

# Dependency Parsing and Feature-based Parsing

Ling 571 — Deep Processing Techniques for NLP  
Shane Steinert-Threlkeld

# Announcements

- HW2 grades out, HW3 soon
- HW3 reference code available
  - Sym-linked from hw4 directory (example\_cky.py)
- HW4 slides, notes on OOV: not necessary in base implementation; can be used as your improvement (for coverage)
- For hw4, can use:
  - nltk.tree.Tree
  - nltk.tree.Tree.productions()

# Python Feature of the Week

- Dataclasses! ( $\geq 3.7$ )
  - Auto-generates: `__init__`, `__repr__`, `__eq__`, etc
  - Enables field-based access (e.g. `bp.split_point`)
  - Can be extended just like any class
  - (`frozen: not mutable`, `__hash__` will be added, can be used in sets etc)
- Very useful for:
  - Simple custom data types
  - Configurations!

```
@dataclass(frozen=True)
class Backpointer:
    current_nonterminal: Nonterminal
    split_point: int
    left_child: Nonterminal
    right_child: Nonterminal
```

# Headline of the Week

 **Nick Fleisher** @nickfleisher.bsky.social · 53m  
Look I'm no expert in journalistic sourcing standards but this seems unorthodox

The Washington Post  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*



The moon is 40 million years older than thought, ancient crystal suggests

By Carolyn Y. Johnson

ALT

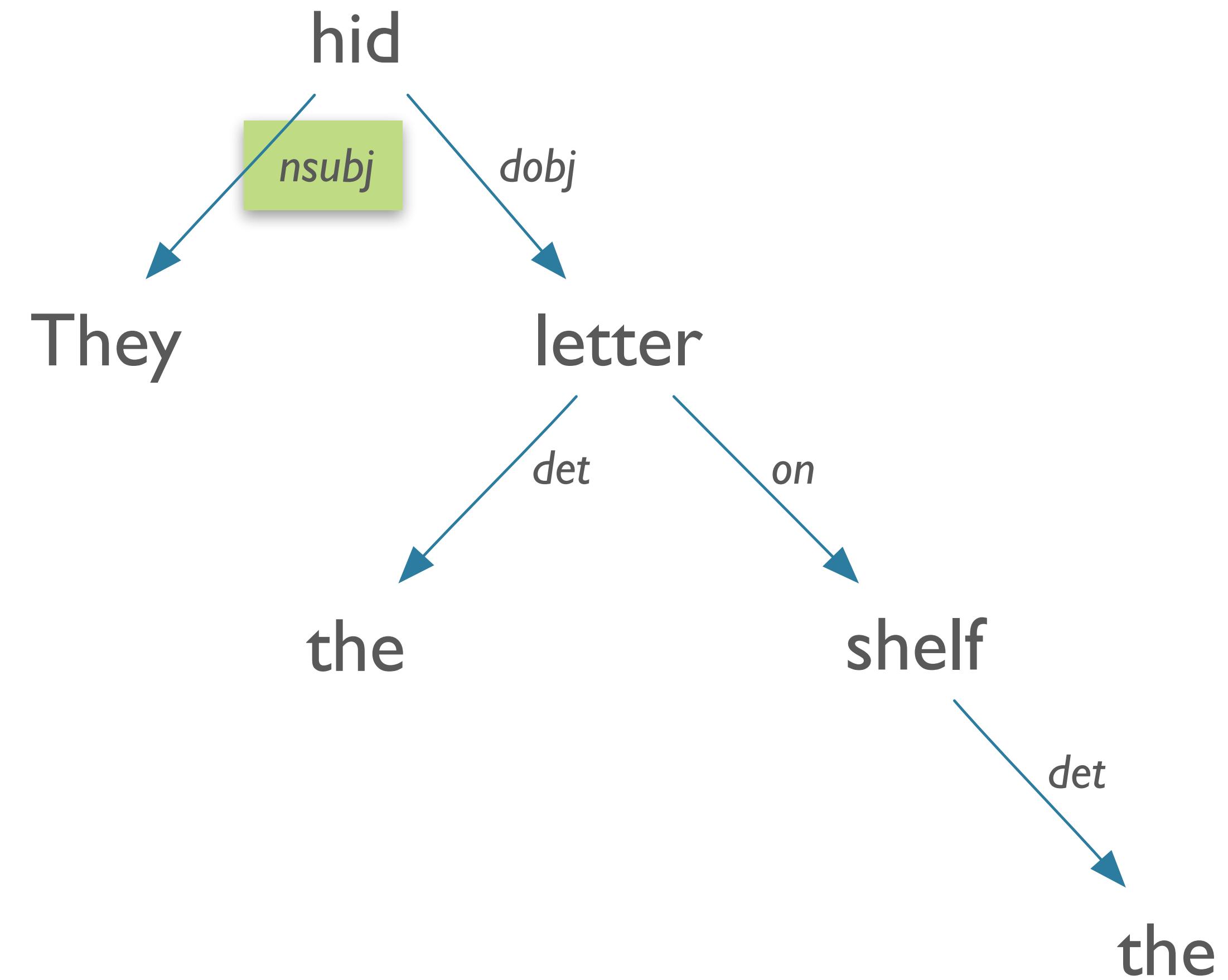
# Today

- **Dependency Parsing**
  - Transition-based Parsing
  - Feature-based Parsing
    - Motivation
    - Features
    - Unification

# Dependency Parse Example:

*They hid the letter on the shelf*

Argument Dependencies	
Abbreviation	Description
nsubj	nominal subject
csubj	clausal subject
dobj	direct object
iobj	indirect object
pobj	object of preposition
Modifier Dependencies	
Abbreviation	Description
tmod	temporal modifier
appos	appositional modifier
det	determiner
prep	prepositional modifier



# Transition-Based Parsing

- Parsing defined in terms of sequence of transitions

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- Alternative methods for learning/decoding
  - Most common model: Greedy classification-based approach
  - Very efficient:  $O(n)$

# Transition-Based Parsing

- Parsing defined in terms of sequence of transitions
- Alternative methods for learning/decoding
  - Most common model: Greedy classification-based approach
  - Very efficient:  $O(n)$
- Best-known implementations:
  - Nivre's MALTParser
  - [Nivre et al \(2006\); Nivre & Hall \(2007\)](#)

# Transition-Based Parsing

- A transition-based system for dependency parsing is:
  - A set of **configurations**  $\mathcal{C}$

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  - A transition function between configurations
  - An initialization function (for  $C_0$ )

# Transition-Based Parsing

- A transition-based system for dependency parsing is:
  - A set of **configurations**  $C$
  - A set of **transitions** between configurations
  - A transition function between configurations
  - An initialization function (for  $C_0$ )
  - A set of terminal configurations (“end states”)

# Configurations

- A configuration for a sentence  $\mathbf{x}$  is the triple  $(\Sigma, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A})$ :
- $\Sigma$  is a stack with elements corresponding to the nodes (words + ROOT) in  $\mathbf{x}$
- $\mathcal{B}$  (aka the buffer) is a list of nodes in  $\mathbf{x}$
- $\mathcal{A}$  is the set of dependency arcs in the analysis so far,
  - $(w_i, L, w_j)$ , where  $w_x$  is a node in  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $L$  is a dependency label

# Transitions

- Transitions convert one configuration to another
  - $C_i = t(C_{i-1})$ , where  $t$  is the transition
- Dependency graph for a sent:
  - The set of arcs resulting from a sequence of transitions
- The parse of the sentence is that resulting from the initial state through the sequence of transitions to a legal terminal state

# Dependencies → Transitions

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- To parse a sentence, we need the sequence of transitions that derives it
- How can we determine sequence of transitions, given a parse?
- This is defining our ***oracle*** function:
  - How to take a parse and translate it into a series of transitions

# Dependencies → Transitions

- Many different oracles:
  - Nivre's arc-standard
  - Nivre's arc-eager
  - Non-projectivity with Attardi's
  - ...

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- Many different oracles:
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  - ...
- Generally:
  - Use oracle to identify gold transitions
  - Train **classifier** to predict best transition in new config

# Nivre's Arc-Standard Oracle

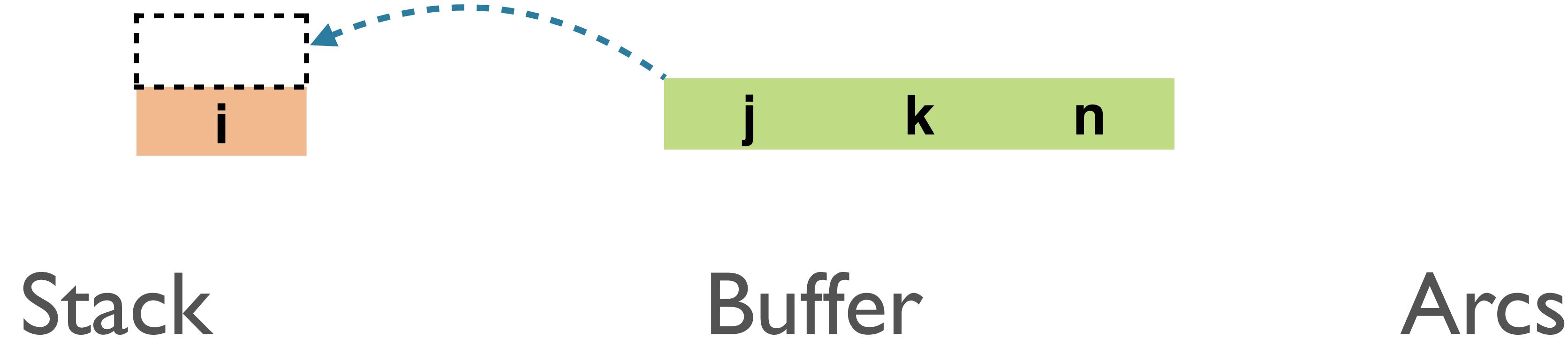
- Words:  $w_1, \dots, w_n$ 
  - $w_0 = \text{ROOT}$
- Initialization:
  - Stack =  $[w_0]$ ; Buffer =  $[w_1, \dots, w_n]$ ; Arcs =  $\emptyset$
- Termination:
  - Stack =  $\sigma$ ; Buffer= [ ]; Arcs =  $A$ 
    - for any  $\sigma$  and  $A$

# Nivre's Arc-Standard Oracle

- Transitions are one of three:
  - Shift
  - Left-Arc
  - Right-Arc

# Transitions: Shift

- *Shift* first element of buffer to top of stack.
- $[i][j,k,n,\dots][] \rightarrow [i,j][k,n,\dots][]$



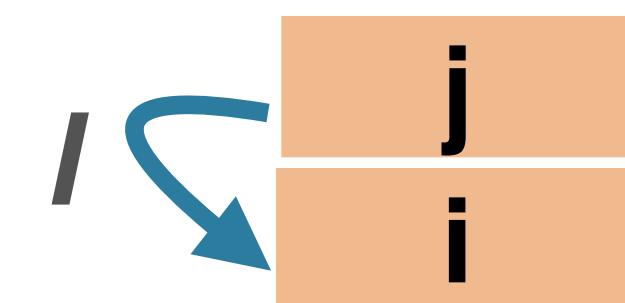
# Transitions: Shift

- *Shift* first element of buffer to top of stack.
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# Transitions: Left-Arc

- Add arc from element at top of stack **to second element on stack** with dependency label  $l$ 
  - Pop **second element** from stack.
  - $[i, j] [k, n, \dots] A \rightarrow [j] [k, n, \dots] A \cup [(j, l, i)]$



Stack

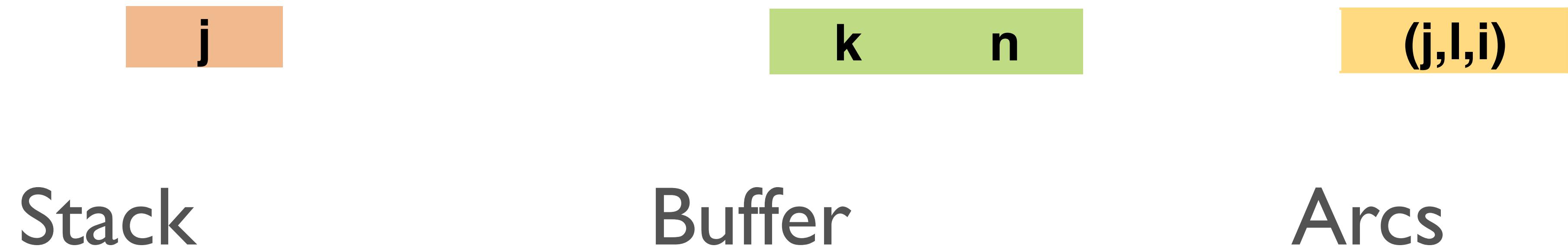


Buffer

Arcs

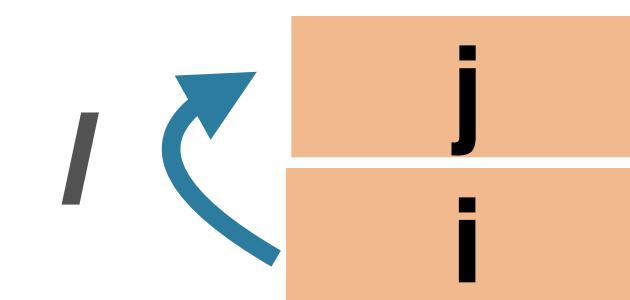
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  - Pop **second element** from stack.
  - $[i, j] [k, n, \dots] A \rightarrow [j] [k, n, \dots] A \cup [(j, l, i)]$



