Ling 566
Oct 9, 2025

Semantics

Announcements

- Midterm survey — see Canvas announcement
- HW1 answer key is up; apologies for the delay

Overview

- Some notes on the linguist's stance
- Which aspects of semantics we'll tackle
- Our formalization; Semantics Principles
- Building semantics of phrases
- Modification, coordination
- Structural ambiguity
- Reading questions

The Linguist's Stance: Building a precise model

- Some of our statements are statements about how the model works:

  "[*prep*] and [AGR *3sing*] can't be combined because AGR is not a feature of the type *prep*."

- Some of our statements are statements about how (we think) English or language in general works.

  "The determiners *a* and *many* only occur with count nouns, the determiner *much* only occurs with mass nouns, and the determiner *the* occurs with either."

- Some are statements about how we code a particular linguistic fact within the model.

  "All count nouns are [SPR < [COUNT +]>]."

Semantics: Where's the Beef?

So far, our grammar has no semantic representations. We have, however, been relying on semantic intuitions in our argumentation, and discussing semantic contrasts where they line up (or don't) with syntactic ones.

Examples?

- structural ambiguity
- S/NP parallelism
- count/mass distinction
- complements vs. modifiers

"Where's the Beef"?

0

Completely unfamiliar

0

That’s a thing people say

0

I remember those commercials

0

Our Slice of a World of Meanings

Aspects of meaning we won't account for

- Pragmatics
- Fine-grained lexical semantics:

The meaning of *life* is *life'*, or, in our case,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{life} \\ \text{INST} & i \end{bmatrix}$$

Our Slice of a World of Meanings

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\ \text{INDEX} & s \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{save} \\ \text{SIT} & s \\ \text{SAVER} & i \\ \text{SAVED} & j \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Chris} \\ \text{NAMED} & i \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & j \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

"... the linguistic meaning of *Chris saved Pat* is a proposition that will be true just in case there is an actual situation that involves the saving of someone named Pat by someone named Chris." (p. 140)

Our Slice of a World of Meanings

What we are accounting for is the compositionality of sentence meaning.

- How the pieces fit together

  Semantic arguments and indices

- How the meanings of the parts add up to the meaning of the whole.

  Appending RESTR lists up the tree

Semantics in Constraint-Based Grammar

- Constraints as (generalized) truth conditions
  - proposition: what must be the case for a proposition to be true
  - directive: what must happen for a directive to be fulfilled
  - question: the kind of situation the asker is asking about
  - reference: the kind of entity the speaker is referring to

- Syntax/semantics interface: Constraints on how syntactic arguments are related to semantic ones, and on how semantic information is compiled from different parts of the sentence.

Feature Geometry

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & pos \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & list(expression) \\ \text{COMPS} & list(expression) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \{ \text{prop} , \text{ques} , \text{dir} , \text{ref}, \text{none} \} \\ \text{INDEX} & \{ i , j , k , \ldots s_1 , s_2 , \ldots \} \\ \text{RESTR} & list(pred) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

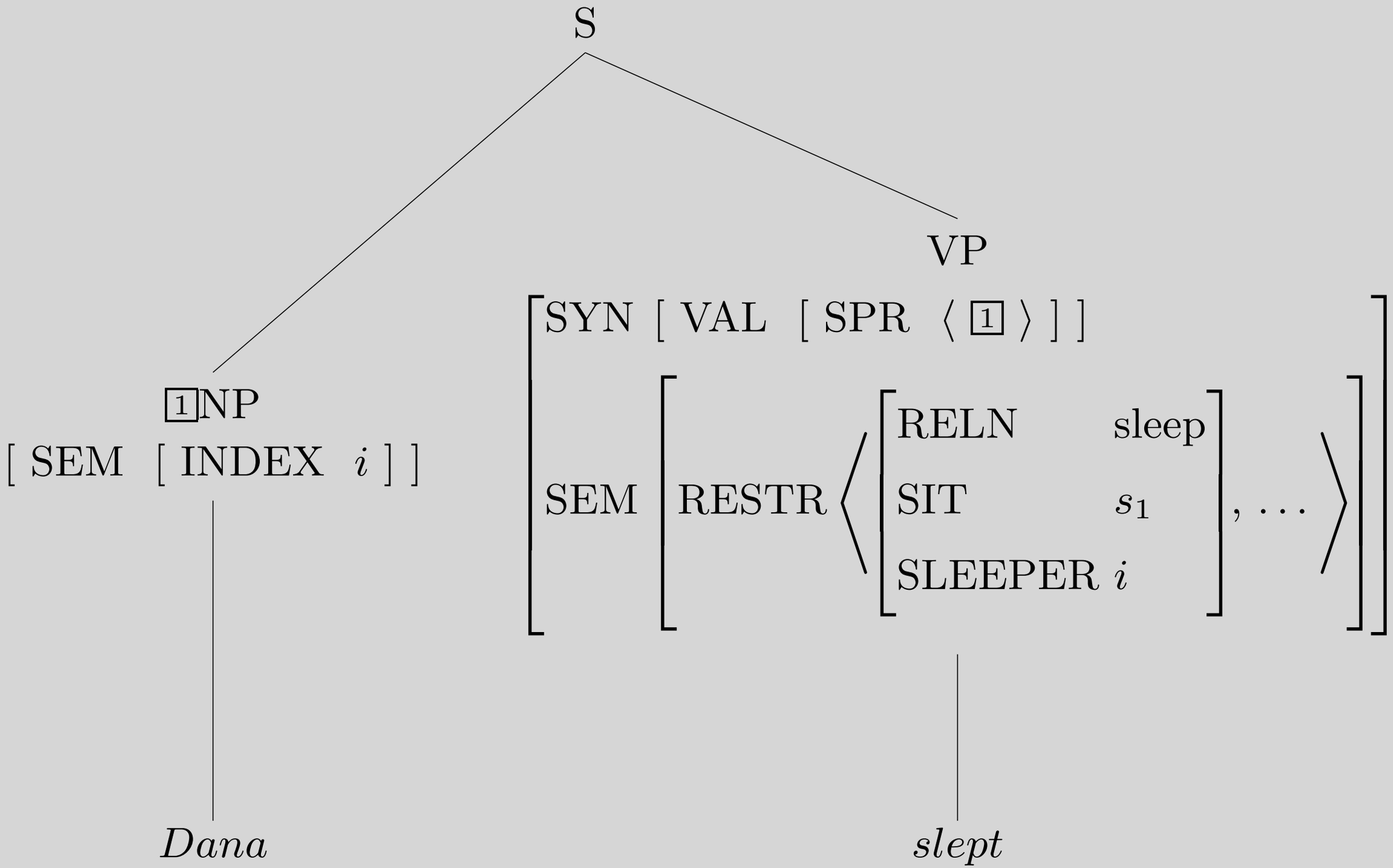
How the Pieces Fit Together

$$\left\langle \text{Dana} , \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \textit{3sing} \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{INDEX} & i \\ \text{MODE} & \text{ref} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Dana} \\ \text{NAMED} & i \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle$$

