

LCG 1
LCG 2 (2 sections)
LCG 3

A Categorical Grammars



A.1. What are categorial grammars?

- A *lexicon* mapping words to (small) sets of formulas
- A *logic* specifying the meaning and the behaviour of the logical connectives

Universal grammar is a logic. Language variation is restricted to the lexicon.

A.2. AB grammars

/categories
→ syntaxe

Not a logic (yet!) but the foundation of categorial grammars.

syn
gn

n



A.3. Atomic formulas

s (sentence),

np (noun phrase), for example: John, the tall student

n (noun), for example: student, book, ...

Maybe some others: *pp* (for prepositional phrases),
inf (for infinitival phrases), ...

Goal: all grammatical sentence should be derivable
as being of category *s* (in a sense we will make pre-
cise).



A.4. Formulas

Formulas are inductively defined as follows.

- Atomic formulas are formulas.
- If A and B are formulas, then (A/B) (we say A over B) and $(B\backslash A)$ (we say B under A) are formulas.

Intuition: a formula of the form A/B combines with a B to its *right* to form an A , a formula $B\backslash A$ combines with a B to its *left* to form an A .

A.5. Example formulas, example lexicon (strict)

The following are formulas: (np/n) , $(np \setminus s)$, $((np \setminus s)/np)$, $((n \setminus n)/(np \setminus s))$

$\frac{A}{B}$ $\frac{B}{A}$ $\frac{A}{B}$ $\frac{B}{A}$

$\text{Lex}(\text{the}) = \{(np/n)\}$
 $\text{Lex}(\text{an}) = \{(np/n)\}$
 $\text{Lex}(\text{president}) = \{n\}$
 $\text{Lex}(\text{actress}) = \{n\}$
 $\text{Lex}(\text{likes}) = \{((np \setminus s)/np)\}$

A suivi de B se simplifie $\left| \right.$ B suivi de A se simplifie



A.6. Example formulas, example lexicon (sloppy)

The following are formulas: np/n , $np \backslash s$, $(np \backslash s)/np$, $(n \backslash n)/(np \backslash s)$

$$Lex(the) = np/n$$

$$Lex(an) = np/n$$

$$Lex(president) = n$$

$$Lex(actress) = n$$

$$Lex(likes) = (np \backslash s)/np$$



A.7. AB grammars: rules

$$\frac{A/B \quad B}{A} [/ E]$$

$$\frac{B \quad B \backslash A}{A} [\backslash E]$$



A.8. AB grammars: rules

$$\frac{A/B \quad B}{A} [/E]$$

$$\frac{\frac{the}{np/n} \quad \frac{president}{n}}{np} [/E]$$

$$A = np, B = n$$



A.9. AB grammars: rules

$$\frac{A/B \quad B}{A} [/E]$$

$$\frac{\frac{an}{np/n} \quad \frac{actress}{n}}{np} [/E]$$

$$A = np, B = n$$



A.10. AB grammars: rules

$$\frac{A/B \quad B}{A} [/ E]$$

$$\frac{\frac{\text{likes}}{(np \backslash s) / np} \quad \frac{\frac{an}{np / n} \quad \frac{actress}{n}}{np} [/ E]}{np \backslash s} [/ E]$$

