

# CKY Parsing & CNF Conversion

LING 571 — Deep Processing Techniques for NLP

October 6, 2021

Shane Steinert-Threlkeld

# Announcements

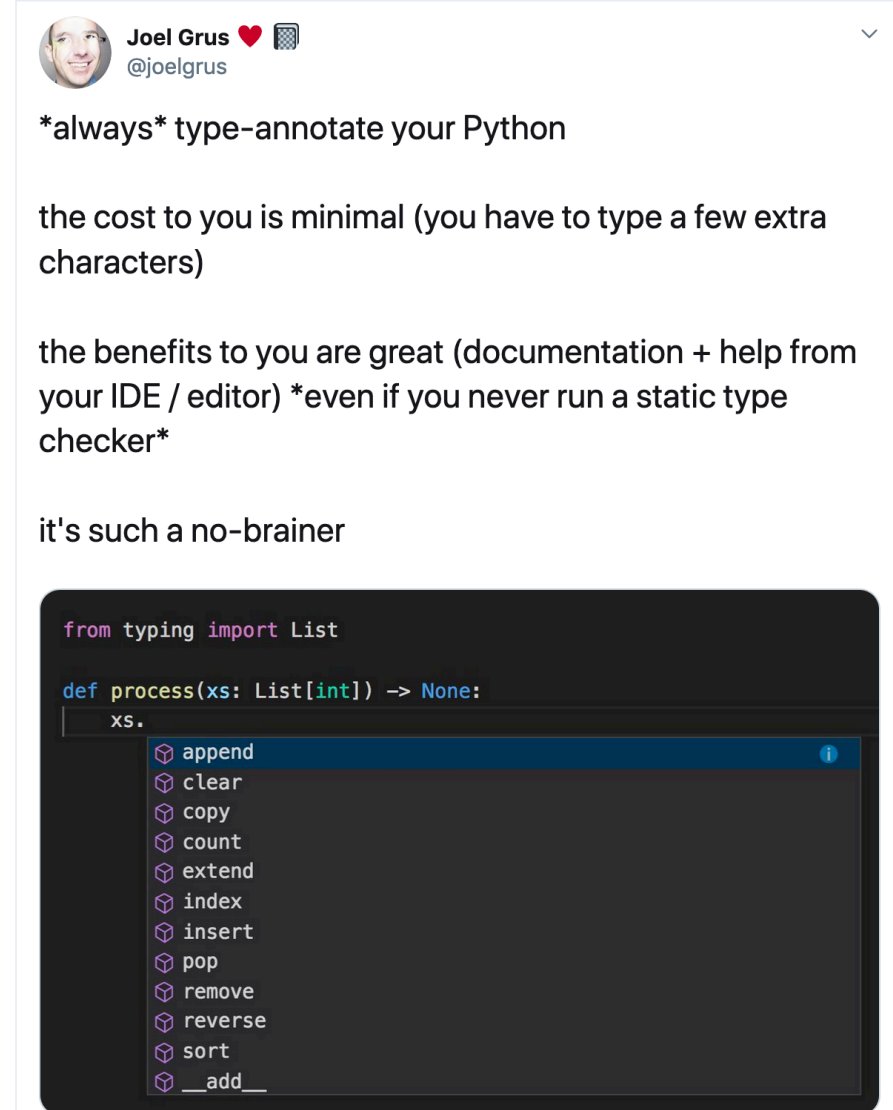
- **HW #1** due tonight at **11:59pm**.
- Python on Patas: installed versions ``ls /opt | grep python``. E.g., invoke by:
  - `/opt/python-3.6/bin/python3`
  - `nltk` is installed.
- [For personal projects, but not 571 HW, you can use the latest of everything via Anaconda (download with `wget`).]
- When in doubt, use *full paths* for everything (python binary, file names, etc)
- `check_hwX.sh`: invoke from your local directory (for permission reasons)

# Type Hinting in Python

- Supported in  $\geq 3.6$  [[tutorial](#)]

```
from typing import List
from nltk.grammar import Production
```

```
def fix_hybrid_production(hybrid_prod: Production) -> List[Production]:
    ...
```



# Type Hinting in Python

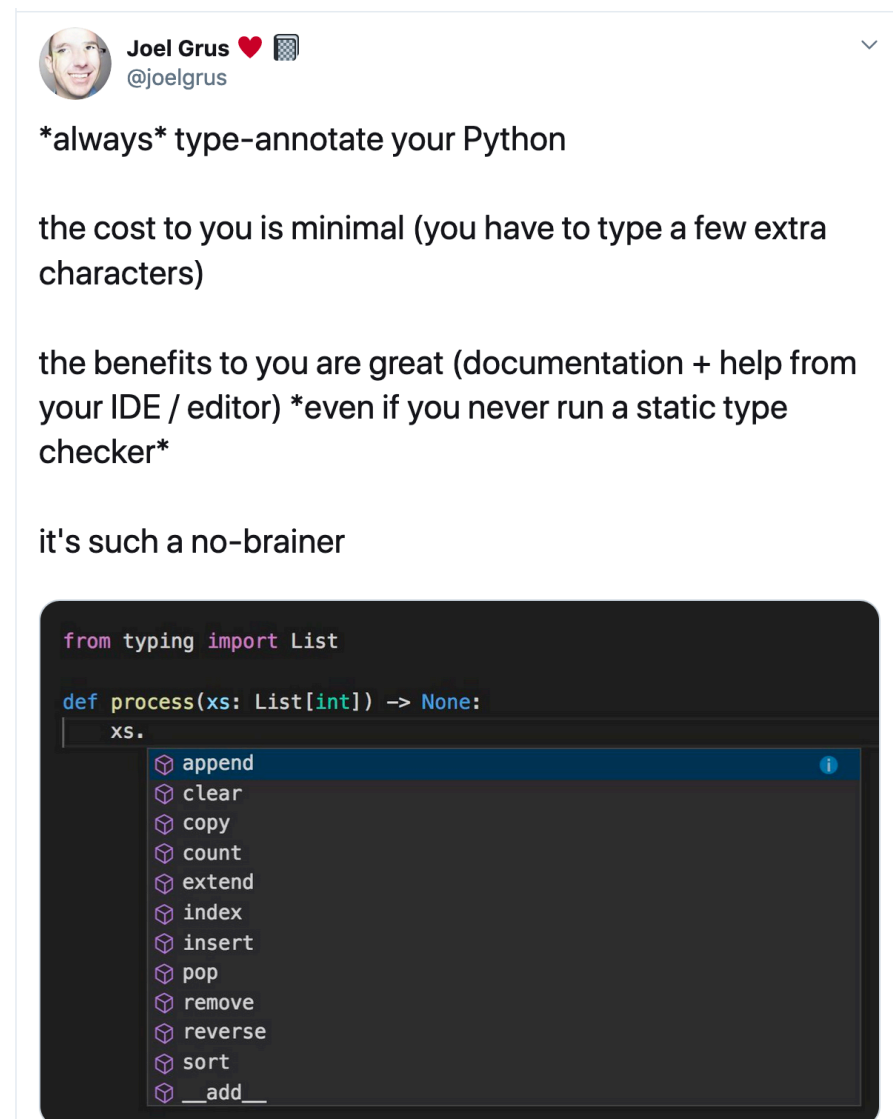
- Supported in  $\geq 3.6$  [tutorial]

```
from typing import List
from nltk.grammar import Production
```

```
def fix_hybrid_production(hybrid_prod: Production) -> List[Production]:
    ...
```

- Also available in PyCharm through docstrings and/or comments:

```
def fix_hybrid_productions(hybrid_prod):
    """
    This function takes a hybrid production and
    returns a list of new CNF productions
    :type hybrid_prod: Production
    :rtype: list[Production]
    """
```



# Joke of the Week (PP Attachment Ambiguity)

**tott** @crazytott · Oct 5

A cop just knocked on my door and told me that my dogs were chasing people on bikes???? Wtf??? My dogs don't even own bikes tf

# Roadmap

- **Parsing-as-Search**
- Parsing Challenges
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- Grammar Equivalence
- CKY parsing algorithm

# Computational Parsing

- Given a body of (annotated) text, how can we derive the grammar rules of a language, and employ them in automatic parsing?
  - Treebanks & PCFGs
- Given a grammar, how can we derive the analysis of an input sentence?
  - Parsing as search
  - CKY parsing
    - Conversion to CNF

# What is Parsing?

- CFG parsing is the task of assigning trees to input strings
  - For any input  $A$  and grammar  $G$ 
    - ...assign  $\geq 0$  parse trees  $T$  that represent its syntactic structure, and...
    - Cover all and only the elements of  $A$
    - Have, as root, the start symbol  $S$  of  $G$
    - ...do not necessarily pick one single (or correct) analysis
- Subtask: Recognition
  - Given input  $A$ ,  $G$  – is  $A$  in language defined by  $G$  or not?



# Motivation

- Is this sentence in the language — i.e. is it “grammatical?”
  - *\* I prefer United has the earliest flight.*
  - FSAs accept regular languages defined by finite-state automata.
  - Our parsers accept languages defined by CFG (equiv. pushdown automata).

# Motivation

- Is this sentence in the language — i.e. is it “grammatical?”
  - *\* I prefer United has the earliest flight.*
  - FSAs accept regular languages defined by finite-state automata.
  - Our parsers accept languages defined by CFG (equiv. pushdown automata).
- What is the syntactic structure of this sentence?
  - *What airline has the cheapest flight?*
  - *What airport does Southwest fly from near Boston?*
  - Syntactic parse provides framework for semantic analysis
    - What is the subject? Direct object?

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# Parsing as Search

- Syntactic parsing searches through possible trees to find one or more trees that derive input
- Formally, search problems are defined by:
  - Start state  $S$
  - Goal state  $G$  (with a test)
  - Set of actions that transition from one state to another
    - “Successor function”
  - A path cost function

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- Path cost:
  - ...ignored for now.



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- Node:
  - Partial solution to search problem (partial parse)
- Search start node (initial state):
  - Input string
  - Start symbol of CFG
- Goal node:
  - Full parse tree: covering all of, and only the input, rooted at  $S$

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- Depth First
  - Keep expanding nonterminals until they reach words
  - If no more expansions available, back up

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  - Consider all parses that expand a single nonterminal...
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# Search Algorithms

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  - Keep expanding nonterminals until they reach words
  - If no more expansions available, back up
- Breadth First
  - Consider all parses that expand a single nonterminal...
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- Other alternatives, if have associated path costs.

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- Two constraints on parsing:
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- Two constraints on parsing:
  - Must start with the start symbol
  - Must cover exactly the input string
- Correspond to main parsing search strategies
  - Top-down search (Goal-directed)
  - Bottom-up search (Data-driven search)



# A Grammar

Grammar	Lexicon
$S \rightarrow NP VP$	$Det \rightarrow that \mid this \mid a$
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	$Noun \rightarrow book \mid flight \mid meal \mid money$
$S \rightarrow VP$	$Verb \rightarrow book \mid include \mid prefer$

*Jurafsky & Martin, Speech and Language Processing, p.390*

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$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$	$Pronoun \rightarrow I \mid she \mid me$
$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$	$Proper-Noun \rightarrow Houston \mid NWA$
$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$	$Aux \rightarrow does$
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$VP \rightarrow Verb$	

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- Successively expand nonterminals
  - e.g.  $NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$ ;  $VP \rightarrow V NP$
- Terminate when all leaves are terminals

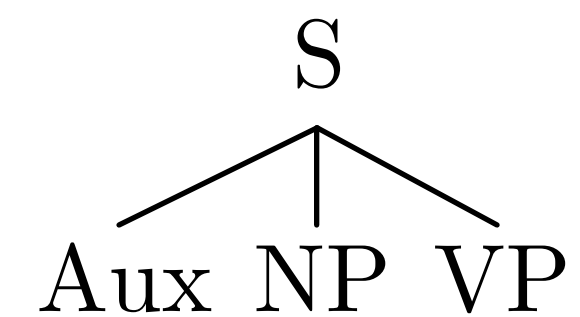
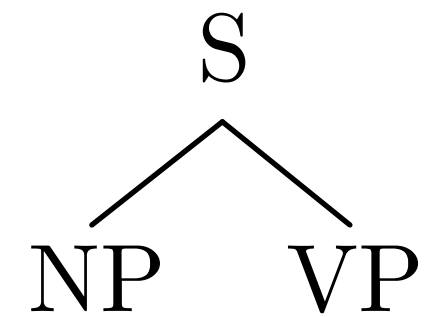


# Depth-First Search

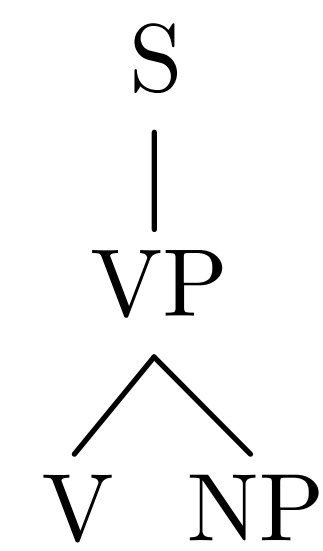
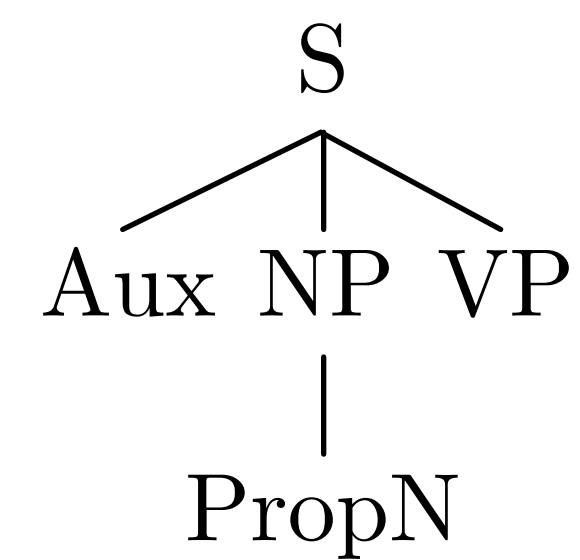
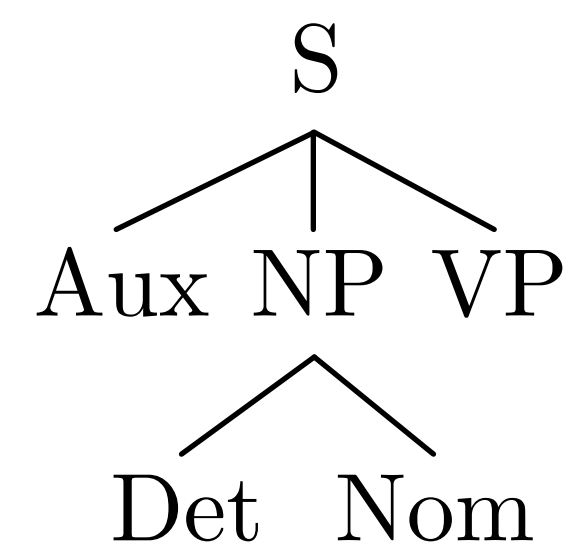
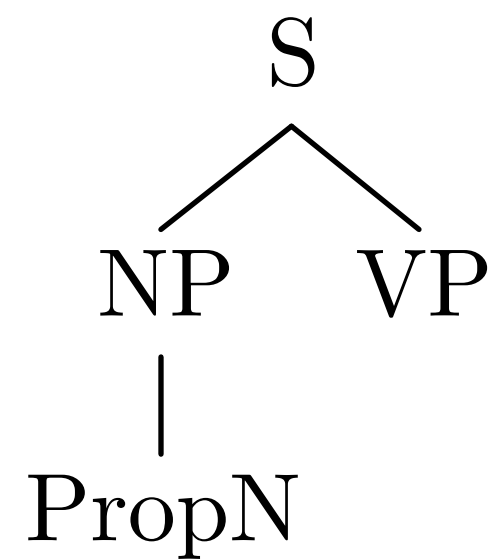
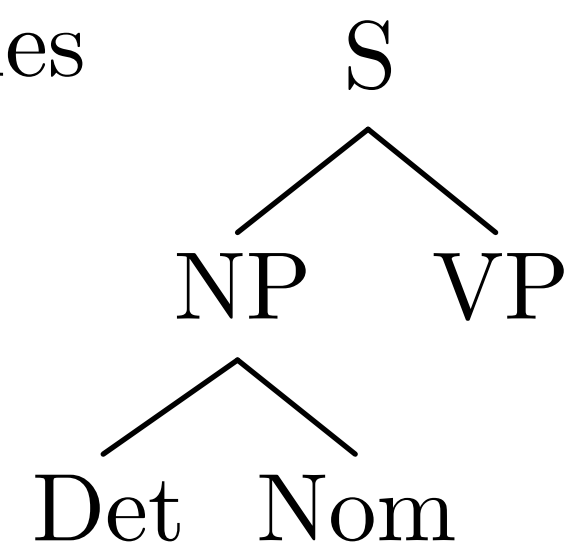
Start State

S

1 Rule

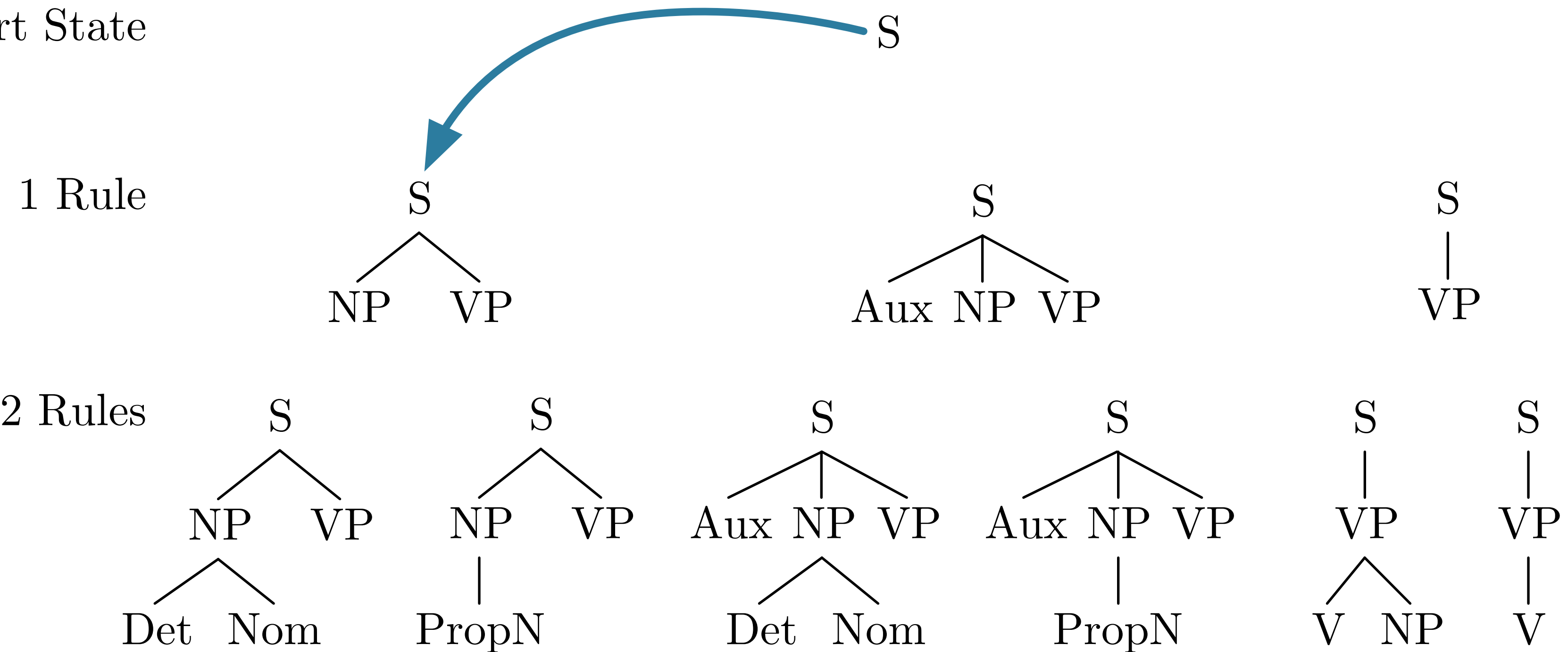


2 Rules



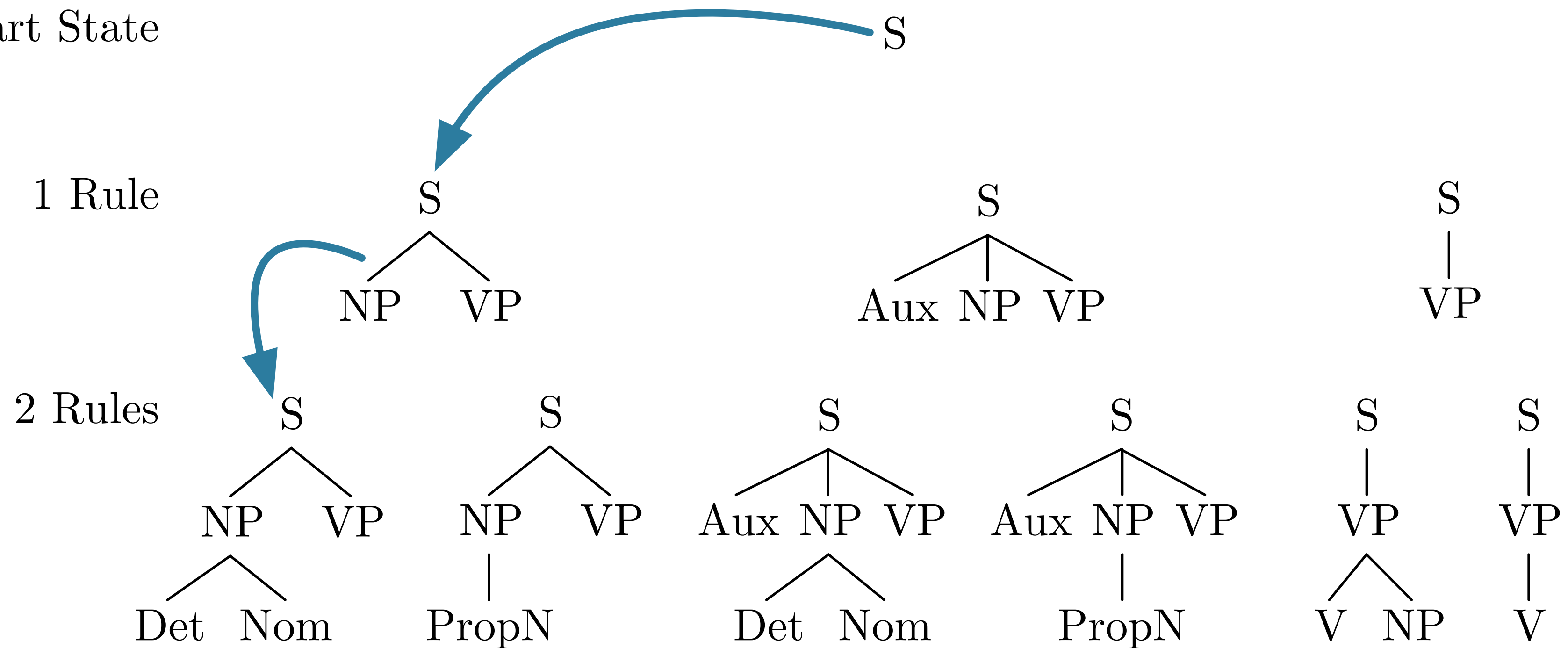
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Start State



