

Practical Linguistically Motivated Parsing

with Combinatory Categorical Grammar

Stephen Clark

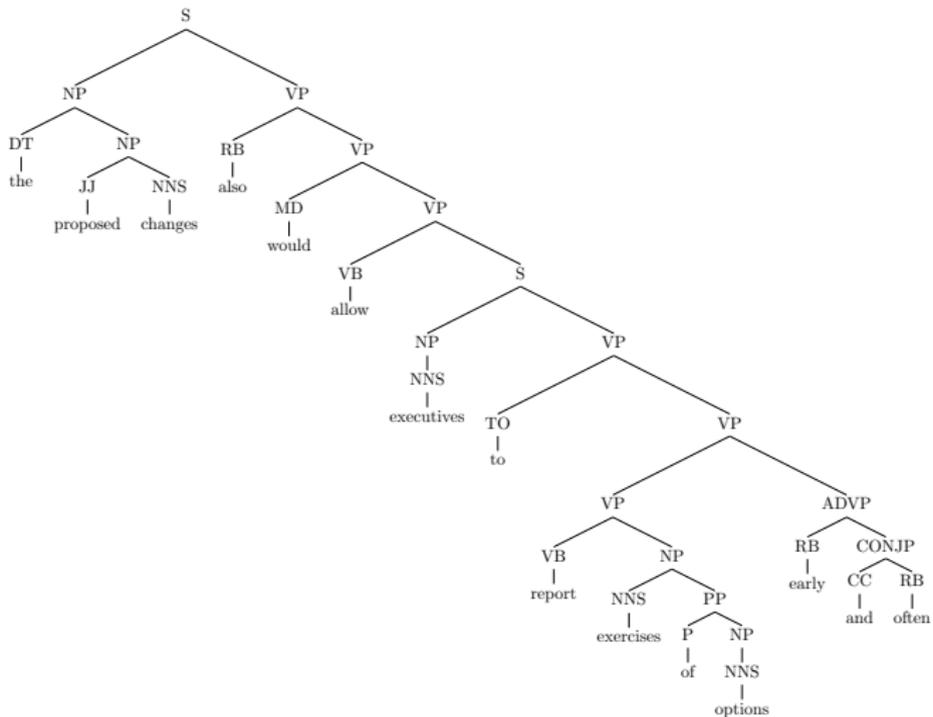
University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory

JHU Language Technology Summer School, June 2009

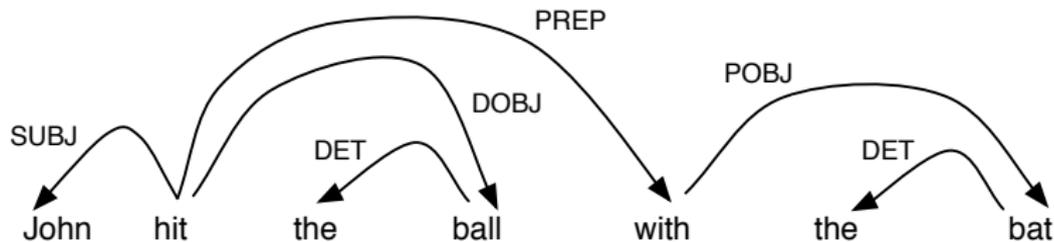
Natural Language Parsing

- Automatically assigning structure to a natural language input
- More specifically, taking a **sentence** as input and, using a pre-defined **grammar**, assigning some **structure** to it

Phrase Structure

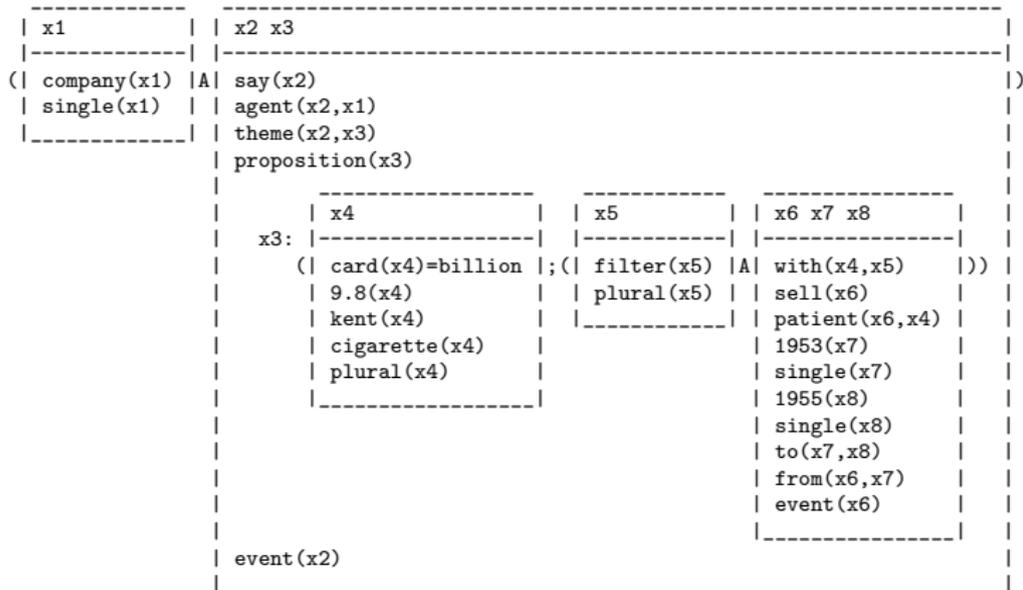


Dependency Structure



Logical Form

From 1953 to 1955 , 9.8 billion Kent cigarettes with the filters were sold , the company said .



Why Build these Structures?

- We want to know the **meaning** of the sentence
- Structured representations allow us to access the **semantics**
- **Who did What to Whom**

Applications

- Question Answering/Semantic Search
- Machine Translation
- Information Extraction
- Dialogue Systems
- ...

