

CKY Parsing: CNF Conversion

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

Announcements

- **HW #1** due tonight at **11:59pm**.
- `check_hwX.sh`: mostly unzips tar-ball and checks that the right files are in it. From *somewhere you have write access*:
 - `/mnt/dropbox/24-25/571/hw1/check_hw1.sh path/to/your/hw1.tar.gz`

Recursion in the Wild



Stephen Boisvert @srboisvert.bsky.social · 5d
They sometimes surprise with their diets.

ALT

3 3 48 ...

Ed Yong · 5d
@edyong209.bsky.social

A snapping-turtle-snapping heron.

And you: a snapping-turtle-snapping-heron-snapping human.

Sep 28, 2023 at 1:31 PM

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Roadmap

- **Parsing-as-Search**
- Parsing Challenges
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- Grammar Equivalence
- CKY parsing algorithm

Computational Parsing

- Given a body of (annotated) text, how can we derive the grammar rules of a language, and employ them in automatic parsing?
 - Treebanks & PCFGs
- Given a grammar, how can we derive the analysis of an input sentence?
 - Parsing as search
 - CKY parsing
 - Conversion to CNF

What is Parsing?

- CFG parsing is the task of assigning trees to input strings
 - For any input A and grammar G
 - ...assign ≥ 0 parse trees T that represent its syntactic structure, and...
 - Cover all and only the elements of A
 - Have, as root, the start symbol S of G
 - ...do not necessarily pick one single (or correct) analysis
 - Subtask: Recognition
 - Given input A, G – is A in language defined by G or not?

Motivation

- Is this sentence in the language — i.e. is it “grammatical?”
 - ** I prefer United has the earliest flight.*
 - FSAs accept regular languages defined by finite-state automata.
 - Our parsers accept languages defined by CFG (equiv. pushdown automata).

Motivation

- Is this sentence in the language — i.e. is it “grammatical?”
 - ** I prefer United has the earliest flight.*
 - FSAs accept regular languages defined by finite-state automata.
 - Our parsers accept languages defined by CFG (equiv. pushdown automata).
- What is the syntactic structure of this sentence?
 - *What airline has the cheapest flight?*
 - *What airport does Southwest fly from near Boston?*
 - Syntactic parse provides framework for semantic analysis
 - What is the subject? Direct object?

Parsing as Search

- Syntactic parsing searches through possible trees to find one or more trees that derive input

Parsing as Search

- Syntactic parsing searches through possible trees to find one or more trees that derive input
- Formally, search problems are defined by:
 - Start state **S**
 - Goal state **G** (with a test)
 - Set of actions that transition from one state to another
 - “Successor function”
 - A path cost function

Parsing as Search: One Model

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- Path cost:
 - ...ignored for now.

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Parsing as Search: One Model

- Node:
 - Partial solution to search problem (partial parse)
- Search start node (initial state):
 - Input string
 - Start symbol of CFG
- Goal node:
 - Full parse tree: covering all of, and only the input, rooted at **S**

Search Algorithms

- Depth First
 - Keep expanding nonterminals until they reach words
 - If no more expansions available, back up

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 - ...then all with two expanded, etc...

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 - Keep expanding nonterminals until they reach words
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- Breadth First
 - Consider all parses that expand a single nonterminal...
 - ...then all with two expanded, etc...
- Other alternatives, if have associated path costs.

Parse Search Strategies

- Two constraints on parsing:
 - Must start with the start symbol
 - Must cover exactly the input string

Parse Search Strategies

- Two constraints on parsing:
 - Must start with the start symbol
 - Must cover exactly the input string
- Correspond to main parsing search strategies
 - Top-down search (Goal-directed)
 - Bottom-up search (Data-driven search)

A Grammar

Grammar	Lexicon
$S \rightarrow NP VP$	$Det \rightarrow that this a$
$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$	$Noun \rightarrow book flight meal money$
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$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$	$Pronoun \rightarrow I\ \ she\ \ me$
$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$	$Proper-Noun \rightarrow Houston\ \ NWA$
$NP \rightarrow Det\ Nominal$	$Aux \rightarrow does$
$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$	$Preposition \rightarrow from\ \ to\ \ on\ \ near\ \ through$

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$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$	
$VP \rightarrow Verb$	

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- Successively expand nonterminals
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Top-down Search

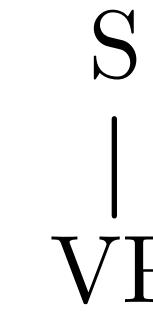
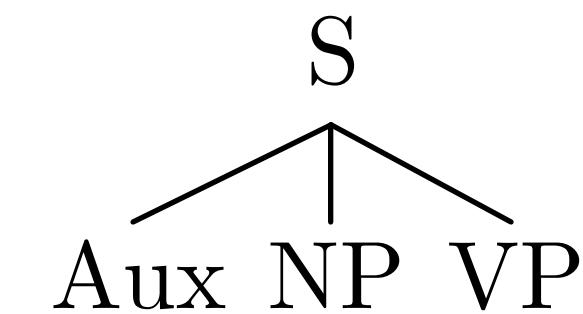
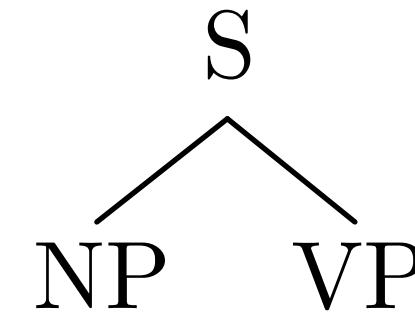
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- Begin search with productions where S is on LHS
 - e.g. $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$
- Successively expand nonterminals
 - e.g. $NP \rightarrow Det\ Nominal$; $VP \rightarrow V\ NP$
- Terminate when all leaves are terminals

Depth-First Search

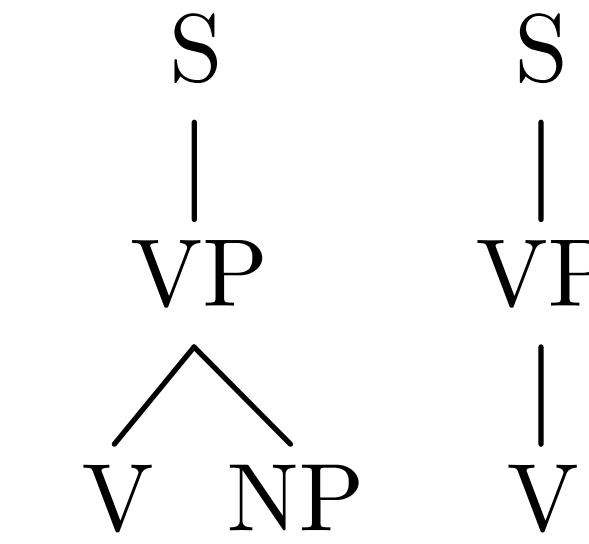
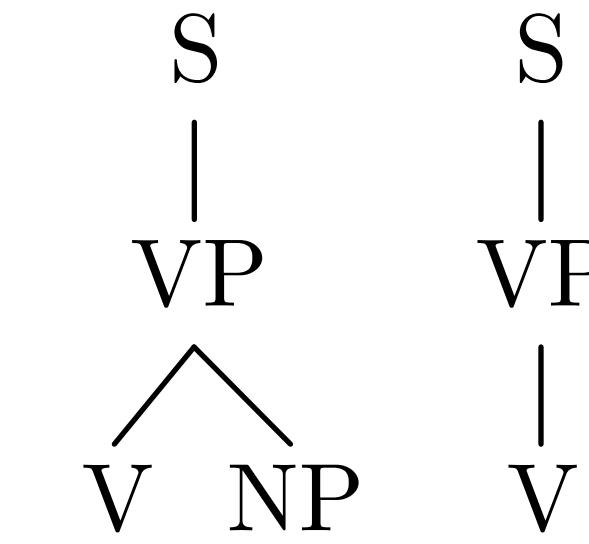
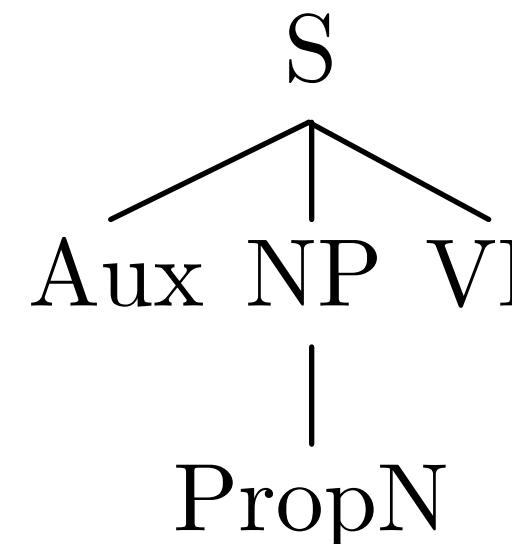
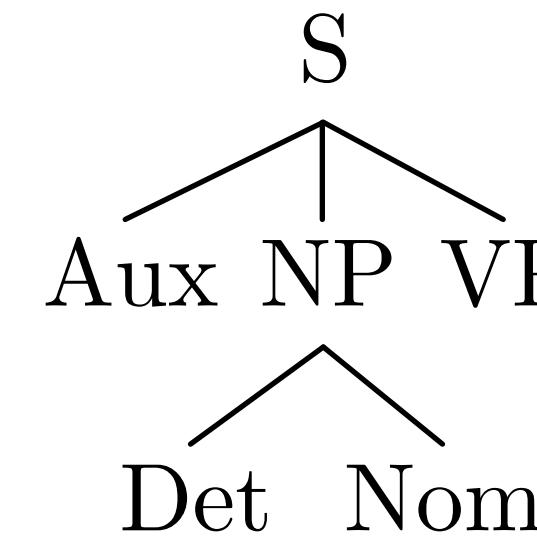
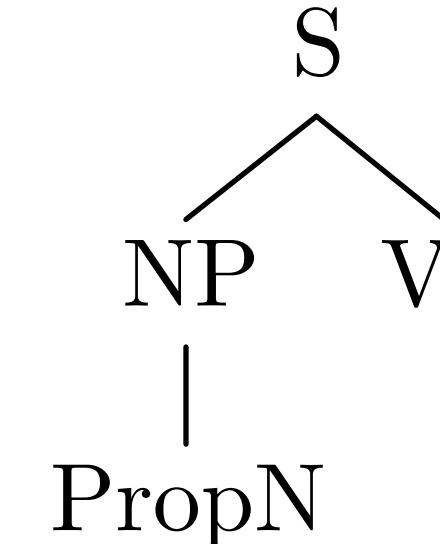
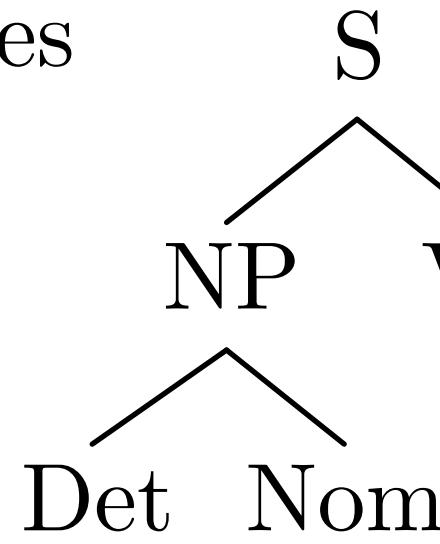
Start State

S

1 Rule

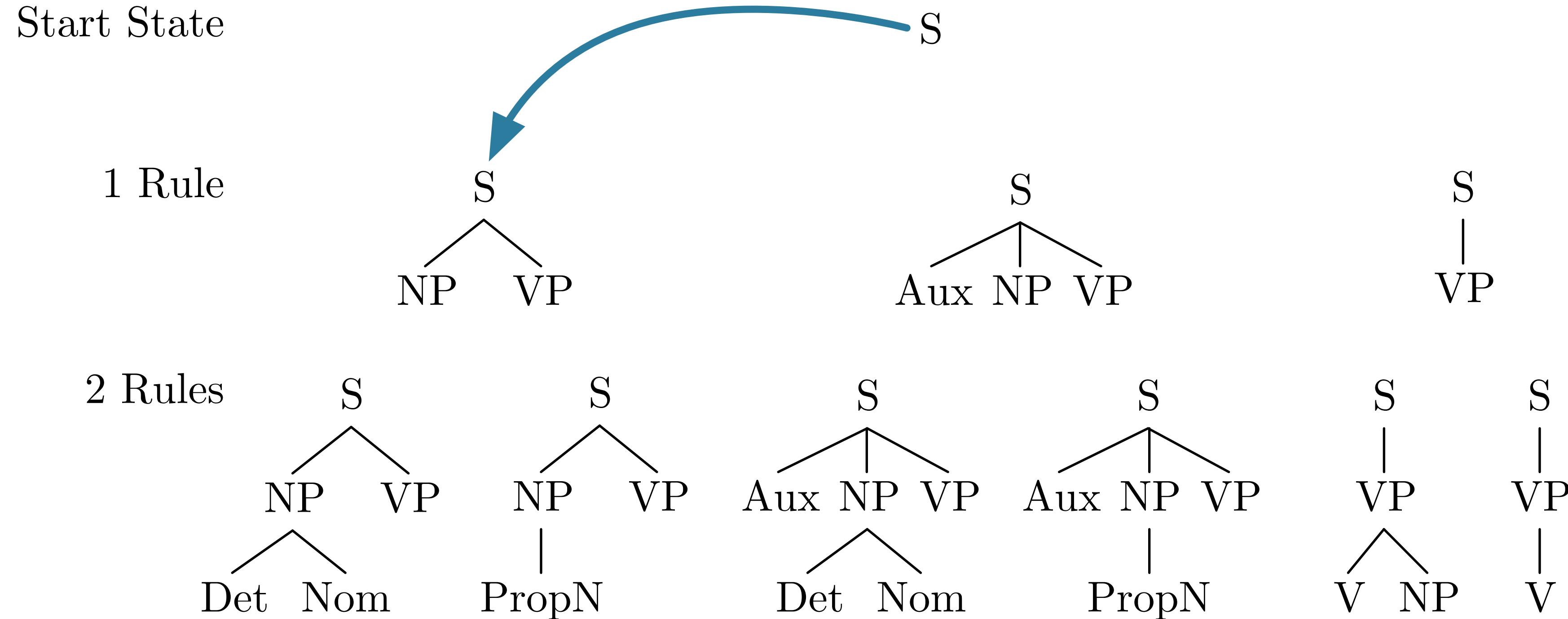


2 Rules



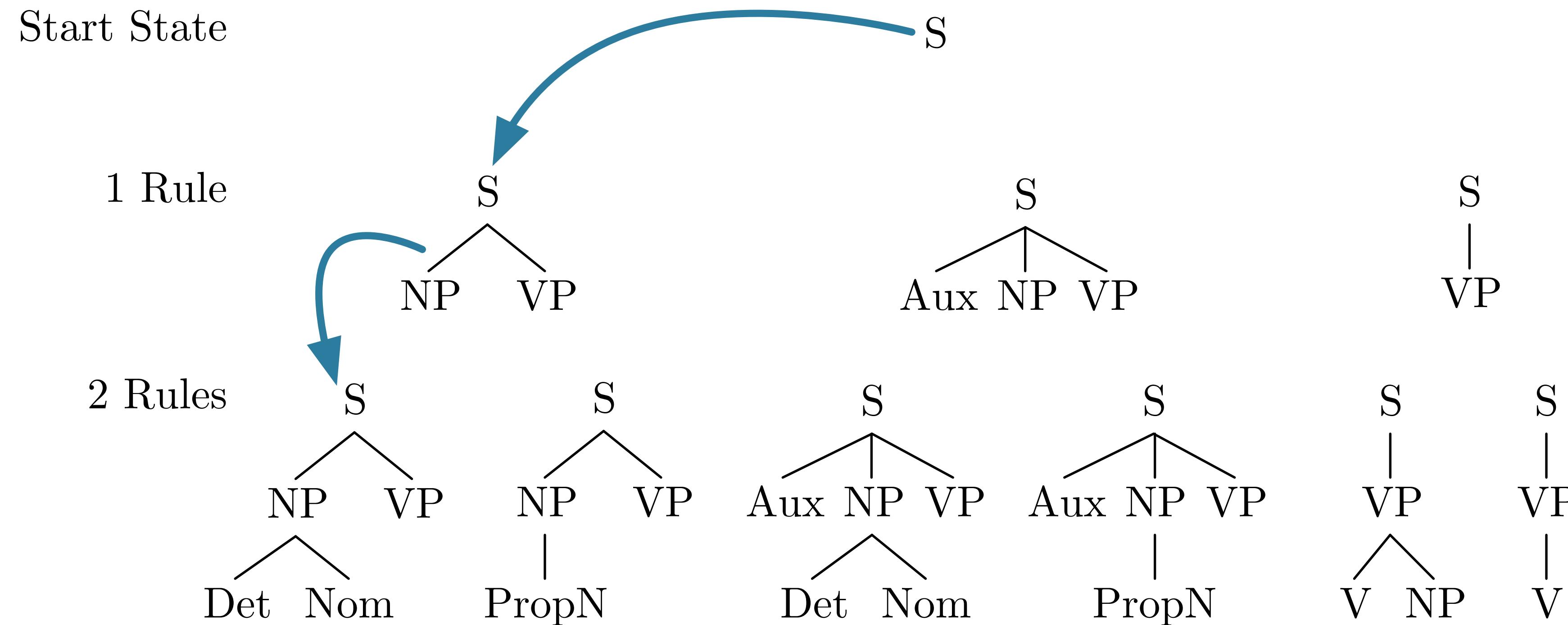
Book that flight.

Depth-First Search



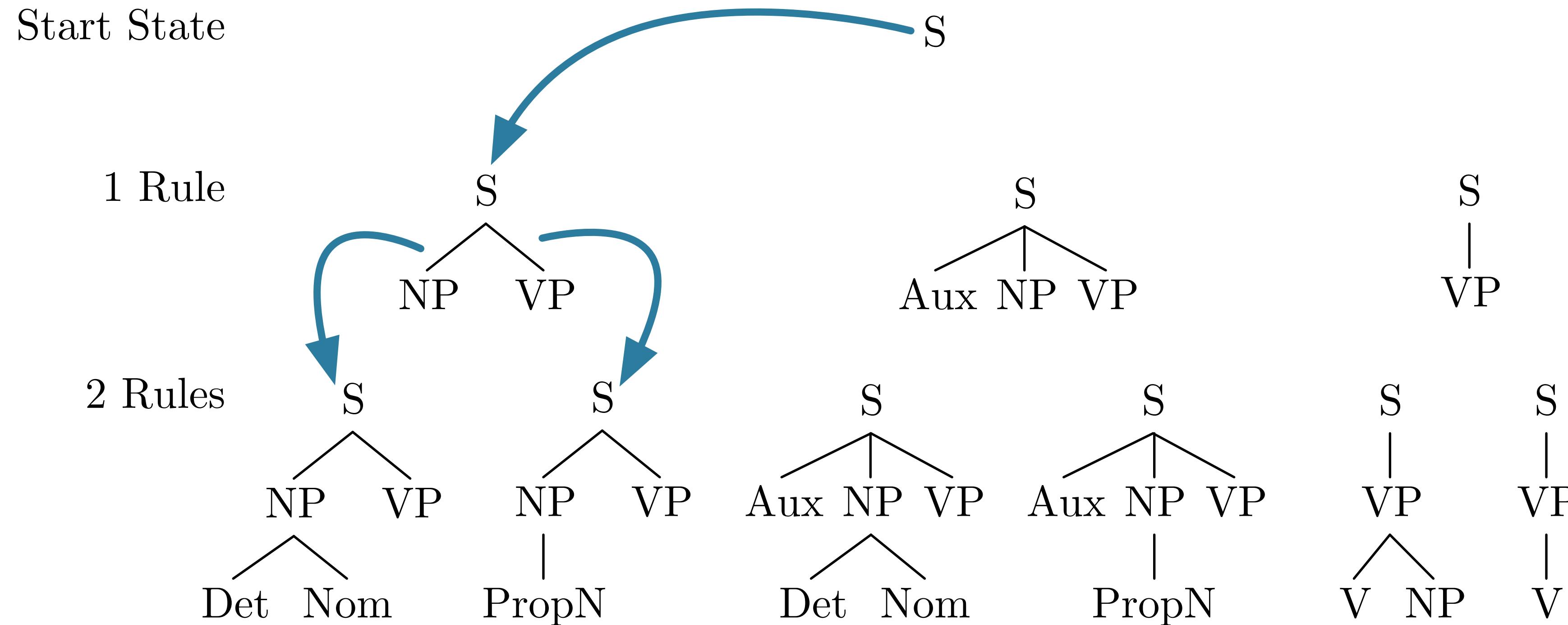
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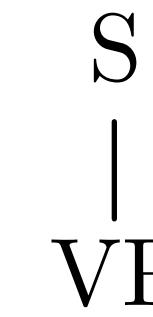
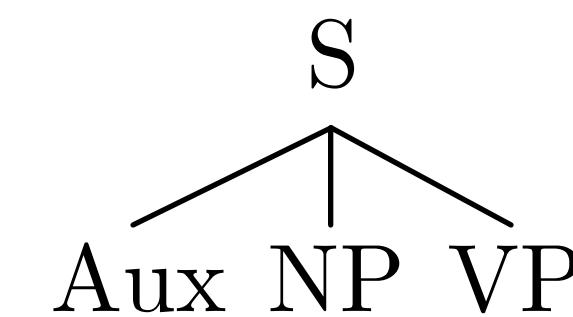
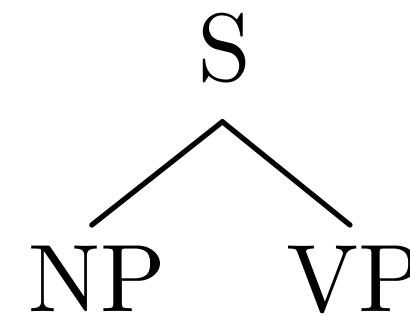
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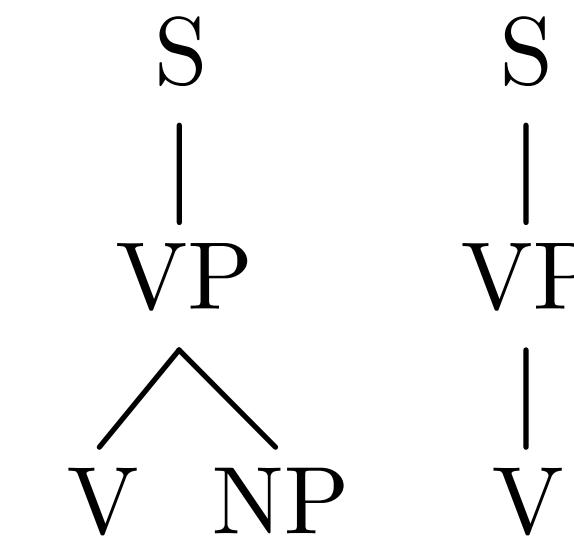
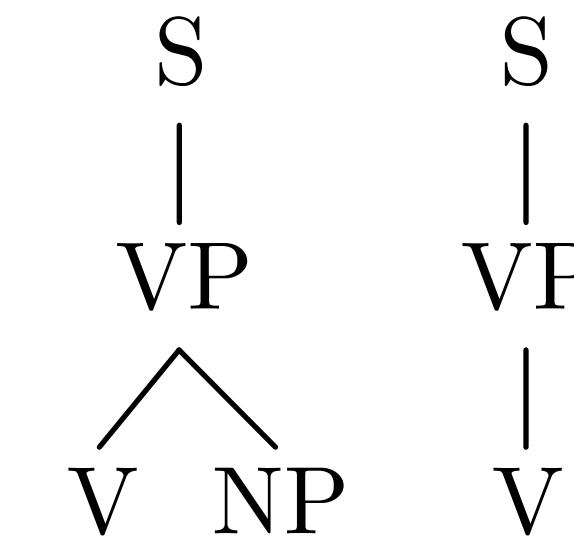
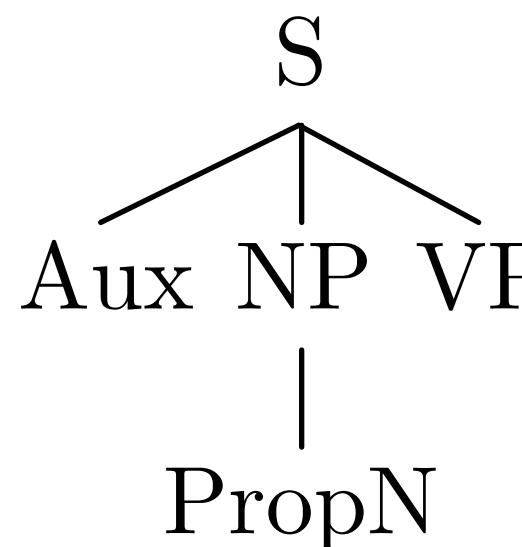
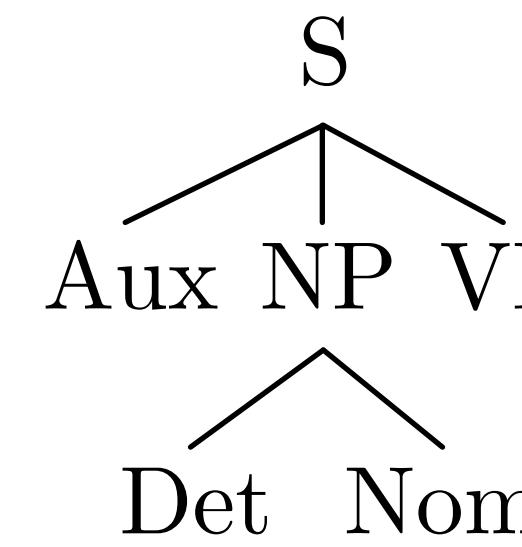
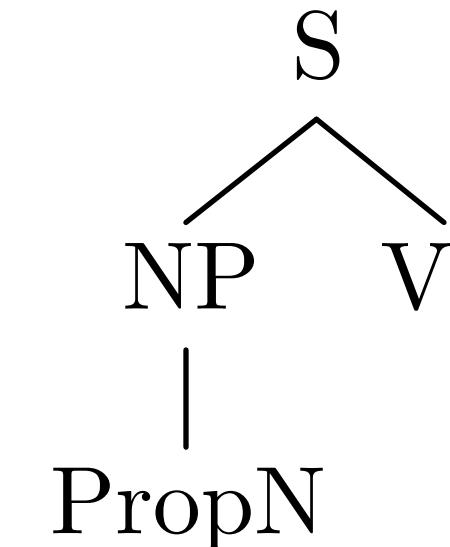
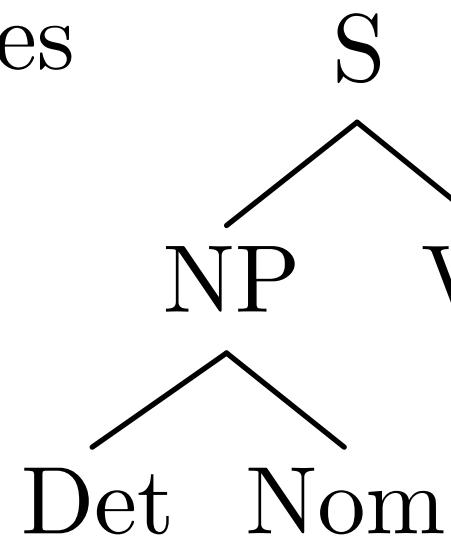
Start State

