

Glue semantics for Universal Dependencies

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Introduction

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 - LFG inheritance in UD (via Stanford dependencies)
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 - dependency structures \approx f-structures
 - LFG inheritance in UD (via Stanford dependencies)
 - Glue offers a syntax-semantics interface where syntax can underspecify semantics
- Postpone the need for language-specific, lexical resources

Outline

- 1 Target representations
- 2 Introduction to Glue semantics
- 3 Universal Dependencies
- 4 Our pipeline
- 5 Evaluation and discussion

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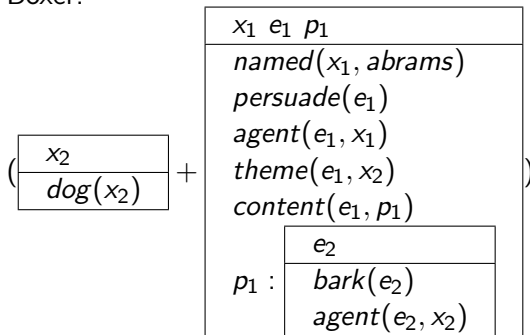
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- We assume discourse referents (drefs) of three sorts: entities (x_n), eventualities (e_n) and propositions (p_n).
- The predicates *ant* means that its argument has an antecedent (it's a presupposed dref).
→ Also applies to the predicates beginning *pron.*
- The connective ∂ marks presupposed conditions—it maps TRUE to TRUE and is otherwise undefined.
→ Unlike Boxer, which has separate DRSs for presupposed and asserted material.

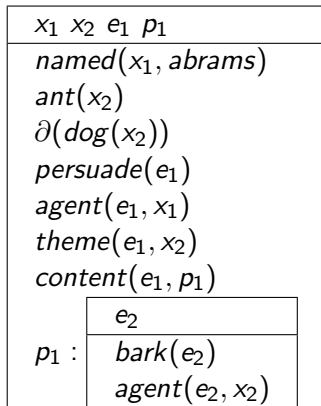
An example

(1) Abrams persuaded the dog to bark.

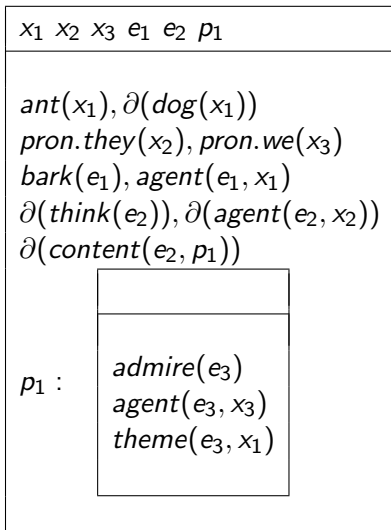
Boxer:



Us:



(3) The dog they thought we admired barks.



Underlying logic

- The Glue approach relies on meanings being put together by application and abstraction, so we need some form of compositional or λ -DRT for meaning construction.

$$\text{someone} \rightsquigarrow \lambda P. \frac{x_1}{\text{person}(x_1)} ; P(x_1)$$

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- Conceptually, we are assuming PCDRT (Haug, 2014), which has a definition of the *ant* predicate and (relatedly) a treatment of so-far-unresolved anaphora that doesn't require indexing.
- This specific assumption is not crucial, though.

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A crude characterisation would be that glue semantics is like categorial grammar and its semantics, but without the categorial grammar.

(Crouch & van Genabith, 2000, 91)

Scope ambiguity as an example

(4) Someone sees everything.

Two interpretations:

① There is someone who sees everything.

(surface scope, $\exists > \forall$)

② Everything is seen.

(inverse scope, $\forall > \exists$)

Q: Where is the ambiguity?

