

LING5702: Lecture Notes 10

Broad-coverage Compositional Semantics

Recall from the last lecture notes that we can assemble meanings from sub-parts by:

1. composing words into phrases and sentences using grammar rules; then
2. associating these words and rules with meanings via function application in lambda calculus.

Previously we focused on point 1; this lecture will focus on point 2.

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10.1 We can build meanings using beta reduction [Montague, 1973]

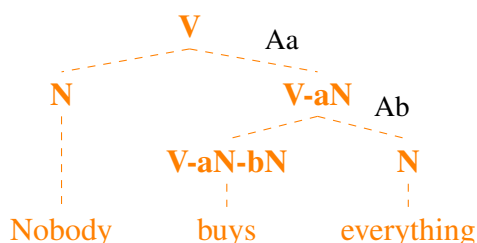
Recall we can assign sentence meanings to lambda calculus expressions (*Nobody buys everything*):

None (λ_x Person x)
 $(\lambda_x$ All (λ_y Thing y)
 $(\lambda_y$ Some (λ_e Buy y x e)
 $(\lambda_e$ True)))

These can be carved up and assigned to words and rules:

None (λ_x Person x) $\leftarrow$ *nobody*
 $(\lambda_x$ All (λ_y Thing y) $\leftarrow$ *everything*
 $(\lambda_y$ Some (λ_e Buy y x e) $\leftarrow$ *buys*
 $(\lambda_e$ True)))

And associated with words and rules on the syntactic analysis tree:



If we make semantic argument structure mirror syntactic argument structure, we can define words:

$$\begin{aligned}
nobody &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda_r \lambda_s \text{None } (\lambda_x \text{Person } x \wedge r \ x) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{True } \wedge s \ x) \\
everything &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r \ y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True } \wedge s \ y) \\
buys &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda_p \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q \ (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x p \ (\lambda_y \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y \ x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True } \wedge s \ e)))
\end{aligned}$$

and we can define compositional semantic functions for basic argument attachment rules:

(Aa) $\lambda_{f:\beta} \lambda_{g:\alpha \rightarrow \beta} (g \ f):\alpha$ (applies the right child to the left child)

(Ab) $\lambda_{f:\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \lambda_{g:\beta} (f \ g):\alpha$ (applies the left child to the right child)

This translates the **V-aN** into (**Ab** *buys* *everything*) and **V** into (**Aa** *nobody* (**Ab** *buys* *everything*)).

We can then substitute the rule and word definitions and simplify using **beta reduction**:

$$(\lambda_x \dots \chi \dots) \varphi = \dots \varphi \dots$$

This removes the first λ_x and replaces its variable χ with expression φ everywhere in $\dots \chi \dots$

(like how variables are replaced with arguments in a normal function).

The result of the first function application (of *buys* to *everything*), replacing $f, g, p, r, \dots$ is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Ab } buys \ everything &= (\lambda_f \lambda_g f \ g) && \text{substitute definitions} \\
&\quad (\lambda_p \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q \ (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x p \ (\lambda_y \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y \ x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True } \wedge s \ e)))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r \ y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True } \wedge s \ y)) \\
&= (\lambda_g (\lambda_p \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q \ (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } f \\
&\quad (\lambda_x p \ (\lambda_y \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y \ x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True } \wedge s \ e)))) g) \\
&\quad (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r \ y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True } \wedge s \ y)) \\
&= (\lambda_p \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q \ (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } g \\
&\quad (\lambda_x p \ (\lambda_y \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y \ x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True } \wedge s \ e)))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r \ y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True } \wedge s \ y))
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } p \\
&\quad (\lambda_x (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r y) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True}) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } r \\
&\quad (\lambda_x (\lambda_s \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge (\lambda_y \text{True}) y) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } y \\
&\quad (\lambda_x (\lambda_s \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge \text{True}) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } s \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge \text{True}) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge (\lambda_y \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)) y))) \\
&= \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) && \text{replace } y \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge \text{True}) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e))))
\end{aligned}$$

The result of the second function application (of *buys everything* to *nobody*) is similar:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Aa } nobody (\text{Ab } buys \text{ everything}) &= \lambda_r \lambda_s \text{None} (\lambda_x \text{Person } x \wedge \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{True} \wedge \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge \text{True}) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= \lambda_r \lambda_s \text{None} (\lambda_x \text{Person } x) && \text{conjunction with True} \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y) \\
&\quad \quad (\lambda_y \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Buy } y x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad \quad \quad (\lambda_e s e))))
\end{aligned}$$

The leftover λ_r will be needed if the clause is modified:

- *Now nobody buys everything* adds *Now e* to the restriction.

The leftover λ_s will be needed if the clause is used as a complement:

- *I see nobody buys everything* adds *See e Me* to the nuclear scope.

If that's the end of the derivation, we add a context, which can be empty: $(\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})$.

