Predication with Sentential Subject in GF

Hans Leiß leiss@cis.uni-muenchen.de

Retired from: Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München Centrum für Informations- und Sprachverarbeitung

> LACompLing 2018 Stockholm, August 28–31, 2018

> > イロト イポト イヨト イヨト 二日

1/44

Background

- A. Ranta's "Predication Grammar" in GF (Proc. EACL 2014)
 - reuses most of the syntactic constructions of GF's resource grammar library (RGL) with non-dependent categories, but implements predication and complementation rules differently
 - categories *V*, *VP* are abstract types *depending on arguments*; the implementation types of *V*, *VP* are record types
 - categories V, VP, A, AP distinguish between sentential and nominal *object* arguments only

Goal

• Refine the predication grammar by also distinguishing between sentential and nominal *subject* arguments

Contents

- Grammatical Framework's (GF) Resource Grammars (RG)
- A. Ranta's experimental "Predication Grammar"
- Extension by sentential/interrogative/infinitive subjects
- Complexity/Examples

Grammars in GF's Resource Grammar Library (RGL)

Abstract Grammar: declarations of

- syntactic categories as (non-dependent) abstract types
- syntactic constructions as typed function symbols

```
$$$ \SGram.gf \=
abstract SGram = {
    cat S ; NP ; V2 ; VP ; -- syntactic categories
    fun Pred : NP -> VP -> S ; -- syntax rules
    Compl: V2 -> NP -> VP ;
    John, Mary : NP ; -- lexicon (words)
    like : V2 ;
}
```

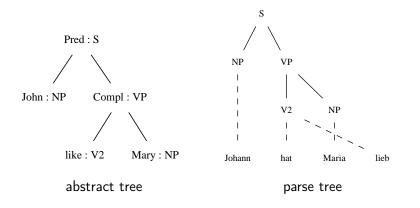
Function type = context-free rule: NP \rightarrow VP \rightarrow S = S \rightarrow NP VP

Concrete Grammar: implementations of

- syntactic categories by record types
- syntactic constructions by functions between records

```
\langle SGramGer.gf \rangle \equiv
 concrete SGramGer of SGram = {
   lincat S = { s : Str } ; NP = { s : Str ; a : Agr } ;
           VP = \{ s : Agr => Str \};
           V2 = { s : Agr => Str ; s2 : Str } ;
   lin Pred np vp = { s = np.s + vp.s ! np.a };
        Compl v2 np =
               \{ s = | a = v2.s ! a + np.s + v2.s2 \};
        like = { s = table Agr { Sg => "hat" ;
                                  Pl => "haben" } :
                s2 = "lieb" } :
        John = \{ s = "Johann" ; a = Sg \} ;
        Mary = { s = "Maria"; a = Sg };
   param Agr = Sg | Pl ;
                                    -- parameter type
 }
                                                          5/44
```

SGram> p "Johann hat Maria lieb" | vt -view=eog -format=eps



<ロト < 部ト < 目ト < 目ト 目 のQで 6/44 GF's resource grammars have different categories of verbs:

- V2: binary verbs with nominal object (read,like,know)
- VS: binary verbs with sentential object (fear,know,hope)
- VQ: binary verbs with interrogative object (know,wonder)
- VV: binary verbs with infinitival object (can,want,must)
- V3: ternary verbs with nominal objects (give, sell)
- V2S: ternary verb with nominal and sentential object (answer)
- V2Q: ternary verb with nominal and interrogative object (ask)
- V2V: ternary verb with nominal and infinitival object (beg)

There are complementation rules for non-nominal objects, like

- ComplVS : VS -> S -> VP (say that she runs)
- ComplVQ : VQ -> QS -> VP (wonder who runs)
- ComplVV : VV -> VP -> VP (want to run)

Complementation by NP and for ternary verb uses auxiliary categories

 $VP \simeq NP \rightarrow S \simeq$ unary predicate (sentence missing subject) VPSlash $\simeq NP \rightarrow VP \simeq$ binary predicate (VP missing nom.object)

Complementation by nominal object ComplV2 = ComplSlash:

SlashV2a : V2 -> VPSlash ; -- love (it) ComplSlash : VPSlash -> NP -> VP ; -- love it

