#### **Computational Linguistics** CSC 2501/485 Fall 2015



#### 9. Statistical parsing

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Reading: Jurafsky & Martin: 5.2–5.5.2, 5.6, 12.4, 14.0–1, 14.3–4, 14.6–7. Bird et al: 8.6.

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## Statistical parsing 1

#### **General idea:**

- Assign **probabilities** to **rules** in a context-free grammar.
  - Use a likelihood model.
- Combine probabilities of rules in a tree.
  - Yields likelihood of a parse.
- The best parse is the most likely one.

## Statistical parsing 2

#### **Motivations**:

- Uniform process for attachment decisions.
- Use lexical preferences in all decisions.

# Two general approaches

- 1. Assign a probability to each rule of grammar, including lexical rules.
  - Parse string of input words with probabilistic rules. The can will rust.
- 2. Assign probabilities only to non-lexical rules.
  - Probabilistically tag input words with syntactic categories using a **part-of-speech tagger**.
  - Consider the syntactic categories to be terminals, parse that string with probabilistic rules.
     Det N Modal Verb.

# Part-of-speech tagging 1

Part-of-speech (PoS) tagging:

Given a sequence of words  $w_1 \dots w_n$  (from well-formed text), determine the syntactic category (PoS)  $C_i$  of each word.

*I.e,* the best category sequence  $C_1 \dots C_n$  to assign to the word sequence  $w_1 \dots w_n$ .

Most likely

### Part-of-speech tagging 2

Example:

| The | can        | will       | rust |
|-----|------------|------------|------|
| det | modal verb | modal verb | noun |
|     | noun       | noun       | verb |
|     | verb       | verb       |      |

Example from Charniak 1997

# Part-of-speech tagging 3

$$P(C_1 \dots C_n | w_1 \dots w_n) = \frac{P(C_1 \dots C_n \wedge w_1 \dots w_n)}{P(w_1 \dots w_n)}$$

We cannot get this probability directly.

We should estimate it (through counts).

Hey, let's approximate it first (by modifying the formula).

Counts: Need representative corpus.

#### Look at individual words (unigrams): $P(C|w) = \frac{P(C \land w)}{P(w)}$

Maximum likelihood estimator (MLE):

$$P(C|w) = \frac{c(w \text{ is } C)}{c(w)}$$
  
Count in corpus

- Problems of MLE:
- Sparse data.
- Extreme cases:
  - a. Undefined if *w* is not in the corpus.
  - b. o if w does not appear in a particular category.

#### **Smoothing** of formula, e.g.,: $P(C|w) \approx \frac{c(w \text{ is } C) + \epsilon}{c(w) + \epsilon}$

Give small (non-zero) probability value to **unseen events**, taken from seen events by discounting them.

Various methods to ensure we still have valid probability distribution.

Just choosing the most frequent PoS for each word yields 90% accuracy in PoS tagging.

But:

- Not uniform across words.
- Accuracy is low  $(0.9^n)$  when multiplied over *n* words.
- No context: The fly vs. I will fly.

Need better approximations for

$$P(C_1\ldots C_n|w_1\ldots w_n)$$

## POS tagging: Bayesian method

Use Bayes's rule to rewrite:

$$P(C_1 \dots C_n | w_1 \dots w_n)$$

$$= \frac{P(C_1 \dots C_n) \times P(w_1 \dots w_n | C_1 \dots C_n)}{P(w_1 \dots w_n)} 2$$

For a given word string, we want to maximize this, find most likely  $C_1 \dots C_n$ :

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{C_1...C_n} P(C_1...C_n \mid w_1...w_n)$$

So just need to maximize the numerator.

