

**NLP**

# Introduction to NLP

241.

Syntax

# Syntax

- Is language more than just a “bag of words”?
  - Grammatical rules apply to categories and groups of words, not individual words.
- Example
  - a sentence includes a subject and a predicate. The subject is a noun phrase and the predicate is a verb phrase.
  - Noun phrases:
    - The cat, Samantha, She
  - Verb phrase:
    - arrived, went away, had dinner
- When people learn a new word, they learn its syntactic usage.
  - Examples: wug (n), cluvious (adj) – use them in sentences
  - Hard to come up with made up words: forkle, vleeer, etc. all taken.

**TABLES ARE  
FOR EATING  
CUSTOMERS  
ONLY**

**NO LOITERING**

# Defining Parts of Speech

- What do nouns typically have in common?
  - E.g., *can* be preceded by “the”.
- What about verbs?
  - Verbs can be preceded by “can’t”.
- Adjectives can come between “the” and a noun.
  - How is this different from grade school definitions?
- Determiners
  - a, the, many, no, five
- Prepositions
  - for, to, in, without, before

# Constituents

- Constituents are continuous
- Constituents are non-crossing
  - if two constituents share one word, then one of them must completely contain the other.
- Each word is a constituent

# Constituent Tests

- “coordination” test
  - She bought a bagel and three chocolate croissants
- “pronoun” test
  - A small dog is barking in the park.
  - It is barking in the park
- “question by repetition” test:
  - I have seen blue elephants
  - Blue elephants?
  - \* Seen blue?
  - Seen blue elephants?
- “topicalization” test:
  - Blue elephants, I have seen.
- “question” test:
  - *What* have I seen?
- “deletion” test
  - Last year I saw a blue elephant in the zoo.
- “semantic” test
- “intuition” test

# How to generate sentences

- One way: tree structure
  - Generate the tree structure first
  - Then fill the leaf nodes with terminals



# A Simple Syntactic Rule

- The simplest rule for a sentence, e.g. “Birds fly”

$$S \rightarrow N \ V$$

# Simplest Grammar

**S** → **N V**

N → Samantha | Min | Jorge

V → left | sang | walked

Sample sentences:

Samantha sang

Jorge left

# Syntax

- The verbs so far were intransitive (no direct object)
- What rules are needed next?
  - Transitive verbs and direct objects (“Jorge saw Samantha”)
  - Determiners (“the cats”)
- Combinatorial explosion (even for the simplest form of sentences)
  - Need for noun phrases
  - Ditto for verb phrases

DUDE, WHY  
DO YOU TALK  
BACKWARDS  
ALL THE TIME?



BACKWARDS-  
TALKING I AM  
NOT. ENGLISH-  
CENTRIC VIEW  
OF GRAMMATICAL  
STRUCTURE,  
YOU HAVE



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# Latest Grammar

**S → NP VP**

**NP → DT N**

**VP → V NP**

DT → the | a

N → child | cat | dog

V → took | saw | liked | scared | chased

Sample sentences:

a dog chased the cat

the child saw a dog

# Alternatives

- Different expansions of a category are delineated with " | "
  - $NP \rightarrow PN \mid DT \ CN$
- One rule for proper nouns and another for common nouns

# Latest Grammar

**S → NP VP**

**NP → DT CN**

**NP → PN**

**VP → V NP**

DT → the | a

CN → child | cat | dog

PN → Samantha | Jorge | Min

V → took | saw | liked | scared | chased

Sample sentences:

a child scared Jorge

Min took the child

# Optional categories

- Wherever N is allowed in a sentence,
  - DT N
  - JJ N
  - DT JJ Nare also allowed
- We can use the notation for alternatives
  - $NP \rightarrow N \mid DT\ N \mid JJ\ N \mid DT\ JJ\ N$
- Optional categories can be also marked using parentheses:
  - $NP \rightarrow (DT)\ (JJ)\ N$



# Verb Phrases

- Samantha ran.
- Samantha ran to the park.
- Samantha ran away.
- Samantha bought a cookie.
- Samantha bought a cookie for John.
- Overall structure
  - $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (P) (NP)$

# Latest Grammar

**S → NP VP**

**NP → DT CN**

**NP → PN**

**VP → V (NP) (P) (NP)**

DT → the | a

CN → child | cat | dog

PN → Samantha | Jorge | Min

P → to | for | from | in

V → took | saw | liked | scared | chased | gave

Sample sentences:

Samantha saw the cat

Jorge gave the cat to Min

# Prepositional Phrases

- Examples:
  - Mary bought a book for John **in a bookstore**.
  - The bookstore sells magazines.
  - The bookstore **on Main St.** sells magazines.
  - Mary ran away.
  - Mary ran **down the hill**.
- Changes are needed to both NP and VP to accommodate prepositional phrases
  - Wherever a preposition is allowed, it can be followed by a noun phrase.
  - Run up
  - NP can contain any number of PPs but only up to two NPs.
- How do we revise the grammar accordingly?

# The Rules So Far

- $S \rightarrow NP VP$
- $NP \rightarrow (DT) (JJ) N (PP)$
- $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP)$
- $PP \rightarrow P (NP)$

# PP Ambiguity

- The boy saw the woman with the telescope.

PP  $\rightarrow$  PREP NP

VP  $\rightarrow$  V NP PP

VP  $\rightarrow$  V NP

NP  $\rightarrow$  DT N

NP  $\rightarrow$  DT N PP

# Repetition (\*)

- $(JJ^*)$  = a sequence of zero or more JJ
- Are all sequences of adjectives allowed?
  - a big red house
  - \* a red big house
- Adjective ordering in English depends on semantics!

# Exercise

- The Little Red Riding Hood
- Three Little Pigs
- The Three Musketeers
- The Steadfast Tin Soldier
- The French Connection
- Old Macdonald
- Five Golden Rings
- The Ancient Mariner

# Adjective ordering

- **Det**
  - Number
  - Strength
  - Size
  - Age
  - Shape
  - Color
  - Origin
  - Material
  - Purpose
  - **Noun**
- 
- det < number < size < color < purpose < noun
  - strength < material < noun
  - origin < noun



# Nested Sentences

- Examples:
  - I don't recall whether I took the dog out.
  - Do you know if the mall is still open?
- **VP → V (NP) (NP) (C S) (PP\*)**
- Can (C S) appear inside an NP?
  - Whether he will win the elections remains to be seen.

# Recursion

- S can generate VP, VP can generate S
- NP can generate PP, PP can generate NP
- What does recursion allow?
- Is there a longest sentence in English?

- Conjunction of NPs:

$NP \rightarrow NP \text{ and } NP$

- Conjunction of PPs:

$PP \rightarrow PP \text{ and } PP$

- Conjunction of VPs:

$VP \rightarrow VP \text{ and } VP$

# Meta-patterns

- $S \rightarrow NP VP$ 
  - $NP \rightarrow (DT) (JJ) N (PP)$
  - $VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP)$
  - $PP \rightarrow P (NP)$
- Is there a meta-pattern here?
  - $XP \rightarrow (\text{specifier}) X'$
  - $X' \rightarrow X (\text{complement})$
- Example:  $NP \rightarrow DT N'$
- X-bar Theory
  - [http://www.unlweb.net/wiki/X-bar\\_theory](http://www.unlweb.net/wiki/X-bar_theory)

# Meta-rules for Conjunctions

- Conjunction
  - $X \rightarrow X \text{ and } X$
- This kind of rule even covers entire sentences
  - $S \rightarrow S \text{ and } S$

# Auxiliaries

- Is “Aux V” a constituent?
  - I have seen blue elephants and will remember them forever.
- Recursion:
  - VP → Aux VP
  - Raj may have been sleeping.
- Is such recursion unlimited?

