



# Computational Syntax

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- Context-free Grammars
  - Introduction
  - A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)
  - Context-free Grammar: exercises
- Context-Free Parsing
  - Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers
    - Weighted Context-free Grammars (WCFG)
      - Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG)
  - Grammar Refinement
    - Parent Annotation
    - Lexicalized Context-free Grammars
- Unification-based Grammars
- Dependency Parsing





### Bibliography

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- Introduction to Natural Language Processing (Adaptive Computation and Machine Learning series, MIT Press). Jacob Eisenstein. 2019
   Notes (2018 version): https://github.com/jacobeisenstein/ gt-nlp-class/blob/master/notes/eisenstein-nlp-notes.pdf
- Michael Collins, slides:
  - Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars (PCFGs): http: //www.cs.columbia.edu/~mcollins/courses/nlp2011/notes/pcfgs.pdf
  - Lexicalized Probabilistic Context-Free Grammars (PCFGs): http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~mcollins/courses/nlp2011/notes/lexpcfgs.pdf
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   Analyzing Sentence Structure. http://www.nltk.org/book/ch08.html
- Dependency Parsing (Synthesis Lectures on Human Language Technologies), 2009 by Sandra Kubler, Ryan McDonald, Joakim Nivre. Morgan & Claypool Publishers



## Index



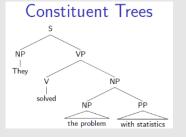
- Context-free Grammars
  - Introduction
  - A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)
  - Context-free Grammar: exercises
- Context-Free Parsing
- Unification-based Grammars
- 4 Dependency Parsing

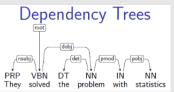


# Context-free Grammars Introduction



## Two approaches to syntax









## Why Context-Free Grammar?

- Regular languages can't count
- Example:  $a^nb^n$  (with n > 0) can not be generated by a regular grammar
- But a simple CFG grammar can
- There are syntactic constructions that have a similar pattern, like center embedding:

```
the dog the cat the dog chased the goat the cat the dog chased kissed It corresponds to the pattern noun^n verb^{n-1}
```

Erasmus Mundus

# Context-free Grammars Introduction





- $\bullet \ \mathsf{S} \to \mathsf{NP} \ \mathsf{VP}$
- $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  Verb NP
- NP  $\rightarrow$  PropN
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron





## Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP
- $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  Verb NP
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  PropN
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron

#### General form:

• Rules have the form:  $a \rightarrow b\ c\ d$  where a is a non-terminal symbol and b c d are terminal symbols





## Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP
- $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  Verb NP
- $NP \rightarrow PropN$
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron

#### General form:

- Rules have the form: a → b c d
   where a is a non-terminal symbol and b c d are terminal symbols
- Starting from the axiom (S) and applying the rules we can generate the strings of the language





## Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP
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- $NP \rightarrow PropN$
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron

#### General form:

- Rules have the form: a → b c d
   where a is a non-terminal symbol and b c d are terminal symbols
- Starting from the axiom (S) and applying the rules we can generate the strings of the language
- The sequences generated by the grammar are represented by a tree







# Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP
- $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  Verb NP
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{NP} \to \mathsf{PropN}$
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron



# Context-free Grammars Introduction



# Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP VP
- $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  Verb NP
- ullet NP o PropN
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  Pron

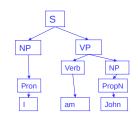
## Lexical rules

- $\bullet$  Pron  $\rightarrow$  I
- $\bullet$  Verb  $\rightarrow$  am
- $\bullet$  PropN  $\rightarrow$  John



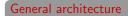
Introduction





# Context-free Grammars Introduction

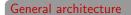


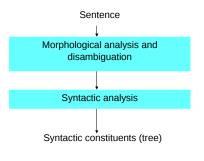




# Context-free Grammars Introduction







A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



## Main Syntactic Categories

- Sentence
- Noun Phrase
- Verb Phrase
- Other
  - Prepositional Phrases
  - Adverbial Phrases
  - Adjectival Phrases

A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



#### Sentence

- Basic Rule: S → NP VP
- Other:
  - $\bullet \ \mathsf{S} \to \mathsf{ADVP} \ \mathsf{NP} \ \mathsf{VP}$
  - Unfortunately Abigail ate the kimchi. • S  $\rightarrow$  S CC S
  - S → S CC S
     Abigail ate the kimchi and Max had a burger.
  - $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  VP
    - Eat the kimchi.

A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



#### Noun Phrase

- NP → NN | NNS | NNP | PRP singular, plural, and proper nouns; PRP: personal pronouns
- ullet NP ightarrow DET NN | DET NNS | DET NNP | PRP
- ullet NP ightarrow NN NN | NN NNS | DET NN NN | ...
- Recursive NP Phrases:
  - NP → NP CC NP the red and the black
  - NP → NP PP
     the President of the Georgia Institute of Technology
  - NP → NP SBAR
     a whale which he had wounded
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  NP VP a whale taken near Shetland



A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



#### Verb Phrase

- VP → VB | VBZ | VBD | VBN | VBG | VBP
   base form (VB: she likes to snack), present-tense third-person singular
   (VBZ: she snacks), present tense but not third-person singular (VBP: they
   snack), past tense (VBD: they snacked), present participle (VBG: they are
   snacking), and past participle (VBN: they had snacked)
- Recursive VP Phrases:
  - VP → MD VP
     She will snack
  - VP → VBD VP
  - She had snacked
  - VP → VBZ VP
  - She has been snacking  $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  VBN VP
  - VP → VBN VP
     She has been snacking
  - $VP \rightarrow TO VP$ She wants **to snack**
  - VP → VP CC VP
     She buys and eats many snacks



A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



# Verb Phrase (continued):

- Verb complements:
  - $VP \rightarrow VBZ NP$ She teaches algebra
  - VP → VBG NP
    - She has been teaching algebra
  - VP → VBD NP NP
     She taught her brother algebra
  - $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  VBZ S
    - Hunter wants to eat the kimchi
  - $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  VBZ SBAR
  - Hunter knows that Tristan ate the kimchi
- Prepositional and Adverbial Phrases:
  - VP → VBZ PP

