Logic Programming

Using Grammar Rules

Temur Kutsia

Research Institute for Symbolic Computation
Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
`kutsia@risc.jku.at`

Contents

Grammar of a Language

Definition (Grammar of a Language)

A set of rules for specifying what sequences of words are acceptable as sentences of the language.

Grammar specifies:

- How the words must group together to form phrases.
- What orderings of those phrases are allowed.

Parsing Problem

Given: A grammar for a language and a sequence of words.

Problem: Is the sequence an acceptable sentence of the language?

Simple Grammar Rules for English

Structure Rules:

```
sentence  --> noun_phrase, verb_phrase.
noun_phrase --> determiner, noun.
verb_phrase --> verb, noun_phrase.
verb_phrase --> verb.
```


Simple Grammar Rules for English (Ctd.)

Valid Terms:

```
determiner --> [the].
noun --> [man].
noun --> [apple].
verb --> [eats].
verb --> [sings].
```

Reading Grammar Rules

`X --> Y`: "X can take the form Y".
`X, Y`: "X followed by Y".

Example

`sentence --> noun_phrase, verb_phrase`:

`sentence` can take a form: `noun_phrase` followed by `verb_phrase`.

Alternatives

Two rules for `verb_phrase`:

1. `verb_phrase --> verb, noun_phrase.`
2. `verb_phrase --> verb.`

Two possible forms:

1. `verb_phrase` can contain a `noun_phrase`: "the man eats the apple", or
2. it need not: "the man sings"

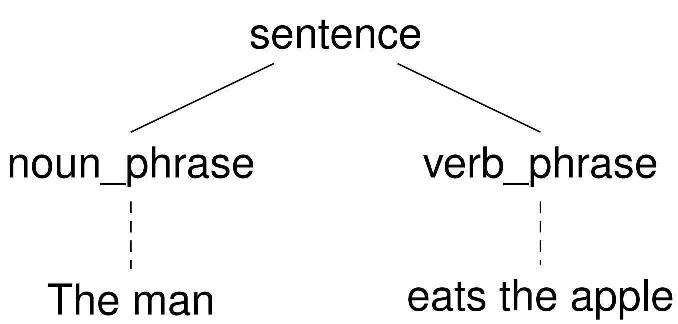
Valid Terms

Specify phrases made up in terms of actual words (not in terms of smaller phrases):

- `determiner --> [the]`:
  A `determiner` can take the form: the word `the`.

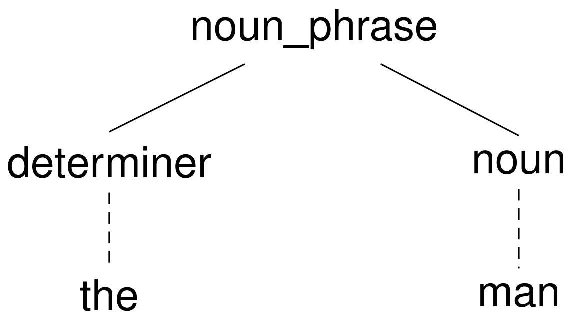
Parsing

```
sentence --> noun_phrase, verb_phrase
```



Parsing

```
noun_phrase --> determiner, noun
```



How To

Problem: How to test whether a sequence is an acceptable sentence?

Solution: Apply the first rule to ask:

Does the sequence decompose into two phrases: acceptable `noun_phrase` and acceptable `verb_phrase`?

How To

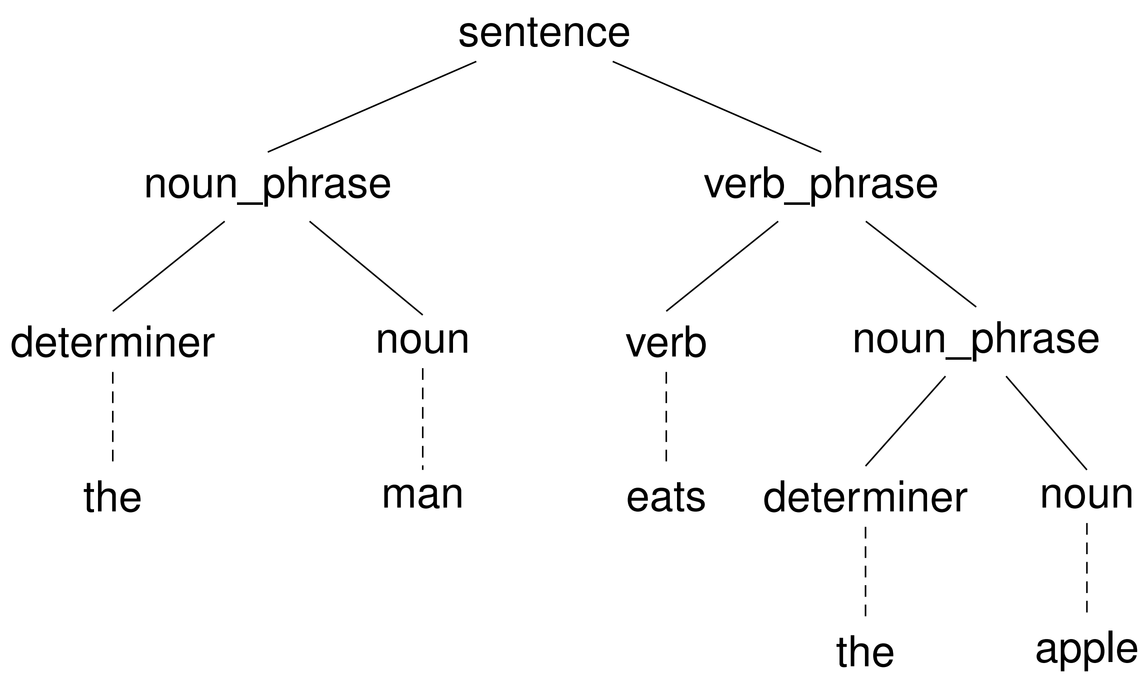
Problem: How to test whether the first phrase is an acceptable `noun_phrase`?

