

Abstract geometric lines in the top left corner, consisting of several thin, light brown lines forming a complex, overlapping pattern of polygons and triangles.

CS 577: NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

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Lecture 22: Syntax III

SYNTAX (CONTINUED)

- Previously, we covered context-free grammars
- We described two efficient dynamic programming algorithms for parsing
 - CKY parsing
 - Earley parsing
- Is there a **unified** way to understand CKY and Earley parsing?
 - Or more generally, **structured prediction**?
- Can we utilize grammars to force LLM outputs to follow syntax?
- Beyond context-free grammars/languages
 - Is natural language context-free?

GENERALIZING CKY AND EARLEY

- CKY and Earley parsers are both dynamic programming solutions to the problem of parsing CFGs.
- But is there a way to view these algorithms as instances of the same framework?
- Consider the main loops of each algorithm:
 - In CKY, we loop over all spans (i, j) in order of increasing $j - i$.
 - So each state is a span (i, j) ,
 - We consider all subspans $(i, k), (k, j)$ such that k is between i and j .
 - And check whether we can construct a parse tree from the subtrees in (i, k) and (k, j) .

GENERALIZING CKY AND EARLEY

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- But is there a way to view these algorithms as instances of the same framework?
- Consider the main loops of each algorithm:
 - In CKY, we loop over all spans (i, j, A) in order of increasing $j - i$.
 - So each state contains a span (i, j) and nonterminal A ,
 - We consider all subspans $(i, k), (k, j)$ such that k is between i and j .
 - And check whether we can construct a parse tree rooted at A from the subtrees in (i, k) and (k, j) .

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 - In Earley, we loop over states of the form $A \rightarrow B_1 \dots B_m \cdot B_{m+1} \dots B_n$ with start position i and current position k .
 - The next step depends on the symbol following ‘.’:
 - If B_{m+1} is a nonterminal, we do a **prediction** step.
 - I.e., create a new state for all rules of the form $B_{m+1} \rightarrow \dots$

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 - The next step depends on the symbol following ‘.’:
 - If B_{m+1} is a terminal, we do a **scanning** step.
 - I.e., check if the input sentence matches the terminal B_{m+1} at position k .
 - If so, create a new state $A \rightarrow B_1 \dots B_{m+1} \cdot \dots B_n$ with incremented k .

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- Consider the main loops of each algorithm:
 - In Earley, we loop over states of the form $A \rightarrow B_1 \dots B_m \cdot$ with start position i and current position k .
 - The next step depends on the symbol following ‘.’:
 - If there is no symbol after ‘.’, do a **completion** step.
 - For every state “waiting” for A at position i , create a new state where the dot moves forward and k is updated appropriately.

GENERALIZING CKY AND EARLEY

- CKY and Earley parsers are both dynamic programming solutions to the problem of parsing CFGs.
- But is there a way to view these algorithms as instances of the same framework?
- Consider the main loops of each algorithm.
 - In both CKY and Earley, we can imagine the states being added to a **priority queue**.
 - At each iteration, we pop one state from the queue and process it.
- The priority of a state is computed differently in CKY and Earley.
 - In CKY, states with **shorter spans** are prioritized.
 - How are states prioritized in Earley?

ORDER OF STATES IN EARLEY PARSING

- In Earley parsing, states are removed from the queue in the same order they were added.
 - We can replicate this behavior in a priority queue by setting the priority of the state to be the **iteration number**.
- But it's not necessary to follow this prioritization.
 - We can process states in a different order and still have a correct parsing algorithm.

ORDER OF STATES IN EARLEY PARSING

- But there is a minor caveat:
 - We assumed that whenever we have a **completion** step $A \rightarrow B_1 \dots B_m \cdot$ with start position i ,
 - All prediction steps of the form $C \rightarrow \dots \cdot A \dots$ have already been processed earlier in a **prediction** step.
- If we change the order of visited states, this may no longer be true.
 - But we can resolve this issue by adding an extra step during **prediction**.
 - Whenever we have a prediction step $C \rightarrow \dots \cdot A \dots$, we check if there are any completed parses for A at the same position.
 - If there are, then create a new state $C \rightarrow \dots A \cdot \dots$ with k updated accordingly.

ORDER OF STATES IN EARLEY PARSING

- There is also an **optimization** available here:
 - Whenever we do a prediction step, $C \rightarrow \dots . A \dots$ at position k , we create a new state for each rule of the form $A \rightarrow \dots$ with start position k .
 - But we don't need to do this more than once.
 - So we can avoid doing this multiple times by keeping track of whether we have “expanded” A at position k in the past.
 - If we have, then avoid “expanding” A at k again.

CKY VS EARLEY INITIALIZATION

- There is one more major difference between CKY and Earley parsing:
- What are the initial states in the priority queue before starting the main loop?
 - In CKY, we add an initial state for each span containing 1 token.
 - In Earley, we add an initial state for each rule of the form $S \rightarrow \cdot \dots$ where S is the root nonterminal.
- Is related to the bottom-up vs top-down approach of CKY and Earley parsing.