All primitive categories are modified and quantified, so we give them all this type: $(e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow (e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$.

Practice 10.1:

Beta reduce the following expression:

$$(\lambda_s \text{Count} (\lambda_x s \ x \wedge \text{Employee } x)) (\lambda_y \text{Temporary } y)$$

10.2 Modifier schemata

Unlike arguments, modifiers add constraints to the *restrictors* of their modificands:

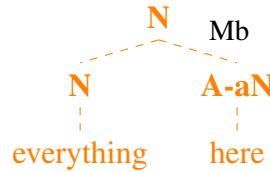
$$\begin{aligned} \text{(Ma)} \quad & \overbrace{\lambda_{f:\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{a}\tau}}^{\text{modifier}} \overbrace{\lambda_{g:\nu\varphi_{1..N}}}^{\text{modificand}} \overbrace{(\lambda_{h_{N..1},r,s} g \ h_N \dots h_1 (\lambda_x r \ x \wedge f (\lambda_{t,u} t \ x \wedge u \ x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s)}^{\text{local arguments pass to modificand}} : \nu\varphi_{1..N} \\ \text{(Mb)} \quad & \overbrace{\lambda_{f:\nu\varphi_{1..N}}}^{\text{modificand}} \overbrace{\lambda_{g:\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{a}\tau}}^{\text{modifier}} \overbrace{(\lambda_{h_{N..1},r,s} f \ h_N \dots h_1 (\lambda_x r \ x \wedge g (\lambda_{t,u} t \ x \wedge u \ x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s)}^{\text{local arguments pass to modificand}} : \nu\varphi_{1..N} \end{aligned}$$

modifier constrains restrictor of modificand

For example, with the above definition for *everyone* and this definition for *here*:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{here} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ & (\lambda_x \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Here } x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\ & (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s \ e)) \end{aligned}$$

and with this syntactic analysis of the noun phrase *everything here*:



we generate this meaning (using $N = 0$ in the Mb rule, because the modificand has no arguments):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mb everything here} = & (\lambda_f \lambda_g \lambda_r \lambda_s f (\lambda_x r \ x \wedge g (\lambda_t \lambda_u t \ x \wedge u \ x) \\ & (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\ & (\lambda_z \text{True})) \\ & s) \\ & (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All} (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r \ y) \\ & (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s \ y)) \\ & (\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ & (\lambda_x \text{Some} (\lambda_e \text{Here } x \ e \wedge r \ e) \\ & (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s \ e))) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (\lambda_g \lambda_r \lambda_s (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x r x \wedge g (\lambda_t \lambda_u t x \wedge u x) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}))) \\
&\quad s) \\
&(\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Here } x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= (\lambda_g \lambda_r \lambda_s (\lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge (\lambda_x r x \wedge g (\lambda_t \lambda_u t x \wedge u x) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}))) \\
&\quad y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad s) \\
&(\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Here } x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= (\lambda_g \lambda_r \lambda_s (\lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r y \wedge g (\lambda_t \lambda_u t y \wedge u y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&\quad s) \\
&(\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Here } x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= (\lambda_g \lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r y \wedge g (\lambda_t \lambda_u t y \wedge u y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y)) \\
&(\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Here } x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&= (\lambda_r \lambda_s \text{All } (\lambda_y \text{Thing } y \wedge r y \wedge (\lambda_q \lambda_r \lambda_s q (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_x \text{Some } (\lambda_e \text{Here } x e \wedge r e) \\
&\quad (\lambda_e \text{True} \wedge s e)))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_t \lambda_u t y \wedge u y) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}) \\
&\quad (\lambda_z \text{True}))) \\
&\quad (\lambda_y \text{True} \wedge s y))
\end{aligned}$$

[illegible]

Introduction rules for complex non-local arguments are treated as modifiers:

$$(Em) \quad \lambda_{f:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{2..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} f k_{M..2} h_{N..1} (\lambda_x r x \wedge k_1 (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s): \tau\varphi_{1..N}\{-\mathbf{g}, -\mathbf{h}, -\mathbf{v}\}(\sigma-\mathbf{a}\tau)\psi_{2..M}$$

2. Composition rules for arguments and modifiers must also **propagate** non-local arguments.

Here are the argument rules, with non-local propagation in **red**:

$$(Aa) \quad \lambda_{f:\beta\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\alpha-\mathbf{a}\beta\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1}} g k_{M..m+1} (f k_{m..1})): \alpha\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(Ab) \quad \lambda_{f:\alpha-\mathbf{h}\beta\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\beta\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1}} f k_{m..1} (g k_{M..m+1})): \alpha\psi_{1..M}$$

Here are the modifier rules, with non-local propagation in **red**:

$$(Ma) \quad \lambda_{f:\sigma-\mathbf{a}\tau\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} g k_{m..1} h_{N..1} (\lambda_x r x \wedge f k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s): v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(Mb) \quad \lambda_{f:v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\sigma-\mathbf{a}\tau\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} f k_{M..m+1} h_{N..1} (\lambda_x r x \wedge g k_{m..1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s): v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

