Ling 566
Jan 28, 2019

How the Grammar Works

Overview

- What we're trying to do
- The pieces of our grammar
- Two extended examples
- Reflection on what we've done, what we still have to do
- Reading questions

What We're Trying To Do

- Objectives
  - Develop a theory of knowledge of language
  - Represent linguistic information explicitly enough to distinguish well-formed from ill-formed expressions
  - Be parsimonious, capturing linguistically significant generalizations.
- Why Formalize?
  - To formulate testable predictions
  - To check for consistency
  - To make it possible to get a computer to do it for us

How We Construct Sentences

- The Components of Our Grammar
  - Grammar rules
  - Lexical entries
  - Principles
  - Type hierarchy (very preliminary, so far)
  - Initial symbol (S, for now)
- We combine constraints from these components.
  - Q: What says we have to combine them?

An Example

A cat slept.

- Can we build this with our tools?
- Given the constraints our grammar puts on well-formed sentences, is this one?

Lexical Entry for *a*

$$\left\langle \text{a} \;,\; \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{det} & \\ \text{AGR} & \textit{3sing} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & j \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & j \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle$$

- Is this a fully specified description?
- What features are unspecified?
- How many word structures can this entry license?

Lexical Entry for *cat*

$$\left\langle \text{cat} , \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{3sing} & \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COUNT} & + \\ \text{INDEX} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\,\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle_{\text{D}}$$

- Which feature paths are abbreviated?
- Is this a fully specified description?
- What features are unspecified?
- How many word structures can this entry license?

Effect of Principles: the SHAC

$$\left\langle \text{cat} \;,\; \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{3sing} & \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \\ \text{INDEX} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\,\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle$$

Description of Word Structures for *cat*

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{word} & & \\
\text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix}
\text{HEAD} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2}\begin{bmatrix} \textit{3sing} \\ \text{GEND} \ \text{neut} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\
\text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix}
\text{SPR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \\ \text{INDEX} & k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle_{\text{D}} \\
\text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\
\text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle
\end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix} \\
\text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix}
\text{MODE} & \text{ref} \\
\text{INDEX} & k \\
\text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

cat

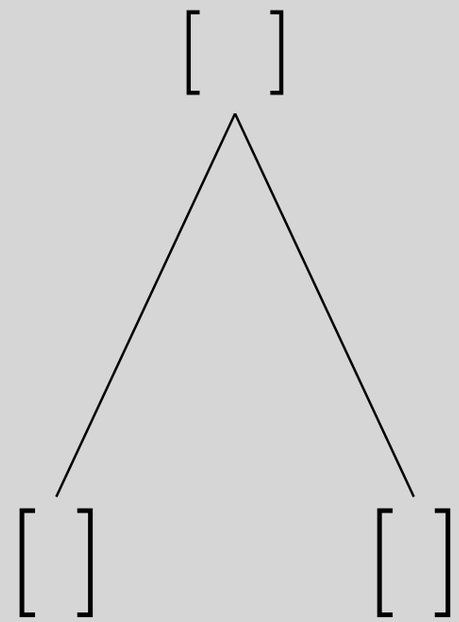
Description of Word Structures for *a*

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{det} & \\ \text{AGR} & \textit{3sing} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & j \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & j \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

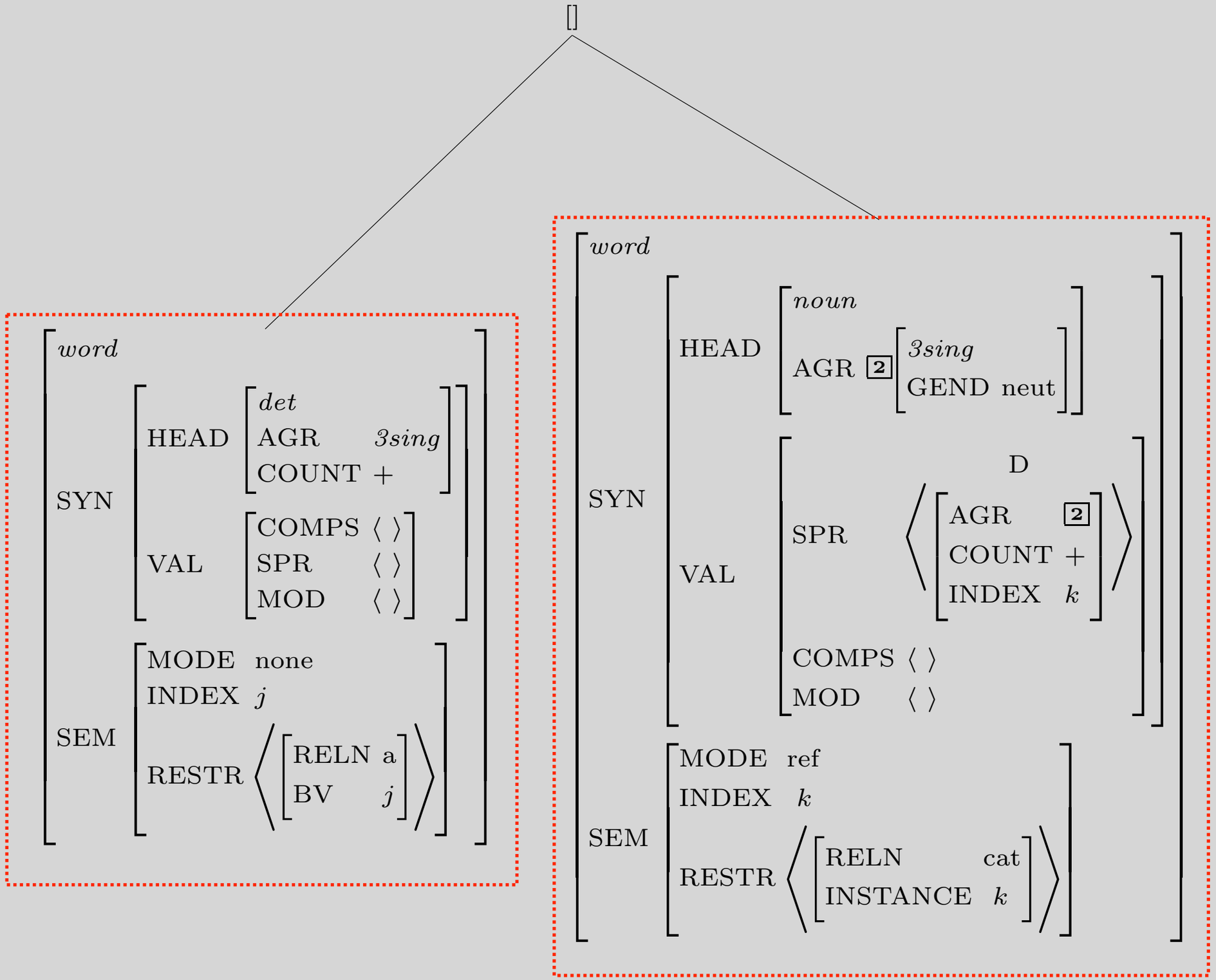
$$|$$

$$a$$

Building a Phrase



Constraints Contributed by Daughter Subtrees



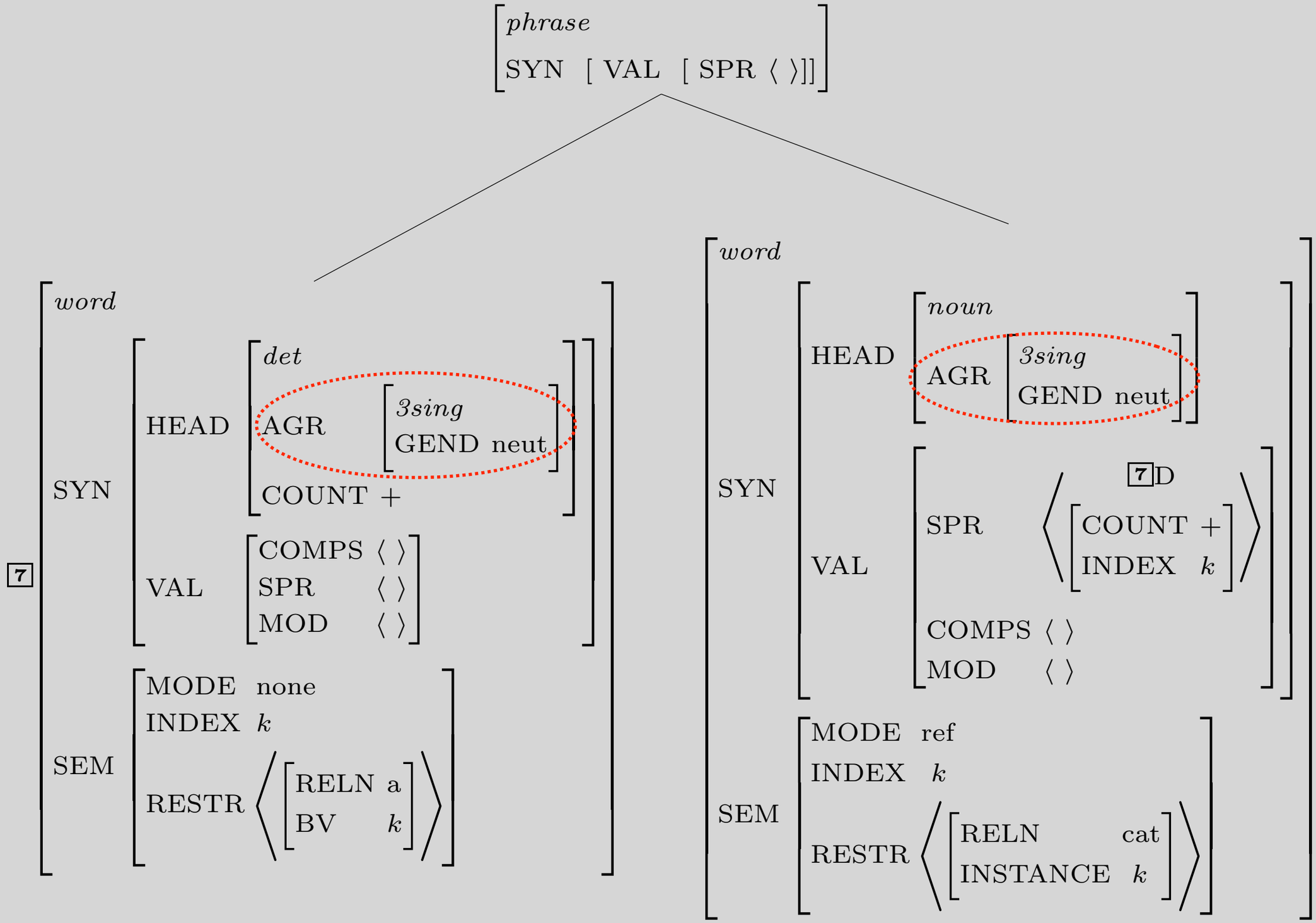
Constraints Contributed by the Grammar Rule