Complementation for ternary verbs:

 $Slash2V3 : V3 \rightarrow NP \rightarrow VPSlash ; -- give it (to her) \\ Slash3V3 : V3 \rightarrow NP \rightarrow VPSlash ; -- give (it) to her \\ SlashV2V : V2V \rightarrow VP \rightarrow VPSlash ; -- beg (her) to go \\ SlashV2S : V2S \rightarrow S \rightarrow VPSlash ; -- answer (to him) that \\ SlashV2Q : V2Q \rightarrow QS \rightarrow VPSlash ; -- ask (him) who came \\$

In summary: grammars of GF's resource grammar library have

- binary and ternary verbs distinguishing objects of nominal, sentential, interrogative and infinitival kind
- no such distinction for the subject argument of verbs.

In summary: grammars of GF's resource grammar library have

- binary and ternary verbs distinguishing objects of nominal, sentential, interrogative and infinitival kind
- no such distinction for the subject argument of verbs.

But of course, such a distinction (for verbs/adjectives) is necessary:

- sentential subject: That this is the case, surprised us
- interrogative subject: What caused this is obvious
- infinitival subject: To go swimming may help you

Passive constructions give predicates with non-nominal subject:

- That the earth is flat was commonly believed
- How long the earth exists was not known
- To do your homework was often recommended to you

A. Ranta's "Predication Grammar"

GF admits to declare syntactic categories as dependent types.

A. Ranta (EACL 2014) uses this to reimplement predication and complementation rules in terms of dependent categories in order to

- obtain schematic rules abstracting over complement frames
- fix anteriority, tense and polarity of predicates earlier than RGs RGL: VP.s : VFin Tense Ant Pol VAgr => Str Pred: VP.s : VFin VAgr => Str

Sources: gf/lib/src/experimental/Pred.gf

Abstract Predication Grammar

- Verb category depending on types of arguments
 cat Arg ; -- argument type lists (HPSG subcat list)
 PrV Arg ; -- dependent verb category
- Construction of argument type lists:

RG verb categories correspond to dependent verb categories as

- Predicates, sentences, questions depending on arguments:
 - cat PrVP Arg ; -- finite incomplete predicate
 PrVPI Arg ; -- infinite incomplete predicate
 PrCl Arg ; -- clause (incomplete sentence)
 PrQCl Arg ; -- interr.clause (incomplete question)

(PrVP a) = predicates missing (object) arguments of type a: ARG:

Verbs of any type (PrV a) are predicates of that type (PrVP a):

Complementation rules now combine a (binary) predicate with a possibly incomplete object to a likewise incomplete predicate:

Similarly for ternary predicates combined with second complement:

13/44

Concrete Predication Grammars

The concrete grammars PredEng.gf, PredChi.gf, etc. mostly share implementation types of syntactic categories. Implementation type of category (C a) is *independent of* a:Arg. Verb categories (PrV a) are implemented by the record type

lincat $PrV = {$ s : VForm => Str ; -- verb paradigm p : Str ; -- verb particle c1 : ComplCase ; -- prep+case for 1st compl. c2 : ComplCase ; -- prep+case for 2nd compl. isSubjectControl : Bool ; -- subj.of embedded infiniti vtype : VType ; -- auxiliary, reflexive etc. -- pure | zu-infinitive compl. vvtype : VVType ; }; oper

ComplCase : Type ; -- language specific, e.g. preposition $\frac{14}{44}$

Verb phrases have parts of the verb paradigm and the verb's objects:

```
PrVP = \{
   v : VAgr => Str * Str * Str ; -- would, have, slept
   inf : VVType => Str ; -- ((to) sleep | sleeping
   imp : ImpType => Str ;
   c1 : ComplCase ;
   c2 : ComplCase ;
   part : Str ;
                                  -- verb part.: (look) up
   adj : Agr => Str ;
                         -- predicative adjective
   obj1 : (Agr => Str) * Agr ; -- agr for object control
   obj2 : (Agr => Str) * Bool ; -- subject control = True
   vvtype : VVType ;
                                  -- type of infinitive con
   adv : Str ;
                                  -- adverbial
   adV : Str ;
                                  -- negation adverb
   ext : Str ;
                                  -- right-extracted parts
   };
```

Clauses have less (but more informed) fields, plus a subject:

```
PrCl = \{
 v : Str * Str * Str ;
 adj,obj1,obj2 : Str ;
 adv : Str :
 adV : Str ;
 ext : Str ;
 subj : Str ; -- subject
 };
PrQCl = PrCl ** {
 foc : Str ; -- focus: *who* does she love
 focType : FocusType ; -- if foc is filled, inplace:
                        -- who loves *who* } ;
```

Notice: word order of clauses is not completely fixed

Implementation functions of syntactic constructions fill these slots with suitable combinations of slots of argument records.

