

# Effectful composition in natural language semantics

## From Applicatives to Monads

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Recap

# Applicatives

$F$  is applicative if it supports  $\eta$  and  $\circledast$  with these types...

$$\eta : a \rightarrow F a \qquad \circledast : F (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow F a \rightarrow F b$$

...Where  $\eta$  is a **trivial** way to inject something into the richer type characterized by  $F$ , and  $\circledast$  is function application **lifted** into  $F$ .

## Three applicatives

$$S a ::= \{a\}$$

$$\eta x ::= \{x\}$$

$$m \odot n ::= \{f x \mid f \in m, x \in n\}$$

$$R a ::= g \rightarrow a$$

$$\eta x ::= \lambda_g x$$

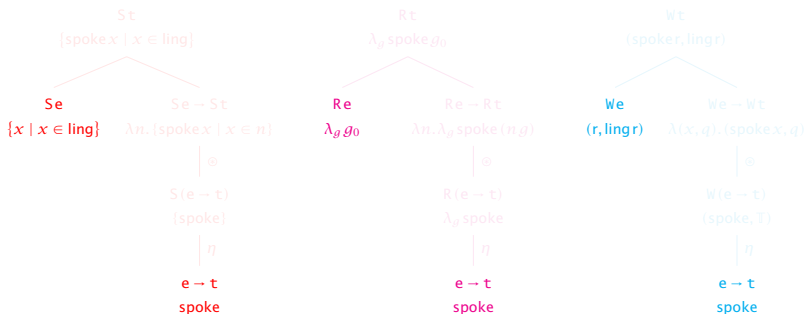
$$m \odot n ::= \lambda_g m g (n g)$$

$$W a ::= a \times \mathbf{t}$$

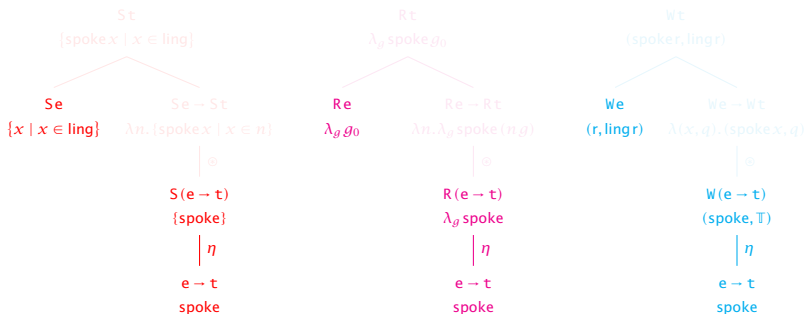
$$\eta x ::= (a, \mathbb{T})$$

$$(f, p) \odot (x, q) ::= (f x, p \wedge q)$$

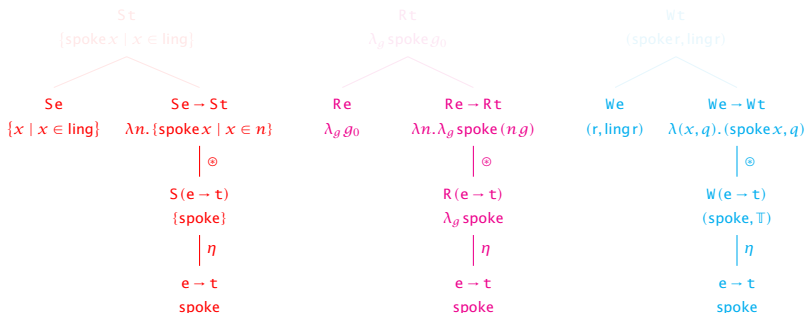
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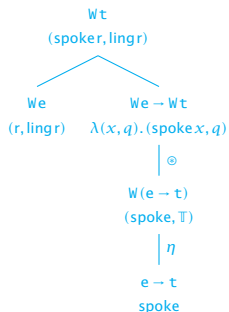
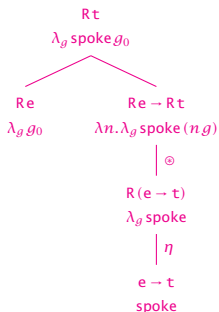
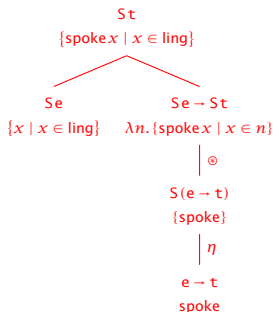
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# Monads

## Indefinites and pronouns

Indefinite noun phrases can host pronouns:

1. Mary submitted a paper she wrote

Given what we have said so far, the type of a pronoun-harboring indefinite should include at least a Reading effect and a Set effect:

$$RSe = r \rightarrow \{e\} \quad SRe = \{r \rightarrow e\}$$

With a little thought, you can convince yourself that only one of these makes any sense

$$\llbracket \text{a paper she}_0 \text{ wrote} \rrbracket =$$

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$$\llbracket \text{a paper she}_0 \text{ wrote} \rrbracket = \lambda_g \{x \mid \text{paper } x, \text{ write } x g_0\}$$

## Indefinites and binding

Indefinite noun phrases can also bind pronouns

2. A linguist submitted a paper she wrote.

Intuitively, (2) is ambiguous between these two meanings:

3. a.  $\lambda_g \{ \underbrace{\text{submit } y x \mid \text{ling } x, \text{paper } y, \text{wrote } y x}_{RS\ t} \}$
- b.  $\lambda_g \{ \underbrace{\text{submit } y x \mid \text{ling } x, \text{paper } y, \text{wrote } y g_0}_{RS\ t} \}$

How can these meanings be composed?

