

# The challenge of simultaneous speech translation

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# Simultaneous Translation

# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

Input Sentence

Simultaneous Translation

Reference translation

it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the human genetic code are related to at least 1500 diseases such as diabetes , cancer and heart disease .

# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

Input Sentence

/ 인간 유전학에서 /

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Reference translation

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/ 인간 유전학에서 /

Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics /

Reference translation

it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the human genetic code are related to at least 1500 diseases such as diabetes , cancer and heart disease .

# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

## Input Sentence

/ 인간 유전학에서 // 인간 지놈 총체에서 일어나는 변이는 /

## Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics /

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it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the human genetic code are related to at least 1500 diseases such as diabetes , cancer and heart disease .

# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

## Input Sentence

/ 인간 유전학에서 // 인간 지놈 총체에서 일어나는 변이는 /

## Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics // variations that occur in the entire human genome /

## Reference translation

it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the human genetic code are related to at least 1500 diseases such as diabetes , cancer and heart disease .

# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

## Input Sentence

/ 인간 유전학에서 // 인간 지놈 총체에서 일어나는 변이는 /  
/ 당뇨병 암 심장마비 등 /

## Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics / / variations that occur in the entire human  
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있는 것으로 /

## Simultaneous Translation

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있는 것으로 /

## Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics // variations that occur in the entire human  
genome // is related to diabetes , cancer and heart attack // and  
causes at least 1500 other diseases /

## Reference translation

it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the  
human genetic code are related to at least 1500 diseases such as  
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# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

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있는 것으로 // 추정된다 . /

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## Simultaneous Translation

/ in human genetics // variations that occur in the entire human  
genome // is related to diabetes , cancer and heart attack // and  
causes at least 1500 other diseases // it is estimated . /

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it is estimated that variations that occur in the sum total of the  
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# Simultaneous Translation [Latency vs. Quality]

## Input Sentence

/ 인간 유전학에서 // 인간 지놈 총체에서 일어나는 변이는 /  
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- ▶ **Segmentation:** Avoid long delay in producing the translation (Oda+ 14)
- ▶ **Prediction:** To produce timely translations, predict what will be said (Grissom+ 14)
- ▶ **Paraphrasing:** e.g. convert to passive form if that reduces delay (Shimizu+ 13, He+ 15) [also Disfluencies]
- ▶ **Evaluation:** reward both translation quality and reduced delay (Mieno+ 15)

man  
/ and

he  
as

# Speech to speech translation



Karlsruhe (KIT) Lecture Translator 

# Speech to speech translation



Karlsruhe (KIT) Lecture Translator [www.](#)



NICT Speech Translator [www.](#)



# Speech to speech translation



Karlsruhe (KIT) Lecture Translator



NICT Speech Translator




Skype Translator



## Speech to speech translation is not simultaneous



**I made sure to include pauses after each sentence so that the audience would have time to clearly hear the Mandarin version of what I was saying.** *This also meant there was plenty of time for the audience to react. I remember hearing some gasps from the front rows, along with general applause and approval from the audience. It was quite moving.*

— Rick Rashid (Microsoft) in an interview in 2014 

# Contributions

We improve the state of the art in simultaneous machine translation by providing:

- ▶ A choice between latency and translation quality using Pareto optimality

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- ▶ An efficient algorithm for segment annotation used to train a segmentation classifier
- ▶ A new simultaneous translation system that uses our segmentation classifier

# Contributions

We improve the state of the art in simultaneous machine translation by providing:

- ▶ A choice between latency and translation quality using Pareto optimality
- ▶ An efficient algorithm for segment annotation used to train a segmentation classifier
- ▶ A new simultaneous translation system that uses our segmentation classifier
- ▶ Significant improvement in latency with the same quality

# Segmentation

## Measuring translation quality: BLEU SCORE

### Input:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging .

### Reference translation:

I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .



## Measuring translation quality: BLEU SCORE

### Input:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging .

### Reference translation:

I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .

Low BLEU% score (41.1): [few n-gram matches with reference]

I was twenty I ever went to art .

# Measuring translation quality: BLEU SCORE

## Input:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging .

## Reference translation:

I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .

Low BLEU% score (41.1): [few n-gram matches with reference]

I was twenty I ever went to art .

High BLEU% score (89.0): [many n-gram matches with reference]

I was in my twenties before I first went to an art museum .

## Simultaneous Translation – the Delay problem

- ▶ No segmentation inside a sentence:

I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum



Ich war in meinen zwanzig bevor ich in ein kunstmuseum ging

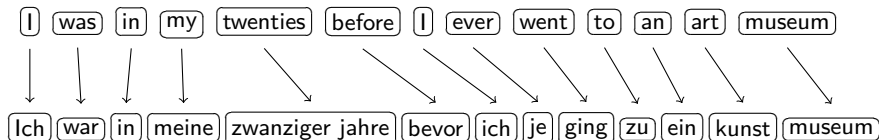
- ▶ Reference Sentence:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging

- ▶ BLEU Score: **High** (57.6)
- ▶ Segments/Second: **Low**

# Simultaneous Translation – the Delay problem

- ▶ Word by word segmentation:

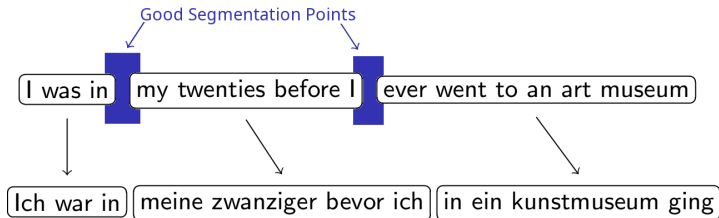


- ▶ Reference Sentence:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging

- ▶ BLEU Score: **Low** (15.6)
- ▶ Segments/Second: **High**

# Segmentation - A Trade-off between Extremes



- ▶ Reference Sentence:

Ich war in meinen zwanzigern bevor ich erstmals in ein kunstmuseum ging

- ▶ BLEU Score: **Acceptable** (38.2)
- ▶ Segments/Second: **Acceptable**

# Creating Segmentation Data

Training a classifier needs **annotated data**

We provide a method that will create annotated data for segmentation

## Creating Segmentation Data - An Example

- ▶ Task: English-German
- ▶ Segmentation locations indexed by adjacent part-of-speech tags (only **source side** shown here)
- ▶ For each possible segmentation location: translate segments and pre-compute BLEU scores
  - ▶ Exponential! Computed once for training data and stored.

I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
N V D J N P D N P D J N .

I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .  
N V P S N P N A V P D N N .

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N P N P D N N P J N .

## Candidates for Segmentation: Using part of speech tags

Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq
N-P	6	J-N	3	V-R	1
P-D	5	N-N	2	P-S	1
D-N	4	P-N	2	P-J	1
N-	3	D-J	2	S-N	1
N-V	3	R-P	1	A-V	1
V-D	3	N-A	1		
Full Segmentation Set Size				40	



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I am a contemporary artist | with a bit | of an unexpected background .  
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N-P	6	J-N	3	V-R	1
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### Part of Speech alternatives

POS alternatives

Granularity

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N | P N | P D N N | P J N .

## Candidates for Segmentation: Using part of speech tags

Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq
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### Part of Speech alternatives

POS alternatives	Granularity
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Google universal tagset	12
-------------------------	----

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
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Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq
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### Part of Speech alternatives

POS alternatives	Granularity
Google universal tagset	12
Penn Treebank tagset	36

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
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## Candidates for Segmentation: Using part of speech tags

Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq
N-P	6	J-N	3	V-R	1
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D-N	4	P-N	2	P-J	1

### Part of Speech alternatives

POS alternatives	Granularity
Google universal tagset	12
Penn Treebank tagset	36
Brown clusters 100C	100

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
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## Candidates for Segmentation: Using part of speech tags

Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq	Feat	Freq
N-P	6	J-N	3	V-R	1
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D-N	4	P-N	2	P-J	1

### Part of Speech alternatives

POS alternatives	Granularity
Google universal tagset	12
Penn Treebank tagset	36
Brown clusters 100C	100
Brown clusters 400C	389

Penn Treebank tagset gave us the best tradeoff between latency and quality.

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N | P N | P D N N | P J N .

# Greedy Segmentation

[Oda+ 2014]

# Greedy Segmentation

- ▶ Greedily maximize the **sum of BLEU Scores** of Sentences
  - ▶ Decoding is done **Sentence by Sentence**



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- ▶ Input: the desired **average segment length** ( $\mu$ )
  - ⇒ total number of expected segments ( $K$ )

# Greedy Segmentation

- ▶ Greedily maximize the **sum of BLEU Scores of Sentences**
  - ▶ Decoding is done **Sentence by Sentence**
  
- ▶ Input: the desired **average segment length** ( $\mu$ )
  - ⇒ total number of expected segments ( $K$ )

$$K = \left\lfloor \frac{\#Words}{\mu} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences]$$

Sentence boundaries do not count towards  $K$

## Greedy Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 13$

$$K = 0 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=13]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Sum of BLEU Scores [of the 3 sentences] = 57.6

I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
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I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .  
N V P S N P N A V P D N N .

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N P N P D N N P J N .

## Greedy Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Sum of BLEU Scores [of the 3 sentences] = 13.8

I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
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I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .  
N V P S N P N A V P D N N .

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N P N P D N N P J N .

## Greedy Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Sum of BLEU Scores [of the 3 sentences] = 27.2

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N V P S N P N A V P D N N .

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
N V R P D N P N P D N N P J N .

## Greedy Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Sum of BLEU Scores [of the 3 sentences] = 38.2

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I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .  
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## Greedy Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

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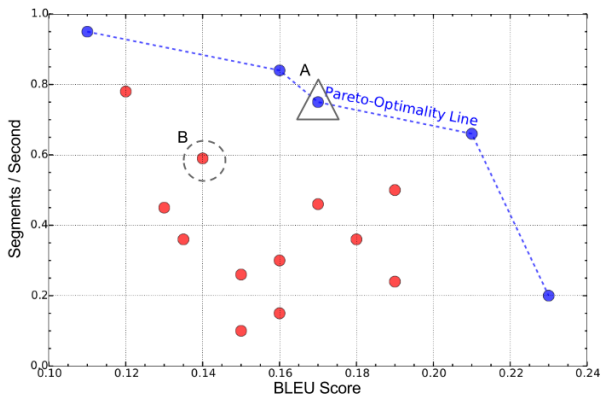
Only maximizes the BLEU  
score