Today's Tutorial

- Part I
 - why is automatic parsing difficult?
 - Combinatory Categorical Grammar
- Part II
 - parsing with CCG
 - statistical parsing models
 - parsing the web

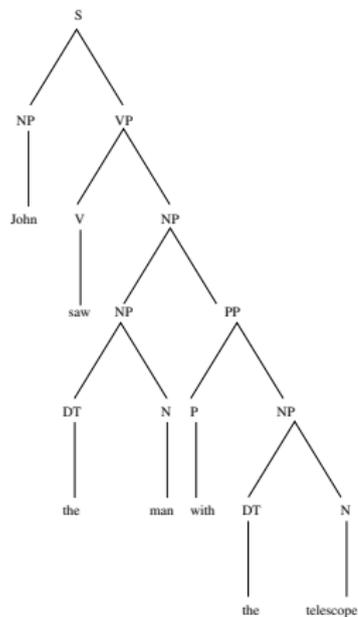
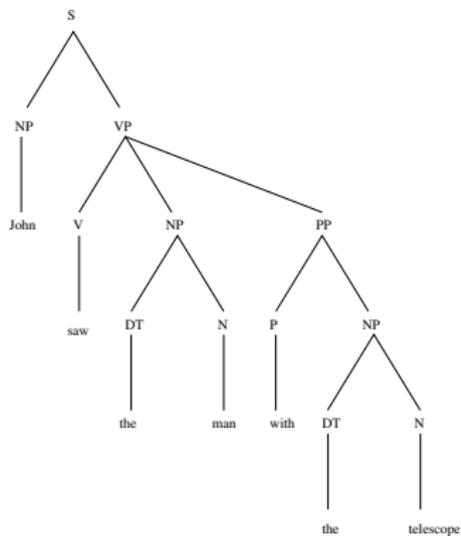
Why is Automatic Parsing Difficult?

- Obtaining a *wide-coverage* grammar which can handle arbitrary real text is challenging

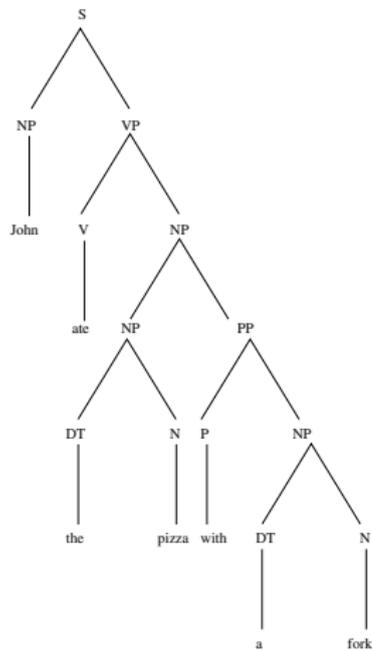
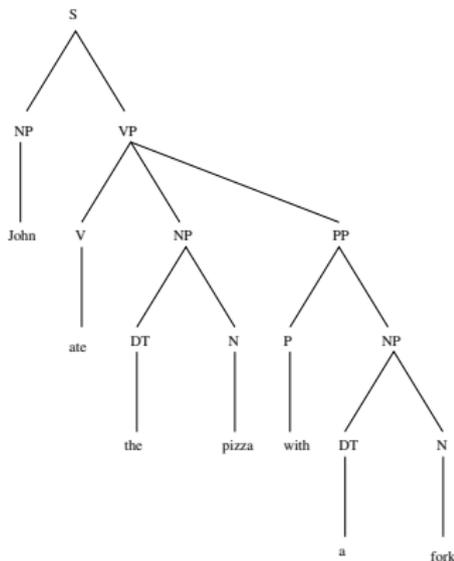
Why is Automatic Parsing Difficult?

- Obtaining a *wide-coverage* grammar which can handle arbitrary real text is challenging
- Natural language is surprisingly **ambiguous**

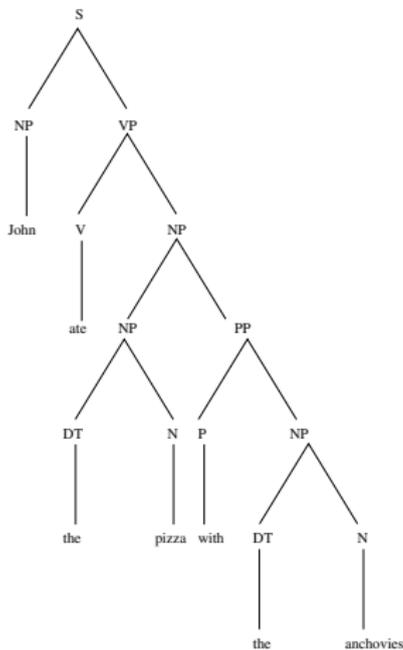
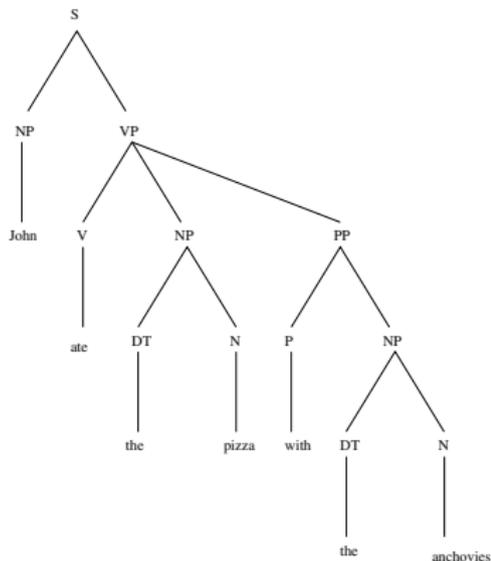
Syntactic Ambiguity



Ambiguity: the problem is worse than you think



Ambiguity: the problem is worse than you think



Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Put the block in the box on the table **2 analyses**

Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Put the block in the box on the table **2 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair **5 analyses**

Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Put the block in the box on the table **2 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair **5 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair before the table **14 analyses**

Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Put the block in the box on the table **2 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair **5 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair before the table **14 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair before the table in the kitchen **42 analyses**

Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Put the block in the box on the table **2 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair **5 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair before the table **14 analyses**
- Put the block in the box on the table beside the chair before the table in the kitchen **42 analyses**
- ... **132 analyses**
- ... **469 analyses**
- ... **1430 analyses**
- ... **4862 analyses**

Ambiguity: the problem is even worse than that

- Wider grammar coverage \Rightarrow more analyses
- In practice this could mean millions (or more) of parses for a single sentence
- We need a *parse model* giving the goodness of each parse
- We need an efficient representation of the large parse space, and an efficient way to search it

Combinatory Categorical Grammar (CCG)

- CCG is a **lexicalised grammar**
- An elementary syntactic structure – for CCG a **lexical category** – is assigned to each word in a sentence

walked: $S \backslash NP$ ‘give me an NP to my left and I return a sentence’

CCG Lexical Categories

- Atomic categories: S , N , NP , PP , ... (not many more)
- Complex categories are built recursively from atomic categories and slashes, which indicate the directions of arguments

CCG Lexical Categories

- Atomic categories: S , N , NP , PP , ... (not many more)
- Complex categories are built recursively from atomic categories and slashes, which indicate the directions of arguments
- Complex categories encode subcategorisation information
 - intransitive verb: $S \backslash NP$ *walked*
 - transitive verb: $(S \backslash NP) / NP$ *respected*
 - ditransitive verb: $((S \backslash NP) / NP) / NP$ *gave*

