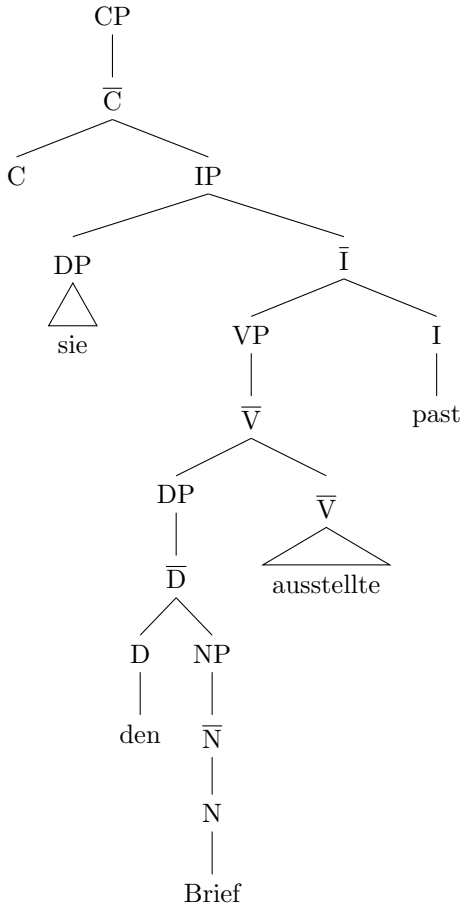
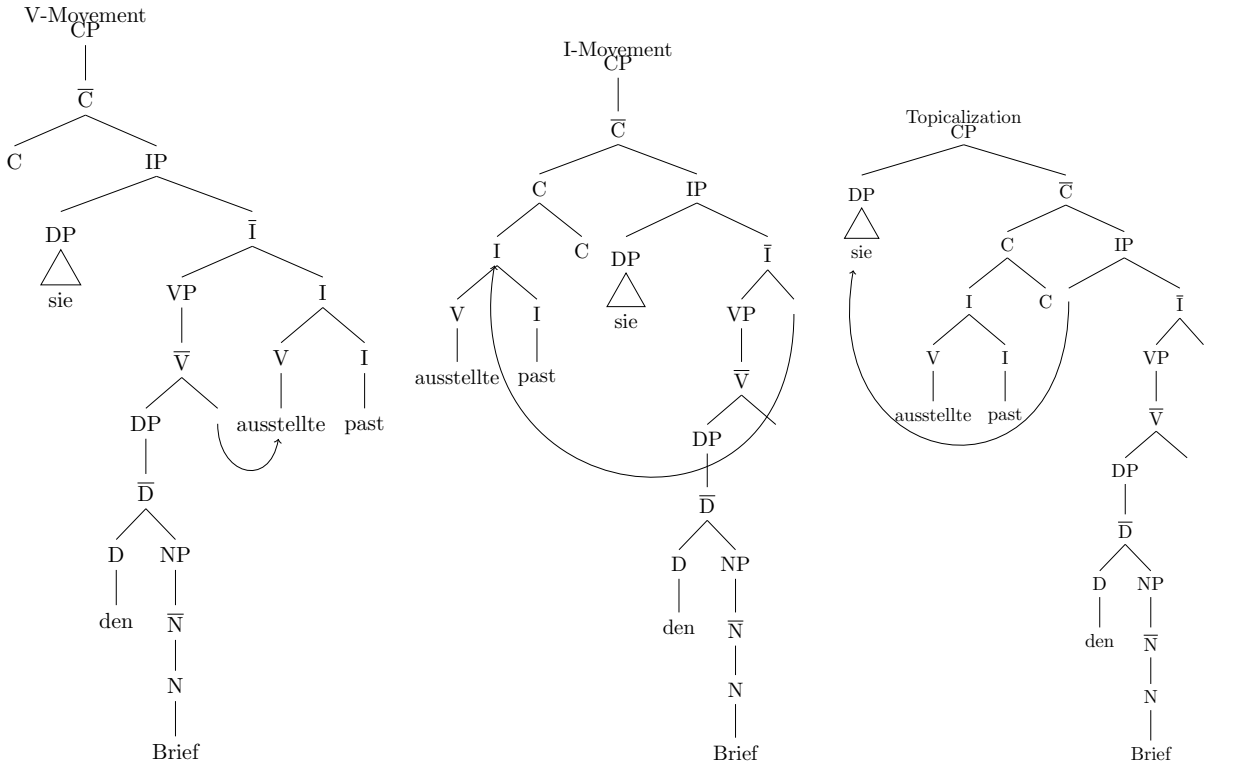
Let's look at the D-Structur for the example sentence "Sie stellte den Brief aus."