S

1 Rule



2 Rules

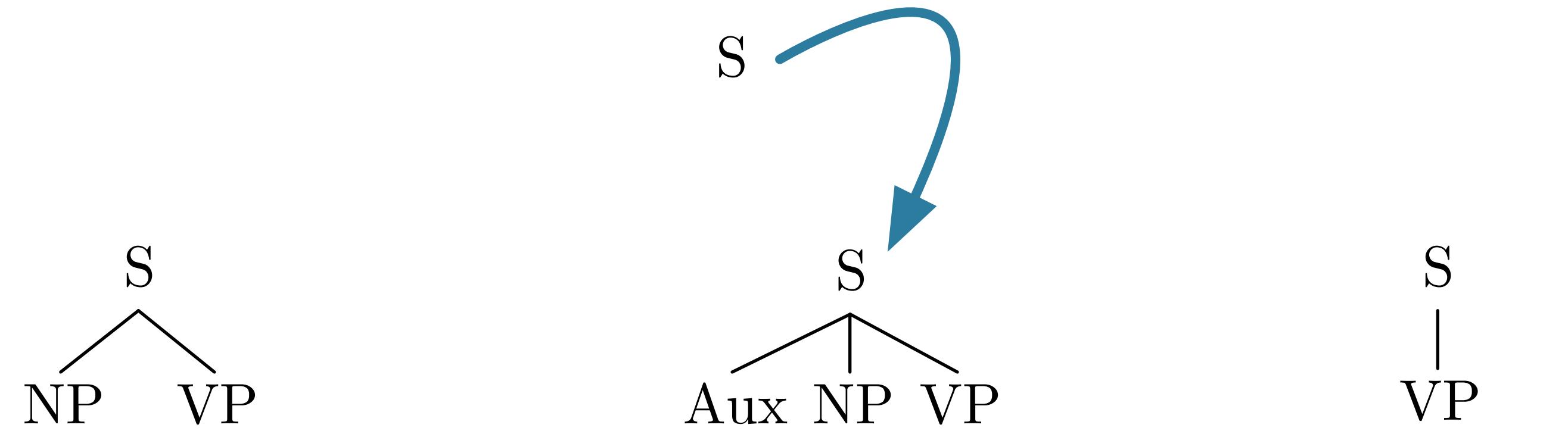


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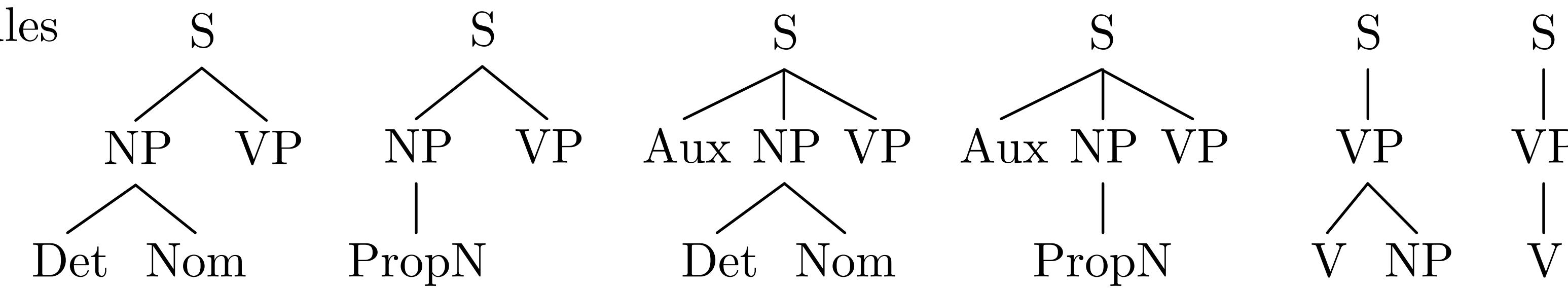
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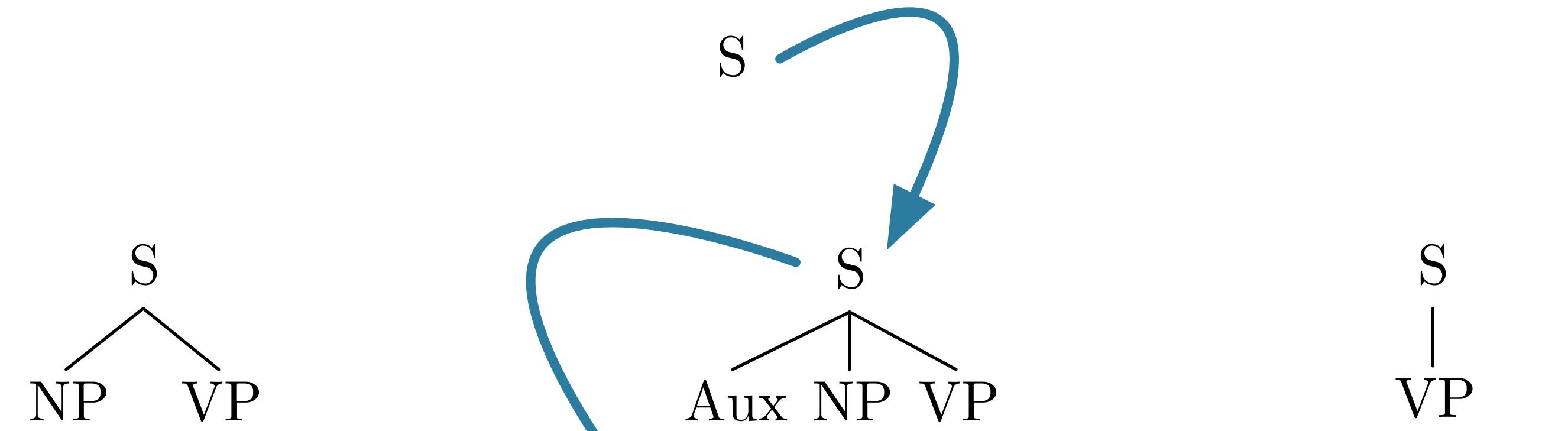


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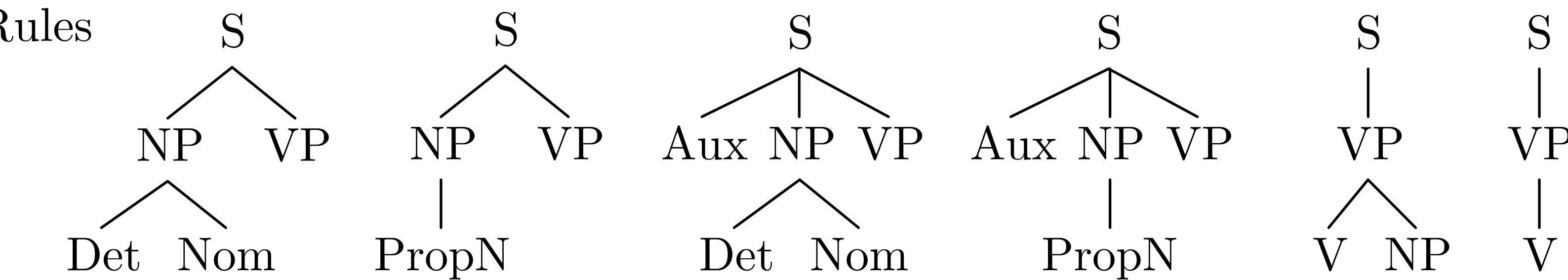
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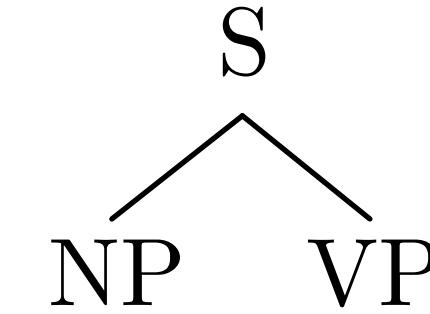


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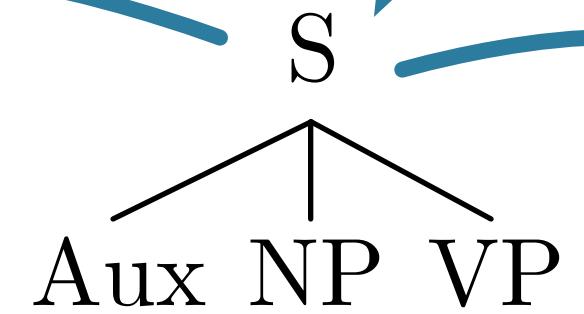
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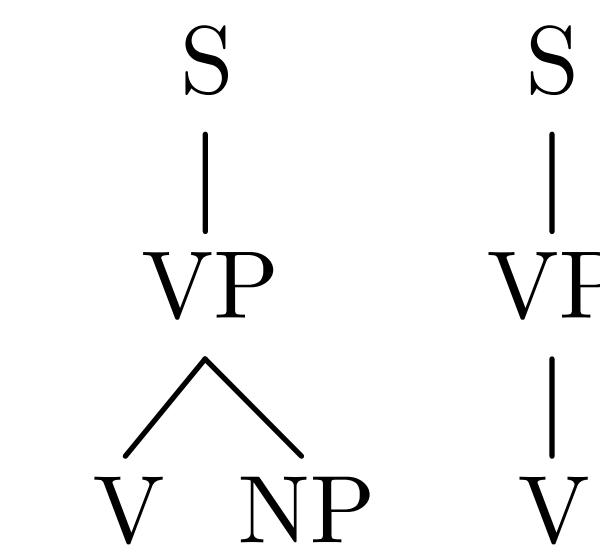
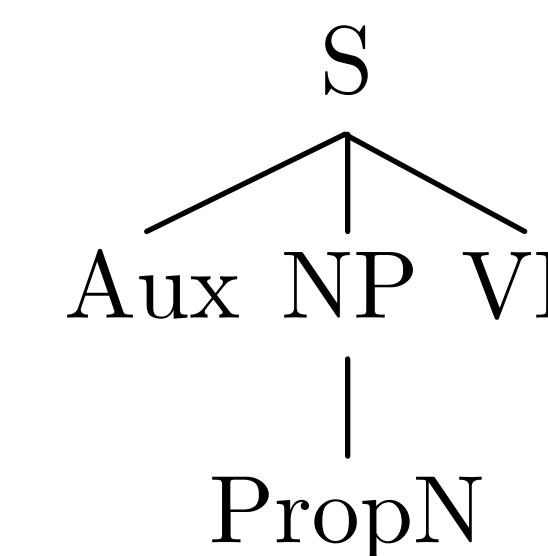
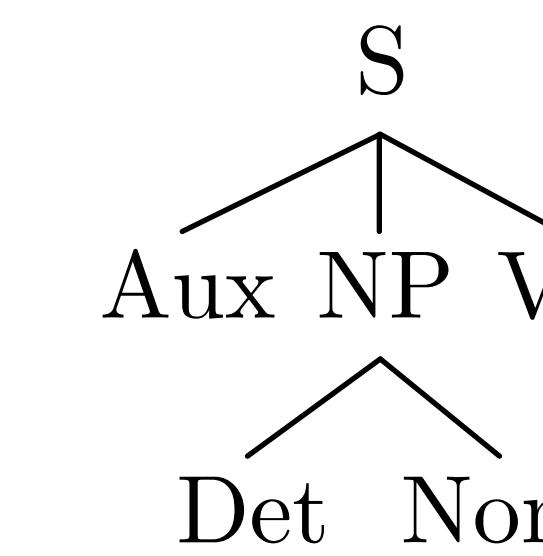
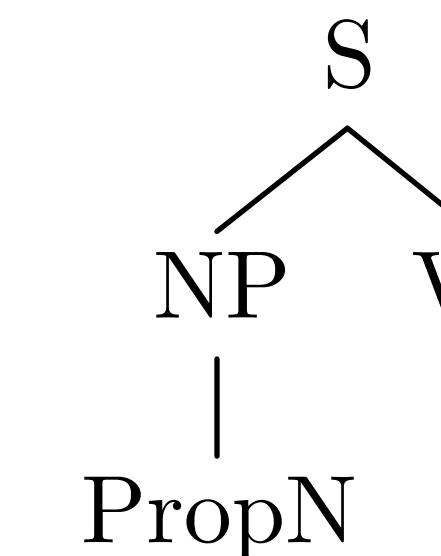
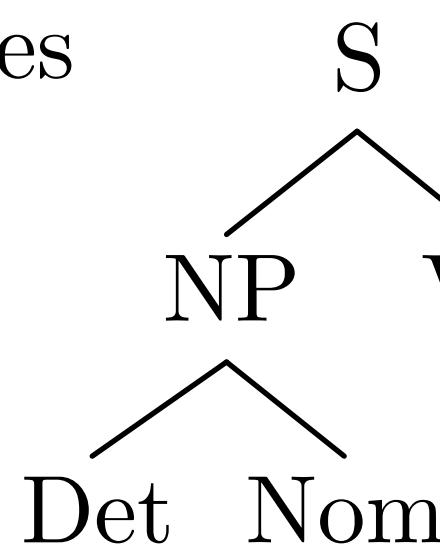
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2 Rules



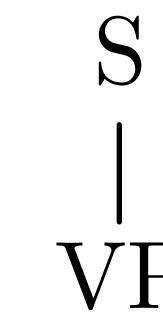
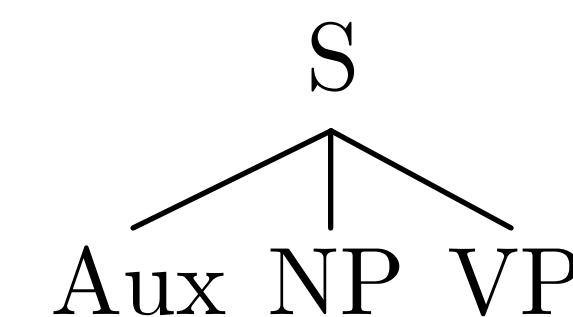
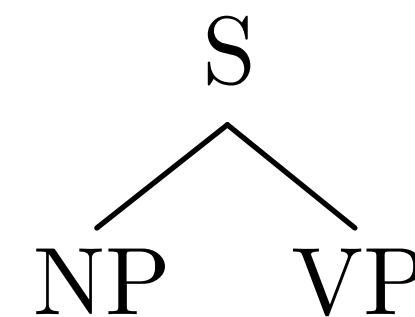
Book that flight.

Breadth-First Search

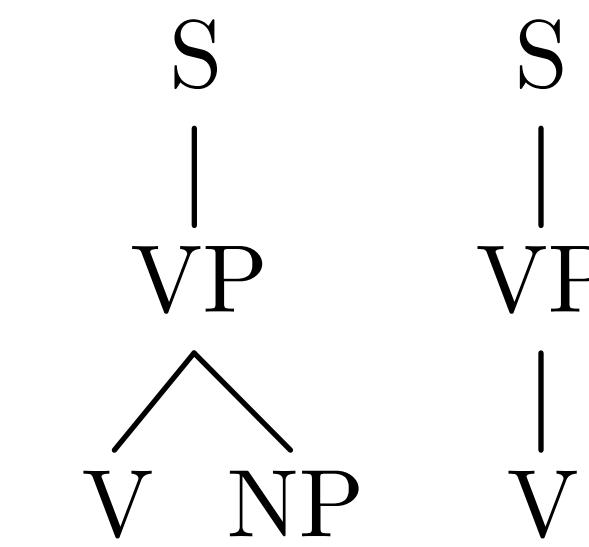
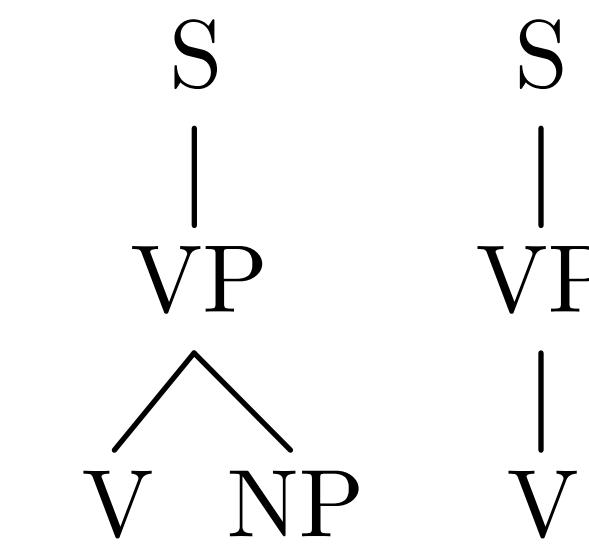
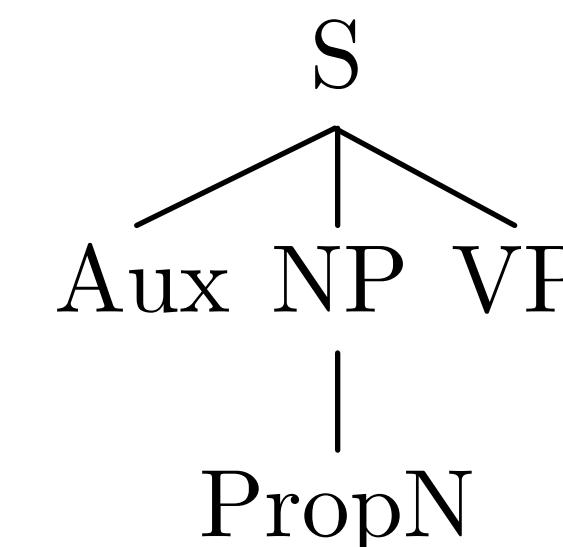
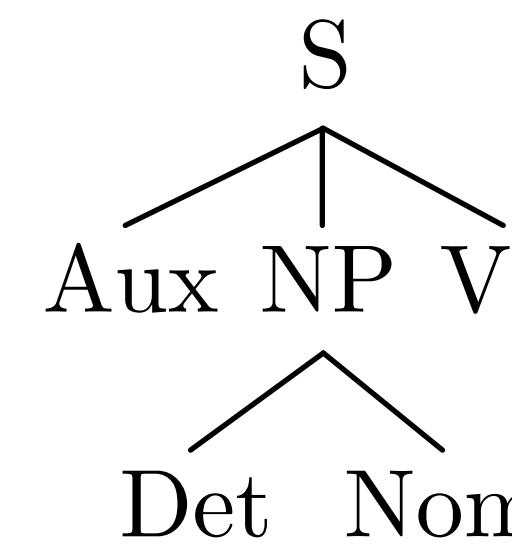
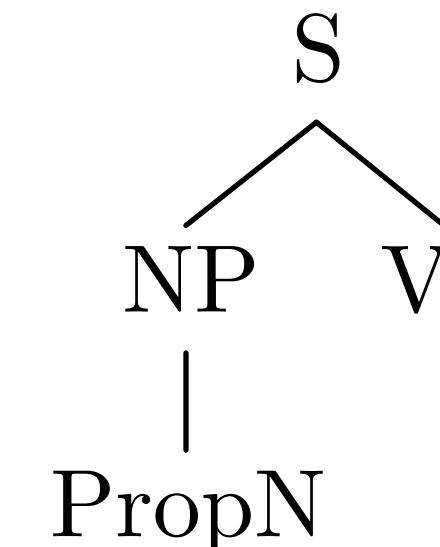
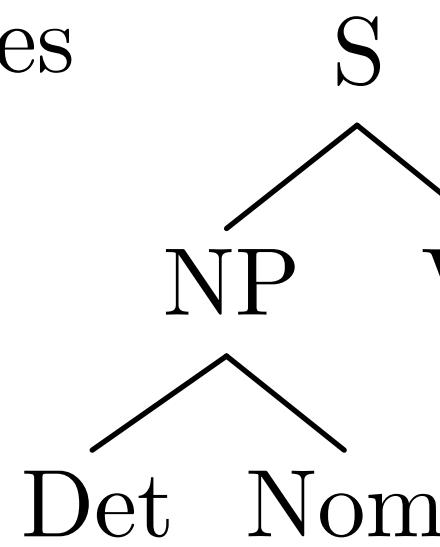
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1 Rule