Montague Grammar

(Montague, 1973; Dowty et al., 1981)

Ambiguity of syntactic derivation:

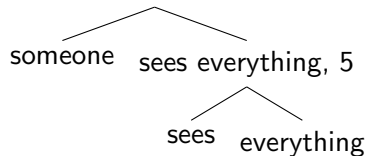
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Surface scope

someone sees everything, 4



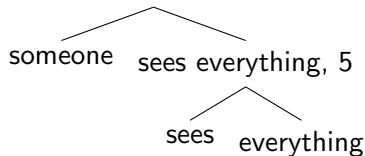
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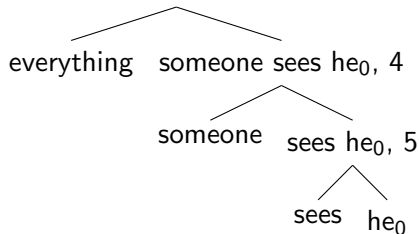
Surface scope

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Inverse scope

someone sees everything, 10, 0



Mainstream Minimalism

(May, 1977, 1985; Heim & Kratzer, 1998)

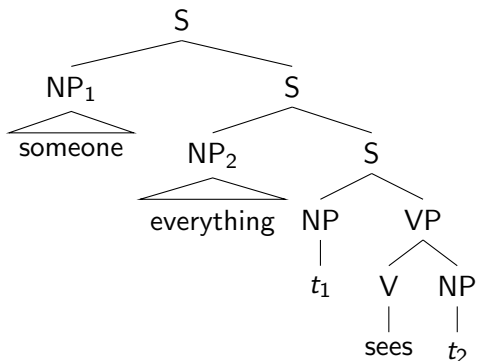
Ambiguity of syntactic structure:

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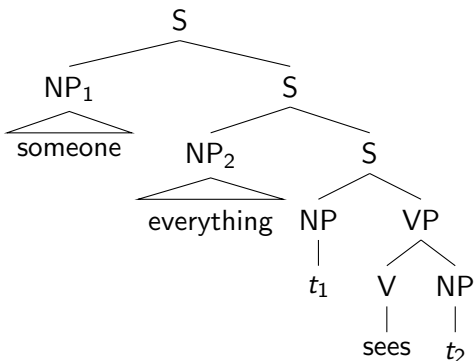


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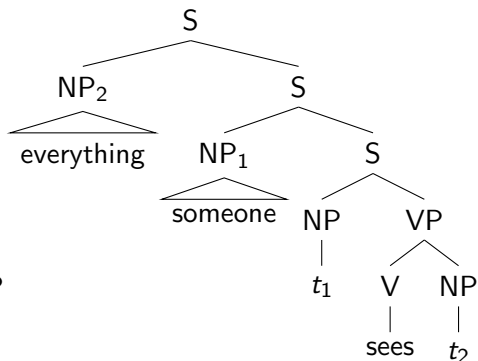
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- The approaches just mentioned have in common is the view that syntactic structure plus lexical semantics *determines* interpretation.
- From this it follows that if a sentence is ambiguous, such as (4), then that ambiguity must be either lexical or syntactic.
- The Glue approach is that syntax *constrains* what can combine with what, and how.

(to this extent there is a similarity with Cooper storage (Cooper, 1983))

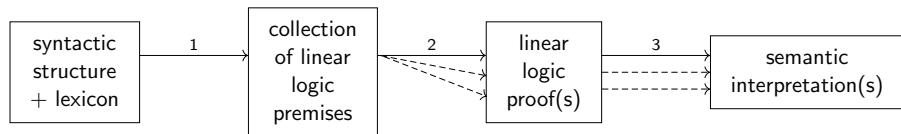
- Totally informal statement of what the constraints look like in (4):

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 - $\llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket$ applies to A , then B , to form C .
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- The different ways:
 - Give the different interpretations of (4).
 - Correspond to different proofs from the same premises in Linear Logic.

The syntax-semantics interface according to Glue



- ① Function, given by Glue implementation
- ② Relation, given by linear logic proof theory
- ③ Function, given by Curry-Howard correspondence

Linear logic

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$$\text{premise}(s) \vdash \text{conclusion}$$

to be valid, every premise in $\text{premise}(s)$ must be 'used' exactly once.

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to be valid, every premise in premise(s) must be 'used' exactly once. So for example,

$$\begin{array}{l} A \vdash A \quad \text{and} \quad A, A \multimap B \vdash B, \text{ but} \\ A, A \not\vdash A \quad \text{and} \quad A, A \multimap (A \multimap B) \not\vdash B \end{array}$$

(\multimap is linear implication)

Interpretation as deduction

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- expressions of a meaning language (in this case, λ -DRT) are paired with formulae in a fragment of linear logic (the glue language), and
- steps of deduction carried out using those formulae correspond to operations performed on the meaning terms, according to the Curry-Howard correspondence.