# Transitions: Right-Arc

- Add arc from **second element on stack** to **top element on stack** with dependency label  $l$ 
  - Pop **top element** from stack.
  - $[i, j] [k, n, \dots] A \rightarrow [i] [k, n, \dots] A \cup [(i, l, j)]$



Stack

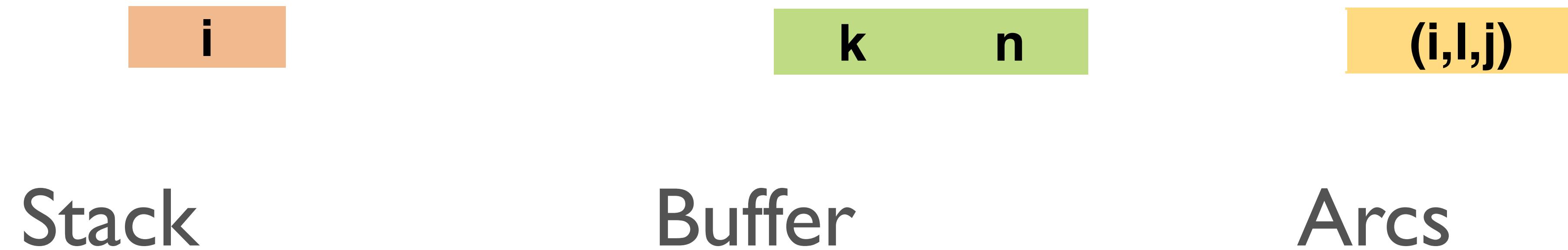


Buffer

Arcs

# Transitions: Right-Arc

- Add arc from **second element on stack** to **top element on stack** with dependency label  $i$ 
  - Pop **top element** from stack.
  - $[i, j] [k, n, \dots] A \rightarrow [i] [k, n, \dots] A \cup [(i, l, j)]$



# Training Process

- Each step of the algorithm is a decision point between the three states
- We want to train a model to decide between the three options at each step
  - (Reduce to a classification problem)
- We start with:
  - A treebank
  - An *oracle* process for guiding the transitions
  - A discriminative learner to relate the transition to features of the current configuration

# Training Process, Formally:

$(\Sigma, B, A)$

- 1)  $c \leftarrow c_0(S)$
- 2) **while**  $c$  is not terminal
- 3)    $t \leftarrow o(c)$  *# Choose the (o)ptimal transition for the config  $c$*
- 4)    $c \leftarrow t(c)$  *# Move to the next configuration*
- 5) **return**  $G_c$

# Testing Process, Formally:

$(\Sigma, B, A)$

- 1)  $c \leftarrow c_0(S)$
- 2) **while**  $c$  is not terminal
- 3)    $t \leftarrow \lambda_c(c)$  # Choose the transition given model parameters at  $c$
- 4)    $c \leftarrow t(c)$  # Move to the next configuration
- 5) **return**  $G_c$

# Representing Configurations with Features

- **Address**

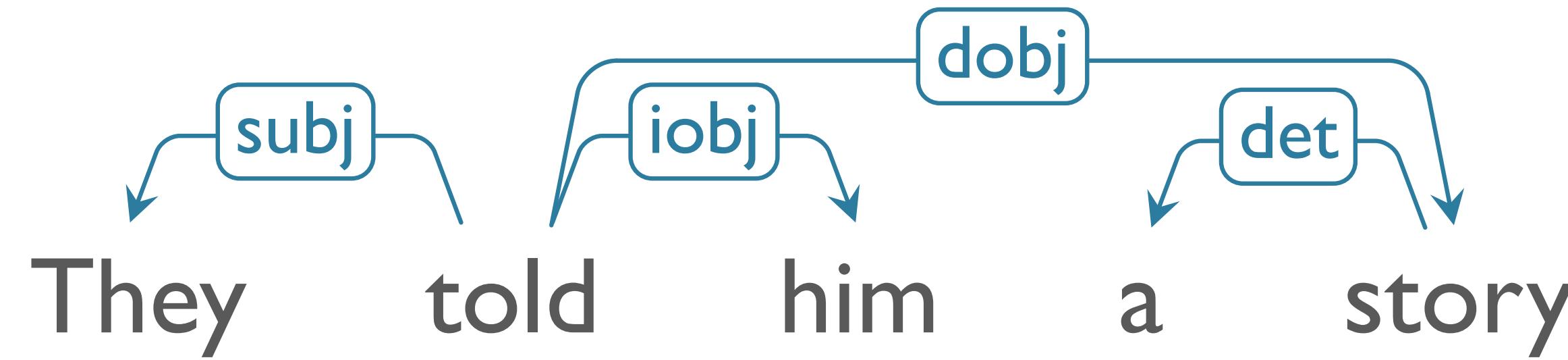
- Locate a given word:
  - By position in stack
  - By position in buffer
  - By attachment to a word in buffer

- **Attributes**

- Identity of word
- lemma for word
- POS tag of word
- Dependency label for word ← *conditioned on previous decisions!*

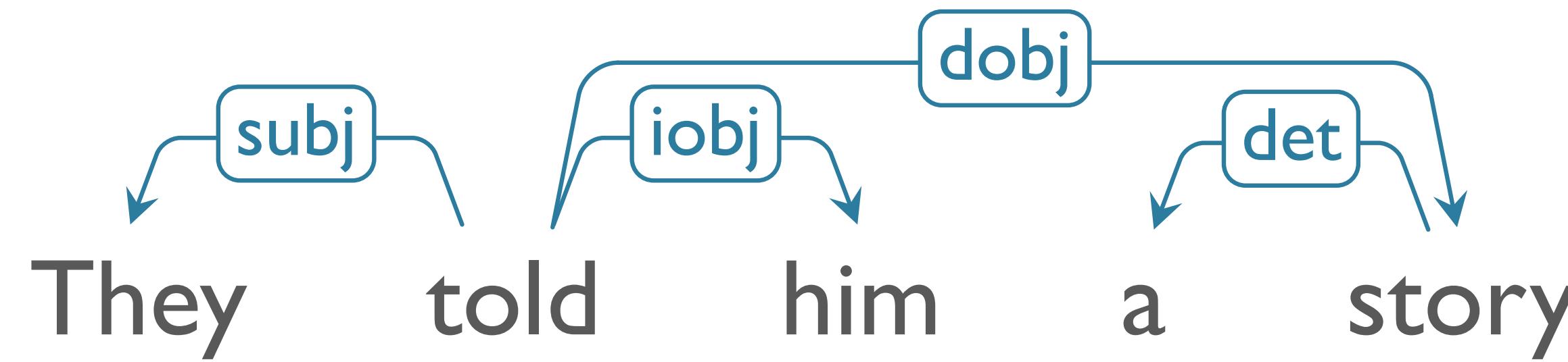
# Example:

Action	Stack	Buffer
	[ROOT]	[They told him a story]



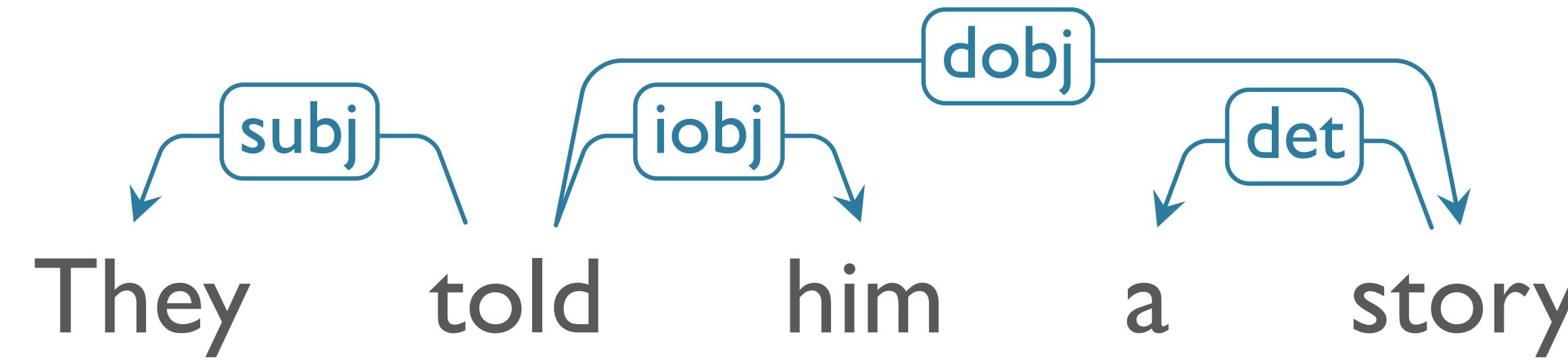
# Example:

Action	Stack	Buffer
	[ROOT]	[They told him a story]
Shift	[ROOT, They]	[told him a story]



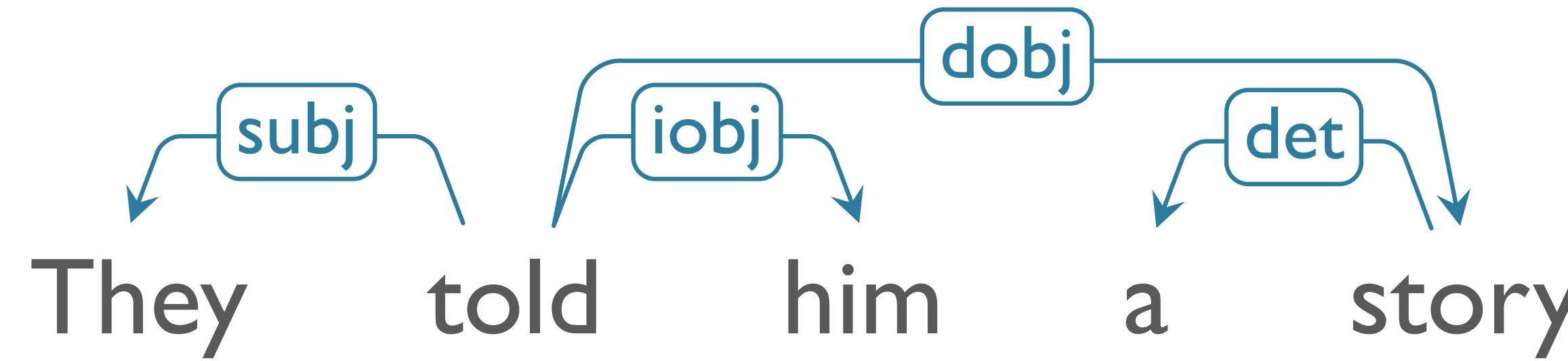
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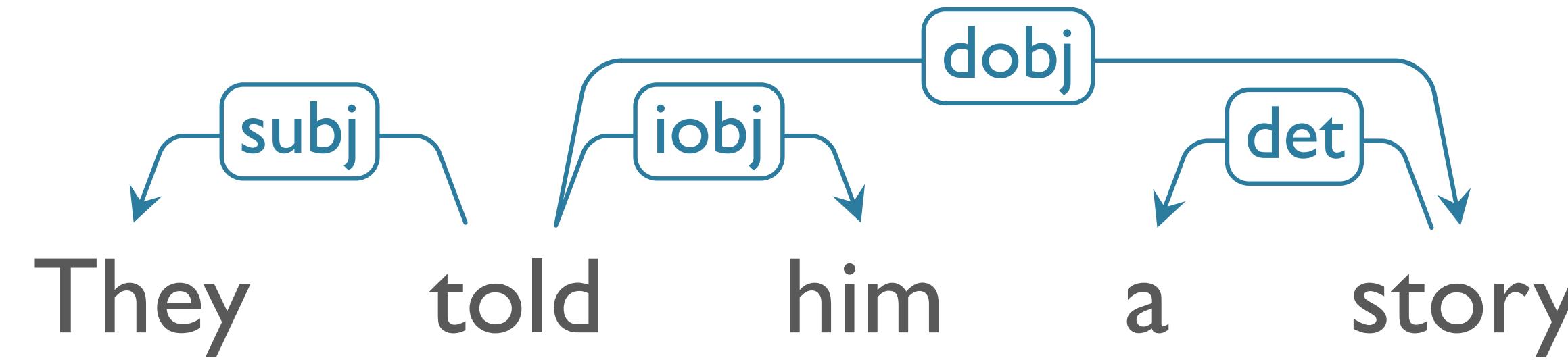
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Action	Stack	Buffer
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Shift	[ROOT, They, told]	[him a story]
Left-Arc (subj)	[ROOT, told]	[him a story]



