

Natural Language Processing

Lecture 14: Constituency Grammar and Constituency Parsing

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Parsing

Finding structural relationship between words in a sentence

Parsing

- Finding structural relationship between words in a sentence
- Applications
 - Spell checking
 - Speech recognition
 - Machine translation
 - Language modeling

Outline

- Introduction
- Context Free Grammar
 - Some Grammar Rules
 - Syntactic Parsing
- Probabilistic Context Free Grammar
 - Statistical Parsing
- Lexicalized PCFG
- Partial Parsing
- Evaluation

- Working based on Constituency (Phrase structure)
 - Organizing words into nested constituents
 - Showing that groups of words within utterances can act as single units
 - Forming coherent classes from these units that can behave in similar ways
 - With respect to their internal structure
 - With respect to other units in the language
 - Considering a head word for each constituent

- the writer talked about his new book to the audiences. ✓
- about his new book the writer talked to the audiences. ✓

- the writer talked about his new book to the audiences. ✓
- about his new book the writer talked to the audiences. ✓
- the writer talked book to the audiences about his new. *

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Context Free Grammer (CFG)

- Grammar G consists of
 - Terminals (T)
 - Non-terminals (N)
 - Start symbol (S)
 - Rules (R)

- Terminals
 - The set of words in the text
- Non-Terminals
 - The constituents in a language (noun phrase, verb phrase,)
- Start symbol
 - The main constituent of the language (sentence)
- Rules
 - Equations that consist of a single non-terminal on the left and any number of terminals and non-terminals on the right

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$

 $S \rightarrow VP$

 $NP \rightarrow N$

 $NP \rightarrow Det N$

 $NP \rightarrow NP NP$

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$

 $VP \rightarrow V$

 $VP \rightarrow VP PP$

 $VP \rightarrow VP NP$

PP → Prep NP

 $N \rightarrow book$

 $V \rightarrow book$

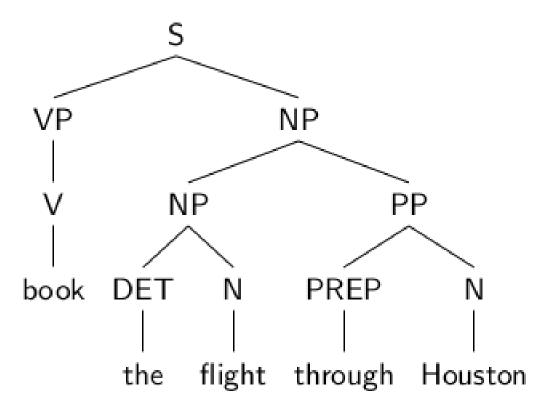
 $Det \rightarrow the$

 $N \rightarrow flight$

Prep → through

 $N \rightarrow Houston$





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Main Grammar Fragments

- Sentence
- Noun Phrase
 - Agreement
- Verb Phrase
 - Sub-categorization

Main Grammar Fragments

Declaratives

A plane left.

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$

Imperatives

Leave!

 $S \rightarrow VP$

Yes-No Questions

Did the plane leave?

S → Aux NP VP

WH Questions

When did the plane leave?

 $S \rightarrow NP_{WH}$ Aux NP VP

Main Grammar Fragments

- Each NP has a central critical noun called head
- The head of an NP can be expressed using
 - Pre-nominals: the words that can come before the head
 - Post-nominals: the words that can come after the head

Grammar Fragments: NP

- Pre-nominals
 - Simple lexical items: the, this, a, an, ...
 a car
- Simple possessives
 - John's car
- Complex recursive possessives
 - John's sister's friend's car
- Quantifiers, cardinals, ordinals...
 - three cars
- Adjectives
 - large cars

Grammar Fragments: NP

- Post-nominals
 - Prepositional phrases flight from Seattle
 - Non-finite clauses flight arriving before noon
 - Relative clauses flight that serves breakfast

- Having constraints that hold among various constituents
- Considering these constraints in a rule or set of rules

- Having constraints that hold among various constituents
- Considering these constraints in a rule or set of rules

Example: determiners and the head nouns in NPs have to agree in number

This flight ✓

Those flights ✓

This flights *

Those flight *

- Having constraints that hold among various constituents
- Considering these constraints in a rule or set of rules

