





# Commonsense Al: Myth and Truth



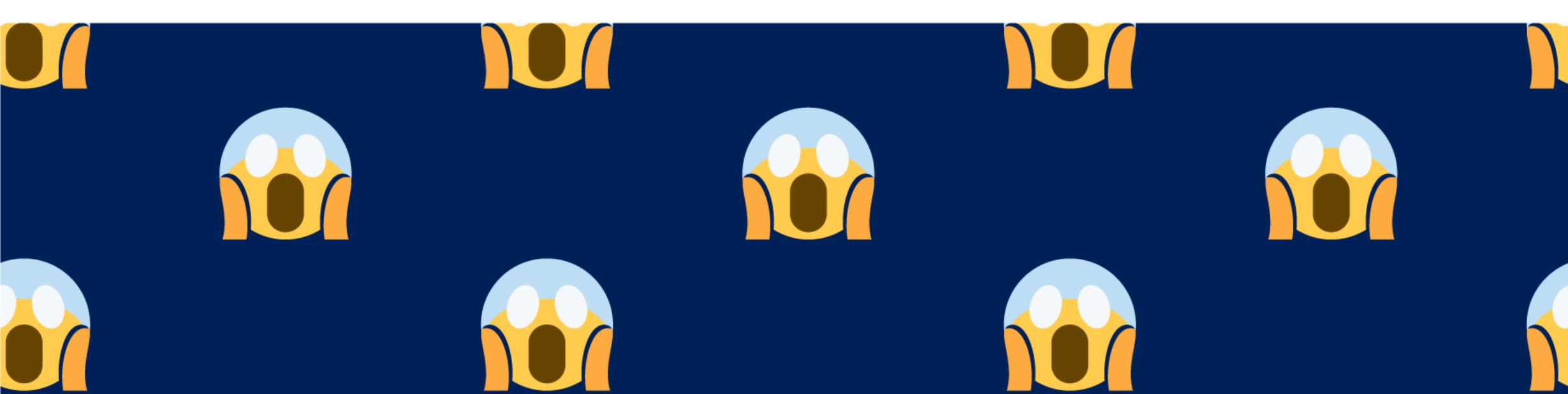
— cheeseburger stabbing redux, 2021 edition —

## Yejin Choi

Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering University of Washington & Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence



— cheeseburger stabbing redux, 2021 edition —



# Year 2020

# ACL Commonsense Tutorial

— 2nd most popular (among 8 tutorials) —

https://homes.cs.washington.edu/~msap/acl2020-commonsense/

5k = # of the main conference registration 1.3k = # of our tutorial registration 3.4k = # of view counts on our recorded lectures



Vered Shwartz



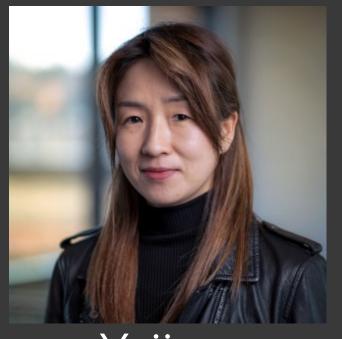
Maarten Sap



Antoine Bosselut



Dan Roth



Yejin Choi

# Circa 2017...

That's a research topic of 70s & 80s



Shouldn't work on it since it won't work



Commonsense?

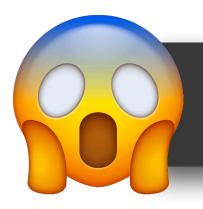


Don't even say that word



# 2017 — 2020





#### What is commonsense?

- It's what everyone knows and agrees on?
- language is irrelevant to commonsense?
- Too hard to define precisely, thus shouldn't work on it



#### Should we or should we not?

- Commonsense AI is an impossible goal (ever)
- That's a research topic of 70s and 80s
- Maybe only possible in the faraway future



#### Commonly held beliefs

Truth or Myth?

- Knowledge and reasoning are distinct and exclusive
- Language is in the way of reasoning; let's do formal logics
- Language is not symbols. Words and numbers are, but not language at large
- Humans acquire commonsense completely un-/self-supervised, thus so should machines



#### What is commonsense?

- It's what everyone knows and agrees on?
- language is irrelevant to commonsense?
- Too hard to define precisely, thus shouldn't work on it



#### Should we or should we not?

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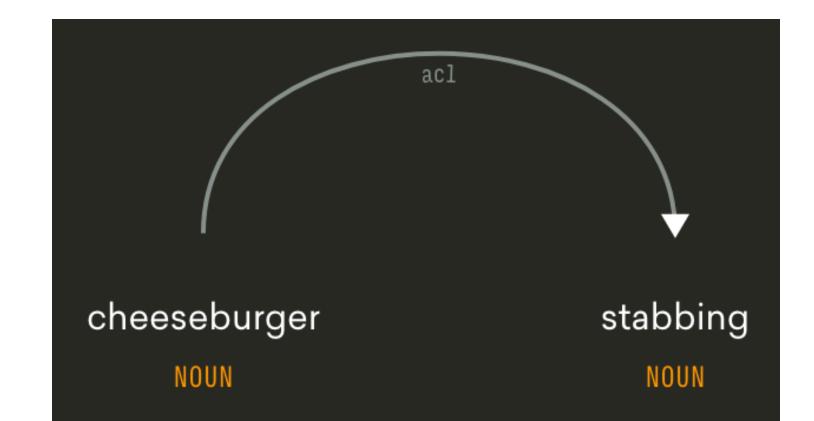


# The Curious Case of Cheeseburger Stabbing

— An example repeatedly appeared my talks between  $\it Mar~2017$  and  $\it May~2018$  —

# The Curious Case of (a) "Cheeseburger Stabbing"





Someone stabbed a cheeseburger?

A cheeseburger stabbed someone?

A cheeseburger stabbed another cheeseburger?

Someone stabbed someone else over a cheeseburger?

# The Curious Case of

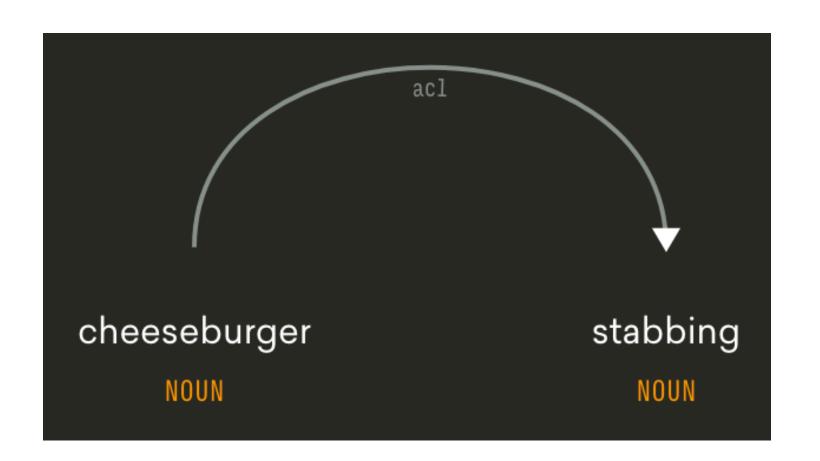
# "Cheeseburger Stabbing"



Physical Commonsense: not possible to stab using a burger Social Commonsense: stabbing someone is bad

what is said +

what is <u>not</u> said



Someone stabbed a cheeseburger?

A cheeseburger stabbed someone?

A cheeseburger stabbed another cheeseburger?

Someone stabbed someone else over a cheeseburger?

# The Curious Case of "Cheeseburger Stabbing"



Vered Shwartz

@VeredShwartz

lying to @shacharmirkin and @AllThingsLing

Thanks! I first heard it last year in @YejinChoinka 's talk, and I used it as a difficult example to test my noun

2020:

"stabbing of a cheeseburger" per GPT-3



2021: Stay tuned for the 2021 edition!

cheeseburger" (23)

12:10 AM · Aug 31, 2018 · Twitter for Android

2018:

"Stabbing is a crime punishable by cheeseburger"

((((yoav' ()り)()り))) @yoavgo · Jul 18, 2020

Q: parsley cake

A: cake made of parsley

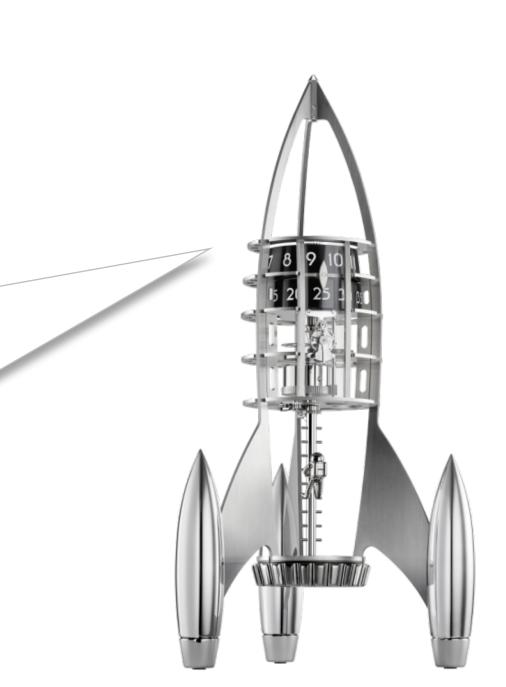
Q: cheeseburger stabbing

A: stabbing of a cheeseburger

### Path to commonsense?

Brute force larger networks with deeper layers?

You don't reach to the moon by making the tallest building in the world taller



### Path to commonsense?

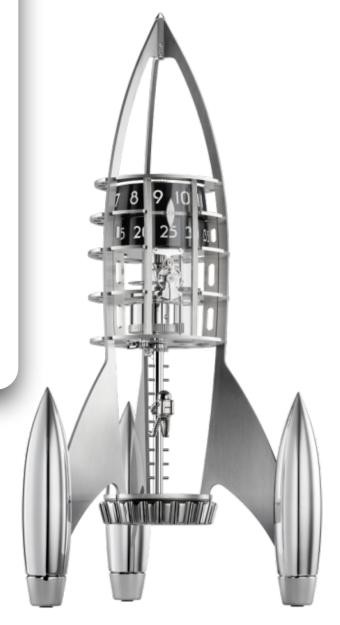


Obligatory Controversial Remarks of the Day

Neural Symbolic Language Knowledge Reasoning

1. the continuum between knowledge and reasoning

- 2. the interplay between reasoning and language generation
- 3. the blend between neural vs symbolic representation



Language

Induction — from specific to general

Deduction — from general to specific

Reasoning

Abduction — "why something happened"

(or reasoning about the the probable explanation)



Peirce 1965

Counterfactual — "what if something else happened"

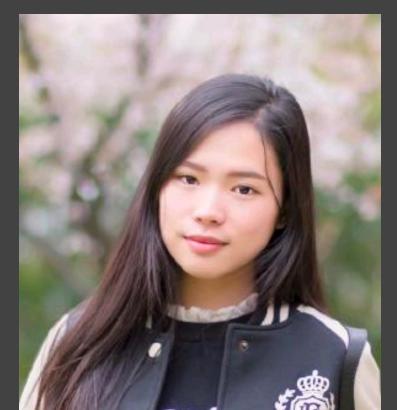


#### Back to the Future:

# Unsupervised Backprop-based Decoding for Counterfactual and Abductive Commonsense Reasoning

EMNLP 2020

Lianhui Qin



Vered Shwartz Peter West Chandra Bhagavatula Jena Hwang

Ronan LeBras

Antoine Bosselut

Me















# Abductive Reasoning (Bhagavatula et al., 2019)



Past Observation

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.

# What happened in between?



Future Observation

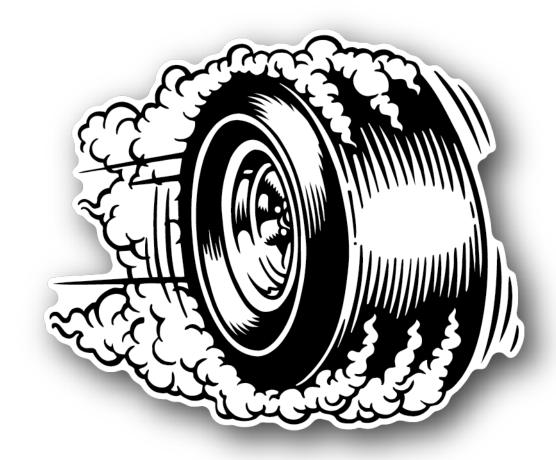
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.

# Abductive Reasoning (Bhagavatula et al., 2019)



Past Observation

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.



Hypothesis

She hit the rope and the tire fell on top of her.



Future Observation

Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.

#### Abduction — "why something happened"

(or reasoning about the the probable explanation)



Peirce 1965

# Abductive Reasoning (Bhagavatula et al., 2019)

Hypothesis

She hit the rope and the tire fell on top of her.

#### Future Observation

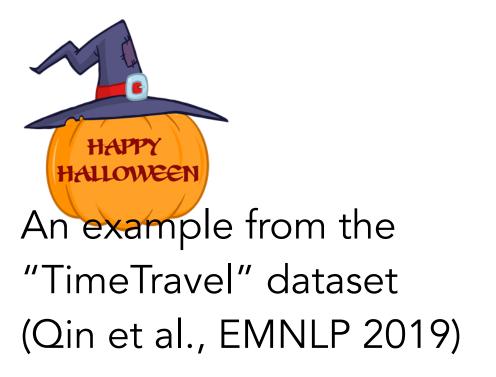
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.

#### Counterfactual Reasoning

(Qin et al., 2019)

#### Past Observation

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.



Zeke was throwing a party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Halloween party. Story context changes...

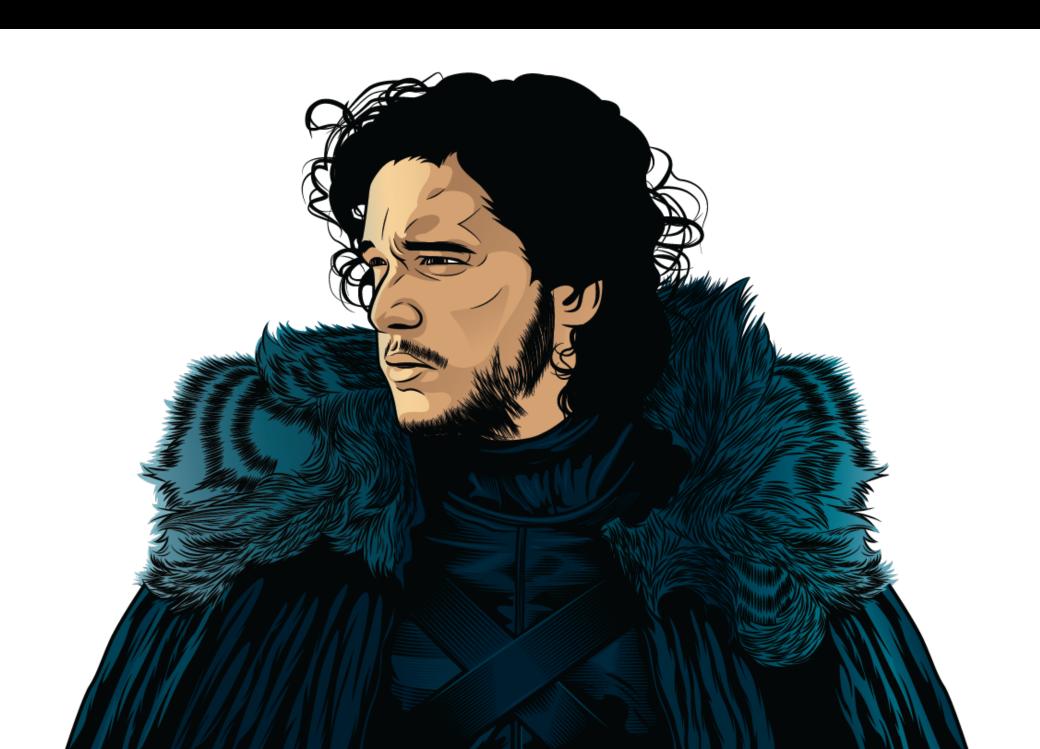
Zeke thought about being a vampire or a wizard.

Then he decided on a scarier costume.

Zeke dressed up like a skeleton.

#### What if this is a Game of Thrones themed party instead of a Halloween party?







Story ending doesn't make sense now...

Zeke was throwing a party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Halloween party.

Zeke thought about being a vampire or a wizard.

Then he decided on a scarier costume.

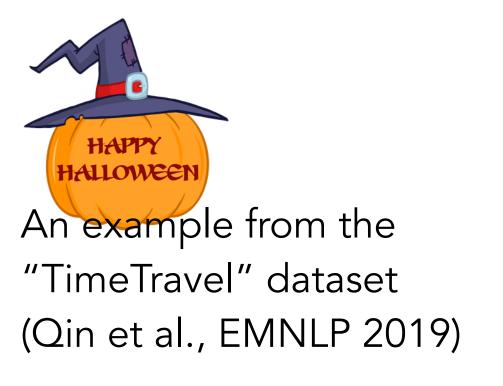
Zeke dressed up like a skeleton.

Story context changes...

#### What if this is a Game of Thrones themed party instead of a Halloween party?







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Story context changes...

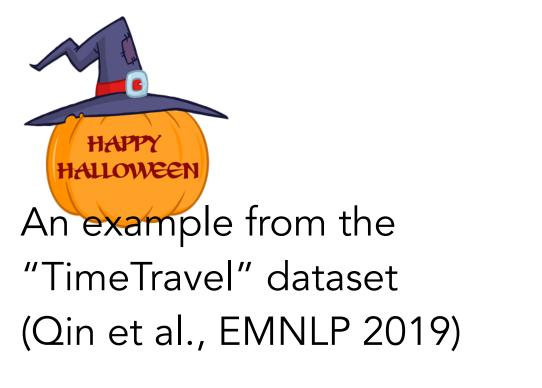
What if this is a Game of Thrones themed party instead of a Halloween party?



