



The LinGO Grammar Matrix

Rapid Grammar Development for Hypothesis Testing

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Outline

1

Introduction

- Multilingual Grammar Engineering
- Related Work
- DELPH-IN

2

The Matrix Customization System

- System Overview
- Notes on HPSG, Analyses and practicalities

3

Extended example: Maltese

- Word order and Auxiliaries
- Case, Negation, Argument Optionality
- Analyses, Part 3: The Lexicon

4

Extending a grammar

- Using the LKB and [incr tsdb()]
- Editing tdl
- Conclusion





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The Matrix Customization System

The LinGO Matrix Customization System is a tool that provides start-up implementations for linguistically motivated precision grammars

- From an engineering point of view it supports code-sharing leading to
 - a significant reduction in grammar engineering effort
 - more consistency across grammars
- From a scientific point of view
 - it supports syntactic research for hypothesis testing
 - it encourages research that combines typology with formal syntactic analysis





Tutorial Goals

- Introduce the LinGO Grammar Matrix system
- Illustrate how to derive the most benefit from the system
- Demonstrate how to work with and extend a starter grammar
- Exemplify the methodology of grammar engineering for linguistic hypothesis testing





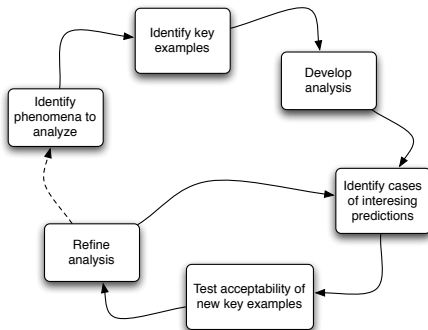
Test suites: Best Practices

- Use IGT format and Leipzig Glossing Rules (Bickel et al., 2008)
- Include both test *suites* and test *corpora*
 - Test suites: Simple, constructed examples illustrating specific phenomena
 - Test corpora: Naturally occurring text
- Expect to iteratively improve and extend test suites alongside implemented grammars



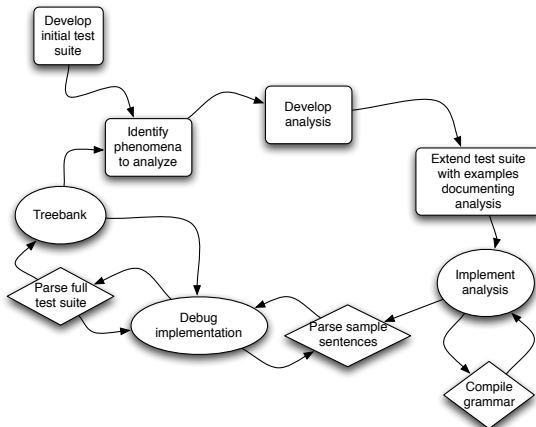


Pen and Paper Syntax Workflow





Grammar Engineering Workflow





Multilingual Grammar Engineering

Main Ideas:

- Reduce the efforts of creating new grammars by using knowledge from those already created
- Create consistency between grammars of different languages
 - Compatibility with downstream components
- Research on crosslinguistic similarity





Related Work

Multilingual Grammar Engineering:

- ParGram (LFG) (Butt et al., 2002; King et al., 2005)
- CoreGram (HPSG) (Müller, 2009)
- GF (Ranta, 2007)
- MetaGrammar project (LTAG) (de la Clergerie, 2005)
- OpenCCG (Baldrige et al., 2007)
- KPML (Bateman et al., 2005)
- MedSLT (Bouillon et al., 2006)
- PAWS (PC-PATR) (Black, 2004; Black and Black, 2009)





Related Work

Automatic Elicitation:

- PAWS (PC-PATR) (Black, 2004; Black and Black, 2009)
- Avenue (Probst et al., 2001; Monson et al., 2008)
- Expedition (Sheremetyeva and Nirenburg, 2000; McShane and Nirenburg, 2003)





Grammar Matrix Context: DELPH-IN

- DELPH-IN (www.delph-in.net) is a collaboration of researchers working on deep linguistic processing.
- The DELPH-IN member sites contribute open-source software and linguistic resources.
- The reference formalism used in DELPH-IN is based on HPSG (Pollard and Sag, 1994) and uses MRS (Copestake et al., 2005) for parse output and basis for generation.
- (Most) grammars are written in tdl (type description language) — interpreted by LKB and PET
- [incr tsdb()] (Oepen, 2001) for regression testing and treebanking