Example: determiners and the head nouns in NPs have to agree in number

This flight ✓

Those flights ✓

This flights *

Those flight *

- Grammars that do not consider constraints will over-generate
 - Accepting and assigning correct structures to grammatical examples (this flight)
 - But also accepting incorrect examples (these flight)

Agreement at sentence level

Considering similar constraints at sentence level

Agreement at sentence level

Considering similar constraints at sentence level

Example: subject and verb in sentences have to agree in number and person

John flies ✓

We fly ✓

John fly **≭**

We flies *

Possible CFG solution

$$S_{sg} \rightarrow NP_{sg} \ VP_{sg}$$
 $S_{pl} \rightarrow NP_{pl} \ VP_{pl}$
 $NP_{sg} \rightarrow DET_{sg} \ N_{sg}$
 $NP_{pl} \rightarrow DET_{pl} \ N_{pl}$
 $VP_{sg} \rightarrow VP_{sg} \ NP_{sg}$
 $VP_{pl} \rightarrow VP_{pl} \ NP_{pl}$

Possible CFG solution

$$S_{sg} \rightarrow NP_{sg} \ VP_{sg}$$
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 $NP_{sg} \rightarrow DET_{sg} \ N_{sg}$
 $NP_{pl} \rightarrow DET_{pl} \ N_{pl}$
 $VP_{sg} \rightarrow VP_{sg} \ NP_{sg}$
 $VP_{pl} \rightarrow VP_{pl} \ NP_{pl}$

- Shortcoming:
 - Introducing many rules in the system

Grammar Fragments: VP

VPs consist of a head verb along with zero or more constituents called arguments

give me the flight number

```
VP \rightarrow V Type equation here.disappear VP \rightarrow V NP prefer a morning flight VP \rightarrow V PP fly on Thursday VP \rightarrow V NP PP leave Boston in the morning
```

 $VP \rightarrow V NP NP$

Grammar Fragments: VP

VPs consist of a head verb along with zero or more constituents called arguments

 $VP \rightarrow V$ Type equation here.disappear

 $VP \rightarrow V NP$ prefer a morning flight

 $VP \rightarrow VPP$ fly on Thursday

 $VP \rightarrow V NP PP$ leave Boston in the morning

 $VP \rightarrow V NP NP$ give me the flight number

Arguments

Obligatory: complement

Optional: adjunct

 Even though there are many valid VP rules, not all verbs are allowed to participate in all VP rules

disappear a morning flight *

 Even though there are many valid VP rules, not all verbs are allowed to participate in all VP rules

disappear a morning flight *

- Solution:
 - Subcategorizing the verbs according to the sets of VP rules that they can participate in
 - This is a modern take on the traditional notion of transitive/intransitive
 - Modern grammars may have 100s or such classes

• Example:

Sneeze John sneezed

Find Please find [a flight to NY]NP

Give [me]NP[a cheaper fair]NP

Help Can you help [me]NP[with a flight]PP

Prefer I prefer [to leave earlier]TO-VP

Told I was told [United has a flight]S

John sneezed the book *

I prefer United has a flight *

Give with a flight *

- The over-generation problem also exists in VP rules
 - Permitting the presence of strings containing verbs and arguments that do not go together

John sneezed the book $VP \rightarrow V NP$

- Solution:
 - Similar to agreement phenomena, we need a way to formally express the constraints

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Parsing

- Taking a string and a grammar and returning proper parse tree(s) for that string
- Covering all and only the elements of the input string
- Reaching the start symbol at the top of the string

Parsing

- Taking a string and a grammar and returning proper parse tree(s) for that string
- Covering all and only the elements of the input string
- Reaching the start symbol at the top of the string

The system cannot select the correct tree among all the possible trees

Parsing Algorithms

- Top-Down
 - Starting with the rules that give us an S, since trees should be rooted with an S
 - Working on the way down from S to the words

Bottom-Up

Parsing Algorithms

- Top-Down
 - Starting with the rules that give us an S, since trees should be rooted with an S
 - Working on the way down from S to the words

- Bottom-Up
 - Starting with trees that link up with the words, since trees should cover the input words
 - Working on the way up from words to larger and larger trees

- Top-Down
 - Only searches for trees that can be answers (i.e. S's)
 - But also suggests trees that are not consistent with any of the Words

- Bottom-Up
 - Only forms trees consistent with the words
 - But suggests trees that make no sense globally

