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Bachelor Thesis

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Topic: Randomly Generated CFGs, The CYK-Algorithm
And A CLI

Author: Andreas Braun <andreasbraun5@aol.com>
Matrikel-Nr. 1200197

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1. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Wim Martens
2. Supervisor: Tina Trautner

To my parents.

Abstract

The abstract of this thesis will be found here.

Zusammenfassung

Hier steht die Zusammenfassung dieser Bachelorarbeit.

Contents

1	Introduction	9
1.1	Forward Problem vs. Backward Problem	9
1.2	Parsing: Bottom-Up vs Top-Down	9
1.3	Scope of this thesis	10
2	Simple Scoring Model	11
2.1	Elimination Criteria and Selection Criteria	11
2.2	Weighting of the criteria	11
2.3	Direct Ranking vs. Preference Analysis vs.	11
3	Algorithms	12
3.1	Help Data Structure Pyramid and others	12
3.2	Exam Exercise Generating Algorithms	13
3.2.1	Sub Procedures	13
3.2.2	Alg: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollOnly	14
3.2.3	Alg: BottomUp GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens1	15
3.2.4	Alg: BottomUp GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens2	16
3.2.5	Alg: TopDown From node to leaves	17
3.2.6	Alg: How often cells are used for subset calculations	17
3.3	Criteria Checking Procedures	18
4	CLI Tool	20
4.1	Short Requirements Specification	20
4.2	Overview - UML	20
4.2.1	UML: More Detail 1	20
4.2.2	UML: More Detail 2	20
4.3	User Interaction	20
4.3.1	Use Case 1	20
4.3.2	Use Case i	20
5	Notes	21
	Used software	23
	Listings	25
	Tables	27
	References	29

1 Introduction

Let there be a grammar $G = (V, \Sigma, S, P)$ in chomsky normal form (CNF).

V is a finite set of variables.

Σ is an alphabet.

S is the starting symbol and $S \in V$.

P is a finite set of rules: $P \subseteq V \times (V \cup \Sigma)^*$. G is in CNF and therefore, more specifically, it holds: $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma)$.

V s are Variables like "A, B, ...".

$(V^2 \cup \Sigma)^*$ are terminals like "a, b, ..." and compound variables like "AB, BS, AC, ...".

Let there be a word $w \in \Sigma^*$, a language $L(G)$ and a grammar G in CNF.

1.1 Forward Problem vs. Backward Problem

Forward Problem ($G \xrightarrow{\text{derivation}} w$):

Informal definition: "Forming a derivation from a root node to a final sentence." [Duda 8.6.3 page 426]

Input: Grammar G in CNF.

Output: Derivation d that shows implicitly $w \subseteq L$.

Backward Problem = Parsing ($w \stackrel{?}{\subseteq} L(G)$):

Informal definition: "Given a particular w , find a derivation in G that leads to w . This process, called parsing, is virtually always much more difficult than forming a derivation." [Duda 8.6.3 page 426]

Input: w and a grammar G in CNF.

Output: $w \subseteq L(G) \implies$ derivation d .

1.2 Parsing: Bottom-Up vs Top-Down

Bottom-Up: Bottom-Up parsing is "the general method used in the Cocke-Younger-Kasami(CYK) algorithm, which fills a parse table from the "bottom up"." (Bottom up means starting from the leaves.) [Duda 8.6.3 page 426]

Top-Down: "Top-Down parsing starts with the root node and successively applies productions from P , with the goal of finding a derivation of the test sentence w . Because it is rare indeed that the sentence is derived in the first production attempted, it is necessary to specify some criteria to guide the choice of which rewrite rule to

apply. Such criteria could include beginning the parse at the first (left) character in the sentence (i.e., finding a small set of rewrite rules that yield the first character), then iteratively expanding the production to derive subsequent characters, or instead starting at the last (right) character in the sentence." [Duda 8.6.3 page 428]

1.3 Scope of this thesis

The starting point of this thesis was to get a command line interface (CLI) tool to automatically generate *exercises* = (*grammar*, *word*, *parse table*, *derivation tree*), which are used to test if the students have understood the way of working of the CYK algorithm. A scoring model is used to evaluate the generated exercises regarding their usability in an exam.

This alone doesn't meet the requirements for being an adequate topic for a bachelor thesis. Therefore the task of finding a clever algorithm to get exercises with a high chance of being usable as an exam exercise was added.

2 Simple Scoring Model

Short preface to the rationale about the scoring model.

2.1 Elimination Criteria and Selection Criteria

Success rates: Producibility: $w \subseteq L(G)$

Grammar restrictions: $n = |w|$, `maxNumberOfVarsPerCell`; **Delete SuccessRates-GrammarRestrictions class. Move `maxNumberOfVarsPerCell` to exam restrictions class and use n only as parameter.**

Exam restrictions: `rightCellCombinationsForcedCount`, `maxSumOfProductions`, `maxSumOfVarsInPyramid`

Picture of used scoring model without weights here.

