# Ling 566 Feb 22, 2006

Auxiliaries

# Overview

- What are auxiliaries?
- General properties of auxiliaries
- Lexical type/lexical entries for auxiliaries
- NICE properties (lexical rules)

#### What Auxiliaries Are

- Sometimes called "helping verbs," auxiliaries are little words that come before the main verb of a sentence, including forms of *be, have, do, can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will,* and *would*
- They tend to be involved in the expression of time, necessity, possibility, permission, and obligation, as well as such things as negation, affirmation, and questioning

#### Some Basic Facts about Auxiliaries

- They are optional Pat tapdanced. Pat can tapdance. Pat is tapdancing.
- They precede any non-auxiliary verbs \*Pat tapdance can. \*Pat tapdancing is.
- They determine the form of the following verb \*Pat can tapdancing. \*Pat is tapdance.
- When they co-occur, their order is fixed Pat must be tapdancing. \*Pat is musting tapdance.
- Auxiliaries of any given type cannot iterate \*Pat could should tapdance.

# A Little History

- Chomsky's first book, *Syntactic Structures* (1957), contained a detailed analysis of the English system of auxiliary verbs
- It showed how formal analysis could reveal subtle generalizations
- The power of Chomsky's analysis of auxiliaries was one of the early selling points for transformational grammar
  - Especially, his unified treatment of auxiliary do
  - The relevant facts, and our analysis, will be covered next time.
- So it's a challenge to any theory of grammar to deal with the same phenomena

# Two Approaches to Analyzing Auxiliaries

- Treat auxiliaries as a special category, and formulate specialized transformations sensitive to their presence
- Assimilate their properties to existing types as much as possible, and elaborate the lexicon to handle what is special about them
- We adopt the latter, treating auxiliaries as a subtype of *srv-lxm*

# Consequences of Making *auxv-lxm* a Subtype of *srv-lxm*

- Auxliaries should express one-place predicates
- Auxiliaries should allow non-referential subjects (dummy *there*, *it*, and idiom chunks)
- Passivization of the main verb (the auxiliary's complement) should preserve truth conditions
- Are these borne out?

#### Why call auxiliaries verbs?

- *be, have*, and *do* exhibit verbal inflections (tense, agreement)
- be, have, and do can all appear as main verbs (that is, as the only verb in a sentence)
  - Their inflections are the same in main and auxiliary uses
  - be exhibits auxiliary behavior, even in its main verb uses
- Modals (*can*, *might*, *will*, etc.) don't inflect, but they occur in environments requiring a finite verb with no (other) finite verb around.

### What's special about auxiliaries?

- Unlike other subject-raising verbs we have looked at, their complements aren't introduced by *to*
- The modals and *do* have defective paradigms
- There are restrictions on the ordering and iterability of auxiliaries
- They have a set of special characteristics known as the NICE properties.

# Some Type Constraints

| TYPE       | FEATURES/CONSTRAINTS   | IST      |
|------------|--|----------|
| verb-lxm   | $\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} verb \\ \text{AUX} & / - \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$  | infl-lxm |
|            | $\begin{bmatrix} ARG\text{-}ST & \langle [HEAD \ nominal] \ , \dots \ \rangle \\ SEM & \begin{bmatrix} MODE \ prop \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$  |          |
| srv-lxm    | $\begin{bmatrix} ARG-ST & \left\langle \boxed{1}, \begin{bmatrix} SPR & \left\langle \boxed{1} \right\rangle \\ COMPS & \left\langle \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$  | verb-lxm |
| ic-srv-lxm | $\begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG-ST} & \left\langle \mathbf{X}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{INF} & + \\ \text{INDEX} & s \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG} & s \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$ | srv-lxm  |
| auxv-lxm   | $\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{AUX} & + \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$  | srv-lxm  |

# A Lexical Entry for be

# The Entry for be, with Inherited Information

$$\begin{bmatrix} auxv-lxm \\ SYN & \begin{bmatrix} Werb \\ AUX + \\ AGR & \boxed{0} \end{bmatrix} \\ VAL & \begin{bmatrix} SPR & \langle [AGR & \boxed{0}] & \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} be \\ ARG-ST & \langle \boxed{3} \\ , \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} HEAD & \begin{bmatrix} PRED \\ VAL & \begin{bmatrix} SPR & \langle \boxed{3} & \rangle \\ COMPS & \langle & \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ SEM & \begin{bmatrix} MODE & prop \\ INDEX & \boxed{2} \\ RESTR & \langle & \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{cases}$$

# Entry for have

$$\left\langle \text{have} \right. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \mathbf{X} \right. \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYN} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{c} verb \\ \text{FORM} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SEM} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INDEX} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right] \right\} \right\}$$

# Lexical Entry for a Modal

# Accounting for the Basic Facts Cited Earlier

- Optionality of auxiliaries:
  - As raising verbs, their subjects and complements go together.
- Auxiliaries precede non-auxiliary verbs:
   Auxiliaries are heads, and complements follow heads in English.
- Auxiliaries determine the form of the following verb: This is built into their lexical entries.
- When auxiliaries co-occur, their order is fixed:
   Different explanations for different combinations; see next slide.
- Non-iterability of auxiliaries:
   Ditto.