Tends to oversegment a  
small number of sentences

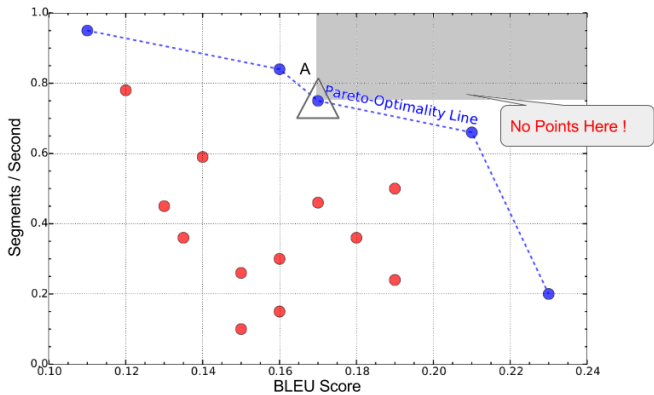
# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation



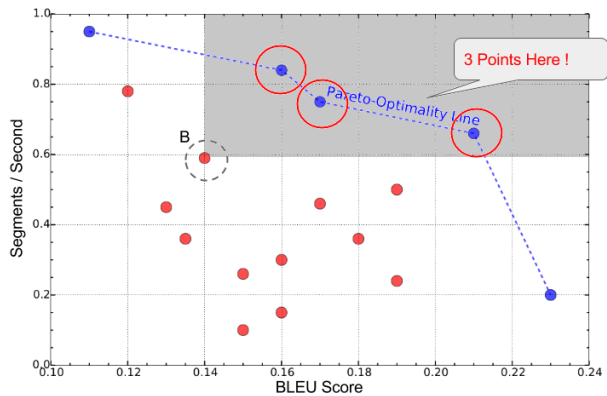
# Pareto-Optimality



# Pareto-Optimality



# Pareto-Optimality



# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation

- ▶ Tries to find the best segmentation points taking both BLEU and Segs/Sec into consideration
- ▶ The input is the same desired average segment length  $\mu$
- ▶ For each possible segmentation location: translate segments and pre-compute BLEU scores and segments/second.

## Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Avg  $\left\{ \frac{BLEU}{\#Segments} \right\} / \text{Sentence} = 12.7$ , Segs/Sec = 0.560

I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
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## Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - An Example for $\mu = 8$

$$K = 2 = \left\lfloor \frac{[\#Words=43]}{[\mu=8]} \right\rfloor - [\#Sentences = 3]$$

Avg  $\left\{ \frac{BLEU}{\#Segments} \right\} / \text{Sentence} = 9.0, \text{ Segs/Sec} = 0.956$

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I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
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## Example: Find optimal pair of segments ( $\mu = 8$ )

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N-V	3	R-P	1	A-V	1
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Full Segmentation Set Size				40	

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Full Segmentation Set Size				40	

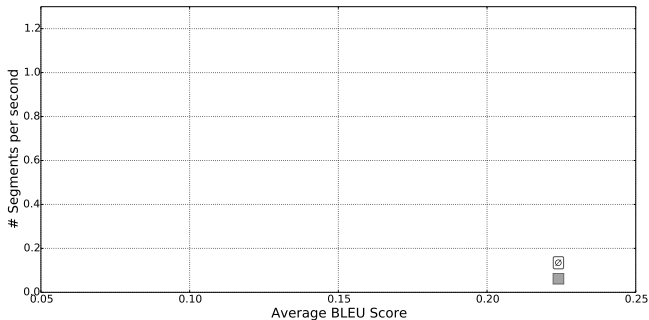
I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
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 N V P | S N P N A | V P D N N .

I grew up in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road in rural Arkansas .  
 N V R P D N P N P D N N P J N .



# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - No segments

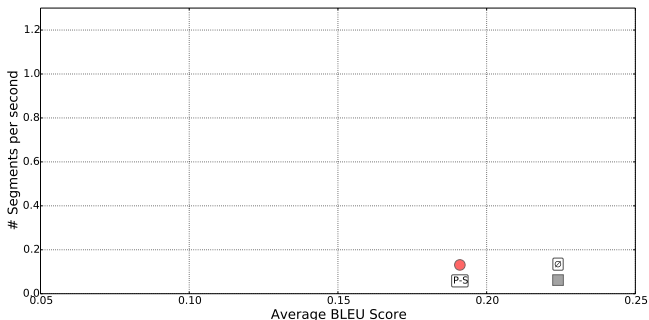


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I was in my twenties before I ever went to an art museum .  
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# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - One segment

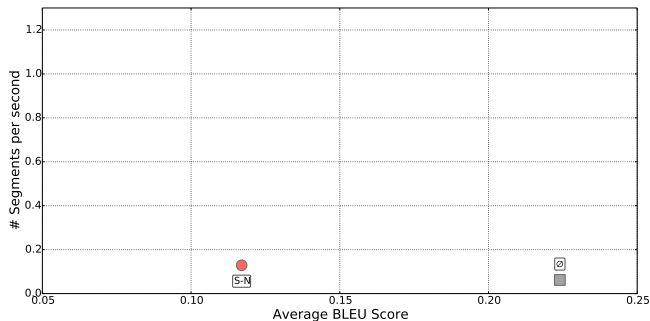


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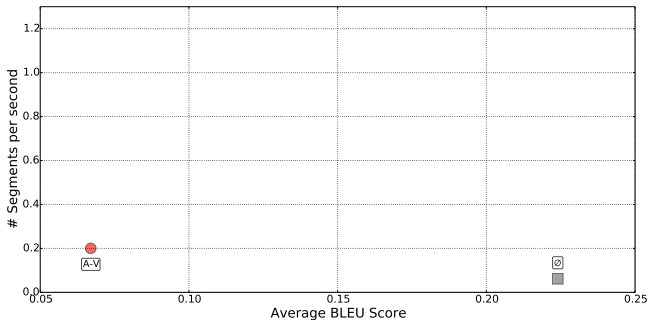


