

LING3701/PSYCH3371: Lecture Notes 11

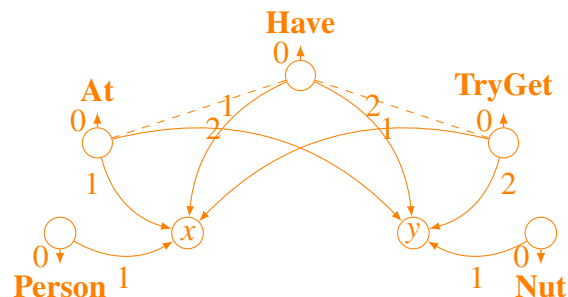
Sentence Processing

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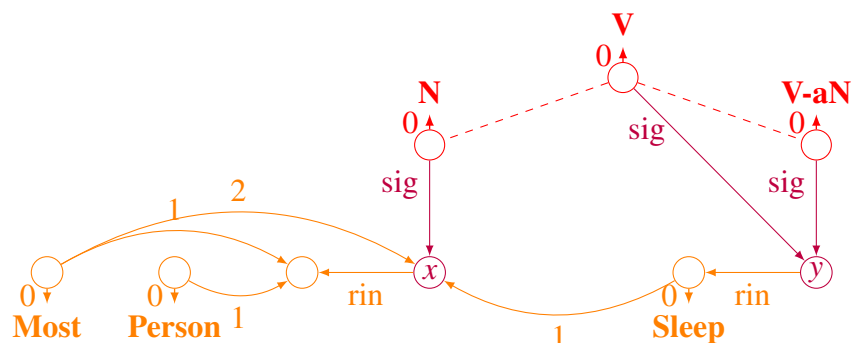
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11.1 Signs [Saussure, 1916]

Previously we've seen hierarchies of events, which can be modeled using cued associations:



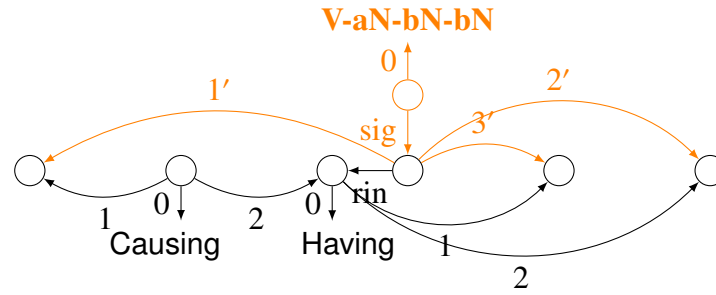
Language may extend this system by using hierarchies of **signs**, which **signify** events:



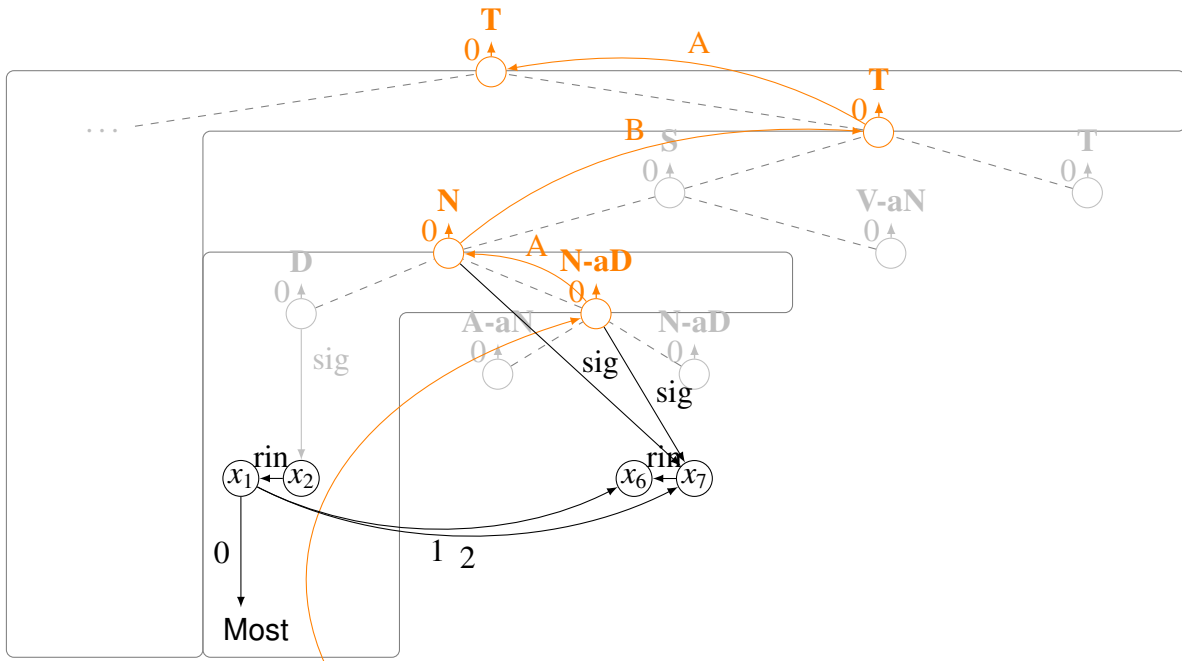
Signs have:

- **signified** structures (edges labeled **sig**) – these are our complex ideas;
- **syntactic categories** (edges labeled **0**) – we've seen these already (**V**, **V-aN**, etc.);
- **syntactic arguments** (labeled **1'**, **2'**, etc., from signified), connecting semantic participants;
- **apex/base** associations (labeled **A**, and **B**), connecting derivation fragments on the store.

For example, here's a lexical sign for the word *give*, defined to mean *cause to have*:



And here's a store of signs after the word *Most* in the sentence *Most large pumps work*:

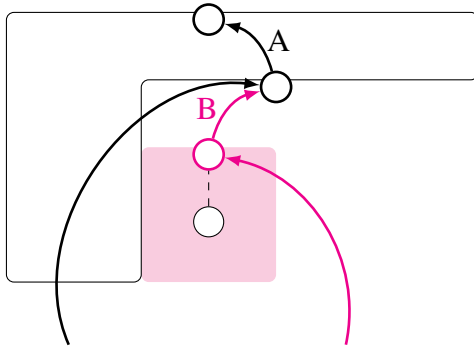


11.2 Processing [Lewis & Vasishth, 2005, Rasmussen & Schuler, 2018]

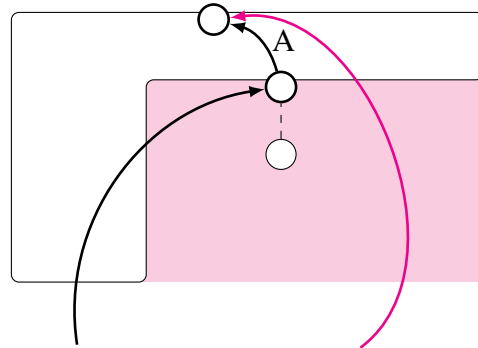
Comprehension proceeds as follows, using modified terminal and nonterminal decisions:

1. a **lexical** decision is made about whether to **match** store elements at the next word, and a **lexical inference rule** is applied (choose a meaning for the next word).

(a) no lexical (terminal) match:

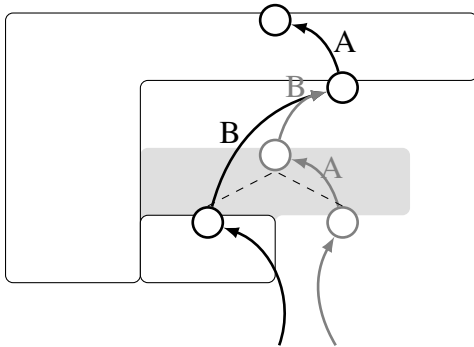


(b) yes lexical (terminal) match:

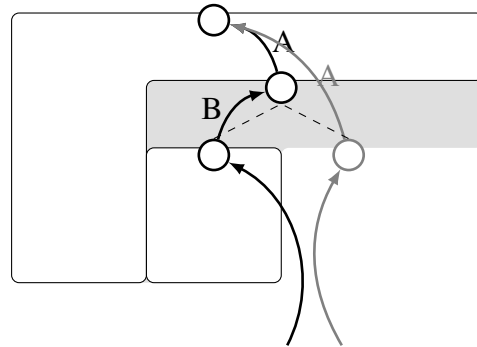


2. a **grammatical** decision is made about whether to **match** store elements at the next rule, and a **grammatical inference rule** is applied (choose a rule to compose the next subtree).

