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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
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STO TECHNICAL REPORT

PUB REF STO-MP-SAS-114-PPF

**ANNEX F**

**Computational Scenarios and Arguments: An AI Approach to  
Structured Analytic Techniques**

Floris Bex

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# Computational stories and arguments: an A.I. approach

Floris Bex

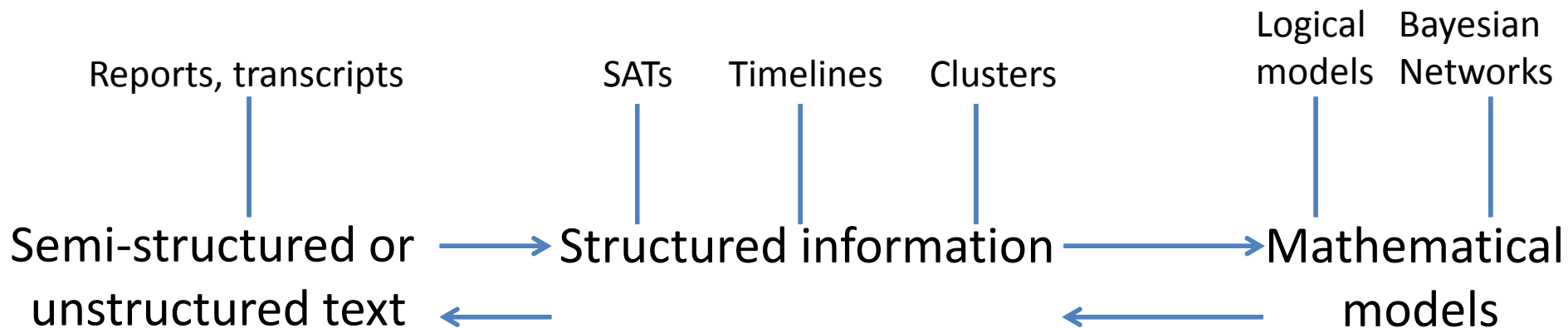
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Department of Computer and Information  
Sciences*

# Introduction

- Computers can be very good at...
  - Sifting through huge datasets
  - Computing the effect of changes in hypotheses
- However, human analysts are needed to...
  - Interpret results
  - Use world knowledge to explore a wide range of possibilities
- So maybe they can work together?

# Introduction

- Analysts work with natural language text (or semi-structured arguments, scenarios)
- Computers can only understand structured, mathematical models



# Introduction

- Decision support systems for reasoning with evidence
- Principled ways of going from text to mathematical models, and back again
- Linguistic aspects
  - How do people express and interpret scenarios, probabilities, arguments?
- Mathematical aspects
  - What are the relations between mathematical models?
- Design aspects
  - What are the goals of the system?
- Psychological aspects
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# Example: A.I. for handling criminal complaints

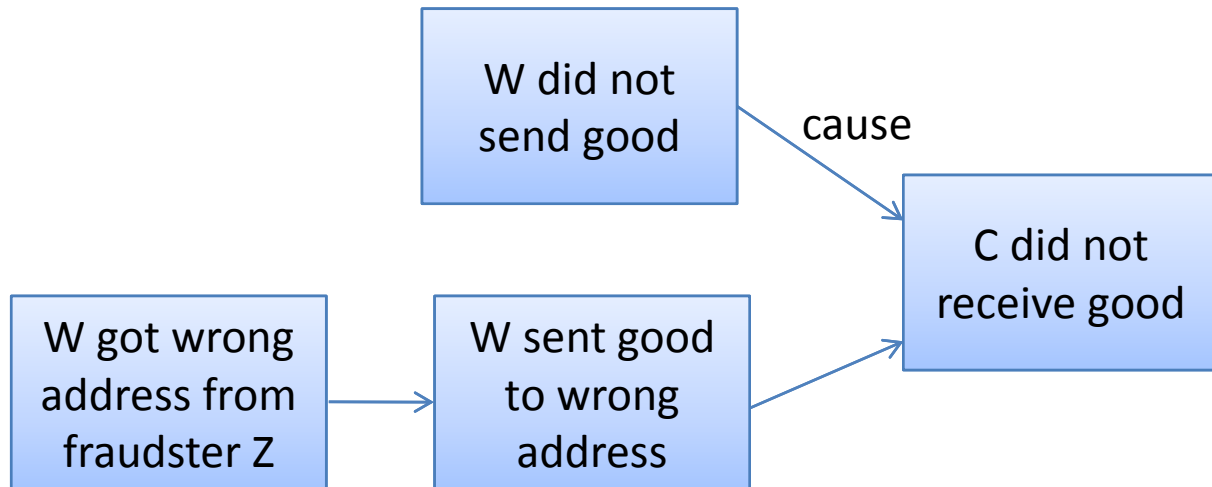
- Online criminal complaints about trade fraud
  - Ebay, spoof websites
- Get structured information from online form + free text
- Apply analysis algorithms
  - Is the story complete?
  - Which position is acceptable?
  - Which evidence has the largest effect on the conclusion?

# Overview

- Stories and arguments
- Extracting stories from text
- Detecting the type of story
  - Checking the story for completeness
- Formal semantics for acceptance and sensitivity
  - Qualitative
  - Quantitative

# Stories

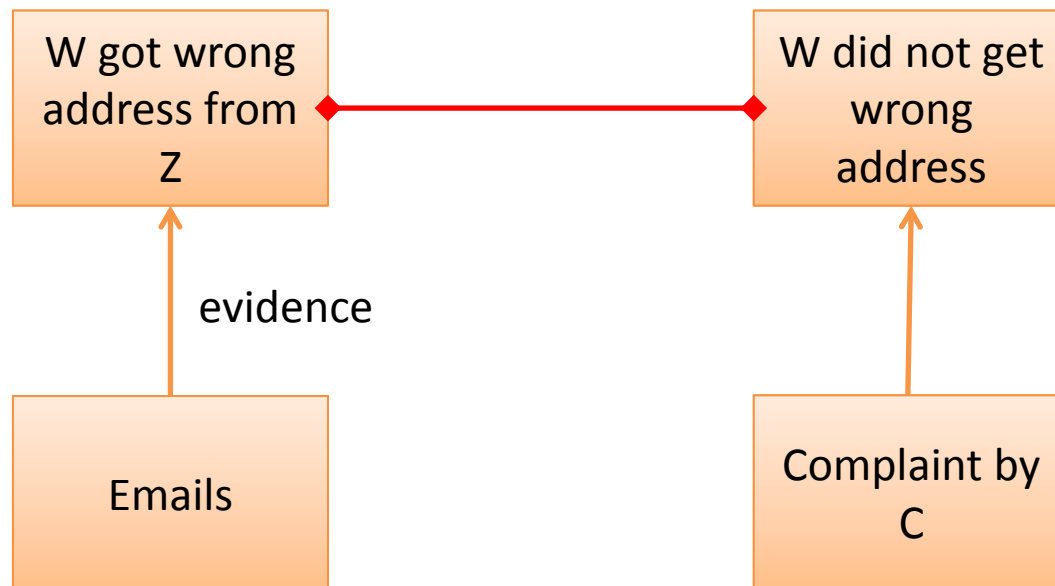
- Causally coherent sequences of events
  - Scenario's, timelines
- Stories causally explain the evidence
- Alternative stories





