



TRADE: Transferable Multi-Domain State Generator for Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems

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Short Conclusion



*TRADE is a simple **copy-augmented** generative model that can track dialogue states **without requiring ontology**. It is the current SOTA model in multi-domain DST. It also enables zero-shot and few-shot DST in an unseen domain.*

Dialogue Systems: Chit-Chat v.s. Task-Oriented

Chit-Chat Dialogue Systems

- ▷ No Specific goal
- ▷ Focus on generating natural responses
- ▷ The more turns the better

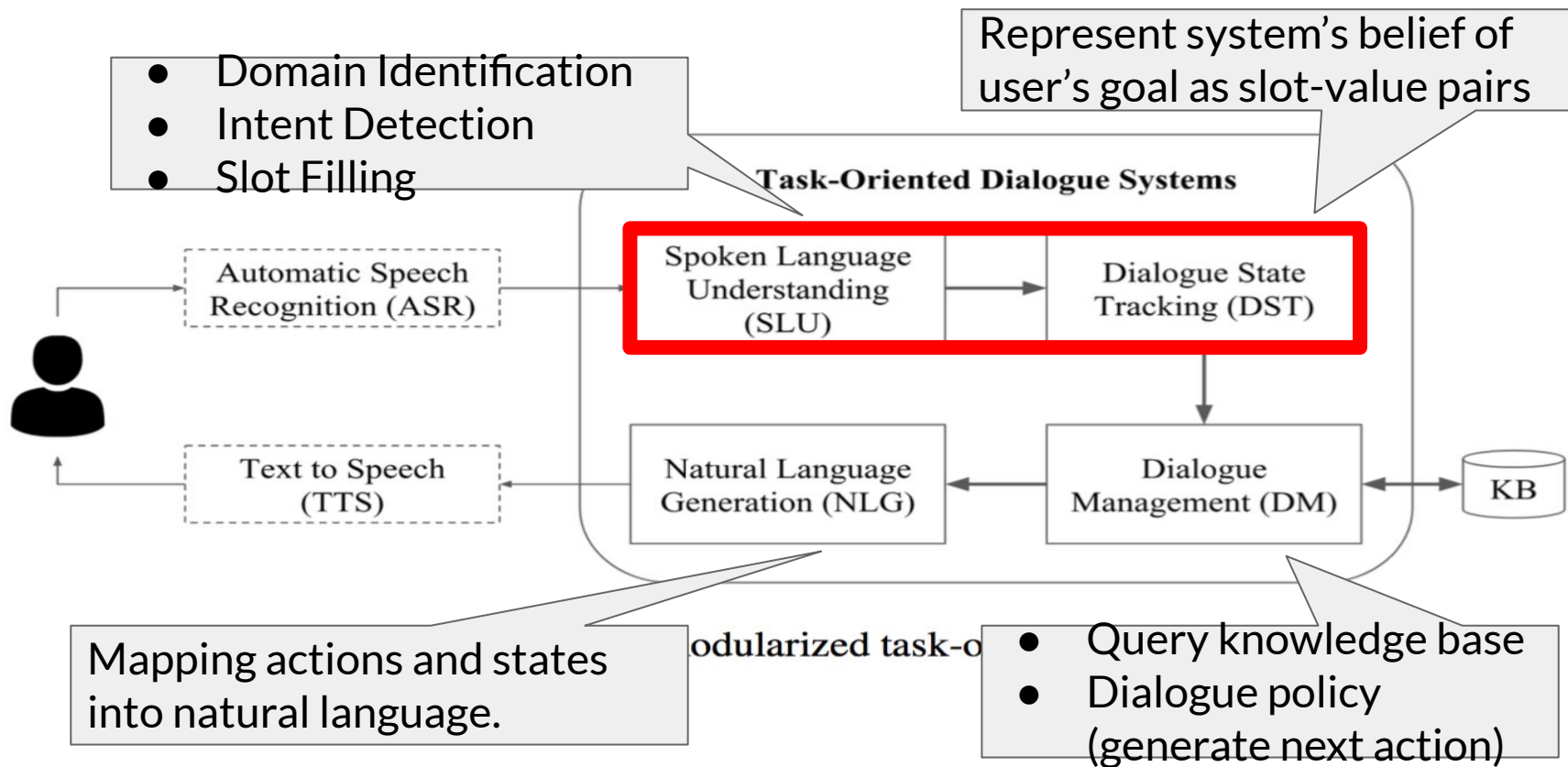


Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems

- ▷ Help users achieve their goal
- ▷ Focus on understanding users, tracking states, and generating next actions.
- ▷ The less turns the better

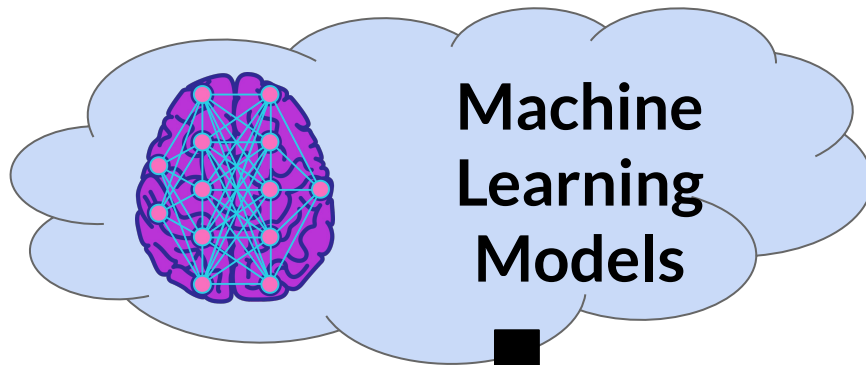


Modularized Dialogue Systems



Problem: Multi-Domain Dialogue State Tracking (DST)

