

Introduction to Formal Semantics

Tutorial Lecture 9: Aspect & Tense

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- **Aktionsart/Aspect - Types**

Exercise 1

- **Aspectual Composition**

Exercise 2

- **Reichenbach's tense model**

Exercise 3

- **Compositionality**

Exercise 4

Reading:

- Coppock, E., and Champollion, L. (2021). Invitation to formal semantics. Manuscript, Boston University and New York University (Ch.12.4 - 12.6 + Handout)





Discussion



- Did you have any difficulties understanding **the main concepts**?
- Were the **exercises** difficult?
- Is there something you would like to review from **tutorial 8**?



Exercises



Durative vs Terminative: tests

Conjunction test

- a. Mary drove her car on Monday and on Tuesday (ambiguous; durative)
- b. Mary ran a mile on Monday and on Tuesday (unambiguous; terminative)

Progressive test

- a. Mary was driving the car \Rightarrow Mary drove the car (durative)
- b. Mary was running a mile \nRightarrow Mary ran a mile (terminative)


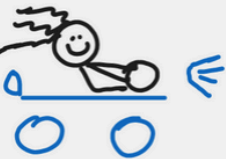
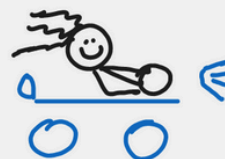


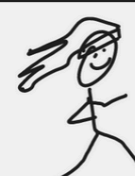



Question 1 - Durative vs Terminative: tests

Durative vs Terminative: tests

Conjunction test

- a. Mary drove her car on Monday and on Tuesday (ambiguous; durative)
- b. May ran a mile on Monday and on Tuesday (unambiguous; terminative)

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Durative vs Terminative: tests

Progressive test

- a. Mary was driving the car \Rightarrow Mary drove the car (durative)
- b. Mary was running a mile \nRightarrow Mary ran a mile (terminative)

“a” is fine because it entails that **Drove(m,c)**.

“b” does not entail that **Ran(m, a mile)**: the duration is not clear and it has to be specified for how long **Mark** actually ran (this makes it **terminative**).



Question 1 - Durative vs Terminative: tests

More on this here:

https://www.christianlehmann.eu/ling/ling_meth/metalanguage/index.php?open=operationalization



Exercise 1

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| (1) Miriam was born. | [achievement] |
| (2) Jim builds a house. | [accomplishment] |
| (3) I found a treasure. | [achievement] |
| (4) Mary has been cooking for an hour. | [activity] |
| (5) The sorcerer disappears/-ed. | [activity/achievement] |
| (6) Andrea has known Beatrice for three years. | [state] |
| (7) Tom drives the car. | [activity] |
| (8) Dave was blinking. | [semalfactive] |
| (9) Beatrice loves horses. | [state] |
| (10) Michael draws. | [activity] |
| (11) Susan draws a flower. | [accomplishment] |
| (12) Maria has blond hair. | [state] |
| (13) The water froze. | [accomplishment] |



Semantic Boot Camp, p.465

	Durative	Dynamic	Telic
State	+	-	-
Activity	+	+	-
Accomplishment	+	+	+
Achievement	-	+	+
Semelfactive	-	+	-

Table 12.1: Types of eventualities



Exercise 2

(1) Pete eats ...

a. ...a fish stick.

[+T_s[+SQA] [+T_{VP}[+ADDTO] [+SQA]]] (terminative)

b. fish.

[-T_s[+SQA] [-T_{VP}[+ADDTO] [-SQA]]] (durative)

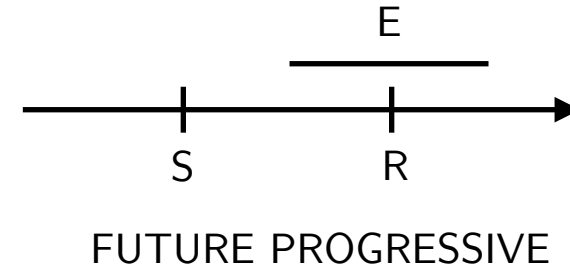
(2) Susan draw a picture.

