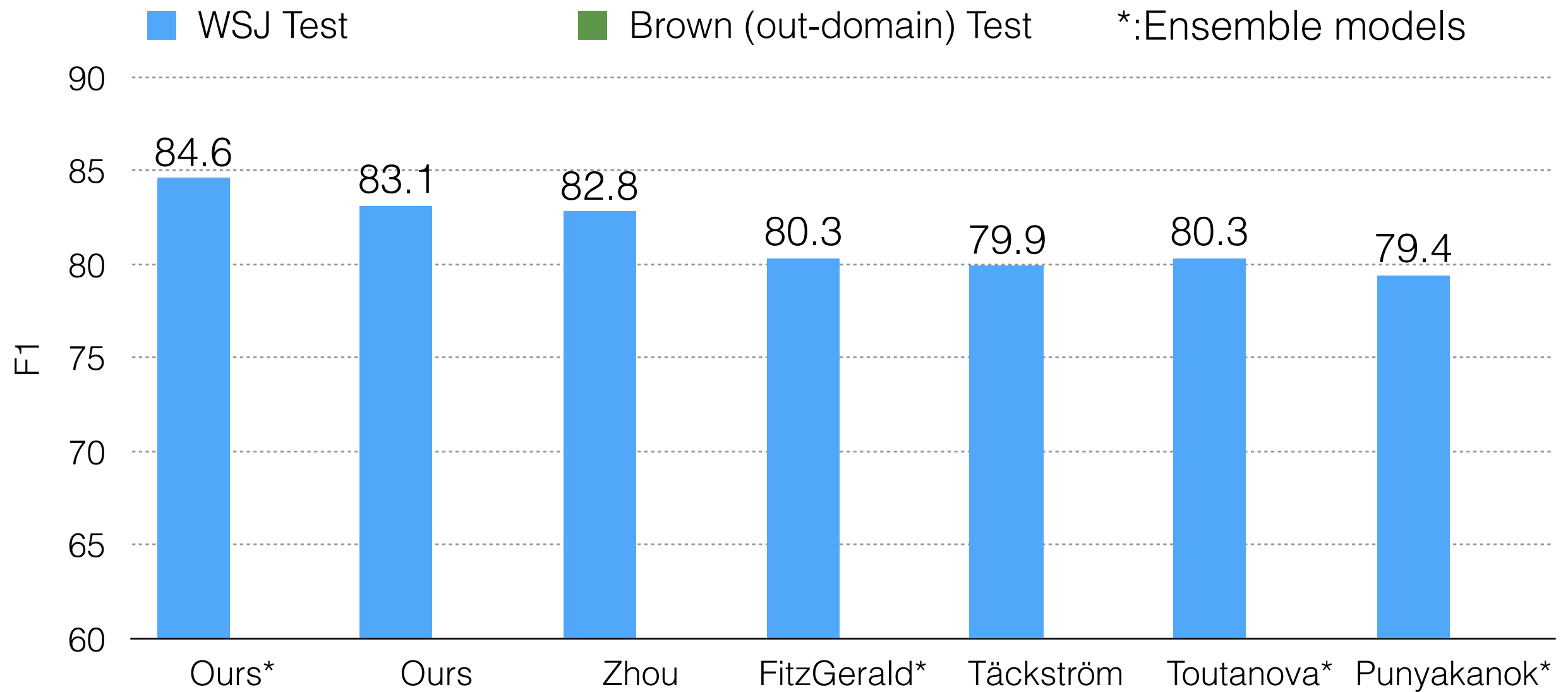
Datasets

	CoNLL-2005 (PropBank)	CoNLL-2012 (OntoNotes)
Size	40k sentences	140k sentences
Domains	newswire	• telephone conversations • newswire • newsgroups • broadcast news • broadcast conversation • weblogs
Annotated predicates	Verbs	Added some nominal predicates

