

DRAFT

# Doing Computational Phonology

September 3, 2024

DRAFT

# Contents

<b>I</b>	<b>Foundations</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Intensional and Extensional Descriptions of Phonological Generalizations</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Generative Phonology . . . . .	3
1.2	Extensional and Intensional Descriptions . . . . .	6
1.3	Issues with Familiar Grammars . . . . .	12
1.4	Computational Theory of Language . . . . .	16
1.5	Doing Computational Phonology . . . . .	22
<b>2</b>	<b>Representations, Models, and Constraints</b>	<b>25</b>
2.1	Logic and Constraints in Phonology . . . . .	25
2.2	Chapter Outline . . . . .	27
2.3	The Successor Model . . . . .	29
2.4	First Order Logic . . . . .	32
2.5	Word Models with Phonological Features . . . . .	39
2.6	Monadic Second-Order Logic . . . . .	43
2.7	The Precedence Word Model . . . . .	51
2.8	Discussion . . . . .	55
<b>3</b>	<b>Transformations, Logically</b>	<b>59</b>
3.1	String-to-string Transformations . . . . .	60
3.2	Word-final obstruent devoicing . . . . .	61
3.3	Word-final vowel deletion . . . . .	65
3.4	Getting Bigger . . . . .	69
3.4.1	Word-final vowel epenthesis . . . . .	70
3.4.2	Duplication . . . . .	75
3.4.3	Summary . . . . .	75
3.5	Power of MSO-definable Transformations . . . . .	76

3.5.1	Mirroring . . . . .	77
3.5.2	Sorting . . . . .	79
3.5.3	Summary . . . . .	80
3.6	Discussion . . . . .	80
3.6.1	Transforming Representations . . . . .	82
3.6.2	Order Preservation . . . . .	84
3.6.3	Logic as a descriptive formalism . . . . .	86
3.7	Conclusion . . . . .	87
<b>4</b>	<b>Weighted Logics</b>	<b>89</b>
4.1	Four Key Points . . . . .	89
4.2	Examples . . . . .	91
4.3	Conclusion . . . . .	96
<b>5</b>	<b>Below First Order Logic</b>	<b>97</b>
5.1	Propositional Logic with Factors . . . . .	98
5.2	Examples of Propositional Logic with Factors . . . . .	101
5.3	Conjunctions of Negative Literals . . . . .	105
5.4	Discussion . . . . .	107
5.5	Summary . . . . .	109
<b>6</b>	<b>Formal Presentation of Model Theory and Logic</b>	<b>111</b>
6.1	Relational Models and Signatures . . . . .	111
6.2	MSO Logic for relational models . . . . .	112
6.2.1	Syntax of MSO logic . . . . .	113
6.2.2	Semantics of MSO logic . . . . .	114
6.3	FO Logic . . . . .	116
6.4	Courcellian Logical Transformations . . . . .	116
6.5	Weighted Monadic Second Order Logic . . . . .	117
6.5.1	Semirings . . . . .	117
6.5.2	Syntax of Weighted MSO Logic . . . . .	118
6.5.3	Semantics of Weighted MSO Logic . . . . .	119
6.6	Propositional Logic . . . . .	121
6.6.1	Syntax of Propositional Logic . . . . .	122
6.6.2	Semantics of Propositional Logic . . . . .	123

II	Case Studies	125
III	Theoretical Contributions	127
IV	Horizons	129

DRAFT

DRAFT

# **Part I**

## **Foundations**

DRAFT



# Chapter 1

## Intensional and Extensional Descriptions of Phonological Generalizations

JEFFREY HEINZ

### 1.1 Generative Phonology

Within languages, the pronunciation of a morpheme often differs depending on its morpho-phonological context. While examples like English *go/went* indicate that these different pronunciations may have almost nothing in common, it is much more typical that the pronunciations of the same morpheme in different contexts are in fact similar, as with common English plural *cat[s]/dog[z]*. The main empirical conclusion linguists have drawn with respect to this phenomena is that the variation in the pronunciation of morphemes is *systematic*. It is no accident that the plural form of *tip* uses [s] just like *cat[s]* and that the plural form of *dud* is [z] just like *dog[z]*. Explaining this systematic variation is an important goal of linguistic theory.

The central hypothesis of Generative Phonology (GP) is presented below.

- (★) The observed systematic variation in the pronunciation of morphemes is best explained if people hold a single mental representation of the pronunciation of each morpheme (the underlying representation, UR) which is *lawfully transformed* into its pronounced variants (the surface representation, SR).

This book assumes this hypothesis is correct, and does not review any arguments for it.<sup>1</sup> Readers interested in arguments for this position are directed to Odden (2014, chapter 4) and Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1979, chapter 6).

If this hypothesis is correct, then there are three questions every theory of generative phonology must address.

- (★★) 1. What is the nature of the underlying representations?  
 2. What is the nature of the surface representations?  
 3. What is the nature of the transformations between these representations?

These questions are certainly not exhaustive but they are of critical importance. Another related important question is “How different can the underlying representations be from the surface representations?” This has been called the question of abstraction (Kenstowicz and Kisseberth, 1977).

This book provides a general framework which addresses these questions from a *computational* perspective. The computational perspective addresses both the nature of the representations and the nature of the transformations. It is flexible in the sense that different representational schemes can be studied and compared. This is accomplished through *model-theoretic* representations of words and phrases. It is also flexible in the sense that different types of computational power can be studied and compared. This is accomplished by studying what can be accomplished with different kinds of logical expressions. As will be explained, model theory and logic provide a mathematical foundation for theory construction, theory comparison, and descriptive linguistics.

The study of phonology from the computational perspective allows one to construct theories of phonology which provide answers to the above questions. Representational choices and choices of logical power essentially determine the theory and its empirical predictions. Theories of phonology developed under this framework are examples of Computational Generative Phonology (CGP).

---

<sup>1</sup>The words *transformed* and *transformation* are used here in their original meaning simply to signify that the URs become SRs, and that the SR derived from some UR may not be identical to this UR. If a UR is related to a SR via the transformative component of a phonological grammar, it is also often said the UR is mapped to the SR. These words are deliberately neutral with respect to the specific type of grammar being employed.

To begin motivating CGP, I would like to give some examples of how current phonological theories aim to answer these questions. It is not possible to comprehensively survey here the range of answers that have been offered. Therefore, I only highlight some answers and do so only in very broad strokes.

Rule-based theories, as exemplified by Chomsky and Halle (1968), for example, have argued that the abstract underlying representations are subject to language-specific morpheme structure constraints (MSCs). The transformation from underlying forms to surface forms are due to language-specific rules, which are applied in a language-specific order. Constraints on surface representations were, generally speaking, not part of the ontology of these theories, and therefore were not posited to have any psychological reality. Such generalizations—the phonotactic generalizations—were derivable from the interaction of the MSCs and the rules (Postal, 1968).

On the other hand, in classic Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky, 1993, 2004), there are no constraints on underlying representations (richness of the base), but there are psychologically real, universal constraints on surface forms (markedness constraints). The transformation from underlying forms to surface forms is formulated as a process of *global optimization* over these markedness constraints as well as constraints which penalize differences between surface and underlying forms (faithfulness constraints). While both the markedness and faithfulness constraints are universal, their relative importance is language-specific. So in every language the surface pronunciation of an underlying representation is predicted to be the globally optimal form (the one that violates the most important constraints the least). Of course what is optimal varies across languages because the relative importance of the constraints varies across languages.

These two theories are radically different in what they take to be psychologically real. The ontologies of the theories are very different. Perhaps this is most clear with respect to the concept of phonemes (Dresher, 2011). Phonemes exist as a consequence of the ontology of rule-based theories, but they do not as a consequence of the ontology of OT. This is simply because phonemes are a kind of MSC; underlying representations of morphemes must be constructed out of them, and nothing else. In OT, there are no MSCs and hence there are no phonemes. The principle of **Lexicon Optimization** guarantees that the URs of *pit* and *spit* are /p<sup>h</sup>ɪt/ and /spɪt/, respectively (Kager, 1999). The underlying, mental representation of the voiceless labial stops in both words are not the same. Consequently, the

complementary distribution of speech sounds (allophonic variation) are explained in a very different manner in the two theories, and these theories promote different views of the notion of *contrast*. Despite these differences however, there is an important point of agreement: In both theories, complementary distribution of speech sounds in surface forms is the outcome of a transformation of underlying forms to surface forms.

This is the point I wish to emphasize: neither theory abandons the fundamental insight stated on page 3 in (★). The theories offer radically different *answers* to the questions asked on 4 in (★★), but *they agree on the questions being asked*.<sup>2</sup>

In the remainder of this chapter, I motivate a computational approach to phonology. I first make an important distinction between extensional and intensional descriptions of linguistic generalizations and argue that the former is important for understanding the latter. I then argue that neither rule-based nor constraint-based formalisms as practiced provide adequate intensional descriptions of phonological generalizations.

This is then contrasted with automata and logical descriptions of language. The chapter concludes that logical descriptions of linguistic generalizations have some advantages over automata-theoretic descriptions. This is not to say automata are not useful (they are!) but that logic offers more immediate rewards to linguists interested in writing and analyzing grammars. So when we consider the ways in which we spend our time, logic is a good place to start.

## 1.2 Extensional and Intensional Descriptions

McCarthy (2008, pp. 33–34) emphasizes the importance of descriptive generalizations in preparing analyses. “Good descriptive generalizations,” he writes “are accurate characterizations of the systematic patterns that can be observed in the data.” They are, as he explains, “the essential intermediate step between data and analysis.” This is because descriptive generalizations go beyond the data; they make predictions about things not yet observed.

<sup>2</sup>It is true that periodically some work is published which challenges these core ideas, for example the work on output-to-output correspondence (Benua, 1997, and others) or the recent work of Archangeli and Pulleyblank (2022).

Descriptive generalizations are important for computational phonology too. They are typically stated in prose. For example, consider the phonological generalizations below.

Word final vowels are prohibited. (1.1)

Consonant clusters are prohibited word-finally. (1.2)

These generalizations are good ones because they allow the analyst to recognize that potentially unobserved forms like *tapaka* is ill-formed but *tanak* is well-formed with respect to 1.1. Similarly, we recognize that 1.2 distinguishes between forms like *tapakt* and *tanakta*.

The generalizations above divide every possible word of every length cleanly into two sets: those that obey the description and those that do not. This is illustrated in the figure below for the generalization in (1.1). The

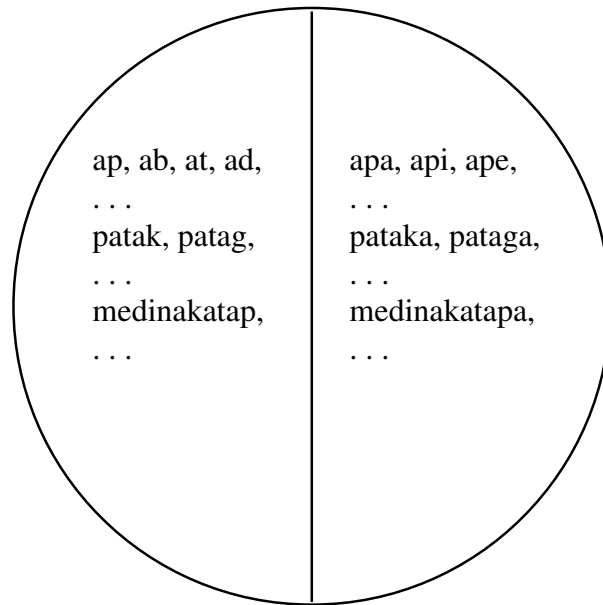


Figure 1.1: The generalization that “Word final vowels are prohibited” partitions the set of all possible forms into two sets.

set of words that are well-formed according to (1.1) is called its *extension*.

Importantly, this set—the extension—is infinite in size. For instance, it is not possible to write down every possible word that obeys the generalization in (1.1). If a set of words formed from a finite alphabet is infinite

then there is no upper bound on the length of words. Likewise, if there is no upper bound on the length of words formed from a finite alphabet then this set is infinite in size. Thus whether the size of a set of words is infinite or not is intertwined with whether or not there is an upper bound on the length of words. These issues are so important to get clear that they are discussed in further detail below.

Extensional descriptions contrast with *intensional descriptions* of generalizations. For now, intensional descriptions can be thought of as grammars that denote the extension. The prose in (1.1) and (1.2) are examples of intensional descriptions. Rule-based grammars and OT grammars are also examples of intensional descriptions. A good intensional description is one where the extension can be rigorously and precisely defined from the intensional description. Generally, English prose does not make for good intensional descriptions. Further below, I will argue that in their current forms and practice, rule-based grammars and OT grammars are more like English prose than good intensional descriptions.

Let us now return to the infinitely-sized extensions. Is it reasonable for descriptive generalizations like (1.1) to denote an infinite set of words? Yes, it is. One reason is that these generalizations make no reference to length at all. If the length of words mattered, it ought to be part of the generalization. Another way of thinking about this is that if there were a principled upper bound on the length of words, then that would be a generalization *distinct* from (1.1) above, and hence ought not be included within it. Finally, even if for some reason (1.1) ultimately denoted a finite set, there are reasons to treat its extension as infinite anyway. Savitch (1993) argues that large finite sets of strings are often best understood if they are factored into two parts: an infinite set of strings and a separate finite-length condition. They are, in his words, “essentially infinite.” The basis of the argument is a demonstration that intensional descriptions of infinite sets can be smaller in size than the intensional descriptions of finite sets.

These infinite-sized extensions do not exist in the same way that your fingernails, your bed, or your brain exists. Instead they exist mathematically. Each generalization is an infinite object like a circle, which is a set of infinitely many points each exactly the same distance from a center. But we can never see the mathematical object in its entirety in the real world. It is a fact that circles as infinite objects do not exist. The situation with linguistic generalizations is similar. The extension is there mathematically,

DRAFT

but we cannot write down every element of the extension in a list for the same reason all points of a circle cannot be written down in a list since there are infinitely many. But we can write down a grammar which can be understood as generating the infinite set, in the same way that a perfect circle can be generated by specifying a center point and a distance (the radius).

The same circle can be described in other ways as well. If we employ the Cartesian plane, we could generate a circle with an equation of the form  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$  where the  $r$  is the radius of the circle and  $(a, b)$  is its center. The equation is interpreted as follows: all and only points  $(x, y)$  which satisfy the equation belong to the circle. The equation is an intensional description and the set of  $(x, y)$  points satisfying this equation—the circle itself—is its extension.

We can also describe a circle on a plane with polar coordinates instead of Cartesian ones. Recall that polar coordinates are of the form  $(r, \theta)$  where  $r$  is the radius and  $\theta$  is an angle. The equation  $r = 2a \cos(\theta) + 2b \sin(\theta)$  provides the general form of the circle with the radius given by  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$  and the center by  $(a, b)$  (in Cartesian coordinates). The polar equation is interpreted like the Cartesian one: all and only points  $(r, \theta)$  which satisfy the equation belong to the circle.

There are some interesting differences between these two coordinate systems. Each point in the Cartesian system has a unique representation, but each point in the polar system has infinitely many representations (since the same angle can be described in infinitely many ways, e.g.  $0^\circ = 360^\circ = 720^\circ = \dots$ ). If the center of the circle is the origin of the graph, the polar equation simplifies to  $r = a$  whereas the Cartesian equation remains more complicated  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ . Thus, the polar equation  $r = 4$  and the Cartesian equation  $x^2 + y^2 = 16$  are different equations with different interpretations, but they describe the same unique circle: one of radius four centered around the origin. The two equations differ intensionally, but their extension is the same.

It seems strange to ask which of these two descriptions is the ‘right’ description of this circle. They are different descriptions of the same thing. Some descriptions might be more useful than others for some purposes. It also interesting to ask what properties the circles have irrespective of a particular description. For instance the length of a circle’s perimeter and the size of a circle’s area are certainly relatable to these descriptions, but they are also in a sense independent of the particulars. The perimeter and

area depend on the radius but not the center, though both the radius and the center appear in the equations above. Perhaps this suggests that the radius is a more fundamental structure to a circle than its center, though both certainly matter.

The analogy I wish to draw is that rule-based and OT-theoretic formalisms are like the Cartesian and polar coordinate systems. The analogy is far from perfect, but it is instructive. Both rule-based and OT analyses provide descriptions of platonic, infinitely sized objects. In many cases, but not all, the two formalisms describe the same object, insofar as the empirical evidence allows.

What is this object? The transformations from underlying representations to surface representations can be thought of as a *function*, in the mathematical sense of the word. Another word for function prevalent in the phonological literature is *map* (Tesar, 2014). For example, consider the two descriptive generalizations below.

Word final vowels delete. (1.3)

Word final vowels delete except when preceded by a consonant cluster. (1.4)

These generalizations also have infinite-sized extensions, but the extensions are better understood as functions. Figure 1.2 illustrates the extension of the generalization expressed in (1.3).

There are three parts to a function. First, there is its domain, which is the set of objects the function applies to. Second, there is its co-domain, which is the set of objects to which the elements of the domain are mapped. Third, there is the map itself, which says which domain elements are transformed (mapped) to which co-domain elements. Thus to specify a function, one needs to provide a description of its domain, its co-domain, and a description of which domain elements become which co-domain elements. Following traditional phonological terminology, I use the term **constraint** to refer to intensional descriptions of either the domain or co-domain.

The parts of a function align nearly perfectly with the fundamental questions of phonological theory given in (★★) on page 4. The underlying representations correspond to the domain. The surface representations make up the co-domain. And the transformation from underlying to surface



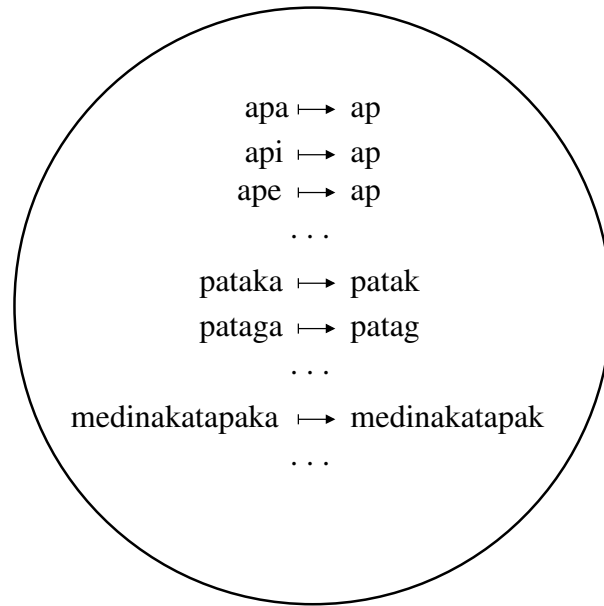


Figure 1.2: The function corresponding to the generalizations that “Word final vowels delete.”

forms is the map from domain elements to co-domain elements. From this perspective, describing the phonology of a language requires identifying aspects of this function.

Further, in linguistic typology we are actually interested in the *class* of such functions that correspond to *possible* human phonologies. If the phonologies of languages are circles we would be interested in the universal properties of circles and the extent of their variation. Circles are pretty simple, so the answers are straightforward. All circles have a center and a radius, but their centers can be different points and their radii can have different lengths. What universal properties do phonological functions share? What kind of variation does the human animal permit across these functions?

The point is that when we develop a linguistic generalization, it is important to know what its extension is. Ultimately, the intensional description—the grammar—must generate this extension. The emphasis placed here on the extensional description as an infinite object should not be taken to mean intensional descriptions do not matter. Of course they matter: theories of these intensional descriptions ought to make predictions about

what is psychologically real, predictions that in principle are testable with the right kinds of psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic experimentation. They also can make predictions about linguistic typology since the available intensional descriptions limit the extensions accordingly. In addition to making correct predictions, phonologists expect that intensional descriptions express the ‘right’ generalizations. Clarity about the extensional descriptions are an essential, intermediate step between the descriptive generalizations stated in prose and formal intensional descriptions (the grammatical analysis).

It is critically important that it is well-understood how the intensional descriptions relate to the extensional ones. We want to be able to answer questions like the following:

1. Given a word  $w$  and an intensional description of a constraint  $C$ , does  $w$  violate  $C$ ? (We may also be interested in the number of violations of  $C$  and the where within the word the violations occur.)
2. Given a word  $w$  in the domain of a transformation  $f$  what words in the co-domain of  $f$  does  $f$  map  $w$  to, if any?
3. Given a word  $v$  in the co-domain of a transformation  $f$  what words in the domain of  $f$  map to  $v$ , if any?

Question 1 is often called the membership problem. Question 2 is often called the generation problem. Question 3 is often called the recognition or parsing problem. Good intensional descriptions allow answers to these questions to be computed correctly and effectively. In the next section, I argue that rule-based intensional descriptions and OT grammars are not good intensional descriptions in this narrow sense.

### 1.3 Issues with Familiar Grammars

Chomsky and Halle (1968) present a formalization based on rewrite rules. The basic rewrite rule is of the form  $A \rightarrow B / C \_ D$ . This notation is intended to mean that if an input string contains  $CAD$  then the output string will output  $CBD$  (so  $A$  is rewritten as  $B$  in the context  $C \_ D$ ). To understand the extension of a rule, we need to know how to apply it. Originally, Chomsky and Halle (1968, p. 344) intended for the rules to apply

simultaneously to all the relevant targets in an input string. They wrote, “To apply a rule, the entire string is first scanned for segments that satisfy the environmental constraints of the rule. After all such segments have been identified in the string, the changes required by the rule are applied simultaneously.” For many phonological rules, this explanation appears sufficient to denote the extension. For instance the rule corresponding to the descriptive generalizations (1.3) is  $V \rightarrow \emptyset / \_ \#$ . Humans have no difficulty using this rule to answer the generation and parsing problems above given this intensional description. However, it is much less clear what the extension of *any* rule would be. Determining this depends in part on what A, B, C and D themselves are able to denote, and how rules apply when application of the rule can create more CAD sequences.

The phonological literature after SPE addressed the question of rule application (Anderson, 1974), and other types of rule application were identified such as left-to-right or right-to-left. It was clear that the mode of application determined the extension of the rule. For example, for the input string /oana/ and rule  $V \rightarrow [+nasal] / \_ [+nasal]$  simultaneous application yields output [oãna] but right-to-left application yields output [õãna]. While linguistically-chosen examples served to distinguish one mode of application from another, general solutions to the generation and recognition questions by Johnson (1972) and Kaplan and Kay (1994) were for the most part ignored by generative phonologists.

It is my contention that rule application is still not well-understood by most students of phonology, despite the careful computational analyses by Johnson (1972); Kaplan and Kay (1994) and Mohri and Sproat (1996). In informal surveys of phonologists in-training, many have difficulty of applying the rule  $aa \rightarrow b$  simultaneously to the input /aaa/. People wonder whether the right output is [ab], [ba], or [bb]. According to Kaplan and Kay’s analysis, there are two outputs for this input when the rule  $aa \rightarrow b$  is applied simultaneously. They are [ab] and [ba]. Their analysis translates rewrite rules into finite-state automata, which are grammars whose extensions are very well defined and understood. These will be explained in a bit more detail in the next section.

Interestingly, Kaplan and Kay’s analyses of rule application, which has been implemented in software programs like *xfst* (Beesley and Karttunen, 2003), *openfst* (Allauzen *et al.*, 2007), *foma* (Hulden, 2009a,b), and *pynini* (Gorman, 2016; Gorman and Sproat, 2021) do not exhaust the possible natural interpretations of the rewrite rule  $A \rightarrow B / C \_ D$ . Like Johnson

and Kaplan and Kay's analyses, Chandlee's (2014) analysis also uses finite-state automata to determine an extension of a rule  $A \rightarrow B / C \_ D$ , provided that  $CAD$  is a finite set of strings. Unlike Kaplan and Kay, her interpretation of the extension of the rule  $aa \rightarrow b$  maps input  $/aaa/$  to  $[bb]$ . This result is arguably what Chomsky and Halle in mind when they described simultaneous application because each  $aa$  sequence satisfies "the environmental constraints of the rule."

The point of the foregoing discussion is simply this: a rule  $A \rightarrow B / C \_ D$  underdetermines its extension. The extensions are a critical part of any rule-based theory and there is more than one way such rules determine extensions. This point is neither new nor controversial. It is a well-known chapter in the history of phonological theory. Chandlee's (2014) discussion shows that this chapter is not closed. To my knowledge, Bale and Reiss (2018) is the first textbook on phonology that provides an adequate interpretation of the application of rewrite rules.

Optimality Theory is an improvement in some sense. Given an OT grammar and an input form, there is a well-defined solution to the generation problem. This solution follows from the architecture of the OT grammar. The GEN component generates the set of possible candidates and the EVAL component uses the grammar of ranked constraints to select the optimal candidates.

Nonetheless in actual phonological analyses the generation problem faces two difficulties, each acknowledged in the literature. The first one is ensuring that all the possible candidates are actually considered by EVAL. The absence of an overlooked candidate can sink an analysis. The proposed optimal candidate turns out to be less harmonic than some other candidate that the analysts failed to consider. How can analysts ensure that every candidate has been considered?

The second is ensuring that all the relevant constraints are present in the analysis. The absence of a relevant constraint can also sink an analysis. (Prince, 2002, p. 276) makes this abundantly clear. He explains that if a constraint that must be dominated by some other constraint is ignored then the analysis is "dangerously incomplete." Similarly, if a constraint that may dominate some other constraint is omitted then the analysis is "too strong and may be literally false."

As a result, any phonological analysis of a language which does not incorporate the entire set of constraints is not guaranteed to be correct. This makes studying some aspect of the phonology of the language difficult.

The constraints deemed irrelevant to the fragment of the phonology under investigation (and which are therefore excluded) actually need to be shown to be irrelevant for analysts to establish the validity of their OT analyses.

Both these problems in OT can be overcome. The solution again comes from the theory of computation, in particular from the theories of finite-state automata and so-called regular languages (defined and discussed in the next section). The earliest result is that even if the constraints and GEN can be defined in these terms, the maps OT produces are not guaranteed to be definable in these terms — unless the constraints have a finite bound on the maximum number of violations they can assign (Frank and Satta, 1998). Karttunen (1998) uses this fact to provide a solution and software for the generation and recognition problems (see also (Gerdemann and Hulden, 2012)), and so he assumes each constraint has some maximum number of violations. While some theoretical phonologists have argued for this position (McCarthy, 2003), most do not adopt it. Riggle (2004) provides a different solution which does not require bounding the number of violations constraints assign. His solution is guaranteed to be correct provided the map the OT grammar is in fact representable as a finite-state relation (not all of them are). Another solution is present in Albrow's (2005) dissertation, which provides a comprehensive OT analysis of the phonology of Malagasy.

Each of these authors make use of finite-state automata to guarantee the correctness of their solutions. However, none of these approaches have yet to make its way into the more commonly used software for conducting OT analyses such as OTSoft (Hayes *et al.*, 2013), OT-Help (Staubus *et al.*, 2010), and OTWorkplace (Prince *et al.*, 2016). A particular weakness of this software, unlike Karttunen's, Riggle's, and Albrow's is that they can only work with finite candidate sets, despite the fact that GEN is typically understood as generating an infinite candidate set. Consequently, the commonly used software amounts to nothing more than pen-and-paper approaches with lots of paper and lots of pens, and so the aforementioned issues remain (Karttunen, 2006).

McCarthy (2008, p. 76) argues the aforementioned computational approaches are only possible in “narrowly circumscribed phenomenon.” However, this ignores Albrow's detailed, thorough analysis of the whole phonology of Malagasy (Albrow, 2005). McCarthy also argues the methods are only as good as the algorithm that generates the candidates. Of course that

is true, but the alternatives are manual, heuristic methods.<sup>3</sup> People may differ on which is better, but I will place my bets on the algorithm which is guaranteed not to leave out candidates that GEN produces. McCarthy's dismissal of the value of computational approaches is unfortunate, but it is representative of attitudes in the field.

Regardless of the extent to which different researchers appreciate the computational treatments of phonological theories, it is noteworthy and no accident that every attempt to guarantee a solution of the recognition and generation problems (and the membership problem when constraints are involved) makes use of finite-state automata and the theory of regular languages. Even OTWorkplace employs the finite-state calculus by way of regular expressions to automatically assign constraint violations to candidates. What are these devices? And what makes them so good for denoting extensions of phonological generalizations?

## 1.4 Computational Theory of Language

**Automata** are a cornerstone of the computational theory of language. Automata are machines that process specific types of data structures like strings or trees. They form a fundamental chapter of computer science. There are many kinds of automata. The Turing machine is just one example. Pushdown automata are another. Readers are referred to texts such as Kozen (1997), (Hopcroft *et al.*, 2006) and Sipser (2012) for overviews of the theory of computation.

There are also deep connections between automata and logic. In this section, I will briefly review finite-state automata for string processing. Then I will informally introduce logic as another way of providing an intensional description of phonological generalizations. Their extensions are also well-defined; and in fact in many cases there are algorithms which convert a logical description into an automaton that describes exactly the same extension (Büchi, 1960; Thomas, 1997; Engelfriet and Hoogeboom, 2001).

We begin with a simple automaton, the **finite-state acceptor**. It is an intensional description with a well-defined extension. As a matter of fact,

---

<sup>3</sup>It is true that the GEN function in the Albro's, Karttunen's, and Riggle's methods is not exactly the same as the one assumed in Correspondence Theory (McCarthy and Prince, 1995), but it is instructive to understand why.

it is a precise, finite description of a potentially infinite set of strings.

A finite-state acceptor contains a finite set of states. We give the states names so we can talk about them; for instance they are often indexed with numbers. Some states are designated ‘start’ states. Some states are designated ‘accepting’ states. (States can be both ‘start’ and ‘accepting’ states.) Transitions lead from one state to another; they are labeled with letters from some alphabet.

So a finite-state acceptor is a finitely-sized collection of states and transitions. What is its extension? Well the extension is defined as follows. Informally, a word  $w$  is accepted/generated/recognized by a finite-state acceptor  $A$  if there is a path along the transitions of  $A$  which begins in a start state of  $A$ , which ends in a final state of  $A$ , and which spells out  $w$  exactly.

