

Lecture 15: Context-Free Grammars and the CKY algorithm

Intro to NLP, CS585, Fall 2014
<http://people.cs.umass.edu/~brenocon/inlp2014/>
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*Includes material borrowed from
Andrew McCallum, Noah Smith,
Dan Klein, Chris Manning,
Jurafsky&Martin*

Fill in the CYK dynamic programming table to parse the sentence below. In the bottom right corner, draw the two parse trees.

she eats fish with chopsticks

	1	2	3	4	5
0	NP				
1					
2					
3					
4					

- S → NP VP
- NP → NP PP
- VP → V NP
- VP → VP PP
- PP → P NP
- NP → she
- NP → fish
- NP → fork
- NP → chopsticks
- V → eats
- V → fish
- P → with

Parsing: applications

- Language modeling
 - John, who eats cookies, {love, loves} ...
- Machine translation
- Information extraction
- Grammar checking (MS Word!)
- Question answering
- NL interfaces to databases
- Sentiment analysis
- ...



Constituency (phrase structure)

- Phrase structure organizes words into nested constituents.



Constituency (phrase structure)

- Phrase structure organizes words into nested constituents.
- How do we know what is a **constituent**? (Not that linguists don't argue about some cases.)
 - Distribution: a constituent behaves as a unit that can appear in different places:
 - John talked [to the children] [about drugs].
 - John talked [about drugs] [to the children].
 - *John talked drugs to the children about
 - Substitution/expansion/pro-forms:
 - I sat [on the box/right on top of the box/there].
 - Coordination, regular internal structure, no intrusion, fragments, semantics, ...

Ambiguity in parsing

- Syntactic ambiguity is widespread in language.
 - Attachment ambiguity
 - we ate sushi with chopsticks
 - I shot an elephant in my pajamas
 - Modifier scope
 - southern food store
 - etc.

Context-Free Grammars

- A generative formalism for constituency structures and text.
- Generative view: produces a constit. tree and words in sentence.
- Parsing view: given the words, what parse(s) could have generated it?
- Both boolean and probabilistic versions

Grammar (Production rules)

Lexicon

<i>S</i> → <i>NP VP</i>	<i>Det</i> → <i>that</i> <i>this</i> <i>a</i>
<i>S</i> → <i>Aux NP VP</i>	<i>Noun</i> → <i>book</i> <i>flight</i> <i>meal</i> <i>money</i>
<i>S</i> → <i>VP</i>	<i>Verb</i> → <i>book</i> <i>include</i> <i>prefer</i>
<i>NP</i> → <i>Pronoun</i>	<i>Pronoun</i> → <i>I</i> <i>she</i> <i>me</i>
<i>NP</i> → <i>Proper-Noun</i>	<i>Proper-Noun</i> → <i>Houston</i> <i>TWA</i>
<i>NP</i> → <i>Det Nominal</i>	<i>Aux</i> → <i>does</i>
<i>Nominal</i> → <i>Noun</i>	<i>Preposition</i> → <i>from</i> <i>to</i> <i>on</i> <i>near</i> <i>through</i>
<i>Nominal</i> → <i>Nominal Noun</i>	
<i>Nominal</i> → <i>Nominal PP</i>	
<i>VP</i> → <i>Verb</i>	
<i>VP</i> → <i>Verb NP</i>	
<i>VP</i> → <i>Verb NP PP</i>	
<i>VP</i> → <i>Verb PP</i>	
<i>VP</i> → <i>VP PP</i>	
<i>PP</i> → <i>Preposition NP</i>	

Figure 13.1 The \mathcal{L}_1 miniature English grammar and lexicon.

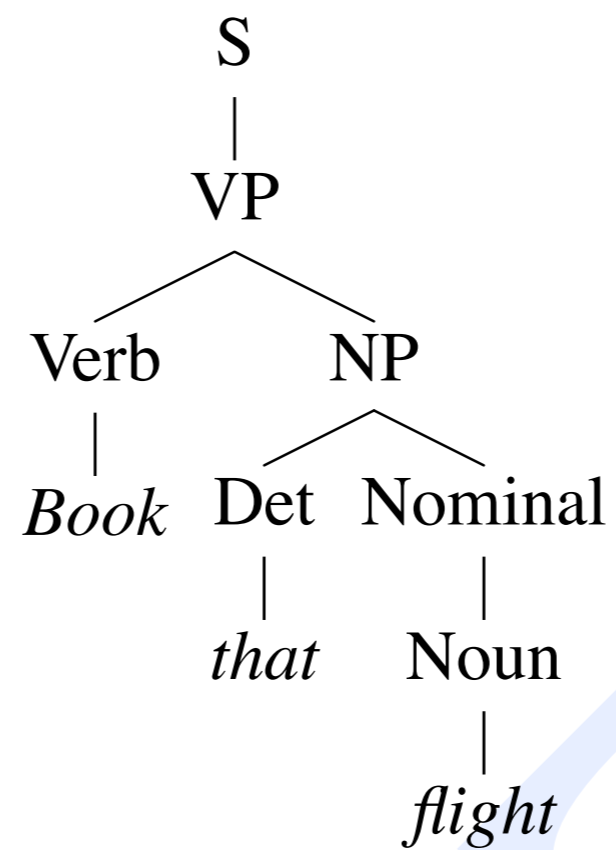


Figure 13.2 The parse tree for the sentence *Book that flight* according to grammar \mathcal{L}_1 .

Context-Free Grammars

- Unlike programming language grammars:
Massive ambiguity!
- Unlike finite state grammars:
Potentially infinite recursion

Computation/Statistics in NLP (in this course)