# Exercise

- Grammar:

- $S \rightarrow NP \ VP \mid CP \ VP$
- $NP \rightarrow (DT) \ (JJ^*) \ N \ (CP) \ (PP^*)$
- $VP \rightarrow V \ (NP) \ (NP) \ (PP^*) \mid V \ (NP) \ (CP) \ (PP^*)$
- $PP \rightarrow P \ NP$
- $CP \rightarrow C \ S$

- What rules are needed to generate these three sentences:

- 1. The small dog of the neighbors brought me an old tennis ball.
- 2. That wugs have three eyes is unproven by scientists.
- 3. I saw the gift that the old man gave me at the meeting.

# Notes

- Syntax helps with sentences like
  - \* The milk drank the cat
  - The milk is drunk by the cat
- Overgeneration
  - The girl saw
- Undergeneration
- Grammar – between the two

# Arguments vs. Adjuncts

- Arguments
  - Mandatory (e.g., “\* Romeo likes”, “\*likes Juliet”)
  - Cannot be repeated (e.g., “\* Juliet likes Romeo John”)
  - Verbs can have more than one subcategorization frame
- Adjuncts
  - Optional
  - Typically prepositional phrases or adverbs
  - Can be repeated (e.g., “Apparently Candace ate pizza yesterday at the restaurant with pleasure”)



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# Introduction to NLP

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Introduction to Parsing

# Parsing programming languages

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    int n, reverse = 0;

    printf("Enter a number to reverse\n");
    scanf("%d", &n);

    while (n != 0)
    {
        reverse = reverse * 10;
        reverse = reverse + n%10;
        n = n/10;
    }
    printf("Reverse of entered number is = %d\n", reverse);

    return 0;
}
```

# Parsing human languages

- Rather different than computer languages
  - Can you think in which ways?

# Parsing human languages

- Rather different than computer languages
  - No types for words
  - No brackets around phrases
  - Ambiguity
    - Words
    - Parses
  - Implied information

# The parsing problem

- Parsing means associating tree structures to a sentence, given a grammar (e.g., CFG)
  - There may be exactly one such tree structure
  - There may be many such structures
  - There may be none
- Grammars (e.g., CFG) are declarative
  - They don't specify how the parse tree will be constructed

# Syntactic Issues

- PP attachment
  - I saw the man with the telescope
- Gaps
  - Mary likes Physics but hates Chemistry
- Coordination scope
  - Small boys and girls are playing
- Particles vs. prepositions
  - She ran up a large bill
- Gerund vs. adjective
  - Frightening kids can cause trouble

# Applications of parsing

- Grammar checking
  - I want to return this shoes.
- Question answering
  - How many people in sales make \$40K or more per year?
- Machine translation
  - E.g., word order – SVO vs. SOV
- Information extraction
  - *Breaking Bad* takes place in New Mexico.
- Speech generation
- Speech understanding



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# Introduction to NLP

Context-free grammars

# Context-free grammars

- A context-free grammar is a 4-tuple  $(N, \Sigma, R, S)$ 
  - $N$ : non-terminal symbols
  - $\Sigma$ : terminal symbols (disjoint from  $N$ )
  - $R$ : rules  $(A \rightarrow \beta)$ , where  $\beta$  is a string from  $(\Sigma \cup N)^*$
  - $S$ : start symbol from  $N$

# Example