[+T_s[+SQA] [+T_{VP}[+ADDTO] [+SQA]]] (terminative)

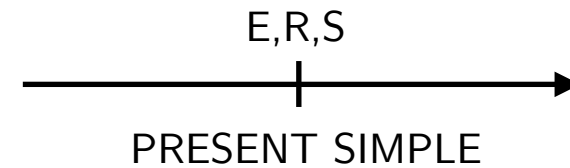


Exercise 3

(1) We **will be eating** pizza.



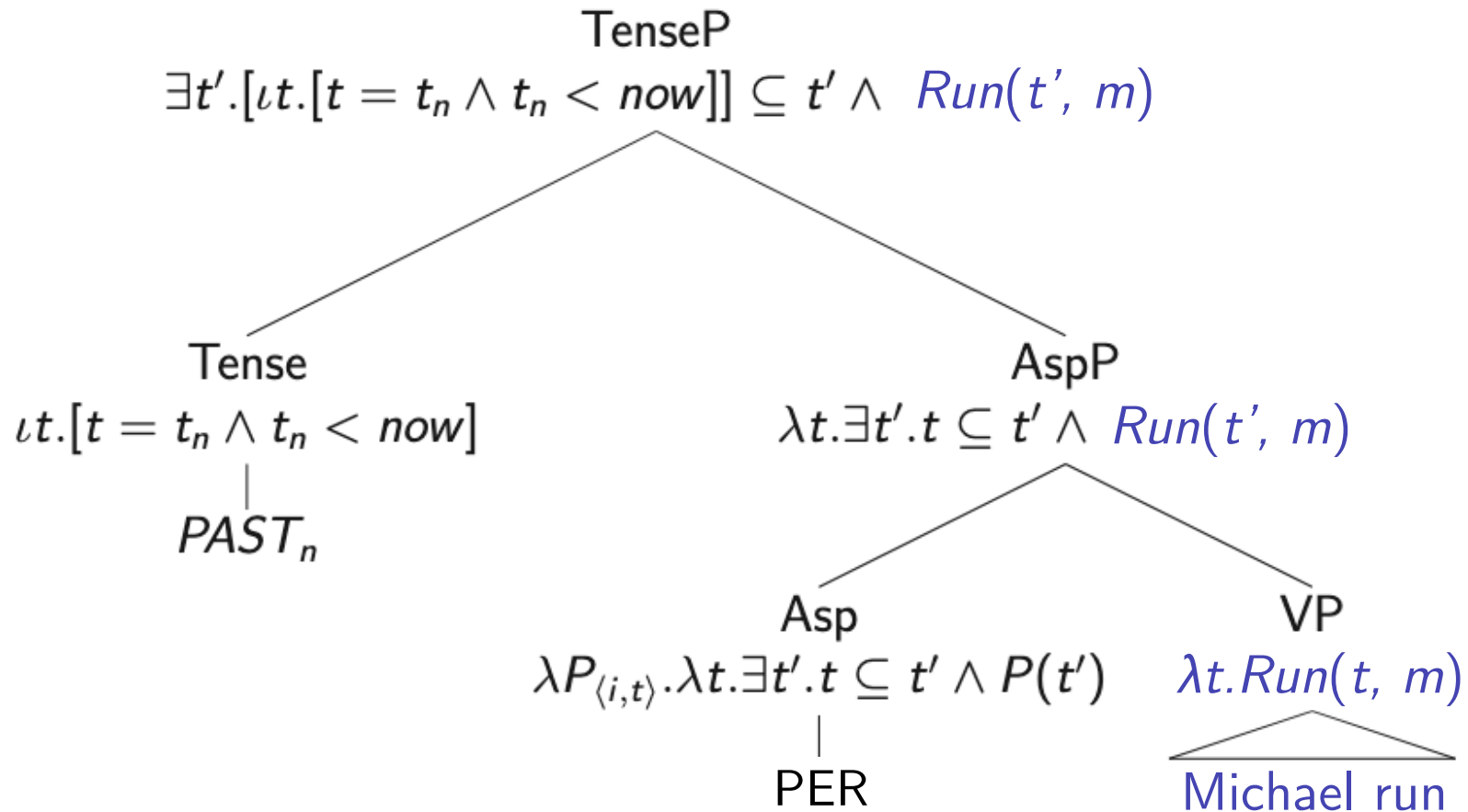
(2) The grandma **spoils** her grandchildren.