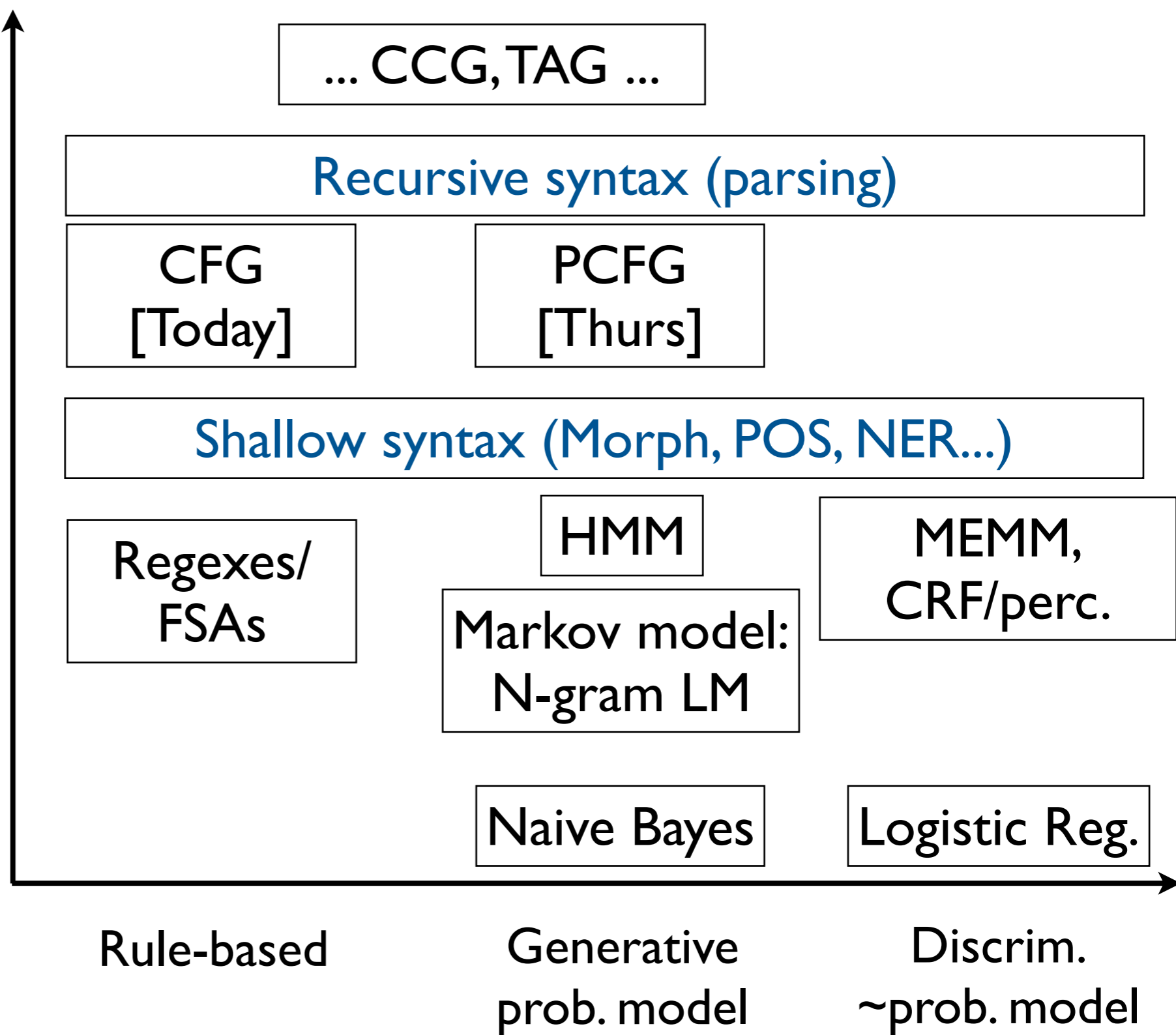
Chomsky Hierarchy

Mildly
Context-Sensitive

Context Free
Grammars

Finite State /
Regular Languages

Independent
Decisions



Approaches to CFG parsing

- Top-down and Bottom-up search
- Shift-reduce: left-to-right
- [Today]
Dynamic programming: CKY algorithm
Exact search!
- Probabilistic/weighted variants of each of these:
Find the best parse (e.g. most probable)

Binarized rules

Necessary for CKY algorithm

Can convert to equivalent binarized grammar

$$S \rightarrow NP VP$$

$$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow NP VP \\ S \rightarrow X1 VP \\ X1 \rightarrow Aux NP \end{array} \right.$$

CKY recognizer

- Fill in all length-1 spans with possible nonterminals.
- Go bottom-up: progressively fill each cell with possible states, based on possible combinations below.
- If the top cell [0,5] can expand from ROOT, then accept!
- To get one of possible parses: trace backpointers
- Dynamic programming: what's below the cell does not matter

0	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Book</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>flight</i>	<i>through</i>	<i>Houston</i>	
S, VP, Verb Nominal, Noun					
[0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	
	Det				
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	
		Nominal, Noun			
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]	
			Prep		
			[3,4]	[3,5]	
				NP, Proper- Noun	
				[4,5]	

(J&M has a slightly different cell ordering. Both OK.)

