

# Constituency Parsing (cont'd) + PCFGs (if time)

CS 485, Fall 2023

Applications of Natural Language Processing  
[https://people.cs.umass.edu/~brenocon/cs485\\_f23/](https://people.cs.umass.edu/~brenocon/cs485_f23/)

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Fill in the CYK dynamic programming table to parse the sentence below. In the bottom right corner, draw the two parse trees. Show the possible nonterminals in each cell. Optional: draw the backpointers too.

0	NP				
she	1				
	eats	2			
		fish	3		
			with	4	
				chopsticks	5

- 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

For cell  $[i,j]$

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

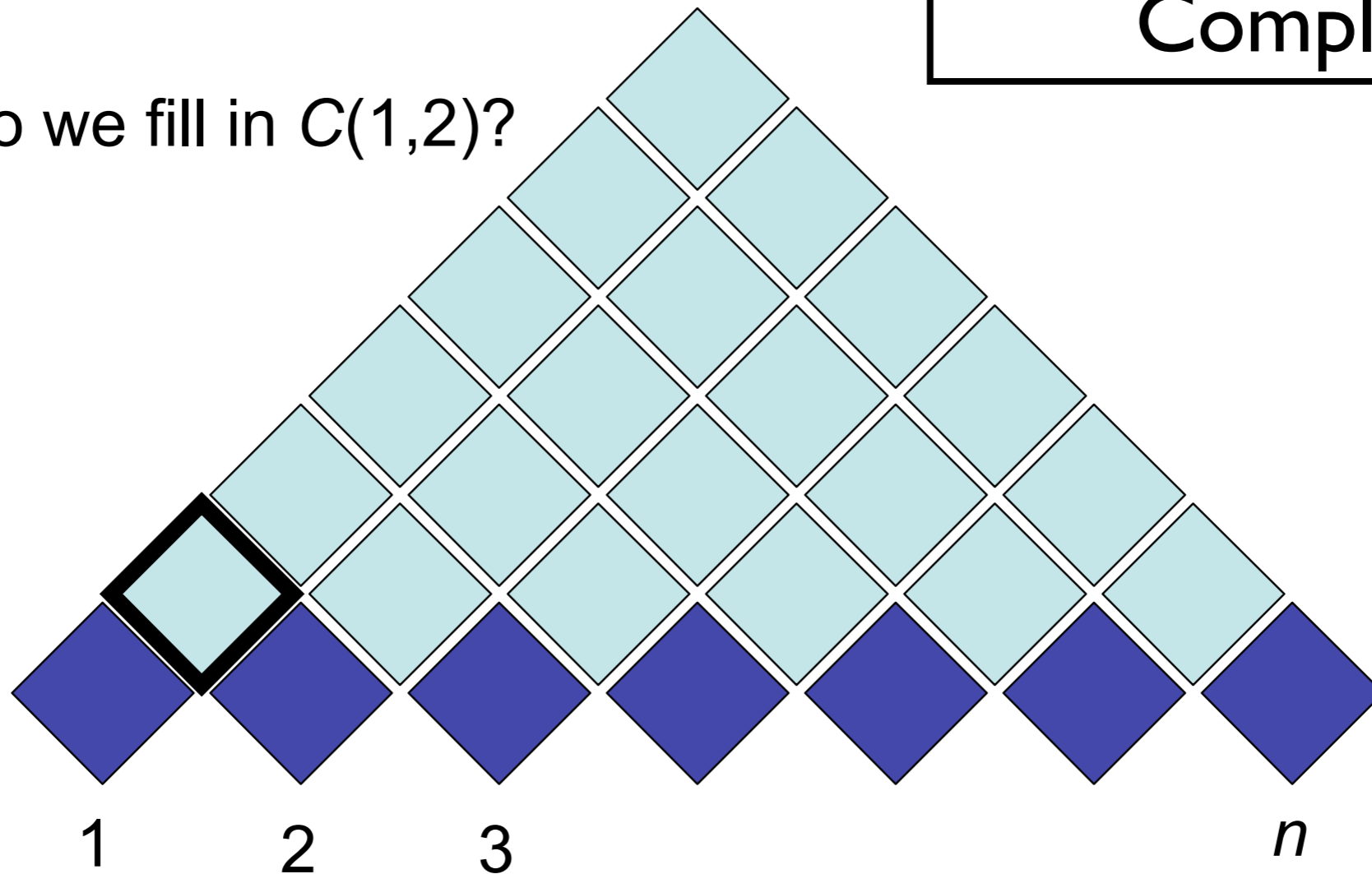
For every  $B$  in  $[i,k]$  and  $C$  in  $[k,j]$ ,

If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add  $A$  to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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



[Example from Noah Smith]