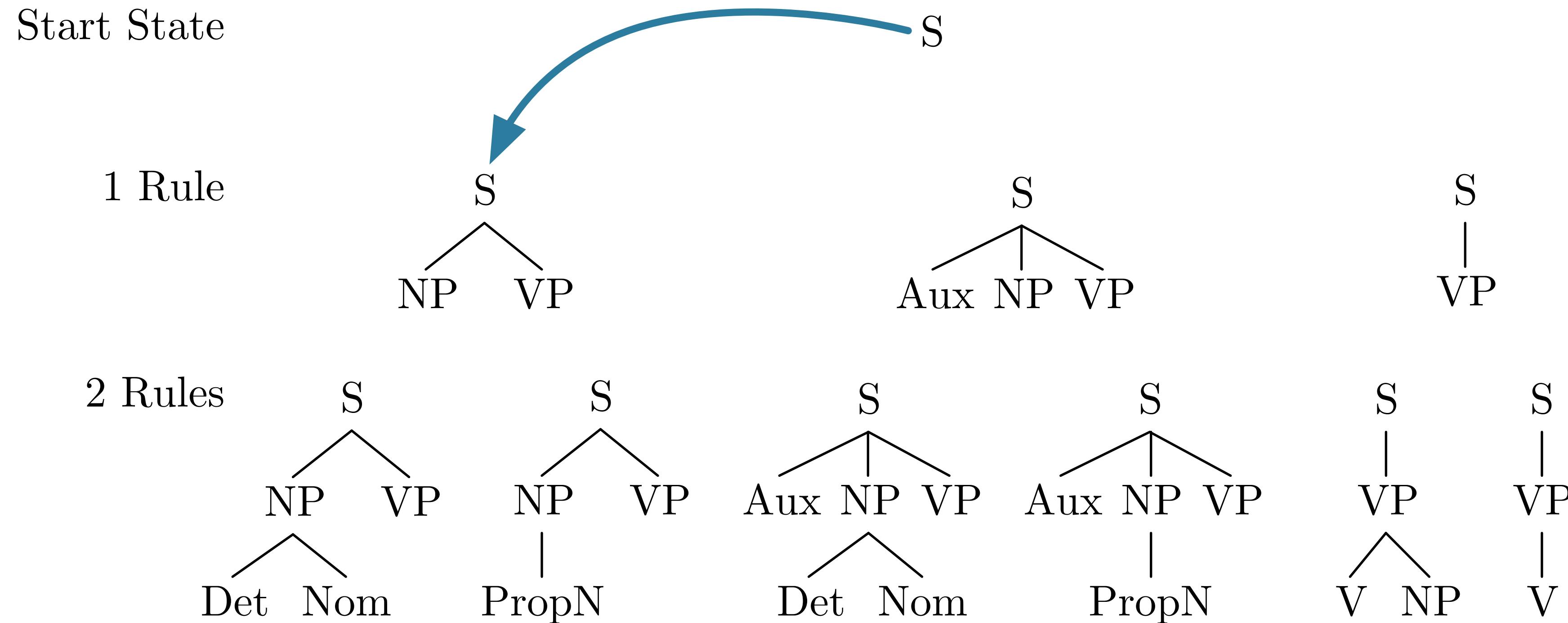


2 Rules



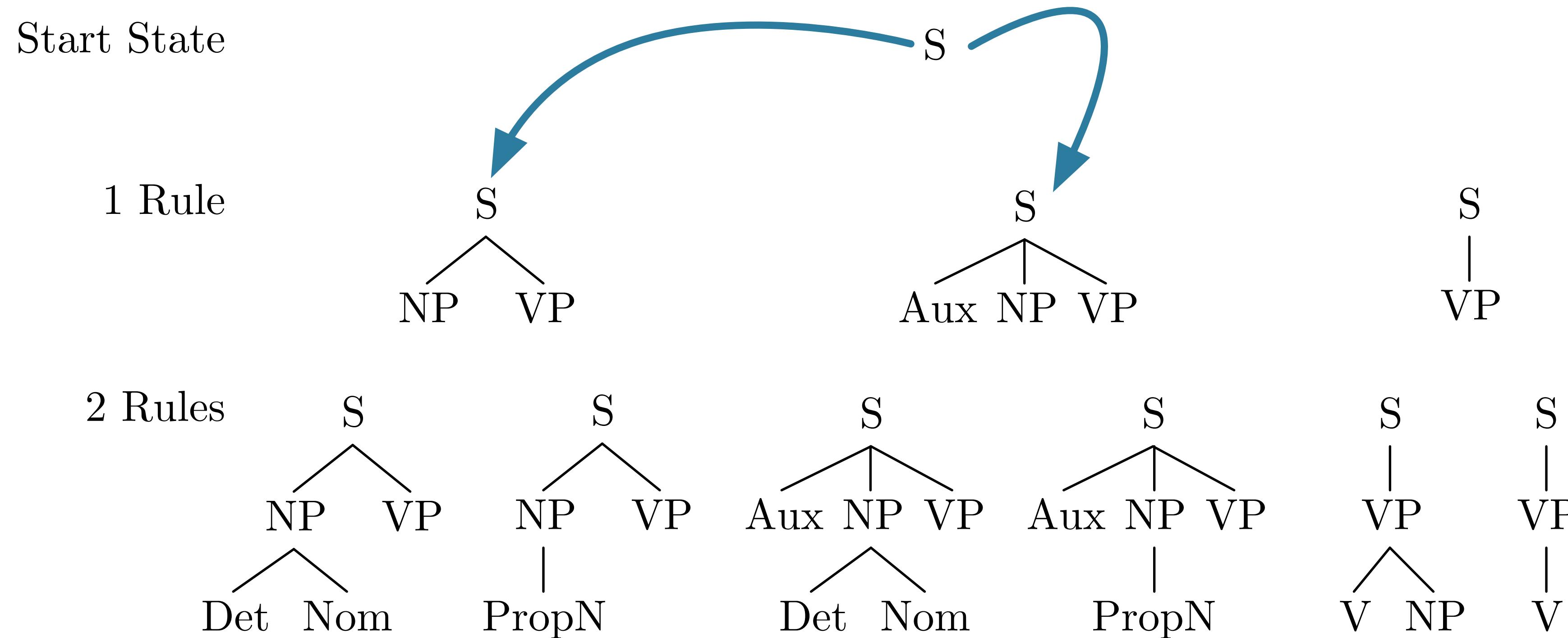
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Breadth-First Search



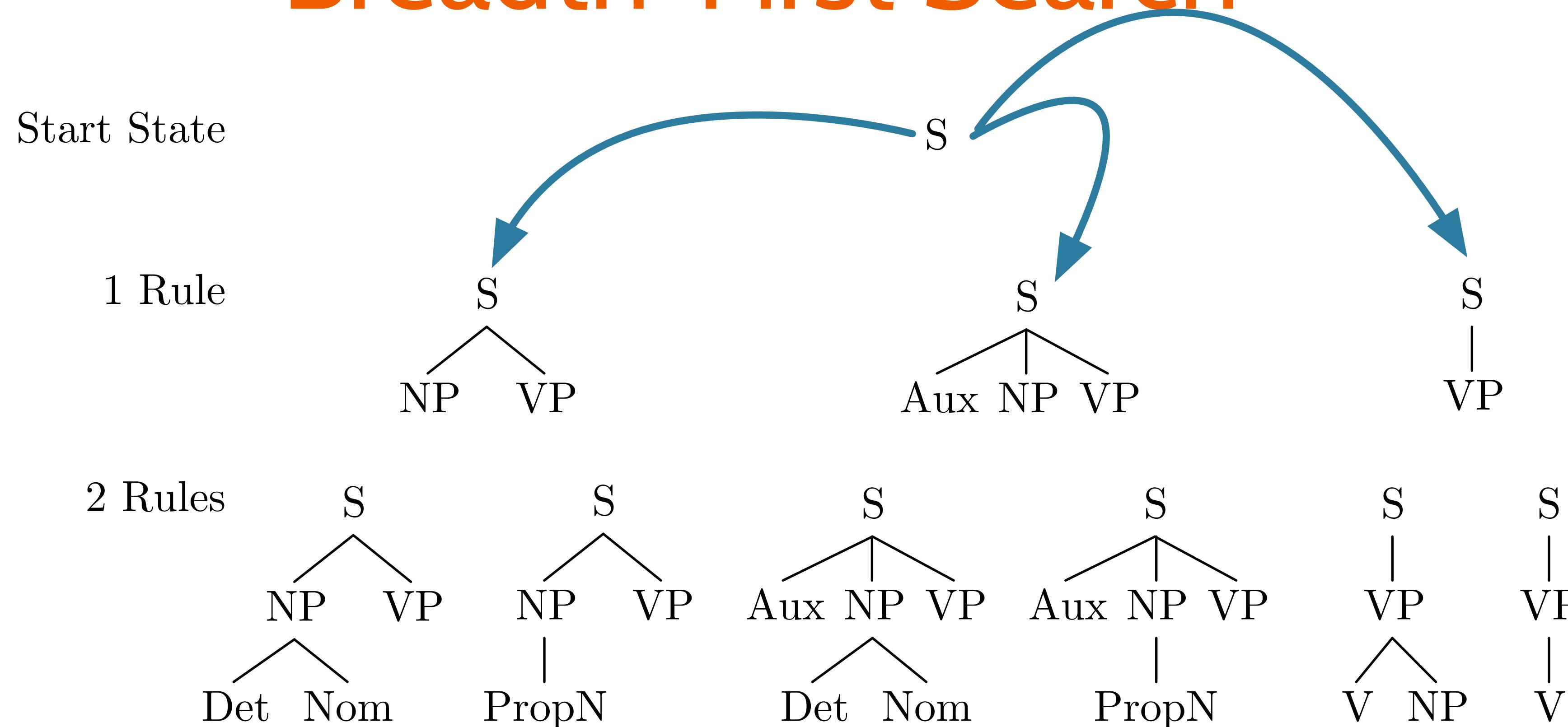
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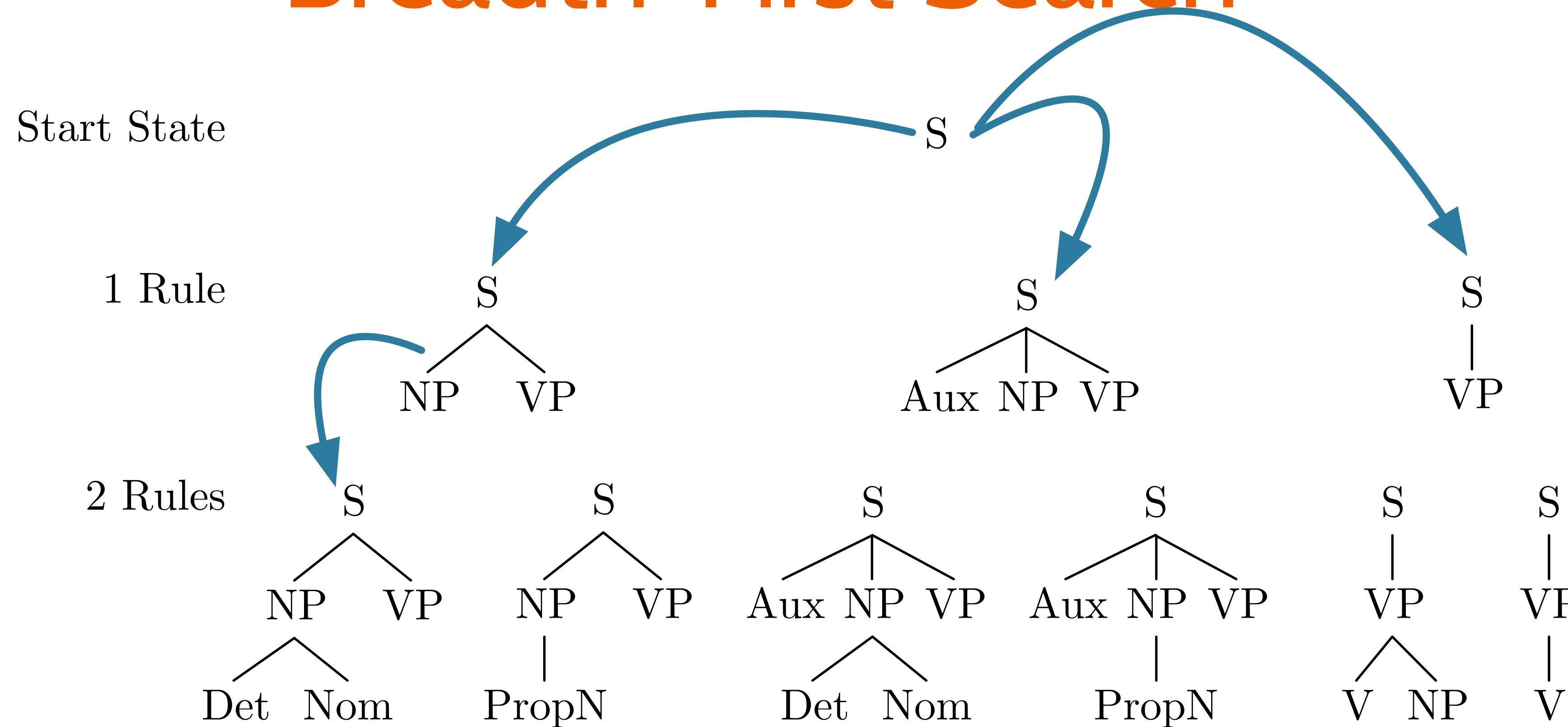
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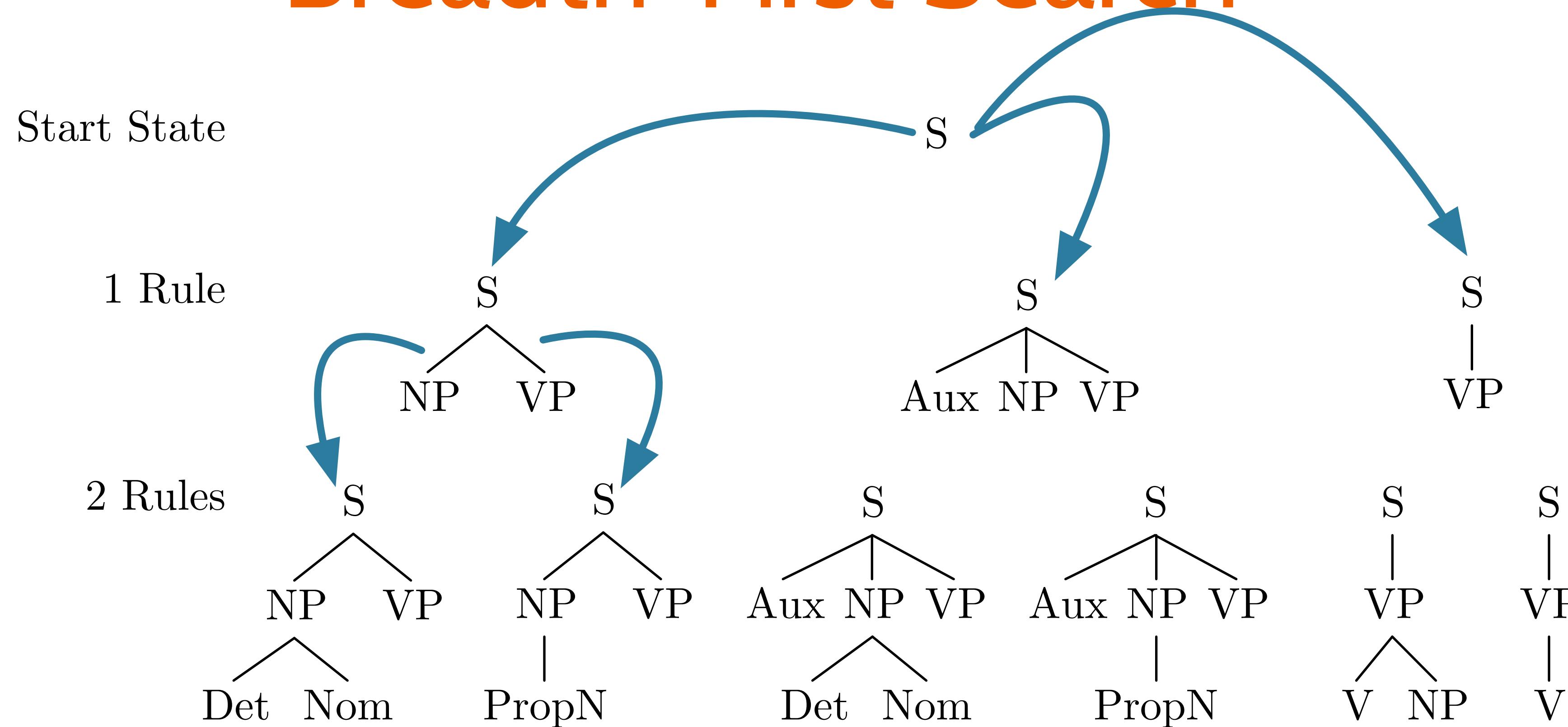
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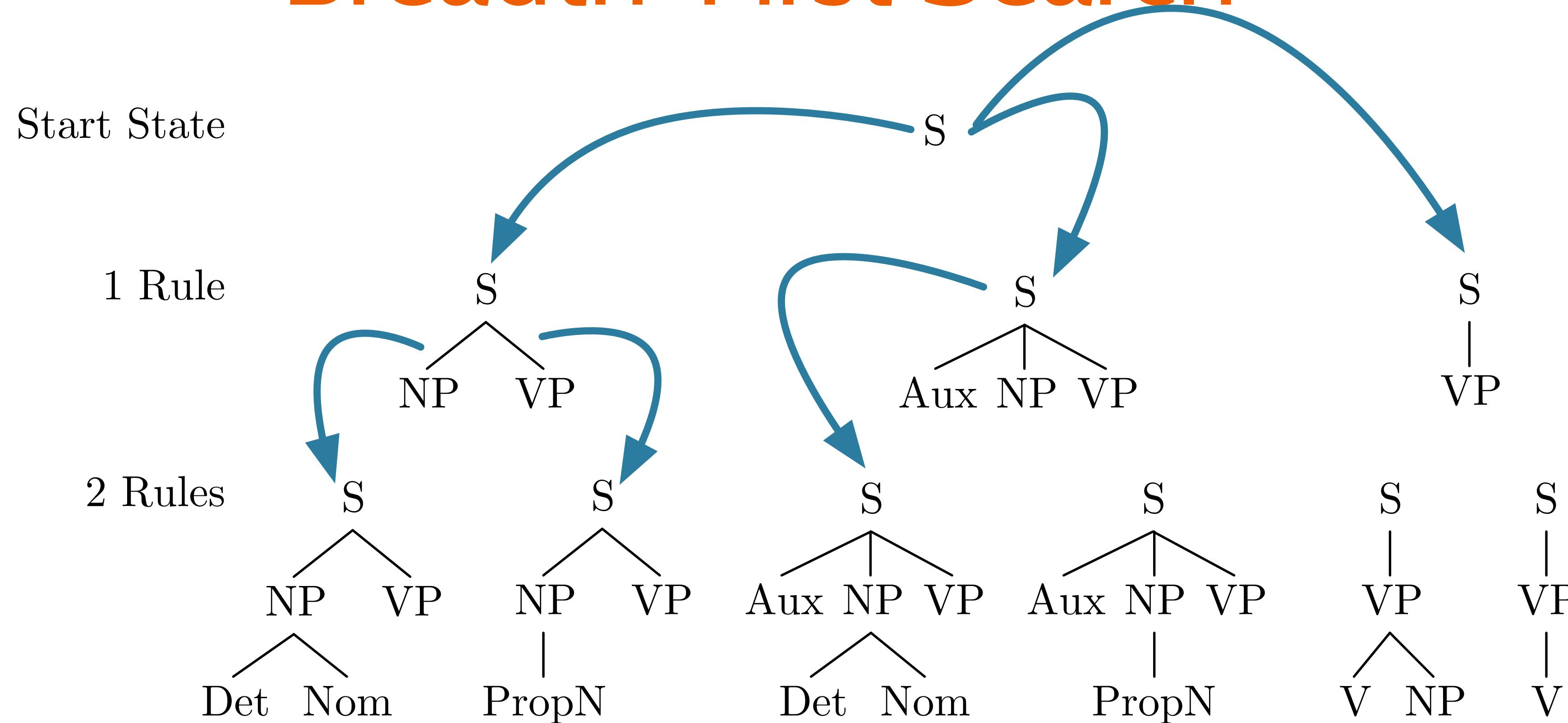
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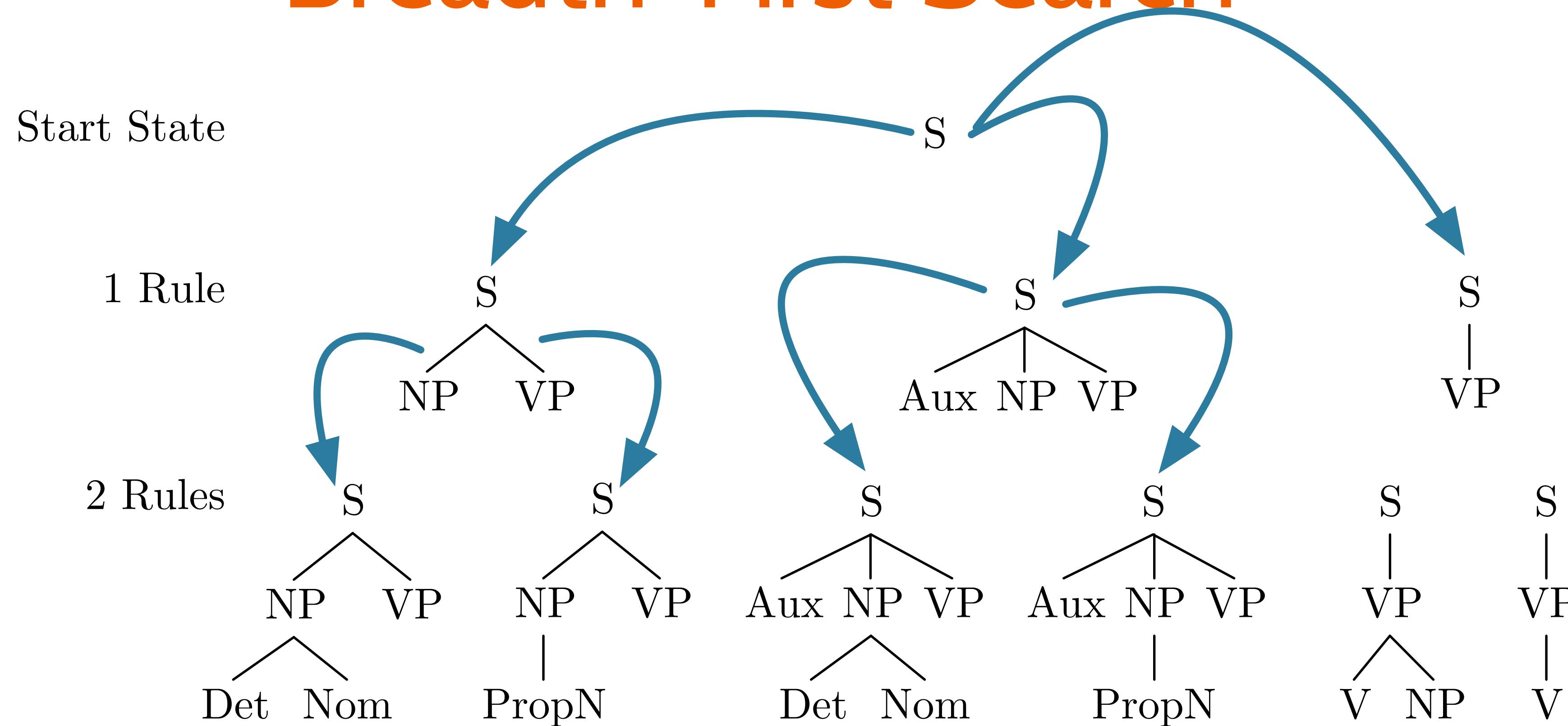
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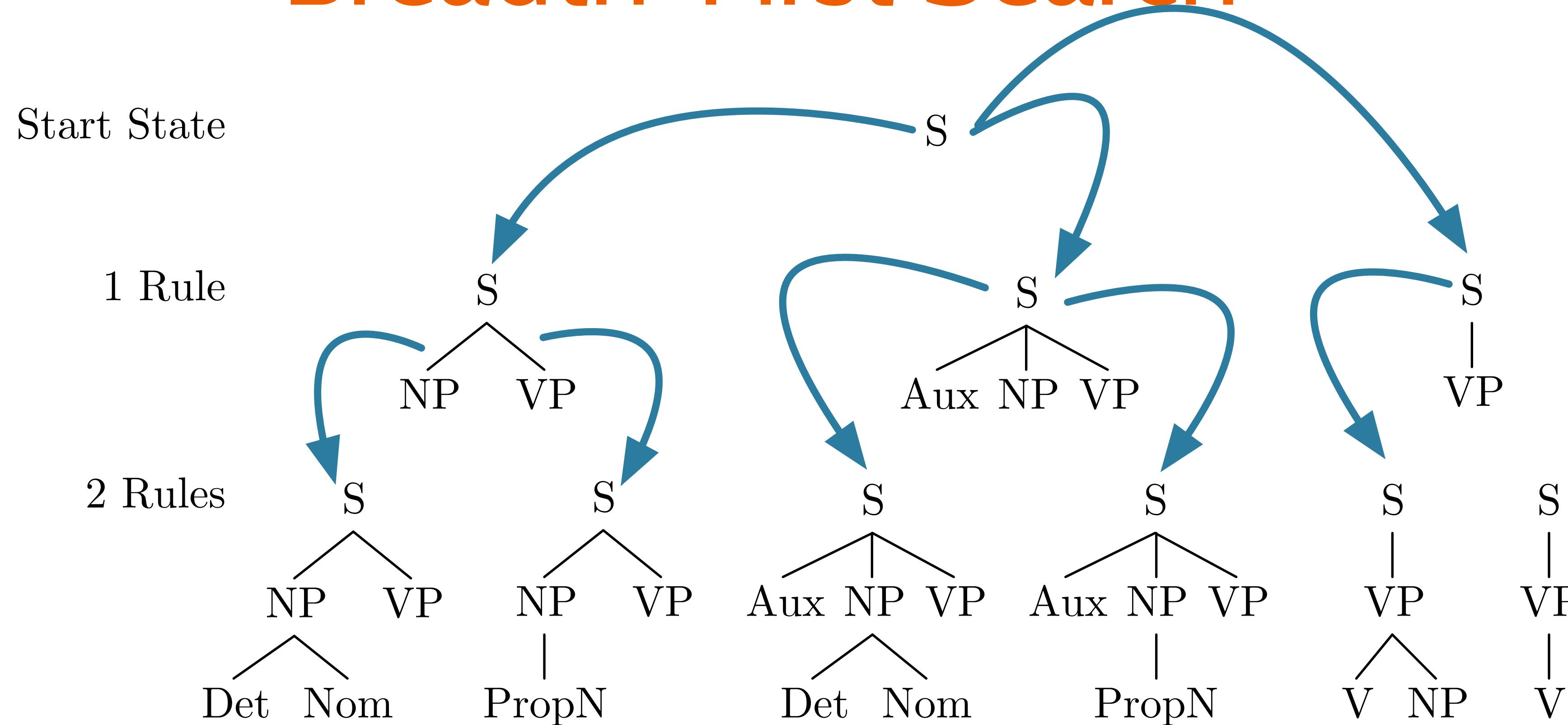
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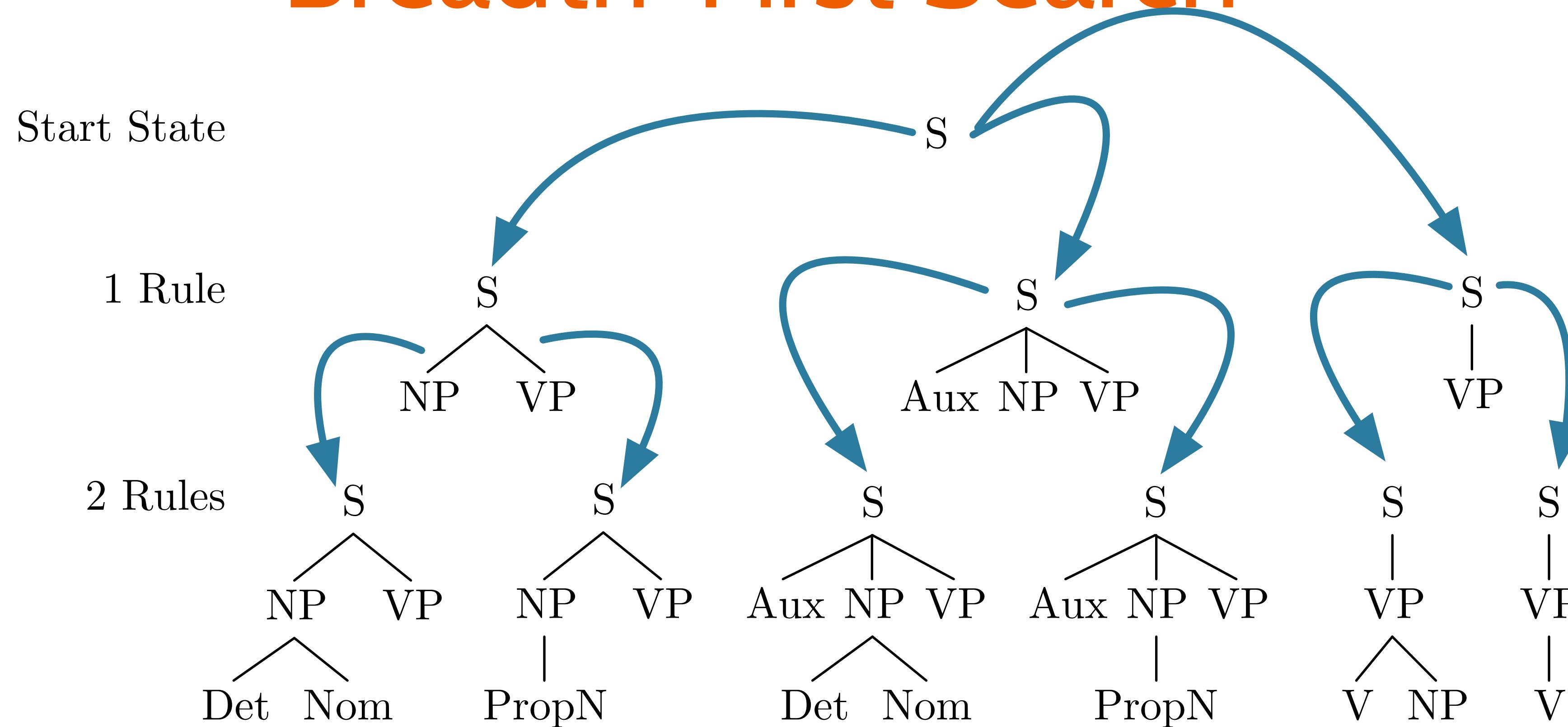
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Pros and Cons of Top-down Parsing