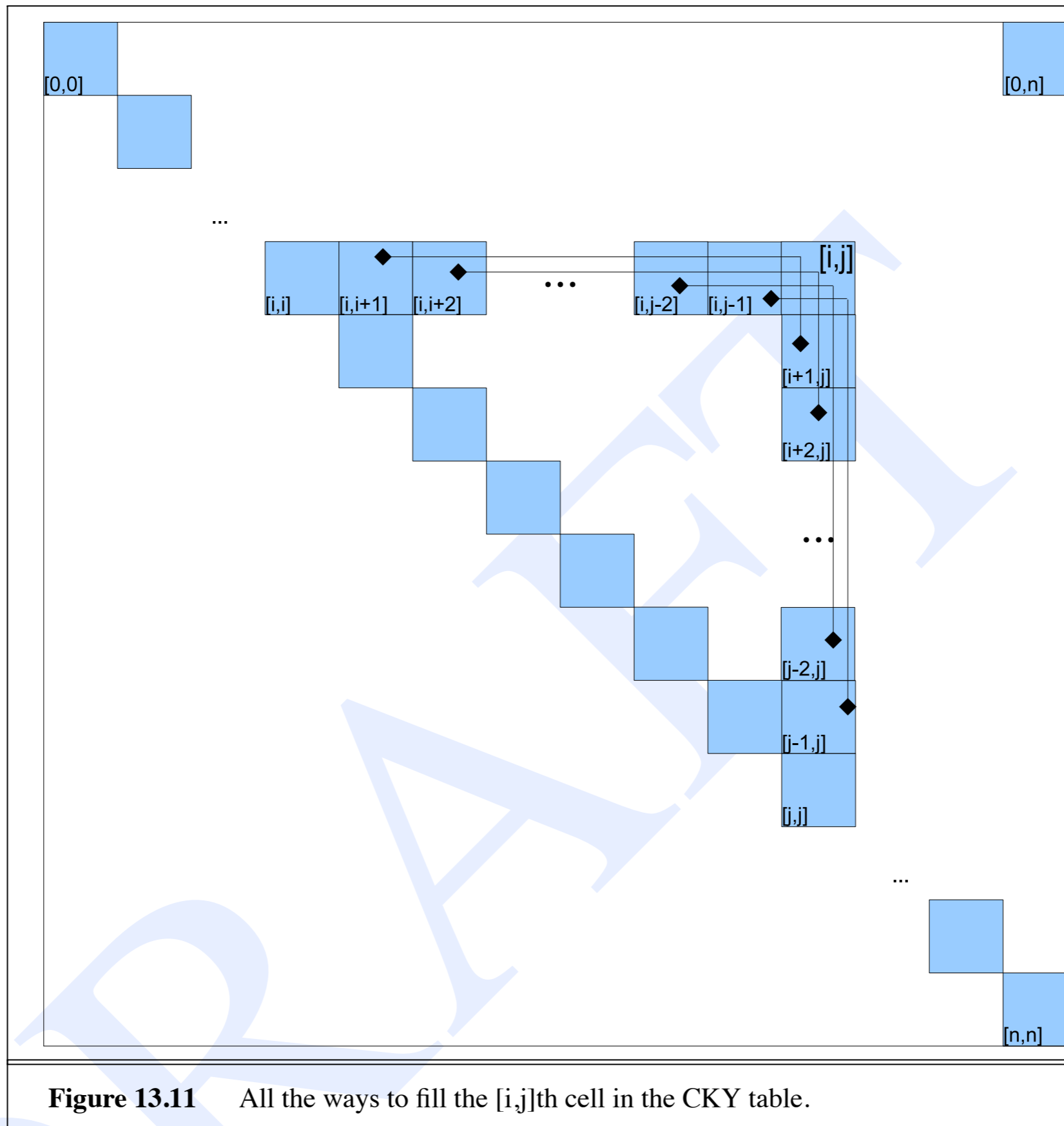


Figure 13.11 All the ways to fill the $[i,j]$ th cell in the CKY table.

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- $S \rightarrow VP$
- $NP \rightarrow Pronoun$
- $NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$
- $NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$
- $Nominal \rightarrow Noun$
- $Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$
- $Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$
- $VP \rightarrow Verb$
- $VP \rightarrow Verb NP$
- $VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$
- $VP \rightarrow Verb PP$
- $VP \rightarrow VP PP$
- $PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$

0	1	2	3	4	5
Book	the	flight	through	Houston	
S,VP,Verb Nominal, Noun					
[0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]	
	Det				
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	
		Nominal, Noun			
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For cell [i,j] (loop through them bottom-up)
 For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
 For every B in [i,k] and C in [k,j],
 If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
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	Det	NP			
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]	
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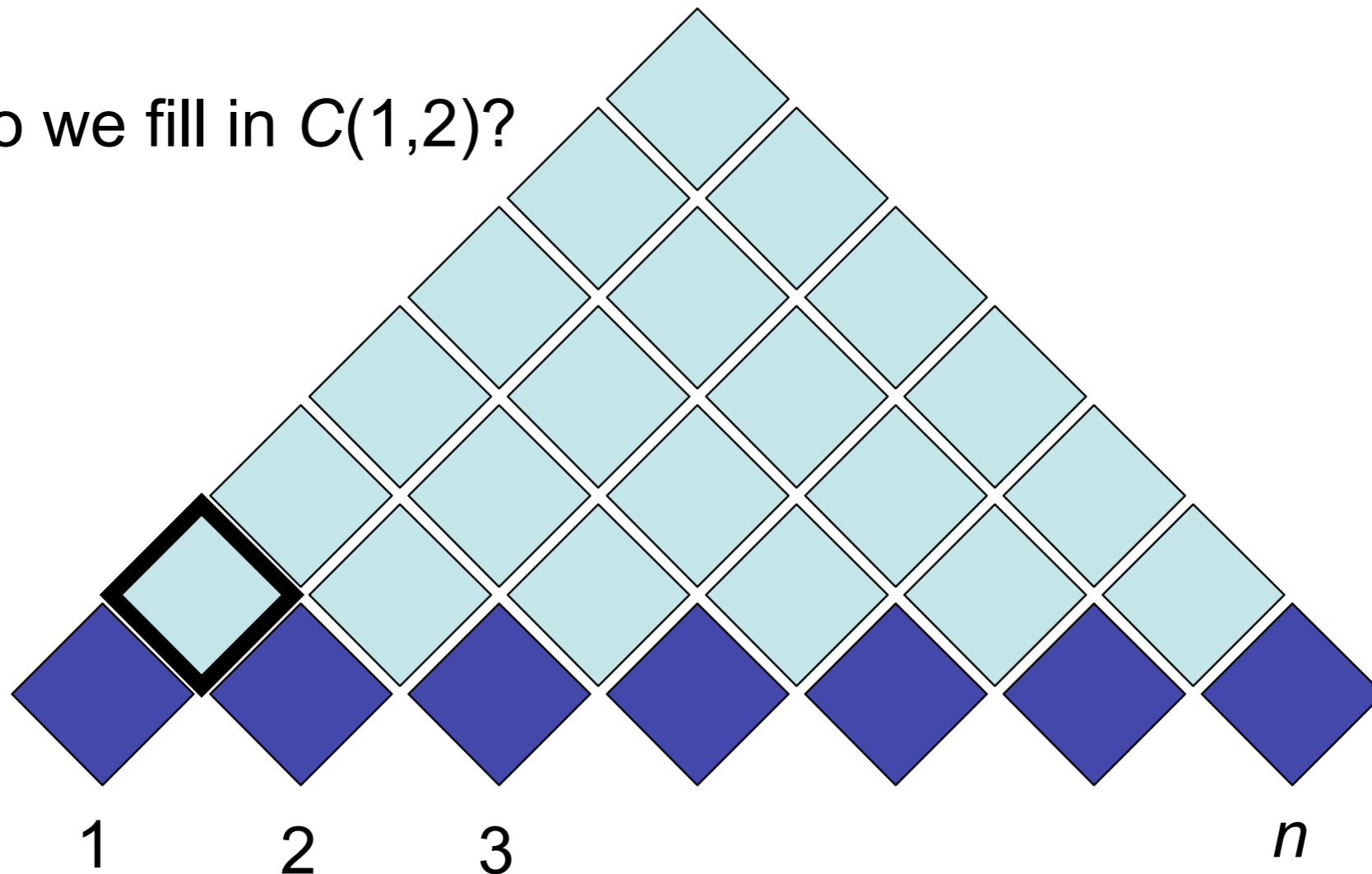
0	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Book</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>flight</i>	<i>through</i>	<i>Houston</i>	
S,VP,Verb Nominal, Noun [0,1]		S,VP,X2 [0,3]		S, VP [0,5]	
	Det [1,2]	NP [1,3]		NP [1,5]	
		Nominal, Noun [2,3]		Nominal [2,5]	
			Prep [3,4]	PP [3,5]	
				NP, Proper- Noun [4,5]	

For cell [i,j] (loop through them bottom-up)
 For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
 For every B in [i,k] and C in [k,j],
 If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell [i,j]

(J&M has a slightly different cell ordering. Both OK.)

