

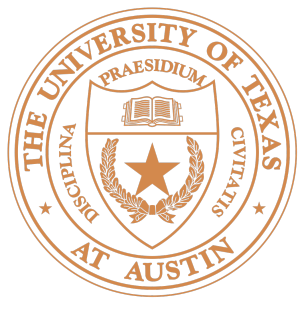
# CS 378: Natural Language Processing

## Lecture 21: Constituency Parsing / QA



TEXAS  
The University of Texas at Austin

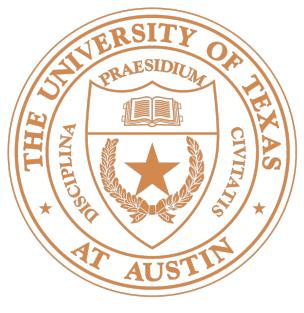
Eunsol Choi



# Today

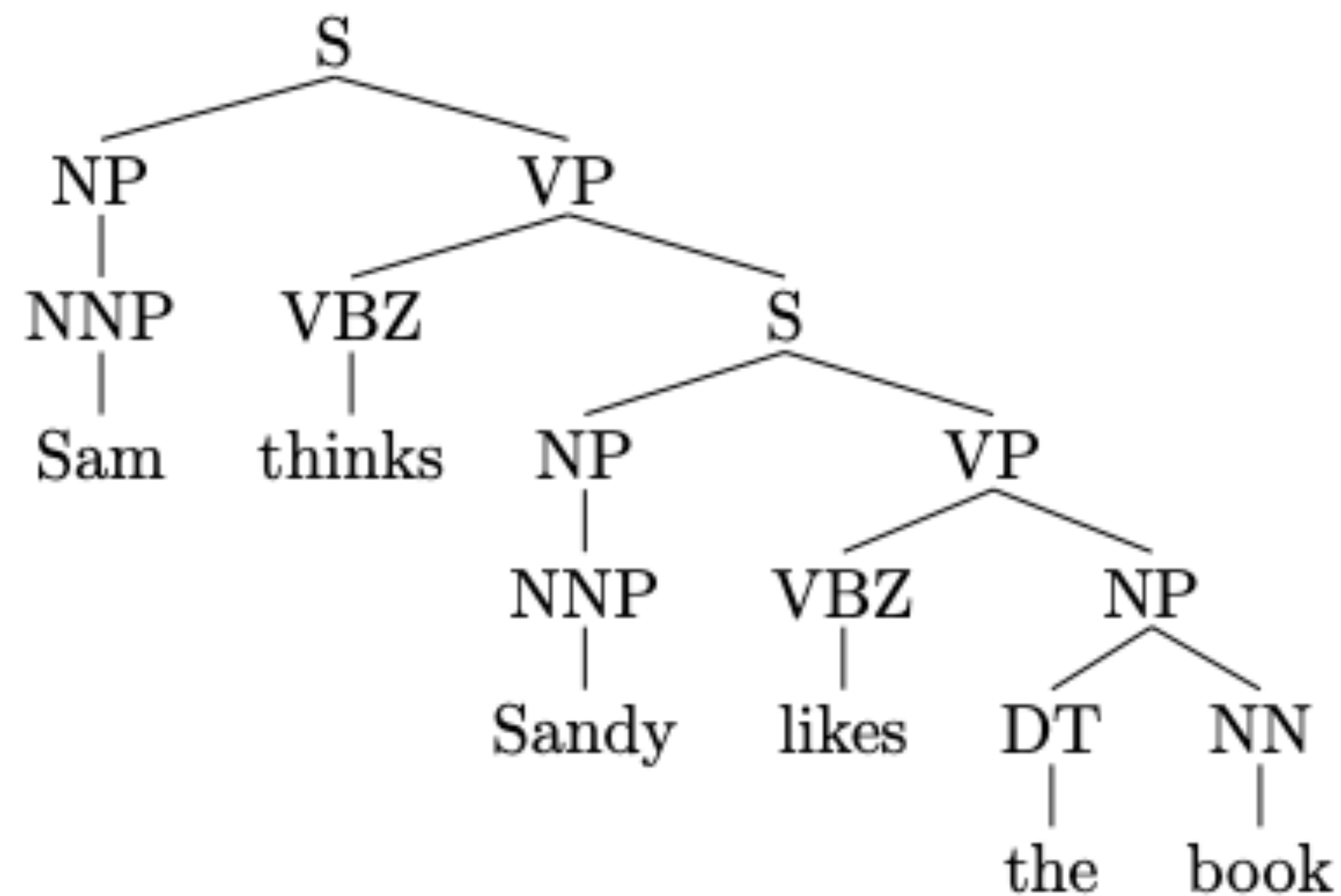
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- ▶ Trees
  - ▶ Constituency Trees
    - ▶ How to find best-scoring trees given probabilistic CFG grammar
  - ▶ Dependency Trees vs. Constituency Trees
- ▶ Applications
  - ▶ Question Answering

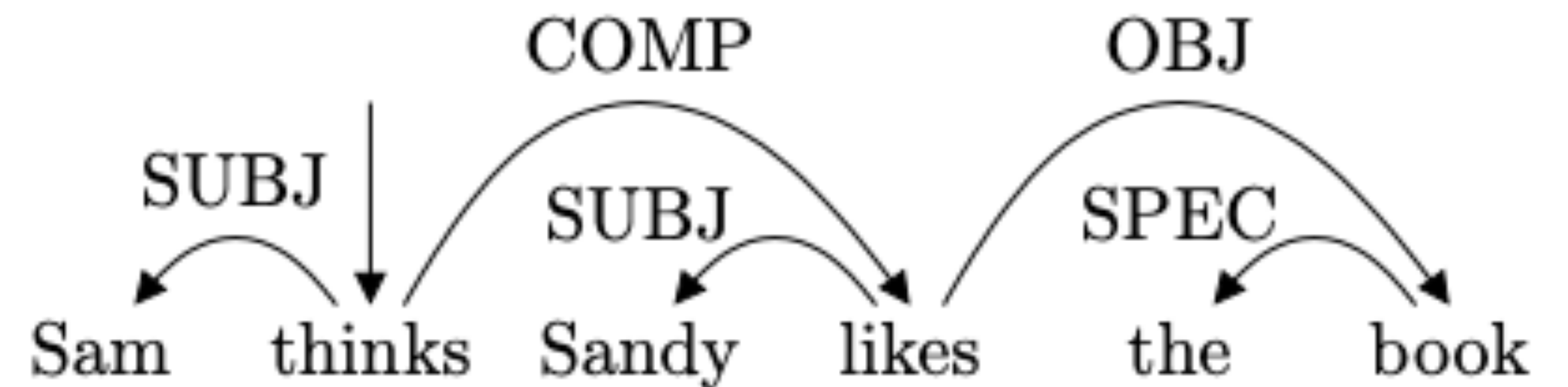


# Recap: Syntax

- ▶ Study of word order and how words form sentences
  - ▶ Constituency Parsing
  - ▶ Dependency Parsing



Words organized as nested structure of constituents

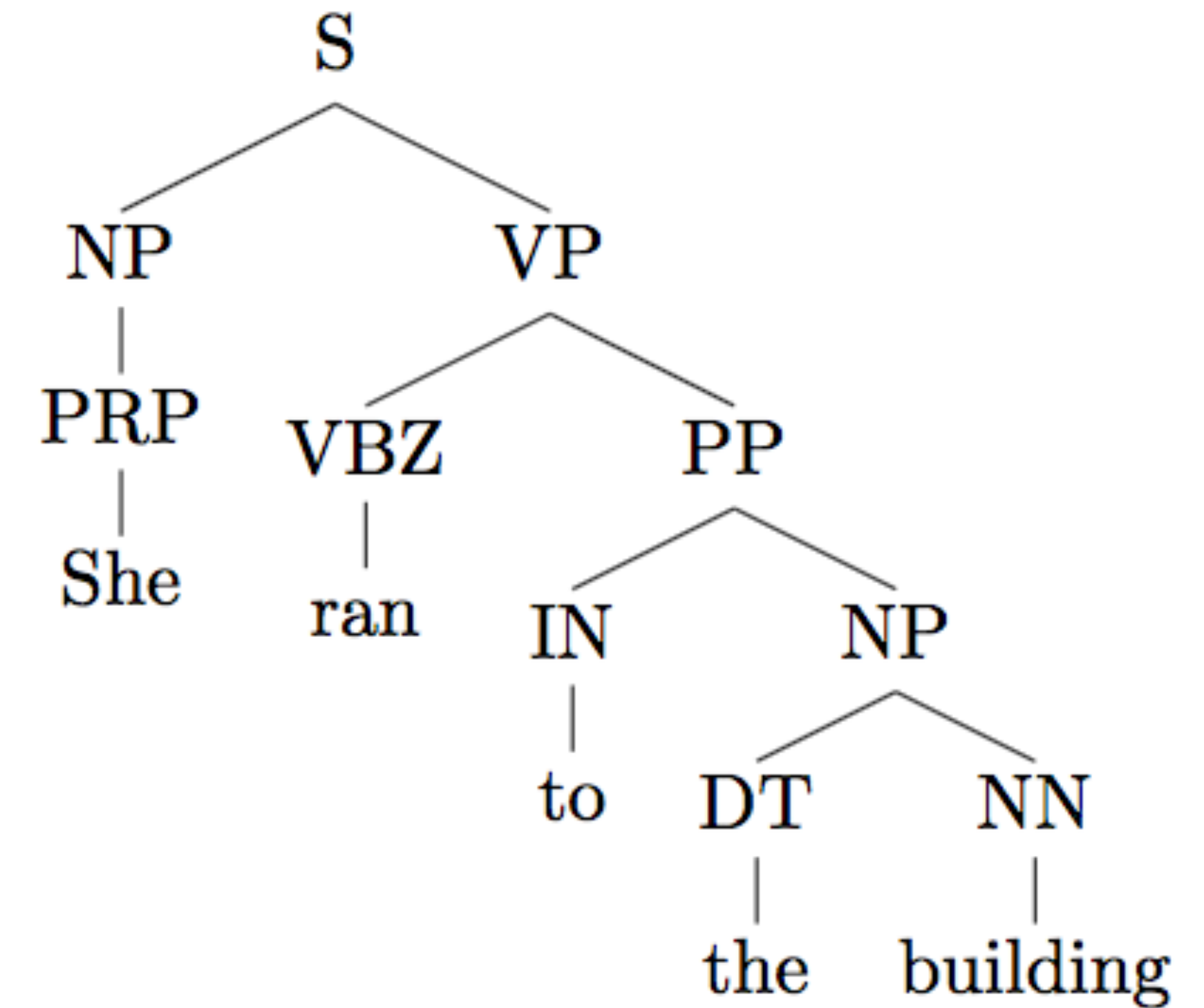


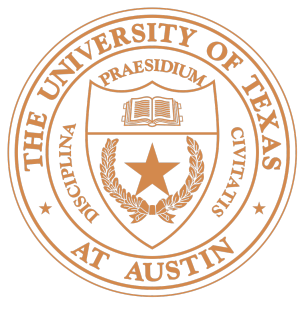
which words depend on (modify or are arguments of) which other words.



# Constituency Parsing

- ▶ Phrase structure organizes words into nested constituents
- ▶ Constituent: a *unit* that can appear in different places
  - ▶ John talked to the children about drugs.
  - ▶ John talked [to the children] [about drugs].
  - ▶ John talked [about drugs] [to the children].
  - ▶ \*John talked drugs to the children about
- ▶ Common constituents: noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases

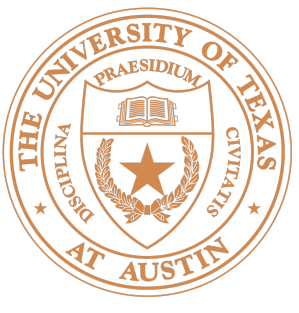




# Context-Free Grammar (CFG)

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- ▶ Formal system for modeling constituency structure in language
- ▶ A context-free grammar is a tuple  $\langle N, \Sigma, S, R \rangle$ 
  - ▶  $N$ : a set of non terminal symbols
  - ▶  $\Sigma$ : a set of terminal symbols
  - ▶  $R$ : set of rules
  - ▶  $S$ : a start symbol



# Statistical Parsing

- ▶ Learning from data: Treebanks
- ▶ Adding probabilities to the rules: probabilistic CFGs (PCFGs)

**Treebanks:** a collection of sentences paired with their parse trees

```
((S
  (NP-SBJ (DT That)
    (JJ cold) (, ,)
    (JJ empty) (NN sky) )
  (VP (VBD was)
    (ADJP-PRD (JJ full)
      (PP (IN of)
        (NP (NN fire)
          (CC and)
          (NN light) ))))
  (. .) ))
```

(a)

```
((S
  (NP-SBJ The/DT flight/NN )
  (VP should/MD
    (VP arrive/VB
      (PP-TMP at/IN
        (NP eleven/CD a.m/RB ))
      (NP-TMP tomorrow/NN )))))
```

(b)

50K annotated sentences

**The Penn Treebank Project (Marcus et al, 1993)**





# Probabilistic context free grammar

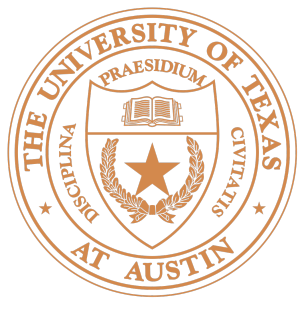
S	$\Rightarrow$	NP	VP	1.0
VP	$\Rightarrow$	Vi		0.4
VP	$\Rightarrow$	Vt	NP	0.4
VP	$\Rightarrow$	VP	PP	0.2
NP	$\Rightarrow$	DT	NN	0.3
NP	$\Rightarrow$	NP	PP	0.7
PP	$\Rightarrow$	P	NP	1.0

Vi	$\Rightarrow$	sleeps	1.0
Vt	$\Rightarrow$	saw	1.0
NN	$\Rightarrow$	man	0.7
NN	$\Rightarrow$	woman	0.2
NN	$\Rightarrow$	telescope	0.1
DT	$\Rightarrow$	the	1.0
IN	$\Rightarrow$	with	0.5
IN	$\Rightarrow$	in	0.5

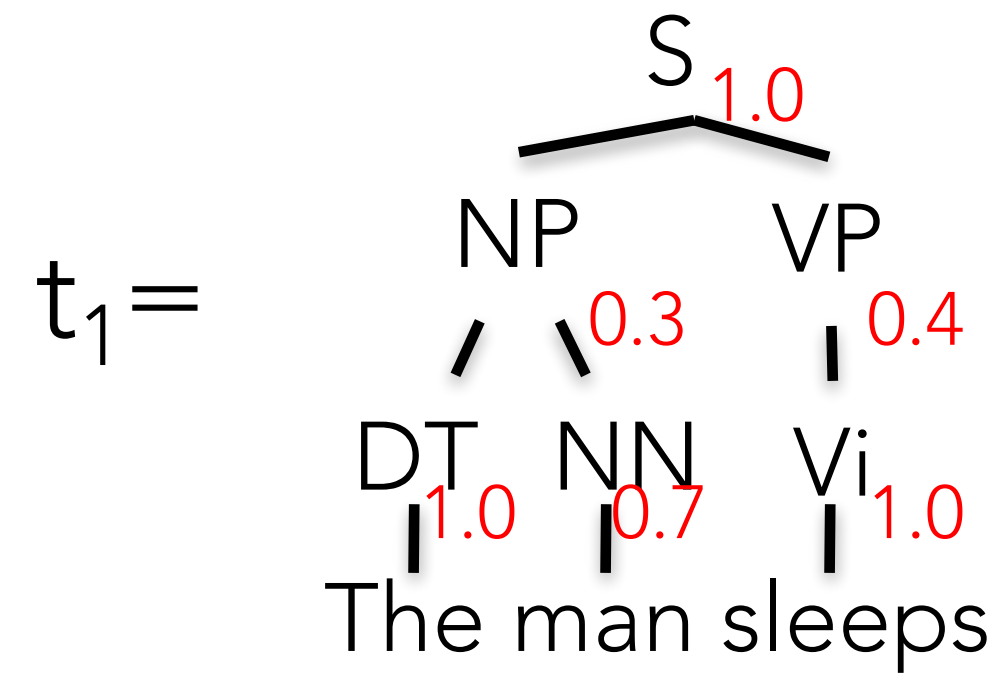
A context-free grammar:  $G = (N, \Sigma, R, S)$

For each rule  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta \in R$ , there is a parameter  $q(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \geq 0$ . For any  $X \in N$ ,

$$\sum_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta: \alpha = X} q(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) = 1$$

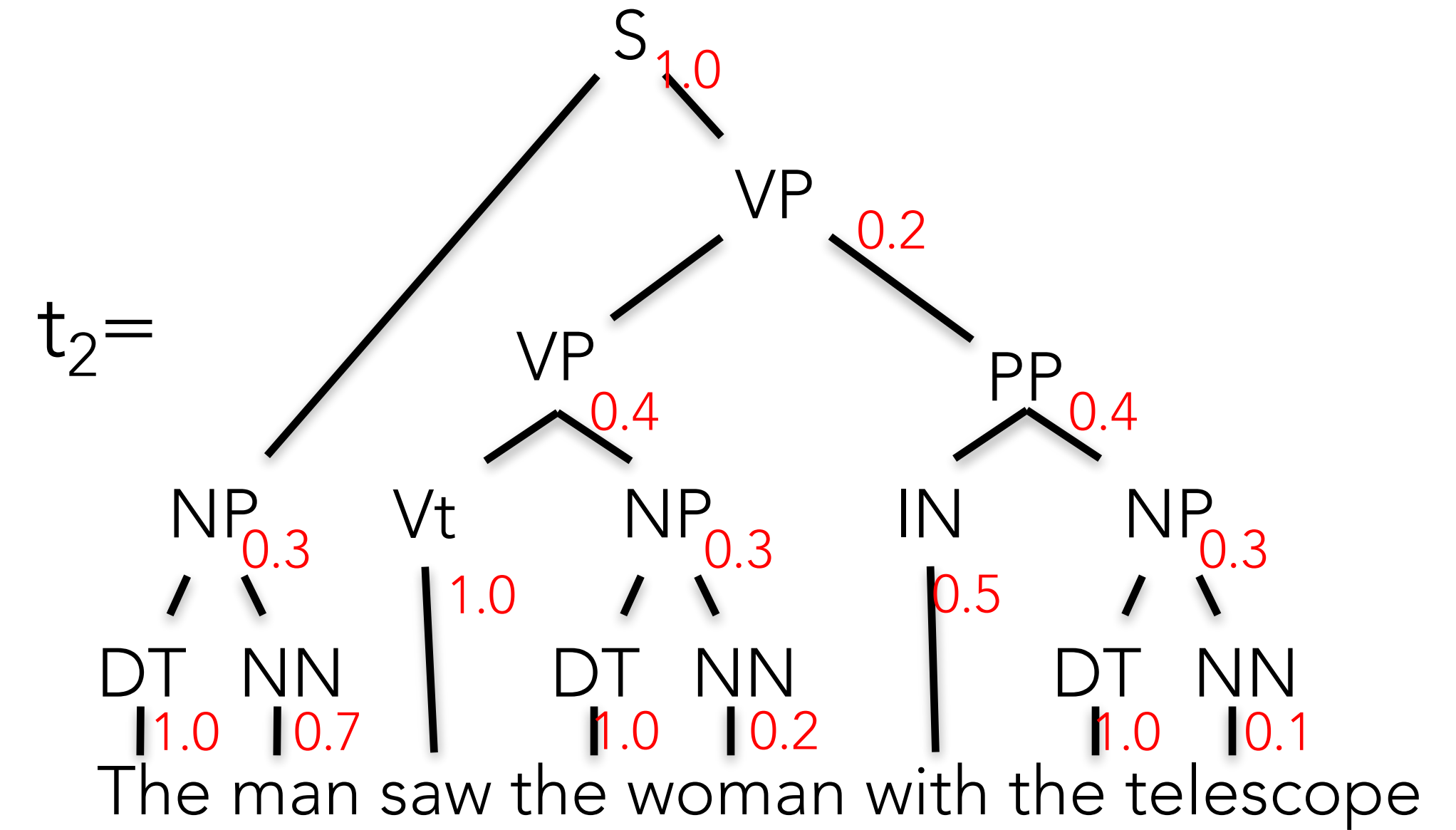


# Tree Scorer



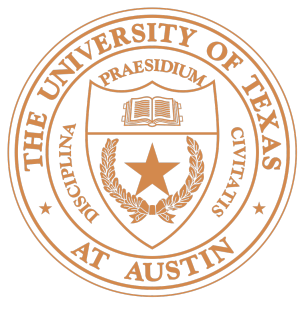
$$P(t_1) = q(S \rightarrow NP VP) \times q(NP \rightarrow DT NN) \times q(DT \rightarrow \text{the}) \\ \times q(NN \rightarrow \text{man}) \times q(VP \rightarrow Vi) \times q(Vi \rightarrow \text{sleeps})$$

$$= 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.7 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 = 0.084$$



$$p(t_s) = 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.7 \times 0.2 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.2 \times 0.4 \times 0.5 \times 0.3 \times 1.0 \times 0.1$$