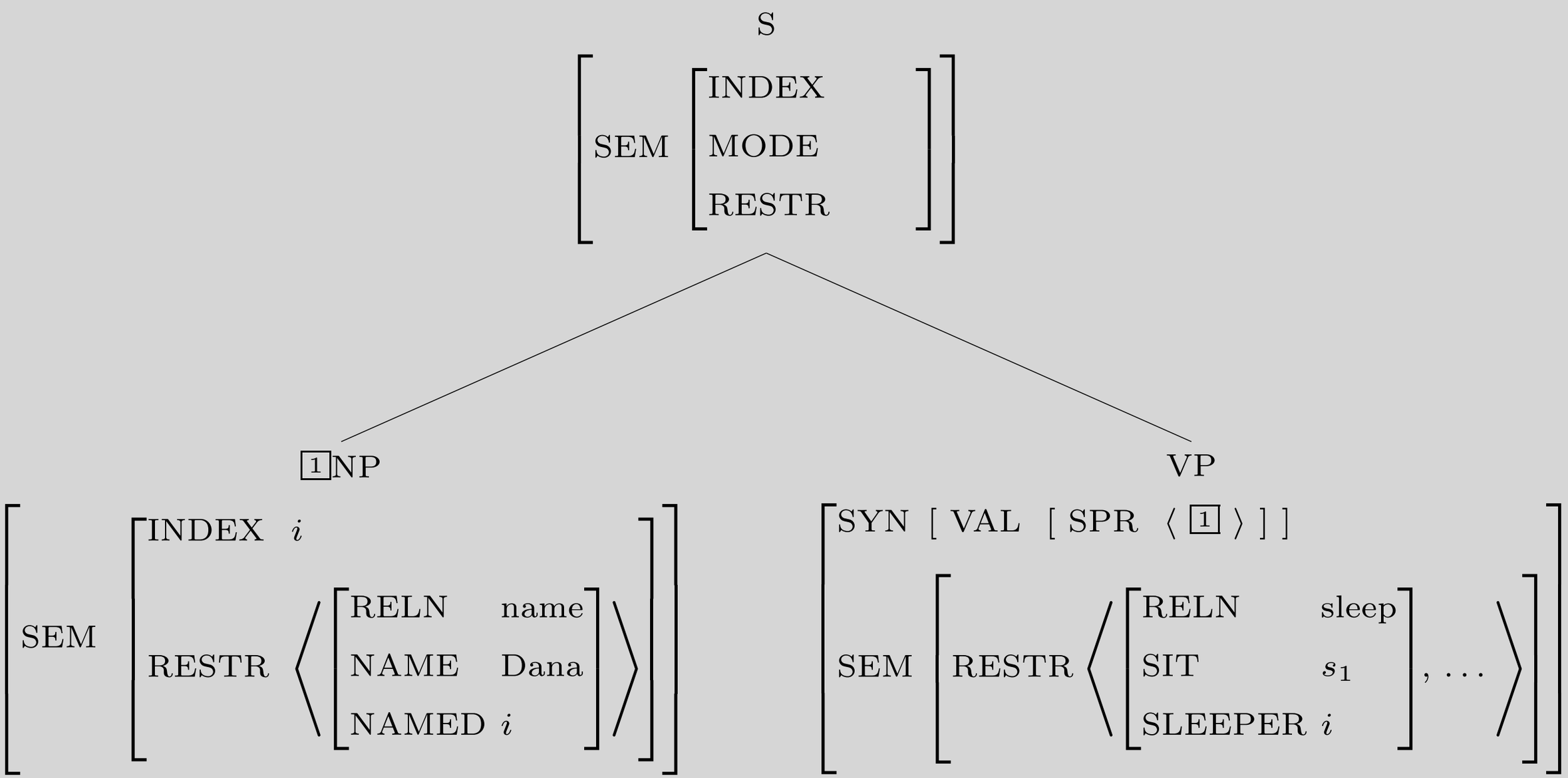
How the Pieces Fit Together

$$\left\langle \text{slept}, \left[\begin{array}{ll} word & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & verb \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \text{NP}\boxed{j}\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SLEEPER} & \boxed{j} \end{array}\right], \ldots \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle$$