For cell  $[i,j]$

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

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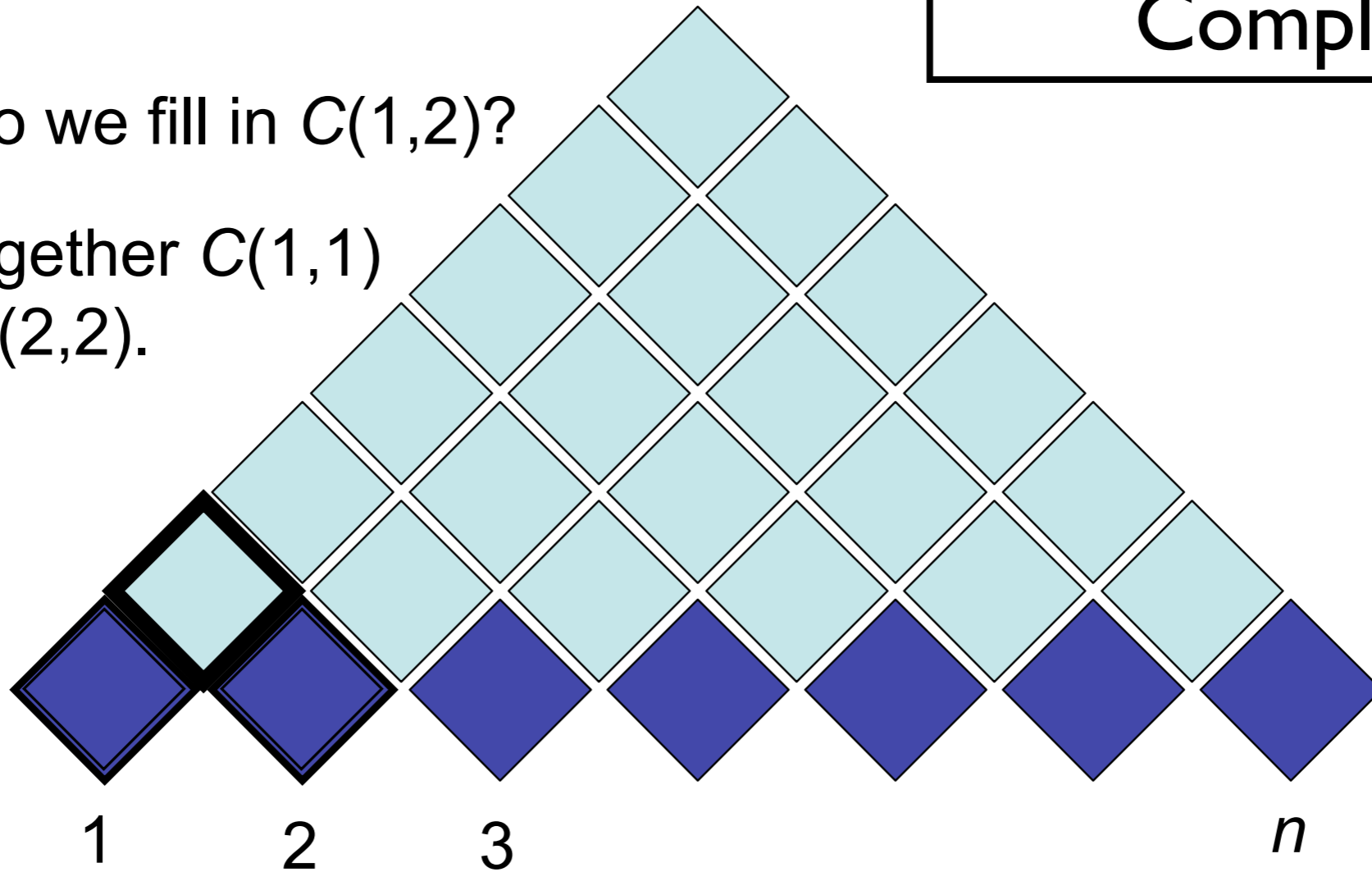
If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add A to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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

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



[Example from Noah Smith]

For cell  $[i,j]$

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

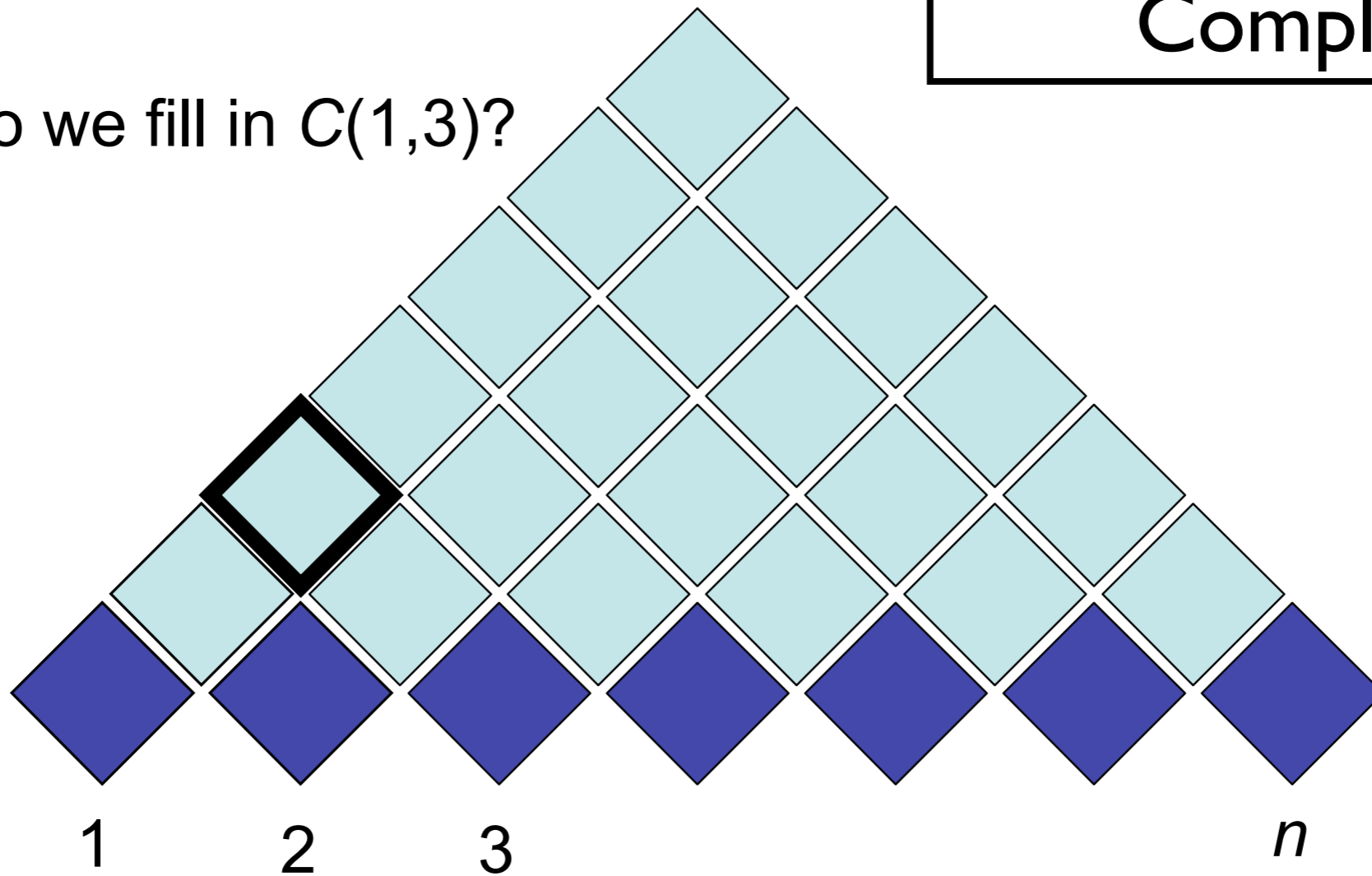
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If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add  $A$  to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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



