

Computational implementation of a linear phase parser. Framework and technical documentation

(version 6.x)

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Abstract

This document describes a computational implementation of a minimalist linear phase parser-grammar. The parser-grammar assumes that the core computational operations of narrow syntax (e.g., Merge, Move, Agree) are applied incrementally and on a phase-by-phase basis in language comprehension. Full formalization with a description of the Python implementation will be discussed, together with a few words towards empirical justification. The theory is assumed to be part of the human grammatical competence (UG).

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## 1 Introduction

This document describes a computational implementation of a linear phase parser that was originally developed and written by the author while working in an IUSS-funded research project between 2018-2020, in Pavia, Italy.<sup>1</sup> This document describes properties of the version 6.x, which keeps within the framework of the original work but provides a number of improvements, corrections and additions. My own interpretation of the model has also undergone slight development, as it was applied to an increasing number of empirical phenomena, and this is reflected in the revised version. This document is written mainly for computer scientists or researchers who are interested in working with the concrete mathematical algorithm; the empirical substance is discussed in detail in published and unpublished literature. Thus, the exposition is simplified and structured as a tutorial that allows a competent programmer to implement the system by him- or herself. Many topics and problems that will interest linguists have been put aside to keep the exposition as simple as possible.

The document has three parts. Section 2 provides a brief tutorial to the software and its use. Section 3 provides a sketch the empirical framework that is presented in more detail in published papers. Sections 4-6 go into the details concerning full formalization and the computational implementation of that formalization. The quality of the material here varies from section to section. When the algorithm undergoes development, documentation tends to lag behind. In addition, some parts of the theory remain too uncrystallized to merit full discussion. In general, this document is constantly being updated as the theory development progresses and more empirical data is accommodated. Section 7 discusses the use of the software when working with empirical materials.

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<sup>1</sup> The research was conducted under the research project “ProGraM-PC: A Processing-friendly Grammatical Model for Parsing and Predicting Online Complexity” funded internally by IUSS (Pavia), PI Prof. Cristiano Chesi.

## 2 How to use the software

The linear phase hypothesis is a theory of language comprehension. It is implemented in Python (version 3.x). The purpose of the software component is to define and test the theory or its derivatives rigorously. This testing consists in deriving by mechanical calculation whether the theory does capture all the data that is intended to capture.

A typical use case is as follows. A researcher selects an empirical topic of interest that he or she would like to model by using language comprehension as a framework. The data might come from an experimental outcome, or from informant grammaticality judgements or semantic intuitions. In the next step, the phenomenon is systematized into an explicit test corpus that contains the sentences, both grammatical and ungrammatical, whose properties the theory must capture. A separate lexical file contains the words that appear in the test corpus, together with whatever lexical properties they are assumed to have. The main script of the program (*parse.py*) will process the sentences in the test corpus, providing them with a grammaticality judgment (grammatical, ungrammatical, marginal), phrase structure analyses, semantic interpretation and step-by-step derivational log files. It will also produce phrase structure tree images of the solutions. Finally, it produces detailed information concerning the efficiency of the processing (garden-paths etc.) that can be compared with real-time processing under experimental conditions. The theorist will then examine the output and modify the theory accordingly until a good match with experimental results is obtained.

The theory and the parser exist in the form of Python modules, which are text files containing the code. The modules are in the same master directory. They use data from *language data working directory*, which should contain the test corpora and all other input files that are associated with separate studies. The *language data working directory* is divided into several subdirectories, each associated with a particular study (published or not). The main script is started by writing *python.exe parse.py* into a command prompt facility that is in the directory containing the modules. This script runs all the sentences in the test corpus through the parser and

stores the results. The user must have Python (3.x) installed. Use of the graphical image trees requires that the user has also installed the *pyglet* package. If you do not want to use images or do not have this package, do not use the `/image` parameter, discussed later in this document.

### 3 The linear phase framework

#### 3.1 Language comprehension and the linguistic architecture

A native speaker can interpret sentences in his or her language by various means, for example, by reading sentences printed on a paper. Since it is possible to accomplish this task without external information, it must be the case that all information required to interpret a sentence in one's native language must be present in the sensory input. The operation that performs the mapping from linguistic sensory objects into sets of possible meanings is called the parser, or perhaps more broadly as *language comprehension*.

Some sensory inputs map into meanings that are hard or impossible to construct (e.g., *democracy sleeps furiously*), while others are judged by native speakers as ungrammatical. A realistic parser and a theory of language comprehension must appreciate these properties. The parser, when we abstract away from semantic interpretation, therefore defines a characteristic function from sensory objects into a binary (in some cases graded) classification of the input in terms of its grammaticality or some other notion, such as semanticity or marginality. These categorizations are studied by eliciting responses from native speakers. Any parser that captures this mapping correctly will be said to be *observationally adequate*, to follow the terminology from (Chomsky 1965). Many practical parsers are not observationally adequate: they do not distinguish ungrammatical inputs from grammatical input. Indeed, processing of ungrammatical inputs have very little practical value. They cannot be ignored within a context of an empirical study, however.

Some aspects of the parser are language-specific, others are universal and depend on the biological structure of the brain. A universal property can be elicited from the speakers of any language. For example, it is a universal property that an interrogative clause cannot be formed by moving an interrogative pronoun out of a relative clause (as in, e.g., *\*who did John met the person that Mary admires\_?*). On the other hand, it is a property of Finnish and not English that singular marked numerals other than 'one' assign the partitive case to the noun they select (*kolme sukkaa* 'three.sg.0 sock.sg.par'). The latter properties are acquired from the input



during language acquisition. The universal properties plus the storage systems constitute the fixed portion of the parser, whereas language-specific contents stored into the memory systems during language acquisition and other relevant experiences constitute the language-specific, variable part. A theory of parser that captures the fixed and variable components in a correct or at least realistic way without contradicting anything known about the process of language acquisition is said to reach *explanatory adequacy*.

The distinction between observationally adequate and explanatorily adequate parser can be appreciated in the following way. It is possible to design an observationally adequate parser for Finnish such that it replicates the responses elicited from native speakers, at least over a significant range of expressions, yet the same parser and its principles would not work in connection with a language such as English, not even when provided a fragment of English lexicon. We could design a different parser, using different principles and rules, for English. To the extent that the two language-specific parsers differ from each other in a way that is inconsistent with what is known independently about language acquisition and linguistic universals, they would be observationally adequate but fall short of explanatory adequacy. An explanatory parser would be one that correctly captures the distinction between the fixed universal parts and the parts that can change through learning, given the evidence of such processes, hence such a parser would comprehend sentences in any language when supplied with the (1) fixed, universal components and (2) the information acquired from experience. We are interested in a theory of language comprehension that is explanatory.

Suppose we have constructed a theory of the parser that is, or can be argued to be, observationally adequate and explanatory. Then it is possible to ask a further question: does it agree with the data obtained from neuro- and psycholinguistic experimentation? Realistic parsing involves several features that an observationally adequate explanatory theory of the parser need not capture. One such property concerns automatization. Systematic use of language in everyday communication allows the brain to automatize the recognition and processing of linguistic stimuli in a way that an observationally adequate explanatory parser might or might not want to be concerned with. Furthermore, real language processing is sensitive to top-down and contextual effects that can be ignored when constructing a theory of the parser. That being said, the amount of computational resources consumed by the parser should be related in some meaningful way to what is observed in reality. If, for example, the parser engages in astronomical garden-path derivations when no native speaker

exhibits such inefficiencies, then the parser can be said to be insufficient in its ability to mimic real language comprehension. Let us say that if the parser's computational efficiency matches with that of real speakers, the parser is also *psycholinguistically adequate*. I will adopt this criterion in this study as well.

Language production utilizes motoric programs that allow the speaker to orchestrate a complex motoric sequence for the purposes of generating concrete speech or other forms of linguistic behavior; language comprehension involves perception and not necessarily concrete motoric sequencing. Although there is evidence that perception involves (or “activates”) the motoric circuits and vice versa, overt repetition is (thankfully) not a requirement. A more interesting claim would be that the two systems share computational resources. This is the position taken in this study. Specifically, I will hypothesize, following (Phillips 1996, 2003) but interpreting that work in a slightly weaker form, that many of the core computational operations involved in language production and/or in the determination of linguistic competence are also involved in language comprehension. The same could be true of lower-level language processing, so that the motoric generation of, say, phonemes is decoupled in the human brain with systems that are responsible for the perception of the same units.

Language comprehension proceeds from concrete sensory properties into abstract meaning. This follows from the assumption that the process begins from sensory input and can operate successfully without additional input. Research shows that the process relies on increasingly more abstract properties of the input. Thus, once the sensory input is judged as linguistic (and not, say, music or ambient noise), it will be interpreted in terms of phonemes, syllables, surface morphemes and features, phonological words, lexical items, syntactic phrase fragments and whole expressions, and finally in terms of meaning and communicative intentions. More abstract interpretations and categories rely on those made at earlier stages.

### 3.2 Merge-1

Linguistic input is received by the hearer in the form of sensory stimulus. We think of the input as a one-dimensional string  $\alpha * \beta * \dots * \gamma$  of phonological words. In order to understand what the sentence means the human parser must create a set of abstract syntactic interpretations for the input string received through the sensory systems in order to find ‘who did what to whom’. These interpretations and the corresponding

representations might be lexical, morphological, syntactic and semantic. One fundamental concern is to recover hierarchical relations between words. Let us assume that while the words are consumed from the input, the core recursive operation in language, Merge (Chomsky 1995, 2005, 2008), arranges them into a hierarchical representation (Phillips 1996, 2003). For example, if the input consists of two words  $\alpha * \beta$ , Merge yields  $[\alpha, \beta](1)$ .

(1) John \* sleeps.

↓       ↓

[John, sleeps]

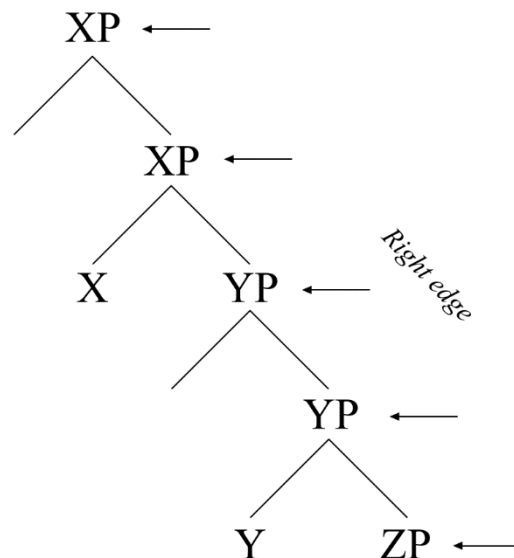
The assumption that this process is incremental or “linear” means that each word consumed from the input will be merged to the phrase structure as it is being consumed. No word is ‘put aside’ for later processing. For example, if the next word is *furiously*, it will be merged with (1). There are three possible attachment sites, shown in (2), all which correspond to different hierarchical relations between the words.

(2) a. [[John *furiously*] sleeps]    b. [[John, sleeps] *furiously*]    c. [John [sleeps *furiously*]]

The operation illustrated in (2) differs in a number of respects from what constitutes the standard theory of Merge at the time of present writing. I will label the operation in (2) by Merge-1, the symbol -1 referring to the fact that we look the operation from an ‘inverse perspective’: instead of generating linear sequences of words by applying Merge, we apply Merge-1 on the basis of a linear sequence of words and thus deriving the structure backwards.

Several factors regulate Merge-1. One concern is that the operation creates a representation that is in principle ungrammatical and/or uninterpretable. Alternative (a) can be ruled out on such grounds: *John furiously* is not an interpretable fragment. Another problem of this alternative is that it is not clear how the adverbial, if it were originally merged inside subject, could have ended up as the last word in the linear input. The default left-to-right depth-first linearization algorithm, assumed here, would produce *\*John furiously sleeps* from (2)a. Therefore, this alternative can be rejected on the grounds that the result is ungrammatical and is not consistent with the word order discovered from the input.

If the default linearization algorithm proceeds recursively in a top-down left-right order, then each word must be merged to the right edge of the phrase structure, right edge referring to the top node and any of its right daughter node, granddaughter node, recursively. See Figure 2.



*Figure 2. The right edge of a phrase structure. Nodes XP, YP and ZP are possible attachment sites. This condition follows from the assumption that linearization in language production is always top-down/left-right.*

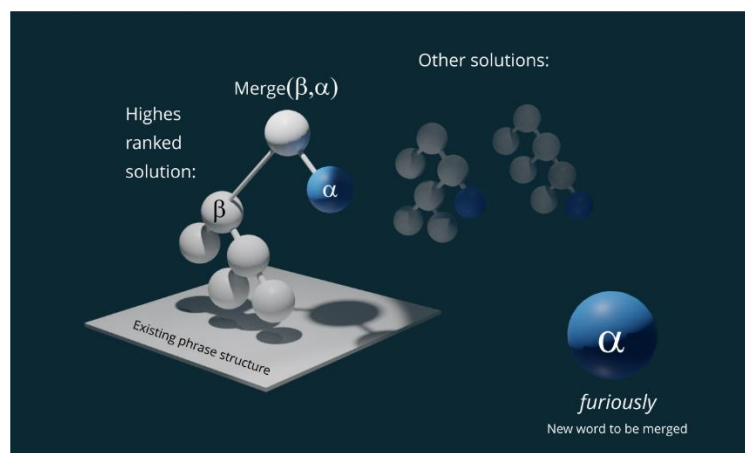
This would mean either (b) or (c). (Phillips 1996) calls the operation “Merge Right”. We are therefore left with the two options (b) and (c). The parser-grammar will select one of them. But which one? There are many situations in which the correct choice is not known or can be known but is unknown at the point when the word is consumed. In an incremental parsing process, decisions must be made concerning an incoming word without knowing what the remaining words are going to be. It must be possible to backtrack and re-evaluate a parsing decision made at an earlier stage. Let us assume that all legitimate merge sites are ordered and that these orderings generate a recursive search space that the parser-grammar use to backtrack. The situation after consuming the word *furiously* will thus look as follows, assuming an arbitrary ranking:

### (3) *Ranking*

- a. [~~John~~ *furiously*], sleeps] (Eliminated)

- b. 1. [[John, sleeps] *furiously*] (Priority high)
- c. 2. [John [sleeps *furiously*]] (Priority low)

The parser-grammar will merge *furiously* into a right-adverbial position (b) and branch off recursively. If this solution will not produce a legitimate output, it will return to the same point and try solution (c). Every decision made during the parsing process is treated in the same way. All solutions constitute ‘potential phrase structures’, which are ordered in terms of their ranking, while one of them is selected. This is illustrated in Figure 2.

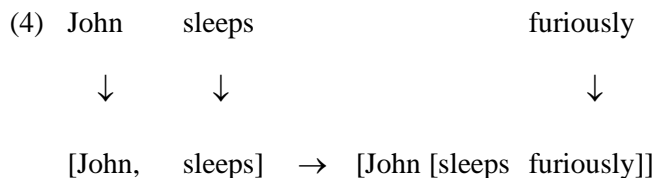


*Figure 2. All possible merge sites of  $\alpha$  on the right edge of the existing phrase structure  $\beta$  are ordered and then explored in that order. This operation takes place in the syntactic working space.*

Both solutions (a) and (c) are “countercyclic”: they extend the phrase structure at its right edge, not at the highest node. A countercyclic Merge-1 is more complex than simple merge that combines to constituents: it must insert the constituent into a phrase structure and update the constituency relations accordingly (Section 5.1.1). This type of derivation could be called “top-down,” because it seems to extend the phrase structure from top to bottom. The characterization is misleading: the phrase structure can be extended also in a bottom-up way, for example, by merging to the highest node. It is more correct to say that merge is “to the right edge.”

In literal top-down grammars, such as that of (Chesi 2012), no bottom-up operation, to the right edge or to the left edge, is allowed.<sup>2</sup>

A final point that merits attention is the fact that merge right can break constituency relations established in an earlier stage. This can be seen by looking at representations (1) and (2)c, repeated here as (4).



During the first stage, words *John* and *sleeps* are sisters. If the adverb is merged as the sister of *sleeps*, this is no longer true: *John* is now paired with a complex constituent [*sleeps furiously*]. If a new word is merged with [*sleeps furiously*], the structural relationship between *John* and this constituent is diluted further (5).

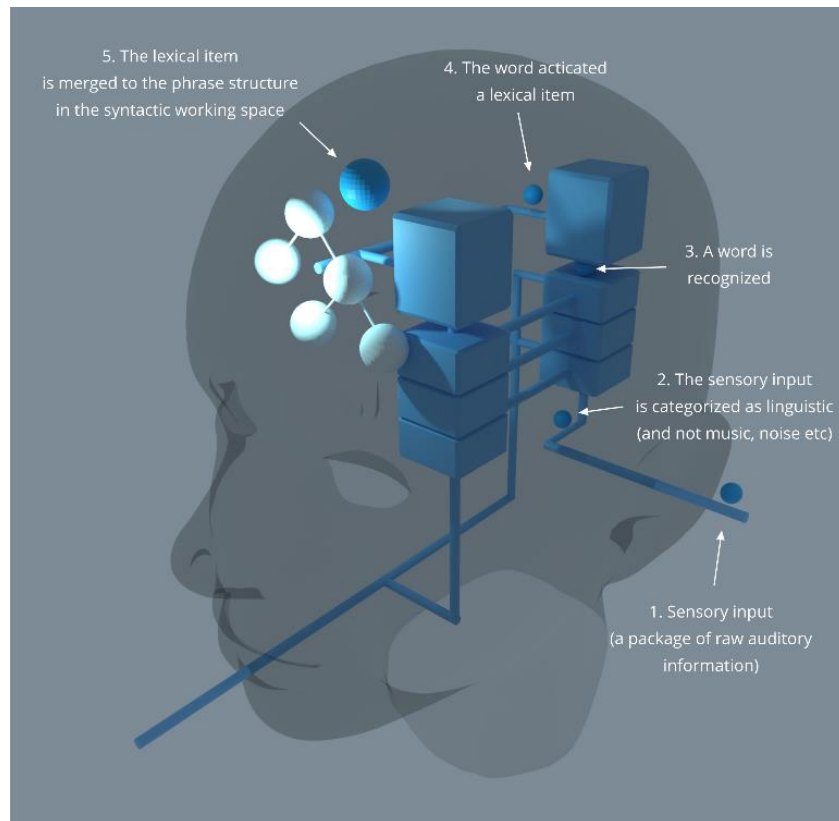
(5) [John [[sleeps furiously]  $\gamma$ ]

This property of the architecture has several important consequences. One consequence is that upon merging two words as sisters, we cannot know if they will maintain a close structural relationship in the derivation's future. In (5), they don't: future merge operations broke up constituency relations established earlier and the two constituents were divorced. Consider the stage at which *John* is merged with the verb 'sleep' but with wrong form *sleep*. The result is a locally ungrammatical string *\*John sleep*. But because constituency relations can change in the derivation's future, we cannot rule out this step locally as ungrammatical. It is possible that the verb 'sleep' ends up in a structural position in which it bears no meaningful linguistic relation with *John*, let alone one which would require them to agree with each other. Only those configurations or phrase structure fragments can be checked for ungrammaticality that *cannot* be tampered in the derivation's future. Such fragments are called *phases* in the current linguistic theory (Chomsky 2000, 2001). I will return to this topic

<sup>2</sup> Except for the root. The key empirical idea in restricted/literal top-down grammars is that every merge operation must be selected or expected “from above.” That condition is too strong for parsing, which operates with a PF-object, but it might be formulated as a condition for the LF-interface. The present model takes a weaker but also more general position, according to which top-down merge is possible but not mandatory.

in Section 3.4. It is important to keep in mind that in the Phillips architecture constituency relations established at point  $t$  do not necessarily hold at a later point  $t + n$ .

There are at least two ways to think about what these changes mean to the overall linguistic architecture. The strong hypothesis, assumed by Phillips, is to say that parsing = grammar, hence that these are the true properties of Merge and nothing else is. We give up standard properties of Merge that are postulated based on the bottom-up production theories (e.g., strict cyclicity). A weaker hypothesis is that the theory of Merge must be consistent with these properties. According to this alternative, Merge must be able to perform the computational operations described above (or something very similar), but we resist drawing conclusions concerning the production capacities that constitute the basis of standard theories of competence. The weaker hypothesis is less interesting than the strong one, and less parsimonious as well, but it makes it possible to pursue the comprehension perspective without rejecting linguistic explanations that have been crafted on the basis of the more standard production framework; instead, we try to see if the two perspectives can “converge” into a core set of assumptions or, at the very least, that they are not mutual contradictory. Development of such a unified theory is the goal that the present work tried to contribute. The operation of left-to-right Merge and its role in the whole language architecture is illustrated in Figure 11.



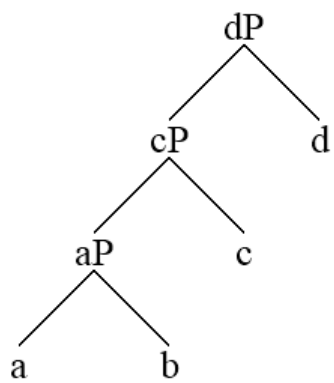
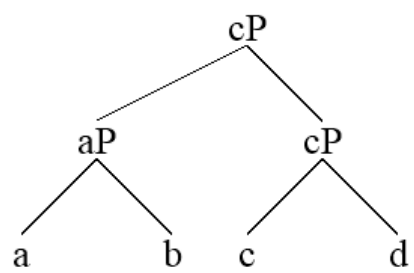
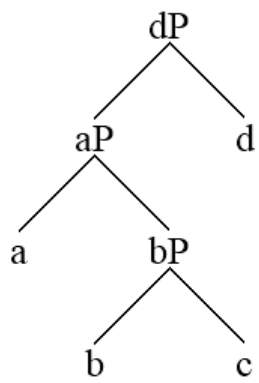
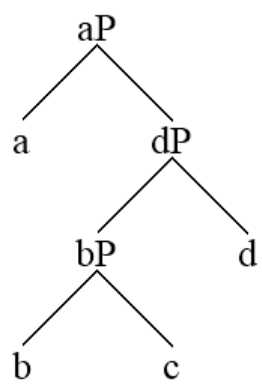
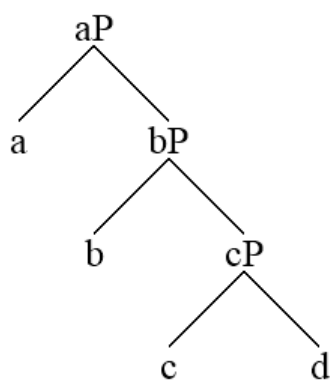
*Figure 11. Merge and its role in language comprehension. Incoming sensory input is first analyzed through several subsystems until a phonological word is recognized. The phonological word is then decomposed into its primitive parts (if any), which are matched with lexical items in the lexicon. A lexical item (essentially a set of features) is then merged to the existing phrase structure in the syntactic working space.*

It is not necessary to empower the parser with filtering and ranking. If they are not included, then the parser will explore all possible combinations. The result is a parser that can be observationally adequate and even explanatory, but psycholinguistically vastly implausible. A parser that has no filtering or ranking function of any kind will typically use astronomical amount of computational resources when parsing a simple sentence. Therefore, filtering and ranking should be included if only for practical reasons. Once they have been included, it is then possible to test alternative ranking methods and match evaluate them against data from psycholinguistic experiments.

We can examine the operation of the parser also by feeding it with artificial ad hoc words, say *a*, *b*, *c* and *d*, that have no features. The parser creates the following output representations.



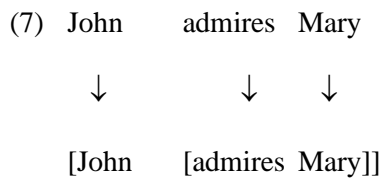
(6)



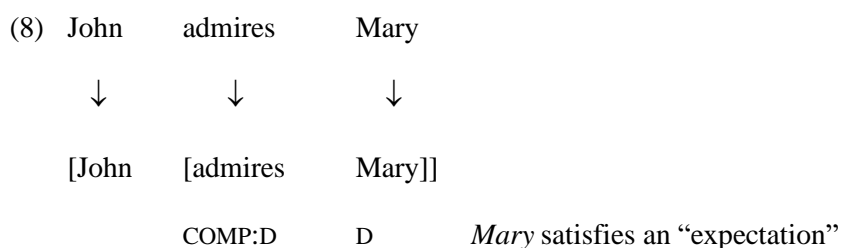
These are all the structure representations that will create the original linear string  $a * b * c * d$  when linearized, hence the string is multiple-ways ambiguous. We can ignore the labels of complex phrases for the time being.

### 3.3 The lexicon and lexical features

Consider next a transitive clause such as *John admires Mary* and how it might be derived under the present framework (7).



There is linguistic evidence that this derivation matches with the correct hierarchical relations between the three words (ignoring the details). The verb and the direct object form a constituent that is merged with the subject. We can imagine that this hierarchical configuration is interpretable at the LF-interface, with the usual thematic/event-based semantics: Mary will be the patient of admiring, John will be the agent. If we change the positions of the arguments, the interpretation reverses. But the fact that the verb *admire*, unlike *sleep*, can take a DP argument as its complement must be determined somewhere. Let us assume that such facts are part of the lexical items: *admire*, but not *sleep*, has a lexical selection feature !COMP:D (or alternatively subcategorization feature) which says that it is compatible with and in fact requires a DP-complement. The idea has been explored previously by (Chesi 2004, 2012) within the framework of a top-down grammar, the key idea being that lexical features are ways to form and satisfy top-down “expectations.” The fact that *admire* has the lexical feature !COMP:D can be used by Merge-1 to create a ranking based on an expectation: when *Mary* is consumed, the operation checks if any given merge site allows/expects the operation. In the example (8), the test is passed: the label of the selecting item matches with the label of the new arrival.



