# **Grammar Transforms**

Restricting the grammar form for efficient parsing



#### **Chomsky Normal Form**

- All rules are of the form X → Y Z or X → w
  - $X, Y, Z \subseteq N$  and  $w \subseteq T$
- A transformation to this form doesn't change the weak generative capacity of a CFG
  - That is, it recognizes the same language
    - But maybe with different trees
- Empties and unaries are removed recursively
- n-ary rules are divided by introducing new nonterminals (n > 2)





### A phrase structure grammar

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V NP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V NP PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow N$ 

 $NP \rightarrow e$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $N \rightarrow people$ 

 $N \rightarrow fish$ 

 $N \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $N \rightarrow rods$ 

 $V \rightarrow people$ 

 $V \rightarrow fish$ 

 $V \rightarrow tanks$ 





#### **Chomsky Normal Form steps**

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$ 

 $S \rightarrow VP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V NP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V NP PP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow VPP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow N$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P$ 

 $N \rightarrow people$ 

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 $NP \rightarrow N$ 

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 $NP \rightarrow NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow PP$ 

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 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P$ 

 $N \rightarrow people$ 

 $N \rightarrow fish$ 

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 $N \rightarrow rods$ 

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 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow people$ 

 $NP \rightarrow fish$ 

 $NP \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $NP \rightarrow rods$ 

 $V \rightarrow people$ 

 $S \rightarrow people$ 

 $VP \rightarrow people$ 

 $V \rightarrow fish$ 

 $S \rightarrow fish$ 

 $VP \rightarrow fish$ 

 $V \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $S \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $VP \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $P \rightarrow with$ 



#### **Chomsky Normal Form steps**

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V NP$ 

 $S \rightarrow V NP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow V @VP_V$ 

 $@VP V \rightarrow NP PP$ 

 $S \rightarrow V @S_V$ 

 $@S_V \rightarrow NPPP$ 

 $VP \rightarrow VPP$ 

 $S \rightarrow V PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow people$ 

 $NP \rightarrow fish$ 

 $NP \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $NP \rightarrow rods$ 

 $V \rightarrow people$ 

 $S \rightarrow people$ 

 $VP \rightarrow people$ 

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 $S \rightarrow fish$ 

 $VP \rightarrow fish$ 

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 $S \rightarrow tanks$ 

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 $NP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $PP \rightarrow P NP$ 

 $NP \rightarrow people$ 

 $NP \rightarrow fish$ 

 $NP \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $NP \rightarrow rods$ 

 $V \rightarrow people$ 

 $S \rightarrow people$ 

 $VP \rightarrow people$ 

 $V \rightarrow fish$ 

 $S \rightarrow fish$ 

 $VP \rightarrow fish$ 

 $V \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $S \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $VP \rightarrow tanks$ 

 $P \rightarrow with$ 



#### **Chomsky Normal Form**

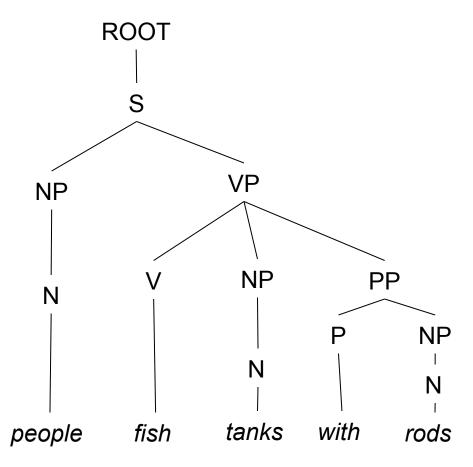
- You should think of this as a transformation for efficient parsing
- With some extra book-keeping in symbol names, you can even reconstruct the same trees with a detransform
- In practice full Chomsky Normal Form is a pain
  - Reconstructing n-aries is easy
  - Reconstructing unaries/empties is trickier
- Binarization is crucial for cubic time CFG parsing

