

# Multimodal Semantics for Affordances and Actions

## Lecture 1: Multimodal Communication

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# The Big Picture Goal

- As HCI becomes more multimodal (language, gesture, gaze, posture, facial expressions), we need to understand the role of **affordances** and **human-object interactions**.
- We examine how our knowledge of **object interactions is rarely reflected in linguistic descriptions** of actions (or images).
- We demonstrate how **object and situational conditions on actions** need to be identified and encoded, just as importantly as the actions themselves.



# Course Learning Goals

- Identify requirements involved in developing a semantics for human-computer (HCI) and human-robot interactions (HRI).
  - We study Human-human interactions (HHI) in multimodal communication.
- Modeling human-object interactions for communication
  - object properties and behaviors
  - actions associated with objects
- Developing the notion of embodiment: an agent's actions are *situated* by the context and constrained by its *embodiment* in the context.
  - embodiment in a simulation
  - an embodied environment allows us to bridge and integrate formal symbolic and statistically oriented reasoning approaches, to create grounding and situated reasoning.

- **Monday:** Components of Multimodal Communication
- **Tuesday:** Modeling Human-Object Interactions
- **Wednesday:** Modeling Multimodal Common Ground
- **Thursday:** Communicating with Multimodal Common Ground
- **Friday:** Reasoning with and about Affordances

# Monday: The Components of Multimodal Communication

- Achieving and maintaining common ground
  - shared conceptual space
- Context-aware interpretation of communicative acts
  - language, gesture, gaze
- Recognizing Object-specific knowledge and behavior
- Objects and actions are situated in the interaction
- Agents are embodied in the interaction:
  - all actions (communicative or physical) are interpreted through embodiment.
- Generative Lexicon object semantics

# Situated Semantic Grounding and Embodiment

- Task-oriented dialogues are **embodied interactions** between agents, where language, gesture, gaze, and actions are situated within a common ground shared by all agents in the communication.
- Situated semantic grounding assumes **shared perception** of agents with **co-attention** over objects in a situated context, with **co-intention** towards a common goal.
- **VoxWorld** : a multimodal simulation framework for modeling **Embodied Human-Computer Interactions** and communication between agents engaged in a shared goal or task.

# Situated Meaning

Mother and son interacting in a shared task of icing cupcakes



## SITUATED MEANING IN A JOINT ACTIVITY

- SON: *Put it there (gesturing with co-attention)?*
- MOTHER: *Yes, go down for about two inches.*
- MOTHER: *OK, stop there. (co-attentional gaze)*
- SON: *Okay. (stops action)*
- MOTHER: *Now, start this one (pointing to another cupcake).*

# Situated Meaning

## Elements from the Common Ground

Agents	mother, son
Shared goals Beliefs, desires, intentions	baking, icing Mother knows how to ice, bake, etc. Mother is teaching son
Objects	Mother, son, cupcakes, plate, knives, pastry bag, icing, gloves
Shared perception	the objects on the table
Shared Space	kitchen

# The Challenge of Situated Grounding

1. **Human-computer/robot interactions** require at least the following capabilities:
  - Robust recognition and generation within multiple modalities
    - language, gesture, vision, action;
  - understanding of contextual grounding and co-situatedness;
  - appreciation of the consequences of behavior and actions.
2. **Multimodal simulations** provide an approach to modeling human-computer communication by situating and contextualizing the interaction, thereby visually demonstrating what the computer/robot sees and believes.

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## Diana's World:

Peer-to-peer Human Computer  
Cooperation with shared perception,  
speech and non-verbal communication

July 2020

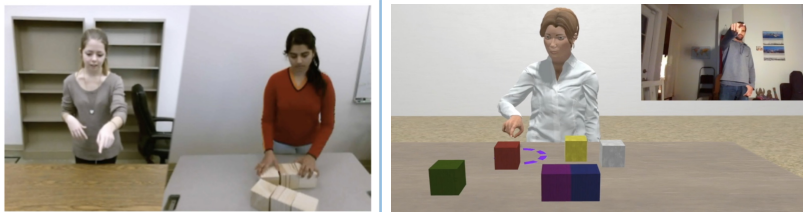
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# The Meaning of Embodiment in Communication

- Agent has **situated meaning** for the objects and actions in the environment;
- Recognition of the **human's embodiment**; agent has awareness of people's linguistic and gestural expressions, facial expressions, and actions.
- **Self-embodiment** of the agent: the agent has “spatial presence” within the domain of the interaction

# Shared Conceptual Space



**Figure:** *Left:* Human-human collaborative interaction; *Right:* Human-avatar interaction.

# Embodiment and Situated Meaning

- Elements of Situated Meaning
  - Identifying the *actions and consequences* associated with objects in the environment.
  - Encoding a multimodal expression contextualized to the *dynamics of the discourse*
  - *Situated grounding*: Capturing how multimodal expressions are anchored, contextualized, and situated in context
- Modalities Deployed
  - gesture recognition and generation
  - language recognition and generation
  - affect, facial recognition, and gaze
  - action generation

# Recognition of Human's Embodiment

Awareness of the partner's:

- linguistic and gestural expressions
- gestural expressions
- facial expressions
- gaze and eye tracking
- actions

The agent continuously constructs and maintains a representation of the embodiment of its human partner.

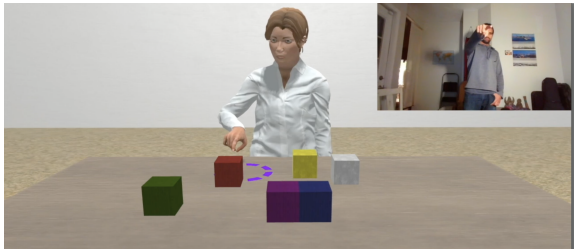
“spatial presence” within the domain of the interaction

- facial “countenance”
- explicit effectors for action
- explicit sensors for audio and visual input.
- Constraints on its behavior are imposed by the physical extents and limitations of the embodiment (e.g., how far it can reach, degrees of freedom on the joints, etc.).

# Intelligent Virtual Agents

## Embodied Environments

A non-verbal interaction between a human and IVA using gesture, gaze, and action.



**Figure:** IVA Diana engaging in an embodied HCI with a human user.

► [Link](#)

# Modeling Human Object Interactions (HOIs)

- The objects in a dialogue carry **much more semantic information** than conventionally assumed.
- This includes knowledge for how the objects can be manipulated by an agent in space and time, their *Gibsonian affordances*, and how they can be used, their *Telic affordances*.
- Such information also includes knowledge of how an object is situated in the environment relative to an agent for specific purposes and actions, that is, its *habitat*.
- We show how affordance encoding and recognition can **improve object and action classification** in HCI tasks.

