Discourse and Coreference

LING 571 — Deep Processing Methods in NLP
November 20, 2019
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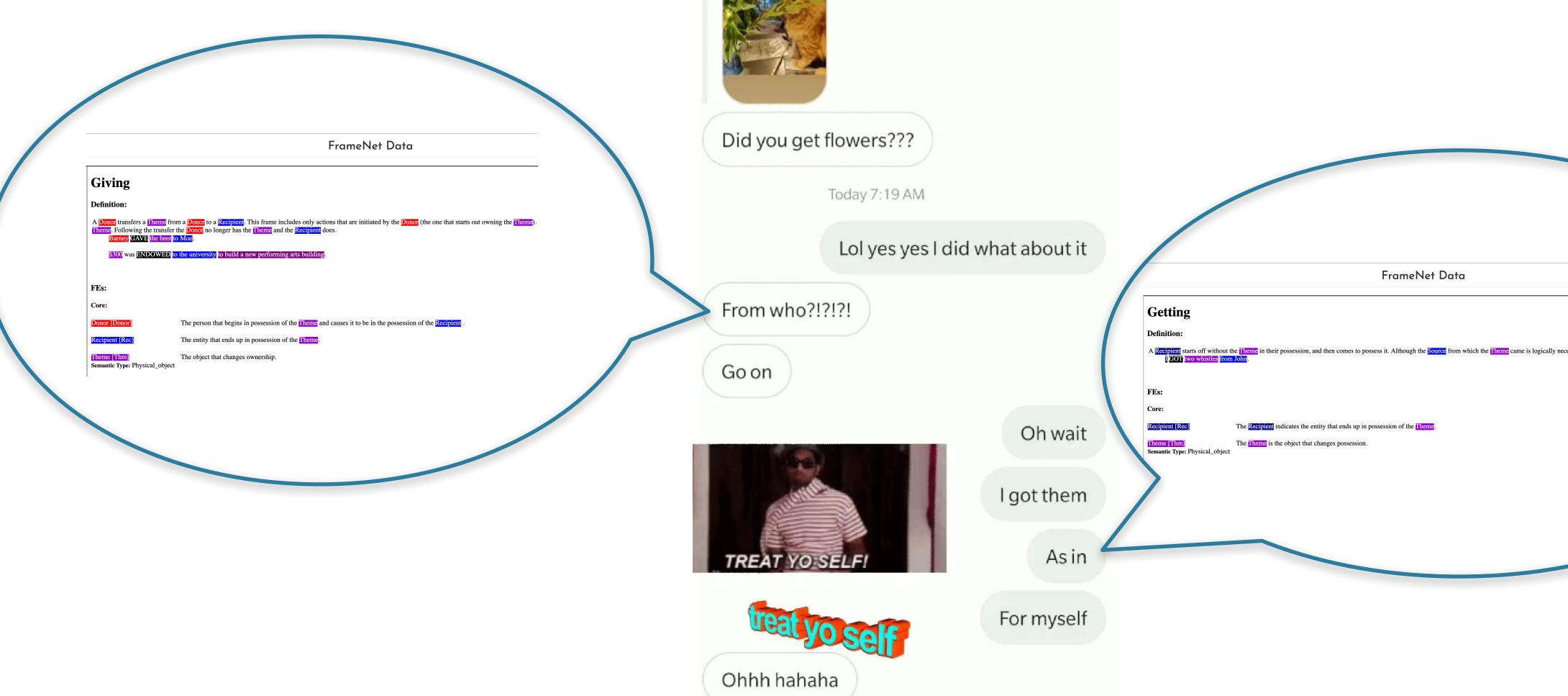
Clarification

- In pseudocode from Monday:
 - incrementing support is done after determination of MI-LCS
 - In other words: each probe *word* only increments support for one sense of the target word.

Alternative Resnik WSD Pseudocode

```
Given: input word w_0 and probe words \{p_1,...,p_n\}
for p_i in \{p_1,...,p_n\}:
  supported sense = null
  most information = 0.0
  for sense_w in Senses(w_0):
    for sense_p in Senses(p_i):
        lcs_{synset} = LowestCommonSubsumer(sense_w, sense_p)
        lcs_{info} = InformationContent(lcs_{synset})
        if lcs_{info} > most information:
           most information = lcs_{info}
           supported_sense = sensew
  increment support[supported sense] by most information
```

Ambiguity of the Week



Amazing

Roadmap

- Introduction to Discourse
- Coreference Resolution
 - Phenomena
 - Pronominal Anaphora Resolution
 - Hobbs' Algorithm

Introduction to Discourse

What is Discourse?

• Discourse is "a coherent structured group of sentences." (J&M p. 681)

- Discourse is language in situ
 - rather than synthetic, isolated sentences.
 - language use toward a goal

Different Parameters of Discourse

- Number of participants
 - Single author/voice → Monologue
 - Multiple participants → Dialogue
- Modality
 - Spoken vs. Written
- Goals
 - Transactional (message passing) vs. Interactional (relations, attitudes)
 - Cooperative task-oriented rational interaction

Why Discourse?

- Understanding depends on context
 - Word sense plant
 - Intention Do you have the time?
 - Referring expressions it, that, the screen
 - Domain restriction "All of the students read the announcement."

Why Discourse?

- Applications: Discourse in NLP
 - Question-Answering
 - Information Retrieval
 - Summarization
 - Dialogue / Conversational Al
 - Automatic Essay Grading

Reference Resolution

- Knowledge sources:
 - Domain Knowledge
 - Discourse Knowledge
 - World Knowledge

User: Where is A Bug's Life playing in Summit?

System: A Bug's Life is playing at the Summit Theater.

User: When is it playing there?

System: It's playing at 2PM, 5PM, and 8PM.

User: I'd like I adult and 2 children for the first show. How much would that cost?

Not All Sentences Are Created Equal

- First Union Corp. is continuing to wrestle with severe problems.^[1]
 According to industry insiders at PW, their president, John R. Georgius, is planning to announce his retirement tomorrow.^[2]
- Summary:
 - First Union President John R. Georgius is planning to announce his retirement tomorrow.
- Inter-sentence coherence relations:
 - Second sentence: main concept (nucleus)
 - First sentence: background

Coherence Relations

John hid Bill's car keys. He was drunk. John hid Bill's car keys. He likes spir h.

- Why is this odd?
 - No obvious relation between sentences
 - Breaks our assumption as readers that information presented in discourse is relevant
- How is the first pair related?
 - statment explanation/cause
- Assumption: utterances should have meaningful connection
 - Establish through coherence relations

Coherence Relations

John hid Bill's car keys. He was drunk. John hid Bill's car keys. He likes sinach.

Assumption

- Segments of discourse should have meaningful connection.
- Establish through coherence relations

Discourse: Looking Ahead

Coreference

Cohesion

Coherence

Structure / Segmentation

Coreference Resolution

Reference: Terminology

- referring expression: (refexp)
 - An expression that picks out entity (*referent*) in some knowledge model
 - Referring expressions used for the same entity corefer
 - Queen Elizabeth, her, the Queen
 - Logue, a renowned speech therapist
 - Entities in purple do not corefer to anything.

Queen Elizabeth set about transforming her husband, King George VI, into a viable monarch. Logue, a renowned speech therapist, was summoned to help the King overcome his speech impediment.

Reference: Terminology

• Antecedent:

- An expression that introduces an item to the discourse for other items to refer back to
- Queen Elizabeth... her

Queen Elizabeth set about transforming her husband, King George VI, into a viable monarch. Logue, a renowned speech therapist, was summoned to help the King overcome his speech impediment.

Reference: Terminology

- Anaphora: An expression that refers back to a previously introduced entity.
 - cataphora: Introduction of expression before referent:
 - "Even before she saw it, Dorothy had been thinking about..."

*Not all anaphora is referential! e.g. "No dancer hurt their knee."

Queen Elizabeth set about transforming her husband, King George VI, into a viable monarch. Logue, a renowned speech therapist, was summoned to help the King overcome his speech impediment.

Referring Expressions

- Many forms:
 - Queen Elizabeth
 - she/her
 - the Queen
 - HRM
 - the British Monarch

Referring Expressions

Queen Elizabeth – she/her – the Queen – HRM – the British Monarch

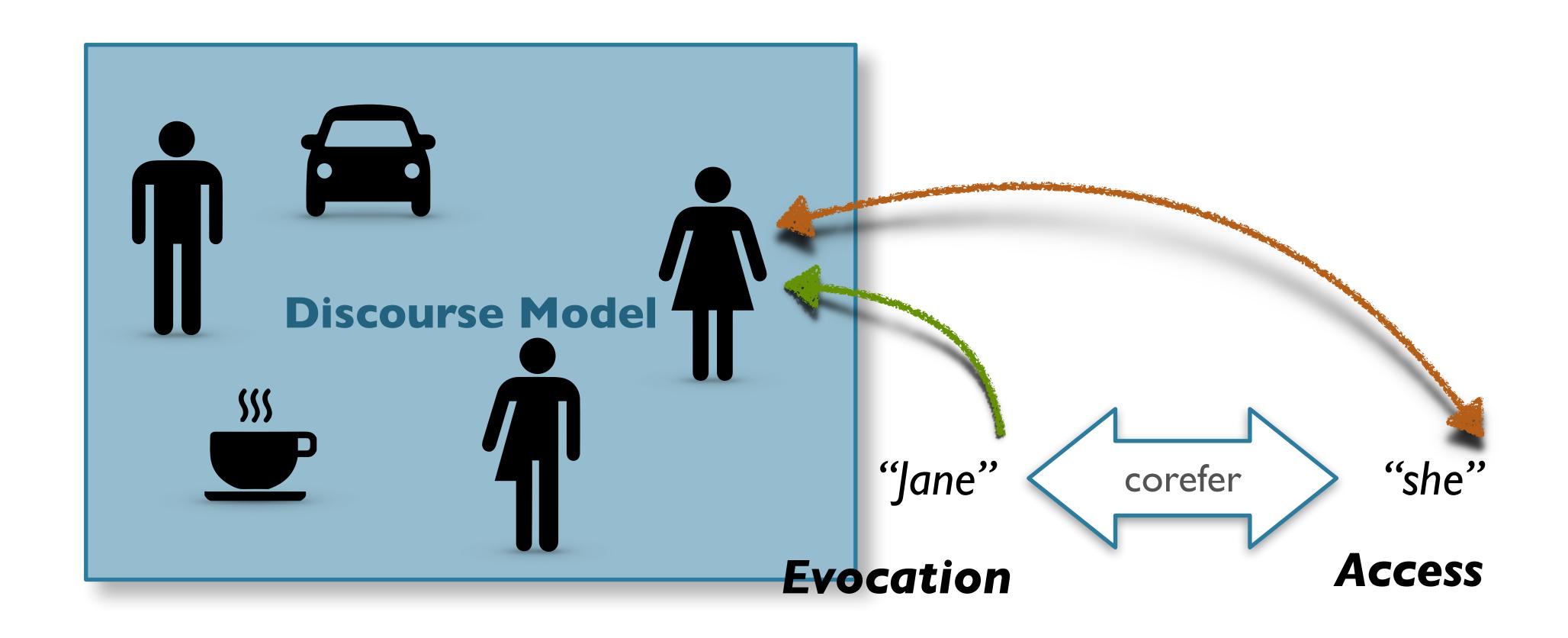
- "Correct" form depends on discourse context
 - she, her presume prior mention or presence in the world
 - the Queen presumes an Anglocentric geopolitical discourse context generally or the UK (or British Commonwealth) specifically

(...i.e. likely a different interpretation during a RPDR viewing party.)

Discourse Model

- Correct interpretation of reference requires Discourse Model
 - Entities referred to in the discourse
 - Relationships of these entities
- Need way to construct, update model
 - First mention of entity evokes entity into model
 - ["introduces a discourse referent (dref)"]
 - Subsequent mentions access entity from the model.

Reference and Model



Reference Tasks

Coreference resolution:

- Find all expressions referring to the same entity in a text.
- A set of coreferring expressions is a coreference chain.

Pronomial anaphora resolution:

- Find antecedent for a single pronoun.
- Subtask of coreference resolution

Pronominal Anaphora Resolution

Reference Phenomena

Expression Type	Examples	Constraints
Indefinite NP	"a cat", "some geese"	Introduces new entity to context
Definite NP	"the dog"	Refers to entity identifiable by hearer in context
Pronouns	"he," "them," "they"	Refers to entity, must be "salient"
Demonstratives	"this," "that"	Refers to entity, sense of distance (literal/figurative)
Names	"Dr. Woodhouse," "IBM"	New or old entities

Reference Phenomena: Activation/Salience

- a) John went to Erin's party, and parked next to a classic Ford Falcon.
- b) He went inside and talked to Erin for more than an hour.
- c) Erin told him that she recently got engaged.
- d) ?? She also said that she bought it yesterday.
 - e) She also said that she bought the Falcon yesterday.

- d) is problematic because the Falcon has lost its salience.
- e) is acceptable because the definite NP has a further range for salience.

Information Status

- Some expressions introduce new information (ex: indefinite NPs)
- Other expressions refer to previous referents (ex: Pronouns)
- "Givenness hierarchy" (Gundel et al. 1993)

```
in focus > activated > familiar > identifiable > referential > identifiable
it this that that
this N
```

Information Status

- Accessibility scale: (Ariel, 2001)
 - More salient elements easier to call up, can be shorter
 - correlates with length: more accessible, shorter refexp

```
Full name+modifier
            ↓full name
     ↓long definite description
    $\diamsleft$ short definite description
            ↓last name
            ↓first name
  $\distal demonstrative+modifier
↓ proximate demonstrative+modifier
     ↓distal demonstrative+NP
  ↓proximate demonstrative+NP
    ↓distal demonstrative(-NP)
 ↓proximate demonstrative (-NP)
    ↓stressed pronoun+gesture
        ↓stressed pronoun
       ↓unstressed pronoun
        ↓ cliticized pronoun
     ↓verbal person inflections
```

Complicating Factors

Inferrables

- refexp refers to inferentially related entity:
- I bought a car today, but a door had a dent, and the engine was noisy.
 - a door, the engine ∈ a car

• Generics:

- I want to buy a Jaguar. They are very stylish.
- General group evoked by instance.