## Modifying environments

Remember that we are treating pronouns as triggering a Read effect on the environment

So to accomplish the “bound” reading of (2), we need some mechanism to allow expressions to **modify** the environment that other expressions are evaluated in:

$$\triangleright_n := \lambda_m \lambda_x (\lambda_g m g^{n-x}) \odot \eta x$$

Note that this operation is **Effect-polymorphic**; it will work for any composition of Functors beginning with R

$$\triangleright_n :: R(e \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow R\sigma$$

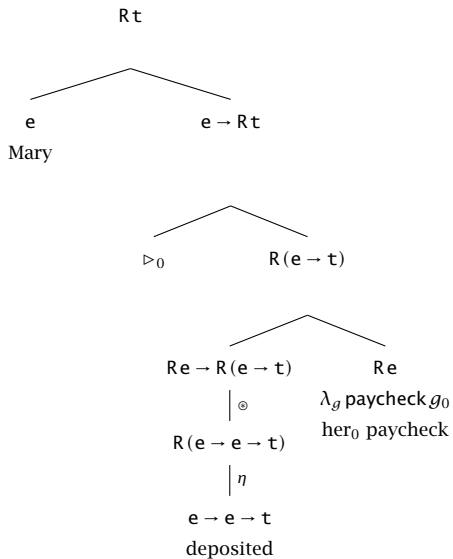
$$\triangleright_n :: RS(e \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow RS\sigma$$

$$\triangleright_n :: RW(e \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow RW\sigma$$

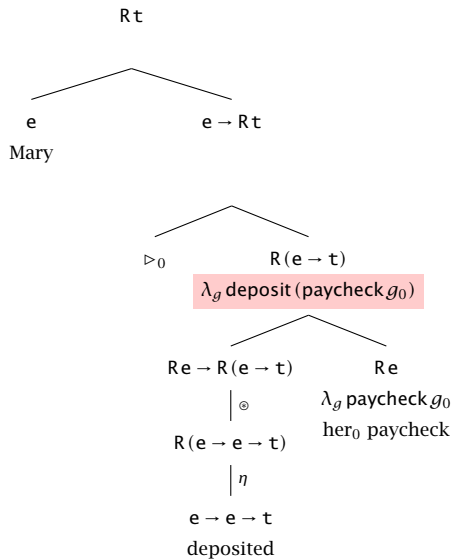
$$\triangleright_n :: RWS(e \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow RSW\sigma$$

.....

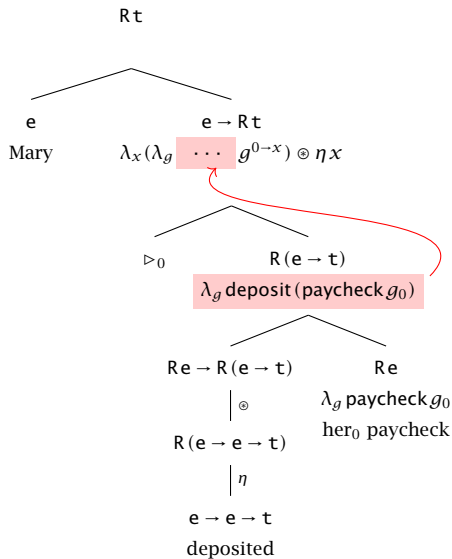
... binding ...



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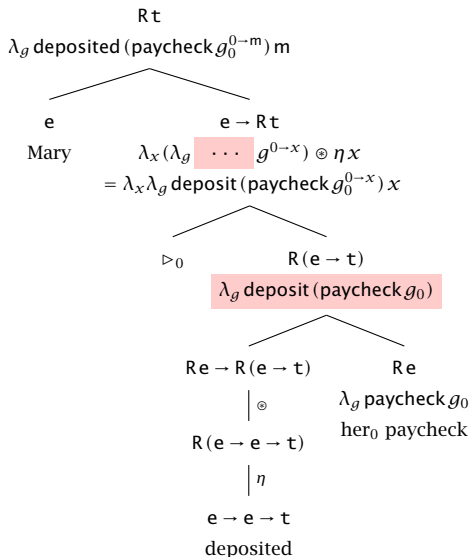


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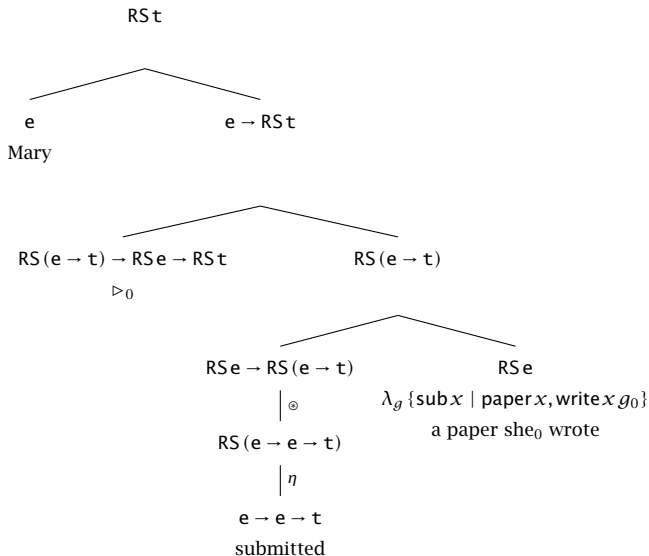