```
["the", "child", "ate", "the", "cake", "with", "the", "fork"]
```

```
S -> NP VP
```

```
NP -> DT N | NP PP
```

```
PP -> PRP NP
```

```
VP -> V NP | VP PP
```

```
DT -> 'a' | 'the'
```

```
N -> 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'
```

```
PRP -> 'with' | 'to'
```

```
V -> 'saw' | 'ate'
```

# Example

["the", "child", "ate", "the", "cake", "with", "the", "fork"]

S -> NP VP

NP -> DT **N** | NP PP

PP -> **PRP** NP

VP -> **V** NP | VP PP

DT -> 'a' | 'the'

N -> 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'

PRP -> 'with' | 'to'

V -> 'saw' | 'ate'

Heads marked in bold face

# Phrase-structure grammars (1/2)

- Sentences are not just bags of words
  - Alice bought Bob flowers
  - Bob bought Alice flowers
- Context-free view of language
  - A prepositional phrase looks the same whether it is part of the subject NP or part of the VP
- Constituent order
  - SVO (subject verb object)
  - SOV (subject object verb)

# Phrase-structure grammars (2/2)

- Auxiliary verbs
  - The dog may have eaten my homework
- Imperative sentences
  - Leave the book on the table
- Interrogative sentences
  - Did the customer have a complaint?
  - Who had a complaint?
- Negative sentences
  - The customer didn't have a complaint

# A longer example

S -> NP VP | Aux NP VP | VP  
NP -> PRON | Det Nom  
Nom -> N | Nom N | Nom PP  
PP -> PRP NP  
VP -> V | V NP | VP PP  
Det -> 'the' | 'a' | 'this'  
PRON -> 'he' | 'she'  
N -> 'book' | 'boys' | 'girl'  
PRP -> 'with' | 'in'  
V -> 'takes' | 'take'

What changes were made to the grammar?

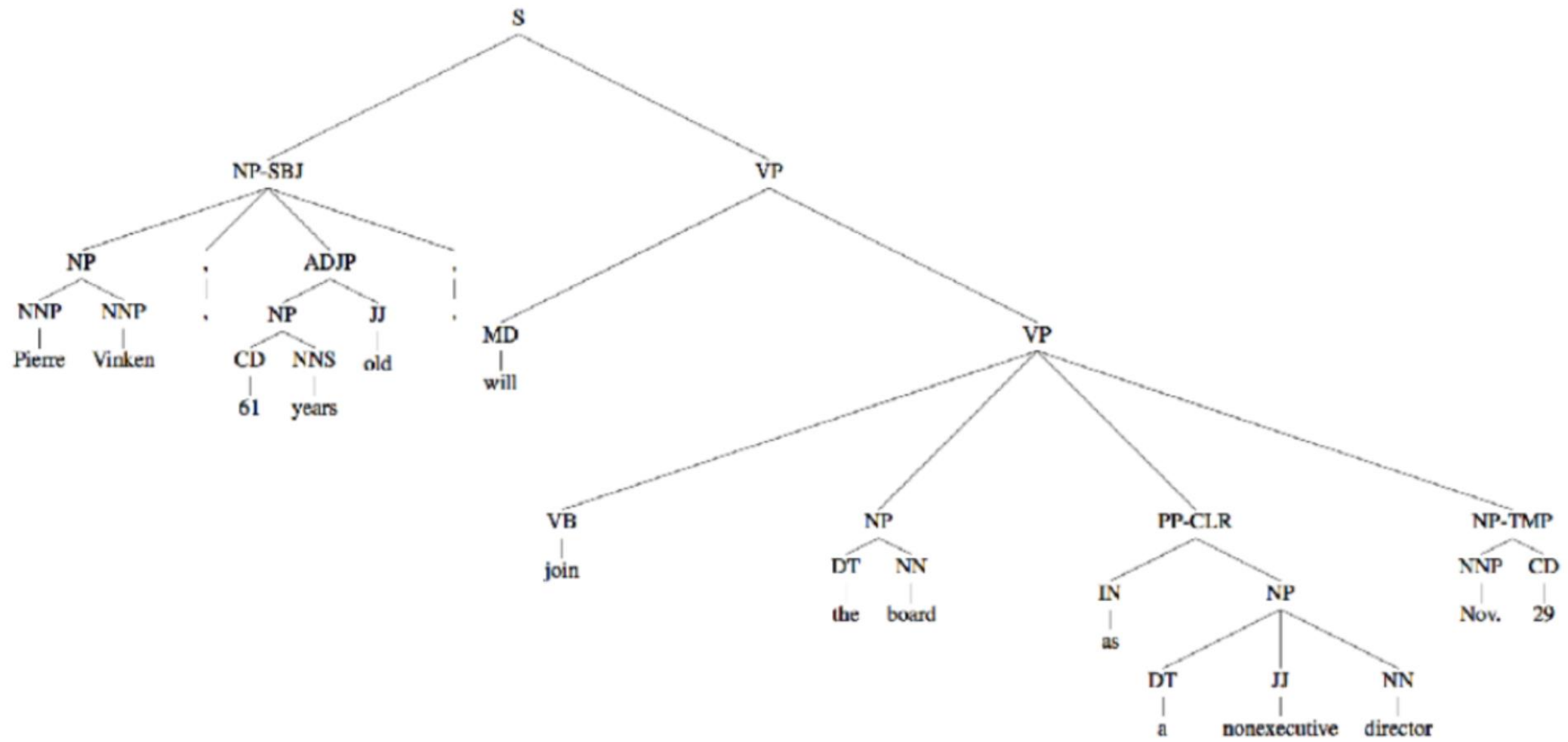


# A longer example

S -> NP VP | Aux NP VP | VP  
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# A longer example

S -> NP VP | **Aux NP VP** | VP  
NP -> PRON | Det Nom  
Nom -> **N** | Nom N | Nom PP  
PP -> PRP NP  
VP -> V | V NP | VP PP  
Det -> 'the' | 'a' | 'this'  
PRON -> 'he' | 'she'  
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V -> 'takes' | 'take'



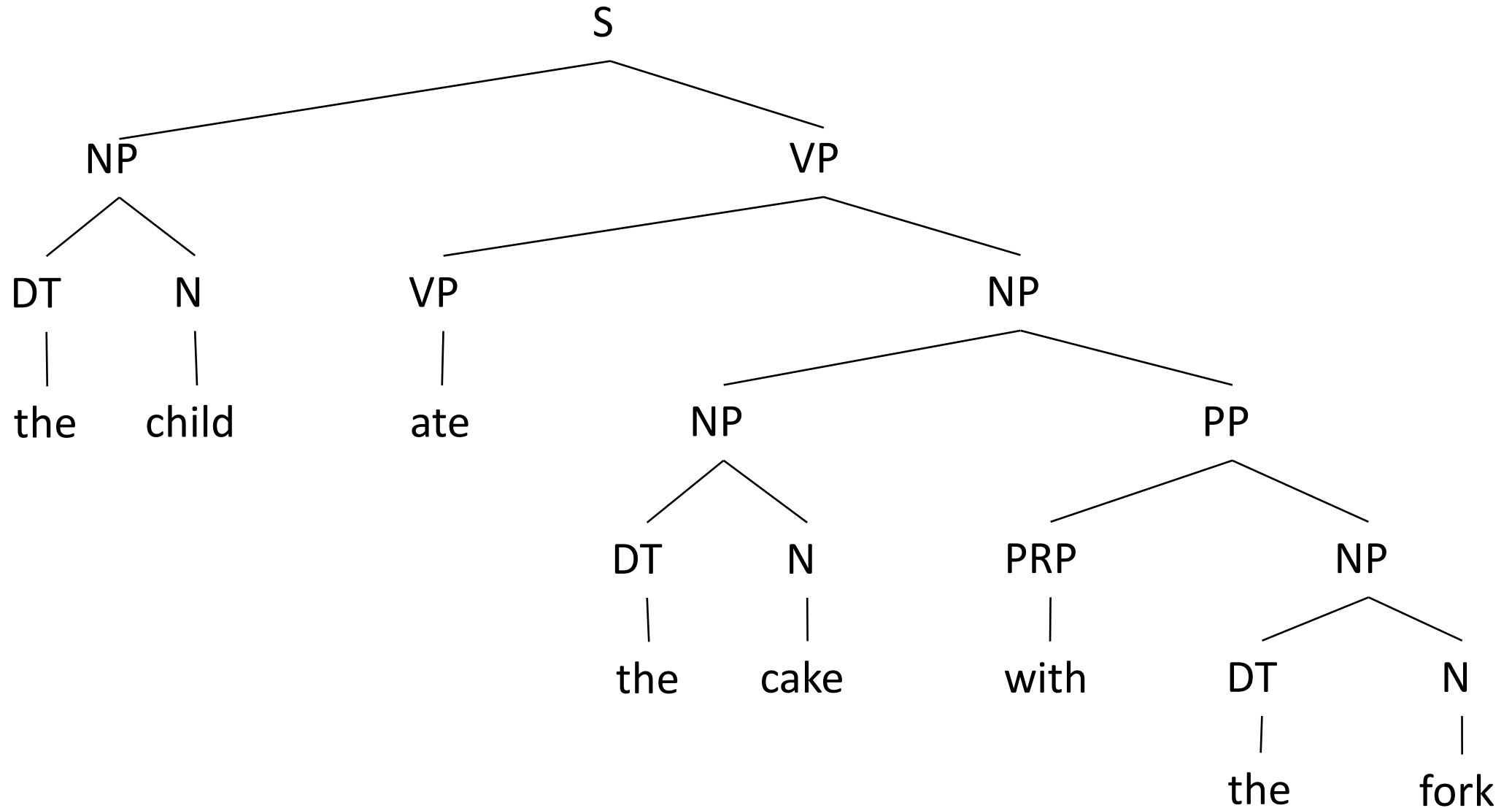
# Penn Treebank Example