BRANCH AND BOUND

- So it seems like CKY and Earley parsing share a lot of structure.
 - Is there a unifying description?
- **Branch-and-bound** is a general class of algorithms for **discrete optimization/search**.
 - Say we want to find a target object x in a large set of objects S that maximizes some priority function $f(x)$.
 - For search, this can be a simple indicator function.
 - $f(x) = 1$ if and only if x is the object we're searching for.
 - First, we partition (i.e., “**branch**”) the set S into subsets:
 S_1, \dots, S_n
such that their union covers the full set: $S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_n = S$

BRANCH AND BOUND

- Next, for each subset S_i , create a new state and add it to the priority queue.
 - What should we set its priority to?
 - Ideally, it should be $\max_{x \in S_i} f(x)$.
 - But this quantity can be intractable to compute,
 - Especially if S_i is very large.
 - Instead, we can use an easy-to-compute an upper bound on this quantity:
$$g(S_i) \geq \max_{x \in S_i} f(x)$$
- Just set the priority of the new state to $g(S_i)$.
(i.e., the “**bound**” step)

BRANCH AND BOUND

- Then we just repeat:
- For each iteration of the main loop,
 - Pop a state from the priority queue.
 - Partition the set into subsets (**branch**).
 - Push a new state for each subset with priority given by $g(\cdot)$ (**bound**).
- Eventually, we will pop a state with a set containing a single element $\{x\}$.
- We can compute $f(x)$ and check if it's larger than the priority of the next state in the queue.
- If so, then x is necessarily the optimal object in S .
 - Since the priority of the next state in the queue is an upper bound on $f(y)$ for all other objects y .

BRANCH AND BOUND

- Then we just repeat:
- For each iteration of the main loop,
 - Pop a state from the priority queue.
 - Partition the set into subsets (**branch**).
 - Push a new state for each subset with priority given by $g(\cdot)$ (**bound**).
- Eventually, we will pop a state with a state containing a single element $\{x\}$.
- The first such x may not be strictly more optimal than all other objects y .
 - There may be other objects y such that $f(x) = f(y)$.
- We can continue the branch-and-bound main loop to find the top- k objects.

CKY PARSING AS BRANCH AND BOUND?

- How can we formulate CKY as a branch-and-bound algorithm?
- S is the set of all syntax trees (both **valid** and **invalid**) for a given sentence.
(an invalid syntax tree would be one containing a rule not in the grammar)
- Recall each state in CKY is a span (i, j) .
 - This state represents the set of all syntax trees for the given sentence that contains a valid subtree for the subsequence starting at **i** and ending at **j** .
- Eventually, we reach the span $(0, n)$ which represents the set of all valid syntax trees for the full sentence.
- What is the “**branch**” step?
 - When processing the state (i, j) , we add a new state to the queue for each (i, m) for **$m > j$** and for each (m, j) for **$m < i$** .

CKY PARSING AS BRANCH AND BOUND?

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(an invalid syntax tree would be one containing a rule not in the grammar)
- Recall each state in CKY is a span (i, j) .
 - This state represents the set of all syntax trees for the given sentence that contains a valid subtree for the subsequence starting at i and ending at j .
- What is the “**bound**” $g(x)$?
 - We can set it to $g(x) = i - j$ so that shorter spans have higher priority.
 - But we must make sure $g(x)$ is an upper bound of the objective function.
(the objective function is 1 iff x is a valid parse of the whole sentence)
 - So we can simply set $g(x) = i - j + n + 1$.

EARLEY PARSING AS BRANCH AND BOUND?

- How can we formulate Earley parsing as a branch-and-bound algorithm?
- Recall each state in Earley contains a rule $A \rightarrow B_1 \dots B_m \cdot B_{m+1} \dots B_n$ with start position i and current position k .
 - This state represents the set of all syntax trees for the given sentence that contains a subtree for the subsequence starting at i ,
 - Where the subtree has root A ,
 - And this subtree has valid subtrees with roots $B_1 \dots B_m$ up to position k ,
 - And subtrees (valid or invalid) subtrees with roots $B_{m+1} \dots B_n$ after position k .

EARLEY PARSING AS BRANCH AND BOUND?

- How can we formulate Earley parsing as a branch-and-bound algorithm?
- What is the “**branch**” step?
 - Depending on the current state, we either do **prediction**, **scanning**, or **completion**.
- What is the “**bound**”?
 - As stated earlier, we can be flexible about the order we visit states.
 - We can use a **heuristic** and frame the problem as an **A* search**.
 - E.g., Lee et al. (2016) train a neural network to predict the bound.
 - Resulting in a faster parser (with fewer iterations).
 - In general, tighter bounds leads to faster searching.
 - I.e., $g(S)$ is closer to $\max_{x \in S} f(x)$

STRUCTURED PREDICTION

- **Structured prediction** is the task where the output is structured.
 - E.g., syntax trees, sequences, graphs, tables, etc.
- This task usually involves discrete optimization/search,
 - For example via algorithms like branch-and-bound.
- **Sequence prediction** is a kind of structured prediction.
 - E.g., given a language model and some prompt P , predict the most likely sequence of the next n tokens: x_1, \dots, x_n .
 - The objective function is the joint probability:
$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n | P) = p(x_1 | P) p(x_2 | P, x_1) \dots p(x_n | P, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}),$$
$$\log p(x_1, \dots, x_n | P) = \log p(x_1 | P) + \log p(x_2 | P, x_1) + \dots + \log p(x_n | P, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}).$$

SEQUENCE PREDICTION

- We can apply branch-and-bound to autoregressive sequence prediction.
- The set S is the set of all sequences of length n .
- Each state is a partial sequence: x_1, \dots, x_k
 - Represents the set of all sequences of length n that start with x_1, \dots, x_k .
- What is the “branch” step?
 - For each possible next symbol x_{k+1} , we create a new state x_1, \dots, x_{k+1} .
- What is the “bound”?
 - The simplest bound is the total log probability so far:

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(x_1, \dots, x_n | P) &\leq \log p(x_1, \dots, x_k | P), \\ &= \log p(x_1 | P) + \log p(x_2 | P, x_1) + \dots + \log p(x_k | P, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}). \end{aligned}$$

SEQUENCE PREDICTION

- This algorithm is too **slow**.
- Each branch step requires a forward pass of the LM.
- In the worst case, we need a number of branches exponential in n .
 - Suppose the optimal output has log probability -10 .
 - The average log probability of each token for GPT-2 is about -2.4 .
 - Therefore, sequences of length $< 10/2.4$ (about 4 tokens) will, on average, have log probability > -10 .
 - There are V^4 possible sequences of length 4, where V is the vocab size.

SEQUENCE PREDICTION

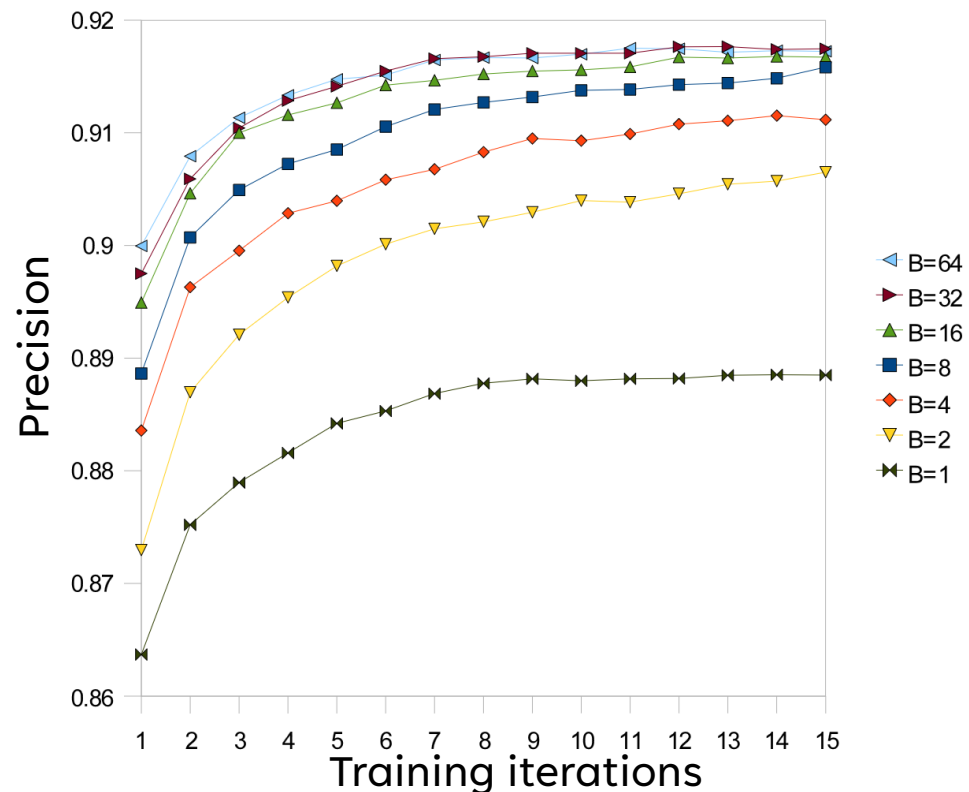
- How to make autoregressive sequence prediction faster?
- We can trade optimality for performance.
 - We can limit the capacity of the priority queue.
 - Let B be the capacity.
 - After adding new states to the priority queue, simply remove the lowest priority states until only B elements remain.
- This is called **beam search**,
 - And B is the **beam width** or **beam size**.
- If $B = 1$, we have **greedy search**.
- If $B = \infty$, we recover exact search.

BEAM SEARCH IN PARSING

- Beam search can also be used in parsing.
- Used when there is an objective function over syntax trees.
 - E.g., a model that assigns probabilities to syntax trees.
 - This would be very useful in choosing among ambiguous parses.
 - E.g., in 'Sally caught a butterfly with a net,' who has the net?
- Can significantly increase parsing speed if there are many ambiguous parses.