As an example, consider Figure 1.3, which shows the finite-state acceptor for the generalization in (1.1) that word-final vowels are prohibited. Per convention, the start state is designated by the unanchored incoming arrow and final states are marked with a double perimeter. The word *nok*

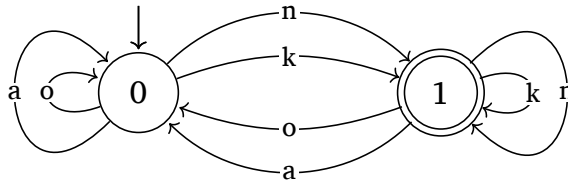


Figure 1.3: A finite state acceptor for the generalization “Word final vowels are prohibited.” A simple alphabet  $\{n,k,a,o\}$  is assumed.

is generated by this machine since there is a path beginning in a start state and ending in a final state which spells it out. This path is shown below.

Input:	n	o	k	
States:	0	→ 1	→ 0	→ 1

A minute of inspection reveals that every path for every word which ends in a vowel ends in state 0, which is not an accepting state. But every path for every word which does not end in a vowel ends in state 1, which is

accepting. Algorithms which solve membership problems for finite-state acceptors are well understood (Kozen, 1997; Hopcroft *et al.*, 2006; Sipser, 2012).

Finite-state automata are not limited to acceptors. String-to-string functions can be described with automata that are called **transducers**. These are acceptors whose labels have been augmented with an additional coordinate. Instead of a single symbol, labels are now symbols paired with strings. Figure 1.4 shows the finite-state transducer for the generalization that word-final vowels delete. As before, valid paths through this machine (those that begin in start states and end in accepting states) spell out input words and the output words they map to. In the figure, the colon separates the left coordinate (input) from the right coordinate (output). The symbol  $\lambda$  denotes the empty string. To illustrate, consider the path which shows

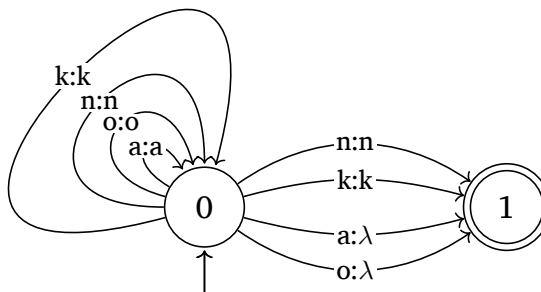


Figure 1.4: A finite state acceptor for the generalization “Word final vowels delete.” A simple alphabet  $\{n, k, a, o\}$  is assumed.

that the output of *nako* is *nak*.

Input:	n	a	k	o	
States:	0	→ 0	→ 0	→ 0	→ 1
Output:	n	a	k	λ	

As with the membership problem and finite-state acceptors, there are algorithms which solve the generation and recognition problems for finite-state transducers.

There are some interesting things to observe about the finite-state transducer in Figure 1.4. The first is that it is non-deterministic. This means for a given input, there may be more than one path. For instance,



the input /kon/ maps to [kon], and there are two paths that spell it out. But only one is valid: the one that reads and writes  $n$  and moves from state 0 to state 1.<sup>4</sup>

Another point is that the transducer in Figure 1.4 maps the input word /nakao/ to [naka]. As such, this machine is a formal description of the extension of the rule  $V \rightarrow \emptyset / \_ \#$  applying simultaneously. In OT, if FINAL-C outranks MAX, then the output would be *nak* with the last two vowels deleting. With rules, this could be accomplished by applying the aforementioned rule right-to-left. The finite-state transducer shown in Figure 1.5 realizes this mapping. For readability, distinct transitions with the same origin and destination are shown as multiple labels on a single arrow.

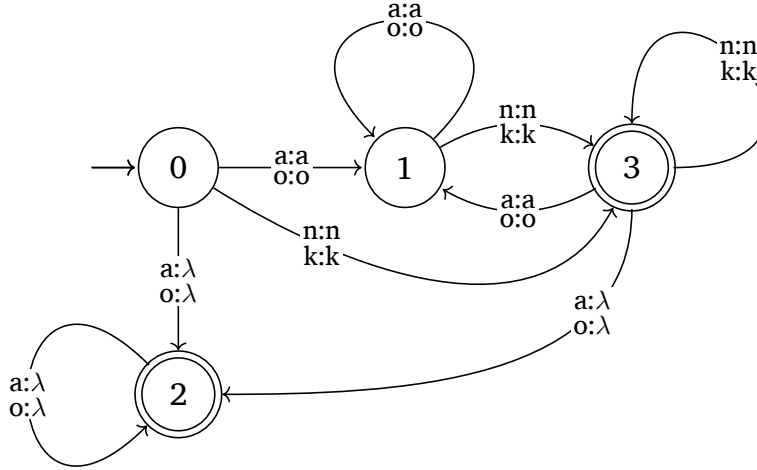


Figure 1.5: A finite state acceptor for the generalization “Strings of vowels word-finally delete.” A simple alphabet  $\{n,k,a,o\}$  is assumed.

Transducers can also map strings to numbers. The simple one shown in Figure 1.6 counts the number of *os* in a word. The idea here is that instead of combining the outputs of valid paths with *concatenation* as for strings, they are combined with *addition*. Below is an example of the only valid path for the word *naoko* which would be mapped to 2.

<sup>4</sup>Non-determinism is one way optionality can be handled with finite-state transducers. If state 0 was also an accepting state then there would be two valid paths for the input /noko/. One path would yield the output [noko] and the other the output [nak].

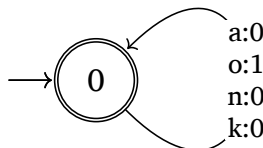


Figure 1.6: A finite state transducer which counts the number of *os* in words. A simple alphabet {*n,k,a,o*} is assumed.

Input:	n	a	o	k	o
States:	A	→ A	→ A	→ A	→ A
Output:	0	0	1	0	1

This is the approach used by Riggle (2004) to define markedness and faithfulness constraints in OT. There are many generalizations of this kind available to transducers made possible by the study of semirings (Roark and Sproat, 2007; Droste and Kuich, 2009; Goodman, 1999). Semirings are discussed in more detail in Chapter 4. However the main point I wish to express is that the extension of the transducers discussed so far are all precisely defined and the corresponding generation problems solvable.

What of the recognition problem? Another important advantage of finite-state automata is that they are **invertible**. Consequently, a solution to the generation problem entails a solution to the recognition problem. Given a string *nak*, the transducer can tell you that it is the output of the each of the following inputs: *nak*, *naka*, *nako*.

Nonetheless, despite the advantages well-defined extensions bring, there are some shortcomings to using finite-state automata for phonological analyses. One is that letters of the alphabet are treated atomically. For instance, there is no sense in which the symbols [p,t,k] share any properties. It remains unclear how to incorporate phonological features and natural classes in a natural way into these machines. The most common way seems to just group the letters together that behave together as I have done in the examples above. While this is certainly sufficiently expressive, it may not be completely satisfying. We want our intensional descriptions to somehow speak directly to the descriptive ones. In the case of “Word final vowels are prohibited” we want to be able to express the relevant natural class directly.

Another drawback is that as the generalizations become more complex, so do the finite-state automata. They become spaghetti-like and difficult to read. This drawback is mitigated, however, in a couple of ways. The first is that it is very well understood how to combine different finite-state automata to produce new ones. This allows the generalizations instantiated by the ‘primitive’ ones to persist to some degree in the complex ones. For instance, it is straightforward to construct a finite-state acceptor that generates exactly the intersection of two infinite sets of strings which are generated by two acceptors. (Heinz (2014) provides concrete examples in the domain of stress.) Similarly, it is straightforward to construct a finite-state transducer that generates the composition of two functions which are generated by finite-state transducers (Roark and Sproat, 2007; Gorman and Sproat, 2021). In this way, more complex finite-state automata can be constructed from simpler parts, much in the same way more complex phonological grammars are built up from identifying generalizations that interact in some manner.

A third problem is that even simple machines are not easy to write in text. They are often pictured as diagrams, and in the same way it can be tiring to read them, it can be tiring to draw them as well. This problem is mitigated in a couple of ways. First, there are helpful software packages which can automatically draw machines, like GraphViz.<sup>5</sup> Some researchers use tables or matrix notation, others use types of regular expressions (Beesley and Karttunen, 2003; Hulden, 2009b; Lambert, 2022), and still others use logic.

In this book, we are going to use logic and not automata to represent linguistic generalizations. There are several reasons for this. Most importantly, like automata, the extensions of logical formula are precisely defined. Another key reason is that the representations are *flexible*. We can represent words exactly as any phonologist would want. As this book will show, phonological features, syllable structures, autosegmental representations, hand shapes, phonetic information, and a host of as-yet-unconsidered possibilities are available and directly representable with logic. Thirdly, as this book will show, the combination of logical power and representation provides a natural way to entertain *distinct* theories of phonology and compare them. Additionally, there is a literature showing how logical formula can be translated into automata which are equivalent in the sense that they solve the same membership, generation, and recognition problems.

<sup>5</sup><https://graphviz.org>.

While this literature does not address every phonological representation proposed, the basic analytical methods which show how this can be done for strings and trees are there. As long as the phonological representations the analyst uses can be encoded as strings, the translations to automata are possible.

Finally, logic is not going anywhere. This is very important. If a linguist describes a generalization with logical expressions using the representations they prefer, they can be guaranteed that people in will be able to read their description and understand it *hundreds of years later*.

In short, logical formula have all of the advantages, and none of the disadvantages, of automata.

## 1.5 Doing Computational Phonology

How does one do computational generative phonology? This book provides an answer.

In the first part, logical foundations and model theory are presented in the context of strings. It is explained how model theory allows one to precisely formulate different representations of words and phrases. It is explained how the primitive elements in these representations would have ontological status in the theory. It is also explained how logical expressions can be used to define constraints to delimit possible representations in words and phrases, and how they can also define possible transformations which map one representation to another. It is explained how **weighted** logical expressions allow one to express a variety of linguistic generalizations, including gradient ones, if desired. These definitions and techniques are illustrated with examples drawn from phonology, as well as examples showing the terrific expressivity of the framework. The first part of this books opens a large window into the techniques and possibilities.

In the second part, these techniques are applied to the kinds of phonology problems one finds in standard textbooks on phonology. The focus here is descriptive in the following sense. Linguists marshal arguments from a collection of linguistic forms they have before them in favor of particular linguistic generalizations. These arguments are presented and then the linguistic generalizations are formalized in terms of model-theoretic representations and logic. The chapters are short, each dealing with one relatively small and straightforward phonological problem. These exam-

ples serve as models for how analysis of other small and straightforward phonological problems can be analyzed within CGP.

In the third part, the chapters address a variety of theoretical issues addressing both aspects of representation and computational power. Sebastian shows how to incorporate insights from phonetically-based phonology into CGP representationally. Hwangbo shows how representing vowel height in terms of degrees of aperture leads to straightforward analysis of vowel lowering in a language like Danish. Strother-Garcia analyzes syllable structure and the sonority sequencing principle. Lambert and Rogers show how the stress patterns in the world's languages can be understood as a particular combination of primitive constraints. They further characterizes the complexity of those constraints. Lindell and Chandlee provide a logical characterization of Input Strictly Local functions, which Chandlee showed earlier to well-characterize an important natural class of phonological transformations. Dolatian shows that the Raimy-style linearization is computationally actually very complex. Having identified the source of complexity, he suggests way to mitigate it. Payne provides similar results for the computational complexity of GEN. Vu shows how transformations can also be expressed as constraints on correspondence structures. These chapters are but a small sample of the kinds of research questions and investigations that can be addressed with the tools introduced in part one. **TODO: update these mentions and add mentions to Rawski's chapter, Nelson's chapter.**

Computational generative phonology is simple. It is not hard. We believe theories of generative phonology developed in this tradition will lead to advances in our understanding of the nature of phonological grammars and the minds which know them.

DRAFT

# Chapter 2

## Representations, Models, and Constraints

JEFFREY HEINZ AND JAMES ROGERS

### 2.1 Logic and Constraints in Phonology

In this chapter, we show how to use logic and model-theoretic representations to define constraints on the well-formedness of those representations. The power in this kind of computational analysis comes from the framework’s flexibility in both the kind of logic used and the choice of representation.

As will be explained, these choices provide a “Constraint Definition Language” (CDL) in the sense of (de Lacy, 2011). Each CDL has consequences for typology, learnability, and the psychology of language, which can be carefully studied. Conversely, psychological, typological, and learnability considerations provide evidence for the computational nature of phonological generalizations on well-formedness; that is for the choices we can make.

This is not the first effort to apply logic to phonological theory. In fact, there is considerable history. A notable turning point occurred in the early 1990s with the developments of two theories: Declarative Phonology and Optimality Theory.

Declarative Phonology made explicit use of logical statements in describing the phonology of a language. For instance (Scobbie *et al.*, 1996,

p. 688) expressed a general principle of theories of syllables which prohibit ambisyllabicity this way:  $\forall x \neg(\text{onset}(x) \wedge \text{coda}(x))$ , which in English reads “For all segments  $x$ , it is not the case that  $x$  is both an onset and a coda.”

In Optimality Theory, first-order logic was often used implicitly to define constraints. For example, the definition of the constraint MAX-IO in OT given by McCarthy and Prince (1995, p. 16) is “Every segment of the input has a correspondent in the output.” On page 14, they define the correspondence relation: “Given two strings  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , correspondence is a relation  $R$  from the elements of  $S_1$  to those of  $S_2$ . Elements  $\alpha \in S_1$  and  $\beta \in S_2$  are referred to as **correspondents** of one another when  $\alpha R \beta$ .” As will be clear by the end of this chapter, this definition of MAX-IO is essentially a statement in First Order Logic: For all  $\alpha \in S_1$  there exists  $\beta \in S_2$  such that  $\alpha R \beta$ .

Unlike Optimality Theory, the CDLs introduced in this chapter are assumed to provide language-specific, inviolable constraints. For a representation to be well-formed it must not violate any constraint. This is a property the CDLs in this chapter have in common with Declarative Phonology. Scobbie et al. explain:

The actual model of constraint interaction adopted is maximally simple: the declarative model. In such a model, all constraints must be satisfied. The procedural order in which constraints are checked (or equivalently, in which they apply) is not part of the grammar, but part of an implementation of the grammar (as a parser, say) which cannot affect grammaticality. (Scobbie et al., 1996, p. 692)

What Scobbie et al. are emphasizing is that logical specifications of grammar specify *what is being computed* as opposed to *how it is being computed*. We agree with Scobbie et al. (1996) that this is an attractive property of logical languages.

While this chapter, and others in this book, assume the constraints are language-specific and inviolable, it is a mistake to conclude that this line of work only applies to grammars that make binary distinctions between well-formed and ill-formed structures. In fact, the model-theoretic and logical framework advocated here can also describe gradient well-formedness with **weighted logical languages**. These allow one to specify what is being computed when linguistic representations are assigned numbers of violations of a constraint, as in the case in Optimality Theory when



evaluating candidates, or real numbers, as in the case of assigning some probabilities to structures (Droste and Gustin, 2009). This chapter does not discuss weighted logical languages, but they are reviewed with some examples in Chapter 4.

## 2.2 Chapter Outline

In the remainder of this chapter, we informally introduce model-theoretic representations of strings and different logics. We focus on strings because they are widely used and well-understood. Most importantly, they are sufficient to illustrate how different CDLs can be defined and how these CDLs have consequences for psychological and typological aspects of language as well as learnability. Several chapters later in the book provide concrete examples of non-string representations motivated by phonological theory. **Add forward references to autosegmental representations (Chapter XYZ), syllable structure (Chapter XYZ), morphological representations, gradient phonetic representations, etc.)**

A formal, mathematical treatment of the representations and logic is given in Chapter 6. Concepts and definitions introduced here are presented there precisely and unambiguously. Some readers may benefit by consulting this chapter in parallel with this chapter one and the next.

Essentially, this chapter compare several CDLs in this chapter by varying the representation of words (called models) and the logical language (First Order vs Monadic Second Order). The models we consider vary along two dimensions: the representation of speech sounds (segments vs feature bundles), and the representation of order (successor vs precedence).

The first model we introduce is the canonical word model, which is known as the successor model. This is followed by an informal treatment of First-Order (FO) logic. This yields the first CDL we consider (FO with successor) and we show how to define a constraint like \*NT—voiceless obstruents are prohibited from occurring immediately after nasals—in this CDL.

Next we alter the successor model so that the representations makes use of phonological features. This yields another CDL (FO with successor and features). We comment on some notable points of comparison between the two CDLs, again using the \*NT constraint.

The narrative continues by discussing one typological weakness the

aforementioned CDLs: they are unable to describe long-distance constraints which are arguably part of the phonological competence of speakers of some languages. This provides some motivation for a CDL defined in terms of a more powerful logic, Monadic Second Order (MSO) logic. This CDL we call ‘MSO with successor and features,’ and we explain how it is able to define such long-distance constraints. The key is that with MSO logic it is possible to deduce that one element in a string *precedes* another element, no matter how much later the second element occurs. The availability of the precedence relation makes it possible to define long-distance constraints.

We continue to evaluate the MSO with successor CDL from a typological perspective. We argue that there are significant classes of constraints definable in this CDL that are bizarre from a phonological perspective. An example is the constraint which forbids words to have evenly many nasals (\*Even-N). In other words, we motivate seeking a more restrictive CDL which is still capable of describing local and long-distance constraints in phonology.

One solution we consider is to make the precedence order a primitive relation of the representation. This model of words is called the precedence model, which stands in contrast to the successor model. We show how the CDL “FO with precedence and features” is also able to describe both local and long-distance constraints of the kind found in the phonologies of the world’s languages and excludes (some) of the bizarre constraints that the CDL ‘MSO with successor and features’ is able to describe.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a high-level discussion seeking to emphasize the following points. First, there is a tradeoff between representations and logical power. Second, as mentioned, the choice of representation and the choice of logic has consequences for typology, psychological reality, memory, and learnability. Third, the representations and logics discussed in this chapter are only the tip of the iceberg. Readers undoubtedly will have asked themselves “What about this possible representation?” and “Why don’t we consider this variety of logic?” Later chapters in this book address some such questions. Comprehensively answering such questions, however, is beyond the scope of this book. But it is not beyond the scope of phonological theory. If some readers of this book pose and answer such questions, then this book will have succeeded in its goals.

## 2.3 The Successor Model

This section introduces the central ideas of model-theoretic representations with a concrete example. The concrete example comes from the “successor” model, which is one of the canonical model-theoretic representations for strings.

Model-theoretic representations provide a uniform framework for representing all kinds of objects. Here the objects under study are strings. We need to be clear about two things: what the objects are, and what counts as a successful model-theoretic representation of a set of objects.

Strings are sequences of events. If we are talking about words, the events could be given as speech sounds from the International Phonetic Alphabet, or as gestural events in speech or sign, or as perceptual landmarks in auditory space or visual space. A successful model theoretic-representation of a set of objects must provide a representation for each object and must provide distinct representations for distinct objects. It may be strange to ask the question “How can we represent strings?” After all if we are talking about the string *sans*, isn’t *sans* itself a representation of it? It is, but the information carried in such representations is implicit. Model-theoretic representations make the information explicit.

Model-theoretic representations for objects of finite size like strings are structures which contain two parts. The first is a finite set of elements called the **domain**, written  $D$ . The second is a finite set of relations  $\mathfrak{R} = \{R_1, R_2, \dots R_n\}$ . The relations provide information about the domain elements and how those elements relate to each other. These relations constitute the **signature** of the model. In this book, a model-theoretic representation with signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  is called an  $\mathfrak{R}$ -**structure**, and it is written like this:  $\langle D \mid R_1, R_2, \dots R_n \rangle$ .

We first show a model-theoretic representation of a word and then we explain it. While this may seem backwards to some, it seems to work better pedagogically. It can be helpful to refer to the end-product as one goes about explaining how one got there.

Figure 2.1 shows the successor structure for the word *sans* in addition to a graphical diagram of it on its right. The graphical diagram puts the domain elements in circles. Edges labeled with  $\triangleleft$  indicate the binary relation called “successor.” Finally, the unary relations, one for each symbol in the alphabet, are shown in typewriter font above the domain elements that belong to them. Throughout this book we will often use graphical

diagrams instead of displaying the literal mathematical representation on the left. The order of the relations in the signature is fixed but it is also arbitrary.

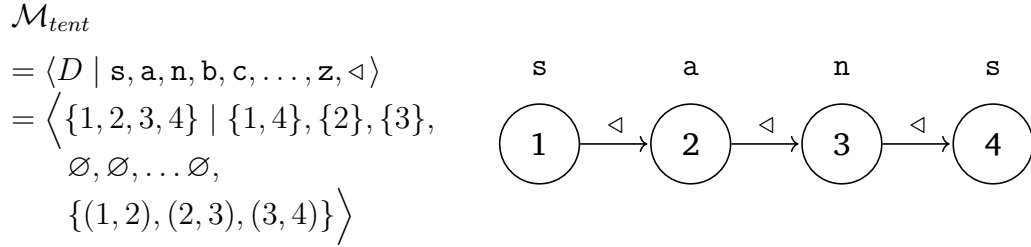


Figure 2.1: At left, the successor model of the word *sans*. At right, a graphical diagram of this model.

In the case of strings, the number of domain elements matches the length of the string. So a model-theoretic representation of a word like *sans* would have a domain with four elements, one for each event in the sequence. We can represent these domain elements with the suits in a deck of cards  $\{\heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit, \spadesuit\}$  or we could use numbers  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  as we did in Figure 2.1. We will usually use numbers because as strings get longer we can always find new numbers. However, keep in mind that the numbers are just names of elements in the model in the same way the suits would have been. They get their meaning from the relationships they stand in, not from anything inherent in the numbers themselves.

In the signature for successor structures, for each symbol  $b$  in the alphabet, there is a unary relation  $b$ . In Figure 2.1, the alphabet is assumed to be the 26 lowercase letters of the English alphabet. We use the typewriter font to distinguish the relations from the symbols. It is customary to denote the alphabet with  $\Sigma$ . We write  $(b)_{b \in \Sigma}$  to mean this finite set of relations. If a domain element belongs to the unary relation  $b$  then it means this element has the property of being  $b$ . So for the word *sans*, two elements will belong to  $s$ , a different element will belong to  $a$  and the remaining element will belong to  $n$ . For every other symbol  $b$  in the alphabet the relation  $b$  will be empty. When we write  $x \in b$  or  $b(x)$  we mean that domain element  $x$  belongs to the unary relation  $b$ .

The signature of the successor model also includes a single binary relation called “successor”. A domain element  $x$  indicating some event

stands in the successor relation to  $y$  if  $y$  corresponds to the event which is in fact the *next* event after  $x$ . In this book, we use the symbol  $\triangleleft$  to indicate the successor relation. For the word *sans*, if  $2 \in R_a$  and  $3 \in R_n$  then  $(2, 3)$  would be in the successor relation. There are at least three common ways to write the fact that domain elements 2 and 3 stand in the successor relation:  $(2, 3) \in \triangleleft$  (set notation),  $\triangleleft(2, 3)$  (prefix notation), and  $2 \triangleleft 3$  (infix notation).

The signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  for the successor model is thus  $\{(b)_{b \in \Sigma}, \triangleleft\}$  and  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structures would have the form  $\langle D \mid (b)_{b \in \Sigma}, \triangleleft \rangle$ . It is also customary to use salient aspects of the signature to refer to the signature itself. In the case of the successor model, it is the successor relation that plays a critical role. For this reason, we will refer to structures with the aforementioned signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  as  $\triangleleft$ -structures.

The successor model is not the only way to represent words. From a phonological perspective, it is arguably a strange model. After all, there are no phonological features! We will consider more phonologically natural models of words below.

It is easy to see that there is a general method for constructing a unique model for each logically possible string. Given a string  $w$  of length  $n$  we can always construct a successor model for it as follows. Since  $w$  is a sequence of  $n$  symbols, we let  $w = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ . Then set the domain  $D = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . For each symbol  $b \in \Sigma$  and  $i$  between 1 and  $n$  inclusive,  $i \in b$  if and only if  $b_i = b$ . And finally, for each  $i$  between 1 and  $n - 1$  inclusive, let the only elements of the successor relation be  $(i, i + 1)$ .<sup>1</sup> This is summarized in Table 2.1.

$D$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
$b$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid b_i = b\}$ for each unary relation $b$
$\triangleleft$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{(i, i + 1) \subseteq D \times D\}$

Table 2.1: Creating a successor model for any word  $w = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ .

This construction guarantees the soundness of the successor model: each string has one structure and distinct strings will have distinct structures. It is also important to recognize that removing any one of the unary or binary relations will result in a signature which does not guarantee that models of distinct strings are distinct.

<sup>1</sup>Here we are taking advantage of the numeric interpretation of the domain elements.

Model-theoretic representations provide an ontology and a vocabulary for talking about objects. They provide a primitive set of facts from which we can reason. For instance in the word *random*, we know that the *m* occurs sometime after the *n*. However this fact is not immediately available from the successor model. It can be deduced, but that deduction requires some computation. Measuring the cost of such computations is but one facet of what model theory accomplishes. On the other hand, the successor model makes immediately available the information that *d* occurs immediately after the *n*. As will hopefully be clear by the end of this chapter, this distinction can shed light on differences between local and long-distance constraints in phonology.

From a psychological perspective, the primitive set of facts a model-theoretic representation encodes about a word can be thought of as primitive psychological units. In its strongest form, the model-theoretic representation of words as embodied in its signature makes a concrete claim about the psychological reality of the ways words are represented mentally.

## 2.4 First Order Logic

Now that the models provide explicit representations, what do we do with them? Logic provides a language for talking about these representations. First Order logic is a well-understood logical language which we introduce informally here. For those already familiar with FO logic, you will see that we take advantage of things like prenex normal form without discussion.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to the Boolean connectives such as conjunction, disjunction, implication, and negation, FO logic also includes existential and universal quantification over variables that range over domain elements. These variables are called **first order variables**. Apart from these logical connectives, and quantified variables, the basic vocabulary of FO logic comes from the *relations in the signature*. Thus each model-theoretic representation supplies essential ingredients for the logical language. Table 2.2 summarizes the vocabulary of FO logic with an arbitrary model  $\langle D \mid R_1, R_2, \dots R_n \rangle$ . The expressions in the category “Model Vocabulary” in Table 2.2 are also called **atomic formulas** because they are the primitive terms from which larger

<sup>2</sup>Readers are referred to Keisler and Robbin (1996); Enderton (2001) and Hedman (2004) for complete treatments of first order logic including prenex normal form.

Boolean Values	
true	true
$\top$	true
false	false
$\perp$	false
Boolean Connectives	
$\wedge$	conjunction
$\vee$	disjunction
$\neg$	negation
$\rightarrow$	implication
$\leftrightarrow$	biconditional
Syntactic Elements	
(	left parentheses
)	right parentheses
,	comma for separating variables
Variables, Quantifiers, and Equality	
$x, y, z$	variables which range over elements of the domain
$\exists$	existential quantifier
$\forall$	universal quantifier
$=$	equality between variables
Model Vocabulary	
$R(x)$	for each unary relation $R$ in $\{R_1, R_2, \dots R_n\}$
$R(x, y)$	for each binary relation $R$ in $\{R_1, R_2, \dots R_n\}$
$xRy$	for each binary relation $R$ in $\{R_1, R_2, \dots R_n\}$
...	
$R(x_1, x_2 \dots x_m)$	for each $m$ -ary relation $R$ in $\{R_1, R_2, \dots R_m\}$

Table 2.2: Symbols and their meaning in FO logic. Certain sequences of these symbols are valid FO sentences and formulas. Note binary relations are often written in two ways.

logical expressions are built. In other words, not only can a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  give rise to model theoretic representations of a class of objects, but a

signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  also gives rise to a first-order **logical language**. This language is made up of the expressions that can be built from the model vocabulary and the logical connectives and quantifiers in a syntactically valid way. We call this logical language  $\text{FO}(\mathfrak{R})$ .

Since Chapter 6 defines FO logic formally, here we introduce the concept of valid sentences and formulas of FO logic ostensively. Below we give examples of three types of expressions: sentences of FO logic, formulas of FO logic, and syntactically ill-formed expressions. Sentences of FO logic are complete, syntactically valid sentences that can be interpreted with respect to a signature. Formulas of FO logic are syntactically valid expressions, but are not incomplete in the sense that they contain variables which are not bound to anything. The sentences and formulas that belong to a logical language  $\text{FO}(\mathfrak{R})$  will be called  $\mathfrak{R}$ -sentences and  $\mathfrak{R}$ -formulas, respectively. The syntactically ill-formed expressions demonstrate common ways expressions are incorrectly stated.

**Example 1** (Sentences of  $\text{FO}(\triangleleft)$ ). Below are five  $\triangleleft$ -sentences of FO logic with English translations below.<sup>3</sup>

1. Sentences of FO logic.

- (a)  $\exists x, y, z (\neg(x = y) \wedge \neg(x = z) \wedge \neg(y = z))$
- (b)  $\exists x, y (\mathfrak{n}(x) \wedge \mathfrak{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y)$
- (c)  $\neg \exists x, y (\mathfrak{n}(x) \wedge \mathfrak{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y)$
- (d)  $\forall x, y (\neg(\mathfrak{n}(x) \wedge \mathfrak{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y))$
- (e)  $\forall x \exists y (\mathfrak{n}(x) \rightarrow (\mathfrak{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y))$

2. Literal English translation.

- There exist elements  $x, y, z$  such that  $x$  is not  $y$ ,  $x$  is not  $z$ , and  $y$  is not  $z$ .
- There exist elements  $x, y$  such that  $x$  satisfies property  $\mathfrak{n}$ ,  $y$  satisfies property  $\mathfrak{t}$ , and  $y$  is the successor of  $x$ .
- There does not exist elements  $x, y$  such that  $x$  satisfies property  $\mathfrak{n}$ ,  $y$  satisfies property  $\mathfrak{t}$ , and  $y$  is the successor of  $x$ .

<sup>3</sup>In the examples, we use the word ‘element’ to refer to domain elements. However, since we are talking about strings, we could have equally well used words like ‘event’ or ‘position’.