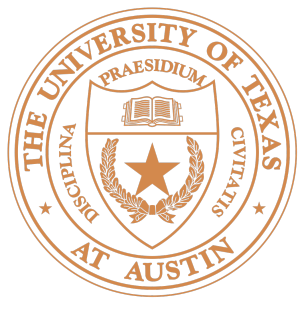


# Recap: Deriving a PCFG from a treebank

- ▶ Training data: a set of parse trees  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m$
- ▶ A PCFG  $(N, \Sigma, S, R, q)$ :
  - ▶  $N$  is the set of all non-terminals seen in the trees
  - ▶  $\Sigma$  is the set of all words seen in the trees
  - ▶  $S$  is taken to be  $S$ .
  - ▶  $R$  is taken to be the set of all rules  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  seen in the trees
- ▶ The maximum-likelihood parameter estimates are:

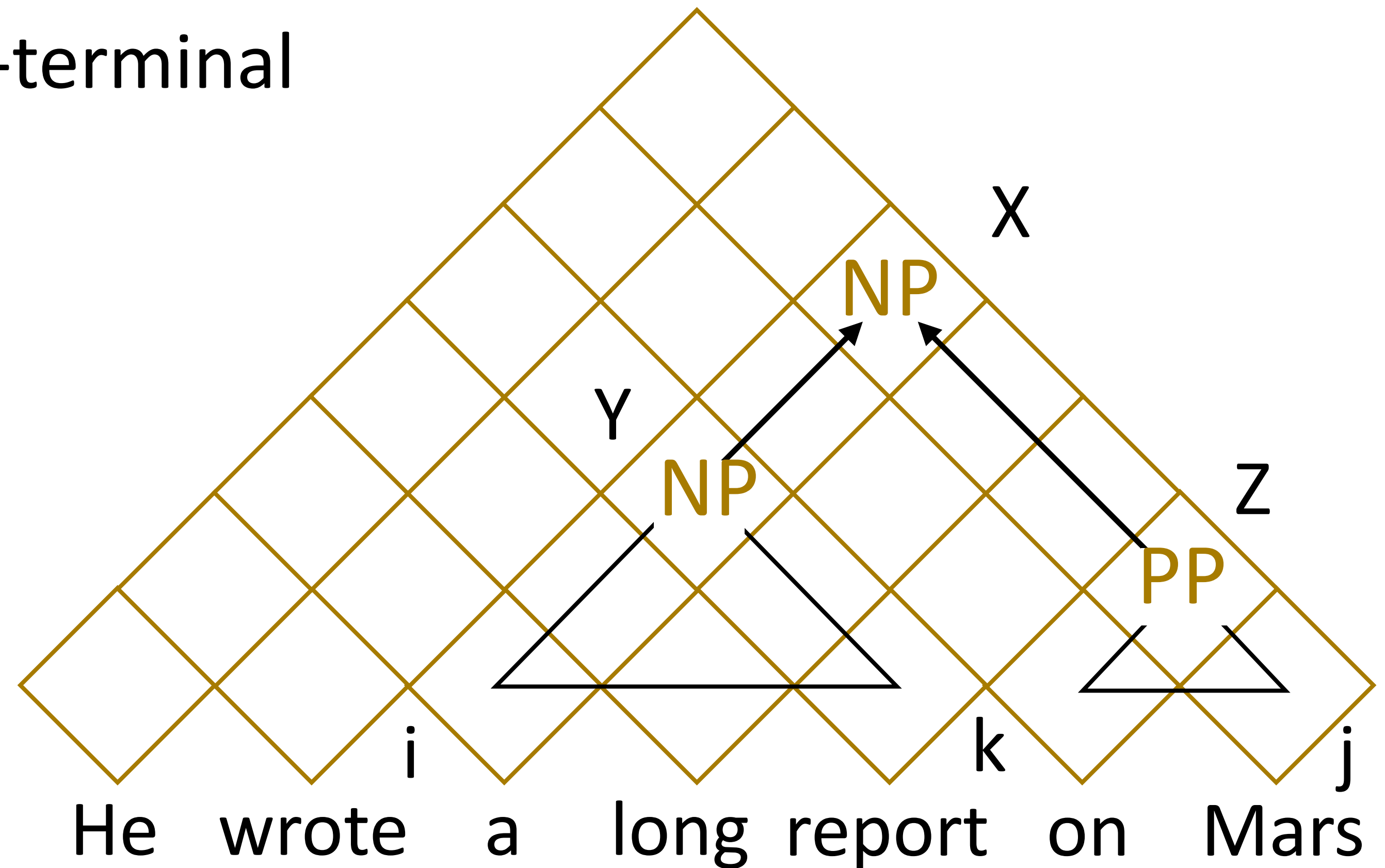
$$q_{ML}(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) = \frac{\text{Count}(\alpha \rightarrow \beta)}{\text{Count}(\alpha)}$$

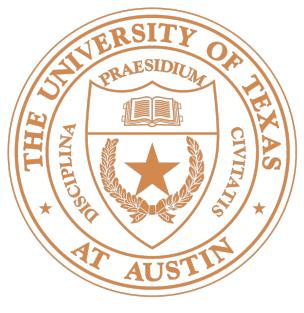
If we have seen the rule  $VP \rightarrow Vt NP$  105 times, and the the non-terminal  $VP$  1000 times,  $q(VP \rightarrow Vt NP) = 0.105$



# Inference: Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY algorithm)

- ▶ Given a sentence  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , denote  $T[i,j,X]$  as the highest score for any parse tree that covers words  $x_i, \dots, x_j$  with non-terminal  $X \in N$  as its root.
- ▶ Find  $T[1, n, S]$





# Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY algorithm)

- ▶ Chart:  $T[i,j,X] = \text{best score}$
- ▶ Base:  $T[i,i,X] = \log P(X \rightarrow w_i)$
- ▶ For each constituent length  $l$ 
  - ▶ For each left end point  $i$ 
    - ▶ For each split point  $k$ 
      - ▶ For each rule  $X \rightarrow Y Z$ 
        - ▶ Do constant work

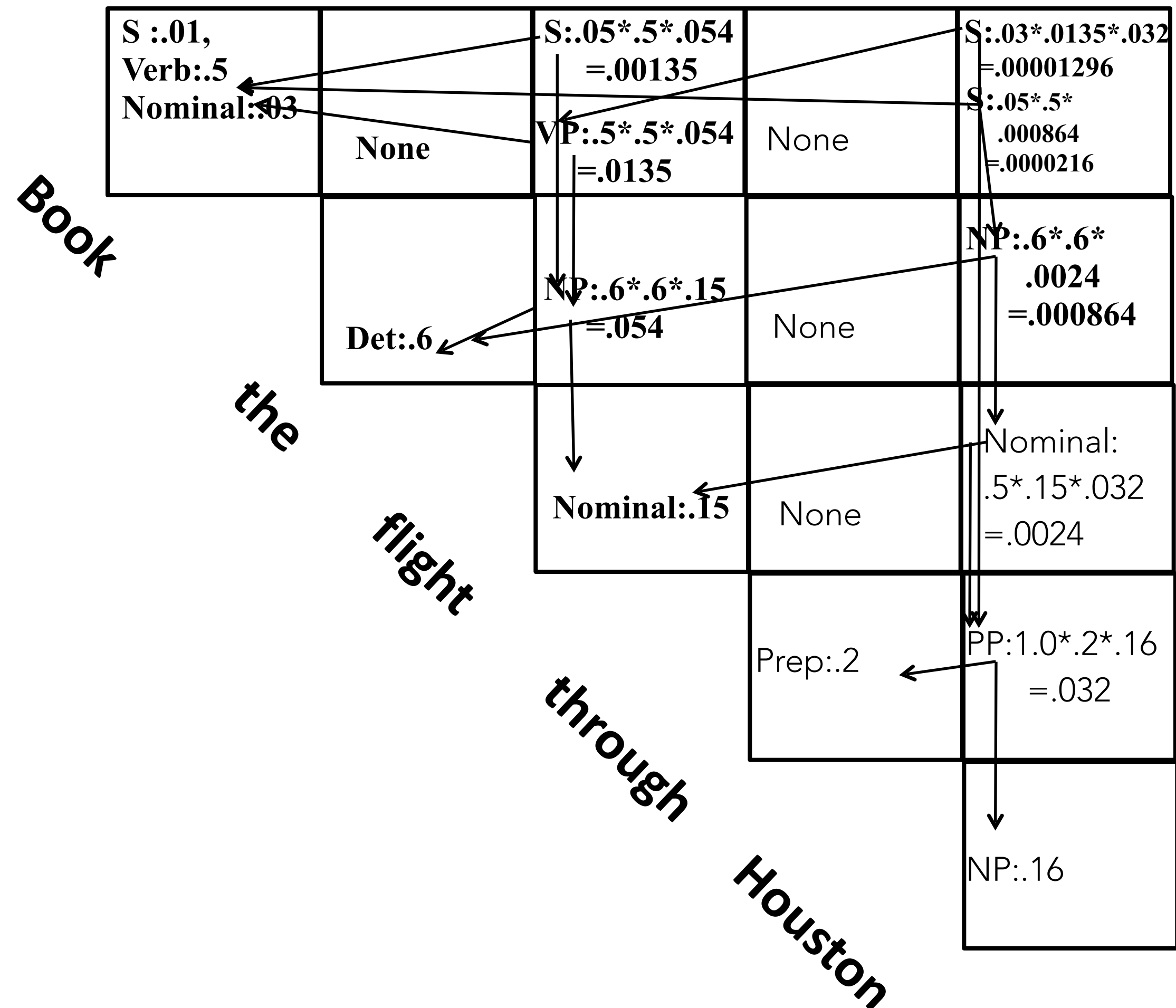
- ▶ Recurrence:

$$T[i,j,X] = \max_{\substack{k \\ i \leq k < j}} \max_{r : X \rightarrow X_1 X_2} T[i,k,X_1] + T[k+1,j,X_2] + \log P(X \rightarrow X_1 X_2)$$



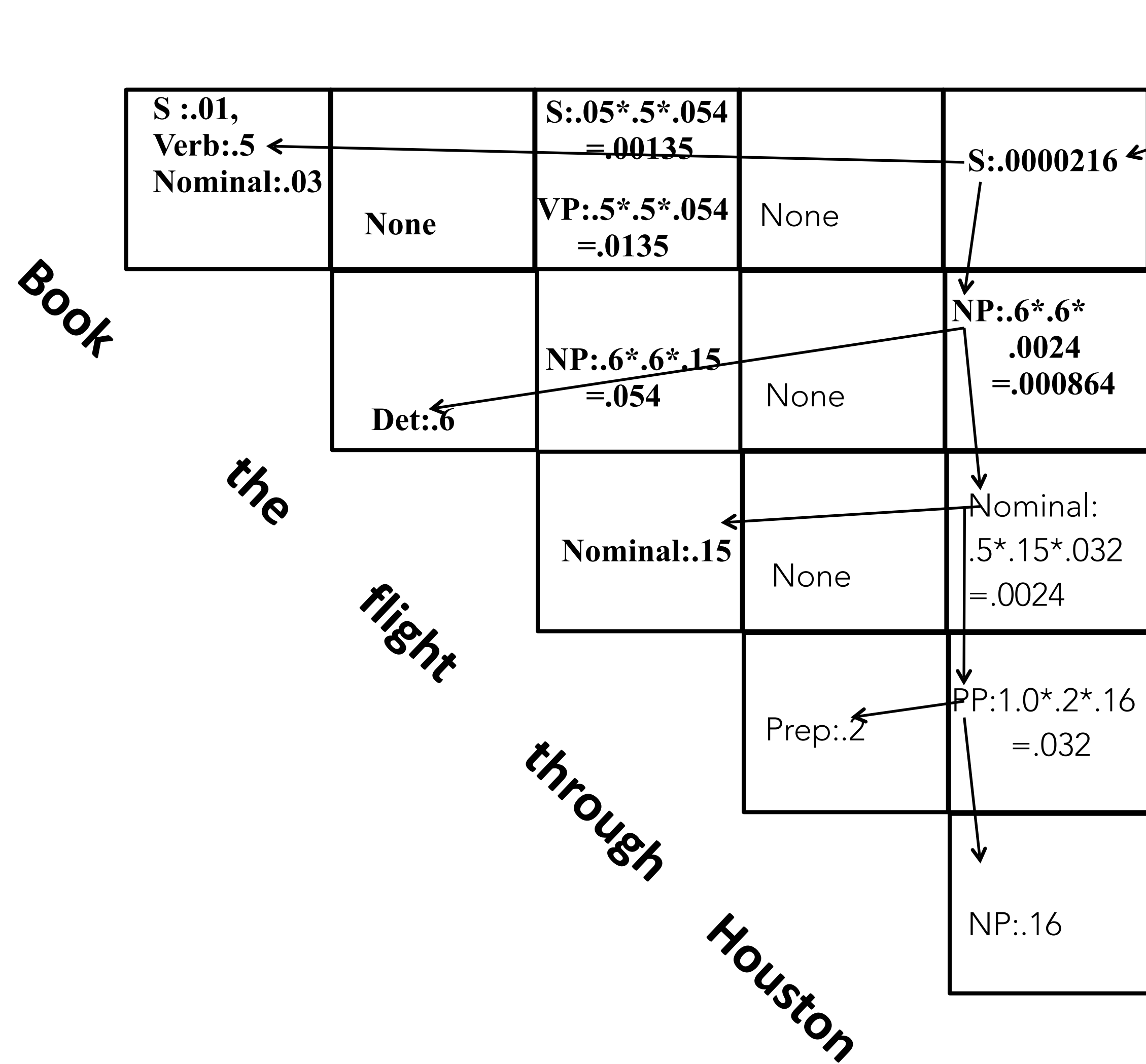
# CKY [Example]

<b>S</b> → <b>NP VP</b>	0.8
<b>S</b> → <b>X1 VP</b>	0.1
<b>X1</b> → <b>Aux NP</b>	1.0
<b>S</b> → <b>book   include   prefer</b> 0.01 0.004 0.006	
<b>S</b> → <b>Verb NP</b>	0.05
<b>S</b> → <b>VP PP</b>	0.03
<b>NP</b> → <b>I   he   she   me</b> 0.1 0.02 0.02 0.06	
<b>NP</b> → <b>Houston   NWA</b> 0.16 0.04	
<b>Det</b> → <b>the   a   an</b> 0.6 0.1 0.05	
<b>NP</b> → <b>Det Nominal</b>	0.6
<b>Nominal</b> → <b>book   flight   meal   money</b> 0.03 0.15 0.06 0.06	
<b>Nominal</b> → <b>Nominal Nominal</b>	0.2
<b>Nominal</b> → <b>Nominal PP</b>	0.5
<b>Verb</b> → <b>book   include   prefer</b> 0.5 0.04 0.06	
<b>VP</b> → <b>Verb NP</b>	0.5
<b>VP</b> → <b>VP PP</b>	0.3
<b>Prep</b> → <b>through   to   from</b> 0.2 0.3 0.3	
<b>PP</b> → <b>Prep NP</b>	1.0





# CKY [Example]

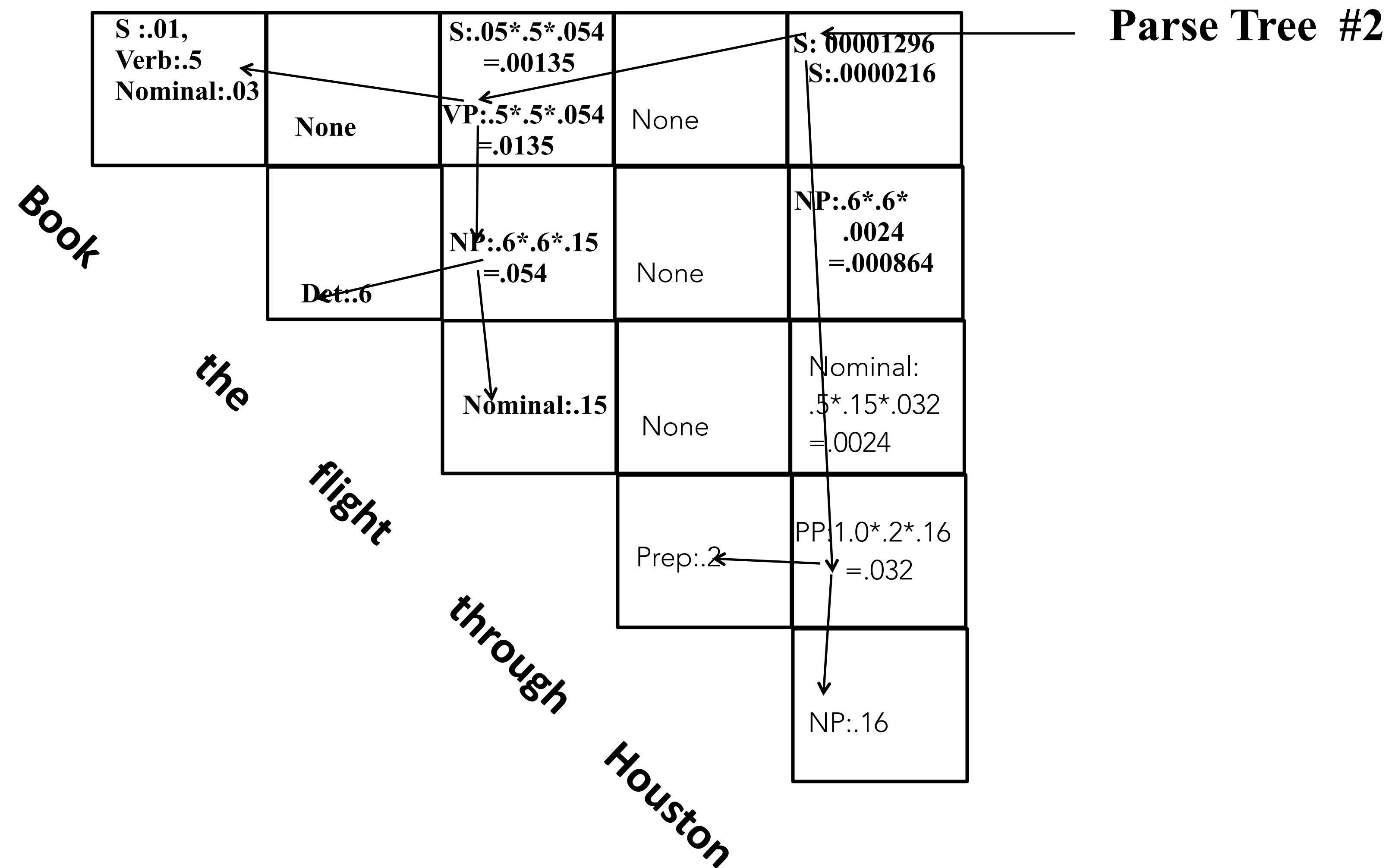


## Parse Tree #1

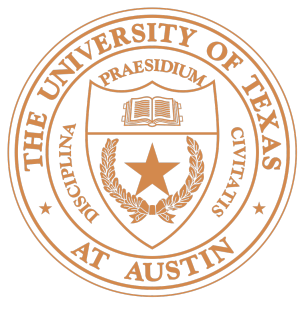
Pick most probable parse, i.e. take max to combine probabilities of multiple derivations of each constituent in each cell.