For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

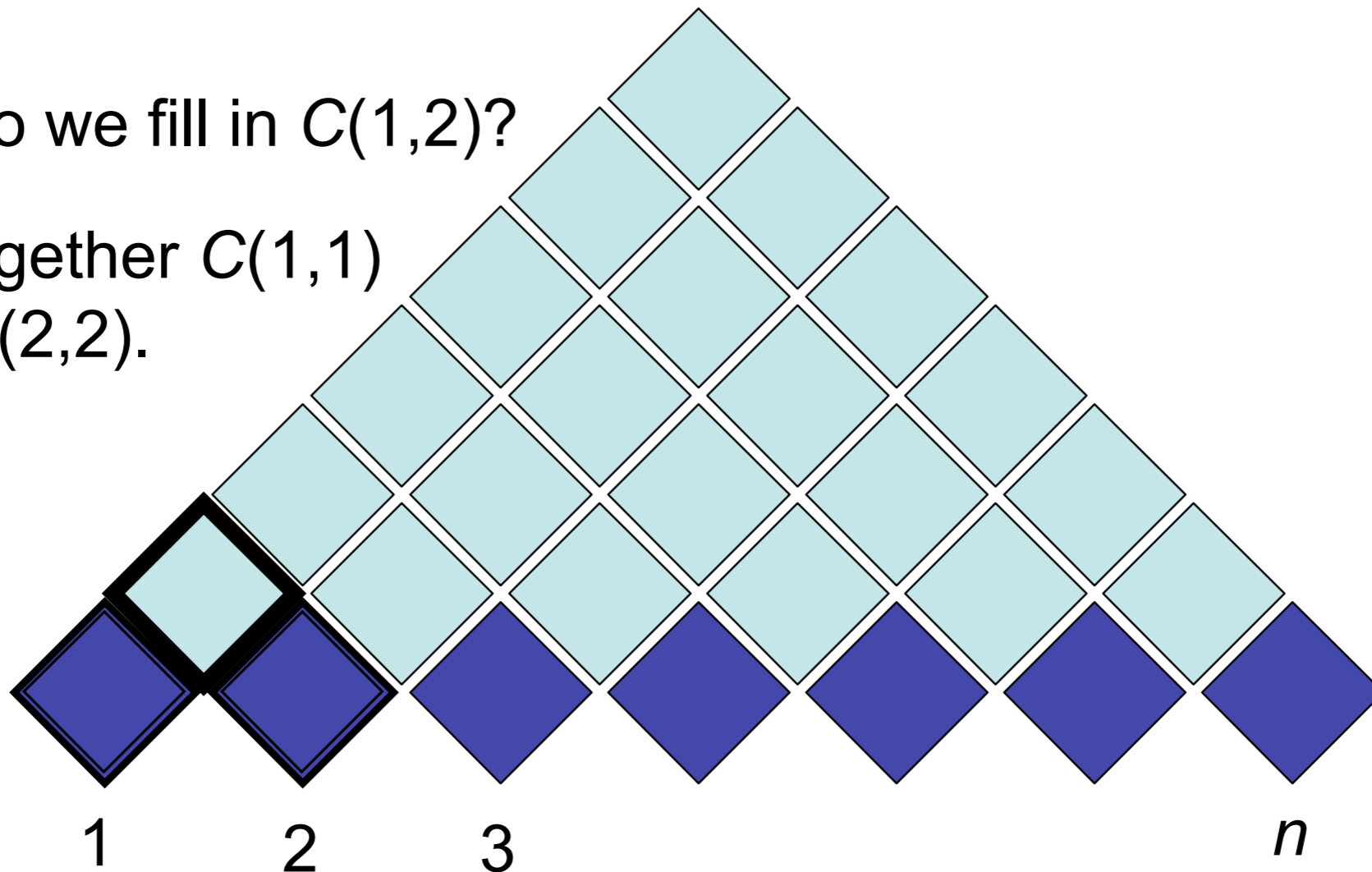
How do we fill in $C(1,2)$?



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

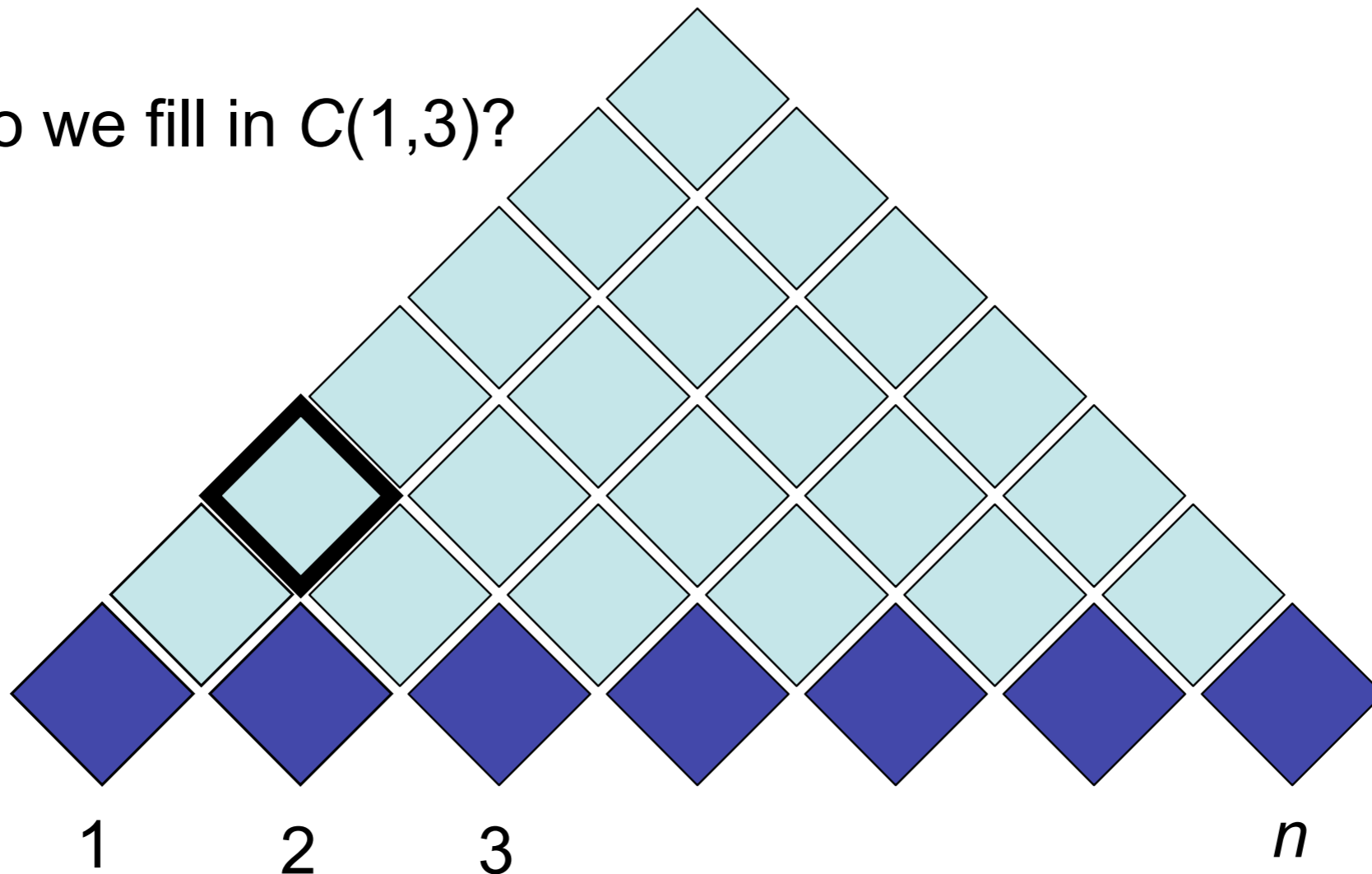
How do we fill in $C(1,2)$?

