

Context-Free Grammars and CKY Algorithm

CS114B Lab 10

Kenneth Lai

April 16, 2021

Formal Language Theory

- ▶ A language is a set of strings

Formal Language Theory

- ▶ A language is a set of strings
- ▶ How to define a language?

Formal Language Theory

- ▶ A string is in a language iff:

Formal Language Theory

- ▶ A string is in a language iff:
 - ▶ It is recognized by a **machine** for that language

Formal Language Theory

- ▶ A string is in a language iff:
 - ▶ It is recognized by a **machine** for that language
 - ▶ It is generated by a **grammar** for that language

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Classification of languages by the complexity of their machines/grammars

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Classification of languages by the complexity of their machines/grammars
 - ▶ How hard is it to decide membership in a language?

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Classification of languages by the complexity of their machines/grammars
 - ▶ How hard is it to decide membership in a language?
 - ▶ How much structure does the language define for its strings?

The Chomsky Hierarchy

Grammar	Language	Machine
Unrestricted (Type 0)	Recursively enumerable	Turing machine
Context-sensitive (Type 1)	Context-sensitive	Linear-bounded automaton
Context-free (Type 2)	Context-free	Pushdown automaton
Regular (Type 3)	Regular	Finite-state automaton

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Regular languages: useful for describing linear structure

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Regular languages: useful for describing linear structure
 - ▶ Example: implementing an HMM using FSTs

The Chomsky Hierarchy

- ▶ Regular languages: useful for describing linear structure
 - ▶ Example: implementing an HMM using FSTs
- ▶ Context-free languages: useful for describing hierarchical structure

Phrase structure grammars = context-free grammars

- $G = (T, N, S, R)$
 - T is set of terminals
 - N is set of nonterminals
 - For NLP, we usually distinguish out a set $P \subset N$ of preterminals, which always rewrite as terminals
 - S is the start symbol (one of the nonterminals)
 - R is rules/productions of the form $X \rightarrow \gamma$, where X is a nonterminal and γ is a sequence of terminals and nonterminals (possibly an empty sequence)
- A grammar G generates a language L .

Phrase structure grammars = context-free grammars

- ▶ $S \rightarrow aSb$
- ▶ $S \rightarrow \epsilon$

Phrase structure grammars = context-free grammars

Grammar	Lexicon
$S \rightarrow NP VP$	$Det \rightarrow that \mid this \mid the \mid a$
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	$Noun \rightarrow book \mid flight \mid meal \mid money$
$S \rightarrow VP$	$Verb \rightarrow book \mid include \mid prefer$
$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$	$Pronoun \rightarrow I \mid she \mid me$
$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$	$Proper-Noun \rightarrow Houston \mid NWA$
$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$	$Aux \rightarrow does$
$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$	$Preposition \rightarrow from \mid to \mid on \mid near \mid through$
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$	
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$	
$VP \rightarrow Verb$	
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$	
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$	
$VP \rightarrow Verb PP$	
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	
$PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$	

Figure 13.1 The \mathcal{L}_1 miniature English grammar and lexicon.

Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Every rule is of the form

Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Every rule is of the form
 - ▶ $S \rightarrow \epsilon$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow BC$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow a$

Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Every rule is of the form
 - ▶ $S \rightarrow \epsilon$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow BC$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow a$
- ▶ Where S is the start symbol, A is a nonterminal, B and C are nonterminals (except for S), and a is a terminal

Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Every rule is of the form
 - ▶ $S \rightarrow \epsilon$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow BC$
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow a$
- ▶ Where S is the start symbol, A is a nonterminal, B and C are nonterminals (except for S), and a is a terminal
- ▶ Every CFG is equivalent to a CFG in Chomsky normal form

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol
- ▶ Remove ϵ -rules

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol
- ▶ Remove ϵ -rules
- ▶ Remove unary rules

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol
- ▶ Remove ϵ -rules
- ▶ Remove unary rules
- ▶ Break up rules with more than 3 things on the right hand side

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol
- ▶ Remove ϵ -rules
- ▶ Remove unary rules
- ▶ Break up rules with more than 3 things on the right hand side
- ▶ Replace terminals with nonterminals and add new rules as needed