# Accounting for Restrictions on Order and Iterability

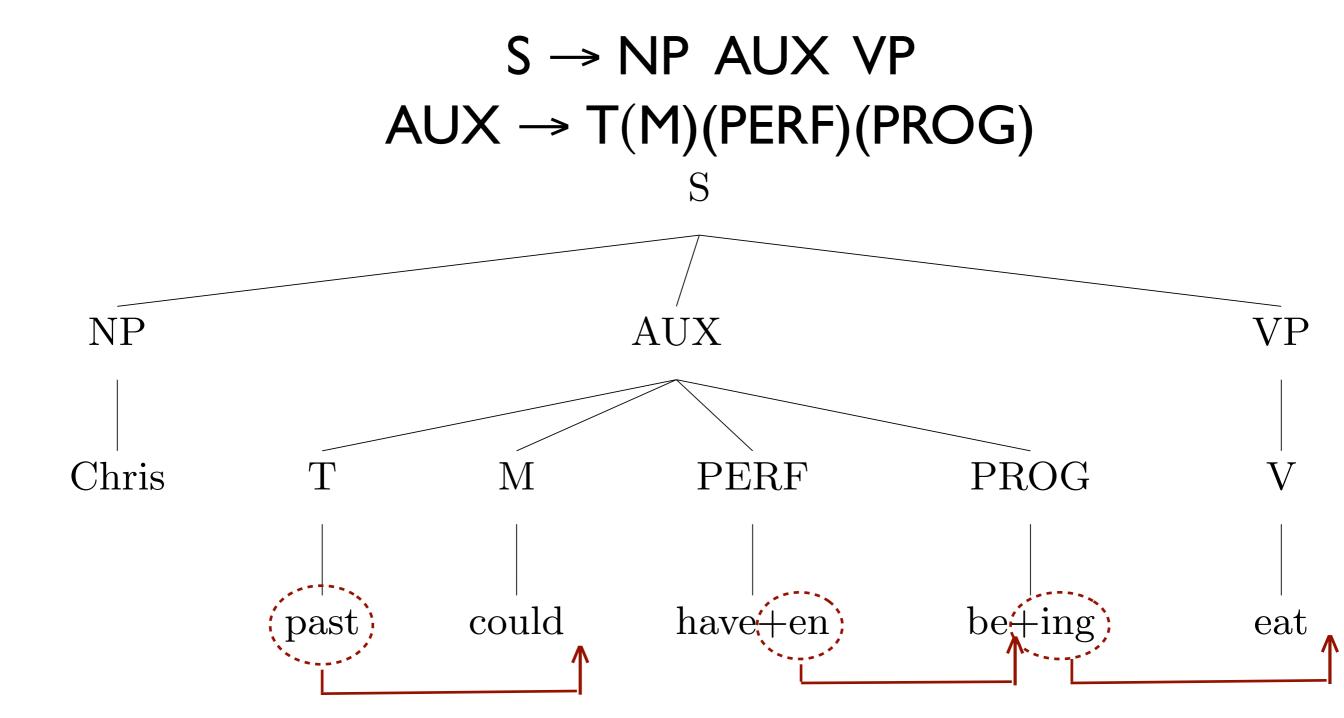
#### Order

- Modals are finite, and all auxiliaries take non-finite complements. Hence, modals must come first.
- Stative verbs (like *own*) don't have present participles, and auxiliary *have* is stative. Hence, \**Pat is having tapdanced*.

#### Iterability

- Auxiliary be is also stative, so \*Pat is being tapdancing.
- Modals must be finite, and their complements must be base, so \*Pat can should tapdance.
- \*Pat has had tapdanced can be ruled out in various ways, e.g. stipulating that auxiliary have has no past participle.

