Words and Wordforms

- Lexical items
- Dictionary lookup
- Word segmentation
- Morphological analysis
- Morphophonology
- Lexical semantics
- Distributed representations
- Part-of-speech tagging
- Word-sense disambiguation

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- uncovering the internal structure of a word/wordform ("word syntax")
 - how a word/wordform can be composed/decomposed? (morphotactics)
 - how the linguistic meaning is derived from the components?
- morphological processes
 - inflection: e.g. word + inflectional ending \rightarrow word form
 - derivation: e.g. word + affix \rightarrow word
 - compounding: e.g. word [+ linking morpheme] + word \rightarrow word

Morphological processes

concatenative processes

- affixation: prefixation, suffixation, circumfixation, infixation
- compounding: concatenating several words, perhaps separated by linking elements
- non-concatenative processes
 - clitization: e.g. word + phonologically reduced word \rightarrow word proclitics/enclitics
 - ablaut: part of the root undergoes phonological change
 - transfixation: intercalating a consonantal root with a vowel pattern
 - reduplication: all or part of the root is duplicated
 - truncation: removing part of the root

Morphological Processes

	inflection	derivation	compounding
prefixation	_	+	-
suffixation	+	+	-
circumfixation	-	+	-
infixation	_	+	-
compounding	_	—	+
clitization	_	—	+
ablaut	+	+	-
transfixation	-	+	_

Inflection

- construction of wordforms from lexemes
- determines the morpho-syntactic features of the form
- never affects the syntactic category
 - but: syntactic categorization is theory- and language-specific
- mostly achieved by means of suffixation
 - different suffixes used for different features

hoff -t -est <past> <2nd,sg>

 less often combined with ablaut (i.e. stem inflection in German) der Apfel, die Äpfel der Nagel, die Nägel

Derivation

- modifies the syntactic category and/or part of the lexical semantics
- · wide variety of concatenative and non-concatenative processes
 - prefixation
 - suffixation
 - circumfixation
 - infixation
 - transfixation

Derivation in German

• prefixation: does not affect the grammatical category

• often German prefixation results in discontinuous words: detatchable prefixes

ab-reis-t $ ightarrow$ reis-t \dots ab	to travel vs. to depart
$\mathit{ab-setz-t} ightarrow \mathit{setz-t} \ldots \mathit{ab}$	to set, to place, to put,
	vs. to relocate, to sediment,
	to dispose,
auf-misch-t $ ightarrow$ misch-t auf	to mix, to blend, to collate,
	vs. to rough up

Derivation in German

• suffixation: might change the grammatical category

Löffel $ ightarrow$ löffel-n	$N \to V$
Kind $ ightarrow$ kind-lich	$N\toAdj$
Glaub(e) ightarrow glaub-haft	$N\toAdj$
$\mathit{Schloss} ightarrow \mathit{Schloss-er}$	$N\toN$
$\mathit{tag}(\mathit{en}) ightarrow \mathit{Tag-ung}$	$V\toN$
$\mathit{fahr}(\mathit{en}) ightarrow \mathit{fahr-end}$	$V\toAdj$
frei $ ightarrow$ Frei-heit	$Adj\toN$
klein $ ightarrow$ klein-lich	Adj ightarrow Adj

Derivation in German

- circumfixation
 - $\begin{array}{lll} schön(en) & \rightarrow & be\mbox{-schön-ig}(en) \\ glaub(en) & \rightarrow & be\mbox{-glaub-ig}(en) \\ & & & *be\mbox{-schön}(en), \ *schön\mbox{-ig}(en) \end{array}$
 - $renn(en) \rightarrow (das)$ Ge-renn-e
 - raun(en) → (das) Ge-raun-e *ge-renn(en), *(das) Renn-e
 - $sag(en) \rightarrow (hat) ge-sag-t$
 - schlaf(en)
 ightarrow (hat) ge-schlaf-en *ge-sag(en), *(hat) sag-t,
 - $schwei\beta(en) \rightarrow (ist)$ ge-schweiß-t, laufe(en) $\rightarrow (ist)$ ge-lauf-en, *ge-schweiß(en), *(ist) schweiß-t,

- infixation: in case of detachable prefixes the infix is placed between the prefix and the root
 - for past participles and infinitives with zu

