### Introduction to DS-TTR: a personal view

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DS-TTR, ESSLLI - 17/07/2017

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#### Introductory Motivation

What is grammar?

#### TTR to formalise conceptual structure

TTR elements adopted Dynamic Syntax DS elements adopted Dynamic Syntax (DS)

DS-TTR

Hannes Rieser's Questions

#### General conclusions

DS-TTR and cognition - abandoning competence vs performance

Appendix 1

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### Outline

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# developing utterances (together) in dialogue

- real conversation happens bit by bit, without respecting the boundaries of sentences:
- half-starts, suggested add-ons, pauses, interruptions, corrections
- (1) [Context: Friends of the Earth club meeting]A: So what is that? Is that er... booklet or something?
  - B: It's a book
  - C: Book
  - B: Just ... talking about al you know alternative
  - D: On erm... renewable yeah
  - B: energy really I think .....
  - A: Yeah [BNC:D97]

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  - split-utterances: syntactic/semantic dependencies hold across change of speakers:
    - (7) A: Have you read ...
      - B: any of your chapters?
      - cf. \*I have read any of your chapters

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    - (9) A: Have you read ...
      - B: any of your chapters?
      - cf. \*I have read any of your chapters
    - (10) A: Oh, I am so sorry, did you burn
      - B: myself? No, its OK.
      - cf. # Oh, I am so sorry, did you burn myself?

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- $\Rightarrow\,$  the "grammar", as a holistic model, needs to be able to express
  - (a) the incremental licensing and interpretation of NL strings

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- $\Rightarrow\,$  the "grammar", as a holistic model, needs to be able to express
  - (a) the incremental licensing and interpretation of NL strings
  - (b) the **context shift** (e.g. change of speaker-roles) within a single clause,
  - (c) while still implementing traditional **syntactic/syntactic constraints**:
    - (13) a. John likes himself vs. \*him
      - b. John likes everyone [ Mary does ] vs.
        \*John likes everyone [ Mary admires the man [ who does ] ]

- conversational data and the nature of grammar: the view from DS-TTR
  - no separate syntactic level of representation:
    - no syntactic categories for strings of words;
    - no phrase-structure rules;
    - no "constructions"
  - grammatical ontology of processes (rather than representations)
    - incrementality, prediction, and underspecification as properties of the grammar ("syntax")

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- Martin-Löf Type Theory
- objects/entities belong to types
- propositions are regarded as types of proofs ("propositions as types" principle)
- proofs are objects
  - e.g. the proofs of *there is a prime number between 212 and 222* are the prime numbers between 212 and 222
  - Ranta (1984): a proof of
    - (14) John hugged Mary.

is some event during which John hugged Mary

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#### type theoretical judgements:

► a : T ("object *a* is of type *T*")

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- types in TTR: not atomic, but complex
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#### type theoretical judgements:

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- types in TTR: not atomic, but complex
- records are sequences of label/value pairs:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_1 = v_1 \\ I_2 = v_2 \\ I_3 = v_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

record types are sequences of label/type pairs:

$$\left[\begin{array}{rrrr} I_1 & : & T_1 \\ I_2 & : & T_2 \\ I_3 & : & T_3 \end{array}\right]$$

- records model complex entities,
  - e.g., events (including contexts)

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- record types model categorisations of events/individuals
  - classification of a situation to be of a certain type with potential for further elaboration

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records are sequences of label/value pairs:

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record types are true iff they are inhabited/witnessed

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types can be dependent on earlier (higher-up) types:

$$\begin{bmatrix} l_1 : T_1 \\ l_2 : T_2(l_1) \\ l_3 : T_3(l_1, l_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

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types can be dependent on earlier (higher-up) types:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_1 : T_1 \\ I_2 : T_2(I_1) \\ I_3 : T_3(I_1, I_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

recursivity: we can have nested records and record types:

$$\begin{bmatrix} l_1 : T_1 \\ l_2 : \begin{bmatrix} l'_1 : T'_1 \\ l'_2 : T'_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ l_3 : T_3(l_1, l_2.l'_1, l_2.l'_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

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#### we have functional record types:

$$\lambda \quad r : \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} l_1 & : & T_1 \\ l_2 & : & T_2 \end{array} \right] \left( \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} l_3 & : & T_3 \\ l_4 & : & T_4(r.l_1, r.l_2) \end{array} \right] \right)$$

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# TTR (Type Theory with Records) – appealing features

