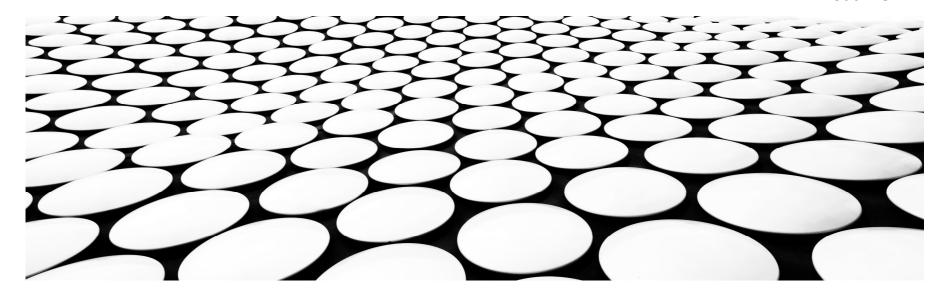
PARSE TREES AND CONVERSIONS

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Parse Trees

- If $w \in L(G)$, for some CFG, then w has a parse tree, which tells us the (syntactic) structure of w
- ullet w could be a program, a SQL-query, an XML-document, etc.
- Parse trees are an alternative representation to derivations and recursive inferences.
- There can be several parse trees for the same string
- Ideally there should be only one parse tree (the "true" structure) for each string, i.e. the language should be *unambiguous*.
- Unfortunately, we cannot always remove the ambiguity.

Constructing Parse Trees

Let G = (V, T, P, S) be a CFG. A tree is a *parse* tree for G if:

- 1. Each interior node is labelled by a variable in ${\cal V}$.
- 2. Each leaf is labelled by a symbol in $V \cup T \cup \{\epsilon\}$. Any ϵ -labelled leaf is the only child of its parent.
- 3. If an interior node is lablelled A, and its children (from left to right) labelled

$$X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k,$$

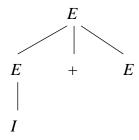
then $A \to X_1 X_2 \dots X_k \in P$.

Example: In the grammar

- 1. $E \rightarrow I$
- 2. $E \rightarrow E + E$
- 3. $E \rightarrow E * E$
- 4. $E \rightarrow (E)$

:

the following is a parse tree:

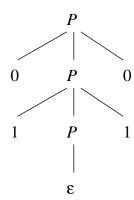


This parse tree shows the derivation $E \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} I + E$

Example: In the grammar

- 1. $P \rightarrow \epsilon$
- 2. $P \rightarrow 0$
- 3. $P \rightarrow 1$
- 4. $P \rightarrow 0P0$
- 5. $P \rightarrow 1P1$

the following is a parse tree:



It shows the derivation of $P \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} 0110$.

The Yield of a Parse Tree

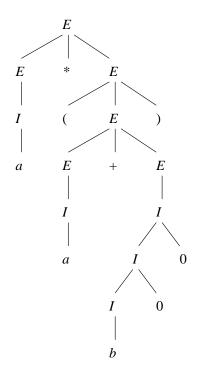
The *yield* of a parse tree is the string of leaves from left to right.

Important are those parse trees where:

- 1. The yield is a terminal string.
- 2. The root is labelled by the start symbol

We shall see the the set of yields of these important parse trees is the language of the grammar.

Example: Below is an important parse tree



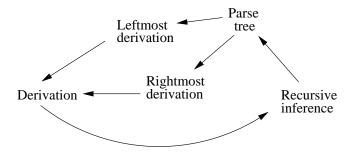
The yield is a * (a + b00).

Compare the parse tree with the derivation on slide 141.

Let G = (V, T, P, S) be a CFG, and $A \in V$. We are going to show that the following are equivalent:

- 1. We can determine by recursive inference that \boldsymbol{w} is in the language of \boldsymbol{A}
- 2. $A \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w$
- 3. $A \underset{lm}{\overset{*}{\Rightarrow}} w$, and $A \underset{rm}{\overset{*}{\Rightarrow}} w$
- 4. There is a parse tree of G with root A and yield w.

To prove the equivalences, we use the following plan.

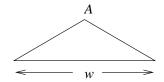


From Inferences to Trees

Theorem 5.12: Let G = (V, T, P, S) be a CFG, and suppose we can show w to be in the language of a variable A. Then there is a parse tree for G with root A and yield w.

Proof: We do an induction of the length of the inference.

Basis: One step. Then we must have used a production $A \to w$. The desired parse tree is then



Induction: w is inferred in n+1 steps. Suppose the last step was based on a production

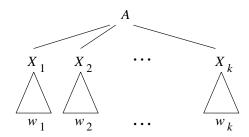
$$A \to X_1 X_2 \cdots X_k$$

where $X_i \in V \cup T$. We break w up as

$$w_1w_2\cdots w_k$$
,

where $w_i = X_i$, when $X_i \in T$, and when $X_i \in V$, then w_i was previously inferred being in X_i , in at most n steps.

By the IH there are parse trees i with root X_i and yield w_i . Then the following is a parse tree for G with root A and yield w:



From trees to derivations

We'll show how to construct a leftmost derivation from a parse tree.

Example: In the grammar of slide 6 there clearly is a derivation

$$E \Rightarrow I \Rightarrow Ib \Rightarrow ab$$
.

Then, for any α and β there is a derivation

$$\alpha E\beta \Rightarrow \alpha I\beta \Rightarrow \alpha Ib\beta \Rightarrow \alpha ab\beta.$$

For example, suppose we have a derivation

$$E \Rightarrow E + E \Rightarrow E + (E)$$
.

The we can choose $\alpha = E + ($ and $\beta =)$ and continue the derivation as

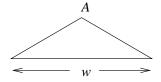
$$E + (E) \Rightarrow E + (I) \Rightarrow E + (Ib) \Rightarrow E + (ab).$$

This is why CFG's are called context-free.