 $auf-tret(en) \rightarrow auf-ge-tret(en)$ $nach-lesen(en) \rightarrow nach-zu-les(en),$

• true infixation inserts the affix into the root

Derivation

usually complex lexemes can be built:

under-achieve-ment, ir-ratio-nal-ity Ein-heit-lich-keit, Ab-er-kennen-ung, Un-zu-ver-läss-ig-keit

some affixes are ambiguous

wir geh-en, sie geh-en ab-zu-lehnen, un-zu-lässig

Derivation

- derivational morphology is full of accidental gaps
- many potential derivations (as well as compounds) are not considered well formed
- e.g. in English

verb	noun <i>(-al)</i>	noun <i>(-ion)</i>
recite	recital	recitation
propose	proposal	proposition
arrive	arrival	—
refuse	refusal	—
derive	—	derivation
describe	_	description

• e.g. in German

treffen, Treffer, zutreffen, *Zutreffer (der) Hausbau, (beim) Hausbauen, *(ich) hausbaue

Compounding

• compounding: frequent and highly productive phenomenon e.g. in German, Swedish and Greek

Tür-klink-en-griff	N+N+en+N
Send-ung-s-be-wuss-t-sein	N + s + N
blass-grün	Adj + Adj
teil-nehmen	N + V
arbeit-s-scheu	N + s + Adj
stein-alt	N + Adj

• the rightmost component determines the syntactic and morphosyntactic properties of the compound

Compounding

• relatively rare cases of (morphological) compounding in English

policeman	N + N
software	Adj + N
breakwater	V + N
underworld	P + N
haircut	N + V
highlight	Adj + V
undercut	P + V
takeover	V + P
without	P + P

• compounding is predominantly a syntactic mechanism in English middle class high school student

Transfixation

- root-pattern morphology: intercalating a consonantal root with a vowel pattern:
 - usually the root consists of three consonants (radicals)
 - the pattern is subject to the requirements of vowel harmony
 - the root determines the basic meaning
 - the pattern affects the syntactic and semantic properties

Transfixation

- dominating morphological process for verb derivation in many semitic languages (Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic, ...)
- e.g. Arabic

	k		t		b		
	k	i	t	ā	b		book
	k	и	t	и	b		books
	k	ā	t	i	b		writer
	k	и	tt	ā	b		writers
	k	а	t	а	b	а	he wrote
ya	k		t	и	b	и	he writes

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- modelling morphological processes and their consequences by means of finite state transducers
 - special focus on concatenative word formation
- morpho-syntactic information
 - stem-related: part-of-speech (POS), gender (nouns), valency (verbs)
 - derivational: part-of-speech (POS), valency(verbs), genus verbi, ...
 - inflectional: case, number, tense, ...
- usually described as features

```
cat = N, case = nom, gender = fem, ...
```

- lexical categories are distributional classes: words which can be replaced by each other without rendering a sentence ungrammatical
- e.g. for nouns

Linguistics can be a pain in the neck. John can be a pain in the neck. Girls can be a pain in the neck. Television can be a pain in the neck. *Went can be a pain in the neck. *For can be a pain in the neck. *Older can be a pain in the neck. *Conscientiously can be a pain in the neck. *The can be a pain in the neck.

• in inflecting languages abstraction from morphosyntactic agreement phenomena might be necessary

other criteria for lexical categories (RadFord 1988)

• phonological evidence: explanation of systematic pronunciation variants

We need to increase productivity. We need an increase in productivity. Why do you torment me? Why do you leave me in torment? We might transfer him to another club. He's asked for a transfer.

• semantic evidence: explanation of structural ambiguities

Mistrust wounds. ..., wo die wilden tiere jagen. Er hat liebe genossen.

