

# What is the goal of NLP?

- ▶ Be able to solve problems that require **deep understanding** of text
- ▶ Systems that talk to us: dialogue systems, machine translation, summarization



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The Political Bureau  
of the CPC Central  
Committee

July 30 hold a meeting

中共中央政治局7月30日召开会议，会议分析研究当前经济形势，部署下半年经济工作。

People's Daily, August 10, 2020

Translate

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held a meeting on July 30 to analyze and study the current economic situation and plan economic work in the second half of the year.

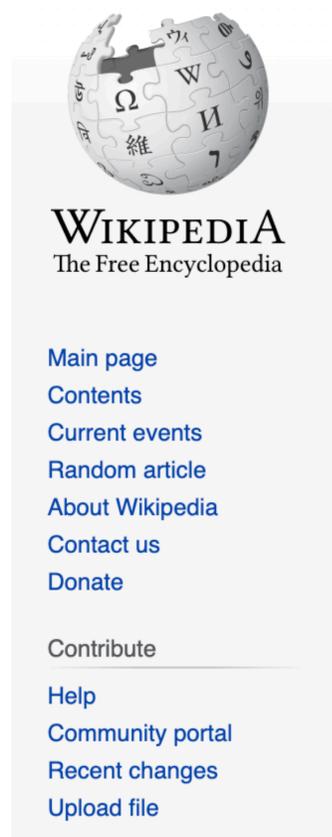
# What is the goal of NLP?

- ▶ Build systems that extract information from text and answer questions

When was Abraham Lincoln born?

Name	Birthday	
Lincoln, Abraham	2/12/1809	map to Birthday field → <b>February 12, 1809</b>
Washington, George	2/22/1732	
Adams, John	10/30/1735	

How many visitors centers are there in Rocky Mountain National Park?



Article [Talk](#)

## Rocky Mountain National Park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

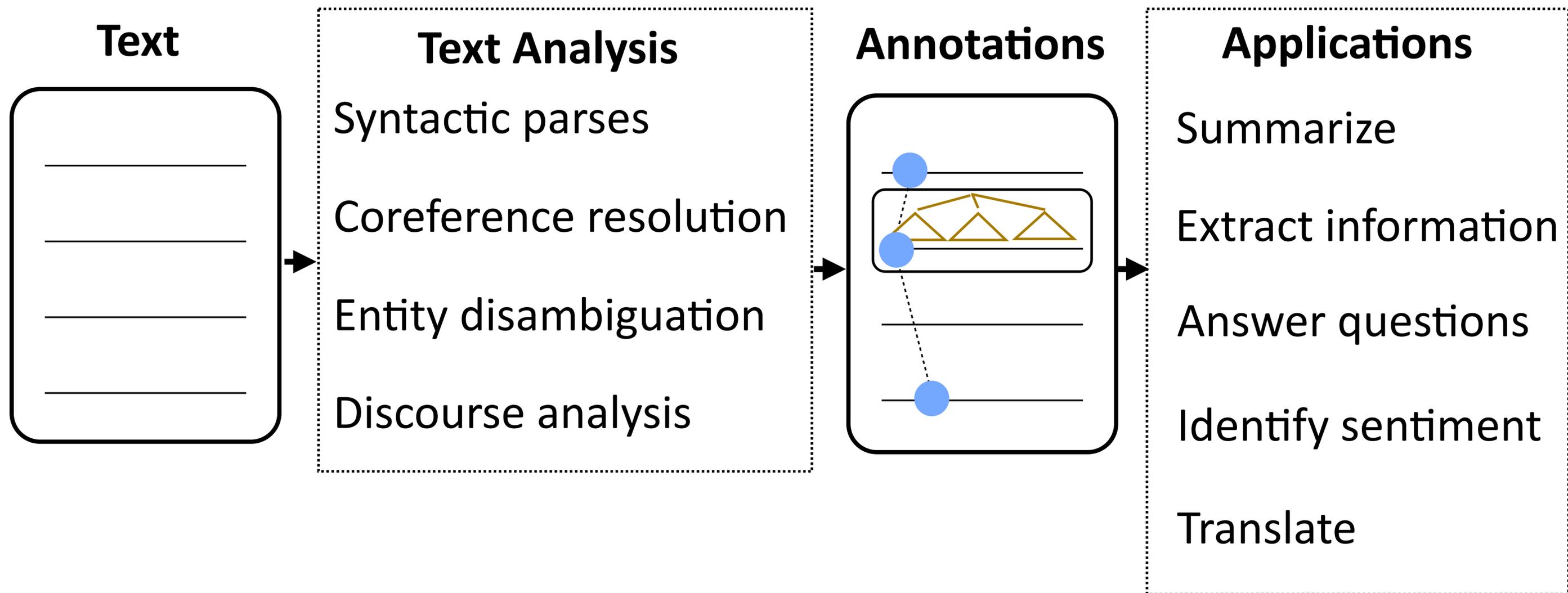
**Rocky Mountain National Park** is an American [national park](#) located within the [Front Range](#) of the [Rocky Mountains](#). The park is situated on the slopes of the [Continental Divide](#) run directly through the center of the park. Features of the park include mountains, [alpine lakes](#) and a wide variety of wildlife.

