

Semantic Theory 2025: Exercise 9

Due by: Wednesday, June 25 at 10:00 am (before class)

Question 1

Consider the following sentences:

- i. *Either John is out of hay or his donkey is eating in the stable.*
 - ii. *Either John has no donkey or his donkey is eating in the stable.*
- a. Specify the presuppositions of (i) and (ii)—i.e. which presuppositions are projected to the sentence level? What is the difference between the two sentences?
 - b. Give proto-DRSs for (i) and (ii). You can represent “is out of hay” by the one place predicate *out-of-hay*(x) and “is eating in” by the two place predicate *eat-in*(x, y).
 - c. Resolve the two proto-DRSs. Explicitly describe the applied resolution constraints you apply.