Lecture 09: Intermediate Summary: Sentences. Yes/No-Questions. Negation.

Andrei Antonenko

LIN 311: Syntax
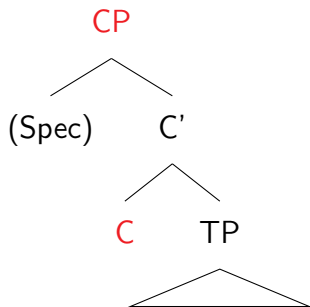
September 25, 2018

Outline

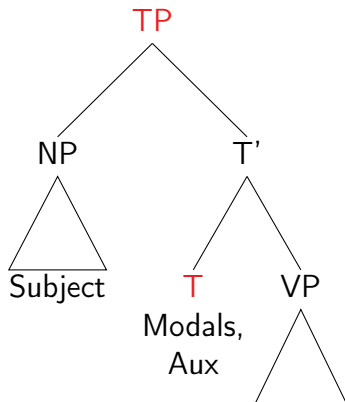# Putting everything together

X-Bar schema for CP

X-Bar Schema for CP

CP → (Spec) C'   Specifier
C' → C TP   Complement

- We haven't seen Spec,CP yet (comes later in this course!)
- We omit the Adjunct rule, since we haven't seen any CP adjuncts yet.
- Is there CP in the main clause?
  - Let's assume that it's always there: we will see some evidence for it shortly.

X-Bar schema for TP

X-Bar Schema for TP

TP → NP T'   Specifier
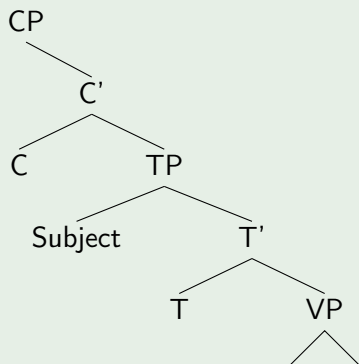T' → T VP   Complement

- Spec,TP contains the subject
- We omit the Adjunct rule, since we haven't seen any TP adjuncts yet.
- T contains modals, auxiliaries, infinitival *to*, or potentially $\varnothing$ in the absence of a pronounced element.
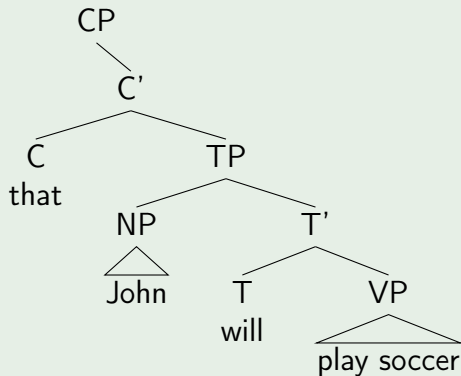
Structure of a sentence

Putting it all together, sentences (in English) have the following
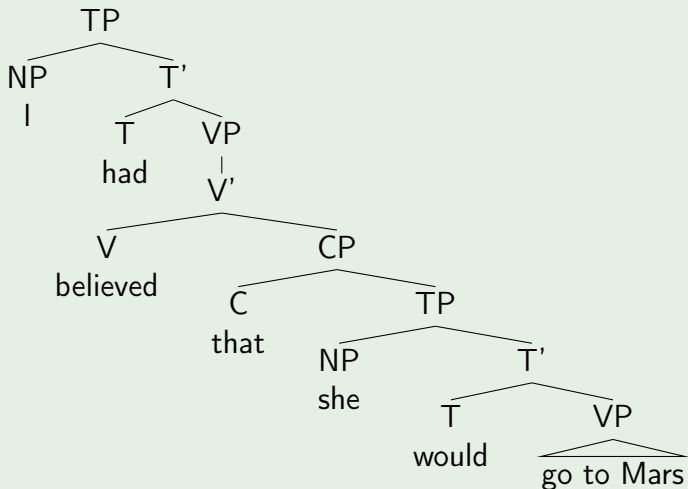structure:

Structure of a sentence
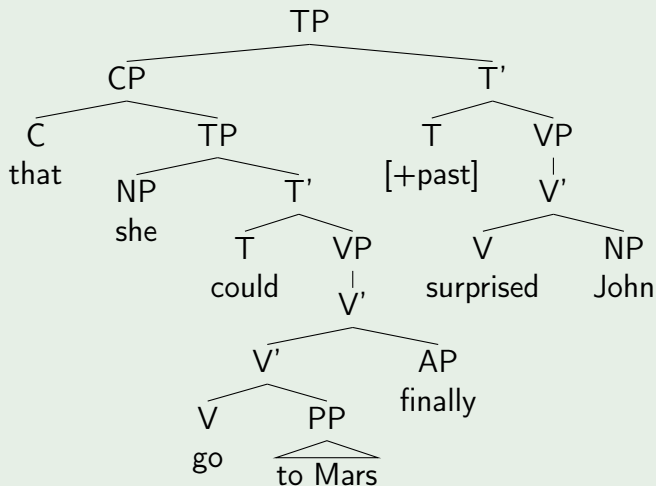
(1)　　I know that John will play soccer.

CP
  C'
    C   TP
    that
          NP   T'
          John   T   VP
                 will
                      play soccer

(2)　　I had believed that she would go to Mars.

TP
├ NP
│ └ I
└ T'
   ├ T
   │ └ had
   └ VP
      └ V'
         ├ V
         │ └ believed
         └ CP
            ├ C
            │ └ that
            └ TP
               ├ NP
               │ └ she
               └ T'
                  ├ T
                  │ └ would
                  └ VP
                     └ go to Mars

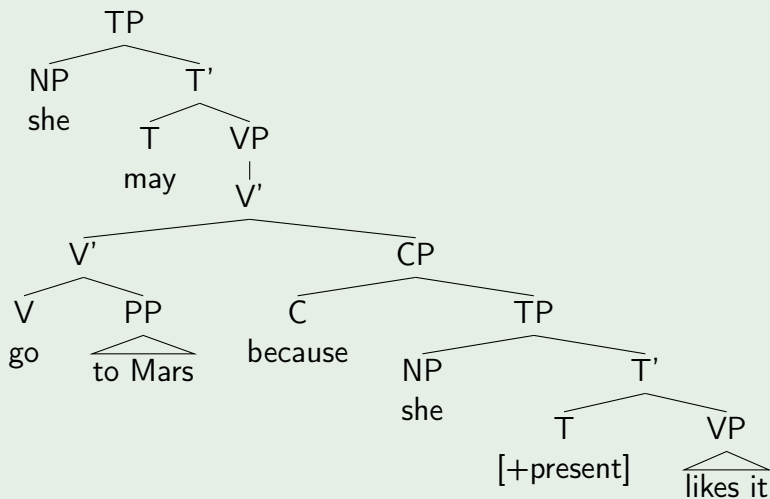*Some parts are simplified: Main clause CP, embedded C'...*

(3)   That she could go to Mars finally surprised John.   (Subject)

Some parts are simplified: Main clause CP, embedded C'...

(4)   She may go to Mars because she likes it.   (Adjunct)

Some parts are simplified: Main clause CP, embedded C'...

Residual Issues

Yes/No-Questions

Yes/No Questions

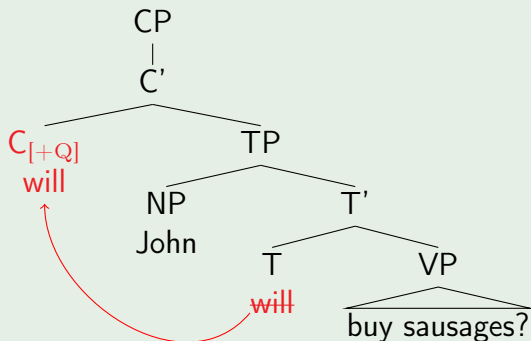- Yes/No-Questions are questions that require Yes/No-answer.

