

Morphological agreement in Minimalist Grammars

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Formal Grammar 2017
Toulouse, France
July 22-23, 2017

Overview

- Agreement: morphological manifestation of dependencies between words

He walks.

There seems to have arrived a man.

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- Minimalist Grammars (MGs, Stabler 1997): formalization of Chomsky's Minimalist Program
- **Goal:** extend MGs with morphological features and operations on them

Overview

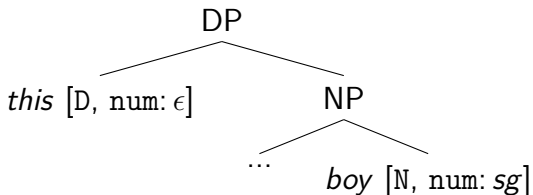
- ① Introduction
- ② Agreement in MGs
- ③ Case study: Icelandic dative intervention
- ④ Discussion

Agreement in Minimalist Syntax (Adger 2010)

- Syntax is driven by **feature checking/valuation**
- **Merge and Move:**
 - operate on categorial features (T, V, D, N...)
 - build new structure
- **Agree:**
 - targets morphosyntactic features (num, per, case...)
 - creates dependencies within existing structure

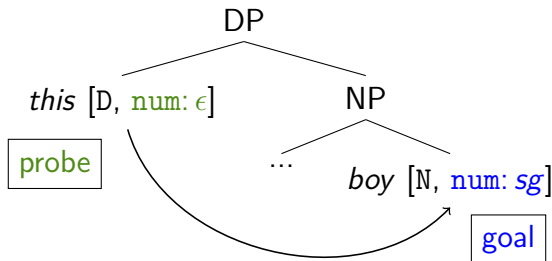
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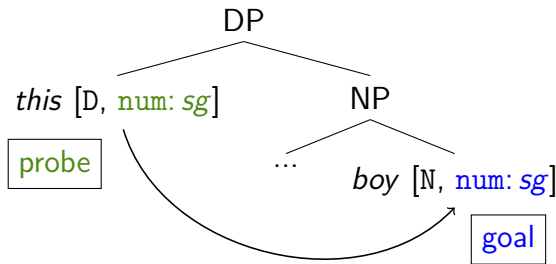
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Minimalist Grammars (Stabler 1997)

- A set of **syntactic features**:

$Syn = base$	(categories)
$\cup \{=f \mid f \in base\}$	(selectors)
$\cup \{+f \mid f \in base\}$	(licensors)
$\cup \{-f \mid f \in base\}$	(licensees)

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- Two structure-building operations: **merge** and **move**

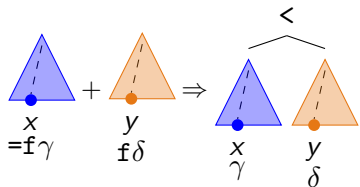
Minimalist Grammars

Minimalist Grammars

- *merge*:

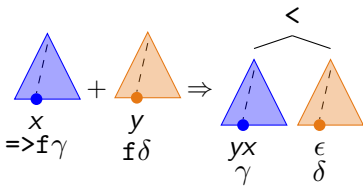
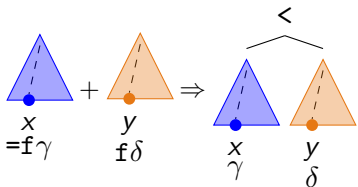
Minimalist Grammars

- merge:



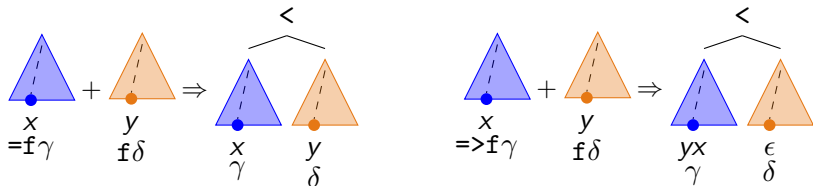
Minimalist Grammars

- merge:



Minimalist Grammars

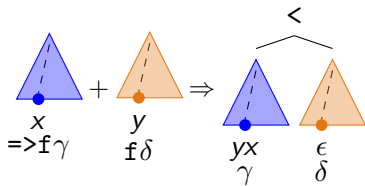
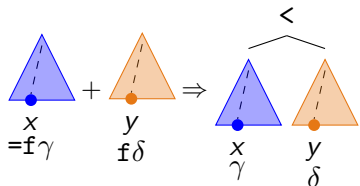
- merge:



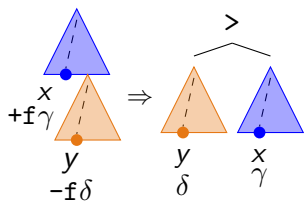
- move:

Minimalist Grammars

- merge:

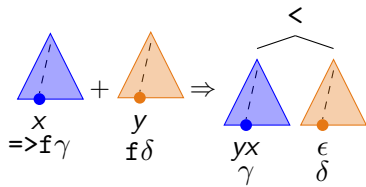
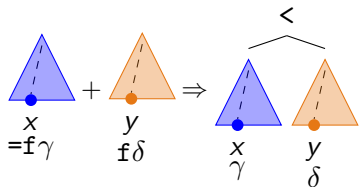


- move:

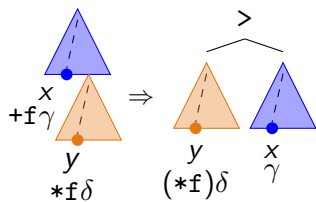
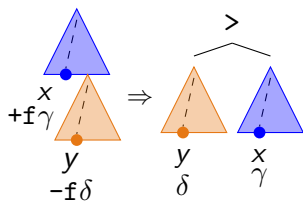


Minimalist Grammars

- merge:



- move:



Minimalist Grammars

- Chain notation (Stabler 2001):

$$\underbrace{\langle \text{Spec, Head, Comp} \rangle : \text{Features}}_{\text{Initial chain}}, \underbrace{\text{Mover}_1, \text{Mover}_2, \dots}_{\text{Non-initial chains}}$$

- Example grammar:

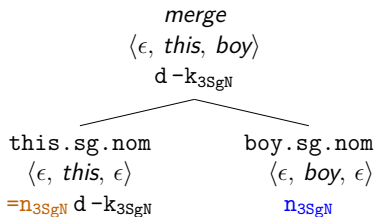
this.sg.nom := $\langle \epsilon, \textit{this}, \epsilon \rangle$:: =n_{3SgN} d -k_{3SgN}

boy.sg.nom := $\langle \epsilon, \textit{boy}, \epsilon \rangle$:: n_{3SgN}

walk := $\langle \epsilon, \textit{walk}, \epsilon \rangle$:: =d v

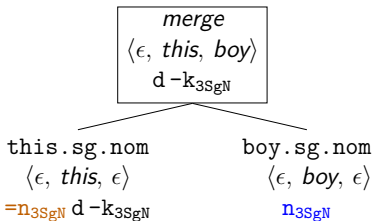
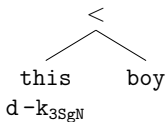
prs.3sg := $\langle \epsilon, \textit{-s}, \epsilon \rangle$:: =>v +k_{3SgN} t

