

# Discourse Structure in Dialogue

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## Lecture 4: Underspecification

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# Review of the Semantics

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- The Big Picture:
- SDRT logical form is built on two (very similar) languages: microstructure and macrostructure.
- Microstructure describes the **logical form of clauses**.
- Macrostructure describes how clauses **form complex narratives**.
- An SDRS assigns **labels** to both microstructure *and* macrostructure formulae.

## Microstructure Vocabulary

Variables ( $x, y, \dots, e_1, e_2, \dots$ ); Name symbols (John, Max, ...); Predicate symbols (eat, overlap, ...); logical connectives ( $=, >, \Rightarrow, \neg, \Diamond$ ).

## Microstructure Formulas (DRSs)

A DRS is a tuple  $\langle U, Cond \rangle$  where  $U$  is a set of variables, and  $Cond$  is a set of conditions.

- For a name  $N$  and a variable  $x$ ,  $N(x)$  is a condition.
- For a predicate  $P$  and variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a condition.
- For variables  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $x = y$  is a condition.
- If  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are DRSs,  $C_1 > C_2$ ,  $C_1 \Rightarrow C_2$ ,  $\neg C_1$  and  $\Diamond C_1$  are conditions.

(add more as needed!)

## Macrostructure Vocabulary

DRSs; discourse relation symbols (Elaboration, Narration, ...); label variables ( $\pi, \lambda, \dots$ ); logical connectives ( $\neg, >, \Rightarrow, \wedge, \Diamond$ ).

## Macrostructure Formulas

- Any DRS  $K$  is a macrostructure formula.  
(DRSs are like the atoms of the macrostructure)
- For a discourse relation  $R$  and label variables  $\alpha, \beta$ ,  $R(\alpha, \beta)$  is a macrostructure formula.
- If  $P$  and  $Q$  are macrostructure formulae, then so are  $P \wedge Q$ ,  $\neg P$ ,  $\Diamond P$ ,  $P > Q$ ,  $P \Rightarrow Q$ .

## Segmented Discourse Representation Structure

An SDRS is a triple  $(\Pi, \mathcal{F}, L)$  where  $\Pi$  is a set of label variables,  $L \in \Pi$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a function from  $\Pi$  to the macrostructure formulae such that for any  $\pi \in \Pi$ , either:

- $\mathcal{F}(\pi) = K$  for some DRS  $K$  (microstructure).
- $\mathcal{F}(\pi)$  is a conjunction of formulas of the form  $R(\alpha, \beta)$  (where  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$ ).

An SDRS is well-formed, if:

- It has an outscoping-maximal label.
- Outscoping has no circles

# Microstructure Evaluation (revised and improved)

## Microstructure Semantics

Let  $M = (W, *, I)$  be a qf commonsense entailment model. Define by simultaneous recursion for any  $w \in W$ :

1.  $f[\langle U, Cons \rangle]_{M,w}g$  iff  $f[\langle U, Cons \rangle]_{M,w}g$  and  $M, w, g \models_{micro} C$  for all  $C \in Cons$ .
2.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  iff  $M, w, f \models R(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$ .
3.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} \neg K$  iff there is no  $g$  with  $f[K]_{M,w}g$ .
4.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} \Diamond K$  iff there is a  $v \in W$  and a  $g$  with  $f[K]_{M,v}g$ .
5.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} K_1 \Rightarrow K_2$  iff for every  $g$  with  $f[K_1]_{M,w}g$  there is a  $h$  with  $g[K_2]_{M,w}h$ .

