

An  
extent-based GQT-style unified implicature  
account  
of  
bare and modified numerals  
3 · more/less than 3 · at most/least 3

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# Outline

The classic GQT theory of BNs, CMs, and SMs

An extent based GQT-style unified implicature account of BNs, CMs, and SMs

Additional results

Conclusion

# Generalized Quantifier Theory

[Barwise and Cooper, 1981]

$$(1) \llbracket \text{every} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . P \subseteq Q$$

$$(2) \llbracket \text{no} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . P \cap Q = \emptyset$$

$$(3) \llbracket \text{a} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . P \cap Q \neq \emptyset$$

$$(4) \llbracket \text{three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| \geq 3$$

$$(5) \llbracket \text{more than three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| > 3$$

$$(6) \llbracket \text{less than three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| < 3$$

$$(7) \llbracket \text{at least three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| \geq 3$$

$$(8) \llbracket \text{at most three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| \leq 3$$

$$(9) \llbracket \text{exactly three} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . |P \cap Q| = 3$$

$$(10) \llbracket \text{between three and five} \rrbracket = \lambda P . \lambda Q . 3 \leq |P \cap Q| \leq 5$$

## Features and bugs

- ★ Uniformity of DPs
- ★ Uniformity of natural language determiners

★ **Uniformity of bare** (BNs, *three*), **comparative-modified** (CMs, *more/less than three*), **and superlative-modified numerals** (SMs, *at least/most three*)

Challenged with data pointing to non-uniformity!  
Challenges led to theories very different from GQT.

**Where exactly does GQT fail?**

We will assess it w.r.t. four major yardsticks:

<b>entailments</b>	<b>scalar implicatures</b>	<b>ignorance</b>	<b>accept in DE env</b>
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## ✓ Entailments

[Horn, 1972, van Benthem, 1986, Krifka, 1999, Geurts and Nouwen, 2007, Buccola and Spector, 2016]

- (11) a. Alice has 3 / more than 3 / at least 3 diamonds.  
b.  $\neg$  The number of diamonds that Alice has is 2 or less / 3 or less / 2 or less.  
c. Alice has 3 / more than 3 / at least 3 diamonds, # if not less.
- (12) a. Alice has less than 3 / at most 3 diamonds.  
b.  $\neg$  The number of diamonds that Alice has is 3 or more / 4 or more.  
c. Alice has less than 3 / at most 3 diamonds, # if not more.

# The upper bound of BNs as a scalar implicature

[Horn, 1972, Spector, 2013]

(13) a. Alice has 3 diamonds.

b.  $\neg$  The number of diamonds that Alice has is 4 or more.

c. Alice has 3 diamonds, if not more.

- ★  $3 P Q$  ambiguous between ‘at least 3 P Q’ and ‘exactly 3 P Q’
- ★ One way to get this is to say that  $3 P Q$  entails ‘at least 3 P Q’, derives ‘not at least 4 P Q’ via scalar implicature.
- ★ Predicted scalar alternatives of BNs, CMs, and SMs:

(14) a.  $\text{ScalAlts}(3 P Q)$

=  $\{\dots, 2 P Q, 4 P Q, \dots\}$

b.  $\text{ScalAlts}(\text{more/less than } 3 P Q)$

=  $\{\dots, \text{more/less than } 2 P Q, \text{more/less than } 4 P Q, \dots\}$

c.  $\text{ScalAlts}(\text{at most/least } 3 P Q)$

=  $\{\dots, \text{at most/least } 2 P Q, \text{at most/least } 4 P Q, \dots\}$

## ✓/✗ Scalar implicatures

[Krifka, 1999, Fox and Hackl, 2006, Mayr, 2013, Coppock and Brochhagen, 2013, Kennedy, 2015, Spector, 2015]

★ Unembedded:

(15) Alice has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds.

↗  $\neg$  Alice has 4 / \*more than 4 / \*less than 2 / \*at most 2 / \*at least 4 diamonds.

(Total predicted meaning: She has exactly 3 / **exactly 4** / **exactly 2** / **exactly 3** / **exactly 3** diamonds.)

★ In the scope of a universal operator:

(16) Alice is required to have 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds.

↗  $\neg$  Alice is required to have 4 / more than 4 / less than 2 / at most 2 / at least 4 diamonds.

## ✓/✗ Scalar implicatures

[Mayr, 2013]

- ★ In the antecedent of a conditional:

(17) If Alice has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds she wins.

↗  $\neg$  If Alice has 2 / more than 2 / less than 4 / at most 4 / at least 2 diamonds she wins.

- ★ In the scope of negation:

(18) Alice doesn't have 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / \*at most 3 / \*at least 3 diamonds.

