

# Ontologies + Recap

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10/31/2024

CMSC 491/691 - INTERACTIVE FICTION AND TEXT GENERATION  
DR. LARA J. MARTIN

ONTOLOGY SLIDES FROM DR. SUSAN BROWN

# Learning Objectives

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- Tie together ontologies and knowledge graphs
- Revisit concepts throughout the semester so far
- Pull together concepts and themes you've seen in class
- VOTE

# Semantic representations and predicate logic

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- *Franco likes Frasca.*

- First order logic:

$$\exists e \text{Liking}(e) \wedge \text{Liker}(e, \text{Franco}) \wedge \text{Liked}(e, \text{Frasca})$$

- VerbNet:

*The lion tamer jumped the lion through the hoop.*

**has\_location**(e1, Theme, Initial\_Location)

**do**(e2, Agent)

**motion**(e3, Theme, Trajectory)

**has\_location**(e4, Theme, Destination)

**cause**(e2, e3)

# Semantics

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- Let's start with the basics of what we might want to say about some world.
  - There are entities in this world.
  - We'd like to assert properties of these entities.
  - And we'd like to assert relations among them.
- Let's call a scheme that can capture these things *a model*
- And let's claim that we can use basic *set theory* to represent such models.
- We can do this with *an ontology*.

# From vocabulary to ontology

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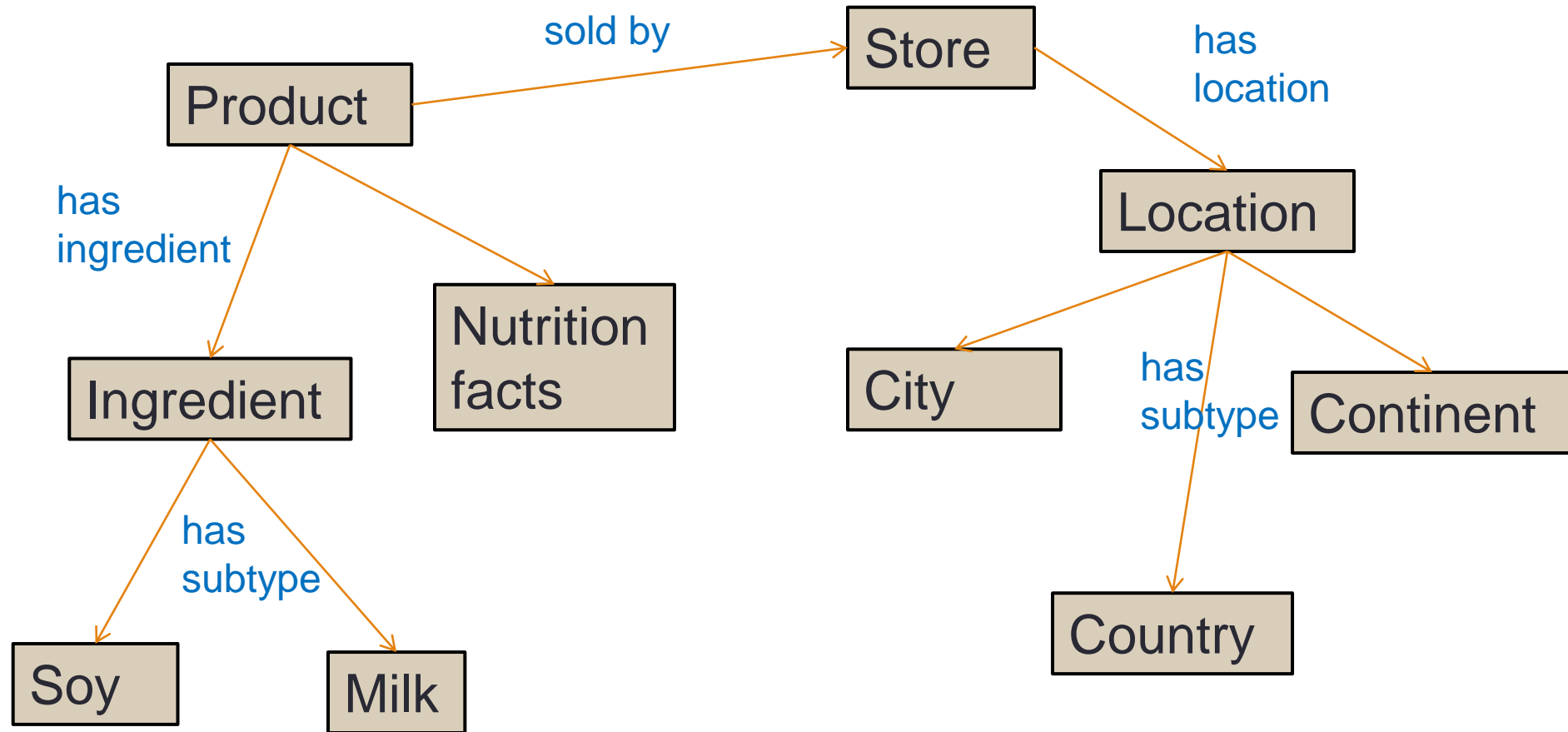
- Vocabulary
  - Fixed set of terms
- Taxonomy
  - Fixed set of terms with subset relations between terms
- Ontology
  - Fixed set of terms with structured relationships between terms, generalization, specialization of terms
- Logic-based ontology
  - Ontology that is written in a formal language that is underpinned by a logic, giving it a precisely specified semantics, and computable relationships between terms

# What is an ontology

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- Describes a domain
  - concepts
  - properties and attributes of those concepts
  - constraints on properties and attributes
  - individuals
- Defines
  - a common vocabulary
  - a shared understanding
- Can be used with reasoning agents
  - to infer new facts from existing definitions

# Imagine a mind map for the domain



# Ontology basics (using OWL)

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**Axioms** Basic **statements** in an ontology.  
**An ontology is a set of axioms**

**Entities** Used to refer to basic **things in the domain** of interest.

**Class Expressions** Combinations of entities that form more **complex descriptions out of simpler ones.**

Axioms specify the relationships between entities and class expressions



# OWL Axioms

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Some examples...

Cat **SubClassOf** Animal

**SubClassOf**  
Cats are Animals

Cat **DisjointWith** Dog

**DisjointClasses**  
Cats are not Dogs

Tibbs **Type** Cat

**ClassAssertion**  
Tibbs is a Cat

Betty hasPet Tibbs

**PropertyAssertion**  
Betty has Tibbs as a pet

hasPet **Domain** Person

**Domain**  
Anything that has a pet is  
Person

# Class expressions

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Some examples...

Cat **or** Dog

The class of individuals that instances of Cat or Dog (or both!)

Person **and** PetOwner

The class of individuals that are both instances of Person and PetOwner

hasPet **some** Cat

The class of individuals that have at least one hasPet relationship to an individual that is an instance of Cat

Person **and** hasPet **some** Cat

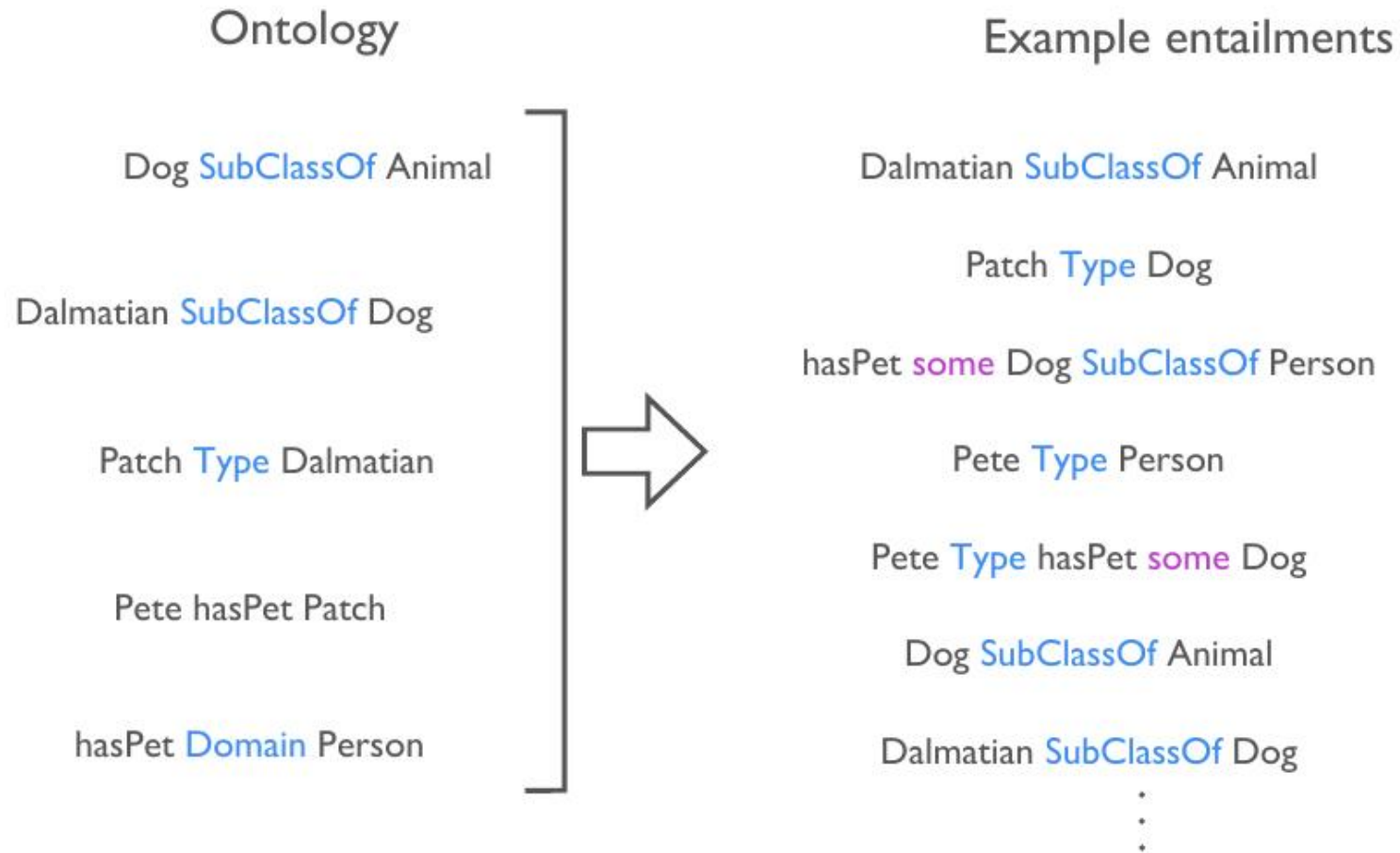
The class of individuals that are both instances of Person and hasPet some Cat

Person **and not** (hasPet **some** (Cat **or** Dog))

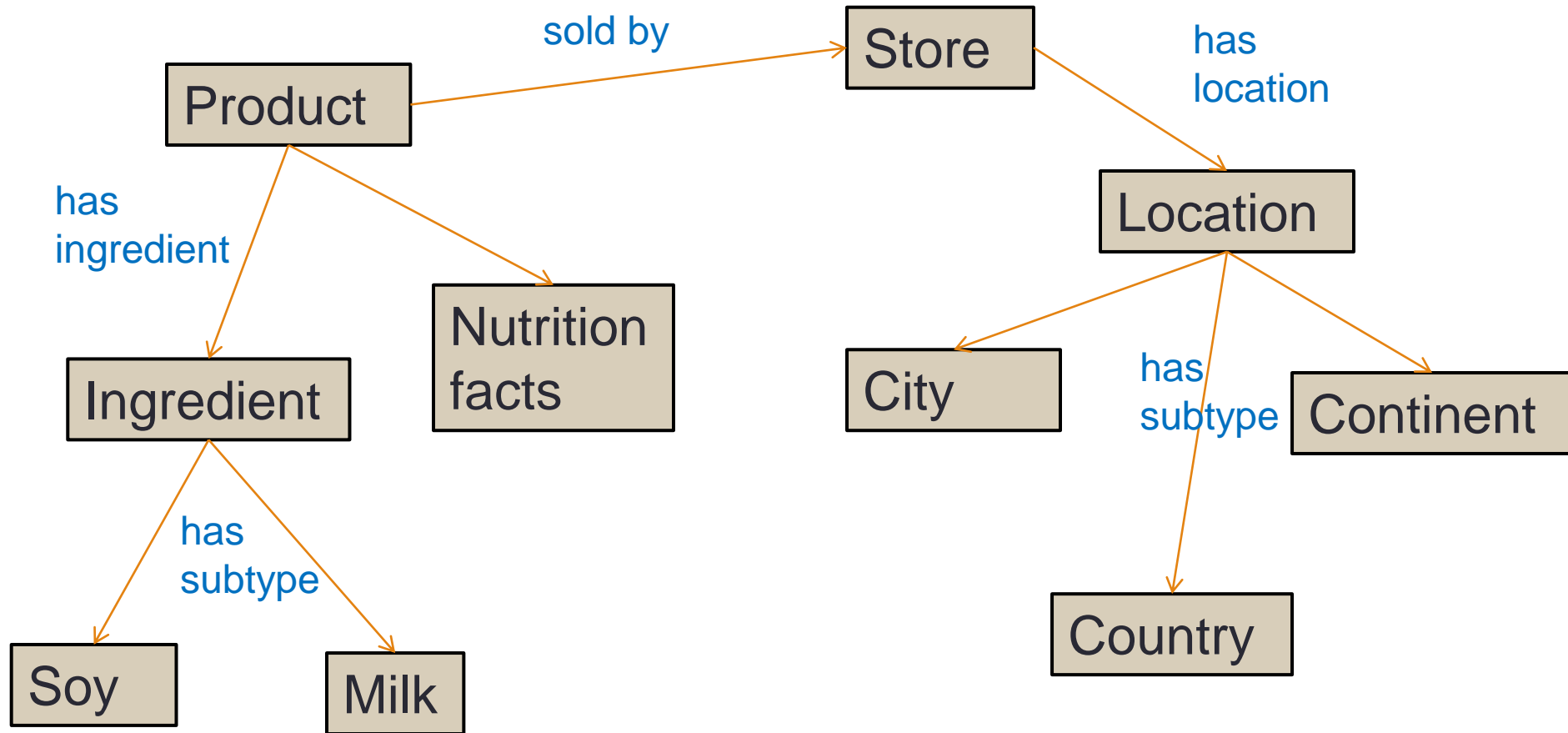
The class of individuals that are instances of Person but not instances of the class of individuals that have at least one hasPet relationship to and individual that is an instance of the class Cat or Dog