**Multi-domain,
Multi-turn
Conversations**

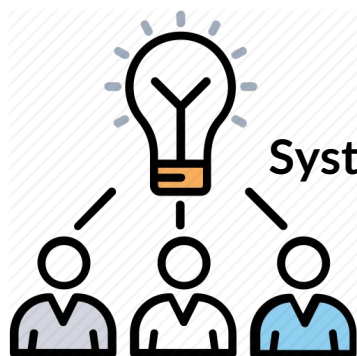


Dialogue States

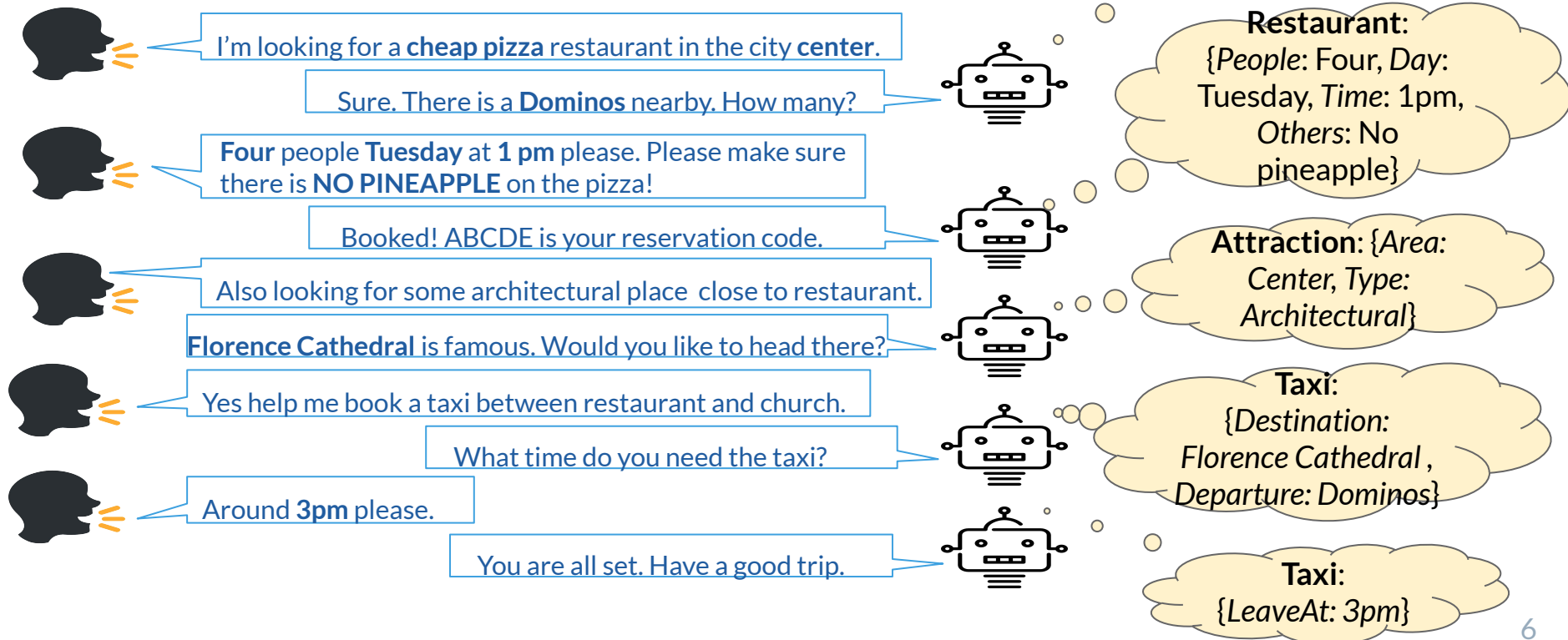
System belief of a user's goal or Intention.

Ex: Restaurant:

*{Location: Florence,
Price: Expensive, ...}*



A Dialogue Example



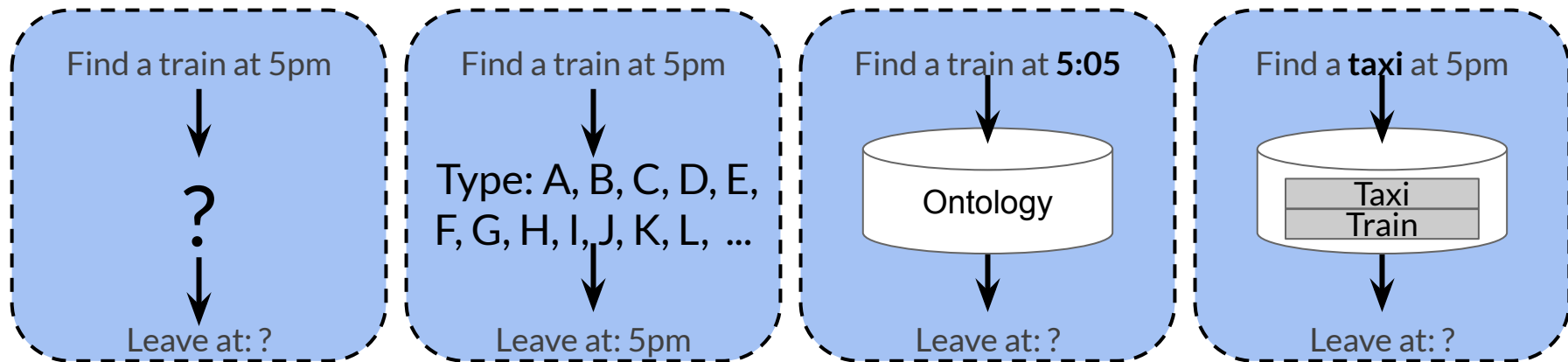
Ontology-based DST

- ▷ Given system response and current user utterance, each slot in each domain is predicted to be one of the **predefined values in ontology**.
- ▷ Models: **ScaleDST** (Rastogi et al., 2017); **MDBT** (Ramadan et al., 2018); **GLAD** (Zhong et al., 2018); **GCE** (Nouri et al., 2018)



Challenges of Ontology-based DST

- ▷ Ontology is hard to obtain in real scenarios
- ▷ Need to track lots of slot values
- ▷ Cannot track unseen slot values
- ▷ Missing domain sharing capacities



Ontology-free DST: Intuition

Usr: Find me a cheap restaurant at 7 pm.

Sys: What cuisine would you like?

Usr: I'd prefer eating sushi or ramen.

Sys: Where should it be?

Usr: Let's do in Florence. Also I need a taxi to go there at 6:30 pm.

Sys:?

**Dialogue History
Encoder**



Value



State Generator



Domain & Slot

Ontology-free DST: Intuition

Usr: Find me a cheap restaurant at 7 pm.

Sys: What cuisine would you like?

Usr: I'd prefer eating sushi or ramen.

Sys: Where should it be?

Usr: Let's do in **Florence**. Also I need a taxi to go there at 6:30 pm.

Sys:?

Dialogue History
Encoder



Florence



State Generator



**Restaurant
&
location**

Ontology-free DST: Intuition

Usr: Find me a cheap restaurant at 7 pm.

Sys: What cuisine would you like?

Usr: I'd prefer eating sushi or ramen.

Sys: Where should it be?

Usr: Let's do in Florence. Also I need a taxi to go there at 6:30 pm.

Sys:?

Dialogue History
Encoder



Japanese



State Generator



Restaurant
&
Cuisine

Ontology-free DST: Intuition

Usr: Find me a cheap restaurant at 7 pm.

Sys: What cuisine would you like?

Usr: I'd prefer eating sushi or ramen.

Sys: Where should it be?

Usr: Let's do in Florence. Also I need a taxi to go there at 6:30 pm.

Sys: ...?

Dialogue History
Encoder



6:30 pm



State Generator



Taxi
&
Time

Ontology-free DST: Intuition

Usr: Find me a cheap restaurant at 7 pm.

Sys: What cuisine would you like?

Usr: I'd prefer eating sushi or ramen.

Sys: Where should it be?

