# From language to vision and back again 



Center for Brains,
Minds \& Machines

Andrei Barbu

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Torralba et al 2003



## hammering <br> hammer

Perception is unreliable.

Top-down knowledge affects our perception.
One integrated representation for many tasks.

## Recognition

## Retrieval

Generation

Question answering
Disambiguation
Acquiring language

Images, not videos
Translation

Planning
Theory of mind

## Humans perform language-vision tasks all the time

Give me the cup.
Which chair should I sit in?
This is an apple.
To win this game you have to make a straight line out of your pieces.

Retrieval

## Generation

## Question answering

## Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos
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The person rode the skateboard leftward.
object detector, tracker, event recognizer


## Object detection

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. Please see the video.
Source: Barbu, Andrei, Aaron Michaux, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, and Jeffrey Mark Siskind. "Simultaneous object detection, tracking, and event recognition." Advances in Cognitive Systems: 203-220 (2012).

Felzenszwalb et al 2008

## Object detection

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## Object detection

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Felzenszwalb et al 2008

## Object detectors work poorly

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. Please see the video.
Source: Russakovsky, Olga, Jia Deng, Hao Su, Jonathan Krause, Sanjeev Satheesh, Sean Ma, Zhiheng Huang et al. "Imagenet large scale visual recognition challenge." International Journal of Computer Vision 115, no. 3 (2015): 211-252.

Russakovsky et al 2015

## Fixing bad detectors with higher-level knowledge


detection / object / frame temporally coherent track object detector confidence (f) motion coherence (g) optimal path through the lattice of detections dynamic programming Bellman (1957), Viterbi (1967)

$$
\max _{j^{1}, \ldots, j^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)
$$

## Fixing bad detectors with higher-level knowledge



Courtesy of Andrei Barbu, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi, Lara Schmidt, Jiangnan Shangguan, Jeffrey Mark Siskind, Jarrell Waggoner, Song Want, Jinlian Wei, Yifan Yin \& Zhiqi Zhang. Used with permission.
Source: Barbu, Andrei, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi et al. "Large-scale automatic labeling of video events with verbs based on event-participant interaction." arXiv preprint arXiv:1204.3616 (2012).
detection / object / frame temporally coherent track object detector confidence (f)
motion coherence (g) optimal path through the lattice of detections
dynamic programming
Bellman (1957), Viterbi (1967)

$$
\max _{j^{1}, \ldots, j^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)
$$

## Feature vector - single participant



## Feature vector - dual participant


person riding skateboard
person approaching person
skateboard approaching person

## Event recognition



## Event recognition



$$
\max _{k^{1}, \ldots, k^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} h\left(k^{t}, b_{\hat{\jmath}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} a\left(k^{t-1}, k^{t}\right)
$$



Barbu et al 2012


## Tracking in the context of event recognition



$$
\max _{j^{1}, \ldots, j^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\max _{k^{1}, \ldots, k^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} h\left(k^{t}, b_{\hat{j}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} a\left(k^{t-1}, k^{t}\right)
$$

## Tracking in the context of event recognition



$$
\max _{j^{1}, \ldots, j^{T} k^{1}, \ldots, k^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^{\prime}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=1}^{T} h\left(k^{t}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} a\left(k^{t-1}, k^{t}\right)
$$

## Tracking in the context of event recognition


$\max _{j^{1}, \ldots, j^{T}} \max _{k^{1}, \ldots, k^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=1}^{T} h\left(k^{t}, b_{j^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} a\left(k^{t-1}, k^{t}\right)$

## Tracking in the context of event recognition in action



## tracking

## tracking and event recognition

Courtesy of Andrei Barbu, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi, Lara Schmidt, Jiangnan Shangguan, Jeffrey Mark Siskind, Jarrell Waggoner, Song Want, Jinlian Wei, Yifan Yin \& Zhiqi Zhang. Used with permission. Source: Barbu, Andrei, Alexander Bridge, Dan Coroian, Sven Dickinson, Sam Mussman, Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Dhaval Salvi et al. "Large-scale automatic labeling of video events with verbs based on event-participant interaction." arXiv preprint arXiv:1204.3616 (2012).