Grammar Matrix Context: DELPH-IN

Large and medium scale grammars:

- ERG (English) (Flickinger, 2000)
- Jacy (Japanese) (Siegel and Bender, 2002)
- GG (German) (Müller and Kasper, 2000)
- NorSource (Norwegian) (Hellan and Haugereid, 2003)
- Modern Greek (Kordoni and Neu, 2005)
- Spanish (Marimon et al., 2007)
- Portuguese (Branco and Costa, 2008)
- Korean (Kim and Yang, 2003)





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Components of the Customization System

- Core grammar containing cross-linguistically useful types and constraints
- Libraries: Analyses of cross-linguistic variable phenomena
- Customization system:
 - Web-based questionnaire to elicit choices among libraries
 - Validation to check that answers are coherent
 - Back-end script to output grammars





Libraries

- Conceptually the subpart of the customization system which treats one phenomenon
- Library development begins with defining the phenomenon.
- Libraries interact with each other.
- A typical library involves both syntactic and lexical/morphological information.
 - In the customization system, libraries usually correspond to one subpage, plus information on the lexicon page.
 - Choices on the subpage enable options on the lexicon page.
- Some libraries offer closed menus of preset choices, others offer more flexibility (“metamodeling”).





HPSG Design Choices

- No relation constraints
- Closed-world type hierarchy
- No defeasible constraints
- Rules have a fixed arity





Analyses

- Words and lexical rules have an ARG-ST. Signs have the attributes SUBJ, COMPS and SPR attributes under VAL
- No adjuncts as arguments (yet)
- Lexical case-marking
- The Agreement Library does semantic agreement
- Lexical rules are non-branching productions
- Typically more schemata than in theoretical HPSG





A Note on Morphology

We find it desirable to separate morphophonology from morphosyntax (cf. Bender and Good, 2005). The customization system only supports strictly concatenative morphology without any phonological rules, while the LKB supports a small amount of morphological rules.

Your test suites should be consistent in their orthography with what you enter in the lexicon page (spelling of stems and affixes). We encourage you to use a regularized, underlying form for both, such as would be the output of a finite-state morphological analyzer.





General best practice

- Data first: Prepare a test suite, preferably in IGT format following the Leipzig glossing rules (<http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/resources/glossing-rules.php>)
- Incremental development:
 - Answer only the required questions first, and then test (e.g., with test by generation).
 - Try one sample morpheme first before filling out large paradigms.
 - Periodically save your choices file.
- Take advantage of validation system—red asterisks indicate what needs to be corrected; hover over them for further information.





Test suites: Best Practices (repeated)

- Use IGT format and Leipzig Glossing Rules (Bickel et al., 2008)
- Include both test *suites* and test *corpora*
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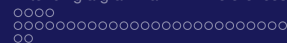




Test suites

- Examples as would be used in linguistic papers
- Try to use few words
- Include examples of simple(r) phenomena to test how new implementations interact
- Negative examples (see next slide)





Negative examples

- Important for testing the grammar (use more than in your paper!)
- Make sure all words in negative examples are also included in some positive example
- Each phenomenon should (at least) be tested in a negative example with exactly one error
- Don't be surprised if your negative examples become positive examples as you increase the grammar





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The Maltese language

- Semitic language spoken in Malta.
- 300,000+ speakers as of 1975.
- Closely related to Moroccan Spoken Arabic, with influence from Italian (Lewis, 2009).
- Described in (Fabri, 1993; Müller, 2009; Borg, 1981).
- Our test suite draws heavily on one provided by Müller, consisting primarily of examples from Fabri 1993.
- It contains 59 examples, focused on illustrating the phenomena which can be handled through the customization system.





Phenomena

- *Word order and auxiliaries*
- Person, number, gender
- *Case*
- Tense/aspect
- *Negation*
- Coordination
- *Argument optionality*
- *Lexicon*





Word order

- We analyse Maltese as having free (i.e., pragmatically defined) major constituent order.
- Maltese also has determiners which precede the nouns they combine with.
- Further details in appendix slides (and in the choices file).





Auxiliaries I

Future is formed using the auxiliary *se*. The verbs *kien* (be) and *qed* (imperfect) can be analyzed as auxiliaries.

⇒ Select 'yes' has auxiliaries





Auxiliaries II

jkun	sar	it-tamar
be-fut-3msg	become-past-3msg	df-date-pl
“The dates will have ripened.” (Borg, 1981, 154)		

Ġanni	qed	joqñod	il-Belt
John	<i>qed</i>	stay-3msg	in Valletta
“John is living in Valletta” (Borg, 1981, 114b)			

Word order restrictions unknown: the auxiliary directly precedes the verb in the provided examples.

