Sanchay

An NLP Platform for Indian Languages

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Sanchay: A collection of APIs and tools for NLP

- Focuses on Indian languages
- Includes GUI based interfaces for annotation
 - Like Syntactic Annotation Interface
 - ☐ Parallel markup interface

Some Features

- Object oriented
- Reusable and flexible/customizable components
- Every component an API
- No commitment to one specific architecture or theoretical framework
- GUIs for as many things as possible
- Open source

.

Major Components

- APIs for language resources
- Data structures for usual kinds of data
- Basic GUI components (table, tree, etc.)
- Annotation interfaces
- Sentence alignment tool
- Language and encoding identification tool
- A multi-purpose editor for NLP and Indian languages
- A computational phonetic model for Indian language scrpits

Resources

- Atomic resources
 - ☐ Raw corpus
- Aggregate resources
 - ☐ Parallel corpus

Some GUI Components

- Enhanced Tree
- Enhanced Table
- Tree Viewer

Implementation of NLP Algorithms/Techniques

- Sentence alignment
- Language and encoding identification
- N-Gram modelling
- Dictionary Trie

Data Components

- Trees representing SSF, XML, etc.
- A generalized table
- Properties manager

Utilities

- File splitter
 - For different kinds of corpora
- Find/replace/extract
 - Uses regular expressions
 - Can work in batch mode
- Preprocessing of raw text
- Many others

Support for Indian Languages

- Works without installing fonts
- Many major Indian languages supported
- Uses a collection of free fonts
- Font listing according to the language and encoding

10

Interfacing with Other NLP Platforms/Libraries

- Not yet done, but planned:

 - OpenNLP
 - □ Mallet
- Tried a Hindi POS tagger using OpenNLP MaxEnt package

Future Work

- Generalized support for XML based annotation
- Applications like spell checker for Indian languages

Sanchay Editor

A Text Editor for Indian

Languages

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Text Editor for Indian Languages

- Support for most of the major Indian languages
- Customizable support for encodings
 - Default: UTF-8

Start

- Go to the Sanchay directory
- On Linux
 - sh sanchay-editor.sh
- On Windows
 - Double click on sanchay-editor.bat
 - Or sanchay-editor (if DOS extensions not visible)

Select Language

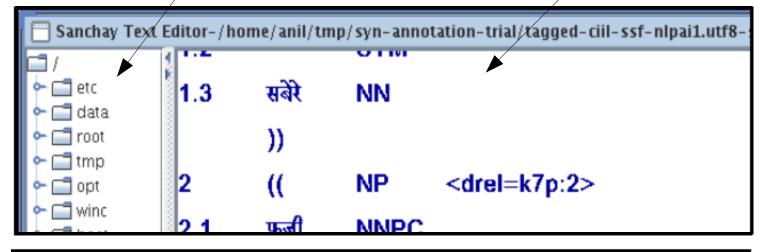
You will see a dialog for selecting the language

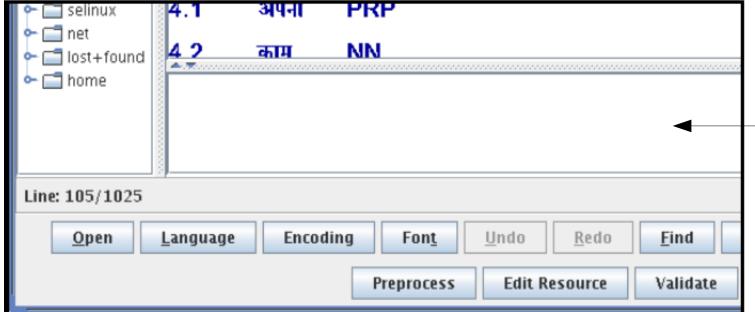


Editor

File System Tree

Document area

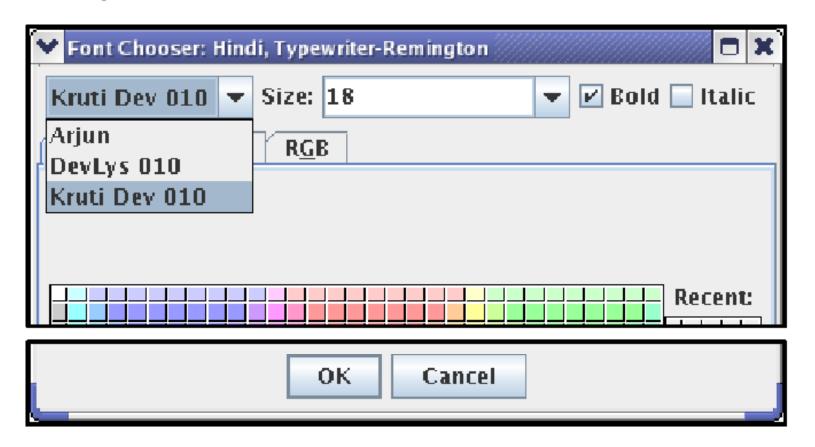




Log area (error messages etc.)

Font Selection

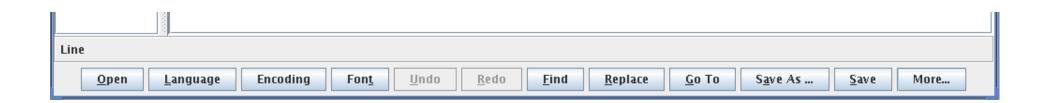
Fonts are listed according to the language and the encoding



Commands

- Open file
- Switch language
- Switch encoding
- Select font
- Undo/redo

- Find
- Replace
- Go to line (number)
- Save As
- Save



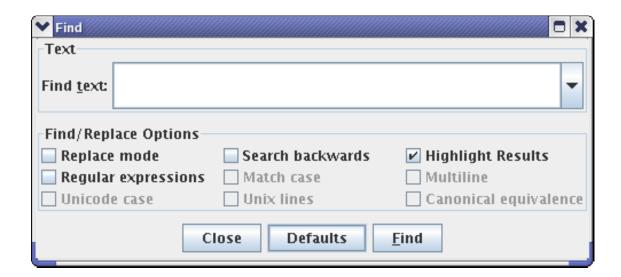
More Commands

- Preprocess
 - Sentence segmentation
 - Tokenization
- Edit resource
 - Open Syntactic Annotation Interface if file in SSF format
- Validate format (say, SSF)
- Revert to previously saved file
- Print