#### Counterfactual Reasoning

(Qin et al., 2019)

Reasoning about the alternative *future* based on counterfactual *past*.



Story ending doesn't make sense now...

Zeke was throwing a party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Halloween party.

Story context changes...

Zeke thought about being a vampire or a wizard.

Then he decided on a scarier costume

Zeke dressed up like a skeleton.

#### What if this is a Game of Thrones themed party instead of a Halloween party?



Zeke was throwing a party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Halloween party.

Only do minimal edit!

Zeke thought about Lannister, but he didn't want to look like a Lannister.

He wanted to look like a Stark.

Consistent now!!

Zeke dressed up like a Stark.

#### Past Observation

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.

#### Abductive Reasoning

(Bhagavatula et al., 2019)

#### Hypothesis

She hit the rope and the tire fell on top of her.

#### Future Observation

Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.

#### **Story Context**

Zeke was throwing a party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Halloween party.

All his friends were dressing up for this Game of Thrones themed party.

#### Rewritten Ending

Zeke thought about Lannister, but he didn't want to look like a Lannister.

He wanted to look like a Stark.

Zeke dressed up like a Stark.

#### Counterfactual Reasoning

(Qin et al., 2019)

#### Original Ending

Zeke thought about being a vampire or a wizard.

Then he decided on a scarier costume.

Zeke dressed up like a skeleton.

#### Abductive Reasoning

(Bhagavatula et al., 2019)

Both involve *nonmonotonic reasoning* with past context X and future constraint Z

Input: X — Output: Y — Input: Z

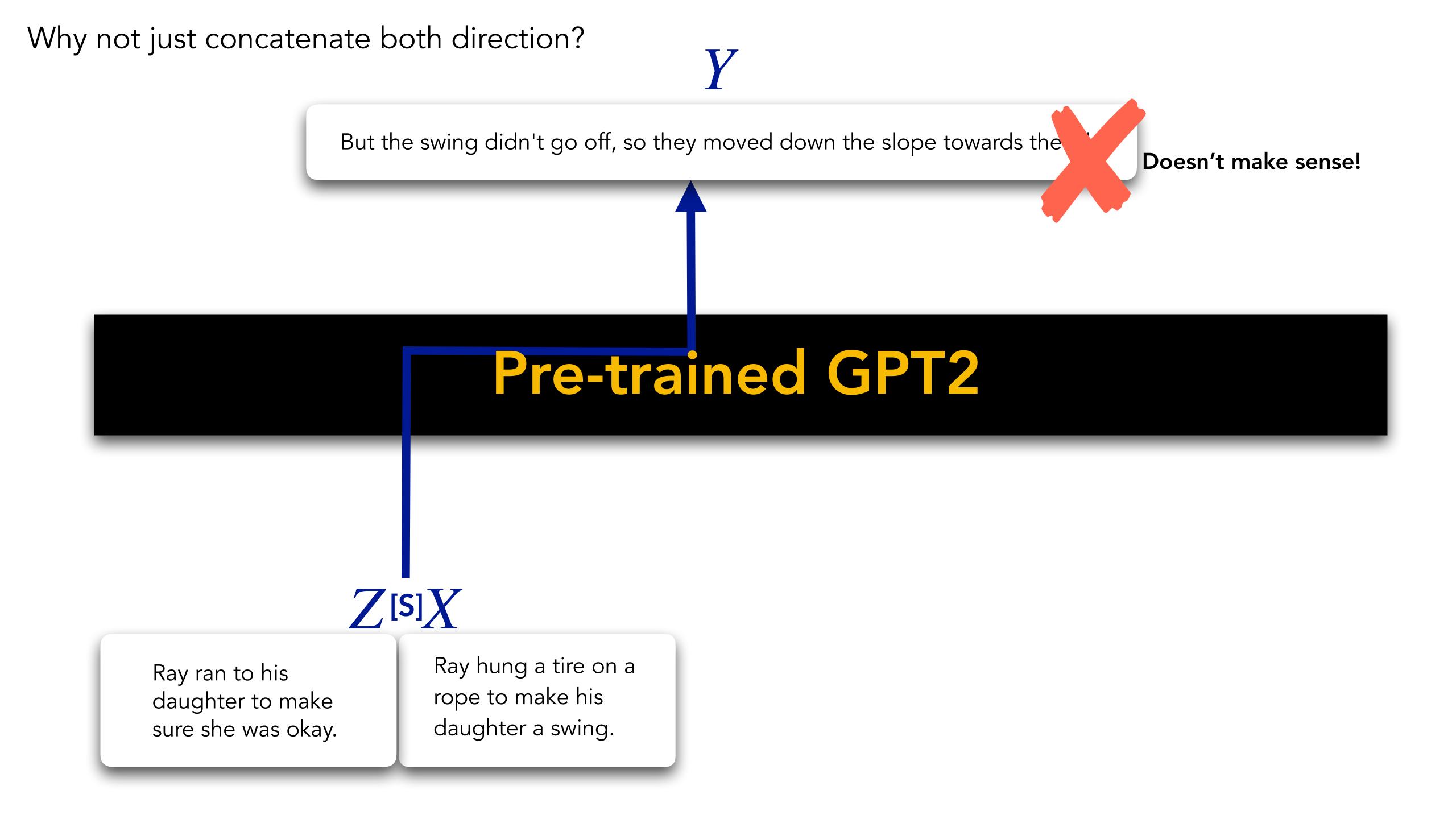
#### Counterfactual Reasoning

(Qin et al., 2019)

Pretrained Language Models are successful on many tasks...

# How are Pretrained LMs on the Nonmonotonic Reasoning?

Let's first see the abductive case... The little girl liked it and was thrilled at it. Pre-trained GPT2 Not able to do right to left! Ray hung a tire on a Ray ran to his rope to make his daughter to make daughter a swing. sure she was okay.



As the swing moved, the girl's cries sounded in his ears.



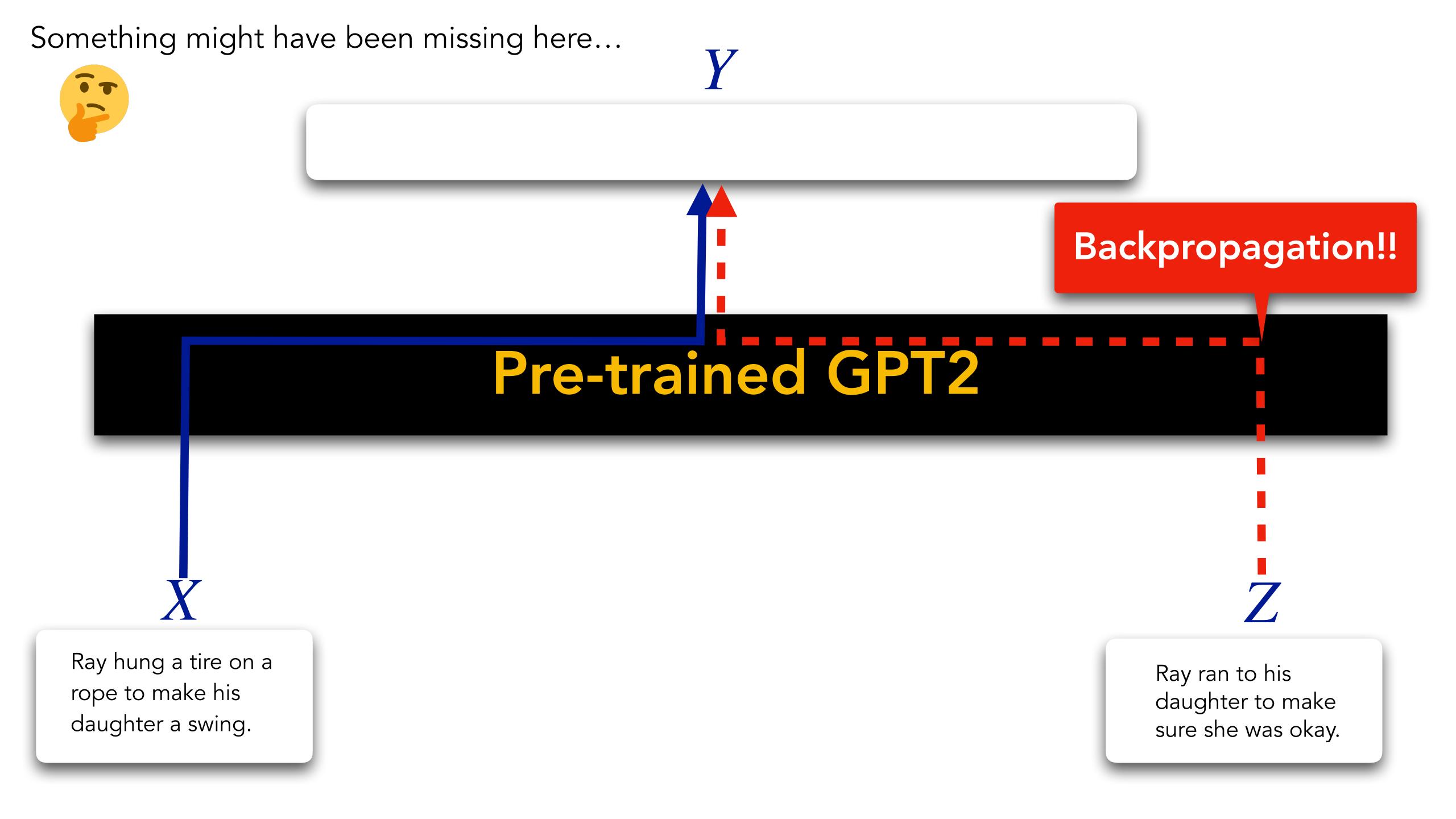
Doesn't make sense!

## Pre-trained GPT2

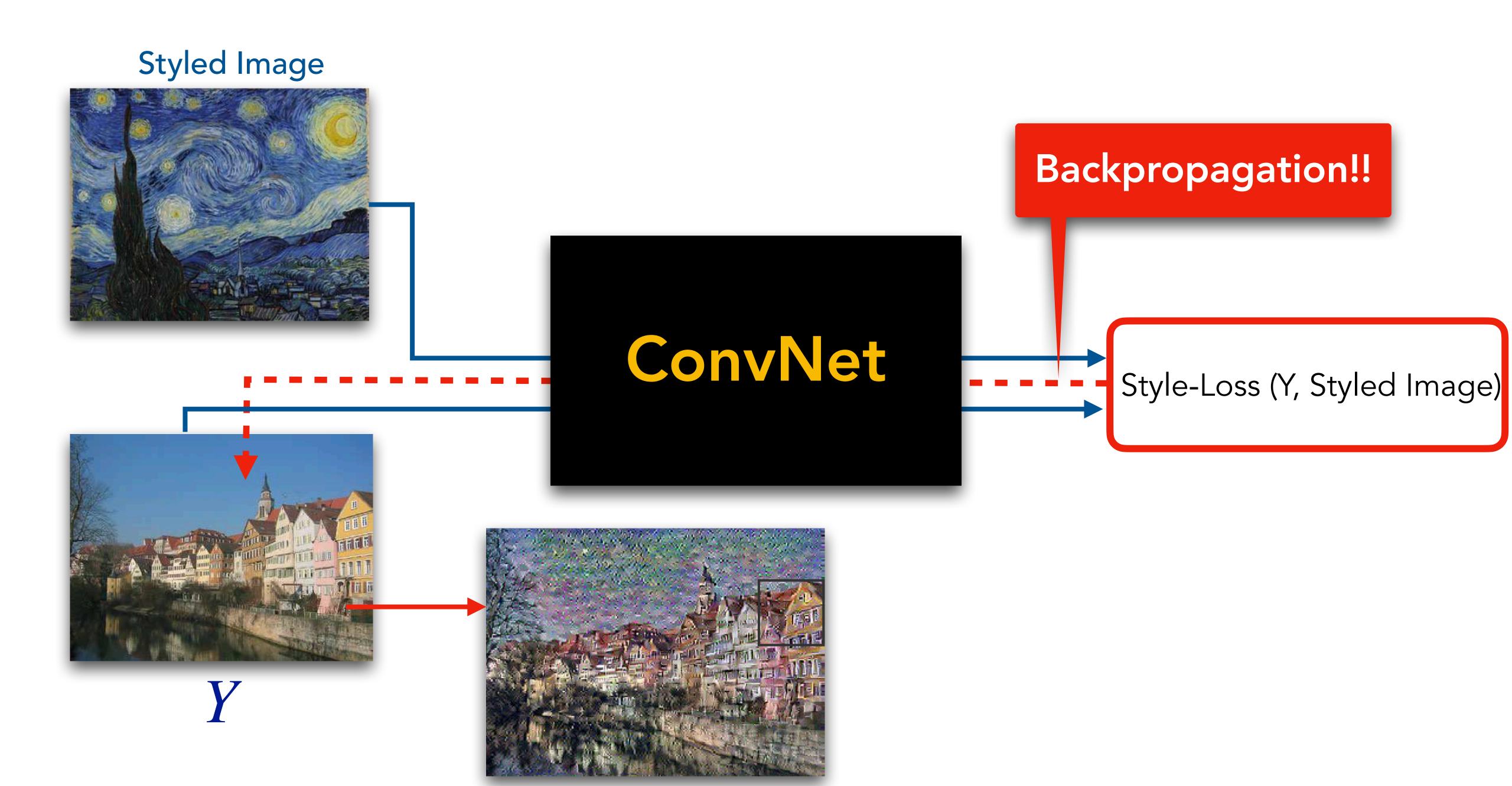
 $\mathbb{Z}[S]X$ 

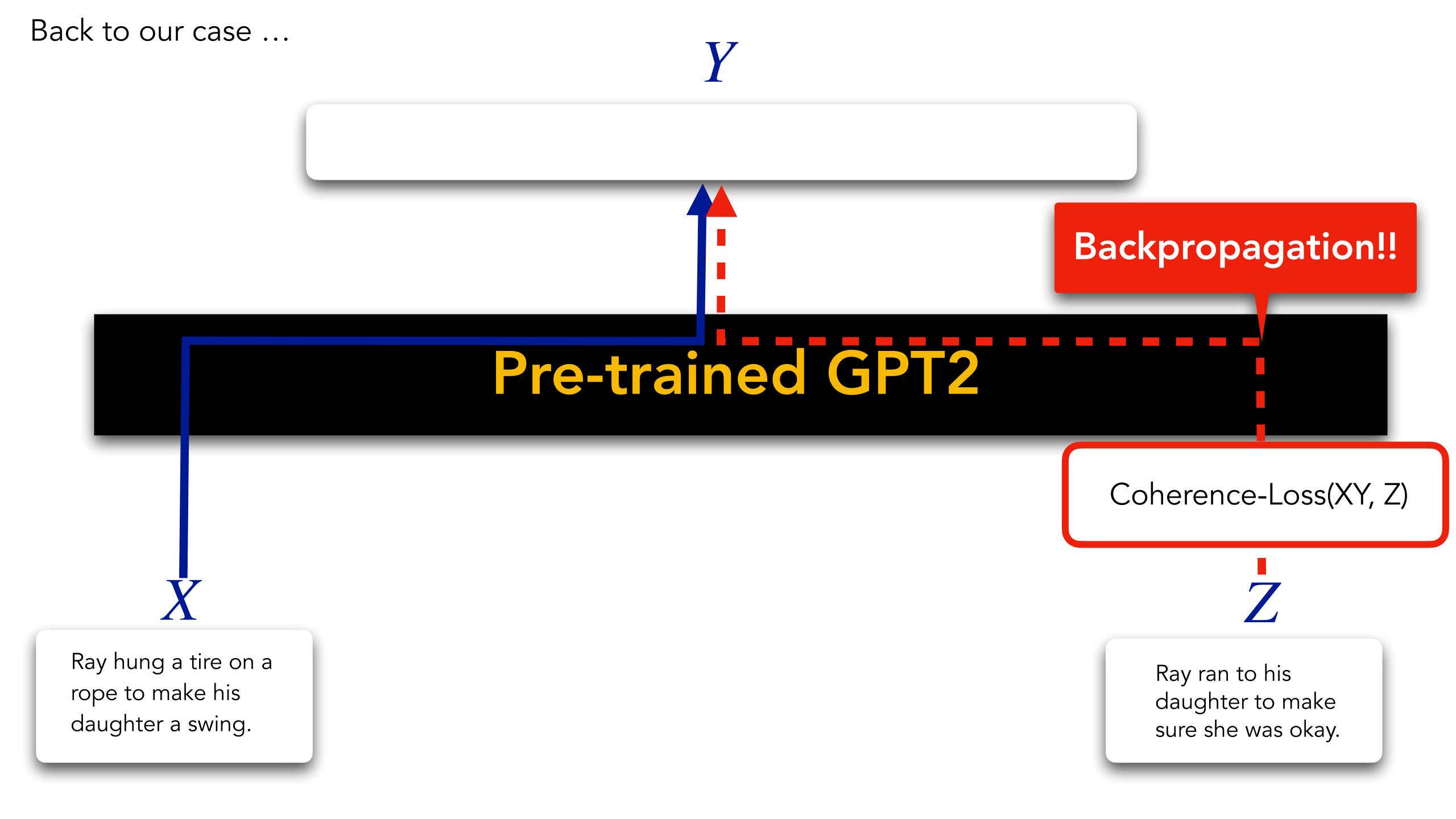
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.



Inspired by "Image Style Transfer" (Gatys et al, 2016)...







