



Durham
University

Introduction to Music Processing

Hierarchical Models

Harmonies and Context-Free
Grammars

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Music as a Hierarchy

Prélude No. 1 in C Major

from “Das Wohltemperierte Klavier” Book I
BWV 846

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

80

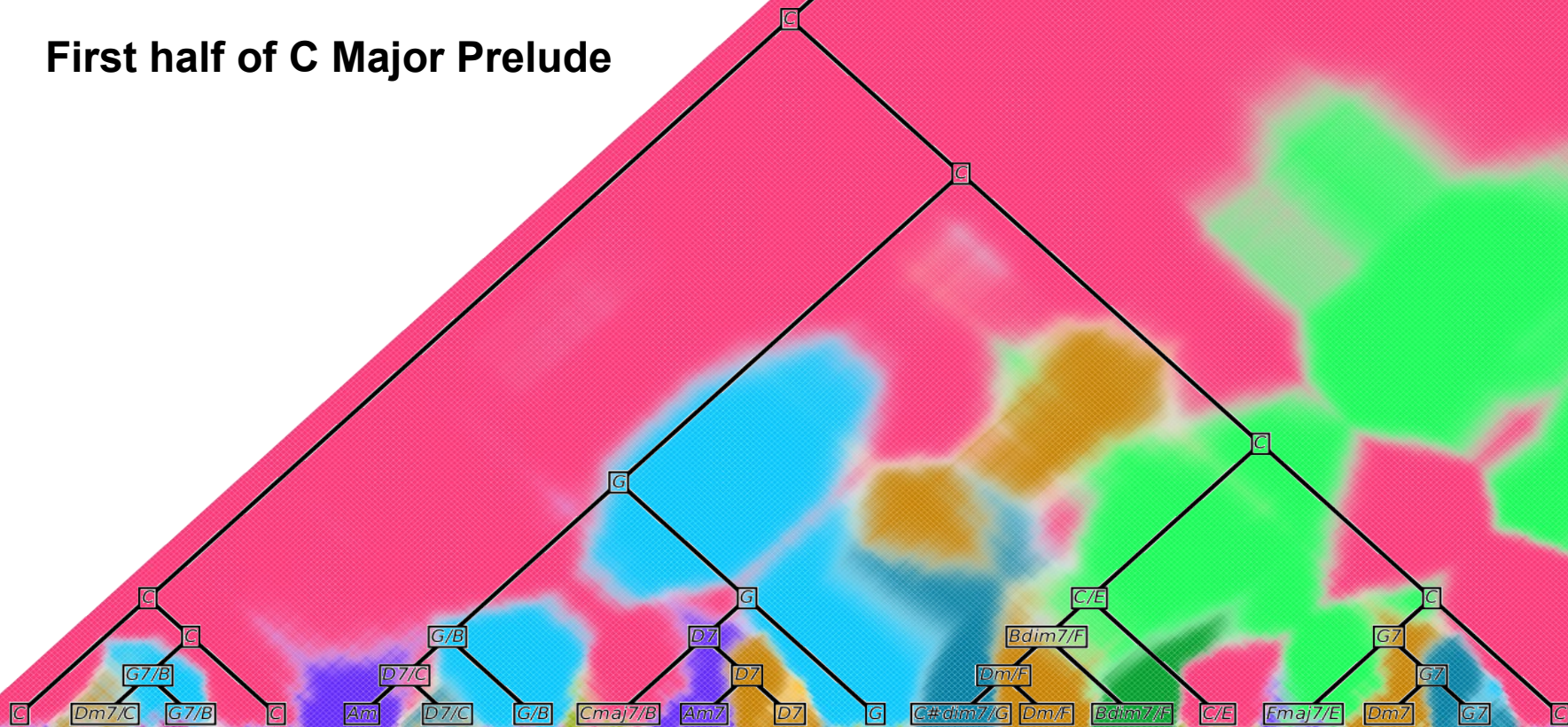
5

9

Red. _____

Harmonic Hierarchy

First half of C Major Prelude



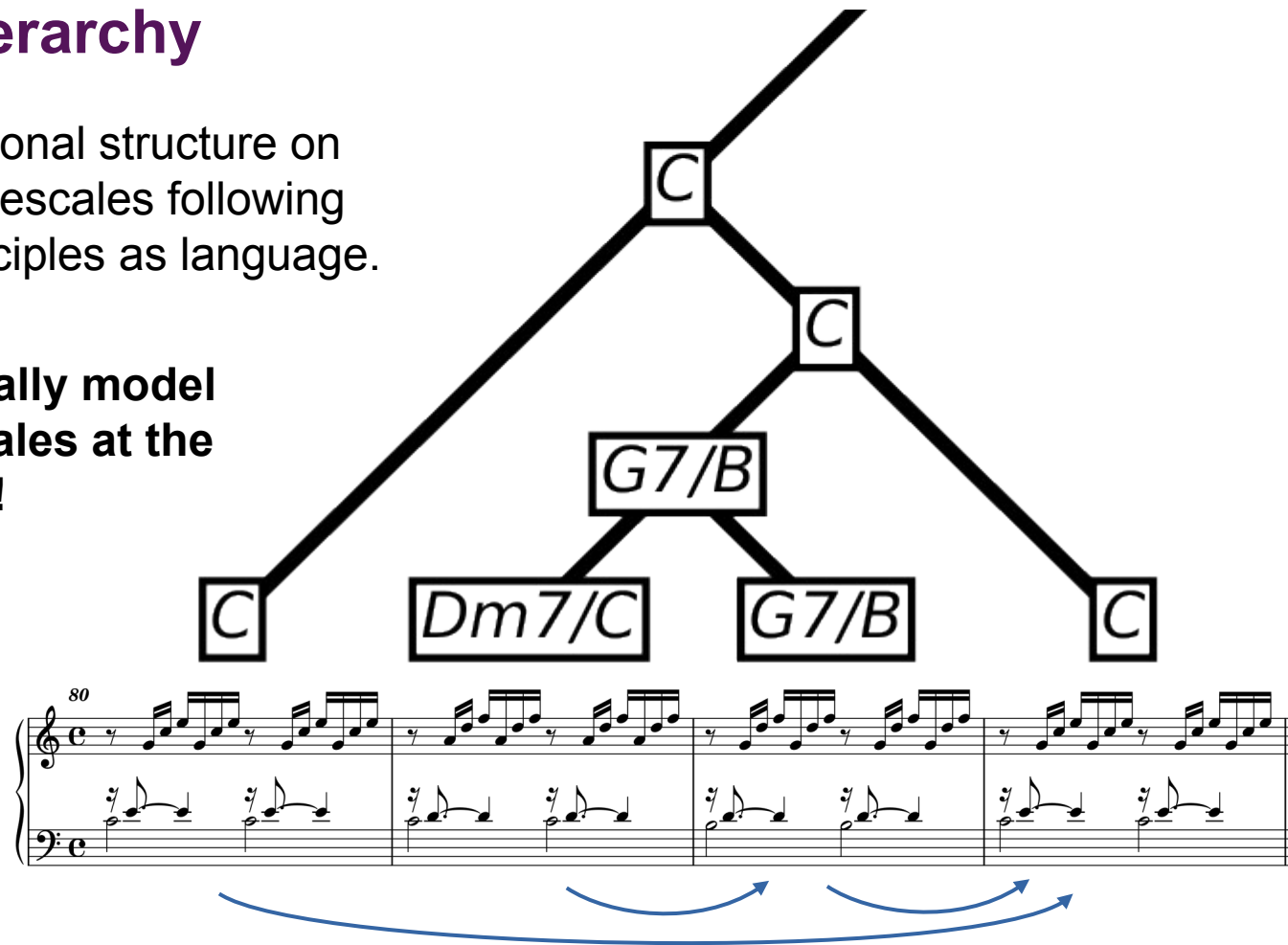
Harmonic Hierarchy



Music has tonal structure on multiple timescales following similar principles as language.



Hierarchically model all time scales at the same time!