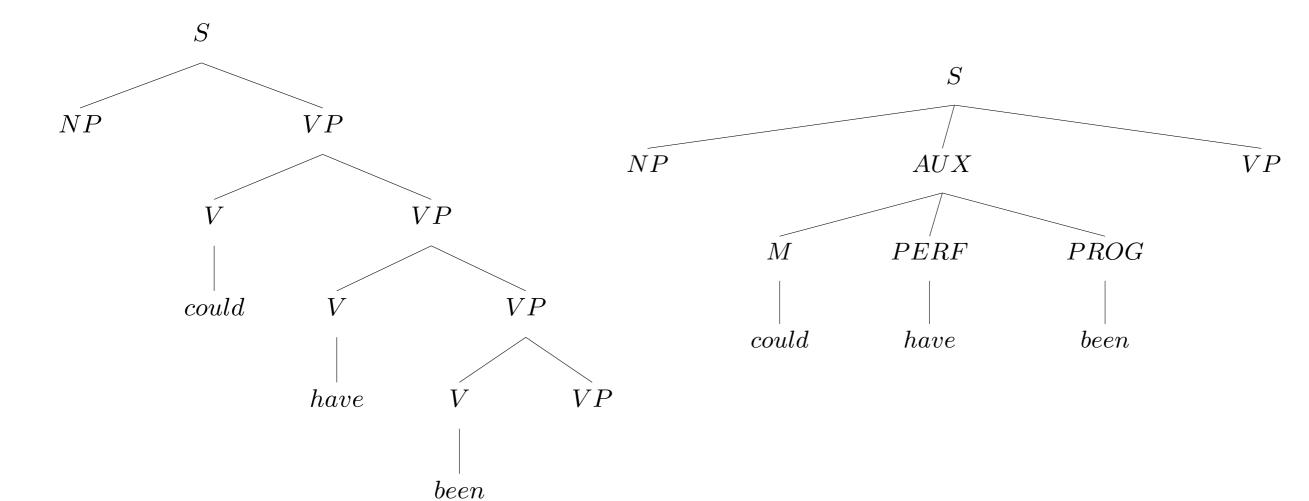
# Sketch of Chomsky's Old Analysis



# How this Analysis Handles the Basic Facts

- Optionality of auxiliaries:
   Stipulated in the phrase structure rule (with parentheses)
- Auxiliaries precede non-auxiliary verbs:
   Built into the phrase structure rule, with AUX before VP
- Auxiliaries determine the form of the following verb: Inflections are inserted with the auxiliaries and moved onto the following verb transformationally.
- When auxiliaries co-occur, their order is fixed: Stipulated in the phrase structure rule for AUX
- Non-iterability of auxiliaries:
   Ditto.

# The two analyses assign very different trees



- could have been VP,
   have been VP, and been VP
   are all constituents
- could have been is not a constituent

- could have been VP, have been VP, and been VP are not constituents
  - could have been is a constituent

# Ellipsis and Constituency

#### • Consider:

Pat couldn't have been eating garlic, but Chris could have been Pat couldn't have been eating garlic, but Chris could have Pat couldn't have been eating garlic, but Chris could

- On the nested analysis, the missing material is a (VP) constituent in each case
- On the flat analysis, the missing material is never a constituent
- This argues for our analysis over the old transformational one. Our treatment of ellipsis is presented in the next class

# Our Analysis of Auxiliaries So Far

- Auxiliaries are subject-raising verbs
- Most basic distributional facts about them can be handled through selectional restrictions between auxiliaries and their complements (that is, as ARG-ST constraints)
- Auxiliaries are identified via a HEAD feature AUX, which we have not yet put to use

# Descriptive Summary of the NICE Properties

Negation

Sentences are negated by putting *not* after the first auxiliary verb; they can be reaffirmed by putting *too* or *so* in the same position

Inversion

Questions are formed by putting an auxiliary verb before the subject NP

Contraction

Auxiliary verbs take negated forms, with *n't* affixed

Ellipsis

Verb phrases immediately following an auxiliary verb can be omitted

# Negation (and Reaffirmation)

• Polar adverbs (sentential *not*, *so*, and *too*) appear immediately following an auxiliary

```
Pat will not leave
Pat will SO leave
Pat will TOO leave
```

- What about examples like *Not many people left*?
- What happens when you want to deny or reaffirm a sentence with no auxiliary?

```
Pat left
Pat did not leave
Pat did TOO leave
```

