

# Earley's Algorithm (1970)

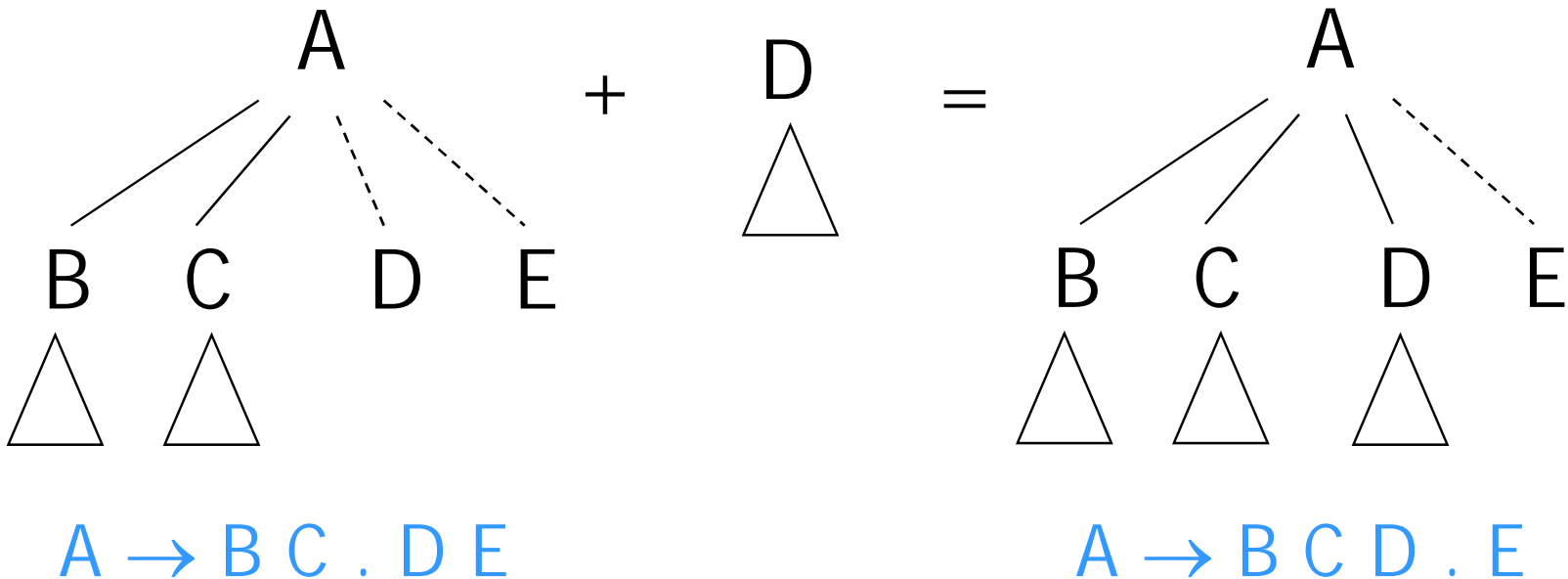


Nice combo of our parsing ideas so far:

- no restrictions on the form of the grammar:
  - $A \rightarrow B C \text{ spoon } D x$
- incremental parsing (left to right, like humans)
- left context constrains parsing of subsequent words
  - so waste less time building impossible things
  - makes it faster than  $O(n^3)$  for many grammars

# Overview of Earley's Algorithm

- Finds constituents and partial constituents in input
  - $A \rightarrow B C . D E$  is partial: only the first half of the  $A$



# Overview of Earley's Algorithm

- Proceeds incrementally, left-to-right
  - Before it reads word 5, it has already built all hypotheses that are consistent with first 4 words
  - Reads word 5 & attaches it to immediately preceding hypotheses. Might yield new constituents that are then attached to hypotheses immediately preceding *them* ...
  - E.g., attaching **D** to **A** → **B C . D E** gives **A** → **B C D . E**
  - Attaching **E** to that gives **A** → **B C D E .**
  - Now we have a complete **A** that we can attach to hypotheses immediately preceding the **A**, etc.

# Our Usual Example Grammar

ROOT  $\rightarrow$  S

S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP

NP  $\rightarrow$  Papa

NP  $\rightarrow$  Det N

N  $\rightarrow$  caviar

NP  $\rightarrow$  NP PP

N  $\rightarrow$  spoon

VP  $\rightarrow$  VP PP

V  $\rightarrow$  ate

VP  $\rightarrow$  V NP

P  $\rightarrow$  with

PP  $\rightarrow$  P NP

Det  $\rightarrow$  the

Det  $\rightarrow$  a

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with 5 a 6 spoon 7

# First Try: Recursive Descent

ROOT → S	VP → VP PP	NP → Papa	V → ate
S → NP VP	VP → V NP	N → caviar	P → with
NP → Det N	PP → P NP	N → spoon	Det → the
NP → NP PP			Det → a

- 0 ROOT → . S 0
    - 0 S → . NP VP 0
      - 0 NP → . Papa 0
      - 0 NP → Papa . 1
    - 0 S → NP . VP 1
      - 1 VP → . VP PP 1
        - 1 VP → . VP PP 1
          - 1 VP → . VP PP 1
            - 1 VP → . VP PP 1
- “goal stack”
- oops, stack overflowed
- OK, let's pretend that didn't happen.
  - Let's suppose we didn't see VP → VP PP, and used VP → V NP instead.