- For all elements  $x, y$  it is not the case that  $x$  satisfies property  $n$ ,  $y$  satisfies property  $t$ , and  $y$  is the successor of  $x$ .
- For all elements  $x$ , there is element  $y$  such that if  $x$  satisfies property  $n$  then  $y$  satisfies property  $t$  and  $y$  is the successor of  $x$ .

3. English translation (in terms of the models).

- (a) There are three distinct domain elements.
- (b) There are two domain elements in the successor relation; the former has the property of being  $n$ ; the latter has the property of being  $t$ .
- (c) It is not the case that there exists two domain elements in the successor relation of which the former has the property of being  $n$  and the latter has the property of being  $t$ .
- (d) For every pair of domain elements that stand in the successor relation, it is not the case that the former has the property of being  $n$  and the latter has the property of being  $t$ .
- (e) For all domain element which have the property of being  $n$ , it is succeeded by a domain element which has the property of being  $t$ .

4. English translation (in terms of the strings the models represent).

- (a) There are at least three symbols.
- (b) There is a substring  $nt$ .
- (c) There is no substring  $nt$ .
- (d) There is no substring  $nt$ .
- (e) Every  $n$  is immediately followed by  $t$ .

$\mathfrak{R}$ -sentences of FO logic are **interpreted** with respect to  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structures. A structure for which the sentence is true are said to **satisfy** the sentence. If a structure (or model)  $\mathcal{M}$  of string  $w$  satisfies a sentence  $\phi$  we write  $\mathcal{M}_w \models \phi$ . Consequently, every FO sentence  $\phi$  divides the objects being modeled into two classes: those that satisfy  $\phi$  and those that do not. In this way, logical sentences define **constraints**. The strings whose models satisfy the sentence do not violate the constraint; strings whose models do not satisfy the constraint do violate it.

Table 2.3 provides examples of strings whose models satisfy the formulas in Example 1 and examples of strings whose models do not. An important

$\phi$	$\mathcal{M}_w \models \phi$	$\mathcal{M}_w \not\models \phi$
(a)	<i>too, sans, ttt</i>	<i>to, a</i>
(b)	<i>sans, rent, ntnt</i>	<i>ten, to, phobia</i>
(c)	<i>ten, to, phobia</i>	<i>sans, rent, ntnt</i>
(d)	<i>ten, to, phobia</i>	<i>sans, rent, ntnt</i>
(e)	<i>rent, antler</i>	<i>ten, nantucket</i>

Table 2.3: Some strings whose models satisfy the formulas in Example 1 and some whose models do not.

feature of FO logic is that there are algorithmic solutions to the problem of deciding whether a given  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure satisfies a given  $\mathfrak{R}$ -sentence. This algorithm works because the syntactic rules that build up larger sentences from smaller ones have clear semantic interpretations with respect to the structure under consideration. In short, it is an unambiguous and compositional system. For instance,  $\mathcal{M} \models \phi \wedge \psi$  if and only if  $\mathcal{M} \models \phi$  and  $\mathcal{M} \models \psi$ . The interpretation of quantifiers is discussed after introducing formulas below.

**$\mathfrak{R}$ -formulas** of FO logic are incomplete sentences in the sense that they contain variables that are not **bound**. A variable is bound only if it has been introduced with a quantifier and is within that quantifier's scope. Variables that are not bound are called **free**.  $\mathfrak{R}$ -formulas are only interpretable with respect to an  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$  if the free variables are assigned some interpretation as elements of the domain of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Example 2** (Formulas of  $\text{FO}(\triangleleft)$ ). 1. Formulas of FO logic.

- (a)  $\mathfrak{n}(x) \vee \mathfrak{m}(x) \vee \mathfrak{t}(x)$
- (b)  $\exists y (\mathfrak{n}(x) \wedge \mathfrak{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y)$
- (c)  $\neg \exists y (x \triangleleft y)$
- (d)  $\neg \exists y (y \triangleleft x)$
- (e)  $\neg(x = y) \wedge \neg(x = z) \wedge \neg(y = z)$
- (f)  $x \triangleleft y \wedge y \triangleleft z$

2. English translation.

- (a)  $x$  has the property of being  $n$ ,  $m$ , or  $t$ .
- (b)  $x$  has the property of being  $n$  and coming immediately before an element which has the property of being  $t$ .

- (c) There is no element which succeeds  $x$ .
- (d) There is no element which  $x$  succeeds.
- (e)  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are distinct.
- (f)  $x$  is succeeded by  $y$  which is succeeded by  $z$ .

The difference between formulas and sentences is that sentences admit no free variables. Since sentences have no free variables, they must begin with quantifiers. Because formulas can only be interpreted in terms of one or more un-instantiated variables, formulas are often used to define **predicates**. Predicates are essentially abbreviations for formulas with the unbound variables serving as parameters. Below we repeat the formulas from above, but use them to define new predicates. We also write predicates in typewriter font, but with a very light gray highlight to distinguish them from atomic formulas.

$$\text{nasal } (x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{n}(x) \vee \text{m}(x) \vee \text{ŋ}(x) \quad (2.1)$$

$$\text{nt } (x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists y (\text{n}(x) \wedge \text{t}(y) \wedge x \triangleleft y) \quad (2.2)$$

$$\text{last } (x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists y (x \triangleleft y) \quad (2.3)$$

$$\text{first } (x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists y (y \triangleleft x) \quad (2.4)$$

$$\text{distinct3 } (x, y, z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg(x = y) \wedge \neg(x = z) \wedge \neg(y = z) \quad (2.5)$$

$$\text{string3 } (x, y, z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y \wedge y \triangleleft z \quad (2.6)$$

These predicates can then be used to define new expressions. For example, the sentence  $\forall x (\neg \text{nt } (x))$  is equivalent to (1d) in Example 1 above. In the same way that programmers write functions which encapsulate snippets of often-used programming code, predicates generally help writing and reading complex logical expressions.

Determining whether a structure satisfies a sentence is compositional. It also depends on the **assignment** of variables to elements in the model's domain. For instance, to determine whether  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies  $\phi = \exists x (\psi(x))$ , we must find an element of the domain of  $\mathcal{M}$ , which if assigned to  $x$ , has the consequence that  $\psi$  evaluates to true. If no such element exists, then  $\mathcal{M}$  does not satisfy  $\phi$ . Similarly,  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies  $\phi = \forall x (\psi(x))$  if and only if every element of the domain  $\mathcal{M}$ , when assigned to  $x$ , results in  $\psi$  evaluating to true. The formal semantics of FO logic is given in Chapter 6.

Finally we give some examples of syntactically ill-formed sequences. The following expressions are junk; they are not interpretable at all.

**Example 3** (Syntactically ill-formed sequences).

1. Syntactically ill-formed sequences.

- (a)  $x\exists )x($
- (b)  $\forall\exists (n \vee t)$
- (c)  $\neg\exists(n \triangleleft t)$

2. Comments.

- (a) Quantifiers always introduce variables to their left and parentheses are used normally.
- (b) No quantifier can be introduced without a variable and  $n$ -ary relations from the model vocabulary must always include  $n$  variables.
- (c) Many beginning students make this sort of error when trying to express a logical sentence which forbids  $nt$  sequences. This expression breaks the same rules as the one before it.

We conclude this section by providing an example of a logical sentence defining a constraint which bans voiceless obstruents after nasals. This is a constraint in the literature often abbreviated \*NT (Pater, 1999). Since the model signature does not include relations for concepts like nasals and voiceless consonants, we first define predicates for these notions. We assume the alphabet is limited to the following IPA symbols:  $a, b, d, e, g, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, z$ .

**Example 4** (The constraint \*NT defined under the FO with successor model.).

$$\text{nasal}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} n(x) \vee m(x) \quad (2.7)$$

$$\text{voiceless}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p(x) \vee t(x) \vee k(x) \vee s(x) \quad (2.8)$$

$$\text{*NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg\exists x, y (x \triangleleft y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{voiceless}(y)) \quad (2.9)$$

It is easy to see that  $\triangleleft$ -structures of words like *sans* and *lampoon* do not satisfy  $*_{NT}$  but  $\triangleleft$ -structures of words like *ten* and *moon* do. For example, in the  $\triangleleft$ -structure of *sans*, the expression  $\exists x, y(x \triangleleft y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{voiceless}(y))$  is true when  $x = 3$  and  $y = 4$ . Hence,  $*_{NT}$  evaluates to false. On the other hand, in the  $\triangleleft$ -structure of the word *moon*, every value assigned  $x$  and  $y$  results in the sentence  $\exists x, y(x \triangleleft y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{voiceless}(y))$  evaluating to false. Hence the sentence  $*_{NT}$  evaluates to true and so  $\mathcal{M}_{moon} \models *_{NT}$ .

This section has presented the first CDL: FO with successor, also written as FO( $\triangleleft$ ). The FO with successor model has been studied carefully and it is known precisely what kinds of constraints can and cannot be expressed with this CDL (Thomas, 1982), as will be discussed further below.

## 2.5 Word Models with Phonological Features

One way in which the successor model above is strange from a phonological perspective is its absence of phonological features. The properties associated with the elements of the domain are singular, atomic segments. However, nothing in model theory itself prohibits domain elements from having more than one property. It is a consequence of the construction in Table 2.1 that each domain element will satisfy exactly one of the unary relations  $b$ , no more and no less. We can formalize this statement of the successor model in Remark 1 as follows.

**Remark 1** (The successor model entails disjoint unary relations). For all  $\triangleleft$ -structures  $\mathcal{M} = \langle D \mid (b)_{b \in \Sigma}, \triangleleft \rangle$ , and for all  $a, b \in (b)_{b \in \Sigma}$ , it is the case that  $a \cap b = \emptyset$ .

It is possible to design different models of words, where the unary relations do not represent segments like  $a$ ,  $b$ , or  $n$  but phonetic or phonological features such as *vocalic*, *labial*, or *nasal*. Crucially, these models would not entail disjoint unary relations: a domain element could be both *voiced* and *labial* for instance.

In this part of the chapter, we give one example of such a model. There are many others, as many as there are theories of phonological features.

The model we give here is primarily for pedagogical reasons; we are not stating particular beliefs or arguments regarding the nature of feature systems. We are only choosing a simple system that illustrates some key points.

We set up a feature system with **privative** features for the simple alphabet  $\Sigma$  discussed earlier  $a, b, d, e, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, z$ . The use of privative features contrasts with the typical assumption in phonological theory that features are **binary** (Hayes, 2009; Odden, 2014; Bale and Reiss, 2018). We choose not to pick a minimal nor maximal set of features for distinguishing this set. Instead we choose somewhat arbitrarily a middle ground based on standard descriptive phonetic terms used for describing the manner, place and laryngeal quality in articulating sounds. We call this model “the successor model with features.” Its signature, which we denote as  $(\text{feat}, \triangleleft)$ , is shown below.

$$\{\text{vocalic, low, high, front, stop, fricative, nasal, lateral,} \\ \text{rhotic, voiced, voiceless, labial, coronal, dorsal, } \triangleleft\} \quad (2.10)$$

This contrasts with the successor model in the previous section, which we will call “the successor model without features,” or sometimes “the successor model with letters.” Table 2.4 shows how to construct a  $(\text{feat}, \triangleleft)$ -structure for any string in  $\Sigma^*$ . Again this model ensures that distinct strings from  $\Sigma^*$  have different models and that every string has some model.

As an example, Figure 2.2 shows the  $(\text{feat}, \triangleleft)$ -structure of the word *sans*.

The successor model with features contrasts sharply with the successor model without features in an important way. To see how, first consider the constraint \*NT. Under the successor model with features, this constraint would be defined as in Example 2.11

**Example 5** (The constraint \*NT defined under the FO with successor model with features.).

$$*NT \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists x, y (x \triangleleft y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{voiceless}(y)) \quad (2.11)$$

This looks similar to the definition of \*NT under the successor model (Equation 2.7), but there is a critical difference. The predicates above in Equation 2.11 are *atomic* formulas and not user-defined predicates as they are in Equation 2.7.

D	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
vocalic	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{a, e, i, o, u\}\}$
low	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i = a\}$
high	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{i, u\}\}$
front	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{e, i\}\}$
stop	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{b, d, g, k, p, t\}\}$
fricative	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{h, s, z\}\}$
nasal	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{m, n\}\}$
lateral	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i = l\}$
rhotic	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i = r\}$
voiced	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{b, d, g, z\}\}$
voiceless	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{k, p, s, t, h\}\}$
labial	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{b, p, m\}\}$
coronal	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{d, s, t, z\}\}$
dorsal	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid a_i \in \{g, k\}\}$
$\triangleleft$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{(i, i + 1) \mid 1 \leq i < n\}$

Table 2.4: Creating a successor model with features for any word  $w = b_1b_2 \dots b_n$ .

This is an important ontological difference between these two models. In the successor model with features there is no primitive representational concept that corresponds to a sound segment like [t] as there is in the successor model without features. Conversely, in the successor model without features there is no primitive representational concept that corresponds to a phonological feature like *voiceless* as there is in the successor model with features. Features are *derived* concepts in the the successor model without features, and segments are *derived* concepts in the the successor model with features.

In the successor model with features we can write user-defined predicates that define properties of domain elements that we can interpret to mean “being *t*”.

$$\mathbf{t}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{stop}(x) \wedge \text{coronal}(x) \wedge \text{voiceless}(x) \quad (2.12)$$

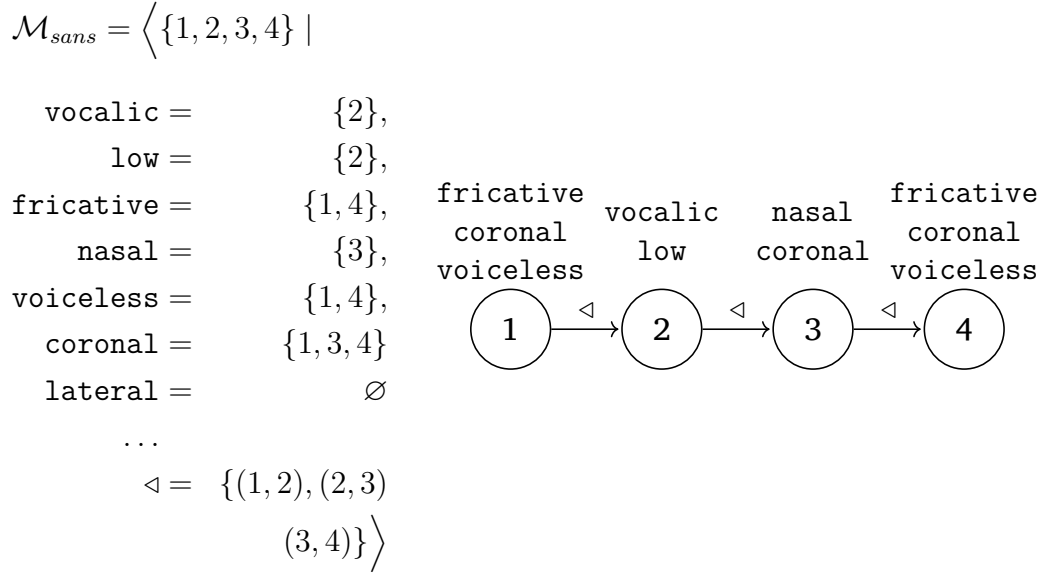


Figure 2.2: At left, the successor model with features of the word *sans*. Unary relations which equal the empty set are omitted for readability. At right, a graphical diagram of this model.

Other sound segments would be defined similarly.

One way to put this difference is that in the successor model with features one can immediately determine whether a domain element is voiced or not, but in the successor model without features one cannot immediately determine this fact. Instead one can deduce it by checking the appropriate user-defined predicate. Likewise, in the successor model with features one cannot immediately determine whether a domain element is *t* or not. With the featural representations, such a fact must be deduced with a user-defined predicate like the one above.

Also, the fact that such user-defined predicates exist should not be taken for granted. They exist here because the only logical system discussed so far is FO. With FO logic, it is possible to define a predicate for any subset of the alphabet  $\Sigma$  for both successor models with and without features. If the logical system was restricted in some further way then some user-defined predicates may not be possible to define. For example, if the logical system only permitted conjunction and no other Boolean connective then it would not be possible to define a predicate for voiceless stops in the successor model without features. This interplay between representations and logical



power with respect to expressivity is an important theme of this chapter. It will be discussed at length with respect to the successor relation, and we will return to it in the context of features when restricted logics are introduced in Chapter 5.

It is a consequence of FO logic that any constraint definable with one of successor models discussed so far is definable in the other. This leads to the conclusion that there are no typological distinctions between a theory that holds the right CDL for phonology is one based on First-Order logic over the successor model with features and a theory that holds the right CDL for phonology is one based on First-Order logic over the successor model without features. Both admit exactly the same class of constraints, with respect to some alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

However, while the two models do not make different typological predictions, they make different predictions in other ways. This is because in regard to phonological theory, the model signature is an ontological commitment to the psychological reality of the model vocabulary. Taken seriously, the successor model with features says that the mental representations of words carries only the information shown in Figure 2.2. Thus, taken seriously, the successor model with features says that the segments in the word *sans* are not perceived as such but are instead perceived in terms of their features. Clever psycholinguistic experiments could bring evidence to bear on which model more accurately resembles the actual mental representations of words.

## 2.6 Monadic Second-Order Logic

This section introduces Monadic Second-Order (MSO) logic. This logic is strictly *more expressive* than FO logic. We motivate the discussion of MSO logic from a linguistic perspective by showing that FO with successor, both with and without features, is not sufficient to account for long-distance phonotactic constraints.

What are long-distance phonotactic constraints? Odden (1994) draws attention to an unbounded nasal assimilation in Kikongo whereby underlying /ku-kinis-il-a/ becomes [kukinisina] ‘to make dance for.’ From one perspective, this assimilation could be said to be driven by a phonotactic constraint that forbids laterals from occurring after nasals. Similar long-distance constraints have been posited for a variety of long-distance

assimilation and dissimilation processes (Rose and Walker, 2004; Hansson, 2010).

We first show that the phonotactic constraint which bans laterals from occurring *anywhere* after nasals cannot be expressed in the FO with successor model. We refer to this constraint as \*N..L. As we hope to make clear, the problem is that the notion of *precedence* is not FO-definable from successor. To illustrate this problem, consider that the logically possible word [kukinisila] is ill-formed in Kikongo. The nasal [n] has only one successor [i], but it *precedes* many segments including the second and third [i]s as well as the [s,l] and [a]. It is the fact that [n] precedes [l] which makes [kukinisila] ill-formed according to the phonotactic constraint \*N..L.

Constraint \*N..L is not FO definable with successor. To prove this we use an abstract characterization of the constraints definable with FO( $\triangleleft$ ) due to Thomas (1982) and reviewed in Rogers and Pullum (2011). Thomas called the class of formal languages obeying this characterization **Locally Threshold Testable**.

**Theorem 1** (Characterization of FO( $\triangleleft$ ) definable constraints). *A constraint is FO-definable with successor if and only if there are two natural numbers  $k$  and  $t$  such that for any two strings  $w$  and  $v$ , if  $w$  and  $v$  contain the same substrings  $x$  of length  $k$  the same number of times counting only up to  $t$ , then either both  $w$  and  $v$  violate the constraint or neither does.*

Essentially, this theorem says constraints that are FO-definable with successor cannot distinguish among strings that are composed of the same *number* and *type* of substrings of some length  $k$ , where substrings can be counted only up to some threshold  $t$ .

We can use this theorem to show that \*N..L is not FO definable with successor by presenting two strings which \*N..L distinguishes but which are not distinguishable according to the criteria in Theorem 1. This would prove that \*N..L is not LTT and thus not FO-definable with successor. Importantly, we have to present two such strings for any  $k$  and  $t$ . (These strings can depend on  $k$  and  $t$ .)

We use notation  $b^k$  to mean the string consisting of  $k$  consecutive  $bs$ . So  $b^3 = bbb$ . For any numbers  $k$  and  $t$  larger than 0, consider the words  $w = o^k n o^k l o^k$  and  $v = o^k l o^k n o^k$ . Table 2.5 below shows the substrings up to length  $k$ , and their number of occurrences. Each word has the same substrings and the same number of them. Note the left and right word

boundaries ( $\bowtie$  and  $\bowtie$  respectively) are customarily included as part of the strings.

count	$w = \bowtie o^k n o^k \ell o^k \bowtie$	Notes
1	$\bowtie a^{k-1}$	
3	$o^k$	
1	$o^i n o^j$	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
1	$o^i \ell o^j$	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
1	$a^{k-1} \bowtie$	

count	$v = \bowtie o^k \ell o^k n o^k \bowtie$	Notes
1	$\bowtie a^{k-1}$	
3	$o^k$	
1	$o^i n o^j$	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
1	$o^i \ell o^j$	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
1	$a^{k-1} \bowtie$	

Table 2.5: The  $k$ -long substrings with their number of occurrences in the strings  $w = o^k n o^k \ell o^k$  and  $v = o^k \ell o^k n o^k$  with word boundaries.

As can be seen from the above table, the two strings have exactly the same number of occurrences of each  $k$ -long substring. Consequently, for any threshold  $t$ , the counts of the  $k$ -long substrings will also be the same. It follows, from Theorem 1 that these two strings cannot be distinguished by any constraint which is FO-definable with successor.

More precisely, *any constraint which is FO-definable with successor is unable to distinguish in strings  $w$  and  $v$  whether  $n$  precedes  $\ell$  or whether  $\ell$  precedes  $n$ .* As such, no FO-definable constraint with successor can be violated by  $w$  but not by  $v$  and vice versa. It follows that \*N..L is not FO definable with successor for precisely the reason that it is this distinction that \*N..L makes.

Having established that linguistically motivated long-distance phonotactic constraints are not FO-definable with successor, we turn to the question of how such constraints can be defined from the logical perspective offered here. Essentially, there are two approaches. One is to increase the power of the logic. The other is to change the signature—the representational primitives—of strings. This section examines the first option and the next

section examines the second option. This interplay between logical power and representations and how it affects the expressivity of the linguistic system is a running theme of this book.

**Monadic Second Order** (MSO) logic is a logical language that is strictly more powerful than FO logic. Constraints that are MSO-definable with successor include every constraint which is FO-definable with successor because every sentence and formula in  $\text{FO}(\triangleleft)$  is also a sentence and formula in MSO logic with successor and is interpreted in the same way. In addition to first order variables, MSO comes with **second order variables**. Generally, variables that are second order are allowed to vary over  $n$ -ary relations. The restriction to monadic second order variables means the variables in this logic can only vary over unary relations, which correspond to *sets* of domain elements. This contrasts with first order variables, which vary only over individual elements of the domain.

MSO logic is defined formally in Chapter 6, so here we introduce it informally with examples. In MSO logic, the MSO variables are expressed with capital letters such as  $X, Y$ , and  $Z$  to distinguish them from first order variables which use lowercase letters like  $x, y$ , and  $z$ . Observe that  $x \in X$  and  $X(x)$  are synonyms. As with first order variables, second order variables are introduced into sentences and formula with quantifiers.

Additional Symbols in MSO logic	
$X, Y, Z$	variables which range over sets of elements of the domain
$x \in X$	checks whether an element $x$ belongs to a set of elements $X$
$X(x)$	checks whether an element $x$ belongs to a set of elements $X$

Table 2.6: Together with the symbols of FO logic shown in Table 2.2, these symbols make up MSO logic.

With MSO logic over successor, denoted  $\text{MSO}(\triangleleft)$ , it is now possible to define the precedence relation as shown below.

$$\text{closed}(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\forall x, y) [(x \in X \wedge x \triangleleft y) \rightarrow y \in X] \quad (2.13)$$

$$x < y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\forall X) [(x \in X \wedge \text{closed}(X)) \rightarrow y \in X] \quad (2.14)$$

Intuitively, a set of elements  $X$  in the domain of a model of some word  $w$  satisfies  $\text{closed}(X)$  only if every successor of every element in  $X$  is

also in  $X$ . In short,  $\text{closed}(X)$  is true only for sets of elements  $X$  which are transitively closed under successor. Then  $x$  precedes  $y$  only if for every closed set of elements  $X$  which  $x$  belongs to,  $y$  also belongs to  $X$ .

Figure 2.3 below illustrates these ideas. The successor model for the string *onoolo* is shown. Six rectangular regions are shown, which identify the six nonempty sets of domain elements which are closed under successor and thus satisfy  $\text{closed}(X)$ .

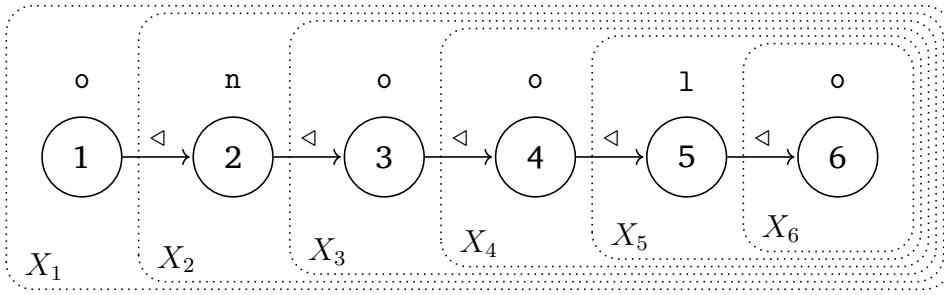


Figure 2.3: The successor model for the word *onoolo*. The dotted rectangular regions indicate the sets of domain elements ( $X_i$ ) which are closed under successor.

We can conclude that  $n$  (at position 2) precedes  $l$  (at position 5) because every closed set which element 2 belongs to ( $X_1$  and  $X_2$ ) also includes the element 5. Similarly, we can conclude that  $l$  does not precede  $n$  because it is not the case that all closed sets which contain element 5 also include element 2. Set  $X_4$  for instance contains element 5 but not element 2.

Once the binary relation for precedence ( $<$ ) has been defined, it is now straightforward to define the constraint  $*N..L$  with features.

$$*N..L \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg(\exists x, y)[x < y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{lateral}(y)] \quad (2.15)$$

The sentence above may look like a sentence of FO logic since no second order variables are present. However, it is important to remember that the precedence relation ( $<$ ) is a user-defined predicate, and as such it is just an abbreviation for a longer expression, which is defined using the second order variables of MSO logic. Therefore Equation 2.15 is not an expression of FO( $<$ ).

In many treatments of logic, whether a predicate is atomic or derived is not something that can be determined from inspecting a sentence or formula since the notation does not distinguish them. In this book, we are using very light gray highlighting to distinguish derived predicates from atomic formulas. Readers should be aware, however, that usually one must be being acutely aware of the model signature to know whether a predicate is atomic or derived.

At this point, we have established that the linguistically motivated long-distance phonotactic constraint  $*N..L$  is not definable with FO logic with successor but is definable with MSO logic with successor. We thus ask: What other kinds of constraints are MSO-definable with successor?

Another constraint that is not FO-definable with successor but is MSO-definable constraint with successor is a constraint that requires words to have an even number of nasals. Words like *man* and *phenomenon* obey this constraint since they have two and four nasals, respectively, but words like *trim*, *nanotechnology* and *nonintervention* do not since they have one, three and five nasals, respectively.

To see that this constraint is not FO-definable with successor, we use Theorem 1 as before. For any nonzero numbers  $k$  and  $t$ , consider the words  $w = a^k(na^k)^{2t}$  and  $v = a^k(na^k)^{2t}na^k$ . Observe that  $w$  obeys the constraint since it contains  $2t$  nasals and  $2t$  is an even number. On the other hand,  $v$  contains  $2t + 1$  nasals and therefore violates the constraint. However, as Table 2.7 shows, these words have the same substrings of length  $k$ , and the same numbers of each substring, counting only up to the threshold  $t$ .

However, this constraint is expressible with MSO logic with successor. We make use of some additional predicates, including general precedence ( $<$ ) defined in Equation 2.14. The predicate `firstN` is true of  $x$  only if  $x$  is the first nasal occurring in the word (Equation 2.16). The predicate `lastN` is true of  $x$  only if  $x$  is the last nasal occurring in the word (Equation 2.17). Also, two variables  $x$  and  $y$  stand in the nasal-successor relation (denoted  $<_N$ ) only if  $x$  and  $y$  are nasals and  $y$  is the first nasal to occur after  $x$  (Equation 2.18). Essentially,  $<_N$  is the successor relation

$w = \bowtie a^k (na^k)^{2t} a^k \bowtie$			
$k$ -long substring	raw count	count up to threshold $t$	notes
$\bowtie a^{k-1}$	1	1	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
$a^k$	$2t+2$	$t$	
$a^i na^j$	$2t+2$	$t$	
$a^{k-1} \bowtie$	1	1	
$v = \bowtie a^k (na^k)^{2t} na^k \bowtie$			
$k$ -long substring	raw count	count up to threshold $t$	notes
$\bowtie a^{k-1}$	1	1	for each $0 \leq i, j \leq k-1, i+j = k-1$
$a^k$	$2t+3$	$t$	
$a^i na^j$	$2t+3$	$t$	
$a^{k-1} \bowtie$	1	1	

Table 2.7: The  $k$ -long substrings and the numbers of their counts in  $w = a^k (na^k)^{2t}$  and  $v = a^k (na^k)^{2t} na^k$  with word boundaries.

relativized to nasals (Lambert, 2023).

$$\text{firstN}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \neg(\exists y)[\text{nasal}(y) \wedge y < x] \quad (2.16)$$

$$\text{lastN}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \neg(\exists y)[\text{nasal}(y) \wedge x < y] \quad (2.17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x <_{\text{N}} y &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{nasal}(y) \wedge x < y \\ &\quad \wedge \neg(\exists z)[\text{nasal}(z) \wedge x < z < y] \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

Note we use the shorthand  $x < y < z$  for  $x < z \wedge z < y$ .

