A workspace-based theory of adjuncts

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The problem of adjuncts in Generative Grammar

- The Generative Grammar enterprise has been remarkably successful at reducing a wide variety
- 5 of grammatical relations to a handful of simple ones. The adjunct relation, though, is among a
- 6 few which have stubbornly refused reduction. So, while relations such as *subject-of*, *object-of*,
- and possessum-of can now be defined in terms of Merge, the adjunct relation cannot. Instead
- their exceptional nature is stipulated, or an attempt is made to show that it is illusory. The former
- 9 approach, of course, is undesirable, but the latter approach, if successful, would yield a very
- desirable result.

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- 11 The latter approach, I will argue in section 2, does not seem likely to succeed, because the evidence
- 12 for the exceptionality of adjuncts is fairly strong. I will further ague that the nature of this
- exceptionality—that is, the very nature of adjuncts—makes reduction to Merge logically impossible.
- 14 I will then argue, in section 3 that attempts to account for adjuncts by either redefining Merge or
- adding a novel operation, while logically feasible, are undesirable when we consider the broader
- context of linguistic theory. Specifically I argue that the optionality of adjuncts negates any claims
- of necessity for introducing theoretical complication to account for them. This conclusion, however,
- seems to contradict the conclusion of section 2, creating an apparent paradox which I address in
- section 4.

¹Also in this group is conjunction.

In the remainder of the paper, I present a theory of adjuncts according to which, adjuncts, like arguments, are derived in separate workspaces from their host but, unlike argument, adjunct workspaces are never incorporated into their host's workspace. I introduce the theoretical background for this proposal in section 5, make my proposal in section 6, and offer corroborating evidence in section 7.

The essence of adjuncts

- Adjuncts are generally distinguishable from predicates and arguments on the basis of three properties—optionality, stackability, and reorderability.² They are optional in the sense that (1)—without any adjuncts—and (2)—with an adjunct—are both grammatical. They are stackable in the sense that an expression like (2), with one adjunct, is as grammatical as one like (3) with a second adjunct added, and so on. Finally, they are reorderable in the sense that (3) and (4) are both grammatical despite the fact that their adjuncts are ordered differently.
- $_{31}$ (1) [X The police silenced the workers].
- $_{32}$ (2) [Y [X The police silenced the workers], [against their wills]].
- $_{33}$ (3) [$_{Z}$ [$_{Y}$ [$_{X}$ The police silenced the workers], [against their wills]], [following the demonstration]].
- $_{34}$ (4) [U [W [X The police silenced the workers] [following the demonstration]], [against their wills]].
- A theoretical approach like cartography (Cinque and Rizzi 2010), though, argues that adjuncts do not form a class of their own. Rather, "adjuncts" are actually specifiers of particular functional heads. The argument for this claim begins with the observation that "adjuncts" are not as reorderable as (3) and (4) would suggest. For instance, there are well-known restrictions on the ordering of adjectives—an ordering of size adjectives before shape adjectives, as in (5), is preferred to the reverse order, as in (6).³

²These properties are generalizations to which, no doubt, there are exceptions. I ask the reader to attach "all else being equal" to such generalizations.

³See Sproat and Shih (1991) for further discussion of the adjective ordering restriction

- 42 (5) a small square table
- 43 (6) ?*a square small table
- By hypothesis, such an ordering restriction reflects a fixed ordering of a set of functional heads
- (SIZE>SHAPE) which select adjectives as specifiers. Since this set of functional heads is innate, it
- must be finite. It follows, —then, that adjectives—and, by extension, adjuncts in general—cannot be
- stacked indefinitely. That is, there is a fixed upper bound of the number of adjuncts in an expression.
- 48 As for optionality, one need only point out the plethora of optionally transitive verbs, or pro-drop
- languages to see that optionality is not the sole province of adjuncts. Thus a cartographic approach
- 50 comes to the conclusion that there is no special class of constituents that answers to the name
- 51 "adjuncts".
- The cartographic conclusion, however, has certain implications which, when made explicit, cast
- doubt on it. The first implication is that adjective ordering restrictions such as the one demonstrated
- in (5) and (6) represents only an example case of a larger ordering restriction that includes not
- only all other adjective classes but also determiners and nouns. That is, the ordered sequence of
- ⁵⁶ functional heads SIZE > SHAPE is part of a larger sequence given in (7).
- $_{57}$ (7) D>... > SIZE > ... SHAPE > ... N
- However, when we test this we see that placing a determiner or noun out of order yields a different
- sort of unacceptability compared to that in (6)
- 60 (8) a. *square a small table
- b. *square small a table
- c. *square small table a
- 63 (9) a. *a square table small
- b. *a table square small
- c. *table a square small
- 66 While (6) is an awkwardly formed nominal phrase, the strings in (8) and (9) are gibberish.

- 67 Or consider another ordering restriction in English—S>V>O. Disobeying this ordering restriction
- 68 usually yields ungrammatical strings (*VSO, *VOS), but sometimes yields a distinct grammatical
- sentence (OVS). The latter result does not seem to occur when adjunct ordering restrictions are
- 70 violated.
- 71 The task of assimilating adjuncts to specifiers or complements seems difficult at least. As soon as
- they are brought under the same umbrella as other types of constituents, they must immediately be
- relegated to a special corner of that umbrella. Absent any stronger arguments, I will continue to
- assume that adjuncts exist and have the properties listed above.
- 15 It stands to reason, though, that the three characteristic properties of adjuncts—optionality, stack-
- ability, and reorderability—should be reducible to a single essential characteristic, and that the
- discovery of that characteristic is the first step towards an explanatory account of adjuncts. The key
- to discovering this characteristic, I think, is the fact that the labelled expressions in (1)-(4)—U, W,
- 79 X, Y and Z—are all syntactically equivalent, a term that bears explanation.
- 80 The expressions in question are all equally grammatical, but this is not enough to call them
- syntactically equivalent—(10) and (11) are equally grammatical but not equivalent, as they are
- 82 distinct categories.
- 83 (10) The cat ate the fish.
- 84 (11) The morning star
- 85 The expressions in question are of the same category, but this is also not enough to call them
- syntactically equivalent. According to most standard theories of labelling, the expressions in (12)
- are both labelled as V and the expressions in (13) are both labelled as T, but the (a) examples are
- not equivalent to the (b) examples.
- 89 (12) a. hit
- b. hit the ball
- a. ate the cake

