

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



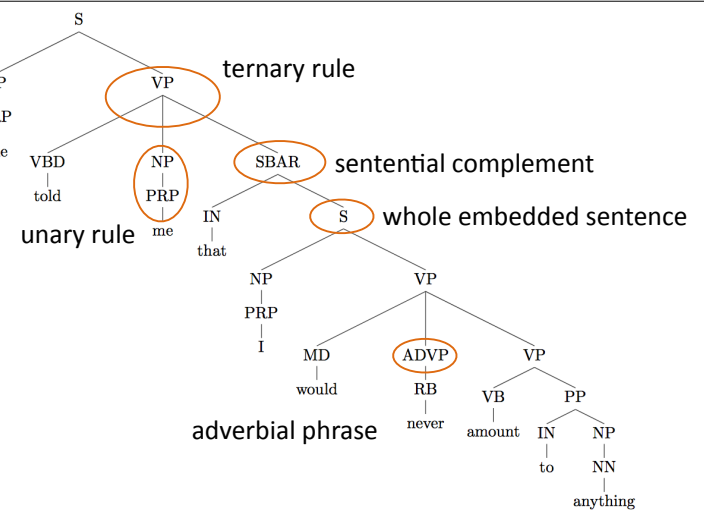
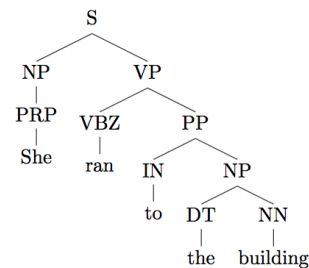
Constituency Parsing

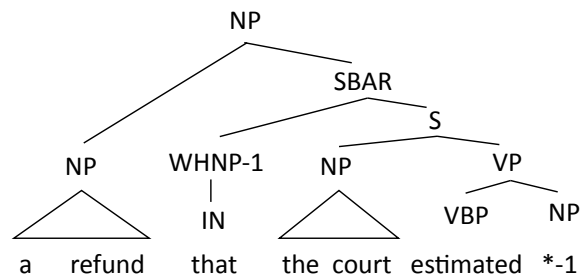
- Tree-structured syntactic analyses of sentences

- *Constituents*: (S)entence, (N)oun (P)hrases, (V)erb (P)hrases, (P)repositional (P)hrases, and more

- Bottom layer is POS tags

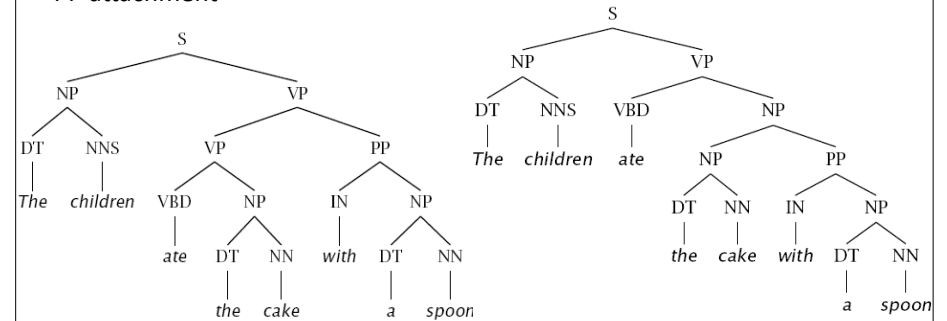
- Examples will be in English. Constituency makes sense for a lot of languages but not all





Challenges

PP attachment

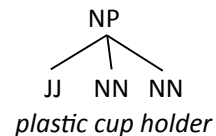
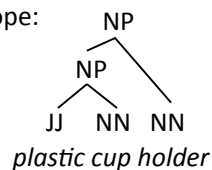


same parse as "the cake with some icing"



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]

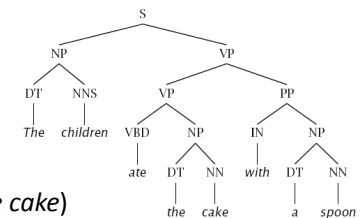


Constituency

► 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*