Usr: Let's do in Florence. Also I need a taxi to go there at 6:30 pm.

Sys:?

**Dialogue History
Encoder**



None



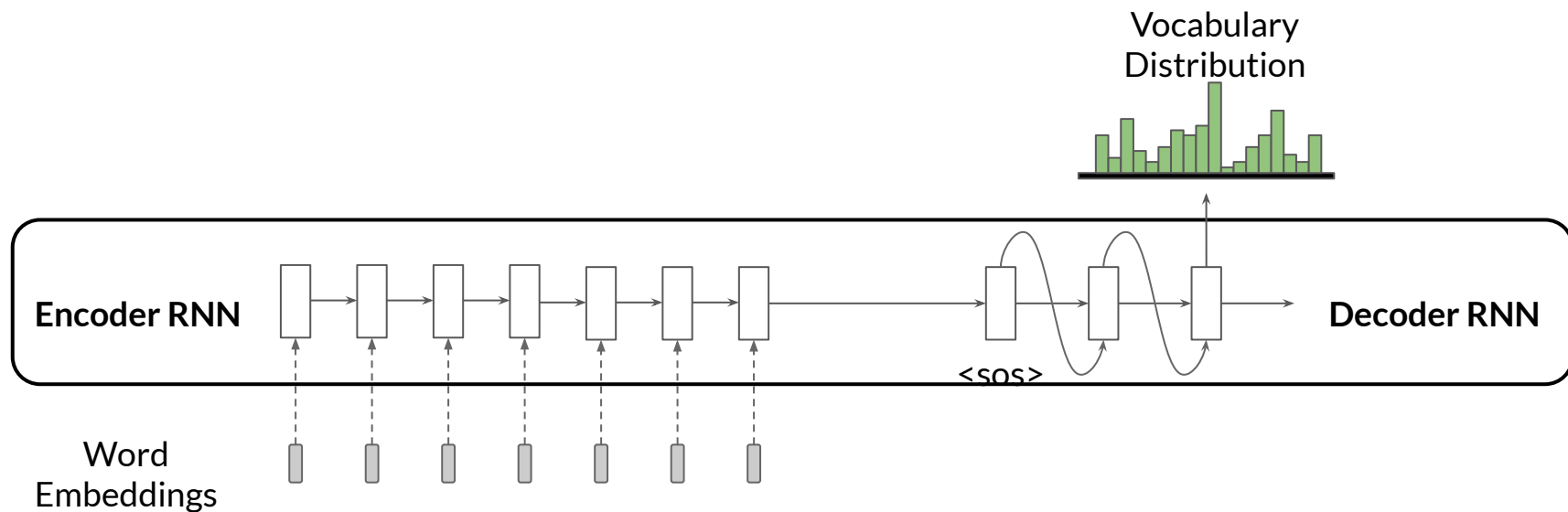
State Generator



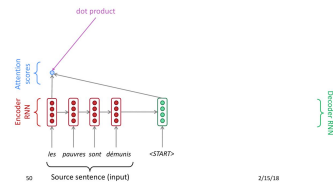
**Taxi
&
departure**

Sequence-to-Sequence (Seq2Seq)

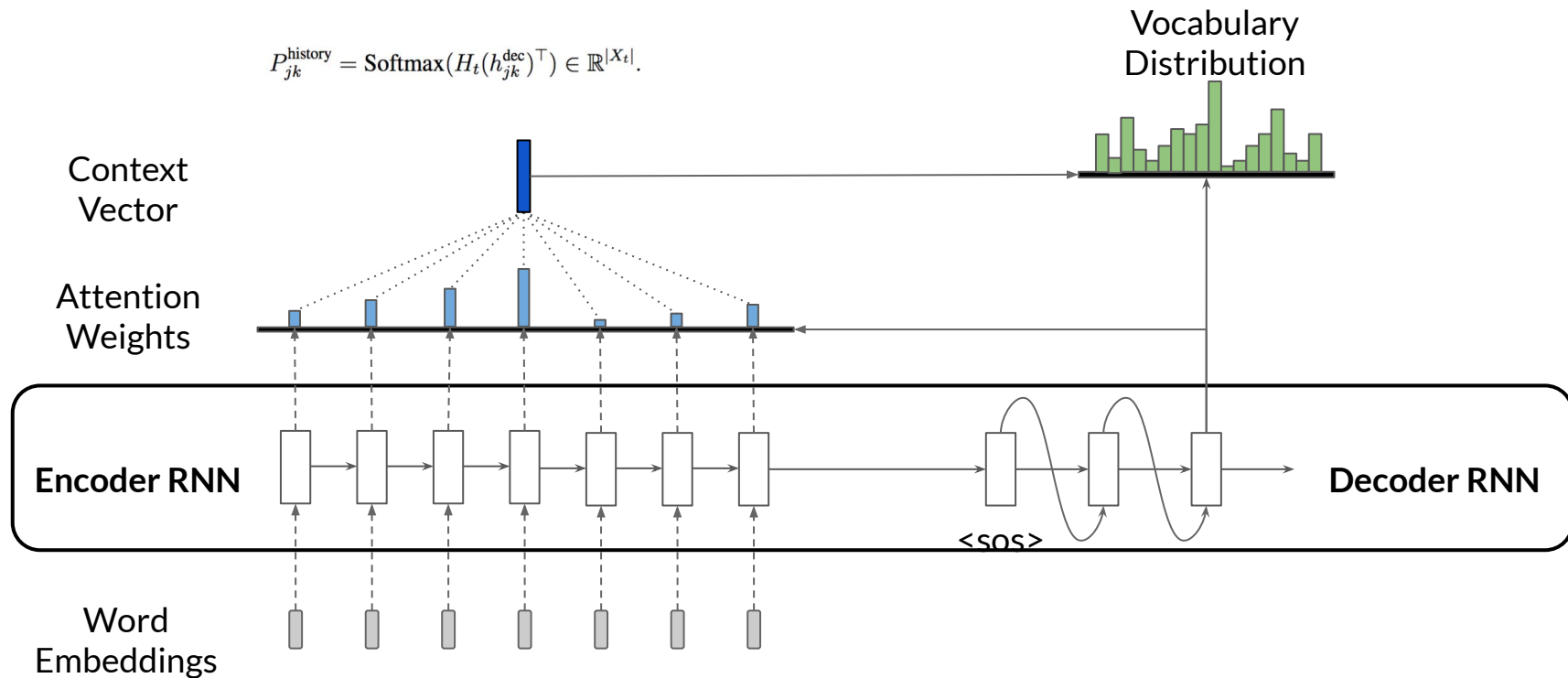
$$P_{jk}^{\text{vocab}} = \text{Softmax}(E(h_{jk}^{\text{dec}})^{\top}) \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|},$$



