

PcPatrEditor User Documentation

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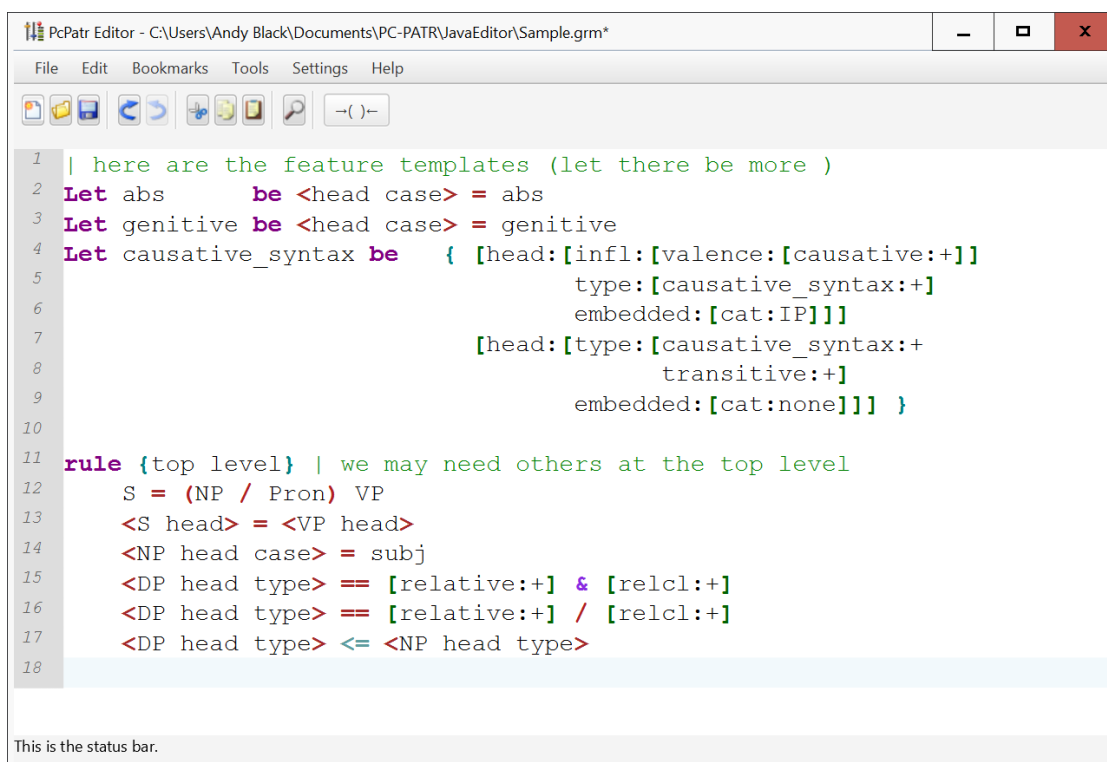
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1 Introduction

PcPatrEditor is a tool to edit **PcPatr** grammar files. It is designed to help you see the grammar file items more easily. Eventually, we hope to make it even show things like the feature system implied within the grammar file

PcPatrEditor looks like what is shown in (1).

(1)



The file name of the grammar file is shown in the upper left part of the window. You edit the grammar in the main pane.

You can drag the edges of the window to make it larger.

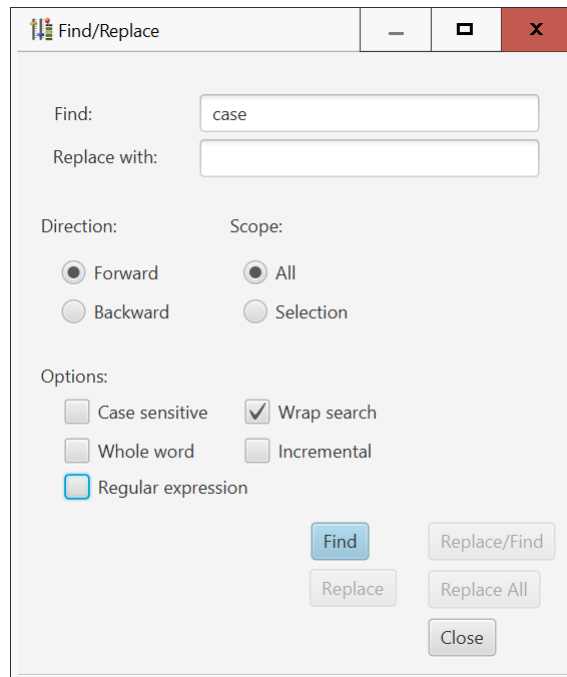
2 Edit menu items

The **Edit** menu item has the standard set of options such as copy, cut and paste. It also allows you to undo and redo changes. There are two other items as described below.