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2.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} R(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  iff  $M, w, f \models R(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$ .
3.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} \neg K$  iff there is no  $g$  with  $f[K]_{M,w}g$ .
4.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} \Diamond K$  iff there is a  $v \in W$  and a  $g$  with  $f[K]_{M,v}g$ .
5.  $M, w, f \models_{micro} K_1 \Rightarrow K_2$  iff for every  $g$  with  $f[K_1]_{M,w}g$  there is a  $h$  with  $g[K_2]_{M,w}h$ .
6. For  $M, g$  let  $N^{M,g}(K)$  be the set of all worlds  $v$  such that there is a  $h$  with  $g[K]_{M,v}h$ . Then:  $M, w, f \models_{micro} K_1 > K_2$  iff:  
for any  $v \in *(w, N^{M,f}(K_1))$  and  $g$  such that  $f[K]_{M,v}g$ , there is a  $h$  such that  $g[K_2]_{M,v}h$ .



# Truth and Update

- Let  $P$  be a macrostructure formula,  $w$  be world worlds,  $f, g$  be variable assignments,  $M$  be a model, and  $S = (\Pi, \mathcal{F}, L)$  be an SDRS such that all labels that appear in  $P$  are members of  $\Pi$ .
- We wish to define what it means that  $f \llbracket P \rrbracket_{M,w}^S g$ .
- So, say, you start with a set of possible worlds  $W$  and an assignment  $f$ ,
  - Typically (“null context”):  $W$  is all possible worlds, and  $f$  is empty
- and you want to *narrow* this set down to the worlds that support the information in an SDRS  $S = (\Pi, \mathcal{F}, L)$
- Then you compute which world-assignment pairs are not ruled out by the content of  $S$ ’s root label  $\pi_0$ :

$$\{(w, g) \mid f \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_0) \rrbracket_{M,w}^S g\}$$

# Macrostructure Evaluation (revised and improved)

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I'm giving you a different (but equivalent) way of going about this (this version is better suited to study examples):

- We recursively translate a macrostructure formula  $P$  into a *microstructure*  $K$  such that update with  $K$  represents the information in  $P$  (not as hard as it sounds!).
- A bit of notation:
- For two DRSs  $K_1 = \langle U_1, C_1 \rangle$ ,  $K_2 = \langle U_2, C_2 \rangle$ , define  $K_1 + K_2 = \langle U_1 \cup U_2, C_1 \cup C_2 \rangle$ .

## Macrostructure-to-Microstructure

Given an SDRS  $S = (\Pi, \mathcal{F}, L)$ , translate a macro formula  $P$  to a DRS  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S$  (say,  $P$  interpreted in the narrative structure  $S$ ).

1. If  $P = K$  for a DRS  $K$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = K$ .
- 2a. If  $P = Q_1 \wedge Q_2$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \llbracket Q_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket Q_2 \rrbracket^S$ .
- 2b. If  $P = \neg Q$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \boxed{\neg \llbracket Q \rrbracket^S}$
- 2c. If  $P = \Diamond Q$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \boxed{\Diamond \llbracket Q \rrbracket^S}$
- 2d. If  $P = Q_1 > Q_2$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \boxed{\llbracket Q_1 \rrbracket^S > \llbracket Q_2 \rrbracket^S}$ .
- 2e. If  $P = Q_1 \Rightarrow Q_2$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \boxed{\llbracket Q_1 \rrbracket^S \Rightarrow \llbracket Q_2 \rrbracket^S}$ .
3. If  $P = R(\alpha, \beta)$  for a veridical discourse relation  $R$ , then  $\llbracket P \rrbracket^S = \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\alpha) \wedge \mathcal{F}(\beta) \wedge \text{Info}_R(\mathcal{F}(\alpha), \mathcal{F}(\beta)) \rrbracket^S$

where  $\text{Info}_R$  is the specific semantic contribution provided by the relation  $R$  (a meaning postulate).