2.2 Weighting of the criteria

Picture of the final used scoring model with weights here.

2.3 Direct Ranking vs. Preference Analysis vs. ...

What method is used to compare the results out of the scoring model.

3 Algorithms

3.1 Help Data Structure Pyramid and others

Define $[i, j]$:

$$[i, j] := \{i, i+1, \dots, j-1, j\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}.$$

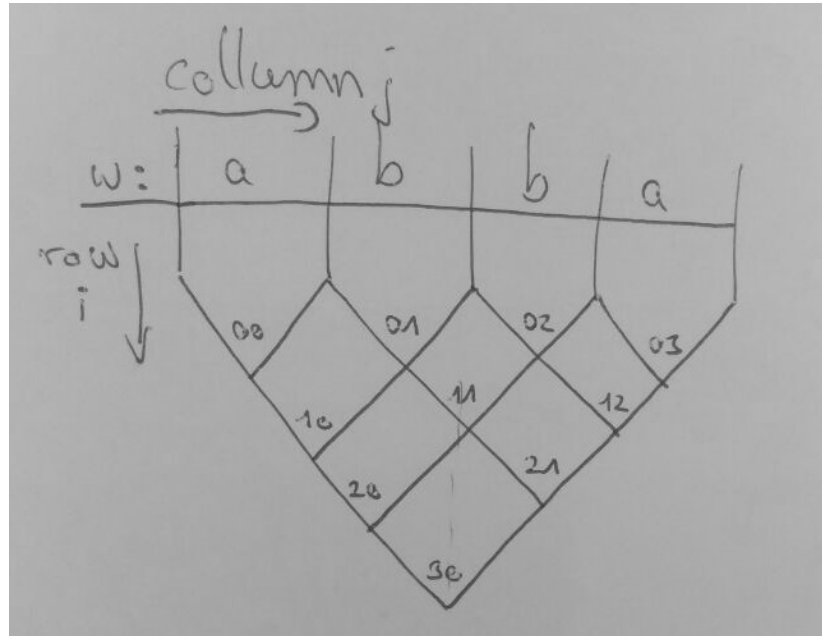
Define *Pyramid*:

$$Pyramid := \{cell_{i,j} \mid i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}, j \in [0, j_{max} - i], i_{max} = j_{max} = |word| - 1\}.$$

$$cell_{i,j} = \{c \mid c \subseteq V\}.$$

$$EmptyPyramid \Leftrightarrow \forall i \forall j \ cell_{i,j} = \emptyset.$$

Regarding one $cell_{i,j}$: $cell_{i,j} = cellDown$, $cell_{i-1,j} = cellUpperLeft$ and $cell_{i-1,j+1} = cellUpperRight$



3.2 Exam Exercise Generating Algorithms

3.2.1 Sub Procedures

Algorithm 1: distributeRhse2

Input: $Rhse \subseteq (V^2 \cup \Sigma)$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$

Output: Grammar G in CNF with uniform randomly distributed $Rhse$'s.

- 1 choose n uniform randomly in $[i, j]$;
 - 2 choose $V_{add} :=$ uniform random subset of size n from V ;
 - 3 $P = P \cup \{ "v \rightarrow rhse" \mid v \in V_{add}, rhse \in Rhse \}$;
 - 4 return G ;
-

Algorithm 2: calculateSubsetForCell

Input: $cell_{i,j} \in pyramid$

Output: $V_{i,j} \subseteq V^2$

- 1 $V_{i,j} = \emptyset$;
 - 2 for $m := i - 1 \rightarrow 0$ do
 - 3 $V_{i,j} = V_{i,j} \cup \{ X \mid X \rightarrow YZ, Y \in V_{m,j}, Z \in V_{i-m-1,m+j+1} \}$;
 - 4 end
 - 5 return $V_{i,j}$;
-

3.2.2 Alg: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollOnly

Very naive way of generating grammars. This is intended to be our starting point for our algorithms we find. Each found algorithm must have a higher score than this algorithm or otherwise it would be worse than simple dice rolling.