# CKY [Example]

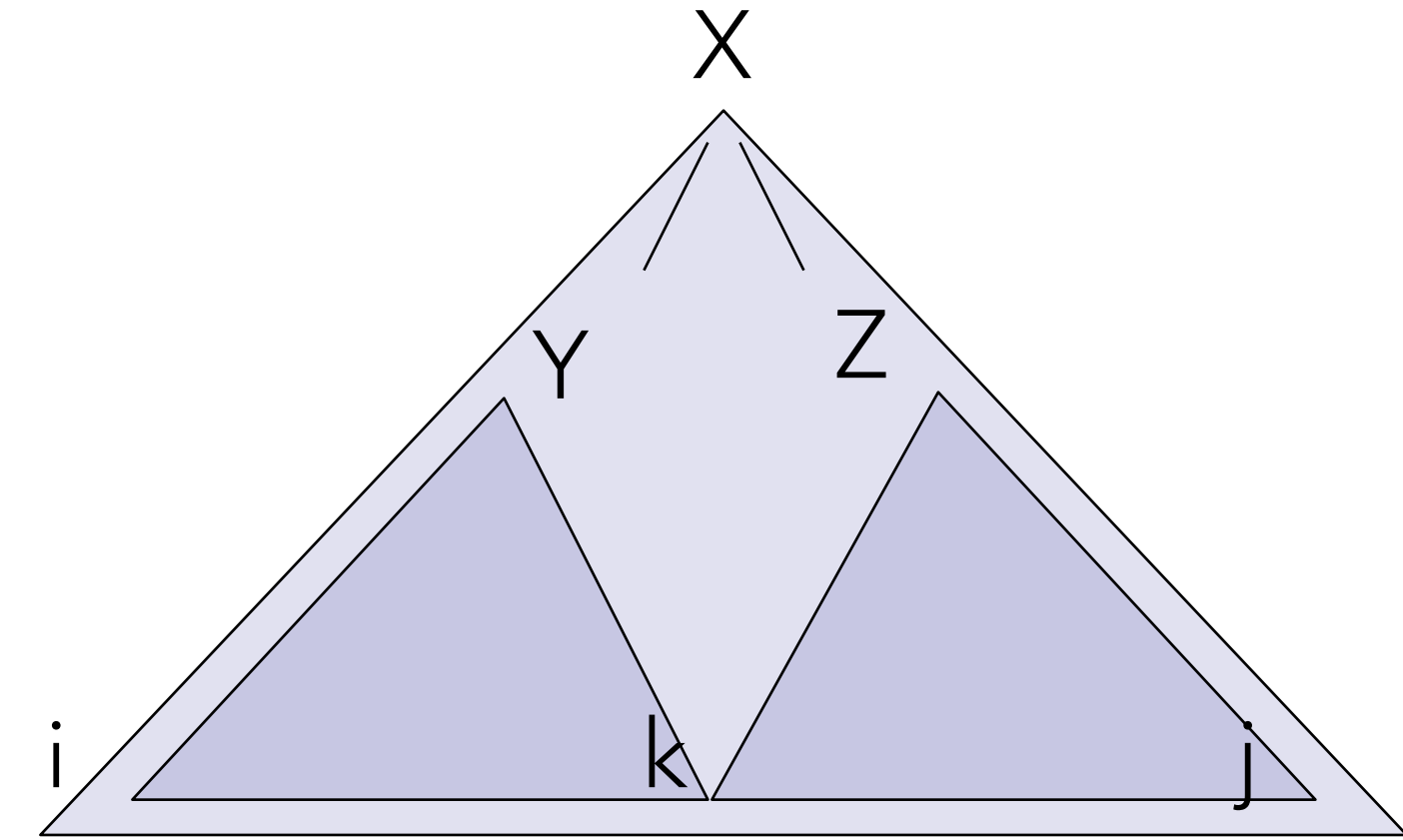


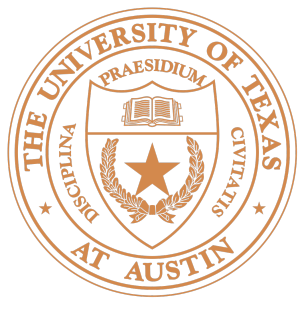




# Efficiency?

- ▶ For each constituent length  $l$  ( $\leq n$ )
  - ▶ For each left end point  $i$  ( $\leq n$ )
    - ▶ For each split point  $k$ 
      - ▶ For each rule  $X \rightarrow Y Z$ 
        - ▶ Do constant work
- ▶ Runtime:  $O(n^3 * |R|)$   $R$  = grammar constant
- ▶ Memory:
  - ▶ Need to store score caches
  - ▶ Cache size:  $|\text{Symbols}| * n^2$





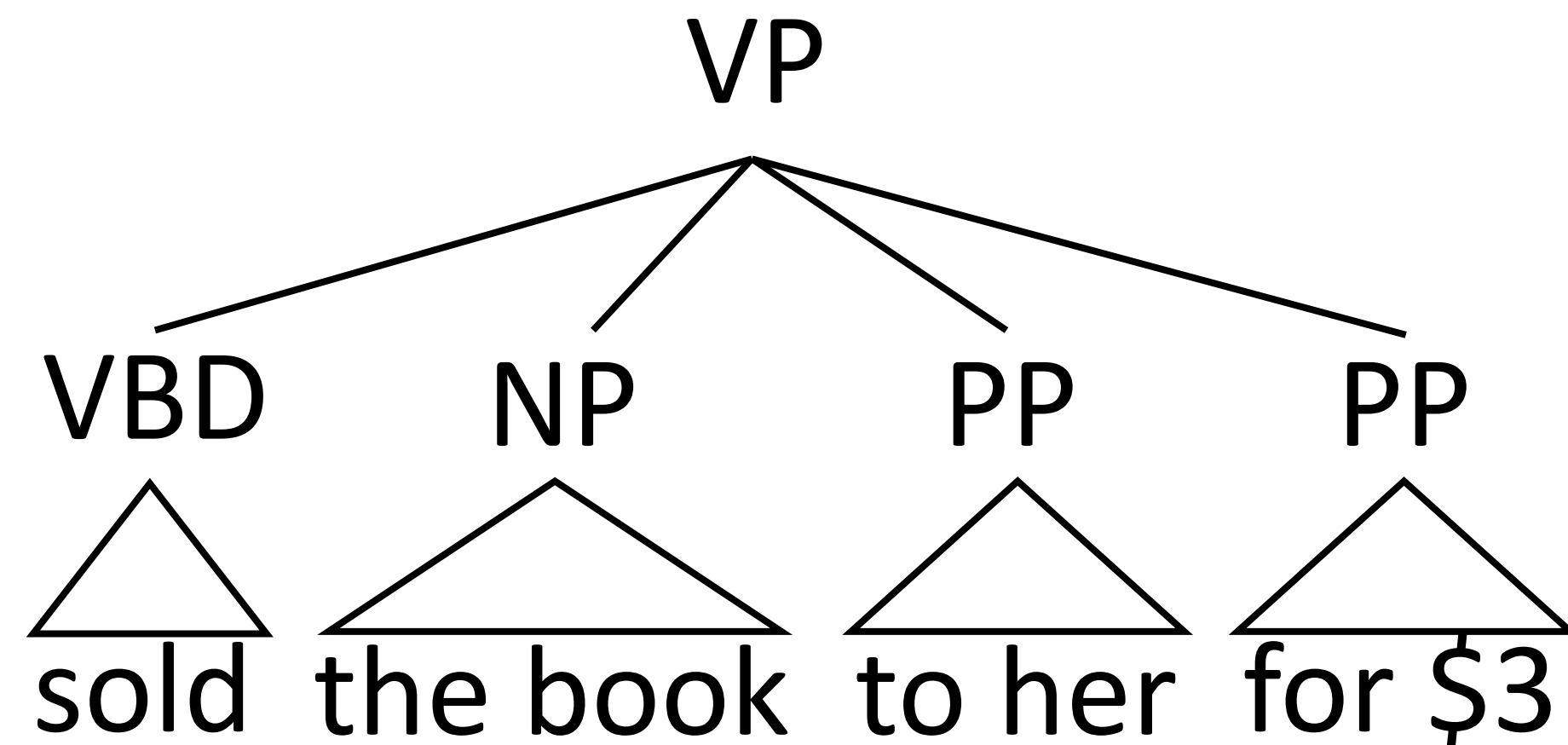
# Efficiency?

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- ▶ Can we keep N-ary ( $N > 2$ ) rules and still do dynamic programming?
- ▶ Can we keep unary rules and still do dynamic programming?
- ▶ Binary trees over  $n$  words have at most  $n-1$  nodes, but you can have unlimited numbers of nodes with unaries ( $S \rightarrow \text{SBAR} \rightarrow \text{NP} \rightarrow S \rightarrow \dots$ )
- ▶ We introduce Chomsky Normal Form (CNF):
  - ▶ All rules are either  $X \rightarrow YZ$  or  $X \rightarrow w$
  - ▶ Rewriting PCFG grammar into equivalent CNF is possible



# Binarization

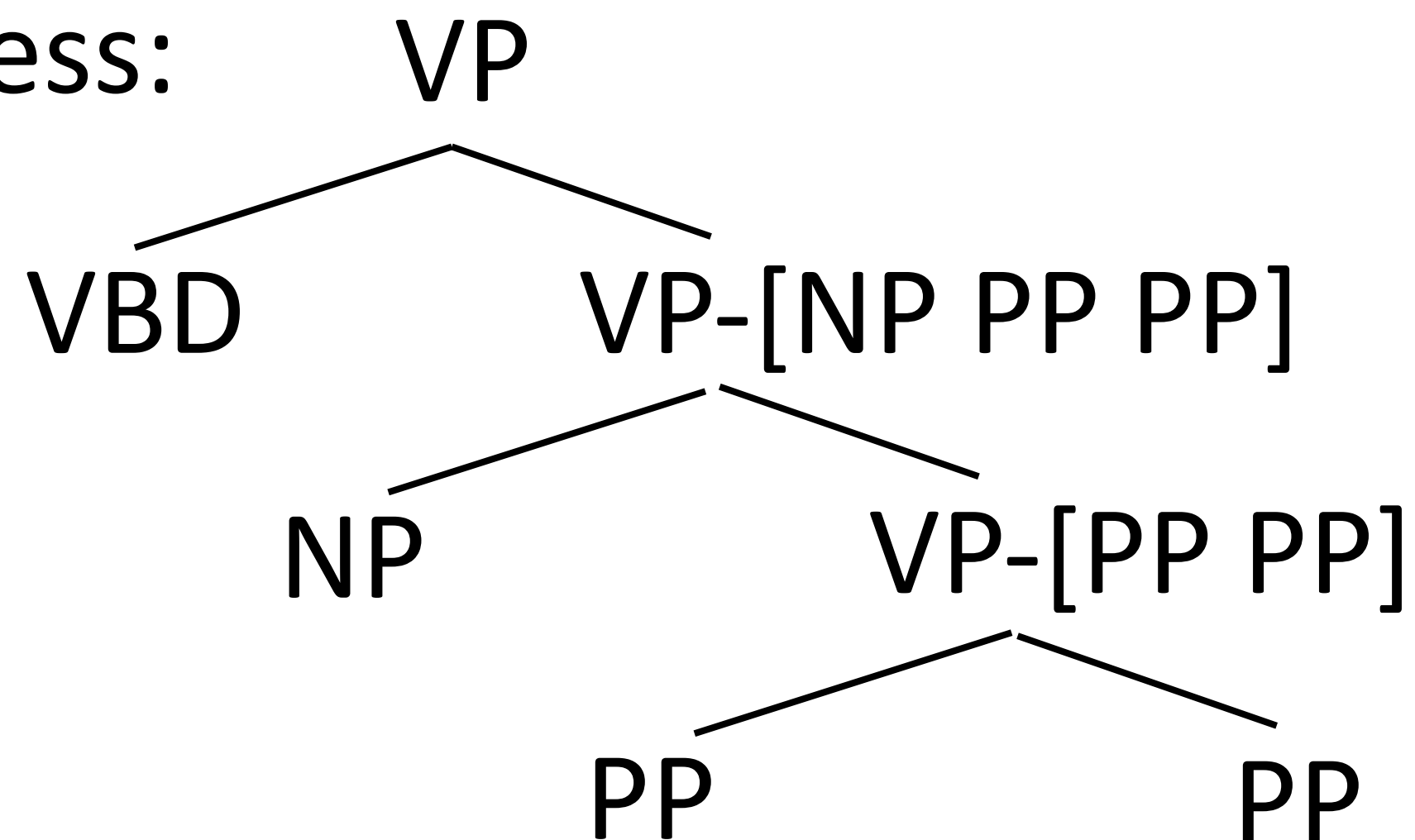


$$P(\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{VBD NP PP PP}) = 0.2$$

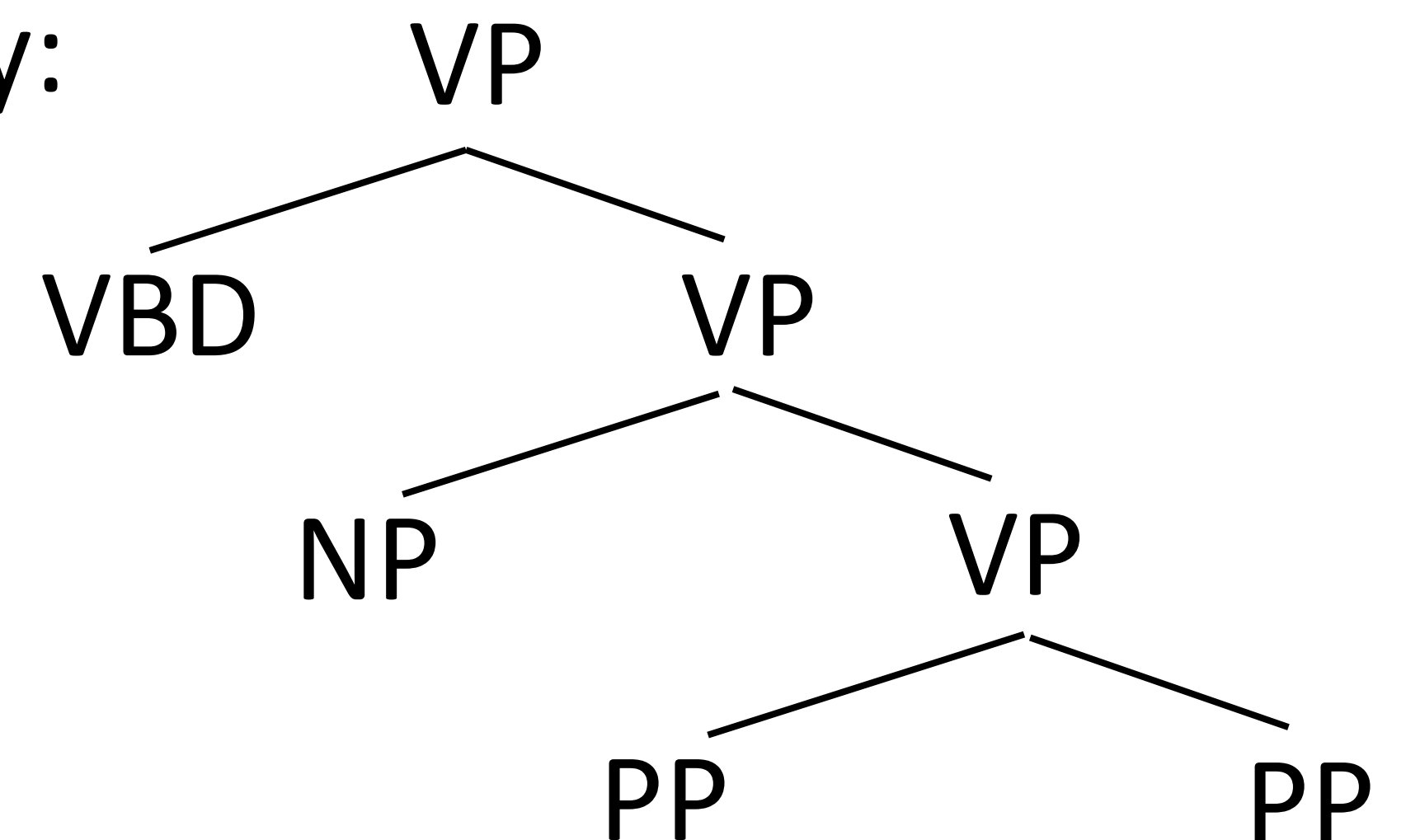
$$P(\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{VBZ PP}) = 0.1$$

...