# Entailment

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# Imagine a mind map for the domain

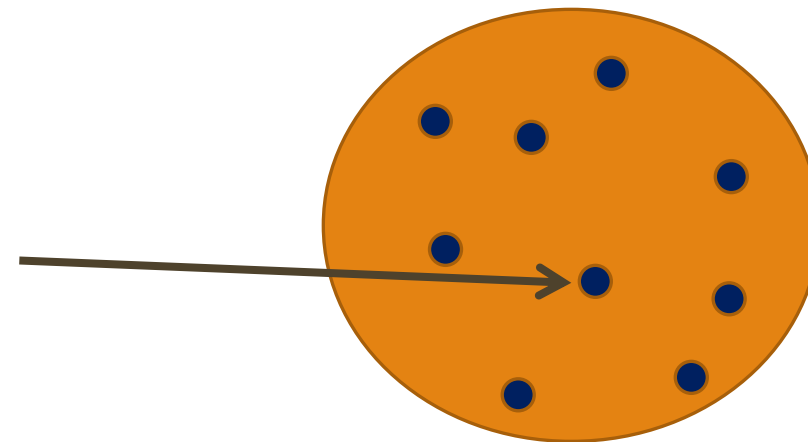


# Defining classes

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- A class is a concept in the domain
  - a class of products
  - a class of ingredients
  - a class of dairy products
- A class is a set of elements with similar properties
- Instances of classes
  - a box of cereal that you are buying

*box of cereal  
you just bought*



*class of cereal products*

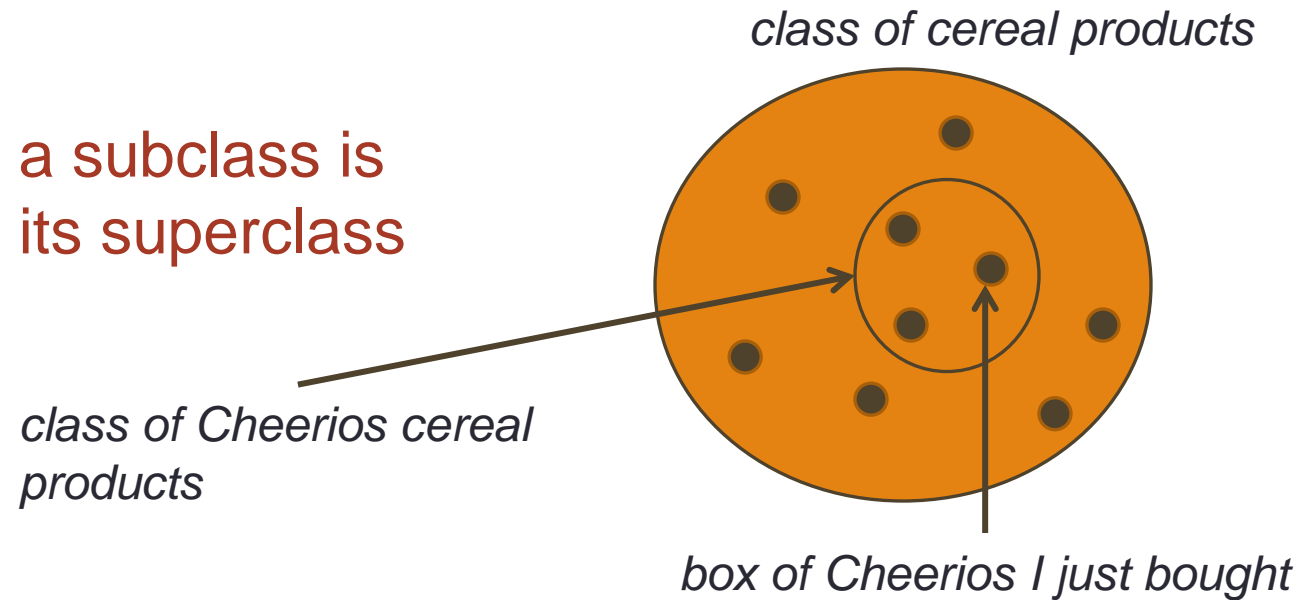
# Class inheritance

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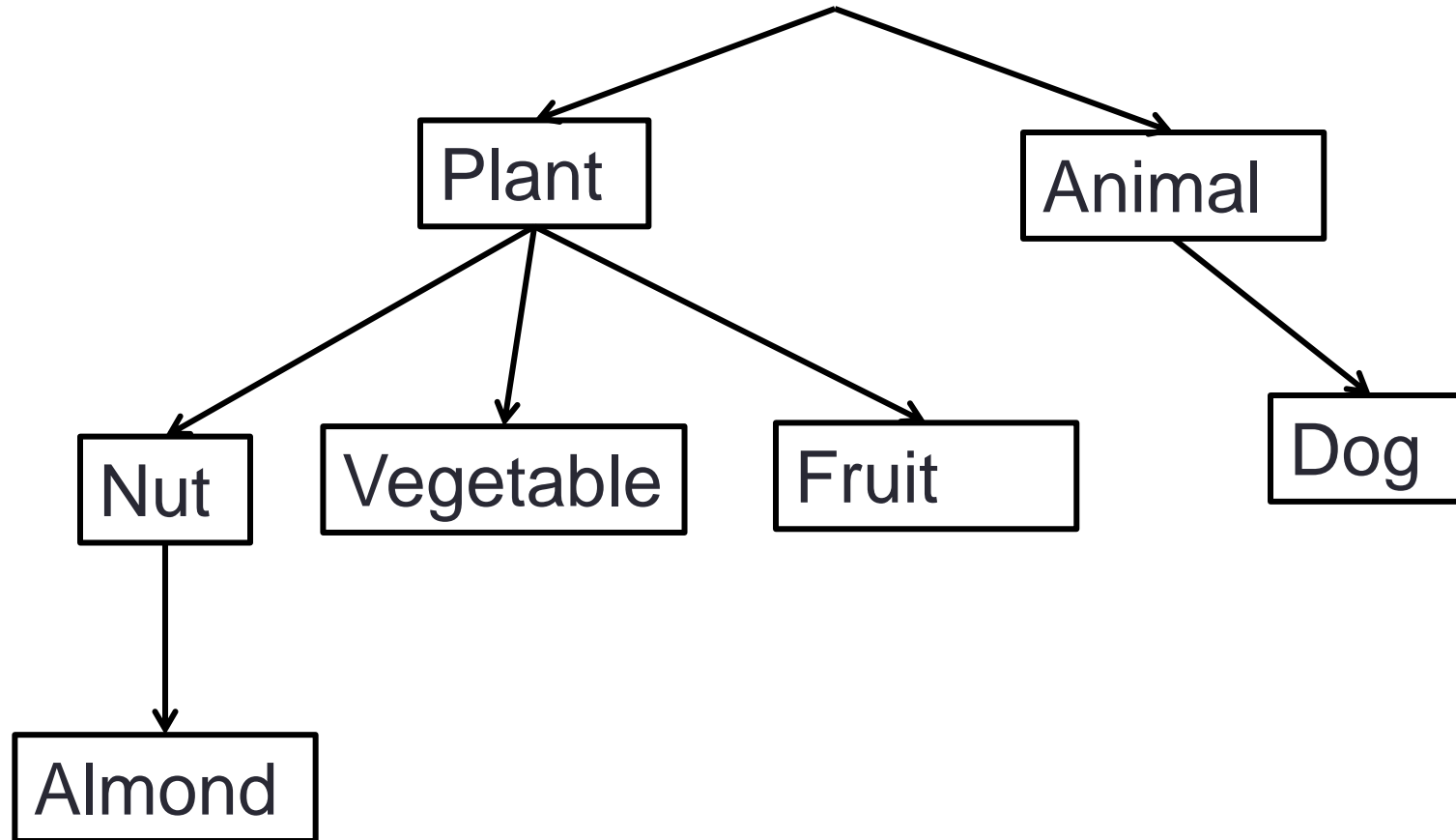
Classes usually constitute a taxonomic hierarchy (a subclass-superclass hierarchy)

an IS-A hierarchy:

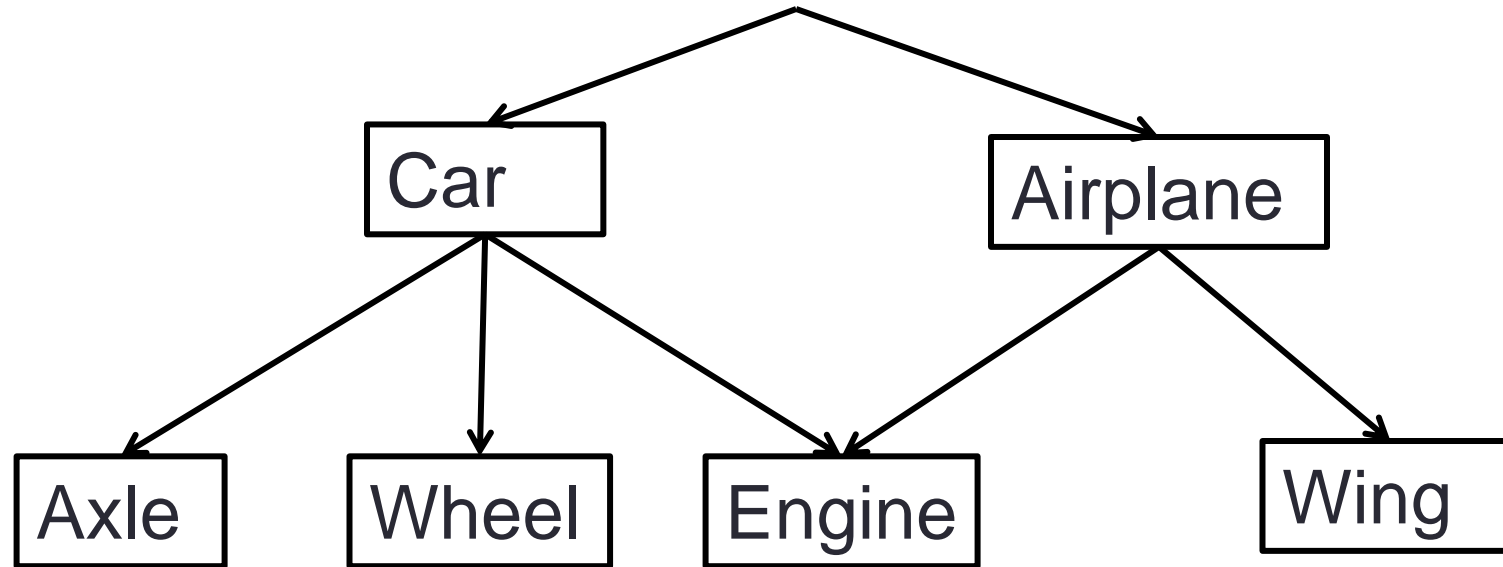
an instance of a subclass is  
an instance of its superclass



- If you think of a class as a set, a subclass is a subset



**Subclass-Superclass  
relations?**



**Subclass-Superclass  
relations?**



# Defining properties

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Products *have a price*



price

Products *are produced by* a manufacturer



produced by

Products *have an expiration date*



has expiration  
date

Products *have ingredients*

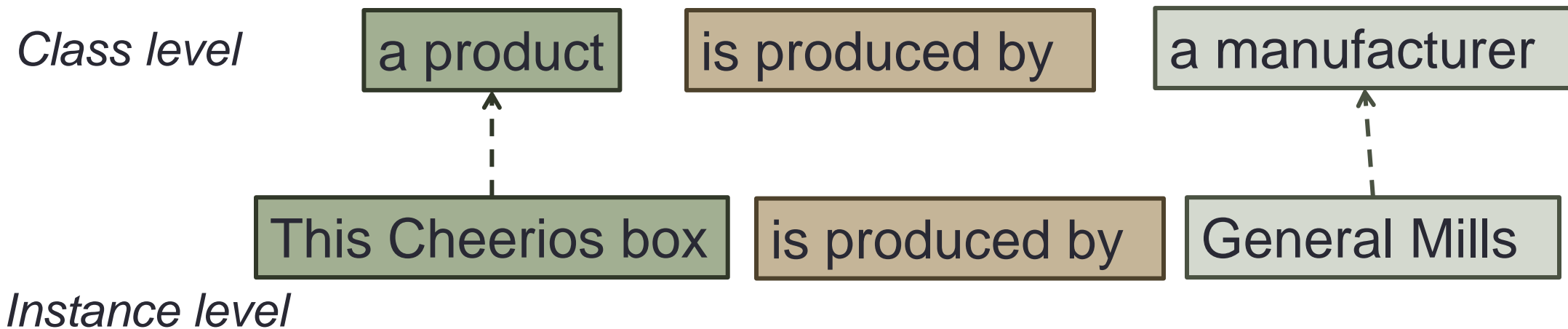


has ingredient

# Properties describe instances

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- Properties associated with a class describe the attributes and relationships of the instances of the class



# Individuals

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- Individuals are the last level of the ontology; they cannot be further specified
- They represent a materialization of the descriptions at the class level
- This is the level at which the actual data is put in
- The data depends on the application
  - grocery app?
  - tracking terrorist organizations?

