

Drawing inferences

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Information is expressed implicitly

A: Do you like my new haircut?

B: It's interesting.

Inferences are context-dependent

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Average: 5.5 (sd 1.7)

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Average: 2.1 (sd 1.1)

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[Schlöder & Fernández 2014]

A: But it's uh yeah it's
uh original idea.

B: Yes it is.

Inferences are context-dependent

[Schlöder & Fernández 2014]

A: But it's uh yeah it's
uh original idea.

A: The shape of a banana
is not – it's not really
handy

B: Yes it is.

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Internet Argument Corpus (IAC)

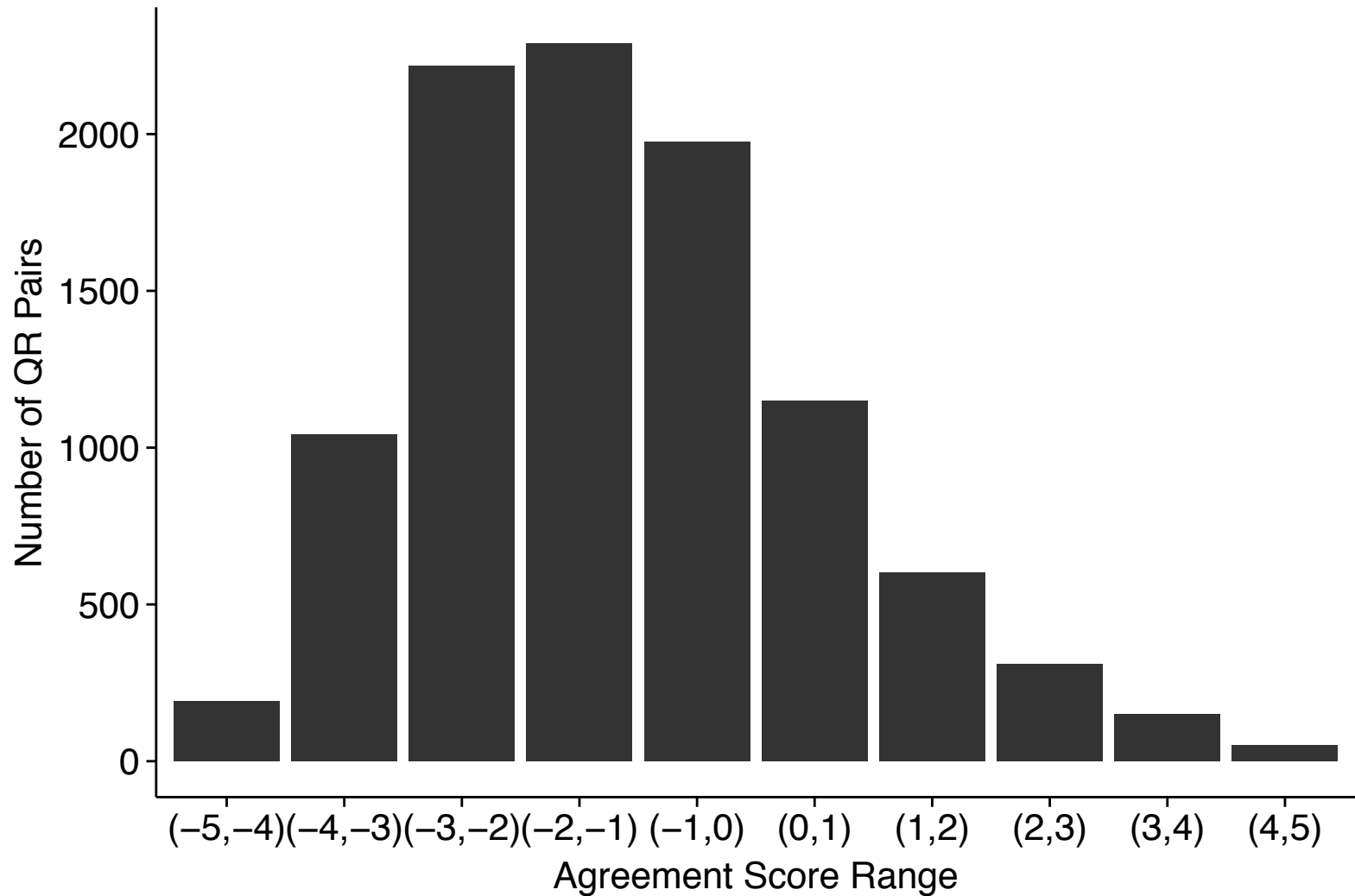
[Walker et al. 2012]

Q: God doesn't take away sinful desires. You've never had sinful desires? I know I have.

R: Yes, God does take away sinful desires. (If you ask Him.) I'm not saying that it doesn't take any work on your part, though.