CCG Lexical Categories

- Atomic categories: S , N , NP , PP , ... (not many more)
- Complex categories are built recursively from atomic categories and slashes, which indicate the directions of arguments
- Complex categories encode subcategorisation information
 - intransitive verb: $S \backslash NP$ *walked*
 - transitive verb: $(S \backslash NP) / NP$ *respected*
 - ditransitive verb: $((S \backslash NP) / NP) / NP$ *gave*
- Complex categories can encode modification
 - PP nominal: $(NP \backslash NP) / NP$
 - PP verbal: $((S \backslash NP) \backslash (S \backslash NP)) / NP$

A Simple CCG Derivation

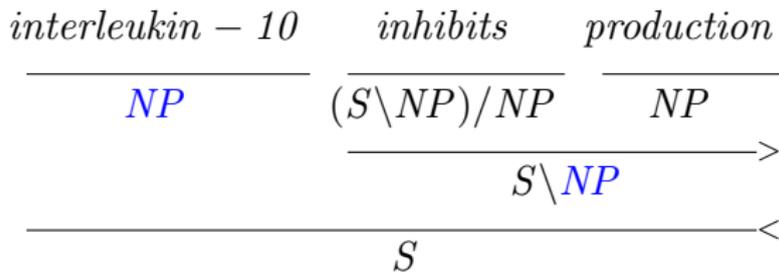
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \textit{interleukin} - 10 & \textit{inhibits} & \textit{production} \\
 \hline
 NP & (S \setminus NP) / NP & NP
 \end{array}$$

A Simple CCG Derivation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \textit{interleukin} - 10 \quad \textit{inhibits} \quad \textit{production} \\
 \hline
 NP \quad (S \backslash NP) / NP \quad NP \\
 \hline
 S \backslash NP \quad \rightarrow
 \end{array}$$

> forward application

A Simple CCG Derivation



- > forward application
- < backward application

Function Application Rule Schemata

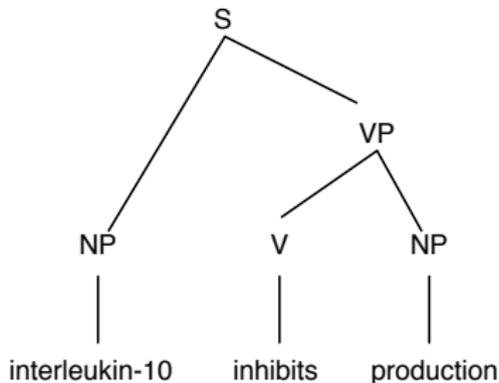
- Forward ($>$) and backward ($<$) application:

$$X/Y \ Y \Rightarrow X \ (>)$$

$$Y \ X \backslash Y \Rightarrow X \ (<)$$

Classical Categorical Grammar

- 'Classical' Categorical Grammar only has application rules
- Classical Categorical Grammar is context free



Extraction out of a Relative Clause

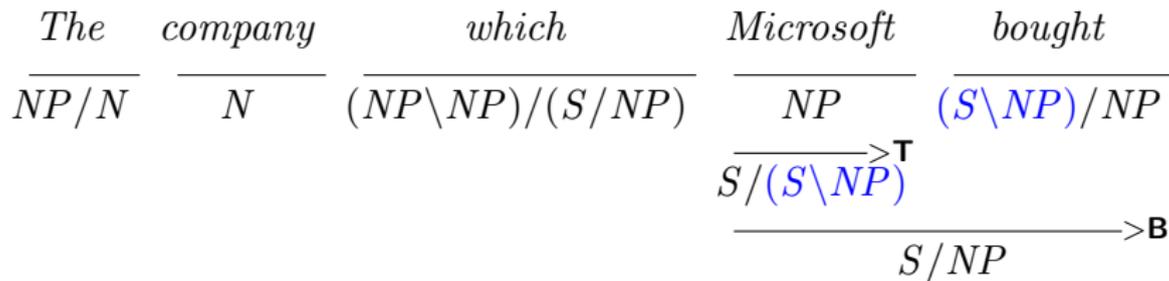
<i>The</i>	<i>company</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>Microsoft</i>	<i>bought</i>
NP/N	N	$(NP \setminus NP) / (S / NP)$	NP	$(S \setminus NP) / NP$

Extraction out of a Relative Clause

<i>The</i>	<i>company</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>Microsoft</i>	<i>bought</i>
$\overline{NP/N}$	\overline{N}	$\overline{(NP \setminus NP)/(S/NP)}$	\overline{NP}	$\overline{(S \setminus NP)/NP}$
			$\overline{S/(S \setminus \overline{NP})}^{\mathbf{T}}$	

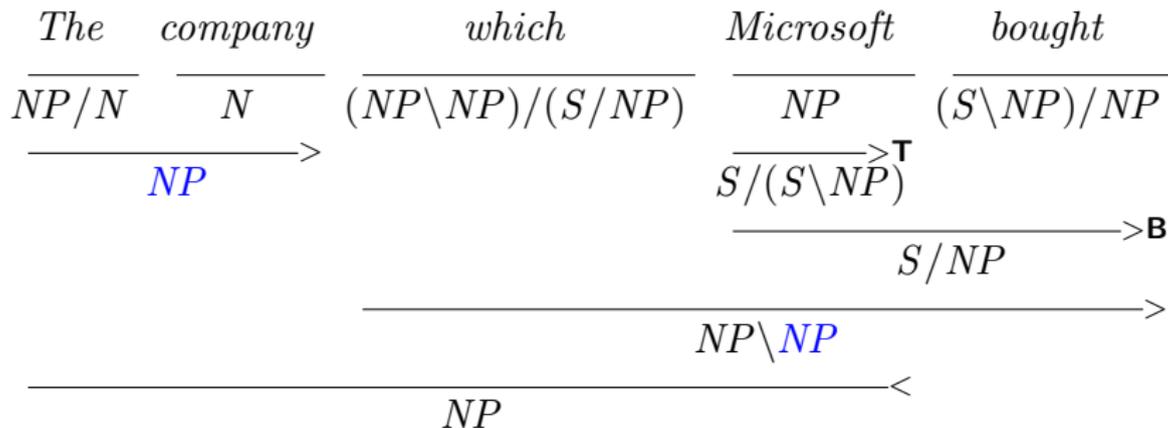
> **T** type-raising

Extraction out of a Relative Clause



- > **T** type-raising
- > **B** forward composition

Extraction out of a Relative Clause



Forward Composition and Type-Raising

- Forward composition ($>_{\mathbf{B}}$):