b. Juan ate the cake

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- We can show that the (a) examples are not equivalent to the (b) examples by attempting to substitute one for the other in a test context. So in (14), the ungrammatical (b) is derived from (a) by substituting *hit* for *hit the ball*, and in (15), the ungrammatical (b) is derived from (a) by substituting an incomplete TP for a complete one.
- 97 (14) a. The toddler hit the ball.
- b. *The toddler hit
- 99 (15) a. I believe Juan ate the cake.
- b. *I believe at the cake.
- Compare this to a case of adjunction—in (16), (b) is derived from (a) by substituting a VP with an adjunct for one without an adjunct. Both examples are grammatical, because the VP with an adjunct is equivalent to the VP without the adjunct.
- 104 (16) a. Rosie [sang the anthem].
- b. Rosie [sang the anthem with gusto].
- The substitution test does not furnish us with a definition of syntactic equivalency, though. Such a definition requires additional work. The fact of syntactic equivalency, though, leads to an important conclusion about host-adjunct expressions—they are not formed by Merge.
- The reasoning to this conclusion is straightforward. By definition, Merge combines two objects α and β to create a new object γ that is distinct from both α and β . So, if a host-adjunct expressions H¹¹ H² A were formed by Merging H and A, it would be distinct. All host-adjunct expressions H² A are equivalent to their host H and therefore cannot be formed by Merge.
- Several researchers have previously reached this conclusion in some form or another. This leads them to propose an additional way of combining expressions. In the next section, I show that this step is neither necessary, nor desirable.

116 3 Adjunction is optional

Our current approaches to adjunction—late Merge and Pair-Merge—introduce complications to
the theory of grammar, and any complication should be viewed with some skepticism and only
accepted if they are shown to be absolutely necessary. Proponents of the current approaches, then,
plead necessity. The argument goes as follows: Adjunction is ubiquitous in language but cannot be
reduced to cyclic application of simple Merge, therefore our theory of language cannot be limited to
cyclic application of simple Merge.

This can be seen as analogous to one of Chomsky's argument for transformations in *Syntactic Structures*, which goes roughly as follows: phrase structure rules alone are not sufficient to generate all the sentences of natural language, therefore we must augment them with transformations.

Although there were other arguments for transformations, I would like to compare their necessity to the supposed necessity of Pair-Merge or late Merge.

To start with, we must come to some description of a valid necessity argument in generative syntax.

A necessity argument takes the form of a syllogism consisting of two premises and a conclusion.

The first premise is an empirical claim about the expressiveness of natural language, where what I mean by expressiveness is the range of thoughts that are expressible in natural language. the claim made in the first premise is something like "the expressiveness of natural language includes at least the thought-classes *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*," where *A*, *B*, *C* and *D* are demonstrated with some data. The second premise is a claim about the expressiveness of some theoretical grammar—something like, "the proposed grammar *G* of natural language generates expressions of thought-classes *A*, *B* and *C*, but not *D*." The conclusion, of course, is that *G* is an insufficient theory of natural language.

A simplified version of the necessity argument for transformations is as follows. Natural languages can express both declarative and interrogative forms of the same core proposition as shown in (17) and (18).

(17) Violet wrote the anthem.

- 141 (18) What did Violet write?
- Phrase structure rules, however, can generate declaratives, but not interrogatives. Therefore, phrase
- structure rules are insufficient as a theory of natural language. Important to note is that both premises
- rest on other premises. The first premise assumes that declaratives and interrogatives express distinct
- classes of thoughts, while the second premise assumes a particular version of phrase structure rules.
- The necessity argument for Pair-Merge or late Merge goes as follows. Natural language can express
- thought with or without adjuncts as shown in (19) and (20)
- 148 (19) Rosie sang the anthem.
- 149 (20) Rosie sang the anthem with gusto.
- ¹⁵⁰ A Merge-only grammar can generate unadjoined expressions like (19) but not adjoined sentence
- like (20). Therefore, a Merge-only grammar is insufficient as a theory of natural language. Since I
- have already argued in favour of the second premise, I will examine the first premise here.
- The first premise assumes that (19) and (20) express two distinct classes of thought. When we
- analyze (20) though, we see that it can actually be expressed as the juxtaposition of two distinct
- sentences: (19) and (21).
- 156 (21) The singing had gusto.
- 157 If a Merge-only grammar can generate (19), it should also be able to generate (21), and therefore, it
- can generate the juxtaposition of the two. Given my definition of expressiveness in terms of the
- range of thoughts expressible by a language, then, it seems that the thought expressed by (20) can
- be expressed in a Merge-only grammar. So, the necessity argument for Pair-Merge or late Merge
- does not go through.

4 A paradox?

In section 2 I argued that Merge could not create host-adjunct structures, while in section 3 I argued that a Merge-only grammar was expressive enough to generate the thoughts behind expressions with adjuncts. On their face, these seem to contradict each other. This apparent contradiction, though, can be cleared up by being a bit more precise about what is being claimed in each case.

