



Chapter 12, Sections 12.1-12.3

# Raising

# Where We Are & Where We're Going

- In the last two weeks, we have seen a kind of subject sharing -- that is, cases where one NP served as the SPR for two different verbs. Examples?
- Last week, we looked at “dummy” NPs -- that is, non-referential NPs. Examples?
- Today, we're going to look at the kind of subject sharing we saw with *be* in more detail.
- Next time, we'll look at another kind of subject sharing, using dummy NPs in differentiating the two kinds.

# What Makes This Topic Different

- The phenomena we have looked at so far (agreement, binding, imperatives, passives, existentials, extraposition) are easy to pick out on the basis of their form alone.
- In this chapter, we look at constructions with the general form NP-V-(NP)-*to*-VP. It turns out that they divide into two kinds, differing in both syntactic and semantic properties.

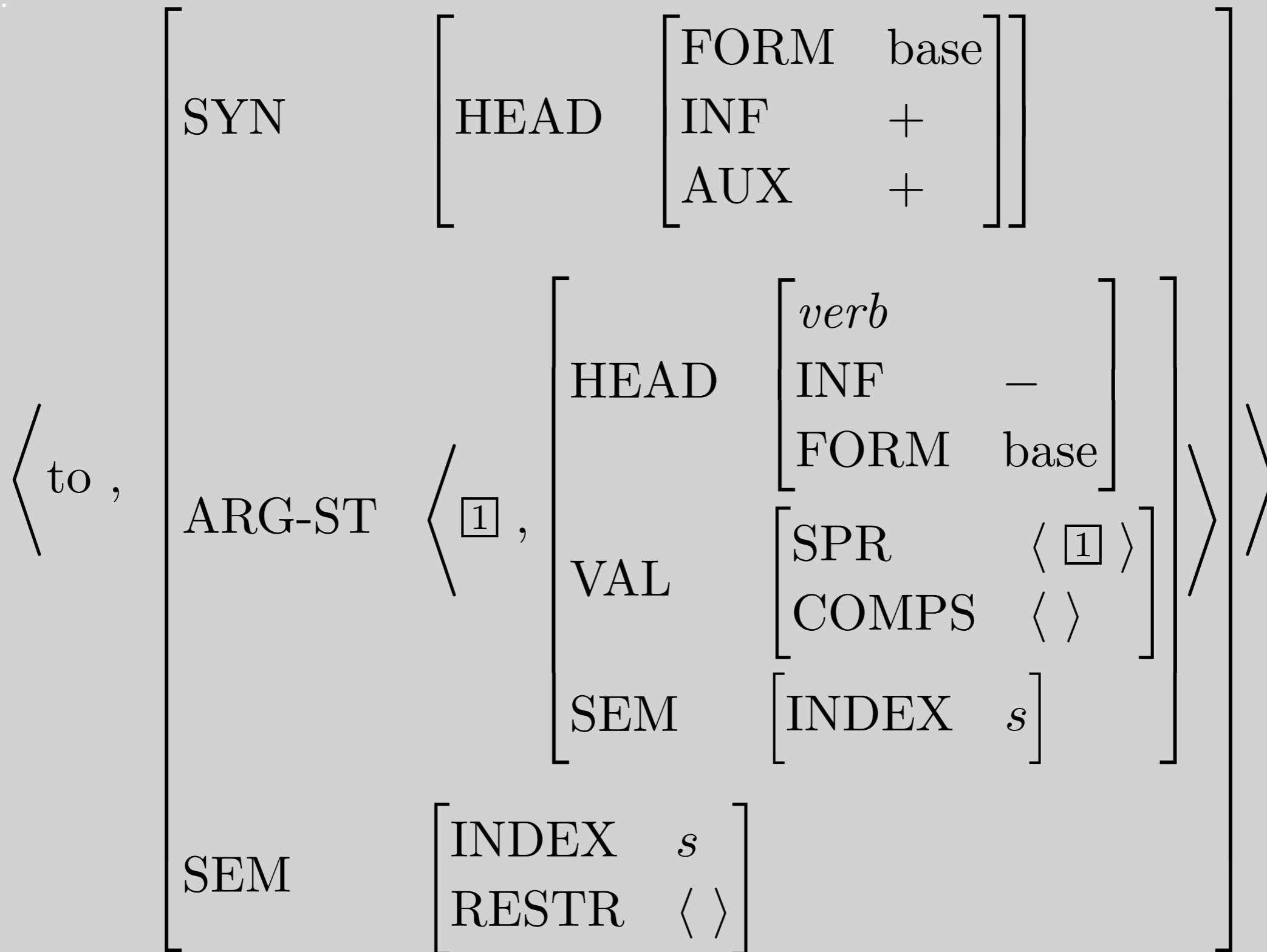
# The Central Idea

- *Pat continues to avoid conflict and Pat tries to avoid conflict*  
both have the form NP-V-*to*-VP
- But *continues* is semantically a one-place predicate, expressing a property of a situation (namely, that it continues to be the case)
- Whereas *tries* is semantically a two-place predicate, expressing a relation between someone who tries and a situation s/he tries to bring about.
- This semantic difference has syntactic effects.

# The Status of Infinitival *to*

- It's not obvious what part of speech to assign to *to*.
- It's not the same as the preposition *to*:
  - The preposition marks goal arguments or directions, but the infinitival marker is semantically empty
  - Prepositions don't take VP complements
- We call it an auxiliary verb, because this will make our analysis of auxiliaries a little simpler.