# Ontologies for NLP

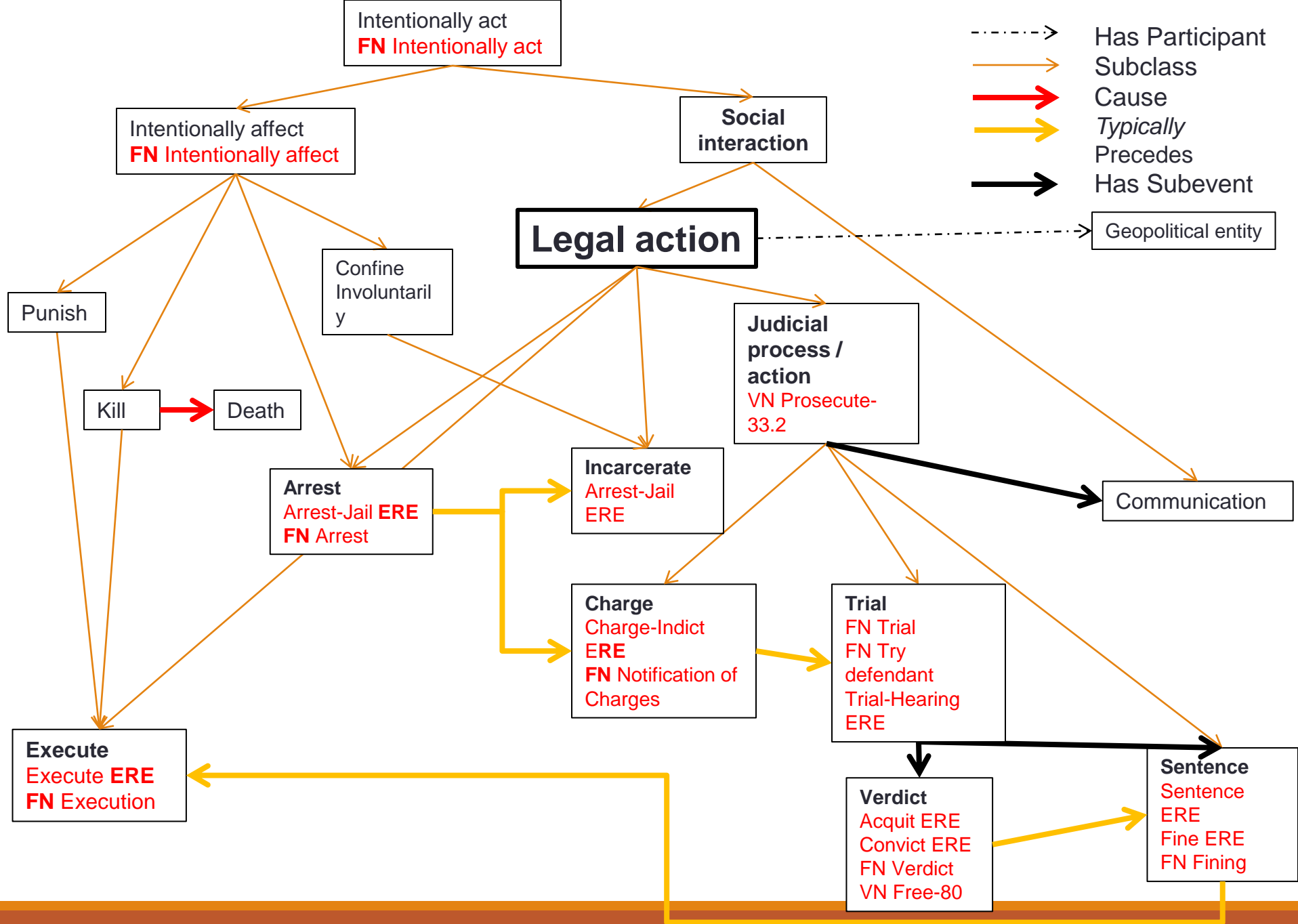
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- Move from words to concepts/entities underlying the words
- A conceptual ontology with links to lexical items
- Bio-NLP
- Event extraction and participant tracking

# Events in ontologies

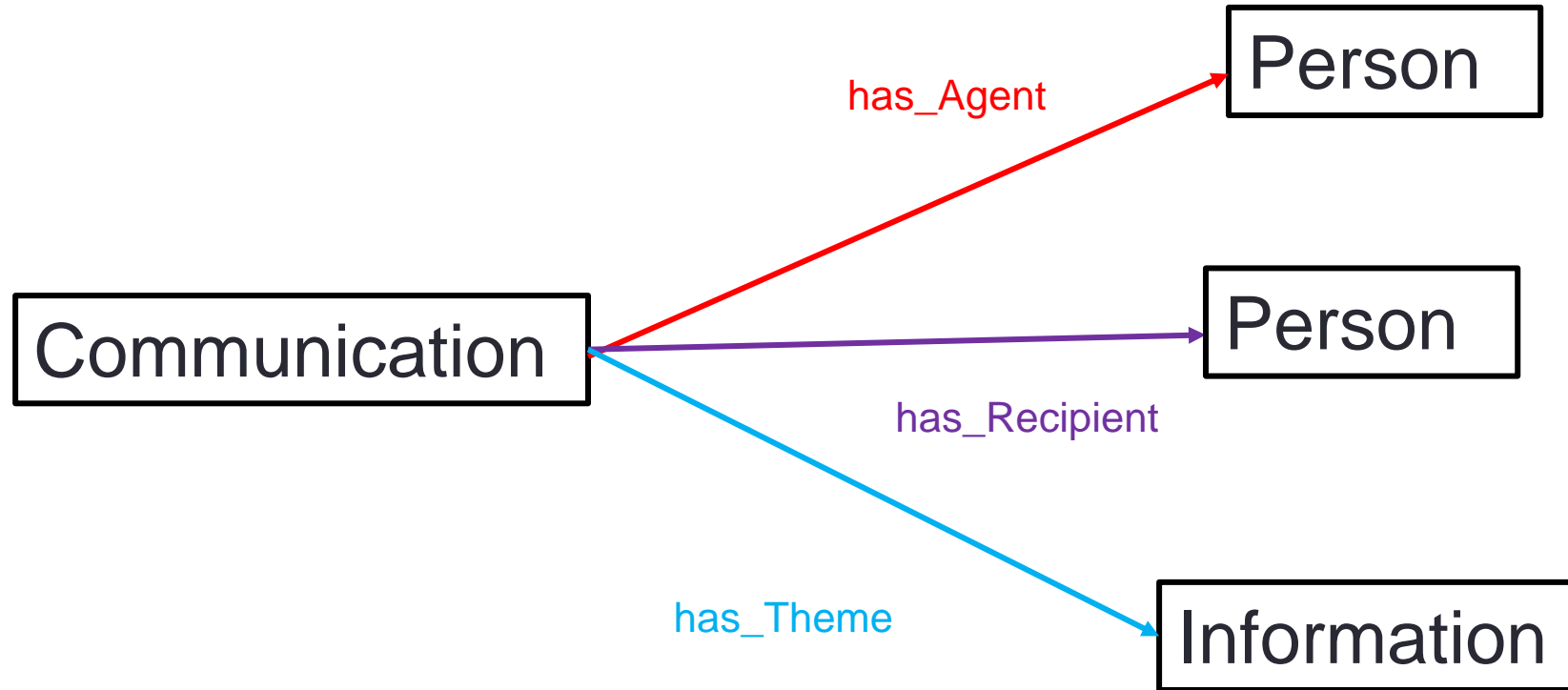
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- Events difficult to model in an ontology
  - is-a relations tricky to determine (killing, crime, murder, death)
  - where does an event start and end? (surgical event)
- Usually represented as **relations** between entities
  - relations can't have links to lexical items
  - relations can't have individuals (you might want to make lexical items the individuals or instances in annotation)
- Existing ontologies have **shallow** models of events
  - WordNet
  - SUMO (Suggested Upper Merged Ontology)



# Event-Object Relations

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# Creation

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<b>Label</b>	<b>ArtifactExistence.Creation</b>
<b>Description</b>	The act of creation or invention in which an entirely novel and unique physical or informational entity (or event) is formed for the first time from raw materials or components, either intentionally or through a causative event

<b>Slot Role</b>	<b>Slot Argument Constraints</b>
<b>Creator</b>	per, org, gpe, sid, event
<b>Thing created</b>	abs, fac, com, veh, wea, pth, inf, event?
<b>Components/Materials</b>	com, nat
<b>Place</b>	fac, loc, gpe

<b>Temporal</b>	
<b>Start and End</b>	(times specific to event)
<b>Duration</b>	1 minute through multiple years



# Wear

---

<b>Label</b>	<b>Wear (new social behavior top level?)</b>
<b>Description</b>	Bearing or having clothing or other objects on the person

<b>Slot Role</b>	<b>Slot Argument Constraints</b>
<b>Wearer</b>	per
<b>Thing worn</b>	com
<b>Body_Location</b>	bod
<b>Place</b>	fac, loc, gpe

<b>Temporal</b>	
<b>Start and End</b>	(times specific to event)
<b>Duration</b>	1 minute through multiple years

# Sanitize

<b>Label</b>	<b>Sanitize</b>
<b>Description</b>	Rendering pathogens harmless through methods including use of heat, antiseptics and antibacterial agents

<b>Slot Role</b>	<b>Slot Argument Constraints</b>
<b>Agent/Sanitizer</b>	per, org, gpe, sid
<b>Sanitized object</b>	fac, com, veh, wea
<b>Sanitizing substance</b>	com, nat
<b>Pathogen</b>	pth
<b>Place</b>	fac, loc, gpe

<b>Temporal</b>	
<b>Start and End</b>	(times specific to event)
<b>Duration</b>	1 minute through multiple years

# What is the problem with this approach?

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- What might happen when using an ontology like this in an actual application?
  - The system might have problems staying at the appropriate level
  - Are all entities, events, properties captured? And if it's too big, can it be processed? (scalable)
  - How do events interact?

The background features a solid blue gradient with a series of white, thin, wavy lines that flow across the frame, creating a sense of motion and depth. The lines are most concentrated in the lower half and curve upwards towards the right.

THE STORY SO FAR... (RECAP)

# Interactive Fiction & Storytelling

```
West of House                               Score: 0   Moves: 0

ZORK I: The Great Underground Empire
Copyright (c) 1981, 1982, 1983 Infocom, Inc. All rights reserved.
ZORK is a registered trademark of Infocom, Inc.
Revision 88 / Serial number 840726

West of House
You are standing in an open field west of a white house, with a boarded front
door.
There is a small mailbox here.

>
```

Zork I



Façade, <https://www.playablstudios.com/facade>  
[https://cdn.download-free-games.com/cf/images/nfe/screens/facade\\_2\\_m.jpg](https://cdn.download-free-games.com/cf/images/nfe/screens/facade_2_m.jpg)



Sentient Beings  
<https://grizel.itch.io/sentient-beings>

Old-School  
Interactive  
Fiction

Full Action  
Space

Limited  
Action  
Space

Tabletop  
Roleplaying  
Games

Choose-Your-Own  
Adventures

# What makes a story “good”?

Cohesion & coherence

Logical flow, no plot holes or loose ends, fluency

Consistency with story world

Compelling/dynamic narrative, evoke emotions

Character development, relatable characters

Detailed world

Consequences of actions/events

Implied lesson

Good use of medium

# What makes a story "good"?

## Coherent

coherence

clear logic

coherent plot lines

consistency/continuity

Fun (diverse) but logical.

## Interesting

surprises

interesting, have a surprising ending

compelling conflict

engaging narrative

convoluted

coherent, has an element of surprise, complex characters, beautiful worldbuilding

## Relatable Characters

Compelling/relatable characters

character growth

Relatability

Compelling plot, interesting and relatable characters, humor, unexpected but properly explained plot points

compelling action and characters

decent storyline, compelling characters and good writing

## Something innate in us?

I know it when I see it

Not everything written explicitly

A good story make me want to come back and leaves room for the reader to think and come to their own conclusions

## Complexity/Theme

Underlying ideas/themes

Multiple plot elements

underlying deep / philosophical themes

Satisfying to read, gives interesting insights





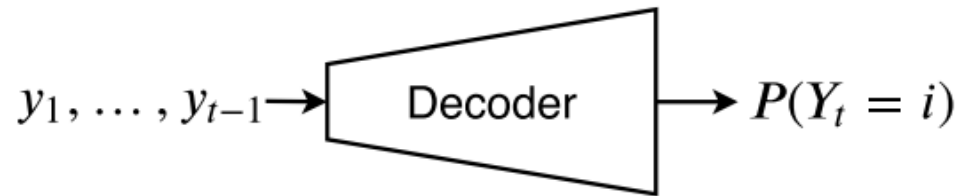
The background features a series of thin, white, curved lines that flow from the left side towards the right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are set against a solid blue gradient that transitions from a darker shade at the top to a lighter shade at the bottom.

