

Dependency Parsing



Outline

Two formalisms for syntactic structure: Phrase structure and dependencies

Two algorithms for dependency parsing

- Transition based dependency parsing
- Graph based dependency parsing

Evaluating dependencies

Dependency parsing

- **Input:** Sentence, tokenized + a dummy ROOT word
- **Output:** A dependency tree
 - Each word in the sentence is a node
 - Every word (except ROOT) should have an incoming edge indicating its head word
 - Only one word should be a dependent of ROOT
 - There are no cycles

Dependency parsing

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- **Output:** A dependency tree
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 - Every word (except ROOT) should have an incoming edge indicating its head word
 - Only one word should be a dependent of ROOT
 - There are no cycles
- Dependency theory also allows arrows to cross
 - Trees no arrows cross are called projective
 - Otherwise, they are called non-projective

Projective parse tree: No crossing dependency arcs when the words are laid out in their linear order, with all arcs above the word

Two families of parsing algorithms

Transition-based parsing

Graph based parsing

Two families of parsing algorithms

Transition-based parsing

- A generalization of the idea of shift-reduce parsing
- Greedily build attachments, using classifiers to decide which attachments to perform next
- Before neural networks: MaltParser (Nivre et al 2008)
- After neural networks: Chen and Manning (2014), Kipperwaser and Goldberg (2017)

Graph based parsing

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Graph based parsing

- Score all possible pairs of dependencies using a classifier
- Use a minimum spanning tree algorithm to find the best labeled tree
- Before neural networks: MSTParser (McDonald et al, 2005)
- With neural networks: Dozat and Manning (2017)

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Other algorithms exist as well. E.g. Eisner's algorithm is a dynamic programming approach

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- What is transition based parsing?
- The arc-standard transition system
- An example
- Greedy parsing algorithm
- Model building
- Practical concerns

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Simple greedy discriminative parser that executes a sequence of *actions* that update the *parse state*

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Parse state

1. A *buffer* that consists of the input words
2. A *stack* whose top elements represent the next words that will be connected with a dependency edge
3. A *set* of all dependency edges that have been created so far

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Simple greedy discriminative parser that executes a sequence of *actions* that update the *parse state*

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Actions

Operate on a parse state to produce the next state

Behave like shift and reduce in a shift-reduce parser

Shift moves a word from the buffer to the stack

Different kinds of reduce actions that produce dependency edges

Transition based parsing

Simple greedy discriminative parser that executes a sequence of *actions* that update the *parse state*

Parse state

1. A *buffer* that consists of the input words
2. A *stack* whose top element is the next word to be processed with a dependency arc to the word on the stack
3. A *set* of all dependency arcs that have been created so far

Actions

Operate on a parse state to produce the next state

Left-arc: shift the word on the stack to the left and create a dependency arc between the word on the stack and the word on the buffer

Right-arc: shift the word on the stack to the right and create a dependency arc between the word on the stack and the word on the buffer

Reduce: pop the word on the stack and create a dependency arc between the word on the stack and the word on the buffer

Shift: push the word on the buffer to the stack

These actions produce the next parse state

There are different kinds of transition systems whose behavior is defined by the set of actions.