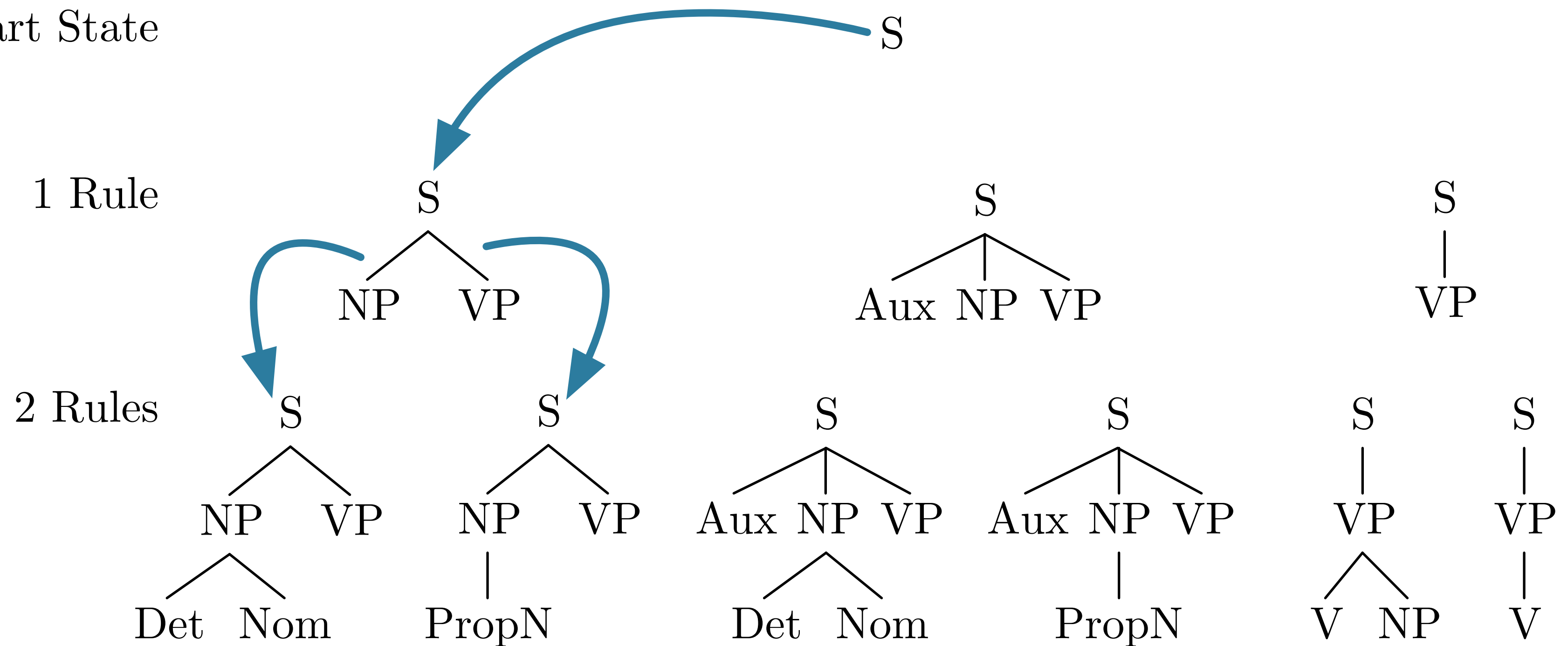
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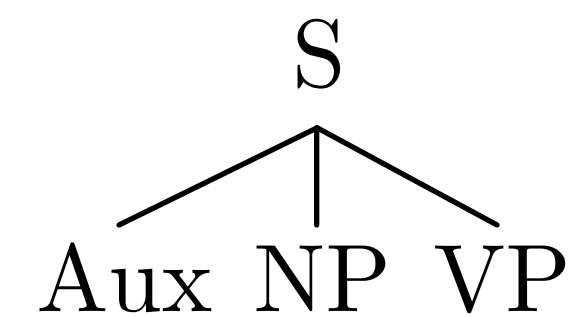
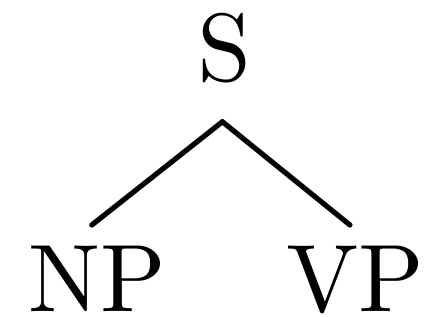


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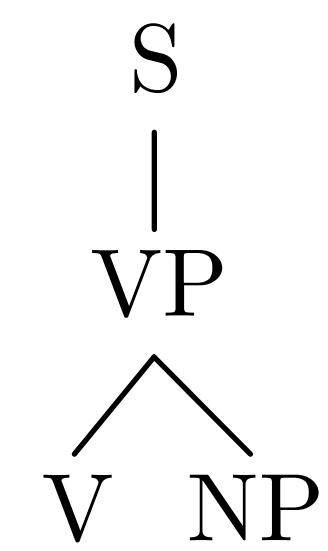
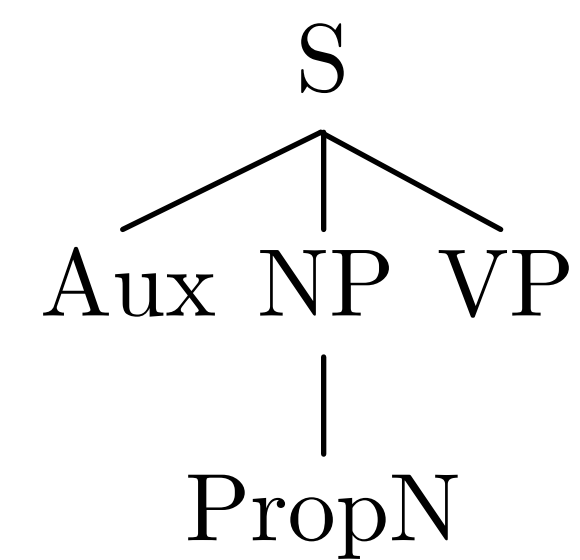
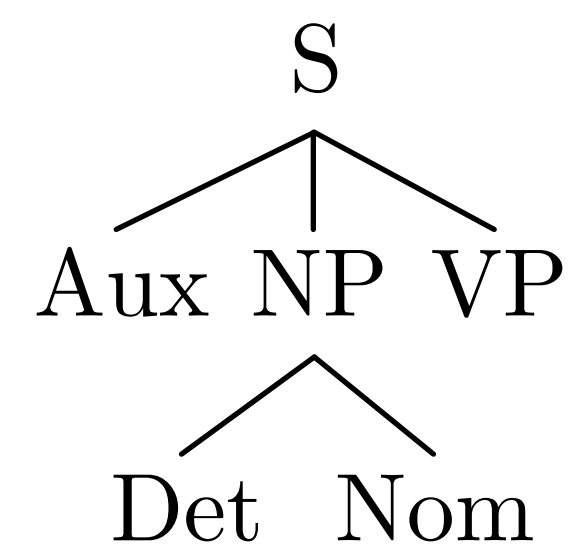
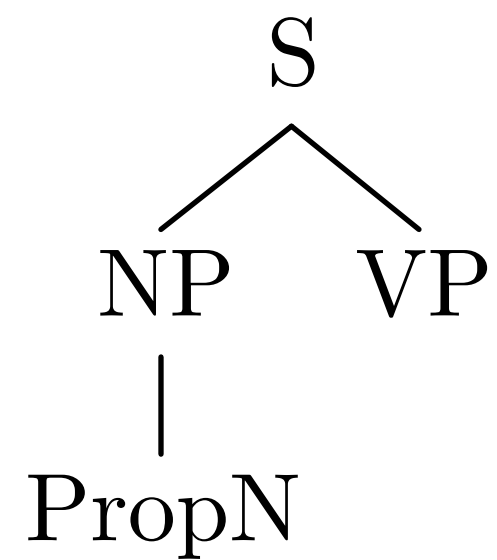
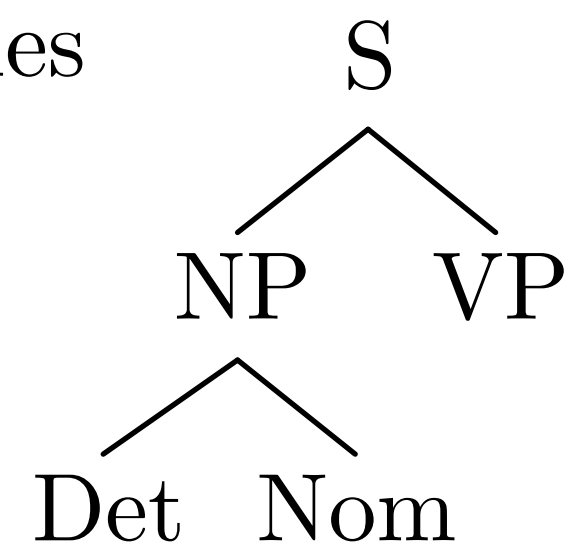
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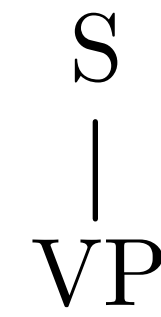
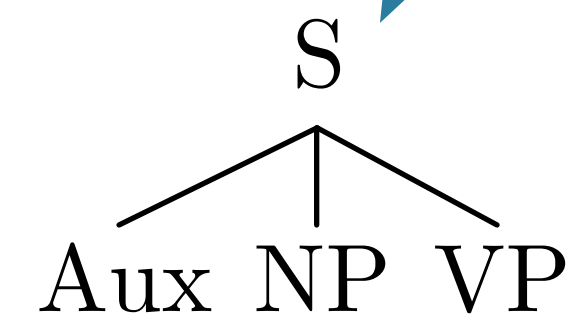
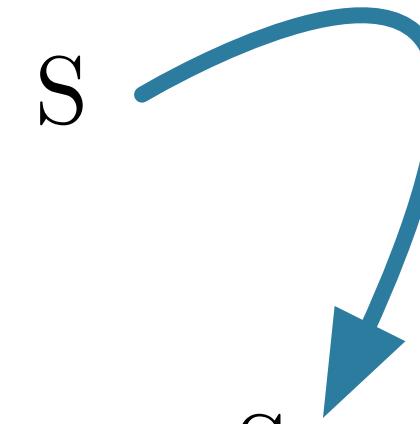
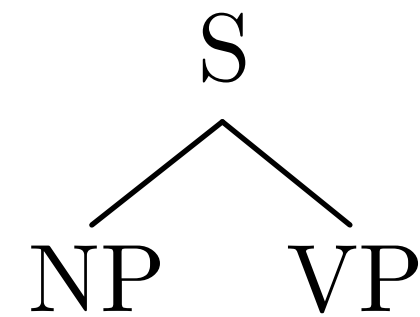
2 Rules



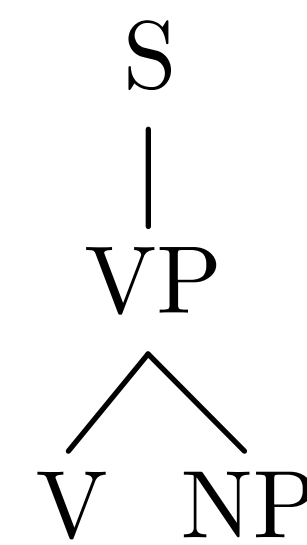
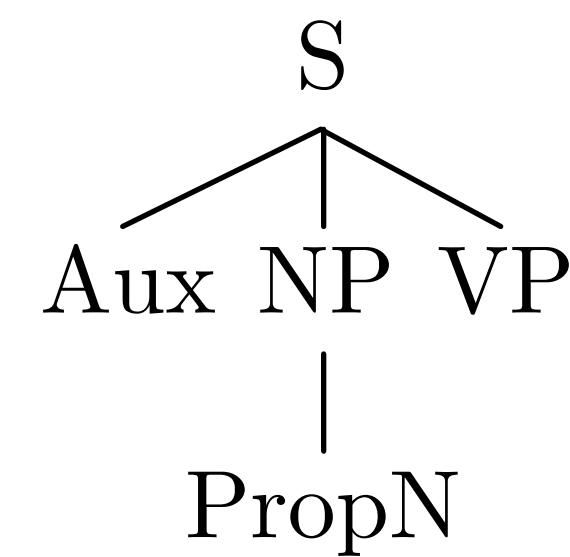
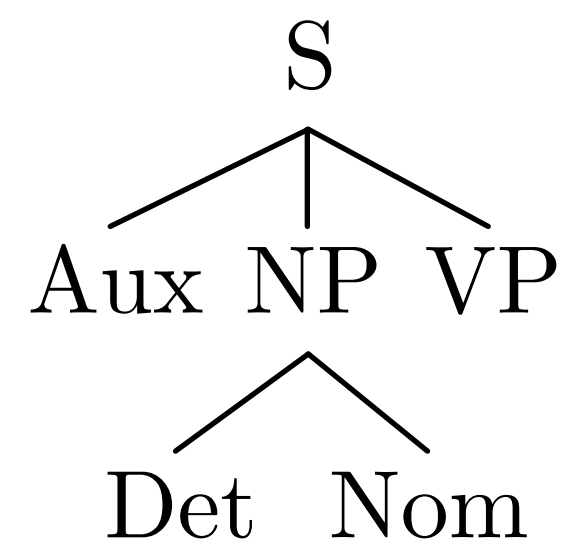
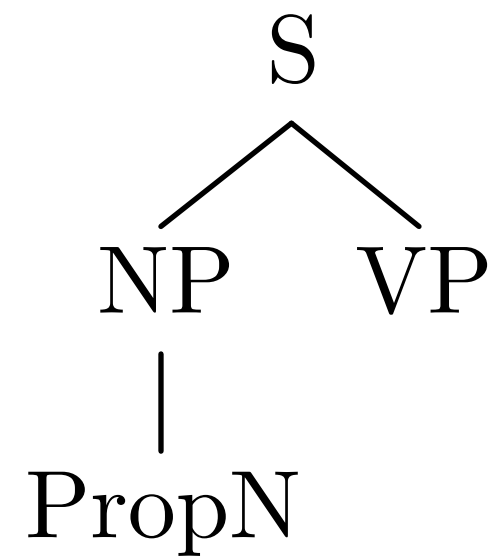
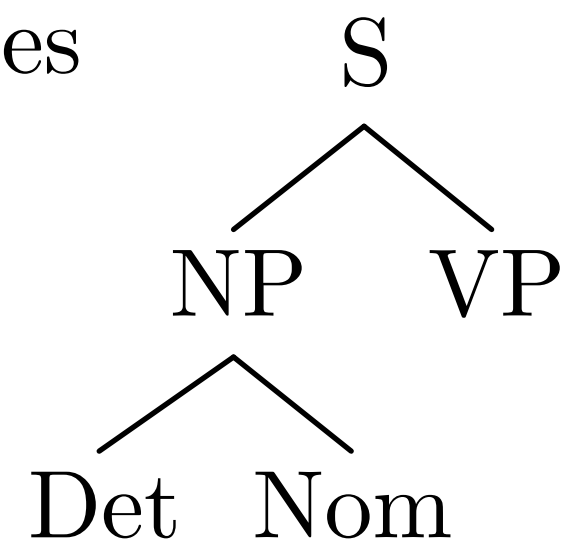
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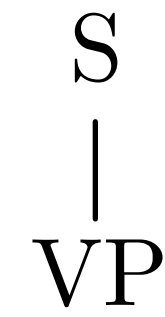
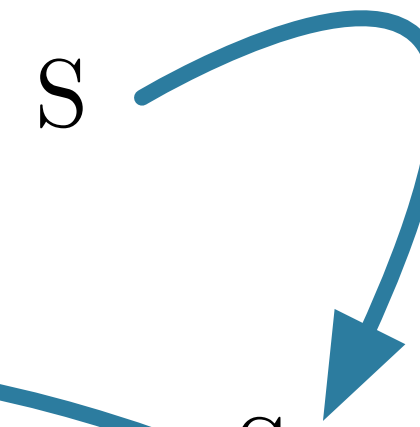
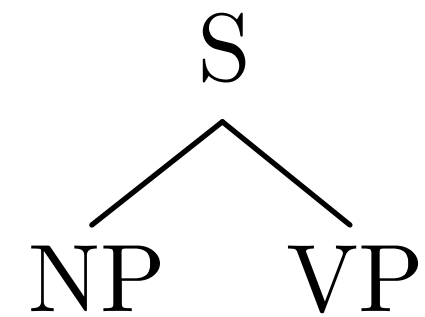
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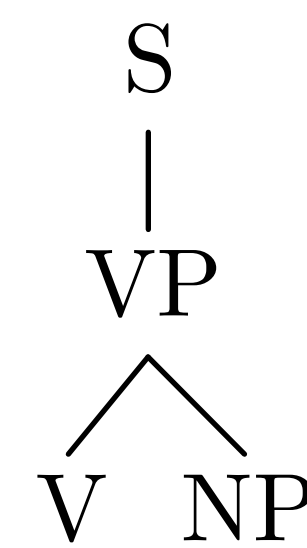
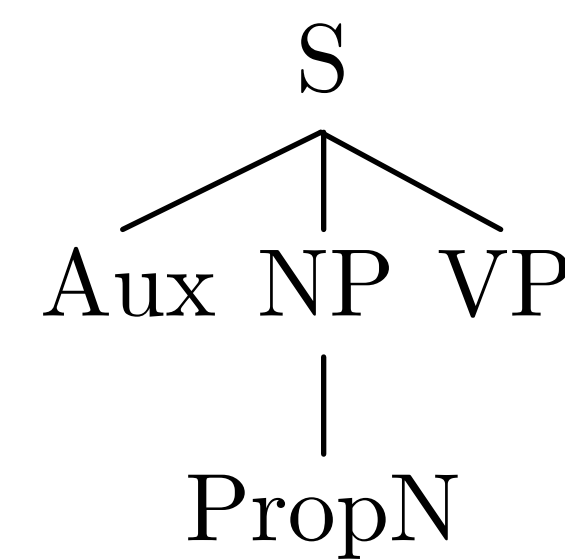
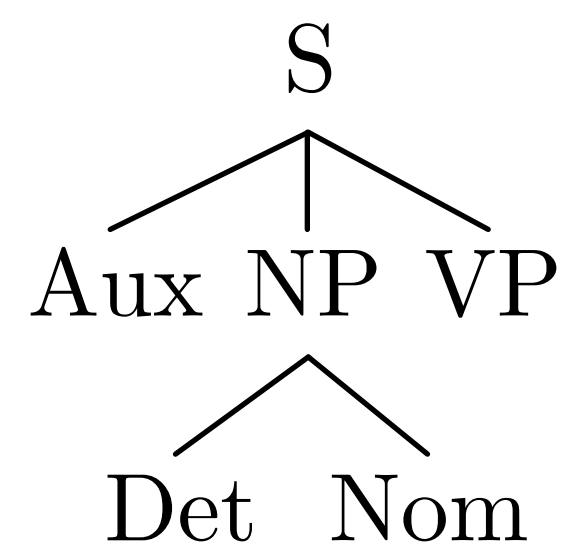
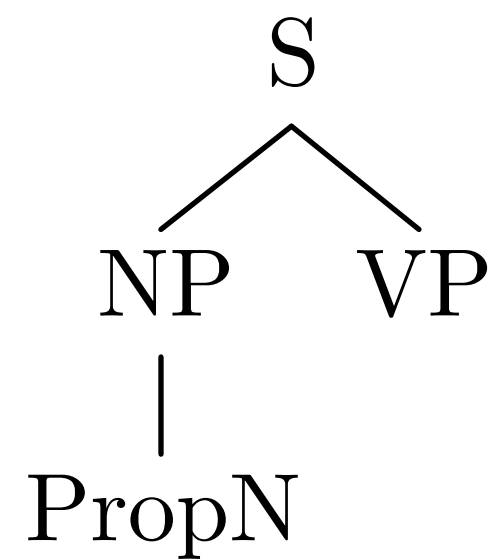
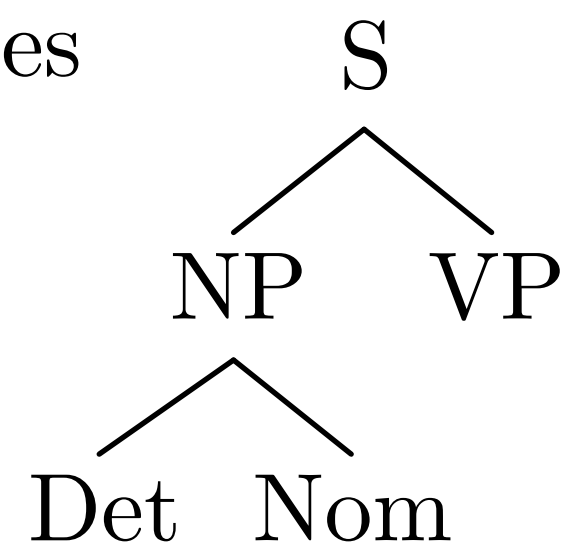
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Start State

1 Rule



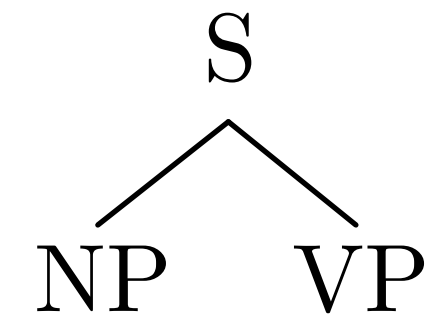
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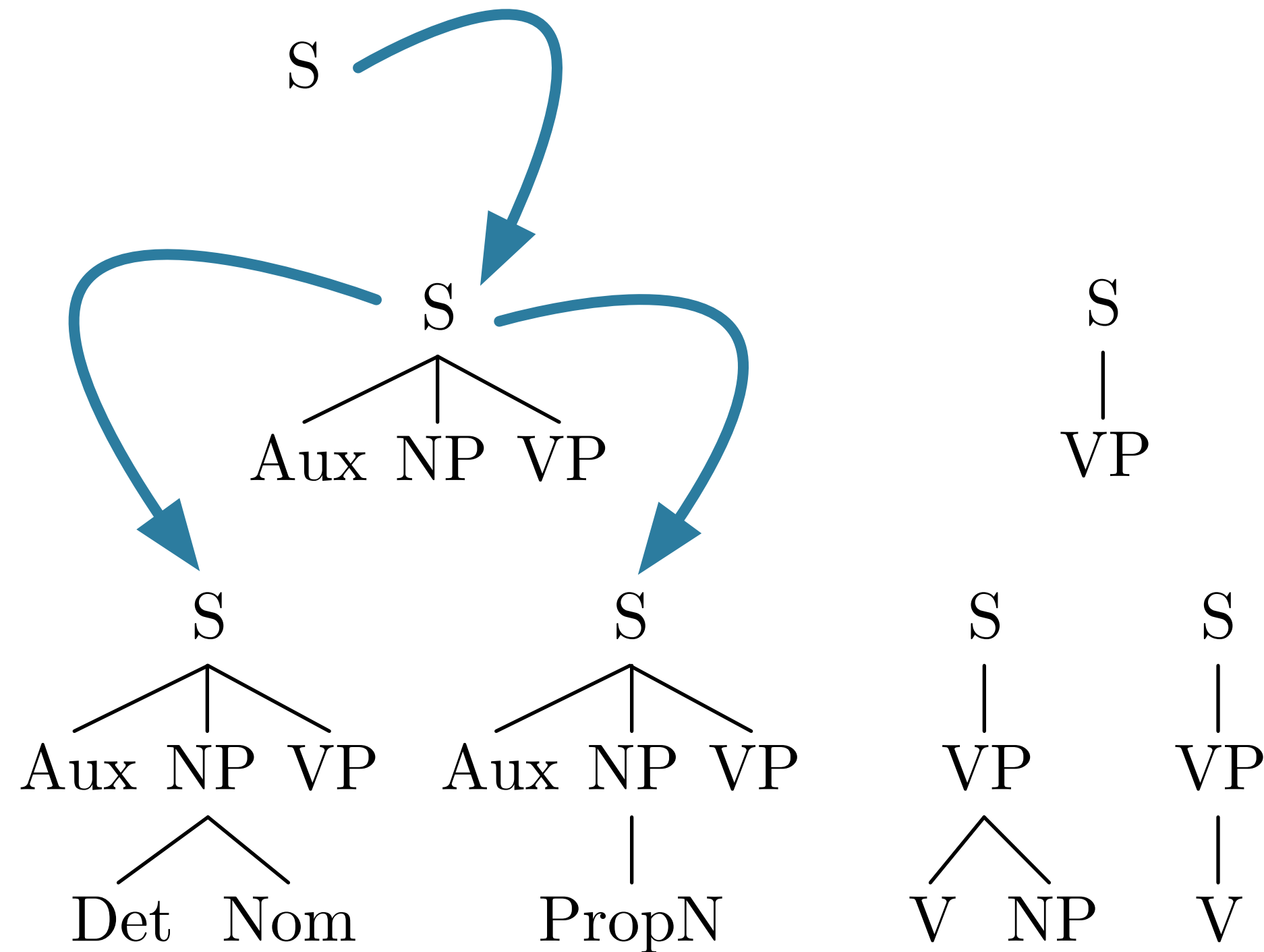
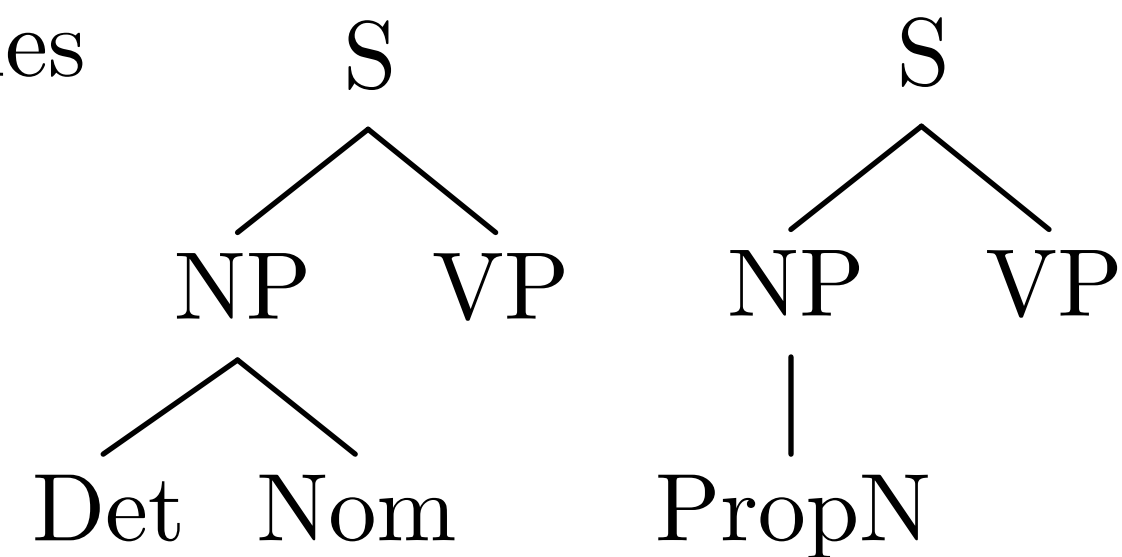
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2 Rules



