Tree Adjoining Grammars

Natural Language Syntax with TAG

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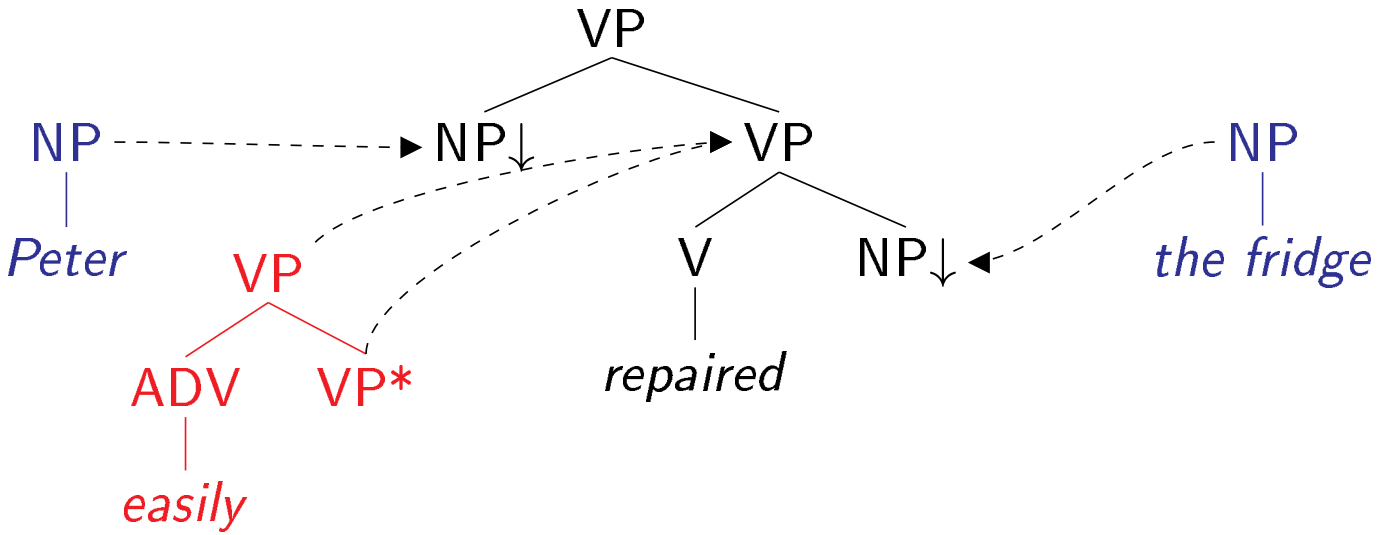
WS 2012

17.10.2012

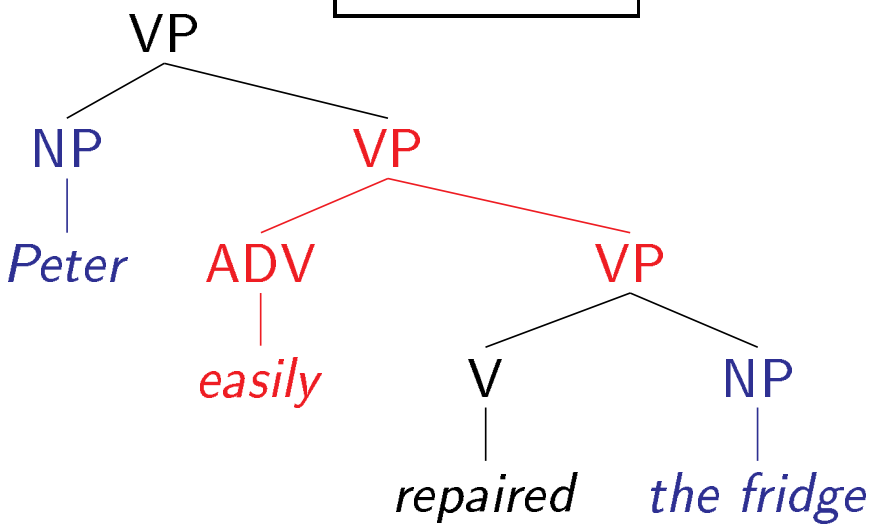
Outline

1. The derivation tree
2. Design principles for elementary trees
3. Sample derivations

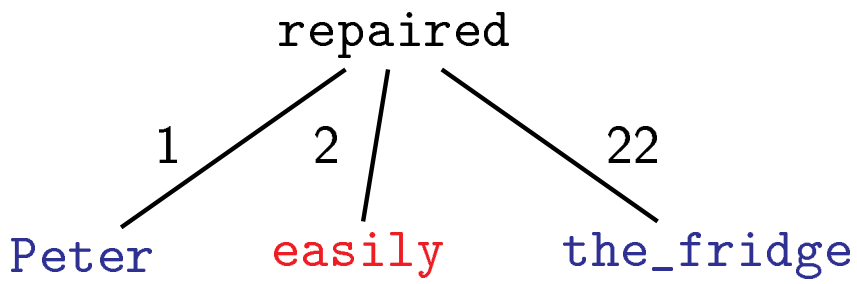
Derivation trees (1): The context



derived tree



derivation tree



Derivation trees (2):

TAG derivations are uniquely described by **derivation trees**.