Converting a CFG into Chomsky Normal Form

- ▶ Add a new start symbol
- ▶ Remove ϵ -rules
- ▶ Remove unary rules
- ▶ Break up rules with more than 3 things on the right hand side
- ▶ Replace terminals with nonterminals and add new rules as needed
 - ▶ We can modify CKY algorithm to handle unary rules

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$
- ▶ The probability of a parse T is the product of the probabilities of all of the n rules used to generate T

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$
- ▶ The probability of a parse T is the product of the probabilities of all of the n rules used to generate T
 - ▶
$$P(T) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(\text{RHS}_i|\text{LHS}_i)$$

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$
- ▶ The probability of a parse T is the product of the probabilities of all of the n rules used to generate T
 - ▶
$$P(T) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(\text{RHS}_i|\text{LHS}_i)$$
- ▶ In other words, $P(T)$ decomposes into a product of **local** parts

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$
- ▶ The probability of a parse T is the product of the probabilities of all of the n rules used to generate T
 - ▶
$$P(T) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(\text{RHS}_i|\text{LHS}_i)$$
- ▶ In other words, $P(T)$ decomposes into a product of **local** parts
- ▶ This allows us to use dynamic programming

Probabilistic CFGs

- ▶ Augment each rule in R with a conditional probability
 - ▶ $P(\text{LHS} \rightarrow \text{RHS}) = P(\text{RHS}|\text{LHS})$
- ▶ The probability of a parse T is the product of the probabilities of all of the n rules used to generate T
 - ▶
$$P(T) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(\text{RHS}_i|\text{LHS}_i)$$
- ▶ In other words, $P(T)$ decomposes into a product of **local** parts
- ▶ This allows us to use dynamic programming
- ▶ Does this look familiar?

Probabilistic CFGs

Grammar		Lexicon	
$S \rightarrow NP VP$	[.80]	$Det \rightarrow that$ [.10] a [.30] the [.60]	
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	[.15]	$Noun \rightarrow book$ [.10] $trip$ [.30]	
$S \rightarrow VP$	[.05]	$meal$ [.05] $money$ [.05]	
$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$	[.35]	$flight$ [.40] $dinner$ [.10]	
$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$	[.30]	$Verb \rightarrow book$ [.30] $include$ [.30]	
$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$	[.20]	$prefer$ [.40]	
$NP \rightarrow Nominal$	[.15]	$Pronoun \rightarrow I$ [.40] she [.05]	
$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$	[.75]	me [.15] you [.40]	
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$	[.20]	$Proper-Noun \rightarrow Houston$ [.60]	
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$	[.05]	NWA [.40]	
$VP \rightarrow Verb$	[.35]	$Aux \rightarrow does$ [.60] can [.40]	
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$	[.20]	$Preposition \rightarrow from$ [.30] to [.30]	
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$	[.10]	on [.20] $near$ [.15]	
$VP \rightarrow Verb PP$	[.15]	$through$ [.05]	
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP NP$	[.05]		
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	[.15]		
$PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$	[1.0]		

Figure C.1 A PCFG that is a probabilistic augmentation of the \mathcal{L}_1 miniature English CFG grammar and lexicon of Fig. ?? . These probabilities were made up for pedagogical purposes and are not based on a corpus (any real corpus would have many more rules, so the true probabilities of each rule would be much smaller).

CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:

CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case

CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case
 - ▶ Fill in *table* cells $[i, i + 1]$ with all possible nonterminals that can generate that word

CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case
 - ▶ Fill in *table* cells $[i, i + 1]$ with all possible nonterminals that can generate that word
 - ▶ Recursive case

CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case
 - ▶ Fill in *table* cells $[i, i + 1]$ with all possible nonterminals that can generate that word
 - ▶ Recursive case
 - ▶ In *table*, if $A \rightarrow BC$ and B is in cell $[i, j]$ and C is in cell $[j, k]$, fill in cell $[i, k]$ with A

