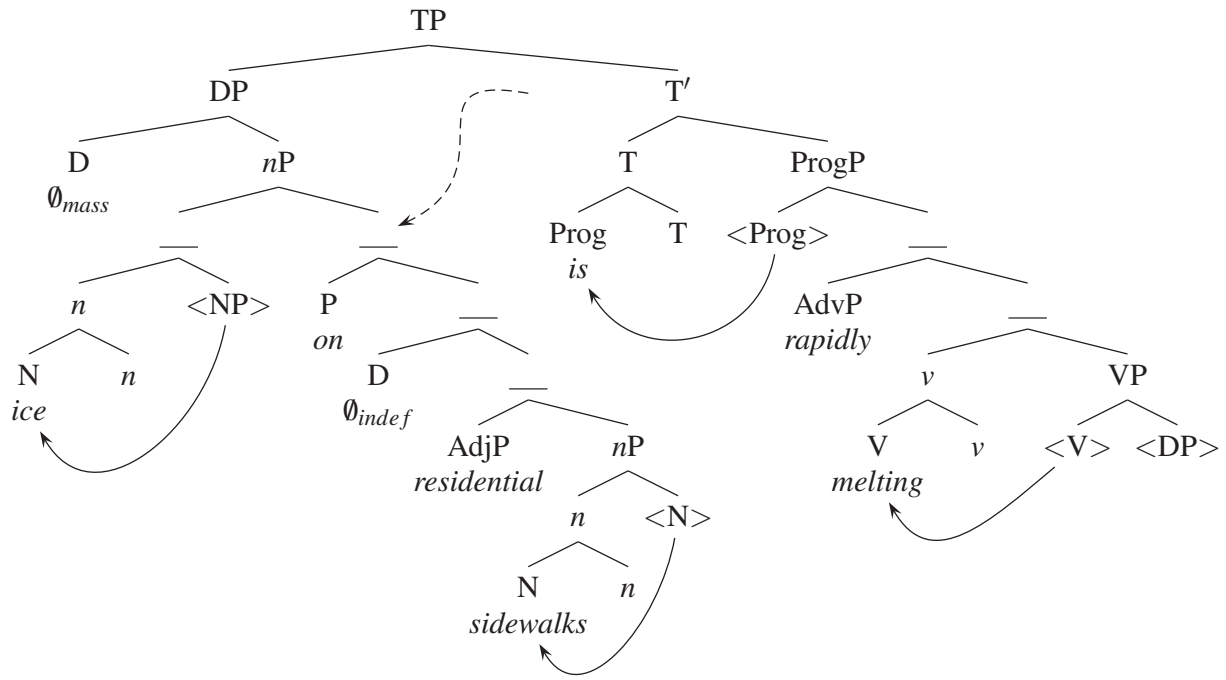
CAS LX 522 Syntax I
Spring 2014

Midterm
THU MAR 6

Budget your time. 30 points total. 80 minutes.
The number of points assigned to each part is indicated by a number in brackets.

1. [6] Fill in the missing node labels in the tree below. Where a node is the maximal projection of a lexical item, indicate this 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 *Ice on residential sidewalks is rapidly melting*. The dashed arrow is for question 4.

(1)



2. [6] Yes or No. In the sentence for which the structure is given in (1)...

(a) Is *residential sidewalks* a constituent? _____

(b) Is *rapidly melting* a constituent? _____

(c) Is *residential* a specifier? _____

(d) Is *on residential sidewalks* a complement? _____

(e) Is *rapidly* an adjunct? _____

(f) Does ProgP dominate *melting*? _____

3. [1] Circle one. The verb shown in the structure in (1) above is...