     Cha studies at picks
  - She studies at night • VP → VB7 ADVP
  - VP → VBZ ADVP

    She studies intensively
  - $\bullet \ \mathsf{VP} \to \mathsf{ADVP} \ \mathsf{VBG}$ 
    - She is not studying



A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



## Verb Phrase (continued):

- Copula:
  - $VP \rightarrow VBZ ADJP$ She is hungry
  - VP → VBP ADJP
    - Success seems increasingly unlikely



A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



#### Other constituents:

- Prepositional Phrases:
  - $\bullet \ \mathsf{PP} \to \mathsf{IN} \ \mathsf{NP}$
  - the whiteness of the whale
  - $\bullet \ \mathsf{PP} \to \mathsf{TO} \ \mathsf{NP}$

What the white whale was to Ahab, has been hinted

- Complement Clauses:
  - ullet SBAR o IN S
    - She said that it was spicy
  - $\bullet \; \mathsf{SBAR} \to \mathsf{S}$

She said it was spicy

- Adverbial Clauses:
  - $\bullet$  ADVP  $\rightarrow$  RB RBR

They went considerably further

ADVP → ADVP PP

They went considerably further than before



A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



#### Other constituents:

- Adjectival Clauses:
  - ADJP → RB JJ very hungry
  - ADJP → RBR JJ more hungry
  - ADJP → JJS JJ best possible
  - ADJP → RB JJR
  - even bigger

     ADJP → JJ CC JJ
  - high and mighty

     ADJP → JJ JJ

    West German
  - ADJP → RB VBN previously reported
- Coordination:
  - PP → PP CC PP on time and under budget
  - ADVP → ADVP CC ADVP now and two years ago
  - ADJP → ADJP CC ADJP quaint and rather deceptive
  - SBAR → SBAR CC SBAR
     whether they want control an whether they want exports

A Context-free Grammar for English (taken from Eisenstein 2019)



# Ambiguity:

- PP attachment: I saw the man on the hill with a statue
- Coordination: The man took the hammer and saw
- Modifier scope: plastic bag container



Context-free Grammar: exercises



# Exercise I: produce a parse tree for these sentences using the rules that have been presented:

- This aggression will not stand.
- I can get you a toe.
- Sometimes you eat the bar and sometimes the bar eats you.



Context-free Grammar: exercises



# Exercise II: write a grammar to capture the following agreement in Spanish:

- La casa bonita
- El perro bonito



Context-free Grammar: exercises



# Specific domains: semantic grammars

- Intervention  $\rightarrow$  question  $\mid$  order  $\mid$  ...
- $\bullet \ \, \mathsf{order} \to \mathsf{v} \, \left\{ \mathit{imperative}(1), \mathit{order}(1) \right\}$
- np  $\rightarrow$  baseNp |
- np  $\rightarrow$  baseNp npMod {agreement(1,2)}
- ullet baseNp o n
- baseNp  $\rightarrow$  det adj n {agreement(1,2,3)}
- $npMod \rightarrow pp \mid ...$
- ullet pp o prep np
- ullet np o "barcelona" | "valencia" | ...
- $\bullet \ \ n \rightarrow \text{ "ticket"} \ | \ \text{"euromed"} \ \dots$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{v} \to \text{``give''} \ | \ ... \\$
- $\bullet \ \, \mathsf{det} \, \to \, \text{``a''} \, \, | \, \, \text{``the''} \, \, | \, \ldots$

Context-free Grammar: exercises



#### Context-free Grammars

- NLTK exercise (open the CFG notebook in egela)
- Try different sentences with a basic grammar
- Extend the grammar



## Index



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  - Grammar Refinement
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Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Parsing algorithms

- Top-down parsing
- Shift-reduce parsing (bottom-up)
- Chart-based algorithms



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## Parsing algorithms: Recursive descent parsing

- Top-down parsing
- Idea: try to apply rules starting from the top symbol
- If a rule can not be applied, then try the next rule
- Until all the sentence is covered or there are no more rules
- Problem: a lot of work can be repeated

## Recursive descent demo (NLTK)

- python (from the command line)
- >>> import nltk
- >>> nltk.app.rdparser()



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## Parsing algorithms: shift-reduce parsing

- Bottom-up parsing
- Idea: two main structures: stack (of analyzed elements) and input sequence
- The elements will be shifted onto the stack until a right-hand side of a rule is formed, and then it is replaced by the left-hand side of the rule
- Until the sentence has been analyzed or no rule can be applied
- Problem: the process can go to a dead end, even when there is one analysis (improvement: backtracking)

## Shift-reduce parsing demo (NLTK)

- python (from the command line)
- >>> import nltk
- >>> nltk.app.srparser()



 $Implementing\ Context-free\ Grammar\ Based\ Analyzers$ 



## Parsing algorithms: chart parsing

- Idea: store the obtained analysis in a table, so that no analysis will be repeated
- Many alternatives and algorithms: top-down, bottom-up and hybrid

## Chart parsing demo (NLTK)

- python (from the command line)
- >>> import nltk
- >>> nltk.app.chartparser()



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## The CKY algorithm

- Grammar in Chomsky Normal Form
- Chart parsing, bottom-up dynamic programming algorithm
- Main idea:
  - Start finding the smallest elements (length 1)
  - Then continue finding elements of length 2, 3, ...
  - Repeat until finding elements of length M (length of the sentence)
- Time: O(M<sup>3</sup> N), where M = length of the sentence; N = number of grammar rules





## CKY algorithm: Grammar in Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Grammar equivalence
- A single CF Language can be expressed by more than one CF Grammar
- Two grammars are weakly equivalent if they generate the same strings
- Two grammars are **strongly equivalent** if they generate the same strings via the same derivations
- For example:
  - $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  aSb | ab
  - $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  aSb | aabb | ab

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Grammar in Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- The right-hand side of every production includes either
  - $\bullet$  two nonterminals, e.g. A  $\rightarrow$  B C, or
  - ullet a single terminal symbol, e.g. A 
    ightarrow a

