

Dependency Parsing [NLP, Python]



Yash Jain · Follow

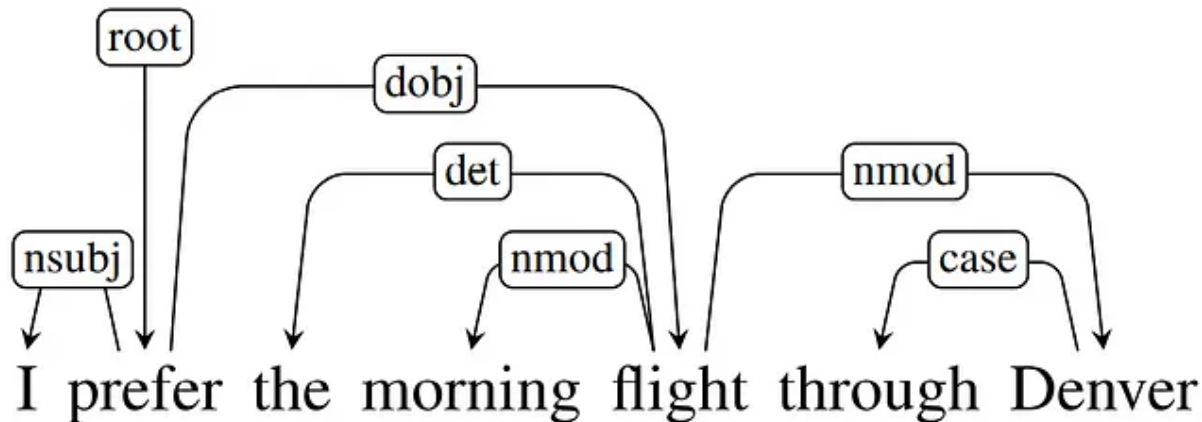
Published in Dev Genius · 4 min read · Mar 9, 2022



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Source: Speech and Language Processing — Daniel, James

Dependency structure shows which word or phrase depends on which other words or phrases. We use dependency-based parsing to analyze and infer both structure and semantic dependencies and relationships between tokens in a sentence.

Relations among the words are illustrated in above figure with directed, *labeled arcs* from **heads** to **dependents**. It also includes root node that explicitly marks the head of the entire structure of sentence.

(As shown above:-

prefer → is the root node,

flight → is head of → **the** and,

“the” is dependent and is related to flight as *determiner* denoted by `det`)

Dependency parsing are useful in Information Extraction, Question Answering, Coreference resolution and many more aspects of NLP.

Dependency Formalisms

We are discussing dependency structures that are simply directed graphs. We represent Structures $G = (V, A)$ where V is set of vertices and A is set of arcs- which represents relationship.

An Dependency tree should meet few constraints:

- Single-head
- Connected
- Acyclic

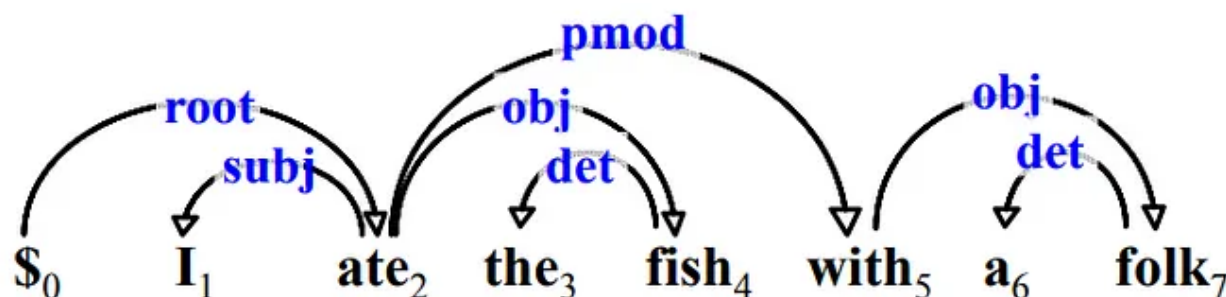
Taken together, these constraints ensure that each word has a single head, that the dependency structure is connected, and that there is a single root node from which one can follow a unique directed path to each of the words in the sentence

Projectivity

It imposes additional constraint derived from order of words. It is said to be projective if there is a path from head to every word that lies between the head and dependent in sentence. A dependency tree is then said to be projective if all the arcs that make it up are projective.