• semantic properties are irrelevant:

verbs	actions	to walk, to carry, to laugh,
		laufen, tragen, lachen,
nouns	objects	desk, horse, Jack,
		Tisch, Pferd, Hans,
adjectives	states	ill, happy, krank, glücklich,

- morphological evidence
 - different inflectional patterns for verbs, nouns, adjectives but: irregular inflection: strong verbs, *to be,sein*
 - unterschiedliche Wortbildungsmuster
 - comparison for adjectives *large/larger/largest*, *groß/größer/am größten*
 - verbalization: *modern-iz-e/modern-isier-en*
 - nominalization: modern-iz-ation/Modern-isier-ung, correct-ness/Korrekt-heit
 - no derivation for prepositions and auxiliaries

Typical lexical categories:

N	noun	house/Haus, dog/Hund, teacher/Lehrer,
V	verb	to search/suchen, to ask/fragen, to be/sein,
Р	preposition	on/auf, between/zwischen, after/nach,
A	adjective	beautiful/schön, good/gut, red/rot,
ADV	adverb	differently/anders, completely/ganz,
М	modal verbs	can/können, may/dürfen, should/sollen,
D	determiner	the/der, this/diese, all/alle, enough/genug,

- distributional analysis leaves room for alternative design decisions
 - Engl.: particles and conjunctions as prepositions
 - Engl.: adjectives und adverbs as positional variants of the same category
 - adjectives modify nouns

There is a real crisis.

adverbs modify adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and verbs

He is a really nice guy. He walks really slowly. He is really down. He must really squirm.

- major categories: N, V, A, P
- feature representation for major categories:

	[V +]	[V –]
[N +]	adjective	noun
[N –]	verb	preposition

- useful to specify cross-categorial generalizations
 - Engl.: only [N -] words allow for nominal complements

John loves [Mary] (V + NP) John bought a present for [Mary] (P + NP) *John's admiration [Mary] (N + NP) *John is fond [Mary] (A + NP)

 Ital.: [N +] inflectes for gender, [N -] does not bravo ragazzo (guter Junge) brava ragazza (gutes Mädchen) bravi ragazzi (gute Jungen) brave ragazze (gute Mädchen)

• more fine grained classification of verbs

	[AU	X +]
[AUX –]	[M +]	[M –]
to sleep/schlafen	should/sollen	to have/haben
to go/gehen	can/können	to be/sein
to say/sagen	may/dürfen	

- open word classes: productive, neologisms are possible
 - nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- closed word classes: almost fixed inventory, function words
 - prepositions, determiner, pronous, conjunctions, auxiliary verbs, particles, numerals

- features can be combined into feature structures: partial functions mapping features to values
 - number of features is finite, but arbitrary
 - feature structures are sideways extensible



- feature structures can be underspecified
- two interpretations of a missing feature value
 - monotone: feature can take any (possible) value which can be specified as soon as additional information becomes available

 \rightarrow information accumulation in unification-based grammars

- non-monotone: feature takes a default value (e.g. sg or nom) that may be overridden by additional information
 - \rightarrow non-monotonic reasoning in DATR

- feature structures can be recursively embedded
 - the value of a feature can be a feature structure
 - can be used for data abstraction and recursive data structures

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- finite state transducers (FST) are FSAs over pairs of symbols
 - one corresponds to an input string, the other to an output string
 - an FST specifies a relationship between two strings
 - the relationship is reversible
 - an FST defines an alignment between input and output string

a simple tokenizer



([a-z]:[A-Z] | [a-z]:[a-z] | <>:[..;?!])*

- pairs of caracters/strings are of the form (output) : (input)
- special characters have to be quoted, e.g. '.', ':', ' '

- shortcuts
 - [a-c]:[A-C] expands to [abc]:[ABC]
 - [abc]: [ABC] expands to a:A | b:B | c:C
- simplifications

([a-z]:[A-Z] | [a-z]:[a-z] | <>:[..;?!])*

- lower and upper case letters can be combined in a single range
 ([a-za-z\]:[A-Za-z\] | <>:[\.\:,;?!])*
- a single symbol expands to an identity mapping: a ≡ a:a
 ([a-z]:[A-Z] | [a-z\] | <>:[\.\:,;?!])*

- shortcuts
 - [a-c]:[A-C] expands to [abc]:[ABC]
 - [abc]: [ABC] expands to a:A | b:B | c:C
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- a single symbol expands to an identity mapping: a ≡ a:a
 ([a-z]:[A-Z] | [a-z\] | <>:[\.\:,;?!])*
- FSAs are a special case of FSTs

- FSTs are closed under union, inversion and composition
 - union (A|B):

two FSTs are alternatives, they have to be processed in parallel

• inversion (^_T):