Theorem 5.14: Let G = (V, T, P, S) be a CFG, and suppose there is a parse tree with root labelled A and yield w. Then $A \underset{lm}{\stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow}} w$ in G.

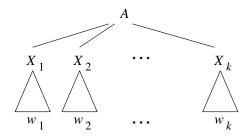
Proof: We do an induction on the height of the parse tree.

Basis: Height is 1. The tree must look like



Consequently $A \to w \in P$, and $A \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} w$.

Induction: Height is n + 1. The tree must look like



Then $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k$, where

- 1. If $X_i \in T$, then $w_i = X_i$.
- 2. If $X_i \in V$, then $X_i \overset{*}{\underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}} w_i$ in G by the IH.

Now we construct $A \overset{*}{\underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}} w$ by an (inner) induction by showing that

$$\forall i: A \stackrel{*}{\Longrightarrow} w_1 w_2 \cdots w_i X_{i+1} X_{i+2} \cdots X_k.$$

Basis: Let i = 0. We already know that $A \Rightarrow_{lm} X_1 X_{i+2} \cdots X_k$.

Induction: Make the IH that

$$A \underset{l_{x}}{\overset{*}{\Rightarrow}} w_{1}w_{2}\cdots w_{i-1}X_{i}X_{i+1}\cdots X_{k}.$$

(Case 1:) $X_i \in T$. Do nothing, since $X_i = w_i$ gives us

$$A \underset{lm}{\overset{*}{\Rightarrow}} w_1 w_2 \cdots w_i X_{i+1} \cdots X_k.$$

(*Case 2:*) $X_i \in V$. By the IH there is a derivation $X_i \underset{l_m}{\Rightarrow} \alpha_1 \underset{l_m}{\Rightarrow} \alpha_2 \underset{l_m}{\Rightarrow} \cdots \underset{l_m}{\Rightarrow} w_i$. By the contexfree property of derivations we can proceed with

$$A \underset{lm}{\overset{*}{\Longrightarrow}}$$

$$w_1 w_2 \cdots w_{i-1} X_i X_{i+1} \cdots X_k \underset{lm}{\Longrightarrow}$$

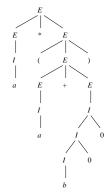
$$w_1 w_2 \cdots w_{i-1} \alpha_1 X_{i+1} \cdots X_k \underset{lm}{\Longrightarrow}$$

$$w_1 w_2 \cdots w_{i-1} \alpha_2 X_{i+1} \cdots X_k \underset{lm}{\Longrightarrow}$$

$$\cdots$$

$$w_1 w_2 \cdots w_{i-1} w_i X_{i+1} \cdots X_k$$

Example: Let's construct the leftmost derivation for the tree



Suppose we have inductively constructed the leftmost derivation

$$E \underset{\mathit{lm}}{\Rightarrow} I \underset{\mathit{lm}}{\Rightarrow} a$$

corresponding to the leftmost subtree, and the leftmost derivation

$$E \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (E+E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (I+E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (a+E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$
$$(a+I) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (a+I0) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (a+I00) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow} (a+b00)$$

corresponding to the righmost subtree.

For the derivation corresponding to the whole tree we start with $E \Rightarrow E * E$ and expand the first E with the first derivation and the second E with the second derivation:

$$E \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$E * E \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$I * E \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * E \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (E + E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (I + E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (a + E) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (a + I) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (a + I0) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (a + I00) \underset{lm}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$a * (a + b00)$$

From Derivations to Recursive Inferences

Observation: Suppose that $A \Rightarrow X_1 X_2 \cdots X_k \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w$. Then $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_k$, where $X_i \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w_i$

The factor w_i can be extracted from $A \stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow} w$ by looking at the expansion of X_i only.

Example: $E \Rightarrow a * b + a$, and

$$E \Rightarrow \underbrace{E}_{X_1} \underbrace{*}_{X_2} \underbrace{E}_{X_3} \underbrace{+}_{X_4} \underbrace{E}_{X_5}$$

We have

$$E \Rightarrow E * E \Rightarrow E * E + E \Rightarrow I * E + E \Rightarrow I * I + E \Rightarrow$$
$$I * I + I \Rightarrow a * I + I \Rightarrow a * b + I \Rightarrow a * b + a$$

By looking at the expansion of $X_3 = E$ only, we can extract

$$E \Rightarrow I \Rightarrow b$$
.

Theorem 5.18: Let G = (V, T, P, S) be a CFG. Suppose $A \underset{G}{\overset{*}{\Rightarrow}} w$, and that w is a string of terminals. Then we can infer that w is in the language of variable A.

Proof: We do an induction on the length of the derivation $A \stackrel{*}{\underset{G}{\longrightarrow}} w$.

Basis: One step. If $A \Rightarrow w$ there must be a production $A \to w$ in P. The we can infer that w is in the language of A.

Induction: Suppose $A \stackrel{*}{\Longrightarrow} w$ in n+1 steps. Write the derivation as

$$A \underset{G}{\Rightarrow} X_1 X_2 \cdots X_k \underset{G}{\stackrel{*}{\Rightarrow}} w$$

The as noted on the previous slide we can break w as $w_1w_2\cdots w_k$ where $X_i \overset{*}{\underset{G}{\Rightarrow}} w_i$. Furthermore, $X_i \overset{*}{\underset{G}{\Rightarrow}} w_i$ can use at most n steps.

Now we have a production $A \to X_1 X_2 \cdots X_k$, and we know by the IH that we can infer w_i to be in the language of X_i .

Therefore we can infer $w_1w_2\cdots w_k$ to be in the language of A.