Example derivation

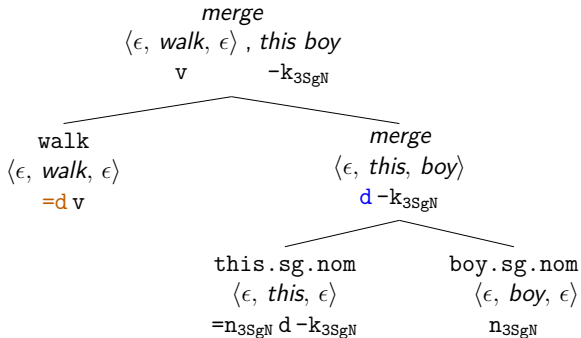


Example derivation

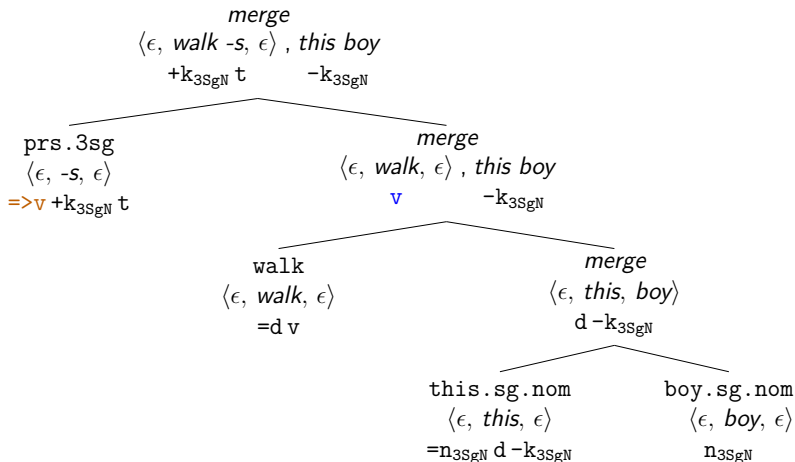
Chain notation for:



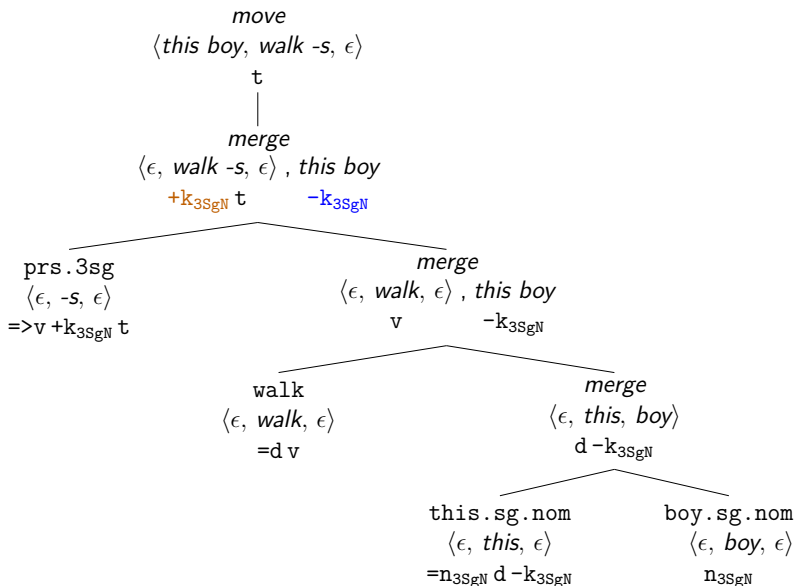
Example derivation



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Bundles and channels

$$\text{boy.sg.nom} := \langle \epsilon, \text{boy}, \epsilon \rangle :: \mathfrak{n}_{3\text{SgN}}$$

Bundles and channels

- Lexical items carry morphological **feature bundles**

$$\text{boy.sg} := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{BOY} \\ \text{num:sg} \\ \text{per:3} \\ \text{case:\epsilon} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle :: \mathfrak{n}_{3\text{SgN}}$$

Bundles and channels

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- Heads exchange information across *merge* and *move* dependencies (Kobele 2012)

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Bundles and channels

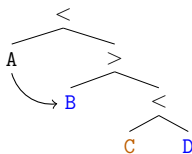
- Lexical items carry morphological **feature bundles**
- Heads exchange information across *merge* and *move* dependencies (Kobebe 2012)
- Syntactic features annotated with **channels**
 - **receiving channel**: does it accept values from whatever checks it?
 - **emitting channel**: what values does it pass to whatever checks it?

$$\text{boy.sg} := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{BOY} \\ \text{num:sg} \\ \text{per:3} \\ \text{case:\epsilon} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle :: \mathbf{n} \begin{matrix} \left[\begin{matrix} \text{num:sg} \\ \text{per:3} \end{matrix} \right] \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow \end{matrix}$$

Probes and goals

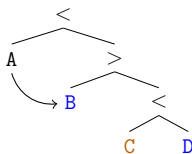
Probes and goals

- Closest goal (Chomsky 2000)
 - overwriting values
 - last receiving channel wins



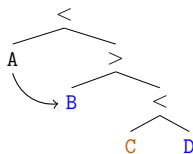
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- No agreement in intermediate positions of movement (Bošković in press)
 - Relevant for starred licensees
 - Agreement just in case the licensee is deleted



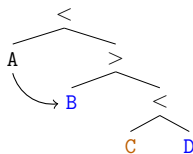
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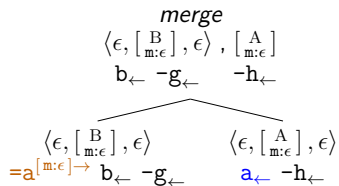


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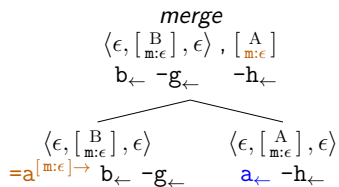
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- **Is this enough?**