- synthesis of ideas of frame semantics and Montague Grammar
  - invoked frames as background knowledge
  - integrates standard formal semantic tools like the lambda calculus
- (potentially) constructivist: meanings as programs, as proofs (potentially, actions all the way down)

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- TTRs subtype relation allows complete semantics extraction for any partial tree, and incremental further specification as parsing proceeds

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- TTRs subtype relation allows complete semantics extraction for any partial tree, and incremental further specification as parsing proceeds
- sublexical conceptual structure
  - distributed representations
  - atomic concepts correspond to patterns of activation (not single neurons)
  - ⇒ complex record structures for single concepts (not atoms as in standard logics)

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# TTR: perceptual/action grounding

#### Probabilistic Type Theory with Records (probTTR)

- types are grounded in classifiers
- interface with perception: NL semantics + perception expressible in the same formalism (TTR)

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- judgements as act(ion)s
- modelling of acts of creation of witnesses of types

# TTR: perceptual/action grounding

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However, TTR is static

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### Arrival: holistic logograms



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## Arrival: holistic logograms



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# Arrival: holistic logograms





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# Arrival: holistic logograms





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# TTR - introducing dynamics: desiderata for incrementalising TTR

- dynamic incremental conceptualisation implemented in DS-TTR to provide actions to:
  - modify, delete, add fields while the rest stay the same (lexical semantics)
  - compute similarity between concepts (record types( (e.g. metaphor, quotation)
  - check subsumption incrementally (generation, repair, Hough)
  - extract all available semantic information incrementally (Hough)
  - encompass multimodal aspects of processing (e.g. gesture, affect, Eshghi)
  - model defeasible inference rules as functions from objects of a type to another type (e.g. associative view of reasoning) (Ellen)
  - model frequency and context effects as probabilistic type assignments

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### ► DS-TTR:

- conceptualises grammar as a set of actions
- no syntactic level of representation for words
- grammatical/lexical actions build/linearise (ad hoc) conceptual structure
- procedural definitions: constraints on how not what
- single level of operations integrating all aspects of context-dependency

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# Dynamic Syntax: conceptual structure

Incrementally building/linearising conceptual structure

▶ Nodes decorated with Ty() type and Fo() formula labels

John likes Mary:

$$Ty(t),$$

$$Fo(like(John, Mary))$$

$$Ty(e), Ty(e \to t),$$

$$Fo(John) Fo(\lambda x.like(x, Mary))$$

$$Ty(e), Ty(e \to (e \to t)),$$

$$Fo(Mary) Fo(\lambda y \lambda x.like(x, y))$$

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$$Ty(e), Ty(e \to (e \to t)),$$

$$Fo(Mary) Fo(\lambda y \lambda x.like(x, y))$$

- Daughter order does not reflect sentence order
- Nodes interpretable as terms in the  $\lambda$ -calculus

# Multilevel underspecification + update (discontinuity)

Pronouns, elliptical elements, tree relations can be introduced as underspecified an in need of update:

Who did Mary upset?

Starting with an unfixed (underspecified) node

$$Tn(0), ...? Ty(t),$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\uparrow^* Tn(0)$$

$$Ty(e), ?\exists xTn(x), \diamondsuit$$

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Processing Who did Mary upset



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- Processing Who did Mary upset
- Auxiliary projects subject-predicate template



Processing Who did Maryupset



Processing Who did Mary upset



# Structure Underspecification + update

Completing the processing of Who did Mary upset



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(13c) It's possible ... I am wrong



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# Re-running actions – short answers

e.g. Who upset himself? John did.



A (1) > A (1) > A

# LINKed Trees - island restrictions

Relative clauses: pairs of LINKed trees evaluated as conjunction



 Also used for apposition, clarification and confirmation, implicatures . . .

- Antecedent Contained Ellipsis
- e.g. Bill saw someone [ that John did ]

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e.g. Bill saw someone that John did



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- Speakers go through the same actions, except they also have a somewhat richer goal tree.
- Each word licensed must update partial tree towards the goal tree via *subsumption* constraint
- \* Generating Someone fainted



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## Alignment: rerunning of actions induces parallellism

Using actions from context – sloppy readings:

- (1) A: John upset his mother. B: Harry too.
- (2) A: The man [who arrested John] failed to read him his rights.B: The man who arrested Tom did too.

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- Also more general parallellism effects, e.g. scope:
- (4) A: A consultant interviewed every patient.B: A junior doctor too.