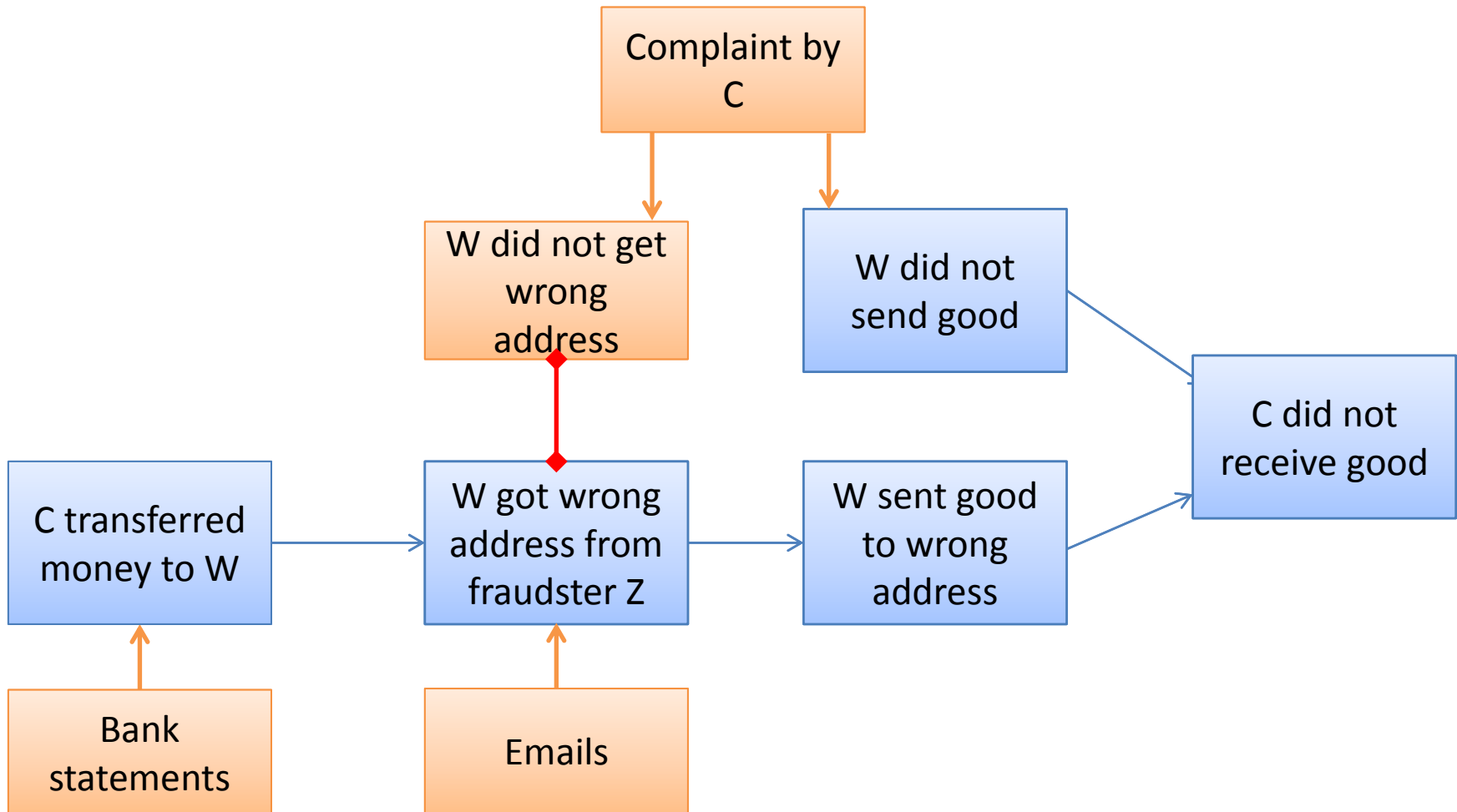
# Arguments

- Inferences based on evidence
  - Judicial reports, mind maps, argument diagrams
- Arguments provide evidence for conclusions
- Opposing conclusions are incompatible