2.1 Find/Replace

Using the **Find/Replace** item brings up the Find/Replace dialog. It looks something like what is in example (2).

(2)



It is fairly straightforward. The “Incremental” option can be used to have PcPatrEditor search for the text in the “Find:” box as you type.

Some things to note about how this dialog box works:

1. Using the “Selection” option will search within whatever text you currently have selected. It will only find any item once (because it loses the selection when it selects what it found).
2. The “Whole word” option will fail if you try and find any combination of letters (and numbers) with something else (e.g., a minus sign).
3. If the item found is off to the right of the window (i.e., you need to scroll to the right in order to see it), that found item will not be visible (but will be selected). It may work better if you set the PcPatrEditor window to be full screen.
4. The “Replace All” process does not work when the “Selection” option is set.

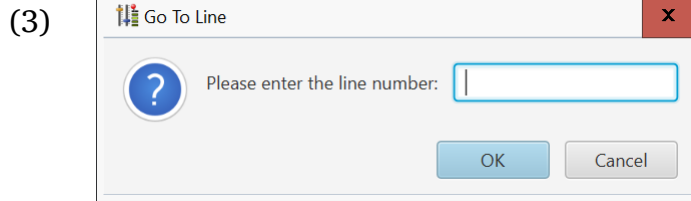
For information on how to use a regular expression to find (and replace), see <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html>. If PcPatrEditor finds an error in the syntax of a regular expression in either the find or replace fields, an error message in red will be shown. Hopefully, it will give you enough information to know how to fix the problem.

2.2 Find next

You can use the **Find next** item to repeat whatever the last find/replace operation was. There will be an audible beep if cannot go to the next item.

2.3 Go to line

Using the **Go to line** item brings up a chooser that looks like what is in example (3).



Enter the line number and click the “OK” button. That line number will be shown.

2.4 Comments

When you select a portion of text, you can insert (or remove) the comment character at the beginning of each line in the selected portion. If the selected text does not start at the beginning of a line, a comment character will still be inserted (or removed) at the beginning of that text material.

To insert comments in selected material, use either **Edit / Insert comment** or type **Ctrl-Shift-C**. To remove comments in selected material, use either **Edit / Remove comment** or type **Ctrl-Shift-R**.

3 Bookmarks menu items

PcPatrEditor has an ability for you to mark certain lines with bookmarks. You can then move quickly from one bookmark to another. PcPatrEditor will remember your bookmarks for each grammar file.¹

To toggle a bookmark, use either **Bookmarks / Toggle bookmark** or type **Ctrl-F2**. To go to the next bookmark, use either **Bookmarks / Next bookmark** or type **F2**. To go to the previous bookmark, use either **Bookmarks / Previous bookmark** or type **Alt-F2**. When moving from one bookmark to another, if there are no more bookmarks in that direction, PcPatrEditor will automatically wrap to the next appropriate bookmark.

If you wish to remove or clear all bookmarks, use **Bookmarks / Clear all bookmarks**.

When a line has a bookmark set for it, there will be a tag-like icon before the line number. It might look like line 9 in example (4).

¹This is done on a machine-by-machine basis. That is, if you use PcPatrEditor on one computer and then copy a grammar file to another computer, the second computer will not know where the bookmarks are. You will have to create the bookmarks again. (On Windows, the bookmarks are stored in C:\ProgramData\SIL\PcPatrEditor\bookmarks.xml; on Linux and Mac OS X, they are in ~/.pcpatreditor/bookmarks.xml.)

(4)

```

8 |Let benefactor      be <head case>
9 |Let direct          be <head case>
10||Let object         be <head case>