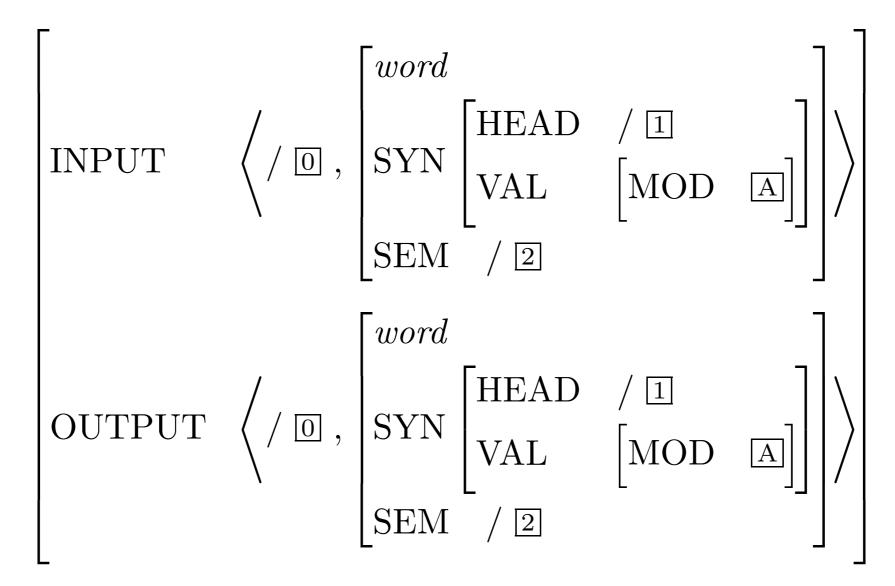
# The Auxiliary do

- Like modals, *do* only occurs in finite contexts:
  - \*Pat continued to do not leave
- Unlike modals, *do* cannot be followed by other auxiliaries: \*Pat did not have left

# The ADV<sub>pol</sub>-Addition Lexical Rule

# What does the type *pi-rule* mean?

- It maps words to words (hence, "post-inflectional")
- It preserves MOD values, HEAD values as a default, and (like other lexical rule types) SEM values as a default



# Why doesn't $ADV_{pol}$ -Addition LR mention VAL?

#### What is the role of these indices?

$$| INPUT | \left\langle X, \left[ \begin{array}{c} SYN & \left[ \begin{array}{c} werb & \\ FORM & fin \\ POL & - \\ AUX & + \end{array} \right] \right] \right\rangle$$

$$| INPUT | \left\langle X, \left[ \begin{array}{c} SYN & \left[ \begin{array}{c} Werb & \\ FORM & fin \\ POL & - \\ AUX & + \end{array} \right] \right] \right\rangle$$

$$| INDEX | \left[ \begin{array}{c} SEM & \left[ \begin{array}{c} INDEX & \left\langle S_1 \right\rangle \\ SPR & \left\langle Z \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \right]$$

$$| OUTPUT | \left\langle Y, \left[ \begin{array}{c} SYN & \left[ \begin{array}{c} HEAD & \left[ POL & + \right] \\ VAL & \left[ SPR & \left\langle Z \right\rangle \right] \end{array} \right] \right\rangle$$

$$| SEM & \left[ \begin{array}{c} INDEX & \left\langle S_2 \right\rangle \\ RESTR & \left\langle \left[ ARG & \left\langle S_1 \right\rangle \right] \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

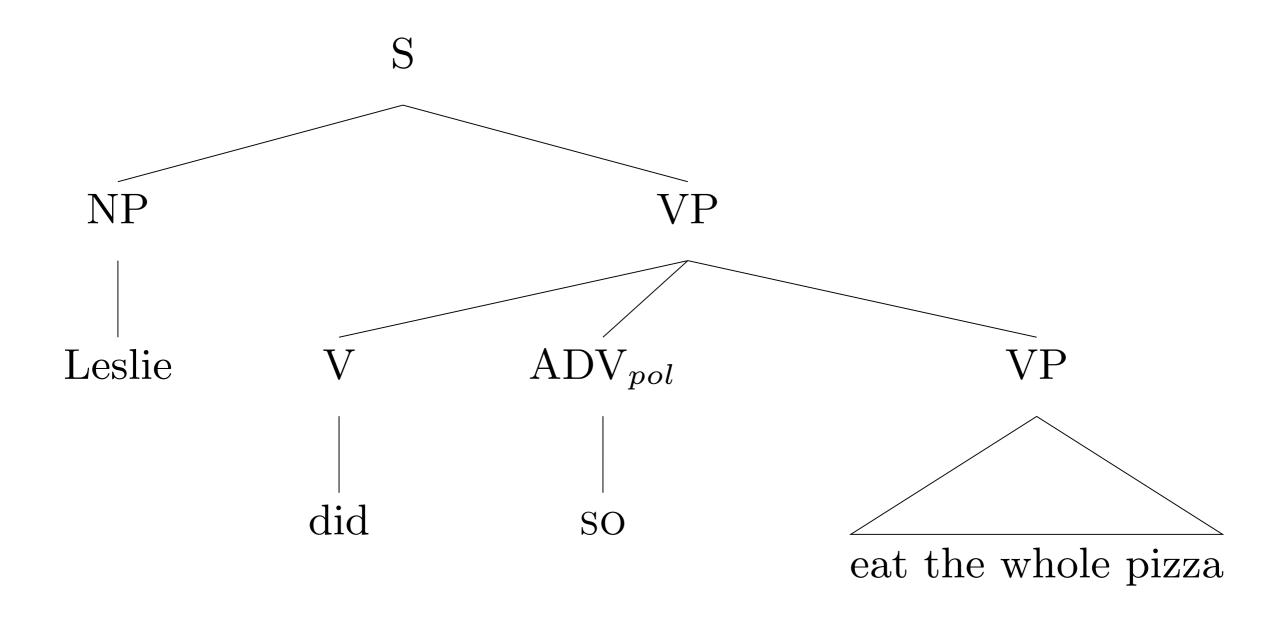
$$| SEM & \left[ \begin{array}{c} INDEX & \left\langle S_2 \right\rangle \\ SEM & \left[ \begin{array}{c} SEM & \left\langle S_2 \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \right\rangle$$