For example, UseV selects active verb forms depending on given values a:Ant, t:Tense, p:Pol to fill slots of the PrVP type:

17 / 44

The dependent categories and grammar rules for predication make a partial grammar

Pred = Cat[Ant,NP,..] + (Pr-categories and constructions)

It has to be completed by

- constructions of the RGL independent of predication: UseN : N -> CN, DetCN : Det -> CN -> NP, etc.
- lifting the verb categories of the RGL to Pr-categories of Pred: LiftV : V -> PrV aNone, LiftV2S : V2S -> PrV (aNP aS), etc.

The extended grammar

Lift = Pred + RGLBase + (Lift* : Cat -> dep.Pr-cats)

can be equipped with the example lexicon of the RGL:

Test = Lift + Lexicon + Structural

Generation and parsing with dependent categories One can generate abstract trees of given category, for example Complete clause:

Test> generate_random -tr -cat="PrCl aNone" | linearize PredVP aNone (DetNP many_Det) (AgentPassUseV aNone AAnter TFut PPos (LiftV2 understand_V2) something_NP)

many will have been understood by something Incomplete clause:

Test> generate_random -tr -cat="PrCl aS" | linearize PredVP aS (UsePN john_PN) (UseV aS ASimul TFut PNeg (LiftVS say_VS))

John will not say

Dependent types are not fully integrated into the parser of GF, but checked by post-processing. This slows down parsing.

Test> parse -cat=PrS "John hopes that the bird flies"

UseCl (PredVP aNone (UsePN john_PN) (ComplVS aNone (UseV aS ... (LiftVS hope_VS)) (PredVP aNone (DetCN .. (UseN bird_N)) (UseV aNone ... (LiftV fly_V)))))

Test> parse -cat=PrS "John hopes the bird"

The parsing is successful but the type checking failed:

Couldn't match expected type PrCl (aNP ?1) against inferred type PrCl aS In the expression: PredVP aS (UsePN john_PN) (UseV aS ASimul TPres PPos (LiftVS hope_VS))

- The *advantage* of using dependent categories for predication is that syntactic constructions can be written at a higher level, abstracting from irrelevant parts of complement frames
- the *disadvantage* is that the GF-parser does not check the dependent arguments at parse time, but by post-processing constraint solving

To combine the advantages of dependent categories and parsing with non-dependent categories,

• translate the schematic rules using categories C (a:Arg) to instances with non-dependent categories C_a

See gf/lib/src/experimental/NDPred.gf, NDTestEng.gf

Extension by Sentential Subjects

Both the existing RGL and the Predication grammar

- have no verbs with sentential/interrogative/infinitival subject
- have PassV2 : V2 -> VP, but cannot passivize verbs of type VS, VQ, VV, V2S, V2Q, V2V.

To add sentential subjects, we have to

- A introduce new categories of verbs, adjectives, predicates B extend the lexicon by suitable new verbs and adjectives
- C introduce new constructions (VP,Cl with sent.subject)

In order not to delay checking of the subject's type to the post-processing, we do not add a further subject-Arg as in

PrV aS a, PrVP aS a,

but use new categories (PrSV a), (PrSVP a) etc.