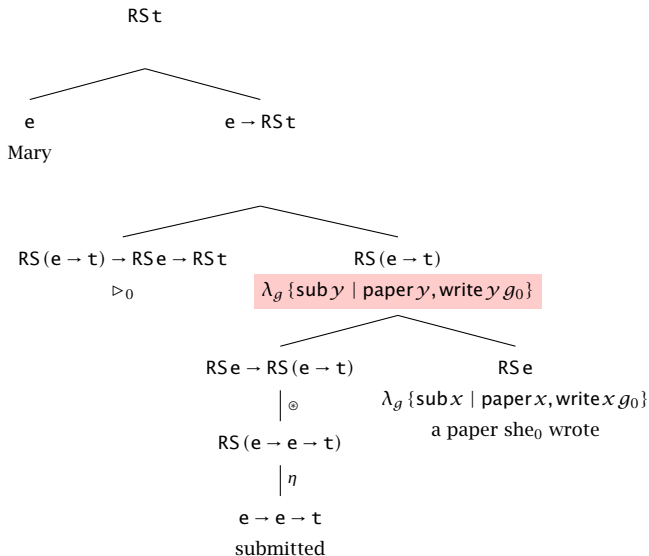
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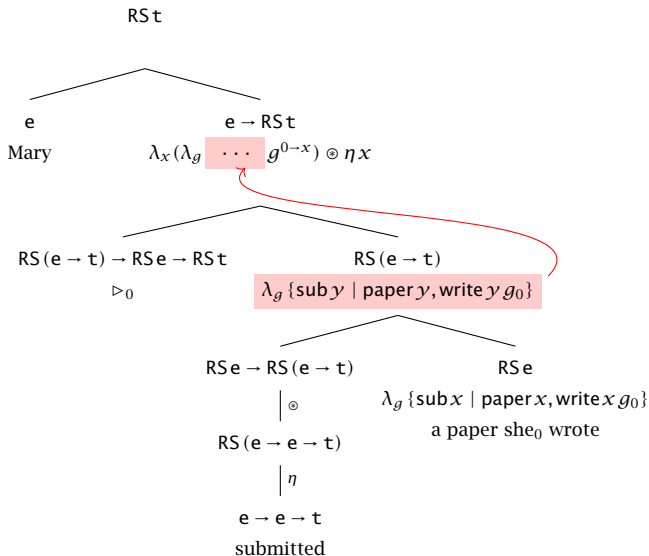
## ... binding into indefinites



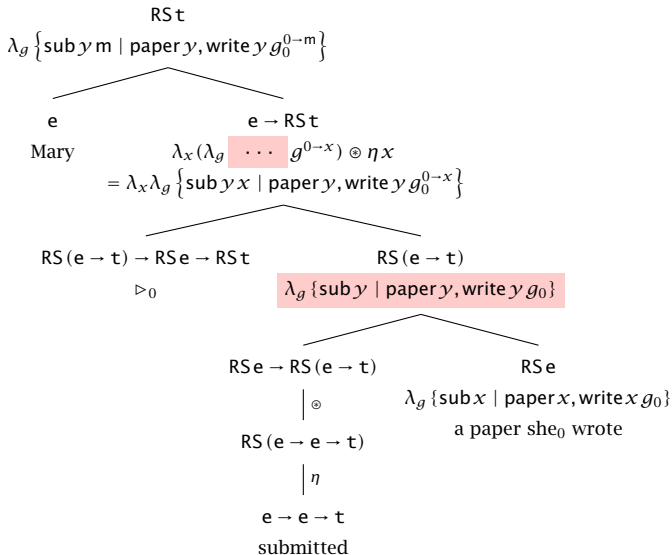
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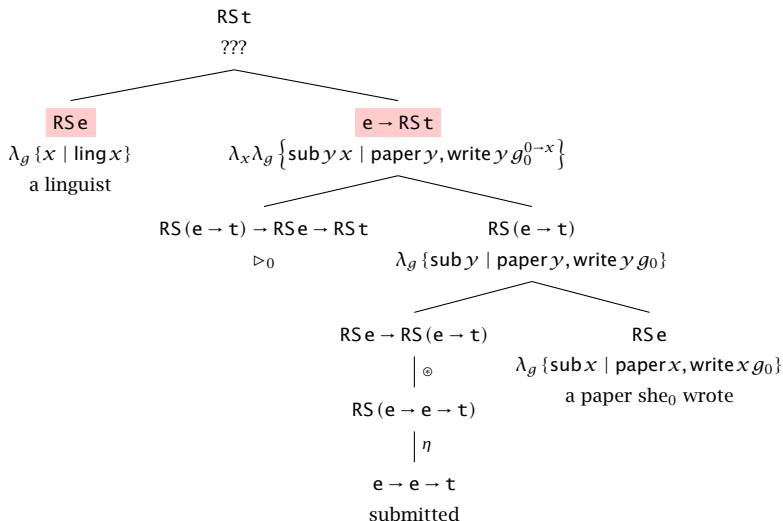
## ... binding into indefinites



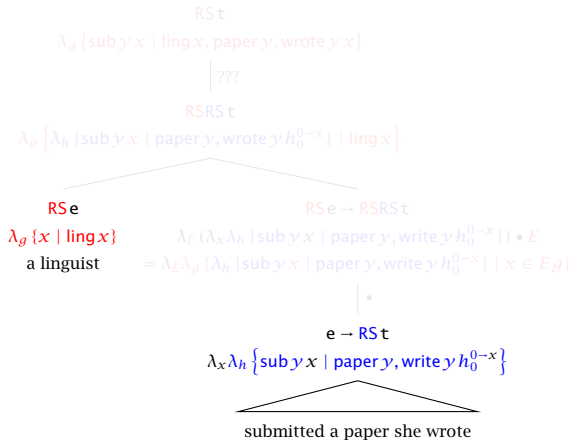
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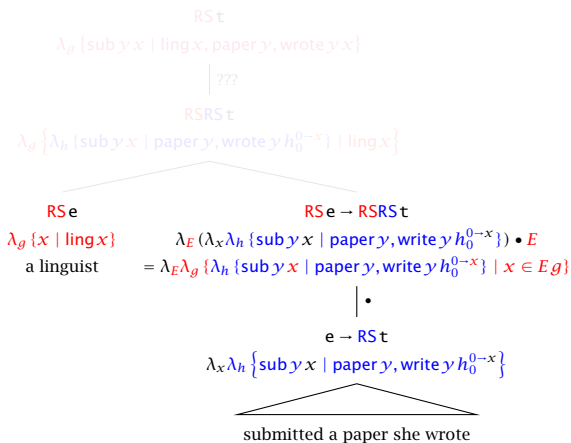
## Indefinites binding into indefinites



