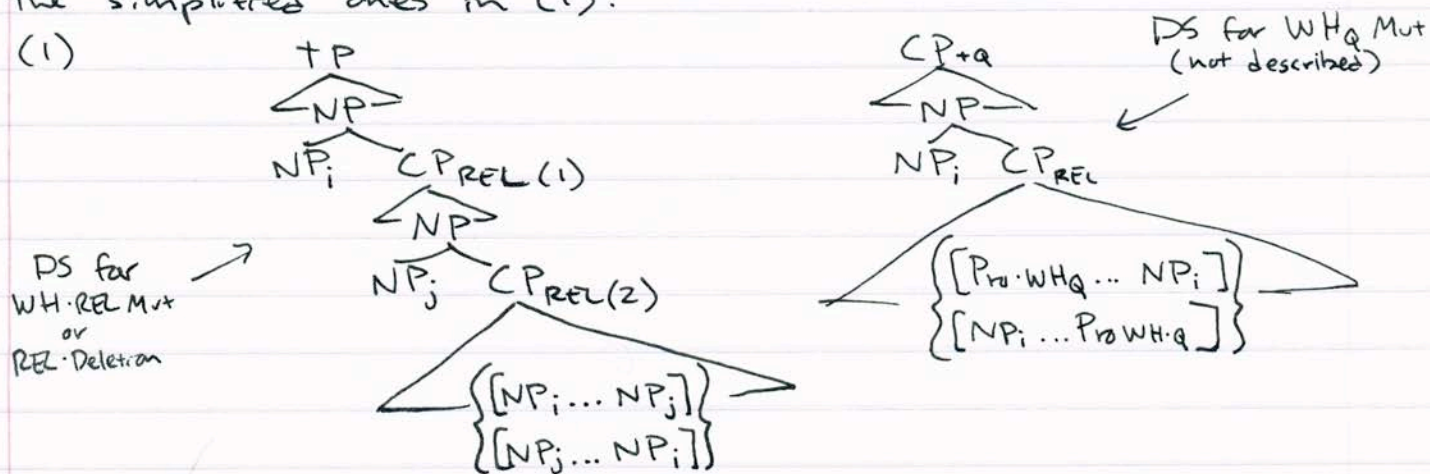


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 Syntax II Homework 6  
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After examining the relevant data, we can determine that relative clauses are islands for the transformations WH·q·MUT, WH·REL·MUT, and REL·DELETION. We see in this way that the BOUNDED/UNBOUNDED distinction does not bear on island constraints (at least not universally).

We can imagine sentences in which relative clauses could contain the relativized element for one of the UNBOUNDED transformations. Such a sentence would contain an NP which is the head of a relative clause; in other words, it would be adjoined to a CP<sub>REL</sub>. As with all relative clauses, the adjoined CP<sub>REL</sub> must contain an XP which bears the REL feature and is connected with the "head" NP. However, in these cases, that REL element is within one further CP<sub>REL</sub>, this one adjoined to some NP within the CP<sub>REL</sub> in the matrix sentence. These examples have a structure like the simplified ones in (1):

(1)