## Approximating probabilities 1

Approximate  $1P(C_1 \dots \bigcirc)$  by predicting each category from previous N-1 categories: an **N-gram model**. Warning: Not

Bigram (2-gram) model: N the same n!!  $P(C_1 \dots C_n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^{N} P(C_i | C_{i-1})$ Posit pseudo-categories START at C<sub>0</sub>, and END as C<sub>n</sub>. Example:

 $P(A N V N) \approx P(A|START) \cdot P(N|A) \cdot P(V|N) \cdot P(N|V) \cdot P(END|N)$ 

## Approximating probabilities 2

Approximate  $2P(w_1..., w_n|C_1..., C_n)$  by assuming that the probability of a word appearing in a category is **independent** of the words around it.

$$P(w_1 \dots w_n | C_1 \dots C_n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^N P(w_i | C_i)$$
  
Lexical generation probabilities

# Approximating probabilities 3

#### Why is P(w|C) better than P(C|w)?

- P(C|w) is clearly not independent of surrounding categories.
  - E.g., those octopodes never stop /VBG vs. look at those /ADJ octopodes
- The probabilities of **lexical generation** are *more* independent.
- Complete formula for PoS includes bigrams, and so it does capture some context.

Putting it all together  $P(C_1...C_n | w_1...w_n)$  $P(C_1\ldots C_n\wedge w_1\ldots w_n)$  $P(w_1 \dots w_n)$  $P(C_1 \ldots C_n) \times P(w_1 \ldots w_n | C_1 \ldots C_n)$  $P(w_1 \dots w_n)$  $\propto P(C_1 \dots C_n) \times P(w_1 \dots w_n | C_1 \dots C_n)$  $\approx \prod P(C_i | C_{i-1}) \times P(w_i | C_i)$ (3)i=1MLE for categories  $\frac{1}{1} \frac{c(C_{i-1}C_i)}{c(C_{i-1})} \times \frac{c(w_i \text{ is } C_i)}{c(C_i)}$ not the same as for words; cf slide 8 Really should use smoothed MLE; cf slide 10

## Finding max 1

Want to find the argmax (most probable)  $C_1 \dots C_n$ .

Brute force method: Find all possible sequences of categories and compute P.

That's unnecessary and stupid: Our approximations assume lots of independence:

• Category bigrams:  $C_i$  depends only on  $C_{i-1}$ . Lexical generation:  $w_i$  depends only on  $C_i$ .

• Hence we do not need to enumerate all sequences independently.

## Finding max 2

#### Bigrams: Markov model.

• States are categories and transitions represent bigrams.

#### Lexical generation probabilities: Hidden Markov model.

• Words are outputs (with given probability) of states.

- A word could be the output of more than one state.
- Current state is unknown ("hidden").



#### Example

• • •

#### Artificial corpus of PoS-tagged 300 sentences using only Det, N, V, P.

• The flower flowers like a bird. Some birds like a flower with fruit beetles. Like flies like flies.

Based on an example in section 7.3 of: Allen, James. *Natural Language Understanding* (2nd ed), 1995, Benjamin Cummings.

#### Some lexical generation probabilities:

| <i>P(the</i>  Det) = .54 | P(like N) = .012 | P(flower N) = .063    | <b>P(</b> birds <b> N) = .076</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| P(a Det) = .36           | P(like V) = .1   | P(flower V) = .050    | P(flies V) = .076                 |
| P(a N) = .001            | P(like P) = .068 | P(flowers   N) = .050 | P(flies N) = .025                 |
| :                        | •                | P(flowers V) = .053   | :                                 |
|                          |                  | •                     |                                   |