# DELOREAN

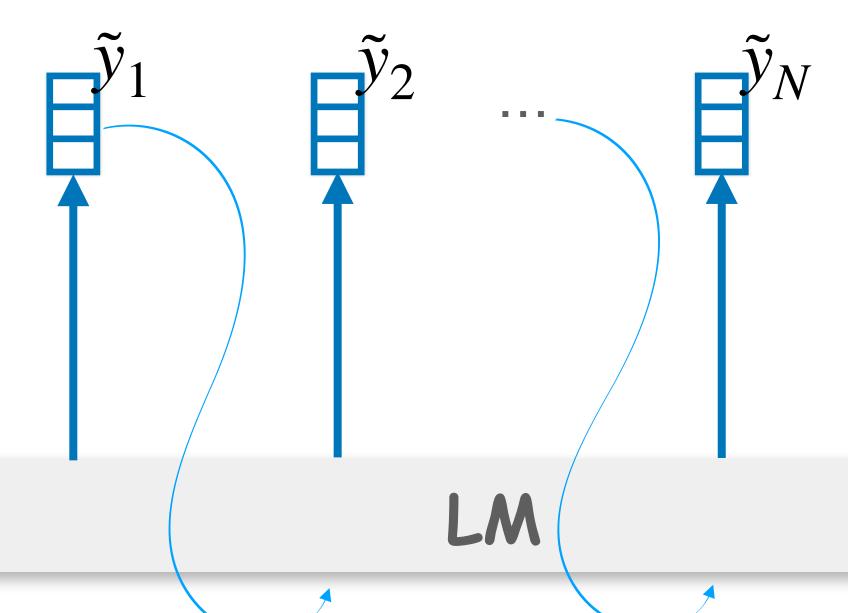
(DEcoding for nonmonotonic LOgical REAsoNing)



#### Initialization

Just as how you do regular decoding



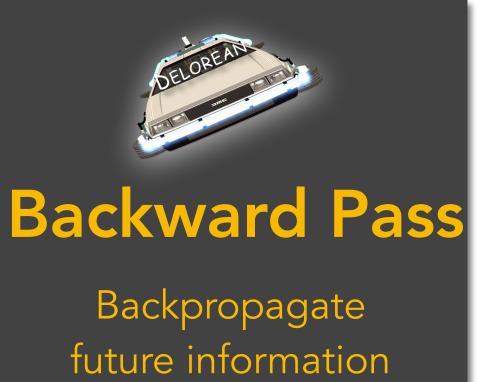




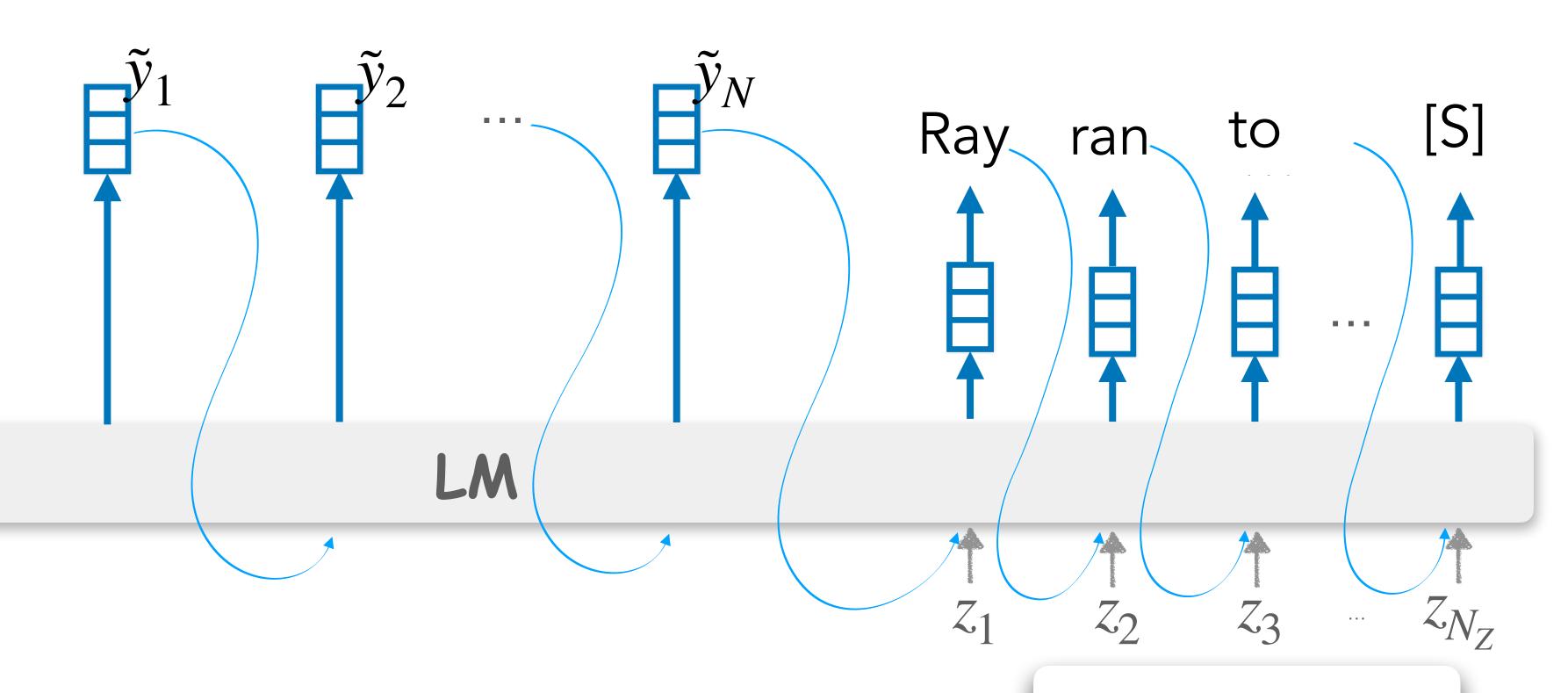
Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.

Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.





Y



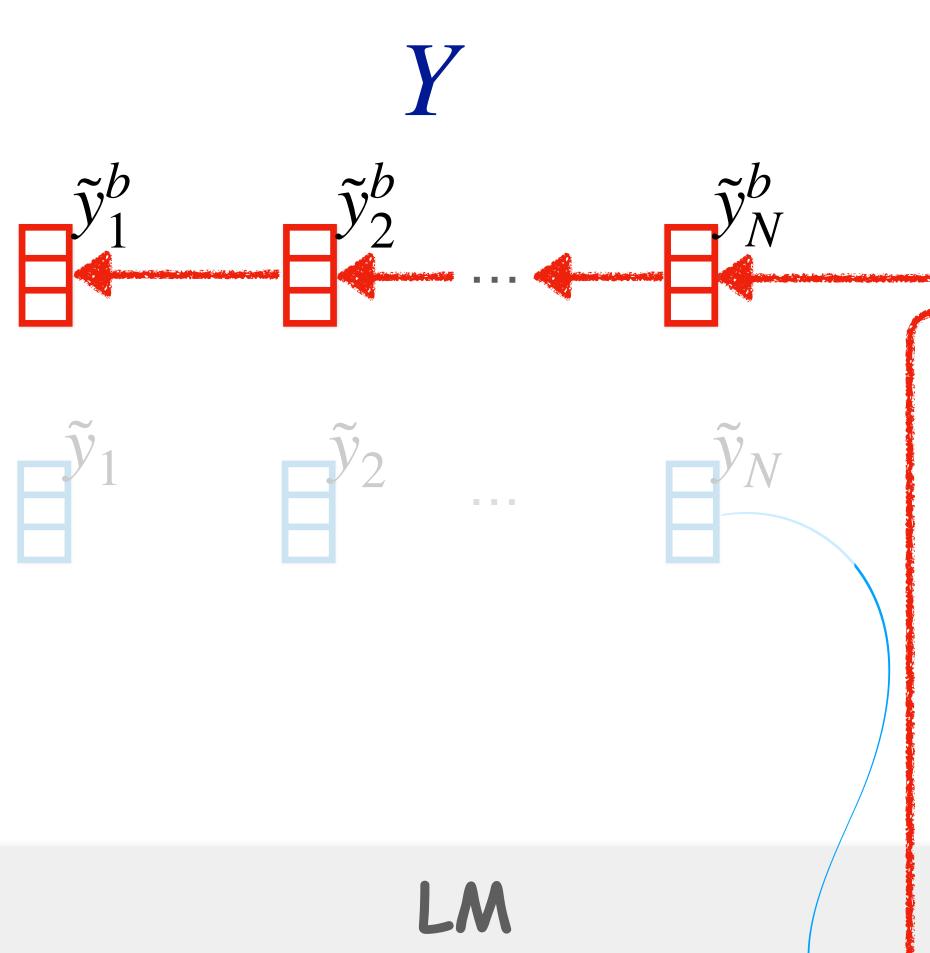
Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.

X

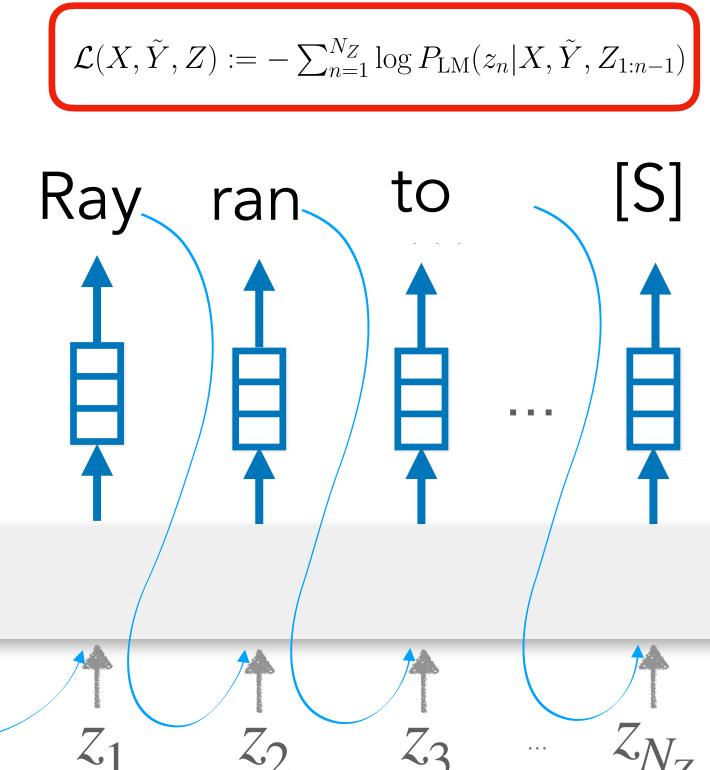
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.



Backpropagate future information Loss(ZIX,Y)



Backpropagation



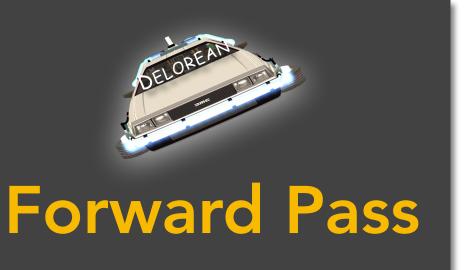
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.



Ray hung a tire on a

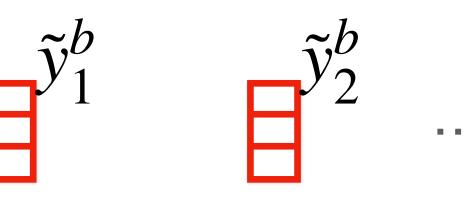
rope to make his

daughter a swing.



Mix both past and future information







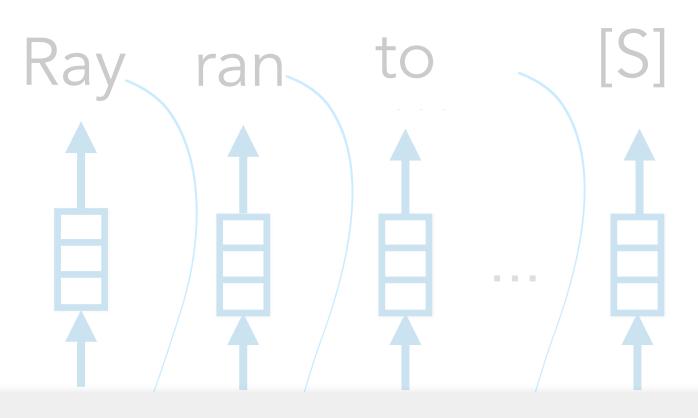
#### Backpropagation

$$\mathcal{L}(X, \tilde{Y}, Z) := -\sum_{n=1}^{N_Z} \log P_{\mathrm{LM}}(z_n | X, \tilde{Y}, Z_{1:n-1})$$

$$\tilde{y}_1$$

$$\tilde{y}_2$$





#### LM

Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.





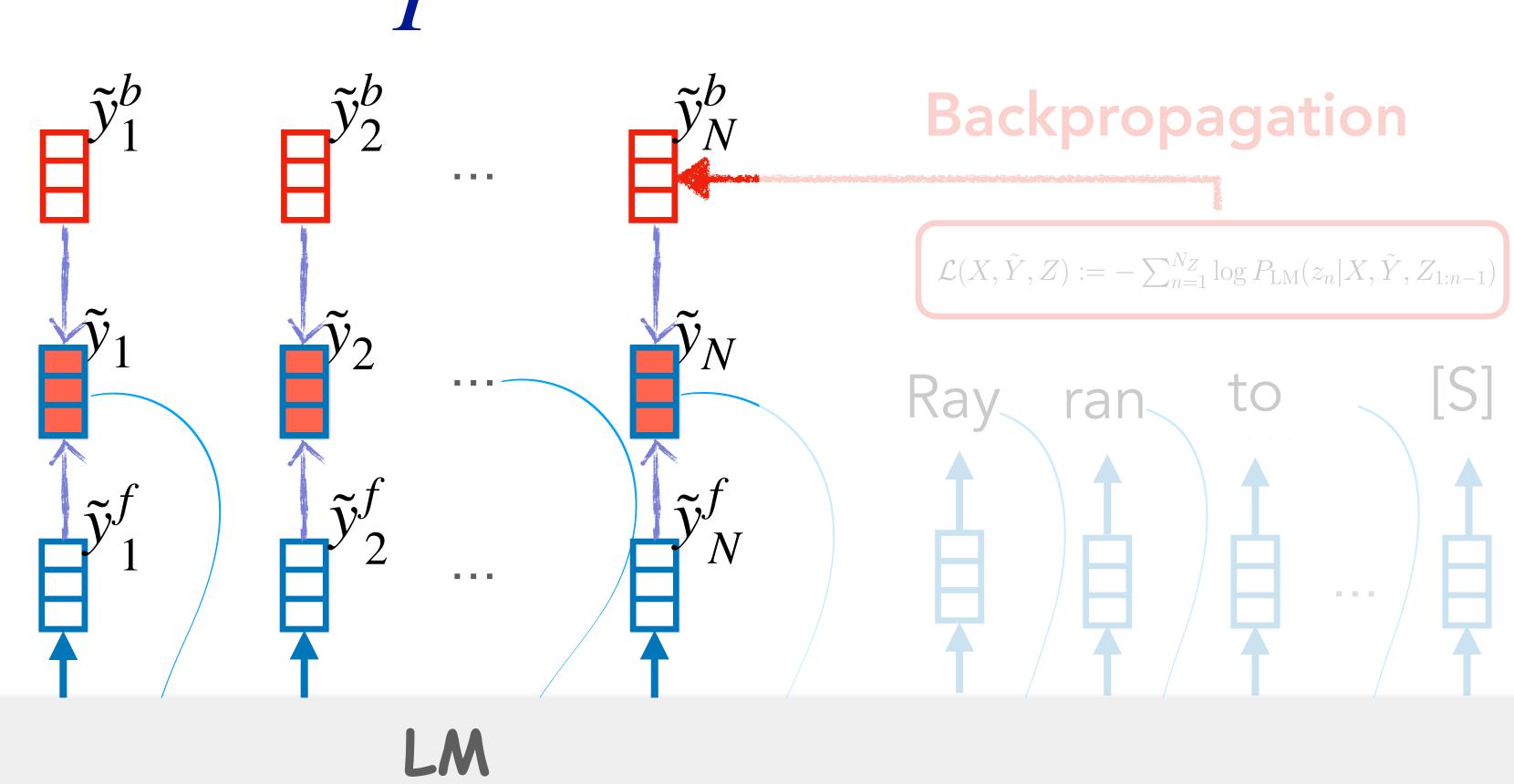
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.





#### Forward Pass

Mix both past and future information





Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.