Feature COMP:L means that the lexical item *licenses* a complement with label L, and !COMP:L says that it *requires* a complement of the type L. Correspondingly, –COMP:L says that the lexical item does *not* allow for a complement with label L.

There is a certain ambiguity in how these features are used. When the parser-grammar is trying to sort out an input, it uses the lexical features (among other factors) to rank solutions. These features cannot always be used to filter out possible solutions, because constituency relations can change in the derivation's future (Section 3.2). But when the phrase structure has been completed, and there is no longer any input to be consumed, the same features can be used for filtering purposes. At this point we know that no further rearrangement will take place. A functional head that requires a certain type of complement (say v-V) will crash the derivation if the required complement is missing. This procedure concerns features that are positive and mandatory (e.g. !COMP:V or negative –COMP:V). This filtering operation is performed at the LF-interface (discussed later) and will be later called an “LF-legibility test.” Its function is to make sure that the phrase structure can be interpreted by the conceptual-intentional systems. But little filtering can be done locally while the first pass parse structure is being derived from the surface string.

Let us return to the example with *furiously*. What might be the lexical features that are associated with this item? The issue depends on the specific assumptions of the theory of competence, but let us assume something for the sake of the example. There are three options in (8): (i) complement of *Mary*, (ii) right constituent of *admires Mary*, and (iii) the right constituent of the whole clause. We can rule out the first option by assuming (again, for the sake of example) that a proper name cannot take an adverbial complement (i.e. *Mary* has a lexical selection feature –COMP:ADV). We are left with two options (9)a-b.

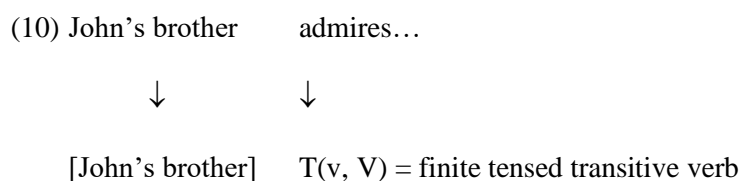
(9)

- a. [[<sub>S</sub> John [<sub>admires</sub> Mary]] *furiously*]
- b. [John [<sub>VP</sub> *admires* Mary] *furiously* ]]

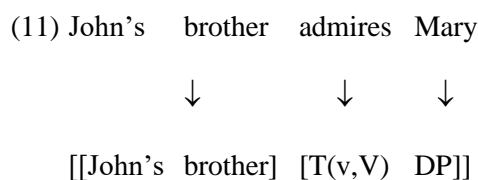
Independently of which one of these two solutions is the more plausible one (or if they both are equally plausible), we can guide Merge-1 by providing the adverbial with a lexical selection feature which determines what type of specifiers/left sisters it is allowed or is required to have. I call such features *specifier selection*

*features*. A feature SPEC:S (“select the whole clause as a specifier/sister”) favors solution (a), SPEC:V favors solution (b). If the adverbial has both features, or has neither, then the selection is free, all else being equal.

Notice that what constitutes a specifier selection feature will guide the selection of a possible left sister during parsing. Because constituency relations may change later, we do not know which elements will form specifier-head relations *in the final output*. Therefore, we use specifier selection to guide the parser in selecting left sisters, and later use them to verify that the output contains proper specifier-head relations. To illustrate, consider the derivation in (10).



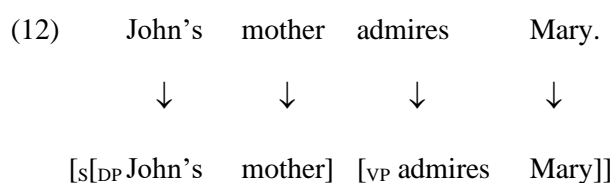
The specifier selection feature of the finite transitive verb will instruct the parser to merge the finite transitive verb to the right of the subject *John’s brother*. Notice that at the final output, after the processing of the direct object, the two are no longer sisters; instead, we will have the following configuration:



The grammatical subject occurs in the canonical specifier position of T(v,V). It is important to keep in mind, once again, that in this framework most configurations established during first pass parsing are subject to change later in the parsing derivation.

### 3.4 Phases and left branches

Let us consider next the derivation of a slightly more complex clause (12).



After the finite verb has been merged with the DP *John's mother*, no future operation can affect the internal structure of that DP. Merge is always to the right edge. All left branches become *phases* in the sense of (Chomsky 2000, 2001). This “left branch phase condition” was argued by (Brattico and Chesi 2020). We can formulate the condition tentatively as (13), but a more rigorous formulation will be given as we proceed.

(13) *Left Branch Phase Condition (LBPC)*

Derive each left branch independently.

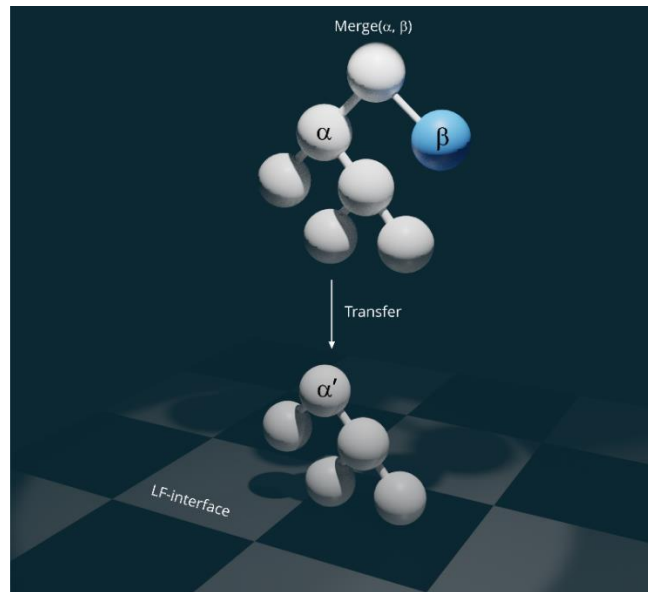
All left branches are “thrown away” from the working space once have been assembled and fully processed (14).

(14) John's + mother + admires + Mary  
       [John's        mother    ]  
               ↓                +    admires +    Mary  
       (has been sent out)

If no future operation is able to affect a left branch, all grammatical operations (e.g. movement reconstruction) that must to be done in order to derive a complete phrase structure must be done to each left branch before they are sealed off. Furthermore, if after all operations have been done the left branch fragment remains ungrammatical or uninterpretable, then the original merge operation that created the left branch phase must be cancelled. This limits the set of possible merge sites. Any merge site that leads into an ungrammatical or uninterpretable left branch can be either filtered out as either unusable or be ranked lower.

The notion that each left branch phase is processed independently requires a further comment. A parser implements a function from PF-objects into sets of LF-objects, semantically interpretable phrase structure objects. Therefore, each left branch must be transferred from the active syntactic working space to the LF-interface, and from the LF-interface, if the representation is well-formed, into the conceptual-intentional system in which it is provided a semantic interpretation. The process that maps a candidate left branch phase into the LF-interface is called *transfer*. It involves several mechanical, reflex-like operations that normalize the phrase structure for semantic interpretation, for example, by reconstructing operator movement, so that

each argument may receive a thematic role in addition to marking the scope an operator. These processes are discussed later, but the general architecture is illustrated in Figure 5.

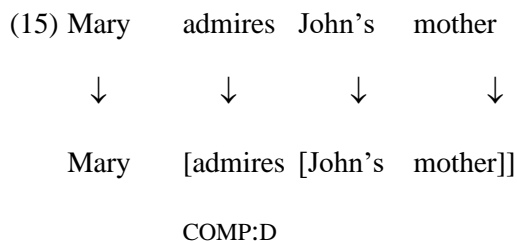


*Figure 5. Transfer transforms a candidate left branch phrase  $\alpha$  to the LF-interface. The transfer operation implements several computational operations, and the resulting phrase structure  $\alpha'$  is then evaluated at the LF-interface for semantic legibility. If the phrase structure is legit, it will be passed on to the conceptual-intentional systems for semantic interpretation. Transfer will be modeled here as a normalization or an error correction/tolerance algorithm,*

The nature of the LF-interface is not trivial. It is typically conceptualized as the “interface” between syntax and semantics. One condition is that the syntactic representation occurring at the LF-interface must be interpretable by the conceptual-intentional (semantic systems) in the way a native speaker interprets the sentence. Once the representation passes at LF, it will be handed over to extrasyntactic systems and it disappears from syntax. This will be interpreted here by associating several semantic attributes to the properties of the LF-interface, while these properties are merely read off from the structure, being causally inert inside the language faculty. There is a separate module in the system (*semantics.py*) which contains all passive semantic computations.

### 3.5 Labeling

Suppose we reverse the arguments (12) and derive (15).



In this configuration the verb selects for a DP, but the complement selection feature refers to the label D of the complement. What is relationship between the label D and the phrase that occurs in the complement position of the verb in the above example? That relationship is defined by a recursive labeling algorithm (16). The algorithm searches for the closest possible primitive head from the phrase, which will then constitute the label. Here “closest” means closest from the point of view of the selector; if we look at the situation from the point of view of the labeled phrase itself, then closest is the “highest” or “most dominant” head.

#### (16) Labeling

Suppose  $\alpha$  is a complex phrase. Then

- a. if the left constituent of  $\alpha$  is primitive, it will be the label; otherwise,
- b. if the right constituent of  $\alpha$  is primitive, it will be the label; otherwise,
- c. if the right constituent is not an adjunct, apply (16) recursively to it; otherwise,
- d. apply (16) to the left constituent (whether adjunct or not).

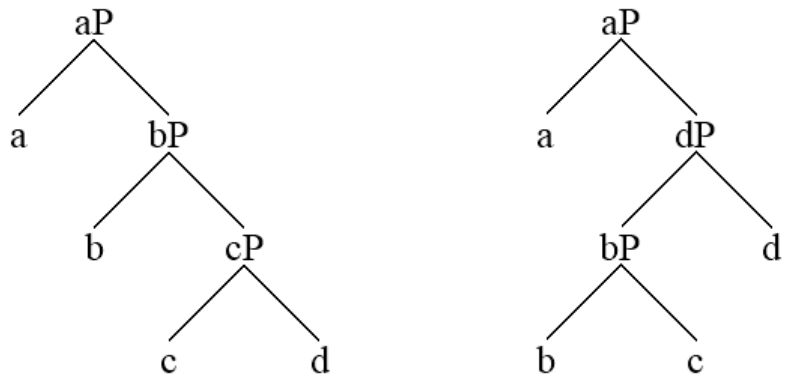
The term *complex constituent* is defined as a constituent that has both the left and right constituent; if a constituent is not complex, it will be called *primitive constituent*. A constituent that has only the left or right constituent, but not both, will also be primitive according to this definition. Conditions (16)c-d mean that labeling – and hence selection – ignores right adjuncts (this will be a defining feature of “adjunct”<sup>3</sup>).

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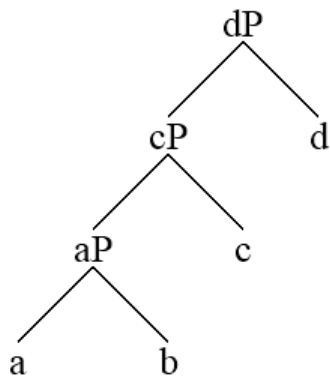
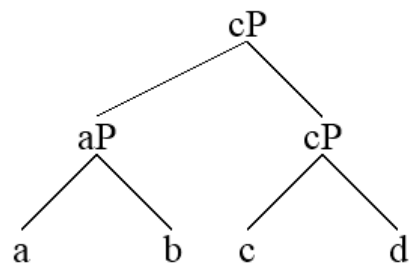
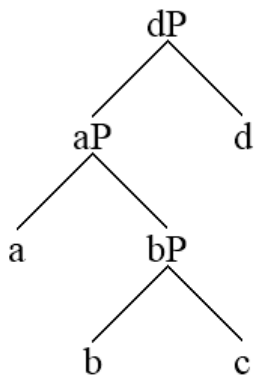
<sup>3</sup> If both the left and right constituents are adjuncts, the labeling algorithm will search the label from the left. This is a slightly anomalous situation, which we might consider ruling out completely.

The effects of the labeling algorithm can be illustrated with the help of the artificial examples created from the linear string  $a * b * c * d$ . The results are repeated in (17).

(17)







It is easy to verify that these representations follow the labelling algorithm. But consider again the derivation of (1), repeated here as (18).

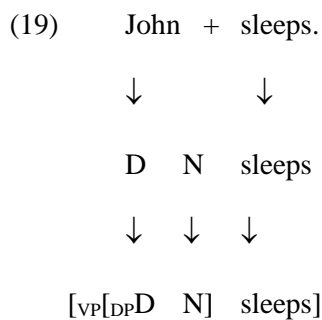
(18) John + sleeps.

↓     ↓

[John, sleeps]

If *John* is a primitive constituent having no left or right daughters, labeling will categorize [*John sleeps*] as a DP. The primitive left constituent D will be its label. This is wrong: (18) is a sentence or verb phrase, not a DP. One solution is to reconsider the labeling algorithm. That seems implausible: (16) captures what looks to be a general property of language, thus this alternative would require us to treat (18) and other similar examples

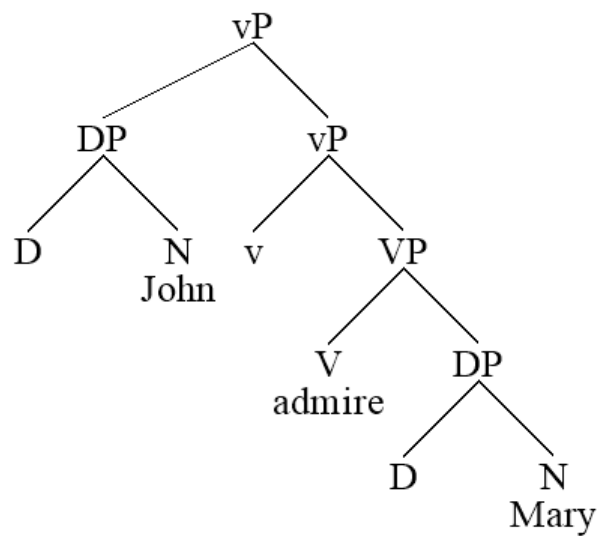
as exceptions. Yet, there is nothing exceptional or anomalous in (18). The representation should come out as a VP, with the proper name constituting an argument of the VP. Thus, the proper name should not constitute the (primitive) head of the phrase. I assume that *John* is a complex constituent despite of appearing as if it were not. Its structure is [D N], with the N raising to D to constitute one phonological word. This information can only come from the surface vocabulary/morphological parser, in which proper names are decomposed into D + N structure. The structure of (18) is therefore (19). The lexical-morphological component will be discussed later.



It is important to note that labeling presupposes that primitive elements, when they occur in prioritized (i.e., left) positions, always constitute heads. A head at the right constitutes a head if there is a phrase at left. This happens in (19), which means that the whole phrase will come out as a verb phrase. The outcome will be the same if the verb is transitive. The structure and label are provided in (20). A slightly more realistic output, provided by the parser, is shown in (21).



(21)



This analysis presupposes that there is some way to unpack *John* into the complex constituent [D N]. That operation is part of transfer (Section 3.8.3).

### 3.6 Adjunct attachment

Adjuncts, such as adverbials and adjunct PPs, present a separate problem. Consider (22).

(22)

- a. *Ilmeisesti* Pekka ihailee Merjaa.  
apparently Pekka admires Merja
- b. Pekka *ilmeisesti* ihailee Merjaa.  
Pekka apparently admires Merja
- c. Pekka ihailee *ilmeisesti* Merjaa.  
Pekka admires apparently Merja
- d. ??Pekka ihailee Merjaa *ilmeisesti*  
Pekka admires Merja apparently

The adverbial *ilmeisesti* ‘apparently’ can occur almost in any position in the clause. Consequently, it will be merged into different positions in each sentence. This confuses labeling. The problem is to define what this

type of ‘free attachment’ means. It is assumed here that adjuncts are geometrical constituents of the phrase structure, but they are stored in a parallel syntactic working memory and are invisible for sisterhood, labeling and selection in the primary working memory. This hypothesis is illustrated in Figure 24.

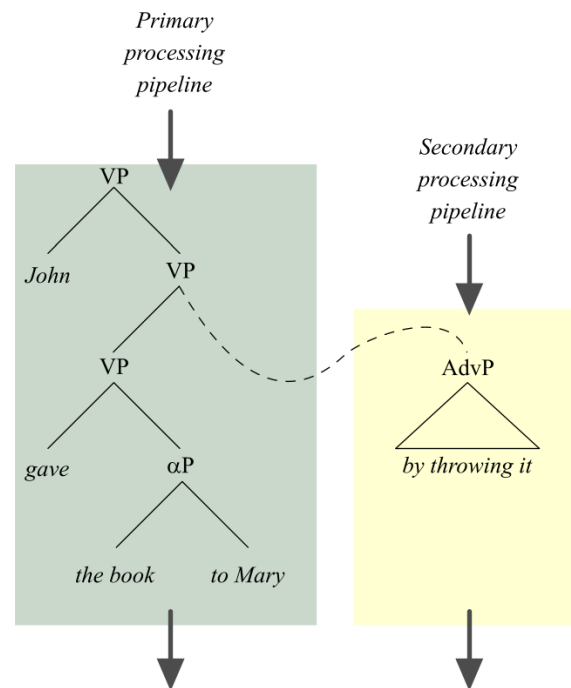


Figure 24. A nontechnical illustration of the way the linear phase comprehension algorithm processes adjuncts.

Thus, the labeling algorithm specified in Section 3.5 ignores adjuncts. The label of (23) becomes V: while analyzing the higher VP shell, the search algorithm does not enter inside the adverb phrase; the lower VP is penetrated instead (16)c-d.

(23)  $H^0$  [<sub>VP</sub> John [<sub>VP</sub> [<sub>VP</sub> admires Mary] <<sub>AdvP</sub> furiously>]]

The reasoning applies automatically to selection by the higher head H: if H has a complement selection feature COMP:V, it will be satisfied by (23). Consider (24).

(24) John [sleeps <<sub>AdvP</sub> furiously>]

The adverb constitutes the sister of the verbal head  $V^0$  and is potentially selected by it. This would often give wrong results. This unwanted outcome is prevented by defining the notion of sisterhood so that it ignores right

adjuncts. The adverb *furiously* resides in a parallel syntactic working memory and is only geometrically attached to the main structure; the main verb does not see it in its complement position at all. From the point of view of labeling, selection and sisterhood, the structure of (24) is [<sub>VP</sub>[*John*] *sleeps*]. The reason adjuncts must constitute geometrical parts of the phrase structure is because they can be targeted by several syntactic operations, such as movement and case assignment (Agree).

The fact that adjuncts are optional is explained by the fact that they are automatically excluded from selection and labelling: whether they are present or absent has no consequences for either of these dependencies. It follows that adjuncts can be merged anywhere, which is not correct. I assume that each adverbial (head) is associated with a feature *linking* it with a feature in its hosting, primary structure. The linking relation is established by an ‘inverse probe-goal relation’ I call *tail-head relation*. For example, a VP-adverbial is linked with V, a TP-adverbial is linked with T, a CP-adverbial is linked with C. Linking is established by checking that the adverbial (i) occurs inside the corresponding projection (e.g., VP, TP, CP) or is (ii) c-commanded by a corresponding head (25). This theory owes much to (Ernst 2001).

(25) *Condition on tail-head dependencies*

A tail feature F of head H [TAIL:F] can be checked if either (a) or (b) holds:

- a. H occurs inside a projection whose head K has F, or is K’s sister;
- b. H is c-commanded by a head whose head has F.

Condition (a) is relatively uncontroversial. Condition (b) allows some adjuncts, such as preposition phrases, remain in a low right-adjoined or extraposed positions in a canonical structure. If condition (b) is removed, all adjuncts will be reconstructed into positions in which they are inside the corresponding projections (reconstruction will be discussed later) or occur as their sister. Some versions of the theory keep (b), others deny it; the matter is controversial. If an adverbial/head does not satisfy a tail feature, it will be reconstructed into a position in which it does during transfer. This operation will be discussed in Section 3.8.4.

Adjuncts can be visualized as constituents that reside in a parallel syntactic working space, being attached to the main structure more loosely. The idea that they reside in a parallel working space is supported by the fact that the computational operations (labeling, sisterhood) targeting the primary hosting structure do not see them,

and by the fact that the mechanism is iterative in the sense that an adjunct can have its own further adjuncts. Adjuncts are also transferred to LF independently, as independent phases. Their connection to the hosting primary structure is loose in the sense that they are only linked with a feature in the primary structure. We can think of adjuncts as increasing the “dimension” of the phrase structure, in the sense that any head or feature in the primary structure can be shadowed by an adjunct that is silently linked with it. Finally, the linking relations are typically interpreted as predication: the adjunct phrase expresses a predicate, which is attributed to the head/feature with which it is linked with. A VP-adverbial, for example, attributes a property to the event denoted by the V. The process in which some phrase is promoted into an adjunct status is called *externalization*. The term refers to the fact that it is pulled or literally externalized out of the current syntactic working space.

### 3.7 EPP and “unselective” selection

Some languages, such as Finnish and Icelandic, require that the specifier position of the finite tense is filled in by some phrase, but it does not matter what the label of that phrase is. This is captured by unselective specifier features  $-\text{SPEC}^*$ ,  $\text{SPEC}^*$  and  $!\text{SPEC}^*$ . Because the feature is unselective, it is not interpreted thematically, it cannot designate a canonical position, and hence the existence of this feature on a head triggers  $A'/A$  movement reconstruction (Section 3.8.1). This constitutes a sufficient (but not necessary) feature for reconstruction; see 3.8.1. Language uses phrasal movement, and hence an unselective specifier feature, to represent a null head (such as C) at the PF-interface. Corresponding to  $\text{SPEC}^*$  we also have  $!\text{COMP}^*$ , which is a property all functional heads have, possibly by definition.

## 3.8 Move-1

### 3.8.1 A-bar reconstruction

A phrase or word can occur in a canonical or noncanonical position. These notions get a slightly different interpretation within the comprehension framework. A canonical position *in the input* could be defined as one that leads the parser-grammar to merge the constituent directly into a position at which it must occur at the LF-interface. For example, regular referential or quantificational arguments must occur inside the verb phrase at the LF-interface in order to receive thematic roles and satisfy selection. Example (26) is a sentence in which

all elements occur in their canonical positions in the input: the parser reaches a plausible output by merging the elements into the right edge as they are being consumed.

(26) John      admires   Mary  
           ↓            ↓            ↓  
       [John    [admires Mary]]

Example (27) shows a variation in which this is no longer the case.

(27) Ketä      Pekka            ihaile-e    \_\_\_? (Finnish)  
       who.par Pekka.nom    admire-3sg  
       ‘Who does Pekka admire?’

The parser will generate the following first pass parse for this sentence (in pseudo-English for simplicity):

(28) [who<sub>1</sub>    [Pekka<sub>2</sub> admires]]

The clause violates selection: there are two specifiers DP<sub>1</sub> and DP<sub>2</sub> at the left edge, and *admire* lacks a complement. The two violations are related: the element that triggers the double specifier violation at the left edge is the *same element* that is missing from the complement position. We therefore know that the interrogative pronoun causes a double specifier error because it has been “dislocated” to the noncanonical, “wrong” position from its canonical complement position, and this is the reason it also triggers complement selection failure. The parser must reverse-engineer this dislocation in order to create a representation that can be interpreted at the LF-interface and which satisfies all selection requirements of all lexical elements. These operations, which is called *reconstruction*, take place during transfer.

Before addressing the specific formal mechanisms, it makes sense to ask a more fundamental question: why do many languages dislocate words and phrases? The first-pass parse generated directly from the input string by merging constituents to the right will be related systematically and transparently to the linguistic sensory object itself, as the two are mapped to each other by a simple algorithm. Specifically, we can always generate the final sensory object by applying a left-to-right depth-first linearization algorithm to the first-pass parse.

We could emphasize this aspect by calling the first-pass parse also as the *spellout structure*. The spellout structure therefore creates an abstract sensorimotoric plan that captures the way language “packages” linguistic information for the purpose of linguistic communication. Obviously, however, languages also differ from each other in how they do this packaging: Finnish does it differently than English. The conceptual systems, however, are often assumed to be near-universal. It is possible to translate English sentences into Finnish, and vice versa, which suggests that the underlying conceptual representations are closely related, making communication between speakers of different languages possible and effortless, at least after linguistic packaging has been acquired and automatized. This requires that the abstract sensorimotoric plans are converted into a format from which most language-specific properties have been eliminated. This normalization operation is performed by transfer. If this is true, then dislocation – in which there is considerable variation between languages– has to do with sensorimotoric packaging of linguistic information. I return to this issue later after considering some of the details of the implementation itself.

In Finnish, a standard interrogative creates a spellout structure in which the sentence begins with two DPs. This double specifier problem is first “fixed” by generating a head between them (29), the interpretation being that the reason the interrogative phrase was moved in the first place was that the head C(*wh*) itself is phonologically null, thus the phrase is moved to focus the listener’s attention to the interrogative feature defining the scope of the question.

(29) [Ketä [C(*wh*) [Pekka ihailee \_\_\_\_]]]?

*wh* C(*wh*)

who.par Pekka admires

‘Who does Pekka admire?’

