# Surface Reasoning Lecture 2: Logic and Grammar

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Thomas Icard: Surface Reasoning, Lecture 2: Logic and Grammar

- Categorial Grammar
- Combinatory Categorial Grammar
- Lambek Calculus
- Interlude: Syntax/Semantics Interface
- Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic
- van Eijk's Marking Algorithm
- References

## (Ajdukiewicz/Bar-Hillel) Categorial Grammar

Define a set CAT of categories as follows:

- Some set of basic categories is in CAT.
- ▶ If  $A, B \in CAT$ , then both  $A/B \in CAT$  and  $A \setminus B \in CAT$ .

Two basic rules:

(FA)  $A/B, B \Rightarrow A$ . (BA)  $B, A \setminus B \Rightarrow A$ .

If we add to these two more rules we obtain a basic proof system: (id)  $A \Rightarrow A$ . (cut) If  $\Gamma$ , A,  $\Gamma' \Rightarrow B$  and  $\Delta \Rightarrow A$ , then  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $\Gamma' \Rightarrow B$ . Here  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are finite sequences of categories.

#### Definition

CG is the smallest relation containing (id), (FA), and (BA), and closed under (cut).

Given a set Σ of basic lexical items, e.g. natural language expressions, a *lexicon* is an assignment of a finite number of categories to each lexical item:

#### $\mathsf{LEX} \subseteq \Sigma \times \mathsf{CAT}.$

A string w<sub>1</sub>, ..., w<sub>n</sub> ∈ Σ<sup>+</sup> is an expression of type B just in case there is a sequence of categories A<sub>1</sub>, ..., A<sub>n</sub> such that ⟨w<sub>i</sub>, A<sub>i</sub>⟩ ∈ LEX, for each i ≤ n, and A<sub>1</sub>, ..., A<sub>n</sub> ⇒ B.

#### A toy lexicon:

- Theodore, np
- candidate, n
- every, some, (s/(s np))/n

- broccoli, np
- likes,  $(s \setminus np) / np$
- who,  $(n \setminus n) / (s \setminus np)$

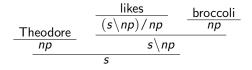
Or, abbreviating  $iv = s \setminus np$  and tv = iv / np, this simplifies to:

- Theodore, np
- candidate, n
- every, some, (s/iv)/n

- broccoli, np
- likes, tv
- who,  $(n \setminus n) / iv$

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Example:



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A toy lexicon:

- Theodore, np
- candidate, n
- every, some, (s/(s np))/n

- broccoli, np
- ▶ likes,  $(s \setminus np) / np$
- who,  $(n \setminus n) / (s \setminus np)$

Or, abbreviating  $iv = s \setminus np$  and tv = iv / np, this simplifies to:

- ► Theodore, *np*
- candidate, n
- every, some, (s/iv)/n

- broccoli, np
- ► likes, tv
- who,  $(n \setminus n) / iv$

Example:

	likes	broccoli
Theodore	tv	np
np		iv
	5	

#### Longer example:

		who	likes tv	<u> </u>	broccoli np		
	candidate	$(n \setminus n) / iv$		iv			
every	n		n\n			likes	Theodore
(s/iv)/n		n				tv	np
	s/iv						iv
			c				

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### CG versus CFG

#### Theorem (Gaifman)

The class of languages generated by context free grammars coincides with the class of languages accepted by categorial grammars.

- Recall our lexicon LEX:
  - Theodore, np
  - candidate, *n*
  - every, some, (s/iv)/n

- broccoli, np
- likes, tv
- who,  $(n \setminus n) / iv$

A context free grammar generating the same set of strings would be:

$$S \rightarrow NP VP$$
  
 $NP \rightarrow every N \mid some N \mid PN \mid NP who VP$   
 $N \rightarrow candidate$   
 $PN \rightarrow Theodore \mid broccoli$   
 $VP \rightarrow likes PN$ 

