Natural Language Processing
SoSe 2016

Syntactic Parsing

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Overview

- Introduction
- Context-free grammars
- Parsing algorithms

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- Context-free grammars
- Parsing algorithms

Syntactic parsing

- Find structural relationships between words in a sentence

```
(ROOT
  (S
    (NP
      (NP (NNP Steve) (NNP Paul) (NNP Jobs))
      (, ,)
      (NP
        (NP (NN co-founder))
        (PP (IN of)
          (NP (NNP Apple) (NNP Inc))))
      (, ,))
    (VP (VBD was)
      (VP (VBN born)
        (PP (IN in)
          (NP (NNP California)))))
    (. .)))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Motivation: Grammar checking

- By failing to parse a sentence

```
(ROOT
  (NP
    (NP (NNP John))
    (NP (DT a) (JJ new) (NN book))))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Motivation: Speech recognition

- By failing to parse a sentence

```
(ROOT
  (FRAG
    (NP (PRP We))
    (PP (IN by)
      (NP (DT a) (JJ new) (NN book)))))
```

```
(ROOT
  (S
    (NP (PRP We))
    (VP (VBP buy)
      (NP (DT a) (JJ new) (NN book)))))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Motivation: Machine translation

- By failing to parse a sentence

Babel interaktiv: „Ich mag Brot*"

Analyse für den Satz „Ich mag Brot*"

```
            v(fin, ind)
      ___________|___________
     /           |           \
n(nom, sg)  v(fin, ind)  n(acc, sg)
     |           |           |
     |           |           |
n(nom, sg)      mag      n(acc, sg)
     |                       |
     |                       |
    ich                     brot
```

Babel interaktiv: „Ich wie Brot*"

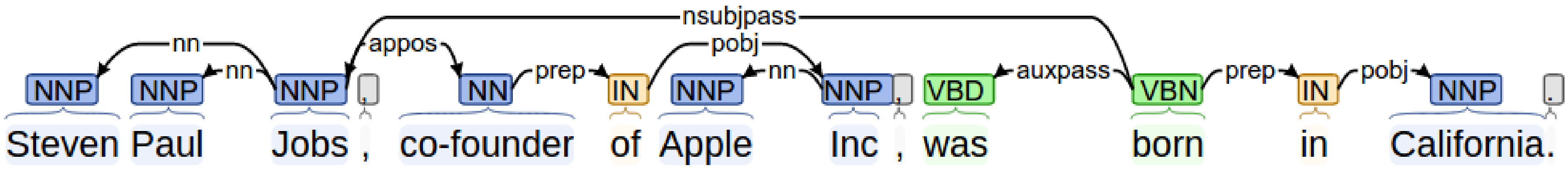
Analyse für den Satz „Ich wie Brot*"

Keine Analyse gefunden! Warum?

(http://hpsg.fu-berlin.de/~stefan/cgi-bin/babel.cgi)

Motivation: Relation extraction

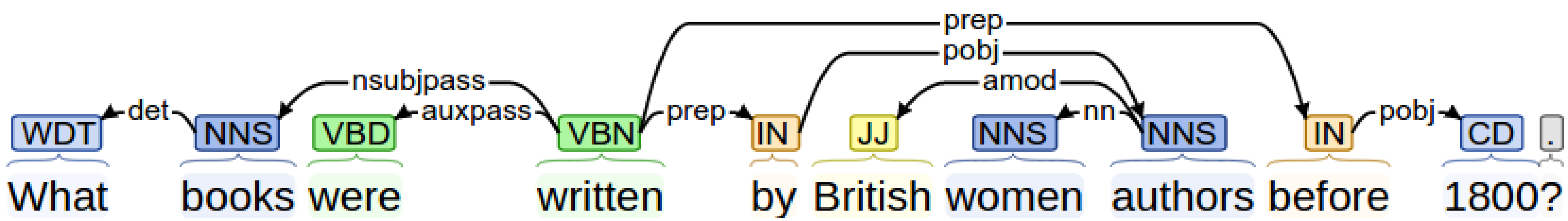
- Support extraction of relations



(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/corenlp/)

Motivation: Question answering

- Support extraction of the question target its details



(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/corenlp/)

Overview

- Introduction
- Context-free grammars
