

# Neural Semantic Parsing with Type Constraints

**Jayant Krishnamurthy**, Pradeep Dasigi, Matt Gardner

# Semantic Parsing: Language → Programs

Question

Which player was from  
South Korea?

Knowledge  
Source

Athlete	Nation
Sonja Henie	Norway
Kim Yu-Na	South Korea

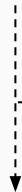
Semantic  
Parsing



Logical  
Form

```
((row2cell athlete)  
(cell2row south_korea))
```

Execution



Answer

Kim Yu-Na

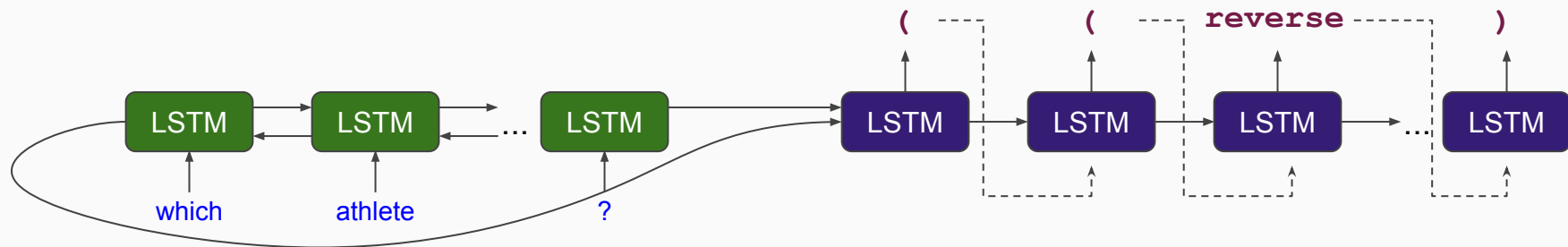
# Lexicalized Grammars for Semantic Parsing

If all the **frogs** **died** the population of **raccoon** **would** \_ ?

NP :	S\NP :	NP :	(S\S)\NP :
<b>frog</b>	$\lambda x. \text{decrease}(x)$	<b>raccoon</b>	$\lambda x. \lambda e. \lambda f. \text{cause}(e, f(x))$
<hr/>		<hr/>	
S :	$\text{decrease}(\text{frog})$	(S\S) :	$\lambda e. \lambda f. \text{cause}(e, f(\text{raccoon}))$
<hr/>			
S :	$\lambda f. \text{cause}(\text{decrease}(\text{frog}), f(\text{raccoon}))$		













[Zettlemoyer and Collins 2005]  
[Liang et al., 2011] [Krishnamurthy and Mitchell, 2012]  
[Kwiatkowski et al., 2013] [Artzi et al., 2013], ...

# Semantic Parsing via Machine Translation



[Andreas et al., 2013]  
[Jia and Liang, 2016] [Dong and Lapata, 2016]  
[Locascio et al., 2016] [Ling et al., 2016]  
[Yin and Neubig, 2017] [Rabinovich et al., 2017]

# Traditional vs Neural Semantic Parsing

	Guaranteed to produce valid logical form	No grammar induction	Train on Question/ Answer Pairs	Joint Entity Linking
<b>Traditional Semantic Parsing</b>				
<b>Neural Semantic Parsing</b>				
<b>This Work</b>				

# Outline

- WikiTableQuestions
- Neural Semantic Parser
  - Type Constraints
  - Joint Entity Linking
  - QA Supervision
- Experimental Results

Athlete	Nation	Olympics	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Gillis Grafström	Sweden	1932	3	1	0
Evgeni Plushenko	Russia	2014	2	2	0
Sonja Henie	Norway	1936	3	0	0
Kim Yu-na	S Korea	2014	1	1	0

Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

A: Kim Yu-Na

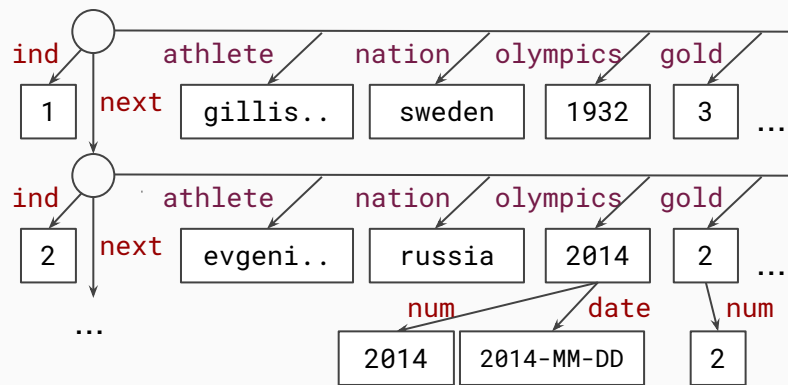
Q: How many more silver medals did Gillis Grafström have than Sonja Henie?

A: 1

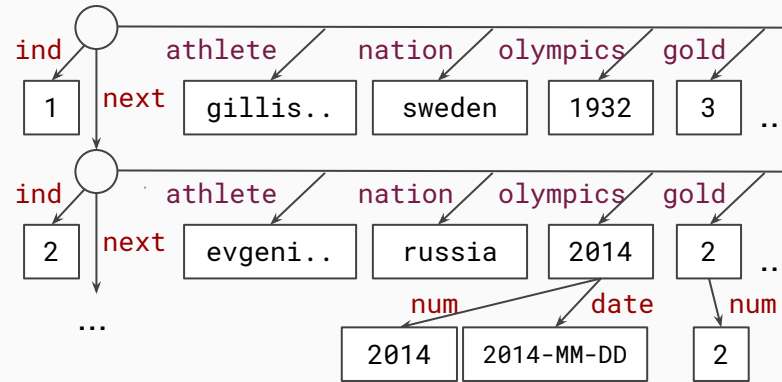
# Table Knowledge Graphs

[Pasupat and Liang, 2015]

Athlete	Nation	Olympics	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Gillis Grafström	Sweden	1932	3	1	0
Evgeni Plushenko	Russia	2014	2	2	0
Sonja Henie	Norway	1936	3	0	0
Kim Yu-na	S Korea	2014	1	1	0







Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

```
((reverse athlete) (and (nation south_korea)
                          (year ((reverse date) (>= 2010-mm-dd)))))
```

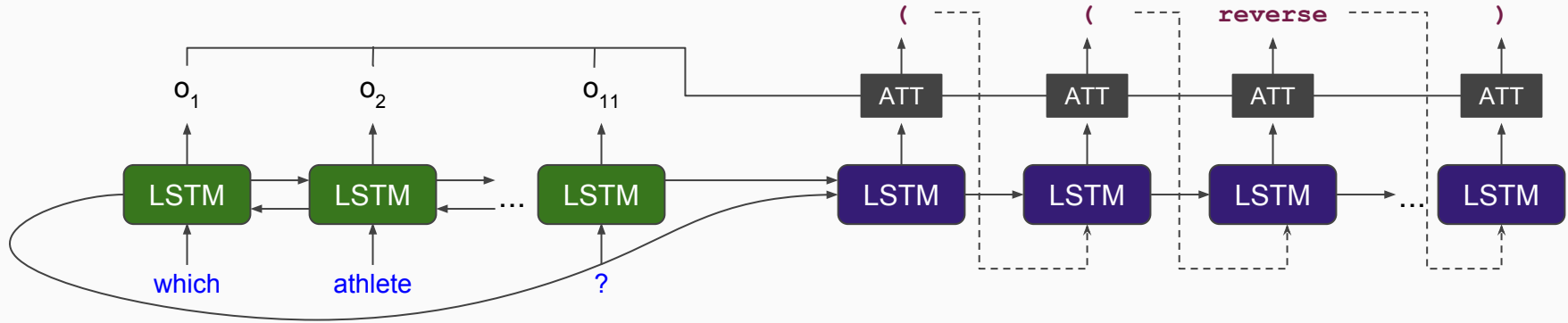
Q: How many more silver medals did Gillis Grafström have than Sonja Henie?

```
(- (num (silver (athlete gillis_grafstorm)))
   (num (silver (athlete sonja_henie))))
```