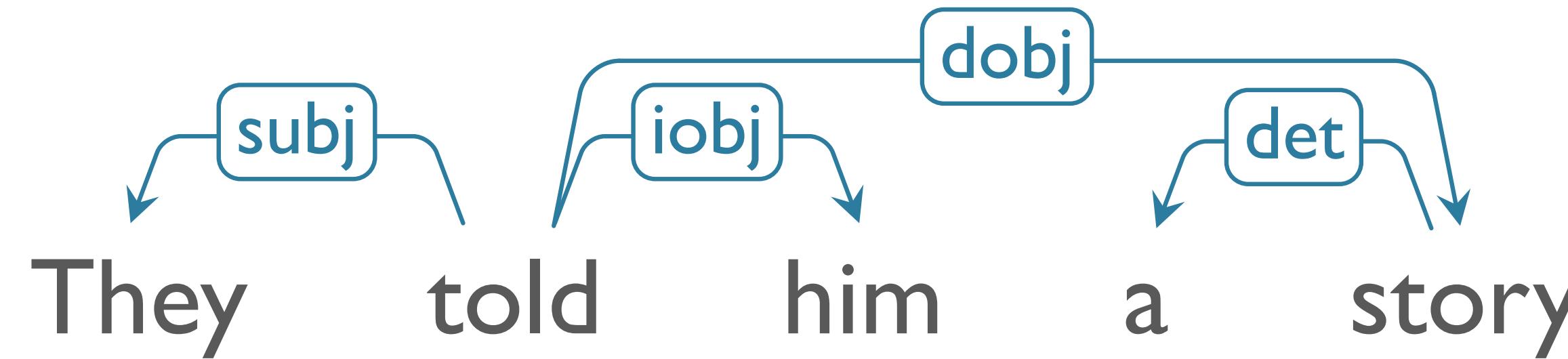
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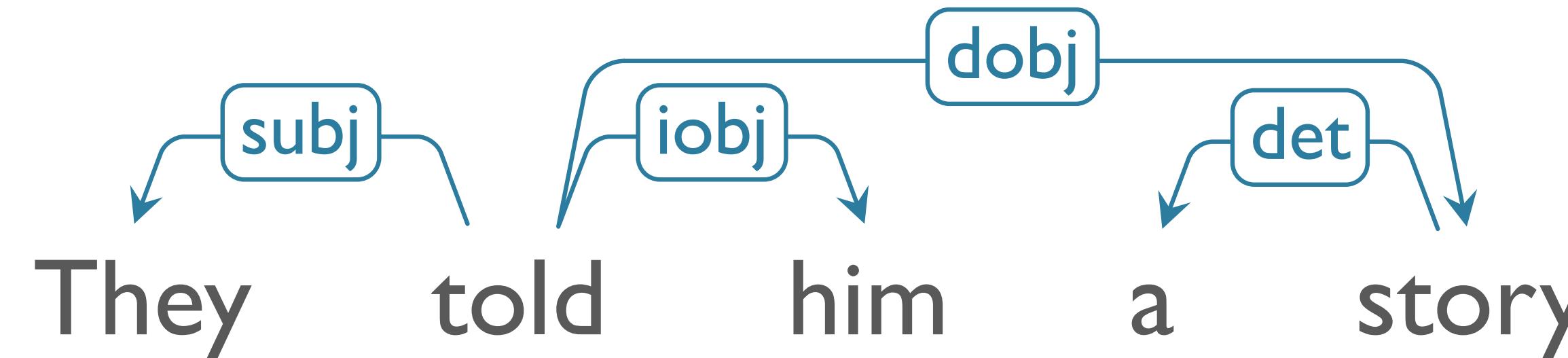
# Example:

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	[ROOT]	[They told him a story]
Shift	[ROOT, They]	[told him a story]
Shift	[ROOT, They, told]	[him a story]
Left-Arc (subj)	[ROOT, told]	[him a story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, him]	[a story]
Right-Arc (iobj)	[ROOT, told]	[a story]



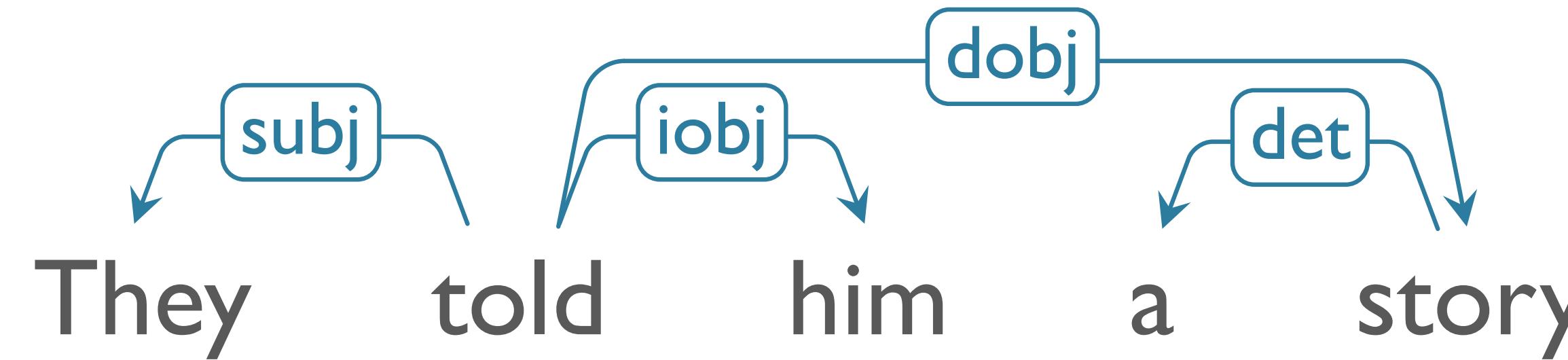
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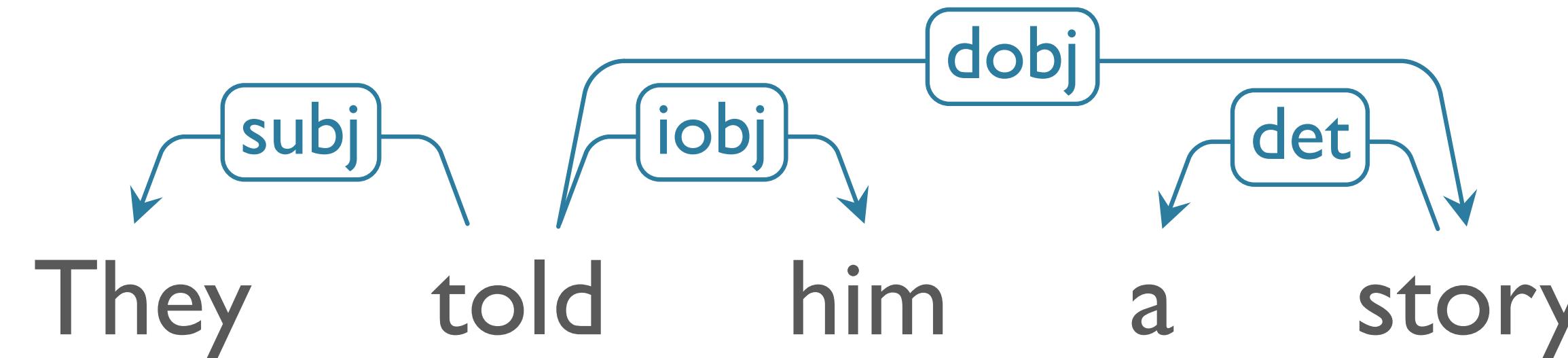
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Shift	[ROOT, told, a]	[story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a, story]	[]



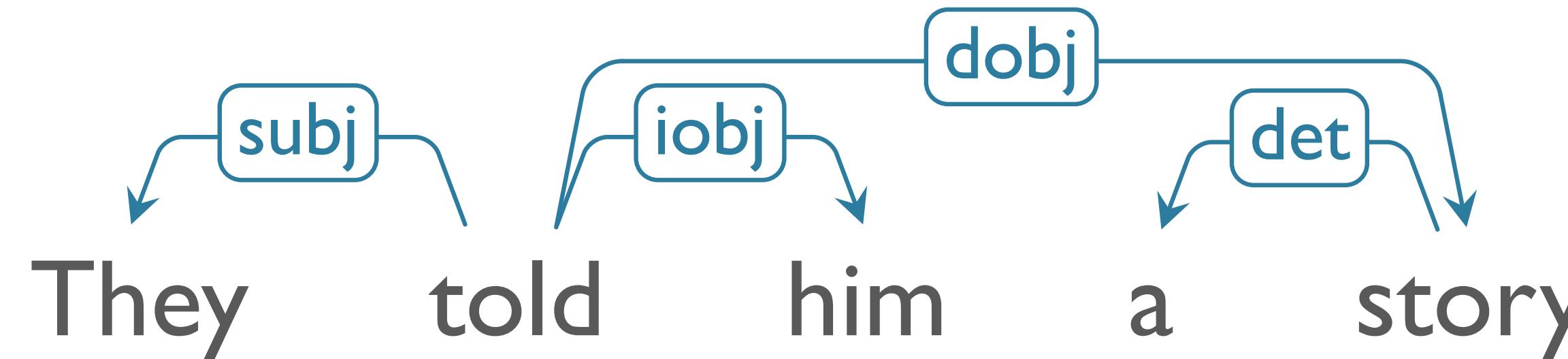
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Right-Arc (iobj)	[ROOT, told]	[a story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a]	[story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a, story]	[]
Left-Arc (Det)	[ROOT, told, story]	[]



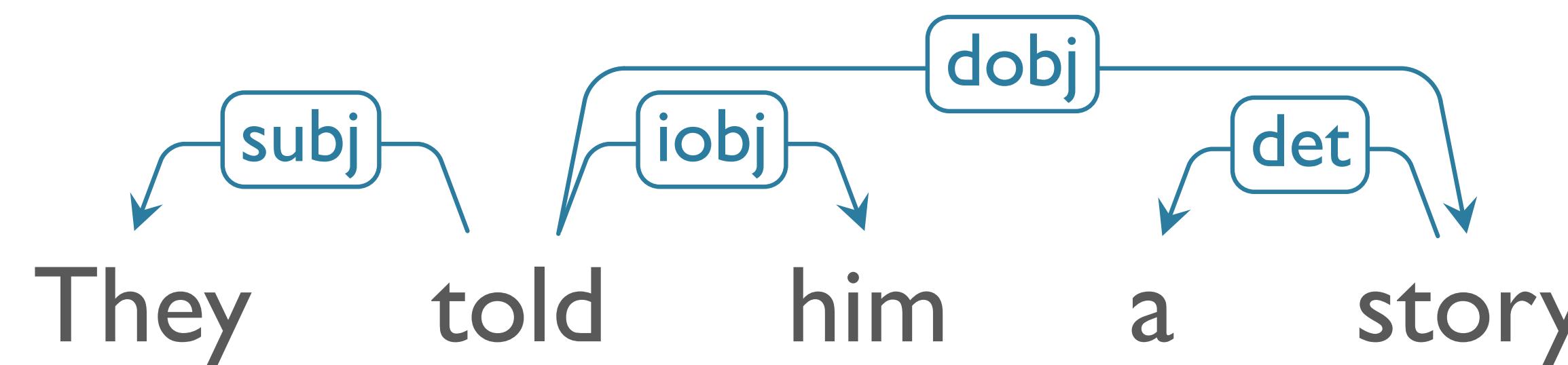
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Shift	[ROOT, told, him]	[a story]
Right-Arc (iobj)	[ROOT, told]	[a story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a]	[story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a, story]	[]
Left-Arc (Det)	[ROOT, told, story]	[]
Right-Arc (dobj)	[ROOT, told]	[]



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Shift	[ROOT, told, a]	[story]
Shift	[ROOT, told, a, story]	[]
Left-Arc (Det)	[ROOT, told, story]	[]
Right-Arc (dobj)	[ROOT, told]	[]
Right-Arc (root)	[ROOT]	[]



# Transition-Based Parsing Summary

- *Shift-Reduce* [reduce = pop] paradigm, bottom-up approach
- **Pros:**
  - Single pass,  $O(n)$  complexity
  - Reduce parsing to classification problem; easy to introduce new features
- **Cons:**
  - Only makes local decisions, may not find global optimum
  - Does not handle non-projective trees without hacks
    - e.g. transforming nonprojective trees to projective in training data; reconverting after

# Other Notes

- ...is this a parser?
  - No, not really!
  - Transforms problem into sequence labeling task, of a sort.
    - e.g. (SH, LA, SH, RA, SH, SH, LA, RA)
    - Sequence score is sum of transition scores

# Other Notes

- Classifier: Any
- Originally, SVMs
- Currently: NNs (LSTMs, pre-trained Transformer-based)
- State-of-the-art: UAS: 97.2%; LAS: 95.7%
- [http://nlpprogress.com/english/dependency\\_parsing.html](http://nlpprogress.com/english/dependency_parsing.html)

## Dependency parsing

Dependency parsing is the task of extracting a dependency parse of a sentence that represents its grammatical structure and defines the relationships between “head” words and words, which modify those heads.