- Parsing algorithms

Constituency

- Parsing is based on constituency (phrase structure)
  - We organize words into nested constituents
  - Constituents are groups of words that can act as single units

```
(ROOT
  (S
    (NP (PRP$ My) (NN dog))
    (ADVP (RB also))
    (VP (VBZ likes)
      (S
        (VP (VBG eating)
          (NP (NN sausage)))))
    (. .)))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Constituency

- Constituents form coherent classes from units that behave in similar ways
  - With respect to their internal structure
  - With respect to other units in the language

```
(ROOT
  (S
    (NP (PRP$ My) (NN dog))
    (ADVP (RB also))
    (VP (VBZ likes)
      (S
        (VP (VBG eating)
          (NP (NN sausage)))))
    (. .)))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Constituency

- Each constituent contains a head word

```
(ROOT
  (SBARQ
    (WHNP (WP What))
    (SQ
      (NP (NNS books))
      (VP (VBD were)
        (VP (VBN written)
          (PP (IN by)
            (NP (JJ British) (NNS women) (NNS authors)))
          (PP (IN before)
            (NP (CD 1800))))))
    (. ?)))
```

(http://nlp.stanford.edu:8080/parser)

Constituency

The writer talked to the audience about his new book.

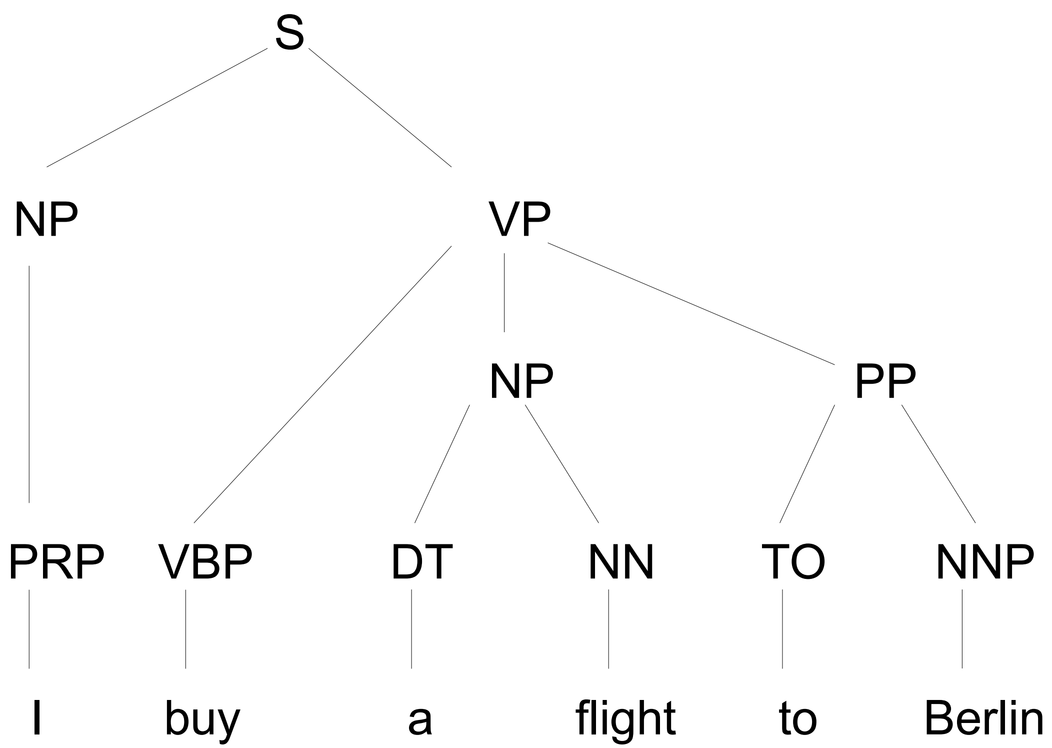
The writer talked about his new book to the audience. ✓

About his new book the writer talked to the audience. ✓

The writer talked about to the audience his new book. ✗

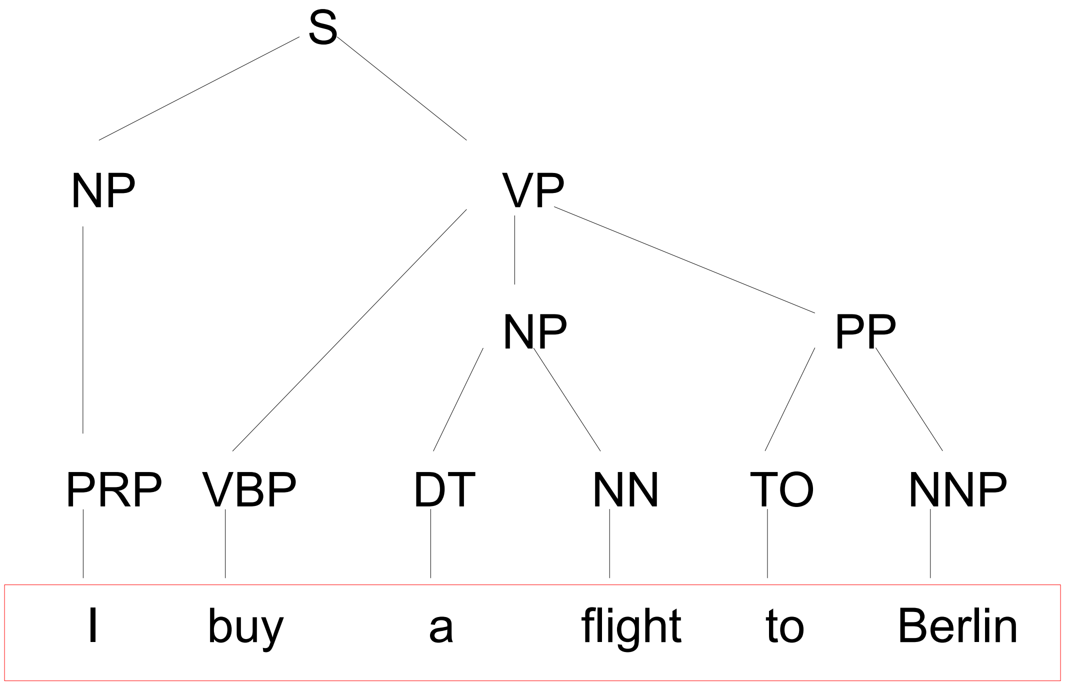
Context Free Grammar (CFG)

- Grammar „G" consists of
  - Terminals (T)
  - Non-terminals (N)
  - Start symbol (S)
  - Rules (R)



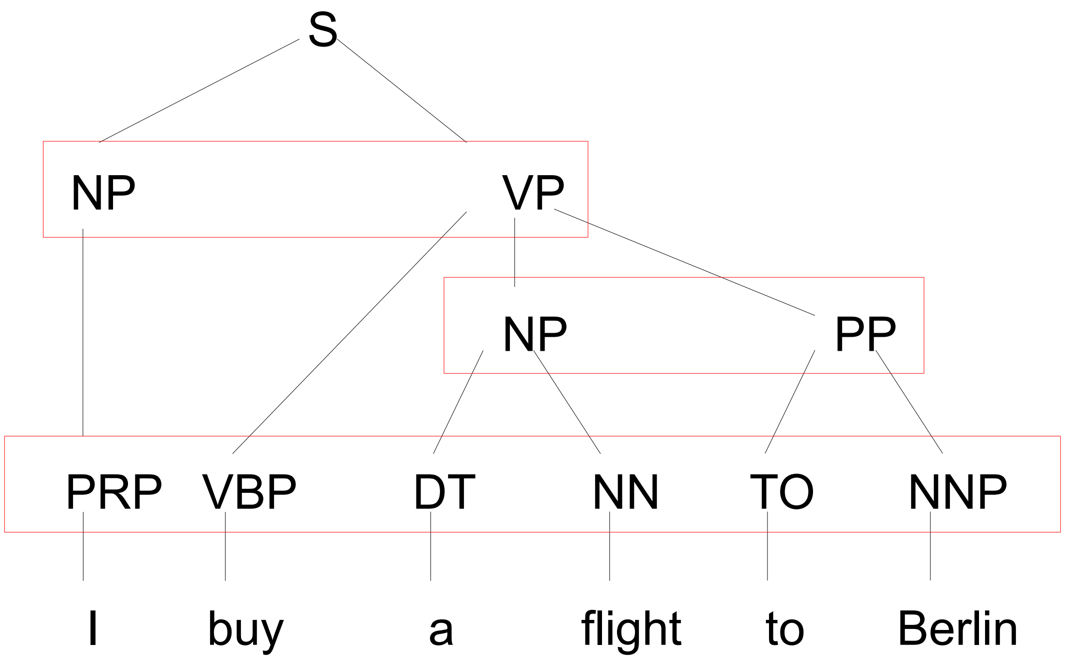
Context Free Grammar (CFG)

- Terminals
  - The set of words in the text



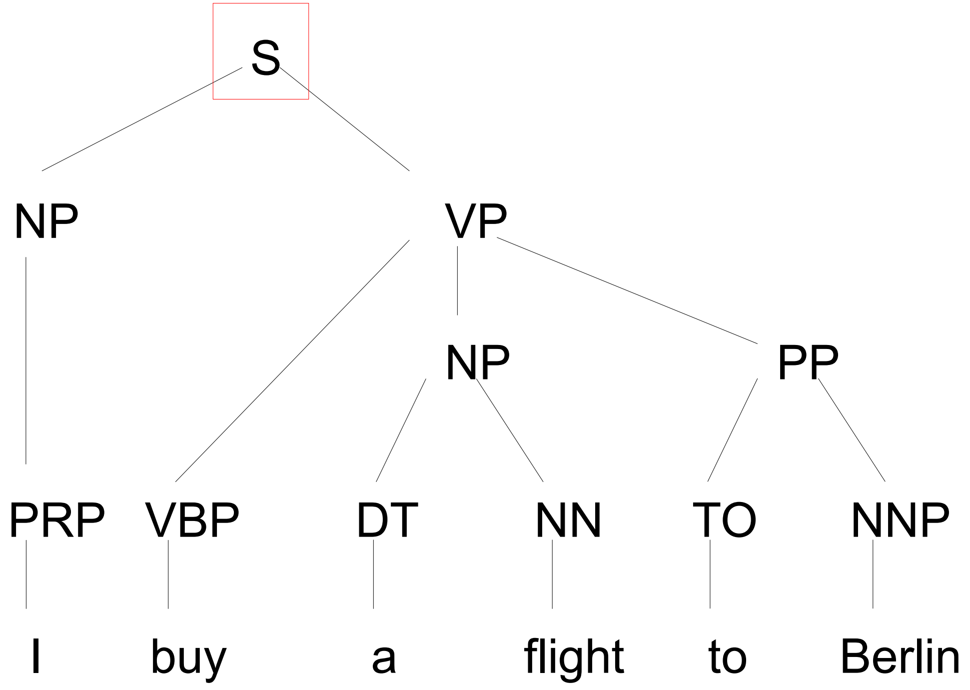
Context Free Grammar (CFG)

- Non-Terminals
  - The constituents in a language



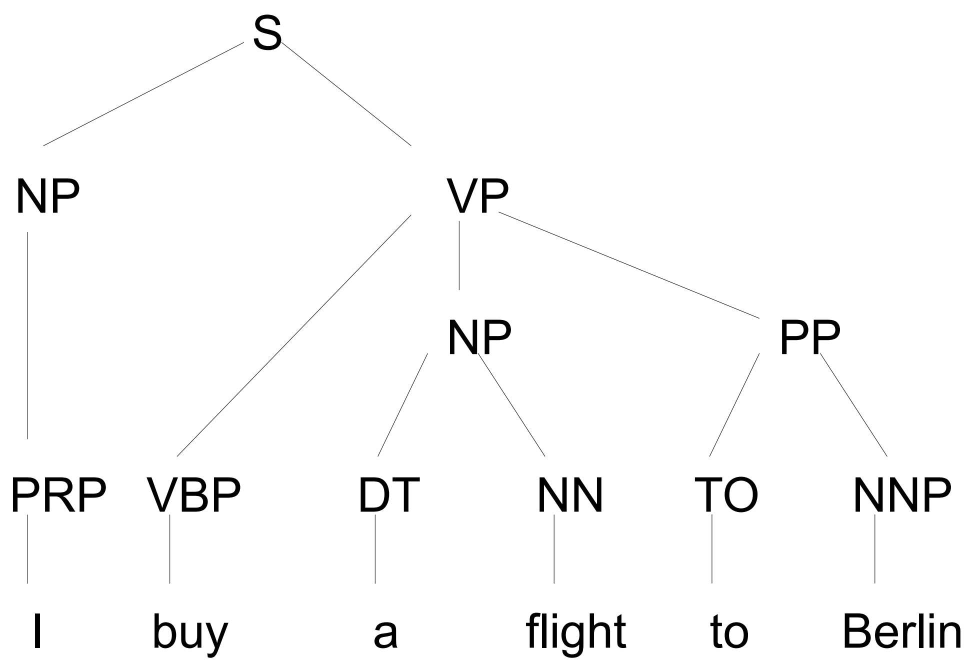
Context Free Grammar (CFG)

- Start symbol
  - The main constituent of the language



Context Free Grammar (CFG)

- Rules
  - Equations that consist of a single non-terminal on the left and any number of terminals and non-terminals on the right



S → NP VP

Context Free Grammar (CFG)

S → NP VP

S → VP

NP → NN

NP → PRP

NP → DT NN

NP → NP NP