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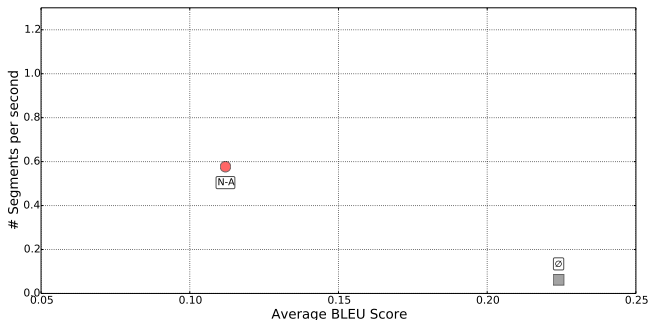


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# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - One segment

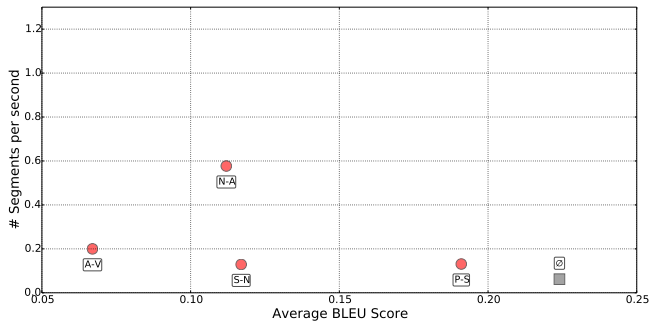


I am a contemporary artist with a bit of an unexpected background .  
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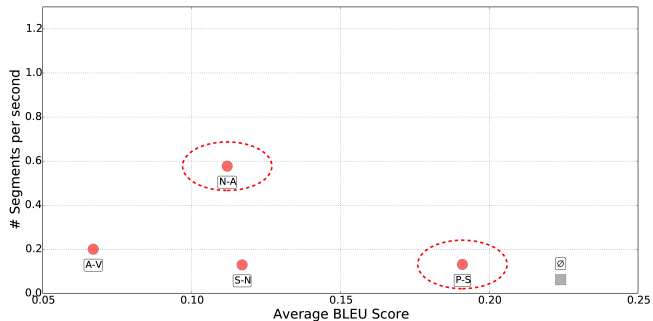
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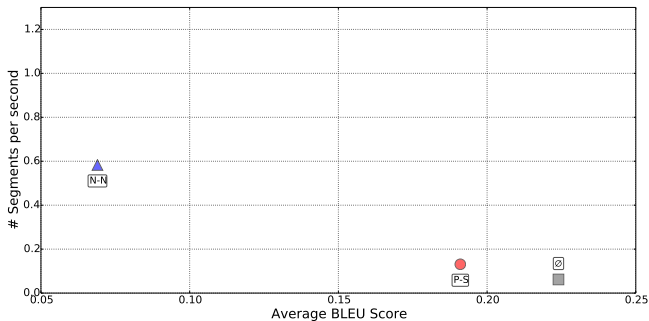
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# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - One segment



# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - Two segments



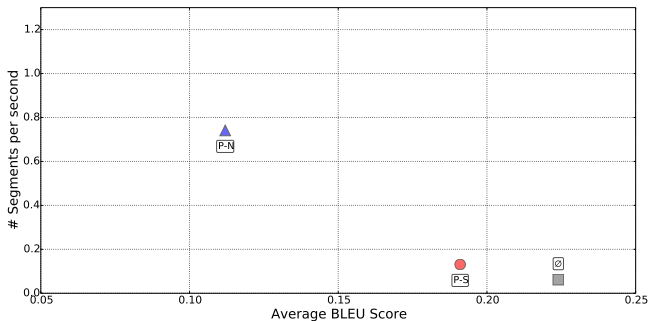
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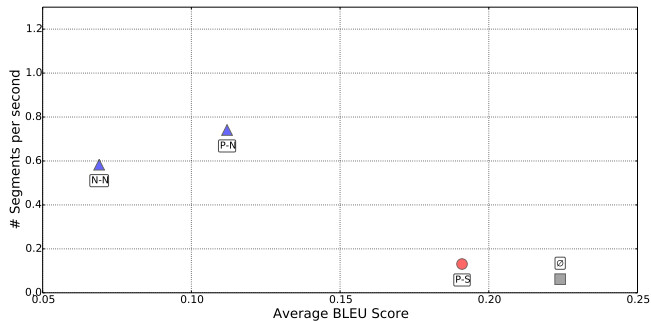


