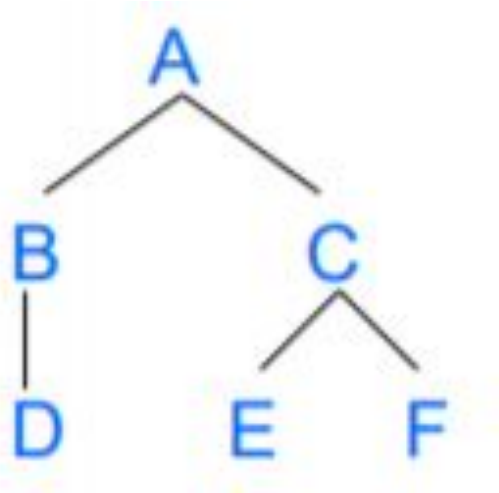
LIN 311 Syntax Recitation

Mar. 1, 2019

C-commanding relation

1. List all the node that B c-commands
2. List all the nodes that C c-commands
3. List all the nodes that D c-commands
4. List all the nodes that E c-commands
5. List all the nodes that F c-commands



Q: what do we need c-commanding relations for?

Three NP types

Identify all the NPs in the following sentences and determine if they are anaphors, pronouns, or R-expression.

a) Mary went to the store so that she could buy herself some shampoo.
b) Pangu thought Thomas could easily catch the dog.
c) John knows him.
d) She never met Heidi before.

Binding

What are the three binding principles?

- Condition A
- Condition B
- Condition C

Binding Principles:
the conditions on the structural relations between nouns

- Condition A: An anaphor (reflexives, reciprocal) must be bound in its binding domain (normally, minimal CP)
- Condition B: A pronoun must be free in its minimal binding domain.
- Condition C: A referring-expression (or, R-expression, e.g., proper nouns and descriptions) must be free.

Antecedent & Co-indexing

Q: For each condition, can you think of an example that illustrates it?

C-commanding & Binding

Draw a tree for the following sentences and explain whether the sentences meet the Binding Principle. If yes, which condition?

1. I don’t trust myself with a staple gun.
2. Bill said that he likes dogs.
3. She knows that Calvin really likes himself.
4. His mother said that John was coming.

Why are the following sentences ungrammatical?

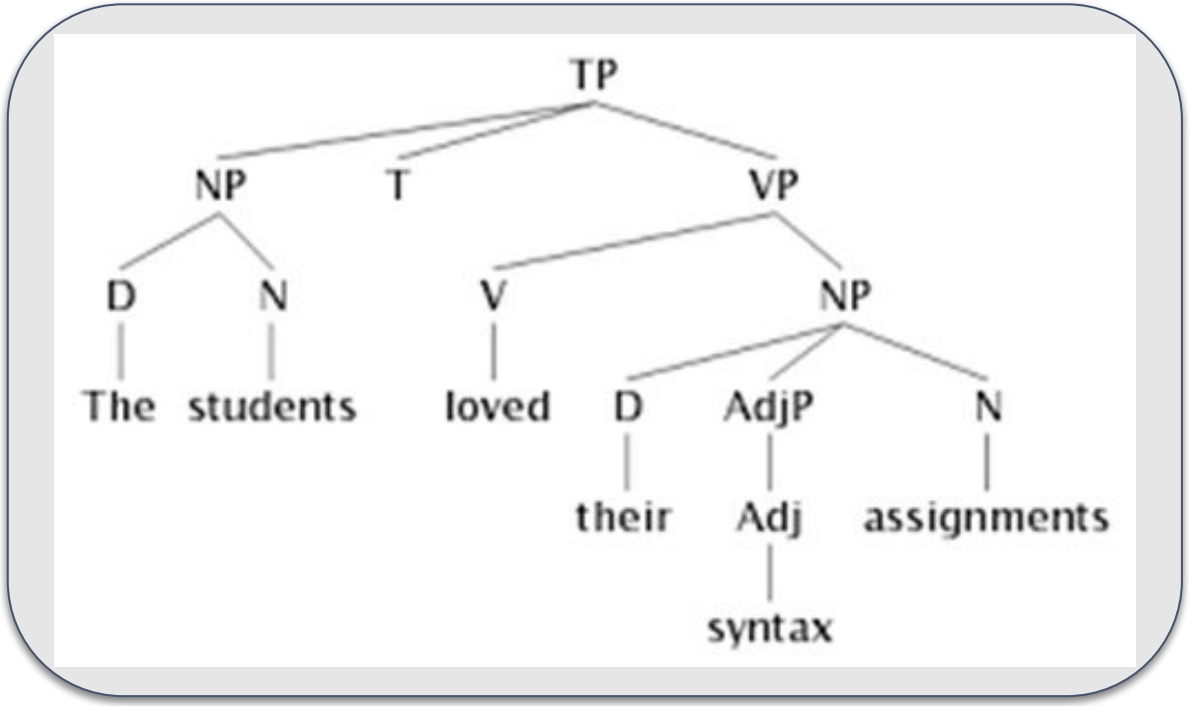
1. * The sister of the boys smiles at each other.

