

## Introduction Discourse Parsing

#### **Discourse Parsing:**

- Crucial task within the area of NLP
- Enhances many downstream applications
  - Sentiment analysis
  - Summarization
  - Question answering

#### Goal:

- Reveal the underlying structure of coherent text (a discourse)
  - Complete documents
  - Multiple sentences

## Introduction Discourse Parsing

#### In the Past:

• Human-annotated gold-standard discourse trees

#### **Recently:**

- Use large datasets without gold-standard trees
- Automatically infer discourse trees
- Using distant supervision from sentiment data

## A human-annotated Discourse Tree



# An automatically-generated Discourse Tree

[What happened to Dunkin' Donuts?] (1) [Holy crap does this place suck.] (2) [The donuts are stale and taste weirdly like chemicals.] (3) [I can not recommend anything] (4) [except that you drive five minutes to Bosa Donuts on McDowell.] (5) [Great donuts] (6) [and locally owned.] (7) [Support local.] (8)



# Problem & Objective

#### Problem:

- Fully automated generation
- No human-in-the-loop
- Existing tools limited to comparisons against gold-standard

#### **Objective:**

• Create visualization, which generates insights into the alignment of discourse trees and sentiment

## Data

```
( Root (span 1 22)
( Nucleus (span 1 10) (rel2par Topic-Shift)
( Nucleus (span 1 3) (rel2par span)
( Satellite (leaf 1) (rel2par attribution) (text _!Moody's Investors Service said_!) )
( Nucleus (span 2 3) (rel2par span)
( Nucleus (leaf 2) (rel2par span) (text _!it reduced its rating on $165 million of subordinated debt of this Beverly Hills, Calif., thrift,_!) )
( Satellite (leaf 3) (rel2par result) (text _!citing turmoil in the market for low-grade, high-yield securities._!) )
) ( Satellite (span 4 10) (rel2par summary-n)
( Nucleus (span 4 9) (rel2par span)
( Nucleus (span 4 9) (rel2par span)
( Nucleus (span 4 6) (rel2par span)
( Nucleus (span 4 6) (rel2par attribution) (text _!The agency said_!) )
( Nucleus (span 5 6) (rel2par span)
( Nucleus (leaf 5) (rel2par list) (text _!it reduced its rating on the thrift's subordinated debt to B-2 from Ba-2_!) )
( Nucleus (leaf 6) (rel2par list) (text _!and will keep the debt under review for possible further downgrade, !) )
```

"sentiment":	0.2515886536341643,	"attention":	0.9277132898569107,
"sentiment":	0.24531555738486907,	"attention":	0.8705874979496002,
"sentiment":	0.24325398682811736,	"attention":	0.8900138735771179,
"sentiment":	0.2344575598835945,	"attention":	0.8881056308746338,

# Demo

# Design Decisions & Idioms

#### **Design Decisions:**

- 3-column design
  - Left: Document selection
  - Center: Vertical tree layout
  - Right: Textual representation
- Restricted navigation/zooming
- Dynamic scrolling
- Relative/Absolute sentiment scaling
- Hierarchical dynamic highlighting

#### Idioms Used:

- Visual Encoding:
  - Node-link diagram
    - Topological structure important
    - Less than 150 nodes
    - Node ordering  $\rightarrow$  Text
- Interaction Idiom:
  - Bidirectional linking
    - $\blacksquare \quad \text{Text} \to \text{Leaf-node}$
    - Subtree  $\rightarrow$  Connected text spans

# Analysis - What / How / Why

#### What?

#### Data:

Textual representation of trees annotated with sentiment and importance (attention)

#### Derived:

- $\rightarrow$  Spacial tree representation
- → Sentiment annotation as diverging, sequential color-scale
- $\rightarrow$  Importance as node & link size

#### Shown:

 $\rightarrow$  Tree + Text of a single document

#### How?

#### Executed:

Flat data converted in hierarchical tree structure

#### Shown:

- $\rightarrow$  Linked discourse tree / text
- $\rightarrow$  Sentiment & importance on every node
- $\rightarrow$  Textual index at leaf-nodes
- $\rightarrow$  Restricted navigation on complete subtrees

# Analysis - What / How / Why

#### Why?

#### Important:

- → Correct alignment of tree / sentiment not easy to find without spacial encoding of tree
- → Repetition / Biases / Misalignment can be graphically explored
- → Dataset-level evaluations not sufficient (but very common)

## Conclusion & Future Work

#### Conclusion:

- Visualization helped confirm hypothesis
- Especially useful for mixed reviews
- Positive feedback from user in the domain

#### Future Work:

- Augment document selection
- Restricted local Pan & Zoom
- Overlay multiple trees
- Collapsible layout

# Thank You

**Questions?**