

Jonas Kuhn & Stefan Müller
Grammar Development in Constraint-Based Formalisms – HPSG
and LFG

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HPSG Background

Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar

- developed in the mid 1980s as an alternative to Transformational Grammar
- Pollard and Sag (1987, 1994)

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 - computational linguistics, grammar development

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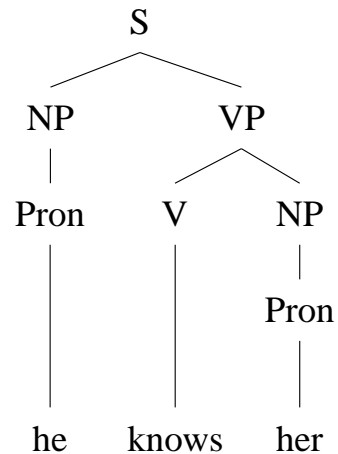
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- Websites:
<http://hpsg.stanford.edu/> and <http://www.dfki.de/lt/HPSG/> (Literature)
- recent textbooks:
(Sag and Wasow, 1999)

Outline

- Phrase Structure Grammars
- The Formalism
- Valence and Grammar Rules
- Complementation
- Semantics
- Adjunction
- The Lexicon

A Simple Phrase Structure Grammar for English



S → NP, VP

VP → V, NP

NP → Pron

Pron → *he*

Pron → *him*

Pron → *her*

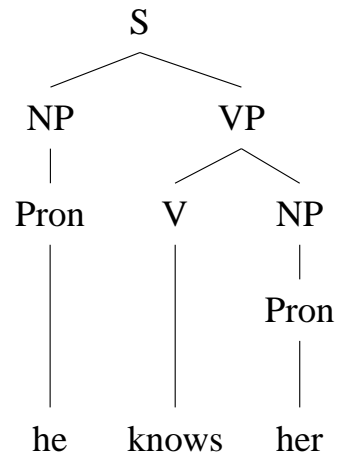
V → *knows*

(1) a. He knows her.

b. * We knows her.

What is wrong?

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Person and number of *we* and verb

Person Number Agreement

- (2) a. I/you/we/you/they sleep.
b. He sleeps.

(3) I am / you are / he is / we/you/they are ...

To capture the fact that subject and verb agree in person and number we have to use more complex symbols:

S → NP_1_sg, VP_1_sg

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S → NP_3_sg, VP_3_sg

...

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S → NP_3_sg, VP_3_sg

...

VP_1_sg → V_1_sg, NP

VP_2_sg → V_2_sg, NP

VP_3_sg → V_3_sg, NP

...

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NP_1_sg → Pron_1_sg

S → NP_2_sg, VP_2_sg

NP_2_sg → Pron_2_sg

S → NP_3_sg, VP_3_sg

NP_3_sg → Pron_3_sg

...

...

VP_1_sg → V_1_sg, NP

VP_2_sg → V_2_sg, NP

VP_3_sg → V_3_sg, NP

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S → NP_1_sg, VP_1_sg

NP_1_sg → Pron_1_sg

S → NP_2_sg, VP_2_sg

NP_2_sg → Pron_2_sg

S → NP_3_sg, VP_3_sg

NP_3_sg → Pron_3_sg

...

...

VP_1_sg → V_1_sg, NP

Pron_3_sg → *he*

VP_2_sg → V_2_sg, NP

Pron_3_sg → *him*

VP_3_sg → V_3_sg, NP

Pron_3_sg → *her*

...

V_3_sg → *knows*

Problems with this Approach

- the number of non-terminal symbols explodes

- in rules like

VP_1_sg → V_1_sg, NP

VP_2_sg → V_2_sg, NP

VP_3_sg → V_3_sg, NP

what does NP stand for?

Instead we had to write NP_1_sg or NP_2_sg or ... in each rule

→ explosion of the number of rules

- missing generalization
- Solution: Features

Person Number Agreement: Rules with Features

- (4) a. I/you/we/you/they sleep.
b. He sleeps.

(5) I am / you are / he is / we/you/they are ...

S → NP(Per,Num), VP(Per,Num)

VP(Per,Num) → V(Per,Num), NP(Per2,Num2)

NP(Per,Num) → Pron(Per,Num)

Pron(3,sg) → *he*

V(3,sg) → *knows*

things in the brackets written in capital letters are variables

the value of Per and Num in the rules does not matter

important: Per and Num of NP and VP are equal

Per2, Num2 do not matter since they do not appear anywhere else

Feature Bundles

- are there rules where Per values have to be identical, but Num values may be not?

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Pron(3,sg) → *he*

V(3,sg) → *knows*

- structuring of information: Per and Num are grouped together and referred to with Arg:

S → NP(Agr), VP(Agr)

VP(Agr) → V(Agr), NP(Agr2)

NP(Agr) → Pron(Agr)

Pron(agr(3,sg)) → *he*

V(agr(3,sg)) → *knows*

- value of Agr is a complex structure that contains information about person and number
- important in HPSG: information is shared by mothers and daughters or between daughters in a rule

Heads

A head determines the most important features of a phrase/projection.

- (6)
- a. Karl **sleeps**.
 - b. Karl **talks** about linguistics.
 - c. **about** linguistics
 - d. a **man**

A (finite) sentence is a maximal projection of a (finite) verb.

Heads

A head determines the most important features of a phrase/projection.

- (6) a. Karl **sleeps**.
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c. **about** linguistics
d. a **man**

A (finite) sentence is a maximal projection of a (finite) verb.

main categories are:

| category | projected features |
|-------------|--|
| verb | part of speech, verb form (<i>fin, bse, ...</i>) |
| noun | part of speech, case |
| preposition | part of speech, form of the preposition |
| adjective | part of speech |

Abstraction over Rules

\bar{X} -Theory (Jackendoff, 1977):

\bar{X} – Rule

examples with instantiated part of speech

$\bar{\bar{X}} \rightarrow \bar{\text{Specifier}} \bar{X}$

$\bar{\bar{N}} \rightarrow \bar{\text{DET}} \bar{N}$

$\bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{X} \bar{\text{Adjunct}}$

$\bar{N} \rightarrow \bar{N} \bar{\text{REL_CLAUSE}}$

$\bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{\text{Adjunct}} \bar{X}$

$\bar{N} \rightarrow \bar{\text{ADJ}} \bar{N}$

$\bar{X} \rightarrow X \bar{\text{Complement}}^*$

$\bar{N} \rightarrow N \bar{\bar{P}}$

X stands for an arbitrary category (the head), '*' for arbitrarily many repetitions

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Feature Structures

- feature structure
- attribute-value matrix
- feature matrix
- Shieber (1986), Pollard and Sag (1987), Johnson (1988), Carpenter (1992), King (1994)

Def. 1 (Feature Structure—Preliminary Version)

A feature structure is a set of pairs of the form [ATTRIBUTE value].

ATTRIBUTE is an element of the set of feature names ATTR.

The component value is

- *atomic (a string)*
- *or again a feature structure.*

Feature Structures – Examples

a simple feature structure:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & W1 \\ A2 & W2 \\ A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Feature Structures – Examples

a simple feature structure:

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a complex feature structure:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & W1 \\ A2 & \begin{bmatrix} A21 & W21 \\ A22 & \begin{bmatrix} A221 & W221 \\ A222 & W222 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

A feature structure that describes a human being:

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
| LAST-NAME | <i>meier</i> |
| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |

Example

A feature structure that describes a human being:

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985 ]
```

recursive structures:

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985
  FATHER     [ FIRST-NAME peter
              LAST-NAME  meier
              BIRTHDAY   10.05.1960
              FATHER     ...
              MOTHER     ... ]
  MOTHER     ... ]
```

Example

A feature structure that describes a human being:

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985 ]
```

recursive structures:

```
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  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985
  FATHER     [ FIRST-NAME peter
              LAST-NAME  meier
              BIRTHDAY   10.05.1960
              FATHER     ...
              MOTHER     ... ]
  MOTHER     ... ]
```

Exercise: How do we represent the daughters or sons of a human being?

Solution I

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
| LAST-NAME | <i>meier</i> |
| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |
| FATHER | <i>...</i> |
| MOTHER | <i>...</i> |
| DAUGHTER | <i>...</i> |

Solution I

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
| LAST-NAME | <i>meier</i> |
| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |
| FATHER | ... |
| MOTHER | ... |
| DAUGHTER | ... |

What about persons with several daughters?

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
| LAST-NAME | <i>meier</i> |
| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |
| FATHER | ... |
| MOTHER | ... |
| DAUGHTER-1 | ... |
| DAUGHTER-2 | ... |
| DAUGHTER-3 | ... |

Solution I

| | |
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| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
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| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |
| FATHER | ... |
| MOTHER | ... |
| DAUGHTER | ... |

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| FIRST-NAME | <i>max</i> |
| LAST-NAME | <i>meier</i> |
| BIRTHDAY | <i>10.10.1985</i> |
| FATHER | ... |
| MOTHER | ... |
| DAUGHTER-1 | ... |
| DAUGHTER-2 | ... |
| DAUGHTER-3 | ... |

How many features do we want? Where is the limit?

Solution II – Lists

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME meier
  BIRTHDAY 10.10.1985
  FATHER ...
  MOTHER ...
  DAUGHTER < .....,... > ]
```

Solution II – Lists

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME meier
  BIRTHDAY  10.10.1985
  FATHER    ...
  MOTHER    ...
  DAUGHTER  < .....,... > ]
```

What about sons?

Solution II – Lists

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985
  FATHER     ...
  MOTHER     ...
  DAUGHTER   < ..., ... > ]
```

What about sons?

Do we want to differentiate? Yes, but it is a property of the described objects:

```
[ FIRST-NAME max
  LAST-NAME  meier
  BIRTHDAY   10.10.1985
  SEX        male
  FATHER     ...
  MOTHER     ...
  CHILDREN   < ..., ... > ]
```

Types

- feature structures are of a certain type
- the type is written in *italics*:

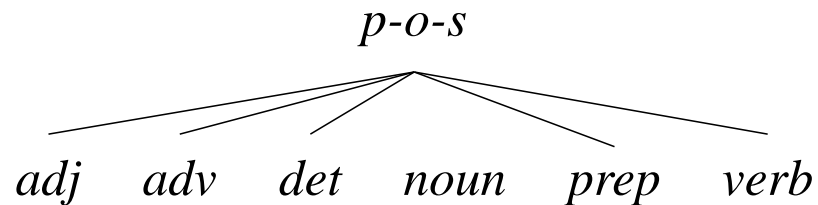
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} A1 \quad W1 \\ \textit{type} \end{array} \right]$$

Types

- feature structures are of a certain type
- the type is written in *italics*:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & W1 \\ \textit{type} \end{bmatrix}$$

- types are organized in hierarchies
- example: part of speech



Appropriateness

- A type definition says what features are appropriate for a structure of the defined type.
- Example: A feature structure that describes a human being does not have a feature NUMBER-OF-WHEELS.

Structure Sharing

A1 and A2 are token-identical:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} A1 \quad \boxed{1} \\ A2 \quad \boxed{1} \end{array} \right] \left[\begin{array}{l} A3 \quad W3 \end{array} \right]$$

Identity of values is marked by boxes
similar to variables

Structure Sharing

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$$\left[\begin{array}{l} A1 \boxed{1} \left[A3 \ W3 \right] \\ A2 \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$$

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our agreement example

$S \rightarrow NP(Agr), VP(Agr)$

rewritten with feature descriptions:

$[CAT\ S] \rightarrow [CAT\ NP, AGR\ \boxed{1}], [CAT\ VP, AGR\ \boxed{1}]$

Outline

- Phrase Structure Grammars
- The Formalism
- **Valence and Grammar Rules**
- Complementation
- Semantics
- Adjunction
- The Lexicon

Valence and Grammar Rules: PSG

- huge amount of grammar rules:

VP → V sleep

VP → V, NP love

VP → V, PP talk about

VP → V, NP, NP give X Y

VP → V, NP, PP give Y to X

- verbs have to be used with an appropriate rule
- subcategorization is encoded twice: in rules and in lexical entries

Valence and Grammar Rules: HPSG

- complements are specified as complex categories in the lexical representation of the head
- like Categorical Grammar
- verb subcat
 - sleep < NP >
 - love < NP, NP >
 - talk < NP, PP >
 - give < NP, NP, NP >
 - give < NP, NP, PP >

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give < NP, NP, PP >

- specific rules for head complement combinations:

$V[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow V[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle] \boxed{2}$

$N[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow N[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle] \boxed{2}$

$A[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow A[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle] \boxed{2}$

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- generalized, abstract schema (H = head):

$$H[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow H[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle] \boxed{2}$$

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- a lexical entry consists of:

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|---|------|-----------------|---|

– phonological information

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- phonological information
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 - valence information: a list of feature descriptions
- NP[*nom*] is an abbreviation for a feature description

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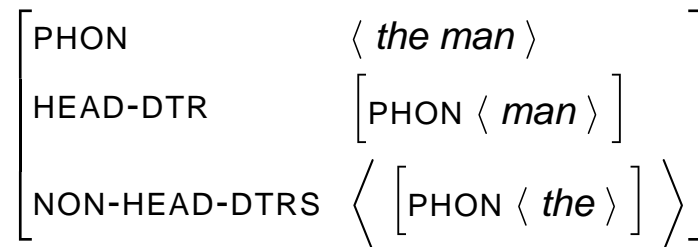
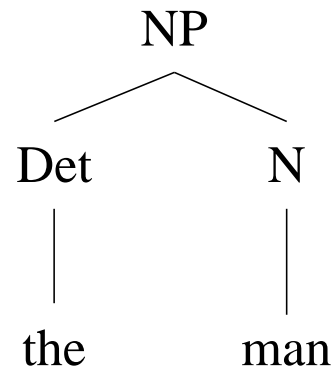
Representation of Grammar Rules (I)

