

Aaron Shield & Jason Baldrige

A Morphological Analyzer for Verbal Aspect in American Sign Language

We present a morphological analyzer for American Sign Language (ASL) verbs that mediates underlying lemmas to abstract formal representations of their visual surface realizations. We focus on the morphological effects of aspectual distinctions and handle co-articulation constraints that rescue otherwise unpronounceable forms. Our solution is based on a series of transducers that are composed together in a cascade using the Xerox Finite-State Toolkit.