Context-Free Grammars (CFGs)

A context-free grammar consists of:

- 1) A set of latent non-terminal symbols **X**
- 2) A set of observed terminal symbols **Y**
- 3) A set of rules **R: $X \rightarrow (XUY)^*$**
typically only (Chomsky Normal Form) **$X \rightarrow XX$ or $X \rightarrow Y$**
- 4) A (non-terminal) start symbol **$S \in X$**
- 5) *Optional*: Probabilities **P** (or weights) for the rules

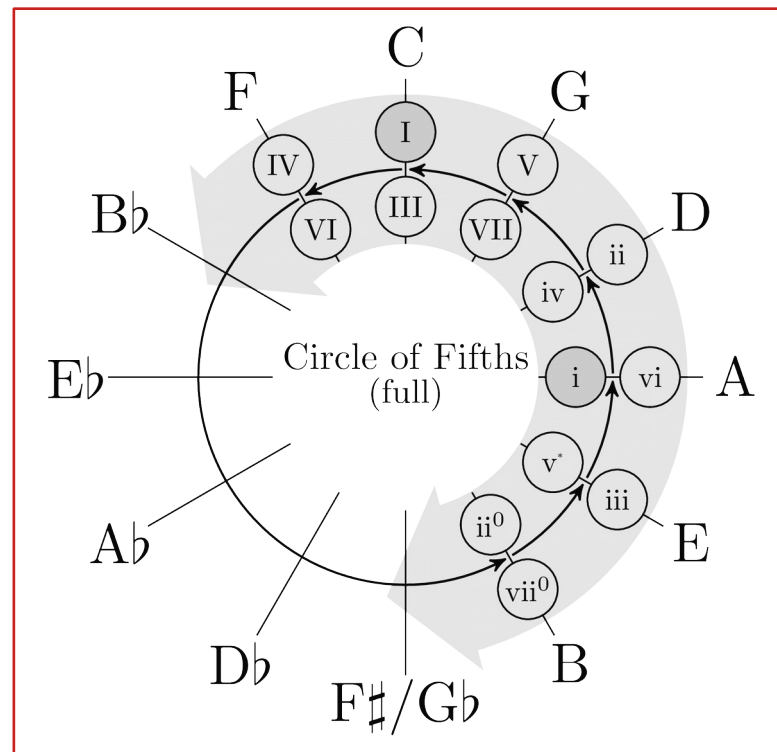
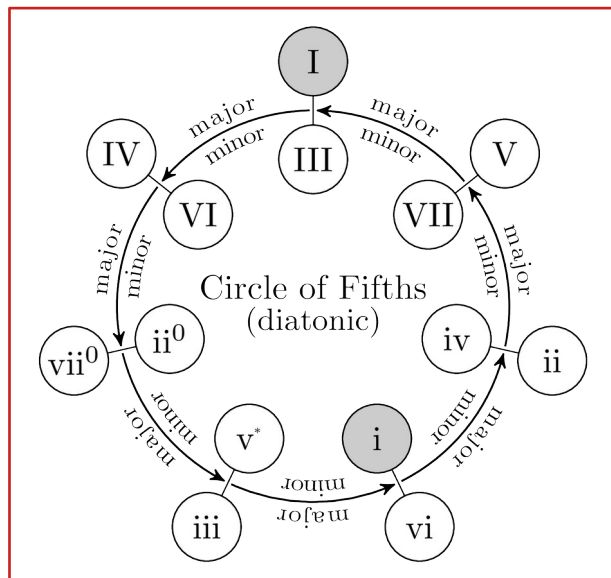
Rhythm Grammar

- $X = \{T\}$
- $Y = \{b, r\}$
- R & P:
 - split (p_s): $T \rightarrow TT$
 - beat (p_b): $T \rightarrow b$
 - rest (p_r): $T \rightarrow r$

Context-Free Grammars: Harmony Grammars

Falling Fifths

- Fundamental in Western harmony
- Goal-directed “relaxation” (e.g. in cadences)




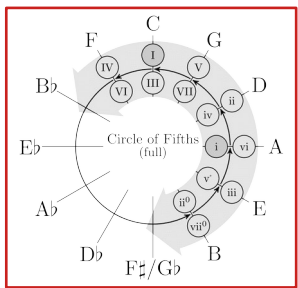
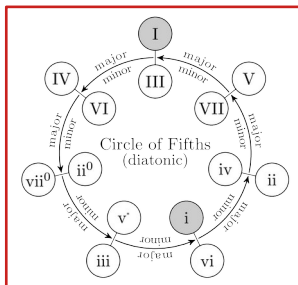
Context-Free Grammars: Harmony Grammars

Non-Terminals X

Major Key	I	IV	vii ^o	iii	vi	ii	V
Minor Key	III	VI	ii ^o	v*	i	iv	VII

Terminals Y

...
	F	B \flat	E ^o	Am	Dm	Gm	C
	C	F	B ^o	Em	Am	Dm	G
	G	C	F \sharp ^o	Bm	Em	Am	D
...