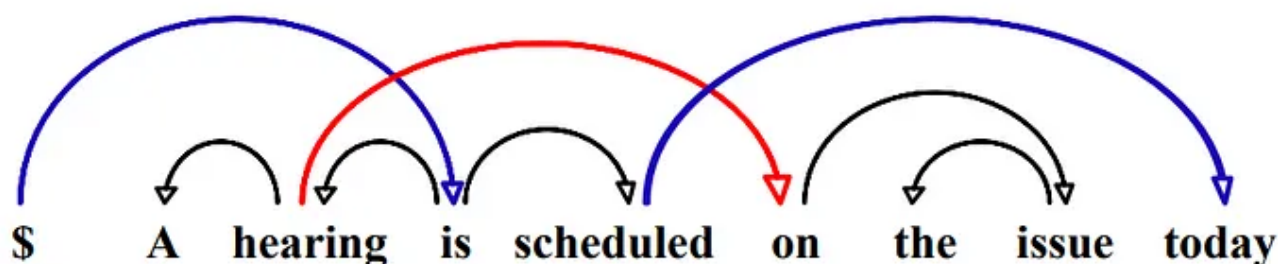
Informally, “projective” means the tree does not contain any crossing arcs. and A non-projective dependency tree contains crossing arcs.

Projective -



Projective dependency [Source: Dependency Parsing: Past, Present, and Future by Wenliang Chen, Zhenghua Li, Min Zhang]

Non-projective -



Non-projective dependency [Source: Dependency Parsing: Past, Present, and Future by Wenliang Chen, Zhenghua Li, Min Zhang]

If you want to dig deeper I would suggest to look at this document on dependency parsing — [link](#)

You should checkout [chapter 14](#) of Speech and Language Processing — by Daniel Jurafsky & James H. Martin.

Dependency Labels

You can checkout label's explanation [here](#).

Implementation

Lets see dependency structure for “The quick brown fox jumping over the lazy dog”

spaCy dependency parsing

```

import spacy
from spacy import displacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")

sentence = "The quick brown fox jumping over the lazy dog"
doc = nlp(sentence)

print(f"{'Node (from)-->':<15} {'Relation':^10} {'-->Node (to)':>15}\n")

for token in doc:
    print("{:<15} {:^10} {:>15}".format(str(token.head.text),
    str(token.dep_), str(token.text)))

displacy.render(doc, style='dep')

