Natural Language Processing
CMSC 723 (spring, 2001)

April 04, 2001

- Review CFG's
- Top-Down Parsing, Bottom-Up Parsing
- Top-Down with Bottom-up Filtering
- Ambiguity, Recursion
- Repeated parsing of substructures
- Dynamic Programming
- Dotted Rule Notation

Example Context-Free Grammar and Example sentence

[Figure 10.2]

Example Context-Free Grammar and Example sentence

[Figure 10.1]

Parsing as search

- **Top down:** parser searches for a parse tree by trying to build from the root node S down to the leaves.
- **Bottom up:** parser starts with words of input and tries to build trees from the words up, applying rules from grammar one at a time.

Top-Down Parsing

What is the goal?

Expanding Top-Down Search Space

[Figure 10.3]

Basic Top-Down Parser

[Figure 10.6]

Bottom-Up Parsing

What is the primary consideration?

Bottom-Up parsing

[Figure 10.4]

Comparing Top-Down and Bottom-Up parsing

What are the advantages and disadvantages of TD vs. BU parsing?

- TOP DOWN

  Advantages:

  Disadvantages:

- BOTTOM UP

  Advantages:

  Disadvantages:

Top-Down and Bottom-Up Combined

Many ways to combine top-down expectations with bottom-up data.

Most popular: use one method as the basic search control strategy and then other method to filter out "bad" structures.

Combining Top-Down with Bottom-Up Filtering

Digression: Search Strategies

1. Parallel

2. Depth-First

Search Control Issues

Additional Digression:

- Choosing which node in the tree to expand next
- Choosing which of the applicable grammar rule to try

Top-Down Parsing Example

[Figure 10.7a]

Top-Down Parsing Example

[Figure 10.7b]

Top-Down Parsing Example

[Figure 10.7c]

Top-Down Parsing Example

[Figure 10.7d]

Why would it be beneficial to add in Bottom-up filtering?

- Ambiguity
- Left recursion
- Repeated parsing of subtrees

Ambiguity

Two types of ambiguity:

- Local ambiguity: locally reasonable, but eventually leads nowhere. Example: "Book that flight"
- Global ambiguity: multiple parses for the same input. Example: [Figure 10.13]

Left Recursion: Immediate

NP $\rightarrow$ NP PP
VP $\rightarrow$ VP PP
S $\rightarrow$ S and S
NP $\rightarrow$ NP and NP

Left Recursion: Indirect

Abstractly...

$A \rightarrow BC$
$B \rightarrow DE$
$D \rightarrow AF$

What's an example?

Solutions

- Rule ordering
- Don't use recursive rules
- Limit the depth of recursion
- Don't use top-down parsing

Rule Ordering

Basic idea...

Bad:
NP → NP PP
NP → Det Nominal

Better alternative?

Grammar Rewriting

Rewrite left-recursive grammar as weakly equivalent non-recursive one.

Grammar Rewriting Example

NP → NP PP
NP → Det Nominal

```
[NP [NP the book]
    [PP on [NP [NP the table]
               [PP in [NP [NP the yard]
                          [PP of [NP the house]]]]]]]

[NP the book
  [Stuff
    [PP on [NP the table
             [Stuff
               [PP in [NP the yard
                        [Stuff
                          [PP of [NP the house [Stuff]]]
                          [Stuff]]]]
               [Stuff]]]]
    [Stuff]]]
```


Depth Bound

To use a depth-bound, there are many different approaches, e.g., setting an arbitrary or analytically derived bound.

Ambiguity

- Rely on semantics
- Rely on probabilities
- Both

Adding Bottom-Up Filtering

Improvement: Parser should eliminate any grammar rule if the current input cannot serve as the **first word along the left edge of some derivation** from this rule.

Category	Left Corners
S	Det, Proper-Noun, Aux, Verb
NP	Det, Proper-Noun
Nominal	Noun
VP	Verb

Filtering with left corners: Don't consider any expansion where the current input cannot serve as the left-corner of that expansion.

Invariants

Sentence: “a flight from Indianapolis to Houston on TWA”

NP → Det Nominal
NP → NP PP
NP → Proper-Noun

Invariants cont.

[Figure 10.14a]

Invariants cont.

[Figure 10.14b]

Invariants cont.

[Figure 10.14c]

Dynamic Programming

We want an alorithm that fills a table with solutions to subproblems that:

- Does not do repeated work
- Does top-down search with bottom-up filtering (sort of)
- Solves the left-recursion problem
- Solves an exponential problem in $O(n^3)$ time.

Dynamic Programming and Parsing

Use a table of size $n + 1$. The table entries sit in the gaps between the words:

- Completed constituents
- In-progress constituents
- Predicted constituents

States

S → • VP
NP → Det • Nominal
VP → V NP •

States cont.

Keep track of:

- What word it is currently processing.
- Where it is in the processing of the current rule.
- Where it should return to when done w/ current rule.