Linear implication

Rules for \multimap	
Elimination...	Introduction...
$\frac{X \multimap Y \quad X}{Y} \multimap E$	$\frac{[X]^n \quad \dots \quad Y}{X \multimap Y} \multimap I, n$ <p>Exactly one hypothesis must be discharged in the introduction step.</p>

Linear implication and functional types

Rules for \multimap and their images under the Curry-Howard correspondence	
Elimination...	Introduction...
$\frac{f : X \multimap Y \quad a : X}{f(a) : Y} \multimap E$	$\frac{[v : X]^n \quad \dots \quad f : Y}{\lambda v. f : X \multimap Y} \multimap I, n$ <p>Exactly one hypothesis must be discharged in the introduction step.</p>
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... application.	... abstraction.

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Propositions as types:

$$\text{type}(X \multimap Y) := \text{type}(X) \rightarrow \text{type}(Y)$$

What you need from syntax

label	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
assigned to	the object argument of sees	the subject argument of sees	the sentence as a whole
	<i>everything</i>	<i>someone</i>	(where <i>someone</i> takes scope)
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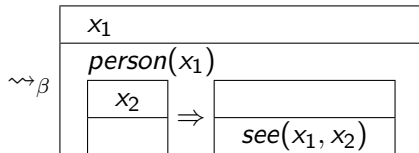
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⇓

$\lambda Q.[x_1 \mid \textit{person}(x_1)]; Q(x_1) : (B \multimap C) \multimap C$	type $(e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$
$\lambda v. \lambda u. [\mid \textit{see}(u, v)] : A \multimap (B \multimap C)$	type $e \rightarrow (e \rightarrow t)$
$\lambda P. [\mid [x_1] \mid] \Rightarrow P(x_1) : (A \multimap C) \multimap C$	type $(e \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t$

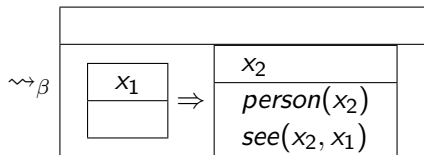
Surface scope interpretation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{A \multimap (B \multimap C) \quad [z : A]^1}{\llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket(z) : B \multimap C} \multimap E} \llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket(z)(w) : C}{\lambda z. \llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket(z)(w) : A \multimap C} \multimap I,1}{\llbracket \text{everything} \rrbracket(\lambda z. \llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket(z)(w)) : C} \multimap E}{(A \multimap C) \multimap C} \multimap I,1}{\llbracket \text{someone} \rrbracket : (B \multimap C) \multimap C} \multimap I,2}{\llbracket \text{someone} \rrbracket(\lambda w. \llbracket \text{everything} \rrbracket(\lambda z. \llbracket \text{sees} \rrbracket(z)(w))) : C} \multimap E
 \end{array}$$



Inverse scope interpretation

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{[everything]} : (A \multimap C) \multimap C}{\text{[everything]}(\lambda z. [\text{someone}]([\text{sees}](z))) : C}{\text{[someone]}([\text{sees}](z)) : C}{\lambda z. [\text{someone}]([\text{sees}](z)) : A \multimap C} \multimap I,1}{\frac{\frac{[\text{someone}]([\text{sees}](z)) : B \multimap C}{(B \multimap C) \multimap C} \multimap E}{[\text{sees}](z) : B \multimap C} \multimap E} \multimap E} \multimap E}$$



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Theoretical considerations

- Dependency grammars have severe expressivity constraints
 - Unique head constraint
 - Overt token constraint

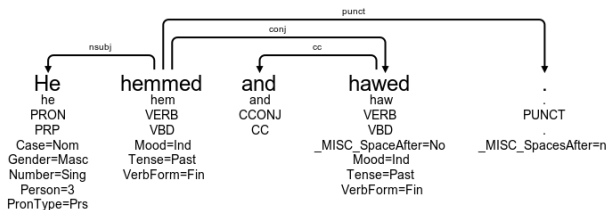
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 - No argument/adjunct distinction