# Combining stories and arguments

- Arguments to support and attack stories



# Overview

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# Understanding stories

I bought a Samsung S3 from Wesley. I paid him 45 euros

# Understanding stories

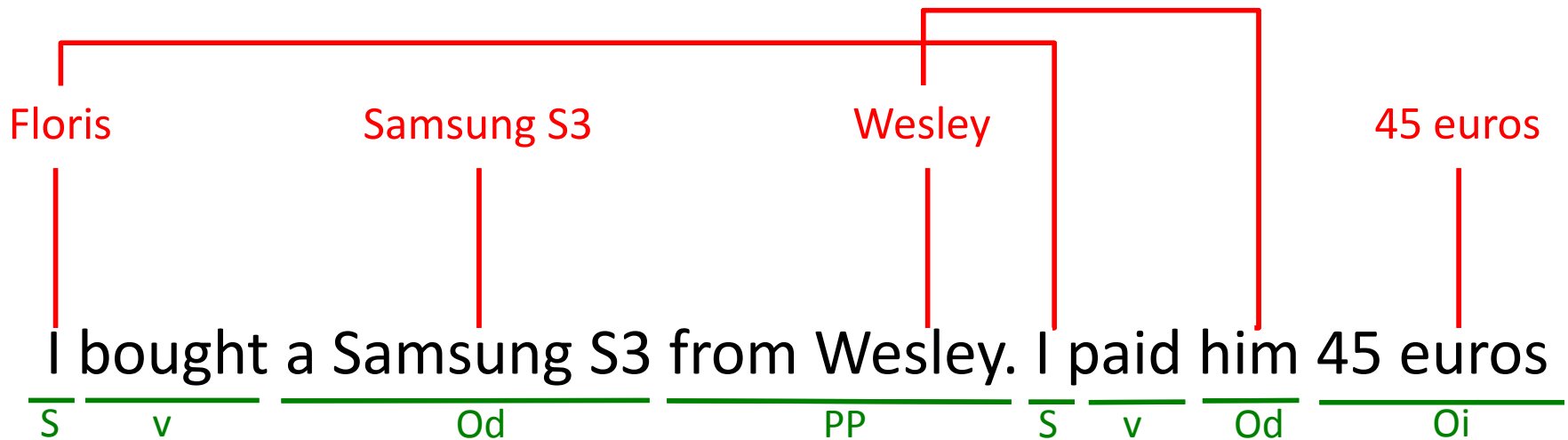
- Syntactic parsing

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S v Od PP S v Od Oi

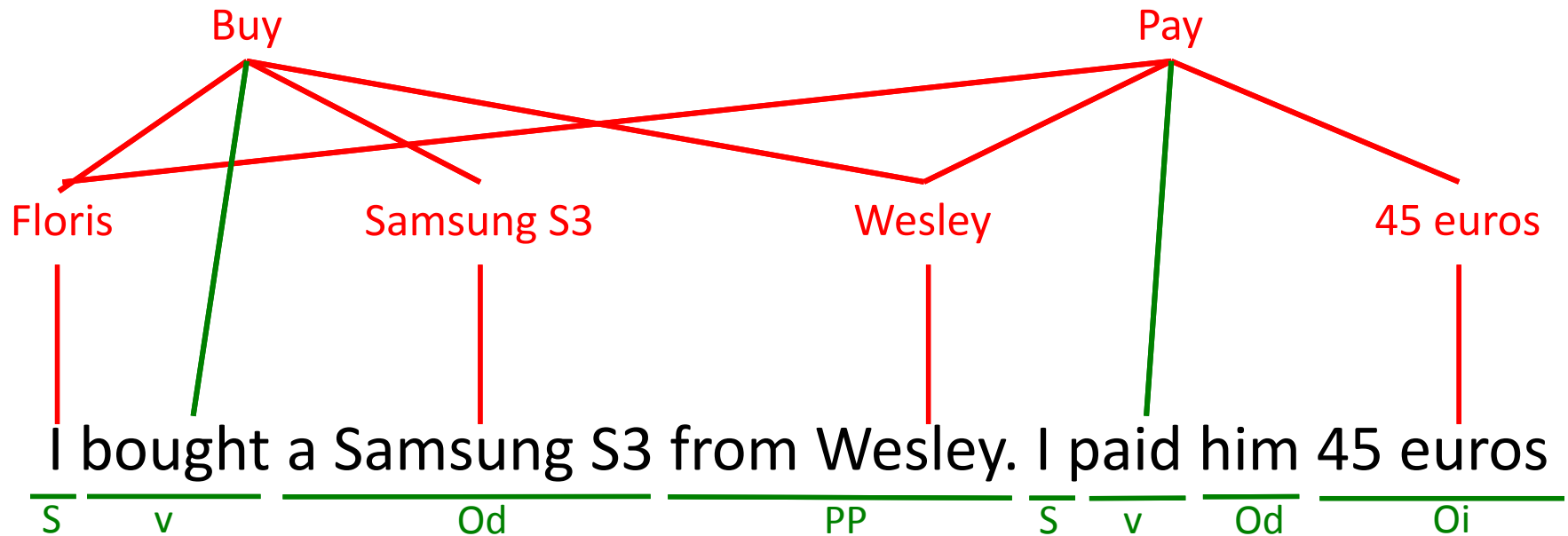
# Understanding stories

- Syntactic parsing
- Named Entity Recognition



# Understanding stories

- Syntactic parsing
- Named Entity Recognition
- Relationship extraction



# Overview

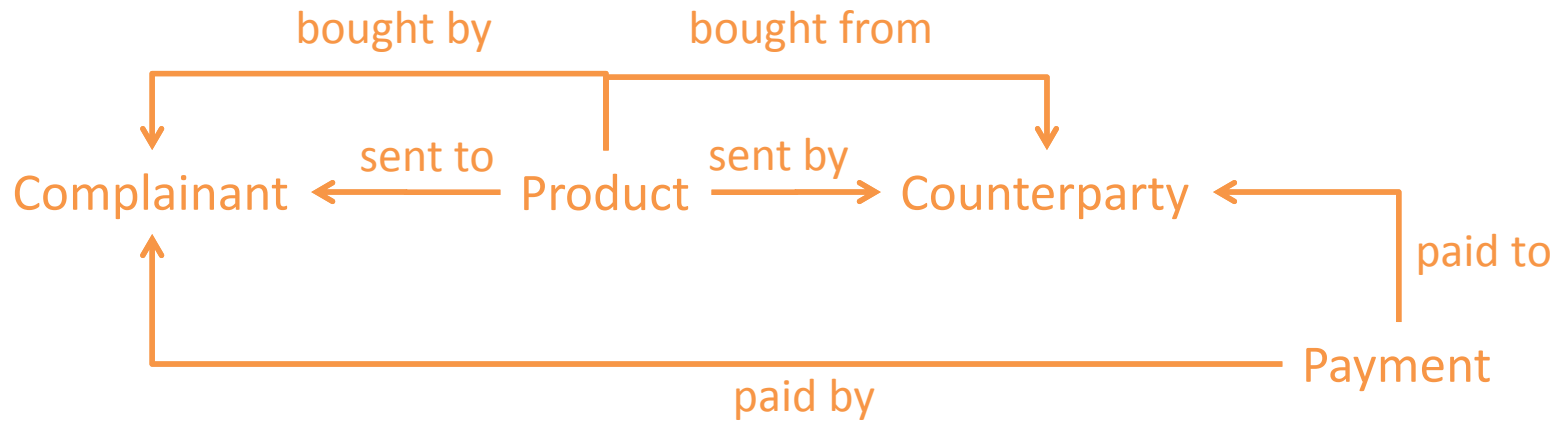
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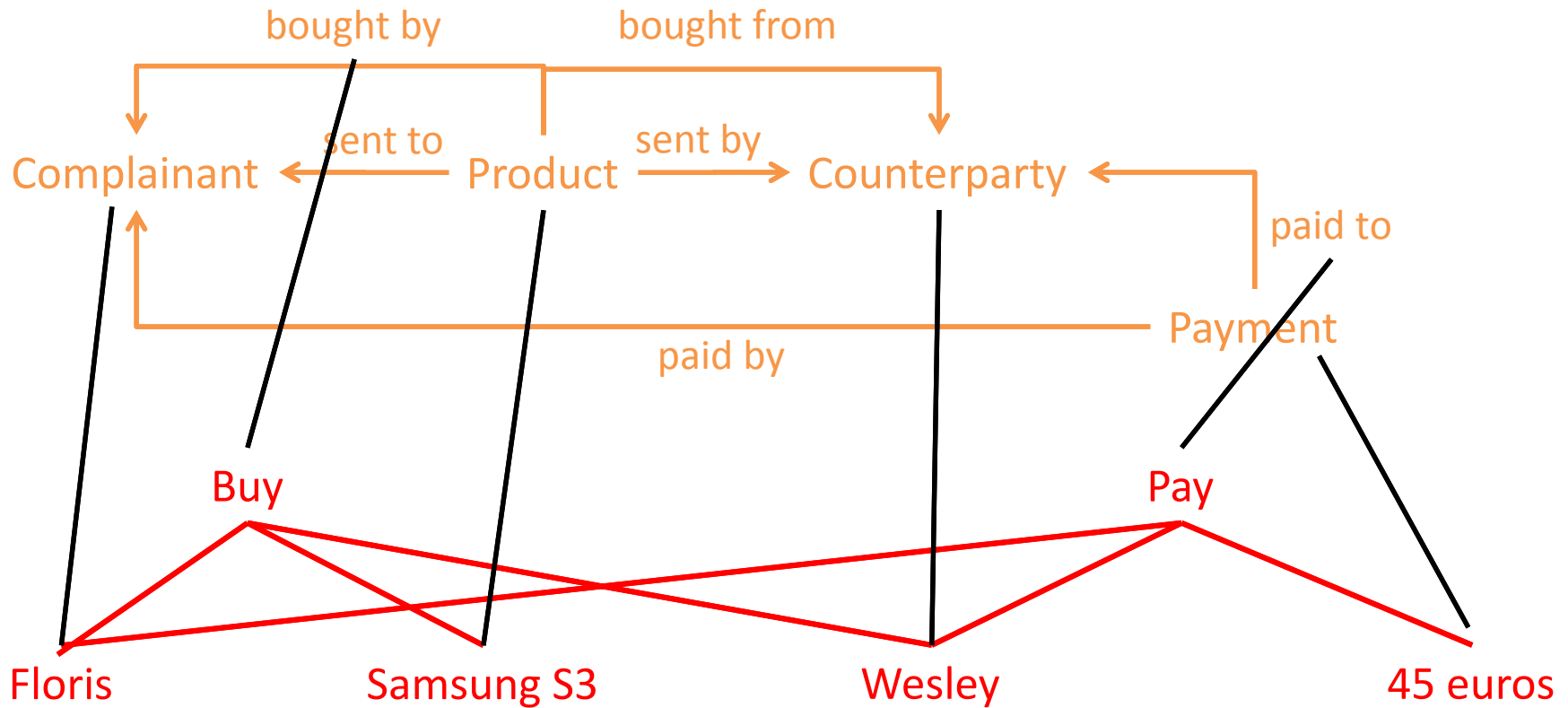
# Ontologies for story schemes