The first claim is a conditional claim. It says that if there exists a computational combinatory operation—call it Adjoin—that creates host adjunct structures, then Adjoin cannot be identical to to Merge. The second claim is a modal claim. It says that the human language faculty does not necessarily contain the computational combinatory operation Adjoin. Stated this way, then, the two claims are compatible with each other, though they leave in a difficult position in our search for a theory of adjuncts.

5 Towards a theory of Adjuncts

Our theory of adjuncts, then, must account for the fact that adjunction is syntactically vacuous and it should do so without adding any additional combinatory operation.

5.1 Workspaces

In recent years, two distinct conceptions of workspaces have gained currency among generative theorists. In one conception, formalized by Collins and Stabler (2016), each stage of a derivation consists of a lexical array, containing lexical item tokens, and a workspace, containing syntactic objects. In the other conception, described by Nunes (2004), a stage of a derivation consists of possibly several workspaces. I will be adopting the latter conception.

Under this conception, a workspace is a way of formalizing the intuition that arguments are derived separately from clausal spines. So for instance, the derivation of a simple transitive clause like (22) involves at least three workspaces—One derivation each for the nominal arguments, *the citizens* and

- the masks, and one derivation for the clausal spine.
- 186 (22) The citizens were some masks.
- Operations like Merge are defined in terms defined in terms of workspaces, which has the effect of encapsulating the workspaces. In the case of Merge, this means that the workspace defines the operation's accessibility conditions. Two objects, then, can be Merged only if they are in the same workspace. So, for instance, in the derivation of (22), the indefinite determiner *some* cannot Merge with *citizens*, as the two objects are not in the same workspace.

5.2 Deletion

- Deletion is a much more intuitive, yet less understood, operation of the language faculty. Every generative theory of syntax has some mechanism to either not pronounce certain constituents of a given expression or imbue silence with meaning. In current transformational theories, this is accomplished by the sensorimotor system rather than the narrow syntax. In these theories, syntactic derivations tend to create redundant structure. For example the derivation of a *wh*-question like (23) involves merging the *wh*-expression twice, first as the direct object and then at the left edge of the sentence. This results in a syntactic object with two instances of that *wh*-expression as in (24).
- 200 (23) What did the student hear?
- 201 (24) What did the student hear what
- Since (23), rather than (24), is pronounced, we know that the rightmost copy of *what* has been deleted.
- Our current theory of deletion starts with a single principle given in (25).
- 205 (25) Given two identical objects X and Y where X asymmetrically c-commands Y, delete Y.
- This principle accurately predicts (23), but faces several issues. Empirically speaking, there are many apparent exceptions to (25). Theoretically speaking, the notion of identity is not fully understood

208 and, as I will discuss in section 6.1.2, c-command as the deciding factor is too narrow.

Despite these issues, I will assume something like (25), perhaps with exceptions, is active in the language faculty.

6 A workspace-based theory of adjunction

The theory of adjuncts that I propose is best viewed in contrast to the workspace theory of arguments.

According to this theory, outlined in section 5.1, an argument is derived in a separate workspace from its clausal spine, and the result of that derivation is merged into clausal spine derivation. An adjuncts is also derived in a separate workspace, except that that workspace is never merged into the clausal spine derivation. So the syntactic representation of (20) is given in (26) with the adjunct-free sentence derived (19) in WS1, and the adjunct PP with gusto derived in WS2.

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218 (26) \langle [\{Rosie, \{T, \dots \{sing, \{the, song\}\}\}\}]_{WS1}, [\{with, gusto\}]_{WS2} \rangle
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Note this perfectly captures the essential character of adjuncts, namely that they are syntactically vacuous. The VPs *sing the anthem* and *sing the anthem with gusto* are syntactically equivalent because there is no narrow syntactic object that corresponds to the latter string. So, it is wrong to say that a Voice head selects both objects. Rather the relevant part of the derivation of *sing the anthem* proceeds as in (27) while the corresponding derivation part for *sing the anthem with gusto* proceeds as in (28).

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225 (27) Stage N: \langle [\{sing, \{the, anthem\}\}, Voice]_{WS1} \rangle (Merge(Voice, WS1))

226 Stage N+1: \langle [\{Voice, \{sing, \{the, anthem\}\}\}]_{WS1} \rangle
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227 (28) Stage N:
$$\langle [\{sing, \{the, anthem\}\}, Voice]_{WS1}, [\{with, gusto\}]_{WS2} \rangle$$
 (Merge(Voice, WS1))

228 Stage N+1: $\langle [\{Voice, \{sing, \{the, anthem\}\}\}]_{WS1}, [\{with, gusto\}]_{WS2} \rangle$

Notice that each stage pair is derived by the same operation.

230 In terms of interpretation, this proposal makes roughly the correct prediction/ That is, the host

and adjunct are distinct syntactic objects and, therefore, would be interpreted as such. Recall, in section 3, I argued that an expression with an adjunct could be expressed as two juxtaposed expressions. This analysis formalizes that intuition.

Turning to pronunciation, it might be suggested that my proposal introduces new complexity to the already complicated nature of pronunciation—Our best theories suggest that c-command is vital for linearization, but there can be no c-command relation across workspaces. Such an objection, however, would mistake the nature of the linearization problem, namely that Merge creates unordered objects that must be converted to ordered object for pronunciation. A derivation stage such as (26), though, is already ordered (WS1 \times WS1), so no linearization problem should occur.

In what follows, I will refine this proposal somewhat, but the core claim—that adjuncts are in separate workspaces from their hosts—will remain the same. I pause here to note that this solution broadly accounts for adjunct without recourse to novel operations or major modifications to the architecture of the grammar, and is therefore superior to Pair-Merge and late Merge.

