Generative and Computational Power of Combinatory Categorial Grammar

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[Combinatory Categorial Grammar](#page-1-0)

Mary wrote a book about grammars

article category NP/N

"obtain a noun phrase if a noun is on the right side"

article category NP/N *f* : $\mathsf{N} \rightarrow \mathsf{NP}$ "obtain a noun phrase if a noun is on the right side"

verb phrase category S\NP

"obtain a sentence if a noun phrase is on the left side"

verb phrase category S\NP *^f* : NP [→] ^S "obtain a sentence if a noun phrase is on the left side"

 $S\backslash NP/NP$ $f: NP \times NP \rightarrow S$

"obtain a sentence if there is

- a noun phrase on the right side and
- a noun phrase on the left side"


```
S\backslash NP/NP f : NP×NP \rightarrow S or f : NP \rightarrow (NP \rightarrow S)
```
"obtain a sentence if there is

- a noun phrase on the right side and
- a noun phrase on the left side"

S initial category

backward application

 β argument sequence $|\beta|$ rule degree

degree 0 *c*/*b b c*

Composition Rules

Composition Rules

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Composition Rules

In a rule we may restrict

- the secondary category to a concrete category
- the target of the primary category to a concrete atom

$$
\frac{c/b \quad b}{c} \qquad \rightarrow \qquad \frac{Sx/NP \quad NP}{Sx}
$$

- input alphabet $\Sigma = {\alpha, \beta}$
- atomic categories $A = \{D, E\}$
- initial categories $I = \{D\}$
- lexicon *L* with $L(\alpha) = \{D/E, D/E/D\}$ $L(\beta) = {E}$
- rule set includes all application rules

$$
R = \left\{ \frac{c/b & b}{c}, \frac{b & c \backslash b}{c} \right\}
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R = \left\{ \frac{c/b & b}{c}, \frac{b & c \backslash b}{c} \right\}
$$

- input alphabet $\Sigma = {\alpha, \beta}$
- atomic categories $A = \{D, E\}$
- initial categories $I = \{D\}$
- lexicon *L* with $L(\alpha) = \{D/E, D/E/D\}$ $L(\beta) = {E}$
- rule set includes restricted rules

$$
R = \left\{ \frac{Dx/D \ D}{Dx}, \ \frac{Dx/E \ E}{Dx} \right\}
$$

Classical Language Classes

- CSG Context-Sensitive Grammar
- LBA Linear Bounded Automaton
- CFG Context-Free Grammar
- PDA Push-Down Automaton

'... because I saw Cecilia help Henk feed the hippopotamuses.'

Example from Steedman (1985)

'... because I saw Cecilia help Henk feed the hippopotamuses.'

 $COPY = \{ ww \mid w \in \Sigma^* \}$

Example from Steedman (1985)

MCFG Multiple Context-Free Grammar TAG Tree-Adjoining Grammar

Tree-Adjoining Grammar

Tree-Adjoining Grammar

Tree-Adjoining Grammar

Mild Context-Sensitivity of CCG

Math Systems Theory 27, 511-546 (1994)

Mathematical Systems Theory (b) 1994 Participate Marshall pringer-Verlag
New York Inc

The Equivalence of Four Extensions of Context-Free Grammarc*

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Abstract. There is currently considerable interest among computational linguists in arammatical formalisms with highly restricted expective norms. This paper concerns the relationship between the class of string languages penerated by several such formalisms namely combinatory categorial gram. mars, head grammars, linear indexed grammars, and tree adjoining grammars. Each of these formalisms is known to generate a larger class of languages than context-free erammars. The four formalisms under consideration were developed independently and appear superficially to be quite different from one another. The result presented in this paper is that all four of the formalisms under consideration generate exactly the same class of string languages.

1. Introduction

There is currently considerable interest among computational linguists in grammatical formalisms with highly restricted generative power. This is based on the argument that a grammar formalism should not merely be viewed as a notation. but as part of the linguistic theory [6]. It should make predictions about the structure of natural language and its value is lessened to the extent that it supports both good and bad analyses. In order for a grammar formalism to have such predictive power its generative capacity must be constrained. This has led to

$TAG = CCG = LIG = HG$

Vijay-Shanker, Weir (1994)

LIG Linear Indexed Grammar HG Head Grammar

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Mild Context-Sensitivity of CCG

Parsing Some Constrained Grammar Formalisms

K. Vijav-Shanker* University of Delaware

David I. Weir¹ University of Sussex

In this name we present a school to extend a recognition algorithm for Context-Free Grammers (CFC) that can be used to derive palanomial time peopultion algorithms for a set of formalisms that generate a superset of languages concrated by CEG. We describe the scheme by developing a Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY)-like pure bottom-up recognition algorithm for Linear Indexed Grammars and show how it can be adapted to give algorithms for Tree Adjoining Grammars and Combinatory Categorial Grammars. This is the only polynomial-time recognition algorithm for Combinatory Categorial Crommars that we are aware of

The main contribution of this paper is the general scheme we propose for parsing a variety of formalisms whose derivation process is controlled by an explicit or implicit stack. The ideas presented here can be suitably modified for other parsing styles or used in the generalized framework set out by Lang (1990).