 In both cases, we left out how to keep track of the search space and how to make choices

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- Solutions
 - Backtracking
 - Making a choice, if it works out then fine
 - If not, then back up and make a different choice
 - ⇒duplicated work

 In both cases, we left out how to keep track of the search space and how to make choices

- Solutions
 - Backtracking
 - Making a choice, if it works out then fine
 - If not, then back up and make a different choice
 ⇒duplicated work
 - Dynamic programming
 - Avoiding repeated work
 - Solving exponential problems in polynomial time
 - Storing ambiguous structures efficiently

Dynamic Programming Methods

CKY: bottom-up

• Early: top-down

• Each grammar can be represented by a set of binary rules

$$A \rightarrow B C$$

$$A \rightarrow W$$

A, B, C are noun-terminals w is a terminal

Converting to Chomsky normal form

$$A \rightarrow B C D$$

Converting to Chomsky normal form

$$A \rightarrow B C D$$

$$X \rightarrow B C$$

$$A \rightarrow X D$$

X does not occur anywhere else in the the grammar

Converting to Chomsky normal form

$$A \rightarrow B$$

$$B \rightarrow C D$$

Converting to Chomsky normal form

$$A \rightarrow B$$

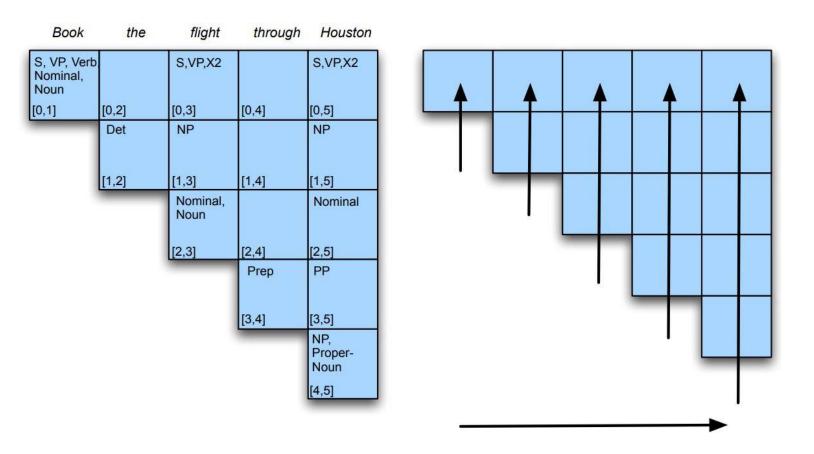
$$B \rightarrow C D$$

$$A \rightarrow C D$$

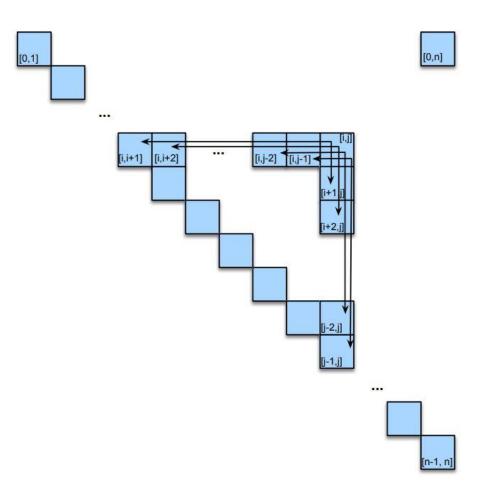
$$A \rightarrow B C$$

- If there is an A somewhere in the input, then there must be a B followed by a C in the input
- If the A spans from i to j in the input, then there must be a k such that i < k < j
 - B spans from i to k
 - C spans from k to j

Completed parse table for Book the flight through Houston.



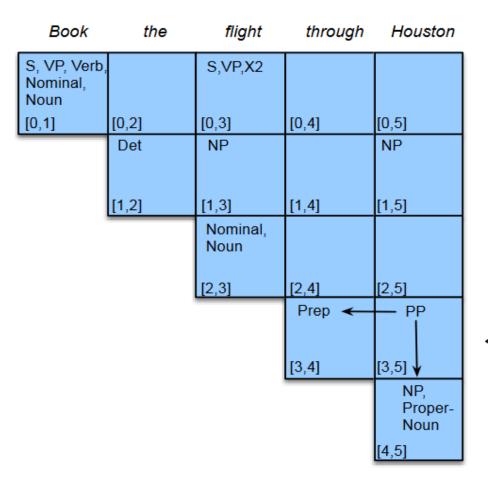
• All the ways to fill the [i, j]th cell in the CKY table.