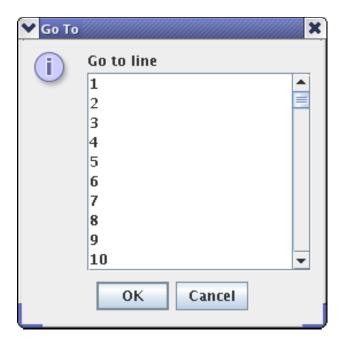
Find/Replace

- Possible to search with regular expressions
 - Using the Java syntax



Go to

Go to a specific line number



More to Come

- Many extensions to the editor
 - Under construction

Sanchay Syntactic Annotation Interface

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Introduction

- Sanchay: A collection of APIs and tools for NLP
- Includes GUI based interfaces for annotation
 - Like Syntactic Annotation Interface

Syntactic Annotation Interface

- Can view or edit:
 - POS tagging
 - Chunking
 - Feature structures of words or chunks
 - Morphological information
 - Kaaraka or dependency relationships
- Many other things
 - $^\square$ Anything in the form of a tree
 - ☐ (Optional) Where a node can have feature structures

Overview

- System requirements and Installation
- Working modes
 - Stand-alone or task mode
- Setting up the tasks
- Starting the interface
- Viewing annotation
- Editing annotation
- Comparing annotation

System Requirements

- JDK-1.5 (or JRE-1.5) installed on your system
- Preferably >1 GHz processor and >256 MB RAM
- You may like to specify the memory allocated for JVM (see later), if you have more RAM
- Tested on Linux and Windows

Installation

- Untar the Sanchay.tgz file somewhere on your system
 - Or unzip the Sanchay.zip file
- There should be a Sanchay directory
- That's all for installation!

Working Modes

- You can work in two modes
 - ☐ Stand-alone mode
 - Directly open a the corpus file (Browse)
 - Some assumptions: e.g., specific separators
 - □ Task mode
 - Select the task group
 - Then select the task

Which Mode is Better?

- Stand-alone is better if
 - You don't know how to set up tasks
 - You don't want to set up tasks
 - You only need to use the interface occasionally
- Task mode is better if
 - You use the interface quite often or on many files
 - You need to customize certain things

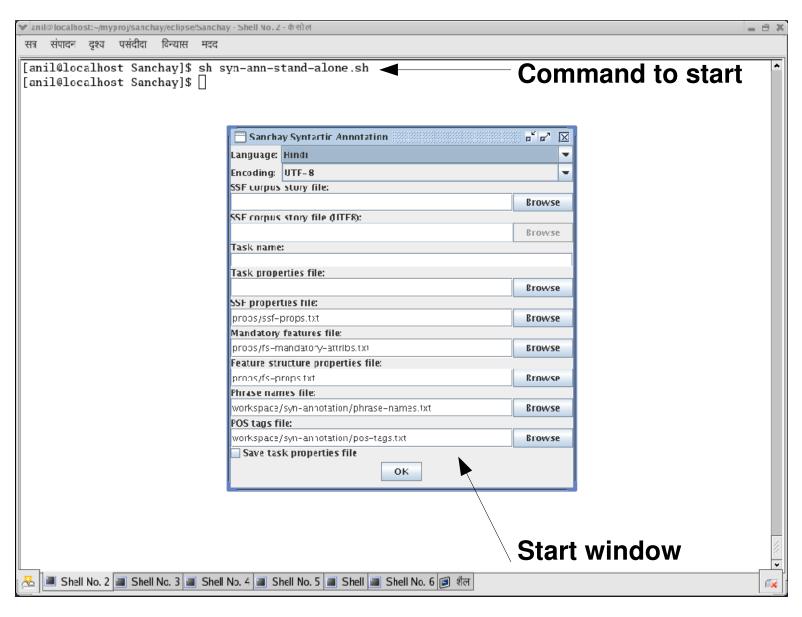
Working in Stand-alone Mode-I

- On Linux
 - 1. On the console, go to the Sanchay directory
 - Run the shell script sh syn-ann-stand-alone.sh
- On Windows
 - Go to the Sanchay directory
 - Double click on
 - syn-ann-stand-alone.bat
 - Or **syn-ann-stand-alone** (if DOS extensions are not displayed)

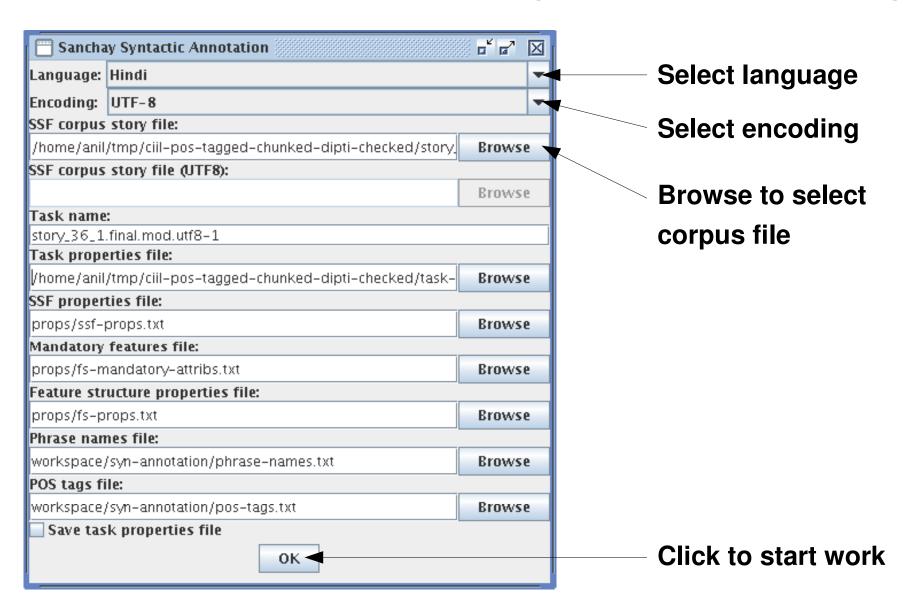
Working in Stand-alone Mode-II

- You will see the task properties window
- Select the language and encoding
- Select the corpus file to be annotated
 - By clicking on the first (top) Browse button
- Normally, you don't have to fill in anything else
- Click on the OK button to start work
- You will see the work window where one sentence from the task data file will be displayed