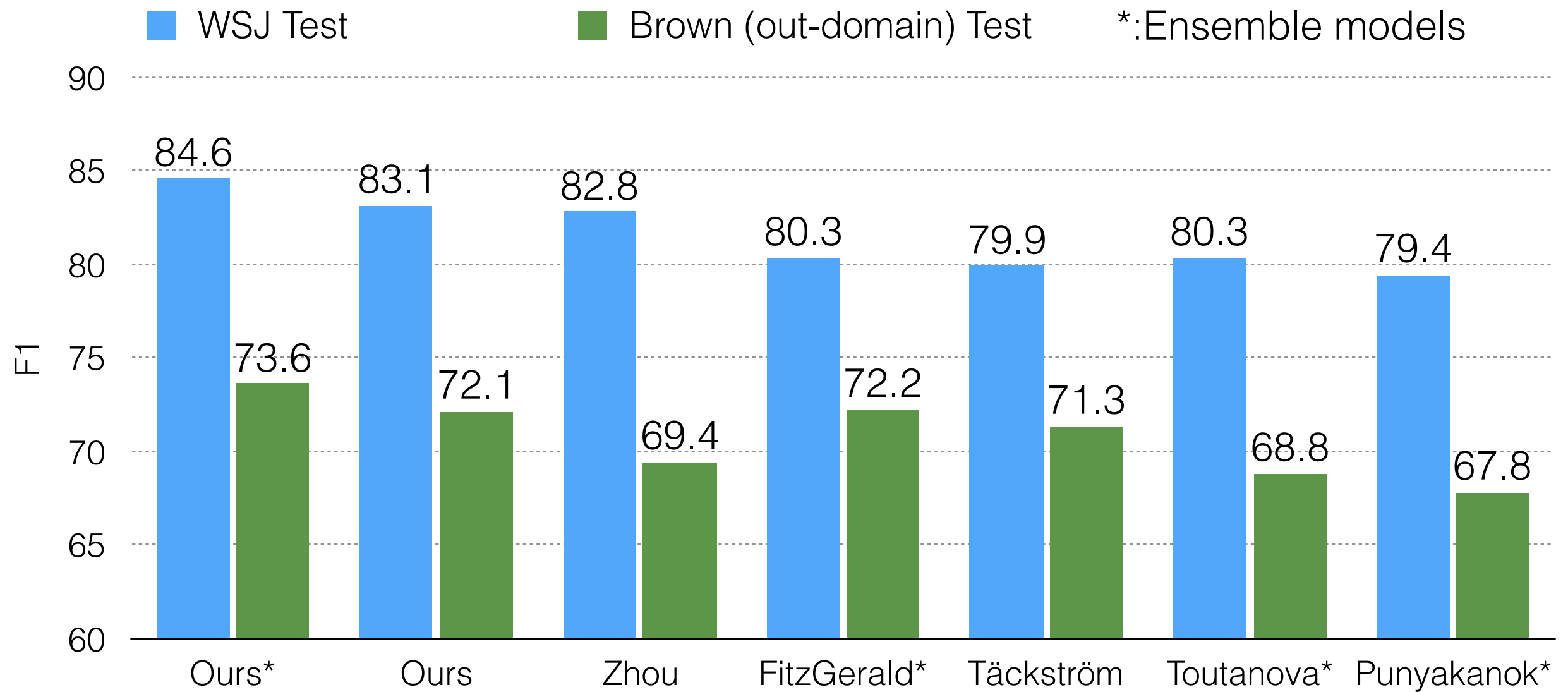
CoNLL 2005 Results



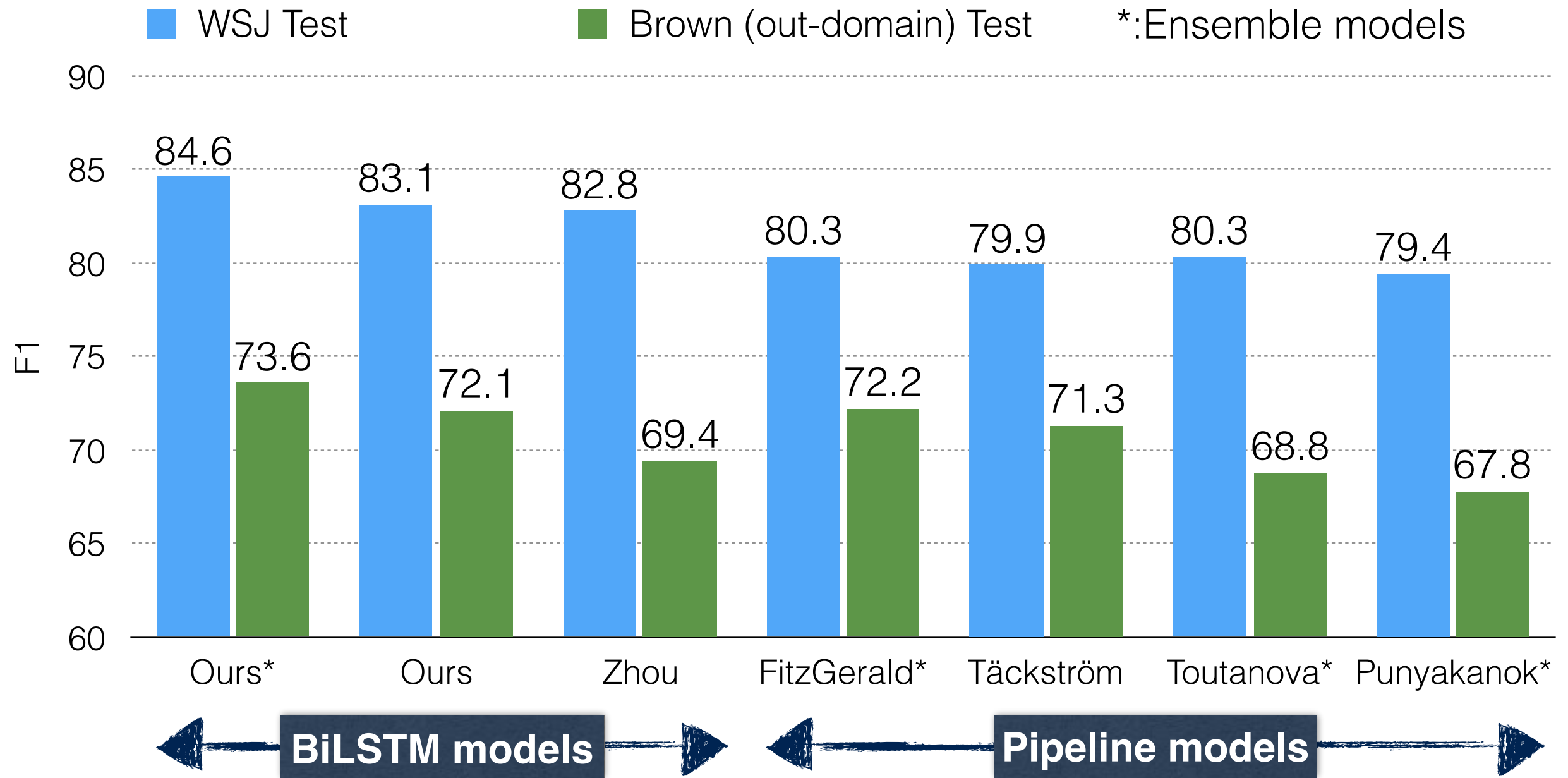
CoNLL 2005 Results



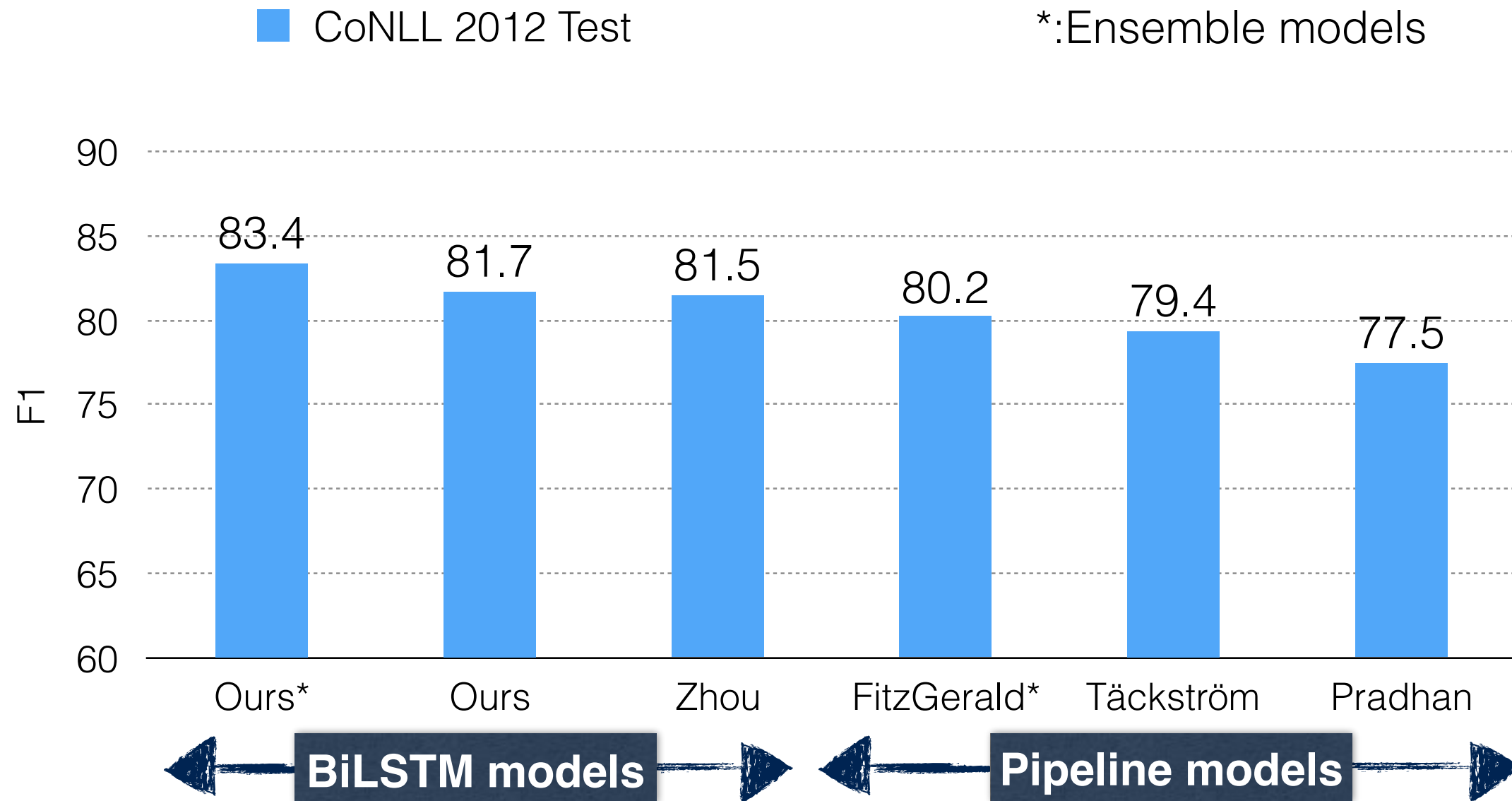
CoNLL 2005 Results



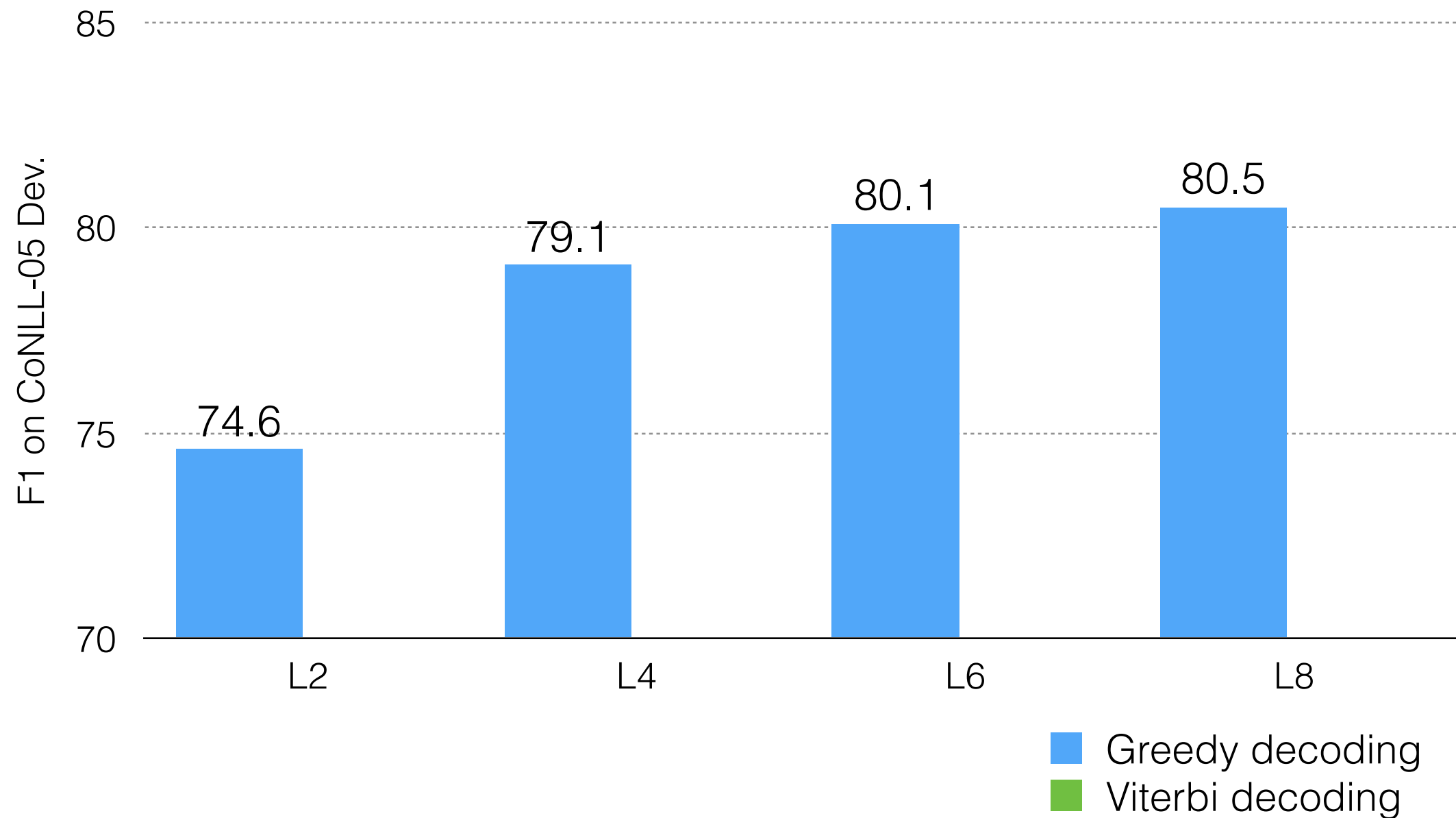
CoNLL 2005 Results



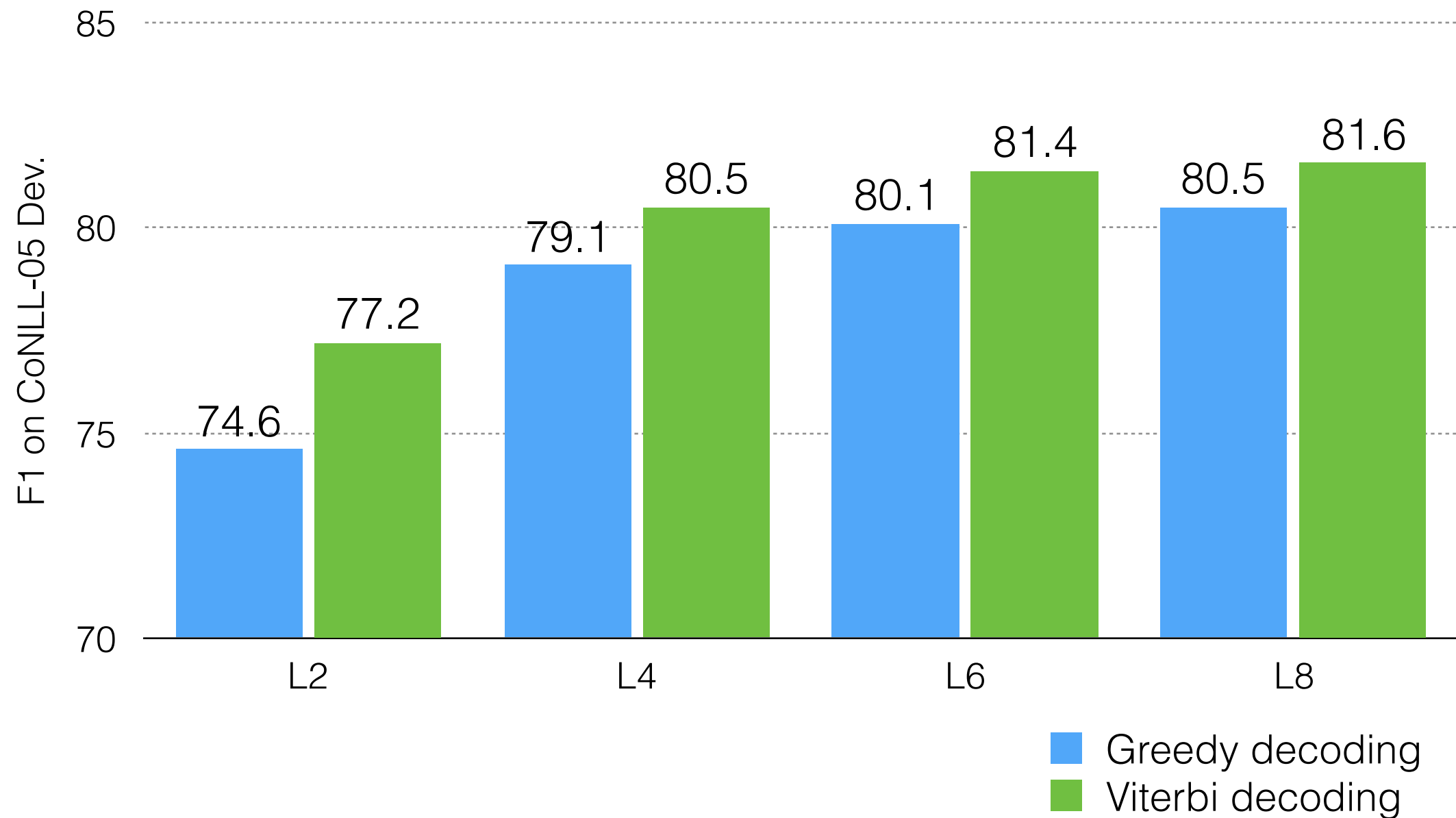
CoNLL 2012 (OntoNotes) Results



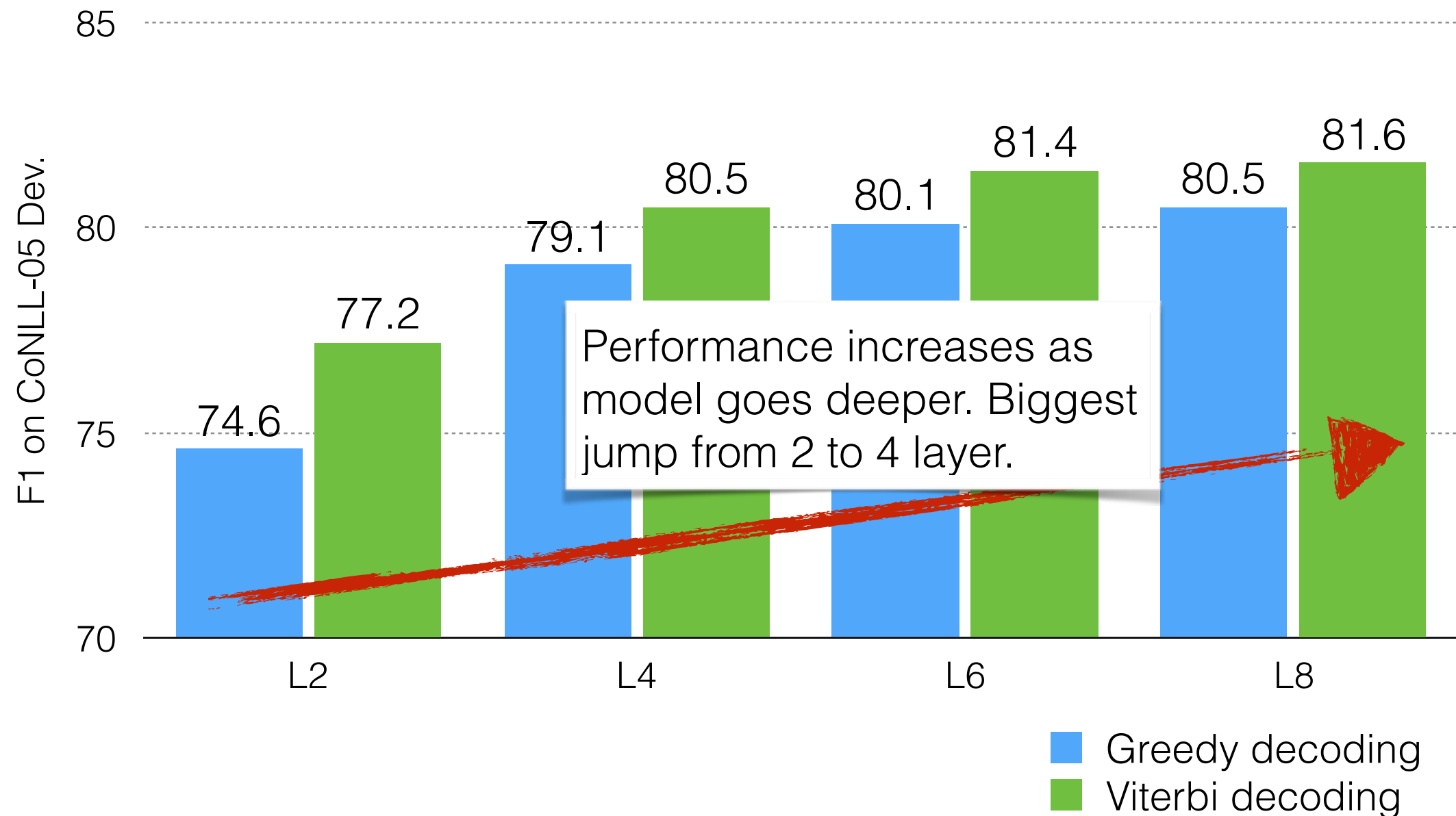
Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)



Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)

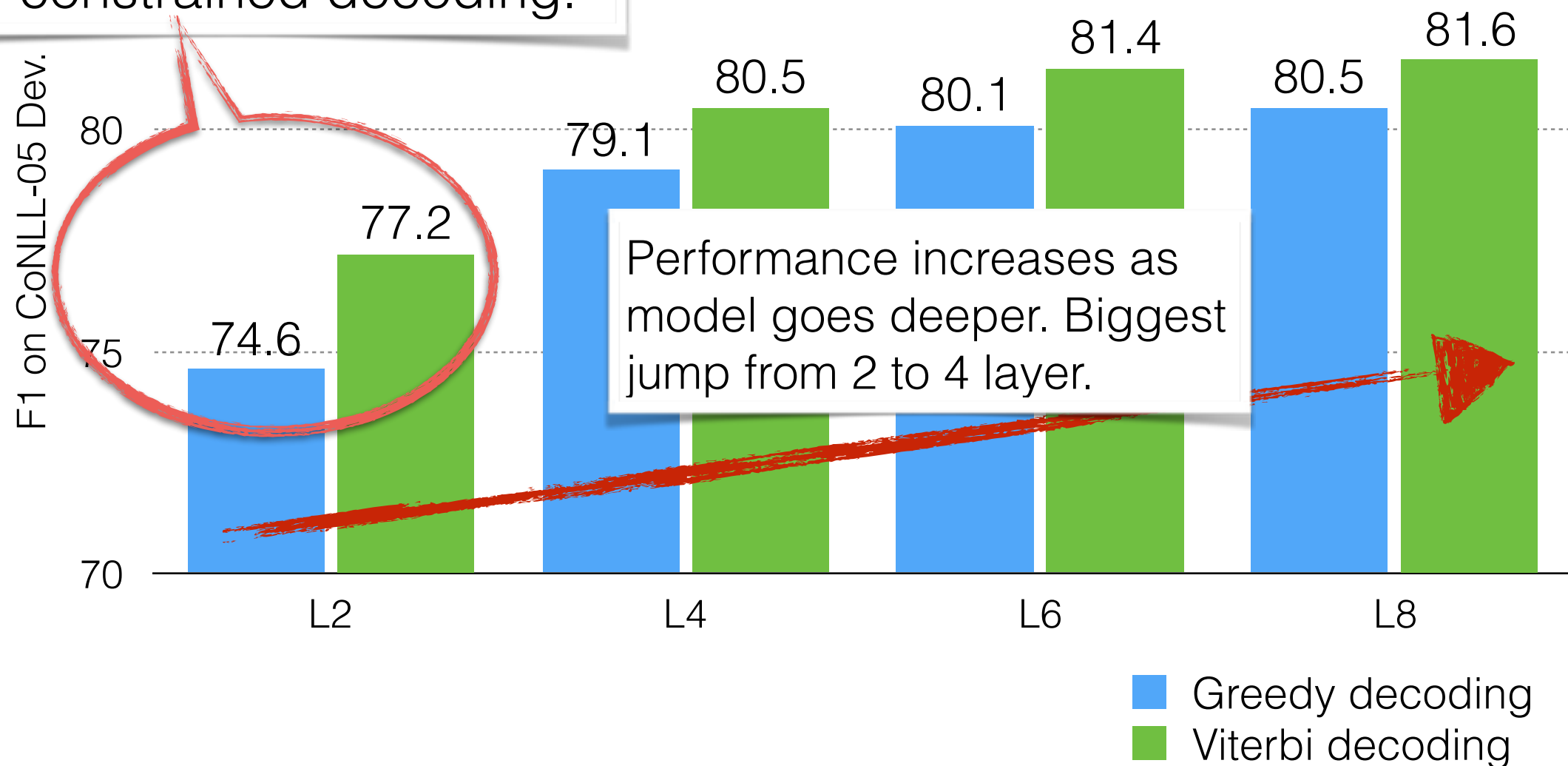


Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)

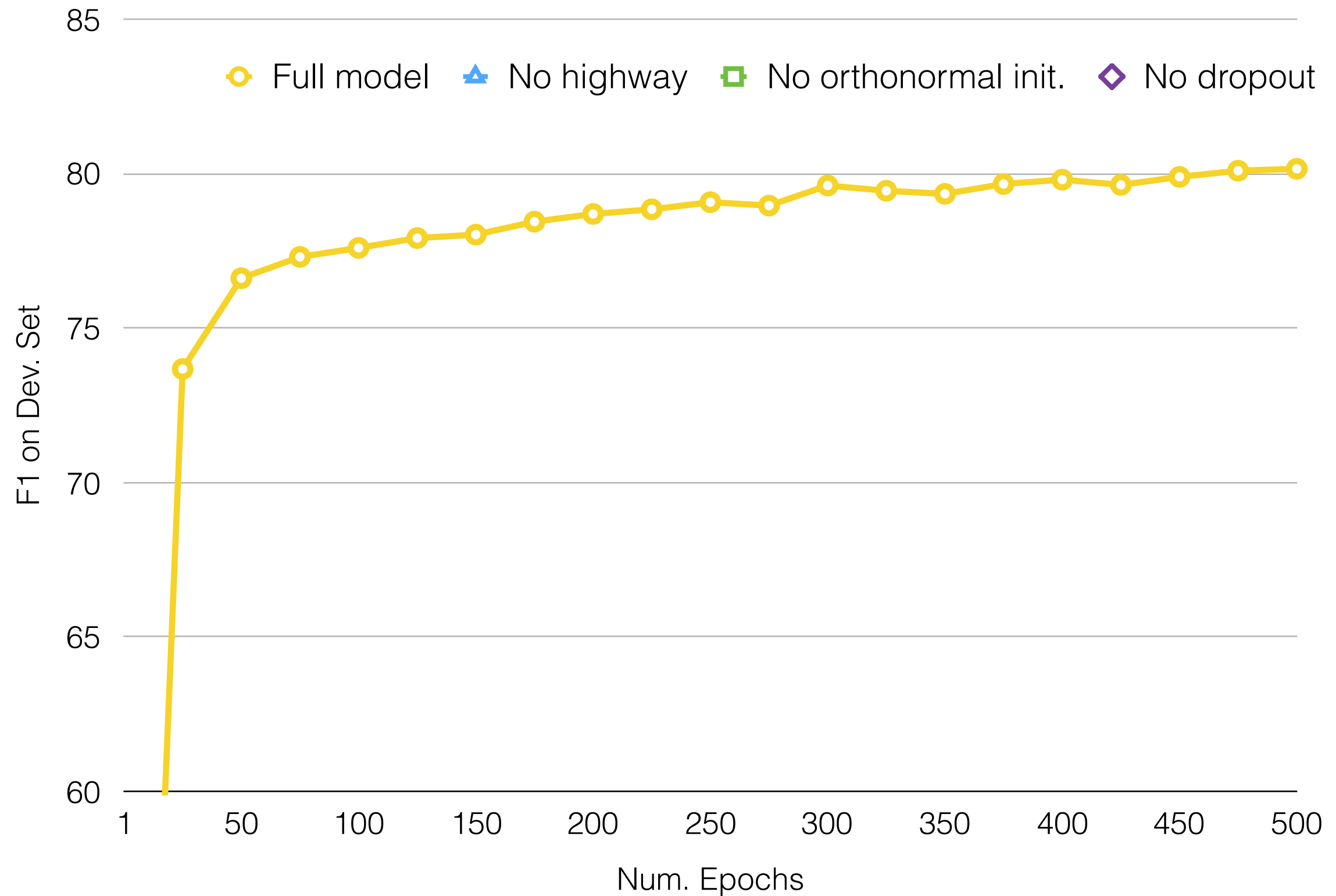


Ablations on Number of Layers (2,4,6 and 8)

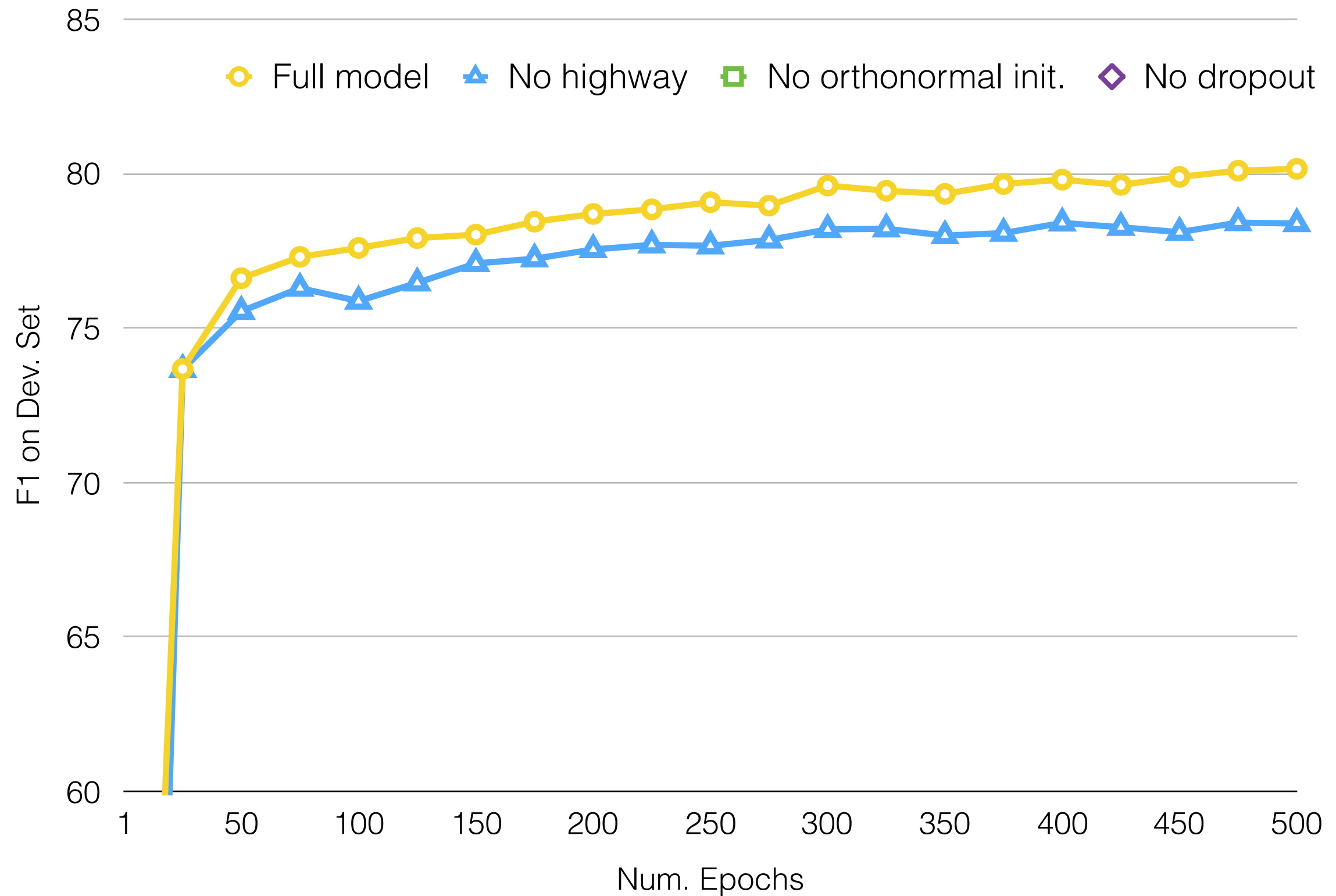
Shallow models benefit more from constrained decoding.



