

A CFG for a fragment of English (Assume that S = Sentence, NP = Noun Phrase, VP = Verb Phrase, D = Determiner, A = Adjective, N = Noun, V = Verb):

S → NP VP

NP → D A N | D N

VP → V NP

D → the | a

A → small | red | big

N → boy | girl | cat

V → likes | kissed | saved | eats

This CFG can derive:

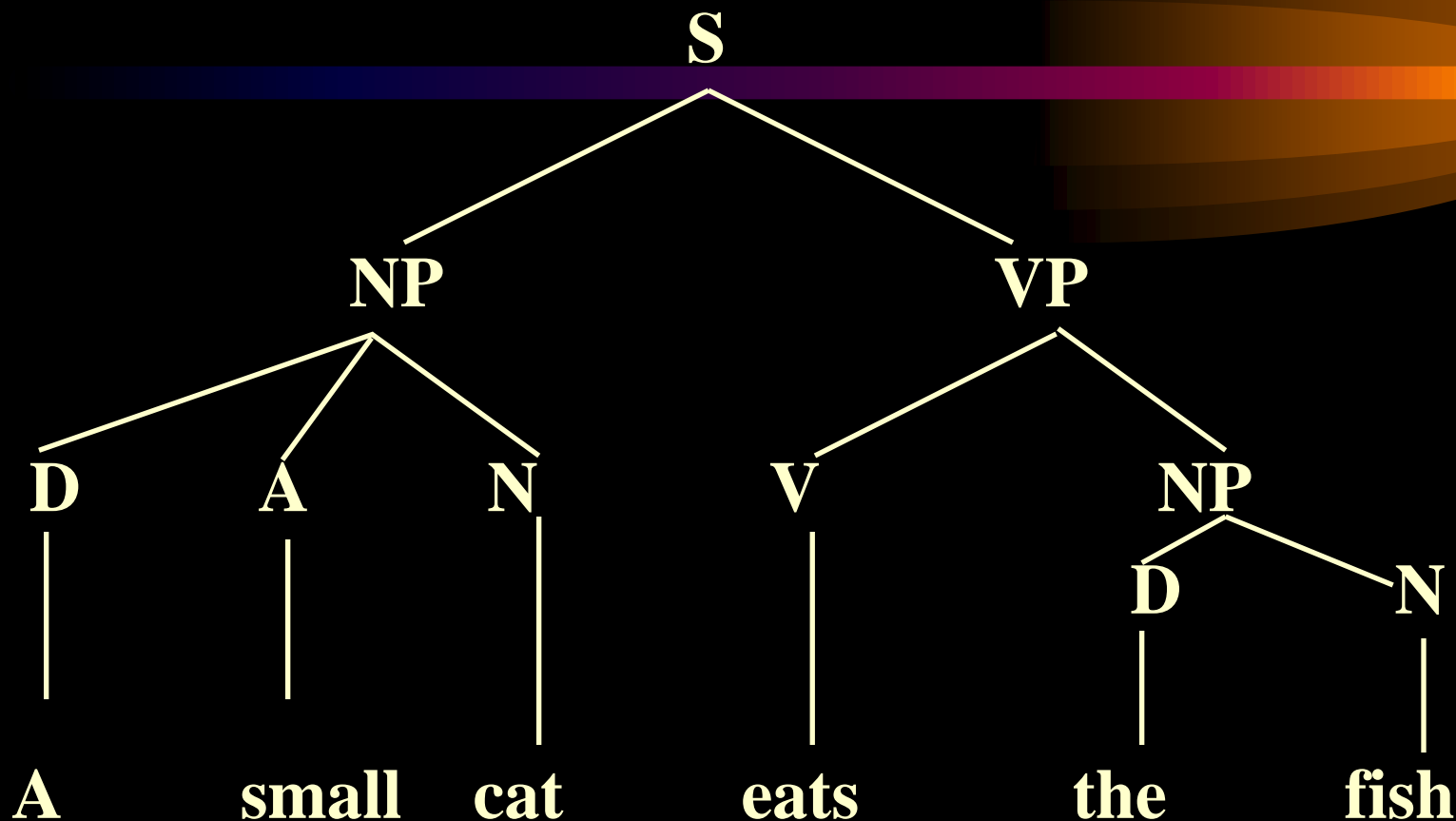
{ a small cat eats the fish, the girl kissed the boy, a boy saved the girl, ... }

Derivation of a small cat eats the fish :

S ⇒ NP VP ⇒ D A N VP ⇒ a A N VP ⇒ a small N VP
⇒ a small cat VP ⇒ a small cat V NP
⇒ a small cat eats NP ⇒ a small cat eats D N
⇒ a small cat eats the N ⇒ a small cat eats the fish



According to the CFG given in the previous section, a parse tree for “a small cat eats the fish” is given below:



For more on Context-Free Grammars, visit this page:

<http://www.asethome.org/mathfoundations/Context-Free.pdf>