- Description logics can be used to capture story schemes
  - Typical fraud scenarios
- Connect stories to scenarios
  - Use machine learning to train an algorithm for new stories

# Typical trade scenario



# Connect scheme to story



# Automated analysis

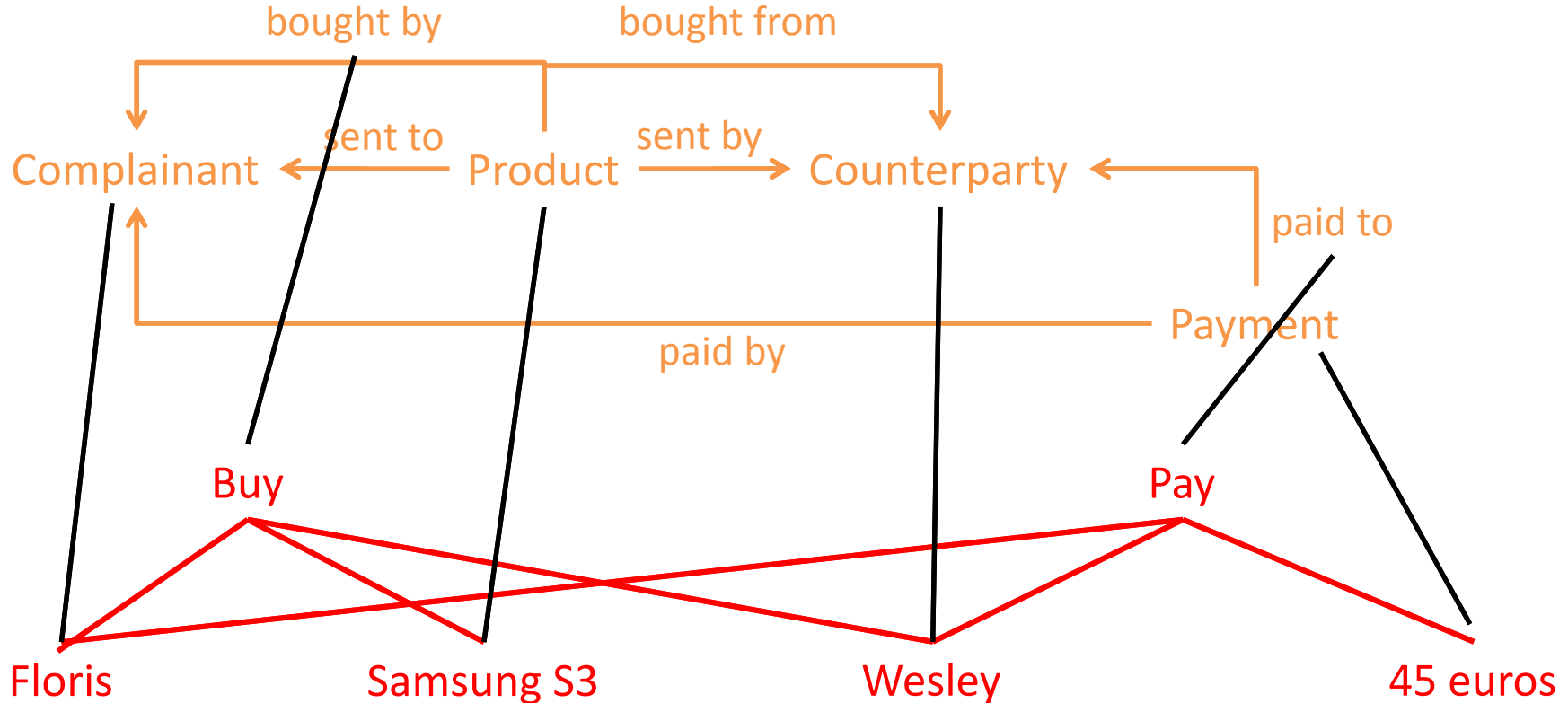
- Given enough examples, algorithms can be trained to automatically
  - Extract stories from text
  - Connect stories to schemes

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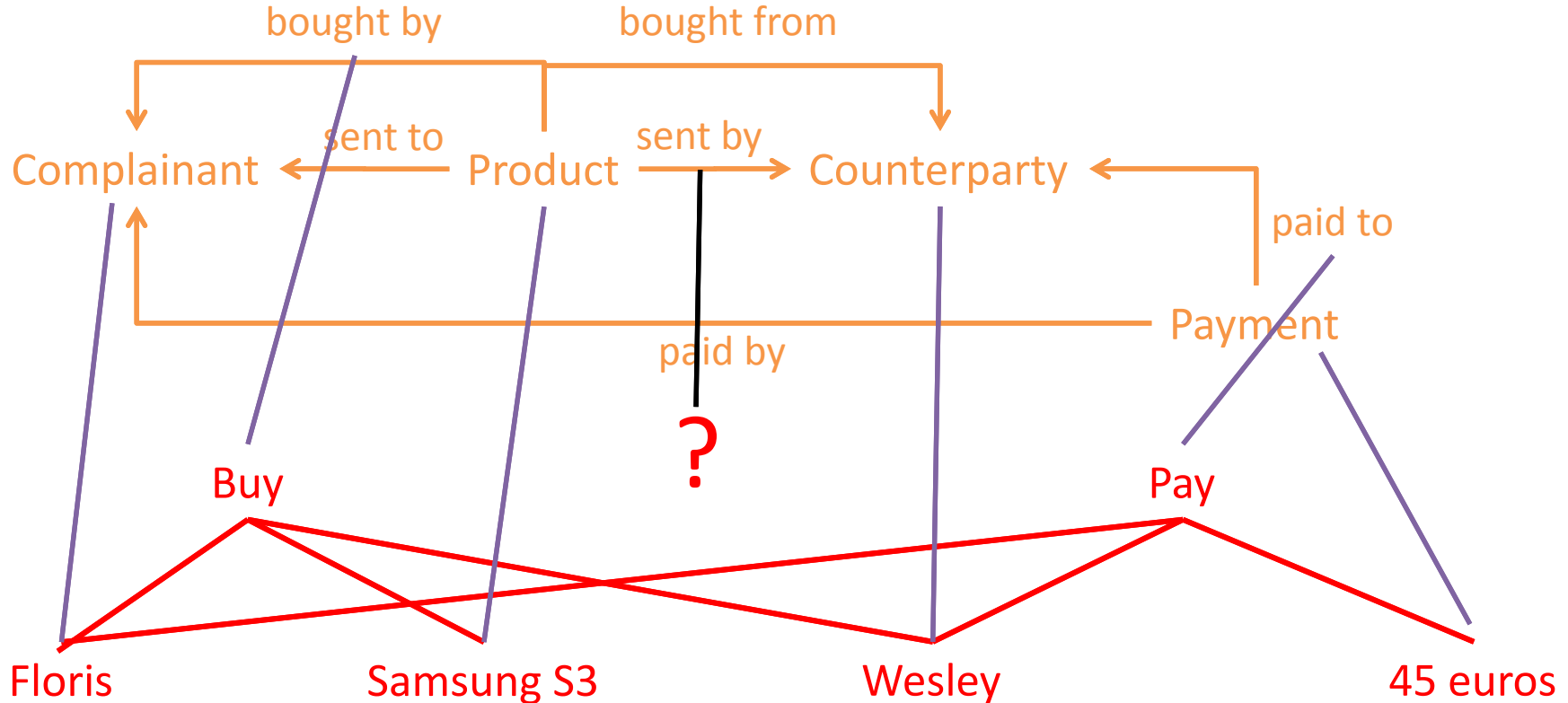
# Story completeness