(5)   a.   John will buy expensive sausages.
      b.   Will John buy expensive sausages?

(6)   a.   The man who was next to me should take a shower.
      b.   Should the man who was next to me take a shower?

- To form a question, we move the element in the main clause T (aux or modal) to the beginning of the clause.
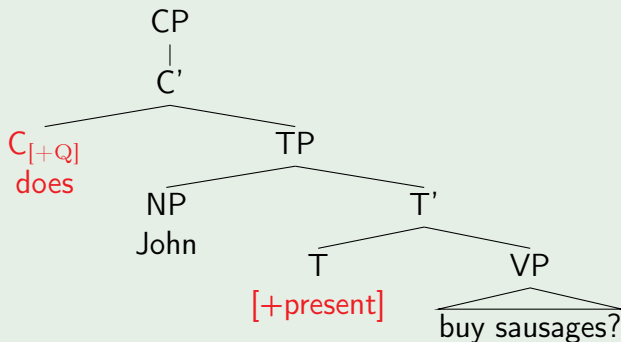- What position does the moved auxiliary/model occupy in Yes/No-questions?

Structure of Yes/No-questions

- In Yes/No-questions, the element in main clause T moves to C.
- It is a special type of C with a question feature $C_{[+Q]}$.

Structure of Yes/No-questions

- In Yes/No-questions, the element in main clause T moves to C.
- What if there is nothing pronounced in T?
- Do-insertion/Do-support: insert do into C position (or into T position, and then move it).

```
                    CP
                    |
                    C'
          ┌─────────┴─────────┐
      C[+Q]                   TP
      does         ┌──────────┴──────────┐
                  NP                     T'
                  John          ┌────────┴────────┐
                                T                VP
                          [+present]          buy sausages?
```

More on $C_{[+Q]}$

- In English, complementizer *if* occurs in $C_{[+Q]}$.
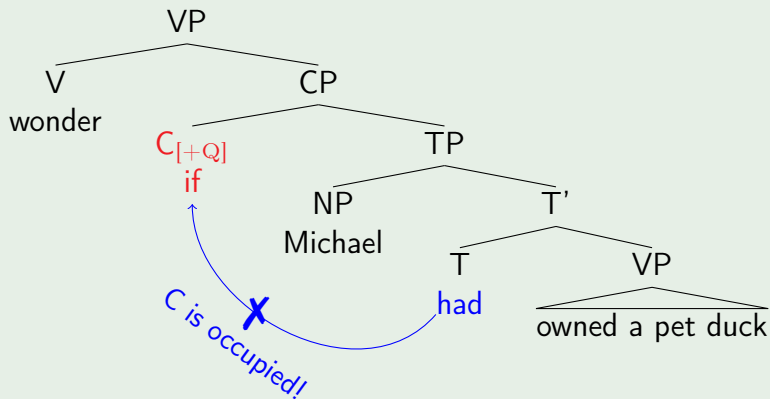- Indirect questions!

(7)   I wonder *if* Michael likes ducks.

- Our theory would predict that in such cases, there is no T-movement to C.
- C is already occupied!
- This prediction is borne out:

(8)   a.   I wonder if$_{C[+Q]}$ Michael had owned a pet duck.
       b.   *I wonder if had Michael owned a pet duck.

More on $C_{[+Q]}$

(9)   I wonder $\text{if}_{C[+Q]}$ Michael had owned a pet duck.

Yes/No-Questions: Crosslinguistic variation
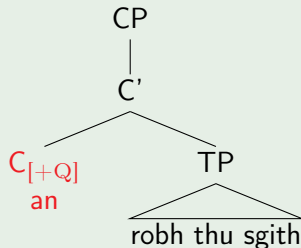
Question particles

- Some languages do not move T to C in yes/no-questions
- Instead, they use question particles.
- Structurally, it is in $C_{[+Q]}$ position:

Scottish Gaelic

(10)   An robh   thu sgith?
       Q   be$_{\text{PAST}}$ you tired
       "Were you tired?"