(3) Susan **has backed** a delicious cake.



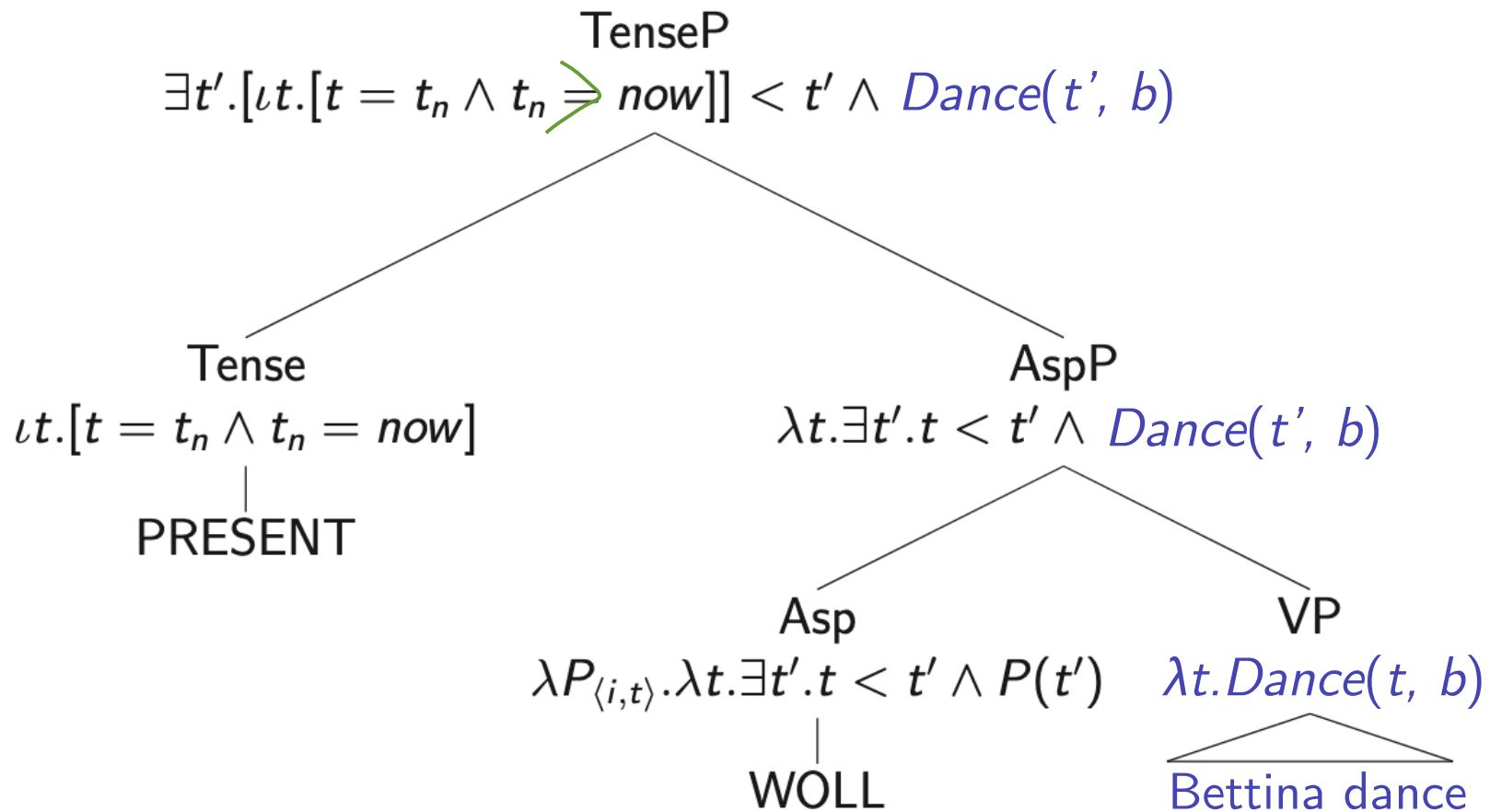
t_past[...] < t_now[...]