The mechanism involves two steps. First we must recognize that a head is missing. That is inferred from the existence of the two specifiers of the T/fin head (two specifiers are not allowed unless the head as a specified feature licensing them). The next step is to generate the label/feature +*wh* for the head. This information is obtained from the *criterial feature*, i.e. from the fact that the element is an interrogative pronoun. This allows the parser-grammar to infer both the existence and nature of the phonologically null head and thus infer that



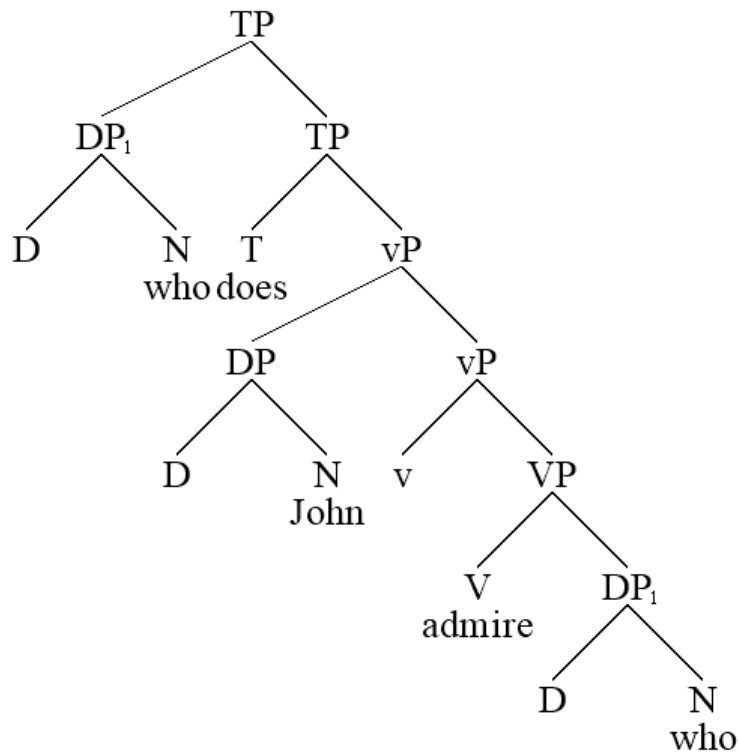
this is an interrogative clause with the scope marked by C(*wh*). The interrogative phrase must then be reconstructed back to its canonical LF-position to satisfy the complement selection for the verb *admire*.

(30) Who        does        John        admire    \_\_\_?

—————Reconstruction—————→

Reconstruction (called Move-1) works by copying the element occurring in the wrong position and by “dropping” or reconstructing it into the same structure, in this case reconstruction begins from the sister of the targeted element and proceeds downward while ignoring left branches (phases) and right adjuncts. The element is copied to the first position in which (1) it can be selected, (2) is not occupied by another legit element, and in which (3) it does not violate any other condition for LF-objects. If no such position is found, the element remains in the original position and may be targeted by another operation during transfer. If the position is found, it will be copied there; the original element will be tagged so that it will not be targeted for the second time. We can examine the results of these assumptions by feeding the parser a simple interrogative *who does John admire?* The algorithm produces (31) as output.

(31)



Move-1 takes place during transfer. Transfer itself is triggered under three conditions. One condition is that all words have been consumed, in which case the final product will be transferred to LF. The second condition occurs upon Merge-1 ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ) and leads to transfer of  $\alpha$ . The third condition is that  $\alpha$  is interpreted as an adjunct. The two first conditions are expressed by (32)(Brattico and Chesi 2020), while the third was added later.

(32) Transfer( $\alpha$ ) is and only if either

- i. Merge( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ) or
- ii.  $\alpha$  is completed or
- iii.  $\alpha$  is an adjunct.

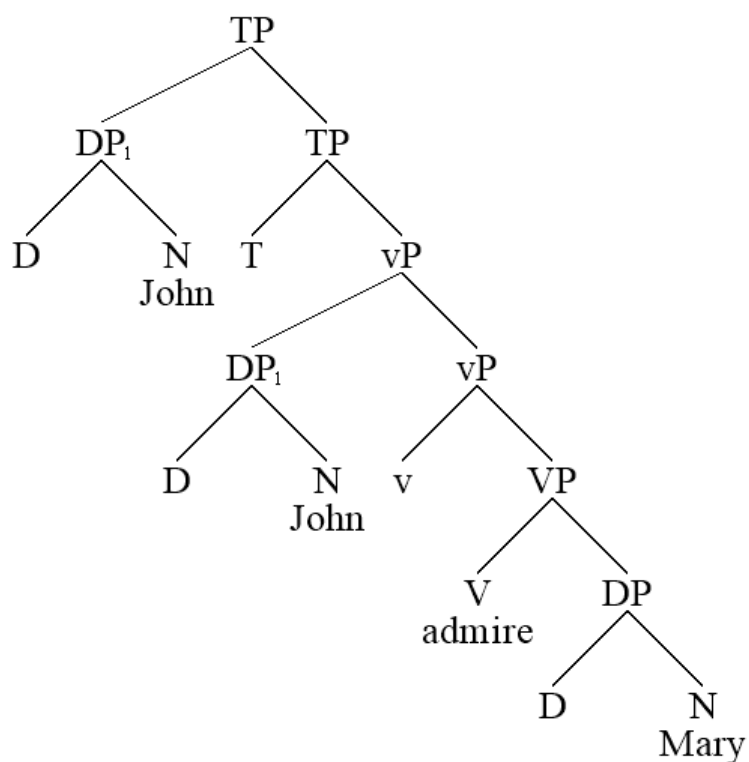
The reason  $\alpha$  must be transferred due to (i) is that we want to check if it constitutes a legitimate LF-object. If not, the fragment/sentence can be rejected. Thus, if we are considering Merge-1 ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ) as a possible merge site for  $\beta$ , failed transfer can be interpreted as signaling that the solution should be filtered out or ranked lower. If  $\alpha$  is complete and transfer fails, then the parser must backtrack.

One question that remains without explicit answer is the explicit trigger for the operation that reconstructs the interrogative pronoun to the complement position. Notice that after  $C(wh)$  has been generated to the structure, all selection features are potentially checked. One possibility is that the operation is triggered by the missing complement. In the present implementation it is assumed that error recovery is triggered at the site of the element that needs reconstruction. In this case, it is assumed that  $C(wh)$  has an unselective specifier selection feature  $SPEC:*$  (=generalized EPP feature, or second edge feature in the sense of (Chomsky 2008)) which says that the element may have a specifier with any label that is not selected (in the present formalization, labels select and are selected). Reconstruction is triggered by the presence of this feature (Brattico and Chesi 2020). The reconstructed canonical position will be found during reconstruction as it takes place during transfer.

### 3.8.2 A-reconstruction and EPP

One sufficient condition for phrasal reconstruction is the occurrence of a phrase at the specifier position of a head that has the  $SPEC:*$  feature (=EPP in the standard theory). This alone will trigger reconstruction, with or without criterial features. If there are no criterial features, then A-movement reconstruction is activated which moves the element into the specifier position of the next projection downstream. This happens, for example, when the grammatical subject is reconstructed from SpecTP to SpecvP in an English finite clause, as shown in (31).

(33)



### 3.8.3 Head reconstruction

Many heads occur in noncanonical positions in the input string. Consider (34).

(34) Nukku-a-ko      Pekka    ajatteli    että hänen    pitää    \_?

sleep-T/inf-Q      Pekka    thought    that he      must

‘Was it sleeping that Pekka thought that he must do?’

The complex word *nukkua-ko* ‘sleep-T/inf-Q’ contains elements that are in the wrong place. The infinitival verb form (T/inf, V) cannot occur at the beginning of a finite clause, and there is an empty position at the end of the clause in which a similar element is missing.

Lexical and morphological parser provides the parser-grammar with the information that the -kO particle in the first word encodes the C-morpheme itself (C(-kO)), which is then fed into the parser-grammar together with the rest of the morphological decomposition of the head. In this case, the verb *nukkua-ko* is composed out of C(-kO), infinitival T<sub>in</sub> (-a-) and V (*nukku-*). Morphology extracts this information from the phonological word

and feeds it to syntax in the order illustrated by (35). Symbol “#” indicates that there is no word boundary between the morphemes/features.

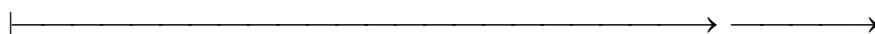
(35) C(-kO) + #T<sub>inf</sub> + #V + Pekka + ajatteli + että + hänen + pitää  
 C      T<sub>inf</sub>      V      Pekka    thought    that      he          must

The individual heads are then collected into one complex head by the syntactic parser. Specifically, the incoming morphemes are stored into the right constituent of the preceding morpheme which creates a linearly ordered sequence of primitive morphemes.<sup>4</sup> Thus, if syntax receives a word-internal morpheme  $\beta$ , it will be merged to the right edge of the previous morpheme  $\alpha$ : [ $\alpha \oslash \beta$ ]. Notice that by defining “complex constituent” as one that has both the left and right constituent, [ $\alpha \oslash \beta$ ] comes out as primitive and constitutes a head of a projection. The linear sequence C-T/inf-V becomes [ $C \oslash [T_{inf} \oslash V]$ ]. This is what gets first-merged<sup>-1</sup> (36).

(36) [ $C \oslash [T_{inf} \oslash V]$ ]    Pekka    ajatteli    että hänen    pitää    \_\_\_\_.  
                                  Pekka    thought    that he          must

Representation (36) is not a legit LF-object. The first constituent [ $C \oslash [T_{fin} \oslash V]$ ] cannot be interpreted, and the embedded modal verb *pitää* ‘must’ lacks a complement. Both problems are solved by *head reconstruction* which drops [ $T_{inf} \oslash V$ ] from within C into the structure. This is done by finding the closest position in which T/inf can be selected and in which it does not violate local selection rules. The closest possible position for T/inf is the empty position inside the embedded clause. V will then be extracted in the same way and reconstructed into the complement position of T<sub>inf</sub>.

(37) [ $C \oslash [T_{inf} \oslash V]$ ]    Pekka    ajatteli    että hänen    [pitää    [[ $T_{inf} \oslash V$ ]    V]].  
                                  Pekka    thoughtr    that he.gen    must



<sup>4</sup> Pronominal clitics are right/left constituents that are complex but occur without a sister.

The operation fixes problems with cluttered heads in the input. It resembles phrasal movement reconstruction: it considers the cluttered components of the complex head to be in a wrong position and attempts to drop them into first positions available in which they could create a legitimate LF-object.

#### 3.8.4 Adjunct reconstruction

Consider the pair of expressions in (38) and their canonical derivations.

(38)

- a. Pekka            käski        meidän    ihaillla        Merjaa.  
      Pekka.nom    asked        we.gen    to.admire    Merja.par  
                   ↓                    ↓                    ↓                    ↓                    ↓  
      [Pekka   [    asked    [we        [to.admire    Merja]]]]  
      'Pekka asked us to admire Merja.'
- b. Merjaa            käski        meidän    ihaillla        Pekka.  
      Merja.par        asked        we.gen    to.admire    Pekka.nom  
                   ↓                    ↓                    ↓                    ↓                    ↓  
      [Merja   [    asked    [we        [to.admire    Pekka]]]  
      'Pekka asked us to admire Merja.'

Derivation (b) is incorrect. Native speakers interpreted the thematic roles identically in both examples. The subject and object are again in wrong positions. Yet, neither A'- nor A-reconstruction can handle these cases. The problem is created by the grammatical subject *Pekka* 'Pekka.nom', which has to move upwards/leftward in order to reach the canonical LF-position SpecVP. Because the distribution of thematic arguments in Finnish is very similar to the distribution of adverbials, I have argued that richly case marked thematic arguments can be promoted into adjuncts (Brattico 2016, 2018, 2019b, 2020c, 2020a). See (Baker 1996; Chomsky 1995: 4.7.3; Jelinek 1984) for similar hypothesis. Suppose that case features must establish local tail-head (inverse probe-goal) relations with functional heads as provided, tentatively and for illustrative purposes only, in (39).

(39) Case features must establish local tail-head relations such that

- a. [NOM] is checked by +FIN;

- b. [ACC] is checked by +ASP/v;
- c. [GEN] is checked by –FIN;
- d. [PAR] is checked by –VAL.

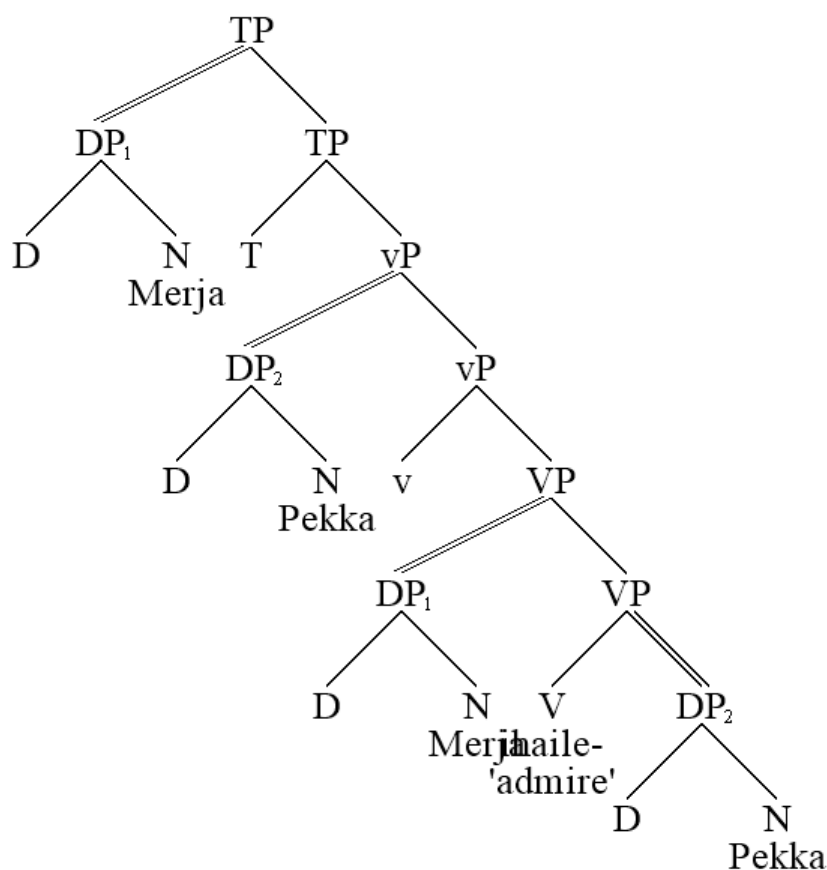
Case forms are, therefore, morphological reflexes of tail-head features. The symbol “–VAL” refers to a head that never exhibits  $\phi$ -agreement, but what the features are is not crucial here; what matters is that case features are associated with c-commanding functional heads and features therein. If the condition is not checked by the position of an argument in the input, then the argument is treated as a an adjunct and reconstruction into a position in which (39) is satisfied. In this way, the inversed subject and object can find their ways to the canonical LF-positions (40). Notice that because the grammatical subject *Pekka* is promoted into adjunct, it no longer constitutes the complement; the partitive-marked direct object does.

(40) [<sub>NP</sub>Merjaa]<sub>2</sub> T/fin [<sub>NP</sub>\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> [käski [meidän [ihailla [<sub>NP</sub>\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> ⟨Pekka⟩<sub>1</sub>]]]]]  
+FIN ←—NOM −VAL ←—PAR  
Merja.par asked we.gen to.admire Pekka  
‘Pekka asked us to admire Merja.’

The operation is licensed by rich case morphosyntax, which allows transfer to dislocate the orphan arguments to their correct canonical positions. We can see the effects of these assumptions by feeding the parser with a noncanonical Finnish OVS sentence (41). The result is (42).

(41) Merja-a            ihailee            Pekka.  
          Merja-par        admire-3sg    Pekka.nom  
          'When it comes to Merja, Pekka admires him.'

(42)



Adjunction is marked by double lines in the image output. Notice that because the lower DP is reconstructed as an adjunct, V takes DP<sub>1</sub> as its sister and thus complement; DP<sub>2</sub> is invisible at the lower position.

The case system elucidated above is a simplification. To handle all relevant cases, a slightly more complex mechanism is required. However, the basic idea has remained the same in all subsequent research: case suffixes are surface reflections of tail-features that relate the argument to functional elements in the structure.

### 3.8.5 Ordering of operations

Movement reconstruction is part of transfer. Both A'/A-reconstruction and adjunct reconstruction presuppose head reconstruction; heads and their lexical features guide A'/A- and adjunct reconstruction. The former relies on EPP features and empty positions, whereas the latter relies on the presence of functional heads. Furthermore, A'/A-reconstruction relies on adjunct reconstruction: empty positions cannot be recognized as



such unless orphan constituents that might be hiding somewhere are first returned to their canonical positions. The whole sequence is (43).

(43) Merge-1( $\alpha, \beta$ )  $\rightarrow$  Transfer  $\alpha$  (reconstruct heads  $\rightarrow$  reconstruct adjuncts  $\rightarrow$  reconstruct A/A'-movement)

The sequence is performed in a one fell sweep, in a reflex-like manner; it is not possible to evaluate the operation only partially or backtrack some moves while executing others.

### 3.9 Lexicon and morphology

Most phonological words enter the system as polymorphemic units that might be further associated with inflectional features. The morphological component is responsible for decomposing phonological words into these components. A table-look up surface vocabulary (dictionary) first matches phonological words with morphological decompositions. The decomposition consists of a linear string of morphemes  $m_1\#...\#m_n$  that are separated and inserted into the linear input stream individually (44). Notice the reversed order.

(44) Nukku-u-ko	+	Pekka	$\rightarrow$	Q	+	T/fin	+	V	+	Pekka
sleep-T/fin-Q		Pekka		$\downarrow$		$\downarrow$		$\downarrow$		$\downarrow$
sleep#T/fin#Q				Merge <sup>-1</sup>	Merge <sup>-1</sup>		Merge <sup>-1</sup>	Merge <sup>-1</sup>		
'Does Pekka sleep?'										

The lexical entry for the complex phonological word *nukkuako* is therefore 'sleep#T/fin#Q', where each morpheme *sleep*-, T/fin and Q are matched with lexical items (LIs) in the same lexicon. The lexicon has a hierarchical structure: one lexical entry can contain pointers to more primitive entries, which are linked with 'linguistic atoms', sets of features that have no further morphological decomposition. Lexical items are provided to the syntax as primitive constituents, with all their properties (features) coming from the lexicon. Inflectional features (such as case suffixes) are listed in the lexicon as items that have no morphemic content. They are extracted like morphemes, inserted into the input stream, but converted into *features* instead of morphemes or grammatical heads and then inserted inside adjacent lexical items.

Lexical features emerge from three distinct sources. One source is the language-specific lexicon, which stores information specific to lexical items in a particular language. For example, the Finnish sentential negation behaves like an auxiliary, agrees in  $\phi$ -features, and occurs above the finite tense node in Finnish (Holmberg et al. 1993). Its properties differ from the English negation *not*. Some of these properties are so idiosyncratic that they must be part of the language-specific lexicon. One such property could be the fact that the negation selects T as a complement, which must be stated in the language-specific lexicon to prevent the same rule from applying to the English *not*. It is assumed that language-specific features *override* features emerging from the two remaining sources if there is a conflict.

Another source of lexical features comes from a set of universal redundancy rules. For example, the fact that the small verb *v* selects for V need not be listed separately in connection with each transitive verb. This fact emerges from a list of universal redundancy rules which are stored in the form of feature implications. In this case, the redundancy rule states that the feature CAT:*v* implies the existence of feature COMP:V. When a lexical item is retrieved, its feature content is fetched from the language specific lexicon and processed through the redundancy rules. If there is a conflict, language-specific lexicon wins.

### 3.10 Argument structure

The notion of argument structure refers to the structure of thematic arguments and their predicates at their canonical LF-positions, the latter which are defined by means of theta role assignment and by tail-head dependencies.

The thematic role of ‘agent’ is assigned at LF by the small verb *v* to its specifier, so that a DP argument that occurs at this position will automatically receive the thematic role of ‘agent’. The parser-grammar does not see the interpretation, it only sees the selection feature. Thus, when examining the output of the parser the canonical positioning of the arguments must be checked against native speaker interpretation. The sister of V receives several roles depending on the context. In a *v*-V structure, it will constitute the ‘patient’. In the case of an intransitive verb, we may want to distinguish left and right sisters: right sister getting the role of patient (unaccusatives), left sister the role of agent (unergatives). Their formal difference is such that a phrasal left sister of a primitive head constitutes both a complement and a specifier (per formal definition of ‘specifier’

and ‘complement’), whereas a right sister can only constitute a complement. This means that unaccusatives and unergative verbs can be distinguished by means of lexical selection features: the latter, but not the former, can have an extra specifier selection feature, correlating with the agentive interpretation of the argument. Thus, a transitive verb will project three argument positions Spec,vP, Spec,VP and Comp,VP, whereas an intransitive two, Spec,VP and Comp,VP. This means that both constructions have room for one extra (non-DP) argument, which can be filled in by the PP. Ditransitive clauses are built from the transitive template by adding a third (non-DP) argument. They can be selected, e.g. the root verb component V of a ditransitive verb can contain a [!SPEC:P] feature. Ideally, verbal lexical entries should contain a label for a whole verb class, and that feature should be associated with its feature structure by means of lexical redundancy rules.

Adverbial and other adjuncts are associated with the event by means of tail-head relations. A VP-adverbial, for example, must establish a tail-head relation with a V. Adverbial-adjunct PPs behave in the same way. The tail-head relation can involve several features. For example, the Finnish allative case (corresponding to English ‘to’ or ‘for’) must be linked with verbs which describe ‘directional’ events (45). It therefore tails a feature pair CAT:V, SEM:DIRECTIONAL. There is no limit on the number of features that a verb can possess and a prepositional argument that tail.

(45)

- a. \*Pekka näki Merjalle.  
Pekka saw to.Merja
- b. Pekka huusi Merjalle.  
Pekka yelled at.Merja

The syntactic representation of an argument structure raises nontrivial questions concerning the relationship between grammar and meaning. Consider a simple sentence such as *John dropped the ball* and its meaning, illustrated in Figure 8.

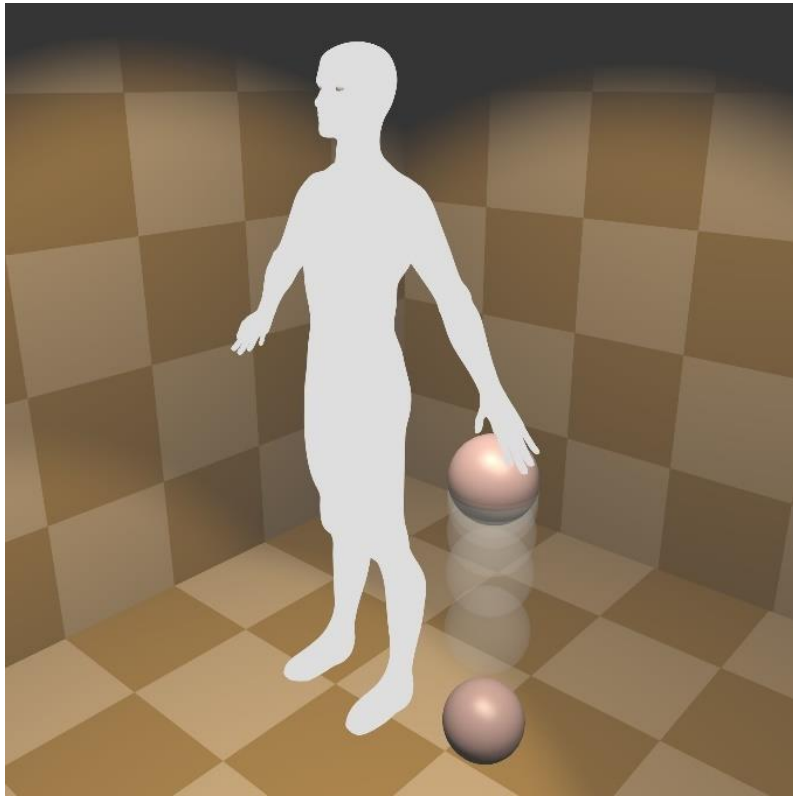


Figure 8. A non-discursive, perceptual or imagined representation of the meaning of the sentence *John dropped the ball*.

The canonical LF-representation for the sentence is mapped compositionally to the above representation in such a way that the innermost V-DP configuration represents the event of ball's falling, while the v-V adds the meaning that the event is originated by an agent or force. The subject then adds what that force is. This provides the idea that it is John that causes the ball to fall or is responsible for the event's occurrence. Therefore, addition of elements to the LF-structure adds elements to the event (as imagined, perceived or hallucinated). Functional heads add independent components, such as aspect or tense, others, like v, make up unsaturated components 'x causes an event' that require a further object 'x'. Under this conception, the role of syntactic selection features is to allow the language faculty to create configurations that can be provided a legitimate interpretation of the type illustrated in Figure 8. On the other hand, they do not guarantee that an interpretation emerges: a sentence like *John dropped the democracy furiously* is as possible as *John dropped the ball by accident*.

### 3.11 Agree-1

Most languages exhibit an agreement phenomenon illustrated in the example (46).

- (46) John      [admire + s          Mary]  
3sg                                  3sg

The term “agreement” or “phi-agreement” refers to a phenomenon in which the gender, number or person features (collectively called phi-features or  $\phi$ -features) of one element, typically a DP, covary with the same features on another element, typically a verb, as in (46). This covariation can be thought of as establishing a grammatical link between the two elements, in the sense that one of the elements is registering the presence of the other. For example, if the subject were in the plural, the agreement suffix +s would disappear.

Not all lexical elements express or host overt phi-features, and those which do can be separated at least into three classes with respect to the type of agreement that they exhibit; and the agreement, when it is possible in one of the three forms, is sensitive to structural conditions and constraints. We capture these distinctions and the rules and conditions regulating them.