[Example from Noah Smith]

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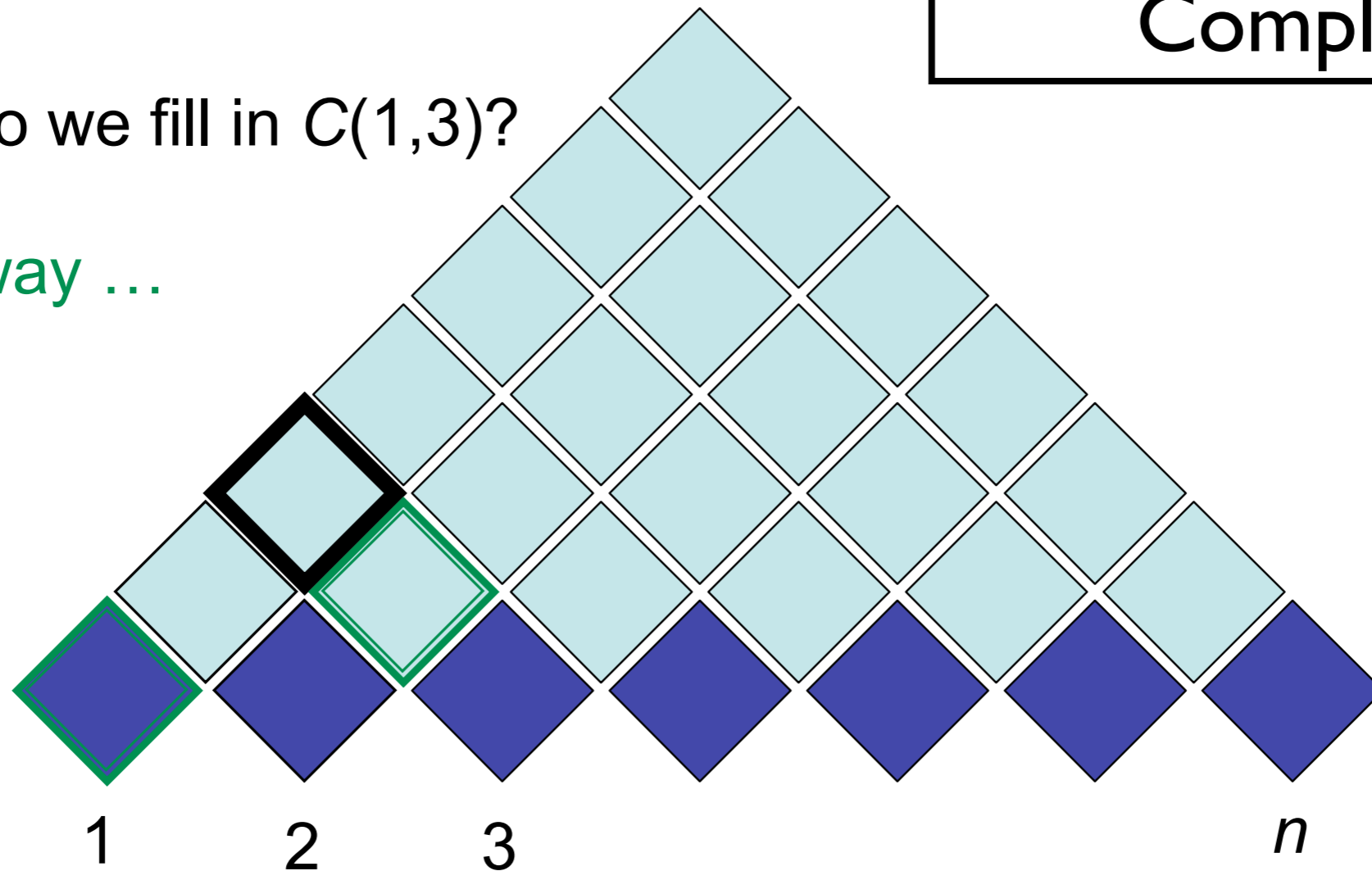
If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add  $A$  to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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

One way ...