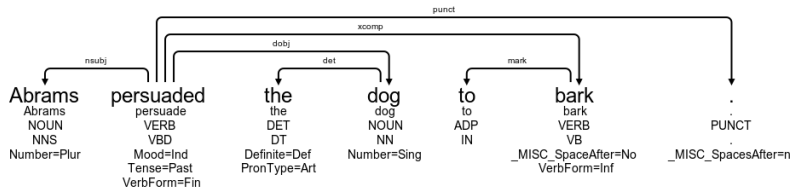
Theoretical considerations

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- Some of this will be alleviated through enhanced dependencies but those are not yet widely available

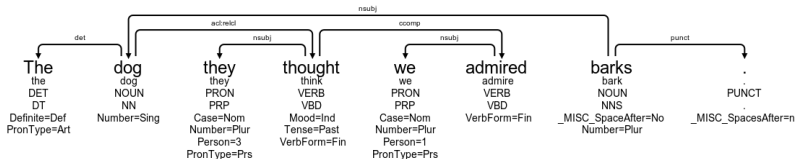
Coordination structure



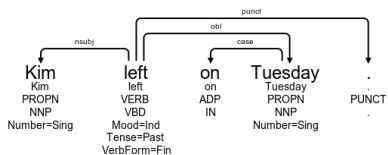
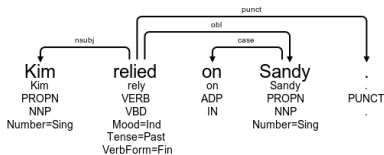
Control structure



Relative clause structure



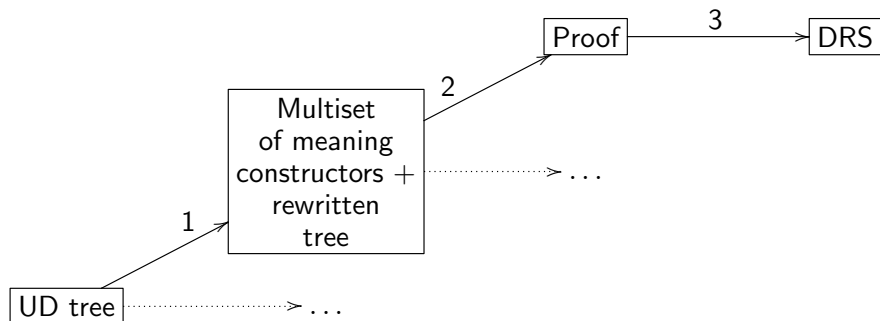
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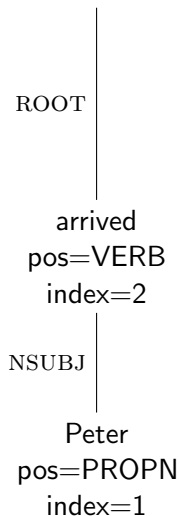
Overview



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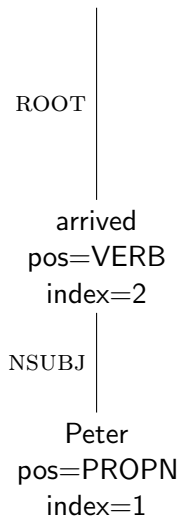
- Traversal of the UD tree, matching each node against a rule file
- For each matched rule, a meaning constructor is produced. . .
- . . . and then instantiated non-deterministically, possibly rewriting the UD tree in the process
- The result is a set of pairs $\langle M, T \rangle$ where M is a multiset of meaning constructors and T is a rewritten UD tree
- Each multiset is fed into a linear logic prover (by Miltiadis Kokkonidis) and beta reduction software (from Johan Bos' Boxer)

Example



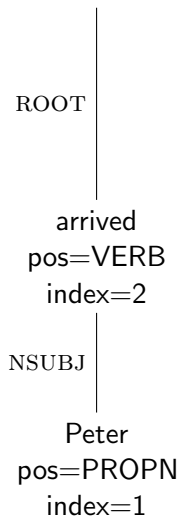
pos = PROPN \rightarrow
 $\lambda P.[x | \textit{named}(x, :lemma:)] ; P(x) :$
 $(e_{\downarrow} \multimap t_{\%R}) \multimap t_{\%R}$