Whether a lexical element (say a verb, noun or adjective) exhibits any agreement, even in principle, is determined by lexical feature  $\pm\text{VAL}$ . A lexical item with  $-\text{VAL}$  does not exhibit phi-agreement. In English, conjunctions (*but*, *and*) and the complementizer (*that*) belong to this class, and are marked for  $-\text{VAL}$ . Those lexical items which exhibit agreement in principle have feature  $+\text{VAL}$ . There is variation with respect the distribution of this feature in the lexicon. In Finnish, the sentential negation *e-* inflects like a verb, thus it is marked for  $+\text{VAL}$ , whereas in English the negation behaves like a particle and has  $-\text{VAL}$  diacritic. We can see from the above example that finite verbs in English are marked for  $+\text{VAL}$ . The third person singular agreement suffix +s tells us that agreement takes place. A property of this kind of required in order to trigger overt agreement operations inside syntax.

Those heads which phi-agree can be further divided into two groups: those which exhibit full phi-agreement with an argument and those which exhibit only concord. Whether a lexical item exhibits full phi-agreement with an argument or not is determined by feature  $\pm\text{ARG}$ . Negative marking  $-\text{ARG}$  creates concord: phi-

agreement in which the element is not linked with a full argument, but agrees more passively; the positive marking +ARG forces the element to get linked with a full argument. This linking will be interpreted at LF-interface by means of predication: the predicate has +ARG and will, therefore, get linked with its argument. In the above example, the finite verb, or more specifically the finite tense head T/fin, has +ARG and establishes an agreement relation with a full argument, in this case the subject of the sentence *John*.

These features make room for a fourth possibility, a predicate that is linked with an argument, but which does not phi-agree. This group will create *control*, discussed in the next section. The four options are illustrated in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
**Four agreement signatures depending on features  $\pm$ VAL and  $\pm$ ARG.**

	–VAL	+VAL
–ARG	Lexical items which neither exhibit agreement nor require arguments (particles, such as <i>but, also, that, not</i> )	Lexical items which exhibit agreement but do not require linking with arguments (agreement by concord, e.g. <i>piccolo, pienet</i> )
+ARG	Lexical items which do not exhibit agreement but require linking with arguments (control constructions, such as <i>to leave, by leaving</i> )	Lexical items which exhibit agreement and linking with arguments (finite verbs, <i>admires</i> )

What the actual phi-features are and how they are interpreted semantically depends on language. But when an element exhibits phi-agreement with some other element we can always distinguish the two agree-partners on the basis of the role the agreement features play in the semantic interpretation. An argument DP has interpretable and lexical phi-features which are connected directly to the manner it refers to something in the real or imagined extralinguistic world. Thus, *Mary* refers to a third person singular individual; not a plurality of things, for example. These features will be abbreviated as  $\phi$ , but when we want to be more explicit we can also write PHI:NUM:SG for ‘singular number’ and PHI:PER:3 for ‘third person’, and so on. These features are lexically present at least in the head of the DP, the D-element. A predicate, on the other hand, that must be linked with an argument will have phi-features that ‘reflect’ those of an argument. To model this asymmetry, a predicate with +ARG will have *unvalued* phi-features, denote by symbols  $\phi_-$  or PHI:NUM:\_. The term “unvalued” refers to the fact that such features are specified for the type (e.g., number, person) but not for the

value. The value is literally missing and will be provide by the argument with which the predicate is linked with. This is shown in (47), in which I will still ignore the verbal agreement suffix *-s* present in the input.

(47) Mary	[admires	John]
D N	T/fin v V D N	
↓	↓	
PHI:NUM:SG	PHI:NUM: _	
PHI:PER:3	PHI:PER: _	
PHI:DET:DEF	PHI:DET: _	
	+ARG, +VAL	

The operation that fills the unvalued slots is called Agree-1. It values the unvalued features, if any, on the basis of an argument with which the predicate is linked with, if any (48). Agree-1 is applied only to heads with +VAL, which is the reason this feature exists in the system.

(48) Mary	[admires	John]
PHI:NUM:SG	PHI:NUM:SG	
PHI:PER:3	→ PHI:PER:3	
PHI:DET:DEF	PHI:DET:DET	
	Agree <sup>-1</sup>	

As a consequence of valuation, unvalued features disappear. If no suitable argument is found which to you for feature valuation, unvalued features remain. This scenario will be discussed in the next section.

A head with +ARG has unvalued phi-features in its lexical entry, which corresponds with an ‘empty argument hole’ or an ‘argument placeholder’. We can imagine that such functional heads denote unsaturated predicates in the Fregean sense; heads of this type are by their constitution predicates. The functional motivation for Agree-1 is therefore to try to saturate the predicate from the sensory input by locating an argument. This assumption will also explain why predicates are semantically and syntactically relational and require the

presence of at least one other element: they contain, as an intrinsic lexical property, a placeholder for such elements.

The above example shows that some predicates arrive to the language comprehension system with overt agreement information. The third person suffix *+s* already by itself signals the fact that the argument slot of *admires* should be (or is) linked with a third person argument. The pro-drop phenomenon, furthermore, shows that this holds quite literally: in many languages with sufficiently rich agreement no overt phrasal argument is required. Example (49) comes from Italian.

(49) *adoro*            *Luisa*.  
       *admire.1sg*    *Luisa*  
       ‘I admire Luisa.’

Inflectional  $\phi$ -features of predicates, like any inflectional features such as case, are extracted from the input and embedded as morphosyntactic features to the corresponding lexical items (50).

(50) *John*        *admire + s*    *Mary*.  
       ↓            ↓            ↓  
       [*John*    [*admire*    *Mary*]]  
               {...3sg...}

This means that *admires* (or rather T/fin) will have both unsaturated phi-features due to +ARG and saturated phi-features as it arrives to syntax on the basis of the sensory input. Unsaturated features will still require valuation, which triggers Agree-1 (if the predicate is marked for +VAL). The existing valued phi-features, if any, impose two further consequences to the operation. First, Agree-1 must check that if the head already has valued phi-features, no phi-feature conflict arises when it finds a full argument. Thus, a sentence such as \**Mary admire John* will be recognized as ungrammatical by Agree-1. Second, we allow Agree-1 to examine also the valued phi-features inside the head if (and only if) no overt phrasal argument is found. The latter mechanism will create the pro-drop signature. We thus interpret a valued phi-set  $\phi$  inside a head as if it were a ‘truncated pronominal element’, call it *pro*. Sentence (51) should therefore be interpreted literally as ‘I.admire Luisa’.



(51) adoro            Luisa.  
admire.1sg    Luisa  
admire.pro    Luisa  
‘I admire Luisa.’

Agree-1 is limited to local domain, with possible language-specific variation (not yet modeled). It works by searching for DP-arguments inside a local domain such that the D contains valued phi-features that it can use to value its  $\phi_-$ . The local domain is defined by (i) its sister and specifiers inside its sister; (ii) its own specifiers; and (iii) the possible truncated pro-element inside the head itself, in this order. The first suitable element that is found is selected. This is illustrated in (52), with the ordinal numbers (1.-5.) showing the order in which the structure is explored. Here I assume, for generality, that HP and GP contain several specifiers, but this is not the norm.

(52) [<sub>HP</sub> Spec [ Spec [ H [<sub>GP</sub> Spec [ Spec [ G XP ]]]]]]  
DP            DP            pro        DP            DP  
(3.)            (4.)            (5.)        (1.)            (2.)  
|————— Agree-1 —————|

The specifiers and the head of a projection will be called its *edge*. Agree-1 occurs after head reconstruction, adjunct reconstruction and A-bar/A reconstruction and right before the structure is passed on to the LF-interface; thus, it targets elements at their canonical positions. The structure corresponds roughly to the d-structure in the standard theory. The reason nominative argument agrees with the finite verb can now be derived because the nominative case will guide the argument into the SpecvP position just below T/fin, and this position is prioritized by Agree-1 (52).

### 3.12 Antecedents and control

The assumptions specified in the previous section leave room for a situation in which an unvalued phi-feature or a whole phi-set arrives to the LF-interface unvalued. This outcome may occur for two reasons. One possible reason for the presence of unvalued phi-features at the LF-interface is if Agree-1 is not successful and is not

able to locate a suitable DP-argument from the vicinity of the predicate. Another scenario occurs if the predicate has unvalued phi-features (is marked for +ARG) but cannot value these features at all (–VAL). In both cases an unvalued feature or features trigger(s) *LF-recovery* that attempts to find a suitable argument by searching for an *antecedent*. An antecedent is located by establishing an upward path from the triggering feature/head to the antecedent. This can be illustrated by using an English infinitival verbs that do not agree and are therefore marked (by assumption, for the sake of the example) for –VAL. The infinitival verb cannot locate an argument, whether it implements Agree-1 or not, and therefore satisfies its unvalued features by finding an antecedent by means of an LF-recovery, marked by =. The result is an interpretation in which John is both the agent of wanting and the agent of leaving:

(53) John wants to leave<sub>φ<sub>-</sub> = John</sub>

‘John<sub>1</sub> wants: John<sub>1</sub> to leave.’

The upward path (or ‘upstream walk’ in the implementation, when looked as a step-by-step procedure) is defined by an operation which looks at the sister of the head H, evaluates whether it constitutes a potential antecedent and, if not, repeats the operation at the mother of H. If LF-recovery finds no antecedent, the argument is interpreted as generic, corresponding to ‘one’ (54).

(54) To leave<sub>φ<sub>-</sub>=gen(‘one’)</sub> now would be a big mistake.

It may also happen that Agree-1 succeeds only partially, leaving some phi-features unvalued. This is the case with the third-person agreement in Finnish which, unlike first or second person, triggers LF-recovery. Anders Holmberg has argued that this is due Finnish third person agreement suffix being unable to value D<sub>-</sub>. Assume so. Then D<sub>-</sub> triggers LF-recovery at LF, as shown by (55).

(55) Pekka    sanoi    että    nukkuu    hyvin.

Pekka    said    that    sleep.3sg<sub>D<sub>-</sub>=Pekka</sub>    well

‘Pekka said that he (=Pekka) sleeps well.’

This illustrates a situation in which Agree-1 takes place by fails or perhaps succeeds only partially. Overall, this architecture suggests that unsaturated features of predicates must be saturated and, if neither Agree-1 nor

LF-recovery succeeds, they are saturated as being generic as a last resort. Perhaps grammatical heads marked for +ARG are by their very semantic constitution such as they require an argument to be interpretable, and the phi-features provide ‘minimal’ referential properties required to make them intelligible for the conceptual-intentional system.

## 4 Inputs and outputs

### 4.1 General organization

The model was implemented and formalized as a Python 3.x program. It contains three separate components. The first component is a *main script* responsible for performing and managing testing. It reads an input corpus containing test sentences and other input files, such as those containing lexical information, prepares the parser (with some language and/or other environmental variables), runs the whole test corpus with the parser, and processes and stores the results. The architecture is illustrated in Figure 12.

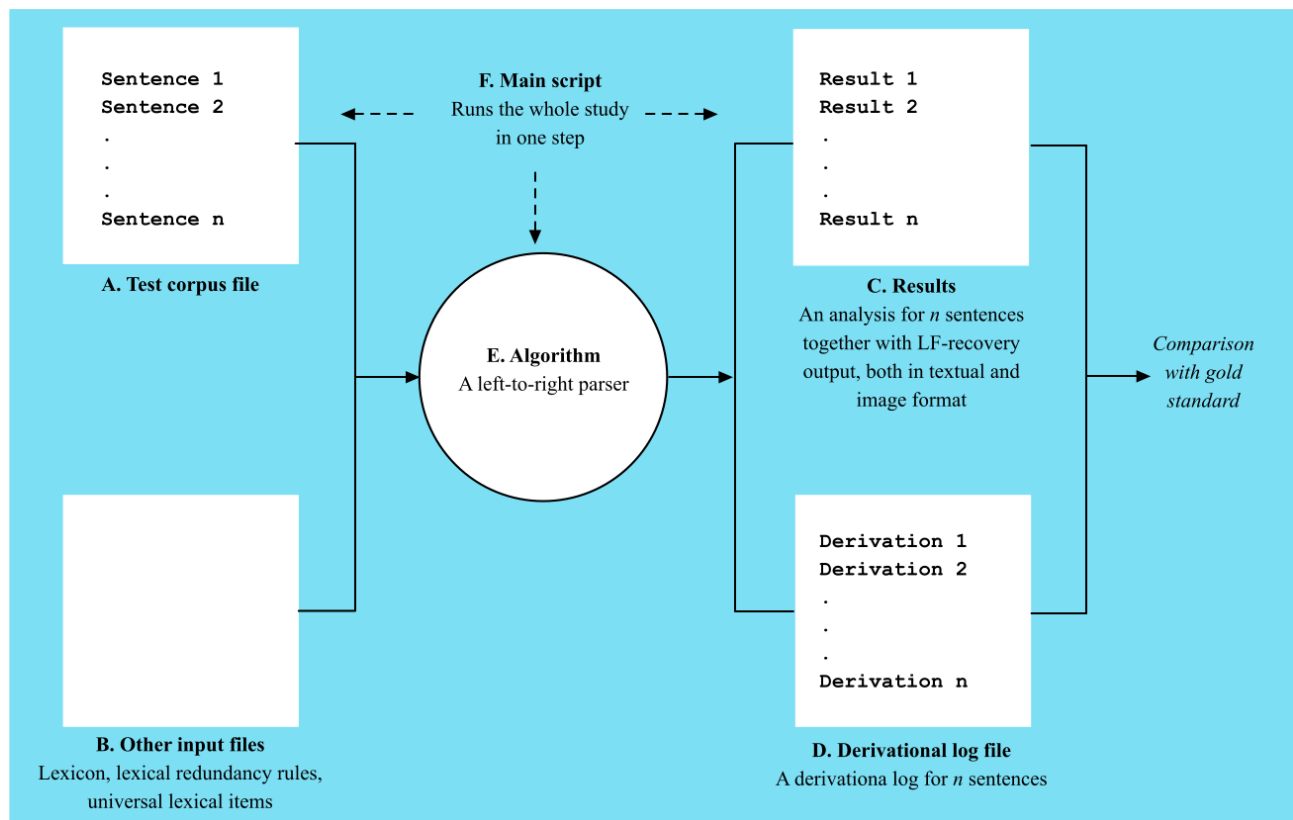


Figure 12. Relationships between the input, main script, linear phase parser and the output.

Any complete study is run by launching the main script once, which provides a mapping between the input files and output files, and which are then all stored as the “raw data” associated with each study. The whole

study is processed by launching the main script once: it processes everything and stops when everything is done. The user cannot and should not interfere in the process during the execution.

The second component is the language comprehension module itself, which receives one sentence as input and produces a set of phrase structures and semantic interpretations as output. That component contains the empirical theory, formalization of the assumptions introduced nontechnically in Section 2. Finally, the program contains support functions, such as logging, printing, and formatting of the results, reporting of various program-internal matters, and others. These are not part of the empirical theory.

The code exists in separate Python text files. The required files are contained in the master folder and in a few subfolders. The individual modules, containing the program code, are ordinary *.py* text files that are all located in the master folder. The main script is called *parse.py*. The main script calls the parser, which uses several other modules, each in its own file that contains definitions for just one module or class. All these files, and thus all program modules, are currently in the same master folder where the main script is. But because individual studies are associated with specific input files (test corpus, lexical files), these are organized into the *language data working directory* subfolder, which contains a further subfolder for each study, published, submitted or in preparation. This allows one to separate different studies from each other. A copy of each lexical file exists also in the language data working directly, which makes it possible to work with one “master lexicon.” If the lexical files existed only inside individual study folders, then there will be parallel lexicons that differ from each other, making hard to keep track of the overall development. Once a study is published, however, a copy of the lexical resources used in that study should be stored in connection with the rest of the study-specific materials inside the specific folder.

To properly replicate a published study also the code is required. The code versions used in connection with any given study are stored in separate folders in the cloud together with the rest of the material associated with that study, including all manuscript versions, correspondence, reviews, figures, and such. This material can be accessed by the author and is provided if needed. In addition, however, the program branches are stored at Github, but because some of the datafiles are very large the ultimate storage medium for any individual study must be the cloud that is able to store huge volumes of data.

The program version numbering follows published studies. Version 1.0 was associated with the first published study, 2.0 with the second, and so on. Pre-publication versions are labeled in a similar way, thus the penultimate version of the model associated with the published study number 1 is 0.99. Version number 6.x, the version associated with the present document, refers to a version have been implemented after study 6. The published studies are the following: 0 = the first versions of the algorithm described in the first versions of this document (Brattico 2019a); 1 = pied-piping and operator movement (Brattico and Chesi 2020); 2 = free word order in Finnish (Brattico 2020c); 3 = control and null arguments (Brattico 2020d); 4 = head movement reconstruction and Finnish long head movement (Brattico 2020e); 5 = first study of clitics and incorporation (Brattico 2020b); 6 = convergence version taking care of all the data (in preparation); 7 = case marking study (submitted).

#### 4.2 Main script (parse.py)

The main script is divided into 4 blocks. It begins by importing other code modules that are required in its internal computations (block 1), which is followed by definitions for input-output files and their names (block 2). The names and folders provided in block 2 define where the input files are located and what names will be used when producing the output. The user defines the folder and the name of the input corpus, and the main script provides default names for everything else. These can be changed into whatever conventions are adopted. Block 3 contains various preparations, such as logging functions, current time, prints information concerning the execution and parameters to the console and reads the test corpus file, based on the names provided inside block 2. Block 4 contains the actual parsing loop which sends each sentence one by one to the parser and then stores the results into the results file, as defined inside block 2. The structure of the main script is summarized in Figure 13.

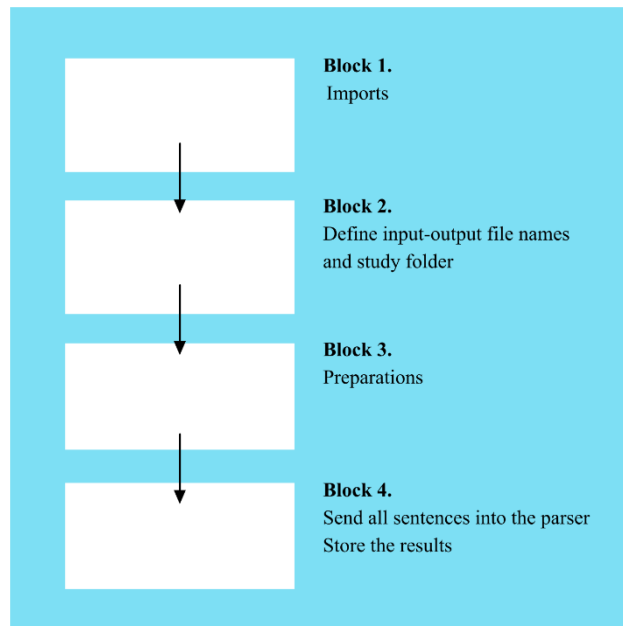


Figure 13. Structure of the main script, which consists of four blocks that are executed in a linear order. The input-output files in block 2 are changed to match the study. The nature of the output – i.e. what type of information we wish to store – is defined inside block 4.

### 4.3 Structure of the input files

#### 4.3.1 Test corpus file (any name)

The test corpus file name is provided in the main script and it can be anything. Certain conventions must be followed when preparing the file. Each sentence is a linear list of phonological words, separated by space from each other and following by next line (return, or \n), which ends the sentence. Words that appear in the input sentences must be found from the lexicon exactly in the form they are provided in the input file, which means that the user must normalize the input. For example, do not use several forms (e.g. *admire* vs. *Admire*) for the same word, do not end the sentence with punctuation, and so on. Depending on the research agenda you might want to consider using a fully disambiguated lexicon.

Special symbols are used to render to output more readable and to help testing. Symbol # in the beginning of the line is read as a comment and is ignored. Symbol & is also read as a comment, but it will appear in the results file as well. This allows the user to leave comments into the results file that would otherwise get populated with raw data only. If a line is prefaced with %, the main script will process only that sentence. This

functionality is used if you want to examine the processing of only one sentence in detail. If you want to examine a group of sentences, they should all be prefaced with + symbol. The rest of the sentences are then ignored. Command =STOP= at the beginning of a line will cause the processing to stop at that point, allowing the user to process only  $n$  first sentences. If we want to process sentences from  $n$ th sentence, we can define that inside the main script block 3. Figure 14 is a screen capture from one test corpus file to illustrate what it looks like.

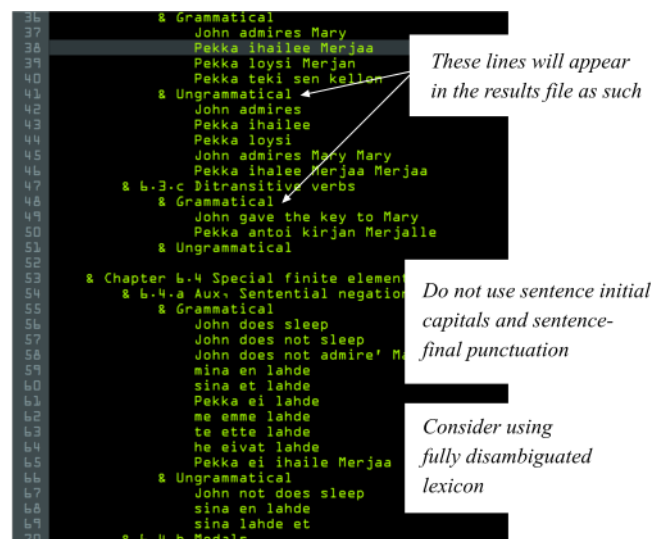


Figure 14. Screen capture of a test corpus file.

#### 4.3.2 Lexical files (lexicon.txt, ug\_morphemes.txt, redundancy\_rules.txt)

The main script uses three lexical resource files that are by default called *lexicon.txt*, *redundancy\_rules.txt* and *ug\_morphemes.txt*. These names are defined in the main script and can be changed by changing the code there. The first contains language specific lexical items, the second a list of universal redundancy rules and the last a list of universal morphemes. Figure 15 illustrates the language-specific lexicon.



```

5 admire :: admire-#v#T/fin#[-D] LANG:EN
6 admire' :: admire-#v LANG:EN
7 admires :: admire-#v#T/fin#[-s] LANG:EN
8 admire- :: PF:admire LF:admire V CLASS:TR -SPEC:Neg -COMP:Neg COMP:D
9
10 adoro :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-o] LANG:IT
11 adori :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-i] LANG:IT
12 adora :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-a] LANG:IT
13 adoriama :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-iamo] LANG:IT
14 adorare :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-te] LANG:IT
15 adorano :: adora-#v#T/fin#[-no] LANG:IT
16 adora- :: PF:adora LF:admire V COMP:D LANG:IT
17
18 anta- :: PF:antaa LF:give V CLASS:DITR -COMP:FIN +SEM:directional LANG:FI
19 antoi :: anta-#v#T/fin#[-V] LANG:FI
20
21 asks :: ask-#v#T/fin#[-s] LANG:EN
22 ask' :: PF:ask LF:ask V SPEC:D COMP:D SEM:internal LANG:EN
23 ask- :: PF:ask LF:ask V SPEC:D COMP:D SEM:internal LANG:EN
24
25 avain_0acc :: avain-#D#[-D_acc]
26 avain_nom :: avain-#D#[-D_nom]
27 avain :: avain-#D#[-nom]
28 avaimen_acc :: avain-#D#[-n_acc]
29 avaimen :: avain-#D#[-n_acc]
30 avaimet :: avain-#D#[-t_acc]#p1
31 avain- :: PF:avain LF:key N LANG:FI -SEM:directional
32
33 auton :: auto-#D#[-n_acc] LANG:FI
34 auto :: auto-#D LANG:FI
35 auto- :: PF:auto LF:car N LANG:FI -SEM:directional
36
37 city :: PF:city LF:city N LANG:EN
38
39 detesto :: detest-#v#T/fin#[-o] LANG:IT

```

Morphological decomposition

List of features associated with a primitive item

Figure 15. Structure of the lexical file (*lexicon.txt*)

Each line in the lexicon file begins with the surface entry that is matched in the input. This is followed by symbol “::” which separates the surface entry from the definition of the lexical item itself. If the surface entry has morphological decomposition, it follows the surface entry and is given in the format ‘*m#m#m#...#m*’ where each item *m* must be found from the lexicon. Symbol # represents morpheme boundary. The individual constituents are thus separated by symbol # which defines the notion of morphological decomposition; do not use this symbol anywhere else in the lexical files. If the element designates a primitive (terminal) lexical item, it has no decomposition; instead, the entry is followed by a list of *lexical features*. Each lexical feature will be inserted as such inside that lexical item, in the *set* constituting that item, when it is streamed into syntax. There is no limit on what these features can be, but narrow syntax and semantic interpretation will obviously register only a finite number of features.

A lexical feature is a string, a “formal pattern” or ultimately a neuronal activation pattern. They do not have further structure and are processed by first-order Markovian operations. The way any given feature reacts inside syntax and semantics is defined by the computations that process these lexical items and the “patterns”

in them.<sup>5</sup> As can be seen from the above screen capture, most features have a ‘type:value’ structure. Figure 16 contains a summary of the most important lexical features that the syntax and semantics reacts in the current model.