```
( (S
  (NP-SBJ
    (NP (NNP Pierre) (NNP Vinken) )
    ( , , )
    (ADJP
      (NP (CD 61) (NNS years) )
      (JJ old) )
    ( , , ) )
  (VP (MD will)
    (VP (VB join)
      (NP (DT the) (NN board) )
      (PP-CLR (IN as)
        (NP (DT a) (JJ nonexecutive) (NN director) ))
      (NP-TMP (NNP Nov.) (CD 29) )))
  ( . . ) ))
( (S
  (NP-SBJ (NNP Mr.) (NNP Vinken) )
  (VP (VBZ is)
    (NP-PRD
      (NP (NN chairman) )
      (PP (IN of)
        (NP
          (NP (NNP Elsevier) (NNP N.V.) )
          ( , , )
          (NP (DT the) (NNP Dutch) (VBG publishing) (NN group) )))))
    ( . . ) ))
```

# CFGs are equivalent to PDAs

- PDA = Pushdown Automata
- Example: consider the language  $L=\{x^n y^n\}$ 
  - stack is empty, input=xxxyyy
  - push \* onto stack, input=xyyy
  - push \* onto stack, input=yyy
  - push \* onto stack, input=yy
  - pop \* from stack, input=y
  - pop \* from stack, input=""

# Leftmost derivation



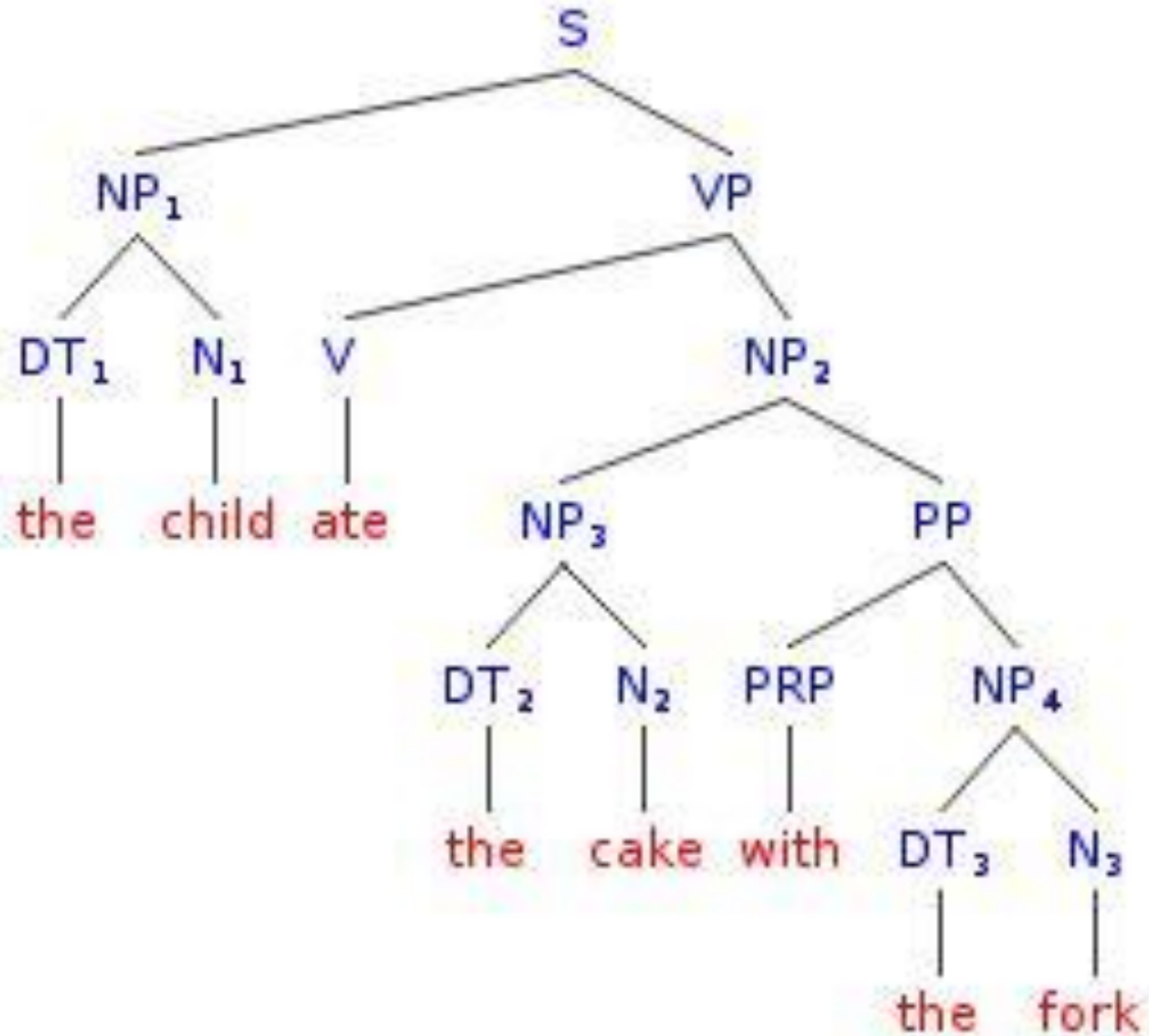
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# Introduction to NLP

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Classic parsing methods





S → NP VP

NP → DT N | NP PP

PP → PRP NP

VP → V NP | VP PP

DT → 'a' | 'the'

N → 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'

PRP → 'with' | 'to'

V → 'saw' | 'ate'

# Parsing as search

- There are two types of constraints on the parses
  - From the input sentence
  - From the grammar
- Therefore, two general approaches to parsing
  - Top-down
  - Bottom-up

# Top down parsing

S

S → NP VP

NP → DT N | NP PP

PP → PRP NP

VP → V NP | VP PP

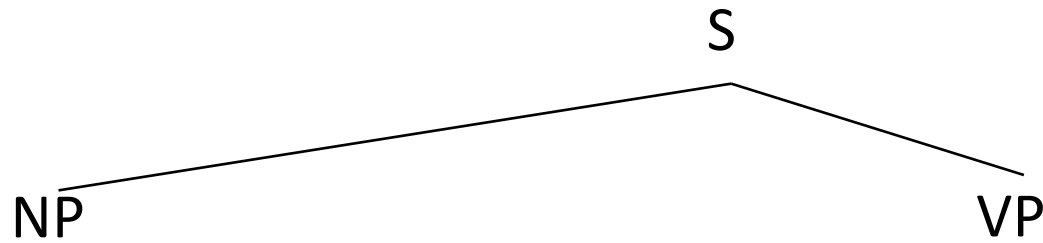
DT → 'a' | 'the'

N → 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'

PRP → 'with' | 'to'

V → 'saw' | 'ate'

# Top down parsing



$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$NP \rightarrow DT N \mid NP PP$

$PP \rightarrow PRP NP$

$VP \rightarrow V NP \mid VP PP$

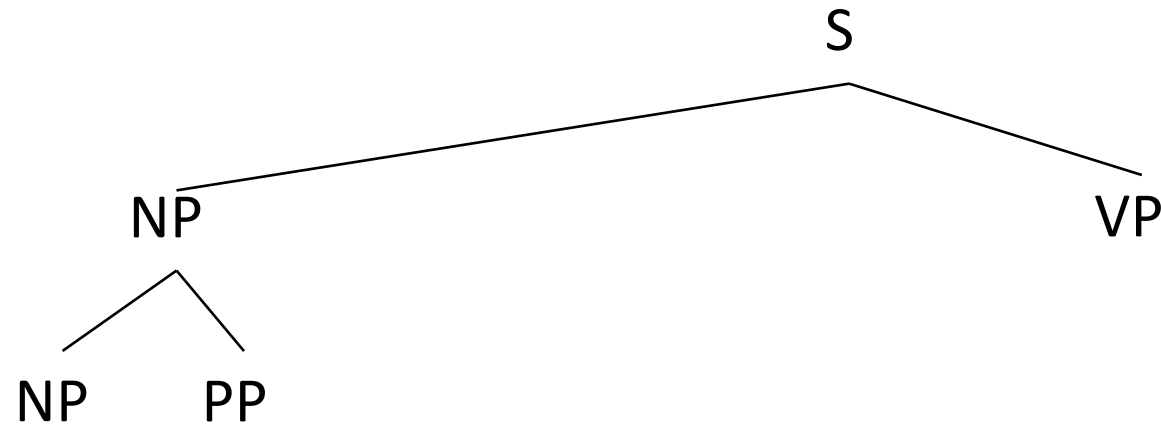
$DT \rightarrow 'a' \mid 'the'$

$N \rightarrow 'child' \mid 'cake' \mid 'fork'$

$PRP \rightarrow 'with' \mid 'to'$