# Captions Don't Describe Human-Object Interactions

Neither do conventional semantic representations



“Woman drinking coffee.”

- (1) a. *drink*(*w*, *c*)  
b.  $\exists x \exists y [\text{woman}(x) \wedge \text{coffee}(y) \wedge \text{drink}(x, y)]$   
c.  $\text{EVENT}(\text{drink}) \wedge \text{AGENT}(\text{woman}) \wedge \text{PATIENT}(\text{coffee})$



# What the Caption Leaves Out

## Dense Paraphrase

- *A woman drinking coffee.*
- A upright seated woman is holding in her hand, a **cup** filled with coffee while she drinks it.
- The **cup** is upright so the container portion (inside) is able to hold coffee.
- She is holding the **cup** by an attached handle.
- The **cup** is tilted towards her and touches her partially open mouth, in order to allow drinking.

# Captions Don't Describe Human-Object Interactions



“A man working at a desk.”

# What the Caption Leaves Out

- *A man working at a desk.*
- A upright man is seated in a chair, typing with both hands on the **keyboard** of a laptop, which is on the top surface of a table.
- The chair he is seated in is close enough to the table for him to reach the **keyboard**.
- The laptop is open, with the **keyboard** exposed flat and the screen facing the man.
- The man is facing the computer screen and **keyboard** and the desk.

# Affordance and Goal Recognition

1. **Perceived purpose** is an integral component of how we interpret situations and reason about utterances in communicative contexts.

- Events are purposeful and directed;
- Places are functional;
- Objects are usable and manipulable.

2. **Affordances** are latent action structures of how an agent interacts with objects in the environment, in different modalities:

- language, gesture, vision, action;

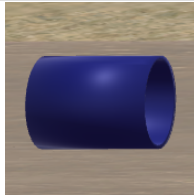
3. **Qualia Structure** provides a link to such **latent actions structures** associated with objects in utterances and the context.

# Encoding Object Behavior

- Context of objects is described by their properties.
- Object properties cannot be decoupled from the events they facilitate.
  - *Affordances* (Gibson, 1979)
  - *Qualia* (Pustejovsky, 1995)

“He **slid** the cup across the table. Liquid spilled out.”

“He **rolled** the cup across the table. Liquid spilled out.”



# Visual Object Concept Modeling Language (VoxML)

Pustejovsky and Krishnaswamy (2016)

- Encodes afforded behaviors for each object
  - **Gibsonian**: afforded by object structure (Gibson, 1977, 1979)
    - grasp, move, lift, etc.
  - **Telic**: goal-directed, purpose-driven (Pustejovsky, 1995, 2013)
    - drink from, read, etc.
- Voxeme
  - **Object Geometry**: Formal object characteristics in  $R^3$  space
  - **Habitat**: Conditioning environment affecting object **affordances** (behaviors attached due to object structure or purpose);
  - **Affordance Structure**:
    - What can one do to it
    - What can one do with it
    - What does it enable

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{cup} \\ \text{LEX} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} = \text{cup} \\ \text{TYPE} = \text{physobj, artifact} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{TYPE} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} = \text{cylindroid}[1] \\ \text{COMPONENTS} = \text{surface, interior} \\ \text{CONCAVITY} = \text{concave} \\ \text{ROTATSYM} = \{Y\} \\ \text{REFLECTSYM} = \{XY, YZ\} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{HABITAT} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{INTR} = [2] \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONSTR} = \{Y > X, Y > Z\} \\ \text{UP} = \text{align}(Y, \mathcal{E}_Y) \\ \text{TOP} = \text{top}(+Y) \end{array} \right] \\ \text{EXTR} = [3] \left[ \text{UP} = \text{align}(Y, \mathcal{E}_{\perp Y}) \right] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{AFFORD\_STR} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} A_1 = H_{[2]} \rightarrow [\text{put}(x, \text{on}([1]))] \text{support}([1], x) \\ A_2 = H_{[2]} \rightarrow [\text{put}(x, \text{in}([1]))] \text{contain}([1], x) \\ A_3 = H_{[2]} \rightarrow [\text{grasp}(x, [1])] \\ A_4 = H_{[3]} \rightarrow [\text{roll}(x, [1])] \end{array} \right] \\ \text{EMBODIMENT} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{SCALE} = <\text{agent} \\ \text{MOVABLE} = \text{true} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{slide} \\ \text{LEX} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} = \text{slide} \\ \text{TYPE} = \text{process} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{TYPE} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} = \text{process} \\ \text{ARGS} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} A_1 = \text{x:agent} \\ A_2 = \text{y:physobj} \\ A_3 = \text{z:physobj} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{BODY} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} E_1 = \text{grasp}(x, y) \\ E_2 = [\text{while}(\text{hold}(x, y), \\ \text{while}(\text{EC}(y, z), \text{move}(x, y)))] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$
  

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{put} \\ \text{LEX} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} = \text{put} \\ \text{TYPE} = \text{transition\_event} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{TYPE} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} = \text{transition} \\ \text{ARGS} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} A_1 = \text{x:agent} \\ A_2 = \text{y:physobj} \\ A_3 = \text{z:location} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{BODY} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} E_1 = \text{grasp}(x, y) \\ E_2 = [\text{while}(\neg \text{at}(y, z) \wedge \text{hold}(x, y)), \text{move}(x, y)] \\ E_3 = [\text{at}(y, z) \rightarrow \text{ungrasp}(x, y)] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$



$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{grasp} \\ \text{LEX} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} = \mathbf{grasp} \\ \text{TYPE} = \mathbf{transition\_event} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{TYPE} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{HEAD} = \mathbf{transition} \\ \text{ARGS} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{A}_1 = \mathbf{x:agent} \\ \text{A}_2 = \mathbf{y:physobj} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{BODY} = \left[ \text{E}_1 = \mathit{grasp}(x, y) \right] \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

- Continuation-passing style semantics for composition
- Used within conventional sentence structures and between sentences in discourse in MSG

# Multimodal Simulations

- Human understanding depends on a wealth of **common-sense knowledge**; humans perform much reasoning **qualitatively**.
- To simulate events, every parameter must have a value
  - “Roll the ball.” How fast? In which direction?
  - “Roll the block.” Can this be done?
  - “Roll the cup.” Only possible in a certain orientation.
- VoxML: Formal semantic encoding of properties of objects, events, attributes, relations, functions.
- VoxSim: What can situated grounding do? (Krishnaswamy, 2017)
  - Exploit numerical information demanded by 3D visualization;
  - Perform qualitative reasoning about objects and events;
  - Capture semantic context often overlooked by unimodal language processing.