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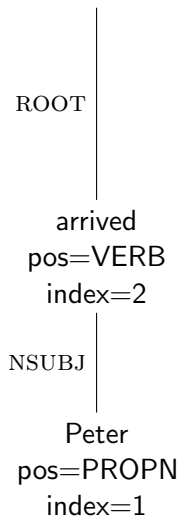
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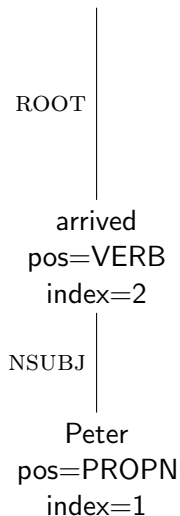
pos = VERB \rightarrow
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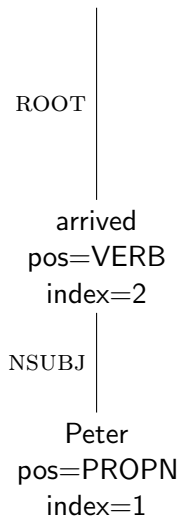
pos = VERB \rightarrow
 $\lambda x. \lambda F, [e | arrive(e), nsubj(e, x)] ; F(e) :$
 $e_{\downarrow nsubj} \multimap (v_{\downarrow} \multimap t_{\downarrow}) \multimap t_{\downarrow}$

Example



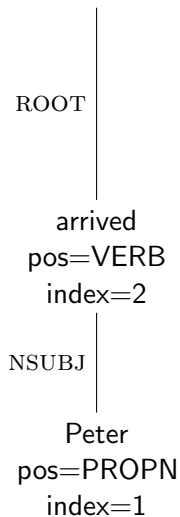
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Example



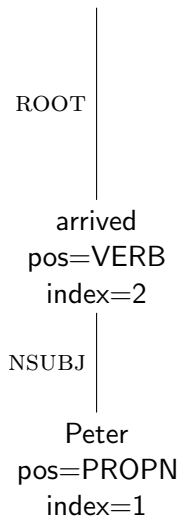
relation = ROOT \rightarrow
 $\lambda_{-}.[|] : v(\downarrow) \multimap t(\downarrow)$

Example



relation = ROOT \rightarrow
 $\lambda_{-}.[|] : v_2 \text{ --- } t_2$

Example



$$\lambda P.[x|\textit{named}(x, \textit{Peter})] ; P(x) : \\ (e_1 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2$$

$$\lambda x.\lambda F, [e|\textit{arrive}(e), \textit{nsbj}(e, x)] ; F(e) : \\ e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2$$

$$\lambda _.[|] : v_2 \multimap t_2$$

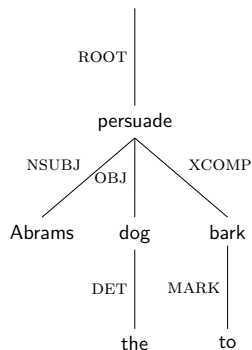
Interpretation in Glue

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{[[arrived]] : } e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad [y : e_1]^1}{\text{[[arrived]](y) : (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2} \multimap_E \quad \frac{\text{[[root]] : } v_2 \multimap t_2}{\text{[[arrived]](y)(\text{[[root]])} : t_2} \multimap_{I,1}}}{\text{[[Peter]] : } (e_1 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad \lambda y. \text{[[arrived]](y)(\text{[[root]])} : e_1 \multimap t_2} \multimap_{I,1}}}{\text{[[Peter]](\lambda y. \text{[[arrived]](y)(\text{[[root]])}) : t_2} \multimap_E}$$

$$\left(\lambda P. \frac{x_1}{\text{named}(x_1, \text{Peter})}; P(x_1) \right) \left(\lambda y. \left(\lambda x. \lambda F. \frac{e_1}{\text{arrive}(e_1)}; F(e_1) \right) (y) \left(\lambda V. \frac{}{} \right) \right)$$

$$\rightsquigarrow_{\beta} \frac{x_1 \quad e_1}{\text{named}(x_1, \text{Peter})} \quad \frac{\text{arrive}(e_1)}{\text{nsubj}(e_1, x_1)}$$

Control


 $\lambda P.\lambda y.\lambda x.\lambda F.$

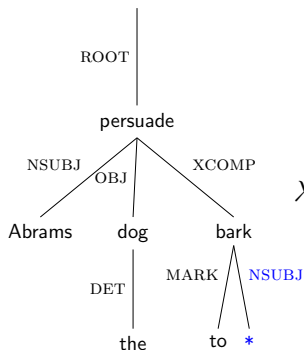
e q z

$persuade(e)$ $controldep(e, z)$ $xcomp(e, q)$ $obj(e, y)$ $nsubj(e, x)$ $q : P(z)(\lambda.[])$