The Pieces Together



A More Detailed View of the Same Tree



To Fill in Semantics for the S-node

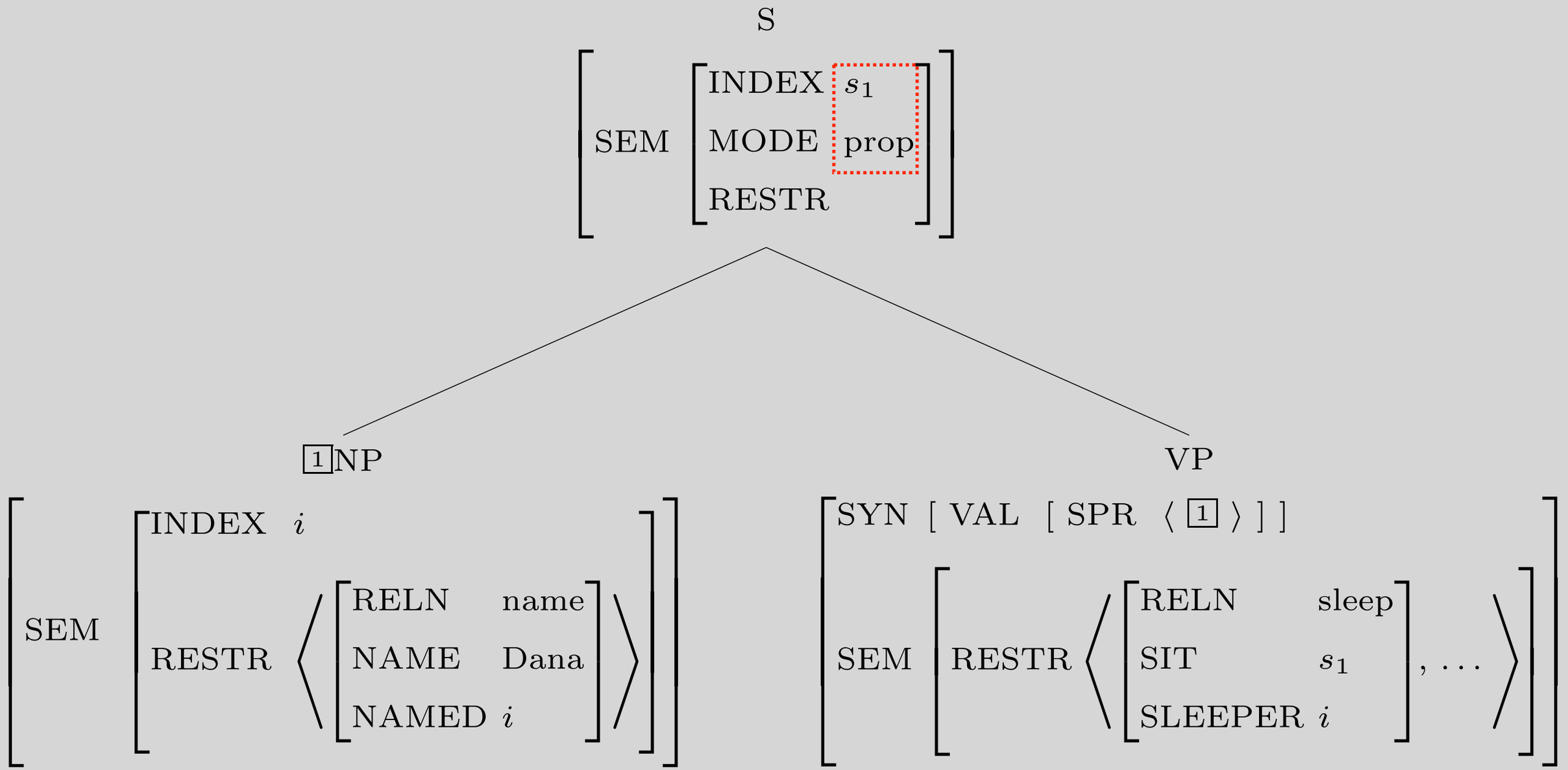
We need the Semantics Principles

- The Semantic Inheritance Principle:

In any headed phrase, the mother's MODE and INDEX are identical to those of the head daughter.

- The Semantic Compositionality Principle:

Semantic Inheritance Illustrated



To Fill in Semantics for the S-node

We need the Semantics Principles

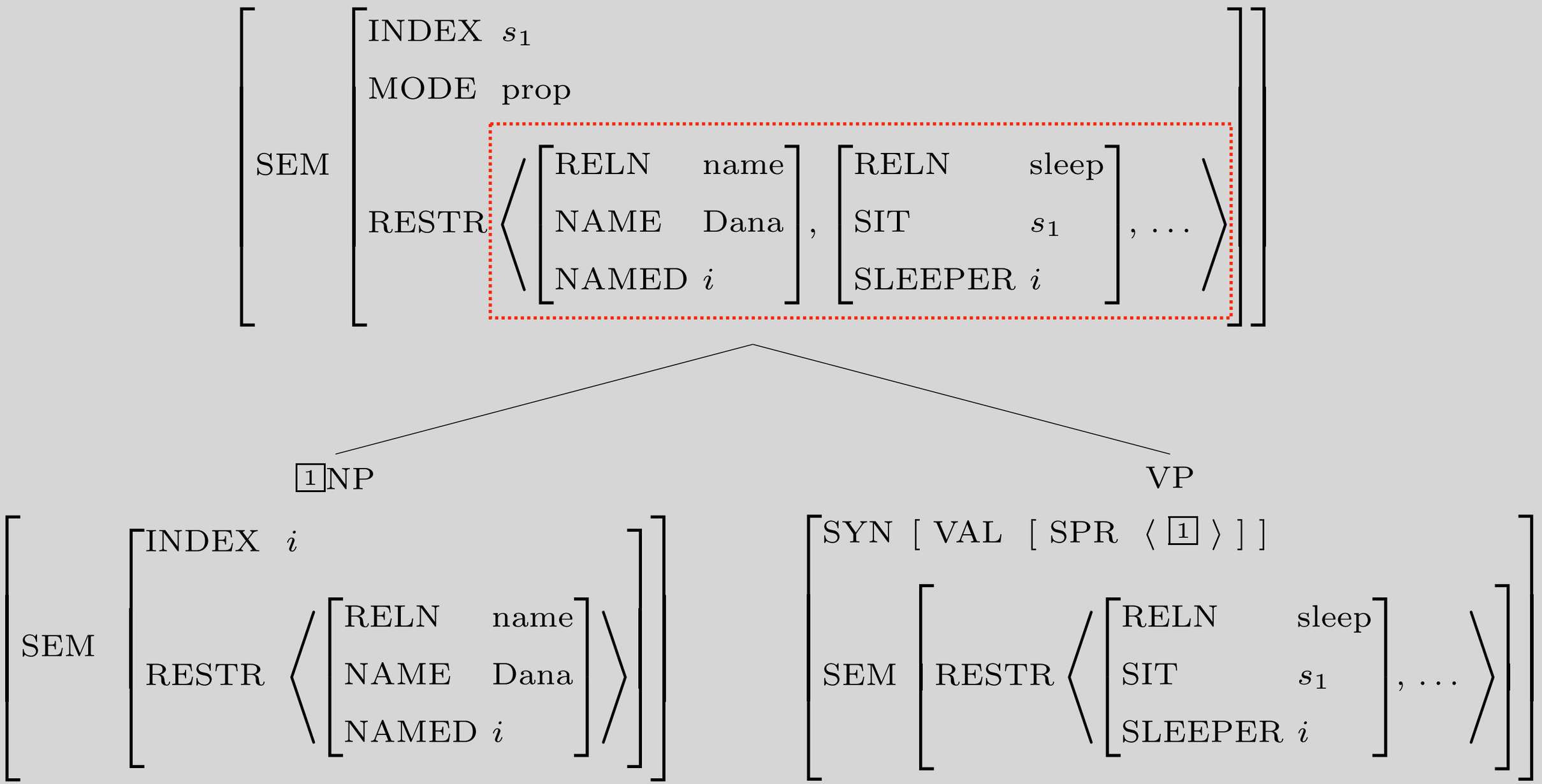
- The Semantic Inheritance Principle:

  In any headed phrase, the mother's MODE and INDEX are identical to those of the head daughter.