## Tracking in the context of event recognition in action


tracking
tracking and event recognition


## Building sentences out of trackers and words

Viterbi tracker


$\max _{j_{1}^{1}, \ldots, j_{1}^{T}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j_{l}^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}\right)$

Siddharth et al 2014

## Building sentences out of trackers and words

Event tracker for intransitive verbs


Siddharth et al 2014

## Building sentences out of trackers and words

Event tracker
track 1

word 1
track $L$


X
$\max _{j_{1}^{1}, \ldots, j_{1}^{T}} \max _{k_{1}^{1}, \ldots, k_{1}^{T}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f\left(b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} g\left(b_{j_{l}^{t-1}}^{t-1}, b_{j_{l}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=1}^{T} h\left(k^{t}, b_{\hat{j}_{\theta^{t}}^{t}}^{t}, b_{\hat{j}_{\theta^{2}}^{t}}^{t}\right)+\sum_{t=2}^{T} a\left(k^{t-1}, k^{t}\right)$
$j_{L}^{1}, \ldots, j_{L}^{T}$
Siddharth et al 2014

## Building sentences out of trackers and words

## Sentence tracker



$j_{L}^{1}, \ldots, j_{L}^{T} k_{W}^{1}, \ldots, k_{W}^{T}$
Siddharth et al 2014

## Sentences

The tall person quickly rode the horse leftward away from the other horse.

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## Understanding sentences as a whole


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J. Artif. Intell. Res.(JAIR) 52 (2015): 601-713.

## We can differentiate events based on the verb:

> The person picked up an object.
> The person put down an object.

Siddharth et al 2014

## Understanding sentences as a whole


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J. Artif. Intell. Res.(JAIR) 52 (2015): 601-713.

We can differentiate events based on the subject noun:

> The backpack approached the bin. The chair approached the bin.

Siddharth et al 2014

## Understanding sentences as a whole


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J. Artif. Intell. Res.(JAIR) 52 (2015): 601-713.

We can differentiate events based on an adjective in the subject NP:

> The red object approached the chair. The blue object approached the chair.

## Understanding sentences as a whole


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J. Artif. Intell. Res.(JAIR) 52 (2015): 601-713.

We can differentiate events based on a preposition in the object NP:
The person picked up an object to the right of the bin.
The person picked up an object to the left of the bin.
Siddharth et al 2014

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## Sentential retrieval


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Recognition
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## Generating sentences

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{S} \rightarrow \mathrm{NP} \mathrm{VP} \\
& \mathrm{NP} \rightarrow \mathrm{D}[\mathrm{~A}] \mathrm{N}[\mathrm{PP}] \\
& \mathrm{D} \rightarrow \text { an } \mid \text { the } \\
& \mathrm{A} \rightarrow \text { blue } \mid \text { red } \\
& \mathrm{N} \rightarrow \text { person } \mid \text { backpack } \mid \text { chair } \mid \text { bin } \mid \text { object } \\
& \mathrm{PP} \rightarrow \mathrm{P} \mathrm{NP} \\
& \mathrm{P} \rightarrow \text { to the left of } \mid \text { to the right of } \\
& \mathrm{VP} \rightarrow \mathrm{~V} \text { NP }[\mathrm{Adv}][\mathrm{PP} \\
&\mathrm{V}] \\
& \mathrm{V} \rightarrow \text { approached } \mid \text { carried } \mid \text { picked up } \mid \text { put down } \\
& \mathrm{Adv} \rightarrow \text { quickly } \mid \text { slowly } \\
& \mathrm{PP}_{\mathrm{M}} \rightarrow \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{M}} \mathrm{NP} \\
& \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{M}} \rightarrow \text { towards } \mid \text { away from }
\end{aligned}
$$

$147,123,874,800$ sentences without recursion
"the person carried the backpack"

## Generated sentences



## The person to the right of the bin picked up the backpack.

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Recognition
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## S(sentence, video)

```
argmax S(s,v)
    v\inV
argmax }S(s,v
    s\inL
\operatorname{argmax}S(Q(s, sq),v)
    s\inL
```

Disambiguation

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Images, not videos
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## Question answering



What did the person put on top of the red car? The person put on top of the red car. The person put the pear on top of the red car.

## Question answering



Who put an object on top of the red car?

## Generation for question answering

Who put an object on top of the red car?
put an object on top of the red car.
put an object on top of the red car.

## Generation for question answering

Who put an object on top of the red car?
put an object on top of the red car.
---------------put an object on top of the red car.

## Discriminative generation for question answering

Who put an object on top of the red car?
put an object on top of the red car.

put an object on top of the red car.

## Question answering



Who put an object on top of the red car? put an object on top of the red car.
The person on the left of the car put an object on top of the red car.