Non-Terminal Rules

Major Key

$I \rightarrow V I$
 $IV \rightarrow I IV$
 $vii^o \rightarrow IV vii^o$
 $iii \rightarrow vii^o iii$
 $vi \rightarrow iii vi$
 $ii \rightarrow vi ii$
 $V \rightarrow ii V$
 $I \rightarrow II$

Minor Key

$III \rightarrow VII III$
 $VI \rightarrow III VI$
 $ii^o \rightarrow VI ii^o$
 $v^* \rightarrow ii^o v^*$
 $i \rightarrow v^* i$
 $iv \rightarrow i iv$
 $VII \rightarrow iv VII$
 $i \rightarrow ii$

Terminal Rules

C Major

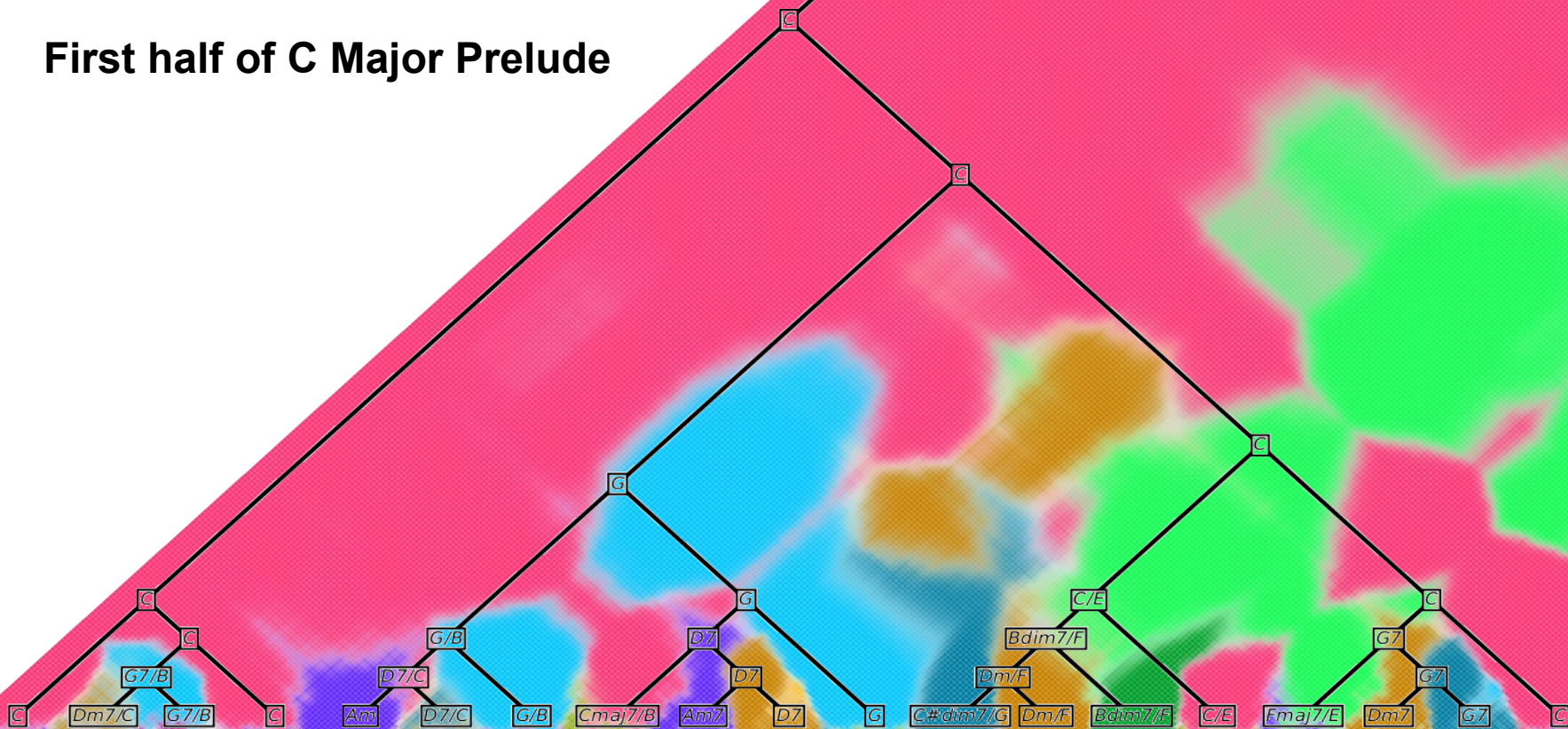
$I \rightarrow C$
 $IV \rightarrow F$
 $vii^o \rightarrow B^o$
 $iii \rightarrow Em$
 $vi \rightarrow Am$
 $ii \rightarrow Dm$
 $V \rightarrow G$