Seq2Seq with Attention

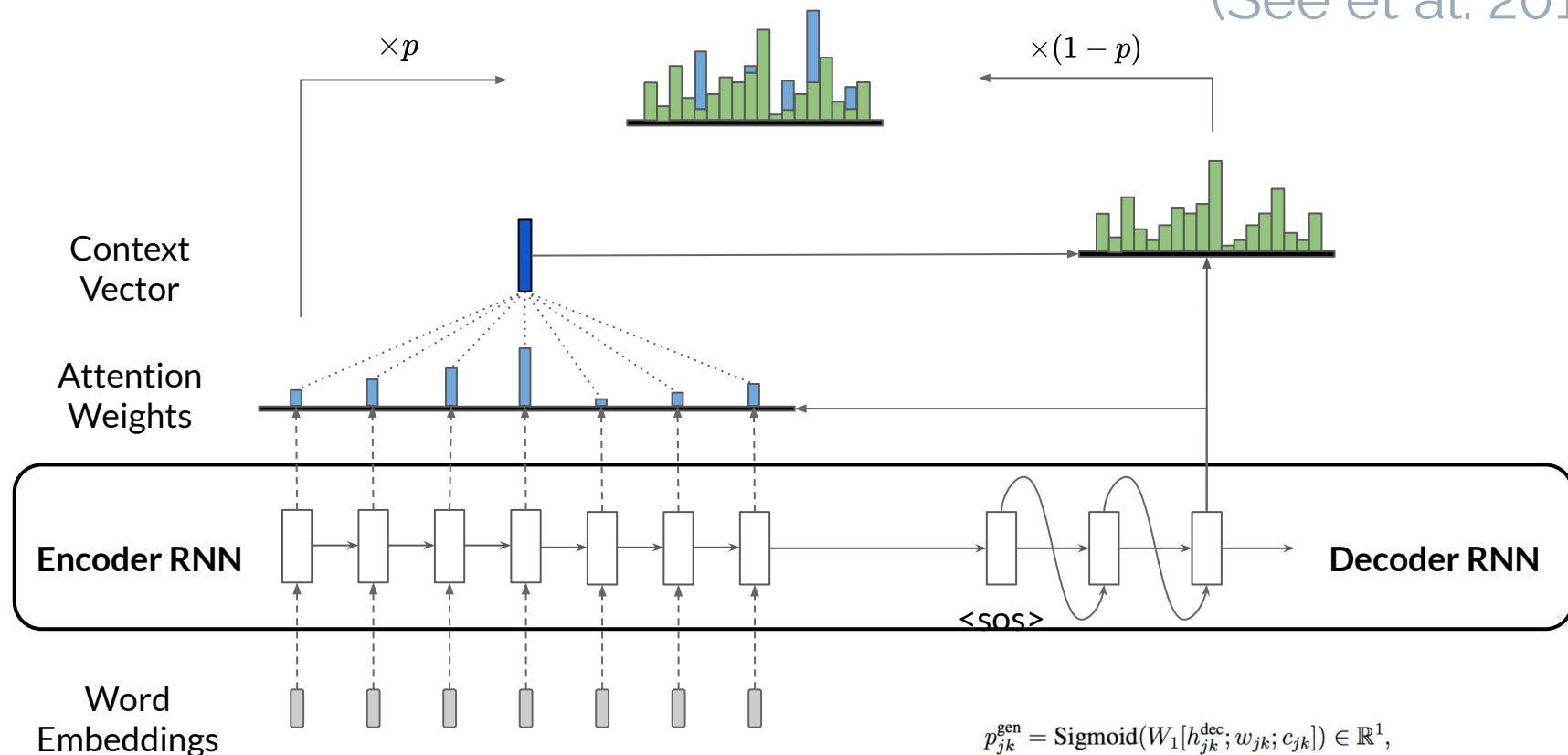


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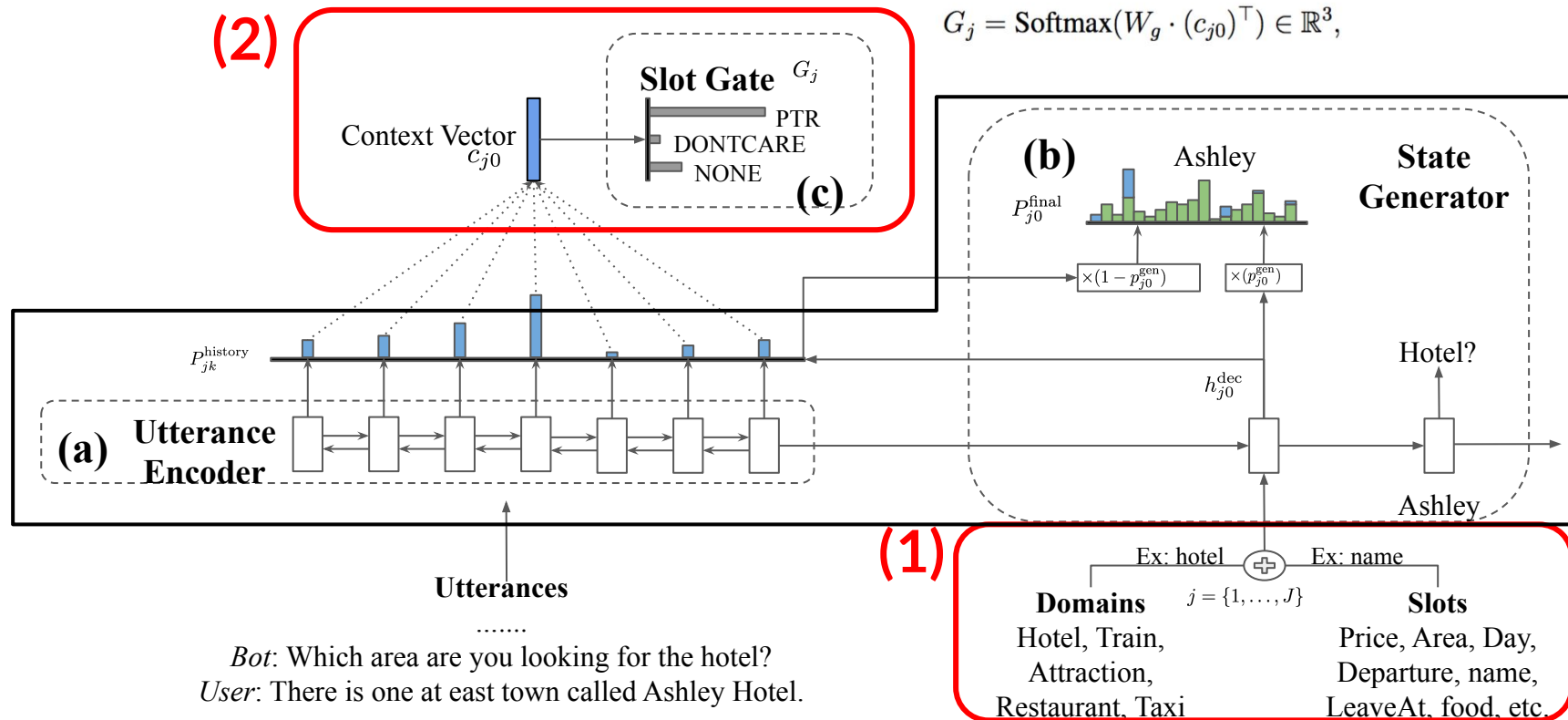