245 6.1 The problem of adjunct scope

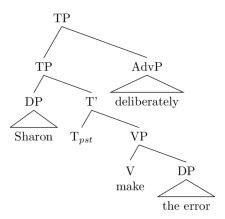
The sentence in (29) is ambiguous.

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247 (29) Sharon made the error deliberately.

It can be interpreted as saying either that Sharon intended to make the error in question, or that she
made the error in a deliberate manner. The conclusion drawn from this sort of ambiguity is that the
adverb *deliberately* has two possible scopes—A high scope resulting in the first interpretation, and
a low scope resulting in the second interpretation. Under an X-bar theory of adjuncts, this can be
easily accounted for by aligning scope with attachment site as in (30) and (31).

(30) The high-scope interpretation of (29) in X-bar theory

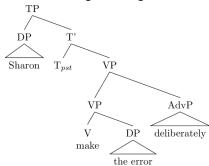


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(31) The low-scope interpretation of (29) in X-bar theory



As it stands, however, the workspace theory of adjuncts cannot account for adjunct scope. Or, to be more precise, it cannot account for the fact that adjuncts can have multiple scope possibilities. This can be seen when we consider how we would represent (29) in a workspace-based analysis—as the juxtaposition of *Sharon made the error* and *deliberately* as shown in (32).

(32)
$$\left\langle [\{Sharon, \{T, \dots \{Voice, \{make, \{the, error\}\}\}\}\}], \right\rangle$$
 [deliberately]

If we take a full declarative clause to describe a situation or state of affairs, then, according to (32), (29) would describe a situation *s*, such that in *s* Sharon made the relevant error, and that *s* was brought about by a deliberate choice of the agent of *s*. In other words, the proposed workspace-based theory of adjuncts seems to predict only the high-scope interpretation of (29).

In order to modify our proposal to allow for adjunct scope, we must first realize that adjunct scope-taking is different from other kinds of scope-taking, such as quantifier scope. Usually, when we talk about scope, we have in mind an asymmetric relation. So the two readings of (33) can be

described by saying which of the two quantifier phrases scopes over the other.

270 (33) Every student read a book.

a.
$$\forall s(\exists b(read(b,s)))$$

b.
$$\exists b (\forall s (read(b,s)))$$

The relationship between a modifier and a modified expression, however, is generally considered to be symmetric, at least in terms of their interpretation.⁴ So, in the low-scope interpretation of (29), the logical predicate expressed by *deliberately* is conjoined with the one expressed by *make an error*, as shown in (34).

277 (34)
$$\lambda e(make(\text{the-error}, e) \& deliberate(e))$$

It does not, then, make sense to say that *deliberately* "scopes over" the VP. We can still ask, though,
why does *deliberately* conjoin with the VP and not, say, with AspP, or TP. The answer, at least in
X-bar terms is obvious—the adverb and the VP conjoin because they are in the same position, that
is [Comp, Voice]. In other words, *deliberately* conjoins with the VP, because both scope directly
under Voice, and therefore, indirectly under everything that scopes over Voice.

This rethinking of adjunct scope, then suggests a workspace-based analysis of the low scope interpretation of (29), shown in (35).

(35)
$$\left\langle [\{Sharon, \{T, \dots \{Voice, \{make, \{the, error\}\}\}\}\}], \right\rangle$$
 $[\{Sharon, \{T, \dots \{Voice, \{deliberately\}\}\}\}], \right\rangle$

Here we can say that *deliberately* and the VP are in the same position, as they are both the complement of Voice in their respective workspaces. Such a representation, however, raises three obvious questions:

- 1. How is (35) interpreted?
- 2. How is (35) pronounced?
- 3. How is (35) derived?

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⁴Setting aside cases of non-intersective modification.

²⁹² I address these three questions in turn directly.

293 **6.1.1** How is (35) interpreted?

- The derivation stage in (35) contains two workspaces, each of which contains a finite clause. I will
- assume that the interpretation of each clause contains an event description and a specification of
- how the event described relates to the context of utterance. For the sake of clarity, I will consider
- only the event-description portion of the meaning.
- 298 So the event description contained in the first workspace—the one associated with the host—is
- 299 given in (36), and the event description contained in the second workspace—the one associated
- with the adjunct—is given in (37).
- 301 (36) $\lambda e(make(e) \& AGENT(e)(sharon) \& THEME(e)(the-error))$
- 302 (37) $\lambda e(AGENT(e)(sharon) \& deliberately(e))$
- 303 If, as we've assumed thus far, juxtaposing (36) and (37) yields the conjunction of the two, and if we
- take the further simplifying step of eliminating redundant conjuncts, we get the correct interpretation
- 305 in (38).
- 306 (38) $\lambda e(make(e) \& AGENT(e)(sharon) \& THEME(e)(the-error) \& deliberately(e))$
- More could be said, of course, about the interpretation of (35), but I will leave this as a task for
- 308 further research and move on to the question of pronunciation

309 **6.1.2** How is (35) pronounced?

- The problem posed for pronunciation by (35) is that the adjunct workspace contains most of a clause
- which is not pronounced. That is, Sharon, T, Voice, etc. must be deleted somehow. Recall from
- section 5.2 that the basic rule of deletion is that if a syntactic object contains two constituents, α
- and β , such that $\alpha = \beta$ and α asymmetrically c-commands β , then β is deleted.
- The notion of identity here, must capture copies, but not repetitions, so in order for the various

phrases and heads to be deleted from the adjunct we must show that they can be treated as copies of
the corresponding phrases and heads in the host. since the distinction between copies and repetitions
is to follow from the derivational history of an expression, I will postpone the question of identity
until the following section and stipulate, for the moment, that *Sharon*, T, Voice, *etc*. in the adjunct
are considered copies of their counterparts in the host.