- same description inventory for
 - morphological schemata,
 - lexical entries, and
 - phrasal schemata

everything is modeled in feature structures

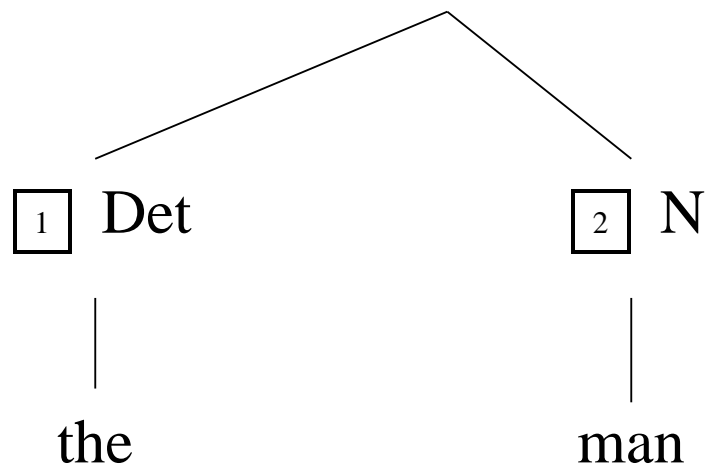
- distinction between immediate dominance and linear precedence
- dominance is encoded in the daughter features of a structure (heads, non-heads)
- precedence is contained implicitly in the PHON value of a sign

Part of the Structure in Feature Structure Representation – PHON Values (I)



Tree with DTRS Values (I)

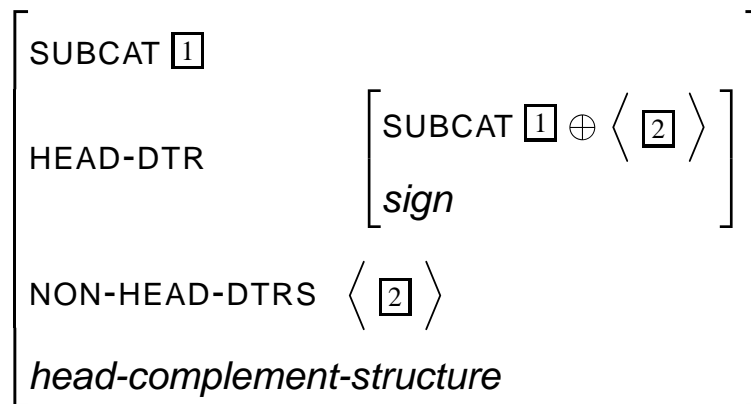
NP[HEAD-DTR $\boxed{2}$,
NON-HEAD-DTRS $\langle \boxed{1} \rangle$]



Representation of Grammar Rules (II)

- dominance rule:

Schema 1 (Head Complement Schema (binary branching))



\oplus stands for *append*, i.e., a relation that concatenates two lists

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$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \textit{sign} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS} \quad \langle \boxed{2} \rangle \\ \textit{head-complement-structure} \end{array} \right]$$

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- alternative formulation, similar to \bar{X} -Schema:

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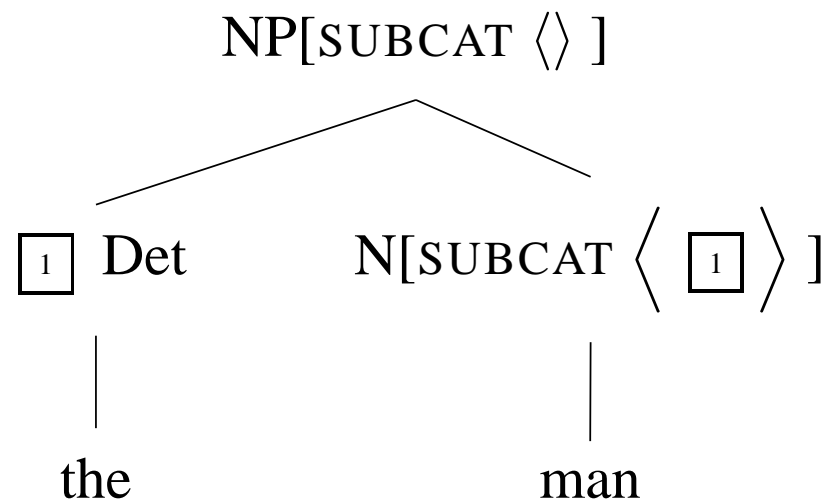
$$H[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow H[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \boxed{2} \rangle] \boxed{2}$$

- possible instantiation:

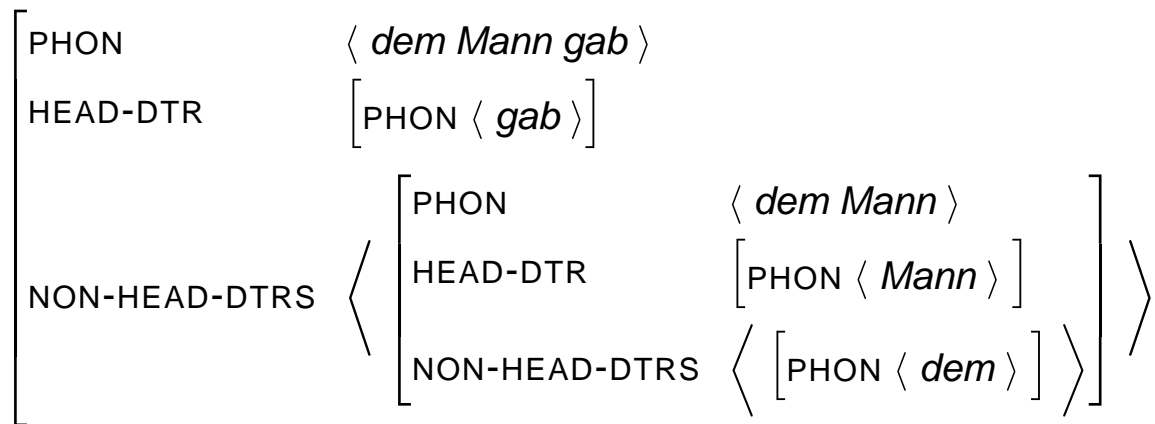
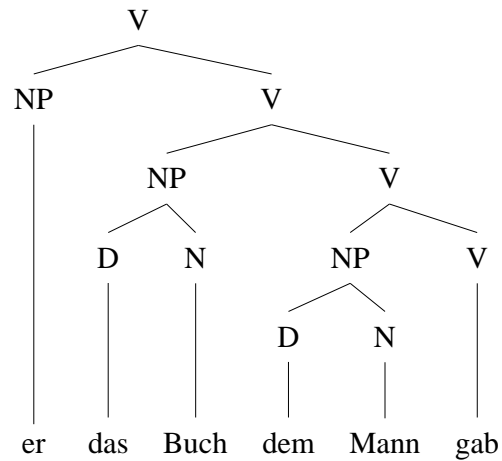
$$N[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow \text{Det } N[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \text{Det} \rangle]$$

$$V[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1}] \rightarrow V[\text{SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \langle \text{NP}[\textit{dat}] \rangle] \text{NP}[\textit{dat}]$$

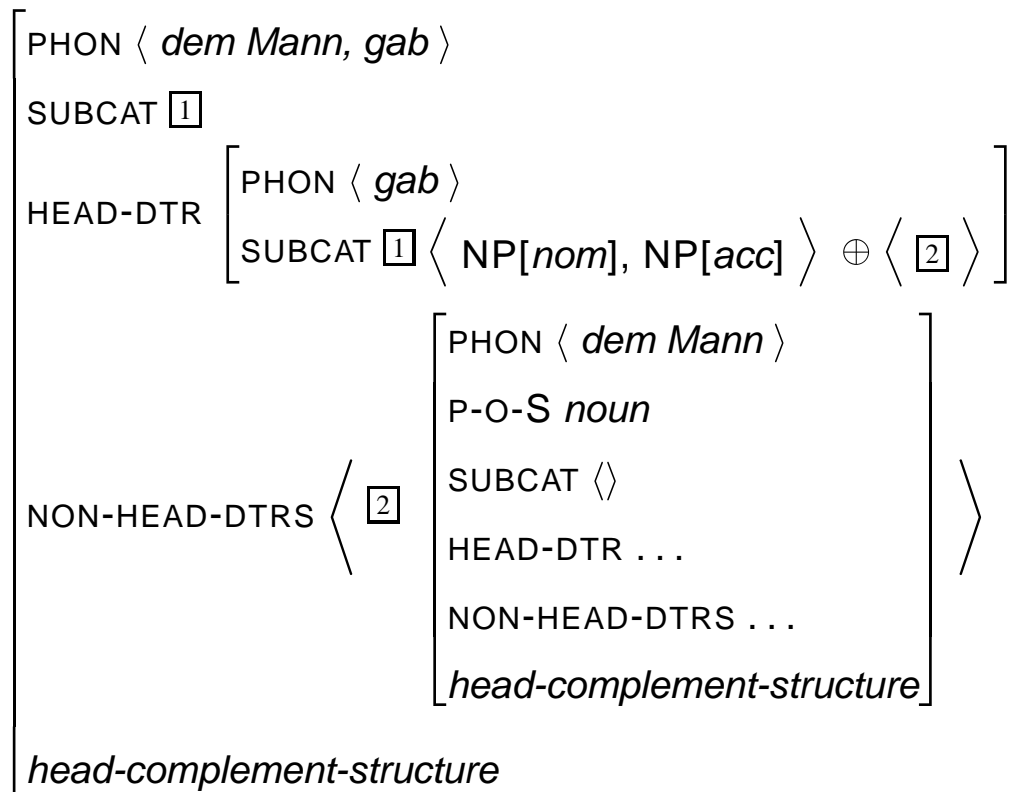
An Example



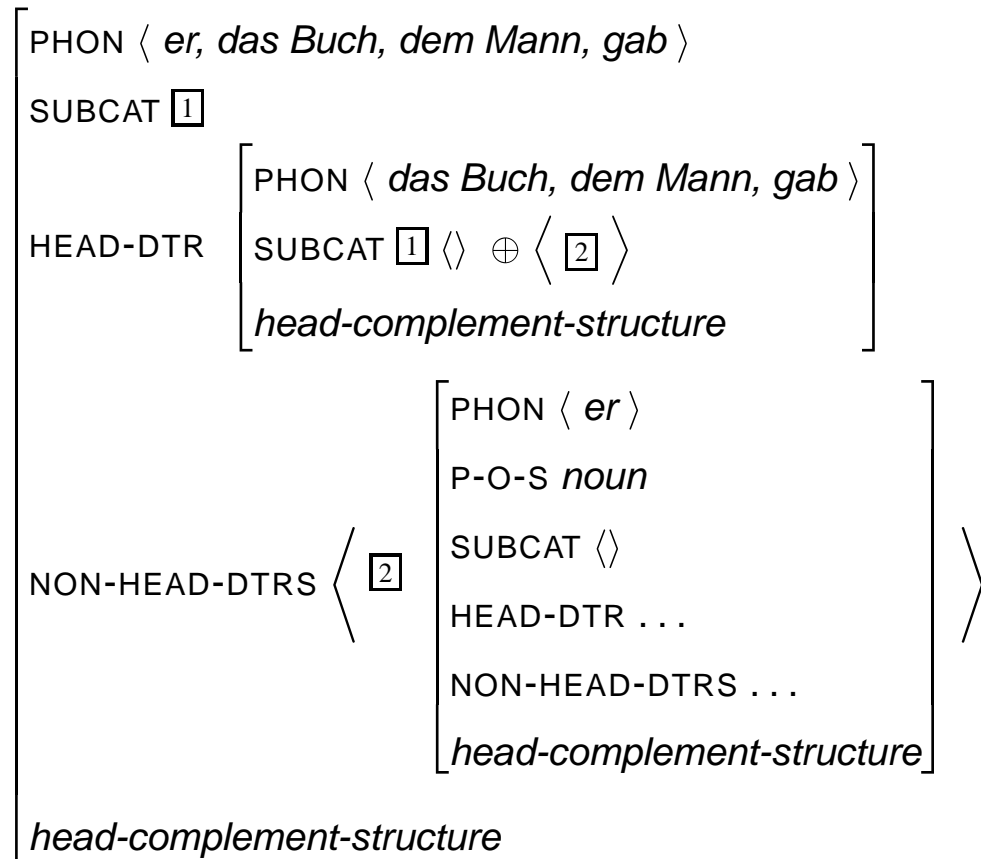
Representation with Feature Structure – PHON Values (II)



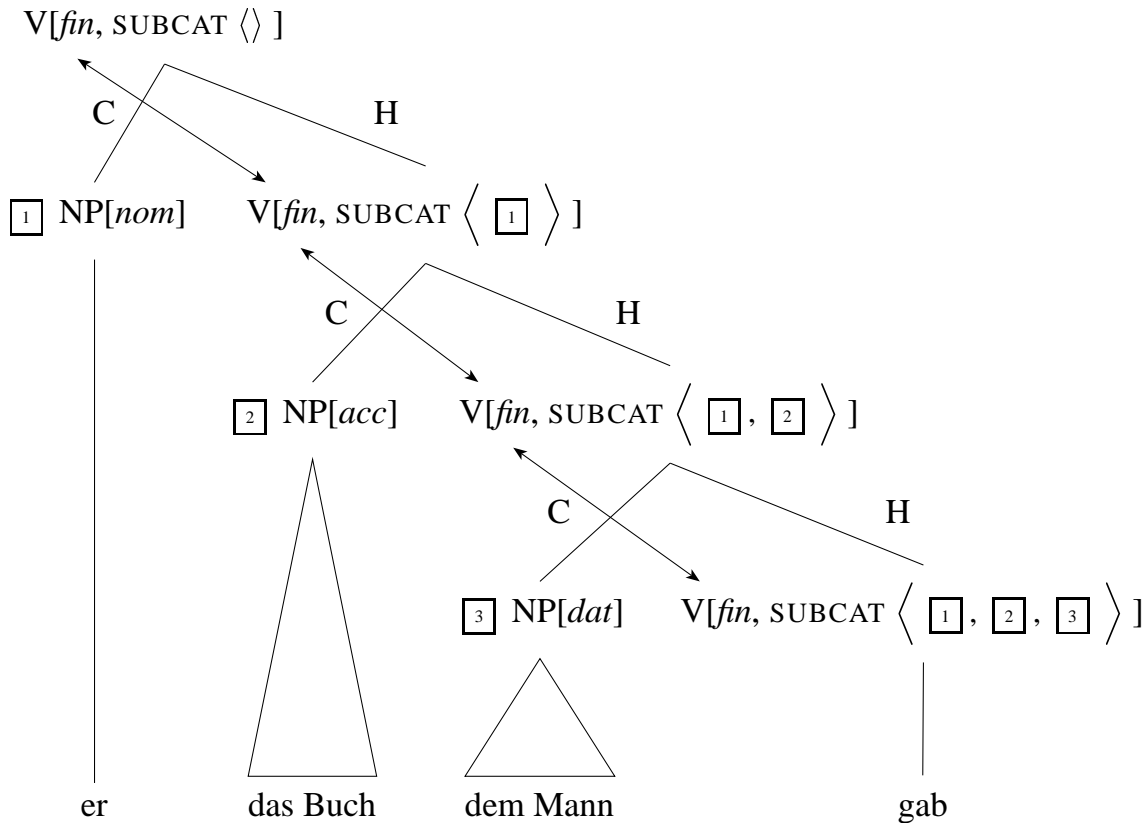
Representation in Feature Structures (Part)



