# Sparsity in Dependency Grammar Induction

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## Dependency model with valence (Klein and Manning, ACL 2004)



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**Traditional optimization**: expectation maximization (EM)

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- Problem: EM may learn a very ambiguous grammar
  - $\blacksquare$  V  $\rightarrow$  N should have non-zero probability, but  $\ldots$
  - $\blacksquare$  V  $\rightarrow$  DET, V  $\rightarrow$  JJ, V  $\rightarrow$  PRP\$, etc. should be 0

## Measuring ambiguity on distributions over trees



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# Minimizing ambiguity through posterior regularization

# $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{E-Step} & q^t(\textbf{y} \mid \textbf{x}) = \argmin_{q(\textbf{y} \mid \textbf{x})} \textit{KL}(q \parallel p_{\theta^t}) \end{array}$

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# **E-Step** $q^{t}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \underset{q(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x})}{\arg \min} KL(q \parallel p_{\theta^{t}}) + \sigma L_{1/\infty}(q(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}))$

#### English from Penn Treebank: state-of-the-art accuracy

	Accuracy		
Learning Method	$\leq 10$	$\leq 20$	all
EM	45.8	40.2	35.9
Sparsifying Dirichlet Prior	46.4	40.9	36.5
$PR\;(\sigma=140)$	62.1	53.8	49.1

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  - Dirichlet prior baseline: 1.5% average gain over EM
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- Come see the poster for more details