

Homework for Wednesday November 18, 2015

Please **type** your answers, but feel free to draw trees by hand. I encourage you to work in groups, but please write up your answers individually.

1 Determiner meanings

- Give type $\langle\langle e, t \rangle, \langle\langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle\rangle$ meanings for the following “determiners”: *both, exactly ten, finitely many, between thirty-five and seventy percent of, at most five or at least ten.*

2 Reconstruction, covert subjects

- *Most students didn't pass* is ambiguous! On one reading, the failing students are claimed to be more numerous than the passing ones. The other reading simply denies that more students passed than failed.
 - ▷ Give a scenario where these two readings come apart, i.e. where one is true and the other is false.
 - ▷ Exploit the generalization of traces and predicate abstraction explored in class, along with the vP-internal subjects hypothesis, to give two LFs for this sentence. Give node-by-node interpretations of both LFs (working top-down) and indicate which LF corresponds to which reading.
- *Everyone didn't meet someone* can be construed as denying that everyone did some meeting, i.e. with *not > everyone > someone!* Yet the LF in Figure 1 doesn't manage to derive this interpretation. :(

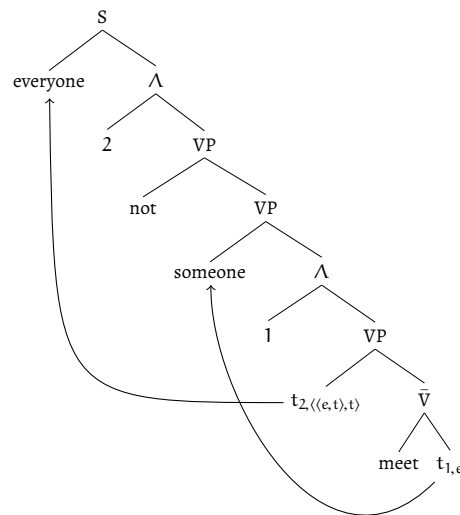


Figure 1: Possible LF for *everyone didn't meet someone*.

- ▷ Which interpretation is derived by this LF? You needn't do a full calculation, but you should justify your answer.
- ▷ How *can* we derive the interpretation we seek? Again, a full calculation isn't necessary; give an LF and be explicit about why it works. (No, you aren't allowed to QR the negation.)

3 Inside the DP

- *No linguist from a foreign country was at the meeting* is ambiguous: it can either mean that no foreign linguists were at the meeting, or that a certain foreign country was unrepresented.
 - ▷ Assuming that *from* is type $\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$ and that there's no type-shifting, we find ourselves unable to derive one of these readings. Which one? And why?

- ▷ *No linguist who is from a foreign country was at the meeting* is also ambiguous. But this time there's no trouble deriving the troublesome reading. How come?
 - ▷ Propose an analysis for *no linguist from a foreign country* that derives the troublesome reading, using *no linguist who is from a foreign country* as your guide.
- **BONUS!** (Not required, but give it a shot.) The first of the following two sentences is acceptable on the indicated reading. The second is not (careful: the indices here are only intended to highlight a reading, and shouldn't be taken as a guide to how you should theorize about it).
 - (1) Every woman_i who married her_i prom date was at the reunion.
 - (2) *Every wife_i of her_i prom date was at the reunion.
 - ▷ How does this datum bear on the proposal you made to handle the ambiguity of *no linguist from a foreign country was at the meeting*?
 - ▷ Hint: begin by sketching an LF for the grammatical sentence. Consider how binding is achieved in this LF and then consider the ungrammatical sentence in this light.