[Example from Noah Smith]

For cell  $[i,j]$

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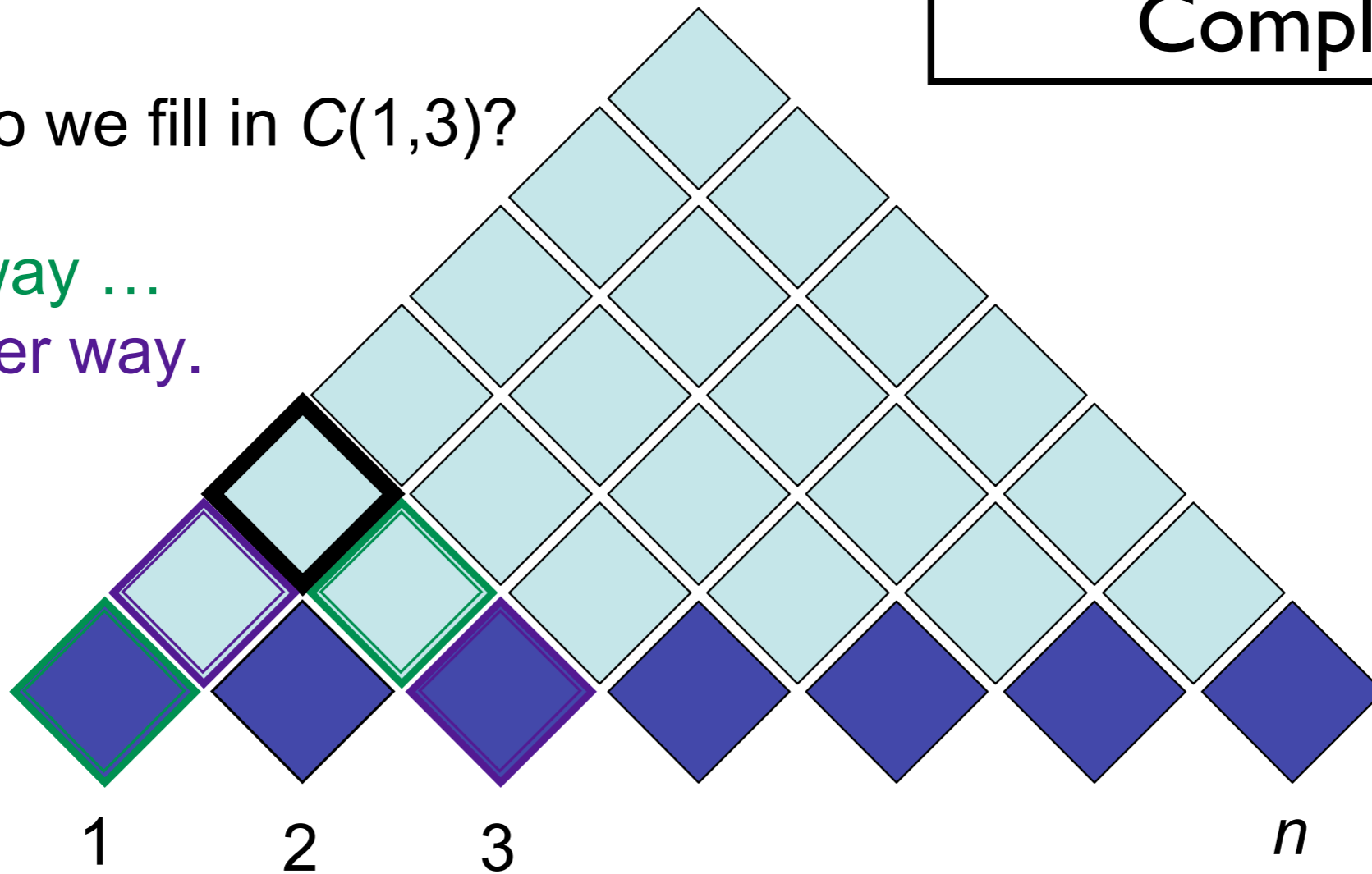
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Computational  
Complexity ?

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

One way ...

Another way.



[Example from Noah Smith]