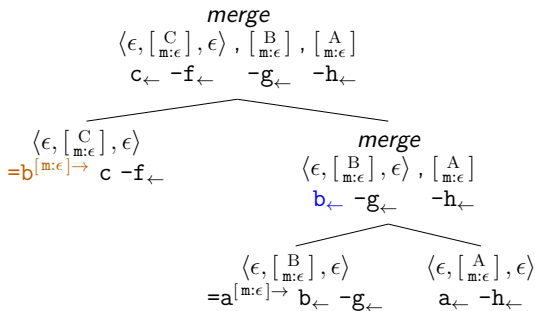
Long-distance agreement



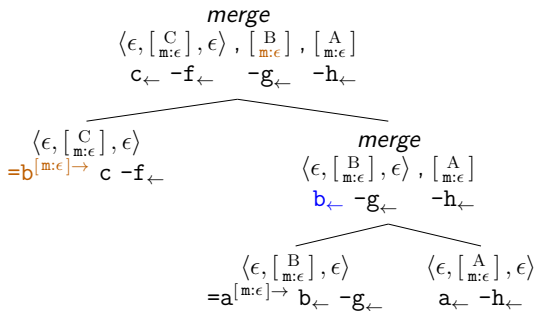
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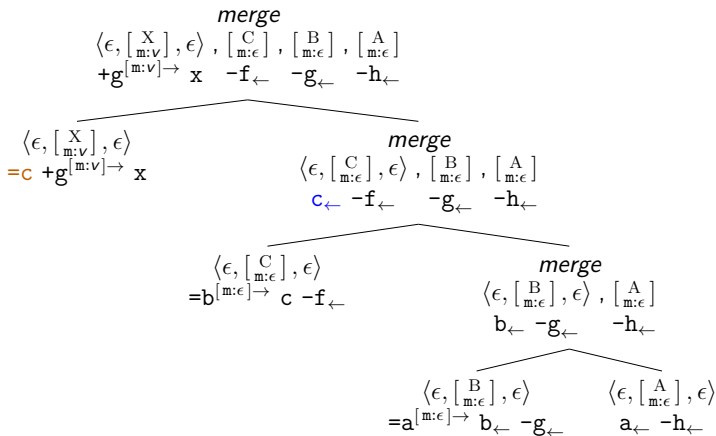
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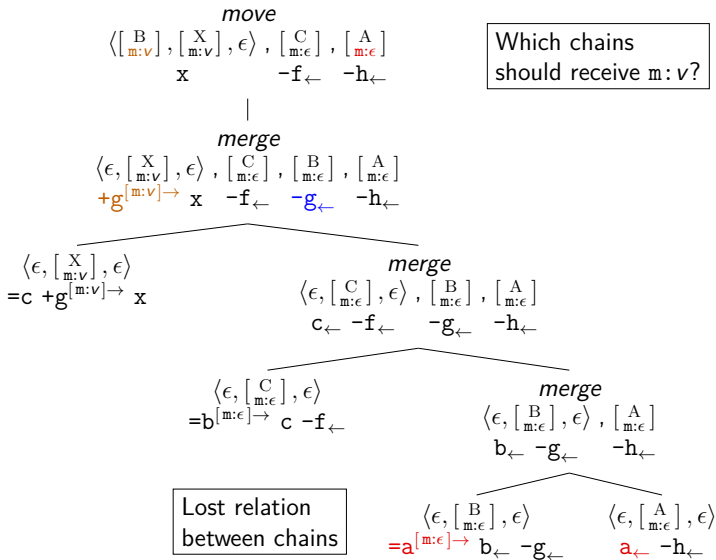
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Long-distance agreement



Long-distance agreement



Additional bookkeeping

- Long-distance agreement as an unbroken sequence of local exchanges of values
- Where does this sequence end?
 - **feature rewritability**: the highest chain that can update the feature's value
- What path does it take?
 - **chain lineages**: hierarchical relations between chains

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$$+g^{[m:v/off] \rightarrow} \langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} X \\ m:v/off \end{array} \right], \epsilon \rangle \quad , \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} C \\ m:\epsilon/f \end{array} \right] \quad , \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} B \\ m:\epsilon/f \end{array} \right] \quad , \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} A \\ m:\epsilon/f \end{array} \right]$$

$$x \text{ (off)} \quad -f_{\leftarrow} \text{ (f off)} \quad -g_{\leftarrow} \text{ (f g off)} \quad -h_{\leftarrow} \text{ (f g h off)}$$

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non-rewritable

rewritable by: f or lower chains

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subtree of:
initial chain

subtree of:
f, IC

subtree of:
f, g, IC

subtree of:
f, g, h, IC

Example grammar revisited

$$\text{this} \quad := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{THIS} \\ \text{num:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{per:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{case:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle \quad :: = \mathbf{n}_{\leftarrow}^{\left[\text{case:}\epsilon/\text{on} \right] \rightarrow} \mathbf{d} \mathbf{-k}_{\leftarrow}^{\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \text{num:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{per:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{smallmatrix} \right] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{boy.sg} \quad := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{BOY} \\ \text{num:sg/off} \\ \text{per:3/off} \\ \text{case:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle \quad :: = \mathbf{n}_{\leftarrow}^{\left[\begin{smallmatrix} \text{num:sg/off} \\ \text{per:3/off} \end{smallmatrix} \right] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{walk} \quad := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{WALK}], \epsilon \right\rangle \quad :: = \mathbf{d} \mathbf{v} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{prs} \quad := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{PRS} \\ \text{num:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{per:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle \quad :: = \mathbf{v} \mathbf{+k}_{\leftarrow}^{\left[\text{case:nom/off} \right] \rightarrow} \mathbf{t} \quad (\text{off})$$

Example grammar revisited

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Example grammar revisited

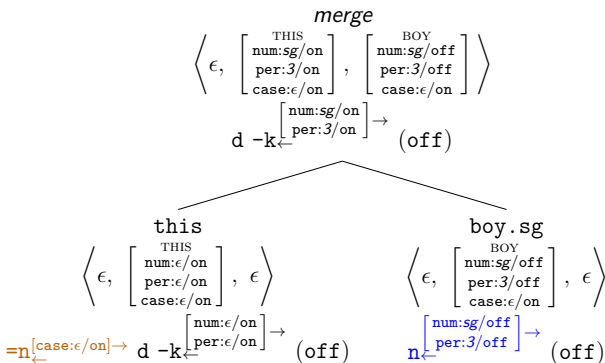
$$\text{this} := \left\langle \epsilon, \begin{bmatrix} \text{THIS} \\ \text{num:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{per:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{case:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{bmatrix}, \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{n}_{\leftarrow}^{\text{[case:}\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \mathbf{d} \mathbf{-k}_{\leftarrow}^{\begin{bmatrix} \text{num:}\epsilon/\text{on} \\ \text{per:}\epsilon/\text{on} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow} \text{ (off)}$$

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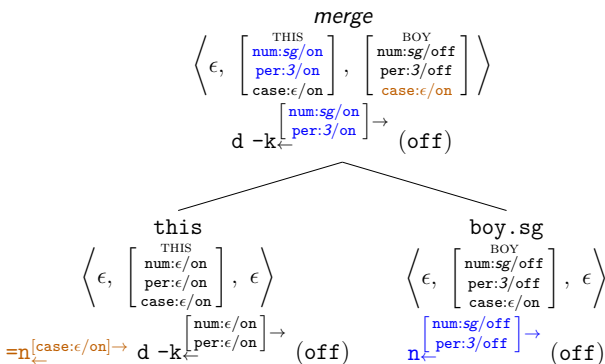
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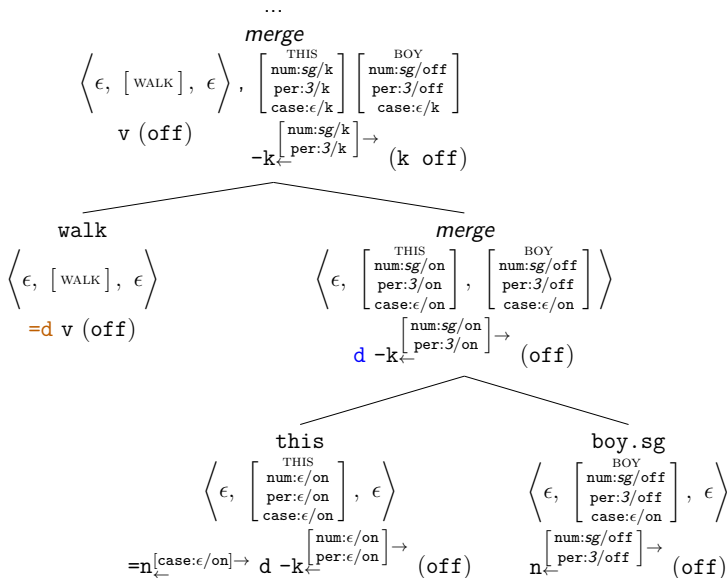
Example derivation