Solution: Apply the second rule to ask:

Does it decompose into a `determiner` followed by a `noun`?

And so on.

Parse Tree



Parsing Problem

Given:	A grammar and a sentence.
Construct:	A parse tree for the sentence.

Prolog Parse

Problem:	Parse a sequence of words.
Output:	*True*, if this sequence is a valid sentence. *False*, otherwise.

Example (Representation)

Words as PROLOG atoms and sequences of words as lists:

```
[the,man,eats,the,apple]
```

Sentence

Introducing predicates:

`sentence(X)`	:	X is a sequence of words forming a grammatical sentence.
`noun_phrase(X)`	:	X is a noun phrase.
`verb_phrase(X)`	:	X is a verb phrase.

Program

```
sentence(X) :-
    append(Y, Z, X),
    noun_phrase(Y),
    verb_phrase(Z).

verb_phrase(X) :-
    append(Y, Z, X),
    verb(Y),
    noun_phrase(Z).

verb_phrase(X) :-
    verb(X).
```

```
noun_phrase(X) :-
    append(Y, Z, X),
    determiner(Y),
    noun(Z).

determiner([the]).

noun([apple]).
noun([man]).

verb([eats]).
verb([sings]).
```

Inefficient

- A lot of extra work.
- Unnecessary Searching.
- Generate and Test:
  - **Generate** a sequence.
  - **Test** to see if it matches.
- Simplest Formulation of the search but inefficient

Inefficiency

The program accepts the sentence "the man eats the apple":

```
?-sentence([the,man,eats,the,apple]).
```

```
yes
```

The goal
`?-append(Y,Z,[the,man,eats,the,apple])`
on backtracking can generate all possible pairs:

```
Y=[], Z=[the,man,eats,the,apple]
Y=[the], Z=[man,eats,the,apple]
Y=[the,man], Z=[eats,the,apple]
Y=[the,man,eats], Z=[the,apple]
Y=[the,man,eats,the], Z=[apple]
Y=[the,man,eats,the,apple], Z=[]
```

Redefinition

`noun_phrase(X,Y)`	:	there is a noun phrase at the beginning of the sequence X and the part that is left after the noun phrase is Y.

The goal

```
?-noun_phrase([the,man,saw,the,cat],
              [saw,the,cat]).
```

should succeed.

```
noun_phrase(X,Y):- determiner(X,Z),noun(Z,Y).
```


Improved Program

```
sentence(S0, S) :-
    noun_phrase(S0, S1),
    verb_phrase(S1, S).

verb_phrase(S0, S) :-
    verb(S0, S).

verb_phrase(S0, S) :-
    verb(S0, S1),
    noun_phrase(S1, S)
```

```
noun_phrase(S0, S) :-
    determiner(S0, S1),
    noun(S1, S).

determiner([the|S], S).

noun([man|S], S).
noun([apple|S], S).

verb([eats|S], S).
verb([sings|S], S).
```

Goal

`sentence(S0,S)`	:	There is a sentence at the beginning of `S0` and what remains from the sentence in `S0` is `S`.

We want whole `S0` to be a sentence, i.e., `S` should be empty.

```
?-sentence([the,man,eats,the,apple], []).
```

Do you remember difference lists?

Pros and Cons

Advantage: More efficient.

Disadvantage: More cumbersome.

Improvement idea: Keep the easy grammar rule notation for the user,
Automatically translate into the PROLOG code for computation.