# The Lexical Entry for Infinitival *to*

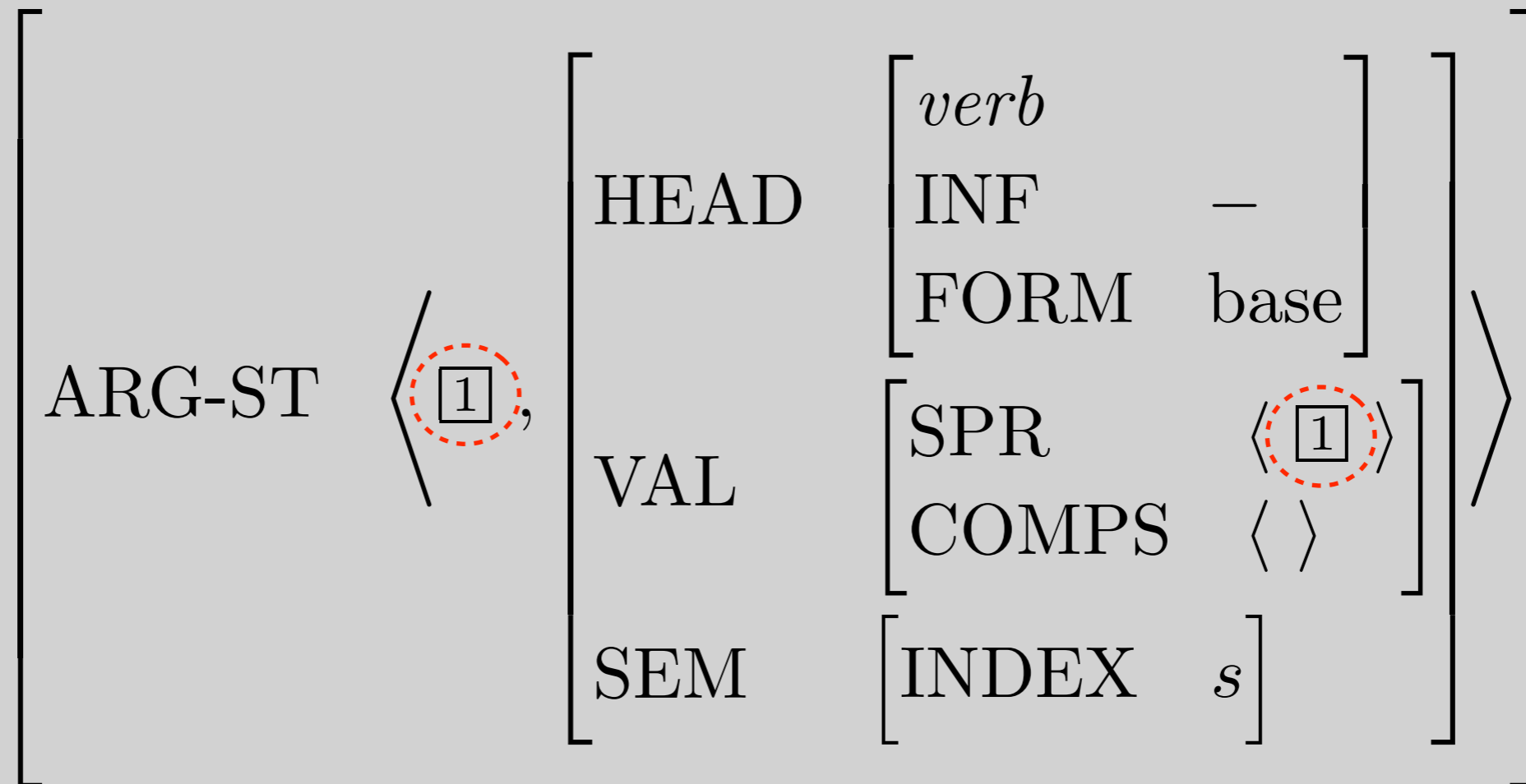


# The Syntax of Infinitival *to*

$$\left[ \text{SYN} \left[ \text{HEAD} \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{FORM} & \text{base} \\ \text{INF} & + \\ \text{AUX} & + \end{array} \right] \right] \right]$$

- This makes it a verb, because *AUX* is declared on *verb*
- [*INF +*] uniquely identifies the infinitival *to*
- Verbs select complements with different combinations of *FORM* and *INF* values, e.g.
  - complements of *condescend* are [*FORM base*] and [*INF +*]
  - complements of *should* are [*FORM base*] and [*INF –*]
  - complements of *help* are [*FORM base*]
- The meaning of [*AUX +*] becomes clear in Chapter 13.