- Narration is veridical and adds the information that events are reported in order:

$$Info_{\text{Narration}}(\pi, \mathcal{F}(\alpha), \mathcal{F}(\beta)) =$$

$e_\pi$
$\text{part-of}(e_\alpha, e_\pi)$ $\text{part-of}(e_\beta, e_\pi)$ $\text{end}(e_\alpha) \approx \text{start}(e_\beta)$

- Elaboration is veridical and adds that the second content defeasibly entails the first, but not vice versa, and that the events overlap:

$$Info_{\text{Elab}}(\mathcal{F}(\alpha), \mathcal{F}(\beta)) = \mathcal{F}(\beta) > \mathcal{F}(\alpha) \wedge \neg(\mathcal{F}(\alpha) > \mathcal{F}(\beta)) \wedge$$

$\text{part-of}(e_\beta, e_\alpha)$
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## Linguistic Forms

*are interpreted to*

SDRSs

describe **narrative** structure

*are converted to*

DRSs

describe **event** structure

*are evaluated in*

Models

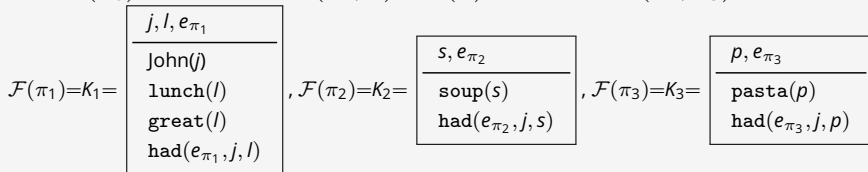
(1)  $\pi_1$  : John had a great lunch .

$\pi_2$  : He had soup.

$\pi_3$  : Then he had pasta.

$\Pi = \{\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \lambda\}, L = \pi_3.$

$\mathcal{F}(\pi_0) = \textit{Elaboration}(\pi_1, \lambda) \quad \mathcal{F}(\lambda) = \textit{Narration}(\pi_2, \pi_3)$



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$$\mathcal{F}(\pi_1)=K_1= \begin{array}{|c|} \hline j, l, e_{\pi_1} \\ \hline \text{John}(j) \\ \text{lunch}(l) \\ \text{great}(l) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_1}, j, l) \\ \hline \end{array}, \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)=K_2= \begin{array}{|c|} \hline s, e_{\pi_2} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \\ \hline \end{array}, \mathcal{F}(\pi_3)=K_3= \begin{array}{|c|} \hline p, e_{\pi_3} \\ \hline \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_0) \rrbracket^S &= \llbracket \text{Elaboration}(\pi_1, \lambda) \rrbracket^S \\ &= \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_1) \wedge \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \wedge \text{Info}_{\text{Elab}}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \end{aligned}$$



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$$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_2 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_3 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} e_\lambda \\ \hline \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_0) \rrbracket^S &= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Narration}(\pi_2, \pi_3) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_2) \wedge \mathcal{F}(\pi_3) \wedge \text{Info}_{Narr}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_2) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_3) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Narr}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_2 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_3 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Narr}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_2 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_3 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} e_\lambda \\ \hline \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$$

$$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} s, e_{\pi_2} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} p, e_{\pi_3} \\ \hline \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} e_\lambda \\ \hline \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$$

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&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_2) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\pi_3) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Narr}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_2 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_3 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Narr}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\pi_2)) \rrbracket^S + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_2 \rrbracket^S + \llbracket K_3 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} e_\lambda \\ \hline \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$$

$$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} s, e_{\pi_2} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} p, e_{\pi_3} \\ \hline \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} e_\lambda \\ \hline \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_\lambda) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$$