For cell  $[i,j]$

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

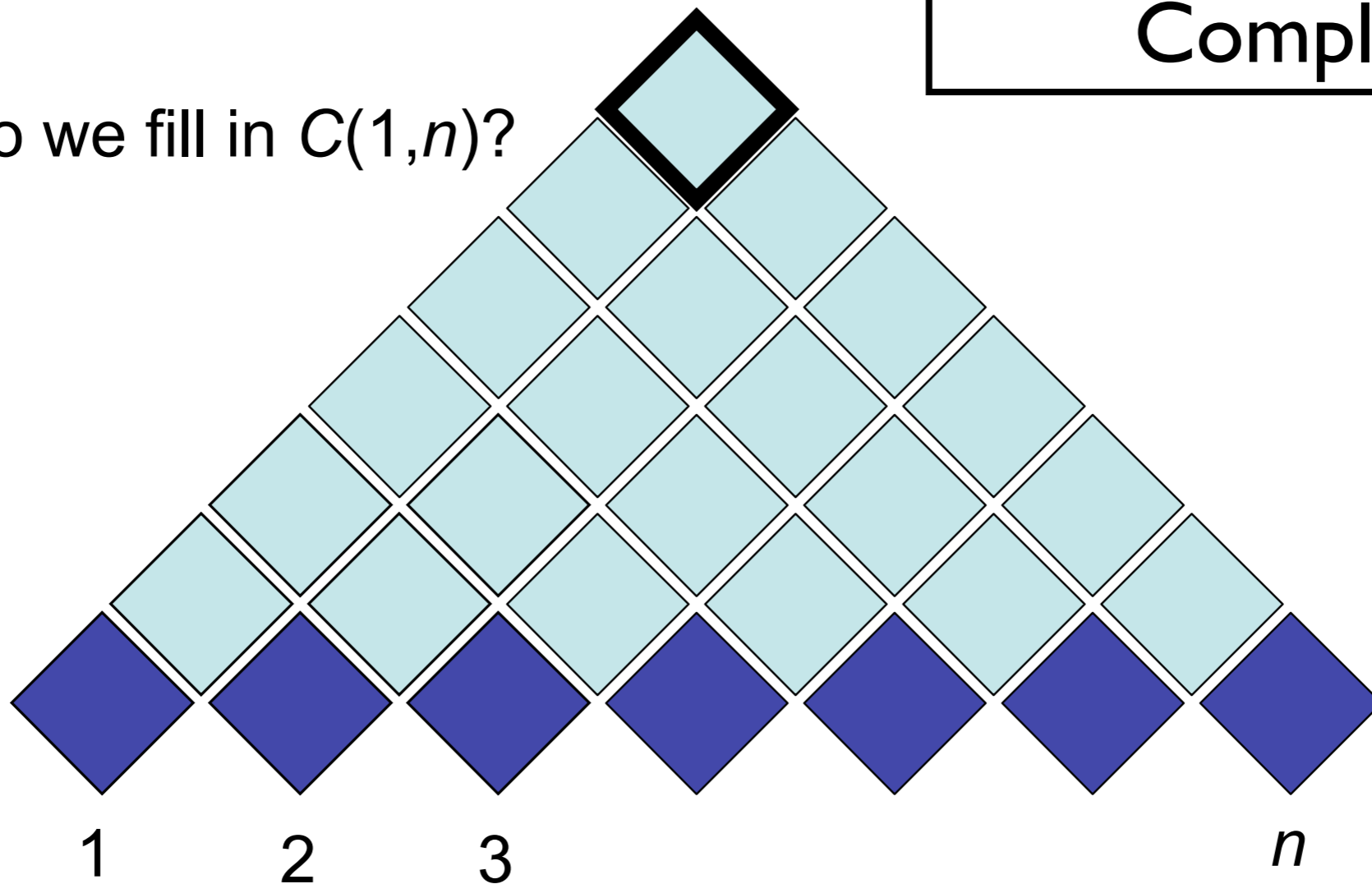
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If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add  $A$  to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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



[Example from Noah Smith]



For cell  $[i,j]$

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

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

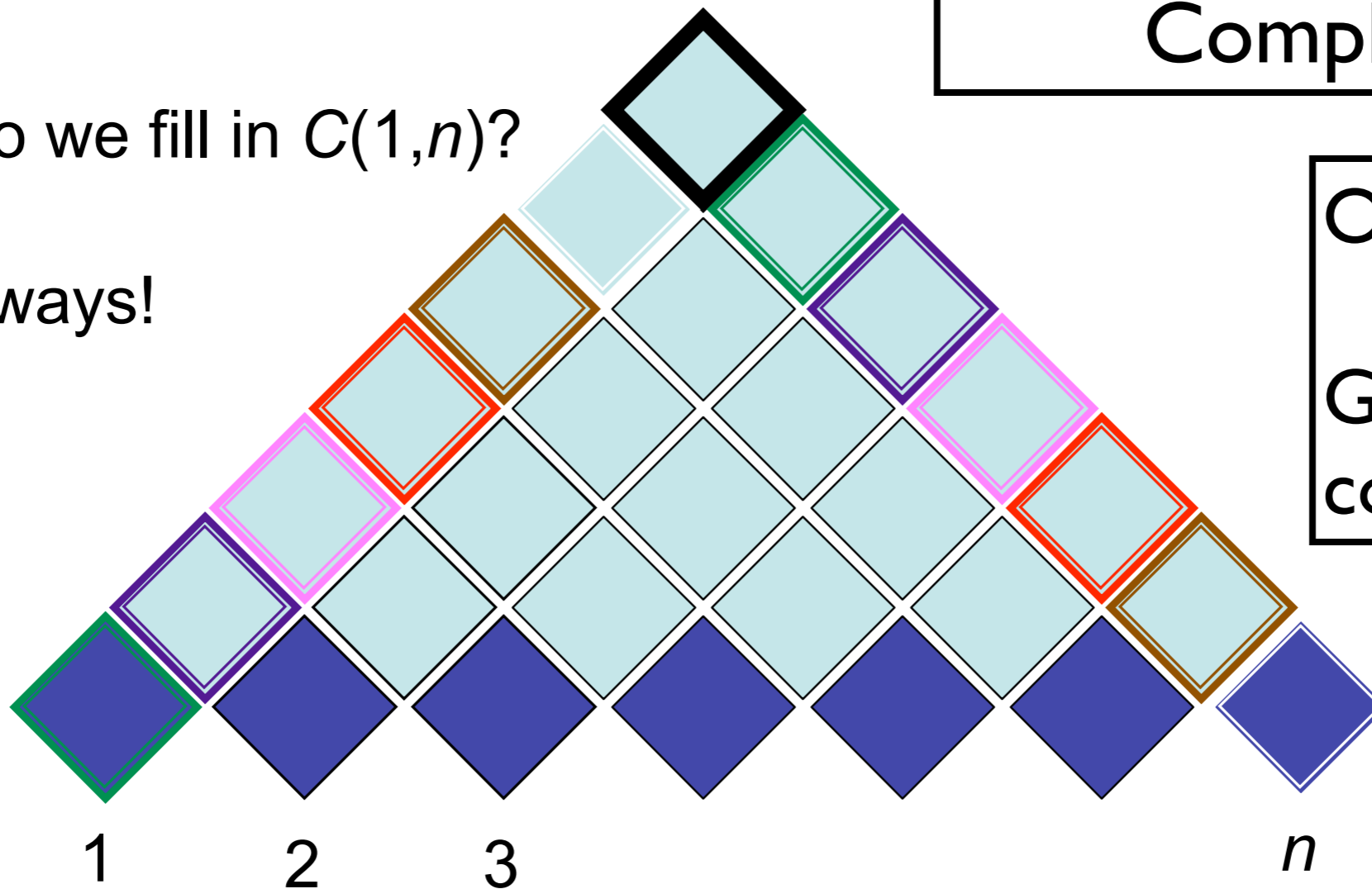
If exists rule  $A \rightarrow B C$ ,

add  $A$  to cell  $[i,j]$

Computational  
Complexity ?