# NEURAL SYSTEMS

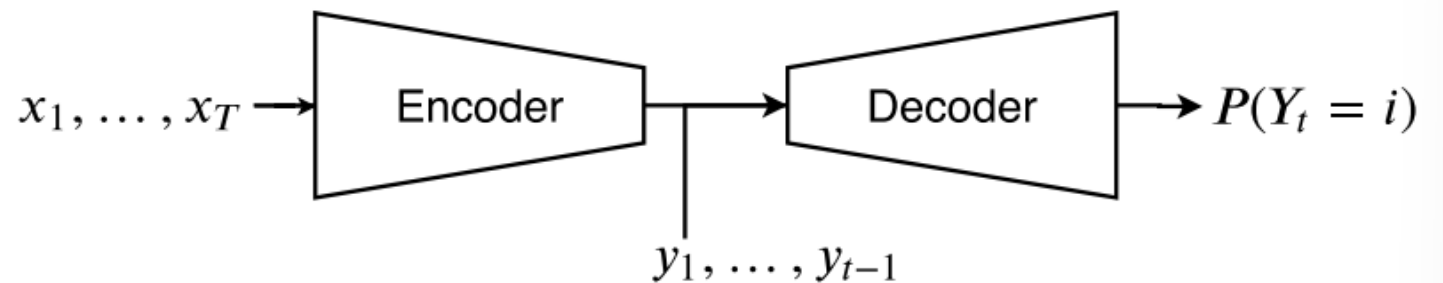
# Neural Generation

- Probabilistic
  - Unconditioned  $P(Y)$
  - Conditioned  $P(Y|X)$

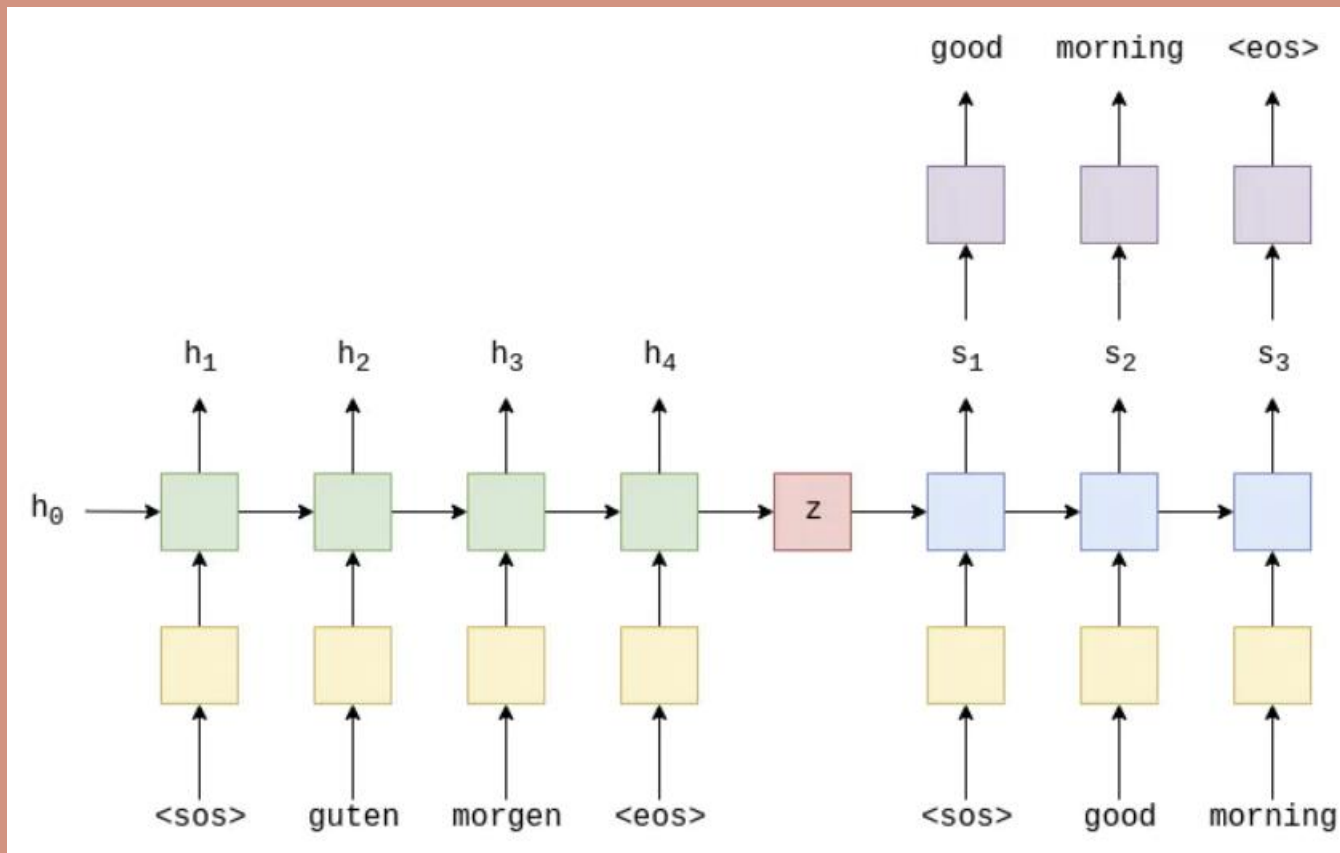
Unconditioned Language Model



Conditioned Language Model



# RNNs (Sequence-to-Sequence)

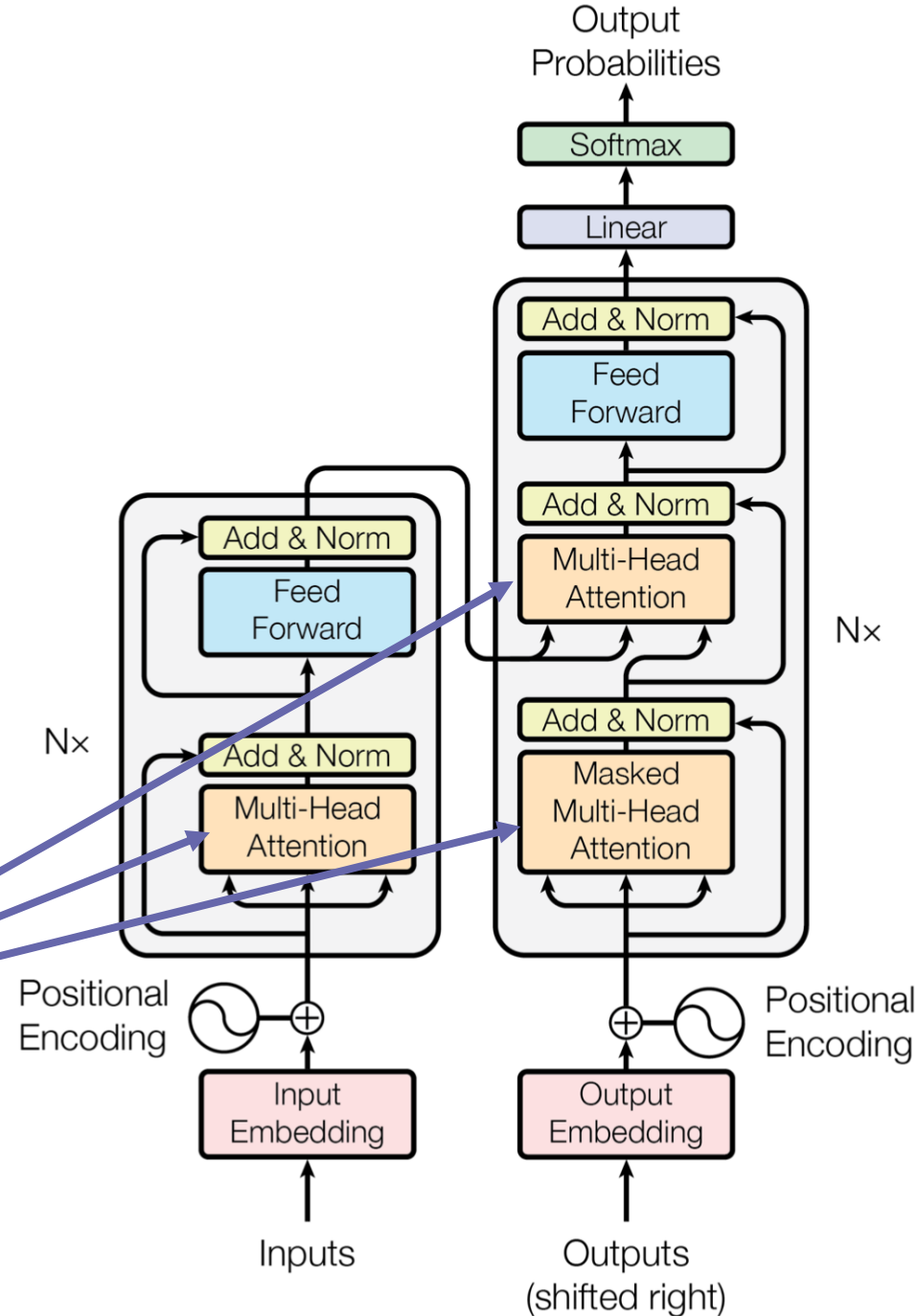


# Transformers

Query Q – what you're "searching" for  
Key K – what you compare the query against  
Value V – the results that is paired to the key

Attention is All You Need!

$$\text{softmax} \left( \frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}} \right) v$$



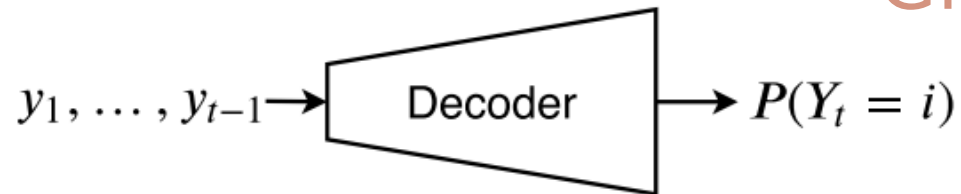
# Transformer Types

Encoder-Only:  
BERTs

What are encoder-only  
models useful for?

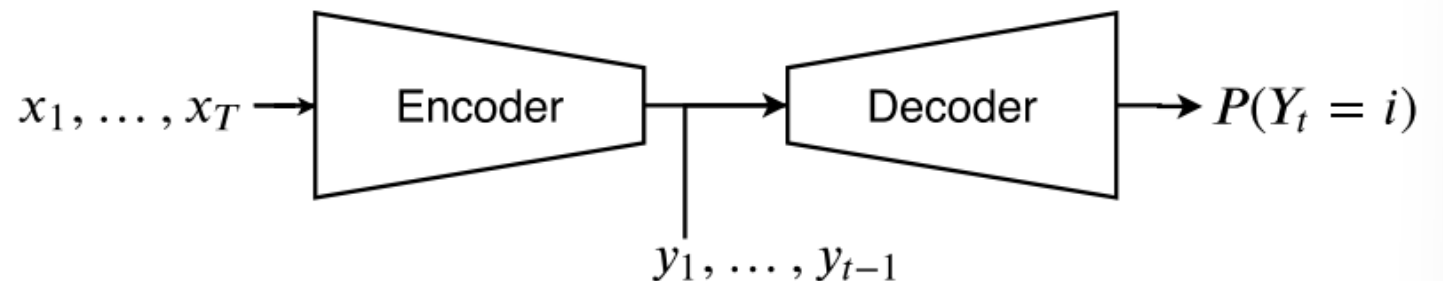
Unconditioned Language Model

GPTs



Conditioned Language Model

T5s



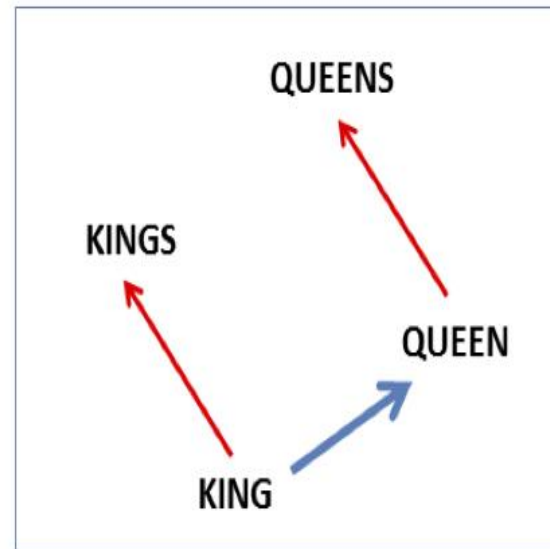
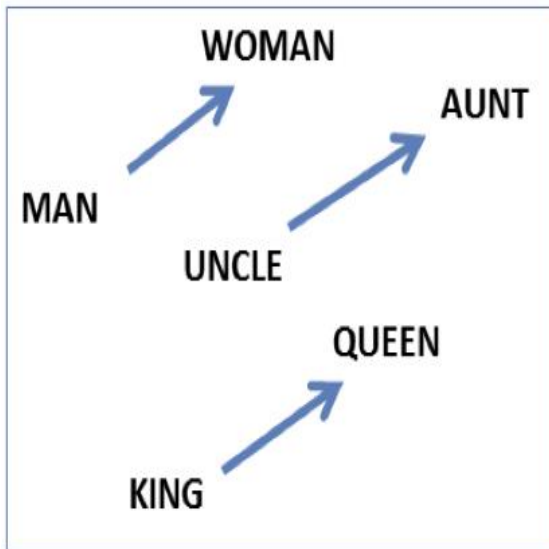
# (Some) Properties of Embeddings

Why are embeddings useful for neural networks?

Capture "like" (similar) words

<b>target:</b>	Redmond	Havel	ninjutsu	graffiti	capitulate
	Redmond Wash.	Vaclav Havel	ninja	spray paint	capitulation
	Redmond Washington	president Vaclav Havel	martial arts	grafitti	capitulated
	Microsoft	Velvet Revolution	swordsmanship	taggers	capitulating