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \textit{phrase} \\ \text{SYN} \;\; [\,\text{VAL} \;\; [\,\text{SPR} \;\langle\,\rangle]] \end{array}\right]$$

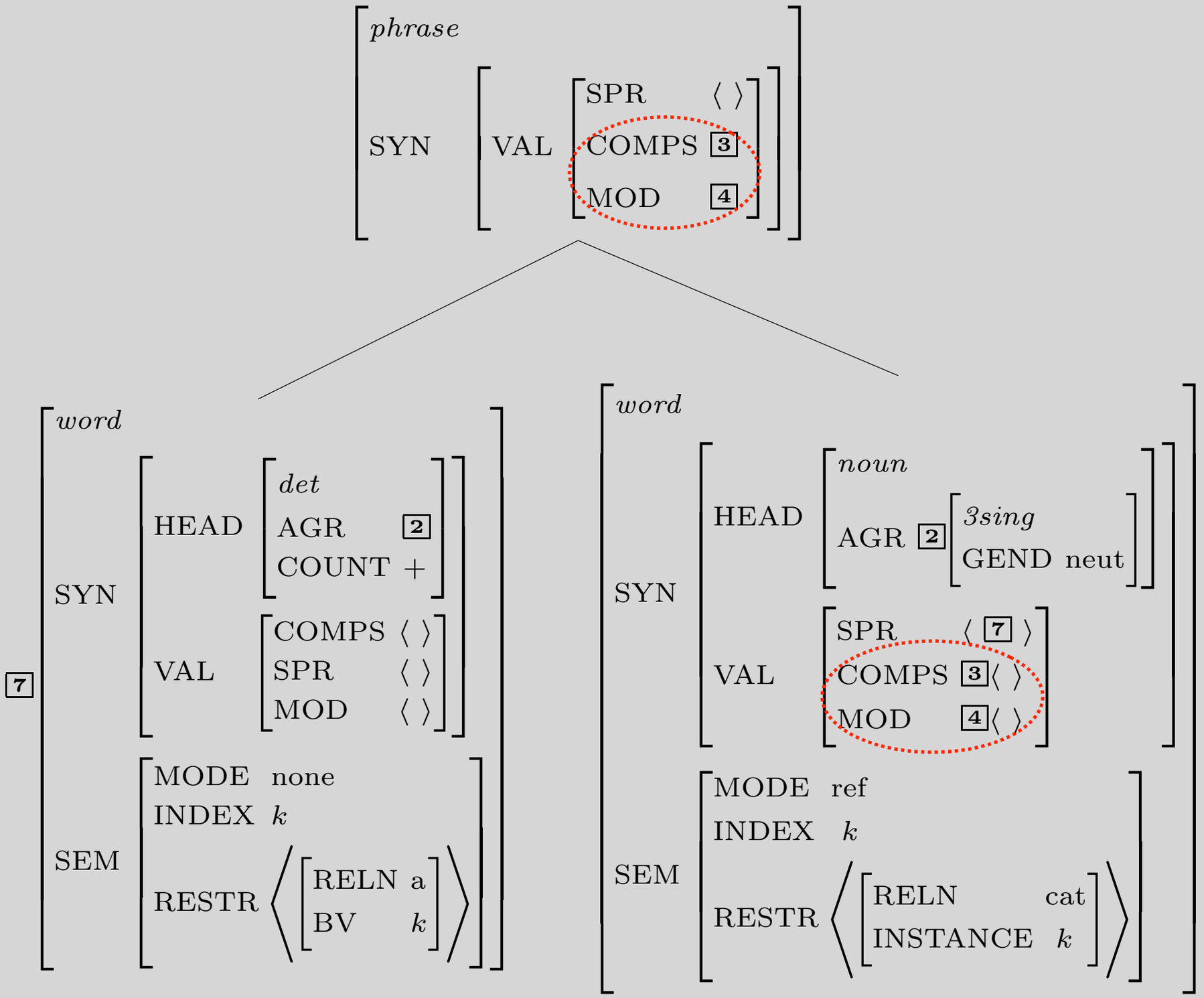
$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{det} & \\ \text{AGR} & \left[\begin{array}{l} \textit{3sing} \\ \text{GEND neut} \end{array}\right] \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COMPS} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\,\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \boxed{7} & \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \left[\begin{array}{l} \textit{3sing} \\ \text{GEND neut} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \left\langle \boxed{7}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COUNT} & + \\ \text{INDEX} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\,\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

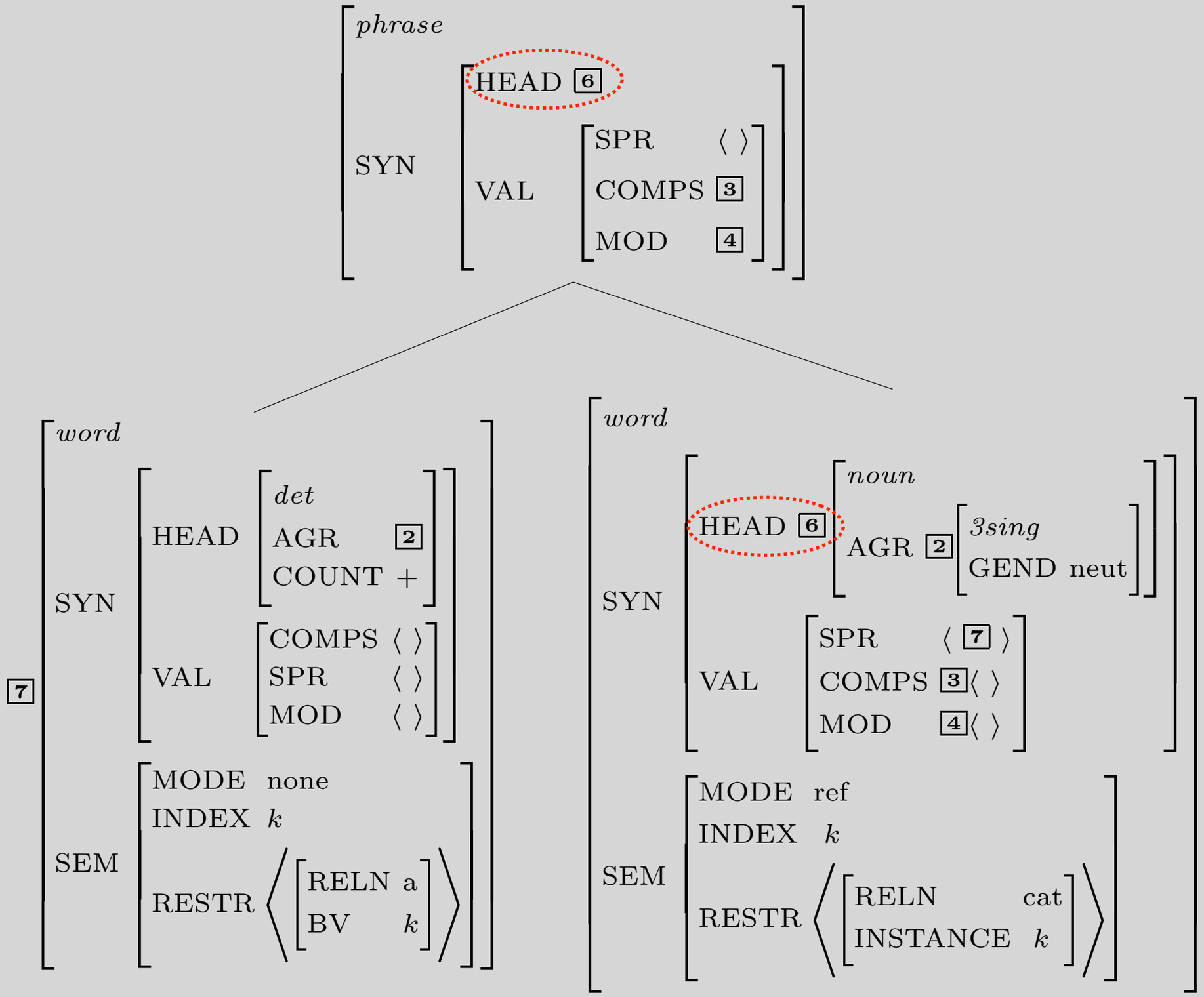
A Constraint Involving the SHAC



Effects of the Valence Principle



Effects of the Head Feature Principle



Effects of the Semantic Inheritance Principle

$$\begin{bmatrix} phrase \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\boxed{7}\begin{bmatrix} word \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \begin{bmatrix} det \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{COMPS} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} word \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6}\begin{bmatrix} noun \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2}\begin{bmatrix} 3sing \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\boxed{7}\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3}\langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4}\langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8}\text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Effects of the Semantic Compositionality Principle

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6} \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{A} \oplus \boxed{B} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

$$\boxed{7}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{det} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{A}\left\langle\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & k \end{array}\right]\right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{3sing} & \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \boxed{7}\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3}\langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4}\langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8}\text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{B}\left\langle\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{array}\right]\right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

Is the Mother Node Now Completely Specified?

