Syntax Homework

Due: Monday, April 6th

- You may answer the questions directly in the PDF, or may write the answers on a printed copy

- If you're unsure about what's asked of you, send me an e-mail, or come to my office hours.

1   Question 1

A sentence such as "I saw the dog in the yard" is syntactically ambiguous between two possible meanings (I, being in the yard, saw the dog/I saw the dog who himself was in the yard). Draw two simple syntax trees which explain the structural difference between the two sentences. For these trees, you do no need to represent every phrase level, just the general structure and relationship between the words "the dog in the yard".

2   Question 2

Modern Standard Arabic has two words, **ḥasuna** and **jayyid**, both approximately meaning "good". Despite the similarity in meaning, they belong to different parts of speech. Consider the forms of each presented below, and classify each according to the part of speech to which it belongs. Explain your reasoning.

- **ḥasuna** "it was good"

- **yaḥsunu** "it is good"

- **ʾaḥsunu** "I am good"

- **ʾuḥsun** "be good!"

- **ʾastaḥsinuhu** "I think well of him"

- **ʾal-jayyid** "the good one (masc.)"

- **jayyidat** "good (fem.)"

- **ʾajwad** "better/best (masc.)"

- **jayyidīn** "good (pl., masc.)"

- **ʾal-jayyidāt** "the good ones (fem.)"

3   Question 3

Build a full syntactic tree for the following sentence. You do not need to directly label the nodes, though it may help in the construction of your tree. You may use the TreeForm program to assist the creation of your tree, if you find it useful:

- Our good friend hosted my birthday party

4 Question 4

Consider the sentence:

- He hit the ball on his first try

Two potential syntactic structures for this sentence are presented below. Determine which of the two is the correct representation. Explain what is wrong about the incorrect representation

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          │   └ N — ball
          └ PP
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              ├ P — on
              └ DP
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                  ├ D — his
                  └ AdjP
                    └ Adj'
                      ├ Adj — first
                      └ NP
                        └ N'
                          └ N — try