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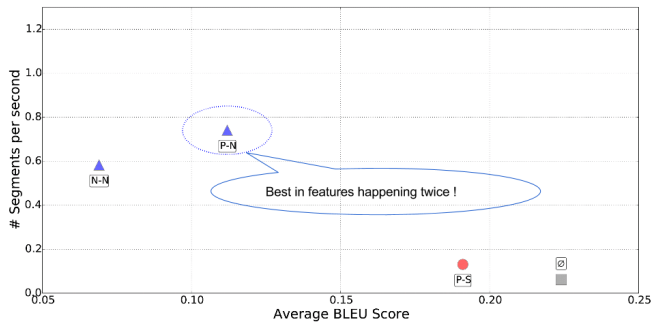
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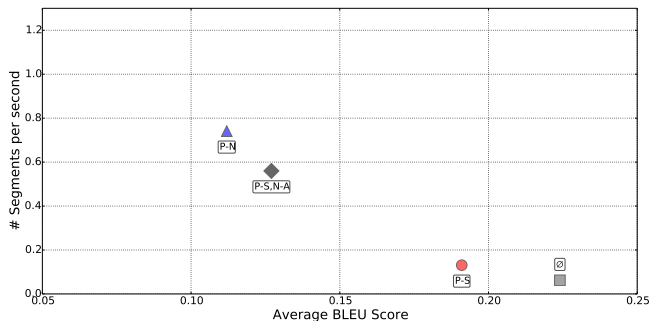
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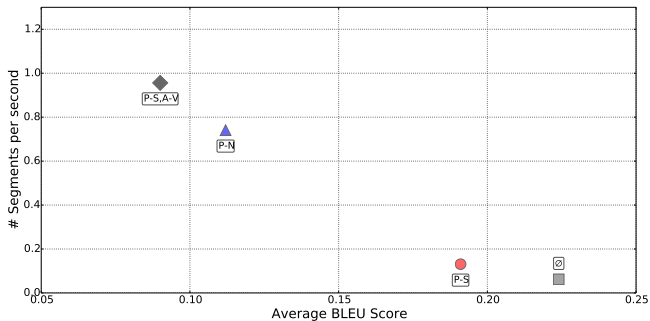


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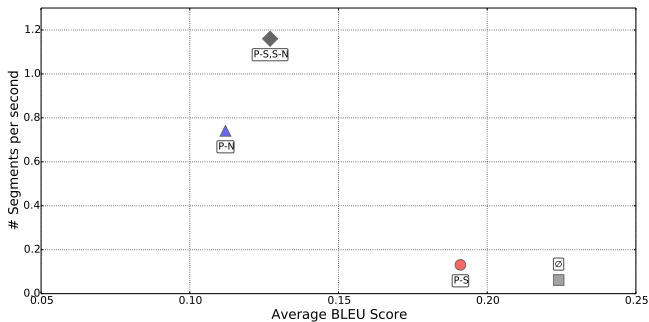


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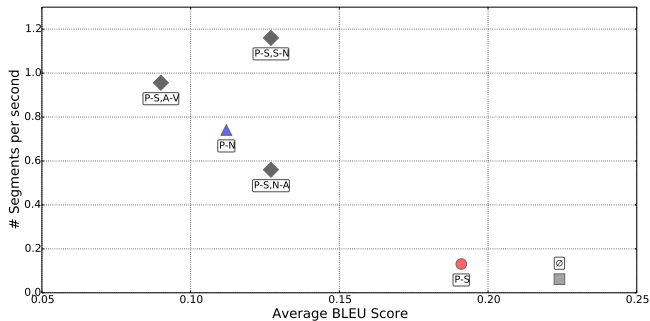


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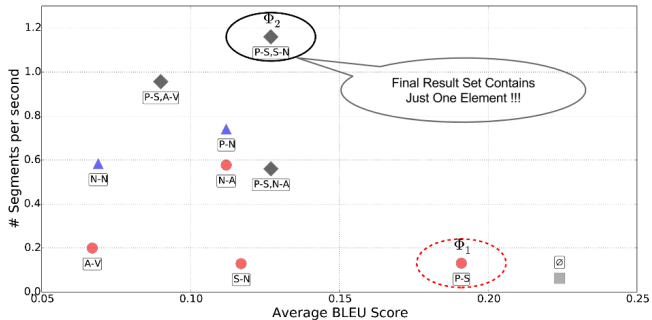
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# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - Two segments



# Pareto-Optimal Segmentation - Two segments





# Segmentation Evaluation

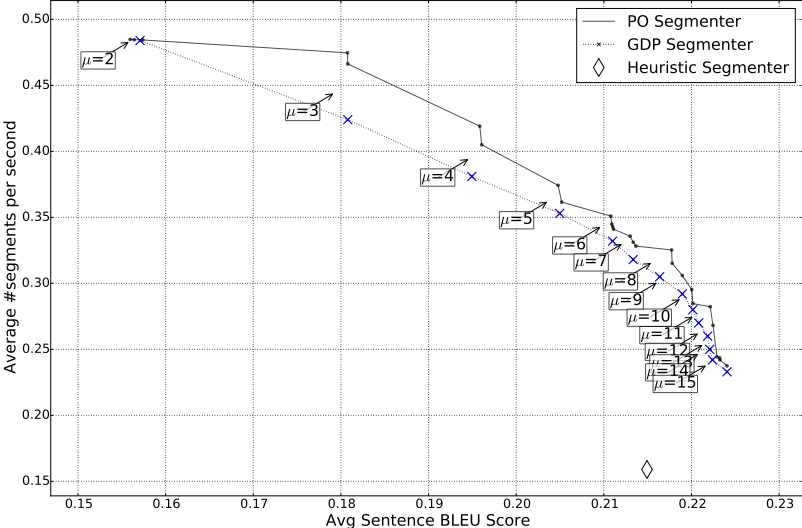
# Experimental Setup

- ▶ Task: English-German TED speech translation shared task  
(original task is not simultaneous translation!)
- ▶ Segmenter Training Data: IWSLT Dev 2010 and 2012 and Test 2010
- ▶ Segmenter Test Data: IWSLT Test 2013
- ▶ Segmentation Train Size: 3669 sents
- ▶ Segmentation Test Size: 1025 sents