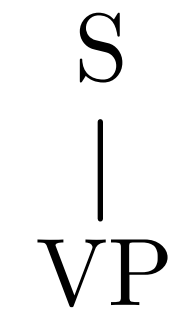
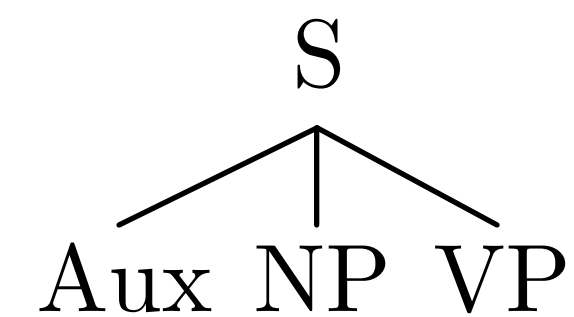
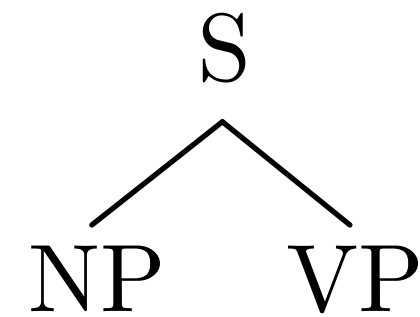


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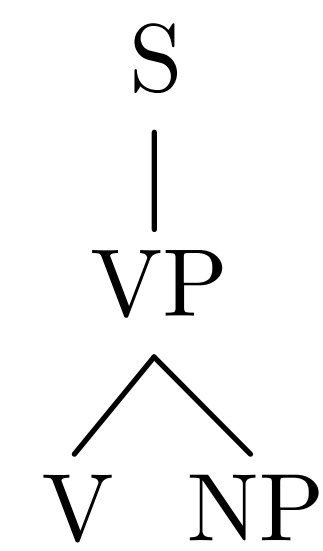
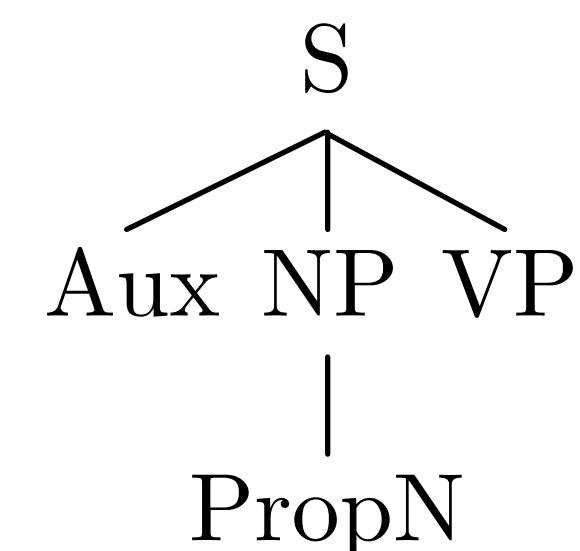
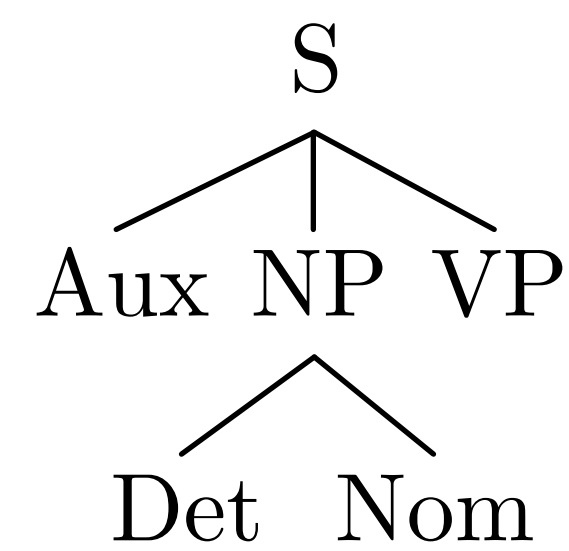
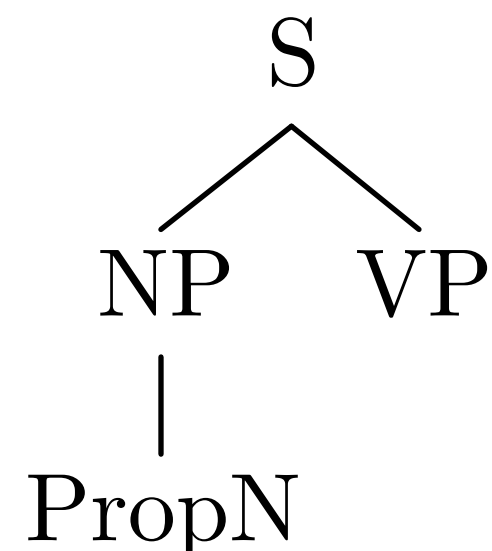
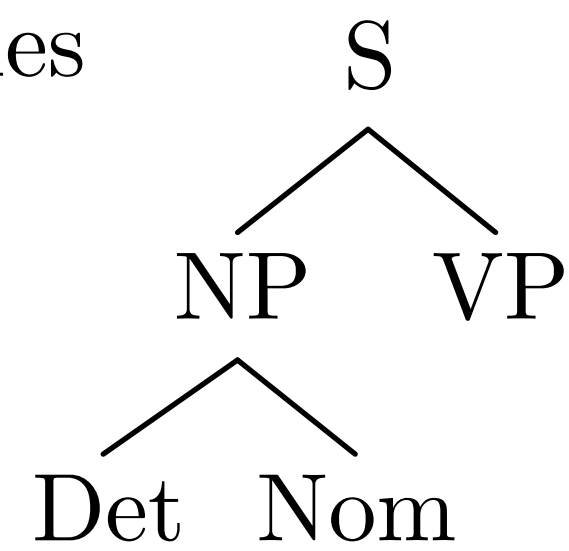
Start State

S

1 Rule



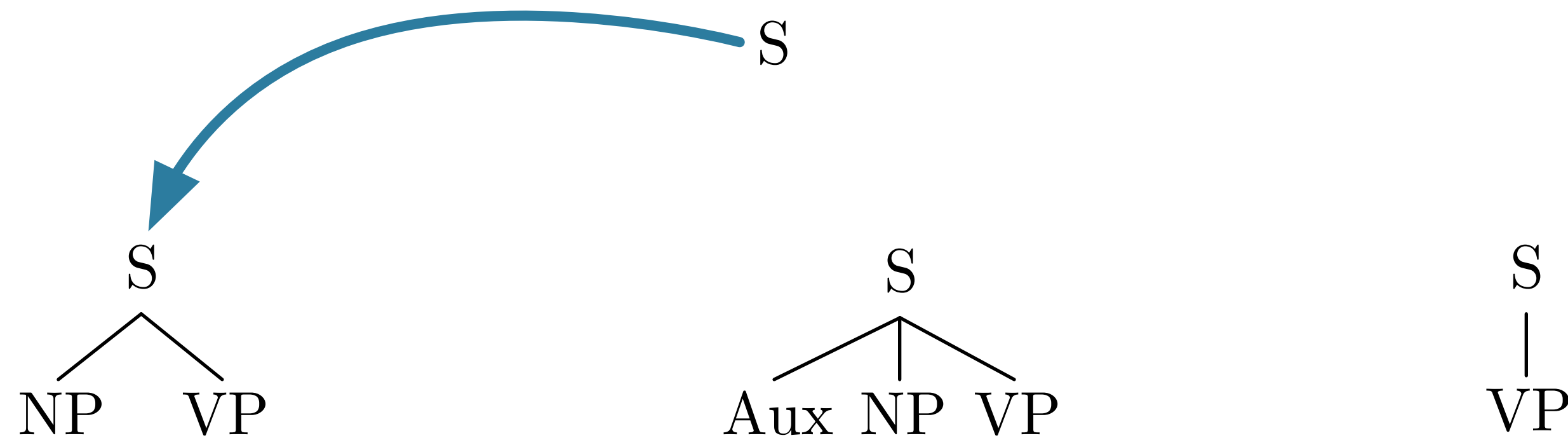
2 Rules



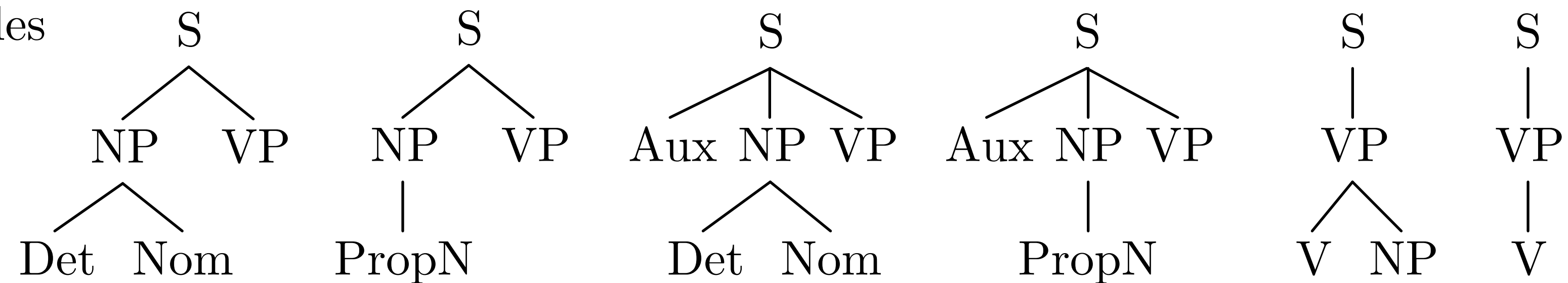
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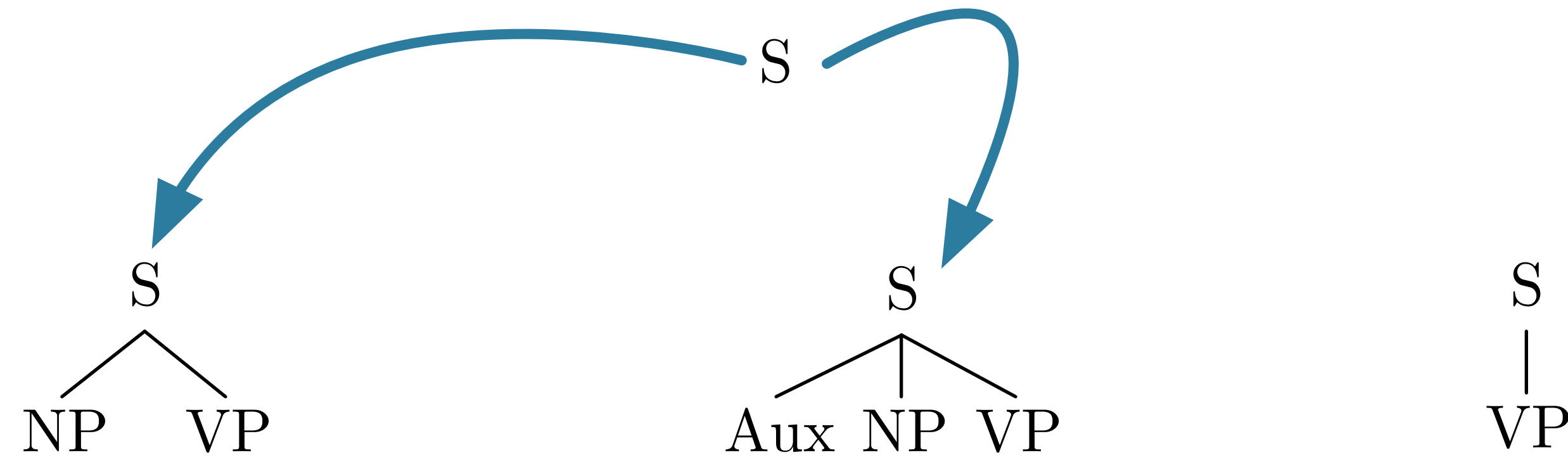
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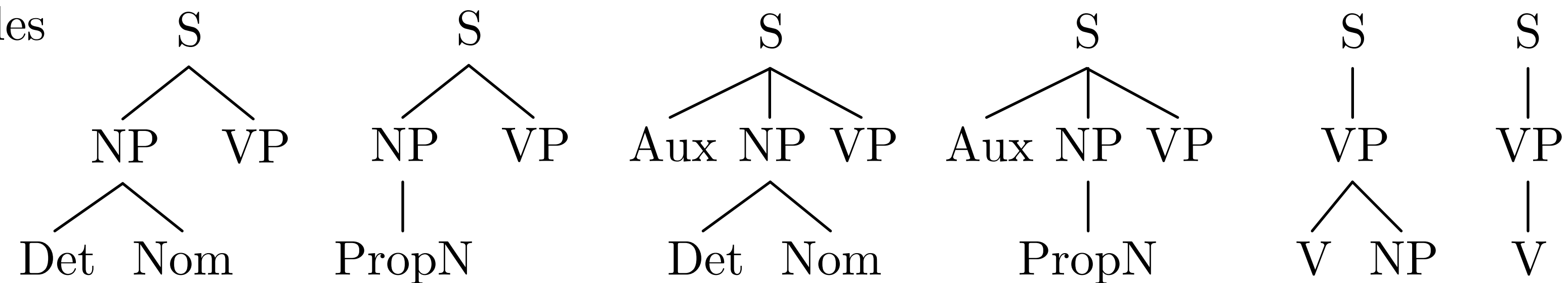
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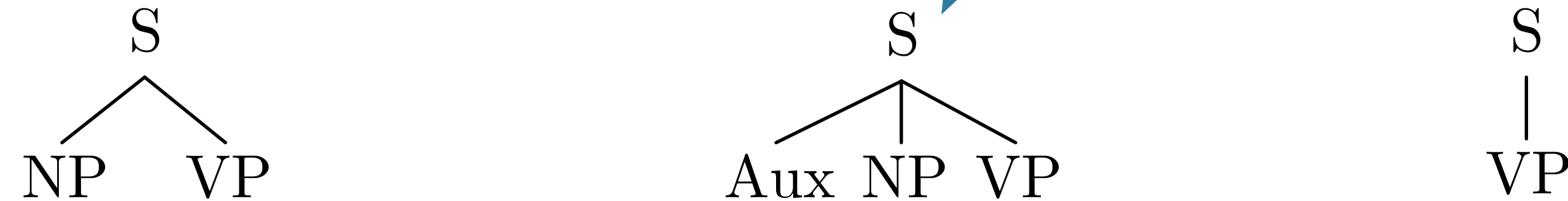
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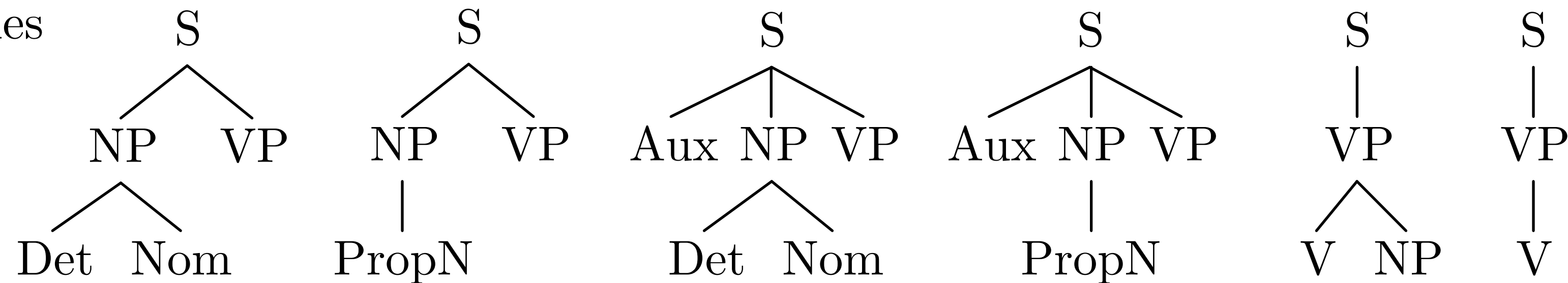
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2 Rules

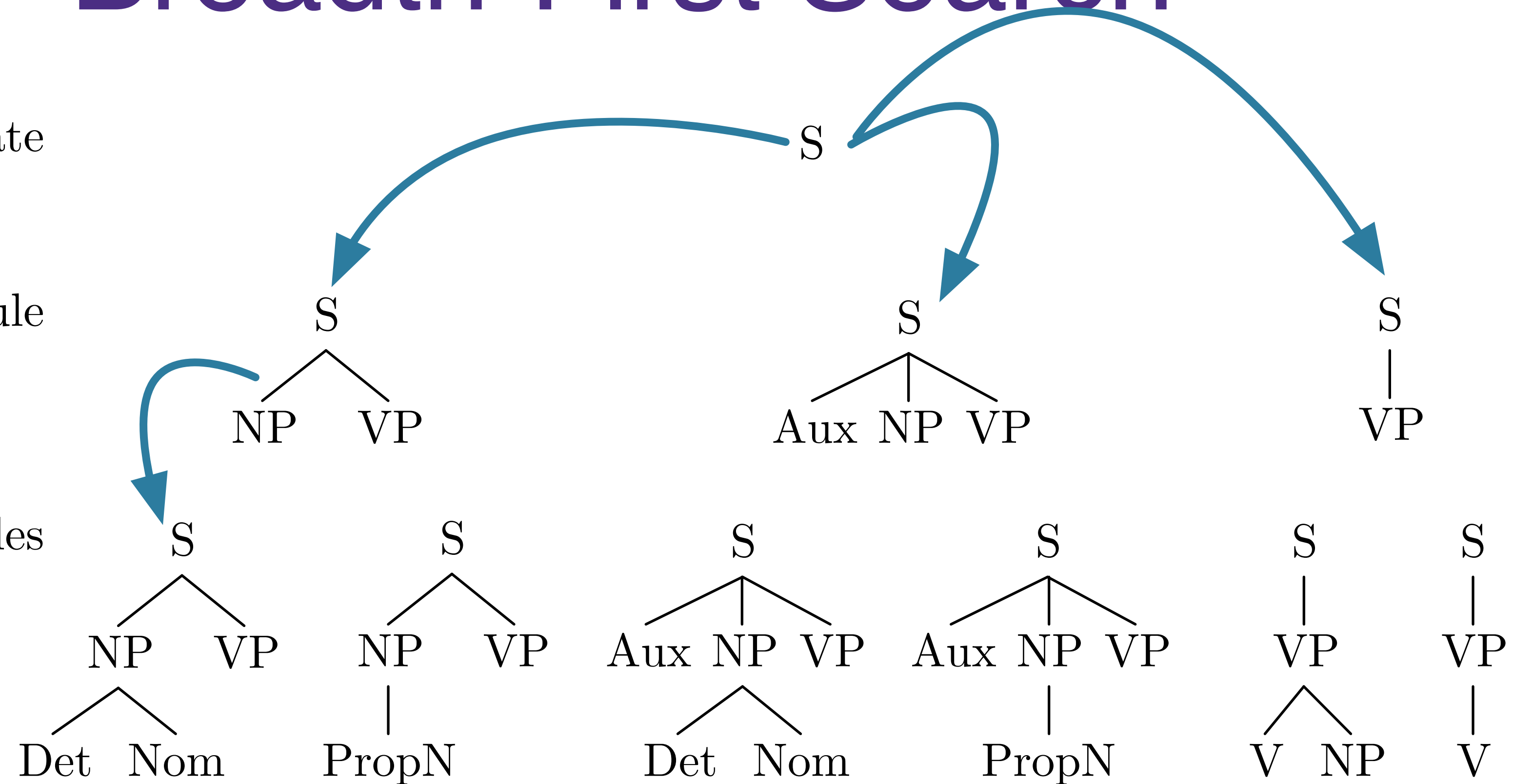


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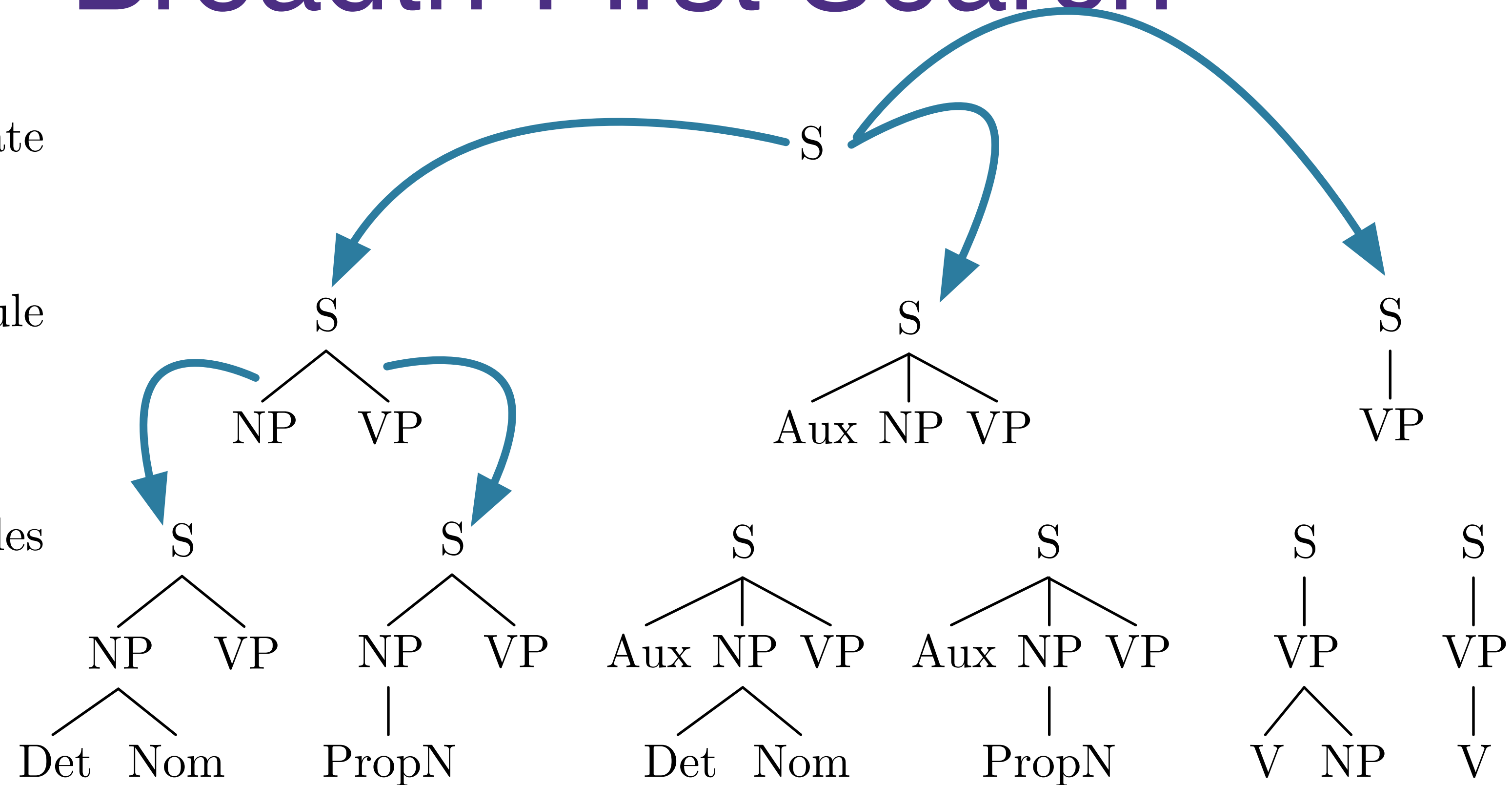