As for the c-command requirement for deletion, it is quite plain that it cannot apply to the deletion of copies in different workspaces as in (35). Since the c-command relation is dependant on Merge, the domain of which is limited to the workspace, it cannot hold across workspaces. However, if we broaden the c-command requirement on deletion to one of a more general ordering ($\alpha > \beta$) then it can apply to elements in separate workspaces, since workspaces in a derivation are ordered with respect to each other.

This broadening of the c-command requirement may seem *ad hoc* on its face, but there is a good reason to think that an operation like deletion is not sensitive specifically to c-command. That reason is that, as decades of research suggest, the syntactic component is the only component of the language faculty that is particular to the language faculty. It follows from this that deletion, an operation of the externalization system, is not particular to language. Since it is not particular to language, it should not be defined in language-particular terms. Therefore, defining deletion in terms of ordering as opposed to c-command is theoretically preferred.

So, turning back to the task at hand, (35) is pronounced by deleting all the redundant structure in the adjunct. This occurs because every element of the deleted structure is identical to an element in the host and ordered with respect to that matching element.

6.1.3 How is (35) derived?

The derivation of host-adjunct structures such as (35) can be divided into to parts. In the first part, the two workspaces—host and adjunct— are derived independently of each other, and in the second part, the workspaces are derived in lockstep. The first part represents the standardly assumed

operation of workspaces, and is, therefore, already understood, at least insofar as workspaces are understood. The second part—the part involving lockstep derivation—is novel and its explanation will occupy this section.

The result of the first part of the derivation is given in (39) below.

(39)
$$\left\langle [\{make, \{the, error\}\}, Voice, \dots, T]_{WS1}, \\ [\{deliberately\}, Voice, \dots, T]_{WS2}, [Sharon]_{WS3} \right\rangle$$

Let's suppose that nothing forces the workspaces to derive in lockstep, but rather they derive freely and only result in a host adjunct structure if their respective derivations mirror each other. This, however, would lead to two problems.

The first problem this poses has to do with the copy/repetition distinction. The externalization 348 system, by hypothesis, deletes copies, not repetitions. Recall that T, Voice, the subject, etc. of the 349 adjunct workspace delete in this case. This deletion would only occur if those objects were copies of 350 their counterparts in the host object and, while the necessary and sufficient conditions on copy-hood 351 are not well understood, There is good reason to believe that content-identity is not sufficient. That 352 is, Two instances of, say, Voice_{Act} are not copies just because they have identical content—it seem 353 they must have an identical derivational history. This could not possibly hold of Voice, T, etc if the 354 second stage of the derivation under discussion proceeds freely. 355

The second problem has to do with the fact that the subject *Sharon* appears in both the host and adjunct workspace in (35). If we were to derive the two workspaces independently of each other, starting with (39), there would be a step in which WS3 would be added to either WS1 or WS2. Incorporating WS3 into one workspace, however, precludes a later step of incorporating it into the other workspace. Therefore, (35) does not seem to be derivable if its two workspaces are derived independently of each other.

The lockstep derivation, then, must be "forced", yet current theory offers no method for this. In the remainder of this section I will present and discuss a proposal which would allow for lockstep derivation. First, I will introduce and formally define a workspace-based version of Merge—what Chomsky (2019) refers to as MERGE. Then, I will discuss the higher-order function, map, which will allow us do derive in lockstep. Finally, I will discuss how the copy/repetition distinction can be made in light of these developments.

6.1.3.1 MERGE and its formal definition

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Chomsky (2019) argues that the standard conception of Merge—Merge(α, β) \rightarrow { α, β }—needs to be replaced with a new one, called MERGE, which meets a number of desiderata. One such desideratum is that MERGE should be defined in terms of workspaces, rather than syntactic objects. In order to do this we must first provide some definitions for workspaces and other derivational notions. These definitions are given in (40)-(42).

³⁷⁴ (40) A derivation D is a finite sequence of stages $(S_1, S_2, ..., S_n)$, where D(i) = S_i.

375 (41) A stage S is a finite sequence of workspaces $\langle WS_1, WS_2, ... WS_n \rangle$, where $S(i) = WS_i$.

376 (42) A workspace WS is a finite sequence of syntactic objects $\langle SO_1, SO_2, ... SO_n \rangle$, where WS(i) = SO_i.

In addition to the workspace desideratum, MERGE should also "restrict computational resources" (Chomsky 2019), by ensuring that when a new object is created by MERGE, its constituent parts do not remain in accessible in the workspace. That is, MERGE substitutes the new object for the old objects. The definition of MERGE in (43), where "+" represents an "append" operation and "—" represents a "delete" operation, meets the two desiderata that I have mentioned thus far.⁵

(43) Where ω is a workspace, and α and β are syntactic objects,

MERGE₃
$$(\omega, \alpha, \beta) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \{\alpha, \beta\} + ((\omega - \alpha) - \beta) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ and } \beta \text{ are in } \omega \\ \{\alpha, \beta\} + (\omega - \alpha) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is in } \omega \text{ and } \beta \text{ is in } \alpha \end{cases}$$
undefined otherwise

⁵The astute reader will likely note that my definition of MERGE sacrifices the simplicity of Merge to meet the Chomsky's desiderata. This, I believe, reflects the fact that we lack a sufficient model of neural computation in which to ground our grammatical theory. Such a model would likely meet the "restrict resources" desideratum automatically.

This definition, however, seems to over-generate. Consider the derivation in (44)

386 (44) WS =
$$\langle P, Q, X, Y \rangle$$
 (P, Q, X, and Y are lexical item tokens)

a.
$$merge(WS, P, Q) \rightarrow \langle \{P, Q, X, Y\} (= WS') \rangle$$

b.
$$merge(WS', X, Y) \rightarrow \langle \{P, Q\}, \{X, Y\} \rangle (=WS'')$$

If such a derivation were possible within a single workspace, then we could derive an entire clause—including complex nominal arguments—within a single workspace. This would, at best, render workspaces redundant, perhaps making the grammar indeterminate—any sentence would be derivable in at least two distinct ways.