## Getting closer

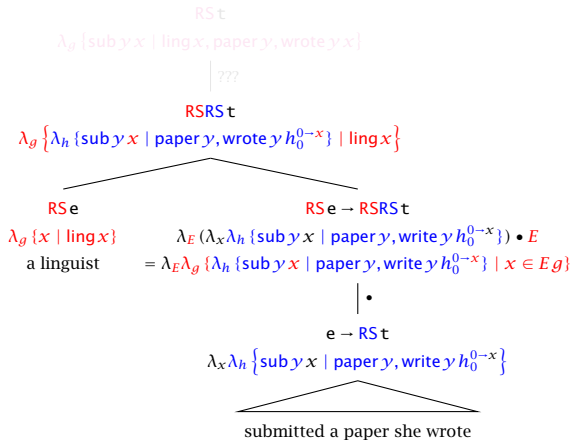


## Getting closer

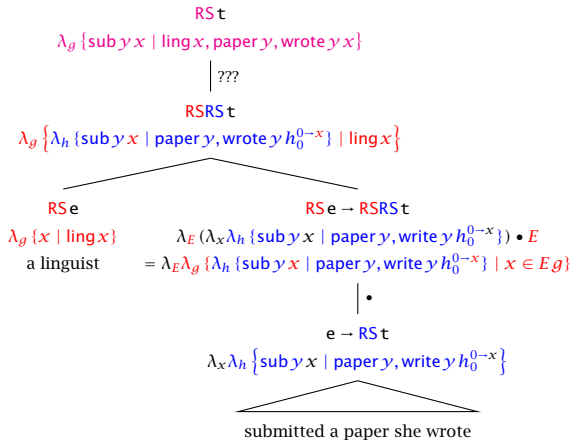




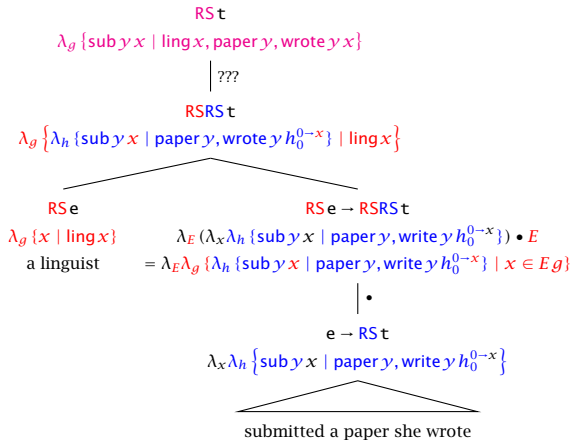
## Getting closer



## Getting closer



## Getting closer



The meaning we can get has two layers of independent RS structure

But to get the meaning we want, we'll need a way to **flatten** them somehow

$$\mu :: \text{RSRS } a \rightarrow \text{RS } a$$

## R flattener

Let's warm up by finding a function with the following type:

$$\mu :: \mathbb{R} \mathbb{R} a \rightarrow \mathbb{R} a$$

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The obvious candidate duplicates an assignment:

$$\mu M := \lambda g M g g$$

## S flattener

Let's warm up by finding a function with the following type:

$$\mu :: SSa \rightarrow Sa$$

## S flattener

Let's warm up by finding a function with the following type:

$$\mu :: S S a \rightarrow S a$$

The obvious candidate takes the grand union:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu M &:= \bigcup M \\ &= \{a \mid m \in M, a \in m\}\end{aligned}$$

## RS flattener

So can we define a flattener function for RS?

$$\mu :: \text{RSRS } a \rightarrow \text{RS } a$$



## RS flattener

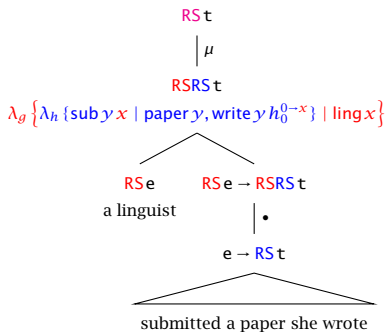
So can we define a flattener function for RS?

$$\mu :: \text{RSRS } a \rightarrow \text{RS } a$$

The obvious candidate mixes R's and S's  $\mu$  operations:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu M &:= \lambda_g \bigcup \{m\ g \mid m \in M\ g\} \\ &= \lambda_g \{a \mid m \in M\ g, a \in m\ g\}\end{aligned}$$

## Flattening in action



$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu(\lambda_g \{ \lambda_h \{ \dots h_0^{0-x} \dots \} \mid \text{ling } x \}) &= \lambda_g \{ a \mid m \in (\lambda_g \{ \lambda_h \{ \dots h_0^{0-x} \dots \} \mid \text{ling } x \})g, a \in mg \} \\
 &= \lambda_g \{ a \mid m \in \{ \lambda_h \{ \dots h_0^{0-x} \dots \} \mid \text{ling } x \}, a \in mg \} \\
 &= \lambda_g \{ a \mid \text{ling } x, a \in (\lambda_h \{ \dots h_0^{0-x} \dots \})g \} \\
 &= \lambda_g \{ a \mid \text{ling } x, a \in \{ \dots g_0^{0-x} \dots \} \} \\
 &= \lambda_g \{ \text{submit } y\ x \mid \text{ling } x, \text{paper } y, \text{wrote } y\ x \}
 \end{aligned}$$