Micheal was running

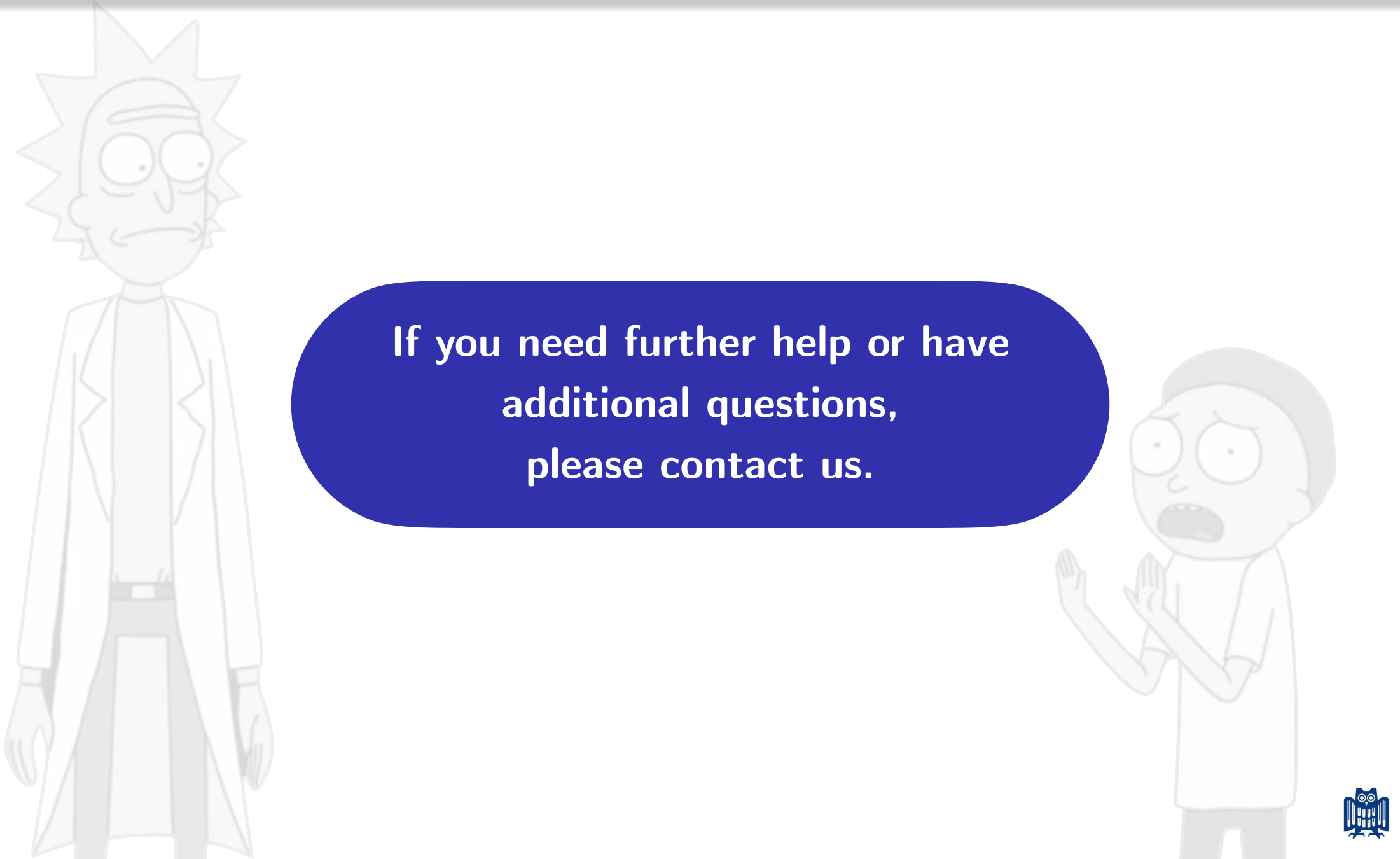


Exercise 4a



Bettina will dance





**If you need further help or have
additional questions,
please contact us.**





**REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR
THE EXAM!**



**Thank you all
for the kind
attention!**

