

## Structured predictions: trees and graphs

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- ▶ Syntactic parsing
  - ▶ Phrase structure (or constituent) trees
  - ▶ Dependency trees
- ▶ Graph-based semantic parsing
  - ▶ Abstra
- ▶ Needs a grammar
- ▶ Requires an efficient decoding algorithm
- ▶ Same statistical or neural models extended to parsing, e.g., Naïve Bayes, Perceptron, Neural networks.

## Syntactic Parsing

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- ▶ Syntactic parsing is the task of assigning a syntactic structure (typically in the form of a tree) to a sentence
- ▶ The grammar formalism dictates what a tree looks like
- ▶ The main technical problem is how to find the best tree given a sentence
- ▶ The general solution to the problem is to build a search algorithm to find the best tree (or top-k trees)
- ▶ Syntactic parsing is one of the core problems in NLP, and syntactic structures are useful for a wide range of NLP applications

Two broad schools of thought on the syntactic structure

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- ▶ Phrase structures
  - ▶ The building blocks of phrase structures are “phrases” that are consecutive groups of words that make sense
  - ▶ Each phrase receives a syntactic category (
  - ▶ The phrases are hierarchically organized
- ▶ Dependencies
  - ▶ The fundamental building blocks of dependency structures are relations between words in a sentence. These relations are not consecutive (They are non-adjacent)
  - ▶ Dependency relations are thus natural
  - ▶ The relations are hierarchically organized
  - ▶ The syntactic relations between the words are typically labeled
- ▶ Each category of syntactic structures also have different flavors

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Phrase-structure parsing based on  
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## Context-free grammars

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Context-free languages are specified by context-

which are tuples of  $(N, \Sigma, P, S)$ , consisting of

- ▶ a finite set of
- ▶ a finite alphabet
- ▶ a set of **production rules**  $R$ , each  $A \rightarrow \beta$ , where  $A \in N$  and  $\beta \in (\Sigma \cup N)^*$
- ▶ a designated start symbol  $S$

Example CFG: mathematical operations

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$S \rightarrow S \text{ OP } S \mid \text{NUM}$   
 $\text{OP} \rightarrow + \mid - \mid \times \mid \div$

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## Is natural language context-free?

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- ▶ Context-free grammars can be used to represent syntax, which is the set of rules that determine whether an utterance is judged to be grammatical.
- ▶ If this representation were perfectly faithful, a language such as English could be transformed into a language, so that would be judged by a speaker.
- ▶ Contemporary theories generally do not consider languages to be context-free, yet context-free grammars are widely used in natural language parsing.
- ▶ The reason is that context-free representations strike a good balance: they cover a broad range of syntactic phenomena, and they can be parsed efficiently.

## A phrase-structure grammar

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A phrase-structure grammar is one in which sentences are broken down into constituents (phrases), which are contiguous sequences of words that function as coherent units for the purpose of linguistic analysis.

Phrases are labeled

**heads:** noun phrase

$S \rightarrow NP\ VP$

$NP \rightarrow NP\ PP \mid we \mid sushi \mid chopsticks$

$NP \rightarrow NP\ CC\ NP$

$VP \rightarrow V\ NP \mid VP\ PP$

$PP \rightarrow IN\ NP$

$V \rightarrow eat$

$CC \rightarrow and$

## Chomsky Normal Form

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- ▶ In Chomsky Normal Form (CNF) every production includes either two non-terminal symbols or one terminal symbol.
- ▶ CNF can be parsed.
- ▶ But some CFs cannot be converted to CNF.  
 $NP \rightarrow NP\ CC\ NP$ .
- ▶ The general practice in syntactic parsing is to convert to CNF during training and decoding.