Put together $C(1,1)$
and $C(2,2)$.



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

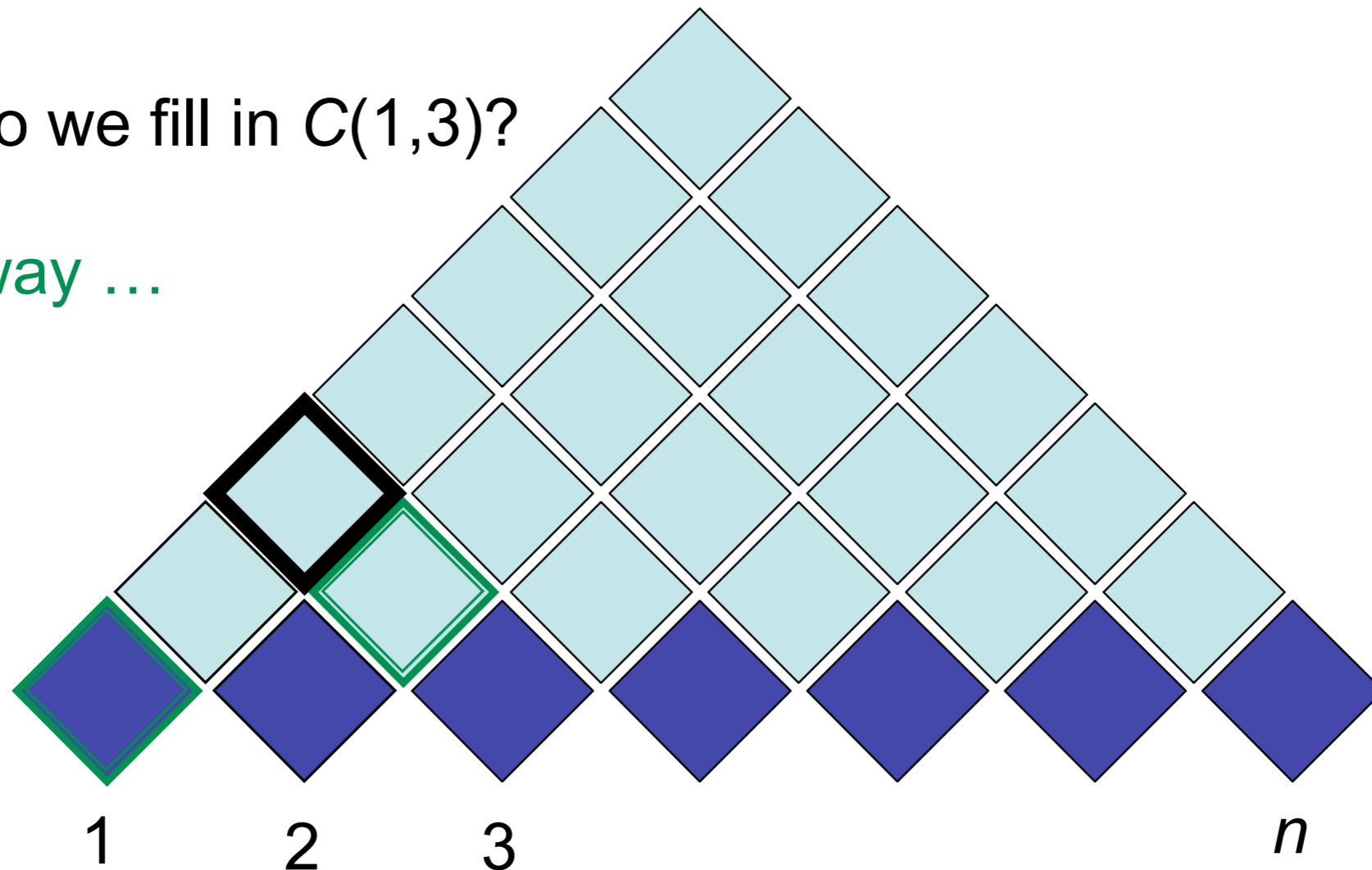
How do we fill in $C(1,3)$?



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

How do we fill in $C(1,3)$?