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



### Grammar Transformation (CNF)

- $\bullet$  Any CFG can be converted to a CNF grammar
- ullet For example:  $W \to X Y Z$
- Can be replaced by two productions:
  - $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{W} \quad \to \mathsf{X} \ \mathsf{W} \backslash \mathsf{X}$
  - $\bullet$  W\X  $\rightarrow$  Y Z |

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## Grammar Transformation (CNF)

- Any CFG can be converted to a CNF grammar
- For example:  $W \rightarrow X Y Z$
- Can be replaced by two productions:
  - $\bullet \ \mathsf{W} \longrightarrow \mathsf{X} \ \mathsf{W} \backslash \mathsf{X}$
  - $W \setminus X \rightarrow Y Z \mid$

# Exercise1: convert the following grammar to CNF:

 $\bullet \ \mathsf{S} \to \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{S} \ \mathsf{b} \ | \ \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{b}$ 

# Exercise2: convert the following grammar to CNF:

- ullet NP ightarrow Det ADJ N | NP CORD NP
- ullet Det o a | the
- ullet N ightarrow dog | cat
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{ADJ} \to \mathsf{big} \ | \ \mathsf{ADJ} \ \mathsf{big}$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{CORD} \to \mathsf{and}$

 ${\bf Implementing\ Context-free\ Grammar\ Based\ Analyzers}$ 

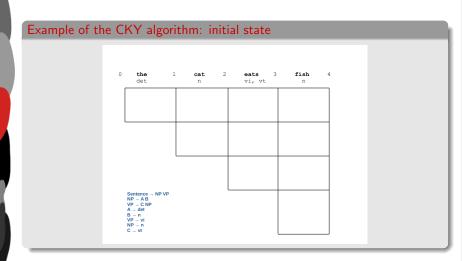


### Example. A grammar in CNF:

- $\bullet \ \, \mathsf{Sentence} \, \to \, \mathsf{NP} \, \, \mathsf{VP}$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{NP} \to \mathsf{A} \ \mathsf{B}$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{VP} \to \mathsf{C} \ \mathsf{NP}$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{A} \to \mathsf{det}$
- ullet B  $\to$  n
- $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  n
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{VP} \to \mathsf{vi}$
- $\bullet \ C \to vt$

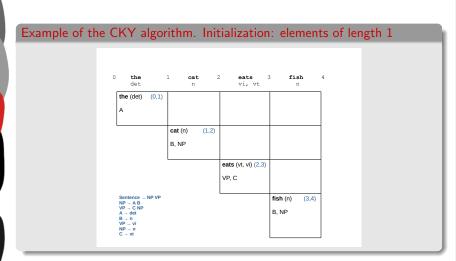






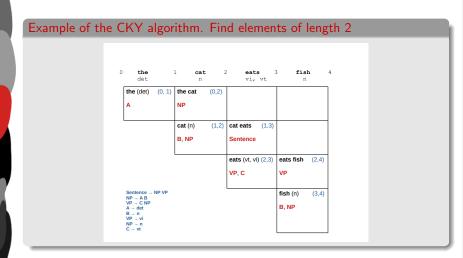




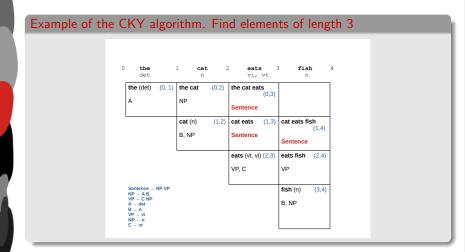






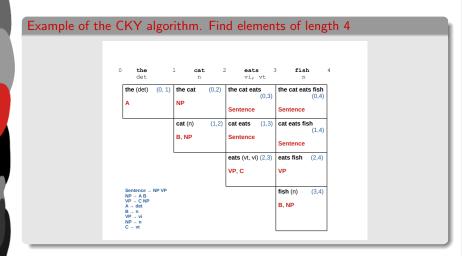










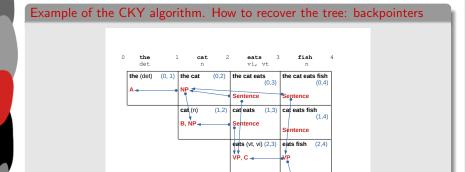


Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers

Sentence → NP VP

NP → AB VP → CNP





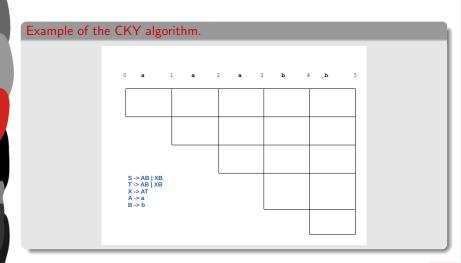
fish (n)

B, NP

(3.4)

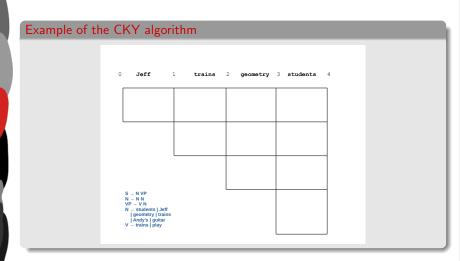






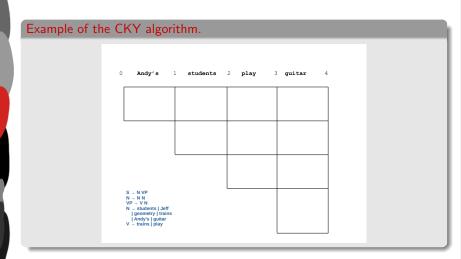














Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# The CKY algorithm (taken from Eisenstein 2019)