Representation in Feature Structures (Part)



Projection of Head Properties



- head is the finite verb
- finiteness of the verb is marked morphologically (*gab* = *gave*)
- information about finiteness and part of speech is needed at the top node → projection

Representation in Feature Descriptions: the HEAD Value

- possible feature geometry:

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| PHON | <i>list of phonemes</i> |
| P-O-S | <i>p-o-s</i> |
| VFORM | <i>vform</i> |
| SUBCAT | <i>list</i> |

Representation in Feature Descriptions: the HEAD Value

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| SUBCAT | <i>list</i> |

- more structure, grouping information together for projection:

| | | | | | |
|--------|---|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| PHON | <i>list of phonemes</i> | | | | |
| HEAD | <table><tr><td>P-O-S</td><td><i>p-o-s</i></td></tr><tr><td>VFORM</td><td><i>vform</i></td></tr></table> | P-O-S | <i>p-o-s</i> | VFORM | <i>vform</i> |
| P-O-S | <i>p-o-s</i> | | | | |
| VFORM | <i>vform</i> | | | | |
| SUBCAT | <i>list</i> | | | | |

Different Heads Project Different Features

- VFORM is appropriate only for verbs
- adjectives and nouns project case
- possibility: one structure with all features:

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| P-O-S | <i>p-o-s</i> |
| VFORM | <i>vform</i> |
| CASE | <i>case</i> |

for verbs *case* is not filled in

for nouns *vform* is not filled in

Different Heads Project Different Features

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- adjectives and nouns project case
- possibility: one structure with all features:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{P-O-S} & \textit{p-o-s} \\ \text{VFORM} & \textit{vform} \\ \text{CASE} & \textit{case} \end{bmatrix}$$

for verbs *case* is not filled in

for nouns *vform* is not filled in

- better solution: different types of feature structures

– for verbs

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{VFORM} & \textit{vform} \\ \textit{verb} & \end{bmatrix}$$

– for nouns

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CASE} & \textit{case} \\ \textit{noun} & \end{bmatrix}$$

A Lexical Entry with Head Features

- a lexical entry consists of:

gibt ('gives' finite form):



A Lexical Entry with Head Features

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[PHON ⟨ *gibt* ⟩]

– phonological information

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| | | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|------------|--|-------------|
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| | <i>verb</i> | | | | |

- phonological information
- head information (part of speech, finiteness, ...)

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| VFORM | <i>fin</i> | | | | |
| | <i>verb</i> | | | | |
| SUBCAT | ⟨ NP[<i>nom</i>], NP[<i>acc</i>], NP[<i>dat</i>] ⟩ | | | | |

- phonological information
- head information (part of speech, finiteness, ...)
- valence information: a list of feature descriptions

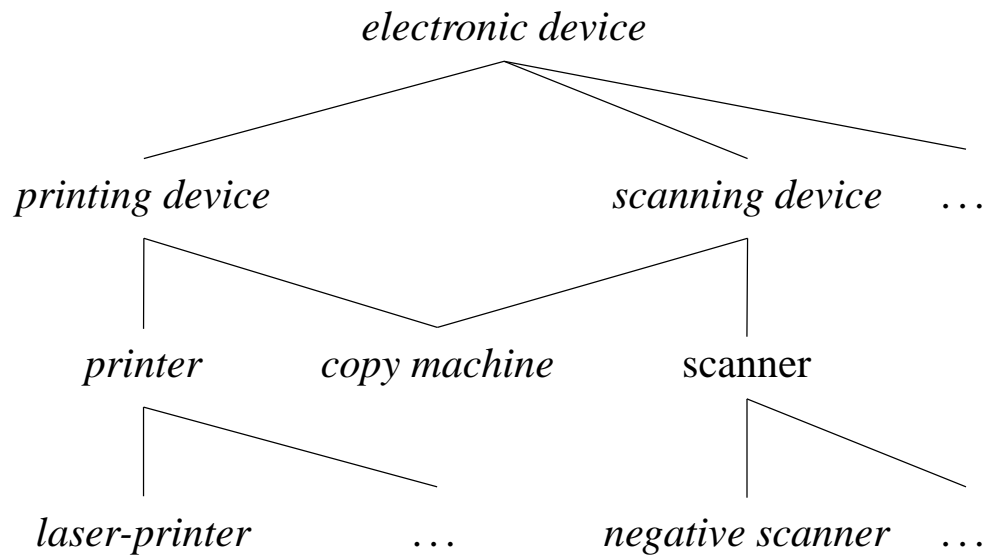
Head Feature Principle (HFP)

- In a headed structure the head features of the mother are token-identical to the head features of the head daughter.

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR} | \text{HEAD } \boxed{1} \\ \textit{headed-structure} \end{array} \right]$$

- encoding of principles in the type hierarchy:
Krieger (1994) and Sag (1997)
- *head-complement-structure* inherits constraints of *headed-structure*

Types: A Non-Linguistic Example for Multiple Inheritance



properties of and constraints on types are inherited from supertypes

possible to capture generalizations: general constraints are stated at high types

more special types inherit this information from their supertypes

nonredundant representation of information

Linguistic Generalizations in the Type Hierarchy

- types are arranged in a hierarchy
- the most general type is at the top
- information about properties of an object of a certain type are specified in the definition of the type
- subtypes inherit these properties

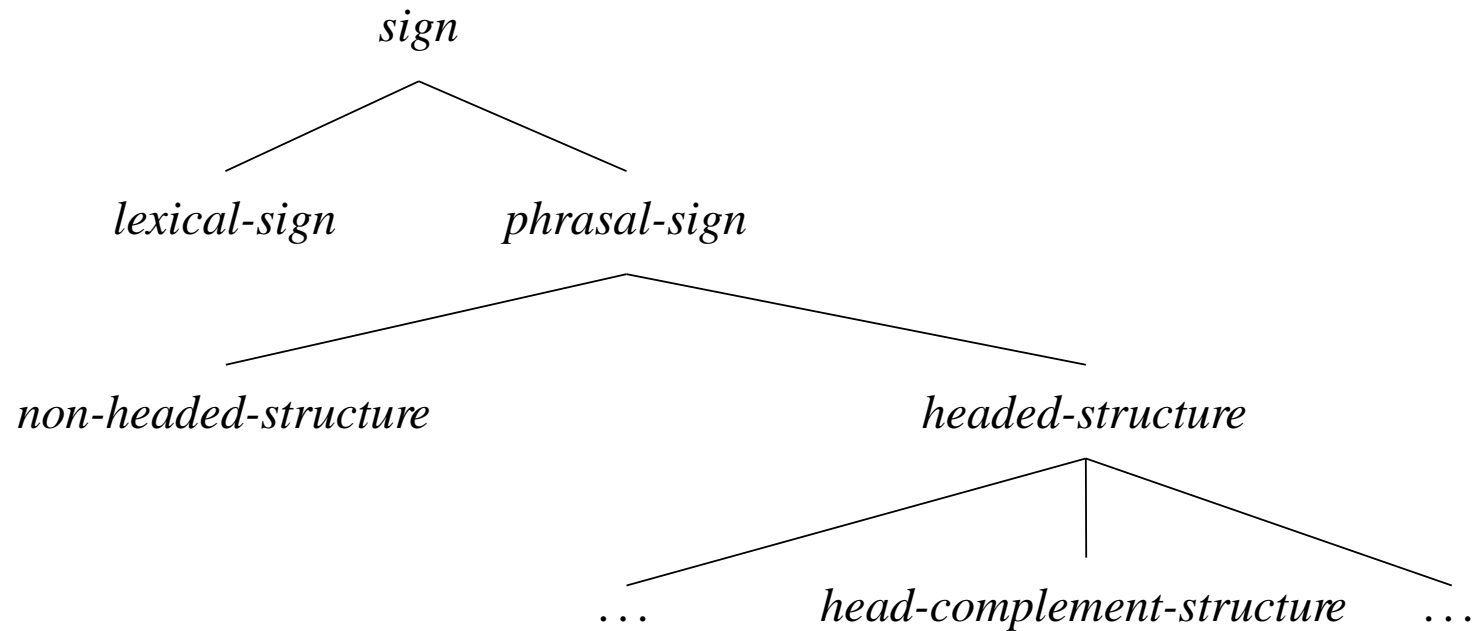
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Linguistic Generalizations in the Type Hierarchy

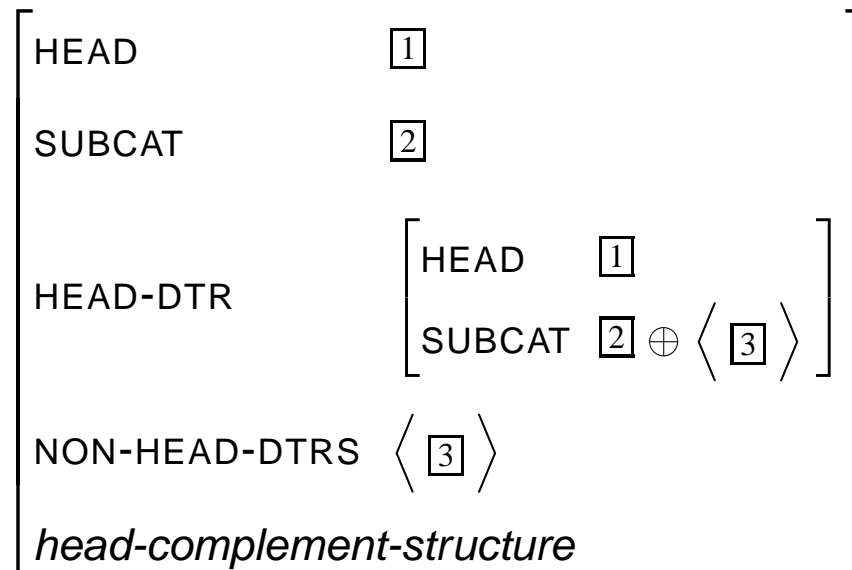
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- subtypes inherit these properties
- example: entry in an encyclopedia. references to superconcepts, no repetition of the information that is stated at the superconcept already
- the upper part of a type hierarchy is relevant for all languages (Universal Grammar)
- more specific types may be specific for classes of languages or for one particular language

Type Hierarchy for *sign*



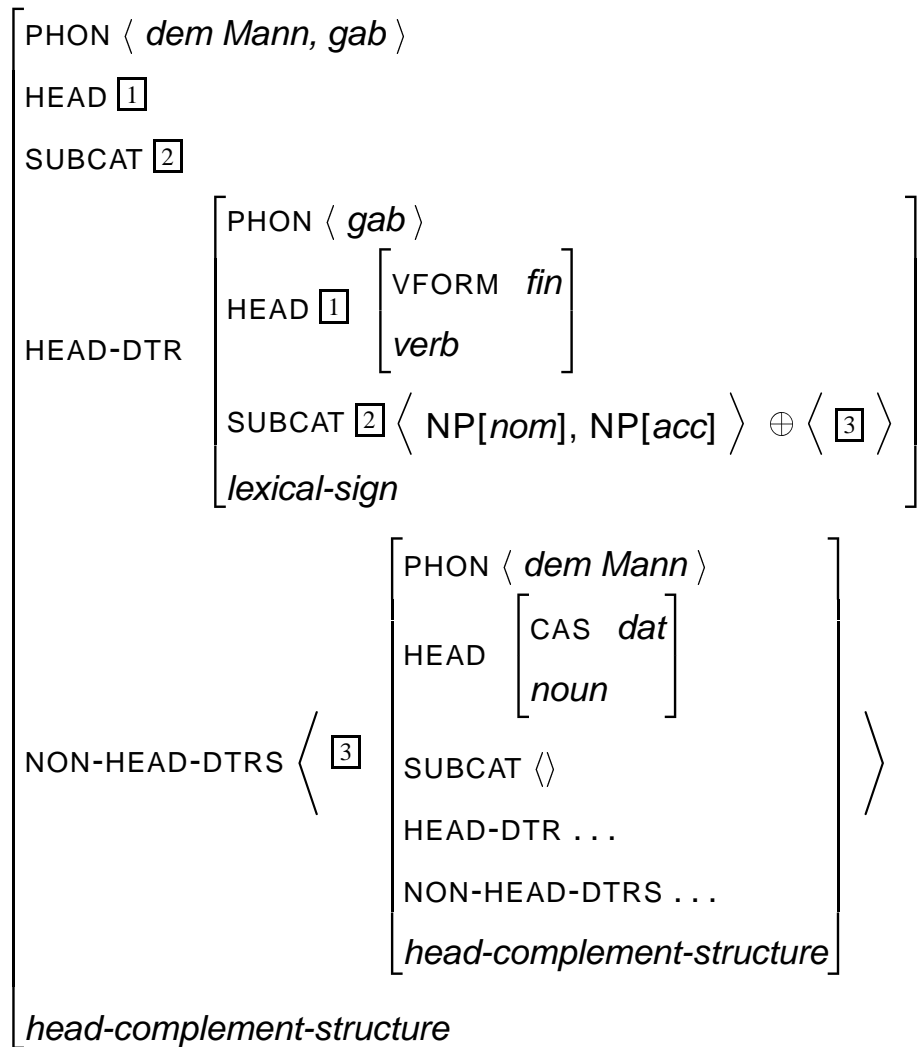
all subtypes of *headed-structure* inherit the constraints

Head Complement Schema + Head Feature Principle



Type *head-complement-structure* with information inherited from *headed-structure*

Head Complement Structure with Head Information Shared



Outline

- Phrase Structure Grammars
- The Formalism
- Valence and Grammar Rules
- Complementation
- **Semantics**
- Adjunction
- The Lexicon

Semantics

- Pollard and Sag (1987) and Ginzburg and Sag (2001) assume Situation Semantics (Barwise and Perry, 1983; Cooper, Mukai and Perry, 1990; Devlin, 1992)

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- I will use Situation Semantics.