# VoxWorld Architecture

Pustejovsky and Krishnaswamy (2016), Krishnaswamy (2017), Pustejovsky et al (2017), Narayana et al (2018)

- **Dynamic interpretation** of actions and communicative acts:
  - Dynamic Interval Temporal Logic (DITL)
  - Dialogue Manager
- **VoxML**: Visual Object Concept Modeling Language
- **EpiSim**: Visualizes agent's epistemic state and perceptual state in context;
  - Public Announcement Logic
  - Public Perception Logic
- **VoxSim**: 3D visualizer of actions, communicative acts, and context.
  - Built on Unity Game Engine

# Dynamic Discourse Interpretation

- Common Ground Structure
  - Co-belief
  - Co-perception
  - Co-situatedness
- Multimodal communication act:
  - language
  - gesture
  - action
- Dynamic tracking and updating of dialogue with:
  - Discourse Sequence Grammar
  - Gesture Grammar
  - Action Grammar

# Multimodal Communicative Acts

- A communicative act, performed by an agent,  $a$ , is a tuple of expressions from the modalities available to  $a$ , involved in conveying information to another agent.
- We restrict this to the modalities of speech,  $S$ , gesture,  $G$ , facial expression  $F$ , gaze  $Z$ , an explicit action  $A$ .
  - ①  $C_a = \langle S, G, F, Z, A \rangle$
- These modal channels can be **aligned** or **unaligned** in the input.

# Co-belief and Co-perception in the Common Ground

- *Public announcement logic (PAL)*
  - $[\alpha]\varphi$  denotes that an agent “ $\alpha$  knows  $\varphi$ ”.
  - Public Announcement:  $[\!\varphi_1]\varphi_2$
  - Any proposition,  $\varphi$ , in the common knowledge held by two agents,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , is computed as:  $[(\alpha \cup \beta)^*]\varphi$ .
- *Public perception logic (PPL)*
  - $[\alpha]_{\sigma}\varphi$  denotes that agent “ $\alpha$  perceives that  $\varphi$ ”.
  - $[\alpha]_{\sigma}\hat{x}$  denotes that agent “ $\alpha$  perceives that there is an  $x$ .”
  - Public Display:  $[\!\varphi_1]_{\sigma}\varphi_2$
  - The co-perception by two agents,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  includes  $\varphi$  :  
 $[(\alpha \cup \beta)^*]_{\sigma}\varphi$

# Multimodal Semantics for Common Ground

## Common Ground Structure (CGS)

The situated common ground consists of the following state information:

- (2) a. **A**: The **agents** engaged in communication;
- b. **B**: The shared **belief space**;
- c. **P**: The **objects and relations that are jointly perceived** in the environment;
- d.  $\mathcal{E}$ : The **embedding space** that both agents occupy in the communication.

(3) 
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{A}:a_1, a_2 \quad \mathbf{B}:\Delta \quad \mathbf{P}:b \\ \hline \mathcal{S}_{a_1} = \text{"You}_{a_2} \text{ see it}_b\text{"} \end{array}}_{\mathcal{E}}$$



# Multimodal Semantics for Common Ground

## Modeling the Current Context

- State Monad:  $M\alpha = State \rightarrow (\alpha \times State)$
- Context is a stack of items and the type of left contexts is a list of entities,  $[e]$ .
- Right contexts will be interpreted as continuations: a discourse that requires a left context to yield a truth value., of type  $[e] \rightarrow t$ .
- Hence, context transitions are of type  $[e] \rightarrow [e] \rightarrow t$ ;
- Given the current discourse,  $T$ , and a new expression,  $C$ ,  $C$  updates  $T$  as follows:
- $[[\overline{(T.C)}]]^{M, cg} = \lambda k. [[\overline{T}]] (\lambda n. [[\overline{C}]] (\lambda m. k(m\ n)))$

# Adding Gesture to Common Ground

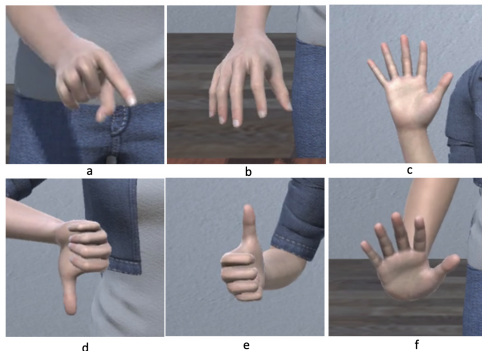
## Multimodal Contextualized Reference

- Representing **how gestures denote**
- Encoding **co-perception** of situated objects under reference
- **Situated alignment** of expressions from distinct modalities

# Gesture Types in Multimodal Interactions

- 1 **Deixis (pointing) gestures**, generated to request information regarding an object, a location, or a direction when performing a specific action;
- 2 **Iconic action gestures**, generated to request clarification on how (what manner of action) to perform a specific task;
- 3 **Affordance-denoting gestures**, generated to describe how the agent can interact with an object, even when it does not know what it is or what it might be used for;
- 4 **Direct situated actions**, where the agent responds to a command or request by acting in the environment directly.

# Gestures used in VoxWorld



**Figure:** Some of the gestures generated by VoxWorld: pointing, grab, five, no, yes, push back.

# Bidirectional Gesture Recognition and Generation

- On the left, a human is **action gesturing** to move an object to the left:
- On the right, the IVA is performing the **identical gesture**.



# Actions as Described by Gesture

Kendon (2004), Lascarides and Stone (2009)

- $G \rightarrow (Prep) (Pre\_stroke\ Hold) \text{ Stroke}\ Retract$

The stroke is the content-baring phase, **d**, and in a pointing gesture, will convey the deictic orientational information.

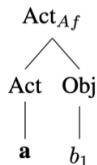
- $[[point]] = [[End(cone(d))]]$

Interpreted Gesture Tree:

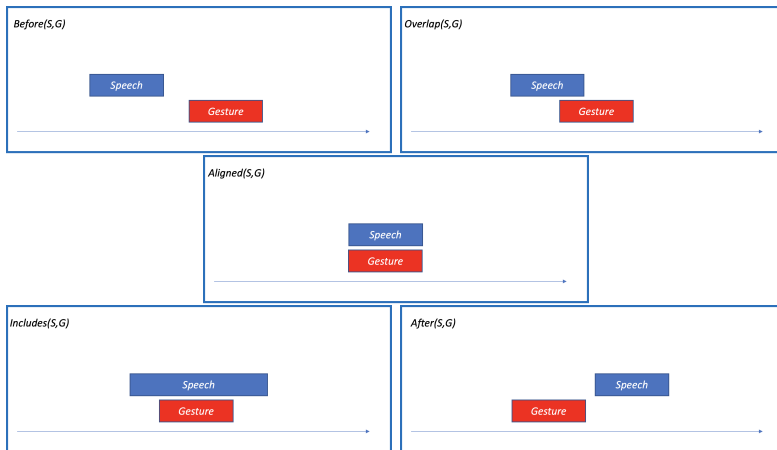
a. **Deixis:**  $D_{obj} \rightarrow Dir\ Obj$



b. **Action:**  $G_{Af} \rightarrow Act\ Obj$



# Aligning Speech and Gesture in Dialogue



# Reasoning in Multimodal Simulations

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# Transfer Learning of Object Affordances

- Gibsonian/Telic affordances are associated with abstract properties:
  - spheres **roll**, sphere-like entities probably do too;
  - small cups are **graspable**, small cylindroid-shaped objects probably are too.
- Similar objects have similar habitats/affordances:
- This informs the way you can talk about items in context:
  - **Q**: “What am I pointing at?”
  - **A**: “I don’t know, but it looks like {a ball/a container/etc.}”

## Affordance-denoting gestures



# Reasoning with Affordances

Learning how to stack a cube

- An agent can interact with various objects and see how they behave differently under the same circumstances.
- An agent can learn to distinguish objects based on behaviors.