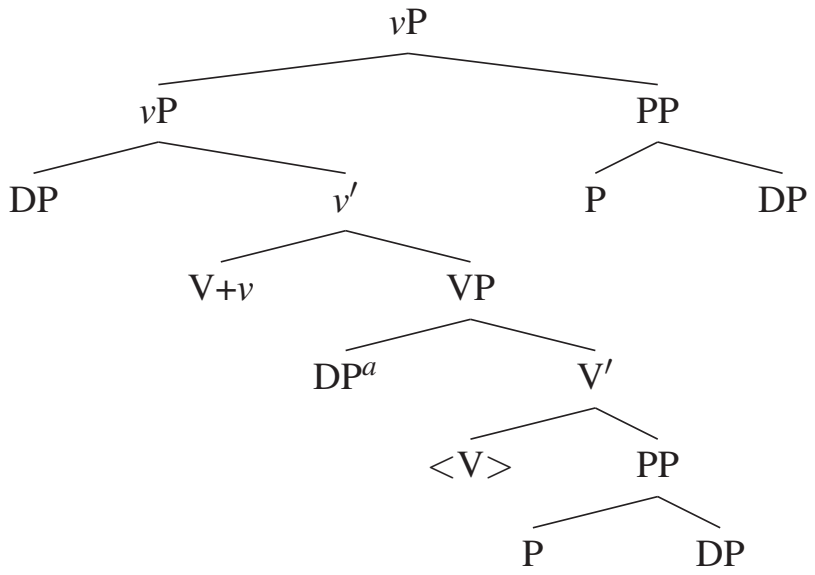
ditransitive / transitive / unergative / unaccusative

4. [1] C-command. The dashed arrow in the tree above points to a node. Circle every node in the tree that node c-commands.

5. [1] θ-role. Name the θ-role that *ice on residential sidewalks* has in (1). _____

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 in (2). *Note:* The superscript is just for identification purposes—it isn't part of the structure, I just need to be able to refer to that particular NP.

(2)



(a) [1] Name the θ-role that the DP^a has. _____

(b) [1] Name the operation (Merge, Adjoin, Move) that connected DP^a and V′.

_____

(c) [1] How many [*u*D*] features were there—total—in these lexical items initially? (assume there are no "floating quantifiers" like *all*) _____

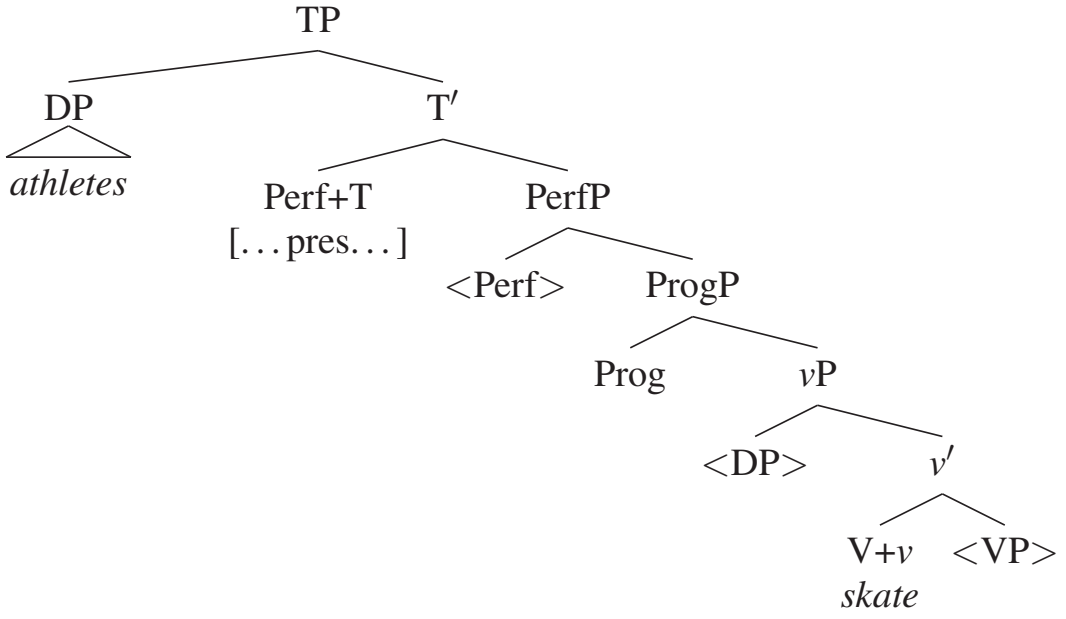
(d) [1] Which of the following three sentences might plausibly include the *v*P in (2)?