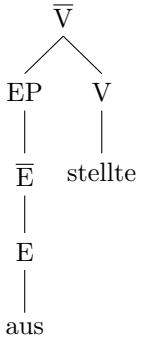


We want to figure out what is going on in the "ausstellte" $\overline{\text{V}}$. We know that three H-Movement rules will apply to German root CPs, in this order: V-Movement, I-Movement, and Topicalization. Let's pretend, for the time being, that "ausstellte" is syntactically (as well as semantically) a single word (a verb). Here is what our derivation would look like:



This leaves us with the string "Sie ausstellte den Brief." Obviously this is not the sentence that we want. Assuming that all three of those rules apply, how might we cause "aus" to end up at the end of the sentence? We know that we want it to start at D-Structure in a phrase with "stellte," because we believe that they are compositional (and semantically one word).

So essentially what we want is to make sure that "aus" gets left behind when "stellte" goes on its wild ride to the front of the sentence. Here is what I propose as the parse of the "ausstellte" $\overline{\text{V}}$:



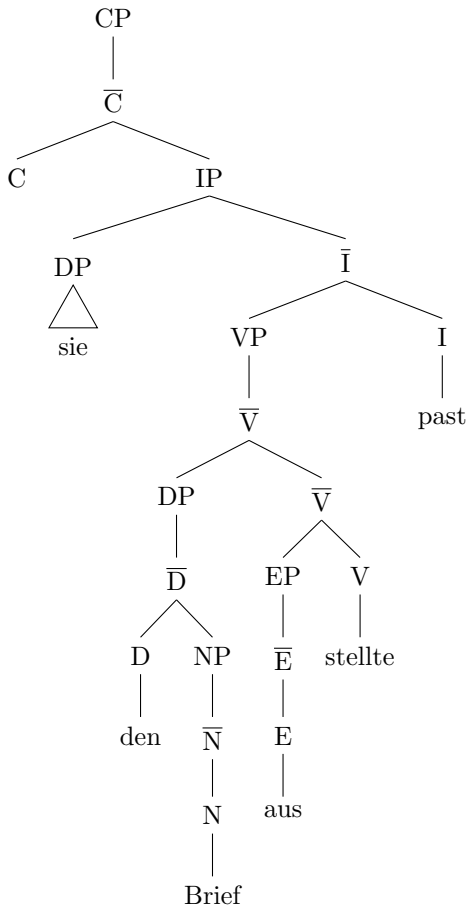
EP stands for "Element Phrase." I would have preferred something like PP for Part Phrase, but PP is already taken. I did consider making "aus" a preposition, as these prefixes seem to be the same words that we use as prepositions (out, to, away, etc.) However, I decided that they do not serve the same role as prepositions, and moreover, that having a PP inside a $\overline{\text{V}}$ that really represents a single semantic word might get messy. Were I to do more research, I'm sure I would find more conclusive reasons to go with PP or with EP.

For now, let's just pretend that I am right. In order to implement this solution, we need to add the following rules to our X-Bar toolbox:

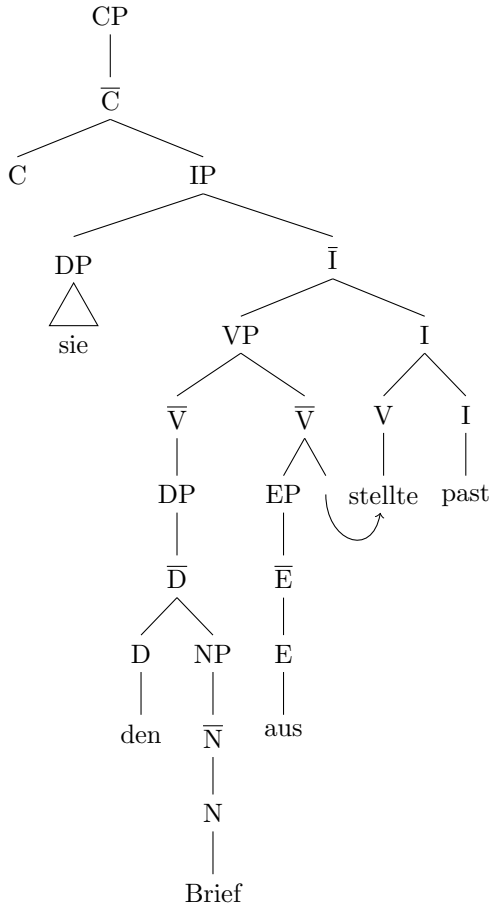
- $\overline{\text{V}} \Rightarrow$ EP V
- EP $\Rightarrow \overline{\text{E}}$
- $\overline{\text{E}} \Rightarrow$ E

This is a dissadvantage of my solution – it requires additional X-Bar rules. Moreover, these rules have an *extremely* limited usage (prefix separable verbs). These points support the alternate solution of using a PP.

But the real question, apart from considerations of what type of phrase to use, is: will this solution allow us to make the correct predictions? The answer is yes (I hope). Let's look at the derivation again, with our modified D-Structure:



Now we do V-Movement – but *this* time, "aus" is not a verb, and does not move with "stellte."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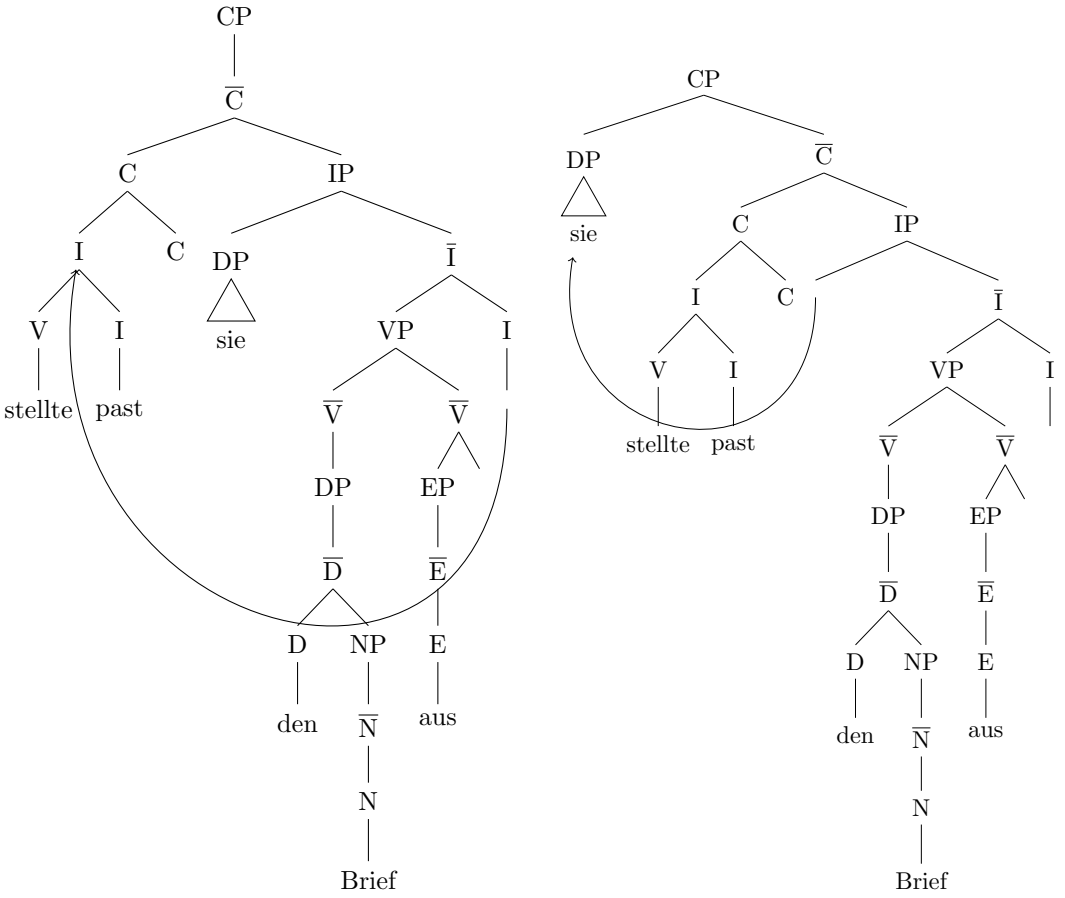
past