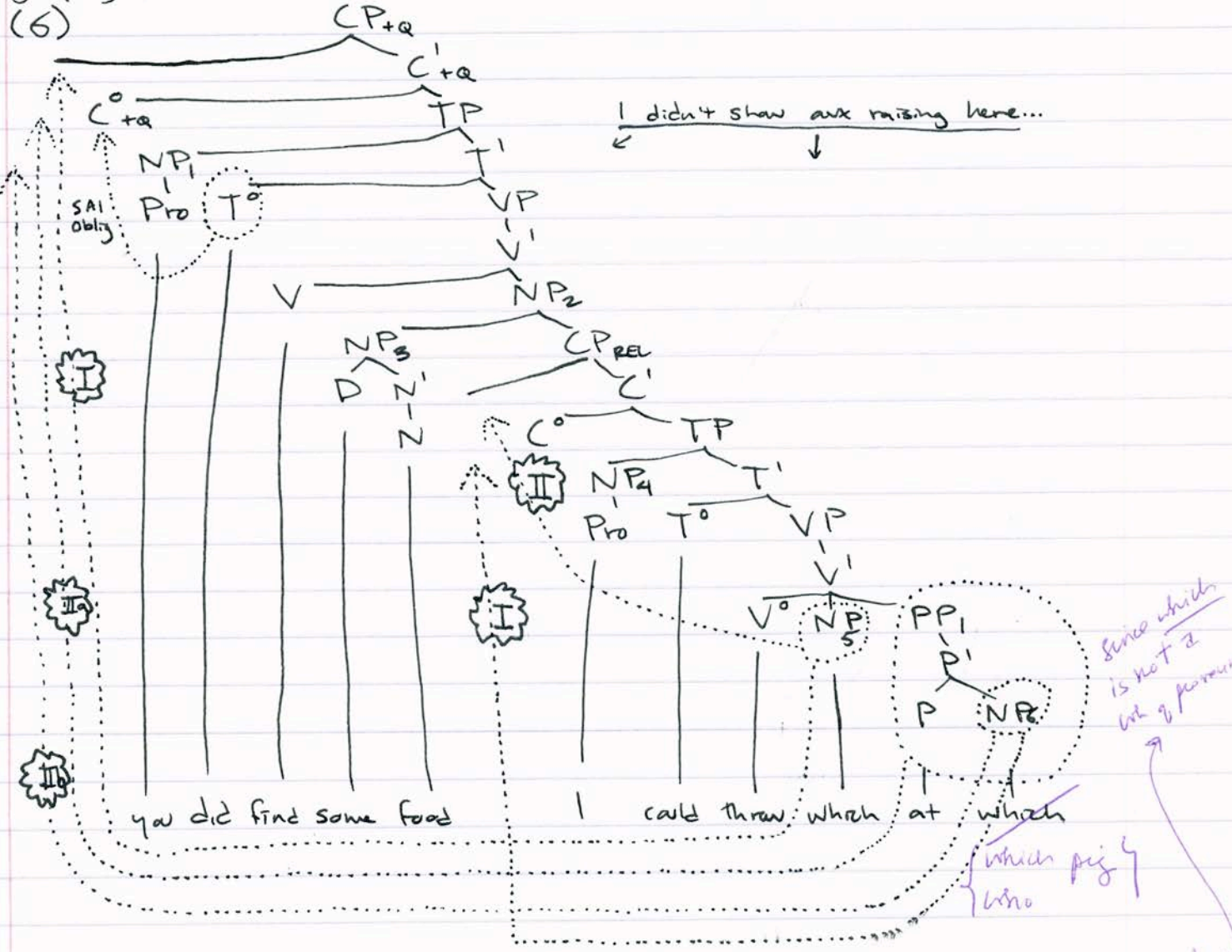
We see that CP<sub>REL</sub>(2) contains the relativized elements of both NP<sub>i</sub> and NP<sub>j</sub>; it should not matter in what order these elements occur, or what positions they fill (at least there is no evidence that either of these properties should bear on grammaticality). Were structures like this allowed in our grammar, we would expect





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It seems here that the only significant difference between (3) and (5) is that the matrix relativized element occurs within not one but two CP<sub>REL</sub> nodes. I conclude that REL-Deletion is subject to ~~subject~~ REL-adjunct constraints, i.e. cannot reach into an embedded relative clause to delete a relativized element. The same is true of WH-Q-Movement, as illustrated in the hypothetical derivations in (6). Here I indicate two distinct possibilities by grouping possible transformations with Roman numerals.



We see that (6)I can occur if NP<sub>5</sub> is Pro:WHQ and NP<sub>6</sub> is P:WH:REL and coindexed with NP<sub>3</sub>:  
 \*(6)I. Which did you find some food which I could throw at? *who or which pig*  
*since which is not a bit of person*  
*would work better*

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However, if  $NP_5$  is  $Pro_{WH:REL}$  and competed with  $NP_3$ , and if  $NP_6$  is  $Pro_{WH:Q}$ , we see two possibilities. In (6)IIa,  $PP_i$  bears the  $WH:Q$  feature and is moved; in (6)IIa only  $NP_6_{WH:Q}$  moves.

- \* (6)IIa. At which<sup>PP</sup> did you find some food which<sup>NP</sup> I could throw? (sorry)
- \* (6)IIb. Which<sup>PP</sup> did you find some food which<sup>NP</sup> I could throw at?

All of these are ungrammatical. Again, the embedded  $CP_{REL}$  is of a grammatical form; we see this in (7):

- (7)a. Some food [which I could throw at James] would be nice.
- b. Some food [at which I could throw James] would be nice.

We also see that sentences like (6) (but with the  $Pro_{WH:Q}$  element not in a relative clause) are perfectly fine:

- (8) Who did you give some food [which I could throw at James] to    ?
- Here again it seems that Island constraints are what determine grammaticality...

We see the same results with  $WH:REL$  but, as illustrated in (9) (next page).