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- Problem: the following are not strings in the language:
  - 'who Theodore likes'
  - 'likes some candidate'
- In particular, we cannot parse:
  - 'Every candidate who Theodore likes likes some candidate'
- For 'who Theodore likes' we would need 'who' to have category  $((n \setminus n)/tv)/np$  in addition to  $(n \setminus n)/iv$ :

$$\frac{\frac{\text{who}}{((n \setminus n)/tv)/np} \quad \frac{\text{Theodore}}{np}}{(n \setminus n)/tv} \quad \frac{\text{likes}}{tv}}{n/n}$$

- Similarly, 'all' and 'some' would have to have a second category (*iv*\*tv*)/*n* for object position, in addition to (*s*/*iv*)/*n*.
- This is inelegant and seems to miss some cross-categorial generalizations.

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 Combinatory Categorial Grammar (CCG) is an extension of CG with several further rules. (For more go to Mark Steedman's course!)

$$(>B)$$
 A/B, B/C  $\Rightarrow$  A/C

 $(<\mathsf{B}) \ B \setminus C, \ A \setminus B \Rightarrow A \setminus C$ 

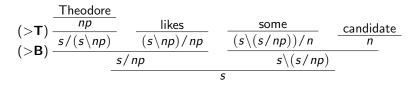
$$(>T) A \Rightarrow B/(B \setminus A)$$

$$(<\mathsf{T}) A \Rightarrow B \setminus (B/A)$$

► Using >**B** and >**T** we can now parse 'who Theodore likes':

$$\frac{\frac{1}{\frac{np}{s/(s \setminus np)}} (>T) \quad \frac{\frac{1}{s \times (s \setminus np)}}{\frac{s/(s \setminus np)}{s/np}} (>T)}{\frac{1}{(s \setminus np)/np}} (>B)}$$

► CCG can also capture quantifiers in object position by assigning 'some' and 'all' an only slightly adjusted category (s\(s/np))/n, in addition to (s/(s\np))/n for subject position:



- CCG has another rule:
- $(\langle \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{X}}) \ B/C, \ (A \setminus B)/C \Rightarrow A/C$
- In general, CCG is stronger than context free, equivalent to so called linear index grammars (like TAG and other grammatical formalisms).

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- Lambek Calculus is an alternative to CCG. The main idea is that categories correspond to logical formulas, and category forming operators correspond to logical constants. "Parsing as deduction"
- The setting is Gentzen-style Natural Deduction, where Γ ► A means the sequence Γ is of category A.
- ► The basic Lambek Calculus L is given by the following rules:

$$(Ax) \xrightarrow[A \blacktriangleright A]{A} \xrightarrow[A \vdash A]{A}$$

$$(/E) \xrightarrow[\Delta \vdash A/B]{\Delta, \Gamma \vdash A} \xrightarrow[\Gamma \vdash B]{\Delta} \xrightarrow[A \vdash A]{B} (\backslash E)$$

$$(/I) \xrightarrow[\Delta \vdash A/B]{\Delta, A/B} \xrightarrow[A \vdash A]{B} (\backslash I)$$

$$(Ax) \xrightarrow[A \blacktriangleright A]{A \blacktriangleright A}$$

$$(/E) \xrightarrow{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B} \xrightarrow{\Gamma \blacktriangleright B} \xrightarrow{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \setminus B} (\backslash E)$$

$$(/I) \xrightarrow{\Delta, B \blacktriangleright A} \xrightarrow{B, \Delta \blacktriangleright A} (\backslash I)$$

From these follow all of the CCG rules, with the exception of  $< \mathbf{S}_{\chi}$ .

$$\frac{\Delta \triangleright A/B}{\frac{\Delta, \Gamma, C \triangleright A}{\Delta, \Gamma \triangleright A/C}} \frac{\frac{\Gamma \triangleright B/C}{[C \triangleright C]^{1}}}{(/E)} (/E)$$

That is, if Δ is of category A/B and Γ is of category B/C, then Δ, Γ is of category A/C. This is just rule >B.