Seq2Seq with (Soft) Copy Mechanism

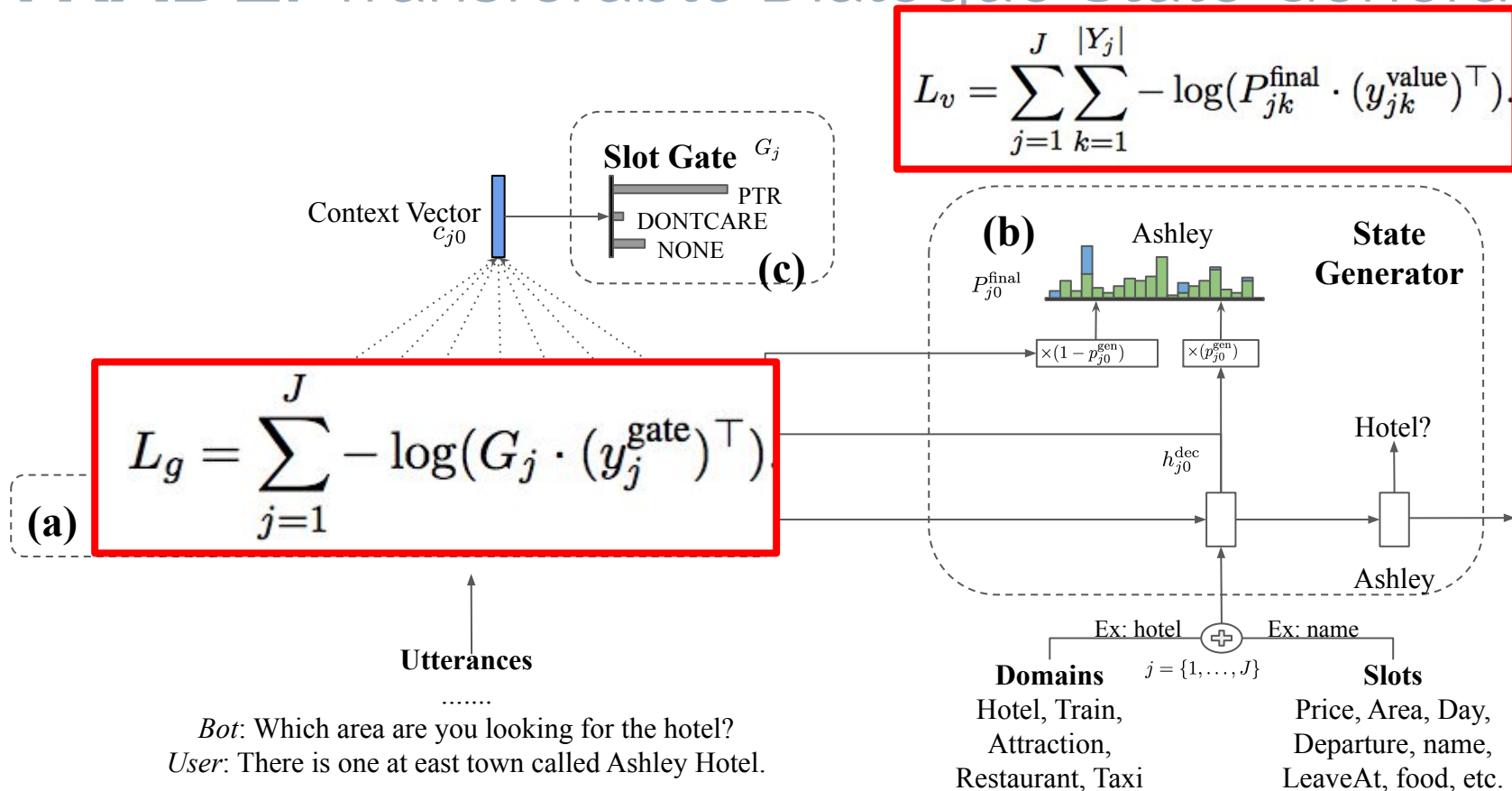
(See et al. 2017)



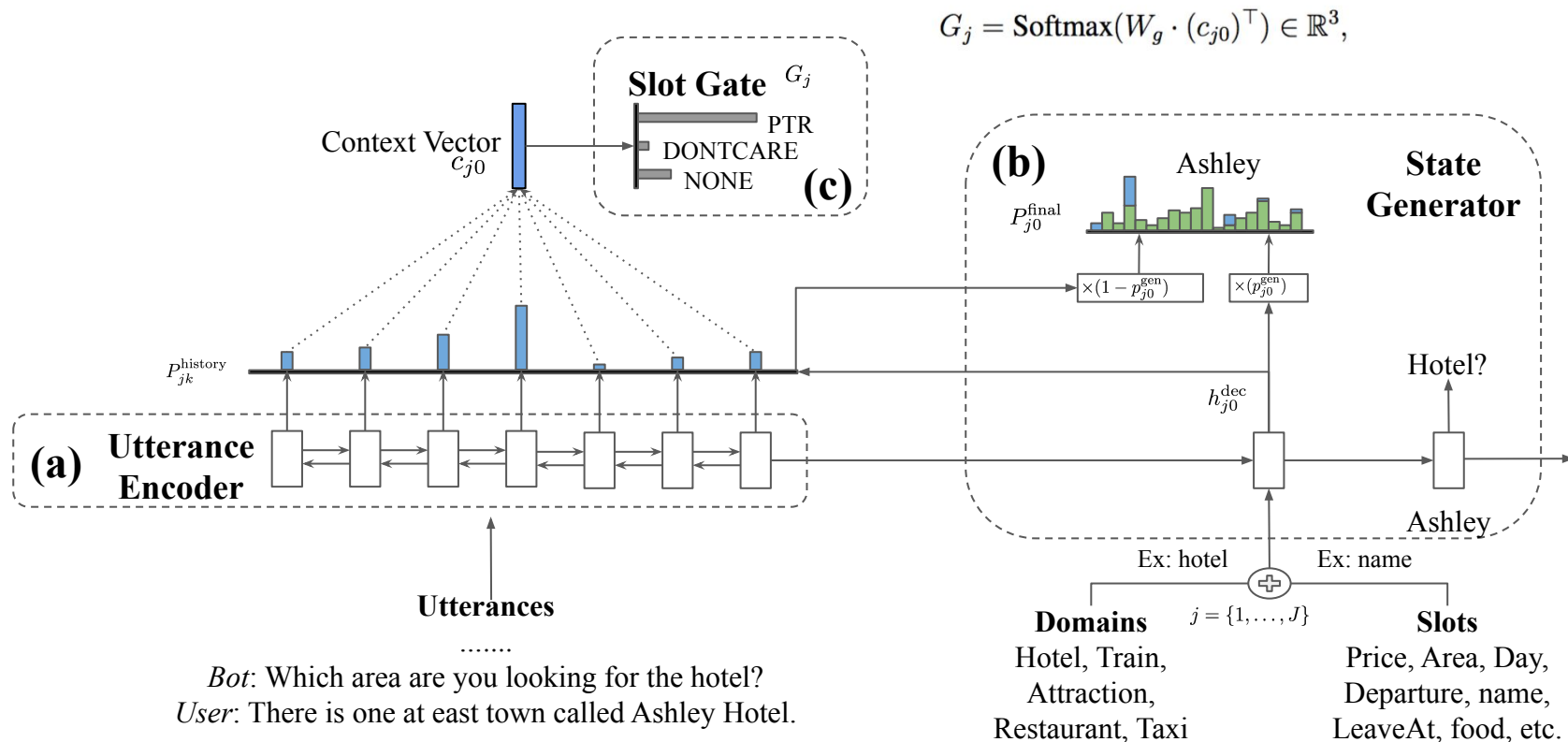
TRADE: Transferable Dialogue State Generator