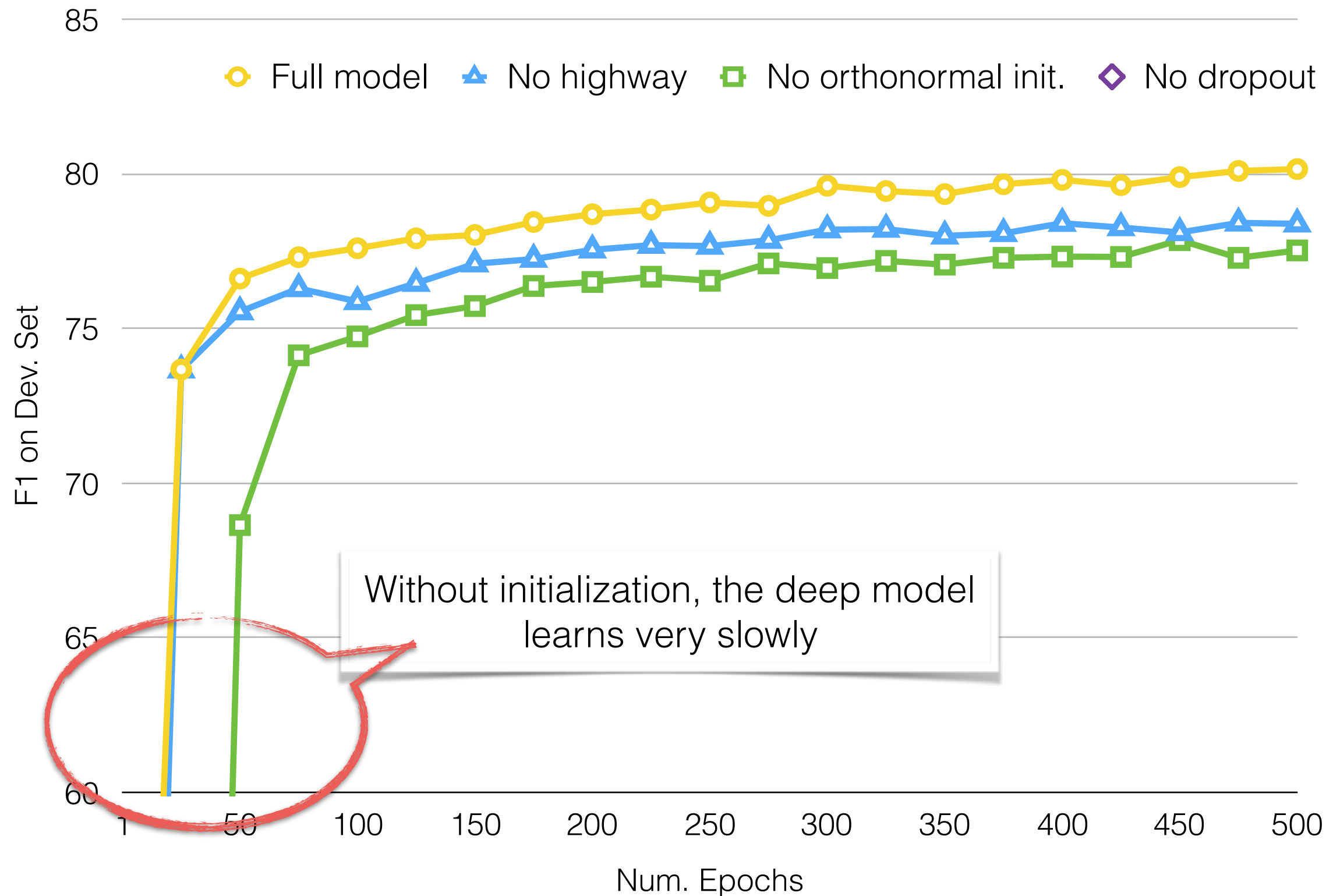
Ablations (single model, on CoNLL05 Dev)



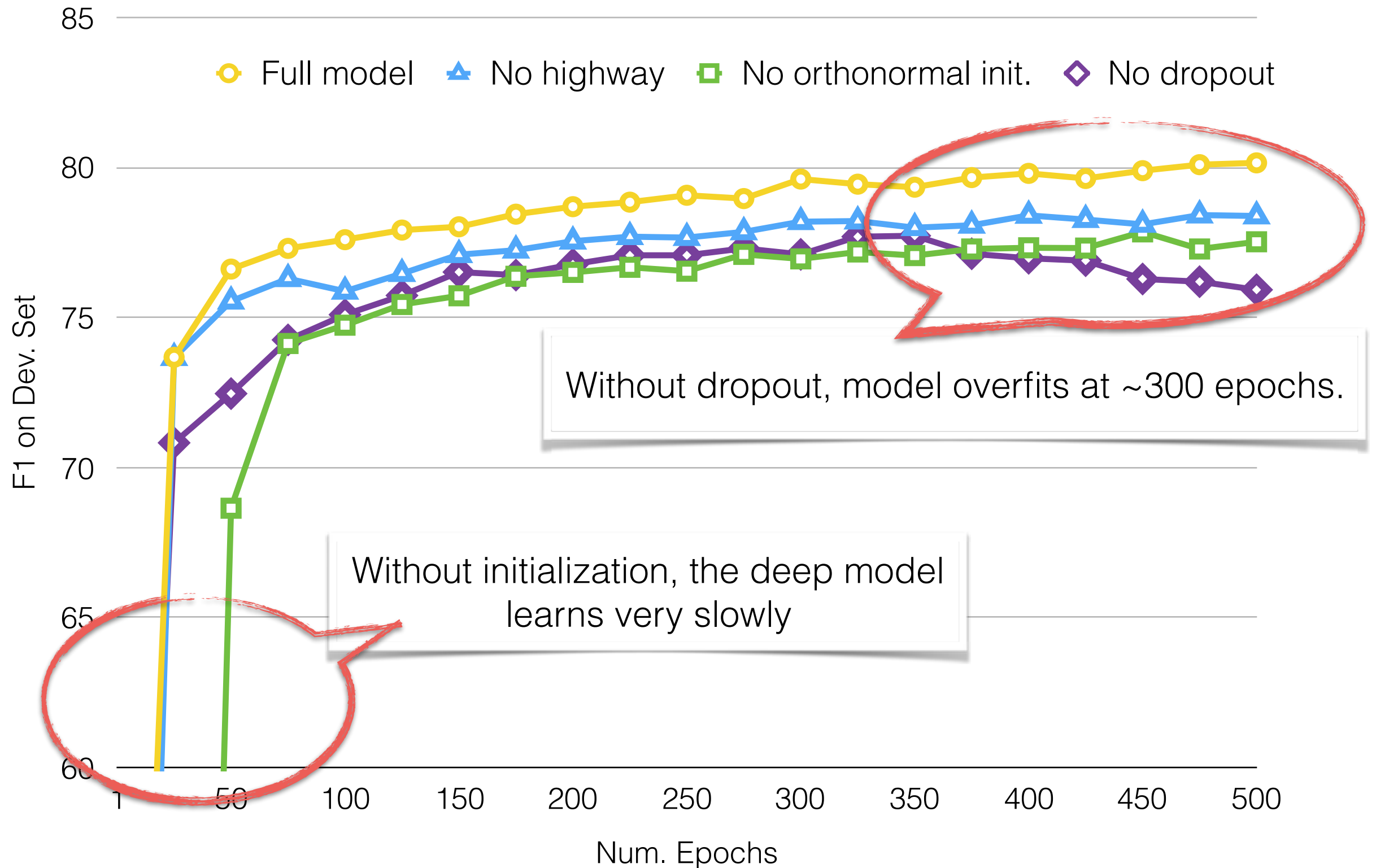
Ablations (single model, on CoNLL05 Dev)



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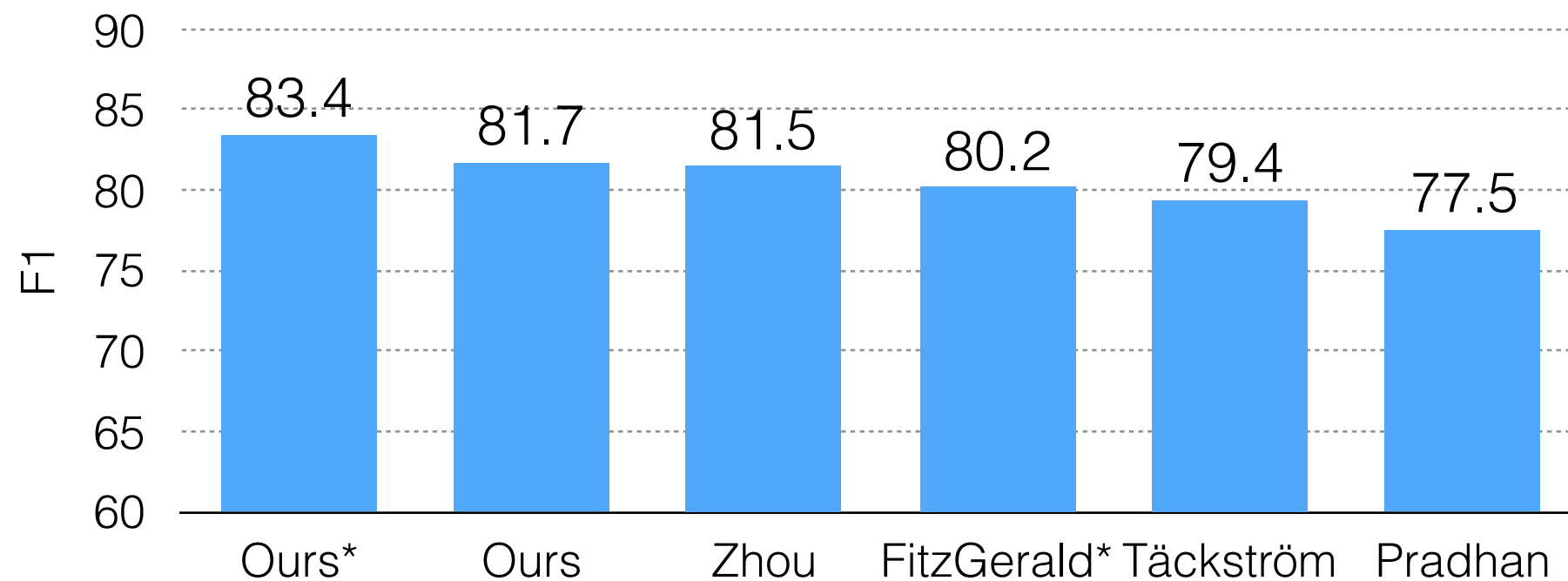


Ablations (single model, on CoNLL05 Dev)



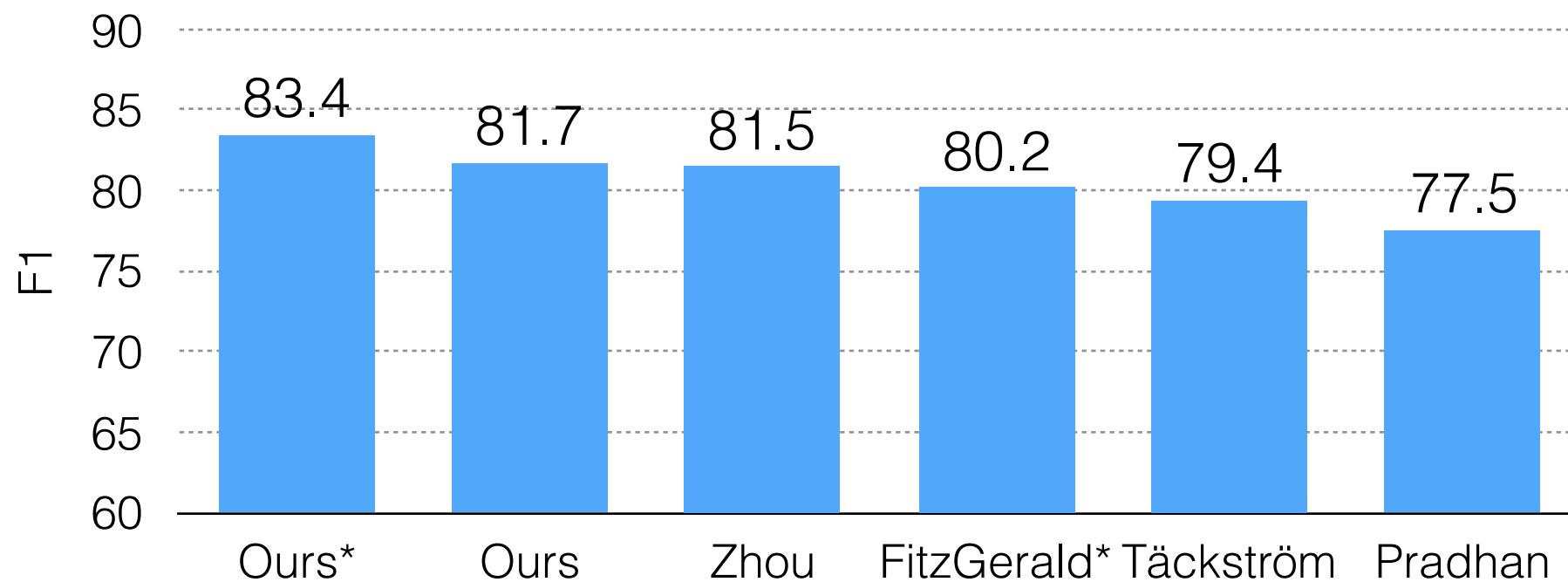
What can we learn from the results?

1. What's in the remaining 17%? When does the model still **struggle**?



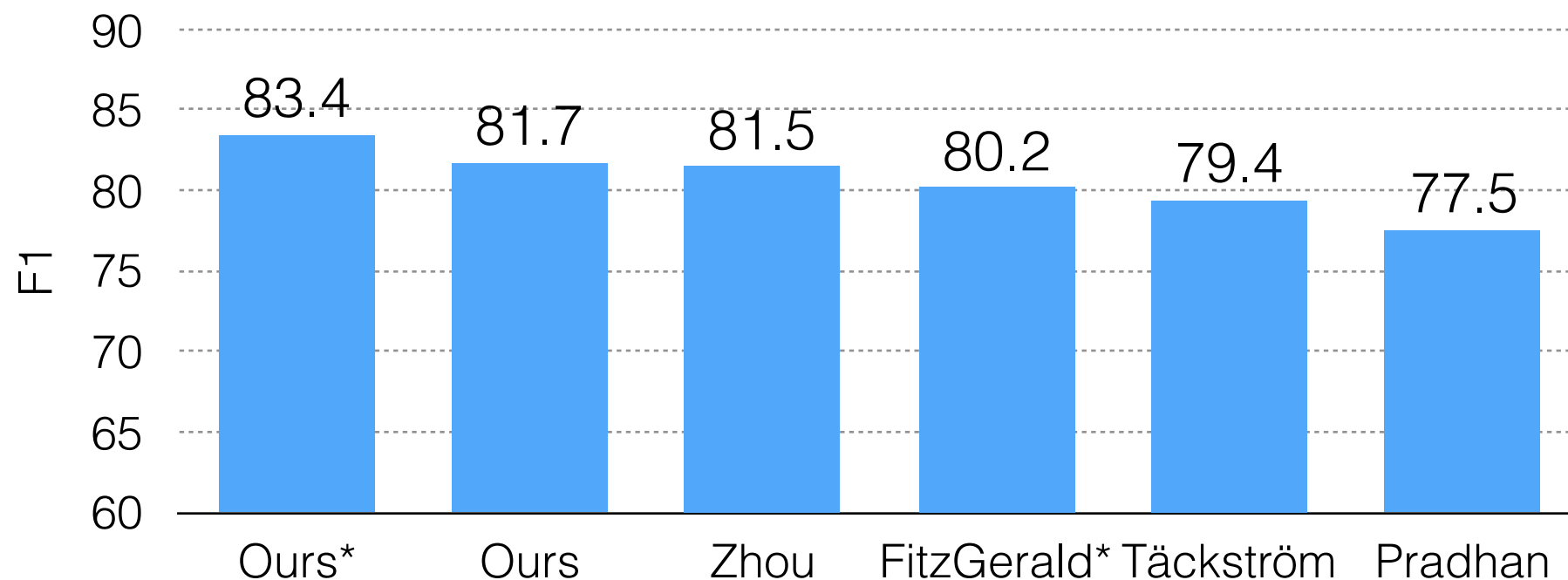
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2. What are **deeper models** good at?



What can we learn from the results?

1. What's in the remaining 17%? When does the model still **struggle**?
2. What are **deeper models** good at?
3. BiLSTM-based models are very accurate even without syntax. But can we conclude **syntax** is no longer useful in SRL?



Question (1): When does the model make mistakes?

Question (1): When does the model make mistakes?

Analysis

- Error breakdown with oracle transformation
- E.g. tease apart labeling errors and boundary errors
- Link the error types to known linguistic phenomena (e.g. pp attachment)

Error Breakdown

Oracle Transformations

Labeling Errors PP Attachment Long-range Dependencies Structural Consistency Can Syntax Still Help?

Error Breakdown

Labeling
Errors

PP
Attachment

Long-range
Dependencies

Structural
Consistency

Can Syntax
Still Help?

Oracle Transformations

1) Fix **[We]** fly to NYC tomorrow.

Label:

~~ARG0~~

ARG1

Error Breakdown

Labeling
Errors

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Attachment

Long-range
Dependencies

Structural
Consistency

Can Syntax
Still Help?

Oracle Transformations

1) Fix
Label:

[We] *fly* to NYC tomorrow.

~~ARG0~~

ARG1

2) Move
core arg:

ARG0 ← ... ARG0

[They] wrote **[an email]** to
cancel it.

Error Breakdown

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Attachment

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Still Help?

Oracle Transformations

1) Fix
Label: **[We]** *fly* to NYC tomorrow.
~~ARG0~~
ARG1

2) Move
core arg: **ARG0** ← **ARG0**
[They] wrote **[an email]** to
cancel it.

3) Split/
Merge span: **ARG1**
I *eat* **[pasta with delight]**.
ARG1 ARG1 ARG1
[pasta] [with delight]

ARG1 **ARGM-MNR**
I *eat* **[pasta]** **[with broccoli]**.
ARG1 ARG1
[pasta with broccoli]

Error Breakdown

Labeling
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Oracle Transformations

1) Fix
Label:
[We] *fly* to NYC tomorrow.
~~ARG0~~
ARG1

2) Move
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ARG0 ← ARG0
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3) Split/
Merge span:
I *eat* **[pasta with delight]**.
ARG1
ARG1 ARG1 ARG1
[pasta] [with delight]

ARG1 ARG1 ARG1 ARG1
I *eat* **[pasta]** **[with broccoli]**.
ARG1
[pasta with broccoli]

4) Fix span
boundary:
ARG1
[“No broccoli”,] I said.
[“No broccoli”],

Error Breakdown

Labeling
Errors

PP
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Long-range
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Oracle Transformations

1) Fix
Label:
~~ARG0~~
[We] *fly* to NYC tomorrow.
ARG1

2) Move
core arg:
ARG0 ← ARG0
[They] wrote [an email] to
cancel it.

3) Split/
Merge span:
ARG1
I *eat* [pasta with delight].
ARG1 ARG1
[pasta] [with delight]

ARG1 ARG1
I *eat* [pasta] [with broccoli].
ARG1
[pasta with broccoli]

4) Fix span
boundary:
ARG1
[“No broccoli”,] I said.
[“No broccoli”],

5) Drop/
add arg:
Hesitantly, they *declined* to
elaborate [on that matter].
+ ARG1
[Hesitantly], they *declined*
to elaborate on that matter.