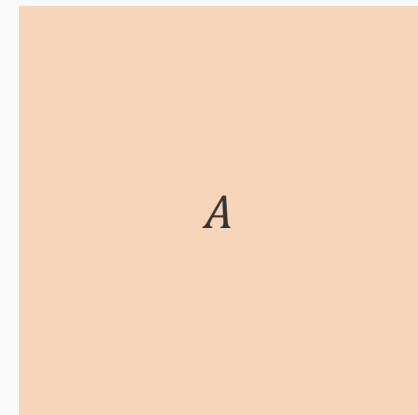
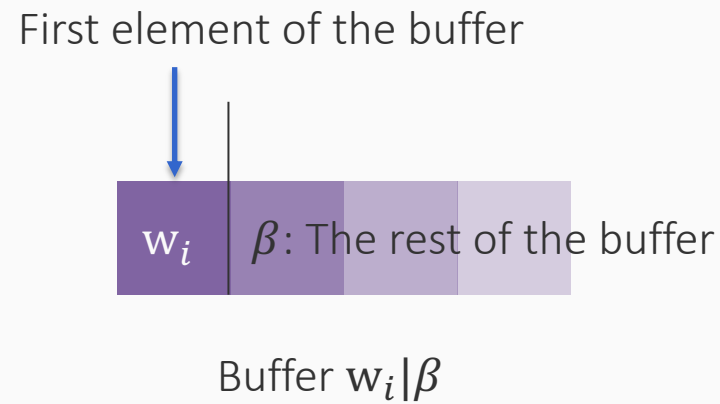
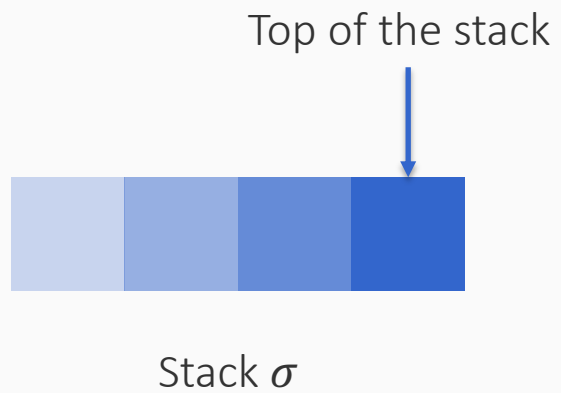
We will look at the *Arc-Standard* transition system which has three actions: shift, left-arc and right-arc

Transition based parsing

- What is transition based parsing?
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- Greedy parsing algorithm
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- Practical concerns

1. Shift

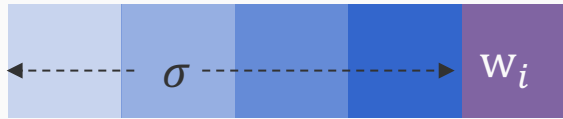
$$\sigma, w_i \mid \beta, A$$



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

1. Shift

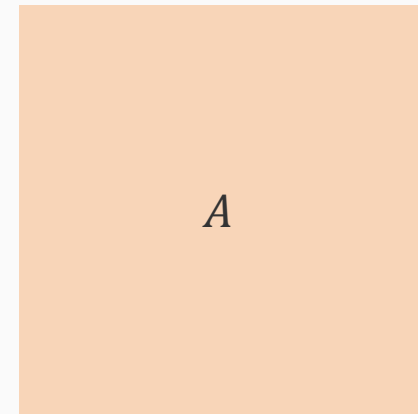
$$\sigma, w_i \mid \beta, A \rightarrow \sigma \mid w_i, \beta, A$$



Stack $\sigma \mid w_i$



Buffer β



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

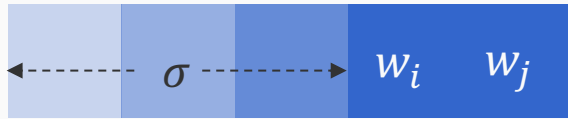
Add the first element of the buffer to the top of the stack

Remove the first element of the buffer

Keep the dependency relations unchanged

2. Left-arc_r

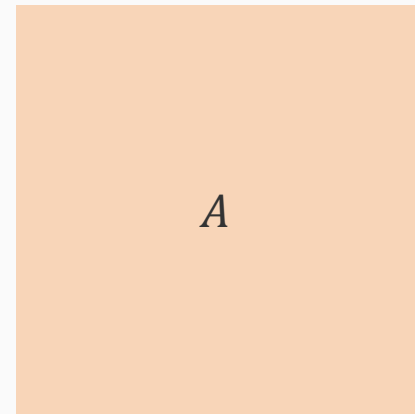
$$\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j, \beta, A$$



Stack $\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j$



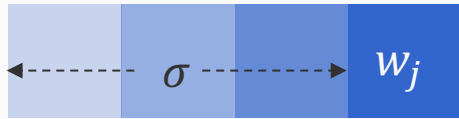
Buffer β



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

2. Left-arc_r

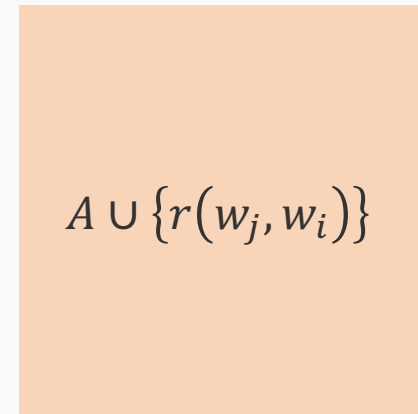
$$\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j, \beta, A \rightarrow \sigma \mid w_j, \beta, A \cup \{r(w_j, w_i)\}$$