$$(Ax) \xrightarrow[A \blacktriangleright A]{A \blacktriangleright A}$$

$$(/E) \xrightarrow{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B} \xrightarrow{\Gamma \blacktriangleright B} \xrightarrow{\Gamma \blacktriangleright B} \xrightarrow{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \setminus B} (\backslash E)$$

$$(/I) \xrightarrow{\Delta, B \blacktriangleright A} \xrightarrow{B, \Delta \blacktriangleright A} (\backslash I)$$

From these follow all of the CCG rules, with the exception of  $< S_x$ .

$$\frac{\Delta \triangleright A \quad [B \backslash A \triangleright B \backslash A]^{1}}{\frac{\Delta, B \backslash A \triangleright B}{\Delta \triangleright B/(B \backslash A)} \, (/I)^{1}} (\backslash E)$$

That is, if ∆ is of category A, then it is also of category B/(B\A). This is rule >T.

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▶ Again, we cannot derive <S<sub>x</sub>, which means L is strictly weaker than CCG.

Theorem (Pentus)

Still, it allows for elegant derivations without excess categories:

$$\frac{\frac{\mathsf{likes} \succ tv \quad [np \succ np]^1}{\mathsf{likes}, np \vdash s \setminus np}}{(\backslash E)} (/E)$$

$$\frac{\frac{\mathsf{Theodore} \vdash np}{\mathsf{Theodore} \mid \mathsf{likes}, np \vdash s \setminus np}}{\mathsf{Theodore} \mid \mathsf{likes} \vdash s / np} (\backslash E)}$$
who Theodore likes  $\succ n \setminus n$  (\E)

A D b 4 A b

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#### Lambek Calculus

- As is well known, in natural language syntax tree structure matters. We sometimes cannot assume our sequences satisfy associativity.
- The weakest of the Categorial Type Logics is NL:

Adding associativity gives us back L:

$$\frac{\Gamma[\Delta_1 \circ (\Delta_2 \circ \Delta_3)] \blacktriangleright C}{\Gamma[(\Delta_1 \circ \Delta_2) \circ \Delta_3] \blacktriangleright C}$$

Adding commutativity gives a system called LP:

$$\frac{\Gamma[(\Delta_1 \circ \Delta_2)] \blacktriangleright C}{\Gamma[(\Delta_2 \circ \Delta_1)] \blacktriangleright C}$$

 Clearly, in LP forward and backward slash collapse into a single binary operator.

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Review of Types

- ► Recall the simple type system *T*:
  - Basic types, throughout these notes e and t, are in T;
  - If  $\tau, \sigma \in \mathcal{T}$ , then  $(\tau \to \sigma) \in \mathcal{T}$ .
- $\blacktriangleright$  We can define a function  ${\rm TYPE} : {\sf CAT} \to {\mathcal T}$  such that:
  - TYPE(*np*) = *e* ;
  - TYPE(s) = t;
  - TYPE $(n) = (e \rightarrow t)$ ;
  - $\operatorname{TYPE}(A/B) = \operatorname{TYPE}(A \setminus B) = (\operatorname{TYPE}(B) \to \operatorname{TYPE}(A)).$

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#### Review of Lambda Calculus

- We now define the class of  $\lambda$ -terms of type  $\tau$ , denoted  $\Lambda_{\tau}$ :
  - Variables of type  $\tau$  are in  $\Lambda_{\tau}$ .
  - Constants of type  $\tau$  are in  $\Lambda_{\tau}$ .
  - If  $\alpha \in \Lambda_{\tau \to \sigma}$  and  $\beta \in \Lambda_{\tau}$ , then  $\alpha(\beta) \in \Lambda_{\sigma}$ .
  - If x is a variable of type τ and α ∈ Λ<sub>σ</sub>, then λx.α ∈ Λ<sub>τ→σ</sub>.
- $\begin{array}{l} \blacktriangleright \ \beta \ \text{and} \ \eta \ \text{reduction rules:} \\ (\beta) \ (\lambda x_{\tau}.\alpha_{\sigma})(\beta_{\tau}) \Longrightarrow \alpha_{\sigma}[\beta_{\tau}/x_{\tau}], \ \text{provided} \ x_{\tau} \ \text{is free for} \ \beta_{\tau} \ \text{in} \ \alpha_{\sigma}. \\ (\eta) \ \lambda x_{\tau}.\alpha_{\tau \to \sigma}(x_{\tau}) \Longrightarrow \alpha_{\tau \to \sigma}, \ \text{provided} \ x_{\tau} \ \text{is not free in} \ \alpha_{\tau \to \sigma}. \end{array}$
- The domain  $\mathcal{D} = \bigcup_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} D_{\tau}$  is given by:
  - $D_e$  is assumed to be fixed set E of entities.
  - $D_t = \{0, 1\}$ .
  - $D_{\tau \to \sigma} = D_{\sigma}^{D_{\tau}}$ .
- ► A model is a pair  $\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I} \rangle$ , with  $\mathcal{D}$  a domain and  $\mathcal{I} : LEX \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ , so that if  $TYPE(A) = \tau$ , then  $\mathcal{I}(\langle w, A \rangle) \in D_{\tau}$ .