The Rocky Mountain National Park Act was signed by President [Woodrow Wilson](#) in 1909. The [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) built the main automobile road through the park in the 1930s. The park has a total of five visitor centers<sup>[11]</sup> with park headquarters located at the [Lloyd Wright School of Architecture](#) at [Taliesin West](#).<sup>[12]</sup> [National Forest](#) to the north and west, and [Arapaho National Forest](#) to the west.

The park has a total of five visitor centers

↓  
**five**

# “Standard” NLP Pipeline



- ▶ All of these components are modeled with statistical approaches using machine learning

# How do we represent language?

Text

Labels

*the movie was good* +

*Beyoncé had one of the best videos of all time* **subjective**

Sequences/tags

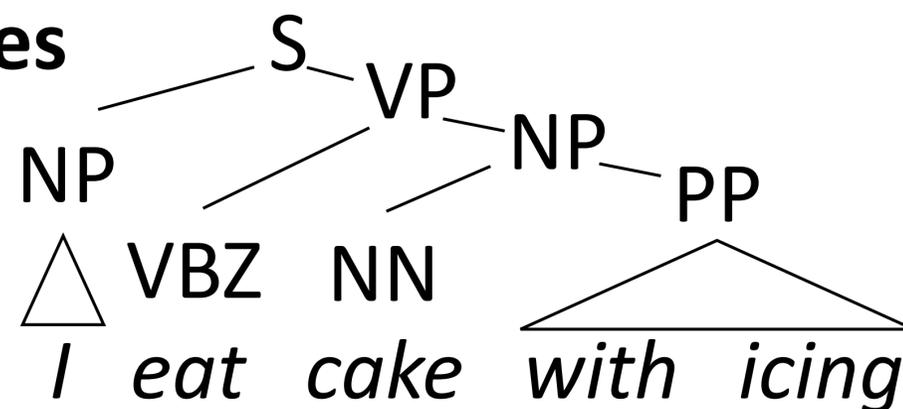
**PERSON**

*Tom Cruise* stars in the new

**WORK\_OF\_ART**

*Mission Impossible* film

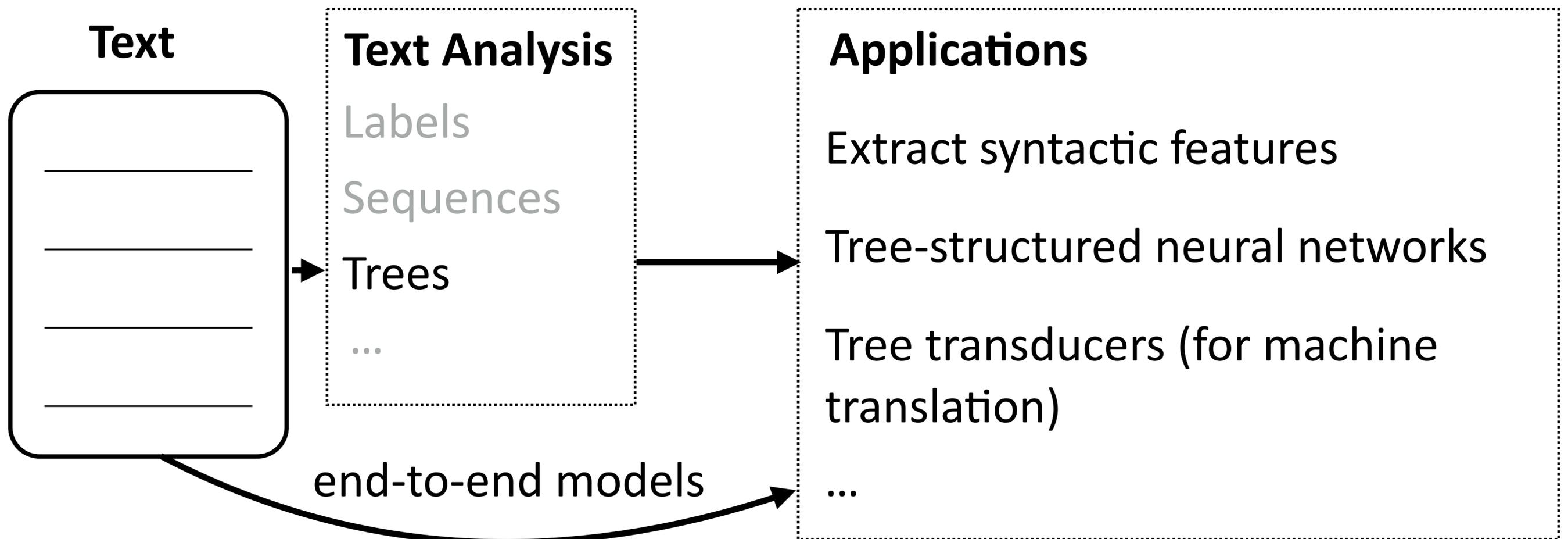
Trees



$\lambda x. \text{flight}(x) \wedge \text{dest}(x)=\text{Miami}$

*flights to Miami*

# How do we use these representations?



- ▶ Why is this prediction hard? Because language is complex and ambiguous!
- ▶ What ambiguities do we need to resolve?