Algorithm 3: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollOnly

Input: Word $w \in \Sigma^*$, $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma) = \emptyset$,

Output: Grammar G in CNF

- 1 $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in w\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$
 - 2 $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{vc \mid vc \in V^2\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$
 - 3 $P = P \setminus \{p \mid p \subseteq P, vc \text{ is right in } p, \forall i \forall j vc \notin \text{cell}_{i,j} \text{ of the pyramid}\};$
 - 4 **return** G ;
-

Algorithm 4: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollOnlyBias

Input: Word $w \in \Sigma^*$, $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma) = \emptyset$,

Output: Grammar G in CNF

- 1 NOT FINISHED, MAYBE LATER.
 - 2 *pick uniform randomly* $\{v \mid v \in V\}$ *with...* ;
 - 3 ...;
 - 4 $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in w\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$
 - 5 $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{vc \mid vc \in V^2\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$
 - 6 $P = P \setminus \{p \mid p \subseteq P, vc \text{ is right in } p, \forall i \forall j vc \notin \text{cell}_{i,j} \text{ of the pyramid}\};$
 - 7 **return** G ;
-

3.2.3 Alg: BottomUp GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens1

Things like the $G = (V, \Sigma, S, P)$ can be assumed as known.

$P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in w\} \text{ uniform randomly over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\}$ which equals *distributeRhse* method.

Bias is only allowed top vs down regarding the pyramid. No left or right bias intended yet.

Algorithm 5: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens

Input: Word $w \in \Sigma^*$, $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma) = \emptyset$,
Output: Grammar G in CNF

```

1  $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in w\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$ 
2  $\text{pyramid} = \text{CYK}(G, w);$ 
3 for  $i := 1$  to  $i_{\max}$  do
4    $J \subseteq \mathbb{N} = \emptyset;$ 
5    $\text{cellSet} \subseteq V^2 = \emptyset;$ 
6   while  $|J| < j_{\max} - i$  do
7     choose one  $j \notin J$  uniform randomly in  $[0, j_{\max} - i];$ 
8      $J = J \cup j;$ 
9      $\text{cellSet} = \text{calculateSubsetForCell}(\text{pyramid}, i, j);$ 
10     $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{vc \mid vc \in \text{cellSet}\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$ 
11     $\text{pyramid} = \text{CYK}(G, w);$ 
12    evaluate stopping criteria regarding the pyramid;
13    if stopping criteria = true then
14      return  $G;$ 
15    end
16  end
17 end
18 return  $G;$ 

```

Line 2: Fills the $i=0$ row of the pyramid.

Line 4: Instead of going from left to right, choose j uniform randomly with the restrictions that one cell is only visited one time.

Note: Maybe modify algorithm to also work with the threshold.

3.2.4 Alg: BottomUp GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens2

Algorithm 6: GeneratorGrammarDiceRollMartens2

Input: Word $w \in \Sigma^*$, $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma) = \emptyset$,
Output: Grammar G in CNF

```

1  $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in w\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$ 
2  $\text{pyramid} = \text{CYK}(G, \text{word});$ 
3 for  $i := 1$  to  $i_{\max}$  do
4   for  $j := 0$  to  $j_{\max} - i$  do
5      $\text{rowSet} = \text{rowSet} \cup \{(XY, i) \mid X, Y \in V,$ 
6        $XY \in \text{calculateSubsetForCell}(\text{Pyramid}, i, j)\};$ 
7   end
8   while  $\text{threshold}_i = \text{false}$  do
9      $\text{choose one } vc \in \text{rowSet} \text{ with priority, depending on } i,$ 
10     $\text{uniform randomly};$ 
11     $P = P \cup \{\text{distribute } \{vc \mid vc \in \text{cellSet}\} \text{ over } \{v \mid v \in V\}\};$ 
12     $\text{pyramid} = \text{CYK}(G, w);$ 
13     $\text{evaluate and update } \text{threshold}_i, \text{ regarding line } i;$ 
14     $\text{evaluate stopping criteria, regarding the pyramid};$ 
15    if  $\text{stopping criteria} = \text{true}$  then
16      return  $G;$ 
17    end
18 end
19 return  $G;$ 

```

Line 2: Fills the $i=0$ row of the pyramid.

Line 6: $(AB, 1), (AB, 2), (BC, 3) \dots \in \text{sub} \rightarrow$ multiple occurrences of AB are allowed. This considers "more important" compound variables.

Line 9: One vc can be chosen several times.

Note: Threshold: Linear or log function $f(i)$?

Note: Priority mechanism: In line $i + 1$ the $k = \{(A, l) \mid (A, l) \in \text{sub}, l = i\}$ are preferred over the $m = \{(A, n) \mid (A, n) \in \text{sub}, n < i\}$. In what way are they preferred? Using some kind of factor to weight the i of (A, i) .

3.2.5 Alg: TopDown From node to leaves

3.2.6 Alg: How often cells are used for subset calculations

3.3 Criteria Checking Procedures

Description of the checks here.