LF: __	Semantic access key, concept, meaning, mental image	!SPEC: __	Label of a mandatory specifier
PF: __	Phonological form, surface form	-SPEC: __	Label of an impossible specifier
__	Lexical category (e.g. V, N, A)	SEM: __	Semantic feature
LANG: __	Language	TAIL: __, __	Tail-head set
COMP: __	Label of an acceptable complement	+/-ARG	Presence/absense of unvalued phi
!COMP: __	Label of a mandatory complement	+/-VAL	Presence/absense of valuation (Agree-1)
-COMP: __	Label of an impossible complement	PHI: __: __	Phi-feature of type __ with value __
SPEC: __	Label of an acceptable specifier	ASP	Aspectual head which projects it own event and thematic structure (will have valued in future implementations)

Figure 16. Selection of lexical features

The file *ug\_morphemes.txt* is structured in the same way but contains universal morphemes such as T and v. An important universal feature category is constituted by *inflectional features* such as case features and phi-features. An inflectional feature is designated by the fact that its morphemic decomposition is replaced with symbol “–” or by the word “inflectional”. They are otherwise defined as any other lexical item, namely as a set of features. These features are inserted inside full lexical items during morphological decomposition and streaming of the input into syntax. The word *admires* is processed so that the third person singular features (PHI:NUM:SG, PHI:PER:3) are inserted inside T/fin.

---

<sup>5</sup> They are currently implemented by simple string operations, but in some later iteration all such processing will be replaced by regex processing.

### 4.3.3 Lexical redundancy rules

Lexical redundancy rules are provided in the file *redundancy\_rules.txt* and is used to define default properties of lexical items unless otherwise specified in the language-specific lexicon. Redundancy rules are provided in the form of an implication ‘ $\{f_0, \dots, f_n\} \rightarrow \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ ’ in which the presence of a triggering or antecedent features  $\{f_0, \dots, f_n\}$  in a lexical item will populate features  $g_1, \dots, g_n$  inside the same lexical item. It is illustrated in Figure 17 which is a screen capture from a redundancy rule file.

```

3
4 # Basic lexical categories
5 FORCE :: -ARG -VAL FIN !COMP:* -SPEC:* !PROBE:T/fin COMP:T/fin COMP:C/fin
6 C/fin :: -ARG VAL FIN C SPEC:* !COMP:* -COMP:C/fin -COMP:T/prt COMP:T/fin !PROBE:FIN -SPEC:T/fin
7 T/fin :: ARG VAL T FIN !COMP:* COMP:T/prt COMP:v COMP:V COMP:D !PROBE:V SPEC:D -SPEC:N -SPEC:T
8 T/prt :: ARG VAL T FIN !COMP:* COMP:v COMP:V COMP:T/prt -COMP:NEG !PROBE:V SPEC:D -SPEC:N -SPEC:T
9 T :: ARG VAL FIN !COMP:* COMP:v COMP:V COMP:T/prt -COMP:NEG !PROBE:V SPEC:D -SPEC:N -SPEC:T
10 Neg/fin :: ARG VAL FIN NEG COMP:T/prt -SPEC:T -SPEC:T/fin %SPEC:INF SEM:internal
11 v :: ARG -VAL ASP !COMP:* COMP:V !PROBE:V SPEC:D -SPEC:N
12 v :: ARG -VAL ASP -SPEC:T/fin -SPEC:FORCE SPEC:ADV -COMP:N -COMP:T -COMP:V -COMP:v SPEC:P
13 D :: -ARG VAL OP !COMP:* -COMP:D -SPEC:MA/lla -SPEC:P -SPEC:N -SPEC:INF -SPEC:D -SPEC:V COMP:D
14 N :: -COMP:P -COMP:A -COMP:AUX -SPEC:FORCE -COMP:C/fin SPEC:A COMP:R COMP:R/D -COMP:D -COMP:T
15 P :: ARG -VAL !COMP:* !COMP:D -COMP:N -COMP:ADV -COMP:T/fin -SPEC:iR -SPEC:iWH -SPEC:C/fin
16 ADV :: -SPEC:N -SPEC:FORCE -SPEC:Neg/fin -SPEC:T/fin adjoinable
17 A :: COMP:D TAIL:D -SPEC:A adjoinable
18 INF :: !COMP:* COMP:v COMP:V !PROBE:V -COMP:FORCE -COMP:C/fin -SPEC:T/fin -SPEC:V
19 n :: ARG VAL COMP:D COMP:V COMP:v SPEC:*
20 D :: SPEC:D %SPEC
21

```

↑  
Triggering feature

Features associated with the triggering feature

Figure 17. Lexical redundancy rules, as a screen capture from the *redundancy\_rules.txt* file.

The antecedent features are written to the left side of the :: symbol, and the result features to the right. Both feature lists are provided by separating each feature (string) by whitespace. In Figure 17, all antecedent features are single features.

The lexical resources are processed so that the language-specific sets are created first, followed by the application of the lexical redundancy rules. If a lexical redundancy rule conflicts with a language-specific lexical feature, the latter will override the former. Thus, lexical redundancy rules define “default” features associated with any given triggering feature. They are universal and define a ‘lexical mini grammar’. It is also possible (and in some cases needed) to use language specific redundancy rules. These are represented by pairing the antecedent feature with a language feature (e.g., LANG:FI).

## 4.4 Structure of the output files

### 4.4.1 Results

The name and location of the results output file is determined in the main script. The default name is made up by combining the test corpus name together with “\_results”. Each time the main script is run, the default results file is overridden. Therefore, once you get results that are plausible, it is a useful to rename the results file to save it and compare with new output. The file begins with time stamps together with locations of the input files, followed by a grammatical analysis and other information concerning each example in the test corpus, with each provided with a numeral identifier. What type of information is visible depends on the aims of the study. The example in Figure 19 shows one grammatical analysis together with the output of LF-recovery.

```
1 2020-05-23 09:36:03.815284
2 Test sentences from file "language data working directory\study-3_2020-control\null_subjects_corpus.txt"
3 Logs into file "language data working directory\study-3_2020-control\null_subjects_corpus_log.txt".
4 Lexicon from file "language data working directory\study-3_2020-control\lexicon.txt".
5 & Group 0.1 Example equivalents from the main article -----
6
7 & Example 1 -----
8
9 1. John wants to_inf leave
10
11 [[D John]:1 [T/fin [__]:1 [v [want [to leave]]]]]]
12 LF_Recovery:
13 Agent of leave(John)
14 Agent of to(John)
15 Agent of v(John)
16 Agent of want(John)
17
18 2. John wants Mary to_inf leave
19
20 a. [[D John]:1 [T/fin [__]:1 [v [want [[D Mary]:2 [to [__]:2 leave]]]]]]]]
21 LF_Recovery:
22 Agent of leave(Mary)
23 Agent of v(John)
24 Agent of want(John)
25
26 b. [[D John]:1 [T/fin [__]:1 [v [want [D Mary]]]]]] <to leave>
27 LF_Recovery:
```

*Timestamp and locations of the input files*

*Sentence from the test corpus file with numerical identifier (# 1) provided by the main script*

*Results*

Figure 19. Screen capture from a results file.

The algorithm stores grammaticality judgements into a separate file names “\_grammaticality\_judgements.txt”, which contains the groups, numbers, sentences and grammatical judgments. This is useful if you have a voluminous test corpus and want to evaluate it very efficiently. To do this, first use the same format to create gold standard by using native speaker input, store that data with a separate name, and then compare the algorithm output with the gold standard by using automatic comparison tools.

#### 4.4.2 The log file

The derivational log file, created by default by adding “\_log” into the name of the test corpus file, contains a more detailed report of the computational steps consumed in processing each sentence in the test corpus. The log file uses the same numerical identifiers as the results file. In order to locate the derivation for sentence number 1, for example, you would search for string “# 1” from the log file. What type of information is reported in the log file can be decided freely. By default, however, the log file contains information about (1) the processing and morphological decomposition of the phonological words in the input, (2) application of the ranking principles leading into Merge-1, and (3) transfer operation applied to the final structure when no more input words are analyzed. Intermediate left branch transfer operations are not reported in detail. The beginning of a log file is illustrated in Figure 20, containing examples of operations (1-2).

```
2
3 \=====
4 # 1
5 ['John', 'wants', 'to_inf', 'leave']
6 Using lexicon "language data working directory\study-3_2020-control\lexicon.txt".
7
8     =None
9
10     Next word contains multiple morphemes ['m$', 'hum$', 'def$', '3p$', 'sg$', 'D$', 'John-']
11     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:GEN:M'] into working memory.
12
13     1. Consume "hum$"
14     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:HUM:HUM'] into working memory.
15
16     2. Consume "def$"
17     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:DET:DEF'] into working memory.
18
19     3. Consume "3p$"
20     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:PER:3'] into working memory.
21
22     4. Consume "sg$"
23     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:NUM:SG'] into working memory.
24
25     5. Consume "D$"
26     Adding inflectional features {'LANG:EN', 'PHI:HUM:HUM', 'PHI:GEN:M', 'PHI:NUM:SG', 'PHI:PER:3', '- ',
27     =D
28
29     7. Consume "John"
30
31     D + John
32     Filtering out impossible merge sites...
33     Sink "John" into D because they are inside the same phonological word.
34     =D{N}
35
36     Next word contains multiple morphemes ['[-s]$', 'T/fin$', 'v$', 'want-']
37     Storing inflectional feature ['- ', 'LANG:EN', 'PHI:GEN:F', 'PHI:GEN:M', 'PHI:NUM:SG', 'PHI:PER:3'] in
38
```

Figure 20. Screen capture from the log file. (1) Input sentence and its numerical identifier, together with information concerning the lexicon file used in the processing. (2) The next word is multimorphemic and is decomposed into a list of elements, here both inflectional features and grammatical heads (D, John). (3) Inflectional features are stored into a working memory and are then added to the adjacent D-morpheme. (4) Here we consume the item *John* = N that can be merged-1 with D. The sentence “Sink ‘John’ into D because they are inside the same phonological word” means that N is inserted inside D, as seen in the output D{N}.

Figure 21 illustrates the log file of transfer operations.

```

137
138 >>> Trying candidate spell out structure [[D John] [T/fin{v,V} [to leave]]] 1
139 Checking surface conditions...
140 Reconstructing...
141 1. Head movement reconstruction:
142 Target v{V} in T/fin
143 =[[D John] [T/fin [v{V} [to leave]]]]
144 Target want in v
145 =[[D John] [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
146 =[[D John] [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
147 2. Feature processing:
148 Solving feature ambiguities for "to".
149 =[[D John] [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
150 3. Extraposition:
151 =[[D John] [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
152 4. Floater movement reconstruction:
153 =[[D John] [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
154 5. Phrasal movement reconstruction:
155 [D John] will undergo A-reconstruction.
156 =[[D John]:4 [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
157 6. Agreement reconstruction:
158 Head T/fin triggers Agree-1:
159 T/fin acquired PHI:GEN:M by phi-Agree from __:4.
160 T/fin acquired PHI:NUM:SG by phi-Agree from __:4.
161 T/fin acquired PHI:PER:3 by phi-Agree from __:4.
162 T/fin acquired PHI:DET:DEF from the edge of T/fin.
163 Head to triggers Agree-1:
164 =[[D John]:4 [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
165 7. Last resort extraposition:
166 = [[D John] [T/fin [[D John] [v [want [to leave]]]]]]

```

Figure 21. Transfer in the log file. The first line (1) states the spellout structure to be transferred. The transfer operations then following the order of their execution (2). The end result of each step is prefixed with =.

```

167 Checking LF-interface conditions.
168 Transferring [[D John]:4 [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]] into the conceptual-intentional system...
169 v with ['PHI:DET:', 'PHI:NUM:', 'PHI:PER:'] was associated at LF with:
170 1. [D John] (alternatives: 2. T/fin )
171 want with ['PHI:DET:', 'PHI:NUM:', 'PHI:PER:'] was associated at LF with:
172 1. [D John] (alternatives: 2. T/fin )
173 to with ['PHI:NUM:', 'PHI:PER:'] was associated at LF with:
174 1. [D John] (alternatives: 2. T/fin )
175 leave with ['PHI:DET:', 'PHI:NUM:', 'PHI:PER:'] was associated at LF with:
176 1. [D John] (alternatives: 2. T/fin )
177 Transfer to C-I successful.
178 Semantic interpretation/predicates and arguments: [' ', 'Agent of leave(John)', 'Agent of to(John)', 'Agent of v(J
179 -----
180 All tests passed
181 -----
182 Solution:
183 [[D John] [T/fin [[D John] [v [want [to leave]]]]]
184 Grammar: [[D John]:1 [T/fin [v [want [to leave]]]]]
185 Spellout TT/finP = [DP:1 [TT/fin [v [V [INF V]]]]]
186 -----
187 D:['!COMP:', '!PROBE:CAT:N', '-', '-ARG', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:uR', '-SPEC:D', '-SPEC:N', '-SPEC:Neg/fin', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-SPEC
188 John:['!COMP:ADV', '-COMP:AUX', '-COMP:D', '-COMP:N', '-COMP:P', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:V', '-COMP:WH', '-COMP:v', '-SEM:directiona
189 T/fin:['!COMP:', '!PROBE:CAT:V', '!SPEC:', '-', '-SPEC:FORCE', '-SPEC:N', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-SPEC:V', 'ARG', 'ASP', 'CAT:ARG', 'CA
190 D:['!COMP:', '!PROBE:CAT:N', '-', '-ARG', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:uR', '-SPEC:D', '-SPEC:N', '-SPEC:Neg/fin', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-SPEC
191 John:['!COMP:ADV', '-COMP:AUX', '-COMP:D', '-COMP:N', '-COMP:P', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:V', '-COMP:WH', '-COMP:v', '-SEM:directiona
192 v:['!COMP:', '!PROBE:CAT:V', '!SPEC:D', '-SPEC:N', '-VAL', 'ARG', 'ASP', 'CAT:ARG', 'CAT:ARG/v', 'CAT:v', 'COMP:V', 'SPEC:GEN', 'L
193 want:['!COMP:', '-COMP:ADV', '-COMP:N', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:V', '-SPEC:FORCE', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-SPEC:TO/inf', '-SPEC:V', 'ARG', 'A
194 to:['!COMP:', '!PROBE:CAT:V', '-COMP:C/fin', '-COMP:FORCE', '-COMP:T/fin', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-SPEC:V', '?VAL', 'ARG', 'ASP', 'CAT:A
195 leave:['!SPEC:D', '-COMP:ADV', '-COMP:N', '-COMP:T/fin', '-COMP:TO/inf', '-COMP:V', '-SPEC:FORCE', '-SPEC:T/fin', '-VAL', 'ARG', '
196

```

Figure 22. Post-transfer operations in the log file: (1) LF-interface legibility check which establishes whether the structure can be interpreted semantically and provides information concerning LF-recovery; (2) output, if LF-legibility tests passed; (3) feature content of each element in the output.

#### 4.4.3 Saved vocabulary

Each time a study is run, the program takes a snapshot of the surface vocabulary (lexicon) as it stands after all processing has been done (after each sentence has been processed) and saves it into a separate text file with the suffix *\_saved\_vocabulary.txt*. The reason is because the ultimate lexicon used in each study is synthesized from three sources (language-specific lexicon, universal morphemes and lexical redundancy rules) and thus involves computations and assumptions whose output the user might want to verify. Notice that the complete feature content of each terminal element that occurs in any output solution is stored into the log file together with the solution (Section 4.4.2) and does not appear in this file.

#### 4.4.4 Images of the phrase structure trees

The algorithm stores the parsing output in phrase structure images (PNG format) if the user activates the corresponding functionality. The function can be activated either by using command-line parameters or directly from the main script. The following command-line parameters are currently available:

<code>/images</code>	Produces images for all output solutions
<code>/slow</code>	Allows the user to examine and edit each solution before continuing.
<code>/words</code>	Includes phonological information, i.e. words, to primitive elements.
<code>/glosses</code>	Adds English glosses below the lexical items
<code>/sentences</code>	Prints the input sentence together with the image
<code>/nolabels</code>	Do not print any labels
<code>/spellout</code>	Prints an image also of the spellout configuration(s)
<code>/cases</code>	Adds structural case labels

Corresponding variables can be easily located from the main script and changed directly from there if required.

Images are stored into folder *phrase\_structure\_images* under the working directory (if the folder does not exist, the program will create it). The files are named according to the numbering generated during processing,

and thus they match with the number identifiers found from results files and derivational log files. When the user activates the slow mode (/slow), each image must be saved manually, if needed, by pressing 'S'.

Figure 23 illustrates the phrase structure representation generated for a simple transitive clause in English, when produced without any lexical information.

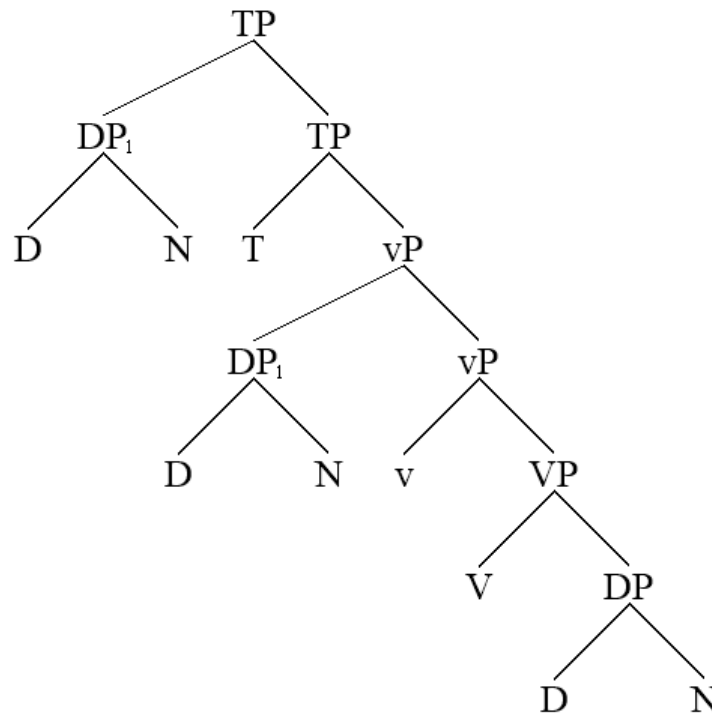


Figure 23. A simple phrase structure image generated by the algorithm for a simple transitive clause *John admires Mary*.

The lexical category labels shown in these images are drawn from the list of major categories defined at the beginning of the *phrase\_structure.py* module. If the label of an element is not recognized, it will appear as X (and XP for phrases).

As pointed out above, it is possible to add lexical information to the primitive items. This is useful tool when examining the output but overlapping text may sometimes create unappealing visualizations. In that case, the user might want to edit the figure manually. To do this, first activate the slow mode (parameter /slow) which halts the processing after each image. The user can edit the image while it is displayed on the screen. You can



select a node in the tree by using the mouse, and then move it either by using cursor keys or by dragging with a mouse. Pressing 'R' will reset the image. Once you have done all required edits, press 'S' to save the image and close the window to proceed to the next image. If the user wants to add textual fields or other ornamentation to the image, this should be done in a separate program (such as Adobe Illustrator). If you close the image without saving, it will not be saved.

#### 4.4.5 How to add own log entries

The user can add your own logging entries directly inside the code. The command is `log('information to be logged')`.

## 5 Grammar formalization

### 5.1 Basic grammatical notions (phrase\_structure.py)

#### 5.1.1 Introduction

The class `PhraseStructure` (defined in *phrase\_structure.py*) defines the phrase structure objects that are manipulated at each stage of the processing pipeline. Phrase structure is assumed to be a generalization from linearization. The binary unit  $[\alpha, \beta]$  represents a linearization or sensorimotoric programming of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Recursion allows either  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  to be substituted with another similar unit, where linearization of  $[\alpha, \beta]$  is ‘interrupted’ and  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  is linearized first.

#### 5.1.2 Types of phrase structure constituents

##### 5.1.2.1 *Primitive constituents*

A constituent is *primitive* if and only if it does not have both the left and right constituent.

```
def is_primitive(self):  
    return not (self.right_const and self.left_const)
```

It follows from this definition that a constituent that has zero or one constituents is primitive.

##### 5.1.2.2 *Complex constituents; left and right daughters*

A constituent is *complex* if and only if it is not primitive.

```
def is_complex(self):  
    return not self.is_primitive()
```

It follows that a complex constituent must have a *left constituent* and a *right constituent*. These notions are defined as follows.

```
def is_left(self):  
    return self.mother and self.mother.left_const == self
```

```
def is_right(self):
    return self.mother and self.mother.right_const == self
```

### 5.1.2.3 Externalization and visibility

Adjuncts are *externalized*, and those constituents that have not been externalized are also called *visible*.

```
def externalized(self):
    return self.adjunct
```

```
def visible(self):
    return not self.externalized()
```

### 5.1.2.4 Sisters

Two constituents are *geometrical sisters* if they occur inside the same constituent. The right constituent constitutes the geometrical sister of the left constituent, and vice versa.

```
def geometrical_sister(self):
    if self.is_left():
        return self.mother.right_const
    if self.is_right():
        return self.mother.left_const
```

The notion of geometrical sister refers to a relation of sisterhood that is defined purely in terms of phrase structure geometry. We will often use a narrower notion, called simply *sister*, that ignores adjuncts.

```
def sister(self):
    while self.mother:
        if self.is_left():
            if self.geometrical_sister().visible():
                return self.geometrical_sister()
            else:
                self = self.mother
        if self.is_right():
            if self.visible():
                return self.geometrical_sister()
            else:
                return None
    return None
```

This definition introduces two extra conditions: the right sister of a left sister must be visible, and the left constituent of a right constituent can constitute its sister only if the right constituent is visible. In effect, the definition ignores invisible right constituents. We will examine the meaning of this definition later.

### 5.1.2.5 Proper complement and complement

A *proper complement* of a constituent is its right sister.

```
def proper_complement(self):
    if self.sister() and self.sister().is_right():
        return self.sister()
```

A (regular) *complement* is defined as the same relation as sisterhood.

#### 5.1.2.6 Heads and labels

Labeling algorithm is based on (56).

##### (56) Labeling

Suppose  $\alpha$  is a complex phrase. Then

- a. if the left constituent of  $\alpha$  is primitive, it will be the label; otherwise,
- b. if the right constituent of  $\alpha$  is primitive, it will be the label; otherwise,
- c. if the right constituent is not an adjunct, apply (16) recursively to it; otherwise,
- d. apply (16) to the left constituent (whether adjunct or not).

```
def head(self):
    if self.is_primitive():
        return self
    if self.left_const.is_primitive():
        return self.left_const
    if self.right_const.is_primitive():
        return self.right_const
    if self.right_const.externalized():
        return self.left_const.head()
    return self.right_const.head()
```

#### 5.1.2.7 Complex heads and affixes

A constituent constitutes a *complex head* and contains one or several internal parts if and only if it has the right constituent but not the left constituent. The orphan right constituent will hold an internal morpheme. Notice that a complex head is a primitive constituent despite containing a constituent.

```
def has_affix(self):
    return self.right_const and not self.left_const

def is_complex_head(self):
    return self.is_primitive() and self.has_affix()

def get_affix_list(self):
    lst = [self]
    while self.right_const and not self.left_const:
        lst.append(self.right_const)
        self = self.right_const
    return lst
```

We can define *terminal node* as a constituent that is primitive but does not have any affix.

```
def terminal_node(self):
    return self.is_primitive() and not self.has_affix()
```

### 5.1.2.8 Minimal search, geometrical minimal search and upstream search

Several operations require that the phrase structure is explored in a pre-determined order. In a typical scenario, minimal search from  $\alpha$  explores the right edge of  $\alpha$  in a downstream direction: left branches are phases and are not visited. Thus, minimal search from  $[\alpha \beta]$  goes into  $\beta$ . The operation of right edge exploration would be trivial to define were there no right-adjuncts; thus, right-adjuncts are externalized and hence ignored when exploring the right edge (by definition of “right edge,” which applies to current working space only). Thus, the right edge of  $[\alpha, \beta]$  is  $\beta$ , but the right edge of  $[\alpha, \langle \beta \rangle]$  is  $\alpha$ . (There is a separate notion, geometrical minimal search, which does not ignore adjuncts.) The following terminology is consistently used in the code and in the publications. *Downstream* is defined by downstream search, thus in a typical case it denotes  $\beta$  in  $[_{\beta P} \alpha \beta]$ . *Geometrical downstream* always denotes  $\beta$  in  $[\alpha \beta]$ . *Leftward* is defined by the left constituent when downstream points to the right constituent (e.g.,  $\alpha$  in  $[_{\beta P} \alpha \beta]$ ). *Rightward* is defined by the right constituent when downstream points to the left constituent (e.g.,  $\beta$  in  $[_{\alpha P} \alpha, \langle \beta \rangle]$ ). *Upward* denotes the mother constituent (e.g.,  $[\alpha \beta]$  for  $\alpha, \beta$ ).

Minimal search on  $\alpha$  constitutes an operation that crawls downwards on the right edge of  $\alpha$ . It is defined by creating an iteration over phrase structure that is then used in a simple *for* loop. Thus, the definition for minimal search itself is given as follows.

```
def minimal_search(self):
    return [node for node in self]
```

The more important part is contained in the definition for `__getitem__` function that allows us to enumerate the constituents of a phrase structure.

```
def __getitem__(self, position):
    iterator_ = 0
    ps_ = self
    while ps_:
        if iterator_ == position:
            return ps_
        if ps_.is_primitive():
            raise IndexError
        else:
            if ps_.head() == ps_.right_const.head(): # [_YP XP YP] = YP
                ps_ = ps_.right_const
            else:
                if ps_.left_const.is_complex(): # [_XP XP <YP>] = XP
                    ps_ = ps_.left_const
                else:
                    if ps_.right_const.externalized(): # [X <YP>] = X
                        ps_ = ps_.left_const
                    else:
                        ps_ = ps_.right_const # [X Y] = Y
            iterator_ = iterator_ + 1
```

*Geometrical minimal search* depends on the phrase structure geometry alone and does not respect labelling and visibility.

```
def geometrical_minimal_search(self):
    search_list = [self]
    while self.is_complex() and self.right_const:
        search_list.append(self.right_const)
        self = self.right_const
    return search_list
```

An *upstream search* is based on dominance and motherhood relation.

```
def upstream_search(self):
    path = []
    while self.mother:
        path.append(self.mother)
        self = self.mother
    return path
```

#### 5.1.2.9 Edge and local edge

The *edge* of a constituent contains left complex constituents inside its own projection together with features of the head itself.

```
def edge(self):
    edge = []
    # ----- minimal upstream path -----#
    for node in self.upstream_search():
        if node.head() != self:
            break
        if node.left_const and node.left_const.is_complex():
            edge.append(node.left_const)
    #-----#
    if not edge and self.extract_pro():
        edge.append(self.extract_pro())
    return edge
```

This definition implies that if no complex left phrases are present, the edge may contain pro-elements that it reconstructs from the phi-features of the head. *Local edge* is defined as the first element in the edge.

```
def local_edge(self):
    if self.edge():
        return self.edge()[0]
```

### 5.1.3 Basic structure building

#### 5.1.3.1 Cyclic Merge

Simple Merge takes two constituents  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and yields  $[\alpha, \beta]$ ,  $\alpha$  being the left constituent,  $\beta$  the right constituent.