⇒ Select ‘V’ complement, and auxiliary ‘before’ complement





Auxiliaries III

Use of auxiliaries likely to be limited, word order might be free (possibly no obligatory cluster forming).

⇒ Select maximally one auxiliary





Case data

Maltese marks human direct objects and all indirect objects with *lil* (Fabri, 1993; Müller, 2009). Non-human NPs may not appear with *lil* in direct object position. (Pronouns are subject to a slightly different pattern.)

Raj-t	*(lil)	Pawlu.
Raj-CCvCt	lil	Pawlu
see-1 SG	LIL	Pawlu.
'I saw Pawlu.'		
Xtraj-t	(*lil)	il-ktieb
Xtraj-CCvCt	lil	l-ktieb
buy-1 SG	LIL	DEF-book
'I bought the book.'		





Case Analysis

- ⇒ Select 'Nominative-accusative' case system and define nominative and accusative cases.
- ⇒ Define dative as an additional case.

- ⇒ On 'Other features' page, define HUMAN and NTYPE as semantic features.





Negation Data

Pawlu ma ħareġx

Pawlu ma ħrġ-aeoo-CvCvC-x

Pawlu neg leave-3rd.masc.sing.int.vow.perf-neg

“Pawlu left”

*Pawlu ma ħareġ

*Pawlu ħareġx

*Pawlu ħareġx ma

Negation is formed by the adverb *ma*, which precedes the verb in combination with the suffix *-x*. Both are required.





Negation Analysis

The customization system cannot handle doubly marked negation at present. The easiest way to get this in the grammar is to define the adverb and add the properties of the morpheme manually

⇒ For sentential negation select:

- an independent modifier
- modifying V
- appearing before the item it modifies

⇒ A dummy slot for the morpheme x can be defined on the lexicon page (without properties for now)





Argument Optionality

Both subjects and objects may be dropped in Maltese

jiktebha

jvCCvC-ktb-ieie-ha

3ms.imperfect-write-3f.obj

“He writes it” (based on (Fabri, 1993))





Subject Dropping

Verbs agree with their subject in person, number and gender.
The subject may be dropped in any context.

Select:

- Subject dropping may occur with any verb
- If the subject is dropped \Rightarrow subject marker required
- If the subject is overt \Rightarrow subject marker required
- Subject dropping occurs in all contexts





Object Dropping Data

When the object is dropped, an object marker is required. This marker is optional when the object is overt.

Pawlu	jiktebha	
Pawlu	jvCCvC-ktb-ieie-ha	
Pawlu	3ms.imperfect-write-3f.obj	
Pawlu	writes it	
Pawlu	jikteb	il-ittra.
Pawlu	jvCCvC-ktb-ieie	l-ittra
Pawlu	3rd.imperfect-write	def-letter.fem
Pawlu	writes the letter	
*Pawlu	jikteb	
Pawlu	jvCCvC-ktb-ieie	
Pawlu	3ms.imperfect-write	





Object Dropping Analysis

Select

- Object dropping may occur
 - with any verb
- If the object is dropped, an object marker on the verb is
 - required
- If the object is overt, an object marker on the verb is
 - optional
- Object dropping may occur in
 - all contexts





The Lexicon Page

- Allows the user to define types of nouns, verbs, determiners and adpositions
- Types are based on syntactic properties (one or more stems with related predicate must be defined for each class)
- Inflection (supported for nouns, verbs and determiners) is also defined on the lexicon page





Nouns

The following properties of nouns play a role in Maltese grammar

- Human versus non-human referent
- Grammatical gender masculine and feminine

⇒ Define three noun types:

- Nouns referring to humans (proper names)
- Nouns with feminine grammatical gender not referring to humans
- Nouns with masculine grammatical gender not referring to humans





Pronouns

- There is no special place to define pronouns on the lexicon page.
- They can be defined as noun types
- Each pronoun forms its own individual type
- Person, number, gender (and other relevant features) are defined as properties of the type





Main Verbs

Maltese has a nominative-accusative case marking pattern.

⇒ Define a verb type ‘intransitive’ with argument structure ‘intransitive(nom)’

⇒ Define a verb type ‘transitive’ with argument structure ‘transitive(nom-acc)’





Auxiliaries

se, *kien* and *qed* can be analyzed as auxiliaries. They contribute to the tense and aspect of the clause.