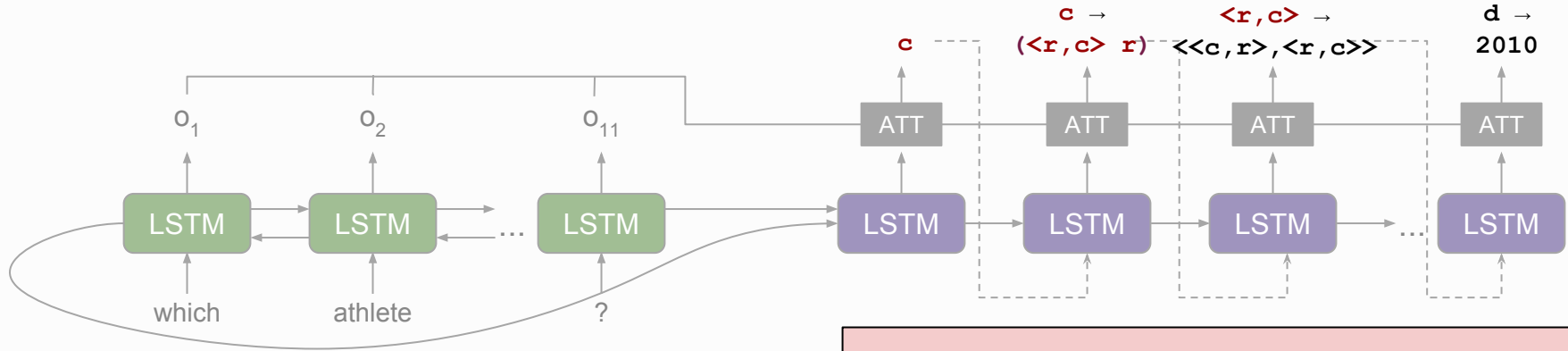
# Outline

- WikiTableQuestions
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- Experimental Results

# Seq2seq Semantic Parser



# Our Model



**Contribution 1:** Generate actions from a typed grammar instead of tokens from the logical form.

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

**Generated Actions**

C

**Logical Form**

C

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

**Generated Actions**

C

**Logical Form**

C

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

$c$

$c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$

## Logical Form

$(\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

$c$

$c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$

## Logical Form

$(\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$



# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

$c$

$c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$

$\langle r, c \rangle \rightarrow (\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle)$

## Logical Form

$((\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle) \ r)$

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

$c$

$c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$

$\langle r, c \rangle \rightarrow (\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle)$

## Logical Form

$((\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle) \ r)$

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

**c**

**c**→(<r, c> r)

<r, c>→(<<c, r>, <r, c>> <c, r>)

<<c, r>, <r, c>>→**reverse**

## Logical Form

((reverse <c, r>) r)

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

**c**

**c**→(<r, c> r)

<r, c>→(<<c, r>, <r, c>> <c, r>)

<<c, r>, <r, c>>→**reverse**

## Logical Form

((reverse <c, r>) r)

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

**c**

**c** → (<r, c> r)

**<r, c>** → (<<c, r>, <r, c>> <c, r>)

**<<c, r>, <r, c>>** → **reverse**

**<c, r>** → **athlete**

## Logical Form

((reverse athlete) r)

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

```
c
c→(<r,c> r)
<r,c>→(<<c,r>, <r,c>> <c,r>)
<<c,r>, <r,c>>→reverse
<c,r>→athlete
r→(<r,<r,r>> r r)
<r,<r,r>>→and
r→(<c,r> c)
<c,r>→nation
c→south_korea
r→(<c,r> c)
<c,r>→year
c→(<r,c> r)
<r,c>→(<<c,r>, <r,c>> <c,r>)
```

## Logical Form

```
((reverse athlete)
 (and (nation south_korea)
      (year ((<<c,r>, <r,c>>
              <c,r>)
             r))))))
```

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

**c**  
c→(<r, c> r)  
<r, c>→(<<c, r>, <r, c>> <c, r>)  
<<c, r>, <r, c>>→**reverse**  
<c, r>→**athlete**  
r→(<r, <r, r>> r r)  
<r, <r, r>>→**and**  
r→(<c, r> c)  
<c, r>→**nation**  
c→**south\_korea**  
r→(<c, r> c)  
<c, r>→**year**  
c→(<r, c> r)  
<r, c>→(<<c, r>, <r, c>> <c, r>)  
<<c, r>, <r, c>>→**reverse**

<c, r>→**date**  
r→(>= d)  
d→**2010.mm.dd**

## Logical Form

((reverse athlete)  
(and (nation south\_korea)  
(year ((reverse date)  
(>= 2010-mm-dd))))

# Type-constrained Decoding

Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

## Generated Actions

$c$   
 $c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$   
 $\langle r, c \rangle \rightarrow (\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle)$   
 $\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \rightarrow$  **reverse**  
 $\langle c, r \rangle \rightarrow$  **athlete**  
 $r \rightarrow (\langle r, \langle r, r \rangle \rangle \ r \ r)$   
 $\langle r, \langle r, r \rangle \rangle \rightarrow$  **and**  
 $r \rightarrow (\langle c, r \rangle \ c)$   
 $\langle c, r \rangle \rightarrow$  **nation**  
 $c \rightarrow$  **south\_korea**  
 $r \rightarrow (\langle c, r \rangle \ c)$   
 $\langle c, r \rangle \rightarrow$  **year**  
 $c \rightarrow (\langle r, c \rangle \ r)$   
 $\langle r, c \rangle \rightarrow (\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \ \langle c, r \rangle)$   
 $\langle \langle c, r \rangle, \langle r, c \rangle \rangle \rightarrow$  **reverse**

$\langle c, r \rangle \rightarrow$  **date**  
 $r \rightarrow (\geq \ d)$   
 $d \rightarrow$  **2010.mm.dd**

## Logical Form

$((\text{reverse athlete})$   
 $\ (\text{and (nation south\_korea)}$   
 $\ (\text{year ((reverse date}$   
 $\ (\geq \ 2010\text{-mm-dd})))$

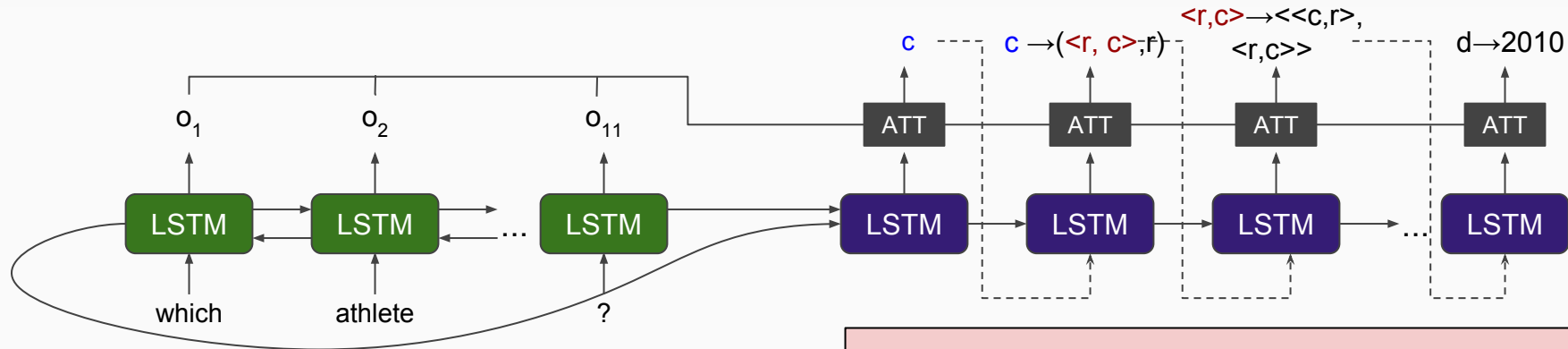
Four transformation rules:

- Constant
- Application
- Lambda
- Variable

Instantiations with concrete types automatically induced from corpus

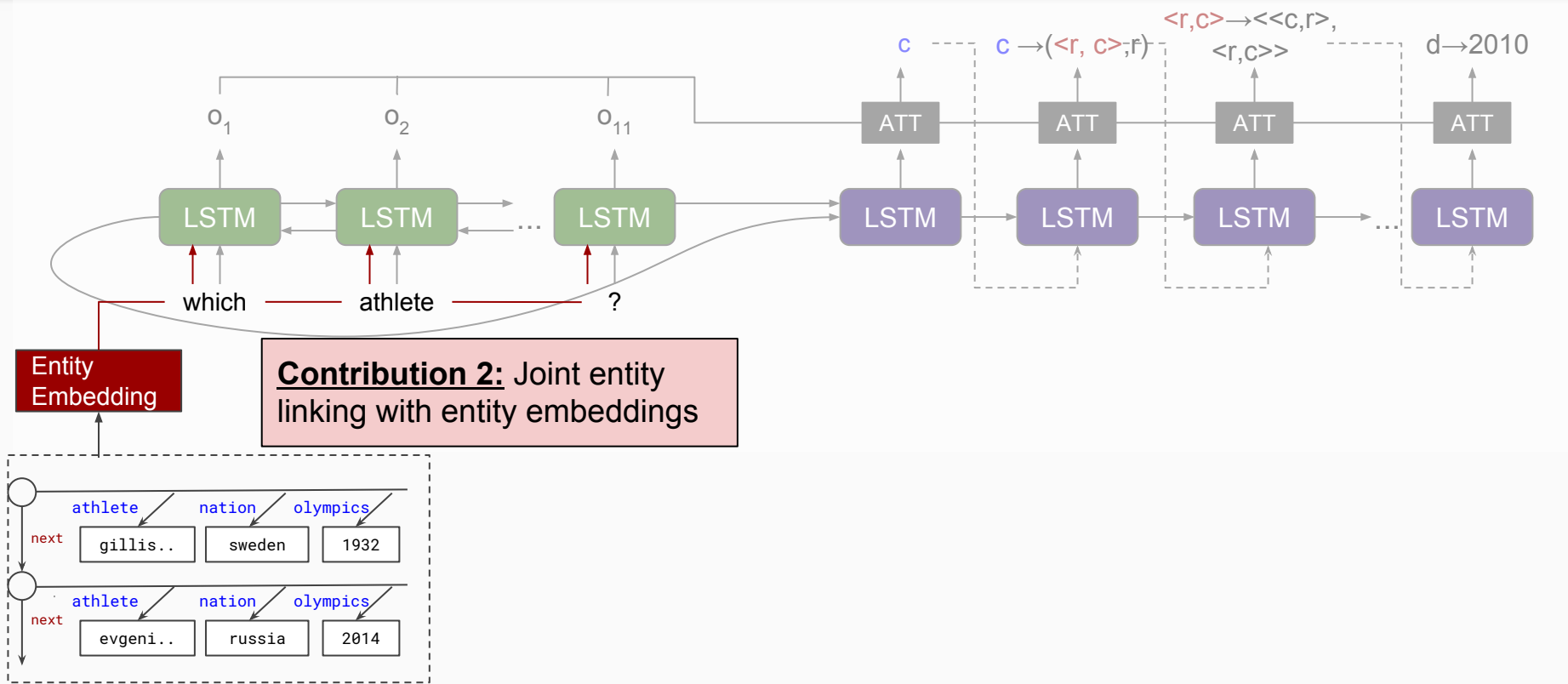


# Our Model

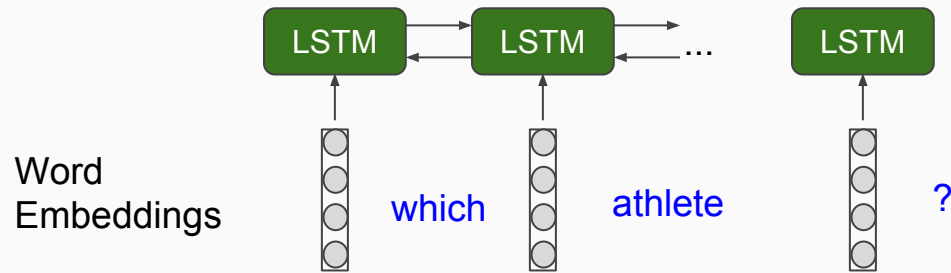


**Contribution 1:** Generate actions from a typed grammar instead of tokens from the logical form.

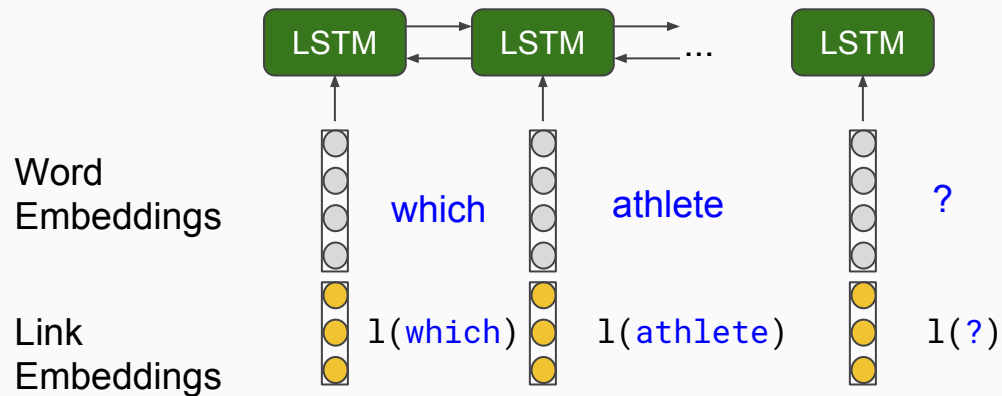
# Our Model



# Entity Embedding and Linking

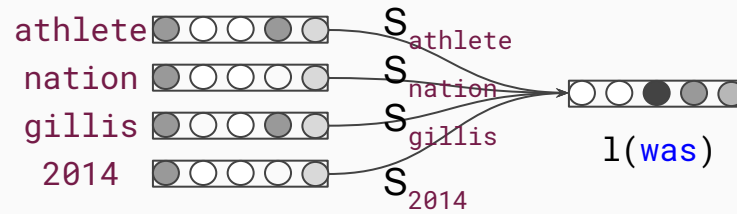


# Entity Embedding and Linking



# Entity Embedding and Linking

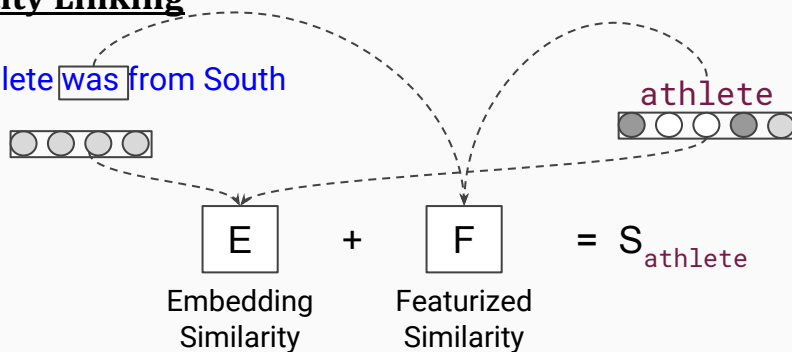
## Link Embedding



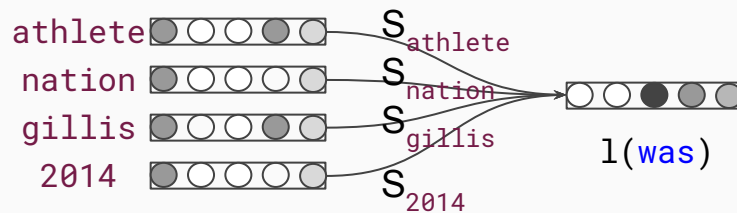
# Entity Embedding and Linking

## Soft Entity Linking

Which athlete **was** from South Korea?