Non-referential cases:

- It's raining. (Pleonasm)
- It was good that Frodo carried the ring. (Extraposition)

Features for Anaphora Resolution: Constraints

- Number:
 - Anjali has a Corvette. *They are red. It is red.
- Person:
 - 1st: I, we 2nd: you, y'all 3rd: he, she, it, they
- Gender:
 - Janae plays the guitar. She sounds great.
 - Janae plays the guitar. It sounds great.

Features for Anaphora Resolution: Constraints

Binding Theory

- How to handle reflexive pronouns vs. nonreflexives
 - Aaron bought themself a new car.
 - Aaron bought them a new car.
 [them ≠ Aaron]
 - Jen said that Imani bought herself a new car. [herself = Imani]
 - Jen said that Imani bought her a new car. [her ≠ Imani]
 - He₁ said that he₂ bought Willie a new car. [He₁ ≠ Willie, he₂ ≠ Willie]
- Pronoun/Def. NP: can't corefer with subject of clause
 - Reflexives do corefer with subject of containing clause

Features for Anaphora Resolution: Preferences

• Recency:

- Prefer closer antecedents.
- The doctor found an old map in the captain's chest. Jim found an even older map on the shelf. It described an island.

Grammatical role:

- Saliency hierarchy of roles
- e.g. Subj > Object > Ind. Object > Oblique > AdvP
 - Billy Bones went to the bar with Jim Hawkins.
 - Jim Hawkins went to the bar with Billy Bones.

He called for a glass of rum.

He called for a glass of rum.

Features for Anaphora Resolution: Preferences

Repeated Mention:

- Once entity is focused, likely to continue to be focused → more likely pronomialized.
 - Billy Bones had been thinking of a glass of rum. He hobbled over to the bar. Jim Hawkins went with him. He called for a glass of rum.

Parallelism:

- Prefer entity in same role.
- Silver went with Jim to the bar. Billy Bones went with him to the inn.

Features for Anaphora Resolution: Preferences

Verb Semantics

Some verbs semantically bias for one of their argument positions.

John telephoned Bill. He had lost the laptop.

John criticized Bill. He had lost the laptop.

Selectional Restrictions

- Other kinds of semantic knowledge
 - John parked his car in the garage after driving it around for hours.
 - Understood that a car has the ability to drive whereas garage does not.

Reference Resolution Approaches

- Common features:
 - Use of a "Discourse Model"
 - Referents evoked in discourse, available for reference
 - Structure indicating relative salience
 - Syntactic & Semantic Constraints
 - Syntactic & Semantic Preferences
- Differences:
 - Which constraints/preferences? How to combine? Rank?

Hobbs' Algorithm

Hobbs' Resolution Algorithm

• Requires:

- Syntactic parser
- Gender & number checker

• Input:

- Pronoun
- Parse of current and previous sentences

Captures:

- Preferences: Recency, grammatical role
- Constraints: binding theory, gender, person, number

Hobbs Algorithm

- Summary:
 - English-centric, rule-based algorithm.
 - Exploits English features of:
 - Agreement
 - Right-branching
 - SOV order
 - Inter-sententially, exploits notions of recency.

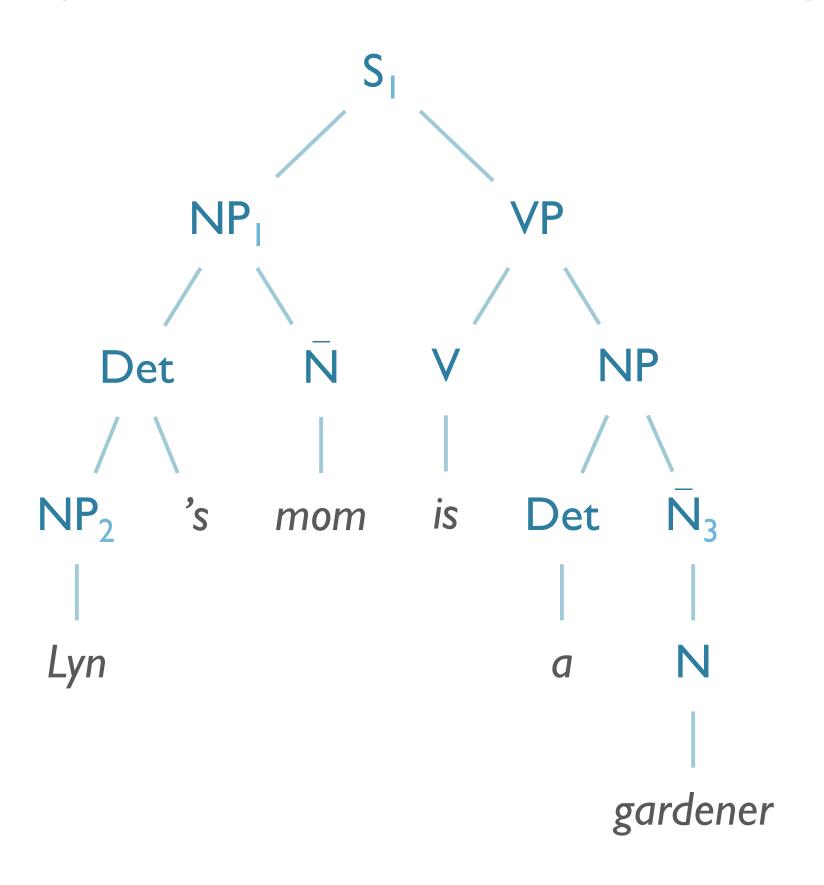
Hobbs Algorithm Detail (Hobbs, 1978)

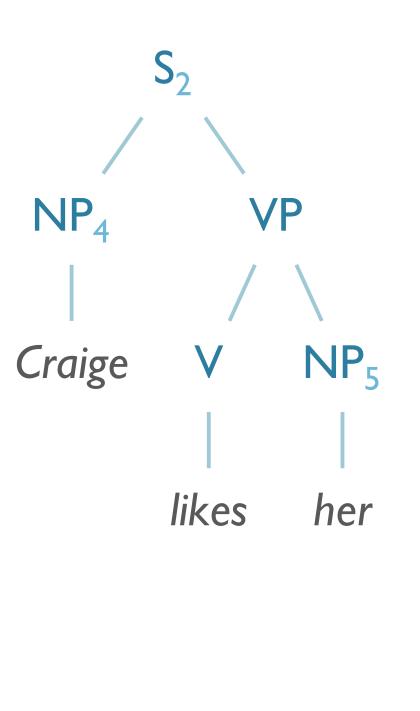
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- 2. Go up the tree to the first NP or sentence (S) node encountered. Call this node **X**, and call the path used to reach it *p*.
- 3. Traverse all branches below node **X** to the left of path *p* in a left-to-right, breadth-first fashion. Propose as the antecedent any encountered NP node that has an NP or S node between it and **X**.
- 4. If node **X** is the highest S node in the sentence, traverse the surface parse trees of previous sentences in the text in order of recency, the most recent first; each tree is traversed in a left-to-right, breadth-first manner, and when an NP node is encountered, it is proposed as antecedent. If X is not the highest S node in the sentence, continue to step 5.

Hobbs Algorithm Detail (Hobbs, 1978)

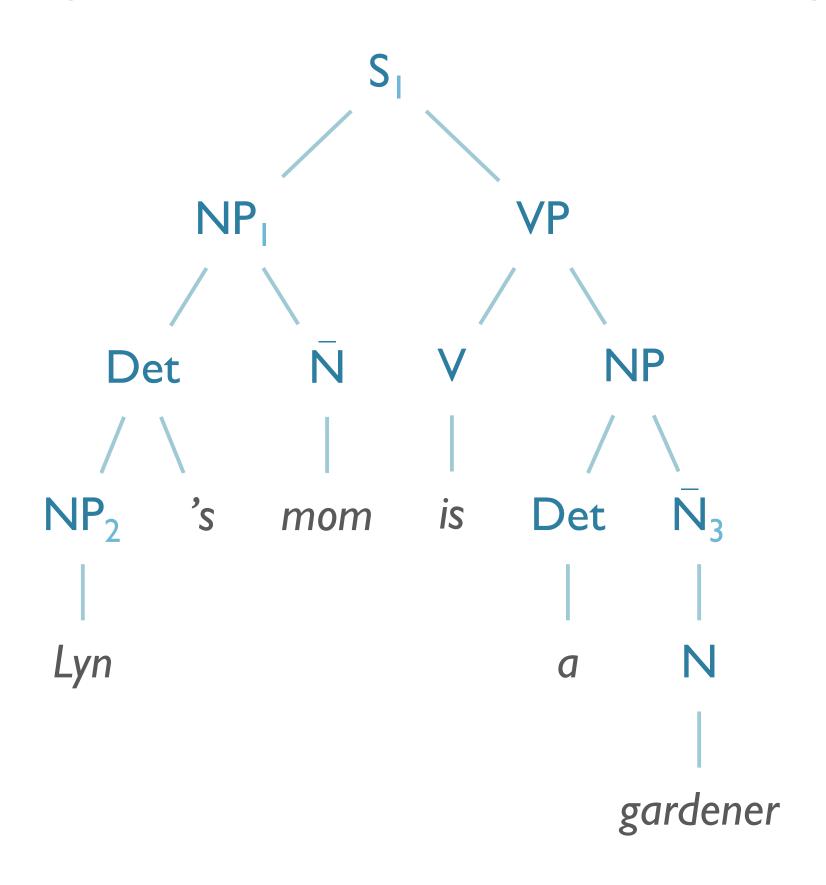
- 5. From node **X**, go up the tree to the first NP or S node encountered. Call this new node **X**, and call the path traversed to reach it *p*.
- 6. If **X** is an NP node and if the path *p* to **X** did not pass through the Nominal node that **X** immediately dominates, propose **X** as the antecedent.
- 7. Traverse all branches below node **X** to the *left* of path *p* in a left-to-right, breadth-first manner. Propose any NP node encountered as the antecedent.
- 8. If **X** is an S node, traverse all branches of node **X** to the *right* of path *p* in a left-to-right, breadth-first manner, but do not go below any NP or S node encountered. Propose any NP node encountered as the antecedent.
- 9. Go to step 4.

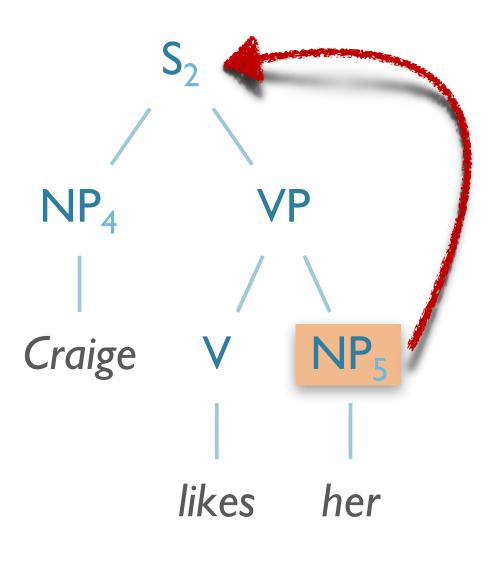
Lyn's mom is a gardener.