NP → NP PP

VP → VBP NP

VP → VBP NP PP

VP → VP PP

VP → VP NP

PP → TO NNP

PRP → I

NN → book

VBP → buy

DT → a

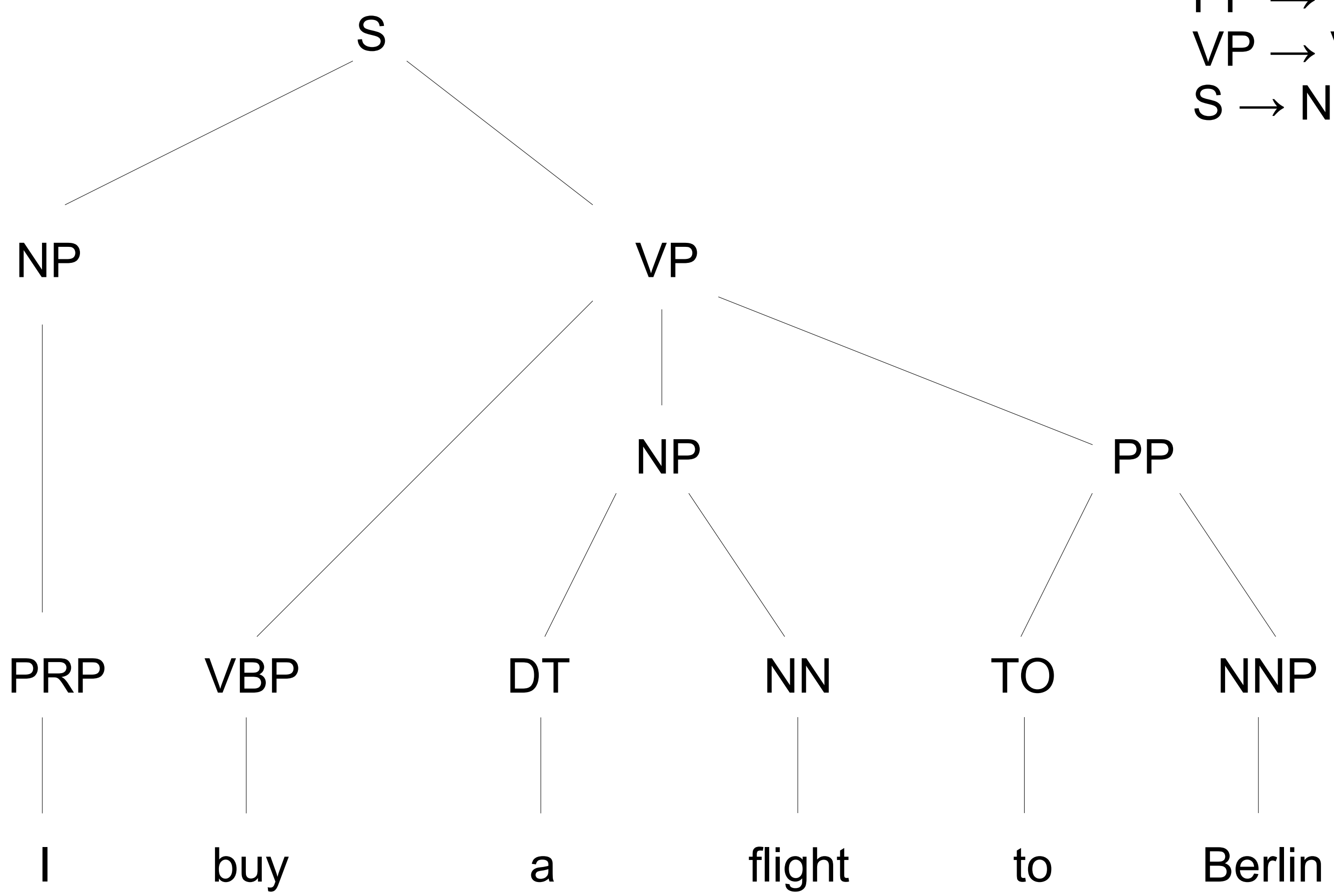
NN → flight

TO → to

NNP → Berlin

CFG

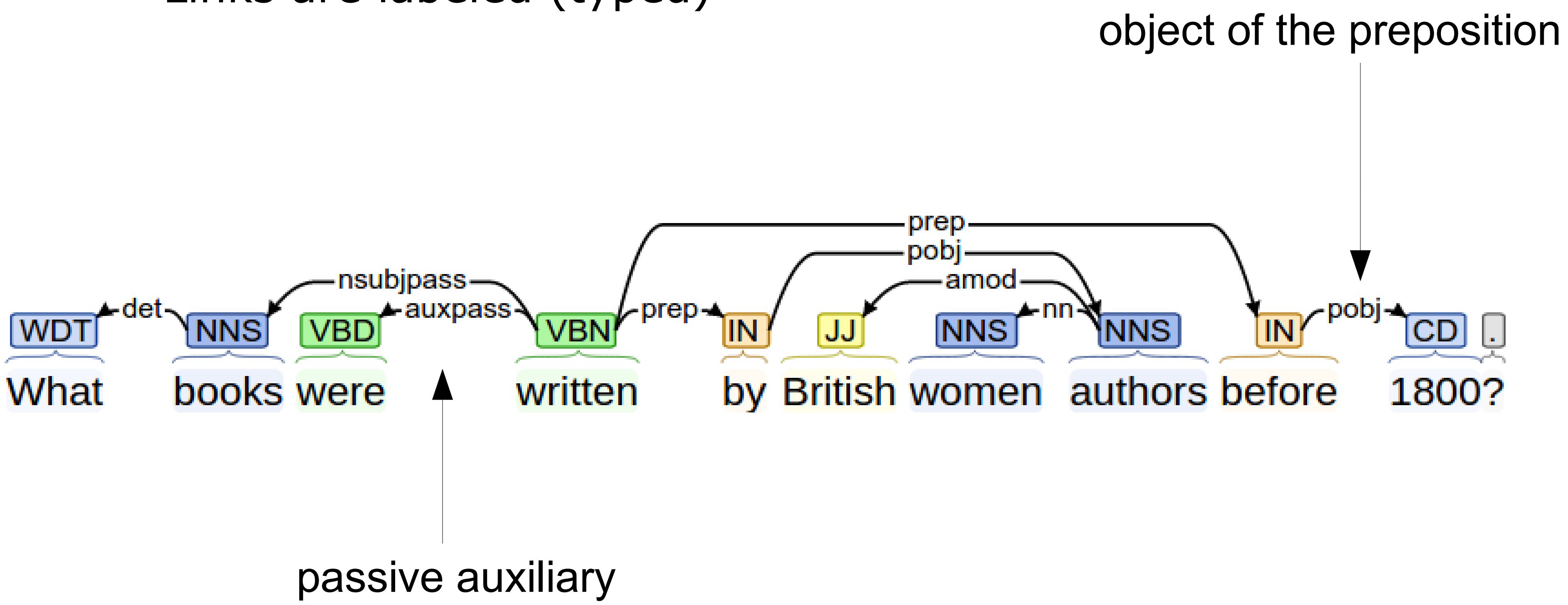
CFG



$NP \rightarrow PRP$
$NP \rightarrow DT\ NN$
$PP \rightarrow TO\ NNP$
$VP \rightarrow VBP\ NP\ PP$
$S \rightarrow NP\ VP$

Dependency grammars

- No constituents, but typed dependencies
  - Links are labeled (typed)



(http://nlp.stanford.edu/software/dependencies_manual.pdf)

Main Grammar Fragments

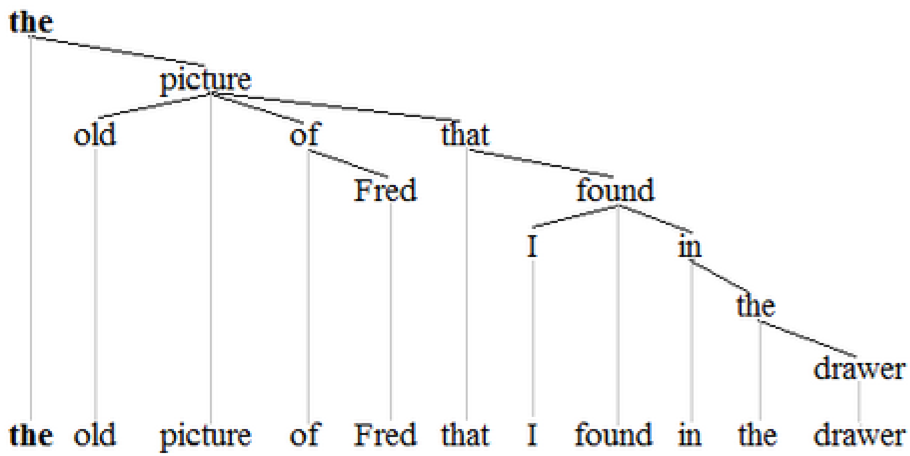
- Sentence
- Noun Phrase
  - Agreement
- Verb Phrase
  - Sub-categorization

Grammar Fragments: Sentence

- Declaratives
  - A plane left. (S → NP VP)
- Imperatives
  - Leave! (S → VP)
- Yes-No Questions
  - Did the plane leave? (S → Aux NP VP)
- Wh Questions
  - Which airlines fly from Berlin to London? (S → Wh-NP VP)

Grammar Fragments: Noun Phrases (NP)

- Each NP has a central critical noun called head
- The head of an NP can be expressed using
  - Pre-nominals: the words that can come before the head
  - Post-nominals: the words that can come after the head



(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun_phrase)

Grammar Fragments: NP

- Pre-nominals
  - Simple lexical items: the, this, a, an, ...
    - a car
  - Simple possessives
    - John’s car
  - Complex recursive possessives
    - John’s sister’s friend’s car
  - Quantifiers, cardinals, ordinals...
    - three cars
  - Adjectives
    - large cars

Grammar Fragments: NP

- Post-nominals
  - Prepositional phrases
    - I book a flight from Seattle
  - Non-finite clauses (-ing, -ed, infinitive)
    - There is a flight arriving before noon
    - I need to have dinner served
    - Which is the last flight to arrive in Boston?
  - Relative clauses
    - I want a flight that serves breakfast

Agreement

- Having constraints that hold among various constituents
- Considering these constraints in a rule or set of rules
- Example: determiners and the head nouns in NPs have to agree in number
  - This flight
  - Those flights
  - This flights
  - Those flight

Agreement

- Grammars that do not consider constraints will over-generate