2. * She$_i$ thinks Mary$_i$ will pass the exams.

Distinguishing...

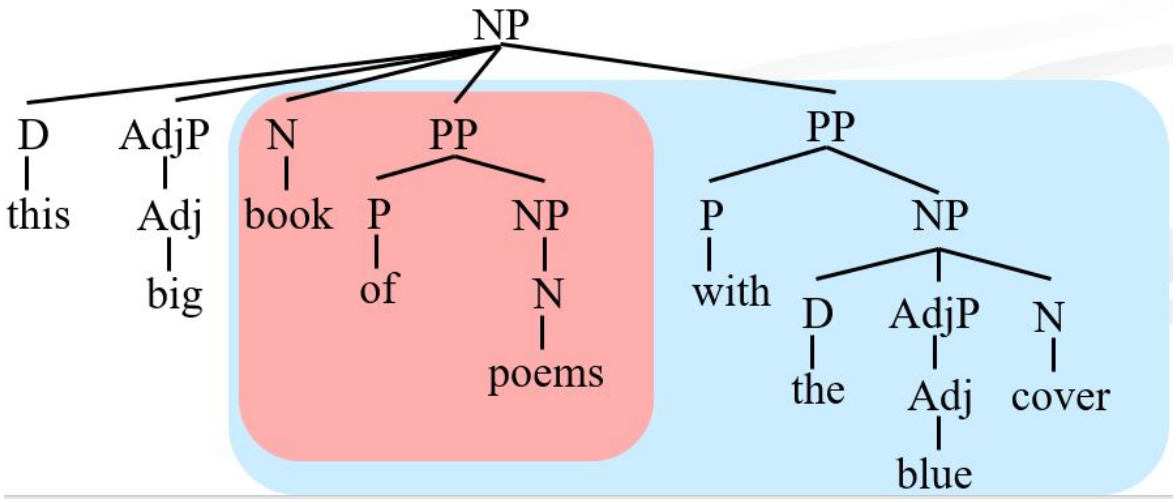
What are the differences among these four structural relations?

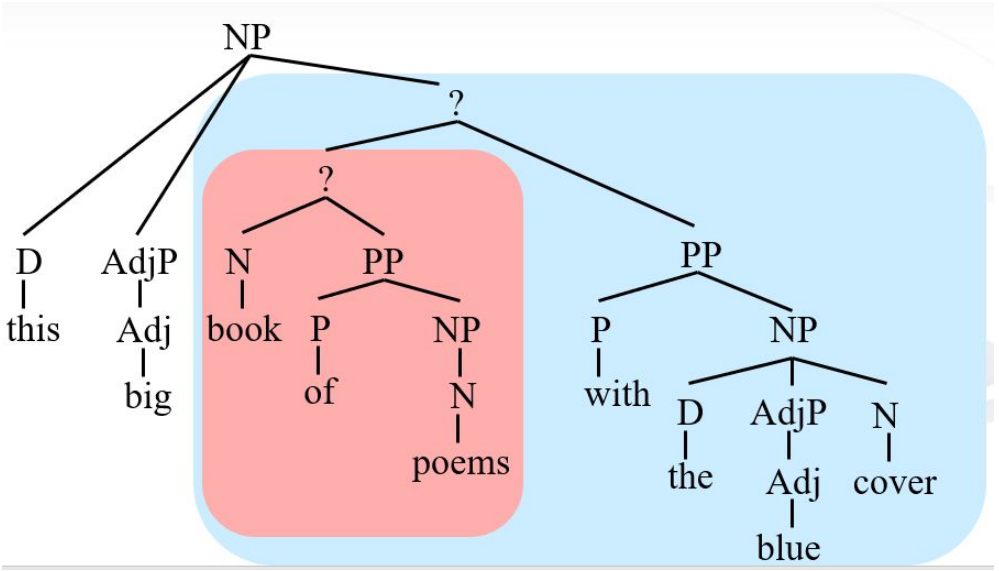
1. A c-commands B;
2. A and B are co-indexed;
3. A binds B.
4. A dominates B.