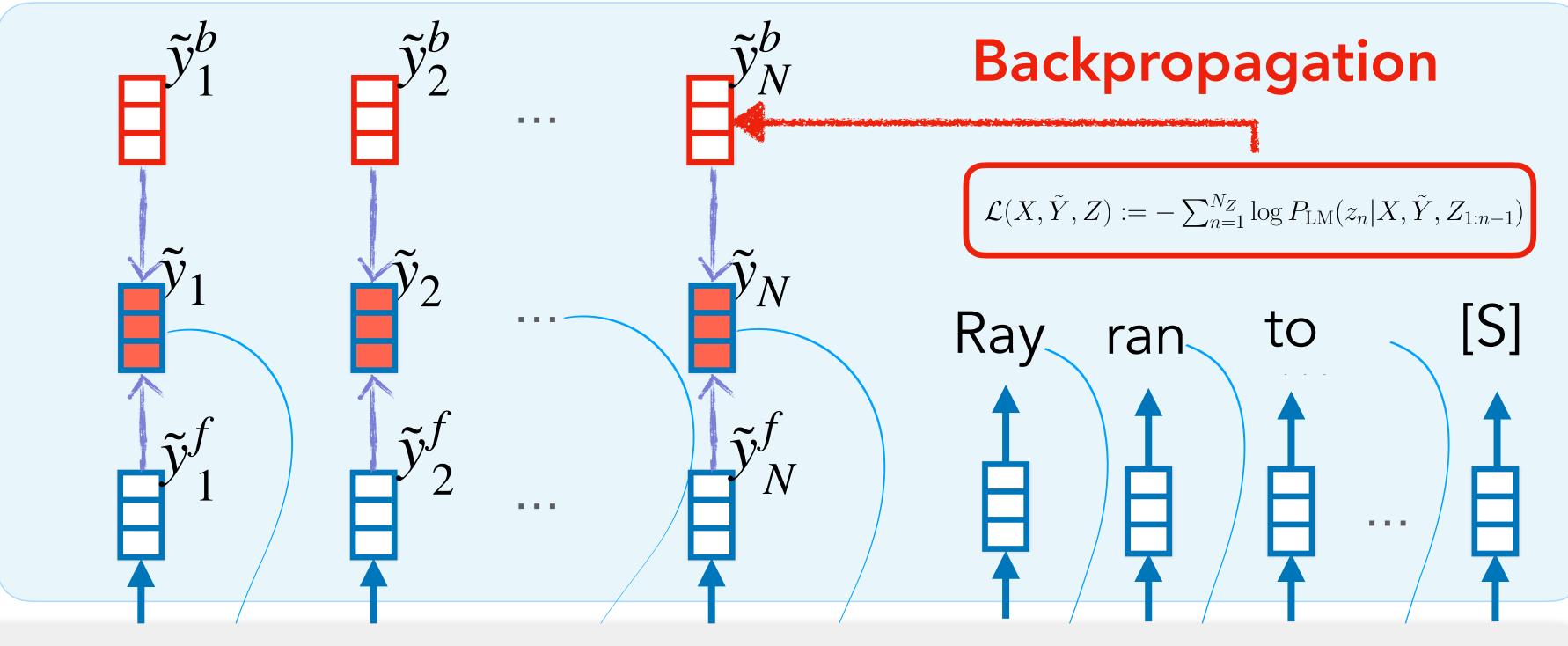
Ray ran to his daughter to make sure she was okay.





Repeat T times

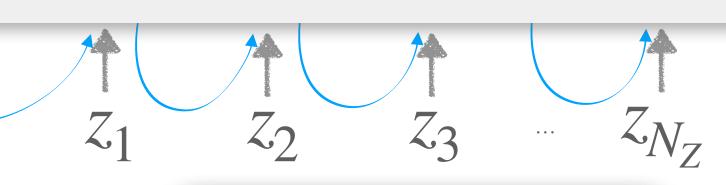








Ray hung a tire on a rope to make his daughter a swing.



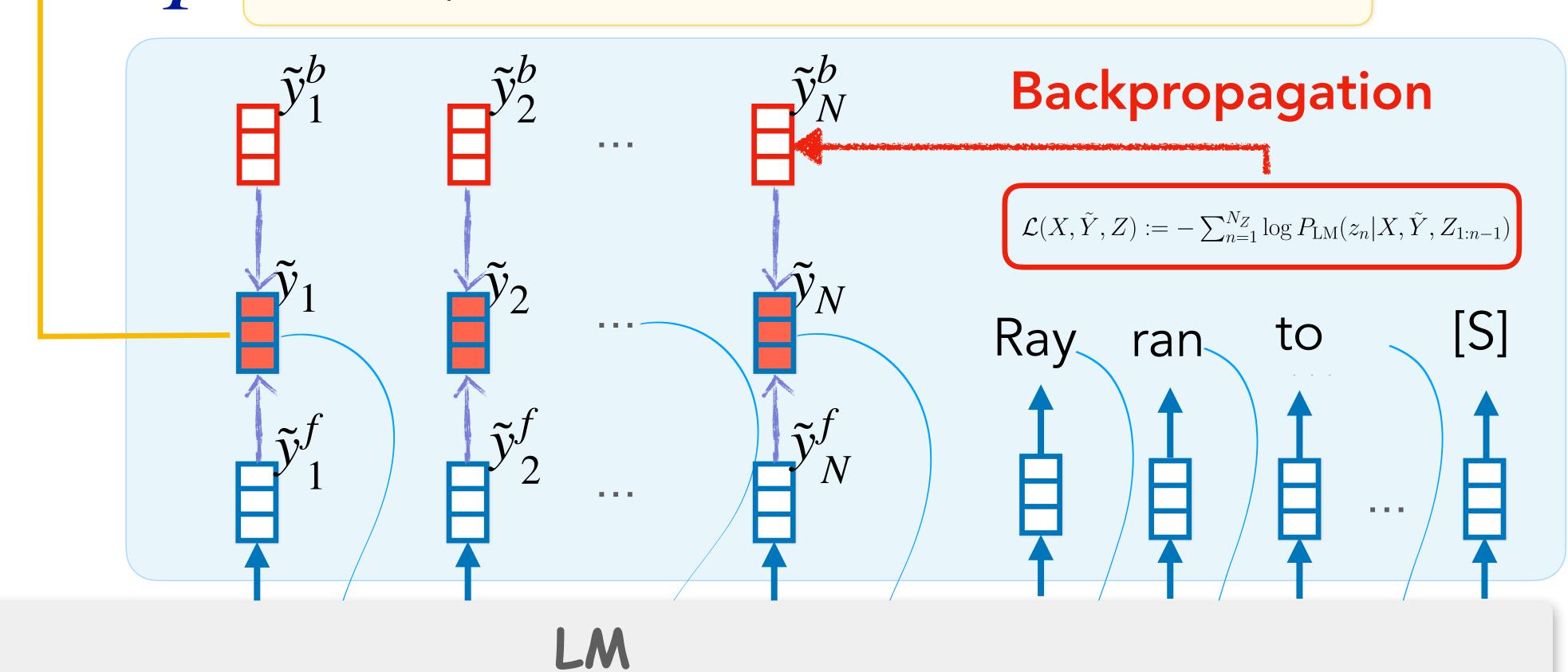
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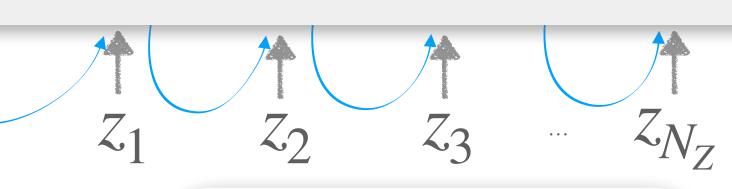
Sampling

Output: She hit the rope and the tire fell on top of her.



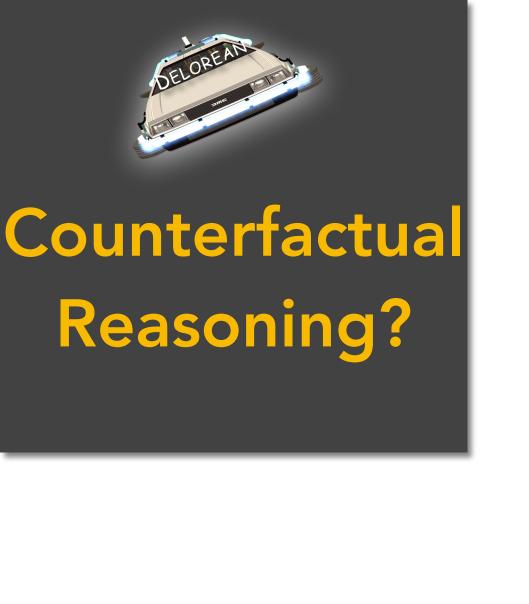


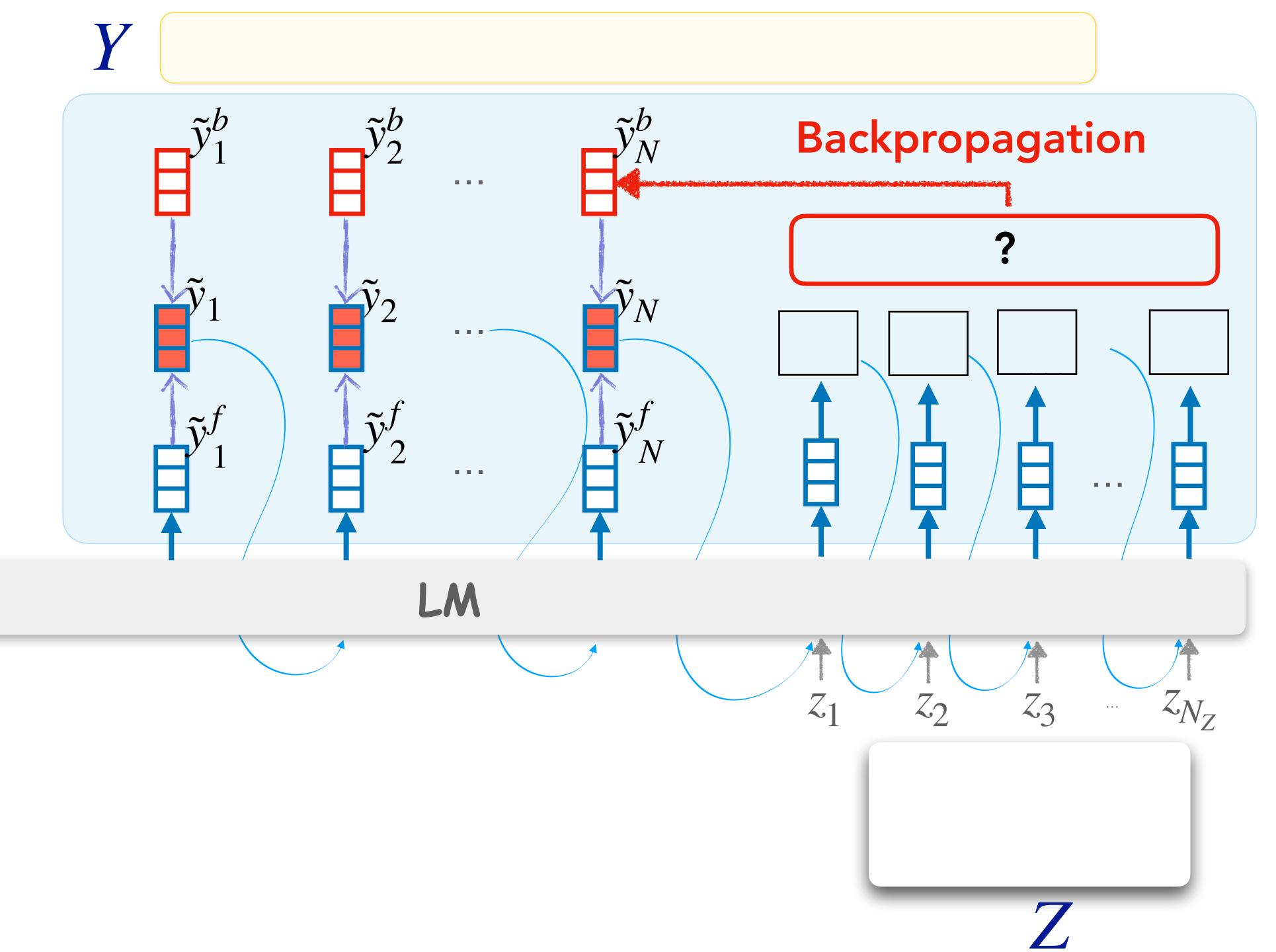
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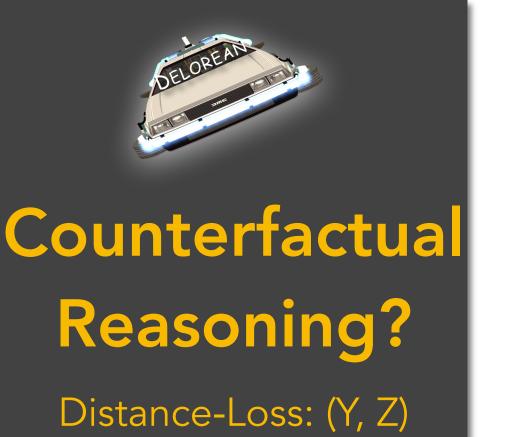


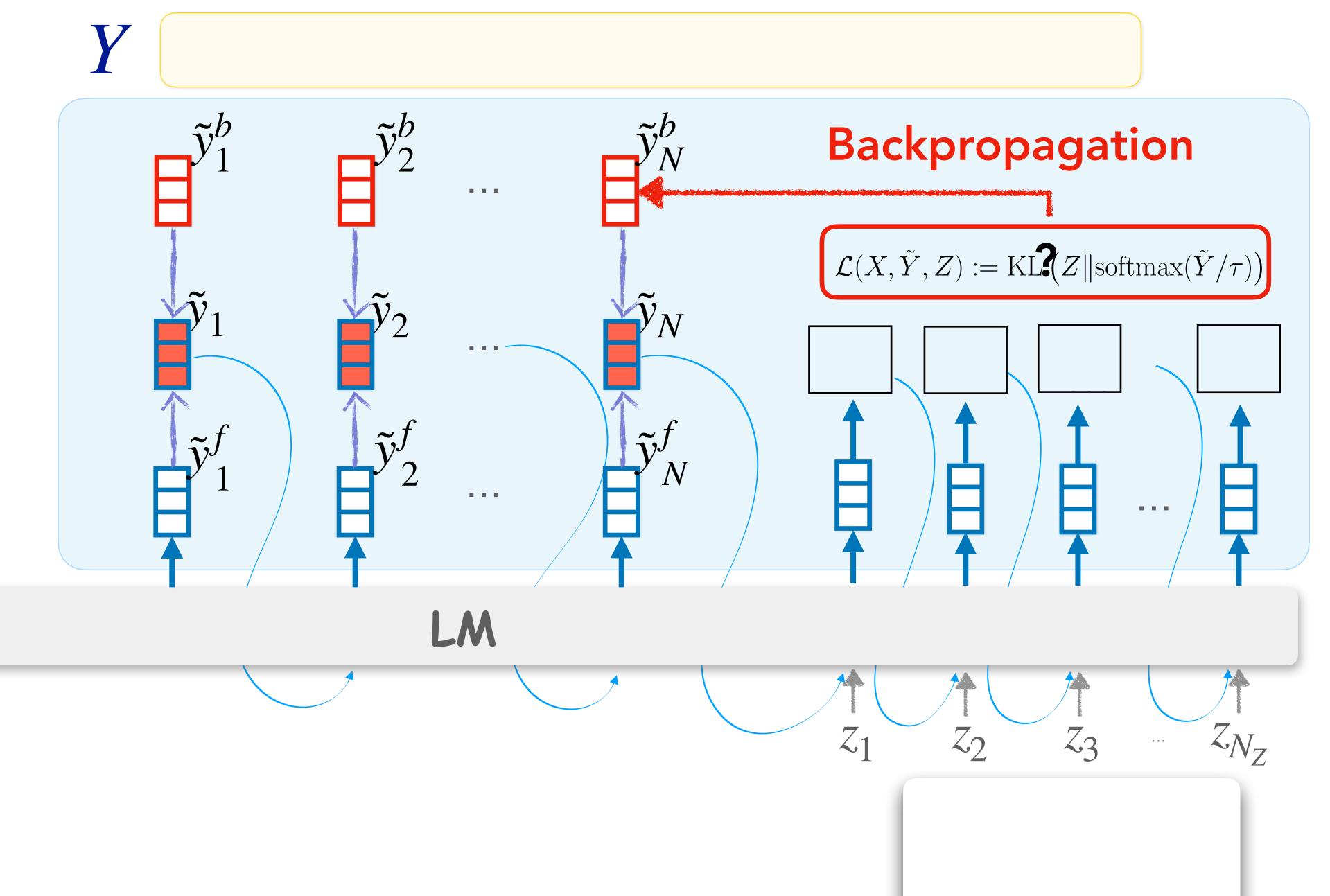
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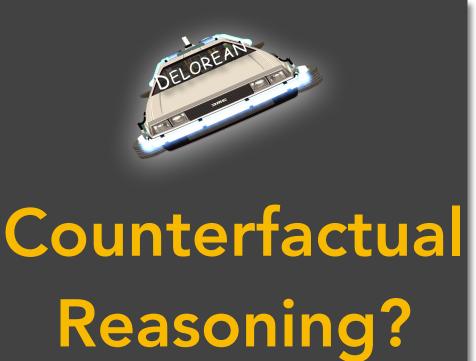






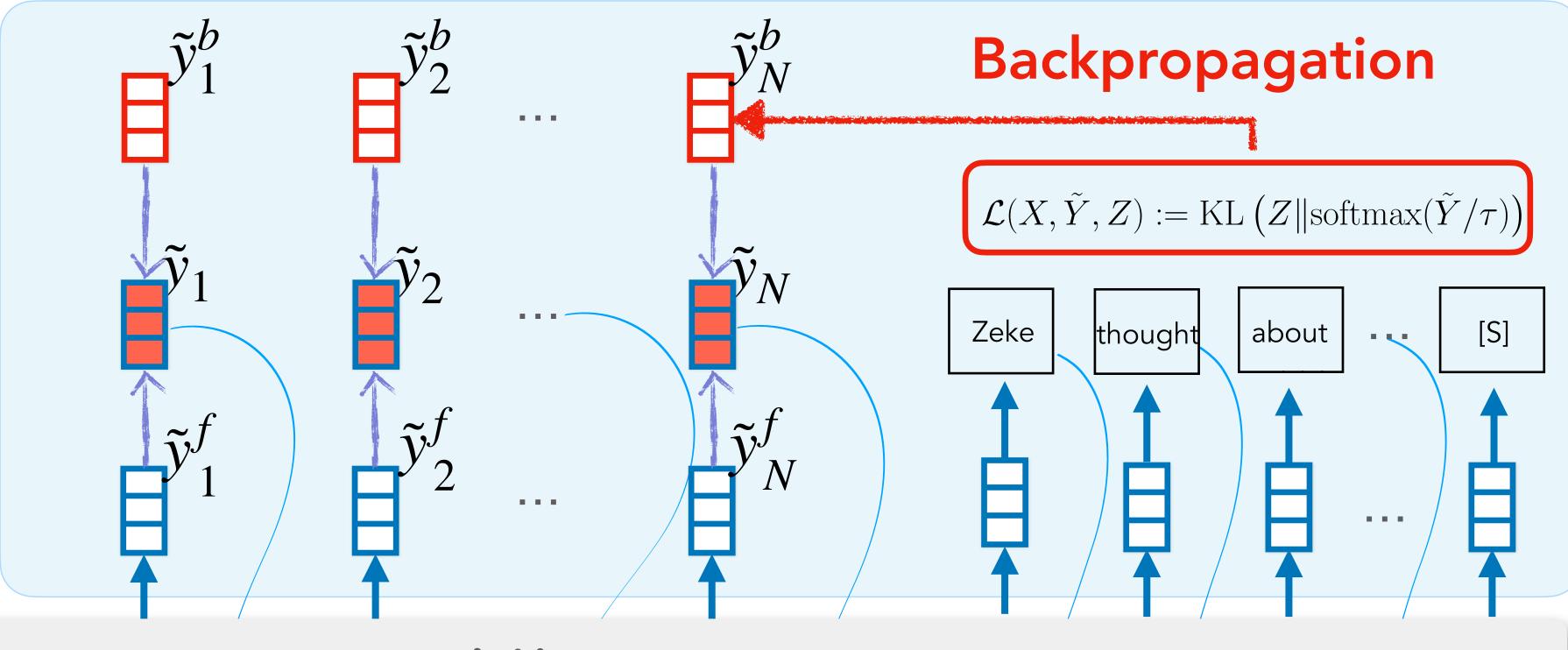






Distance-Loss: (Y, Z)



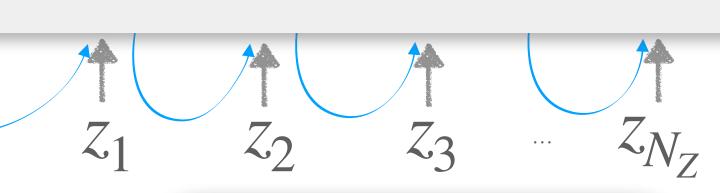


LM



Zeke was throwing a party.