↗  $\neg$  Alice doesn't have \*2 / \*more than 2 / \*less than 4 / \*at most 4 / \*at least 2 diamonds.

(Total predicted meaning: She has **exactly 2** / **exactly 3** / **exactly 3** / **exactly 4** / **exactly 2** diamonds.)



## ✓ Scalar implicatures

[Cummins et al., 2012]

- ★ Unembedded, *coarse granularity scale*:

(19) (example from [Spector, 2014, 42])

*Context: Grades are attributed on the basis of the number of problems solved. People who solve between 1 and 5 problems get a C. People who solve more than 5 problems but fewer than 9 problems get a B, and people who solve 9 problems or more get an A.*

John solved more than 5 problems. Peter solved more than 9.

$\rightsquigarrow \neg$  John solved more than 9.

## X Ignorance

[Geurts and Nouwen, 2007, Nouwen, 2010, Nouwen, 2015, Coppock and Brochhagen, 2013, Kennedy, 2015, Mendia, 2015, Spector, 2015]

★ Unembedded:

(20) Alice has 3 diamonds.

(\* $\rightsquigarrow$  The speaker is not sure whether Alice has 3 or 4 or ....)

(21) Alice has more than 3 / less than 3 diamonds.

( $\rightsquigarrow$  The speaker is not sure whether Alice has 4 or 5 or ... / 2 or 1 or ...)

(22) Alice has at least 3 / at most 3 diamonds.

\*( $\rightsquigarrow$  The speaker is not sure whether Alice has 3 or 4 or ... / 3 or 2 or ...)

## X Ignorance

[Kennedy, 2015]

★ In the scope of a universal operator:

(23) Alice is required to have 3 diamonds.

↯ The speaker is not sure whether Alice is required to have 3 or 4 or ...

(24) Alice is required to have more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds.

(↯ The speaker is not sure whether Alice is required to have 4 or 5 or ... / 2 or 1 or ... / 3 or 2 or ... / 3 or 4 or ....)

## X Ignorance

★ In the scope of negation:

(25) Alice doesn't have 3 diamonds.

↯ The speaker is not sure whether Alice doesn't have 3 or 4 or ...

(26) Alice doesn't have more than 3 / less than 3 diamonds.

(↯ The speaker is not sure whether Alice has 3 or 2 or ... / 3 or 4 or ...)

## X Acceptability in DE environments

[Nilsen, 2007, Geurts and Nouwen, 2007, Cohen and Krifka, 2014, Spector, 2015]

★ In the scope of negation:

(27) Alice doesn't have 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 diamonds.

→ Alice has 2 or less / 3 or less / 3 or more diamonds. ✓

(28) Alice doesn't have \*at least three / \*at most three diamonds.

→ Alice has 2 or less / 4 or more diamonds. ✗

★ In the antecedent of a conditional:

(29) If Alice has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds, she wins.

★ In the restriction of a universal:

(30) Everyone who has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds wins.

## What is GQT missing?

entailments	scalar implicatures	ignorance	accept in DE env
✓	✓+ ?	?	?

Sketch of the solution:

- ★ Keep the GQT way of getting entailments.
- ★ Keep scalar implicatures.
- ★ Add domain alternatives [Kennedy, 2015, Spector, 2015].
- ★ Make the domain alternatives of SMs obligatory [Spector, 2015].
- ★ Try to derive rather than stipulate the number, type, and status of the alternatives in each case.

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## Proposal: Truth conditions and presupposition

the numeral

|| [Link, 1983, Buccola and Spector, 2016]

$\llbracket \text{three} \rrbracket = 3$

$\llbracket \text{is}_{\text{Card}} \rrbracket (3) = \lambda x . |x| = 3$

much/little

|| [Seuren, 1984, Kennedy, 1997]

$\llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (n) = \lambda d . d \leq n$

$\llbracket \text{little} \rrbracket (n) = \lambda d . d \geq n$

truth conditions

|| [Krifka, 1999, Von Stechow, 2005, Heim, 2007, Hackl, 2009]

$(\exists (n P))(Q) = 1$  iff  $\exists x [|x| = n \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)]$

$[\text{comp}(\text{much/little})](n)(P)(Q) = 1$  iff  $|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (n)$

$[\text{sup}(\text{much/little})](n)(P)(Q) = 1$  iff  $|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (n)$

the presupposition of [sup]

|| [Hackl, 2009, Gajewski, 2010]

$| \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (n) | \geq 2$



## ✓ Entailments

(31)  $3 P Q$ :

$$\exists x[|x| = 3 \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)] \Rightarrow |P \cap Q| \geq 3 \quad (\text{l.b.})$$