All test of the GrammarValidityChecker class are based on the simple setV matrix.

isValid = isWordProducible && isExamConstraints && isGrammarRestrictions

isWordProducible = CYK.algorithmAdvanced()

isExamConstraints = isRightCellCombinationsForced && isMaxSumOfProductionsCount
&& isMaxSumOfVarsInPyramidCount && countRightCellCombinationsForced

isGrammarRestrictions = isSizeOfWordCount && isMaxNumberOfVarsPerCellCount

Algorithm 7: checkForceCombinationPerCell

Input: $cell_{i,j} \subseteq V$, $cell_{i-1,j} \subseteq V$, $cell_{i-1,j+1} \subseteq V$, $P \subseteq V \times (V^2 \cup \Sigma)$

Output: $varsForcing \subseteq V$

```

1   $varsForcing \subseteq V = \emptyset$ ;
2   $varComp = \{XY \mid X \in cell_{i-1,j} \wedge Y \in cell_{i-1,j+1}\}$ ;
3  foreach  $v \in cell_{i,j}$  do
4       $prods = \{p \mid p \subseteq P, v \text{ is left in } p\}$ ;
5       $rhse = \{rhse \mid rhse \text{ is right in } p \in prods\}$ ;
6      if  $varComp \not\subseteq rhse$  then
7           $varsForcing = varsForcing \cup v$ ;
8      end
9  end
10 return  $varsForcing$ ;
```

Input: $cell_{i,j} = cellDown$, $cell_{i-1,j} = cellUpperLeft$ and $cell_{i-1,j+1} = cellUpperRight$

Algorithm 8: checksumOfProductions

Input: $max \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$

Output: $true \iff sum \leq max$

```

1  if  $|P| > max$  then
2      return fales;
3  end
4  return true;
```

Algorithm 9: checkMaxNumberOfVarsPerCell**Input:** $max \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$ **Output:** $true \iff \forall cell_{i,j} \in pyramid, |cell_{i,j}| \leq max$

```

1 for  $i := 1$  to  $i_{max}$  do
2   for  $j := 0$  to  $j_{max} - i$  do
3     if  $|cell_{i,j}| > max$  then
4       return false;
5     end
6   end
7 end
8 return true;

```

Algorithm 10: checkMaxSumOfVarsInPyramid**Input:** $max \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$ **Output:** $true \iff sum \leq max$

```

1  $sum = 0$ ;
2 for  $i := 1$  to  $i_{max}$  do
3   for  $j := 0$  to  $j_{max} - i$  do
4      $sum = sum + |cell_{i,j}|$ ;
5     if  $sum > max$  then
6       return false;
7     end
8   end
9 end
10 return true;

```

4 CLI Tool

4.1 Short Requirements Specification

Use Cases $i \rightarrow$ "Lastenheft".

Input and Output parameter identification.

4.2 Overview - UML

List noteworthy used libraries here, too.

4.2.1 UML: More Detail 1

4.2.2 UML: More Detail 2

4.3 User Interaction

4.3.1 Use Case 1

4.3.2 Use Case i

5 Notes

The informal goal is to find a suitable combination of a grammar and a word that meets the demands of an exam exercise. Also the CYK pyramid and one derivation tree of the word must be generated automatically as a "solution picture".

Firstly the exam exercise must have an upper limit of variables per cell while computing the CYK-pyramid.

Secondly the exam exercise must have one or more "special properties" so that it can be checked if the students have clearly understood the algorithm, e.g. "Excluding the possibility of luck."

The more formal goal is identify and determine parameters that in general can be used to define the properties of a grammar, so that the demanded restrictions are met. Also parameters could be identified for words, but "which is less likely to contribute, than the parameters of the grammar." [Second appointment with Martens]

Some introductory stuff:

Possible basic approaches for getting these parameters are the Rejection Sampling method and the "Tina+Wim" method.

Also backtracking plays some role, but right now I don't know where to put it. Backtracking is underapproach to Rejection Sampling.

Note: Starting with one half of a word and one half of a grammar.

Identify restrictions (=parameters) regarding the grammar.

Maybe find restrictions regarding the words, too.

Procedures for automated generation. Each generation procedure considers different restrictions and restriction combinations. The restrictions within one generation procedure can be optimized on its own. Up till now:

Generating grammars: DiceRolling, ...

Generating words: DiceRolling, ...

Parameter optimisation via theoretical and/or benchmarking approach.

Benchmarking = generate N grammars and test them, (N=100000).

Define a success rate and try to increase it.

The overall strategy is as following:

- 1.) Identify theoretically a restriction/parameter for the grammar. Think about the influence it will have. Think also about correlations between the restrictions.
- 2.) Validate the theoretical conclusion with the benchmark. Test out the influence of this parameter upon the success rate. Try different parameter settings.

The ordering of step 1 and step 2 can be changed.

Used software

Github

IntelliJ IDEA

Listings

Following are some interesting classes referenced in the thesis that were too long to fit into the text.

Tables

This section contains all tables referenced in this thesis.

References

- [1] JSR 220: Enterprise Java Beans 3.0 <https://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=220>, 09/09/2015