[Counterfactual] All his friends
were dressing up for this Game
of Thrones themed party.



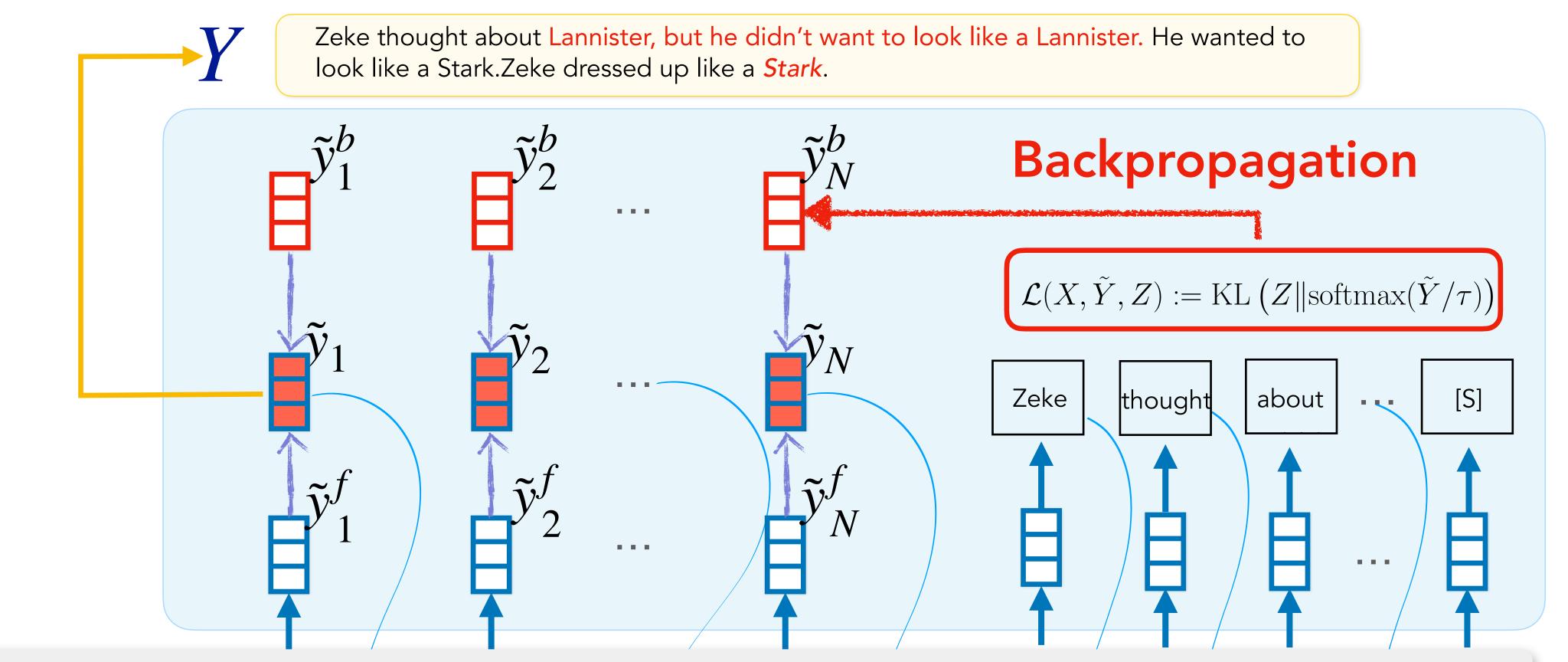
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Counterfactual Reasoning?

Distance-Loss: (Y, Z)

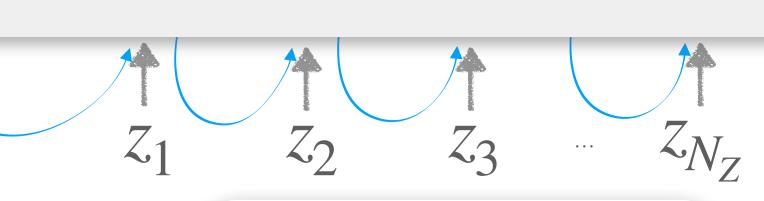


LM



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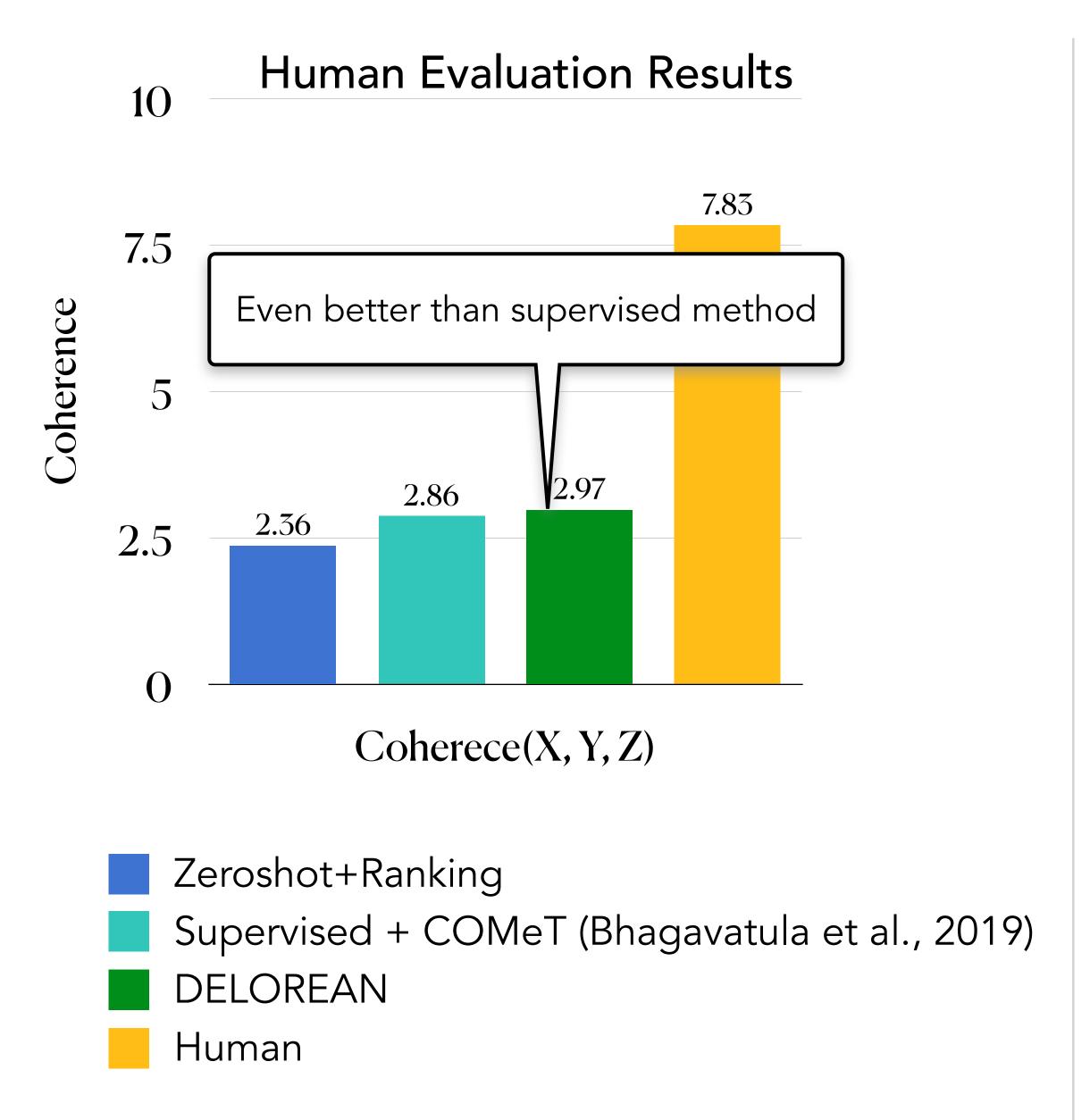
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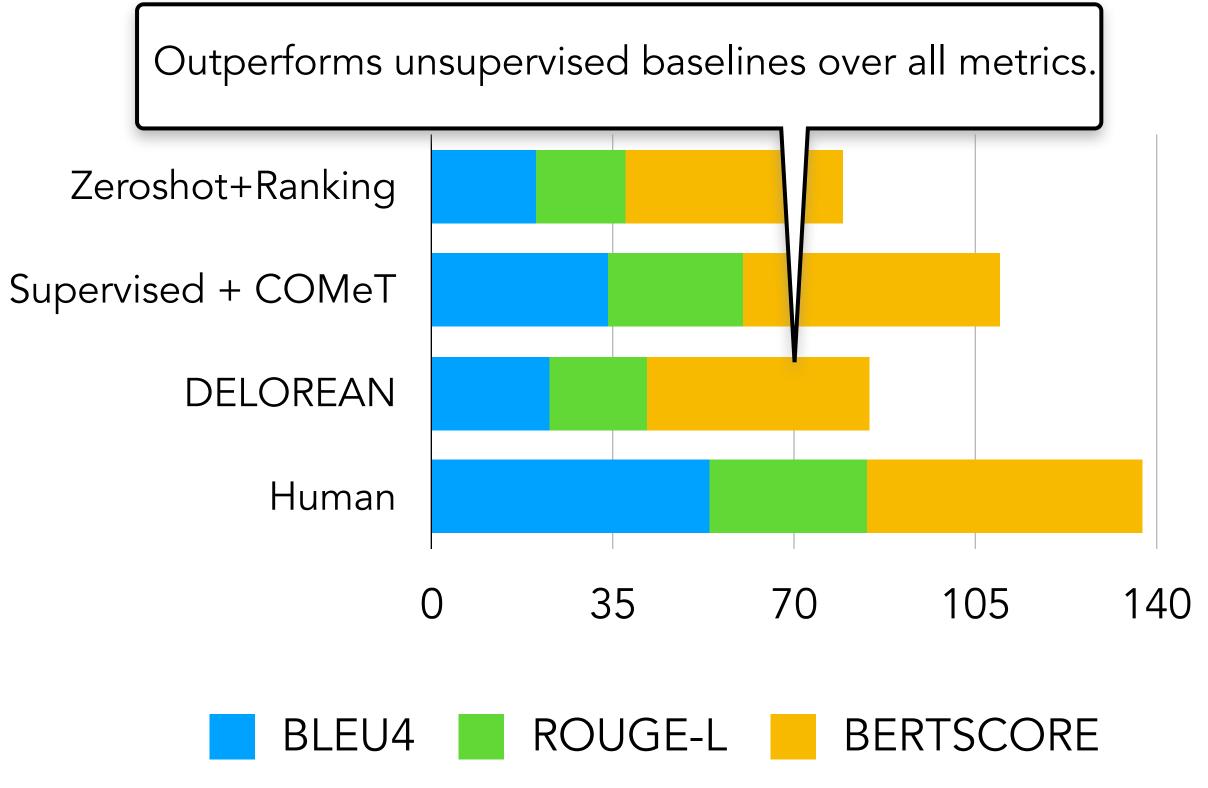
Zeke thought about being a vampire or a wizard. Then he decided on a scarier costume. Zeke dressed up like a skeleton.



## Abductive Reasoning



#### **Automatic Evaluation Results**



Please check the paper for more baselines ...

Language

Counterfactual

Induction

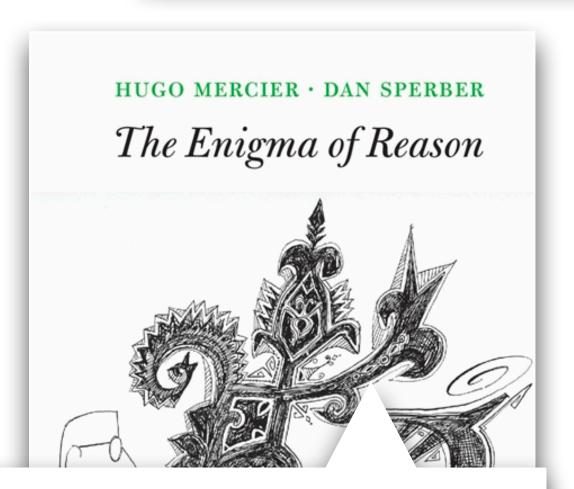
Deduction

Abduction

Reasoning as generative tasks

- As opposed to discriminative tasks (i.e., categorization)
- Because the space of reasoning in language is infinite

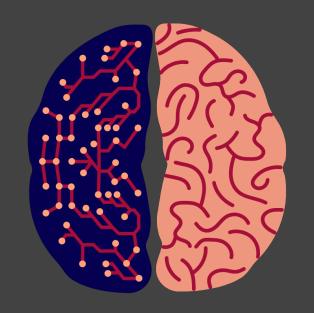
Reasoning



"thinking out loud"

We often think as we speak, on the fly, word-by-word without enumerating all possible alternative sentences

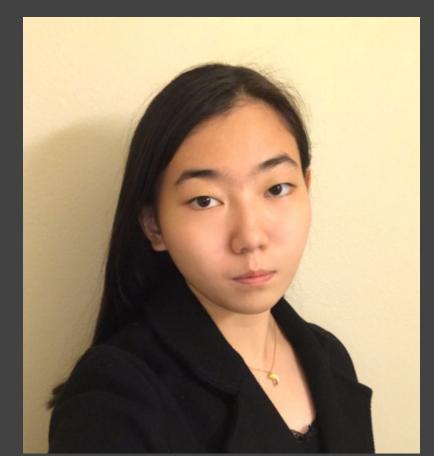
Reasoning serves the purpose of communication



# NEUROLOGIC DECODING

(Un)supervised Neural Text Generation with Predicate Logic Constraints NAACL 2021

Ximing Lu



Peter West

Rowan Zellers



Ronan LeBras

Chandra Choi Bhagavatula





Yejin

# Seq2Seq

#### Machine Translation

X

The physician told the baker that she had cancer.

Y

Der Arzt sagte dem Bäckerin, dass er Krebs habe.

Y



#### Dialogue Response

X

type	hotel
count	182
dogs allowed	don't care

Y

There are 182 hotels if you do not care whether dogs are allowed .

# Language Model

#### COMMONGEN

X

{ food, table, sit, front }

Y

The man sat with his food at the front of the table.