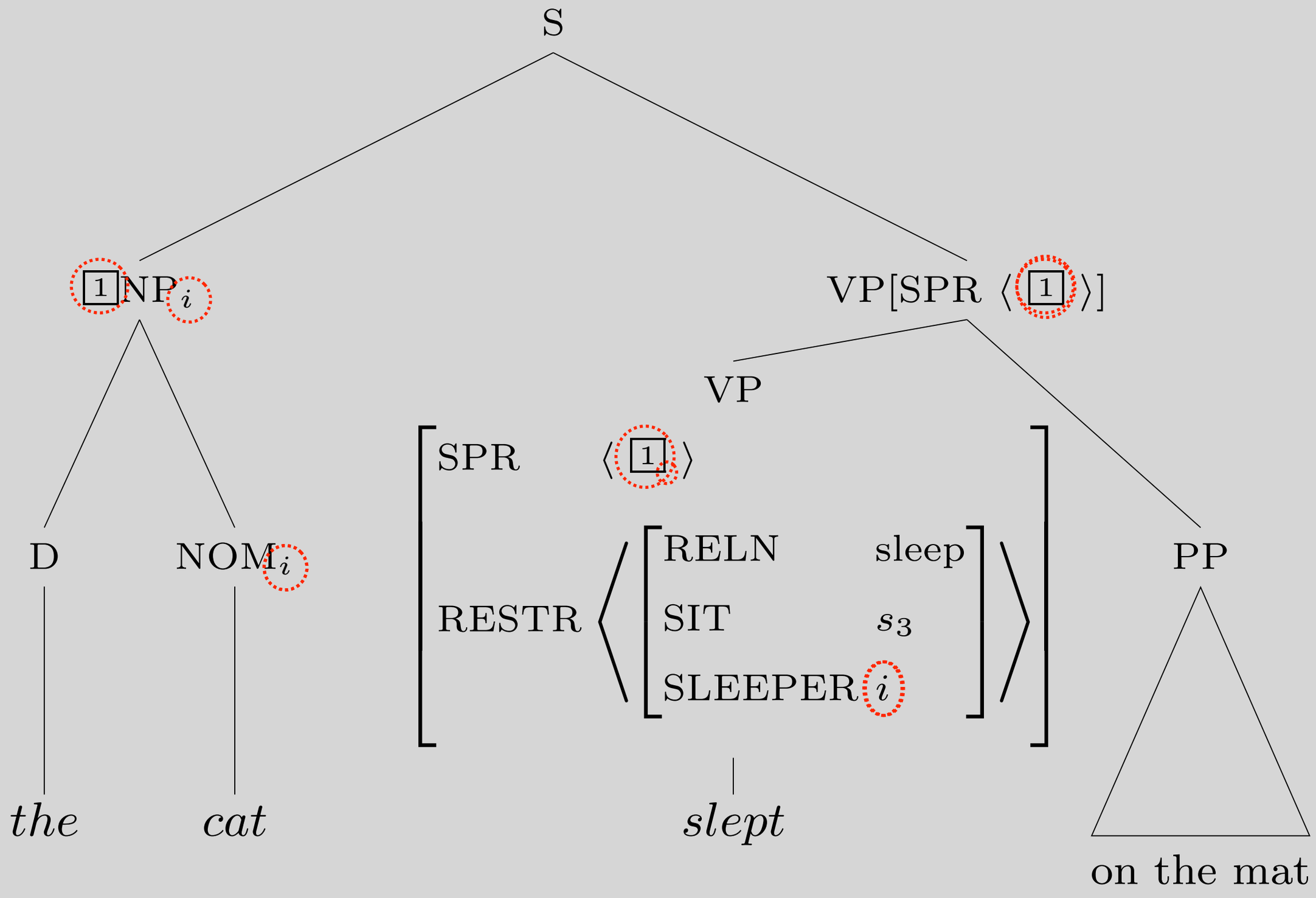
- The Semantic Compositionality Principle:

  In any well-formed phrase structure, the mother's RESTR value is the sum of the RESTR values of the daughters.

Semantic Compositionality Illustrated



What Identifies Indices?



Summary: Words ...

- contribute predications
- 'expose' one index in those predications, for use by words or phrases
- relate syntactic arguments to semantic arguments

$$\left\langle \text{slept}, \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \text{NP}_{\textcircled{j}}\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{INDEX} & \textcircled{s_1} \\ \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & \textcircled{s_1} \\ \text{SLEEPER} & \textcircled{j} \end{array} \right], \ldots \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \right\rangle$$

Summary: Grammar Rules ...

- identify feature structures (including the INDEX value) across daughters

Head Specifier Rule

$$\begin{bmatrix} phrase \\ \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \boxed{1} \quad \mathbf{H} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Head Complement Rule