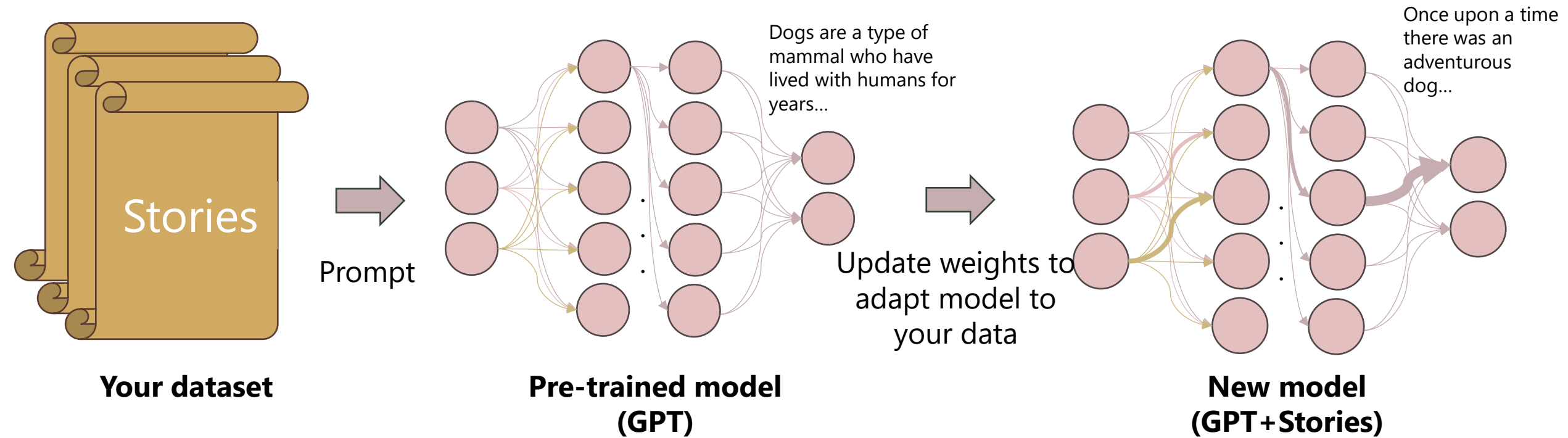
Capture relationships



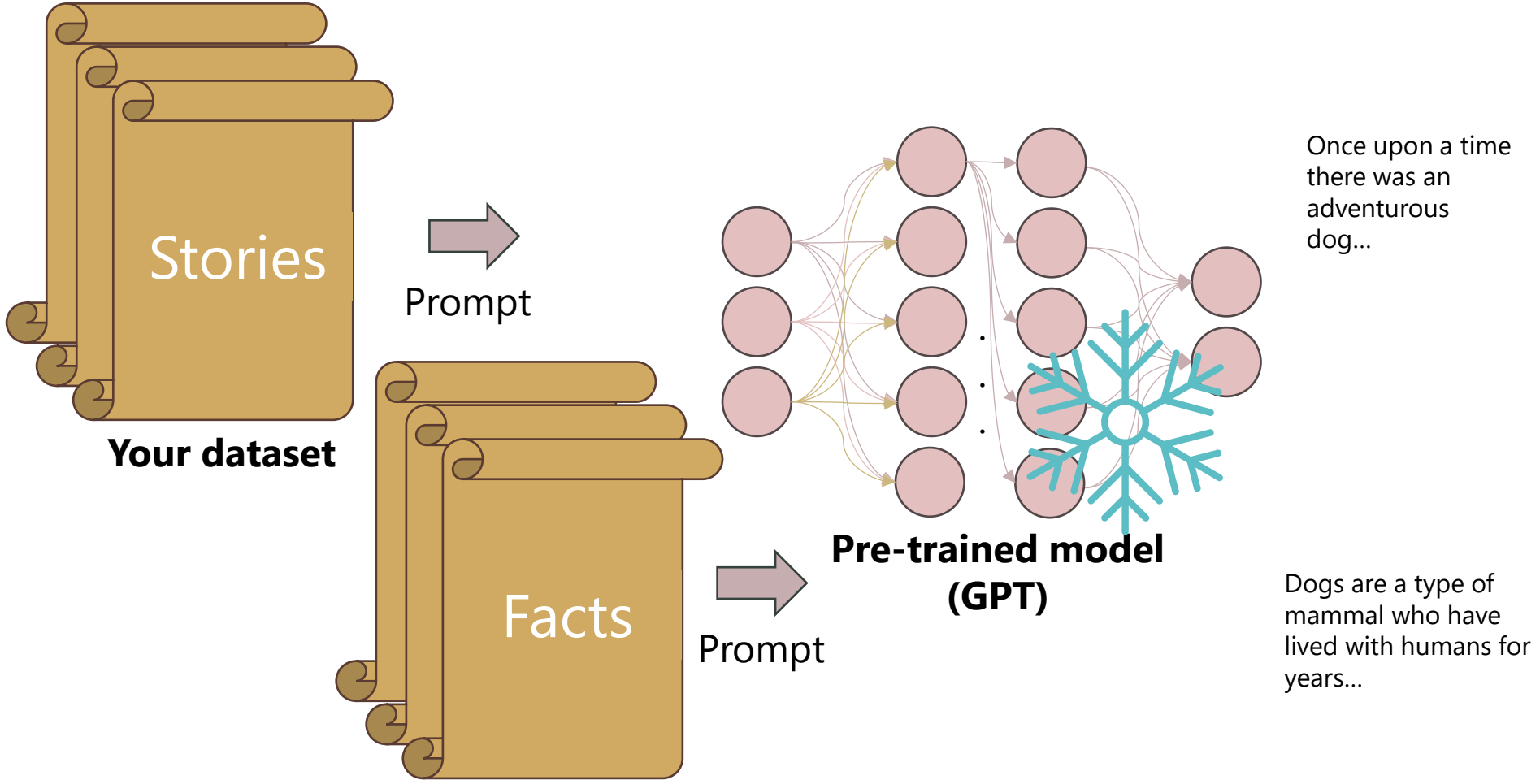
$$\text{vector}('king') - \text{vector}('man') + \text{vector}('woman') \approx \text{vector}('queen')$$

$$\text{vector}('Paris') - \text{vector}('France') + \text{vector}('Italy') \approx \text{vector}('Rome')$$

# Finetuning



# Prompting



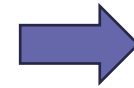
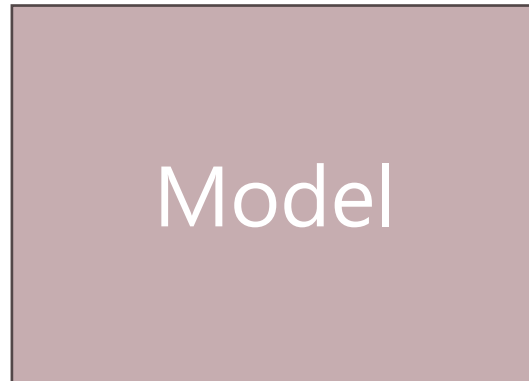
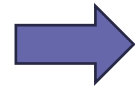


# Zero-shot Prompting

You are a helpful assistant.  
You will be tagging the  
parts of speech in  
sentences.

Instructions

Task



Output

Sentence:  
The dog ate the giant fish.

# Few-shot Prompting

## Instructions

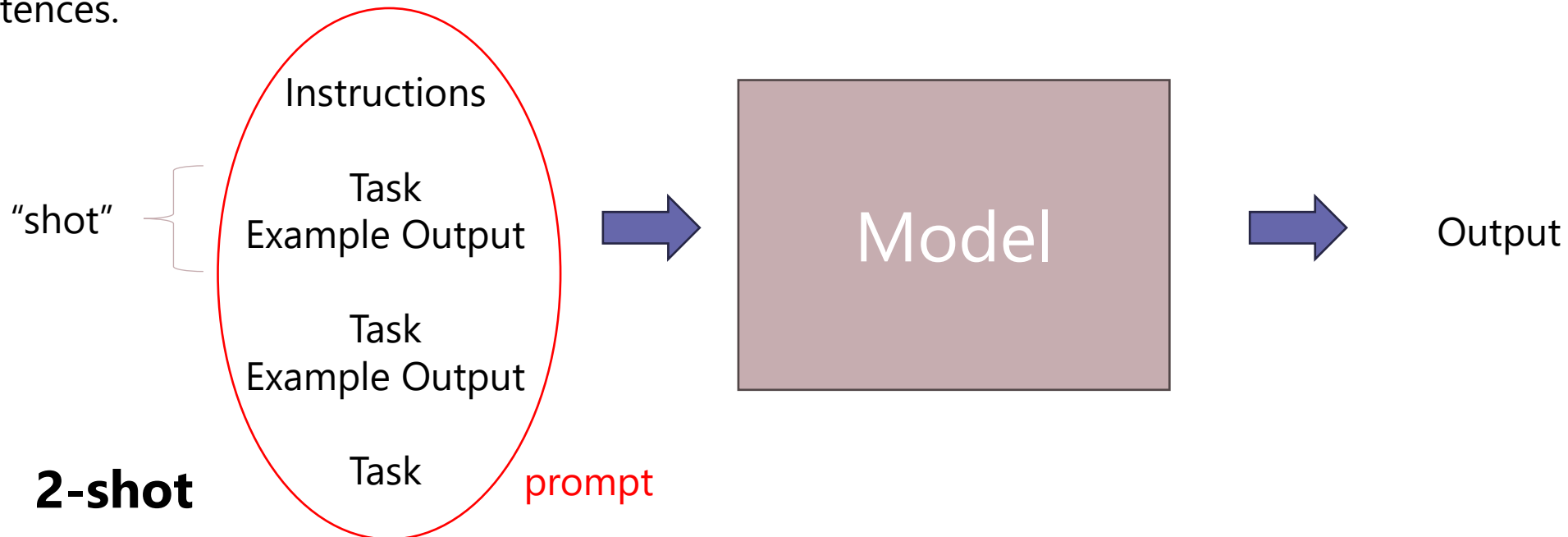
You are a helpful assistant.  
You will be tagging the  
parts of speech in  
sentences.

## Task

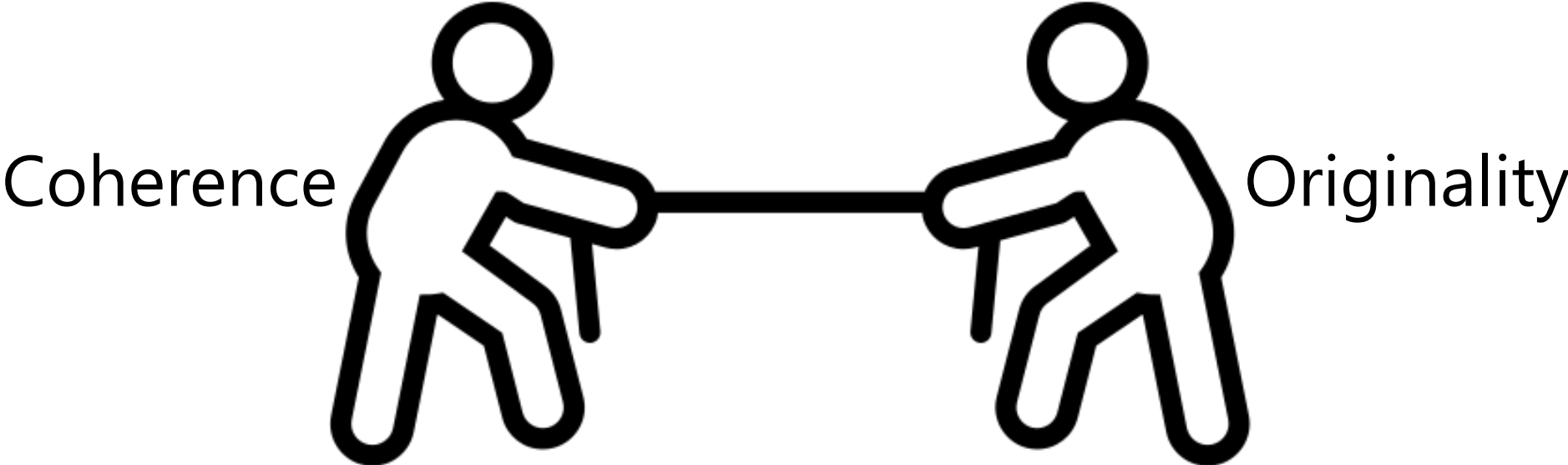
Sentence:  
The dog ate the giant fish.

## Example Output

The dog ate the giant fish.  
D N V D Adj N



# Lara's Language Model Tradeoff



<https://thenounproject.com/icon/tug-of-war-1016981/>

# Tricks of the Trade

Instruction-tuned models like GPT-3.5 and Mistral-7B-Instruct like to be given a “role” first (e.g., “You are a helpful writing assistant.”)

The more defined the task, the better

- More details

- One thing to do at a time

LLMs are overly confident (like people on the internet)

- To “objectively” have the model evaluate something, you should have another instance judge

Chain-of-thought prompting helps models come up with better answers

They will “Yes and...” your prompt

# Neural Story Generation

**The hungry dog licked her lips as she watched her owner eat.**

"You've been a good girl," he told her. "I think you deserve a reward."

On Theme



Once she was done, she jumped back on the couch and waited patiently.

Her owner took a piece of steak out of the fridge and gave it to her.

Grammar



"Thank you," he said. "I'm glad you're my dog."

Remembering  
Story State



She wagged her tail and ate the steak.

"If you're good, you can have a treat later," he said. "But for now, you have to sleep. I have a long day tomorrow."

Commonsense  
Reasoning



She nodded and lay down on the floor.

Her owner got up, turned off the lights, and lay down on the bed.

# HW 2

## Homework 2: Prompting and Fine-tuning

In this homework, we're going to use OpenAI's API to generate text adventure game components automatically. Starting with the [prompting ideas from class](#) and [generating descriptions using the Playground](#), we'll show how to finetune models to perform specific tasks. In particular, you will generate room descriptions and item properties for text adventure games.

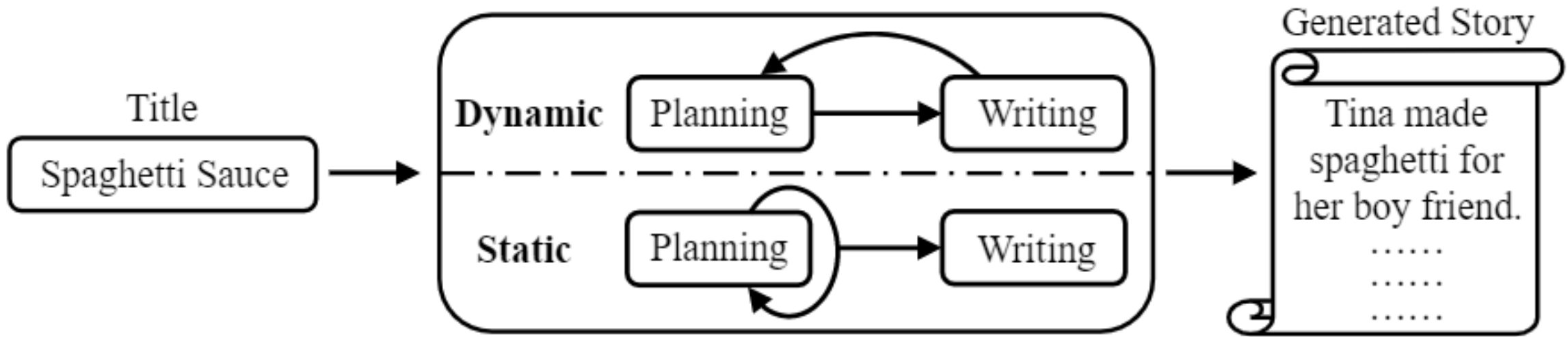
### Learning Objectives

For this assignment, we will check your ability to:

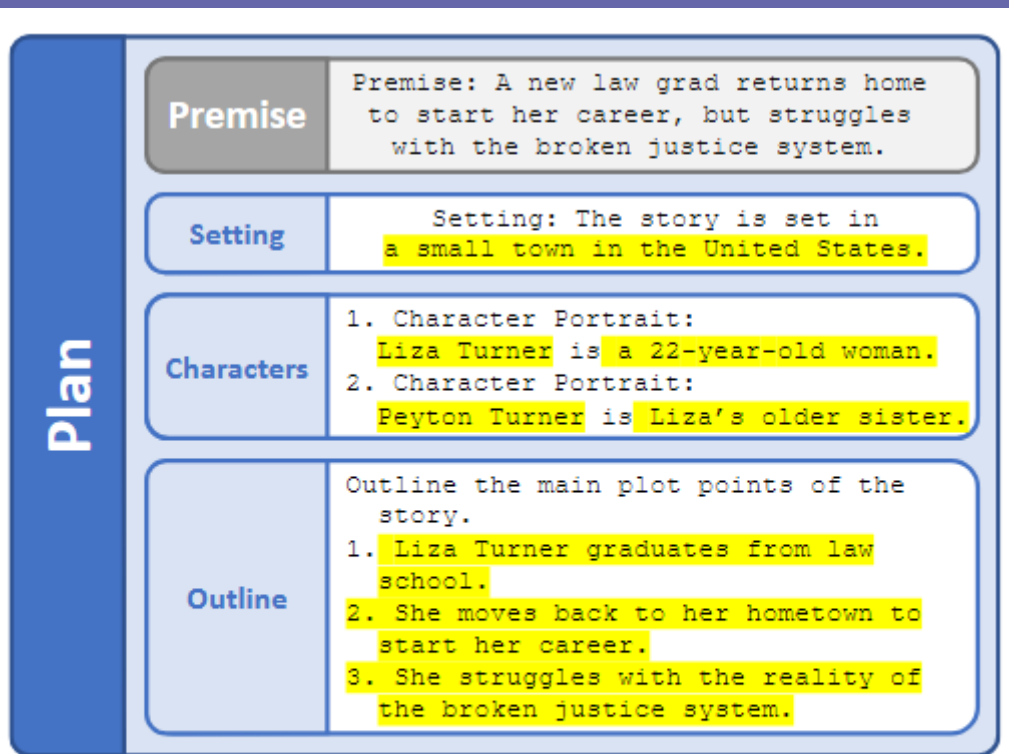
- Use the OpenAI API for few-shot prompting GPT models
- Use the OpenAI API for finetuning GPT early models
- Setup data for finetuning
- Compare early finetuned output to modern few-shot output

# Guided Neural Story Generation

Integrating ways of including structure



# Re<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 2:** Illustration of Re<sup>3</sup>'s Plan module, which prompts a language model to generate a setting, characters, and outline based on the premise. Highlighting indicates generated text.