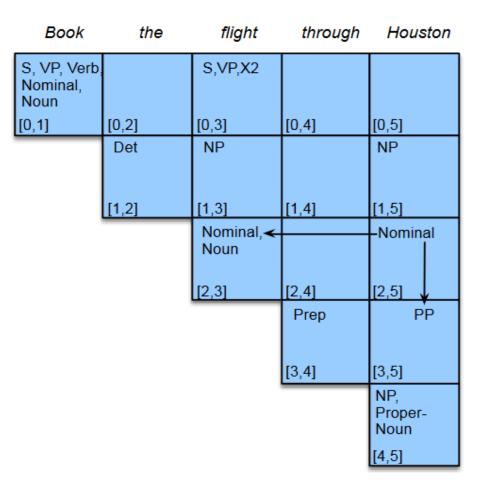
• Filling the cells of column 5 after reading the word Houston.

Book	the	flight	through	Houston
S, VP, Verb, Nominal, Noun		S,VP,X2		
[0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]
	Det	NP		
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]
		Nominal, Noun		Nominal
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]
			Prep	
			[3,4]	[3,5]
				NP, Proper- Noun
				[4,5]

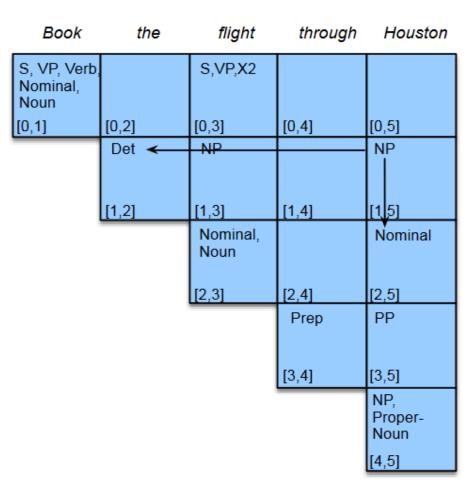
Filling the cells of column 5 after reading the word Houston.



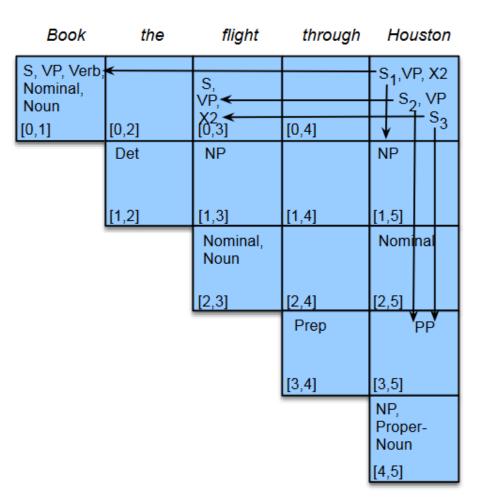
Filling the cells of column 5 after reading the word Houston.



Filling the cells of column 5 after reading the word Houston.



• Filling the cells of column 5 after reading the word Houston.



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- Grammar G consists of
 - Terminals (T)
 - Non-terminals (N)
 - Start symbol (S)
 - Rules (R)
 - Probability function (P)
 - $P: R \rightarrow [0; 1]$
 - $\forall X \in N, \sum_{X \to \lambda \in r} P(X \to \lambda) = 1$

CFG

 $S \rightarrow NP VP$

 $S \rightarrow VP$

 $NP \rightarrow N$

 $NP \rightarrow Det N$

 $NP \rightarrow NP NP$

 $NP \rightarrow NP PP$

 $VP \rightarrow V$

 $VP \rightarrow VP PP$

 $VP \rightarrow VP NP$

PP → Prep NP

 $N \rightarrow book$

 $V \rightarrow book$

Det \rightarrow the

 $N \rightarrow flight$

Prep → through

 $N \rightarrow Houston$

PCFG

$S \rightarrow NP VP$	0.9	$N \rightarrow book$	0.5
$S \rightarrow VP$	0.1	$V \rightarrow book$	1.0
$NP \rightarrow N$	0.3	Det → the	1.0
$NP \rightarrow Det N$	0.4	$N \rightarrow flight$	0.4
$NP \rightarrow NP NP$	0.1	Prep → through	1.0
$NP \rightarrow NP PP$	0.2	$N \rightarrow Houston$	0.1
$VP \rightarrow V$	0.1		
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	0.3		
$VP \rightarrow VP NP$	0.6		
$PP \rightarrow Prep NP$	1.0		