Error Breakdown

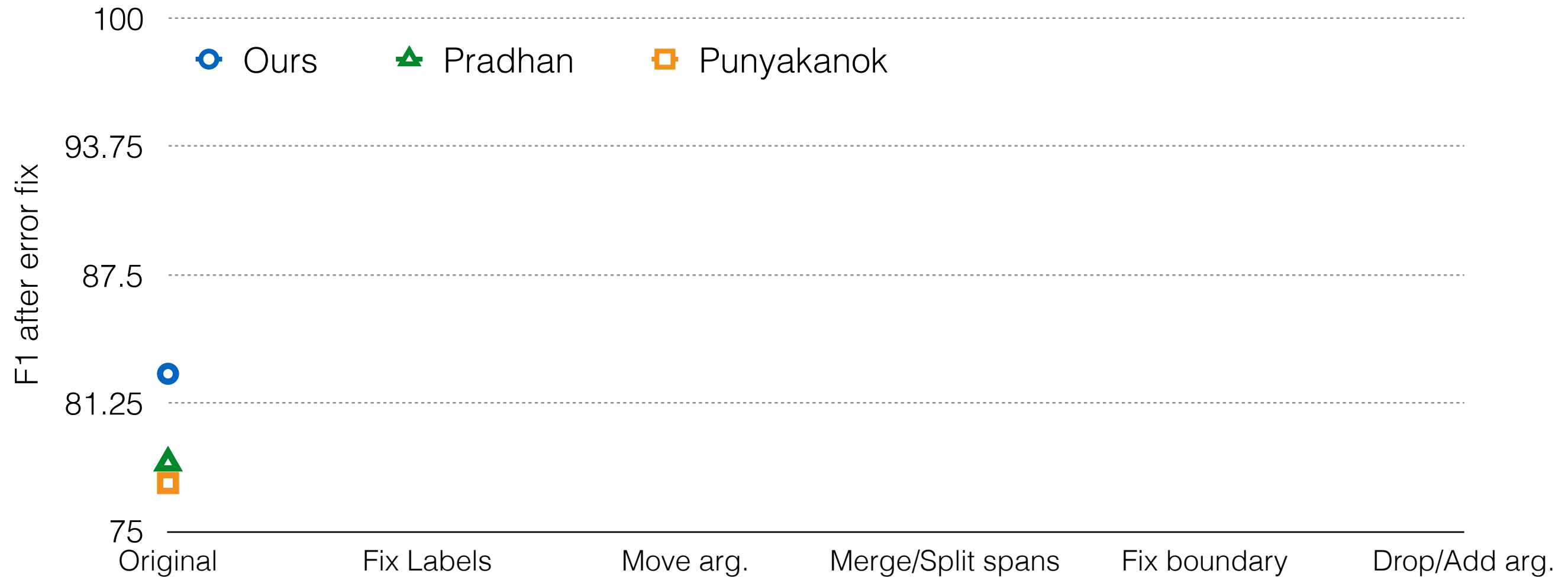
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Pradhan, Punyakanok: CoNLL-2005 systems

Error Breakdown

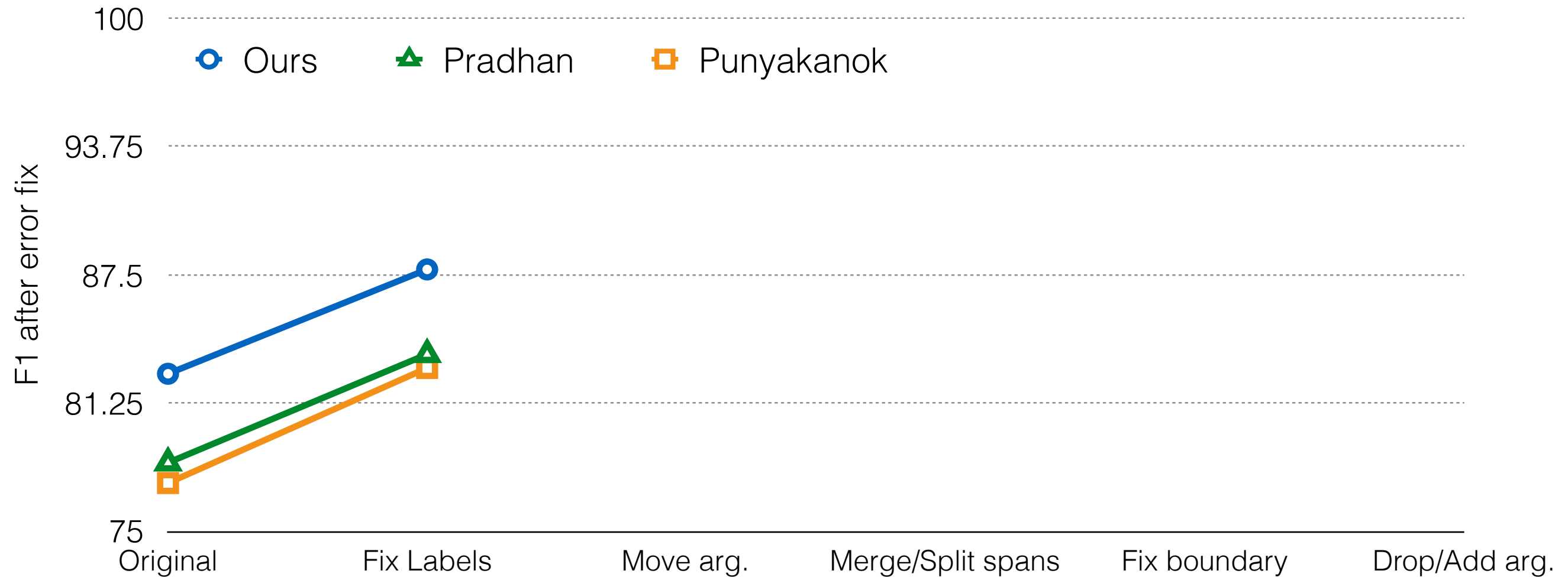
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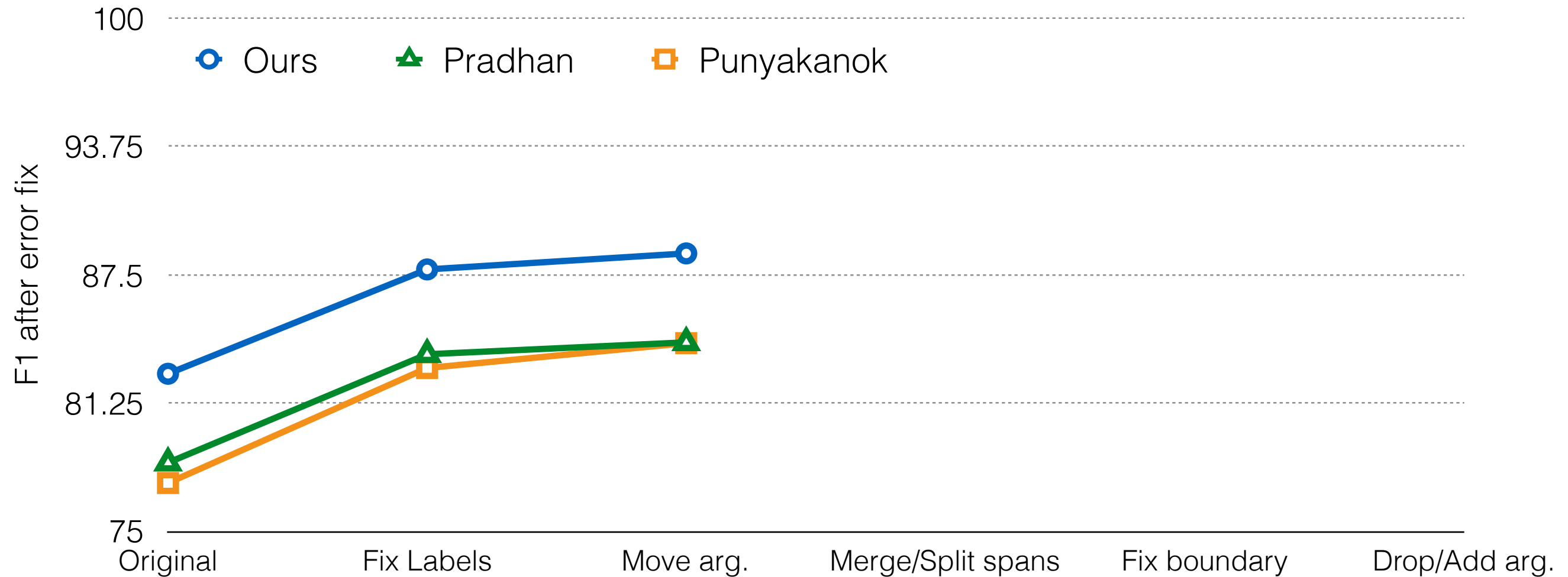
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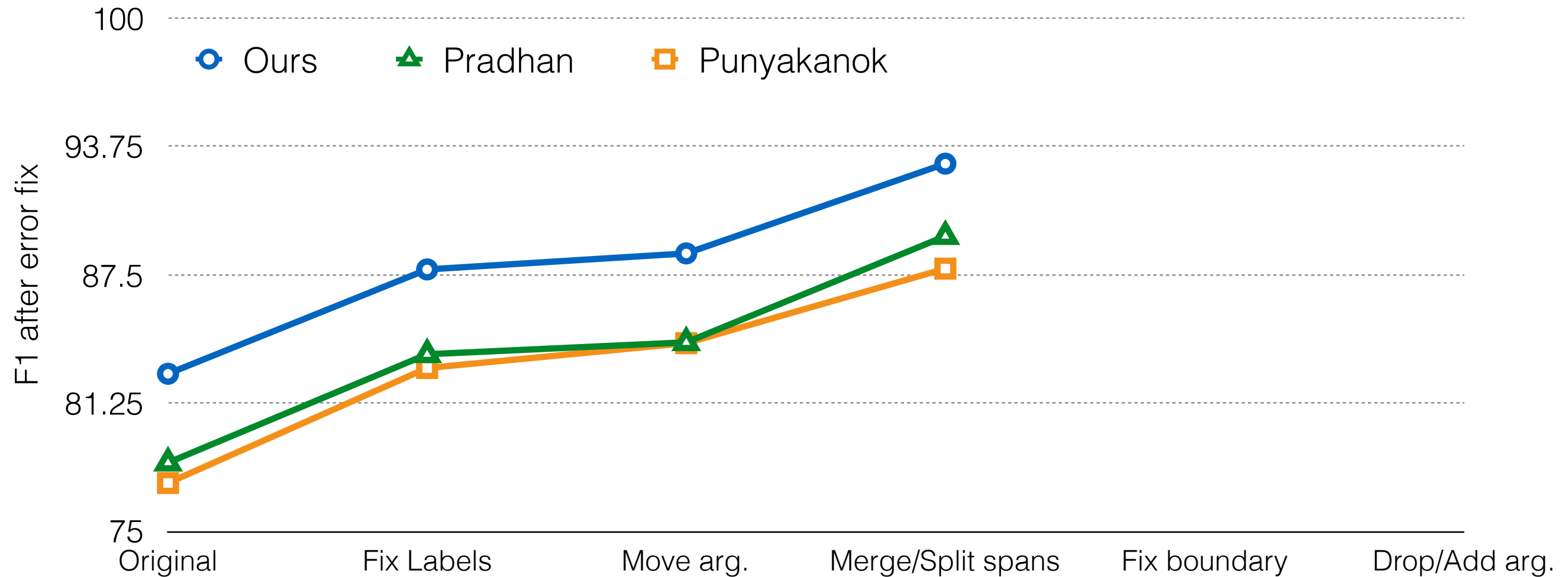
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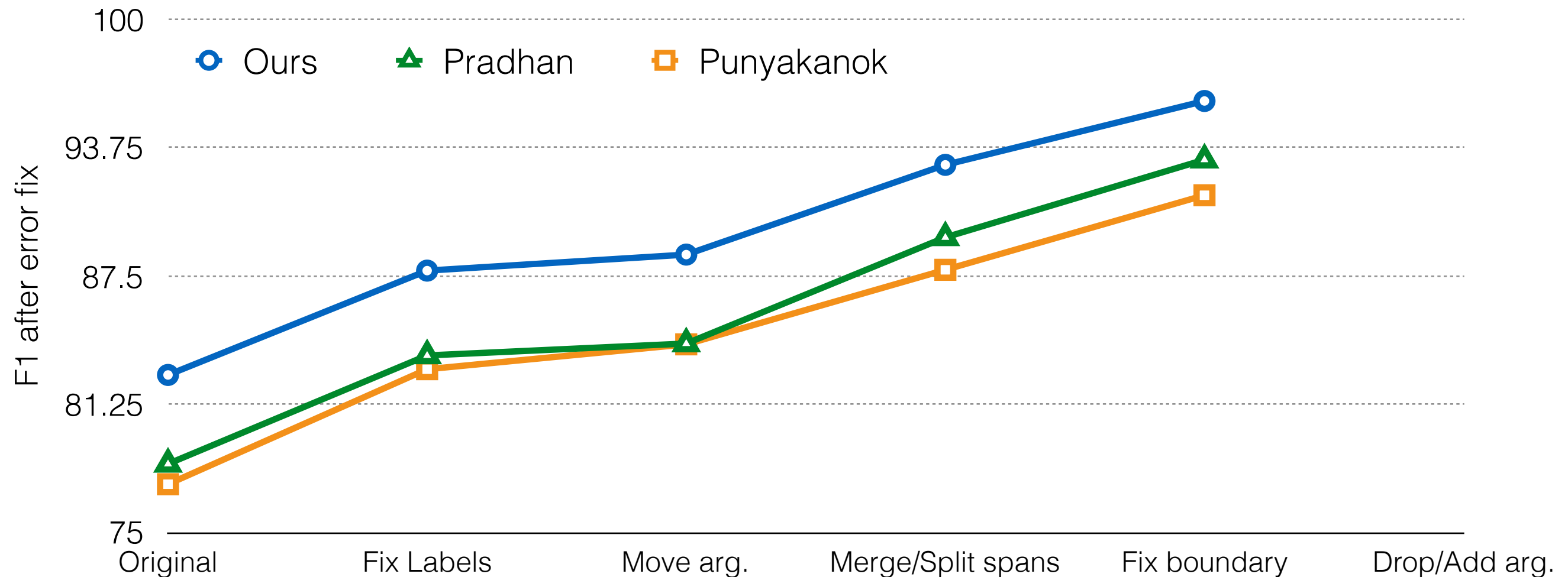
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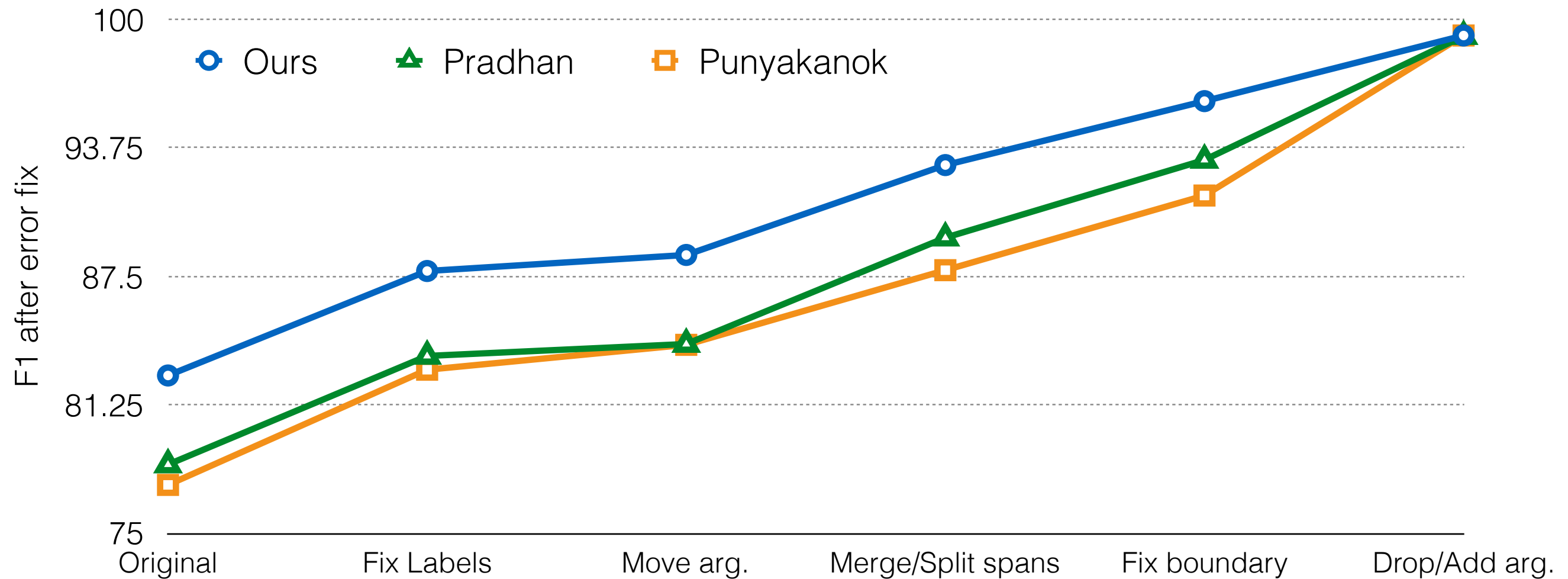
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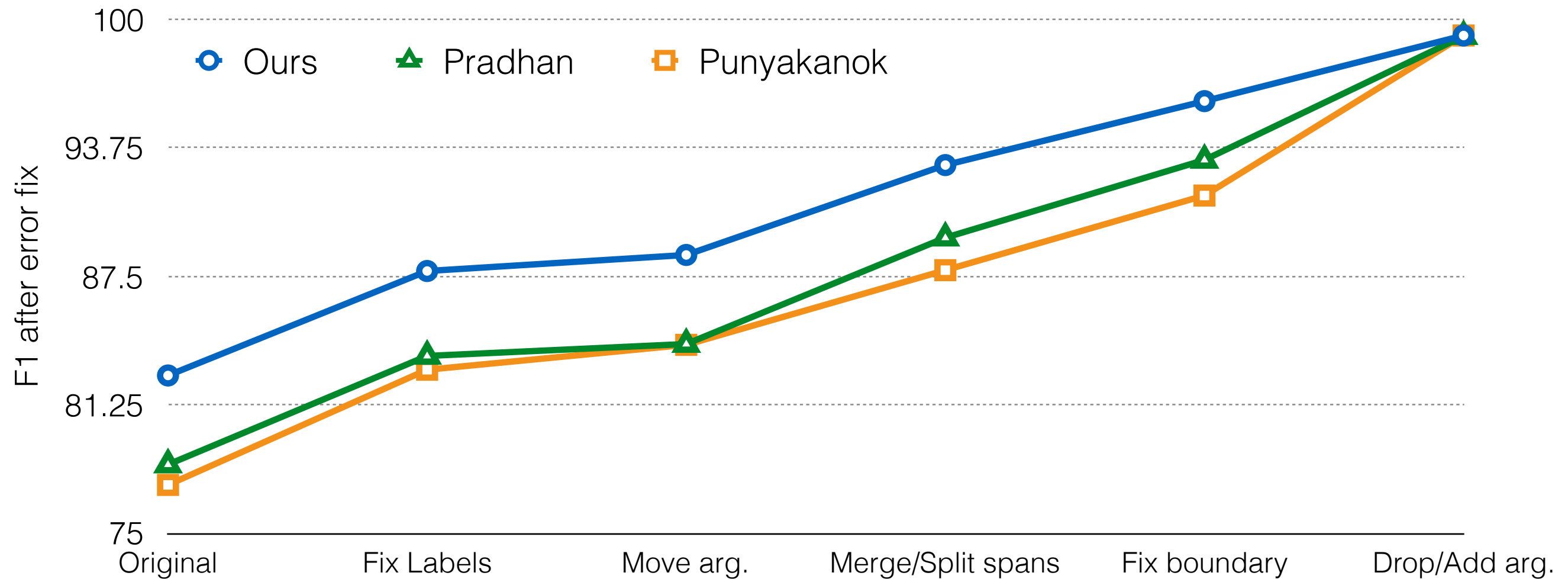
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Still Help?