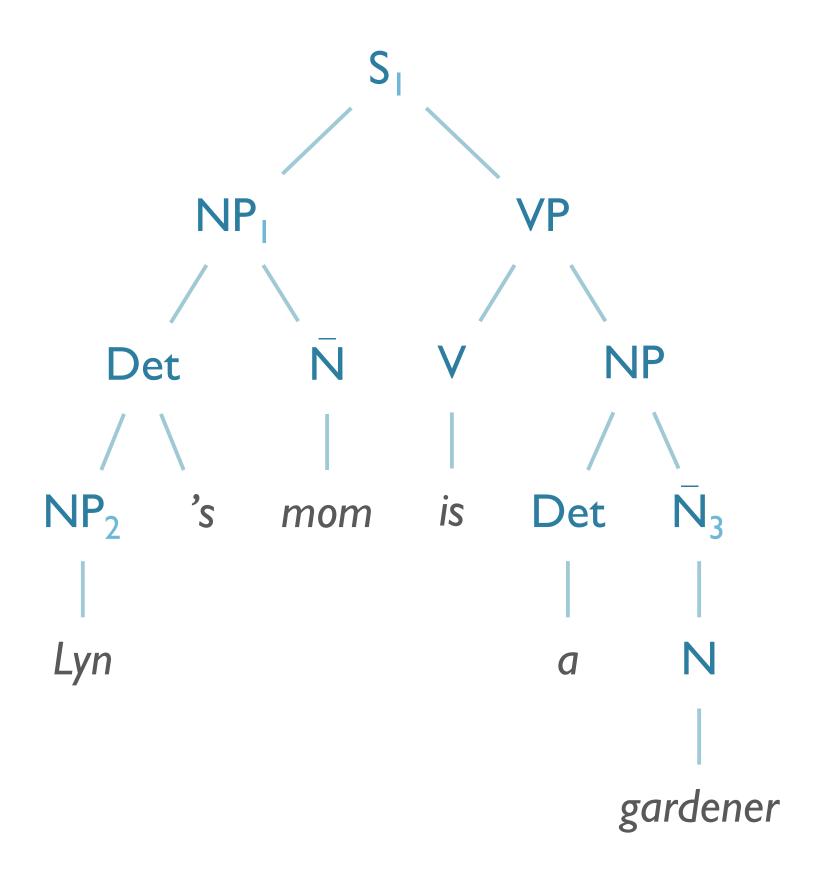


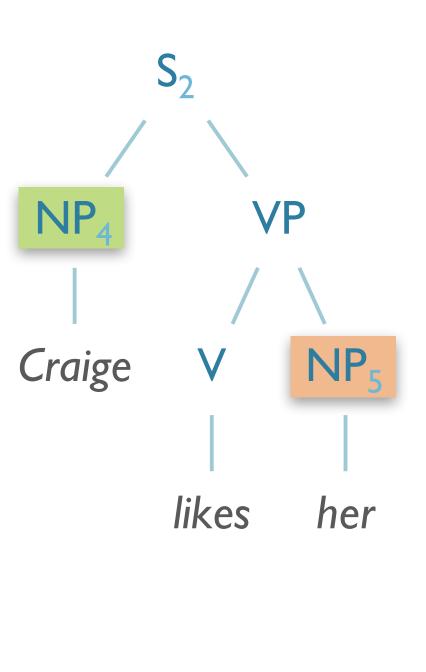
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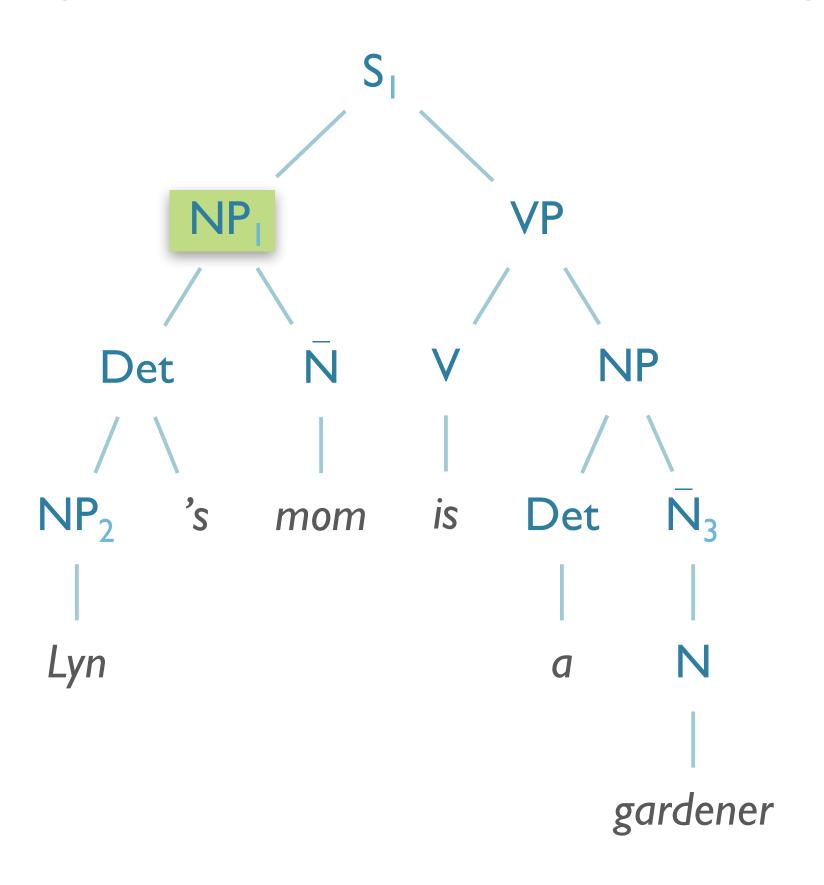


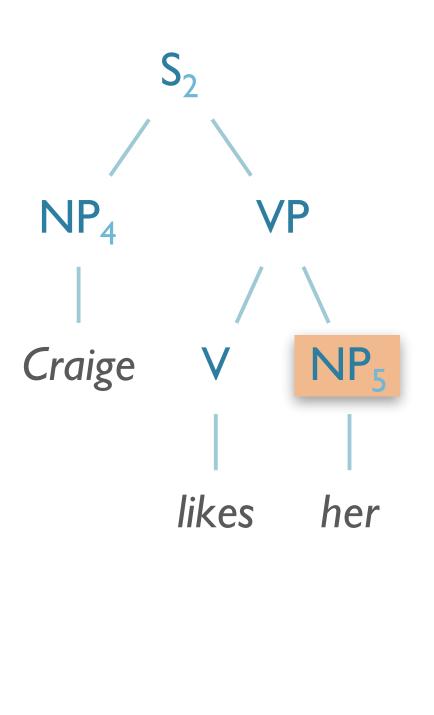
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Lyn's mom is a gardener.

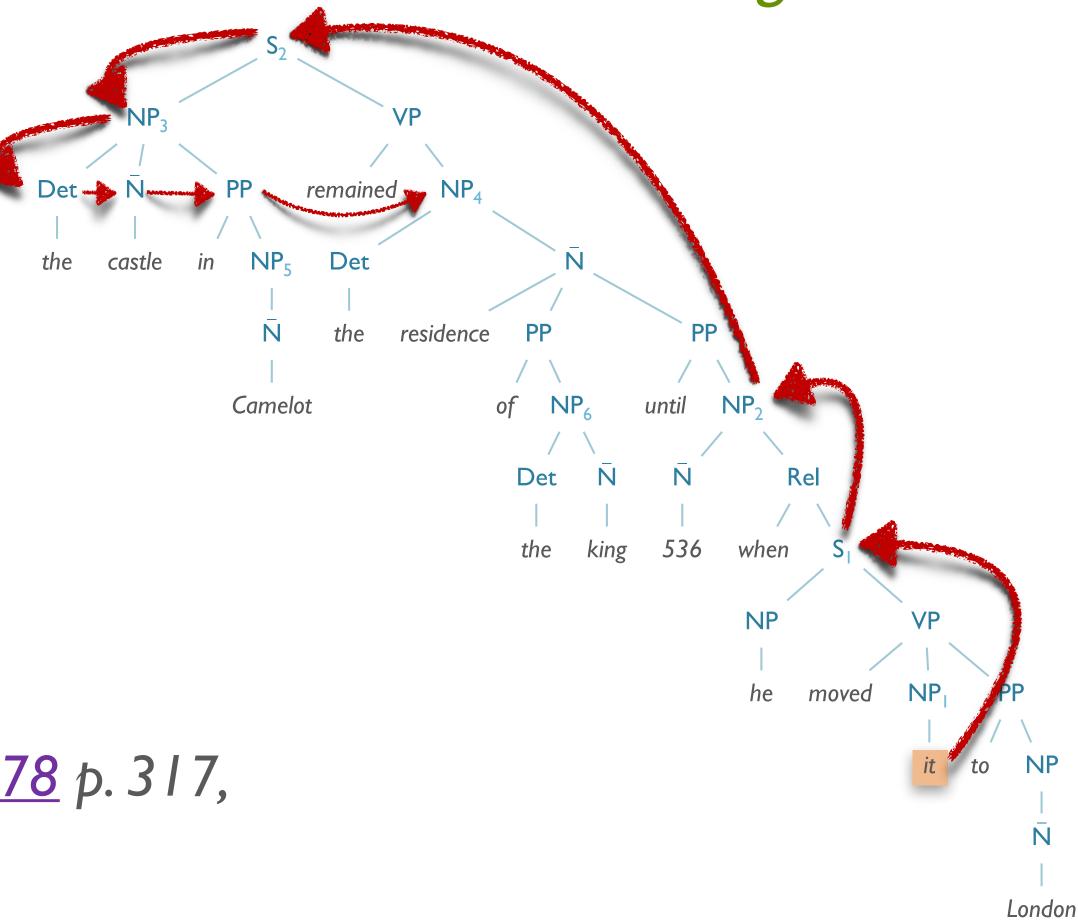




Another Hobbs Example

...the castle in Camelot remained the residence of the king until 536 when

he moved it to London.



for full walkthrough see <u>Hobbs</u>, <u>1978</u> p. 317, and the end of today's slides

Hobbs Algorithm

- Results: 88% Accuracy; 90% intrasentential
 - ...on perfect, manually parsed sentences
- Useful baseline for evaluating pronomial anaphora
- ssues:
- Parsing:
 - Not all languages have parsers
 - Parsers not always accurate
- Constraints/Preferences:
 - Captures: Binding theory, grammatical role, recency
 - But not: parallelism, repetition, verb semantics, selection

Hobbs Algorithm

- Other issue: does not implement world knowledge
 - The city council refused the women a permit because they feared violence.
 - The city council refused the women a permit because they advocated violence.

(Winograd, 1972)*

*more on this later

 Get this reading by knowledge of city councils and permitting, and reasons why permits would be refused.

Hobbs Algorithm: A Parable

- Was actually one of the first instances in NLP where a researcher tried an informed, if "naïve" baseline
 - ...found that (in 1972) no system he could build could beat it!
- "the naïve approach is quite good. Computationally speaking, it will be a long time before a semantically based algorithm is sophisticated enough to perform as well, and these results set a very high standard for any other approach to aim for.

"Yet there is every reason to pursue a semantically based approach. The naïve algorithm does not work. Any one can think of examples where it fails. In these cases it not only fails; it gives no indication that it has failed and offers no help in finding the real antecedent." — Hobbs (1978), Lingua, p. 345

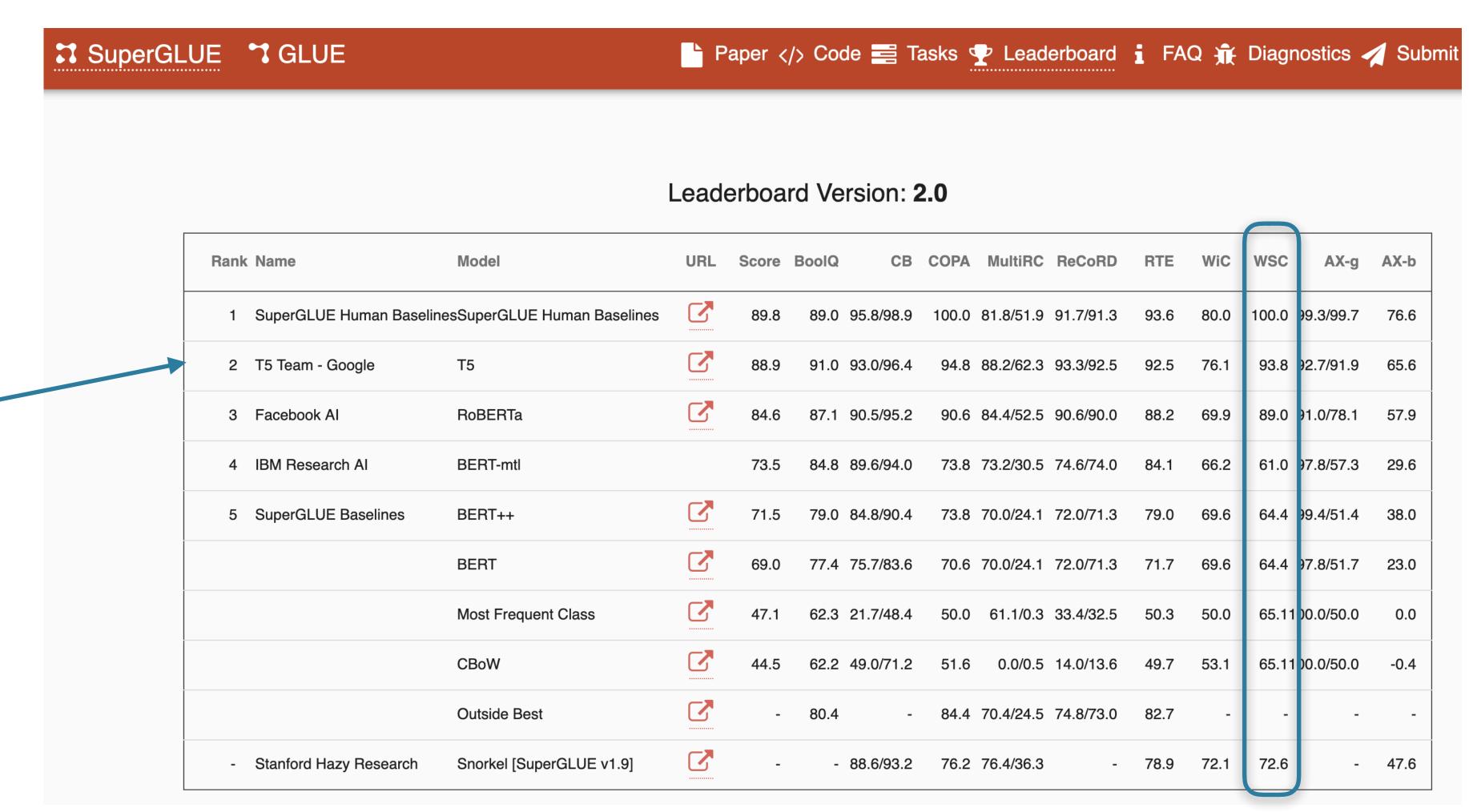
Coreference and World Knowledge

- The trophy doesn't fit into the brown suitcase because it's too [small/large]. What is too [small/large]?
 - Answers: The suitcase/the trophy.
- Joan made sure to thank Susan for all the help she had [given/received]. Who had [given/received] help?
 - Answers: Susan/Joan.
- Paul tried to call George on the phone, but he wasn't [successful/available]. Who was not [successful/available]?
 - Answers: Paul/George.
- The lawyer asked the witness a question, but he was reluctant to [answer/repeat] it. Who was reluctant to [answer/repeat] the question?
 - Answers: The witness/the lawyer.