The derivation tree contains:

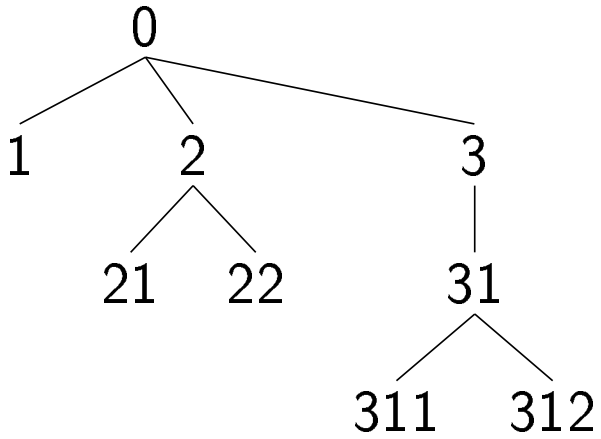
- **nodes** for all elementary trees used in the derivation, and
- **edges** for all adjunctions and substitutions performed throughout the derivation, and
- **edge labels** indicating the target node of the rewriting operation.

Whenever an elementary tree γ rewrites the node at Gorn address p in the elementary tree γ', there is an edge from γ' to γ labeled with p.

Derivation trees (3): Gorn adresses

For the node addresses of elementary trees, **Gorn addresses** are used:

The root has address ϵ (or 0), and the ith daughter of the node with address p has address pi.



Linguistic analyses with LTAG

What is an elementary tree, and what is its shape?

elementary trees $\overset{?}{\Longleftarrow}$ syntactic/semantic properties of linguistic objects

$\Rightarrow$ Syntactic design principles from [Frank, 2002]:

- Lexicalization
- Fundamental TAG Hypothesis (FTH)
- Condition on Elementary Tree Minimality (CETM)
- θ-Criterion for TAG

$\Rightarrow$ Semantic design principles [Abeillé and Rambow, 2000]

$\Rightarrow$ Design principle of economy

Design principles (1): Lexicalization

Each elementary tree has at least one non-empty lexical item, its lexical **anchor**.

$\Rightarrow$ All widely used grammar formalisms support some kind of lexicalization!

Reasons for lexicalization:

- **Formal properties:** A finite lexicalized grammar provides finitely many analyses for each string (finitely ambiguous).
- **Linguistic properties:** Syntactic properties of lexical items can be accounted for more directly.
- **Parsing:** The search space during parsing can be delimited (grammar filtering).

[Schabes and Joshi, 1990, Joshi and Schabes, 1991]

Design principles (2): Fundamental TAG Hypothesis

Fundamental TAG Hypothesis (FTH)

Every syntactic dependency is expressed locally within an elementary tree. [Frank, 2002]

"syntactic dependency"

- valency/subcategorization
- modification
- binding
- ...

"expressed within an elementary tree"

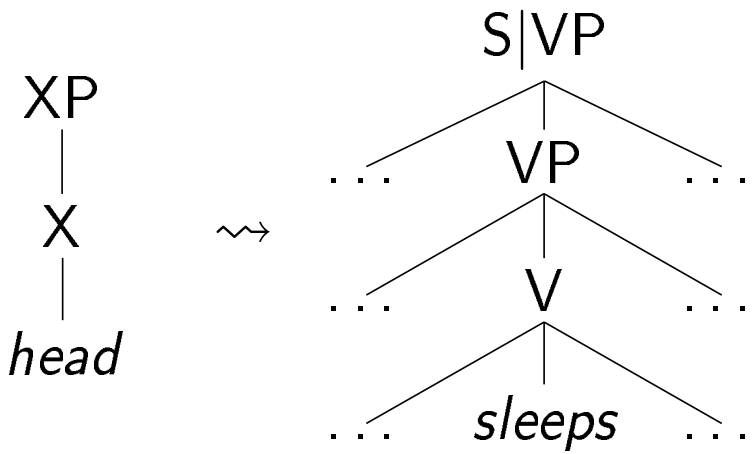
- terminal leaf (i.e. lexical anchor)
- nonterminal leaf (substitution node and footnode)
- marking an inner node for obligatory adjunction

Design principles (3): Cond. on Elementary Tree Minimality

Condition on Elementary Tree Minimality (CETM)

The syntactic heads in an elementary tree and their projections must form the extended projection of a single lexical head. [Frank, 2002]

Note: We only use simple, non-extended projections!