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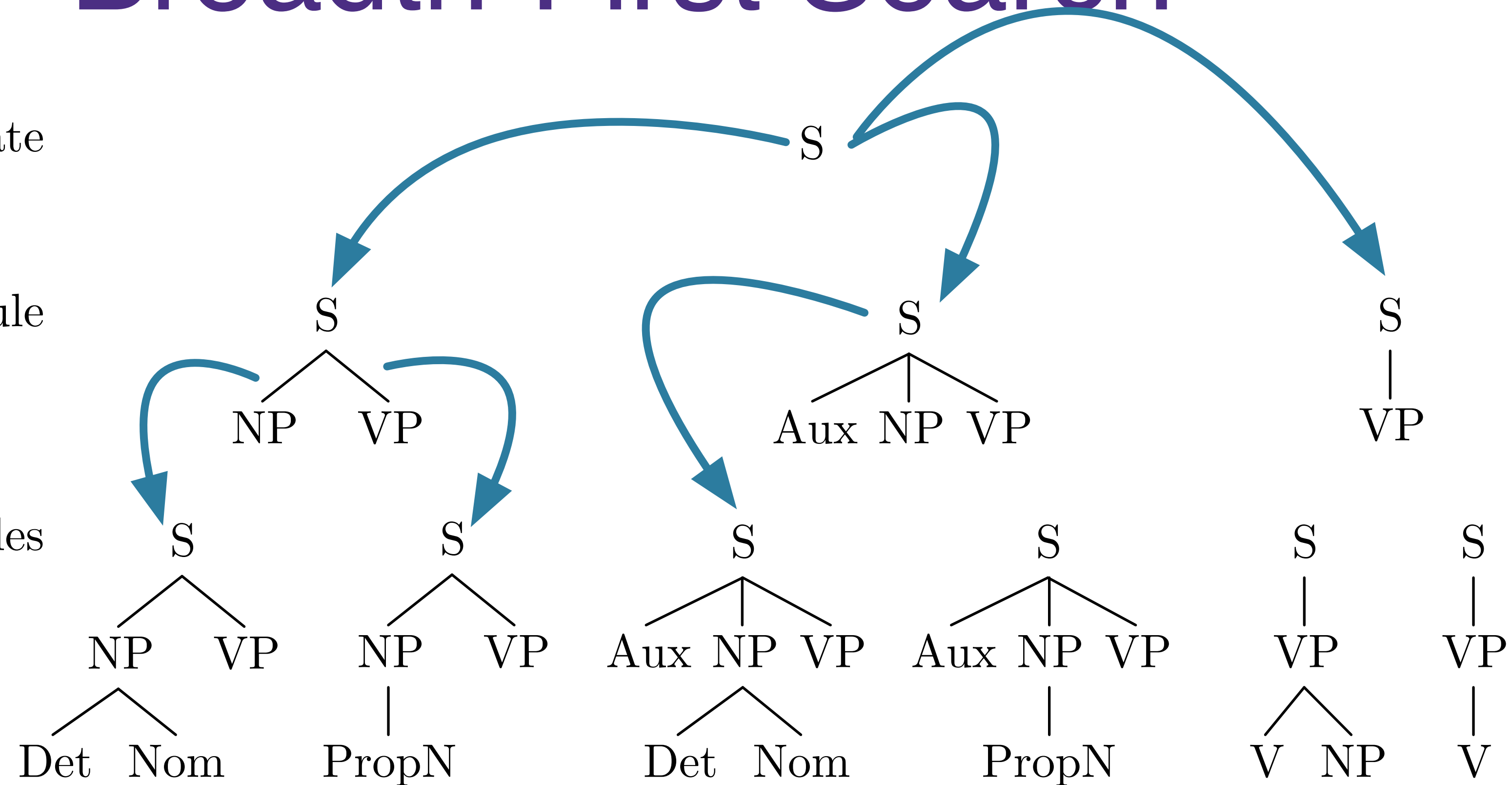


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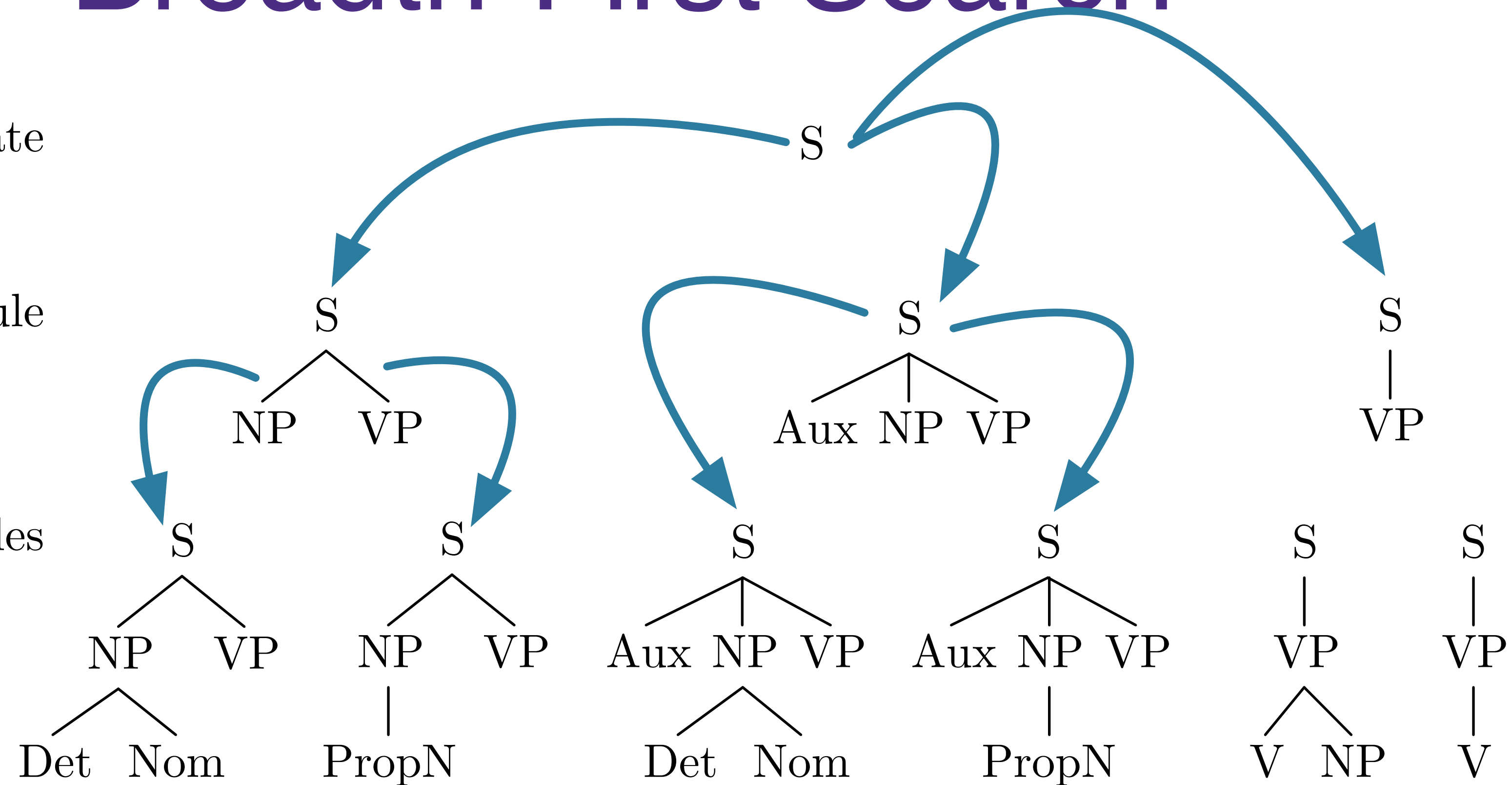


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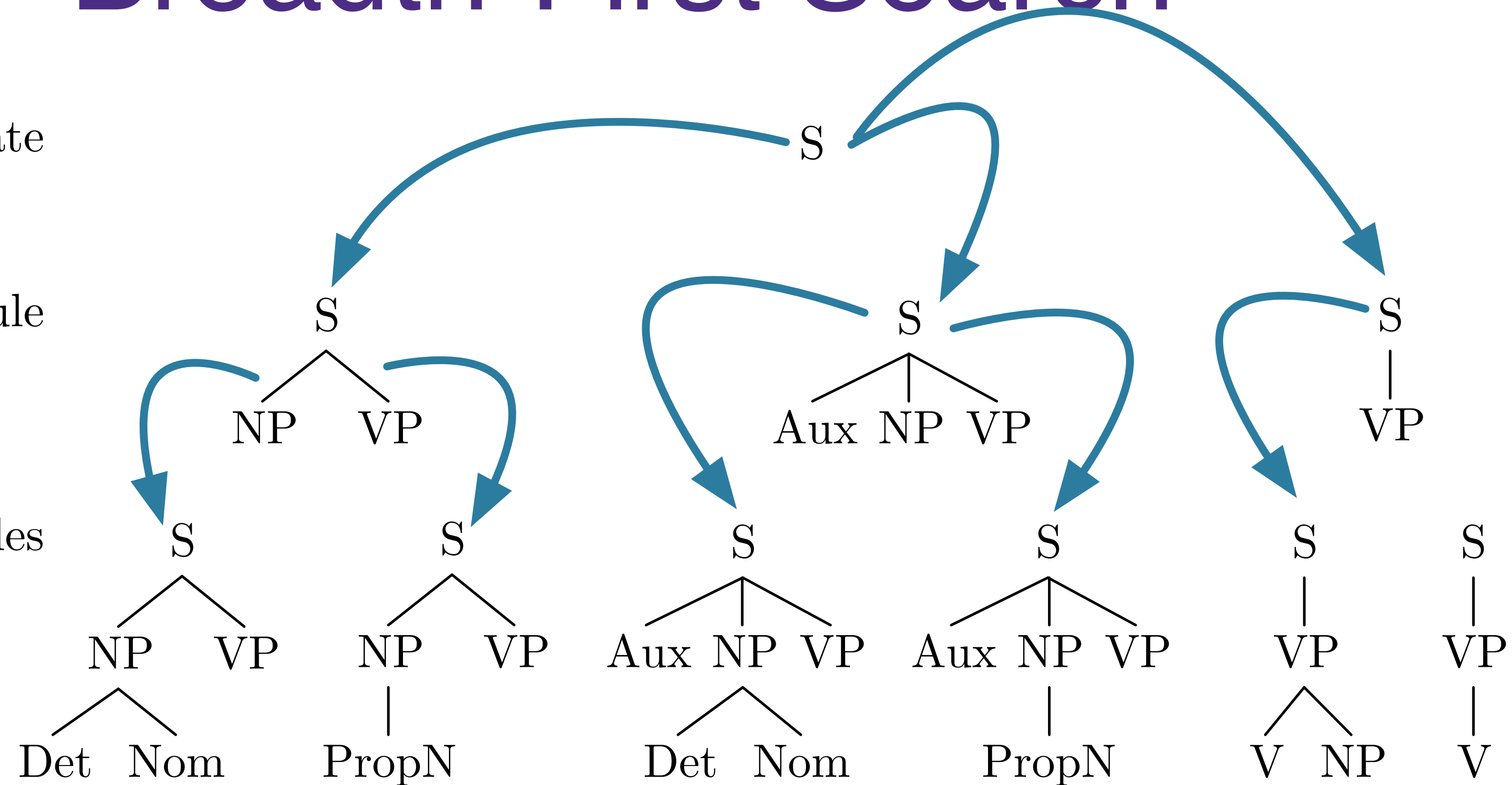


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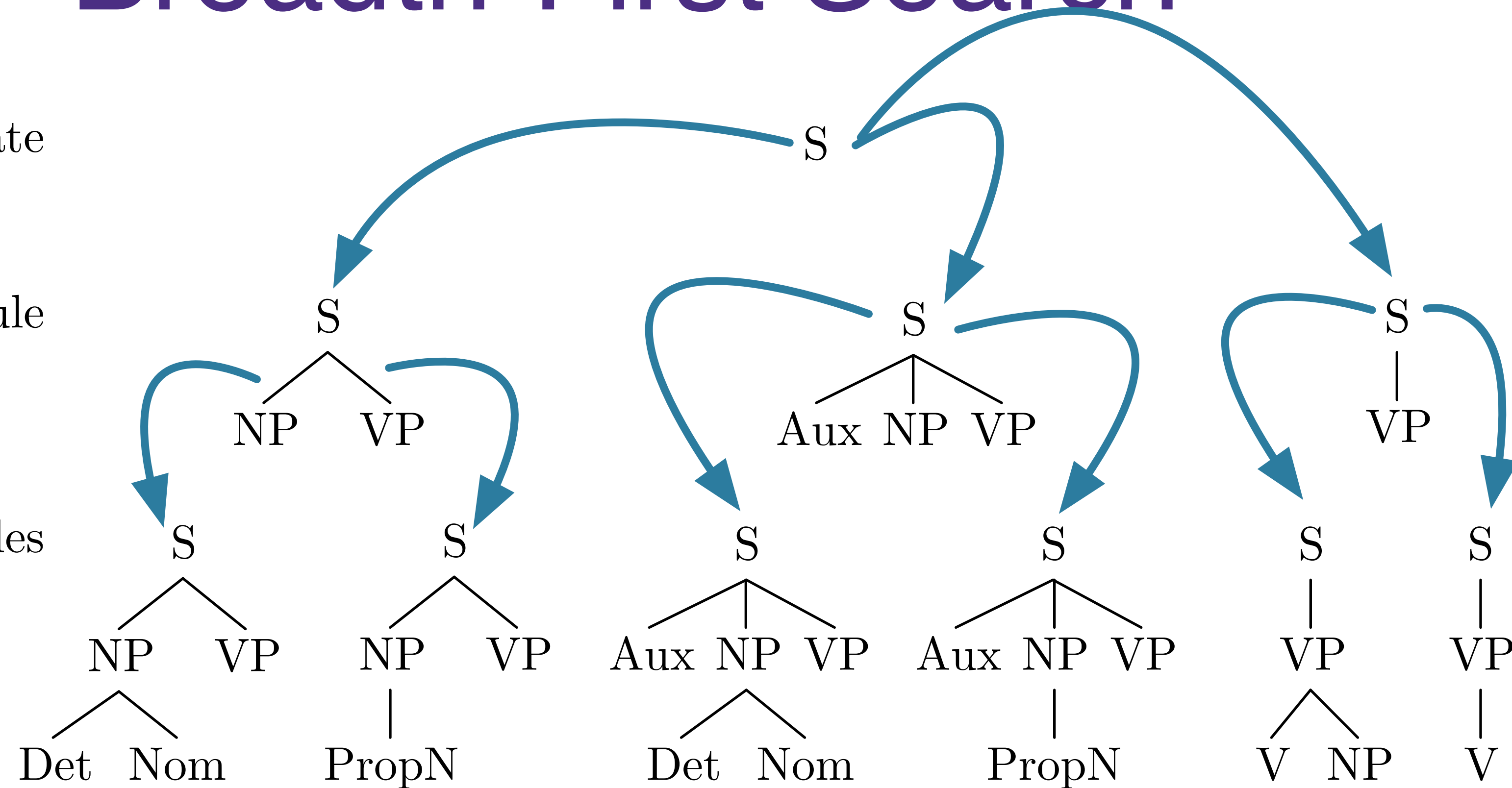


# Breadth-First Search

Start State

1 Rule

2 Rules



# Pros and Cons of Top-down Parsing

- Pros:
  - Doesn't explore trees not rooted at S
  - Doesn't explore subtrees that don't fit valid trees

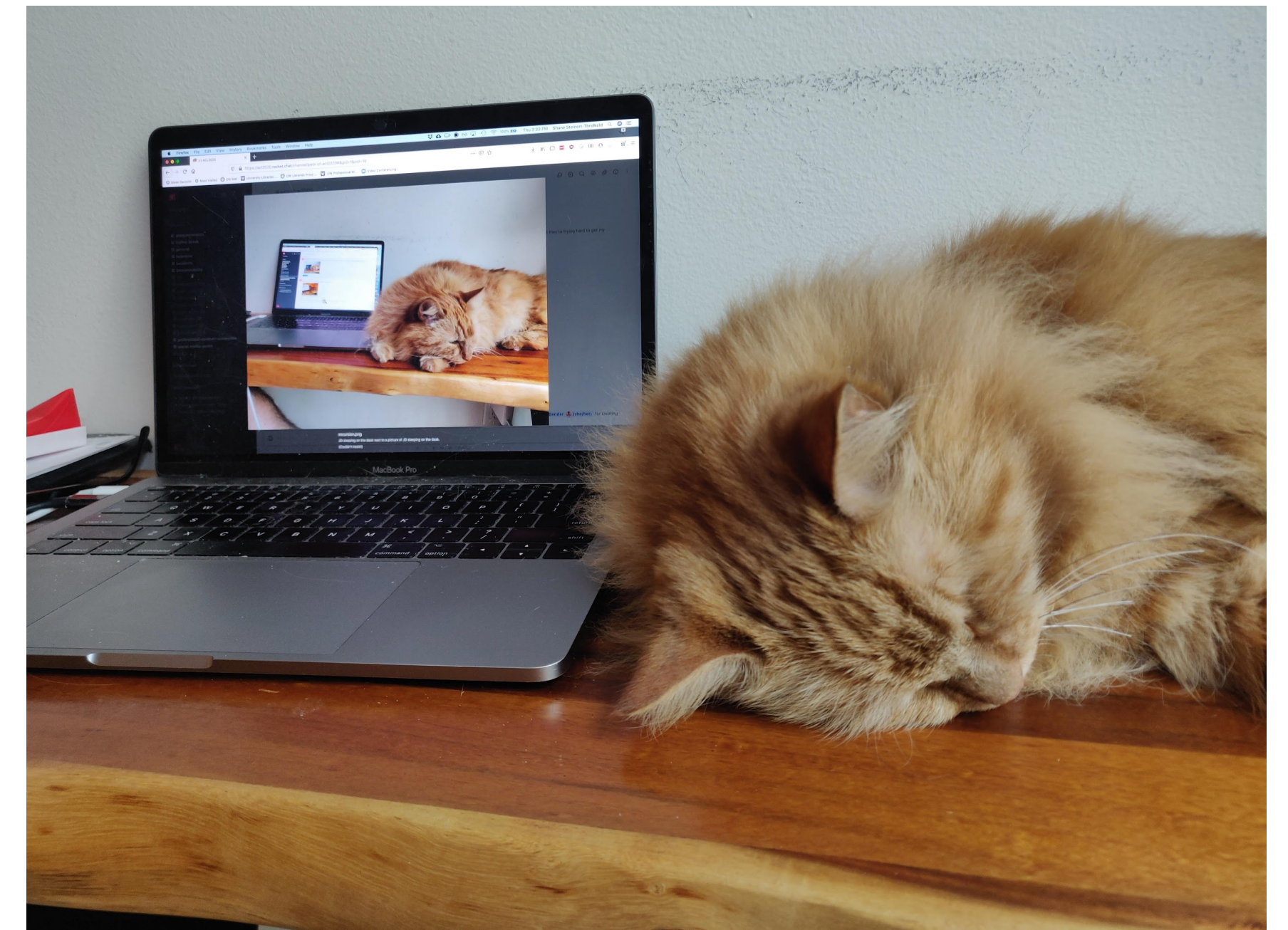
# Pros and Cons of Top-down Parsing

- Pros:
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- Cons:
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  - May not terminate in presence of recursive rules
  - May re-derive subtrees as part of search



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# Bottom-Up Parsing

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- Try to find all trees that span the input
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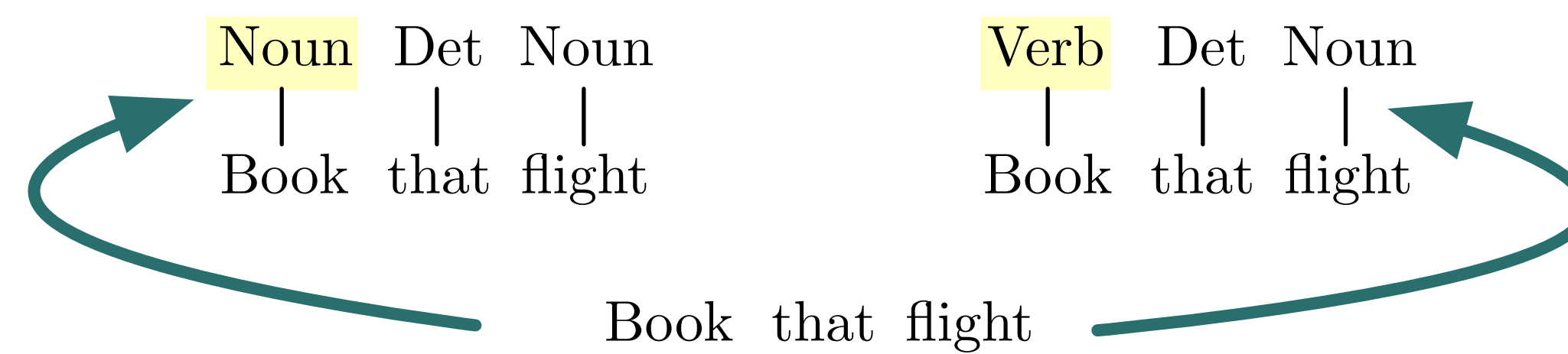
- Try to find all trees that span the input
  - Start with input string
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- Use all productions with current subtree(s) on RHS
  - e.g.  $N \rightarrow \text{Book}$ ;  $V \rightarrow \text{Book}$

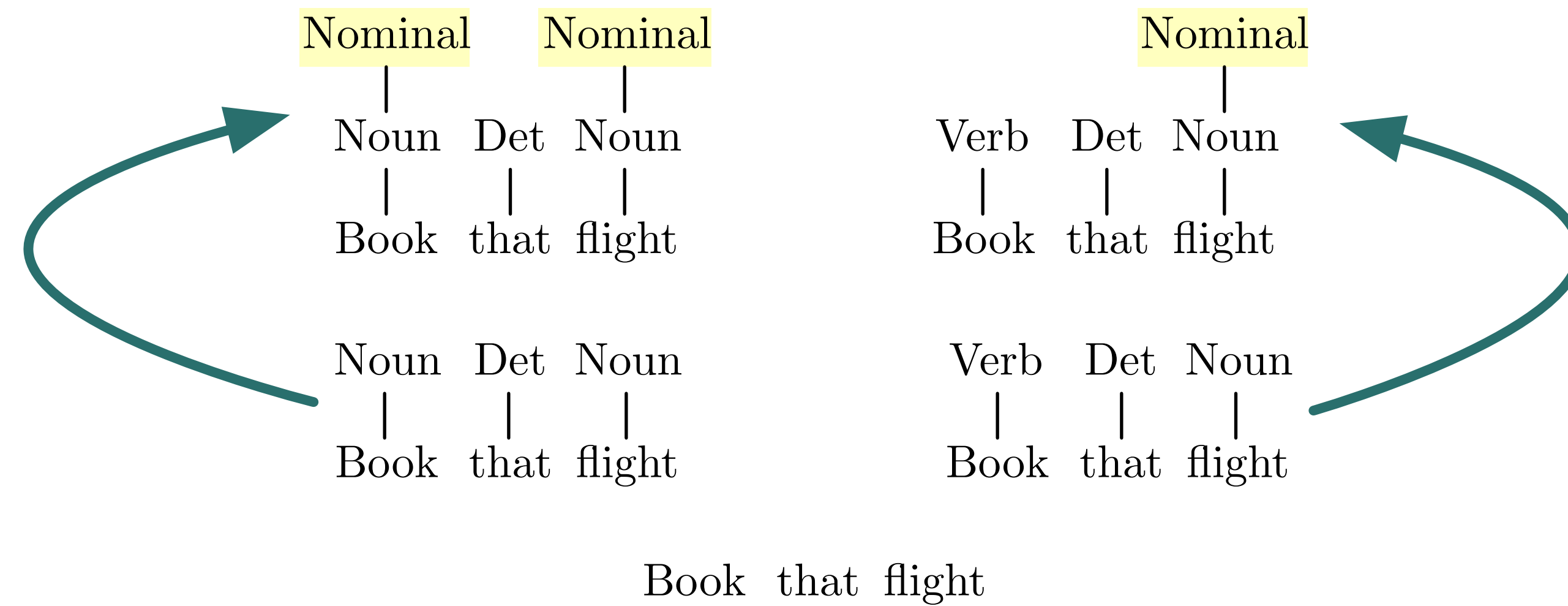


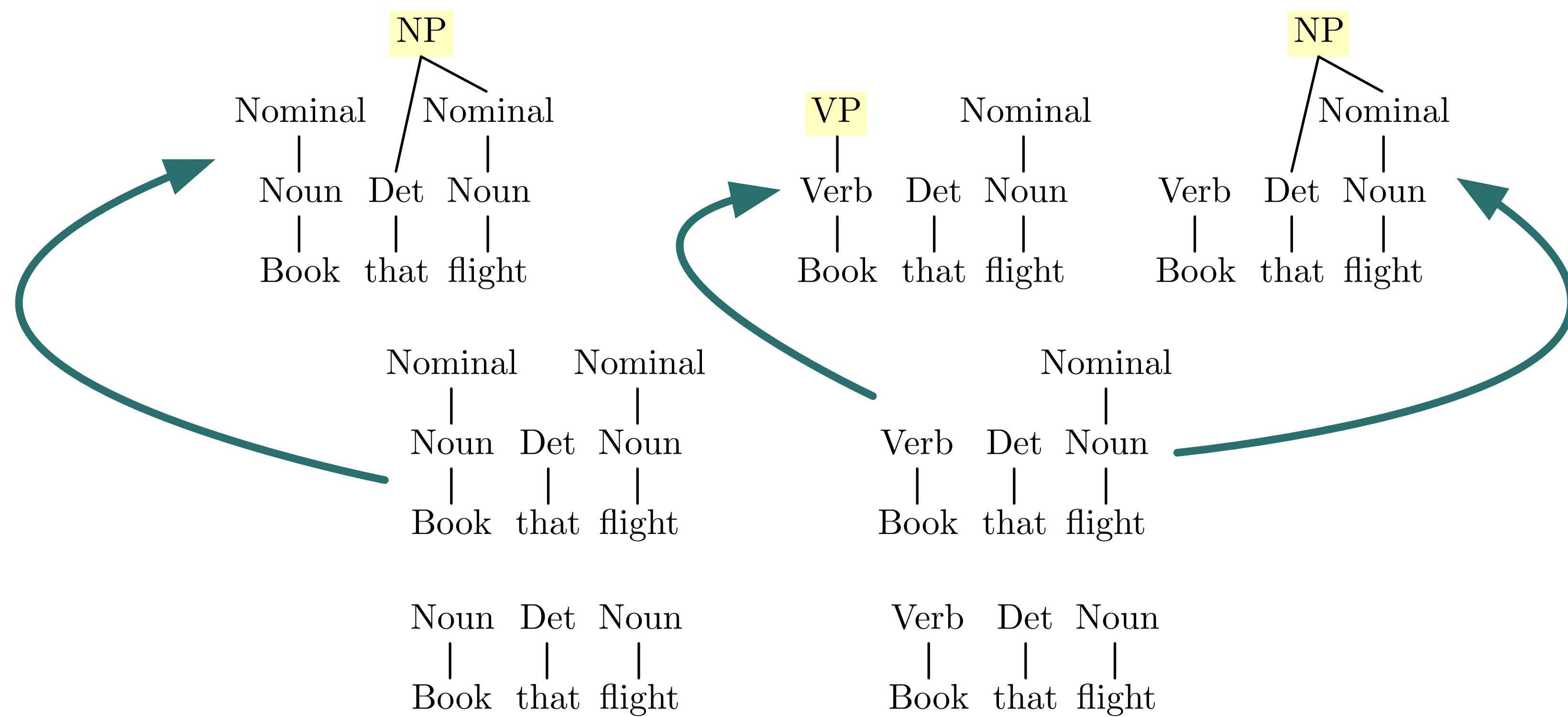
# Bottom-Up Parsing

- Try to find all trees that span the input
  - Start with input string
    - Book that flight
- Use all productions with current subtree(s) on RHS
  - e.g.  $N \rightarrow \text{Book}$ ;  $V \rightarrow \text{Book}$
- Stop when spanned by S, or no more rules apply

