# Strongly Incremental Constituency Parsing with Graph Neural Networks 

Kaiyu Yang and Jia Deng

## Constituency Parsing



## Shift-Reduce Parsers



Arthur is King of the Britons
$\uparrow$

## Shift-Reduce Parsers



Arthur is King of the Britons $\square$

- SHIFT: Move the next word into the stack


## Shift-Reduce Parsers

$\square$
Arthur
is King of the Britons


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shift, unary_reduce(NP)


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- SHIFT: Move the next word into the stack
shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift


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King of the Britons

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of the Britons


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## Shift-Reduce Parsers



- SHIFT: Move the next word into the stack
- REDUCE: Combine the top two elements in the stack
shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, shift


## Shift-Reduce Parsers



- SHIFT: Move the next word into the stack
- REDUCE: Combine the top two elements in the stack
shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, shift, binary_reduce(NP)


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- SHIFT: Move the next word into the stack
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shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, shift, binary_reduce(NP), binary_reduce(PP)


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shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, unary_reduce(NP), shift, shift, shift, binary_reduce(NP), binary_reduce(PP)

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## Strongly Incremental Parsing

- Shift-reduce parsers differ from human parsing
- Human parsing appears to be strongly incremental
[Marslen-Wilson, 1973]
[Sturt and Lombardo, 2005]
[Stabler, 2015]


## Strongly Incremental Parsing



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- One word per step: no more, no less


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## Strongly Incremental Parsing



- Human parsing appears to be strongly incremental:
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- A single connected partial parse tree


## Attach-Juxtapose Transition System

- We propose a strongly incremental transition system named attach-juxtapose


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- We propose a strongly incremental transition system named attach-juxtapose
- The state is a partial tree and the next word
- Actions determine where and how to integrate the next word

of the Britons


## Where to Add the New Word?

- The new word is to the right of existing words, so it must appear on the rightmost chain

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## How to Add the New Word?



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## Action Generation with Graph Neural Networks

- Encoder: BERT/XLNet + additional self-attention layers



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- Encoder: BERT/XLNet + additional self-attention layers
- Decoder: Generate attach-juxtapose actions by applying GNNs on the partial tree



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## Experimental Results

- Competitive with state of the art on Penn Treebank

| Model | EM | F1 | LP | LR | \#Params |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Liu and Zhang [22] | - | 91.8 | - | - | - |
| Liu and Zhang [22] (BERT) ${ }^{\dagger}$ | 57.05 | 95.71 | - | - | - |
| Kitaev and Klein [21] | 47.31 | 93.55 | 93.90 | 93.20 | 26M |
| Kitaev and Klein [21] (ELMo) | 53.06 | 95.13 | 95.40 | 94.85 | 107M |
| Kitaev et al. [20] (BERT) | - | 95.59 | 95.46 | 95.73 | 342M |
| Zhou and Zhao [49] (GloVe) * | 47.72 | 93.78 | 93.92 | 93.64 | 51 M |
| Zhou and Zhao [49] (BERT) * | 55.84 | 95.84 | 95.98 | 95.70 | 349 M |
| Zhou and Zhao [49] (XLNet) * | 58.73 | 96.33 | 96.46 | $\underline{96.21}$ | 374M |
| Mrini et al. [27] (XLNet) * | 58.65 | 96.38 | $\underline{96.53}$ | 96.24 | 459M |
| Ours (BERT) | $57.29 \pm 0.57$ | $95.79 \pm 0.05$ | $96.04 \pm 0.05$ | $95.55 \pm 0.06$ | 377M |
| Ours (XLNet) | $\mathbf{5 9 . 1 7} \pm 0.33$ | $\underline{96.34} \pm 0.03$ | $96.55 \pm 0.02$ | $96.13 \pm 0.04$ | 391M |

## Experimental Results

- Competitive with state of the art on Penn Treebank
- Improves upon state of the art on Chinese Treebank

| Model | EM | F1 | LP | LR |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kitaev et al. [20] | - | 91.75 | 91.96 | 91.55 |
| Kitaev et al. [20] (BERT) $^{\dagger}$ | 44.42 | 92.14 | - | - |
| Zhou and Zhao [49] $^{\star}$ | - | 92.18 | 92.33 | $\underline{92.03}$ |
| Mrini et al. [27] (BERT) |  |  |  |  |
| Liu and Zhang [22] $^{\text {Liu and Zhang [22] (BERT) }}{ }^{\dagger}$ | - | $\underline{44.94}$ | $\underline{92.64}$ | $\underline{93.45}$ |
| Ours (BERT) | $\mathbf{4 9 . 7 2} \pm 0.83$ | $\mathbf{9 3 . 5 9} \pm 0.26$ | $\mathbf{9 3 . 8 0} \pm 0.26$ | $\mathbf{9 3 . 4 0} \pm 0.28$ |

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https://github.com/princeton-v//attach-juxtapose-parser


