

Computational Linguistics (INF2820 — Syntax)

$S \rightarrow NP VP; S \rightarrow S PP; S \rightarrow VP$

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Candidate Theories of Grammar (1 of 3)

Language as a Set of Strings

The dog barks.

The angry dog barks.

The fierce dog barks.

The fierce angry dog barks.

The angry fierce dog barks.

The dog chased a cat.

A dog chased the cat.

The dog chased a black cat.

The dog chased a young cat.

The dog of my neighbours chased a cat.

A dog chased the cat of my neighbours.

The cat of my neighbours was chased by a dog.

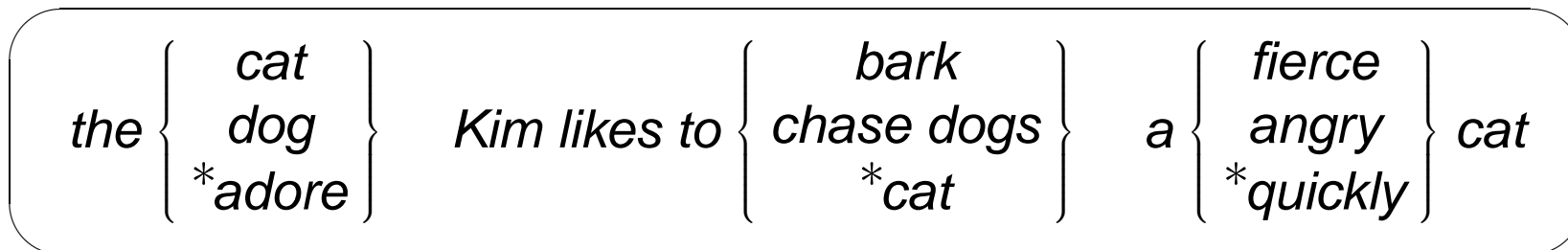
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Grammatical Categories (1 of 2)

Word Classes or Parts of Speech (PoS)

<i>cat, dog, neighbour(s), ...</i>	noun (N)
<i>adore, bark(s), chase(d), was, ...</i>	verb (V)
<i>fierce, angry, black, young, ...</i>	adjective (A)
<i>quickly, probably, not, ...</i>	adverb (Adv)
<i>a, the, my, that, ...</i>	determiner (D)
<i>of, by, on, at, under, ...</i>	preposition (P)
<i>she, mine, those, what, ...</i>	pronoun (Pro)
<i>and, neither ... nor, because, ...</i>	conjunction (C)



Grammatical Categories (2 of 2)

Number — Person — Case — Gender

*That dog barks. — Those dogs bark.
I bark. — You bark. — They bark. — Sam shaved himself.
We bark. — You bark. — Those dogs bark.
I saw her. — She saw me. — My dog barked.*

...

How many distinct verb forms according to number and person?

Tense — Aspect — Mood

*The dog barks. — The dog barked — The dog will bark.
The dog has barked. — The dog is barking.
If I were a carpenter, ...*

...



Candidate Theories of Grammar (2 of 3)

Language as a Sequence of Word Classes

<i>cat, dog, neighbour(s), ...</i>	noun (N)
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<i>fierce, angry, black, young, ...</i>	adjective (A)
<i>a, the, my, that, ...</i>	determiner (D)
<i>of, by, on, at, under, ...</i>	preposition (P)

Regular Expressions

$$D^? A^* N^+ V (D^? A^* N^+)^*$$


Candidate Theories of Grammar (2 of 3)

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Regular Expressions

$$D^? A^* N^+ V (D^? A^* N^+)^*$$

$$D^? A^* N^+ (P D^? A^* N^+)^* V (D^? A^* N^+ (P D^? A^* N^+)^*)^*$$



Candidate Theories of Grammar (3 of 3)



Mildly Mathematically: Context-Free Grammars

- Formally, a *context-free grammar* (CFG) is a quadruple: $\langle C, \Sigma, P, S \rangle$
- C is the set of categories (aka *non-terminals*), e.g. $\{S, NP, VP, V\}$;
- Σ is the vocabulary (aka *terminals*), e.g. $\{\text{Kim, snow, saw, in}\}$;
- P is a set of category rewrite rules (aka *productions*), e.g.

S \rightarrow NP VP
VP \rightarrow V NP
NP \rightarrow Kim
NP \rightarrow snow
V \rightarrow saw

- $S \in C$ is the *start symbol*, a filter on complete ('sentential') results;
- for each rule ' $\alpha \rightarrow \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ ' $\in P$: $\alpha \in C$ and $\beta_i \in C \cup \Sigma$; $1 \leq i \leq n$.