Winograd Schema Challenge

- Still hard!
 - WSC

Heavily supervised



HW #9

Goals

- Explore the task of pronomial anaphora resolution
- Gain familiarity with syntax-based resolution techniques
- Analyze the effectiveness of the Hobbs algorithm by applying it to pairs of parsed sentences.

Task

- Given pairs of sentences (S₀, S₁) as context
 - Resolve the pronoun(s) in S₁ using the Hobbs algorithm.
 - J&M p. 704-705
- Subtasks:
 - Parsing Sentences Automatic (CKY, Earley, etc)
 - Hobbs Algorithm May be done either:
 - Manually manually mark up the output parse tree
 - Coded implement Hobbs algorithm will require feature grammar or similar for finding agreement, etc.

Notes

- For implementation
 - May use any NLTK tools for parse tree manipulation
 - ...as long as it doesn't directly implement the Hobbs algorithm!
 - May create lookup table/dictionary for agreement
- Two results files:
 - One for all parsed output
 - One for remaining manual steps
 - (Based on a copy of the first)

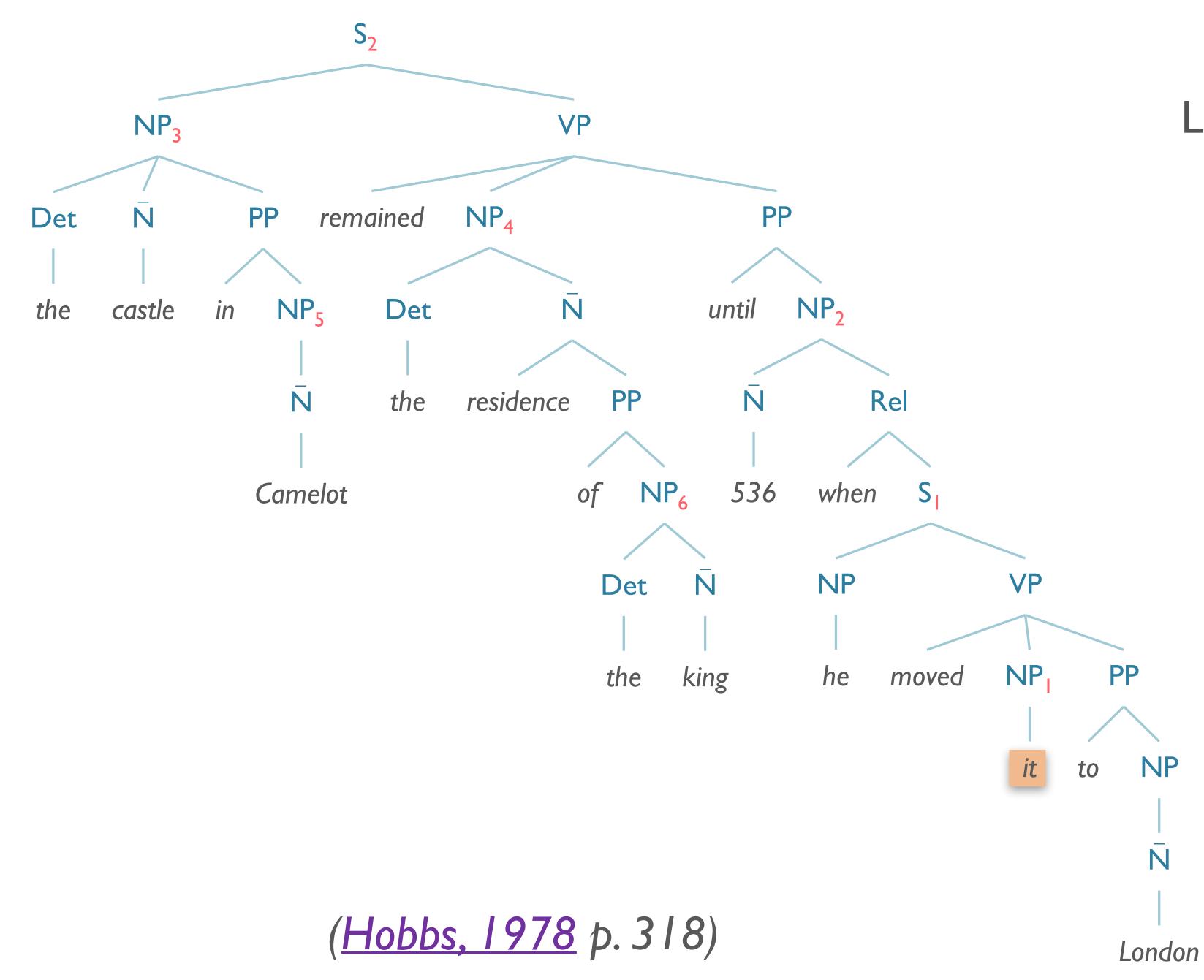
NLTK Tools

- "Climbing" parse trees:
 - NLTK ParentedTree
 - nltk.org/howto/tree.html
 - Conversion from standard tree t
 - parented tree = nltk.tree.ParentedTree.convert(t)
- Accessing feature structures

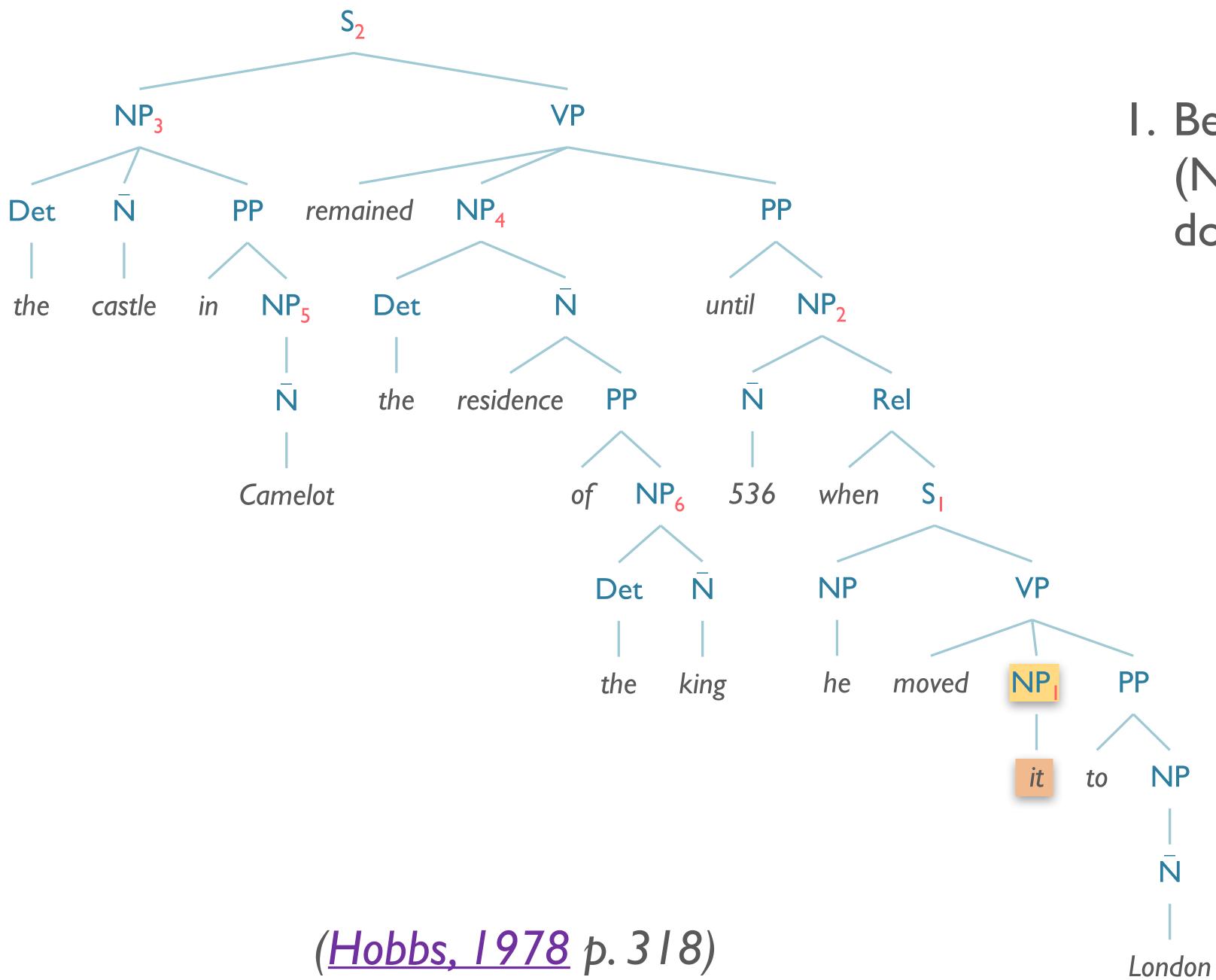
```
fs = nltk.grammar.FeatStructNonterminal(parented_tree.label())
pronoun_agr = fs['agr']
antecedent_agr.subsumes(pronoun_agr)
```

Hobbs Algorithm Walkthrough

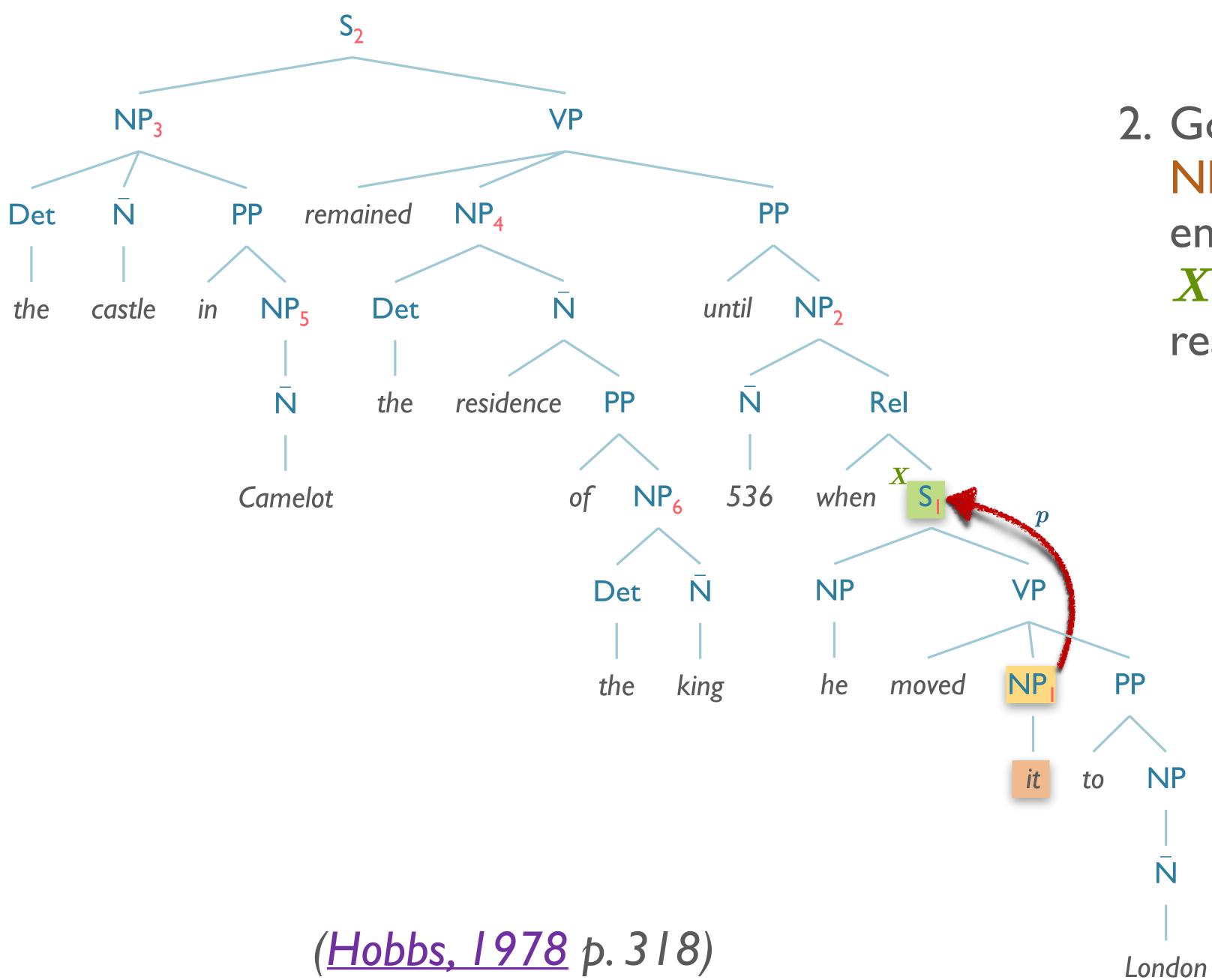
(h/t Ryan Georgi)



