LNGT 0250
Morphology and Syntax

Lecture #14
April 1st, 2015

Announcements

• Talk today by Prof. Marybeth Nevins in Hillcrest 103 @ 4:30.

• There are 9 morphemes only in CH in part A of question 4 on the midterm.

• Session tomorrow at 4:30 in LIB 201.

Trees vs bracketing

• Syntactic trees are visually appealing (and environmentally friendly 😊). But another method of representing syntactic structure is via bracketing, which is not easy to read, but is convenient when we’re interested in partial structure for example.

• So, let’s do an example.

Bracketing

• The students of LNGT250 are pretty awesome.

• \[
\text{[TP [NP [D the] [N students] [VP [V are] [AdjP [AdvP [Adv pretty]\] [Adj awesome]]]]]}
\]

• http://ironcreek.net/phpsyntactree/

Ambiguity

• Sue hit the man with the umbrella.

• John said Mary went to the store quickly.

• PSRs in Bambara: GPS #12, p. 111.

Tree-geometric relations

• There are two facts about sentences in human language: They involve arrangement of words into constituents (hierarchical structure) and the words are produced in sequence (linear order).

• In tree-geometric terms, hierarchical structure is expressed via dominance relations. Linear order is expressed via precedence relations.
Tree-geometric relations

• Why should the geometric features of a tree matter?
• For one thing, they allow us to give precise definitions to notions that are otherwise not well-defined (e.g., what’s a constituent? What’s a subject? What’s an object?).
• Second, some of these geometric relations turn out to have deep empirical consequences (e.g., c-command).
• Third, because mathematical formalizations are really awesome 😊.

Next class agenda

• X-bar Theory: Carnie Chapter 6.