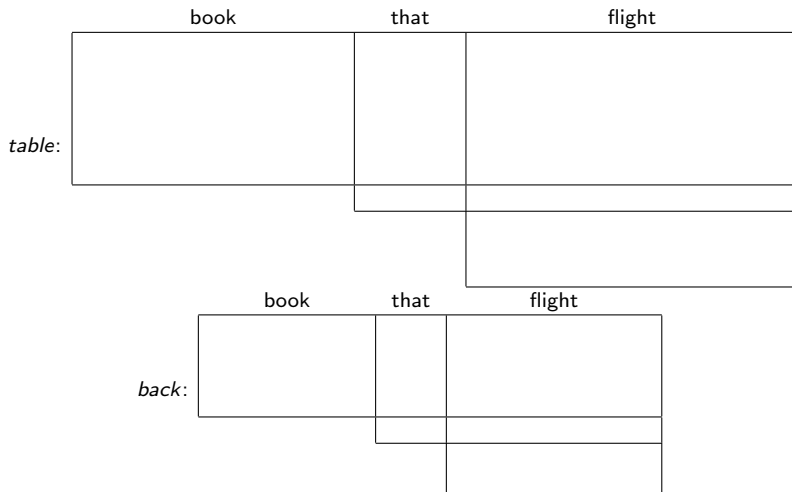
CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case
 - ▶ Fill in *table* cells $[i, i + 1]$ with all possible nonterminals that can generate that word
 - ▶ Recursive case
 - ▶ In *table*, if $A \rightarrow BC$ and B is in cell $[i, j]$ and C is in cell $[j, k]$, fill in cell $[i, k]$ with A
 - ▶ In *back*, fill in cell $[i, k]$ with backpointers (e.g. $A: j, B, C$)

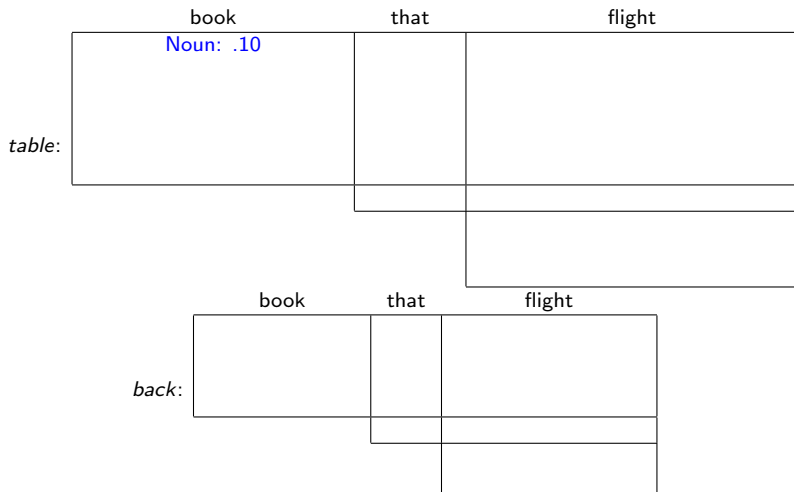
Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Given tables *table* and *back*:
 - ▶ Base case
 - ▶ Fill in *table* cells $[i, i + 1]$ with all possible nonterminals that can generate that word, and their probabilities
 - ▶ Recursive case
 - ▶ In *table*, if $A \rightarrow BC$ and B is in cell $[i, j]$ and C is in cell $[j, k]$, and $table[i, j, A] < P(A \rightarrow BC) \times table[i, j, B] \times table[j, k, C]$, fill in cell $[i, k]$ with A :
 $P(A \rightarrow BC) \times table[i, j, B] \times table[j, k, C]$
 - ▶ In *back*, fill in cell $[i, k]$ with backpointers (e.g. $A: j, B, C$)