- Story completeness is a query on a Description Logic Scheme



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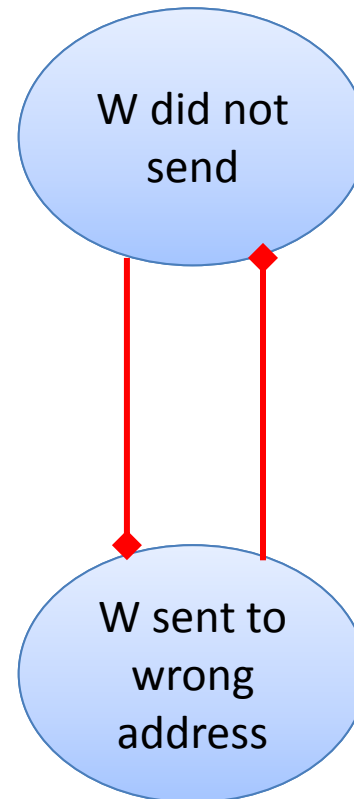


# Dialectical Semantics

- Dialectic: the process of argument and counterargument
  - Abstract away from internal structure of stories/arguments, consider only attacks
- An admissible set  $S$  is one that is able to defend all its members: if  $a \in S$  is attacked by  $b$ , then  $b$  is attacked by  $c \in S$