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

$n - 1$  ways!



$O(G n^3)$

$G =$  grammar  
constant

[Example from Noah Smith]

# Probabilistic CFGs

$S \rightarrow NP VP$	[.80]	$Det \rightarrow that$	[.10]		$a$	[.30]		$the$	[.60]
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	[.15]	$Noun \rightarrow book$	[.10]		$flight$	[.30]			
$S \rightarrow VP$	[.05]				$meal$	[.15]		$money$	[.05]
$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$	[.35]				$flights$	[.40]		$dinner$	[.10]
$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$	[.30]	$Verb \rightarrow book$	[.30]		$include$	[.30]			
$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$	[.20]				$prefer;$	[.40]			
$NP \rightarrow Nominal$	[.15]	$Pronoun \rightarrow I$	[.40]		$she$	[.05]			
$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$	[.75]				$me$	[.15]		$you$	[.40]
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$	[.20]	$Proper-Noun \rightarrow Houston$	[.60]						
$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$	[.05]				$TWA$	[.40]			
$VP \rightarrow Verb$	[.35]	$Aux \rightarrow does$	[.60]		$can$	[.40]			
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$	[.20]	$Preposition \rightarrow from$	[.30]		$to$	[.30]			
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$	[.10]				$on$	[.20]		$near$	[.15]
$VP \rightarrow Verb PP$	[.15]				$through$	[.05]			
$VP \rightarrow Verb NP NP$	[.05]								
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	[.15]								
$PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$	[1.0]								

- Defines a probabilistic generative process for words in a sentence
- Can parse with a modified form of CKY
- How to learn? Fully supervised if you have a treebank

# PCFG as LM

- sample  $p(w,y) = p(w|y) p(y)$

# N-gram vs PCFG LM

- We also could sample from an n-gram (Markov) LM... what differences should we expect?

# PCFG as LM

- $p(w,y)$  = multiply all the expansion probabilities

# (P)CFG model, (P)CKY algorithm

- CKY: given CFG and sentence  $w$ 
  - Does there exist at least one parse?
  - Enumerate parses (backpointers)
- Probabilistic CKY: given PCFG and sentence  $w$ 
  - Most probable parse (“Viterbi parse”)  
 $\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_y P(y \mid w)$
  - Likelihood of sentence (“Inside algorithm”)  
 $P(w) = \sum_y P(w \mid y) P(y)$

- a PCFG with Penn Treebank's nonterminals encodes overly strong conditional independence assumptions - big problems for both generation and parsing
- a bunch of tricks improve treebank-trained PCFGs to get better parsing performance
  - ~80% F1: "Treebank grammar" (PCFG directly trained on PTB)
  - ~90% F1: PCFG with clever non-terminal splitting
  - ~95% F1: state of the art (not PCFG)

# Better PCFG grammars

- Nonterminal splitting: because substitutability is too strong (e.g. “she” as subject vs object)

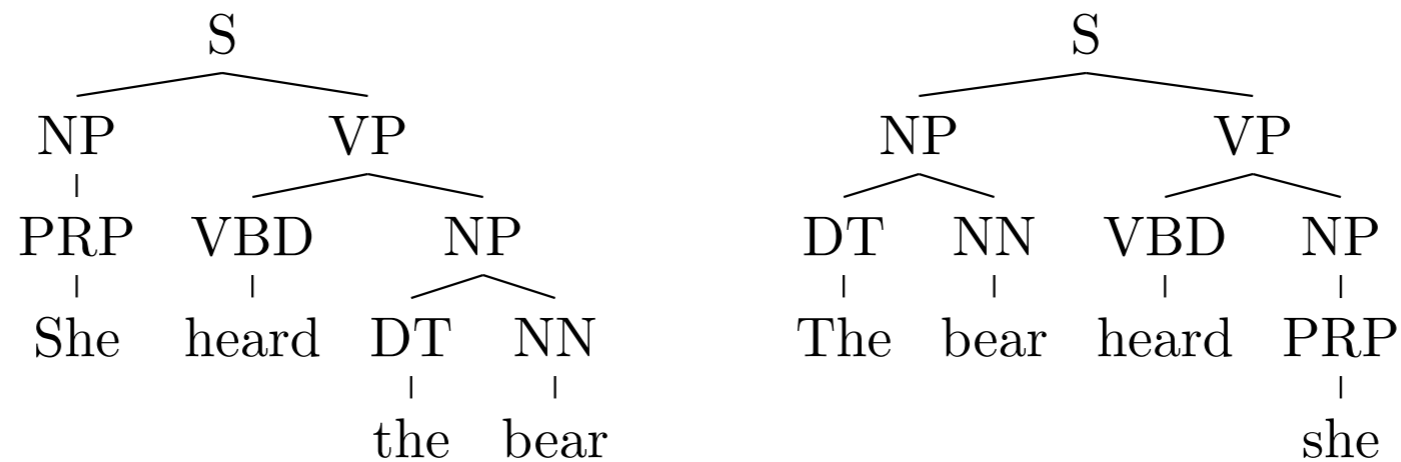


Figure 11.5: A grammar that allows *she* to take the object position wastes probability mass on ungrammatical sentences.



