1 Structural Ambiguity in SDRT

Consider the following example (cf. slide 6, example 3):

[1 I try to read a novel] [2 if I feel bored] [3 or I am unhappy.]

As shown on the slides, the example is ambiguous with respect to the hierarchical arrangement of the discourse units. RST annotations for both readings are given on slide 27; the ambiguity is reflected in the order of grouping the discourse units. In SDRT structures, this ambiguity is reflected in a different way, as the discourse segments always have to be processed in their textual order.

Sketch an SDRS (in graph style) of the two readings and explain how the ambiguity is reflected, compared to the RST examples.

Hint: Unlike in the RST annotation, the discourse relation signaled by *or* is unambiguous in SDRT.

2 The Right Frontier Constraint

Consider the following text:

   I [1 Max and Mary are falling apart.] [2 They no longer meet for lunch.]
     [3 And, last night, Max went to the pub] [4 but Mary visited her parents.]

  II [5a She complained bitterly about his behaviour.]

 III [5b He left after his fifth pint of lager.]

 (a) Sketch a SDRT graph representing the text in I.

(b) II and III give two possible follow-ups of I. Try to expand your graph of (a) with 5a first, and then with 5b instead. Sketch the two arising graphs. Explain...

- – whether both follow-ups are appropriately integrable in the graph
- – how the SDRT structure affects the pronoun resolution of *he* or *she*
- – whether you think that the constraints of SDRT are reasonable in this case.

To be turned in by Tuesday, July 1, 10:15