Example:

```
root
  |
  +-----dobj-----
  | |
  | +----det----+ +---nmod---
  | | | | +---nmod---+ +-case-+
  | | | | +---nmod---+ | | |
  | | | | + | + | + | + | + | + | |
I prefer the morning flight through Denver
```

Relations among the words are illustrated above the sentence with directed, labeled arcs from heads to dependents (+ indicates the dependent).

## Penn Treebank

Models are evaluated on the [Stanford Dependency](#) conversion (**v3.3.0**) of the Penn Treebank with [predicted](#) POS-tags. Punctuation symbols are excluded from the evaluation. Evaluation metrics are unlabeled attachment score (UAS) and labeled attachment score (LAS). UAS does not consider the semantic relation (e.g. Subj) used to label the attachment between the head and the child, while LAS requires a semantic correct label for each attachment. Here, we also mention the predicted POS tagging accuracy.

Model	POS	UAS	LAS	Paper / Source	Code
HPSG Parser (Joint) + XLNet (Zhou and Zhao, 2019)	97.3	97.20	95.72	<a href="#">Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar Parsing on Penn Treebank</a>	<a href="#">Official</a>
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The latest news from Google AI

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## Announcing SyntaxNet: The World's Most Accurate Parser Goes Open Source

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Posted by Slav Petrov, Senior Staff Research Scientist

At Google, we spend a lot of time thinking about how computer systems can read and understand human language in order to process it in intelligent ways. Today, we are excited to share the fruits of our research with the broader community by releasing [SyntaxNet](#), an open-source neural network framework implemented in [TensorFlow](#) that provides a foundation for Natural Language Understanding (NLU) systems. Our release includes all the code needed to train new SyntaxNet models on your own data, as well as *Parsey McParseface*, an English parser that we have trained for you and that you can use to analyze English text.

Parsey McParseface is built on powerful machine learning algorithms that learn to analyze the linguistic structure of language, and that can explain the functional role of each word in a given sentence. Because Parsey McParseface is the [most accurate such model in the world](#), we hope that it will be useful to developers and researchers interested in automatic extraction of information, translation, and other core applications of NLU.

<https://ai.googleblog.com/2016/05/announcing-syntaxnet-worlds-most.html>

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# Parsey McParseface



SCI-TECH  
**Don't laugh: Google's Parsey McParseface is a serious IQ boost for computers**



## Google is giving away the tool it uses to understand language, Parsey McParseface

*Okay, Google. Okay. We get it.*

By Dieter Bohn | @backlon | May 12, 2016, 3:00pm EDT



Google Has Open Sourced SyntaxNet, Its AI for Understanding Language

BUSINESS

CULTURE

GEAR

IDEAS

CADE METZ BUSINESS 05.12.16 03:00 PM

## Share



## Google Has Open Sourced SyntaxNet, Its AI for Understanding Language

# Parsey McParseface

The screenshot shows a news article from CNET. At the top left is the CNET logo. The navigation bar includes links for BEST PRODUCTS, REVIEWS, NEWS, VIDEO, HOW TO, SMART HOME, CARS, DEALS, and 5G. There is also a search icon and a 'JOIN' button. The main headline on the left says 'Don't la' and 'McParsefac'. The main content area features the TNW logo and the title 'Has Open Sourced SyntaxNet, Its AI for Understanding Language'. Below the title are categories: LATEST, HARD FORK, PLUGGED, FUNDAMENTALS, and WORK 2030. A timestamp at the bottom right indicates the article was published on May 12, 2016, at 3:00 PM.

THE VERGE

GOOGLE / TECH

Google is giving AI the ability to understand language

Okay, Google. Okay. We get it.

By Dieter Bohn | @backlon | May 12, 2016, 3:00pm EDT

## Google just open sourced something called 'Parsey McParseface,' and it could change AI forever



by NATE SWANNER — May 12, 2016 in DESIGN & DEV

Has Open Sourced SyntaxNet, Its AI for Understanding Language

# Parsey McParseface

## Globally Normalized Transition-Based Neural Networks

Daniel Andor, Chris Alberti, David Weiss, Aliaksei Severyn,  
Alessandro Presta, Kuzman Ganchev, Slav Petrov and Michael Collins\*

Google Inc  
New York, NY

{andor, chrisalberti, djweiss, severyn, apresta, kuzman, slav, mjc}@google.com

### Abstract

We introduce a globally normalized transition-based neural network model that achieves state-of-the-art part-of-speech tagging, dependency parsing and sentence compression results. Our model is a simple feed-forward neural network that operates on a task-specific transition system, yet achieves comparable or better accuracies than recurrent models. We discuss the importance of global as opposed to local normalization: a key insight is that the label bias problem implies that globally normalized models can be strictly more expressive than locally normalized models.

Chen and Manning (2014). We do not use any recurrence, but perform beam search for maintaining multiple hypotheses and introduce global normalization with a conditional random field (CRF) objective (Bottou et al., 1997; Le Cun et al., 1998; Lafferty et al., 2001; Collobert et al., 2011) to overcome the label bias problem that locally normalized models suffer from. Since we use beam inference, we approximate the partition function by summing over the elements in the beam, and use early updates (Collins and Roark, 2004; Zhou et al., 2015). We compute gradients based on this approximate global normalization and perform full backpropagation training of all neural network parameters based on the CRF loss.

In Section 3 we revisit the label bias problem and the implication that globally normalized mod-

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Great paper

Many methodological  
lessons on how to improve  
transition-based  
dependency parsing

BUT: don't believe (or at  
least beware) the hype!

# Dependency Parsing: Summary

- Dependency Grammars:
  - Compactly represent pred-arg structure
  - Lexicalized, localized
  - Natural handling of flexible word order

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- Dependency Grammars:
  - Compactly represent pred-arg structure
  - Lexicalized, localized
  - Natural handling of flexible word order
- Dependency parsing:
  - Conversion to phrase structure trees
  - Graph-based parsing (MST), efficient non-proj  $\mathbf{O}(n^2)$
  - Transition-based parser
    - MALTparser: very efficient  $\mathbf{O}(n)$
    - Optimizes local decisions based on many rich features

# Roadmap

- Dependency Parsing
  - Transition-based Parsing
- **Feature-based Parsing**
  - Motivation
  - Features
  - Unification

# Feature-Based Parsing

# Constraints & Compactness

- $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$ 
  - *They run.*
  - *He runs.*

# Constraints & Compactness

- $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$ 
  - *They run.*
  - *He runs.*
- **But...**
  - \**They runs*
  - \**He run*
  - \**He disappeared the flight*
- Violate agreement (number/person), subcategorization -> over-generation

# Enforcing Constraints with CFG Rules

- Agreement
  - $S \rightarrow NP_{sg+3p} VP_{sg+3p}$
  - $S \rightarrow NP_{pl+3p} VP_{pl+3p}$

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- Agreement
  - $S \rightarrow NP_{sg+3p} VP_{sg+3p}$
  - $S \rightarrow NP_{pl+3p} VP_{pl+3p}$
- Subcategorization:
  - $VP \rightarrow V_{transitive} NP$
  - $VP \rightarrow V_{intransitive}$
  - $VP \rightarrow V_{ditransitive} NP NP$
- Explosive, and loses key generalizations

# Feature Grammars

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- How can we describe agreement & subcategory?
  - Decompose into elementary features that must be consistent
    - e.g. Agreement on number, person, gender, etc
- Augment CF rules with feature constraints
  - Develop mechanism to enforce consistency
  - Elegant, compact, rich representation

# Feature Representations

- Fundamentally **Attribute-Value pairs**
  - Values may be symbols or feature structures
  - Feature path: list of features in structure to value
  - “Reentrant feature structure” — sharing a structure
- Represented as
  - Attribute-Value Matrix (AVM)
  - Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

# Attribute-Value Matrices (AVMs)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{ATTRIBUTE}_1 & \text{value}_1 \\ \text{ATTRIBUTE}_2 & \text{value}_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \text{ATTRIBUTE}_n & \text{value}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# AVM Examples

(A)

$\begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER PL} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix}$

(C)

$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{NP} \\ \text{AGREEMENT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER PL} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$

(B)

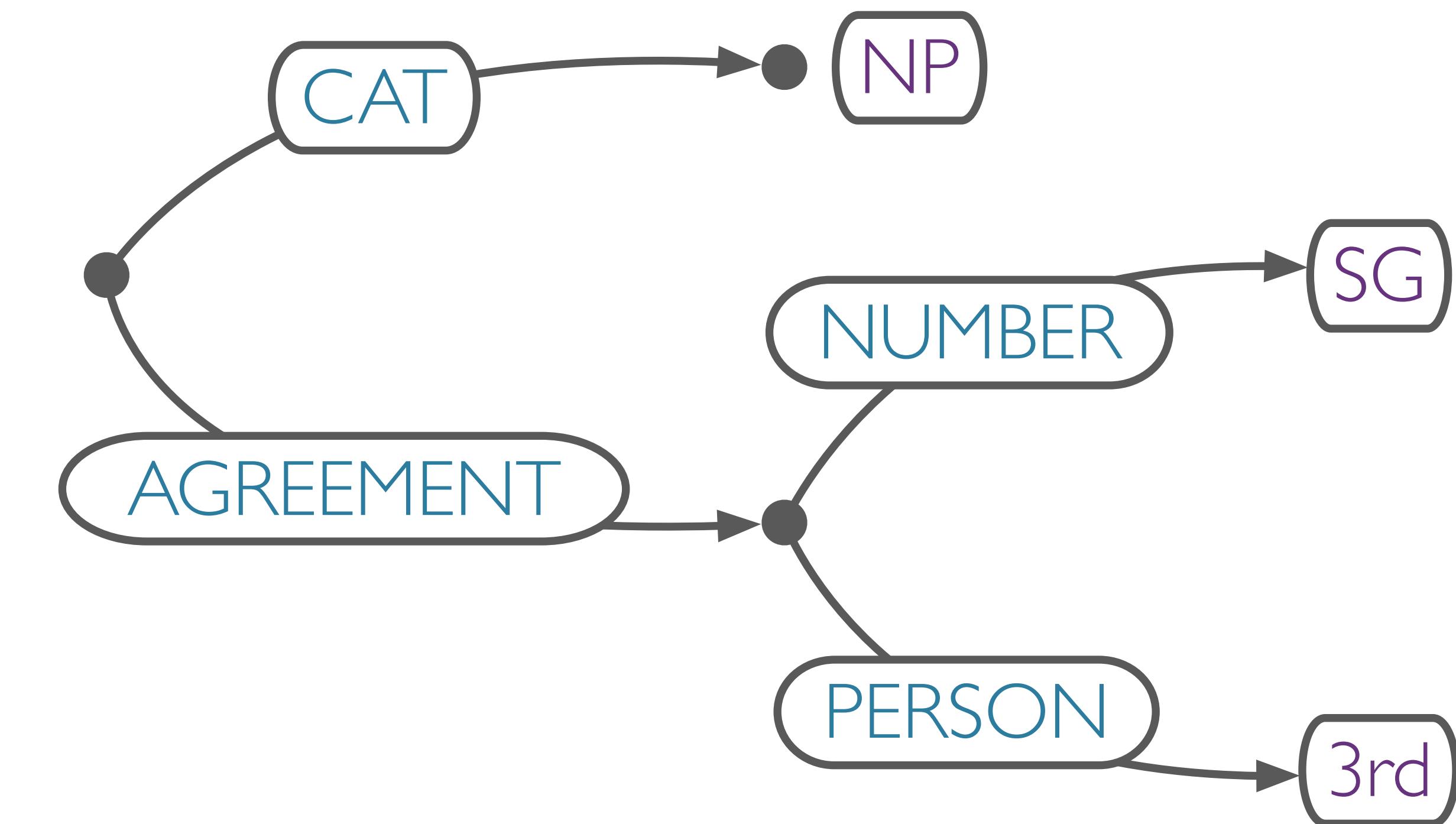
$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \text{NP} \\ \text{NUMBER PL} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix}$