$V \rightarrow 'saw' \mid 'ate'$

# Top down parsing



S → NP VP

NP → DT N | NP PP

PP → PRP NP

VP → V NP | VP PP

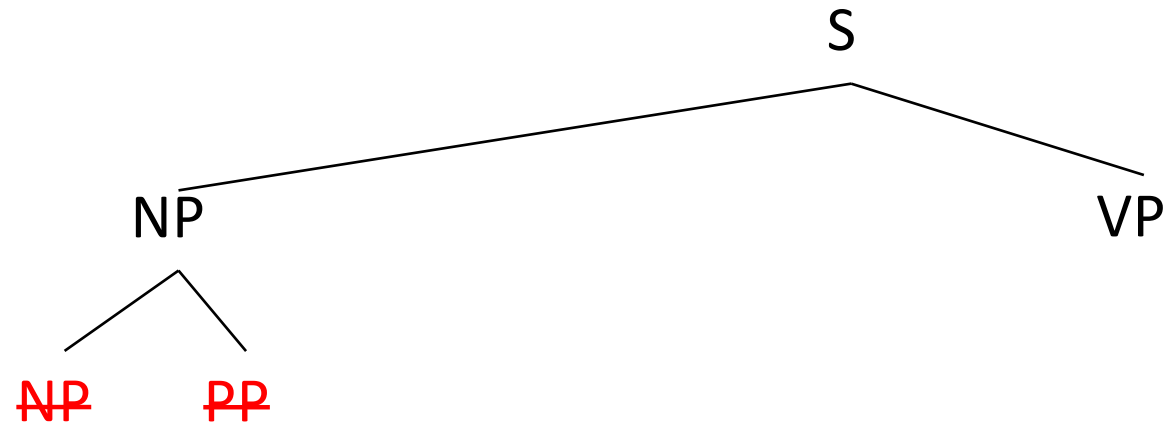
DT → 'a' | 'the'

N → 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'

PRP → 'with' | 'to'

V → 'saw' | 'ate'

# Top down parsing



$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$NP \rightarrow DT N \mid NP PP$

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$VP \rightarrow V NP \mid VP PP$

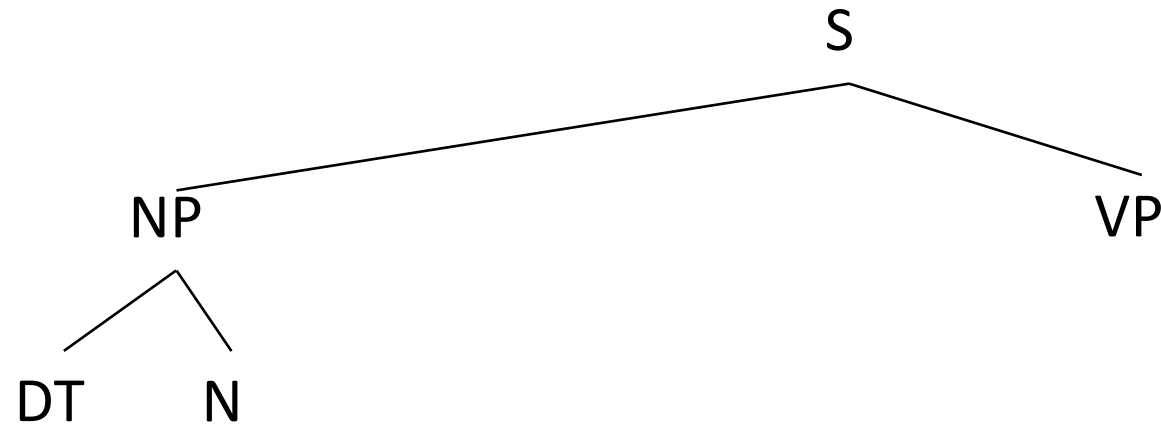
$DT \rightarrow 'a' \mid 'the'$

$N \rightarrow 'child' \mid 'cake' \mid 'fork'$

$PRP \rightarrow 'with' \mid 'to'$

$V \rightarrow 'saw' \mid 'ate'$

# Top down parsing



$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$NP \rightarrow DT N \mid NP PP$

$PP \rightarrow PRP NP$

$VP \rightarrow V NP \mid VP PP$

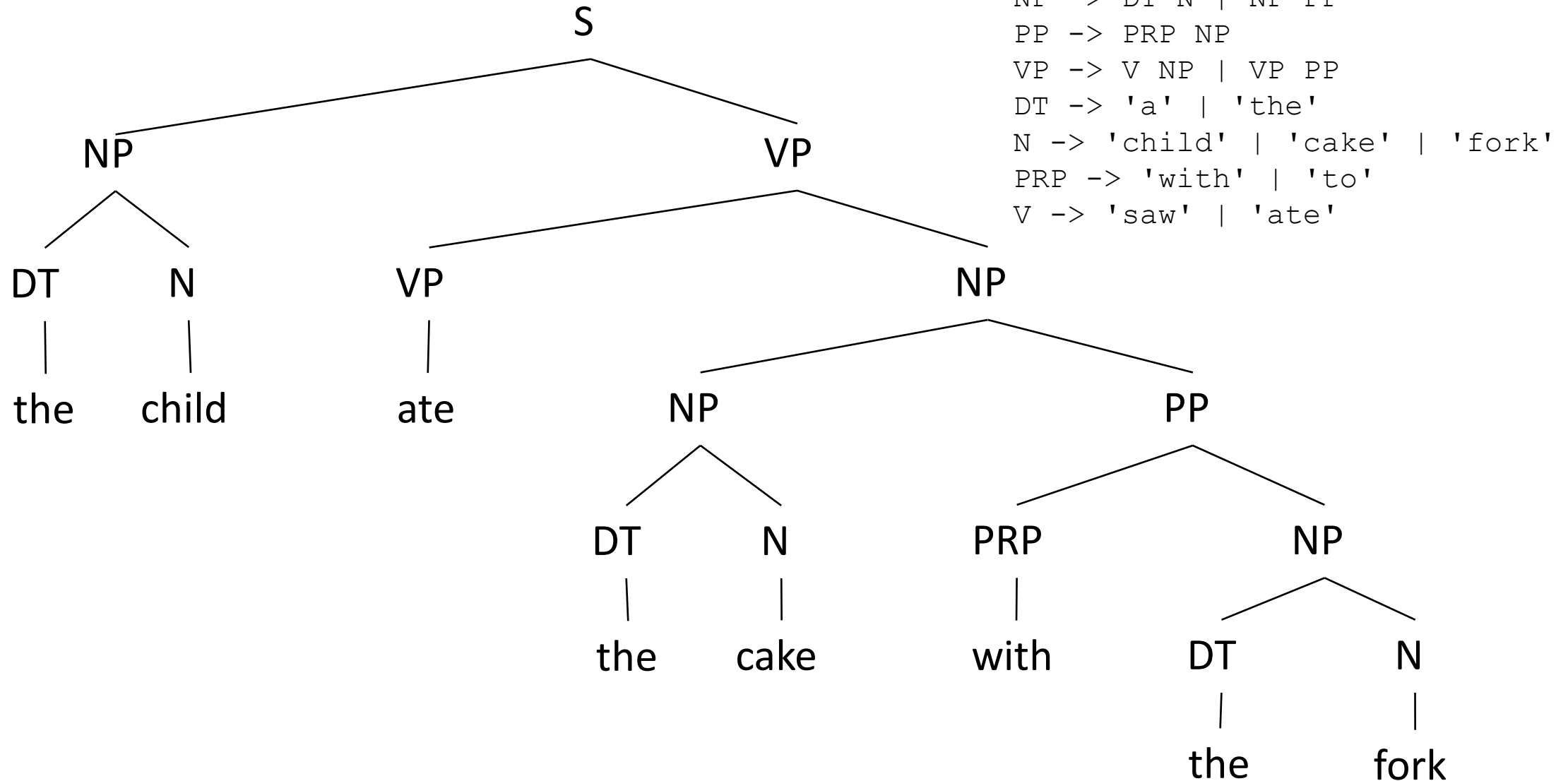
$DT \rightarrow 'a' \mid 'the'$

$N \rightarrow 'child' \mid 'cake' \mid 'fork'$

$PRP \rightarrow 'with' \mid 'to'$

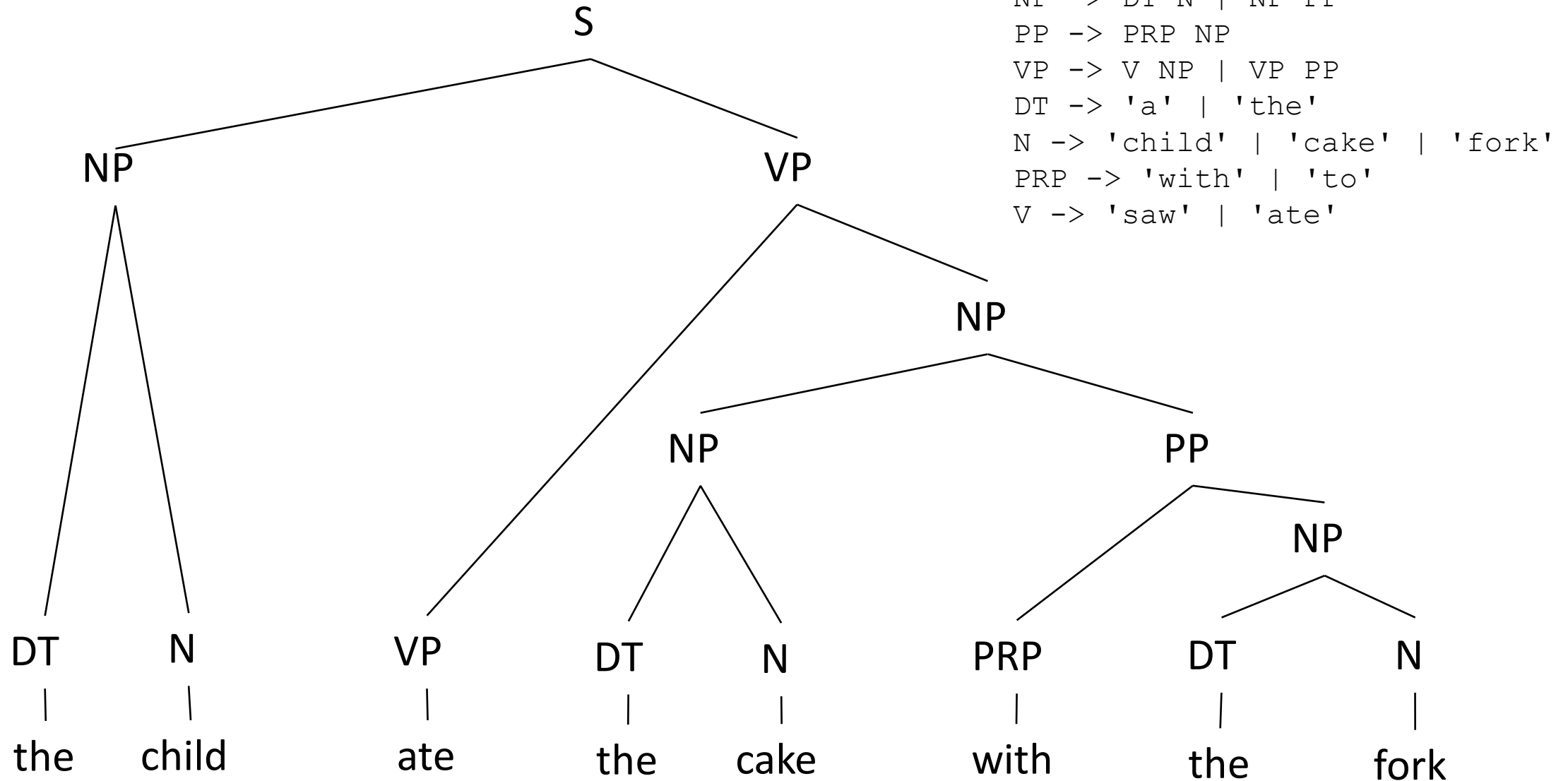
$V \rightarrow 'saw' \mid 'ate'$

# Top down parsing





# Bottom up parsing



# Bottom up vs. top down methods

- Bottom up
  - explores options that won't lead to a full parse
  - Example: shift-reduce (srparser in nltk)
  - Example: CKY (Cocke-Kasami-Younger)
- Top down
  - explores options that don't match the full sentence
  - Example: recursive descent (rdparser in nltk)
  - Example: Earley parser
- Dynamic programming
  - caches of intermediate results (memoization)

# Introduction to NLP

Shift-Reduce Parsing

# Shift-Reduce Parsing

- A bottom-up parser
  - Tries to match the RHS of a production until it can build an S
- *Shift* operation
  - Each word in the input sentence is pushed onto a stack
- *Reduce-n* operation
  - If the top  $n$  words on the top of the stack match the RHS of a production, then they are popped and replaced by the LHS of the production
- Breadth-first search
- Stopping condition
  - The process stops when the input sentence has been processed and S has been popped from the stack

# Shift-Reduce Parsing Example