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with 5 a 6 spoon 7

# First Try: Recursive Descent

ROOT $\rightarrow$ S	VP $\rightarrow$ V NP	NP $\rightarrow$ Papa	V $\rightarrow$ ate
S $\rightarrow$ NP VP	VP $\rightarrow$ VP PP	N $\rightarrow$ caviar	P $\rightarrow$ with
NP $\rightarrow$ Det N	PP $\rightarrow$ P NP	N $\rightarrow$ spoon	Det $\rightarrow$ the
NP $\rightarrow$ NP PP			Det $\rightarrow$ a

- 0 ROOT  $\rightarrow$  . S 0
    - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  . NP VP 0
      - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  . Papa 0
      - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  Papa . 1
    - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  NP . VP 1
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . V NP 1
        - 1 V  $\rightarrow$  . ate 1
        - 1 V  $\rightarrow$  ate . 2
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  V . NP 2
        - 2 NP  $\rightarrow$  . ... 2
        - 2 NP  $\rightarrow$  ... . 7
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  V NP . 7
    - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP . 7
- after dot = nonterminal, so recursively look for it ("predict")  
 after dot = nonterminal, so recursively look for it ("predict")  
 after dot = terminal, so look for it in the input ("scan")  
 after dot = nothing, so parent's subgoal is completed ("attach")  
 predict (next subgoal)  
 do some more parsing and eventually ...  
 we complete the parent's NP subgoal, so attach  
 attach again  
 attach again

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with 5 a 6 spoon 7

# First Try: Recursive Descent

ROOT $\rightarrow$ S	VP $\rightarrow$ V NP	NP $\rightarrow$ Papa	V $\rightarrow$ ate
S $\rightarrow$ NP VP	VP $\rightarrow$ VP PP	N $\rightarrow$ caviar	P $\rightarrow$ with
NP $\rightarrow$ Det N	PP $\rightarrow$ P NP	N $\rightarrow$ spoon	Det $\rightarrow$ the
NP $\rightarrow$ NP PP			Det $\rightarrow$ a

- 0 ROOT  $\rightarrow$  . S 0
    - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  . NP VP 0
      - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  . Papa 0
      - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  Papa . 1
    - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  NP . VP 1
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . V NP 1
        - 1 V  $\rightarrow$  . ate 1
        - 1 V  $\rightarrow$  ate . 2
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  V . NP 2
        - 2 NP  $\rightarrow$  . ... 2
        - 2 NP  $\rightarrow$  ... . 7
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  V NP . 7
- implement by function calls:  
S() calls NP() and VP(), which recurse
- must backtrack to try predicting  
a different VP rule here instead
- But how about the other parse?

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with 5 a 6 spoon 7

# First Try: Recursive Descent

ROOT → S	VP → V NP	NP → Papa	V → ate
S → NP VP	VP → VP PP	N → caviar	P → with
NP → Det N	PP → P NP	N → spoon	Det → the
NP → NP PP			Det → a

- 0 ROOT → . S 0
  - 0 S → . NP VP 0
    - 0 NP → . Papa 0
    - 0 NP → Papa . 1
  - 0 S → NP . VP 1
    - 1 VP → . VP PP 1
      - 1 VP → . V NP 1 we'd better backtrack here too!  
(why?)
        - 1 V → . ate 1
        - 1 V → ate . 2
      - 1 VP → V . NP 2
        - 2 NP → . ... 2
        - 2 NP → ... . 4

do some more parsing and eventually ...  
... the correct NP is from 2 to 4 this time  
(but might we find the one from 2 to 7 instead?)