A Minor

$III \rightarrow C$
 $VI \rightarrow F$
 $ii^o \rightarrow B^o$
 $v^* \rightarrow Em$
 $i \rightarrow Am$
 $iv \rightarrow Dm$
 $VII \rightarrow G$

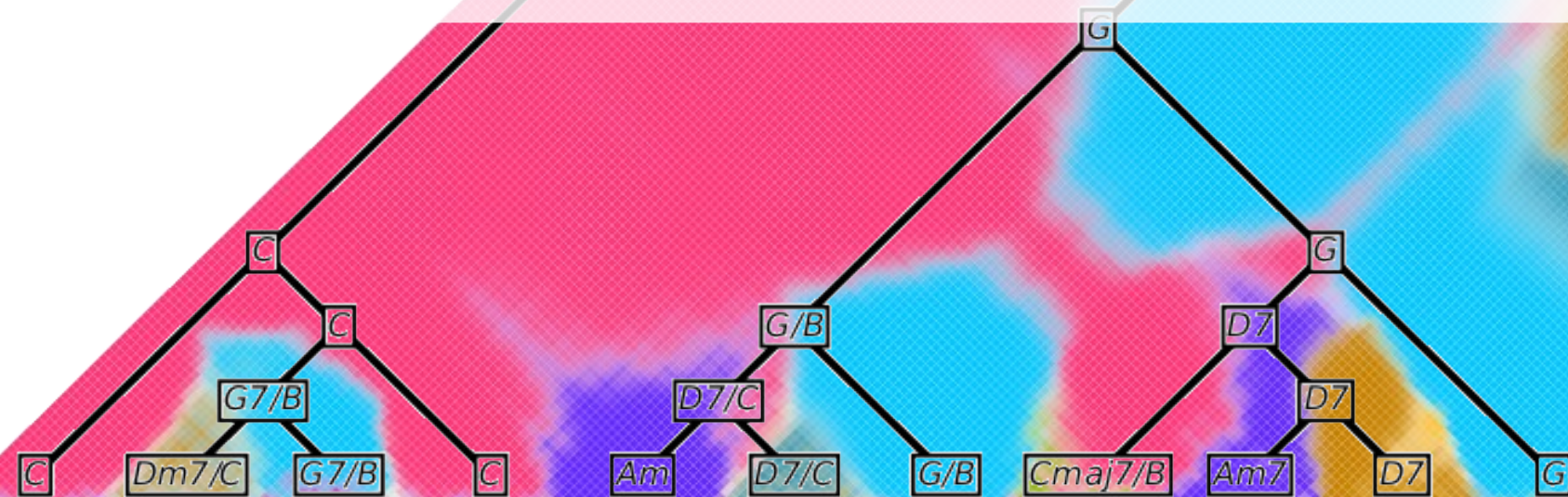
Context-Free Grammars: Harmony Grammars

First half of C Major Prelude



Context-Free Grammars: Harmony Grammars

First bars of C Major Prelude



Context-Free Grammars: Analysis (Parsing)

Generation versus Analysis

- If we are given the rules, we can easily generate by applying them recursively.
- How can we infer (“reverse engineer”) the generation process?
- Work your way up in reverse order from the bottom to the top:
 - Reuse sub-solutions from further down.
 - Make sure you always cover the whole span by splitting it at a specific point.
 - If start symbol is at the top, the sequence is valid.
 - Reconstruct possible generation trees top-down.