The situation gets worse when we consider the fact that the definition of merge in (43) stipulates the distinction between internal and external merge. By hypothesis, though, the two cases of merge should fall out from a single definition of merge. Without the stipulation, it's likely that unrestricted parallel merge (Citko 2005) or sideward merge (Nunes 2004) would be derivable in this system.

As Chomsky (2019) argues, though, once such varieties of merge are allowed, there is virtually no restriction on what can be derived. Thus, a definition of merge like that in (43) would likely over-generate.

This issue can be overcome in a non-stipulative way by eliminating one of the syntactic-object arguments from the definition of merge and defining merge as in (45).

402 (45) Where ω is a workspace, and α is a syntactic object,

$$\text{MERGE}_2(\omega,\alpha) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \{\alpha,\omega(1)\} + ((\omega-\alpha)-\omega(1)) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is in } \omega \\ \{\alpha,\omega(1)\} + (\omega-\omega(1)) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is in } \omega(1) \end{cases}$$
 undefined
$$\text{otherwise}$$

I have restricted merge here by identifying a privileged member of a given workspace—the first member $\omega(1)$. This is what is sometimes referred to as the root of the tree. This is a justifiable step in that the first member of a workspace has a unique property among workspace members—the existence of a workspace depends only on the existence of its first member. That is, there are

workspaces of length 1, 2, 3, *etc* but no workspaces of length 0. A corollary of this is that the proposition in (46) is only true for i = 1.

(46) For every workspace ω , $\omega(i)$ is defined.

By restricting merge in this way, we can rule out the derivation in (44). All instances of MERGE₂ modify WS(1). WS"(1) and WS'(1) in (44) are identical. Therefore No instance of MERGE₂ could derive WS" from WS'.

Being a computational procedure, MERGE ought to proceed in steps. Therefore, it should be a curried (or schönfinkeled) function. So, MERGE would be defined as in (47), with \mathcal{M} standing in for the intension of MERGE (*i.e.*, the right side of the equals sign in (43)).

417 (47) MERGE =
$$(\lambda \omega.(\lambda \alpha.\mathcal{M}))$$

Curried functions are a variety of higher-order functions because they have functions as outputs in contrast first-order functions whose inputs and outputs are strictly non-functional. Under this version of MERGE a step of external merge is divided into two steps as in (48).

421 (48) a.
$$MERGE(W) \rightarrow MERGE^W$$

b. $MERGE^W(X) \rightarrow MERGE^{W,X} \rightarrow \{X, W(1)\} + ((W-X) - W(1))$

Note here that, since lambda abstraction and reduction is sensitive only to the form of the variables, the order of these steps, dictated by the order of lambda expressions in (47), is arbitrary. We could, in principle, reorder the lambda expressions in (47) and we would have a different order of operations in (48) with the same result. This fact will come into play shortly.

427 **6.1.3.2** The map function

In the previous section I noted that curried functions are a class of higher-order functions because
they have functions as outputs. In this section I will introduce a higher-order function that takes
functions as inputs—the map function—which will be key to achieving lockstep parallel derivations.
Informally speaking, map takes a function and applies it to a list of arguments. Formally, map is

432 defined in (49).

433 (49)
$$\operatorname{map}(f, \langle x_0, x_1, \dots x_n \rangle) \to \langle f(x_0), f(x_1), \dots f(x_n) \rangle$$

Now, lets consider how lockstep parallel derivations would proceed. The stage at which the lockstep

derivation begins was given in (39) and repeated here as (50).

(50)
$$\left\langle [\{make, \{the, error\}\}, Voice, \dots, T]_{WS1}, \\ [\{deliberately\}, Voice, \dots, T]_{WS2}, [Sharon]_{WS3} \right\rangle$$

The next step is to merge Voice in WS1 and WS2 and to do that we start with MERGE curried

- in the reverse order of (47), shown in (51), with and α and ω ranging over SOs and workspaces,
- respectively. Note, though, that R-MERGE is not a newly proposed operation. It has the same
- intension as MERGE—represented as \mathcal{M} —with inverted lambda terms.

(51) R-MERGE =
$$(\lambda \alpha.(\lambda \omega.\mathcal{M}))$$

Our first step, then, is to apply R-MERGE to Voice as in (52)

443 (52) R-MERGE(Voice)
$$\rightarrow$$
 R-MERGE^{Voice}

Next we map this function to WS1 and WS2 as in (53).

(53) map(R-MERGE^{Voice},
$$\langle \text{WS1, WS2} \rangle$$
) $\rightarrow \left\langle [\{\text{Voice}, \{\text{make}, \{\text{the}, \text{error}\}\}\}, \dots, T], \right\rangle$

And so on like that for the remainder of the derivation. Thus we can derive (35).

447 6.1.3.3 Identity across workspaces

448 If (52) and (53) are two steps in the derivation on (35), we still need to explain how the two

instances of Voice can be considered copies of each other in order to explain how one of them

450 deletes.