$$X/Y \ Y/Z \Rightarrow X/Z \quad (>_{\mathbf{B}})$$

- Type-raising (\mathbf{T}):

$$X \Rightarrow T/(T \setminus X) \quad (>_{\mathbf{T}})$$

$$X \Rightarrow T \setminus (T/X) \quad (<_{\mathbf{T}})$$

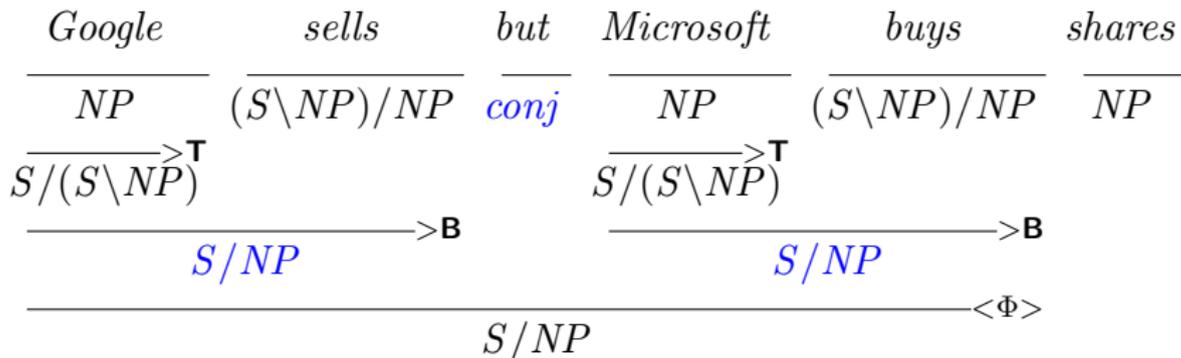
- Extra combinatory rules increase the weak generative power to mild context -sensitivity

“Non-constituents” in CCG – Right Node Raising

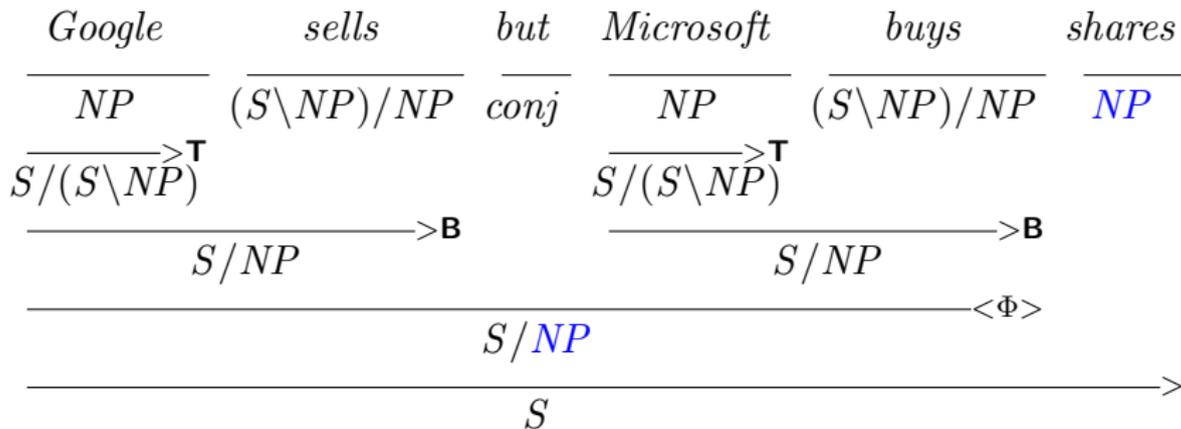
<i>Google</i>	<i>sells</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>Microsoft</i>	<i>buys</i>	<i>shares</i>
<i>NP</i>	$(S \backslash NP) / NP$	<i>conj</i>	<i>NP</i>	$(S \backslash NP) / NP$	<i>NP</i>
$\overline{S / (S \backslash NP)} \xrightarrow{T}$			$\overline{S / (S \backslash NP)} \xrightarrow{T}$		

> **T** type-raising

“Non-constituents” in CCG – Right Node Raising

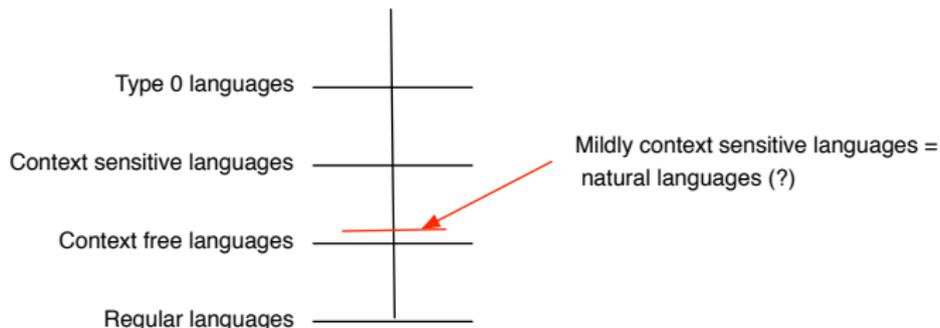


“Non-constituents” in CCG – Right Node Raising



Combinatory Categorical Grammar

- CCG is *mildly* context sensitive
- Natural language is provably non-context free
- Constructions in Dutch and Swiss German (Shieber, 1985) require more than context free power for their analysis
 - these have *crossing* dependencies (which CCG can handle)



Maximum Entropy Tagging

BELL|NNP|N/N INDUSTRIES|NNP|N/N Inc.|NNP|N increased|VBD|(S[dcl]\NP)/NP
its|PRP\$|NP[nb]/N quarterly|NN|N to|TO|((S\NP)\(S\NP))/NP 10|CD|N/N
cents|NNS|N from|IN|((S\NP)\(S\NP))/NP seven|CD|N/N cents|NNS|N
a|DT|(NP\NP)/N share|NN|N .|. .|.

- Consider POS tagging as an example
- 45 POS tags from the Penn Treebank

Maximum Entropy Tagging (Ratnaparkhi, 1998)

- Use local log-linear models to estimate $P(\text{tag}|\text{context})$:

$$P(t|x) = \frac{1}{Z_x} e^{\sum_j \lambda_j f_j(t,x)}$$

Z_x is a normalisation constant ensuring a proper distribution

- Conditional probability of tag sequence:

$$P(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n | w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(t_i | x_i)$$

Feature-Based Tagging

- Context is a 5-word window surrounding target word
- Features are the words in the window, plus the two previously assigned tags
- Additional features for rare and unknown words
 - suffix information
 - is the word capitalised?
 - does the word contain a hyphen?