(c) no grammatical (non-terminal) match:



(d) yes grammatical (non-terminal) match:

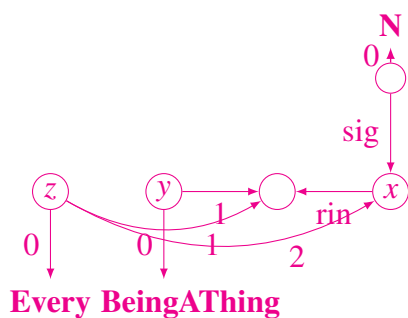


11.3 Lexical inference rules

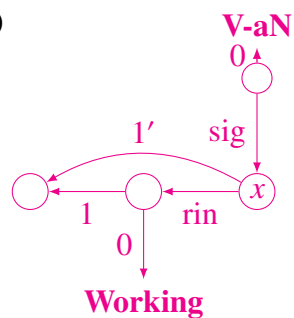
Lexical inference rules add lexical signs.

(Quantified noun 'everything' highlights how constraints are applied in modifiers and arguments.)

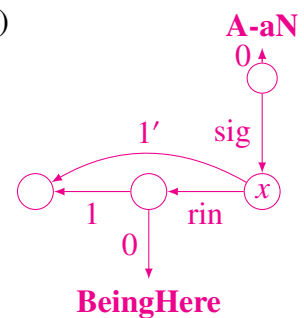
a)



b)



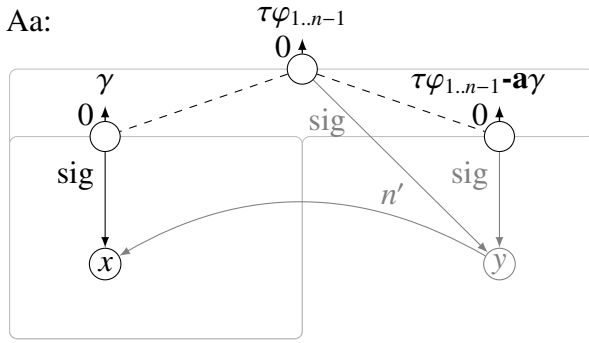
c)



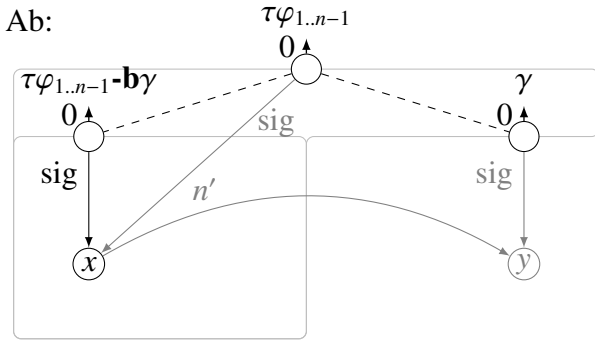
11.4 Grammatical inference rules

First we need rules to attach arguments:

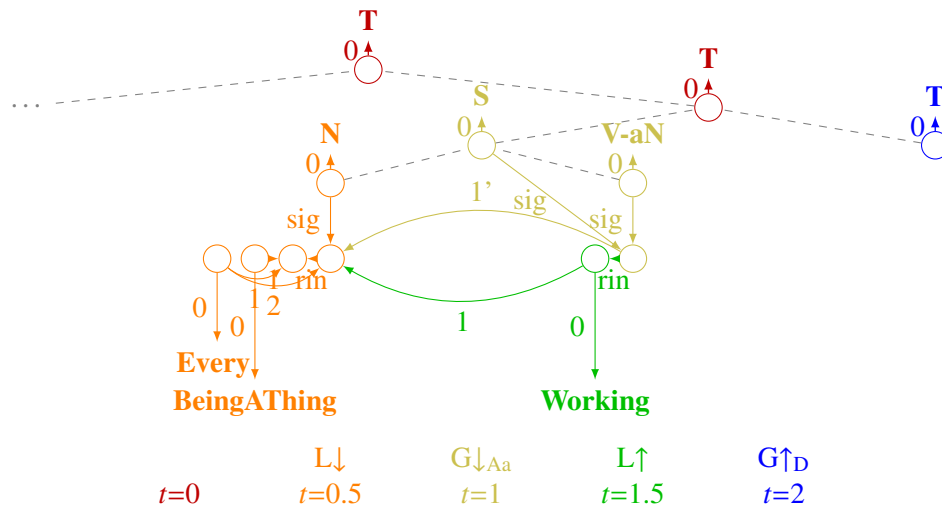
Aa:



Ab:

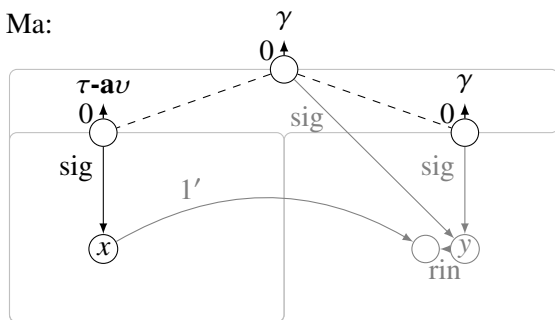


These rules attach constraints to the ‘nuclear scopes’ of the quantified noun phrase:

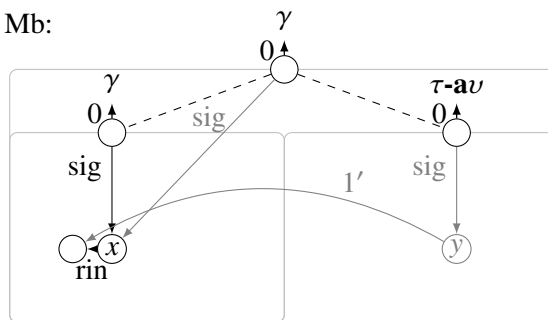


Then we need rules to attach modifiers:

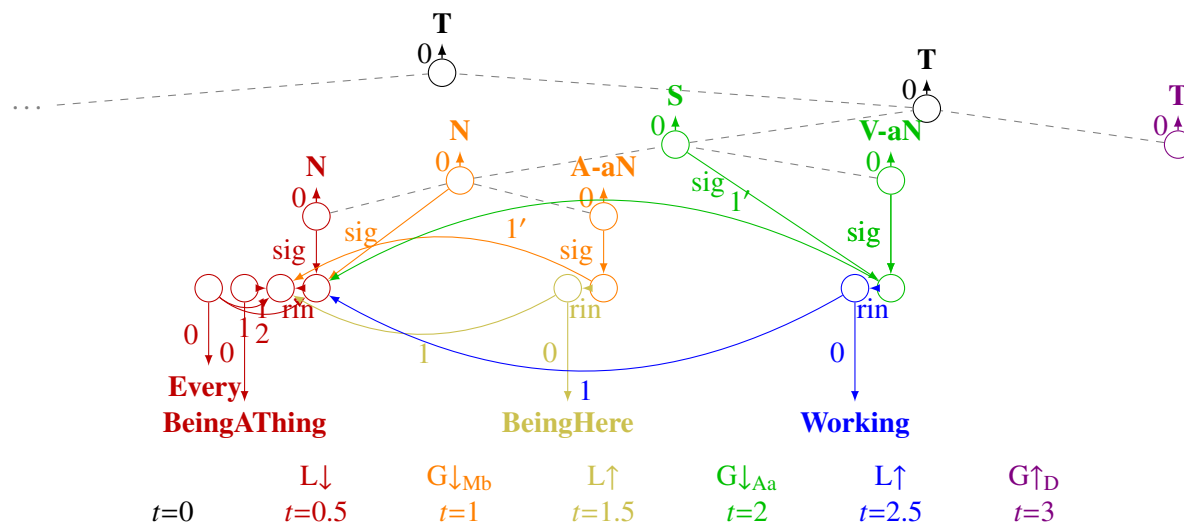
Ma:



Mb:



These rules attach constraints to the ‘restrictors’ of quantified noun phrases:



There are several other rules as well, covered in more detail here:

https://linguistics.osu.edu/sites/linguistics.osu.edu/files/tech-rept-casp_0.pdf

References

- [Lewis & Vasishth, 2005] Lewis, R. L. & Vasishth, S. (2005). An activation-based model of sentence processing as skilled memory retrieval. *Cognitive Science*, 29(3), 375–419.
- [Rasmussen & Schuler, 2018] Rasmussen, N. E. & Schuler, W. (2018). Left-corner parsing with distributed associative memory produces surprisal and locality effects. *Cognitive Science*, 42(S4), 1009–1042.
- [Saussure, 1916] Saussure, F. d. (1916). *Cours de Linguistique Générale*. Payot.