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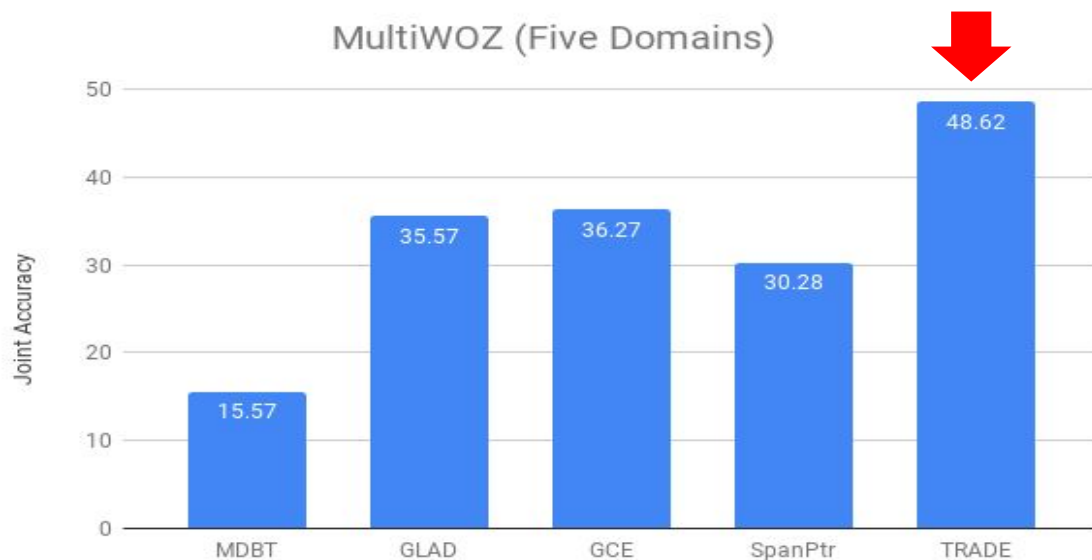
MultiWOZ Dataset (Budzianowski et al., 2018)

- ▷ The largest available human-human conversational corpus with DST labels (8438 dialogues with avg 13.68 turns).
- ▷ 5 domains (Hotel, Train, Attraction, Restaurant, Taxi) and 16 slots (food, leave at, area, etc).
- ▷ Total 30 domain-slot pairs and ~4500 slot values.

	Hotel	Train	Attraction	Restaurant	Taxi
<i>Slots</i>	price, type, parking, stay, day, people, area, stars, internet, name	destination, departure, day, arrive by, leave at, people	area, name, type	food, price, area, name, time, day, people	destination, departure, arrive by, leave by
<i>Train</i>	3381	3103	2717	3813	1654
<i>Valid</i>	416	484	401	438	207
<i>Test</i>	394	494	395	437	195

Multi-Domain Joint Training

MultiWOZ (Five Domains)



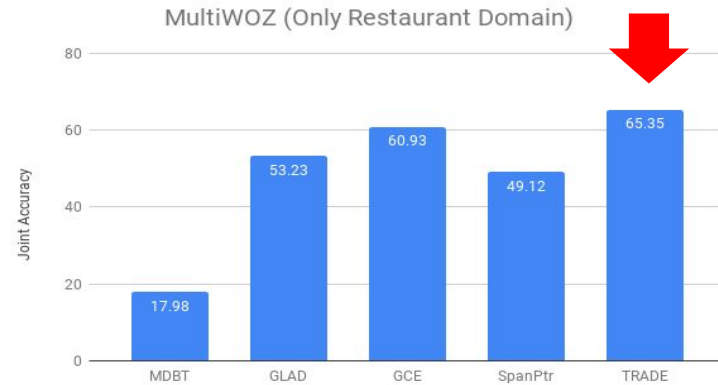
MDBT (Ramadan et al., 2018)

GLAD (Zhong et al., 2018)

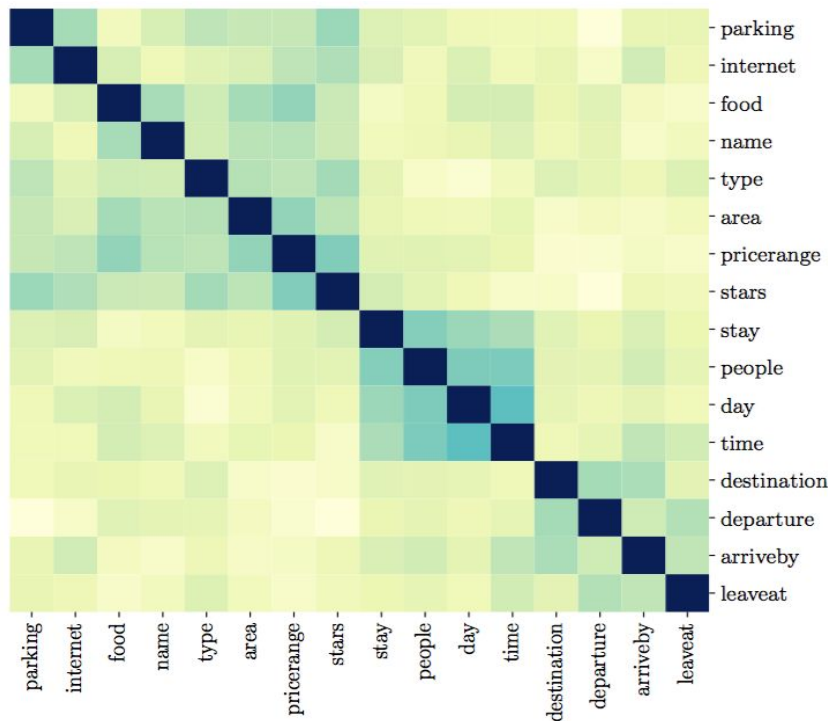
GCE (Nouri et al., 2018)