Stack $\sigma \mid w_j$



Buffer β



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

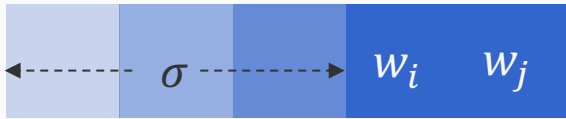
Remove the top two elements of the stack

Keep the buffer unchanged

1. Add an edge from w_j to w_i with label r
2. Push w_j back on the stack

3. Right-arc_r

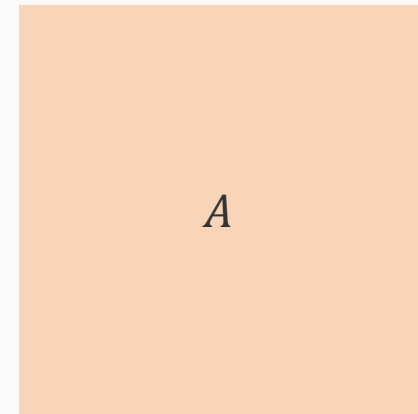
$$\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j, \beta, A$$



Stack $\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j$



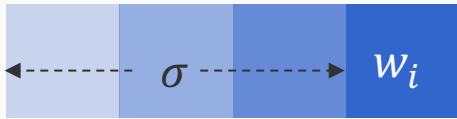
Buffer β



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

3. Right-arc_r

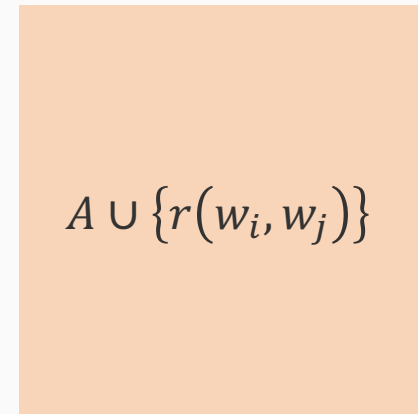
$$\sigma \mid w_i \mid w_j, \beta, A \rightarrow \sigma \mid w_i, \beta, A \cup \{r(w_i, w_j)\}$$



Stack $\sigma \mid w_i$



Buffer β



The set of dependency relations accumulated so far

Remove the top two elements of the stack

Keep the buffer unchanged

1. Add an edge from w_i to w_j with label r
2. Push w_i back on the stack

Transition based parsing

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An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty

To start things off:

- place all the words in the buffer.
- The stack contains only root.
- The set of dependencies is empty

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	

The first element of the buffer moves to the stack

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	

The first element of the buffer moves to the stack

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The	scratched the couch	empty	

Take the top two elements of the stack

tabby cat

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The	scratched the couch	empty	

Add an edge to that goes to the left with the appropriate label



An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	

Record that edge in the set of dependencies so far



An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det

Place the top element of the stack from before back on the stack

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	

The	cat
-----	-----

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	



An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	



An example

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0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
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2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
0	root	The tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
1	root The	tabby cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
2	root The tabby	cat scratched the couch	empty	shift
3	root The tabby cat	scratched the couch	empty	Left-arc amod
4	root The cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby)	Left-arc det
5	root cat	scratched the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	shift
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	

cat scratched

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	



An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

A diagram illustrating a dependency arc. Two blue boxes, one containing 'cat' on the left and one containing 'scratched' on the right, are connected by a blue arrow pointing from 'scratched' to 'cat'. The label 'subj' is positioned above the arrow.

