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Compositional Semantics
Heinrich Heine University
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Problem Set 3: Type- and λ -notation

Read: Heim and Kratzer (1998), chapter 2.

1. What type of value is the extension of (i) a sentence? (ii) a proper name? (iii) an intransitive verb like “smokes”?
2. What are the three components of H&K’s semantics for their fragment of English?
3. What do Heim & Kratzer use bold-face type for? Why is $\llbracket \text{Ann} \rrbracket$ nonsense?
4. On p. 26, Heim and Kratzer say that using characteristic functions instead of sets makes certain things a little more cumbersome. What things are they talking about?
5. Why do Heim and Kratzer analyze the denotation of a transitive verb like “likes” as a function from individuals to functions from individuals to truth values? (p. 27)
6. What is the label for that type (functions from individuals to functions from individuals to truth values)?
7. Exercise 1, p. 31
8. How do Heim and Kratzer propose to interpret an expression of the form $\lambda\alpha : \phi.\gamma$] (p. 36–7)?
9. Exercise 2, p. 39.
10. Exercise 4, p. 40.