#### Image Captioning

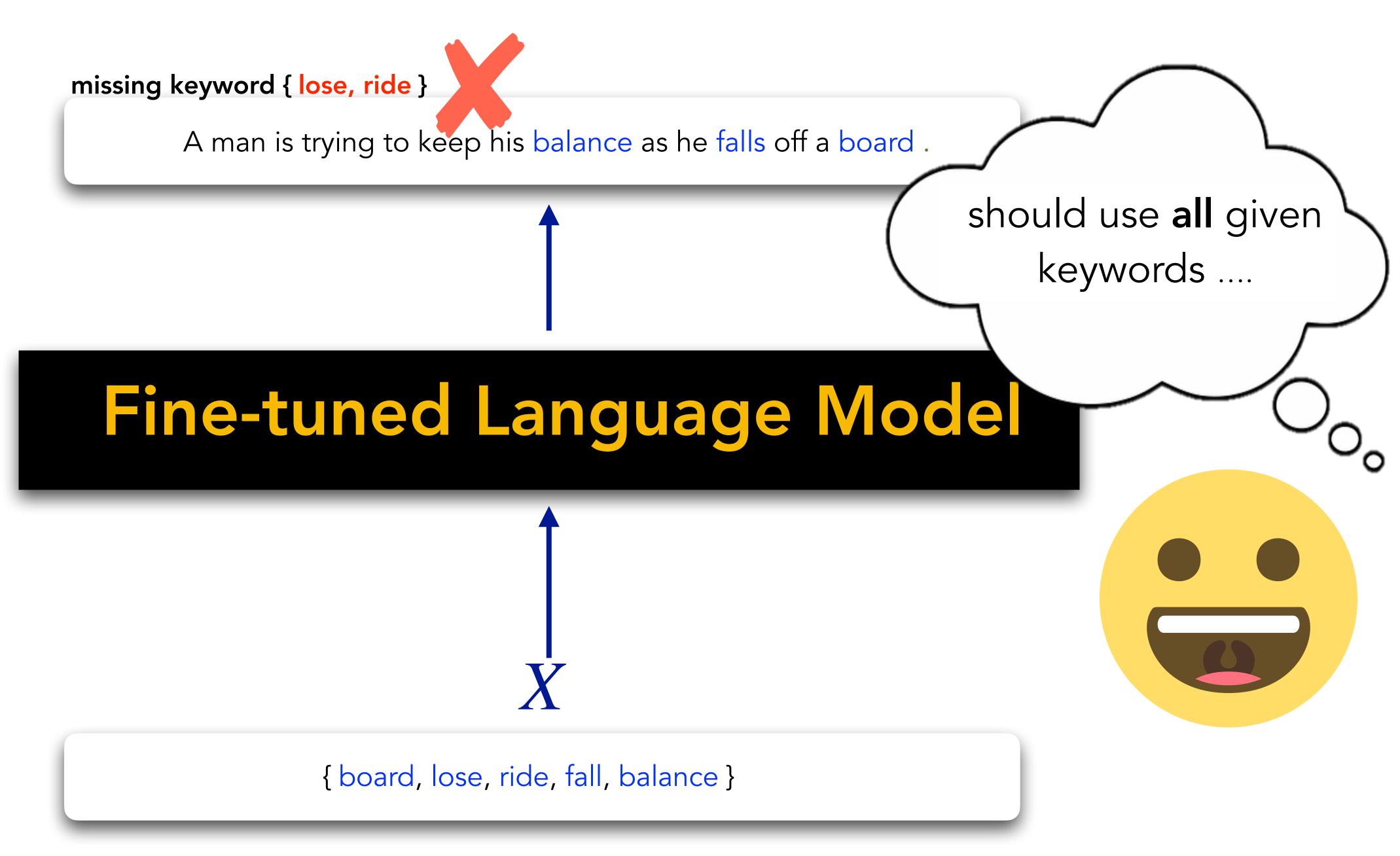
X



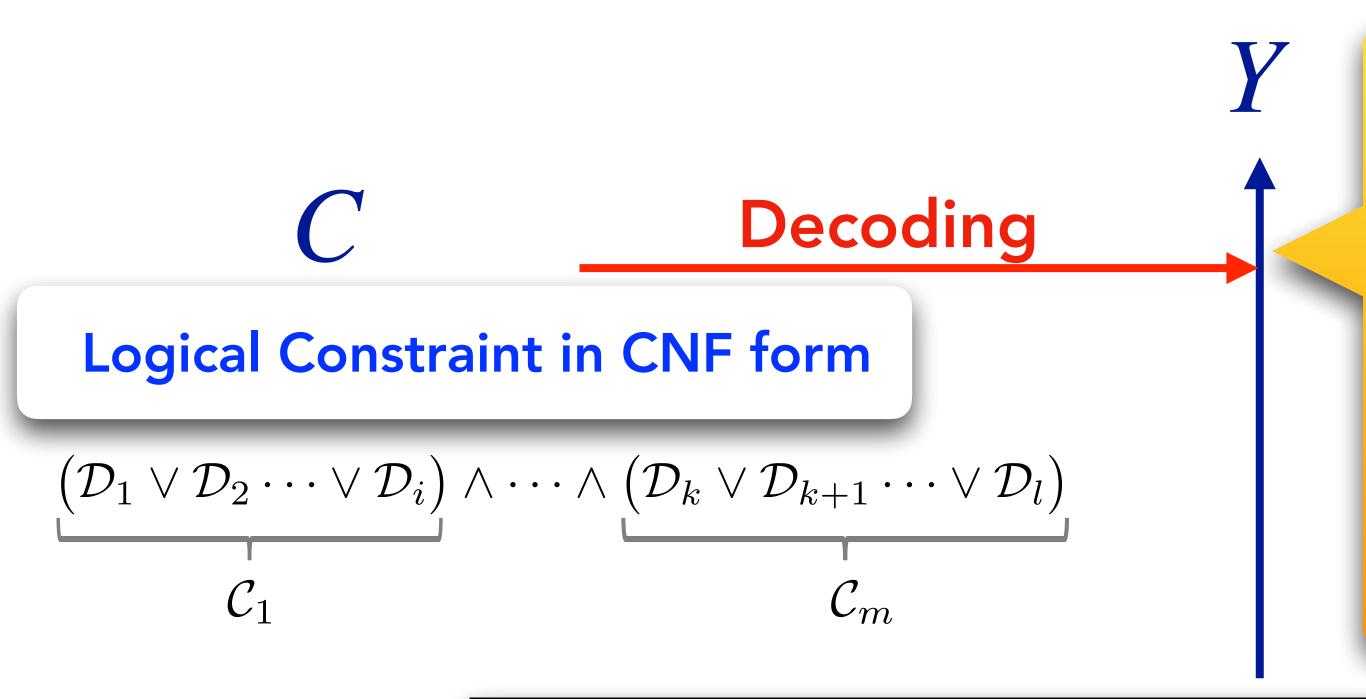
Y

Man in blue wetsuit is surfing on wave.

#### COMMONGEN (Lin et al. EMNLP 2020)



# NEUROLOGIC DECODING



Advanced beam search with diverse partial solutions of CNF in consideration of four dynamic states of clauses:

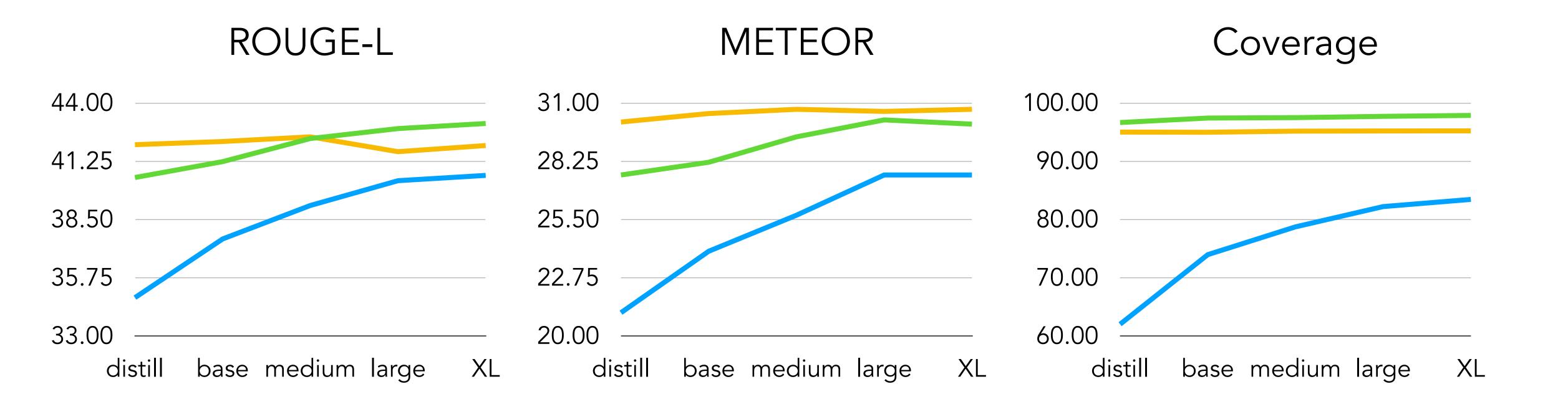
- reversible unsatisfaction
- irreversible unsatisfaction
  - reversible satisfaction
  - irreversible satisfaction

# Language Model



## COMMONGEN (Zero-shot)

- beam search (supervised)
- NeuroLogic (supervised)
- NeuroLogic (zero-shot)



Unsupervised NeuroLogic outperforms supervised approaches

Unsupervised NeuroLogic on Smaller networks outperforms supervised approaches on larger networks!

# Path to commonsense?



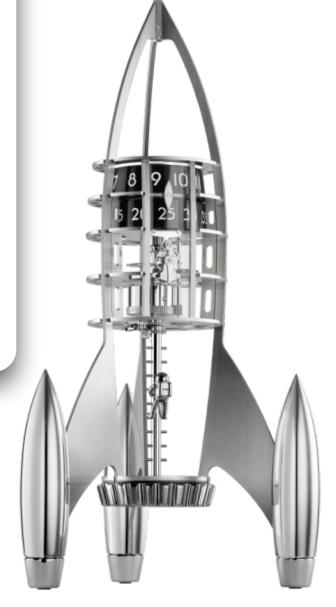
Obligatory Controversial Remarks of the Day

Neural Symbolic Language Knowledge Reasoning

1. the continuum between knowledge and reasoning

the interplay between reasoning and language generation

3. the blend between neural vs symbolic representation



# Path to commonsense?



Obligatory Controversial Remarks of the Day

Neural Symbolic Language

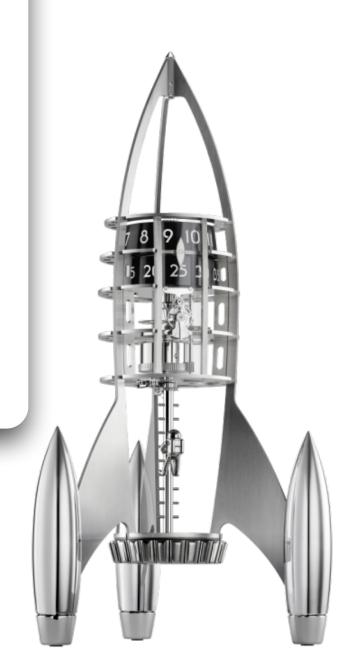
the continuum between knowledge and reasoning