**Algorithm 13** The CKY algorithm for parsing a sequence  $w \in \Sigma^*$  in a context-free grammar  $G = (N, \Sigma, R, S)$ , with non-terminals N, production rules R, and start symbol S. The grammar is assumed to be in Chomsky normal form (section 9.2.1). The function PICKFROM(b|i,j,X|) selects an element of the set b[i,j,X|] arbitrarily. All values of t and b are initialized to  $\emptyset$ .

```
1: procedure CKY(w, G = (N, \Sigma, R, S))
        for m \in \{1 \dots M\} do
           t[m-1, m] \leftarrow \{X : (X \rightarrow w_m) \in R\}
        for \ell \in \{2, 3, \dots, M\} do
                                                                          > Iterate over constituent lengths
                                                                                > Iterate over left endpoints
            for m \in \{0, 1, ..., M - \ell\} do
                for k \in \{m+1, m+2, \dots, m+\ell-1\} do
                                                                                   > Iterate over split points
                    for (X \rightarrow Y Z) \in R do
                                                                                           ▶ Iterate over rules
                       if Y \in t[m,k] \wedge Z \in t[k,m+\ell] then
                            t[m, m + \ell] \leftarrow t[m, m + \ell] \cup X
                                                                               > Add non-terminal to table
                           b[m, m + \ell, X] \leftarrow b[m, m + \ell, X] \cup (Y, Z, k)
10:
                                                                                        ▷ Add back-pointers
11:
        if S \in t[0, M] then
           return TraceBack(S, 0, M, b)
12:
13:
        else
14:
            return Ø
   procedure TRACEBACK(X, i, j, b)
        if i = i + 1 then
16:
17:
            return X
18:
19:
           (Y, Z, k) \leftarrow PICKFROM(b[i, i, X])
           return X \to (TRACEBACK(Y, i, k, b), TRACEBACK(Z, k, j, b))
20:
```

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



### Implementation details for CKY. Every item in the chart must indicate:

- $\bullet$  X  $\rightarrow \alpha$  (i,j,k)
- X spans  $w_{i+1,j}$
- For binary rules, k marks the split point i < k < j
- For example, if  $\alpha = Y Z$ , then Y spans  $w_{i+1,k}$  and Z spans  $w_{k+1,j}$
- Another table (or the same one) can store the backpointers to Y and Z

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



### Example: CKY demo

http://sujeet.me/CYK/parser.html



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



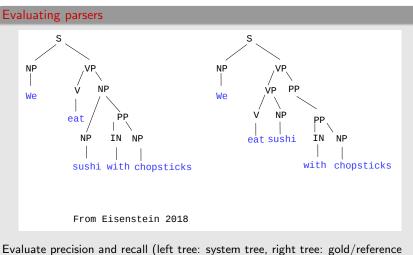
#### **Evaluating parsers:**

- Precision: the fraction of constituents in the system parse that match a constituent in the reference parse.
- Recall: the fraction of constituents in the reference parse that match a constituent in the system parse.



tree)





Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## Weighted Context-free Grammars (WCFG)

 With a real language grammar, typically the parser can obtain hundreds or thousands of syntactic trees for a sentence



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



## Weighted Context-free Grammars (WCFG)

- With a real language grammar, typically the parser can obtain hundreds or thousands of syntactic trees for a sentence
- How to select the best one?



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### Weighted Context-free Grammars (WCFG)

- With a real language grammar, typically the parser can obtain hundreds or thousands of syntactic trees for a sentence
- How to select the best one?
- Use weights calculated somehow (treebank, corpora, ...)



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



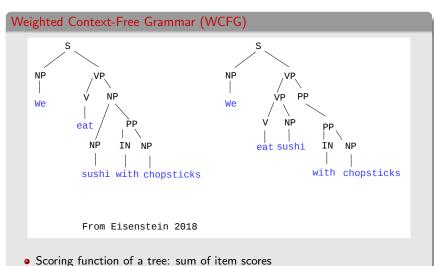
# Example of Weighted Context-Free Grammar (WCFG) Eisenstein 2019

		$\psi(\cdot)$	$\exp \psi(\cdot)$
		, , ,	
S	$\rightarrow$ NP VP	0	1
NP	$\to NP\; PP$	-1	$\frac{1}{2}$
	$\rightarrow$ $we$	-2	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
	$\rightarrow sushi$	-3	$\frac{1}{8}$
	$\rightarrow$ chopsticks	-3	$\frac{1}{8}$
PP	$\rightarrow \text{In NP}$	0	1
IN	$\rightarrow$ with	0	1
VP	$\rightarrow$ V NP	-1	$\frac{1}{2}$
	$\to VP\;PP$	-2	$\frac{1}{4}$
	$\to M D \; V$	-2	$\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{4}}$
V	$\rightarrow eat$	0	1

Table 10.2: An example weighted context-free grammar (WCFG). The weights are chosen so that  $\exp \psi(\cdot)$  sums to one over right-hand sides for each non-terminal; this is required by probabilistic context-free grammars, but not by WCFGs in general.









# Parsing with Weighted Context-Free Grammar (WCFG)

- For each item in the chart:  $X \to Y Z$  (i,j,k) we must keep the score of the best derivation of X spanning  $w_{i+1,i}$
- $\bullet$  We will compute each the score of each element X  $\to$  Y Z (i,j,k) as:
  - $\bullet$  The score of the production X  $\to$  Y Z
  - The score of the best derivation for  $Y: w_{i+1,k}$
  - The score of the best derivation for  $Z: w_{k+1,k}$
- The scores will be combined by addition.
- Score  $(\psi)$  of a tree formed by rules  $(\alpha_1 \to \beta_1, \dots \alpha_N \to \beta_N)$ :

$$\psi(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \psi(\alpha_i \to \beta_i)$$