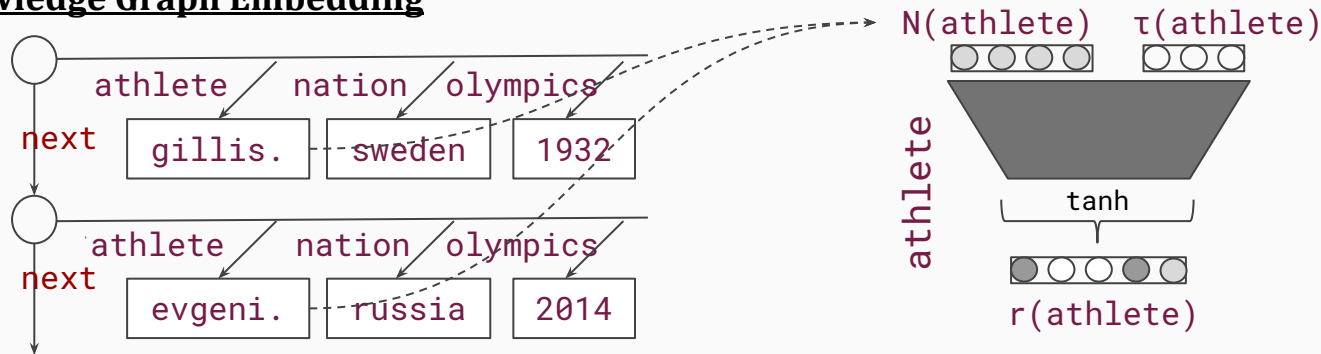


## Link Embedding



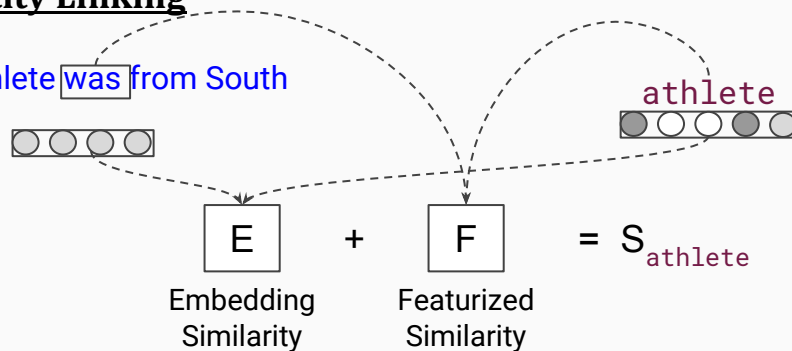
# Entity Embedding and Linking

## Knowledge Graph Embedding

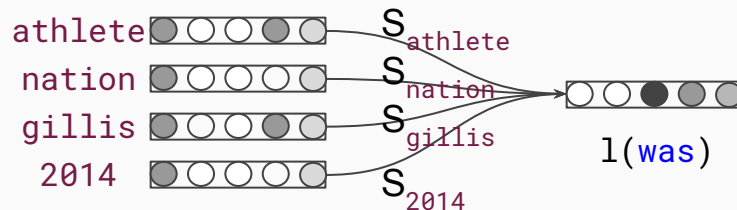


## Soft Entity Linking

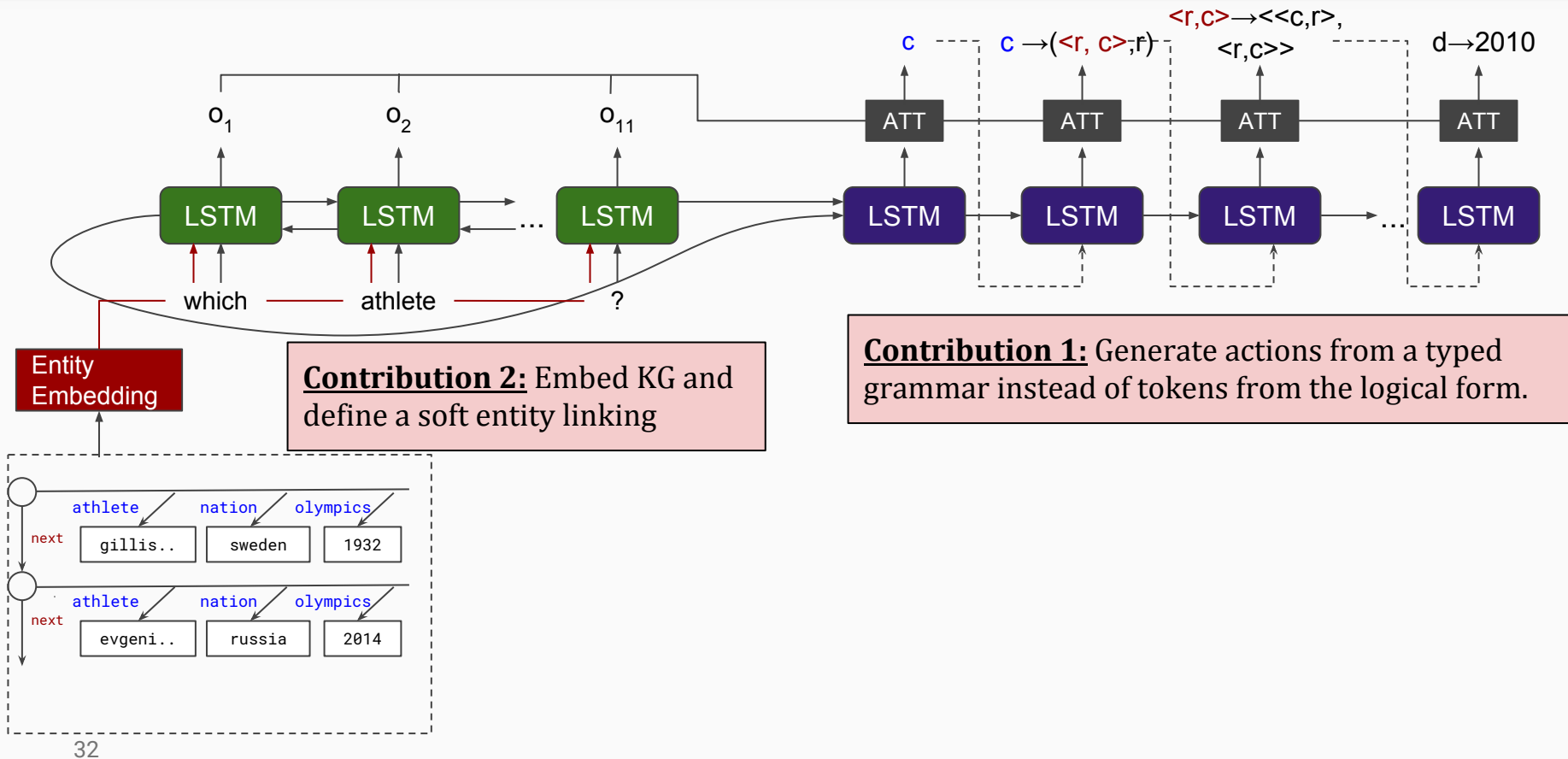
Which athlete was from South Korea?