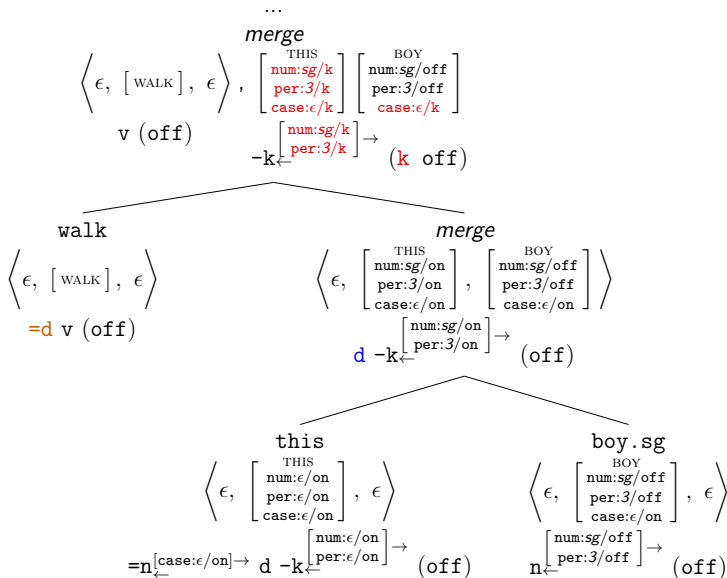
Example derivation



Example derivation



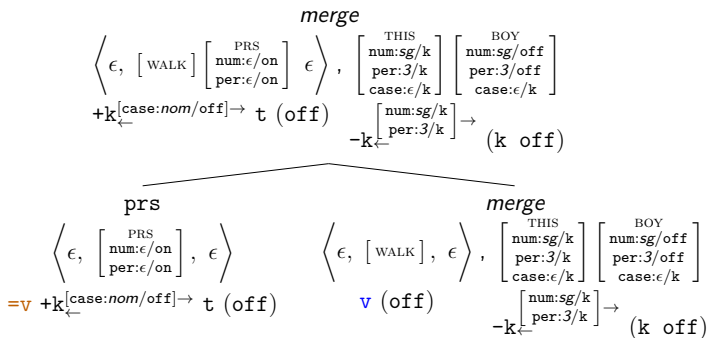
Example derivation



Example derivation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \langle \epsilon, [\text{WALK}], \epsilon \rangle, \\
 \text{v (off)}
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{merge}}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{THIS} \\ \text{num:sg/k} \\ \text{per:3/k} \\ \text{case:\epsilon/k} \end{array} \right]
 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{BOY} \\ \text{num:sg/off} \\ \text{per:3/off} \\ \text{case:\epsilon/k} \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}
 \rightarrow
 \begin{array}{c}
 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{num:sg/k} \\ \text{per:3/k} \end{array} \right]_{\leftarrow \text{k}}
 \text{(k off)}
 \end{array}$$

Example derivation



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Icelandic verb agreement

- Optional number agreement with the nominative DP:

Það **finnst** mörgum stúdentum tölvurnar ljótar.
EXPL **find.SG** many students.DAT computers.DEF.NOM ugly.NOM

Það **finnast** mörgum stúdentum tölvurnar ljótar.
EXPL **find.PL** many students.DAT computers.DEF.NOM ugly.NOM

'Many students find the computers ugly.'

- Some dative experiencers disrupt agreement:

Það **finnst** fáum börnum tölvurnar ljótar.
EXPL **find.SG** few children.DAT computers.DEF.NOM ugly.NOM

*Það **finnast** fáum börnum tölvurnar ljótar.
EXPL **find.PL** few children.DAT computers.DEF.NOM ugly.NOM

'Few children find the computers ugly.'

Analysis (Kučerová 2016)

- Agreement with the nominative if the dative DP undergoes *Object Shift*:

Það **??finnst** mörgum köttum fljótt **mýsnar** góðar.
EXPL **find.SG** many cats.DEF.DAT quickly **mice.DEF.NOM** tasty

Það **finnst** mörgum köttum fljótt **mýsnar** góðar.
EXPL **find.PL** many cats.DEF.DAT quickly **mice.DEF.NOM** tasty

'Many cats quickly find the mice tasty.'

- Default agreement otherwise:

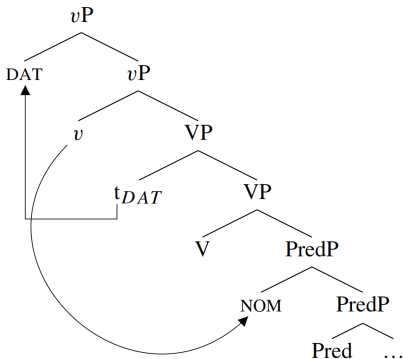
Það **finnst** fljótt mörgum köttum **mýsnar** góðar.
EXPL **find.SG** quickly many cats.DEF.DAT **mice.DEF.NOM** tasty

Það **??finnst** fljótt mörgum köttum **mýsnar** góðar.
EXPL **find.PL** quickly many cats.DEF.DAT **mice.DEF.NOM** tasty

'Many cats quickly find the mice tasty.'

Analysis (Kučerová 2016)

- **Shiftable** vs. **non-shiftable** DPs
- Shifted datives do not block *v* from probing the nominative
- Non-shiftable datives always block agreement



(Kučerová 2016:55)

Grammar fragment

$$\text{many}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{MANY}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: d^{[\text{num:pl/off}] \rightarrow} *k^{[\text{num:sg/off}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{few}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{FEW}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: d^{[\text{num:pl/off}] \rightarrow} -k^{[\text{num:sg/off}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{find} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{FIND}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: =\text{sc}_{\leftarrow} =d v^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{comp}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{COMP}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \text{sc}^{[\text{num:pl/off}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{Agr0} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{AGRO}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: =>v_{\leftarrow} +k_{\leftarrow} \text{agr0}^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$v := \left\langle \epsilon, [v], \epsilon \right\rangle :: =>\text{agr0}_{\leftarrow} v^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$v_{\text{shift}} := \left\langle \epsilon, [v_{\text{SHIFT}}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: =>\text{agr0}_{\leftarrow} +k v^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$T := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} T \\ \text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: =>v_{\leftarrow} t \quad (\text{off})$$