Treebank

- A treebank is a corpus in which each sentence has been paired with a parse tree
- These are generally created by
 - Parsing the collection with an automatic parser
 - Correcting each parse by human annotators if required
- Requirement: detailed annotation guidelines that provide
 - A POS tagset
 - A grammar
 - Annotation schema
 - Instructions for how to deal with particular grammatical constructions

Penn Treebank

- Penn Treebank is a widely used treebank for English
 - Most well-known section: Wall Street Journal Section
 - 1 M words from 1987-1989

```
(S (NP (NNP John))

(VP (VPZ flies)

(PP (IN to)

(NNP Paris)))

(...))
```

Annotated Data

- Providing a valuable linguistic resource
- Can be used by many taggers and parsers (reusability)
- Broad coverage
- Providing various information
 - Frequencies and distributions
- Can be used for evaluating systems

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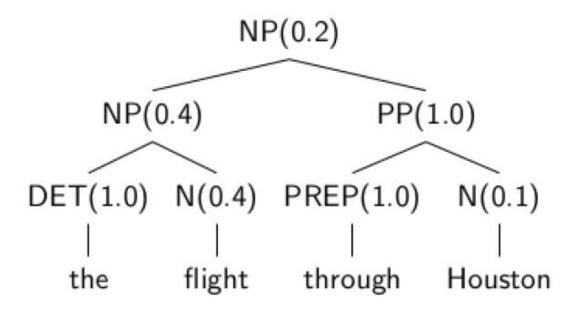
Statistical Parsing

- Considering the corresponding probabilities while parsing a sentence
- Selecting the parse tree which has the highest probability
- P(t): the probability of a tree t
 - Product of the probabilities of the rules used to generate the tree

PCFG

$S \rightarrow NP VP$	0.9	$N \rightarrow book$	0.5
$S \rightarrow VP$	0.1	$V \rightarrow book$	1.0
$NP \rightarrow N$	0.3	Det → the	1.0
$NP \rightarrow Det N$	0.4	$N \rightarrow flight$	0.4
$NP \rightarrow NP NP$	0.1	$Prep \to through$	1.0
$NP \rightarrow NP PP$	0.2	$N \rightarrow Houston$	0.1
$VP \rightarrow V$	0.1		
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	0.3		
$VP \rightarrow VP NP$	0.6		
PP → Prep NP	1.0		

Statistical Parsing



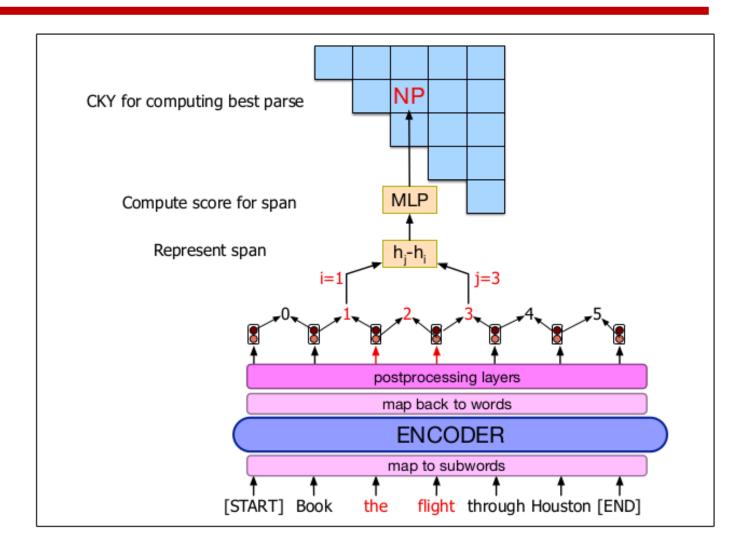
$$P(t) = 0.2 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 \times 1.0 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 \times 0.12 = 0.0032$$