### Markov model: bigram table

| Bigram<br>C <sub>i-1</sub> , C <sub>i</sub> | Count C <sub>i-1</sub> | Count C <sub>i-1</sub> ,C <sub>i</sub> | $P(C_i   C_{i-1})$ | Estimate |
|---|------------------------|--|--------------------|----------|
| START, Det                                  | 300                    | 213                                    | P(Det START)       | 0.710    |
| START, N                                    | 300                    | 87                                     | P(N  START)        | 0.290    |
| Det, N                                      | 558                    | 558                                    | P(N Det)           | 1.000    |
| N, V  | 883                    | 300                                    | P(V N)             | 0.340    |
| N, N  | 883                    | 51                                     | P(N N)             | 0.058    |
| N, P  | 883                    | 307                                    | P(P N)             | 0.348    |
| N, END                                      | 883                    | 225                                    | P(END N)           | 0.255    |
| V, N  | 300                    | 106                                    | P(N V)             | 0.353    |
| V, Det                                      | 300                    | 119                                    | P(Det N)           | 0.397    |
| V, END                                      | 300                    | 75                                     | P(END V)           | 0.250    |
| P, Det                                      | 307                    | 226                                    | P(Det P)           | 0.740    |
| Ρ, Ν  | 307                    | 81                                     | P(N P)             | 0.260    |

#### Markov model: transitions



#### HMM: lexical generation



#### Hidden Markov models 1

Given the observed output, we want to find the most likely path through the model.

Thecanwillrustdetmodal verbmodal verbnounnounnounnounverbverbverbverb

#### Hidden Markov models 2

At any state in an HMM, how you got there is irrelevant to computing the next transition.

- So, just need to remember the best path and probability up to that point.
- Define  $P_{Ci-1}$  as the probability of the best sequence up to state  $C_{i-1}$ .

Then find  $C_i$  that maximizes  $P_{Ci-1} \times P(C_i | C_{i-1}) \times P(w | C_i)$ 

**3** from slide 16

## Viterbi algorithm

Given an HMM and an observation *O* of a sequence of its output, Viterbi finds the most probable sequence *S* of states that produced *O*.

• O = words in a sequence, S = PoS tags of sentence

Parameters of HMM based on large training corpus.

## Statistical chart parsing 1

Consider tags as terminals

(*i.e.*, use a PoS tagger to pre-process input texts). *Det N Modal Verb.* 

For the probability of each grammar rule, use MLE.

Probabilities are derived from hand-parsed corpora (treebanks).

• Count frequency of use c of each rule  $C \rightarrow \alpha$ , for each non-terminal C and each different RHS  $\alpha$ .

What are some problems with this approach?

#### Statistical chart parsing 2

MLE probability of rules:

• For each rule  $C \rightarrow \alpha$  :

$$P(C \to \alpha | C) = \frac{c(C \to \alpha)}{\sum_{\beta} c(C \to \beta)} = \frac{c(C \to \alpha)}{c(C)} \quad 4$$

Takes no account of the context of use of a rule: *independence assumption*.

>>> import nltk

>>> nltk.parse.pchart.demo()

- 1: I saw John with my telescope <Grammar with 17 productions>
- 2: the boy saw Jack with Bob under the table with a telescope
   <Grammar with 23 productions>

```
Which demo (1-2)? 1
```

```
s: I saw John with my telescope
parser: <nltk.parse.pchart.InsideChartParser object at 0x7f61288f3290>
grammar: Grammar with 17 productions (start state = S)
    S -> NP VP [1.0]
   NP -> Det N [0.5]
   NP -> NP PP [0.25]
    NP -> 'John' [0.1]
    NP -> 'I' [0.15]
    Det -> 'the' [0.8]
    Det -> 'my' [0.2]
    N -> 'man' [0.5]
    N -> 'telescope' [0.5]
    VP -> VP PP [0.1]
   VP -> V NP [0.7]
   VP -> V [0.2]
    V -> 'ate' [0.35]
    V -> 'saw' [0.65]
    PP -> P NP [1.0]
    P -> 'with' [0.61]
```

```
P -> 'under' [0.39]
```

