Title: Evidence from ellipsis suggests the low origination site of expletives "there" and "it"
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Various proposals have been put forward as to where the English expletives "there" and "it" are initially merged in the structure (for example, for "there", Spec,TP, Spec,vP or in a big DP; for "it", in a complex DP with the clause or in a small clause with the CP). Common tools for locating contentful elements fail with expletives such as c-command conditions on anaphora, relative scope and NPI-licensing.

I present evidence from ellipsis that the expletives are initially merged in vP or lower. Building on Takahashi and Fox's (2005) proposal concerning MaxElide and Hartman's (2011) extension of their proposal, I argue that "there" and "it" have not only A-moved from a lower position to Spec, TP, but their traces are also interpreted in the same way as A-traces of semantically contentful elements.

Under previous proposals about ellipsis, the elided phrase has to be the biggest elidable constituent in a domain (parallelism domain) which is semantically identical to a domain in the antecedent clause. Because a free variable cannot be semantically identical to a corresponding element in the antecedent, this implies that all variables must be bound within the parallelism domain. Following this analysis, Hartman has shown that the subject's A-movement has critical effects on ellipsis, expanding the parallelism domain to include its A-binder, and excluding ellipsis possibilities that would otherwise be allowed. I observe the same effects for the expletive "there" and "it" sentences, which suggest that the expletives have A-moved in the same manner.