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$$\text{many}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{MANY}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \mathbf{d}^{\text{[num:pl/off]} \rightarrow} * \mathbf{k}^{\text{[num:sg/off]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{few}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{FEW}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \mathbf{d}^{\text{[num:pl/off]} \rightarrow} - \mathbf{k}^{\text{[num:sg/off]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{find} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{FIND}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{sc}_{\leftarrow} = \mathbf{d} \mathbf{v}^{\text{[num:\epsilon/on]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{comp}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{COMP}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \mathbf{sc}^{\text{[num:pl/off]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\text{Agr0} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{AGRO}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{>v}_{\leftarrow} + \mathbf{k}_{\leftarrow} \text{agr0}^{\text{[num:\epsilon/on]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\mathbf{v} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\mathbf{v}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{>agr0}_{\leftarrow} \mathbf{v}^{\text{[num:\epsilon/on]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{shift}} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\mathbf{v}_{\text{SHIFT}}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{>agr0}_{\leftarrow} + \mathbf{k} \mathbf{v}^{\text{[num:\epsilon/on]} \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$\mathbf{T} := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{T} \\ \text{num:\epsilon/on} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: = \mathbf{>v}_{\leftarrow} \mathbf{t} \quad (\text{off})$$

Grammar fragment

$$\text{many}\sim := \left\langle \epsilon, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{MANY}\sim \\ \text{num:pl/off} \end{array} \right], \epsilon \right\rangle :: d^{[\text{num:pl/off}] \rightarrow} *k^{[\text{num:sg/off}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

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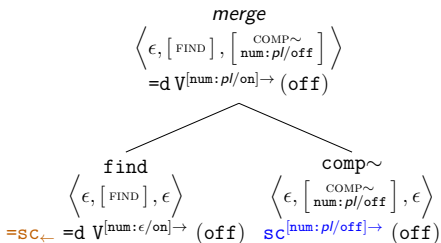
$$\text{Agr0} := \left\langle \epsilon, [\text{AGRO}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \Rightarrow v_{\leftarrow} +k_{\leftarrow} \text{agr0}^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

$$v := \left\langle \epsilon, [v], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \Rightarrow \text{agr0}_{\leftarrow} v^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

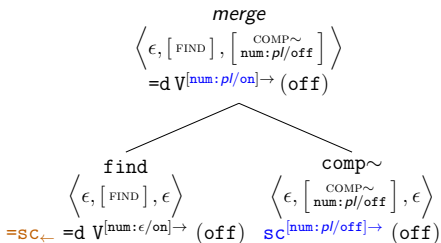
$$v_{\text{shift}} := \left\langle \epsilon, [v_{\text{SHIFT}}], \epsilon \right\rangle :: \Rightarrow \text{agr0}_{\leftarrow} +k v^{[\text{num}:\epsilon/\text{on}] \rightarrow} \quad (\text{off})$$

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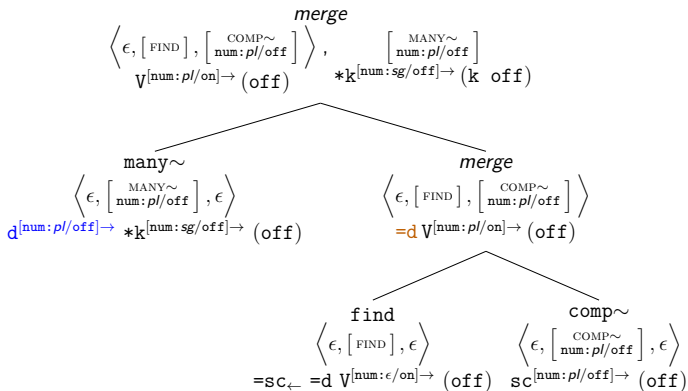
Example derivation