(32) *more than 3 P Q*: \_\_\_\_\_

$$|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (3) \Leftrightarrow |P \cap Q| \in \{4, 5, \dots\} \quad (\text{l.b.})$$

(33) *less than 3 P Q*: \_\_\_\_\_

$$|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{little} \rrbracket (3) \Leftrightarrow |P \cap Q| \in \{\dots, 0, 1, 2\} \quad (\text{u.b.})$$

(34) *at most 3 P Q*:

$$|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (3) \Leftrightarrow |P \cap Q| \in \{\dots, 0, 1, 2, 3\} \quad (\text{u.b.})$$

(35) *at least 3 P Q*:

$$|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{little} \rrbracket (3) \Leftrightarrow |P \cap Q| \in \{3, 4, \dots\} \quad (\text{l.b.})$$

## Proposal: Alternatives

**Scalar alternatives** can be obtained by replacing  $n$  in the numeral argument with its scalar alternatives (other numerals)

BNs:  $\{\exists x[|x| = m \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)] : m \in S\}$

CMs:  $\{|P \cap Q| \in \overline{\llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (m)}} : m \in S\}$

SMs:  $\{|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (m)} : m \in S\}$

**Domain alternatives** can be obtained by replacing the whole numeral argument with its subsets

BNs: NA (the numeral argument is just a degree)

CMs:  $\{|P \cap Q| \in A : A \subseteq \overline{\llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (n)}}\}$

SMs:  $\{|P \cap Q| \in A : A \subseteq \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (n)}\}$

**active by presup!**

## Scalar alternatives

ScalAlts(3 P Q)

= ScalAlts( $\exists x[|x| = 3 \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)]$ )

=  $\{\dots, \exists x[|x| = 2 \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)], \exists x[|x| = 4 \wedge P(x) \wedge Q(x)], \dots\}$

=  $\{\dots, 2 P Q, 4 P Q, \dots\}$

ScalAlts(*more/less than 3 P Q*)

= ScalAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \overline{\llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (3)}$ )

=  $\{\dots, |P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (2), |P \cap Q| \in \overline{\llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (4)}, \dots\}$

=  $\{\dots, \text{more/less than } 2 P Q, \text{more/less than } 4 P Q, \dots\}$

ScalAlts(*at most/least 3 P Q*)

= ScalAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (3)$ )

=  $\{\dots, |P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (2), |P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (4), \dots\}$

=  $\{\dots, \text{at most/least } 2 P Q, \text{at most/least } 4 P Q, \dots\}$

## Subdomain alternatives

SubDomAlts(3 P Q): NA

SubDomAlts(*more/less than 3 P Q*)

= SubDomAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \overline{\llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (3)}$ )

= SubDomAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \{4, 5, \dots\} / \{0, 1, 2\}$ )

=  $\{|P \cap Q| \in \{4\}, |P \cap Q| \in \{4, 7, \dots\} / \{|P \cap Q| \in \{0\},$   
 $|P \cap Q| \in \{0, 1\}, \dots\}$

SubDomAlts(*at most/least 3 P Q*)

= SubDomAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much/little} \rrbracket (3)$ )

= SubDomAlts( $|P \cap Q| \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\} / \{3, 4, \dots\}$ )

=  $\{|P \cap Q| \in \{0\}, |P \cap Q| \in \{1, 3, \dots\} / \{|P \cap Q| \in \{3\},$   
 $|P \cap Q| \in \{4, 8\}, \dots\}$

active by presup!

# Proposal: Implicature calculation system

[Chierchia, 2013]

**O** to exhaustify the scalar alternatives of BNs, CMs, and SMs

$$(36) \llbracket O_{ALT}(\phi) \rrbracket^{g,w} = \llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{g,w} \wedge \forall p \in \llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{ALT} [p \rightarrow \lambda w'. \llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{g,w'} \subseteq p]$$

**O<sup>PS</sup>** to exhaustify the subdomain alternatives of CMs and SMs

(37)  $O_{ALT}^{PS}(\phi)$  is defined iff  $O_{ALT}^S(\phi) \subset \phi$ .

Whenever defined,  $O_{ALT}^{PS}(\phi) = O_{ALT}^S(\phi)$ ,

where

a.  $O_{ALT}^S(\phi_w) = \phi_w \wedge \forall p \in ALT [\pi(p)_w \rightarrow \pi(\lambda w. \phi_w) \subseteq \pi(p)]$ ,

where

(i)  $\pi(q) = {}^\alpha q \wedge {}^\pi q$ .