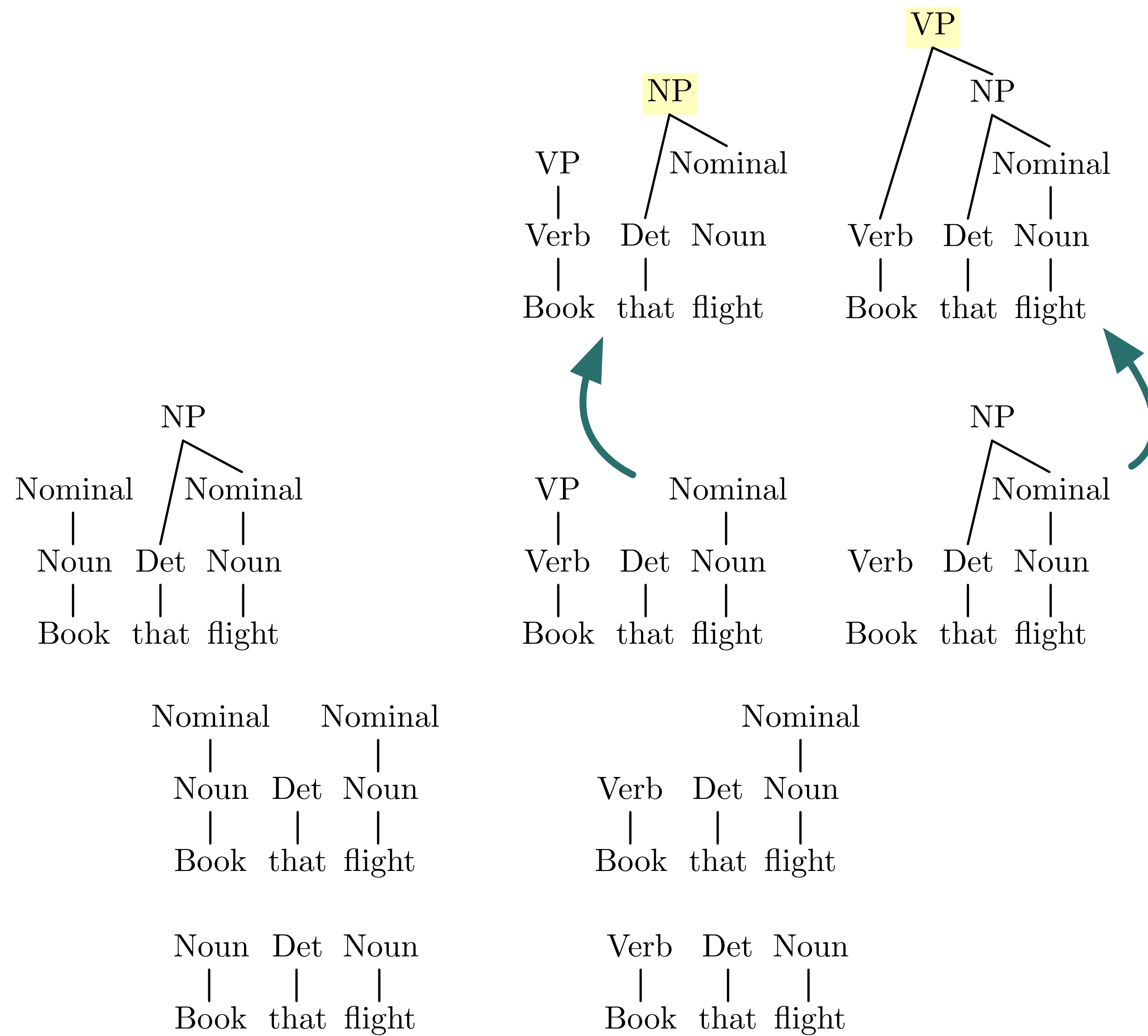
Book that flight







Book that flight



Book that flight

# Pros and Cons of Bottom-Up Search

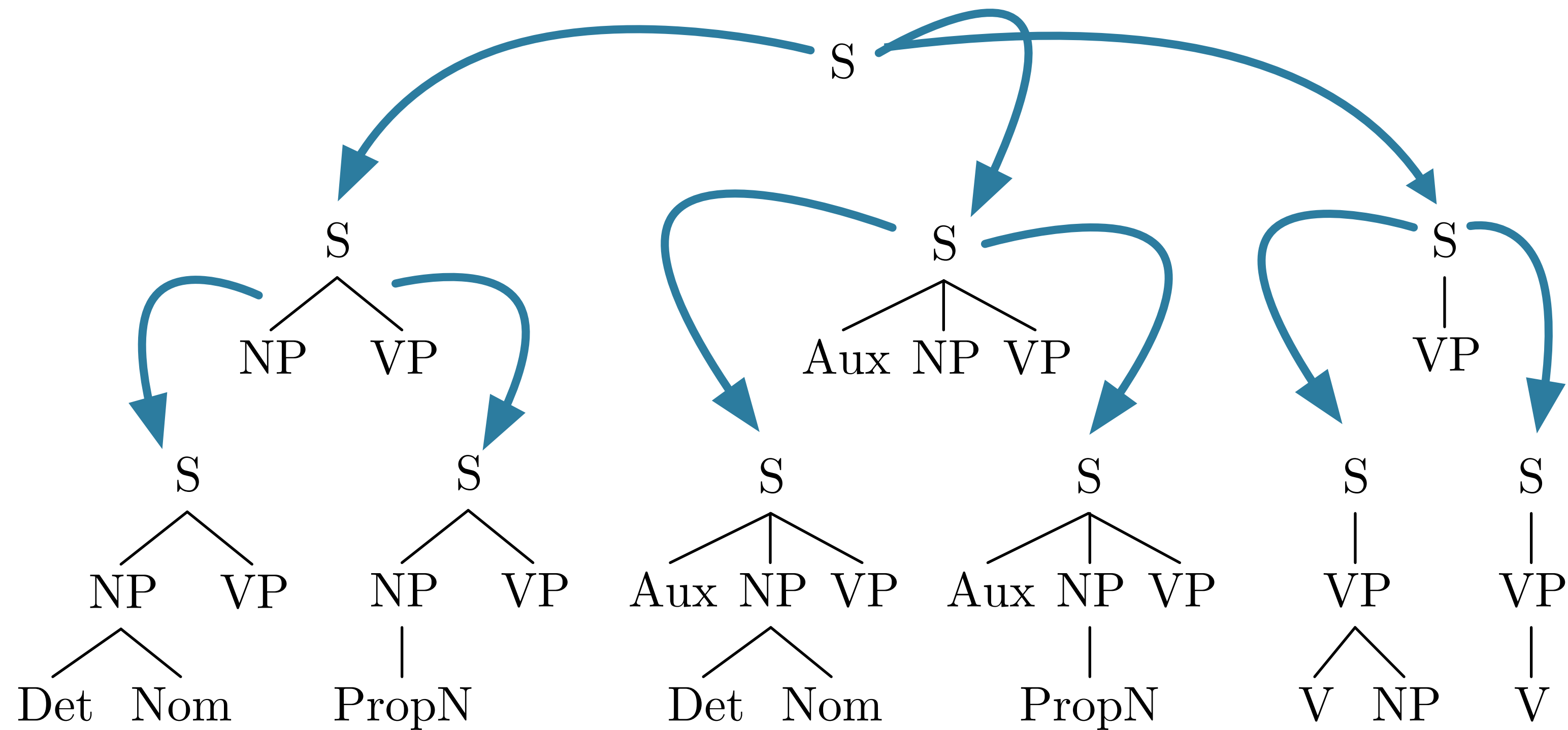
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  - Useful for incremental/fragment parsing

# Pros and Cons of Bottom-Up Search

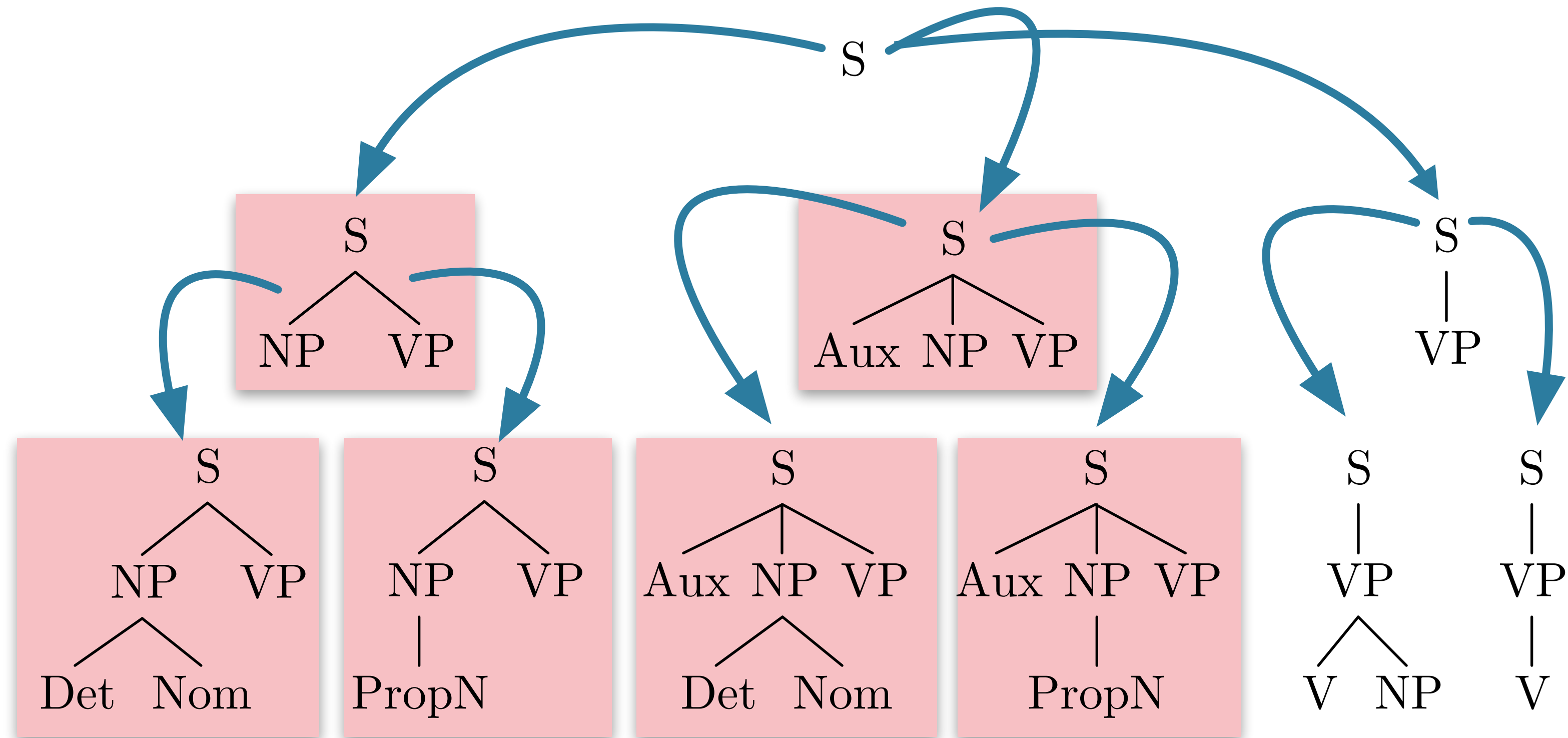
- Pros:
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  - Explore subtrees that will not fit full input



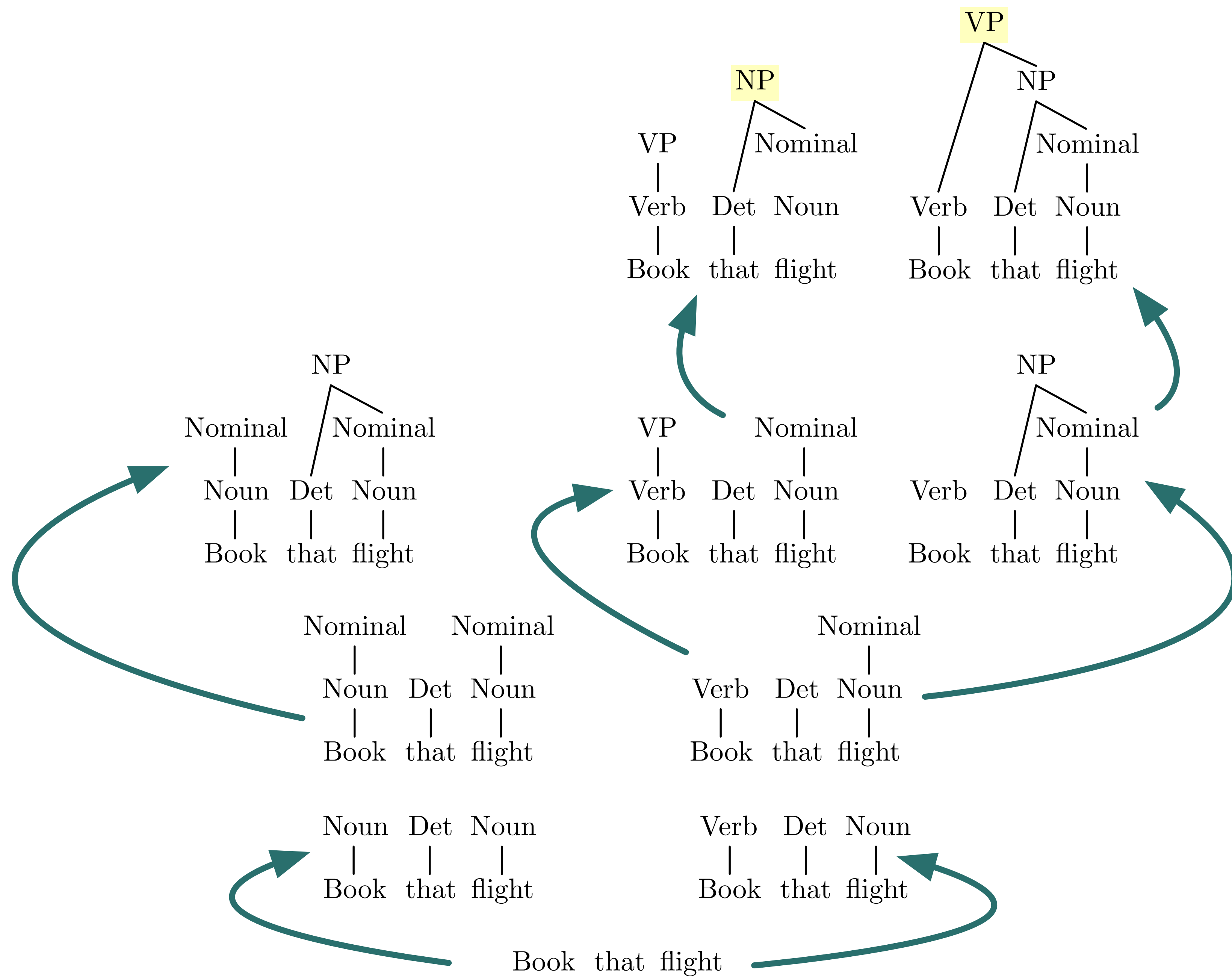
# Recap: Parsing as Search



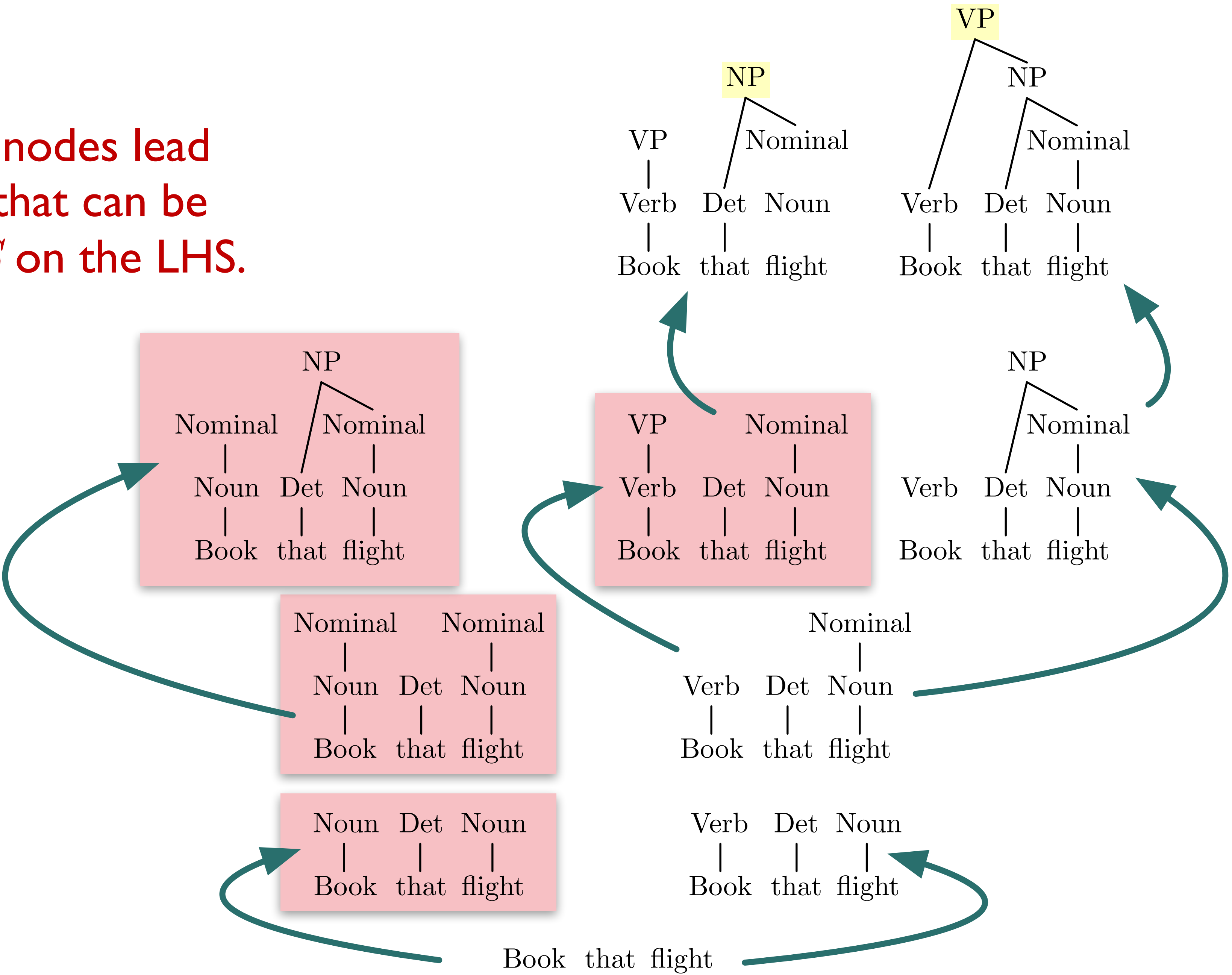
# Recap: Parsing as Search



None of these nodes can produce *book* as first terminal



None of these nodes lead  
lead to a RHS that can be  
combined with *S* on the LHS.



# Parsing Challenges

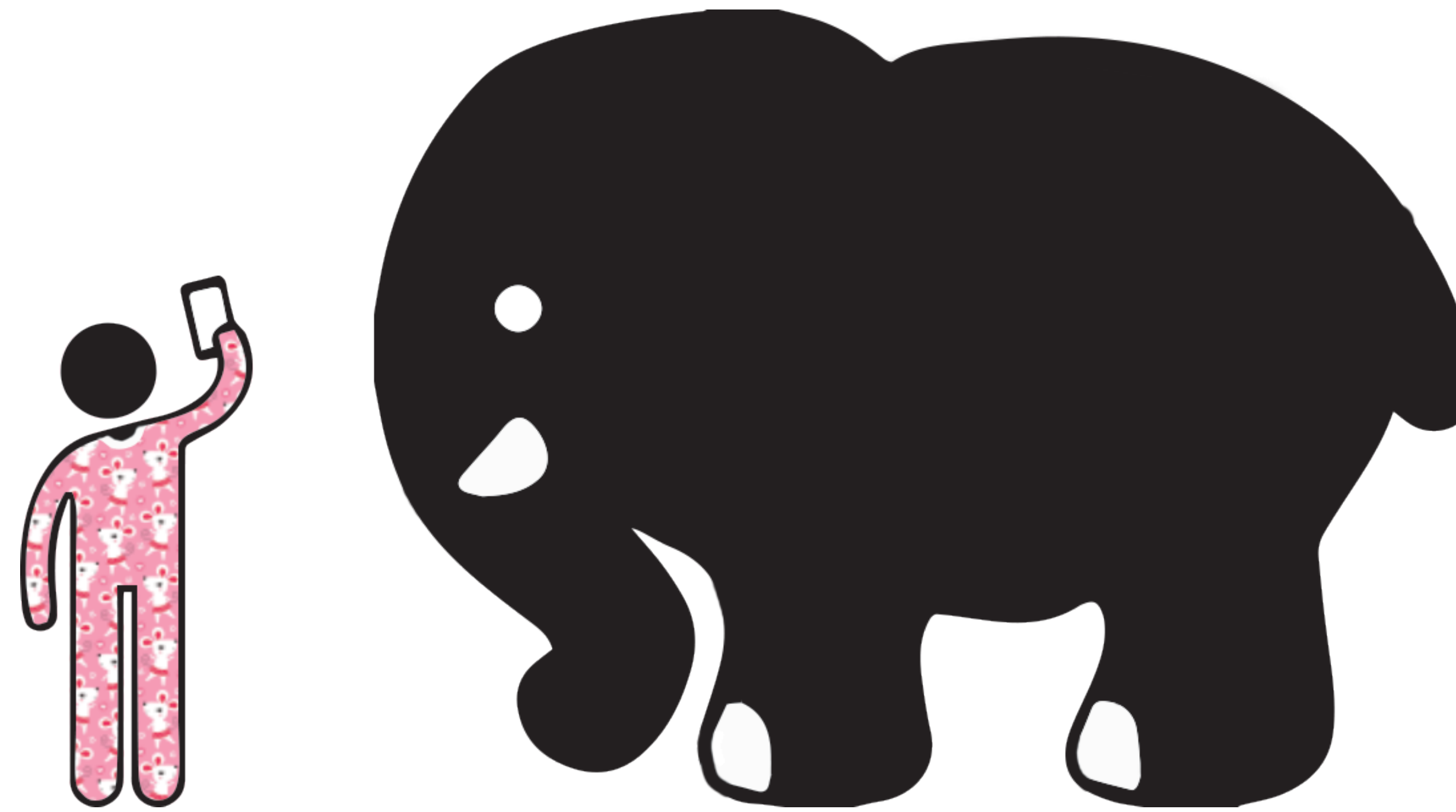
- Recap: Parsing-as-Search
- **Parsing Challenges**
  - **Ambiguity**
  - Repeated Substructure
  - Recursion
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
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- CKY parsing algorithm

# Parsing Ambiguity

- **Lexical Ambiguity:**
  - **Book/NN** → *I left a **book** on the table.*
  - **Book/VB** → ***Book** that flight.*
- **Structural Ambiguity**

# Attachment Ambiguity

“One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas.