 ${\rm T}^{-1}$ maps from α to $\beta,$ iff T maps from β to α

• composition (A || B):

A \circ B maps α to $\gamma,$ iff A maps α to some β and B maps β to γ

- only some subclasses of FSTs are closed under difference, complementation, and intersection
 - problem case: ε-pairs

- stipulation
 - input: lexical level
 - output: surface level
 - inline encoding: the lexical level is enriched with feature values
- feature values are specified as complex symbols:

<abc>, <Noun>, <sg>, <pl>

• full enumeration of the alternatives:

```
frau <Noun>:<> <femin>:<> (<sg>:<> | <pl>:{en})
```

 $frau \leftrightarrow frau<Noun><femin><sg>$ $frauen \leftrightarrow frau<Noun><femin><pl>$

 partial specification with an implict default assumption (<sg>) frau <Noun>:<> <femin>:<> (<pl>:{en})?

frau	\leftrightarrow	frau <noun><femin></femin></noun>
frauen	\leftrightarrow	frau <noun><femin><pl></pl></femin></noun>

• ambiguous feature assignments (version 1)

```
berg <Noun>:<> <masc>:<> \
    (<nom>:<> <sg>:<> | <dat>:<> <sg>:<> |\
        <acc>:<> <sg>:<> | <gen>:<> <sg>:es |\
        <nom>:<> <pl>:e | <gen>:<> <pl>:e |\
        <acc>:<> <pl>:e | <dat>:<> <pl>:en)
```

berg ↔ berg<Noun><masc><nom><sg>
berg<Noun><masc><dat><sg>
berg<Noun><masc><dat><sg>
berg<Noun><masc><acc><sg>
berg<Noun><masc><nom><pl>
berg<Noun><masc><qen><pl>
berg<Noun><masc><acc><pl>
berg<Noun><masc><acc><pl>

• ambiguous feature assignment (version 2):

- ambiguous feature assignment (version 3):
 - mapping a sequence of complex symbols (instead of two separate ones) to the inflectional ending

```
berg <Noun>:<> <masc>:<> \
    ({<nom><sg>}:<> | {<dat><sg>}:<> |\
    {<acc><sg>}:<> | {<gen><sg>}:{es} |\
    {<nom><pl>}:e | {<gen><pl>}:e |\
    {<acc><pl>}:e | {<dat><pl>}:el)
```

- ambiguous feature assignment (version 4):
 - combining two separate feature values into a single complex symbol
 - common mapping for a set of alternative feature combinations

```
berg <Noun>:<> <masc>:<> \
    ([<nom_sg><dat_sg><acc_sg>]:<> |\
        <gen_sg>:{es} |\
        [<nom_pl><gen_pl><acc_pl>]:e |\
        <dat_pl>:{en})
```

• even more ambiguity: verb or noun?

```
be:irg <Verb>:<> (<2nd_sg>:{st} | <3rd_sg>:t)
```

• even more ambiguity: verb or noun?

bergen ↔ berg<Noun><masc><dat_pl> berg<Verb><inf> berg<Verb><1st_pl> berg<Verb><3rd_pl>

berge \leftarrow berg<Noun><masc><nom_pl>
berg<Noun><masc><gen_pl>
berg<Noun><masc><acc_pl>
berg<Verb><1st_sg>

 $birgst \leftrightarrow berg < Verb > 2nd _sg >$

- generalizing into inflectional classes
 - variables can represent complete FSTs
 - they have to be bound ...

• ... before they can be used

```
$Noun_masc_pl_e$ <Noun>:<> <masc>:<> \
    ([<nom_sg><dat_sg><acc_sg>]:<> |\
        <gen_sg>:{es} |\
        [<nom_pl><gen_pl><acc_pl>]:e |\
        <dat_pl>:{en})
```

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Deriving Features Non-Monotonically

• default reasoning with DATR

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Categories

- major categories: N(oun), V(erb), A(djective), P(reposition)
 - sometimes represented as binary features:

	V+	V-
N+	A(djective)	N(oun)
N-	V(erb)	P(reposition)

major categories can become the head of a phrase: VP. NP. AP. PP

 minor categories: Adv(erb), Det(erminer), Pro(noun), Rel(ative pronoun), Refl(exive pronoun), Conj(unction), ...