0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with 5 a 6 spoon 7

# First Try: Recursive Descent

ROOT $\rightarrow$ S	VP $\rightarrow$ V NP	NP $\rightarrow$ Papa	V $\rightarrow$ ate
S $\rightarrow$ NP VP	VP $\rightarrow$ VP PP	N $\rightarrow$ caviar	P $\rightarrow$ with
NP $\rightarrow$ Det N	PP $\rightarrow$ P NP	N $\rightarrow$ spoon	Det $\rightarrow$ the
NP $\rightarrow$ NP PP			Det $\rightarrow$ a

- 0 ROOT  $\rightarrow$  . S 0
  - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  . NP VP 0
    - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  . Papa 0
    - 0 NP  $\rightarrow$  Papa . 1
  - 0 S  $\rightarrow$  NP . VP 1
    - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . VP PP 1
      - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . VP PP 1
        - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . VP PP 1
        - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . VP PP 1
        - 1 VP  $\rightarrow$  . VP PP 1

oops, stack overflowed

no fix after all

600.465 - Intro to NLP - J. Eisner – must transform grammar to eliminate left-recursive rules

# Use a Parse Table

- Earley's algorithm resembles recursive descent, but solves the left-recursion problem. No recursive function calls.
- Use a parse table as we did in CKY, so we can look up anything we've discovered so far.  
"Dynamic programming."
- Entries in column 5 look like  $(3, S \rightarrow NP . VP)$   
(but we'll omit the  $\rightarrow$  etc. to save space)
  - Built while processing word 5
  - Means that the input substring from 3 to 5 matches the initial NP portion of a  $S \rightarrow NP VP$  rule
  - Dot shows how much we've matched as of column 5
  - Perfectly fine to have entries like  $(3, S \rightarrow is\ it\ .\ true\ that\ S)$

# Use a Parse Table

- Entries in column 5 look like  $(3, S \rightarrow NP . VP)$
- What does it mean if we have this entry?
  - *Unknown right context:* Doesn't mean we'll necessarily be able to find a VP starting at column 5 to complete the S.
  - *Known left context:* Does mean that some dotted rule back in column 3 is looking for an S that starts at 3.
    - So if we actually do find a VP starting at column 5, allowing us to complete the S, then we'll be able to attach the S to something.
    - And when that something is complete, it too will have a customer to *its* left ... just as in recursive descent!
    - In short, a top-down (i.e., goal-directed) parser: it chooses to start building a constituent not because of the input but because that's what the left context needs. In the spoon, won't build spoon as a verb because there's no way to use a verb there.
    - So any hypothesis in column 5 *could* get used in the correct parse, if words 1-5 are continued in just the right way by words 6-n.

# Operation of the Algorithm

- Process all hypotheses one at a time in order.  
(Current hypothesis is shown in blue.)
- This may add new hypotheses to the end of the to-do list, or try to add old hypotheses again.
- Process a hypothesis according to what follows the dot – just as in recursive descent:
  - If a word, scan input and see if it matches
  - If a nonterminal, predict ways to match it  
(we'll predict blindly, but could reduce # of predictions by *looking ahead* k symbols in the input and only making predictions that are compatible with this limited *right context*)
  - If nothing, then we have a complete constituent, so attach it to all its customers

0
0 ROOT . S

initialize

*Remember this stands for (0, ROOT → . S)*

0
0 ROOT . S
0 S . NP VP

predict the kind of S we are looking for

*Remember this stands for  $(0, S \rightarrow . NP VP)$*

0
0 ROOT . S
0 S . NP VP
0 NP . Det N
0 NP . NP PP
0 NP . Papa

predict the kind of NP we are looking for  
*(actually we'll look for 3 kinds: any of the 3 will do)*

0
0 ROOT . S
0 S . NP VP
0 NP . Det N
0 NP . NP PP
0 NP . Papa
0 Det . the
0 Det . a

predict the kind of Det we are looking for (*2 kinds*)



0
0 ROOT . S
0 S . NP VP
0 NP . Det N
0 NP . NP PP
0 NP . Papa
0 Det . the
0 Det . a

predict the kind of NP we're looking for  
*but we were already looking for these so  
don't add duplicate goals! Note that this happened  
when we were processing a left-recursive rule.*

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP		
0 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the		
0 Det . a		

scan: the desired word is in the input!

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP		
0 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the		
0 Det . a		

scan: failure

0      Papa      1	
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .
0 S . NP VP	
0 NP . Det N	
0 NP . NP PP	
0 NP . Papa	
0 Det . the	
0 Det . a	

scan: failure

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the		
0 Det . a		

attach the newly created NP  
 (which starts at 0) to its customers  
 (incomplete constituents that *end* at 0  
 and have NP after the dot)

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	
0 Det . the		
0 Det . a		

predict

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	
0 Det . a		

predict

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	

predict



0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	

predict

0	Papa	1
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	
	1 P . with	

predict

0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP			
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP			
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP			
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP			
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP			
0 Det . a	1 V . ate			
	1 P . with			

scan: success!

[illegible]

0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP		
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP			
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP			
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP			
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP			
0 Det . a	1 V . ate			
	1 P . with			

attach

0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP		
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP			
0 Det . a	1 V . ate			
	1 P . with			

predict

0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP		
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		
	1 P . with			

*predict (these next few steps should look familiar)*

0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP		
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		
	1 P . with			

predict



0	Papa	1	ate	2
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .		
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP		
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N		
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP		
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		
	1 P . with			

scan (this time we fail since Papa is not the next word)













0    Papa    1       ate       2       the       3       caviar    4				
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		
	1 P . with			

attach



0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .				
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .				
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP				
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa						
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the						
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a						
	1 P . with							

attach  
(again!)