Working in Stand-alone Mode-III



The Main Window (Stand-alone)



Task Setup-I

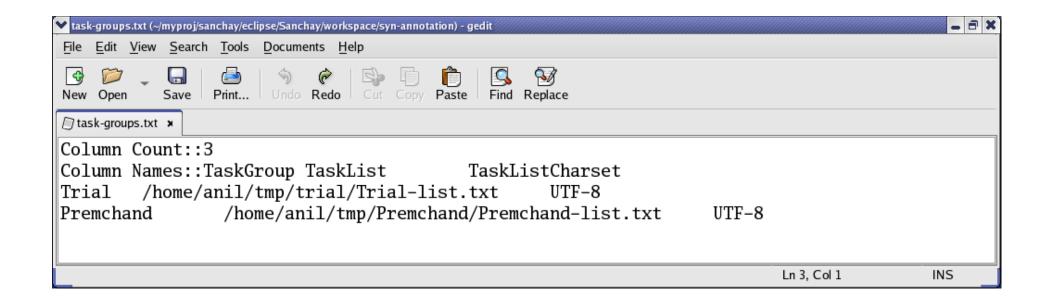
- Annotation performed on 'tasks'
- Details about a task in a properties file
- Task data located inside:
 - Sanchay/workspace/syn-annotation (default)
 - Or any other directory on your system
- You can form tasks groups
- (Preferably) One directory for each task group

Task Setup-II

- E.g., an nlpai-tasks directory for NLPAI ML contest tasks
- Each 'task' represents a part of the (to be) annotated corpus
 - □ A 'story' or a part of the 'story'
- A list of task groups is kept in a file task-groups.txt in syn-annotation directory
- Each entry in this file refers to one task list

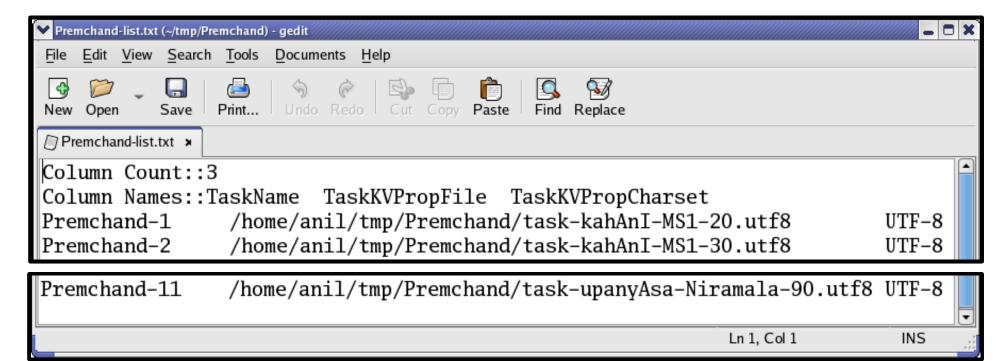
Task Setup-III

- task-groups.txt has tab separated fields
 - Task group name, task list file path and charset of this file (default UTF-8)



Task Setup-IV

- Each task list file, say Premchand-list.txt has tab separated fields
 - Task name, task properties file path and charset of this file (default UTF-8)



Task Properties Files-I

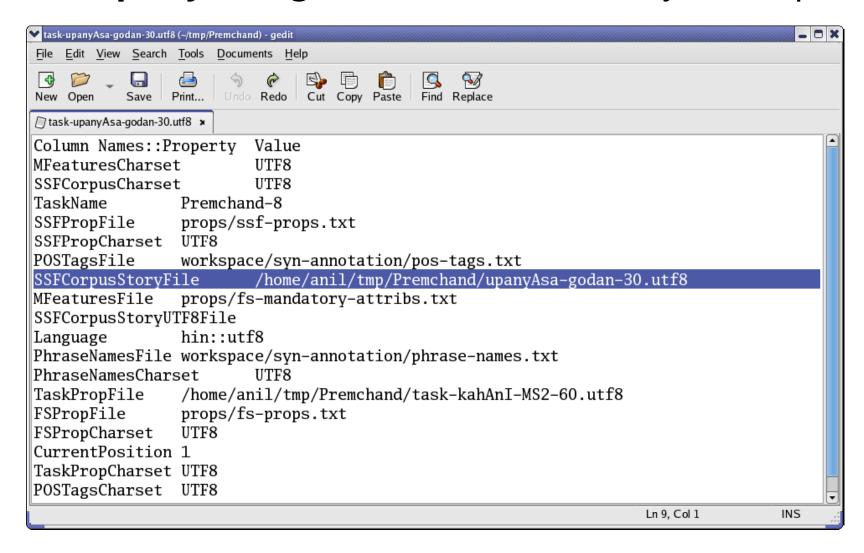
- Each task has a properties file with key-value pairs
- Three main keys for setting up new tasks
 - TaskName
 - □ SSFCorpusStoryFile
 - □ TaskPropFile
 - Language: language & encoding code, separated by '::'
 - Hindi (UTF-8) will be specified as hin::utf8
 - Language and encoding codes listed in:
 - Sanchay/props/languages.txt
 - Sanchay/props/encodings.txt

Task Properties Files-II

- E.g., for Premchand-8
 - There is an entry in Premchand-list.txt
 - There is a task properties file, say, task-upanyAsa-godan-30.utf8
 - Note the prefix 'task-'
 - There is the corpus 'story' part, say, upanyAsa-godan-30.utf8
 - The actual corpus data file

Task Properties Files-III

task-upanyAsa-godan-30.utf8 has key-value pairs



Notes about Encoding or Font

- The default encoding is UTF-8
- Sorry, but ISCII won't work currently
 - Let's hope it will soon
- You might need to convert corpus files to UTF-8 or WX etc.