Individuals, Circumstances and Situations

- persistent things that belong to the causal order of the world, objects that we can track perceptually and affect by acting upon them: individuals (*Karl, the woman, the fear, the promise*)

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 - one: *die*
 - two: *love*
 - three: *give*
 - four: *buy*

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 - zero: *rain*
 - one: *die*
 - two: *love*
 - three: *give*
 - four: *buy*
- semantic roles: Fillmore (1968, 1977), Kunze (1991)
AGENT, PATIENT, EXPERIENCER, SOURCE, GOAL, THEME, LOCATION,
TRANS-OBJ, INSTRUMENT, MEANS, and PROPOSITION
- roles are needed in order to capture generalizations: linking

Parameterized State of Affairs

- State of Affairs: *state of affairs (soa)*
- Verb: $\ll beat, agent : X, patient : Y; 1 \gg$
- Adjective: $\ll red, theme : X; 1 \gg$
- Noun: $\ll man, instance : X; 1 \gg$
- parameterized state of affairs (*psoa*)
- Verb

(7) The man beats the dog.

$\ll beat, agent : X, patient : Y; 1 \gg$

$X | \ll man, instance : X; 1 \gg,$

$Y | \ll dog, instance : Y; 1 \gg$

- Adjective

(8) The girl is smart.

$\ll smart, theme : X; 1 \gg$

$X | \ll girl, instance : X; 1 \gg$

Circumstances and Feature Structure Representations

◀◀ *beat*, *agent* : *X*, *patient* : *Y*; 1 ▶▶

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGENT } X \\ \text{PATIENT } Y \\ \textit{beat} \end{array} \right]$$

◀◀ *man*, *instance* : *X*; 1 ▶▶

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INST } X \\ \textit{man} \end{array} \right]$$

◀◀ *woman*, *instance* : *X*; 0 ▶▶

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{ARG} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INST } X \\ \textit{woman} \end{array} \right] \\ \textit{neg} \end{array} \right]$$

Representation in Feature Descriptions: the CONT value

- possible feature geometry (CONT = CONTENT):

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & \textit{list of phonemes} \\ \text{HEAD} & \textit{head} \\ \text{SUBCAT} & \textit{list} \\ \text{CONT} & \textit{cont} \end{array} \right]$$

- more structure, separation of syntactic and semantic information (CAT = CATEGORY)

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & \textit{list of phonemes} \\ \text{CAT} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{head} \\ \text{SUBCAT} & \textit{list} \\ & \textit{cat} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} & \textit{cont} \end{array} \right]$$

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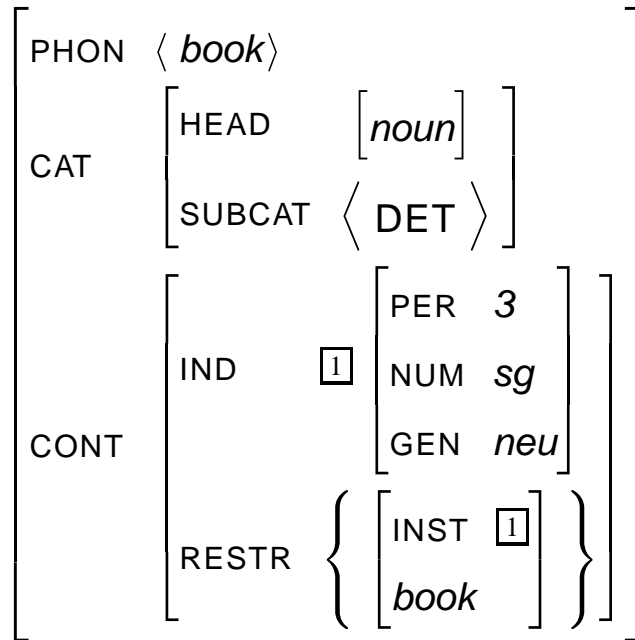
$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{PHON} & \textit{list of phonemes} \\ \text{CAT} & \left[\begin{array}{ll} \text{HEAD} & \textit{head} \\ \text{SUBCAT} & \textit{list} \\ & \textit{cat} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} & \textit{cont} \end{array} \right]$$

- → sharing of syntactic information can be expressed easily
- example: symmetric coordination: the CAT values of conjuncts are identical

- (9) a. the man and the woman
b. He knows and loves this record.
c. He is stupid and arrogant.

The Semantic Contribution of Nominal Objects

- Index (like discourse referents in DRT (Kamp and Reyle, 1993))
- Restrictions



- person, number, and gender are important for resolving references:

- (10) a. The woman_{*i*} bought a table_{*j*}. She_{*i*} likes it_{*j*}.
 b. Die Frau_{*i*} hat einen Tisch_{*j*} gekauft. Sie_{*i*} mag ihn_{*j*}.

Abbreviations

$NP_{[3,sg,fem]}$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[\textit{noun} \right] \\ \text{SUBCAT} \langle \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT|IND} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER} \ 3 \\ \text{NUM} \ \textit{sg} \\ \text{GEN} \ \textit{fem} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Abbreviations

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$\bar{N}: \boxed{1}$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} \left[\textit{noun} \right] \\ \text{SUBCAT} \langle \text{DET} \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} \ \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$$

The Feature Structure Representation of Circumstances

$\ll beat, agent : X, patient : Y; 1 \gg$

$X | \ll man, instance : X; 1 \gg,$

$Y | \ll dog, instance : Y; 1 \gg$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGENT} \quad \boxed{1} \\ \text{PATIENT} \quad \boxed{2} \\ \textit{beat} \end{array} \right]$$

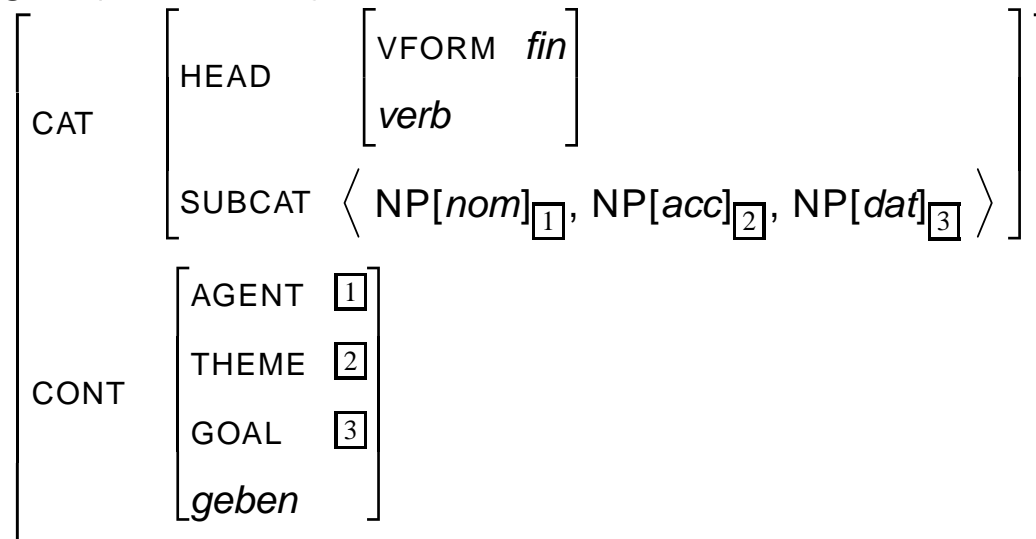
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{IND} \quad \boxed{1} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER} \quad 3 \\ \text{NUM} \quad \textit{sg} \\ \text{GEN} \quad \textit{mas} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RESTR} \quad \left\{ \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INST} \quad \boxed{1} \\ \textit{man} \end{array} \right] \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{IND} \quad \boxed{2} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER} \quad 3 \\ \text{NUM} \quad \textit{sg} \\ \text{GEN} \quad \textit{neu} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RESTR} \quad \left\{ \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INST} \quad \boxed{2} \\ \textit{dog} \end{array} \right] \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

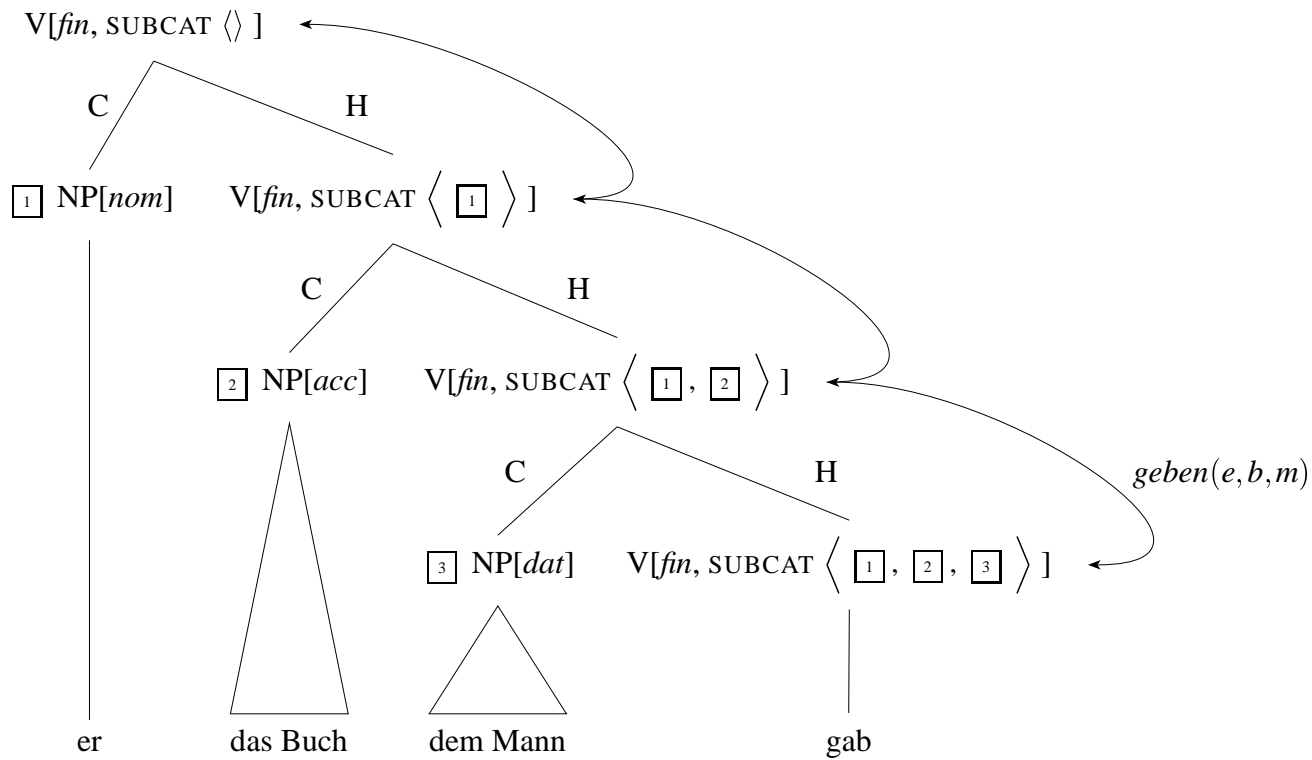
Representation in Feature Descriptions and Linking

- linking between valence and semantic contribution
- type-based
- various valence/linking patterns

gibt (finite Form):

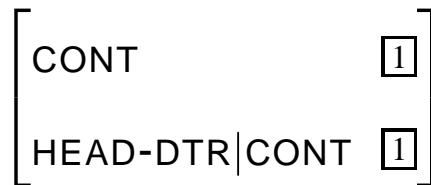


Projection of the Semantic Contribution of the Head

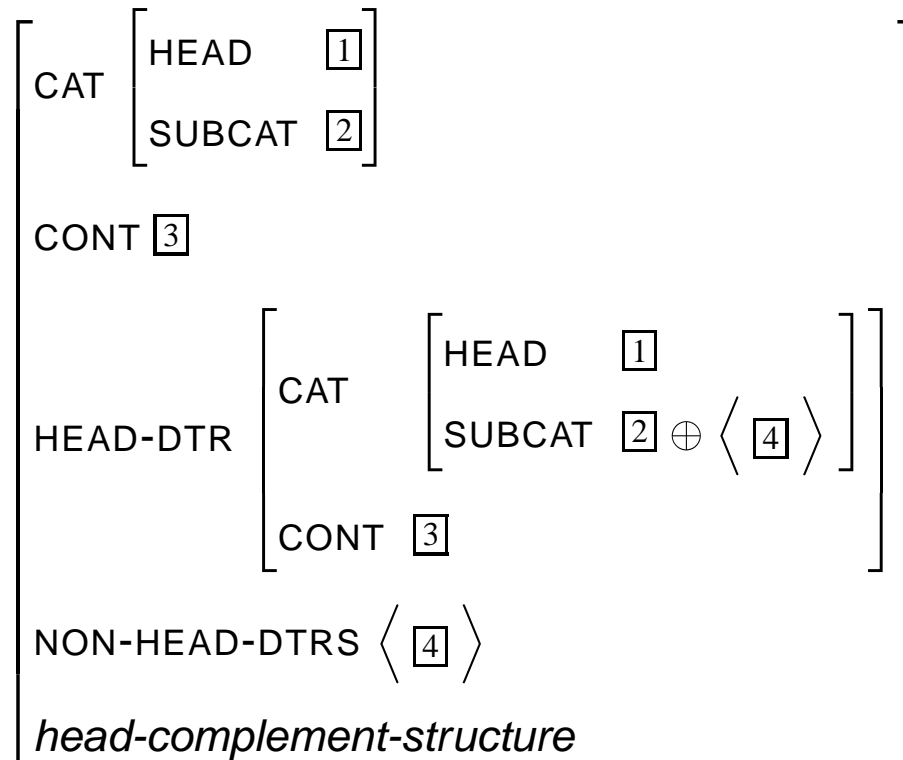


Semantics Principle (preliminary version)

In headed structures the content of the mother is identical to the content of the head daughter.