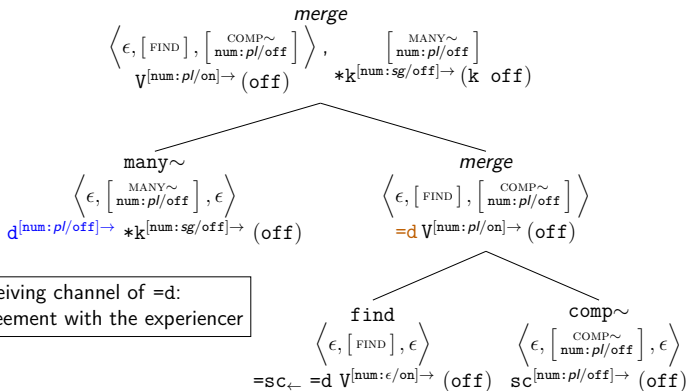
Example derivation



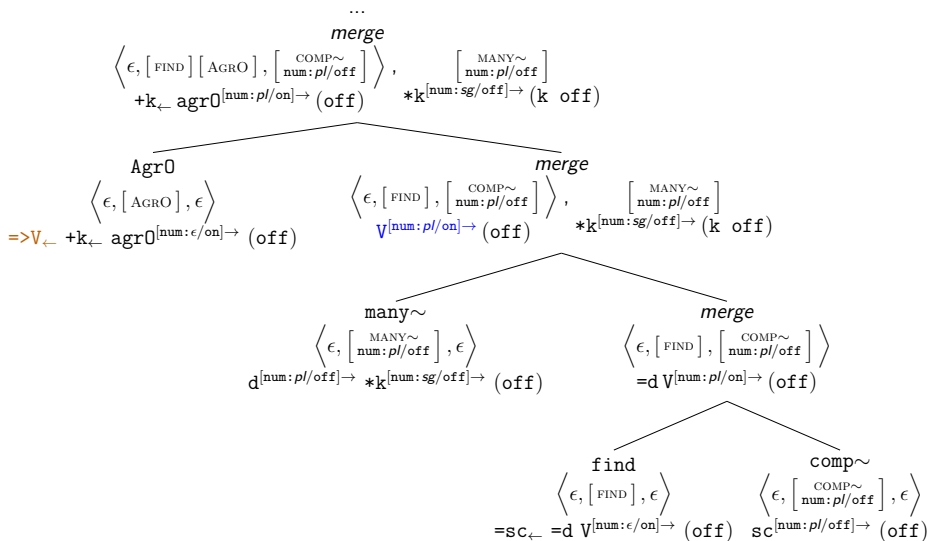
Example derivation



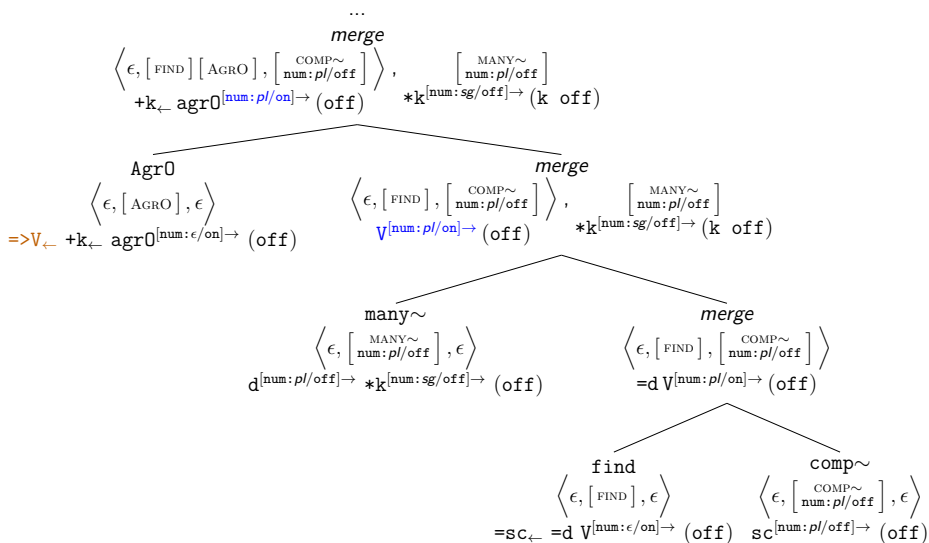
Example derivation



Example derivation



Example derivation



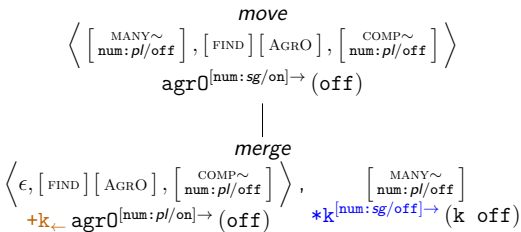
Default agreement: shiftable and non-shiftable DPs

merge

$$\left\langle \epsilon, [\text{FIND}] [\text{AGRO}], \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{COMP} \sim \\ \text{num: pl/off} \end{array} \right] \right\rangle, \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{MANY} \sim \\ \text{num: pl/off} \end{array} \right]$$

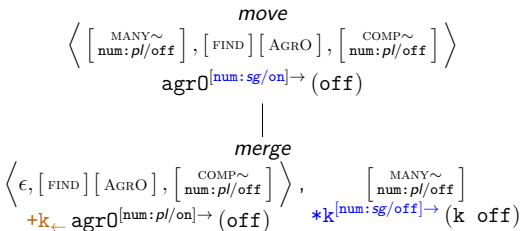
+k_← agr0^{[num: pl/on]→} (off) *k^{[num: sg/off]→} (k off)

Default agreement: shiftable and non-shiftable DPs

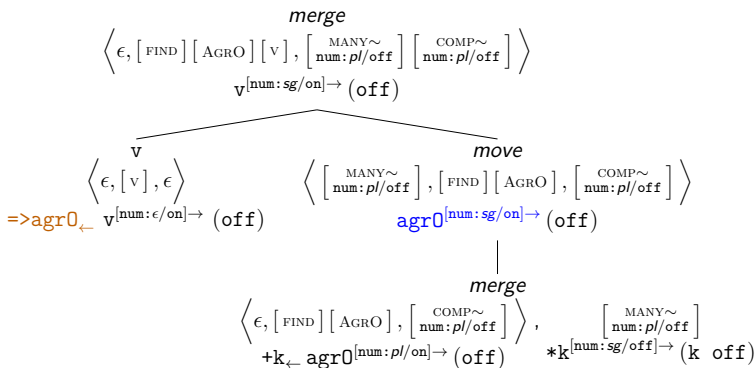


Default agreement: shiftable and non-shiftable DPs

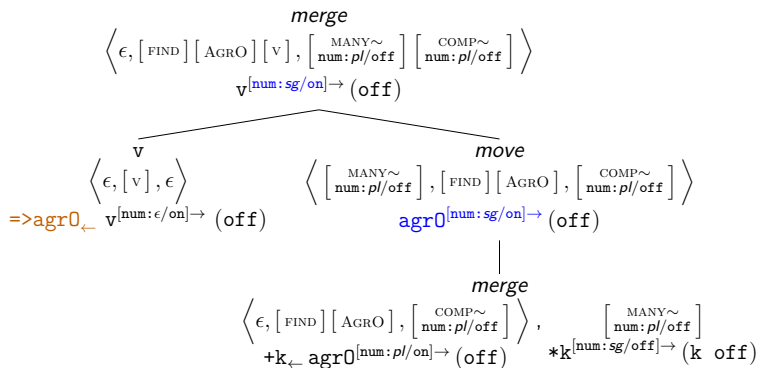
Last channel wins:
agreement via *move*



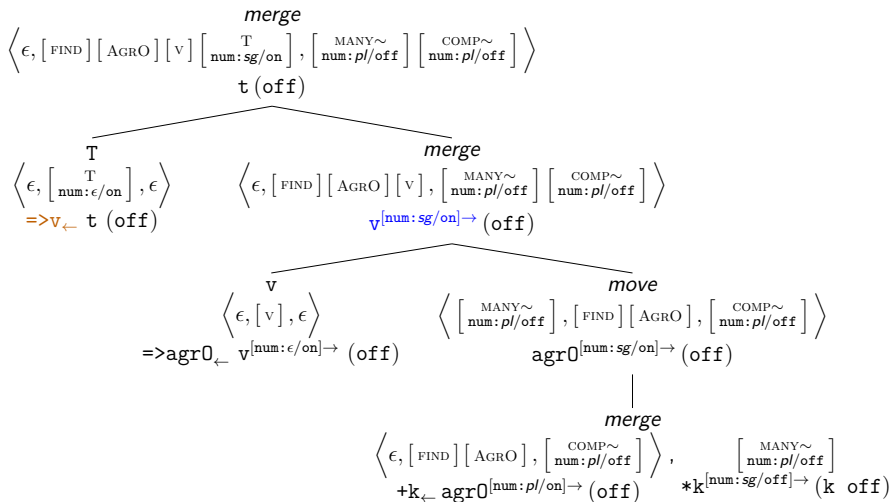
Default agreement: shiftable and non-shiftable DPs



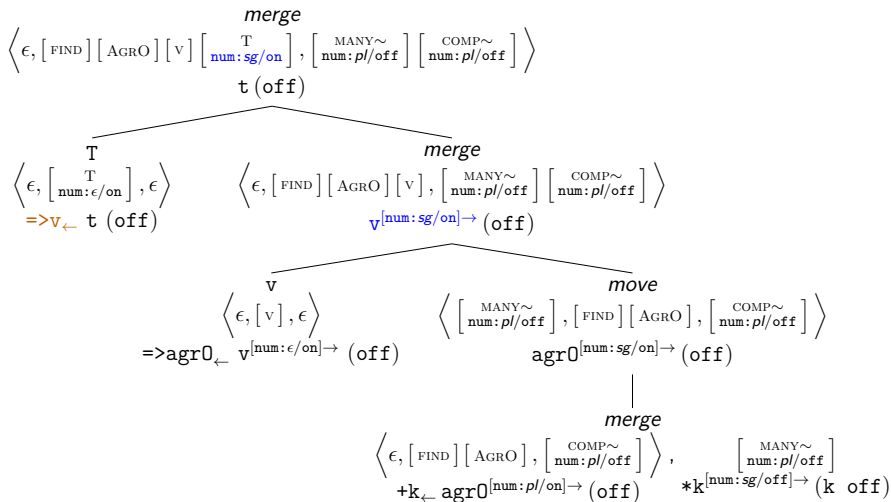
Default agreement: shiftable and non-shiftable DPs