## Ambiguity of different types

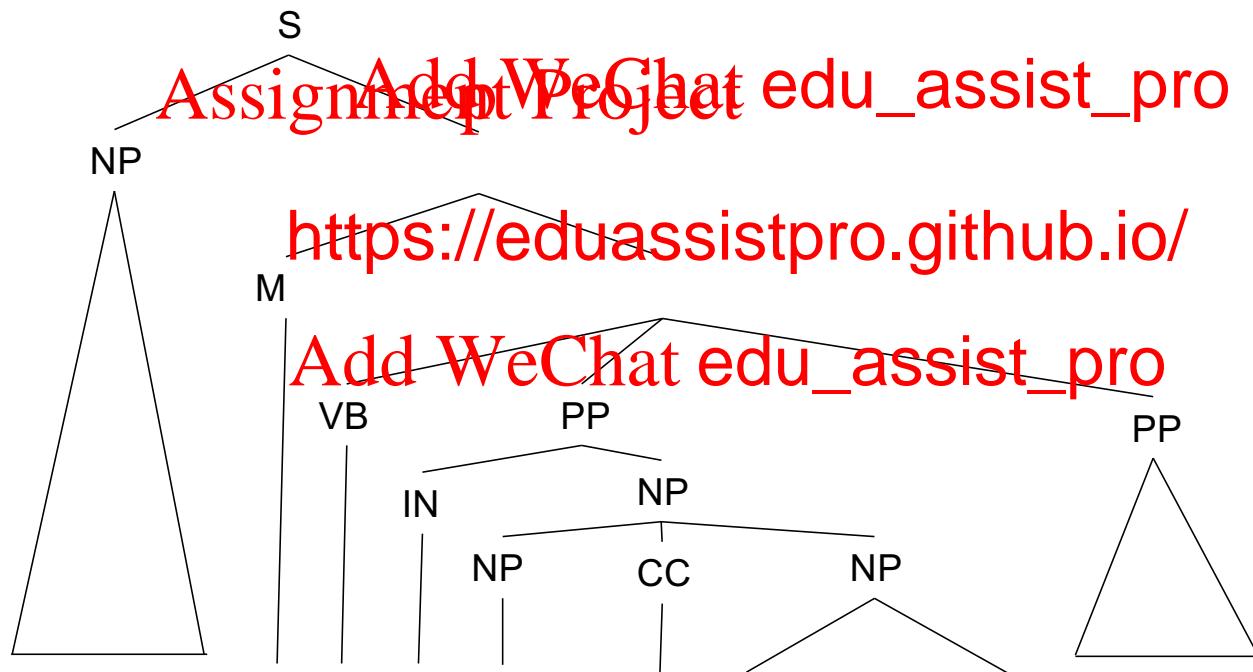
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Even with a grammar, multiple parses (trees) for a sentence are often possible due to ambiguity:

- ▶ Attachment ambiguity: e.g., We eat sushi with a spoon.  
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- ▶ Modifier scope: <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> er
- ▶ Particle vs preposition: e.g., The puppy t
- ▶ Complement structure: e.g. The student he  
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- ▶ Coordination scope: e.g., "I see," said the blind man, as he picked up the hammer and saw.

## Spurious ambiguity

In practice, a grammar of <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> with human intuition at all. Such cases are called **spurious ambiguity** [Assignment](#) [Project](#) [Exam](#) [Help](#)



The post office will hold **out** discounts and service concessions as incentives

## Weighted context-free grammars

The major challenge in sy  
possible tree for a senten

possible trees. One way to do that is to have weighted grammar so  
we can weight the trees...

| $S \rightarrow NP VP$   | $NP \rightarrow NNP$ | $VP \rightarrow S \rightarrow N$ | $NP \rightarrow NP$ | $-0.5$ |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| $NP \rightarrow NP$     |                      |                                  |                     | $0.5$  |
| $NP \rightarrow NP$     |                      |                                  |                     | $-0.5$ |
| $NP \rightarrow NNS$    |                      | $NP \rightarrow NP$              |                     | $1$    |
| $NP \rightarrow NN$     |                      | $NP \rightarrow NP$              |                     | $1$    |
| $NP \rightarrow NP PP$  |                      | $NP \rightarrow NP PP$           |                     | $-0.3$ |
| $VP \rightarrow VBZ NP$ |                      | $VP \rightarrow VBZ NP$          |                     | $-0.5$ |
| $VP \rightarrow VBD NP$ |                      | $VP \rightarrow VBD NP$          |                     | $-0.5$ |
| $VP \rightarrow VP PP$  |                      | $VP \rightarrow VP PP$           |                     | $-0.2$ |
| $PP \rightarrow IN NP$  |                      | $PP \rightarrow IN NP$           |                     | $0$    |
| $ADJP \rightarrow JJ$   |                      | $ADJP \rightarrow JJ$            |                     | $0$    |
| $NNP \rightarrow John$  |                      | $NNP \rightarrow John$           |                     | $0$    |