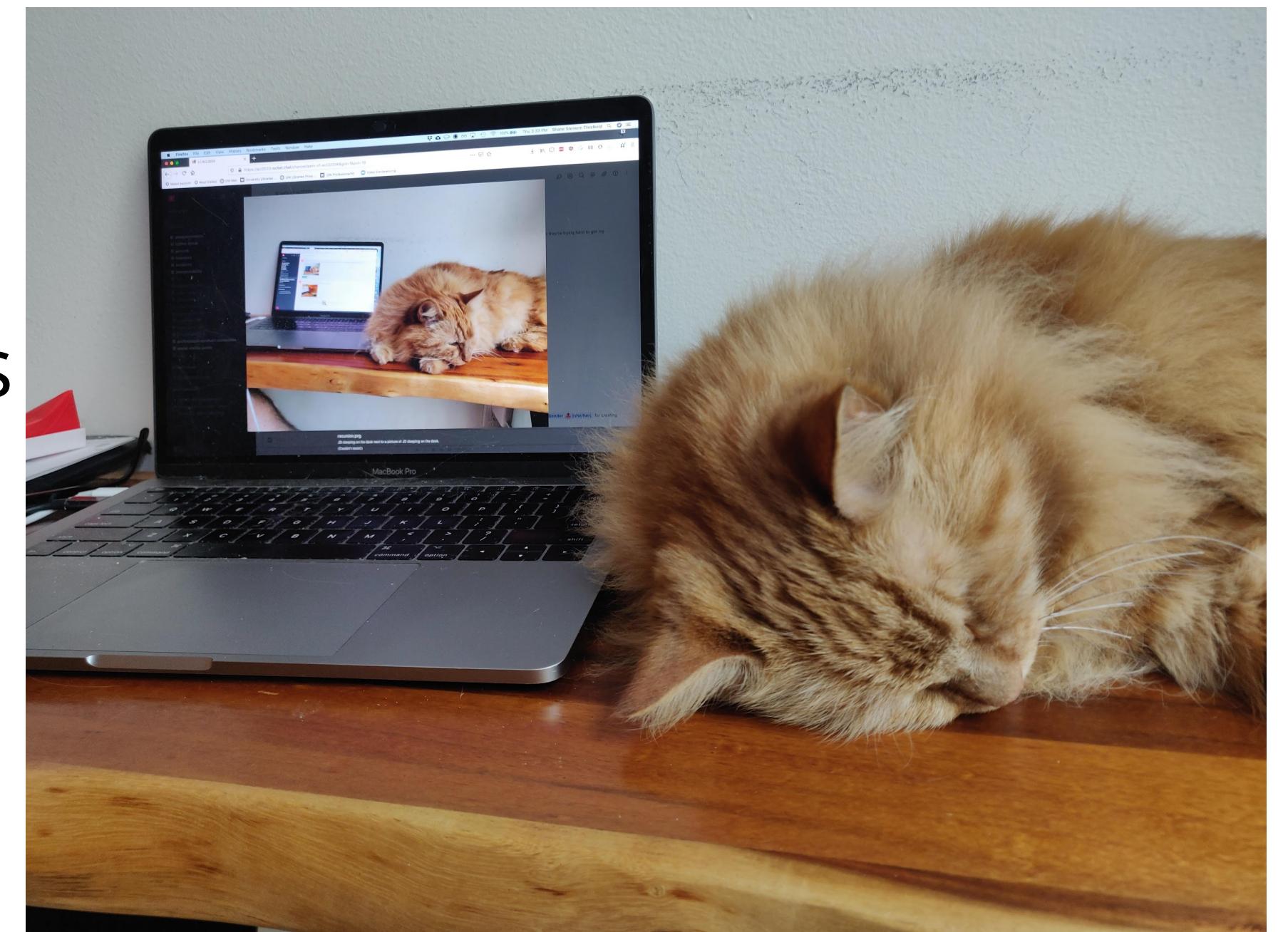
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Bottom-Up Parsing

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- Try to find all trees that span the input
 - Start with input string
 - Book that flight

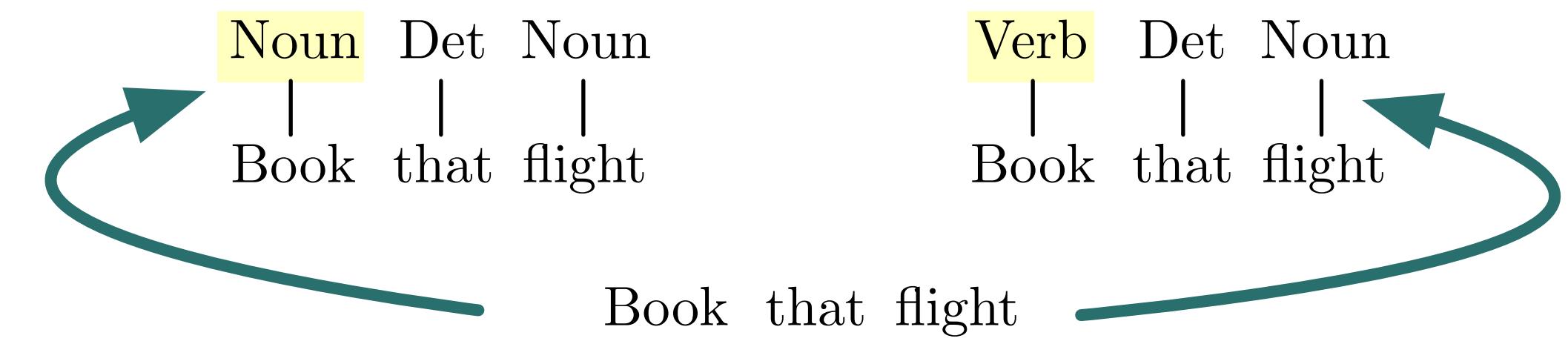
Bottom-Up Parsing

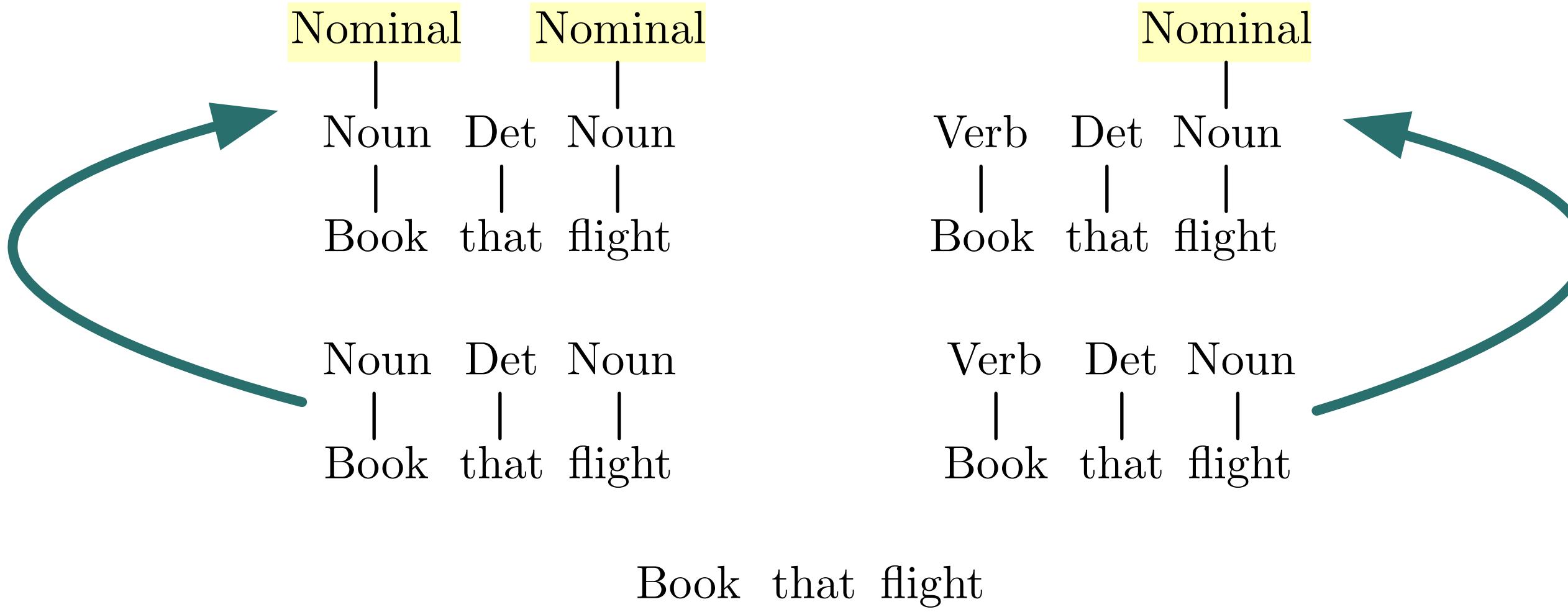
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 - Use all productions with current subtree(s) on RHS
 - e.g. $N \rightarrow \text{Book}$; $V \rightarrow \text{Book}$

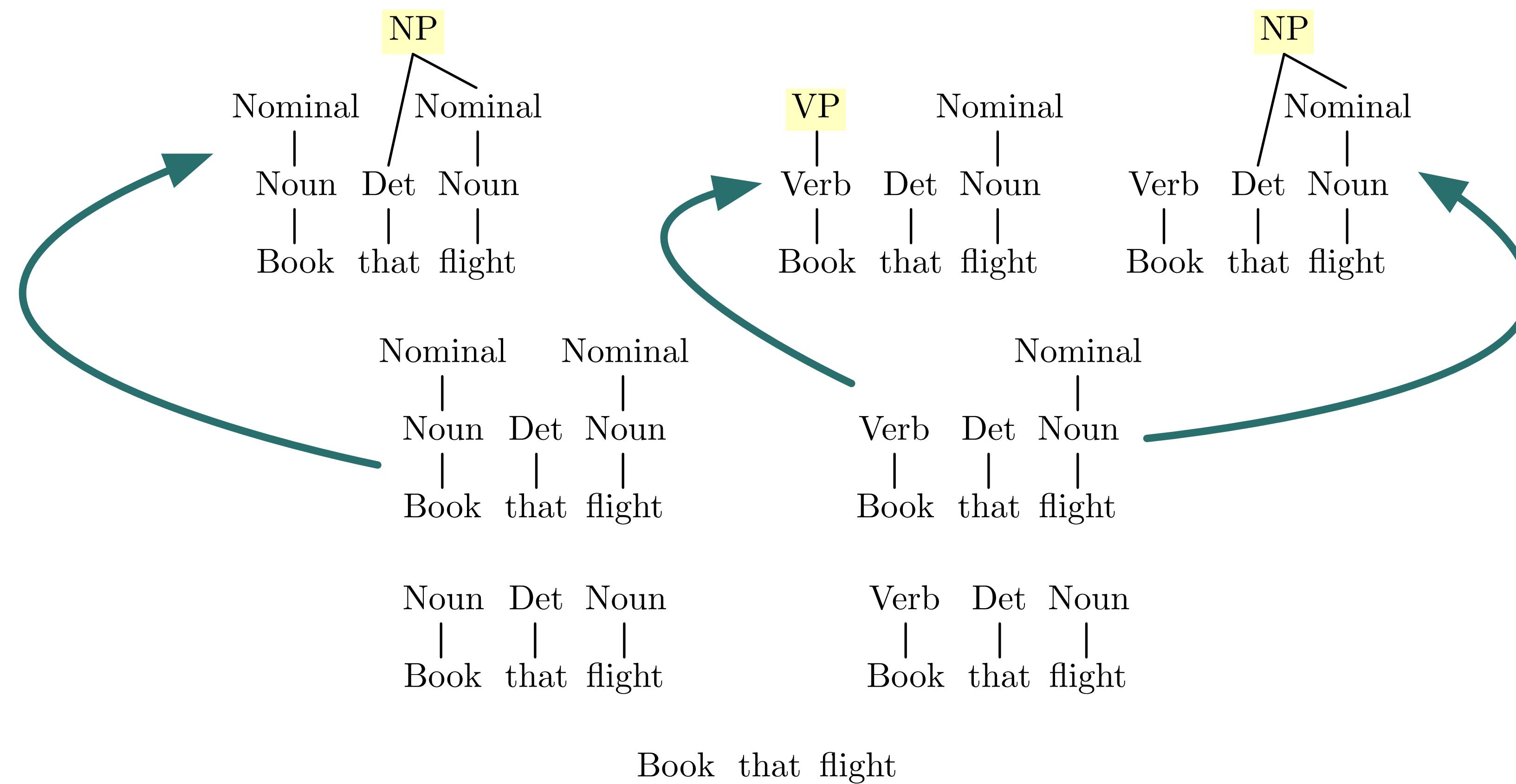
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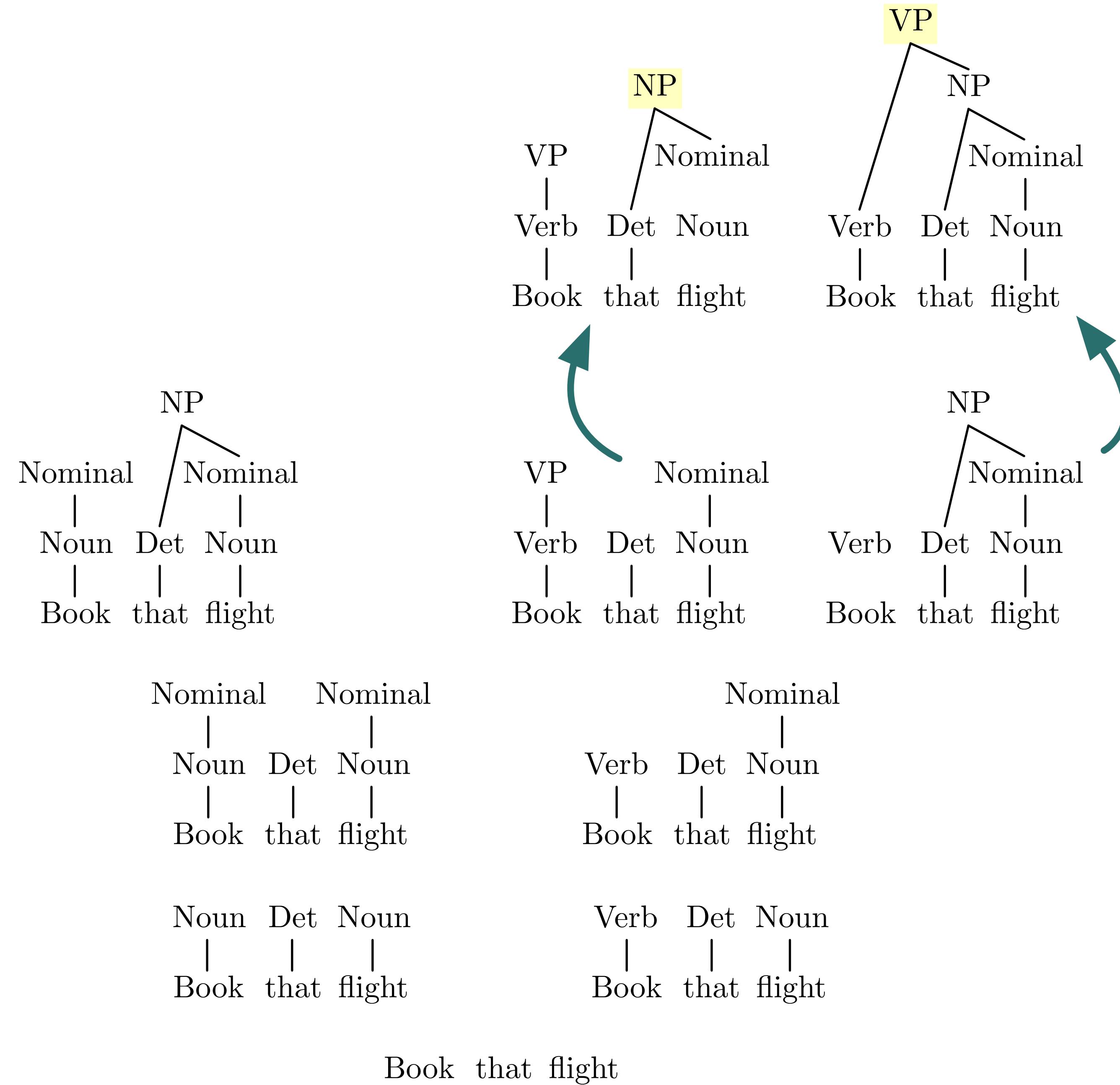
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 - Start with input string
 - Book that flight
 - Use all productions with current subtree(s) on RHS
 - e.g. $N \rightarrow \text{Book}$; $V \rightarrow \text{Book}$
 - Stop when spanned by S , or no more rules apply