| [-]   [0:1] 'I'               | [1.0]   |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| . [-]   [1:2] 'saw'           | [1.0]   |
| [-]  [2:3] 'John'             | [1.0]   |
| [-]  [3:4] 'with'             | [1.0]   |
| [-].  [4:5] 'my'              | [1.0]   |
| [-]  [5:6] 'telescope'        | [1.0]   |
|                               | [1.0]   |
|                               |         |
| [-].  [4:5] 'my'              | [1.0]   |
| [-]  [3:4] 'with'             | [1.0]   |
| [-]  [2:3] 'John'             | [1.0]   |
| . [-]   [1:2] 'saw'           | [1.0]   |
| [-]   [0:1] 'I'               | [1.0]   |
| . [-]   [1:2] V -> 'saw' *    | [0.65]  |
| . >   [1:1] VP -> * V NP      | [0.7]   |
| . >   [1:1] V -> * 'saw'      | [0.65]  |
| [-]  [3:4] P -> 'with' *      | [0.61]  |
| >  [3:3] PP -> * P NP         | [1.0]   |
| [-> [3:4] PP -> P * NP        | [0.61]  |
| >  [3:3] P -> * 'with'        | [0.61]  |
| [-]  [5:6] N -> 'telescope' * | [0.5]   |
| > .  [5:5] N -> * 'telescope' | [0.5]   |
|                               | [0.455] |
| . [->   [1:2] VP -> V * NP    |         |
| . >   [1:1] VP -> * V         | [0.2]   |
| [-].  [4:5] Det -> 'my' *     | [0.2]   |
| >  [4:4] NP -> * Det N        | [0.5]   |
| >  [4:4] Det -> * 'my'        | [0.2]   |
|                               |         |

.

| >         | [4:4] | S  | -> | * NP VP |
|-----------|-------|----|----|---------|
| >         |       | NP | -> | * NP PP |
| [>        |       | S  | -> | NP * VP |
| . []      |       | VP | -> | V NP *  |
| [->       |       |    | -> | NP * PP |
| []        | [3:6] | PP | -> | PNP*    |
|           |       |    | -> | NP * PP |
| []        |       |    | -> | NP VP * |
| . [->     | [1:2] | VP | -> | VP * PP |
| [>        | [4:6] | NP | -> | NP * PP |
| []        | [0:3] | S  | -> | NP VP * |
| . [>      | [1:3] | VP | -> | VP * PP |
| []        | [2:6] | NP |    | NP PP * |
| [>        | [2:6] | S  | -> | NP * VP |
| . []      | [1:6] | VP | -> | V NP *  |
| [>        | [2:6] | NP | -> | NP * PP |
| . []      | [1:6] | VP |    | VP PP * |
| [=======] | [0:6] | S  | -> | NP VP * |
| . [>      | [1:6] | VP | -> | VP * PP |
| [======]  |       |    |    |         |
| . [>      | [1:6] | VP | -> | VP * PP |

[1.0] [0.25] [0.05] [0.0455] [0.0375] [0.0305] [0.025] [0.0195] [0.013] [0.0125] [0.006825] [0.00455] [0.0007625] [0.0007625] [0.0003469375] [0.000190625] [0.000138775] [5.2040625e-05] [3.469375e-05] [2.081625e-05] -[1.38775e-05]

#### Draw parses (y/n)? y please wait...



```
Print parses (y/n)? y
  (S
    (NP I)
    (VP
        (VP (V saw) (NP John))
        (PP (P with) (NP (Det my) (N telescope))))) [2.081625e-05]
(S
        (NP I)
        (VP
            (V saw)
            (NP
                (NP John)
                (NP John)
                (PP (P with) (NP (Det my) (N telescope))))) [5.2040625e-05]
```

#### Statistical chart parsing 3

Probability of chart entries — completed constituents:

$$P(e_0) = P(C_0 \to C_1 \dots C_n | C_0) \times P(e_1) \times \dots \times P(e_n)$$
$$= P(C_0 \to C_1 \dots C_n | C_0) \times \prod_{i=1}^n P(e_i)$$
5

where  $e_0$  is the entry for current constituent, of category  $C_0$ ; and  $e_1 \dots e_n$  are the chart entries for  $C_1 \dots Cn$  in the RHS of the rule. **NB:** Unlike for PoS tagging above, the  $C_i$  are not necessarily lexical categories.