; $F(e)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (e_{\downarrow XCOMP} \text{ NSUBJ} \multimap (v_{\downarrow XCOMP} \multimap t_{\downarrow XCOMP}) \multimap t_{\downarrow XCOMP}) \\
 & \multimap (e_{\downarrow NSUBJ}) \multimap (e_{\downarrow OBJ}) \multimap (v_{\downarrow} \multimap t_{\downarrow}) \multimap t_{\downarrow}
 \end{aligned}$$

Control


 $\lambda P.\lambda y.\lambda x.\lambda F.$
 $e \ q \ z$

persuade(e)
controldep(e, z)
xcomp(e, q)
obj(e, y)
nsubj(e, x)
 $q : P(z)(\lambda.[\ | \])$

 $; F(e)$

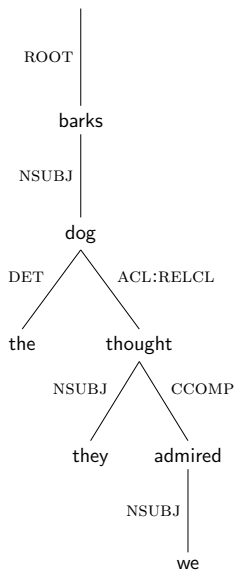
$$\begin{aligned}
 &(e_8 \multimap (v_6 \multimap t_6)) \multimap t_6 \\
 &\multimap e_4 \multimap e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket : \\
((v_6 \multimap t_6) \multimap t_6) \multimap \\
e_4 \multimap e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad \llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket : \\
(v_6 \multimap t_6) \multimap t_6 \\
\hline
\llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket) : e_4 \multimap e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad [u : e_4]^1 \\
\hline
\llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u) : e_1 \multimap (v_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad [v : e_1]^2 \quad \llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket : \\
v_2 \multimap t_2 \\
\hline
\vdots \\
\llbracket \text{the} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{dog} \rrbracket) : \\
(e_4 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad \llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u)(v)(\llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket) : t_2 \\
\hline
\lambda u. \llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u)(v)(\llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket) : e_4 \multimap t_2 \quad 1 \\
\hline
\llbracket \text{Abrams} \rrbracket : \\
(e_1 \multimap t_2) \multimap t_2 \quad \llbracket \text{the} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{dog} \rrbracket)(\lambda u. \llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u)(v)(\llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket)) : t_2 \\
\hline
\lambda v. \llbracket \text{the} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{dog} \rrbracket)(\lambda u. \llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u)(v)(\llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket)) : e_1 \multimap t_2 \quad 2 \\
\hline
\llbracket \text{Abrams} \rrbracket(\lambda v. \llbracket \text{the} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{dog} \rrbracket)(\lambda u. \llbracket \text{persuade} \rrbracket(\llbracket \text{bark} \rrbracket)(u)(v)(\llbracket \text{root} \rrbracket))) : t_2
\end{array}$$

 $\rightsquigarrow \beta$

x_1	x_2	x_3	e_1	p_1
$\text{named}(x_1, \text{abrams}), \text{ant}(x_2)$ $\partial(\text{dog}(x_2)), \text{persuade}(e_1)$ $\text{nsbj}(e_1, x_1), \text{obj}(e_1, x_2)$ $\text{controldep}(e_1, x_3), \text{xcomp}(e_1, p_1)$				
			e_2	
$p_1 :$	$\text{bark}(e_2)$ $\text{nsbj}(e_2, x_3)$			