In this example, we see the (ungrammatical) movement of the ~~embedded~~ (doubly) embedded  $NP_i$  across  $CP_{REL}$ , and also the (grammatical) movement of either the  $PP$  "in which" or the  $NP$  "which" (both of which bear the  $WH:REL$  feature) into specifier-of-CP position. We know that this second movement, which occurs completely within one  $CP_{REL}$ , is grammatical from sentences like (10):

- (10)a. The hotel [<sub>CP</sub> in which the car fit    ] was gargantuan.
- b. The hotel [<sub>CP</sub> which the car fit in    ] was gargantuan

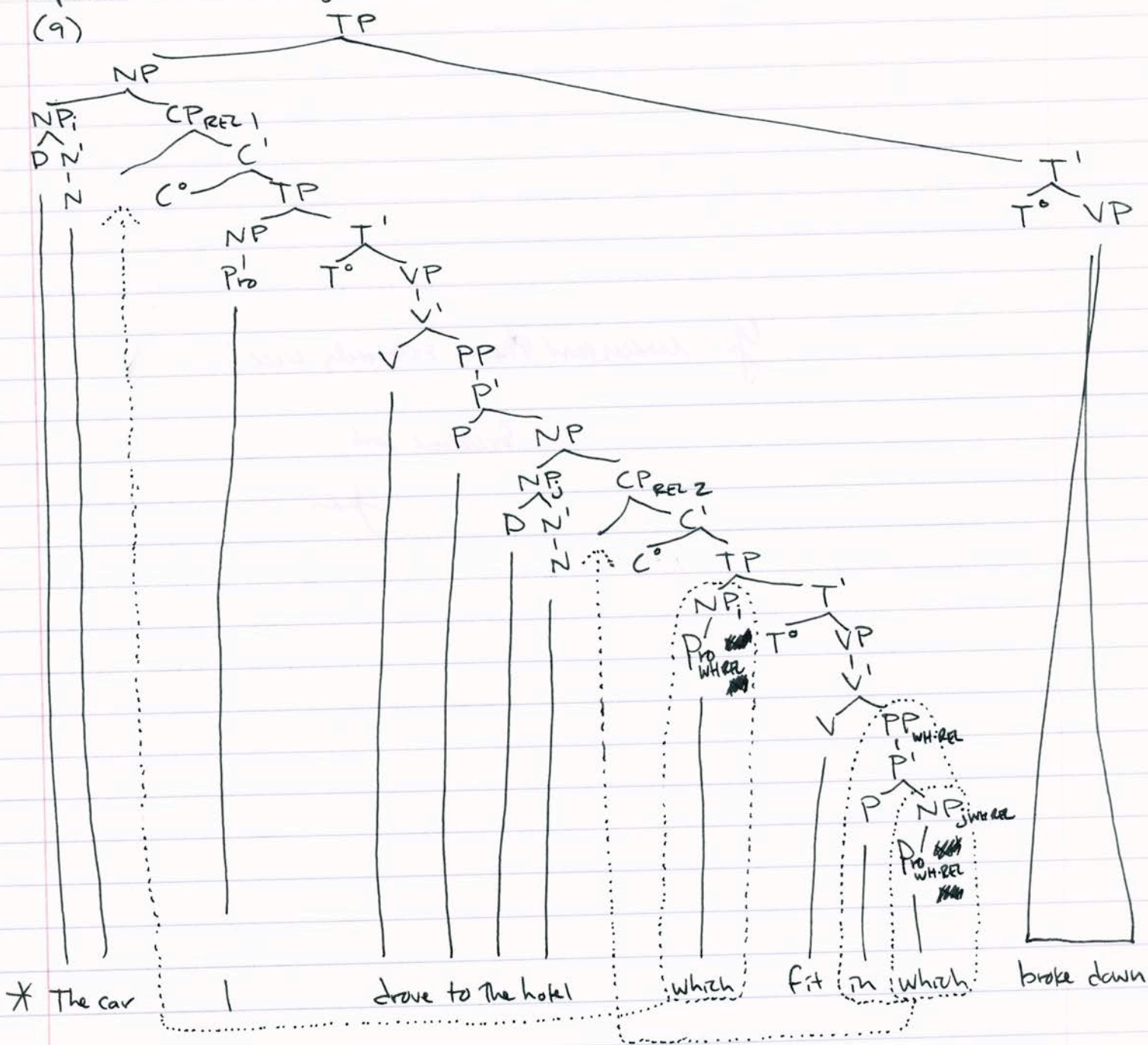
We also see that (9) is only ill-formed in as much as the relativized element of  $NP_i$  is in ~~CP~~  $CP_{REL}$  from sentences like (11):

- (11) a. The car [<sub>CP</sub> in which I drove to the hotel [<sub>CP</sub> in which the car fit    ]    ] broke down.
- b. The car [<sub>CP</sub> which I drove to the hotel [<sub>CP</sub> in which the car fit    ] in    ] broke down.

Again, we see that (9) seems to be blocked by Island constraints concerning relative clauses. I conclude, then, that (in our grammar) relative clauses are Islands for all of the UNBOUNDED transformations



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(9)



This sentence would result in:

- \* (9) a The car which I drove to the hotel in which fit broke down.
- \* b The car which I drove to the hotel which fit in broke down.