  - Accepting and assigning correct structures to grammatical examples (this flight)
  - But also accepting incorrect examples (these flight)

Agreement at sentence level

- Considering similar constraints at sentence level
- Example: subject and verb in sentences have to agree in number and person
  - John flies
  - We fly
  - John fly
  - We flies

Agreement

- Possible CFG solution
  - $S_{sg} \rightarrow NP_{sg}\ VP_{sg}$
  - $S_{pl} \rightarrow NP_{pl}\ VP_{pl}$
  - $NP_{sg} \rightarrow Det_{sg}\ N_{sg}$
  - $NP_{pl} \rightarrow Det_{pl}\ N_{pl}$
  - $VP_{sg} \rightarrow V_{sg}\ NP_{sg}$
  - $VP_{pl} \rightarrow V_{pl}\ NP_{pl}$
  - ...
- Shortcoming:
  - Introducing many rules in the system

Grammar Fragments: VP

- VPs consist of a head verb along with zero or more constituents called arguments
  - VP → V (disappear)
  - VP → V NP (prefer a morning flight)
  - VP → V PP (fly on Thursday)
  - VP → V NP PP (leave Boston in the morning)
  - VP → V NP NP (give me the flight number)
- Arguments
  - Obligatory: complement
  - Optional: adjunct

Grammar Fragments: VP

- Solution (Sub-categorization):
  - Sub-categorizing the verbs according to the sets of VP rules that they can participate in
  - Modern grammars have more than 100 subcategories

Sub-categorization

- Example:
  - sneeze: John sneezed
  - find: Please find [a flight to NY]$_{NP}$
  - give: Give [me]$_{NP}$ [a cheaper fair]$_{NP}$
  - help: Can you help [me]$_{NP}$ [with a flight]$_{PP}$
  - prefer: I prefer [to leave earlier]$_{TO\text{-}VP}$
  - tell: I was told [United has a flight]$_{S}$
  - John sneezed the book
  - I prefer United has a flight
  - Give with a flight

Sub-categorization

- The over-generation problem also exists in VP rules
  - Permitting the presence of strings containing verbs and arguments that do not go together
  - John sneezed the book
    - VP → V NP

- Solution:
  - Similar to agreement phenomena, we need a way to formally express the constraints

Overview

- Motivation
- Context-free and dependency grammars
- Parsing algorithms

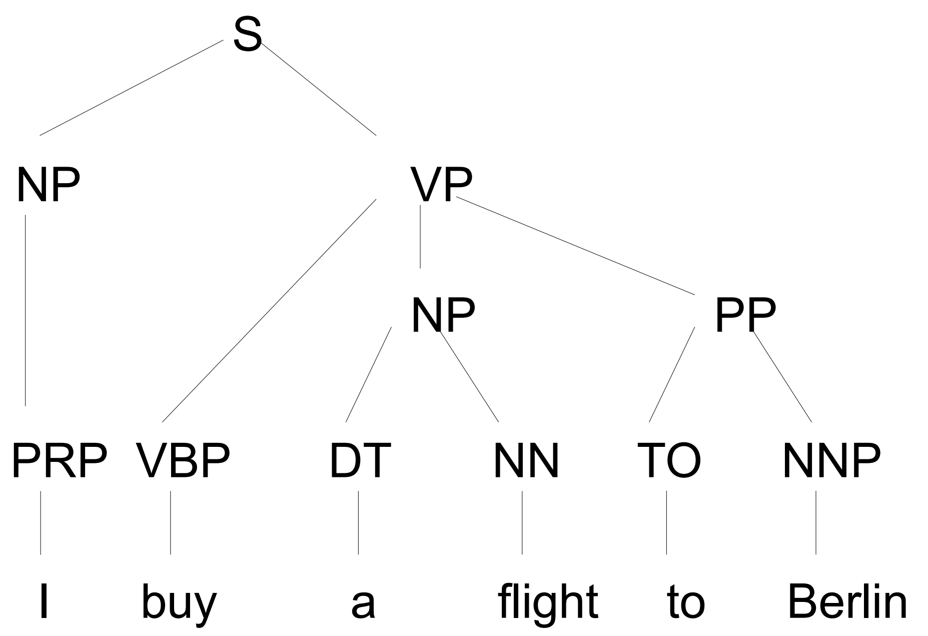
Parsing

- Given a string and a grammar, return proper parse tree,

NP → PRP
NP → DT NN
PP → TO NNP
VP → VBP NP PP
S → NP VP

+

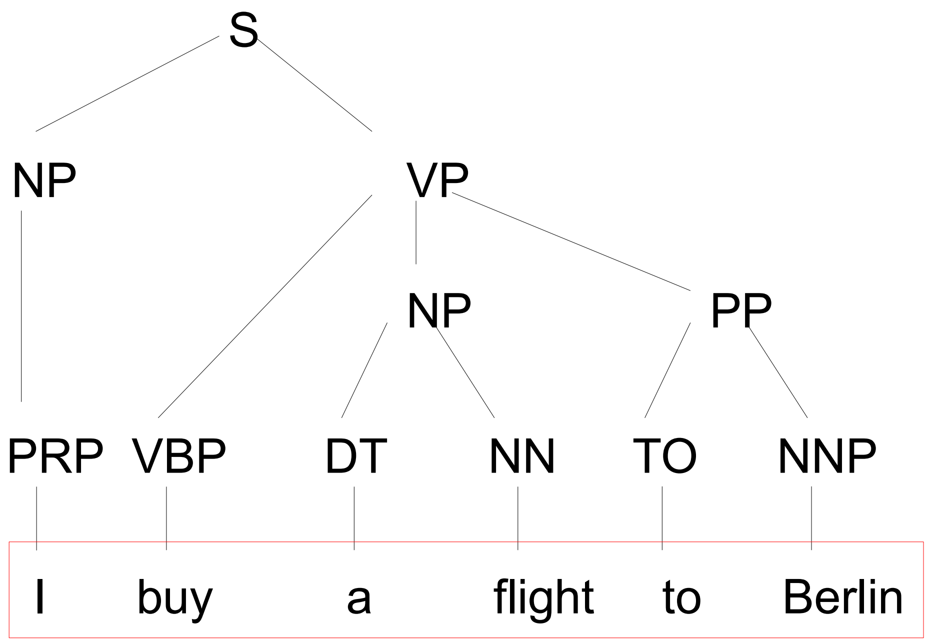
I buy a flight to Berlin.