```

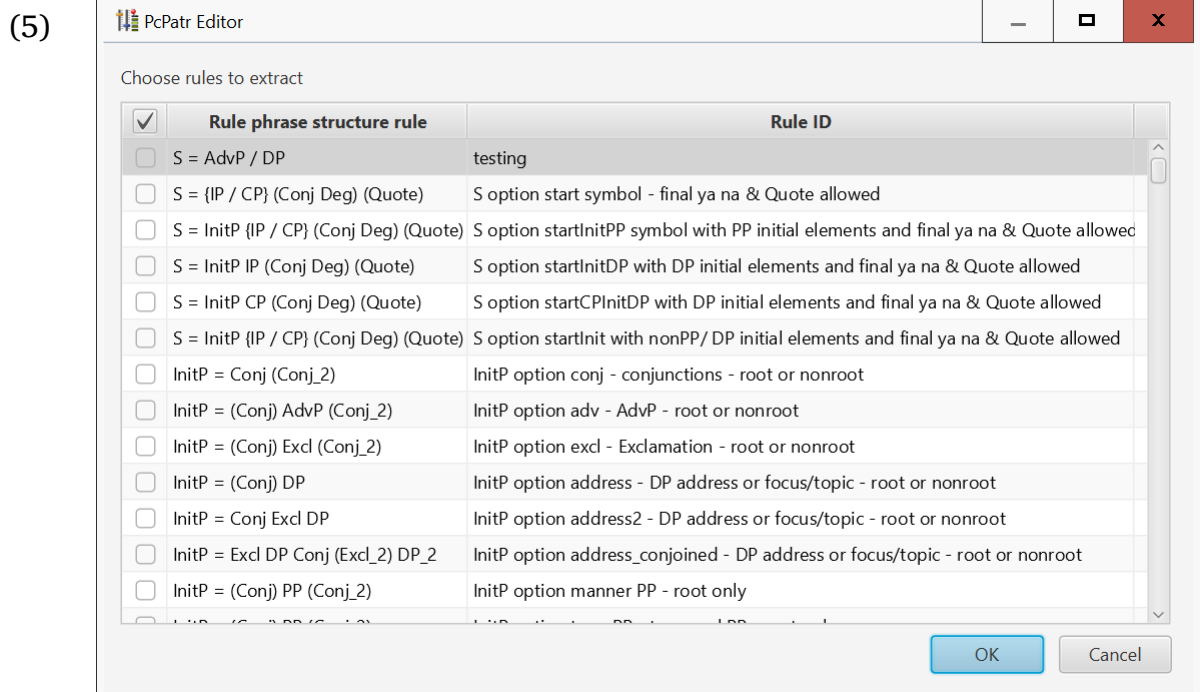
4 Tools menu item

PcPatrEditor currently has one tool option.

4.1 Export selected rules for debugging

This tool option is available under the **Tools** menu item as **Export selected rules for debugging**. This is useful when you are trying to debug a **PcPatr** grammar file and want to create a separate grammar file that contains only selected rules.

When you invoke this option, it may take a while but **PcPatrEditor** will eventually bring up a dialog box containing a list of the rules. In one grammar file, it looked like what is in example (5).



For each rule, it has a check box, the phrase structure rule and the rule identifier. You select which rules you want to export by clicking on them. (You can also use the up and down arrows and the space bar to select/deselect rules).

When you have chosen the rules you want to use, click on the “OK” button. **PcPatrEditor** will ask you to save the file, giving it a new name. This new file will contain all of the templates but just the selected rules.

See section 6.4 for what the options are for what happens next after saving the file containing the selected rules.

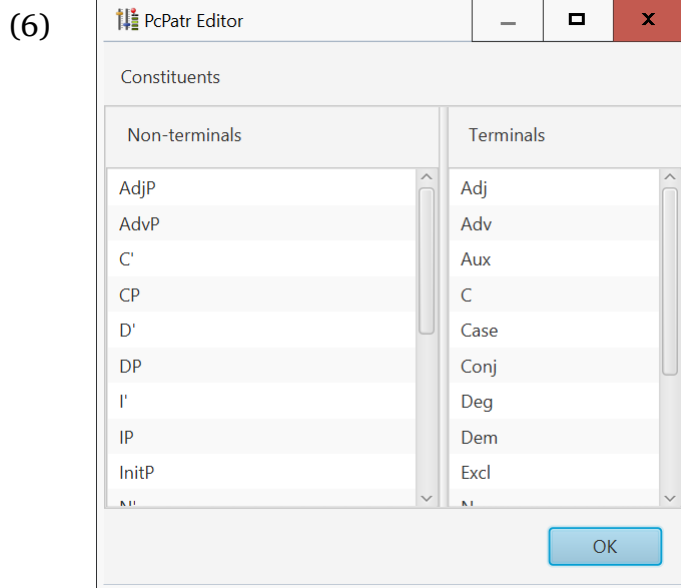
5 Reports menu item

PcPatrEditor currently has two report options.