#### Which *not*s does the rule license?

$$\begin{bmatrix} pi\text{-rule} \\ & & \\ &$$

| Andy must <u>not</u> have been sleeping? | $\checkmark$ |
|--|--------------|
| Andy must have <u>not</u> been sleeping? | X            |
| Andy must have been not sleeping?        | X            |
| Kleptomaniacs cannot not steal.          | $\checkmark$ |
| Kleptomaniacs cannot <u>not</u> steal.   | X            |

# Negation and Reaffirmation: A Sample Tree



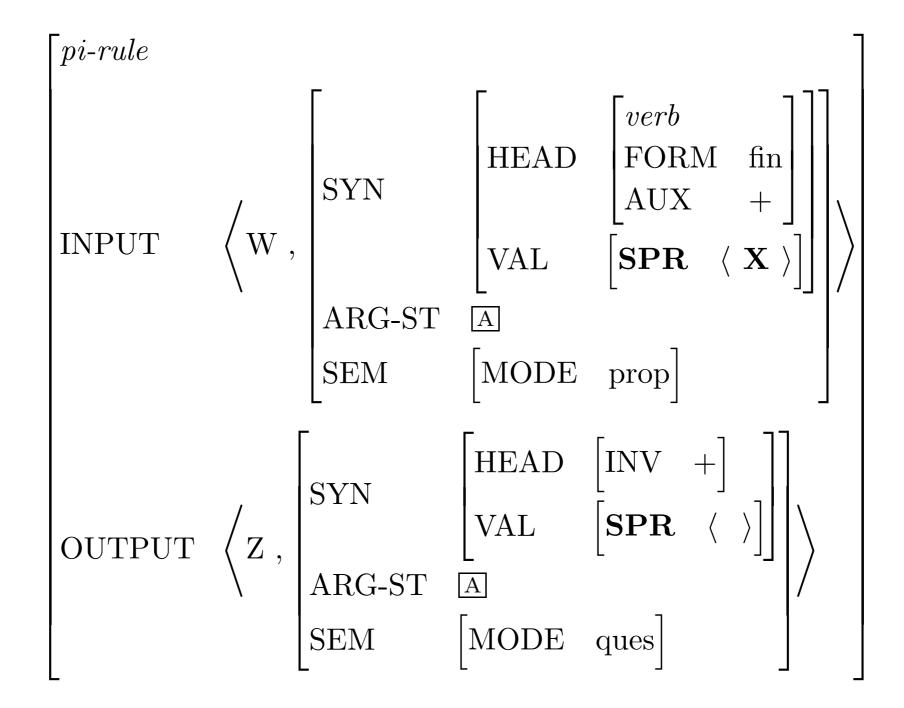
#### Inversion

- Yes-no questions begin with an auxiliary: *Will Robin win?*
- The NP after the auxiliary has all the properties of a subject
  - Agreement: *Have they left?* vs. \**Has they left?*
  - Case: \**Have them left?*
  - Raising: Will there continue to be food at the meetings?
- What happens if you make a question out of a sentence without an auxiliary?

Robin won
Did Robin win?