## Link Embedding

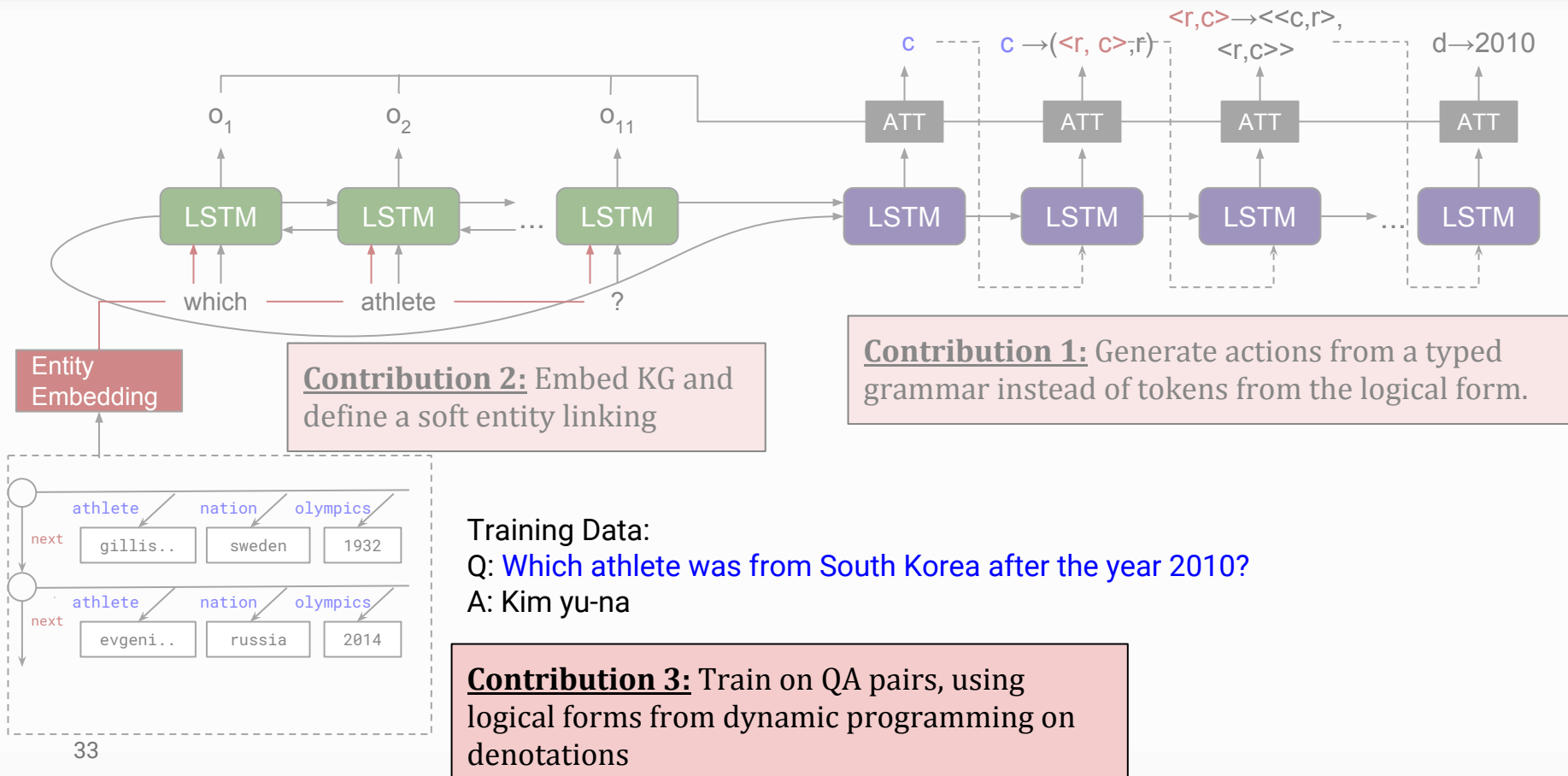


# Moving towards our model





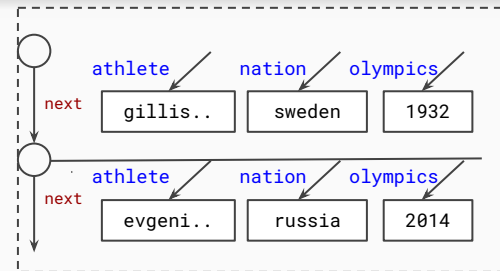
# Our model



# Training with DPD

Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

A: Kim yu-na

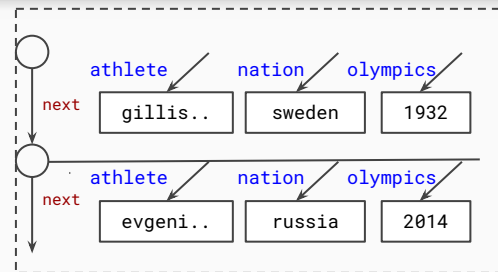


Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

A: Kim yu-na

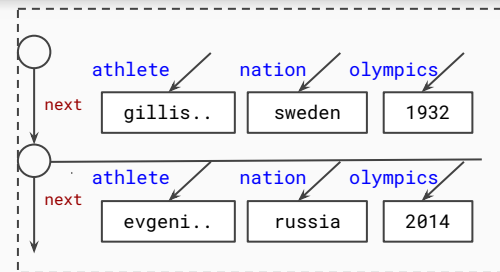


```
((reverse athlete) (and (nation south_korea) (year ((reverse date) (>= 2010-mm-dd)))))  
((reverse athlete) (and (nation south_korea)))  
((reverse athlete) (argmax ind))  
...
```



Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the year 2010?

