**A first look at the landscape of**
**Unbounded Dependency Constructions**

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**From local to non-local dependencies**

- A head generally realizes its arguments locally within its head domain (i.e., within a local tree if an X-bar structure is assumed).

- Certain kind of constructions resist this generalization, such as, for example, the wh-question (from the NYT):

  (1) a. Who do you think _ writes well about human sadness?
      b. Who do you think the cops are going to believe _?

- How can the non-local relation between a head and such arguments be licensed? How can the properties be captured?

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**A first example: *Wh*-elements**

*Wh*-elements can have different functions:

(2) a. Who did Hobbs see _ ?                          Object of verb
    b. Who do you think _ saw the man?               Subject of verb
    c. Who did Hobbs give the book to _ ?            Object of prep
    d. Who did Hobbs consider _ to be a fool?   Object of obj-control verb

*Wh*-elements can also occur in subordinate clauses:

(3) a. I asked who the man saw _ .
    b. I asked who the man considered _ to be a fool .
    c. I asked who Hobbs gave the book to _ .
    d. I asked who you thought _ saw Hobbs.

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Different categories can be extracted:

(4) a. Which man did you talk to _ ?                          NP
    b. [To [which man]] did you talk _ ?                      PP
    c. [How ill] has the man been _ ?                        AdjP
    d. [How frequently] did you see the man _ ?              AdvP

This sometimes provides multiple options for a constituent:

(5) a. Who does he rely [on _ ]?
    b. [On whom] does he rely _ ?

Unboundedness:

(6) a. Who do you think Hobbs saw _ ?
    b. Who do you think Hobbs said he saw _ ?
    c. Who do you think Hobbs said he imagined that he saw _ ?

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**A syntactic link from filler to gap is needed**

(7) a. $Kim_i$, Sandy trusts $\_i$.
    b. [On $Kim]_i$, Sandy depends $\_i$.
(8) a. * [On $Kim]_i$, Sandy trusts $\_i$.
    b. * $Kim_i$, Sandy depends $\_i$.

And this link has to be established for an unbounded length:

(9) a. $Kim_i$, Chris knows Sandy trusts $\_i$.
    b. [On $Kim]_i$, Chris knows Sandy depends $\_i$.
(10) a. * [On $Kim]_i$, Chris knows Sandy trusts $\_i$.
     b. * $Kim_i$, Chris knows Sandy depends $\_i$.
(11) a. $Kim_i$, Dana believes Chris knows Sandy trusts $\_i$.
     b. [On $Kim]_i$, Dana believes Chris knows Sandy depends $\_i$.
(12) a. * [On $Kim]_i$, Dana believes Chris knows Sandy trusts $\_i$.
     b. * $Kim_i$, Dana believes Chris knows Sandy depends $\_i$.

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**Unbounded dependency constructions**

An unbounded dependency construction
  – involves constituents with different functions
  – involves constituents of different categories
  – is in principle unbounded

Two kind of unbounded dependency constructions (UDCs)
  – Strong UDCs
  – Weak UDCs (*easy*, purpose infinives, . . . ) → not addressed here

## Strong UDCs

An overt constituent occurs in a non-argument position:

Topicalization:
(13) $Kim_i$, Sandy loves $\_i$ .

*Wh*-questions:
(14) I wonder [$who_i$ Sandy loves $\_i$ ].

*Wh*-relative clauses:
(15) This is the politician [$who_i$ Sandy loves $\_i$ ].

*It*-clefts:
(16) It is $Kim_i$ [$who_i$ Sandy loves $\_i$ ].

Pseudoclefts:
(17) [$What_i$ Sandy loves $\_i$ ] is $Kim_i$.

## Weak UDCs

No overt constituent in a non-argument position:

Purpose infinitive (*for-to* clauses):
(18) I bought $it_i$ for Sandy to eat $\_i$ .

*Tough* movement:
(19) $Sandy_i$ is hard to love $\_i$ .
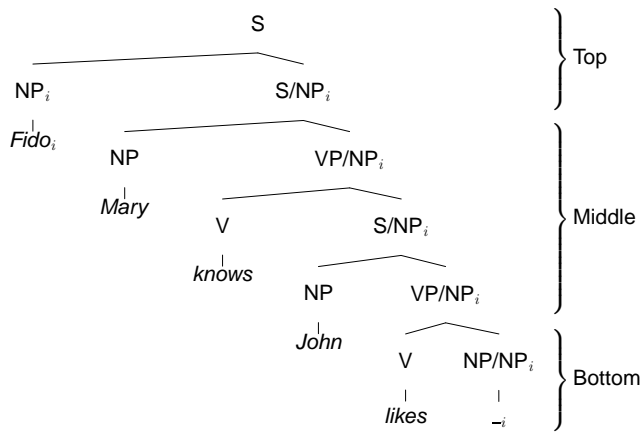
Relative clause without overt relative pronoun:
(20) This is [the politician]$_i$ [Sandy loves $\_i$ ].

*It*-clefts without overt relative pronoun:
(21) It is $Kim_i$ [Sandy loves $\_i$ ].

## An example for a strong UDC