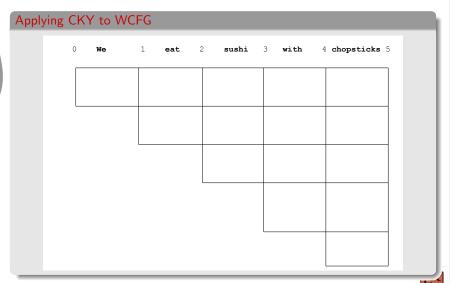


# The CKY algorithm with a WCFG (Eisenstein 2019)

**Algorithm 14**  $\overline{\text{CKY}}$  algorithm for parsing a string  $w \in \Sigma^*$  in a weighted context-free grammar  $(N, \Sigma, R, S)$ , where N is the set of non-terminals and R is the set of weighted productions. The grammar is assumed to be in Chomsky normal form (section 9.2.1). The function TRACEBACK is defined in Algorithm 13.

```
 \begin{aligned} & \text{procedure WCKY}(w,G=(N,\Sigma,R,S)) \\ & \text{for all } i,j,X \text{ do} & & > \text{Initialization} \\ & t[i,j,X] \leftarrow 0 \\ & b[i,j,X] \leftarrow \emptyset \\ & \text{for } m \in \{1,2,\dots,M\} \text{ do} \\ & \text{for } m \in \{1,2,\dots,M\} \text{ do} \\ & t[m,m+1,X] \leftarrow \psi(X \rightarrow w_m,(m,m+1,m)) \\ & \text{for } \ell \in \{2,3,\dots,M\} \text{ do} \\ & \text{for } m \in \{0,1,\dots,M-\ell\} \text{ do} \\ & \text{for } k \in \{m+1,m+2,\dots,m+\ell-1\} \text{ do} \\ & t[m,m+\ell,X] \leftarrow \max_{k,Y,Z} \psi(X \rightarrow Y|Z,(m,m+\ell,k)) + t[m,k,Y] + t[k,m+\ell,Z] \\ & b[m,m+\ell,X] \leftarrow \underset{k,Y,Z}{\operatorname{argmax}} \psi(X \rightarrow Y|Z,(m+\ell,k)) + t[m,k,Y] + t[k,m+\ell,Z] \\ & \text{return TRACEBACK}(S,0,M,b) \end{aligned}
```





Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG): Special case of WCFG

• The weights are probabilities



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG): Special case of WCFG

- The weights are probabilities
- Advantage: easier interpretation



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# Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG): Special case of WCFG

- The weights are probabilities
- Advantage: easier interpretation
- They must obey the constraints on probabilities (sum to 1, ...)



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## Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG): Special case of WCFG

- The weights are probabilities
- Advantage: easier interpretation
- They must obey the constraints on probabilities (sum to 1, ...)
- Parsing: apply multiplication of probabilities



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG)

•  $p(t) \geq 0, \ \forall \ t \in \text{the set of trees given by a grammar G}$ 



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### Probabilistic Context-free Grammars (PCFG)

- $p(t) \geq 0, \ \forall \ t \in \text{the set of trees given by a grammar } G$
- $\bullet \sum_{t \in T_G} p(t) = 1$

where  $T_G$  is the set of trees generated by the grammar

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### How do we calculate the best parse tree of a sentence s?

• Calculate: Optimal parse =  $argmax_t \in T_G(s)$  p(t)



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#### How do we calculate the best parse tree of a sentence s?

- Calculate: Optimal parse =  $argmax_t \in T_G(s)$  p(t)
- Probability of a tree formed by rules  $(\alpha_1 \to \beta_1, \dots \alpha_N \to \beta_N)$ :  $p(t) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(\alpha_i \to \beta_i)$
- Given a sentence, calculate all the possible trees
- The result is the tree with the maximum probability

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### Questions

• How do we calculate p(t)?



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#### Questions

- How do we calculate p(t)?
- Learning: how do we calculate the parameters from training examples?



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



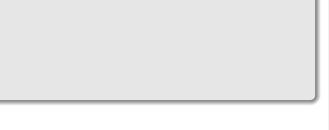
#### Questions

- How do we calculate p(t)?
- Learning: how do we calculate the parameters from training examples?
- Parsing: for a given sentence s, how do we find the most likely tree?



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers







Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



S	$\rightarrow$	NP	VP	1.0
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vi		0.3
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vt	NP	0.5
VP	$\rightarrow$	VP	PP	0.2



 $Implementing\ Context-free\ Grammar\ Based\ Analyzers$ 



S	$\rightarrow$	NP	VP	1.0
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vi		0.3
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vt	NP	0.5
VP	$\rightarrow$	VP	PP	0.2
NP	$\rightarrow$	DT	NN	8.0
NP	$\rightarrow$	NP	PP	0.2



 $Implementing\ Context-free\ Grammar\ Based\ Analyzers$ 



S	$\rightarrow$	NP	VP	1.0
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vi		0.3
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vt	NP	0.5
VP	$\rightarrow$	VP	PP	0.2
NP	$\rightarrow$	DT	NN	8.0
NP	$\rightarrow$	NP	PP	0.2
PP	$\rightarrow$	IN	NP	1.0

 $Implementing\ Context-free\ Grammar\ Based\ Analyzers$ 

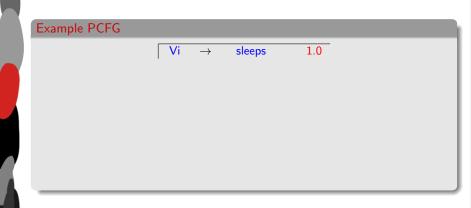


S	$\rightarrow$	NP	VP	1.0
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vi		0.3
VP	$\rightarrow$	Vt	NP	0.5
VP	$\rightarrow$	VP	PP	0.2
NP	$\rightarrow$	DT	NN	0.8
NP	$\rightarrow$	NP	PP	0.2
PP	$\rightarrow$	IN	NP	1.0



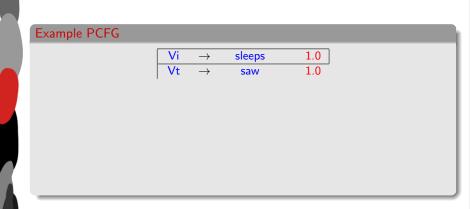
Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers





Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers







Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



$\begin{array}{ccc} NN & \to & man & 0.1 \\ NN & \to & woman & 0.1 \end{array}$	Vi	$\rightarrow$	sleeps	1.0
NN $\rightarrow$ woman 0.1	Vt	$\rightarrow$	saw	1.0
	NN	$\rightarrow$	man	0.1
$NN \rightarrow telescope 0.3$	NN	$\rightarrow$	woman	0.1
Title / telescope 0.5	NN	$\rightarrow$	telescope	0.3
$NN \rightarrow dog 0.5$	NN	$\rightarrow$	dog	0.5



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### Example PCFG Vi sleeps 1.0 $\rightarrow$ Vt 1.0 $\rightarrow$ saw NN 0.1 man NN 0.1 $\rightarrow$ woman NN telescope 0.3 $\rightarrow$ NN dog 0.5 $\rightarrow$ DT 1.0 the $\rightarrow$