0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .				
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .				
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP				
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .				
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP				
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a						
	1 P . with							

attach  
(again!)



0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .				
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .				
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP				
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .				
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP				
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP				
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .				

attach  
(again!)



















0    Papa    1       ate       2       the       3       caviar    4       with       5					
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	4 P with .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .	4 PP P . NP
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .	5 NP . Det N
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP	5 NP . NP PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .	5 NP . Papa
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP	5 Det . the
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP	5 Det . a
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .	
				4 P . with	

0    Papa    1       ate       2       the       3       caviar    4       with       5					
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	4 P with .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .	4 PP P . NP
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .	5 NP . Det N
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP	5 NP . NP PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .	5 NP . Papa
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP	5 Det . the
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP	5 Det . a
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .	
				4 P . with	

[illegible]















0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		
				4 P . with		

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with a spoon 7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		
				4 P . with		

0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7					
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	... 6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .	5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .	4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP	5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .	2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP	1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP	7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .	1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with	2 NP NP . PP



0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP

0      Papa    1           ate           2           the           3           caviar    4           with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with

0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with

0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with

0 Papa 1 ate 2 the 3 caviar 4 with a spoon 7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with
						0 ROOT S .

0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with
						0 ROOT S .

0      Papa    1           ate           2           the           3           caviar    4           with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with
						0 ROOT S .

0    Papa    1    ate    2    the    3    caviar    4    with a spoon    7						
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP
						0 S NP VP .
						1 VP VP . PP
						7 P . with
						0 ROOT S .



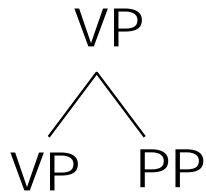
0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4	with a spoon	7
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .				
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .				
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP				
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .				
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .				
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP				
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .				
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP				
						0 S NP VP .				
						1 VP VP . PP				
						7 P . with				
						0 ROOT S .				

# Left Recursion Kills Pure Top-Down Parsing ...

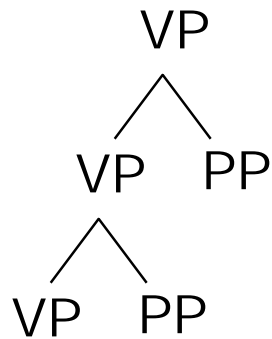


VP

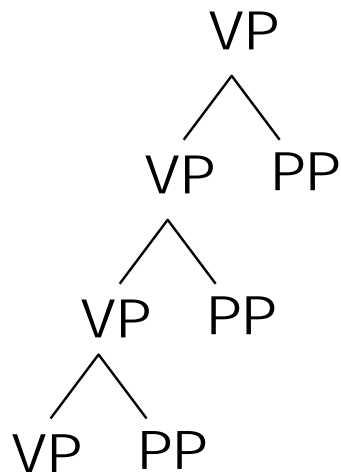
# Left Recursion Kills Pure Top-Down Parsing ...



# Left Recursion Kills Pure Top-Down Parsing ...



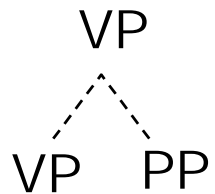
# Left Recursion Kills Pure Top-Down Parsing ...



makes new hypotheses  
ad infinitum before we've  
seen the PPs at all

hypotheses try to predict  
in advance how many  
PP's will arrive in input

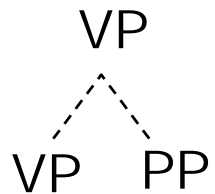
# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



