

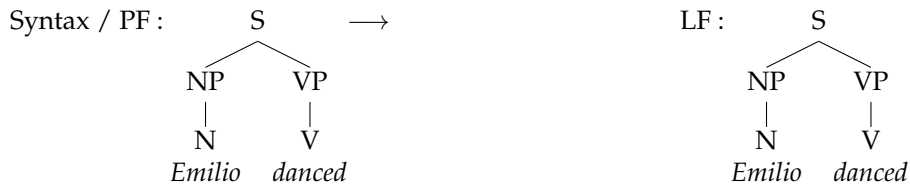
F08: Composition exercise

Course in Semantics · Ling 531 / 731

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1 How-to

1. **Step 1: Build the LF.** The syntax feeds the semantics, so if you don't know what the syntactic structure is, you can't really do the composition.¹



So far, the two structures are identical. I'm just being thorough. All you will need to put is the LF.

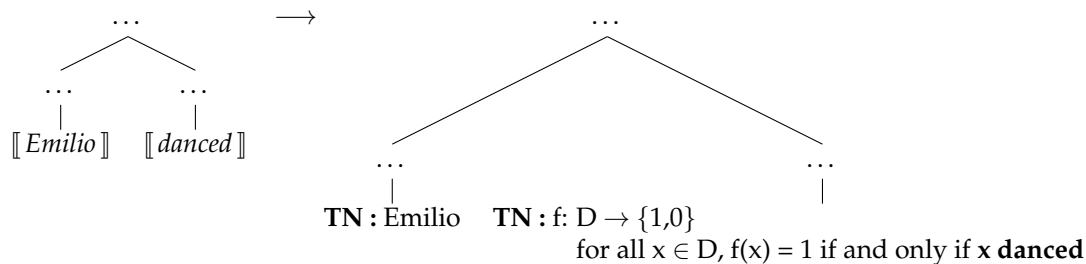
2. **Step 2: Start at the bottom.** I usually start with the VP and its complements. The syntactic heads are inserted. Each has lexical information; for now we'll only care about the truth conditional part.

For now, we'll ignore information like tense or agreement.

- (1) $\llbracket \textit{Emilio} \rrbracket = \textit{Emilio}$
- (2) $\llbracket \textit{danced} \rrbracket = f: D \rightarrow \{1,0\}$
for all $x \in D$, $f(x) = 1$ if and only if x **danced**

Note that I used D again for our domain. We could've picked any set; let's say that D is the set of all individuals.

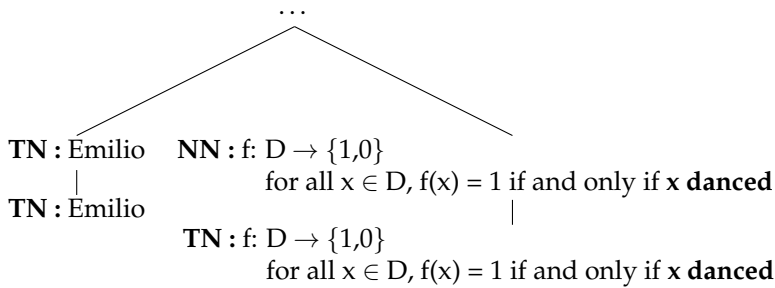
3. **Step 3: Terminal Nodes**



4. **Step 4: Compose!**

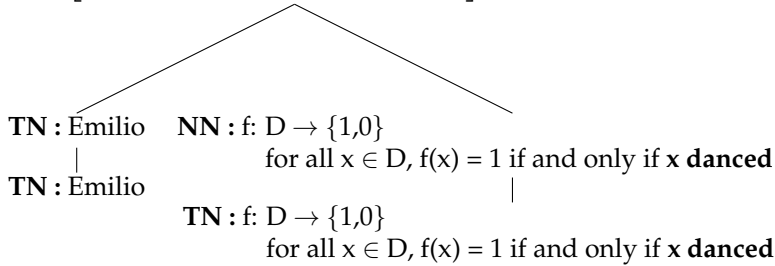
Keep it up til the top. We build up with NN. **The nodes that you've built do not ever change.** There is no movement in the semantics, since movement is a purely syntactic process.

¹Later you'll be able to reverse engineer the composition and demonstrate what the syntactic structure must be.



Now we have a function, and a saturated expression denoting an individual, which puts it in the domain of the function. We can thus use FA; no other rule would even suffice.

FA : $\left[f: D \rightarrow \{1,0\} \right. \\ \left. \text{for all } x \in D, f(x) = 1 \text{ iff } x \text{ danced} \right] (\text{Emilio})$



2 Now you try!

1. *Martina is tall.* [treat *is tall* is one word, *tall*]

2. *Eleanor runs.*

3. *Porter is eating.* [treat *is eating* is one word, in the syntax [*is eating*]]

4. *Socrates pondered.*