It is implemented in the class constructor function (`__init__`), which takes  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  as arguments and return a new constituent.

### 5.1.3.2 Countercyclic Merge-1

Countercyclic Merge-1 (*merge\_1*( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , *direction*)) is a more complex operation. It targets a constituent  $\alpha$  inside an existing phrase structure and creates a new constituent  $\gamma$  by merging  $\beta$  either to the left or right of  $\alpha$ :  $\gamma = [\alpha$ ,  $\beta]$  or  $[\beta$ ,  $\alpha]$ . This, if we have a phrase structure  $[X... \alpha ... Y]$ , then Merge-1 generates either (a) or (b).

(57)

a.  $[X...[_\gamma \alpha \beta]... Y]$

b.  $[X...[_\gamma \beta \alpha]... Y]$

Constituent  $\gamma$  then replaces  $\alpha$  in the phrase structure, with the phrase structural relations updated accordingly. Both Merge to the right and left, and both countercyclically and by extending the structure, are allowed. The range of options is compensated by the restricted conditions under which each operation is allowed. The fact that Merge-1 dissolves into separate processes is reflected in the code, which therefore contains three separate functions: the first (*local\_structure*()) obtains a snapshot of the local structure around  $\alpha$  (its mother and position in the left-right axis), the second creates  $[\alpha \beta]$  or  $[\beta \alpha]$  (*asymmetric\_merge*()), and the third (*substitute*()) substitutes  $\alpha$  with the new constituent  $[\alpha \beta]$  by using local constituent relations recorded by the first operation.

```
def merge_1(self, C, direction=''):
    local_structure = self.local_structure()
    new_constituent = self.asymmetric_merge(C, direction)
    new_constituent.substitute(local_structure)
    return new_constituent.top()

# [X...self...Y]
# A = [self H] or [H self]
# [X...A...Y]

def asymmetric_merge(self, B, direction='right'):
    if direction == 'left':
        new_constituent = PhraseStructure(B, self)
    else:
        new_constituent = PhraseStructure(self, B)
    return new_constituent

def substitute(self, local_structure):
    if local_structure.mother:
        if not local_structure.left:
            local_structure.mother.right_const = self
        else:
            local_structure.mother.left_const = self
        self.mother = local_structure.mother

def local_structure(self):
    local_structure = namedtuple('local_structure', 'mother left')
    local_structure.mother = self.mother
    local_structure.left = self.is_left()
    return local_structure
```

### 5.1.3.3 Remove

An inverse of countercyclic Merge-1 is remove ( $\alpha.remove()$ ), which removes constituent  $\alpha$  from the phrase structure and repairs the hole. This operation is used when the parser attempts to reconstruct movement: it merges elements into candidate positions and removes them if they do not satisfy a given set of criteria.

```
def remove(self):
    if self.mother:
        mother = self.mother
        sister = self.geometrical_sister()
        grandparent = self.mother.mother
        sister.mother = sister.mother.mother
        if mother.is_right():
            grandparent.right_const = sister
        elif mother.is_left():
            grandparent.left_const = sister
        self.mother = None
```

# {H, X}  
# X  
# {Y {H, X}}  
# Y  
# {Y X} (removed H)  
# {X Y} (removed H)  
# detach H

### 5.1.3.4 Detachment

*Detachment* refers to a process that cuts part of the phrase structure out of its host structure.

```
def detach(self):
    if self.mother:
        original_mother = self.mother
        self.mother = None
    else:
        original_mother = None
    return original_mother
```

## 5.1.4 Nonlocal grammatical dependencies

### 5.1.4.1 Probe-goal: *probe(label, goal\_feature)*

Suppose P is the probe head, G is the goal feature, and  $\alpha$  is its (non-adjunct) sister in configuration [P,  $\alpha$ ]; then:

#### (58) Probe-goal

Under [P,  $\alpha$ ], G the goal feature, search for G from left constituents by going downwards inside  $\alpha$  along its right edge (thus, ignoring right adjuncts and left branches).

For everything else than criterial features, G must be found from a primitive head to the left of the right edge node. Thus, if [H,  $\alpha$ ] is at the right edge and H is a primitive constituent, feature G is searched from H. If H is complex, it will not be explored (unless G is a criterial feature). The fact that criterial feature search must be separate from the search of other types of features suggest that we are missing some piece of the whole puzzle. The present implementation has an intervention clause which blocks further search if a primitive constituent



is encountered at left that has the same label as the probe, but the matter must be explored in a detailed study. Consider again the case of  $C \rightarrow T$ . When C searches for T, it cannot satisfy the probe-feature by going through another (embedded) C. If it did, lower T would be paired with two C-heads; this is semantically gibberish. Therefore, there is a “functional motivation” for the intervention condition.

```
def probe(self, feature, G):
    if self.sister():
        # ----- minimal search -----
        for node in self.sister():
            if G in node.inside_path().features:
                return True
            if G[4] == 'TAIL' and G[5:] in node.left_const.scan_criterial_features():
                return True
            if node.intervention(feature):
                break
        # -----

def inside_path(self):
    if self.is_primitive():
        return self
    if self.is_complex:
        return self.left_const.head()

def intervention(self, feature):
    feature.issubset(self.inside_path().features)
```

#### 5.1.4.2 Tail-head relations

A tail-head relation is triggered by a lexical feature (TAIL:  $F_1, \dots, F_N$ ),  $F \dots$  being the feature or set of features that is being searched from a head. In order for F to be visible for the constituent containing the tail-feature, say T, F must occur in a primitive left head H at the upward path from T. An upward path is the path that follows the mother-of relation. For the tail-head relation to be satisfied, all tail-features (if there are several) must be satisfied by the one and the same head. Partial feature match results in failure (and termination of search). Thus, if T has a tail feature (TAIL:F,G), but A has the feature F without G, the tail-head relation fails.

There is certain ambiguity in how the results of a tail-head relation are interpreted. One interpretation is that if full match is not found, the dependency fails. Another is that only the existence of partial match results in a failure; if nothing is matched, the test is still a success. The latter tests if an element is in a “wrong place,” the former if it is in the “right place.” Both type of tests are useful but in slightly different contexts. The former test is called *external tail-head test*, the latter *internal tail-head test*. The former (external test) is used when checking if a constituent with tail-head features must be moved to another position, in which it would satisfy the test. The latter (internal test) is applied when fitting a constituent with a case suffix and examining if it

would appear under a wrong case assigner in that position; here only the presence of a wrong case assigners (tail-head feature) results in a failure, we don't care if nothing is matched.

```
def external_tail_head_test(self):
    tail_sets = self.get_tail_sets()
    tests_checked = set()
    for tail_set in tail_sets:
        if self.strong_tail_condition(tail_set):
            tests_checked.add(tail_set)
        if self.weak_tail_condition(tail_set):
            tests_checked.add(tail_set)
    return tests_checked & tail_sets == tail_sets

def internal_tail_head_test(self):
    tail_sets = self.get_tail_sets()
    if tail_sets:
        for tail_set in tail_sets:
            if self.weak_tail_condition(tail_set, 'internal'):
                return True
            else:
                return False
    return True

def strong_tail_condition(self, tail_set):
    if self.get_max() and \
        self.get_max().mother and \
        self.get_max().mother.head().match_features(tail_set) == 'complete match' and \
        'D' not in self.features:
        return True

def weak_tail_condition(self, tail_set, variation='external'):
    if 'ADV' not in self.features and len(self.feature_vector()) > 1:
        for const in self.feature_vector()[1:]:
            for m in const.get_affix_list():
                test = m.match_features(tail_set)
                if test == 'complete match':
                    return True
                elif test == 'partial match':
                    return False
                elif test == 'negative match':
                    return False
    if variation=='external' and not self.negative_features(tail_set):
        return False # Strong test: reject (tail set must be checked)
    else:
        return True # Weak test: accept still (only look for violations)

def get_max(self):
    ps_ = self
    while ps_.mother and ps_.mother.head() == self.head():
        ps_ = ps_.walk_upstream()
    return ps_

def match_features(self, features_to_check):
    positive_features = self.positive_features(features_to_check)
    negative_features = self.negative_features(features_to_check)
    if negative_features & self.features:
        return 'negative match'
    elif positive_features:
        if positive_features & self.features == positive_features:
            return 'complete match'
        elif positive_features & self.features:
            return 'partial match'

def negative_features(self, features_to_check):
    return {feature[1:] for feature in features_to_check if feature[0] == '*'}

def positive_features(self, features_to_check):
    return {feature for feature in features_to_check if feature[0] != '*'}

def get_tail_sets(self):
    return {frozenset((feature[5:].split(',') for feature in self.head().features if feature[4] == 'TAIL')}
```

## 5.2 Transfer (transfer.py)

### 5.2.1 Introduction

Movement reconstruction is a reflex-like operation that is applied to a phrase structure  $\alpha$  and takes place without interruption from the beginning to the end. From an external point of view, it constitutes ‘one’ step; internally the operation consists of a sequence of steps. All movement inside  $\alpha$  is implemented if and only if Merge-1( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ )(Section 3.4). The operation targets  $\alpha$  and follows a predetermined order: head movement reconstruction  $\rightarrow$  adjunct movement reconstruction  $\rightarrow$  A’/A-movement reconstruction  $\rightarrow$  agreement reconstruction (i.e. Merge-1  $\rightarrow$  Move-1  $\rightarrow$  Agree-1).

```
log(log_embedding + '1. Head movement reconstruction:')
ps = head_movement.reconstruct(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '2. Feature processing:')
feature_process.disambiguate(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '3. Extraposition:')
extraposition.reconstruct(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '4. Floater movement reconstruction:')
ps = floater_movement.reconstruct(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '5. Phrasal movement reconstruction:')
phrasal_movement.reconstruct(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '6. Agreement reconstruction:')
agreement.reconstruct(ps)
log(log_embedding + f'={ps}')
```

```
log(log_embedding + '7. Last resort extraposition:')
extraposition.last_resort_reconstruct(ps)

return ps
```

### 5.2.2 Head movement reconstruction (head\_movement.py)

Head movement reconstruction of  $[[_{\alpha}\emptyset, \beta], \gamma]$  can take place in one of two ways:

(59) Head movement reconstruction of  $[[_{\alpha}\emptyset, \beta], \gamma]$  can follow (a.) or (b.)

- a.  $[[\alpha, \beta], \gamma]$ ,
- b.  $[\alpha [\gamma \dots \beta \dots]]$ .

Option (a) will be selected if  $\alpha$  is complex head with label D, P or A and  $[\alpha, \beta]$  satisfies LF-legibility (Section 5.4). In that case no further reconstruction operation will be applied to  $\alpha$ . Otherwise option (b) is selected.

```
def reconstruct(self, ps):
    if ps.is_complex():
```

```

        ps = self.reconstruct_head_movement(ps)
    elif ps.is_complex_head() and self.left_branch_constituent(ps) and self.LF_legible(ps):
        return self.reconstruct_head_movement(ps)
    return ps

```

```

def left_branch_constituent(self, ps):
    return 'D' in ps.features or 'P' in ps.features or 'A' in ps.features

```

```

def LF_legible(self, ps):
    return self.reconstruct_head_movement(ps.copy()).LF_legibility_test().all_pass()

```

Head reconstruction (*reconstruct\_head\_movement()*) travels downward on the right edge of  $\alpha$ , targets primitive constituents  $\beta$  at the left that have an affix  $\phi$  [ $\beta \emptyset \phi$ ] and drops the head/affix  $\phi$  downstream if a suitable position is found.

```

def reconstruct_head_movement(self, phrase_structure):

    # ----- minimal search -----#
    for node in phrase_structure:
        if self.detect_complex_head(node):
            complex_head = self.detect_complex_head(node)
            self.controlling_parser_process.number_of_head_Move += 1
            intervention_feature = self.determine_intervention_feature(complex_head)
            self.create_head_chain(complex_head, self.get_affix_out(complex_head),
                                   intervention_feature)
    #-----#
    return phrase_structure.top()

def detect_complex_head(h):
    if h.is_primitive() and h.has_affix():
        return h
    elif h.left_const and h.left_const.is_primitive() and h.left_const.has_affix():
        return h.left_const

```

Dropping is implemented by fitting the head to the left of each node at the right edge, thus at positions X in  $[X \alpha]$ . The position is accepted as soon as one of these conditions is met: (i) the head  $\phi$  has no EPP feature and can be selected in that position by a higher head (*head\_is\_selected()*); (ii) it has an EPP feature, has a local specifier, and can be selected in that position by a higher head (*extra\_condition()*).

```

def reconstruction_is_successful(self, affix):
    if not self.head_is_selected(affix):
        return False
    if not self.extra_condition(affix):
        return False
    return True

```

Heads are reconstructed “as soon as a potential position is found.” If head reconstruction reaches the bottom, it will try to reconstruct the head to a position around the bottom node, possibly first reconstructing it if it is complex. If no legitimate position is still missing, the head will be reconstructed locally to  $[\alpha [\phi XP]]$  as a last resort; an unreconstructed head crashes at LF-legibility.

```
def create_head_chain(self, complex_head, affix, intervention_feature):
    if self.no_structure_for_reconstruction(complex_head):
        self.reconstruct_to_sister(complex_head, affix)
    else:
        # ----- minimal search -----#
        phrase_structure = complex_head.sister()
        for node in phrase_structure:
            if self.causes_intervention(node, intervention_feature, phrase_structure):
                self.last_resort(phrase_structure, affix)
                return
            node.merge_l(affix, 'left')
            if self.reconstruction_is_successful(affix):
                return
            affix.remove()
        # -----#
        # Still no solution
        if self.try_manipulate_bottom_node(node, affix):
            return
        else:
            affix.remove()
        self.last_resort(phrase_structure, affix)
```

As shown by the code above, search will also terminate if there is *intervention*.

```
def causes_intervention(node, feature, phrase_structure):
    if node != phrase_structure.minimal_search()[0] and feature in node.sister().features:
        return True
```

Intervention depends on the intervention feature defined by the feature of the complex head.

```
def determine_intervention_feature(self, node):
    if node.has_op_feature():
        return 'D'
    else:
        return '!COMP:*
```

Last resort is defined as follows.

```
def last_resort(self, phrase_structure, affix):
    phrase_structure.merge_l(affix, 'left')
```

### 5.2.3 Adjunct reconstruction (adjunct\_reconstruction.py)

Adjunct reconstruction begins from the top of the phrase structure  $\alpha$  and targets floater phrases at the left and to the right (e.g., DP at the bottom). If a floater is detected, it will be dropped.

```
def reconstruct(self, ps):
    # ----- minimal search -----#
    for node in ps.top().minimal_search():
        floater = self.detect_floater(node)
        if floater:
            log(f'\t\t\t\t\tDropping {floater}')
            self.drop_floater(floater, ps)
    # -----#
    return ps.top() # Return top, because it is possible that an adjunct expands the structure
```

A left floater has the following necessary properties:

(60) *A definition of a left floater*

XP is a *floater* if and only if

- (i) it is complex;
- (ii) it has not been floated already;
- (iii) it has a tail set;
- (iv) it is adjoinable;
- (v) it has no criterial features.

```
def detect_left_floater(self, ps):
    if ps.is_complex() and \
        ps.left_const.is_complex() and \
        not ps.left_const.find_me_elsewhere and \
        ps.left_const.head().get_tail_sets() and \
        'adjoinable' in ps.left_const.head().features and \
        '-adjoinable' not in ps.left_const.head().features and \
        not ps.scan_criterial_features():
        return True
```

Actual floating is triggered by three separate sufficient conditions: (1) the phrase fails the tail-head test; (2) the phrase occurs in finite EPP specifier position; (3) the phrase is a specifier position that is not projected.

```
def detect_floater(self, ps):
    if self.detect_left_floater(ps):
        floater = ps.left_const
        if not floater.head().external_tail_head_test():
            log('\t\t\t\t\t' + floater.illustrate() + ' failed to tail ' + illu(floater.head().get_tail_sets()))
            return floater
        if floater.mother and floater.mother.head().EPP() and 'FIN' in floater.mother.head().features:
            log('\t\t\t\t\t' + floater.illustrate() + ' is in an EPP SPEC position.')
            return floater
        if floater.mother and '-SPEC:*' in floater.mother.head().features and floater == floater.mother.head().local_edge():
            log('\t\t\t\t\t' + floater.illustrate() + ' is in an specifier position that cannot be projected.')
            return floater
```

Condition (2) is required when the adverbial and/or another type of floater occurs in the specifier of a finite head where its tail features are (wrongly) satisfied by something in the *selecting* clause. The EPP-feature indicates that the adverbial/floater must reconstruct into its own clause, and not to remain in the high specifier position. In both cases, it is judged to be in a “wrong” position. Right floaters have slightly different properties in the current implementation, because they do not occur in the specifier positions.

```
def detect_right_floater(self, ps):
    if ps.is_complex() and \
        ps.right_const.head().get_tail_sets() and \
        'adjoinable' in ps.right_const.head().features and \
        '-adjoinable' not in ps.right_const.head().features:
        return True
```

Right and left adjunct handling should be unified in the future, but the unification requires extensive empirical adjunct testing. After a floater is detected, it will be *dropped*. Dropping is implemented by first locating the closest finite tense node.

```
def local_tense_edge(self, ps):
    # ----- upstream search ----- #
    for node in ps.upstream_search():
        if 'FIN' in node.head().features and node.sister().is_primitive() and 'FIN' not in node.sister().head().features:
            break
    # ----- #
    return node
```

Starting from that and moving downstream, the floater is fitted into each possible position. Adverbials and PPs are fitted to the right, everything else to left. Fitting of left adjuncts involves three conditions:

#### (61) *Fitting a floater*

$\alpha$  can be fitted into position P if and only if

- (i) tail-head features are satisfied (Section 5.2.4),
- (ii) P is not the same position where  $\alpha$  was found,
- (iii) P is not a local specifier position.

```
def conditions_for_left_adjuncts(self, floater, starting_point_head):
    if floater.head().external_tail_head_test() and self.license_to_specifier_position(floater):
        return True

def license_to_specifier_position(self, floater, starting_point_head):
    if not floater.container_head():
        return True
    if floater.container_head() == starting_point_head:
        return False
    if '-SPEC:*' in floater.container_head().features:
        return False
    if not floater.container_head().selector():
        return True
    if '-ARG' not in floater.container_head().selector().features:
        return True
```

Adverbials and PPs will be merged to right, they have to observe only (i).

```
def conditions_for_right_adjuncts(self, floater):
    if floater.head().external_tail_head_test():
        if self.is_right_adjunct(floater):
            return True
```

The current implementation therefore separates the adjunct conditions for left and right adjuncts. This reflects the fact that they have very different status in the system.

```

def is_drop_position(self, ps, floater_copy, starting_point_head):
    if self.conditions_for_right_adjuncts(floater_copy):
        return True
    if self.conditions_for_left_adjuncts(floater_copy, starting_point_head):
        return True

```

The floater is promoted into an adjunct, i.e. externalized, once a suitable position is found. This will allow it to be treated correctly by selection, labeling and so on.

```

def drop_floater(self, floater, ps):
    starting_point_head = floater.container_head()
    floater_copy = floater.copy()
    # ----- minimal search -----#
    for node in self.local_tense_edge(floater.mother).minimal_search():
        if self.termination_condition(node, floater):
            break
        self.merge_floater(node, floater_copy)
        if self.is_drop_position(node, floater_copy, starting_point_head):
            if not floater.adjunct:
                self.adjunct_constructor.create_adjunct(floater)
                dropped_floater = floater.copy_from_memory_buffer(self.babtize())
                self.merge_floater(node, dropped_floater)
                self.controlling_parser_process.number_of_phrasal_Move += 1
                floater_copy.remove()
                log(f'\t\t\t\t\t = {ps}')
            return
        floater_copy.remove()
    # -----#

```

#### 5.2.4 External tail-head test

External tail-head is defined in the following way.

(62) A head  $\alpha$ 's tail features are checked if either (a.) or (b.).

- a. The tail-features are checked by a c-commanding head;
- b.  $\alpha$  is located inside a projection of a head having the tail features.

Tail features are checked in sets: if a c-commanding (a) or containing (b) head checks all features of such a set, the result of the test is positive. If matching is only partial, negative. If the tail-features are not matched by anything, the test result is also negative. Thus, the test ensures that constituents that are “linked” at LF with a head of certain type, as determined by the tail features, can be so linked. All c-commanding heads are analyzed; this implements the feature vector system of (Salo 2003). There are several reasons why checking must be nonlocal, long-distance structural case assignment and checking of negative polarity items being a few.

#### 5.2.5 A'/A-reconstruction Move-1 (phrasal\_movement.py)

Suppose A'/A-reconstruction (Move-1) is applied to  $\alpha$ . The operation begins from the top of  $\alpha$  and searches downstream for primitive heads at the left or (bottom) right. Three conditions separate are checked, each leading into different action:



(63) *The three conditions of A/A-bar reconstruction*

- (i) If the head  $\alpha$  lacks a specifier it ought to have on the basis of its lexical features (e.g.  $v$ ), memory buffer is searched for a suitable constituent and, if found, is merged to the SPEC position (*push*);
- (ii) If the head  $\alpha$  has the EPP property and has a specifier or several, they are stored into the memory buffer (*pull*);
- (iii) If the head  $\alpha$  misses a complement that it ought to have on the basis of its lexical features, the memory buffer is consulted and, if one is found, it will be merged to the complement position (*push*).

The phrase structure is explored, one head at a time, checking all three conditions for each head. The memory buffer is implemented by the controlling parser process.

```
def reconstruct(self, ps):
    self.controlling_parser_process.syntactic_working_memory = []
    # ----- minimal search -----#
    for node in ps.minimal_search():
        if self.visible_head(node):
            self.pull(self.visible_head(node))
            self.push(self.visible_head(node))
    # -----#
```

*Option (i): fill in the SPEC position (push).* If  $\alpha$  does not have specifiers, a constituent is selected from the memory buffer if and only if either (1)  $\alpha$  has a matching specifier selection feature (e.g.,  $v$  selects for DP-specifier) or (2)  $\alpha$  is an EPP head that requires the presence of phi-features in its SPEC that can be satisfied by merging a DP-constituent from the memory buffer (successive-cyclicity). Option (2) is not yet fully implemented, as the generalized EPP mechanism involved (Brattico 2016; Brattico, Chesi, and Suranyi 2019) is not formalized explicitly. An additional possibility is if an existing specifier of  $\alpha$  is an adjunct: then an argument can be tucked in between the adjunct and the head, where it becomes a specifier, if conditions (i-ii) apply.

*Option (ii): store specifier(s) into memory (pull).* This operation is more complex because it is responsible for the generation of new heads if called for by the occurrence of extra specifiers. The operation takes place if and only if  $\alpha$  is an EPP head: thematic constituents are not targeted. Let us examine the single specifier case first.

A specifier refers to a complex left aunt constituent  $\beta P$  such that  $[\beta P [\alpha_{EPP} XP]]$  and  $\beta P$  has not been moved already. If  $\beta P$  has no criterial features, it P will undergo A-reconstruction (local successive-cyclicity, Section 5.2.6); otherwise it will be put into memory buffer. The latter option leads possibly into long-distance reconstruction (A'-reconstruction).