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6} \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}} \oplus \boxed{\text{B}} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

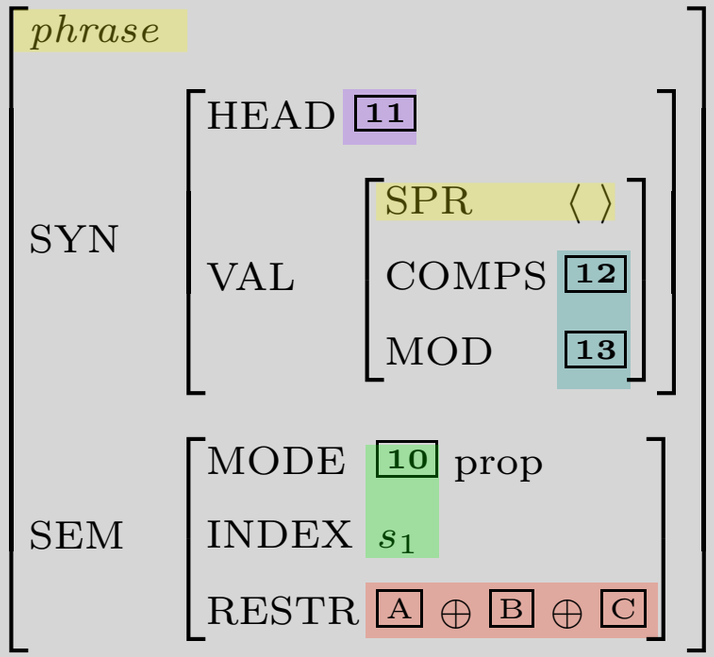
$$\boxed{7}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{det} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{COUNT} & + \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{SPR} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \text{none} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}}\left\langle\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & k \end{array}\right]\right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

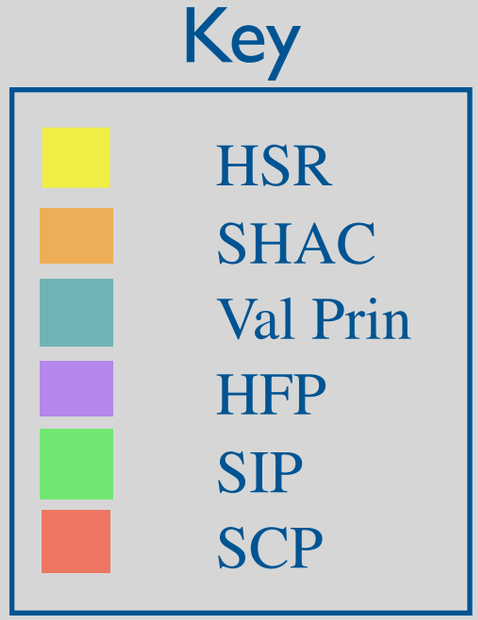
$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2}\left[\begin{array}{ll} \textit{3sing} & \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \langle\ \boxed{7}\ \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3}\langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4}\langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8}\text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{B}}\left\langle\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INSTANCE} & k \end{array}\right]\right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right]$$

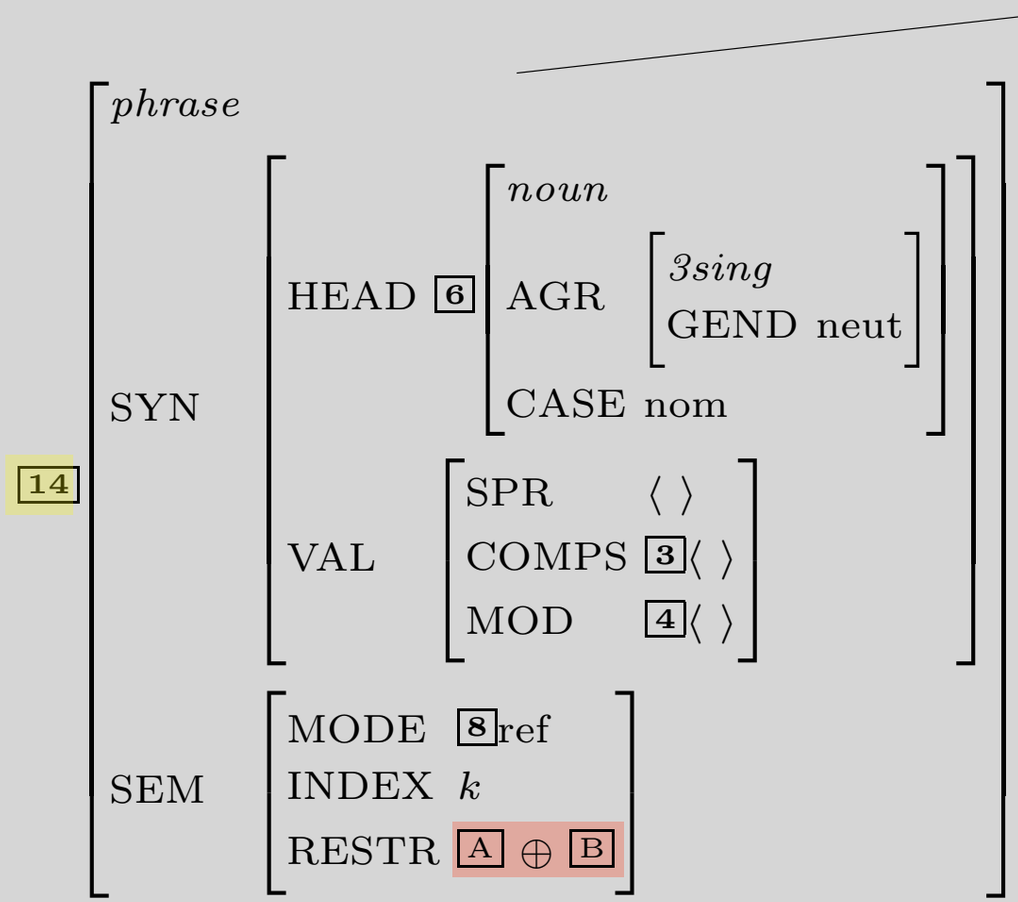
Lexical Entry for *slept*

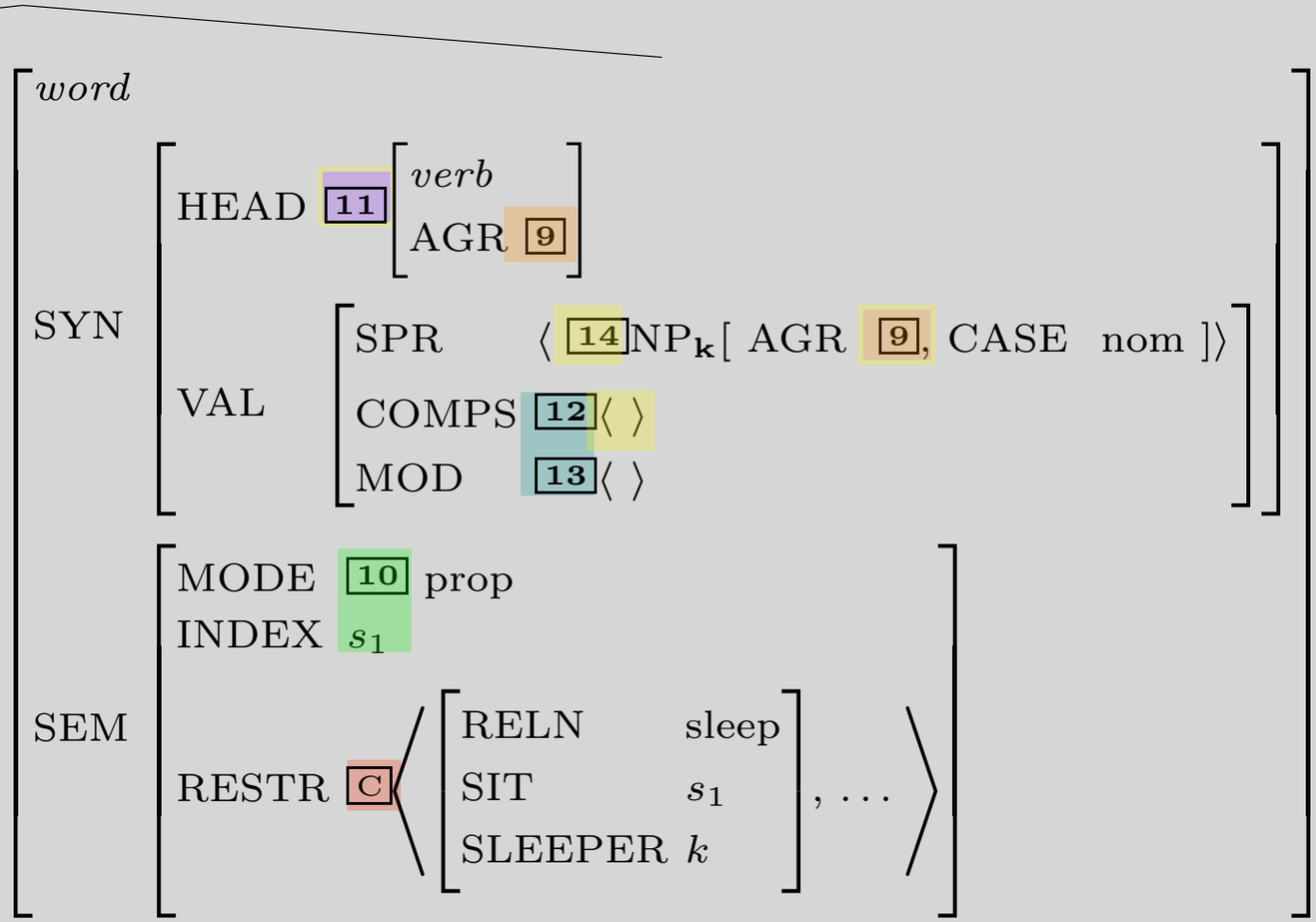
$$\left\langle \text{slept}, \left[\begin{array}{l} \textit{word} \\ \text{SYN} \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{VAL} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{SPR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{AGR} & \boxed{9} \\ \text{CASE} & \text{nom} \end{array}\right] \right\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle\ \rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \langle\ \rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \\ \text{SEM} \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{MODE} & \text{prop} \\ \text{RESTR} & \left\langle \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SLEEPER} & m \end{array}\right], \ldots \right\rangle \end{array}\right] \end{array}\right] \right\rangle$$