# Better PCFG grammars

- Parent annotation

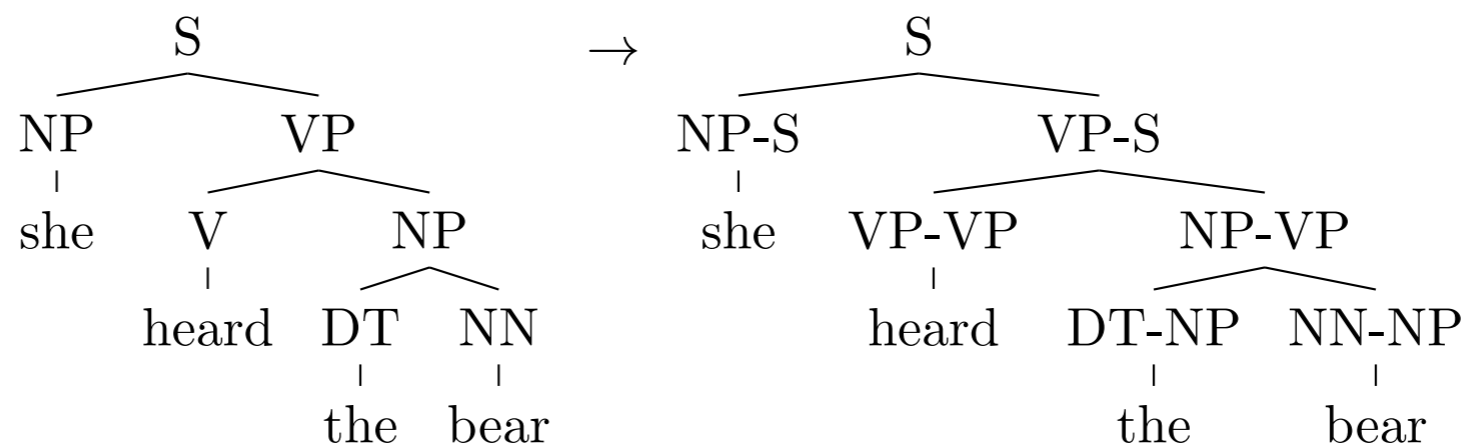


Figure 11.8: Parent annotation in a CFG derivation

# Better PCFG grammars

- Linguistically designed state splits

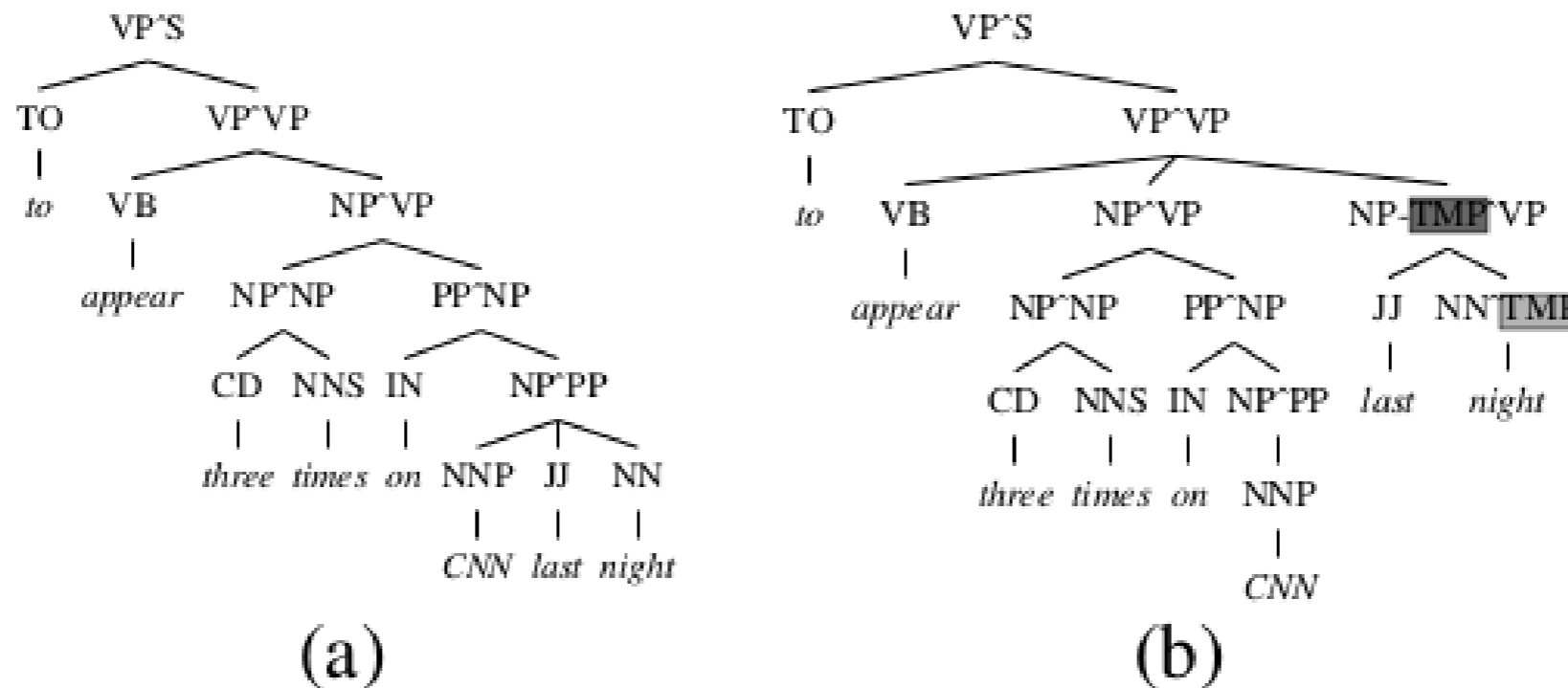


Figure 11.13: State-splitting creates a new non-terminal called NP-TMP, for temporal noun phrases. This corrects the PCFG parsing error in (a), resulting in the correct parse in (b).