```

token.dep_ → shows dependency

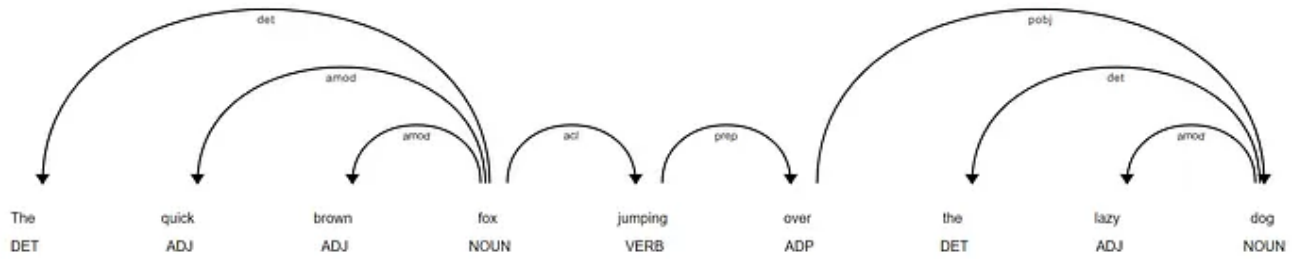
token.head.text → shows head

token.head.text → shows dependent

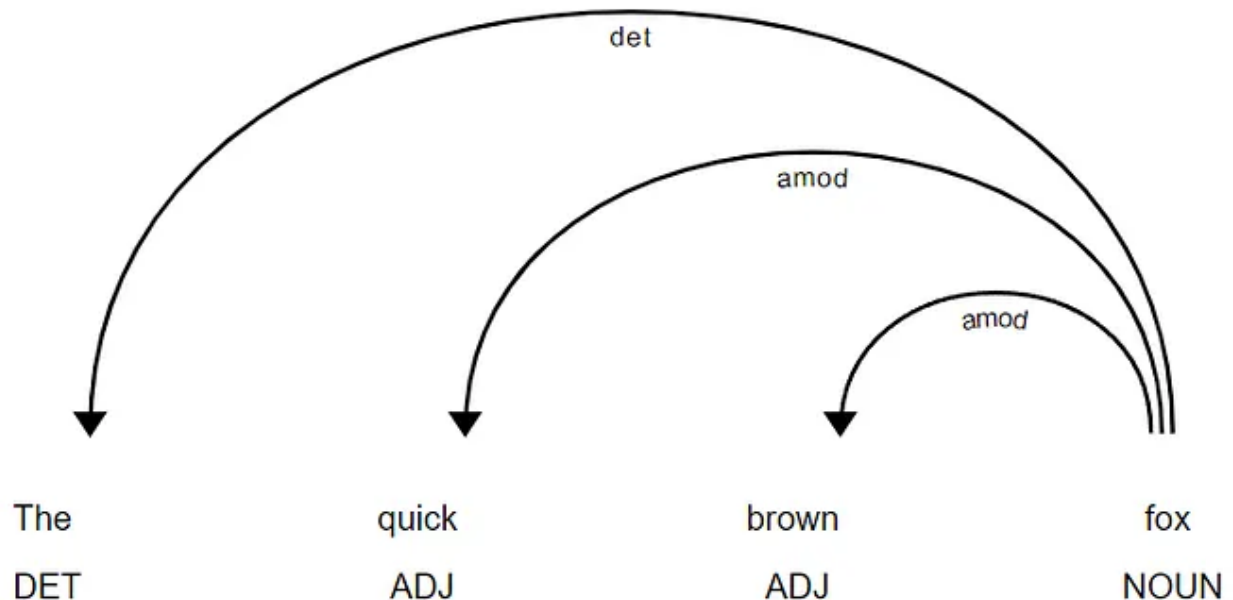
{:<15} {:^10} {:>15} → its just for formatting string for pretty output. You can checkout how to do this formatting [here](#)

Output:

Node (from)-->	Relation	-->Node (to)
fox	det	The
fox	amod	quick
fox	amod	brown
fox	ROOT	fox
fox	acl	jumping
jumping	prep	over
dog	det	the
dog	compound	lazy
over	pobj	dog



Let's checkout subpart of this dependency tree



In above figure there is relationship between *fox* and [*the, quick, brown*] as you know **the** is determiner therefore relation directed from “fox” to “The” is named as *det*(determiner), and relation between “fox” to “quick”, “brown” is named as *amod* (*adjectival modifier* → A word or phrase that modifies meaning of another word, usually a noun).

Stanza dependency parsing

```
import stanza
stanza.download('en')

nlp = stanza.Pipeline(lang='en',
processors='tokenize,mwt,pos,lemma,depparse')

doc = nlp("The quick brown fox jumping over the lazy dog")

for sent in doc.sentences:
    for word in sent.words:
        print(f'id:{word.id}\tword: {word.text}\thead id:
{word.head}\thead: {sent.words[word.head-1].text if word.head > 0
else "root"}\tdeprel: {word.deprel}', sep='\n')
```

word.deprel → shows dependency here

Output:

id: 1	word: The	head id: 4	head: fox	deprel: det
id: 2	word: quick	head id: 4	head: fox	deprel:
amod				
id: 3	word: brown	head id: 4	head: fox	deprel:
amod				
id: 4	word: fox	head id: 0	head: root	deprel:
root				
id: 5	word: jumping	head id: 4	head: fox	deprel: acl
id: 6	word: over	head id: 9	head: dog	deprel:
case				
id: 7	word: the	head id: 9	head: dog	deprel: det
id: 8	word: lazy	head id: 9	head: dog	deprel:
amod				
id: 9	word: dog	head id: 5	head: jumping	deprel: obl

You can checkout more about stanza dependency parser [here](#).