# Generative Lexicon: Type-driven Compositionality

- A compositional semantics that has a rich library of object knowledge
- The lexicon is viewed as genuinely **generative**:
  - Specific lexical mechanisms derive an infinite number of word senses from a finite number of meaning elements.
  - It incorporates and dictates essential components of other linguistic levels: syntax and semantics.
- **Decompositional approach** to word meaning: the lexicon comprises several levels of representation and *sublexical* components.

Decomposition is applied to uncover compositional/relational aspects of lexical semantics.

- *Diana almost built a staircase.*
  - almost(build\_act, be\_built)
  - [build\_act, almost(be\_built)]

# Lexical structures in GL

- **Argument structure**: specification of number and type of the predicate's arguments.
  - Rich argument typology, including unexpressed arguments.
- **Event structure**: overall event type of the predicate, its parts (*subevents*), their relative ordering and prominence.
  - *Dynamic Event Structure*: scalar properties of events.
- **Qualia structure**: decomposed representation of lexical meaning in terms of four dimensions:
  - a. FORMAL (F): basic semantic typing (**is\_a** relation: *fence* is a kind of 'barrier'); features that distinguish the object within a larger domain
  - b. AGENTIVE (A): factors involved in the origin of an object ('build' for *fence*).
  - c. TELIC (T): purpose/function of the object ('separate/ prevent from entering or leaving' for *fence*).
  - d. CONSTITUTIVE (C): relation between an object and its proper parts ('wood/metal' for *fence*), or what it is a part of.

# Lexical structures integrated in a lexical entry

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{build} \\ AS = \left[ \begin{array}{l} ARG_1 = x: \mathbf{animate} \\ ARG_2 = y: \mathbf{phys\_obj} \\ D-ARG_1 = w: \mathbf{phys\_obj} \end{array} \right] \\ ES = \left[ \begin{array}{l} E_0 = \mathbf{e_0: transition} \\ E_1 = \mathbf{e_1 process} \\ E_2 = \mathbf{e_2 state} \end{array} \right] \\ QS = \left[ \begin{array}{l} FORMAL = \mathbf{be\_built(e_2,y)} \\ AGENTIVE = \mathbf{build\_act(e_1,x,w)} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

- **ES/ QS**: ES subevents are identified as processes and resultant states in the QS
- **QS/ AS**: QS (formal role) provides the semantic typing of the arguments in the AS
- **ES/ AS**: AS arguments are involved in different parts of the ES

# Semantic types

- **Semantic types**: the kind of entity denoted by a lexical item.
  - *table* is a kind of FURNITURE → semantic type
- **Ontology**: what entities exist and how they can be grouped and related within a hierarchy.

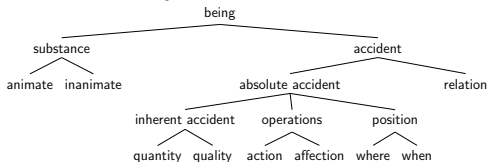


Figure: Aristotelian ontology

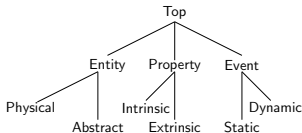


Figure: Classic Upper Ontology

# Linguistic motivation of semantic types

- Which semantic categories are linguistically relevant?
- A piece of conceptual information can be considered linguistic if it affect other modules of grammar (syntax and morphology).
- Sem. properties systematically shared by arguments of different Vs:
  - ANIMATE
    - a. The *chef* was chopping onions.
    - b. The *girl* played with the blocks.
  - EVENT
    - a. John finished {the *dinner*/ *eating*/*preparing the dinner*}.
    - b. He was late for the *lecture*.
  - LOCATION
    - a. The stack is on *the edge of the table*.
    - b. Put the block *there*.
  - TIME
    - a. Stir the soup for *10 minutes*.
    - b. Ananya played with blocks *today*.



# Integrating GL with Distributional Semantics

- 1 **Context vectors** for words encode syntagmatic relations between words

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \dots \\ v_n \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{Verb} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{c} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \dots \\ w_n \end{array} \right\}$$

(4) a. Natural types:

(5) a. **Natural types:**

- *Simple*: Natural kind concepts consisting of reference only to Formal or Constitutive qualia roles;

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b. **Artifactual types**: Concepts making reference to Agentive (origin) for a specific Telic (purpose or function);

c. **Complex types**: Concepts integrating reference to a logical coherence relation between types from the other two levels.



# Kinds of Compositionality

## ① Weak Compositionality:

If all you have for composition is **function application**, then you need to create as many **lexical entries** for an expression as there are **environments** it appears in.

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## ① Weak Compositionality:

If all you have for composition is **function application**, then you need to create as many **lexical entries** for an expression as there are **environments** it appears in.

## ② True Compositionality: Enrich the mechanisms of making larger meanings by taking advantage of all expressions in the phrase; type coercion, qualia exploitation, co-composition.

- (9) a. **PURE SELECTION** (Type Matching): the type a function requires is directly satisfied by the argument;

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- i. **Exploitation**: taking a part of the argument's type to satisfy the function;
  - ii. **Introduction**: wrapping the argument with the type required by the function.