I mentioned in section 6.1.2 that, under a derivational theory of syntax, copies can be distinguished

from repetitions in that the former share a derivational history, while the latter do not. In order

for two objects to share a derivational history, they must have the same origin. The origin of any

- syntactic object in a given derivation is a tokening operation (Select in terms of Collins and Stabler
- (2016)) in the case of lexical item tokens or a subderivation in the case of derived objects like
- 456 complex nominals.
- In the case of Voice, since it a lexical item token, it's two instances in (35) must be linked by a
- single instance of the tokening operation Select, defined in (54).
- 459 (54) Select $(\alpha, \omega) \rightarrow \omega + \alpha$
- Where α is a lexical item and ω is a workspace
- Of course, this operation can be curried as in (55) and mapped so that a single instance of Select
- can put a single token in two workspaces as in (56)
- (55) $(\lambda \alpha.(\lambda \omega.\omega + \alpha))$
- 464 (56) a. Select(Voice) → Select^{Voice}
- b. Map(Select Voice, $\langle WS1, WS2 \rangle$) $\rightarrow \langle WS1+Voice, WS2+Voice \rangle$
- So, the two instances of Voice share a single tokening operation, and therefore are the same object.⁶

7 Problems solved by this theory

- In this section, I will outline a few problems related to adjunction that the proposed theory provides
- natural solutions to. First, I will address the island-hood of adjuncts. Then, I will discuss parasitic
- gaps, whereby adjunct island-effects are ameliorated. Finally, I will discuss a problem to do with
- 471 ACC-ing clauses which was, to my knowledge, first revealed by Cinque (1996) and made explicit in
- a separate manuscript (Author forthcoming).

⁶This also seems to be how we identify individual objects in general: I am the same individual as I was last year because both versions of me share the same birth event—the same origin.

7.1 The Island-hood of adjuncts

- A well-known property of adjuncts is that they are islands to movement. Indeed, Bošković (forth-
- coming) points out that, while the island-hood of many other constructions varies across languages,
- adjunct island-hood seems to be constant. So, for instance (57) is an ungrammatical question,
- and (58) is contains an ungrammatical relative clause because they both require an instance of
- wh-movement out of an adjunct.
- *What_i did she eat an apple [after washing $_{i}$]?
- 480 (58) *The student who; he invited Barbara [without meeting ___i]
- To see how the theory of adjuncts I propose here predicts adjunct island-hood consider the stage
- of the derivation of (57) immediately before wh-movement occurs. As shown in (59), the wh-
- expression what is in the adjunct workspace (WS2), which "scopes over" the TP. Note that both
- workspaces contain a C_{wh} head.

$$(59) \left\langle [\{C_{wh}, \{she, \{T, \dots\}\}\}]_{WS1}, \\ [\{C_{wh}, \{after, \{washing, what\}\}\}]_{WS2} \right\rangle$$

- In order to derive (57), we would need a wh-movement operation such as (60).
- 487 (60) MERGE(WS1)(what)
- The result of this operation, however, is undefined because what is neither a member of WS1, nor
- contained in the root object of WS1.
- The operation in (61), on the other hand, is defined yielding the stage in (62).
- 491 (61) MERGE(WS2)(what)

$$(62) \left\langle [\{C_{wh}, \{she, \{T, \dots\}\}\}]_{WS1}, \\ [\{what\{C_{wh}, \{after, \{washing, what\}\}\}\}]_{WS2} \right\rangle$$

This stage is problematic for two reasons. First, the C_{wh} head in WS1 would bear an unsatisfied

⁷Bošković notes that, since the Coordinated Structure Constraint is also constant across languages, it should be unified with adjunct island-hood.

- wh-feature which would lead to a crash at the CI interface. Second, (62) would not yield (57) when
- linearized because what, being in WS2 would ordered after all of the words in WS1. That is, we
- would expect (62) to be linearized as (63).
- 497 (63) *She ate an apple what after washing
- Thus the island-hood of adjuncts follows naturally from my proposed theor of adjuncts.

7.2 Parasitic Gaps

- The island-hood of adjuncts, though constant across languages, is circumvented in so-called parasitic
- gap constructions (Engdahl 1983) as in (64) and (65).8
- 502 (64) What_i did she eat $\underline{}_{i}$ [after washing ec_{i}]?
- 503 (65) The student who he invited $\underline{}$ [without meeting ec_i]
- Here the parasitic gaps in the adjuncts, represented here as ecs, are licensed if there is a parallel
- trace in the host. This required parallelism is both syntactic—the trace and the parasitic gap have the
- same grammatical role (i.e. direct object in (64) and (65))—and semantic—the trace and parasitic
- 507 gap co-refer.
- Here, the mechanism for ensuring lockstep derivation—higher-order functions—allows us to derive
- parasitic gaps. To demonstrate this, consider the penultimate stage in the derivation of (64) shown
- 510 in (66).

$$\begin{array}{cc}
\text{511} & (66) & \left\langle [\{C_{wh}, \{she, \{T, \{\dots, what_i\}\}\}\}]_{WS1}, \\ \\ [\{C_{wh}, \{after, \{washing, what_i\}\}\}]_{WS2} \end{array} \right\rangle
\end{array}$$

- Note that the two instances of what here are copies of each other, meaning they share a derivational
- origin. The final stage of (64), given in (68) is derived in two steps given in (67).
 - (67) a. R-MERGE(what_i) \rightarrow R-MERGE^{what_i}

 $^{^8}$ I represent the gaps within the adjuncts here as $\{ec\}$ s because, depending on the analysis, they are alternately identified as traces of movement or null proforms.

b. map(R-MERGE^{what}_i, $\langle WS1, WS2 \rangle \rightarrow (68)$

$$(68) \left\langle [\{what_{i}\{C_{wh}, \{she, \{T, \{..., what_{i}\}\}\}\}\}]_{WS1}, \\ [\{what_{i}\{C_{wh}, \{after, \{washing, what_{i}\}\}\}\}]_{WS2} \right\rangle$$

As discussed in section 6.1.2, all instances of *what*_i except for the highest instance in the first workspace is deleted, yielding the string (64).

Thus parasitic gaps are naturally accounted for in the theory I propose here.