Another Head-Specifier Phrase









Is this description fully specified?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \boxed{11} & \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{12} \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{13} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{10}\ \text{prop} \\ \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}} \oplus \boxed{\text{B}} \oplus \boxed{\text{C}} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\boxed{14}\begin{bmatrix} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \boxed{6} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{3sing} \\ \text{GEND } \text{neut} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CASE } \text{nom} & \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3}\langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4}\langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8}\text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}} \oplus \boxed{\text{B}} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \boxed{11} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{verb} \\ \text{AGR } \boxed{9} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\, \boxed{14}\text{NP}_{\mathbf{k}}[\ \text{AGR } \boxed{9},\ \text{CASE } \text{nom}\ ] \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{12}\langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{13}\langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{10}\ \text{prop} \\ \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{C}}\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SLEEPER} & k \end{bmatrix}, \ldots \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Does the top node satisfy the initial symbol?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{11} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{12} \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{13} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{10}\ \text{prop} \\ \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}} \oplus \boxed{\text{B}} \oplus \boxed{\text{C}} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

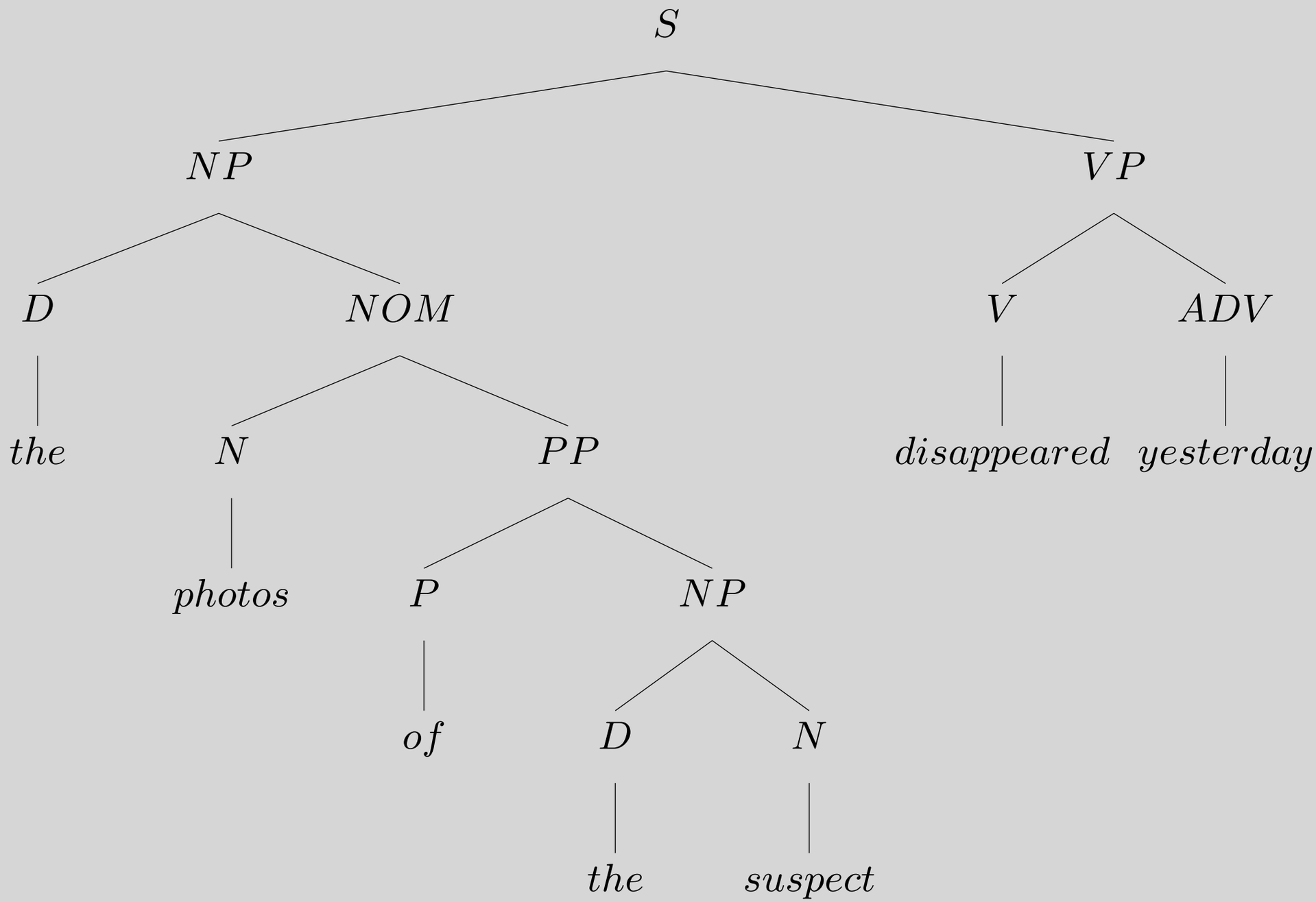
$$\boxed{14}\begin{bmatrix} \textit{phrase} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{6}\begin{bmatrix} \textit{noun} & \\ \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{3sing} & \\ \text{GEND} & \text{neut} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CASE} & \text{nom} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{3}\langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{4}\langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{8}\text{ref} \\ \text{INDEX} & k \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{A}} \oplus \boxed{\text{B}} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{word} & \\ \text{SYN} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \boxed{11}\begin{bmatrix} \textit{verb} & \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{9} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{VAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SPR} & \langle\,\boxed{14}\text{NP}_{\mathbf{k}}[\ \text{AGR}\ \boxed{9},\ \text{CASE}\ \ \text{nom}\ ]\rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \boxed{12}\langle\,\rangle \\ \text{MOD} & \boxed{13}\langle\,\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MODE} & \boxed{10}\ \text{prop} \\ \text{INDEX} & s_1 \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{\text{C}}\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SLEEPER} & k \end{bmatrix}, \ldots \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

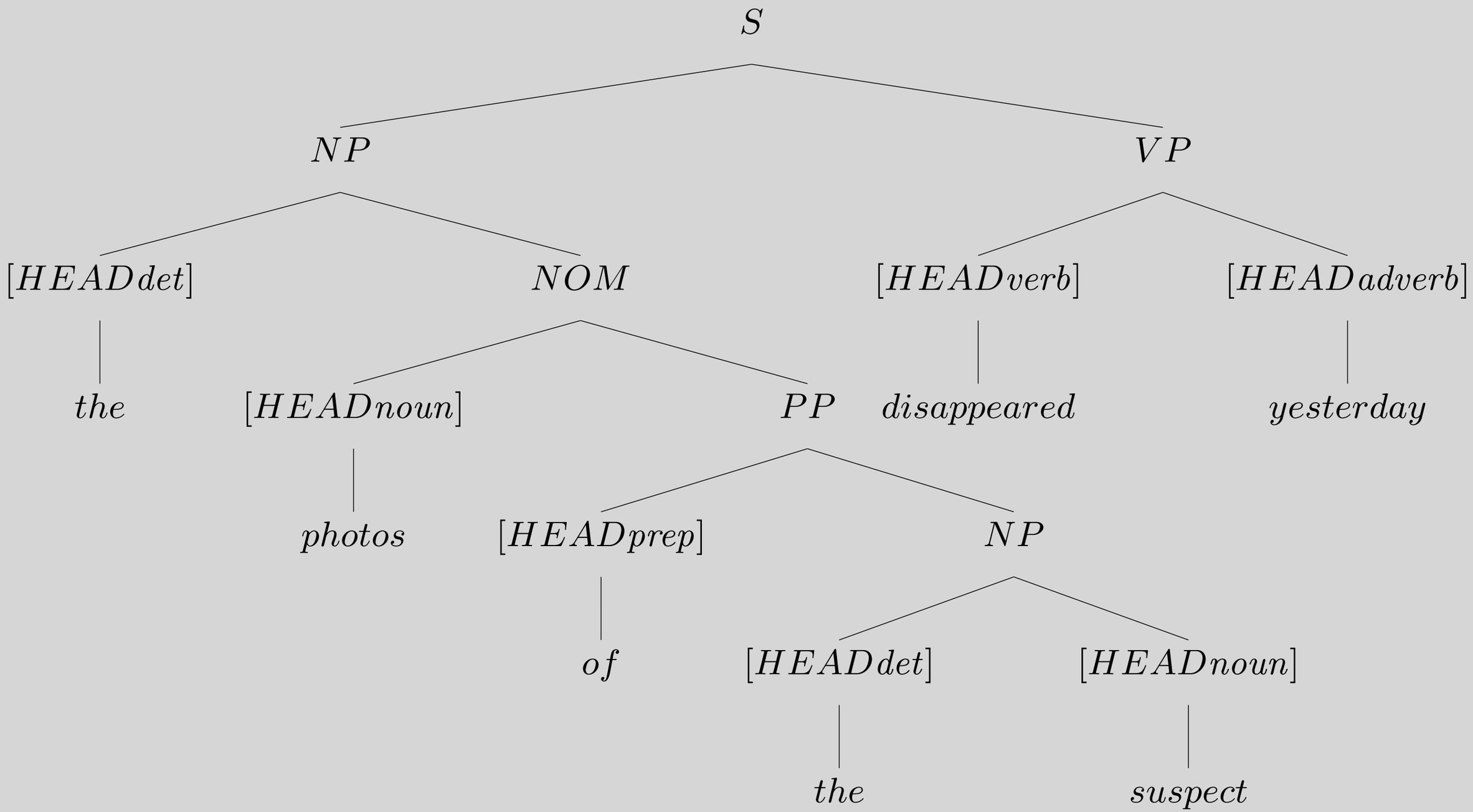
RESTR of the S node

$$\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{a} \\ \text{BV} & k \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{cat} \\ \text{INST} & k \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \text{sleep} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{SLEEPER} & k \end{bmatrix}, \ldots \right\rangle$$