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## DS-TTR: parsing and generation

from strings to conceptual structure (TTR) or vice-versa

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- from strings to conceptual structure (TTR) or vice-versa
- John arrived.

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# DS-TTR: Types (simplified)



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## DS-TTR: actions from DS +

```
    parsing/linearising (syntactic/lexical):
go [treenode]
make[treenode]
put[field/value/label/...]
IF [value] THEN [actions], ELSE [...]
run(list(actions)[...])
```

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parsing/linearising (syntactic/lexical): go [treenode] make[treenode] put[field/value/label/...] IF [value] THEN [actions], ELSE [...] run(list(actions)[...])

 manipulating complex type articulation add[fields] remove[fields] test[subtyping relation]

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 manipulating complex type articulation add[fields] remove[fields] test[subtyping relation]

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. . .

exploring the context:

freshput[variable/metavariable]
find[value/label/...],
substitute[values for metavariables]

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 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{START} \end{bmatrix} \dots \\ \xrightarrow{} \text{PREDICTION} \\ \xrightarrow{} \\ \xrightarrow{} \\ \end{array}$ 

$$\diamond$$
,?Ty(t)

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John IF 
$$?Ty(e)$$
  
THEN  $put(Ty(e))$   
 $put([x_{=john} : e])$   
ELSE abort

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John,...,POINTER-MOVEMENT →





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 $\dots$ [TENSE,  $\dots$ ], COMPLETION



- Processing non-contiguous dependencies
  - ▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

 $?Ty(t), \diamondsuit$ 

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#### Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary



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#### Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary



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#### Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John



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#### Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John



Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John upset



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Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John upset



#### Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John upset



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Processing non-contiguous dependencies

▶ e.g. Mary, John upset

Mary, John upset



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#### utterance micro-events



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#### including contextual parameters



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#### utterance event parameters - indexicals

1:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{IF} & ?Ty(e), \left[ \text{ CONTEXT } : \left[ s_s : spkr(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) \right] \right] \\ \mathsf{THEN} & \mathsf{put}(Ty(e)) \\ & \mathsf{put}((\mathbf{x})) \\ \mathsf{ELSE} & \mathsf{abort} \end{array}$$

myself.

IF ?Ty(e), [ CONTEXT : [  $s_s : spkr(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x})$  ] ],  $\uparrow_0\uparrow_{1*}\downarrow_0 Fo(\mathbf{x})$ THEN put(Ty(e))  $put(Fo(\mathbf{x}))$ ELSE abort

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#### utterance event parameters - indexicals

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{IF} & ?Ty(e), \left[ \text{ CONTEXT } : \left[ s_s : spkr(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) \right] \right] \\ \mathsf{THEN} & \mathsf{put}(Ty(e)) \\ & \mathsf{put}((\mathbf{x})) \\ \mathsf{ELSE} & \mathsf{abort} \end{array}$$

myself.

- IF ?Ty(e), [ CONTEXT : [  $s_s : spkr(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x})$  ] ],  $\uparrow_0\uparrow_{1*}\downarrow_0 Fo(\mathbf{x})$ THEN put(Ty(e))  $put(Fo(\mathbf{x}))$ ELSE abort
- A: Did you burn ...
- B: myself?

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Eleni: I burnt ... Bill: yourself! (as usual)

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Eleni: I burnt ...



Eleni: I burnt ...



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Eleni: I burnt ... Bill: yourself! (as usual)



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#### self-repair

A: Peter went swimming with Susan, um, or rather, surfing, yesterday. ['Peter went surfing with Susan yesterday']

### other-repair, clarification (echoing)

- A: Peter went swimming with Susan
- B: Susan?

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words	:	list(Words)
actions	:	list(Actions)
tree	:	PointedTree
totalctxt	:	list(Tree)
cnt	:	RT
localctxt	:	RT

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# parsing-paths context DAG



actions (edges) are transitions between partial trees (nodes)

processing paths probabilistically ranked

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- DS features to be maintained:
  - action-based syntax
  - no syntactic representation grammaticality as constraints on update of semantic structures
  - incremental semantics
  - unified view of anaphora, ellipsis (quotation)
  - treat continuations as continuations
  - speech acts as system updates

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### **DS-TTR:** problems of integration

- Purver et al (2010)/Eshghi et al (2015): both LINK and TTR-extension: LINKed trees are extensions of RT (concatenation modulo relabelling)
  - can dispense with LINK but island restrictions?
- Purver et al (2010)/Eshghi et al (2015): both TTR and epsilon calculus?
- modality and propositional attitudes: possible worlds vs propositions as types
- monotonicity: multiple parsing paths predictivity???
- dialogue moves: inferred, represented, encoded, default