With these predicates in place, we write EVEN-N as in Equation 2.19.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{EVEN-N} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\exists X) \left[ (\forall x)[\text{firstN}(x) \rightarrow X(x)] \right. \\ &\quad \wedge (\forall x)[\text{lastN}(x) \rightarrow \neg X(x)] \left. \right] \\ &\quad \wedge (\forall x, y)[x <_{\text{N}} y \wedge (X(x) \leftrightarrow \neg X(y))] \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

In English, this says that a model of word  $w$  satisfies EVEN-N provided there is a set of domain elements  $X$  that includes the first nasal (if one occurs), does not include the last nasal (if one occurs) and for all pairs of successive nasals (if they occur), exactly one belongs to  $X$ . Consequently, words containing zero nasals satisfy EVEN-N because the empty set of domain elements vacuously satisfies these three conditions. Words containing exactly one nasal do not satisfy EVEN-N because the first nasal and the last nasal are the same element  $x$  and they cannot both belong and not belong to  $X$ . However, words with exactly two nasals do satisfy EVEN-N because the first nasal belongs to  $X$  (satisfying the first condition), the last nasal does not (satisfying the second condition), and these two nasals are successive nasals and so are subject to the third condition, which they satisfy because exactly one of them (the first nasal) belongs to  $X$ . A little inductive reasoning along these lines lets one conclude that only words with an even number of nasals will satisfy EVEN-N as intended.

It is natural to wonder whether there is an abstract characterization of constraints that are MSO-definable with successor in the same way that Thomas (1982) provided an abstract characterization of constraints that are FO-definable with successor. In fact there is. Büchi (1960) showed that these constraints are exactly the ones describable with finite-state automata.

**Theorem 2** (Characterization of MSO-definable constraints with successor). *A constraint is MSO-definable with successor if and only if there is a finite-state acceptor which recognizes the words obeying the constraint.*

From the perspective of formal language theory, they are exactly the regular languages. Informally, these are formal languages for which the membership problem can be solved with a constant, finite amount of memory regardless of the size of the input.

In this section, we showed that FO-definable constraints with successor are not sufficiently powerful to express long-distance phonotactic constraints. One approach is to then increase the power of the logic. One logical system extends FO by adding quantification over monadic second order variables. This logic—MSO logic with successor—is able to express long-distance phonotactic constraints. However, MSO logic with successor also is also sufficiently expressive as a CDL to express constraints like EVEN-N.



Here is another way of putting it. In successor structures, the information that in the word *oloono* the  $\ell$  precedes the  $n$  is not immediately available from the representation. That information can be *deduced* but the deduction requires some computational effort. From the logical perspective taken here, this deduction requires MSO power and not FO power. Furthermore, once MSO power is admitted then it becomes possible to similarly deduce whether or not there are even numbers of elements with certain properties.

Another approach to developing a CDL which can express long-distance phonotactic constraints is to change the representation of strings; that is, to change the model signature. This is precisely the topic of the next section.

## 2.7 The Precedence Word Model

So far, the logics we have considered have been defined with respect to the successor model of words. These representations include the successor relation in their signature. However, as we have seen with phonological features vis a vis atomic letters, there are different models of strings. In this section, we consider the *precedence* model of strings. Simply, this model contains the **precedence relation** instead of the successor relation in its signature.

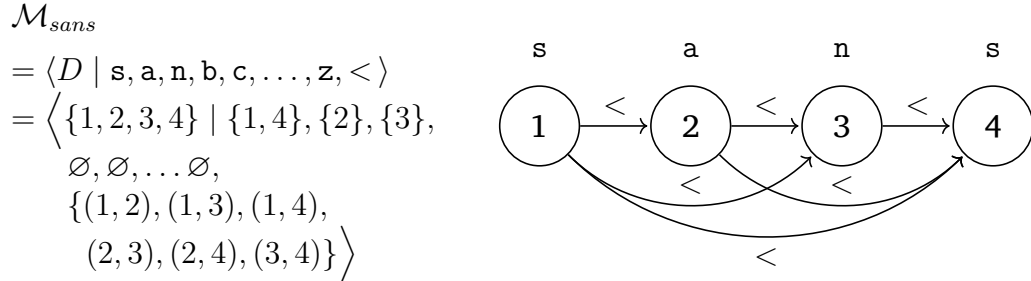
A domain element  $x$  stands in the precedence relation to  $y$  if  $y$  is an event that occurs sometime later than  $x$ . In this book, we use the symbol  $<$  to indicate the precedence relation. For the word *sans*, it holds that  $1, 4 \in R_s$  and  $(1, 4)$  belong to the precedence relation since position 4 occurs later than position 1. We can write this fact in several ways, including  $1 < 4$ ,  $<(1, 4)$ , and  $(1, 4) \in <$ . The signature for the precedence model with letters is thus  $\{(b)_{b \in \Sigma}, <\}$  and  $<$ -structures would have the form  $\langle D \mid (b)_{b \in \Sigma}, < \rangle$ .

As with the successor structures, there is a general method for constructing precedence structures for strings. Given a string of  $w$  of length  $n$ , the domain and unary relations of a precedence structure for  $w$  are constructed in the same way as was the case for the successor structure. Regarding the precedence relation itself, for each  $i$  and  $j$  between 1 and  $n$  inclusive,  $(i, j)$  belongs to the precedence relation so long as  $i < j$ . This is summarized in Table 2.8. This construction guarantees the model's soundness: each string has a model and distinct strings will have distinct models.

$D$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
$a$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{i \in D \mid b_i = b\}$ for each unary relation $b$
$<$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{(i, j) \subseteq D \times D \mid i < j\}$

Table 2.8: Creating a precedence model for any word  $w = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ .

Figure 2.4 shows the  $<$ -structure for the word *sans* on the left and a graphical diagram of it on the right.

Figure 2.4: At left, the precedence model of the word *sans*. At right, a graphical diagram of this model.

The difference between the  $<$ -structures and the  $\triangleleft$ -structures is how the order of segments in the word are represented. In the precedence model, the fact that the  $n$  is preceded by  $s$  in the word *sans* is immediately available because the element corresponding to  $n$  (position 3) is in the precedence relation with the element corresponding to the first  $s$  (position 1). Under the successor model, this information was not immediately available as it was not part of the representation. However, under the precedence model it is.

Taken seriously from a psychological perspective, the precedence model can be taken to mean that as words are perceived, information about the precedence relations is being stored in memory as part of the lexical representation of the word.

Also, in the same way that we considered the successor model both with and without features, we can also consider a precedence model with and without features. The precedence model introduced above was without features, but it is a simple matter to replace the unary relations in that

model with the ones in Table 2.4.

It is straightforward to now write the constraint \*N..L in the CDL which we call “FO with precedence with features” denoted FO(feats, <).

$$*N..L \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists x, y (x < y \wedge \text{nasal}(x) \wedge \text{lateral}(y)) \quad (2.20)$$

Equation 2.20 looks identical to Equation 2.15. However, there is a critical difference. In Equation 2.20, the precedence relation is an atomic formula but in Equation 2.15 it is a user-defined predicate in MSO logic.

It is natural to ask of course whether a constraint like \*NT is expressible in this CDL. The answer is Yes because successor is FO-definable from precedence. Equation 2.21 shows how. Essentially,  $x$  is succeeded by  $y$  only if  $x$  precedes  $y$  and there is no element  $z$  such that  $z < y$  and  $x < z$ .

$$x \triangleleft y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x < y \wedge \neg(\exists z)[x < z < y] \quad (2.21)$$

It is a striking fact that successor is FO-definable from precedence but precedence is MSO-definable from successor. This is a considerable asymmetry between the successor and precedence models of strings.

There are two important consequences. The first is the CDL FO(<) properly subsumes the CDL FO(Δ). Not only is every constraint expressible with the FO(Δ) also expressible with the FO(<), but there are constraints like \*N..L above that expressible with the FO(<) but not with the FO(Δ).

Another important consequence is that the CDL MSO(<) is equivalent in expressive power to the CDL MSO(Δ) discussed in the previous section. This is because with MSO logic, precedence can be defined from successor as shown previously in Equation 2.14 on page 46 and because successor can be defined from precedence as shown above in Equation 2.21. So at the level of MSO, these two models make no distinctions among the kinds of constraints that can be expressed. Furthermore it has been known since Büchi (1960), that these constraints correspond to exactly the regular stringsets.

There is also an abstract characterization of FO(<) due to McNaughton and Papert (1971).

**Theorem 3** (Characterization of FO-definable constraints with precedence). *A constraint is FO-definable with precedence if and only if there is a positive integer  $n$  such that for all strings  $x, y, z$  if  $xy^n z$  obeys the constraint then for all  $k > n$ ,  $xy^k z$  obeys the constraint too.*

This characterization says that FO-definable constraints with precedence can only distinguish iterations within strings up to some finite  $n$ . In other words, two strings  $xy^iz$  and  $xy^jz$ , with both  $i, j > n$  but  $i \neq j$ , cannot be distinguished by any FO-definable constraint with precedence. As McNaughton and Papert (1971) amply document, there are other independently-motivated characterizations of this class as well.

The above characterization can be used to show that EVEN-N is not FO-definable with precedence. Again, the strategy is to consider any  $n$  and then to find strings  $w, v$  such that (1) EVEN-N distinguishes  $w$  and  $v$  in the sense that one violates EVEN-N and the other does not while (2) ensuring that the forms of  $w, v$  conform to  $w = xy^iz$  and  $v = xy^jz$  for some  $x, y, z$  and numbers  $i, j > n$ . If the constraint were FO-definable with precedence such strings could not exist by Theorem 3. In this case, one solution is to set  $x = z = \lambda$  (the empty string),  $y = ma$ ,  $i = 2n$  and  $j = 2n + 1$ . Then  $w = (ma)^{2n}$  and  $v = (ma)^{2n+1}$ . Clearly,  $w$  has an even number of nasals since it has  $2n$  [m]s but  $v$  has an odd number since it has  $2n + 1$  [m]s. Thus EVEN-N distinguishes these strings and thus by Theorem 3 it cannot be FO-definable with precedence.

In this section, we considered a model of words where order is represented with the precedence relation instead of the successor relation. It was shown that long-distance constraints can be readily expressed with  $\text{FO}(<)$ . Furthermore, local phonotactic constraints like \*NT can also be expressed because successor is FO-definable from precedence. However, the converse is not true. This asymmetry means that  $\text{FO}(<)$  is strictly more expressive than  $\text{FO}(\triangleleft)$ . Despite this richer expressivity, it was also shown that EVEN-N cannot be expressed in  $\text{FO}(<)$ . Finally, it was noted that  $\text{MSO}(<)$  is equally expressive as  $\text{MSO}(\triangleleft)$ . Once there is MSO power, successor and precedence are each definable from the other. Which of these constraints can be expressed by which CDLs is summarized in Figure 2.5.

	$\triangleleft$	$<$
MSO	*N..L, EVEN-N	EVEN-N
FO	*NT	*NT, *N..L

Figure 2.5: Classifying the constraints \*NT, \*N..L, and EVEN-N.

More generally, this section established the following. Although one

way to increase the expressivity of a CDL is to increase the power of the logic, another way is to change the representations underlying in the model signatures. This speaks directly to the interplay between representations and computational power, one of the themes of this chapter.

We conclude that the only CDL discussed so far that can express both local and long-distance phonotactic constraints (like \*NT and \*N..L) but that fails to express constraints like EVEN-N is FO(<).

## 2.8 Discussion

This chapter has been about many things. On the one hand, it introduced model theory and logical languages as a toolkit for providing what De Lacy termed a Constraint Definition Language.

It then proceeded to show how different words can be represented in different ways based on the primitive relations one chooses to include in the model theoretic signature. Four examples were introduced: representations with letters and successor, representations with features and successor, representations with letters and precedence, and representations with features and precedence.

Additionally, two logics were introduced, First Order logic and Monadic Second Order logic. We explained how the choice of representation and choice of logic gives rise to a logical language which can express constraints over those representations.

Finally, we explored some of the consequences of these choices. The most important ones we stressed are the following.

1. If order is represented with successor and not precedence, then MSO logic is needed to be able to express long distance phonological constraints.
2. Logical languages defined with MSO logic over successor structures can also express constraints that forbid (or require) words to have  $n$  many structures modulo  $m$  ( $0 \leq n < m$ ) (for example, “Words must contain evenly many nasals”).
3. If order is represented with precedence and not successor, then FO logic is sufficient to express long distance phonological constraints, in addition to local phonological constraints.

4. The above results follow directly from a fact of mathematical logic: precedence needs MSO logic to be defined from successor but successor only needs FO logic to be defined from precedence.

We also return to the point that the symbolic and featural representations in Tables 2.1 and 2.4 can be defined in terms of the other using FO logic because a symbol can be defined in terms of the conjunction of the features that make up that symbol and similarly a feature-value can be defined in terms of a disjunction of symbols which have that feature-value. It follows that for any constraint  $C$  expressible in  $\text{FO}(\text{feat}, \triangleleft)$ , there is a constraint  $D$  in  $\text{FO}(\triangleleft)$  such that exactly the same strings violate both constraints, and vice versa.

Does this mean that there are no differences between symbolic and featural representations? No. While it *does* mean that one cannot distinguish the constraints one can express if FO logic is used along with features or symbols, it does not say anything about a logic that is *weaker* than FO logic. A weaker logic may very well distinguish the expressible constraints these distinct representational primitives can express. It also doesn't say anything about the psychological implications or learning. Other kinds of evidence from psycholinguistics (Durvasula and Nelson, 2018) or learning (Wilson and Gallagher, 2018) may be brought to bear on the best choice of representational primitive.

Here are some of the reasons exploring different representational schemes and different logics—that is exploring the space of possible Constraint Definition Languages—is a worthwhile goal. First, the choice of representation and the choice of logic yields a rigorous, logical language whose formulas are readable by both humans and machines which can be used to always correctly answer the question whether a given structure satisfies a given formula or not. Second, this logical language can be studied explicitly to reveal what kinds of constraints it can and cannot express, the facts of which should then be compared with the typology of phonological constraints. This lets us draw conclusions like “If there are long-distance constraints in phonology, then FO with successor is insufficient as a *theory* of phonological constraints.”

In addition to evaluating a logical language in terms of its typological predictions, we can also examine its psychological predictions as well as what it would mean for learnability and acquisition. The representational primitives of the logical language can be understood as a hypothesis of the

psychologically real representational primitives. We can also ask whether there are algorithms that can learn the formulas of a logical language and which of these algorithms exhibit behavior observed when humans learn language.

We hope that this chapter helps persuade readers that exploring different representational schemes and different logics—that is exploring the space of possible Constraint Definition Languages—is a worthwhile goal.

DRAFT



# Chapter 3

## Transformations, Logically

JEFFREY HEINZ

This chapter explains how transformations from one representation to another can be described with the same logical tools introduced in the last chapter. Transformations are a central component of phonological theory, which posits a mapping exists between the long-term memory representations of the pronunciation of morphemes (the underlying forms) to the more directly observable, surface representations (the surface forms) (Hyman, 1975; Kenstowicz and Kisseberth, 1979; Krämer, 2012; Odden, 2014). The mathematical and computational basis for this work originates with Courcelle (1994), a thorough survey of which is provided by Courcelle and Engelfriet (2012a).

This chapter aims to introduce these ideas in an accessible way to linguists with a basic knowledge of phonology. However, the techniques have application beyond the theory of phonology to any other subfield of linguistics, notably morphology and syntax, in part because these methods apply equally well to trees and graphs, not just strings. Also this chapter is merely an introduction to these methods. As such, it introduces them in the context of string-to-string transformations; that is, **functions** from strings to strings. As a matter of fact, these methods have been generalized by computer scientists to describe **weighted relations** between strings (Droste and Gastin, 2009). These generalizations permit one to describe and characterize optionality and exceptionality, in addition to gradient and probabilistic generalizations. Weighted logics are treated separately in Chapter 4. Here however, and throughout most of this book, unweighted

logic is used primarily because weighted logics can obfuscate the central ideas, which are easier to first understand without them.

The application of these methods for phonological description and theory is what primarily distinguishes this work from One-Level Declarative Phonology developed by Bird, Coleman, and Scobbie some thirty years ago. That research, like the research in this book, emphasizes a declarative approach to phonological description and theory. The key difference is that thirty years ago transformations were studied within “one level.” In other words, transformations were understood as *constraints* on *unspecified* underlying representations. As such, those ‘transformations’ could only *add* (further specify) information to those representations. In contrast, in this chapter we will see how logic can be used to literally add, subtract, change, or more generally *transform* one representation into another. For this reason, one could say that the Computational Generative Phonology approach in this book is essentially a form of *two level* Declarative Phonology (Dolatian, 2020).

### 3.1 String-to-string Transformations

A logical description of a string-to-string function uses logic to explain how an input string is mapped to an output string. As with the constraints in the previous chapter, the logic does not operate over the strings themselves, but over the model-theoretic representation of those strings. Therefore, a logical description of a string-to-string function uses logic to convert an input *structure* of a string into an output *structure* (possibly representing a different string). Recall that the structure of a string depends on the model *signature*, and that the signature lists the relations over the domain of the model which must be specified in order to uniquely identify some string. Therefore, the logical description needs to specify the *output structure* in terms of a logical language given by the signature of the *input structure*.

Logical descriptions of string-to-string functions must accomplish two things. First, they must specify the domain of the function – which strings does the function apply to? Second, for each of (the structures representing) these input strings, it must specify (structures of) the output strings these input strings map to. This means specifying both the domain of the output

structure and the relations over it.<sup>1</sup> These goals are accomplished with a collection of logical formulas. For a logical description of a function  $f$ , these formulas together answer questions like the following. Does  $f$  apply to this string? For a given string  $w$ , what is  $f(w)$ ?

As mentioned, there are several ingredients making up a logical transformation, each with their own names. The domain of the function is specified by the **domain formula**. The domain of the output structure is specified by two ingredients: the **copy set** and the **licensing formulas**. The relations over the output structure are specified by **relational formulas**. There is one relational formula for each of the relations in the model signature of the output. All of these formulas are evaluated with respect to the **input structure** in a way that will be made clear below.

In the remainder of this chapter, these ingredients will be explained with familiar phonological processes. We begin with **word-final obstruent devoicing**, which changes a single feature. We next consider **word-final vowel deletion** where the output can be smaller than the input. This is followed by **word-final vowel epenthesis** where the output can be larger than the input. We then show how logical transductions can be used to describe total reduplication. With those basics in place, we consider the power of MSO-definable transformations by illustrating two logically possible string-to-string transformations that are not attested, as far as I know, as phonological processes.

## 3.2 Word-final obstruent devoicing

For concreteness, let us provide a logical description of the phonological process of word-final obstruent devoicing. This process maps strings with word-final voiced obstruents to voiceless ones. For example, this process maps the string *hauz* to *haus* and the string *bad* to *bat*. Words without word-final voiced obstruents surface faithfully so this process can be said

<sup>1</sup>Note there are two distinct meanings of the word ‘domain’ in use here. The first has to do with the domain of a *function* and the second with the domain of a *structure*. A function’s domain is the set of elements over which the function is defined. For instance for  $F : A \rightarrow B$ , the domain is the set  $A$ . In contrast, the domain of a structure is the elements in the ‘universe’ the structure is describing. In finite model theory, which is used in this book, the domain of a structure is a finite set  $D$  of natural numbers  $1, \dots, n$ , representing the finitely many elements in the universe.

to map the string *haus* to *haus*.

We choose to model this process with the feature-based successor model FO (feat,  $\triangleleft$ ) described in 2.5 (see Table 2.4). More precisely, strings in both the input and the output will be represented with (feat,  $\triangleleft$ )-structures. Note this is a choice and one can choose to model the input, the output, or both, with other word models.

It follows we want to provide a logical transformation which, for example, maps the (feat,  $\triangleleft$ )-structure of *haus* to the (feat,  $\triangleleft$ )-structure of *haus*, as shown in Figure 3.1. We introduce the logical formulas one at a time and

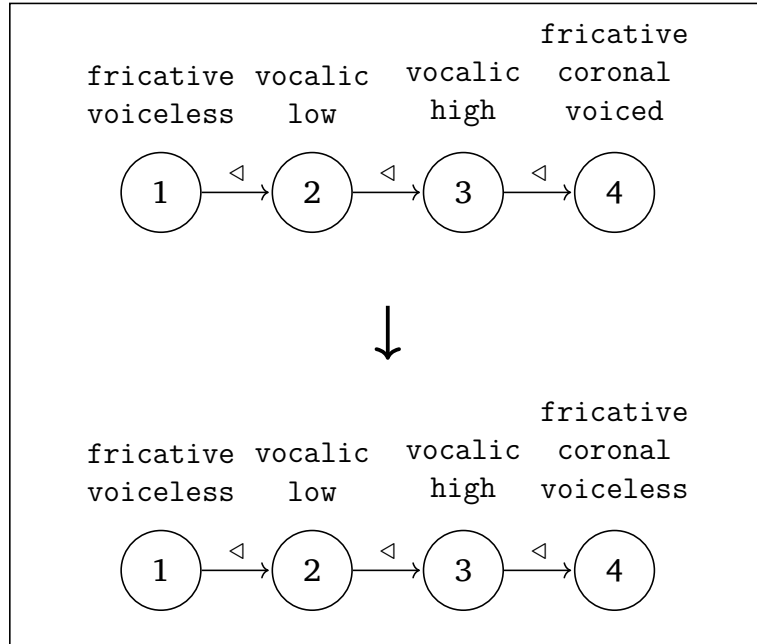


Figure 3.1: A graphical diagram of the feature-based successor model of *haus* being mapped to the feature-based successor model of *haus*.

then summarize them at the end of the example.

The domain of the function  $f$  is specified with the **domain formula**  $\phi_{\text{domain}}$ . This is a logical formula with no free variables. For all strings  $w$ ,  $f(w)$  is defined if and only if the structure of  $w$  satisfies the formula ( $\mathcal{M}_w \models \phi_{\text{domain}}$ ). For word-final obstruent devoicing, we want this function to apply to every string. Hence we set  $\phi_{\text{domain}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$ .

How is the domain of the output structure of determined? Logical

transductions fix the domain of the output as a *copy* of the input domain. For example, as shown in Figure 3.1, the domain of  $\mathcal{M}_{hauz}$  is  $\{1,2,3,4\}$ . Therefore, the domain of the output structure of  $f(hauz)$  is also the set  $\{1,2,3,4\}$ .

One consequence of constituting the domain of the output structure this way is that it appears that functions cannot alter the size of the input upon which they are acting. However, it is precisely the copy set  $C$  and the licensing formula  $\phi_{\text{license}}$ , discussed later in sections 3.4 and 3.3, respectively, which ultimately determine the precise size of the output structure. To give a basic preview, the copy set allows transformations to relate *larger* outputs to *smaller* inputs and the licensing formula allows transformations to relate *smaller* outputs to *larger* inputs. Working together, these ingredients let one relate inputs to outputs of different sizes. For now, since the word-final voiced obstruent devoicing does preserve the size of each input in the output, we postpone the particulars of how exactly copy-sets and the licensing formulas work until sections 3.4 and 3.3.

For obstruent devoicing, setting the copy set and licensing formula to  $C = \{1\}$  and  $\phi_{\text{license}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$  suffices to ensure that, given the input structure  $\mathcal{M}_{hauz}$ , the domain of the output structure is  $\{1,2,3,4\}$ .

Finally, we must determine the relations which hold over the domain elements of the output structure. For each relation  $R$  of arity  $n$  in the signature of output structure, we must specify a formula  $\phi_R$  with  $n$  free variables  $\phi_R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . For word-final obstruent devoicing, the signature of the output structures has one binary relation (the successor relation  $\triangleleft$ ) and several unary relations (the phonological features). Therefore, to specify this phonological process, we need to specify one logical formula with two free variables for the successor relation and several logical formulas with one free variable for the phonological features.

How are these logical formulas for the relations interpreted? For any string-to-string function  $f$ , input structure  $\mathcal{M}_w$ , and relation  $R$  of arity  $n$  in the output signature, the elements  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  in the domain of the output structure stand in relation  $R$  if and only if  $\mathcal{M}_w \models \phi_R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . In other words, the formula  $\phi_R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is evaluated with respect to the input structure, and the logical language to which  $\phi_R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  belongs is based on the input signature.

For example, the output signature contains the successor relation, which is a binary relation. So we must define the formula  $\phi_{\triangleleft}(x, y)$ . Since word-

final obstruent devoicing does not affect the successor relations, we define this function as follows.

$$\underbrace{\phi_{\triangleleft}(x, y)}_{\text{Do } x \text{ and } y \text{ in the output model stand in the successor relation?}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{x \triangleleft y}_{\text{Evaluate with respect to the input model.}}$$

This means the following: elements  $x$  and  $y$  in the output structure stand in the successor relation if and only if corresponding elements  $x$  and  $y$  satisfy the successor relation in the input structure. Since  $1 \triangleleft 2$  in the input structure, it follows that elements 1 and 2 likewise stand in the successor relation in the output structure. Similarly, since elements 1 and 3 *do not stand* in the successor relation in the input structure, it follows that they *do not stand* in the successor relation in the output structure. Consequently, the formula above guarantees (in fact literally says) that the successor relation in the output will be the same as the successor relation in the input.

As another example, consider the unary relation `vocalic`. As this is a unary relation, we must define a formula with one free variable  $\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)$ . Let us define it as follows.

$$\underbrace{\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)}_{\text{Does } x \text{ have the feature vocalic in the output structure?}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{\text{vocalic}(x)}_{\text{Evaluate with respect to the input structure.}}$$

It follows from this definition that domain element  $x$  in the output model is vocalic if and only if the corresponding domain element  $x$  in the input is vocalic. This formula captures the fact that word final obstruent devoicing does not affect the vocalic nature of any elements within a string.

As we know, the only features affected by word-final devoicing are *voicing* features, which are the relations `voiced` and `voiceless` in our model signatures. All other unary relations in the signature of the output structure will be defined similarly to  $\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)$  (as shown in Table 3.1 on page 66). However, the voicing features are affected by this process, so how do we specify which domain elements are voiced or voiceless? The voiced elements will be the ones that were voiced in the input and are not word-final obstruents. We can formalize this as follows. It will be useful to

write some user-defined predicates.

$$\text{wordfinal}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists y (x \triangleleft y) \quad (3.1)$$

$$\text{obstruent}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{stop}(x) \vee \text{fricative}(x) \quad (3.2)$$

$$\text{devoicingcontext}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{obstruent}(x) \quad (3.3)$$

We thus define  $\phi_{\text{voiced}}(x)$  as follows.

$$\underbrace{\phi_{\text{voiced}}(x)}_{\substack{\text{Does } x \text{ have the feature } \text{voiced} \\ \text{in the output structure?}}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{\text{voiced}(x) \wedge \neg \text{devoicingcontext}(x)}_{\substack{\text{Evaluate with respect to the in-} \\ \text{put structure.}}}$$

Similarly, the domain elements in the output which are voiceless are those that are voiceless in the input or those that are word-final obstruents.

$$\underbrace{\phi_{\text{voiceless}}(x)}_{\substack{\text{Does } x \text{ have the feature} \\ \text{voiceless in the output} \\ \text{structure?}}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{\text{voiceless}(x) \vee \text{devoicingcontext}(x)}_{\substack{\text{Evaluate with respect to the in-} \\ \text{put structure.}}}$$

As mentioned, since this process does not affect other phonological features in the string, each of those unary relations  $R$  in the signature of the output structure can be defined as follows:  $\phi_R(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R(x)$ . In other words,  $\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{vocalic}(x)$  and  $\phi_{\text{coronal}}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{coronal}(x)$  and so on. For completeness, we show the complete logical description of word-final devoicing in Table 3.1.

### 3.3 Word-final vowel deletion

Let us consider another example, word-final vowel deletion, which will illustrate the role played by the licensing formula. Word-final vowel deletion has been argued to be a process in Yowlumne (also known as Yawelmani Yokuts) (McCarthy, 2008). The process in Yowlumne is subject to additional conditions, which are set aside here. Word-final vowel deletion essentially maps strings like *paka* to *pak* and *pilot* to *pilot*.

$\phi_{\text{domain}}$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>true</code>
$C$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>{1}</code>
$\phi_{\text{license}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>true</code>
$\phi_{\triangleleft}(x, y)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>x &lt; y</code>
$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>vocalic(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{low}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>low(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{high}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>high(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{front}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>front(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{stop}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>stop(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{fricative}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>fricative(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{nasal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>nasal(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{lateral}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>lateral(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{rhotic}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>rhotic(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{labial}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>labial(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{coronal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>coronal(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{dorsal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>dorsal(x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{voiced}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>voiced(x) ∧ ¬ devoicingcontext (x)</code>
$\phi_{\text{voiceless}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	<code>voiceless(x) ∨ devoicingcontext (x)</code>

Table 3.1: The complete logical specification for word-final obstruent devoicing when the input and output string models are both the feature-based successor model.

As before, the domain of this function is all strings and so  $\phi_{\text{domain}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$ . Also as before, the domain of the output structure is a copy of the domain elements of the input structure. However, these domain elements of the output structure do not automatically exist in the output structure; they must be *licensed* by a formula with one free variable called the licensing formula  $\phi_{\text{license}}(x)$ . In other words, the domain elements of the output



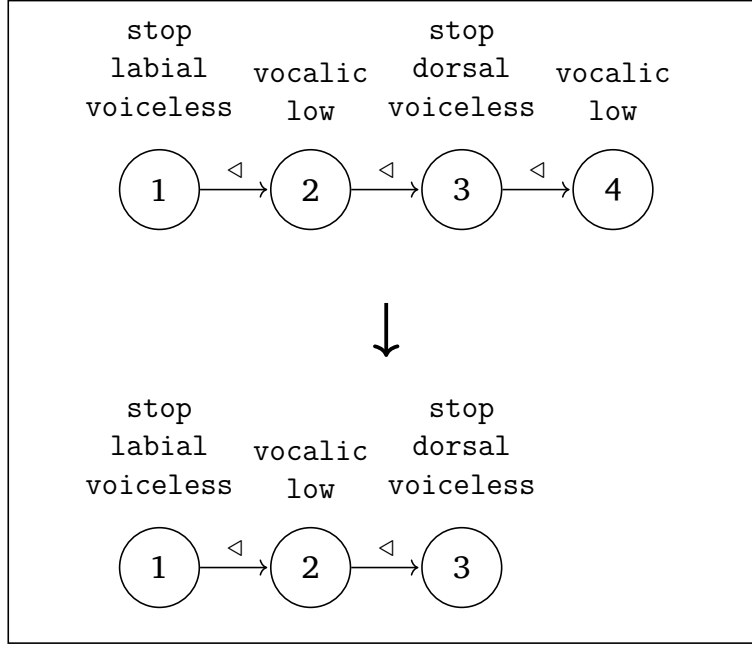


Figure 3.2: A graphical diagram of the feature-based successor model of *paka* being mapped to the feature-based successor model of *pak*.

structure are really the *licensed* copies of the domain elements of the input structure. Since word-final vowels delete in this process, all domain elements which do not correspond to word-final vowels are licensed.

$$\underbrace{\phi_{\text{license}}(x)}_{\text{Does } x \text{ belong to the domain of the output model?}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{\neg(\text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{vocalic}(x))}_{\text{Evaluate with respect to the input structure.}}$$

Also, this process does not affect any phonological features, so each of the unary relations  $R$  in the signature of the output structure can be defined as follows:  $\phi_R(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R(x)$ . In other words,  $\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{vocalic}(x)$  and  $\phi_{\text{voiced}}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiced}(x)$  and so on. What about the binary successor relation? Letting  $\phi_{\triangleleft}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y$  is sufficient. While it is true that  $3 \triangleleft 4$  is true in the input, the fact that 4 is not licensed ensures that the pair  $(3, 4)$  is not an element of the successor relation in the output model. The relations in the output structure are always *restricted* to tuples which only contain *licensed* domain elements. Readers are referred to Chapter 6 for details.