► Lossless:



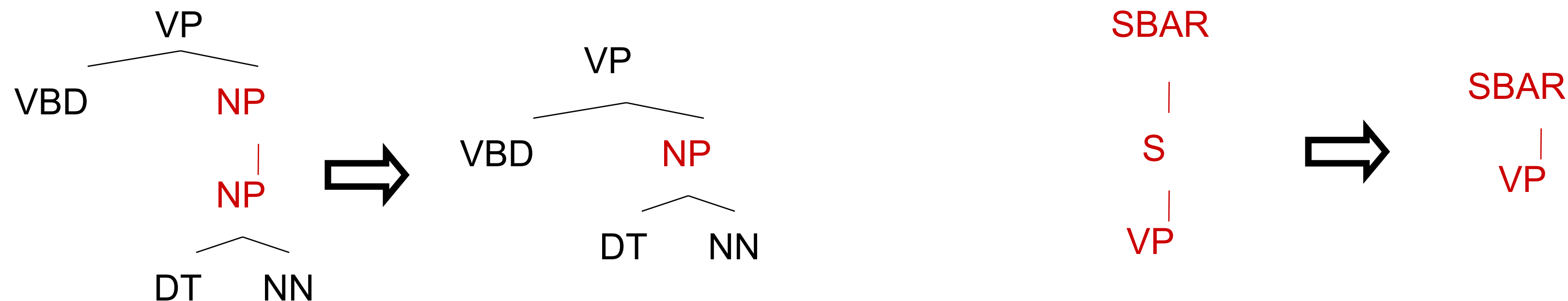
► Lossy:





# Unary Rules

- Enforce at most one unary over each span by modifying grammar

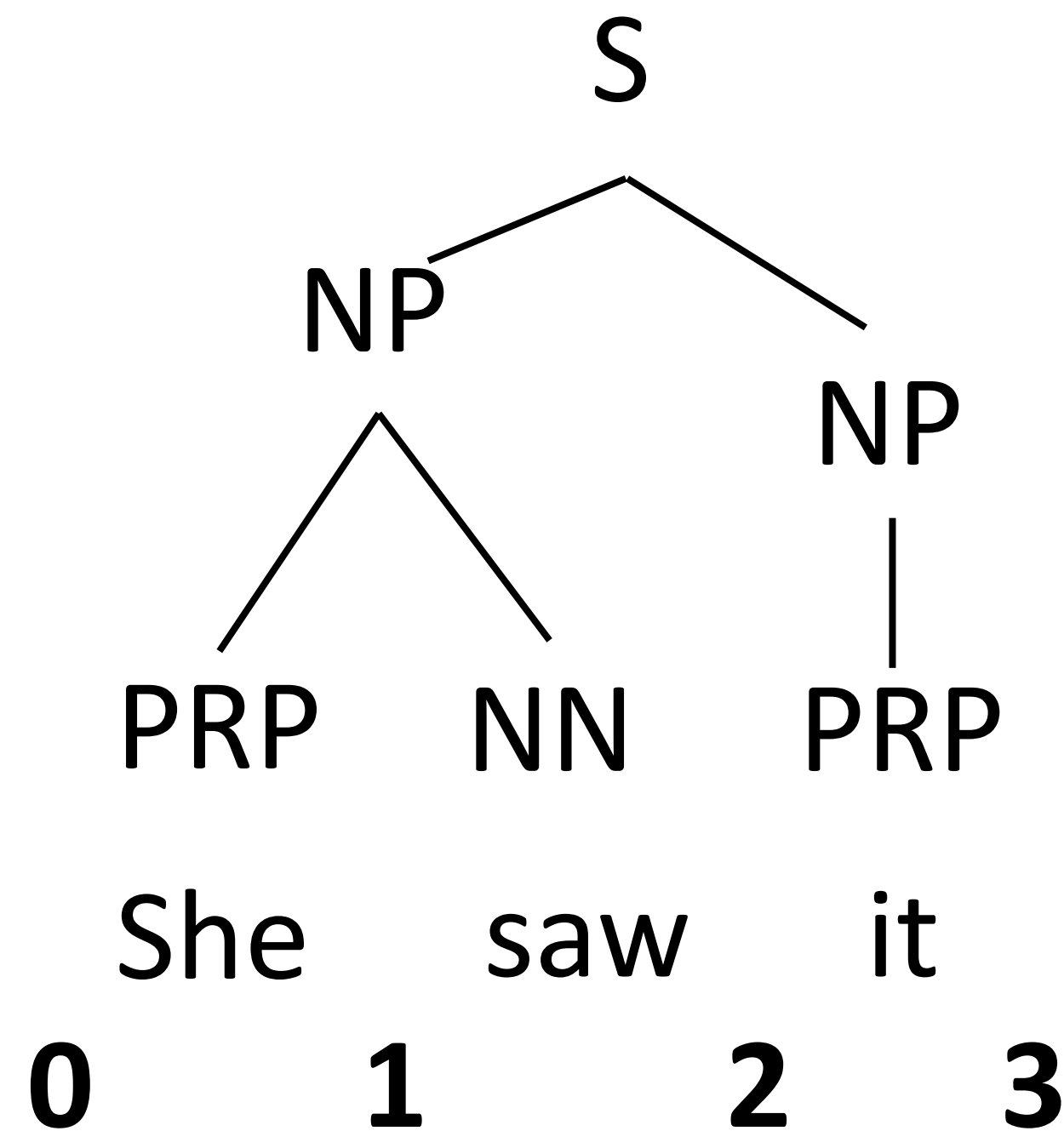


Compute unary closure: if there is a rule chain  $X \rightarrow Y_1, Y_1 \rightarrow Y_2, \dots, Y_k \rightarrow Y$ , add  $q(X \rightarrow Y) = q(X \rightarrow Y_1) \times \dots \times q(Y_k \rightarrow Y)$

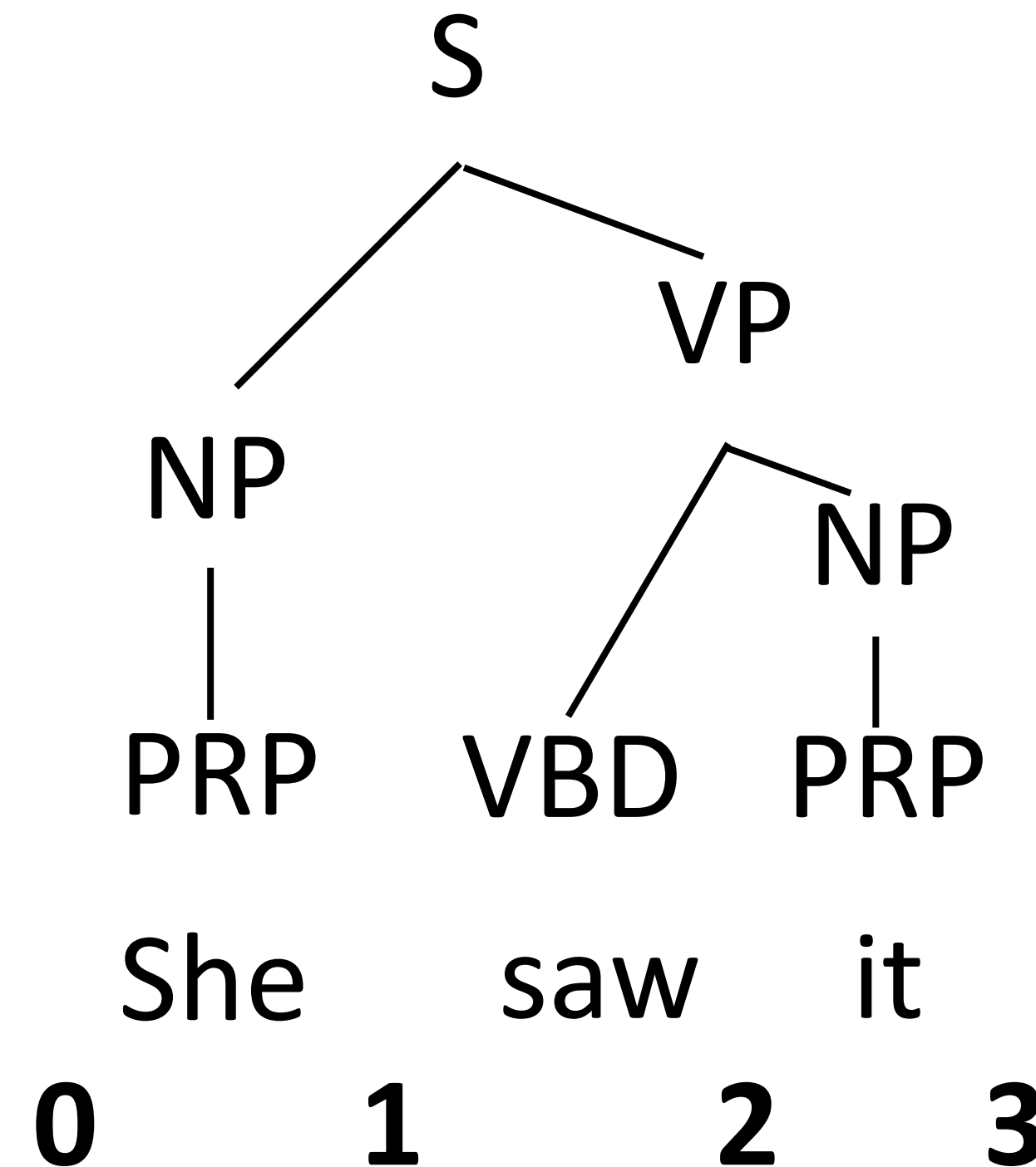
- In CKY: Update unary rule once after the binary rules



# Parser Evaluation

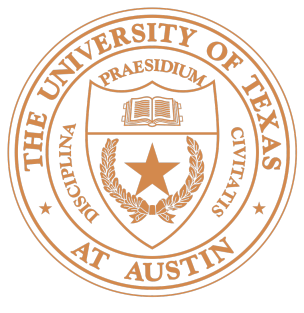


**S(0,3),**  
**NP(0,2),**  
**NP(2,3),**  
~~PRP(0,1),~~  
~~NN(1,2),~~  
~~PRP(2,3)~~



**S(0,3),**  
**NP(0,1),**  
**VP(1,3),**  
**NP(2,3),**  
~~PRP(0,1),~~  
~~VBD(1,2),~~  
~~PRP(2,3)~~

- Precision: number of correct brackets / num pred brackets = 2/3
- Recall: number of correct brackets / num of gold brackets = 2/4
- F1: harmonic mean of precision and recall =  $(1/2 * ((2/4)^{-1} + (2/3)^{-1}))^{-1}$   
= 0.57



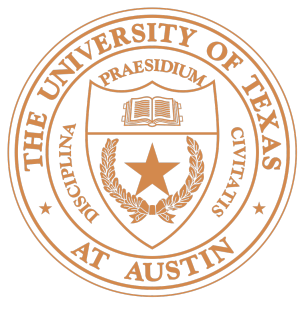
# Results

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- ▶ Standard dataset for English: Penn Treebank (Marcus et al., 1993)
  - ▶ Evaluation: F1 over labeled constituents of the sentence
- ▶ Vanilla PCFG: ~75 F1
- ▶ Best PCFGs for English: ~90 F1
- ▶ SOTA (discriminative models): 95 F1
- ▶ Other languages: results vary widely depending on annotation + complexity of the grammar

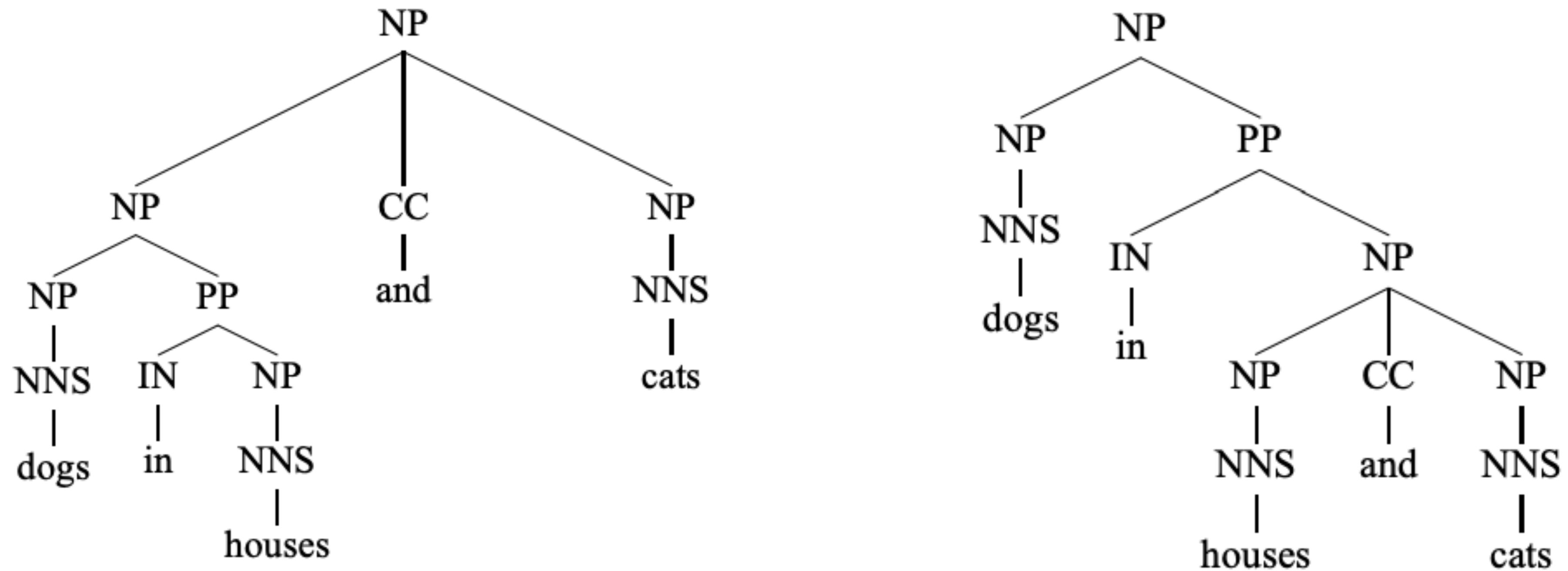
Klein and Manning (2003)





# Weaknesses of PCFG

- ▶ Lexical information (words) is lost!



Two trees have the exact same set of PCFG rules!



# Lexicalized Parsers

- ▶ Annotate each grammar symbol with its “head word” of the phrase

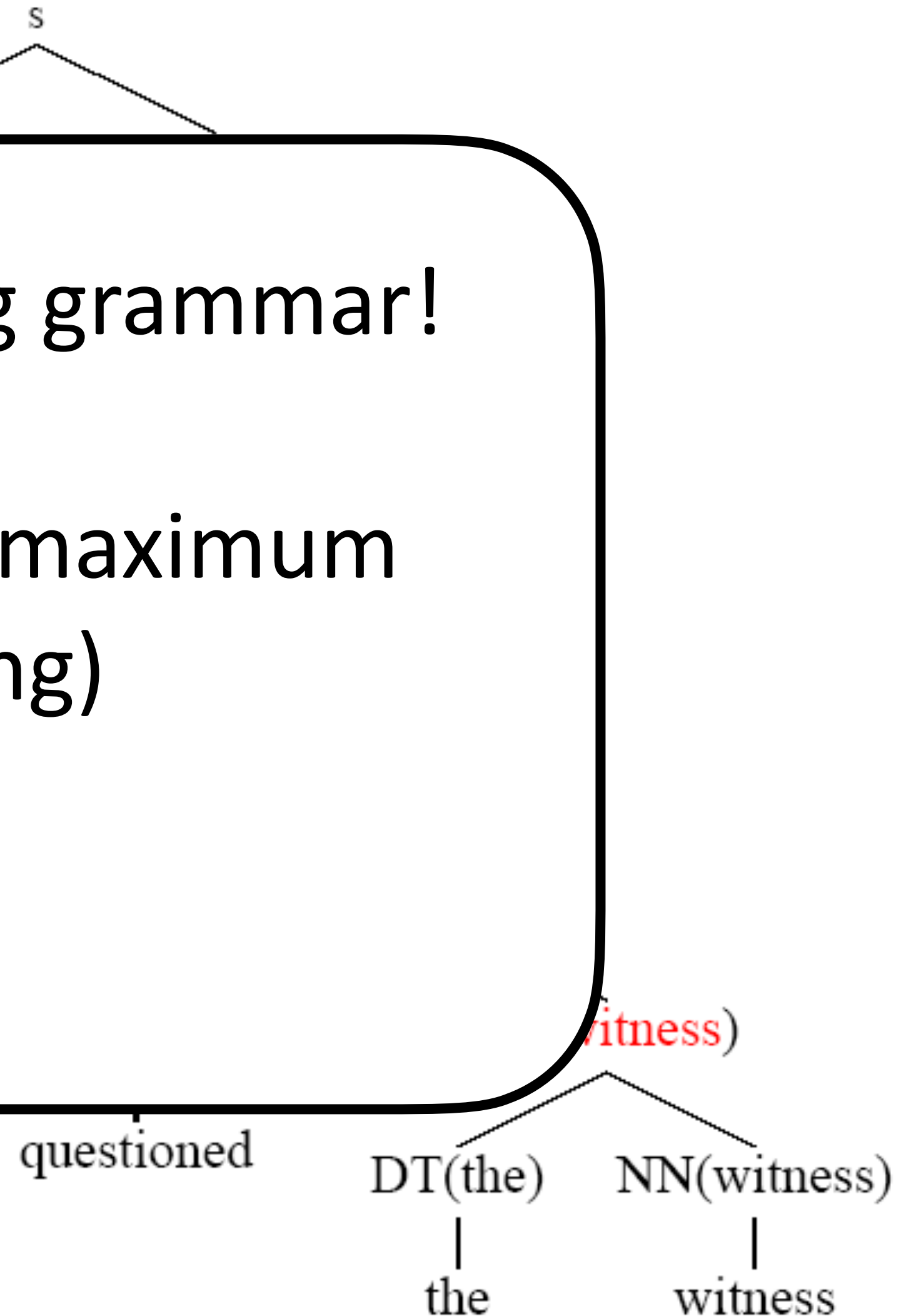
- ▶ Rules for the last word in the phrase are prepositional

- ▶ Collins and Manning achieved ~89 F1 with these

All these work focuses on engineering grammar!

Constituency parser is learned from maximum likelihood estimation (counting)

Alternative approach?

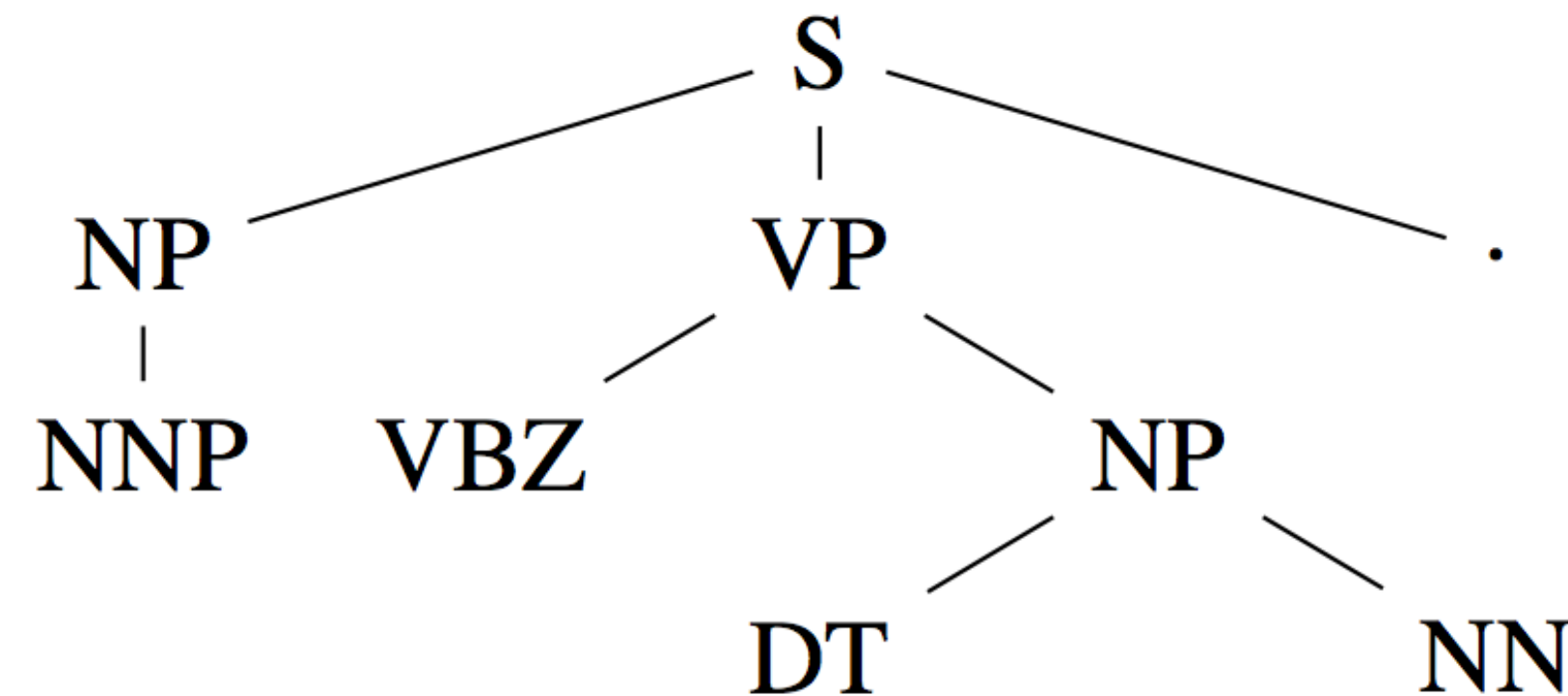




# “Grammar as Foreign Language” (deep learning)

Vinyals et al., 2015

John has a dog →



John has a dog →

$(S (NP NNP)_{NP} (VP VBZ (NP DT NN)_{NP})_{VP} .)_{S}$

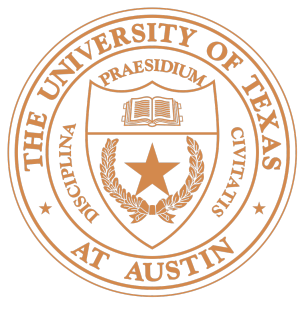
- ▶ Linearize parse trees into a sequence
- ▶ Then parsing becomes similar to machine translation, takes a sentence as an input sequence and output a parse tree sequence
- ▶ Data augmentation tricks, gets up to 92 F1