5.1 Show phrase structure constituents

This report option is available under the **Reports** menu item as **Show phrase structure constituents**. This is useful when you want to see what the current set of non-terminal and terminal constituents are.

When you invoke this option, it may take a while but PcPatrEditor will eventually bring up a dialog box showing the non-terminals and terminals. In one grammar file, it looked like what is in example (6).



Unlike most dialog boxes, you can still edit the grammar, etc., in the main program. Note, however, that it shows the set of constituents at the time the report was generated. If you make changes after that, you will need to invoke the report again. We suggest you close the older dialog first.

5.2 Show feature system

This report option is available under the **Reports** menu item as **Show feature system**. This is useful when you want to see what feature paths are used throughout the grammar, arranged as a system. Sometimes it will show typos you had not noticed before.

When you invoke this option, it may take a while but PcPatrEditor will eventually bring up a dialog box showing the feature system. In one grammar file, it looked like what is in example (7).

(7)

Feature System	
C:\Users\Andy Black\Documents\PC-PATR\JavaEditor\FARPatrErgativeNonBinaryCaseNoPPRestrict.grm	
Report performed on: February 18, 2022, 3:46 PM	
adjoinedP	
cat	P'
cat	Adj
	Adv
	Art
	Aux
	C
	Case
	Coni
OK	

Unlike most dialog boxes, you can still edit the grammar, etc., in the main program. Note, however, that it shows the feature system at the time the report was generated. If you make changes after that, you will need to invoke the report again. We suggest you close the older dialog first.

6 User convenience options

The **Settings** menu item has several options you can use to (hopefully) improve your experience with using **PcPatrEditor**. These are described below.

Please note that these settings are associated with the **PcPatrEditor** program on your computer. Once you set them, they will be used each time you use **PcPatrEditor** (until you change them, of course).

6.1 Show matching parentheses, braces, brackets, and/or wedges with arrow keys

Whenever you key an opening parenthesis ('('), brace ('{'), bracket ('['), or wedge ('<'), **PcPatrEditor** will automatically insert the matching closing item.

There are times when you need to see the matching items. For this reason, there is the first item under the main **Settings** menu item: **Show matching items with arrow keys**. When this is checked, whenever you use an arrow key to cross over a parenthesis (or brace or bracket or wedge) in the grammar, **PcPatrEditor** will temporarily select the item that matches the one crossed over.

Besides using this menu option, you can also use the toolbar button shown in (8).

(8) **Show matching with arrows Do not show matching with arrows**



6.2 Delay to use when showing matching parentheses

The second item under the main **Settings** menu item is **Delay to use when showing matching items**. The default delay is 750 milliseconds (i.e., three quarters of a second). Depending on your typing speed, you may want to change this value. Use this menu item to change the delay value to be shorter or longer. The shortest allowed value is 125 milliseconds (i.e., one eighth of a second) and the longest value allowed is 4000 milliseconds (i.e., 4 seconds).

6.3 Font size for the grammar

The third item under the main **Settings** menu item is **Font size**. This lets you set the font size for the text of the grammar file.

6.4 Action to take after exporting selected rules

The last item under the main **Settings** menu item is **After export**. This lets you choose what you want **PcPatrEditor** to do after you have saved a new grammar file for debugging. See section 4.1.

When you hover over **After export**, three possible actions are shown:

1. **Continue editing in the current file**
2. **Open the exported file**
3. **Open the exported file in a new instance**

The one with a check mark by it is the currently selected one.

The first one is the default option. The third one will open yet another instance of the **PcPatrEditor** that has the exported file in it. This way you can still see the original file (in one instance of the **PcPatrEditor**) as well as the exported file.

To select one of the options, merely click on it.

7 Known problems

The following items are known to be less than desirable with this version of **PcPatrEditor**:

- When exporting selected rules or showing constituents, there will probably be a pause before the dialog comes up. We would like to have the mouse cursor have the “wait” shape during this processing, but have not figured out how to do it.
- When you are using bookmarks and export selected rules with the “Open the exported file in a new instance” option, the bookmarks of the original file may be stored as the bookmarks for the exported file.

- When showing matching parentheses while using arrow keys (see section 6.1), if you type several arrow keys quickly, the cursor caret may not be where you expect it. Either
 - turn off the show matching parentheses with the arrow keys option;
 - set the delay to be shorter (see section 6.2); or
 - wait for the matching parenthesis to show before pressing the next arrow key.

8 Support

If you have any questions with [PcPatrEditor](#) or find bugs in it, please send an email to blackhandrew@gmail.com.