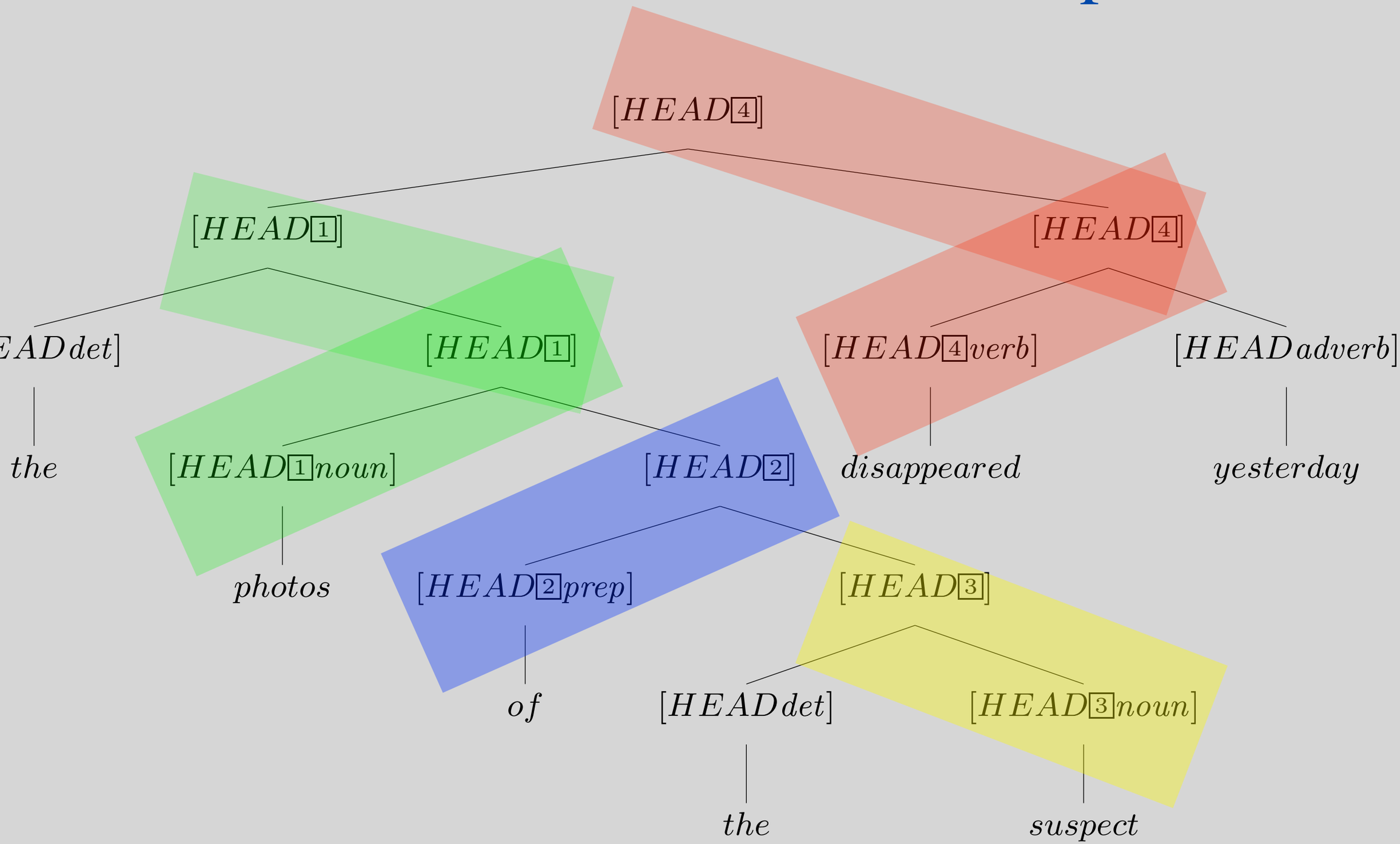
Another Example



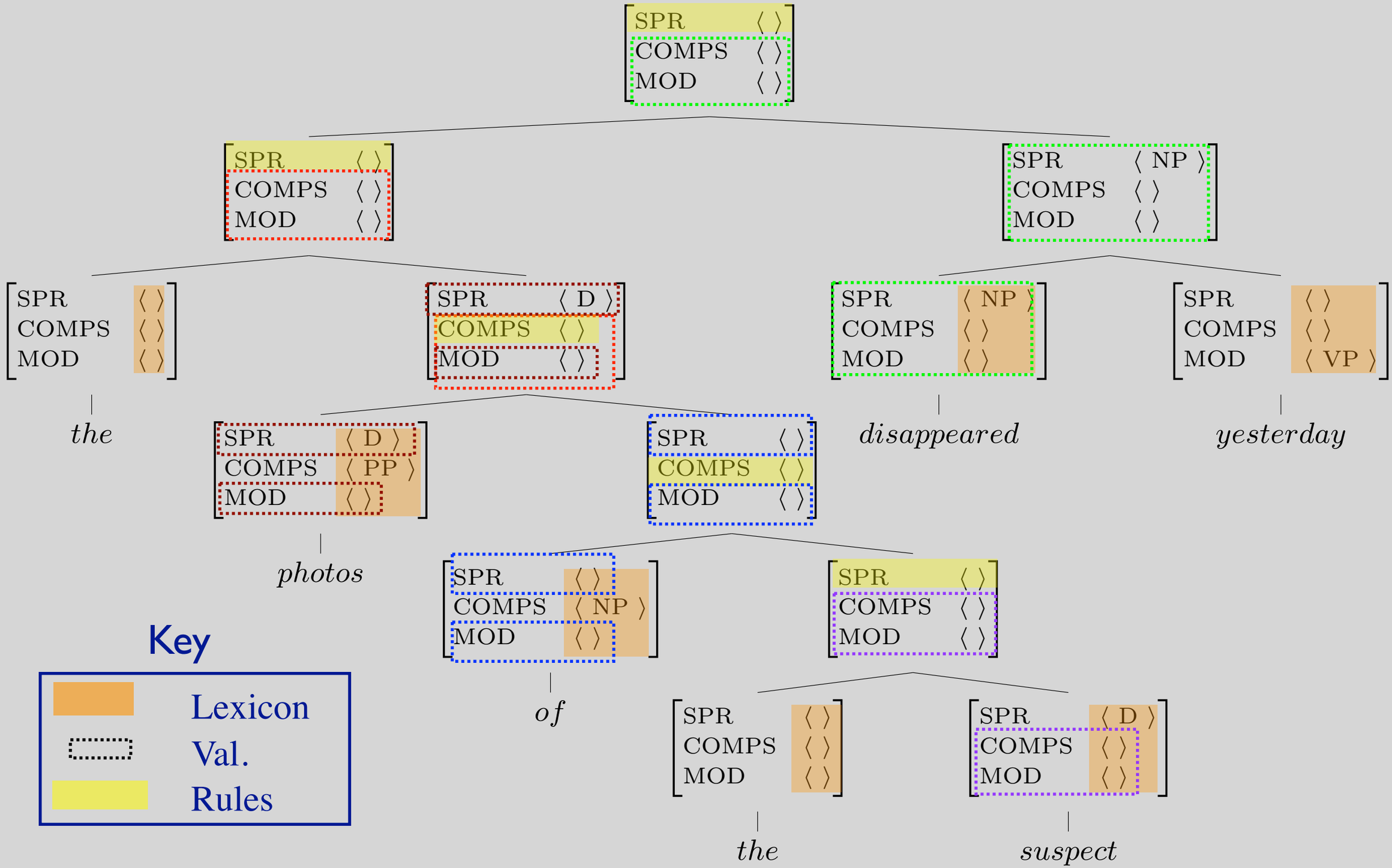
Head Features from Lexical Entries



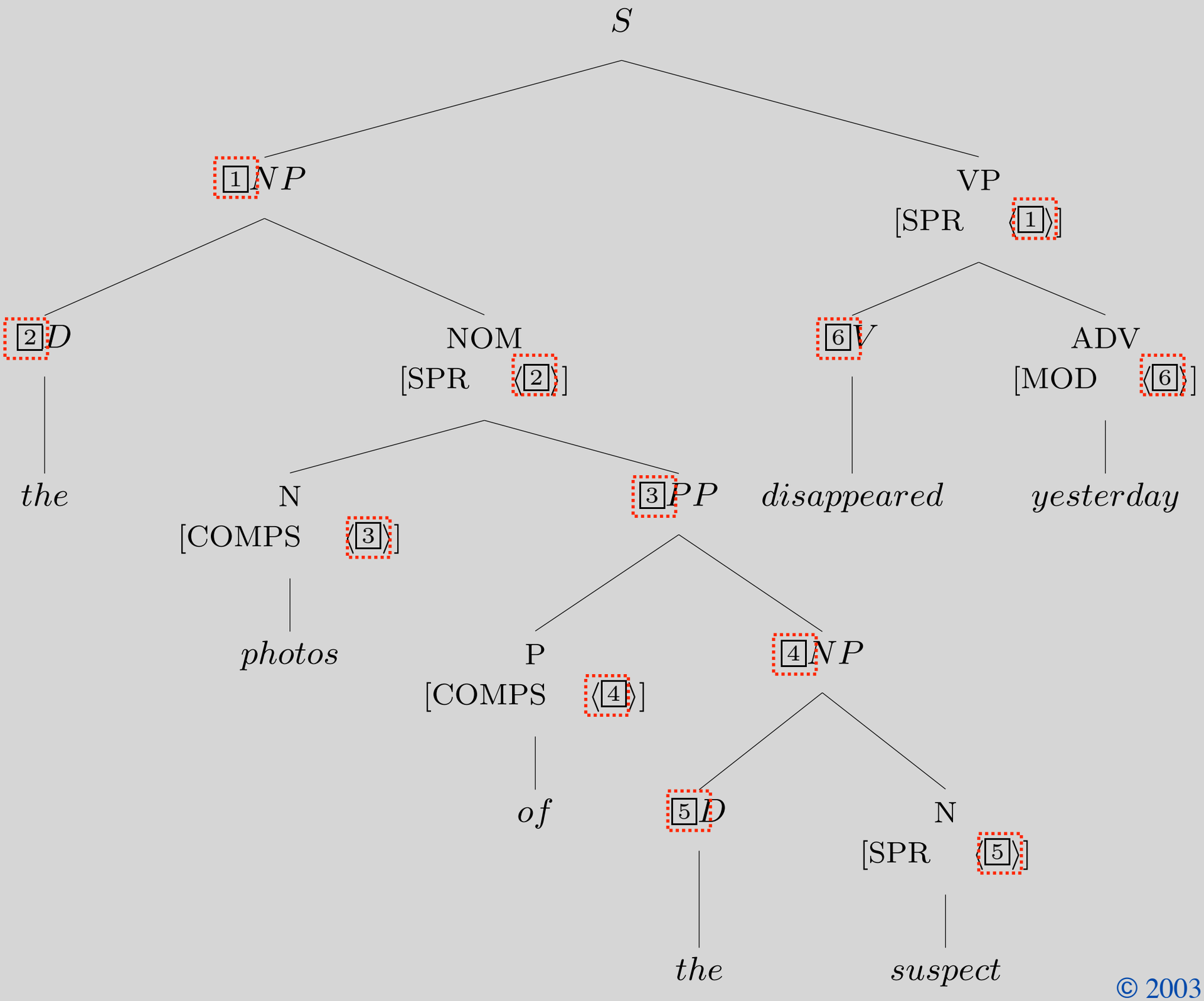
Head Features from Lexical Entries, plus HFP



