

## Admin

## Assignment 3

Quiz \#1

- Q1: 28 (77\%)
- Q2: 32 ( $89 \%$ )
- Q3: 33 (92\%)
- Average: 30 ( $84 \%$ )


## Parsing

Parsing is the field of NLP interested in
automatically determining the syntactic structure of a sentence
parsing can also be thought of as determining what sentences are "valid" English sentences

## Parsing

We have a grammar, determine the possible parse tree(s)

Let's start with parsing with a CFG (no probabilities)

| $S \rightarrow N P V P$ | I eat sushi with tuna |
| :--- | :--- |
| $N P \rightarrow P R P$ |  |
| $N P \rightarrow N P P$ |  |
| $V P \rightarrow V N P$ |  |
| $V P \rightarrow V N P P P$ | approaches? |
| $P P \rightarrow I N N$ | algorithms? |
| $P R P \rightarrow 1$ |  |
| $V \rightarrow$ eat |  |

Parsing
Top-down parsing
$\square$ ends up doing a lot of repeated work
$\square$ doesn't take into account the words in the sentence until the end!
Bottom-up parsing
$\square$ constrain based on the words
$\square$ avoids repeated work (dynamic programming)
$\square$ doesn't take into account the high-level structure until the end!
$\square$ CKY parser

Top Down Parsing












## Why is parsing hard?

## Actual grammars are large

Lots of ambiguity!

- Most sentences have many parses
$\square$ Some sentences have a lot of parses
$\square$ Even for sentences that are not ambiguous, there is often ambiguity for subtrees (i.e. multiple ways to parse a phrase)


## Why is parsing hard?

I saw the man on the hill with the telescope

What are some interpretations?
Structural Ambiguity Can Give Exponential Parses

I saw the man on the hill with the telescope

## Dynamic Programming Parsing

To avoid extensive repeated work you must cache intermediate results, specifically found constituents

Caching (memoizing) is critical to obtaining a polynomial time parsing algorithm for CFGs

Dynamic programming algorithms based on both topdown and bottom-up search can achieve $O\left(n^{3}\right)$ recognition time where $n$ is the length of the input string.

## Dynamic Programming Parsing Methods

CKY (Cocke-Kasami-Younger) algorithm based on bottom-up parsing and requires first normalizing the grammar.

Earley parser is based on top-down parsing and does not require normalizing grammar but is more complex.

These both fall under the general category of chart parsers which retain completed constituents in a chart










Parsing ambiguity



## Parsing with PCFGs

How does this change our CKY algorithm? $\square$ We need to keep track of the probability of a constituent

How do we calculate the probability of a constituent?
$\square$ Product of the PCFG rule times the product of the probabilities of the sub-constituents (right hand sides)
$\square$ Building up the product from the bottom-up

What if there are multiple ways of deriving a particular constituent?
$\square$ max: pick the most likely derivation of that constituent

## Probabilistic CKY

Include in each cell a probability for each non-terminal

Cell[i,i] must retain the most probable derivation of each constituent (non-terminal) covering words $i$ through $j$

When transforming the grammar to CNF, must set production probabilities to preserve the probability of derivations






## Generic PCFG Limitations

PCFGs do not rely on specific words or concepts, only general structural disambiguation is possible (e.g. prefer to attach PPs to Nominals)
$\square$ Generic PCFGs cannot resolve syntactic ambiguities that require semantics to resolve, e.g. "ate with": fork vs. meatballs

Smoothing/dealing with out of vocabulary

MLE estimates are not always the best