Design principles (4): θ-Criterion for TAG

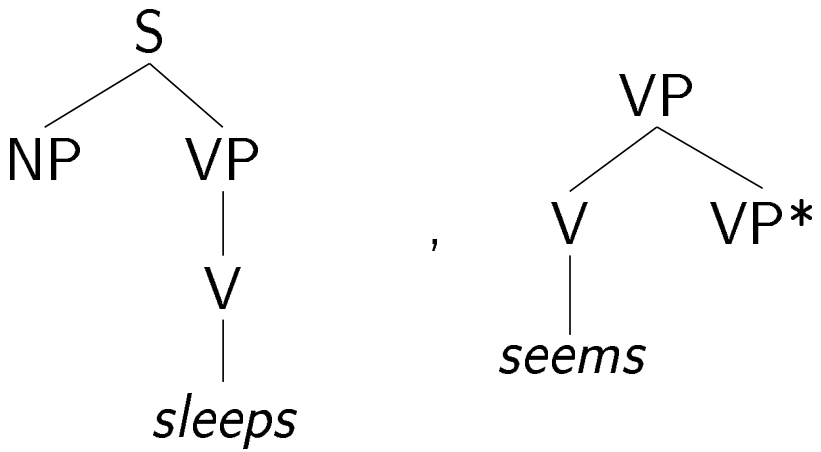
θ-Criterion (TAG version)

a. If H is the lexical head of an elementary tree T, H assigns all of its θ-roles in T.

b. If A is a frontier non-terminal of elementary tree T, A must be assigned a θ-role in T.

[Frank, 2002]

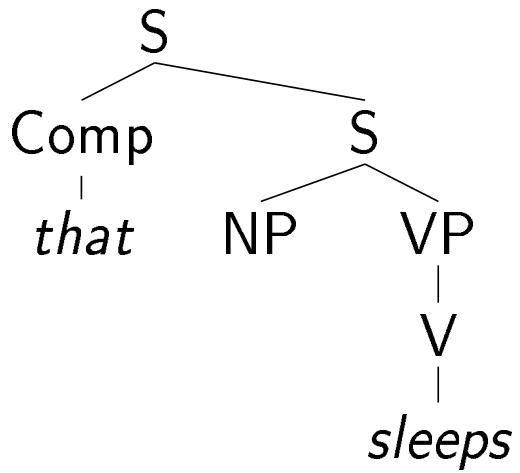
$\Longrightarrow$ Valency/subcategorization is expressed only with nonterminal leaves!

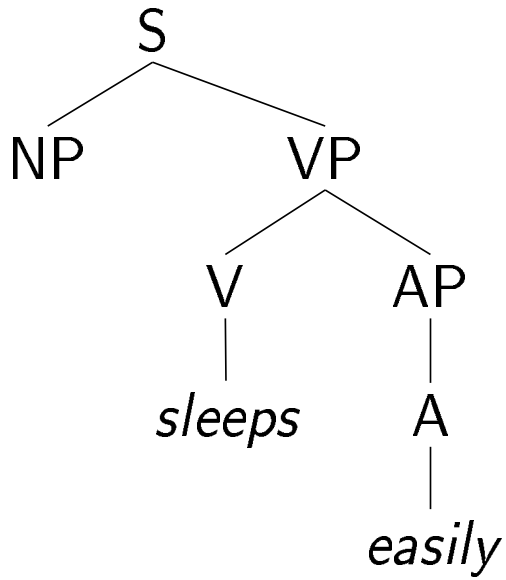


Modification and functional elements

How to insert **modifiers** (*easily*) and **functional elements** (complementizers, determiners, do-auxiliaries, ...)?

- Either by separate auxiliary trees (e.g., XTAG grammar),
- or as co-anchor in the elementary tree of the lexical item they are associated with.





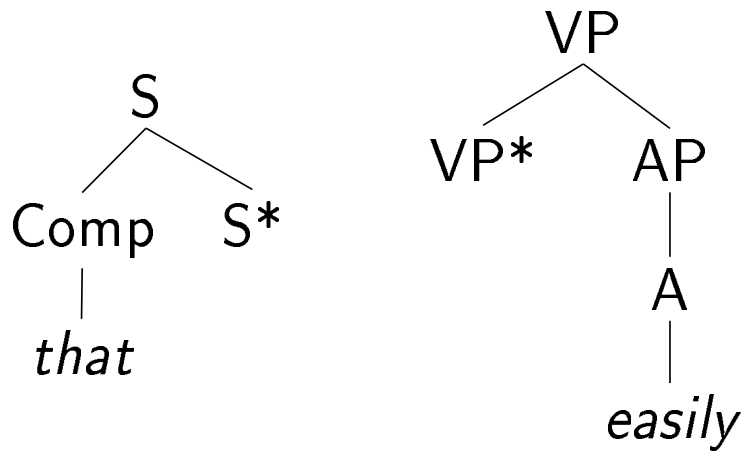
Modification and functional elements

In XTAG, modifiers and functional elements are generally represented by auxiliary trees.