#### Statistical chart parsing 4

- Consider a complete parse tree rooted at *S*.
- Recasting **5**, the *S* constituent will have the probability

$$P(S) = \prod_{n} P(rule(n) \mid cat(n))$$
 6

where *n* ranges over all nodes in the tree of *S*; rule(n) is the rule used for *n*; cat(n) is the category of *n*.

• "Bottoms out" at lexical categories.

#### Evaluation 1

- Evaluation method:
  - Train on part of a parsed corpus. (*I.e.,* gather rules and statistics.)
  - Test on a different part of the corpus.

#### Evaluation 2

**Evaluation:** PARSEVAL measures compare parser output to known correct parse:

Labelled precision, labelled recall.

Fraction of constituents in output that are correct.

Fraction of correct constituents in output.

• **F-measure** = harmonic mean of precision and recall = 2PR / (P + R)
### Evaluation 3

**Evaluation:** PARSEVAL measures compare parser output to 'known' 'correct' parse:

- Penalize for cross-brackets per sentence:
  Constituents in output that overlap two (or more) correct ones;
  e.g., [[A B] C] for [A [B C]].
- [[Nadia] [[fondled] [the eggplant]]]
  [[[Nadia] [fondled]] [the eggplant]]

### Improving statistical parsing

Problem: Probabilities are based only on structures:

$$P(C \to \alpha | C) = \frac{c(C \to \alpha)}{\sum_{\beta} c(C \to \beta)} = \frac{c(C \to \alpha)}{c(C)} \quad \mathbf{4}$$

But actual words strongly condition which rule is used (cf Ratnaparkhi).

We can improve the results by conditioning on more factors, including words.

# Lexicalized grammars 1

Head of a phrase: its central or key word.

• The noun of an NP, the preposition of a PP, etc.

**Lexicalized** grammar: Refine the grammar so that rules take *heads of phrases* into account — the actual words.

 BEFORE: Rule for NP.
 AFTER: Rules for NP-whose-head-is-aardvark, NP-whose-head-is-abacus, ..., NP-whose-head-is-zymurgy.

And similarly for VP, PP, etc.

# Lexicalized grammars 2

Notation: *cat*(*head*, *tag*) for constituent category *cat* headed by *head* with part-of-speech *tag*.

• e.g., NP(aardvark,NN), PP(without,IN)

NP-whose-head-is-the-NN-aardvark

PP-whose-head-is-the-IN-without



 $S(bought, VBD) \rightarrow NP(week, NN) NP(IBM, NNP)$  VP(bought, VBD)  $NP(week, NN) \rightarrow JJ(Last, JJ) NN(week, NN)$   $NP(IBM, NNP) \rightarrow NNP(IBM, NNP)$   $VP(bought, VBD) \rightarrow VBD(bought, VBD) NP(Lotus, NNP)$  $NP(Lotus, NNP) \rightarrow NNP(Lotus, NNP)$ 

 $JJ(Last,JJ) \rightarrow Last$   $NN(week,NN) \rightarrow week$   $NNP(IBM,NNP) \rightarrow IBM$   $VBD(bought,VBD) \rightarrow bought$   $NNP(Lotus,NNP) \rightarrow Lotus$ 

# Lexicalized grammars 3

Number of rules explodes given more heads, but no theoretical change in parsing (whether statistical or not).

But far too specific for practical use; each head is too rarely used to determine its probability.

Need something more than regular (unlexicalized) rules and less than complete lexicalization ...

### Lexicalized parsing 1

Starting from unlexicalized rules:

**1. Lexicalization:** Consider the head word of each node, not just its category:

 $P(S) = \prod_{n} P(rule(n) | head(n)) \leftarrow \text{Replaces 6}$ from slide 34

where head(n) is the PoS-tagged head word of node n.

Needs finer-grained probabilities:

• e.g., probability that rule *r* is used, given we are in an NP whose head is the noun *guzzler*.