## Probabilistic context-free grammars

And one special form of we  
**probabilistic context**

with the same left hand side is 1:

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| $S \rightarrow NP VP$        | $S \rightarrow NP VP$     | 1.0 |
| $NP \rightarrow NNP$         | $NP \rightarrow N$        |     |
| $NP \rightarrow NP CC NP$    | $NP \rightarrow N$        |     |
| $NP \rightarrow ADJP NP$     | $NP \rightarrow A$        |     |
|                              |                           | 0.1 |
|                              |                           | 0.1 |
|                              |                           | 0.3 |
| Assignment Project Exam Help |                           |     |
| $VP \rightarrow VBZ NP$      | $VP$                      |     |
| $VP \rightarrow VBD NP$      | $VP$                      |     |
| $VP \rightarrow VP PP$       | $VP$                      |     |
| $PP \rightarrow IN NP$       | $PP \rightarrow IN NP$    | 1.0 |
| $ADJP \rightarrow JJ$        | $ADJP \rightarrow JJ$     | 1.0 |
| $NNP \rightarrow John$       | $NNP \rightarrow John$    | 1.0 |
| $NNS \rightarrow apples$     | $NNS \rightarrow apples$  | 0.4 |
| $NNS \rightarrow oranges$    | $NNS \rightarrow oranges$ | 0.4 |
| $NNS \rightarrow noodles$    | $NNS \rightarrow noodles$ | 0.2 |
| $NN \rightarrow gravy$       | $NN \rightarrow gravy$    | 1.0 |
| $JJ \rightarrow green$       | $JJ \rightarrow green$    | 1.0 |
| $IN \rightarrow with$        | $IN \rightarrow with$     | 1.0 |
| $VBZ \rightarrow likes$      | $VBZ \rightarrow likes$   | 1.0 |
| $VBD \rightarrow ate$        | $VBD \rightarrow ate$     | 1.0 |

## The probability model of a phrase structure tree

Independence assumption

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- ▶ Place invariance  
probability of the subtree
- ▶ Context Free-ness: Probability of a subtree not impacted by words outside of the subtree
- ▶ Ancestor Free-ness: Probability of a subtree on non-terminal nodes

Given these assumptions, the probability of the tree and the input sentence) is:

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$$P(\mathcal{T}) = \prod_{i=1}^m P(RHS_i | LHS_i)$$

The decoding process is to find the tree that has the highest probability:

$$\hat{\mathcal{T}}(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{T} \text{ s.t. } s = \text{yield}(\mathcal{T})} P(\mathcal{T})$$

Probability of an example tree

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$$P(T_1) = 1.0 \times 0.1 \times 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.2 \times 1.0 \times 1.0 \times 0.1 \times 1.0 = 0.000018$$

$$P(T_2) = 1.0 \times 0.1 \times 1.0 \times 0.5 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.1 \times 0.2 \times 1.0 \times 1.0 \times 0.1 \times 1.0 = 0.00003$$

Probability of an example tree

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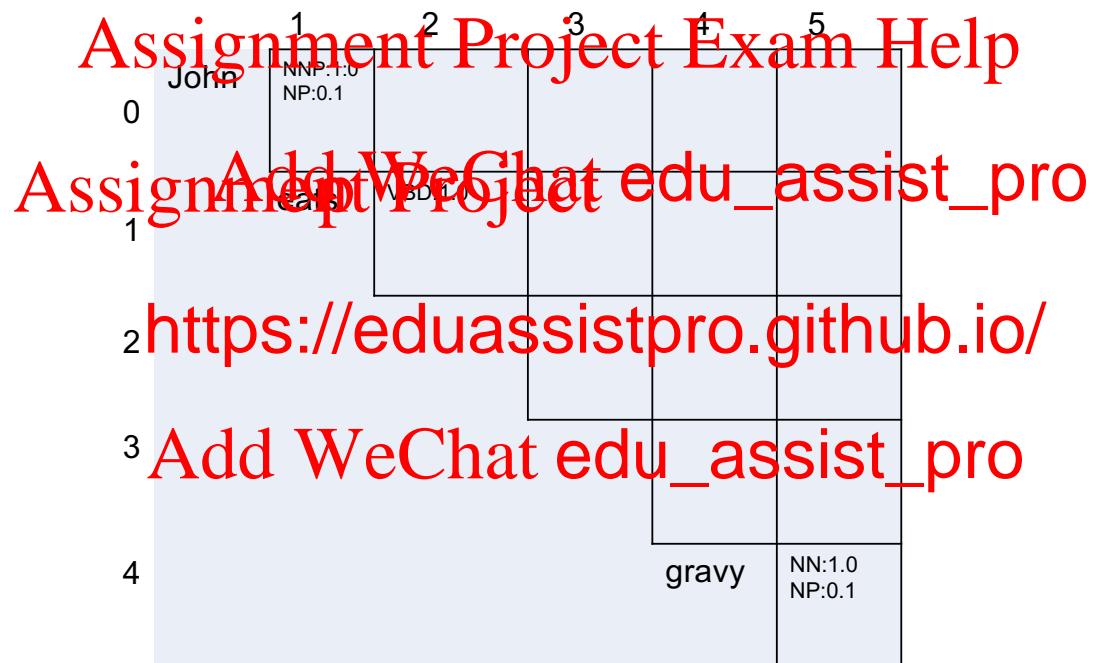
## Parsing with PCFGs: the CKY algorithm