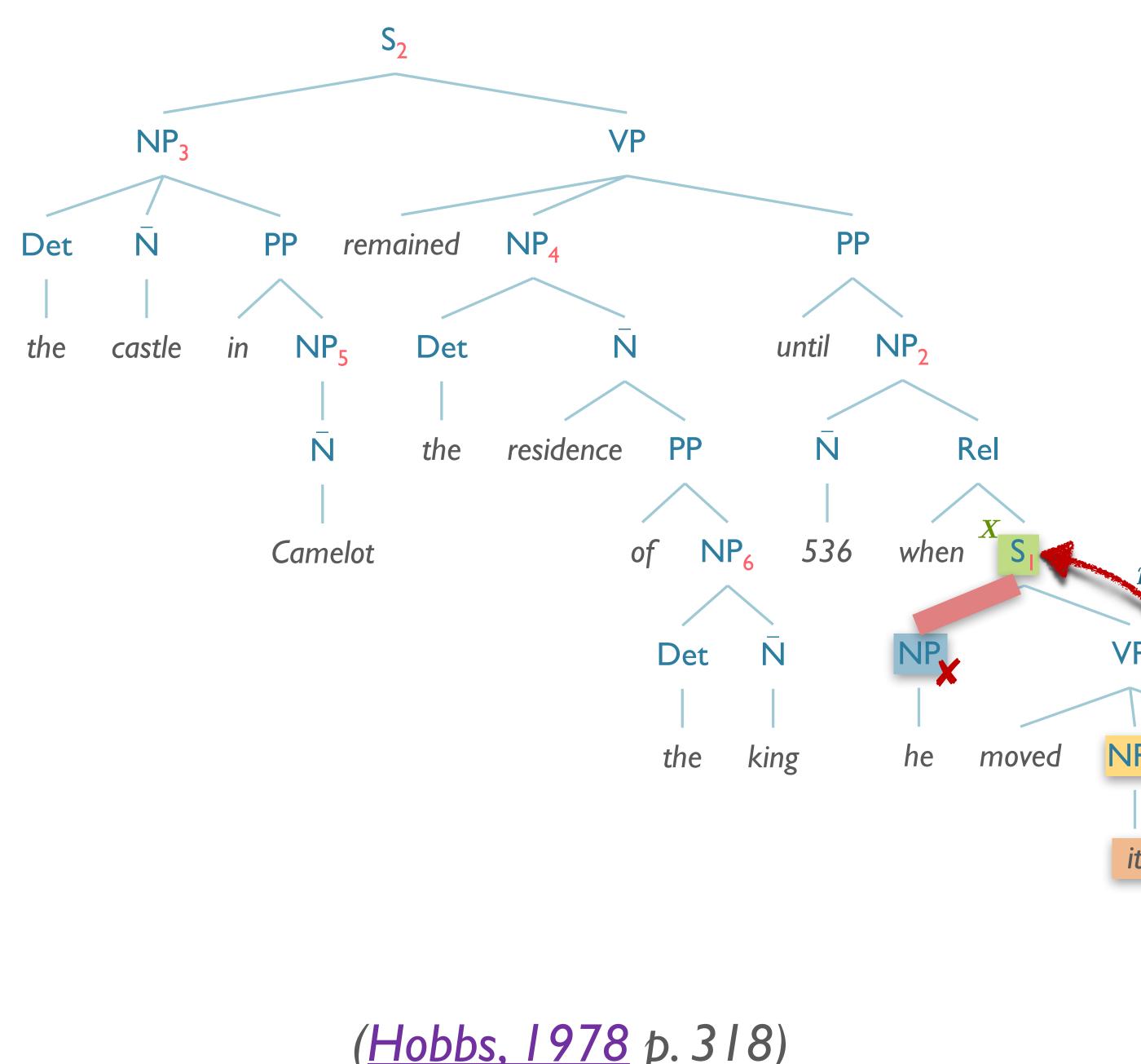
Let's figure out what the antecedent for "it" is



 Begin at the noun phrase (NP) node immediately dominating the pronoun



Go up the tree to the first NP or sentence (S) node encountered. Call this node X, and call the path used to reach it p.



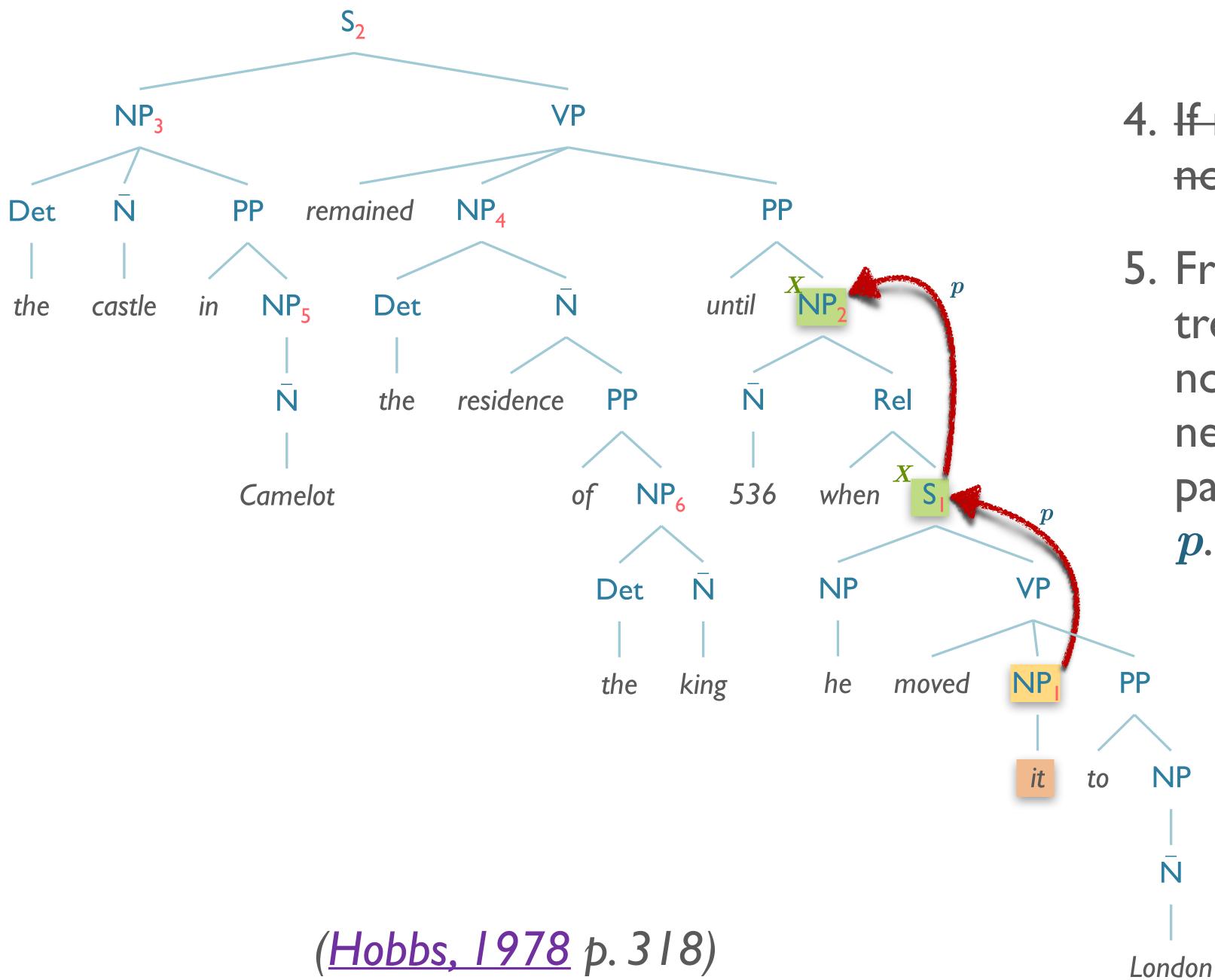
3. Traverse all branches below node X to the left of path p in a left-to-right, breadthfirst fashion. Propose as the antecedent any encountered NP node that has an NP or S node between it and X.

NP

London

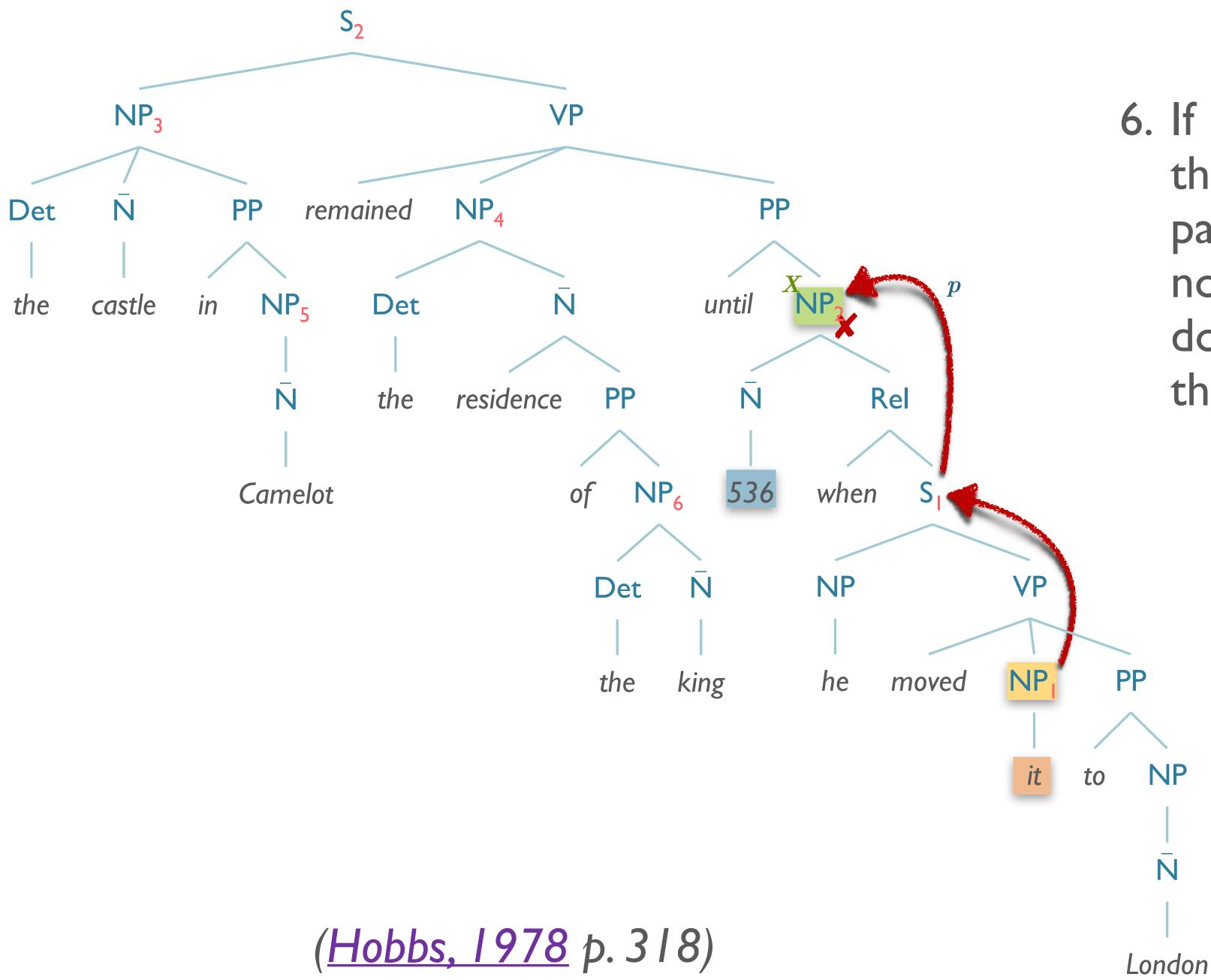
to

No NP or S between "he" NP and X



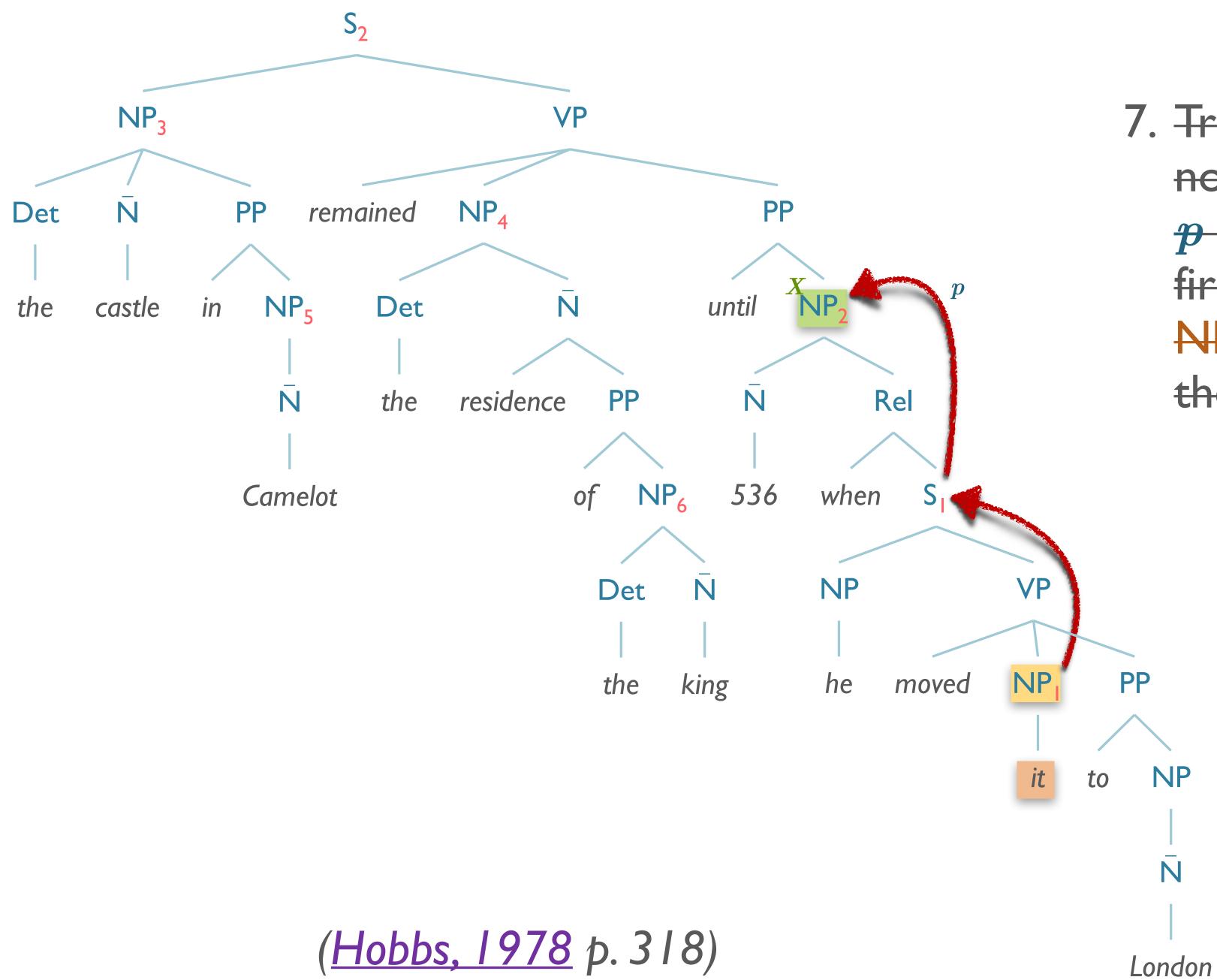
4. If node X is the highest S node in the sentence...