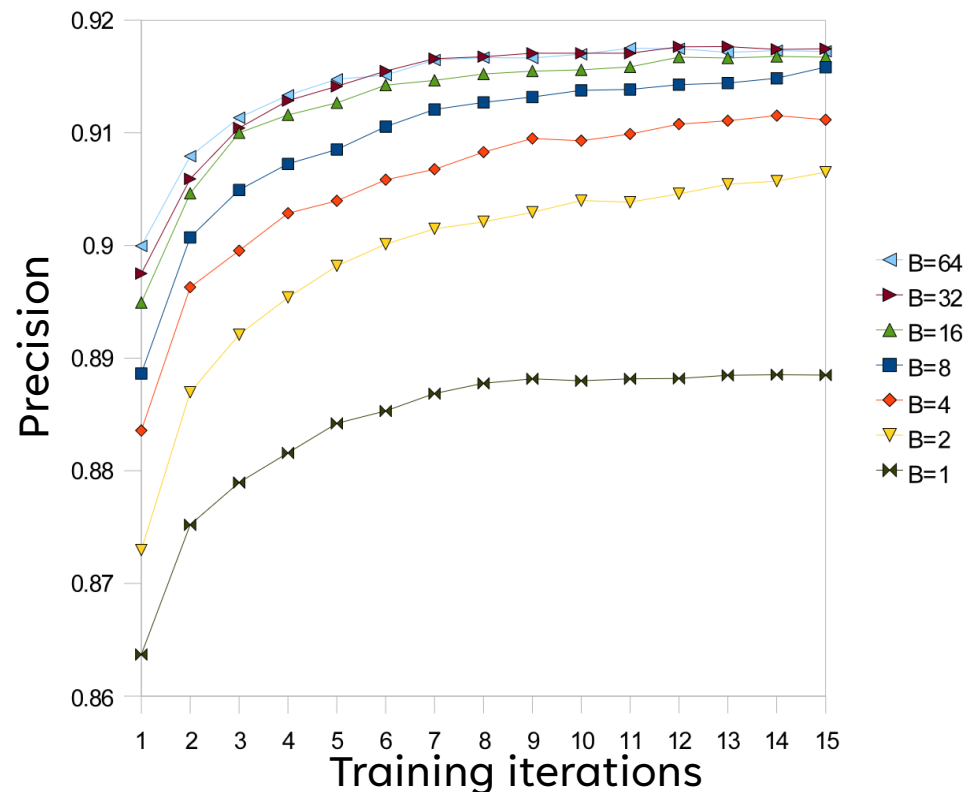
BEAM SEARCH IN PARSING

- Zhang and Clark (2008) used beam search for parsing.
- They used a neural model to assign probabilities to parser outputs.



BEAM SEARCH IN PARSING

- They measured precision vs number of training iterations for the neural model vs beam size.



CONSTRAINED DECODING

- For many NLP tasks, we require the output to follow a specific pattern.
 - E.g., code generation,
 - Tasks requiring output in JSON/Markdown/LaTeX format,
 - Generating figures in Matplotlib or Tikz.
- Autoregressive language models are probabilistic and may make errors with small probability.
 - When generating many tokens, the probability of error increases.
- If we have a grammar (e.g., the JSON or Python grammar), we can **constrain** the output of the model to follow the grammar.
 - This is called **constrained decoding** or **structured generation**.

CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Earley parsing can be adapted for constrained decoding.
- The main difference lies in the **scanning** step.
 - I.e., when the state looks like $A \rightarrow \dots \cdot 't' \dots$ for some terminal t and the current position is k .
 - During constrained decoding, we don't have the full input.
 - So the terminal at position k may not yet be available.
 - In this case, we add this state into a list of “waiting” scanning states,
 - And proceed with Earley parsing until the queue is empty.

S \rightarrow N Op S Op \rightarrow '+'
S \rightarrow N Op N Op \rightarrow '-'
N \rightarrow '0' Op \rightarrow '*'
... Op \rightarrow '/'
N \rightarrow '9'

Input so far: '9 + 2'

Waiting scan
states:

Op \rightarrow . '+'
i=3, k=3

Op \rightarrow . '-'
i=3, k=3

Op \rightarrow . '*'
i=3, k=3

Op \rightarrow . '/'
i=3, k=3

CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Earley parsing can be adapted for constrained decoding.
- Next, we can inspect the list of “waiting” scanning states.
- These states tell us exactly which terminals are allowed for the next position.
- Then, after performing a forward pass with the LM, we can mask the tokens that do not match with any of the allowed terminals.
 - I.e., set their probabilities to zero.
- We then select the terminal symbol to add to the sequence.

```
S -> N Op S   Op -> '+'
S -> N Op N   Op -> '-'
N -> '0'       Op -> '*'
...           Op -> '/'
N -> '9'
```

Input so far: '9 + 2'

Waiting scan
states:

Op -> . '+'
i=3, k=3

Op -> . '-'
i=3, k=3

Op -> . '*'
i=3, k=3

Op -> . '/'
i=3, k=3

CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Earley parsing can be adapted for constrained decoding.
- Once we have decoded the next terminal, we then resume Earley parsing by adding the waiting scanning states to the queue.
- Repeat until we have finished decoding.
 - E.g., the parser completes a syntax tree with the root nonterminal.

```
S -> N Op S   Op -> '+'  
S -> N Op N   Op -> '-'  
N -> '0'      Op -> '*'  
...          Op -> '/'  
N -> '9'
```

Input so far: '9 + 2 /'

Waiting scan
states:

N -> . '0'
i=4, k=4

N -> . '1'
i=4, k=4

...

N -> . '9'
i=4, k=4

CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Earley parsing can be adapted for constrained decoding.
- Once we have decoded the next terminal, we then resume Earley parsing by adding the waiting scanning states to the queue.
- Repeat until we have finished decoding.
 - E.g., the parser completes a syntax tree with the root nonterminal.

```
S -> N Op S   Op -> '+'
S -> N Op N   Op -> '-'
N -> '0'      Op -> '*'
...          Op -> '/'
N -> '9'
```

Input so far: '9 + 2 / 7'

Waiting scan
states:

Op -> . '+'
i=5, k=5

Op -> . '-'
i=5, k=5

Op -> . '*'
i=5, k=5

Op -> . '/'
i=5, k=5

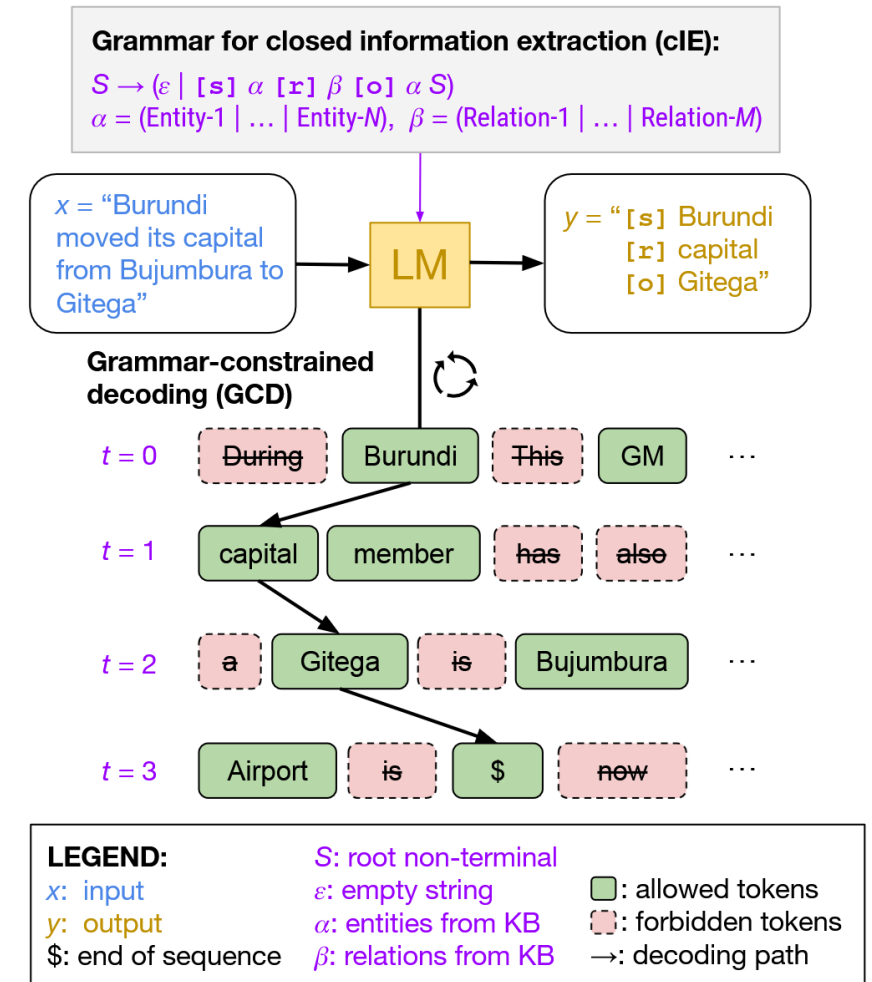
CONSTRAINED DECODING CHALLENGES

- One **implementation challenge**:
 - Terminals and tokens are not the same.
 - For example, the LM may have a token like `'+7'` or `'-2'`, and the grammar has terminals `'+'`, `'-'`, `'2'`, and `'7'`.
 - Or the grammar may have a terminal like `'0 + 1'` or `'public static'`. And the LM has tokens `'0'` and `'pub'`.
- We need to take care to allow partial matching during **scanning** steps.
- Constrained decoding can only be applied when we have access to the logits.
 - Many API-based LM services do not provide this information.

CONSTRAINED DECODING

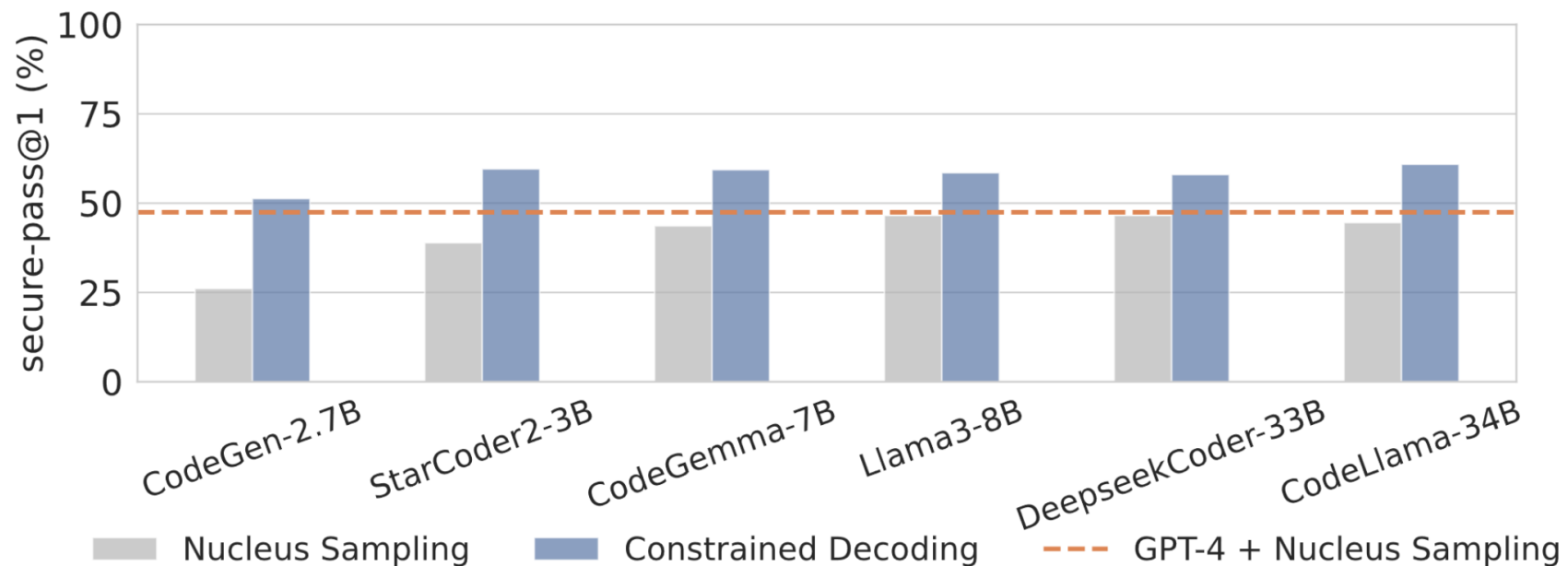
- Geng et al. (2023) applied constrained decoding to perform information extraction.