Corpus Data Format Disclaimer

- The interface only accepts data in correct SSF format
 - Actually, raw data (simple text) is also accepted, but is converted into SSF (see the next slide)
- SSF is Shakti Standard Format
 - A CFG (Context Free Grammar) tree like format with the addition that every node can have feature structures for carrying morphological and dependency relation information, among other things

WARNING - Using Raw Data

- The task data files can also be in raw form
 - ONE SENTENCE PER LINE
- If start work on a task with raw data
 - You get a message about raw data
 - You are asked to make sure each sentence is on a separate line
 - You are presented with a text editor for this
- A preprocessing program is run on the raw data to break up the sentence and to do tokenization, but you may have to check for errors

SSF

```
Shakti Standard Format
chunk-name
/
```

```
7
1
                         NΡ
        ((
1.1
        children
                         NNS
                                  <af=child,n,m,p,3,0,,>
        ))
                                     root
          lex
                                                        case
                          pos
                                         cat | number
                                         gender
2
                         VG
        ((
2.1
                         VBP.
        are
                                  <af=be,v,m,p,3,0,,>
2.2
        watching
                         VBG
                                  <af=watch,v,m,s,3,0,, /aspect='PROG'>
        ))
3
                         NP
        ((
3.1
                         DT
                                  <af=some,D,m,s,3,0,,>|<af=some,det,m,s,3,0,,>
        some
3.2
                         NNS
                                  <af=programme,n,m,p,3,0,,>
        programmes
        ))
                         PP
4
        ((
4.1
                                  < af= on, p, m, s, 3, 0, > | < af= on, n, m, s, 3, 0, > |
        on
                         IN
4.1.1
        ((
                         NP
4.1.2
        television
                         NN
                                  <af=television,n,m,s,3,0,,>
        ))
        ))
                         PP
5
        ((
5.1
        in
                         IN
                                  <af=in,p,m,s,3,0,...>|<af=in,D,m,s,3,0,...>|
5.2
                         NP
        ((
5.2.1
        the
                         DT
                                  <af=the.det.m.s.3.0..>
522
                                  <af=house,n,m,s,3,0,,>|<af=house,v,m,s,3,0,,>
                         MM
        house
        ))
        ))
```

Corpus Data File-I

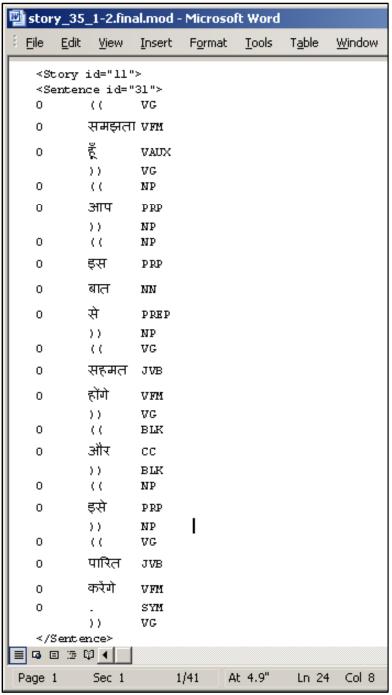
- Everything between <Story></Story> tags
 - □ This tag is optional now
- Story can have an id: <Story id="1">
- A sentence between <Sentence></Sentence> tags
- Sentences must have an id: <Sentence id="1">

Corpus Data File-II

- Four fields in SSF format
 - The node id (in way deprecated since the SSF API works on the basis of brackets)
 - These ids are usually automatically allocated
 - If not, some number should be there (say, 0)
 - 2. Starting ("((") or ending ("))") brackets for chunks or the word for a lexical item
 - The chunk name for a chunk or the POS tag for a lexical item
 - 4. The feature structure for the node (chunk or lexical item)

Corpus Data File-III

- A sample data file
 - story_35_1-2.final.mod.utf8



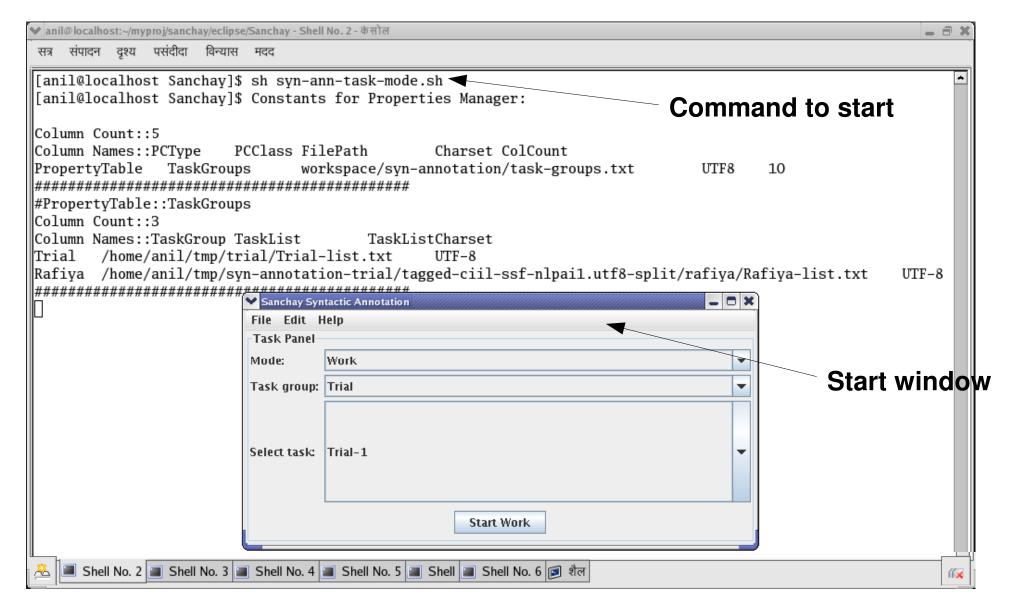
Working in Task Mode-I

- On Linux
 - 1. On the console, go to the Sanchay directory
 - Run the shell script sh syn-ann-task-mode.sh
- On Windows
 - Go to the Sanchay directory
 - Double click on syn-ann-task-mode.bat
 - Or syn-ann-task-mode (if DOS extensions are not displayed)