# Today

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- ▶ Trees
  - ▶ Constituency Trees
    - ▶ How to find best-scoring trees given probabilistic CFG grammar
    - ▶ Dependency Trees vs. Constituency Trees
- ▶ Applications
  - ▶ Question Answering



# Dependency parsing vs. Constituency parsing

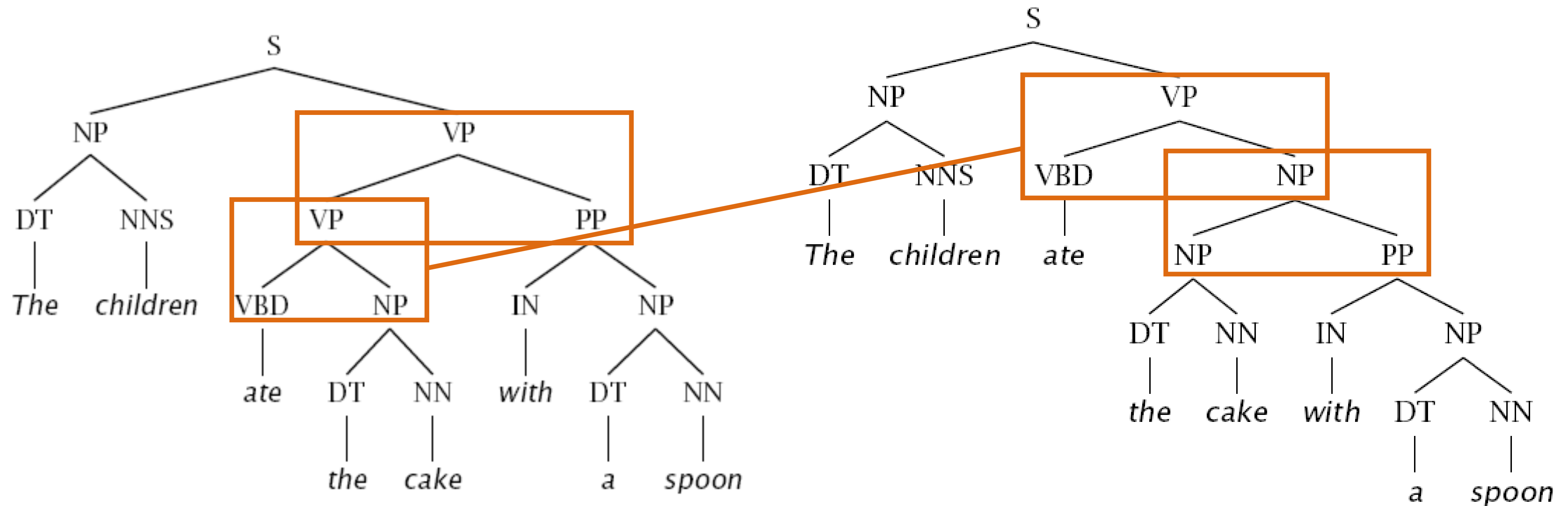
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- ▶ Can we get transform dependency parse into constituency parse? How about the other way around?
  - ▶ Mostly yes, with some caveats
    - ▶ Dependency parse can capture non-projective dependencies, while constituency parse cannot
    - ▶ Mapping from constituency to dependency edges and head is heuristic, somewhat lossy.

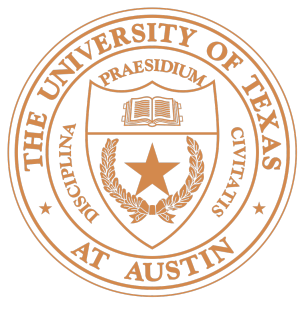


# Dependency vs. Constituency: PP Attachment

- Constituency: several rule productions need to change







# Dependency vs. Constituency: PP Attachment

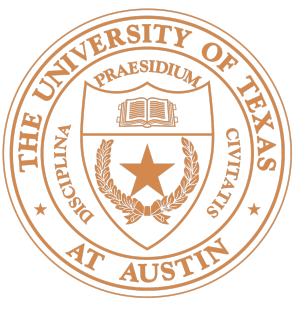
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- ▶ Dependency: one word (with) assigned a different parent

the children ate the cake with a spoon

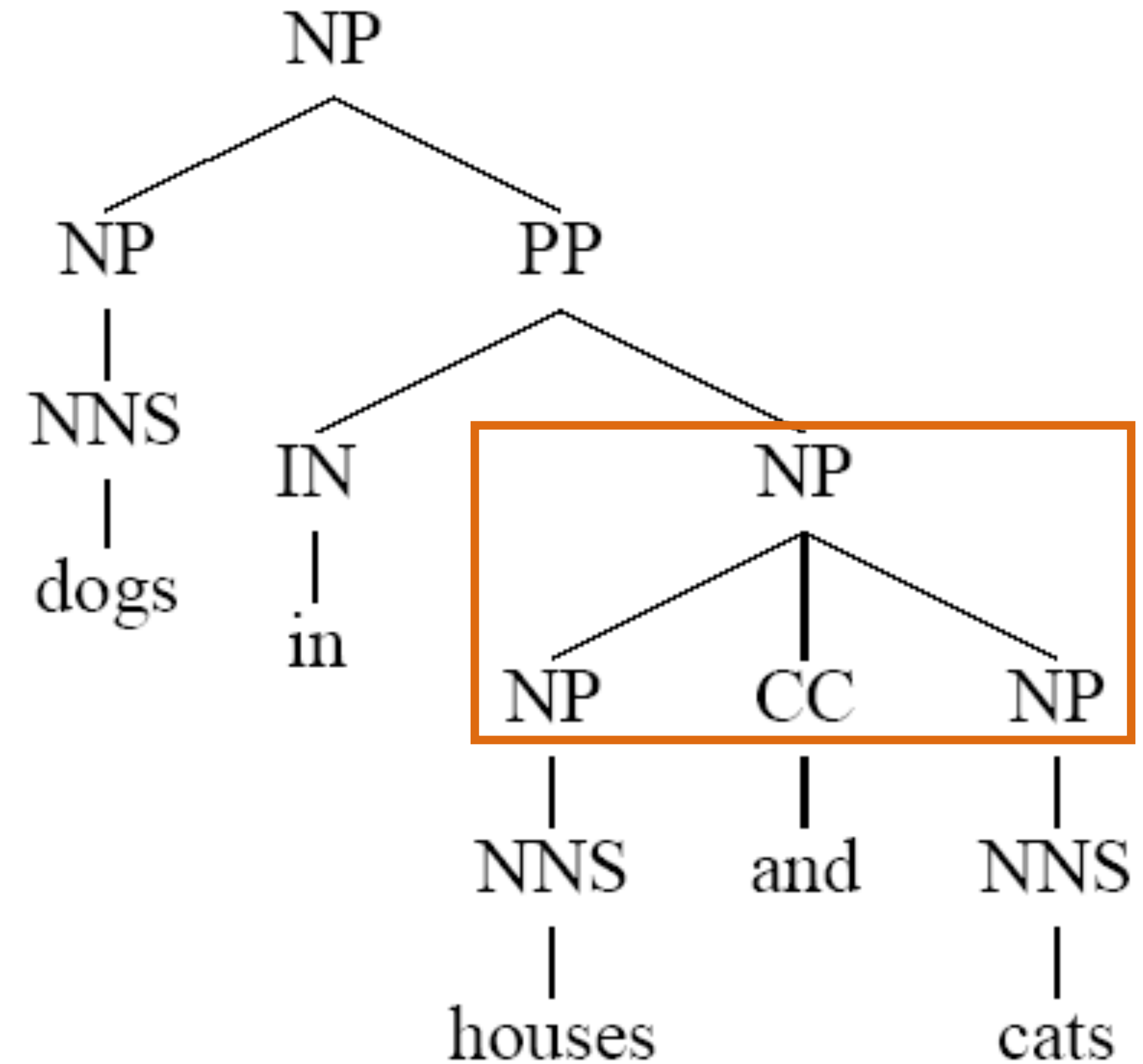
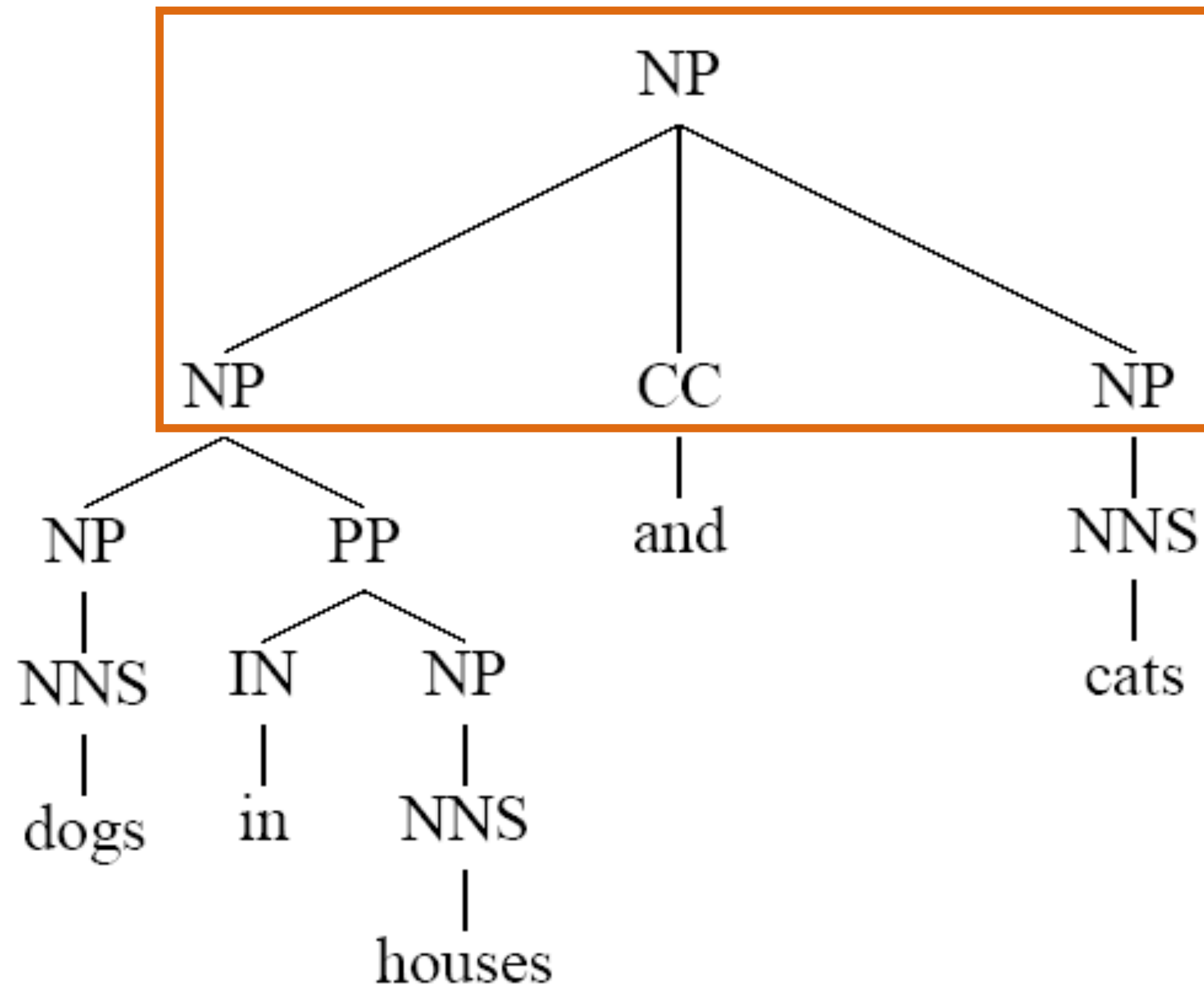
The diagram illustrates dependency arcs for the sentence "the children ate the cake with a spoon". Two orange curved arrows represent dependencies: one from "the" to "ate" and another from "with" to "ate".

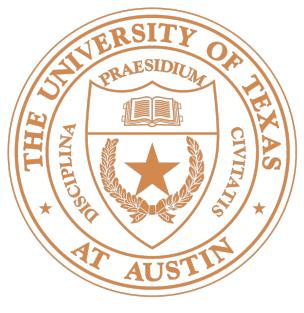
- ▶ More predicate-argument focused view of syntax
- ▶ “What’s the main verb of the sentence? What is its subject and object?”  
— easier to answer under dependency parsing



# Dependency vs. Constituency: Coordination


- Constituency: ternary rule NP → NP CC NP





# Dependency vs. Constituency: Coordination

- ▶ Dependency: first item is the head

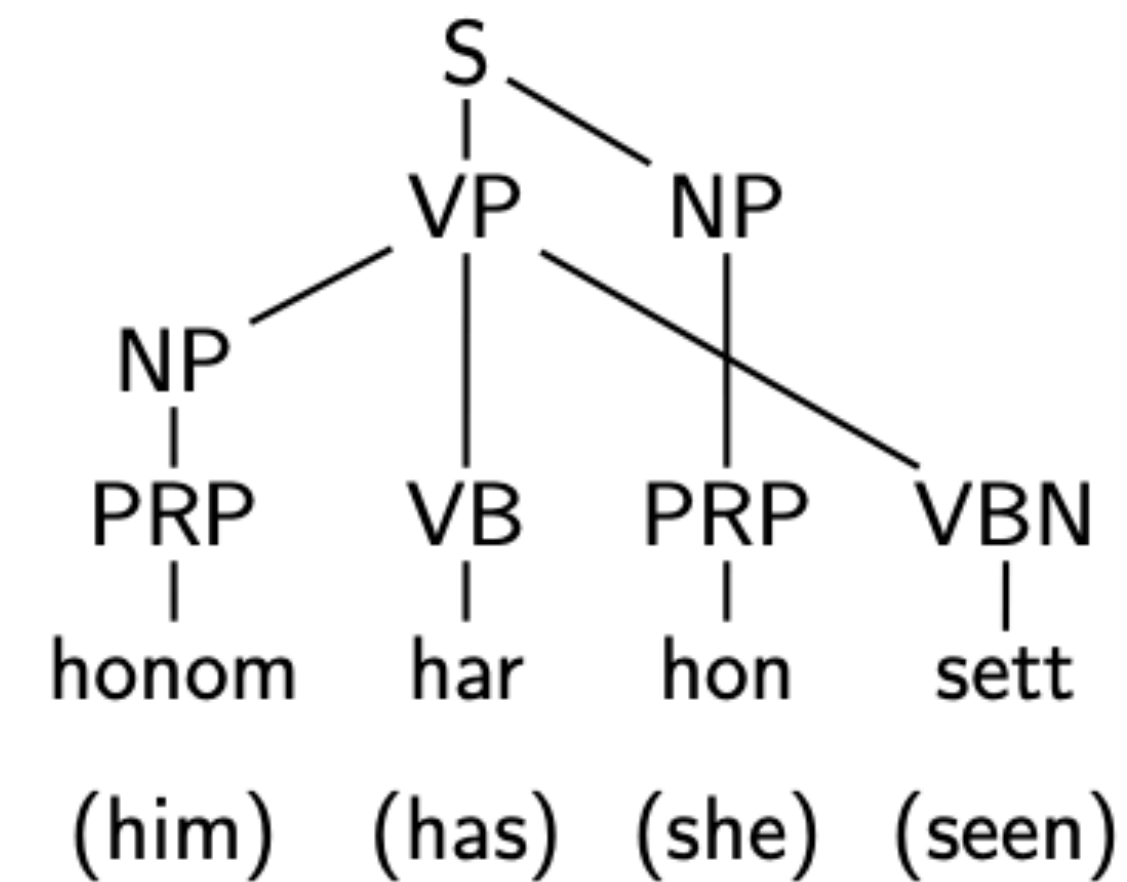
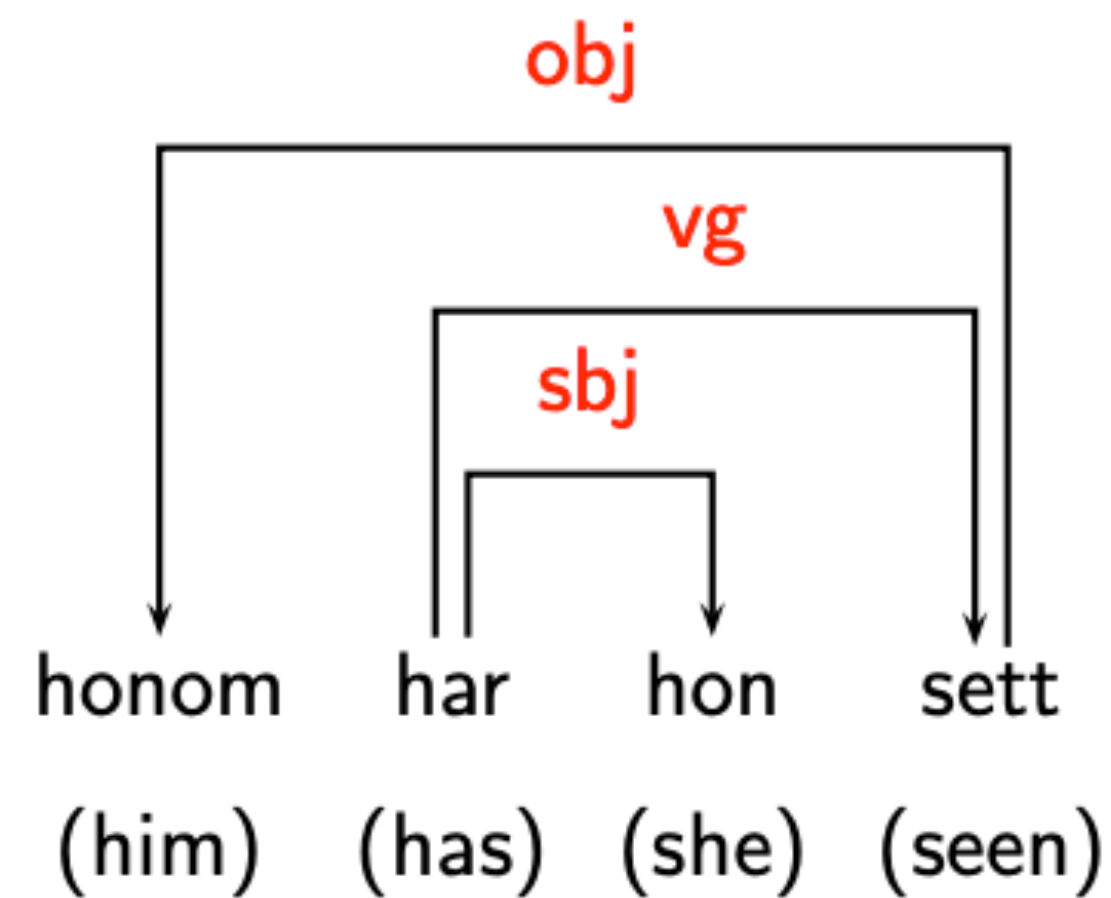
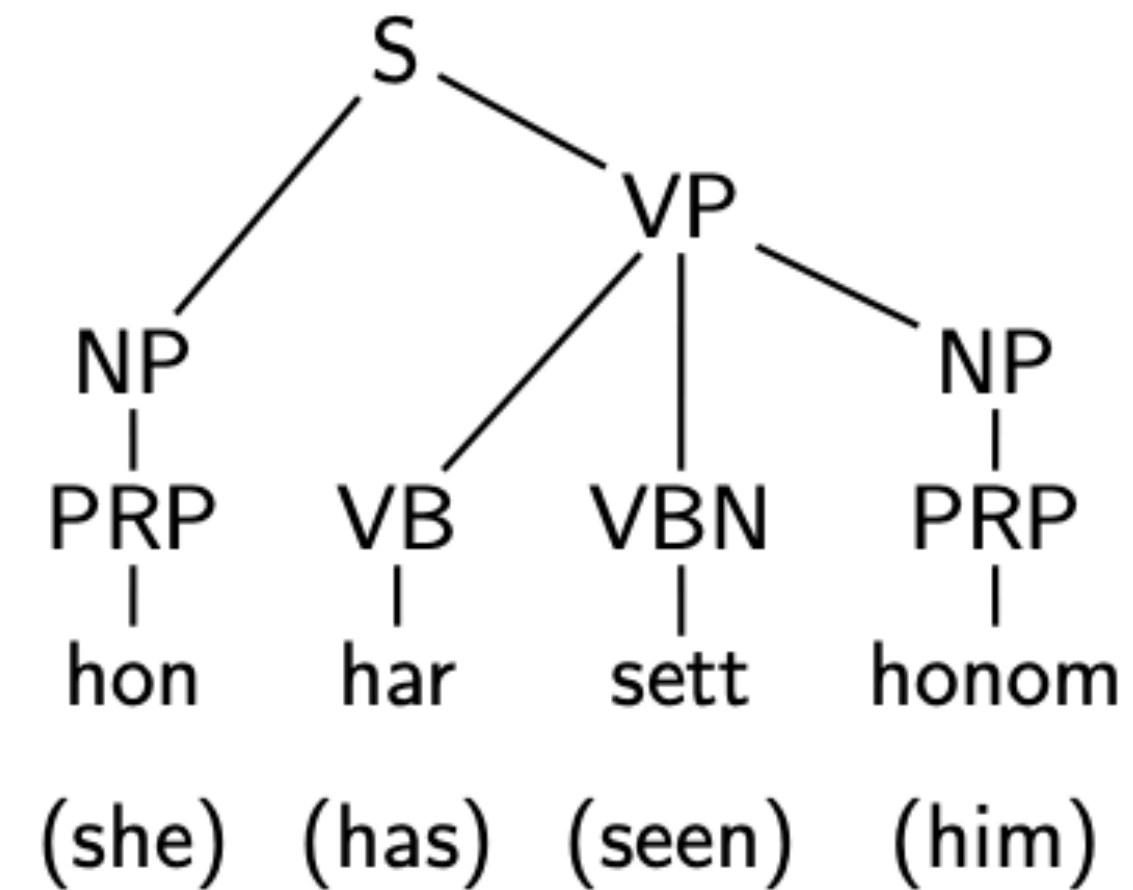
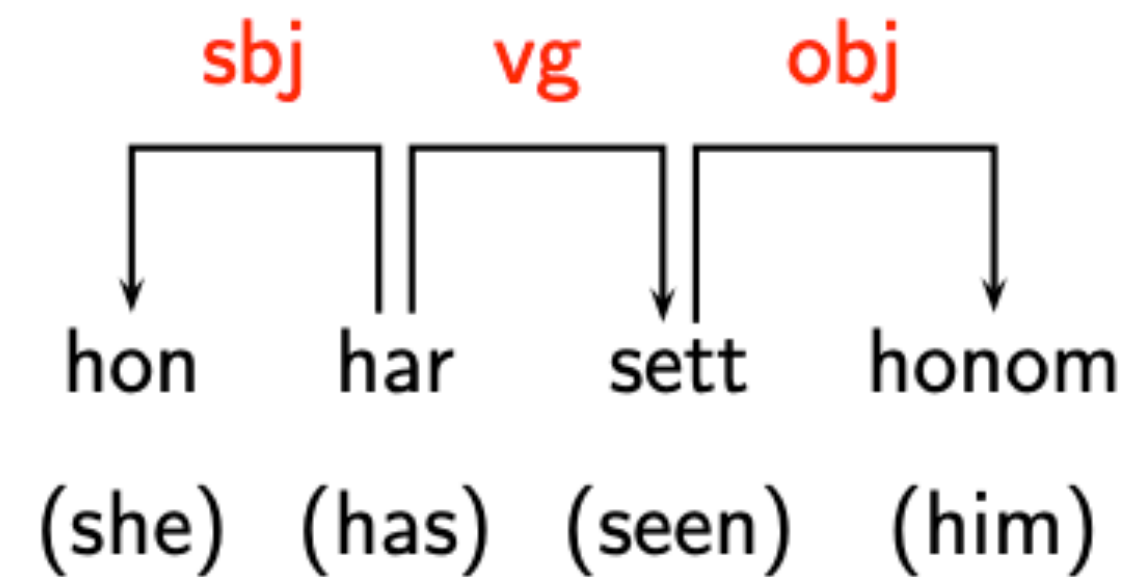
  