**□** last resort, silent, matrix-level, universal doxastic modal

## ✓ Implicatures from scalar alternatives

considering only alternatives that do not lead to the problematic 'exactly' meanings

★ Unembedded:

(38)  $O_{ScalAlts}$  (Alice has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds.)

$\rightsquigarrow \neg$  Alice has 4 / more than 5 / less than 1 / at most 1 / at least 5 diamonds.

implicatures

★ In the scope of a universal operator:

(39)  $O_{ScalAlts}$  (Alice is required to have 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds.)

$\rightsquigarrow \neg$  Alice is required to have 4 / more than 4 / less than 2 / at most 2 / at least 4 diamonds.

implicatures

## ✓ Implicatures from scalar alternatives

considering only alternatives that do not lead to the problematic 'exactly' meanings

★ In the antecedent of a conditional:

(40)  $O_{ScalAlts}$  (If Alice has 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / at most 3 / at least 3 diamonds she wins.)

$\rightsquigarrow \neg$  If Alice has 2 / more than 2 / less than 4 / at most 4 / at least 2 diamonds she wins.

implicatures

★ In the scope of negation:

(41)  $O_{ScalAlts}$  (Alice doesn't have 3 / more than 3 / less than 3 / \*at most 3 / \*at least 3 diamonds.)

$\rightsquigarrow \neg$  Alice doesn't have 1 / more than 1 / less than 5 / at most 5 / at least 1 diamonds.

implicatures

## ✓ Implicatures from subdomain alternatives

★ Unembedded:

(42) Alice has more/less than 3 / at most/least 3 diamonds.

a.  $|P \cap Q| \in D$

no  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS}$  !

b.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (|P \cap Q| \in D)$

$= |P \cap Q| \in D \wedge \neg(|P \cap Q| \in A) \wedge \neg(|P \cap Q| \in B) \dots$ , for all

$A, B, \dots \subset D, = \perp$

contradiction!

c.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \Box (|P \cap Q| \in D)$

$= \Box |P \cap Q| \in D \wedge \neg \Box (|P \cap Q| \in A) \wedge \neg \Box (|P \cap Q| \in B) \dots$ ,

for all  $A, B, \dots \subset D$

ignorance implicatures

★ Ignorance optional for CMs, obligatory for SMs.



## ✓ Implicatures from subdomain alternatives

clash with 'exactly'-inducing implicature from scalar alternatives!

(43) Alice has more than 2 / at least 3 diamonds.

$$O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \square O_{ScalAlts} (|P \cap Q| \in \{3, 4, \dots\})$$

$$= \underline{\square O_{ScalAlts} (|P \cap Q| \in \{3, 4, \dots\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \square (|P \cap Q| \in \{3\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \square (|P \cap Q| \in \{4, 7\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \dots}$$

$$= \underline{\square (|P \cap Q| \in \{3\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \square (|P \cap Q| \in \{3\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \square (|P \cap Q| \in \{4, 7\})} \wedge \underline{\neg \dots}$$

$$= \perp$$

- ★ Prune offending SubDomAlts? That would violate  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS}$ , so no. ✗
- ★ Prune offending ScalAlt? ✓

## ✓ Implicatures from subdomain alternatives

★ In the scope of a universal operator:

(44) Alice is required to have more/less than 3 / at most/least 3 diamonds.

a.  $\Box(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS}$  !

b.  $\Box O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (|P \cap Q| \in D)$

contradiction!

c.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (\Box(|P \cap Q| \in D))$

non-ignorance implicatures

d.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (|P \cap \Box Q| \in D)$

contradiction!

e.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (\Box(|P \cap \Box Q| \in D))$

ignorance implicatures

★ Ignorance optional for both CMs and SMs.

## ✓ Implicatures from subdomain alternatives

★ In the scope of negation:

(45) Alice doesn't have more/less than 3 / \*at most/least 3 diamonds.

a.  $\neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS}$  !

b.  $\neg O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (|P \cap Q| \in D)$

contradiction!

c.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$   
 $= \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no proper strengthening!

d.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \Box \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$   
 $= \Box \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no proper strengthening!

★ No ignorance implicatures sanctioned formally.

## ✓ Acceptability in DE environments

★ In the scope of negation:

(46) Alice doesn't have more/less than three / \*at most/least three diamonds.

a.  $\neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS}$  !

b.  $\neg O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} (|P \cap Q| \in D)$

contradiction!

c.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no proper strengthening!

d.  $O_{SubDomAlts}^{PS} \Box \neg(|P \cap Q| \in D)$

no proper strengthening!

★ CMs can be parsed as in (a). No parsing option for SMs.