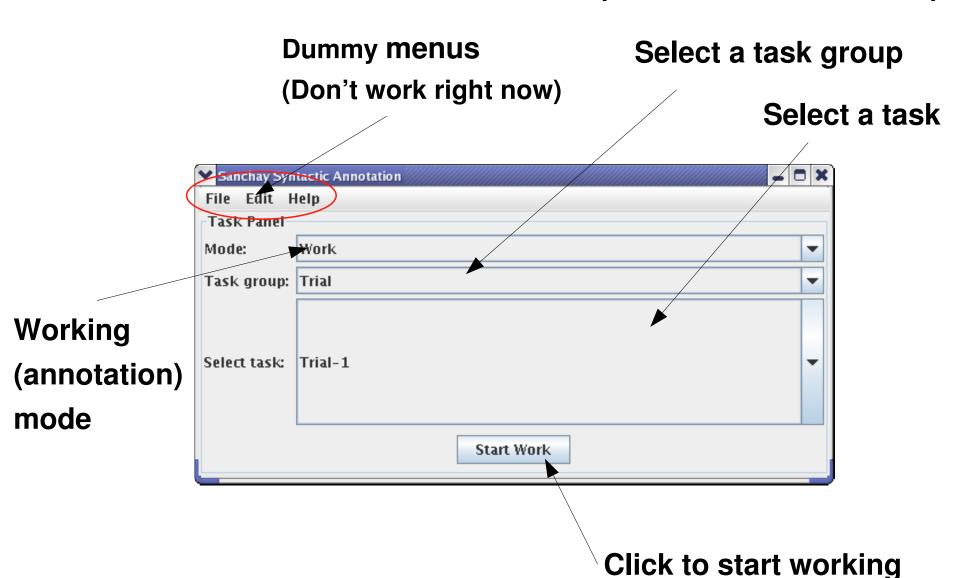
Working in Task Mode-II

- You will see the task window
- You can select the task group and the task that you want to view/edit
- Select the task, click on the Start Work button
- You will see the work window where one sentence from the task data file will be displayed
- You can now perform/edit annotation

Working in Task Mode-III

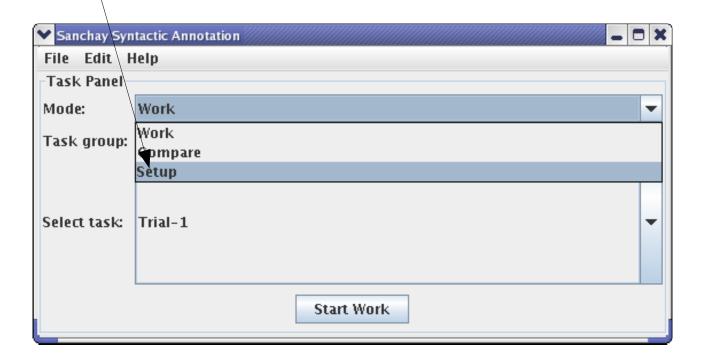


The Main Window (Task Mode)



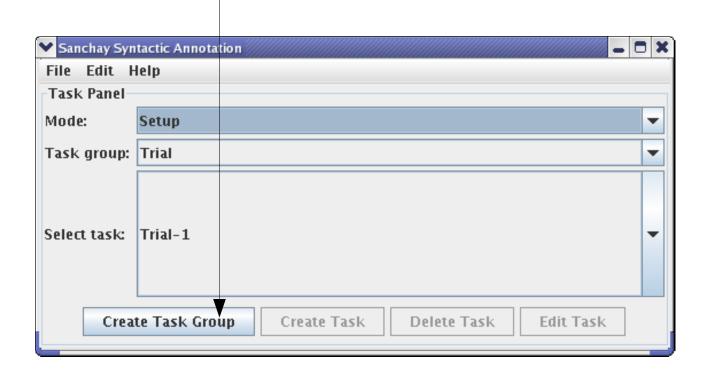
Creating Task Groups-I

- There is a program to easily setup tasks
- Select Setup mode from start window



Creating Task Groups-II

Click on Create Task Group button



Creating Task Groups-III

Browse

Browse

Add

Remove

Clear

Cancel

Fill in the task group details

GenerateTasksJPanel

Task name prefix: Premchand

Task properties schema file:

/home/anil/tmp/Premchand

Create task directory

Copy task data files to task directory

Edit

Directory for task properties files:

bace/syn-annotation/task-prop-example.txt

Task details

Task data files:

Options

Task group name

Task properties template
(an example properties file
which will be copied with
some fields being changed)

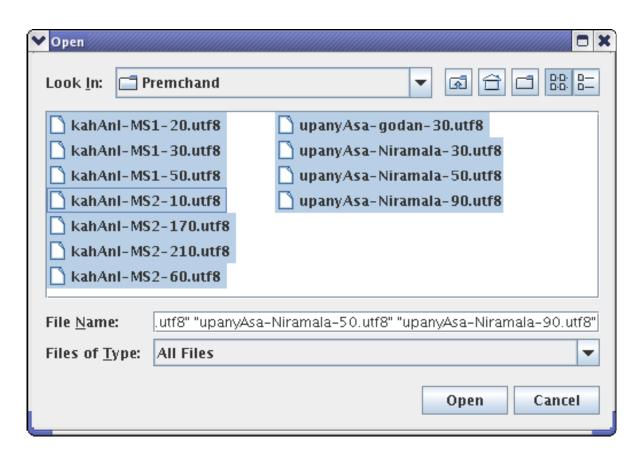
Directory where task properties files will be stored

Add task data (corpus) files

Currently not available

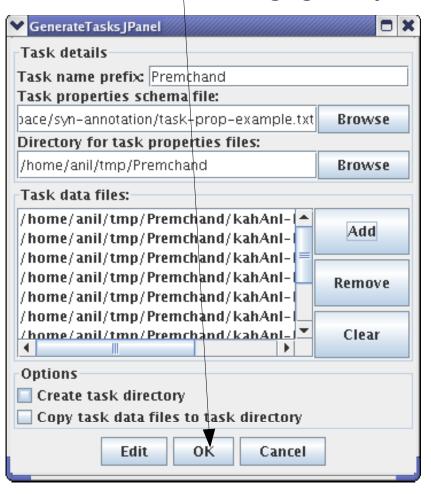
Creating Task Groups-IV

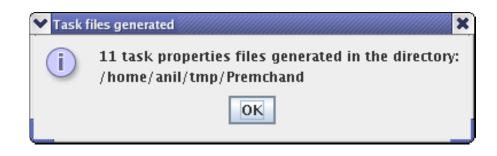
Adding corpus data files after clicking on Add