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## Disambiguation

## Danny approached the chair with a bag.



Berzak et al 2015

## Disambiguation

## Danny approached the chair with a bag.



Berzak et al 2015

## Disambiguation

## PP Attachment

## Danny looked at Andrei with a telescope.



Courtesy of Yevgeni Berzak, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz \& Shimon Ullman. License CC BY. Source: Berzak, Yevgeni, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz, and Shimon Ullman. "Do you see what i mean? visual resolution of linguistic ambiguities." arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08079 (2016).

## Disambiguation

PP Attachment
Andrei approached the person holding a green chair.
VP Attachment


## Disambiguation

PP Attachment
VP Attachment
Conjunction

## Danny and Andrei picked up the yellow bag and chair.



Courtesy of Yevgeni Berzak, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz \& Shimon Ullman. License CC BY. Source: Berzak, Yevgeni, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz, and Shimon Ullman. "Do you see what i mean? visual resolution of linguistic ambiguities." arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08079 (2016).

Berzak et al 2015

## Disambiguation

PP Attachment

Someone put down the bags.
VP Attachment
Conjunction
Logical Form


Berzak et al 2015

## Disambiguation

PP Attachment
VP Attachment
Conjunction
Logical Form
Anaphora

Danny picked up the bag and the chair. It is yellow.


Courtesy of Yevgeni Berzak, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz \& Shimon Ullman. License CC BY. Source: Berzak, Yevgeni, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz, and Shimon Ullman. "Do you see what i mean? visual resolution of linguistic ambiguities." arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08079 (2016).

## Disambiguation

PP Attachment

VP Attachment
Conjunction
Logical Form
Anaphora
Ellipsis
Danny left Andrei. Also Yevgeni.


Courtesy of Yevgeni Berzak, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz \& Shimon Ullman. License CC BY. Source: Berzak, Yevgeni, Andrei Barbu, Daniel Harari, Boris Katz, and Shimon Ullman. "Do you see what i mean? visual resolution of linguistic ambiguities." arXiv preprint arXiv:1603.08079 (2016).

## Not just parse trees

Danny and Andrei moved a chair.

> Danny and Andrei move the same chair. chair $(x)$ move(Danny, $x)$, move(Andrei, $x)$

Danny and Andrei move different chairs. chair $(x)$, chair $(y)$ move(Danny, $x$ ), move(Andrei, $y$ ), $x \neq y$

## Not just parse trees

Danny and Andrei moved a chair.

Danny and Andrei move the same chair. chair $(x)$, person $(y)$, person $(z), y \neq z$ move $(y, x)$, move $(z, x)$

> Danny and Andrei move different chairs. chair $(x)$, chair $(y)$, person $(z)$, person $(w), z \neq w$ $\operatorname{move}(z, x)$, move $(\mathrm{w}, y), x \neq y$

Recognition
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## S(sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{\sigma_{I}}{\operatorname{argmax}} S\left(\mathrm{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)
$$

$$
s \in L
$$

```
argmax S(i,v)
i\inparser(s)
p}\underset{\operatorname{argmax}}{\prod}\S(s(p),v
```

Images, not videos
Translation

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## Language learning

Split into two tasks:
Learning word meaning
Learning syntax

## Language learning: word meaning



The chair approached the backpack.


The person picked up the backpack.
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Source: Yu, Haonan, N. Siddharth, Andrei Barbu, and Jeffrey Mark Siskind. "A Compositional Framework for Grounding Language Inference, Generation, and Acquisition in Video." J. Artif. Intell. Res.(JAIR) 52 (2015): 601-713.

## Language learning: word meaning


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## Language learning

Split into two tasks:
Learning word meaning Learning syntax

## Language learning: syntax; in progress

Danny approached the chair with a bag.


## Language learning: syntax; in progress

Danny approached the chair with a bag.



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Pilley and Reid 2011

Recognition
Retrieval
Generation

Question answering
Disambiguation

Acquiring language

Images, not videos
$S($ sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(s, v)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathrm{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$
$i \in \operatorname{parser}(s)$
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
$S($ sentence, video)

Translation

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Images, not videos
$S$ (sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(s, v)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathrm{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$
$i \in \operatorname{parser}(\mathrm{~s})$
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
$S($ sentence, Flow(image))

Translation

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## Single-frame optical flow


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## Single-frame optical flow



Flow


## Predicted


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## $S$ (sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathbf{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)
$$

$$
s \in L
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$

$i \in$ parser(s)