Book that flight









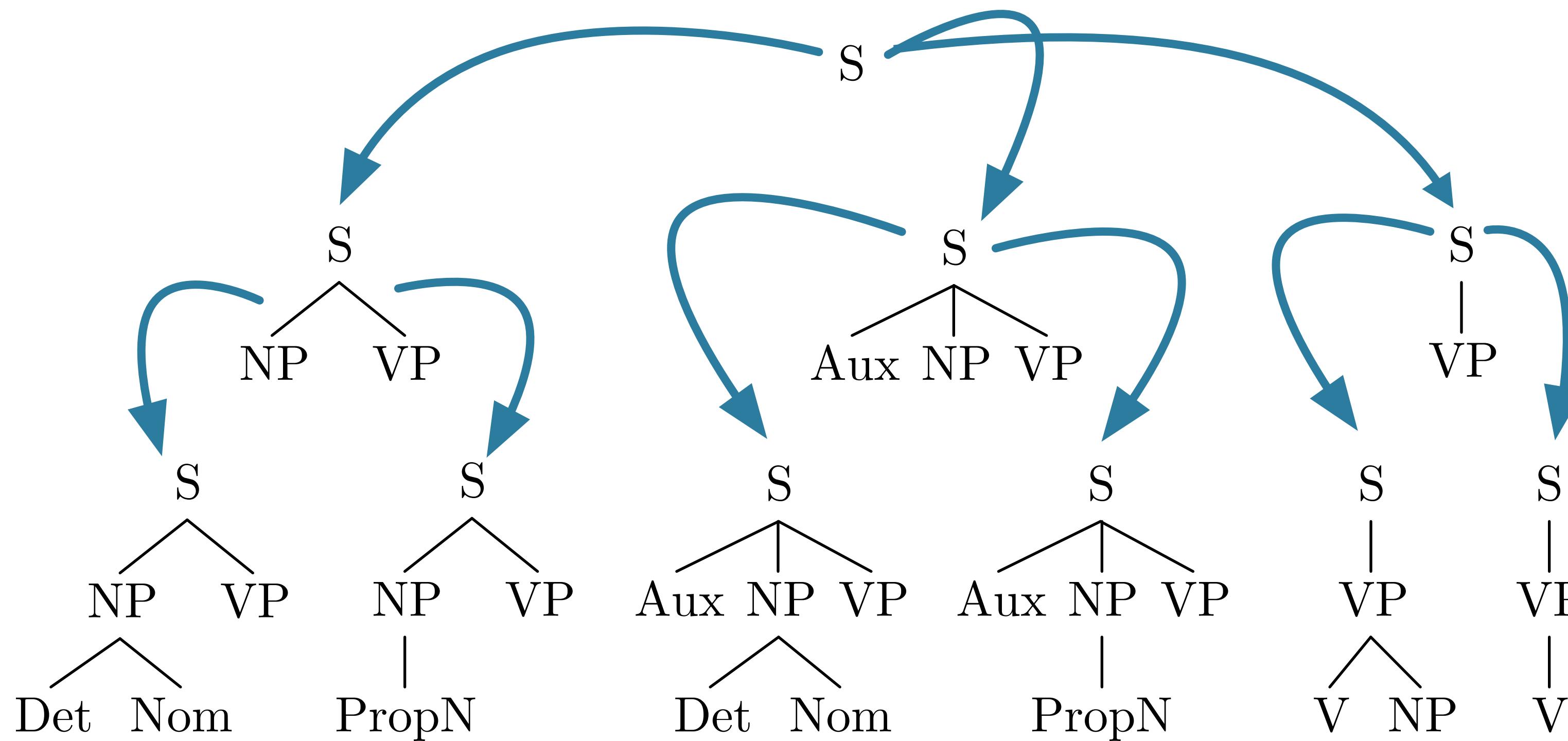
Pros and Cons of Bottom-Up Search

- Pros:
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 - Recursive rules less problematic
 - Useful for incremental/fragment parsing

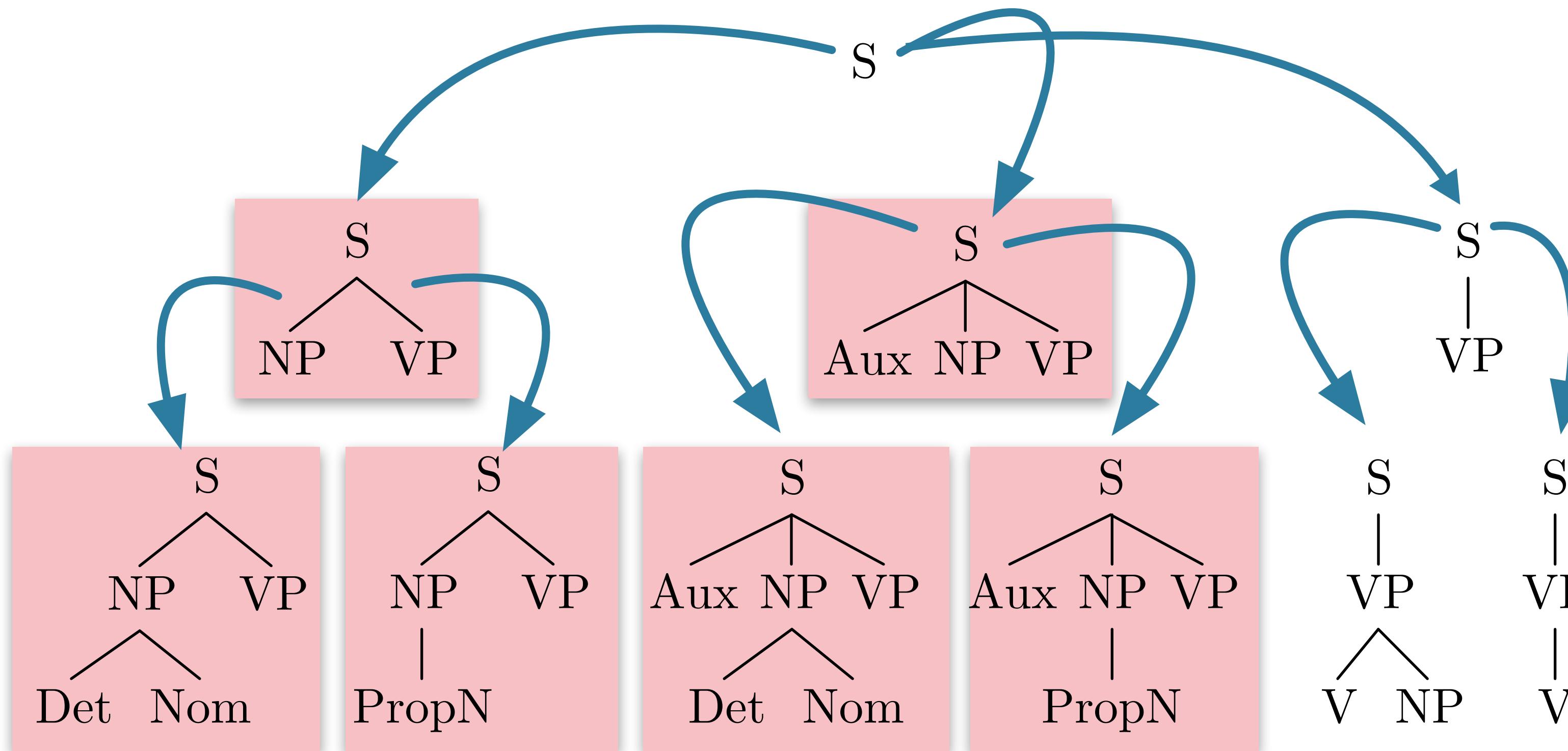
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 - Useful for incremental/fragment parsing
- Cons:
 - Explore subtrees that will not fit full input

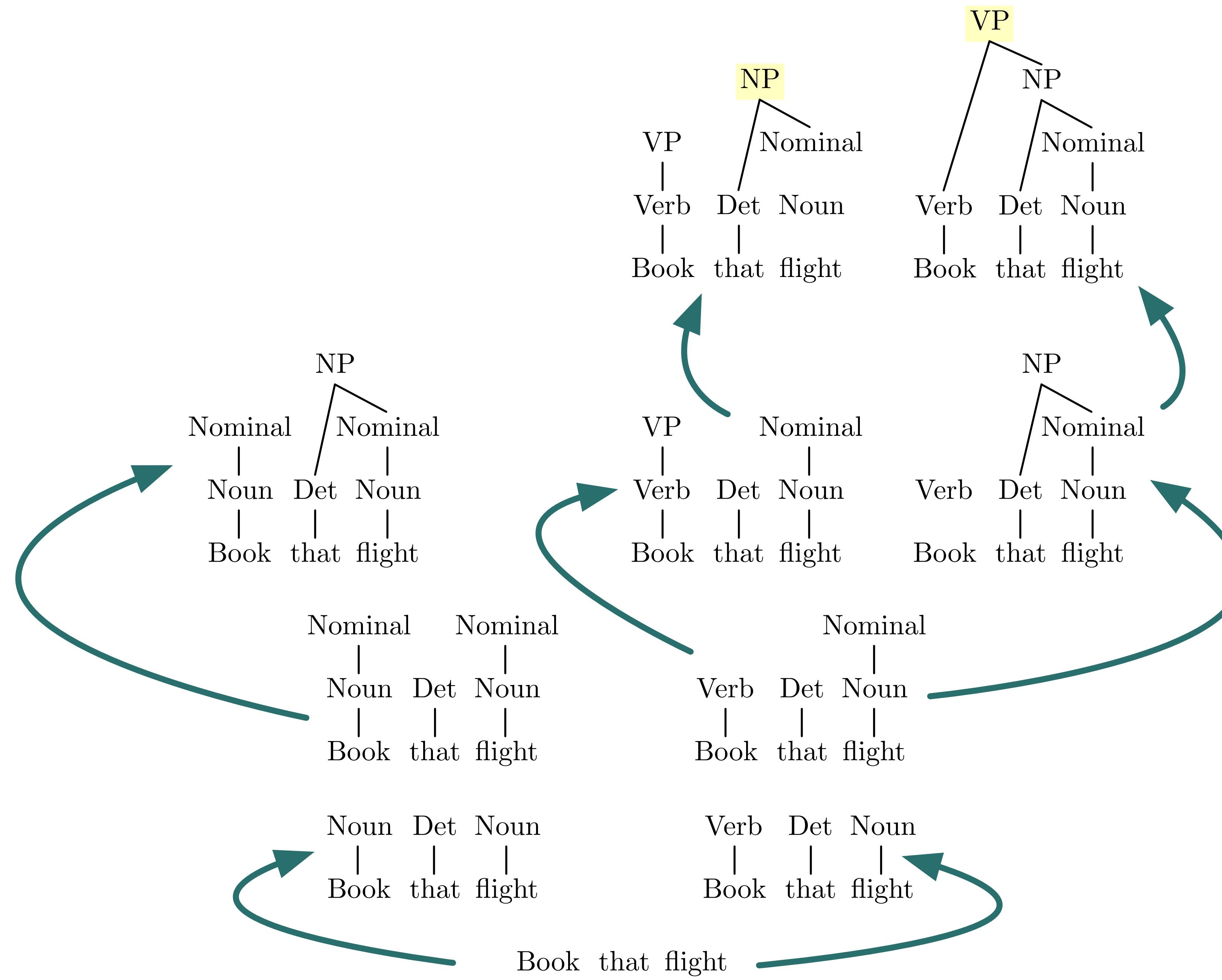
Recap: Parsing as Search



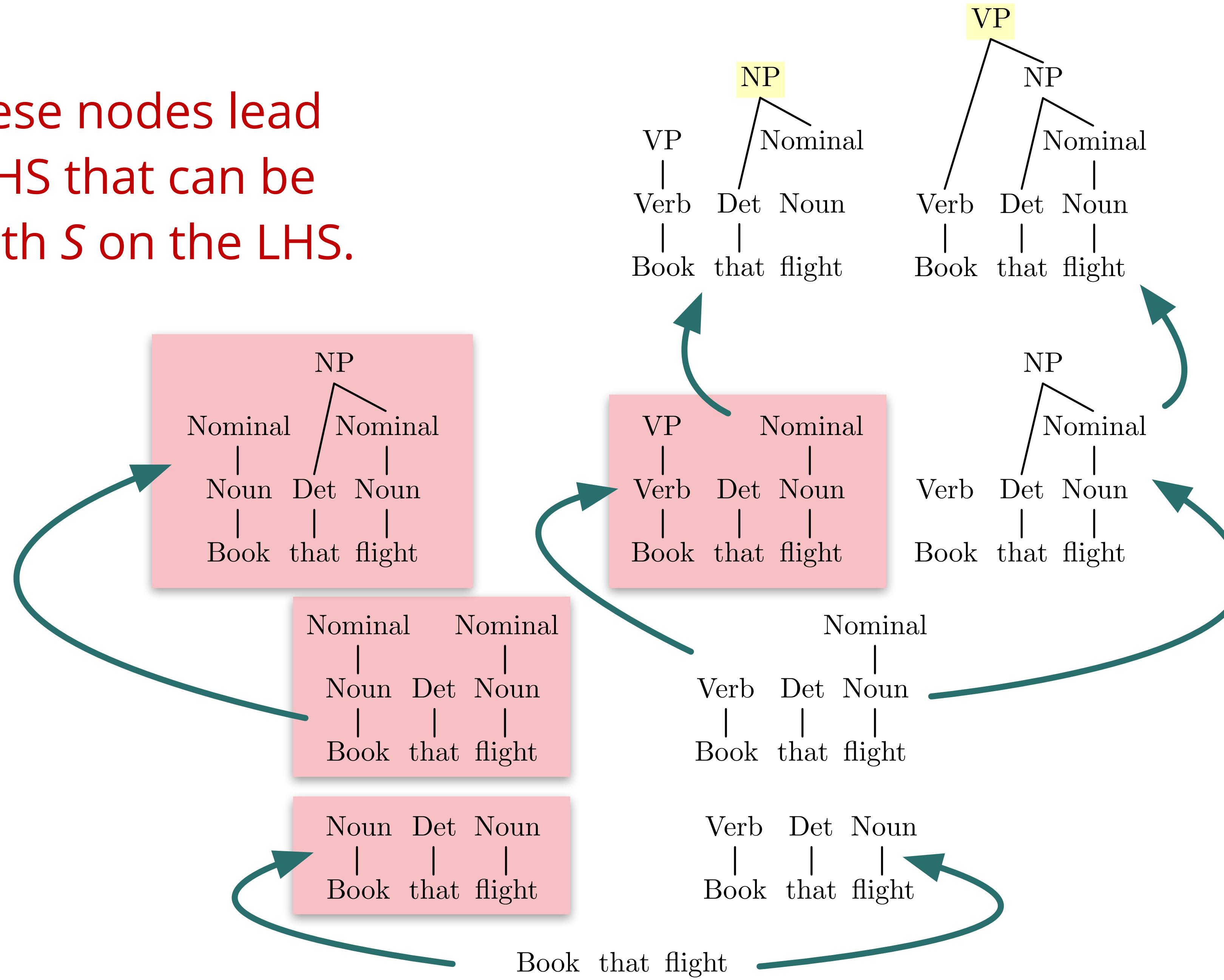
Recap: Parsing as Search



None of these nodes can produce *book* as first terminal



None of these nodes lead
lead to a RHS that can be
combined with S on the LHS.



Parsing Challenges

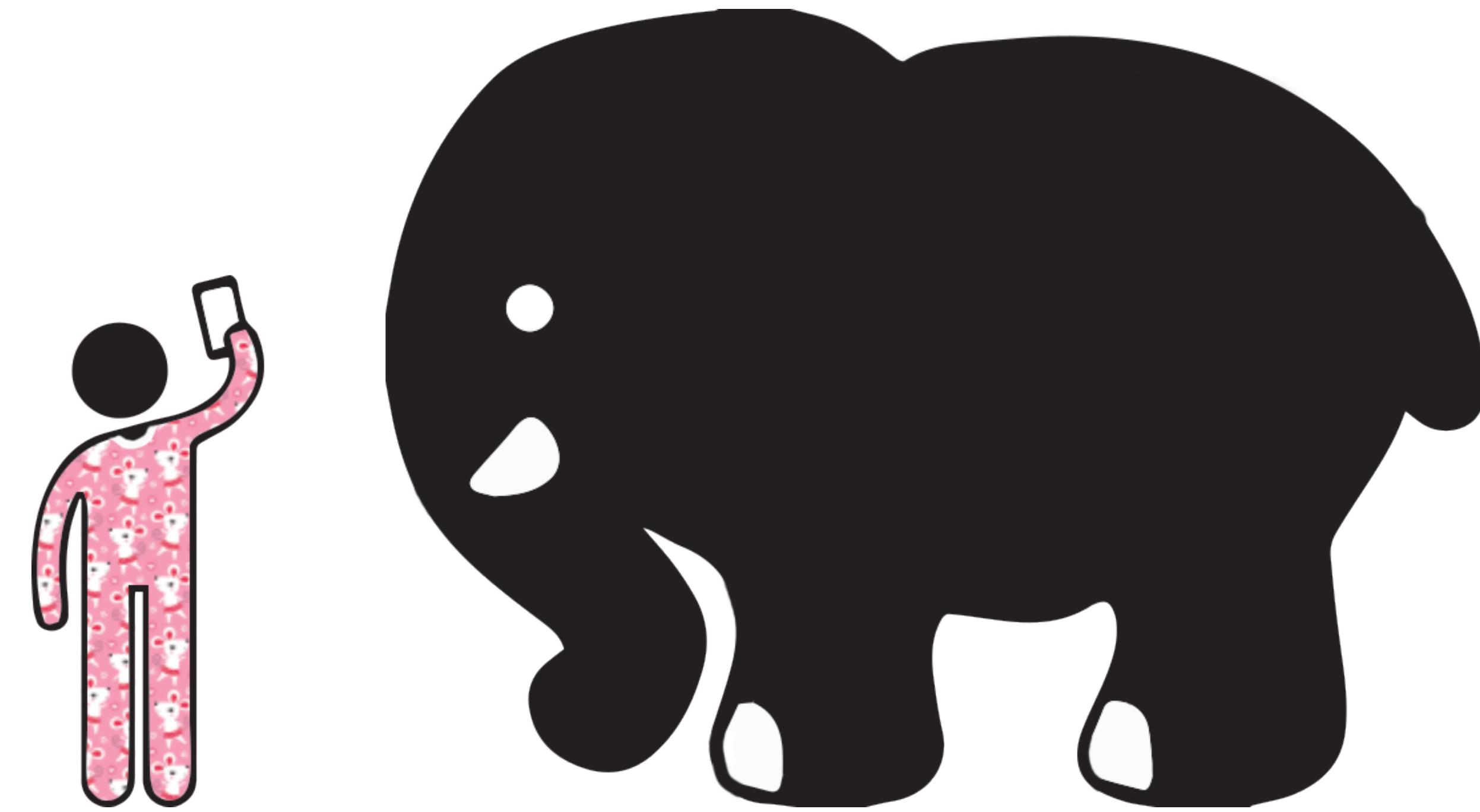
- Parsing-as-Search
- **Parsing Challenges**
 - Ambiguity
 - Repeated Substructure
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- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
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Parsing Ambiguity

- **Lexical Ambiguity:**
 - Book/NN → *I left a book on the table.*
 - Book/VB → *Book that flight.*
- Structural Ambiguity

Attachment Ambiguity

“One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas.

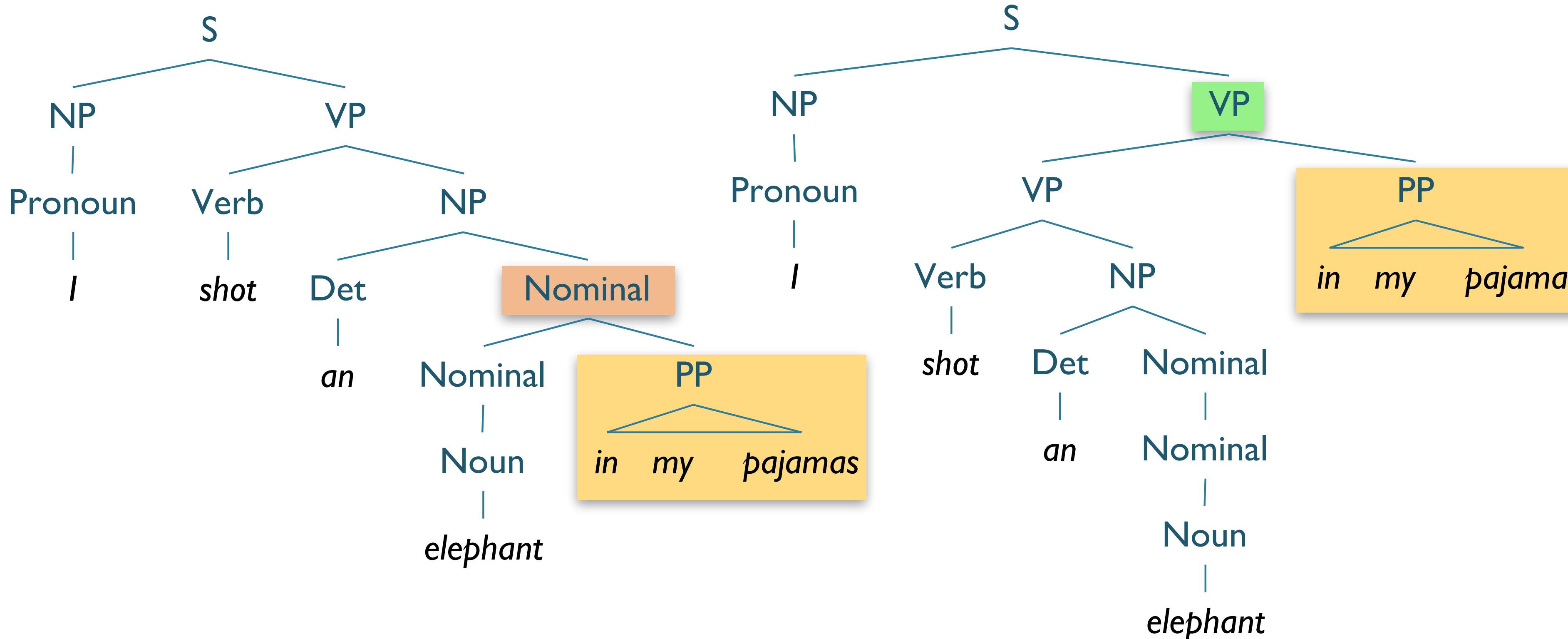


Attachment Ambiguity

“One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas.
How he got into my pajamas, I’ll never know.” — *Groucho Marx*



Attachment Ambiguity



“We saw the Eiffel Tower flying to Paris”



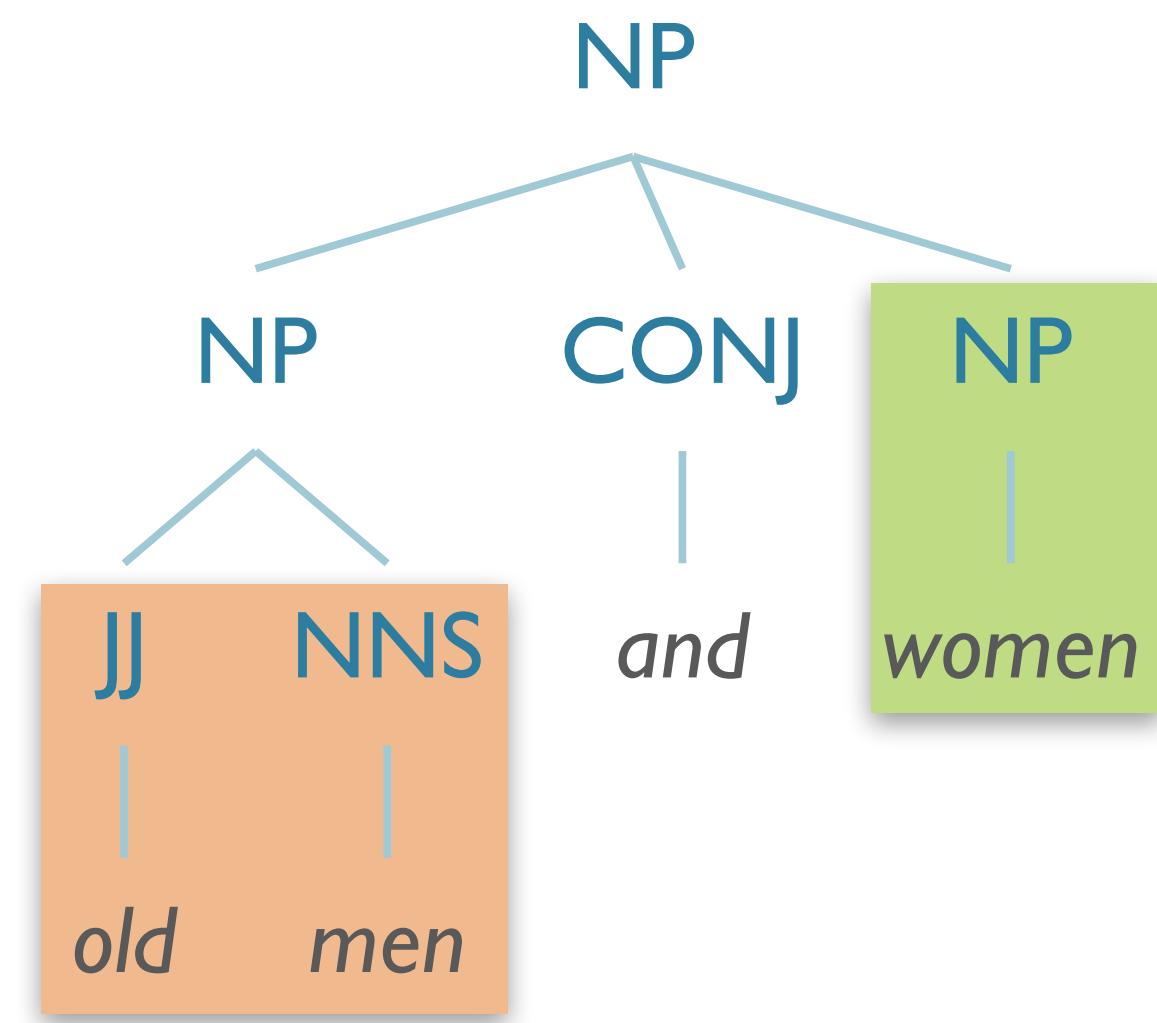
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Coordination Ambiguity:

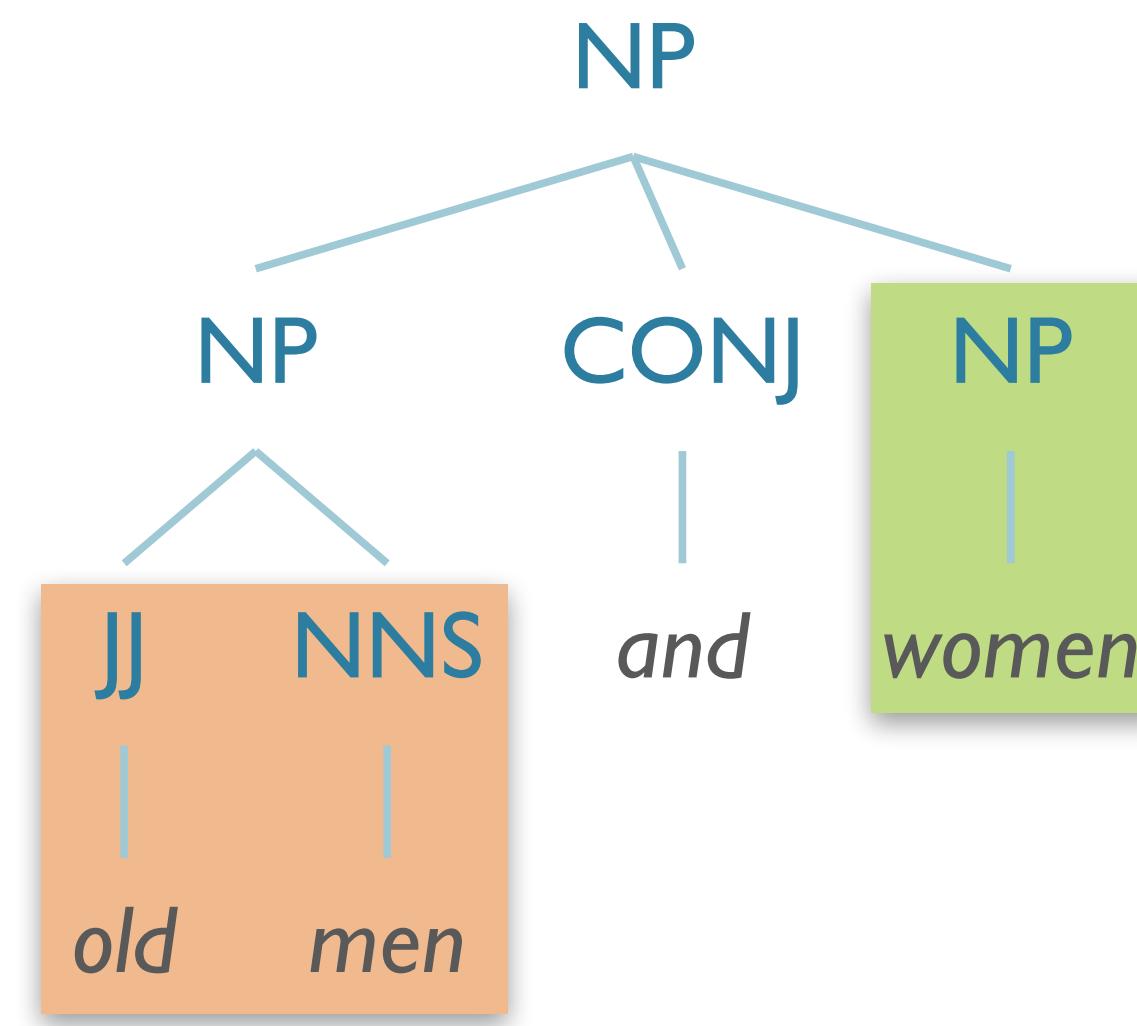
Coordination Ambiguity:

[old men] and [women]

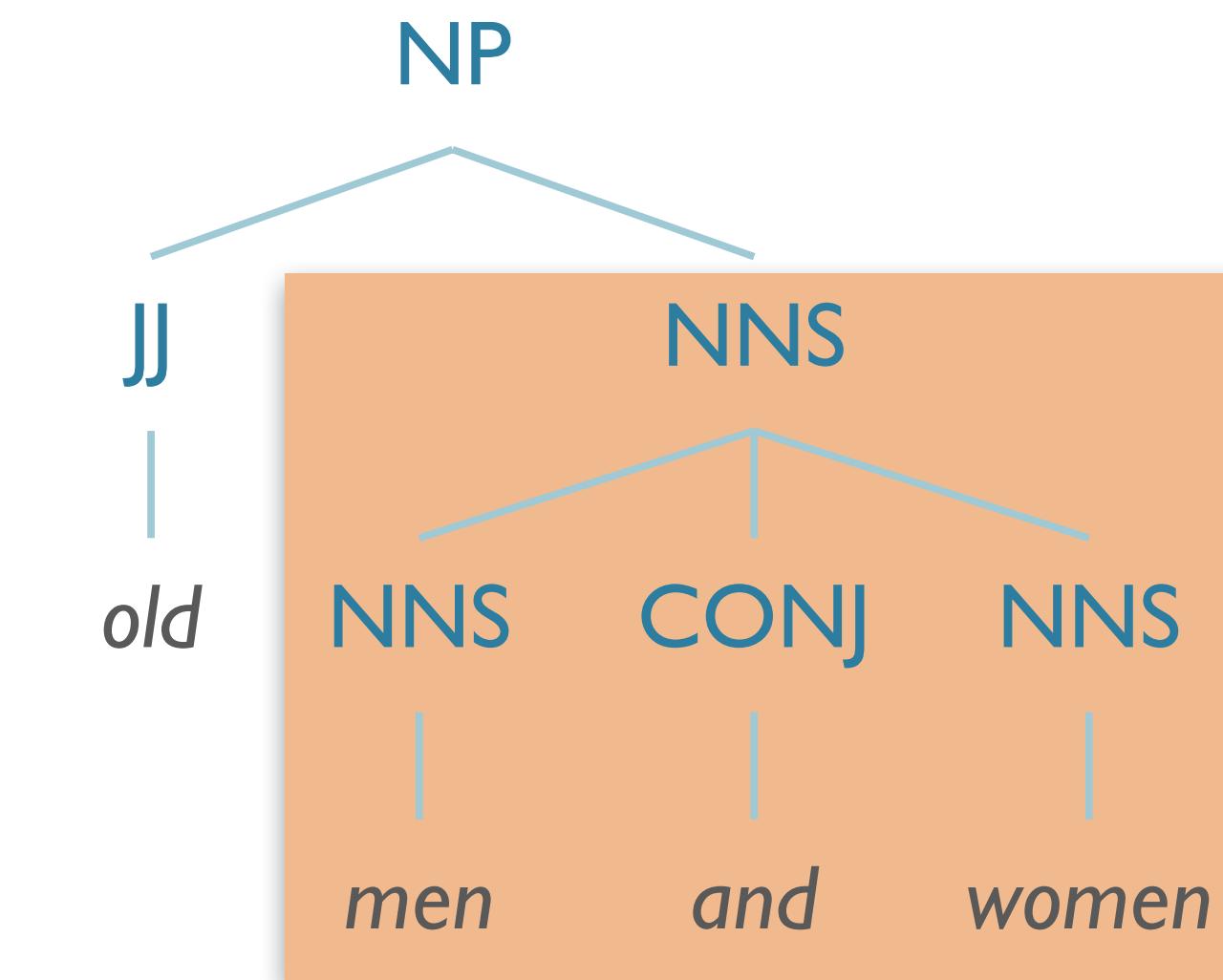


Coordination Ambiguity:

[old men] and [women]



[old [men and women]]



Local vs. Global Ambiguity

- *Local* ambiguity:
 - Ambiguity that cannot contribute to a full, valid parse
 - e.g. *Book/NN* in “*Book that flight*”

Local vs. Global Ambiguity

- *Local* ambiguity:
 - Ambiguity that cannot contribute to a full, valid parse
 - e.g. *Book/NN* in “*Book that flight*”
- *Global* ambiguity
 - Multiple valid parses

Why is Ambiguity a Problem?

- *Local* ambiguity:
 - increased processing time
- *Global* ambiguity:
 - Would like to yield only “reasonable” parses
 - Ideally, the one that was intended*

Solution to Ambiguity?

Solution to Ambiguity?

- *Disambiguation!*

Solution to Ambiguity?

- *Disambiguation!*
- Different possible strategies to select correct interpretation:

Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

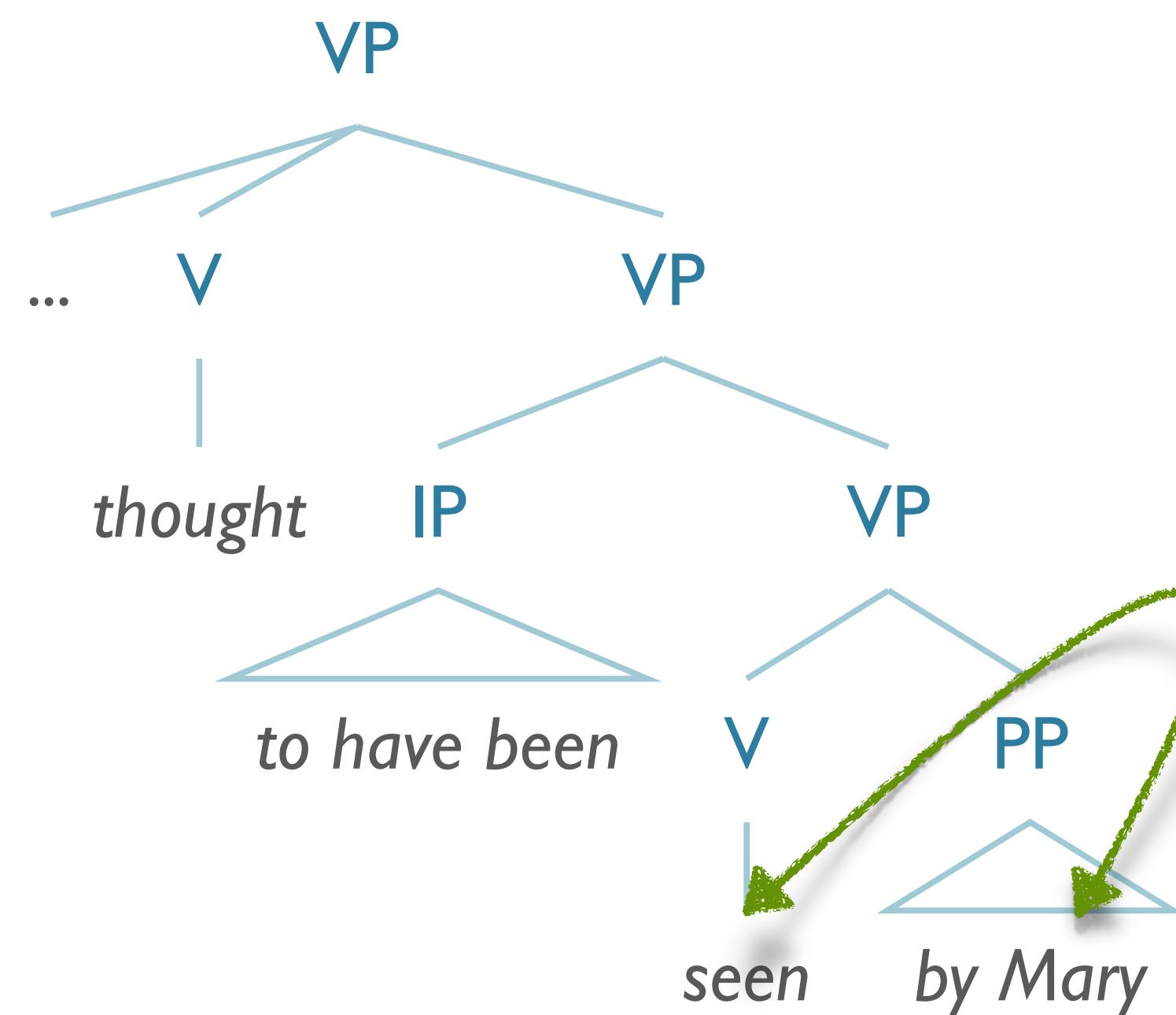
- Some prepositional structs more likely to attach high/low

Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some prepositional structs more likely to attach high/low
 - *John was thought to have been seen by Mary*
 - Mary could be doing the **seeing** or **thinking** — seeing more likely

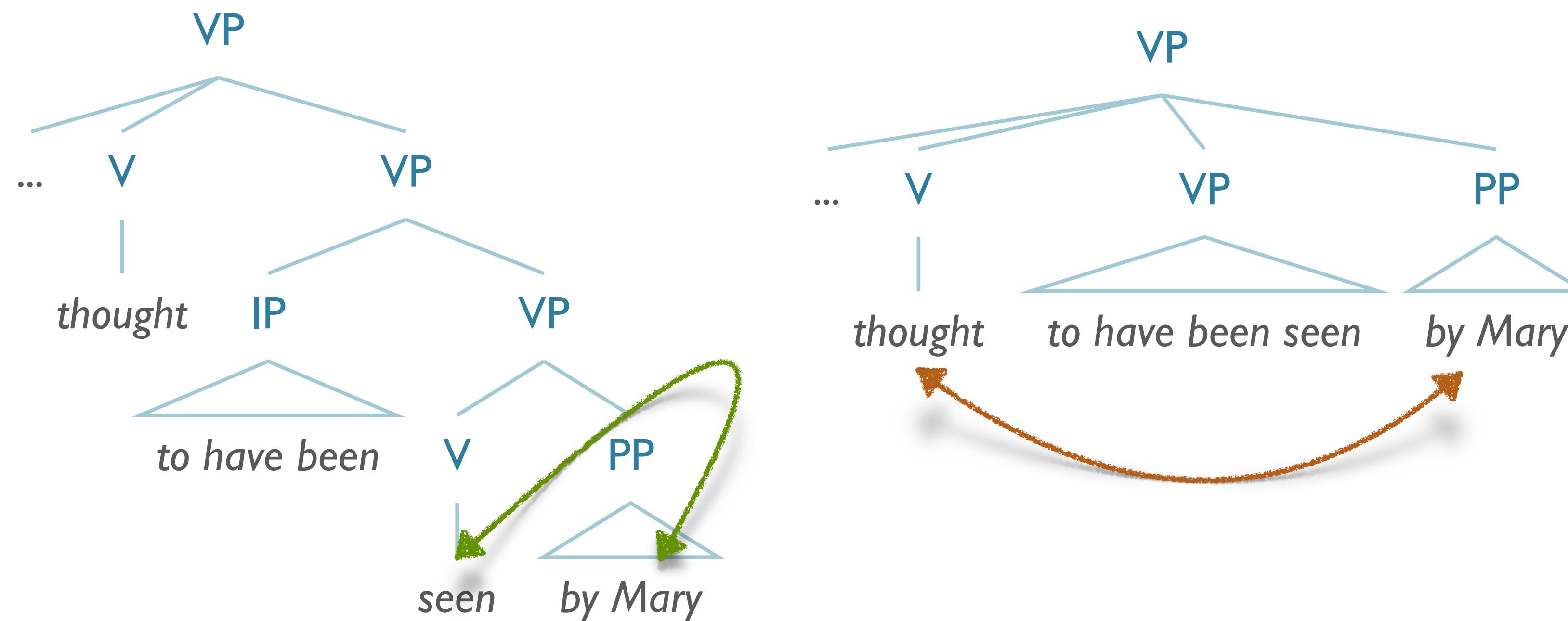
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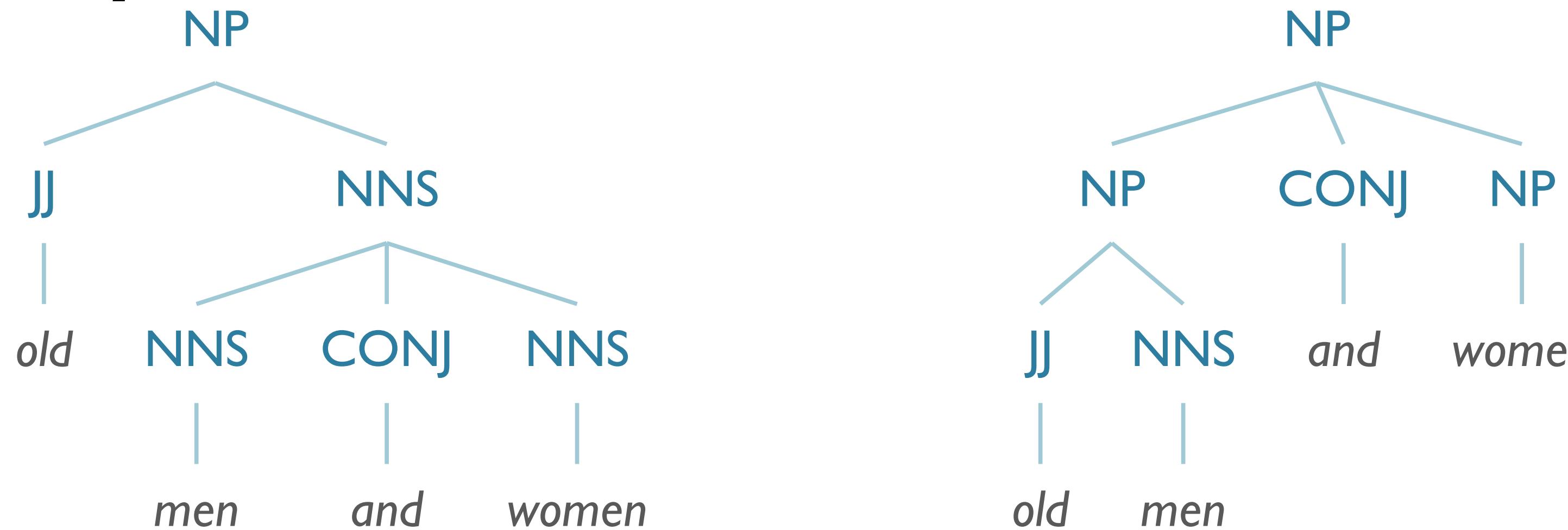


Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some phrases more likely overall

Disambiguation Strategy: Statistical

- Some phrases more likely overall
- *[old [men and women]] is a more common construction than [old men] and [women]*



Disambiguation Strategy: Semantic

- Some interpretations we know to be semantically impossible

Disambiguation Strategy: Semantic

- Some interpretations we know to be semantically impossible
- *Eiffel tower* as subject of *fly*

Disambiguation Strategy: Pragmatic

- Some interpretations are possible, unlikely given world knowledge

Disambiguation Strategy: Pragmatic

- Some interpretations are possible, unlikely given world knowledge
 - e.g. elephants and pajamas

Incremental Parsing and Garden Paths

- Idea: model *left-to-right* nature of (English) text
- Problem: “garden path” sentences

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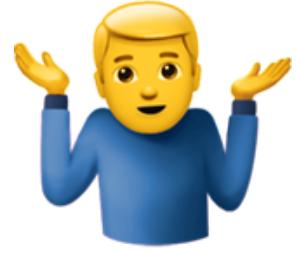
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SPORTS NEWS SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 / 9:17 AM / A DAY AGO

California to let college athletes be paid in blow to NCAA rules

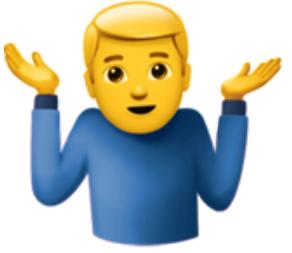
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sport-california-education/california-to-let-college-athletes-be-paid-in-blow-to-ncaa-rules-idUSKBN1WF1SR>

Disambiguation Strategy:



- Alternatively, keep all parses

Disambiguation Strategy:



- Alternatively, keep all parses
 - *(Might even be the appropriate action for some jokes)*

Parsing Challenges

- Parsing-as-Search
- **Parsing Challenges**
 - Ambiguity
 - **Repeated Substructure**
 - Recursion
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- Grammar Equivalence
- CKY parsing algorithm

Repeated Work

- Search (top-down/bottom-up) both lead to repeated substructures
 - Globally bad parses can construct good subtrees
 - ...will reconstruct along another branch
 - No static backtracking can avoid