```
[ * the child ate the cake]
S [ 'the' * child ate the cake]
R [ DT * child ate the cake]
S [ DT 'child' * ate the cake]
R [ DT N * ate the cake]
R [ NP * ate the cake]
S [ NP 'ate' * the cake]
R [ NP V * the cake]
S [ NP V 'the' * cake]
R [ NP V DT * cake]
S [ NP V DT 'cake' * ]
R [ NP V DT N * ]
R [ NP V NP * ]
R [ NP VP * ]
R [ S * ]
```

**(S (NP (DT the) (N child)) (VP (V ate) (NP (DT the) (N cake))))**

# Shift-Reduce Parsing

- In nltk

```
>>> from nltk.app import srparser;  
>>> srparser()
```

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# Introduction to NLP

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Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY) Parsing



# Notes on Left Recursion

- Problematic for many parsing methods
  - Infinite loops when expanding
- But appropriate linguistically
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  DT N
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  PN
  - DT  $\rightarrow$  NP 's
  - Mary's mother's sister's friend

# Chart Parsing

- Top-down parsers have problems with expanding the same non-terminal
  - In particular, pre-terminals such as POS
  - Bad idea to use top-down (recursive descent) parsing as is
- Bottom-up parsers have problems with generating locally feasible subtrees that are not viable globally
- Chart parsing will address these issues

# Dynamic Programming

- **Motivation**

- A lot of the work is repeated
- Caching intermediate results improves the complexity

- **Dynamic programming**

- Building a parse for a substring  $[i,j]$  based on all parses  $[i,k]$  and  $[k, j]$  that are included in it.

- **Complexity**

- $O(n^3)$  for recognizing an input string of length  $n$

# Dynamic Programming

- CKY (Cocke-Kasami-Younger)
  - bottom-up
  - requires a normalized (binarized) grammar
- Earley parser
  - top-down
  - more complicated
  - (separate lecture)

# CKY Algorithm