Labeling error
29.3%

Pradhan, Punyakanok: CoNLL-2005 systems

Error Breakdown

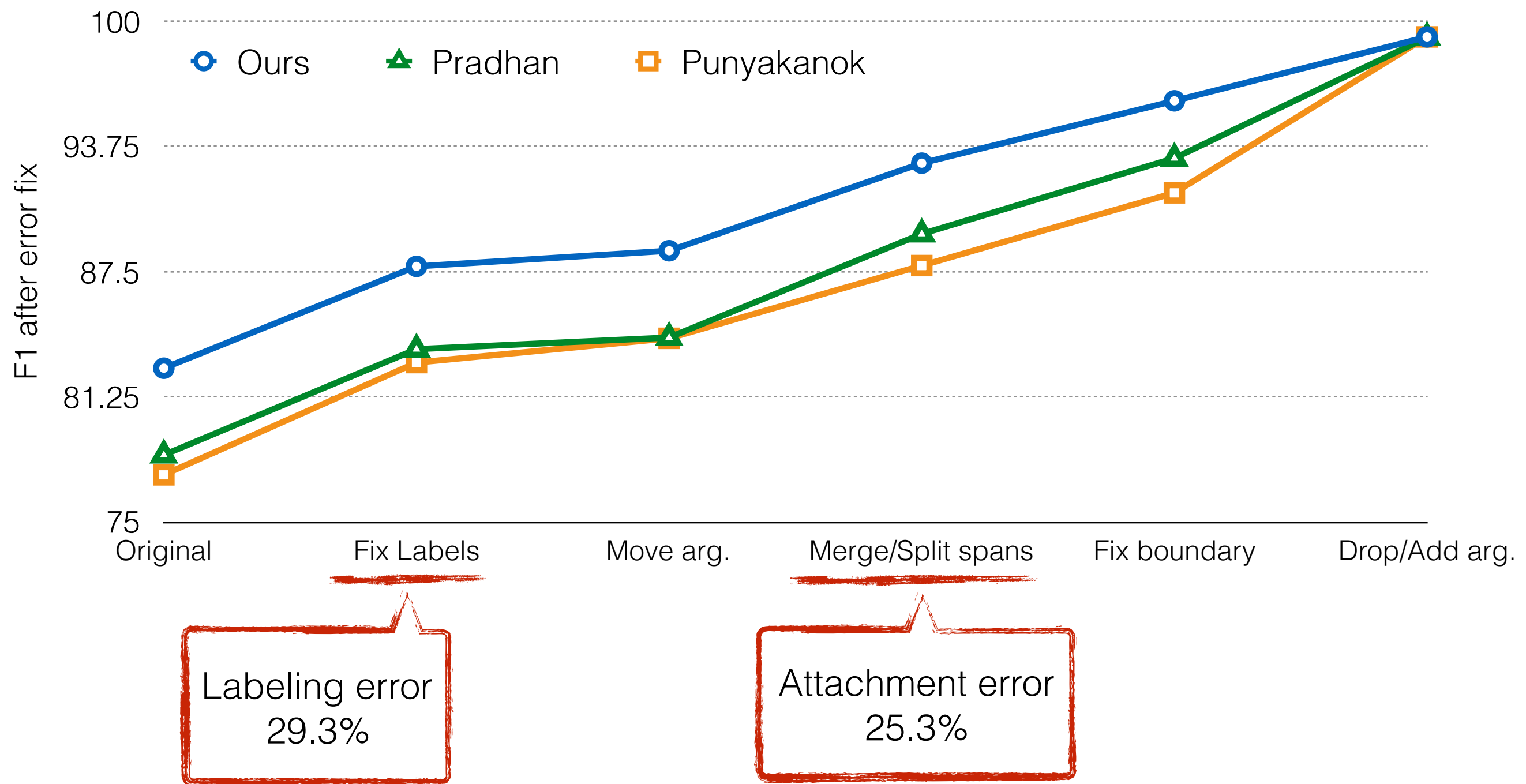
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Can Syntax
Still Help?



Pradhan, Punyakanok: CoNLL-2005 systems

Confusion matrix
for labeling errors
(row normalized)

pred. \ gold	A0	A1	A2	A3	ADV	DIR	LOC	MNR	PNC	TMP
A0	76	13	6	14	2	0	0	0	0	0
A1	16	74	25	0	0	18	9	11	19	2
A2	2	5	31	52	10	45	26	46	19	0
A3	1	0	1	57	2	0	0	0	19	2
ADV	0	0	0	5	33	0	11	33	19	5
DIR	0	0	3	5	0	27	9	2	0	0
LOC	1	2	7	0	2	0	34	11	0	2
MNR	1	0	7	29	21	0	0	43	0	3
PNC	0	1	3	5	0	9	3	2	44	0
TMP	0	2	3	0	26	9	20	7	0	71

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- ARG2 is often confused with certain adjuncts (DIR, LOC, MNR), why?

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Predicate: *move*

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Arg1-PPT: *moved*

Arg2-GOL: *destination*

Arg3-VSP: *aspect, domain in which arg1 moving*

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Predicate: *cut*

Arg0-PAG: *intentional cutter*

Arg1-PPT: *thing cut*

Arg2-DIR: *medium, source*

Arg3-MNR: *instrument, unintentional cutter*

Arg4-GOL: *beneficiary*

Confusion matrix
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Arg4-GOL: *beneficiary*

Predicate: *strike*

Arg0-PAG: *Agent*

Arg1-PPT: *Theme(-Creation)*

Arg2-MNR: *Instrument*

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for labeling errors
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Predicate: *strike*

Arg0-PAG: *Agent*

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- Argument-adjunct distinctions are difficult even for human annotators!

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A3	1	0	1	57	2	0	0	0	19	2
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“After many attempts to find a reliable test to distinguish between arguments and adjuncts, we abandoned structurally marking this difference.”

—The Penn Treebank: An Overview (Taylor et al., 2003)

- Argument-adjunct distinctions are difficult even for human annotators!

Sumimoto ***financed*** the acquisition from Sears

Wrong PP attachment
(attach high)



Correct PP attachment
(attach low)

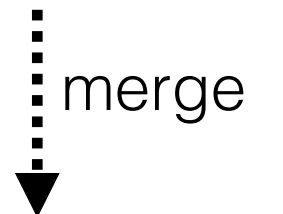
Wrong PP attachment
(attach high)

Sumimoto *financed* the acquisition from Sears

Correct PP attachment
(attach low)



Wrong SRL spans



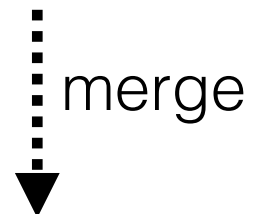
Correct SRL spans

Wrong PP attachment
(attach high)



Correct PP attachment
(attach low)

Wrong SRL spans



Correct SRL spans

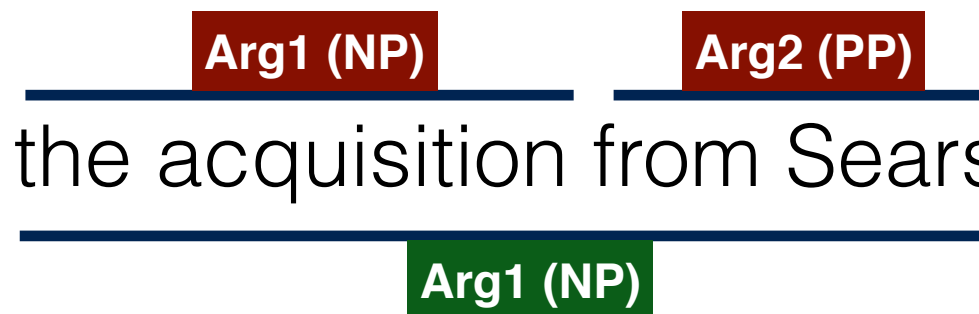
Merge/split span operations: 25.3%
of the mode mistakes.

Categorize the Y spans in :
[XY]—>[X][Y] and
[X][Y]—>[XY] operations
using gold syntactic labels

Wrong PP attachment
(attach high)

Sumimoto *financed* the acquisition from Sears

Correct PP attachment
(attach low)

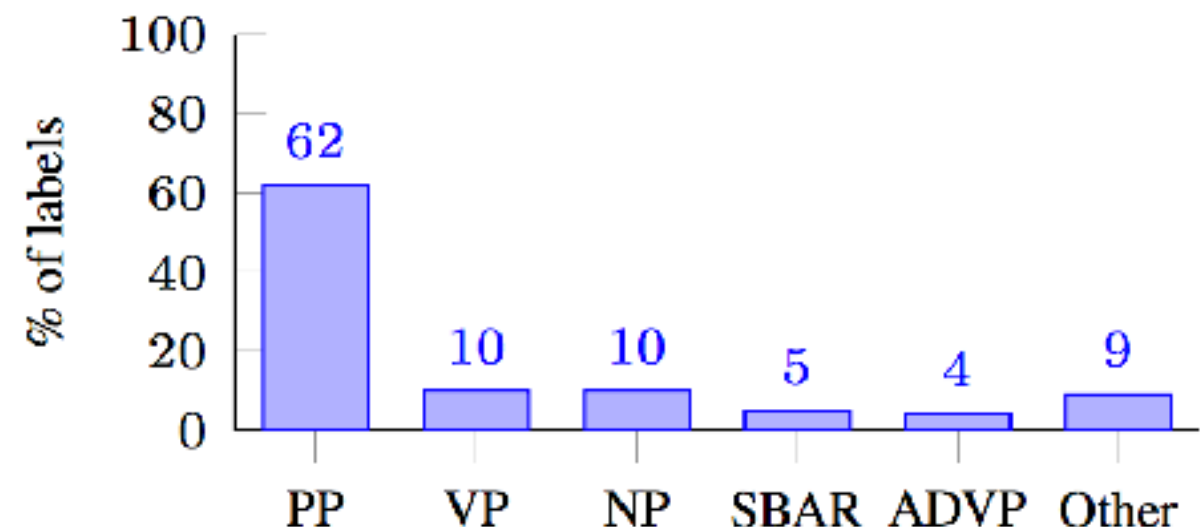


Wrong SRL spans

merge
↓
Correct SRL spans

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Question (1): When does the model make mistakes?

Analysis

- Error breakdown with oracle transformation
- E.g. tease apart labeling errors and boundary errors
- Link the error types to known linguistic phenomena (e.g. pp attachment)

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Takeaway

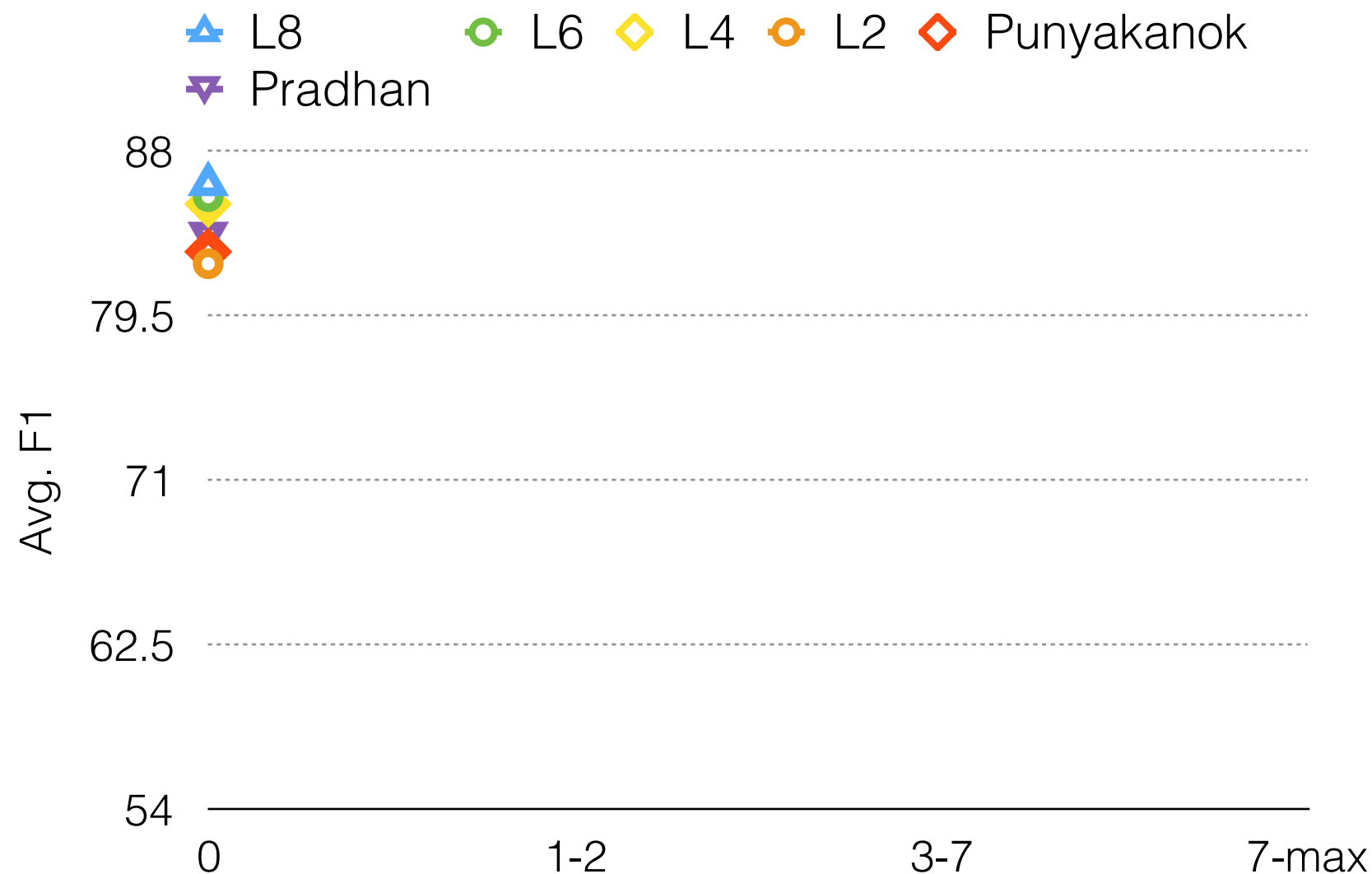
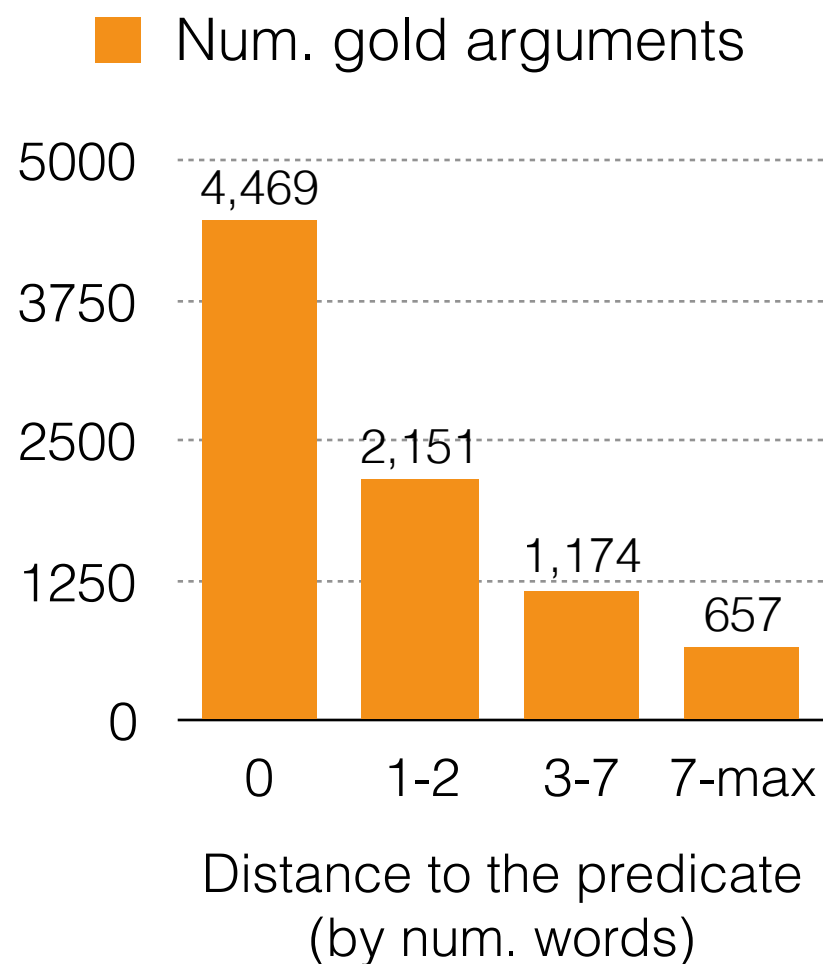
- Traditionally hard tasks, such as argument-adjunct distinction and PP attachment decisions are still challenging!
- Use external information to improve PP attachment.

Question (2): What are deeper models good at?

