The Component Unit
Introducing a Novel Unit of Syntactic Unit

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• Helpful in resolving controversial structural issues

e.g. I am having lunch.

(a) Traditional DG Analysis  
(b) UD Annotation Scheme
• How speakers organize words into sentences can be determined from chunking data collected from informants.

• There is a novel unit of DG that helps to predict how informants will chunk sentences. This unit is the component.

• One can use the component unit as a basis for motivating analyses of sentence structure, and thus resolve debatable structural issues.
The component:

- continuous in both **precedence and dominance**.
- (= String of words **linked by dependencies**)
Controversial issues:

- the status of **auxiliary verbs, prepositions, determiners, and object predicatives**

  e.g. I am having lunch.

  a. I am | having lunch.  – 26 responses
  b. I | am having lunch.  – 10 responses
  c. I am having | lunch.  – 7 responses
Results & Discussion

• The status of auxiliary verbs

- *I am* is not a component in the UD analysis
- All resulting chunks are components in the traditional analysis

**Auxiliary verb > Content verb**
Summary

• the component unit
• chunking experiments
• easily extendable to other languages
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Thanks for your attention!

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