## ✓ Acceptability in DE environments

- ★ In the antecedent of a conditional / restriction of a universal:

(47) Everyone who has more/less than 3 / at most/least 3 diamonds wins.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \forall x[\# \text{ di } x \text{ has} \in D \rightarrow \dots] & \wedge & \exists x[\# \text{ of di } x \text{ has} \in D] \\ \downarrow & & \uparrow \\ \forall x[\# \text{ di } x \text{ has} \in D' \rightarrow \dots] & \wedge & \exists x[\# \text{ of di } x \text{ has} \in D'] \end{array}$$

- ★ SubDomAlts not entailed, so they must be false.
- ★ However, negating them leads to contradiction.
- ★ We can rescue the parse with  $\square$ .
- ★ **Ignorance implicatures about the presupposition:** The speaker is sure that here is someone such that the # of diamonds they have is in D, but not sure about any subsets of D.

## Taking stock

entailments	scalar implicatures	ignorance	accept in DE env
✓	✓	✓	✓

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## Compositionality

Lexical entries for the numeral, *much/little*, [comp], and [sup] that

- ★ give us the right truth conditions and a natural way to derive the number, type, and status of the alternatives in each case;
- ★ link up naturally to meanings elsewhere;
- ★ ensure that the resulting bare or modified numeral DPs will pose no further compositional challenges, as they are generalized quantifiers.



## Predicative uses

(48) The three / more/less than three / at most/least three NP

(49) We are three / more/less than three / at most/least three.

(50) Plant a tree every three houses.

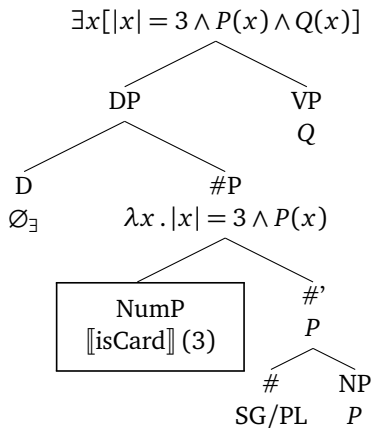
(51) If two relatives of mine die, I'll be rich.

★ Use [Partee, 1987]'s BE to typeshift the generalized quantifier meanings into predicative meanings:

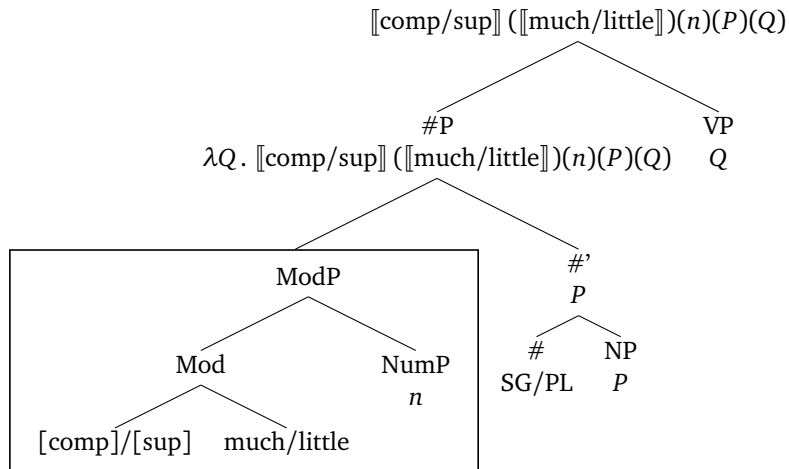
(52)  $\llbracket \text{BE} \rrbracket = \lambda Q_{\langle at,t \rangle} . \lambda x_{\alpha} . Q(\lambda y_{\alpha} . y = x)$

(53)  $\llbracket \text{BE} \rrbracket (\llbracket \text{at most three students} \rrbracket)$   
=  $[\lambda Q_{\langle et,t \rangle} . \lambda x_e . Q(\lambda y_e . y = x)](\lambda Q_{\langle e,t \rangle} . |P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (3))$   
=  $\lambda x_e . [\lambda Q_{\langle e,t \rangle} . |P \cap Q| \in \llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (3)](\lambda y_e . y = x)$   
=  $\lambda x_e . |P \cap \lambda y_e . y = x| \in \llbracket \text{much} \rrbracket (3)$

## Constituent structure



# Constituent structure



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## Conclusion

- ★ A unified account of bare and modified numerals that builds conservatively on the original GQT account.
- ★ Derives their patterns w.r.t. entailments, scalar implicatures, ignorance, and acceptability in DE environments from their morphological pieces.
- ★ The account is more comprehensive, has better empirical coverage, and is less stipulative than previous accounts.

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