$$A = np \backslash s, B = np$$



A.11. AB grammars: rules

$$\frac{B \quad B \backslash A}{A} [\backslash E]$$

likes an actress
 \vdots
 $np \backslash s$

$$B = np, A = s$$



A.12. AB grammars: rules

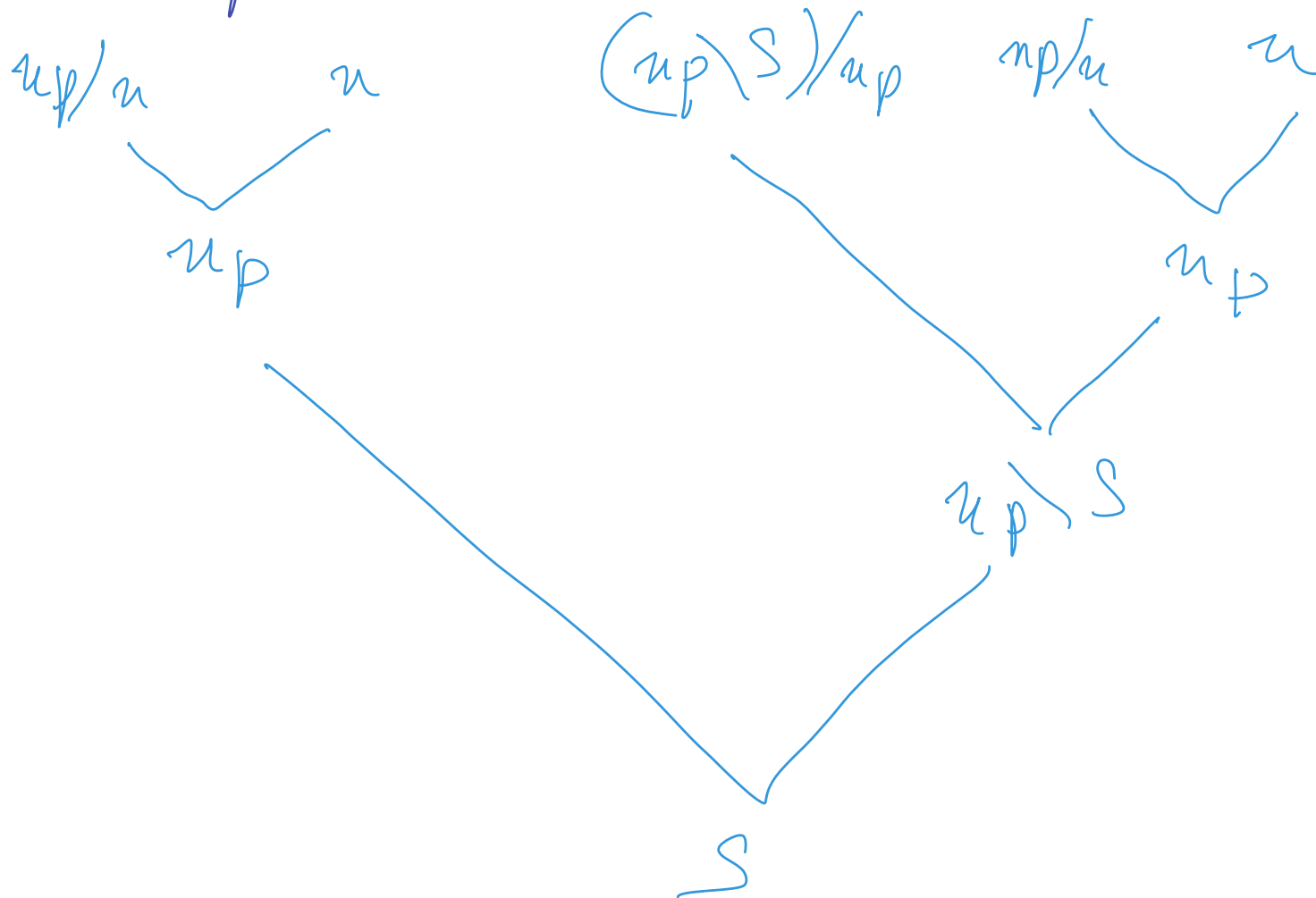
$$\frac{B \quad B \backslash A}{A} [\backslash E]$$

$$B = np, A = s$$

the president likes an actress

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ np \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ np \backslash s \end{array}}{s} [\backslash E]$$

the president likes an actress



the president

likes

np/n

n

(np \ S) / np

np

??
.

