LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: Trees & Constituency Tests

Yige Chen

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Based on tutorial handouts by Dr. Zhuo Chen

February 8, 2023

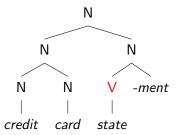


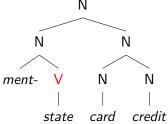
Corrections



English (with right-hand head rule) Zinglish (with left-hand head rule)

Ν





Morphological vs. Syntactic



- Morphology: the study of word formation
 - An morphological argument focuses on the word level
- Syntax: how sentences are structured
 - An morphological argument focuses on the phrase or sentence level

Constituency Tests



- **Stand Alone Test**: If you can find a question that can be answered with a string of words, then this string is probably a constituent.
- **Substitution/Replacement**: If a string of words can be replaced with a monomorphic word, and the resulting sentence is grammatical, then this string is probably a constituent.
 - 'one' replaces nominal phrases, NPs.
 - Pronouns replace **DPs** but not NPs.
 - 'there/then' replaces **PPs**.
 - 'do so' replaces **VPs**.
- **Coordination**: given two strings of words, α, β , if $[X \ \alpha \ Y]$ and $[X \ \beta \ Y]$ are acceptable sentences and $[X \ \alpha \ \text{and} \ \beta \ Y]$ is also an acceptable sentence, then α and β are constituents and constituents of the same type.

Group Discussion: Constituency Tests



For the following sentence:

Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon.

Use constituency tests to

- show that the following strings of words are constituents, and
- determine the syntactic category for each constituent:
 - Eason Chan
 - that famous linguist
 - linguist
 - famous linguist
 - at his home
 - in the afternoon
 - meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon
 - meet that famous linguist at his home
 - meet that famous linguist





Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon.

 Eason Chan
 Replace with pronoun 'he': he will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon



- Eason Chan
 Replace with pronoun 'he': he will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon
- that famous linguist
 Replace with pronoun 'her': Eason Chan will meet her at his home in the afternoon



- Eason Chan

 Replace with pronoun 'he': he will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon
- that famous linguist
 Replace with pronoun 'her': Eason Chan will meet her at his home in the afternoon
- linguist
 Replace with 'one': Eason Chan will meet that famous one at his home in the afternoon



- Eason Chan
 - Replace with pronoun 'he': he will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon
- that famous linguist
 Replace with pronoun 'her': Eason Chan will meet her at his home in the afternoon
- linguist
 Replace with 'one': Eason Chan will meet that famous one at his home in the afternoon
- famous linguist
 Replace with 'one': Eason Chan will meet that one at his home in the afternoon



Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon.

at his home

Replace with 'there': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist there in the afternoon



- at his home

 Replace with 'there': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist there in the afternoon
- in the afternoon

 Replace with 'then': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home
 then



- at his home

 Replace with 'there': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist there in the afternoon
- in the afternoon

 Replace with 'then': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home then
- meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so



- at his home
 Replace with 'there': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist there in the afternoon
- in the afternoon

 Replace with 'then': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home then
- meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so
- meet that famous linguist at his home
 Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so in the afternoon



- at his home
 Replace with 'there': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist there in the afternoon
- in the afternoon

 Replace with 'then': Eason Chan will meet that famous linguist at his home
 then
- meet that famous linguist at his home in the afternoon Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so
- meet that famous linguist at his home
 Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so in the afternoon
- meet that famous linguist
 Replace with 'do so': Eason Chan will do so at his home in the afternoon

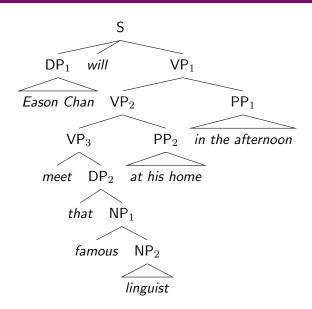
Group Discussion: Tree Drawing



- One constituent corresponds to one node in the tree.
- Based on the results of the above constituency tests, please draw a tree structure.

Group Discussion: Tree Drawing (cont'd)





Attendance



• Please scan the QR code and complete the attendance form