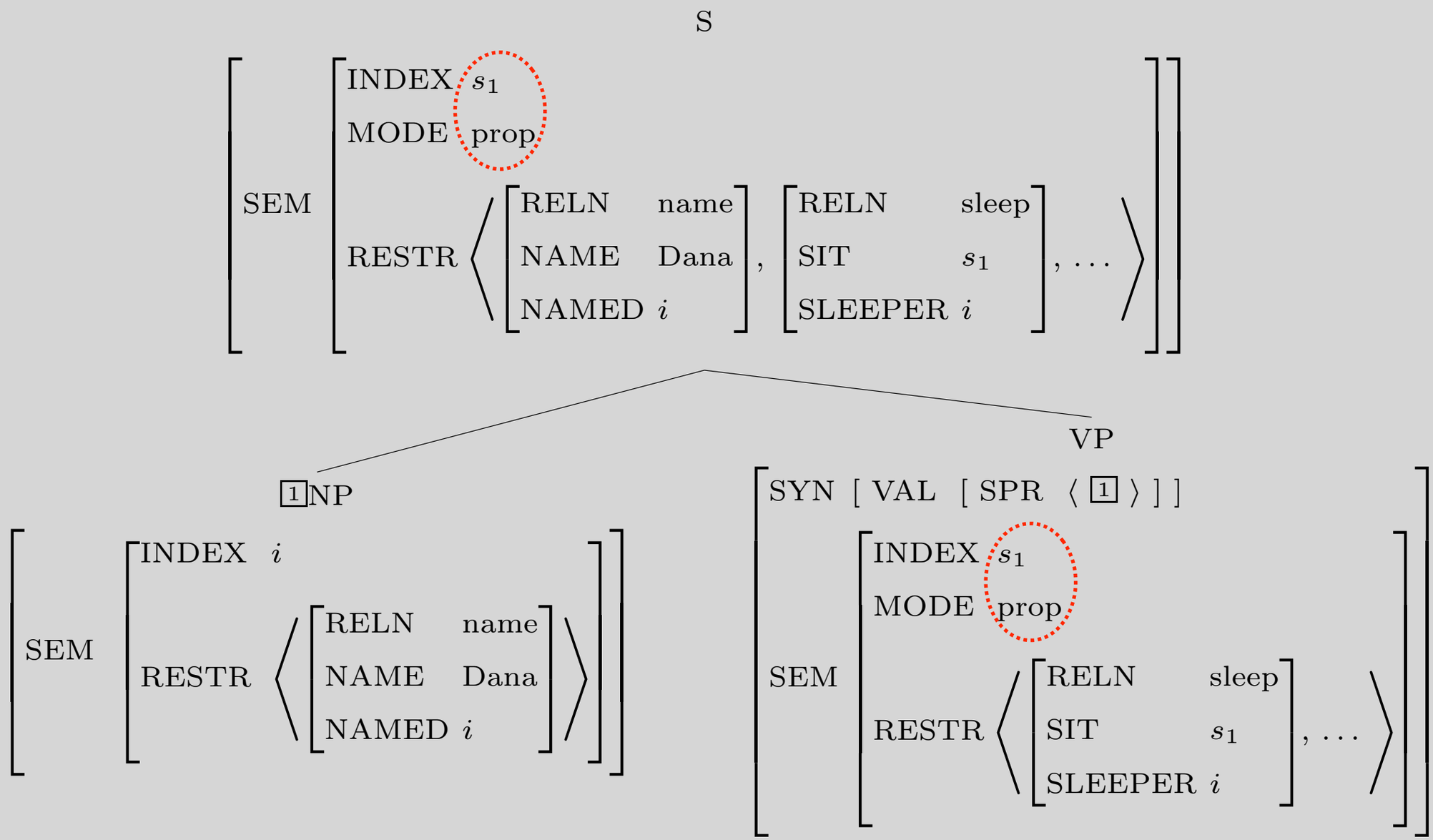
$$\begin{bmatrix} phrase \\ \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \begin{bmatrix} word \\ \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle \boxed{1}, \ldots, \boxed{n} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \quad \boxed{1} \ldots \boxed{n}$$

Head Modifier Rule

$$[phrase] \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \boxed{1} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

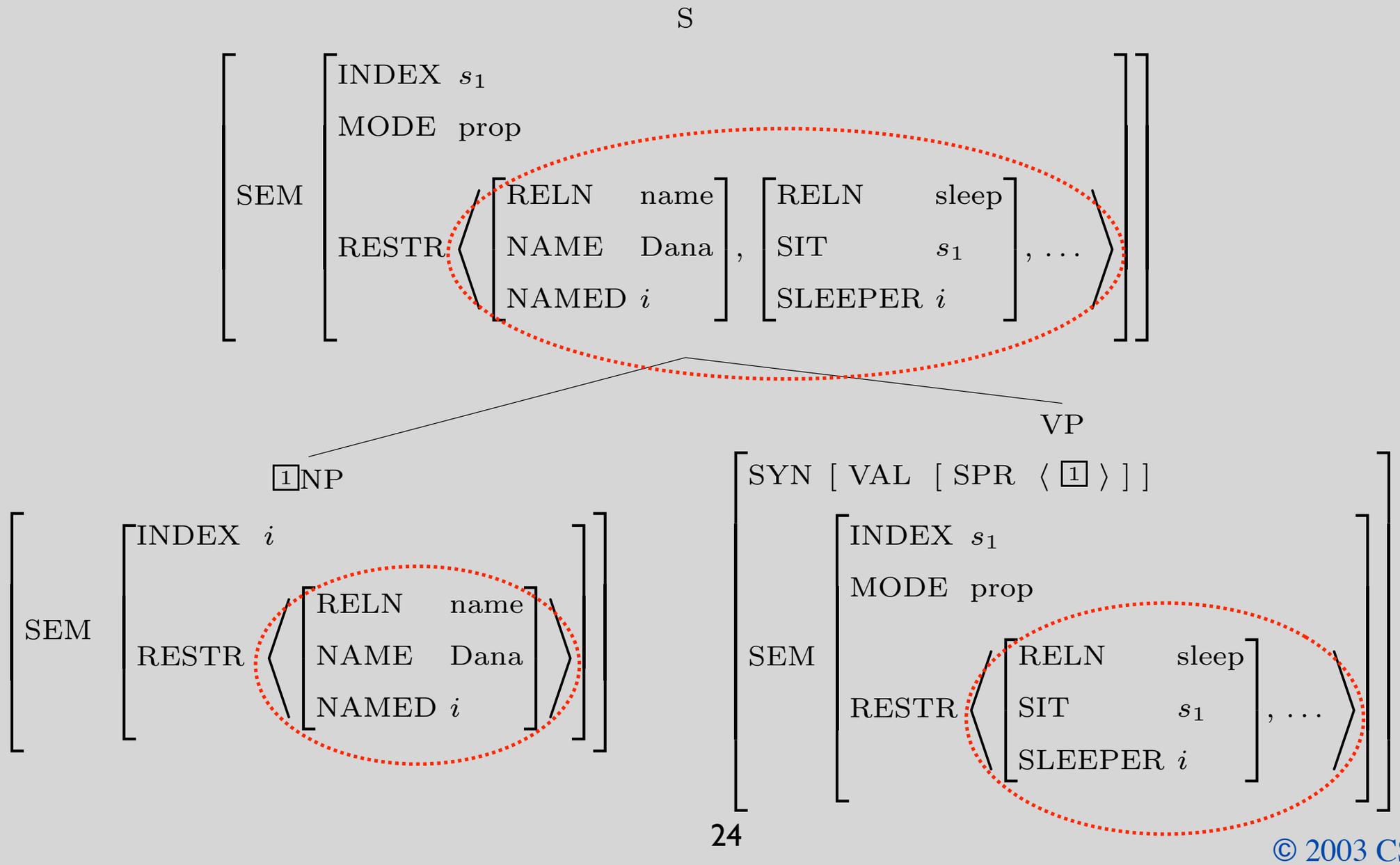
Summary: Grammar Rules ...