Creating Task Groups-V

Finish creating groups





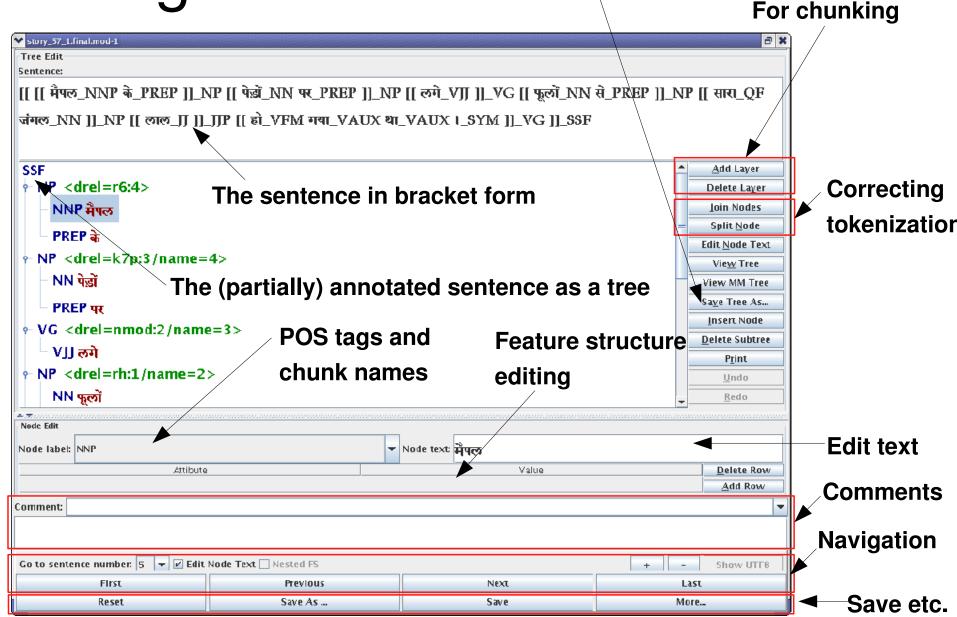


Working Directory Disclaimer

- Currently Sanchay will work only if you start it from the Sanchay directory
- Thus, you can't create shortcuts somewhere else unless you take care that the current directory gets changed to **Sanchay** before the above script is run

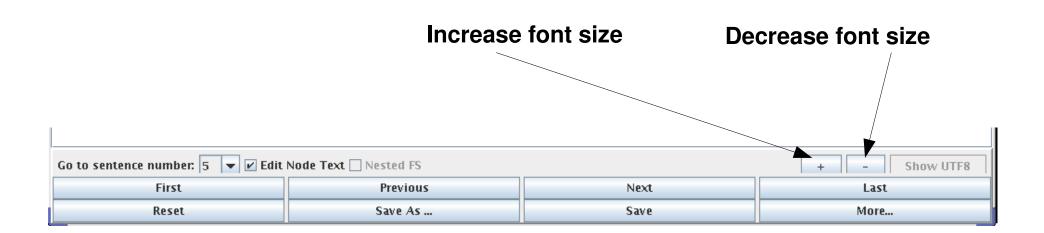
Viewing Annotation

Saving the sentence tree separately



Increase/Decrease Font Size

You can change the font size by clicking on these buttons



Navigation

- At a time only one sentence is displayed in the work widow
- Using the buttons in the navigation bar, you can go
 to any sentence in the task
 - ☐ First, Previous, Next, Last
 - Or any specific sentence by selecting its number from the list (combo box)

POS Tagging

- Select (say, by clicking) a lexical item (word) in the tree area
- You will see the list of possible POS tags in the Node label list (combo box)
- From the Node label list, select a tag
- The new POS tag for the word will be displayed in the tree area

Chunks vs. Phrases

- The interface allows arbitrary nesting
 - PP inside an NP, which is itself inside an NP
- But by chunking we mean only one level
 - A chunk can be NP, VG etc. and can only contain lexical items inside it, not chunks
 - □ No recursion
 - □ NP -> The book on the table
 - But not
 - □ NP -> NP PP **or** PP -> Prep NP

Phrases or Recursion Not Allowed

- It is assumed that only chunks will be annotated
- Everything (for the time being) will be in terms of
 - Words, POS tags, chunks, feature structures

Forming Chunks

- You want to chunk "The red book"
- Select these words together in order
- You can do this by pressing the Ctrl or Shift and clicking on the words
- Click on Add Layer button
- A new node will be created and the words you selected will become child nodes of this node

Naming Chunks

- Select the chunk node (say, NP)
- You will see the list of possible chunk names in the Node label list (combo box)
- From the **Node label** list, select a chunk name
- The new chunk name for the chunk will be displayed in the tree area

Removing Chunks

- Now suppose a chunk is wrongly formed
- Select the chunk node (say, NP)
- Click on Delete Layer button
- The chunk node will be removed
- The words will move up in the tree

Forming and Removing

- For any rearrangement of words into chunks, you will have to use combinations of form and remove chunk operations
- Note that words to be combined into a chunk should be on the same level
- You may have to bring them on the same level by removing those chunks they are currently parts, if any

Combining Chunks

- You want to combine two chunks
- Remove the first chunk as explained above
- Remove the second chunk
- Combine the words of the two chunks into one chunk

Splitting Chunks

- You want to split one chunk into two
- Remove the chunk
- Select some words and form a new chunk
- Select the rest of the words into another chunk

Feature Structure Annotation-I

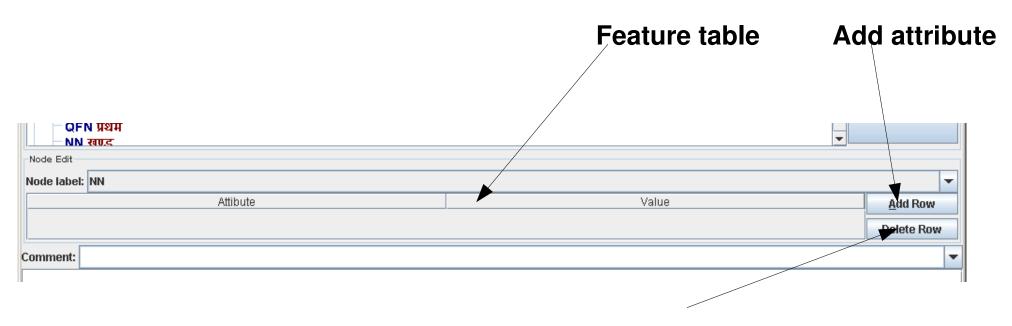
- Beyond tagging and chunking
- Every node (word or chunk) in the tree can have a feature structure