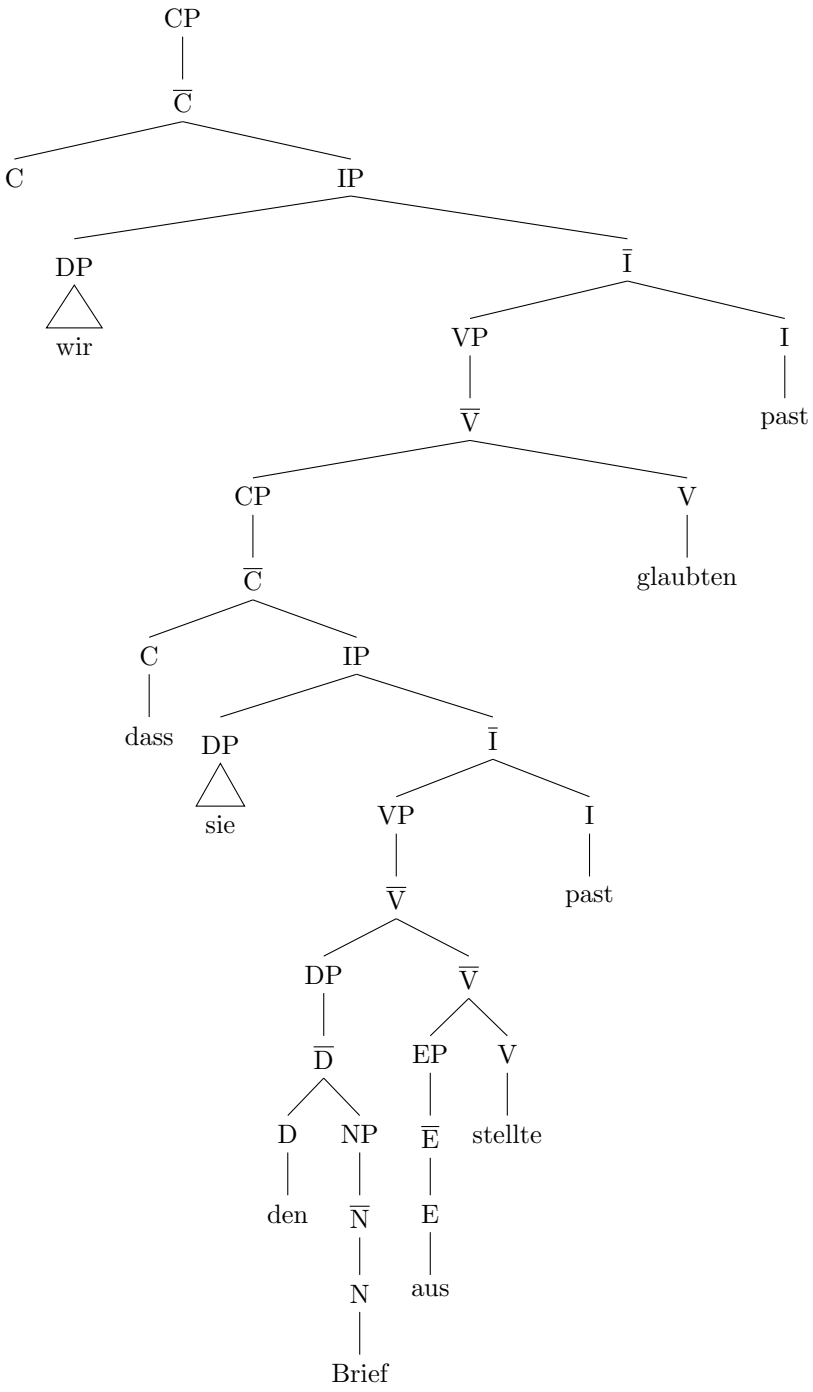
And now I-Movement and Topicalization as normal:



This gives us the string "Sie stellte den Brief aus." Unlike last time, this *is* the sentence we want.