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

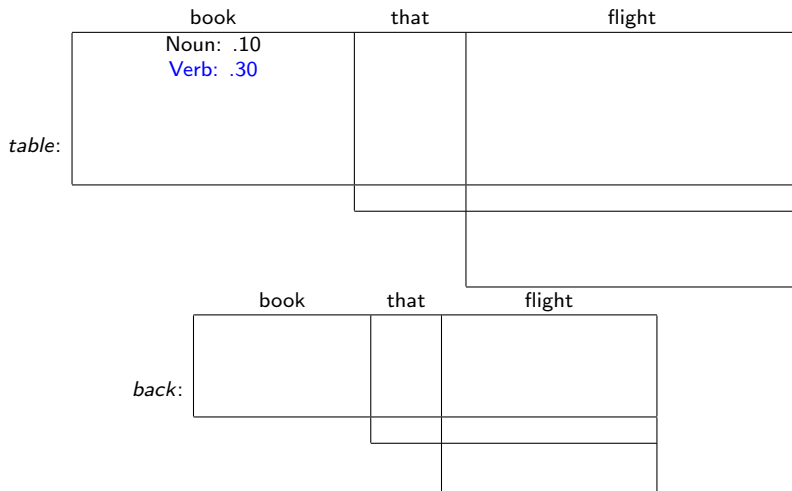


Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



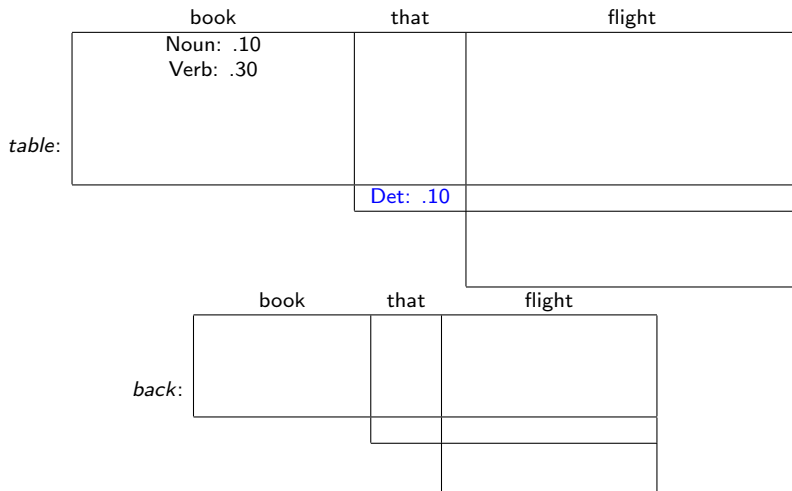
► Noun → book [.10]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



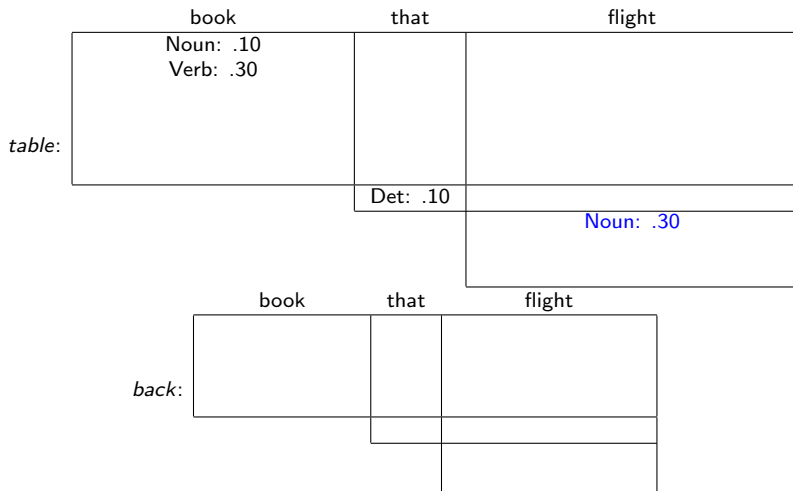
► Verb → book [.30]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



► Det → that [.10]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



► Noun → flight [.30]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Unary rules

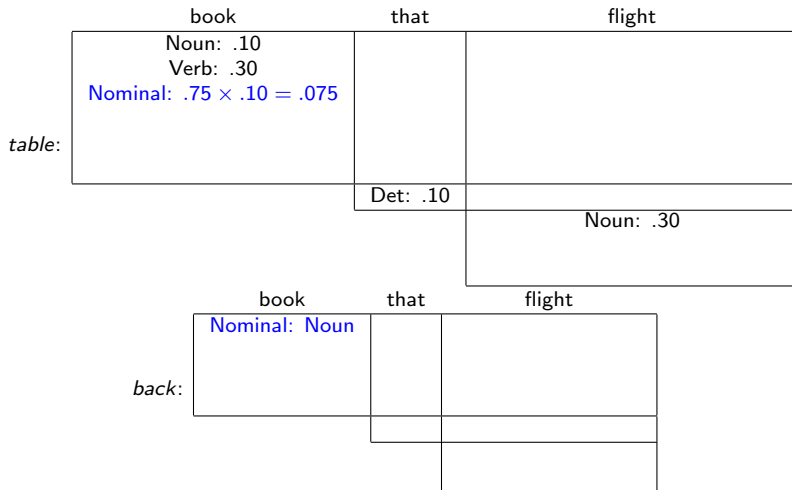
Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Unary rules
 - ▶ In *table*, if $A \rightarrow B$ and B is in cell $[i, i + 1]$, fill in cell $[i, i + 1]$ with A : $P(A \rightarrow B) \times \text{table}[i, i + 1, B]$