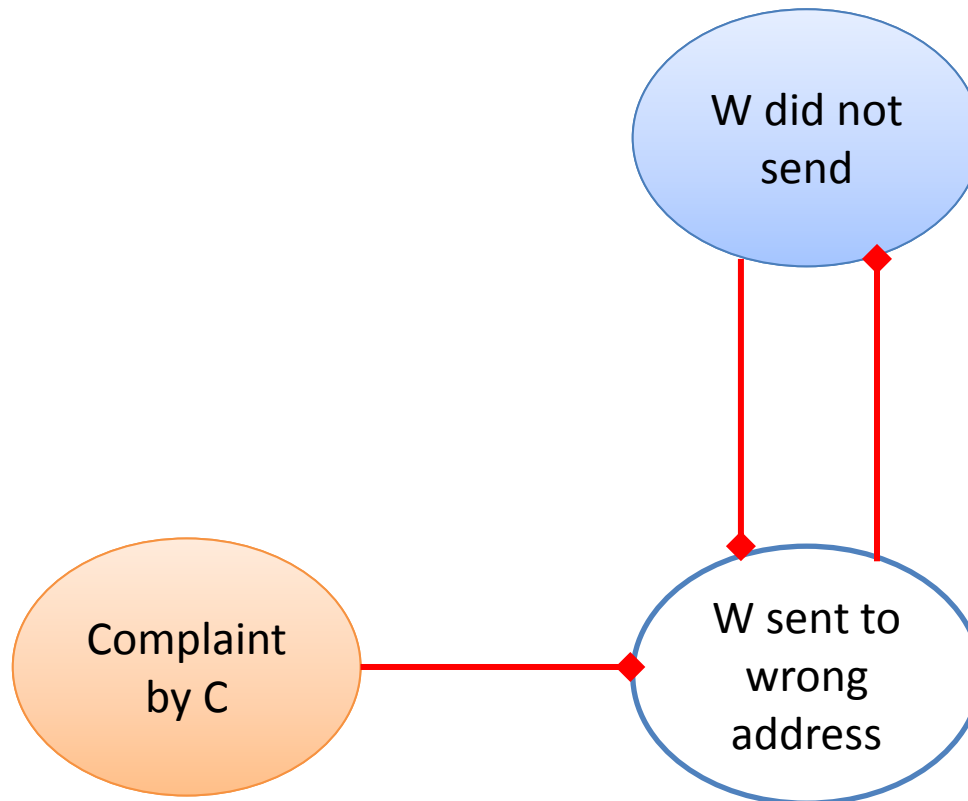
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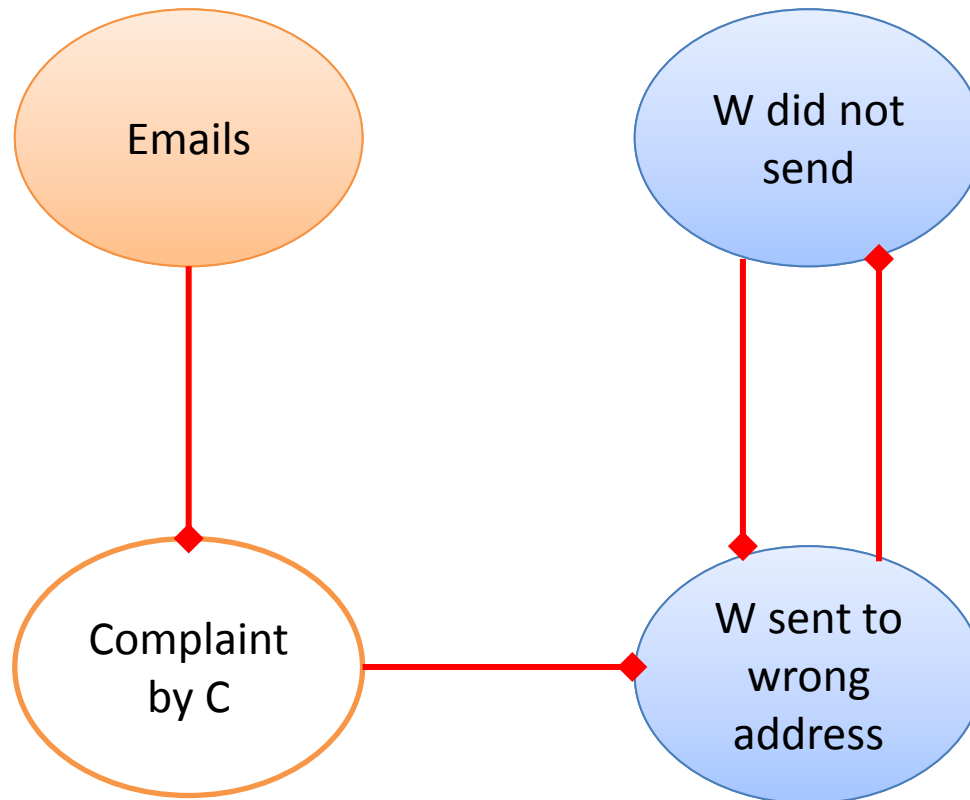
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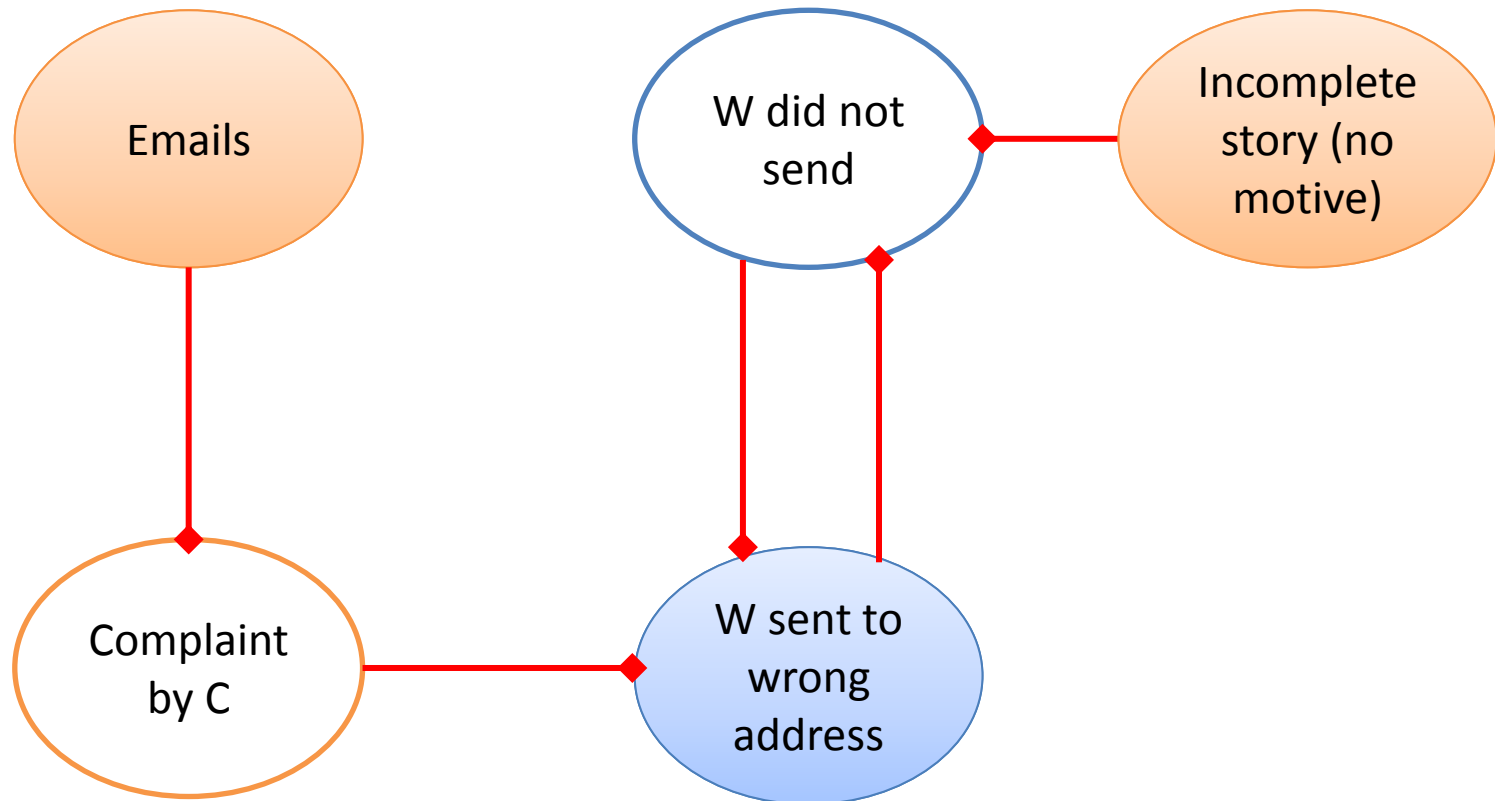
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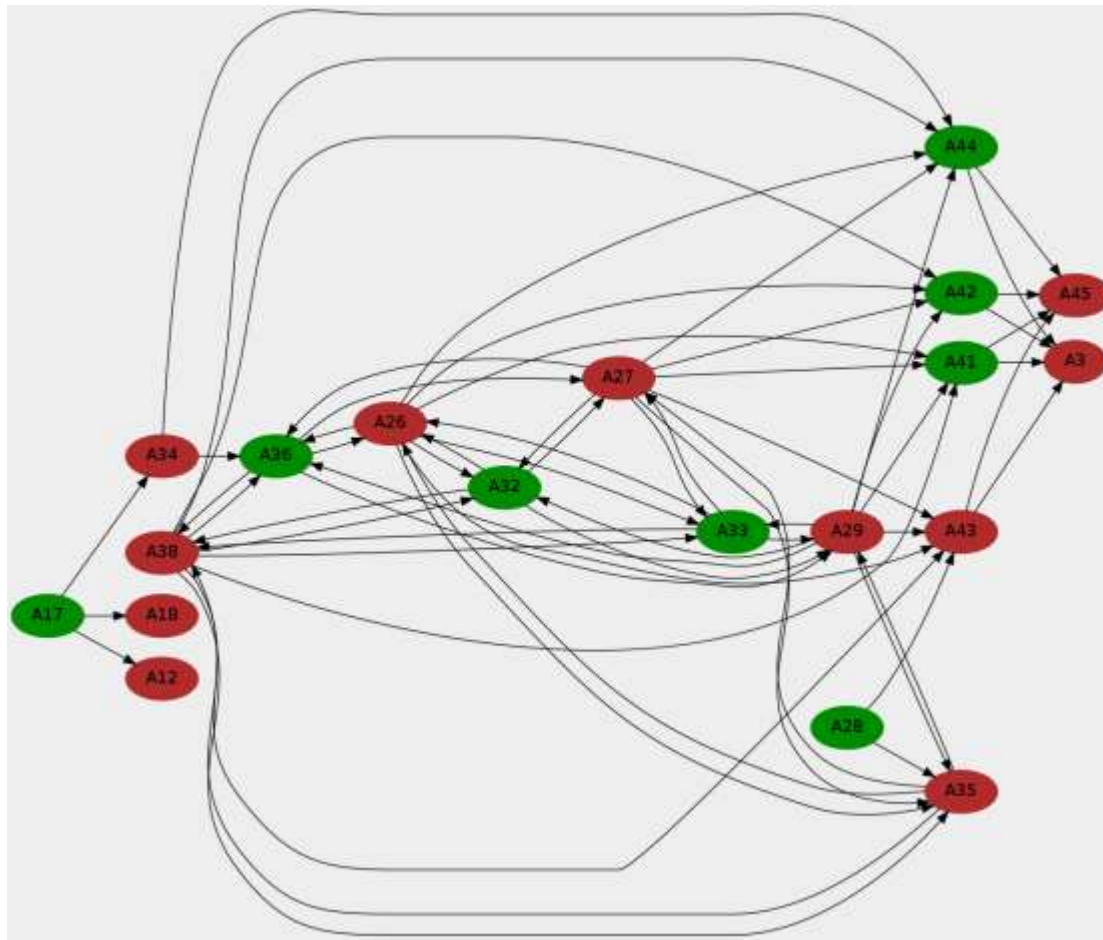