⇒ Define three auxiliary types. All three:

- Contribute ‘no predicate’
- Require their subject NP to bear the case assigned by its complement
- Take a complement in finite form

⇒ Each auxiliary type contributes different features to tense and aspect





Case Data (revisited)

Maltese marks human direct objects and all indirect objects with *lil* (Fabri, 1993; Müller, 2009). Non-human NPs may not appear with *lil* in direct object position. (Pronouns are subject to a slightly different pattern.)

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Case-marking Adpositions

- The customization system cannot capture all aspects of the behavior of *lil*
 - The system assumes that case marking adpositions bear the same case as their complement nouns
 - The adposition can either be obligatory (for all nouns) or optional
- We can capture the fact that *lil* may not co-occur with nouns referring to non-humans





Case-marking Adpositions Analysis

⇒ Define a case-marking adposition

- with spelling *li*
- which is optional
- and stands before the NP

⇒ Add features

- case = acc
- human = plus
- ntype = non-pro





Inflection

- Inflection is defined through “slots”
- For each slot, it is possible to define:
- Position(s):
 - Are the morphemes of the slot prefixes or a suffixes?
 - Where do they attach? (more than one input may be defined)
- Co-occurrence constraints:
 - Do morphemes from the slot require morphemes from some other slot?
 - Do morphemes from the slot prohibit morphemes from some other slot?





Verb inflection

- Maltese verbs are marked for aspect and the subject's person, number and gender.
- These properties are mainly captured by consonant-vowel patterns, plus additional consonants or vowels
- The additional phonemes may precede or follow the stem, leading us to posit prefixes and suffixes in our abstract representation.





Morphophonological processes

- Recall that the system does not handle morphophonology
- We represent the morphology of Maltese verbs as follows:

stem	thematic vowels	consonant-vowel-pattern
ħareġ		
ħrġ	-aeoo	-CvCvC





Verb inflection analysis

- Two PNG/aspect inflection slots
 - One before, one after the stem
 - Each contain morphemes with aspect, person, number, gender agreement constraints
 - Both serve as input to the object marker slot
- Object marker slot
 - Contains over object marker morphemes
 - (Customization system will also provide zero-marked “no dropping” morpheme)
 - Required by transitive verbs, incompatible with intransitives





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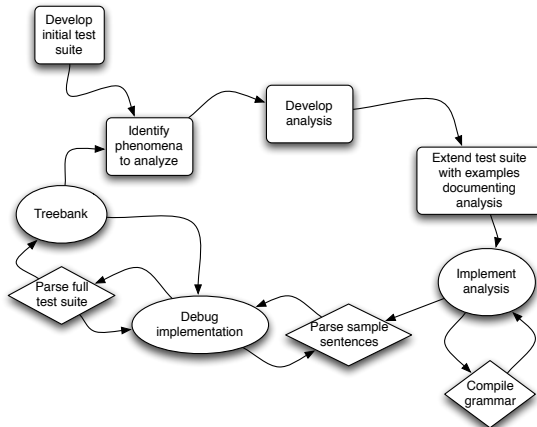
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Using the LKB and [incr tsdb()]

Workflow (Reprise)





Using the LKB and [incr tsdb()]

A First Session

- Start emacs: emacs &
- Start the LKB: M-x lkb
- Load the grammar: C-c g (or through the menu)
- Parse an item: C-c p (or through the menu)
- Explore parse chart





Using the LKB and `[incr tsdb()]`

Regression testing with `[incr tsdb()]`

The LKB has batch testing facilities, but they are very basic. `[incr tsdb()]` allows detailed exploration of differences between test runs.

- Start `[incr tsdb()]`: M-x itsdb
- Set database root
- Set skeleton root
- Create skeletons
- Create instance
- Process all items





Using the LKB and [incr tsdb()]

Ways to explore the data

- Browse | Results: Which examples parsed.
 - Red items can be clicked, to view structures or to send to the LKB for interactive parsing.
- Browse | Test items: Interactive parsing, of any example.
- Analyze | Competence: Overview of coverage and overgeneration.
- Compare | Competence: Comparison of coverage and overgeneration between two test suite profiles.
- Compare | Detail: Which items have different (number of) analyses.
- Options | Tsql condition: Restrict output to a subset of the data.