Abstract grammar SPred

A1 New (non-dep.) lexical categories with sentential subject:

cat

t	oin.	.vei	cb wit	th sentential subject and NP,S,Q object
SV2	;		that	S, surprises/enjoys/disappoints NP
SVS	;		that	S1 causes/proves/implies that S2
SVQ	;		that	S explains (why when where S2)
SVV	;		that	S must/seems/is able ((to) VP)

```
-- unary adjective with S subject
SA ; -- that S is plausible/unlikely
-- binary adjective with S subject and NP object
SA2 ; -- that S is good for NP
```

```
-- O-ary verbs (expletive subject)
VO ; -- it rains
```

・ロト (四) (日) (日) (日) (日) (日)

A2 Dependent categories for verbs/predicates with sent.subject cat

PrSAP Arg ; -- (that S) is plausible

We don't need a category of clauses with sentential subject: i.e. can use PrCl for clauses with S, Q, V subject. A1' Lexical categories with interrog./infinitival subject

- -- QV Arg ; -- omit, no verbs v:QV exist
- QA Arg ; -- (why S) (is) uncertain | unknown

-- bin.verb with infinitival subject and NP object: VPV2 ; -- to VP pleases NP

-- adjective with infinitival subject: VPA ; -- to VP is healthy | difficult

A2' Categories for predicates with interrog./infinit. subject

PrQA Arg ; -- why S, is uncertain (to me)
PrQVP Arg ; -- why S, was unknown | explained to me
PrVVP Arg ; -- to VP is healthy | was suggested to me

Remark: To form predicative sentences with sentential subjects like

- that S is just a belief,
- why S is the question,
- to VP was our hope

we also need nouns with S, Q, V object, related to verbs VS, VQ, VV.

```
cat
  NS ; -- belief|fact|claim (that S)
  NQ ; -- question (why|when|where S)
  NV ; -- hope|wish|fear (to VP)
fun
  belief_NS : NS ;
  question_NQ : NQ ;
  hope_NV : NV ;
```

In contrast: TestEng has PredVP (a belief)^{NP} is (that she sleeps)^{VP}

B Lexicon: verbs and adjectives with sentential subject fun surprise_SV2 : SV2 ; cause_SVS : SVS ; explain_SVQ : SVQ ; plausible_SA : SA ; unlikely_SA : SA ; good_SA2 : SA2 ; rain_VO : VO ; -- for 0-ary predication explain_V2S : V2S ; -- for passive: V2S -> SV2 explain_V2Q : V2Q ; -- $V2Q \rightarrow QV2$ We lift these independent lexical categories to dependent ones:

```
fun
 LiftOV : VO -> PrOV :
 LiftSV2 : SV2 -> PrSV (aNP aNone) :
  LiftSVS : SVS -> PrSV aS :
  LiftSVQ : SVQ -> PrSV aQ ;
  LiftSVV : SVV -> PrSV aV :
  LiftSA : SA -> PrSAP aNone
  LiftSA2 : SA2 -> PrSAP (aNP aNone) ;
 LiftV2Q : V2Q -> PrV (aNP aQ) ; -- from Lift* for Pred
  LiftV2S : V2S \rightarrow PrV (aNP aS) :
```

New constructions with sentential subject

- C1 Predicates with sent.subject (PrSVP a) can be built
- (i) from a verb of category SV2, SVS, SVQ \simeq PrSV aNone|aS|aQ

PassUseVS : Ant -> Tense -> Pol -> PrV aS -> PrSVP aNone ; PassUseV2S : Ant -> Tense -> Pol -> PrV (aNP aS) -> PrSVP (aNP aNone)

and likewise AgentPassUseVS and AgentPassUseVS2 for passives with an additional agent-NP.

(iii) by complementation of binary predicates with a suitable object: ComplSV2 : (a : Arg) -> PrSVP (aNP a) -> NP -> PrSVP a ; ComplSVS : (a : Arg) -> PrSVP aS -> PrCl a -> PrSVP a ; ComplSVQ : (a : Arg) -> PrSVP aQ -> PrQC1 a -> PrSVP a ; ComplSVV : (a : Arg) -> PrSVP aV -> PrSVPI a -> PrSVP a ; (iv) by complementation of ternary predicates with suitable object: -- SlashSV2: (whom) that S surprises _ (whom) it surprises _ that S -- SlashSV3: (whom) that S was explained to _ by me (whom) it was explained to _ by me that S _ _

C2 Clause formation by predication with predicates PrSVP a PredSVP : (a : Arg) -> Place -> PrCl aNone -> PrSVP a -> PrCl a ;