# Notation and Language: typed feature structures

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \alpha \\ \text{ARGSTR} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{ARG1} = x \\ \dots \end{array} \right] \\ \text{EVENTSTR} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{EVENT1} = e1 \\ \text{EVENT2} = e2 \end{array} \right] \\ \text{QUALIA} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{CONST} = \textbf{what } x \textbf{ is made of} \\ \text{FORMAL} = \textbf{what } x \textbf{ is} \\ \text{TELIC} = e_2: \textbf{function of } x \\ \text{AGENTIVE} = e_1: \textbf{how } x \textbf{ came into being} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

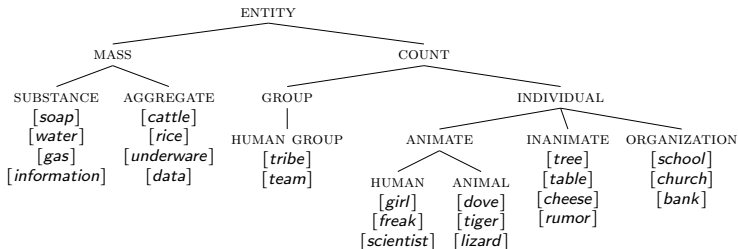


# Type list

Semantic type	Example
ENTITY	thing
–MASS	soap, luggage, cattle
–COUNT	cow, table, tribe, bank
EVENT	happening, situation
–STATE	happiness, depression, love, be sick, be German
–DYNAMIC EVENT	demonstration, arrival, learn, build, jump
PROPERTY	
–INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL	tall, intelligent, respectful
–STAGE-LEVEL	hungry, tired, bored
PROPOSITION	(He told me) that you left
–INFORMATION	data/datum, commentary, rumor, message, summary, handout
TIME	tonight, soon, after dark, the day we met
LOCATION	upstairs, world-wide, here, downtown, in the yard
DIRECTION	towards, via, down
QUANTITY	seven, (a) few, (a) little, numerous, great deal, severely
MANNER	fast, happily, cruelly, with joy

# ENTITY subtypes

- Only simple inheritance

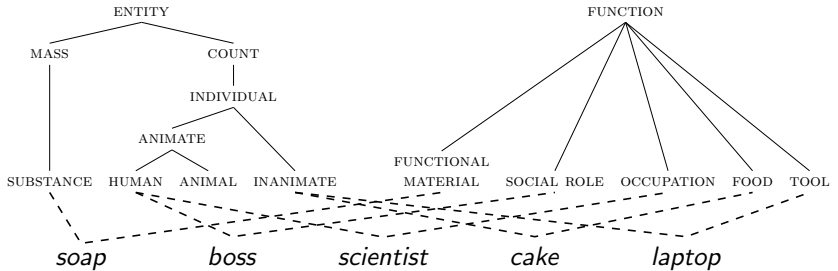


# Qualia-based types: natural and artifactual

- FORMAL is the head type: an entity can have a function or not but, if it exists, it must 'be something' ( physical object, substance, etc.).
- When the property encoded in the FORMAL role persists, other properties may not persist, but if it does not persist no other property persists because the entity no longer exists.
  - *broken camera*: PHYSICAL OBJECT with no function
  - *former boss*: HUMAN INDIVIDUAL with no function
- Type constructor **tensor** ( $\otimes$ ): introduces types containing other qualia on top of the formal:
  - a. *cake*:  $\text{phys\_obj} \otimes_C \{ \text{flour}, \text{sugar} \} \otimes_A \text{bake} \otimes_T \text{eat}$
  - b. *tree*:  $\text{phys\_obj} \otimes_C \text{trunk} \otimes_C \text{foliage}$
  - c. *beer*:  $\text{liquid} \otimes_C \{ \text{water}, \text{yeast} \} \otimes_A \text{brew} \otimes_T \text{drink}$

# Qualia-based types: natural and artifactual

- Multiple inheritance in artifactual types



# Qualia-based types: complex (dot objects)

- **Complex types (dot objects)** have more than one semantic type specified in their formal role.
- **dot (•)** is the type constructor that creates a complex type  $a \bullet b$  from any two types  $a$  and  $b$ .

a. *novel*: PHYSICAL\_OBJECT • INFORMATION

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{novel} \\ \text{QS} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{F} = \text{phys\_obj} \\ \text{C} = \text{page, cover...} \\ \text{T} = \text{containing\_information} \\ \text{A} = \text{printing, binding...} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \bullet \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{novel} \\ \text{QS} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{F} = \text{information} \\ \text{C} = \text{narrative} \\ \text{T} = \text{entertain} \\ \text{A} = \text{writing} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

- For a dot object to be well-formed, there must exist a relation between its constituent types:
  - a. *book*: [F = contain(PHYS\_OBJ, INFORMATION)]
  - b. *Toyota*: [F = produce(PRODUCER, PRODUCT)]
  - c. *chicken*: [F = used\_as(ANIMAL, FOOD)]
  - d. *exam*: [F = ask(EVENT, HUMAN, QUESTION)]

# What is a *Quale*?

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- Among the conceptual relations that a word may activate Qualia relations as defined in GL are those that are **exploited in our understanding of linguistic expressions**.
- *fresh bread* = “bread which has been **baked** recently.”



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- This relation enables one to grasp the nature of an entity by **discriminating it from other kinds**.
- What **type of entity** is  $x$  denoting? *rock* denotes a natural kind, *table* denotes an artifact, *car* denotes a vehicle, *park* denotes a location, *water* denotes a liquid, *plant* denotes a living thing, *fish* denotes an animal, *hand* denotes a body part, *glass* denotes a container, and so on.

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- substances such as fluids, salts, glucose and carbon dioxide.



# Formal factors for the class of nouns denoting concrete entities

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- Position.

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- Spatial characteristics, intrinsic orientation.
- Size and dimensional properties.
- Shape and form.
- Color.
- Position.
- Surface.

# Values for Formal factors of nouns denoting concrete entities

- a red block

# Values for Formal factors of nouns denoting concrete entities

- a red block
- (Color<sub>F</sub>)



# Values for Formal factors of nouns denoting concrete entities

- a red block
- (Color<sub>F</sub>)
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- the facade of the building

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- the facade of the building
- ( $\text{Orientation}_F$ )

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- ( $\text{Dimension}_F$ )
- the facade of the building
- ( $\text{Orientation}_F$ )
- wipe the floor

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- ( $\text{Orientation}_F$ )
- wipe the floor
- ( $\text{Surface}_F$ )



# Values for Formal factors of nouns denoting concrete entities

- the length of the table
- ( $\text{Dimension}_F$ )
- the facade of the building
- ( $\text{Orientation}_F$ )
- wipe the floor
- ( $\text{Surface}_F$ )
- a large round table

# Values for Formal factors of nouns denoting concrete entities

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- ( $\text{Dimension}_F$ )
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- It expresses the relation that allows us to grasp what an entity is by **knowing what it is used for**.
- It encodes a **potential activity** of the object.
- First systematic mention of Telic in Pustejovsky and Anick (1988) as **hidden event**.



# Extending Qualia to Modeling Affordances

The affordances of the environment are what it offers the animal, what it provides or furnishes, either for good or ill. It implies the complementarity of the animal and the environment. (J. J. Gibson, 1979/1986)

- Gibson (1979), Turvey (1992), Steedman (2002), Sahin et al (2007), Krippendorff (2010);
- **Affordance**: a correlation between an **agent** who **acts** on an **object** with a systematic or prototypical **effect**.