# Software tools

- Compute acceptable sets of arguments
  - [toast.arg-tech.org](http://toast.arg-tech.org)



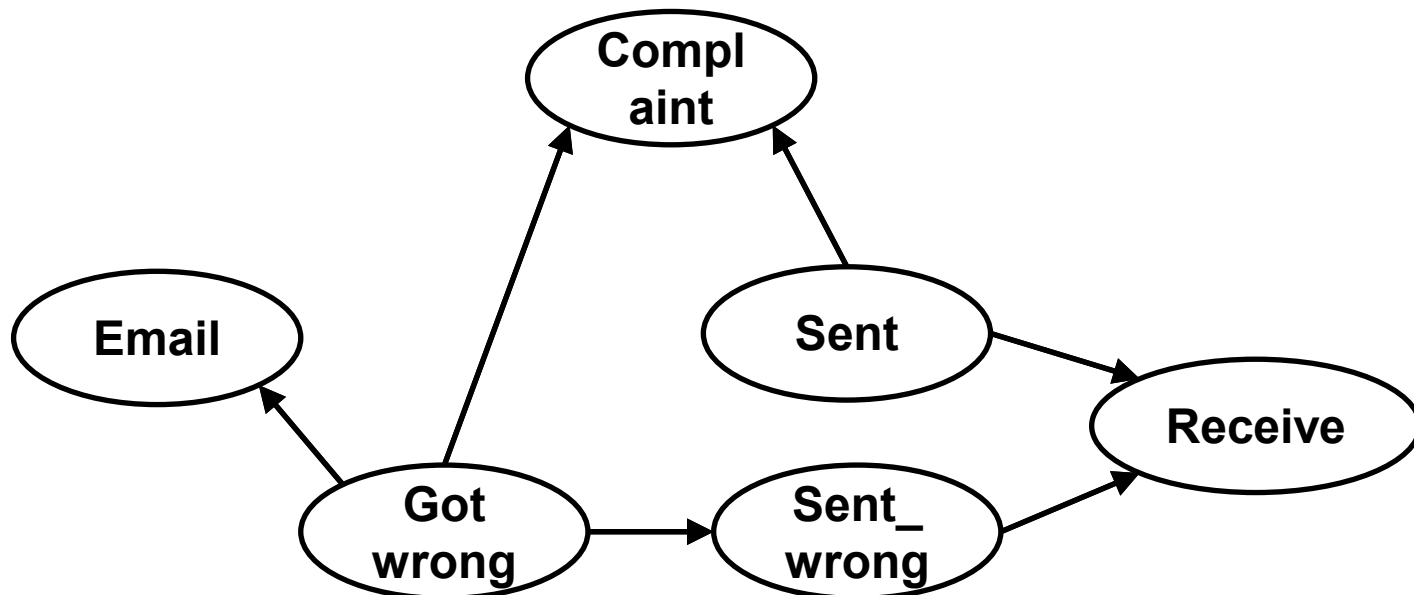


# Quantitative reasoning

- Dialectical semantics allow for crude probability assessments
  - preferences between arguments
  - counterarguments based on e.g. credibility
- However, for techniques such as sensitivity analysis, more fine-grained numerical information is needed
- Idea: translate stories & arguments to Bayesian Networks

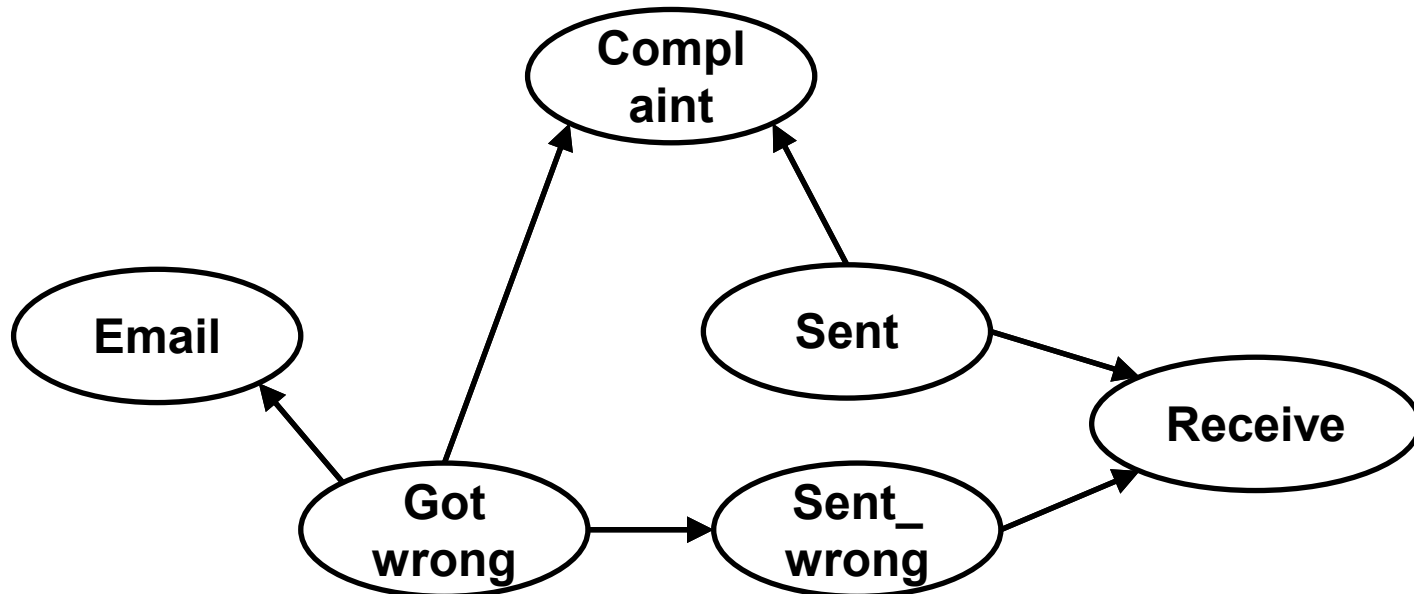
# Bayesian Networks

- Directed Acyclic Graph
  - Nodes are variables **Sent** = [Sent,  $\neg$ Sent]
  - Arcs represent probabilistic dependencies between nodes



