Exercises due on: Monday June 22, noon

Semantic Theory 2020: Exercise sheet 6

Exercise 1

Consider the following sentences:

(1) Either Michael Jordan plays basketball, or he plays baseball.

(2) The Bulls do not win every match.

(3) If a player goes to a casino, he doesn't come to practice.

a. Give DRS representations for each of these sentences.

b. Determine for each DRS which discourse referents are available for anaphoric reference (i.e., from a subsequent sentence).

c. Give the truth-conditions for one of these DRSs. Use the verifying embeddings to arrive at the model-theoretic interpretation.

Exercise 2

Note: This exercise can be done on paper, or using PDRT-SANDBOX, in which case you'll submit a Haskell file (.hs).

2.1 Formulate the lambda-DRSs for the following lexical items:

(i) to beat :: $\langle e, \langle e, t\rangle\rangle$

(ii) no :: $\langle\langle e, t\rangle, \langle\langle e, t\rangle, t\rangle\rangle$

(iii) because :: $\langle t, \langle t, t\rangle\rangle$

2.2 Derive the representation of the following sentence using the lambda-DRSs defined above—see the slides for the lambda-DRSs of names, one-place predicates, and pronouns. Show the relevant beta-reduction steps.

(5) Michael is happy because no player beats him.