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	Left-arc det

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	Left-arc det
10	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

the
couch

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	Left-arc det
10	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	

the ←^{det} couch

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	Left-arc det
10	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	

the

det
 ←

couch

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
6	root cat scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the)	Left-arc subj
7	root scratched	the couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
8	root scratched the	couch	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	shift
9	root scratched the couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat)	Left-arc det
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action			
10	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td><td>couch</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	couch	empty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">amod(cat, tabby)det(cat, the)subj(scratched, cat)det(couch, the)	
root	scratched	couch					

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action			
10	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td><td>couch</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	couch	empty	<pre>amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)</pre>	Right-arc obj
root	scratched	couch					

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action							
10	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td><td>couch</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	couch	empty	<table border="1"><tr><td>amod(cat, tabby)</td></tr><tr><td>det(cat, the)</td></tr><tr><td>subj(scratched, cat)</td></tr><tr><td>det(couch, the)</td></tr></table>	amod(cat, tabby)	det(cat, the)	subj(scratched, cat)	det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
root	scratched	couch									
amod(cat, tabby)											
det(cat, the)											
subj(scratched, cat)											
det(couch, the)											
11	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td></tr></table>	root	empty	<table border="1"><tr><td>amod(cat, tabby)</td></tr><tr><td>det(cat, the)</td></tr><tr><td>subj(scratched, cat)</td></tr><tr><td>det(couch, the)</td></tr></table>	amod(cat, tabby)	det(cat, the)	subj(scratched, cat)	det(couch, the)			
root											
amod(cat, tabby)											
det(cat, the)											
subj(scratched, cat)											
det(couch, the)											

scratched couch

Take the top two elements of the stack

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	root	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	



Add an edge going to the right
with the appropriate label

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	

Record the new edge in the set of dependencies and place the *second* element back on the stack

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	Right-arc root

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action			
10	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td><td>couch</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
root	scratched	couch					
11	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	Right-arc root	
root	scratched						
11	<table border="1"><tr><td>root</td><td>scratched</td></tr></table>	root	scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)		
root	scratched						

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;">root</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;">scratched</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">couch</div>	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;">root</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">scratched</div>	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	Right-arc root
11	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">empty</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 10px;">root</div> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">→</div> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">root</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-left: 10px;">scratched</div> </div>	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch) root(root, scratched)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	Right-arc root
11	root	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch) root(root, scratched)	

An example

Step	Stack	Buffer	Dependencies	Next action
10	root scratched couch	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the)	Right-arc obj
11	root scratched	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch)	Right-arc root
11	root	empty	amod(cat, tabby) det(cat, the) subj(scratched, cat) det(couch, the) obj(scratched, couch) root(root, scratched)	

Stop when the stack contains only **root** and the buffer is empty

Transition based parsing

- What is transition based parsing?
- The arc-standard transition system
- An example
- Greedy parsing algorithm
- Model building
- Practical concerns

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$
2. While $state$ is not the final state:
3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

Stack



1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$

2. While $state$ is not the final state:

3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

Stack Buffer
↓ ↓

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$

2. While $state$ is not the final state:

3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{ \overset{\text{Stack}}{\downarrow} [root], \overset{\text{Buffer}}{\downarrow} [words], \overset{\text{Dependencies}}{\swarrow} [] \}$

2. While $state$ is not the final state:

3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

- Stack Buffer Dependencies
- ↓ ↓ ↙
1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$
 2. While $state$ is not the **final state**:

The stack has only root,
and the buffer is empty
 3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$
2. While $state$ is not the final state:
 1. Choose $action \leftarrow NextAction(state)$
 2. Set $state \leftarrow Apply(state, action)$
3. Return $state$

The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$
2. While $state$ is not the final state:
 1. Choose $action \leftarrow NextAction(state)$
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Action can be one of shift, labeled left-arc or labeled right-arc.

If the dependency formalism has L labels, then this action will be one of $1 + 2L$ possible options

The parsing algorithm

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1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$

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1. Choose $action \leftarrow NextAction(state)$

Typically, a classifier over the action set

2. Set $state \leftarrow Apply(state, action)$

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The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

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Action can be one of shift, labeled left-arc or labeled right-arc.

2. While $state$ is not the final state:

If the dependency formalism has L labels, then this action will be one of $1 + 2L$ possible options

1. Choose $action \leftarrow NextAction(state)$

Typically, a classifier over the action set

2. Set $state \leftarrow Apply(state, action)$

This is a greedy algorithm. Once it takes an action, it does not back track.

3. Return $state$

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The parsing algorithm

Input: A tokenized sentence

1. Set $state \leftarrow \{[root], [words], []\}$
2. While $state$ is not the final state:
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The parser behavior is defined by its how it chooses the action to take at each state.

This can be framed as a multi-class classification problem

Choosing the next action

Given a parse state, what action should be taken next?