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### Example PCFG Vi sleeps 1.0 $\rightarrow$ Vt 1.0 $\rightarrow$ saw NN 0.1 $\rightarrow$ man NN 0.1 $\rightarrow$ woman NN telescope 0.3 $\rightarrow$

dog

the

with

in

0.5

1.0

0.6

0.4

NN

DT

IN

IN

 $\rightarrow$ 

 $\rightarrow$ 

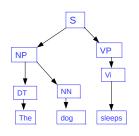
 $\rightarrow$ 

 $\rightarrow$ 



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers





# How do we calculate the probability of a tree?

$$\begin{split} p(t) &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{S} \to \mathsf{NP} \; \mathsf{VP}) \; \mathsf{x} \\ &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{NP} \to \mathsf{DT} \; \mathsf{NN}) \; \mathsf{x} \\ &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{DT} \to \mathsf{the}) \; \mathsf{x} \\ &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{NN} \to \mathsf{dog}) \; \mathsf{x} \\ &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{VP} \to \mathsf{Vi}) \; \mathsf{x} \\ &= \mathsf{q}(\mathsf{Vi} \to \mathsf{sleeps}) \end{split}$$



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



Learning: how do we calculate the parameters from training examples?

$$q_{ML}(\alpha \to \beta) = \frac{count(\alpha \to \beta)}{count(\alpha)}$$



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Learning: how do we calculate the parameters from training examples?

$$q_{ML}(\alpha \to \beta) = \frac{count(\alpha \to \beta)}{count(\alpha)}$$



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Learning: how do we calculate the parameters from training examples?

•

$$q_{\mathsf{ML}}(\alpha \to \beta) = \frac{\mathsf{count}(\alpha \to \beta)}{\mathsf{count}(\alpha)}$$

- Example:
  - ullet The rule VP o Vt NP is seen 105 times in a corpus
  - The non-terminal VP is seen 1000 times
  - Then

$$q(VP o Vt NP) = rac{105}{1000}$$

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# PCFG: generative model: assumption that parse trees are generated stochastically

• Define  $s_1 = S, i = 1$ 

Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# PCFG: generative model: assumption that parse trees are generated stochastically

- Define  $s_1 = S, i = 1$
- While s<sub>i</sub> contains at least one non-terminal:
  - Find the left-most non-terminal in  $s_i$ , call this X
  - Choose one of the rules of the form  $X \to \beta$  from the distribution  $q(X \to \beta)$
  - Create  $s_{i+1}$  by replacing the left-most X in  $s_i$  by  $\beta$
  - Set i = i + 1

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# Exercise I, giving a treebank:

- ( N ( A long) ( N ( A red) ( N hair) ) )
- ( N ( A nice) ( N tie) )
- ullet ( f N ( f A ( f A dark) ( f A red) ) ( f N hair) )

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#### Exercise I, giving a treebank:

- ( N ( A long) ( N ( A red) ( N hair) ) )
- ( N ( A nice) ( N tie) )
- ( N ( A ( A dark) ( A red) ) ( N hair) )

# Calculate its corresponding PCFG:



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



# Exercise I, giving a treebank:

- ( N ( A long) ( N ( A red) ( N hair) ) )
- ( N ( A nice) ( N tie) )
- ( N ( A ( A dark) ( A red) ) ( N hair) )

# Calculate its corresponding PCFG:

N	$\rightarrow$	Α	N
		hair	
		tie	
Α	$\rightarrow$	Α	Α
		long	
		red	
		dark	
		nice	

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Exercise I: Calculate the best tree for "nice red hair"



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#### Exercise II. Given a PCFG:

- S → NP NP [1.0]
  - NP → NP PP [0.2]
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  NP NP [0.2]
  - PP → P NP [1.0]
  - $VP \rightarrow V NP [0.7]$
  - VP → VP PP [0.3]
  - $P \rightarrow with [1.0]$
  - $V \rightarrow saw [1.0]$
  - $\bullet$  NP  $\rightarrow$  astronomers [0.1]
  - NP → ears [0.18]
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  saw [0.02]
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  stars [0.18]
  - NP → telescopes [0.1]
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  astronomer's [0.02]

Calculate the trees corresponding to the sentence astronomers saw stars with



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### Exercise III. Given a PCFG:

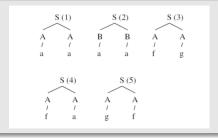
- S → V N [0.6]
- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  NP V [0.4]
- NP  $\rightarrow$  D N [1.0]
- $\bullet$  D  $\rightarrow$  a [0.2]
- D  $\rightarrow$  the [0.8]
- $V \rightarrow support [0.6]$
- V → hate [0.4]
- $\bullet$  N  $\rightarrow$  president [1.0]

Calculate all the sentences with p(x) > 0, each with its corresponding probability.





# Exercise IV. Given the following trees:



The first tree appeared 500 times in a corpus, the second one 250 times, the third one 333 times, the fourth one 789 times and the fifth one 12 times. Calculate the probabilities corresponding to the following rules:

- $\bullet$  A  $\rightarrow$  f
- $\bullet$  A  $\rightarrow$  g
- ullet B o a
- $\bullet$  S  $\rightarrow$  B B



Implementing Context-free Grammar Based Analyzers



#### NLTK: Probabilistic Context-free Grammars

- Notebook in egela (PCFG)
- Apply the grammars



Grammar Refinement



#### Some weaknesses of Probabilistic Context-free Grammars

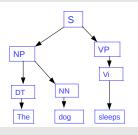
- Lack of sensitivity to lexical information
- Lack of sensitivity to structural preferences



**Grammar Refinement** 



# Lack of sensitivity to lexical information



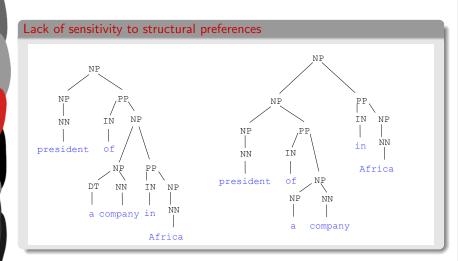
The word "dog" is only dependent on its tag  $\emph{NN}$  and conditionally independent of the entire tree

