

Constituency Parsing



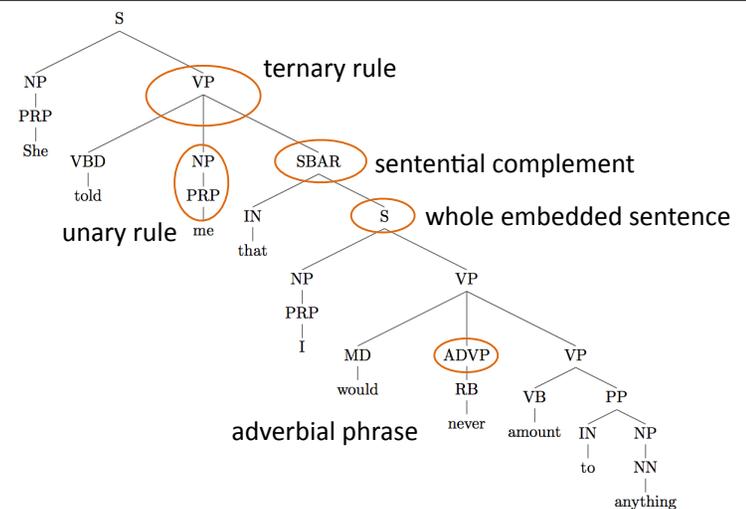
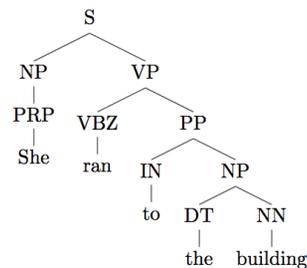
Syntax

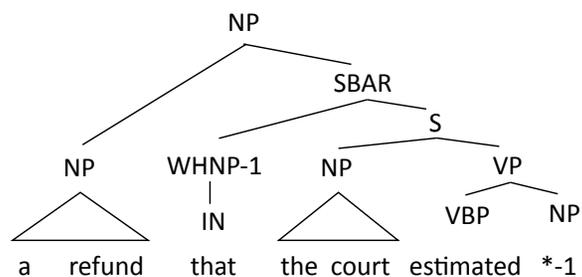
- ▶ Study of word order and how words form sentences
- ▶ Why do we care about syntax?
 - ▶ Multiple interpretations of words (noun or verb? *Fed raises...* example)
 - ▶ Recognize verb-argument structures (who is doing what to whom?)
 - ▶ Higher level of abstraction beyond words: some languages are SVO, some are VSO, some are SOV, parsing can canonicalize



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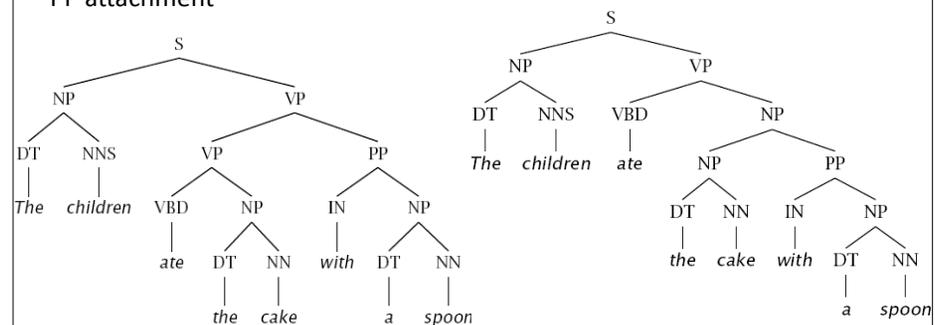
- ▶ Tree-structured syntactic analyses of sentences
- ▶ *Constituents*: (S)entence, (N)oun (P)hrases, (V)erb (P)hrases, (P)repositional (P)hrases, and more
- ▶ Bottom layer is POS tags
- ▶ Examples will be in English. Constituency makes sense for a lot of languages but not all





Challenges

PP attachment

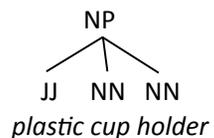
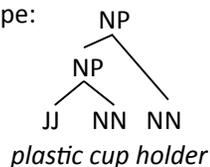


same parse as "the cake with some icing"



Challenges

Modifier scope:



Complement structure:

The students complained to the professor that they didn't understand

Coordination scope:

The man picked up his hammer and saw

compare: *The man picked up his hammer and swung*

[Eisenstein book]



Constituency

▶ How do we know what the constituents are?

▶ Constituency tests:

▶ Substitution by *proform* (e.g., pronoun, *did so*)

▶ Clefting (*It was with a spoon that...*)

▶ Answer ellipsis (What did they eat? *the cake*)
(How? *with a spoon*)

▶ Sometimes constituency is not clear, e.g., coordination: *she went to and bought food at the store*