Probabilistic CKY Parsing

$\begin{array}{c} 0.5 \\ 1.0 \\ 0.3 \!$		0.6*0.1*0.16=0.0096 0.1*0.0096=0.00096	$NP \rightarrow NP_{[0,1]}, NP_{[1,3]}$ $VP \rightarrow VP_{[0,1]}, NP_{[1,3]}$ $S \rightarrow VP_{[0,3]}$		$VP \rightarrow VP_{[0,1]}, NP_{[1,5]}$ $VP' \rightarrow VP_{[0,3]}, PP_{[3,5]}$ $S \rightarrow VP_{[0,5]}$ $S \rightarrow VP'_{[0,5]}$
[0,1]		[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]
	1.0	Det → the [1,2]	$NP \rightarrow Det_{[1,2]}, N_{[2,3]}$ 0.4*1.0*0.4=0.16		NP → NP[1,3], PP[3,5]
		[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]
	,		$N \rightarrow flight_{[2,3]}$ $NP \rightarrow N_{[2,3]}$		NP → NP[2,3], PP[3,5]
			[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]
		'		Prep → through[3,4]	PP → Prep[3,4],NP[4,5]
				[3,4]	[3,5] N → houston _[4,5]
					$NP \rightarrow N_{[4,5]}$ $[4,5]$

Neural Constituency Parsing

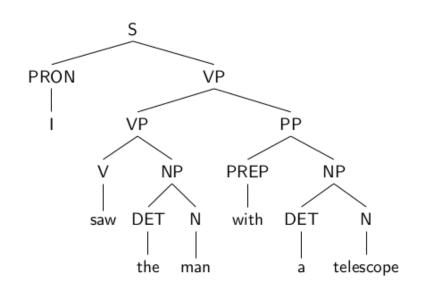
Span-based model

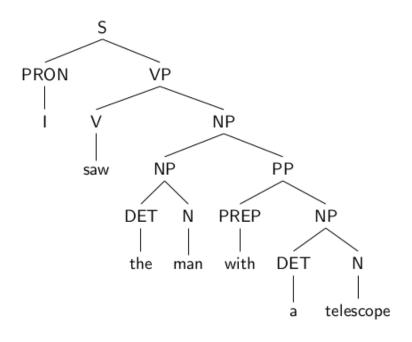


Parsing Ambiguity

- The main source of ambiguities in parsing
 - Finding the correct place of attachments

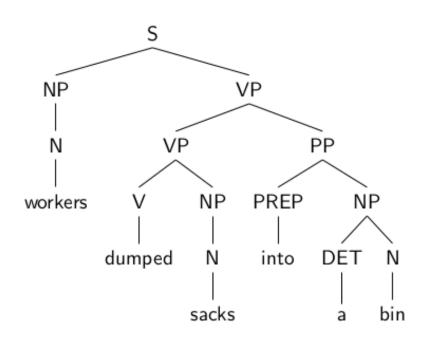
I saw the man with a telescope.

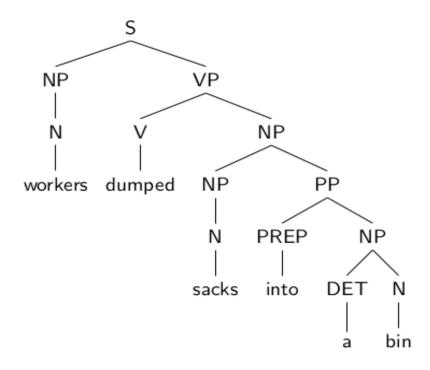




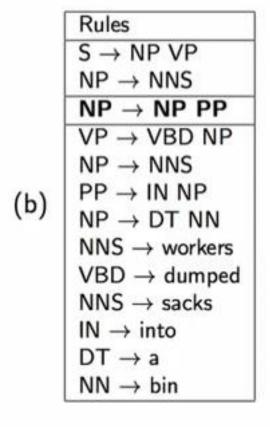
- PCFG considers no knowledge about the words
- Strong independent assumption in parse trees

- PCFG considers no knowledge about the words
- Strong independent assumption in parse trees





	Rules
(a)	$S \rightarrow NP VP$
	$NP \rightarrow NNS$
	$VP \rightarrow VP PP$
	$VP \rightarrow VBD NP$
	$NP \rightarrow NNS$
	$PP \rightarrow IN NP$
	$NP \rightarrow DT NN$
	$NNS \rightarrow workers$
	$VBD \rightarrow dumped$
	NNS \rightarrow sacks
	$IN \rightarrow into$
	$DT \rightarrow a$
	$NN \rightarrow bin$