⇒ Footnodes/Adjunctions indicate both complementation and modification.

⇒ Enhancement of the CETM: (see [Abeillé and Rambow, 2000])

core tree (following CETM) + spine



Principles related to semantics

See [Abeillé and Rambow, 2000].

Predicate-argument cooccurrence:

Each elementary tree associated with a predicate contains a non-terminal leaf for each of its arguments.

Semantic anchoring:

Elementary trees are not semantically void (*to*, *that*.)

Compositional principle:

An elementary tree corresponds to a single semantic unit.

Design principle of economy

Design principle of economy

The elementary trees are shaped in such a way, that the size of the elementary trees and the size of the grammar is minimal.

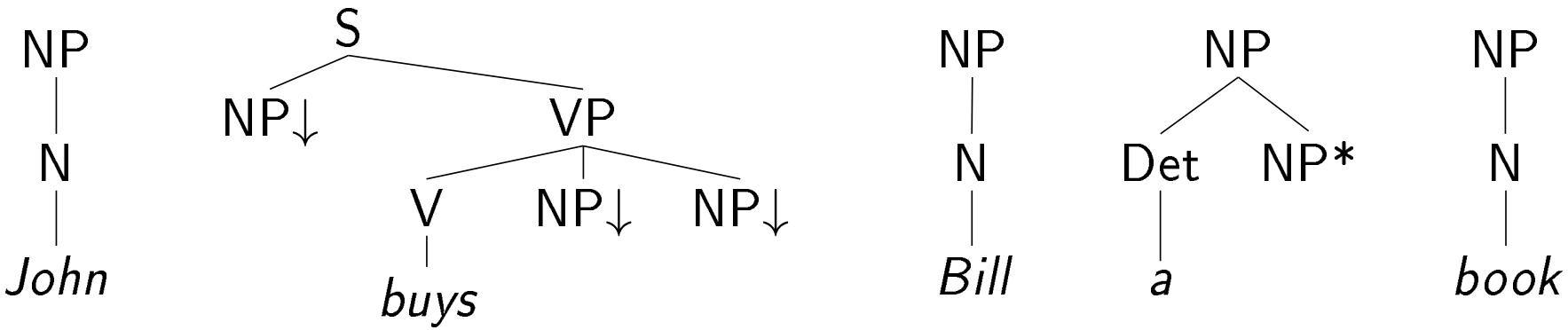
Sample derivations

- Complementation with: NPs, PPs, adjectives, clauses (raising, controlling), ...
- Modification with: PPs, adjectives, particles, temporal clauses, relative clauses, ...

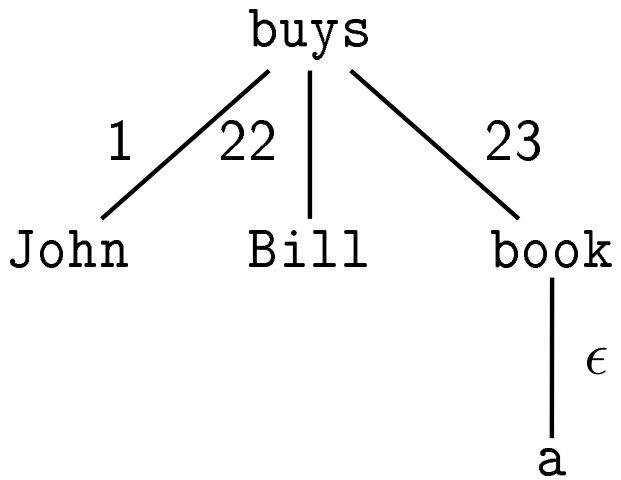
Sample derivations: NP complements

(1) John buys Bill a book.