## Re<sup>3</sup>: Generating Longer Stories With Recursive Reprompting and Revision

Kevin Yang<sup>1</sup> Yuandong Tian<sup>2</sup> Nanyun Peng<sup>3</sup> Dan Klein<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>UC Berkeley, <sup>2</sup>Meta AI, <sup>3</sup>UCLA

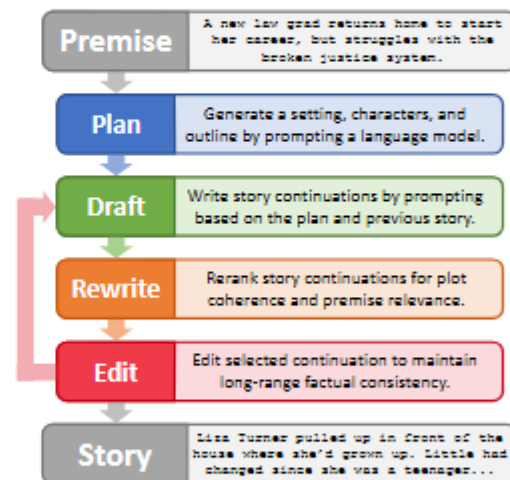
{yangk,klein}@berkeley.edu, yuandong@meta.com, violetpeng@cs.ucla.edu

### Abstract

We consider the problem of automatically generating longer stories of over two thousand words. Compared to prior work on shorter stories, long-range plot coherence and relevance are more central challenges here. We propose the Recursive Reprompting and Revision framework (Re<sup>3</sup>) to address these challenges by (a) prompting a general-purpose language model to construct a structured overarching plan, and (b) generating story passages by repeatedly injecting contextual information from both the plan and current story state into a language model prompt. We then revise by (c) reranking different continuations for plot coherence and premise relevance, and finally (d) editing the best continuation for factual consistency. Compared to similar-length stories generated directly from the same base model, human evaluators judged substantially more of Re<sup>3</sup>'s stories as having a coherent overarching plot (by 14% absolute increase), and relevant to the given initial premise (by 20%).

### 1 Introduction

Generating long-term coherent stories is a long-standing challenge for artificial intelligence, requir-



**Figure 1:** High-level overview of Re<sup>3</sup>.

length increases limited primarily by evaluation rather than technical issues.<sup>1</sup> Generating stories of such length faces qualitatively new challenges compared to prior work on shorter stories. First, the system must maintain a coherent overarching plot over thousands of words. Given an initial premise, it should maintain relevance to this premise over thousands of words as well. Additional challenges include preservation of narration style and avoiding



# HW 3

## Homework 3: Guided Generation

Now that you know how to prompt an LLM from HW2, we will be using some guided story generation techniques from Module 2. In this homework, you will be following a generation pipeline inspired by the [Plan-and-Write system](#). In their work, they generated keywords from a title and then generated a story from the keywords. They tried both dynamic and static schemas to integrate the planning into their generation pipeline. This homework will focus on the “static” schema but use a pre-trained LLM instead of their RNN model.

### Learning Objectives

For this assignment, we will check your ability to:

- Prompt an LLM to generate stories given varying amounts of context
- Implement NLP evaluation metrics using existing libraries
- Compare the quality of guided vs unguided story generation
- Determine the adequacy of automated metrics like BLEU and ROGUE for creative evaluation

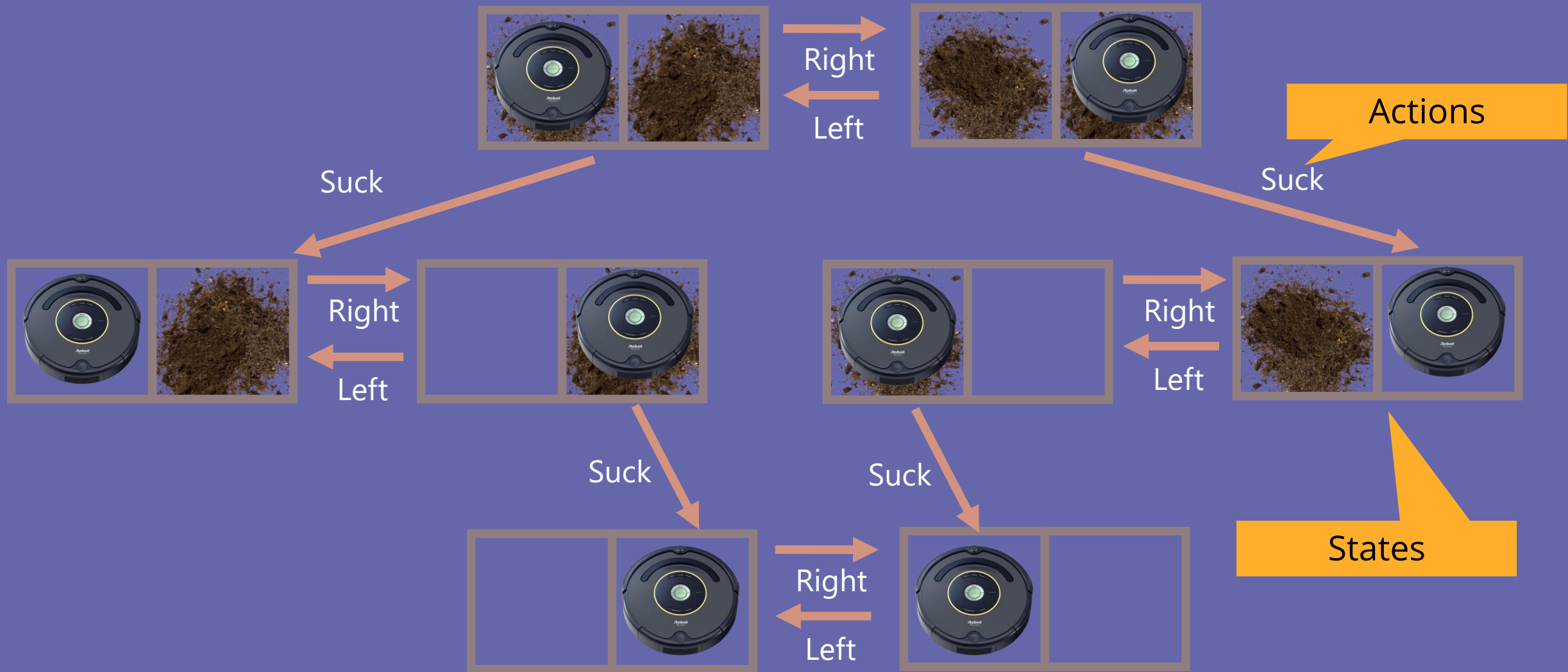


# SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS

# Symbolic Systems: Planning

- Planning = *search for a plan*
- In story generation, this means we're looking for a plan where the goal is reached
- What's the goal? Depends on the story you're telling
  - E.g. Ending a conflict between characters, Robber steals from player character

# Search



# Search Strategies

Several classic search algorithms differ only by the order of how they expand their search trees

You can implement them by using different queue data structures

**Depth-first search** = LIFO queue

**Breadth-first search** = FIFO queue

**Greedy best-first search** or **A\* search** = Priority queue

# Action Castle Map Navigation

Let's consider the sub-task of navigating from one location to another.

Formulate the *search problem*

States: locations in the game

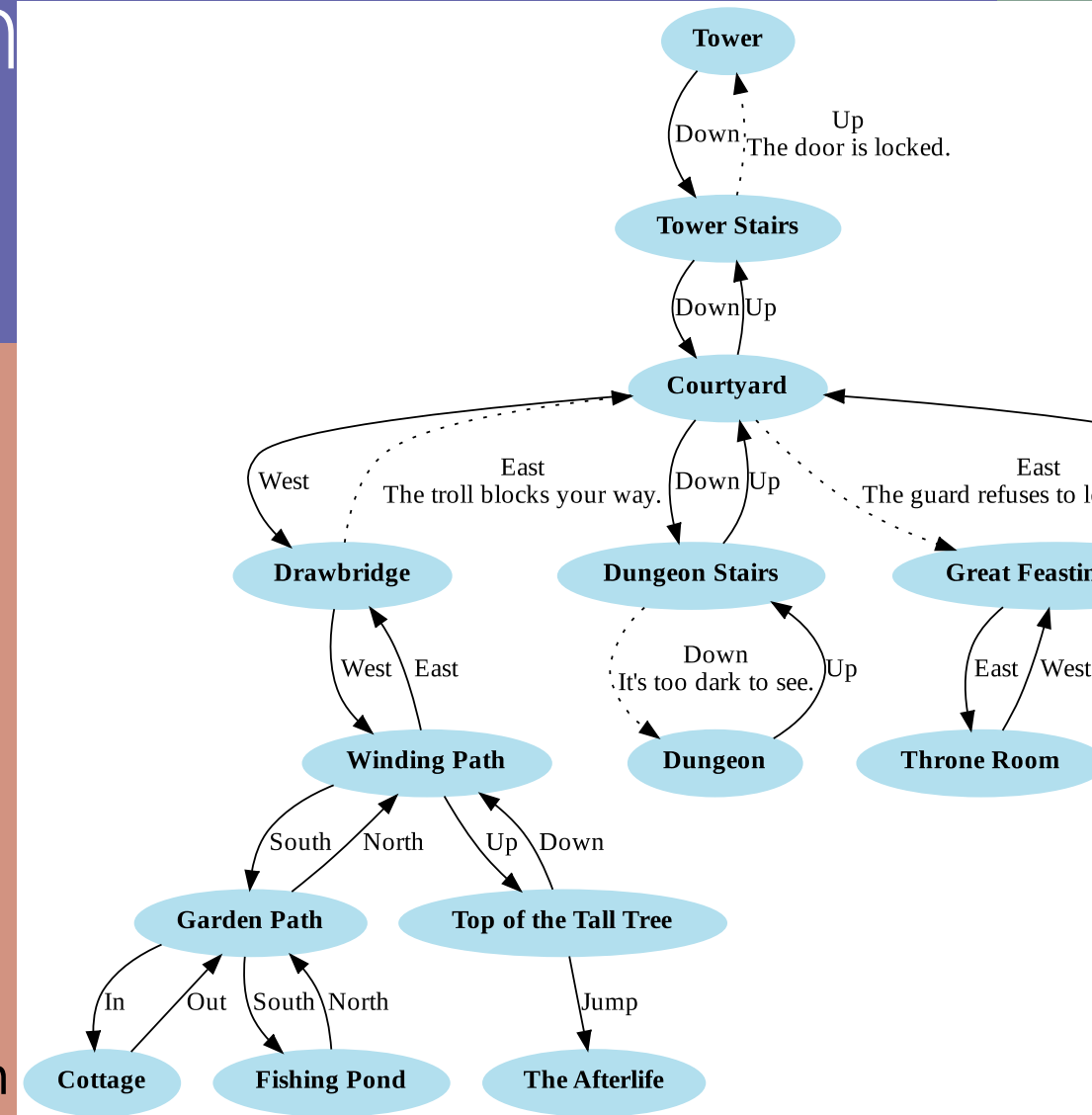
Actions: move between connected locations

Goal: move to a particular location like the **Throne Room**

Performance measure: minimize number of moves to arrive at the goal

Find a *solution*

Algorithm that returns sequence of actions to get from the start state to the goal.



# What are we planning over?

Structure (Schemas)

KB Schemas

Scripts

Procedures

Organization of Commonsense Knowledge

States

# VerbNet Schema

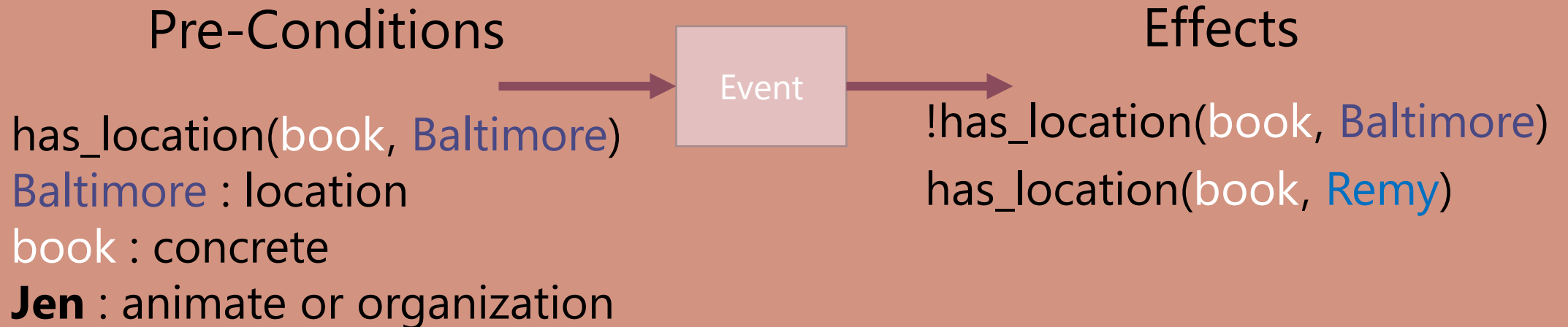
**Jen** sent the book to Remy from Baltimore.