1 VP → . VP PP

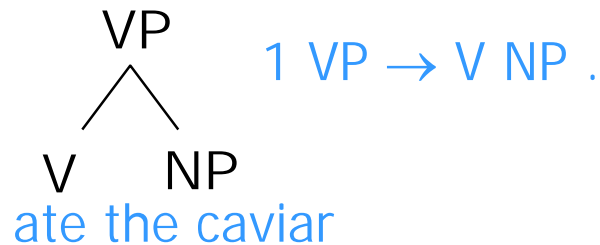
*(in column 1)*

# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



1 VP → . VP PP

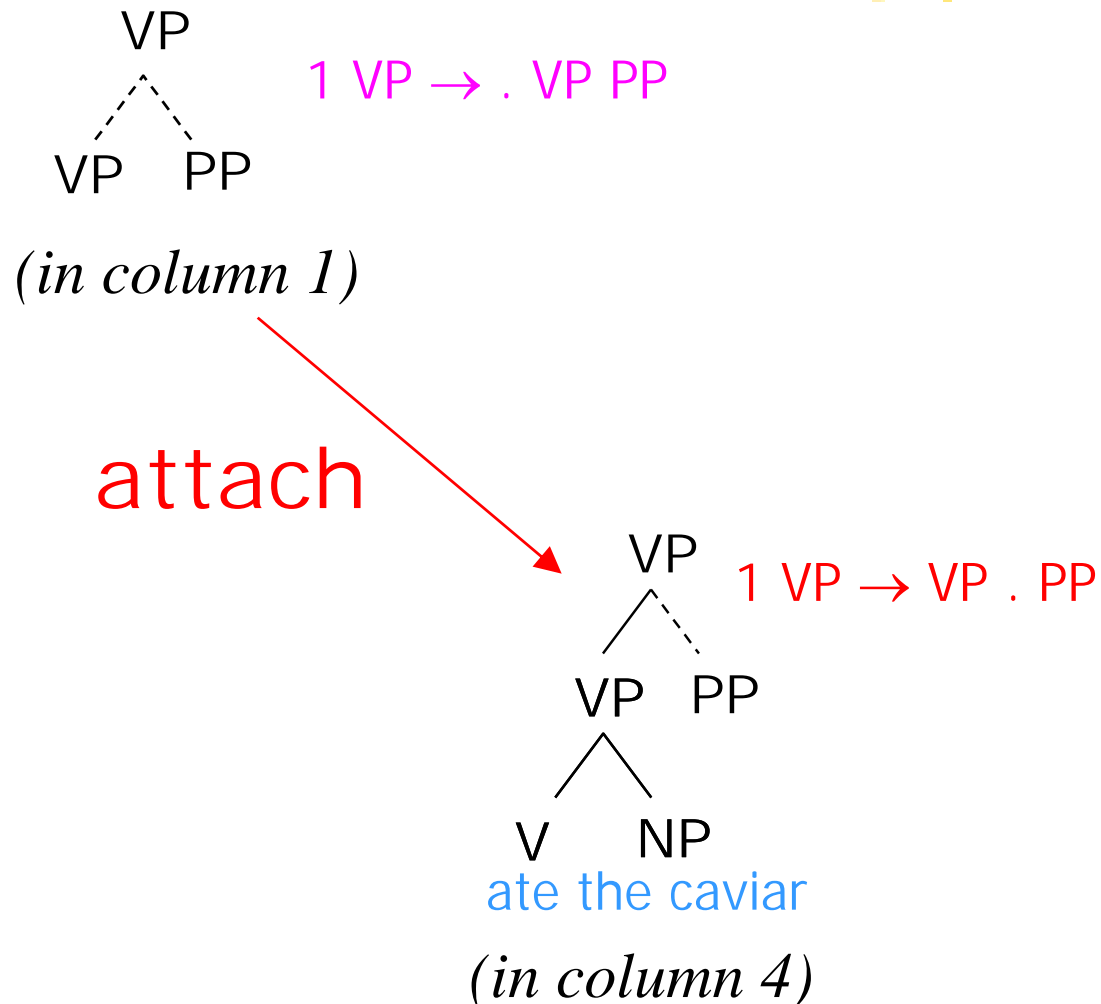
*(in column 1)*



1 VP → V NP .

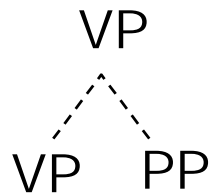
*(in column 4)*

# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



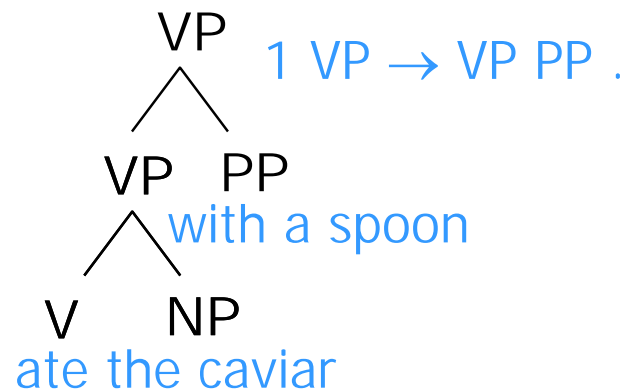


# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



1 VP → . VP PP

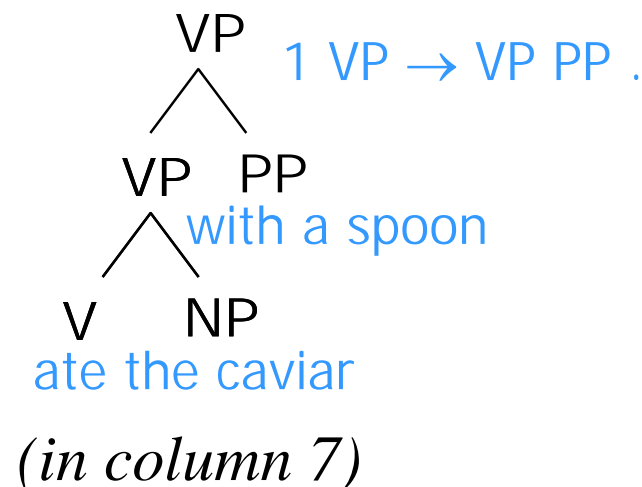
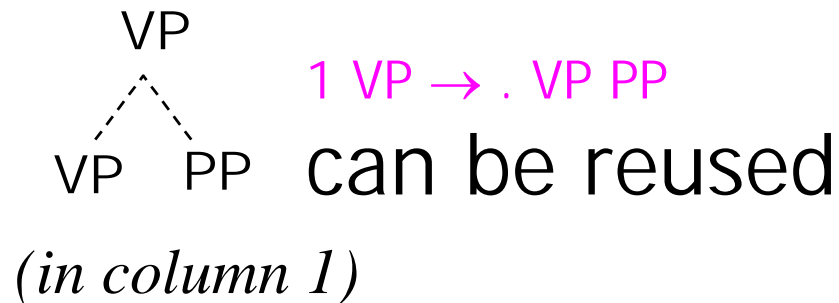
*(in column 1)*



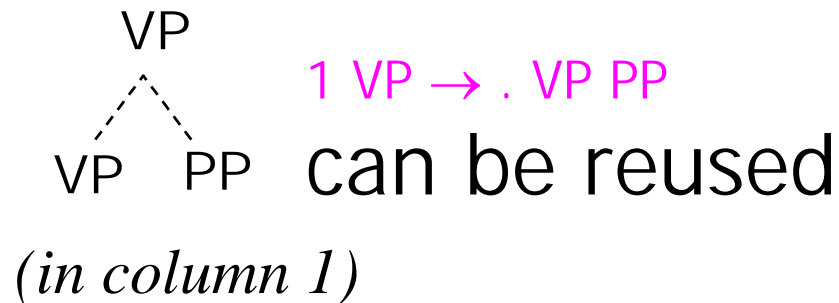
1 VP → VP PP .

*(in column 7)*

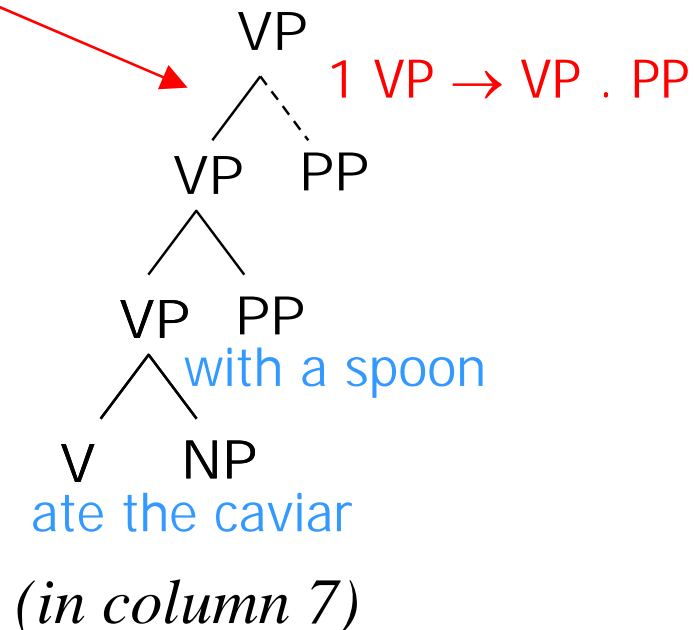
# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



