

Efficiently Inferring Non-hierarchical Structure in Parsing and Computation

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Abstract: This paper proposes to revise the general definition of a “grammar”¹ as well as “parsing”². A meta-language named “Simultaneous Productions” (or “S.P”) is proposed for specifying a parseable grammar (similar in intent to EBNF³). This meta-language is shown to be able to represent recursively enumerable languages⁴, and several favorable properties of this meta-language across various parsing use cases are discussed.

An actual “evaluation method” (or “parsing algorithm”) is then introduced for the proposed S.P. grammar model, which shares some similarities with the CYK algorithm⁵. This method is shown to terminate in $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ time across $\mathcal{O}(n)$ inputs. This method is then demonstrated to have the peculiar property of directly parameterizing context-sensitivity⁸⁹. The practical and theoretical ramifications of this result are discussed and speculated on.

This paper will frequently refer to free software provided at [1] which implements all of the theoretical mechanisms discussed.

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1 Background

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¹cite: grammar defn

²cite: parsing defn

³cite: EBNF

⁴cite: RecEnum defn

⁵cite: CYK algorithm!

⁶TODO: parsing runtime?

⁷TODO: parsing inputs?

⁸cite: context-sensitivity defn

⁹TODO: is this peculiar?

References

- [1] Danny McClanahan. *Simultaneous Productions*. <https://github.com/cosmicexplorer/simultaneous-productions>. Accessed on 2021-06-20. 2019.