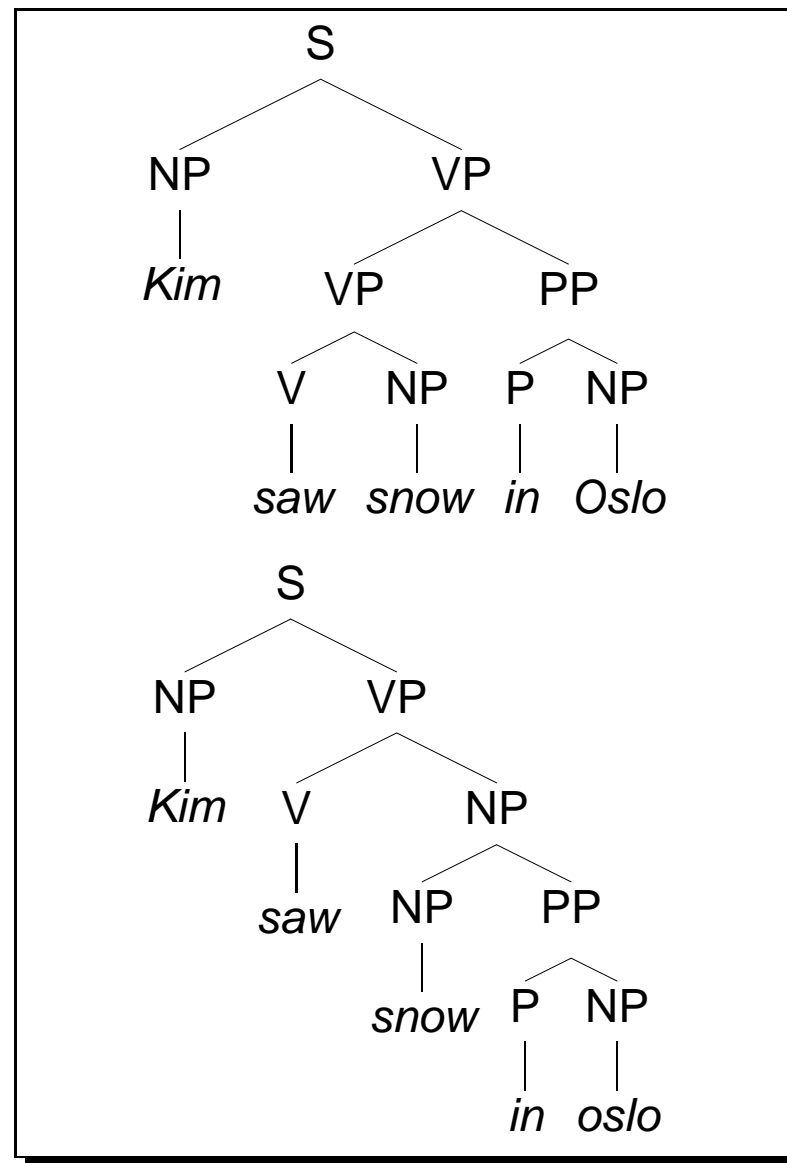


Parsing: Recognizing the Language of a Grammar

- $S \rightarrow NP VP$
- $VP \rightarrow V NP$
- $VP \rightarrow VP PP$
- $NP \rightarrow NP PP$
- $PP \rightarrow P NP$
- $NP \rightarrow Kim \mid snow \mid Oslo$
- $V \rightarrow saw$
- $P \rightarrow in$

All Complete Derivations

- are rooted in the start symbol S ;
- label internal nodes with categories $\in C$, leafs with words $\in \Sigma$;
- instantiate a grammar rule $\in P$ at each local subtree of depth one.



Limitations of Context-Free Grammar

Agreement and Valency (For Example)

That dog barks.

**That dogs barks.*

**Those dogs barks.*

The dog chased a cat.

**The dog barked a cat.*

**The dog chased.*

**The dog chased a cat my neighbours.*

The cat was chased by a dog.

**The cat was chased of a dog.*

...



A Simple-Minded Parsing Algorithm

Control Structure

- top-down: given a parsing goal α , use all grammar rules that rewrite α ;
- successively instantiate (extend) the right-hand sides of each rule;
- for each β_i in the RHS of each rule, recursively attempt to parse β_i ;
- termination: when α is a prefix of the input string, parsing succeeds.

(Intermediate) Results

- Each result records a (partial) tree and remaining input to be parsed;
- complete results consume the full input string and are rooted in S ;
- whenever a RHS is fully instantiated, a new tree is built and returned;
- all results at each level are combined and successively accumulated.



The Recursive Descent Parser

```
(defun parse (input goal)
  (if (equal (first input) goal)
      (let ((edge (make-edge :category (first input))))
        (list (make-parse :edge edge :input (rest input))))
      (loop
        for rule in (rules-deriving goal)
        append (extend-parse (rule-lhs rule) nil (rule-rhs rule) input))))
```

```
(defun extend-parse (goal analyzed unanalyzed input)
  (if (null unanalyzed)
      (let ((edge (make-edge :category goal :daughters analyzed)))
        (list (make-parse :edge edge :input input)))
      (loop
        for parse in (parse input (first unanalyzed))
        append (extend-parse
                  goal (append analyzed (list (parse-edge parse)))
                  (rest unanalyzed)
                  (parse-input parse)))))
```