→ altered
unnp
(can't be
d'object)

piece : np (qn)

mange : (np \ S) / np , (np \ S)

me : np / n

pane : n

piece
np

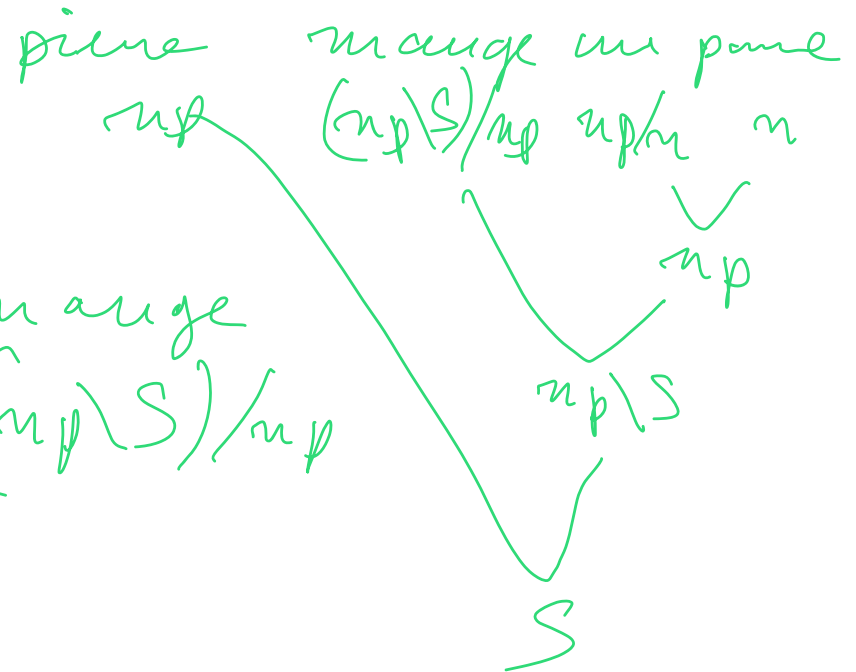
???

piece
np

S

mange
(np \ S) / np

mange
np \ S



une suite de mots est une phrase
si et seulement si chaque
mot m_i de la phrase

admet dans le lexique
une catégorie $c_i \in \text{Lex}(m_i)$

$$t_a \quad c_1 \quad c_n \longrightarrow S$$

dans la pratique
on a une catégorie par mot

mange-~~et~~ $(u \setminus S) / u_p$
mange-~~vi~~ $(u \setminus S)$

preprocessing rapide (HMM)

et : 20 catégories
est : 15 catégories



A.13. Modifiers

1. A student slept.
2. A student slept in class.
3. A student slept in class during the exam.
4. A student slept in class during the exam yesterday at 15h while snoring.

“*in class*” modifies a sentence s and is therefore assigned the formula $s \backslash s$ (or if you prefer, the vp modifier $(np \backslash s) \backslash (np \backslash s)$).

“*class*” is a noun n , therefore a lexical possibility for “*in*” should be $(s \backslash s) / n$ or $((np \backslash s) \backslash (np \backslash s)) / n$.