If  $\beta P$  has criterial features (which are scanned from it), formal copies of these features are stored to  $\alpha$ .

```
def scan_criterial_features(self):
    set_ = set()
    if self.left_const and not self.left_const.find_me_elsewhere():
        set_ = set_ | self.left_const.scan_criterial_features()
    if self.right_const and not self.right_const.externalized() and not 'T/fin' in self.right_const.head().features:
        set_ = set_ | self.right_const.scan_criterial_features()
    if self.is_primitive():
        set_ |= {feature for feature in self.features if feature[3] == 'OP:'}
    return set_
```

If  $h$  is a finite head with feature FIN, a scope marker feature  $iF$  is created. This means that if  $F$  is the original criterial feature, then  $uF$  is a formal trigger of movement and  $iF$  is the semantically interpretable scope marker/operator feature. Lexical redundancy rules and parameters are applied to  $\alpha$  to create a proper lexical item in the language being parsed ( $\alpha$  might have language-specific properties). In addition, the label of  $\alpha$  will be also copied to the new head, implementing the “inverse of feature inheritance.” If  $\alpha$  has a tail feature set, an adjunct will be created. This is required when a relative pronoun creates a relative operator, transforming the resulting phrase into an adjunct. If an extra specifier is found, the procedure is different. If the previous or current specifier is an adjunct and the correct specifier has no criterial features, then nothing is done: no intervening heads need to be projected. If there are two non-adjuncts, a head must be generated between the two, its properties copied from the criterial features of higher phrase and from the label of the head  $h$ . The latter takes care of the requirement that when  $C$  is created from finite  $T$ ,  $C$  will also has the label FIN. If the new head has a tail feature set, an adjunct is created. This operation is required when a relative pronoun creates a relative operator, transforming the resulting phrase into a relative clause adjunct.

```
[. . .function pull. . .]
if self.must_have_head(spec):
    new_h = self.engineer_head_from_specifier(h, criterial_features)
    iterator.merge_l(new_h, 'left')
    iterator = iterator.mother # Prevents looping over the same Spec element
    if new_h.get_tail_sets():
        self.adjunct_constructor.create_adjunct(new_h)

def engineer_head_from_specifier(self, h, criterial_features):
    new_h = self.lexical_access.PhraseStructure()
    new_h.features |= self.get_features_for_criterial_head(h, criterial_features)
    if 'FIN' in h.features:
```

```

new_h.features |= {'C', 'PF:C'}
return new_h

```

*Option (iii): fill in the complement position from memory.* A complement for head  $\alpha$  is merged to  $\text{Comp}, \alpha P$  from the memory buffer if and only if (1)  $\alpha$  is a primitive head, (ii)  $\alpha$  does not have a complement or  $\alpha$  has a complement that does not match with its complement selection, and (iii)  $\alpha$  has a complement selection feature that matches with the label of a constituent in the memory buffer.

Once the whole phrase structure has been explored, extraposition operation will be tried as a last resort if the resulting structure still does not pass LF-legibility (Section 5.2.7).

### 5.2.6 A-reconstruction

A-reconstruction is an operation in which a DP makes a local spec-to-spec movement, i.e.  $[\text{DP}_1 [\alpha \text{ \_\_\_ } \beta]]$ . The operation is implemented if and only if the DP does not have any criterial features and  $\alpha$  has the generalized EPP property: we assume that DP has been moved locally to satisfy this feature.

```

def A_reconstruct(self, spec, iterator):
    if self.candidate_for_A_reconstruction(spec):
        iterator = self.reconstruct_inside_next_projection(spec, iterator)
    return iterator

def reconstruct_inside_next_projection(self, spec, iterator):
    local_head = spec.sister().head()
    if local_head.is_right():
        # [Y X] => [Y [X Y]]
        local_head.merge_l(spec.copy_from_memory_buffer(self.controlling_parser_process.babtize()), 'right')
        return iterator.mother
    if local_head.is_left():
        if local_head.sister():
            # [Y [X ZP]] => [Y [X [Y YP]]]
            local_head.sister().merge_l(spec.copy_from_memory_buffer(self.controlling_parser_process.babtize()), 'left')
        else:
            # [Y [X <ZP>]] => [Y [X Y] <ZP>]
            local_head.sister().merge_l(spec.copy_from_memory_buffer(self.controlling_parser_process.babtize()), 'right')
    return iterator

```

### 5.2.7 Extraposition as a last resort (extraposition.py)

Extraposition is a last resort operation that will be applied to a left branch  $\alpha$  if and only if after reconstruction all movement  $\alpha$  still does not pass LF-legibility. The operation checks if the structure  $\alpha$  could be saved by assuming that its right-most/bottom constituent is an adjunct instead of complement. This possibility is based on ambiguity: a head and a phrase ‘k + hp’ in the input string could correspond to  $[\text{K HP}]$  or  $[\text{K (HP)}]$ . Extraposition will be tried if and only if (i) the whole phrase structure (that was reconstructed) does not pass LF-legibility test and (ii) the structure contains either finiteness feature or is a DP. Condition (i) is trivial, but

(ii) restricts the operation into certain contexts and is nontrivial and possible must be revised when this operation is examined more closely. A fully general solution that applied this strategy to any left branch ran into problems.

```
def last_resort_reconstruct(self, ps):
    if self.preconditions_for_extrapolation(ps):
        log(f'\t\t\t\t\tLast resort extrapolation will be tried on {ps.top().}')
        # ----- upstream search -----#
        for node in ps.upstream_search():
            if self.possible_extrapolation_target(node):
                self.adjunct_constructor.create_adjunct(node)
                if not node.top().LF_legibility_test().all_pass():
                    log(f'\t\t\t\t\tThe structure is still uninterpretable.')
        # -----#
        log(f'\t\t\t\t\tNo suitable node for extrapolation found.')

def preconditions_for_extrapolation(self, ps):
    return ps.top().contains_feature('FIN') or 'D' in ps.top().features and not ps.top().LF_legibility_test().all_pass()
```

If both tests are passed, then the operation finds the bottom HP = [H XP] such that (i) HP is adjoinable in principle (Brattico 2012) and either (i.a) there is a head K such that [K HP] and K does not select HP or K obligatorily selects something else (thus, HP *should* be interpreted as an adjunct) or (i.b) there is a phrase KP such as [KP HP].<sup>6</sup>

```
def possible_extrapolation_target(self, node):
    if node.left_const.is_primitive() and node.left_const.is_adjoinable() and node.sister():
        if node.sister().is_complex():
            return True
        if node.sister().is_primitive():
            if node.left_const.features & node.sister().complements_not_licensed():
                return True
            if node.sister().get_mandatory_comps() and not (node.left_const.features & node.sister().get_mandatory_comps()):
                return True
```

HP is targeted for possible extrapolation operation and HP will be promoted into adjunct (Section 5.2.8). This will transform [K HP] or [KP HP] into [K ⟨HP⟩] or [KP ⟨HP⟩], respectively. Only the most bottom constituent that satisfies these conditions will be promoted; if this does not work, and  $\alpha$  is still broken, the model assumes that  $\alpha$  cannot be fixed.

---

<sup>6</sup> The notion “is adjoinable” (*is\_adjoinable*) means that it can occur without being selected by a head. Thus, VP is not adjoinable because it must be selected by v.

To see what the operation does, consider the input string *John gave the book to Mary*. Merging the constituent one-by-one without extraposition could create the following phrase structure, simplifying for the sake of the example:

(64) *John gave the book to Mary*  
       [John [T [DP[ the book [P Mary]]]]  
                   SPEC       P   COMP

This interpretation is wrong. First, it contains a preposition phrase [*the book* P DP], which is ungrammatical in English (by most analyses). Second, the verb *gave* now has the wrong complement PP when it required a DP. Extraposition will be tried as a last resort, in which it is assumed that the string ‘D + N + [P + D + N]’ should be interpreted as [DP ⟨HP⟩]. This will fix both problems: the verb now takes the DP as its complement (recall that the right adjunct is invisible for selection and sisterhood), and the preposition phrase does not have a DP-specifier. It is easy to see how the PP satisfies the criteria for the application of the extraposition operation: PPs are adjoinable, the configuration is [DP PP], and the PP is inside a FinP. The final configuration that passes LF-legibility test is (65).

(65) [John [gave [DP[the book] ⟨to Mary⟩]]]

There is one more detail that requires comment: the labeling algorithm will label the constituent [DP ⟨PP⟩] as a DP, making it look like the PP adjunct were inside the DP. This is not the case: it is only attached to the DP geometrically, but is assumed to be inside the secondary syntactic working space. No selection rule “sees” it inside the DP. On the other hand, if this were deemed wrong, then the operation could attach the promoted adjunct into a higher position. This would still be consistent with the input ‘*the book to Mary*’.

#### 5.2.8 Adjunct promotion (adjunct\_constructor.py)

Adjunct promotion is an operation that changes the status of a phrase structure from non-adjunct into an adjunct, thus it transfers the constituent from the “primary working space” into the “secondary working space.” Decisions concerning what will be an adjunct and non-adjunct cannot be made in tandem with consuming words from the input. The operation is part of transfer. If the phrase targeted by the operation is complex, the

operation is trivial: the whole phrase structure is moved. If the targeted item is a primitive head, then there is an extra concern: how much of the surrounding structure should come with the head? Is it possible to promote a head to an adjunct while leaving its complement and specifier behind? It is obvious that the complement cannot be left behind. If H is targeted for promotion in a configuration [<sub>HP</sub> H, XP], then the whole HP will be promoted. This feature inheritance is part of the adjunct promotion operation itself. The question of whether the specifier must also be moved is less trivial, and the model is currently unstable with respect to this issue, having undergone several revisions. The current version contains two slightly different versions of the function that creates adjuncts with surrounding structure depending on whether the adjunct is at the correct or incorrect position at the time of adjunct promotion, as determined by the external tail head test.

```
# Definition for creation of adjuncts
def create_adjunct(self, ps):
    if ps.head().is_adjoinable():
        if ps.is_complex():
            self.make_adjunct(ps)
        if ps.is_primitive():
            if self.adjunct_in_correct_position(ps):
                self.make_adjunct_with_surrounding_structure(ps)
            else:
                self.make_adjunct_with_surrounding_structure(ps)
```

The question of whether a specifier must be included is represented in function *eat\_specifier*. In essence, the head must have an edge position which licenses the specifier.

```
def eat_specifier(self, ps):
    if ps.head().edge() and \
        not '-SPEC:*' in ps.head().features and \
        not (set(ps.head().specifiers_not_licensed()) & set(ps.edge()[0].head().features)) and \
        not ps.edge()[0].is_primitive() and \
        '-ARG' not in ps.head().features and \
        ps.head().mother.mother:
        return True
```

These complications have arisen from empirical work, but they show that we are missing something. What that missing component is must be determined by systematic empirical inquiry into the properties of adjuncts, not by trying to “clean up the code.” Adjunct promotion checks that the externalized phrase structure is not the highest node (leaving it without a host), it adds tail features if they are missing and finally transfers the adjunct to LF.

```
def make_adjunct(self, ps):
    if ps == ps.top():
        return False
    ps.adjunct = True
    self.add_tail_features_if_missing(ps)
    self.transfer_adjunct(ps)
```

### 5.3 Agreement reconstruction Agree-1 (agreement\_reconstruction.py)

Agreement reconstruction (Agree-1) is attempted after all movement has been reconstructed. The operation goes downstream from  $\alpha$  and targets any primitive head to the left that requires valuation. That triggers Agree-1.

```
def reconstruct(self, ps):
    # ----- minimal search ----- #
    for node in ps.minimal_search():
        if node.left_primitive() and 'VAL' in node.left_const.features:
            self.Agree_1(node.left_const)
    # -----#
```

Such heads H attempt to value  $\phi$ -features. Valuation of  $\phi$ -features consists of two steps: acquisition of  $\phi$ -feature from within the sister of H and, if unvalued features remain, acquisition from the edge.

```
def Agree_1(self, head):
    goal, phi_features = self.Agree_1_from_sister(head.sister())
    for phi in phi_features:
        self.value(head, goal, phi)

    if not head.is_unvalued():
        return

    goal, phi_features = self.Agree_1_from_edge(head)
    for phi in phi_features:
        self.value(head, goal, phi)
```

Operation (1) triggers downward search for left phrases with label D and collects all valued  $\phi$ -features from the first such element, but with the exception of D-features that can only be acquired from the edge (Brattico 2019c). Functional heads terminate search.

```
def Agree_1_from_sister(self, ps):
    # ----- minimal search -----#
    for node in ps.minimal_search():
        if node.left_complex():
            if node.left_const.head().is_functional():
                break
            if 'D' in node.left_const.head().features:
                return node.left_const.head(), \
                    sorted({f for f in node.left_const.head().features
                           if phi(f) and f['?'] != 'PHI:DET' and valued(f)})
    # -----#
    return ps, {}
```

Operation (2) targets the first phrase from the edge in a top-down order (adjunct or non-adjunct) with label D and obtains  $\phi$ -features from it. Notice that the definition of ‘edge’ includes the pro-element, if present, at H itself.

```
def Agree_1_from_edge(self, h):
    if self.edge_for_Agree(h):
        for e in self.edge_for_Agree(h):
            if 'D' in e.head().features:
                phi_features = {f for f in e.head().features if phi(f) and valued(f)}
```

```

        return e.head(), sorted(phi_features)
    return None, {}

```

Acquired  $\phi$ -features are valued (*value()*) to the head. Denote a  $\phi$ -feature of the type T with value V as [PHI:T:V]. An acquired  $\phi$ -feature {PHI:T:v} can only be valued at H if (i) H contains {PHI:T:\_} and (ii) no conflicting feature {PHI:T:v'} exists at H. Condition (ii) leads into  *$\phi$ -feature conflict* which, when present, crashes the derivation at LF. Thus, condition (ii) does not terminate the operation, but is illegitimate at LF.

```

def value(self, h, goal, phi):
    if h.is_valued() and self.valuation_blocked(h, phi):
        h.features.add(mark_bad(phi))
    if find_unvalued_target(h, phi):
        h.features = h.features - find_unvalued_target(h, phi)
        h.features.add(phi)
        h.features.add('PHI_CHECKED')

def valuation_blocked(self, h, f):
    valued_input_feature_type = get_type(f)
    heads_phi_set = h.get_phi_set()
    valued_phi_in_h = {phi for phi in heads_phi_set if valued(phi) and get_type(phi) == valued_input_feature_type}
    if valued_phi_in_h:
        type_value_matches = {phi for phi in valued_phi_in_h if phi == f}
        if type_value_matches:
            return False
        else:
            return True
    return False

```

## 5.4 LF-legibility (LF.py)

### 5.4.1 Introduction

The purpose of the LF-legibility test is to check that the syntactic representation satisfies the LF-interface conditions and can be interpreted semantically. Only primitive heads will be checked. The LF-legibility test consists of several independent tests. It constitutes an internal “perceptual mechanism” that ensures that what is being generated makes sense semantically. The whole phrase structure arriving at LF will always be checked.

```

def test(self, ps):
    if ps.is_primitive():
        self.head_integrity_test(ps)
        self.probe_goal_test(ps)
        self.internal_tail_test(ps)
        self.double_spec_filter(ps)
        self.semantic_complement_test(ps)
        self.selection_tests(ps)
        self.criterial_feature_test(ps)
        self.projection_principle(ps)
        self.adjunct_interpretation_test(ps)
        self.bind_variables(ps)
    else:
        if not ps.left_const.find_me_elsewhere:
            self.test(ps.left_const)
        if not ps.right_const.find_me_elsewhere:
            self.test(ps.right_const)

```



#### 5.4.2 LF-legibility tests

Suppose we test head H. The *head integrity test* checks that H has a label. A head without label will be uninterpretable, hence it will not be accepted. A *probe-goal test* checks that a lexical probe-feature, if any, can be checked by a goal. Probe-goal dependencies are, in essence, nonlocal selection dependencies that are required for semantic interpretation (e.g. C/fin will select for T/fin over intervening Neg in Finnish). An *internal tail test* checks that D can check its case feature, if any. The *double specifier test* will check that the head is associated with no more than one (nonadjunct) specifier. The *semantic match test* will check that the head and its complement do not mismatch in semantic features. *Selection tests* will check that the lexical selection features of H are satisfied. This concerns all lexical selection features that state mandatory conditions (an adjunct can satisfy [!SPEC:L] feature). *Criterial feature legibility test* checks that every DP that contains a relative pronoun also contains T/FIN. *Projection principle test* checks that argument (non-adjunct) DPs are not in non-thematic positions at LF. Discourse/pragmatic test provides a penalty for multiple specifiers (including adjuncts).

#### 5.4.3 Transfer to the conceptual-intentional system

If the LF-structure passes all tests, it will be transferred to the conceptual-intentional system for semantic interpretation (*transfer\_to\_CI()*). The operation returns a set (*semantic\_interpretation*) containing the semantic interpretation that will then be produced to the output files.

### 5.5 Semantics (semantics.py)

#### 5.5.1 Introduction

Semantic interpretation is implemented in the module semantics.py. It contains functions which read passively the information in its input and then provide a semantic interpretation as an output. The output will end up in the output files produced by the main script. The output of the semantic interpretation will never affect the internal operation of the syntactic component; it is a passive reflex. However, if no semantic interpretation of any kind results, the expression is still tagged as ungrammatical.

### 5.5.2 LF-recovery

LF-recovery is triggered if an unvalued phi-feature occurs at the LF-interface. The operation (*LF-recovery*) returns a list of possible antecedents for the triggering head which are then provided in the results and log files.

```
def perform_LF_recovery(self, ps):
    unvalued = must_be_valued(ps.get_unvalued_features())
    if unvalued:
        list_of_antecedents = self.LF_recovery(ps, unvalued)
        if list_of_antecedents:
            self.semantic_interpretation.add(self.interpret_antecedent(ps, list_of_antecedents[0]))
        else:
            self.semantic_interpretation.add(f'f{ps}' + self.interpret_no_antecedent(ps, unvalued) + ')')
    self.report_to_log(ps, list_of_antecedents, unvalued)
```

If both number and person features remain unvalued, this triggers standard control engaging in an upstream path and evaluates whether the sisters of nodes reached in this way evaluate as possible antecedents. The operation is blocked by  $v^*$  head (head with 'sem:external'). A possible antecedent  $\alpha$  must satisfy two conditions:  $\alpha$  cannot be a copy of an element that has been moved elsewhere and  $\alpha$  must check all semantically relevant phi-features of H. Semantically relevant features are (by stipulation) number, person and definiteness. If no antecedent is found, generic interpretation is generated. If only  $D_-$  remains unvalued, then the above mechanism comes with three exceptional properties: If search fails, the expression evaluates as ungrammatical; if there is a local specifier that is not a DP, generic interpretation is generated;  $v^*$  does not block search.

```

def LF_recovery(self, ps, unvalued_phi):
    list_of_antecedents = []
    if 'PHI:NUM:_' in unvalued_phi and 'PHI:PER:_' in unvalued_phi:
        # ----- minimal upstream search -----#
        for node in ps.upstream_search():
            if self.recovery_termination(node):
                break
            if node.geometrical_sister() and self.is_possible_antecedent(node.geometrical_sister(), ps):
                list_of_antecedents.append(node.geometrical_sister())
        # -----#
    return list_of_antecedents

    if 'PHI:DET:_' in unvalued_phi:
        # ----- minimal search-----
        for node in ps.upstream_search():
            if self.special_local_edge_antecedent_rule(node, ps, list_of_antecedents):
                break
            elif node.sister() and self.is_possible_antecedent(node.sister(), ps):
                list_of_antecedents.append(node.sister())
        #-----
    return list_of_antecedents

    if not list_of_antecedents:
        log(f'\t\t\t\t\tNo antecedent found, LF-object crashes.')
        self.semantic_interpretation_failed = True
        return []

def is_possible_antecedent(self, antecedent, h):
    if antecedent.find_me_elsewhere:
        return False
    unchecked = get_relevant_phi(h)
    for F in h.get_unvalued_features():
        for G in get_relevant_phi(h):
            check(F, G, unchecked)
    if not unchecked:
        return True

```

## 6 Formalization of the parser

### 6.1 Linear phase parser (linear\_phase\_parser.py)

#### 6.1.1 Definition for function *parse(list)*

The linear phase (LP) parser module (linear\_phase\_parser.py) defines the behavior of the parser. When main script wants to parse a sentence, it sends the sentence to this module as a list of words. The parsing function is *parse(list)*. The parser function prepares the parser by setting a host of variables (mostly having to do with logging and other support functions), and then calls for the recursive parser function *\_first\_pass\_parse* with three arguments *current structure*, *list* and *index*, with *current structure* being empty and *index* being 0 in the beginning. This function processes the whole list, creates a recursive parsing tree, and provides the output.

#### 6.1.2 Recursive parsing function (*\_first\_pass\_parse*)

The recursive parsing function takes the currently constructed phrase structure  $\alpha$ , a linearly ordered list of words and an index in the list of words as its arguments. It will first check if the whole clause has been consumed and, if it is,  $\alpha$  will be transferred to LF and evaluated. Transfer normalizes the phrase structure by reverse-engineering movement and agreement and performs LF-legibility tests to check that the output is semantically interpretable. If the test passes, the result will be accepted. Executive control is then passed to the conceptual-intentional system. If the user wants to explore all solutions, then the algorithm will backtrack to search for further solutions.

Suppose word  $w$  was consumed. To retrieve properties of  $w$ , lexicon will be accessed. This operation corresponds to a stage in language comprehension in which an incoming sensory-based item is matched with a lexical entry in the surface vocabulary. If  $w$  is ambiguous, all corresponding lexical items will be returned as a list  $[w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n]$  that will be explored in some order. The ordered list will be added to the recursive loop as an additional layer. The ordering is arbitrary in the current interpretation but not so in realistic parsing.

Next a word from this list, say  $w_1$ , will be subjected to morphological parsing. Suppose the word is *pudo-t-i-n-ko-han* ‘fall-cau-past-1sg-Q-hAn’. Morphological parser will return a new list of words that contains the individual morphemes that were part of  $w_1$ , in reverse order, together with the lexical item corresponding with the first item in the new list. The new list therefore contains a ‘morphological decomposition’ of the word. Some of the morphemes in word  $w$  could be inflectional: they are stored as features into a separate memory buffer and then added to the next and hence also adjacent morpheme when it is being consumed in the reversed order. If inflectional features were encountered instead of a morpheme, the parsing function is called again immediately without any rank and merge operations. If there were several inflectional affixes, they would be all added to the next morpheme  $m$  consumed from the input. A complex phonological word such as *pudo-t-i-n-ko-han* will enter syntax in the form (66). Notice that the order of the morphemes is reversed. The linearly ordered sequence that enters syntax is called the *lexical input stream*. The lexical input stream does not contain phonological words, but lexical items and features.

(66) <i>pudo-t-i-n-ko-han</i>	(input word)
fall-cau-past-1sg-Q-hAn →	(decomposition)
hAn * Q * 1sg * T * v * V	(reverse order into syntax, lexical input stream)

The information that all these items were part of the same word is retained and passed on to syntax, which prevents it from considering merge solutions that are not compatible with their word-internal status.

Suppose morpheme *hAn* was consumed. The morpheme must be merged to the existing phrase structure into some position. Merge sites that can be ruled out as impossible by using local information are filtered out. The remaining sites are then ranked (Section 6.1.3). Each site from the ranking is explored. For each site there are two options: if the new morpheme  $\alpha$  was part of the same word as the previous morpheme  $\beta$ , it will be embedded into the previous word to create a complex head  $[\beta\emptyset, \alpha]$ . Thus, the morphemes in (66) are first processed in this way and create a complex head  $[_{hAn}\emptyset, [_{Q}\emptyset, [_{T}\emptyset, [_{v}\emptyset, V]]]]$ . If  $\alpha$  was not inside the same word as the previous item, it will be merged countercyclically to the existing phrase structure, and the parsing function is called recursively. If a ranked list has been exhausted without a legitimate solution, the algorithm will backtrack to an earlier step.

The complex linearly structured head  $[_{hAn}\emptyset, [_{Q}\emptyset, [_{T}\emptyset, [_{v}\emptyset, V]]]]$  corresponds to a situation in the more standard bottom up theories in which all of the morphemes have been ‘snowballed’ out of the structure to the highest node. In the standard theories, the heads would have been adjoined with each other. This solution did not produce elegant results here, because any constituent with both left and right constituents is automatically regarded as a standard complex constituent and not a head. This would make any complex head a phrasal specifier. Various ad hoc strategies are used in the standard theories to prevent this outcome, but these devices are all questionable. The structure of *\_first\_pass\_parse* is illustrated in Figure 18.

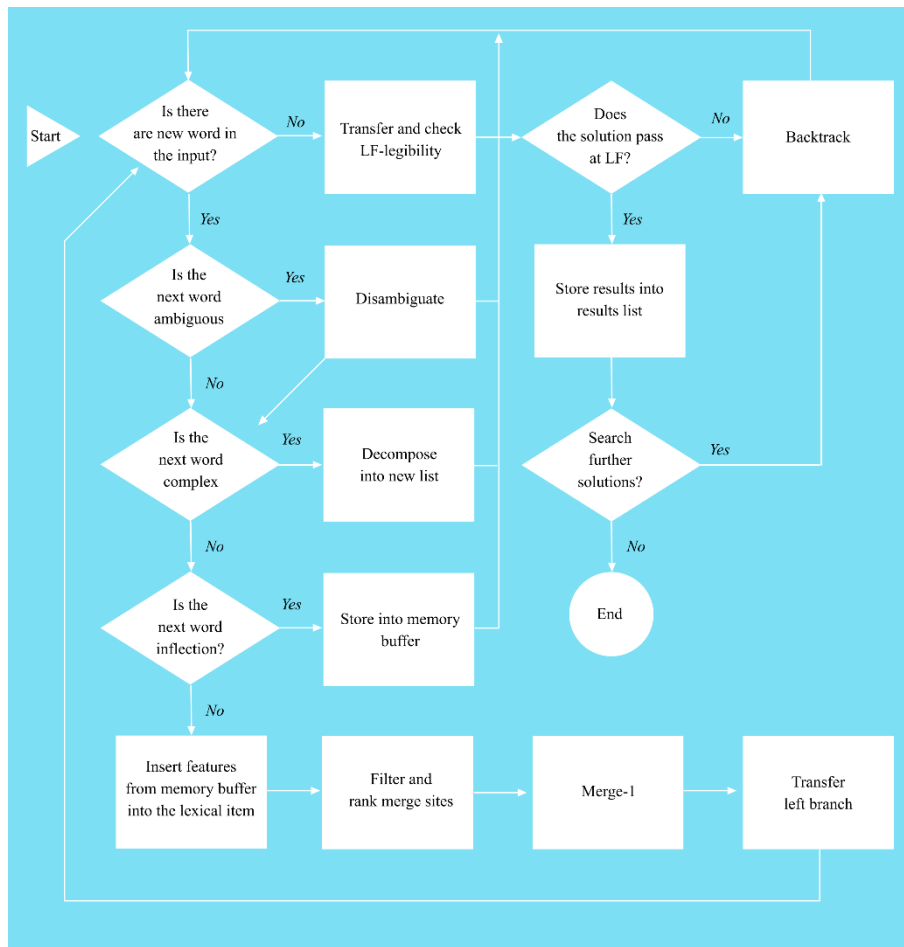


Figure 18. Flowchart of the recursive parsing algorithm *\_first\_pass\_parse()*.