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Now grammars must be given by the set of lexical items, their categories, and corresponding λ-terms.

np	theo
np	broc
п	cand
$(s \setminus np) / np$	like
$(n \setminus n) / (s \setminus np)$	$\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.x(z) \wedge y(z)$
$(s/(s \setminus np))/n$	$\lambda x. \lambda y. \forall z(x(z) \rightarrow y(z))$
$(s/(s \setminus np))/n$	$\lambda x.\lambda y.\exists z(x(z) \land y(z))$
$(s/(s \setminus np))/n$	$\lambda x.\lambda y. \neg \exists z(x(z) \land y(z))$
	$np$ $n$ $(s \ np) / np$ $(n \ n) / (s \ np)$ $(s / (s \ np)) / n$ $(s / (s \ np)) / n$

To use quantifiers in object position we could add:

every	$(s \setminus (s / np)) / n$	$\lambda x.\lambda y.\forall z(x(z) \rightarrow y(z))$
some	$(s \setminus (s / np)) / n$	$\lambda x.\lambda y.\exists z(x(z) \land y(z))$
no	$(s \setminus (s/np))/n$	$\lambda x.\lambda y. \neg \exists z(x(z) \land y(z))$

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#### Interlude: Syntax/Semantics Interface

- In NL, L, LP and other Categorial Type Logics, because the syntactic rules are logical rules, semantics comes 'for free' from the Curry-Howard Correspondence between natural deduction proofs in intuitionistic implicational logic and typed λ-terms.
- Because all these systems are weaker than IIL, we must take a sublanguage of full λ-calculus. Johan van Benthem proved that the correspondence holds for this fragment.
- Our rules for NL now become:

$$(Ax) \frac{}{x:A \blacktriangleright x:A}$$

$$(/E) \frac{\Delta \blacktriangleright t:A/B}{(\Delta \circ \Gamma) \blacktriangleright t(u):A} \frac{}{\Delta \blacktriangleright \lambda x.t:A/B} (/I)$$

$$(\backslash E) \frac{\Gamma \vdash u:B}{(\Gamma \circ \Delta) \vdash t(u):A} \frac{}{\Delta \vdash \lambda x.t:A/B} \frac{}{\Delta \vdash \lambda x.t:A/B} (\backslash I)$$

• We write  $NL \vdash \Gamma \triangleright t : A$ , and likewise for L and LP.

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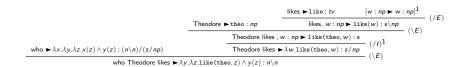
### Type Raising

Semantically, type-raising corresponds to a certain  $\lambda$ -abstraction.

$$\frac{\Delta \triangleright t : A \qquad [x : B \setminus A \triangleright x : B \setminus A]^{1}}{\frac{(\Delta \circ x : B \setminus A) \triangleright x(t) : B}{\Delta \triangleright \lambda x. x(t) : B/(B \setminus A)} (/I)^{1}}$$

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### Example



We can combine this with 'candidate' to form a complex predicate: NL ⊢ candidate who Theodore likes ► λz.like(theo, z) ∧ cand(z) : n which is exactly the right result.