Parsing

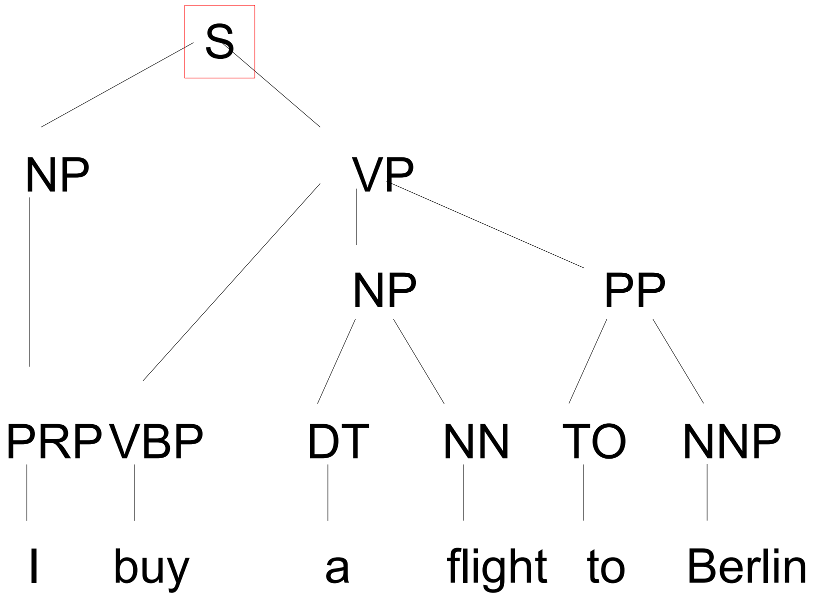
- We should cover all and only the elements of the input string

I buy a flight to Berlin.



Parsing

- We should reach the start symbol at the top of the string

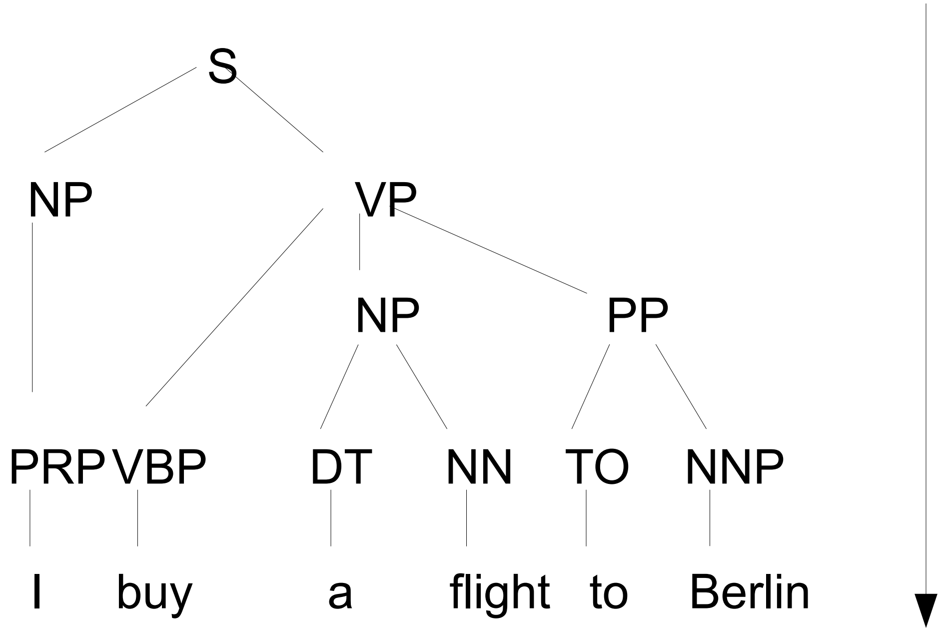


Parsing Algorithms

- Top-Down
- Bottom-up

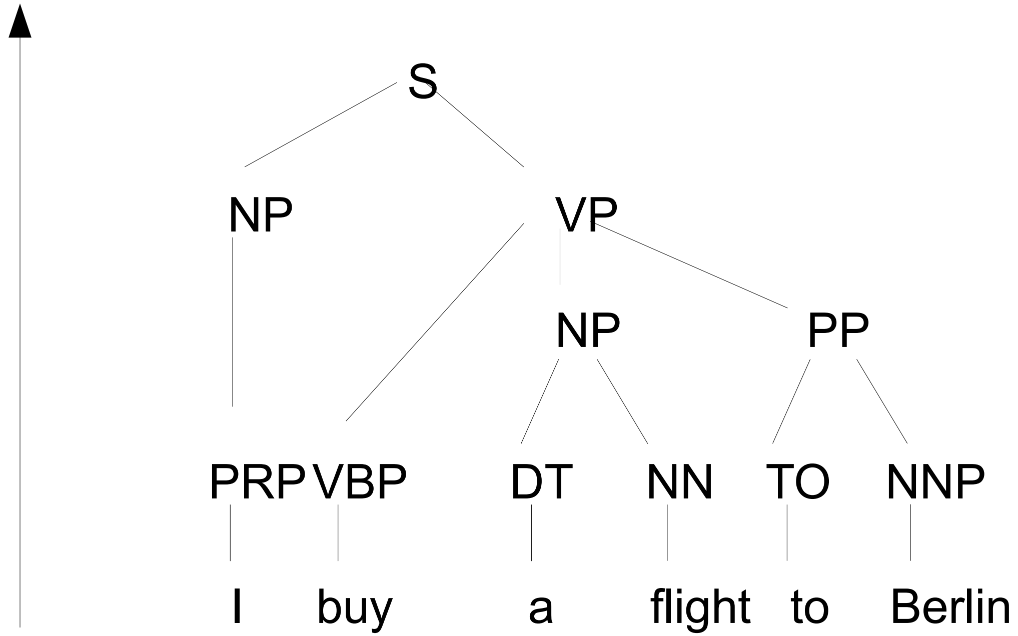
Parsing Algorithms

- Top-Down
  - Start with the rules that contains the S
  - Work on the way down to the words



Parsing Algorithms

- Bottom-Up
  - Start with trees that link up with the words
  - Work on the way up to larger and larger trees



Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up

- Top-Down
  - Only searches for trees that can be answers (i.e. S’s)
  - But also suggests trees that are not consistent with any of the words
- Bottom-Up
  - Only forms trees consistent with the words
  - But suggests trees that make no sense globally

Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up

- In both cases, keep track of the search space and make choices
  - Backtracking
    - We make a choice, if it works out then fine
    - If not, then back up and make a different choice (duplicated work)
  - Dynamic programming
    - Avoid repeated work
    - Solve exponential problems in polynomial time
    - Store ambiguous structures efficiently

Dynamic Programming Methods

- CKY (Cocke-Kasami-Younger): bottom-up
- Early: top-down

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Each grammar can be represented by a set of binary rules
  - $A \rightarrow B\ C$
  - $A \rightarrow w$

- A, B, C are non-terminals; w is a terminal

Chomsky Normal Form

- Conversion to CNF:

$$A \rightarrow B\ C\ D$$

$$X \rightarrow B\ C$$

$$A \rightarrow X\ D$$

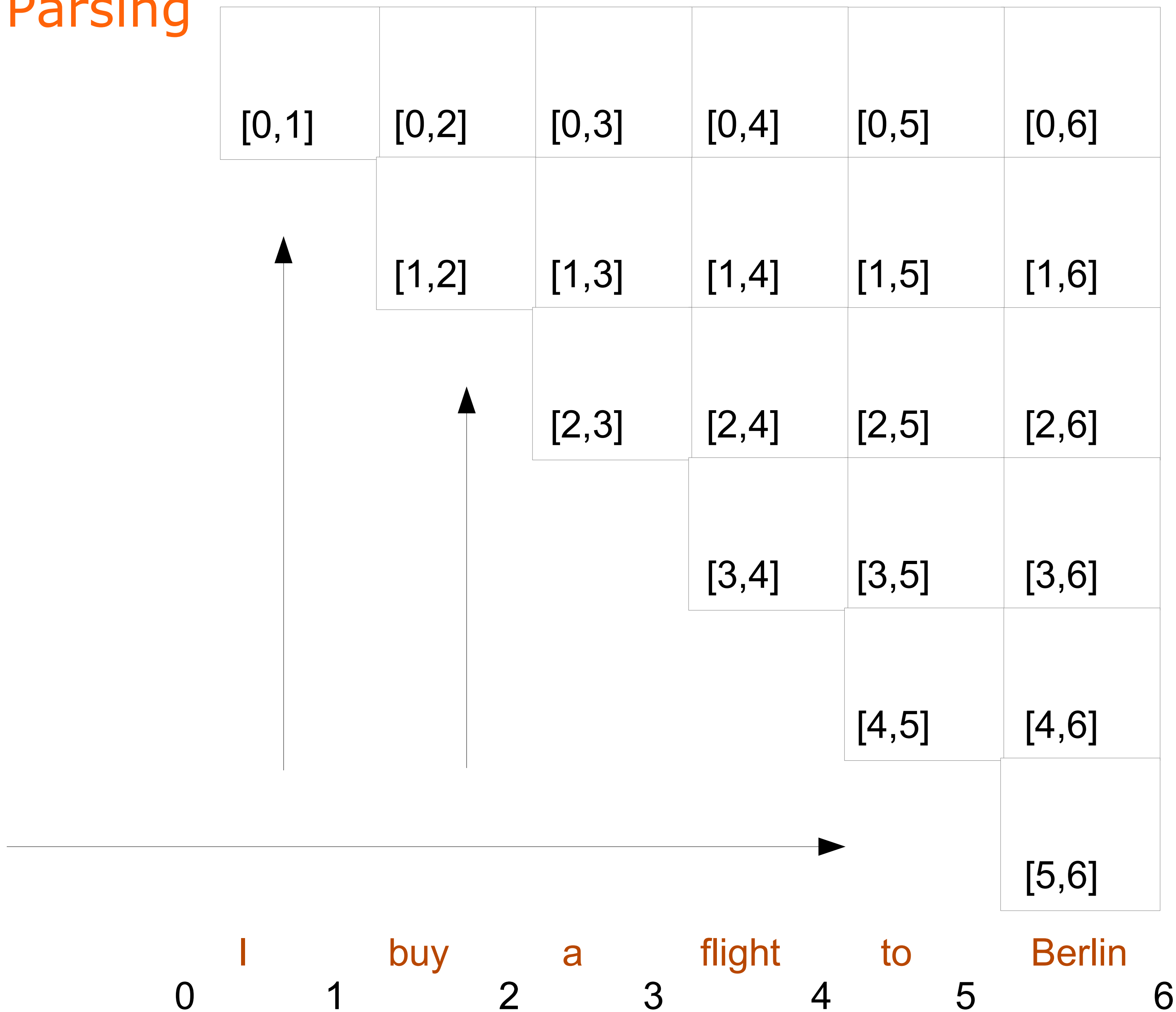
CKY Parsing

$A \rightarrow B\ C$

- If there is an A somewhere in the input, then there must be a B followed by a C in the input