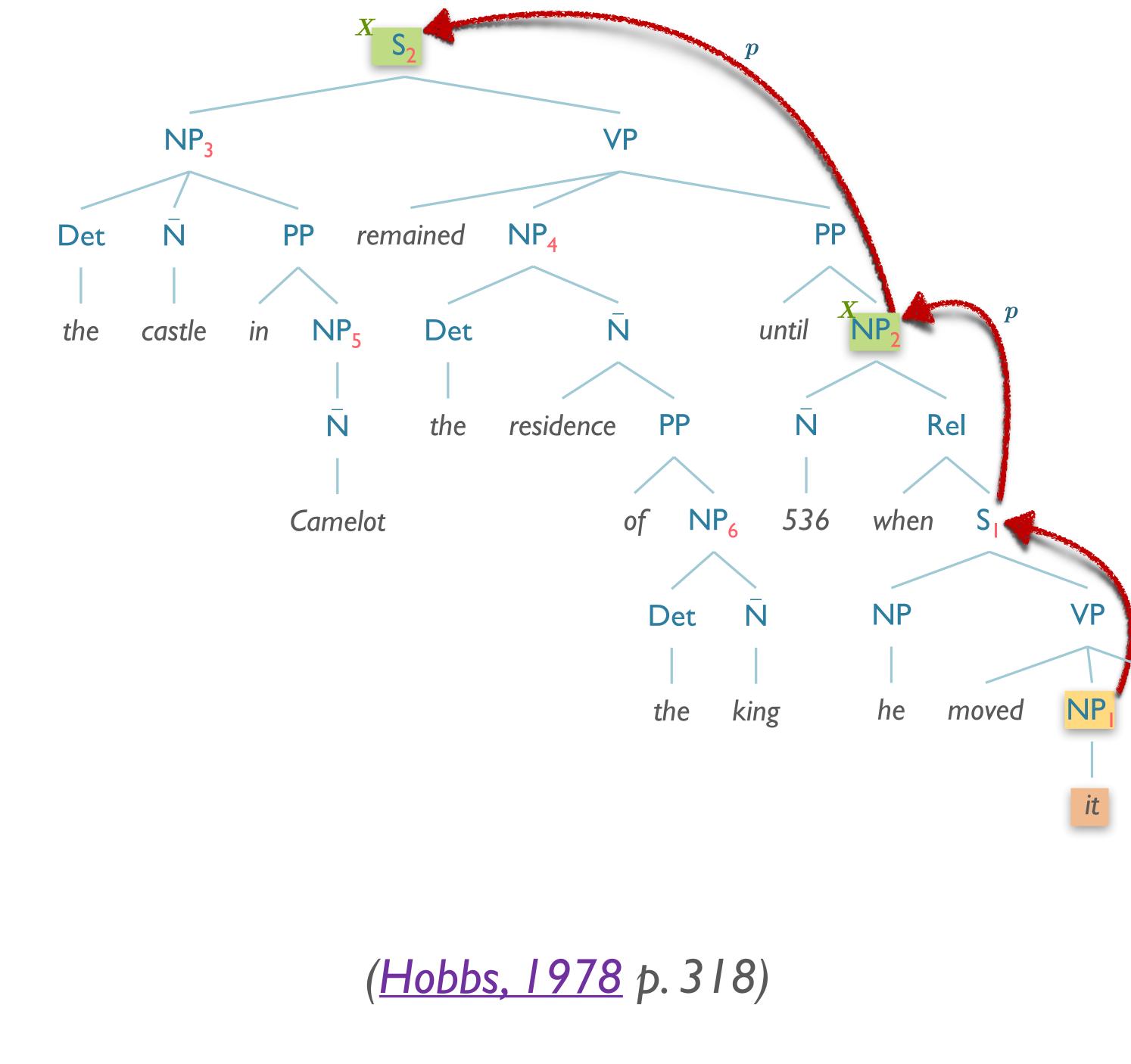
5. From node X, go up the tree to the first NP or S node encountered. Call this new node X, and call the path traversed to reach it p.



6. If X is an NP node and if the path p to X did not pass through the Nominal node that X immediately dominates, propose X as the antecedent.

"536" can't be "moved"!



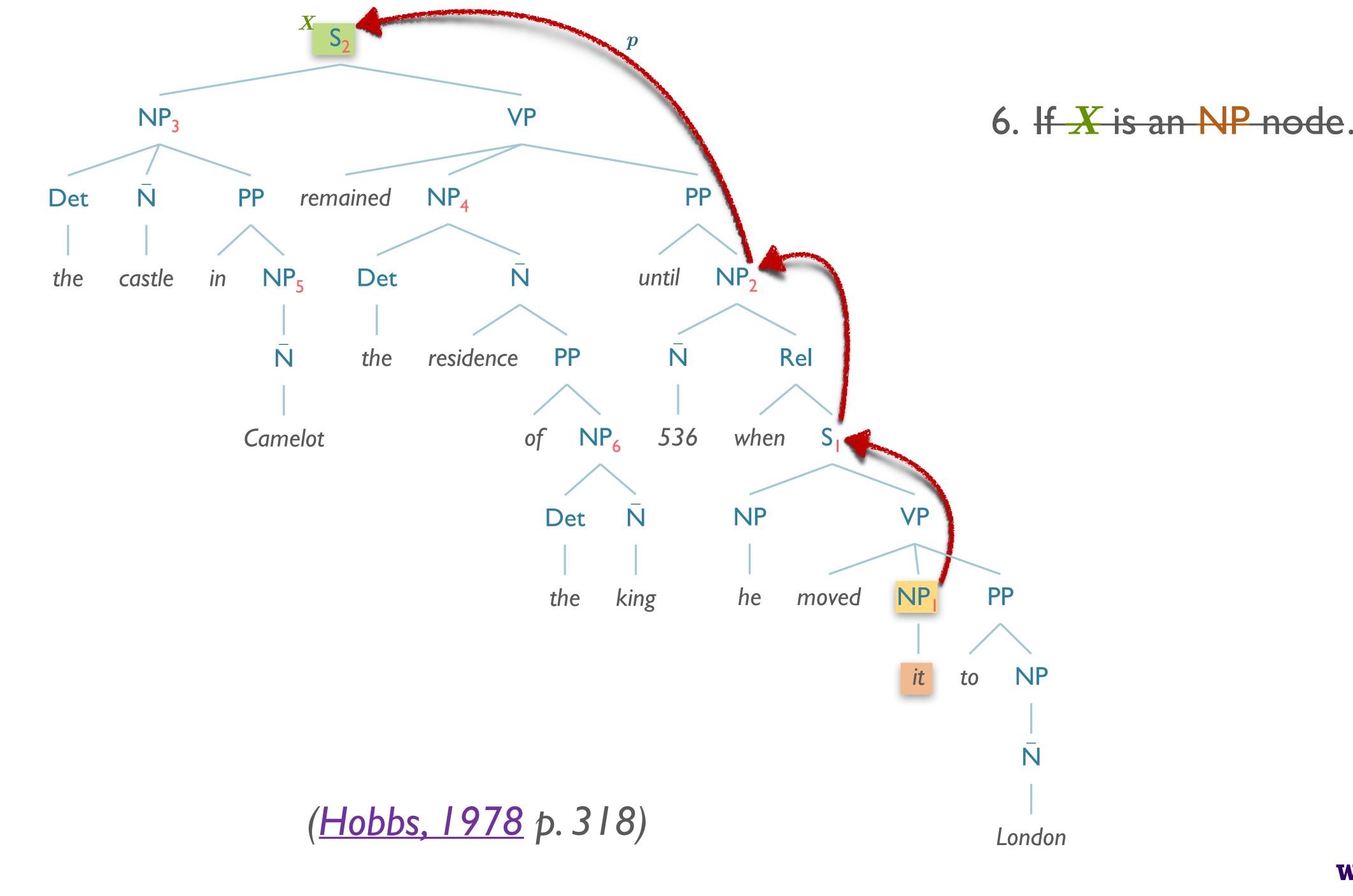


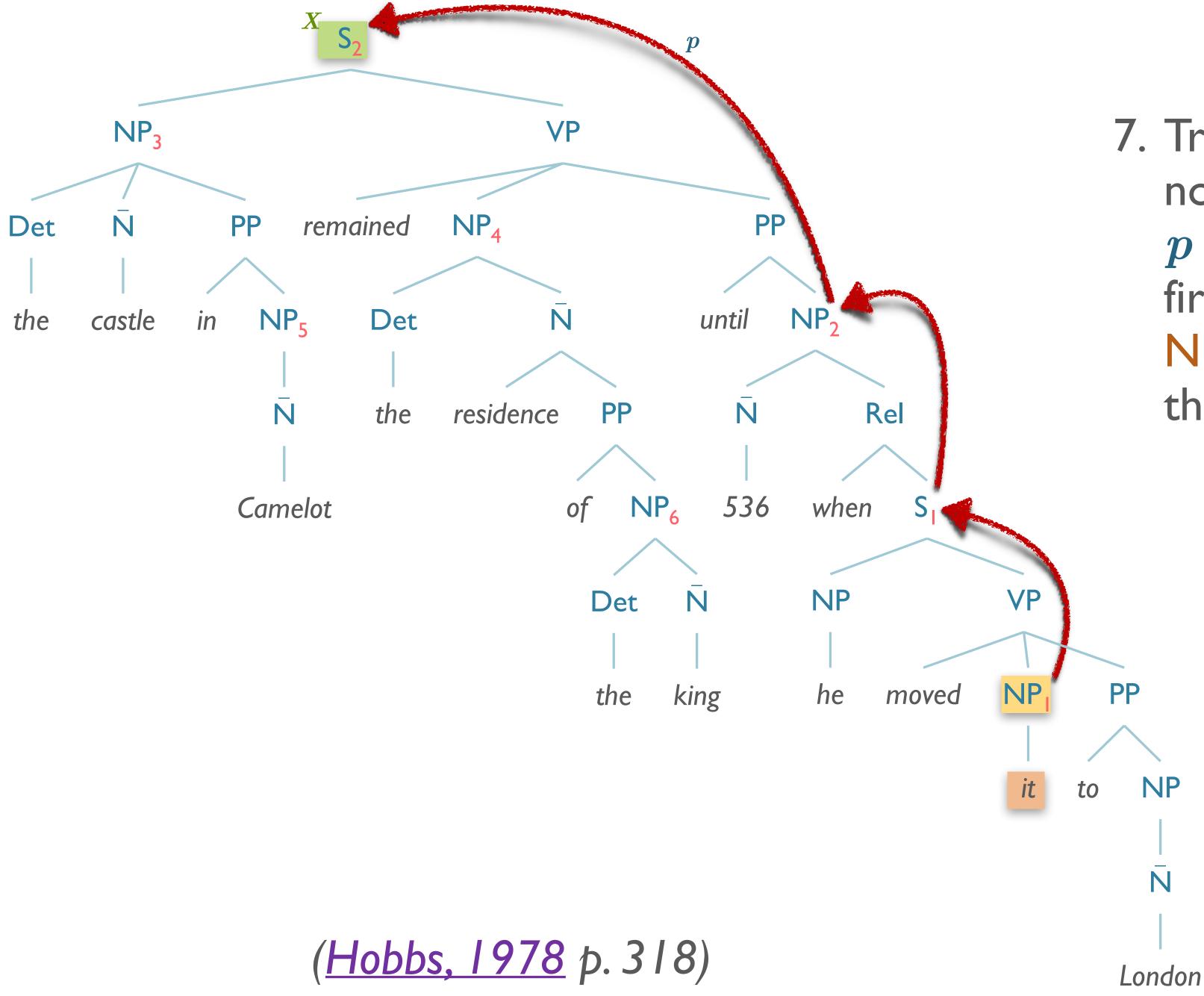
- 8. If X is an S node...
- 9. Go to step 4.