Subject sentences can be positioned either in place or moved:

- that a bird flies is plausible
- it is plausible that a bird flies

The difference is marked by empty dummy constituents

fun InPlace, Moved : Place ;

C1' Analogous constructions are (partly) possible and implemented for predication with interrogative subjects:

```
-- UseQV is not needed: there are no verbs v : PrQV a
     UseQAP : (a : Arg) -> Ant -> Tense -> Pol
                            -> PrQAP a -> PrQVP a ;
     PassUseVQ :
                               Ant -> Tense -> Pol
                            -> PrV aQ -> PrQVP aNone ;
     ComplQV2 : (a : Arg)
                  -> PrOVP (aNP a) -> NP -> PrOVP a :
C2' with corresponding predication rule:
     PredQVP : (a : Arg) -> Place
                -> PrQCl aNone -> PrQVP a -> PrCl a ;
```

Likewise for predicates and predication with infinitival subject.

Concrete grammar SPredEng

For English, the implementation of the concrete grammar was easy:

 the predication grammar PredEng provides constructions for predicates with *nominal* subject, and these can be reused: lin

```
UseSV = UseV ;
PassUseVS = PassUseV aNone ;
PassUseV2S = PassUseV aNone ; -- (!) V2S -> SVP
ComplSV2 = ComplV2 ; ComplSVQ = ComplVQ ; ...
UseSAP = UseAP ;
```

This works since lincat V, VP don't care about the subject.

• exception: in the predication rule PredSVP, the subject may occupy its standard place or be moved to the right.

 exception: in the predication rule PredSVP, the subject may occupy its standard place or be moved to the right.

```
PredSVP _ p s vp =
  let subj = that_Compl ++ p.s ++ declSubordCl s ;
     agr = defaultAgr ; vagr = defaultVAgr
  in
  case p.moved of {
   False => predVP subj agr vagr vp ;
   True => predVP "it" agr vagr (vp ** {ext = subj});
  };
```

where predVP fills the fields of the resulting PrC1-record:

```
predVP : Str -> Agr -> VAgr -> PrVP -> PrCl =
\s,agr,vagr,vp ->
{ subj = s ; ... ; ext = vp.ext } ;
```

Concrete grammar SPredGer

Since SPred is an extension of Pred by new categories and constructions, we first need a concrete grammar PredGer.

This is facilitated by a functor

```
PredFunctor : PredInterface -> Pred
```

which provides a *partial* concrete Pred-grammar in terms of types and operations declared (or even implemented) in PredInterface. So we get PredGer by applying the functor

concrete PredGer of Pred =
 PredFunctor - [PredVP, ...] -- omit what to override
 with (PredInterface = PredInstanceGer)
in { lin PredVP np vp = ... } -- implement missing parts

to an implementation PredInstanceGer of PredInterface.

PredInterface contains declarations of parameter types and defaults that may need a language-specific implementation, like

```
Gender : PType ;
Agr : PType ; -- full agreement, inherent in NP
NPCase : PType ; -- full case of NP
subjCase : NPCase ;
ComplCase : Type ; -- e.g. preposition
```

but also language-independent implementations of categories, like

```
NounPhrase : Type = {s : NPCase => Str ; a : Agr} ;
```

```
PrV : Type = {
   s : VForm => Str ;
   c1 : ComplCase ; c2 : ComplCase ;
   ... } ;
```

For German, the main changes we had to make were

- add a field for the perfect-auxiliary to PrV
- add a field c0:ComplCase in PrVP for non-nom. subjects
- replace AAgr and Agr by a simpler ObjAgr in PrVP
- use ComplCase = Prep in PrV and PrVP

The last two items were needed for complexity reasons:

- i) the GF-compiler instantiates the parameters in a record type by all possible values; only 8 = |ObjAgr| of the 18 = |AAgr| = |Agr| = |Agr| = |Gender * Number * Person| values are needed
- ii) prepositional complements of verbs/adjectives are common, but: we must simplify RGL's category