- identify feature structures (including the INDEX value) across daughters
- license trees which are subject to the semantic principles
  - SIP 'passes up' MODE and INDEX from head daughter



Summary: Grammar Rules ...

- identify feature structures (including the INDEX value) across daughters
- license trees which are subject to the semantic principles
  - SIP 'passes up' MODE and INDEX from head daughter
  - SCP: 'gathers up' predications (RESTR list) from all daughters



Other Aspects of Semantics

- Tense, Quantification (only touched on here)
- Modification
- Coordination
- Structural Ambiguity

Evolution of a Phrase Structure Rule

Ch. 2: NOM --> NOM PP

VP --> VP PP

Ch. 3: $$\begin{bmatrix} phrase \\ \text{VAL} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \text{itr} \\ \text{SPR} & - \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \begin{bmatrix} phrase \\ \text{VAL} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & - \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \text{PP}$$

Ch. 4: $$[phrase] \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \left[\text{VAL} \quad \left[\text{COMPS} \quad \langle\ \rangle \right] \right] \text{PP}$$

Ch. 5: $$[phrase] \rightarrow \mathbf{H}\boxed{1} \left[\text{SYN} \left[\text{VAL} \left[\text{COMPS} \langle\ \rangle \right] \right] \right] \left[\text{SYN} \left[\text{VAL} \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \boxed{1}\ \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] \right]$$

Ch. 5 (abbreviated): $$[phrase] \rightarrow \mathbf{H}\boxed{1} \left[\text{COMPS} \langle\ \rangle \right] \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \boxed{1}\ \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Evolution of Another Phrase Structure Rule

Ch. 2: X --> X^{+} CONJ X

Ch. 3: $\boxed{1} \rightarrow \boxed{1}^{+} \begin{bmatrix} word \\ \text{HEAD} \quad conj \end{bmatrix} \boxed{1}$

Ch. 4: $\begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}^{+} \begin{bmatrix} word \\ \text{HEAD} \quad conj \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$

Ch. 5: $\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & [\text{VAL } \boxed{0}] \\ \text{SEM} & [\text{IND} \quad s_0] \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & [\text{VAL } \boxed{0}] \\ \text{SEM} & [\text{IND} \quad s_1] \end{bmatrix} \ldots \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & [\text{VAL } \boxed{0}] \\ \text{SEM} & [\text{IND} \quad s_{n-1}] \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & conj \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & s_0 \\ \text{RESTR} & \langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARGS } \langle s_1 \ldots s_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & [\text{VAL } \boxed{0}] \\ \text{SEM} & [\text{IND} \quad s_n] \end{bmatrix}$$

Ch. 5 (abbreviated):

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_1 \end{bmatrix} \ldots \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & conj \\ \text{IND} & s_0 \\ \text{RESTR} & \langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARGS } \langle s_1 \ldots s_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Combining Constraints and Coordination

Coordination Rule

$$\begin{bmatrix}\text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_0\end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix}\text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_1\end{bmatrix} \ldots \begin{bmatrix}\text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_{n-1}\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\text{HEAD} & \textit{conj} \\ \text{IND} & s_0 \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix}\text{ARGS} & \langle s_1 \ldots s_n \rangle\end{bmatrix} \right\rangle\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_n\end{bmatrix}$$

