Match Theory and the Asymmetry Problem
An example from Stockholm Swedish
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The Asymmetry Problem and Match Theory

An example from Stockholm Swedish

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Extending the core idea of Match Theory, we propose the Minimal Interface Hypothesis (MIH). It states that Match be the sole constraints referring to syntactic XPs. MIH raises several theoretical questions, including the Asymmetry Problem. This poster illustrates how the Asymmetry Problem can be solved in Stockholm Swedish.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Asymmetry Problem

Alignment Theory (McCarthy & Prince 1993, Selkirk 1996) allows separate ranking of L- and R-alignment w.r.t. relevant PWCs (e.g., ALIGN-R >> PWC >> ALIGN-L).

Such asymmetry is not possible in Match Theory.

When separate ranking of L- and R-edge mapping is called for, how can i it be dealt with in Match Theory?

2. DATA

PWCs related to prosodic heads cause the asymmetry

An i cannot be inserted if it triggers the insertion of an additional i-head.

i-insertion to the right of an embedded i does not add an additional i-head (1c), while insertion to the left does add an additional i-head (2c).

This is because i-heads are right aligned in SSW.

3. ACCOUNT

1-phrasing options in SSW

(1) \([\ldots \text{CP} \ldots \text{CP}] \)
   a. \(\{\ldots \times \}\)
   b. \{ \ldots \times \}
   c. \{ \ldots \}

(2) \(\ldots \text{CP} \ldots \text{CP} \)
   a. \{ \ldots \}
   b. \{ \ldots \times \}
   c. \{ \ldots \times \}

PWCs

ALIGN-HEAD(i)-R

Align the right boundary of every i with its head.

*P-HEAD(i)

Avoid i-heads.

Crucial rankings

\(\text{ALIGN-HEAD}(i)-R\)  \(\text{MATCH-SP}\)  \(\text{MATCH-PS}\)  \(\text{*P-HEAD}(i)\)

\(\text{EQUALSISTERS}\)

Below is the ranking where (1) and (2) render divergent results. Other rankings in the handout.


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