# The Argument Structure



- What kind of constituent is the second argument?
- The tagging of the first argument and the SPR of the second argument is exactly like *be*.



# Dummies and *continue*

- Some examples:

*There continue to be seats available.*

*It continues to matter that we lost.*

*Advantage continues to be taken of the innocent.*

*\*It continues to be seats available.*

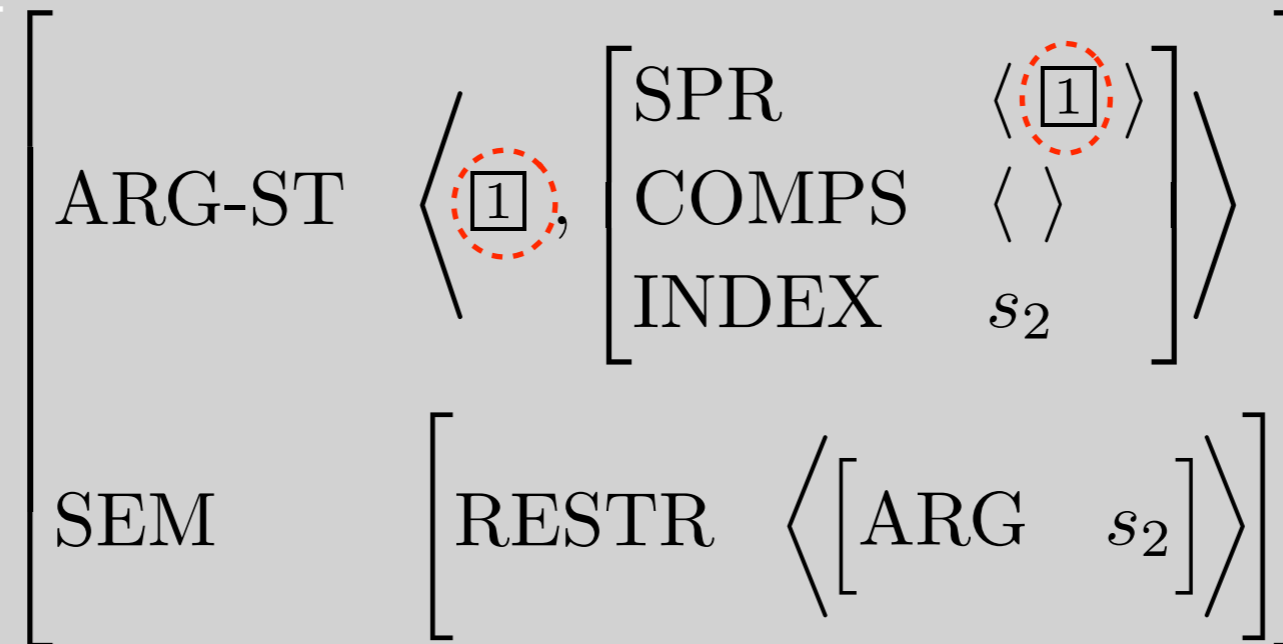
*\*There continues to matter that we lost.*

*\*Advantage continues to be kept of the innocent.*

- Generalization: Non-referential NPs can appear as the subject of *continue* just in case they could be the subject of the complement of *continue*.