- If the A spans from *i* to *j* in the input, then there must be a *k* such that *i* < *k* < *j*
  - B spans from *i* to *k*
  - C spans from *k* to *j*

	I		buy		a		flight		to		Berlin	
0		1		2		3		4		5		6
i		k										j

CKY Parsing


[0,1]
[0,2]
[0,3]
[0,4]
[0,5]
[0,6]
[1,2]
[1,3]
[1,4]
[1,5]
[1,6]
[2,3]
[2,4]
[2,5]
[2,6]
[3,4]
[3,5]
[3,6]
[4,5]
[4,6]
[5,6]
I
buy
a
flight
to
Berlin
0
1
2
3
4
5
6

CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

PRP, NP [0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	[0,6]
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
			[3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
				[4,5]	[4,6]
					[5,6]

I buy a flight to Berlin

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

VBP → buy

PRP, NP [0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	[0,6]
	VBP [1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
			[3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
				[4,5]	[4,6]
					[5,6]

I buy a flight to Berlin

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

VBP → buy

DT → a

PRP, NP [0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	[0,6]
	VBP [1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
		DT [2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
			[3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
				[4,5]	[4,6]
					[5,6]

I buy a flight to Berlin

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

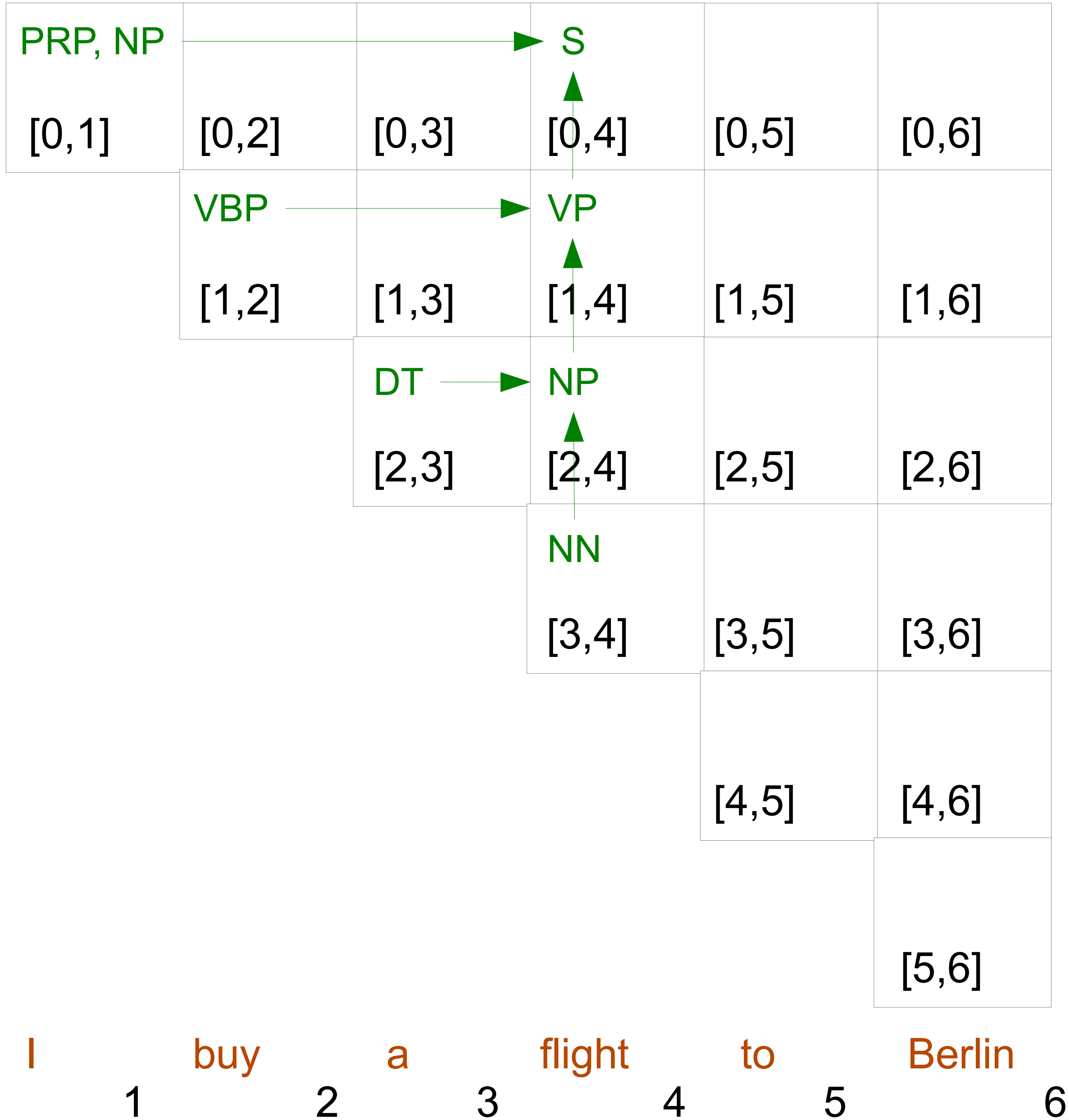
CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

VBP → buy

DT → a

NN → flight
NP → DT NN
VP → VBP NP
S → NP VP



CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

VBP → buy

DT → a

NN → flight
NP → DT NN
VP → VBP NP
S → NP VP

TO → to

PRP, NP [0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	S [0,4]	[0,5]	[0,6]
	VBP [1,2]	[1,3]	VP [1,4]	[1,5]	[1,6]
		DT [2,3]	NP [2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