Note: *Don't worry so far about what's going on inside the TP and why auxiliary is before the subject!*

CP
|
C'
/ \
$C_{[+Q]}$ TP
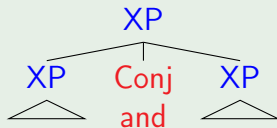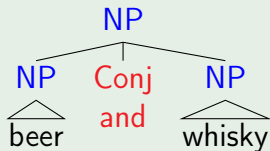an   / \
     robh thu sgith

Is there a CP in main clauses?

- We earlier assumed that every clause has a CP.
- Is there any evidence for it? (except for the fact that it makes theory pretty!)

Recall that only constituents of the same type can be conjoined:
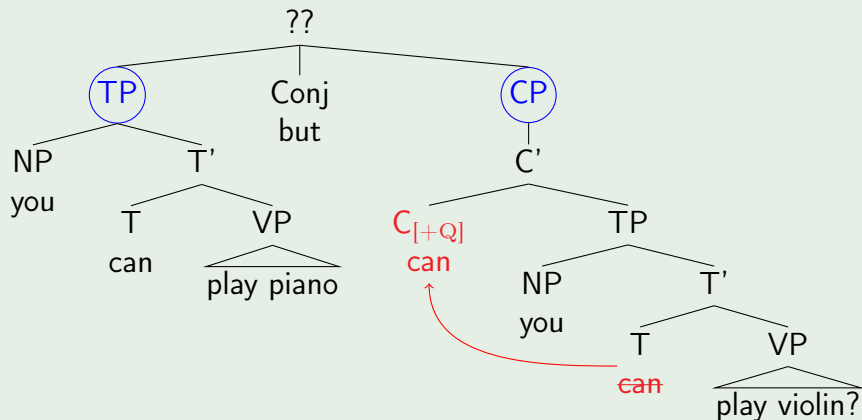
(11)   a.   John needs [$_{NP}$ beer] and [$_{NP}$ whisky].
       b.   John needs [$_{TP}$ to go to a rock concert] and [$_{TP}$ to have a pint].
       c. ??John needs [$_{NP}$ beer] and [$_{TP}$ to go to a rock concert].

```
              NP                                XP
          ┌───┼───┐                        ┌────┼────┐
        NP   Conj  NP                     XP   Conj   XP
        ◢◣   and   ◢◣                     ◢◣   and    ◢◣
       beer       whisky
```

Is there a CP in main clauses?

We can conjoin a yes/no-question and a declarative clause:
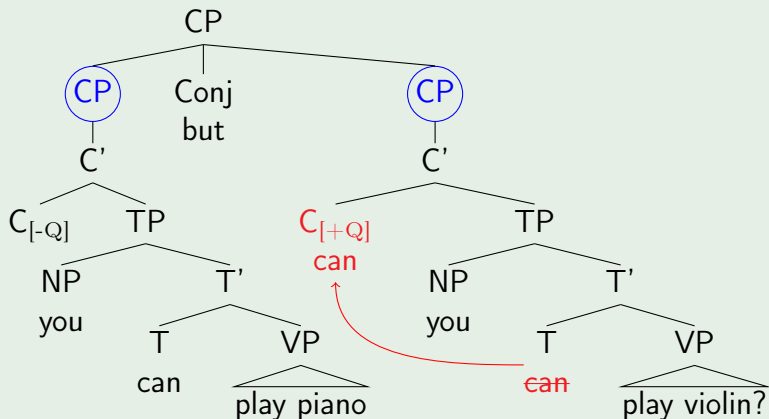
(12)   [$_{??}$ You can play piano] but [$_{CP}$ can you play violin]?