- often more fine grained categories are required
 - e.g. to describe possible contexts in which a word my appear
- subcategories of verbs

intransitive/unary	cannot be complemented by objects to sleep, to sit,
transitive/binary	requires to be complemented by a direct object to buy something, to call someone,
bitransitive/ternary	requires two complementing objects to give something to someone

 subcategorization might introduce additional ambiguity: intransitive/transitive?

he sings	VS.	he sings a song
er schläft	VS.	er schläft den Schlaf der Gerechten

• transitivity: the object takes the subject role if the verb appears in its passive form

to carry the bag \rightarrow the bag was carried to honor him \rightarrow he was honored

- other subcategorization requirements for verbs
 - case government:

accusative:	etwas tragen
dative:	ihm drohen
genitive:	seiner gedenken

prepositional complements

[PP über etwas] aufregen [PP in sich] gehen

• clausal complements:

dass-sentences: er weiß/glaubt, dass es Ärger geben wird.

- subcategorization is affected by derivation
 - passive voice: direct object \rightarrow subject
 - nominalization: direct object \rightarrow prepositional phrase

he discovered America ightarrow the discovery of America

subcategories can be

- atomic: V_{intrans}, V_{trans} , ...
- encoded as an additional (atomic) feature:

schlafen: $\begin{bmatrix} cat & V \\ subcat & intrans \end{bmatrix}$ tragen: $\begin{bmatrix} cat & V \\ subcat & trans \end{bmatrix}$ geben: $\begin{bmatrix} cat & V \\ subcat & bitrans \end{bmatrix}$

• more flexible encoding by means of subcategorization lists



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- graphical or phonological modification of morphemes
 - phonology: final devoicing, flapping, vowel lengthening, schwa-epenthese
 - orthography: ablaut, schwa-epenthese
- applications:
 - text-to-speech synthesis
 - "intelligent" dictionary access (phonetically induced typos) entlich → endlich, Wände ↔ Wende, ...

- can be well described by means of finite state transducers
- different kinds of rules for the transformation of symbol strings available
- e.g. upward replacement/phonological rules (CHOMSKY AND HALLE 1968)
 - mapping from the lexical to the surface level
 - context conditions are only specified on the lexical level

(

- c: transducer, 1,r: FSAs for left/right context
- any character that is not specified on the lexical level of c is mapped according to the active ALPHABET

• simple rule for schwa-epenthese

```
ALPHABET = [a-zäöüß\ ] \^:<>
\^:e ^-> [dt]__[st]
```

- as a default the morpheme boundary ^ is deleted
- except it appears between d oder t on the left and s or t on the right side, then it is replaced by e

(er/ihr) bad^t	\rightarrow	badet
(du) bad^st	\rightarrow	badest
(er/ihr) leg^t	\rightarrow	legt
(du) leg^st	\rightarrow	legst

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(er/ihr) leg^t	\rightarrow	legt
(du) leg^st	\rightarrow	legst

• in welchen Fällen versagt die Modellierung?

• every rule can be compiled into an FST

```
\^:e ^-> [dt]__[st]
```



• the FST as a transition table

\^:e ^-> [dt]__[st]

	d:d	t:t	^:e	s:s	other
<i>s</i> 0	<i>s</i> 1	<i>s</i> ₁	-	<i>s</i> 0	<i>s</i> ₀
<i>s</i> ₁	<i>s</i> 1	<i>s</i> ₁	<i>s</i> ₂	<i>s</i> 0	<i>s</i> ₀
<i>s</i> ₂	-	<i>s</i> 1	-	s 3	-
<i>s</i> 3	<i>s</i> 1	<i>s</i> ₁	-	<i>s</i> ₀	<i>s</i> ₀

• the missing continuations make sure that schwa is only inserted in the proper contexts

alternative modelling with a two-level rule

(1) a <=> b (r)

- maps a to b in the context 1__r
- ALPHABET needs to license all possible mappings

ALPHABET = [a-z\ äöüß] [\^]:[<>e] ([dt]) \^ <=> e([st])

- context conditions are specified with identity mappings
- as a default the morpheme boundary ^ is deleted
- in the contexts [dt]__[st] the morpheme boundary ^ is replaced by e