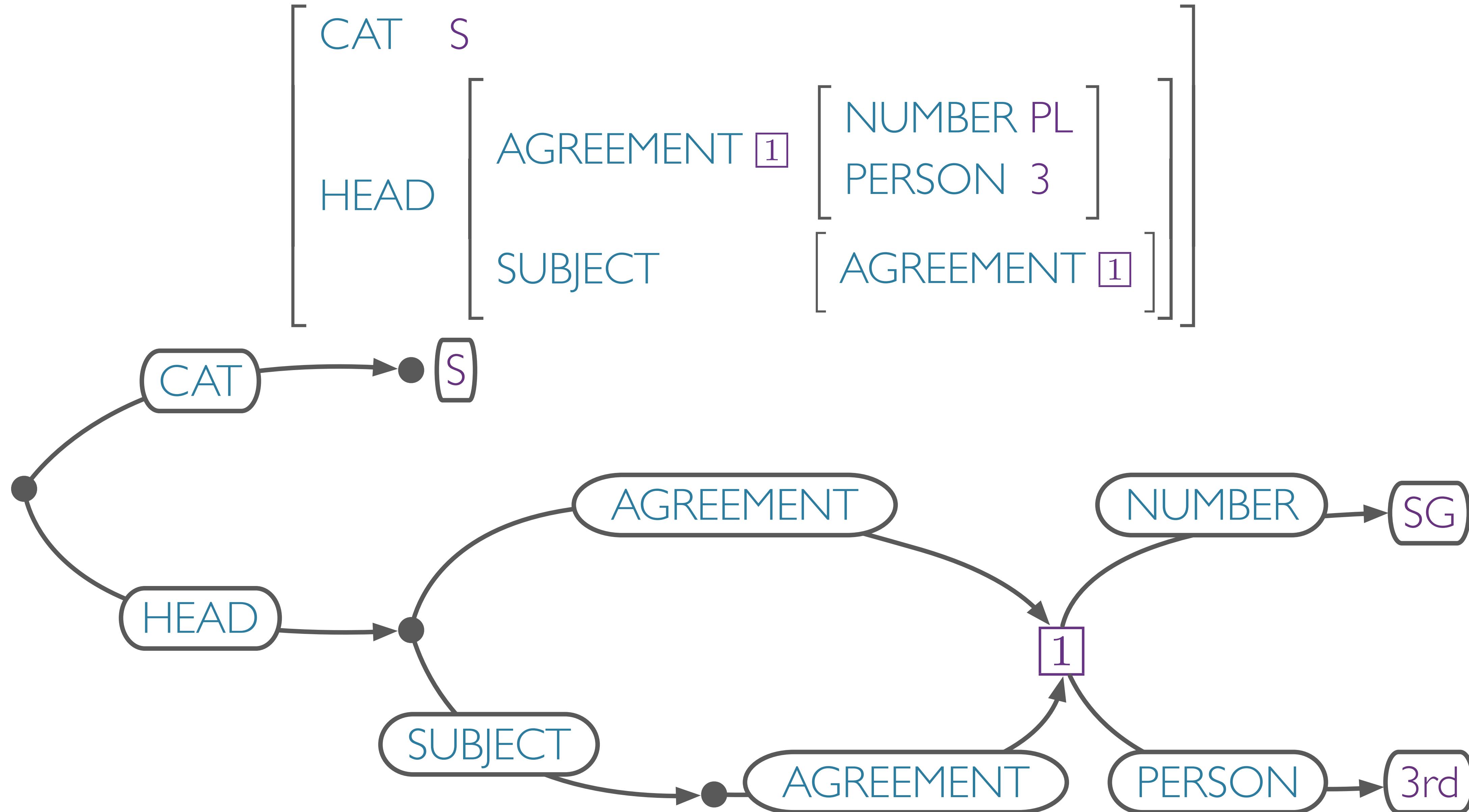
(D)

$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT S} \\ \text{HEAD} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{AGREEMENT } \boxed{1} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER PL} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SUBJECT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{AGREEMENT } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$

# AVM vs. DAG

CAT  
NP  
[ NUMBER PL  
PERSON 3 ]

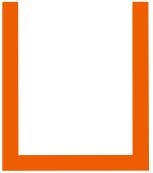




# Using Feature Structures

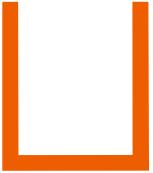
- Feature Structures provide formalism to specify constraints
- ...but how to apply the constraints?
- ***Unification***

# Unification:



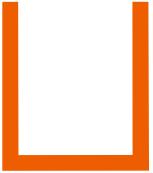
- Two key roles:
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    - Missing or underspecified values are filled with constraints of other
- Result of unification incorporates constraints of both

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- Examples:
  - $A = \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER SG} \end{bmatrix}$        $B = \begin{bmatrix} \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix}$
  - $C = \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER SG} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix}$

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  - A *subsumes* C
  - B *subsumes* C
  - B & A *don't subsume*

# Unification Examples

- Identical

$$[\text{NUMBER SG}] \sqcup [\text{NUMBER SG}] = [\text{NUMBER SG}]$$

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$$[\text{NUMBER SG}] \sqcup [\text{NUMBER SG}] = [\text{NUMBER SG}]$$

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$$[\text{NUMBER SG}] \sqcup [\text{PERSON 3}] = \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUMBER SG} \\ \text{PERSON 3} \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Conflicting Specs

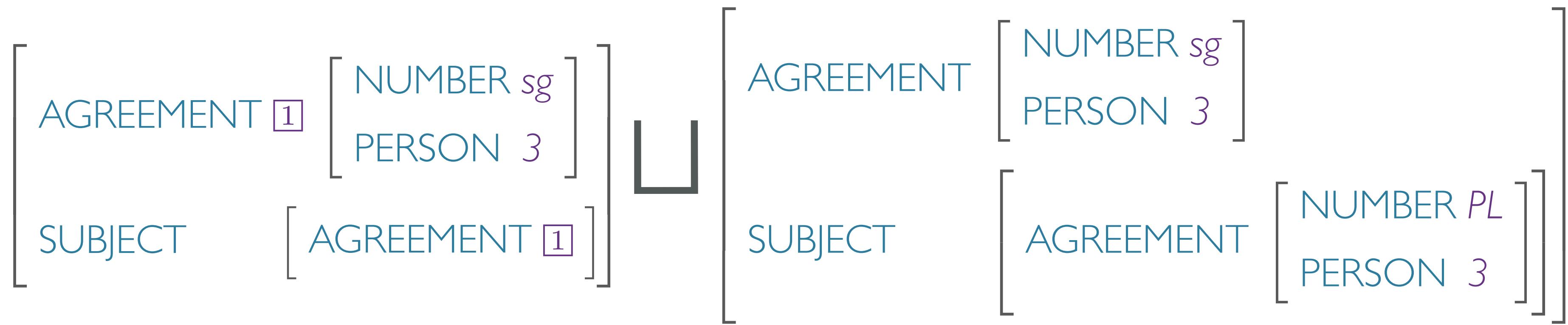
$$[\text{NUMBER SG}] \sqcup [\text{NUMBER PL}] = \emptyset$$

# Larger Unification Example

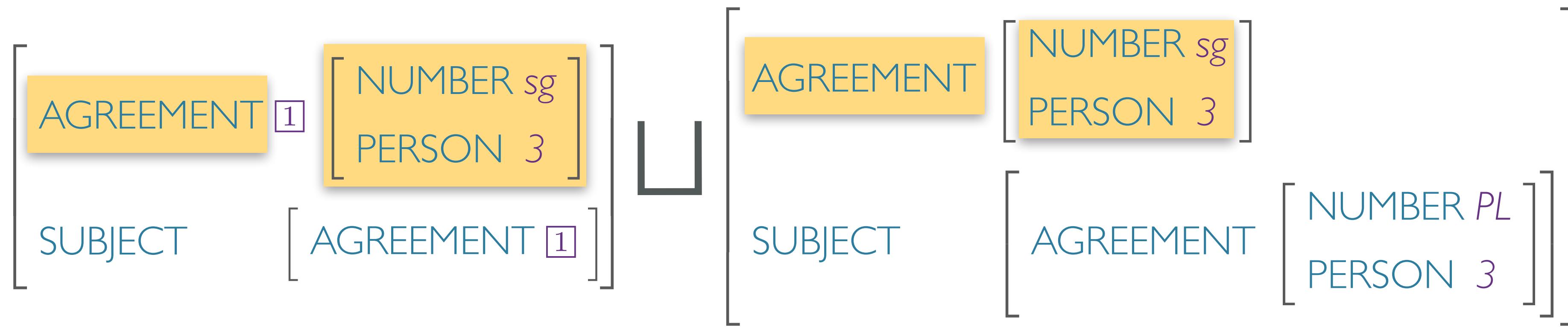
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGREEMENT } 1 \\ \text{SUBJECT} \end{array} \right] \sqcup \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJECT} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGREEMENT } 1 \\ \text{NUMBER SG} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] =$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGREEMENT } 1 \\ \text{SUBJECT} \end{array} \right] \sqcup \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{AGREEMENT } 1 \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PERSON } 3 \\ \text{NUMBER SG} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