Features in Log-Linear Tagging Models

- Features are binary-valued indicator functions
- Contextual predicates identify elements of the context which may be useful for predicting the tag

$$f_i(t, x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{word}(x) = \text{the} \ \& \ t = \text{det} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\text{word}(x) = \text{the}$ is an example of a contextual predicate
- Features can be arbitrary properties of the context
- No requirement for the features to be independent
- Variety of training algorithms available to automatically set the weights

CCG Supertagging

He *goes* *on* *the* *road* *with* *his* *piano*
 \overline{NP} $\overline{(S[dcl]\backslash NP)/PP}$ $\overline{PP/NP}$ $\overline{NP/N}$ \overline{N} $\overline{((S\backslash NP)\backslash(S\backslash NP))/NP}$ $\overline{NP/N}$ \overline{N}

A *bitter* *conflict* *with* *global* *implications*
 $\overline{NP/N}$ $\overline{N/N}$ \overline{N} $\overline{(NP\backslash NP)/NP}$ $\overline{N/N}$ \overline{N}

CCG Supertagging

He *goes* *on* *the* *road* *with* *his* *piano*
 \overline{NP} $\overline{(S[dcl]\backslash NP)/PP}$ $\overline{PP/NP}$ $\overline{NP/N}$ \overline{N} $\overline{((S\backslash NP)\backslash (S\backslash NP))/NP}$ $\overline{NP/N}$ \overline{N}

A *bitter* *conflict* *with* *global* *implications*
 $\overline{NP/N}$ $\overline{N/N}$ \overline{N} $\overline{(NP\backslash NP)/NP}$ $\overline{N/N}$ \overline{N}

- ≈ 400 lexical category types
- Baseline tagging accuracy is $\approx 72\%$
 - baseline is to assign tag most frequently seen with word in training data, and assign \overline{N} to unseen words
- Baseline for Penn Treebank POS tagging is $\approx 90\%$

Lexical Category Sequence for Newspaper Sentence

$\frac{In|IN}{(S/S)/NP}$ $\frac{an|DT}{NP[nb]/N}$ $\frac{Oct.|NNP}{N/N}$ $\frac{19|CD}{N/N}$ $\frac{review|NN}{N}$ $\frac{of|IN}{(NP\NP)/NP}$ $\frac{The|DT}{NP[nb]/N}$

$\frac{Misanthrope|NNP}{N}$ $\frac{at|IN}{(NP\NP)/NP}$ $\frac{Chicago|NNP}{N}$ $\frac{'s|POS}{(NP[nb]/N)\NP}$ $\frac{Goodman|NNP}{N/N}$ $\frac{Theatre|NNP}{N}$

$\frac{-LRB-|LRB}{(NP\NP)/S[dcl]}$ $\frac{Revitalized|JJ}{N/N}$ $\frac{Classics|NNS}{N}$ $\frac{Take|VBZ}{(S[dcl]\NP)/NP}$ $\frac{the|DT}{NP[nb]/N}$ $\frac{Stage|NN}{N}$...

A Maximum Entropy Supertagger

- Maximum Entropy tagging method can be applied to CCG supertagging
- Features are the words and POS tags in the 5-word window, plus the two previously assigned categories
- Per-word tagging accuracy is $\approx 92\%$
- This accuracy is not high enough for the tagger to serve as an effective front-end to a CCG parser
 - roughly two errors per WSJ sentence on average

Multitagging

- Potentially assign more than one category to a word
 - assign all categories whose probability is within some factor β of the highest probability category
- Accuracy is over 97% at only 1.4 categories per word
- Accuracy is now high enough to serve as a front-end to the parser

Chart Parsing

- A chart is just a tabular data structure which stores the constituents spanning each subsequence of words
- The chart can be filled in “bottom-up”
 - start by combining lexical categories and continue to apply the combinatory rules until the whole sentence is covered
- Fill in the cells corresponding to the shortest subsequences first:
 - the *CKY algorithm*

Chart Parsing

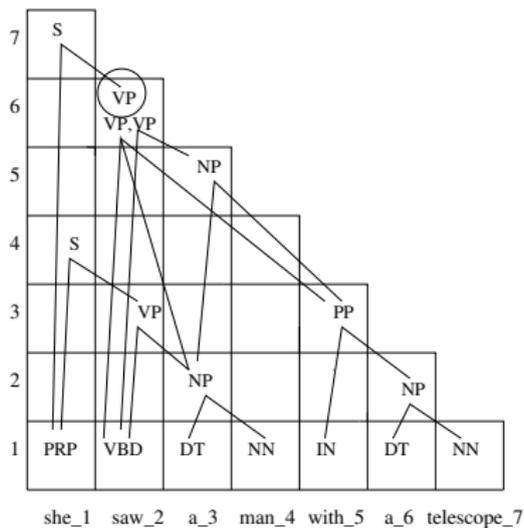
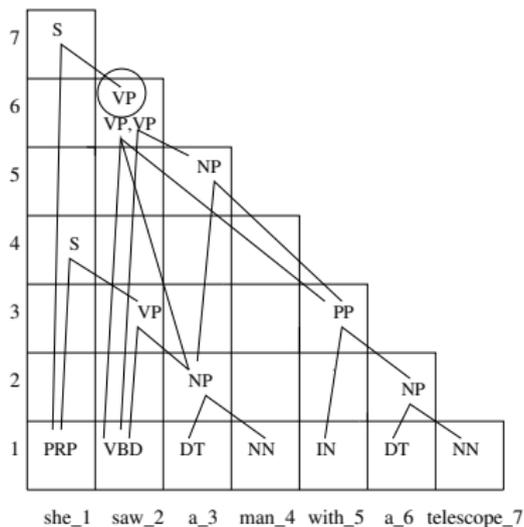
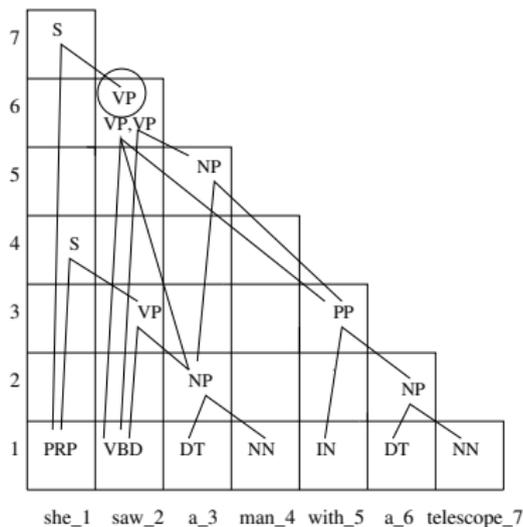