For completeness, Table 3.2 shows the complete logical description of word-final vowel deletion.

$\phi_{\text{domain}}$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	true
$C$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	{1}
$\phi_{\text{license}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\neg(\text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{vocalic}(x))$
$\phi_{\triangleleft}(x, y)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$x \triangleleft y$
$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	vocalic( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{low}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	low( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{high}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	high( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{front}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	front( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{stop}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	stop( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{fricative}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	fricative( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{nasal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	nasal( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{lateral}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	lateral( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{rhotic}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	rhotic( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{labial}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	labial( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{coronal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	coronal( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{dorsal}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	dorsal( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{voiced}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	voiced( $x$ )
$\phi_{\text{voiceless}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	voiceless( $x$ )

Table 3.2: The complete logical specification for word-final obstruent devoicing when the input and output string models are both the feature-based successor model.

This section explained in more detail how the domain elements of the output structure are determined. While these are always copies of the domain elements of the input structure, it is not the case that every domain element in the input structure becomes a domain element of the output

structure. Only those elements  $x$  which satisfy  $\phi_{\text{license}}(x)$  become domain elements in the output structure.

### 3.4 Getting Bigger

So far we have exemplified logical transductions with phonological processes that change segmental material and processes that delete segmental material. How can logical transductions be used to define processes that *add* segmental material?

The answer to this question lies in the copy set. We have set aside this ingredient until now. In the previous examples, the copy set contained only *one* element. Thus each input element in the domain was copied exactly *once*. More generally, the copy set may contain  $n$  elements. It follows that the domain of the output model may contain  $n$  copies of *each* domain element of the input structure. The copies of a domain element  $x$  in the input structure are distinguished from each other using the names of the elements in the copy set. For example, consider the word *hauz* so that the domain elements of  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{hauz}}$  are  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . If we are defining a logical transduction and define the copy set  $C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$  then there are as many as *eight* domain elements in the output structure. It is customary to name these domain elements as *pairs*; the first coordinate indicates the domain element in the input structure being copied and the second coordinate indicates *which* copy. Thus the pair  $(1, 2)$  indicates the second copy of the first domain element of the input structure and  $(3, 1)$  indicates the first copy of the third element and so on. The eight possible domain elements in the output structure of our example are thus  $\{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 1), (4, 2)\}$ .

Whenever the copy set contains more than one element, the number of licensing formulas and relational formulas needed to describe the logical transduction multiplies as well. For each  $i \in C$ , there is a licensing formula  $\phi_{\text{license}}^i(x)$ . As before, this formula is evaluated with respect to the corresponding domain element in the input structure. If it evaluates to true on  $x$  then the domain element  $(x, i)$  is licensed and belongs to the domain of the output model. Thus for a copy set  $C$ , there are  $|C|$  licensing formulas.

Similarly, for each unary relation  $R$  in the signature of the output model, there are  $|C|$  relational formulas: for each  $i \in C$ , we must define  $R^i(x)$ . The domain element  $(x, i)$  – the  $i$ th copy of  $x$  in the output structure – belongs

to  $R$  in the output structure if and only if  $R^i(x)$  evaluates to true in the input structure.

For each binary relation  $R$  in the output signature, there are  $|C|^2$  relational formulas  $R^{i,j}(x, y)$  with  $i, j \in C$ . If and only if  $R^{i,j}(x, y)$  evaluates to true with respect to the input model then the  $i$ th copy of  $x$  stands in the  $R$  relation to the  $j$ th copy of  $y$  in the output structure. In which case, we have  $((x, i), (y, j)) \in R$ . If  $R^{i,j}(x, y)$  evaluates to false with respect to the input structure then  $((x, i), (y, j))$  does not belong to  $R$ . For relations of higher arity, the licensing and relational formula multiply out similarly. Since the word models developed so far involve at most binary relations, we ignore relations of higher arity here (though they are treated in the formalizations in Chapter 6).

How the copy set works along with the additional formulas it entails are illustrated in the next two examples: word-final vowel epenthesis and total reduplication. We provide complete logical descriptions of both these transformations.

### 3.4.1 Word-final vowel epenthesis

Hindi speakers epenthesize the low vowel  $a$  to words which end in sonorant consonants (Shukla, 2000). We provide a logical description of this process given the segments describable with the feature-based successor model. For example, this process would map the hypothetical word *pan* to *pana* as well as *pak* to *pak*. Figure 3.3 visualizes the mapping between the model structures *pan* and *pana*.

First we can define sonorant consonants as follows.

$$\text{sonorant\_C}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x) \vee \text{lateral}(x) \vee \text{rhotic}(x) \quad (3.4)$$

Next, we need a copy set of at least size 2 and so we define  $C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$ . Consequently, for the input *pan* which has three domain elements  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ , there are maximally 6 domain elements in the output structure:  $\{(1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2), (3, 2)\}$ . Since the copy set  $C$  has two elements, we must define two licensing formula, each with one free variable.

$$\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true} \quad (3.5)$$

$$\phi_{\text{license}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x) \quad (3.6)$$

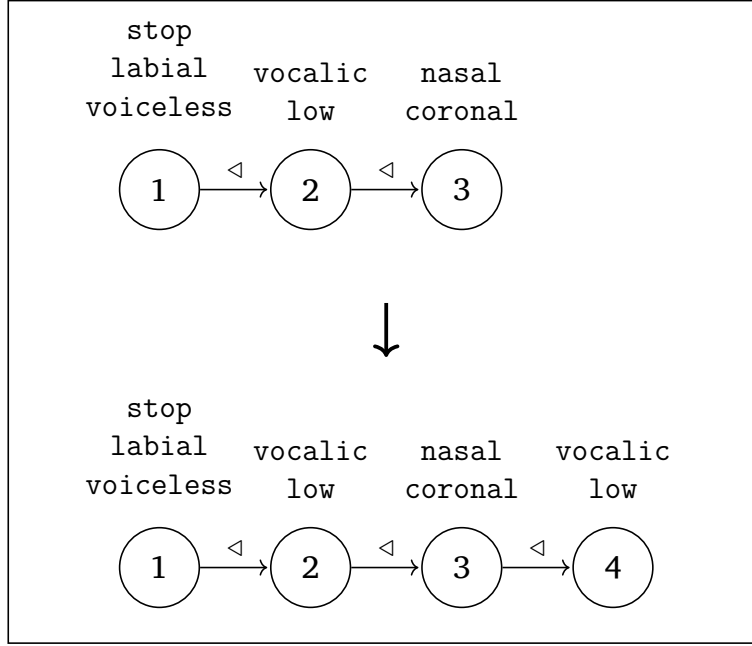


Figure 3.3: A graphical diagram of the feature-based successor model of *pan* being mapped to the feature-based successor model of *pana*.

$\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x)$  is always true so the first copy of each element is present.  $\phi_{\text{license}}^2(x)$  is only true when  $\text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x)$  evaluates to true in the input structure. For the word *pan* this occurs for  $x = 3$ , but for the word *pak* no  $x$  satisfies  $\phi_{\text{license}}^2(x)$ . Consequently, the output structure of the process applied to *pan* has four domain elements  $\{(1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1), (3, 2)\}$  but the the output structure of the process applied to *pak* has three domain elements  $\{(1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1)\}$ .

This is illustrated in Figure 3.4, where the first and second copies of the domain elements of *pan* are arranged in rows and the unlicensed elements are in gray.

Next, we turn to the binary successor relation in the output model. Here, we must have four formulas to specify the successor relation in the

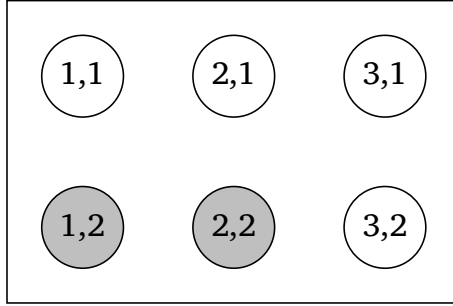


Figure 3.4: The possible domain elements of the output structure for input *pan* when the copy set  $C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$ . The unlicensed elements are colored gray.

output structure. We define these as follows.

$$\phi_{\Delta}^{1,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y \quad (3.7)$$

$$\phi_{\Delta}^{1,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(y) \quad (3.8)$$

$$\phi_{\Delta}^{2,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false} \quad (3.9)$$

$$\phi_{\Delta}^{2,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false} \quad (3.10)$$

There are two main consequences. First, within the first copy, the domain elements in the output structure preserve the successor relations present in the input structure. Second, the only elements which stand in the successor relation from the first copy to the second copy in the output structure are  $x, 1$  and  $y, 2$  when  $x$  satisfies both  $\text{wordfinal}(x)$  and  $\text{sonorant\_C}(x)$ , and  $x = y$ .

Finally, we must define two formulas for each unary relation  $R$  in the output signature,  $\phi_R^1(x)$  and  $\phi_R^2(x)$ . These will tell us whether  $x, 1$  and  $(x, 2)$  belong to  $R$ , respectively. For each unary relation  $R$ , we define  $\phi_R^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R(x)$ . Thus, the first copy of the domain elements are faithful to the unary relations they satisfied in the input. For the second copy, we can generally let the domain elements be faithful to the unary relations they satisfied in the input; however, there are two exceptions. In our feature-based successor model in Table 2.4, the low vowel *a* is low and

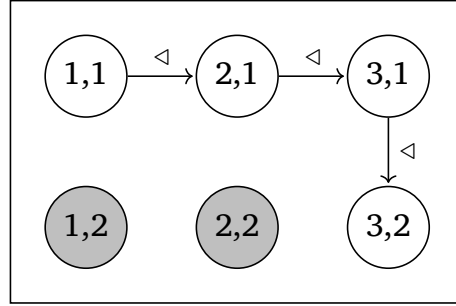


Figure 3.5: The successor relations in the output structure for input *pan* when the copy set  $C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$ . The unlicensed elements are colored gray.

vocalic and so  $\phi_{\text{vocalic}}^2(x)$  and  $\phi_{\text{low}}^2(x)$  must be defined to be true only when  $x$  corresponds to an element in the input that satisfies `sonorant_C` ( $x$ ) and `wordfinal` ( $x$ ). For other unary relations  $R$ , we can define  $\phi_R^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ .

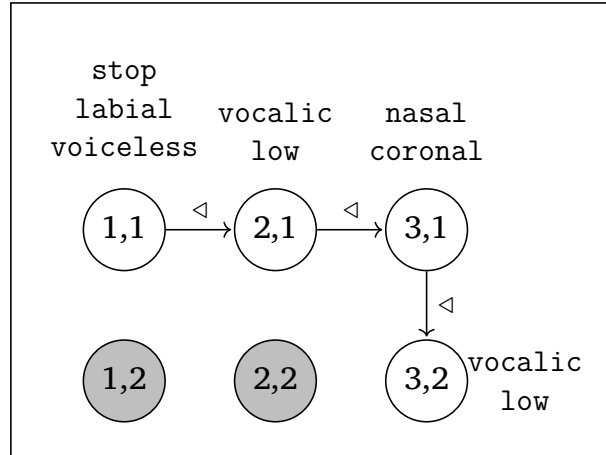


Figure 3.6: The model representing *pana* which is output for the input *pan*. The unlicensed elements are colored gray.

For completeness, Table 3.3 shows the complete logical description of word-final vowel epenthesis. The output structure obtained by applying this logical transformation to  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{pan}}$  is shown in Figure 3.6. The structure in Figure 3.6 is equivalent (i.e. isomorphic) to the output structure shown in Figure 3.3.

$\phi_{\text{domain}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$ $\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$	$C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$ $\phi_{\text{license}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x)$
$\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y$ $\phi_{\triangleleft}^{2,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$	$\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(y)$ $\phi_{\text{succ}}^{2,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$
$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{vocalic}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{low}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{low}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{high}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{high}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{front}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{front}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{low}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sonorant\_C}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{high}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{front}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$
$\phi_{\text{stop}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{stop}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{fricative}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fricative}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{nasal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{lateral}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{lateral}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{rhotic}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{rhotic}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{stop}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{fricative}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{nasal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{lateral}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{rhotic}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$
$\phi_{\text{labial}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{labial}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{coronal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{coronal}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{dorsal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{dorsal}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{labial}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{coronal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{dorsal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$
$\phi_{\text{voiced}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiced}(x)$ $\phi_{\text{voiceless}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiceless}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{voiced}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ $\phi_{\text{voiceless}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$

Table 3.3: The complete logical specification for word-final vowel epenthesis when the input and output string models are both the feature-based successor model.



### 3.4.2 Duplication

Here we provide another example of a logical transduction, total reduplication. The idea is to make two faithful copies of the input and add a successor relation from the last segment of the first copy to the initial segment of the second copy.

Let the copy set  $C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$ . Then we essentially make all unary relations be faithful to their input so for all unary relations  $R$  in the output signature we have  $\phi_R^1(x) = \phi_R^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R(x)$ . As for the successor relation, two elements  $(x, i)$  and  $(y, j)$  stand in the successor relation if only if either one of two cases hold. First, when  $i = j = 1$  or  $i = j = 2$  then  $(x, i) \triangleleft (y, j)$  only when  $x \triangleleft y$  holds in the input structure. Second, when  $i = 1$  and  $j = 2$ , we have  $(x, i) \triangleleft (y, j)$  if and only if  $x$  is word-final and  $y$  is word-initial in the input model. When  $i = 2$  and  $j = 1$ , no successor relation holds. We define `wordinitial`  $(x)$  as follows.

$$\text{wordinitial} (x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \exists y (y \triangleleft x) \quad (3.11)$$

To illustrate, Figure 3.7 shows the output structure for the input *pan*. In other words, it is straightforward to define total reduplication using these methods.

For completeness, Table 3.4 shows the complete logical description of total reduplication.

### 3.4.3 Summary

At this point, we have covered how to define transformations logically. A domain formula determines which words the transformation applies to. In our examples, the transformations represent total functions and apply to all words. The signature of the output structure determines the relational formulas that need to be defined. These formulas belong to a logical language defined in terms of the relations present in the model signature of the input structure. A copy set and licensing formulas are used to calibrate the size of the output structure. For a logical transduction  $f$  defined with a copy set of size  $n$ , the maximal size of the output structure  $f(x)$  will be  $n|x|$  where  $|x|$  is the cardinality of the domain of the model of  $x$ .

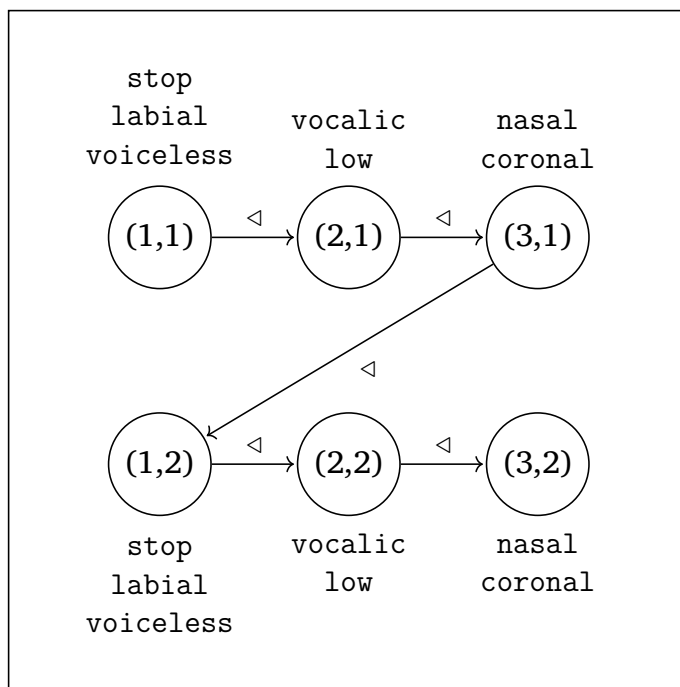


Figure 3.7: The model for *panpan*, which is the output of the reduplication process applying to the input *pan*.

### 3.5 Power of MSO-definable Transformations

What other kinds of transformations can be described with logical transformations? As the astute reader may no doubt have already gathered, many phonologically or morphologically *unnatural* processes are also easy to describe with logical transformations. This is a strength, not a weakness, of the formal methods advocated here. Basically, the formal methods do not constitute a *theory* of phonology; rather, they constitute a *meta-language* in which theories of phonology can be stated and compared.

In this section, however, we simply wish to establish concretely the fact that two unnatural processes—string mirroring and sorting—also permit logical descriptions.

$\phi_{\text{domain}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$	$C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2\}$
$\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$	$\phi_{\text{license}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$
$\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y$	$\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{wordinitial}(y)$
$\phi_{\triangleleft}^{2,1}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$	$\phi_{\text{succ}}^{2,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \triangleleft y$
$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{vocalic}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{vocalic}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{low}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{low}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{low}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{low}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{high}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{high}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{high}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{high}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{front}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{front}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{front}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{front}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{stop}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{stop}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{stop}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{stop}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{fricative}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fricative}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{fricative}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fricative}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{nasal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{nasal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{nasal}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{lateral}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{lateral}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{lateral}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{lateral}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{rhotic}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{rhotic}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{rhotic}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{rhotic}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{labial}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{labial}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{labial}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{labial}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{coronal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{coronal}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{coronal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{coronal}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{dorsal}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{dorsal}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{dorsal}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{dorsal}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{voiced}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiced}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{voiced}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiced}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{voiceless}}^1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiceless}(x)$	$\phi_{\text{voiceless}}^2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{voiceless}(x)$

Table 3.4: The complete logical specification of total reduplication when the input and output string models are both the feature-based successor model.

### 3.5.1 Mirroring

String mirroring is a process that takes any string  $w$  as input and outputs  $ww^r$  where  $w^r$  is the reverse of the string  $w$ . For example if the string *pan* is submitted to the mirroring process, then the output would be *pannap*. Similarly, if *paka* were input to the mirroring process, the output would be

*pakaakap*. Mirroring makes palindromes.

Mirroring can be described with a logical transduction that is nearly identical to the one for total reduplication. The unary relations are defined in the same way. The only differences lie in two of the formulas for the successor relation in the output structure. Specifically,  $\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,1}(x, y) = x \triangleleft y$  and  $\phi_{\triangleleft}^{2,1}(x, y) = \text{false}$  as before. However,  $\phi_{\triangleleft}^{2,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} y \triangleleft x$ , which essentially reverses the successor relations in the second copies of the domain elements. Finally,  $\phi_{\triangleleft}^{1,2}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{wordfinal}(x) \wedge \text{wordfinal}(y)$ . Thus mirroring places the copies of the word-final element into the successor relation. Figure 3.8 shows the output structure of the string *pannap* that is produced by this logical description of string mirroring given the input *pan*.

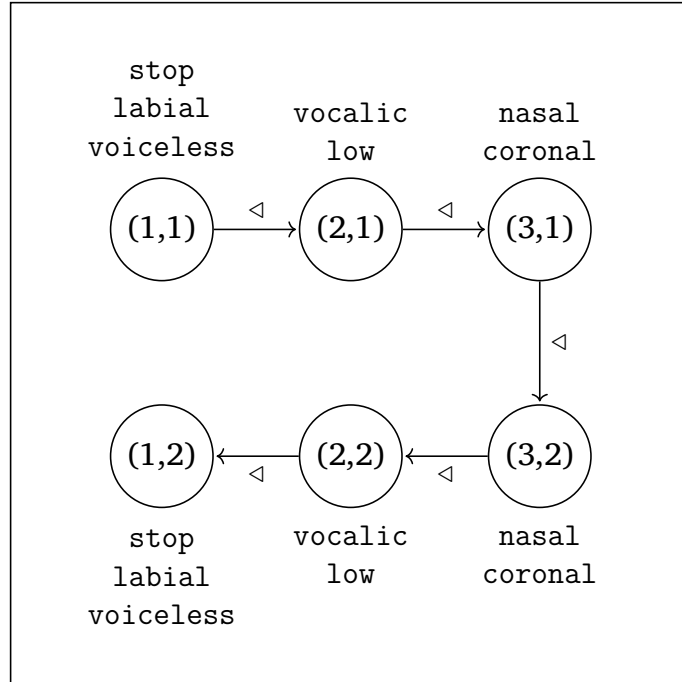


Figure 3.8: The model representing *pannap*, which is the output of the mirroring process applied to the input *pan*.

### 3.5.2 Sorting

String sorting is a process that takes any string as input and outputs a string of the same length where the symbols are sorted according to a predetermined order; here we will use alphabetical order. For instance if the input string is *paka* then the output string would be *aakp*. Similarly, if the input string was *banapi* the output string would be *aabinp*. While, we can do this for any word model of strings discussed so far, we will assume an alphabet  $\Sigma$  and the precedence model with letters (section 2.7) for convenience. We also assume that the alphabet is totally ordered and denote this ordering relation with  $<_\alpha$ . In a phonological setting, the alphabetical order could be substituted for any other scale, for example markedness. This would allow one to express constraints like “the more marked a segment, the earlier it occurs in a word” or the “the more marked a segment, the later it occurs in a word.”

Then sorting can be modeled with a logical transduction as follows. The idea is to have one copy associated with each letter  $a$  of the alphabet. Only letters  $a$  are licensed on the copy associated with  $a$ . This segregates the letters by the copies (which are rows in the visualizations) and the first copy (row) is associated with the first letter in lexicographic order, the second copy (row) with the second letter, and so on. The ordering relation is then defined so that earlier copies (rows) precede later copies (rows).

Formally, let the copyset  $C = \Sigma$ . This may seem unusual, but it means that we make as many copies as there are letters in the alphabet and that instead of labeling these copies with numbers, we label them with elements of  $\Sigma$  itself. This facilitates defining the formulas. For each  $a, b \in \Sigma$ , define the relational and licensing formulas as follows.

- For all  $a, b$ , let  $\phi_a^b(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a(x)$ .
- For all  $a$ , let  $\phi_{<}^{a,a}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x < y$ .
- For  $a \neq b$ , let  $\phi_{<}^{a,b}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$  whenever  $a <_\alpha b$  and false otherwise.
- For all  $a$ , let  $\phi_{\text{license}}^a(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a(x)$ .

The first item faithfully copies the unary relations in the input to each copy in the output.

The second item defines the binary precedence relations for domain elements in the output that belong to the same copy. In this case, domain elements  $(x, a)$  and  $(y, a)$  stand in the precedence relation in the output if and only if  $x < y$  in the input. This ensures the familiar left-to-right ordering among elements, at least within a copy.

The third item defines the binary precedence relations for domain elements in the output that belong to different copies. The basic idea is that alphabetically earlier copies will precede alphabetically later ones. Whenever  $a <_{\alpha} b$  ( $a$  is alphabetically earlier than  $b$ ) is true then  $\phi_{<}^{a,b}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true}$ . Whenever  $a <_{\alpha} b$  is not true, then  $\phi_{<}^{a,b}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false}$ .

Finally, we get to the licensing formulas, of which there will be  $|\Sigma|$ . We define these formulas so that only those domain elements that belong to the unary relation  $a$  in the  $a$ th copy are licensed. Everything else is unlicensed. Recall that relations in the output structure are restricted to the licensed domain elements. As a consequence of these licensing formulas, there will be only as many licensed elements as there are domain elements in the input structure.

Figure 3.9 illustrates this construction when the input is *paka*.

### 3.5.3 Summary

Both mirroring and sorting can be described with MSO logical transformations. In fact, mirroring only used FO with successor, and sorting only used FO with precedence.

## 3.6 Discussion

There are three important points which must be mentioned. The first is that the model signatures for the input and output structures of a transformation do not need to be the same. The examples earlier in this chapter kept the input and output structure signatures the same in order to explain how the logical transformations worked. However, generally, they can be distinct. As will be explained, this has important consequences for the comparison of representational theories.

The second point regards a useful property of some transformations; namely, **order preservation**. In the domains of morphology and phonology,

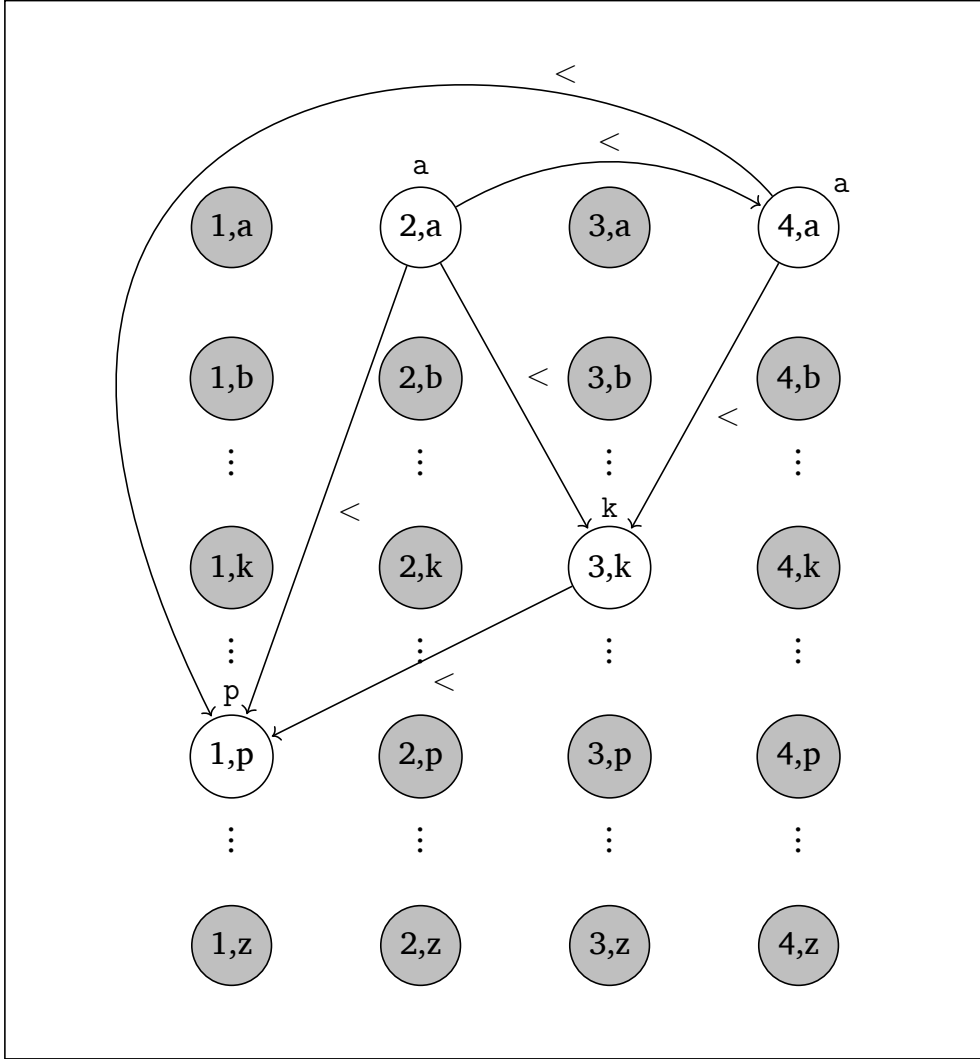


Figure 3.9: The model representing the output *aakp* of the sorting process applied to input *paka*. All potential domain elements shown. Unlicensed elements are in gray. Unary relations are only shown on licensed elements.

this turns out to be nearly universal. Reduplicative morphology is the exception (Dolatian and Heinz, 2020; Rawski *et al.*, 2023). As will be explained, if the transformation we are describing is order-preserving then describing processes like epenthesis and deletion become simpler because we can use the ‘order preservation recipe’ instead of trying to work out the

order relations by hand.

The third point is that logical transformations provide a feasible, flexible, descriptive tool for linguists to describe phenomena they find in the world, which can be further analyzed and used by many, both human and machine. Model theory and logic provide a universal language for expressing linguistic generalizations.

### 3.6.1 Transforming Representations

As mentioned, the logical transductions presented in this chapter so far all have used the same model signature for the input and output structures. In general, however, they can be different. For example, many phonologists consider syllable structure to be something not present in underlying representations but present in surface representations. The model theoretic signature for underlying representations would not include those syllabic relations, but the model theoretic signature for surface representations would. Chapter ?? presents an example of this.

To illustrate, we can write logical transductions between any of the model signatures we have considered so far: the successor model, the precedence model, the successor model with features, and the precedence model with features.

Consider a logical transduction which translates successor-based structures to precedence-based structures. For simplicity, let the alphabet be  $\{a, b\}$ . The input structure signature is thus  $\{a, b, \triangleleft\}$  and the output structure signature is  $\{a, b, <\}$ . Table 3.5 provides the formulas for this logical transduction. The predicate `closed` is defined in Chapter 2 (see Equation 2.14). It is left as an exercise for the reader to write the transduction from the precedence-based structures to successor-based ones.

As another example, one can write translations from symbol-based models to feature-based models in FO logic straightforwardly. For example, to translate between the precedence model and the precedence model with features from Chapter 2, the logical formulas presented in Table 3.6 can be used. It is left as an exercise for the reader to complete Table 3.6 and to write a logical transduction from feature-based structures to conventional ones.