#### The Inversion Lexical Rule

#### How the Rule Yields Inverted Order



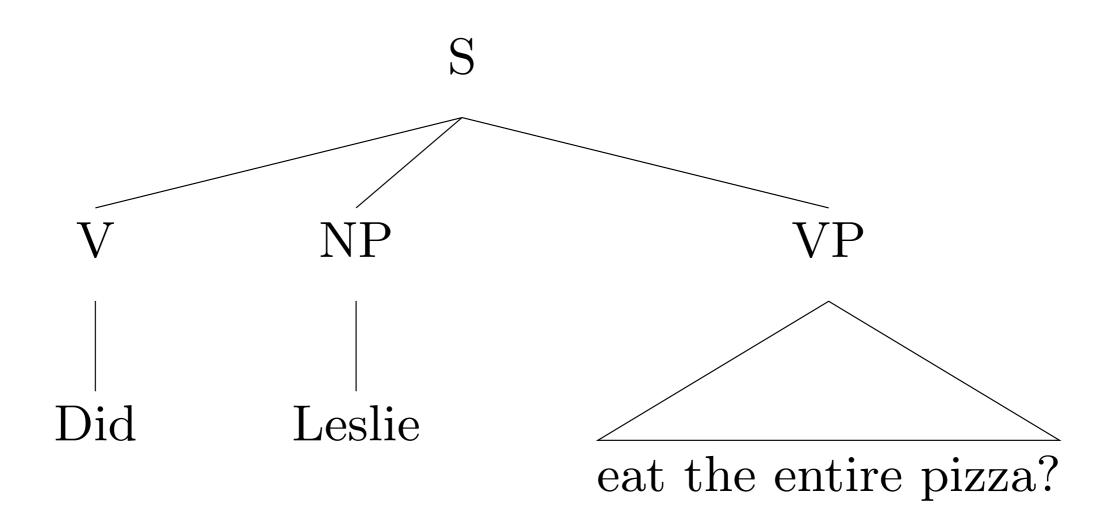
#### The Feature INV

- What is the INV value of inputs to the Inversion LR?
  - Perhaps surprisingly, the input is [INV +]
  - Word-to-word rules (*pi-rules*) have default identity of HEAD features, and no INV value is given on the input
- Then what work is the feature doing?
  - It's used to mark auxiliaries that can't or must be inverted You better watch out vs. \*Better you watch out I shall go (shall ~ 'will') vs. Shall I go? (shall ~ 'should')

#### Other Cases of Inversion

- Inversion is not limited to questions
  - Preposed negatives: Never have I been so upset!
  - Conditionals: *Had we known, we would have left.*
  - Exclamations: May your teeth fall out!
- Does our rule account for these?
  - No. Our rule's output says [MODE ques]. And each construction has slightly different idiosyncracies.
- How might we extend our analysis to cover them?
  - Define a type of inversion lexical rules, sharing certain properties, but with some differences.

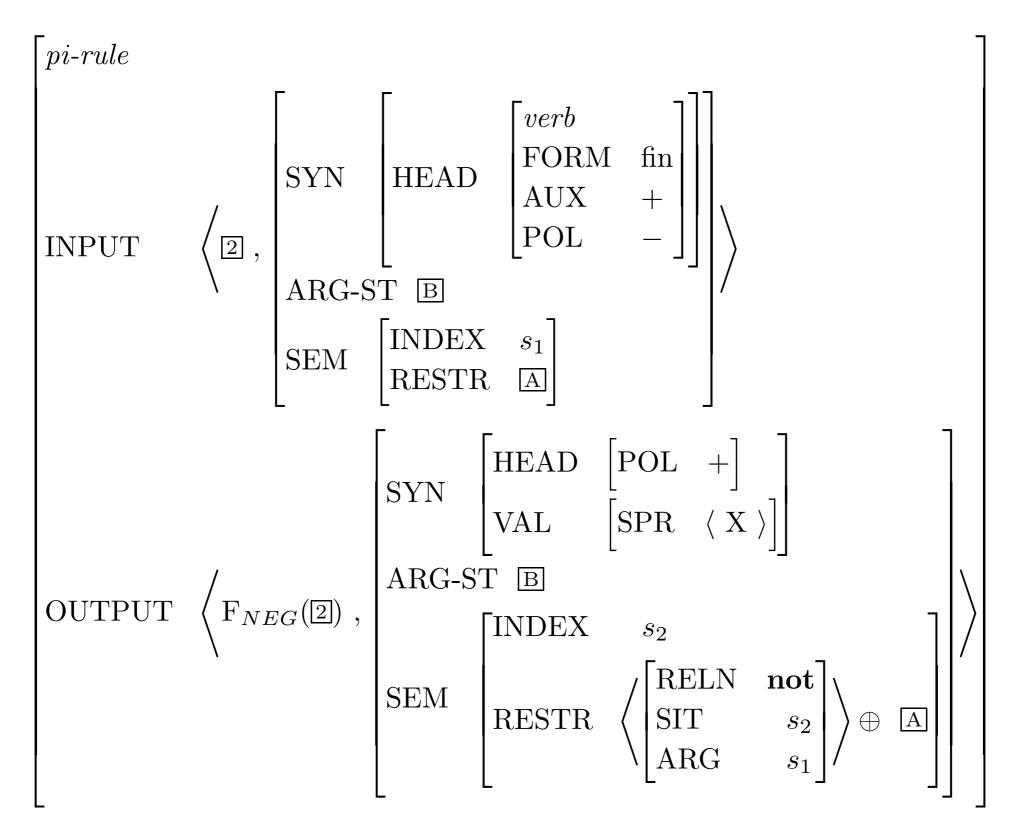
# Inversion: A Sample Tree



## Contraction

- There are several types of contraction in English, but we're only talking about words ending in *n't*
- It may seem like just *not* said fast, but there's more to it
  - Only finite verbs can take n't:
     \*Terry must haven't seen us
  - There are morphological irregularities:

## The Contraction Lexical Rule



### Most of the work is in the semantics

$$\begin{bmatrix} pi\text{-}rule \\ & \\ \text{INPUT} & \left\langle 2 \right\rangle, \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} verb \\ \text{FORM} & \text{fin} \\ \text{AUX} & + \\ \text{POL} & - \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ & \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \boxed{\mathbb{B}} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\Delta} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ & \\ \text{OUTPUT} & \left\langle F_{NEG}(2) \right\rangle, \begin{bmatrix} \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & [\text{POL} & +] \\ \text{VAL} & [\text{SPR} & \langle \text{X} \rangle] \end{bmatrix} \\ & \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \boxed{\mathbb{B}} \\ & \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & s_2 \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{not} \\ \text{SIT} & s_2 \\ \text{ARG} & s_1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \oplus \boxed{\Delta} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

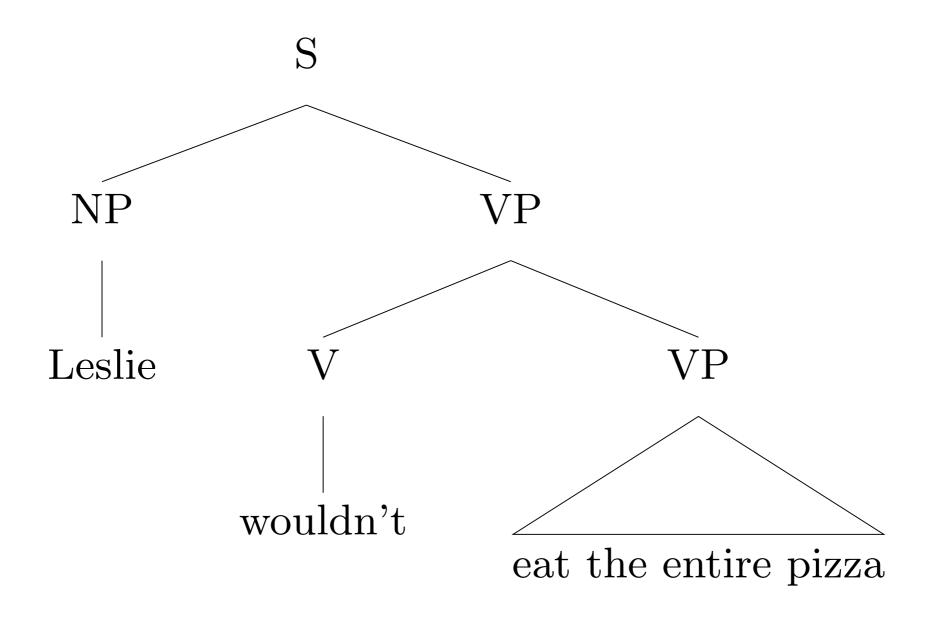
Why?

### What does POL do?

\*We can'tn't stop

\*They won't TOO mind

# Contraction: Sample Tree



# Ellipsis

• Ellipsis allows VPs to be omitted, so long as they would have been preceded by an auxiliary

Pat couldn't have been watching us, but Chris could have been watching us.

- Unlike the other NICE properties, this holds of all auxiliaries, not just finite ones.
  - What is the elliptical counterpart to a sentence with no auxiliary?

