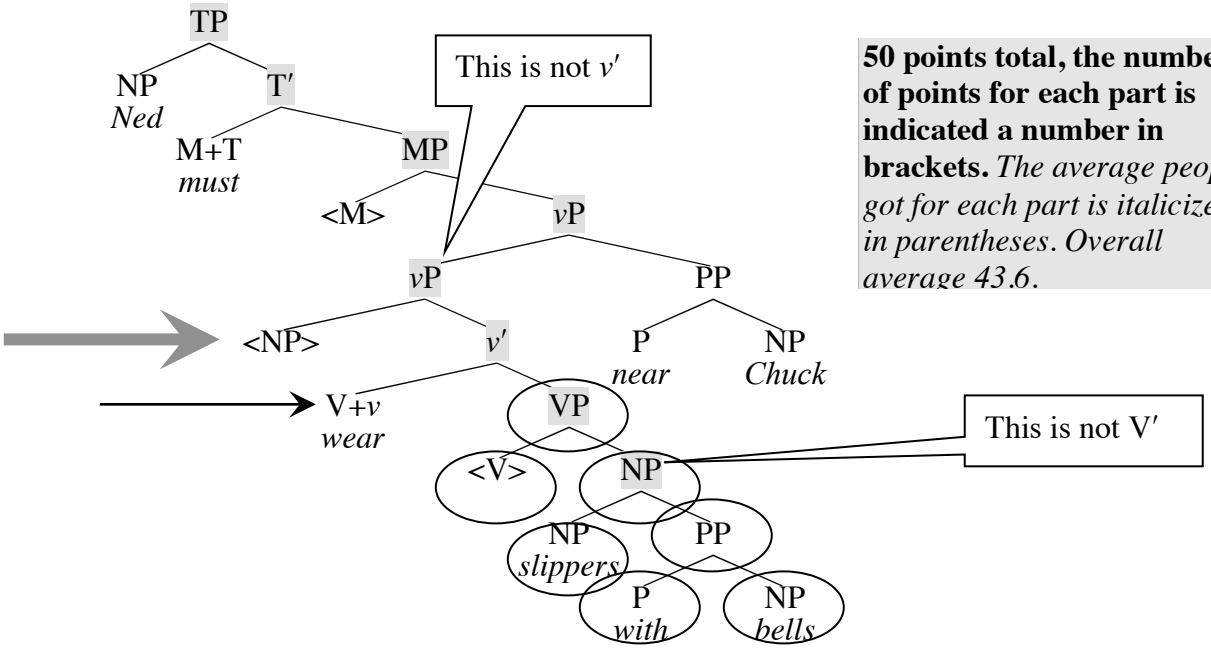
CAS LX 522 *Syntax I* **FALL 2008 MIDTERM—KEY**

1. [8] (*7.6*) **Fill in the missing labels** for the nodes in the tree below. Where a node is the maximal projection of a lexical item, indicate it with the standard "X-bar" notation (e.g., NP for the maximal projection of a noun, *v*′ for an intermediate projection of *v*). The sentence is *Ned must always wear slippers with bells near Chuck*. The arrow is for use in question 4.



50 points total, the number of points for each part is indicated a number in brackets. *The average people got for each part is italicized in parentheses. Overall average 43.6.*

Some notes here: I took the word *always* out of the tree and didn't remove it from the instructions. A few people put a V′ where I have written "This is not V′"—this *couldn't* be V′. The label of a nonterminal node has to come from one of its daughters. Also, the PP *near Chuck* is adjoined, so the sister of PP should be *v*P (not *v*′).

2. [6] In the sentence for which the structure is given above:

The main point to make here is that *everyone* (just about) said in (2e) that *with bells* is the complement of *slippers*. *With bells* is adjoined to slippers—if it had been a complement, then the label of its sister would have been N, not NP. Lastly, the answer to (2f) depends on what you wrote in the tree. You may have gotten a point for saying "No" to (2f) if you lost a point in (1) by writing the wrong node name for the sister of <M>.

a. Draw an arrow to the node in the specifier of *v*P.	*(draw above)*	(*0.76*)
b. Is *with bells* a constituent?	Y	(*0.93*)
c. Is *wear slippers* a constituent?	N	(*0.98*)
d. Is *slippers with bells near Chuck* a constituent?	N	(*0.82*)
e. Is *with bells* the complement of *slippers*?	N	(*0.13*)
f. Does *v*P dominate the NP *Chuck*?	Y	(*0.82*)

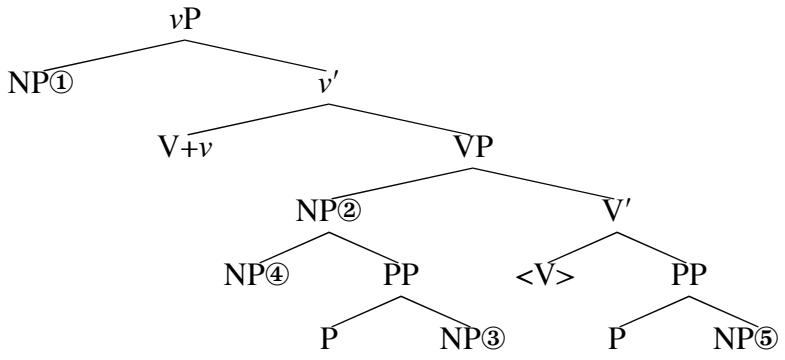
3. [2] (*1.96*) **Circle one:** The verb shown in the structure above is

ditransitive / transitive / unergative / unaccusative

4. [2] (*1.89*) Circle every node in the tree above c-commanded by the node designated by the arrow.