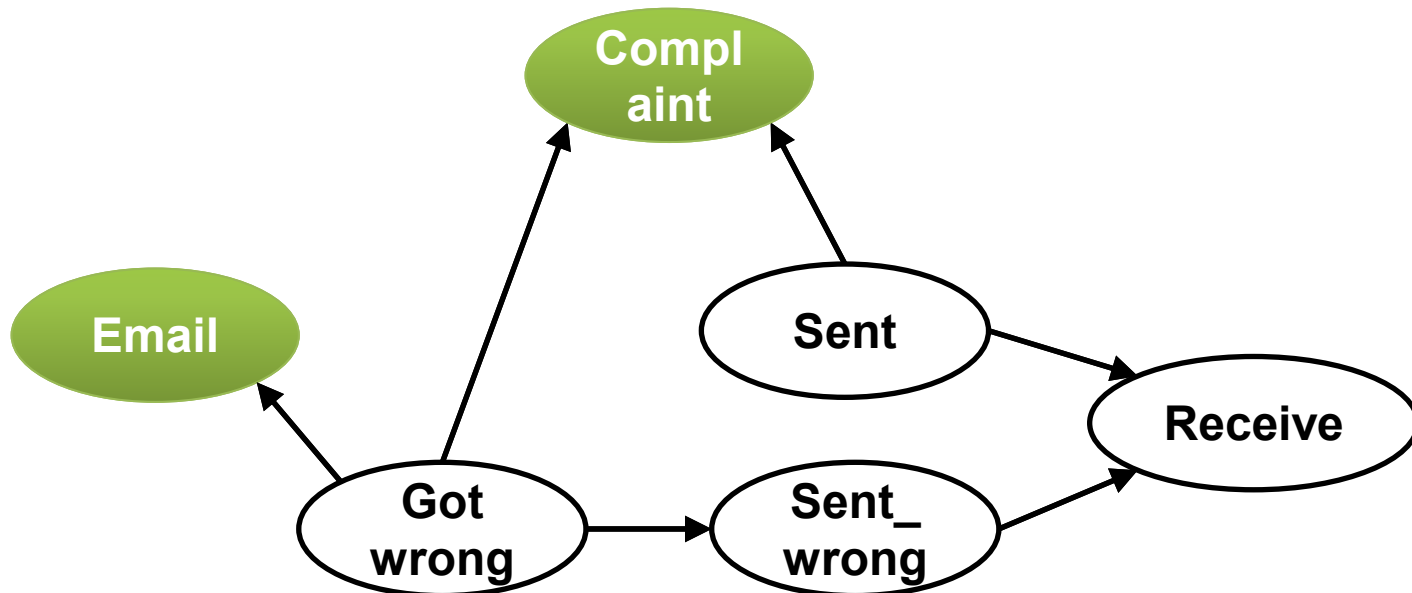
# Bayesian Networks

- Conditional Probability Tables give all probabilities for  $\Pr(V \mid \text{Par}(V))$ .
  - $\Pr(\text{Sent})=0.8$ ;  $\Pr(\neg\text{Sent})=0.2$ ;
  - $\Pr(\text{Complaint} \mid \text{Sent})=0.1$ ;  $\Pr(\neg\text{Complaint} \mid \text{Sent})=0.9$   
 $\Pr(\text{Complaint} \mid \neg\text{Sent})=0.5$ ;  $\Pr(\neg\text{Complaint} \mid \neg\text{Sent})=0.5$



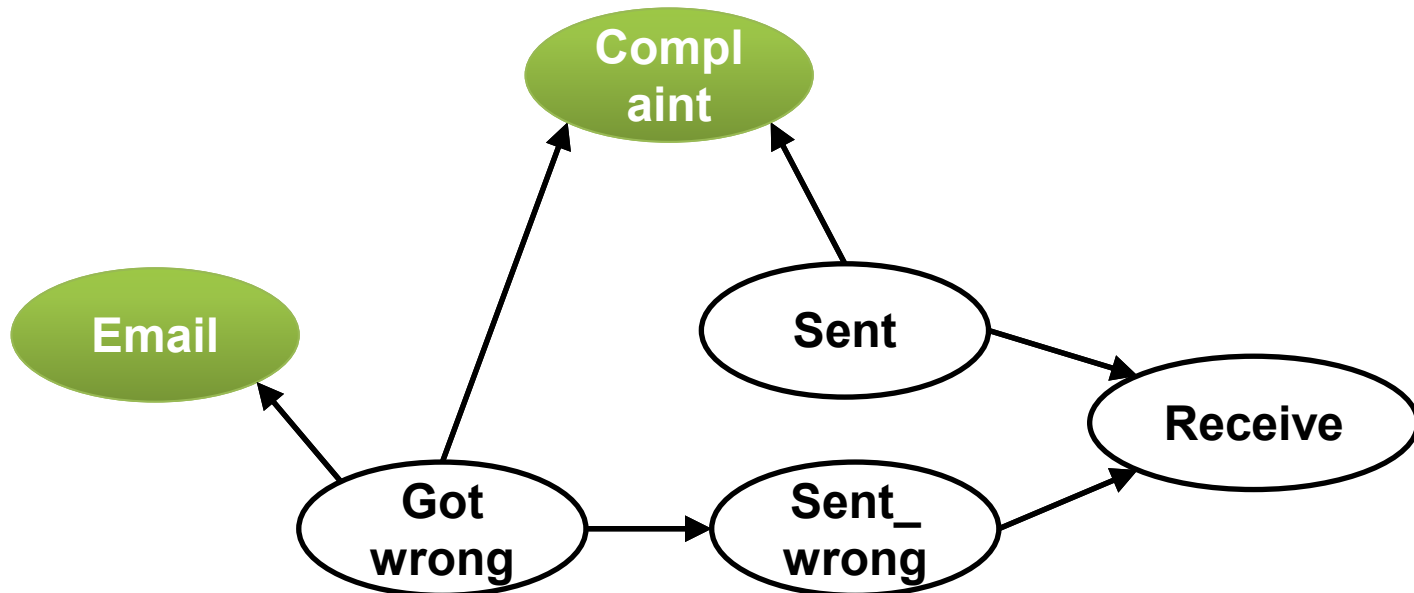
# Bayesian Networks

- Given evidence, compute probabilities of interest
  - $\Pr(\text{Sent} \mid \text{Email}, \text{Complaint})$
  - $\Pr(\neg\text{Sent} \mid \text{Email}, \text{Complaint})$



# Sensitivity Analysis

- Given a network, how sensitive is a target node to fluctuations in probabilities
  - How much does  $\Pr(\text{Sent} \mid \text{Email}, \text{Complaint})$  depend on our estimations of  $\Pr(\text{Got\_wrong} \mid \text{Email}, \text{Complaint})$ ?



# Building Bayes Nets

- Automatically translating structured stories/arguments to Bayesian Networks
- Missing information
  - Minimum amount of probabilities needed to draw a conclusion
- Ambiguous information
  - Story can be interpreted in different ways
- Ask questions to the analyst

# Conclusions



- Linguistic aspects
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