Understanding the grammar

- Individual components of the grammar are divided over a set of files (more later)
 - The grammar is written in tdl (type description language)
- ⇒ The following slides provide an overview of tdl and the components of the grammar



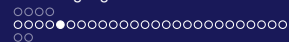


Type Description Language in a nutshell (1)

How to define types?

- The following syntax is used to define a type:
new-type := *supertype*.
- This statement introduces a type (*new-type*) that inherits properties of some already existing type (*supertype*)
- A type may inherit properties from more than one type:
new-type := *supertype1* & *supertype2*.





TDL in a nutshell (4)

Reentrancy

- Reentrancies are encoded using #, e.g.

adjective := *modifier* &

```
[ SYNSEM.LOCAL.CAT [ HEAD [ CASE #case,
                          MOD < [ LOCAL.CAT.HEAD.CASE #case ] > ] ] ].
```





tdl primer

Type definition with errors (example)

```

type-identifier := supertype1 & supertype2 &
[ FEATURE1 type1,
  FEATURE2 #coref,
  FEATURE3 [ FEATURE4 type2,
            FEATURE5 type3 ].

```

⇒ LKB warns about bracketing error and coreference used only once





tdl primer

Type definition corrected

```
type-identifier := supertype1 & supertype2 &
[ FEATURE1 type1,
  FEATURE2 #coref,
  FEATURE3 [ FEATURE4 #coref & type2,
            FEATURE5 type3 ]].
```





LKB also checks:

- Does the supertype exist?
- Are there redundant supertypes? E.g. *head-comp-phrase* below:
 - head-initial* := *headed-phrase* &...
 - head-comp-phrase* := *head-initial* & *headed-phrase*.
- Does the feature-name conflict with another feature?
⇒ also triggered when a feature is defined at the wrong location
- Is the value assigned to the feature the appropriate type?
- Are there types that contain any constraints that conflict with one of its supertype?





Type and Instance Files

- Type files:
 - matrix.tdl, head-types.tdl: Matrix core grammar
 - my_language.tdl: language-specific type definitions
- Instance files:
 - lexicon.tdl: Lexical entries
 - irules.tdl: Spelling-changing lexical rules
 - lrules.tdl: Non-spelling changing lexical rules
 - rules.tdl: Phrase structure rules





Additional (collateral) Files

- roots.tdl: Initial symbol definitions
- labels.tdl: Node abbreviation definitions
- lkb/script: Load file
- lkb/globals.lisp, lkb/mrsglobals.lisp: Language-specific LKB parameters
- pet.tdl, my_language-pet.tdl: PET configuration files





Exploring the grammar

- Most relevant properties of the grammar are defined in the `matrix.tdl` and `my_language.tdl` file
- First steps in exploring the grammar:
 - Examine the types in `my_language.tdl`
 - (Examine their supertypes in `matrix.tdl`)
 - Explore the types `matrix.tdl` has to offer



The Matrix Core

- The Core Grammar *matrix.tdl* is meant to be used as the basis of all Matrix Grammars. It provides:
 - 1 Basic features and devices used in HPSG grammars (e.g. phrase, word, category, lists)
 - 2 Basic grammar rules (e.g. unary/binary rules, head-subject/head-complement/head-specifier, head-final/head-initial)
 - 3 Semantic structures and constraints ensuring semantic compositionality, in the style of MRS (Copestake et al., 2005)
 - 4 Some more advanced features (e.g. simple part of speech inventory, argument extraction, coordination)





Example: what you find in my_language.tdl

Implementation for a language with word order

Subject Object Verb:

comp-head-rule := basic-head-compl-phrase & head-final.

subj-head-rule := basic-head-subj-rule & head-final &

[SYNSEM.LOCAL.VAL.COMPS < >].

The basic properties of these rules are defined in *matrix.tdl*.





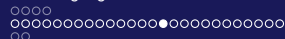
Supertype of the basic-head-comp-phrase

```

basic-head-comp-phrase := head-nexus-phrase & basic-binary-headed-phrase &
[ SYNSEM phr-synsem-min &
  [ LOCAL [ CAT [ VAL [ SUBJ #subj,
                        SPR #spr ],
                    POSTHEAD #ph,
                    HC-LIGHT #light ],
          CONT.HOOK #hook],
    LIGHT #light,
    NON-LOCAL.SLASH #slash]
INFLECTED +,
HEAD-DTR.SYNSEM [local.cat [ VAL [ SUBJ #subj,
                                   SPR #spr ],
                               HC-LIGHT #light,
                               POSTHEAD #ph ]],
NON-LOCAL.SLASH #slash
NON-HEAD-DTR.SYNSEM canonical-synsem &
  [ LOCAL.COORD - ],
C-CONT [ RELS <! !>,
         HCONS <! !>,
         HOOK #hook ],
ARGS < [ INFLECTED + ],
      [ INFLECTED + ] > ].