$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
S(sentence, Flow(image))
$\operatorname{argmin} f\left(s, s^{\prime}\right)$
$s^{\prime} \in L_{b}$

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## Translation

## $S$ (sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathbf{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)
$$

$$
s \in L
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$

$i \in$ parser(s)

$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
S(sentence, Flow(image))
$\underset{s^{\prime} \in L_{b}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \int_{v}\left|S\left(s^{\prime}, v\right)-S(s, v)\right|$

Planning
Theory of mind

## Statistical machine translation

> Sam was happy parallel corpus
> Sam a fost fericita
> Сэм была счастлива

In Thai you specify siblings by age not gender.
In English you specify relative time but you don't need to in Chinese.
Guugu Yimithirr language only uses absolute directions.
Many languages don't distinguish blue/green.
Swahili specifies color as "the color of X".
In Turkish you have to report if something is hearsay.

## Translation by imagination

sentence<br>sample<br>videos<br>generation<br>translation

Recognition
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Images, not videos
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## S(sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

```
\(\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathrm{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)\)
    \(s \in L\)
```

$\underset{i \in \operatorname{parser}(s)}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(i, v)$
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
$S$ (sentence, Flow(image))
$\underset{s^{\prime} \in L_{b}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \int_{v}\left|S\left(s^{\prime}, v\right)-S(s, v)\right|$
$\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S\left(s, v_{0}: v: v_{n}\right)$

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$S($ sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(s, v)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathrm{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$
$i \in \operatorname{parser}(\mathrm{~s})$
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, n} S(s(p), v)$
$S($ sentence, Flow(image))
$\underset{s^{\prime} \in L_{b}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \int_{v}\left|S\left(s^{\prime}, v\right)-S(s, v)\right|$
$\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S\left(s, v_{0}: v: v_{n}\right)$
$S(s, v)$

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$S$ (sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(s, v)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathbf{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)$
$s \in L$
$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$
$i \in$ parser(s)
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod S(s(p), v)$
S(sentence, Flow(image))
$\underset{s^{\prime} \in L_{b}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \int_{v}\left|S\left(s^{\prime}, v\right)-S(s, v)\right|$
$\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S\left(s, v_{0}: v: v_{n}\right)$
$S(s$, tracks $) S($ tracks,$v)$

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Images, not videos
Translation

Planning

Theory of mind
$S$ (sentence, video)

$$
\underset{v \in V}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} S(s, v)
$$

$$
\operatorname{argmax} S\left(\mathbf{Q}\left(s, s_{q}\right), v\right)
$$

$$
s \in L
$$

$\operatorname{argmax} S(i, v)$
$i \in$ parser(s)
$\underset{p}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{s, v} S(s(p), v)$
S(sentence, Flow(image))
$\underset{s^{\prime} \in L_{b}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \int_{v}\left|S\left(s^{\prime}, v\right)-S(s, v)\right|$
$\underset{s \in L}{\operatorname{argmax}} \int_{v} S\left(s, v_{0}: v: v_{n}\right)$
$S($ planner, tracks $) S(s$, tracks $) S($ tracks,$v)$

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Siddharth et al 2012

## The long road ahead . . .

Coherent stories 3D

Forces \& contact relations

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## The long road ahead . . .

Coherent stories
3D
Forces \& contact relations
Segmentation
Parts and low-level features

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## The long road ahead . . .

Coherent stories<br>3D<br>Forces \& contact relations<br>Segmentation<br>Parts and low-level features<br>Theory of mind<br>Physics<br>Modification


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## The long road ahead . . .

## Coherent stories

3D
Forces \& contact relations
Segmentation
Parts and low-level features
Theory of mind
Physics
Modification
The vast majority of verbs: absolve, admire, anger, approve, bark, bend, chase, cheat, complete, concede, discover, fire, follow, fumble, hurry, race, recruit, reject, scratch, steal, taste, want, etc.
Metaphoric extension etc.

## Thanks to many great collaborators

Yevgeni Berzak, Danny Harari, Maximilian Nickel, Candance Ross, Victor Carbarera, Santiago Perez, Boris Katz, Shimon Ullman, Tomaso Poggio

Siddharth Narayanaswamy, Jeffrey Siskind, Sven Dickinson, Song Wang, Haonan Yu, Caiming Xiong

Recognition
Retrieval

Generation

Question answering

Disambiguation

Acquiring language

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## Resource: Brains, Minds and Machines Summer Course

Tomaso Poggio and Gabriel Kreiman

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