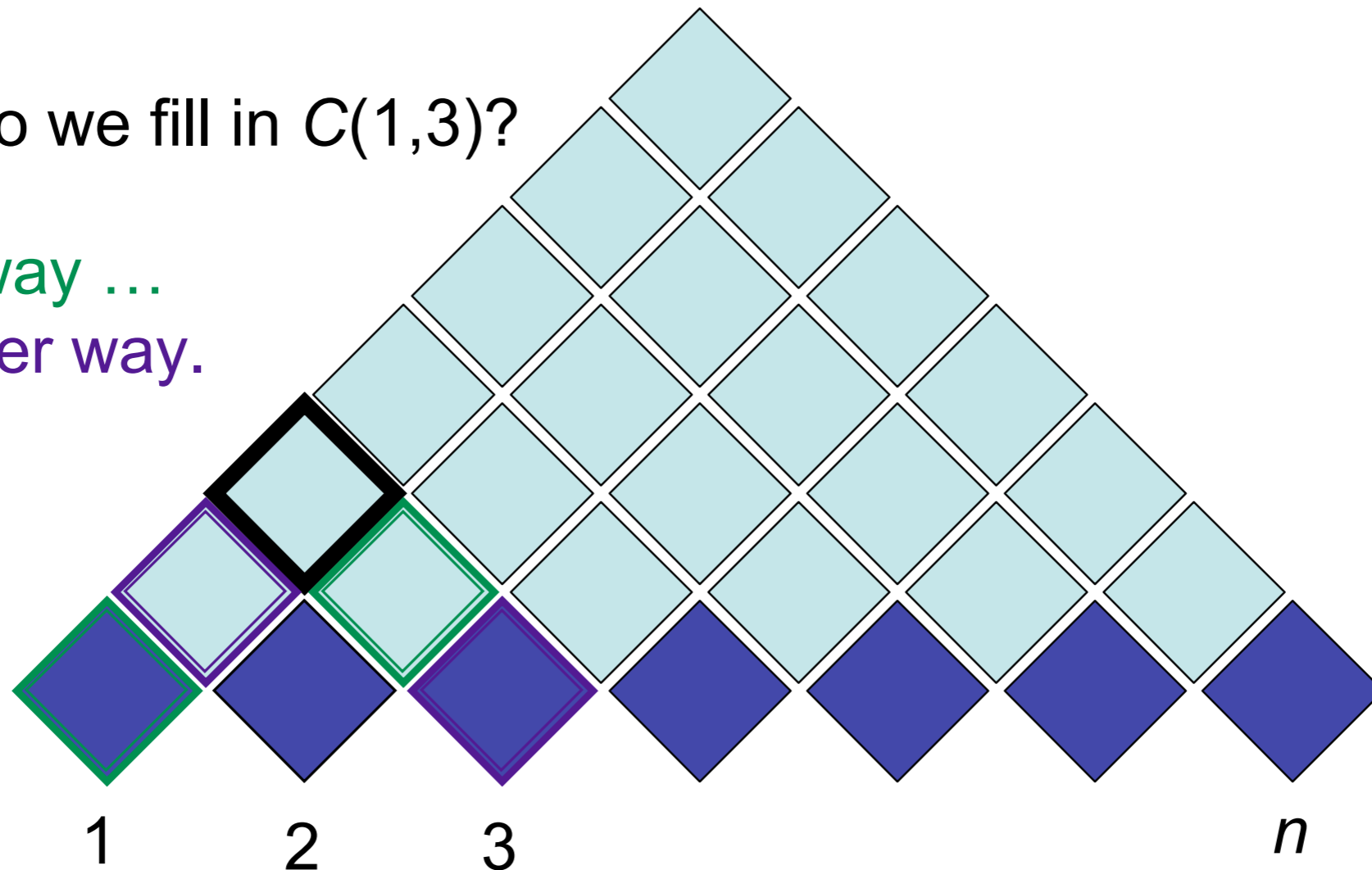
One way ...



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
 For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
 For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
 If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

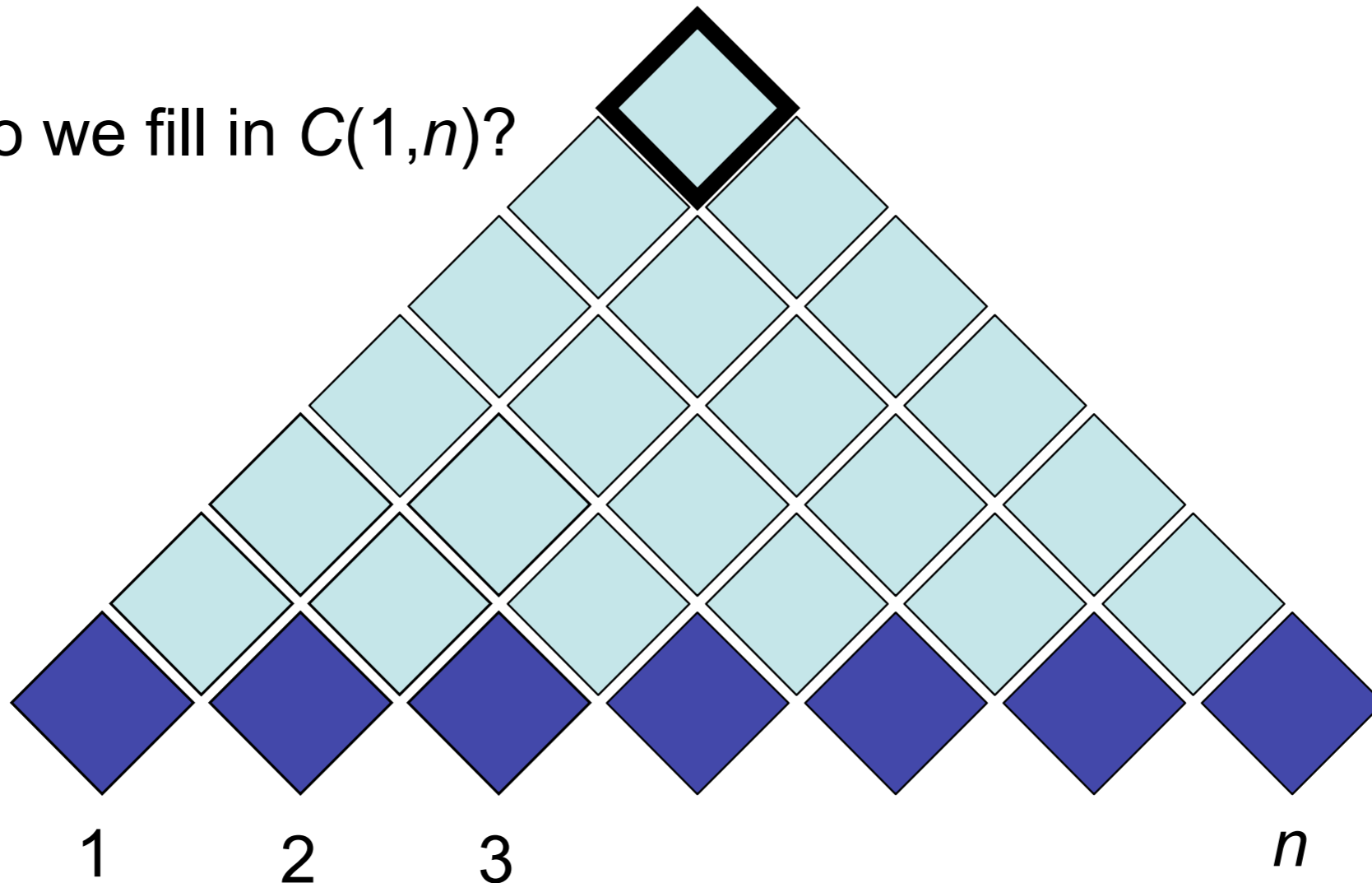
How do we fill in $C(1,3)$?

One way ...
 Another way.