Head Complement Schema + HFP + SemP



type *head-complement-structure* with information that is inherited from *headed-structure* and Semantics Principle

Outline

- Phrase Structure Grammars
- The Formalism
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- Semantics
- **Adjunction**
- The Lexicon

Complements vs. Adjuncts

Examples for adjuncts:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| adjectives | a <i>smart</i> woman |
| relative clauses | the man, <i>who Kim loves</i> , |
| | the man, <i>who loves Kim</i> , |
| Adverbs | Karl snores <i>loudly</i> . |

- adjuncts do not fill a semantic role

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- adjuncts do not fill a semantic role
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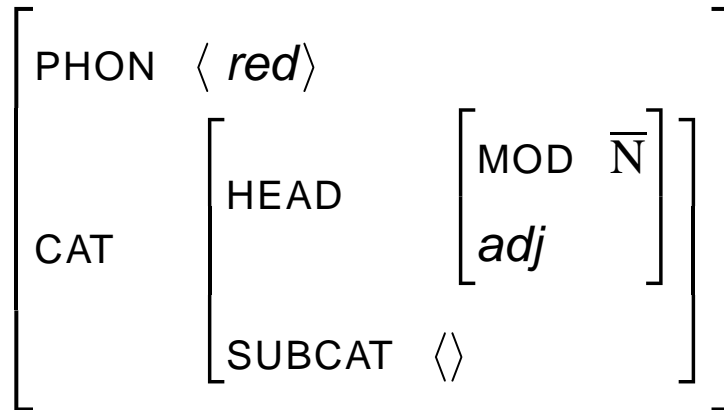
- adjuncts do not fill a semantic role
- adjuncts are optional
- adjuncts can be iterated (11a), complements cannot (11b)

- (11) a. a smart beautiful woman
b. * The man the man sleeps.

Adjunction

- adjunct selects head via MODIFIED

(12) the red book

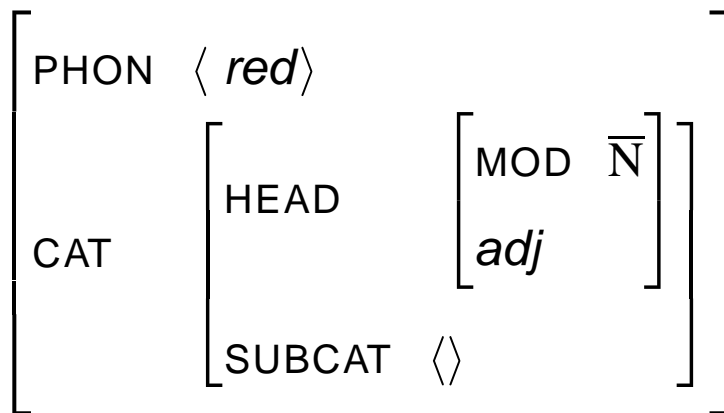


- adjectives select an almost saturated nominal projection
- elements that do not modify other elements have the MOD value *none*

Adjunction

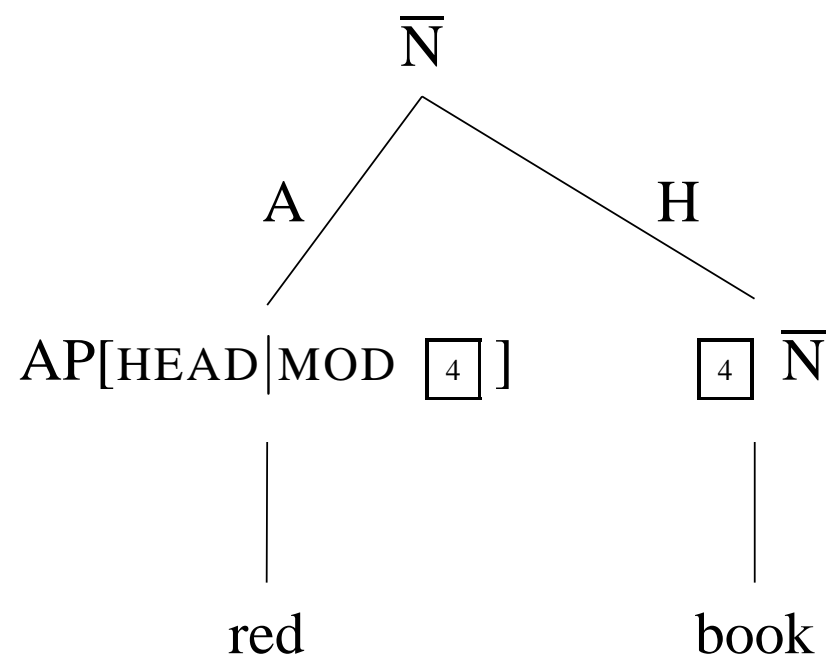
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(12) the red book



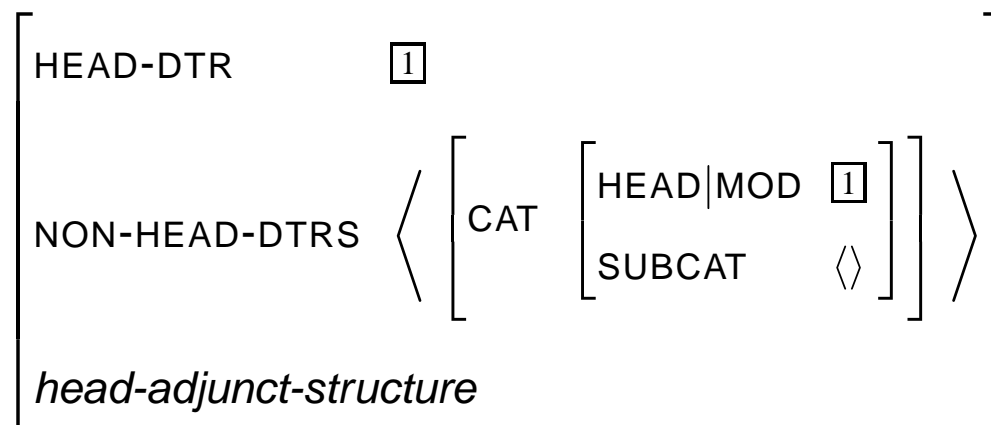
- adjectives select an almost saturated nominal projection
- elements that do not modify other elements have the MOD value *none*
- alternative:
head contains description of all possible adjuncts (Pollard and Sag, 1987)
problematic because of iteratability (Pollard and Sag, 1994)

Head Adjunct Structure (Selection)



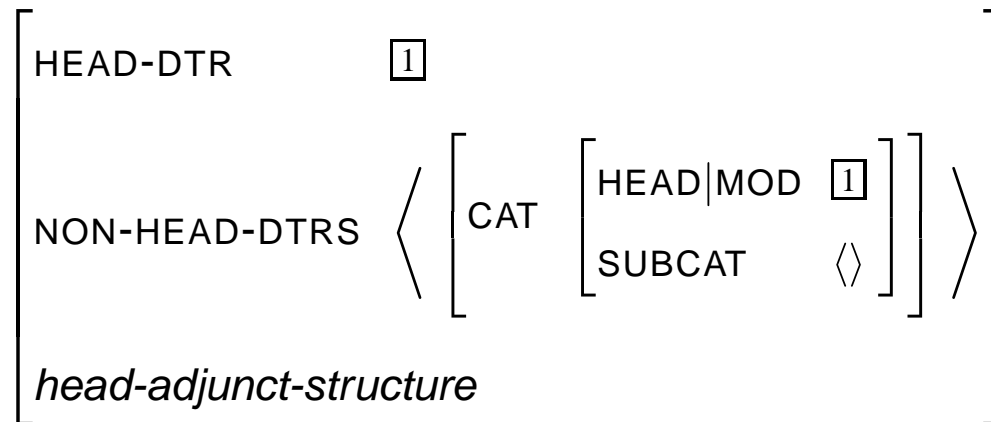
H = Head, A = Adjunct (= Non-Head)

Schema 2 (Head Adjunct Schema (preliminary version))



- the value of the selection feature of the adjunct ($\boxed{1}$) gets identified with the head daughter

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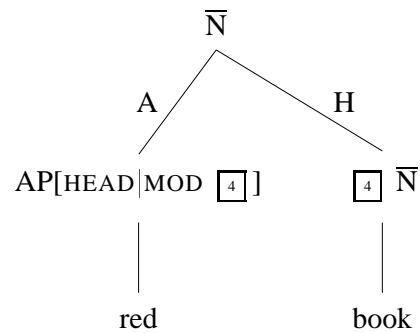
- the value of the selection feature of the adjunct ($\boxed{1}$) gets identified with the head daughter
- the adjunct must be saturated (SUBCAT $\langle \rangle$):

- (13) a. the sausage in the cupboard
 b. * the sausage in

Why is MOD a Head Feature?

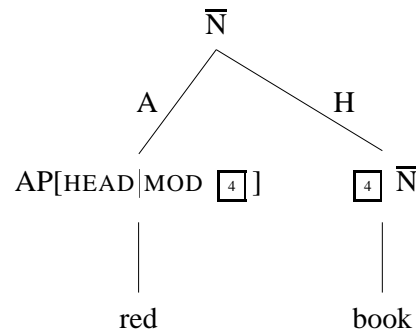
- like adjectives, prepositional phrases can modify
- adjuncts must be saturated in order to be able to modify
- the feature that selects the head to be modified has to be present at the maximal projection of the adjunct
- $P + NP = PP$
PP modifies \bar{N}
- MOD has to be present in the lexicon (P) and at a phrasal level (PP)
project it explicitly or put it in a place that is projected anyway
→ head feature

The Semantic Contribution in Head Adjunct Structures



- From where does the semantic representation at the mother node come?
- the meaning of *book* is fixed: $\text{book}(X)$
- possibility: projection of meaning representation of both daughters
- $\text{red}(\text{red}(X)) + \text{book}(\text{book}(Y)) = \text{red}(X) \ \& \ \text{book}(X)$

The Semantic Contribution in Head Adjunct Structures



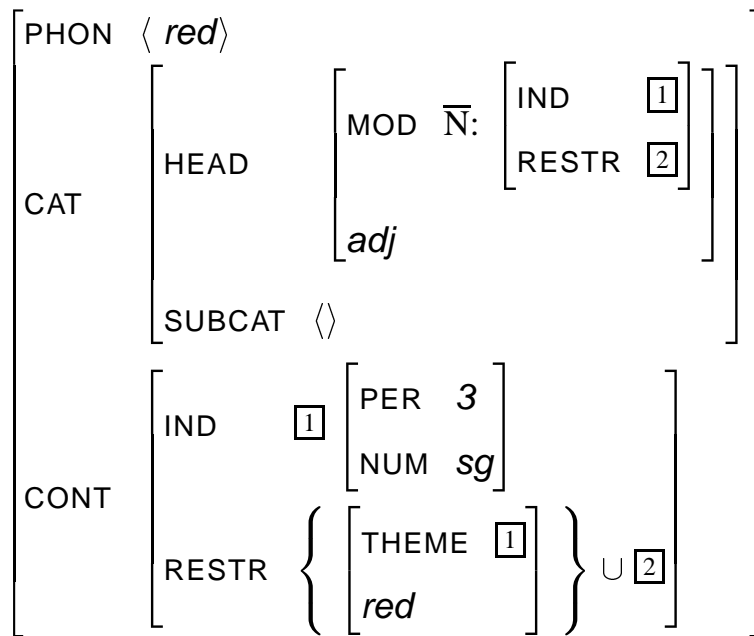
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- possibility: projection of meaning representation of both daughters
- $red (red(X)) + book (book(Y)) = red(X) \& book(X)$
- but:

(14) the alleged murderer

$alleged (alleged(X)) + murderer (murderer(Y)) \neq alleged(X) \& murderer(X)$

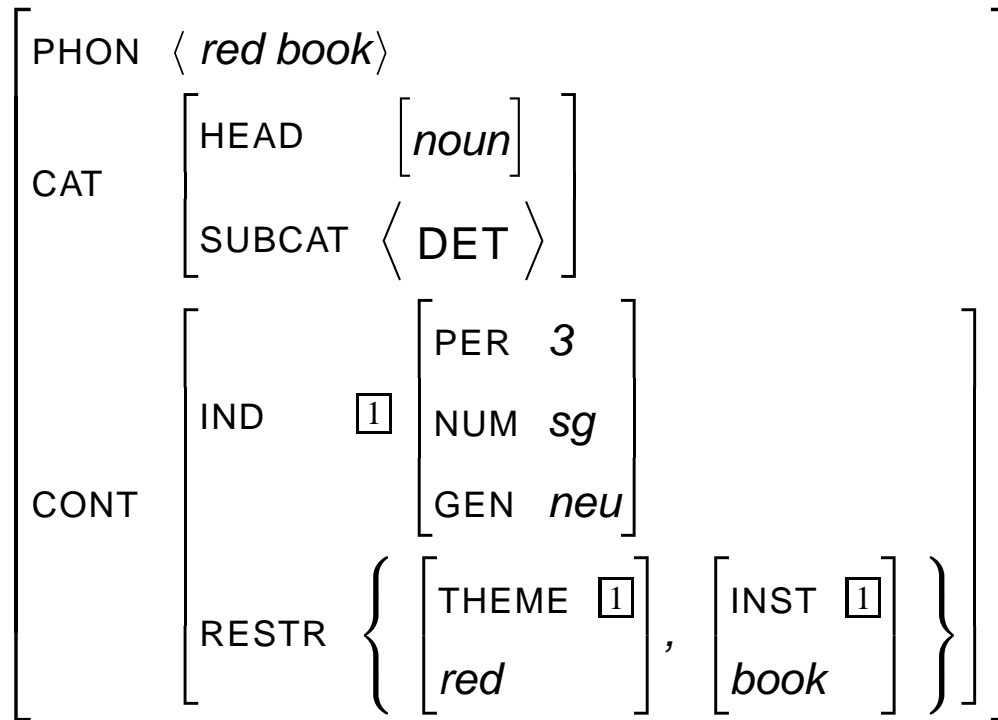
- alternative: representation of the meaning at the adjunct:
 The meaning of the mother node is encoded in the lexical entry for *red* and *alleged*.
 The meaning of the modified head is integrated into the meaning of the modifier.