			NN [3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
				TO [4,5]	[4,6]
					[5,6]

I buy a flight to Berlin

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

CKY Parsing

PRP → I
NP → PRP

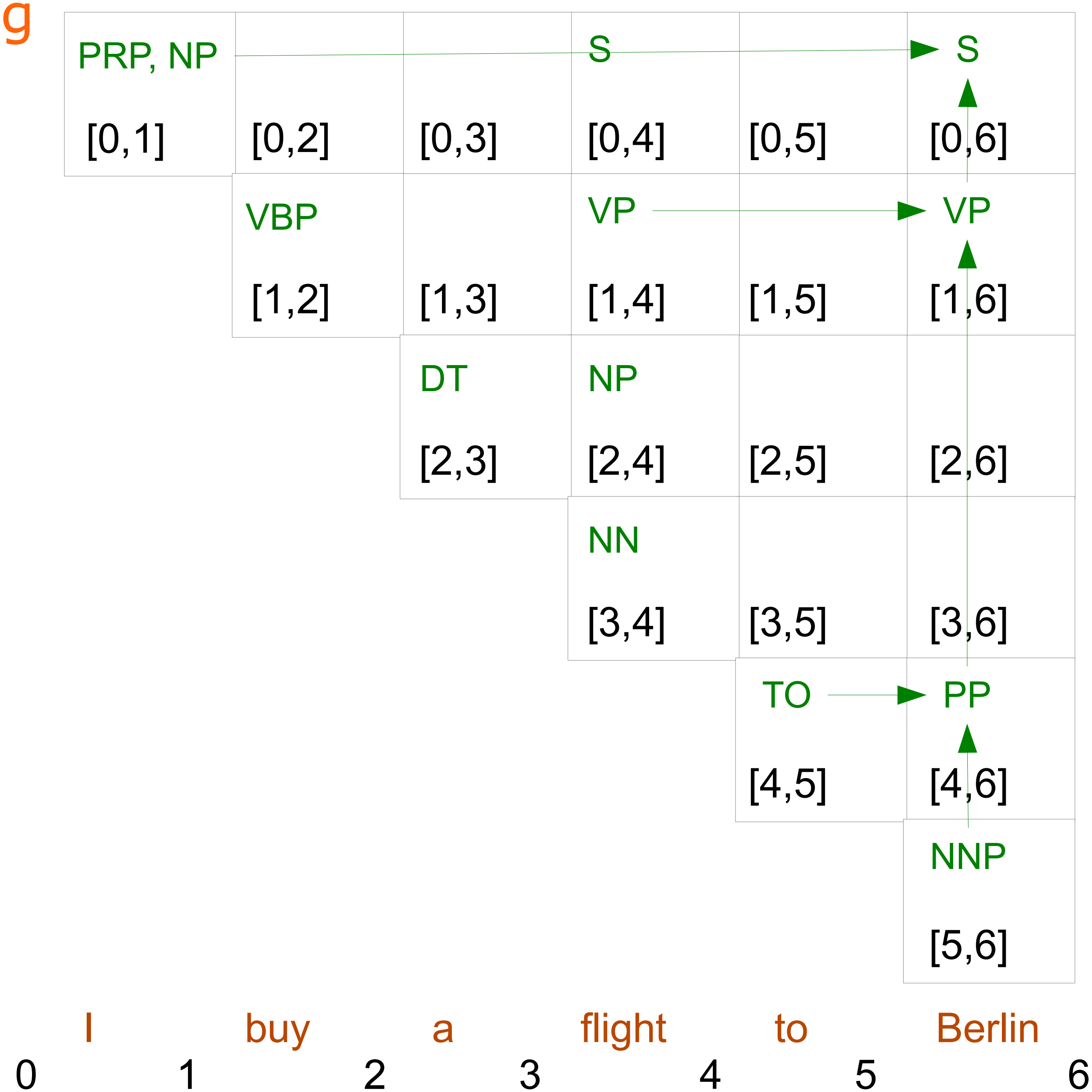
VBP → buy

DT → a

NN → flight
NP → DT NN
VP → VBP NP
S → NP VP

TO → to

NNP → Berlin
PP → TO NNP
VP → VP PP



Probabilistic Context Free Grammar (PCFG)

- Terminals (T)
- Non-terminals (N)
- Start symbol (S)
- Rules (R)
- Probability function (P)

Context Free Grammar (CFG)

S → NP VP

S → VP

NP → NN

NP → PRP

NP → DT NN

NP → NP NP

NP → NP PP

VP → VBP NP

VP → VP PP

VP → VP NP

PP → TO NNP

PRP → I

NN → book

VBP → buy

DT → a

NN → flight

TO → to

NNP → Berlin

Probabilistic Context Free Grammar

0.9 S → NP VP

0.1 S → VP

0.3 NP → NN

0.4 NP → PRP

0.1 NP → DT NN

0.2 NP → NP NP

0.1 NP → NP PP

0.4 VP → VBP NP

0.3 VP → VP PP

0.5 VP → VP NP

1.0 PP → TO NNP

1.0 PRP → I

0.6 NN → book

0.7 VBP → buy

0.8 DT → a

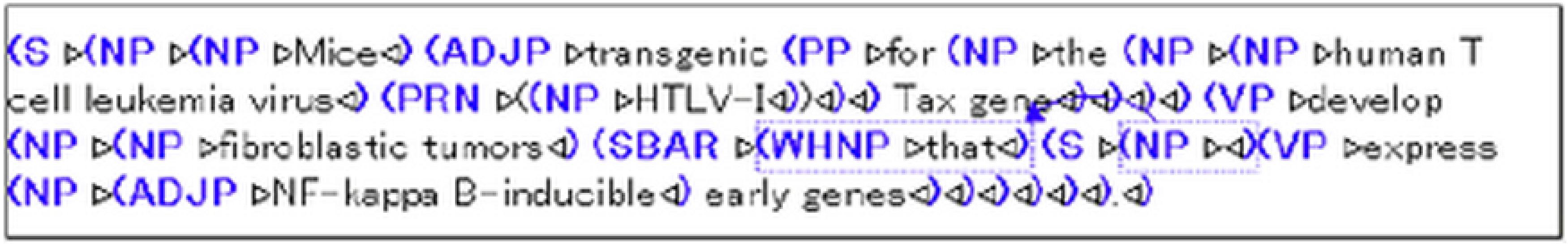
0.4 NN → flight

1.0 TO → to

1.0 NNP → Berlin

Treebank

- A treebank is a corpus in which each sentence has been paired with a parse tree
- These are generally created by
  - Parsing the collection with an automatic parser
  - Correcting each parse by human annotators if required


(S ▷(NP ▷(NP ▷Mice◁) (ADJP ▷transgenic (PP ▷for (NP ▷the (NP ▷(NP ▷human T
cell leukemia virus◁) (PRN ▷((NP ▷HTLV-I◁))◁)◁) Tax gene◁)◁)◁)◁) (VP ▷develop
(NP ▷(NP ▷fibroblastic tumors◁) (SBAR ▷(WHNP ▷that◁) (S ▷(NP ▷◁)(VP ▷express
(NP ▷(ADJP ▷NF-kappa B-inducible◁) early genes◁)◁)◁)◁)◁)◁).◁)

(http://www.nactem.ac.uk/aNT/genia.html)

Penn Treebank

- Penn Treebank is a widely used treebank for English
  - Most well-known section: Wall Street Journal Section
  - 1 M words from 1987-1989

```
(S (NP (NNP John))
   (VP (VPZ flies)
       (PP (IN to)
           (NNP Paris)))
   (. .))