Method	Precision	Recall	F1
Weakly supervised			
GenIE T5-base	49.6 ± 0.3	26.8 ± 0.2	34.8 ± 0.2
Few-shot unconstrained			
LLaMA-7B	10.2 ± 0.5	14.3 ± 0.7	11.9 ± 0.5
LLaMA-13B	10.3 ± 0.6	17.0 ± 0.9	12.9 ± 0.6
LLaMA-33B	14.1 ± 1.0	23.1 ± 1.4	17.5 ± 1.0
Vicuna-7B	12.5 ± 0.2	16.7 ± 0.1	14.3 ± 0.2
Vicuna-13B	13.4 ± 0.2	15.2 ± 0.2	14.4 ± 0.2
Few-shot constrained			
LLaMA-7B	27.9 ± 0.6	20.2 ± 0.5	23.5 ± 0.5
LLaMA-13B	36.2 ± 0.7	26.5 ± 0.5	30.6 ± 0.5
LLaMA-33B	39.3 ± 0.9	33.2 ± 0.8	36.0 ± 0.7
Vicuna-7B	25.4 ± 0.5	15.8 ± 0.3	19.5 ± 0.3
Vicuna-13B	38.7 ± 1.0	19.8 ± 0.8	26.1 ± 0.8



CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Fu et al. (2024) applied constrained decoding and beam search for *secure code generation*.
- A 2.7B parameter model with constrained decoding outperformed GPT-4.



SEMANTICS-AWARE CONSTRAINED DECODING

- Semantic information can be incorporated into constrained decoding.
- Consider the following Java code fragment:

```
String foo = "foo";  
int i = 7;  
int j = i +
```

- The syntactic constraints (grammar) filters some possible outputs, such as ‘{’, ‘}’, ‘;’, etc.
- Semantically, we can filter ‘foo’ since Java is a strongly-typed language.
 - The type of the next symbol must be compatible with the ‘+’ operation with an `int`, with an `int` output type.

NON-CONTEXT-FREE GRAMMARS

- There are grammars and languages that are not context-free.
- One simple example:
 - The “copy” language: The set of all strings that contain two identical substrings side-by-side.
 $L = \{ 'aa', 'abcabc', 'this\ is\ a\ copy\ this\ is\ a\ copy', \dots \}$
- Are **natural languages** context free?

IS NATURAL LANGUAGE CONTEXT-FREE?

- There are some constructions in some natural languages that seem to require non-context-free modeling.
- E.g., the following examples in Swiss German:

Swiss-German:

...mer em Hans es huss hälfed aastriiche



English:

...we helped Hans paint the house



IS NATURAL LANGUAGE CONTEXT-FREE?

- There are some constructions in some natural languages that seem to require non-context-free modeling.
- E.g., the following examples in Swiss German:
 - Some argue the cross-dependencies are **semantic** and not **syntactic**.
- These kinds of structures seem to be very rare.

Swiss-German:

...de Karl d'Maria em Peter de Hans laat hälfe lärne schwüme

English:

...Charles lets Mary help Peter to teach John to Swim

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- Combinatory categorial grammar (CCG; Steedman 1987) is a grammar formalism that can be used to describe non-context-free grammars.
- Each item in the vocabulary is assigned a syntactic type or category.

- A simple vocabulary containing 4 items:

the : NP/N dog : N John : NP bit : $(S \backslash NP)/NP$

- Syntactic types can be composed to create more complex syntactic types.
 - E.g., NP/N indicates that the word ‘the’ can be combined with an N on the right side, and the resulting combination will have type NP .
 - So ‘the dog’ will have syntactic type NP .

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- Syntactic types can be composed to create more complex syntactic types.
 - E.g., $NP \backslash N$ indicates that the word can be combined with an N on the **left** side, and the resulting combination will have type NP .