### 6.1.3 Filtering

Several conditions can be exploited in filtering potential merge sites so that they do not appear in the rankings and do not consume computational resources. Let us assume that  $\alpha$  is the new element to be merged and  $\beta$  is the site of merge.

### (67) Conditions for filtering

Condition 1. If the new morpheme  $\alpha$  was inside the same word as the previous one, all other solutions except ‘merge to the complement’ (bottom of  $\beta$ ) will be filtered out. Thus,  $v$  can only be complemented to  $T$  if they were originally inside the same word in the input. The rationale for this rule is obvious.

Condition 2. Primitive sites that do not accept any type of complements are filtered out. Justification is trivial.

Condition 3. If  $\beta$  is not primitive, it will be reconstructed (Section 0) and tested for LF-legibility: the legibility of  $\beta$  is always tested upon  $[\beta, \alpha]$ , and if  $\beta$  does not pass the solution is either rejected or ranked lower, depending on the type and severity of the violation. The filter function does not implement ranking, only filtering. Notice that the legibility test for  $\beta$  presupposes that  $\beta$  is normalized and goes through transfer first. Complete rejection occurs if (i) LF-legibility fails, (ii)  $\alpha$  is not adjoinable and (iii) the probe-goal test, head integrity test and the criterial feature integrity test (Section 5.4) all failed (if any of them succeeds, filtering is blocked).

Condition 4. If the solution breaks existing words, the solution is rejected. This test is not applied if  $\alpha$  can be adjoined.

Condition 2 requires a comment. The reason  $[\beta, \alpha]$  can be filtered under some conditions is because some legibility errors in  $\beta$  cannot be fixed in the derivation’s future. Hence the solution can be rejected. Condition (iii) mean that the failure of the three tests in conjunction is so severe that the problem can be deemed as unrepairable, but it might be that the failure of each test individually is sufficient (the matter requires further examination and is possibly a mistake). The issue impacts computational complexity but not grammaticality.

```
def filter(self, ps, w):
    log('\t\t\tFiltering out impossible merge sites...')
    adjunction_sites = []
    if ps.bottom().bottom_affix().internal:
        return [ps.bottom()]

    #-----geometrical minimal search-----
    for N in ps.geometrical_minimal_search():
        if self.does_not_accept_any_complementizers(N):
            continue
        if N.is_complex() and self.bad_left_branch_condition(N, w):
            continue
        if self.breaks_words(N, w):
            continue
        adjunction_sites.append(N)
    #-----
    return adjunction_sites
```

#### 6.1.4 Ranking (*ranking*)

The ranking function weights each solution based on various criteria. If two sites have the same ranking, lower sites in the phrase structure will be prioritized and therefore explored first. This rule affects computational complexity. The ordering does not affect solutions found by the algorithm, only efficiency and the first solution returned by the algorithm. Suppose the new element is  $\alpha$  and the site to be tested is  $\beta$ , so that we are testing for  $[\beta \alpha]$ . The criteria used in the current version are the following:

##### (68) *Ranking criteria*

- a. Positive specifier selection (+):  $\beta$  matches for  $\alpha$ 's specifier/sister selection;
- b. Negative specifier selection (–):  $\beta$  matches for  $\alpha$ 's negative specifier/sister selection;
- c. Negative specifier selection of everything (–):  $\alpha$  has  $[-SPEC: *]$ ;
- d. Infrequent specifier feature (–):  $\beta$  matches for  $\alpha$ 's infrequent specifier selection;
- e. Do not break existing head dependencies (–):  $[\beta \alpha]$  would break existing  $\beta^0$ - $\alpha^0$  dependency;
- f. Tail-head test (–): check if  $[\beta \alpha]$  would fail  $\alpha$ 's tail features;
- g. Complement test (+):  $\beta$  (or any morpheme inside  $\beta$ ) selects for  $\alpha$  as complement;
- h. Negative complement test (–):  $\beta$  (or any morpheme inside  $\beta$ ) does not select  $\alpha$  as complement;
- j. Semantic mismatch (–):  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ 's semantic features mismatch;
- k. Left branch evaluation (–): Reconstructed  $\beta$  fails LF-legibility;
- l. Adverbial tail-head test (–):  $\alpha$  has label Adv but fails tail-head test when c-commanded by T/fin;
- m. Adverbial tail-head test (+):  $\alpha$  has label Adv and satisfies tail-head test when c-commanded by T/fin.

If all solutions are ranked negatively, a geometrical solution will be adopted, according which the largest S will be prioritized that is adjoinable and does not contain T/fin, the latter which means that we do not try to merge above T/fin.

## 6.2 Morphological and lexical processing (morphology.py)

### 6.2.1 Introduction

The parser-grammar reads an input that constitutes a one-dimensional linear string of elements at the PF-interface that are assumed to arise through some sensory mechanism (gesture, sound, vision). Each element is separated from the rest by a word boundary. A word boundary is represented by space, although no literal ‘space’ exists at the sensory level. Each such element at the PF-interface is matched with items in the lexicon, which is a repository of a pairing between elements at the PF-interface and lexical items.

A lexical element can be *simple* or *complex*. A complex lexical element consists of several further elements separated by a #-boundary distinguishing them from each other inside phonological words. A morphologically complex word cannot be merged as such. It will be decomposed into its constituent parts, which will be matched again with the lexicon, until simple lexical elements are detected. A simple lexical element corresponds to a *primitive lexical item* that can be merged to the phrase structure and has features associated with it. For example, a tensed transitive finite verb such as *admires* will be decomposed into three parts, T/fin, v and V, each which is matched with a primitive lexical item and then merged to the phrase structure. Morphologically complex words and simple words exist in the same lexicon. Decomposition can also be given directly in the input. For example, applying prosodic stress to a word is equivalent to attaching it with a #foc feature. It is assumed that the PF-interface that receives and preprocesses the sensory input is able to recognize and interpret such features. The morphological parser will then extract the #foc feature at the PF-interface and feed it to the narrow syntax, where it becomes a feature of a grammatical head read next from the input.

It is interesting to observe that the ordering of morphemes within a word mirrors their ordering in the phrase structure. The morphological parser will reverse the order of morphemes and features inside a phonological word before feeding them one by one to the parser-grammar. Thus, a word such as /admires/ → admire#v#T/fin will be fed to the parser-grammar as T/fin + v + admire(V).

There are three distinct lexical components. One component is the language-specific lexicon (*lexicon.txt*) which provides the lexical items associated with any given language. Each word in this lexicon is associated with a feature which tells which language it belongs to. The second component hosts a list of universal



redundancy rules which add features to lexical items on the basis of their category. In this way, we do not need to list in connection with each transitive verb that it must take a DP-complement; this information is added by the redundancy rules. The redundancy rules constitute in essence a ‘mini grammar’ which tell how labels and features are related to each other. The third component is a set of *universal lexical items* such as T, v, Case features, and many others. When a lexical element is created during the parsing process, for example a C(wh), it must be processed through all these layers, while language must be assumed or guessed based on the surrounding context.

A primitive lexical item is an element that is associated with a *set of features* that has also the property that it can be merged to the phrase structure. In addition to various selection features, they are associated with the label/lexical category (CAT:F), often several; phonological features (PF:F); a semantic *concept* interpretable at the LF-interface and beyond (LF:F)(of the type delineated by Jerry Fodor 1998); topological semantic field features (SEM:F); language features (LANG:F), tail-head features (TAIL:F, ...G), probe-features (PROBE:F),  $\phi$ -features (e.g., PHI:NUM:SG) and others. The number and type of lexical features is not restricted by the model.

### 6.2.2 Formalization

Morphological operations are defined in the module `morphology.py`. Each lexical item is parsed morphologically (*morphological\_parse()*). The operation looks at the current lexical item and detects if it requires decomposition; if it does, then the complex item in the input list is replaced with an inverted list of its constituents. If the first item in the refreshed list is still polymorphemic, the operation is repeated until it is simple and could be merged. The operation also takes care of certain additional special operations (C/op processing, incorporation) that are required for successful morphological parsing.

```
def morphological_parse(self, lexical_item, input_word_list, index):
    lexical_item_ = lexical_item
    while self.is_polymorphemic(lexical_item_):
        lexical_item_ = self.C_op_processing(lexical_item_)
        morpheme_list = self.decompose(lexical_item_.morphology)
        morpheme_list = self.handle_incorporation(lexical_item_, morpheme_list)
        self.refresh_input_list(input_word_list, morpheme_list, index)
        lexical_item_ = self.lexicon.lexical_retrieval(input_word_list[index])[[0]]
    return lexical_item_, input_word_list, self.get_inflection(lexical_item_)
```

## 7 Working with empirical materials

### 7.1 Setup

The empirical data that will be used in the testing a hypothesis or an analysis is first collected into a test corpus and stored into a subfolder oin the folder *language data working directory*. The name of the test corpus file is then provided the beginning of the main script *parse.py*. I will use an ad hoc test corpus and an experimental version of the comprehension algorithm for illustration here. The main script then looks as follow:

```
# Block 2. Define input and output data files and names
data_folder = Path("language data working directory/study-b-linear-phase-theory")
common_working_directory = Path("language data working directory")
test_corpus_name = "linear phase theory corpus.txt"
```

The main script will read and process all sentences from the file *linear\_phase\_theory\_corpus.txt*. All output files will be named automatically on the basis of the test corpus file name, and by default the rest of the input files are read from standard locations. These can of course be changed by the user.

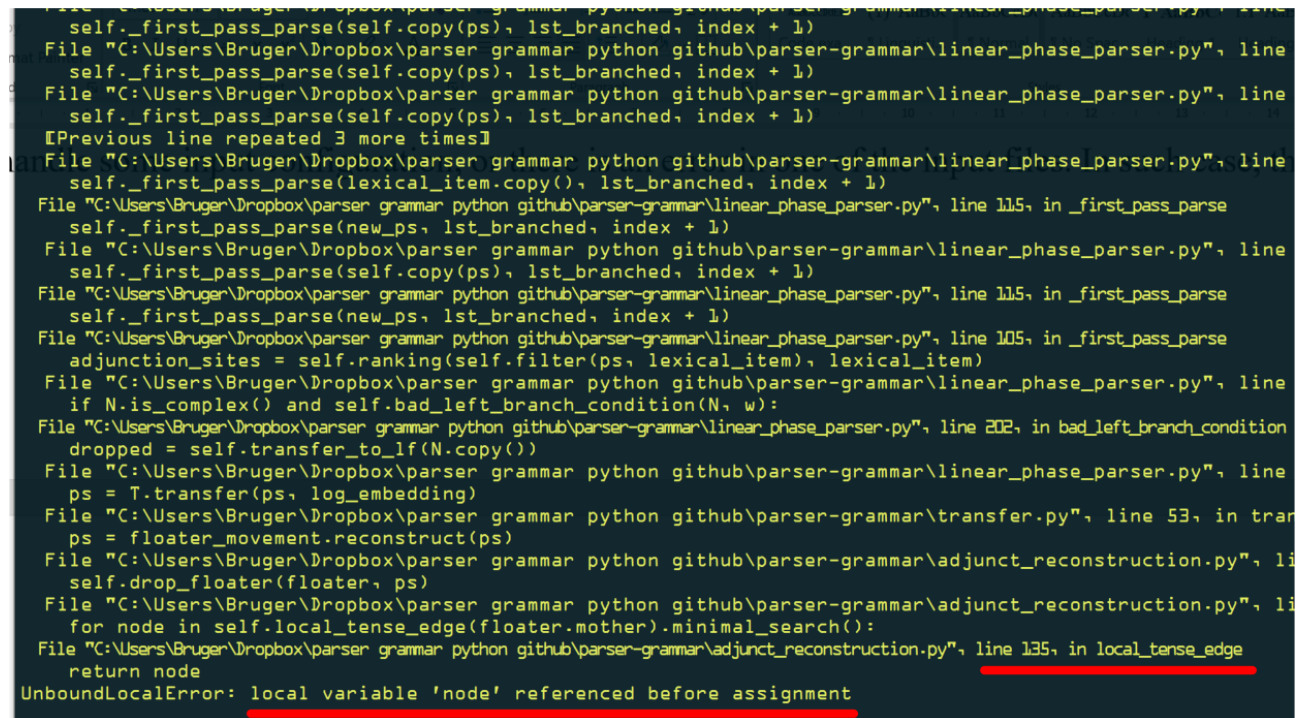
```
test_set_name = data_folder / test_corpus_name
log_name = test_corpus_name[:-4] + '_log.txt'
log_file_name = data_folder / log_name
results_name = test_corpus_name[:-4] + '_results.txt'
results_file_name = data_folder / results_name
grammaticality_judgments_name = test_corpus_name[:-4] + '_grammaticality_judgments.txt'
grammaticality_judgments_file_name = data_folder / grammaticality_judgments_name
lexicon_file_name = common_working_directory / 'lexicon.txt'
ug_morphemes = common_working_directory / 'ug_morphemes.txt'
redundancy_rules = common_working_directory / 'redundancy_rules.txt'
saved_vocabulary_name = test_corpus_name[:-4] + '_saved_vocabulary.txt'
surface_vocabulary_file_name = data_folder / saved_vocabulary_name
```

This system corresponds to the most typical use case, in which the researcher will run the script through a whole test corpus file.

### 7.2 Recovering from errors

Running the main script could lead into errors instead of generating an output. This can happen for a variety of reasons. The code could contain a bug, the hypothesis could be formulated in such a way that it is unable to handle some input configuration, or there is an error in one of the input files. Error handling in general is

poorly implemented in the present version, and control is returned to the operating system. The user is provided with a console output that determines the source of the error (line in the module causing the error), the type of error, and the recent call structure (how the program called that function). These components are illustrated in Figure 25 below.



```
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
self._first_pass_parse(self.copy(ps), lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
self._first_pass_parse(self.copy(ps), lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
self._first_pass_parse(self.copy(ps), lst_branched, index + 1)
[Previous line repeated 3 more times]
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
self._first_pass_parse(self.copy(ps), lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line 115, in _first_pass_parse
self._first_pass_parse(new_ps, lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
self._first_pass_parse(self.copy(ps), lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line 115, in _first_pass_parse
self._first_pass_parse(new_ps, lst_branched, index + 1)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line 105, in _first_pass_parse
adjunction_sites = self.ranking(self.filter(ps, lexical_item), lexical_item)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
if N.is_complex() and self.bad_left_branch_condition(N, w):
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line 202, in bad_left_branch_condition
dropped = self.transfer_to_lf(N.copy())
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\linear_phase_parser.py", line
ps = T.transfer(ps, log_embedding)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\transfer.py", line 53, in trar
ps = floater_movement.reconstruct(ps)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\adjunct_reconstruction.py", li
self.drop_floater(floater, ps)
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\adjunct_reconstruction.py", li
for node in self.local_tense_edge(floater.mother).minimal_search():
File "C:\Users\Bruger\Dropbox\parser grammar python github\parser-grammar\adjunct_reconstruction.py", line 135, in local_tense_edge
return node
UnboundLocalError: local variable 'node' referenced before assignment
```

Figure 25. An error report printed to the console. The two most important pieces of information are underlined: the location where the error was encountered (module *adjunct\_reconstruction.py*, line 135) and the type of the error.

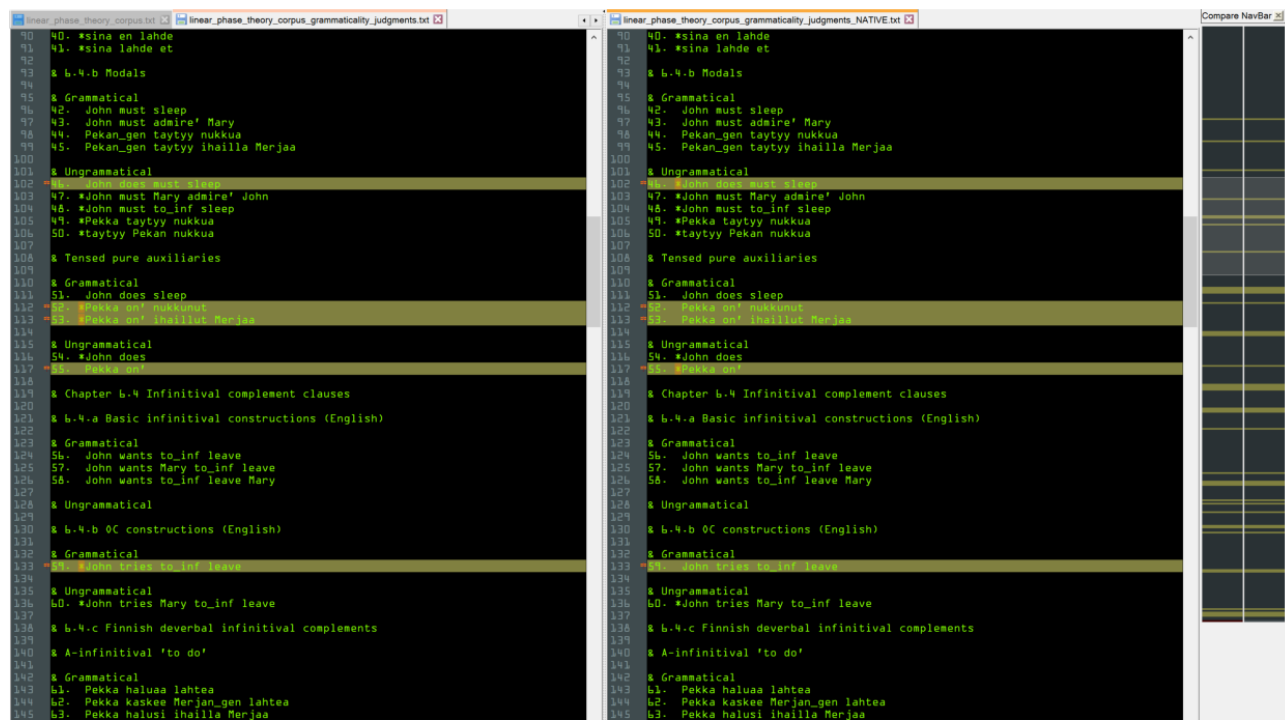
You would then navigate to the indicated location (*adjunct\_reconstruction.py*, line 135) and examine the source of the problem. In some rare cases the error is trivial to fix, but in most cases, it is not. This is because the position at which the error is encountered in run-time is not typically the same as its true source. You will then formulate a ‘hypotheses’ concerning the cause and by modifying the code (typically by inserting extra print or logging comments) exclude all possibilities one by one until left with the true cause.

Some errors only occur when the algorithm processes sentences from the test corpus that have special properties that the researcher has not thought out properly. These errors are important for the theory

development. They show that the model can be pushed into an unacceptable conclusion and the theory needs revision or sharpening.

### 7.3 Observational adequacy

Once the algorithm processes the whole input file, we verify that it reaches the condition of observational adequacy. A grammar that is observationally adequate provides the correct grammaticality judgments to all sentences in the test corpus. The simplest way to work with this condition is to use the *grammaticality judgments* file generated by the algorithm. The file is generated each time the main script is run and contains the test sentences together with grammaticality judgments. No other information is provided in this file. The user can then copy this file, rename it, and replace the algorithm output with native speaker judgments. Once done one can use automatic tools to compare the files. I use Notepad++ comparison tool (plugin) here for illustration. The output is illustrated in Figure 26, for a small ad hoc test corpus and an experimental version of the algorithm. As can be seen, there are numerous errors.



Machine-generated judgments

Gold standard generated by native speaker

Figure 26. Observational adequacy can be verified quickly by comparing the machine-generated output with a gold standard generated by the user. The narrow panel to the right shows the comparison over the whole file. Here I use the automatic comparison tool available as a plugin for Notepad++.

We will fix any problems, run the algorithm anew, and compare the outputs again until most or all sentences are judged correctly. We have then verified that the analysis is observationally adequate. The simplest way to fix any issues is to take the first sentence judged wrongly, mark it with % in the test corpus, process it alone and then, by examining the output and the derivational log files, find the source of the wrong judgment. Once fixed, we run the whole corpus again.

To examine the cause of wrong judgments, it is almost always necessary to look at the derivational log file. For example, one of the sentences judged wrongly by the experimental algorithm was a canonical interrogative (69) in Finnish. The algorithm judged the sentence ungrammatical.

(69) Ketä      Pekka      ihailee?  
      who.par Pekka.nom    admire.3sg  
      ‘Who does Pekka admire?’

Looking at the derivational log we find that transfer was reconstructing the interrogative pronoun wrongly to SpecvP position, leaving the complement position of ‘admire’ empty. This, in turn, was because it determined that T had a “wrong complement.” Since vP can be selected by T, contrary to what the algorithm was thinking, this indicated that was an error in the part of the theory/code determining whether the complement is right or wrong. This turned out to be the case. Once the code was corrected, the whole test was run anew and the problem was fixed.

#### 7.4 Descriptive adequacy

Once the model reaches observational adequacy, the researcher must verify that the output analyses and semantic interpretations are correct. The algorithm provides several types of output to assist this process. First, the folder */phrase\_structure\_images* will contain phrase structure images of any solutions generated by the algorithm. The nature of these representations can be controlled by providing several parameters to the main

script. A bare bones example of a phrase structure image without any additional information is illustrated in Figure 27. You can add words and their glosses to this image by using the required input parameters.

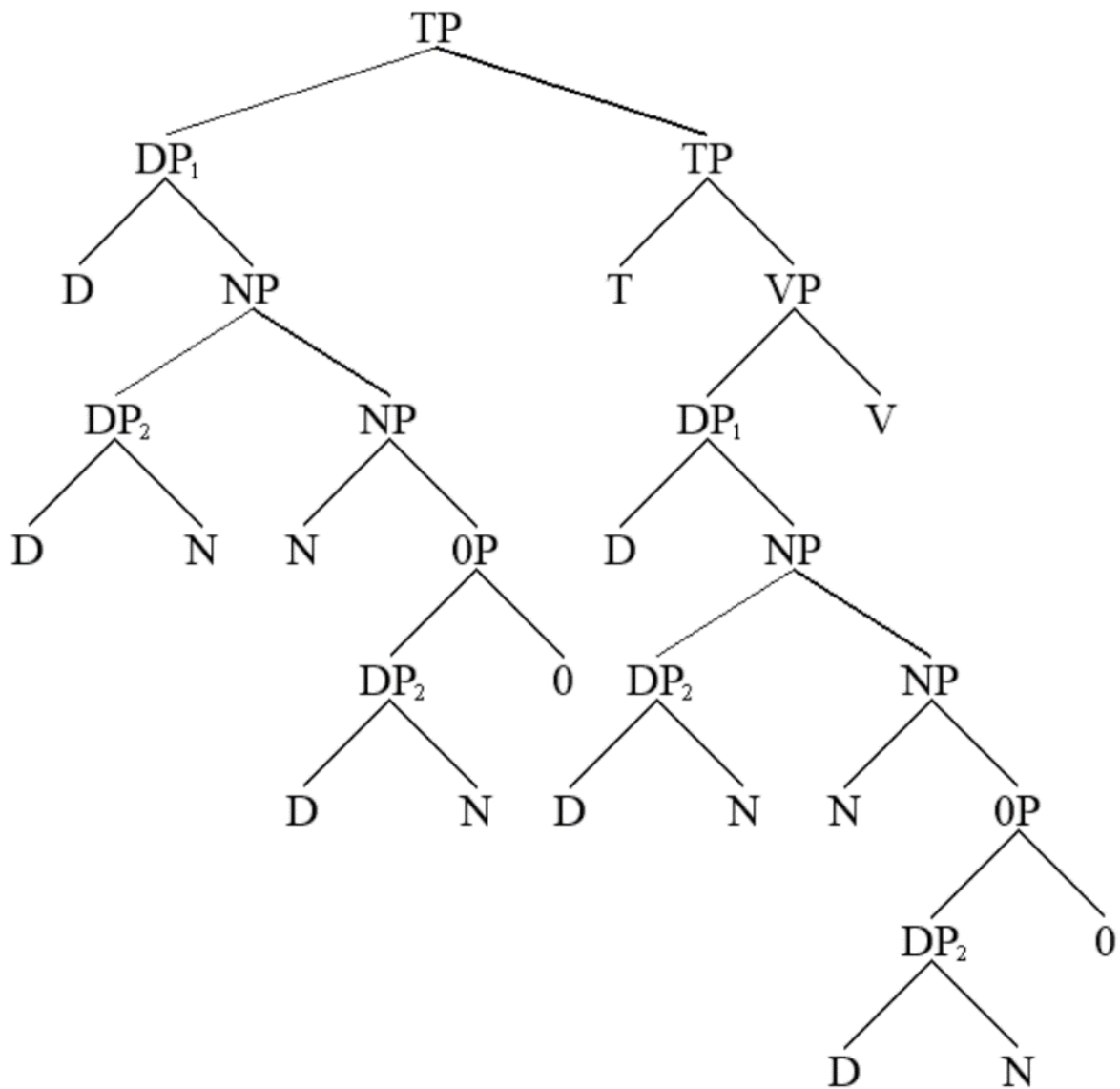


Figure 27. A bare phase structure image.

This output can be used to quickly assess the correctness of the output. The same information plus additional details of the derivation (e.g. semantic interpretation, computational efficiency) are available in the *X\_results.txt* file where “X” stands for the name of the test corpus file. Structural analysis are provided in text format in this file. Derivational log is written into *X\_log.txt*.

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