## More on $\mu$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu M &:= \lambda_g \bigcup_{m \in Mg} mg \\ &= \lambda_g \{a \mid m \in Mg, a \in mg\}\end{aligned}$$

This  $\mu$  was cooked specifically to make composition possible in this particular structure

A natural question to ask is how specific it is to the task at hand, centered around a particular derivation of binding

## Relating $\mu$ to $\eta$

The grammars we've considered so far are built from functorial operations:  $\eta$ ,  $\bullet$ ,  $\otimes$

One thing we can readily observe is that for all of R, S, and RS, lifting a value with  $\eta$  and then lowering the result with  $\mu$  is a no-op

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mu_R(\eta_R \phi) = \mu_R(\lambda_g \phi) & \mu_S(\eta_S \phi) = \mu_S \{\phi\} & \mu_{RS}(\eta_{RS} \phi) = \mu_{RS}(\lambda_g \{\phi\}) \\ = \lambda_g(\lambda_g \phi) g g & = \bigcup \{\phi\} & = \lambda_g \bigcup \{m g \mid m \in (\lambda_g \{\phi\}) g\} \\ = \lambda_g \phi g & = \{x \mid x \in \phi\} & = \lambda_g \bigcup \{m g \mid m \in \{\phi\}\} \\ = \phi & = \phi & = \lambda_g \bigcup \{\phi g\} \\ & & = \lambda_g \phi g \\ & & = \phi \end{array}$$

## Relating $\mu$ to $\bullet$ : R

Even more to the point, given any higher-order structure, it doesn't matter whether we flatten the outer structure first or the inner one

$$\begin{array}{c} \underbrace{\lambda_i \lambda_j \lambda_k \dots i \dots j \dots k \dots}_{\mu_R} \\ \underbrace{\lambda_h \lambda_k \dots h \dots h \dots k \dots}_{\mu_R} \\ \lambda_g \dots g \dots g \dots g \dots \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \underbrace{\lambda_i \lambda_j \lambda_k \dots i \dots j \dots k \dots}_{\mu_R} \\ \underbrace{\lambda_i \lambda_k \dots i \dots k \dots k \dots}_{\mu_R} \\ \lambda_g \dots g \dots g \dots g \dots \end{array}$$

## Relating $\mu$ to $\bullet: S$

Even more to the point, given any higher-order structure, it doesn't matter whether we flatten the outer structure first or the inner one

$$\underbrace{\{\{\dots, \dots\}, \{\{\dots, \dots\}, \dots\}, \dots\}}_{\mu_S}$$
$$\underbrace{\{m' \mid m \in \{\dots\}, m' \in m\}}_{\mu_S}$$
$$\{a \mid m \in \{\dots\}, m' \in m, a \in m'\}$$

$$\underbrace{\{\underbrace{\{\{\dots\}, \dots\}}_{\mu_S}, \underbrace{\{\{\dots\}, \dots\}}_{\mu_S}, \dots\}}_{\mu_S}$$
$$\underbrace{\{a \mid m' \in \{\dots\}, a \in m'\}, \{a \mid m' \in \{\dots\}, a \in m'\}, \dots\}}_{\mu_S}$$
$$\{a \mid m \in \{\dots\}, m' \in m, a \in m'\}$$

## Relating $\mu$ to $\bullet$ : RS

The same is true of RS, though it is a little more tedious to work out

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_R(\mu_R M) &= \mu_R(\mu_R \bullet M) &= \lambda_g M g g g \\ \mu_S(\mu_S M) &= \mu_S(\mu_S \bullet M) &= \{a \mid m \in M, m' \in m, a \in m'\} \\ \mu_{RS}(\mu_{RS} M) &= \mu_{RS}(\mu_{RS} \bullet M) &= \lambda_g \{a \mid m \in M g, m' \in m g, a \in m' g\}\end{aligned}$$

The set-flattening and environment-sharing are simply interleaved all the way down.

# Monads

Indeed, any functor for which there is a  $\mu$  satisfying these equations is known as a **Monad**

$$\text{Left Identity} \quad \mu(\eta M) = M$$

$$\text{Right Identity} \quad \mu(\eta \bullet M) = M$$

$$\text{Associativity} \quad \mu(\mu M) = \mu(\mu \bullet M)$$

For historical reasons, in Haskell the  $\eta$  of a Monad is called its **return**, and the  $\mu$  called its **join**

```
return :: Monad f => a -> f a
```

```
join :: Monad f => f (f a) -> f a
```



## Parser interlude

Again, stretching the parser is no more complicated than composing our existing **modes of combination** with `join`

```
combine' :: Type -> Type -> [(Mode, Type)]
combine' l r = addJ $ combine l r ++
  [ (LR op, Eff f c) | Eff f a <- [l]
    , functor f, (op, c) <- combine' a r ] ++
  [ (LL op, Eff f c) | Eff f b <- [r]
    , functor f, (op, c) <- combine' l b ] ++
  [ (A op, Eff f c) | Eff f a <- [l], Eff g b <- [r], f == g
    , applicative f, (op, c) <- combine' l b ]
```

```
addJ :: [(Mode, Type)] -> [(Mode, Type)]
addJ e = e ++
  [ (J op, Eff f a)
  | (op, Eff f (Eff g a)) <- e
  , monad f
  , f == g ]
```

## Refactoring to $\star$

It turns out, an equivalent way to state a monad uses  $\star$  and  $\eta$  in place of  $\bullet$  and  $\mu$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \bullet :: (\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow F\alpha \rightarrow F\beta & \eta :: \alpha \rightarrow F\alpha \\ \mu :: FF\alpha \rightarrow F\alpha & \star :: F\alpha \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow F\beta) \rightarrow F\beta \end{array}$$