# Better PCFG grammars

- **Lexicalization: encode semantic preferences**

Non-terminal	Direction	Priority
S	right	VP SBAR ADJP UCP NP
VP	left	VBD VBN MD VBZ TO VB VP VBG VBP ADJP NP
NP	right	N* EX \$ CD QP PRP ...
PP	left	IN TO FW

Table 11.3: A fragment of head percolation rules

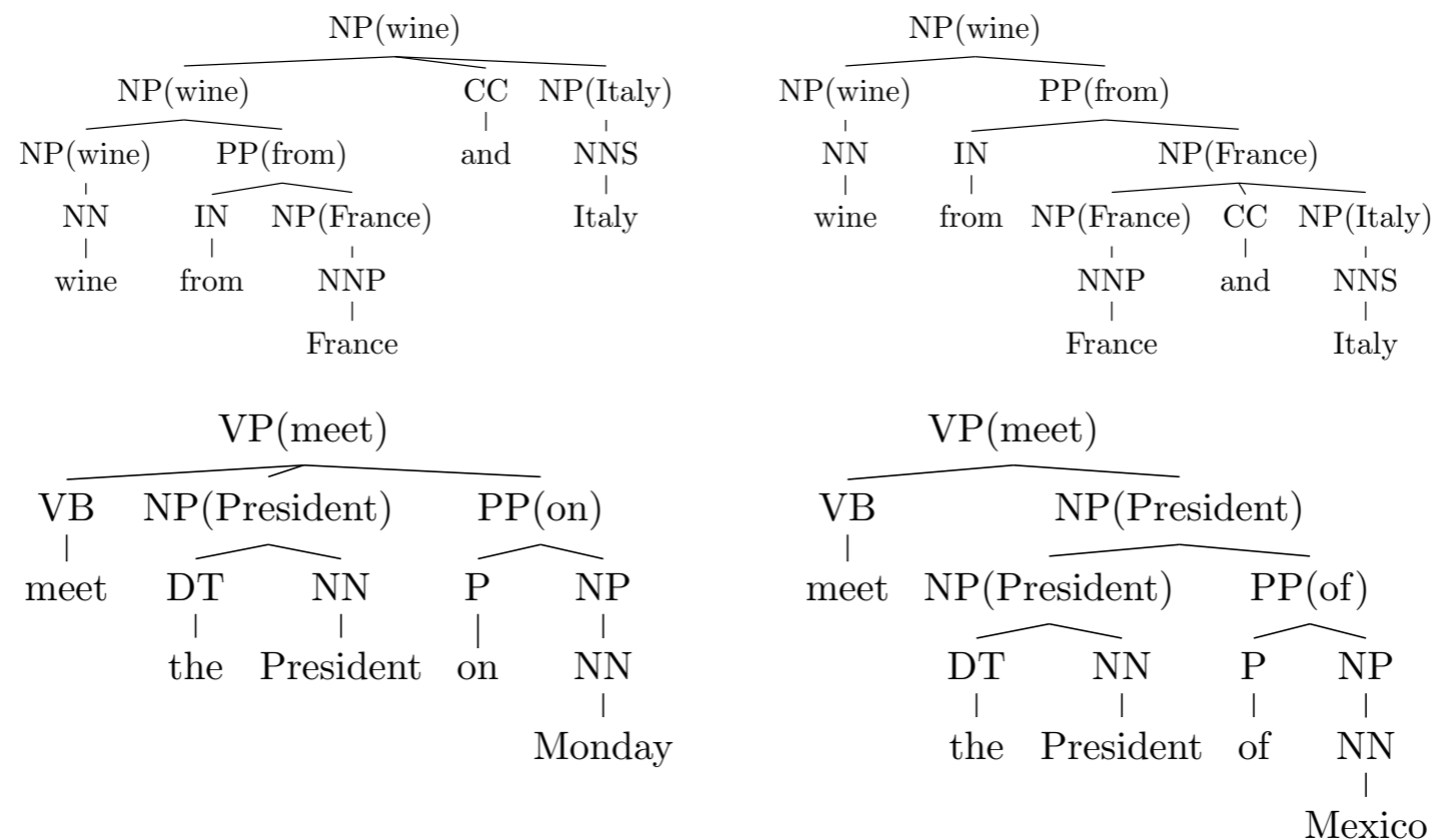


Figure 11.9: Lexicalization can address ambiguity on coordination scope (upper) and PP attachment (lower)

- a PCFG with Penn Treebank's nonterminals encodes overly strong conditional independence assumptions - big problems for both generation and parsing
- a bunch of tricks improve treebank-trained PCFGs to get better parsing performance
  - ~80% F1: "Treebank grammar" (PCFG directly trained on PTB)
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- Parsing model accuracy: lots of ambiguity!!
  - PCFGs lack lexical information to resolve ambiguities (sneak in world knowledge?)
  - PCFGs that are successful parsers sneak in lexical information into the non-terminals ... but there are limits how much you can do
  - Next time: dependency parsing
- Practical guidance
  - $O(N)$  left-to-right incremental algorithms are more practical than CKY
  - Look carefully at parser's errors — are they tolerable for your application?