**dogs** in houses **and** cats  
[dogs in houses] and cats

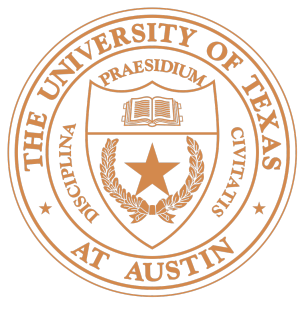
  
dogs in **houses and cats**  
dogs in [houses and cats]

- ▶ Coordination is decomposed across a few arcs as opposed to being a single rule production as in constituency
- ▶ Can also choose *and* to be the head
- ▶ In both cases, headword doesn't really represent the phrase — constituency representation makes more sense



# Advantages of dependency tree

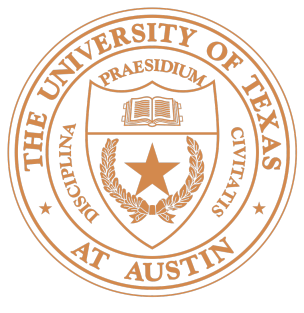




# Dependency vs. Constituency

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- ▶ Dependency is often more useful in practice (models predicate argument structure)
- ▶ Dependency parsers are easier to build: no “grammar engineering”, no unaries, easier to get structured discriminative models working well
- ▶ Dependency parsers are usually faster
- ▶ Dependencies are more universal cross-lingually



# Dependency vs. Constituency

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- ▶ Constituency includes non-terminals, and their edges are not typed.
- ▶ Dependency types encode “grammatical roles”.



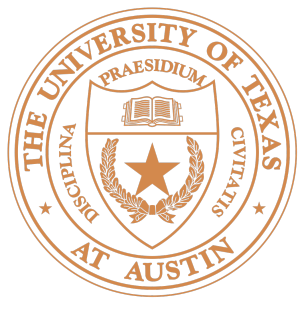
# CS 378: Natural Language Processing

## Lecture 22: Question Answering



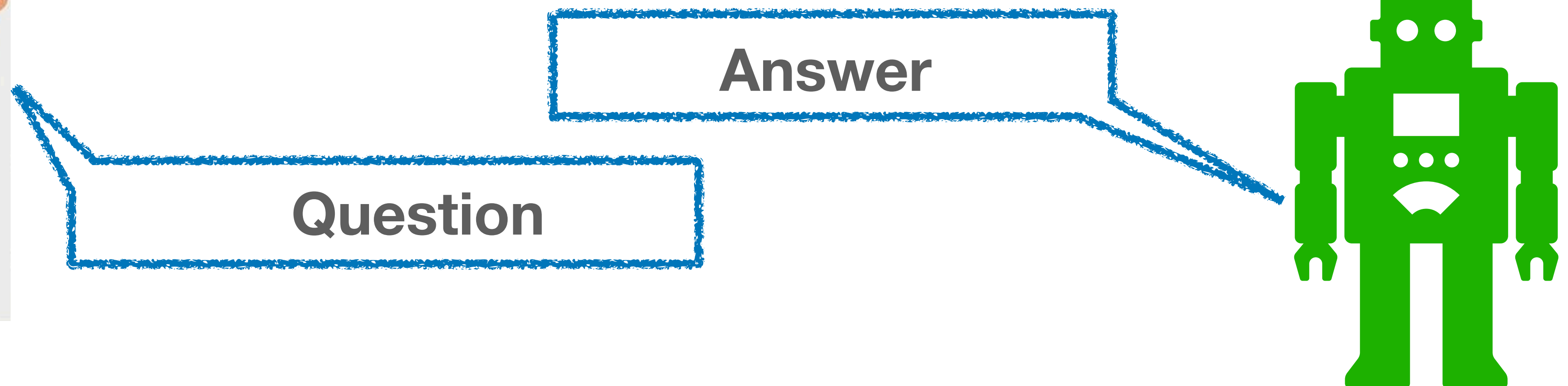
TEXAS  
The University of Texas at Austin

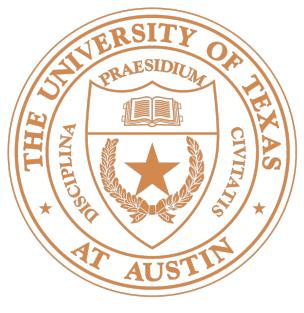
Eunsol Choi



# This Lecture

- ▶ Introduction to question answering task in NLP
- ▶ More on how the task is framed and formalized, less on modeling and learning



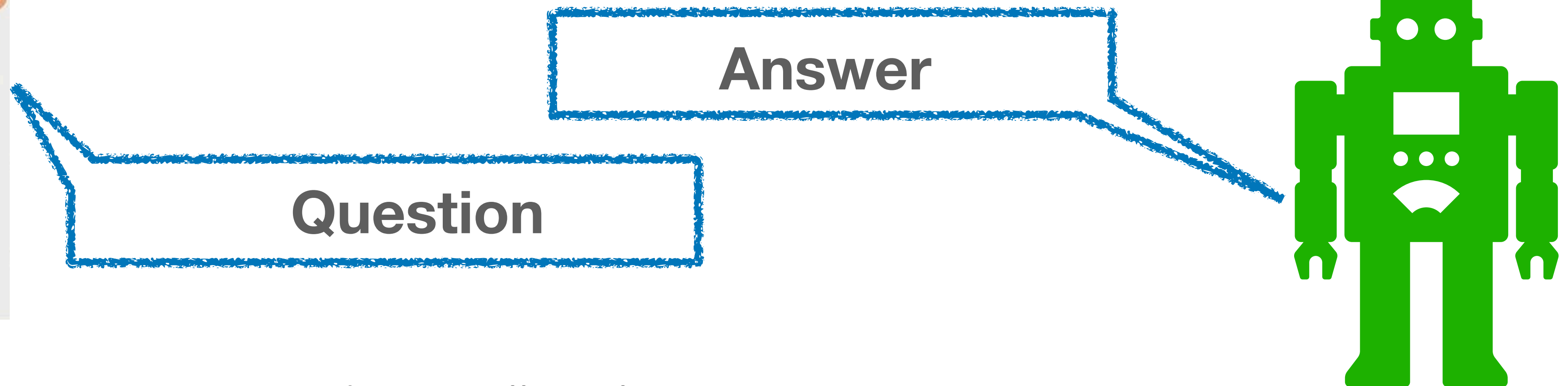


# Question Answering

*Dataset*: How do we collect the answers?

*Model*: How should we find the answers?

*Presentation*: How should we present the answers?



*Dataset*: How do we collect the questions?

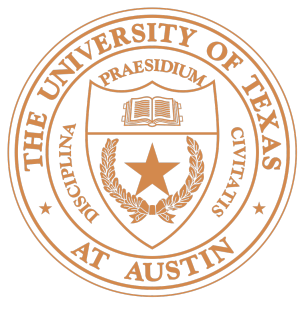


# Overview

---

- ▶ Why QA?
- ▶ Properties of QA datasets / formalism
  - ▶ Output (answer) space
  - ▶ Input (evidence) space
  - ▶ Required reasoning
  - ▶ Further variations
- ▶ Presentation of answers
- ▶ Remaining challenges





# Question Answering

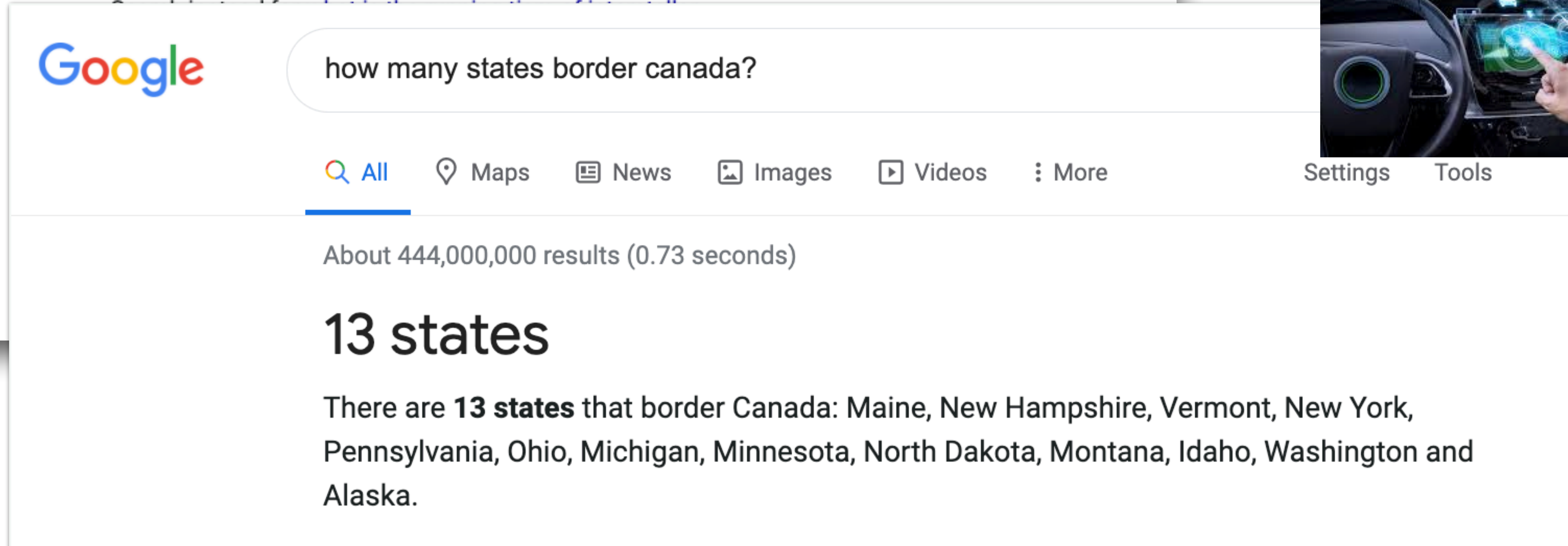
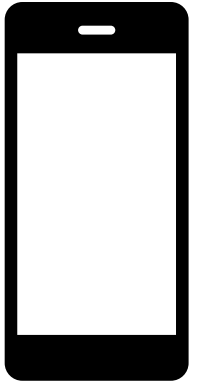
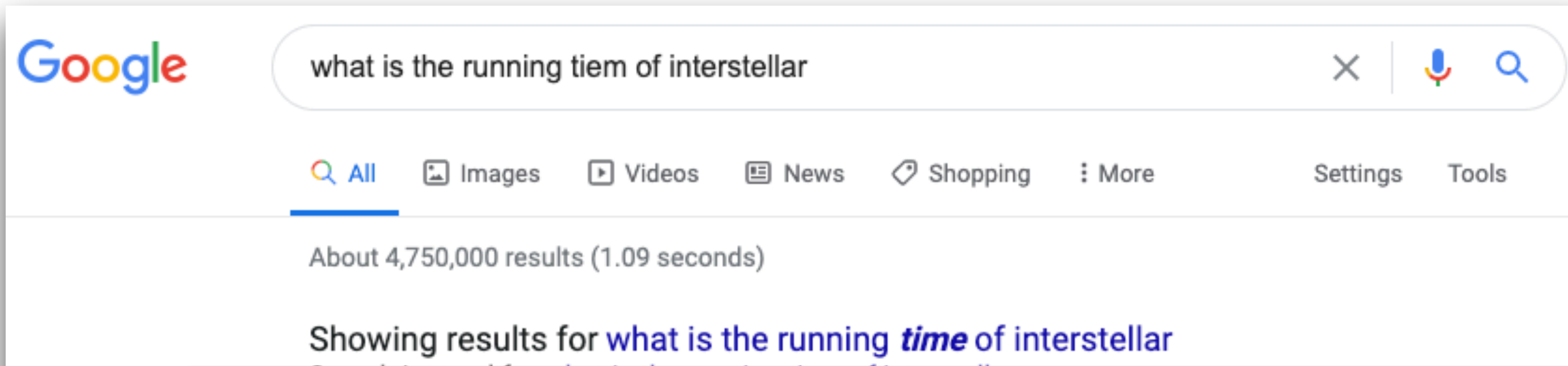


IBM Watson defeated two of Jeopardy's greatest champions in 2011





# Question Answering







# Why QA?

- ▶ As a testbed to evaluate how machines understand text

## THE PROCESS OF QUESTION ANSWERING

May 1977

Research Report #88

Wendy Lehnert

When a person understands a story, he can demonstrate his understanding by answering questions about the story. Since questions can be devised to query any aspect of text comprehension, the ability to answer questions is the strongest possible demonstration of understanding. Question answering is therefore a task criterion for evaluating reading skills.

If a computer is said to understand a story, we must demand of the computer the same demonstrations of understanding that we require of people. Until such demands are met, we have no way of evaluating text understanding programs. Any computer programmer can write a program which inputs text. If the programmer assures us that his program understands text, it is a bit like being reassured by a used car salesman about a suspiciously low speedometer reading. Only when we can ask a program to answer questions about what it reads will we be able to begin to assess that program's comprehension.

“Since questions can be devised to query **any aspect** of text comprehension, the ability to answer questions is the **strongest possible demonstration of understanding.**”



# Model-testing Queries

Questioner already knows the answer,  
aiming to test model's understanding

## Passage

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under gravity.

The **main forms** of precipitation include **drizzle**, **rain**, **sleet**, **snow**, **graupel** and **hail**...

Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called "showers".



Annotator writes question

## Question

What is another **main form** of precipitation besides **drizzle**, **rain**, **snow**, **sleet** and **hail**?

## Answer

**graupel**







# Reading Comprehension

- ▶ MCTest (2013): 500 passages, 4 questions per passage
- ▶ Two questions per passage explicitly require cross-sentence reasoning

One day, James thought he would go into town and see what kind of trouble he could get into. He went to the grocery store and pulled all the pudding off the shelves and ate two jars. Then he walked to the fast food restaurant and ordered 15 bags of fries. He didn't pay, and instead headed home.

3) Where did James go after he went to the grocery store?

A) his deck

B) his freezer

C) a fast food restaurant

D) his room





# Model-testing Queries

# Information Seeking Queries

Questioner already knows the answer,  
aiming to test model's understanding

## Passage

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under gravity. The main forms of

precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, graupel and hail...

Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals within a cloud. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called "showers".



Annotator writes question

## Question

What is another main form of precipitation besides drizzle, rain, snow, sleet and hail?

## Answer

graupel



Questioner does not know the answer

Question: What ship did Han Solo pilot?