1. Mary puts bacon on sandwiches with delight.
2. Pat delivers sandwiches with bacon to customers.
3. Steve orders sandwiches with bacon under protest.

(e) [1] Circle any DP in (2) that does not (yet) have its [*u*case:] feature checked.

7. Suppose you had a sentence with the abstract structure given below in (3). I have provided the value for tense and the pronunciation of two lexical items (the NP, *athletes*, and the bare (uninflected) form of the verb, *skate*).

(3)



(a) [1] The verb shown in the structure in (3) (above) is. . .

ditransitive / transitive / unergative / unaccusative

(b) [1] Draw arrows in the tree that show, for things that moved, where they moved from and to.

(c) [1] Write the sentence that this would be the structure for.

_____

(d) [1] What was the motivation to Merge *v*P and Prog?

_____

(e) [1] Prog started with a [*u*Infl:] feature. What value does it have at the end?

_____

8. [2] Binding Theory I. Consider the sentence in (4), which is "trying to mean" *Mary convinced herself that she was unable to win the race*, and answer the questions below.

(4) * She$_i$ convinced herself$_i$ that Mary$_i$ was unable to win the race.

(a) [1] Which noun phrase(s) bind *Mary* in (4)?

_____.

(b) [1] Which Principle(s) of Binding Theory is/are *not* violated in (4)?

_____

9. [2] Binding Theory II. Now consider the sentence in (5), which is "trying to mean" *John asked Mary to dismiss him from her committee*, and answer the questions below.

(5) * John$_j$ asked her$_i$ to dismiss himself$_j$ from Mary$_i$'s committee.

(a) [1] Which noun phrase(s), if any, bind *himself* in (5)?

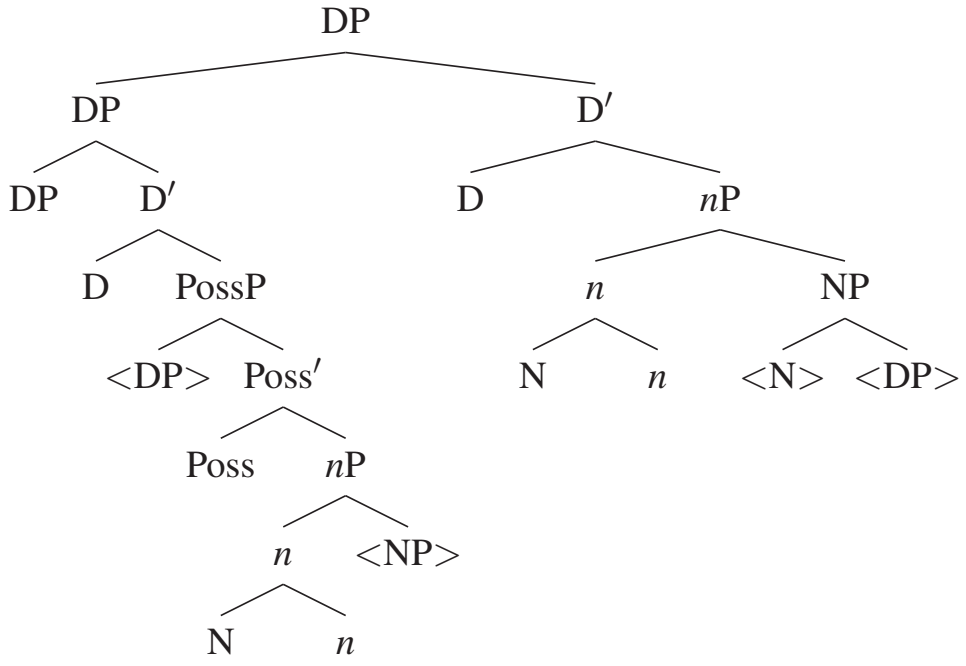
_____.

(b) [1] Which Principle(s) of Binding Theory (if any) is/are *not* violated in (5)?

_____

10. [2] DP Structure. Answer the questions below about (6). Assume that if no internal structure is *shown* for a DP, then the DP *has* no internal structure.

(6)



(a) [1] Circle any DP in (6) (in its final position, ignore <DP> traces) that does not have its [*u*case:] feature checked.

(b) [1] Write an English DP that (6) could represent.