Baltimore : location  
book : concrete  
**Jen** : animate or organization  
!has\_location(book, Baltimore)  
has\_location(book, Remy)



# Pre-Conditions and Effects

**Jen** sent the **book** to **Remy** from **Baltimore**.



# What are we planning over?

Structure (Schemas)

KB Schemas

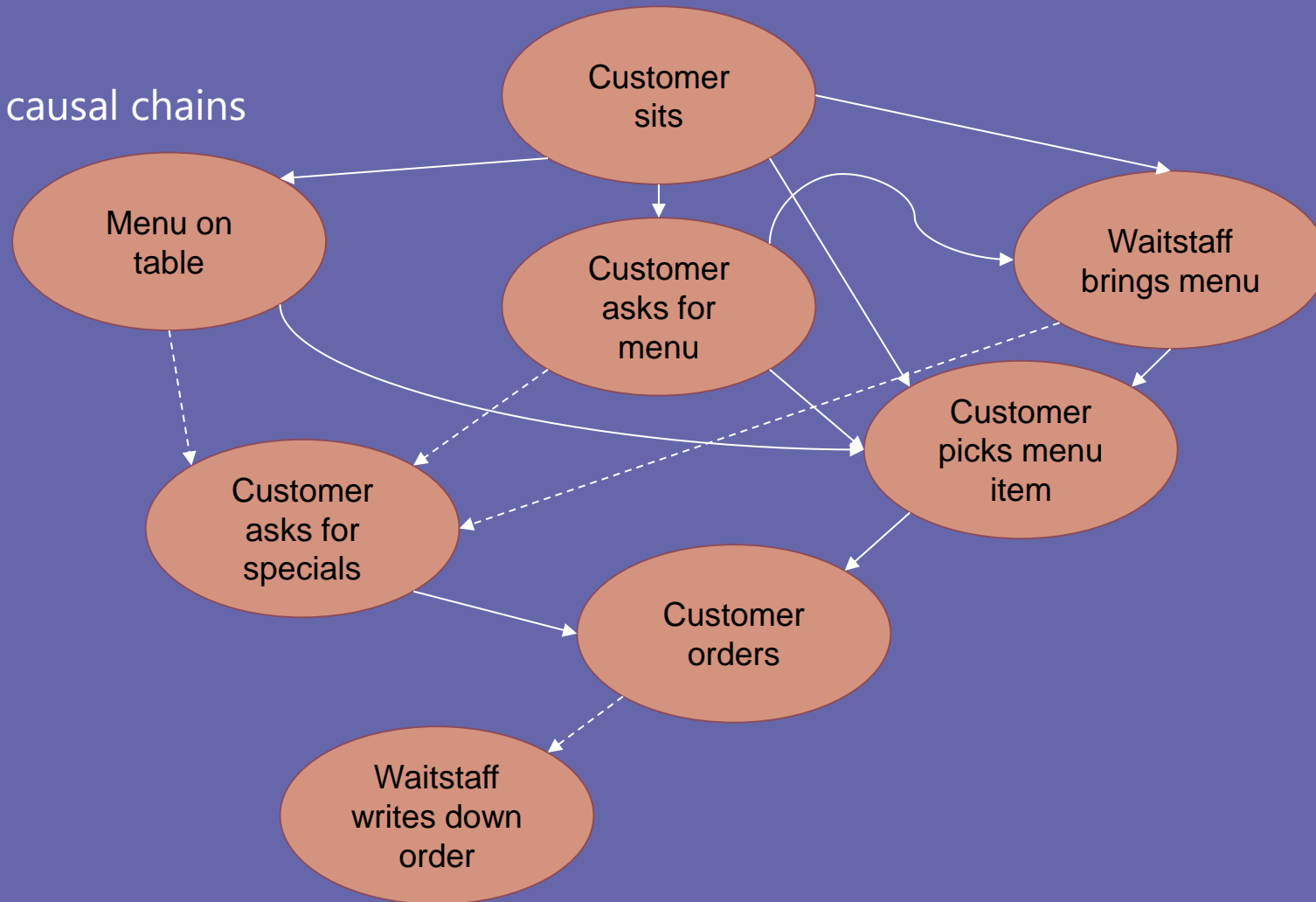
Scripts

Procedures

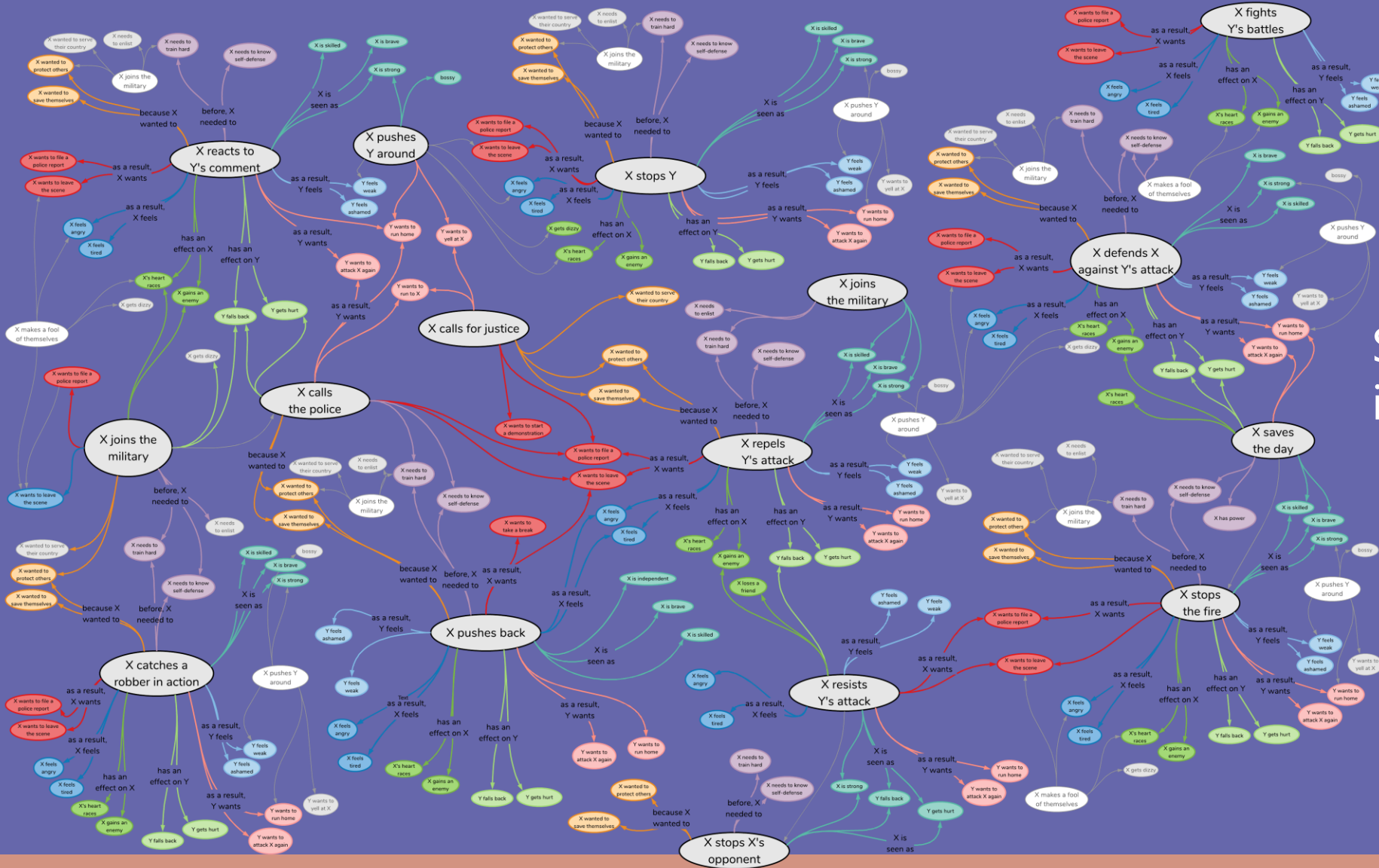
Organization of Commonsense Knowledge

# Scripts

Common sequence of causal chains



# What's the difference between a script and a knowledge graph?



Sequence vs structured information

# Example of a Probabilistic Event Representation

From sentence, extract event representation:

(subject, verb, direct object, modifier, preposition)

**Original sentence:** yoda uses the force to take apart the platform

**Events:**

yoda use force ∅ ∅

yoda take\_apart platform ∅ ∅

**Generalized Events:**

<PERSON>0 fit-54.3 power.n.01 ∅ ∅

<PERSON>0 destroy-44 surface.n.01 ∅ ∅

# Procedures: Script with a goal

category

FOOD AND ENTERTAINING » DINING OUT

goal

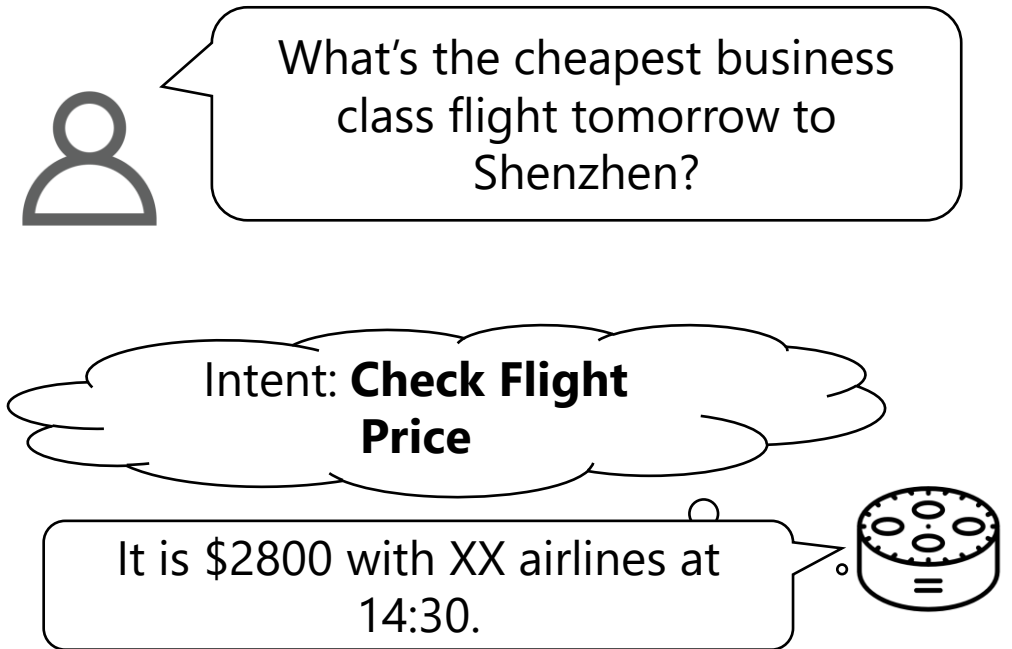
## How to Eat at a Sit Down Restaurant

steps

- 1 Order drinks first.** If your server immediately asks you for your drinks and you're not sure, consider asking for water while you look over the drink menu. It's important not
- 2 Ask about daily specials.** Many restaurants will have rotating specials that can offer tasty surprises. Ask about the vegetable, fish, or soup of the day as well to make sure
- 3 Look over the menu and place your food order.** Usually, by the time that the server brings your beverages, you can begin to order an appetizer. This is where looking at

# Intent Detection

- Task-oriented dialog systems needs to match an **utterance** to an **intent**, before making informed responses
- Sentence classification task
  - Given an utterance, and some candidate intents
  - Choose the correct intent



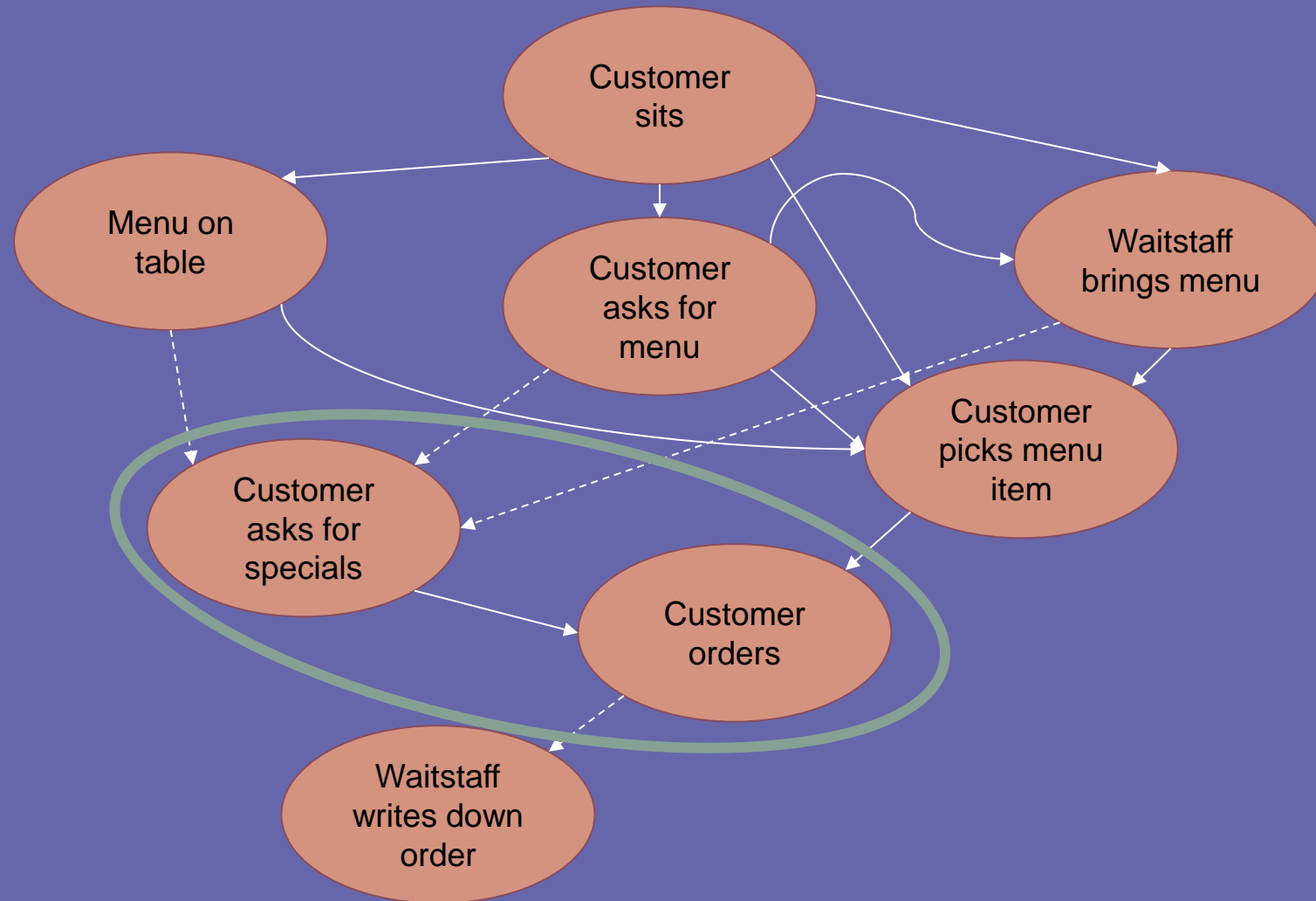
Example from Snips (Coucke et al., 2018)

Utterance: "Find the schedule at Star Theatres."