*continued next slide*

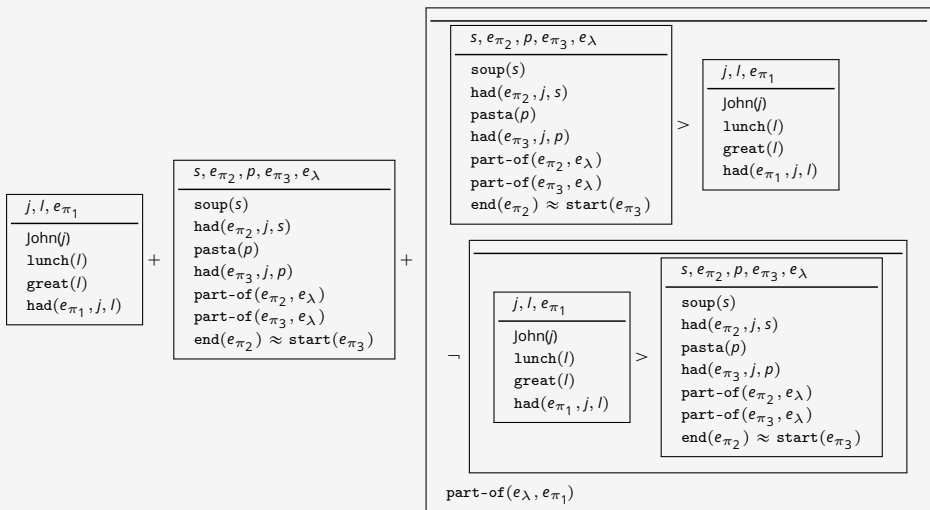
$= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S +$ 
 $s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$ 
 $\text{soup}(s)$ 
 $\text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s)$ 
 $\text{pasta}(p)$ 
 $\text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p)$ 
 $\text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda})$ 
 $\text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda})$ 
 $\text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3})$ 
 $+ \llbracket \text{Info}_{\text{Elab}}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{l} s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \\ \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{Elab}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
&= \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) > K_1 \wedge \neg(K_1 > \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \wedge \boxed{\text{part-of}(e_{\lambda}, e_{\pi_1})} \rrbracket^S
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{l} s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \\ \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{\text{Elab}}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
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&= \boxed{\boxed{\llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S > K_1}} + \neg \boxed{\boxed{K_1 > \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S}} + \boxed{\text{part-of}(e_{\lambda}, e_{\pi_1})}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \llbracket K_1 \rrbracket^S + \boxed{\begin{array}{l} s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \\ \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \llbracket \text{Info}_{\text{Elab}}(\mathcal{F}(\pi_1), \mathcal{F}(\lambda)) \rrbracket^S \\
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&= \boxed{\llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S > K_1} + \boxed{\neg \boxed{K_1 > \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S}} + \boxed{\text{part-of}(e_{\lambda}, e_{\pi_1})}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \boxed{\begin{array}{l} j, l, e_{\pi_1} \\ \hline \text{John}(j) \\ \text{lunch}(l) \\ \text{great}(l) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_1}, j, l) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{l} s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda} \\ \hline \text{soup}(s) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_2}, j, s) \\ \text{pasta}(p) \\ \text{had}(e_{\pi_3}, j, p) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}) \\ \text{end}(e_{\pi_2}) \approx \text{start}(e_{\pi_3}) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{l} \boxed{\llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S > K_1} \\ \neg \boxed{K_1 > \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S} \\ \text{part-of}(e_{\lambda}, e_{\pi_1}) \end{array}} \\
&= \llbracket \mathcal{F}(\lambda) \rrbracket^S
\end{aligned}$$





$j, l, e_{\pi_1}, s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$

John( $j$ )	pasta( $p$ )
lunch( $l$ )	had( $e_{\pi_3}, j, p$ )
great( $l$ ) had( $e_{\pi_1}, j, l$ )	part-of( $e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}$ )
soup( $s$ )	part-of( $e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$ )
had( $e_{\pi_2}, j, s$ )	end( $e_{\pi_2}$ ) $\approx$ start( $e_{\pi_3}$ )

$s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$

soup( $s$ )  
 had( $e_{\pi_2}, j, s$ )  
 pasta( $p$ )  
 had( $e_{\pi_3}, j, p$ )  
 part-of( $e_{\pi_2}, e_{\lambda}$ )  
 part-of( $e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$ )  
 end( $e_{\pi_2}$ )  $\approx$  start( $e_{\pi_3}$ )

>

$j, l, e_{\pi_1}$

John( $j$ )  
 lunch( $l$ )  
 great( $l$ )  
 had( $e_{\pi_1}, j, l$ )

