



# STRING DIAGRAMS FOR TEXT

VINCENT WANG-MAŚCIANICA

ST. CATHERINE'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
2023



*Contents*

<b>1</b>	<b>Continuous relations for semantics</b>	<b>5</b>	
1.0.1	A text-circuit analysis of temporal anaphora . . . . .	5	
<b>2</b>	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>9</b>	(Acknowledgements will go in a margin note here.)



# 1

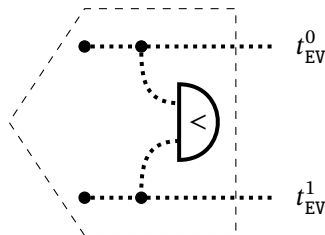
## *Continuous relations for semantics*

We want to reason formally with and about pictorial iconic representations, of the sort one might draw to solve a problem in elementary geometry stated in words, involving topological concepts such as **touching** and **inside**. To do this in string diagrams, I introduce and investigate the category of continuous relations, **ContRel**.

### 1.0.1 *A text-circuit analysis of temporal anaphora*

**Definition 1.0.1.**

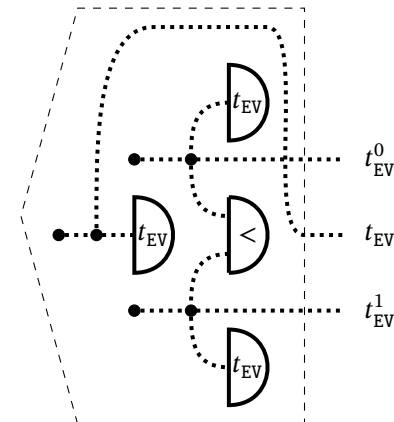
Episodic event  
(Interval determined by ordered endpoints)



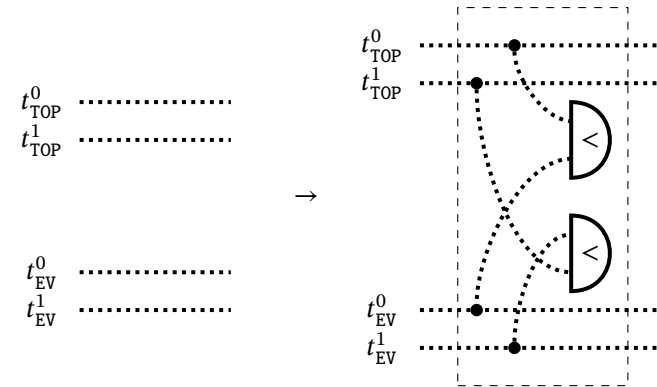
Habitual event (as constraint)  
(An arbitrary open set on  $[0, 1]$ )



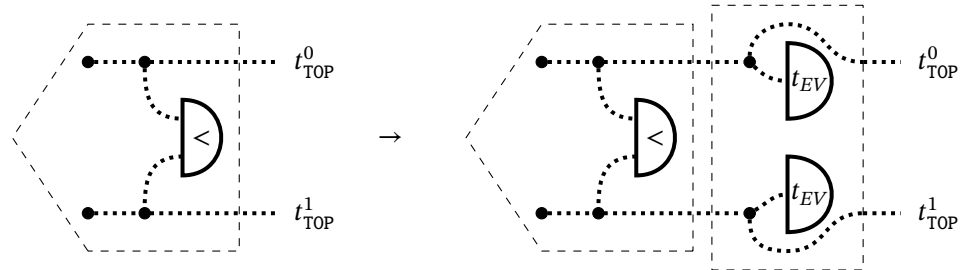
Hybrid event  
(Open set with endpoints)



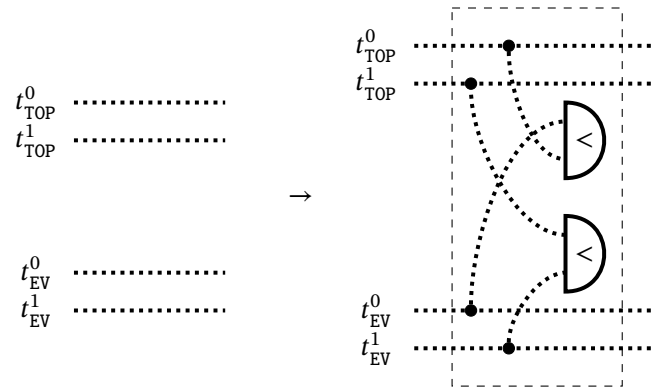
Perfective:  $t_{EV} \subseteq t_{TOP}$   
 (Event time contained within topic time)



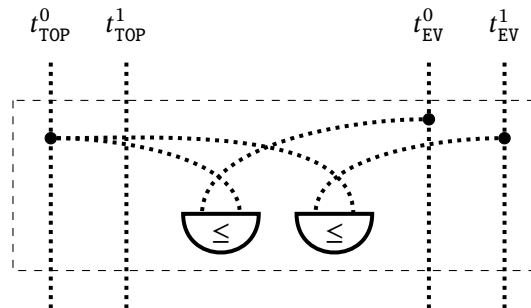
Imperfective:  $t_{TOP} \subset t_{EV}$   
 (Episodic time contained within habitual event time)



Progressive:  $t_{\text{TOP}} \subset t_{\text{EV}}$   
 (Event is ongoing throughout topic time)



Terminative:  $t_{\text{EV}} < t_{\text{TOP}}^0$   
 (Event will have been completed by the topic time)







2

## *Bibliography*