### Lexicalized parsing 2

**2. Head and parent:** Condition on the head and the head of the parent node in the tree:

*P*(Sentence, Tree)

 $=\prod_{n\in\text{Tree}} P(rule(n) | head(n)) \times P(head(n) | head(parent(n)))$ 

e.g., probability of rule r given that head is the noun guzzler.

e.g., probability that head is the noun *guzzler*, given that parent phrase's head is the verb *flipped*.

## Effects on parsing

- Lexical information introduces context into CFG.
- Grammar is larger.
- Potential problems of sparse data.
- Possible solutions: Smoothing; back-off estimates.

If you don't have data for a fine-grained situation, use data from a coarser-grained situation in which it's contained.

### Collins 2003

Can condition on *any* information available in generating the tree.

- **Basic idea:** Avoid sparseness of lexicalization by decomposing rules.
  - Make plausible independence assumptions.
  - Break rules down into small steps (small number of parameters).
  - Each rule parameterized with word+PoS-tag pair: S(bought,VBD)  $\rightarrow$  NP(week,NN) NP(IBM,NNP) VP(bought,VBD)

#### Collins' first model 1

Lexical Rules, with probability 1.0:  $tag(word, tag) \rightarrow word$ 

Internal Rules, with treebank-based probabilities. Separate terminals to the left and right of the head; generate one at a time:

$$X \rightarrow L_n L_{n-1} \dots L_1 H R_1 \dots R_{m-1} R_m \quad (n, m \ge 0)$$

*X*, *L*<sub>*i*</sub>, *H*, and *R*<sub>*i*</sub> all have the form **cat(head,tag)**. Notation: Italic lowercase symbol for (head,tag):

 $X(x) \rightarrow L_n(l_n)L_{n-1}(l_{n-1})...L_1(l_1) H(h) R_1(r_1)...R_{m-1}(r_{m-1}) R_m(r_m)$ 

#### Collins' first model 2

Assume there are additional  $L_{n+1}$  and  $R_{m+1}$  representing phrase boundaries ("STOP").

Example:  $S(bought, VBD) \rightarrow NP(week, NN) NP(IBM, NNP) VP(bought, VBD)$  n = 2, m = 0 (two constituents on the left of the head, zero on the right).  $X = S, H = VP, L_1 = NP, L_2 = NP, L_3 = STOP, R_1 = STOP.$  $h = (bought, VBD), l_1 = (IBM, NNP), l_2 = (week, NN).$ 

Distinguish probabilities of heads *P*<sub>h</sub>, of left constituents *P*<sub>l</sub>, and of right constituents *P*<sub>r</sub>.

# Probabilities of internal rules 1

 $= P(L_{n+1}(l_{n+1})L_n(l_n) \dots L_1(l_1) H(h) R_1(r_1) \dots R_m(r_m) R_{m+1}(r_{m+1}) | X, h)$ =  $P_h(H | X, h)$ 



#### Probabilities of internal rules 2



### Collins' first model 3

Backs off ...

to tag probability when no data for specific word;

• to complete non-lexicalization when necessary.

# Collins' 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> models

Model 2: Add verb subcategorization and argument/adjunct distinction.

Model 3: Integrate gaps into model.

• Especially important with addition of subcategorization.

### Results and conclusions 3

Model 2 outperforms Model 1.

Model 3: Similar performance, but identifies traces too.

Model 2 performs best overall:

- LP = 89.6, LR = 89.9 [sentences ≤ 100 words].
- LP = 90.1, LR = 90.4 [sentences ≤ 40 words].

Rich information improves parsing performance.

### Results and conclusions 2

#### Strengths:

- Incorporation of lexical and other linguistic information.
- Competitive results.

#### Weaknesses:

- Supervised training.
- Performance tightly linked to particular type of corpus used.

### Results and conclusions 3

#### Importance to CL:

- High-performance parser showing benefits of lexicalization and linguistic information.
- Publicly available, widely used in research.

#### Unsupervised inside-outside

The **inside-outside** algorithm is a **glorious** generalization of the forward-backward algorithm that learns grammars **without** annotated data.