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$$\frac{\text{the}}{NP/N}$$
$$\frac{\text{dog}}{N}$$
$$\frac{\text{bit}}{(S \backslash NP)/NP}$$
$$\frac{\text{John}}{NP}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\text{the}}{NP/N} \quad \frac{\text{dog}}{N}}{NP} > \frac{\text{bit}}{(S \backslash NP)/NP} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{NP}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\text{the}}{NP/N} \quad \frac{\text{dog}}{N}}{NP} > \quad \frac{\frac{\text{bit}}{(S \backslash NP)/NP} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{NP}}{S \backslash NP} > \\
 \hline
 S <
 \end{array}$$

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

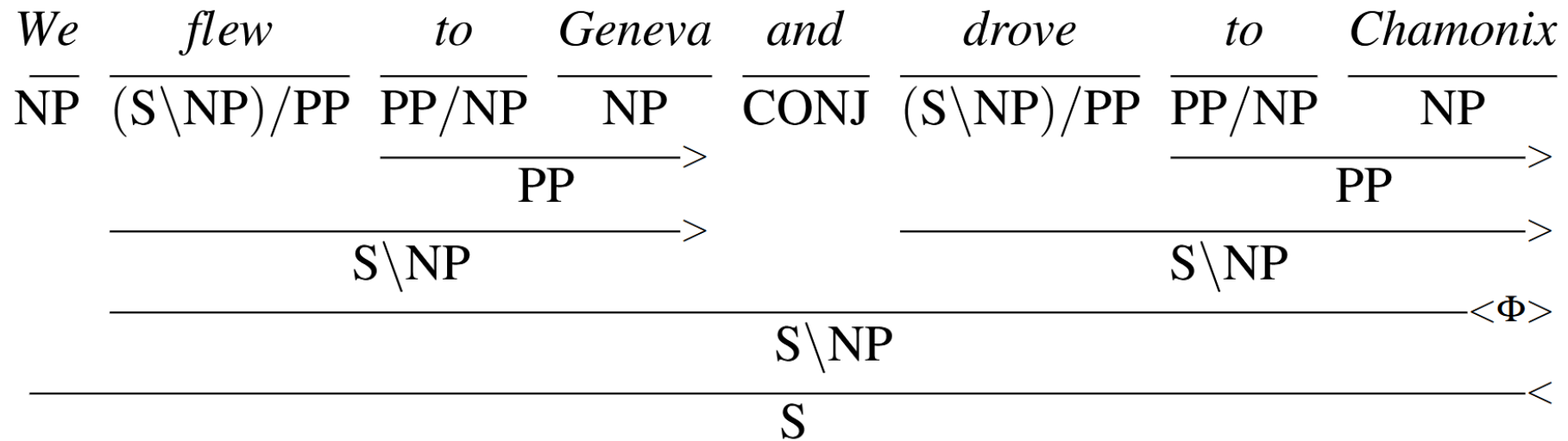
- Thus, ‘the dog bit John’ is a string in the language, since we have successfully proved/derived the root S .
- Unlike CFGs, there are a small handful of rules ($>$, $<$, type-raising, etc),
 - And the allowed combinations are determined by the **lexicon**.

the : NP/N dog : N John : NP bit : $(S \setminus NP)/NP$ 

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\text{the}}{NP/N} \quad \frac{\text{dog}}{N}}{NP} > \quad \frac{\frac{\text{bit}}{(S \setminus NP)/NP} \quad \frac{\text{John}}{NP}}{S \setminus NP} > \\
 \hline
 S <
 \end{array}$$

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- Aside from forward application ($>$) and backward application ($<$), there are a few more combination rules:
- **Conjunction:**



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- Aside from forward application ($>$) and backward application ($<$), there are a few more combination rules:
- **Composition:**

$$\frac{\alpha : X/Y \quad \beta : Y/Z}{\alpha\beta : X/Z} B_{>}$$

$$\frac{\beta : Y \backslash Z \quad \alpha : X \backslash Y}{\beta\alpha : X \backslash Z} B_{<}$$

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- Aside from forward application ($>$) and backward application ($<$), there are a few more combination rules:
- Type-raising:

$$\frac{\alpha : X}{\alpha : T / (T \backslash X)} T_{>}$$

$$\frac{\alpha : X}{\alpha : T \backslash (T / X)} T_{<}$$

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

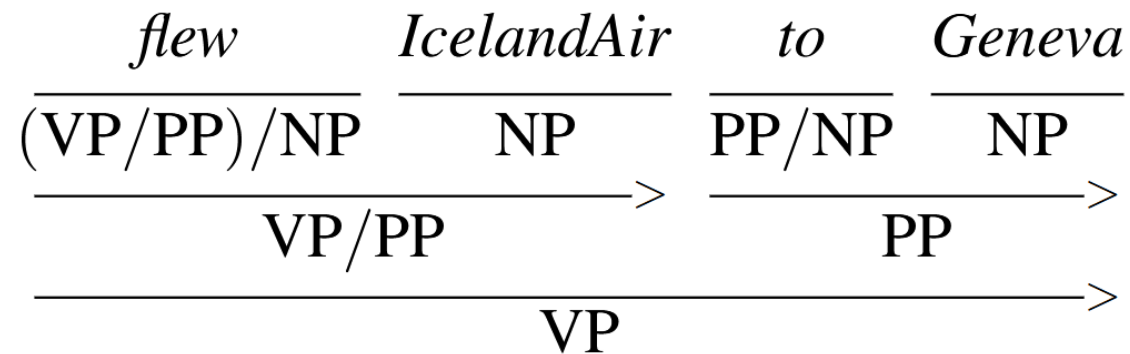
- Why are the extra rules useful?

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\textit{United}}{\text{NP}} \quad \frac{\textit{serves}}{(S \backslash \text{NP}) / \text{NP}} \quad \frac{\textit{Miami}}{\text{NP}}}{\text{S} / (S \backslash \text{NP})} \xrightarrow{\text{T}} \frac{\text{S} / \text{NP}}{\text{S}} \xrightarrow{\text{B}} \text{S}$$

- This sentence could be parsed by first combining ‘*serves*’ and ‘*Miami*’.
- But through the use of type-raising and composition, we obtain an alternate **left-to-right** derivation.
 - This more closely mimics how humans parse natural language.