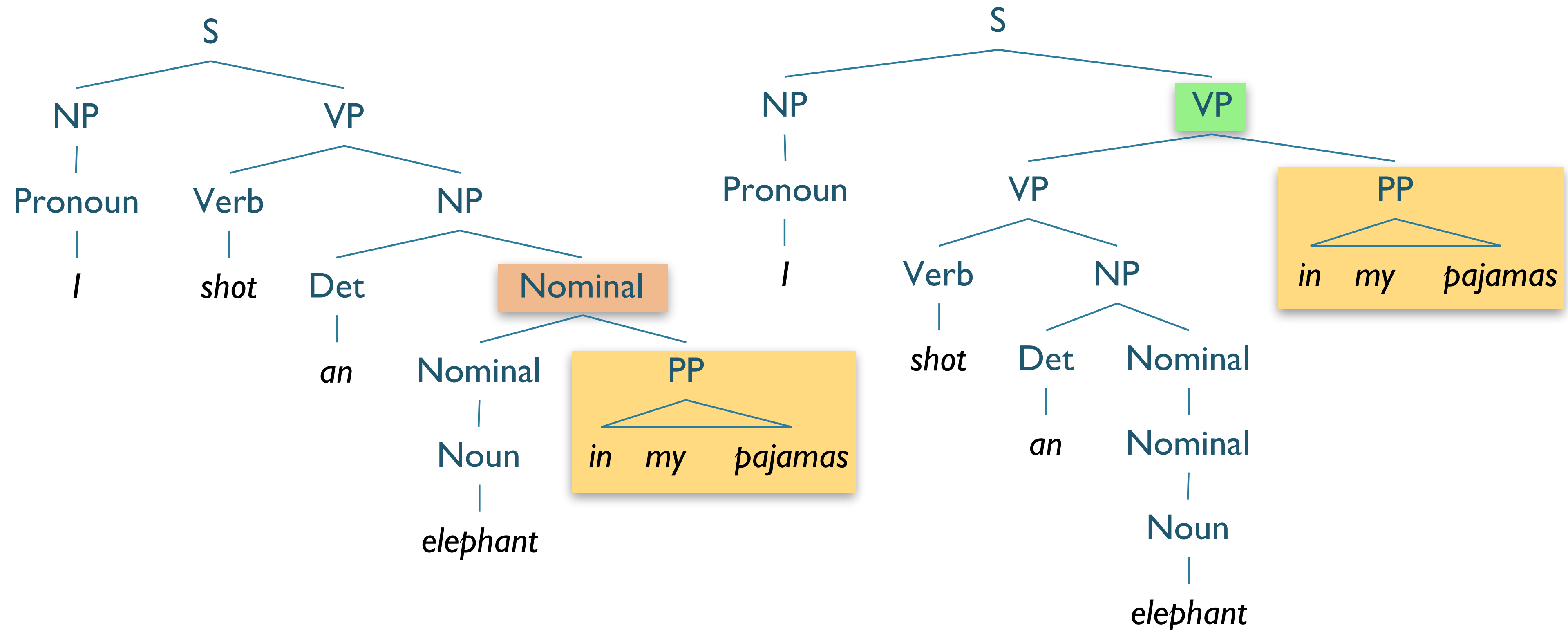
# Attachment Ambiguity

“One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas.  
How he got into my pajamas, I’ll never know.” — *Groucho Marx*





# Attachment Ambiguity





*“We saw the Eiffel Tower flying to Paris”*





*“We saw the Eiffel Tower flying to Paris”*

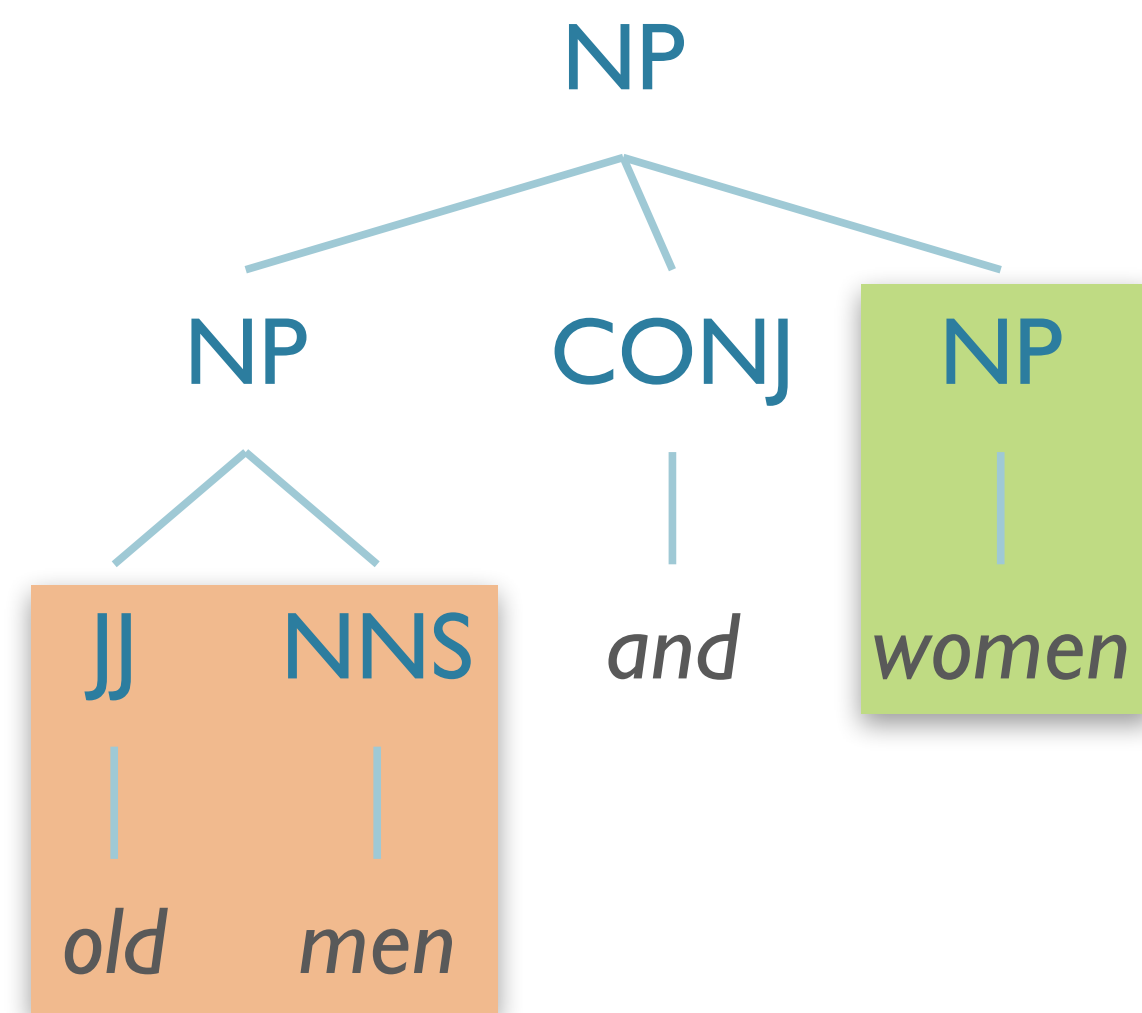




# Coordination Ambiguity:

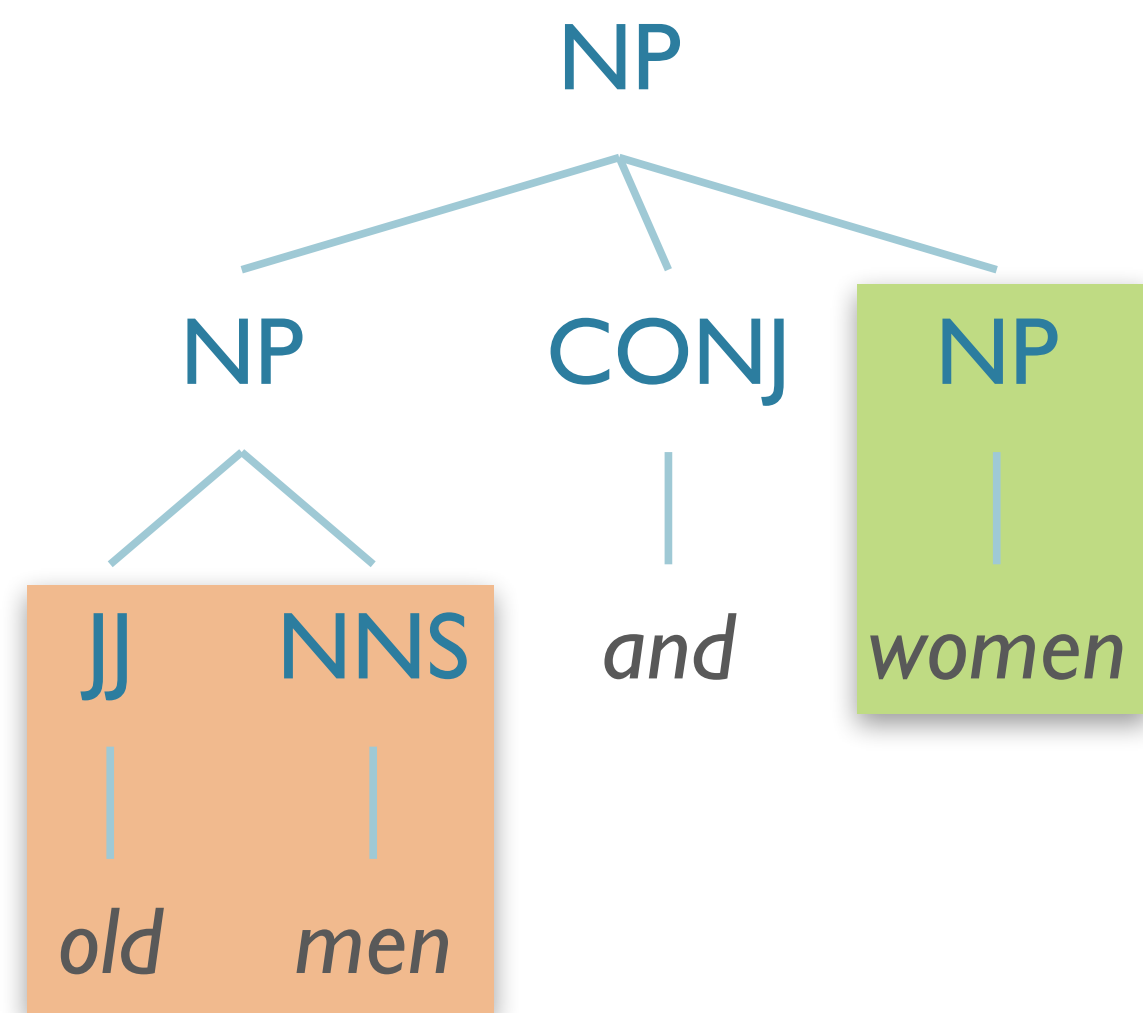
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**[old men]** and **[women]**

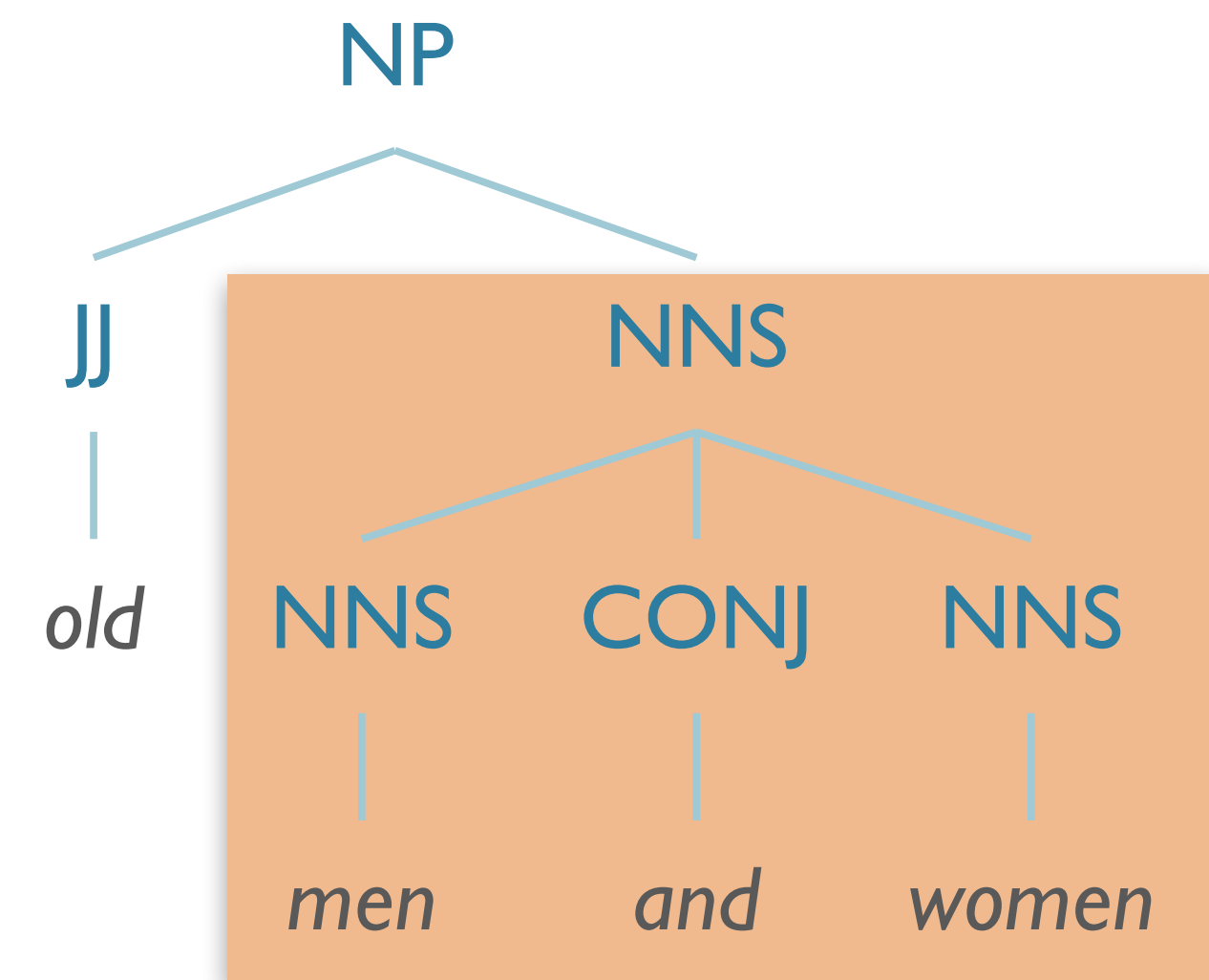


# Coordination Ambiguity:

**[old men]** and **[women]**



[old **[men and women]**]



# Local vs. Global Ambiguity

- **Local** ambiguity:
  - Ambiguity that cannot contribute to a full, valid parse
  - e.g. *Book/NN* in “*Book that flight*”

# Local vs. Global Ambiguity

- **Local** ambiguity:
  - Ambiguity that cannot contribute to a full, valid parse
  - e.g. *Book/NN* in “*Book that flight*”
- **Global** ambiguity
  - Multiple valid parses



# Why is Ambiguity a Problem?

- *Local* ambiguity:
  - increased processing time
- *Global* ambiguity:
  - Would like to yield only “reasonable” parses
  - Ideally, the one that was intended\*

# Solution to Ambiguity?

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- ***Disambiguation!***

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- ***Disambiguation!***
- Different possible strategies to select correct interpretation:

# Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

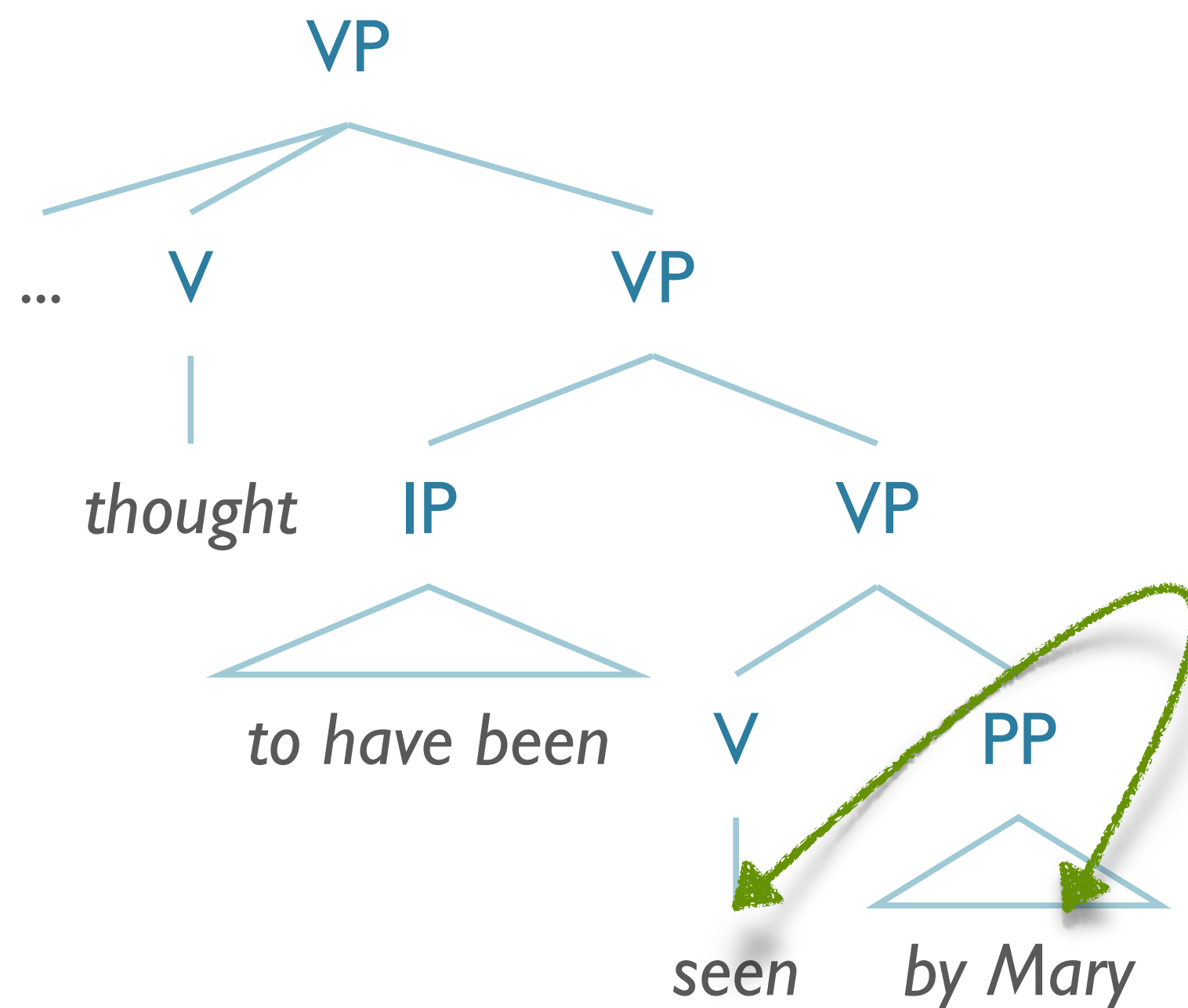
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# Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some prepositional structs more likely to attach high/low
  - *John was thought to have been seen by Mary*
    - Mary could be doing the **seeing** or **thinking** — seeing more likely