2. the interplay between reasoning and language generation

the blend between neural vs symbolic representation

Knowledge

Reasoning



# (COMET-) ATOMIC $_{20}^{20}$ :

## On Symbolic and Neural Commonsense Knowledge Graphs

**AAAI** 2021

Jena Hwang



Chandra Bhagavatula



Ronan Le Bras



Jeff Da



Keisuke Sakaguchi



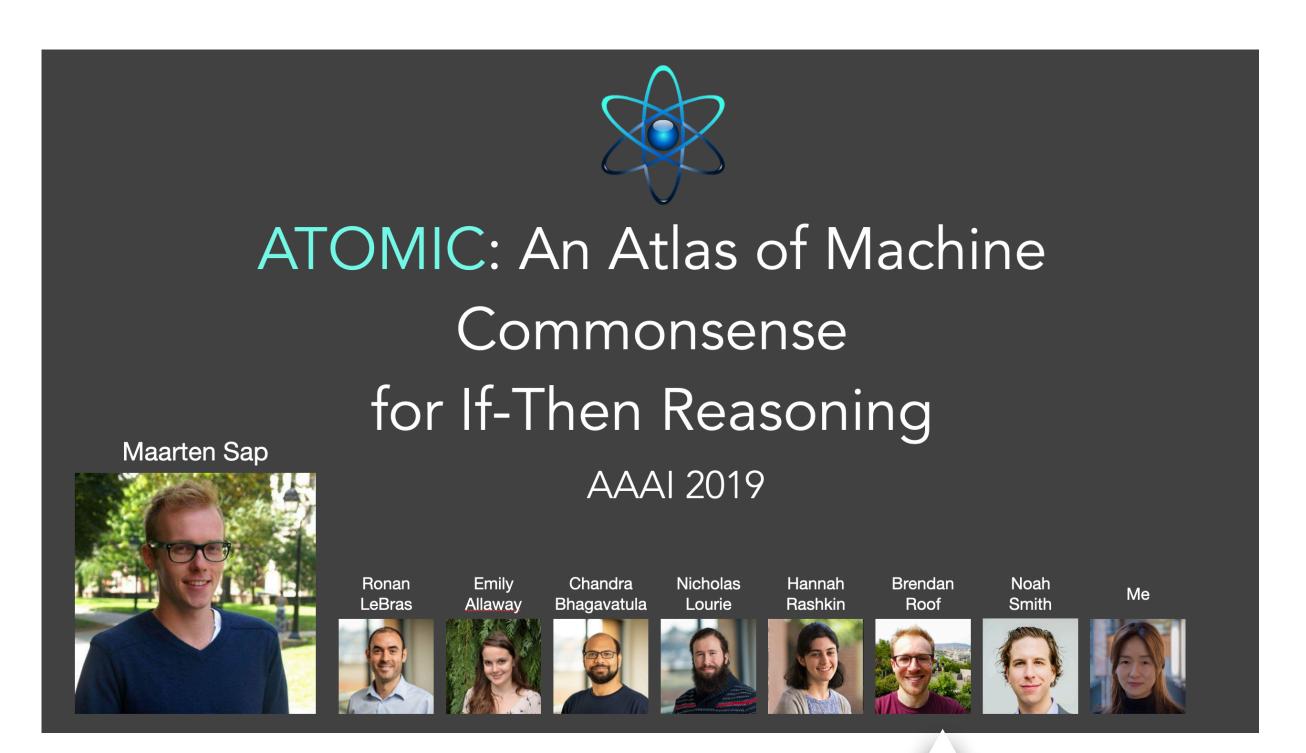
Antoine Bosseult

Me





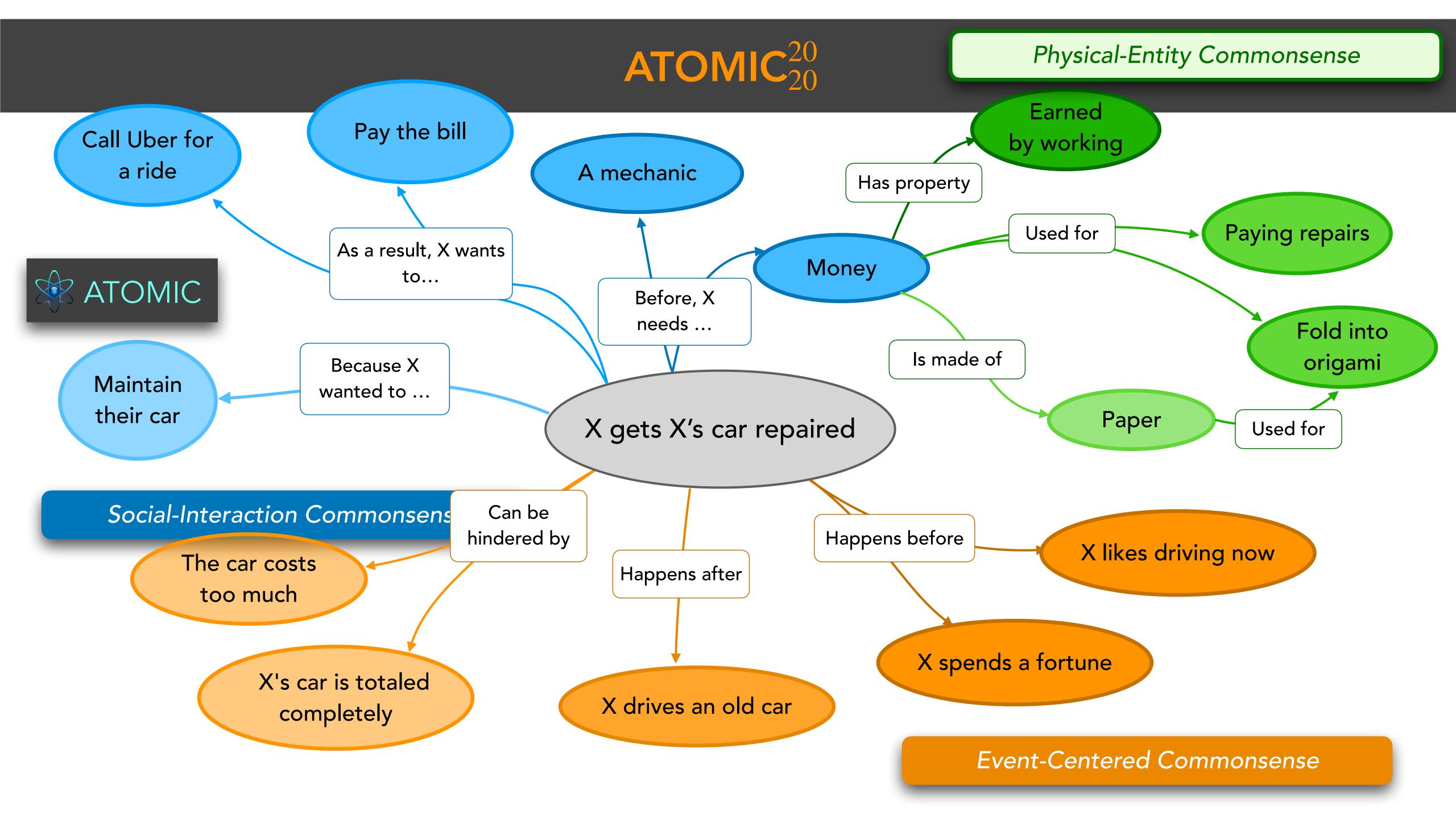
# Language models != knowledge models

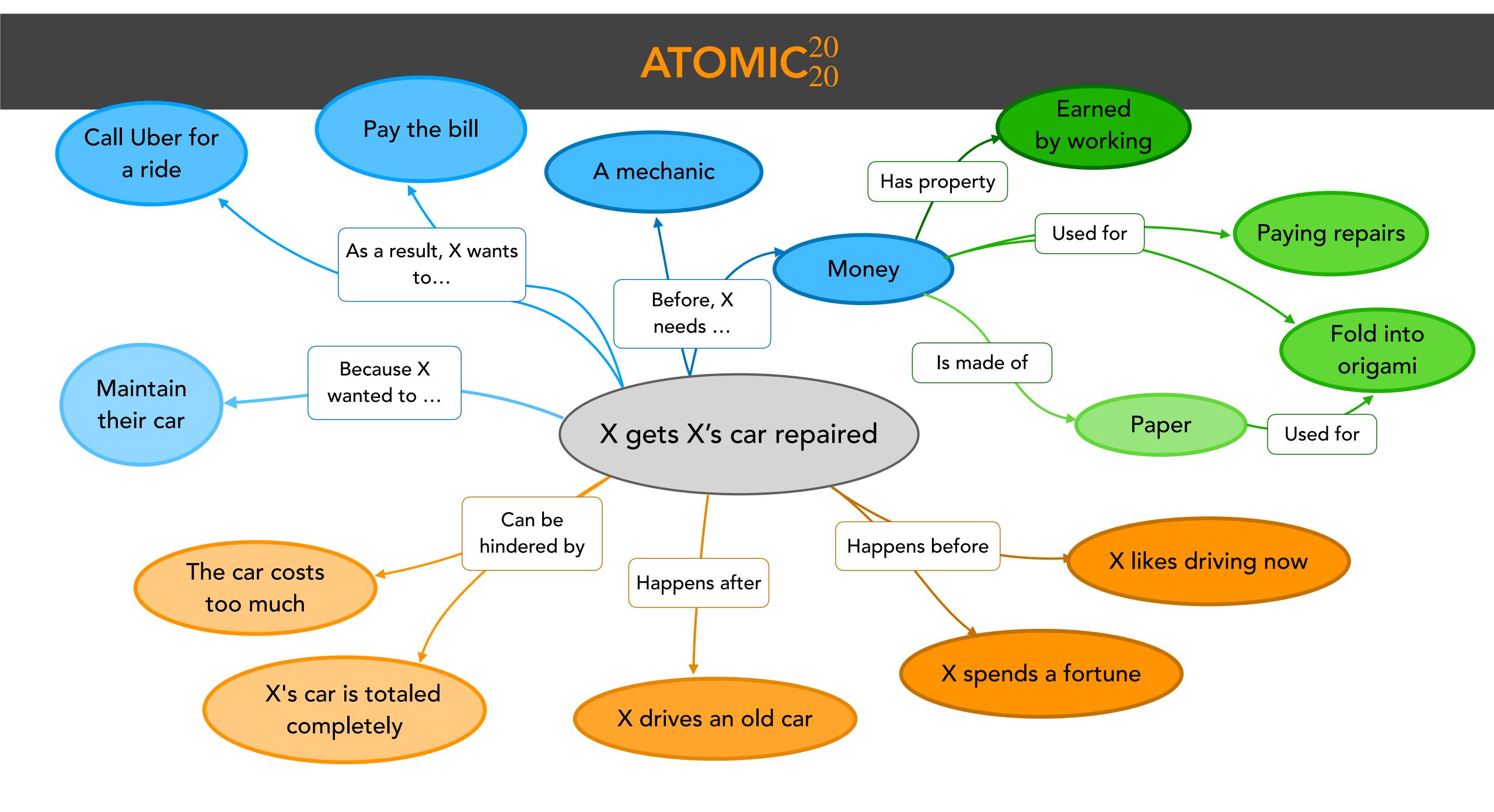




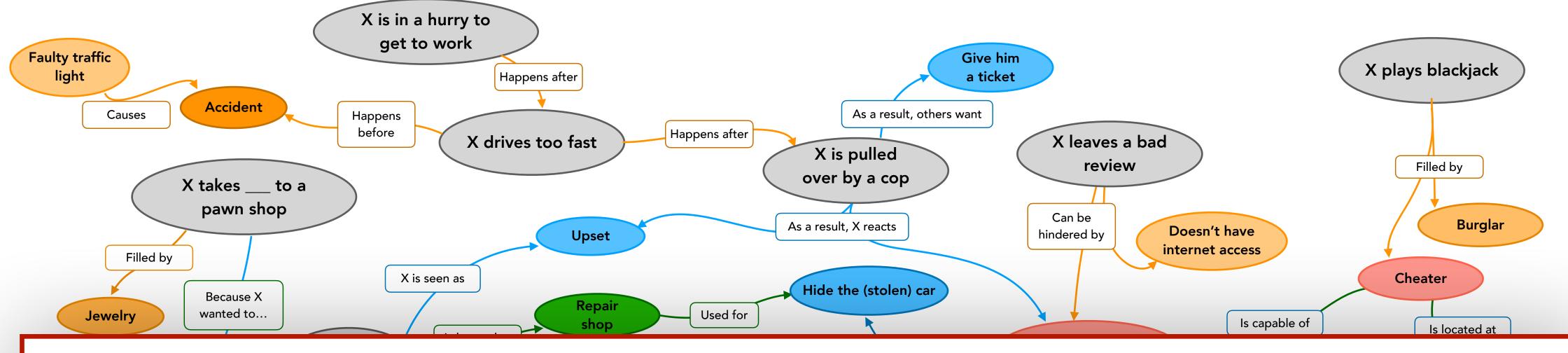
Symbolic commonsense knowledge graph

Neural commonsense model

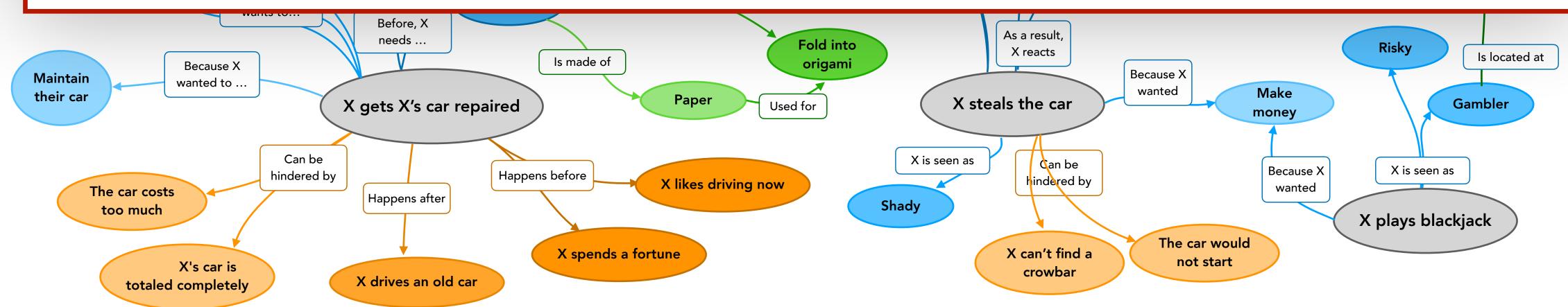


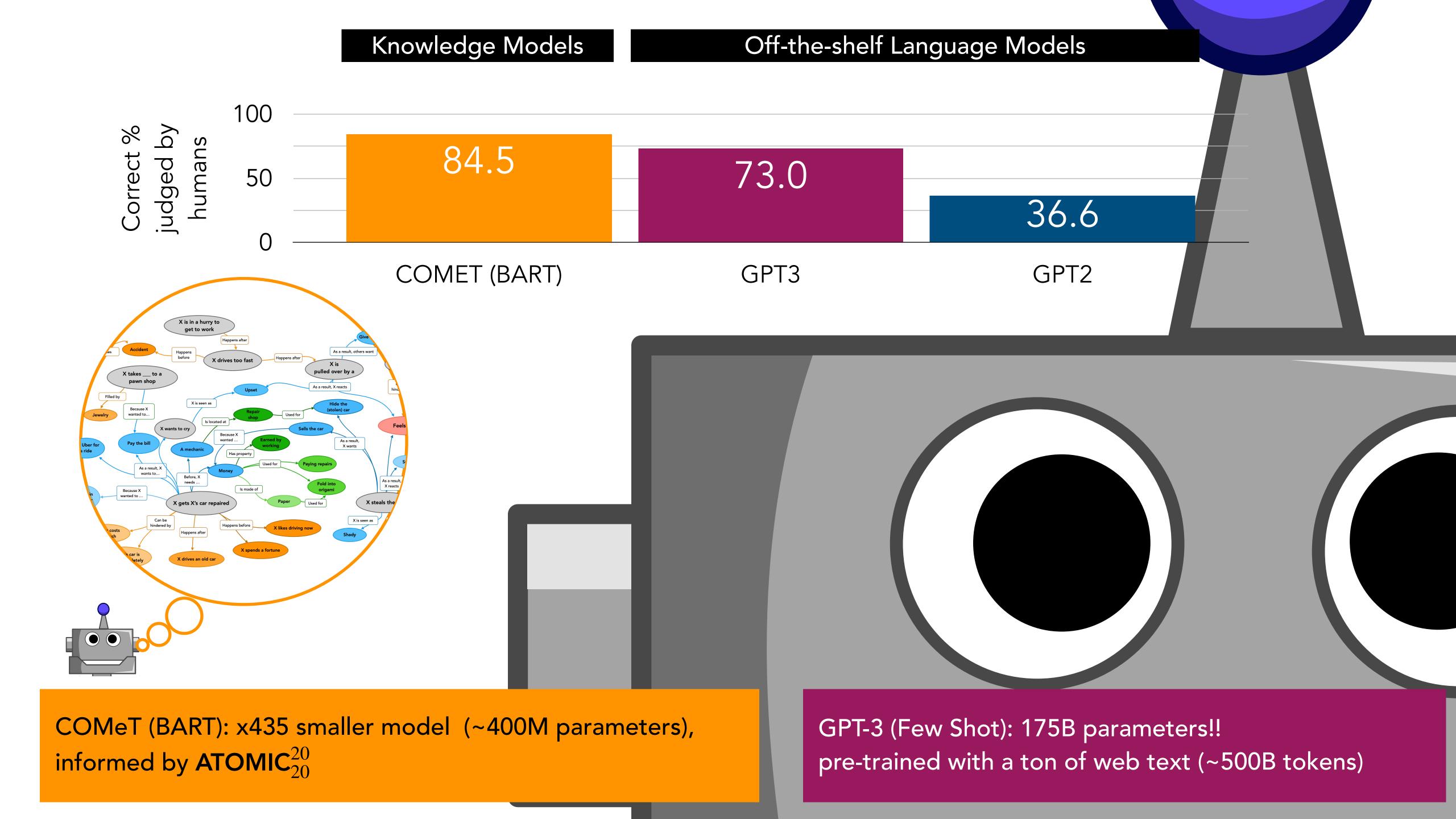


# $\mathsf{ATOMIC}_{20}^{20}$



# 1.33M commonsense if-then inferences 23 relations (or inference types)

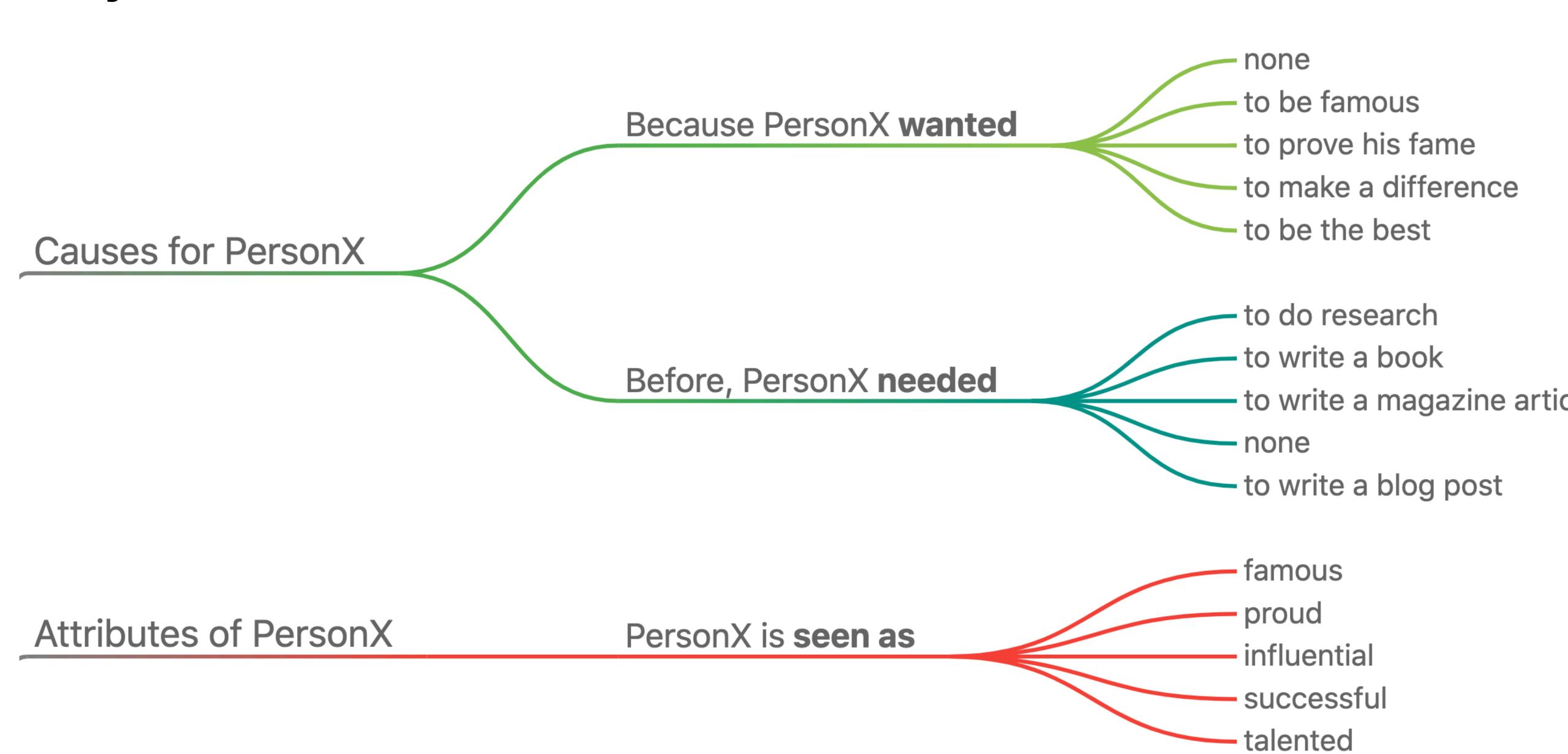




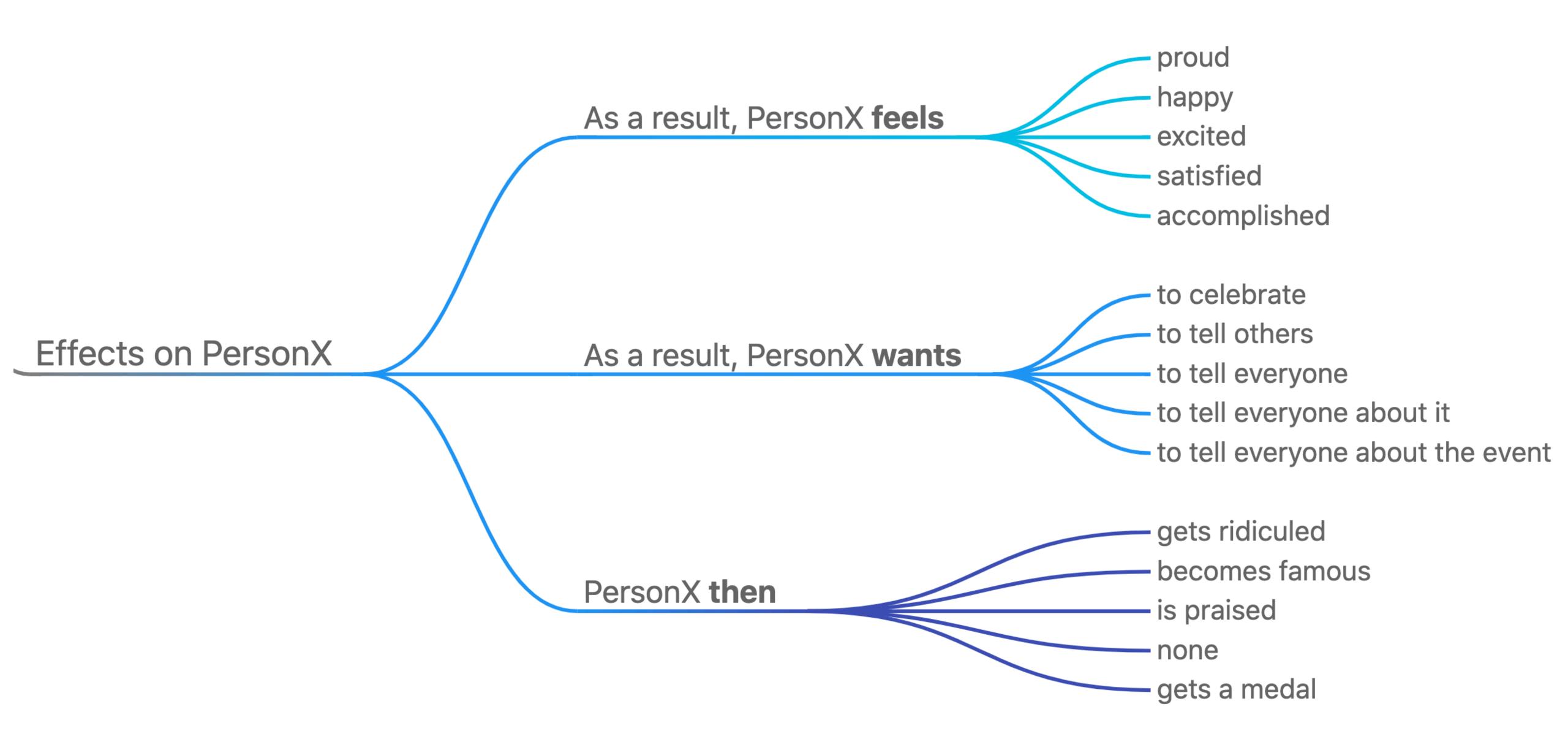
# Turns out, COMET generalizes well on out-of-domain examples

(which we realized only after publishing our ACL 2019 paper...)

