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Throughout the eighties and nineties, the art of data collection was completely perfected. Now, many organizations are dealing with so much data that they are no longer able to afford the man power to process it. Today we are asking our computers to sift through the data for us and point out the most important documents. Noun phrase extraction is arguably one of the most critical components to this task as well as the more general task of natural language processing. Information retrieval systems rely on base noun phrases as the main source of entity identification. Once these entities have been chosen, the processor can recognize relationships that may lie between the various data that are useful to the user. The goal this summer is to thoroughly research our past techniques of noun phrase extraction and to formulate a solution that ultimately increases the functionality of ORNL's current algorithms. I will either prove or disprove the hypothesis that these more complex noun phrases are better semantic indicators as to the content of the original document.

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