SpanPtr (Xu et al., 2018)

MultiWOZ (Only Restaurant Domain)



Multi-Domain Joint Training: Visualization

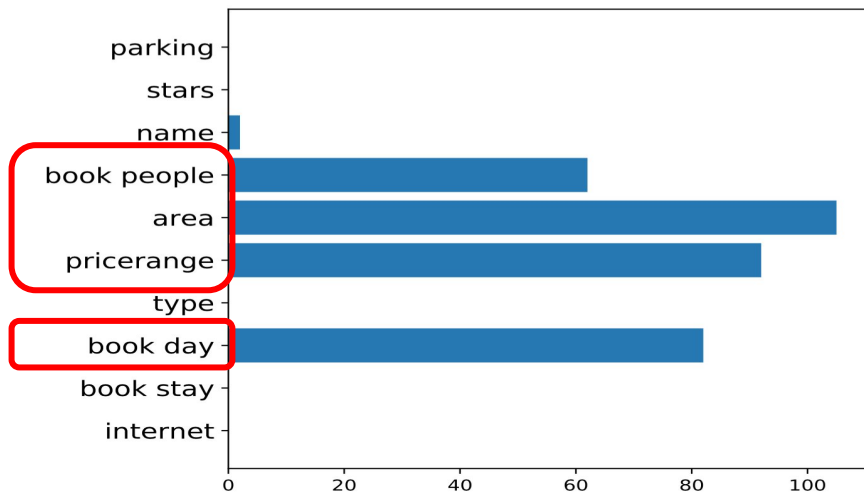


Zero-Shot Domain DST

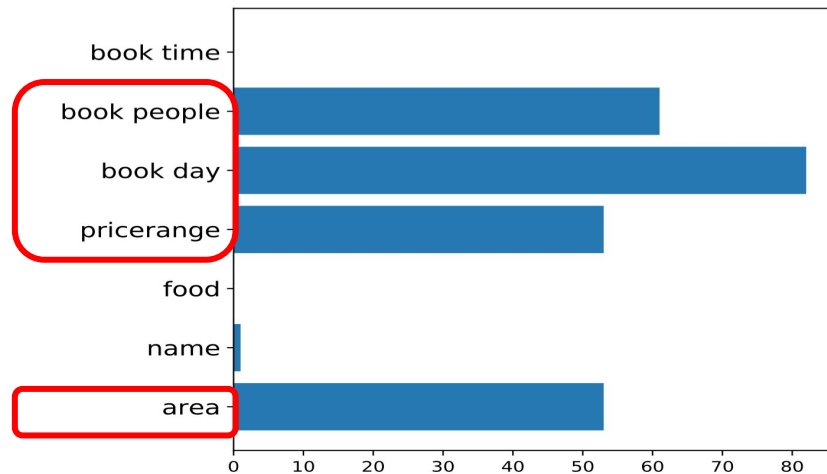
	Trained Single		Zero-Shot	
	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Slot</i>	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Slot</i>
<i>Hotel</i>	55.52	92.66	13.70	65.32
<i>Train</i>	77.71	95.30	22.37	49.31
<i>Attraction</i>	71.64	88.97	19.87	55.53
<i>Restaurant</i>	65.35	93.28	11.52	53.43
<i>Taxi</i>	76.13	89.53	60.58	73.92

Table 3: Zero-shot experiments on an unseen domain. In *taxi* domain, our model achieves 60.58% joint goal accuracy without training on any samples from *taxi* domain. *Trained Single* column is the results achieved by training on 100% single-domain data as a reference.

Unseen Domain Testing (Zero-Shot): Correctness Analysis



Hotel



Restaurant

Few-Shot Domain Expansion DST: (1% unseen domain data)

▷ Why?

- Be able to quickly adapt to new domains.
- Not require retraining with all the data from previously learned domains (not available and time-consuming).

▷ How?

- **Naive** fine-tuning; **EWC** (Kirkpatrick et al., 2017); **GEM** (Lopez-Paz et al., 2017).

▷ What?

- Unseen domain performance
- Trained domains performance

$$L_{ewc}(\Theta) = L(\Theta) + \sum_i \frac{\lambda}{2} F_i(\Theta_i - \Theta_{S,i})^2$$

