

Q1. Assume that we have a corpus with only noun phrases and nothing else; NP is the start symbol. The corpus is annotated with POS tags; DT (determiner), NN (singular noun), NNS (plural noun), JJ (adjective), IN (preposition), NP (noun phrase), JJP (adjective phrase) and PP (preposition phrase). The PCFG (probabilistic context free grammar) is as follows:

- (i) $NP \rightarrow DT\ NN; 0.5$
- (ii) $NP \rightarrow NNS; 0.3$
- (iii) $NP \rightarrow JJP\ NNS; 0.2$
- (iv) $JJP \rightarrow JJP\ JJ; 0.2$
- (v) $JJP \rightarrow JJ; 0.8$

Rules (iv) and (v) state that an adjective phrase can be composed of one or more adjectives.

Answer the following questions based on the above:

(1) The transition probability for POS tagging, $P(NN|DT)$ is:

- (a) 0.5
- (b) 0.75
- (c) 1.0
- (d) 0.25

3 marks

Ans: (c)

$$P(NN|DT) = \text{Probability of } NN \text{ preceded by } DT$$

$$P(NN|DT) = \text{Count } (NN \text{ preceded by } DT) / \text{Count}(DT)$$

DT and NN can only be generated by following PCFG rule
 $NP \rightarrow DT\ NN$ (which has .5 probability)

If total number of NP is 100

$$\text{Count } (DT \text{ preceded by } NN) = 50$$

$$\text{Count } (DT) = 50$$

$$\rightarrow P(NN|DT) = 1; \text{ hence (c).}$$

(2) $P(NNS|JJ)$ is:

- (a) 0.8
- (b) 0.2
- (c) 1.0
- (d) Cannot be determined

3 marks

Ans: (d)

$$P(NNS|JJ) = \text{Count } (NNS \text{ preceded by } JJ) / \text{Count}(JJ)$$

Grammar rules:

$$NP \rightarrow DT\ NN; 0.5$$

$$NP \rightarrow NNS; 0.3$$

$$NP \rightarrow JJP\ NNS; 0.2$$

$JJP \rightarrow JJP JJ; 0.2$

$JJP \rightarrow JJ; 0.8$

Assume there are 100 NPs

Count (NNS preceded by JJ) = 20

Count (JJ) = not known; hence option (d).

(3) Assuming the language somehow does not allow more than length 3 chunks, $P(JJ|JJ)$ is

(a) 0.8

(b) 0.2

(c) 1.0

(d) Cannot be determined

3 marks

Ans: 1/3 (there is a mistake in the options)

$P(JJ|JJ) = \text{Count}(JJ \text{ preceded by } JJ) / \text{Count}(JJ)$

Rules involved

NP \rightarrow JJP NNS; 0.2

JJP \rightarrow JJP JJ; 0.2

JJP \rightarrow JJ; 0.8

• Assume 100 NP

○ $\text{Count}(JJP \text{ NNS}) = 20$

○ $\text{Count}(NNS \text{ preceded by } JJ) = 0.8 \times 20 = 16$

○ $\text{Count}(NNS \text{ preceded by more than one } JJ) = 4$

○ $\text{Count}(JJ \text{ preceded by } JJ) = 8$

○ $P(JJ|JJ) = 8 / (16 + 8) = 8 / 24 = 1/3$

Q2. “Horses raced past the garden neighed loudly” (“neigh” is the call of the horse). Given this sentence and the starting rule as $S \rightarrow NP VP$, the length of the verb phrase VP is:

(a) 5

(b) 6

(c) 2

(d) 4

3 marks

Ans: (c)

NP: “Horses raced past the garden”, VP: “neighed loudly”

NP

NP

SBAR

Horses

raced past the garden

SBAR

VP

raced past the garden

VP

VBD

PP

raced

past the garden

PP

P NP

past the garden

Q3. Consider the sentence “*Buffalo*₁ *buffaloes*₂ *buffaloes*₃ *buffalo*₄ *cow*₅ *cows*₆ *buffaloes*₇ *buffalo*₈” The word “cow” can be both noun (meaning the “common animal cow”) and verb (meaning to “make afraid” or “intimidate”). Similarly “buffalo” can be both noun (meaning the “animal buffalo” or the “USA city Buffalo”) or verb (meaning “to bully”). As usual, the POS tags NNS means plural noun, VBZ means 3rd person, singular, present tense verb, VB means a base verb, NN means singular noun, JJ means adjective, IN means preposition.

Based on the above, answer the following questions:

(1) How many NN tags are there for the sentence?

(a) 4

(b) 2

(c) 1

(d) 3

3 marks

Ans: (c)

Original “buffalo sentence”:

*Buffalo*₀ *buffalo*₁ *buffaloes*₂ *Buffalo*₃ *buffaloes*₄ *buffalo*₅ *buffalo*₆ *Buffalo*₇ *buffaloes*₈ *Buffalo*₉
*buffaloes*₁₀ *buffalo*₁₁

4 sets of buffaloes: 1st set bullies 3rd set. 2nd set bullies 1st set, 4th set bullies 3rd set.

Meaning: Buffaloes (1st set of buffaloes) living in Buffalo (USA) which are bullied by other buffaloes living in Buffalo (2nd set of buffaloes) in their turn bully buffaloes living in Buffalo (3rd set of buffaloes) which are bullied by other buffaloes living in Buffalo (4th set of buffaloes)

Structure:

NP₀₋₅

VP₅₋₁₁

VB₆

NP₇₋₁₁

Buffalo₆

Buffalo buffaloes Buffalo buffaloes buffalo

NP₀₋₅

NP₀₋₂

SBAR₂₋₅

Buffalo buffaloes

Buffalo buffaloes buffalo

NP₂₋₄

Buffalo buffaloes

VP₄₋₅

buffalo

Replicate this analysis for the buffalo-cow question.