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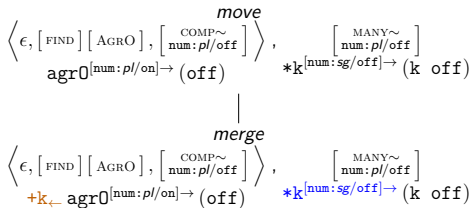
Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

merge

$$\left\langle \epsilon, \left[\text{FIND} \right] \left[\text{AGRO} \right], \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{COMP} \sim \\ \text{num: pl/off} \end{array} \right] \right\rangle, \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{MANY} \sim \\ \text{num: pl/off} \end{array} \right]$$

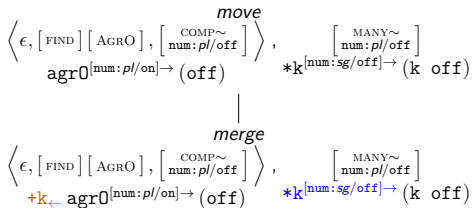
$+k_{\leftarrow} \text{agr0}^{\left[\text{num: pl/on} \right]} \rightarrow (\text{off})$ $*k^{\left[\text{num: sg/off} \right]} \rightarrow (k \text{ off})$

Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

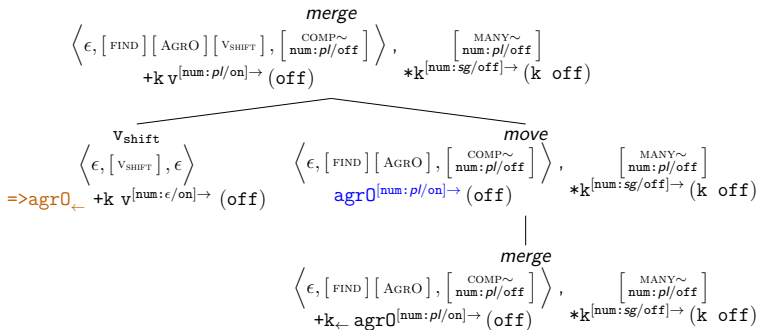


Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

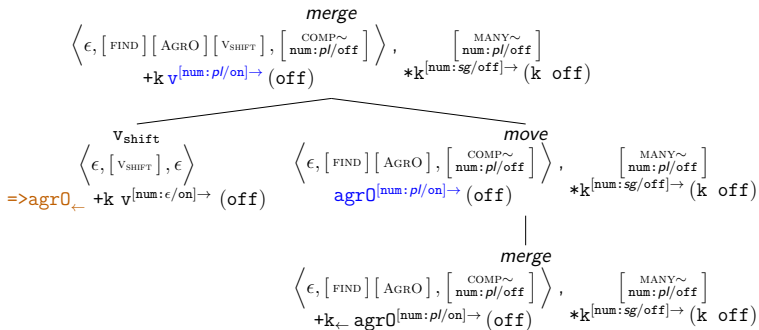
Intermediate position:
no agreement



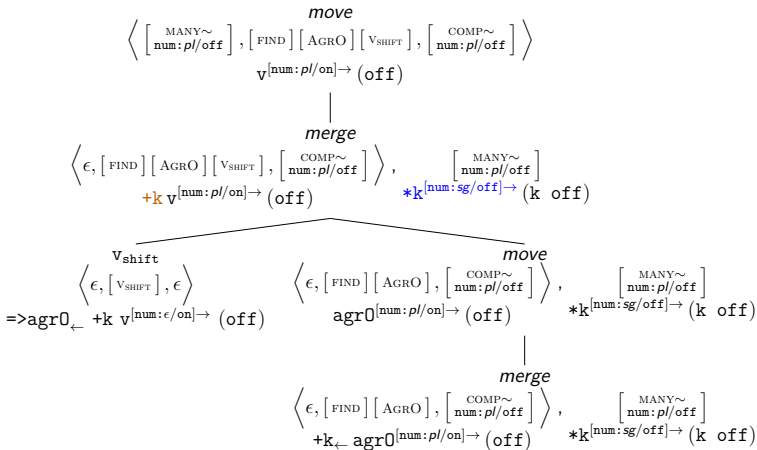
Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only



Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

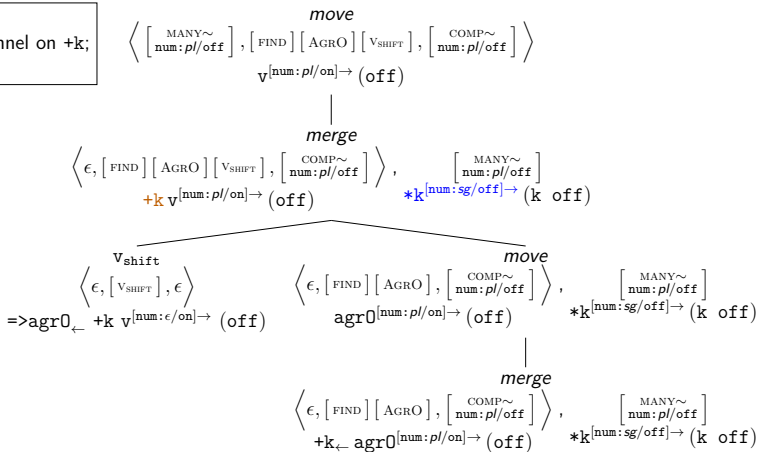


Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

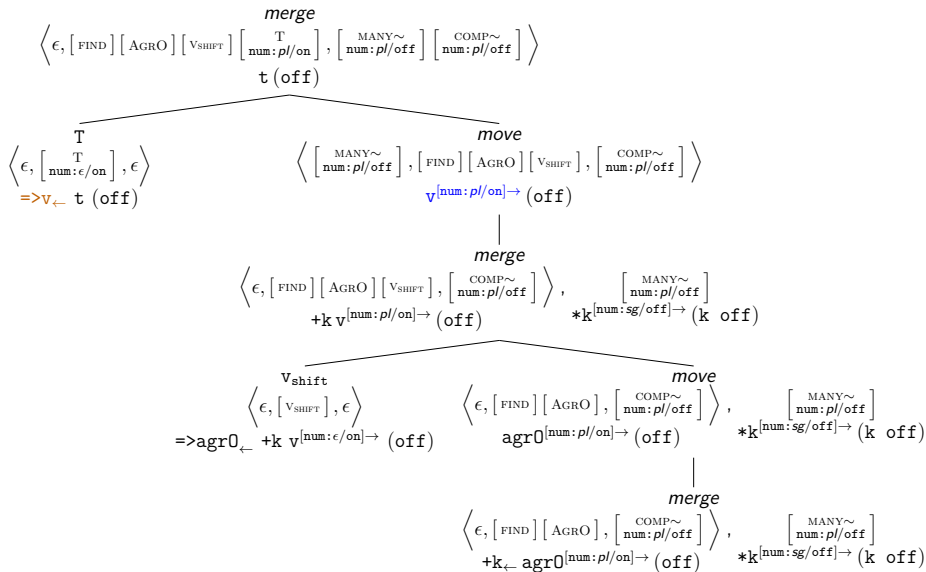


Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only

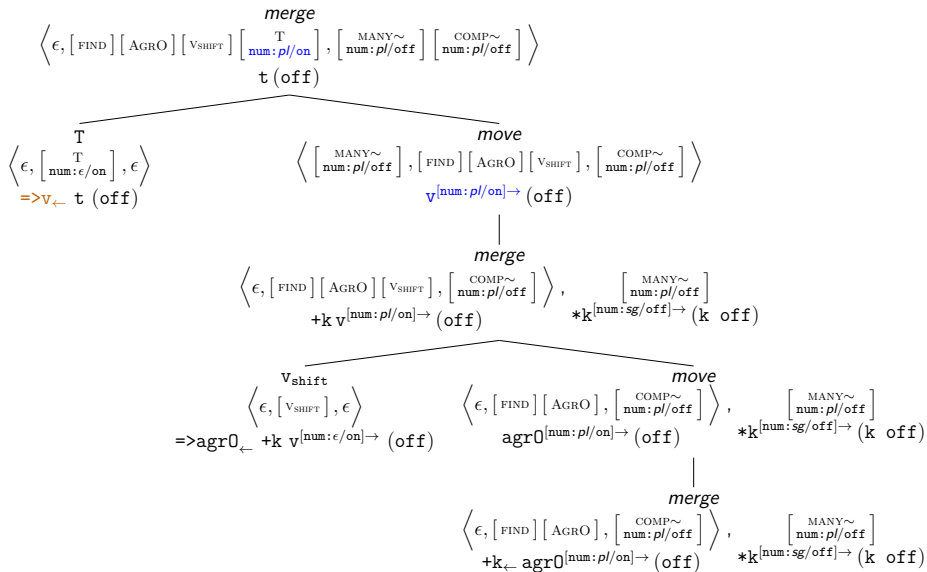
Object Shift:
no receiving channel on +k;
no agreement



Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only



Normal agreement: shiftable DPs only



Overview

- ① Introduction
- ② Agreement in MGs
- ③ Case study: Icelandic dative intervention
- ④ Discussion

Discussion

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 - Modified MG formalism operating over bundles of morphological features
 - Proof of concept: a straightforwardly expressed analysis of Icelandic dative intervention

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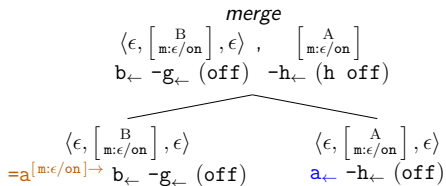
Discussion

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Ermolaeva & Edmiston 2017: Distributed Morphology over sequences of feature structures

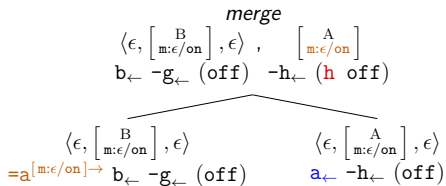
Thank you for your attention!



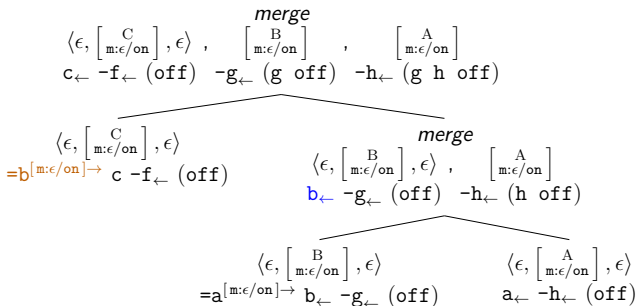
Appendix: long-distance agreement



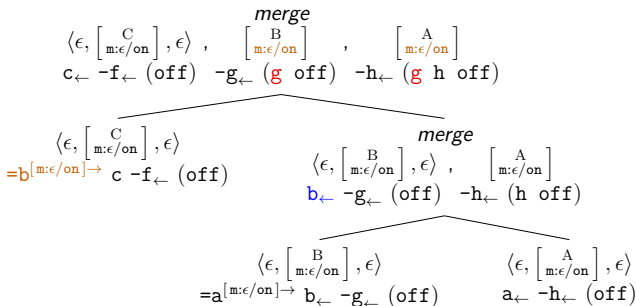
Appendix: long-distance agreement



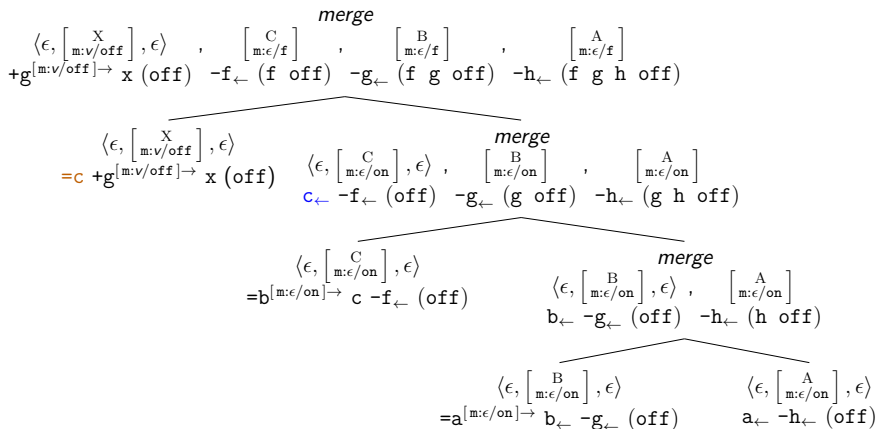
Appendix: long-distance agreement



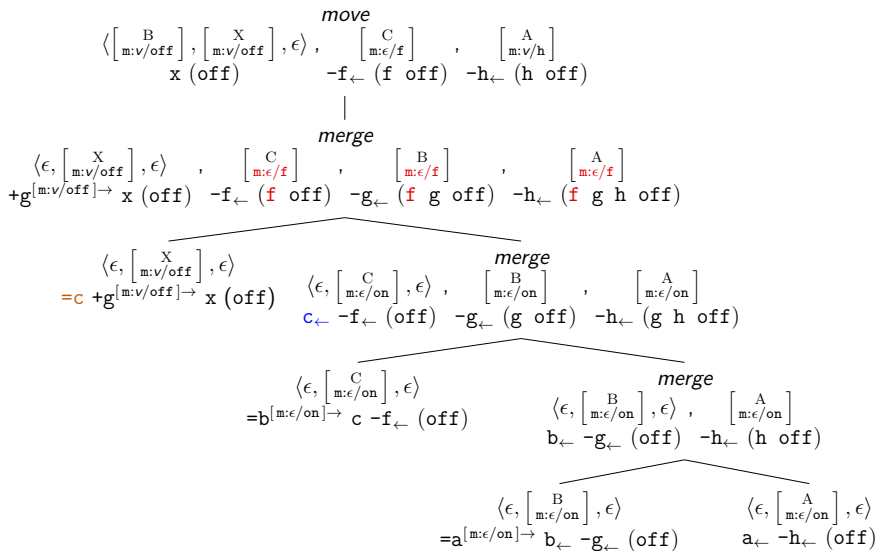
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