# Accuracy vs. Latency - Comparison

- ▶ We compared
  - ▶ the state-of-the-art prosodic speech segmenter (monolingual) [Rangarajan+ 13; Sridhar+ 13] **Heuristic**
  - ▶ Greedy Segmentation Approach [Oda+ 2014] **GDP**
  - ▶ Pareto-Optimal Segmentation Approach **PO**

# Results on the Test Data



## Result comparison for $\mu = 3$ and $\mu = 8$

	$\mu = 3$		$\mu = 8$	
	Segs/Sec	BLEU	Segs/Sec	BLEU
Pareto-Optimal Segmenter	<b>0.474</b>	18.07	<b>0.315</b>	<b>21.77</b>
Greedy Segmenter	0.424	18.07	0.305	21.63

# Segmentation Classifier

# Classifier based on an alignment heuristic: Align

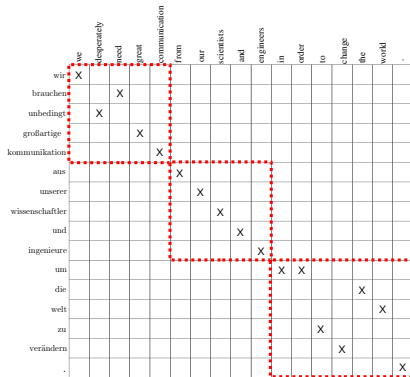


Figure: Word alignment matrix for an English-German sentence. Monotone phrases are shown in dashed lines. Heuristic annotation for  $\mu = 5$ .

## Classifier based on our generated training data: PO

- ▶ We created training data for segment boundaries using Pareto optimal search.
- ▶ We use this data to build a segment classifier.



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Feature set	Example
Set1: LastWord, Position, Length	“engineers”, 9, 5
Set2: + Segment POS n-grams	[NNS],[CC-NNS],[NN-CC-NNS]
Set3: + Cross-segment POS tags	[NNS-IN]

Table: For segment “from our scientist and engineers \* in”

## Classification Results

	F1	Prec	Recall
Align Set1	67.04	62.88	71.78
Align Set2	64.27	56.46	74.58
Align Set3	67.43	58.39	79.78
PO Set1	63.87	52.56	81.38
PO Set2	65.06	53.90	82.03
PO Set3	<b>81.31</b>	<b>69.89</b>	<b>97.18</b>

- ▶ Data from IWSLT 2011 (train)
- ▶ Data was split into 90% training for Align and 10% test (5K words) for both methods

# Incremental Decoding

# Translation Data

---

<CHAPTER ID=1>

Wiederaufnahme der Sitzungsperiode

<SPEAKER ID=1 NAME="Die Präsidentin">

Ich erkläre die am Freitag, dem 17. Dezember unterbrochene Sitzung  
<P>

Wie Sie feststellen konnten, ist der geforderte "Millennium"-  
Im Parlament besteht der Wunsch nach einer Aussprache  
Heute möchte ich Sie bitten - das ist auch der Wunsch  
Ich bitte Sie, sich zu einer Schweigeminute zu erheben  
<P>

Das Parlament erhebt sich zu einer Schweigeminute.  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=2 LANGUAGE="EN" NAME="Evans, Robert J">

Frau Präsidentin, zur Geschäftsordnung.

Wie Sie sicher aus der Presse und dem Fernsehen wissen  
Zu den Attentatsopfern, die es in jüngster Zeit in Sri Lanka  
Wäre es angemessen, wenn Sie, Frau Präsidentin, der Präsidentin  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=3 NAME="Die Präsidentin">

Ja, Herr Evans, ich denke, daß eine derartige Initiative  
Wenn das Haus damit einverstanden ist, werde ich dem  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=4 LANGUAGE="EN" NAME="MacCormick">

Frau Präsidentin, zur Geschäftsordnung.

Könnten Sie mir eine Auskunft zu Artikel 143 im Zusammenhang  
Meine Frage betrifft eine Angelegenheit, die am Donnerstag  
<P>

Das Parlament wird sich am Donnerstag mit dem Cunha-Bericht  
Und zwar sollen derartige Strafen trotz des Grundsatzes  
Ich meine, daß der Grundsatz der relativen Stabilität  
Ich möchte wissen, ob es möglich ist, einen Einwand gegen  
<P>

---

<CHAPTER ID=1>

Resumption of the session

<SPEAKER ID=1 NAME="President">

I declare resumed the session of the European Parliament  
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Although, as you will have seen, the dreaded 'millennium'  
You have requested a debate on this subject in the course of  
In the meantime, I should like to observe a minute's  
Please rise, then, for this minute's silence.  
<P>

The House rose and observed a minute's silence  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=2 NAME="Evans, Robert J">

Madam President, on a point of order.

You will be aware from the press and television that  
One of the people assassinated very recently in Sri Lanka  
Would it be appropriate for you, Madam President, to  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=3 NAME="President">

Yes, Mr Evans, I feel an initiative of the type you have  
If the House agrees, I shall do as Mr Evans has suggested  
<P>

<SPEAKER ID=4 NAME="MacCormick">

Madam President, on a point of order.

