Reflections
[incr tsdb()] demo
etc

Ling 567
21-02-2023

Overview

- General reflections
- [incr tsdb()] demo
- Topics from Canvas
- Definiteness/cognitive status

Reflections

- How does working with this system differ from what we were doing in 566?
- What have you learned about grammar engineering?
- What have you learned about linguistic structure (morphology/syntax/semantics)?
- What have you learned about incremental development?
- What would you say are best practices for developing these grammars?

[incr tsdb()] demo

- I took out a rule. Was it actually doing anything?
- Other fine-grained exploration

Discourse status: What's that?

- A property of referents, describing their relationship to the common ground of a conversation

- Tends to be reflected syntactically in markers of "definiteness" as well as demonstratives and constraints on the availability of types of NPs in particular constructions.

- Closely related to (but distinct from) information structure

- The binary distinction "definite"/"indefinite" is not sufficient

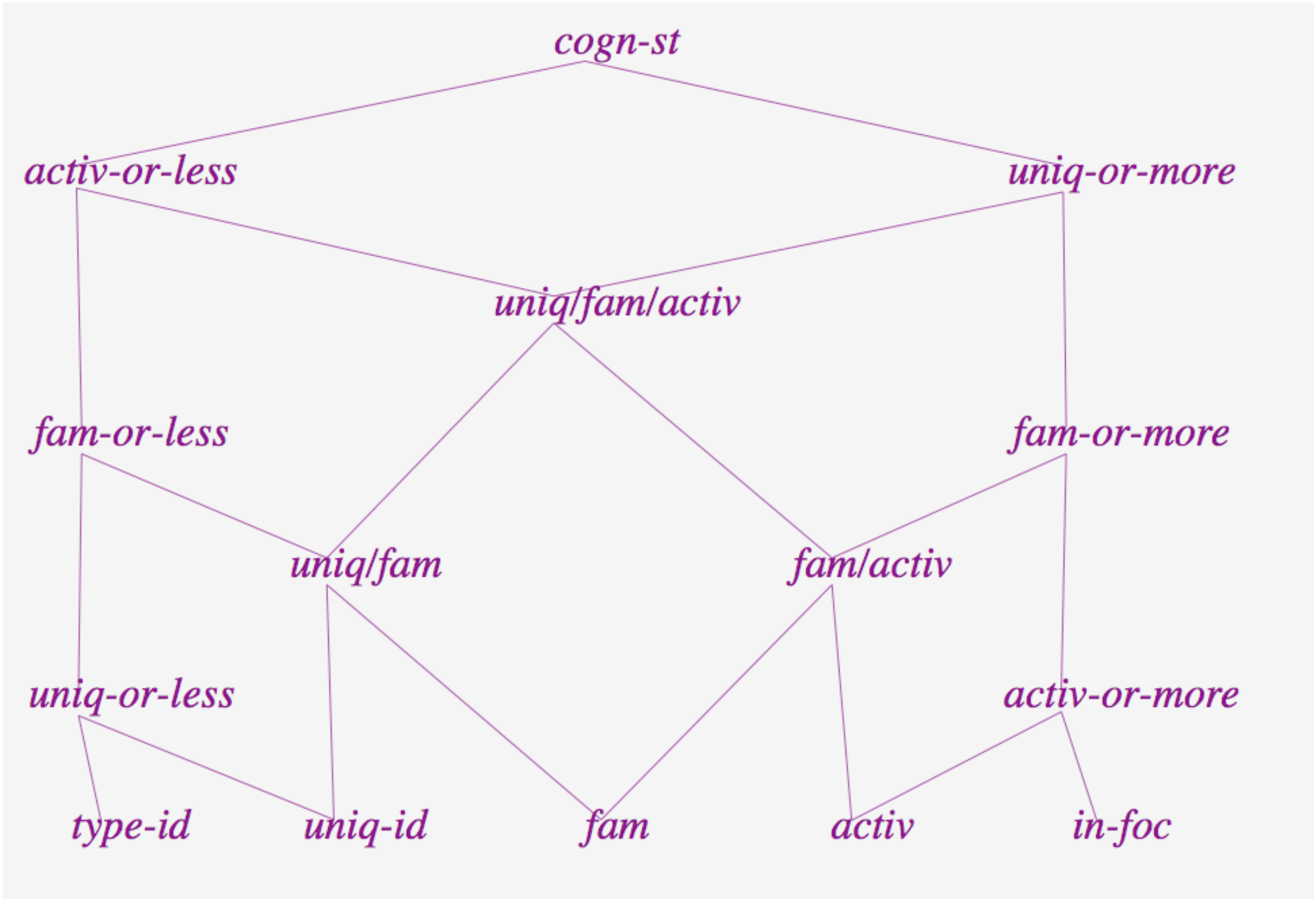
- Furthermore, discourse status can be broken down into hearer-oriented "cognitive status" and speaker-oriented "specificity"

Givenness hierarchy (Gundel et al 1993, Prince 1981)

Type id <	Referential <	Uniq. id. <	Familiar <	Activated <	In focus
a N	indefinite *this N*	*the N*	*that N*	*that, this* *this N*	*it*

NB: “In focus” != focus

Borthen & Haugereid's proposal



Borthen & Haugereid's proposal

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{SYNSEM.LOC.CONT.REF-PROP} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{ref-prop} & \\ \text{INDEX} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{ref} & \\ \text{PER} & \textit{per} \\ \text{NUM} & \textit{num} \\ \text{GEND} & \textit{gend} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{COGN-ST} & \textit{cogn-st} \\ \text{SPECI} & \textit{bool} \\ \text{PART} & \textit{bool} \\ \text{UNIV} & \textit{bool} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Borthen & Haugereid's proposal

- SPECI indicates specificity (speaker-oriented)
- Compatible with both "definite" and "indefinite" NPs:
    - *The fastest runner won*.
    - *The next customer will receive a reward*.
    - *I'm looking for a book*.
- Corresponds to overt syntactic phenomena in at least Norwegian (specificity adjectives) and Turkish (accusative case precludes specific interpretation)

Matrix-based proposal

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\text{HOOK.INDEX} & \begin{bmatrix}
\text{PNG} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{PER} & \textit{person} \\ \text{NUM} & \textit{number} \\ \text{GEND} & \textit{gender} \end{bmatrix} \\
\text{COG-ST} & \textit{cog-st} \\
\text{SPECI} & \textit{bool}
\end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

Optional: if you want to implement this

- Determine what overt marking of cognitive status and/or specificity occurs in your language

- Constrain the COG-ST value of pronouns, demonstratives, articles (if applicable), and any morphology that relates to cognitive status

- Constrain the COG-ST value of dropped arguments