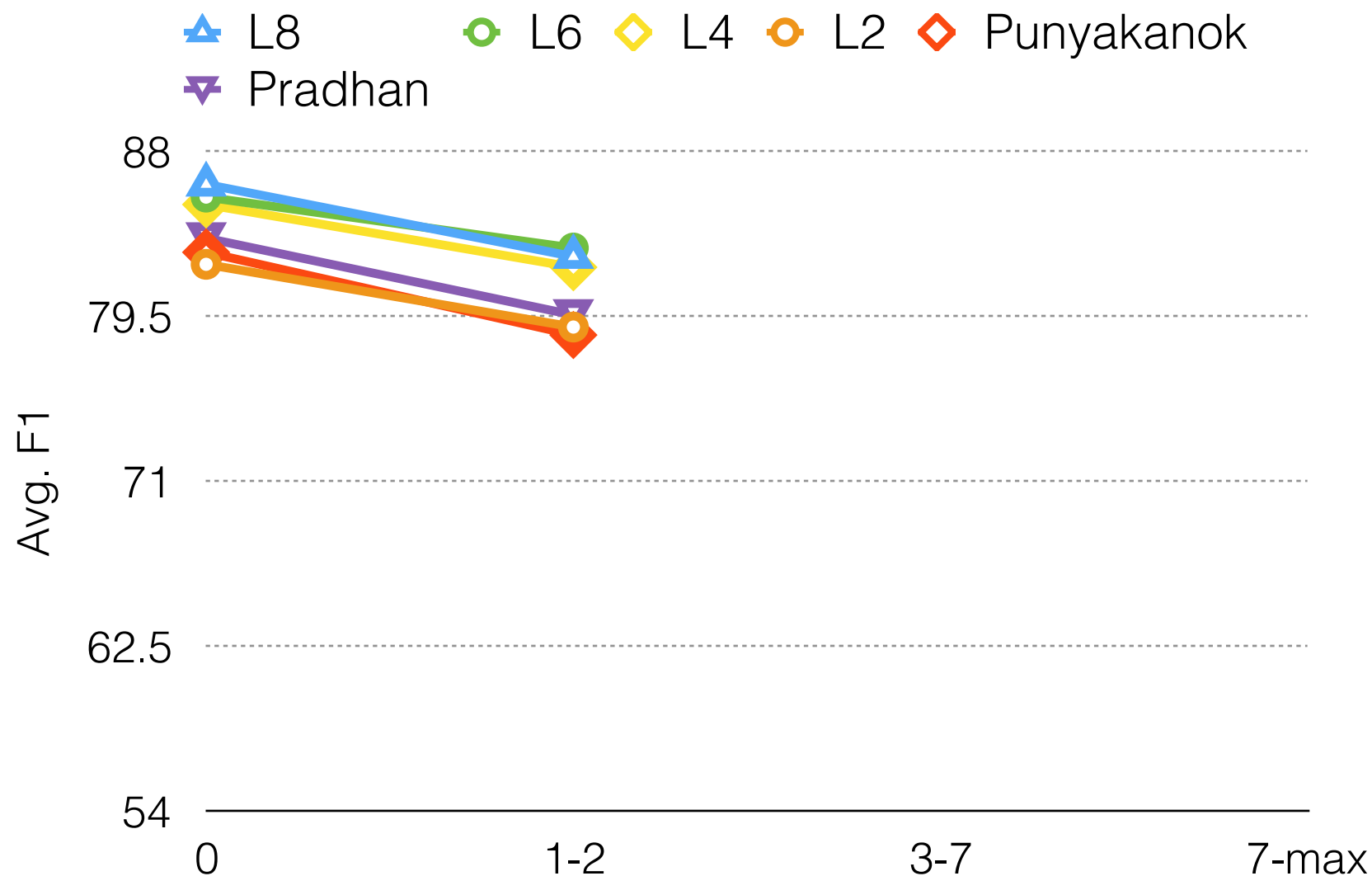
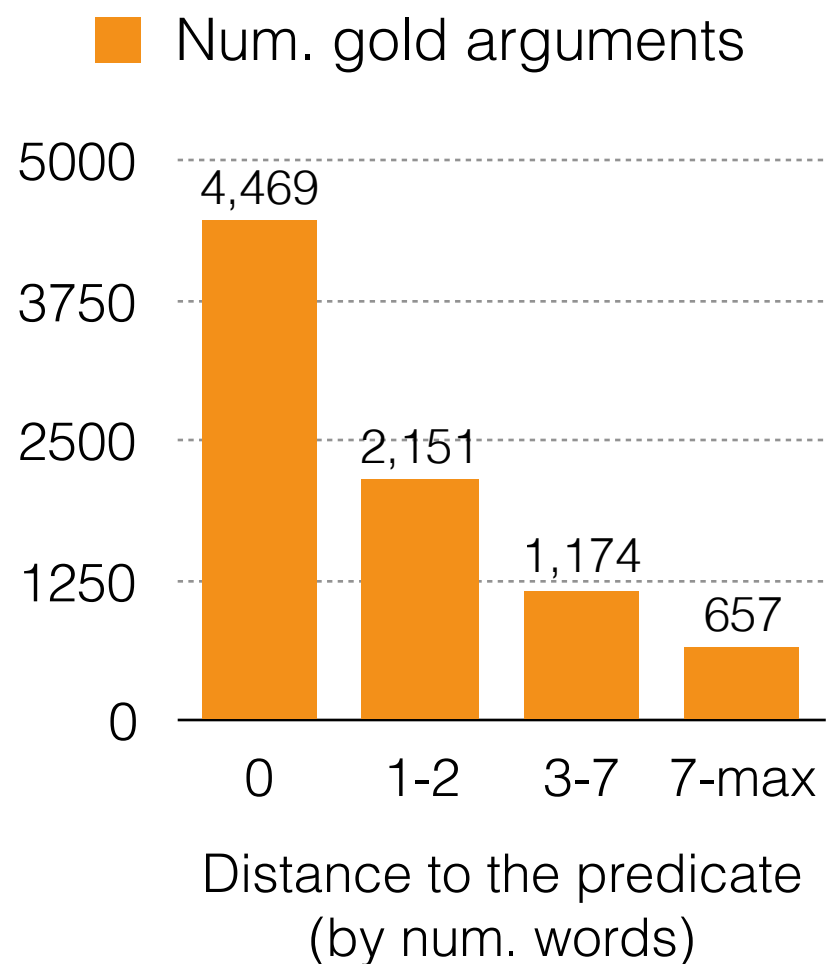
Analysis

- Long-range dependencies: model performance on arguments that are far away from the predicates.
- Structural consistency: amount of inconsistent BIO tag pairs in greedy prediction.

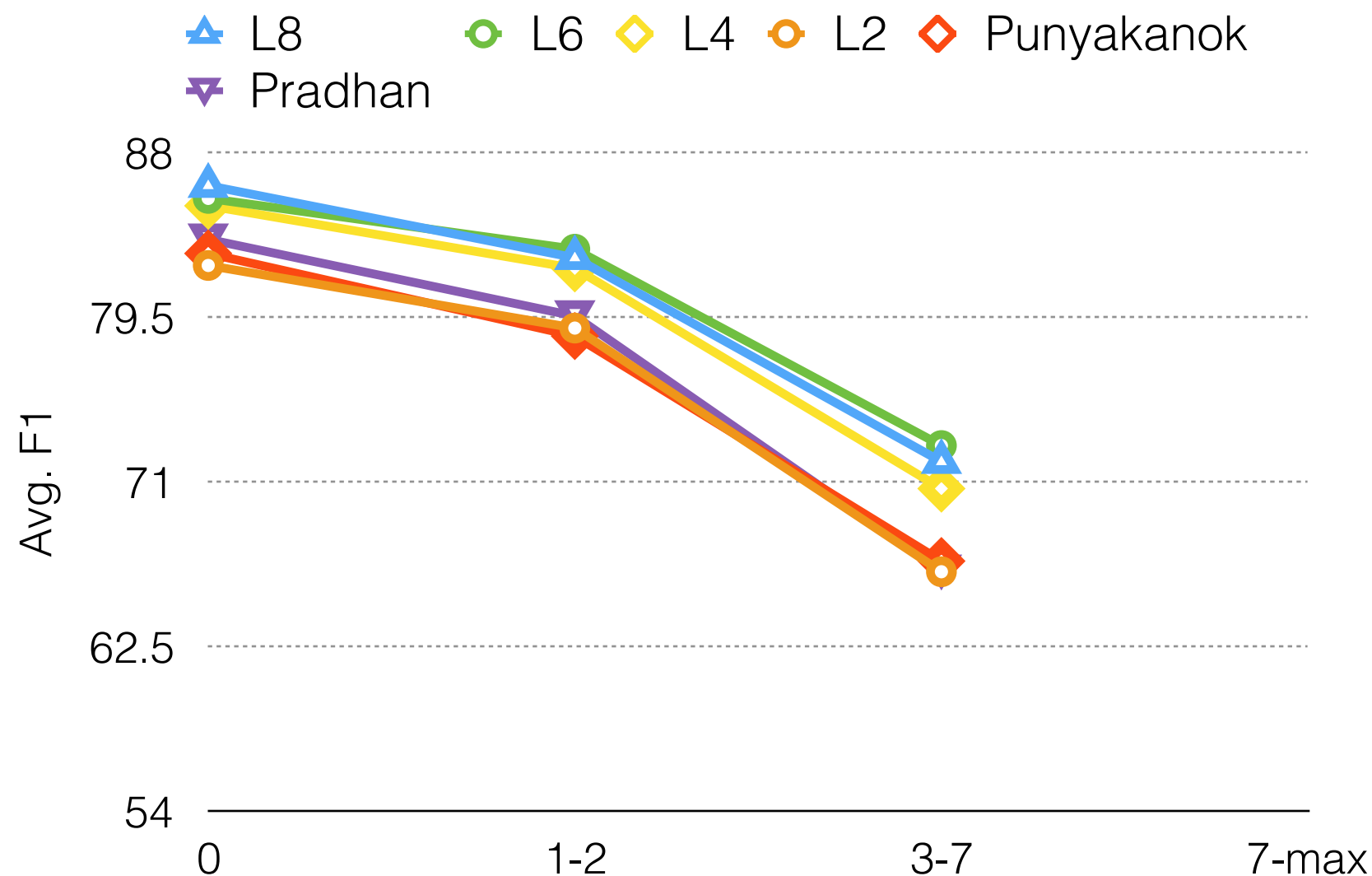
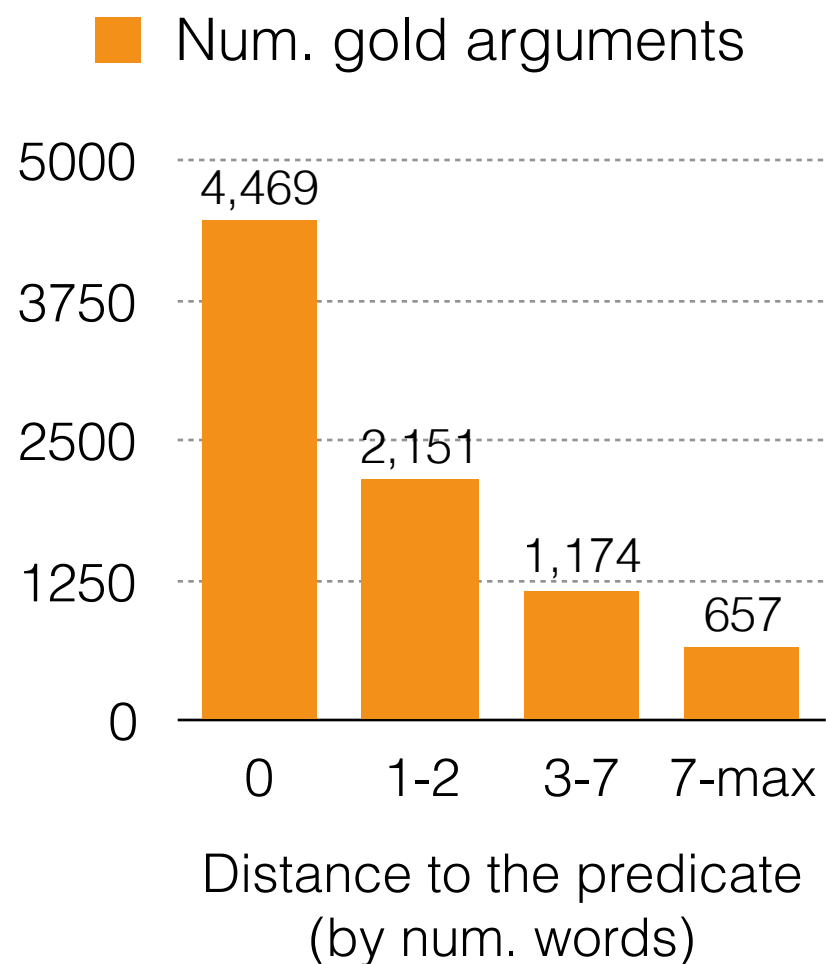
Long-range Dependencies