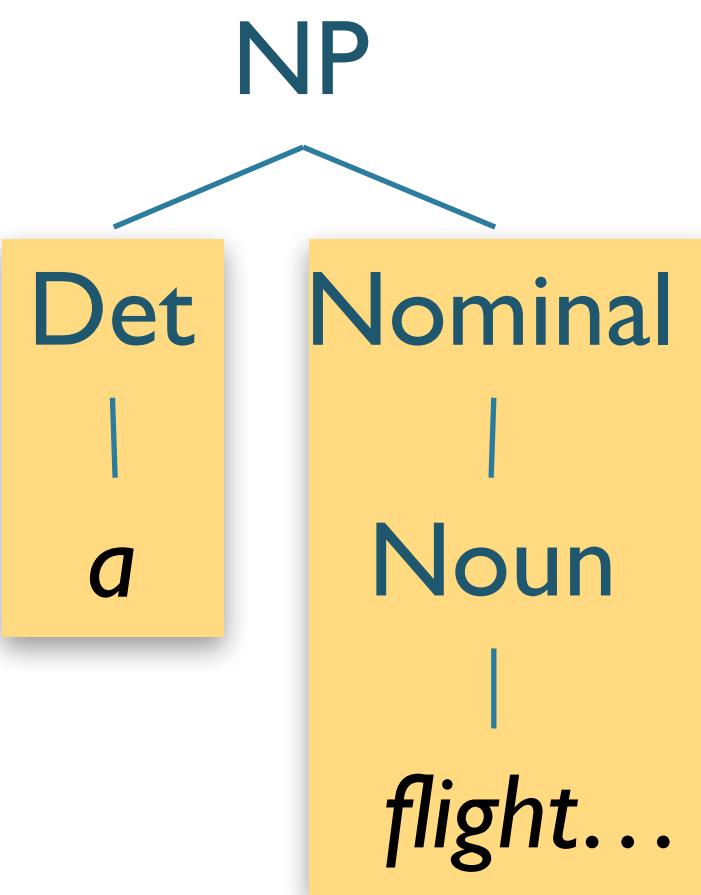
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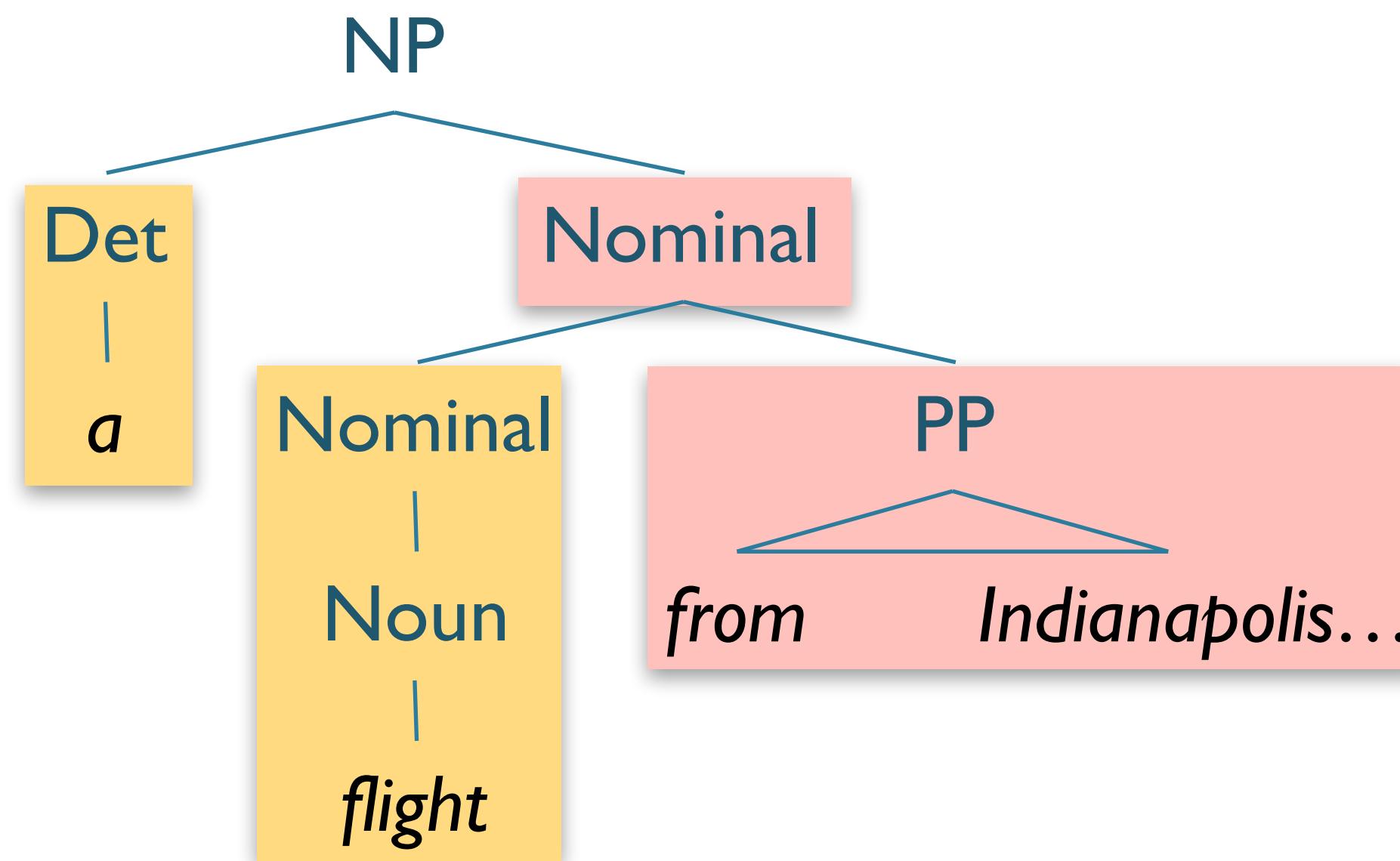
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- Efficient parsing techniques require storage of partial solutions
- Example: *a flight from Indianapolis to Houston on TWA*

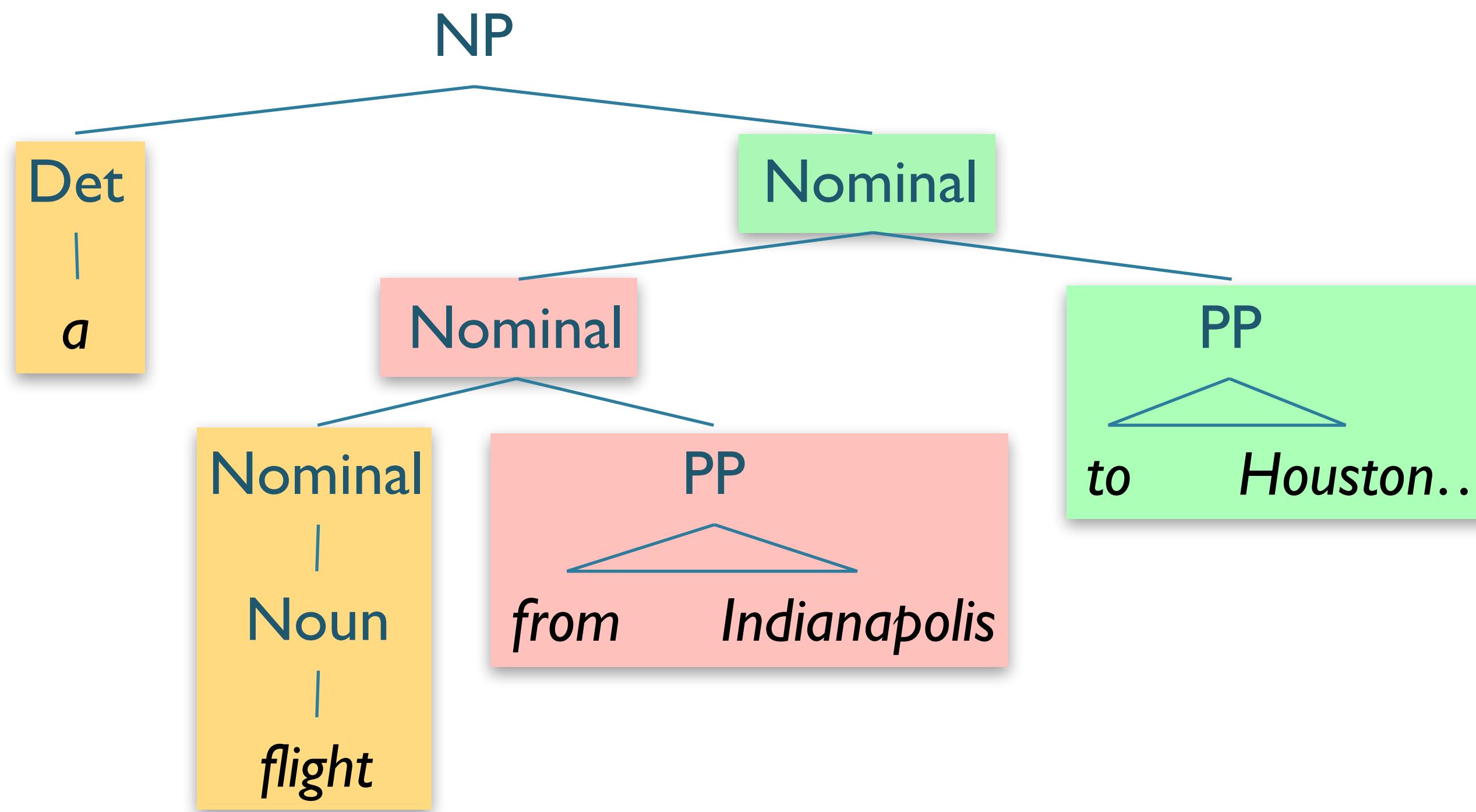
Shared Sub-Problems



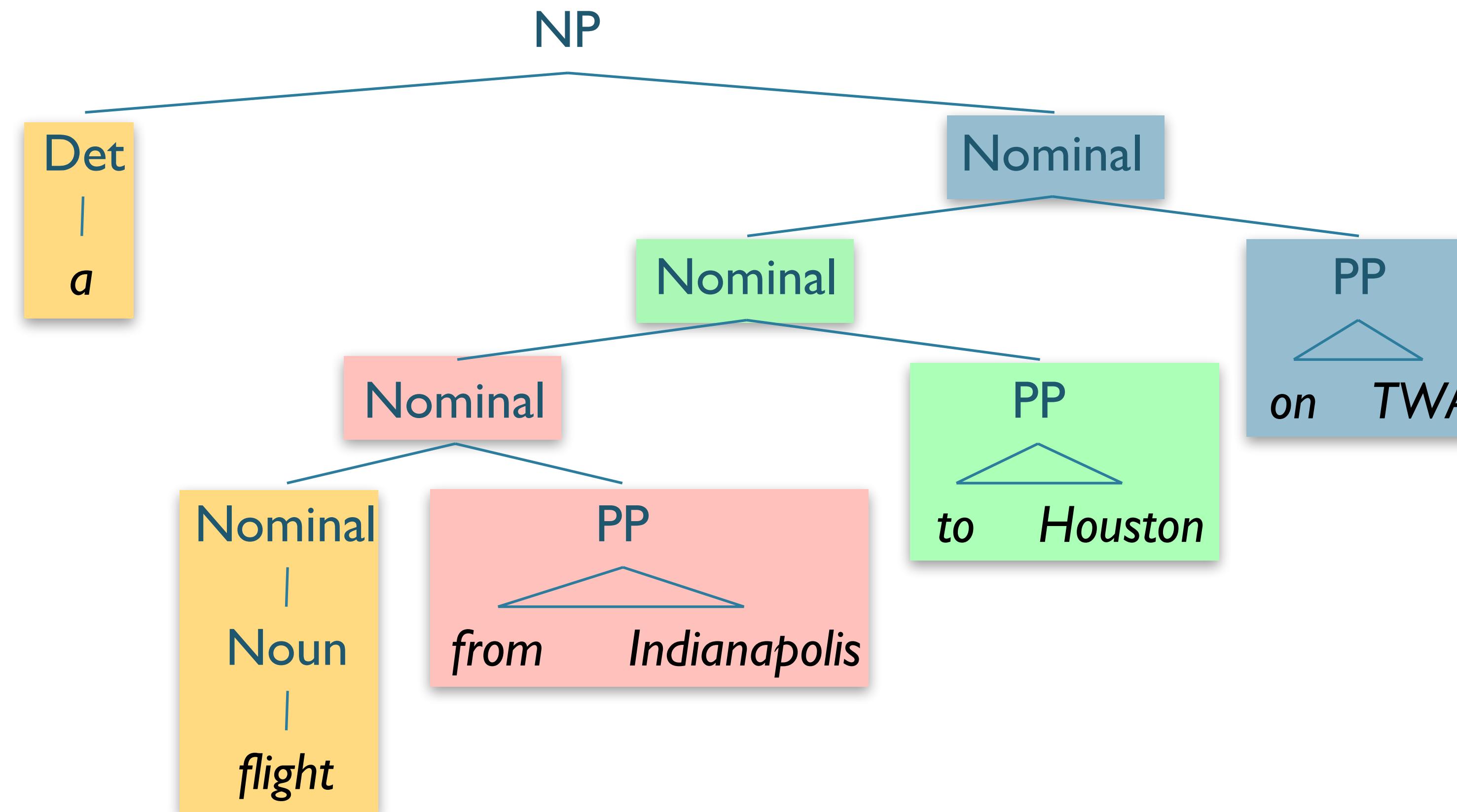
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Shared Sub-Problems



Shared Sub-Problems

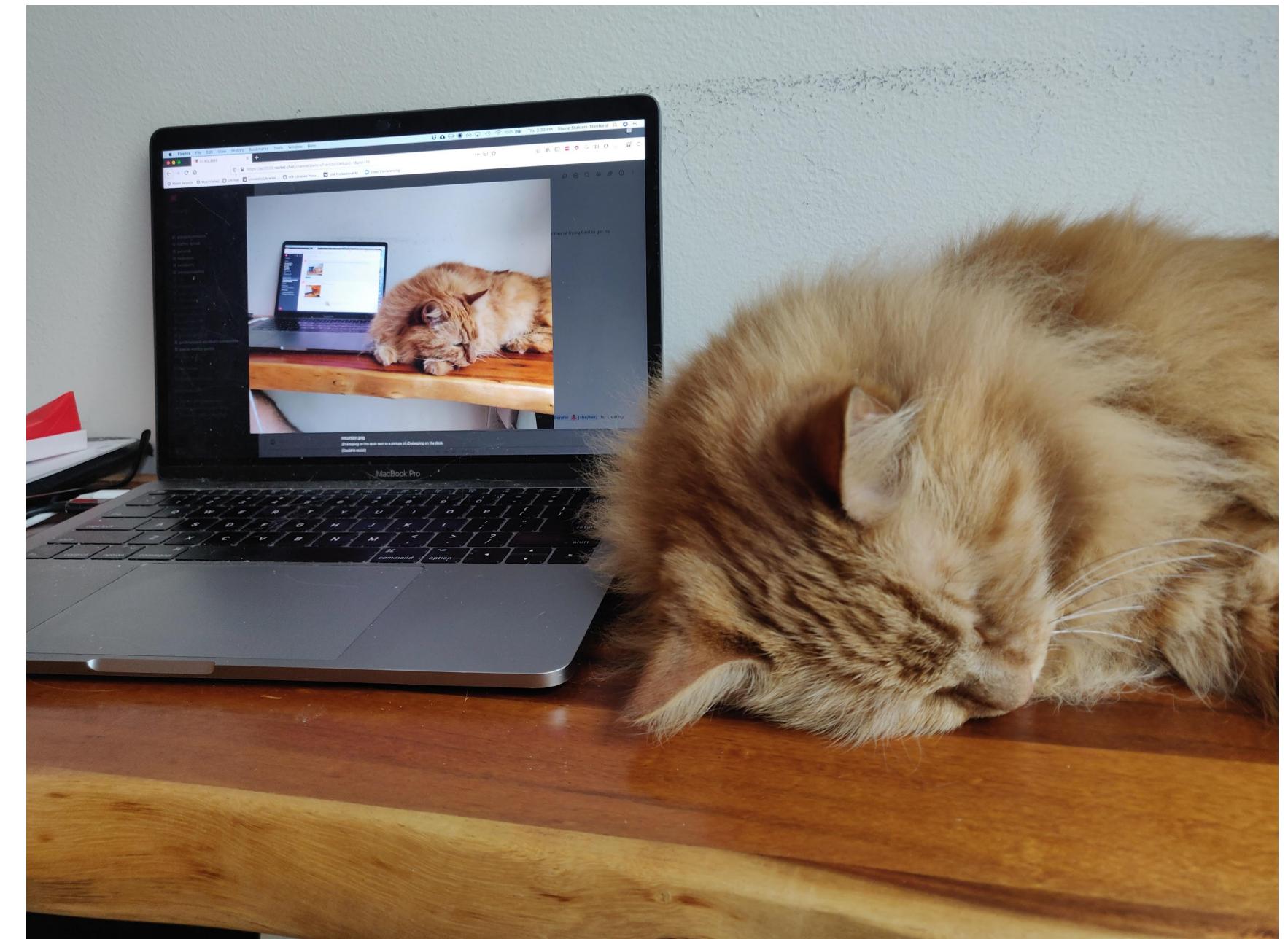


Parsing Challenges

- Parsing-as-Search
- **Parsing Challenges**
 - Ambiguity
 - Repeated Substructure
 - **Recursion**
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
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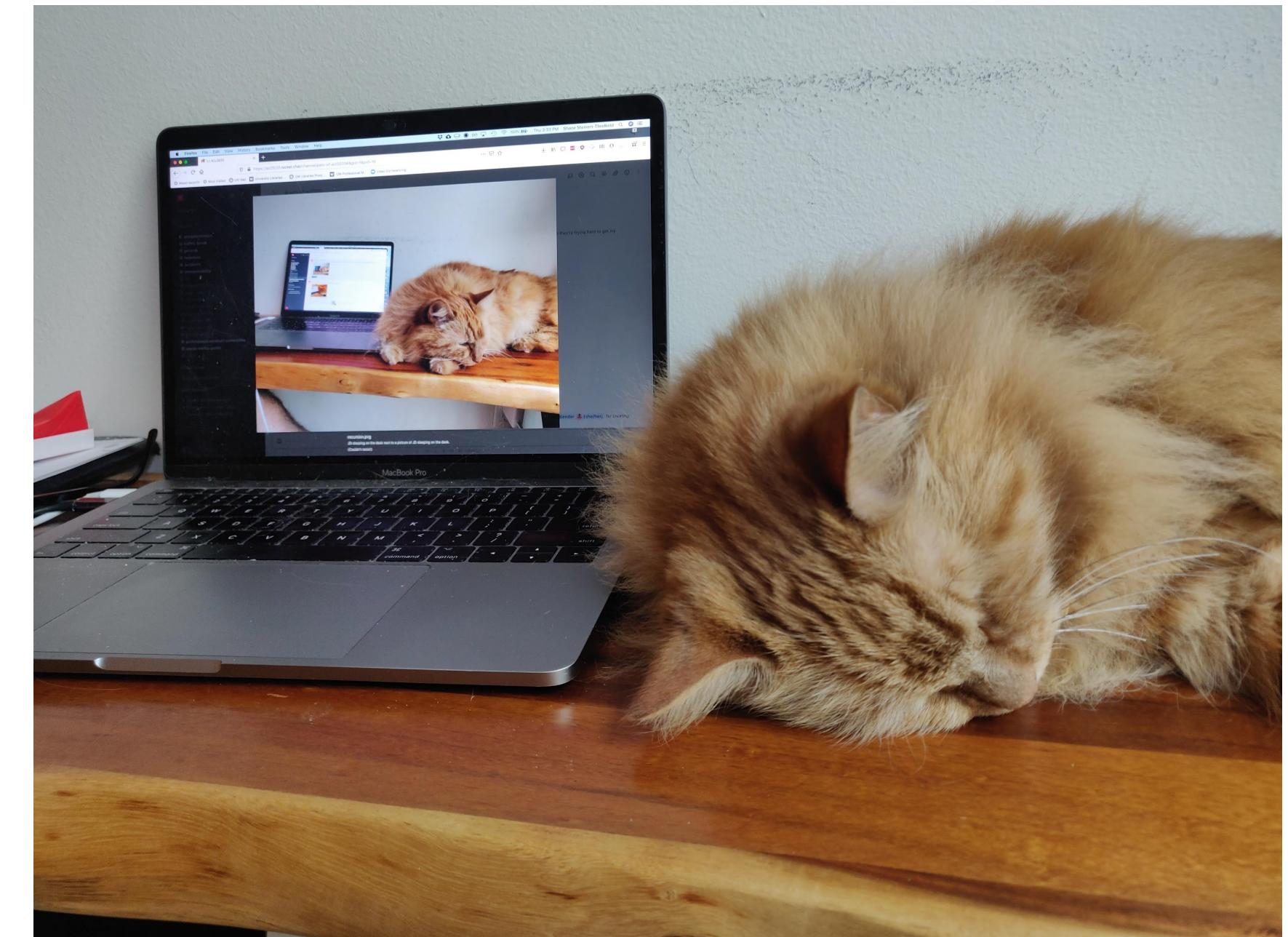
Recursion

- Many grammars have recursive rules
 - $S \rightarrow S \text{ Conj } S$



Recursion

- Many grammars have recursive rules
 - $S \rightarrow S \text{ Conj } S$
- In search approaches, recursion is problematic
 - Can yield infinite searches
 - Top-down especially vulnerable



Roadmap

- Parsing-as-Search
- Parsing Challenges
- **Strategy: Dynamic Programming**
- Grammar Equivalence
- CKY parsing algorithm

Dynamic Programming

- Challenge:
 - Repeated substructure → Repeated Work

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- Insight:
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 - Can record these sub-parses and re-use

Dynamic Programming

- Challenge:
 - Repeated substructure → Repeated Work
- Insight:
 - Global parse composed of sub-parses
 - Can record these sub-parses and re-use
- Dynamic programming avoids repeated work by recording the subproblems
 - Here, stores subtrees

Parsing with Dynamic Programming

- Avoids repeated work
- Allows implementation of (relatively) efficient parsing algorithms
 - Polynomial time in input length
 - Typically cubic (n^3) or less

Parsing with Dynamic Programming

- Avoids repeated work
- Allows implementation of (relatively) efficient parsing algorithms
 - Polynomial time in input length
 - Typically cubic (n^3) or less
- Several different implementations
 - Cocke-Kasami-Younger (CKY) algorithm
 - Earley algorithm
 - Chart parsing

Roadmap

- Parsing-as-Search
- Parsing Challenges
- Strategy: Dynamic Programming
- **Grammar Equivalence**
- CKY parsing algorithm

Grammar Equivalence and Form

- *Weak* Equivalence
 - **Accepts** same language
 - May produce **different** structures
- *Strong* Equivalence
 - Accepts same language
 - Produces **same** structures

Grammar Equivalence and Form

Grammar Equivalence and Form

- Reason?
 - We can create a weakly-equivalent grammar that allows for greater efficiency
 - This is required by the CKY algorithm

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Required by CKY Algorithm

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- All productions are of the form:
 - $A \rightarrow BC$
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 - $S \rightarrow Wh\text{-}NP\ Aux\ NP\ VP$

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Required by CKY Algorithm
- All productions are of the form:
 - $A \rightarrow BC$
 - $A \rightarrow a$
- Most of our grammars are not of this form:
 - $S \rightarrow Wh-NP\ Aux\ NP\ VP$
- Need a general conversion procedure

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF)

- Weak equivalence: for every CFG G , there is a weakly equivalent CNF grammar G' .
- i.e.: there is a grammar G' in CNF s.t. $L(G) = L(G')$.

CNF Conversion

Hybrid productions:

$\text{INF-VP} \rightarrow \text{to VP}$

Unit productions:

$A \rightarrow B$

Long productions:

$A \rightarrow B C D \dots$

CNF Conversion: Hybrid Productions

- Hybrid production:
 - Replace all terminals with dummy non-terminal
 - $INF\text{-}VP \rightarrow \mathbf{to} \ VP$
 - $INF\text{-}VP \rightarrow TO \ VP$
 - $TO \rightarrow \mathbf{to}$

CNF Conversion: Unit Productions

- Unit productions:
 - Rewrite RHS with RHS of all derivable, non-unit productions
 - If $A \xrightarrow{*} B$ and $B \rightarrow \gamma$, **add** $A \rightarrow \gamma$ [where γ is any non-unit RHS]
 - [$A \xrightarrow{*} B$: B is reachable from A by a sequence of unit productions]
- $Nominal \rightarrow Noun$, $Noun \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$
 - $Nominal \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$
 - $Noun \rightarrow \mathbf{dog}$
- NB: this example has γ as a single terminal, but the rule applies to all non-unit RHS.

