This is a baby-step version of a compositional-semantic manual, integrating the formal arsenal we have been assembling and examining. While simple, it's very powerful—as powerful as a small pony: the principles are solid, and reasonably infallible. They are meant to provide quidance in the core exercise this course is aiming to introduce you to: true compositional analysis of natural language semantics. Once mastered, an upgraded version of this manual may become available, with a couple of additional knobs that do not replace any principles, but at most build a couple of more ornaments¹ around the system that this manual advertises and implements.

A MANUAL FOR COMPOSING FORMAL MEANINGS AND EXECUTING THE FREGEAN DREAM.

A WEIRD DREAM, BUT A DREAM NONETHELESS.

Please report any shortcomings or holes in clarity of this manual.

¹Yes, it's a footnote.

²You can think of a *lexical entry* as a semantic object that

is, presumably, stored in our minds/brains in the logical

format we are aiming to pin down.

³Or *definite* expressions, in fact. Coming up!

MORENO MITROVIĆ • JUNE 2022

KØMPOSITIONAL SEMÅNTIKKS



DO NOT SUE. THE PURPOSE IS ENTIRELY EDUCATIONAL.

I do not own any bit of the graphic material contained herein. Nothing is real.





Look at the tree structure and ensure that your dissection attempt corresponds to mother nodes: each pair of saturated-unsaturated (chunks of) words you split up should also map onto the way the syntactic tree is split up.

List all **terminal nodes** and get ready to give them a **lexical entry**²—a formal semantic signature, a logical translation of their meaning. Listing and ultimately spelling out these lexical entries is half of the job. The other half is composing the non-terminal nodes.

Keep track of types!

a S is of type **t**, proper names³ are individuals of type **e**.

Everything **else** is of a **derived type**, notated in **(**angular braces**)**. This way, the bottom-up typedriven composition, following FA, converges on/toward the ultimate **t**-type, yielding a truth value. All **non-terminal nodes** will have to result from compositional principles—we know **function application** (FA) that turns unsaturated meanings into saturated

ones.

A mother node having a saturated and an unsaturated daughter should **result** from FA, where the unsaturated daughter is a **function** whose **argument** is provided by its saturated sister.



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