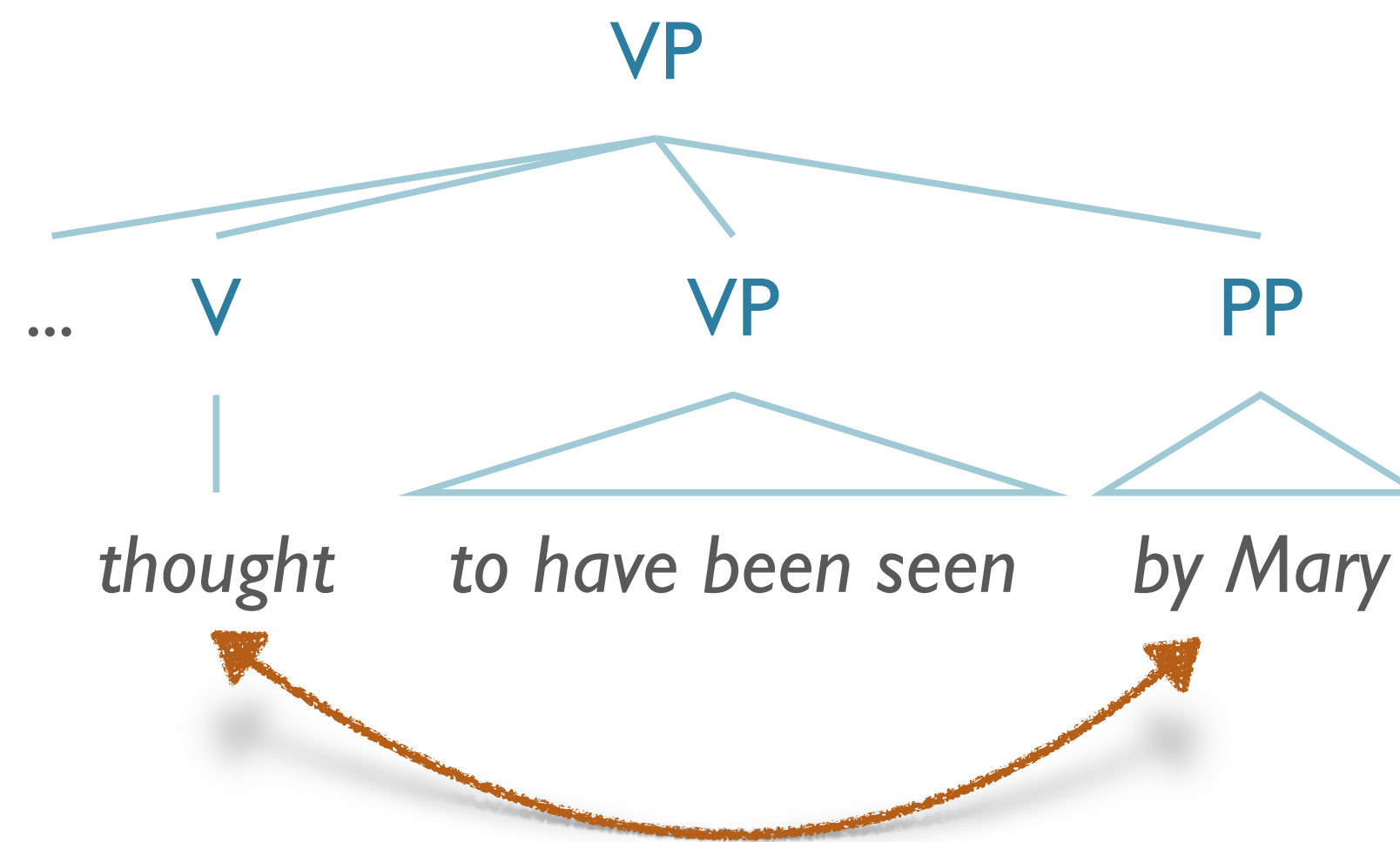
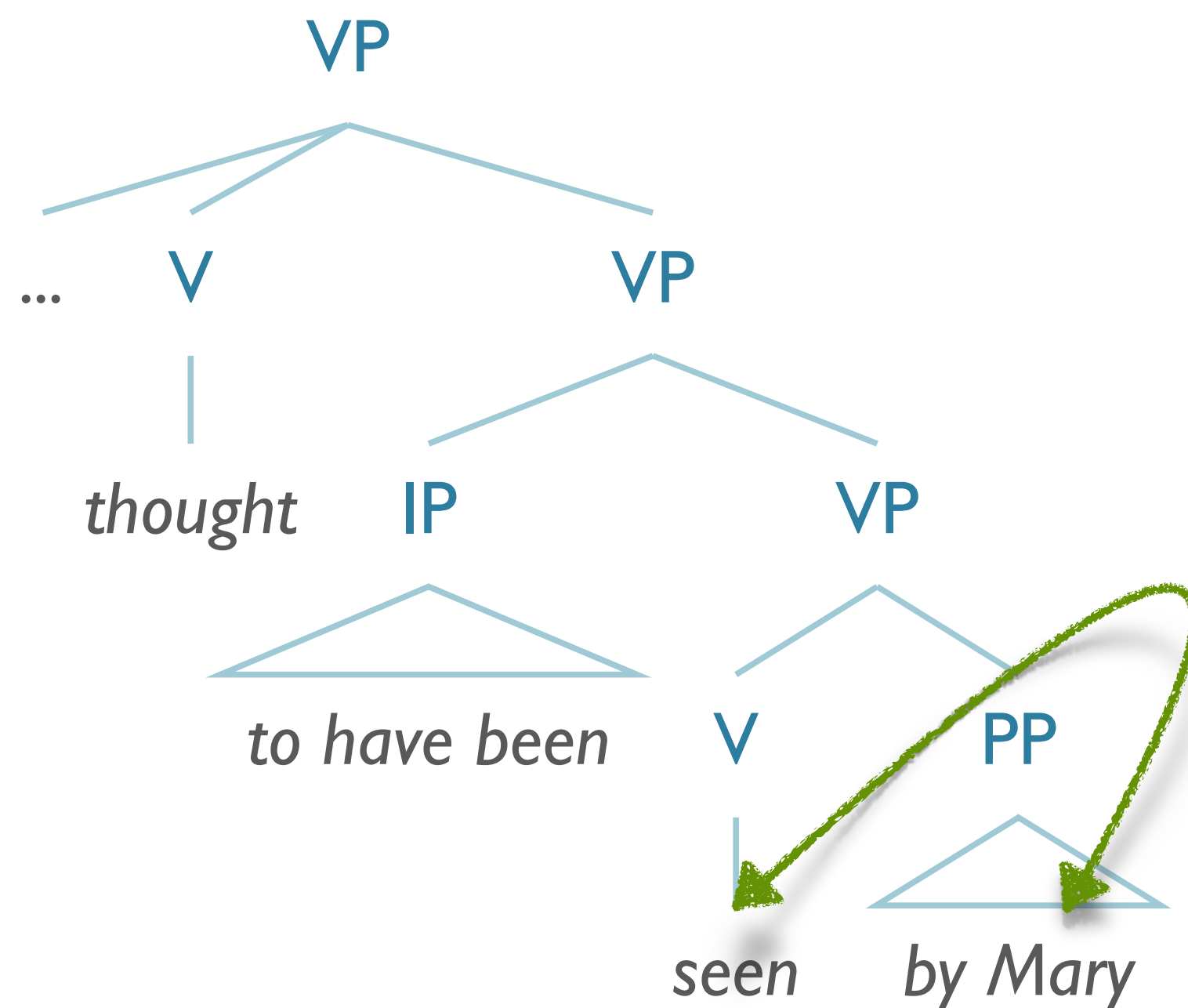
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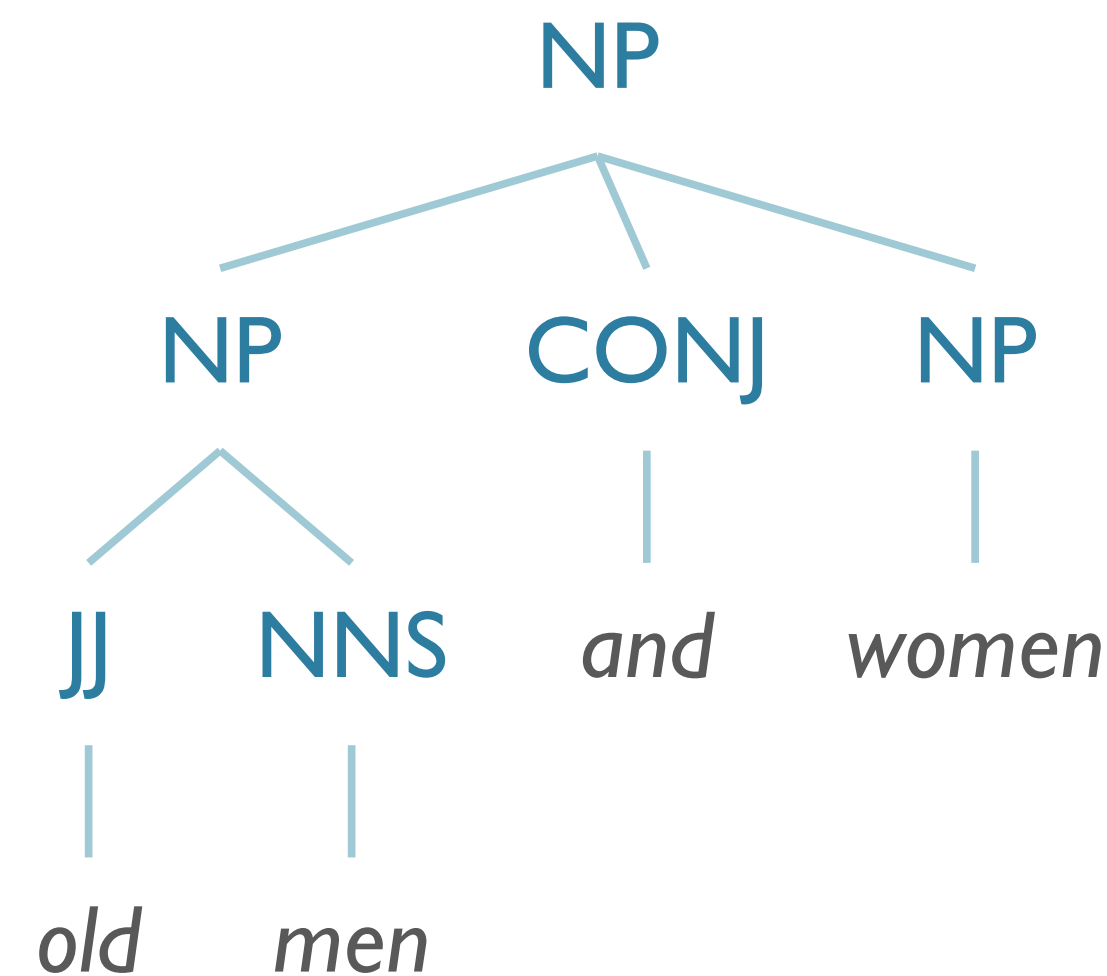
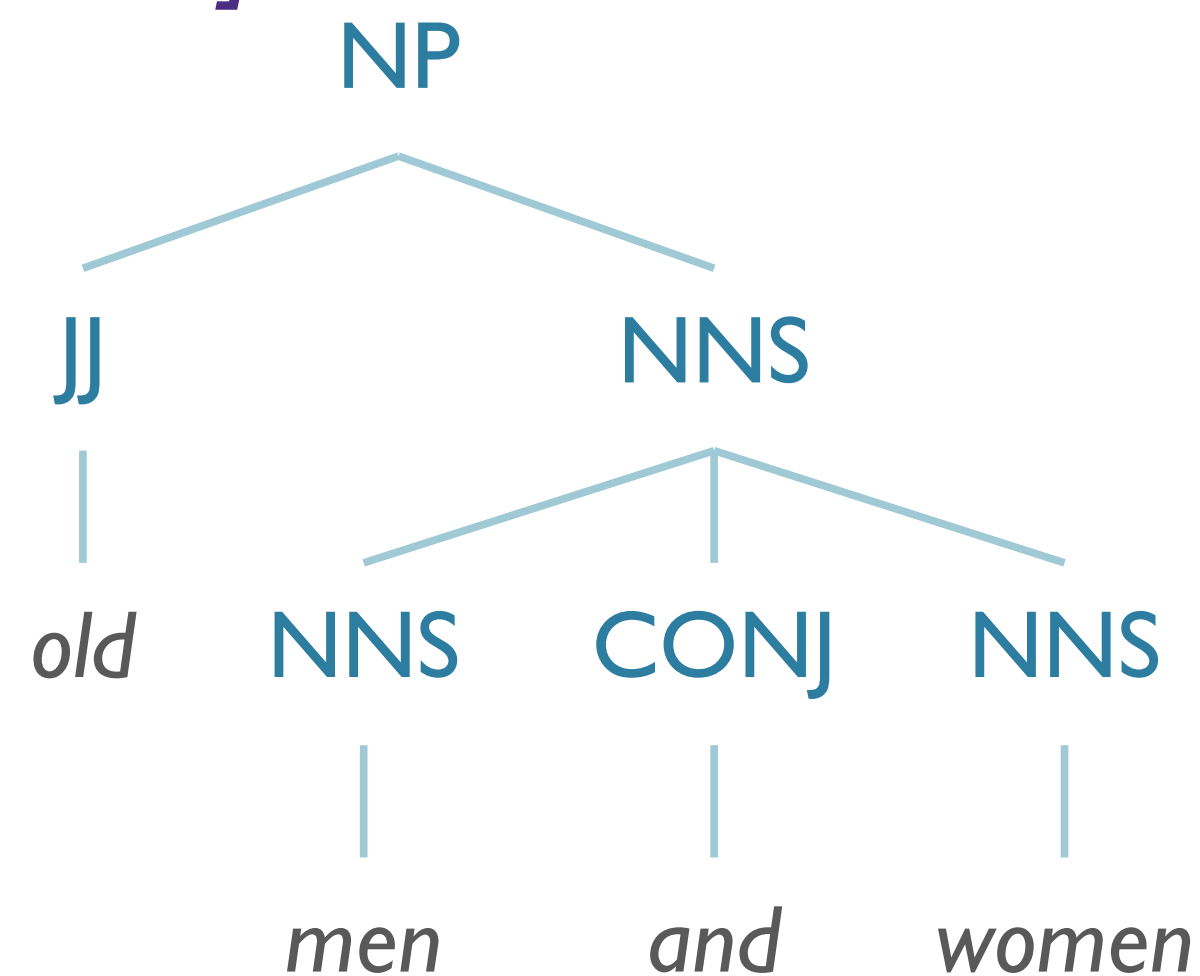


# Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some phrases more likely overall

# Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some phrases more likely overall
  - *[old [men and women]] is a more common construction than [old men] and [women]*



# Disambiguation Strategy:

## Semantic

- Some interpretations we know to be semantically impossible

# Disambiguation Strategy:

## Semantic

- Some interpretations we know to be semantically impossible
  - *Eiffel tower* as subject of *fly*

# Disambiguation Strategy: Pragmatic

- Some interpretations are possible, unlikely given world knowledge

# Disambiguation Strategy:

## Pragmatic

- Some interpretations are possible, unlikely given world knowledge
  - e.g. elephants and pajamas

# Incremental Parsing and Garden Paths

- Idea: model *left-to-right* nature of (English) text
- Problem: “garden path” sentences

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- Idea: model *left-to-right* nature of (English) text
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Business Markets World Politics TV More

SPORTS NEWS SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 / 9:17 AM / A DAY AGO

## California to let college athletes be paid in blow to NCAA rules

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sport-california-education/california-to-let-college-athletes-be-paid-in-blow-to-ncaa-rules-idUSKBNIWFISR>



# Disambiguation Strategy:



- Alternatively, keep all parses

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- Alternatively, keep all parses
  - *(Might even be the appropriate action for some jokes)*

# Parsing Challenges

- Recap: Parsing-as-Search
- **Parsing Challenges**
  - Ambiguity
  - **Repeated Substructure**
  - Recursion
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- Grammar Equivalence
- CKY parsing algorithm

# Repeated Work

- Search (top-down/bottom-up) both lead to repeated substructures
  - Globally bad parses can construct good subtrees
  - ...will reconstruct along another branch
  - No static backtracking can avoid

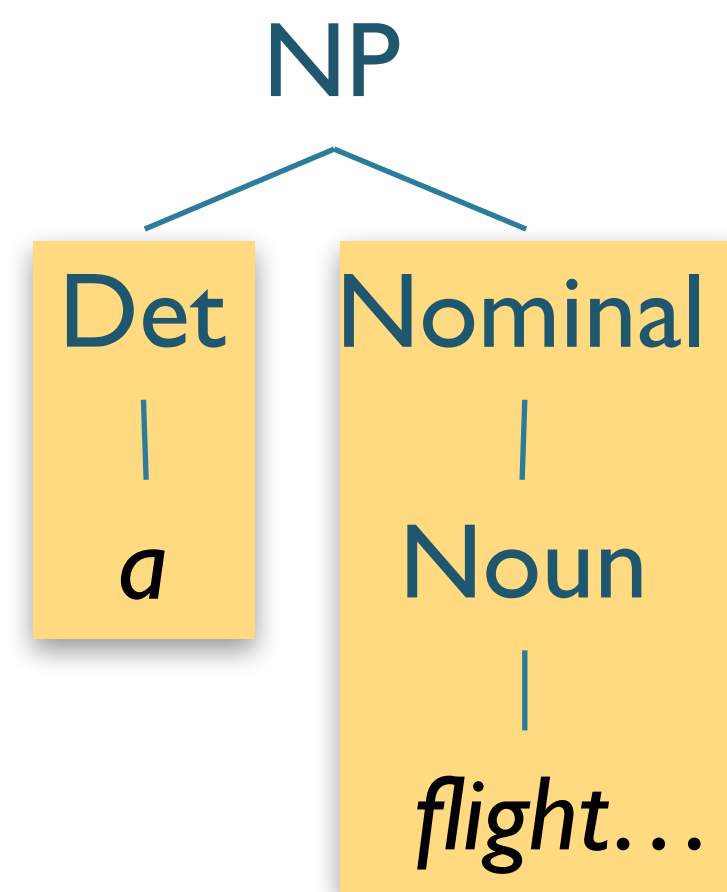
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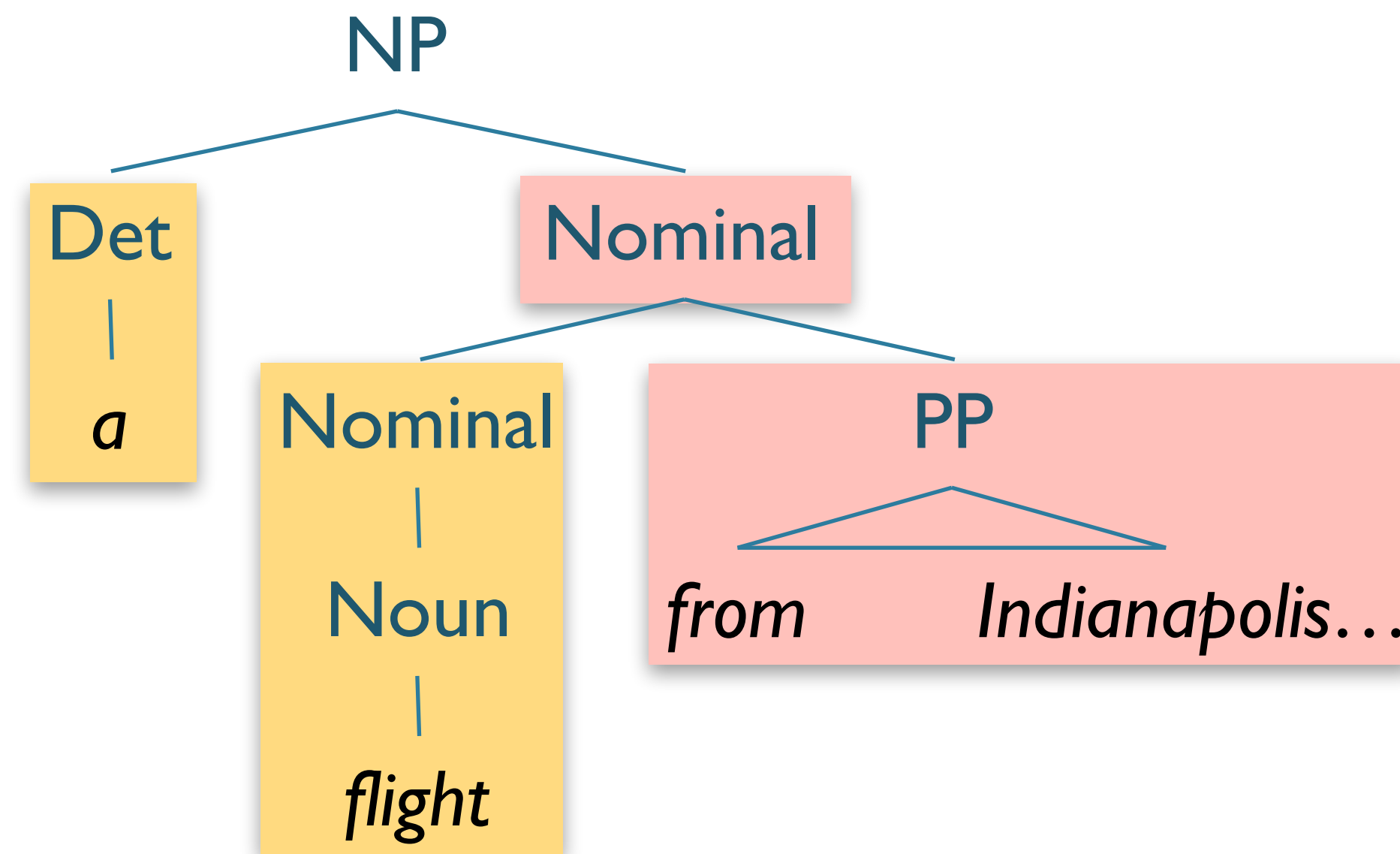
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- Efficient parsing techniques require storage of partial solutions
- Example: *a flight from Indianapolis to Houston on TWA*

# Shared Sub-Problems

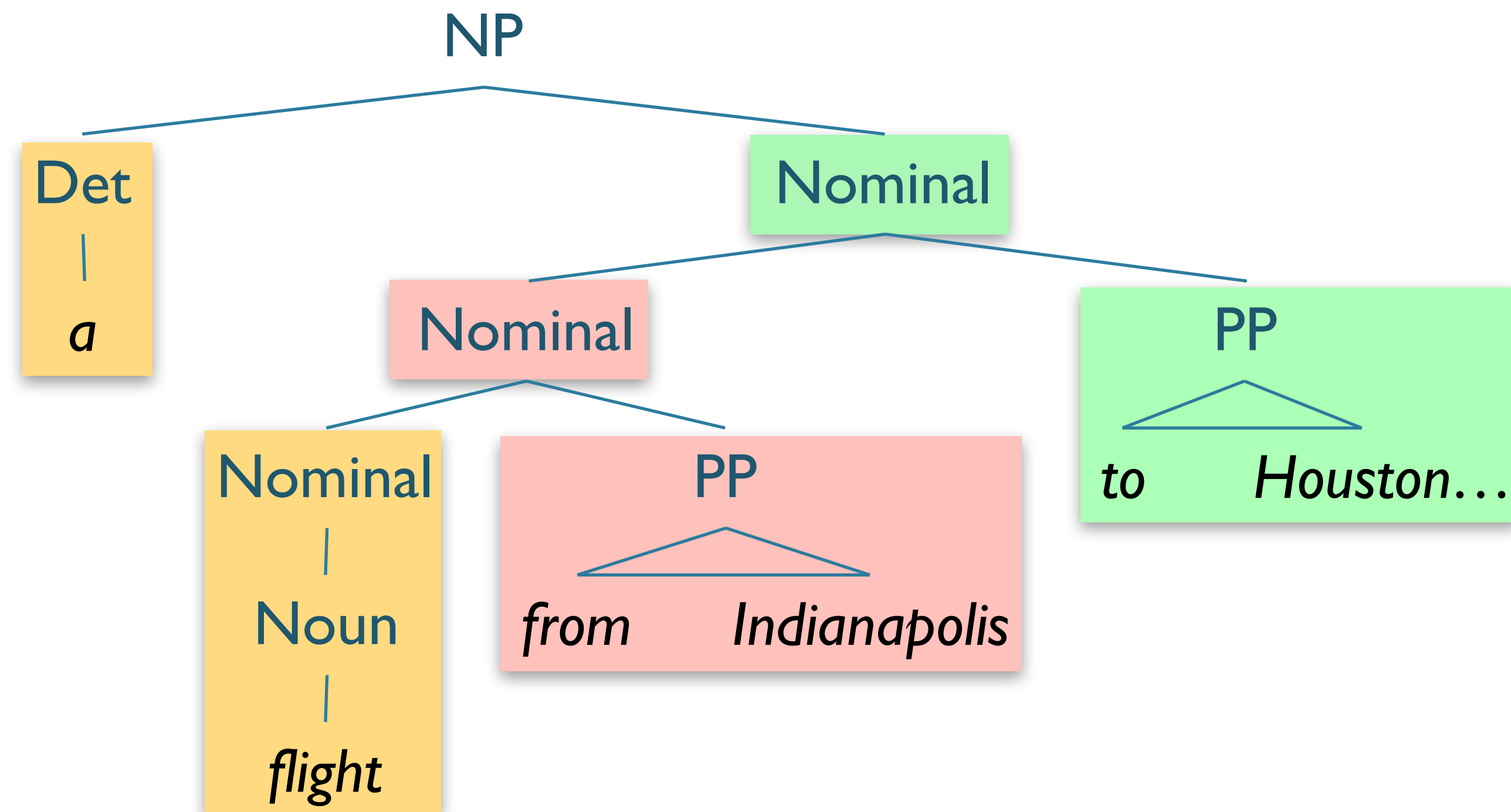


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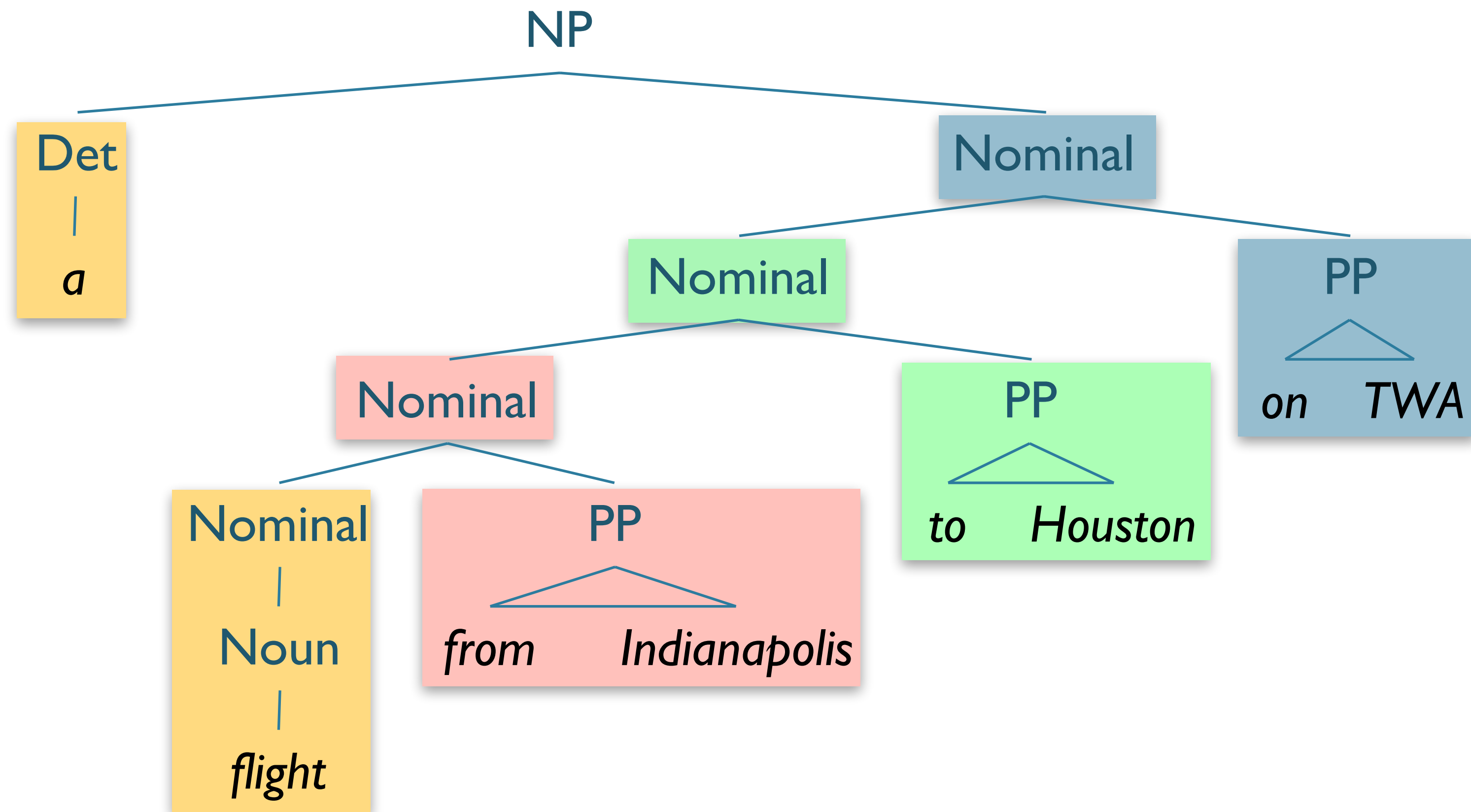