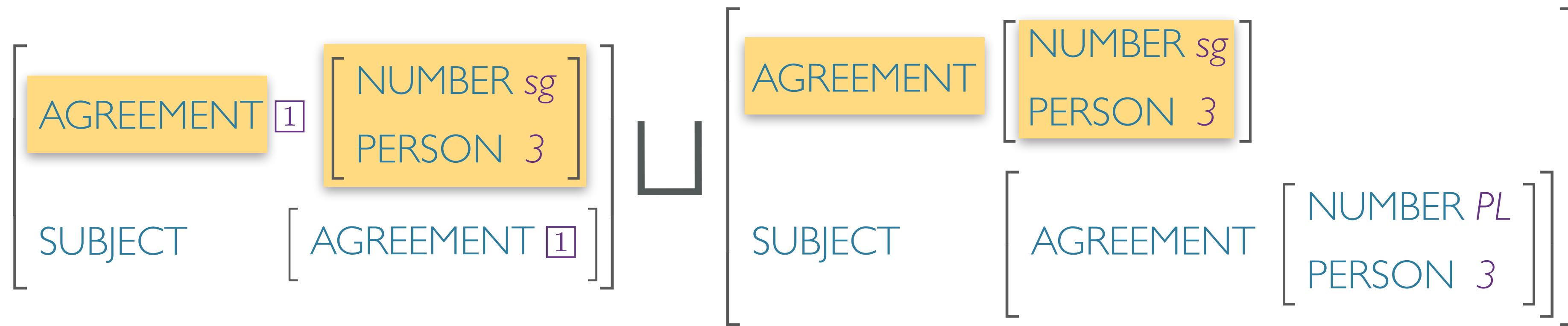
# One More Unification Example



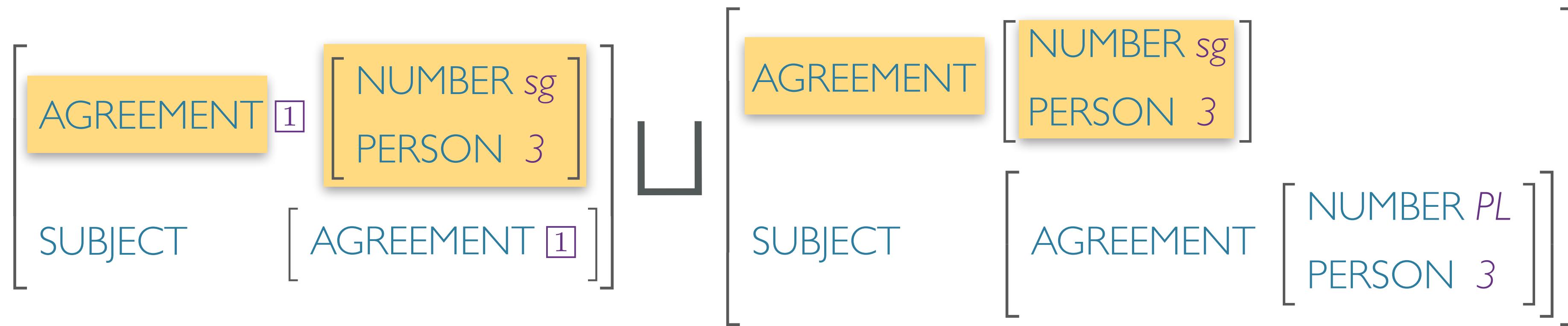
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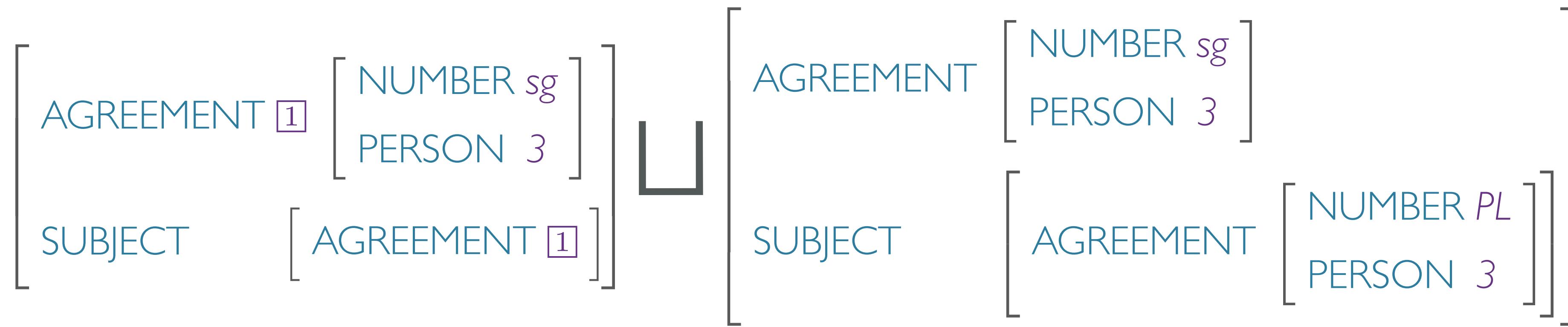
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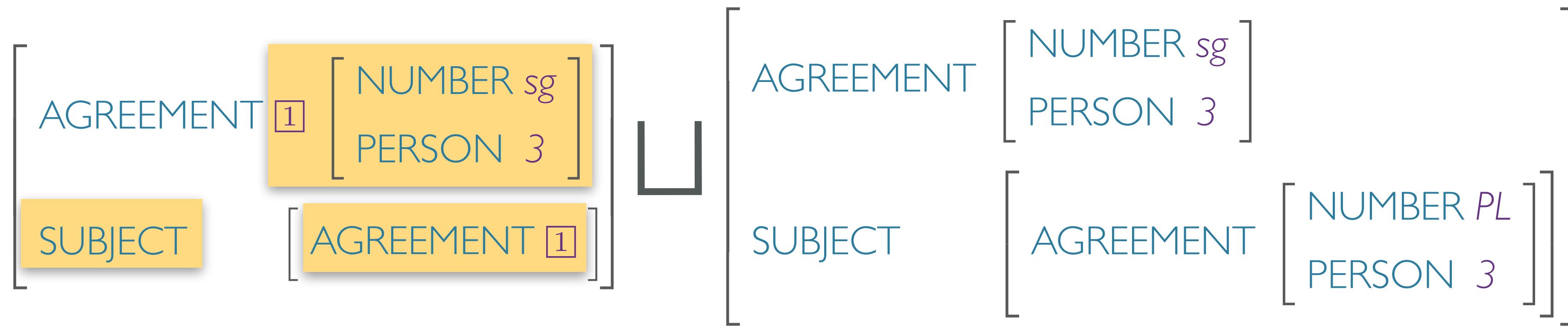
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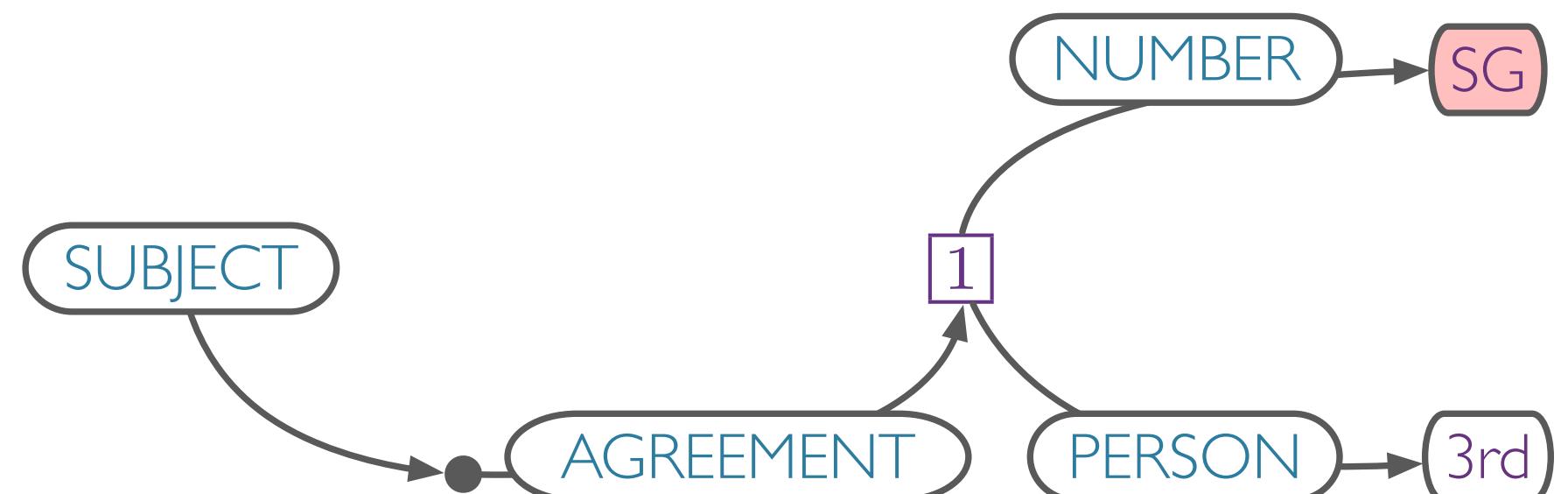
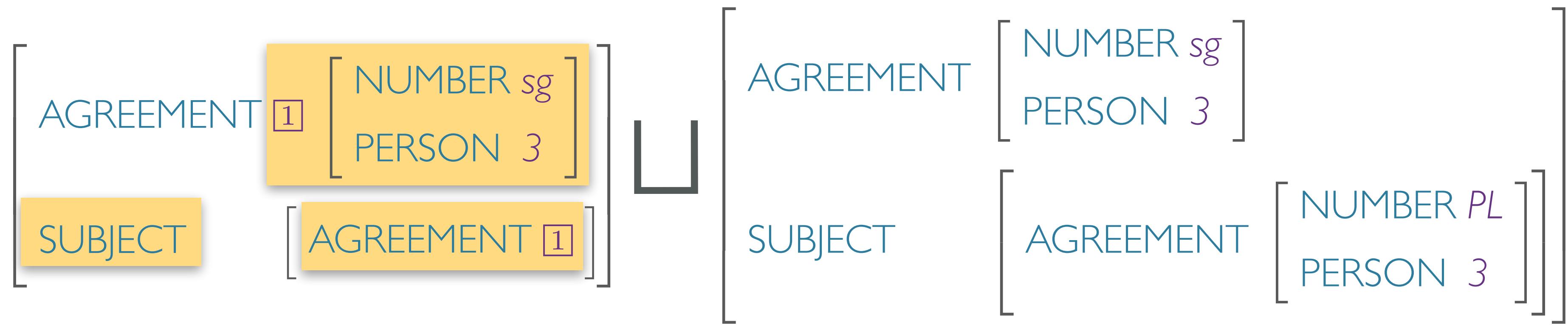
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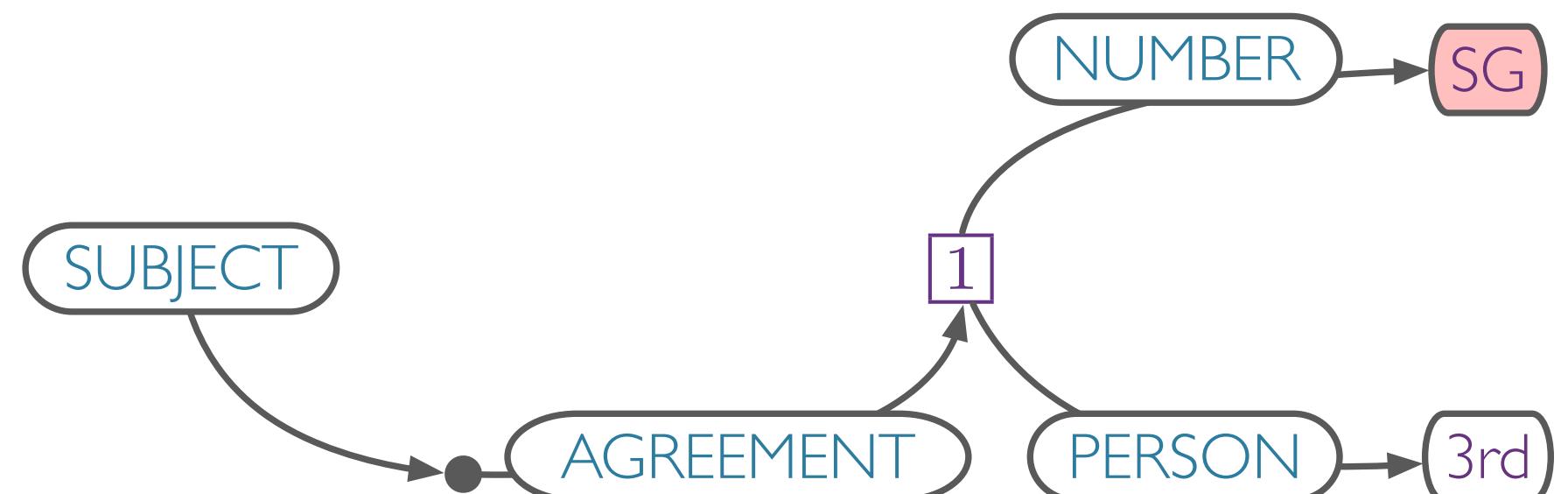
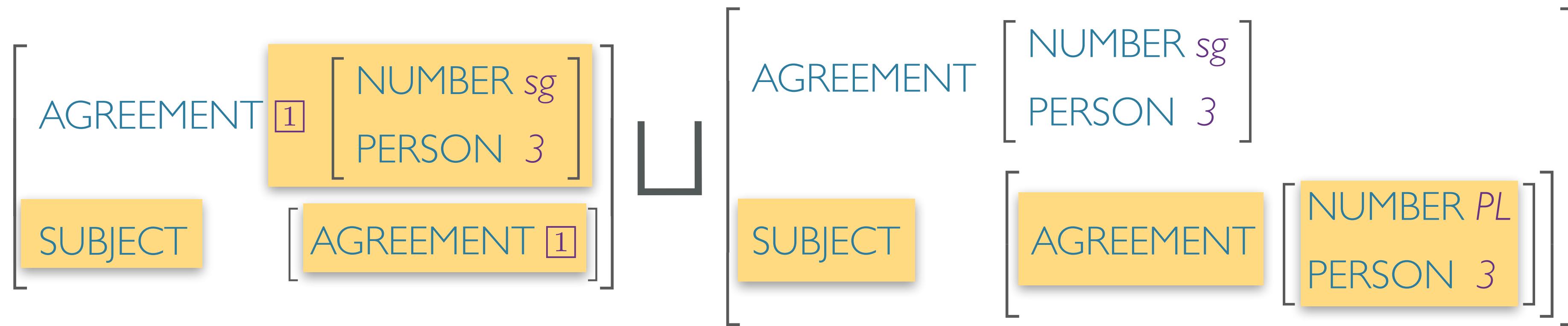
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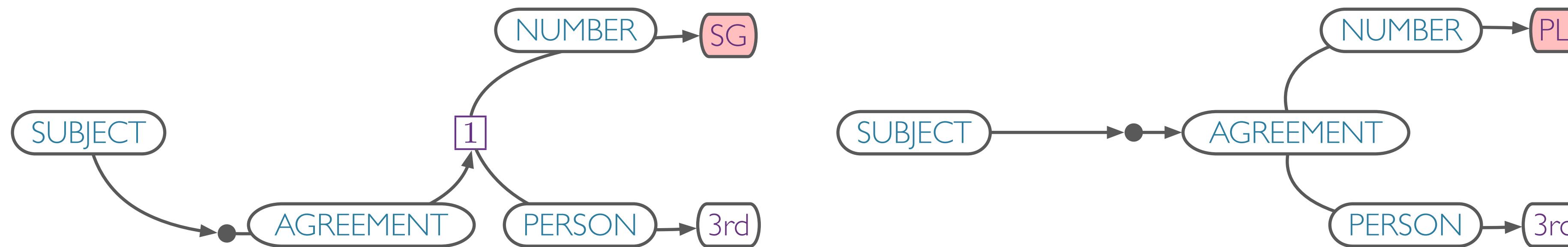
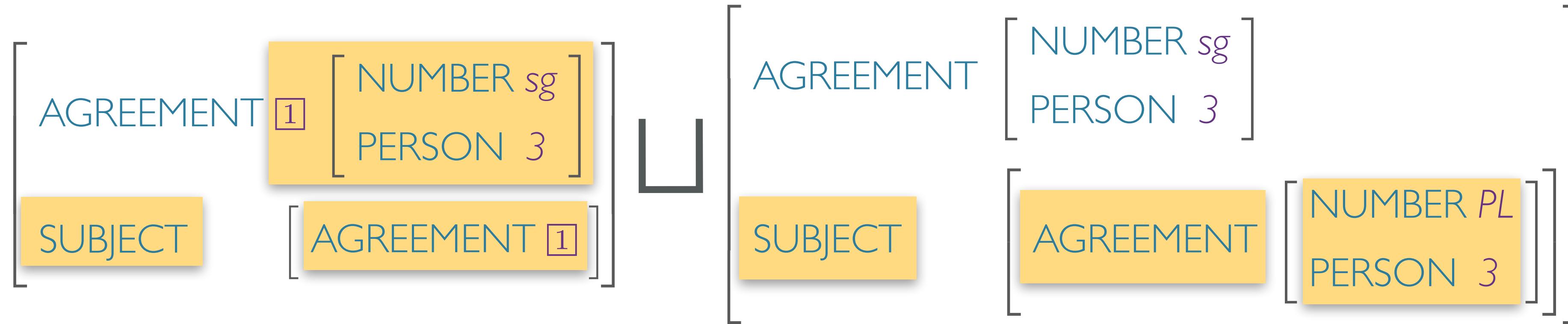
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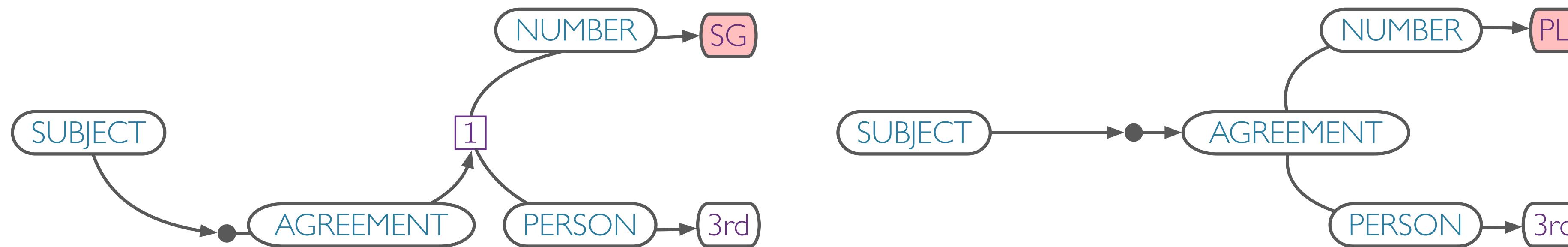
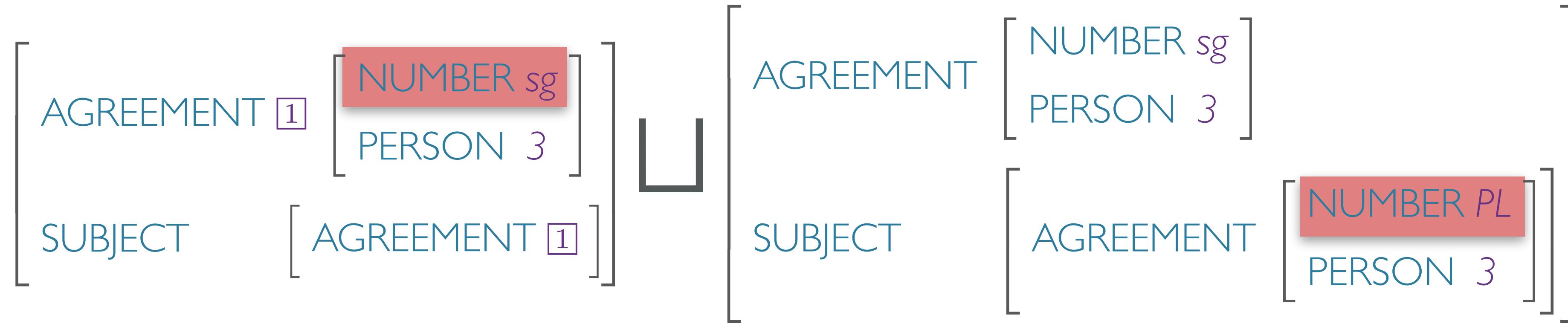
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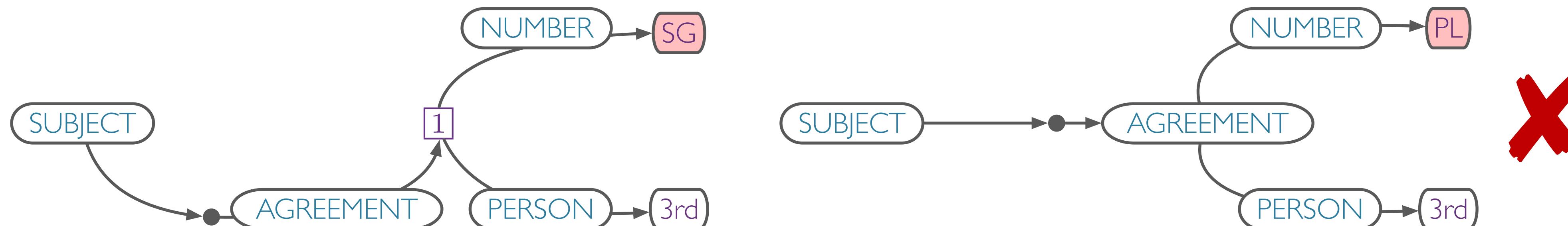
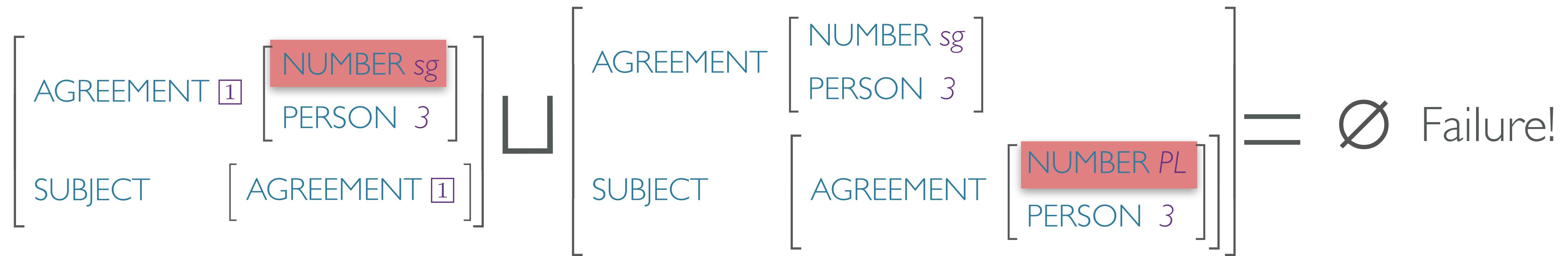
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# Unification