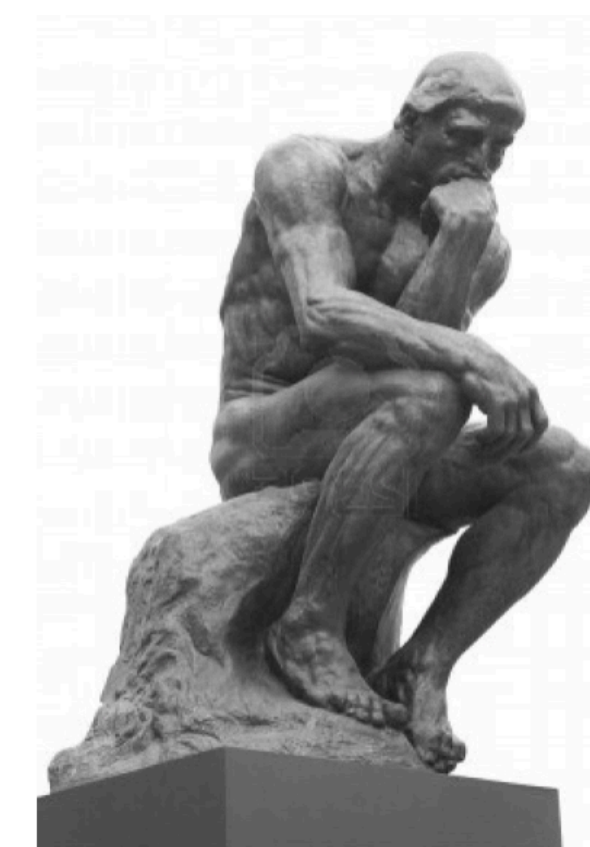


Annotator finds answer in article

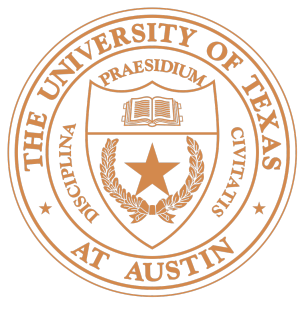
## Article



The Millennium Falcon is a fictional starship in the Star Wars franchise. The modified YT-1300 Corellian light freighter is primarily commanded by Corellian smuggler Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and





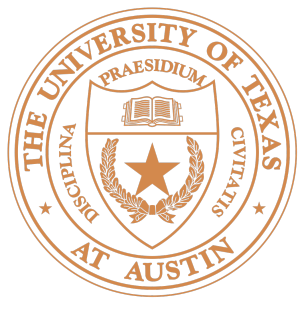


# Information Seeking Queries

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Trying to gain information



# Natural Questions

- ▶ Real questions from Google, answerable with Wikipedia
- ▶ Short answers and long answers (snippets)
- ▶ Questions arose naturally

## Question:

where is blood pumped after it leaves the right ventricle?

## Short Answer:

*None*

## Long Answer:

From the right ventricle , blood is pumped through the semilunar pulmonary valve into the left and right main pulmonary arteries ( one for each lung ) , which branch into smaller pulmonary arteries that spread throughout the lungs.





# Where to get questions?

## Crowdsourcing

### Given:

entity name and the first paragraph of Wikipedia page

### Do:

Ask questions to learn as much as possible about this entity!



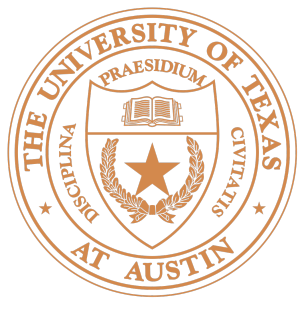
## User Queries



Natural Questions [Kwiatkowski et al, TACL 2019]

[Choi et al EMNLP 2018, Clark et al TACL 2020, Ferguson et al, EMNLP 2020]

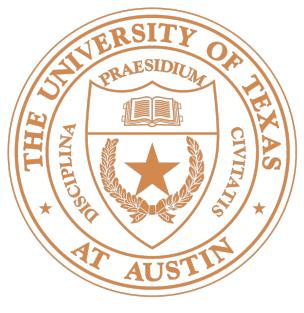
[Berant et al, 2013, Yang et al, EMNLP 15,  
Bajaj et al NeurIPS workshop 2018]



# QA can be very broad

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- ▶ Factoid QA: *what states border Mississippi?, when was Barack Obama born?*
  - ▶ Lots of this could be handled by QA from a knowledge base, if we had a big enough knowledge base
- ▶ “Question answering” as a term is so broad as to be meaningless
  - ▶ *Is  $P=NP$ ?*
  - ▶ *What is  $4+5$ ?*
  - ▶ *What is the translation of [sentence] into French?* [McCann et al., 2018]



# Overview

---

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# Simulating QA from raw text

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- ▶ Typically, question answering dataset requires human annotation
- ▶ “Cloze” task: word (often an entity) is removed from a sentence
  - ▶ Answers: multiple choice, pick from passage, or pick from vocabulary
  - ▶ Can be created automatically from things that aren’t questions





# Children's Book Test

"Well, Miss Maxwell, I think it only fair to tell you that you may have trouble with those boys when they do come. Forewarned is forearmed, you know. Mr. Cropper was opposed to our hiring you. Not, of course, that he had any personal objection to you, but he is set against female teachers, and when a Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can change him. He says female teachers can't keep order. He 's started in with a spite at you on general principles, and the boys know it. They know he'll back them up in secret, no matter what they do, just to prove his opinions. Cropper is sly and slippery, and

S: 1 Mr. Cropper was opposed to our hiring you .  
2 Not , of course , that he had any personal objection to you , but he is set against female teachers , and when a Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can change him .  
3 He says female teachers ca n't keep order .  
4 He 's started in with a spite at you on general principles , and the boys know it .  
5 They know he 'll back them up in secret , no matter what they do , just to prove his opinions .  
6 Cropper is sly and slippery , and it is hard to corner him . ''  
7 `` Are the boys big ? ''

Mr. Baxter privately had no hope that they would, but Esther hoped for the best. She could not believe that Mr. Cropper would carry his prejudices into a personal application. This conviction was strengthened when he overtook her walking from school the next day and drove her home. He was a big, handsome man with a very suave, polite manner. He asked interestedly about her school and her work, hoped she was getting on well, and said he had two young rascals of his own to send soon. Esther felt relieved. She thought that **????** had exaggerated matters a little.

r their age .  
he trouble .  
you around their fingers .  
'm afraid .  
ght after all . ''  
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ngers, manner, objection, opinion, right, spite.

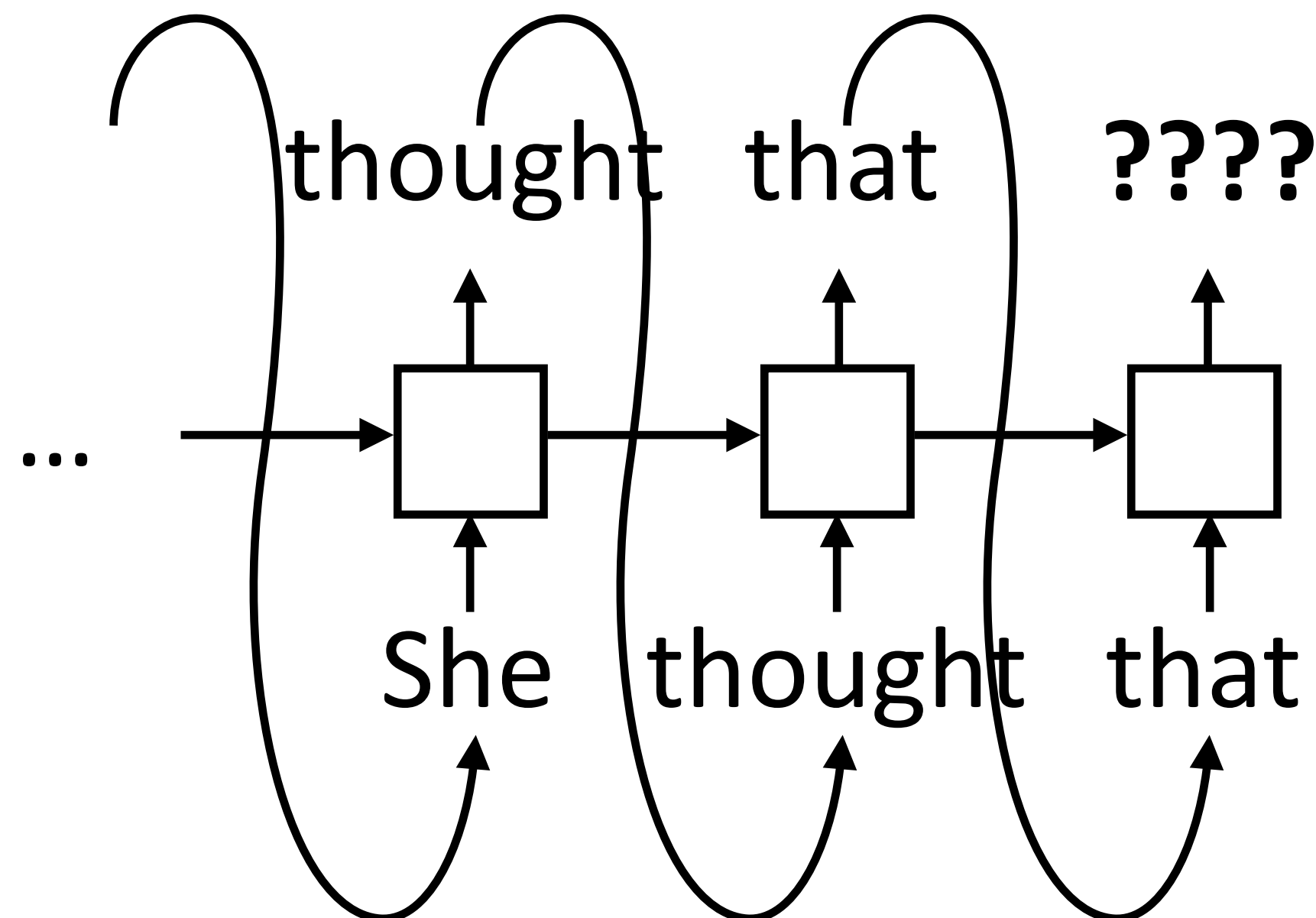
- ▶ Children's Book Test: take a section of a children's story, block out an entity and predict it (one-doc multi-sentence cloze task)
- Hill et al. (2015)





# LSTM Language Models

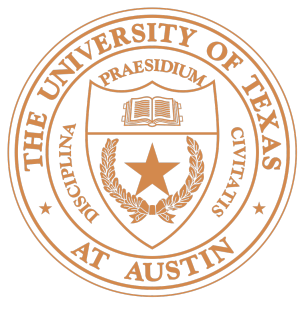
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- ▶ Predict next word with LSTM LM
- ▶ Context: either just the current sentence (query) or the whole document up to this point (query+context)

Hill et al. (2015)





# Dataset Properties

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- ▶ Axis 1: what's the output space?
  - ▶ cloze task (fill in blank)



# Multiple-Choice datasets

**Context:**

In jurisdictions where use of headlights is optional when visibility is good, drivers who use headlights at all times are less likely to be involved in a collision than are drivers who use headlights only when visibility is poor. Yet Highway Safety Department records show that making use of headlights mandatory at all times does nothing to reduce the overall number of collisions.

**Question:** Which one of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy in the information above?

**Options:**

A. In jurisdictions where use of headlights is optional when visibility is good, one driver in four uses headlights for daytime driving in good weather.

B. Only very careful drivers use headlights when their use is not legally required.

C. The jurisdictions where use of headlights is mandatory at all times are those where daytime visibility is frequently poor.

D. A law making use of headlights mandatory at all times is not especially difficult to enforce.

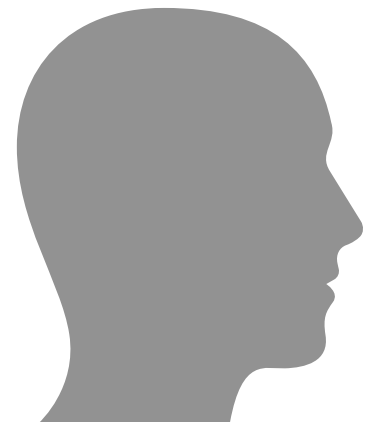
**Answer:** B

Table 1: An example in the ReClor dataset which is modified from the Law School Admission Council (2019b).

- ▶ Can capture complex semantics
- ▶ Evaluation is straightforward
- ▶ But is it realistic?



# Span-based prediction



**Question :** What shift happened in animal regulation in 1963 in U.S?

## Document Context :

The Lacey Act of 1900 was the first federal law that regulated commercial animal markets. It prohibited interstate commerce of animals killed in violation of state game laws, and covered all wildlife. Whereas the Lacey Act dealt with game animal management and market commerce species, a major shift in focus occurred by 1963 to habitat preservation instead of take regulations. A provision was added by Congress in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of...

- ▶ Can capture various semantics
- ▶ Evaluation is somewhat straightforward
- ▶ More realistic than multiple choice

**Answer is span in the original document**

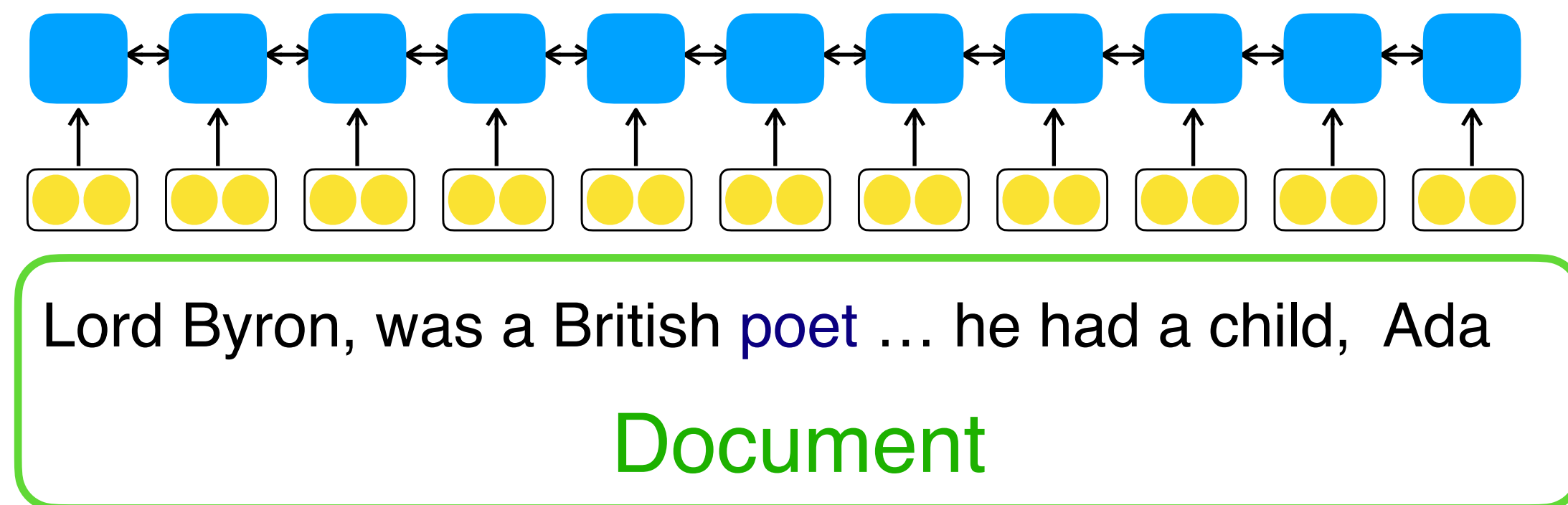
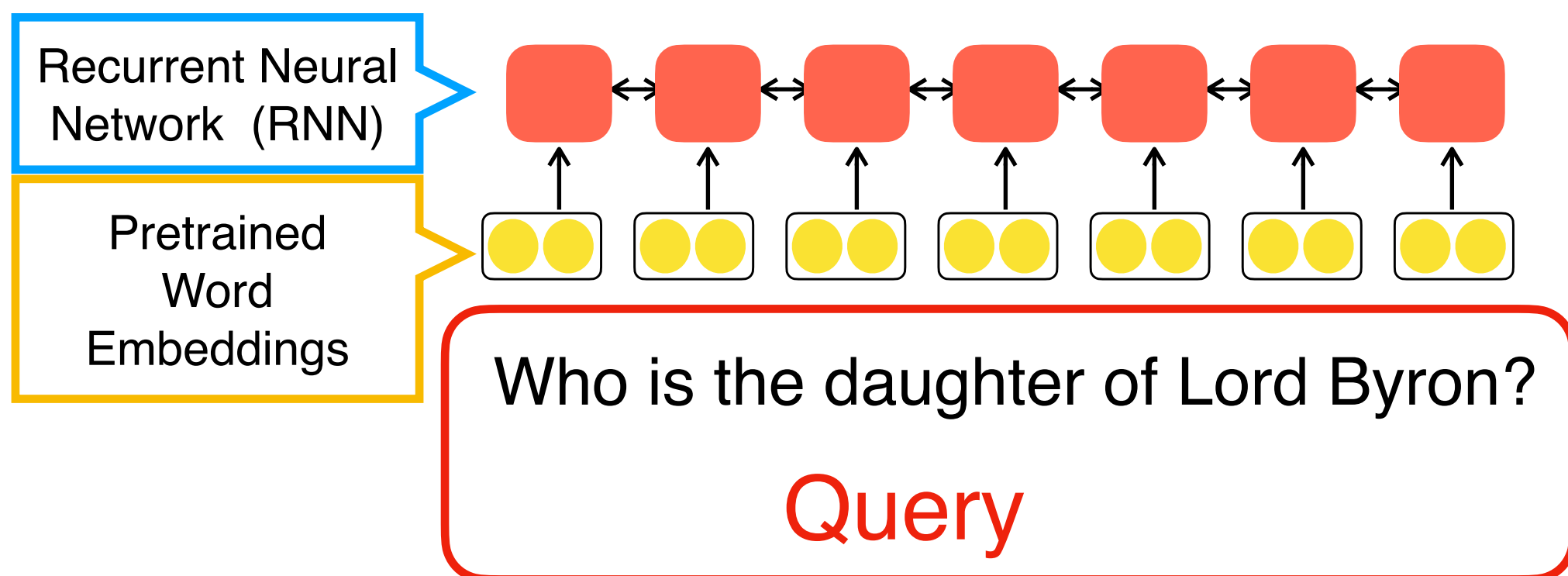


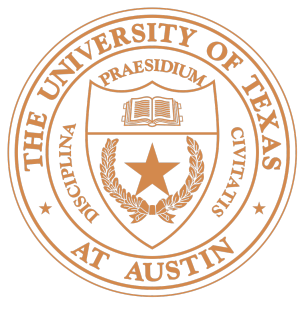
[Rajpurkar et al 2016]



# Model: BiDAF (Bi-directional Attention Flow)

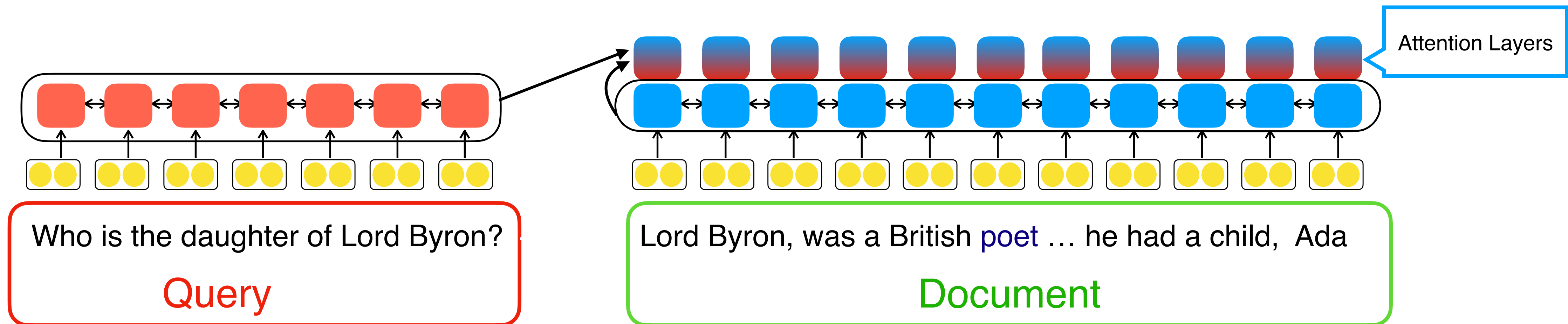
- ▶ Encode text and question with recurrent neural network