# Gary breaks the world record for most controversial tweet.



# Gary breaks the world record for most controversial tweet.





#### Gary Marcus @GaryMarcus · 1h

ps i realize there is a typo in my query. fixing the typo doesn't much help though:

# Completion

what happens when you stack kindling and logs in a fireplace and then drop some matches is that you typically start a ick. So, it's kind of ironic that the second day after my son was born, the fire in the living room had melted through the kindling. It's pretty neat."



Replying to @GaryMarcus

Gary, try mosaickg.apps.allenai.org by typing "Gary stacks kindling and logs and drops some matches". Sorry I used deep learning...:)



focus on
"causes and effects"
(causal knowledge)

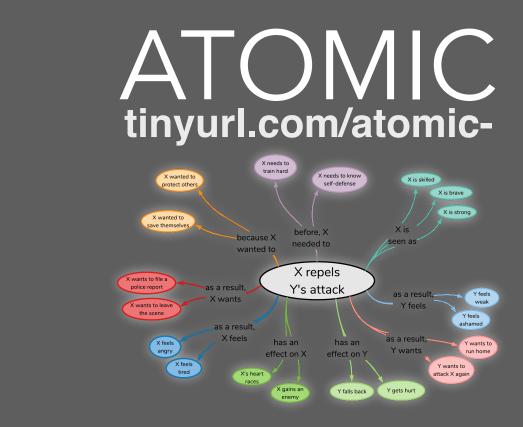
COMeT



NEURAL
(generalizes well to compositional & unseen events)

(semi-) supervised learning of declarative knowledge

self supervised learning of observed knowledge



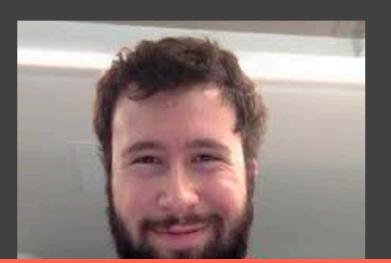
SYMBOLIC
but in LANGUAGE
(instead of LOGIC)

# Scruples:

A Corpus of Community Ethical Judgments on 32,000 Real-Life Anecdotes

**Nicholas** Lourie

**AAAI 2021** 



Ronan Le Bras

Chandra Bhagavatula

Yejin Choi



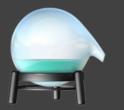




32,000 complex real-life anecdotes with community's ethical judgments

### **Extension of Social Commonsense to Social and Moral Norms**

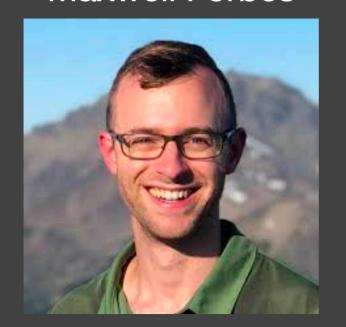
300,000 Rules of Thumb for social/moral norms grounded on 104k real life situations



# Social Chemistry 101

Learning to Reason about Social and Moral Norms **EMNLP 2020** 

Maxwell Forbes



Jena Hwang Vered Shwartz Maarten Sap











# The Curious Case of Cheeseburger Stabbing

— An example repeatedly appeared my talks between  $\it Mar~2017$  and  $\it May~2018$  —

# The Curious Case of "Cheeseburger Stabbing"

(GPT-3 Davinchi with sampling temp=0.4)

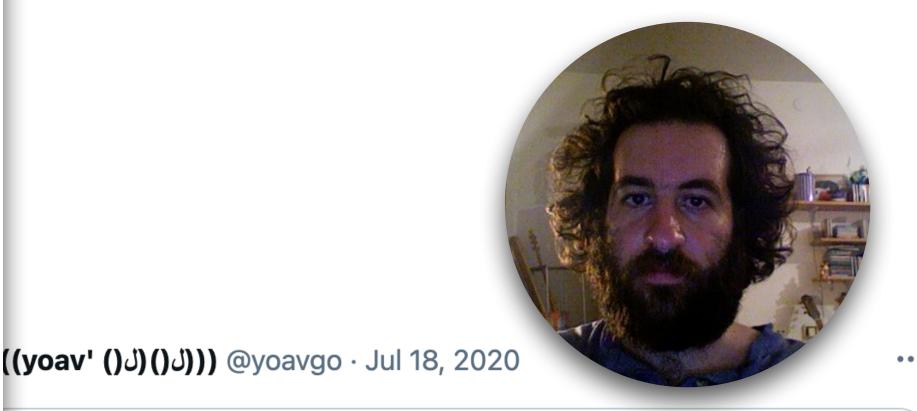
#### Breaking News: Cheeseburger Stabbing.

A man has been arrested after stabbing a cheeseburger. (...) He stabbed the cheeseburger and then stabbed himself in the stomach. The man was taken to the hospital and is expected to live. The cheeseburger was taken to the morgue.

#### Breaking News: Cheeseburger Stabbing.

A man has been arrested after allegedly stabbing another man with a cheeseburger in a fight over ketchup. 2020:

"stabbing of a cheeseburger" per GPT-3



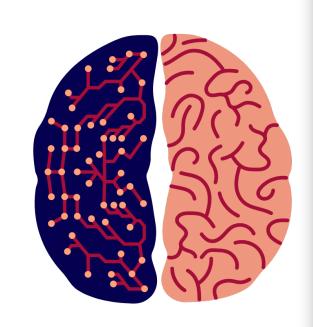
Q: parsley cake

A: cake made of parsley

Q: cheeseburger stabbing

A: stabbing of a cheeseburger

# The Curious Case of "Cheeseburger Stabbing"



**NeuroLogic Decoding** from **GPT-2** with logic constraints to include words derived from {stab, cheeseburger}

He was stabbed in the neck with a cheeseburger fork.

A man has been arrested after police say he stabbed a cheeseburger delivery man in the face.

# The Curious Case of "Cheeseburger Stabbing"

## (moral) social Commonsense:

which is morally worse? (so that it's news worthy)



Someone stabbed a cheeseburger? A cheeseburger stabbed someone?

A cheeseburger stabbed another cheeseburger?



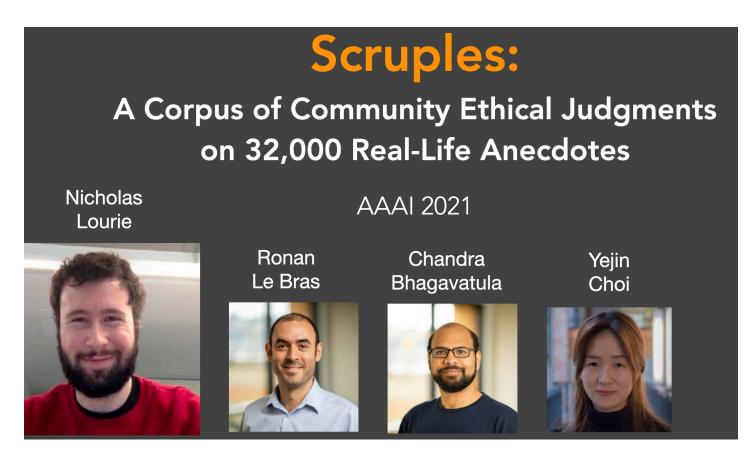
Someone stabbed someone else over a cheeseburger?

# The Curious Case of

# "Cheeseburger Stabbing"

**Sruples Demo:** 

https://norms.apps.allenai.org/





Someone stabbed a cheeseburger? A cheeseburger stabbed someone?

A cheeseburger stabbed another cheeseburger? Someone stabbed someone else over a cheeseburger?



# The Curious Case of

# "Cheeseburger Stabbing"

**Sruples Demo:** 

https://norms.apps.allenai.org/





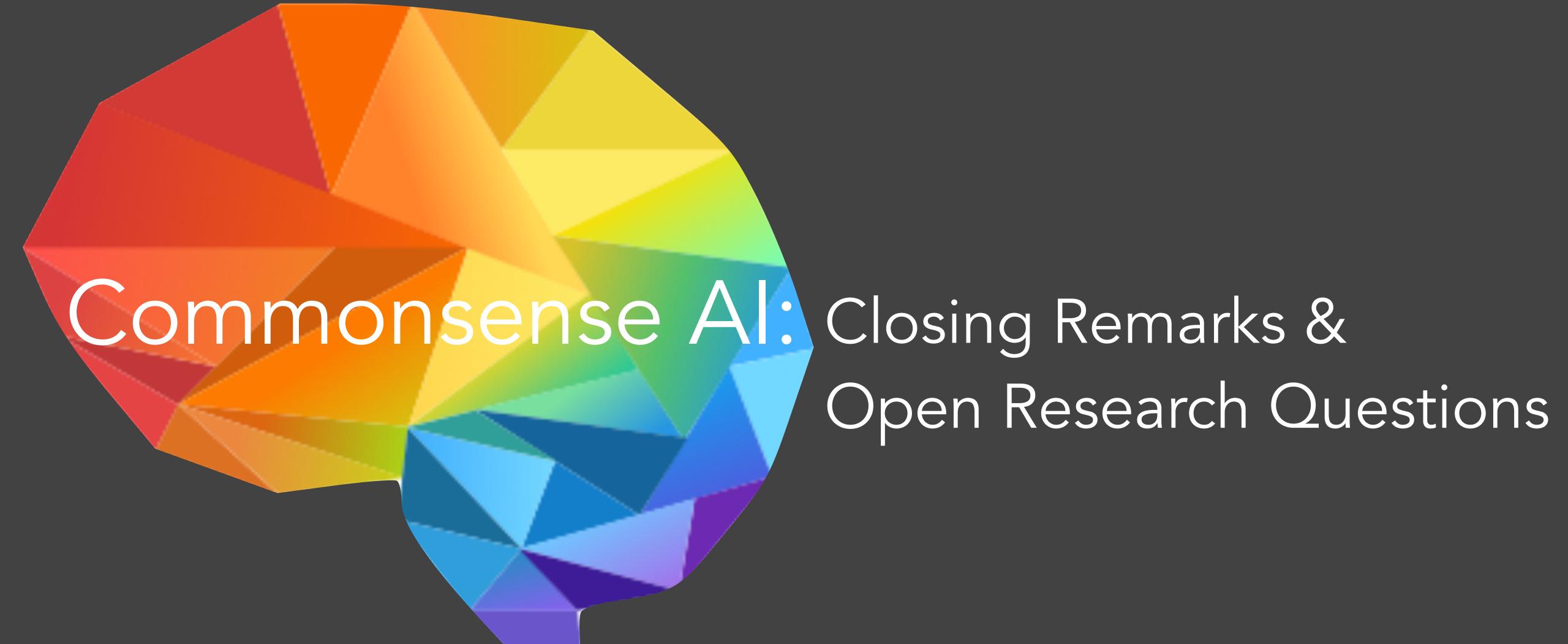
Someone stabbed a cheeseburger?

A cheeseburger stabbed someone?

A cheeseburger stabbed another cheeseburger?



Someone stabbed someone else **over** a cheeseburger?
Someone stabbed someone else **with** a cheeseburger?





## Commonly held beliefs

Truth or Myth?

- Knowledge and reasoning are distinct and exclusive
- Language is in the way of reasoning; let's do formal logics
- Language is not symbols. Words and numbers are, but not language at large
- Humans acquire commonsense completely un-/self-supervised, thus so should machines



## What is commonsense?

- It's what everyone knows and agrees on
- My dog (cat, baby, ...) has commonsense without language, thus commonsense Al doesn't need language



## Should we or should we not?

- Commonsense AI is an impossible goal (ever)
- That's a research topic of 70s and 80s
- Maybe only possible in the faraway future
- Can't define commonsense, thus don't work on it

I was told not to speak the word commonsense...

Past failures (in 70s – 80s) are inconclusive

- -- weak computing power
- -- not much data
- -- no crowdsourcing
- -- not as strong models
- -- not ideal conceptualization

We can't define the "standard" English either, and yet, we have no problem studying language models

Truth or Myth?





#### Should we or should we not?

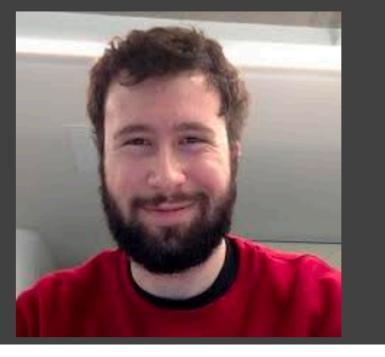
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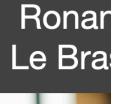
## Scruples:

A Corpus of Community Ethical Judgments on 32,000 Real-Life Anecdotes

Nicholas Lourie

AAAI 2021









Reasoning about the Dynamic Context of a Still Image

ECCV 2020













**EMNLP 2020** 

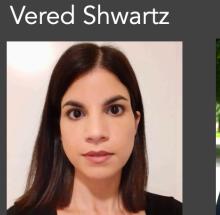
## mistry 101 ocial and Moral Norms

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#### Maxwell Forbes











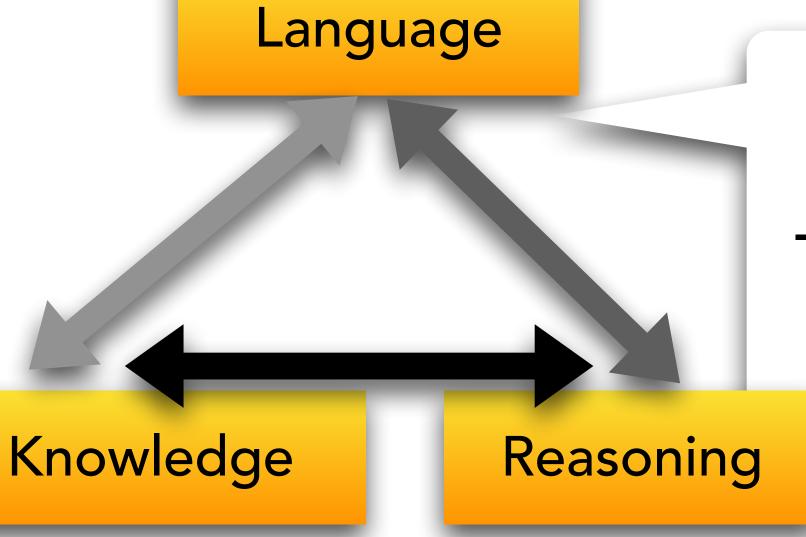
ge



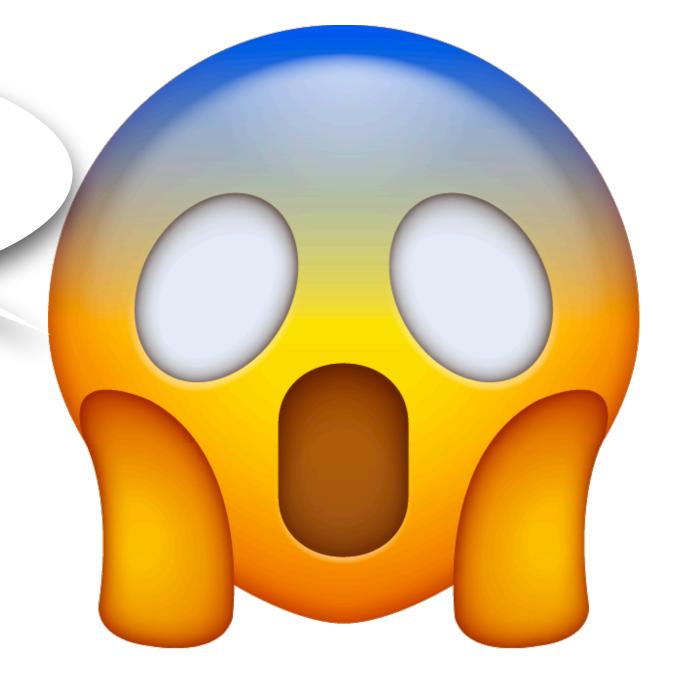
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- Language is not symbols. Words and numbers are, but not language at large
- Humans acquire commonsense completely un-/self-supervised, thus so should machines



- the continuum between knowledge and reasoning
- the interplay between reasoning and language generation
  - the blend between neural vs symbolic knowledge





### Back to the Future:

## Unsupervised Backprop-based Decoding

for Cou Cor

# (COMET-) ATOMIC $_{20}^{20}$ :

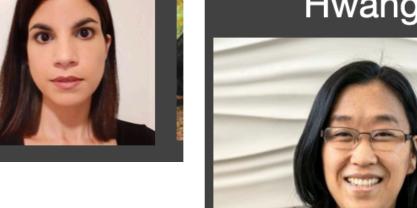
On Symbolic and Neural Commonsense Knowledge Graphs

**AAAI 2021** 

#### Lianhui Qin



Vered Shwartz



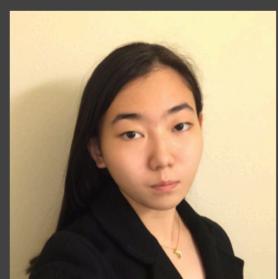
Jena Hwang



# NEUROLOGIC DECODING

(Un)supervised Neural Text Generation with Predicate Logic Constraint **NAACL 2021** 

Ximing Lu



Peter West

Rowan Zellers Ronan

Chandra LeBras Bhagavatula Choi

Yejin











Thanks! Questions?