1 Introduction

This paper presents a scheme to extend known recognition algorithms for Context-Free Grammars (CFG) in order to obtain recognition algorithms for a class of grammatical formalisms that generate a strict superset of the set of languages generated by CFG. In particular, we use this scheme to give recognition algorithms for Linear Indexed Grammars (LIG), Tree Adjoining Grammars (TAG), and a version of Combinatory Categorial Grammars (CCG). These formalisms belong to the class of mildly contextsensitive grammar formalisms identified by Joshi (1985) on the basis of some properties of their generative capacity. The parsing strategy that we propose can be applied to the formalisms listed as well as others that have similar characteristics (as outlined below) in their derivational process. Some of the main ideas underlying our scheme have been influenced by the observations that can be made about the constructions used in the proofs of the equivalence of these formalisms and Head Grammars (HG) (Vijay-Shanker 1987; Weir 1988; Vijay-Shanker and Weir 1993).

There are similarities between the TAG and HG derivation processes and that of Context-Free Grammars (CFG). This is reflected in common features of the parsing algorithms for HG (Pollard 1984) and TAG (Vijay-Shanker and Joshi 1985) and the CKY algorithm for CFG (Kasami 1965; Younger 1967). In particular, what can happen at each step in a derivation can depend only on which of a finite set of "states" the derivation is in (for CFG these states can be considered to be the nonterminal symbols). This property, which we refer to as the context-freeness property, is important because it allows one to keep only a limited amount of context during the recognition process,

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CCG parsable in $O(|w|^6)$

Vijay-Shanker, Weir (1994)

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[Computational Complexity](#page-58-0)

Parsing Decision Problems

Parsing Decision Problems

Universal Recognition Problem

- input: w, G
- question: $w \in \mathcal{L}(G)$?

EXPTIME-/NP-complete Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

Lexicon Entries for the Empty Word

Lexicon Entries for the Empty Word

classical proof for equivalence of TAG and CCG heavily relies on ε -entries Vijay-Shanker, Weir (1994)

Lexicon Entries for the Empty Word

classical proof for equivalence of TAG and CCG heavily relies on ε -entries Vijay-Shanker, Weir (1994)

universal recognition problem

- with ε -entries EXPTIME-complete
- without them NP-complete

Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

[†]Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

• Can we restrict CCG such that parsing becomes polynomial in the grammar size?

[†]Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

- Can we restrict CCG such that parsing becomes polynomial in the grammar size?
- Can we find a practically relevant formalism with this property?

[†]Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

c/*b*/*e b*/*e c*/*e*

$$
\begin{array}{c|c c}\n\hline\nc/b/e & b/e & c/b/e & b/e\backslash d \\
\hline\nc/e & & c/e\backslash d\n\end{array}
$$

$$
\frac{c/b/e}{c/e} \qquad \frac{c/b/e}{c/e \setminus d}
$$

\rightarrow generalized rule notation

$$
\frac{c/b\alpha \quad b\alpha\beta}{c\alpha\beta} \qquad \frac{b\alpha\beta \quad c\backslash b\alpha}{c\alpha\beta} \qquad \text{with } |\alpha| \leq 1
$$

$$
\begin{array}{c|c c}\n\hline\nc/b/e & b/e & c/b/e & b/e\backslash d \\
\hline\nc/e & & c/e\backslash d\n\end{array}
$$

\rightarrow generalized rule notation

$$
\frac{c/b\alpha-b\alpha\beta}{c\alpha\beta} \qquad \frac{b\alpha\beta}{c\alpha\beta} \qquad \frac{c\backslash b\alpha}{c\alpha\beta} \qquad \text{with } |\alpha| \leq 1
$$

• new parsing algorithm based on Kuhlmann, Satta (2014)

$$
\begin{array}{c|c c}\n\hline\nc/b/e & b/e & c/b/e & b/e\backslash d \\
\hline\nc/e & & c/e\backslash d\n\end{array}
$$

 \rightarrow generalized rule notation

$$
\frac{c/b\alpha}{c\alpha\beta} \quad \frac{b\alpha\beta}{c\alpha\beta} \quad \frac{b\alpha\beta}{c\alpha\beta} \quad \text{with } |\alpha| \le 1
$$

- new parsing algorithm based on Kuhlmann, Satta (2014)
- complexity in terms of grammar size: new runtime exponential only in maximum rule degree *k*
Parsing is viewed as a deductive process:

• start from a set of axioms and derive new items

Shieber, Schabes, Pereira (1995)

Parsing is viewed as a deductive process:

• use inference rules of the form

$$
\frac{A_1 \ldots A_k}{B}
$$
 (side conditions)

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- start from a set of axioms and derive new items
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 (side conditions)

• input is accepted if goal item is derived

Shieber, Schabes, Pereira (1995)

ITEM TYPES

Tree Items

 $[c, i, j]$

represents a derivation tree with root category *c c*

Kuhlmann, Satta (2014)

ITEM TYPES

[*c*, *ⁱ*, *^j*]

represents a derivation tree with root category *c c*

Context Items

 $[\alpha, \beta, i, i', j', j]$ $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq 2$ |β | ≤ maximum rule degree *k*