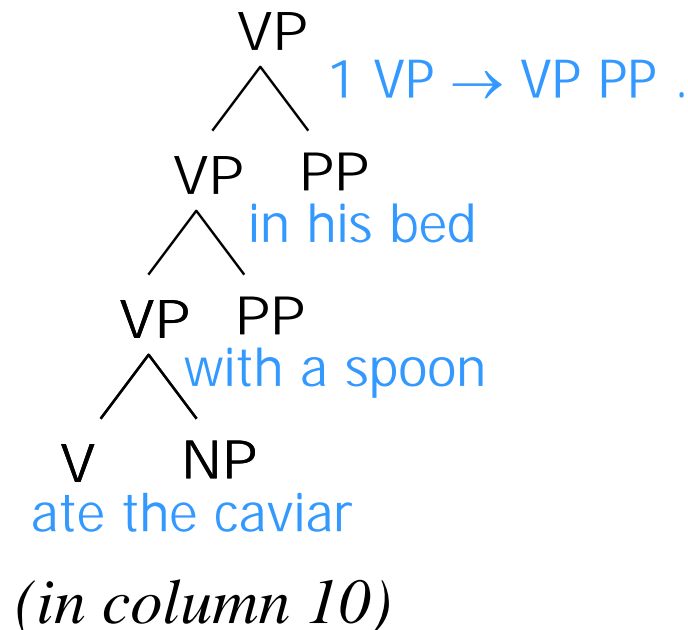
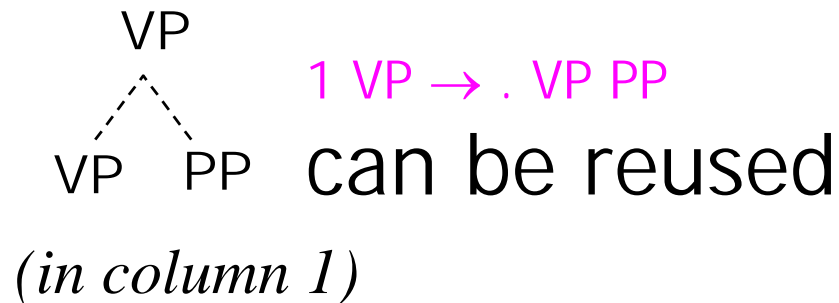
# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



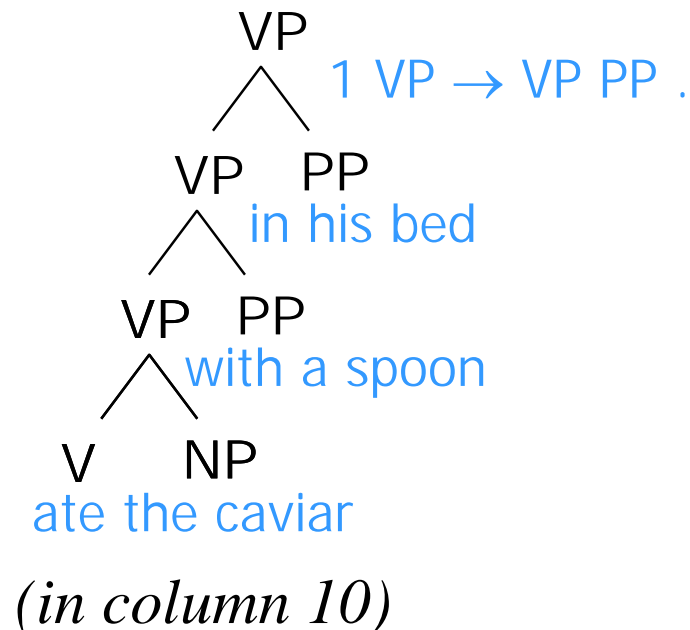
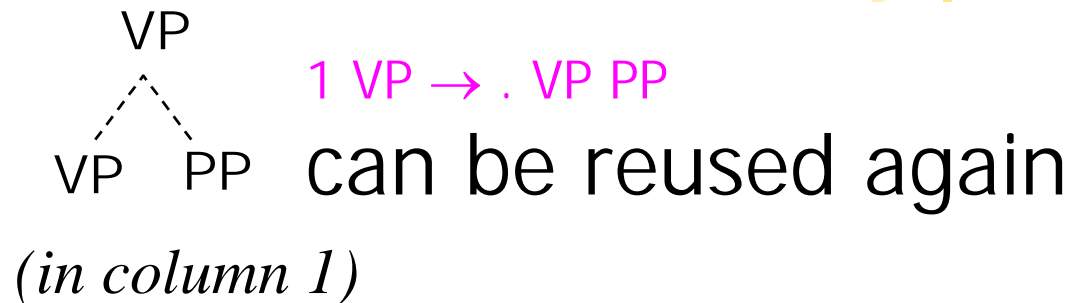
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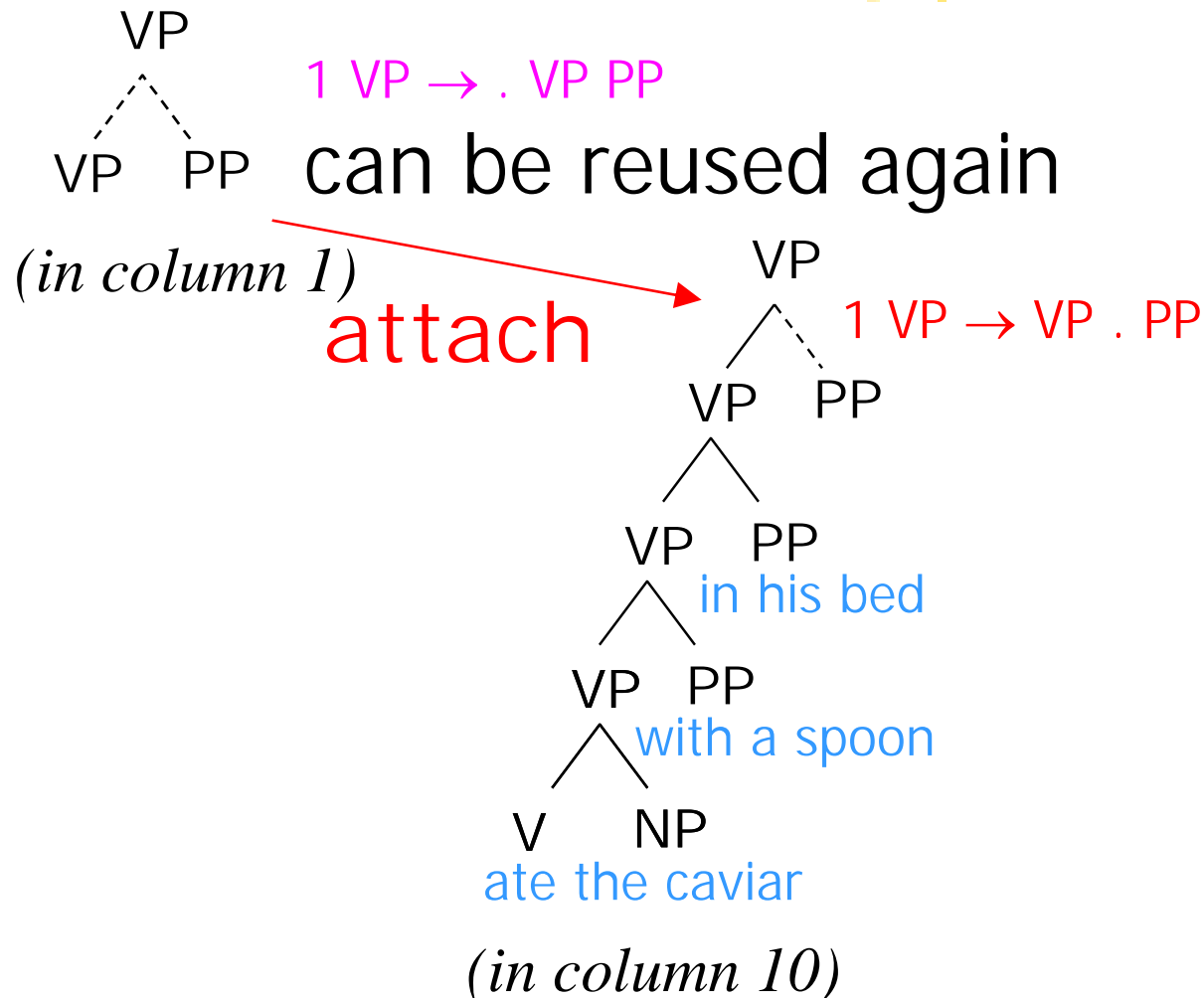
# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