A: Kim yu-na



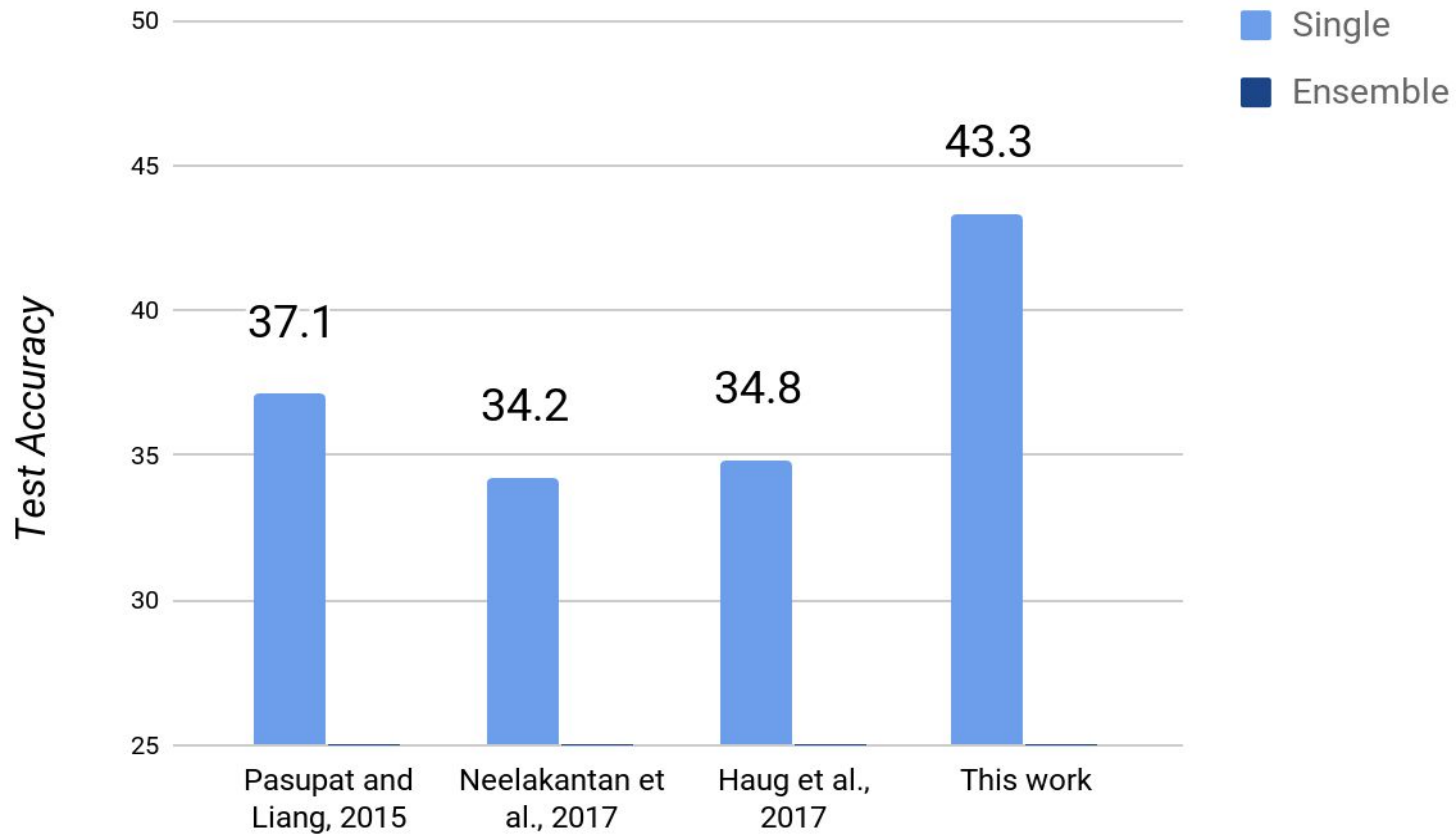
`((reverse athlete) (and (nation south_korea) (year ((reverse date) (>= 2010-mm-dd))))))  
((reverse athlete) (and (nation south_korea))  
((reverse athlete) (argmax ind))  
...`

$$\mathcal{O}(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}^i} P(\ell | q^i, T^i; \theta)$$

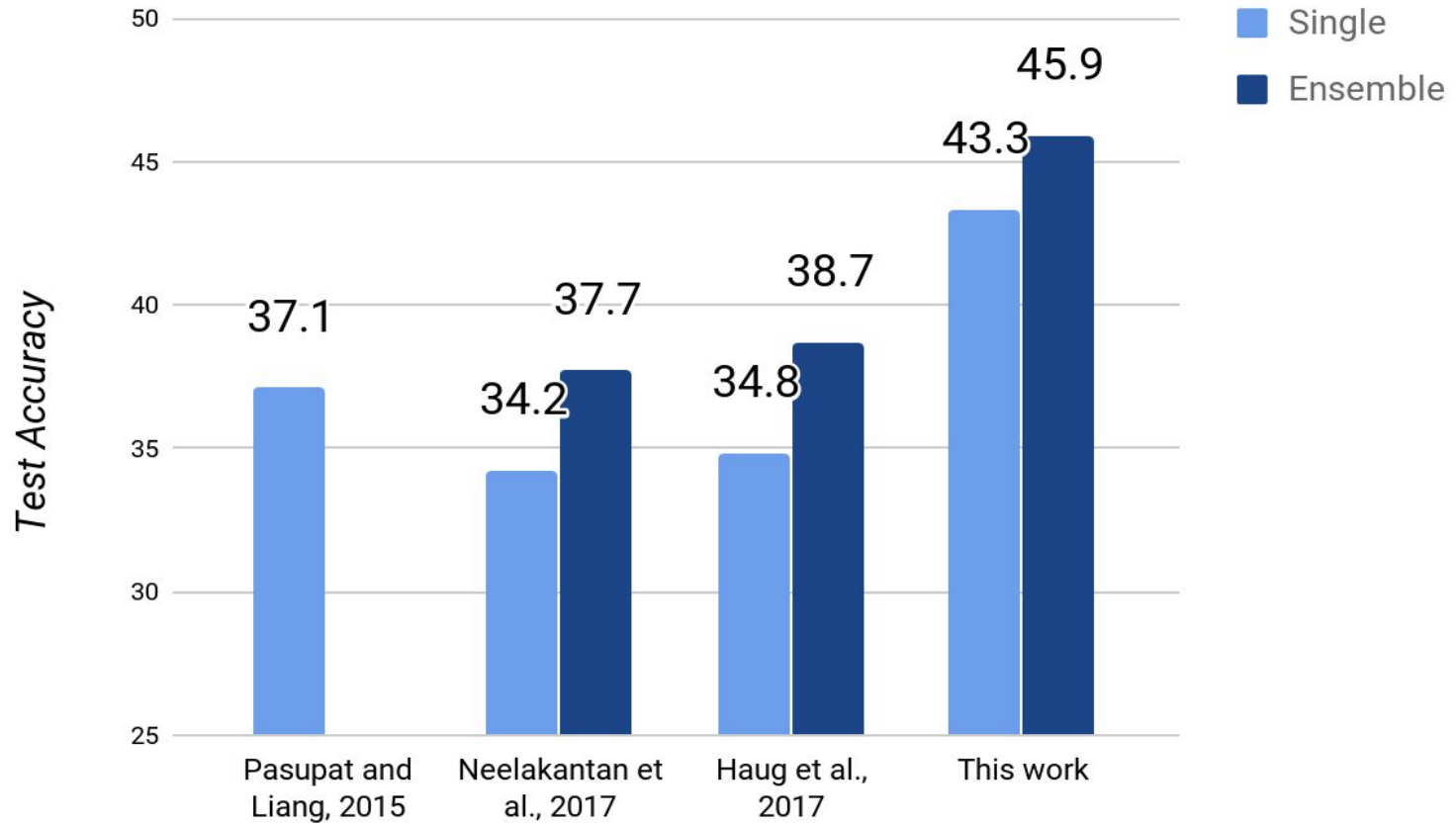
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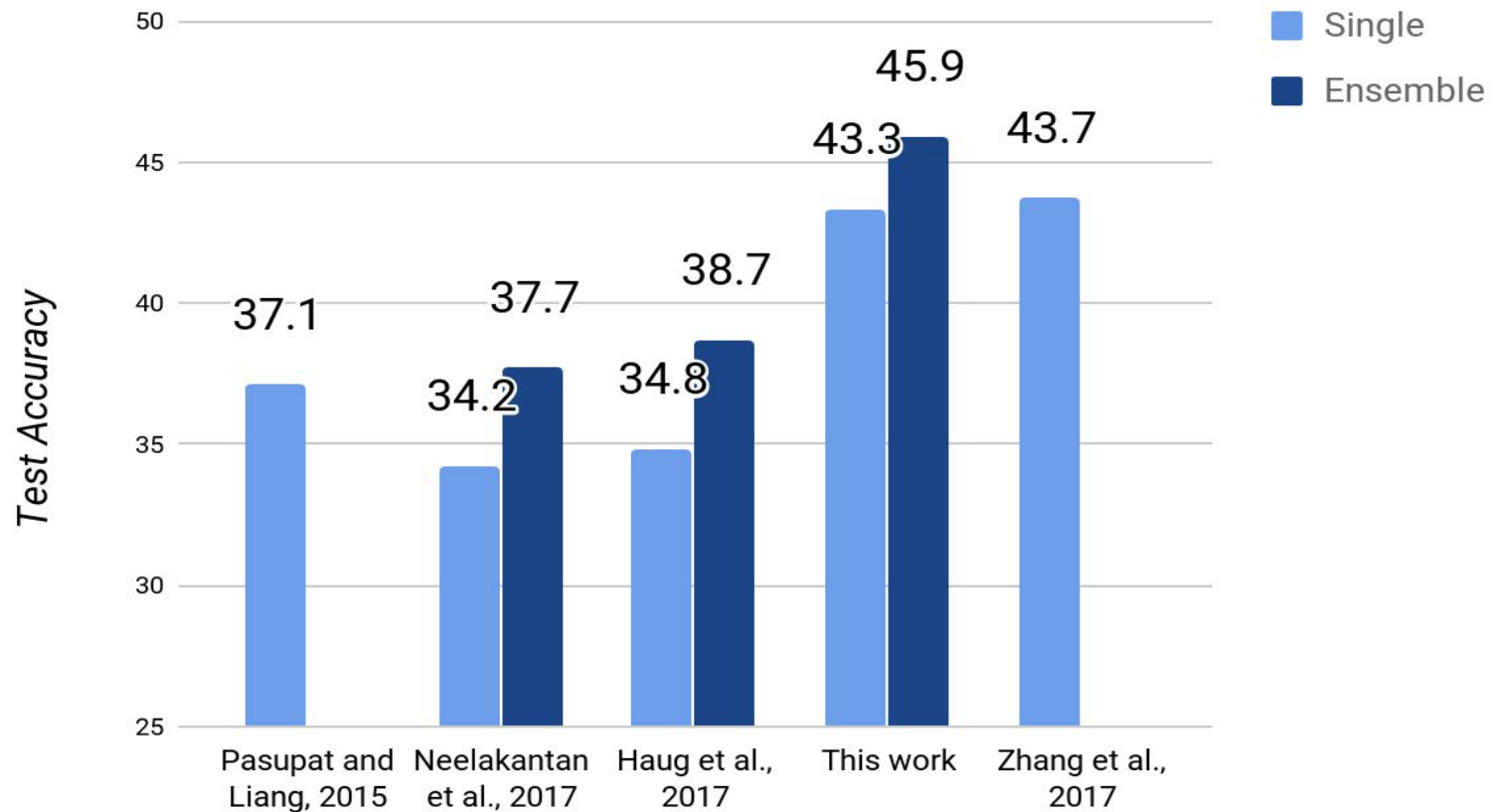
# Comparison with Prior Work