# Rule Representation

- $\beta \rightarrow \beta_1 \dots \beta_n$   
 $\{\text{set of constraints}\}$        $\langle \beta_i \text{ feature path} \rangle = \text{Atomic value} \mid \langle \beta_j \text{ feature path} \rangle$
- $PRON \rightarrow \text{'he'}$

# Rule Representation

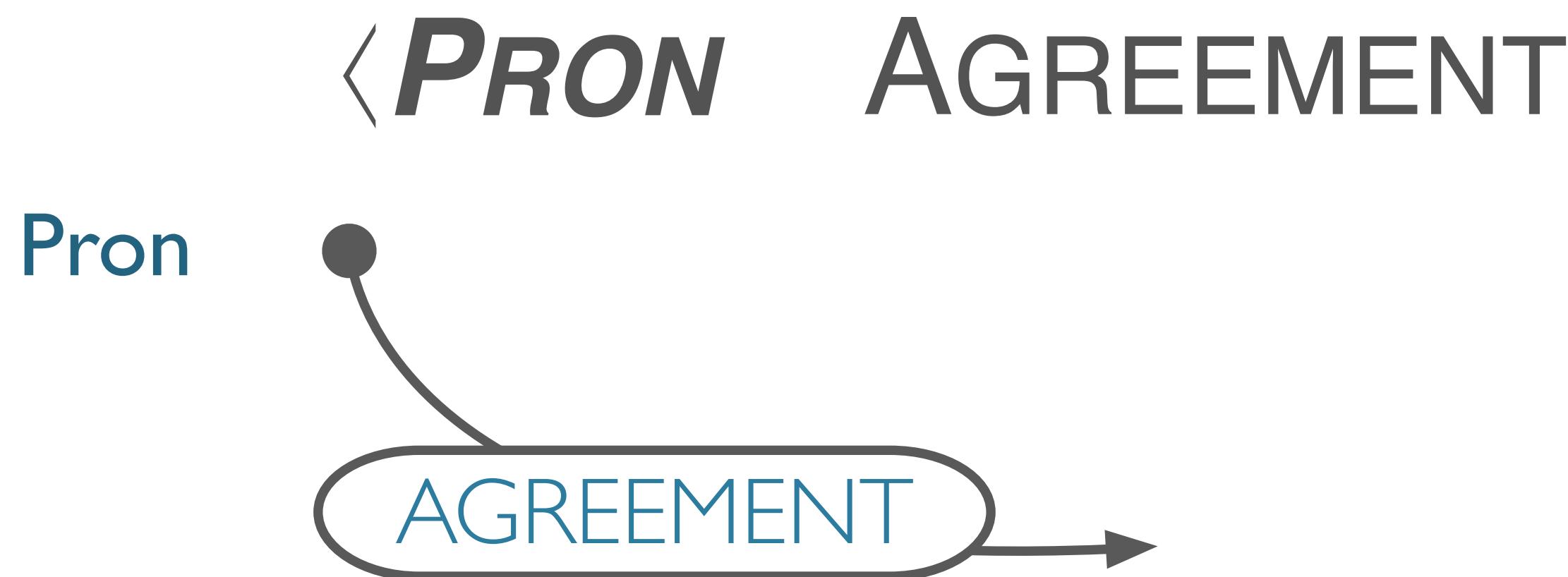
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$\langle PRON$

