

Lambdas, Vectors, Anaphora, and Ellipsis

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In my talk on Thursday I have shown how Lambda Grammars / Abstract Categorical Grammars can be used to compositionally assign semantic interpretations to linguistic phrases, and how this applies to several conceptions of semantics. Today I want to look at a mixed model in which each phrase receives both an interpretation based on Discourse Representation Structures and one based on vectors. An existing technique (higher-order unification, Dalrymple, Shieber & Pereira 1991) can then be used to give an account of anaphora and ellipsis in which not only information from syntax, but also from both these kinds of semantics, helps a hearer to arrive at the right interpretation of a sentence.