# Telic Qualia Role as an Affordance Structure

Motivation for Qualia relations comes from the idea that there is a *hidden event* in the lexical representation associated with nouns denoting objects made for a particular purpose:

- (14)
- a. a door is for walking through
  - b. a window is for seeing through
  - c. a book is for reading
  - d. a beer is for drinking
  - e. a cake is for eating
  - f. a car is for driving
  - g. a table is for putting things on
  - h. a desk is for working on
  - i. a pen is for writing with

# Habitats and Simulations

Pustejovsky (2013)

- Habitat: a representation of an object situated within a partial minimal model; Enhancements of the qualia structure.
- With multi-dimensional affordances that determine how habitats are deployed and how they modify or augment the context.
- Compositional combinations of procedural (simulation) and operational (selection, specification, refinement) knowledge.
- A habitat:
  - embeds;
  - orients;
  - positions.

# Different Habitats for Object Use



Top: *Spoon* allowing **holding** (left) and **stirring** (right).  
Bottom: *Knife* allowing **spreading** (left) and **cutting** (right)

# Habitat-Affordance Pairs

*If Habitat then Action*

spoon

- (15) a. If *spoon's concavity is vertical*, then it can *support containment of a substance*;  
b. If *spoon's major axis is vertical*, then it can *support mixing*.

knife

- (16) a. If *knife's zero convexity (sheet) is horizontal*, then it can *support spreading of a substance*;  
b. If *knife's zero convexity (sheet) is vertical*, then it can *support cutting or separating*.

# Natural Predicate Types

Predicates formed with Natural Entities as arguments:

- ① *fall*:  $e_N \rightarrow t$
  - ② *touch*:  $e_N \rightarrow (e_N \rightarrow t)$
  - ③ *be under*:  $e_N \rightarrow (e_N \rightarrow t)$
- a.  $\lambda x: e_N [ \text{fall}(x) ]$
  - b.  $\lambda y: e_N \lambda x: e_N [ \text{touch}(x,y) ]$
  - c.  $\lambda y: e_N \lambda x: e_N [ \text{be-under}(x,y) ]$

# Artifactual Entity Types

Entities formed from the Naturals by adding the AGENTIVE or TELIC qualia roles:

- ① Artifact Entity:  $x : e_N \otimes_a \sigma$   
 $x$  exists because of event  $\sigma$
  - ② Functional Entity:  $x : e_N \otimes_t \tau$   
the purpose of  $x$  is  $\tau$
  - ③ Functional Artifactual Entity:  $x : (e_N \otimes_a \sigma) \otimes_t \tau$   
 $x$  exists because of event  $\sigma$  for the purpose  $\tau$
- a. *beer*:  $(\text{liquid} \otimes_a \text{brew}) \otimes_t \text{drink}$
  - b. *knife*:  $(\text{phys} \otimes_a \text{make}) \otimes_t \text{cut}$
  - c. *house*:  $(\text{phys} \otimes_a \text{build}) \otimes_t \text{live\_in}$

# Artifactual Predicate Types

Predicates formed with Artifactual Entities as arguments:

- ① *spoil*:  $e_N \otimes_t \tau \rightarrow t$
- ② *fix*:  $e_N \otimes_t \tau \rightarrow (e_N \rightarrow t)$ 
  - a.  $\lambda x: e_A [ \textit{spoil}(x) ]$
  - b.  $\lambda y: e_A \lambda x: e_N [ \textit{fix}(x,y) ]$ 
    - The beer spoiled.
    - Mary fixed the watch.



# Complex Entity Types (Dot Objects)

Pustejovsky (1994)

When a single word or phrase has the ability to appear in selected contexts that are contradictory in type specification.

If a lexical expression,  $\alpha$ , where  $\sigma \sqcap \tau = \perp$ :

①  $[\_\_]_{\sigma} X$

②  $[\_\_]_{\tau} Y$

are both well-formed predications, then  $\alpha$  is a dot object (complex type).

Entities formed from the Naturals and Artifacts by a product type between the entities, i.e., the dot, •.

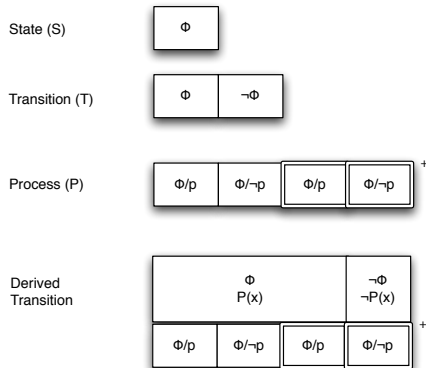
① a. Mary doesn't believe the book.

b. John sold his book to Mary.

② a. The exam started at noon.

b. The students could not understand the exam.

# Frame-based Event Structure



2nd Conference on CTF, Pustejovsky (2009)

- Events are built up from multiple (stacked) layers of primitive constraints on the individual participants.

# Dynamic Event Structure

- Events are built up from multiple (stacked) layers of primitive constraints on the individual participants.
- There may be many changes taking place within one atomic event, when viewed at the subatomic level.

# Dynamic Interval Temporal Logic

(Pustejovsky and Moszkowicz, 2011)

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    - $\langle\alpha\rangle\phi$  (there is an execution of  $\alpha$ , such that  $\phi$  is true);
  - 5 Formulas can become programs,  $\phi?$  (test to see if  $\phi$  is true, and proceed if so).

# Dynamic Event Structure

- (17) a. Mary was sick today.  
b. My phone was expensive.  
c. Sam lives in Boston.

- (18) a. Mary was sick today.  
b. My phone was expensive.  
c. Sam lives in Boston.

We assume that a *state* is defined as a single frame structure (event), containing a proposition, where the frame is temporally indexed, i.e.,  $e^i \rightarrow \phi$  is interpreted as  $\phi$  holding as true at time  $i$ . The frame-based representation from Pustejovsky and Moszkowicz (2011) can be given as follows:

# Dynamic Event Structure

$$(19) \boxed{\phi}_e^i$$



# Dynamic Event Structure

(22)  $\boxed{\phi}_e^i$

Propositions can be evaluated over subsequent states, of course, so we need an operation of concatenation,  $+$ , which applies to two or more event frames, as illustrated below.