Relative clauses



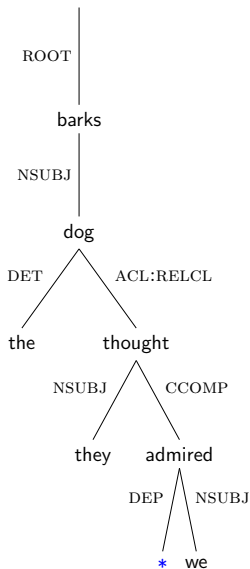
$$\lambda P.\lambda V.\lambda x.P(x); V(x)(\lambda_.[|])$$

$$(e_{\uparrow} \multimap t_{\uparrow}) \multimap$$

$$(e_{\downarrow, dep^* dep\{PType=Rel\}} \multimap (v_{\downarrow} \multimap t_{\downarrow}) \multimap t_{\downarrow}) \multimap$$

$$e_{\uparrow} \multimap t_{\uparrow}$$

Relative clauses



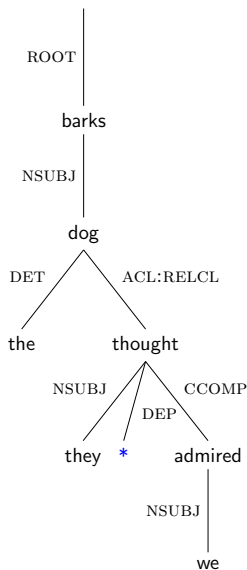
$$\lambda P.\lambda V.\lambda x.P(x); V(x)(\lambda_.[|])$$

$$(e_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap$$

$$(e_9 \multimap (v_4 \multimap t_4) \multimap t_4) \multimap$$

$$e_2 \multimap t_2$$

Relative clauses



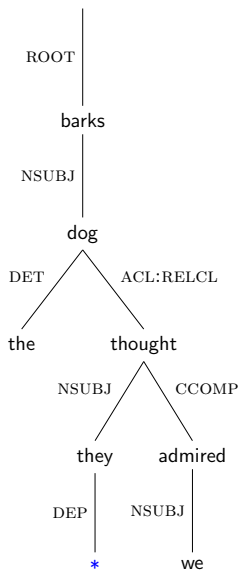
$$\lambda P.\lambda V.\lambda x.P(x); V(x)(\lambda_.[|])$$

$$(e_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap$$

$$(e_9 \multimap (v_4 \multimap t_4) \multimap t_4) \multimap$$

$$e_2 \multimap t_2$$

Relative clauses



$$\lambda P.\lambda V.\lambda x.P(x); V(x)(\lambda_.[|])$$

$$(e_2 \multimap t_2) \multimap$$

$$(e_9 \multimap (v_4 \multimap t_4) \multimap t_4) \multimap$$

$$e_2 \multimap t_2$$

Plan

- 1 Target representations
- 2 Introduction to Glue semantics
- 3 Universal Dependencies
- 4 Our pipeline
- 5 Evaluation and discussion**

Discussion of output

x_1 e_1
<i>named</i> (x_1 , <i>Peter</i>)
<i>arrive</i> (e_1)
<i>nsubj</i> (e_1 , x_1)

- What kind of θ -role is 'nsubj' ?
 - A syntactic name, lifted from the arc label.
 - In and of itself, uninformative.

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x_1 e_1
$named(x_1, Peter)$
$arrive(e_1)$
$nsubj(e_1, x_1)$

- What kind of θ -role is 'nsubj' ?
 - A syntactic name, lifted from the arc label.
 - In and of itself, uninformative.
- What we have in the DRS above is as much information as can be extracted from the UD tree alone, without lexical knowledge.
- Lexical knowledge in the form of meaning postulates such as (5) can be harnessed to further specify the meaning representation.

$$(5) \quad \forall e \forall x ((arrive(e) \wedge nsubj(e, x)) \rightarrow theme(e, x))$$

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x_1	x_2	x_3	e_1	p_1
...				
$persuade(e_1), obj(e_1, x_2), controldep(e_1, x_3), xcomp(e_1, p_1)$				
$p_1 :$	e_2			
	$\dots, nsubj(e_2, x_3)$			

- The *persuade* + *xcomp* meaning constructor has
 - introduced an *xcomp* relation between the persuading event e_1 and the proposition p_1 that there is a barking event e_2 , and
 - introduced an individual x_3 as the *nsubj* of e_2 and the *controldep* of e_1 .