```
function cky (sentence W, grammar G) returns table
  for i in 1..length(W) do
    table[i-1,i] = {A|A->Wi in G}
  for j in 2..length(W) do
    for i in j-2 down to 0 do
      for k in (i+1) to (j-1) do
        table[i,j] = table[i,j] union {A|A->BC in G, B in
table [I,k], C in table [k,j]}
```

If the start symbol S is in table [0,n] then W is in L(G)

# Example

`["the", "child", "ate", "the", "cake", "with", "the", "fork"]`

`S -> NP VP`

`NP -> DT N | NP PP`

`PP -> PRP NP`

`VP -> V NP | VP PP`

`DT -> 'a' | 'the'`

`N -> 'child' | 'cake' | 'fork'`

`PRP -> 'with' | 'to'`

`V -> 'saw' | 'ate'`

the

child

ate

the

cake

with

the

fork

the

DT							
child							
ate							
the							
cake							
with							
the							
fork							



the

DT							
child	N						
ate							
the							
cake							
with							
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP						
child	N						
	ate						
		the					
			cake				
				with			
					the		
						fork	

the

DT	NP						
	N						
child							
	ate						
		the					
			cake				
				with			
					the		
						fork	

the

DT	NP						
child	N						
	ate	V					
		the					
			cake				
				with			
					the		
						fork	

the

DT	NP						
child	N						
ate	V						
the	DT						
cake							
with							
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP						
child	N						
ate	V						
the	DT						
cake	N						
with							
the							
fork							

the	DT	NP						
child	N							
ate	V							
the	DT	NP						
cake	N							
with								
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the

DT	NP						
child	N						
ate	V						
the	DT	NP					
cake	N						
with							
the							
fork							



the

DT	NP						
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
the	DT			NP			
cake	N						
with							
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP						
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
		the	DT	NP			
			cake	N			
				with			
					the		
						fork	

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
the	DT			NP			
cake	N						
with							
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
the	DT			NP			
cake	N						
with							
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
the	DT	NP					
cake	N						
with	PRP						
the							
fork							

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			
the	DT	NP				NP	
cake	N						
with	PRP					PP	
the	DT					NP	
fork	N						

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			VP
the		DT	NP				NP
cake			N				
with				PRP			PP
the					DT	NP	
fork						N	

the

DT	NP			S			
child	N						
ate	V			VP			VP
							/
		the	DT	NP			NP
				N			
			cake				
				with	PRP		PP
					the	DT	NP
						fork	N

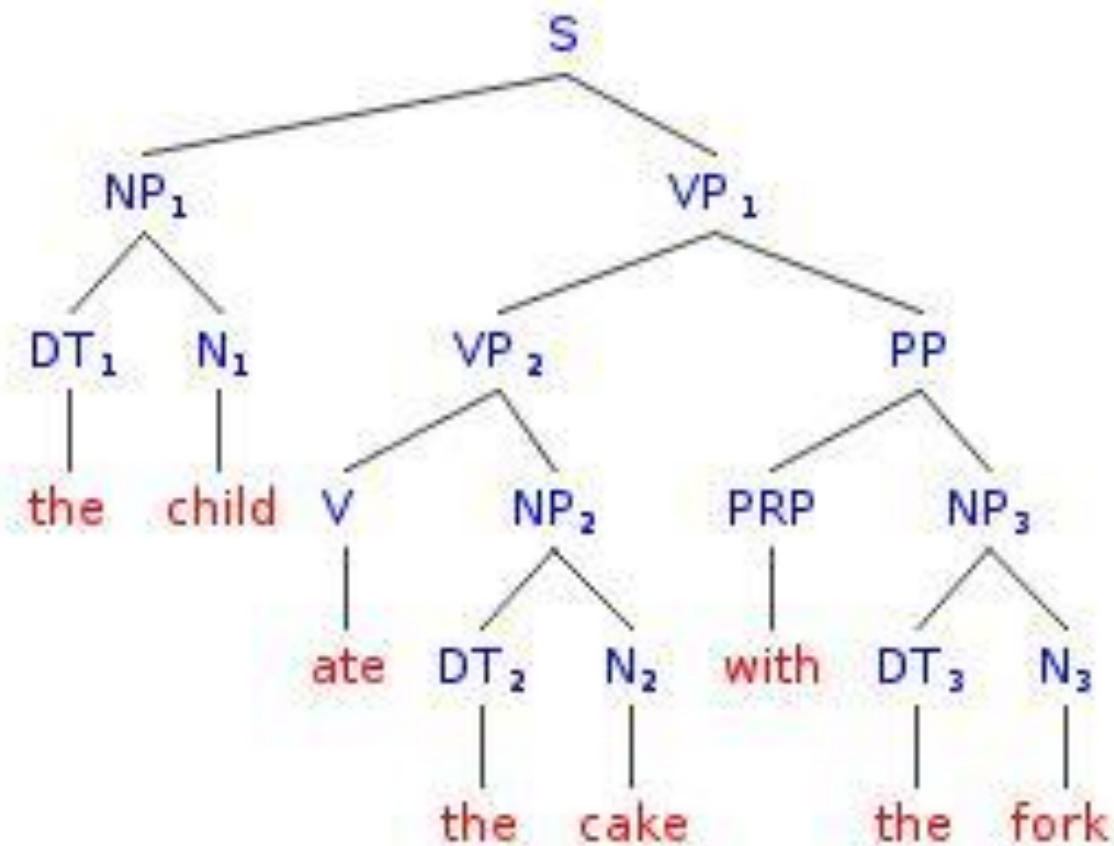
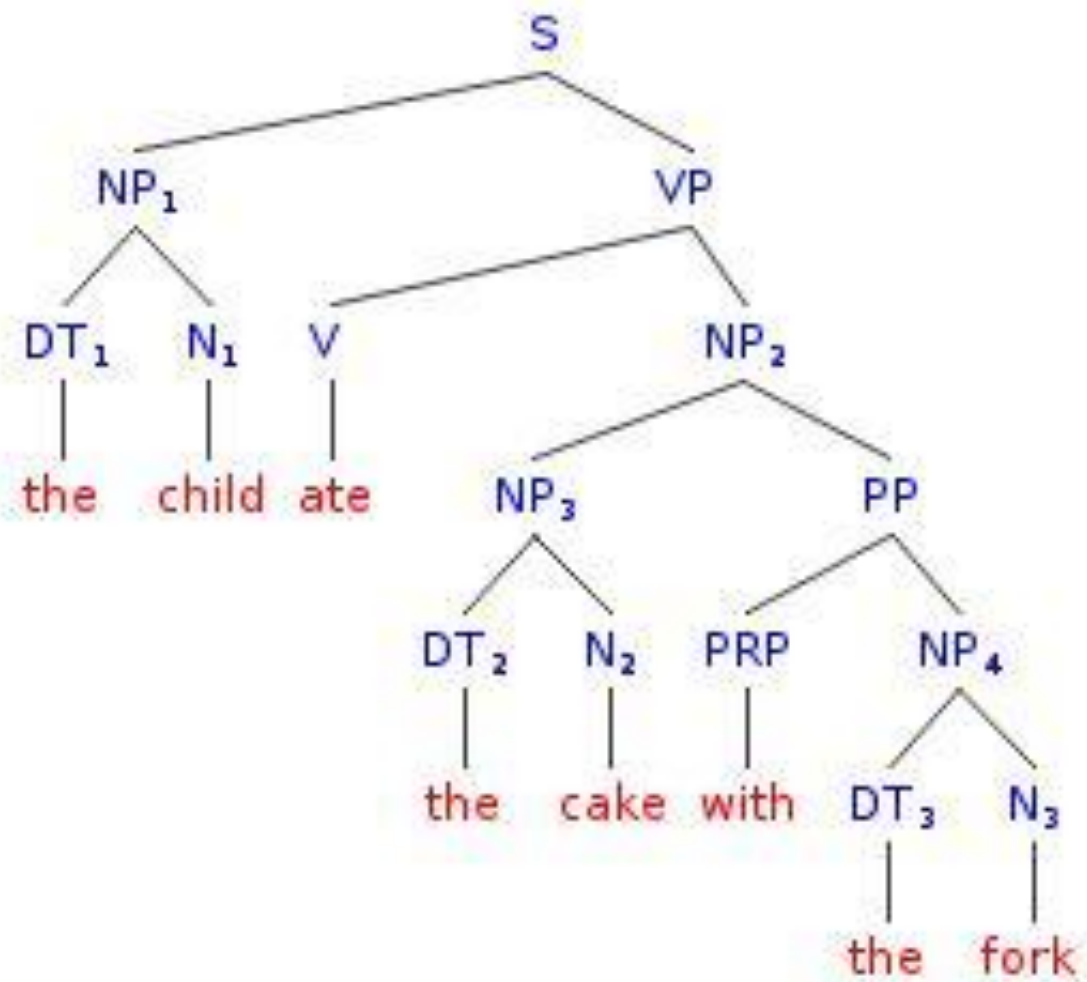


the	DT	NP			S			S
child	N							
ate	V			VP				VP
the	DT	NP						NP
cake	N							
with	PRP							PP
the	DT	NP						
fork	N							

the

DT	NP			S			S
child	N						
ate	V		VP			VP	
the	DT	NP				NP	
cake	N						
with	PRP					PP	
the	DT	NP					
fork		N					

[0] DT [1] N [2] ==> [0] NP [2]  
[3] DT [4] N [5] ==> [3] NP [5]  
[6] DT [7] N [8] ==> [6] NP [8]  
[2] V [3] NP [5] ==> [2] VP [5]  
[5] PRP [6] NP [8] ==> [5] PP [8]  
[0] NP [2] VP [5] ==> [0] S [5]  
[3] NP [5] PP [8] ==> [3] NP [8]  
**[2] V [3] NP [8] ==> [2] VP [8]**  
**[2] VP [5] PP [8] ==> [2] VP [8]**  
[0] NP [2] VP [8] ==> [0] S [8]



What is the *meaning* of each of these sentences?