Input: The entire parse state, i.e., the stack, buffer and dependencies so far

Output: Shift, Left-arc_r or Right-arc_r for different dependency labels **r**

How would you approach this modeling problem?

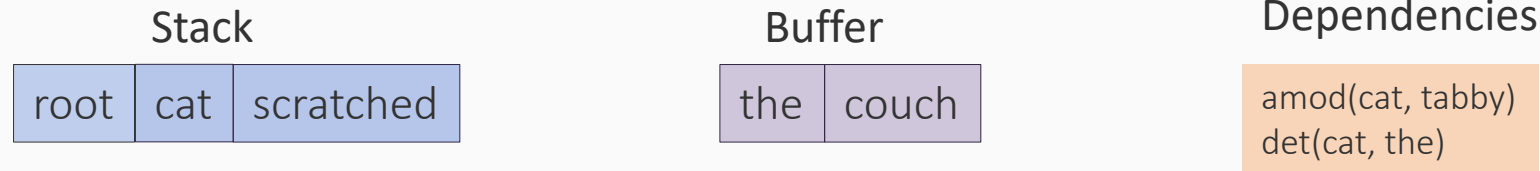
The action classifier

A multiclass classifier, whose inputs is features from the state, and the label space is the set of all possible actions.

Key design choices:

- What features?
- What classifier?

Featurizing the stack, the buffer and dependencies



What information can we get from such a configuration?

- Words in the stack and the buffer: Here, `cat`, `scratched` from the stack and `the`, `couch` from the buffer
- Any properties of these words such as parts of speech (assuming that this is available)
- The positions of words on the stack and the buffer. E.g. `cat` is at position 2 on the stack
- Previously generated children of the words on the stack. Here, we know from the existing dependencies that `cat` has two children—`tabby` and `the`—with labels `amod` and `det` respectively

All this information could contribute to features for this configuration

Indicator features versus embedding features

The typical featurizing strategy: Take the top 1-3 words from the stack and the buffer and extract features from them.

Pre-neural era: Indicator features. E.g. a one-hot vector representing the fact that “second element of the stack = cat, POS of second element on stack = Noun, first element on stack = scratched”

- Sparse, very high dimensional features
- Feature computation can be slow

Neural era:

- All the words are represented by word embeddings
- POS tags and other information like dependency labels (if they are used) can also be represented as embeddings that will get trained along the way
- All these vectors can be combined by concatenating them

The action classifier

A multiclass classifier, whose inputs is features from the state, and the label space is the set of all possible actions.

Key design choices:

- What features? For neural models: embeddings of words, POS tags, dependency labels
- What classifier?

What classifier?

The model can be any neural network architecture provided the final layer is assigns a probability or score to actions. For example, a two-layer neural network

What classifier?

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The input layer x consisting of concatenated embeddings from the stack, buffer, dependencies, etc

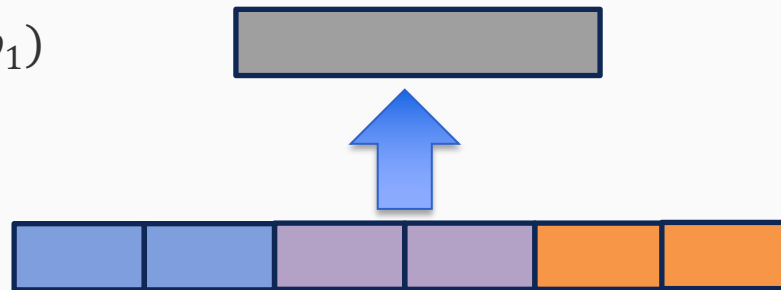


What classifier?