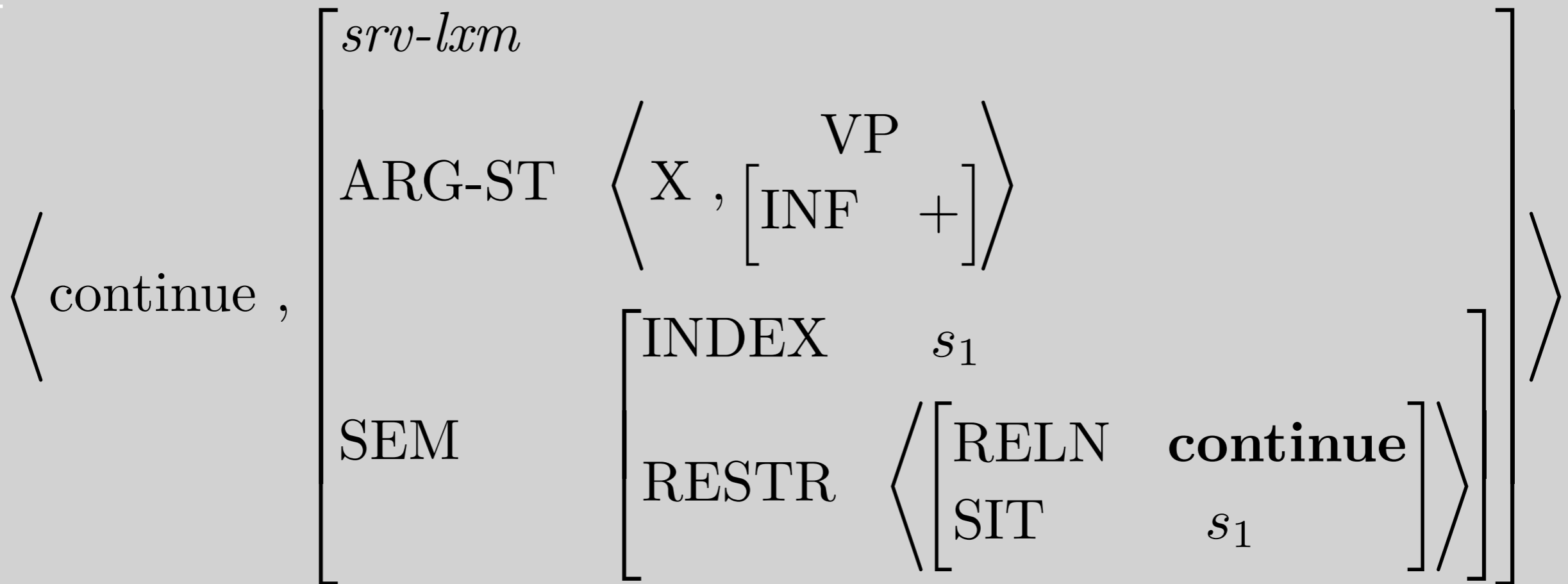
# A New Type, for Verbs like *continue*

*Subject-Raising Verb Lexeme (srv-lxm):*



- Notes on the ARG-ST constraints
  - The subject sharing is just like for *be* and *to*: the subject of *continue* is also the subject of its complement
  - *continue* imposes no other constraints on its subject
- Note on the SEM constraint
  - The index of the complement must be an argument of the predication introduced by the verb