```





The role of matrix.tdl when extending your Grammar

- The matrix core saves you the trouble of worrying about many details.
- It contains several useful types that are not instantiated by the libraries at present.
- You may need to examine matrix.tdl to understand the behavior of your grammar.
- Types in matrix.tdl may provide useful examples of how to implement aspects of your analysis.

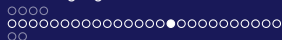




my_language.tdl

- Contains specific types for the language you are working with
- Most (or all) types that are instantiated in rules.tdl, lexicon.tdl, irules.tdl, and lrules.tdl are defined here.
- In starter grammar, most types definition will be relatively simple
- The bulk of grammar engineering will be done in this file
- Easiest start: extend an analysis provided by the customization system that does not capture the grammar completely





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so let's get started...

Phenomena to be implemented

Recall that there were two phenomena that could not be handled completely with the customization system:

- 1 A case marker that only appears on human direct objects
- 2 Negation is marked by an adverb in combination with a suffix on the verb





Case Data (revisited)

Maltese marks human direct objects and all indirect objects with *lil* (Fabri, 1993; Müller, 2009). Non-human NPs may not appear with *lil* in direct object position. (Pronouns are subject to a slightly different pattern.)

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Customization System Output

- *lil* correctly only attaches to human nouns
- But human nouns can be objects without *lil*.
- ⇒ Overgeneration.
- Case marking adpositions identify their own CASE value with their complements'.

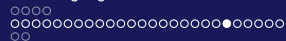




Improved Analysis

- Make case marking adpositions have independent case value from their complements.
- Make proper nouns inherently [*CASE nom*].





Negation, revisited

Pawlu ma ħareġx

Pawlu ma ħrġ-aeoo-CvCvC-x

paul neg leave-3rd.masc.sing.int.vow.perf-neg

Paul left

*Pawlu ma ħareġ

*Pawlu ħareġx

*Pawlu ħareġx ma

Negation is formed by the adverb *ma*, which precedes the verb in combination with the suffix *-x*. Both are required





Customization system output

- Independent adverb, which attaches to the left of V.
- Meaningless suffix -x.
- \Rightarrow Nothing in this analysis requires both of these to co-occur.





Improved analysis

There are two main techniques to improve on the basic analysis

- 1 Using a feature to assure that *ma* and *-x* co-occur
- 2 Treat *ma* like a selected adverb

Let's look at both techniques in more detail



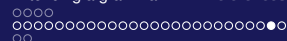


Using a feature (version 1)

- Introduce a feature e.g. [NEG *bool*]: *ma* requires the verb to be [NEG +]
- -x assigns [NEG +] to the verbs it attaches to
- a zero morpheme in the same inflection slot as -x makes verbs [NEG -]

⇒ This way, *ma* will always co-occur with -x, but -x may still occur without *ma*





Using a feature (version 2)

- Introduce the feature [NEG *luk*], with possible values +, -, *na*, *na-or-*+, and *na-or-*—
- a zero morpheme in the same inflection slot as -*x* makes features [NEG -]
- -*x* makes verbs [NEG +]
- *ma* requires verbs to be [NEG +], but changes this value into [NEG *na*]
- The head of a clause may not be [NEG +]

⇒ This captures the data without over-generation

⇒ Draw-back: this requires many additional constraints in the grammar





ma as a selected adverb

- The morpheme *-x* adds *ma* to the verbs COMPS list
- ⇒ *ma* is required when *-x* occurs, and it can only occur when *-x* is present
- We need to restrict the grammar so that *ma*
 - only precedes the verb
 - only attaches to lexical V_s





Tutorial Goals

- Introduce the LinGO Grammar Matrix system
- Illustrate how to derive the most benefit from the system
- Demonstrate how to work with and extend a starter grammar
- Exemplify the methodology of grammar engineering for linguistic hypothesis testing





To learn more...

- UW Ling 567 course web page:
`http://courses.washington.edu/ling567`
- Matrix mailing list:
`matrix@lists.delph-in.net`
- Our approach to data-driven cross-linguistic hypothesis testing relies on feedback from users.
- We are always interested to know how the system is being used, what's confusing, what's clear.
⇒ Please feel free to ask questions!





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