More Bang for your Buck in Semantic Parsing

Semantic parsing is concerned with translating natural language questions and commands into logical form and is a key technology for developing virtual assistants such as Google Voice, Alexa, Cortana, Facebook M, etc. One of the major challenges in developing semantic parsers is that annotating natural language with logical form is impractical and therefore more “original” training signals or paradigms are necessary. In this talk I will describe some recent and ongoing work that addresses this challenge. Specifically I will talk about using crowdsourcing platforms to obtain supervision by reducing semantic parsing to paraphrasing, training semantic parsers over multiple KBs with multi-task learning and training sequence-to-sequence models for semantic parsing from question-answer pairs only. Time permitting I might talk about a few other challenges related to question-answering systems over text rather than KBs.