5. [2] (*2.00*) Name the θ-role that [*slippers with bells*] has: **Theme**

6. Suppose we start building a structure for a sentence, and at a certain stage we wind up with a *v*P as shown (abstractly) below.



a. [2] (*1.96*) Name the θ-role that the NP② will have. **Theme**

b. [2] (*1.60*) If NP⑤ were an anaphor, which NPs could serve as an antecedent?
(That is: Which NPs could potentially bind NP⑤?)
NP① NP② *(NP③ and NP④ don't c-command NP⑤)*

c. [2] (*1.73*) How many [*u*P] features were there, total, in these lexical items initially?
One *(on V, selecting the Goal)*

d. [3] (*2.67*) Which of the following three sentences might plausibly include this kind of *v*P?

1. *I put mittens with tassles on Tommy.* ←
2. *I introduced Mary to John on Thursday.*
3. *I mail flowers to people with influence.*

In the sentences above, only #1 has the PP modifying the Theme—like in the tree. There was no partial credit on this one, you either got it or you didn't.

7. [2] (*2.00*) **Circle one:** The verb shown in the structure above is

ditransitive / transitive / unergative / unaccusative

8. Binding Theory. The sentence below is "trying to mean" *John told Mary that his mother admires her (Mary)*. Two questions, **about the sentence below**:
☞ *He$_i$ told Mary$_j$ that [John$_i$'s mother]$_k$ admires herself$_j$.

a. [3] (*2.36*) Explain what is wrong with *John*$_i$ here.

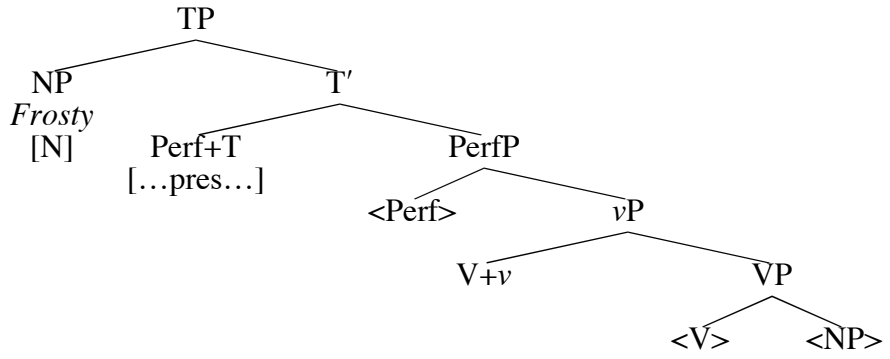
***John* is bound by *he*, in violation of Principle C.**

It was important to mention Principle C by name. Also: Terminological note: *John* binds *he*, *He* is bound by *John*. NOT "*John* and *he* are bound, *John* is bound to *he*." This is not a symmetrical relation. Saying that "they need to be different people" or that *John* was used where a pronoun should have been used wasn't enough.

b. [2] (*1.73*) Which Principle of Binding Theory is ***not*** violated in this sentence?

Principle B

9. Suppose you had a sentence with the following abstract structure. I have provided two lexical items (the NP *Frosty* and the verb *melt*). *Fall 2011 note: You will need to change the verb form in part (c) to whatever is appropriate, "melt" here is intended to represent the basic uninflected form. Assume too that the T is a present tense (nonpast) T.*



a. **[2]** (*1.84*) *Irrelevant for Fall 2011, asks about something we haven't covered yet.*
b. **[2]** (*1.49*) *Irrelevant for Fall 2011, asks about something we haven't covered yet.*
c. **[3]** (*2.67*) Write the sentence that this would be the structure for.

***Frosty has melted*. (A sad emoticon wasn't necessary, but I got quite a few of them. Thanks for your concern.)**

d. **[2]** (1.73) What was the motivation to Merge T′ and NP?

T has a [*u*N] feature that must be checked. The Hierarchy of Projections is not involved, and if you said HoP (first), you lost a point.

e. **[2]** (1.58) What was the motivation to Merge *v* and VP?

The Hierarchy of Projections. No features are checked here. However, in order for the [*u*V] feature of *v* to eventually be checked, *v* and VP need to be Merged. That was not the answer, but saying that did not count against you, unless you didn't mention HoP first.

10. [3] (2.36) What makes the following sentence ungrammatical, in terms of the system developed in class?

**Patricia should have put candles.*

There is a [*u*P] feature on *put* that was not checked.

One thing that was not good enough here was to just say "it needs a PP" or that it needs to assign three θ-roles. What actually makes this bad is the unchecked [*u*P] feature. Interestingly, *absolutely everybody* who provided an example of a PP that might serve to turn this into a sentence chose "on the table" as that PP.

This does not violate the UTAH. There are no θ-roles in the wrong place. The UTAH just says how you interpret things based on where they are in the structure.

A couple of people thought that actually, this was supposed to be something like *placed*, and took the problem to be in the agreement between *have* and the verb form. This wasn't what I had anticipated originally, but it works (assuming that *placed* is taken to be a transitive verb).