The Haskell name for  $\star$  is `>>=`, pronounced, tellingly, as `bind`

```
class Monad f where
  return :: a -> f a
  (>>=) :: f a -> (a -> f b) -> f b
```

The monad laws governing  $\eta$  and  $\star$  take the forms:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Left Identity} & \eta a \star k = k a \\ \text{Right Identity} & m \star \eta = m \\ \text{Associativity} & (m \star \lambda_a n a) \star o = m \star (\lambda_a n a \star o) \end{array}$$

## Defining binds

The sense in which the  $\bullet / \mu$  construction and the  $\eta / \star$  construction are equivalent is that they are interdefinable in a law-preserving way

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$$m \star k = \mu(k \bullet m)$$

Let's work out the  $\star$  ('bind') operations for R, S, and RS:

$$m \star f :=$$

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$$m \star f := \lambda_g \bigcup_{x \in mg} f x g$$

## Monads are Applicative

If we harmlessly swap the order of  $\star$ 's arguments, you can see an interesting progression:

$$\bullet :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Fa \rightarrow Fb$$

$$\otimes :: F(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Fa \rightarrow Fb$$

$$\lambda_k \lambda_m m \star k :: (a \rightarrow Fb) \rightarrow Fa \rightarrow Fb$$

It's not hard to see that  $\otimes$  can be defined in terms of  $\star$ :

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$$F \otimes A =$$

## Monads are Applicative

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It's not hard to see that  $\odot$  can be defined in terms of  $\star$ :

$$\odot :: F(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Fa \rightarrow Fb$$

$$F \odot A = F \star \lambda_f A \star \lambda_a \eta(f a)$$

And as long as  $\star$  satisfies the Monad laws, the  $\odot$  defined above will be guaranteed to satisfy the Applicative laws

So every Monad is an Applicative

## Monads are Functors

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So every Monad is a Functor

## Compared

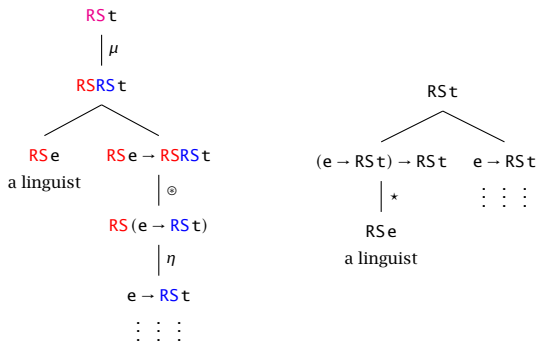
So in general, we have:

$$m \star k = \mu(k \bullet m)$$

And given that also:

$$k \bullet m = \eta k \oplus m$$

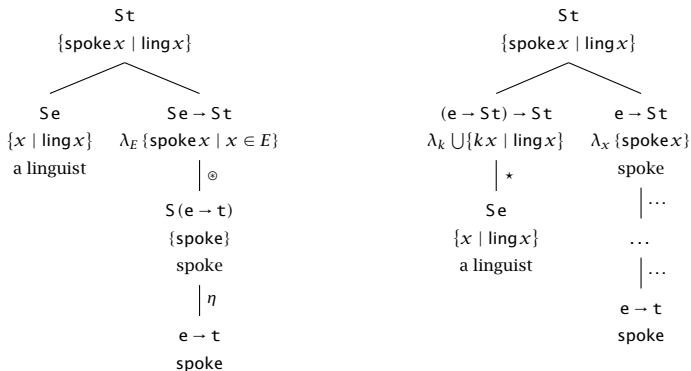
You can see the  $\star$  hiding in the chain of type shifts from our binding derivation:



## How to use $\star$

Adding  $\star$  to the grammar isn't as obviously immediately useful as adding  $\bullet$  and  $\odot$  because functions of type  $(a \rightarrow Fb)$  don't occur very naturally in the wild

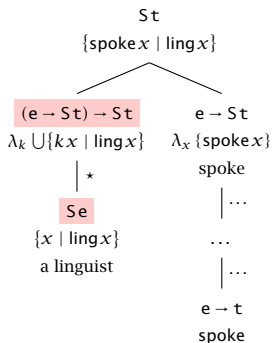
And moreover, with just the combinators we have, there's no way to pull an  $(a \rightarrow Fb)$  out of an  $(a \rightarrow b)$





## How to use $\star$

But the type signature of the  $\star$ -shifted subject might set alarm bells ringing if you're a linguist



It looks an awful lot like good old LIFT-ing

LIFT ::  $e \rightarrow (e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$

$\star$  ::  $Fe \rightarrow (e \rightarrow Ft) \rightarrow Ft$

## ★ and scope

In fact, if your fancy individual is not actually fancy, then the first Monad law

$$\text{Left Identity} \quad \eta a \star k = k a$$

just says that

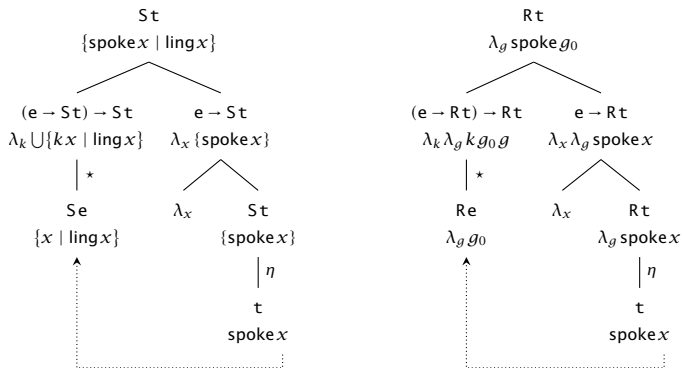
$$(\eta a)^\star = \lambda_k k a = \text{LIFT } a$$