 The rest isn't necessary; it just makes the algorithms cleaner and a bit quicker



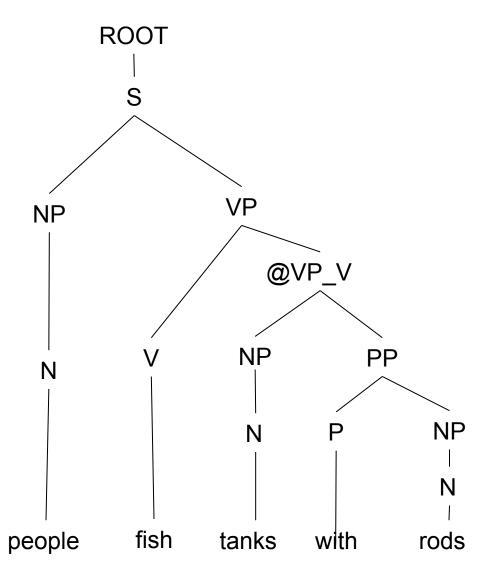


## An example: before binarization...





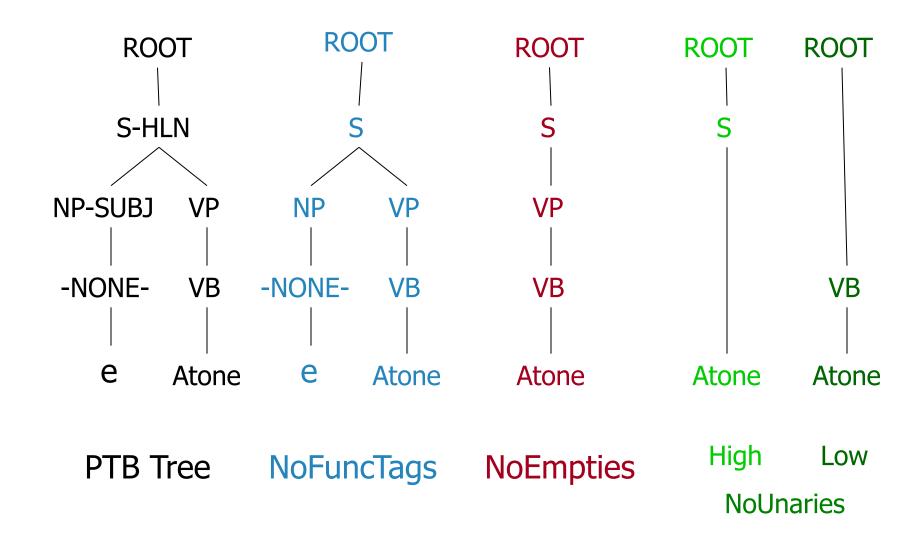
## After binarization...





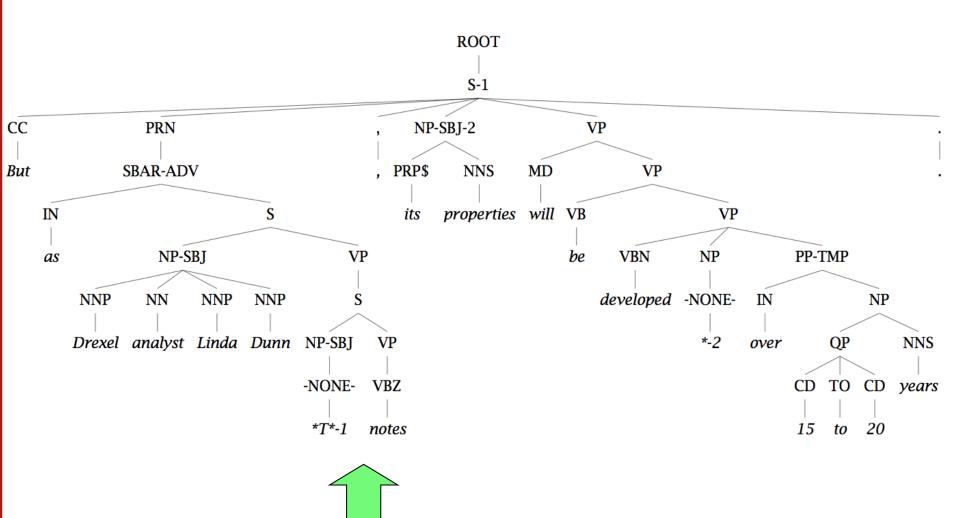


## Treebank: empties and unaries





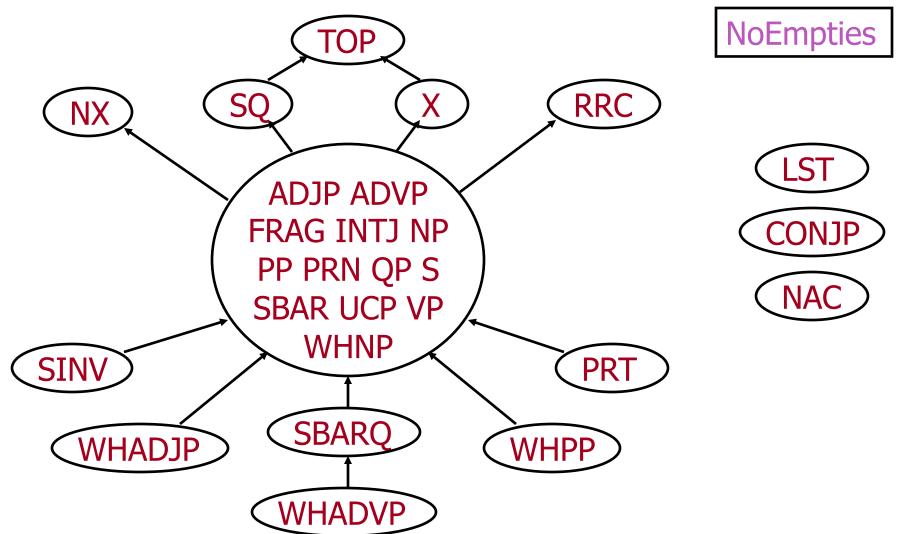
## Unary rules: alchemy in the land of treebanks







## Same-Span Reachability



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