Chart Parsing



- CKY chart-parsing algorithm operates bottom-up

Chart Parsing



- CKY chart-parsing algorithm operates bottom-up
- *Packing* the chart efficiently represents a large derivation space

CKY Algorithm

`chart[i][j]` is a cell containing categories spanning words from `i` to `i + j`

initialise chart with categories of span 1 (lexical categories)

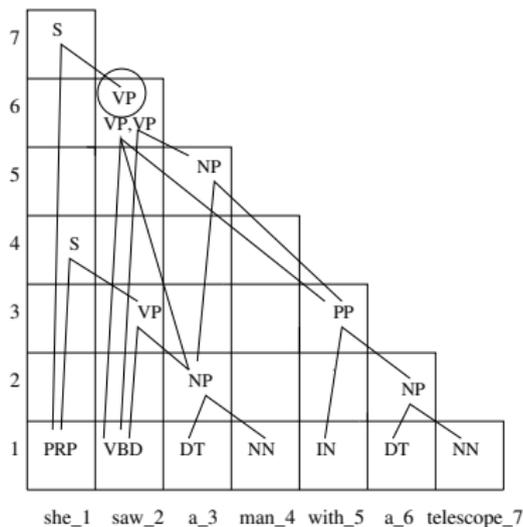
LOOP over span of result category (`j = 2` to `SENT_LENGTH`)

 LOOP over start position of left combining category (`i = 0` to `SENT_LENGTH - j`)

 LOOP over span of left combining category (`k = 1` to `j - 1`)

`chart[i][j] ++ Combine(chart[i][k], chart[i + k][j - k])`

Chart Parsing



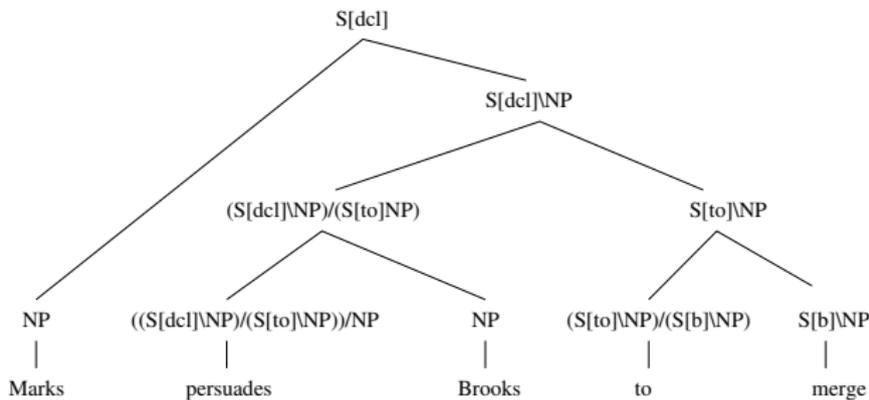
- DP algorithms can be run over the packed representation
- The *Viterbi* algorithm finds the highest scoring derivation

Linear Parsing Model

$$\text{Score}(d, S) = \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(d) = \bar{\lambda} \cdot \phi(d)$$

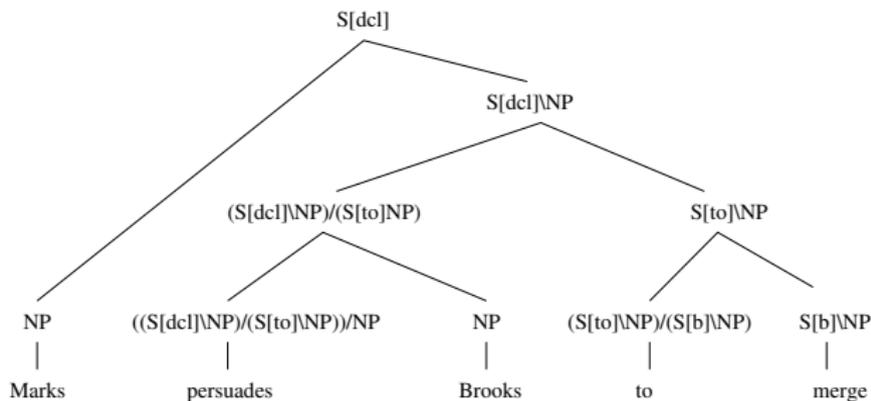
- Features are **counts** over d
 - root category of d (plus lexical head)
 - \langle lexical category, lexical item \rangle pairs
 - rule feature: $S \rightarrow NP \ S \setminus NP$ (plus lexical head)
 - predicate argument dependency: subj(bought, IBM)
(plus distance)
 - “Backing-off” features with words replaced by POS tags
- Use Perceptron training to set the weights

Training Data from CCGbank



$\text{subj}(\text{persuades}, \text{Marks})$
 $\text{obj}(\text{persuades}, \text{Brooks})$
 $\text{subj}(\text{merge}, \text{Brooks})$
 $\text{to-inf}(\text{persuades}, \text{merge})$

Feature Representation



$$f_i : D \rightarrow \mathcal{N} \quad (3\,000\,000 \leq i \leq 1)$$

Linear Parsing Model

$$\text{Score}(d, s) = \sum_i \lambda_i \cdot f_i(d) = \bar{\lambda} \cdot \bar{f}(d)$$

- f_i are the *features* (defined by hand)
- λ_i are the corresponding *weights* (which need to be learned)

Perceptron Training

$$\text{Score}(d, S) = \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(d) = \bar{\lambda} \cdot \phi(d)$$

Inputs: training examples (x_i, y_i)