⌊

$j, l, e_{\pi_1}$

John( $j$ )  
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>

$s, e_{\pi_2}, p, e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$

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 part-of( $e_{\pi_3}, e_{\lambda}$ )  
 end( $e_{\pi_2}$ )  $\approx$  start( $e_{\pi_3}$ )

part-of( $e_{\lambda}, e_{\pi_1}$ )

## Linguistic Forms

*are interpreted to*

SDRSs

describe **narrative** structure

*are converted to*

DRSs

describe **event** structure

*are evaluated in*

Models

# Summary

---

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*are interpreted to*

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Models

# Summary

---

## Linguistic Forms

*are interpreted to*

Underspecified Logical Forms    partially describe content

*are specified to*

SDRSs

describe **narrative** structure

*are converted to*

DRSs

describe **event** structure

*are evaluated in*

Models

# Review of the Semantics

---

## Constructing Logical Form

Review of the Semantics

---

Constructing Logical Form

# Underspecified Logical Form

---

- The idea is this: we construct a language for **incomplete descriptions of SDRSs**.
- So we need a language for “underspecified logical form” (ULF).
- We need a relation that says “this SDRS is described by this ULF”.

# ULF Language: atoms and variables

---

- So what are the bits and pieces of an SDRS?
- DRSs
  - Any DRS  $K$  is an “atom” (or, constant symbol).  
(you can underspecify these too, but I won't)
- Labels
  - Take variable symbols for labels  $l_1, l_2, \dots$
- Discourse relations
  - Take a constant symbol  $D_R$  for each discourse relation  $R$
  - Plus corresponding variable symbols  $D_1, D_2, \dots$



# ULF Language: Structure

---

- We underspecify:
  - What the contents are.
  - Which contents are connected.
  - How they are connected.
- Take two predicate symbols to describe assignment:
  - *labels*( $l, K$ )
  - *relates*( $l_1, l_2, l_3, D$ )
- And three to describe structure:
  - *outscopes*( $l_1, l_2$ )
  - *accessible*( $l_1, l_2$ )
  - *last*( $l_1$ )

# ULF Language: Anaphor

---

- Anaphora are a type of underspecification.
- So take a constant symbol  $v_x$  for each DRT-variable  $x$  (do this for every type of variable).
- And add a predicate symbol:  
→ *anaphor*( $l, v$ )

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- And add a predicate symbol:  
→ *anaphor*( $l, v$ )
- (If you extend the language to partially describe microstructure, you can write anaphora as  $x = ?$  to indicate something like “ $x$  is not in the universe of  $K$ ”.)

# Examples

- ULFs are constructed from surface form.

(2) There is a woman.

$$labels(l_1, \boxed{\frac{x}{woman(x)}})$$

(3) She runs.

$$labels(l_2, \boxed{\frac{e,y}{run(e,y)}}) \wedge anaphor(l_2, v_y)$$

## Two Sentence Example

(4) There is a woman. She runs.

$$\begin{aligned} & labels(l_1, \frac{x}{woman(x)}) \\ \wedge & labels(l_2, \frac{e,y}{run(e,y)}) \wedge anaphor(l_2, v_y) \\ \wedge & relates(l_0, l_1, l_2, D) \\ \wedge & last(l_2) \end{aligned}$$

# ULF Language: Cue Phrases

---

- Add an (empirically sourced) vocabulary of linguistic cues to this language.
- therefore  $\rightsquigarrow$  *therefore(I)*
- and then  $\rightsquigarrow$  *and-then(I)*
- I hereby command  $\rightsquigarrow$  *command(I)*
- I hereby assert  $\rightsquigarrow$  *inform(I)*
- Including grammatical features:
  - *declarative(I)*
  - *interrogative(I)*
  - *imperative(I)*
- Plus tense, aspect... — **anything useful from the grammar!**

## From ULF to SDRS

---

- The underspecified language has the formulas we seen so far, closed under the logical constants  $=$ ,  $\neg$ ,  $\vee$  and  $\wedge$ .
- Call a formulae in this language an ULF (underspecified logical form).