 Knowing about lexicon help us to select a better option for merging constituents

Local Tree	come take		think	want	
				<	
$VP \rightarrow V$	9.5%	2.6%	4.6%	5.7%	
$VP \rightarrow V NP$	1.1%	32.1%	0.2%	13.9%	
$VP \rightarrow V PP$	34.5%	3.1%	7.1%	0.3%	
VP → V SBAR	6.6%	0.3%	73.0%	0.2%	
$VP \rightarrow VS$	2.2%	1.3%	4.8%	70.8%	
$VP \rightarrow V NP S$	0.1%	5.7%	0.0%	0.3%	
$VP \rightarrow V PRT NP$	0.3%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	
$VP \rightarrow V PRT PP$	6.1%	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	

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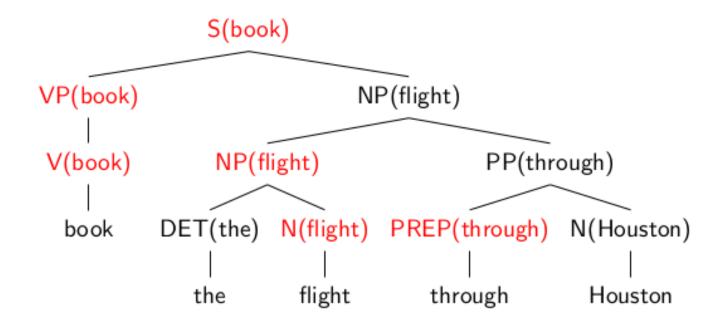
Headed CFG

• Each context-free rule has one special child that is the head of the rule

```
S \rightarrow NP VP
S \rightarrow VP
NP \rightarrow N
NP \rightarrow Det N
NP \rightarrow NP NP
NP \rightarrow NP PP
VP \rightarrow V
VP \rightarrow VP PP
VP \rightarrow VP NP
PP → Prep NP
```

Lexicalization of a Tree

- Trees with headwords
 - Assign a head word to each constituent and transfer it to the parents
 - Each constituent received its headword from its head child



- Grammar G consists of
 - Terminals (T)
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 - Rules (R)

- Rules in CFG are written as follows:
 - $^{\circ}$ N \rightarrow N₁ N₂
 - \circ N \rightarrow T

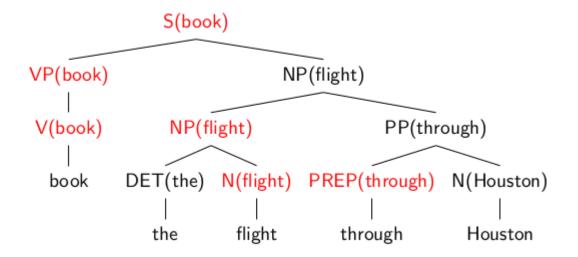
- Grammar G consists of
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- Rules in CFG are written as follows:
 - ${}^{\circ}\ \mathsf{N} \to \mathsf{N}_1\,\mathsf{N}_2$
 - \circ N \rightarrow T
- Rules in lexicalized PCFG are written as follows:
 - $\circ N(X) \rightarrow N_1(X) N_2(Y)$
 - $\circ N(Y) \rightarrow N_1(X) N_2(Y)$
 - \circ N(T) \rightarrow T

```
S \rightarrow NP VP
S \rightarrow VP
NP \rightarrow N
NP(flight) → Det(the) N(flight)
NP \rightarrow NP NP
NP(flight) → NP(flight) PP(through)
VP(book) \rightarrow V(book)
VP \rightarrow VP PP
VP → VP(book) NP(flight)
PP(through) → Prep(through) NP(Hauston)
```

Parameter Estimation in LPCFG

S(book) → VP(book) NP(flight)



$$P(S \rightarrow VP NP)$$

 $P(S(book) \rightarrow_{1} VP(book) NP(flight))$

- Number of rules increases dramatically
- # rules
 - In CFG: $O(|N|^3)$
 - In LPCFG: $O(|\Sigma|^2 \times |N|^3)$
- Running time for parsing an n words sentence
 - In CFG: $O(n^3|N|^3)$
 - In LPCFG: $O(n^3|\Sigma|^2|N|^3)$