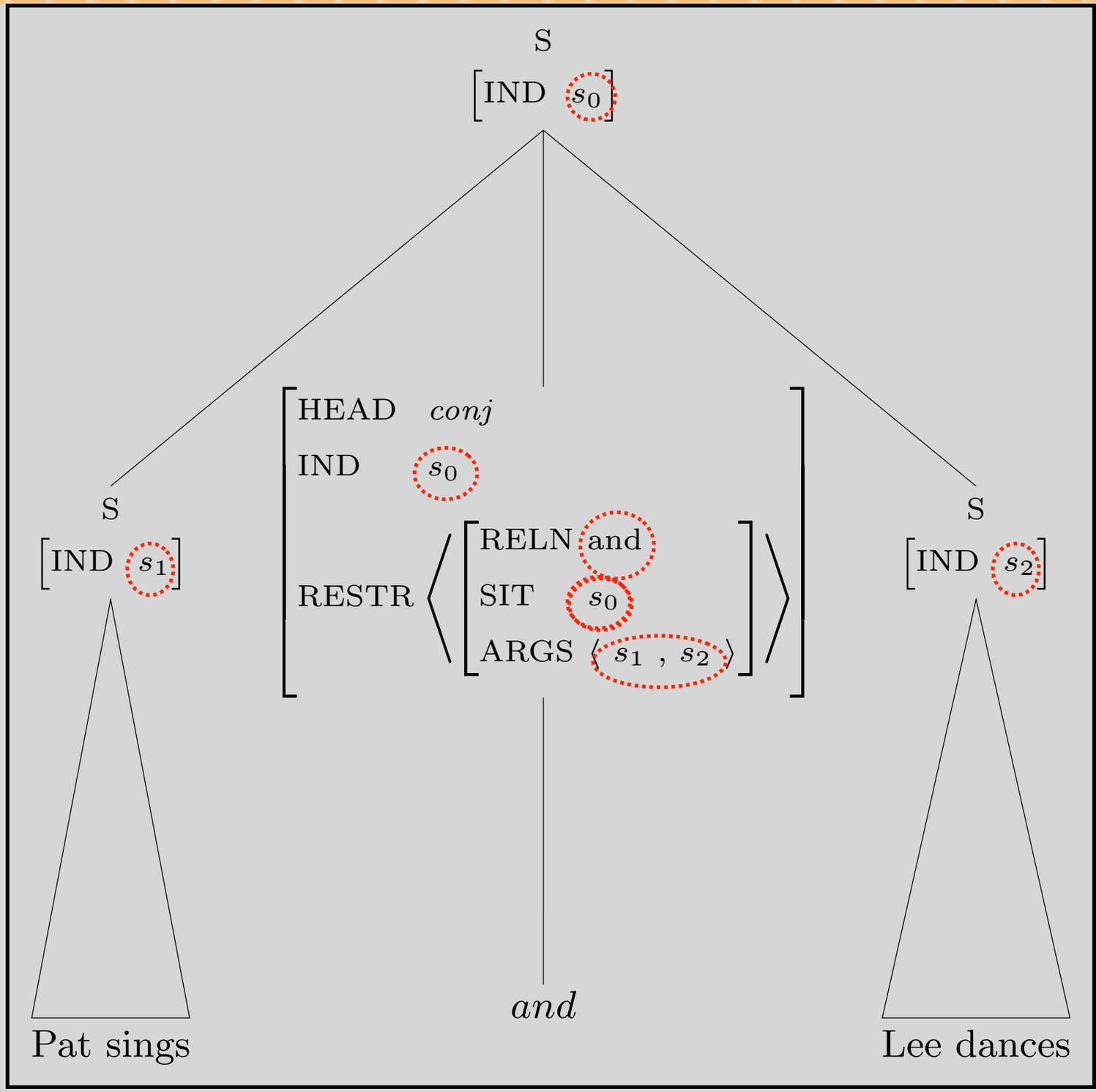
Lexical Entry for a Conjunction

$$\left\langle \text{and} , \begin{bmatrix}\text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix}\text{HEAD} & \textit{conj}\end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix}\text{INDEX} & s \\ \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix}\text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s\end{bmatrix} \right\rangle\end{bmatrix}\end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$

Combining Constraints and Coordination

Lexical Entry for *and*

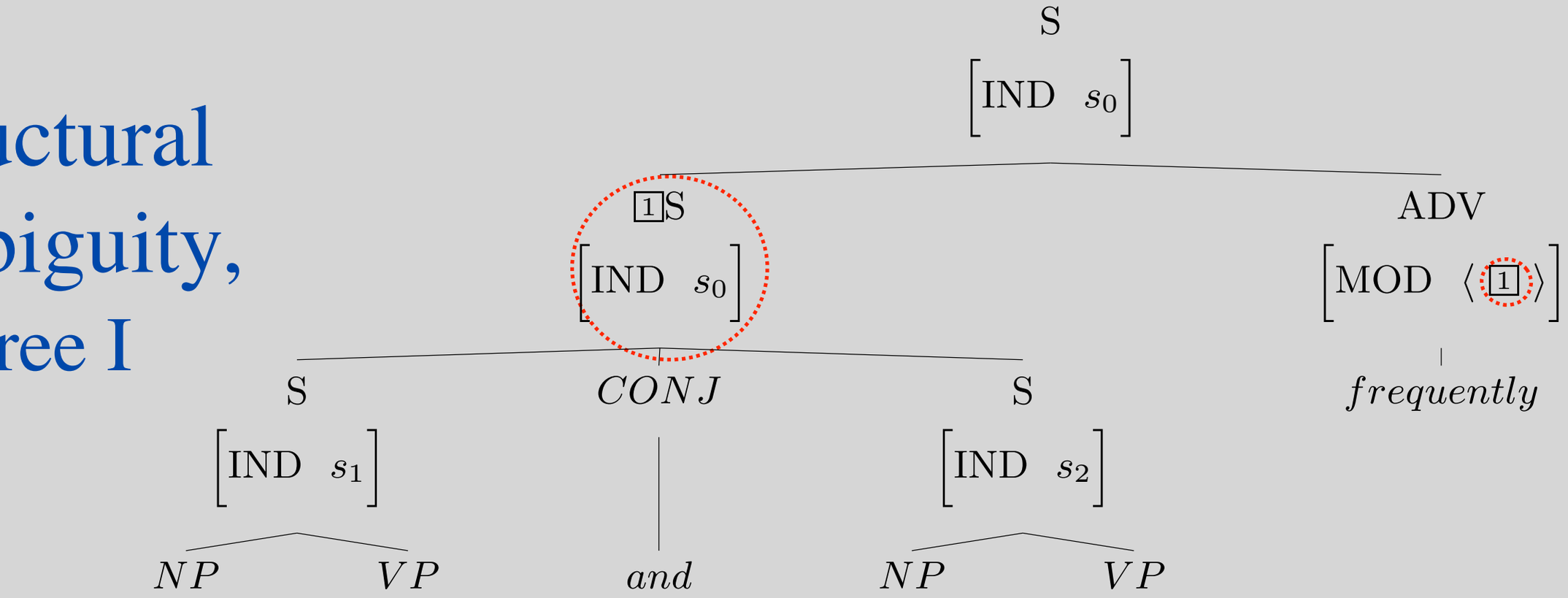
$$\left\langle \text{and} , \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{conj} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & s \\ \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$



Coordination Rule

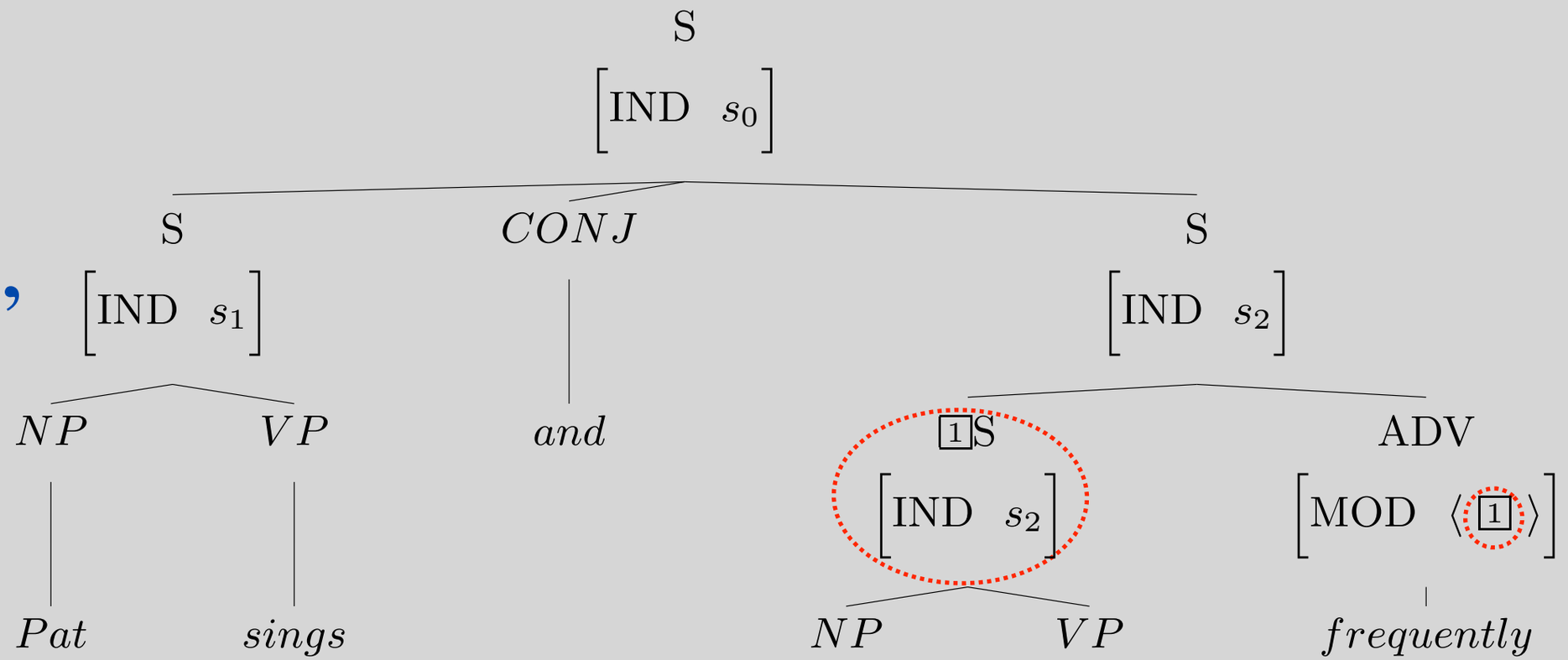
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_1 \end{bmatrix} \ldots \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{conj} \\ \text{IND} & s_0 \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARGS} & \langle s_1 \ldots s_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAL} & \boxed{0} \\ \text{IND} & s_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Structural Ambiguity, Tree I