20 7.3 Cartography's facts

515

In section 2 I discussed the adjective ordering restriction as an example of the class of facts which motivate the cartographic approach to adjuncts. I argued that adjective ordering restrictions (e.g., SIZE > SHAPE) and stronger word orderings (e.g., D > N in English) are different sorts of phenomena. This conclusion does not, however, mean that adjective ordering restrictions are not real, and therefore don't need explanation. Rather, it means that the must be explained in a way different from the stronger word-order restrictions. A workspace-theoretic approach can provide such a different explanation, given a few auxiliary hypotheses.

To begin, I give the derivation of (5)—a nominal phrase with an acceptable adjective sequence—in (69), followed by the derivation of (6)—a nominal phrase with a deviant adjective sequence—in (70).

⁹I leave out Select operations for the sake of brevity.

 $(69)_{-}$ $[\{small\}, SIZE]_{WS1},$ 0 (Start) $[\sqrt{\text{TABLE}}, n, \text{SIZE}, \text{SHAPE}]_{WS3}$ $[\{small\}, SIZE]_{WS1},$ MERGE(n)(WS3)1 $[\{\sqrt{\text{TABLE}}, n\}, \text{SIZE}, \text{SHAPE}]_{WS3}]$ $\{small\}, SIZE\}_{WS1},$ $[\{\mathsf{SHAPE}, \mathit{square}\}, \mathsf{SIZE}]_{\mathit{WS}2},$ $Map(MERGE(SHAPE))(\langle WS2,WS3 \rangle)$ 2 $[\{SHAPE, \{n, \sqrt{TABLE}\}\}, SIZE]_{WS3}]$ $Map(MERGE(Size))(\langle WS1,WS2,WS3\rangle)$ $[\{SIZE, \{SHAPE, \{n, \sqrt{TABLE}\}\}\}]_{WS3}$ (70)532 (Start) 0 $\sqrt{\text{TABLE}}, n, \text{SIZE}, \text{SHAPE}|_{WS3}$ $[\{square\}, SIZE, SHAPE]_{WS1},$ MERGE(n)(WS3)1 $[\{\sqrt{\text{TABLE}}, n\}, \text{SIZE}, \text{SHAPE}]_{WS3}]$ $[\{SHAPE, square\}, SIZE]_{WS1},$ $[\{small\}, Size]_{WS2},$ $Map(MERGE(SHAPE))(\langle WS1,WS3 \rangle)$ 2 $[\{SHAPE, \{n, \sqrt{TABLE}\}\}, SIZE]_{WS3}]$ $[\{SIZE, \{SHAPE, square\}\}]_{WS1},$ $Map(MERGE(Size))(\left\langle WS1,WS2,WS3\right\rangle)$ $[\{SIZE, \{SHAPE, \{n, \sqrt{TABLE}\}\}\}]_{WS3}]$

The key point of comparison here is between respective second steps, in which SHAPE is merged.

In (69), this step maps MERGE(SHAPE) to a contiguous sub-sequence of the active workspaces.

In (70), on the other hand, this step maps the same curried function to a non-contiguous subsequence. If we make the auxiliary hypothesis that mapping over a contiguous sequence is more
computationally efficient than mapping over a non-contiguous sequence, then we have a possible
explanation of the deviance of (6) and, by extension, a possible explanation of adjunct ordering
restrictions. That is, violations of adjunct ordering restrictions, rather than being violations of
selection restrictions, are the result of suboptimal derivations.

Note, however, that this approach maintains the universal hierarchy proposed by cartographers with 541 a few alterations. Under the cartographer's approach, adjuncts merge with their respective functional 542 heads as specifiers, and a functional head selects its subordinate category as a complement. This 543 seems to lead to the conclusion that the entire functional sequence of a domain is merged in every 544 derivation of that domain. Under the present approach, adjuncts still merge with their respective 545 functional heads, but as complements. That is, the structural relation between functional heads, like 546 SIZE, and modifiers, like *small*, is the same as the relation between roots and their categorizing 547 heads. It follows from this that modifiers merged with the interpretive relation between functional 548 head and modifier should be the same as the one between categorizing heads and roots. This 549 prediction is borne out in the intuitive understanding of polysemy. ¹⁰ 550

Consider, for instance, how one would define the word *work*. Since it is polysemous we would have to give a list of definitions—we would say "*work* as a noun means . . ." followed by "*work* as a verb means . . .", or vice versa. We could formalize these as in (71).

a. SEM
$$(n, \sqrt{\text{WORK}}) = \dots$$

b. SEM $(v, \sqrt{\text{WORK}}) = \dots$

Now compare this to the adjective *light* which is many ways polysemous. Our list of definitions would be as follows—"*light* as a colour adjective means ...", "*light* as a weight adjective means ...", "*light* as an evaluative adjective means ...", and so on Again, we can formalize these as in

10 There seems to be no systematic account of grammatical category or polysemy in current semantic theory.

In both cases, we replace the *as-a* relation with the head-complement relation. If such a move were made in isolation, it would would be quite innocuous, even trivial. In the current context, though, the move was a logical result of a substantive hypothesis and should, therefore, be seen as corroborating evidence in favour of that hypothesis.

₇ 8 Conclusion

I have argued in this paper that the basic facts about adjuncts only make sense if we assume that
adjuncts are not truly attached to their hosts. While previous theories of grammar have not offered
any way of formalizing this assertion, I proposed that the relatively new notion of workspaces
offers such a possibility. That is, I proposed that adjuncts, like arguments, are derived in their
own workspaces, but, unlike arguments, they are not incorporated into the "main" workspace. I
formalized this proposal and, in the process, proposed a workspace-based formalization of MERGE.
I then applied this formalized proposal to some generalizations related to adjunct—Islands, Parasitic
Gaps, and adjective ordering constraints—showing that those generalizations are either predicted by
my proposal or consistent with it.

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