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```
1: procedure W
2:   for all  $i, j, X$  do
3:      $t[i, j, X] \leftarrow 0$ 
4:      $b[i, j, X] \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
5:   for  $m \in \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$  do
6:     for all
7:        $t[m, m + \ell, X] \leftarrow \max_{k, Y, Z} \psi(X \rightarrow Y Z, (m, m + \ell, k)) + t[m, k, Y] + t[k, m + \ell, Z]$ 
8:     for  $\ell \in \{2, 3, \dots, M\}$  do
9:       for  $m \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - \ell\}$  do
10:        for  $k \in \{m + 1, m + 2, \dots, m + \ell - 1\}$  do
11:           $t[m, m + \ell, X] \leftarrow \max_{k, Y, Z} \psi(X \rightarrow Y Z, (m, m + \ell, k)) + t[m, k, Y] + t[k, m + \ell, Z]$ 
12:           $b[m, m + \ell, X] \leftarrow \text{argmax}_{k, Y, Z} \psi(X \rightarrow Y Z, (m, m + \ell, k)) + t[m, k, Y] + t[k, m + \ell, Z]$ 
return TRACEBACK(S, 0, M, B)
```

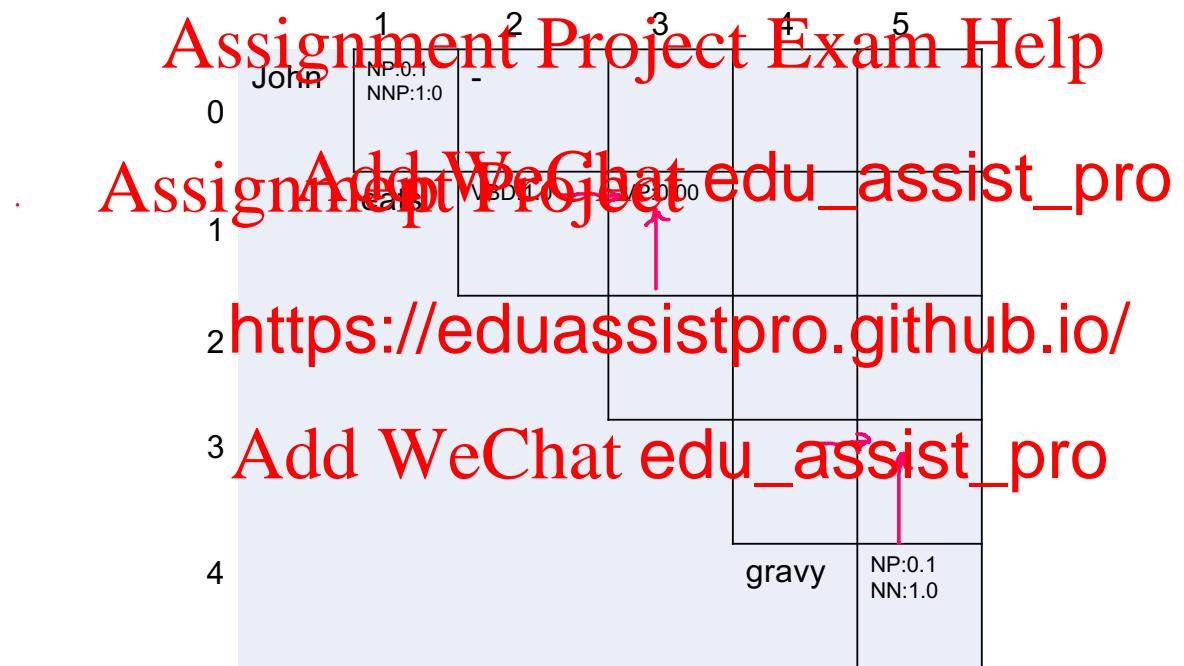
## CKY example

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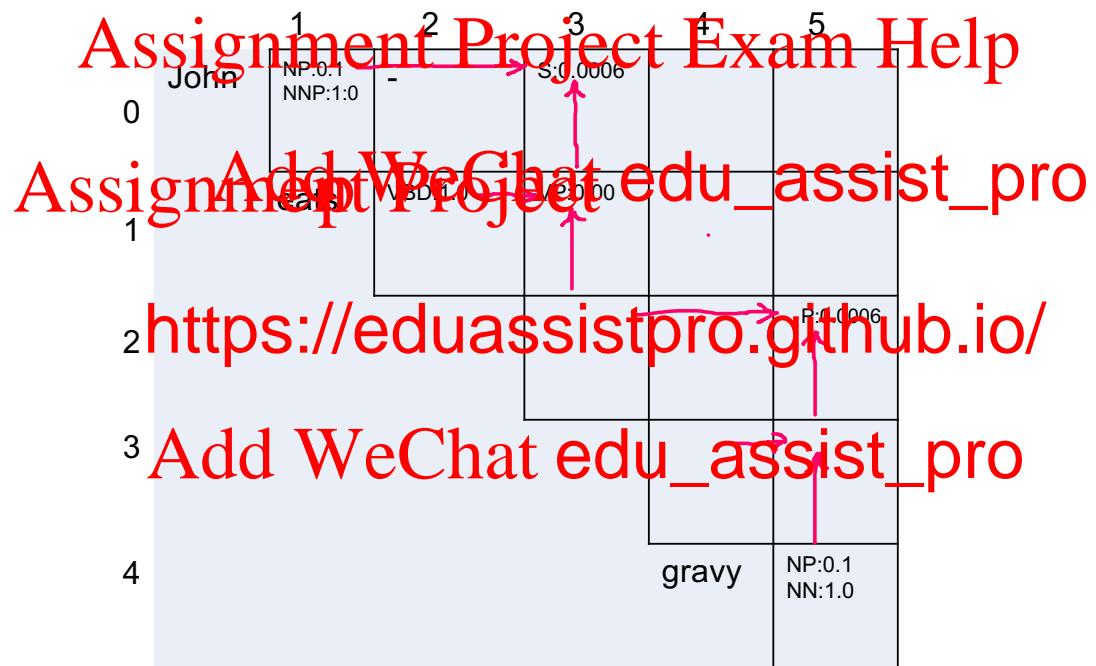
## CKY example

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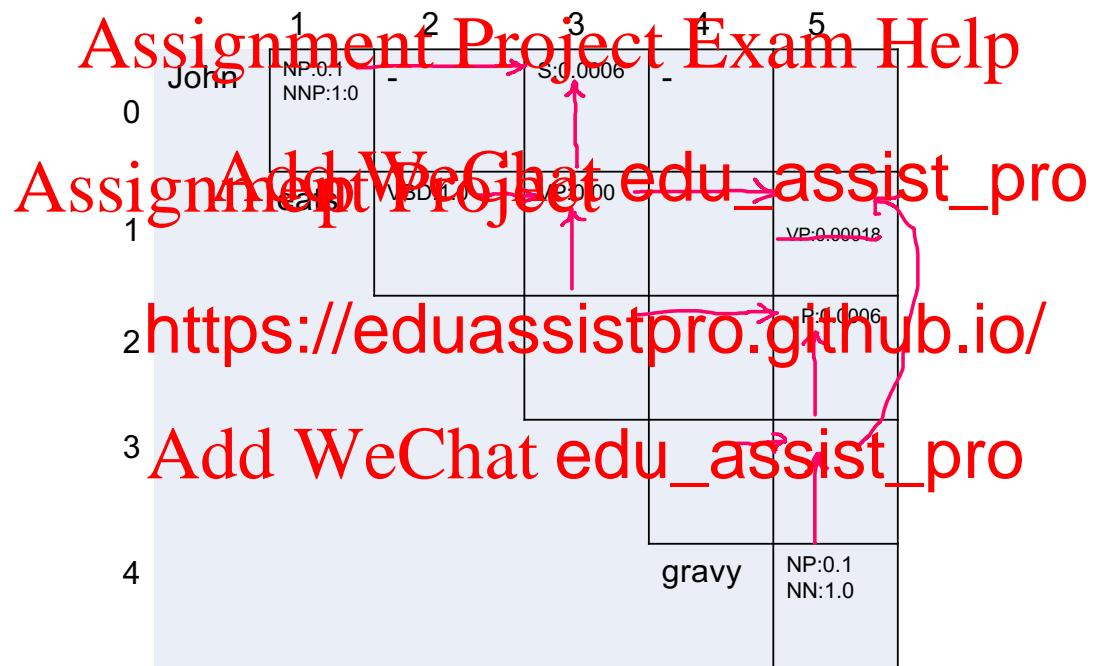
## CKY example

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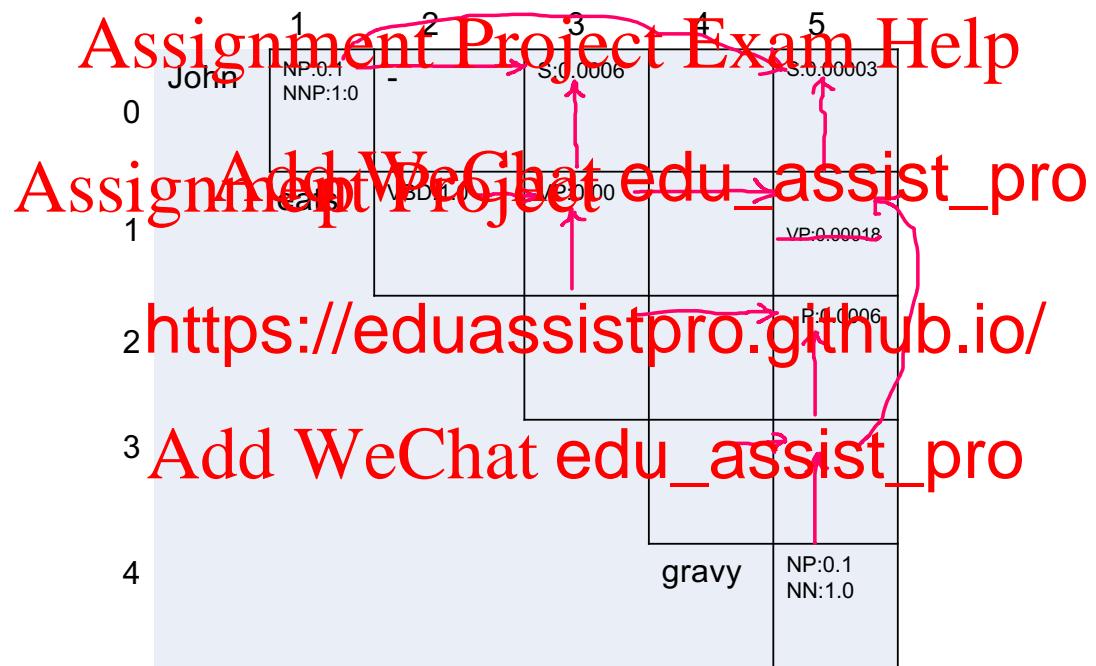
## CKY example

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## CKY example

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## Learning PCFGs

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Parameters in probabilistic context-free grammars can be estimated by relative frequency, as with HMMs:

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$$P(X \rightarrow \alpha) = \frac{\text{corpus count}}{\text{count of } X}$$

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E.g., the probability of the production  $\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{DET NN}$  is the corpus count of this production, divided by the count of the non-terminal NP. This applies to terminals as well.

## Grammar Refinement

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- ▶ Grammars extracted from treebanks (e.g. TreeBank) are often sensitive to ambiguity even with the w
- ▶ There are various with more expressive productions
  - ▶ Parent annotation
  - ▶ Lexicalization

Parent annotation

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Lexicalized CFGs

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