Another example: PPs with into as the preposition are almost nine times more likely to attach to a VP rather than an NP



Grammar Refinement

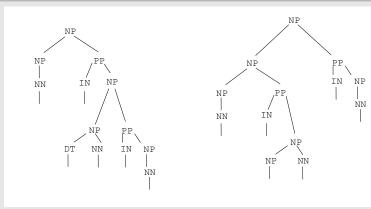




Grammar Refinement



# Lack of sensitivity to structural preferences



Both trees use the same rules and have equal probability But the first structure is two times more frequent



# Context-Free Parsing Grammar Refinement



#### Adding more context: parent annotation:

Example: PP attachment to NP:

More likely in object position: They amused the students from Georgia than in

The students from Georgia were amused

•  $Pr(NP \rightarrow NP PP) = 11\%$ 

# Context-Free Parsing Grammar Refinement



#### Adding more context: parent annotation:

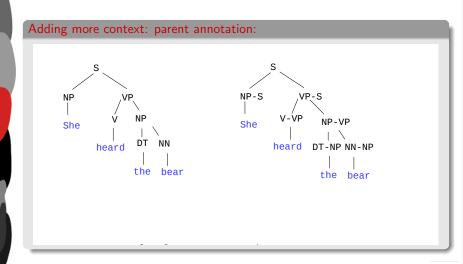
Example: PP attachment to NP:

More likely in object position: They amused the students from Georgia than in The students from Georgia were amused

- $Pr(NP \rightarrow NP PP) = 11\%$
- $\bullet \ \mathsf{Pr}(\mathsf{NP} \ \mathsf{under} \ \mathsf{S} \to \mathsf{NP} \ \mathsf{PP}) = 9\%$
- Pr(NP under VP  $\rightarrow$  NP PP) = 23%.y

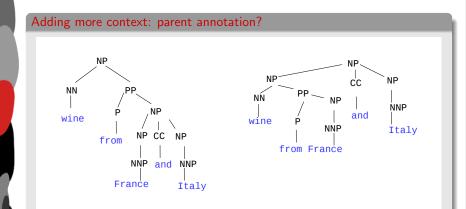
Grammar Refinement





# Context-Free Parsing Grammar Refinement

HAP

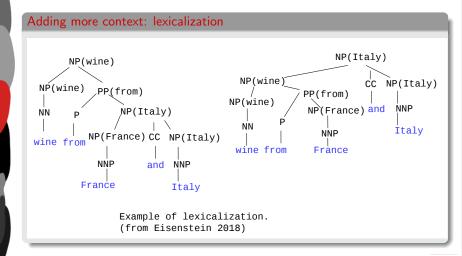




Example of ambiguity. (from Eisenstein 2018)

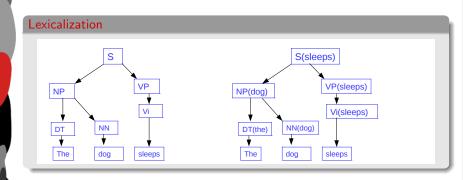
**Grammar Refinement** 





Grammar Refinement





Grammar Refinement



#### Lexicalization

ullet Rules will be of the form S(sleeps) o NP(dog) VP(sleeps)



Grammar Refinement



#### Lexicalization

- $\bullet \ \, \text{Rules will be of the form S(sleeps)} \to NP(\text{dog}) \ VP(\text{sleeps})$
- Many rules!



Grammar Refinement



## Lexicalization

- ullet Rules will be of the form S(sleeps) o NP(dog) VP(sleeps)
- Many rules!
- Smoothing is necessary



Grammar Refinement



### Performance od PCFGs

# A Comparison of PCFGs

Parser	F <sub>1</sub> Error
Plain PCFG (Charniak, 1996)	28.0%
Parent annotations (Johnson, 1999)	20.4%
Lexicalized PCFGs (Collins, 1999)	11.8%
Latent variables, EM (Petrov & Klein 2007)	9.9%

Grammar Refinement



# Beyond Context-free Parsing

ullet Reranking



Grammar Refinement



# Beyond Context-free Parsing

- Reranking
  - A context-free parser generates a k-best list of candidates



**Grammar Refinement** 



### Beyond Context-free Parsing

- Reranking
  - A context-free parser generates a k-best list of candidates
  - The reranker selects the best parse
  - Arbitrary non-local features can be incorporated (e.g. NP(France) CC NP(Italy))
  - Can obtain substantial improvements in accuracy
- Transition-based parsing (shift-reduce parsing)



Grammar Refinement



## Beyond Context-free Parsing

- Reranking
  - A context-free parser generates a k-best list of candidates
  - The reranker selects the best parse
  - Arbitrary non-local features can be incorporated (e.g. NP(France) CC NP(Italy))
  - Can obtain substantial improvements in accuracy
- Transition-based parsing (shift-reduce parsing)
  - Two structures: stack and input
  - Two actions: shift and reduce
  - Very efficient
  - Error propagation when taking a bad decision
  - Example: analyze They eat sushi



## Index



- Context-free Grammars
- Context-Free Parsing
- Unification-based Grammars
- Dependency Parsing



- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house





- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house
- How to examine agreement?
  - ullet VP ightarrow NP\_3S VP\_3S he sleeps





- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house
- How to examine agreement?
  - $VP \rightarrow NP_3S$   $VP_3S$
  - he sleeps •  $VP \rightarrow NP_3P$   $VP_3P$ they sleep



## Problems with context-free grammars

- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house
- How to examine agreement?
  - $\bullet$  VP  $\rightarrow$  NP\_3S VP\_3S
  - ullet VP ightarrow NP\_3P VP\_3P they sleep
  - ullet NP ightarrow Det\_3P N\_3P these houses
    - INI -7 Det\_Si IN\_Si these nous
  - . . .



he sleeps



- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house
- How to examine agreement?
  - $VP \rightarrow NP_3S$   $VP_3S$
  - he sleeps •  $VP \rightarrow NP_3P$   $VP_3P$ they sleep
  - NP  $\rightarrow$  Det\_3P N\_3P these houses
  - . . . .
- Many rules!