- Number of rules increases dramatically
- # rules
 - In CFG: $O(|N|^3)$
 - In LPCFG: $O(|\Sigma|^2 \times |N|^3)$
- Running time for parsing an n words sentence
 - In CFG: $O(n^3|N|^3)$
 - In LPCFG: $O(n^3|\Sigma|^2|N|^3)$
- But:

Considering the observed words in the sentence, the number of rules will be reduced to $O(n^2|N|^3)$ for parsing each sentence

 \Rightarrow running time of LPCFG: $O(n^5|N|^3)$

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Partial Parsing

- Many NLP tasks do not require complex, complete parse trees for all inputs.
- For these tasks, a partial parse (shallow parse) of input sentences may be sufficient.

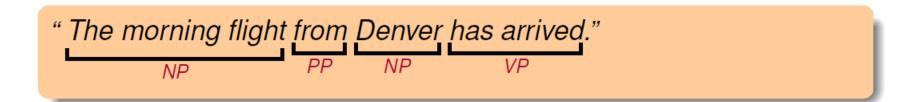
• Example:

• Information extraction do not extract all the possible information from a text: they simply identify and classify the segments in a text that are likely to contain valuable information.

- Possible approaches:
 - Using cascades of finite state transducers to produce tree-like representations.
 - Produce flatter trees than complete pars trees
 - Chunking

Chunking

- The process of identifying and classifying the flat, non-overlapping segments
 of a sentence that constitute the basic non-recursive phrases corresponding to
 the major content-word parts-of-speech:
 - Noun phrases
 - Verb phrases
 - Adjective phrases
 - Prepositional phrase
- Since chunked texts lack a hierarchical structure, a simple bracketing notation is sufficient to denote the location and the type of the chunks



Chunking

- Two fundamental tasks are involved in chunking:
 - Segmenting (finding the non-overlapping extents of the chunks)
 - Labeling (assigning the correct tag to the discovered chunks)
- Some input words may not be part of any chunk

Chunking

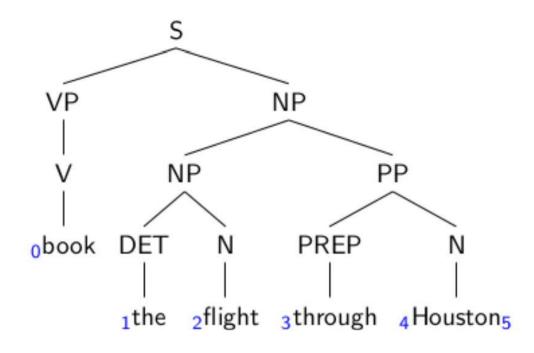
- Main approaches:
 - Rule-based models
 - Sequence modeling) very similar to the NER approaches
- Evaluation:
 - Precision
 - Recall
 - F-measure

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Constituents in Parse Tree

Label	Start	End
S	0	5
VP	0	1
NP	1	5
NP	1	3
PP	3	5



Precision/Recall Evaluation

Gold:	Label	Start	End	Prediction:	Label	Start	End
	S	0	5		S	0	5
	VP	0	1		VP	0	3
	NP	1	5		NP	1	3
	NP	1	3		PP	3	5
	PP	3	5				

Labeled Precision =
$$\frac{3}{4}$$
 = 0.75

Labeled Recall
$$=\frac{3}{5}=0.6$$

$$F_1 = \frac{2*P*R}{P+R} = 0.67$$

Precision/Recall Evaluation

- Labeled precision and labeled recall consider the beginning and end of brackets as well as the label of detected constituencies
- Unlabeled precision and unlabeled recall only match the beginning and end of brackets regardless of their label

Results

- Available results on Penn treebank (Wall Street Journal)
 - # train sentences: 40,000
 - # test sentences: 2,400
 - PCFG: 70.6% Recall & 74.8% Precision
 - LPCFG: 88.1% Recall & 88.3% Precision
 - More results:
 - (Charniak & Johnson 2005): 91.2% Recall & 91.8% Precision
 - (Carreras et al. 2008): 90.7% Recall & 91.4% Precision
 - (Petrov 2010): 91.7% Recall & 92.0% Precision

Further Reading

- Speech and Language Processing (3rd ed. draft)
 - Chapters 17 + Appendix C & D