```
(S
  (NP (DT the) (N child))
  (VP
    (VP (V ate) (NP (DT the) (N cake)))
    (PP (PRP with) (NP (DT the) (N fork))))))
```

```
(S
  (NP (DT the) (N child))
  (VP
    (VP (V ate) (NP (DT the) (N cake)))
    (PP (PRP with) (NP (DT the) (N fork))))))
```

```
(S
  (NP (DT the) (N child))
  (VP
    (V ate)
    (NP
      (NP (DT the) (N cake))
      (PP (PRP with) (NP (DT the) (N fork))))))
```

# Complexity of CKY

- Space complexity
  - There are  $O(n^2)$  cells in the table
- Single parse
  - Each cell requires a linear lookup.
  - Total time complexity is  $O(n^3)$
- All parses
  - Total time complexity is exponential

# A longer example

`["take", "this", "book"]`

`S -> NP VP | Aux NP VP | VP`

`NP -> PRON | Det Nom`

`Nom -> N | Nom N | Nom PP`

`PP -> PRP NP`

`VP -> V | V NP | VP PP`

`Det -> 'the' | 'a' | 'this'`

`PRON -> 'he' | 'she'`

`N -> 'book' | 'boys' | 'girl'`

`PRP -> 'with' | 'in'`

`V -> 'takes' | 'take'`

# Non-binary productions

["take", "this", "book"]

S -> NP VP | **Aux NP VP** | **VP**

NP -> **PRON** | Det Nom

Nom -> **N** | Nom N | Nom PP

PP -> PRP NP

VP -> **V** | V NP | VP PP

Det -> 'the' | 'a' | 'this'

PRON -> 'he' | 'she'

N -> 'book' | 'boys' | 'girl'

PRP -> 'with' | 'in'

V -> 'takes' | 'take'



# Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- All rules have to be in binary form:
  - $X \rightarrow YZ$  or  $X \rightarrow w$
- This introduces new non-terminals for
  - hybrid rules
  - n-ary rules
  - unary rules
  - epsilon rules (e.g.,  $NP \rightarrow \varepsilon$ )
- Any CFG can be converted to CNF
  - See Aho & Ullman p. 152

# ATIS grammar

## Original version

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$

$S \rightarrow VP$

$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$

$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$

$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$

$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$

$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

$PP \rightarrow Prep NP$

# ATIS grammar in CNF

## Original version

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow \mathbf{Aux NP VP}$

$S \rightarrow VP$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Pronoun}$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Proper-Noun}$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Det Nominal}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Noun}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal Noun}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal PP}$

$VP \rightarrow \text{Verb}$

$VP \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$

$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

$PP \rightarrow \text{Prep NP}$

## CNF version

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow \mathbf{X1 VP}$

$\mathbf{X1} \rightarrow \mathbf{Aux NP}$

$S \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{include} \mid \text{prefer}$

$S \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$

$S \rightarrow VP PP$

$NP \rightarrow \text{I} \mid \text{he} \mid \text{she} \mid \text{me}$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Houston} \mid \text{NWA}$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Det Nominal}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{flight} \mid \text{meal} \mid \text{money}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal Noun}$

$\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal PP}$

$VP \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{include} \mid \text{prefer}$

$VP \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$

$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

$PP \rightarrow \text{Prep NP}$

# ATIS grammar in CNF

## Original version

$S \rightarrow NP VP$   
 $S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$

$S \rightarrow VP$

$NP \rightarrow \text{Pronoun}$   
 $NP \rightarrow \text{Proper-Noun}$   
 $NP \rightarrow \text{Det Nominal}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Noun}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal Noun}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal PP}$   
 $VP \rightarrow \text{Verb}$   
 $VP \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$   
 $VP \rightarrow VP PP$   
 $PP \rightarrow \text{Prep NP}$

## CNF version

$S \rightarrow NP VP$   
 $S \rightarrow X1 VP$   
 $X1 \rightarrow Aux NP$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{include} \mid \text{prefer}$   
 $S \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$   
 $S \rightarrow VP PP$   
 $NP \rightarrow \text{I} \mid \text{he} \mid \text{she} \mid \text{me}$   
 $NP \rightarrow \text{Houston} \mid \text{NWA}$   
 $NP \rightarrow \text{Det Nominal}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{flight} \mid \text{meal} \mid \text{money}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal Noun}$   
 $\text{Nominal} \rightarrow \text{Nominal PP}$   
 $VP \rightarrow \text{book} \mid \text{include} \mid \text{prefer}$   
 $VP \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$   
 $VP \rightarrow VP PP$   
 $PP \rightarrow \text{Prep NP}$

# Chomsky Normal Form

- All rules have to be in binary form:
  - $X \rightarrow YZ$  or  $X \rightarrow w$
- New non-terminals for hybrid rules, n-ary and unary rules:
  - $\text{INF-VP} \rightarrow \text{to VP}$  *becomes*
    - $\text{INF-VP} \rightarrow \text{TO VP}$
    - $\text{TO} \rightarrow \text{to}$
  - $S \rightarrow \text{Aux NP VP}$  *becomes*
    - $S \rightarrow \text{R1 VP}$
    - $\text{R1} \rightarrow \text{Aux NP}$
  - $S \rightarrow \text{VP}$     $\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{Verb}$     $\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{Verb NP}$     $\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{Verb PP}$  *becomes*
    - $S \rightarrow \text{book}$
    - $S \rightarrow \text{buy}$
    - $S \rightarrow \text{R2 PP}$
    - $S \rightarrow \text{Verb PP}$
  - etc.

# Issues with CKY

- Weak equivalence only
  - Same language, different structure
  - If the grammar had to be converted to CNF, then the final parse tree doesn't match the original grammar
  - However, it can be converted back using a specific procedure
- Syntactic ambiguity
  - (Deterministic) CKY has no way to perform syntactic disambiguation

# Notes

- Demo:
  - <http://lxmls.it.pt/2015/cky.html>
- Recognizing vs. parsing
  - Recognizing just means determining if the string is part of the language defined by the CFG
  - Parsing is more complicated – it involves producing a parse tree

**NLP**



# Introduction to NLP

Issues with Context-free Grammars

# Agreement

- Number
  - Chen is/people are
- Person
  - I am/Chen is
- Tense
  - Chen was reading/Chen is reading/Chen will be reading
- Case
  - not in English but in many other languages such as German, Russian, Greek
- Gender
  - not in English but in many other languages such as German, French, Spanish

# Combinatorial explosion

- Many combinations of rules are needed to express agreement
  - $S \rightarrow NP VP$
  - $S \rightarrow 1sgNP 1sgVP$
  - $S \rightarrow 2sgNP 2sgVP$
  - $S \rightarrow 3sgNP 3sgVP$
  - ...
  - $1sgNP \rightarrow 1sgN$
  - ...

# Subcategorization frames

- Direct object
  - The dog ate a sausage
- Prepositional phrase
  - Mary left the car in the garage
- Predicative adjective
  - The receptionist looked worried
- Bare infinitive
  - She helped me buy this place
- To-infinitive
  - The girl wanted to be alone
- Participial phrase
  - He stayed crying after the movie ended
- That-clause
  - Ravi doesn't believe that it will rain tomorrow
- Question-form clauses
  - She wondered where to go
- Empty ( $\phi$ )
  - She slept

# CFG independence assumptions

- Non-independence
  - All NPs
    - 11% NP PP, 9% DT NN, 6% PRP
  - NPs under S
    - 9% NP PP, 9% DT NN, 21% PRP
  - NPs under VP
    - 23% NP PP, 7% DT NN, 4% PRP
  - example from Dan Klein

**NLP**

# Introduction to NLP

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Parsing Evaluation

# Parsing Evaluation

- Parseval: precision and recall
  - get the proper constituents
- Labeled precision and recall
  - also get the correct non-terminal labels
- F1
  - harmonic mean of precision and recall
- Crossing brackets
  - (A (B C)) vs ((A B) C)
- PTB corpus
  - training 02-21, development 22, test 23



# Evaluation Example

GOLD = (S (NP (DT The) (JJ Japanese) (JJ industrial) (NNS companies))  
(VP (MD should) (VP (VB know) (ADVP (JJR better))))) (. .)

CHAR = (S (NP (DT The) (JJ Japanese) (JJ industrial) (NNS companies))  
(VP (MD should) (VP (VB know)) ((ADVP (**RBR** better))))) (. .))

# Evaluation Example

GOLD = (S (NP (DT The) (JJ Japanese) (JJ industrial) (NNS companies))  
(VP (MD should) (VP (VB know) (ADVP (JJR better))))) (. .)

CHAR = (S (NP (DT The) (JJ Japanese) (JJ industrial) (NNS companies))  
(VP (MD should) (VP (VB know)) ((ADVP (**RBR** better))))) (. .))

Bracketing Recall	=	80.00
Bracketing Precision	=	66.67
Bracketing FMeasure	=	72.73
Complete match	=	0.00
No crossing	=	100.00
Tagging accuracy	=	87.50

**NLP**