Elementary trees:



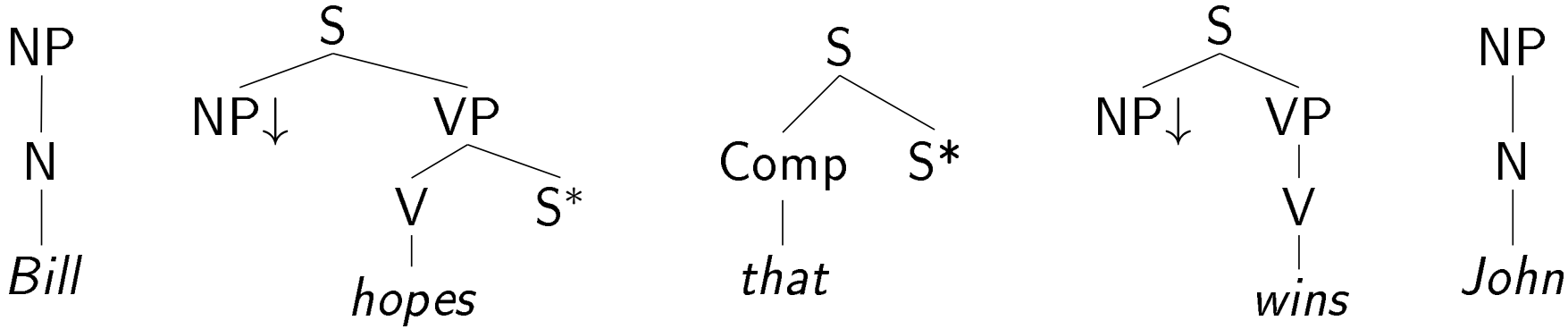
Derivation tree:



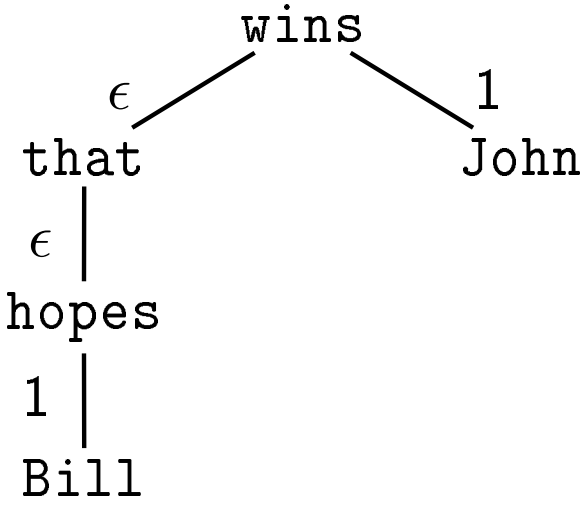
Sample derivations: Sentential complements (1)

(2) Bill hopes that John wins.

Elementary trees:



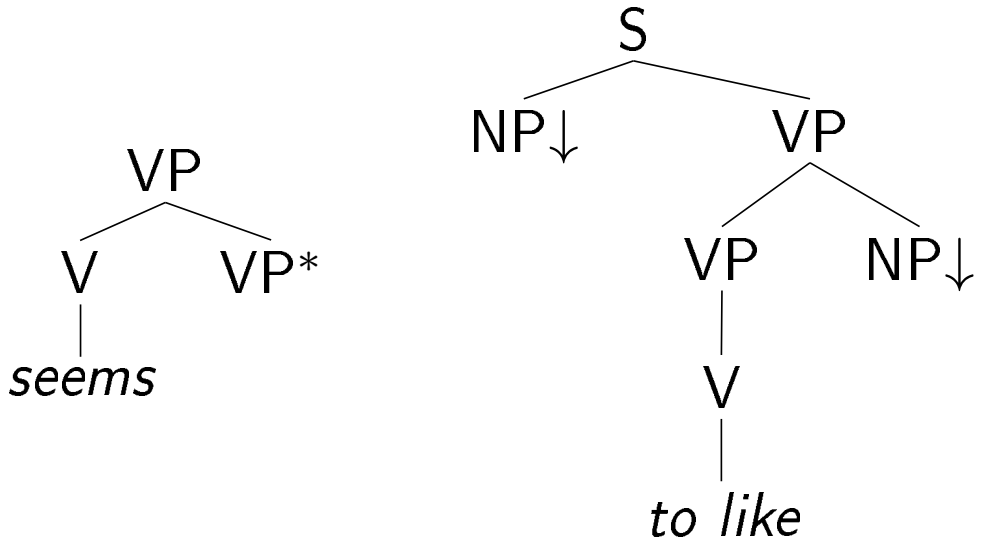
Derivation tree:



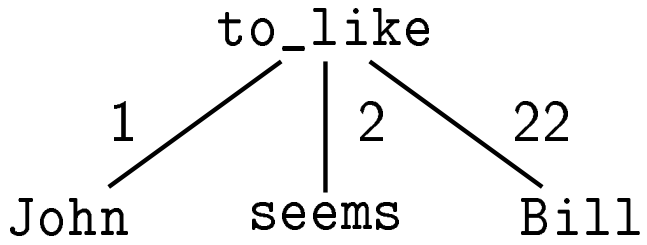
Sample derivations: Sentential complements (2)

(3) John seems to like Bill.