One-replacement

NP: (D) (AdjP+) N (PP+)

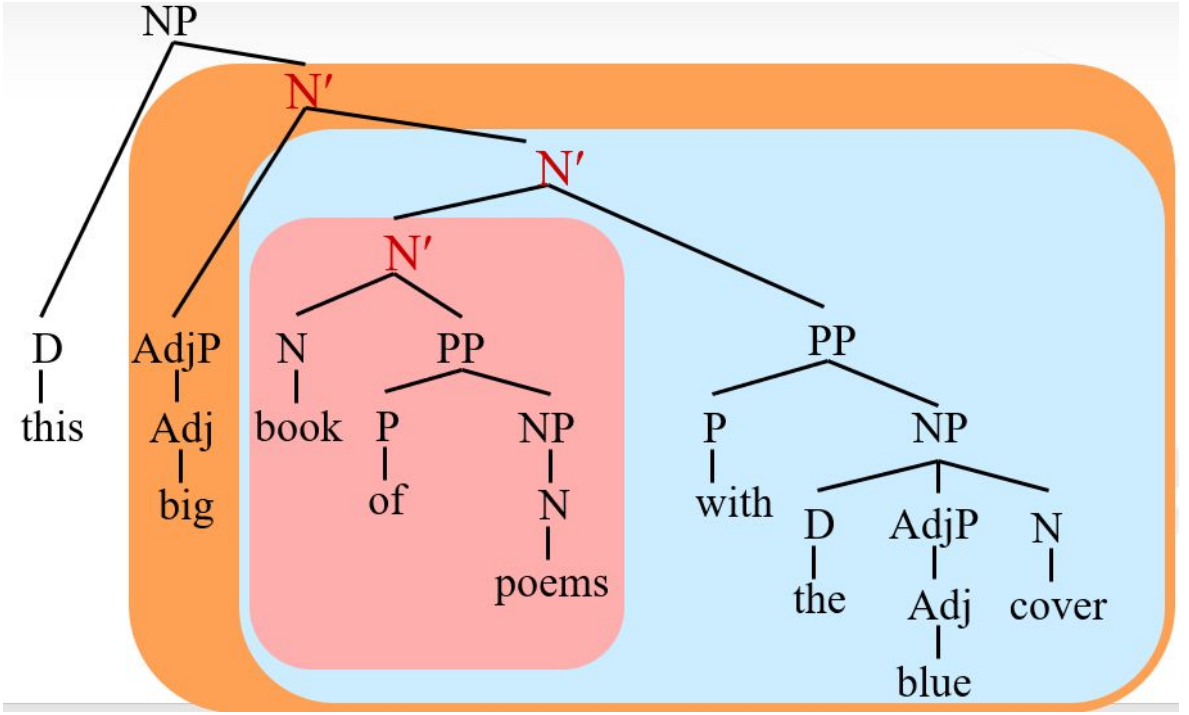




X-bar theory & NP

- deeply embedded structure
- intermediate level: N’

- NP -> (D) N’
- N’ -> AdjP N’
- N’ -> N¢ PP
- N’ -> N (PP)



X-bar theory & NP

Draw trees for the following phrases using X-bar theory.

1. a car with bad air-conditioning
2. the former director of intelligence in the US Navy
3. the big blue jar of olives on the windowsill