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

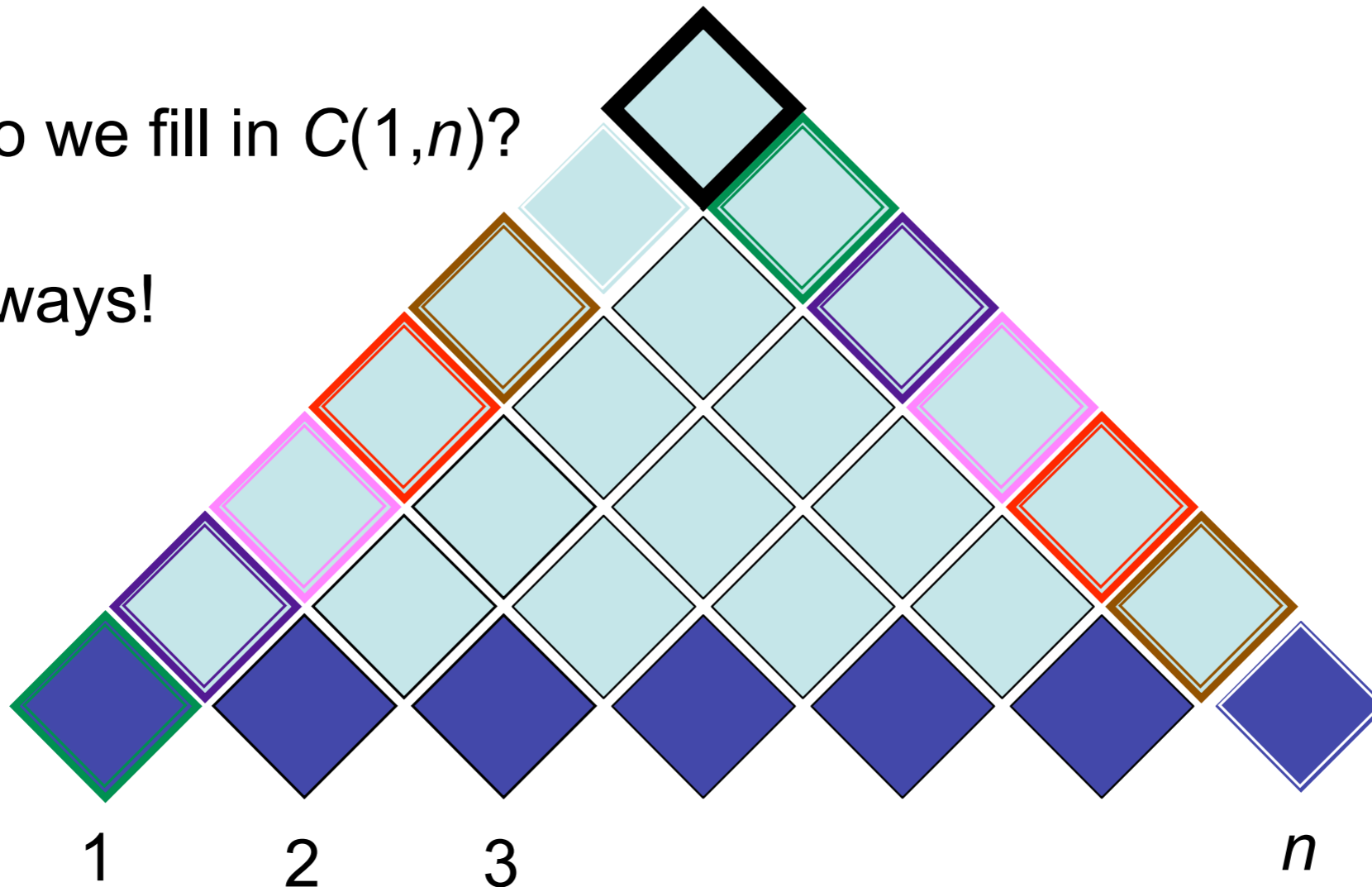
How do we fill in $C(1,n)$?



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)
For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:
For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,
add A to cell $[i,j]$

How do we fill in $C(1,n)$?

$n - 1$ ways!



For cell $[i,j]$ (loop through them bottom-up)

For possible splitpoint $k=(i+1)..(j-1)$:

For every B in $[i,k]$ and C in $[k,j]$,

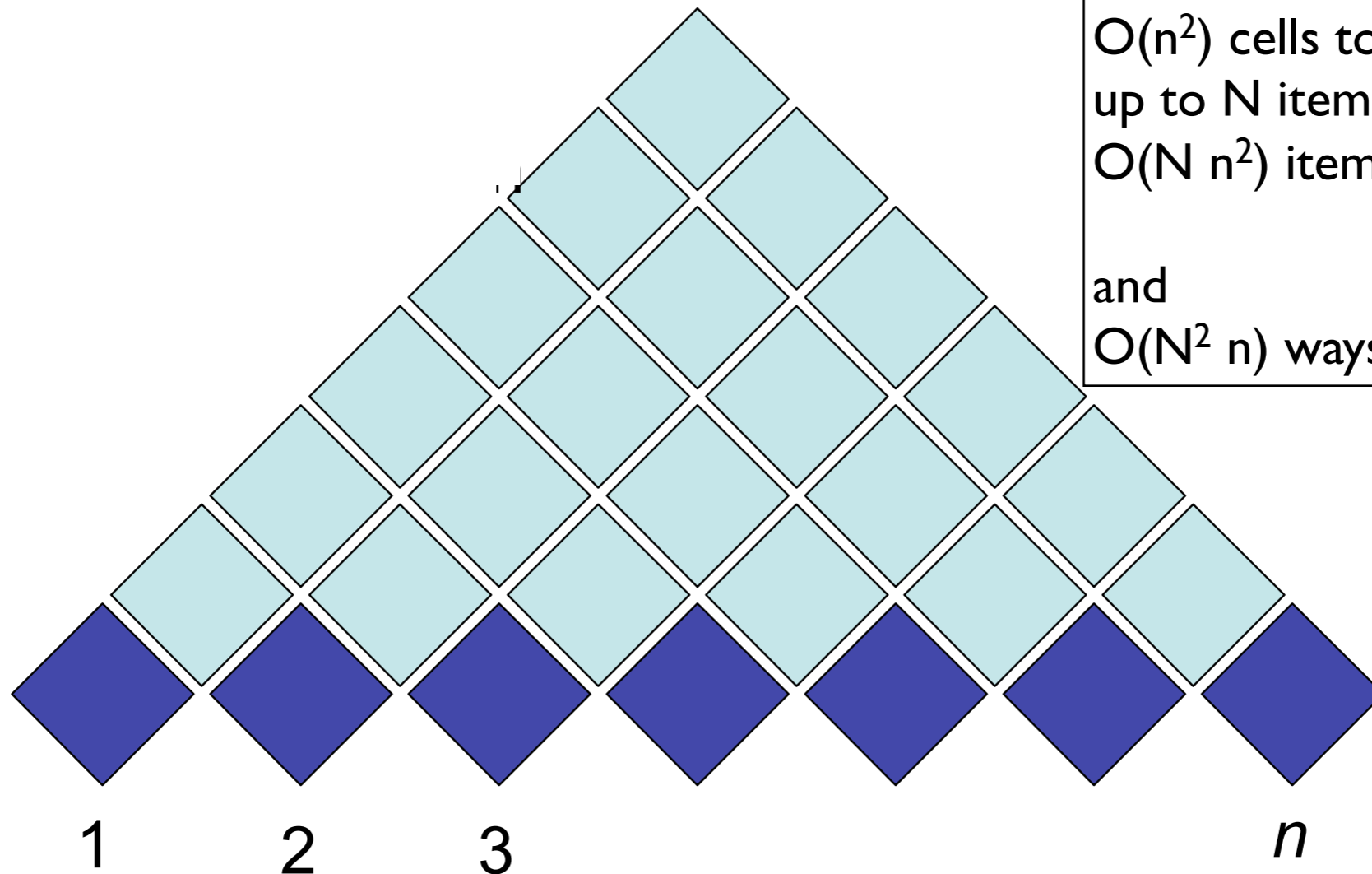
If exists rule $A \rightarrow B C$,

add A to cell $[i,j]$

Where N is the number of nonterminals in the grammar, and n is the length of the sentence