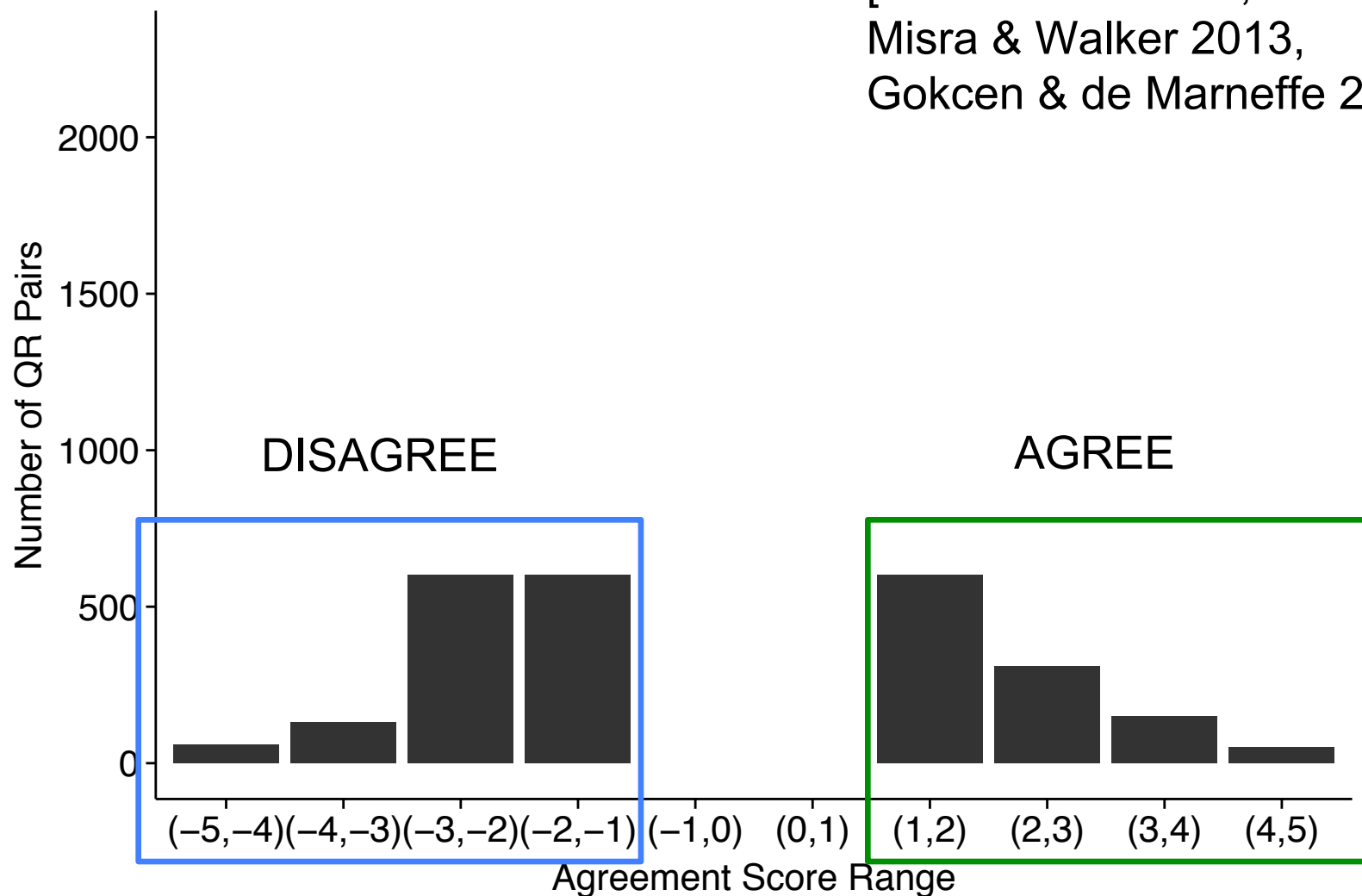
Agreement score: -1.4

IAC is skewed towards disagreement



Data people work with: binary labels

[Abbott et al. 2011,
Misra & Walker 2013,
Gokcen & de Marneffe 2015]



Leveraging monolingual alignment

[Gokcen & de Marneffe 2015]

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Improvement in disagreement recall

	Agreement		Disagreement	
	P	R	P	R
Baseline	70.64	74.77	73.21	68.92
Align+	76.04	74.32	74.89	76.58

Incorporating world knowledge?

A says that he witnessed B murdering C.

Infer that the evidence that B actually did murder C is stronger:

- if the murder was well lit than if it was in the dark
- if A already knew B than if he was a stranger
- if A is testifying under oath than if he is talking casually

Contributed by Ernie Davis, New York University, U.S.A.
(19th September 1997)

Thank you!