Slogan: "Meaning is a by-product of syntactic derivation."

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#### Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic

- The fundamental idea of van Benthem and Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic is to forget about the λ-terms, shifting a small amount of the semantics into the syntax, in particular into the categories.
- The crucial features are monotonicity properties of functions.
- Consider the meaning of 'every': λx.λy.∀z(x(z) → y(z)). As we saw on the first day, this function is antitone in its first argument, monotone in its second, if we order the domains as usual.
- To capture this, let us write the category of 'every' as

$$(s/(s \setminus np)^+)/n^-$$

or abbreviating,

$$(s/iv^+)/n^-$$
.

We can say more generally that A/B<sup>+</sup> and A\B<sup>+</sup> are categories of monotone functional items, and A/B<sup>−</sup> and A\B<sup>−</sup> of antitone.

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- ► The steps of Sánchez-Valencia's polarity marking algorithm are:
  - 1. Assign lexical items their appropriate marked types.
  - 2. Propagate these markings down the proof tree.
  - 3. The polarity of each node is computed.
- The result is a proof tree with just enough information to support some basic inferential patterns (stay tuned).
- ▶ For Step 1 we might label our lexicon as follows:
  - Theodore, np
  - candidate, *n*
  - every,  $(s/iv^+)/n^-$
  - some,  $(s/iv^+)/n^+$

- broccoli, np
- likes, iv / np<sup>+</sup>
- who,  $(n \setminus n^+) / iv^+$

- no,  $(s/iv^{-})/n^{-}$
- When interpreting such terms in models we require terms of category A/B<sup>+</sup> and A\B<sup>+</sup> are mapped to monotone functions, and those of A/B<sup>−</sup> and A\B<sup>−</sup> are mapped to antitone functions.

#### Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic

Step 2 Where  $* \in \{+, -\}$ : ► (/E):  $\Delta \triangleright A/B$  $\frac{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B \quad \Gamma \blacktriangleright B}{(\Delta \circ \Gamma) \blacktriangleright A} \implies$  $\frac{+}{(\Delta \circ \Gamma) \blacktriangleright A}$  $\Delta \triangleright A/B^* \qquad \Gamma \triangleright B$  $\frac{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B^* \quad \Gamma \blacktriangleright B}{(\Delta \circ \Gamma) \blacktriangleright A} \implies$  $\frac{+}{(\Delta \circ \Gamma) \blacktriangleright A}$ ► (/l):  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  $\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \underline{\Delta \circ B \blacktriangleright A} \\ \underline{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B} \end{array} \xrightarrow{} \begin{array}{c} \Delta \circ B \blacktriangleright A \\ \underline{+} \\ \underline{\Delta \blacktriangleright A/B^m} \end{array}$ ▶ *m* is - (resp. +) if all the nodes on the path from  $\Delta \circ B \triangleright A$  to  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  are marked, and an odd (resp. even) number are -. . . . . . . .

#### Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic

Step 2 Where  $* \in \{+, -\}$ : ► (\E):  $\Delta \blacktriangleright A \backslash B$  $\frac{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \backslash B \quad \Gamma \blacktriangleright B}{(\Gamma \circ \Delta) \blacktriangleright A} \implies$  $\frac{+}{(\Gamma \circ \Delta) \blacktriangleright A}$  $\Delta \triangleright A \backslash B^* \qquad \Gamma \triangleright B$  $\frac{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \backslash B^* \quad \Gamma \blacktriangleright B}{(\Gamma \circ \Delta) \blacktriangleright A} \implies$  $\frac{+}{(\Gamma \circ \Delta) \blacktriangleright A}$ ► (\I):  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  $\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \underline{B \circ \Delta \blacktriangleright A} \\ \underline{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \backslash B} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ B \circ \Delta \blacktriangleright A \\ \underline{+} \\ \underline{\Delta \blacktriangleright A \backslash B^{m}} \end{array}$ ▶ *m* is - (resp. +) if all the nodes on the path from  $\Delta \circ B \triangleright A$  to  $[B \triangleright B]^i$  are marked, and an odd (resp. even) number are -.