Elementary trees:



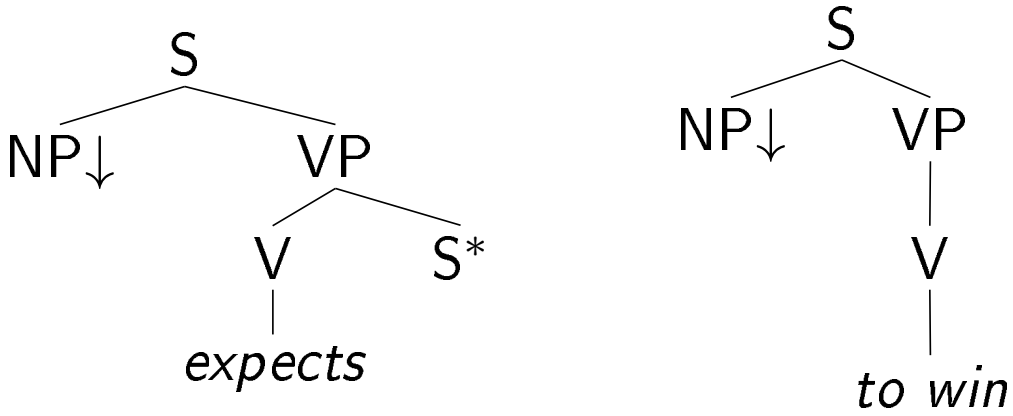
Derivation tree:



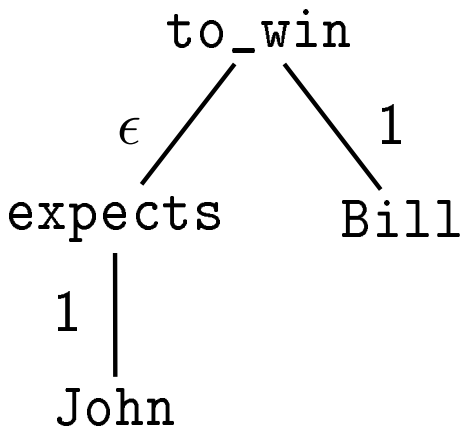
Sample derivations: Sentential complements (3)

(4) John expects [Bill to win].

Elementary trees:



Derivation tree:



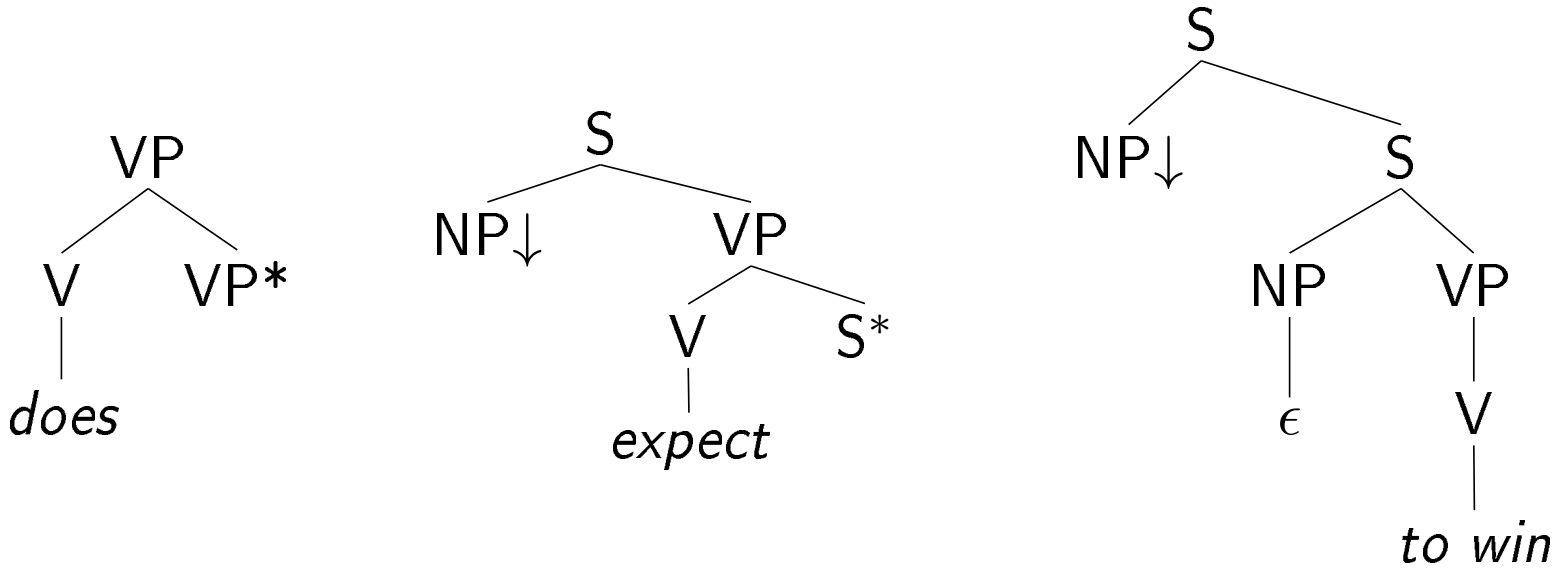
Sample derivations: Sentential complements (4)

Question: Why is the sentential object represented as a footnode?