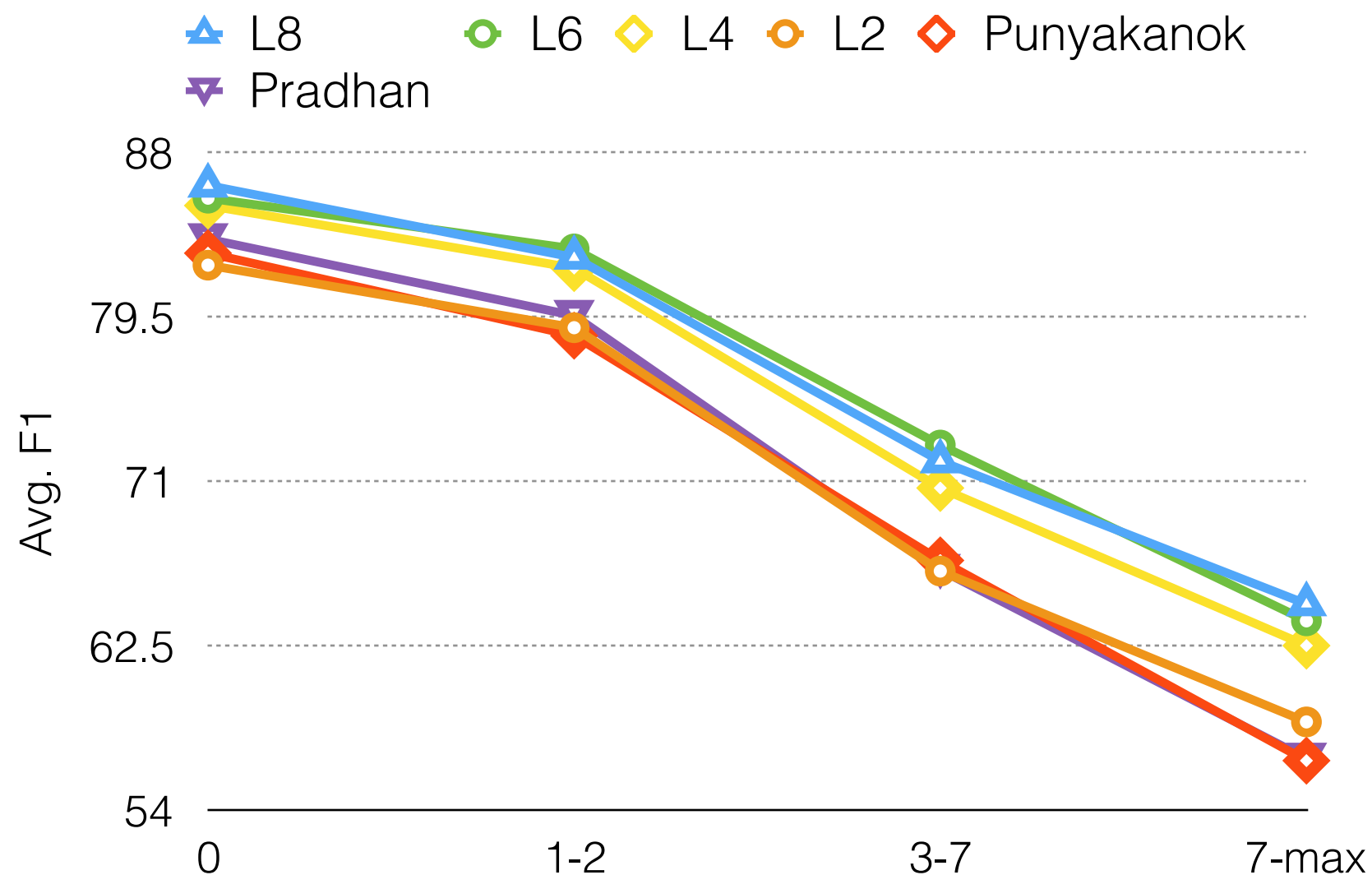
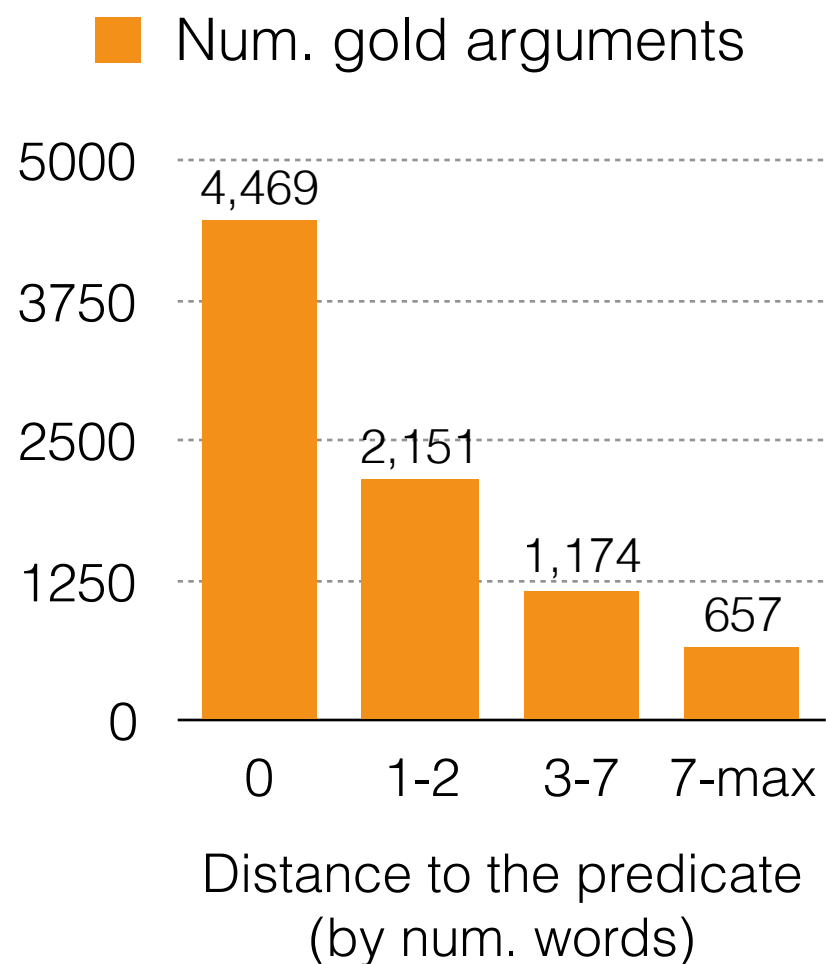
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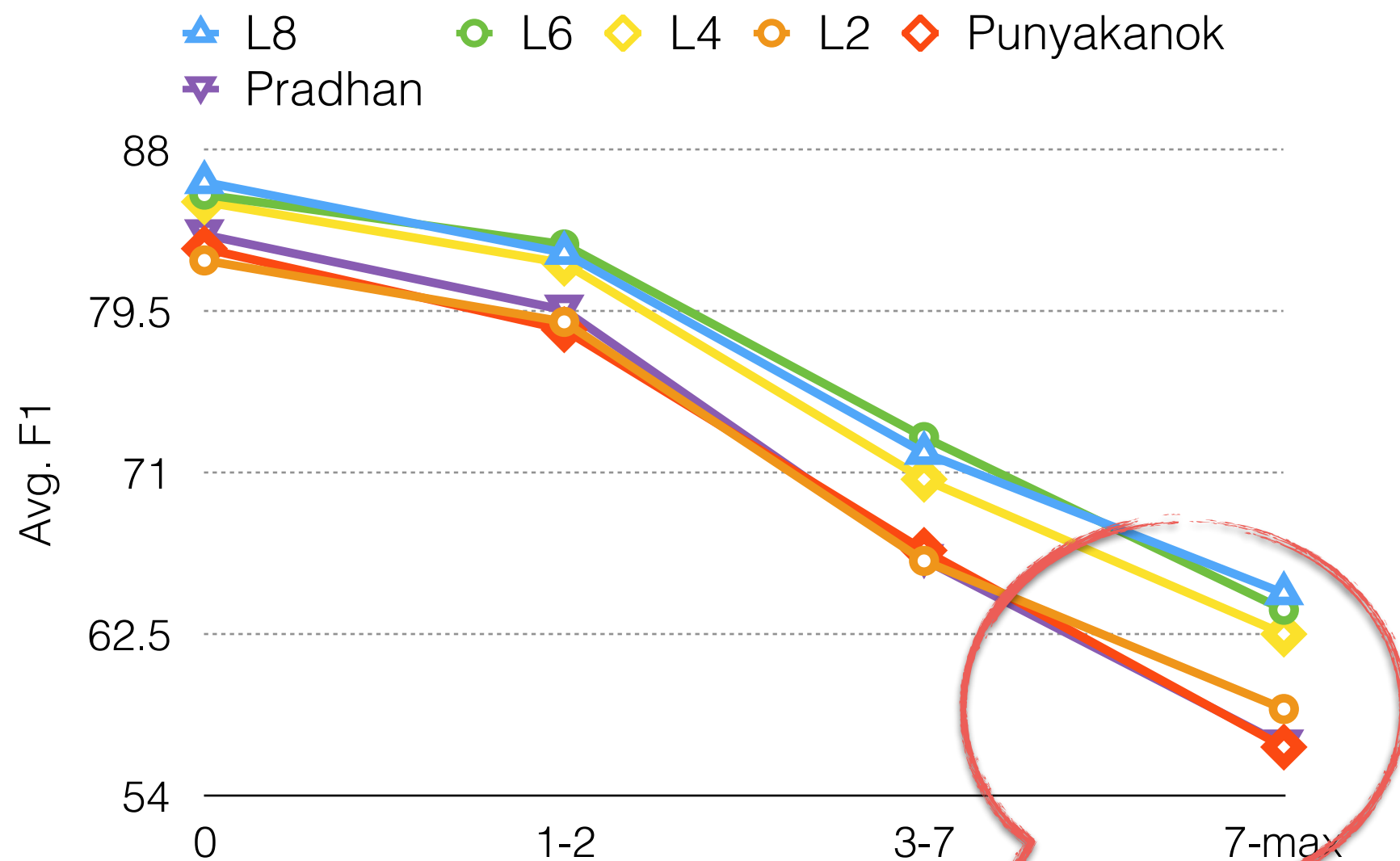
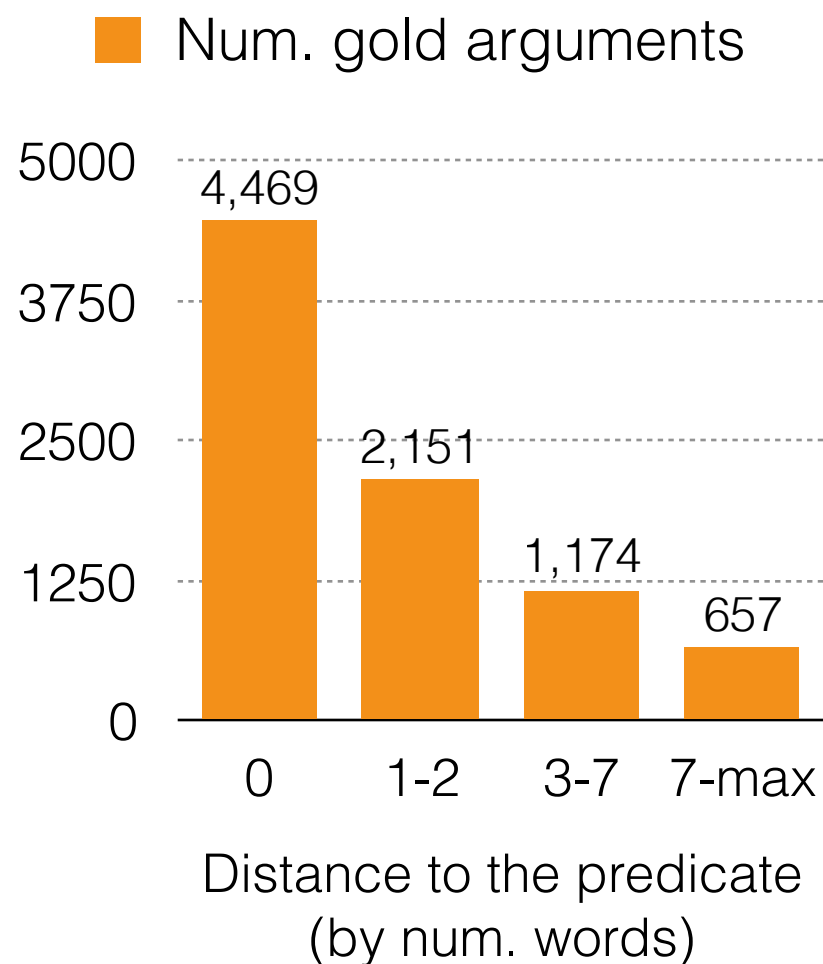
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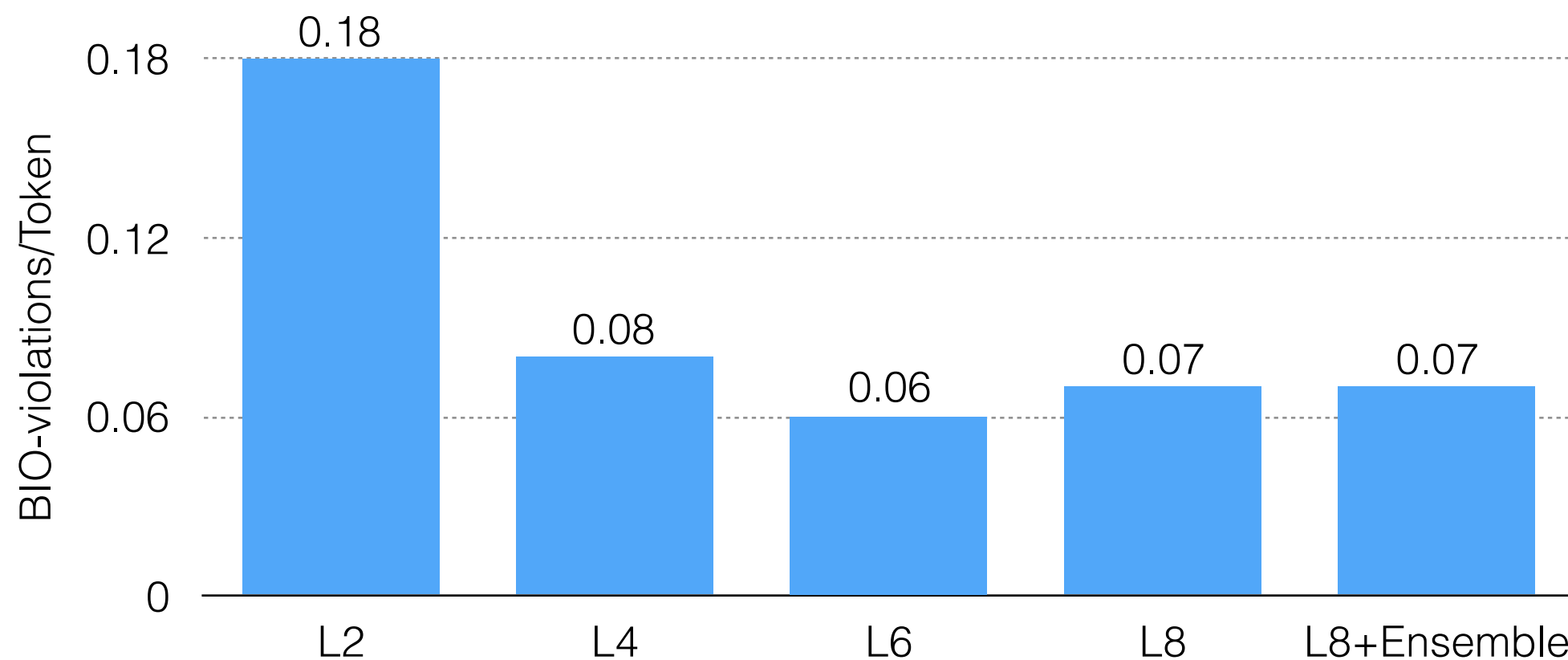


Long-range Dependencies

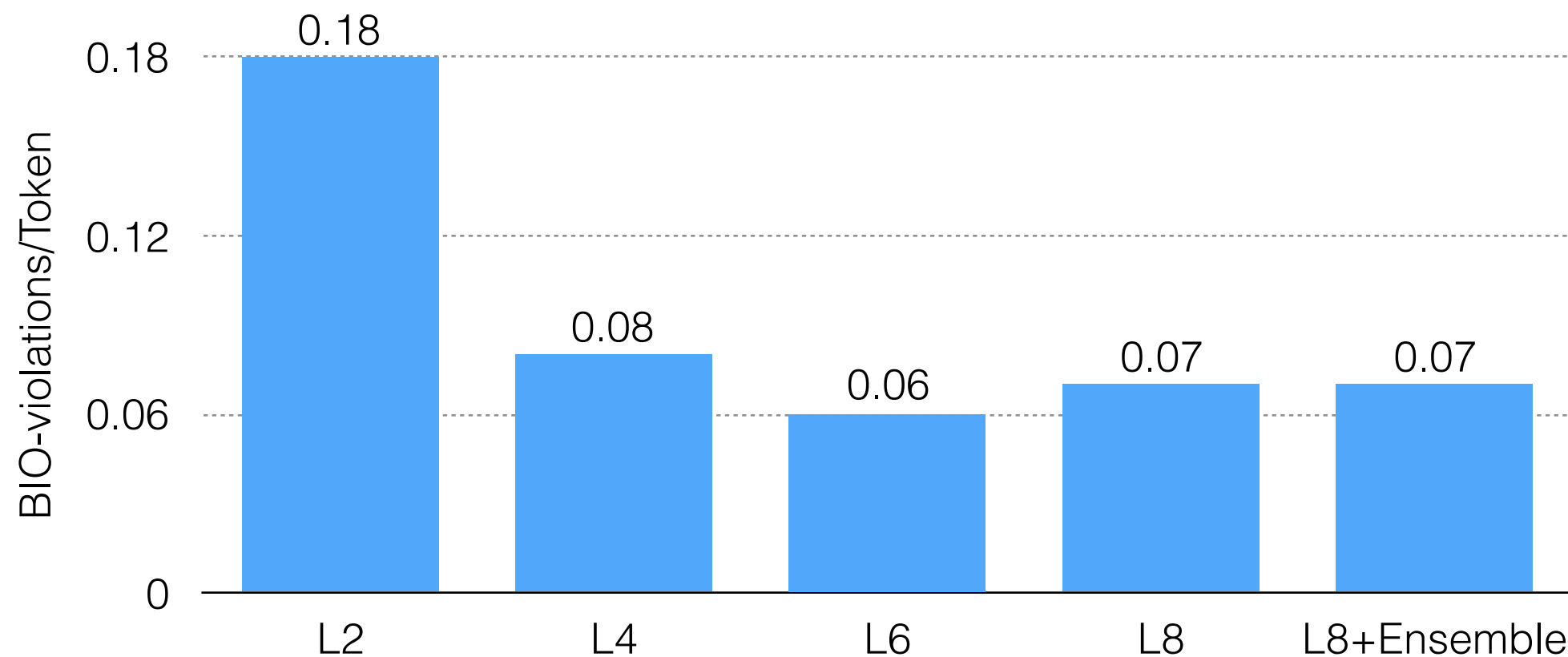


Deep models' performance deteriorates slower on long-distance predictions

e.g. (B-ArgX, I-ArgY) or (O, I-ArgY)



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Deeper models (with 4+ layers) generate more consistent BIO sequences.

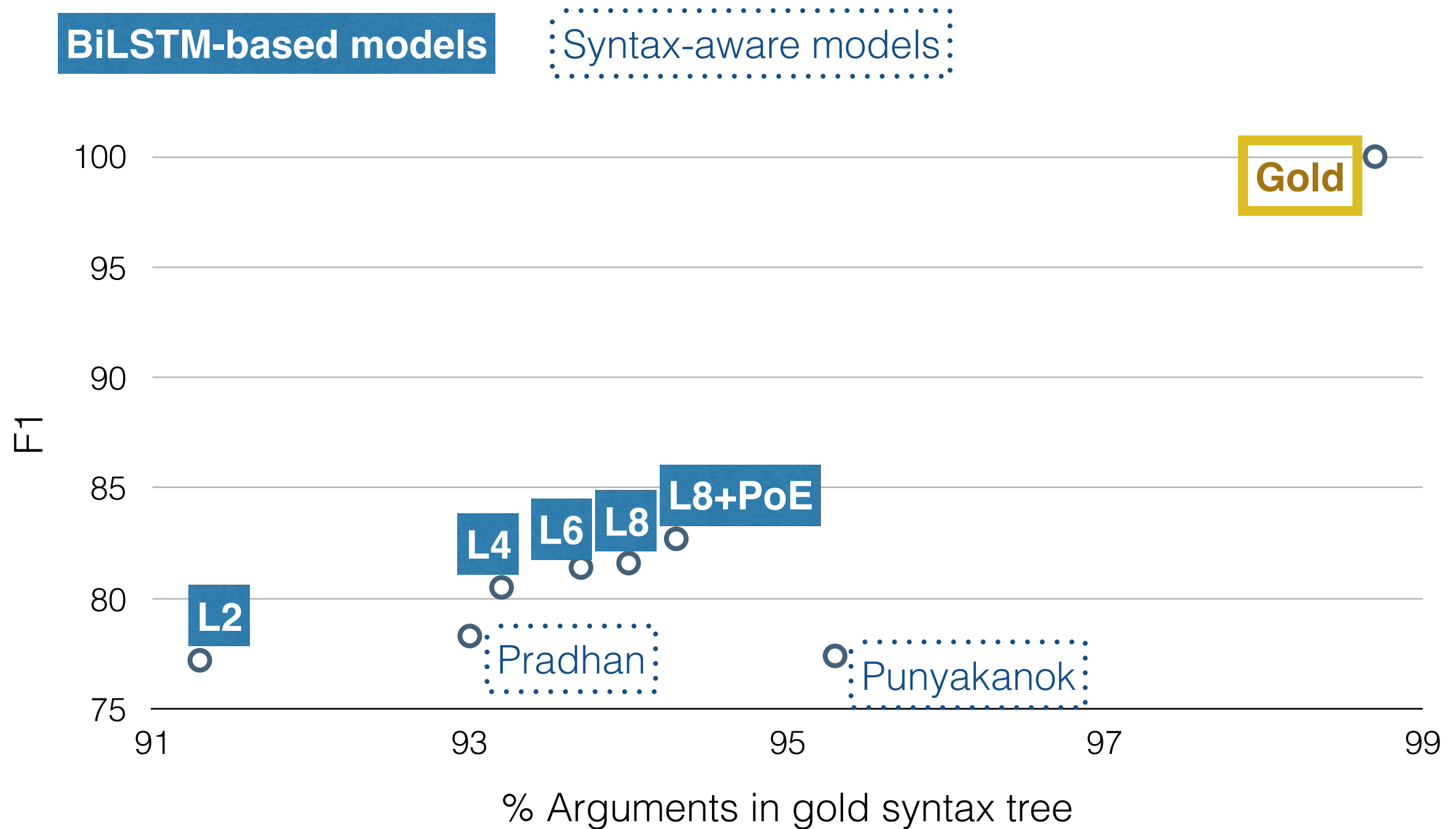
Question (3): Can syntax still help SRL?

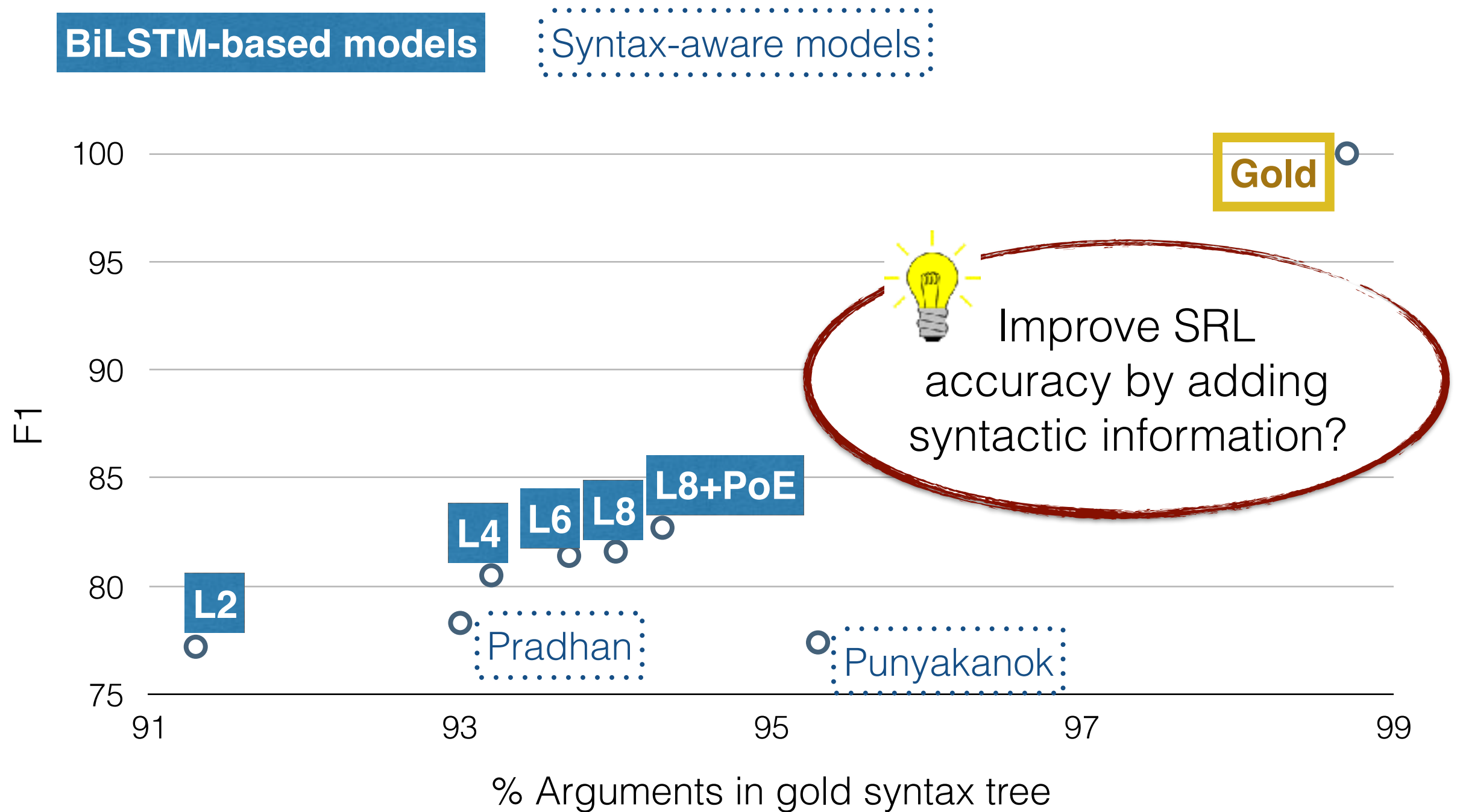
Recap

- PropBank SRL is annotated on top of the PTB syntax.
- More than 98% of the gold SRL spans are syntactic constituents.