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# **DS-TTR** integration - Hannes

- What was the original motivation for combining DS and TTR and what was the gain to be expected?
- More specifically: What are the concrete interface points for DS and TTR integration?
- Update, action and context figure prominently in DS as well as in TTR. Are the notions implied similar and, if so, in which respects?
- How are DS tree construction and the build-up of record types related in DS-TTR? It seems that if we use DSs lexical actions as the main integration point of DS and TTR and, consequently, put record types into them, we get in principle two "up-ward working" compositional processes, one for the conceptual structure of DS and the other one for the record type construction. Is this impression wrong?
  - In more detail: Assume for the sake of discussion that both representations get their own semantics, however expressed, then we would have two different semantic values encoded in one DS-TTR-representation. Again, is this impression wrong?

- DS, as I see it, is incremental due to the unfixed-node conventions and the representation of the main verb waiting for input. Are there comparable mechanisms in TTR? Does TTR have different ones from those?
- Reconciliation of DS quantifier theory using the epsilon calculus and the Generalized Quantifier approach taken in TTR will require major changes in either the one or the other paradigm, right?

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- If we look at TTR we see that it is pragmatics and dialogue based tout court (see the modelling of turn-exchange using dialogue game bords), plan-based (see the notion of agenda) and relies heavily on mental sates (see the labels "private" and "shared" in the information states).
- In contrast, DS relies on interaction via grammar defined on LOFT and avoids use of mental states. Does this fact impose a limit on the integratability of DS-TTR?

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- I see a sort of division of labour between DS and TTR in the following way:
  - DS can, due to its generation-and-parsing facility cope with, e.g. types of ellipses, split utterances, self- or other-repairs, and across-sentence-clitics.
  - TTR can reconstruct dialogue interaction in a very fine-grained way using different types of modal notions.

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# DS-TTR integration issues-Hannes

- Both are motivated in different ways and favour different domains of application.
- A good deal of action and interaction in dialogue seems to be automatic, take e.g. alignment, hesitation phenomena, mid-turn acknowledgements, repair indicators and similar things. They are not intentional in the sense of "to be reconstructed with an intention operator defined on propositional content" Hence, this seems to be the "natural 'mechanistic' domain" of DS.
- On the contrary, modal notion based concepts seem to have their natural site in TTR. It may of course be controversial which phenomena are to be reconstructed using which technology. Is this an acceptable way to fix the divide between DS and TTR?

One gets the idea that TTR is more directed towards philosophy (theory of perception and action, allusions to Aristotle, Kant and Russell, semantic puzzles, theory of proper names, reflecting the Montague-Partee-tradition) DS more towards linguistics (considering a wealth of natural languages, treating fine-grained data, e.g. morphology). So there is a division of labour in this sense as well. Right or wrong?

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# Outline

#### Introductory Motivation

What is grammar?

#### TTR to formalise conceptual structure

TTR elements adopted Dynamic Syntax DS elements adopted Dynamic Syntax (DS)

DS-TTR

Hannes Rieser's Questions

#### General conclusions

DS-TTR and cognition - abandoning competence vs performance

Appendix 1

Appendix 2

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## action-based grammar

- NL conceptual representations not domain-specific, common to action/perception
- syntax, lexicon = set of actions (affordances) that predict, induce, develop structured contexts
- coordinated action (e.g. conversation) relies on:
  - action-oriented predictive simulative processing
  - non-conceptual procedural mechanisms (not high-order inference)
  - ⇒ interaction/coordination is an effect achievable directly from grammar-defined procedures, i.e. from low-level non-conceptual mechanisms
    (of Rigkbard, 1000; Hurlay, 2008; Rezzula, 2011, 2014; Rutterfill

(cf. Bickhard, 1992; Hurley, 2008; Pezzulo, 2011, 2014; Butterfill & Apperly 2013)

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### Appendix 1

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quotational puns:

- (15) The menu says that this restaurant serves "breakfast at any time" so I ordered French toast during the Renaissance. [Steven Wright joke]
- (16) 'Marriage' is not a word, it's a sentence.

⇒ the grammar needs to be able to keep track of abandonned parsing paths as well as current viable ones.

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# parsing-paths context DAG



actions (edges) are transitions between partial trees (nodes)

processing paths probabilistically ranked

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Appendix 1

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