The sentential object is realised as a foot node in order to allow extractions:

(5) **Who** does John expect **to win**?

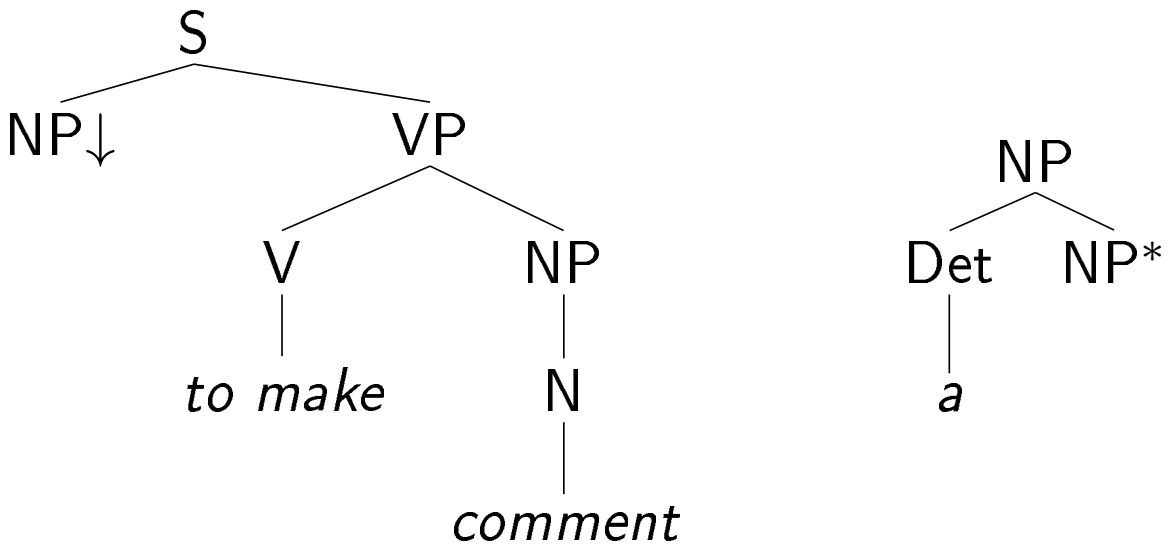
Elementary trees:



Sample derivations: Multiple anchors

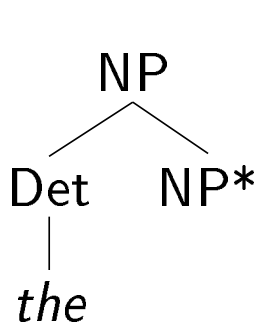
Multiword expressions and light verb constructions can be represented by elementary trees with multiple anchors:

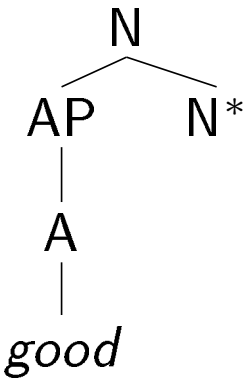
(6) John expected [Mary to make a comment].