Pron

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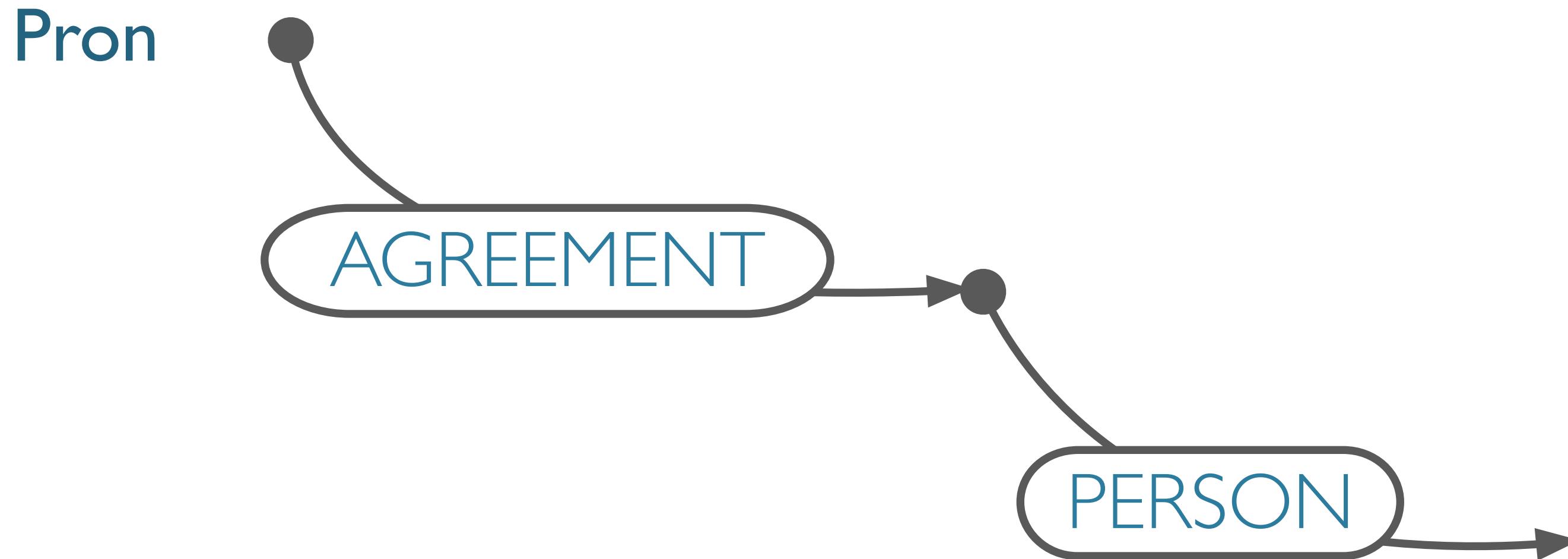
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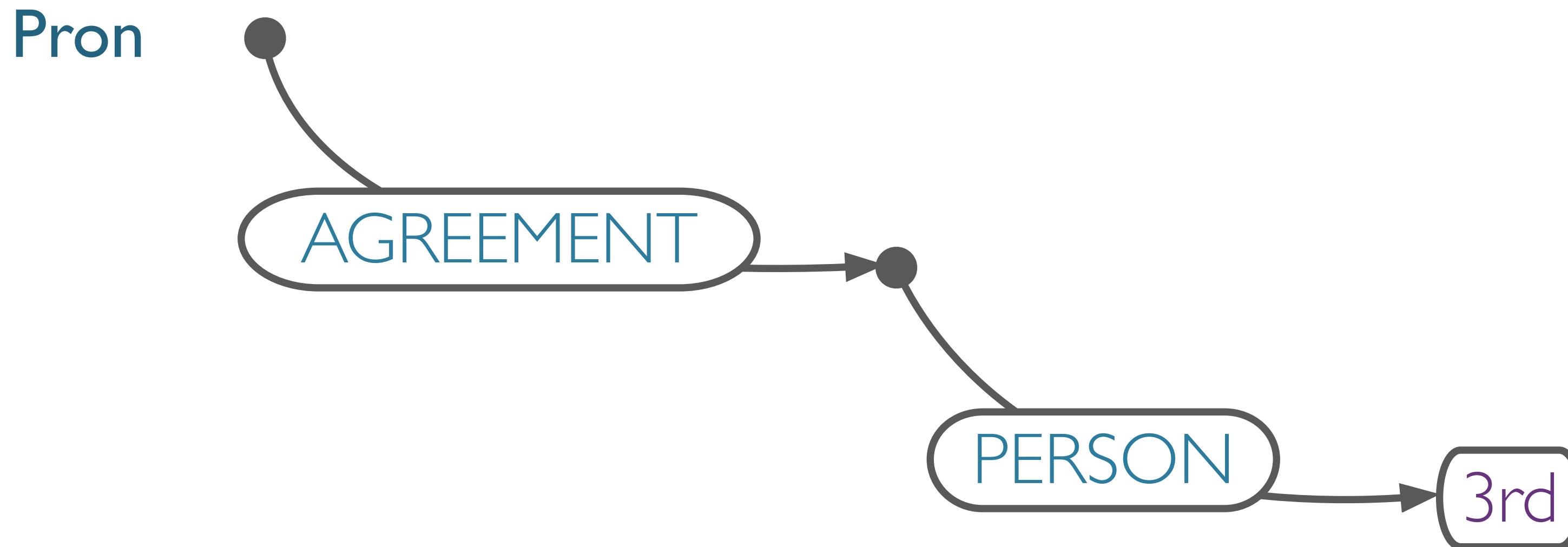
$\langle \text{PRON} \text{ AGREEMENT PERSON} \rangle$



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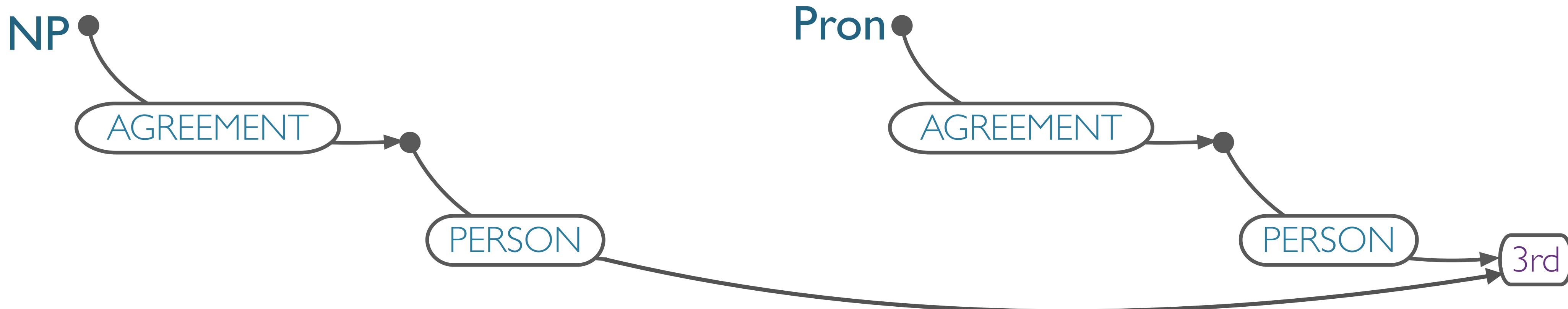
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$\langle \text{PRON} \text{ AGREEMENT PERSON} \rangle = 3rd$



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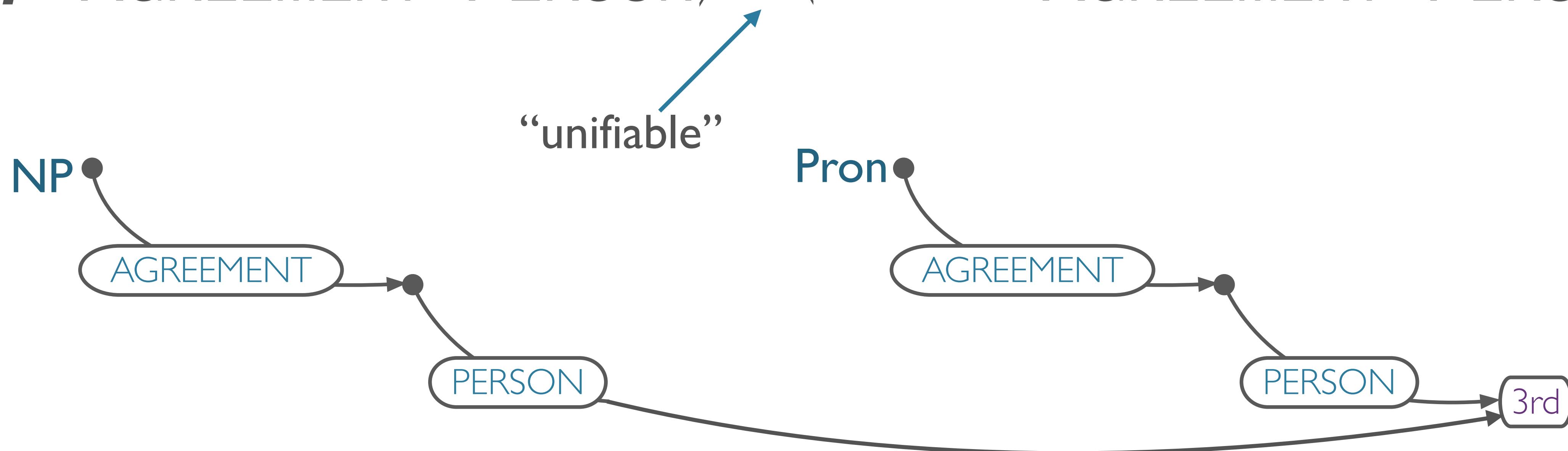
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*{set of constraints}*       $\langle \beta_i \text{ feature path} \rangle = \text{Atomic value} \mid \langle \beta_j \text{ feature path} \rangle$
  - $NP \rightarrow PRON$
- $\langle NP \text{ AGREEMENT PERSON} \rangle = \langle PRON \text{ AGREEMENT PERSON} \rangle$



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# Agreement with Heads and Features

- $\beta \rightarrow \beta_1 \dots \beta_n$   
 $\{\text{set of constraints}\} \quad \langle \beta_i \text{ feature path} \rangle = \text{Atomic value} \mid \langle \beta_j \text{ feature path} \rangle$ 

$S \rightarrow NP VP$	$Det \rightarrow this$
$\langle NP \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle = \langle VP \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle$	$\langle Det \text{ AGREEMENT NUMBER} \rangle = sg$
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	$Det \rightarrow these$
$\langle Aux \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle = \langle NP \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle$	$\langle Det \text{ AGREEMENT NUMBER} \rangle = pl$
$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$	$Verb \rightarrow serve$
$\langle Det \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle = \langle Nominal \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle$	$\langle Verb \text{ AGREEMENT NUMBER} \rangle = pl$
$\langle NP \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle = \langle Nominal \text{ AGREEMENT} \rangle$	
$Aux \rightarrow does$	$Noun \rightarrow flight$
$\langle Aux \text{ AGREEMENT NUMBER} \rangle = sg$	$\langle Noun \text{ AGREEMENT NUMBER} \rangle = sg$
$\langle Aux \text{ AGREEMENT PERSON} \rangle = 3rd$	

# Simple Feature Grammars in NLTK

- $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$

# Simple Feature Grammars

- $S \rightarrow NP[\text{NUM}=?n] VP[\text{NUM}=?n]$
- $NP[\text{NUM}=?n] \rightarrow N[\text{NUM}=?n]$
- $NP[\text{NUM}=?n] \rightarrow \text{PropN}[\text{NUM}=?n]$
- $NP[\text{NUM}=?n] \rightarrow \text{Det}[\text{NUM}=?n] N[\text{NUM}=?n]$
- $\text{Det}[\text{NUM}=sg] \rightarrow \text{'this'} \mid \text{'every'}$
- $\text{Det}[\text{NUM}=pl] \rightarrow \text{'these'} \mid \text{'all'}$
- $N[\text{NUM}=sg] \rightarrow \text{'dog'} \mid \text{'girl'} \mid \text{'car'} \mid \text{'child'}$
- $N[\text{NUM}=pl] \rightarrow \text{'dogs'} \mid \text{'girls'} \mid \text{'cars'} \mid \text{'children'}$

# Parsing with Features

```
>>> cp = load_parser('grammars/book_grammars/  
feat0.fcfg')  
>>> for tree in cp.parse(tokens):  
...     print(tree)
```

```
(S[] (NP[NUM='sg']  
      (PropN[NUM='sg'] Kim))  
      (VP[NUM='sg', TENSE='pres']  
        (TV[NUM='sg', TENSE='pres'] likes)  
        (NP[NUM='pl'] (N[NUM='pl'] children))))
```

# Feature Applications

- Subcategorization
  - Verb-Argument constraints
  - Number, type, characteristics of args
    - e.g. is the subject *animate*?
    - Also adjectives, nouns
- Long-distance dependencies
  - e.g. filler-gap relations in wh-questions
  - “Which flight do you want me to have the travel agent book?”

# Morphosyntactic Features

- Grammatical feature that influences morphological or syntactic behavior
  - English:
  - Number:
    - Dog, dogs
  - Person:
    - am; are; is
  - Case:
    - I / me; he / him; etc.

# Semantic Features

- Grammatical features that influence semantic (meaning) behavior of associated units
- E.g.:
  - *?The rocks slept. ?Colorless green ideas sleep furiously. ?I handed the rock a book.*
- Many proposed:
  - Animacy: +/−
  - Human: +/−
  - Adult: +/−
  - Liquid: +/−

# Aspect (J&M 17.4.2)

- *The climber [hiked] [for six hours].*

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- *The climber [hiked] [for six hours].*
- *The climber [hiked] [on Saturday].*

# Aspect (J&M 17.4.2)

- *The climber [hiked] [for six hours].*
- *The climber [hiked] [on Saturday].*
- *The climber [reached the summit] [on Saturday].*

# Aspect (J&M 17.4.2)

- *The climber [hiked] [for six hours].*
- *The climber [hiked] [on Saturday].*
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- \**The climber [reached the summit] [for six hours].*

# Aspect (J&M 17.4.2)

- *The climber [hiked] [for six hours].*
- *The climber [hiked] [on Saturday].*
- *The climber [reached the summit] [on Saturday].*
- \**The climber [reached the summit] [for six hours].*
- Contrast:
  - **Achievement** (in an instant) vs **activity** (for a time)