CNF Conversion: Long Productions

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- Long productions

$$S \rightarrow Aux \ NP \ VP$$

CNF Conversion: Long Productions

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$$S \rightarrow Aux \ NP \ VP$$
$$S \rightarrow \textcolor{red}{X1} \ VP \quad \textcolor{red}{X1} \rightarrow Aux \ NP$$

CNF Conversion: Long Productions

- Long productions

$$S \rightarrow Aux \ NP \ VP$$
$$S \rightarrow X1 \ VP \quad X1 \rightarrow Aux \ NP$$

- Introduce unique nonterminals, and spread over rules

CNF Conversion

Convert terminals in hybrid rules to dummy non-terminals

Convert unit productions

Binarize long production rules

\mathcal{L}_1 Grammar

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow Aux NP VP$

$S \rightarrow VP$

$NP \rightarrow Pronoun$

$NP \rightarrow Proper-Noun$

$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$

$Nominal \rightarrow Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP PP$

$VP \rightarrow Verb PP$

$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

$PP \rightarrow Preposition NP$

\mathcal{L}_1 in CNF

$S \rightarrow NP VP$

$S \rightarrow X1 VP$

$X1 \rightarrow Aux NP$

$S \rightarrow book \mid include \mid prefer$

$S \rightarrow Verb NP$

$S \rightarrow X2 PP$

$S \rightarrow Verb PP$

$S \rightarrow VP PP$

$NP \rightarrow I \mid she \mid me$

$NP \rightarrow TWA \mid Houston$

$NP \rightarrow Det Nominal$

$Nominal \rightarrow book \mid flight \mid meal \mid money$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal Noun$

$Nominal \rightarrow Nominal PP$

$VP \rightarrow book \mid include \mid prefer$

$VP \rightarrow Verb NP$

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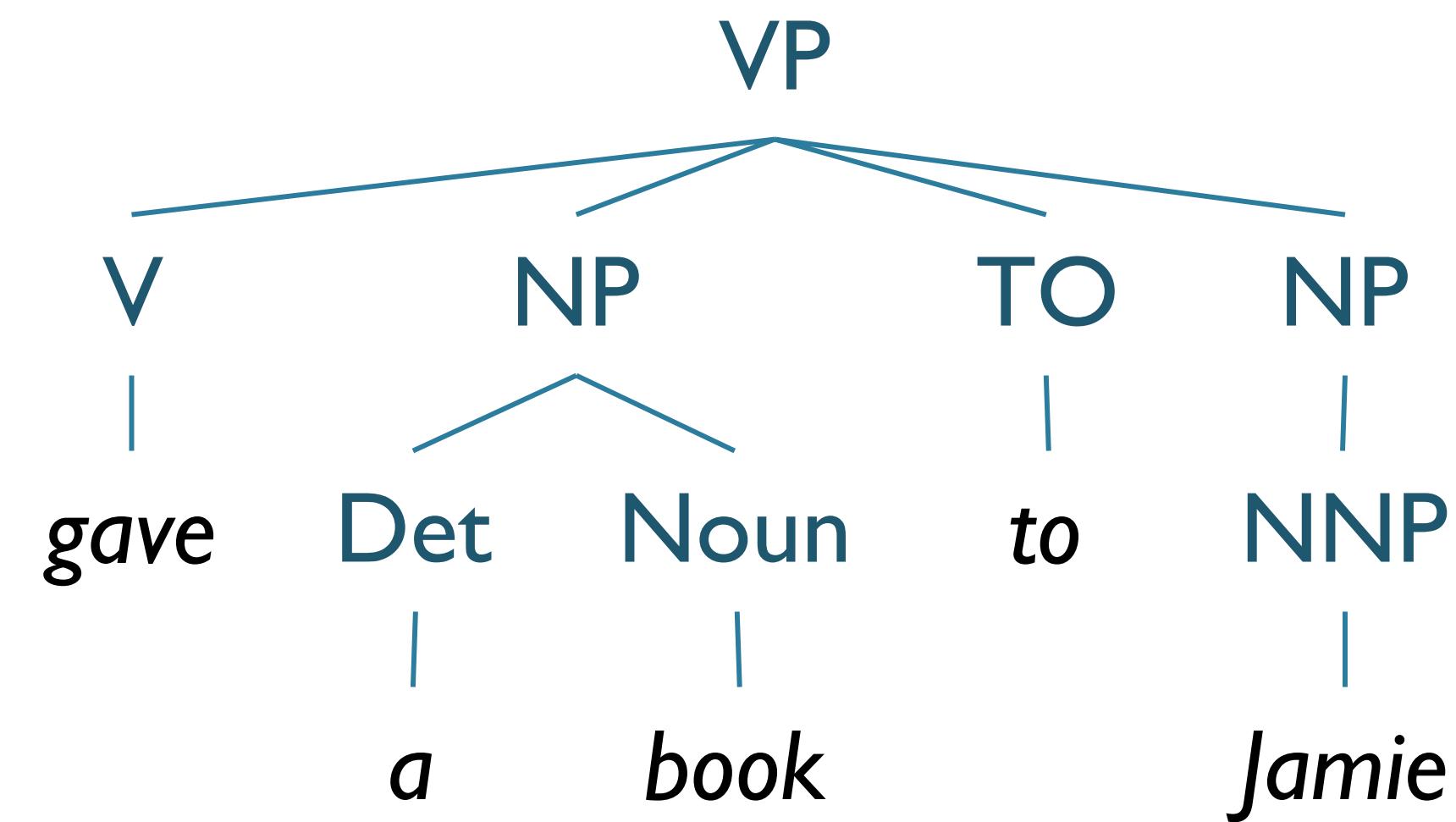
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$

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Variation in CNF: Binarization

Original Rule

$VP \rightarrow V \ NP \ TO \ NP$



Variation in CNF: Binarization

Original Rule

$$VP \rightarrow V \ NP \ TO \ NP$$

Left to Right Reduction

$$VP \rightarrow X1 \ TO \ NP$$

$$VP \rightarrow X2 \ NP$$

$$X1 \rightarrow V \ NP$$

$$X2 \rightarrow X1 \ TO$$

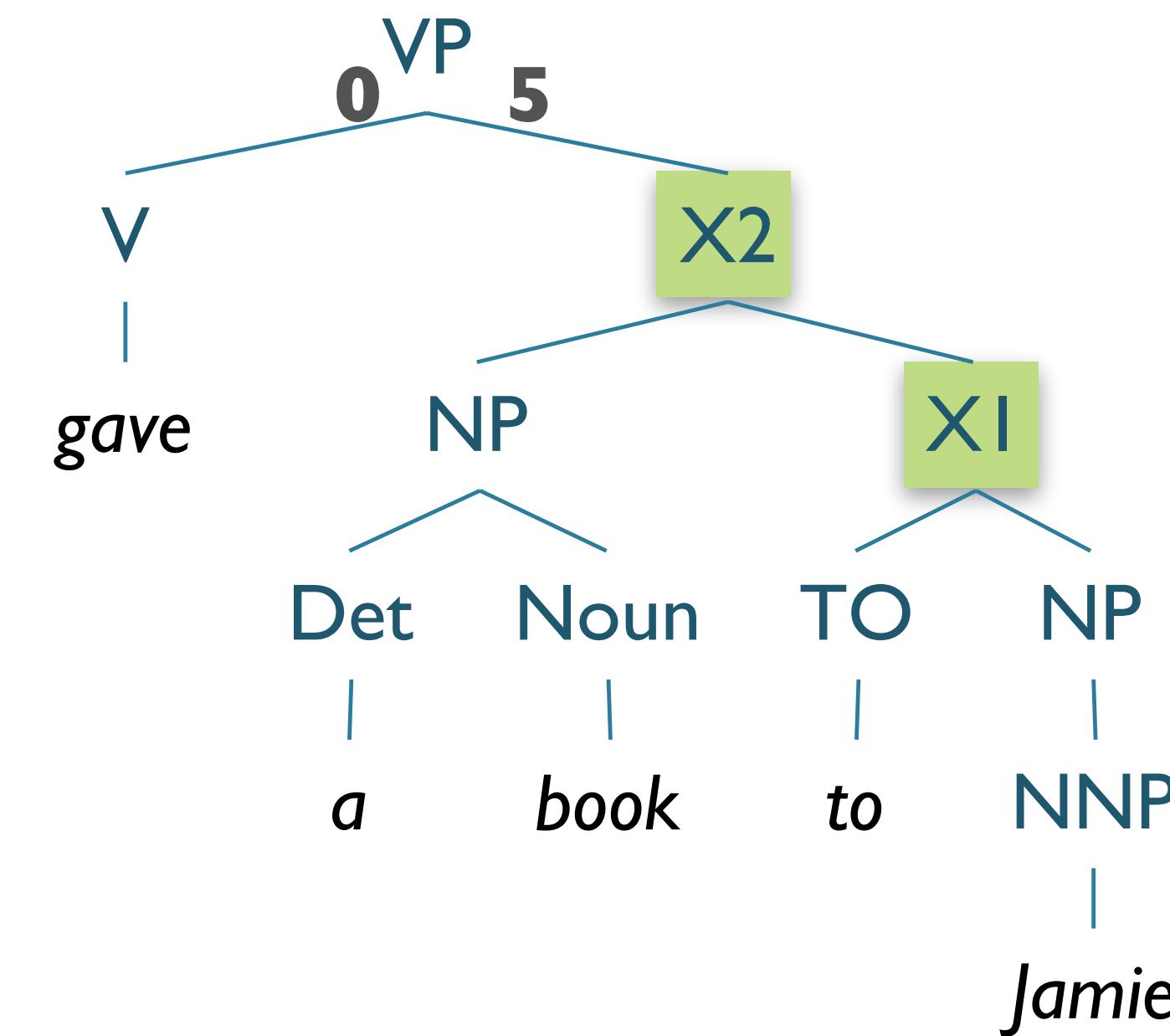
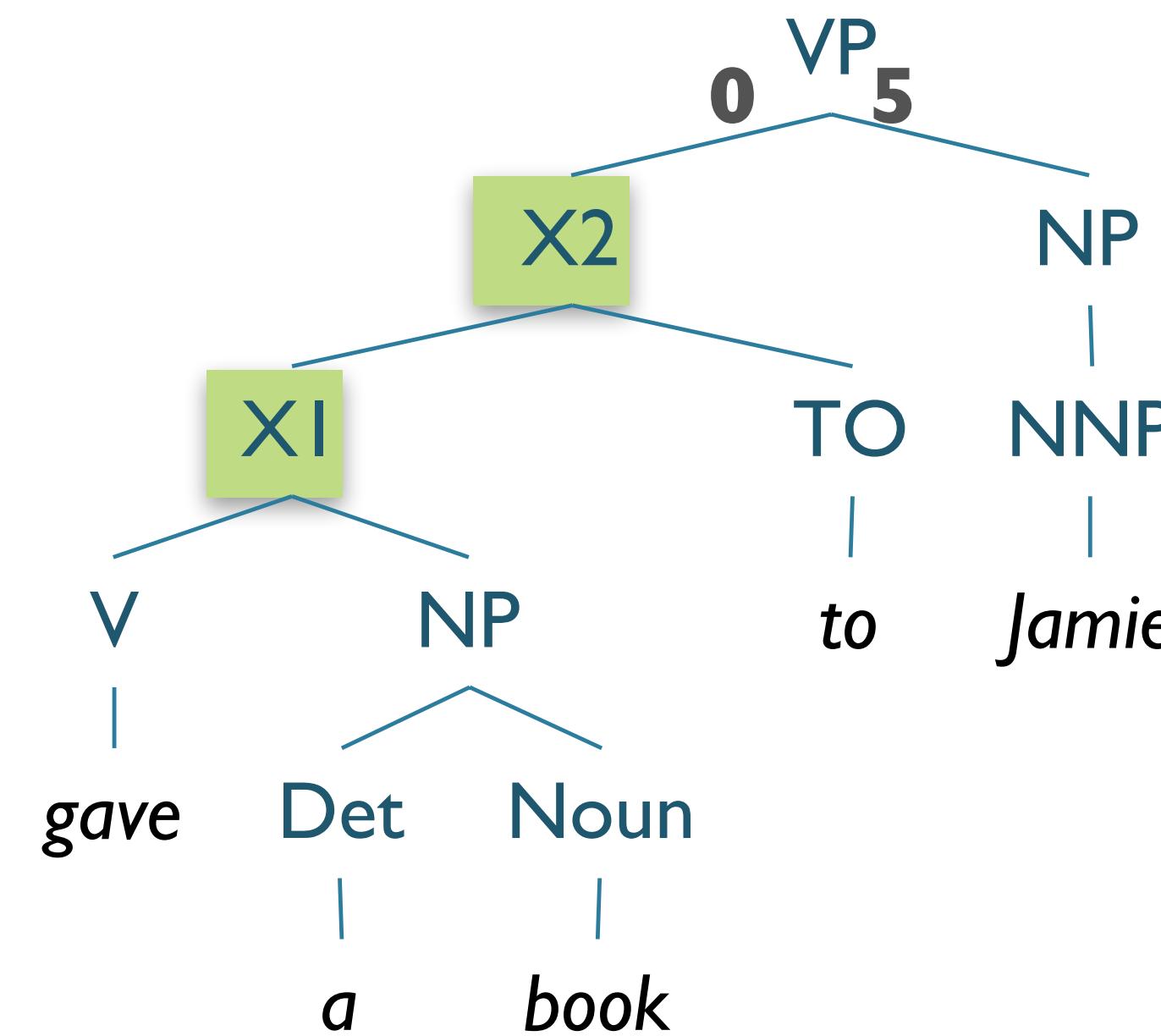
Right to Left Reduction

$$VP \rightarrow V \ NP \ X1$$

$$VP \rightarrow V \ X2$$

$$X1 \rightarrow TO \ NP$$

$$X2 \rightarrow NP \ X1$$



Roadmap

- Parsing-as-Search
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CKY Parsing

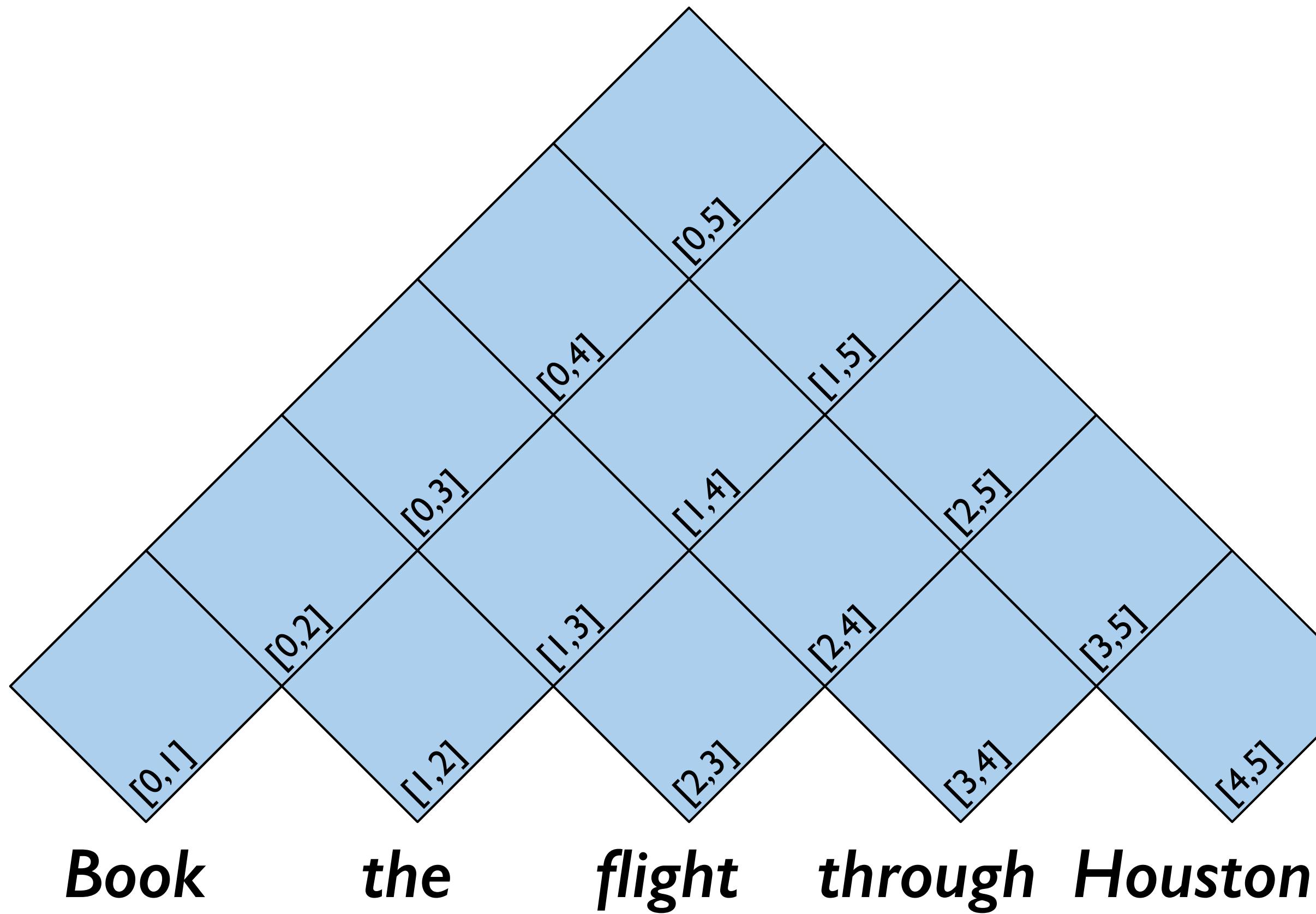
- (Relatively) efficient parsing algorithm
- Based on tabulating substring parses to avoid repeat work
- Approach:
 - Use CNF Grammar
 - Build an $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$ matrix to store subtrees
 - Upper triangular portion
 - Incrementally build parse spanning whole input string

CKY Matrix

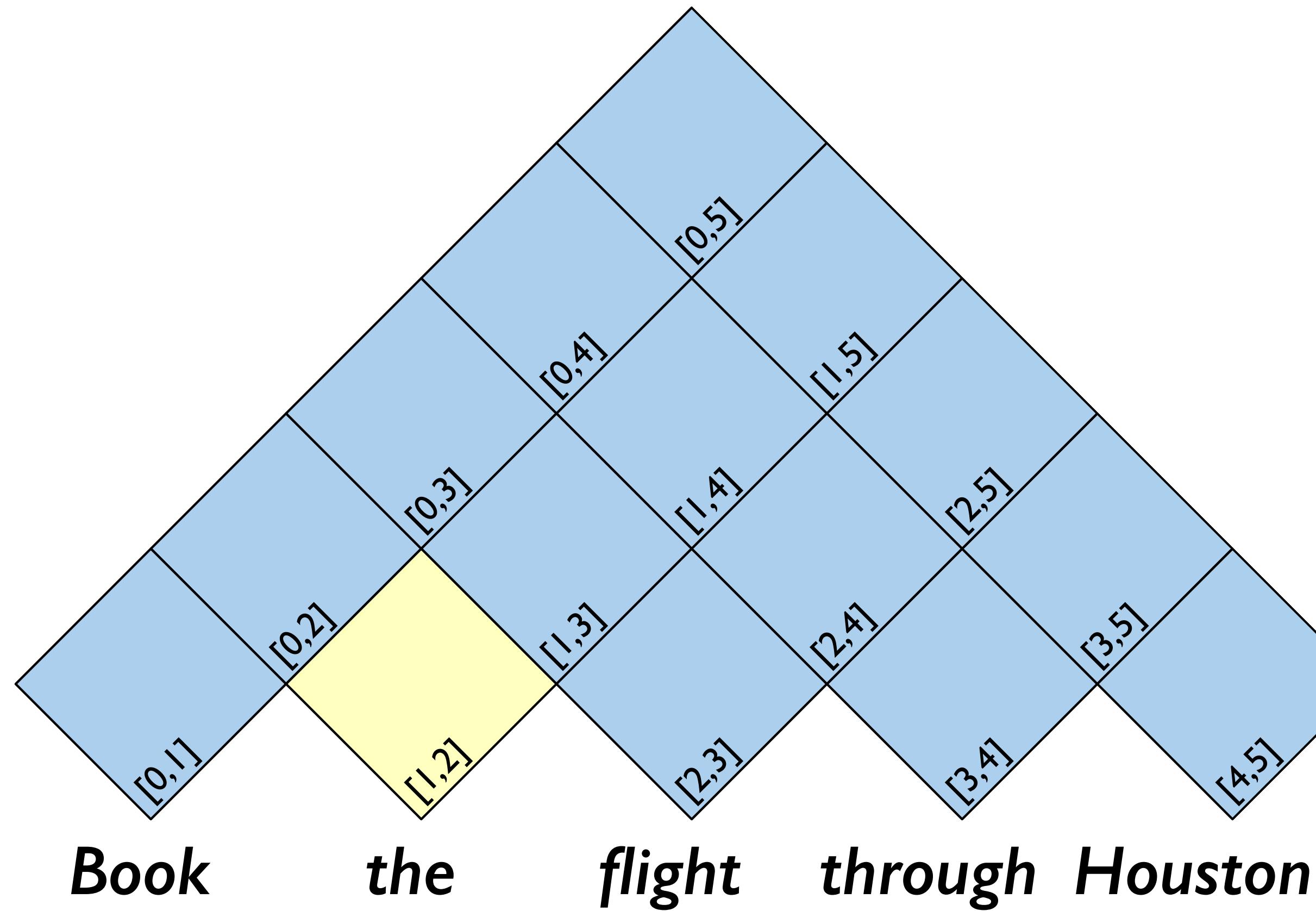
Book the flight through Houston

[0,1]	[0,2]	[0,3]	[0,4]	[0,5]
	[1,2]	[1,3]	[1,4]	[1,5]
		[2,3]	[2,4]	[2,5]
			[3,4]	[3,5]
				[4,5]

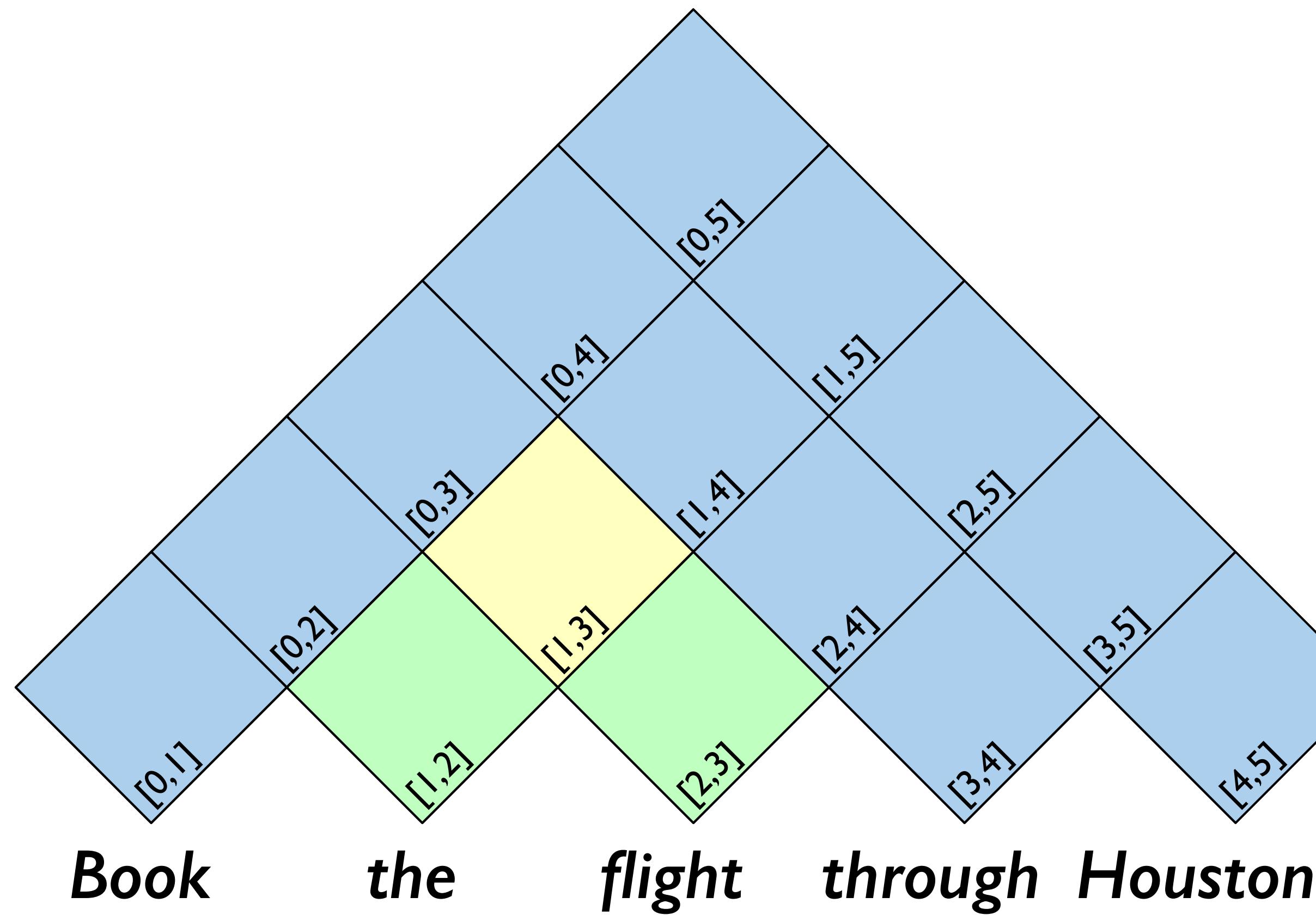
CKY Matrix



CKY Matrix



CKY Matrix



Dynamic Programming in CKY

- Key idea:
 - for $i < k < j$
 - ...and a parse spanning substring $[i, j]$
 - There is a k such that there are parses spanning $[i, k]$ and $[k, j]$
 - We can construct parses for whole sentences by building from these partial parses
- So to have a rule $A \rightarrow B C$ in $[i, j]$
 - Must have B in $[i, k]$ and C in $[k, j]$ for some $i < k < j$
 - CNF forces this for all $j > i + 1$