I would like your advice about Rule 143 concerning in  
My question relates to something that will come up on  
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The Cunha report on multiannual guidance programmes con  
It says that this should be done despite the principle  
I believe that the principle of relative stability is  
I want to know whether one can raise an objection of  
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Zu den Attentaten

Wiederholt es sich

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<P>

Parallel Text:  
(Web, United Nations, European/Canadian Parliament, Wikipedia, etc.)

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President, to

# Statistical Machine Translation

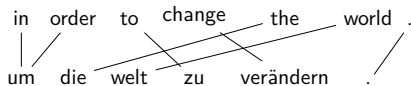


Figure: Learn alignments from parallel text

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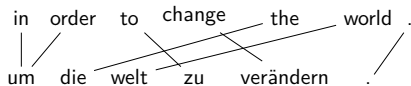


Figure: Learn alignments from parallel text

Id	Source	Target	Weight
$r_1$	in order	um	-5.3
$r_2$	$X_1$ the world $X_2$	die welt $X_1$ $X_2$	-2.8
$r_3$	to change	verändern	-3.1

Figure: Learn weighted translation rules from parallel text

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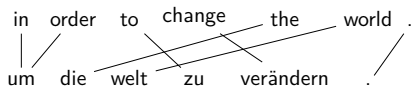


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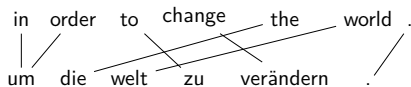


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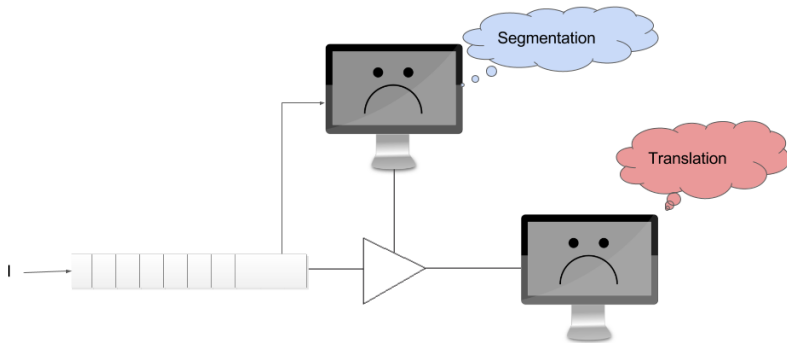
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- ▶ Exponential time  $\Rightarrow$  CKY dynamic programming  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$
- ▶ Our algorithm: **Earley** style decoding  $\mathcal{O}(n^2b)$
- ▶ <https://github.com/sfu-natlang/lrhiero>

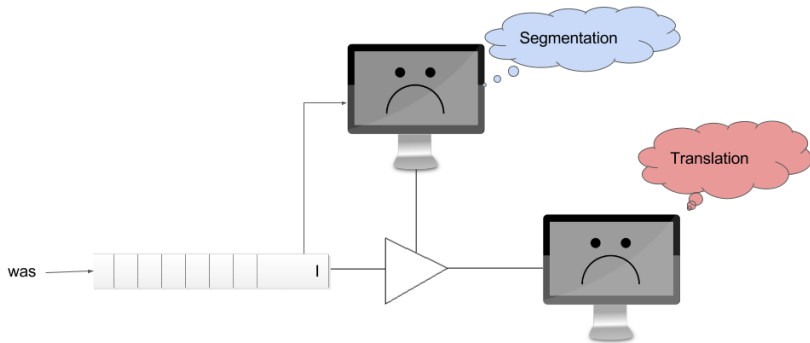
Figure: Decoder: produces most likely translation