# What makes language hard?

Teacher Strikes Idle Kids

Ban on Nude Dancing on Governor's Desk

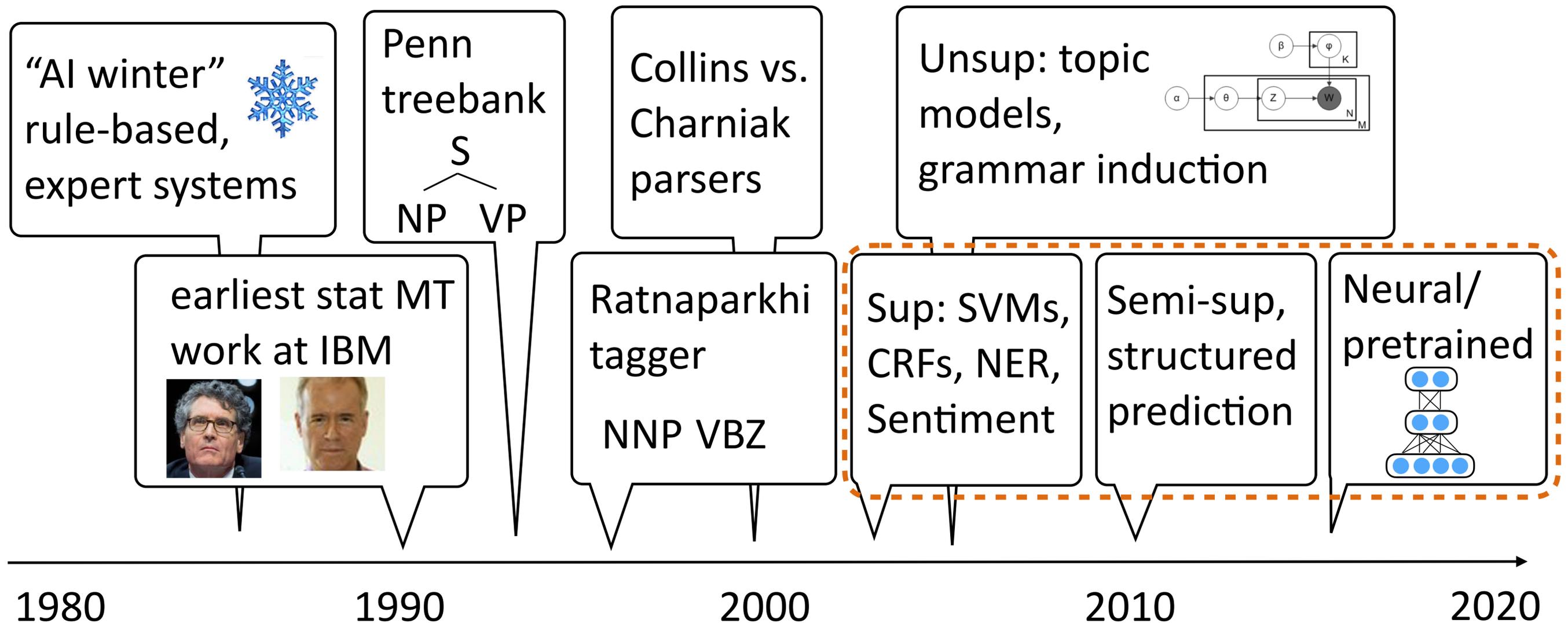
Iraqi Head Seeks Arms

# What makes language hard?

- ▶ There aren't just one or two possibilities, but many!

*il fait vraiment beau* → It is really nice out  
It's really nice  
The weather is beautiful  
It is really beautiful outside  
He makes truly beautiful  
It fact actually handsome

# A brief history of NLP techniques



- ▶ This course focuses on **supervised learning, semi-supervised methods, and neural models (including pre-training)**
- ▶ All of these models can handle ambiguity by learning how to map text into linguistic representations using data

# Outline of the course

- ▶ Classification: linear and neural, word representations
- ▶ Text analysis: tagging (HMMs, CRFs) and parsing (PCFGs)
- ▶ Language modeling and pre-training
- ▶ Question answering and semantics
- ▶ Machine translation
- ▶ Applications