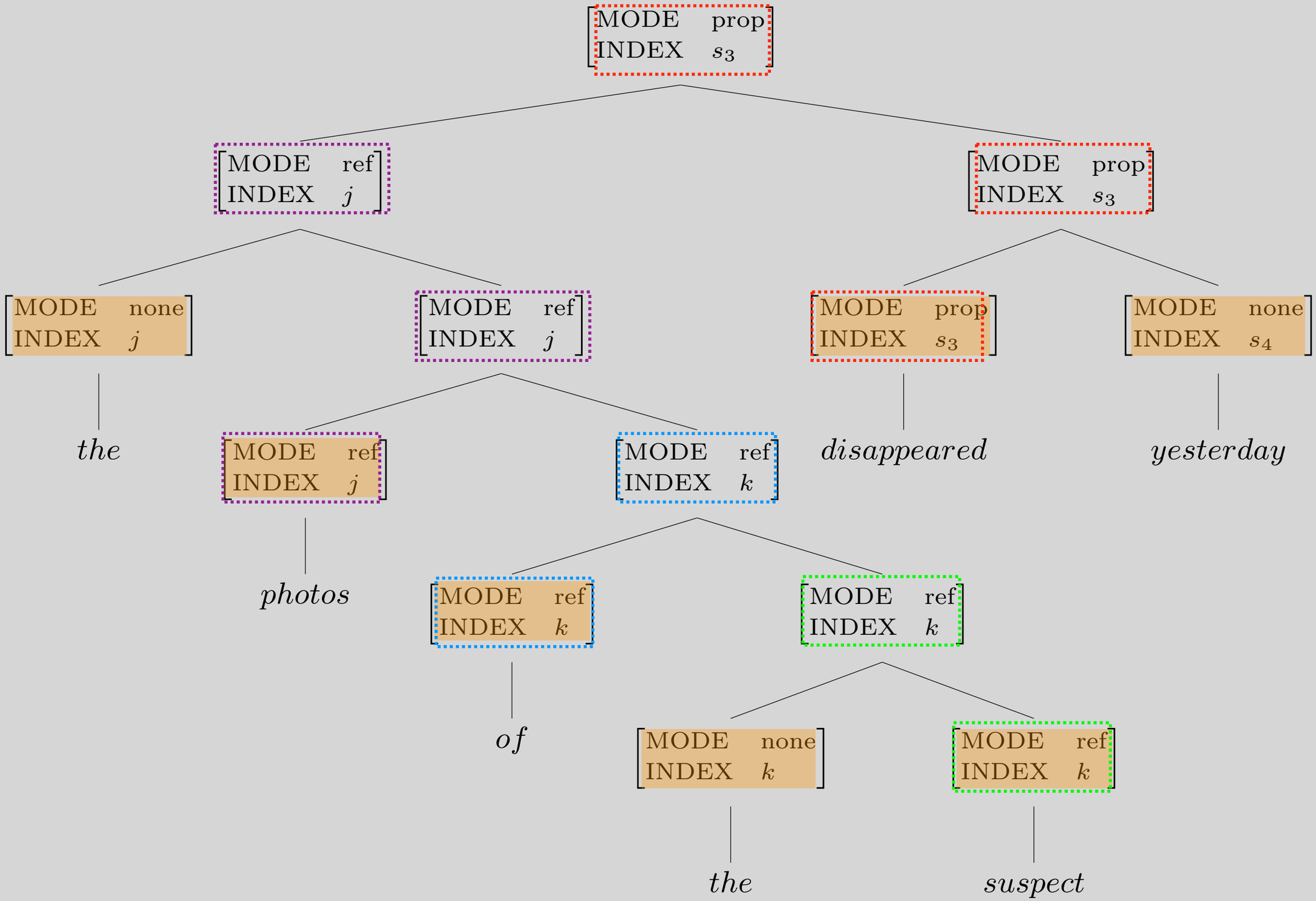
Valence Features: Lexicon, Rules, and the Valence Principle



