

CENTER FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

280 Park Hall
North Campus
2:00 pm –4:00 pm

“Topological Parsing”

Gerald Penn, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science
University of Toronto, Canada

Why is parsing so difficult in freer word-order (FWO) languages? The standard answer goes something like this: if the order among a phrase structure rule's daughter categories is not specified, then there will be exponentially many orderings to consider. A great many more presuppositions carried by phrase structure are mistaken than just linear order, however - some of them quite fundamental, such as what a category represents.

This talk summarises our progress on using insights from descriptive and generative linguistics to formalise new parsing models for FWO languages. Of particular benefit has been the recent re-examination of Slavic and Germanic syntax within HPSG and dependency grammar, which distinguishes at least two different varieties of constituency.

This distinction can be used during parsing, both for efficiency and for accommodating prosodic and discourse-level constraints into a syntactic model.

**Refreshments will be available
Everyone is welcome!**

For information please call the Cognitive Science Office at (716) 645-3794 or check
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/cogsci/html/2002spring.htm>