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- Now, this is conceptually a bit weird, but not hard:
- We want to define a turnstile  $\models$  such that for an SDRS  $S$  and an ULF  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $S \models \mathcal{K}$  iff all descriptions from  $\mathcal{K}$  are realised in  $S$ .



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- A bit of notation: for DRSs  $K_1 = \langle U_1, C_1 \rangle$ ,  $K_2 = \langle U_2, C_2 \rangle$  say  $K_1 \subseteq K_2$  iff  $U_1 \subseteq U_2$  and  $C_1 \subseteq C_2$ .

# Assignment Function

---

- Let  $S = (\Pi, \mathcal{F}, L)$  be an SDRS and  $A$  be a function s.t.:
  - for each variable  $I_i$ ,  $A(I_i) \in \Pi$
  - for each variable  $D_i$ ,  $A(D_i)$  is some discourse relation.
  - $A(D_R) = R$  for all discourse relations  $R$
  - $A(v_x) = x$  for all and DRT-variables  $x$ .
- (i.e. the variables are implicitly existentially quantified)

# Satisfaction

---

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  - i. there is a relation  $R$  and labels  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with  $\mathcal{F}(\alpha) = R(\beta, A(l))$ ;
  - ii.  $\lambda$  is accessible to  $\beta$ ; and
  - iii.  $\mathcal{F}(A(l))$  has a conjunct  $A(v) = z$ .

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  - $\lambda$  is accessible to  $\beta$ ; and
  - $\mathcal{F}(A(l))$  has a conjunct  $A(v) = z$ .
- If  $\text{cue}(l)$  is a linguistic cue predicate,  $S, A \models \text{cue}(l)$  always.

## Two Sentence Example

(5) There is a woman. She runs.

$$A(l_0) = \pi_0, A(l_1) = \pi_1, A(l_2) = \pi_2,$$

$$A(D) = \textit{Elaboration}$$

$$\Pi = \{\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2\}, L = \pi_2$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\pi_1) = \frac{x}{\text{woman}(x)}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\pi_2) = \frac{e, y}{\begin{array}{c} \text{run}(e, y) \\ y = x \end{array}}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\pi_0) = \textit{Elaboration}(\pi_1, \pi_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \models \wedge \text{labels}(l_1, \frac{x}{\text{woman}(x)}) \\ & \wedge \text{labels}(l_2, \frac{e, y}{\begin{array}{c} \text{run}(e, y) \end{array}}) \\ & \wedge \text{anaphor}(l_2, v_y) \\ & \wedge \text{relates}(l_0, l_1, l_2, D) \\ & \wedge \text{last}(l_2) \end{aligned}$$

## Two Sentence Example

(5) There is a woman. She runs.

$$A(l_0) = \pi_0, A(l_1) = \pi_1, A(l_2) = \pi_2,$$

$$A(D) = QAP$$

$$\Pi = \{\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2\}, L = \pi_2$$

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# Linguistic Form to Narrative Structure

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- So, given the linguistic form of a discourse, we:
  - Compute for every *clause* the corresponding DRS  $K$  (by the DRT construction algo), except that we don't resolve anaphora here.
  - Pick an unused label variable  $l_1$  and add  $labels(l_1, K)$ .
  - (If there is an ambiguity, you can also add  $labels(l_1, K) \vee labels(l_1, K')$ ).
  - For every anaphor  $x$  in  $K$  add  $anaphor(l_1, v_x)$ .
  - Add appropriate predicates on  $l$  for cue phrases and linguistic features (aspect etc.).
  - For every clause except the very first one, pick another two unused label variables  $l_0, l_2$  and add  $relates(l_0, l_2, l_1, D)$  (i.e.  $l_1$  attaches somewhere)
- Call the conjunction of all these  $\mathcal{K}$ .

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*Not good enough!*