Initialisation: set $\bar{\lambda} = 0$

Algorithm:

for $t = 1..T$, $i = 1..N$

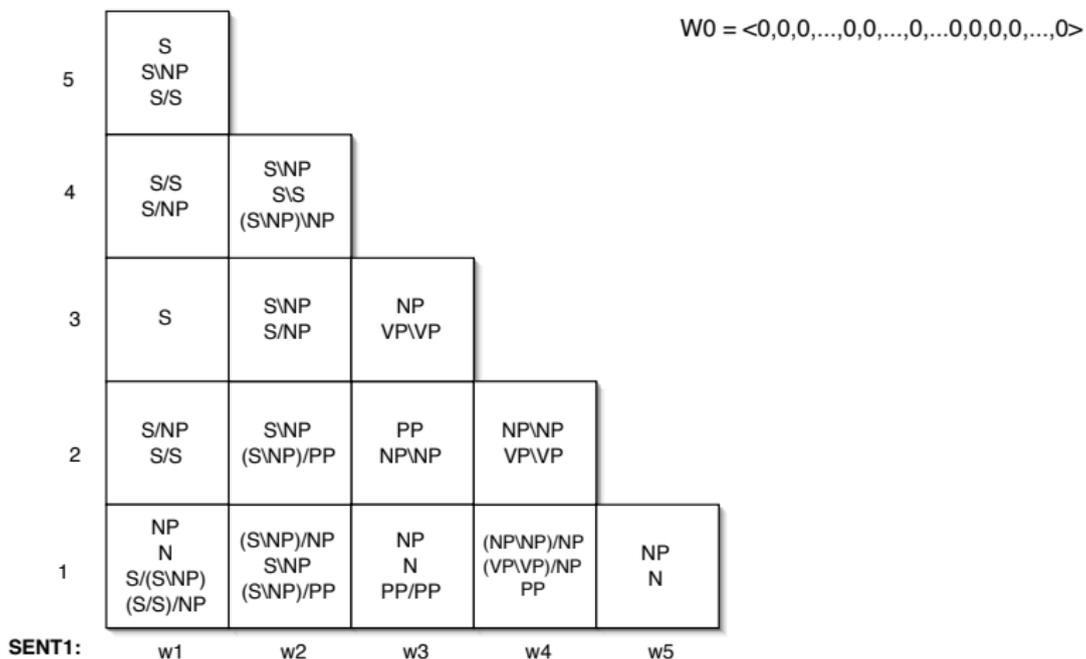
calculate $z_i = \arg \max_{y \in \text{GEN}(x_i)} \Phi(x_i, y) \cdot \bar{\lambda}$

if $z_i \neq y_i$

$\bar{\lambda} = \bar{\lambda} + \Phi(x_i, y_i) - \Phi(x_i, z_i)$

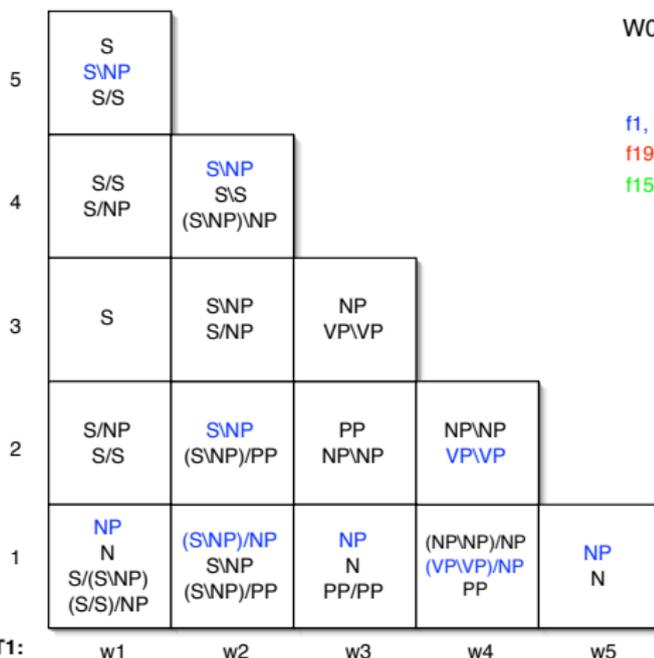
Outputs: $\bar{\lambda}$

Perceptron Training



Perceptron Training

DECODE:



$W_0 = \langle 0, 0, 0, \dots, 0, 0, \dots, 0, \dots, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 0 \rangle$

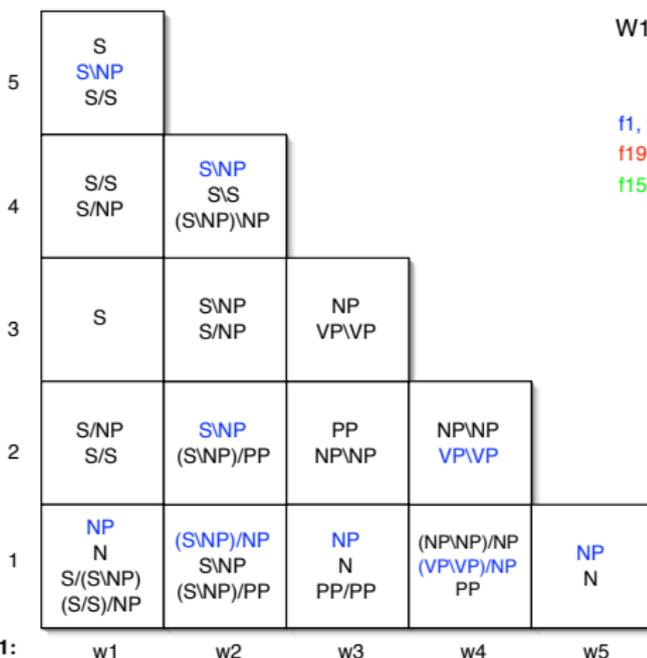
f1, f20, f55, f100, f210, f345

f19, f25, f75, f150, f211, f346, f450, f500, f525

f15, f21, f56, f120, f212, f348, f419

Perceptron Training (Online)

UPDATE WEIGHTS:



$$W1 = \langle 0, 1, 0, \dots, -1, 0, \dots, -1, \dots, 0, 1, 0, -1, \dots, 0 \rangle$$

