Workshop by Christopher Hammerly

Modelling Agreement and Movement

Agreement and movement have been a significant focus over the past 30 years, primarily stemming from the proposal of the elementary operations Agree and Move by Chomsky under the auspices of the Minimalist program. The landscape has come to be quite complex, with just about as many points of variation in how to formulate these operations (and the representations over which they operate) as there are people working on them. This workshop will focus on primarily on how to define the *representations* that agreement and movement manipulate and are triggered by. This will be specifically situated in a theory of *features*, with the main thrust being a plea to abandon privative feature representations and the feature geometric account of relationships between features. This is followed by a proposal called *subatomic agreement* that can better capture the empirical ground ceded by abandoning these theories, in particular so-called *hierarchy* effects, where certain features are privileged for agreement and movement, particularly in the phi-domain (A-movement). I detail an explicit algorithm for computing agreement and movement dependencies within the proposed representations, allowing for a clear comparison and ultimately unification of the two domains.

Schedule:

The workshop will be organized in three parts, with a break after Part 2:

Part 1: Operations and feature representations: A whirlwind tour (14:15 PM-15:15 PM)

Part 2: Subatomic agreement: A new representation (and operation) (15:15 PM-16:15 PM)

Break: (16:15 PM-16:45 PM)

Part 3: The relativized EPP: Unifying agreement and movement (16:45 PM-17:45 PM)