Entry of the Adjective with Semantic Contribution



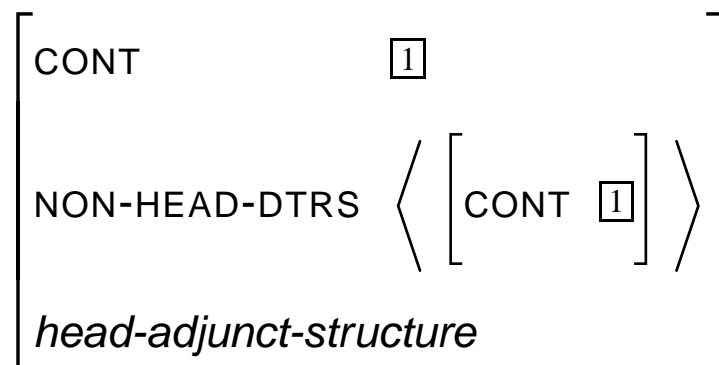
- adjective selects noun to be modified via MOD →
 adjective can access CONT value of the noun (index and restrictions) →
 adjective may include restrictions ($\boxed{2}$) into its own semantic contribution
 identification of indices ($\boxed{1}$) ensures that adjective and noun refer to the same discourse referent
- semantic contribution of the complete structure is projected from the adjunct

The Result of the Combination



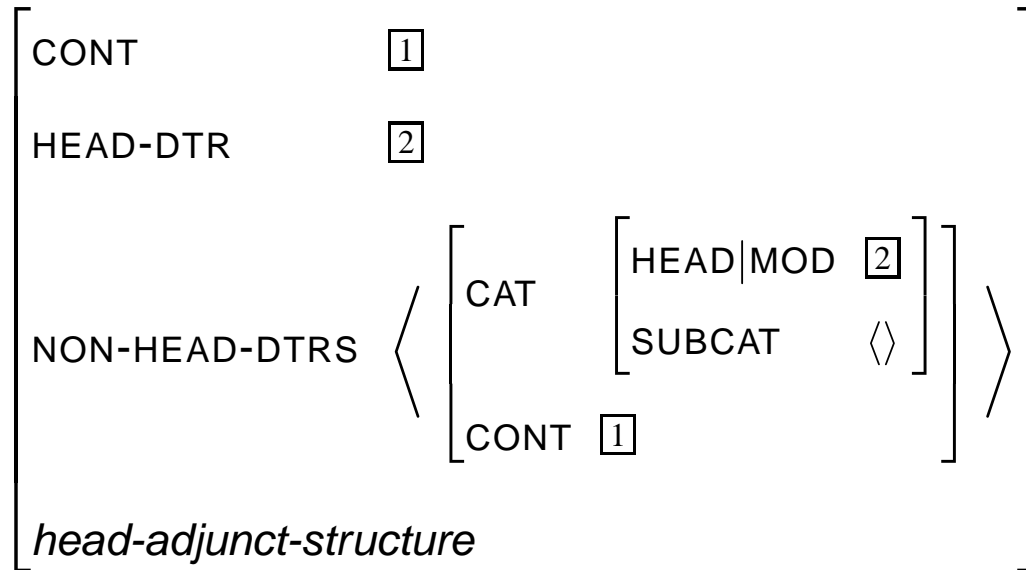
meaning of *red book* is not represented in *book* but in the adjective → projection of the semantic contribution from the adjunct

Projection of the Meaning in Head Adjunct Structures



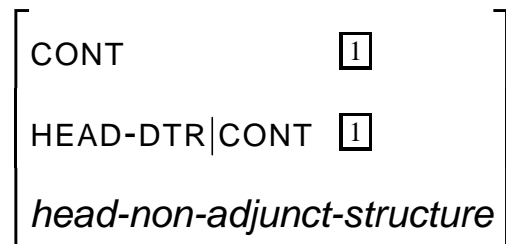
The Complete Head Adjunct Schema

Schema 3 (Head Adjunct Schema)

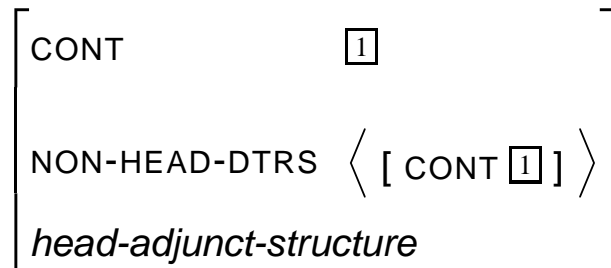


The Semantics Principle

In headed structures which are not head adjunct structures, the semantic contribution of the mother is identical to the semantic contribution of the head daughter.



In head adjunct structures, the semantic contribution of the mother is identical to the semantic contribution of the adjunct daughter.



Headed structures (*headed-structure*) are subtypes of either *head-non-adjunct-structure* or *head-adjunct-structure*.

Valence in Head Adjunct Structures

book has the same valence like *red book*: a determiner is missing

adjunction does not change valence

valence information at the mother node is identical to the valence information of the head daughter

formal:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \textit{head-non-complement-structure} \end{array} \right]$$

In structures of type *head-non-complement-structure*, no argument gets saturated. The subcat value of the mother is identical to the subcat value of the head daughter.

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Remark:

head-non-complement-structure and *head-complement-structure* have a complementary distribution in the type hierarchy.

I. e., all structures of type *headed-structure* that are not of type *head-complement-structure* are of type *head-non-complement-structure*.

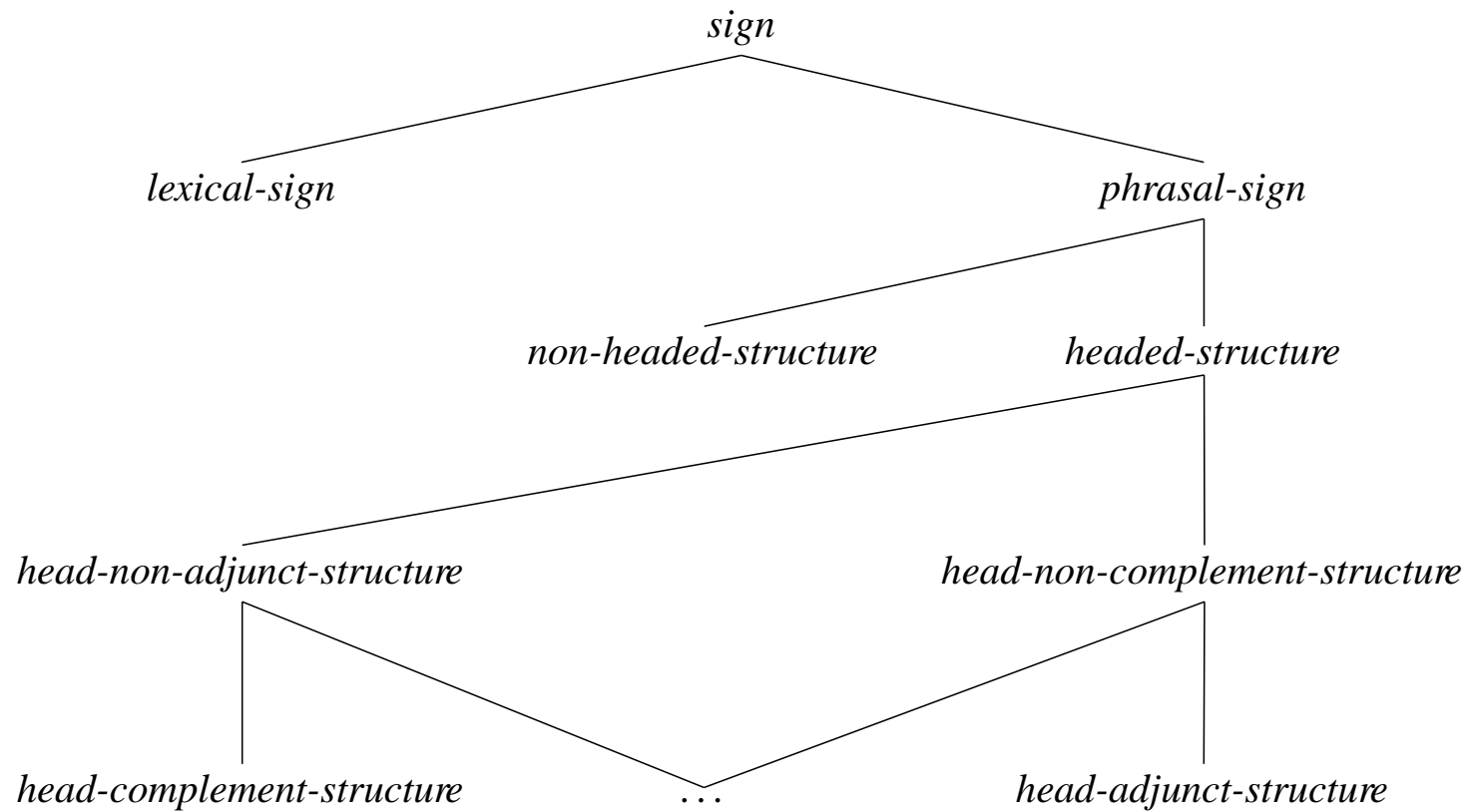
Subcat Principle

In headed structures the subcat list of the mother is the subcat list of the head daughter minus the complements that were realized as complement daughters.

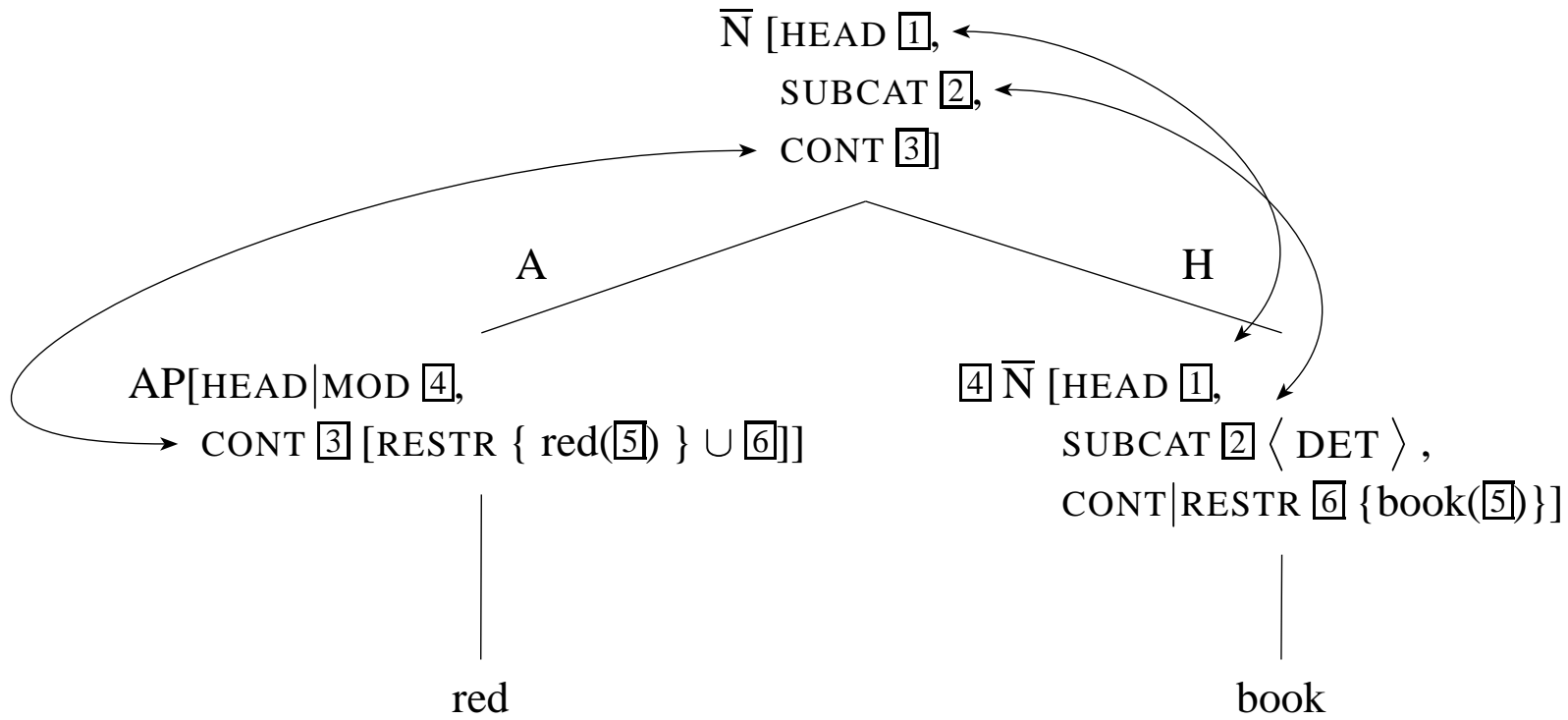
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \oplus \boxed{2} \\ \text{NON-HEAD-DTRS } \boxed{2} \text{ } \textit{ne-list} \\ \textit{head-complement-structure} \end{array} \right]$$
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \text{HEAD-DTR|CAT|SUBCAT } \boxed{1} \\ \textit{head-non-complement-structure} \end{array} \right]$$

Structures with head (*headed-structure*) are subtypes of either *head-complement-structure* or *head-non-complement-structure*.

Type Hierarchy for *sign*



Head Adjunct Structure (Selection, Semantics, HFP, ...)