It is also possible to write a FO translation from representations with unary features to representations with binary features and vice versa. In this



$\phi_{\text{domain}}$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	true
$\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	true
$C$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{1\}$
$\phi_{<}(x, y)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$(\forall X)[(x \in X \wedge \text{closed}(X) \rightarrow y \in X)]$
$\phi_{\text{a}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\text{a}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{b}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\text{b}(x)$

Table 3.5: The complete logical specification for translating successor-based models of words in  $\{a, b\}^*$  to precedence-based models.

$\phi_{\text{domain}}$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	true
$\phi_{\text{license}}^1(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	true
$C$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\{1\}$
$\phi_{<}(x, y)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$x < y$
$\phi_{\text{vocalic}}(x)$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\text{a}(x) \vee \text{e}(x) \vee \text{i}(x) \vee \text{o}(x) \vee \text{u}(x)$
$\phi_{\text{b}}(\text{nasal})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$\text{n}(x) \vee \text{m}(x)$
...		

Table 3.6: The complete logical specification for translating successor-based models of words in  $\{a, b\}^*$  to precedence-based models.

regard, readers may be interested in (Nelson, 2022), whose comparative study of the natural classes obtained by unary and binary feature systems, and the logical connectives used to combine them, reveals that logical negation effectively converts any feature system into a full binary one and that in order to effectively represent underspecification or non-binary feature oppositions, feature values should be encoded into the representational primitives.

One important consequence of being able to use logical transductions to describe translations between representations is that the weakest logic which can translate one representation into another can serve as a proxy for how similar those representations are. The more powerful the logic necessary to translate between two representations, the more significantly

different they are. In a sense, the minimally expressive logics required to translate between two representations are a measure of the informational content carrying by the representation. Conversely, the weaker the logic necessary to translate between them, the more they can be considered notational variants.

As an example, we have already seen that translating from a successor-based representation to a precedence-based representation requires MSO logic. On the other hand, translating from precedence-based representation to successor only requires FO logic. This indicates that the precedence-based representation carries more information than the successor-based one. For another example, (Strother-Garcia, 2019) shows that different linguistic representations of syllable structure can be translated to each other with a Quantifier-Free logic, which is weaker than First Order (see Chapter ?? for Quantifier-Free logic). Strother-Garcia’s results indicates that the information content in those different linguistic representations of syllable structure are not so different. Other examples of this kind of research include studying different theories of tonal geometry (Oakden, 2020), and autosegmental representations vis a vis Q-theory (Jardine *et al.*, 2021).

The second major consequence of being able to use logical transductions to translate between representations is that such transformations actually provide a translation between *logical languages*. This means that if Abraham describes a theory of phonology with logic  $L$  and representation  $X$  (so  $L(X)$ ), and Barbara describes a theory of phonology with logic  $M$  and representation  $Y$  (so  $M(Y)$ ), and Charlie presents a logical transduction  $T$  from  $X$ -representations to  $Y$ -representations then every constraint formula or sentence  $\phi$  that can be expressed in  $L(X)$  can be translated into a formula or sentence in  $T(Y)$ . For example, any first order constraint expressed over the successor model with letters can be translated into a FO order constraint over the successor model with features because a FO definable transduction exists from the conventional successor model to the successor model with features.

### 3.6.2 Order Preservation

A transformation is **order-preserving** provided there is some logical transduction such that for all inputs, the outputs are ordered order so that all the

copies of the first position precede all copies of the second position and so on; and furthermore, it is the case that that within a copy, earlier positions precede later positions. It can be helpful to visualize order-preservation as follows. The domain of the input structure  $D$  and the copy set  $C$  form a  $D \times C$  grid of possible output domain elements. In the visualizations throughout this chapter, these grids have  $|D|$  columns and  $|C|$  rows. If the elements in the output structure can be ordered by ordering elements according to earlier columns first and then by earlier rows, then the transformation is order-preserving. Figure 3.10 illustrates this order with four positions and a copy set of size four. In order to obtain order preservation,

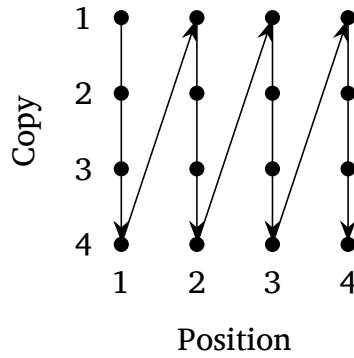


Figure 3.10: Order preservation

using the precedence relation, one simply asserts  $\phi_{<}^{i,j}(x, y)$  is true whenever  $x < y$  or whenever  $x = y$  and  $i < j$ . Otherwise it is false.

The use of the precedence relation for order-preserving functions is especially helpful when not all domain elements are licensed. In this case, no special modifications need to be made to how the ordering relation is defined. This is because the relations in the output structure are restricted to the licensed domain elements and the precedence relation is total (so for any two elements, one has to precede the other).

The fact that the successor relation is not total means that writing formulas for the successor relation for order-preserving transformations is more complicated. Nonetheless, it can be done. A general solution is to write the formulas using the licensing function to ensure that the successor relation only holds between the appropriate licensed elements. One way to do this uses the definition of  $\phi_{<}^{i,j}$  above is as follows.  $\phi_{\Delta}^{i,j}(x, y)$  is defined to be true if and only if (1)  $(x, i)$  and  $(y, j)$  satisfy the relevant

licensing formulas, (2)  $\phi_{\leq}^{i,j}(x, y)$  is true, and (3) for all  $(z, k)$  such that if  $(z, k)$  is ordered between  $(x, i)$  and  $(y, j)$  then it must *not* satisfy the relevant licensing formulas. In other words, the licensed elements form a ‘tier’ and the successor relation is just the ‘next’ element on this tier.

Because there are general ways to write the order relations when the transformation is order-preserving, it follows that one can focus on the other formulas needed to define the relation. It also helps guide the analysis. For example, if there is epenthesis occurring between positions  $x$  and  $x + 1$  then, in order to take advantage of order-preservation, the epenthesized element should go on a copy of  $x$ , and not on a copy of some other element.

### 3.6.3 Logic as a descriptive formalism

There are many reasons why linguists should use logic and model theory as a descriptive formalism. I highlight three: flexibility, theory comparison, and longevity. To some extent, these follow from the fact that logic and model theory provide a universal description language for structures.

Many linguists adopt representational choices as part of their analyses. Model theory and logic do not hinder this freedom. Linguists can choose their representations. These representations and the generalizations made over them can be expressed precisely with logic. Later chapters in this book provide some interesting examples of the kinds representations that can be explored, especially within phonology and morphology. For example, **TODO: add refs to later chapters.**

Logic and model theory also facilitate theory comparison. Other linguists, either contemporary or belonging to later generations, can take descriptions of linguistic structures and constraints that have been presented with certain representations and logical languages and rigorously translate them into their own preferred representations and constraint languages. These logical languages can then *be compared* to find genuine areas where the theories make different predictions.

A third reason is longevity. If the linguistic description is, for example, in first order logic, one be assured that someone in *hundreds of years* will be able to read and understand the description, and that machines will exist which can process it. The value of this for someone documenting languages should not be underestimated.

## 3.7 Conclusion

This chapter has explained how transformations can be expressed logically between model-theoretic representations following the ideas of Courcelle. The model signature of the output representation, together with the copy set, determines the formulas one needs to write. These formulas are written in a logical language based on the model signature of the input representation, and are likewise evaluated against the input structure.

Specifically, in order to specify a transformation, one must specify the following items.

- A formula with no free variables that establishes the domain of the transformation  $\varphi_{dom}$ . This determines those structures to which the function can apply.
- A copy set  $C$  of  $k \geq 1$  elements which determines, along with the size of the input structure, the maximal size of the output structure. Each pairing  $(x, c)$  with  $c \in C$  and  $x$  in the domain of the input structure is a possible element in the domain of the output structure.
- For each element  $c$  in the copy set, a licensing formula of one free variable  $\varphi_{license}^c(x)$  which determines whether  $(x, c)$ , which is the  $c$ th copy of element  $x$ , is licensed in the model of the output structure. Unlicensed elements are not part of the domain of output structure. Only licensed ones are.
- For each element  $c$  in the copy set, and for each unary relation  $U$  in the signature of the output structure, a formula  $\varphi_U^c(x)$  of one free variable. This formula means that the  $c$ th copy of  $x$  bears the unary relation  $U$  in the output structure if only if
  1. the  $c$ th copy of  $x$  is licensed, and
  2.  $\phi_U^c(x)$  is satisfied when evaluated against the input structure.
- For every pair of elements  $(c, d)$  in the copy set and for each binary relation  $B$  in the signature of the output structure, a formula  $\varphi_B^{c,d}(x, y)$  of two free variables. This formula means that the  $c$ th copy of  $x$  stands in the relation  $B$  to the  $d$ th copy of  $y$  in the output structure if only if

1. both  $c$ th copy of  $x$  and the  $d$ th copy of  $y$  are licensed, and
2.  $\phi_B^{c,d}(x, y)$  is satisfied when evaluated against the input structure.

These formulas can be specified in any order as long as they are well-defined. Thus one formula  $\varphi$  can be defined in terms of another formula  $\psi$  only if  $\psi$  has been defined previously. MSO (and thus FO) logic do not permit recursive definitions.

The bulk of Parts II and III of this book apply these logical transformations to case studies and theoretical questions in linguistics, especially in phonology and morphology. The introduction to model theory provided in chapters 2 and 3 provide all the necessary background to understand the chapters in the later chapters. The remaining chapters in Part I do not be read to understand the work in Parts II and III.

The remaining chapters in Part I provide additional context and enrichment to the material presented thus far. Chapter 4 discusses *weighted* logics and explains how logic can also be used to describe non-categorical generalizations. Chapter 5 introduces logic weaker than FO logic for defining phonological constraints, and provides a logical perspective on work on the computational nature of phonological constraints (not transformations) studied in subregular approaches to phonology (Heinz, 2007, 2010; Rogers *et al.*, 2013; Rogers and Lambert, 2019b,a). Chapter 6 presents a rigorous mathematical treatment of models, signature, structures, MSO and FO logic, weighted logics, and propositional logics, that were introduced in Part I of this book.

# Chapter 4

## Weighted Logics

JEFFREY HEINZ

The logical sentences considered in previous chapters evaluate to `true` or `false` with respect to a model-theoretic structure. This leads some to believe that logical approaches have nothing to say for phenomena that does not fall into binary categories. In fact, however, the use of logic for the description of linguistic constraints and transformations does not preclude studying other kinds of linguistic generalizations, such as those deemed gradient or probabilistic. Weighted logics can be used for precisely such generalizations, among many other purposes (Droste and Gastin, 2009). The sentences can evaluate to a natural number, a real number, a string, or even a set of strings.

### 4.1 Four Key Points

In order to understand weighted logics, there are a few key points. The first is to realize that existential and universal quantification are essentially recipes for generating a series of disjunctions and conjunctions, respectively. For example the formula  $\exists(x)\phi(x)$  is equivalent to the expanded formula  $\phi(1) \vee \phi(2) \cdots \vee \phi(n)$  for structures whose domain equals  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Similarly, the formula  $\forall(x)\phi(x)$  is equivalent to the expanded formula  $\phi(1) \wedge \phi(2) \cdots \wedge \phi(n)$  for structures with the same domain.

The second key point is that the concepts of disjunction and conjunction can be generalized to other binary operations. Generally, disjunction is

understood as a kind of addition, and conjunction is understood as a kind of multiplication. It is conventional to use the symbols  $\oplus$  and  $\otimes$  for these more general addition and multiplication operators. Consequently, when reading a formula of weighted logic, existential quantification and disjunction are interpreted with  $\oplus$  and universal quantification and conjunction are interpreted with  $\otimes$ .

How the general addition and multiplication operators are instantiated depends on the kinds of values (weights) the logical formula are supposed to evaluate to. The value can be a real number or some other class of values. Weighted logics have been most carefully studied when the class of values under consideration is a **semiring**. Semirings are mathematical structures of values that are closed under the two binary operations  $\otimes$  and  $\oplus$ . Additionally,  $S$  contains two **identity** elements: 0 for  $\oplus$  and 1 for  $\otimes$ . In fact, the set  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$  is a semiring where the conjunction is  $\otimes$ , disjunction is  $\oplus$ ,  $0 = \text{false}$ , and  $1 = \text{true}$ . Some examples of different semirings are shown below in Table 4.1.

Name	$S$	$\oplus$	$\otimes$	0	1
Boolean	$\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$	$\vee$	$\wedge$	false	true
Natural	$\mathbb{N}$	$+$	$\times$	0	1
Real Interval	$[0, 1]$	$+$	$\times$	0	1
Viterbi	$[0, 1]$	min	$\times$	0	1
Finite Language	FIN	$\cup$	$\cdot$	$\emptyset$	$\{\lambda\}$

Table 4.1: Example Semirings

The third key point is that the logical language for the weighted logic presented here differs syntactically from the logical languages discussed previously in one important respect. For the weighted logic presented here, negation can only be applied to atomic expressions. In other words, negation cannot be applied to any well-formed formula to obtain another well-formed formula. The syntactic and semantic details are presented explicitly in Chapter 6.

Here is some rational for why negation is treated this way in weighted logic. As we will see, expressions in weighted logics evaluate to an element of the semiring. In the Boolean semiring, where we have true and false, it is clear how to interpret negation. But how do we interpret negation in an



arbitrary semiring? A natural interpretation would be to interpret negation as an **inverse operation**, but semirings are not required to contain inverses. To put it another way, semirings are not necessarily closed under inverses. For example, the negation of a natural number is not a natural number.

While one approach may be to only consider semirings which are closed under inverse, the approach pursued by Droste and Gastin (2009) is to restrict negation to atomic expressions. To illustrate, consider the atomic expression  $a(x)$ . If  $a$  is true of  $x$  then this expression will evaluate to the identity of  $\otimes$ , which is 1. And the expression  $\neg a(x)$  would evaluate to identity of  $\oplus$ , which is 0. On the other hand, if  $a$  is false of  $x$  then these expressions will evaluate 1 and 0, respectively.

The fourth key point is that the elements of the semiring are atoms themselves in the logic. For example, in the natural semiring, the number 4 is a term! And syntactically,  $4 \wedge 3$  is a well-formed expression. When we interpret it, conjunction is interpreted as  $\otimes$ , which in the natural number semiring is normal multiplication. So the denotation of  $4 \wedge 3$ , written  $\llbracket 4 \wedge 3 \rrbracket$ , is  $4 \times 3 = 12$ .

## 4.2 Examples

The remainder of this chapter illustrates with examples weighted logic formulas and their evaluation.

The first example shows how to count the number of marked structures in strings.

$$*c \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists x [c(x)] \quad (4.1)$$

Consider how this formula is evaluated with respect to (a representation of) the string  $acbc$  in the natural number semiring. The structure of  $acbc$  has domain equal to  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . In the equations below we simply write  $\mathcal{M}$  for  $\mathcal{M}_{acbc}$ . The existential quantifier in  $*c$  expands to a series of disjunctions, one for each position in the string.

$$\llbracket *c \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) = \llbracket \bigvee_{x \in \{1,2,3,4\}} c(x) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) = \llbracket c(1) \vee c(2) \vee c(3) \vee c(4) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$$

Those disjunctions are interpreted as  $\oplus$ .

$$\llbracket c(1) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \oplus \llbracket c(2) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \oplus \llbracket c(3) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \oplus \llbracket c(4) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$$

In the natural number semiring,  $\oplus$  is normal addition (+).

$$\llbracket c(1) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) + \llbracket c(2) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) + \llbracket c(3) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) + \llbracket c(4) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$$

Each atomic expression evaluates to 1 or 0 depending on whether it is true or false, respectively, in the structure  $\mathcal{M}$ .

$$0 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 2$$

This is how weighted logics can evaluate to values other than true or false. The reader can easily verify that the same procedure will correctly evaluate the structure of the string *abba* to 0.

The second example shows how to count the length of a string. Again, we use the natural number semiring.

$$\text{length} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists x[1] \quad (4.2)$$

The 1 in the equation is a valid term because 1 is a natural number! Recall it was mentioned that elements of the semirings are allowed to be atomic terms. If we consider string *acbc* again and its structure  $\mathcal{M}$ , we can see how `length` is evaluated. The existential quantifier in `length` expands to a series of disjunctions, one for each position in the string.

$$\llbracket \text{length} \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) = \llbracket \bigvee_{x \in \{1,2,3,4\}} 1 \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) = \llbracket 1 \vee 1 \vee 1 \vee 1 \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$$

Again, in the natural number semiring,  $\vee$  is interpreted as normal addition, and so  $\llbracket 1 \vee 1 \vee 1 \vee 1 \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$  evaluates to  $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4$ .

The next example implements a unigram distribution over a three letter alphabet. For this we will use the real interval semiring.

$$\mathbb{U} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x \left[ (a(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (b(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (c(x) \wedge 0.2) \right] \quad (4.3)$$

This equation essentially assigns the probabilities of 0.4 to occurrences of *a* and *b* and a probability of 0.2 to an occurrence of *c*. Below is the evaluation of `U` with respect to the structure  $\mathcal{M}$  of the string *acbc*. The universal quantifier will expand to a series of conjunctions of terms. In this example, those terms themselves are compositions of subterms. Since  $\otimes$  and  $\oplus$  are interpreted as normal multiplication and addition respectively in

the real interval semiring, the term  $(a(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (b(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (c(x) \wedge 0.2)$  will be interpreted as  $(a(x) \times 0.4) + (b(x) \times 0.4) + (c(x) \times 0.2)$  for each  $x$  in the domain. Consequently, when evaluating  $U(\mathcal{M}_{abc})$ , it first expands as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \mathbf{U} \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) &= \left( (a(1) \times 0.4) + (b(1) \times 0.4) + (c(1) \times 0.2) \right) \\ &\quad \times \left( (a(2) \times 0.4) + (b(2) \times 0.4) + (c(2) \times 0.2) \right) \\ &\quad \times \left( (a(3) \times 0.4) + (b(3) \times 0.4) + (c(3) \times 0.2) \right) \\ &\quad \times \left( (a(4) \times 0.4) + (b(4) \times 0.4) + (c(4) \times 0.2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

The subterms within the term  $(a(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (b(x) \wedge 0.4) \vee (c(x) \wedge 0.2)$  are mutually exclusive. Position  $x$  must satisfy exactly one of  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ . As a result, two of the subterms will evaluate to zero. Consequently, the evaluation will continue as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \mathbf{U} \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) &= (1 \times 0.4 + 0 + 0) \\ &\quad \times (0 + 0 + 1 \times 0.2) \\ &\quad \times (0 + 1 \times 0.4 + 0) \\ &\quad \times (0 + 0 + 1 \times 0.2) \\ &= 0.0064 \end{aligned}$$

Other probability distributions over sequences can be expressed in similar ways.

Our final example makes use of the language semiring to express an optional post-nasal voicing generalization. The equation below identifies post-nasal voicing environments. For simplicity we assume the successor model with letters, and we limit the alphabet to the symbols  $\{a, n, d, t\}$ .

$$\mathbf{NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists x, y \left[ x \triangleleft y \wedge \mathbf{n}(x) \wedge \mathbf{d}(y) \right] \quad (4.4)$$

Given the Boolean semiring, the sentence  $\mathbf{NT}$  would evaluate to `true` given the structure of the string *anda* and to `false` given the structure of the string *anta*.

However, we now want to consider the finite language semiring  $\mathbf{FIN}$ . The  $\otimes$  operation is now language concatenation. Given two sets of strings  $X$  and  $Y$ , their concatenation is  $XY = \{xy \mid x \in X, y \in Y\}$ . Note that the empty set acts as 0 here and the set containing only the empty string acts as

1, the identity. In other words, for all finite languages  $X$ ,  $X\emptyset = \emptyset X = \emptyset$  and  $X\{\lambda\} = \{\lambda\}X = X$ . The  $\oplus$  operation is now union. We have seen in the previous example that by multiplying the base terms with elements of the semiring we can associate different weights to different symbols. The same approach is in the next equation, where the substring  $nd$  is ultimately associated with the finite language  $\{nd, nt\}$ .

$$\text{NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists x, y \left[ x \triangleleft y \wedge \mathbf{n}(x) \wedge \{n\} \wedge \mathbf{d}(y) \wedge \{d, t\} \right] \quad (4.5)$$

To see how this works, let's evaluate  $\text{NT}$  on the structure of the string  $nd$ . Since the domain of this structure has two elements, the existential quantifier expands to four disjunctive terms which correspond to the  $(x, y)$  pairs  $(1, 1)$ ,  $(1, 2)$ ,  $(2, 1)$ , and  $(2, 2)$ . Each disjunctive term is the conjunction of three subterms. The first subterm is  $x \triangleleft y$ . This only evaluates to true for  $(x, y)$  pair  $(1, 2)$ . The others evaluate to false.

Consider one of the false cases, say  $x = 1$  and  $y = 1$ . Since 1 is not the successor of itself, the subterm  $x \triangleleft y$  evaluates to false. False terms are interpreted as 0, which in the finite language semiring corresponds to the emptyset. So here  $\llbracket x \triangleleft y \rrbracket = \emptyset$ . Since conjunction is interpreted as language concatenation, we are 'multiplying' the other subterms by the emptyset. Consequently, this entire disjunctive term evaluates to  $\emptyset$ . Likewise, the other false cases evaluate to  $\emptyset$ .

Let's move on to the one true case when  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ . Now  $x \triangleleft y$  evaluates to true which is interpreted as the multiplicative identity  $\{\lambda\}$ . The other subterms evaluate as follows. Since position 1 is a  $n$ ,  $\llbracket \mathbf{n}(x) \times \{n\} \rrbracket = \{\lambda\}\{n\} = \{n\}$ . And since position 2 is a  $d$ ,  $\llbracket \mathbf{d}(y) \times \{d, t\} \rrbracket = \{\lambda\}\{d, t\} = \{d, t\}$ . These three subterms multiply together:  $\{\lambda\}\{n\}\{d, t\} = \{nd, nt\}$ . This disjunctive term this evaluates to  $\{nd, nt\}$ .

Finally, we combine all the disjunctive terms together with  $\oplus$ , which in this semiring is union. We have  $\emptyset \cup \{nd, nt\} \cup \emptyset \cup \emptyset$ , which of course equals  $\{nd, nt\}$ . To sum up we have shown when  $\text{NT}$  in Equation 4.5 is applied to the structure of the string  $nd$ , it evaluates to the set  $\{nd, nt\}$ .

We are not yet done. Any string without a  $nd$  substring given to Equation 4.5 will evaluate to the empty set. This is because every disjunctive term will evaluate to the empty set since none of its subterms will be true. So to allow the process to apply to any word, it is important that we embed Equation 4.5 into a larger expression.

How do we accomplish this? The next equation establishes basic faithfulness (the identity function).

$$\text{id} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x \left[ (\mathbf{a}(x) \wedge \{a\}) \vee (\mathbf{n}(x) \wedge \{n\}) \vee (\mathbf{d}(x) \wedge \{d\}) \vee (\mathbf{t}(x) \wedge \{t\}) \right] \quad (4.6)$$

The idea is to combine Equation 4.6 with Equation 4.5 to achieve the desired outcome. Here is one way to do this.

$$\text{NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x \left[ (\mathbf{a}(x) \wedge \{a\}) \vee (\mathbf{n}(x) \wedge \{n\}) \vee (\mathbf{t}(x) \wedge \{t\}) \vee (\mathbf{d}(x) \wedge (\exists y[y \triangleleft x \wedge \mathbf{n}(y)]) \wedge \{d, t\}) \vee (\mathbf{d}(x) \wedge (\exists y[y \triangleleft x \wedge \neg \mathbf{n}(y)]) \wedge \{d\}) \right] \quad (4.7)$$

The idea is to again to make use of mutually exclusive conditions for each position. In this case there are five. If a position satisfies  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{n}$ , or  $\mathbf{t}$ , it invariably surfaces faithfully. If a position satisfies  $\mathbf{d}$  then it depends on whether a previous position exists which satisfies  $\mathbf{n}$ . If so, then the fourth disjunct will evaluate to  $\{d, t\}$  and the last one to  $\emptyset$ . If not, the fourth disjunct will evaluate to  $\emptyset$  and the last one  $\{d\}$ .

This last example is especially interesting because it provides another way to express transformations with logical formula other than the Courcellian approach introduced in chapter 3, which is used throughout the remainder of this book. The approach to string-to-string functions using weighted logics over a string or language based semiring (like FIN), to my knowledge, has not been studied in any more detail.

A basic idea that informed the examples here has been to use the logical language to identify substructures and to then multiply them by elements of the appropriate semiring. In this way, the outputs are always some kind of sum of the relevant weighted substructures.

Finally, it is also worth observing that given two semirings  $A$  and  $B$ , a new semiring can be constructed whose elements belong to the cross-product  $A \times B$ . For example, we could combine the Finite Language semiring with the real interval semiring to express probabilities over the output variations.

### 4.3 Conclusion

Weighted logics allow one to express linguistic generalizations beyond binarity. There are some technical differences in the ways these logics are defined. Negation only applies to the base cases. Conjunction and disjunction are interpreted as semiring multiplication  $\otimes$  and addition  $\oplus$ . There are *many* semirings (Golan, 1999), including ones for strings and formal languages. While there is much here to explore, the remainder of this book focuses on the use of logic and model theory as described in previous chapters. This chapter is presented to lay to rest any doubts about the efficacy that formal logic brings to non-binary generalizations.

# Chapter 5

## Below First Order Logic

JEFFREY HEINZ AND JAMES ROGERS

This chapter continues the line of thinking developed in Chapter 2. There it was shown how the choice of constraint definition language (CDL) provides a theory of possible constraints. It was also shown that from a model-theoretic perspective, choice of constraint definition language includes choosing an explicit representation and logical formalism. It was also argued there that if theorists wish to posit a CDL which can express both local and long-distance constraints of the kind found in phonology, but cannot express generalizations like EVEN-N, then, of the CDLs considered, First-Order (FO) logic with precedence would be the best choice.

Another way to motivate First-Order logic with precedence is that, given the CDLs considered so far, it was the *least* class of constraints that included both the local and long-distance style constraints. The idea that “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler” is at the heart of scientific thinking.<sup>1</sup> We are interested in the *minimally necessary* computational machinery to account for the variety of generalizations observed across the world’s languages (cf. the Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 1995)).

One clue that FO is more expressive than necessary, is that it is straightforward to define constraints that are sensitive to the number of occurrences of complex structures in a word. Readers may recall that this counting is

---

<sup>1</sup>This expression is typically attributed Einstein but it seems it was sharpened after the fact (Robinson, 2018).

in fact present in the abstract characterization of “FO with successor” in Theorem 1.

For example, Equation 2.11 gave a definition for the constraint \*NT. It is very easy to write a similar constraint that only penalizes words with three NT sequences but not two as shown below.

$$\begin{aligned}
 *3NT &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg(\exists x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6) \Big[ \\
 &\quad (x_1 \triangleleft x_2 \wedge \text{nasal}(x_1) \wedge \text{voiceless}(x_2)) \\
 &\quad \wedge (x_3 \triangleleft x_4 \wedge \text{nasal}(x_3) \wedge \text{voiceless}(x_4)) \\
 &\quad \wedge (x_5 \triangleleft x_6 \wedge \text{nasal}(x_5) \wedge \text{voiceless}(x_6)) \\
 &\quad \wedge (x_1 \neq x_3 \wedge x_1 \neq x_5 \wedge x_3 \neq x_5) \Big] \tag{5.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note we use  $x \neq y$  as shorthand for  $\neg(x = y)$ . According to this constraint hypothetical words like *kampantasakanka* are ill-formed, but words like *kampantasakaka* are well-formed. Is there a principled way to eliminate this kind of counting from the CDLs?

There is. **Propositional logic** is a logical system that is weaker than FO. In this section we motivate and define a propositional-style logic along the lines developed by Rogers and Lambert (2019b). We do this for both the successor and the precedence models of strings.

The resulting CDLs do not have the ability to count in the manner above. More generally, the abstract characterizations of the resulting CDLs corresponds to a particular type of memory model, the so-called “Testable” classes (McNaughton and Papert, 1971; Simon, 1975), with clear cognitive implications (Rogers and Pullum, 2011; Rogers *et al.*, 2013). We return to these broader issues after introducing propositional logic.

## 5.1 Propositional Logic with Factors

Sentences of propositional logic are Boolean combinations of **atomic propositions**. The Boolean connectives, presented in Table 2.2, are the symbols:  $\wedge$  (conjunction),  $\vee$  (disjunction),  $\neg$  (negation),  $\rightarrow$  (implication), and  $\leftrightarrow$  (biconditional).<sup>2</sup> Classically, the atomic propositions can be anything from

<sup>2</sup>In technical presentations of propositional logic, only some of these are presented as fundamental and the remainder are derived from those.



sentences like “All men are mortal” to “The sample contained chlorine.” The truth of any sentence in propositional logic can be computed from the truth values of the atomic propositions along with the standard ways the Boolean connectives are interpreted. Good introductions to propositional logic include Keisler and Robbin (1996) and Hedman (2004).

Additionally, one way to interpret the meaning of a sentence  $\phi$  in propositional logic is as the set of worlds in the universe for which  $\phi$  would evaluate to true. In our context, the universe is the set of possible strings  $\Sigma^*$  and each string in  $\Sigma^*$  is a “world” in this universe. Thus, just as with sentences of FO and MSO logic, each propositional sentence  $\phi$  will pick out some set of strings in  $\Sigma^*$ , which are those words for which  $\phi$  can be said to be true of.

What are the atomic propositions in this universe of strings? Following Rogers and Lambert (2019b), we present atomic propositions based on the notion of **containment**. They are sentences of the form “Words contain  $S$ ”, where  $S$  is a model-theoretic **connected** structure. Consequently the proposition  $S$  will be true of any string  $w$  whose model  $M_w$  **contains**  $S$ . In this case, we say that  $S$  **is a factor of**  $M_w$ .

In order to precisely define the **factor** relation, we must introduce the meanings of *connected* and *contains*. The formal details are given in Chapter 6 and are illustrated below with examples.