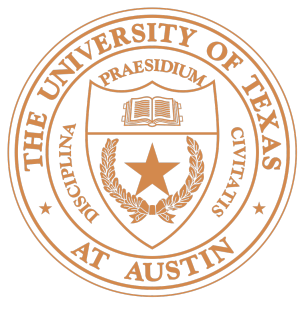


# Model: BiDAF (Bi-directional Attention Flow)

- ▶ Encode text and question with recurrent neural network
- ▶ Compute inter-sentence alignment with attention

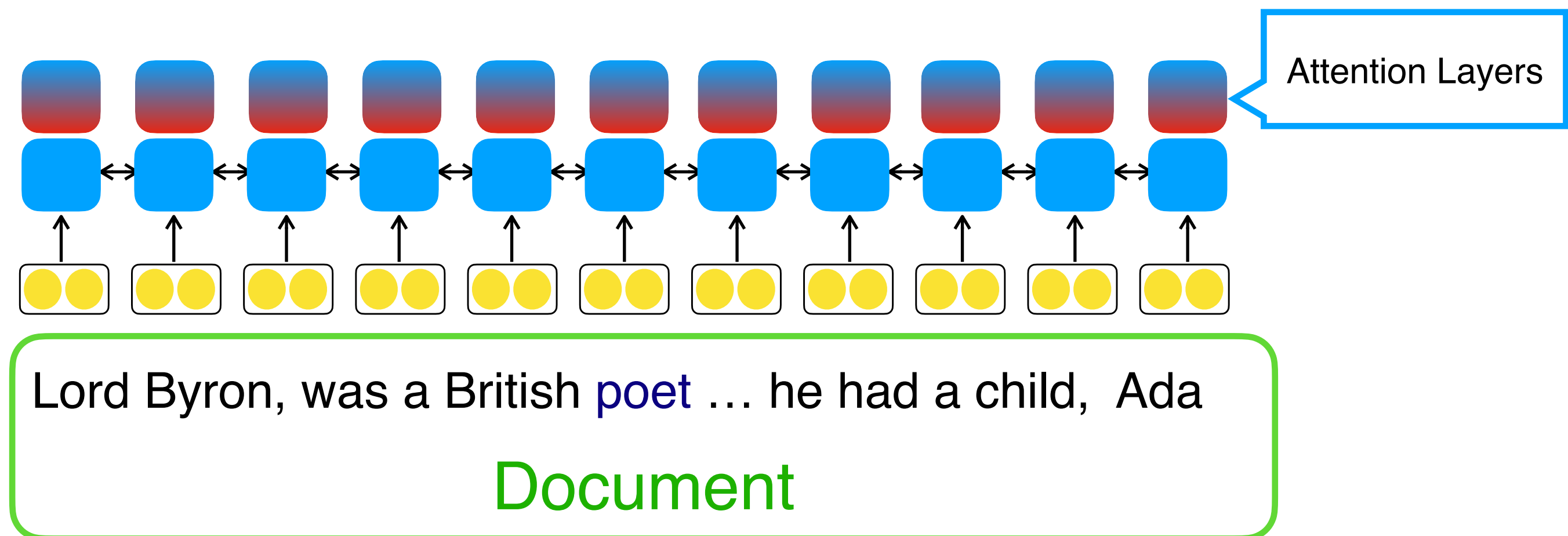




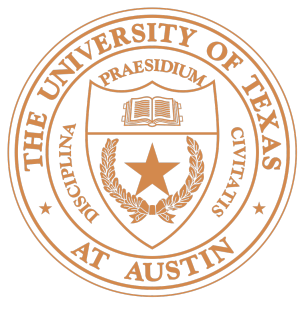


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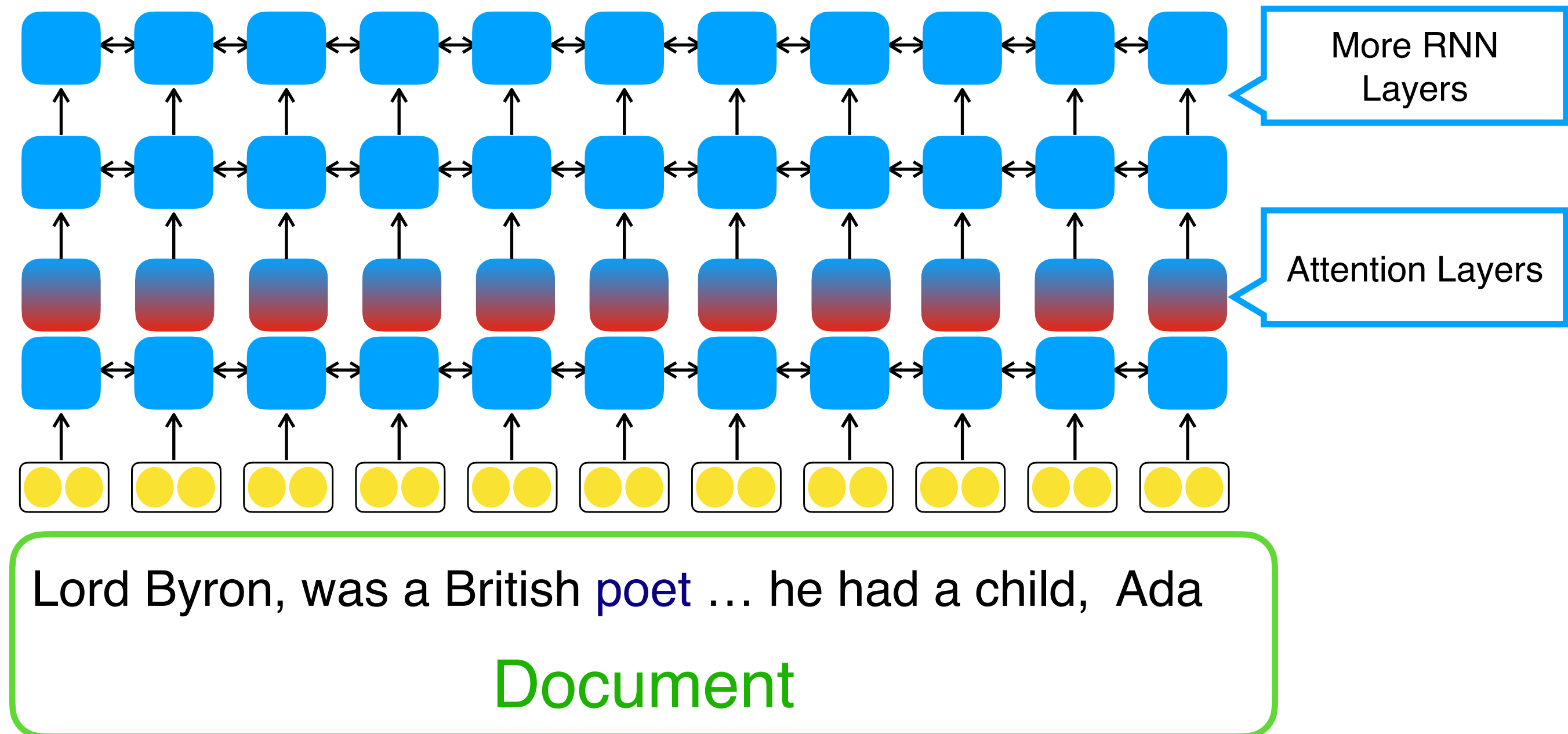


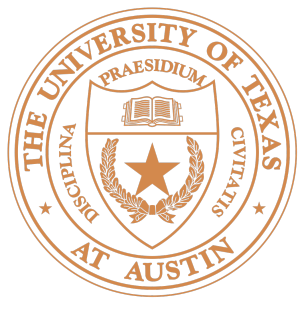




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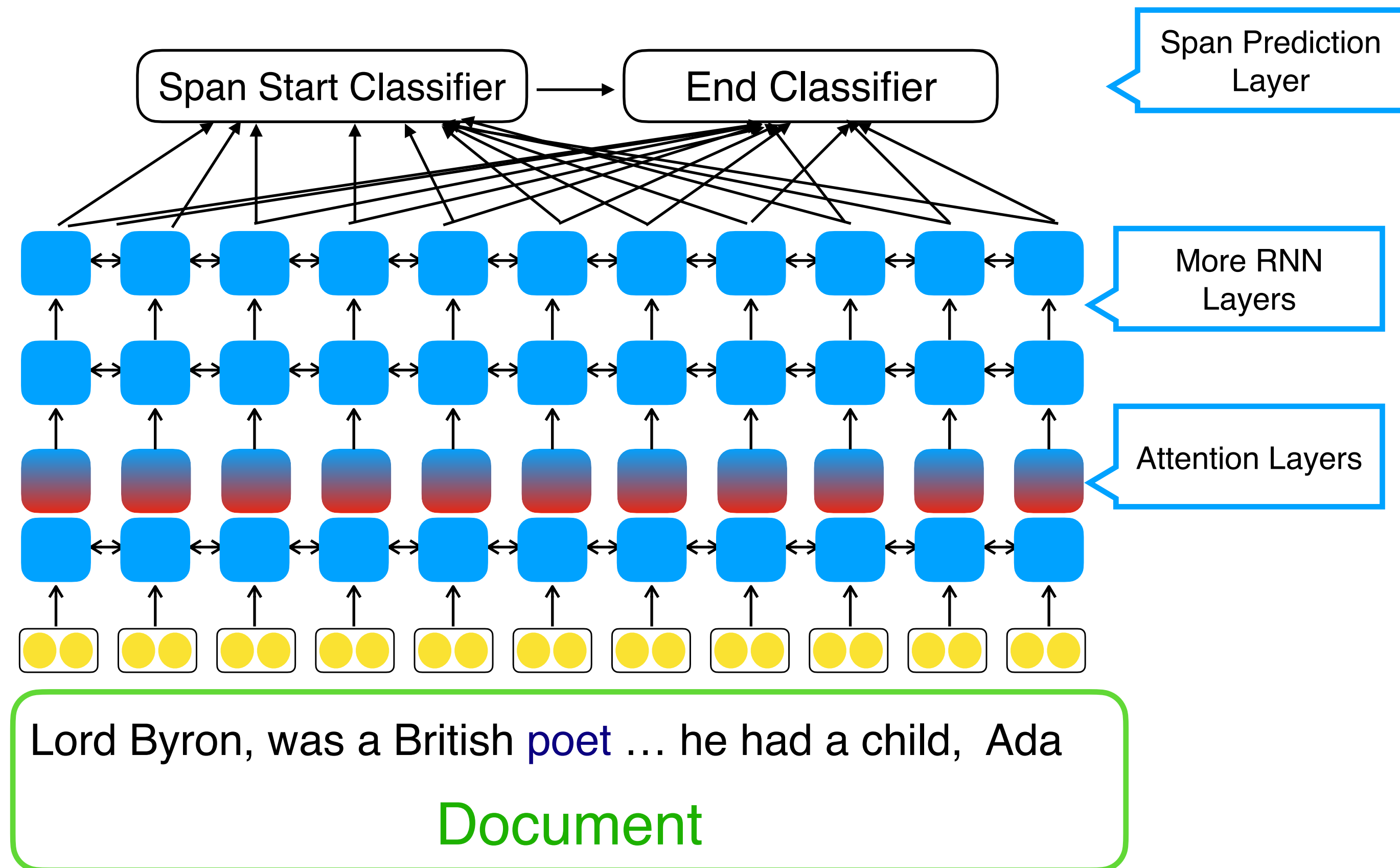
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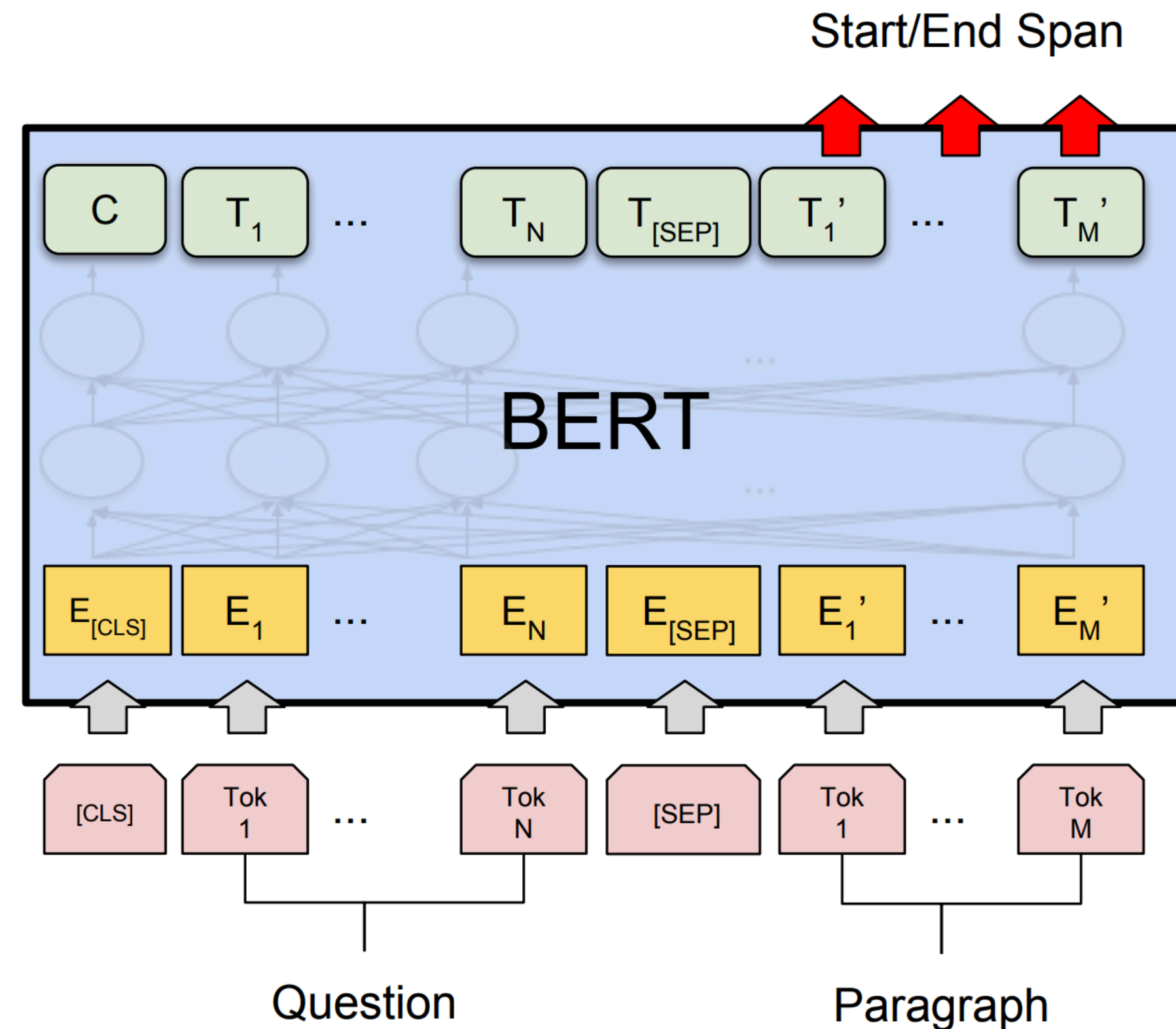
# Model: BiDAF (Bi-directional Attention Flow)

- ▶ Encode text and question with recurrent neural network
- ▶ Compute inter-sentence alignment with attention
- ▶ Optimize for the log likelihood of finding the correct start and end positions





# Span-based QA with BERT



What was Marie Curie the first female recipient of ? [SEP] One of the most famous people born in Warsaw was Marie ...

- Simplified architecture — just concatenate question and context!



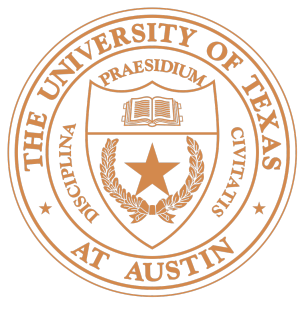
# Free-form answer generation

**Question:** Why does salt bring out the flavor in most foods?

**Answer:** Salt does a couple of things that add to the flavor of foods. First off, it makes things salty. That sounds simplistic, but salt is one of the 5 basic tastes, so it tends to taste good simply all by itself. Secondly, salt will lessen sensitivity to other tastes, especially bitter. This is somewhat true of all the tastes, but adding salt will balance out a dish and not let one taste overpower the others. Thirdly, it's been shown to increase that aromatic effects of many types of food. A good deal of your "taste" of a food actually comes from the smell of that food (which is why things tend to taste so bland when your nose is congested, like when you have the flu).

- ▶ Can capture complex semantics
- ▶ Evaluation??





# Difficulty of evaluating LFQA

Lexical matching based automatic metrics (e.g. ROUGE) are used, but not meaningful.

**Q:** Can you protect electronics from EMPs/solar flares? If so, how?

## **Random answer (ROUGE-L: 19.4)**

The fast lane/slow lane is a bit of a misnomer. It gives the impression that new, faster lanes are being built. In reality, normal speed will be the new "fast lane", which will cost extra, and everything else will be in the throttled "slow lane".

## **Gold answer (ROUGE-L: 18.6)**

I'll start with the grounding question, because that's the easiest to answer: Doesn't help a bit. All that matters is that the metal container is conductive and doesn't have gaps...completely seal your Faraday cage. Consider soldering the lid on to that paint can... look at little baggie it comes in. Sealed mylar. That protected that chip from air travel at 35,000 feet, land travel through rural, urban, and suburban areas, and all the electromagnetic radiation that the trip entails... No lead shielding. No safes...



# Understanding LFQA

**Question:** Can the capacity of our brains be roughly measured in bytes?

 **Summary**

 **Answer**

 **Example**

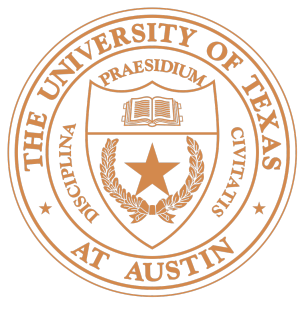
 **Auxiliary Info**

 **Org sentence**

**Human written answer:** This is a hard question to answer. Of course, since we occupy finite space, our properties must be finite. But the exceedingly complex structure of the brain and other systems [...] makes it hard to calculate the amount of "data" that we can store. We don't have a way to measure resolution of life or the quality of everyday noises. [...] Most of our memories are vague recollections, [...]. However, we can estimate average capacity, although it has no clear meaning in our terms of cognition. That number would be 2.5 petabytes [...] Even so, this number varies as well from person to person. [...]

- ▶ Not all sentences in long form answer convey answer information
- ▶ About 40% of sentences serve other roles





# Dataset Properties

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- ▶ Axis 1: what's the output space?
  - ▶ cloze task (fill in blank)
  - ▶ multiple choice
  - ▶ span-based prediction
  - ▶ freeform generation
- ▶ Complex output space allows answering more complex queries, but evaluation becomes very tricky...