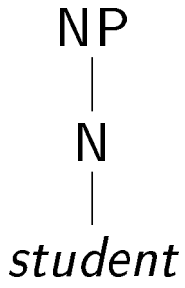


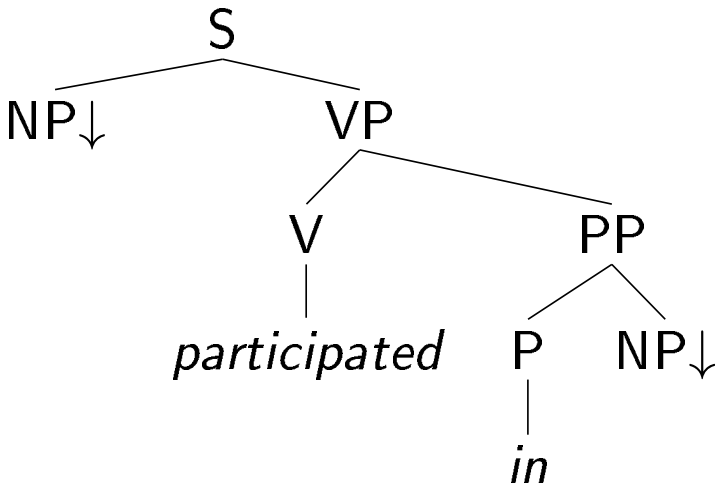
Sample derivations: Modifiers

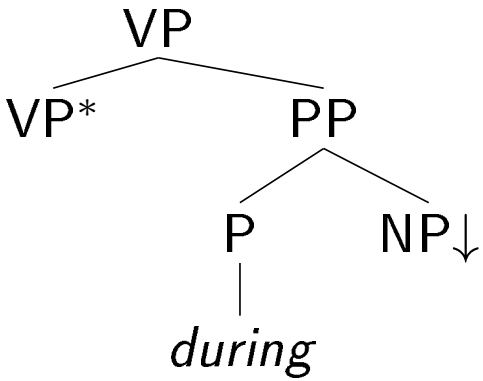
(7) The good student participated in every course during the semester.





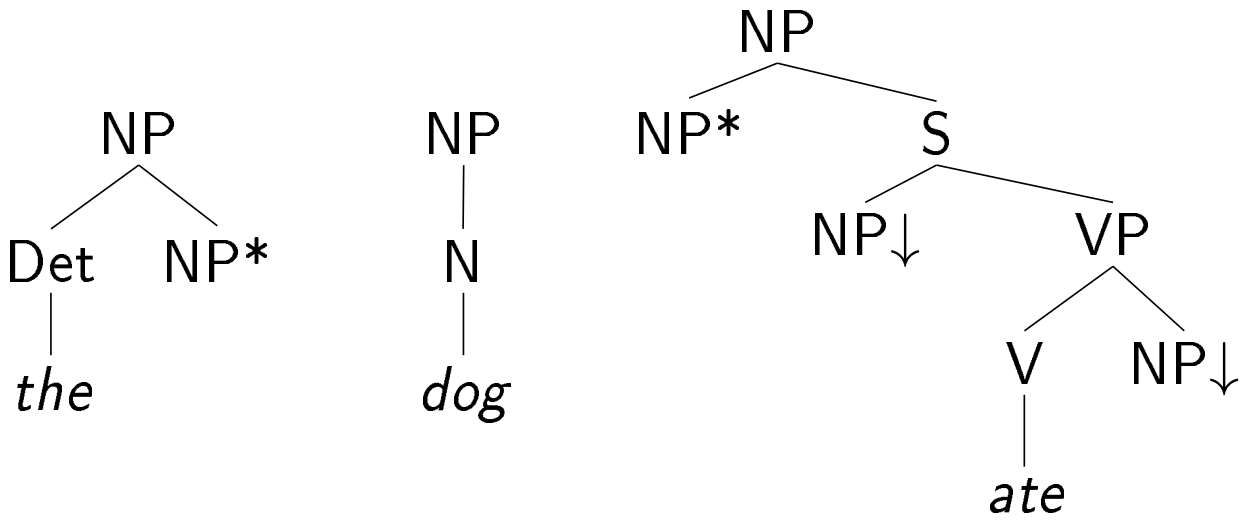






Sample derivations: Relative clauses

(8) The dog [who ate the cake].



Problem: Extraposed relative clauses:

(1) Somebody$_i$ lives nearby [who$_i$ has a CD-burner].

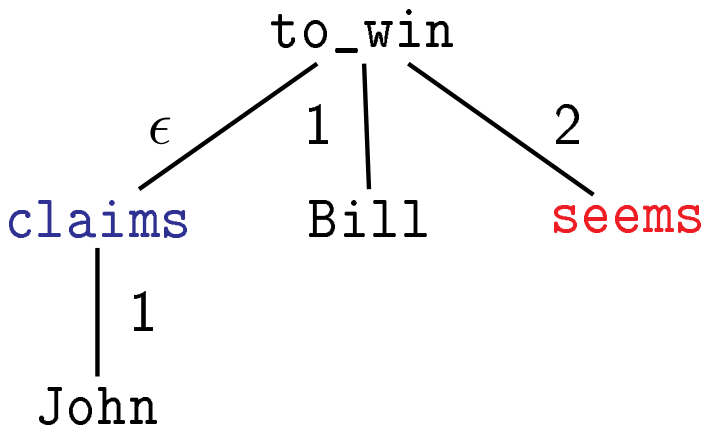
Derivation trees = Semantic dependency structure ?

The derivation tree is not always the semantic dependency structure, due to:

- indiscernibility of complementation and modification in adjunction, and
- missing links.

Example for a missing link:

(2) John claims [Bill seems to win]



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