Candidate intents: Add to Playlist, Rate Book, Book Restaurant, Get Weather, Play Music, Search Creative Work, **Search Screening Event**

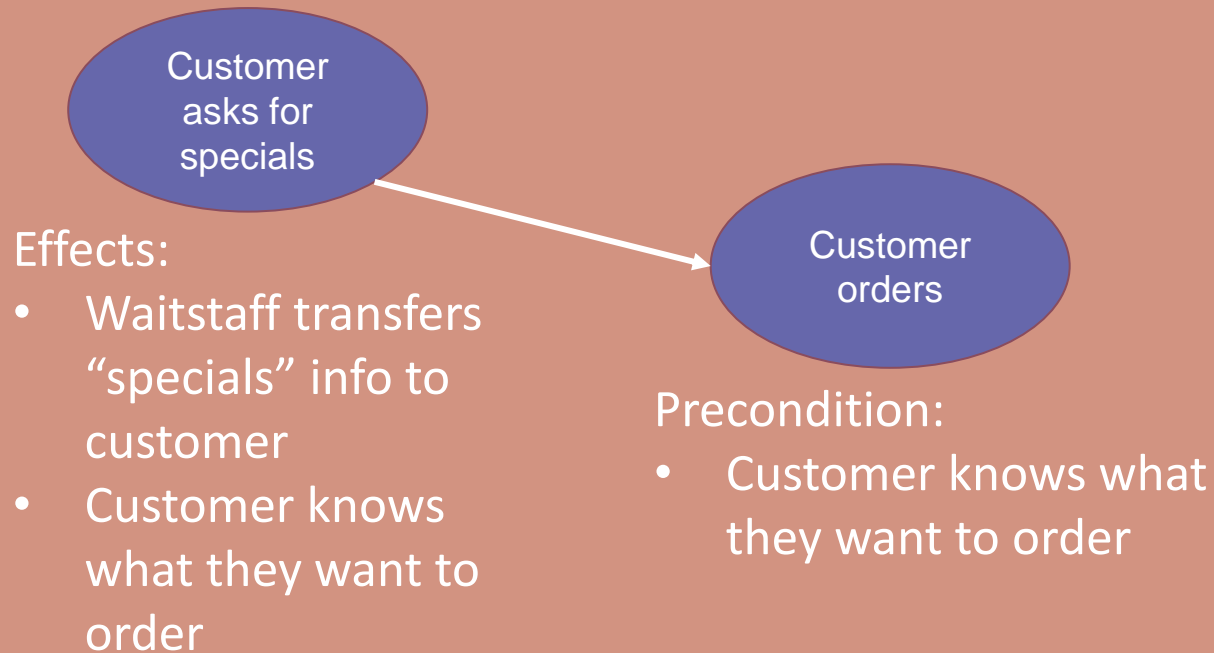
(Zhang et al., 2020): Intent Detection with WikiHow

# Scripts





# Causal Links



# Causal Links $\rightarrow$ Actions for Planning

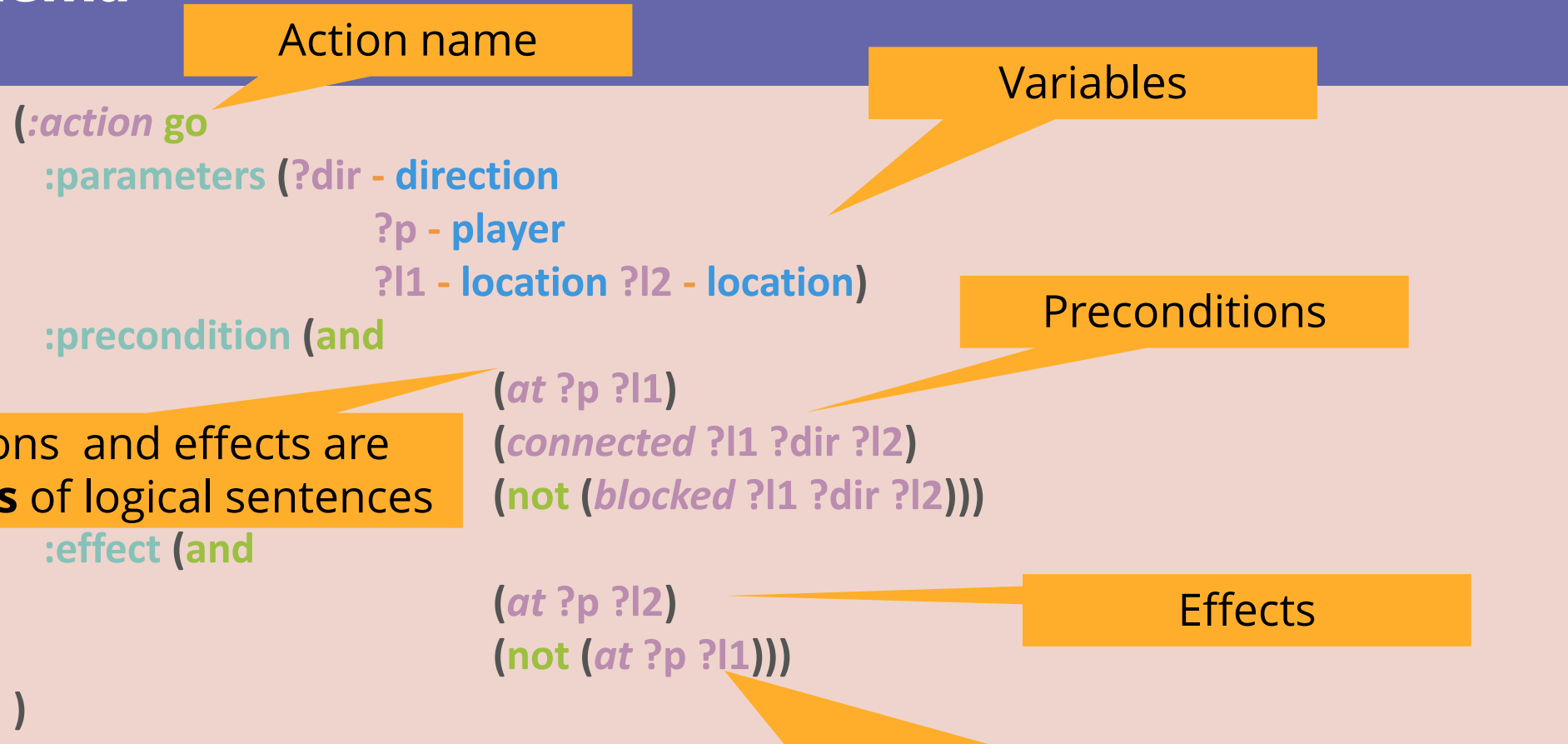
***a: buy(Tom, Potion, Merchant, Market)***

PRE(*a*): *at(Tom) = Market  $\wedge$  at(Merchant) = Market  $\wedge$   
at(Potion) = Merchant  $\wedge$  wealth(Tom)  $\geq 1$*

EFF(*a*): *at(Potion) = Tom  $\wedge$  wealth(Merchant)  $+= 1 \wedge$   
wealth(Tom)  $-= 1$*

# Representation Language

**Planning Domain Definition Language (PDDL)** express **actions** as a **schema**



Preconditions and effects are **conjunctions** of logical sentences

These logical sentences are **literals** – positive or negated atomic sentences

# HW 4

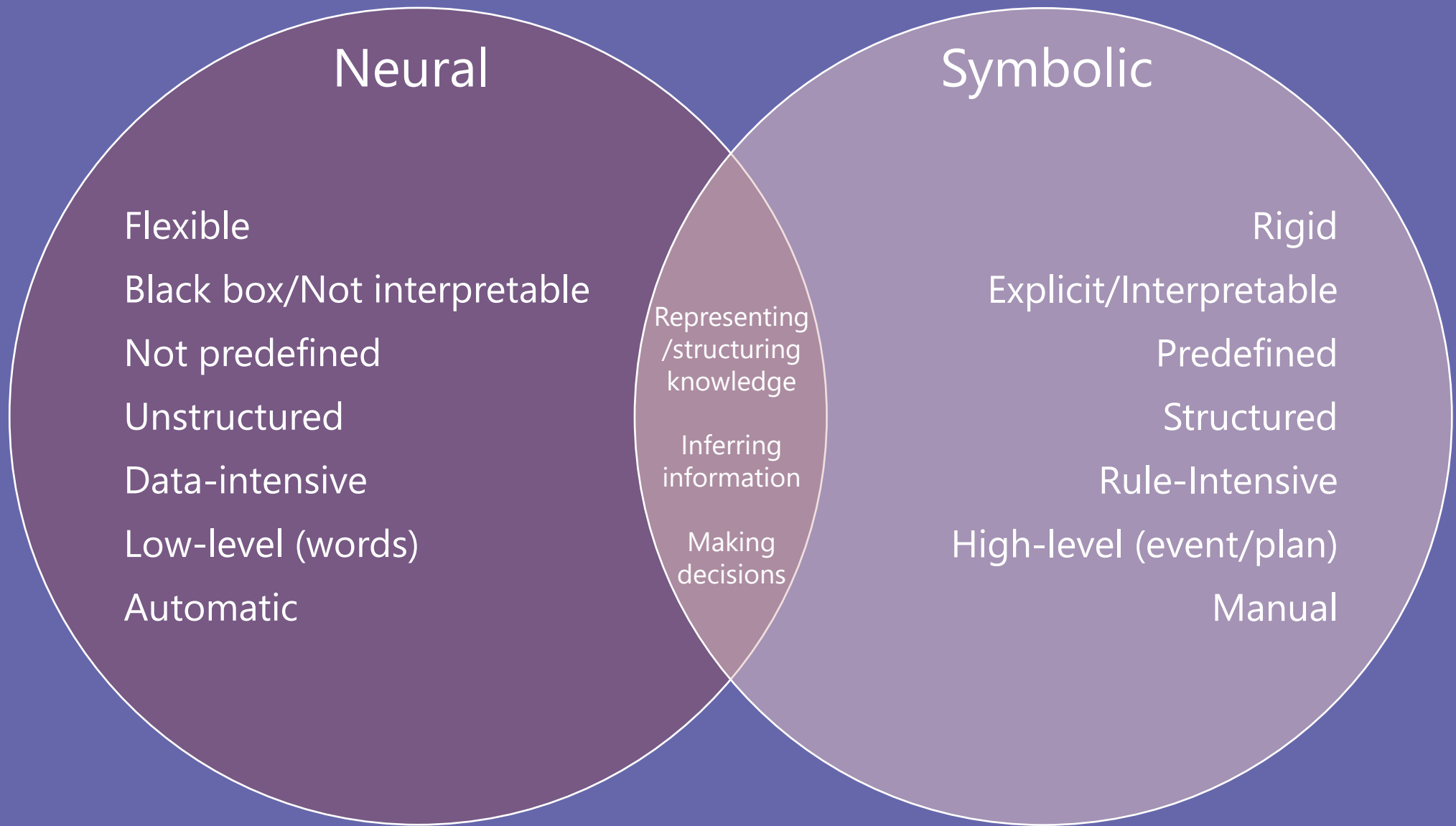
## Homework 4: Creating Sabre Problems

### Learning Objectives

- Figure out how to write a problem for a planning program.
- Determine how utility functions within Sabre.
- Compare and contrast the planner's behavior to when the game is played by a human.

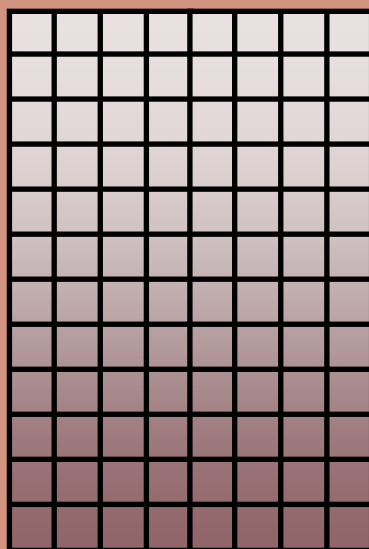
#### Extra Credit:

- Generate a planning problem using a code-based LLM.
- Compare the processes of generating a planning problem by hand vs LLM

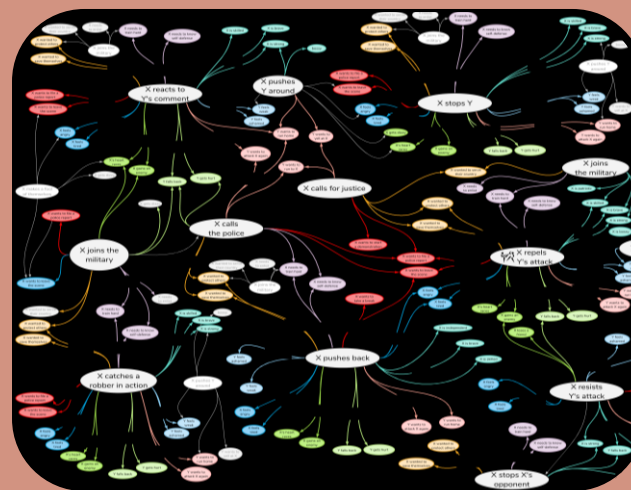
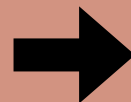


# Solution Outline

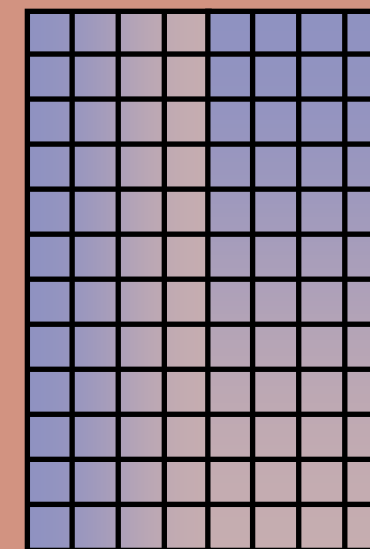
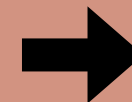
- Leverage manually curated commonsense knowledge resources
- Learn from the examples to induce new relationships
- Scale up using language resources



Learn word embeddings from language corpus



Retrofit word embeddings on semantic resource



Learn knowledge-aware embeddings

# Transfer Learning from Language