Spark NLP dependency parser: You can checkout code for this [here](#).

You can try Stanford corenlp dependency parsing online on [corenlp.run](#)

I hope this would clear some idea and would help in implementing dependency parsing.

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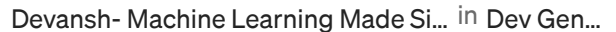
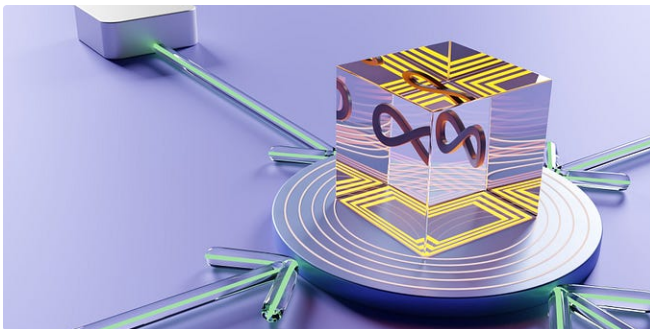
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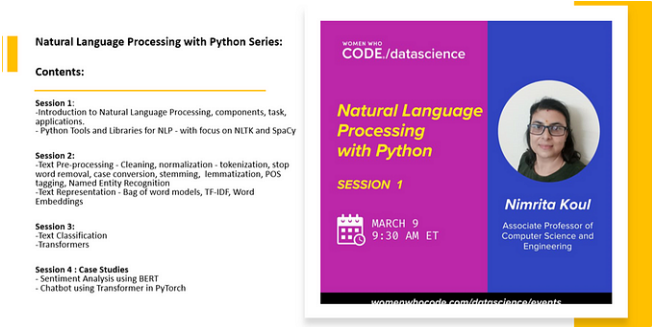
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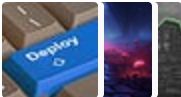
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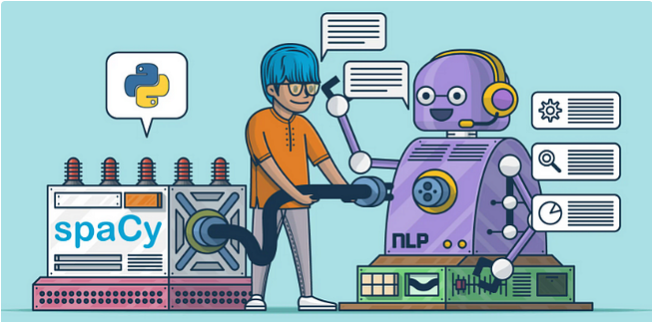
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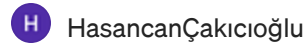
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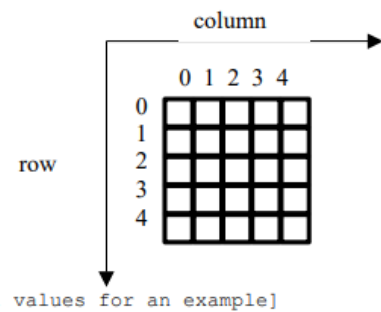
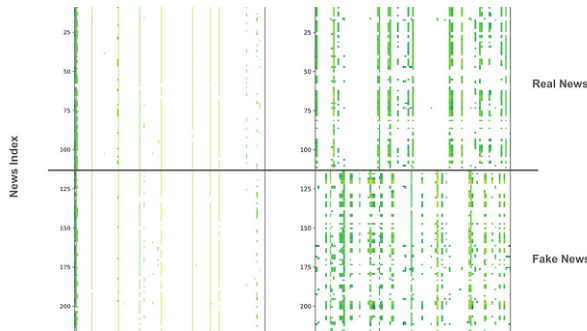
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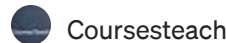
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