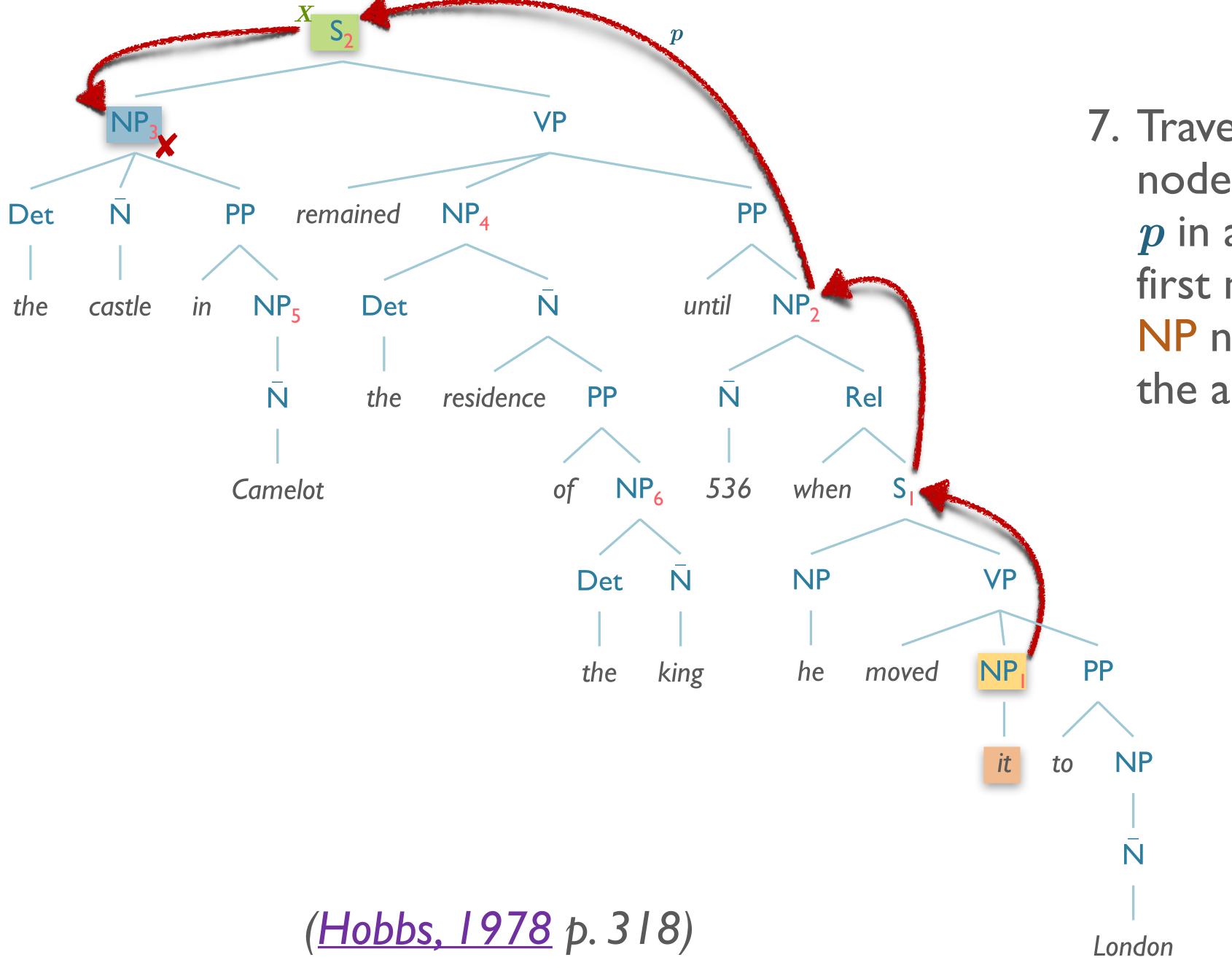
to

London

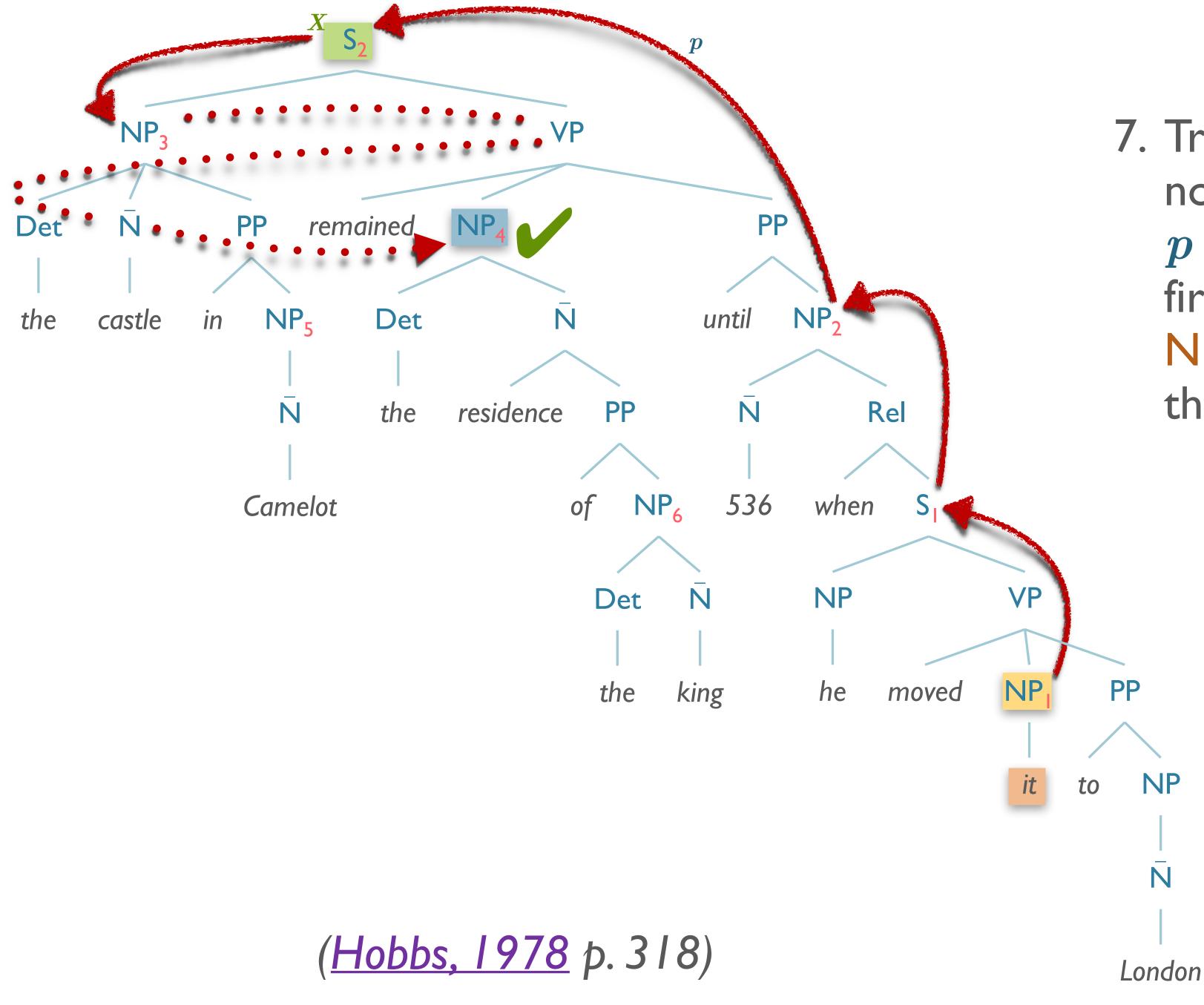
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- 5. From node X, go up the tree to the first NP or S node encountered. Call this new node X, and call the path traversed to reach it p.







Moving castles?



"the residence of the king"

Hobbs Algorithm Detail (Hobbs, 1978)

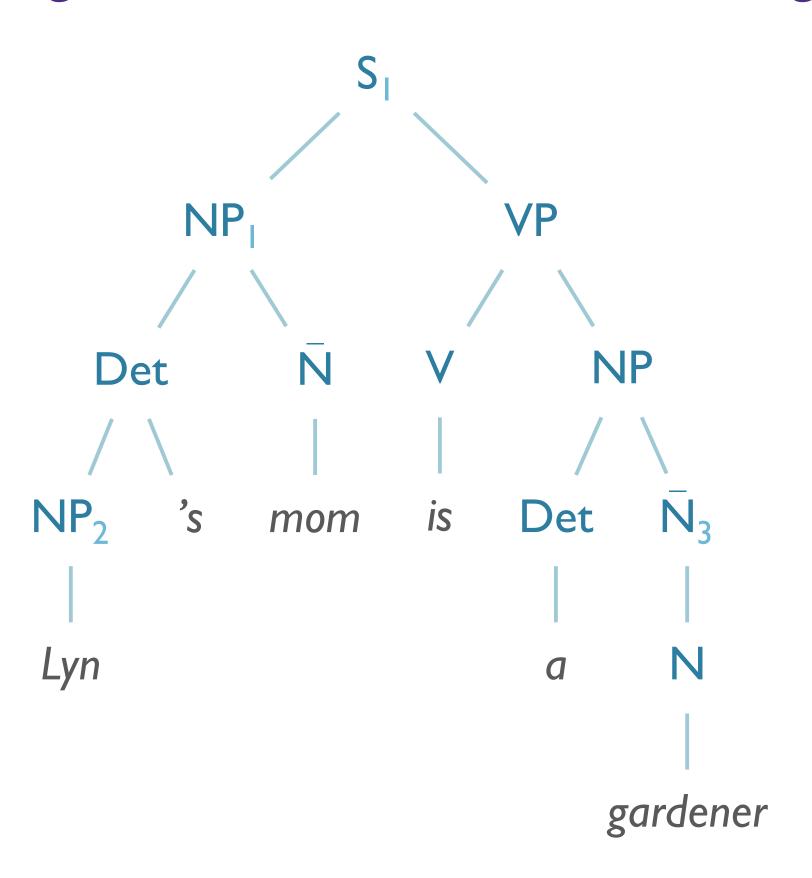
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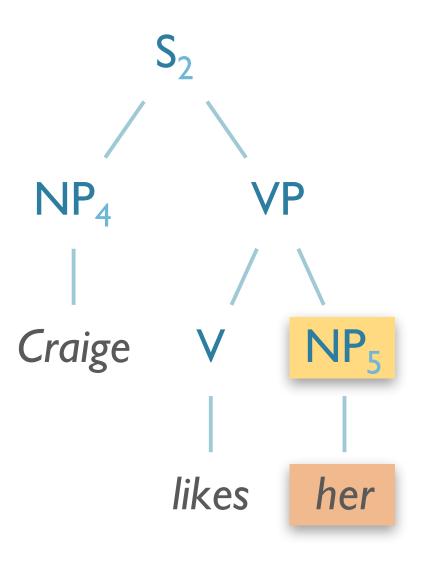
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- 9. Go to step 4.

Lyn's mom is a gardener.

Craige likes her.

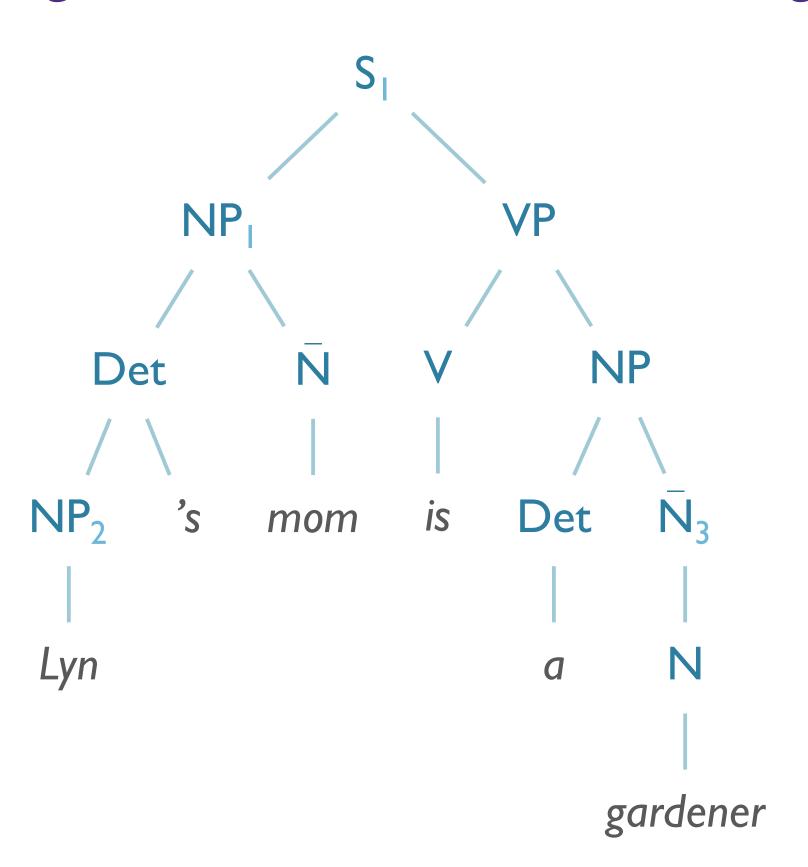


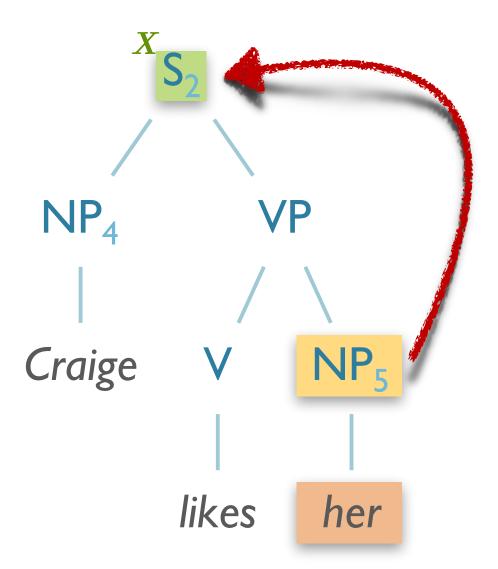


I. Begin at the noun phrase (NP) node immediately dominating the pronoun

Lyn's mom is a gardener.