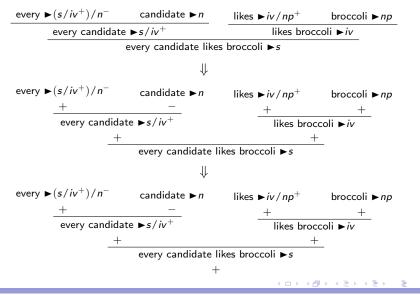
### Step 3

- The final step is quite simple:
  - 1. Mark the root node with +.
  - 2. Starting at the leaf nodes, check whether every node along the path to the root is marked.
  - 3. If it is, and there are an odd number of nodes marked -, label the node with -. If there are an even number, label it with +.
- The result is a parsed expression with monotonicity information explicitly represented.
- Using this we can build a simple *Monotonicity Calculus*:

$$\begin{array}{c} [\underline{\varsigma}...X^+...] & [\hspace{-0.15cm}[ X ]\hspace{-0.15cm}] \subseteq [\hspace{-0.15cm}[ Y ]\hspace{-0.15cm}] \\ \hline [ \underline{\varsigma}...Y^+...] & [ \underline{\varsigma}...X^-...] & [\hspace{-0.15cm}[ Y ]\hspace{-0.15cm}] \subseteq [\hspace{-0.15cm}[ X ]\hspace{-0.15cm}] \\ \hline [ \underline{\varsigma}...Y^-...] & \hline \end{array}$$

 Sánchez-Valencia proved a Soundness Theorem [4]. We may also have time to prove one in this course.