As an example, consider the successor model with features and the structure with domain  $D = \{1, 2\}$ , the successor relation given by  $\{(1, 2)\}$ , with  $\text{nasal} = \{1\}$ ,  $\text{voiceless} = \{2\}$ , and with all other unary relations denoting phonological features equal to the empty set. This structure, which we denote NT, represents a nasal immediately succeeded by a voiceless segment. It is shown in Figure 5.1.

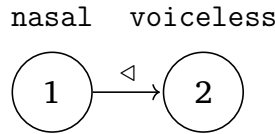


Figure 5.1: The factor NT

Compare this structure with  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{sans}}$  in the successor model with features presented in Figure 2.2. We can say that the structure NT is a factor of

$\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  because  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  contains the structure NT. This is because we can find elements in the domain of  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  – namely elements 3 and 4 – which match the elements 1 and 2. By “match”, we mean that the relations held by 1 and 2 in NT hold for 3 and 4 in  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$ , respectively. What relations are held by 1 and 2 in NT? 1 satisfies the unary relation *nasal* and 2 satisfies the unary relation *voiceless*. Additionally, 2 is the successor of 1. We can likewise see that in  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$ , 3 satisfies the unary relation *nasal*, 4 satisfies the unary relation *voiceless*, and 4 is the successor of 3. For these reasons, we can conclude that  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  *contains* the structure NT.

However, containment alone is insufficient to define the factor relation. Let’s consider another structure  $\langle N, T \rangle$ . Like NT, this structure has domain  $D = \{1, 2\}$  with *nasal* = {1}, *voiceless* = {2}, and with all other unary relations denoting phonological features equal to the empty set. Furthermore, no successor relation holds between these two elements. The model  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  also contains this structure because we can find elements in  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$  which match the elements in  $\langle N, T \rangle$ . In fact, successor structures of words like *donut* and *ten* also contain the structure  $\langle N, T \rangle$ .

We choose to eliminate the possibility of such disconnected structures, by requiring the atoms of our propositional logic to be **connected** structures. Informally, a structure is connected if any two elements in a domain can be connected by a *series* of relations that chain the two elements together. For example, let the structure  $\langle CCC \rangle$  be defined to have domain  $D = \{1, 2, 3\}$ , to have *cons* = {1,2,3} with all other unary relations denoting phonological features equal to the empty set, and to have the successor relation given by  $\{(1, 2), (2, 3)\}$ . There are three pairs of domain elements: (1,2), (2,3), and (1,3). Clearly pairs (1,2) and (2,3) are connected pairs since they are connected by the successor relation. Pair (1,3) is also connected, however, via the series of successor relations that connects 1 to 2 and then 2 to 3. Formal details are given in Chapter 6 (see also Rogers and Lambert (2019b)).

We refer to connected structures as *factors*.<sup>3</sup> We observe that models of every string in  $\Sigma^*$  is a factor because each is a connected structure. Furthermore, we can now understand why NT is a factor of  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$ . It is because NT is a connected structure contained within  $\mathcal{M}_{sans}$ . If a factor  $S$

<sup>3</sup>We avoid the term substructure since it has a distinct meaning in model theory; see Hedman (2004) for instance.

is contained within a structure  $\mathcal{M}$ , we write  $S \sqsubseteq \mathcal{M}$ . Hence,  $\text{NT} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{M}_{\text{sans}}$ .

At last we can specify the atoms of the propositional logic we introduce. The atoms are factors. Every connected structure contained in some string in  $\Sigma^*$  is an atom. Thus, to decide whether a model of a string  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies a sentence of propositional logic with a structure  $S$  as an atom, we will need to decide whether  $S$  is a factor of  $\mathcal{M}$  as shown in Equation 5.2

$$\mathcal{M} \models S \text{ iff } S \sqsubseteq \mathcal{M} \quad (5.2)$$

The remainder of the logic is defined like every other propositional logic. Sentences of propositional logic combine atomic propositions with the Boolean connectives ( $\wedge$  conjunction,  $\vee$  disjunction,  $\neg$  negation,  $\rightarrow$  implication, and  $\leftrightarrow$  biconditional), and these combinations have their usual meanings. The language associated with a propositional sentence  $\phi$  is also defined in the usual manner.

$$L(\phi) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \mathcal{M}_w \models \phi\} \quad (5.3)$$

As was the case with FO and MSO logics, this propositional-style logic we have introduced depends on a model signature. This is because what the atomic propositions — the connected structures — depend on is the model signature.

## 5.2 Examples of Propositional Logic with Factors

In this section we discuss the CDLs:  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$ ,  $\text{PROP}(<)$ , and  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft, \times, \bowtie)$ , each with and without features. These refer to propositional logical languages defined with factors from the model signatures with successor, precedence, and successor with word boundaries respectively. It can be shown that each of these CDLs is unable to define a constraint that penalizes words with three NT sequences but not two (regardless of whether or not features are used).

Each of these CDLs has a very similar characterization as expressed in the following theorem. We identify the **size of a factor** with the size of its domain.

**Theorem 4** (Characterization of PROP-definable constraints). *A constraint is PROP-definable with model signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  if and only if there is a number  $k$  such that for any two strings  $w$  and  $v$ , whenever the  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structures of these two strings have the same factors up to size  $k$  under the given model, then either both  $w$  and  $v$  violate the constraint or neither does.*

That the theorem is true is not hard to see. If two strings  $w, v$  have exactly the same factors up to size  $k$  then their structures satisfy exactly the same set of atomic propositions. Since the truth of any propositional formula  $\phi$  depends only on the truth or falsity of its atomic propositions, it must be the case that either both  $\mathcal{M}_w \models \phi$  and  $\mathcal{M}_v \models \phi$  or neither  $\mathcal{M}_w$  nor  $\mathcal{M}_v$  satisfy  $\phi$ .

Significant literature exists on the classes of formal languages definable with some of these CDLs. In particular the class of formal languages definable with  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$  are Strongly Locally Testable (Beauquier and Pin, 1991). A constraint like  $\text{*NT}$  is thus not only FO-definable with successor but it is PROP-definable with successor.

To be explicit, if the alphabet is the one used in Chapter 2 ( $\{a, b, d, e, g, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, z\}$ ) then  $\text{*NT}$  can be expressed as shown in Equation 5.4 below.

$$\text{*NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg mk \wedge \neg mp \wedge \neg ms \wedge \neg mt \wedge \neg nk \wedge \neg np \wedge \neg ns \wedge \neg nt \quad (5.4)$$

In Equation 5.4, the sequence  $ab$  represents the factor where the first element is  $a$  and the second is  $b$ . On the other hand, if we are using features, then  $\text{*NT}$  can be expressed as shown in Equation 5.5 below.

$$\text{*NT} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \text{NT} \quad (5.5)$$

where  $\text{NT}$  represents the factor shown in Figure 5.1. We conclude that  $\text{*NT}$  is definable with  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$  (with or without features) and is therefore a Strongly Locally Testable constraint.

We can also show that the constraint which is violated by three  $\text{NT}$  sequences but not two is not definable in this way. To show this, we use Theorem 4. Let us call this particular constraint  $\text{*3NT}$ . If this constraint was definable with  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$ , then according to this theorem there would be some maximum factor size  $k$  such that for any two strings  $w$  and  $v$ , whenever the model structures of these two strings have the same factors up to size  $k$  under the given model, then either both  $w$  and  $v$  violate the

constraint or neither does. Consequently, we can show a constraint is not  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$  by showing there exists, for any  $k$ , two strings with the same set of factors, but one obeys the constraint and one does not.

Pick an arbitrary  $k$  and consider the strings  $w = a^k n t a^k n t a^k$  and  $v = a^k n t a^k n t a^k n t a^k$ . Clearly  $w$  obeys  $*3\text{NT}$  but  $v$  does not. And yet these strings have the same set of  $k$ -factors:  $\{a^k, a^{k-1}n, a^{k-2}nt, a^{k-3}nta, \dots, nta^{k-2}\}$ . Since we can always find a pair of strings that  $*3\text{NT}$  distinguishes for any  $k$ , there is no maximum  $k$  such that strings with the same  $k$ -factors either both obey or both violate the constraint. It follows from Theorem 4 that  $*3\text{NT}$  is not definable in  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft)$ .

Another class of constraints that has been well studied is definable with  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$ . This model extends the successor model with left and right word boundaries. The signature of this model is  $\{(b)_{b \in \Sigma}, \bowtie, \bowtie\}$  where symbols  $\bowtie$  and  $\bowtie$  denote unary relations which are interpreted as the left and right word boundaries, respectively. The model-theoretic representation of a string  $w = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$  is presented in Table 5.1.

$D$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$
$a$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{i \in D \mid b_i = a\}$ for each unary relation $a$
$\triangleleft$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(i, i+1) \subseteq D \times D\}$
$\bowtie$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{0\}$
$\bowtie$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{n+1\}$

Table 5.1: The successor model for words with word boundaries  $w = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ .

For example, Figure 5.2 shows the structure the successor model with word boundaries assigns to the string *sans*. Under this model, factors can

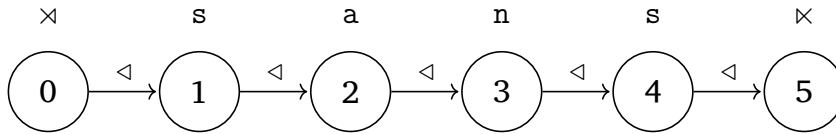


Figure 5.2: A graphical depiction of the successor model with word boundaries of the word *sans*.

distinguish structures at left and right word boundaries from ones that

are not at these boundaries. The class of languages definable with this model and propositional logic is exactly the Locally Testable languages (McNaughton and Papert, 1971; Rogers and Pullum, 2011). The Locally Testable Languages are known to properly include the Strongly Locally Testable languages. Similar arguments to the ones presented above will also show that  $*3NT$  is not Locally Testable for any factor size  $k$ .

We next address the question of whether features increase or decrease the definable constraints. We observe that two strings with the same factors in a model signature with letters  $PROP((b)_{b \in \Sigma}, \triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie, \text{letters})$  will also have the same factors in a model signature with features  $PROP(\text{feat}, \triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  and vice versa. So the expressivity of  $PROP(\text{feat}, \triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  and  $PROP(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie, \text{letters})$  are the same (the Locally Testable class) and thus no arguments based on expressivity can be used to distinguish these CDLs. However, it is of course the case that *the way* certain sets of strings can be expressed within these logical languages will be different, and arguments for one or the other CDL could be made on such grounds.

The class of formal languages definable with  $PROP(<)$  are Piecewise Testable (Simon, 1975). The constraint  $*N..L$  is PROP-definable with precedence with and without features as shown in Figure 5.3 below.

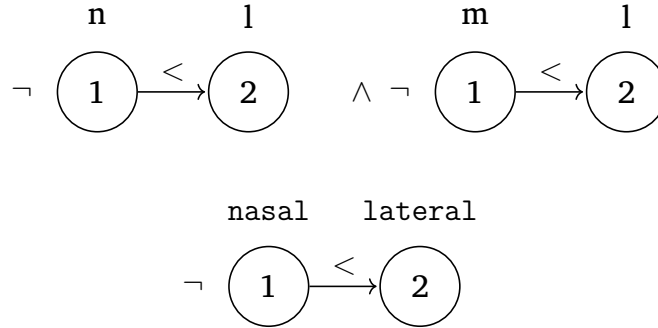


Figure 5.3: The factor NL with letters (above) and features (below)

To summarize this section, a propositional logic whose atomic propositions correspond to factors interpreted in terms of containment provides CDLs that are less powerful than corresponding FO ones. Figure 5.4 illustrates the situation with the constraints discussed in Chapter 2.

	$\triangleleft$ , features	$<$ , features
MSO	*N..L, EVEN-N	EVEN-N
FO		
PROP	*NT	*N..L

Figure 5.4: Classifying the constraints \*NT, \*N..L, and EVEN-N.

### 5.3 Conjunctions of Negative Literals

The constraints presented above all have the same form. That is, they are the *conjunctions of negative literals*. A literal is an atomic proposition. If  $P$  is a literal then its negative literal is simply  $\neg P$ . In the propositional logic with factors introduced above, conjunctions of negative literals simply mean an expression of propositional logic of the following form.

$$\neg X_1 \wedge \neg X_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \neg X_n$$

Such an expression simply means “Words are well-formed provided they don’t contain  $X_1$  and don’t contain  $X_2$  and ...don’t contain  $X_n$ .”

Constraints that can be defined with the logical language  $\text{CNL}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  correspond exactly to the class of Strictly Local Languages (McNaughton and Papert, 1971; Rogers and Pullum, 2011). This class of languages has as its defining property Suffix Substitution Closure.

**Theorem 5** (Characterization of  $\text{CNL}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  constraints). *A constraint is  $\text{CNL}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  definable if and only if there is a number  $k$  such that for any strings  $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2 \in \Sigma^*$  and for any string  $x$  of length  $k - 1$ , whenever  $u_1 x v_1$  and  $u_2 x v_2$  obey the constraint, it is the case that the string  $u_1 x v_2$ .*

For example, in the case of \*NT, it will turn out that  $k = 2$ . Since both strings *minato* and *pungu* obey the \*NT constraint, and since both share a sequence of length  $k - 1$  (here this is  $n$ ), then we can identify  $u_1 = mi$ ,  $v_1 = ato$ ,  $u_2 = pu$ ,  $v_2 = gu$ , and  $x = n$ . Hence we have  $u_1 x v_1 = \text{minato}$  and  $u_2 x v_2 = \text{pungu}$  and we satisfy the antecedent condition in the statement of the theorem. It follows that the string  $u_1 x v_2 = \text{mingu}$  must also be a string that obeys \*NT. And in fact it does. This is true for *all* such strings  $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2$  and  $x$ .

Suffix Substitution Closure (SSC) is an abstract property that holds of any Strictly Local language regardless of the intensional description of the formal language. We could use any of the logical languages discussed so far to define the set of strings which do not violate the constraint \*NT. We write a finite-state acceptor or use some other grammatical formalism. The SSC tell us something about the *shape* of a formal language in the same way that having 4 sides and 4 right angles tells us that the shape of a polygon is a rectangle. No intensional description required.

Suffix Substitution Closure can be used to show that certain constraints are NOT Strictly Local (and therefore NOT definable with  $\text{CNL}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$ ) by finding, for any  $k$ , two strings  $u_1 x v_1$  and  $u_2 x v_2$  with  $x$  the length of  $k - 1$ , which obey the constraint but where  $u_1 x v_2$  does not.

Here is an example, consider the formula  $\phi$  in  $\text{PROP}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$  defined in Equation 5.6.

$$\phi = a \tag{5.6}$$

This constraint says words must contain the letter  $a$ . We can use Suffix Substitution Closure to show that this constraint is not definable with  $\text{CDL}(\triangleleft, \bowtie, \bowtie)$ . Fix  $k$ . Consider the strings  $cc^{k-1}a$  and  $ac^{k-1}c$ . Both of these obey the constraint since they both contain  $a$ . However, when we set  $u_1 = c$ ,  $x = c^{k-1}$ ,  $v_1 = a$ ,  $u_2 = a$ , and  $v_2 = c$  we can see that the substituting the suffix yields  $u_1 x v_2 = cc^{k-1}c$ , which clearly violates the constraint since it contains no  $a$ .

The formula in Equation 5.7 provides another example.

$$\phi = \neg a \rightarrow \neg b \tag{5.7}$$

A word  $w$  obeys this constraint provided the sentence “if  $w$  does not contain  $a$  then  $w$  does not contain  $b$ ” is true. In other words, words without  $as$  must also be without  $bs$ . Again, pick a  $k$ . Consider the strings  $cc^{k-1}c$  and  $ac^{k-1}b$ . Both of these obey the constraint. The first one obeys it because it contains neither  $as$  nor  $bs$ . The second one obeys it because it contains an  $a$ , and so the antecedent in the conditional is not met. However, when we set  $u_1 = c$ ,  $x = c^{k-1}$ ,  $v_1 = c$ ,  $u_2 = a$ , and  $v_2 = b$  we can see that substituting the suffix yields  $u_1 x v_2 = cc^{k-1}b$ , which clearly violates the constraint since it contains no  $a$  but does contain  $b$ .

If we change the model signature, other classes of languages are obtained. For example, the constraints definable with  $\text{CNL}(<)$  correspond exactly to the Strictly Piecewise Languages (Rogers *et al.*, 2010, 2013). The



constraint  $*N..L$  is definable with  $CNL(<)$ . This class of languages has as its defining property Subsequence Closure.

**Theorem 6** (Characterization of  $CNL(<)$  constraints). *A constraint is  $CNL(<)$  definable if and only if for any string  $x$  which obeys the constraint, every subsequence of  $x$  also obeys the constraint.*

Like with Suffix Substitution Closure, this is a property of Strictly Piecewise languages independent of the grammatical formalism. Subsequence Closure gives us another kind of shape in the space of formal languages.

The conclusion that we come to is that if we are only interested in defining constraints like  $*NT$  and  $*N..L$ , a minimally expressive constraint language that does the job is to have constraints drawn from  $CNL(\triangleleft)$  and  $CNL(<)$ . Figure 5.5 illustrates. This is more or less the position adopted by

MSO	$*N..L$ , EVEN-N	EVEN-N
FO		
Prop		
CNL	$*NT$	$*N..L$
	$\triangleleft$ , features	$<$ , features

Figure 5.5: Classifying the constraints  $*NT$ ,  $*N..L$ , and EVEN-N.

Heinz (2010). A key difference between then and now is that the logical and model-theoretic presentation allows us to more precisely understand the nature of the restrictions on what makes a possible constraint. This is partly because the relationships between the different logical formalisms (MSO, FO, Prop, CNL) are well understood, and partly because we also understand the consequences of certain representational choices.

An important line of research has also examined constraints like  $*N..L$  using autosegmental representations, invoking the concept of a phonological tier. Readers are referred to [TODO:add tier refs here...](#)

## 5.4 Discussion

When more constraints are examined in more languages, it almost certainly reveals that things may not be as simple as this presentation suggests. But

this discussion was not so much about the correctness of this particular conclusion, as it was to emphasize a way to proceed with analysis.

We seek to formalize linguistic generalizations to help us understand them. Expressing these constraints in a logical language does this in spades. It requires us to be explicit about representations. It requires us to be explicit about the logical formalism. When we combine a model-theoretic representation with a logic, whether it MSO, FO, Propositional, or some fragment thereof like CNL, we have created a Constraint Definition Language, which gives us a class of patterns.

That class of patterns can be studied, and situated with respect to other classes of patterns. Humboldt is famous for having said that language makes “infinite employment of finite means” (von Humboldt, 1999, p. 91), but he also said that to do linguistic typology one needs to have two encyclopedias (Frans Planc, p.c.) One of these encyclopedias is an “Encyclopedia of Types,” by which he meant the collection of linguistic generalizations that we go out and find in the world. The other is an “Encyclopedia of Categories,” by which he meant some systematic way of putting classifying those types. Different logical languages, parameterized by logical power on the one hand, and model-theoretic representation on the other, provide an unparalleled Encyclopedia of Categories with which we can study linguistic generalizations.

Another consideration is learning. We can ask whether the constraints definable with a particular CDL can be learned, under different definitions of what learning means. It is known that when the maximum factor size is specified to some  $k$ , that CNL constraints are efficiently learnable under different definitions of learning. The class of PROP constraints similarly constrained is also learnable, but generally not feasibly. See Lambert *et al.* (2021) for details.

This chapter explored logics weaker than First Order as they could be applied to constraints. What about transformations? This question is more open. It is not straightforward how to synthesize the approach taken in this chapter, which uses containment and propositional logic, with the Courcellian logical transformations explained in Chapter 3. On the other hand, in Chapter ??, Chandlee and Lindell present a significant result by establishing an equivalence between Input Strictly Local functions (Chandlee and Heinz, 2018) and a weaker fragment of First Order logic known as Quantifier Free logic. Another approach, not pursued in this book, utilizes algebraic properties of the transformations to explore weaker

variants (Lambert, 2022; Lambert and Heinz, 2023).

## 5.5 Summary

In this chapter, we showed how propositional logics can be used to express constraints using the notion of structural containment. It was important that our structures be connected; and we introduced the term *factor* to talk about such connected structures. We observed that many local and long-distance phonotactic constraints belong to a fragment of such a propositional logical language, which is the conjunctions of negative literals. We concluded that there are many logical languages which can be defined and studied to classify phonological constraints.

**possible revision: return to the shape metaphor introduced with SSC and subsequence closure. Extract and put in its own short section which also mentions the characterizations of Star Free, from the previous chapter, and LT and PT from this one.**

DRAFT

## Chapter 6

# Formal Presentation of Model Theory and Logic

JEFFREY HEINZ

This chapter presents formal definitions of the syntax and semantics of three logical formalisms discussed in earlier chapters. It draws from Enderton (1972, 2001); Courcelle (1994); Engelfriet and Hoogeboom (2001); Hedman (2004) and Courcelle and Engelfriet (2012b). The organization of this chapter follows the order of the material in part I of this book. First, relational models, model signatures, and structures are defined. Then the syntax and semantics of MSO logic and FO logic are presented. Next the formulas needed for Courcellian logical transductions where the words are represented with model-theoretic relational structures are presented and it is explained how they are interpreted. The following section defines semirings, and the syntax and semantics of weighted logic. The last section defines connected structures, factors, and the syntax and semantics of a propositional logic whose atomic propositions are connected structures found within words.

### 6.1 Relational Models and Signatures

A  $n$ -ary **relation**  $R$  is a relation of arity  $n$ . This means it expresses a relation among  $n$  different elements. So if  $D$  is the domain of elements then  $R$  is a

subset of

$$D^n = \underbrace{D \times D \times \dots \times D}_{n \text{ times}} .$$

For example, a unary relation is a subset of  $D$  and a binary relation is a subset of  $D \times D$ . The arity of a relation  $R$  is denoted  $\rho(R)$ .

A **signature** is a *finite number* of relations, denoted  $\mathfrak{R}$ . The relations in  $\mathfrak{R}$  can be of various arities. Formally, if  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is the number of relations in the signature, let

$$\mathfrak{R} = \langle R_1, \dots, R_n \rangle \text{ such that for all } 1 \leq i \leq n, \rho(R_i) > 0.$$

In words,  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a tuple of  $n$  relations, and  $R_i$  is a  $\rho(R_i)$ -ary relation. A signature can be thought of as a way to define a class of logically possible structures. It can be thought of as expressing the *type* of representations under consideration.

A **relational structure** of type  $\mathfrak{R}$ , also called a  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure, is a tuple  $\langle \mathcal{D} \mid (\mathcal{R})_{\mathcal{R} \in \mathfrak{R}} \rangle$ . Relational structures are representations of the information that is immediately accessible about an object. The object can be identified as a set elements of a domain with certain relationships which exist among those elements. Since the objects we consider have only finitely many domain elements, these structures are called **finite relational structures**.

If the analyst has a class of objects in mind (for example words) then it is important to ensure that each unique object has some model and that distinct objects have distinct models.

As an example, consider conventional word models. Fix an alphabet  $\Sigma$ . Then a conventional word model has  $|\Sigma|$  unary relations, one for each letter of the alphabet, and one binary relation, which is the ordering relation. The two models only differ in the ordering relation. For successor-structures, we require  $\triangleleft = \{(i, i+1) \mid i, i+1 \in D\}$  but for precedence-structures, we require  $< = \{(i, j) \mid i, j \in D, i < j\}$ .

## 6.2 MSO Logic for relational models

The difference between MSO and FO logic has to do with **quantification**. Both logics make use of **variables**. MSO makes use of two kinds of variables: variables that range over individual elements of the domain and variables that range over sets of individual elements of the domain. The former are

denoted with lowercase letters such as  $x, y, z$  and the latter with uppercase letters  $X, Y, Z$ . We denote these two countable sets of variables with  $V_x$  and  $V_X$  respectively. While MSO uses both kinds of variables, FO logic only uses  $V_x$ . Therefore FO logic is literally those formulas of MSO logic *without* quantification over sets of individual domain elements.

If  $\rho(R) = 1$ , and  $x$  stands in the  $R$  relation in some domain, we write  $R(x)$ . Similarly, if  $\rho(R) = 2$ , and  $x_1$  stands in the  $R$  relation to  $x_2$  in some domain, we write  $R(x_1, x_2)$ . Generally, if  $\rho(R) = n$ , and the elements  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  stand in the  $R$  relation in some domain, we write  $R(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ . When  $\rho(R)$  is not explicit, we use  $\vec{x}$  to mean a tuple of  $\rho(R)$  variables and write  $R(\vec{x})$  to mean  $R$  holds for the tuple of elements in  $\vec{x}$ . In the notation  $R(\vec{x})$ , it is understood that  $\rho(R) = |\vec{x}|$ .

### 6.2.1 Syntax of MSO logic

This sections defines the syntax of MSO logic.

**Definition 1** (Formulas of MSO logic). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$ . The formulas of  $\text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R})$  are defined inductively as follows.

#### The base cases.

For all variables  $x, y \in V_x = \{x_0, x_1, \dots\}$ ,  $X \in V_X = \{X_0, X_1, \dots\}$ , the following are formulas of MSO logic.

- |      |  |                              |
|------|--|------------------------------|
| (B1) | $x = y$                                    | (equality)                   |
| (B2) | $x \in X$                                  | (membership)                 |
| (B3) | $R(\vec{x})$ for each $R \in \mathfrak{R}$ | (atomic relational formulas) |

#### The inductive cases.

If  $\varphi, \psi$  are formulas of MSO logic, then so are

- (I1)  $(\neg\varphi)$       **(negation)**
- (I2)  $(\varphi \vee \psi)$     **(disjunction)**
- (I3)  $(\varphi \wedge \psi)$     **(conjunction)**
- (I4)  $(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$    **(implication)**
- (I5)  $(\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi)$    **(biconditional)**
- (I6)  $(\exists x)[\varphi]$     **(existential quantification for individuals)**
- (I7)  $(\exists X)[\varphi]$     **(existential quantification for sets of individuals)**
- (I8)  $(\forall x)[\varphi]$     **(universal quantification for individuals)**
- (I9)  $(\forall X)[\varphi]$     **(universal quantification for sets of individuals)**

Nothing else is a formula of MSO logic.

It is possible to define a MSO logic with some subset of the above inductive cases (for example negation, disjunction, and existential quantification) and to derive the remainder. The above definition attempts to strike a balance between austere minimality and some utility.

### 6.2.2 Semantics of MSO logic

The **free** variables of a formula  $\varphi$  are those variables in  $\varphi$  that are not quantified. A formula is a **sentence** if none of its variables are free. Only sentences can be interpreted.

If a  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$  **satisfies**, or **models**, a sentence  $\varphi \in \text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R})$ , one writes  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi$ . If  $\Omega$  is a class of objects (like  $\Sigma^*$ ) and  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a signature for representing elements of  $\Omega$  then the **extension** of  $\varphi$  is denoted  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  and equals  $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid \mathcal{M}_\omega \models \varphi\}$ .

It will also be useful to think of the interpretation of  $\varphi$  as a function that maps relational structures to the set  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ . Since  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  denotes a set, this function is essentially that set's **indicator function**. Instead of introducing new notation for this indicator function, I will reuse the  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  notation. So while  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  designates a set,  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$  denotes a function which takes an  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$  and returns a truth value. Whether  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  is being interpreted as a set or as a function should be clear from context.

In order to evaluate  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$ —that is, in order to decide whether  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi$ —variables must be assigned values. For this reason, the function  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  actually takes two arguments: one is the  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$  and one is the *assignment function*. The assignment function  $\mathbb{S}$  maps individual variables (like  $x$ ) to individual elements of domain  $D$  and maps set-of-individual



variables (like  $X$ ) to sets of individuals (so subsets of  $D$ ). Formally,  $\mathbb{S} : (V_x \rightarrow D) \cup (V_X \rightarrow \wp(D))$ . The assignment function  $\mathbb{S}$  may be partial, even empty. The empty assignment is denoted  $\mathbb{S}_0$ .

We evaluate  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}_0)$ . Throughout the evaluation, the assignment function  $\mathbb{S}$  gets updated. The notation  $\mathbb{S}[x \mapsto e]$  updates the assignment function to bind element  $e$  to variable  $x$ . Similarly, the notation  $\mathbb{S}[X \mapsto S]$  updates the assignment function to bind the set of elements  $S$  to variable  $X$ . Then whether  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi$  can be determined inductively by the below definition.

**Definition 2** (Interpreting sentences of MSO logic). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$ .

**The base cases.**

- (B1)  $\llbracket x = y \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{S}(x) = \mathbb{S}(y)$
- (B2)  $\llbracket x \in X \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{S}(x) \in \mathbb{S}(X)$
- (B3) For each  $R \in \mathfrak{R}$ ,  $\llbracket R(\vec{x}) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{S}(\vec{x}) \in R$

To clarify the notation in (B3): if  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  then  $\mathbb{S}(\vec{x}) = (\mathbb{S}(x_1), \mathbb{S}(x_2), \dots, \mathbb{S}(x_n))$ .

**The inductive cases.**

- (I1)  $\llbracket (\neg \varphi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \neg \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
- (I2)  $\llbracket (\varphi \vee \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \vee \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
- (I3)  $\llbracket (\varphi \wedge \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \wedge \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
- (I4)  $\llbracket (\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \rightarrow \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
- (I5)  $\llbracket (\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
- (I6)  $\llbracket (\exists x)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow (\bigvee_{e \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}[x \mapsto e]))$
- (I7)  $\llbracket (\exists X)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow (\bigvee_{S \subseteq D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}[X \mapsto S]))$
- (I8)  $\llbracket (\forall x)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow (\bigwedge_{e \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}[x \mapsto e]))$
- (I9)  $\llbracket (\forall X)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \leftrightarrow (\bigwedge_{S \subseteq D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}[X \mapsto S]))$

### 6.3 FO Logic

$\text{FO}(\mathfrak{R})$  is defined as all the formulas of  $\text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R})$  logic which include no quantification over sets of individuals. In other words, there are no sentences which include variables from  $V_X$  and so cases B2, I7, and I9 never occur. In all other respects, sentences of FO logic are interpreted the same way as above.

### 6.4 Courcellian Logical Transformations

Next we define transductions from  $\mathfrak{R}_A$ -structures to  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ -structures.

A deterministic MSO-definable transduction  $\tau$  from  $\mathfrak{R}_A$ -structures to  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ -structures is specified by the following formulas.