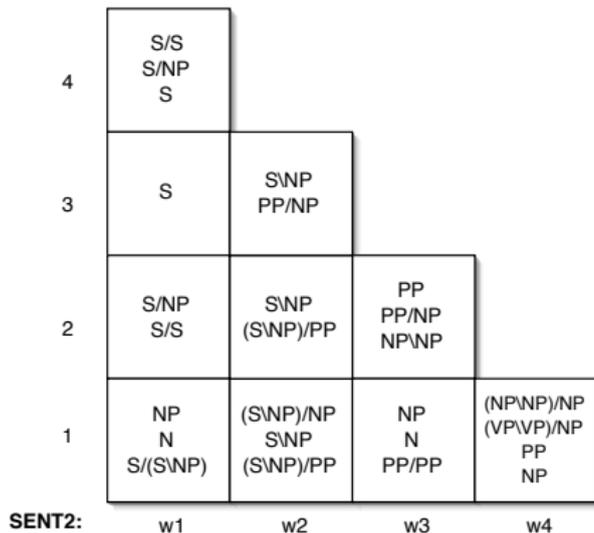
f1, f20, f55, f100, f210, f345

f19, f25, f75, f150, f211, f346, f450, f500, f525

f15, f21, f56, f120, f212, f348, f419

Perceptron Training

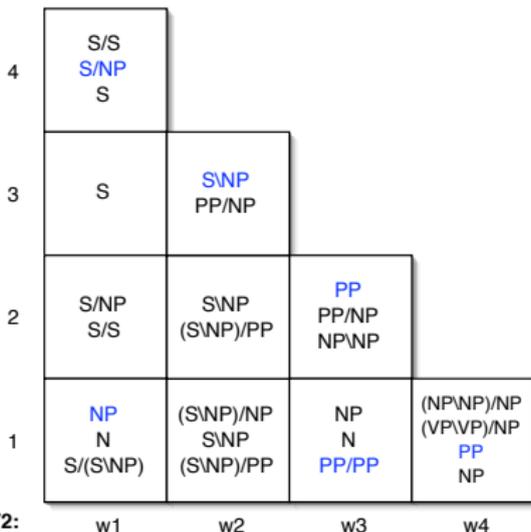
$$W1 = \langle 0, 1, 0, \dots, -1, 0, \dots, -1, \dots, 0, 1, 0, -1, \dots, 0 \rangle$$



Perceptron Training

$W1 = \langle 0, 1, 0, \dots, -1, 0, \dots, -1, \dots, 0, 1, 0, -1, \dots, 0 \rangle$

DECODE:



f11, f21, f57, f90, f145, f250

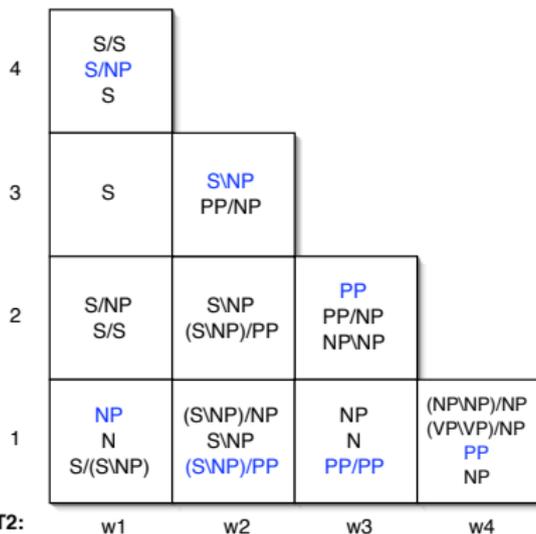
f21, f25, f76, f151, f222, f348, f444, f507, f575

f17, f45, f155, f167, f678

Perceptron Training

$$W2 = \langle 0, 2, -1, \dots, -1, 1, \dots, -1, \dots, 0, 1, 0, -2, \dots, -1 \rangle$$

UPDATE WEIGHTS:



f11, f21, f57, f90, f145, f250

f21, f25, f76, f151, f222, f348, f444, f507, f575

f17, f45, f155, f167, f678

Perceptron Training is Expensive

$$\text{Score}(d|S) = \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(d) = \bar{\lambda} \cdot \phi(d)$$

Inputs: training examples (x_i, y_i)

Initialisation: set $\bar{\lambda} = 0$

Algorithm:

for $t = 1..T$, $i = 1..N$

calculate $z_i = \arg \max_{y \in \text{GEN}(x_i)} \Phi(x_i, y) \cdot \bar{\lambda}$

if $z_i \neq y_i$

$\bar{\lambda} = \bar{\lambda} + \Phi(x_i, y_i) - \Phi(x_i, z_i)$

Outputs: $\bar{\lambda}$

- Requires an efficient decoder

Efficient Decoding with CCG

- Supertagging leaves decoder with (relatively) little left to do
- Each packed chart needs at most 20 MB RAM
- Most probable derivation can be found very quickly with Viterbi
- Training takes 5 hours for 10 iterations

Parser Evaluation

- Compare output of the parser with a *gold standard*
- Exact match metric sometimes used but a little crude
- Partial match against a set of *grammatical relations* currently the method of choice
 - measures recovery of semantically important relations
 - relatively theory-neutral representation

Head-Based Grammatical Relations

- *She gave the present to Kim*
(ncsubj gave She _)
(dobj gave present)
(iobj gave to)
(dobj to Kim)
(det present the)

Head-Based Grammatical Relations

- *She gave the present to Kim*
(ncsubj gave She _)
(dobj gave present)
(iobj gave to)
(dobj to Kim)
(det present the)
- *The company wants to wean itself away from expensive gimmicks*
(xcomp to wants wean)
(iobj wean from)
(ncmod prt wean away)
(dobj wean itself)
(dobj from gimmicks)
(ncmod _ gimmicks expensive)

...

Mapping CCG Dependencies to GRs

- Argument slots in CCG dependencies are mapped to GRs

CCG lexical category	arg slot	GR
$(S[dcl] \setminus NP_1) / NP_2$	1	(nsubj %1 %f)
$(S[dcl] \setminus NP_1) / NP_2$	2	(dobj %1 %f)
$(NP \setminus NP_1) / NP_2$	1	(prep %f %1)
$(NP \setminus NP_1) / NP_2$	2	(pobj %1 %f)
$NP[nb] / N_1$	1	(det %f %1)

- Mapping is many-to-many

Test Suite: DepBank

- 700 sentences of newspaper text manually annotated with GRS
- Calculate precision and recall over GRS

$$Prec = \frac{\# \text{ correct}}{\# \text{ proposed by parser}} \quad Rec = \frac{\# \text{ correct}}{\# \text{ in gold standard}}$$

$$F\text{-score} = \frac{2 P R}{P + R}$$

Final Parsing Results

Prec	Rec	F-score
84.1	82.8	83.4

- These scores compare favourably with the best results in the literature on this test set

Results by Dependency Type

GR	F-score
ncsubj	79.6
dobj	87.7
obj2	66.7
iobj	73.4
clausal	75.0
ncmod	76.1
aux	92.8
det	95.1
conj	77.5

Parsing the Web

- Why parse the Web?
 - semantic search
 - provide massive amounts of data for knowledge acquisition
 - ...
- Need a fast parser (to process billions of web pages)
- Need a parser that isn't overly tuned to newspaper text

Speed Demo

- Use of the CCG supertagger (and some highly engineered C++) leads to a highly efficient linguistically motivated parser
- Can process **1 billion words** in less than 5 days with 18 machines
- Can we make the parser go faster still?

Conclusion

- Robust linguistically-motivated parsing of real text is now possible
 - but can it really help in NLP applications?
- What's left?
 - plenty of room for accuracy improvements
 - cheap ways to get more training data