Whenever Pat watches TV, Chris watches TV Whenever Pat watches TV, Chris does

## The Ellipsis Lexical Rule

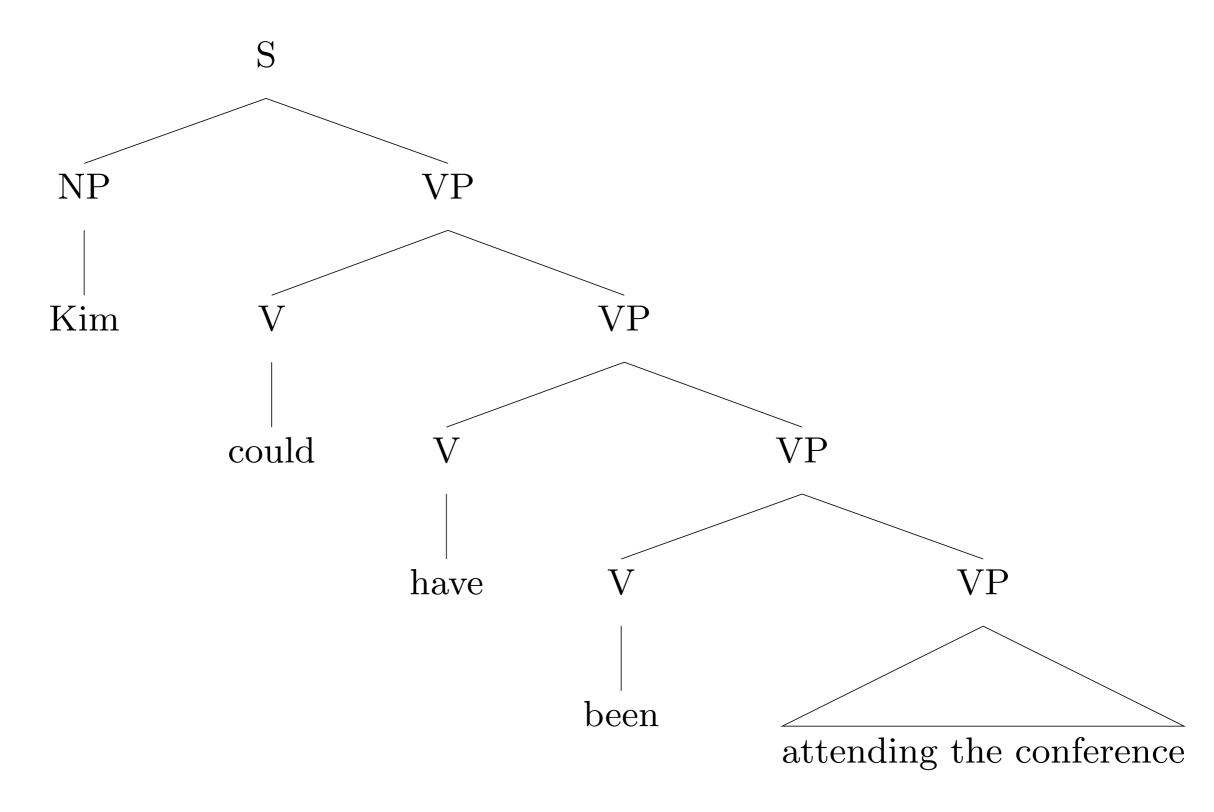
$$\begin{bmatrix} d\text{-}rule \\ \text{INPUT} & \left\langle \boxed{1}, \begin{bmatrix} auxv\text{-}lxm \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \left\langle \boxed{2} \right\rangle & \oplus & \boxed{A} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \text{OUTPUT} & \left\langle \boxed{1}, \begin{bmatrix} dervv\text{-}lxm \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \left\langle \boxed{2} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

- Note that this is a derivational LR (*d-rule*) -- that is, lexeme-to-lexeme
- This means that SYN and SEM are unchanged, by default

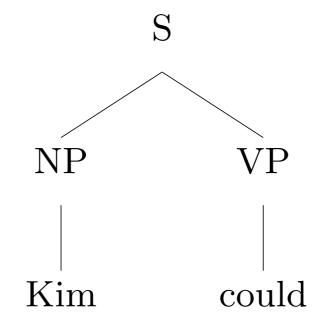
# Ellipsis: A Sample Output

|                                       | $\int auxv$ - $lxm$ |                      |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| $\left\langle \mathrm{could} \right.$ | SYN                 | HEAD                 | FORM fin AUX + POL - AGR 1   |
|                                       |                     | VAL                  | $\begin{bmatrix} SPR & \langle [AGR \ 1] \rangle \end{bmatrix} \Big  \Big  \Big $  |
|                                       | ARG-ST              | $\langle NP \rangle$ |  |
|                                       |                     | MODE<br>INDEX        | $s_1$  |
|                                       | SEM                 | RESTR                | $\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{RELN} & \mathrm{could} \\ \mathrm{SIT} & s_1 \\ \mathrm{ARG} & s_2 \end{bmatrix} \right angle$ |

# Ellipsis: A Sample Tree



# Semantics of Ellipsis



#### What is the SEM value of the S node of this tree?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{name} \\ \text{NAME} & \text{Kim} \\ \text{NAMED} & i \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{could} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{ARG} & s_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$

Note:  $s_2$  has to be filled in by context.

## Infinitival to Revisited

- VP Ellipsis can occur after to:
  - We didn't find the solution, but we tried to.
- This is covered by our Ellipsis LR if we say *to* is [AUX +].
- Since AUX is declared on type *verb*, it follows that *to* is a verb.

## do Revisited

- Chomsky's old analysis: in sentences w/o auxiliaries...
  - Tense can get separated from the verb in various ways
    - Negation/Reaffirmation inserts something between Tense and the following verb
    - Inversion moves Tense to the left of the subject NP
    - Ellipsis deletes what follows Tense
  - When this happens, do is inserted to support Tense
- Our counterpart:
  - NICE properties hold only of auxiliaries
  - *do* is a semantically empty auxiliary, so negated, reaffirmed, inverted, and elliptical sentences that are the semantic counterparts to sentences w/o auxiliaries are ones with *do*.

## Summary

- Our analysis employs straightforward mechanisms
  - Lexical entries for auxiliaries
  - 3 new features (AUX, POL, INV)
  - 4 lexical rules
- We handle a complex array of facts
  - co-occurrence restrictions (ordering & iteration)
  - the NICE properties
  - auxiliary do
  - combinations of NICE constructions