

Biography
Steven Abney

I have a B.A. in Classics and Linguistics from Indiana University (1983) and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from MIT (1987). My dissertation proposed the "DP analysis" for noun phrases.

Most of my career has been spent in artificial intelligence departments of industrial research labs (Bellcore, 1987-1993; AT&T Labs, 1997-2002). I also taught computational linguistics at the University of Tuebingen (Germany, 1993-1997). Since 2002, I have been in the linguistics department at the University Michigan.

My main area of research is computational linguistics, especially probabilistic models and machine learning applied to language. I described the first probabilistically correct estimation method for stochastic attribute-value grammars. I have done considerable work on information extraction and on semi-supervised learning.

However, my main focus is currently shifting to the application of computational methods to fundamental linguistic questions, including the question of how to amplify manual effort in creating digital linguistic databases.