# Comparison with Prior Work

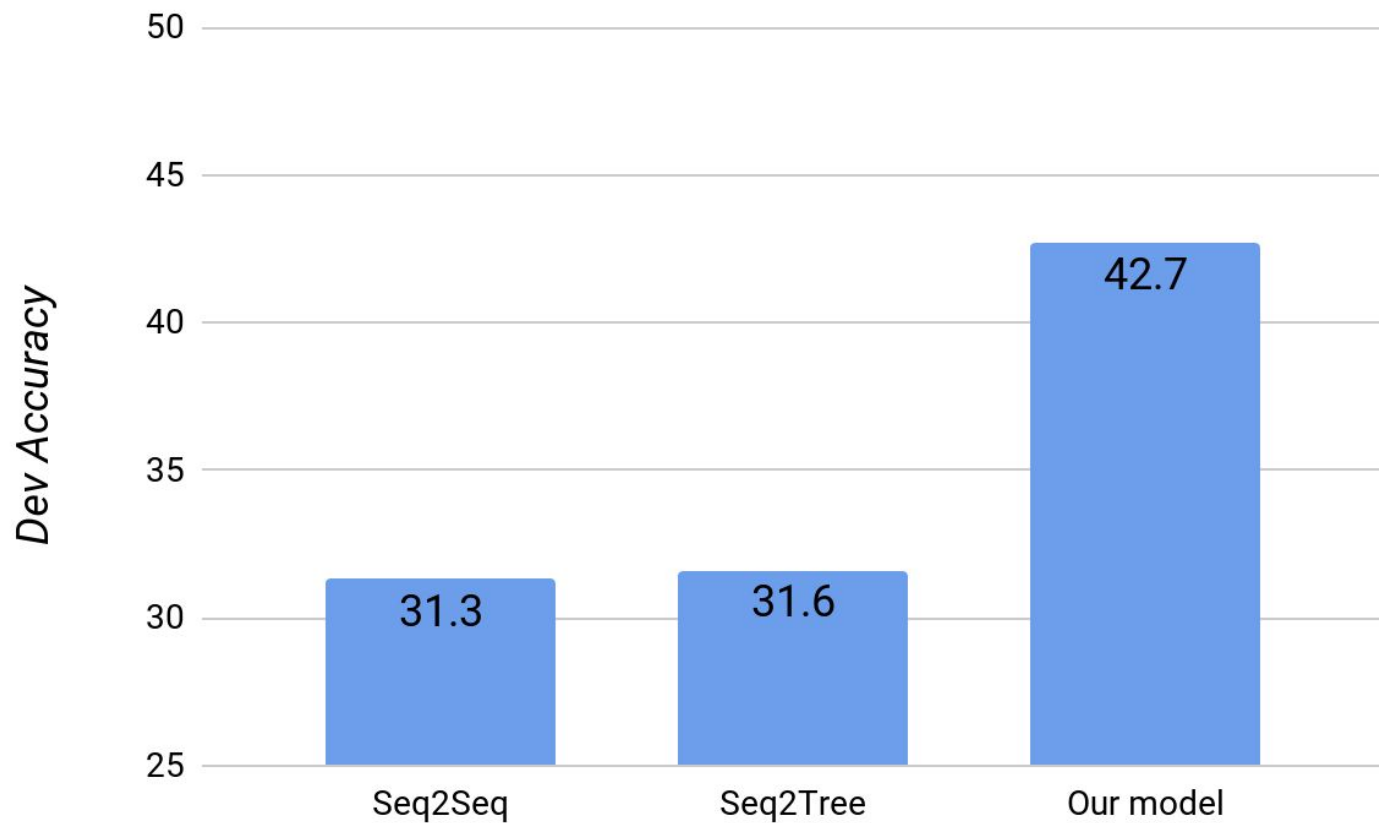


# Comparison with Prior Work

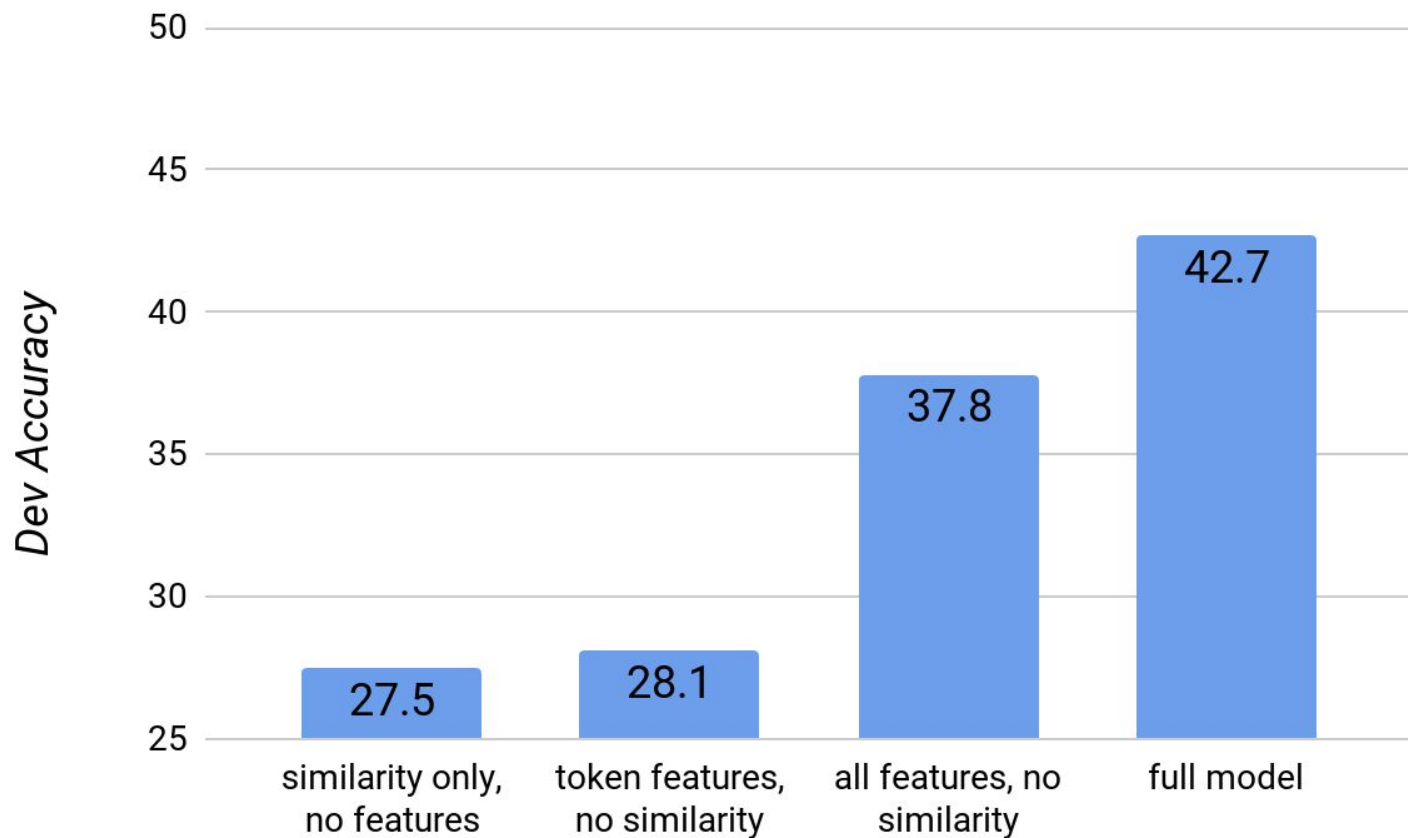




# Do Type Constraints Help?



# Entity Linking Ablations



## Precision Errors (41%)

- Select an answer from a given list of options (**15%**)

Q: Which David D'or album was the bigger seller - Changing Heights or In The Soul?

- Complex background knowledge (**13%**)

Q: Which train ran for the longest time?  
(time = Year Discontinued - Year Began )

## Recall Errors (36%)

- Complex cell values (**15%**)

Name	Fate
Jervis	Sold for scrap
Janus	Torpedoed and sunk off Anzio

Q: [How many of these ships were sunk?](#)

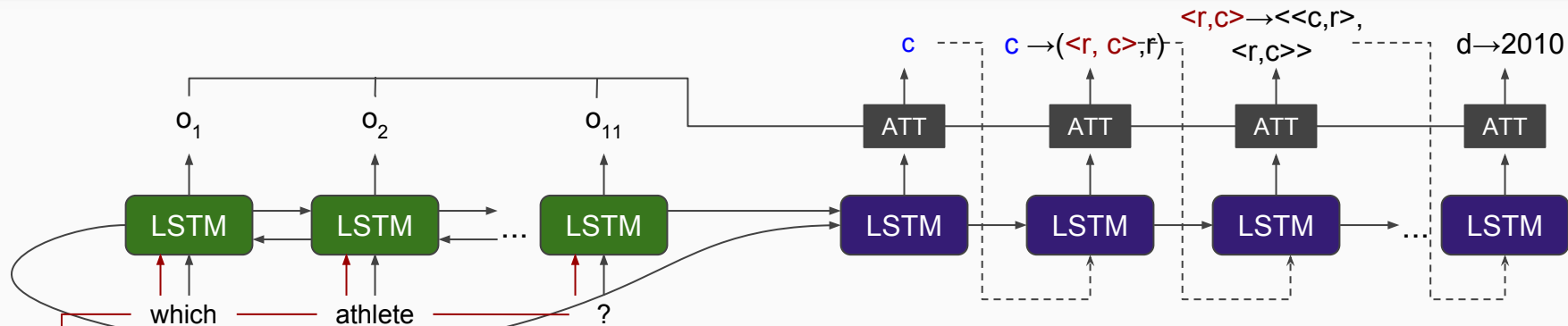
- Unusual table structures (**10%**)

Tables with a total row

- Unsupported Operations (**11%**)

(Average, Percents, String operations)

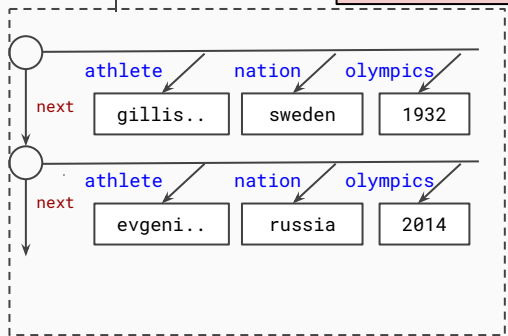
# Neural Semantic Parsing with Type Constraints



Entity Embedding

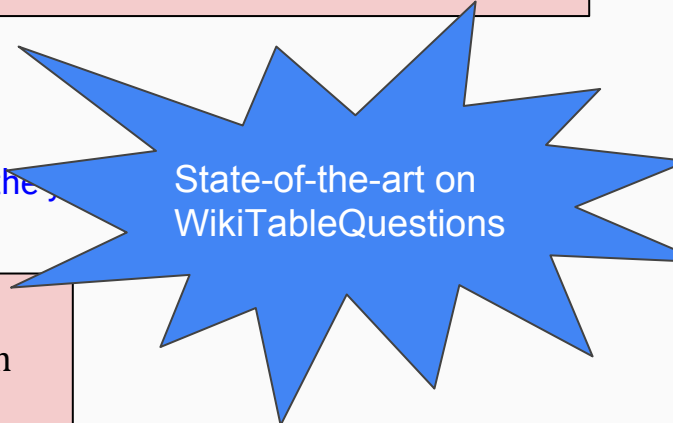
**Contribution 2:** Embed KG and define a soft entity linking

**Contribution 1:** Generate actions from a typed grammar instead of tokens from the logical form.



Training Data:  
 Q: Which athlete was from South Korea after the  
 A: Kim yu-na