# Segmentation Classifier Integrated with Decoder

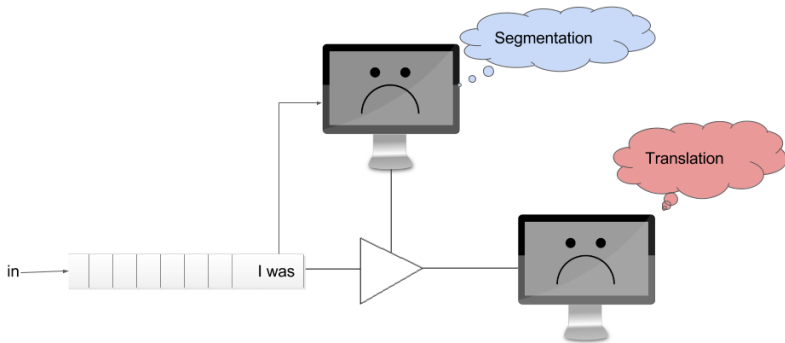
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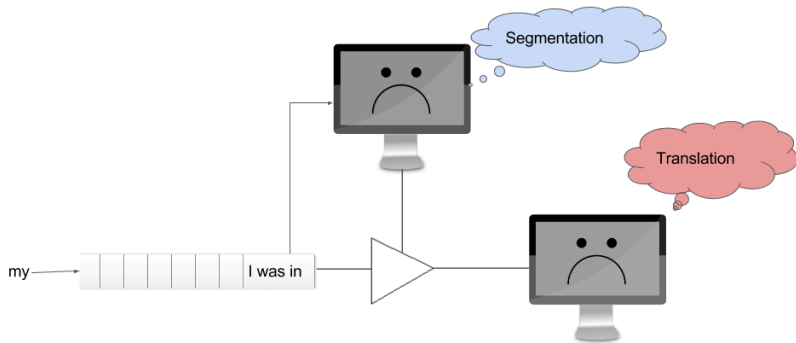
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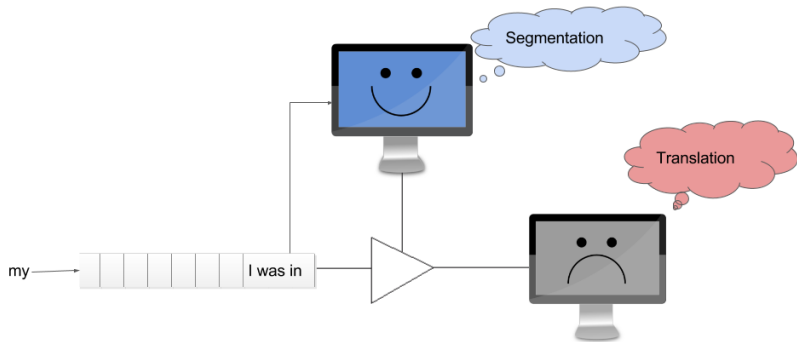
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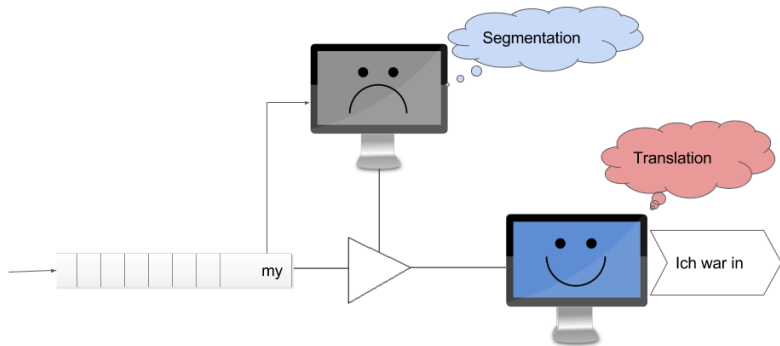
# Segmentation Classifier Integrated with Decoder



# Segmentation Classifier Integrated with Decoder



# Segmentation Classifier Integrated with Decoder





# Incremental Decoder Evaluation

# Experimental Setup

## Translation data

- ▶ Task: English-German TED talks translation
- ▶ Train: IWSLT 2013 Train data + Europarl v7 data [Koehn 2005]
- ▶ Tuning: IWSLT Test 2012
- ▶ German Language Model: WMT 2013 Shared Task

## Segmenter data

- ▶ Train: IWSLT Dev 2010 and 2012 and Test 2010 (3669 sentences)
- ▶ Test: IWSLT Test 2013 (1025 sentences)

## Incremental Decoder Results

	Num segs	BLEU	Latency (time/segs)	Segs/second
Heuristic (Sridhar+ 13)	2709	<b>20.88</b>	0.468	2.27
Align	2654	20.62	0.524	1.96
PO Set1	3608	19.97	0.274	4.07
PO Set2	2777	20.74	0.466	2.35
PO Set3	<b>3471</b>	<b>20.70</b>	<b>0.270</b>	<b>3.73</b>

# Summary

We improve the state of the art in simultaneous machine translation by providing:

- ▶ A choice between latency and translation quality using Pareto optimality

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We improve the state of the art in simultaneous machine translation by providing:

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- ▶ A new simultaneous translation decoder that uses our segmentation classifier

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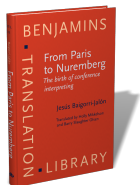
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- ▶ Segmentation annotated data used to train a segmentation classifier
- ▶ A new simultaneous translation decoder that uses our segmentation classifier
- ▶ Significant improvement in latency with the same quality

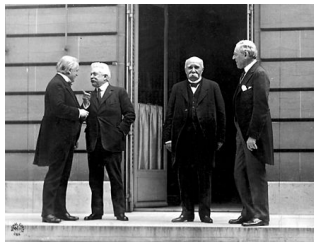


# The Paris Peace Conference 1919

Birth of multilingual (human) simultaneous translation



- ▶ To avoid "such a confusion of tongues that it will be ridiculous" (Nuremberg trial judge)
- ▶ But even now: few can afford interpretation services
- ▶ Everyone should have access to simultaneous translation!



**Figure:** from left to right, David Lloyd George of Britain, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando of Italy, Georges Clemenceau of France, Woodrow Wilson of the U.S.



*These interpreters have a language of their own. We are completely in their hands.*

— Stalin to Anthony Eden, Moscow 1943  
in Birse 1967, 144

## Collaborators



Maryam Siahbani,  
ex-PhD student



Hassan Shavarani,  
ex-MSc student

## Future Work

- ▶ Compare against human interpreter output (EPIC corpus)
- ▶ Use Pareto optimal points on demand in the decoder
- ▶ Improve the scores for translation quality and latency
- ▶ Extend encoder-decoder recurrent neural networks
  - ▶ Use encoder to predict future input tokens in incremental decoding (predict the clause-final predicate)

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  - ▶ Multiple decoder stages while encoding the input
  - ▶ Integrate training of segmenter with translation model

Fin