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

- ▶ Unary rules
 - ▶ In *table*, if $A \rightarrow B$ and B is in cell $[i, i + 1]$, fill in cell $[i, i + 1]$ with A : $P(A \rightarrow B) \times \text{table}[i, i + 1, B]$
 - ▶ In *back*, fill in cell $[i, i + 1]$ with backpointers (e.g. $A: B$)

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



► Nominal \rightarrow Noun [.75]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$		
		Det: .10	
			Noun: .30
	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal		

- NP → Nominal [.15]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$		
		Det: .10	
			Noun: .30
	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb		

► VP → Verb [.35]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		
		Det: .10	
			Noun: .30
	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		

► $S \rightarrow VP [.05]$

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		
		Det: .10	
			Noun: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .30 = .225$
	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		
			Nominal: Noun

- Nominal \rightarrow Noun [.75]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		
		Det: .10	
			Noun: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .30 = .225$ NP: $.15 \times .225 = .03375$
	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

► NP → Nominal [.15]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
<i>table:</i>	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		
		Det: .10	NP: $.20 \times .10 \times .225 = .0045$
			Noun: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .30 = .225$ NP: $.15 \times .225 = .03375$
	book	that	flight
<i>back:</i>	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

► NP → Det Nominal [.20]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

<i>table:</i>	book	that	flight
	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		VP: $.20 \times .30 \times .0045 = .00027$
		Det: .10	NP: $.20 \times .10 \times .225 = .0045$
			Noun: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .30 = .225$ NP: $.15 \times .225 = .03375$
<i>back:</i>	book	that	flight
	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

► VP → Verb NP [.20]

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

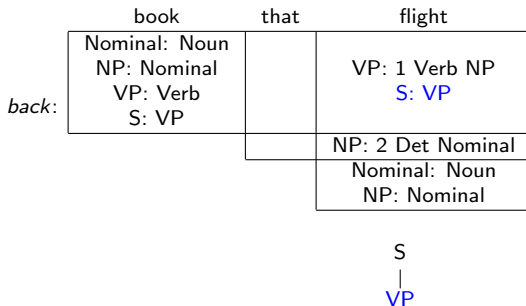
	book	that	flight
table:	Noun: .10 Verb: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .10 = .075$ NP: $.15 \times .075 = .01125$ VP: $.35 \times .30 = .105$ S: $.05 \times .105 = .00525$		VP: $.20 \times .30 \times .0045 = .00027$ S: $.05 \times .00027 = .0000135$
		Det: .10	NP: $.20 \times .10 \times .225 = .0045$ Noun: .30 Nominal: $.75 \times .30 = .225$ NP: $.15 \times .225 = .03375$
back:	book	that	flight
	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

► $S \rightarrow VP [.05]$

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

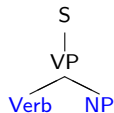
	book	that	flight
<i>back:</i>	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

Probabilistic CKY Algorithm



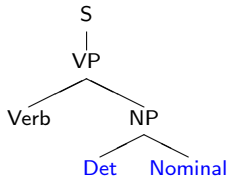
Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
<i>back:</i>	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal



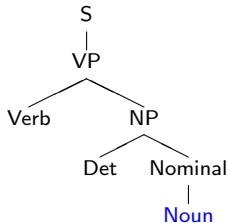
Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
<i>back:</i>	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal



Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal



Probabilistic CKY Algorithm

	book	that	flight
back:	Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal VP: Verb S: VP		VP: 1 Verb NP S: VP
			NP: 2 Det Nominal
			Nominal: Noun NP: Nominal

