

Corrigendum to “Extending Flexible Boolean Semantics for the Language of Mathematics”

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This note clarifies one aspect of the analysis presented by me in [Pat26]. In that paper (p. 161), I stated that Winter’s [Win02] framework generates three readings for the sentence:

- (1) The integers and the reals are countable

The three readings are the following.

- (2) $((\mathbf{E}[\text{the integers}]) \sqcap (\mathbf{E}[\text{the reals}])(\mathbf{countable})$.
- (3) $\mathbf{E}([\text{the integers}] \sqcap [\text{the reals}])(\mathbf{countable})$.
- (4) $\mathbf{min}((\mathbf{E}[\text{the integers}]) \sqcap (\mathbf{E}[\text{the reals}])(\mathbf{countable})$.

A closer reanalysis shows that only two readings can be derived. The third reading cannot be derived as **min** cannot be used after **E** in the subject position [Sch01, p. 4]. Accordingly, there are the following two possible readings.

1. $((\mathbf{E}[\text{the integers}]) \sqcap (\mathbf{E}[\text{the reals}])(\mathbf{countable})$.
2. $\mathbf{E}([\text{the integers}] \sqcap [\text{the reals}])(\mathbf{countable})$.

There being two readings and not three does not affect the central theoretical claim of the paper. The main argument was that the framework overgenerates interpretations. This issue remains, since the other two readings are possible. The determiner phrase (DP) *The integers and the reals* is syntactically ambiguous, based on the toy grammar given in [Win02, p. 186]. This ambiguity results in the two different readings. The syntactic structures of the DP corresponding to the two readings are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. The ambiguity arises because the coordinator *and* can be used to coordinate DPs as well as noun phrases.

The purpose of this note has been to provide a more accurate statement of the earlier claim. I regret the inaccuracy in the original formulation and hope this clarification helps prevent any misunderstanding.

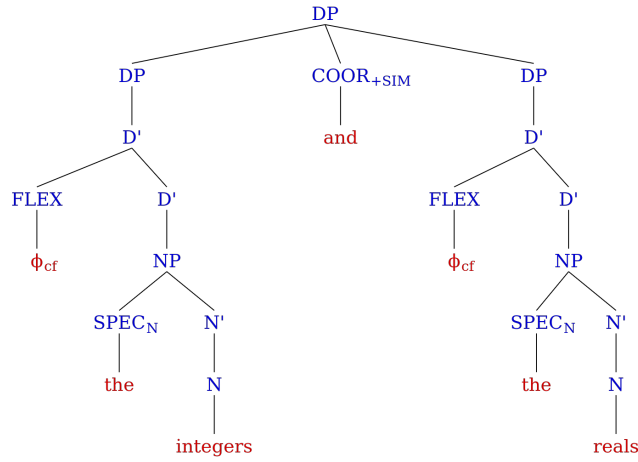


Fig. 1. Syntactic Structure of the DP *The integers and the reals* resulting in reading (2).

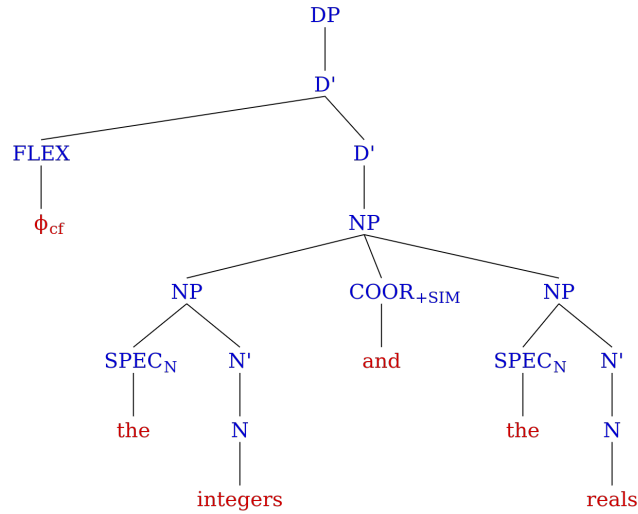


Fig. 2. Syntactic Structure of the DP *The integers and the reals* resulting in reading (3).

References

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- Win02. Yoad Winter. *Flexibility Principles in Boolean Semantics: The Interpretation of Coordination, Plurality, and Scope in Natural Language*. The MIT Press, 02 2002.