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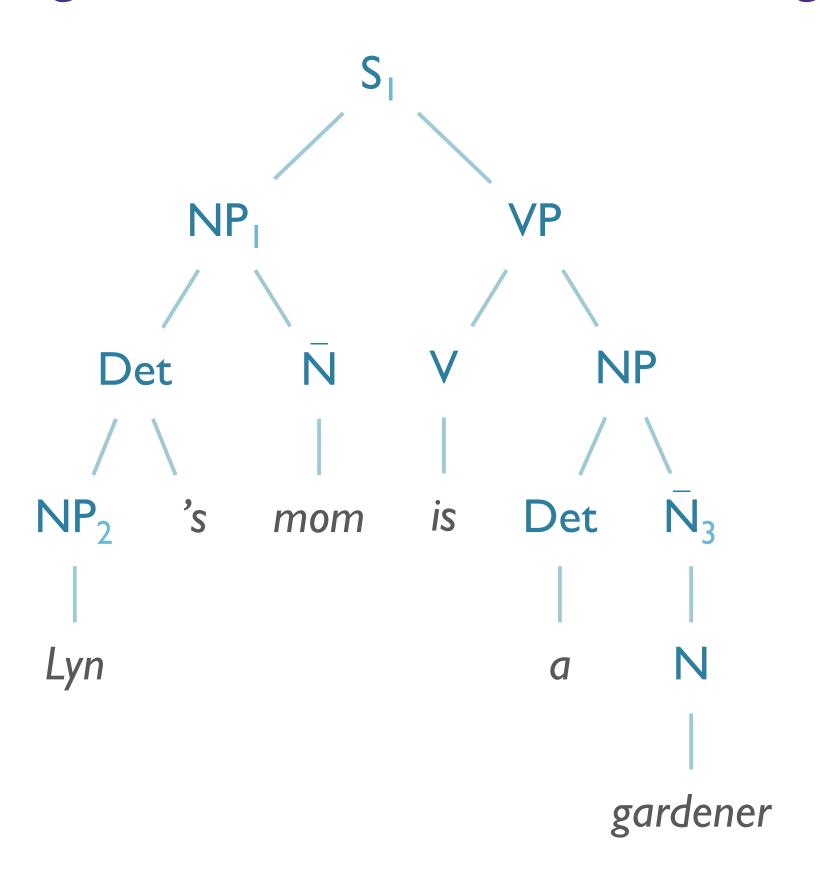


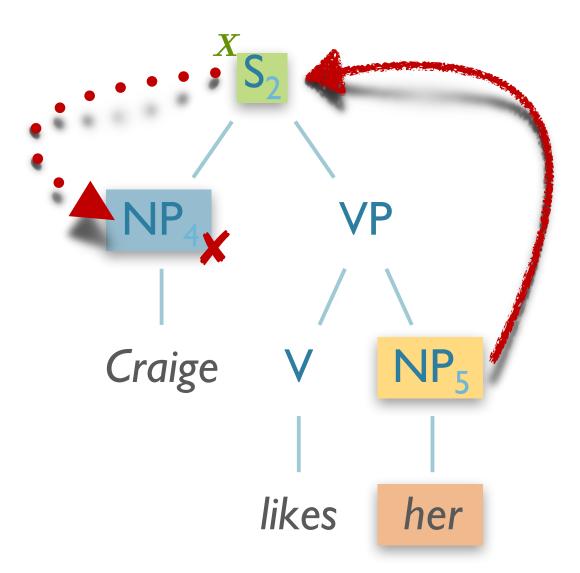


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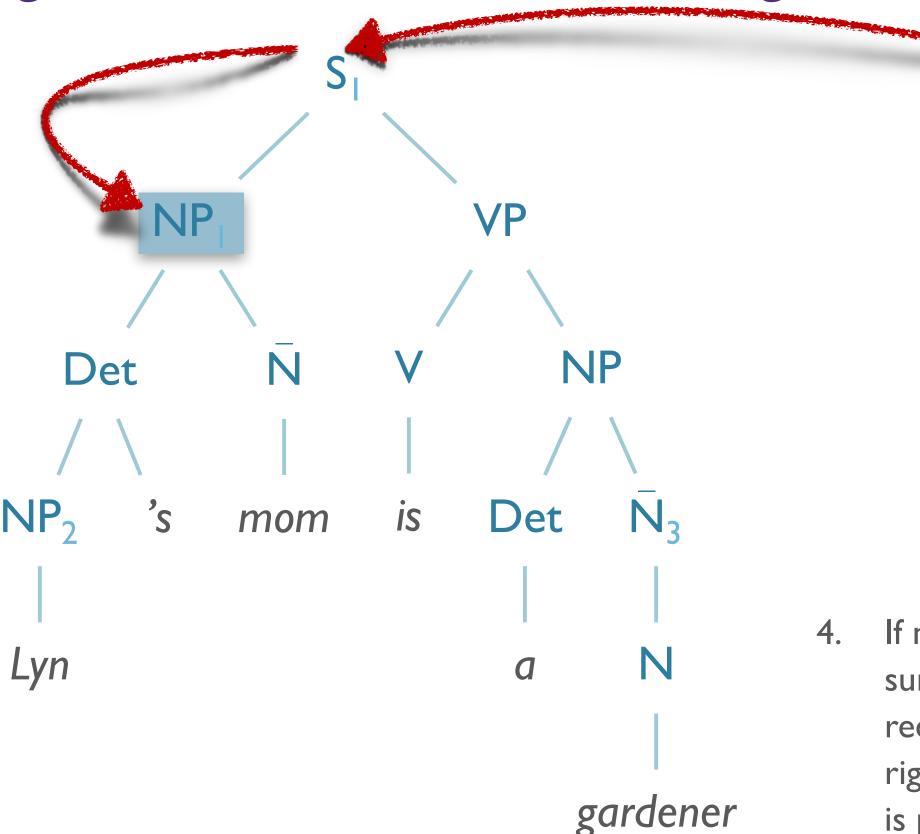


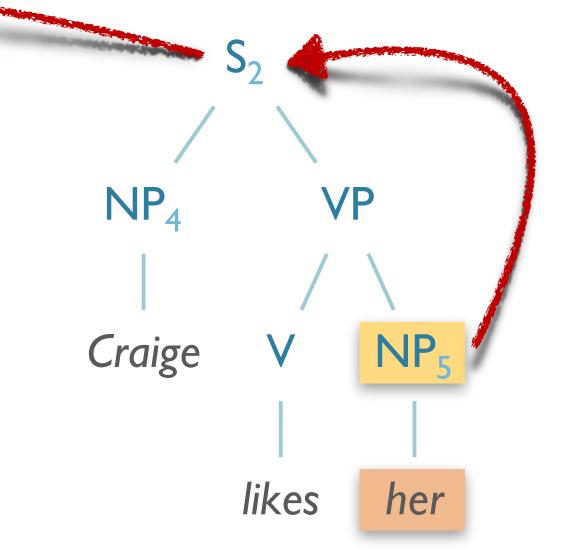


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Craige likes her.





4. If node *X* is the highest *S* node in the sentence, traverse the surface parse trees of previous sentences in the text in order of recency, the most recent first; each tree is traversed in a left-to-right, breadth-first manner, and when an NP node is encountered, it is proposed as antecedent.

- What about...?
 - Lyn's mom is hired a gardener.
 - Craige likes her.

Coherence Relations

- **Elaboration**: Infer the same proposition P from the assertions of S_0 and S_1 .
 - Dorothy was from Kansas. She lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies.
- Occasion: A change of state can be inferred from the assertion of S_0 whose final state can be inferred from S_1 , or a change of state can be inferred from the assertion of S_1 .
 - Dorothy picked up the oil-can. She oiled the Tin Woodman's joints.

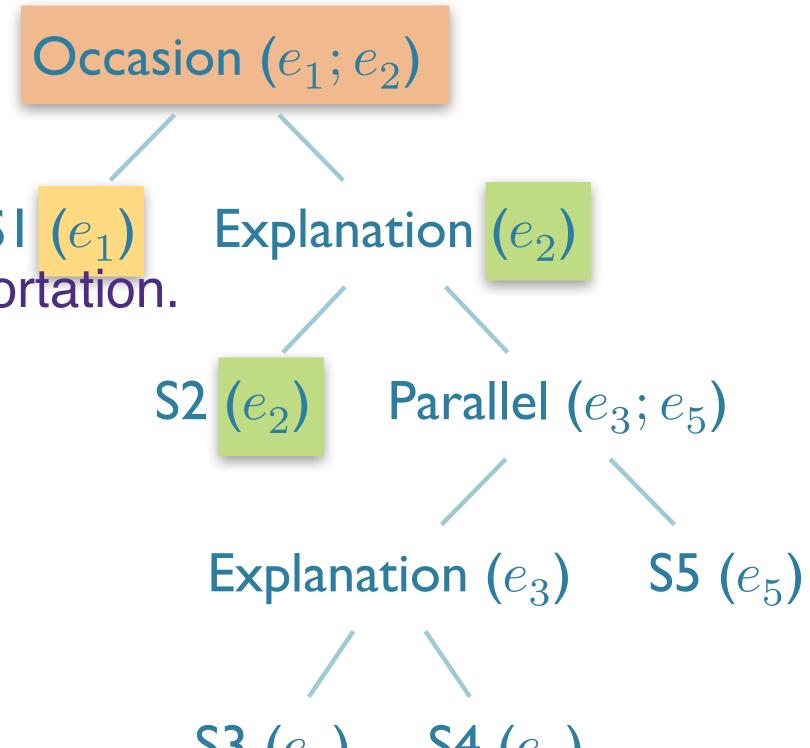
S1 – Armin went to the bank to deposit his paycheck

S2 – He then took a train to Kim's car dealership.

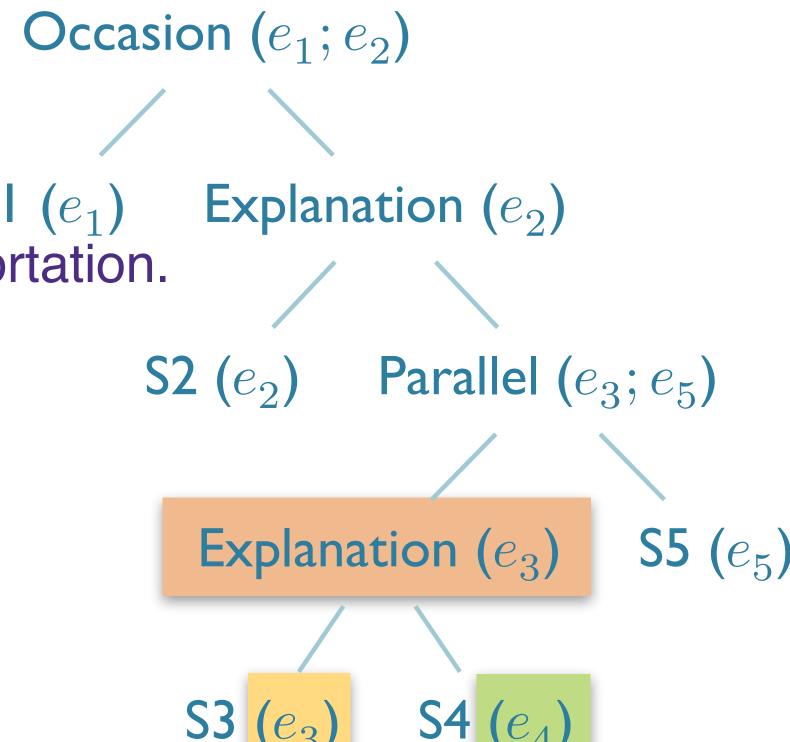
S3 – He needed to buy a car.

S4 – The company he works for now isn't near any public transportation.

S5 – He also wanted to talk to Bill about their softball league.



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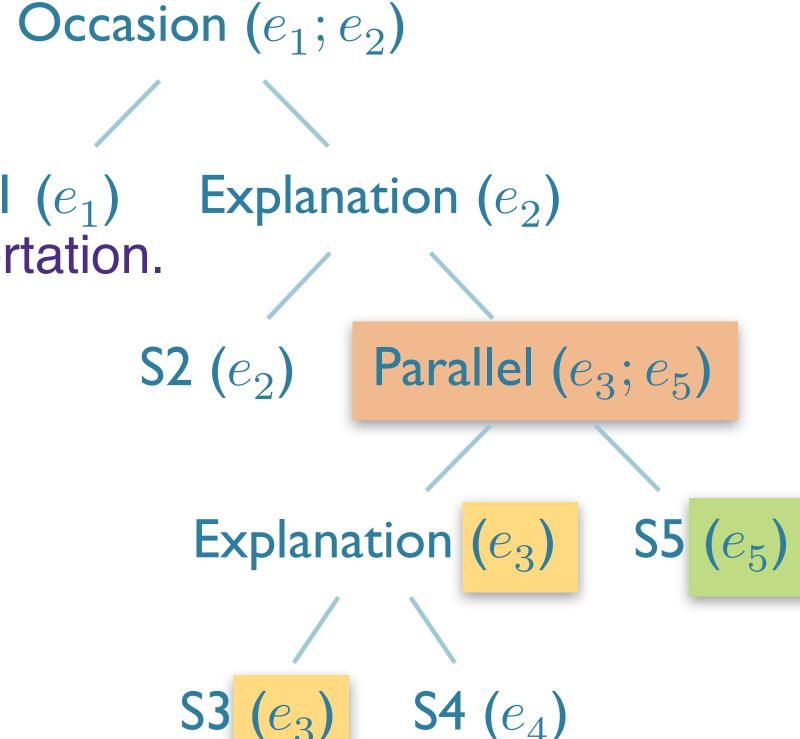
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