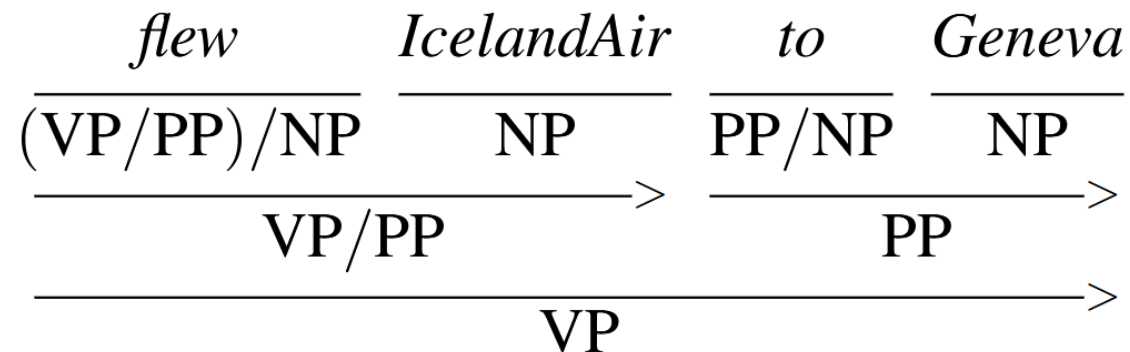
COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- Why are the extra rules useful?
- Consider the sentence ‘I flew IcelandAir to Geneva.’
- We could parse it as:



COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- But what about the sentence ‘I flew IcelandAir to Geneva and SwissAir to London’?
- To parse this correctly, we need to apply the conjunction rule to ‘IcelandAir to Geneva’ and ‘SwissAir to London’.



- But the above derivation combines ‘IcelandAir’ with ‘flew’.

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

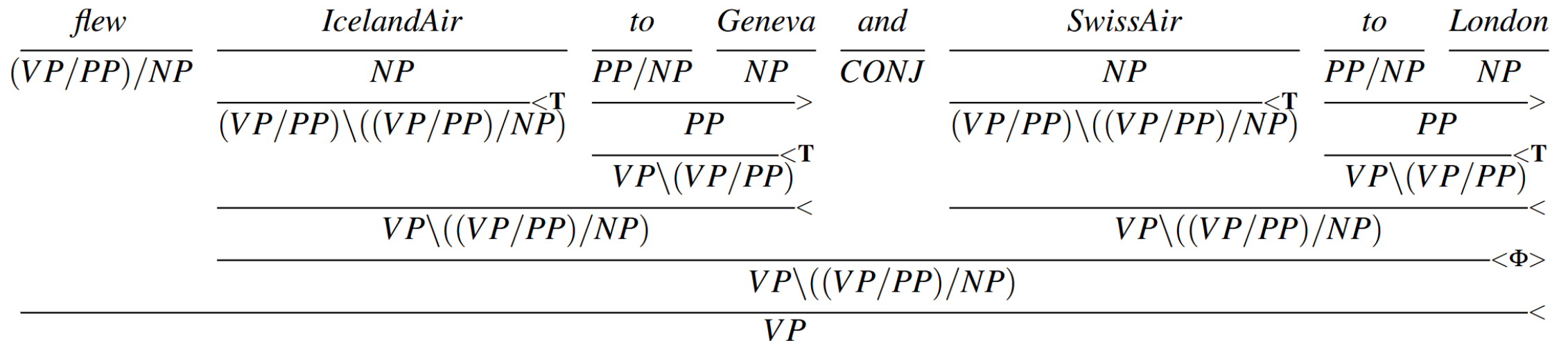
- But we can workaround this by using type-raising and composition rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{flew} & \text{IcelandAir} & \text{to} \quad \text{Geneva} \\
 \hline
 (VP/PP)/NP & NP & PP/NP \quad NP \\
 \hline
 & (VP/PP) \setminus ((VP/PP)/NP) <^T & PP > \\
 & & \hline
 & & VP \setminus (VP/PP) <^T \\
 & & \hline
 & VP \setminus ((VP/PP)/NP) <^B & \\
 & \hline
 VP <
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

- Now ‘IcelandAir to Geneva’ is combined before combining with ‘flew’.

COMBINATORY CATEGORIAL GRAMMAR

- And we can correctly parse ‘I flew IcelandAir to Geneva and SwissAir to London’.



PARSING CCG

- How do you parse CCG?
- Since CCG operations are unary or binary, we can **extend CKY parsing**.
 - CCG is well-suited for bottom-up parsing.
 - Vijay-Shanker and Weir (1993) describe this algorithm and show that it has running time $O(n^6)$.
- This can be made practically faster using beam search and better heuristics (e.g., A*).
 - But better heuristics do not change the worst-case running time.
 - And beam search sacrifices exactness/accuracy.

NEXT TIME

- Next time, we will wrap up our discussion of **syntax**.
- We move onto **semantics**.
 - How can we describe the meaning of sentences?
 - What are different representations of meaning?
 - Can we use some representations to do **reasoning**?
 - E.g., logic

Abstract geometric lines in the top left corner of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, irregular polygons and lines in a light brown color.

QUESTIONS?