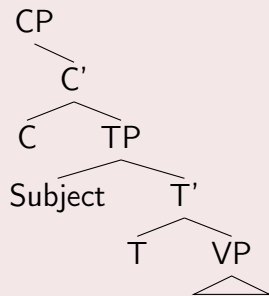# Is there a CP in main clauses?

We can conjoin a yes/no-question and a declarative clause:

(13)　　[$_{??}$ You can play piano] but [$_{CP}$ can you play violin]?

Summary

- Each sentence has the structure as shown on the right.

- T hosts the tense/modals of the sentence, and is always present, even if it is no overtly pronounced.

- CP layer hosts complementizers and auxiliaries/modals in questions, and is also always present, even in the matrix clauses with no overt complementizer[a].

```
            CP
             |
             C'
            /  \
           C    TP
              /    \
         Subject    T'
                   /  \
                  T    VP
                      /\
                     /__\
```
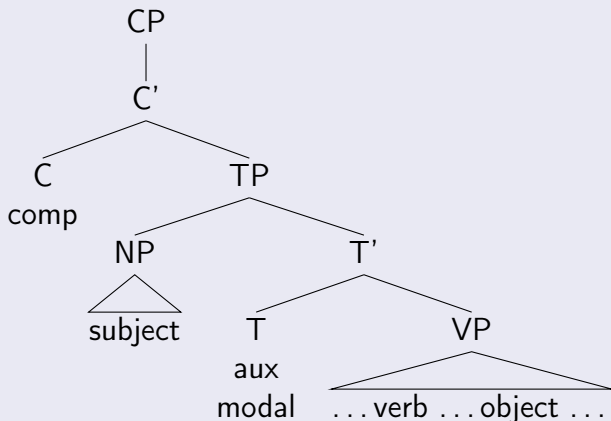
---

[a]To save space, we will sometimes be omitting it in our future trees – but it's still there!

Negation

Reminder: Sentence Structure
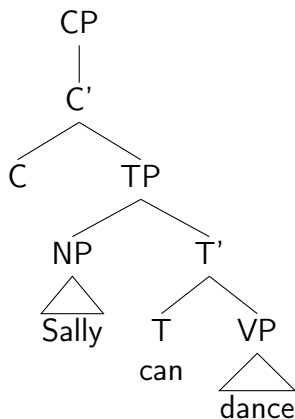
Basic sentence structure

Modals and negation

Negation comes after modals

- We noticed that negation always comes between the modal and the verb.

  (14) a. John must not drink beer.
        b. Mary should not quit smoking.
        c. Sally can not dance.

- Where is negation in the structure?

```
            CP
            |
            C'
          /    \
         C       TP
               /    \
             NP      T'
             /\     /  \
           Sally   T    VP
                   |    /\
                  can  dance
```
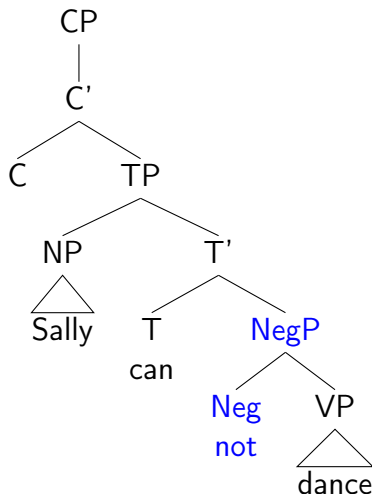
Modals and negation

Negation comes after modals

(15)　　Sally can not dance.

- Must be something between T' and VP...
- NegP — Negation Phrase, not is a head of it.

Dummy *do*

> ### Dummy *do*
>
> (16)   Sally does not dance.
>
> - In case of no modal/auxiliary, do is inserted into T.
> - More complete treatment of auxiliaries coming later. . .

CP
|
C'
/ \
C   TP
/ \
NP   T'
△   / \
Sally   T   NegP
does   / \
Neg   VP
not   △
dance