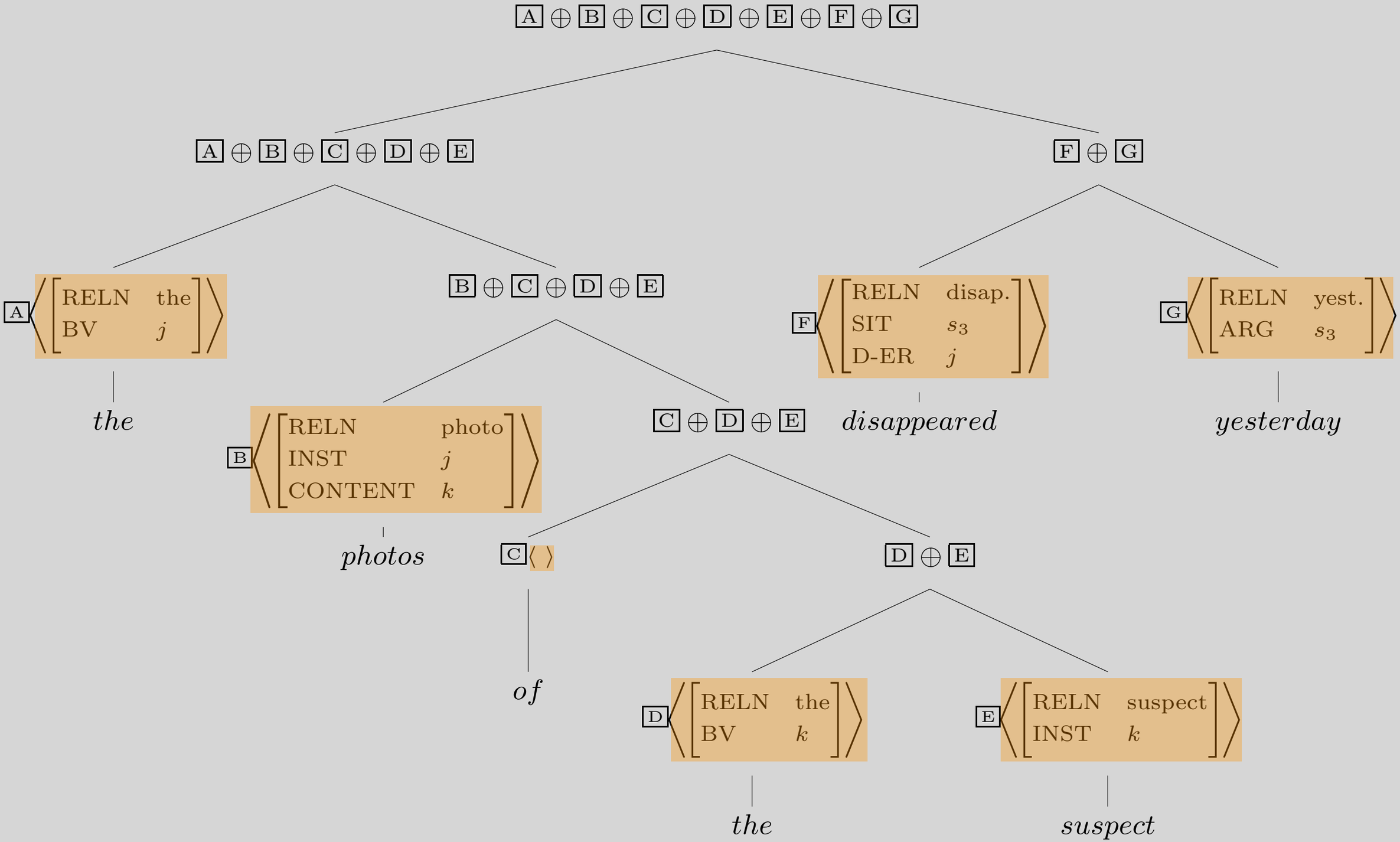
Required Identities: Grammar Rules



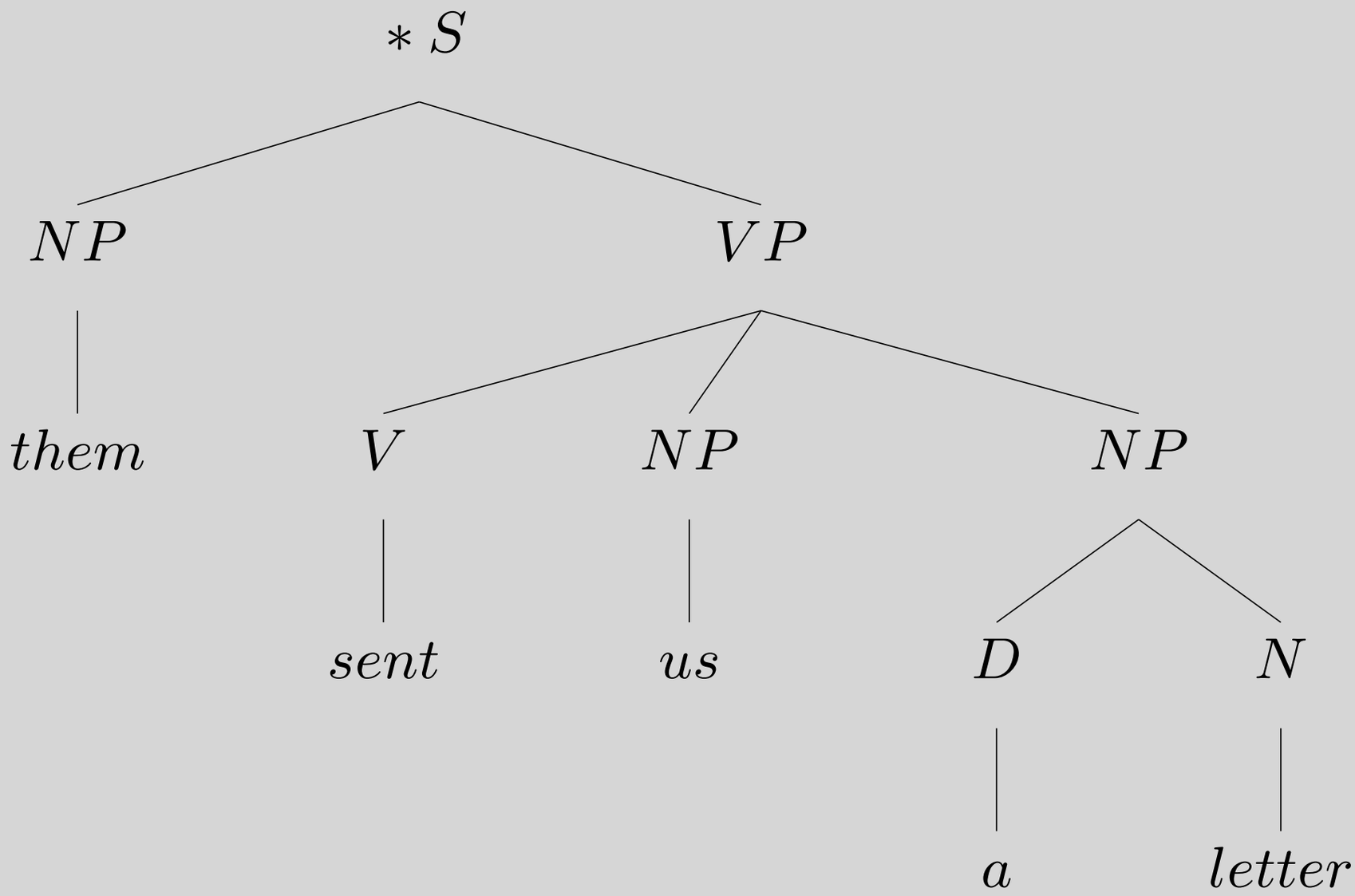
Two Semantic Features: the Lexicon & SIP



RESTR Values and the SCP

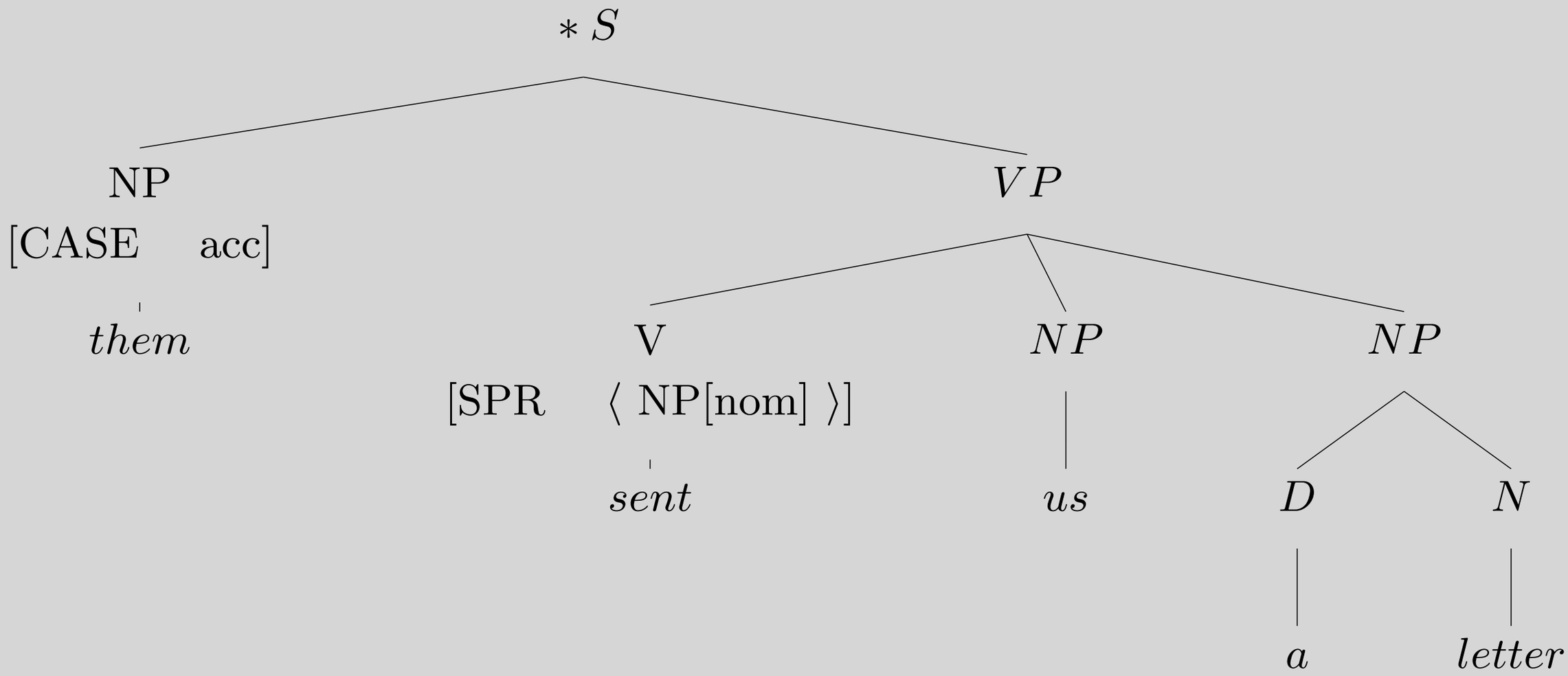


An Ungrammatical Example



What's wrong with this sentence?

An Ungrammatical Example

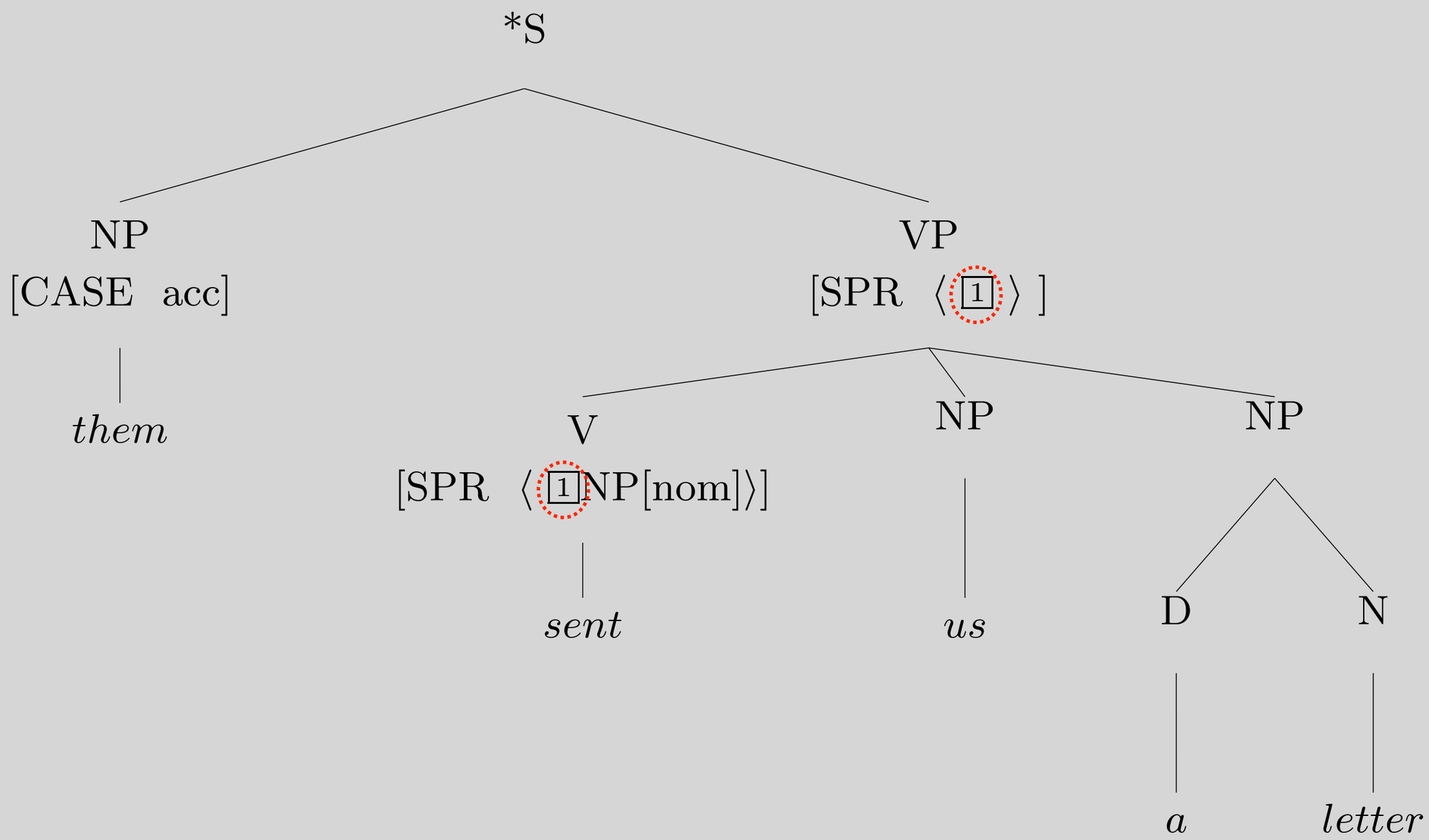


What's wrong with this sentence?

So what?