Analysis

- At decoding time, make predicted argument spans agree with given syntactic structure.
- See if SRL performance increases.





Constrained Decoding with Syntax

[The cats] $\in$ Syntax Tree

[hats and the dogs] $\notin$ Syntax Tree

[The cats] love [hats and the dogs] love bananas.

ARG0

ARG1

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Sequence score: $\sum_{i=1}^t \log p(\text{tag}_t \mid \text{sentence}) - \mathcal{C} \times \sum_{\text{span}} \mathbf{1}(\text{span} \notin \text{Syntax Tree})$

Penalty strength

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- Constraints are not locally decomposable.
- A* search (Lewis and Steedman 2014) for a sequence with highest score.

Constrained Decoding with Syntax

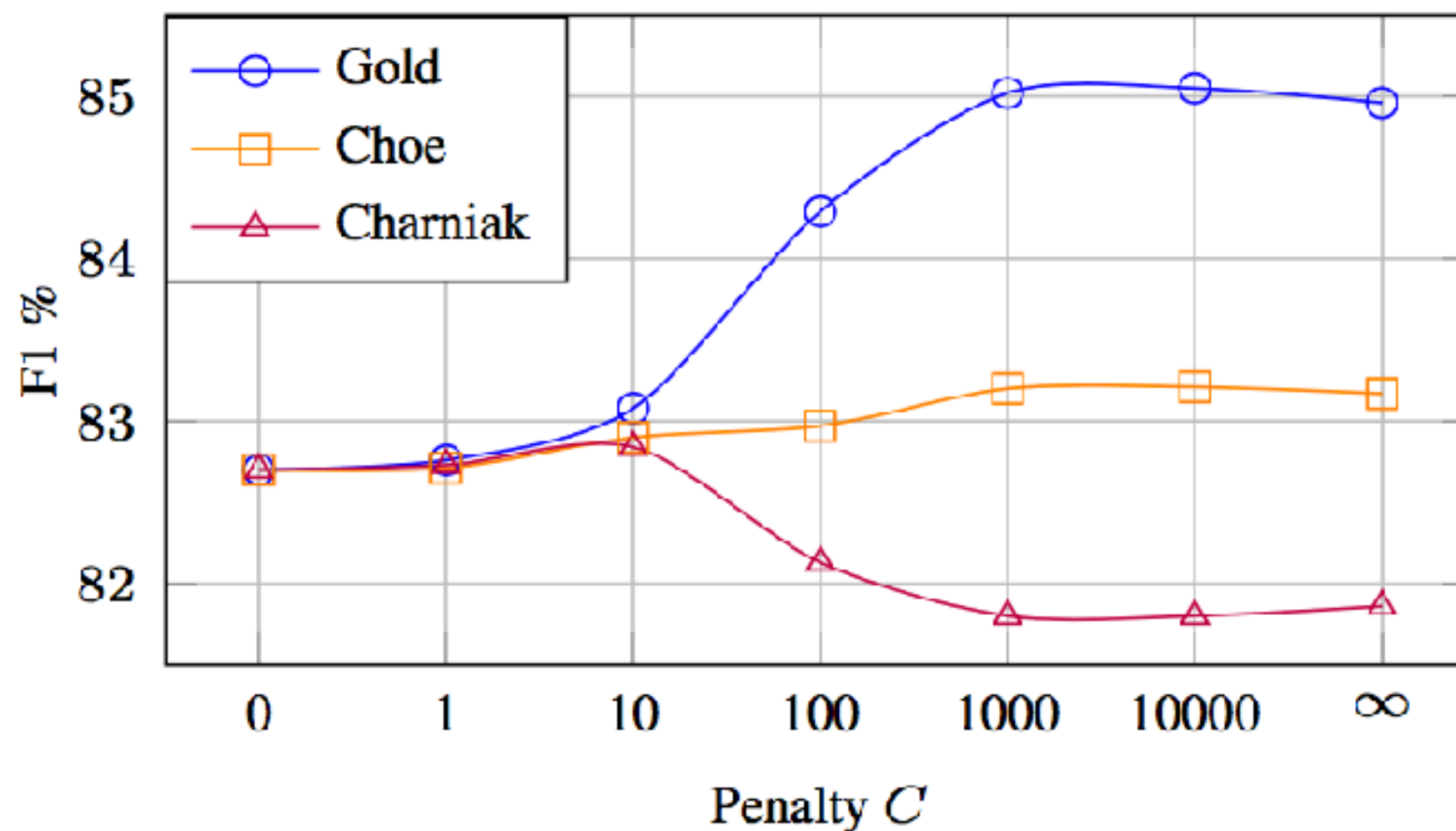
Charniak: A maximum-entropy-inspired parser, Charniak, 2000

Choe: Parsing as language modeling, Choe and Charniak, 2016
(State of the art)

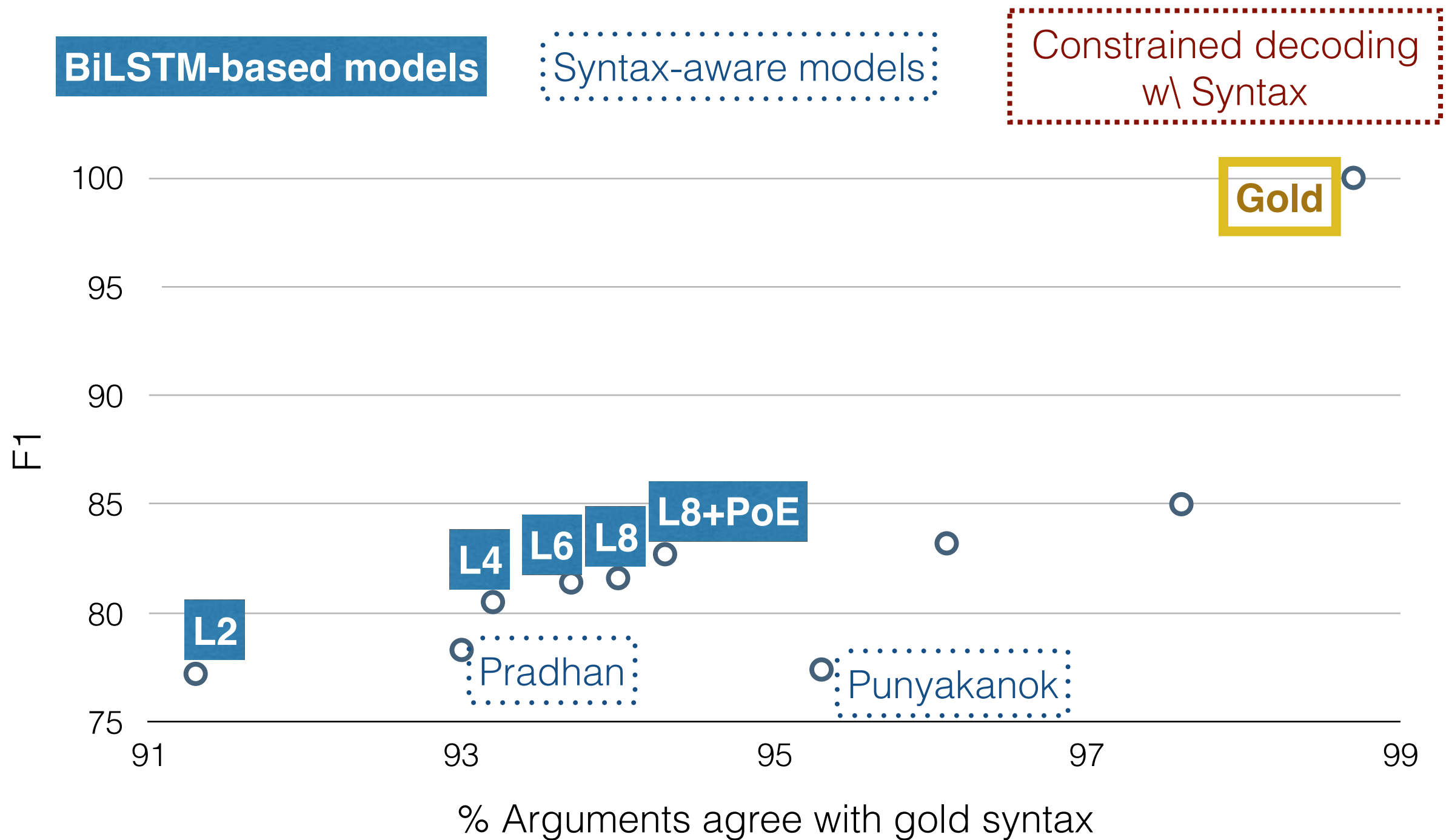
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Can Syntax Still Help?



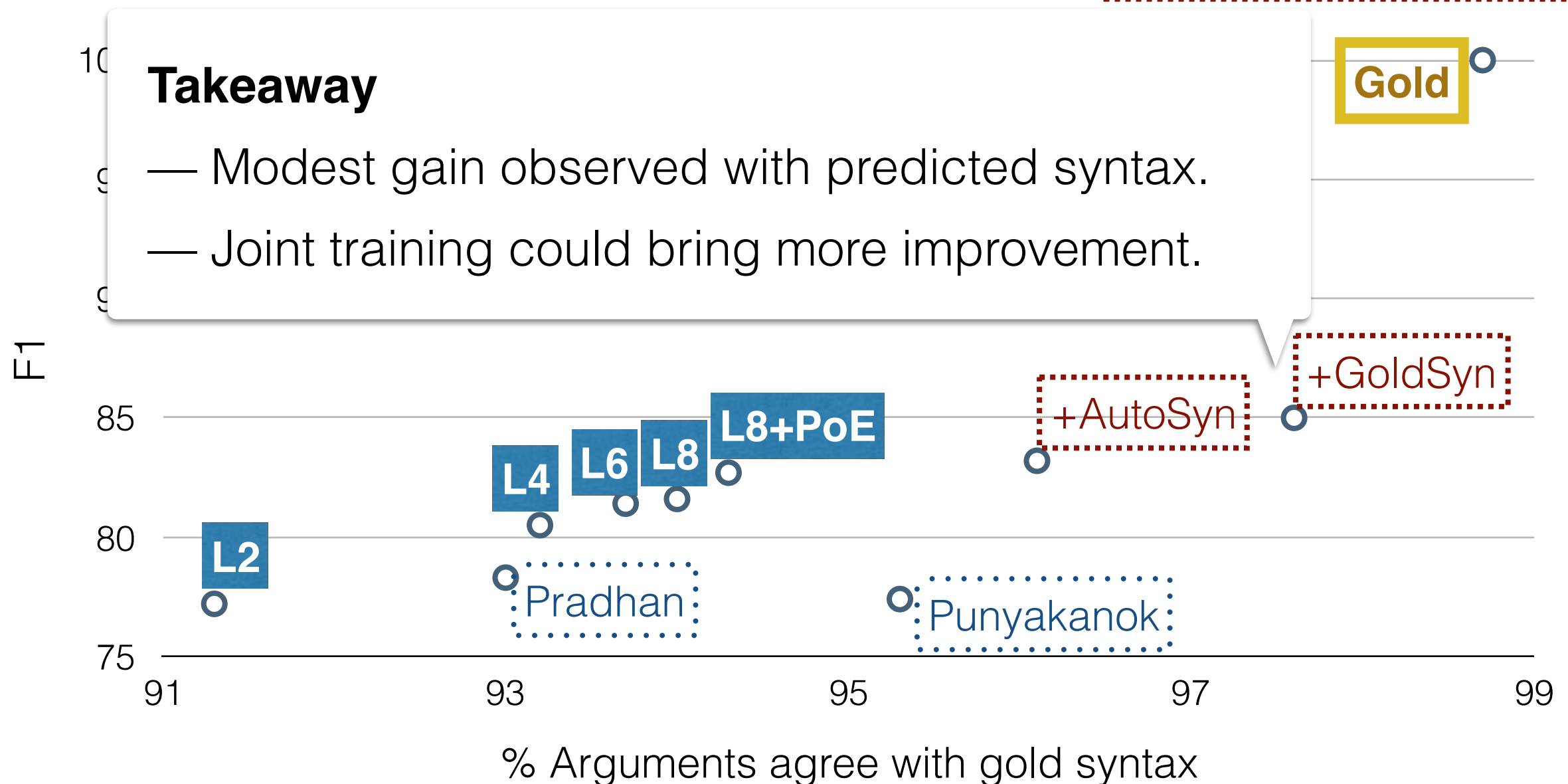
BiLSTM-based models

⋯ Syntax-aware models ⋯

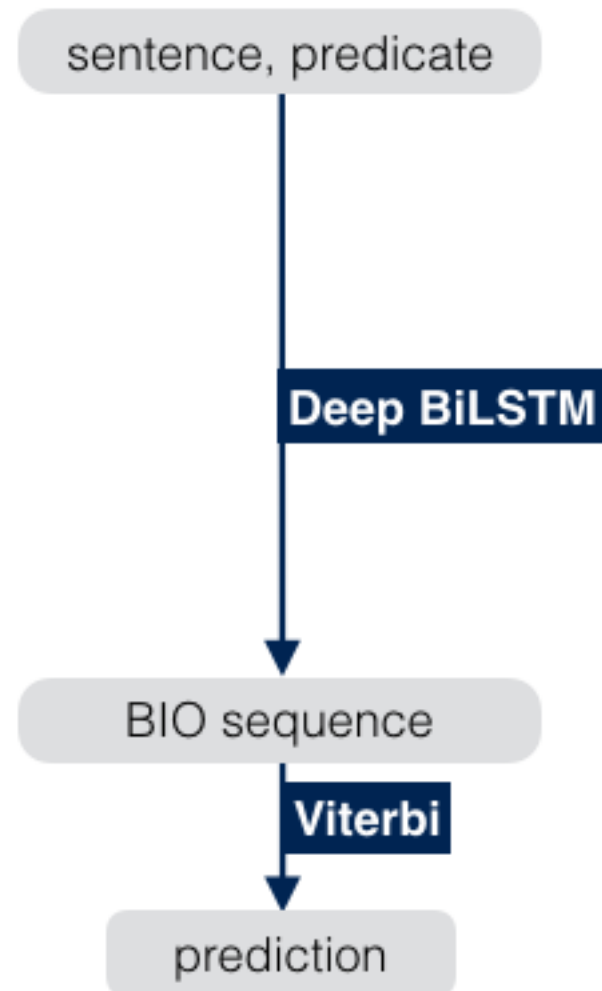
Constrained decoding
w\ Syntax

Takeaway

- Modest gain observed with predicted syntax.
- Joint training could bring more improvement.



Contributions (Neural SRL)



- New state-of-the-art deep network for end-to-end SRL.
- Code and models will be publicly available at: https://github.com/luheng/deep_srl
- In-depth error analysis indicating where the models work well and where they still struggle.
- Syntax-based experiments pointing towards directions for future improvements.

Long-term Plan for Improving SRL

Step 1: Collect more data for SRL

- Question-Answer Driven Semantic Role Labeling (QA-SRL)
- Human-in-the-Loop Parsing



Step 2: Build accurate SRL model

- Neural Semantic Role Labeling (for PropBank SRL)

Step 3: SRL system for many domains

- *Future work ...*

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Thanks!

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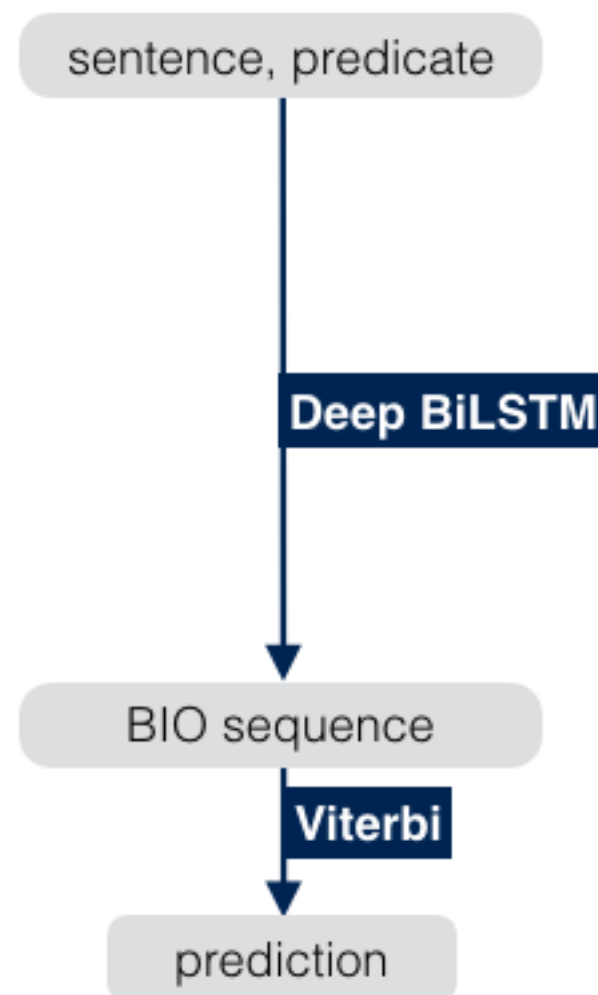
Problem



Frame: *break.01*

role	description
ARG0	breaker
ARG1	thing broken
ARG2	instrument
ARG3	pieces
ARG4	broken away from what?

Model



Analysis

pred. \ gold	A0	A1	A2	A3	ADV	DIR	LOC	MNR	PNC	TMP
A0	76	13	6	14	2	0	0	0	0	0
A1	16	74	25	0	0	18	9	11	19	2
A2	2	5	31	52	10	45	26	46	19	0
A3	1	0	1	57	2	0	0	0	19	2
ADV	0	0	0	5	33	0	11	33	19	5
DIR	0	0	3	5	0	27	9	2	0	0
LOC	1	2	7	0	2	0	34	11	0	2
MNR	1	0	7	29	21	0	0	43	0	3
PNC	0	1	3	5	0	9	3	2	44	0
TMP	0	2	3	0	26	9	20	7	0	71