We also need to show that this hypothesis produces the correct result in an embedded CP. Here is a derivation showing that:

D-Structure: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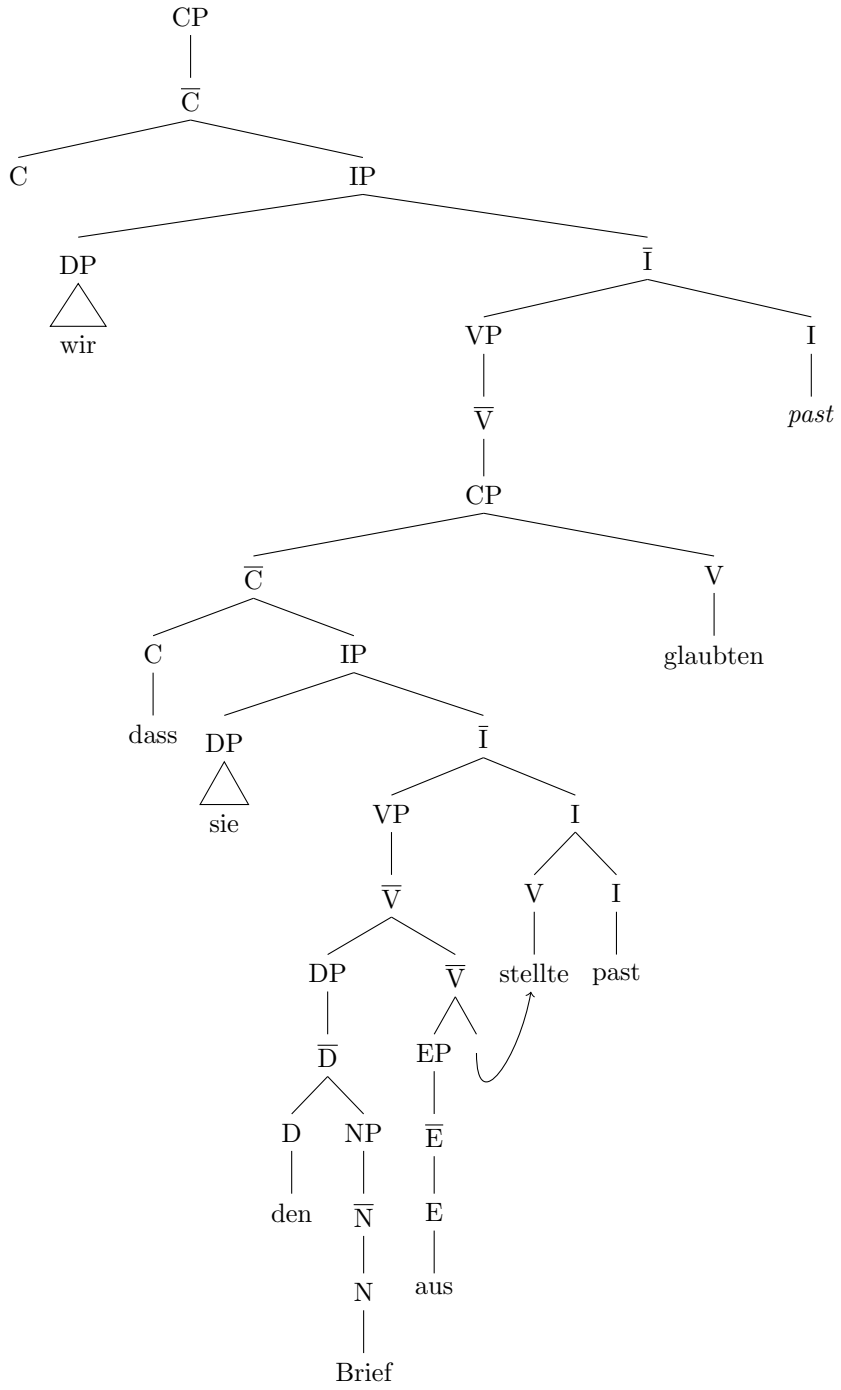
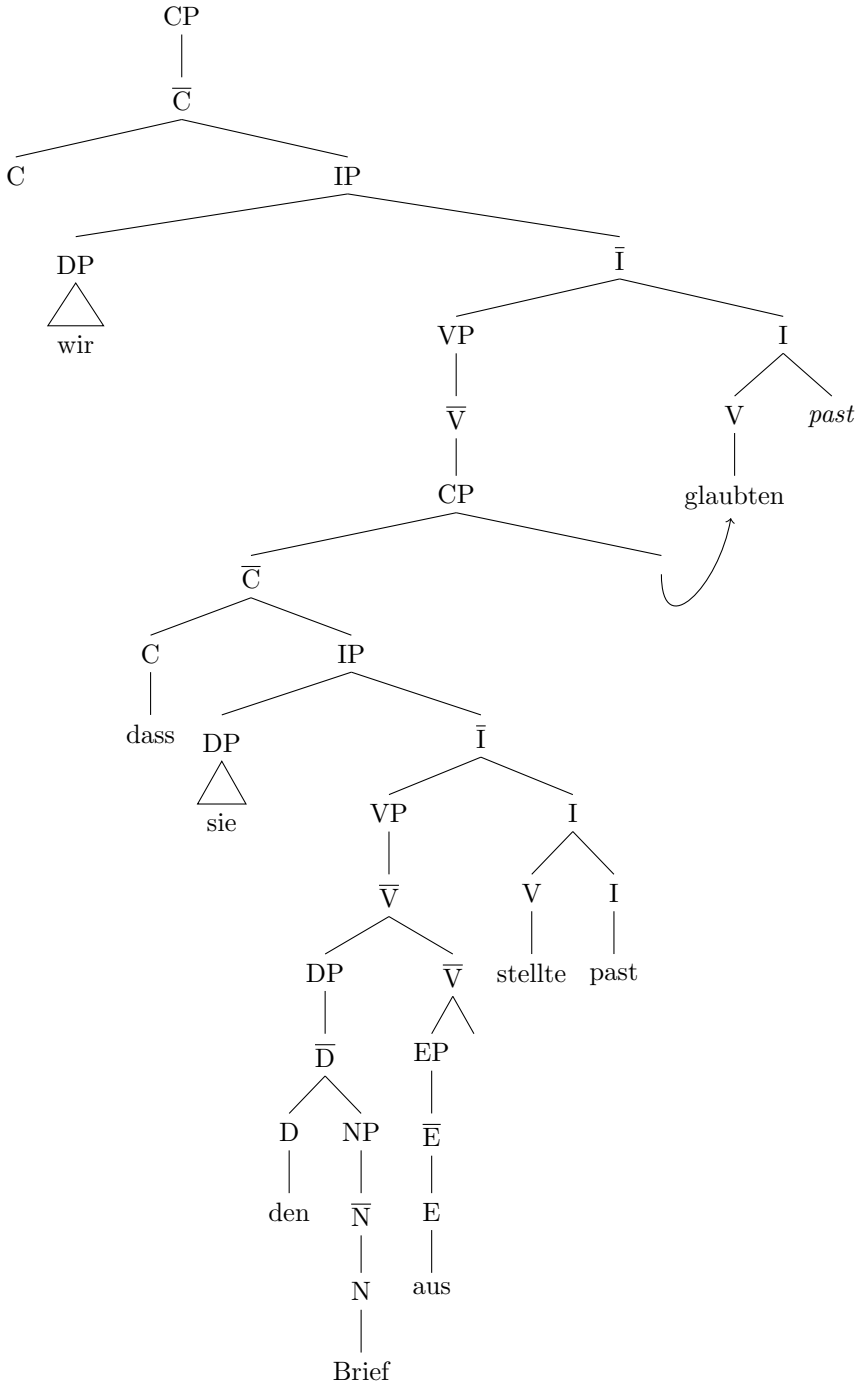
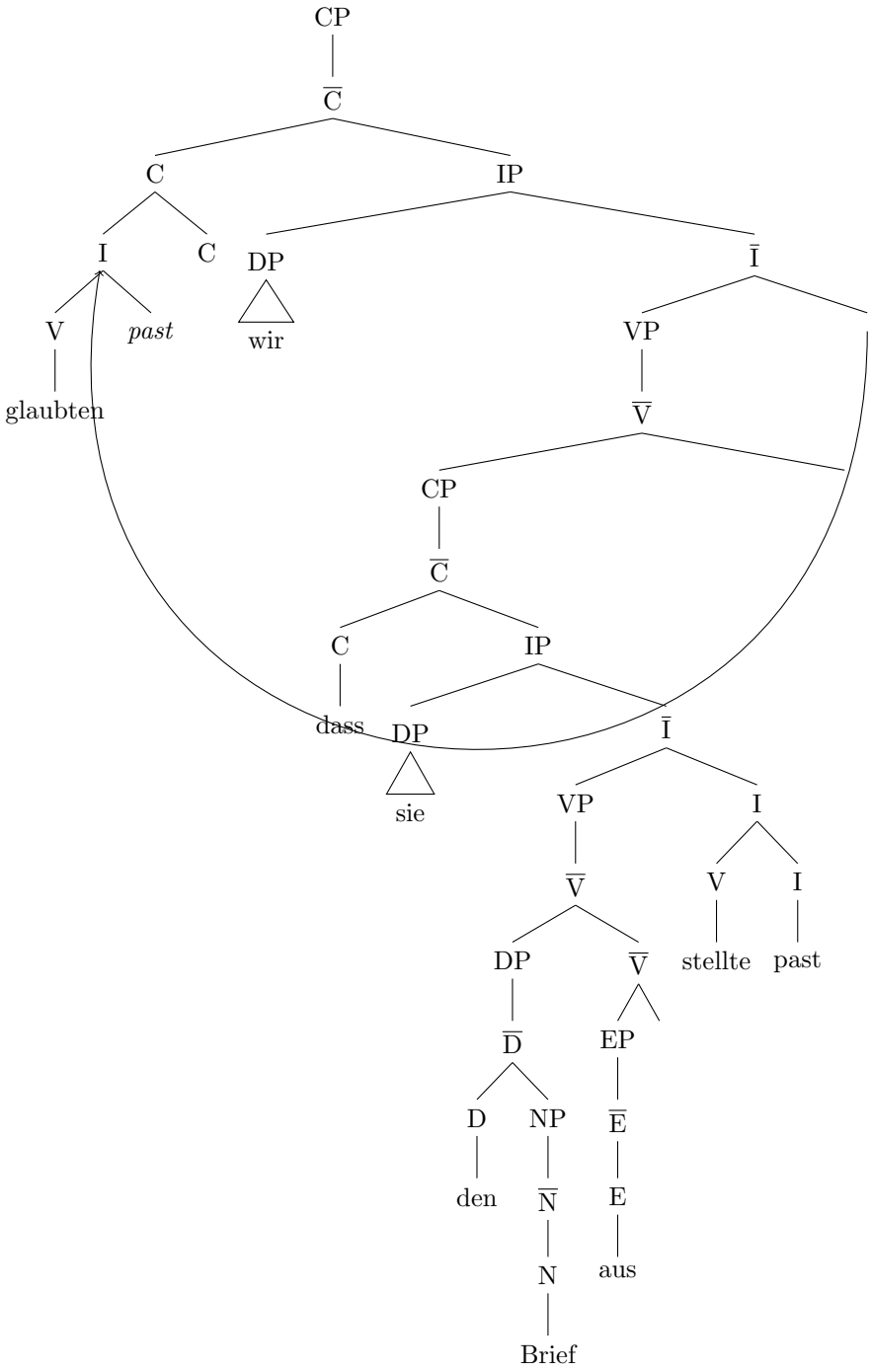
S-Structure Step 1: V-Movement



S-Structure Step 2: V-Movement (again)



S-Structure Step 3: I-Movement



S-Structure Step 4: Topicalization