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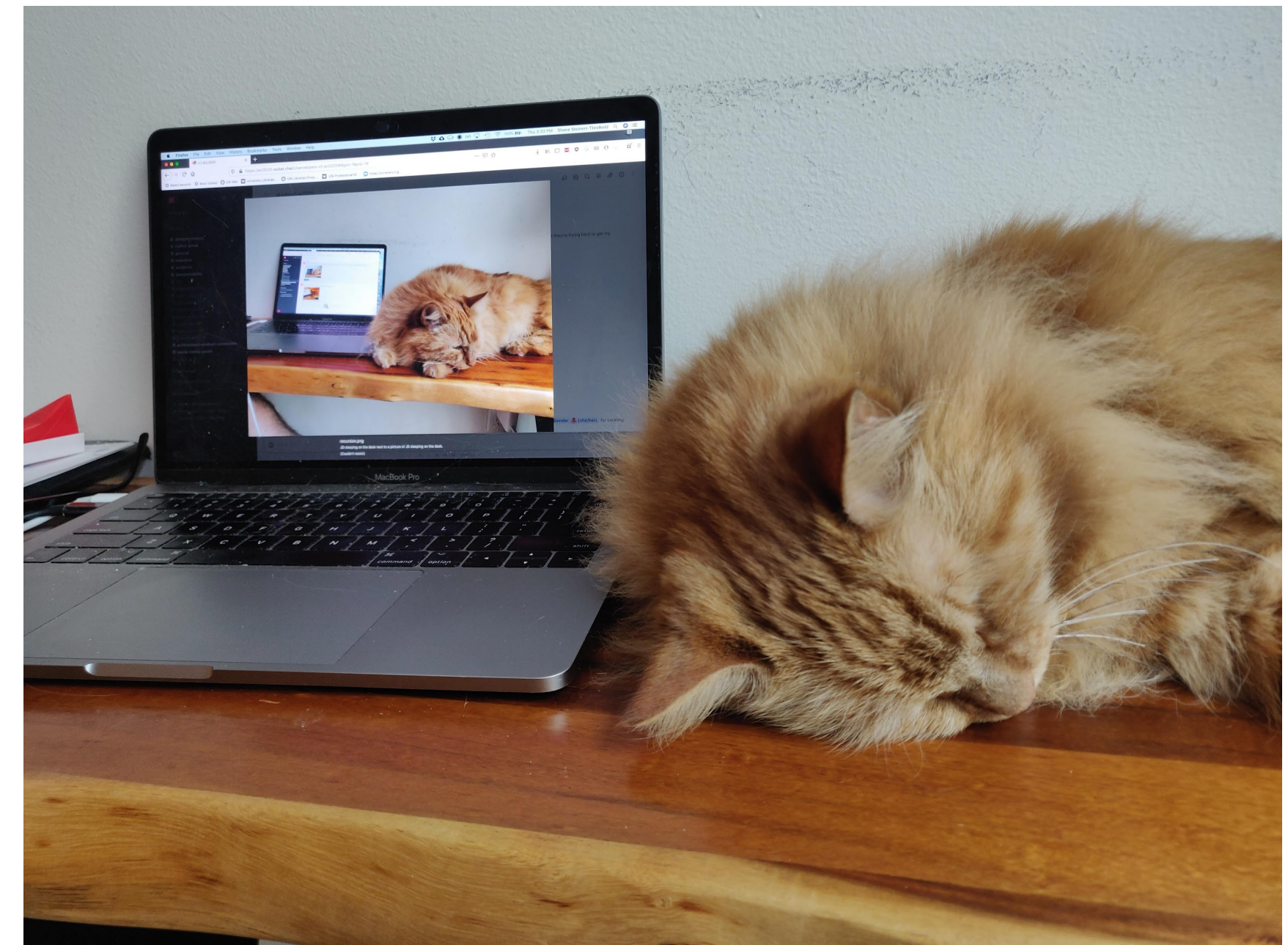


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# Recursion

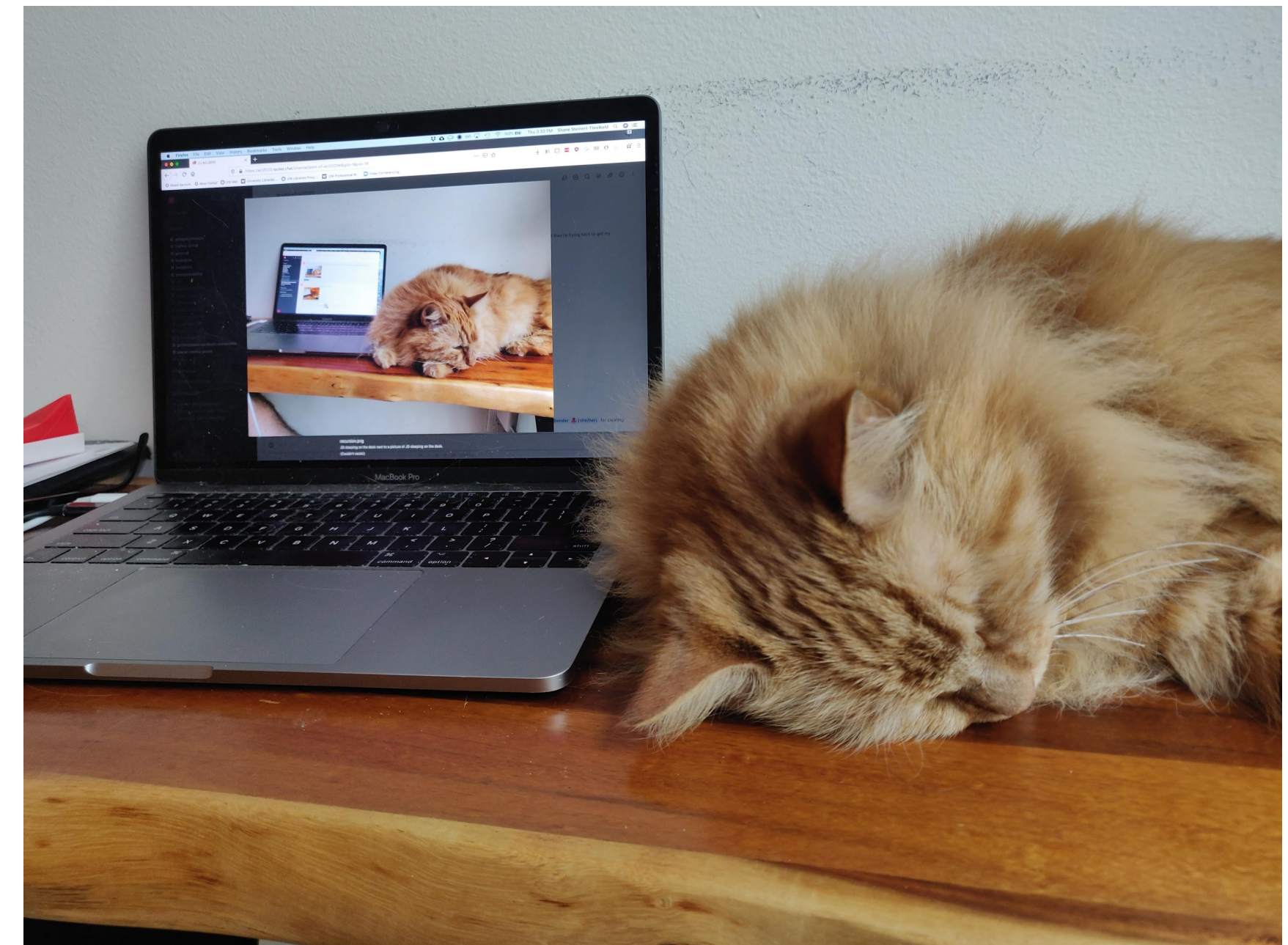
- Many grammars have recursive rules
  - $S \rightarrow S \text{ Conj } S$





# Recursion

- Many grammars have recursive rules
  - $S \rightarrow S \text{ Conj } S$
- In search approaches, recursion is problematic
  - Can yield infinite searches
  - Top-down especially vulnerable



# Roadmap

- Recap: Parsing-as-Search
- Parsing Challenges
- **Strategy: Dynamic Programming**
- Grammar Equivalence
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# Dynamic Programming

- Challenge:
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# Dynamic Programming

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  - Repeated substructure → Repeated Work
- Insight:
  - Global parse composed of sub-parses
  - Can record these sub-parses and re-use
- Dynamic programming avoids repeated work by recording the subproblems
  - Here, stores subtrees

# Parsing with Dynamic Programming

- Avoids repeated work
- Allows implementation of (relatively) efficient parsing algorithms
  - Polynomial time in input length
  - Typically cubic ( $n^3$ ) or less

# Parsing with Dynamic Programming

- Avoids repeated work
- Allows implementation of (relatively) efficient parsing algorithms
  - Polynomial time in input length
  - Typically cubic ( $n^3$ ) or less
- Several different implementations
  - Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY) algorithm
  - Earley algorithm
  - Chart parsing

# Roadmap

- Recap: Parsing-as-Search
- Parsing Challenges
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- **Grammar Equivalence**
- CKY parsing algorithm

# Grammar Equivalence and Form

- *Weak* Equivalence
  - **Accepts** same language
  - May produce **different** structures
- *Strong* Equivalence
  - Accepts same language
  - Produces **same** structures

# Grammar Equivalence and Form

# Grammar Equivalence and Form

- Reason?
  - We can create a weakly-equivalent grammar that allows for greater efficiency
  - This is required by the CKY algorithm

# Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Required by CKY Algorithm



# Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Required by CKY Algorithm
- All productions are of the form:
  - $A \rightarrow B C$
  - $A \rightarrow a$

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# Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

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- All productions are of the form:
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  - $A \rightarrow a$
- Most of our grammars are not of this form:
  - $S \rightarrow Wh-NP Aux NP VP$
- Need a general conversion procedure

# CNF Conversion

Hybrid productions:

$INF-VP \rightarrow \text{to } VP$

Unit productions:

$A \rightarrow B$

Long productions:

$A \rightarrow B C D \dots$

# CNF Conversion: Hybrid Productions

- Hybrid production:
  - Replace all terminals with dummy non-terminal
  - $INF-VP \rightarrow to\ VP$ 
    - $INF-VP \rightarrow TO\ VP$
    - $TO \rightarrow to$

# CNF Conversion: Unit Productions

- Unit productions:
  - Rewrite RHS with RHS of all derivable, non-unit productions
  - If  $A \Rightarrow^* B$  and  $B \rightarrow \gamma$ , **add**  $A \rightarrow \gamma$  [where  $\gamma$  is any non-unit RHS]
  - [ $A \Rightarrow^* B$ : *B is reachable from A by a sequence of unit productions*]
- $Nominal \rightarrow Noun, Noun \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$ 
  - $Nominal \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$
  - $Noun \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$
- NB: this example has  $\gamma$  as a single terminal, but the rule applies to all non-unit RHS.

# CNF Conversion: Long Productions

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- Long productions

$$S \rightarrow Aux\ NP\ VP$$



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# CNF Conversion: Long Productions

- Long productions

$$S \rightarrow Aux\ NP\ VP$$
$$S \rightarrow \textcolor{red}{X1}\ VP \qquad \textcolor{red}{X1} \rightarrow Aux\ NP$$

- Introduce unique nonterminals, and spread over rules

# CNF Conversion

Convert terminals in hybrid rules to dummy non-terminals

Convert unit productions

Binarize long production rules

## $\mathcal{L}_1$ Grammar

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$

$S \rightarrow VP$

$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$

$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$

$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$

$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb PP$

$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

$PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$

## $\mathcal{L}_1$ in CNF

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow X1 VP$

$X1 \rightarrow Aux NP$

$S \rightarrow book / include / prefer$

$S \rightarrow Verb NP$

$S \rightarrow X2 PP$

$S \rightarrow Verb PP$

$S \rightarrow VP PP$

$NP \rightarrow I / she / me$

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- Parsing Challenges
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- Grammar Equivalence
- **CKY parsing algorithm**

# CKY Parsing

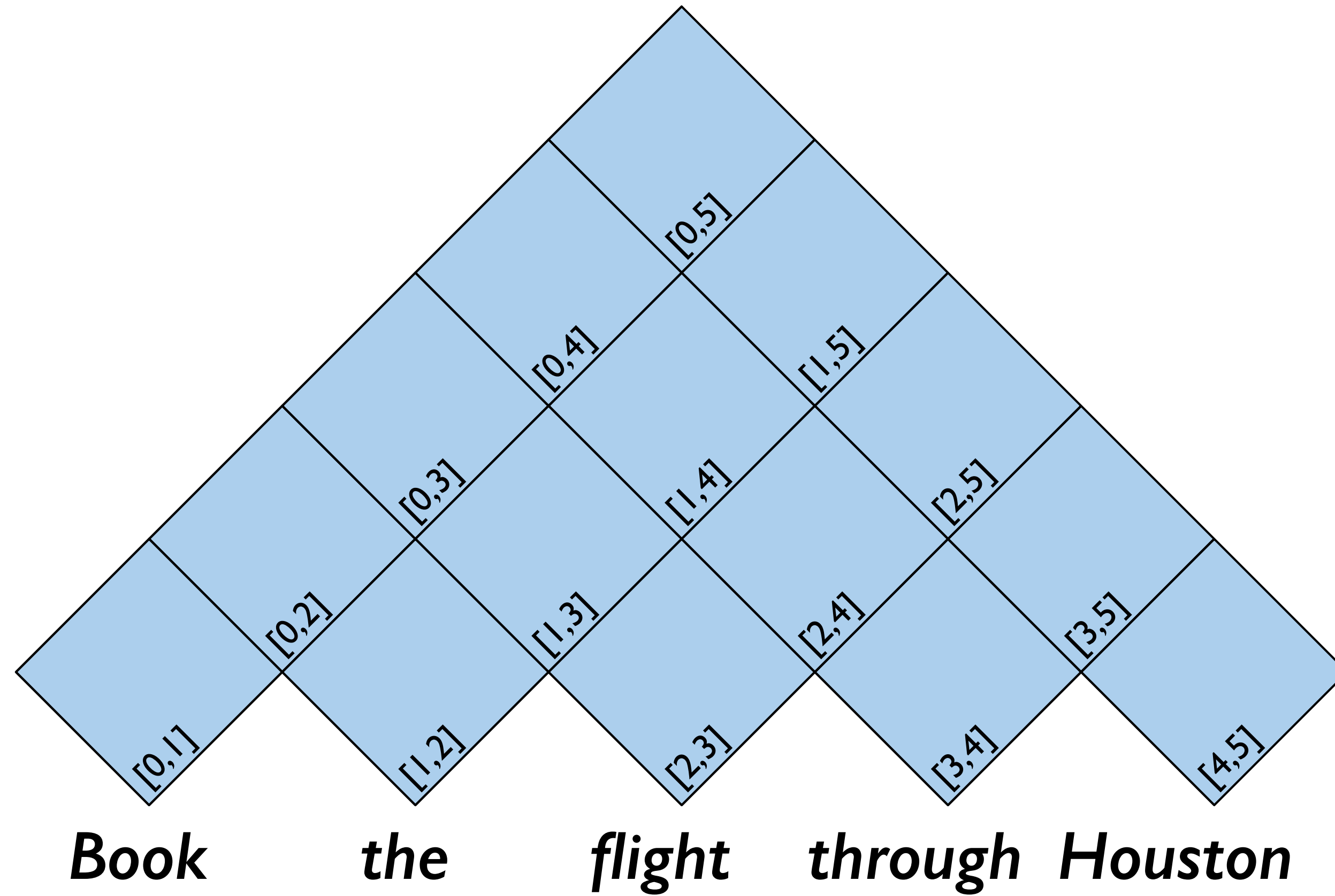
- (Relatively) efficient parsing algorithm
- Based on tabulating substring parses to avoid repeat work
- Approach:
  - Use CNF Grammar
  - Build an  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  matrix to store subtrees
    - Upper triangular portion
  - Incrementally build parse spanning whole input string



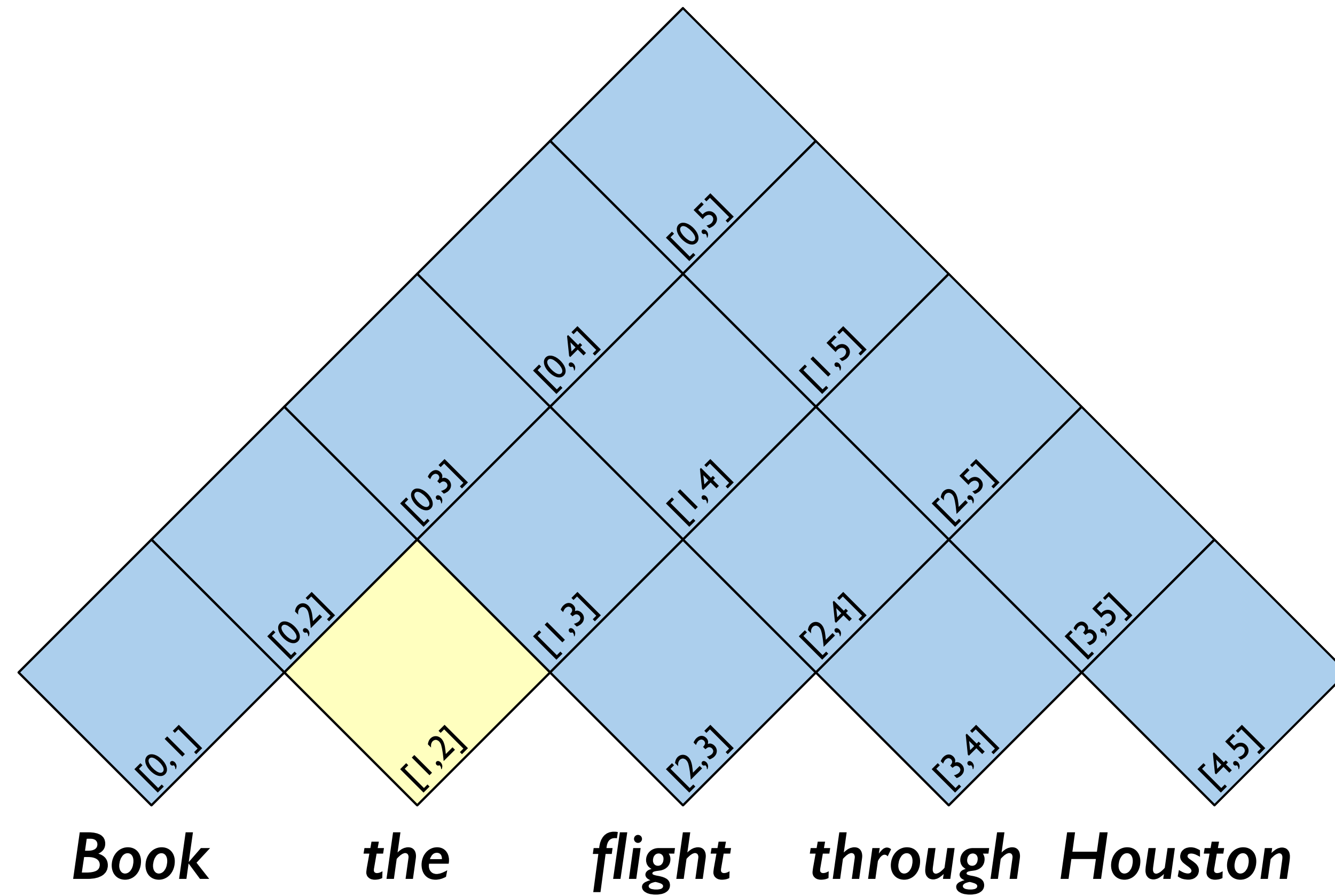
# CKY Matrix

<i>Book</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>flight</i>	<i>through</i>	<i>Houston</i>
[0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]
			[3,4]	[3,5]
				[4,5]

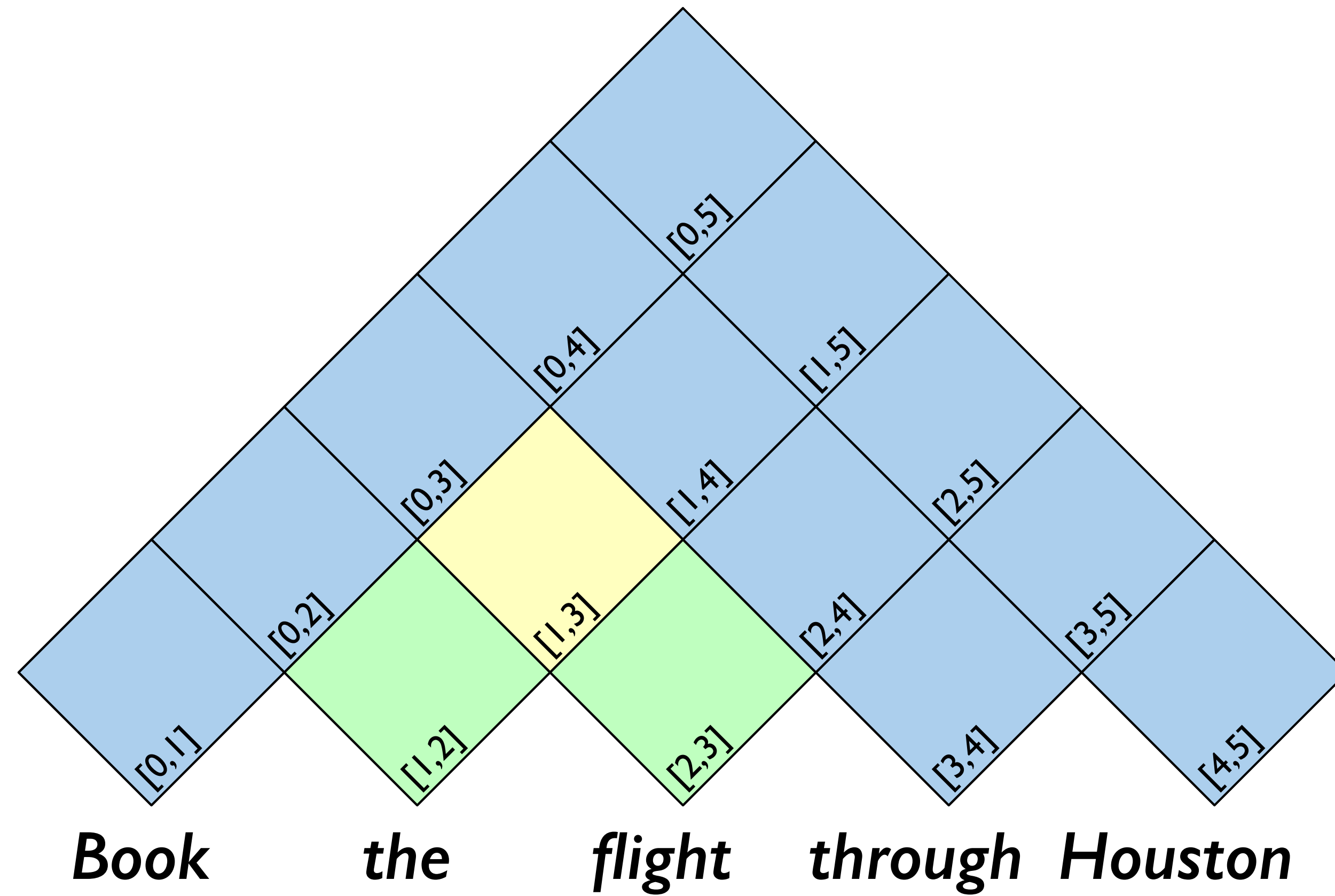
# CKY Matrix



# CKY Matrix



# CKY Matrix



# Dynamic Programming in CKY

- Key idea:
  - for  $i < k < j$
  - ...and a parse spanning substring  $[ i, j ]$
  - There is a  $k$  such that there are parses spanning  $[ i, k ]$  and  $[ k, j ]$
  - We can construct parses for whole sentences by building from these partial parses
- So to have a rule  $A \rightarrow B \ C$  in  $[ i, j ]$ 
  - Must have  $B$  in  $[ i, k ]$  and  $C$  in  $[ k, j ]$  for some  $i < k < j$
  - CNF forces this for all  $j > i + 1$

# HW #2

LING 571

Deep Processing Techniques for NLP

October 6, 2021

# Goals

- Begin development of CKY parser
- First stage: Conversion to CNF
  - Develop Representation for CFG
  - Manipulate/Transform Grammars
  - Investigate weakly equivalent grammars

# Task

- Conversion:
  - Read in grammar rules from arbitrary CFG
  - Convert to CNF
  - Write out new grammar
- Validation:
  - Parse test sentences with original CFG
  - Parse test sentences with CFG in CNF



# Approach

- May use existing models/packages to represent rules
  - Need RULE, RHS, LHS, etc
  - NLTK, Stanford
- ***Conversion code must be your own***

# Data

- ATIS (Air Travel Information System) data
  - Grammar provided in nltk-data
  - Terminals in double-quotes
    - *the* → “the”
  - All required files on patas dropbox
- **NOTE:**
  - Grammar is fairly large (~193K Productions)
  - Grammar is fairly ambiguous (Test sentences may have 100 parses)
  - You will likely want to develop against a smaller grammar
  - You must submit a *condor* .cmd file
  - Also readme.{txt | pdf}

# NLTK Grammars

```
>>> gr1 = nltk.data.load('grammars/large_grammars/  
atis.cfg')
```

```
>>> gr1.productions()[0]  
ABBCL_NP -> QUANP_DTI QUANP_DTI QUANP_CD AJP_JJ NOUN_NP  
PRPRTCL_VBG
```

```
>>> gr1.productions()[0].lhs()  
ABBCL_NP
```

```
>>> gr1.productions(lhs=gr1.productions()[1].lhs())  
[ADJ_ABL -> only, ADJ_ABL->such]
```