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$persuade(e_1), obj(e_1, x_2), controldep(e_1, x_3), xcomp(e_1, p_1)$				
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- But the information that *persuade* is an object control verb can again be encoded in a meaning postulate:

$$\forall e \forall x ((persuade(e) \wedge controldep(e, x)) \rightarrow obj(e, x))$$

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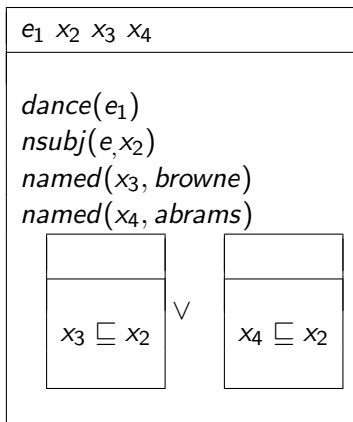
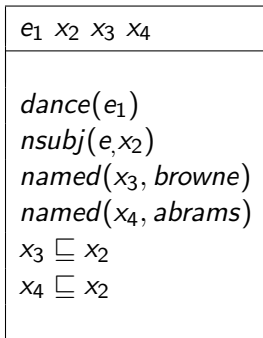
$$\forall e \forall x ((persuade(e) \wedge controldep(e, x)) \rightarrow obj(e, x))$$
- With thematic uniqueness, we get $x_2 = x_3$ in this case.
- Blurs the distinction between lexical syntax and semantics.

VP/Sentence coordination: He hemmed and hawed

x_1	e_2	e_3
<i>pron.he</i> (x_1)	<i>hem</i> (e_2)	<i>nsubj</i> (e_2, x_1)
	<i>haw</i> (e_3)	

- No way to distinguish V/VP/S coordination in DG because of the overt token constraint
- No argument sharing because of the unique head constraint

NP Coordination: Abrams and/or Browne danced



Argument/adjunct distinction

e_1	x_2	x_3
<i>rely</i> (e_1)	<i>named</i> (x_2 , <i>kim</i>)	<i>named</i> (x_3 , <i>sandy</i>)
		<i>on</i> (x_3 , e_1)

e_1	x_2	x_3
<i>leave</i> (e_1)	<i>named</i> (x_2 , <i>kim</i>)	<i>named</i> (x_3 , <i>tuesday</i>)
		<i>on</i> (x_3 , e_1)

- Again, we will have to rely on meaning postulates to resolve the *on* relation to a thematic role in one case and a temporal relation in the other

Evaluation

- What we have so far is a proof of concept tested on carefully crafted examples
 - application of LFG techniques (functional uncertainties) to enrich underspecified UD syntax
 - application of glue semantics to dependency structures

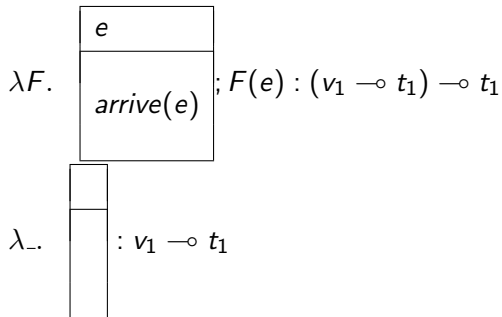
Evaluation

- What we have so far is a proof of concept tested on carefully crafted examples
 - application of LFG techniques (functional uncertainties) to enrich underspecified UD syntax
 - application of glue semantics to dependency structures
- Very far from something practically useful
 - Basic coverage of UD relations except vocative, dislocated, clf, list, parataxis, orphan
 - Little or no work on interactions, special constructions, real data noise

Pros and cons of glue semantics

- No need for binarization
- Flexible approach to scoping yield different readings
- Hard to restrict unwanted/non-existing scopings
- Computing lots of uninteresting scope differences

Unwanted scopings



It is clear which DRS sentence-level operators (negation, auxiliaries etc.) should target!

- Modalities in the linear logic
- Different types for the two DRSs

Efficient scoping

- Two parameters:
 - level of scope
 - order of combination of quantifiers at each level
- We currently naively compute everything with a light-weight prover
→ obvious performance problems
- Disallow intermediate scopings?
- Structure sharing across derivations (building on work in an LFG context)

Conclusions

- Theoretical achievement: application of glue to dependency grammar

Conclusions

- Theoretical achievement: application of glue to dependency grammar
- Practical achievement: an interesting proof of concept

Conclusions

- Theoretical achievement: application of glue to dependency grammar
- Practical achievement: an interesting proof of concept
- But lots of work remains
 - Support for partial proofs
 - Axiomatization of lexical knowledge
 - Ambiguity management

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