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$$(25) \boxed{\phi}_e^i$$

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$$(26) \boxed{\phi}_e^i + \boxed{\phi}_e^j = \boxed{\phi}_e^{[ij]}$$

# Dynamic Event Structure

$$(28) \boxed{\phi}_e^i$$

Propositions can be evaluated over subsequent states, of course, so we need an operation of concatenation,  $+$ , which applies to two or more event frames, as illustrated below.

$$(29) \boxed{\phi}_e^i + \boxed{\phi}_e^j = \boxed{\phi}_e^{[i,j]}$$

Semantic interpretations for these are:

# Dynamic Event Structure

$$(31) \boxed{\phi}_e^i$$

Propositions can be evaluated over subsequent states, of course, so we need an operation of concatenation,  $+$ , which applies to two or more event frames, as illustrated below.

$$(32) \boxed{\phi}_e^i + \boxed{\phi}_e^j = \boxed{\phi}_e^{[i,j]}$$

Semantic interpretations for these are:

$$(33) \text{ a. } [[\boxed{\phi}]]_{M,i} = 1 \text{ iff } V_{M,i}(\phi) = 1.$$

$$\text{b. } [[\boxed{\phi}\boxed{\phi}]]_{M,\langle i,j \rangle} = 1 \text{ iff } V_{M,i}(\phi) = 1 \text{ and } V_{M,j}(\phi) = 1, \\ \text{where } i < j.$$

# Dynamic Event Structure

(34)

$e^i$   
|  
 $\phi$

# Dynamic Event Structure

(35)



Tree structure for event concatenation:

$$\begin{array}{c} e^i \\ | \\ \phi \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} e^j \\ | \\ \phi \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} e^{[i,j]} \\ | \\ \phi \end{array}$$

# Labeled Transition System (LTS)

The dynamics of actions can be modeled as a Labeled Transition Systems (LTS).

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(43)  $(e_1, \alpha, e_2) \in \rightarrow$

cf. Fernando (2001, 2013)

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b.  $e_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} e_3$

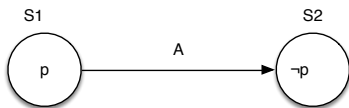
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An action,  $\alpha$  provides the labeling on an arrow, making it explicit what brings about a state-to-state transition.

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b.  $e_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} e_2$



# Temporal Labeled Transition System (TLTS)

With temporal indexing from a Linear Temporal Logic, we can define a Temporal Labeled Transition System (TLTS). For a state,  $e_1$ , indexed at time  $i$ , we say  $e_1 @ i$ .

$(\{\phi\}_{e_1 @ i}, \alpha, \{\neg\phi\}_{e_2 @ i+1}) \in \rightarrow_{(i, i+1)}$ , we use:



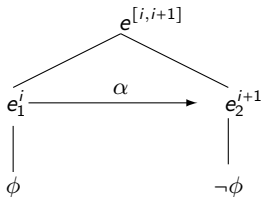
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$(\{\phi\}_{e_1 @ i}, \alpha, \{\neg\phi\}_{e_2 @ i+1}) \in \rightarrow_{(i, i+1)}$ , we use:

$$(50) \quad \boxed{\phi}_{e_1}^i \xrightarrow{\alpha} \boxed{\neg\phi}_{e_2}^{i+1}$$

(51)



# Dynamic Event Structure

(52) Mary awoke from a long sleep.

# Dynamic Event Structure

(54) Mary awoke from a long sleep.

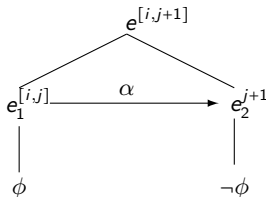
The state of being asleep has a duration,  $[i, j]$ , who's valuation is gated by the waking event at the “next state”,  $j + 1$ .

# Dynamic Event Structure

(56) Mary awoke from a long sleep.

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# Simple First-order Transition

(58)  $x := y$  ( $\nu$ -transition)

“ $x$  assumes the value given to  $y$  in the next state.”

$\langle \mathcal{M}, (i, i+1), (u, u[x/u(y)]) \rangle \models x := y$

iff  $\langle \mathcal{M}, i, u \rangle \models s_1 \wedge \langle \mathcal{M}, i+1, u[x/u(y)] \rangle \models x = y$

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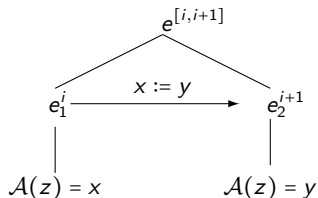
(60)  $x := y$  ( $\nu$ -transition)

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With a  $\nu$ -transition defined, a *process* can be viewed as simply an iteration of basic variable assignments and re-assignments:



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(63)

$$\begin{array}{c} e \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ e_1 \xrightarrow{\nu} e_2 \quad \dots \quad e_n \end{array}$$

# Dynamic Event Structures for Motion Predicates

- Manner construction languages

Path information is encoded in directional PPs and other adjuncts, while verb encode manner of motion

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- **Path construction languages**

Path information is encoded in matrix verb, while adjuncts specify manner of motion

Modern Greek, Spanish, Japanese, Turkish, Hindi

# Defining Motion (Talmy 1985)

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d. A distinguished point or region of the path (the *ground*);



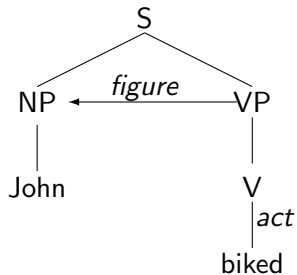
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e. The *manner* in which the change of location is carried out;

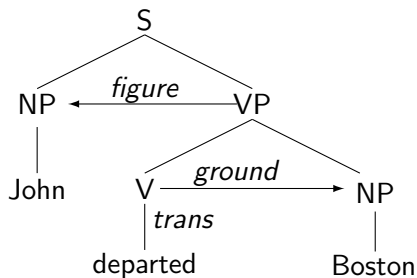
# Defining Motion (Talmy 1985)

- (69) a. The *event* or situation involved in the change of location ;  
b. The object (construed as a point or region) that is undergoing movement (the *figure*);  
c. The region (or *path*) traversed through the motion;  
d. A distinguished point or region of the path (the *ground*);  
e. The *manner* in which the change of location is carried out;  
f. The *medium* through which the motion takes place.

(70)

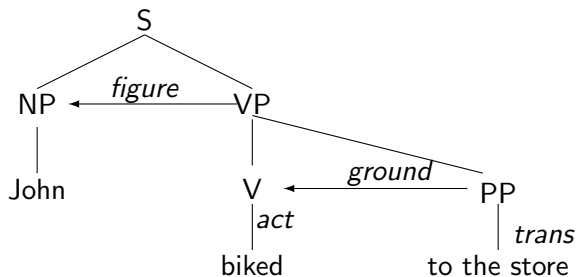


(71)



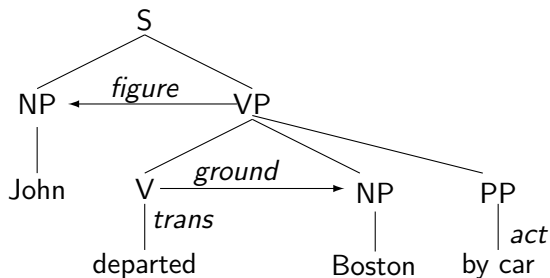
# Manner with Path Adjunction

(72)



# Path with Manner Adjunction

(73)



# Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 1/2

(74) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.