Feature Structure

- A feature structure has attribute value pairs
- Some attributes may be mandatory
- The attribute value can itself be a feature structure
 - $^\square$ Usually it will just be a string
 - The current interface assumes only string values

Feature Structure Annotation-II

- When you select a node in the tree, you will see a feature table showing the attributes and values
 - $^{\square}$ May be empty



Delete attribute

Adding Attributes

- Select the node for which you want to add an attribute
- You will see the attribute table below the Node label
- Click on the Add Row button
- There will be a new row representing a new attribute in the feature table

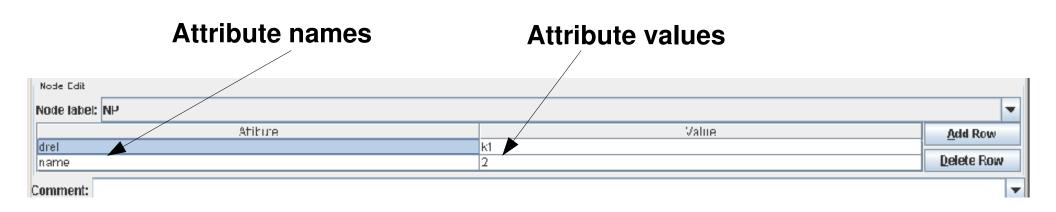
Naming Attributes

- In the feature table, select the attribute (which may have no name if it was just created)
 - By clicking on the table cell under the Attribute column
- Type the new name and press enter
- When you click on a node other than the currently selected one in the tree, the new attribute will appear near the node

Setting/Changing Attribute Values

- In the feature table, select the attribute value (which may be empty)
 - By clicking on the table cell under the Value column
- Type the new value and press enter
- When you click on a node other than the currently selected one in the tree, the new attribute value will appear near the node

Attribute-Value Pairs





Displayed feature structure

Deleting Attributes

- In the feature table, select the row for the attribute you want to delete
 - By clicking any cell in the row
- Click on the **Delete Row** button in the feature table
- When you click on a node other than the currently selected one in the tree, you can see that the attribute has been deleted

Syntactic Annotation

- By syntactic annotation we mean marking up dependency relations
 - Say, kaaraka relations

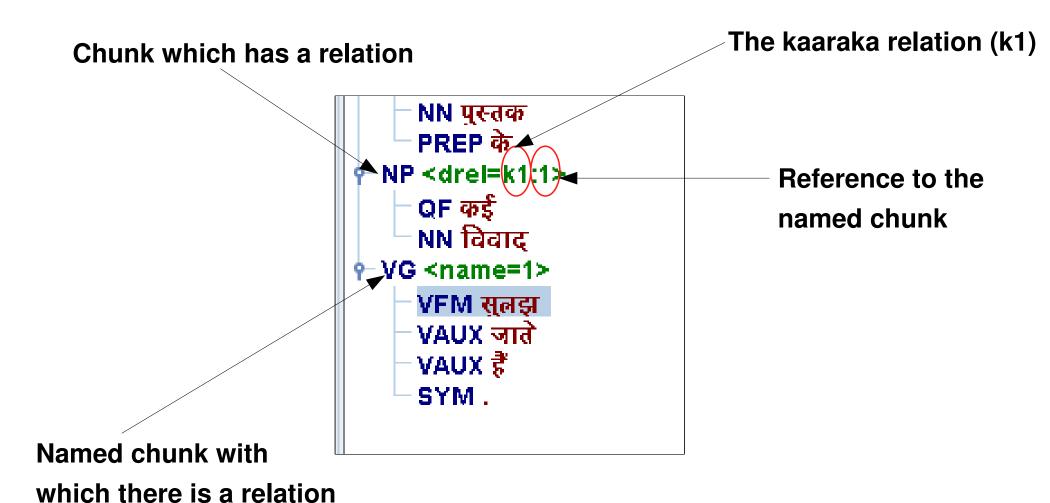
Kaaraka Relations-I

- The main thing is
 - Which node has what relation with which other node
- The node which 'has the relation' is given an attribute called **drel** whose value (say, **k1** or kartaa) will be the kaaraka relation
- The with which it has the relation is given an attribute called name
- The names should have unique values (across a sentence)

Kaaraka Relations-II

- Name uniquely identifies a chunk with which other chunks are related
- This name is referred to in the value of the drel attribute of the chunk which has a relation with the named chunk
- This is done by adding the name to the value of the drel attribute, separated by a colon

Kaaraka Relations-III



Comments

- For any sentence, if there is any (say, linguistic) issue which needs to be noted down, you can add a comment
 - Or a typing/grammatical mistake etc.



Reusable Comments

- In the combo box above the comment text box, you can type comments which are needed frequently
 - So that you don't have to type them again and again
- Once you have entered them in the combo box, you can just select them later from the list (combo box) and they will appear in the comment text box

Saving

- There are three buttons for 'saving'
- Save actually saves the complete task
 - ☐ The one you will mostly use
- Save Tree As saves one sentence in (SSF format, text file) wherever you want
- Save As saves the complete task in another format wherever you want
 - XML currently not implemented

Reset and Clear

- Reset will discard recent work and display the sentence read from the saved task
- Clear will clear tagging and chunking and will present the current sentence as a sequence of words
- Reset All will discard all the work you did after pressing Save and read the whole task again from the task file

Caution

Use Reset, Clear and Reset All buttons carefully

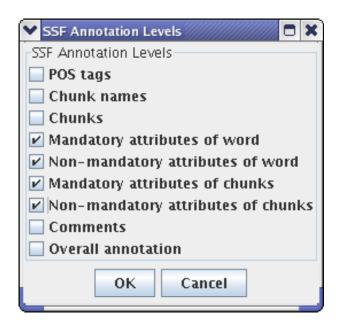
More...