The model can be any neural network architecture provided the final layer is assigns a probability or score to actions. For example, a two-layer neural network

A hidden layer, e.g. $h = \text{ReLU}(W_1x + b_1)$

The input layer x consisting of concatenated embeddings from the stack, buffer, dependencies, etc



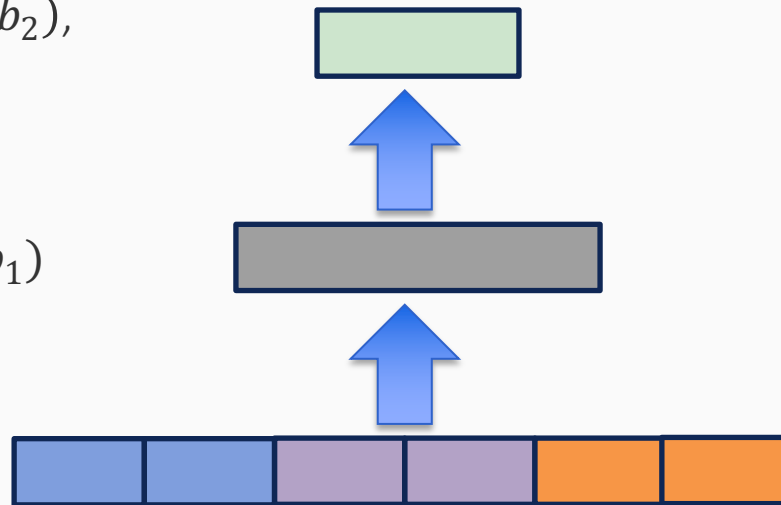
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The output layer, e.g. $\text{softmax}(W_2h + b_2)$, that produces probabilities over actions

A hidden layer, e.g. $h = \text{ReLU}(W_1x + b_1)$

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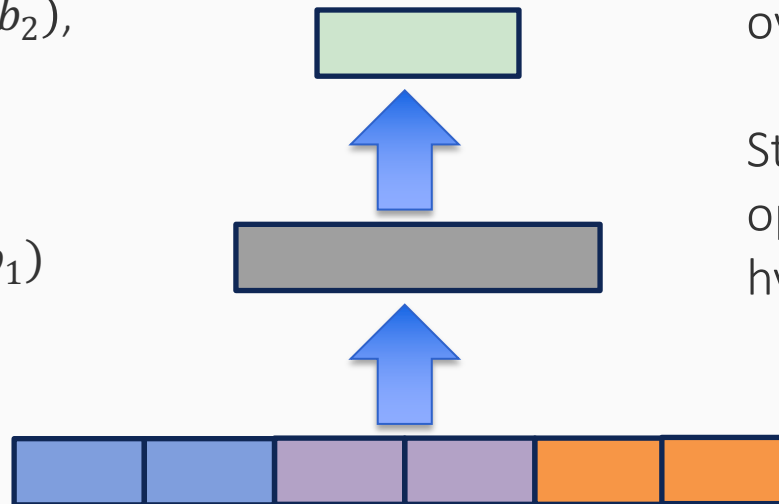
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The input layer x consisting of concatenated embeddings from the stack, buffer, dependencies, etc



Training such a neural network will involve minimizing cross-entropy loss over a training set

Standard training considerations apply: optimizers, learning rates, batch sizes, hyper-parameter selection, etc.

Training the model with a treebank

Treebanks contain `(sentence, tree)` pairs

But to train a model that maps parse states to actions, we need training data with `(configuration, action)` pairs

Before any training is done, we need to convert the trees in the treebank to the form our model knows about

- This requires us to first use a training oracle that looks at parse configuration and a reference tree and decides what action to take next
- See Jurafsky and Martin's book chapter for details

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Odds and ends

- We saw the Arc-Standard transition system (defined by the three kinds of actions). There are other transition systems
- Arc-standard transition parsing produces projective trees. How to address this?
 - Do nothing, lose accuracy points on any non-projective trees in the data
 - Change the dependency formalism to one that is only projective
 - Use some sort of post-processing to fix edges that ought to be non-projective
 - Change the transition system to include additional actions to handle non-projectivity
 - Use a graph-based parser where this does not matter

Transition-based dependency parsing: Summary

- Transition based parsing: The parse tree is constructed by applying actions to configurations
 - We saw the arc-standard transition system, but there are others
- The modeling question: What action to pick for the current configuration?
 - Previously: Linear models
 - More recently: Neural models. Can use any embedding—word2vec, Glove type static embeddings, or also more modern embeddings generated by models like BERT
- Greedy parsing algorithm:
 - The model produces scores/probabilities over the next action. The algorithm we saw greedily selects the action predicted by the model at each step. Could lead to error propagation
 - Beam search is an alternative approach: Instead of greedily picking the next transition, keep a *beam* of size k . The beam represents the k best sequences of actions so far
 - We will see beam search in a later lecture