$O(n^2)$ cells to fill
up to N items per cell, thus
 $O(N n^2)$ items to create

and
 $O(N^2 n)$ ways to fill a cell



Example with cost weights per expansion (Weighted CKY, a.k.a. Viterbi parsing)

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3				
1		NP 4 VP 4			
2			P 2 V 5		
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

- NP → time
- Vst → time
- NP → flies
- VP → flies
- P → like
- V → like
- Det → an
- N → arrow

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3				
1		NP 4 VP 4			
2			P 2 V 5		
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10			
1		NP 4 VP 4			
2			P 2 V 5		
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8			
1		NP 4 VP 4			
2			P 2 V 5		
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13			
1		NP 4 VP 4			
2			P 2 V 5		
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13			
1		NP 4 VP 4	-		
2			P 2 V 5	-	
3				Det 1	
4					N 8

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- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
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- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13			
1		NP 4 VP 4	-		
2			P 2 V 5	-	
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 2 VP → VP PP
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- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13			
1		NP 4 VP 4	-		
2			P 2 V 5	-	
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-		
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-		
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-		
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	—	—	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24
1		NP 4 VP 4	—	—	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	—	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 2 VP → VP PP
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- 3 NP → NP NP
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time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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- 2 VP → VP PP
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- 2 NP → NP PP
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time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

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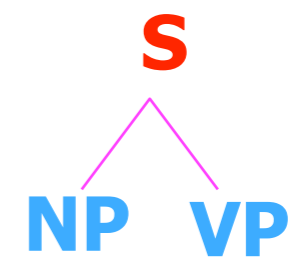
Follow backpointers ...

S

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	—	—	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	—	—	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	—	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
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- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
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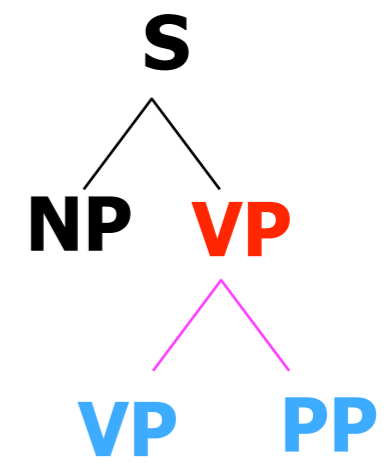
time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3	NP 10	—	—	NP 24
	Vst 3	S 8			S 22
		S 13			S 27
					NP 24
					S 27
1		NP 4	—	—	NP 18
		VP 4			S 21
2			P 2	—	PP 12
			V 5		VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8

- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

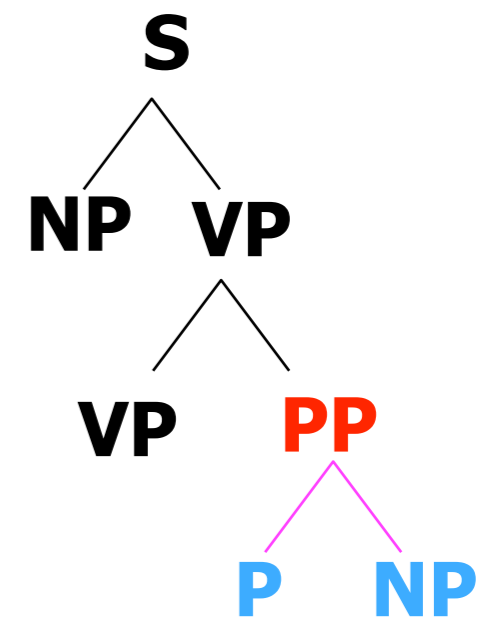
0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8



- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
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time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

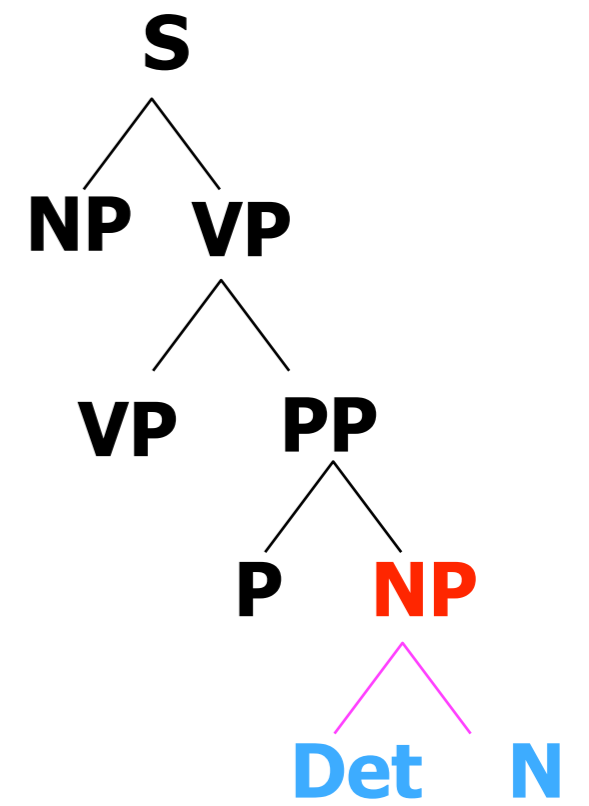
0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8



- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
- 2 S → S PP
- 1 VP → V NP
- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP

time 1 flies 2 like 3 an 4 arrow 5

0	NP 3 Vst 3	NP 10 S 8 S 13	-	-	NP 24 S 22 S 27 NP 24 S 27 S 22 S 27
1		NP 4 VP 4	-	-	NP 18 S 21 VP 18
2			P 2 V 5	-	PP 12 VP 16
3				Det 1	NP 10
4					N 8



- 1 S → NP VP
- 6 S → Vst NP
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- 2 VP → VP PP
- 1 NP → Det N
- 2 NP → NP PP
- 3 NP → NP NP
- 0 PP → P NP