1. a **domain formula**  $\varphi_d \in \text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R}_A)$  with no free variables;
2. a nonempty **copy set**  $C \subset \mathbb{N}$  of finite cardinality;
3. for each  $c \in C$ , a **licensing formula**  $\varphi_\ell^c(x) \in \text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R}_A)$  with one free variable; and
4. for each  $R_B \in \mathfrak{R}_B$  with  $\rho(R_B) = n$  and  $\vec{c} \in C^n$ , there is a **relational formula**  $\varphi_{R_B}^{\vec{c}}(\vec{x}) \in \text{MSO}(\mathfrak{R})$  with  $n$  free variables (note  $|\vec{c}| = |\vec{x}| = n$ ).

It follows that defining  $\tau$  requires the following formulas to be defined.

- one domain formula
- $|C|$  licensing formulas
- $\sum_{R_B \in \mathfrak{R}_B} |C|^{\rho(R_B)}$  relational formulas. To explain why, observe that  $|C|$  relational formulas will need to be defined for each unary relation in  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ ;  $|C|^2$  relational formulas will need to be defined for each binary relation in  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ ; and generally  $|C|^n$  relational formulas will need to be defined for each  $n$ -ary relation in  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ .

Next we define how the above formulas provide a  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ -structures from a given  $\mathfrak{R}_A$ -structure  $\mathcal{M} = \langle D_A \mid (R)_{R \in \mathfrak{R}_A} \rangle$ .

1. If  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_d$  then  $\tau(\mathcal{M})$  is defined. Otherwise  $\tau(\mathcal{M})$  is undefined.

2. If  $\tau(\mathcal{M})$  is defined then it equals the  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ -structure  $\langle D_B \mid (R)_{R \in \mathfrak{R}_B} \rangle$  where

- $D_B = \{(e, c) \mid e \in D_A, c \in C, \mathcal{M} \models \varphi_\ell^c(x)\}$
- For each  $R \in \mathfrak{R}_B$  with  $\rho(R) = n$ ,  
and for each  $\langle (x_1, c_1), \dots, (x_n, c_n) \rangle \in (D_B)^n$ ,  
it is the case that  $\langle (x_1, c_1), \dots, (x_n, c_n) \rangle \in R_B$  iff  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_{R_B}^{\vec{c}}(\vec{x})$   
where  $\vec{c} = \langle c_1, \dots, c_n \rangle$  and  $\vec{x} = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ .

Consequently, the following conclusions stand.

- For any element  $e$  in  $D_A$  of the  $\mathfrak{R}_A$ -structure and for any element  $c \in C$ , the pair  $(e, c)$  exists in the domain of the  $\mathfrak{R}_B$ -structure  $\tau(\mathcal{M})$  if and only if  $\varphi_\ell^c(e)$  is true.
- For any unary relation  $R \in \mathfrak{R}_B$ ,  $e \in D_A$ , and  $c \in C$ ,  $R(e, c)$  holds if and only if  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_R^c(e)$  and  $(e, c) \in D_B$ .
- For any binary relation  $R \in \mathfrak{R}_B$ ,  $e_1, e_2 \in D_A$ , and  $c_1, c_2 \in C$ ,  $R((e_1, c_1), (e_2, c_2))$  holds if and only if  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi_{R^s}^{c_1, c_2}(e_1, e_2)$  and  $(e_1, c_1), (e_2, c_2) \in D_B$ .

## 6.5 Weighted Monadic Second Order Logic

This section formalizes the concepts that were introduced in Chapter 4.

### 6.5.1 Semirings

We have seen how we can use logic to describe functions  $f : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ . Weighted logics allow one to describe functions with different co-domains, including  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $[0, 1]$ ,  $\Delta^*$  and so on. Crucially, the co-domain is a mathematical object known as a **semiring**. We basically follow the presentation by Droste and Gastin (2009).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>An important difference is I have kept equality, which they omit. One reason to omit equality is that it may not be decidable for an arbitrary semiring whether two of its elements are equal. For example, in the real interval, most real numbers are not even computable. Nevertheless, equality is assumed here.

A semiring is a set  $S$  with two binary operations  $\oplus, \otimes$ , called ‘addition/plus’ and ‘multiplication/times’, and with elements 1 and 0 with the following properties satisfied for all  $x, y, z \in S$ :

(P1)	$x \oplus y, x \otimes y \in S$	(closure under $\oplus$ and $\otimes$ )
(P2)	$x \oplus y = y \oplus x$	( $\oplus$ is commutative)
(P3)	$0 \oplus x = x \oplus 0 = x$	(0 is the identity for $\oplus$ )
(P4)	$1 \otimes x = x \otimes 1 = x$	(1 is the identity for $\otimes$ )
(P5)	$0 \otimes x = x \otimes 0 = 0$	(0 is an annihilator for $\otimes$ )
(P6)	$x \otimes (y \oplus z) = (x \otimes y) \oplus (x \otimes z)$	( $\otimes$ right distributes over $\oplus$ )

Below are some examples of semirings.

Name	$S$	$\oplus$	$\otimes$	0	1
Boolean	$\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$	$\vee$	$\wedge$	false	true
Natural	$\mathbb{N}$	$+$	$\times$	0	1
Viterbi	$[0, 1]$	max	$\times$	0	1
Language	$\wp(\Sigma^*)$	$\cup$	$\cdot$	$\emptyset$	$\{\lambda\}$

Previously we could understand existential quantification as disjunction over the elements in the domain whereas universal quantification is a conjunction of the elements in the domain. With WMSO, existential quantification combines the elements of the domain with  $\oplus$  whereas universal quantification combines them with  $\otimes$ .

### 6.5.2 Syntax of Weighted MSO Logic

**Definition 3** (Formulas of WMSO logic). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  and a semiring  $S$ . The formulas of  $\text{WMSO}(S, \mathfrak{R})$  are defined inductively as follows.

**The base cases.**

For all variables  $x, y \in \{x_0, x_1, \dots\}$ ,  $X \in \{X_0, X_1, \dots\}$ , and for all  $R \in \mathbb{M}$  the following are formulas of MSO logic.

- |      |   |                            |
|------|---|----------------------------|
| (B1) | $s$ , for each $s \in S$                        | (atomic semiring element)  |
| (B2) | $x = y$   | (equality)                 |
| (B3) | $x \neq y$                                      | (non-equality)             |
| (B4) | $x \in X$                                       | (membership)               |
| (B5) | $x \notin X$                                    | (non-membership)           |
| (B6) | $R(\vec{x})$ , for each $R \in \mathbb{M}$      | (positive relational atom) |
| (B7) | $\neg R(\vec{x})$ , for each $R \in \mathbb{M}$ | (negative relational atom) |

As before, it is understood that the  $|\vec{x}| = \rho(R)$ . So if  $R$  is a unary relation, then  $\vec{x} = (x)$ . If  $R$  is a binary relation, then  $\vec{x} = (x, y)$ , and so on.

### The inductive cases.

If  $\varphi, \psi$  are formulas of MSO logic, then so are

- |      |                         |  |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| (I1) | $(\varphi \vee \psi)$   | (disjunction)  |
| (I2) | $(\varphi \wedge \psi)$ | (conjunction)  |
| (I3) | $(\exists x)[\varphi]$  | (existential quantification for individuals)         |
| (I4) | $(\exists X)[\varphi]$  | (existential quantification for sets of individuals) |
| (I5) | $(\forall x)[\varphi]$  | (universal quantification for individuals)           |
| (I6) | $(\forall X)[\varphi]$  | (universal quantification for sets of individuals)   |

Nothing else is a formula of weighted MSO logic. Note that negation is only present in the base cases.

### 6.5.3 Semantics of Weighted MSO Logic

Let  $\Omega$  be a class of objects (like  $\Sigma^*$ ) and let  $S$  be a semiring. Let  $\mathfrak{R}$  denote a signature for representing elements of  $\Omega$ . Let  $\varphi$  be a sentence of  $\text{WMSO}(S, \mathfrak{R})$ . Then  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  denotes a function with domain  $\Omega$  and co-domain  $S$ . Formally,  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket : \Omega \rightarrow S$ .

As before, interpreting  $\varphi$  requires an assignment function  $\mathbb{S}$ . We write  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$  to express the value in  $S$  that  $\varphi$  assigns to  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Definition 4** (Interpreting formulas of WMSO logic). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$  and semiring  $S$ . Let  $D$  be the domain of the input  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**The base cases.**

(B1)	$\llbracket s \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s$	
(B2)	$\llbracket (x = y) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$	iff $\mathbb{S}(x) = \mathbb{S}(y)$ , 0 otherwise
(B3)	$\llbracket x \neq y \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$	iff $\mathbb{S}(x) = \mathbb{S}(y)$ , 1 otherwise
(B4)	$\llbracket x \in X \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$	iff $\mathbb{S}(x) \in \mathbb{S}(X)$ , 0 otherwise
(B5)	$\llbracket x \notin X \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$	iff $\mathbb{S}(x) \in \mathbb{S}(X)$ , 1 otherwise
(B6)	$\llbracket R(\vec{x}) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1$	iff $R(\mathbb{S}(\vec{x}))$ , 0 otherwise
(B7)	$\llbracket \neg R(\vec{x}) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$	iff $R(\mathbb{S}(\vec{x}))$ , 1 otherwise

**The inductive cases.**

(I1)	$\llbracket (\varphi \vee \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \oplus \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
(I2)	$\llbracket (\varphi \wedge \psi) \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S}) \otimes \llbracket \psi \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$
(I3)	$\llbracket (\exists x)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigoplus_{e \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathbb{S}[x \mapsto e], w)$
(I4)	$\llbracket (\exists X)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigoplus_{E \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathbb{S}[X \mapsto E], w)$
(I5)	$\llbracket (\forall x)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigotimes_{e \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathbb{S}[x \mapsto e], w)$
(I6)	$\llbracket (\forall X)[\varphi] \rrbracket (\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{S})$	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigotimes_{E \in D} \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket (\mathbb{S}[X \mapsto E], w)$

Since multiplication is not necessarily commutative, the order in which it occurs matters. When there is universal quantification over individuals ( $\forall x$ ), the multiplication is done according to the natural order. This means that if the elements of  $D$  are natural numbers then they are multiplied according to the order of natural numbers.

When there is universal quantification over sets of individuals, an order over the subsets of the domain must be assumed. One way to order finite subsets of natural numbers is to order them according to the length-lexicographic order of their list-representations. A list-representation of a finite subset of natural numbers is just the list of numbers in ascending order.

Finally, since addition is necessarily commutative (unlike multiplication), we do not worry about the order of the computation for existential quantification.

## 6.6 Propositional Logic

This section defines a logical language using propositional logic and  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structures.

We begin with what is meant by **connected relational structure** with a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$ . For each  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$  with  $\mathfrak{R} = \{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$  let the binary relation  $C$  be defined as follows.

$$C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ (x, y) \in D \times D \mid \begin{array}{l} \exists i \in \{1 \dots n\}, R_i \in \mathfrak{R} \\ \exists k \in \mathbb{N} [\rho(R_i) = k], \\ \exists (x_1 \dots x_k) \in R_i, \\ \exists s, t \in \{1 \dots k\}, x = x_s, y = x_t \end{array} \right\}$$

Further, let  $C^*$  denote the transitive closure of  $C$ . This means  $C^*$  is the least set which contains  $C$  and for which it is the case that whenever  $(x, y) \in C^*$  and  $(y, z) \in C^*$  then  $(x, z) \in C^*$  too. Then a structure  $A$  is **connected** whenever, for all  $x, y$  in the domain of  $A$ , it holds that  $(x, y) \in C^*$ .

As an example, consider the structure  $M_{abccc}$  in the conventional successor model. This is a connected structure because the the successor relation chains together any two elements. For instance, that domain elements 1 and 4 are connected is witnessed by these elements of the successor relation  $(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4)$ . In fact, the structure of every string under every model discussed is connected under this definition.

What is an example of an unconnected structure? Under the signature  $\langle \triangleleft, a, b, c \rangle$ , consider the structure  $A = \{\{1, 2\} \mid \emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \emptyset\}$ . This structure contains two elements (one is labeled  $a$  and one is labeled  $b$ ) but they are not connected by any series of relations.

Next we discuss what it means for one structure to be a **restriction** of another. Let  $A, B$  both be  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structures.  $A$  is a **restriction** of structure  $B$  if  $D_A \subseteq D_B$  and for each  $m$ -ary relation  $R$ , we have  $(x_1 \dots x_m) \in R_A$  if and only if  $(x_1 \dots x_m) \in R_B$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in D_A$ . So  $A$  is essentially what is left of  $B$  after  $B$  is stripped of elements and relations which are not wholly within the domain of  $A$ .

Finally, we say structure  $A$  is **contained by**  $B$  structure if  $A$  is isomorphic to a restriction of  $B$ . Whenever  $A$  is contained by  $B$  and  $A$  is a connected structure, we also say  $A$  is a **factor** of  $B$  (denoted  $A \sqsubseteq B$ ).

For each string  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , let  $F(\mathcal{M}_w)$  denote the set of factors of the structure  $\mathcal{M}_w$  and let  $F_k(\mathcal{M}_w)$  be set of factors whose size is less than or equal to  $k$  (recall that the size of a structure is equal to the cardinality of its domain). Formally,  $F(w) = \{S \sqsubseteq M_w\}$  and  $F_k(w) = \{S \sqsubseteq M_w \mid |S| \leq k\}$ . Finally, we lift the definition of  $F$  and  $F_k$  to sets of strings as follows.

$$F(S) = \bigcup_{w \in S} F(\mathcal{M}_w) \quad (6.1)$$

$$F_k(S) = \bigcup_{w \in S} F_k(\mathcal{M}_w) \quad (6.2)$$

### 6.6.1 Syntax of Propositional Logic

We can now define sentences of propositional logic as follows.

**Definition 5** (Propositional Logic with Literal Factors). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$ .

**The base case.**

(B1) For all factors  $f$  in  $F(\Sigma^*)$ ,  $f$  is a sentence of  $\text{PROP}(\mathfrak{R})$ .

**The inductive cases.**

If  $\varphi, \psi$  are formulas of  $\text{PROP}(\mathfrak{R})$ , then so are

- |      |                                  |                        |
|------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| (I1) | $\neg\varphi$                    | <b>(negation)</b>      |
| (I2) | $(\varphi \vee \psi)$            | <b>(disjunction)</b>   |
| (I3) | $(\varphi \wedge \psi)$          | <b>(conjunction)</b>   |
| (I4) | $(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$     | <b>(implication)</b>   |
| (I5) | $(\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi)$ | <b>(biconditional)</b> |

Nothing else is a formula of Propositional logic.

As with non-weighted MSO logic, for a sentence  $\varphi$  belonging to  $\text{PROP}(\mathfrak{R})$  and a  $\mathfrak{R}$ -structure  $\mathcal{M}$ , we say  $\mathcal{M} \models \varphi$  if  $\varphi$  is true of  $\mathcal{M}$ . If  $\Omega$  is a class of objects (like  $\Sigma^*$ ) and  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a signature for representing elements of  $\Omega$  then the *extension* of  $\varphi$  is denoted  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  and equals  $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid \mathcal{M}_\omega \models \varphi\}$ .



### 6.6.2 Semantics of Propositional Logic

As with the non-weighted case before, we conceive of  $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket$  as an indicator function which maps relational structures to the set  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ .

**Definition 6** (Intepreting Sentences of Propositional Logic with Literal Factors). Fix a signature  $\mathfrak{R}$ .

**The base case.**

(B1) For all factors  $f$  in  $F(\Sigma^*)$ ,  $\llbracket f \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f \sqsubseteq \mathcal{M}$ .

**The inductive cases.**

If  $\varphi, \psi$  are formulas of  $\text{PROP}(\mathfrak{R})$ , then so are

- (I1)  $\llbracket (\neg \varphi) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \neg \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$
- (I2)  $\llbracket (\varphi \vee \psi) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \vee \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$
- (I3)  $\llbracket (\varphi \wedge \psi) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \wedge \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$
- (I4)  $\llbracket (\varphi \rightarrow \psi) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$
- (I5)  $\llbracket (\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi) \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M}) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(\mathcal{M})$

DRAFT

DRAFT

## **Part II**

### **Case Studies**

DRAFT

DRAFT

# **Part III**

## **Theoretical Contributions**

DRAFT

DRAFT

## **Part IV**

### **Horizons**

DRAFT



# Bibliography

- Albro, Dan. 2005. A large-scale, LPM-OT analysis of Malagasy. Doctoral dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Allauzen, Cyril, Michael Riley, Johan Schalkwyk, Wojciech Skut, and Mehryar Mohri. 2007. OpenFst: A general and efficient weighted finite-state transducer library. In *Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Implementation and Application of Automata, (CIAA 2007)*, vol. 4783 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 11–23. Springer.  
URL <http://www.openfst.org>
- Anderson, Stephen. 1974. *The Organization of Phonology*. Academic Press.
- Archangeli, Diana, and Douglas Pulleyblank. 2022. *Emergent phonology*, vol. 7 of *Conceptual Foundations of Language Science*. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Bale, Alan, and Charles Reiss. 2018. *Phonology: A Formal Introduction*. The MIT Press.
- Beauquier, D., and J.E. Pin. 1991. Languages and scanners. *Theoretical Computer Science* 84:3–21.
- Beesley, Kenneth, and Lauri Karttunen. 2003. *Finite State Morphology*. CSLI Publications.
- Benua, Laura. 1997. Transderivational identity: Phonological relations between words. Doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Büchi, J. Richard. 1960. Weak second-order arithmetic and finite automata. *Mathematical Logic Quarterly* 6:66–92.

- Chandlee, Jane. 2014. Strictly local phonological processes. Doctoral dissertation, The University of Delaware.
- Chandlee, Jane, and Jeffrey Heinz. 2018. Strict locality and phonological maps. *Linguistic Inquiry* 49:23–60.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. The MIT Press.
- Chomsky, Noam, and Morris Halle. 1968. *The Sound Pattern of English*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Courcelle, Bruno. 1994. Monadic second-order definable graph transductions: a survey 126:53–75.
- Courcelle, Bruno, and Joost Engelfriet. 2012a. *Graph Structure and Monadic Second-Order Logic, a Language Theoretic Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Courcelle, Bruno, and Joost Engelfriet. 2012b. *Graph Structure and Monadic Second-Order Logic, a Language Theoretic Approach*. Cambridge University Press.
- Dolatian, Hossep. 2020. Computational locality of cyclic phonology in armenian. Doctoral dissertation, Stony Brook University.
- Dolatian, Hossep, and Jeffrey Heinz. 2020. Computing and classifying reduplication with 2-way finite-state transducers. *Journal of Language Modelling* 8:179–250.
- Dresher, Elan B. 2011. The phoneme. In *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, edited by Elizabeth Hume Marc van Oostendorp, Colin J. Ewen and Keren Rice, vol. 1, 241–266. Malden, MA & Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Droste, Manfred, and Paul Gastin. 2009. Weighted automata and weighted logics. In Droste *et al.* (2009), chap. 5.
- Droste, Manfred, and Werner Kuich. 2009. Semirings and formal power series. In Droste *et al.* (2009), chap. 1.
- Droste, Manfred, Werner Kuich, and Heiko Vogler, eds. 2009. *Handbook of Weighted Automata*. Monographs in Theoretical Computer Science. Springer.

- Durvasula, Karthik, and Scott Nelson. 2018. Lexical retuning targets features. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meetings on Phonology*, edited by Gillian Gallagher, Maria Gouskova, and Sora Yin. Linguistic Society of America.
- Enderton, Herbert B. 1972. *A Mathematical Introduction to Logic*. Academic Press.
- Enderton, Herbert B. 2001. *A Mathematical Introduction to Logic*. 2nd ed. Academic Press.
- Engelfriet, Joost, and Hendrik Jan Hoogeboom. 2001. MSO definable string transductions and two-way finite-state transducers. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics* 2:216–254.  
URL <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/371316.371512>
- Frank, Robert, and Giorgio Satta. 1998. Optimality Theory and the generative complexity of constraint violability. *Computational Linguistics* 24:307–315.
- Gerdemann, Dale, and Mans Hulden. 2012. Practical finite state optimality theory. In *Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Finite State Methods and Natural Language Processing*, 10–19.
- Golan, Jonathan S. 1999. *Semirings and their Applications*. Springer.
- Goodman, Joshua. 1999. Semiring parsing. *Computational Linguistics* 25:573–606.
- Gorman, Kyle. 2016. Pynini: A python library for weighted finite-state grammar compilation. In *Proceedings of the SIGFSM Workshop on Statistical NLP and Weighted Automata*, 75–80. Berlin, Germany.
- Gorman, Kyle, and Richard Sproat. 2021. *Finite-State Text Processing*. Morgan & Claypool Publishers.
- Hansson, Gunnar. 2010. *Consonant Harmony: Long-Distance Interaction in Phonology*. No. 145 in University of California Publications in Linguistics. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Available on-line (free) at eScholarship.org.
- Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell.

- Hayes, Bruce, Bruce Tesar, and Kie Zuraw. 2013. Otsoft 2.3.2. software package.  
URL <http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/otsoft>
- Hedman, Shawn. 2004. *A First Course in Logic*. Oxford University Press.
- Heinz, Jeffrey. 2007. The inductive learning of phonotactic patterns. Doctoral dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Heinz, Jeffrey. 2010. Learning long-distance phonotactics. *Linguistic Inquiry* 41:623–661.
- Heinz, Jeffrey. 2014. Culminativity times harmony equals unbounded stress. In *Word Stress: Theoretical and Typological Issues*, edited by Harry van der Hulst, chap. 8. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Hopcroft, John, Rajeev Motwani, and Jeffrey Ullman. 2006. *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation*. 3rd ed. Addison-Wesley.
- Hulden, Mans. 2009a. Finite-state machine construction methods and algorithms for phonology and morphology. Doctoral dissertation, University of Arizona.
- Hulden, Mans. 2009b. Foma: a finite-state compiler and library. In *Proceedings of the 12th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 29–32. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- von Humboldt, Wilhelm. 1999. *On Language*. Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy. Cambridge University Press. Edited by Michael Losonsky. Translated by Peter Heath. Originally published 1836.
- Hyman, Larry. 1975. *Phonology: Theory and Analysis*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Jardine, Adam, Nick Danis, and Luca Iacoponi. 2021. A formal investigation of q-theory in comparison to autosegmental representations. *Linguistic Inquiry* 52:333–358.  
URL [https://doi.org/10.1162/ling\\_a\\_00376](https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00376)
- Johnson, C. Douglas. 1972. *Formal Aspects of Phonological Description*. The Hague: Mouton.

- Kager, René. 1999. *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kaplan, Ronald, and Martin Kay. 1994. Regular models of phonological rule systems. *Computational Linguistics* 20:331–378.
- Karttunen, Lauri. 1998. The proper treatment of optimality in computational phonology. In *FSMNLP’98*, 1–12. International Workshop on Finite-State Methods in Natural Language Processing, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.
- Karttunen, Lauri. 2006. The insufficiency of paper-and-pencil linguistics: the case of Finnish prosody. Rutgers Optimality Archive #818-0406.
- Keisler, H. Jerome, and Joel Robbin. 1996. *Mathematical Logic and Computability*. McGraw-Hill.
- Kenstowicz, Michael, and Charles Kisseberth. 1977. *Topics in Phonological Theory*. New York: Academic Press.
- Kenstowicz, Michael, and Charles Kisseberth. 1979. *Generative Phonology*. Academic Press, Inc.
- Kozen, Dexter. 1997. *Automata and Computability*. Springer.
- Krämer, Martin. 2012. *Underlying Representations*. Cambridge University Press.
- de Lacy, Paul. 2011. Markedness and faithfulness constraints. In *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, edited by M. V. Oostendorp, C. J. Ewen, E. Hume, and K. Rice. Blackwell.
- Lambert, Dakotah. 2022. Unifying classification schemes for languages and processes with attention to locality and relativizations thereof. Doctoral dissertation, Stony Brook University.  
URL <https://vvulpes0.github.io/PDF/dissertation.pdf/>
- Lambert, Dakotah. 2023. Relativized adjacency. *Journal of Logic Language and Information* .
- Lambert, Dakotah, and Jeffrey Heinz. 2023. An algebraic characterization of total input strictly local functions. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*, vol. 6.

- Lambert, Dakotah, Jonathan Rawski, and Jeffrey Heinz. 2021. Typology emerges from simplicity in representations and learning. *Journal of Language Modelling* 9:151–194.
- McCarthy, John. 2003. OT constraints are categorical. *Phonology* 20:75–138.
- McCarthy, John. 2008. *Doing Optimality Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- McCarthy, John, and Alan Prince. 1995. Faithfulness and reduplicative identity. In *Papers in Optimality Theory*, edited by Jill Beckman, Laura Walsh Dickey, and Suzanne Urbanczyk, no. 18 in University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics, 249–384.
- McNaughton, Robert, and Seymour Papert. 1971. *Counter-Free Automata*. MIT Press.
- Mohri, Mehryar, and Richard Sproat. 1996. An efficient compiler for weighted rewrite rules. In *Proceedings of the 34th Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL '96)*.
- Nelson, Scott. 2022. A model theoretic perspective on phonological feature systems. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics 2022*, edited by Allyson Ettinger, Tim Hunter, and Brandon Prickett, 1–10. online: Association for Computational Linguistics.  
URL <https://aclanthology.org/2022.scil-1.1>
- Oakden, Chris. 2020. Notational equivalence in tonal geometry. *Phonology* 37:257–296.
- Odden, David. 1994. Adjacency parameters in phonology. *Language* 70:289–330.
- Odden, David. 2014. *Introducing Phonology*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.
- Pater, Joe. 1999. Austronesian nasal substitution and other \*NÇ effects. In *The Prosody–Morphology Interface*, edited by René Kager, Harry van der Hulst, and Wim Zonneveld. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ROA 160-1196.

- Postal, Paul M. 1968. *Aspects of Phonological Theory*. Harper & Row.
- Prince, Alan. 2002. Arguing optimality. In *Papers in Optimality Theory II*, edited by Angela Carpenter, Andries Coetzee, and Paul De Lacy, no. 26 in University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics, 269–304. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications. Available on Rutgers Optimality Archive, ROA-562.
- Prince, Alan, and Paul Smolensky. 1993. Optimality Theory: Constraint interaction in generative grammar. Tech. Rep. 2, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science.
- Prince, Alan, and Paul Smolensky. 2004. *Optimality Theory: Constraint Interaction in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishing.
- Prince, Alan, Bruce Tesar, and Nazarré Merchant. 2016. Otworkplace. software package. Additions by Luca Iacoponi and Natalie DelBusso. URL <https://sites.google.com/site/otworkplace/home>
- Rawski, Jonathan, Hossep Dolatian, Jeffrey Heinz, and Eric Raimy. 2023. Regular and polyregular theories of reduplication. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 8:1–38.
- Riggle, Jason. 2004. Generation, recognition, and learning in finite state Optimality Theory. Doctoral dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Roark, Brian, and Richard Sproat. 2007. *Computational Approaches to Morphology and Syntax*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Robinson, Andrew. 2018. Einstein said that – didn't he? *Nature* 557:30.
- Rogers, James, Jeffrey Heinz, Gil Bailey, Matt Edlefsen, Molly Visscher, David Wellcome, and Sean Wibel. 2010. On languages piecewise testable in the strict sense. In *The Mathematics of Language*, edited by Christian Ebert, Gerhard Jäger, and Jens Michaelis, vol. 6149 of *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence*, 255–265. Springer.
- Rogers, James, Jeffrey Heinz, Margaret Fero, Jeremy Hurst, Dakotah Lambert, and Sean Wibel. 2013. Cognitive and sub-regular complexity. In *Formal Grammar*, edited by Glyn Morrill and Mark-Jan Nederhof, vol. 8036 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 90–108. Springer.

- Rogers, James, and Dakotah Lambert. 2019a. Extracting Subregular constraints from Regular stringsets. *Journal of Language Modelling* 7:143–176.
- Rogers, James, and Dakotah Lambert. 2019b. Some classes of sets of structures definable without quantifiers. In *Proceedings of the 16th Meeting on the Mathematics of Language*, 63–77. Toronto, Canada: Association for Computational Linguistics.  
URL <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W19-5706>
- Rogers, James, and Geoffrey Pullum. 2011. Aural pattern recognition experiments and the subregular hierarchy. *Journal of Logic, Language and Information* 20:329–342.
- Rose, Sharon, and Rachel Walker. 2004. A typology of consonant agreement as correspondence. *Language* 80:475–531.
- Savitch, Walter J. 1993. Why it may pay to assume that languages are infinite. *Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence* 8:17–25.
- Scobbie, James M., John S. Coleman, and Steven Bird. 1996. Key aspects of declarative phonology. In *Current Trends in Phonology: Models and Methods*, edited by Jacques Durand and Bernard Laks, vol. 2, 685–709. Manchester, UK: European Studies Research Institute. University of Salford.
- Shukla, Shaligram. 2000. *Hindi Phonology*. Muenchen: Lincom Europa.
- Simon, Imre. 1975. Piecewise testable events. In *Automata Theory and Formal Languages*, 214–222.
- Sipser, Michael. 2012. *Introduction to the Theory of Computation*. 3rd ed. Cengage Learning.
- Staubs, Robert, Michael Becker, Christopher Potts, Patrick Pratt, John J. McCarthy, and Joe Pater. 2010. Ot-help 2.0. software package.  
URL <http://people.umass.edu/othelp/>
- Strother-Garcia, Kristina. 2019. Using model theory in phonology: A novel characterization of syllable structure and syllabification. Doctoral dissertation, University of Delaware.



Tesar, Bruce. 2014. *Output-driven Phonology*. Cambridge University Press.

Thomas, Wolfgang. 1982. Classifying regular events in symbolic logic. *Journal of Computer and Systems Sciences* 25:370–376.

Thomas, Wolfgang. 1997. Languages, automata, and logic. In *Handbook of Formal Languages*, vol. 3, chap. 7. Springer.

Wilson, Colin, and Gillian Gallagher. 2018. Accidental gaps and surface-based phonotactic learning: a case study of South Bolivian Quechua. *Linguistic Inquiry* 49:610–623.