# The Lexical Entry for *continue*

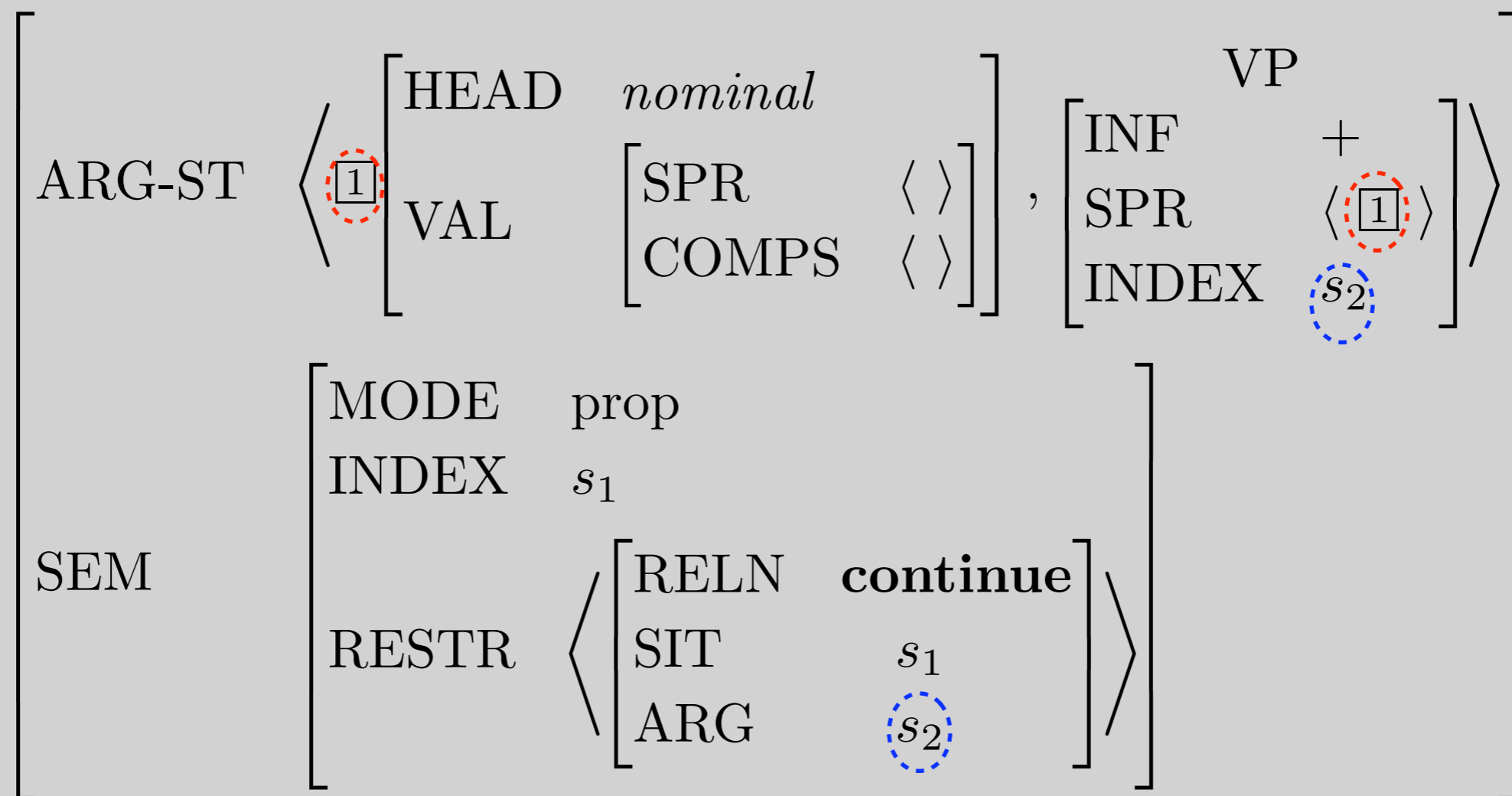


# Entry for *continue*, with Inherited Information

		<i>srv-lxm</i>			
SYN		HEAD	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{verb} \\ \text{PRED} & - \\ \text{INF} & - \\ \text{AGR} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}$		
		VAL	$\left[ \text{SPR} \ \langle [\text{AGR} \ \boxed{2}] \rangle \right]$		
$\langle$ continue ,	ARG-ST	$\langle$ $\boxed{1}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{nominal} \\ \text{VAL} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SPR} & \langle \rangle \\ \text{COMPS} & \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \text{VP} \\ + \\ \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INF} \\ \text{SPR} & \langle \boxed{1} \rangle \\ \text{INDEX} & s_2 \end{array} \right] \end{matrix}$	$\rangle$
SEM		MODE	prop		
		INDEX	$s_1$		
		RESTR	$\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textbf{continue} \\ \text{SIT} & s_1 \\ \text{ARG} & s_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$		

# Key Property of Subject-Raising Verbs

The subject plays no semantic role in the predication introduced by the SRV itself. Its semantic role (if any) is only in the predication introduced in the complement.



# Hence, constraints on the subjects of SRVs are imposed by their complements

- SRVs take dummy subjects when and only when their complements do.
- SRVs take idiom chunk subjects when and only when their complements do.
- Passivizing the complement of an SRV doesn't change the truth conditions of the whole sentence:

*Skeptics continue to question your hypothesis ~*

*Your hypothesis continues to be questioned by skeptics*

# Next time, we'll...

- Look at superficially similar examples like *Pat tries to avoid conflict* and see that they behave quite differently.
- Present a formal analysis of the difference.
- Compare our analysis of the difference with the traditional transformational one.