$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & s_0 \\ \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sing} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SINGER} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s_0 \\ \text{ARGS} & \langle\, s_1 \,,\, s_2 \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\ & \left. \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Lee} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{dance} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{DANCER} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{frequently} \\ \text{ARG} & s_0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Structural Ambiguity, Tree II



$$\begin{bmatrix}
\text{IND} & s_0 \\
\text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sing} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SINGER} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s_0 \\ \text{ARGS} & \langle\, s_1 \,,\, s_2 \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\
 & \left. \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Lee} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{dance} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{DANCER} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{frequently} \\ \text{ARG} & s_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}$$

Question About Structural Ambiguity

Why isn't this a possible semantic representation for the string *Pat sings and Lee dances frequently*?

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\text{IND} & s_0 \\
\text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sing} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SINGER} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s_0 \\ \text{ARGS} & \langle\, s_1 \,,\, s_2 \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\
& \left. \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Lee} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{dance} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{DANCER} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{frequently} \\ \text{ARG} & s_1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}$$

Semantic Compositionality

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\text{IND} & s_0 \\
\text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sing} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SINGER} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s_0 \\ \text{ARGS} & \langle\, s_1 \,,\, s_2 \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\
 & \left. \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Lee} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{dance} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{DANCER} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{frequently} \\ \text{ARG} & s_0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\text{IND} & s_0 \\
\text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Pat} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sing} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SINGER} & \text{k} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{and} \\ \text{SIT} & s_0 \\ \text{ARGS} & \langle\, s_1 \,,\, s_2 \,\rangle \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\
 & \left. \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Lee} \\ \text{NAMED} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{dance} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{DANCER} & \text{j} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{frequently} \\ \text{ARG} & s_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}$$

Overview

- Some notes on the linguist's stance
- Which aspects of semantics we'll tackle
- Our formalization; Semantics Principles
- Building semantics of phrases
- Modification, coordination
- Structural ambiguity
- Next time: How the grammar works

RQs: Quantifiers

- What is up with QRESTR and QSCOPE?

(50)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{exist} \\ \text{BV} & i \\ \text{QRESTR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{QSCOPE} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}, \boxed{1}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{dog} \\ \text{INST} & i \end{bmatrix}, \boxed{2}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{all} \\ \text{BV} & j \\ \text{QRESTR} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{QSCOPE} & \boxed{4} \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\ \left. \boxed{3}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{family} \\ \text{INST} & j \end{bmatrix}, \boxed{4}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{save} \\ \text{SAVER} & i \\ \text{SAVED} & j \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

And to represent the reading where the universal quantifier outscopes the existential, as in (46b), we can simply identify the QSCOPE values differently, as shown in (51):

(51)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \boxed{2}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{exist} \\ \text{BV} & i \\ \text{QRESTR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{QSCOPE} & \boxed{4} \end{bmatrix}, \boxed{1}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{dog} \\ \text{INST} & i \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{all} \\ \text{BV} & j \\ \text{QRESTR} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{QSCOPE} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\ \left. \boxed{3}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{family} \\ \text{INST} & j \end{bmatrix}, \boxed{4}\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{save} \\ \text{SAVER} & i \\ \text{SAVED} & j \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

RQs: Lexical ambiguity

- How is lexical ambiguity handled? For the given sentence *Kim is running*, this could be either the form of exercise or as an entrant to some form of public office

RQs: Semantic representation design

- For restrictions is this something we generally come up with from our own knowledge for the lexical entries or would it be something we're normally given for homeworks?
- How are PRED names and their associated feature names chosen?
- Why is the RELN for a **exist**?

RQs: Names

- What's up with NAME/NAMED? Why do names all have RELN name?

RQs: INDEX vs. INST

- In (53) on page 154, the word *dog* has an INDEX i and an INST i, can you explain the difference between them and why INST is necessary?

RQs: Idioms

- Are we basically assuming that each content word contributes exactly one predication (with its own RELN, roles, and situation index) to RESTR? If so, how would that work for meanings that aren't strictly compositional, like idioms (eg. *spill the beans*) or ambiguous verbs (*run in a race* vs. *run for office*)? Would those need separate lexical entries, or can a single entry somehow represent multiple predications?

RQs:

- How do predications handle figurative language? E.g., trying to interpret *Kim is running late* like you would *Kim is running quickly* would be incorrect.

RQs: Quantity Principle

- 5.2 Quantity Principle: So does 'weaker' kind of mean 'less likely to be the truth/ intended meaning'?
- How can we formalize this principle for non-numeric cases such as *Some students passed*?
- Could a computational grammar encode such pragmatic inferences without explicitly modeling speaker intent?

RQs: Semantics v. pragmatics

- I'm curious what the boundary between semantics and pragmatics is. Is there no clear boundary?

RQs: Modifiers

- How do we block **The cat slept soundly and furry*?