a		a		b	

Non-Terminals {A, B}	Rules $A \rightarrow A A$ $A \rightarrow B A$ $A \rightarrow a$ $B \rightarrow b$
Terminals {a, b}	
Start Symbol $S = A$	

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A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

<p>Non-Terminals</p> <p>{A, B}</p>	<p>Rules</p> <p>$A \rightarrow AA$</p> <p>$A \rightarrow BA$</p> <p>$A \rightarrow a$</p> <p>$B \rightarrow b$</p>
<p>Terminals</p> <p>{a, b}</p>	
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	A		—		—		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

Non-Terminals

{A, B}

Terminals

{a, b}

Start Symbol

S = A

Rules

$A \rightarrow A A$

$A \rightarrow B A$

$A \rightarrow a$

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	A		-		-		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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	A		-		-		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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	A		-		-		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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	A		-		-		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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		-		-		A	
	A		-		-		A
A		A		B		B	A
a		a		b		b	a

Non-Terminals $\{A, B\}$	Rules $A \rightarrow AA$ $A \rightarrow BA$ $A \rightarrow a$ $B \rightarrow b$
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			—		A			
		—		—		A		
	A		—		—		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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				A				
			-		A			
		-		-		A		
	A		-		-		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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				A				
			—		A			
				—		A		
	A			—			A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

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				A				
			—		A			
		—		—		A		
	A		—		—		A	
A		A		B		B		A
a		a		b		b		a

Non-Terminals

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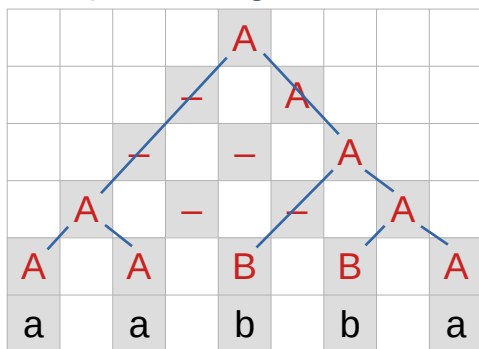
$A \rightarrow a$

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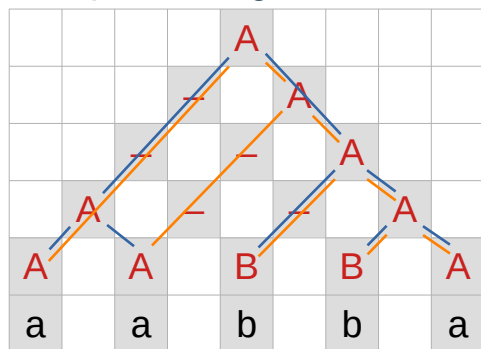
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Terminals

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$A \rightarrow a$

$B \rightarrow b$

Context-Free Grammars: CYK Algorithm

The Cocke–Younger–Kasami (CYK) Algorithm

```
for start in {0, ..., n - 1}: # bottom row
    fill_terminal_cell(start)
for level in {2, ..., n}: # all other rows
    for start in {0, ..., n - level}:
        end = start + level
        for split in {start + 1, ..., start + level - 1}:
            fill_non_terminal_cell(start, split, end)
```

$l = 5$						A					
$l = 4$					-		A				
$l = 3$				-		-		A			
$l = 2$			A		-		-		A		
$l = 1$		A		A		B		B		A	
		a		a		b		b		a	
	0		1		2		3		4		5

```
def fill_terminal_cell(start):
    for (x → y) in terminal_rules:
        if y is symbol after start:
            add x to chart[start, start + 1]

def fill_non_terminal_cell(start, split, end):
    for (x1 → x2 x3) in non_terminal_rules:
        if (x2 is in chart[start, split] and
            x3 is in chart[split, end]):
            add (split for) x1 to chart[start, end]
```

Remembering possible splits allows reconstructing trees!

Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars (PCFGs)

Computing Probabilities

- In non-probabilistic CFGs, we compute Boolean values (True/False).
- We can use the exact same algorithm to compute probabilities instead.
The result of parsing then is the probability of generating the given sequence from the given rules.
- In fact, we can use any **semiring** (defining addition and multiplication).
Boolean semiring for CFGs; probabilities for PCFGs; lists of probabilities for top-k parsing

```
def fill_non_terminal_cell(start, split, end):
```

```
    for (x1 → x2 x3) in non_terminal_rules:
```

```
        if (x2 is in chart[start, split] and
```

```
            x3 is in chart[split, end]):
```

```
            add x1 to chart[start, end]
```

multiplication (and)

addition (or)

Multiplication
(and)

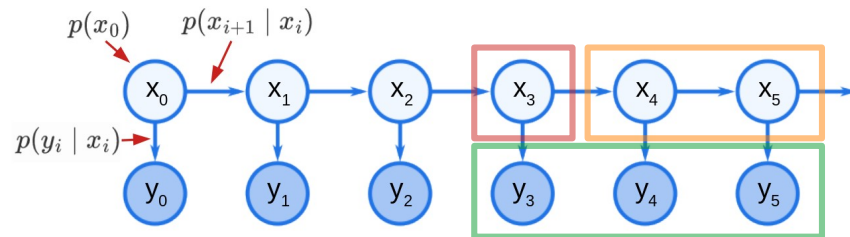
	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

Addition
(or)

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

HMM-Based Chord Recognition

Forward-Backward Algorithm



$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha(x_i) &:= p(y_0, \dots, y_{i-1}, x_i) && \text{forward outside} \\
 &= \sum_{x_{i-1}} p(x_i | x_{i-1}) p(y_{i-1} | x_{i-1}) p(y_0, \dots, y_{i-2}, x_{i-1}) \\
 &= \sum_{x_{i-1}} p(x_i | x_{i-1}) p(y_{i-1} | x_{i-1}) \alpha(x_{i-1}) \\
 \alpha(x_0) &= p(x_0)
 \end{aligned}$$

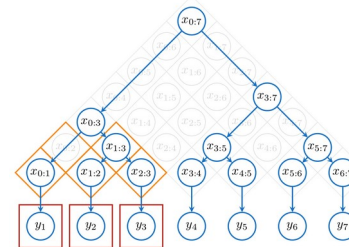
$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta(x_i) &:= p(y_i, y_{i+1}, \dots, y_n | x_i) && \text{backward inside} \\
 &= \sum_{x_{i+1}} p(x_{i+1} | x_i) p(y_i | x_i) p(y_{i+1}, \dots, y_n | x_{i+1}) \\
 &= \sum_{x_{i+1}} p(x_{i+1} | x_i) p(y_i | x_i) \beta(x_{i+1}) \\
 \beta(x_n) &= p(y_n | x_n)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i) = p(y_0, \dots, y_n, x_i)$$

$$\sum_{x_i} \alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i) = p(y_0, \dots, y_n) = \ell(\text{data}) \quad \text{data likelihood}$$

$$\frac{\alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i)}{\ell(\text{data})} = p(x_i | y_0, \dots, y_n) \quad \text{marginals}$$

Recursive Bayesian Networks & Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars



outside

$$\alpha(x_{j:k}) = \left[\sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \iint p_N(x_{i:j}, x_{j:k} \mid x_{i:k}) \alpha(x_{i:k}) \beta(x_{i:j}) \right] + \left[\sum_{l=k+1}^n \iint p_N(x_{j:k}, x_{k:l} \mid x_{j:l}) \alpha(x_{j:l}) \beta(x_{k:l}) \right]$$

inside

$$\beta(x_{i:k}) = \sum_{j=i+1}^{k-1} \iint p_N(x_{i:j}, x_{j:k} \mid x_{i:k}) \beta(x_{i:j}) \beta(x_{j:k})$$

$$\alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i) = p(y_0, \dots, y_n, x_i)$$

data likelihood

$$\sum_{x_i} \alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i) = p(y_0, \dots, y_n) = \ell(\text{data})$$

marginals

$$\frac{\alpha(x_i) \beta(x_i)}{\ell(\text{data})} = p(x_i \mid y_0, \dots, y_n)$$

References

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- 4) Grune D, Jacobs CJ (2007) Parsing techniques. Monographs in Computer Science Springer
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- 6) Rohrmeier M (2020) Towards a formalisation of musical rhythm. In: *Proceedings of the 21st Int. Society for Music Information Retrieval Conf*
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- 9) Lieck R, Rohrmeier M (2021) Recursive Bayesian Networks: Generalising and Unifying Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars and Dynamic Bayesian Networks. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 34 (NeurIPS 2021)