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- (76) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.  
b. Nicholas fell 100 meters.



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# Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 1/2

- (80) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.  
b. Nicholas fell 100 meters.
- (81) a. There is an action (e) bringing about an iterated non-distinguished change of location;  
b. The figure undergoes this non-distinguished change of location;

# Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 1/2

- (82) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.  
b. Nicholas fell 100 meters.
- (83) a. There is an action (e) bringing about an iterated non-distinguished change of location;  
b. The figure undergoes this non-distinguished change of location;  
c. The figure creates (leaves) a path by virtue of the motion.

# Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 1/2

- (84) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.  
b. Nicholas fell 100 meters.
- (85) a. There is an action (e) bringing about an iterated non-distinguished change of location;  
b. The figure undergoes this non-distinguished change of location;  
c. The figure creates (leaves) a path by virtue of the motion.  
d. The action (e) is performed in a certain manner.

# Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 1/2

- (86) a. Isabel climbed for 15 minutes.  
b. Nicholas fell 100 meters.
- (87) a. There is an action (e) bringing about an iterated non-distinguished change of location;  
b. The figure undergoes this non-distinguished change of location;  
c. The figure creates (leaves) a path by virtue of the motion.  
d. The action (e) is performed in a certain manner.  
e. The path is oriented in an identified or distinguished way.

## Path+manner Predicates (Talmy 2000) 2/2

Unlike pure manner verbs, this class of predicates admits of two compositional constructions with adjuncts.

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John climbed to the summit.

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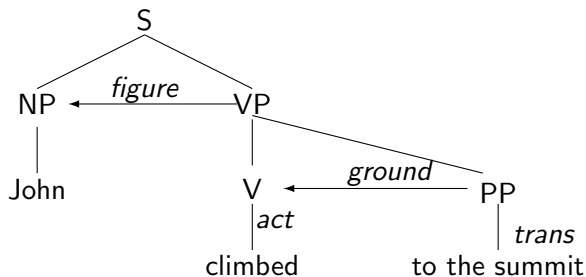
John climbed to the summit.

(93) **Manner of motion verb with path argument;**

John climbed the mountain.

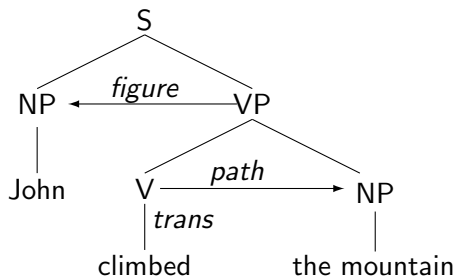


(94)



# With Path Argument

(95)



# Capturing Motion as Change in Spatial Relations

Dynamic Interval Temporal Logic

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- **Path** verbs designate a distinguished value in the change of location, from one state to another.

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## Dynamic Interval Temporal Logic

- **Path** verbs designate a distinguished value in the change of location, from one state to another.  
The change in value is **tested**.
- **Manner of motion** verbs iterate a change in location from state to state.  
The value is **assigned** and reassigned.

$$(96) \quad \boxed{\text{loc}(z) = x}_{e_1} \xrightarrow{\nu} \boxed{\text{loc}(z) = y}_{e_2}$$

$x \neq y?$   
↩



$$(98) \quad \boxed{\text{loc}(z) = x}_{e_1} \xrightarrow{\nu} \boxed{\text{loc}(z) = y}_{e_2}$$

$x \neq y?$   
↩

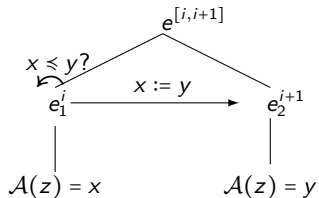
When this test references the ordinal values on a scale,  $\mathcal{C}$ , this becomes a *directed  $\nu$ -transition* ( $\vec{\nu}$ ), e.g.,  $x \leq y$ ,  $x \geq y$ .

$$(100) \quad \boxed{loc(z) = x}_{e_1} \xrightarrow{\overset{x \neq y?}{\curvearrowright} \nu} \boxed{loc(z) = y}_{e_2}$$

When this test references the ordinal values on a scale,  $\mathcal{C}$ , this becomes a *directed  $\nu$ -transition* ( $\vec{\nu}$ ), e.g.,  $x \leq y$ ,  $x \geq y$ .

$$(101) \quad \vec{\nu} =_{df} \overset{\overset{\mathcal{C} ?}{\curvearrowright}}{e_i} \xrightarrow{\nu} e_{i+1}$$

(102)



# Change and Directed Motion

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$loc(x) := y; y := z$

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- Directed motion introduces a **dimension** that is measured against:

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- Path verbs introduce a pair of **tests**:

$\neg\phi? \dots \phi?$

# Change and the Trail it Leaves

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- The execution of a change in the value to an attribute  $\mathcal{A}$  for an object  $x$  leaves a trail,  $\tau$ .
- For motion, this trail is the created object of the path  $p$  which the mover travels on;
- For creation predicates, this trail is the created object brought about by order-preserving transformations as executed in the directed process above.

# Motion Leaving a Trail

(103) MOTION LEAVING A TRAIL:

- a. Assign a value,  $y$ , to the location of the moving object,  $x$ .  
 $loc(x) := y$

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- a. Assign a value,  $y$ , to the location of the moving object,  $x$ .

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$b := y$

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- c. Initiate a path  $p$  that is a list, starting at  $b$ ;

$p := (b)$

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- d. Then, reassign the value of  $y$  to  $z$ , where  $y \neq z$

$y := z, y \neq z$

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$b := y$

- c. Initiate a path  $p$  that is a list, starting at  $b$ ;

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$y := z, y \neq z$

- e. Add the reassigned value of  $y$  to path  $p$ ;

# Motion Leaving a Trail

(108) MOTION LEAVING A TRAIL:

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- b. Name this value  $b$  (this will be the beginning of the movement);

$b := y$

- c. Initiate a path  $p$  that is a list, starting at  $b$ ;

$p := (b)$

- d. Then, reassign the value of  $y$  to  $z$ , where  $y \neq z$

$y := z, y \neq z$

- e. Add the reassigned value of  $y$  to path  $p$ ;

$p := (p, z)$

- f. Kleene iterate steps (d) and (e).



# Quantifying the Resulting Trail

chartParse.pdf

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chartParse.pdf

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chartParse.pdf