3. **Attachment rules** G and H for non-local arguments are the same as Aa and Ab:

$$(G) \quad \lambda_{f:\beta\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\alpha-\mathbf{g}\beta\psi_{m+1..M}} \lambda_{k_{M..1}} (g k_{M..m+1} (f k_{m..1})): \alpha\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(H) \quad \lambda_{f:\alpha-\mathbf{h}\beta\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\beta\psi_{m+1..M}} \lambda_{k_{M..1}} (f k_{m..1} (g k_{M..m+1})): \alpha\psi_{1..M}$$

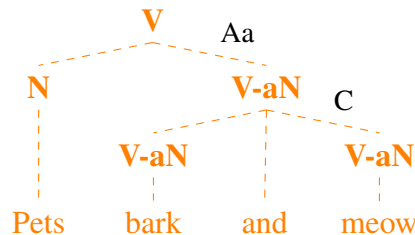
and rules for Ra and Rb are the same as for Ma and Mb:

$$(Ra) \quad \lambda_{f:\sigma-\mathbf{r}\tau\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} g k_{m..1} h_{N..1} (\lambda_x r x \wedge f k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s): v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(Rb) \quad \lambda_{f:v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\sigma-\mathbf{r}\tau\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} f k_{M..m+1} h_{N..1} (\lambda_x r x \wedge g k_{m..1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) (\lambda_z \text{True}) (\lambda_z \text{True})) s): v\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

10.4 Conjunction schemata [Partee & Rooth, 1983]

We need a compositional semantics for conjunctions:



Here's a definition that's pretty simple – it just passes all its arguments down to its conjuncts:

$$(C) \lambda_{f:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}} \lambda_{g:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} (f k_{M..1} h_{N..1} r s) \wedge (g k_{M..1} h_{N..1} r s)):\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

This duplicates any quantifiers in $h_{N..1}$, which is a relatively weak reading:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Some } (\lambda_x \text{Pet } x) \\ &\quad (\lambda_x \text{Bark } x) \wedge \\ &\text{Some } (\lambda_x \text{Pet } x) \\ &\quad (\lambda_x \text{Meow } x) \end{aligned}$$

The duplicate reading can be avoided with quantifying attachment rules for primitive arguments:

$$(Aa') \lambda_{f:v\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\text{-}av\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} f k_{m..1} (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ (\lambda_x g k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) h_{N..1} r s)):\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(Ab') \lambda_{f:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\text{-}bv\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:v\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} g k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ (\lambda_x f k_{m..1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) h_{N..1} r s)):\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(G') \lambda_{f:v\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\text{-}gv\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} f k_{m..1} (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ (\lambda_x g k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) h_{N..1} r s)):\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

$$(H') \lambda_{f:\tau\varphi_{1..N}\text{-}hv\psi_{1..m}} \lambda_{g:v\psi_{m+1..M}} (\lambda_{k_{M..1},h_{N..1},r,s} g k_{M..m+1} (\lambda_x \text{True}) \\ (\lambda_x f k_{m..1} (\lambda_{t,u} t x \wedge u x) h_{N..1} r s)):\tau\varphi_{1..N}\psi_{1..M}$$

Here's the result of that:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Some } (\lambda_x \text{Pet } x) \\ &\quad (\lambda_x \text{Bark } x \wedge \\ &\quad \text{Meow } x) \end{aligned}$$

10.5 Argument re-organization schemata

The passive rule re-assigns the passive non-local dependency to be the subject:

$$(V) \lambda_{f:L\text{-}aN\text{-}vN} (\lambda_{q,r,s} f q \text{Some } r s):\text{A-aN}$$

Re-ordering rules swap the first and second arguments:

$$(O) \lambda_{f:\tau'\psi'\varphi'} (\lambda_{p,q,r,s} f q p r s):\tau\varphi\psi$$

Zero-head rules attach the noun phrase child as the nuclear scope of the subject:

$$(Z) \lambda_{p:N} (\lambda_{q,r,s} q r (\lambda_x p (\lambda_y \text{Equal } x y) s)):\text{A-aN}$$

References

[Montague, 1973] Montague, R. (1973). The proper treatment of quantification in ordinary English. In J. Hintikka, J. Moravcsik, & P. Suppes (Eds.), *Approaches to Natural Language* (pp.

221–242). Dordrecht: D. Riedel. Reprinted in R. H. Thomason ed., *Formal Philosophy*, Yale University Press, 1994.

[Partee & Rooth, 1983] Partee, B. & Rooth, M. (1983). Generalized conjunction and type ambiguity. In R. Bauerle, C. Schwarze, & A. von Stechow (Eds.), *Meaning, Use and Interpretation of Language* (pp. 361–383). Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.