Outline

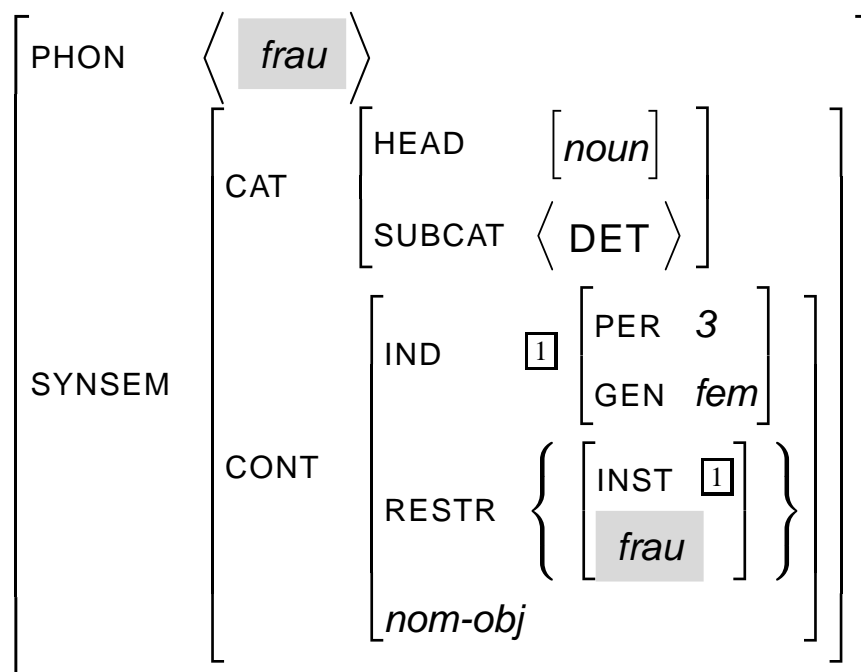
- Why Syntax? / Phrase Structure Grammars
- The Formalism
- Valence and Grammar Rules
- Complementation
- Semantics
- Adjunction
- **The Lexicon**

The Lexicon

- lexicalization → enormous reduction of the number of immediate dominance rules
- lexical entries are very complex
- necessary to structure and crossclassify information → capturing of generalizations & avoiding redundancy
- type hierarchies and lexical rules

The Complexity of a Lexical Entry for a Count Noun

a lexical entry for the root of the count noun *Frau* ('woman'):



just very few information is idiosyncratic

Factoring Out Common Information

a. all nouns

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|HEAD } [noun] \\ \text{CONT } nom-obj \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Factoring Out Common Information

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$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \\ \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|HEAD } [noun] \\ \text{CONT } nom-obj \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

b. all referential non-pronominal nouns that take a determiner (in addition to a)

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \\ \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \\ \text{CONT} \end{array} \right] \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SUBCAT } \langle \text{DET} \rangle \\ \text{IND } \boxed{1} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER } 3 \end{array} \right] \\ \text{RESTR } \left\{ \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{INST } \boxed{1} \\ psoa \end{array} \right], \dots \right\} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

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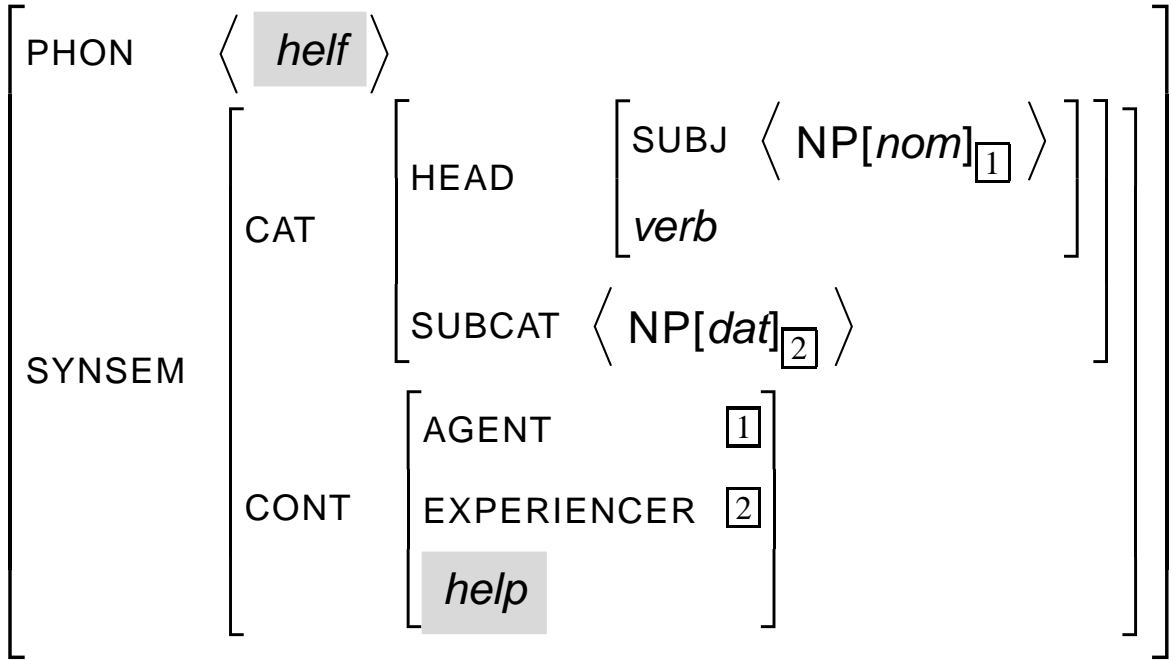
c. all feminine nouns (in addition to a und b)

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM|CONT|IND|GEN } fem \right]$$

Factoring Out Common Information

a lexical entry for a verb with dative complement:

help- ('help', lexical entry (root)):



a. all verbs

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SYNSEM} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT|HEAD} \left[\textit{verb} \right] \\ \text{CONT} \left[\textit{psoa} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

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b. transitive verbs with a dative object (in addition to a)

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM} \left[\text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD|SUBJ} \left\langle \text{NP}[\textit{nom}] \right\rangle \\ \text{SUBCAT} \left\langle \text{NP}[\textit{dat}] \right\rangle \end{array} \right] \right] \right]$$

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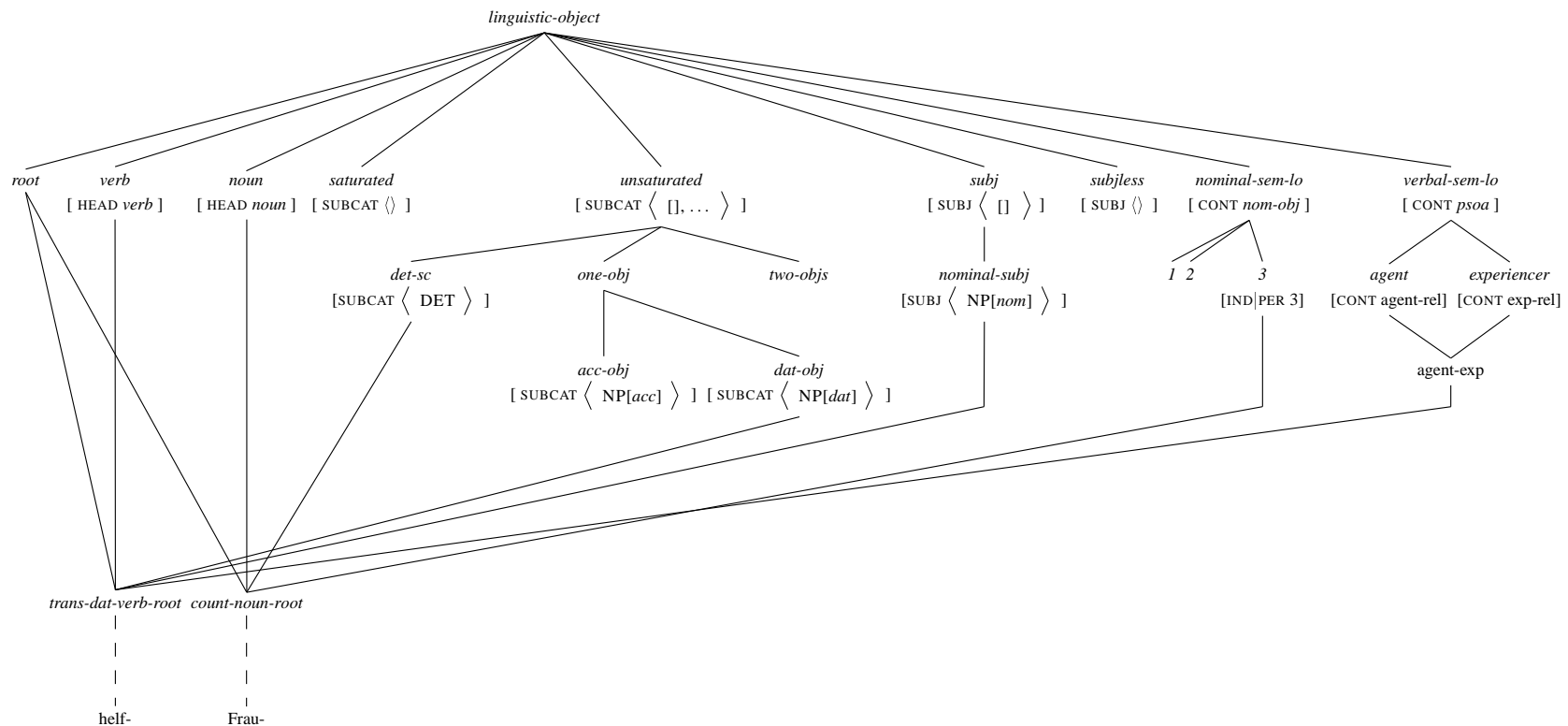
b. transitive verbs with a dative object (in addition to a)

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM} \left[\text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD|SUBJ} \langle \text{NP[nom]} \rangle \\ \text{SUBCAT} \langle \text{NP[dat]} \rangle \end{array} \right] \right] \right]$$

c. all transitive verbs with AGENT and EXPERIENCER
(in addition to a)

$$\left[\text{SYNSEM} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD|SUBJ} \langle [\text{CONT|IND } \boxed{1}] \rangle \\ \text{SUBCAT} \langle [\text{CONT|IND } \boxed{2}] \rangle \end{array} \right] \\ \text{CONT} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGENT} \quad \boxed{1} \\ \text{EXPERIENCER} \quad \boxed{2} \\ \text{agent-exp} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \right]$$

Part of an Example Type Hierarchy



- add appropriate paths:
[SUBCAT <>] stands for [SYNSEM|CAT|SUBCAT <>]
- constraints will be inherited top down from the supertypes
- instances connected via dotted line

Examples for Lexical Entries

[PHON ⟨ *frau* ⟩
CONT|RESTR { [*frau*] }
count-noun-root]

[PHON ⟨ *helf* ⟩
CONT [*helf*]
trans-dat-verb-root]

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 - *woman* and *man*
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- But there are other regularities:
 - *kick* and *kicked* as used in *was kicked*
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- But there are other regularities:
 - *kick* and *kicked* as used in *was kicked*
 - *love* and *loved* as used in *was loved*
- Words in the pairs could be put in the type hierarchy (as subtypes of intransitive and transitive), but then it would not be obvious that the valence change is due to the same process.

Lexical Rules

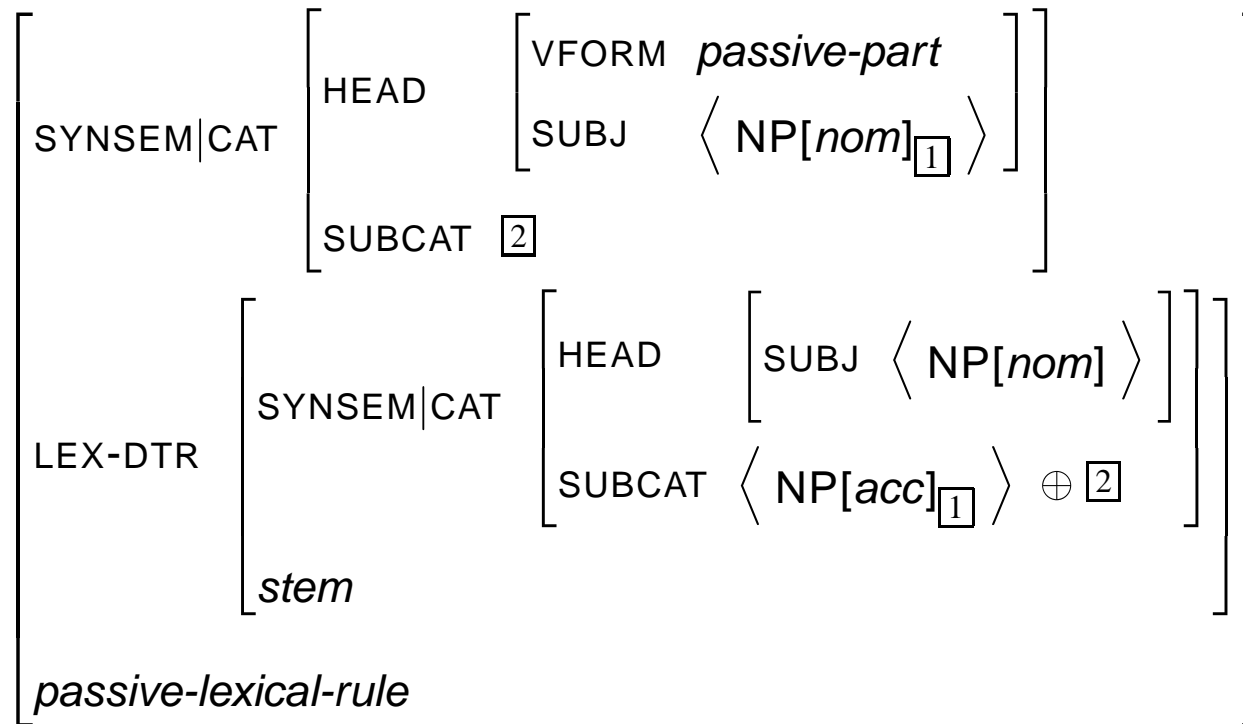
- Instead: Lexical Rules

Jackendoff (1975), Williams (1981), Bresnan (1982), Shieber, Uszkoreit, Pereira, Robinson and Tyson (1983), Flickinger, Pollard and Wasow (1985), Flickinger (1987), Copestake and Briscoe (1992), Meurers (2000)

Lexical Rules

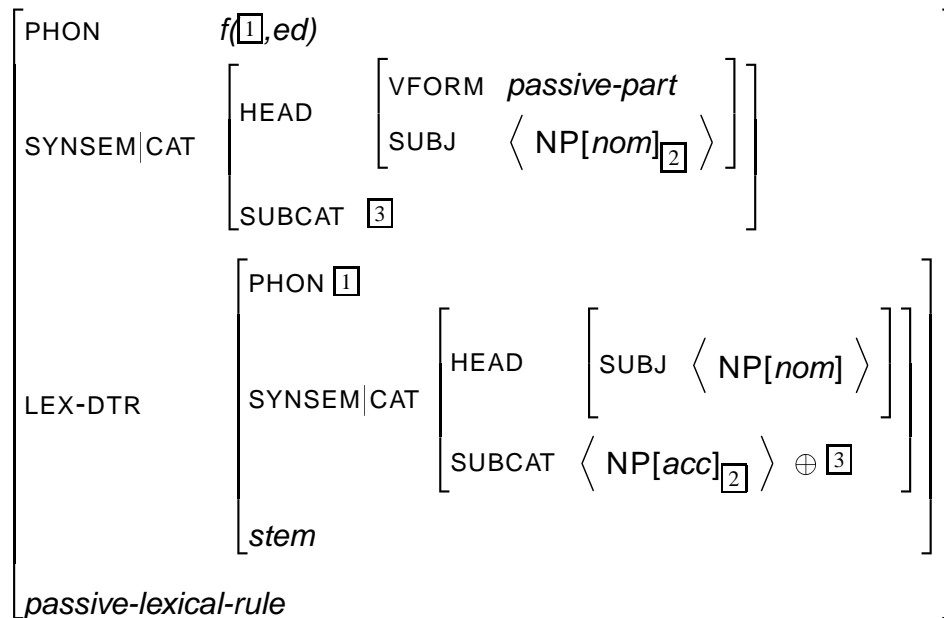
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- A lexical rule relates a description of the stem to an description of the passive form.