- You can see some more buttons by clicking on More
- Clear All for clearing some annotation level (see next slide) from all sentences in the task
- Clear for clearing some annotation level (see next slide) from the current sentence
- Reset All for reloading all sentences in the task
- Join Sentence and Split Sentence



Clear Annotation Levels

- Clicking on Clear and Clear All will show you a dialog to select the annotation levels which you want to clear
- A combination of specific levels can be cleared

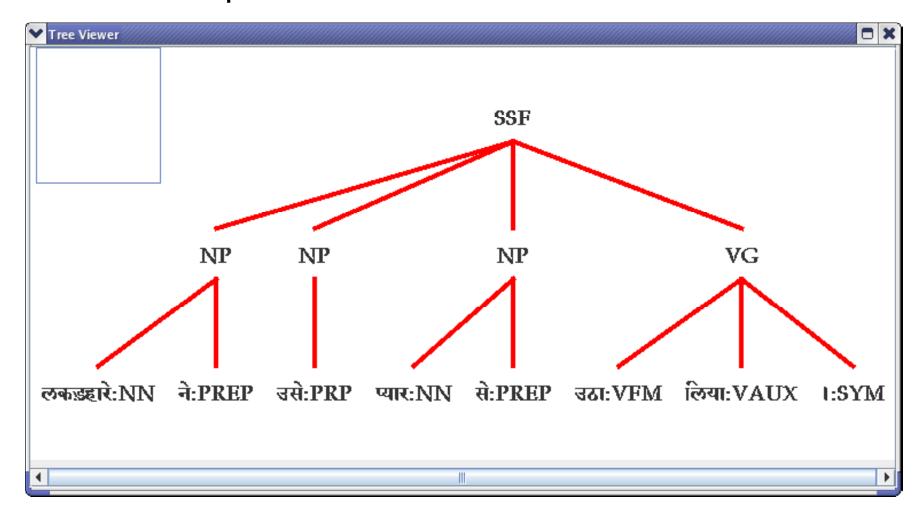


Bracket Form

- A tree based representation of sentence chunking or parsing
- (Possibly nested) brackets mark the chunks or phrases
 - □ For us, only chunks
- Allows you to see the chunking horizontally, rather than vertically (as in a tree)

Tree Viewer: Phrase Structure

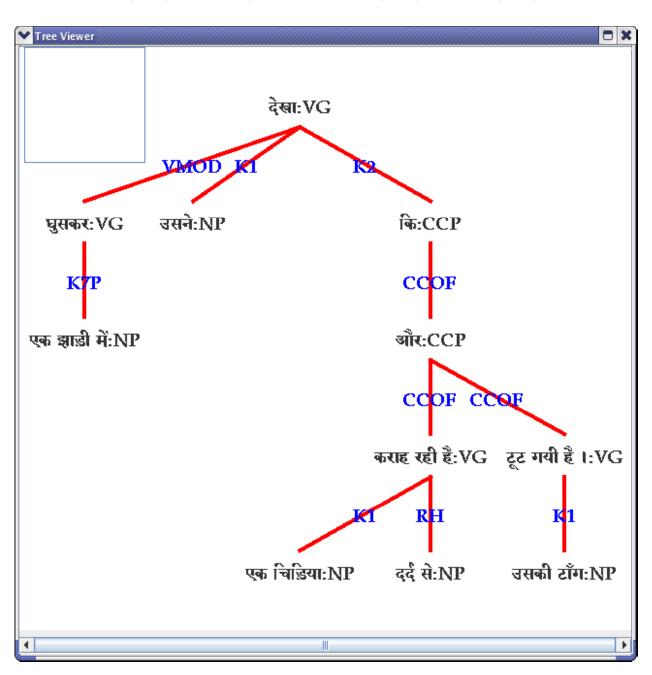
To view the phrase structure tree, click on View Tree



Tree Viewer: Modifier-Modified

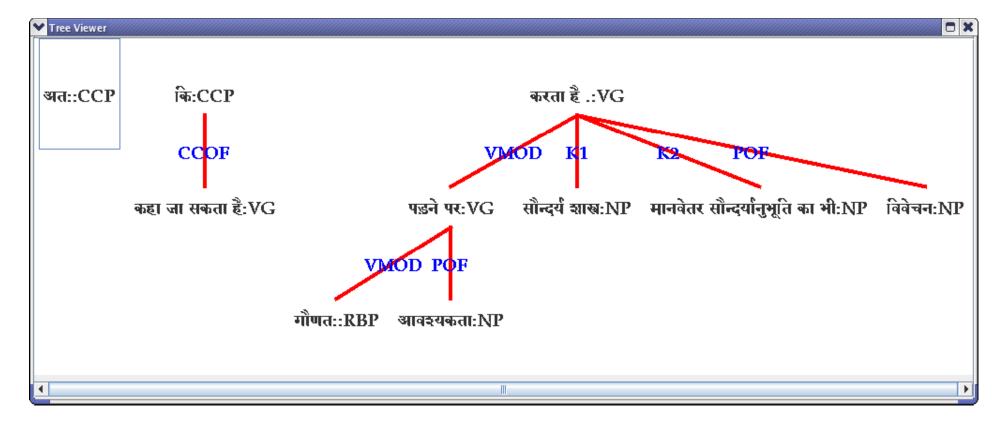
Tree

To view the modifier-modified tree, click on View MM Tree



Modifier-Modified Tree

- Some of the mistakes in annotation might become apparent just by looking at the MM-tree
 - Disconnected sub-trees



Other Kinds of Annotation

- Use the same interface for other kinds of annotation
 - Where the data can be represented as a tree (optionally) with nodes having feature structures

Example: Named Entities

- Open the file
 - workspace/syn-annotation/phrase-names.txt
- Change the list
 - So that phrase names are named entity types
- You may or may not use POS tags and feature structures

Other Examples

- Similarly, you can adopt the interface for marking up
 - Multi-word expressions
 - Temporal expressions
 - Dependency relations
 - Other than kaaraka relations (default)
 - □ Etc.

Increasing JVM Memory-I

- The memory allocated by default to JVM (heap size) may not be enough, given the RAM on your system
- Suppose you have 512MB RAM, you might want to allocate more memory to JVM to make Sanchay run faster
- Change the run-syntactic-annotation.sh or runsyntactic-annotation.bat script

Increasing JVM Memory-II

- Edit the shell/batch files used for starting the interface
- Use the –Xms option to specify the initial heap size
- Use the –Xmx option to specify the maximum heap size
- Example
 - □ java –Xms128m –Xmx256m ...

Concluding Disclaimer

- Sanchay is at present continuously evolving
- Parts of it are being used for practical work, but the design has yet to stabilize
- There can be radical changes
- Fortunately, the data created by you will be usable even in future, as it is in a standard format

- Any comments/bugs
 - □ Mail at

anil@research.iiit.ac.in