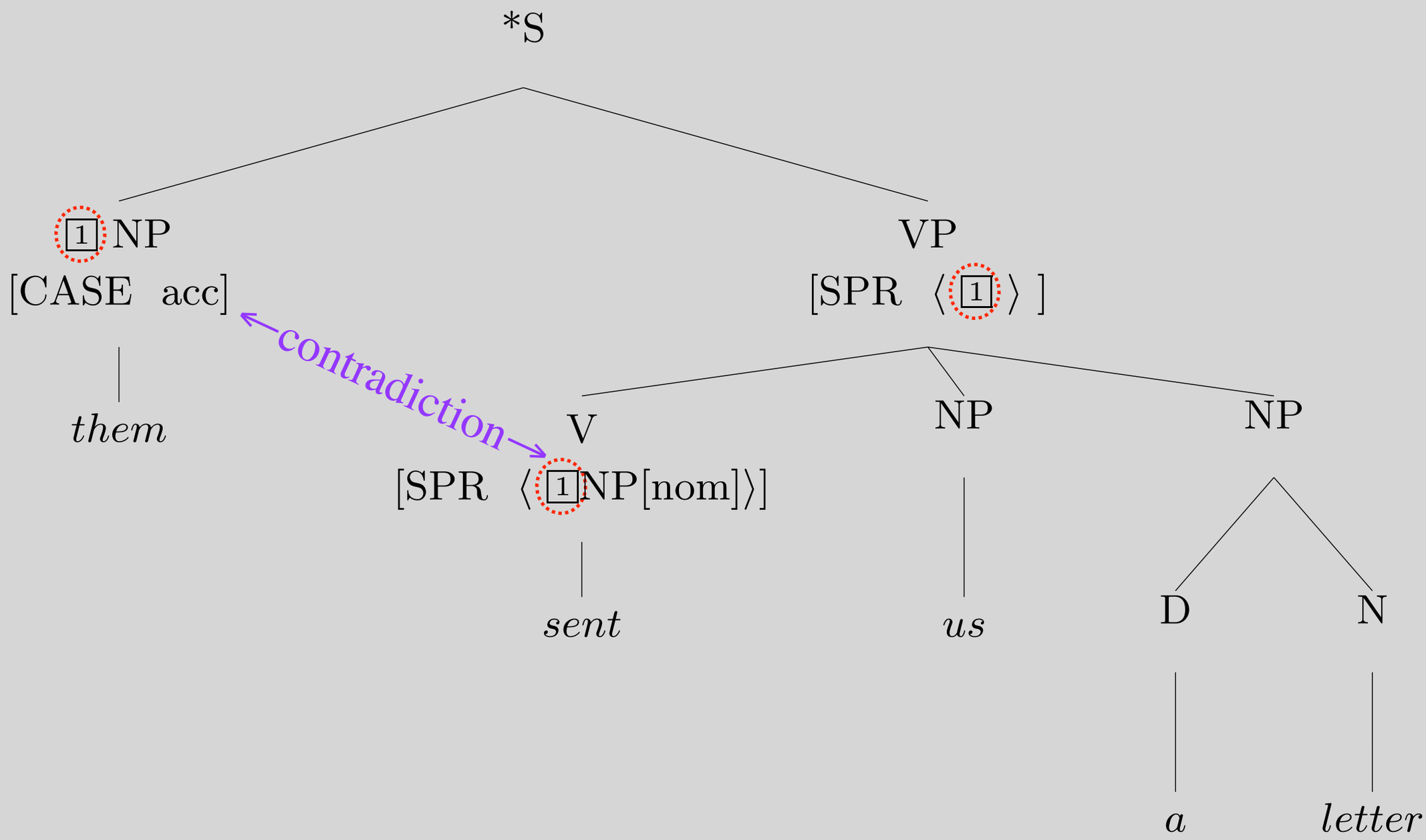
An Ungrammatical Example

The Valence Principle



An Ungrammatical Example

Head Specifier Rule



Exercise in Critical Thinking

- Our grammar has come a long way since Ch 2, as we've added ways of representing different kinds of information:
  - generalizations across categories
  - semantics
  - particular linguistic phenomena: valence, agreement, modification
- What else might we add? What facts about language are as yet unrepresented in our model?

Overview

- What we're trying to do
- The pieces of our grammar
- Two extended examples
- Reflection on what we've done, what we still have to do
- Reading questions

Reading Questions

- I also noticed that the example start to add NP tag in the tree structure, is that also the rule for VP or PP?

Reading Questions

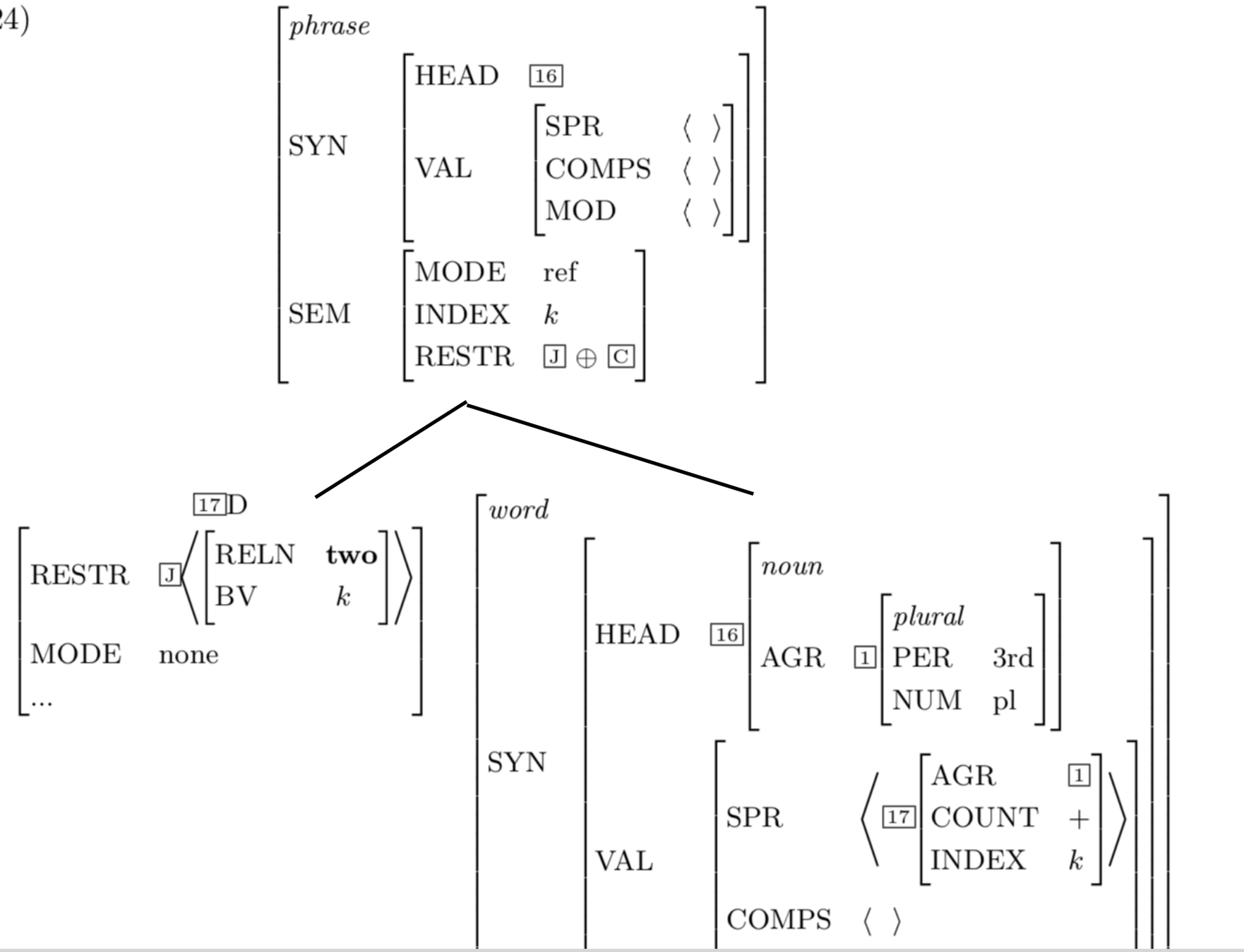
- Why isn't CASE inside of AGR?
- Why is GEN inside of AGR?

Reading Questions

- Taking the example in (24), the explanation says "The COMPS values of these two nodes are identical, as guaranteed by the Valence Principle". However, wouldn't the NP phrase have an empty COMPS list even if the head daughter had items on its COMP list because of the Head-Complement rule? I understand this rule to mean that no phrasal nodes will have complements, is that correct?

The subtree for the object NP, *two letters*, is shown in (24):

(24)



Reading Questions

- On p. 179 the text says that the RESTR value of a certain node is a "list consisting of the following seven predications (in the indicated order)...". I thought in chapter 5 we said the RESTR list was order-independent. Is the order here specific just so that the reader can match the full predications to their tags in the tree?

Reading Questions

- The RESTR for "letter" includes the ADDRESSEE m, which does not necessarily need to be fulfilled syntactically, according to the explanation on pg. 171, "...we have not imposed any constraint requiring that semantic roles be realized syntactically." But I find this unsettling -- how is it that the sentence can resolve when some of its semantic slots remain unfilled? Is it because the COMPS list for the lexical item "letter" contains an optional PP? More generally, is it only OK to exclude semantic roles' realization if they are syntactically optional in COMPS lists? Is that how we deal with pro-drop languages like Spanish -- by making their SPR slot optional?

Reading Questions

- Another related, but more specific, question from the reading -- if we wanted to enforce the reading that "us" in the sentence They sent us a letter is both the ADDRESSEE and the SENDEE, could we replace INDEX j in the lexical tree for "us" with INDEX m?

Reading Questions

- How is it that we do not require semantic roles to be realized? Does this mean that the grammar could potentially admit sentences that are semantically strange? I do see how this could be helpful for Spanish as Julia mentioned where the subject can be dropped, but does this mean the same can be done for English based on this lack of enforcement in the grammar?

Reading Questions

- What would be a good way (other than a probabilistic method, because that's the first thing I can think of) to encode the interpretations that one might assume about a sentence, even though that specific interpretation isn't explicitly stated in the semantic structure for a word or sentence?

- More generally, how does the semantic framework we've built deal with coreference? If we had the sentence "The food was so hot that we could not eat it", would the semantics of our grammar be able to capture that "food" and "it" refer to the same entity?

Reading Questions

- What about "a letter fell off of the mail truck"? or "the icon for the email application looks like a letter"? Would there still be an "addressee" field on the semantic trees for these sentences?