Lexical Rule for Passive



- (15) a. The man kicks the dog.
 b. The dog is kicked.

Lexical Rule for Passive with Morphology



- f is a relation that relates the PHON value of the LEX-DAUGHTER to its participle form (*walk* → *walked*)
- *lexical-sign* \succ *passive-lexical-rule*
- such LRs are equivalent to unary projections
- since LRs are typed, generalizations over lexical rules are possible
- alternative to lexical rules: head affix structures that are similar to binary syntactic structures

General Information about HPSG

- HPSG framework: <http://hpsg.stanford.edu/>
- Literature: <http://www.dfki.de/lt/HPSG/>
- systems
 - Development Systems
 - * ALE, CMU & Tübingen, Carpenter and Penn (1996); Penn and Carpenter (1999)
<http://www.sfs.nphil.uni-tuebingen.de/~gpenn/ale.html>
 - * LKB, CSLI Stanford (Copestake, 1999)
<http://hpsg.stanford.edu>
 - * PAGE, DFKI Saarbrücken (Uszkoreit et. al., 1994)
<http://www.dfki.de/pas/f2w.cgi?lts/page-e>
 - * (Babel), DFKI Saarbrücken (Müller, 1996)
http://www.dfki.de/~stefan/Babel/e_index.html
 - Runtime Systems
 - * LIGHT, DFKI Saarbrücken (Ciortuz, 2000)
 - * PET, DFKI Saarbrücken (Callmeier, In Press)
 - Others
 - * <http://registry.dfki.de/>

Applications

- General source of knowledge about language
 - extraction of subgrammars
 - extraction of CF-PSGs (Kiefer and Krieger, 2000)
 - explanation based learning (Neumann, 1997; Neumann and Flickinger, 1999)
- Speech/Translation
 - *Verbmobil* (Wahlster, 2000) <http://verbmobil.dfki.de/>
 - * German (Müller and Kasper, 2000)
 - * English (Flickinger, Copestake and Sag, 2000)
 - * Japanese (Siegel, 2000)
- Translation
 - German/Turkish (Kopru, 1999) using Babel
- Information Extraction
 - Whiteboard, DFKI Saarbrücken
- E-Mail Systems / Customer Interaction
 - YY: <http://www.yy.com> (English, Japanese, . . .)

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Feature Structures

- feature structure
- attribute-value matrix
- feature matrix
- Shieber (1986), Pollard and Sag (1987), Johnson (1988), Carpenter (1992), King (1994)

Def. 2 (Feature Structure—Preliminary Version)

A feature structure is a set of pairs of the form [ATTRIBUTE value].

ATTRIBUTE is an element of the set of feature names ATTR.

The component value is

- *atomic (a string)*
- *or again a feature structure.*

Feature Structures – Examples

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & W1 \\ A2 & W2 \\ A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & W1 \\ A2 & \begin{bmatrix} A21 & W21 \\ A22 & \begin{bmatrix} A221 & W221 \\ A222 & W222 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix}$$

the empty feature structure:

[]

Path

Def. 3 *A path in a feature structure is a continuous sequence of attributes in the feature structure. The value of a path is the feature structure at the end of the path.*

Structure Sharing

- (16) a. Hans sleeps.
b. * Hans sleep.

Def. 4 *If two features in a feature structure have identical values, they are said to share a structure. This identity remains when the feature structure is used in operations. The value of the features is represented only once in the feature structure. The identity is marked by coindexation (little boxed numbers, e.g. $\boxed{1}$).*

other terms: coreference, reentrancy

Structure Sharing

A1 and A2 are token-identical:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & \boxed{1} & \begin{bmatrix} A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix} \\ A2 & \boxed{1} & \end{bmatrix}$$

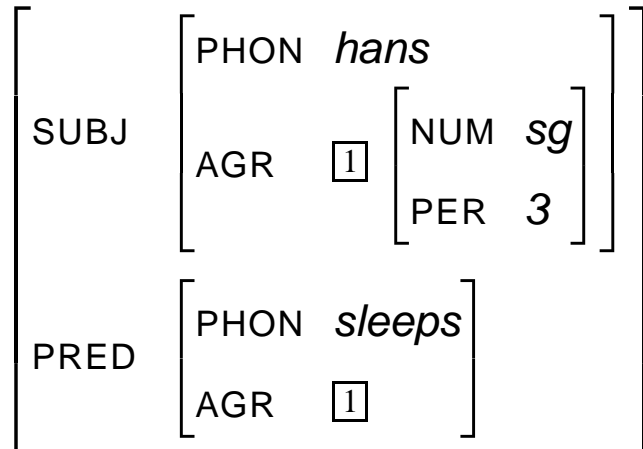
A1 and A2 are equal:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A1 & \begin{bmatrix} A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix} \\ A2 & \begin{bmatrix} A3 & W3 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

difference for structure manipulations

Subject Verb Agreement and Structure Sharing

- (17) a. Hans sleeps.
b. *Hans sleep.



Subsumption

Def. 5 A feature structure $F1$ **subsumes** a feature structure $F2$ ($F1 \succeq F2$), iff:

- Every complete path in $F1$ is contained in $F2$ as a complete path and has the same value as in $F1$.
- Every pair of paths in $F1$ that is structure shared is also structure shared in $F2$.

Examples

M1 \succ M2 \succ M7 \succ M8 \succ M9

M1 \succ M4 \succ M6 \succ M7 \succ M8 \succ M9

M1 \succ M3

M1 \succ M4 \succ M5

M1: []

M2: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad np \end{array} \right]$

M3: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad vp \end{array} \right]$

M4: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR} | \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right]$

M5: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad pl \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

M6: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad sg \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

M7: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad np \\ \text{AGR} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad sg \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

M8: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad np \\ \text{AGR} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad sg \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBJ} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad sg \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$

M9: $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{CAT} \quad np \\ \text{AGR} \quad \boxed{1} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM} \quad sg \\ \text{PER} \quad 3 \end{array} \right] \\ \text{SUBJ} \quad \boxed{1} \end{array} \right]$

Unification

Def. 6 *Let $F1$, $F2$ and $F3$ be feature structures.*

*$F3$ is the **unification** of $F1$ and $F2$ ($F3 = F1 \wedge F2$), iff*

- *$F1$ and $F2$ subsume $F3$ and*
- *$F3$ subsumes all other feature structures that are also subsumed by $F1$ and $F2$*

Examples

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \end{bmatrix} \wedge \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \end{bmatrix} \wedge \begin{bmatrix} \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{PER} & 3 \\ \text{NUM} & sg \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \\ \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{PER} & 3 \\ \text{NUM} & sg \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \end{bmatrix} \wedge \begin{bmatrix} \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{PER} & 3 \\ \text{NUM} & sg \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & np \\ \text{AGR} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{PER} & 3 \\ \text{NUM} & sg \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SUBJ} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUM} & sg \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Unification and Structure Sharing

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{SUBJ } \boxed{1} \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM } sg \end{array} \right] \right] \wedge \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ } \\ \text{PER } 3 \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR } \boxed{1} \\ \text{SUBJ } \boxed{1} \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM } sg \\ \text{PER } 3 \end{array} \right] \right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR} \\ \text{SUBJ} \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM } sg \\ \text{NUM } sg \end{array} \right] \right] \wedge \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{SUBJ} \\ \text{PER } 3 \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{AGR} \\ \text{SUBJ} \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{NUM } sg \\ \text{NUM } sg \\ \text{PER } 3 \end{array} \right] \right]$$

Lists

Lists of feature structures are introduced as a shorthand.

A list $\langle A_1, A_2, A_3 \rangle$ can be written as:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{FIRST } A_1 \\ \text{REST } \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{FIRST } A_2 \\ \text{REST } \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{FIRST } A_3 \\ \text{REST } \textit{nil} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

$\langle \rangle$ stands for the empty list, i.e., a list with no elements

Functions and Relations

$$\text{append}(\langle X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \rangle, \langle Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m \rangle) = \langle X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m \rangle$$

symbol for *append*: \oplus

A is the concatenation of the value of B with the value of C:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} A \quad \boxed{1} \oplus \boxed{2} \\ B \quad \boxed{1} \\ C \quad \boxed{2} \end{array} \right]$$

Typed Feature Structures

no restrictions on possible features and their values in a feature structure

$$\left[\text{AGR} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER } 3 \\ \text{NUM } \textit{sg} \end{array} \right] \right]$$
$$\left[\text{COLOR } \textit{blue} \right]$$

compatible, although totally different objects are described

negation and disjunction

$$\neg[\text{NUM } \textit{pl}] \stackrel{?}{=} [\text{NUM } \textit{sg}] \vee [\text{NUM } \textit{17}] \vee [\text{COLOR } \textit{blue}]$$

information unknown or irrelevant or inappropriate

Types and Appropriateness

What features belong to a structure of a given type?

What kind of values do they have?

Example:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \textit{hans} \\ \text{AGR } \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER } 3 \\ \text{NUM } \textit{sg} \\ \textit{agr} \end{array} \right] \\ \textit{construction} \end{array} \right]$$
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \textit{string} \\ \text{AGR } \textit{agr} \\ \textit{construction} \end{array} \right]$$
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER } \textit{per} \\ \text{NUM } \textit{num} \\ \textit{agr} \end{array} \right]$$

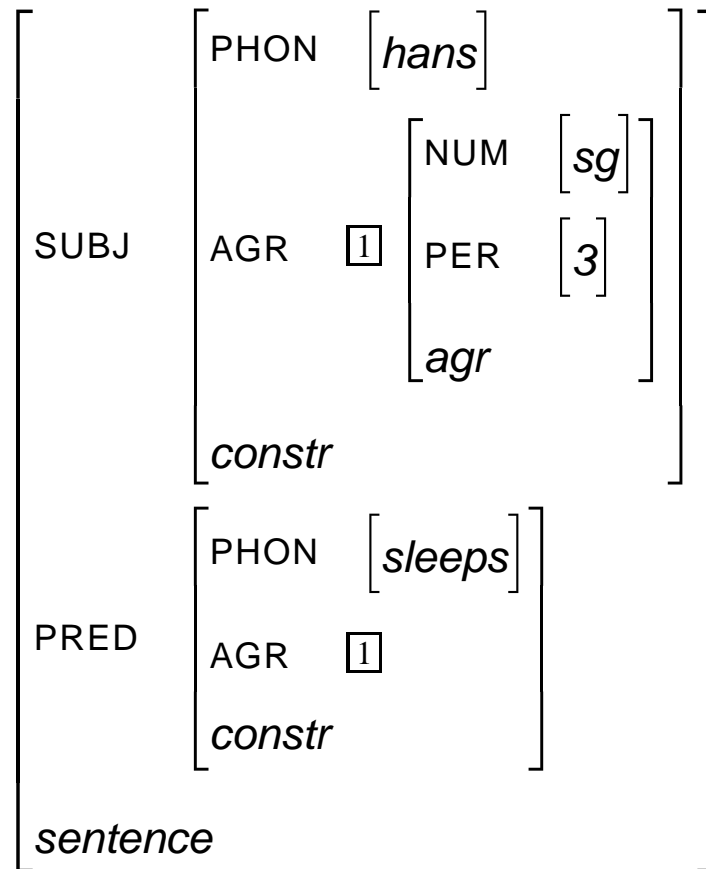
type definition: feature structures of the type *constr* always have the features PHON and AGR

feature structures of the type *agr* always have the features PER and NUM

complex types:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PHON } \textit{string} \\ \text{AGR } \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{PER } 3 \\ \text{NUM } \textit{sg} \\ \textit{agr} \end{array} \right] \\ \textit{3rd-sg-construction} \end{array} \right]$$

Typed Feature Structures



Subsumption and Unification with Types

definition analogous to definition for untyped feature structures

Def. 7 A type $t1$ **subsumes** a type $t2$ ($t1 \succeq t2$) iff

- If $t1$ and $t2$ do not have structure then $t1$ must be at least as specific as $t2$.
- If $t1$ and $t2$ have structure then $t1$ must be at least as specific as $t2$ and Every feature $ATTR$ in feature structures of type $t1$ must be present in feature structures of type $t2$ and for the types $t1_{ATTR}$ and $t2_{ATTR}$ that belong to $ATTR$ the following holds: $t1_{ATTR} \succeq t2_{ATTR}$.

$t1$ is a **supertype** of $t2$ and $t2$ is a **subtype** of $t1$.

Def. 8 Let $t1$, $t2$ and $t3$ be types. $t3$ is the **unification** of $t1$ and $t2$, iff

- $t1$ and $t2$ subsume $t3$ and
- $t3$ subsumes all types t that are also subsumed by $t1$ and $t2$

An Example

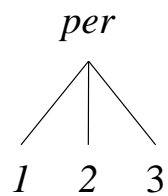
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A1 & a \\ A2 & \begin{bmatrix} A21 & c \\ b \end{bmatrix} \\ aa \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} A1 & a \\ A2 & \begin{bmatrix} A21 & c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \\ A3 & e \\ bb \end{bmatrix}$$

$A \preceq B$, if $aa \preceq bb$ and $b \preceq d$

Atomic and Complex Types in Inheritance Hierarchies

atomic:



similar hierarchies with complex types

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