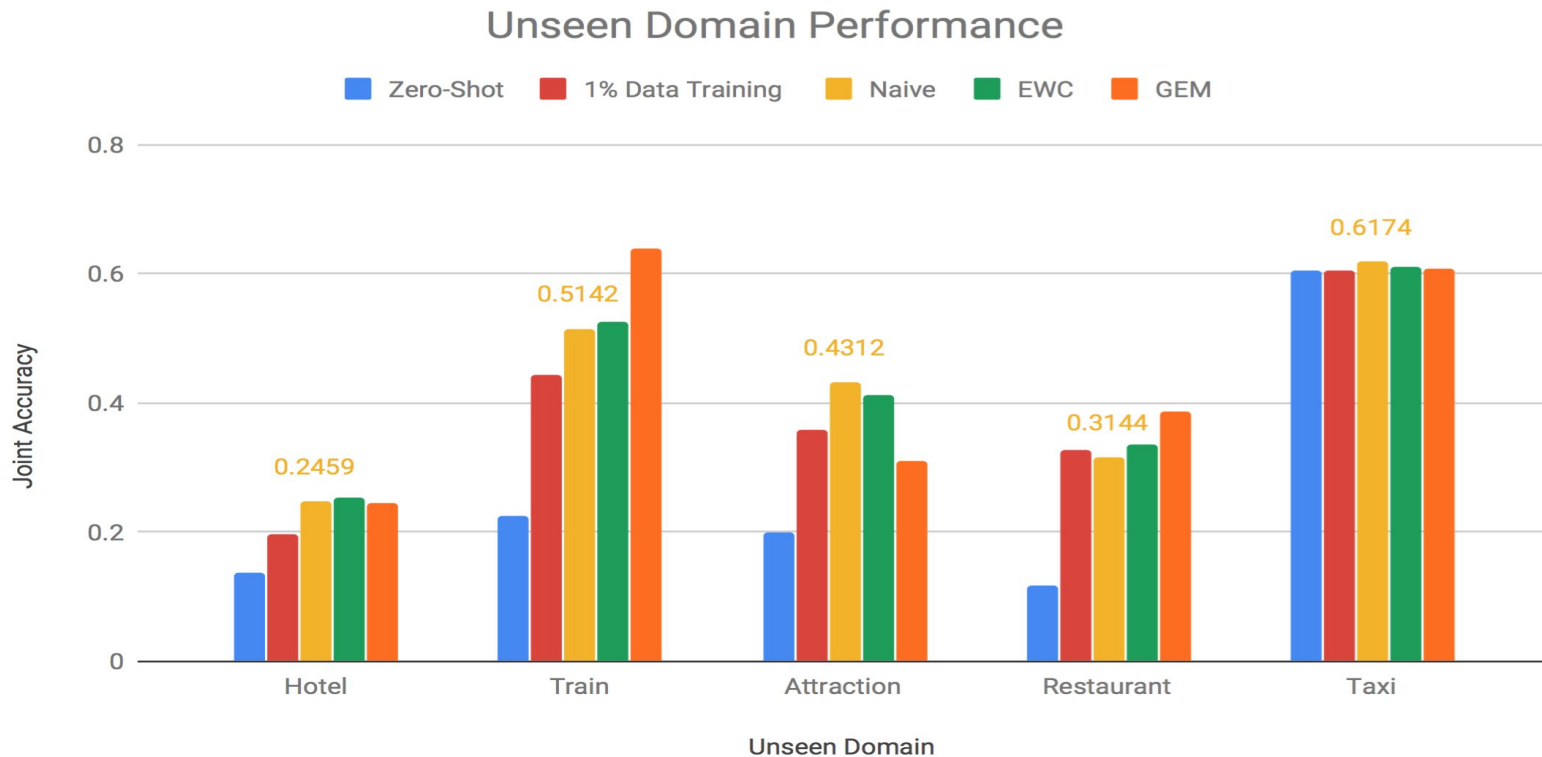
Minimize $_{\Theta}$ $L(\Theta)$

Subject to $L(\Theta, K) \leq L(\Theta_S, K),$

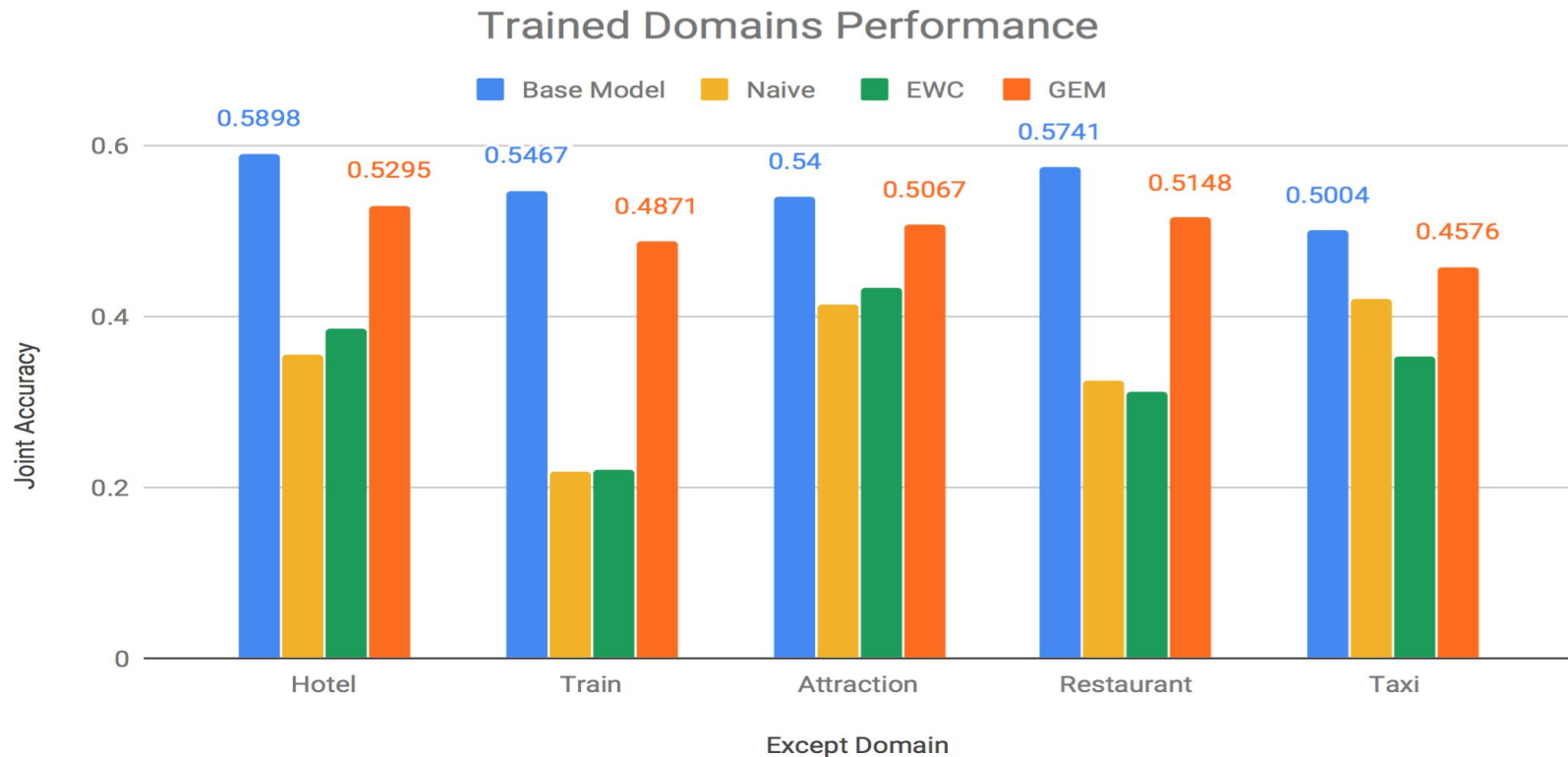
Unseen Domain Performance (Few-Shot)



Unseen Domain Performance (Few-Shot)



Trained Domains Performance (Few-Shot)



MultiWOZ 2.1 (Eric et al., 2019)

- A correction version of original MultiWOZ dataset, resulting in changes to 32% of state annotations across 40% of the dialogue turns.

Type	Conversation	MultiWOZ 2.0	MultiWOZ 2.1
Delayed Markups	User: I'd also like to try a Turkish restaurant. Is that possible? Agent: I'm sorry but the only restaurants in that part of town serve either Asian food or African food.	restaurant.food: None	restaurant.food: Turkish
		restaurant.food: Turkish	restaurant.food: Turkish
		name: The Cambridge Belfry	hotel.name: The Cambridge Belfry
		name: belf	attraction.name: None
		leaveAt: Thursday	train.leaveAt: None
		day: Not Mentioned	train.day: Thursday
		area: cent	attraction.area: Centre
		pricerange: None	restaurant.pricerange: Dontcare
	meanization again. Cambridge to Bishop Stafford on Thursday.	train.destination: Bishop Stortford	train.destination: Bishops Stortford

Table 5: Examples of annotation errors between MultiWOZ 2.0 and 2.1

Thank you!

Any Questions?



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Code: <https://github.com/jasonwu0731/trade-dst>