Defining Grammars

PROLOG provides an automatic translation facility for grammars.

Principles of translation:

- Every name of a kind of phrase must be translated into a binary predicate.
- First argument of the predicate—the sequence provided.
- Second argument—the sequence left behind.
- Grammar rules mentioning phrases coming one after another must be translated so that
  - the phrase left behind by one phrase forms the input of the next, and
  - the amount of words consumed by whole phrase is the same as the total consumed by subphrases.

Defining Grammars

The rule `sentence --> noun_phrase, verb_phrase` translates to:

```
sentence(S0, S) :-
    noun_phrase(S0, S1),
    verb_phrase(S1, S).
```

The rule `determiner --> [the]` translates to

```
determiner([the|S],S).
```

Defining Grammars

Now, the user can input the grammar rules only:

```
sentence      -->  noun_phrase, verb_phrase.
verb_phrase   -->  verb.
verb_phrase   -->  verb, noun_phrase.
noun_phrase   -->  determiner, noun.
determiner    -->  [the].
noun          -->  [man].
noun          -->  [apple].
verb          -->  [eats].
verb          -->  [sings].
```


Defining Grammars

It will be automatically translated into:

```
sentence(S0, S) :-
    noun_phrase(S0, S1),
    verb_phrase(S1, S).

verb_phrase(S0, S) :-
    verb(S0, S).

verb_phrase(S0, S) :-
    verb(S0, S1),
    noun_phrase(S1, S)
```

```
noun_phrase(S0, S) :-
    determiner(S0, S1),
    noun(S1, S).

determiner([the|S], S).

noun([man|S], S).
noun([apple|S], S).

verb([eats|S], S).
verb([sings|S], S).
```

Goals

```
?-sentence([the,man,eats,the,apple],[]).
yes
```

```
?-sentence([the,man,eats,the,apple],X).
X=[]
```

SWI-Prolog provides an alternative (for the first goal only):

```
?-phrase(sentence,[the,man,eats,the,apple]).
yes
```


Phrase Predicate

Definition of `phrase` is easy

```
phrase(Predicate, Argument) :-
    Goal=..[Predicate,Argument,[]],
    call(Goal).
```

`=..` (read “equiv") – built-in predicate

=..

```
?- p(a,b,c)=..X.
X = [p, a, b, c]

?- X=..p(a,b,c).
ERROR: =../2: Type error: ‘list’ expected,
found ‘p(a, b,c)’

?- X=..[p,a,b,c].
X=p(a,b,c).

?- X=..[].
ERROR: =../2: Domain error: ‘not_empty_list’
expected, found ‘[]’

?- X=..[1,a].
ERROR: =../2: Type error: ‘atom’ expected,
found ‘1’
```


Is Not it Enough?

No, we want more.

Distinguish singular and plural sentences.

Ungrammatical:

- The boys eats the apple
- The boy eat the apple

Straightforward Way

Add more grammar rules:

```
sentence               -->  singular_sentence.
sentence               -->  plural_sentence.
noun_phrase            -->  singular_noun_phrase.
noun_phrase            -->  plural_noun_phrase.
singular_sentence      -->  singular_noun_phrase,
                            singular_verb_phrase.
singular_noun_phrase   -->  singular_determiner,
                            singular_noun.
```


Straightforward Way

```
singular_verb_phrase   -->  singular_verb,
                            noun_phrase.
singular_verb_phrase   -->  singular_verb.
singular_determiner    -->  [the].
singular_noun          -->  [man].
singular_noun          -->  [apple].
singular_verb          -->  [eats].
singular_verb          -->  [sings].
```

And similar for plural phrases.

Disadvantages

- Not elegant.
- Obscures the fact that singular and plural sentences have a lot of structure in common.

Better solution

- Associate an extra argument to phrase types according to whether it is singular or plural:

```
sentence(singular)
sentence(plural)
```

Grammar Rules with Extra Arguments

```
sentence          -->  sentence(X).
sentence(X)       -->  noun_phrase(X),
                       verb_phrase(X).
noun_phrase(X)    -->  determiner(X),
                       noun(X).
verb_phrase(X)    -->  verb(X),
                       noun_phrase(Y).
verb_phrase(X)    -->  verb(X).
```


Grammar Rules with Extra Arguments. Cont.

```
determiner(_)     -->  [the].
noun(singular)    -->  [man].
noun(singular)    -->  [apple].
noun(plural)      -->  [men].
noun(plural)      -->  [apples].
verb(singular)    -->  [eats].
verb(singular)    -->  [sings].
verb(plural)      -->  [eat].
verb(plural)      -->  [sing].
```

Parse Tree

```
The man eats the apple
```

should generate

```
sentence(
    noun_phrase(
        determiner(the),
        noun(man)),
    verb_phrase(
        verb(eats),
        noun_phrase(
            determiner(the),
            noun(apple)),
        )
    )
```


Building Parse Trees

- We might want grammar rules to make a parse tree as well.
- Rules need one more argument.
- The argument should say how the parse tree for the whole phrase can be constructed from the parse trees of its sub-phrases.