This makes you wonder if you can use any of the techniques invented to deal with Generalized Quantifiers to facilitate composition

In particular, it calls for a theory of **scope**

## Scope via “Q”R

This might take the form of re-introducing raising and abstraction into the syntax:



(These are guaranteed to deliver the same results as the derivations with  $\odot$ )

## Scope via C

Or alternatively, you might recall that scope-taking itself is a kind of effect

$$C e ::= (e \rightarrow F t) \rightarrow F t$$

$$\eta x = \lambda_k k x$$

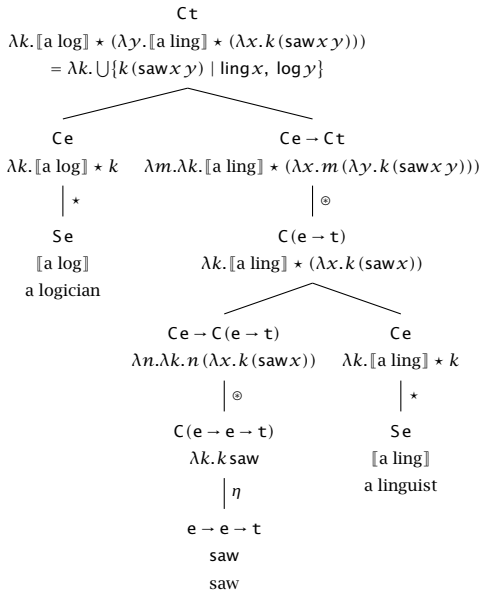
$$m \odot n = \lambda_k m (\lambda_f n (\lambda_x k (f x)))$$

From this perspective,  $\star$  looks like a kind of **Natural Transformation** from one effect to another

$$\star ::= F a \rightarrow C a$$

In which case, we should be able to use C's  $\odot$  to handle composition

## Scope via C in action



## More Monads

As it happens, nearly all of the basic Functors we've introduced as case studies turn out to be Monads

For instance,

```
data Maybe a = Just a | Nothing
instance Monad Maybe where
  return a = Just a
  join m = case m of
    Just (Just a) -> a
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instance Monad (Writer [E]) where
```

```
  return a = Writer (a, [])
```

```
  join (Writer (Writer (a, xs), ys)) = Writer (a, xs ++ ys)
```

## Fewer Monads

At the same time, many of the Functors we've seen are **not** (obviously) Monads

$$WR\alpha = \langle r \rightarrow \alpha, [\tau] \rangle$$

$$\eta a = \dots$$

$$\langle f, p \rangle \star k = \dots$$

There's no obvious way to define this even though  $W$  and  $R$  are themselves Monads

This means that while...

- the composition of two Functors is a Functor
- the composition of two Applicatives is an Applicative
- ✘ the composition of two Monads is **not necessarily** a Monad

## Layer with caution

Notably, though RS is a monad (as we've seen), SR is (probably?) not!

$$RS\alpha = r \rightarrow \{a\}$$

$$\eta a = \lambda_g \{a\}$$

$$m \star k = \lambda_g \bigcup \{ka \mid a \in mg\}$$

$$SR\alpha = \{r \rightarrow a\}$$

$$\eta a = \dots$$

$$m \star k = \dots$$

## Distributive transformations

So how can you tell when a composition of Monads  $FG$  is a Monad? That is, how can you know whether there is a (law-abiding) function

$$\mu_{FG} :: FGFG\alpha \rightarrow FG\alpha$$

One thing to notice is that since  $F$  and  $G$  are Monads, we are guaranteed functions

$$\mu_F :: FF\alpha \rightarrow F\alpha$$

$$\mu_G :: GG\alpha \rightarrow G\alpha$$

If we just had a function

$$\Upsilon :: GF\alpha \rightarrow FG\alpha,$$

then it seems like we'd be golden, since we could build the following pipeline:

$$\mu_{FG} = FGFG \xrightarrow{\Upsilon} FFGG \xrightarrow{\mu_F} FGG \xrightarrow{\mu_G} FG$$

## Distributing S over R

And indeed, for the composition  $RS$ , there's a natural way to get home when the effects are inverted

$$Y :: SR\alpha \rightarrow RS\alpha$$

$$Y = \dots$$

It is so natural in fact, it is called a **Distributive Natural Transformation**, which means it satisfies these laws (and a few others)

$$Y(\eta_R \bullet_S S) = \eta_R S$$

$$Y(\eta_S R) = \eta_S \bullet_R R$$

$$f \bullet_{RS} Y M = Y(f \bullet_{SR} M)$$

As suspected, any time there is a Distributive  $Y :: GF \rightarrow FG$  with these properties, you can be sure  $FG$  is a Monad<sup>1</sup>

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## Distributing S over R

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$$Y :: SR\alpha \rightarrow RS\alpha$$

$$Y = \lambda_M \lambda_g \{f g \mid f \in M\}$$

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## Distributing R over S

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It turns out that no such function can ever satisfy the Distributive laws<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Bumford 2022

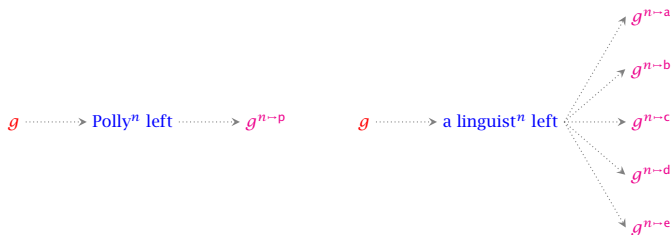


# Dynamics

## Dynamic binding

4. Polly left. She was tired.
5. A linguist left. She was tired.
6. Every linguist left. ??She was tired.

## The basic idea<sup>3</sup>



- Dref introduction is assignment modification.
- Indefinites introduce drefs **non-deterministically**.
- New drefs may (not) pan out downstream (cf. Stalnaker 1978).