Exercices

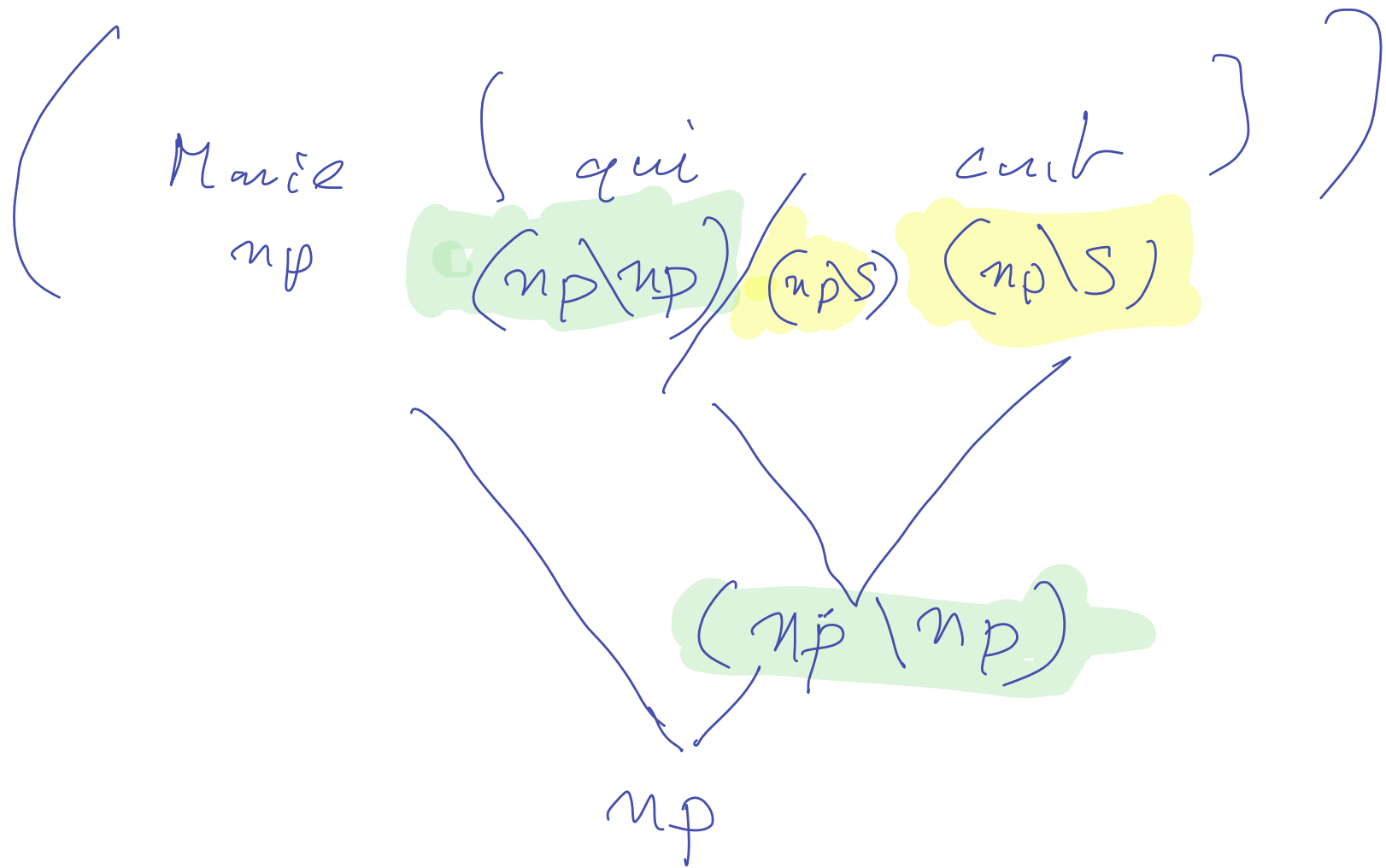
Exo Simple

- le lexique est donné
- montrer que $m_1 \quad m_2$ est une phrase
- n'est pas une phrase

Exo plus compliqué:

• trouver la catégorie syntaxique de certains

Exo mita : propriétés du système



qui: $(np \backslash np) / (np \backslash S)$

- 1 (le chien) (qui aboie) regarde le chat
2 (le (chien (qui aboie))) regarde le chat

qui : $(np \setminus np) / (np \setminus S)$ 1
quel est l'autre côté qui 2

le chauffeur qui n'a pas pu reconnaître
plusieurs chauffeurs les invités
"qui n'a pas pu" sert à identifier le chauffeur
le chauffeur, qui n'a pas pu, reconnaître
les invités
un chauffeur
en ajoutant la précision qu'il n'a pas pu

Marie qui - - -
forément explicatif