**Contribution 3:** Train on QA pairs, using logical forms from dynamic programming on denotations





## **Contributions**

1. Neural semantic parsing with type-constrained decoding to generate valid logical forms
2. Novel soft entity linking trained jointly with semantic parser
3. Training with QA supervision using dynamic programming on denotations

**State of the art on WikitableQuestions dataset**

# Error Analysis

## Precision Errors (41%)

- Selecting an answer from a given list of options (15%)

*Which David D'or album was the bigger seller - Changing Heights or In The Soul?*

- Requiring background knowledge (13%)

*Which train ran for the longest time? (time = Year Discontinued - Year Began)*

## Recall Errors (36%)

### **Table representation failures (25%)**

- Complex cell values (15%)

Name	Fate
Jervis	Sold for scrap
Janus	Torpedoed and sunk off Anzio

Q: How many of these ships were sunk?

- Unusual table structures (10%)

Tables with a total row

### **Unsupported operations (11%)**

- Average
- Percentages
- String operations



# Training using DPD

- Dynamic Programming on Denotations (Pasupat and Liang, 2016)
- Generate **consistent** logical forms given denotation
- Maximize marginal likelihood of all consistent logical forms, using SGD

$$\mathcal{O}(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}^i} P(\ell | q^i, T^i; \theta)$$