Example:

```
sentence(X, sentence(NP,VP)) -->
     noun_phrase(X,NP), verb_phrase(X,VP).
```

Translation

```
sentence(X, sentence(NP,VP)) -->
    noun_phrase(X, NP),
    verb_phrase(X,VP).
```

translates to

```
sentence(X, sentence(NP,VP), S0, S) :-
    noun_phrase(X, NP, S0, S1),
    verb_phrase(X, VP, S1, S).
```


Grammar Rules for Parse Trees

Number agreement arguments are left out for simplicity.

```
sentence(sentence(NP,VP)) -->
    noun_phrase(NP),
    verb_phrase(VP).
verb_phrase(verb_phrase(V)) -->
    verb(V).
verb_phrase(verb_phrase(VP,NP)) -->
    verb(VP),
    noun_phrase(NP).
noun_phrase(noun_phrase(DT,N)) -->
    determiner(DT),
    noun(N).
```

Grammar Rules for Parse Trees. Cont.

```
determiner(determiner(the)) --> [the].
noun(noun(man)) --> [man].
noun(noun(apple)) --> [apple].
verb(verb(eats)) --> [eats].
verb(verb(sings)) --> [sings].
```


Translation into Prolog Clauses

- Translation of grammar rules with extra arguments—a simple extension of translation of rules without arguments.
- Create a predicate with two more arguments than are mentioned in the grammar rules.
- By convention, the extra arguments are as the last arguments of the predicate.

```
sentence(X) --> noun_phrase(X), verb_phrase(X).
```

translates to

```
sentence(X, S0, S) :-
    noun_phrase(X, S0, S1),
    verb_phrase(X, S1, S).
```

Adding Extra Tests

- So far everything in the grammar rules were used in processing the input sequence.
- Every goal in the translated Prolog clauses has been involved with consuming some amount of input.
- Sometimes we may want to specify Prolog clauses that are not of this type.
- Grammar rule formalism allows this.
- Convention: Any goals enclosed in curly brackets {} are left unchanged by the translator.

Overhead in Introducing New Word

- To add a new word `banana`, add at least one extra rule:
  `noun(singular, noun(banana)) --> [banana].`
- Translated into Prolog:
  `noun(singular, noun(banana), [banana|S],S).`
- Too much information to specify for one noun.

Mixing Grammar with Prolog

Put common information about all words in one place, and information about particular words in somewhere else:

```
noun(S, noun(N)) --> [N],{is_noun(N, S)}.
is_noun(banana, singular).
is_noun(banana, plural).
is_noun(man, singular).
```


Mixing Grammar with Prolog

```
noun(S, noun(N)) --> [N], {is_noun(N, S)}.
```

- `{is_noun(N,S)}` is a test (condition).
- `N` must be in the `is_noun` collection with some plurality `S`.
- Curly brackets indicate that it expresses a relation that has nothing to do with the input sequence.
- Translation does not affect expressions in the curly brackets:

```
noun(S, noun(N), [N|Seq], Seq) :-
    is_noun(N, S).
```

Mixing Grammar with Prolog

- Another inconvenience:

```
is_noun(banana,singular).
is_noun(banana,plural).
```

- Two clauses for each noun.
- Can be avoided in most of the cases by adding `s` for plural at the end of singular.

Mixing Grammar with Prolog

Amended rule:

```
noun(plural, noun(N)) -->
    [N],
    {   atom_chars(N, Pl_name),
        append(Sing_name,[s], Pl_name),
        atom_chars(Root_N, Sing_name),
        is_noun(Root_N, singular))
    }.
```

Further Extension

- So far the rules defined things in terms how the input sequence is consumed.
- We might like to define things that insert items into the input sequence (for the other rules to find).
- Example: Analyze
  "Eat your supper"
  as if there were an extra word "you" inserted:
  "You eat your supper"
  which would conform to our existing ides about the structure of sentences.

Rule for the Extension

```
sentence --> imperative, noun_phrase, verb_phrase.

imperative, [you] -->  [].
imperative  -->  [].
```

The first rule of `imperative` translate to:

```
imperative(L, [you|L]).
```

That means, the returned sequence is longer than the one originally provided.

Meaning of the Extension

- If
  the left hand side of a grammar rule consists of a part of the input sequence separated from a list of words by comma
- Then
  in the parsing, the words are inserted into the input sequence after the goals on the right-hand side have had their chances to consume words from it.