# ... but Earley's Alg is Okay!



0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4	with a spoon	7
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .		5 NP Det N .				
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .		4 PP P NP .				
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP		5 NP NP . PP				
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .		2 NP NP PP .				
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP		1 VP VP PP .				
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP		7 PP . P NP				
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .		1 VP V NP .				
				4 P . with		2 NP NP . PP				
						0 S NP VP .				
completed a VP in col 4						1 VP VP . PP				
col 1 lets us use it in a VP PP structure						7 P . with				
						0 ROOT S .				

0	Papa	1	ate	2	the	3	caviar	4	with a spoon	7
0 ROOT . S	0 NP Papa .	1 V ate .	2 Det the .	3 N caviar .	...	6 N spoon .				
0 S . NP VP	0 S NP . VP	1 VP V . NP	2 NP Det . N	2 NP Det N .	5 NP Det N .					
0 NP . Det N	0 NP NP . PP	2 NP . Det N	3 N . caviar	1 VP V NP .	4 PP P NP .					
0 NP . NP PP	1 VP . V NP	2 NP . NP PP	3 N . spoon	2 NP NP . PP	5 NP NP . PP					
0 NP . Papa	1 VP . VP PP	2 NP . Papa		0 S NP VP .	2 NP NP PP .					
0 Det . the	1 PP . P NP	2 Det . the		1 VP VP . PP	1 VP VP PP .					
0 Det . a	1 V . ate	2 Det . a		4 PP . P NP	7 PP . P NP					
	1 P . with			0 ROOT S .	1 VP V NP .					
				4 P . with	2 NP NP . PP					
<div>— completed that VP = VP PP in col 7</div> <div>— col 1 would let us use <i>it</i> in a VP PP structure</div> <div>— can reuse col 1 as often as we need</div>						0 S NP VP .				
						1 VP VP . PP				
						7 P . with				
						0 ROOT S .				



# What's the Complexity?