<sup>3</sup> Heim (1982), Barwise (1987), Groenendijk & Stokhof (1991), and Muskens (1996), etc.

## Dynamics

Consider this (standard, DPL-ish) dynamic system:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \exists x \rrbracket &:= \lambda_g \{g^{x \dashv d} \mid d \in D\} \\ \llbracket \phi \wedge \psi \rrbracket &:= \lambda_g \{h \in k[\psi] \mid k \in g[\phi]\} \end{aligned}$$

Consider what ‘effects’ are embodied in this system (in what ways is it ‘richer’ than the basic grammar we began with?).

## A dynamic monad

Can you devise an applicative type constructor  $F$  that does justice to these effects?

Can you devise a trivial way to 'lift' an  $a$  into an  $Da$ , and an  $\star$  recipe for composing a  $a \rightarrow Db$  and an  $Da$  to give an  $Db$ ?

$$RSa ::= g \rightarrow Sa$$

$$\eta x := \lambda g \{x\}$$

$$m \star f := \lambda g \bigcup_{x \in m g} f x g$$

$$Da ::=$$

$$\eta x :=$$

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Bonus food for thought: is  $D$  commutative? Does that seem important?

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Bonus food for thought: is  $D$  commutative? Does that seem important?



## Binding

Remember the binding operator defined earlier

$$\triangleright_n :: R(e \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow R\sigma$$

$$\triangleright_n := \lambda_m \lambda_x (\lambda_g m g^{n-x}) \odot \eta x$$

With scope-taking in the grammar, we can make this a little simpler, since we can build  $(e \rightarrow RF\sigma)$  functions directly[<sup>^</sup>bur]

$$\triangleright_n := \lambda_f \lambda_x \lambda_g f x g^{n-x}$$

Again, this operation is **Effect-polymorphic**; any Effect beginning with R, including  $D \equiv RSW$

$$\triangleright_n :: (e \rightarrow R\sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow R\sigma$$

$$\triangleright_n :: (e \rightarrow RS\sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow RS\sigma$$

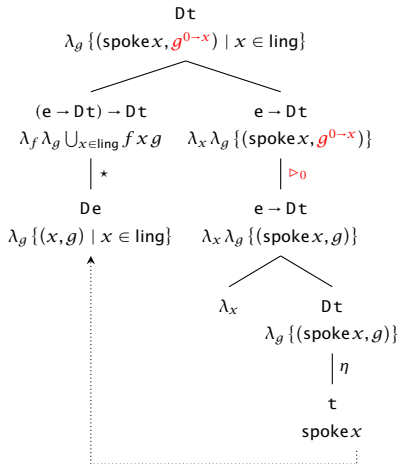
$$\triangleright_n :: (e \rightarrow RW\sigma) \rightarrow e \rightarrow RW\sigma$$

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.....

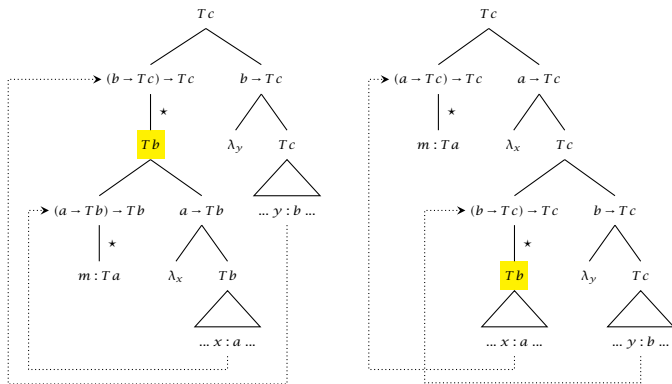
## Dynamic binding

In D,  $\triangleright$ -referents are stored for later

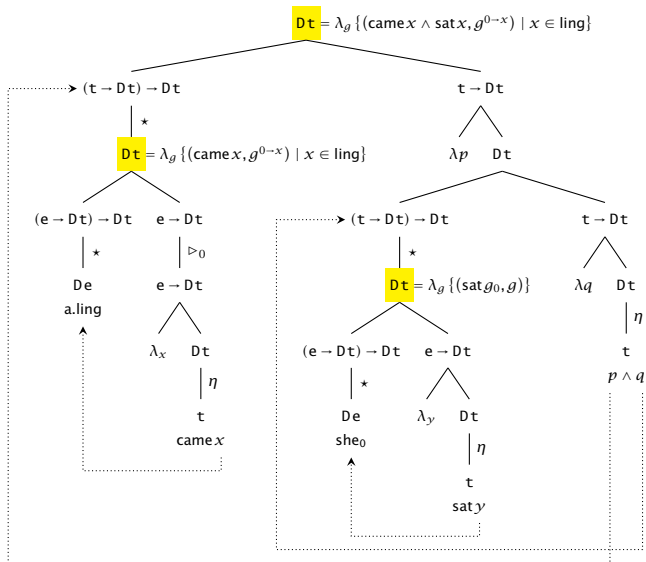


# Associativity

For any monadic  $T$ , the **Associativity** law guarantees that the two derivations below are equivalent. It's as if  $m$  had scoped out of  $Tb$ , without actually doing so



# Dynamic binding via static conjunction



## Reassociating

**Associativity**  $(m \star \lambda_a n a) \star o = m \star (\lambda_a n a \star o)$

$(\text{a.ling}^0 \star \lambda_x \eta(\text{came } x)) \star \lambda_p (\text{she}_0 \star \lambda_y \eta(\text{sat } y)) \star \lambda_q \eta(p \wedge q)$

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