```

Statistical Parsing

- Considering the corresponding probabilities while parsing a sentence
- Selecting the parse tree which has the highest probability

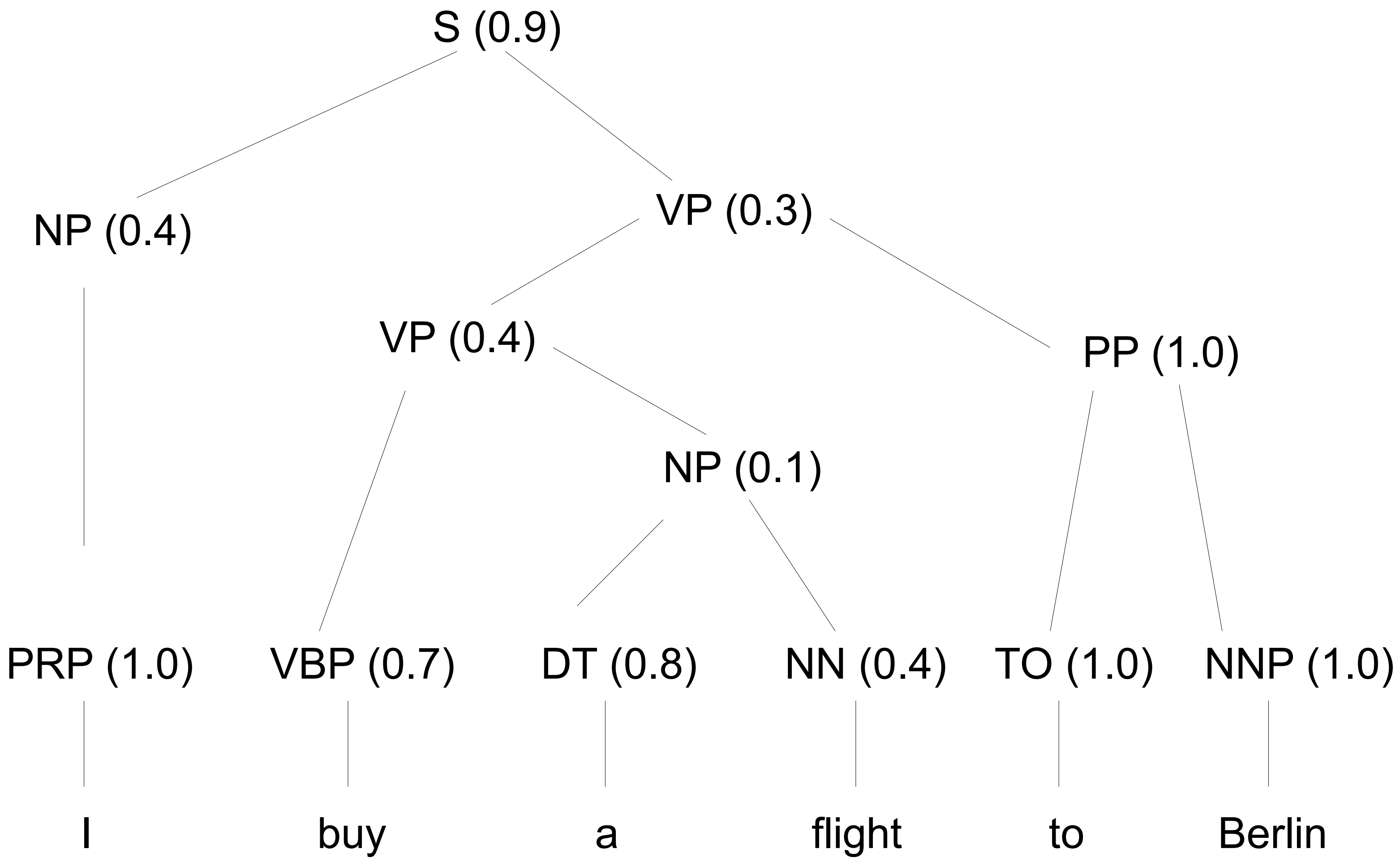
- P(t): the probability of a tree t
  - Product of the probabilities of the rules used to generate the tree

Probabilistic Context Free Grammar

0.9	S → NP VP
0.1	S → VP
0.3	NP → NN
0.4	NP → PRP
0.1	NP → DT NN
0.2	NP → NP NP
0.1	NP → NP PP
0.4	VP → VBP NP
0.3	VP → VP PP
0.5	VP → VP NP
1.0	PP → TO NNP

1.0	PRP → I
0.6	NN → book
0.7	VBP → buy
0.8	DT → a
0.4	NN → flight
1.0	TO → to
1.0	NNP → Berlin

Statistical Parsing



$P(t) = 0.9 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 \times 0.3 \times 0.4 \times 0.7 \times 0.1 \times 0.8 \times 0.4 \times 1.0 \times 1.0 \times 1.0$

Probabilistic CKY Parsing

PRP → I (1.0)
NP → PRP (0.4)

VBP → buy (0.7)

DT → a (0.8)

NN → flight (0.4)
NP → DT NN (0.1)
VP → VBP NP (0.4)
S → NP VP (0.9)

TO → to (1.0)

NNP → Berlin (1.0)
PP → TO NNP (1.0)
VP → VP PP (0.3)

PRP, NP 1.0*0.4 [0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	S 1.0*0.4* 0.7*0.8*0.4*0.1*0.4* 0.9 [0,4]	[0,5]	S 1.0*0.4* 0.7*0.8*0.4*0.1*0.4* 1.0*1.0*1.0* 0.3*0.9 [0,6]
	VBP 0.7 [1,2]	[1,3]	VP 0.7* 0.8*0.4*0.1* 0.4 [1,4]	[1,5]	VP 0.7*0.8*0.4*0.1*0.4* 1.0*1.0*1.0* 0.3 [1,6]
		DT 0.8 [2,3]	NP 0.8*0.4* 0.1 [2,4]	[2,5]	[2,6]
			NN 0.4 [3,4]	[3,5]	[3,6]
				TO 1.0 [4,5]	PP 1.0*1.0* 1.0 [4,6]
					NNP 1.0 [5,6]

0	I	1	buy	2	a	3	flight	4	to	5	Berlin	6

Further Reading

- Speech and Language Processing
  - Chapters 12, 13 and 14