Kuhlmann, Satta (2014)

Axioms: Lexicon Entry \rightarrow Tree

Axioms: Lexicon Entry \rightarrow Tree

GOAL: Tree over complete input with c_0 initial

Parsing Algorithm – Rule 3

Parsing Algorithm – Rule 3

Parsing Algorithm – Rule 3

• generalization to substitution rules

- generalization to substitution rules
- improve complexity by restricting the tree items

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- generalization to substitution rules
- improve complexity by restricting the tree items

\rightarrow number of items (and deduction rules!) exponential in *k*

Theorem

The universal recognition problem for k-CCG with ε -entries and substitution rules can be solved in time and space $O(|\mathcal{G}|^{k+5} \cdot |w|^6)$.

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†Kuhlmann, Satta, Jonsson (2018)

[Generative Capacity](#page-96-0)

Strong Generative Capacity

weak generative capacity

Strong Generative Capacity

Tree Language of CCG

CCG derivation tree set (root category = initial)

Tree Language of CCG

RTG Regular Tree Grammar

^aBar-Hillel, Gaifman, Shamir (1964) b_{Fowler}, Penn (2010) ^cVijay-Shanker, Weir (1994) ^dBuszkowski (1988)

RTG Regular Tree Grammar

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What is the generative capacity of CCG without ε -entries?

What is the generative capacity of CCG without ε -entries?

What class of tree languages does CCG generate?

What is the generative capacity of CCG without ε -entries?

What class of tree languages does CCG generate?

How does the rule degree affect the generative capacity?

†Kepser, Rogers (2011)

Strong Equivalence of TAG and CCG

α α β η β β γ γ γ δ γ α α

 $\delta - \gamma - \gamma - \beta - \alpha - \alpha$ $\beta - \eta$ α γ β

. .

Moore PDA

δ

 $\langle q_0, \boxed{\omega} \rangle + \langle q_1, \boxed{\omega} \rangle$ δ γ

 $\langle q_0, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_1, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν ω \rangle δ γ γ β

 $\langle q_0, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_1, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_4, \omega \rangle$ δ γ γ β α

 $\langle q_0, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_1, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν $\langle \omega | \rangle + \langle q_4, \omega | \rangle + \langle q_5, \rangle$ δ γ γ β α α

 $\langle q_0, \underline{\omega} \rangle \rightarrow \langle q_1, \underline{\omega} \rangle \rightarrow \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν $\langle \omega | \rangle + \langle q_4, \omega | \rangle + \langle q_5, \rangle$ δ γ γ β α α

 $\langle q_0, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_1, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν $\langle \omega | \rangle + \langle q_4, \omega | \rangle + \langle q_5, \rangle$ δ γ γ β α α

• Moore PDA generates all spines (of length ≥ 2)

- Moore PDA generates all spines (of length ≥ 2)
- primary category length can grow unbounded
	- \rightarrow simulate Moore PDA in primary spines of CCG
	- \rightarrow store stack in the argument sequence
- Moore PDA generates all spines (of length ≥ 2)
- primary category length can grow unbounded
	- \rightarrow simulate Moore PDA in primary spines of CCG
	- \rightarrow store stack in the argument sequence
- last argument of primary category stores
	- current state
	- topmost stack symbol

α α β η β β γ γ γ δ γ α α

Primary Spines

 $\langle q_0, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_1, \lfloor \omega \rfloor \rangle + \langle q_2,$ ν ω \rangle + $\langle q_3,$ ν $\langle \omega | \rangle + \langle q_4, \omega | \rangle + \langle q_5, \rangle$

$$
C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \varepsilon \\ q_5 \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_4 \\ q_5 \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_4 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_3 \\ v \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_4 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_2 \\ v \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_2 \\ v \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C / \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_2 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_2 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
C / \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix} \setminus \begin{pmatrix} q_2 \\ \omega \end{pmatrix}
$$

\n
$$
\langle q_0, \omega \rangle \mapsto \langle q_1, \omega \rangle \mapsto \langle q_2, \omega \rangle \mapsto \langle q_3, \omega \rangle \mapsto \langle q_4, \omega \rangle \mapsto \langle q_5, \omega \rangle
$$

TAG = sCFTG \cup k-CCG

Strong Equivalence Result

2-CCG \cup TAG = sCFTG \cup k-CCG

Strong Equivalence Result

2-CCG \cup TAG = sCFTG \cup k-CCG with ε -entries
2-CCG without ε-entries

 \cup TAG = sCFTG \overline{U} k-CCG with ε -entries

2-CCG without ε-entries \cup TAG = $SCFTG = 2-CCG$ without ε -entries \overline{U} k-CCG with ε -entries

2-CCG without ε-entries ⊆TAG = $SCFTG = 2$ -CCG without ε -entries \Box k-CCG with ε -entries

Theorem

2-CCG without ε -entries generates the same class of tree languages as TAG.

Publications

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- E. Andreas Maletti and Lena K. Schiffer. **Combinatory categorial grammars as generators of weighted forests.** *Information and Computation*, 2023.