- Agreement:
  - The man sleep
  - These house
- How to examine agreement?
  - ullet VP ightarrow NP\_3S VP\_3S he sleeps
    - $VP \rightarrow NP_3P$   $VP_3P$  they sleep
    - NP  $\rightarrow$  Det\_3P N\_3P these houses
    - ...
- Many rules!
- Feature-structures: each syntactic constituent will have features





## Unification-based Grammars are useful for treating several phenomena

- Agreement:
- Case control
- Subcategorization
- Long-distance dependencies
- Control
- Coordination



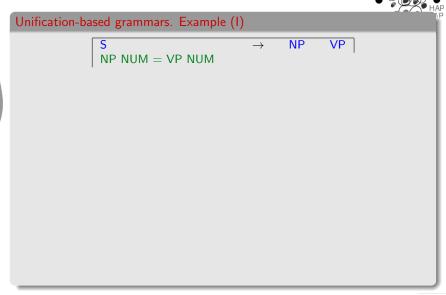


#### Unification-based Grammars. Different formalisms

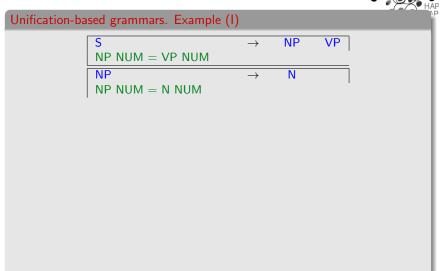
- Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG)
   Treebanks for several languages and parser demo: http://clarino.uib.no/iness/xle-web
- Head-Driven Phrase-Structure Grammar (HPSG)
   English demo: http://erg.delph-in.net/logon
- •





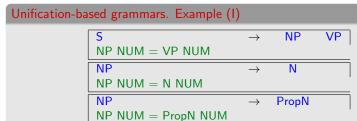




















# Unification-based grammars. Example (I)

VP S NP NP NUM = VP NUMNP N NP NUM = N NUMNP PropN NP NUM = PropN NUMNP N Det Det NUM = N NUMNP NUM = N NUMVP IV  $\rightarrow$ VP TENSE = IV TENSE VP NUM = IV NUM

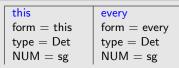




Unification-based	grammars.	Example	(1)
	0		· /

S	$\rightarrow$	NP	VP
NP NUM = VP NUM			'
NP	$\rightarrow$	N	
NP NUM = N NUM			
NP	$\rightarrow$	PropN	
NP NUM = PropN NUM			
NP	$\rightarrow$	Det	N
$Det\;NUM=N\;NUM$			·
NP NUM = N NUM			
VP	$\rightarrow$	IV	
VP TENSE = IV TENSE			
VP NUM = IV NUM			
VP	$\rightarrow$	TV	NP
VP TENSE = TV TENSE			'
VP NUM = TV NUM			





this	every
form = this	form = every
type = Det	type = Det
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
these	all
form = these	form = all
type = Det	type = Det

NUM = pI

NUM = pI

this	every
form = this	form = every
type = Det	type = Det
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
these	all
form = these	form = all
type = Det	type = Det
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
Kim	Jody
form = Kim	form = some
type = PropN	type = PropN





this	every
form = this	form = every
type = Det	type = Det
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
these	all
form = these	form = all
type = Det	type = Det
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
Kim	Jody
form = Kim	form = some
type = PropN	type = PropN
dog	girl
form = dog	form = girl
type = N	type = N
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
car	child
form = car	form = child
type = N	type = N
NUM = sg	NUM = sg



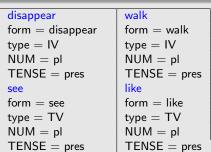
dogs	girls
form = dogs	form = girls
type = N	type = N
NUM = pl	NUM = pI
cars	children
form = cars	form = children
type = N	type = N
NUM = pI	NUM = pI





dogs	girls
form = dogs	form = girls
type = N	type = N
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
cars	children
form = cars	form = children
type = N	type = N
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
disappears	walks
form = disappears	form = walks
type = IV	type = IV
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
TENSE = pres	TENSE = pres
sees	likes
form = sees	form = likes
type = TV	type = TV
NUM = sg	NUM = sg
TENSE = pres	TENSE = pres







disappear	walk
form = disappear	form = walk
type = IV	type = IV
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
TENSE = pres	TENSE = pres
see	like
form = see	form = like
type = TV	type = TV
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
TENSE = pres	TENSE = pres
disappeared	walked
form = disappeared	form = walked
type = IV	type = IV
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
TENSE = past	TENSE = past
saw	liked
form = saw	form = liked
type = TV	type = TV
NUM = pI	NUM = pI
TENSE = past	TENSE = past











Erasmus Mundus

### Analysis: Kim likes children

```
[ *type* = 'S' ]
 [ *type* = 'NP' ]
                            [ *type* = 'VP' ]
 [NUM = 'sg']
                            [NUM = 'sg']
                            [TENSE = 'pres']
[ *type* = 'PropN' ]
[NUM = 'sg' ] [*type* = 'TV' ] [*type* = 'NP']
                   [NUM = 'sg' ] [NUM = 'pl']
       Kim
                   [TENSE = 'pres']
                                      [ *type* = 'N' ]
                         likes
                                      [NUM = 'pl']
                                          children
```





# Analysis: The dog disappears



# Analysis: The dog disappears

```
[ *type* = 'S' ]
        [ *type* = 'NP' ]
                                 [ *type* = 'VP' ]
        [ NUM
                = 'sg' ]
                                 [NUM = 'sg']
                                 [TENSE = 'pres']
[*type* = 'Det'] [*type* = 'N']
                 [NUM = 'sg'] [*type* = 'IV']
     the
                                 [NUM = 'sg']
                      dog
                                 [TENSE = 'pres']
                                     disappears
```





# NLTK: Unification-based Grammars

- Notebook in egela
- Apply the grammars



## Index



- Context-free Grammars
- 2 Context-Free Parsing
- 3 Unification-based Grammars
- Dependency Parsing

# Dependency Parsing





