Inquisitive CDRT – examples
Examples, I

(1) John sings or dances.
Examples, I

(2) Somebody sings.
Examples, I

(2) Somebody sings.

(3) a. $\lambda p. [u_1|, \text{sing}\{u_1\}](p)$
b. $\lambda p. \exists x (p \subseteq |\text{sing}(x)|)$
Examples, I

(4) Somebody $\phi$.

(5) a. $\lambda p.([u_1]; \phi(u_1))(p)$
   b. $\lambda p.\forall k\exists k'(\phi pk k')$
Examples, II

(6)  Who sings?

(7)  $\lambda p. [u_1, \text{sing}\{u_1\}](p)$
Examples, II

(6) Who sings?

(7) $\lambda p. [u_1, \text{sing}\{u_1\}](p)$

Presuppositional interpretation of focus (AnderBois, 2012)

(8) a. $\lambda p. [\sim [\sim [\sim [u_1, \text{sing}\{u_1\}]]]](p)$
b. $\lambda p. \lambda k_1 \lambda k_2. k_1 = k_2 \land \forall p' \subseteq+ p(\exists k' \exists p''(k_1 [u_1] k' \land /\text{sing}(u_1 k')/(p'') \land p'' \cap p' \neq \emptyset))$
c. $\lambda p. \lambda k_1 \lambda k_2. k_1 = k_2 \land \forall p' \subseteq+ p(\exists k' (k_1 [u_1] k' \land p' \cap /\text{sing}(u_1 k')| \neq \emptyset))$
d. $\lambda p. \forall p' \subseteq+ p(\exists x (p' \cap /\text{sing}(x)| \neq \emptyset))$

(9) Note:

a. $\sim [\sim D] = \lambda k \lambda p. \forall p' \subseteq+ p(\exists k' \exists p''(D p'' k k' \land p'' \cap p' \neq \emptyset))$
Examples, II

(10) Who sings?

Presupposition of (10)

Assertion of (10)
Examples, III

(11) Who owns what and likes it?
Examples, IV

(12) a. Who won and was he happy?
Examples, IV

(12)  
   a. Who won and was he happy?  
   b. $\max^1([\text{win}\{u_1\}]); [\text{happy}\{u_1\}] \lor [\sim [\text{happy}\{u_1\}]]$

(13)  
   Note:  
   a. $\max^n(D) := \lambda pkk'.([u_n]; D)pkk' \land \forall k'' \forall p' \subseteq + p(([u_n]; D)p'kk'' \rightarrow u_nk'' \subseteq u_nk')$
   b. $\text{who}^n \rightsquigarrow \lambda P_{\text{set}}. \max^n(P(i)(u_n))$
Examples, IV

(14) Who won and was he happy?

Assertion of (14)
Successes

- Indefinite semantics – the source of “wh-meaning” in wh-questions
- Relation between disjunctions and alternative questions can be captured (cf. AnderBois, 2012)
- Dynamic treatment of questions
- Straightforward account of cross-sentential anaphora
- Japanese indeterminate phrases can be accounted for, including the universal flavor of *mo*
Open issues

Wh-questions with quantifiers

(15) What did every student read?
   a. What was the thing that every student read?
   b. For every student $x$, what did $x$ read?
Open issues

Yes-no questions

(16) Mary knows whether John danced.

(17) Mary knows whether somebody danced and that he wore a scarf.

(18) a. A: Did somebody dance?
    b. \[[[u_1|dance\{u_1\}] \lor [\sim [u_1|dance\{u_1\}]\]]\]
Open issues

(19) a. A: Did somebody dance?
b. B: Yes. He was old.
c. B: # No. He was old.
Summary

Explaining linguistic properties of questions and question words

- Question words – in many lgs, formally related to indefinites
- Question words – related to indefinites in the way they update context
- Question words – typically focused
Summary

Frameworks

- CDRT
- Partition semantics + CDRT
- Inquisitive semantics
- Inquisitive semantics + CDRT