Preposition = {s : Str ; c : PCase ; isPrep : Bool} to Prep by excluding 6 glued versions Det+Prep like AnDat from PCase. The implementation category of (PrVP a) then is

```
PrVP = {
 v : VAgr => Str * Str * Str ; -- würde,geschlafen,habe
 inf : VVType => Str ; -- (zu) schlafen
 imp : ImpType => Str ;
 c0 : Prep ; -- subject case in passive of prepV2's
 c1 : ComplCase ; -- = Prep (in Eng: = Str)
 c2 : ComplCase ;
 part : Str ;
 adj : AAgr => Str ;
 obj1 : (ObjAgr => Str) * ObjAgr ; -- agr for control
 obj2 : (ObjAgr => Str) * Bool ;
 vvtype : VVType ;
 adv : Str ;
 adV : Str ;
 ext : Str ;
 };
                                 ▲□▶ ▲□▶ ▲□▶ ▲□▶  □   つく⊙
```

Without these reductions of Agr and Preposition, it was impossible to compile the grammar using the PredFunctor

- -- these need 7,5G memory or kill gf, without them 2,7G
- -- ComplVA 15116544 (46656,1) Eng: 60 (60,1)
- -- ComplVN 15116544 (46656,1) 0,4G memory
- -- SlashV2A 15116544 (46656,1) Fin: 7375872 (37632,1)
- -- SlashV2N 15116544 (46656,1) 5,6G memory

Their types are the most complex types of the Pred-functions: they have two argument types PrVP and PrAP/PrCN, each with two ComplCase slots and two ObjAgr => Str slots:

ComplVA/V2A : (a : Arg) -> PrVP aA/(aNP aA) -> PrAP a -> PrVP a/(aNP aA) ; SlashV2A/V2N : (a : Arg) -> PrVP (aNP aA/aN) -> PrAP/PrCN a -> PrVP (aNP a) ; The syntactic constructions like

UseV : (a : Arg) -> ... -> PrV a -> PrVP a ;

are implemented in PredFunctor using auxiliary functions like tenseV that fill the field v : VAgr => Str * Str * Str of PrVP by selecting from the verb paradigm s : VForm => Str in PrV Such auxiliary functions had to provided for German.

To allow for (non-nominative) subjects, as in

wir helfen euch^{2,Pl,Dat} \mapsto euch^{2,Pl,Dat} wird^{3,Sg} geholfen wir denken an euch \mapsto an euch wird^{3,Sg} gedacht

an override of PassUseV : ... -> PrV (aNP a) -> PrVP a was needed to put the value in c1:ComplCase of the argument verb into into the c0:Prep field of the resulting PrVP.

So far for PredGer.

The new constructions of SPred with sentential subject can then be implemented mainly as for English, using those of PredGer:

```
lin
UseSV = UseV ;
ComplSV2 = ComplV2 ; ComplSVQ = ComplVQ ; ...
UseSAP = UseAP ;
```

An exception is PassUseV2S, which has to fill the subject-field c0:Prep

PassUseV2S a t p v = {
 v = \\agr => tenseV t a p passive agr v ;
 c0 = case <v.c2.isPrep, v.c2.c> of { -- subj <- obj2
 <False, R.Acc> => subjPrep ; -- i.e. nominative
 _ => v.c2 } ;
 ...
 } ;

Conclusion

- We have implemented an extension SPred of Pred to handle predication with sentential (and interrogative, infinitival) subjects for languages Eng and Ger
- Missing parts are relative clauses, clause coordination
- Much of Pred can be reused in SPred, the filtering of unwanted combinations depends on the *abstract* types only
- A complexity issue arises for PredGer from instantiating parameters to all possible values in the implementation records of PrV, PrVP
- Parsing is too slow

Lessons learned:

- naming convention of the RGL (for categories/constructions) relies on *few* verb classes, not suited to indicate subject types
- better integration of dependent categories in the parser would permit to
 - 1. combine different passive rules
 PassV2 : V2 -> VP, PassVS : VS -> SVP etc. by
 abstracting over the subject and object types:
 PassV : V x (y a) -> VP y a
 - 2. combine different VP-modifiers
 NP must_VV VP, S must_VSV SVPI etc. by abstracting over
 the subject type
 must_VV : VPI x y -> VP x y

Demo-Howto

1. parse examples:

- 3. Testfiles:
 - examplesEng.txt
 - schemata.out generated via shell> make -fMakefileS example-schemata