### Example 1



### Example 1

We can thus write this expression as

```
((\mathsf{every}^+\mathsf{candidate}^-)^+(\mathsf{likes}^+\mathsf{broccoli}^+)^+)^+
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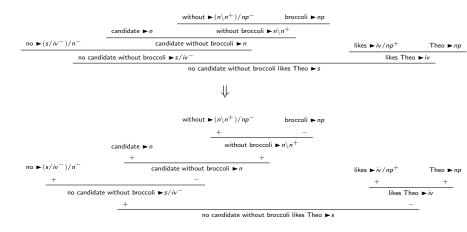
- This means, if we replace 'candidate' with something smaller, the resulting expression is entailed by this one.
- For any of the subexpressions labeled with + (which includes all others in this example), replacing them with something of the same type with larger extension preserves validity.
- For instance:

every candidate <sup>-</sup> likes broccoli	$\llbracket hopeful \ candidate  rbrace \subseteq \llbracket candidate  rbrace$
every (hopeful can	didate) <sup>–</sup> likes broccoli
While:	
every candidate likes $^+$ broce	coli $\llbracket$ likes $ rbracket \subseteq \llbracket$ tolerates $ rbracket$
every candidate to	olerates <sup>+</sup> broccoli
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#### Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic

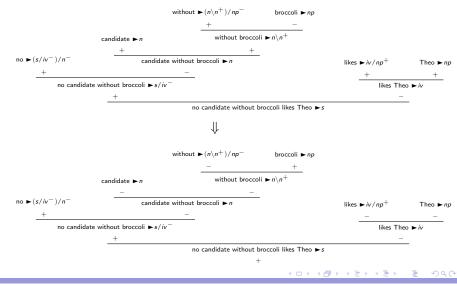
#### Example 2

For a slightly more interesting example, let us add one word to the lexicon, without :  $(n \setminus n^+) / np^-$ .



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#### Example 2



### Example 2

The polarity profile now looks as follows:

 $((no^+(candidate^-(without^-broccoli^+)^-)^+)^+(likes^-Theo^-)^-)^+.$ 

This is reflected in different inference patterns:

no candidate without broccoli likes<sup>-</sup> Theo  $[adores] \subseteq [likes]$ no candidate without broccoli adores<sup>-</sup> Theo

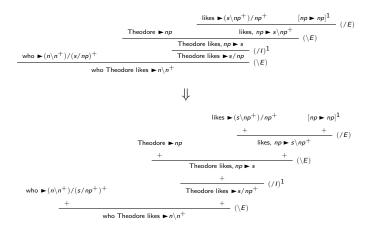
While:

no candidate without broccoli<sup>+</sup> likes Theo  $[broccoli] \subseteq [cabbage]$ no candidate without cabbage<sup>+</sup> likes Theo

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#### Sánchez-Valencia's Natural Logic

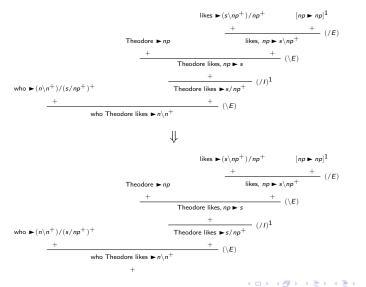
#### Example 3



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#### Example 3



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- Recently, Jan van Eijk devised a variation on Sánchez-Valencia's algorithm, requiring only a single, "top-down" pass.
- ► The first step is to change the category markings. Instead of + and -, we use three functions *i*, *r*, and *b* over *M* = {+, -, #}, where # is the uninformative marking:
  - i(m) = m for all  $m \in M$ , i.e. *i* is identity.
  - r(+) = -, r(-) = +, and r(0) = 0, i.e. r is reversal.
  - b(m) = 0 for all  $m \in M$ .
- Our grammar (with a few new items) then becomes:
  - Theodore, np
  - candidate, n
  - every, (s/iv<sup>i</sup>)/n<sup>r</sup>
  - some,  $(s/iv^i)/n^i$
  - no, (s/iv<sup>r</sup>)/n<sup>r</sup>

- broccoli, np
- likes, iv / np<sup>i</sup>
- who,  $(n \setminus n^i) / iv^i$
- without,  $(n \setminus n^i) / np^r$

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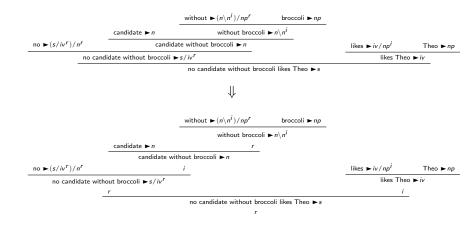
most, (s/iv<sup>i</sup>)/n<sup>b</sup>

### The Algorithm

- ► First, mark each parent node in the derivation tree with the marking for the argument category of its functional child. I.e., if A has children A/B<sup>m</sup> and B, then A gets marking m.
- Second, from the root up, compute the polarity markings:
  - The root is assigned +.
  - Having marked node N with m, mark the functional child of N with m and the argument child with f(m) where f is the category marking on N.

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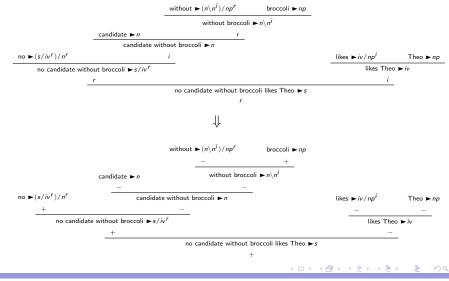
## Example 2 (again)



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## Example 2 (again)



### Summary

- AB categorial grammar can be extended in a number of ways. CCG is one notable, elegant extension. Lambek Calculus is another.
- Lambek Calculus is motivated by the idea of thinking of syntactic derivation as logical proof. With this comes a very close correspondence between syntax and semantics via the Curry-Howard Correspondence.
- The idea behind the Monotonicity Calculus of van Benthem and Sánchez-Valencia is to forget about the λ-terms, but inject part of the semantics into the syntax. In particular monotonicity / antitonicity information is marked in the category assignments.
- The main workhorse of the Monotonicity Calculus is the polarity marking algorithm. The result is a marked expression which can be used to derive monotonicity inferences, based on background information about relations among subexpressions.
- Thus we have two proof systems working simultaneously: one to derive grammatical expressions, and one to derive inferential relations between grammatical expressions.

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